\*\*A) Example of a growth curve (tracked as OD~680~; red solid line, left y-axis) of a \*Synechococcus\* sp. strain vs. elapsed time (h)\*\*; 1^st^ derivative of OD~680~ taken over 1 h increments (black solid line, right y-axis). The vertical dotted lines indicate the time to reach the diel maximum of the 1^st^ derivative of growth (vertical dotted line; tMaxDG). The vertical blue solid line represents the time when the cultures reached their maximum absolute hourly growth (tMaxAHG), taken as an index of transition from exponential to pre-stationary growth phases. \*\*B) An expanded view of one diel cycle.\*\* Within a diel period the acceleration length (AccLen) is the time between the start of the photoperiod and the time to reach the diel maximum of the 1st derivative of growth (vertical dotted line; tMaxDG). Deceleration length (DecLen) is then the time from tMaxDG to the end of the photoperiod. We then define the diel growth symmetry (GS) as AccLen/DecLen.