**Results**

**3.1. Single Turnover Variable Chlorophyll Fluorescence**

Exposing phytoplankton cultures to a series of 32 successive flashes produced oscillations in the maximum quantum yield of photochemistry in PSII, as estimated through the secondary chlorophyll fluorescence parameter FV/FM. As shown in Figure 1 for the polar alga *C. priscuii,* the raw time series of FV/FM over successive flashes reveals consistent variations in fluorescence yield as the predominant s-state transitions occur across the PSII within the population. Moreover, the amplitude of the ChlF oscillations declines over time and with decreasing light levels.

A graph of different types of data

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 1:** Oscillations in the maximum quantum yield of the photochemistry in *Chlamydomonas priscuii* cultures over a series of 32 flashes, as measured through the secondary chlorophyll fluorescence parameter FV/FM. Representative conditions include cultures at 4 and 12 °C, under steady-state light levels of 0.088 – 0.708 µmol photons m-2s-1, analogous to flash spacings of 8 – 1 seconds.

**3.2. Wavelet Analysis**

Wavelet transformations were computed for the fluorescence time series of each unique combination of measurement temperature, steady-state light level, and strain. Assessing the wavelet power of a 4-step periodicity across conditions, key trends emerge. As exemplified by the polar alga *C. priscuii* (Figure 2A), the average wavelet power declines with increasing temperature and decreasing light. While this trend remains in the temperate taxa (Figure 2B), the wavelet power is consistently lower, suggesting weaker 4-step periodicity in temperate taxa.

**A**

A diagram of a temperature measurement

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**B**

A chart of a temperature measurement

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 2:** Sample plot of wavelet power by period of oscillations in the maximum quantum yield of photochemistry in A. *Chlamydomonas priscuii* and B. *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* cultures across a range of measurement temperatures and steady-state light levels, with their equivalent flash spacings.

Polar taxa exhibited significant 4-step oscillations in Fv/Fm across a broader range of conditions than their temperate counterparts (Figure 3). The temperate diatom *T. pseudonana* showed significant s-state cycling across 20.57 % of measured conditions, compared to 85% in its polar counterpart, *F. cylindrus*. Similarly, the temperate green algae *C. vulgaris* and *C. reinhardtii* displayed significant cycling across 32% and 40 % of conditions. Meanwhile, significant cycling occurred in 60, 73, and 80% of measurement conditions for the polar algae *C. ICEMDV*, *C. malina*, and *C. priscuii*.

A graph of different temperature levels

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 3:** Statistical significance of 4-step oscillations in the maximum quantum yield of PSII photochemistry across polar and temperate phytoplankton taxa, as measured through variable chlorophyll fluorescence.

**3.3. Generalized Additive Modelling**

A diagram of a temperature diagram

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 4**: GAM model predictions of the consecutive flashes before the damping of S-state-induced chlorophyll fluorescence oscillations as predicted by the deviation from growth temperature (°C) and the steady-state light level (µmol photons m-2s-1) experienced by polar and temperate diatoms.

A diagram of a light level

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 5**: GAM model predictions of the consecutive flashes before the damping of S-state-induced chlorophyll fluorescence oscillations as predicted by the deviation from growth temperature (°C) and the steady-state light level (µmol photons m-2s-1) experienced by polar and temperate green algae.

A diagram of different types of heat

Description automatically generated

**Figure 6**: GAM model predictions of the consecutive flashes before the damping of S-state-induced chlorophyll fluorescence oscillations as predicted by the measurement temperature (°C) and the steady-state light level (µmol photons m-2s-1) experienced by polar and temperate diatoms. White dashed lines represent the growth temperatures of the individual cultures.

A diagram of different colors

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure 7**: GAM model predictions of the consecutive flashes before the damping of S-state-induced chlorophyll fluorescence oscillations as predicted by the measurement temperature (°C) and the steady-state light level (µmol photons m-2s-1) experienced by polar and temperate green algae.