



# Plant responses to temperature over space and time

February 16, 2021

# Class questions

1. How does temperature vary over space and time?



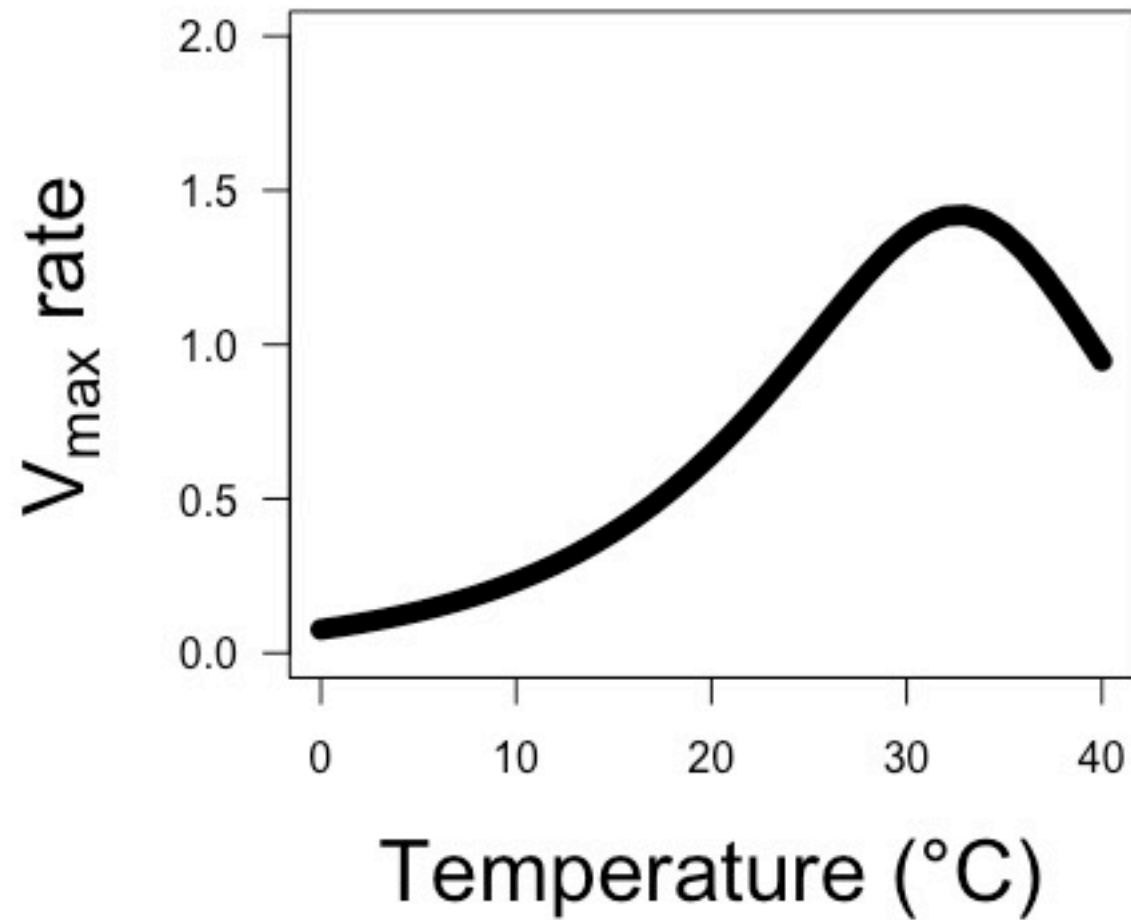


# Class questions

1. How does temperature change in natural environments?
2. Why does temperature variation matter for plants?

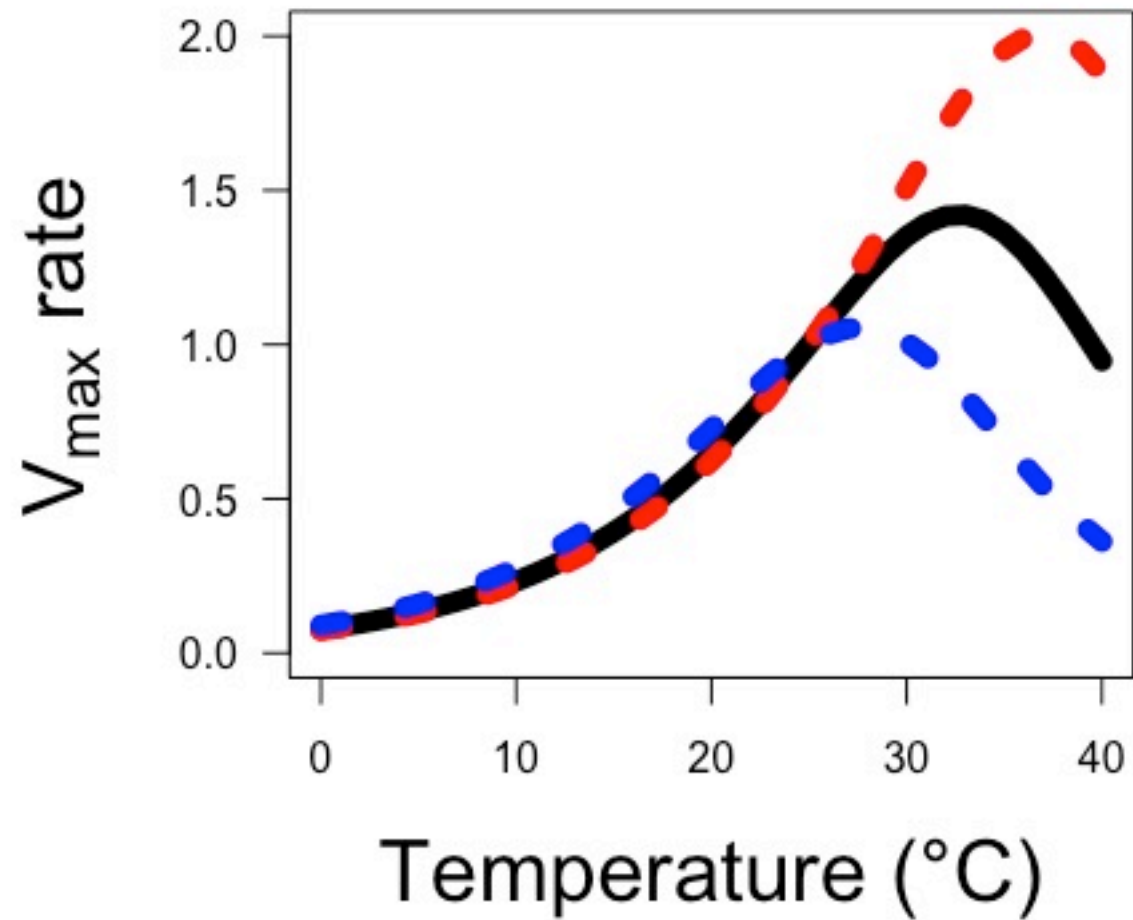


Processes that respond to  
temperature: Enzymatic potential



Enzyme rate ( $V_{\max}$ ) is the result of both the activation rate and deactivation rate

Leads to a peaked exponential response



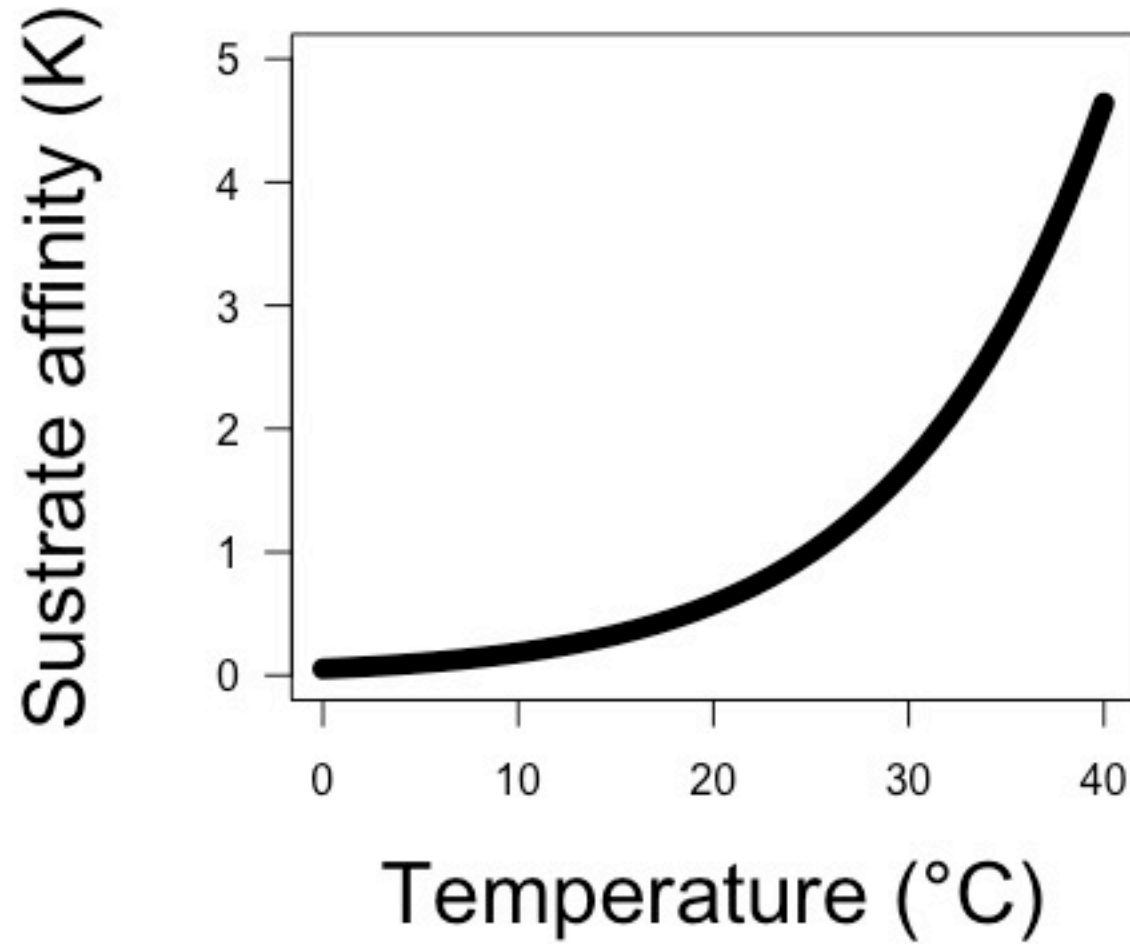
This peak may change based on acclimation

Red = warm acclimated

Blue = cold acclimated



Processes that respond to  
temperature: Substrate affinity

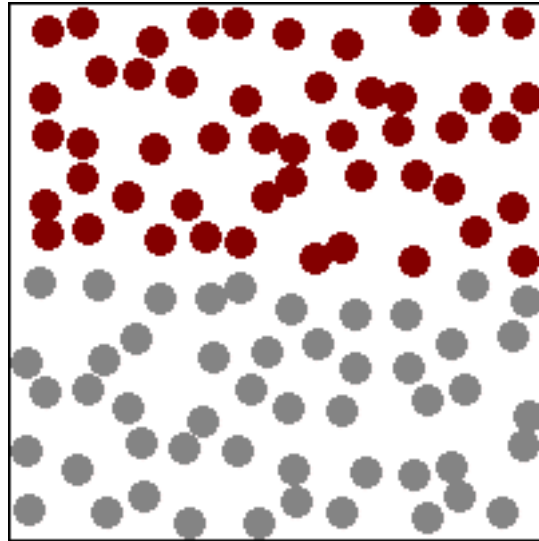


Substrate affinity increases with temperature

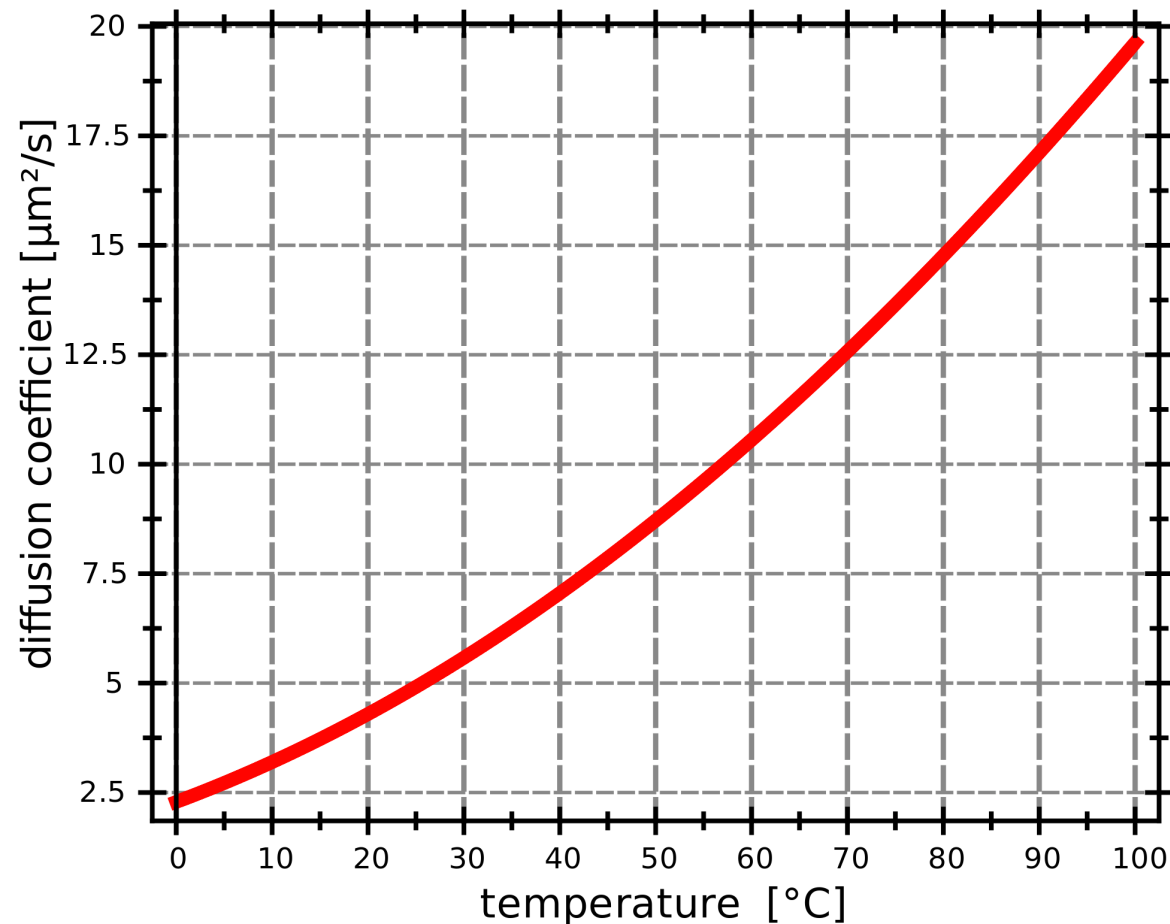
The change is dependent on the substrate and enzyme

Processes that respond to  
temperature: Diffusion

**Diffusion:** movement from area of low concentration to high concentration



Diffusion rates increase with temperature  
(Fick's law coefficient increases)



# Class questions

1. How does temperature change in natural environments?
2. Why does temperature variation matter for plants?

# Respiration and temperature

# Respiration and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T



## Respiration and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T

**What should the response look like?**



# Photosynthesis and temperature

# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T

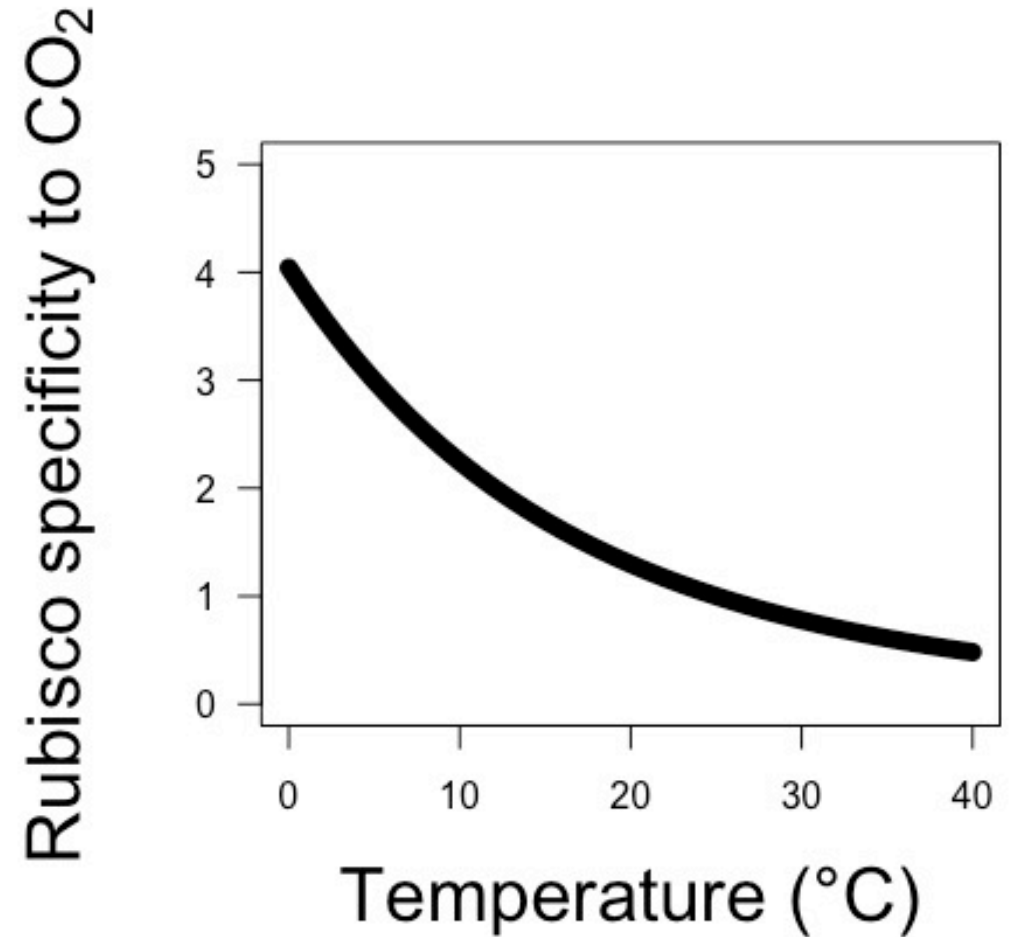
# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T

**What should the response look like?**

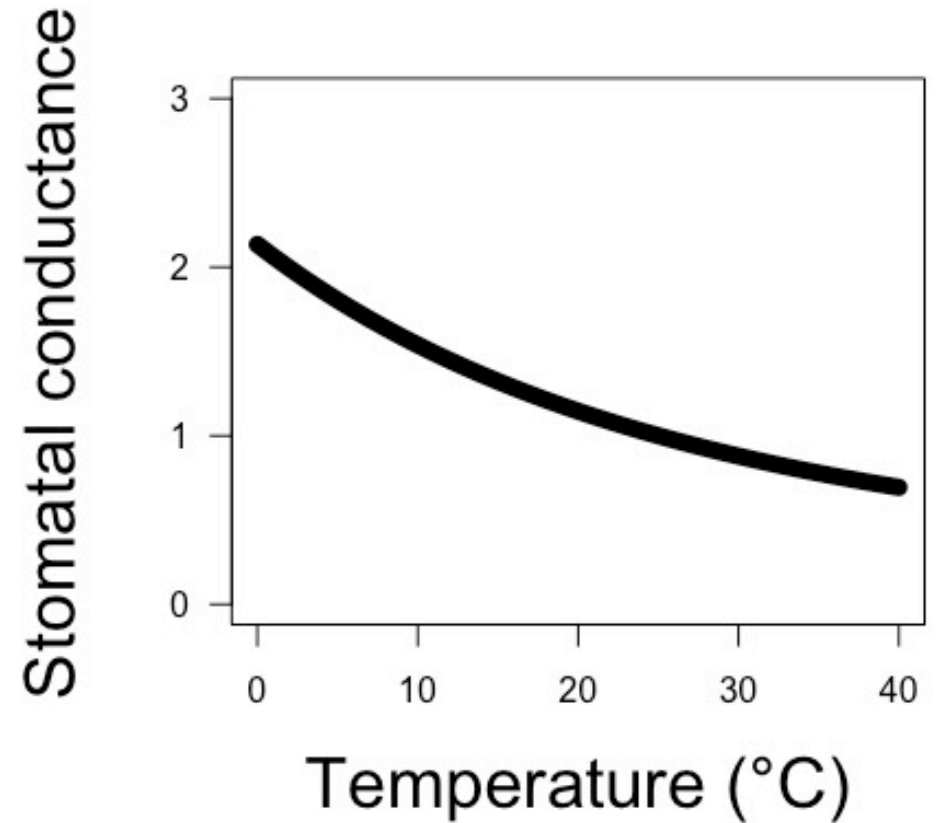
# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T
3. Rubisco likes O<sub>2</sub> more at higher T!



# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T
3. Rubisco likes O<sub>2</sub> more at higher T!
4. Stomata close at higher T!



# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T
3. Rubisco likes O<sub>2</sub> more at higher T!
4. Stomata close at higher T!

**What should the response look like?**





# Photosynthesis and temperature

1. Enzymatic rates increase with T
2. Substrate affinity increases with T
3. Rubisco likes O<sub>2</sub> more at higher T!
4. Stomata close at higher T!

**Would this differ for C4 species?**



# Transpiration and temperature

Transpiration

# Transpiration and temperature

1. Diffusion rates increase with T

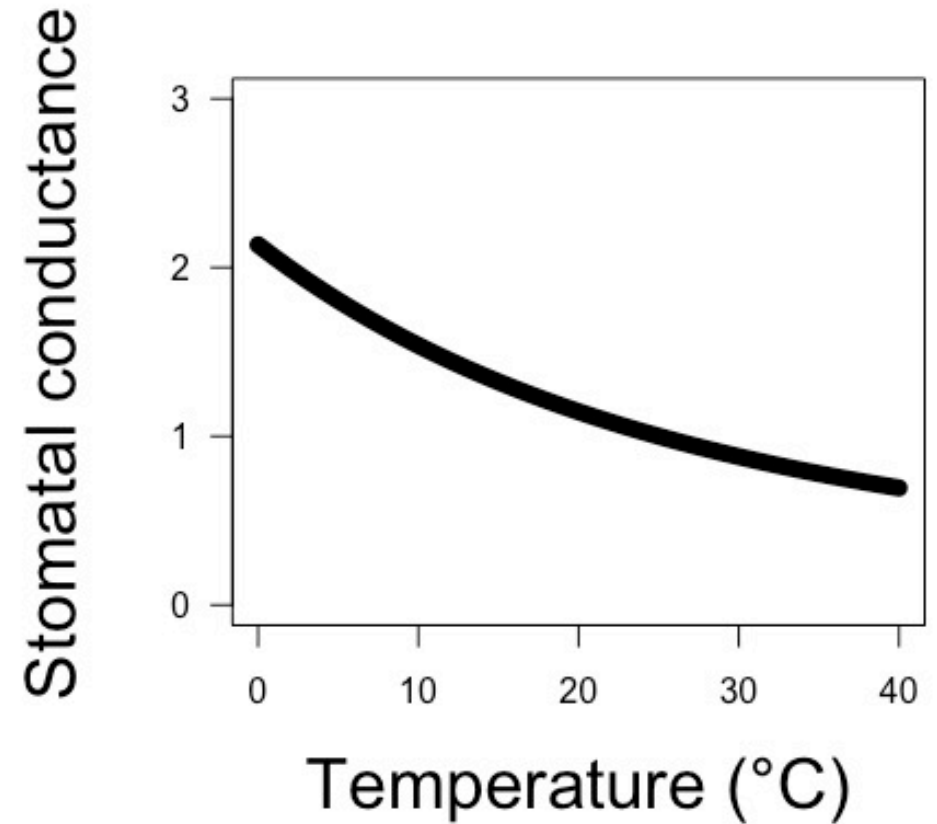
# Transpiration and temperature

1. Diffusion rates increase with T

**What should the response look like?**

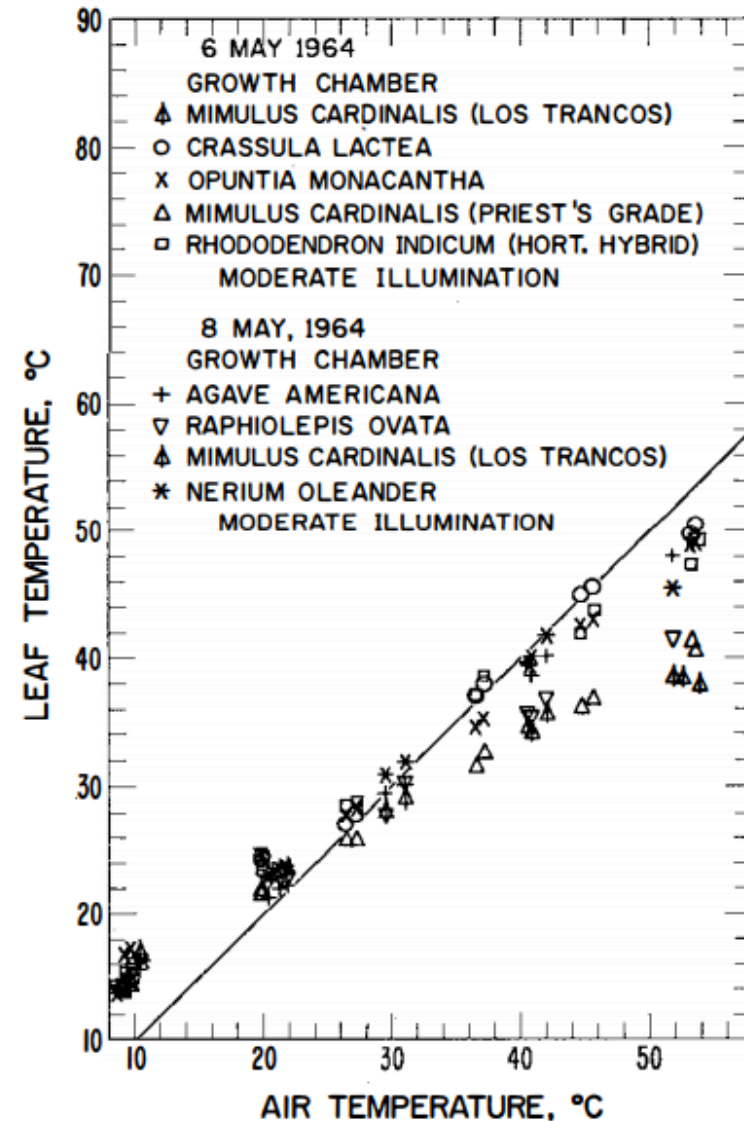
# Transpiration and temperature

1. Diffusion rates increase with T
2. Stomata close with increased T!



# Transpiration and temperature

1. Diffusion rates increase with T
2. Stomata close with increased T!
3. Leaves cool with increased T!





# Transpiration and temperature

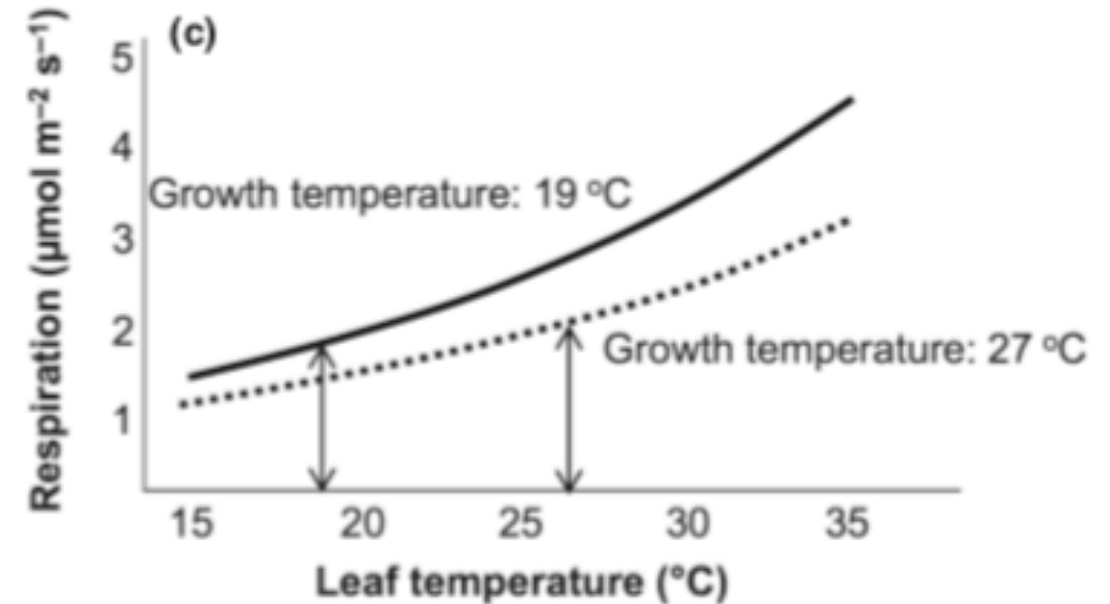
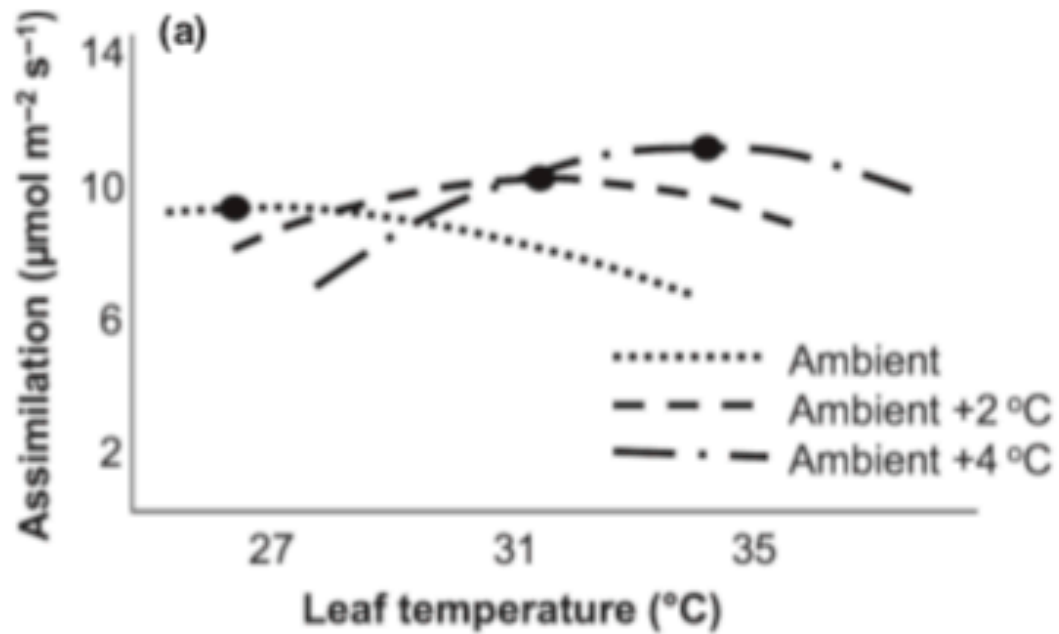
1. Diffusion rates increase with T
2. Stomata close with increased T!
3. Leaves cool with increased T!

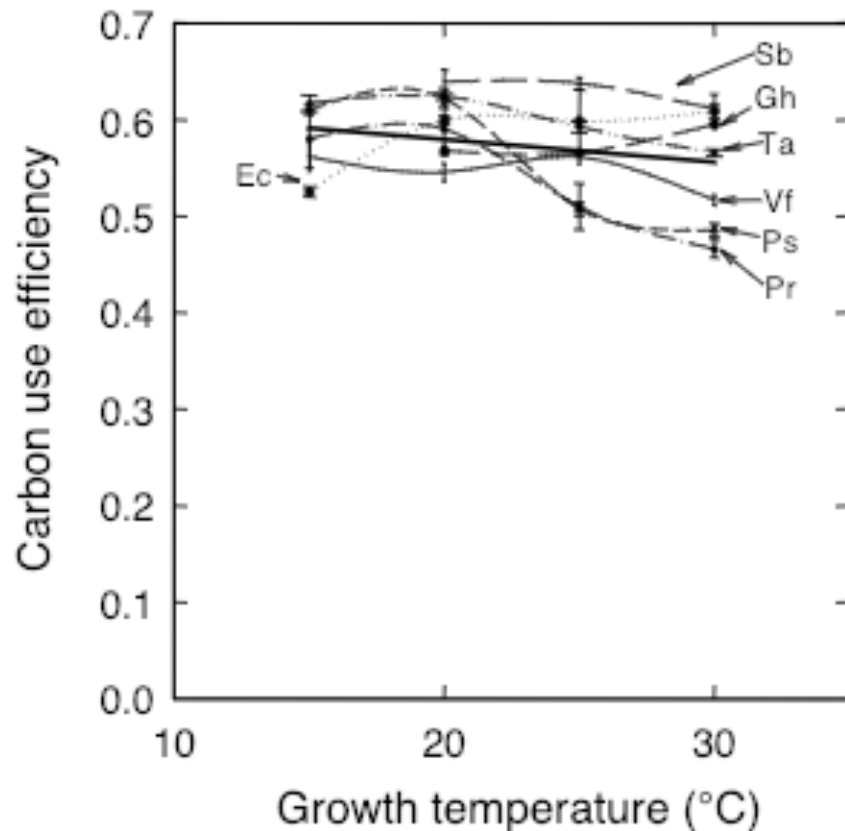
**What should the response look like?**



But now what about acclimation!

# Acclimation leads to a roughly homeostatic response!





$$\text{CUE} = \text{photosynthesis} / \text{respiration}$$

**Fig. 3.** The carbon use efficiency of whole plants (including roots in inert potting medium) for a range of plant species grown continuously at various temperatures between 15 and 30°C. *Ec*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*; *Pr*, *Pinus radiata*; *Ps*, *Pisum sativum*; *Vf*, *Vicia faba*; *Ta*, *Triticum aestivum*; *Gh*, *Gosypium hirsutum*; *Sb*, *Sorghum bicolor*. Data are derived from Gifford *et al.* (1996b) and Gifford (1992). Error bars are standard errors of the mean. The bold straight line is the linear regression through all the data.

# Class questions

1. How does temperature change in natural environments?
2. Why does temperature variation matter for plants?
- 3. Does any of this even matter?**

# Will a 3-5°C increase in temperature matter? Why or why not?

