

Note could define: Full factorial, orthogonal, periodicity, intensity, forcing as a box maybe to shorten main text?

1 Introduction

1. Temperature and light control and signal many biological processes.
2. They often interact, substitute or compensate for each other.
3. A major goal of biology is to quantify their effects and interactions
4. This has become extra important for predicting organism's response to global change
5. This task cannot be done well through observational studies as light and temperature regimes usually covary
6. Experiments in controlled environments (growth chambers, greenhouses etc) can do this, using experimental treatment to partition the effects of these variables and their interactions.
7. Indeed much progress has been made with this approach
8. But experiments must balance many competing factors in their designs, biological realism with statistical inference, the effect of unmeasured climate variable, blocking effects etc.
9. In the sections below we highlight a particular problem that can arise when designing experiments to partition the effects of temperature and daylength and understand their interaction. Our example uses woody plant phenology as an example, but the approach we detail here is relevant for other organisms and biological processes too.

2 Phenological response to Temperature and Light

Here a very brief (one paragraph) overview of how light and temperature influence spring phenology. Keep it basic (Warming accelerates phenology, photoperiod might be a threshold), acknowledge chilling is important too, but our example won't really focus on it. Leave some open questions about their interactive nature

3 Testing Interactions

1. To test interactions and partition effects among two variables that covary in nature one must:
2. Have at least 2 treatment levels of each variable of interest
3. Apply them orthogonally, factorially (??, blue box) and define these terms.
4. This may seem obvious but is rarely done. In the case of phenology, a recent analysis of controlled environment study found that only X of Y studies manipulated both light and temperature cues in the same experiment and only Z of X did so orthogonally.

4 Axes of environmental variation and their problems

1. A further complication arises when deciding how to apply each treatment.
2. For any environmental variable there are two axes of variation that can be manipulated in an experiment.
3. Intensity: Temperature, luminosity.
4. Period: Thermoperiod, Photoperiod.
5. There are measures that incorporate both period intensity (ie growing degree hours).
6. For light cues, photoperiod is the primary phenological cue
7. For temperature, period and intensity matter. For example, temperature in nature varies diurnally and diurnal temperature fluctuations may contribute to the phenology signal, or at the very least, lack of them might make phenology wonky.
8. Therefore a common approach in experiments that seems to balance prior knowledge, biological realism and experimental inferences is to vary photoperiod, and temperature intensity and period.
9. Clarify with an example. 12 and 8 hours of daylength. 30/20 and 20/10 temperature (or whatever I said in the figure).

10. If not carefully handled this approach can introduce a nonorthogonality into the experiment, biasing inference.
11. If the thermo-periodicity and photoperiodicity are coupled (ie the night time temperatures begin when the lights go off, and the day time temperatures begin when they turn back on) The impact is that the high temperature/high/long photoperiod treatment more cumulative heat than the high temperature/short photoperiod treatment throughout the experiment as can be seen when the temperature treatment are converted to thermal sums (??, (??b)). To state this more simply, though the applied temperatures are the same since they are applied for different durations, the mean daily temperature differ among the temperature treatments.
12. This non-orthogonality makes it statistically impossible to differentiate the effect of the photoperiod and temperature treatments.

5 Quantifying uncertainty

1. To estimate the extent to which this non-orthogonality could bias results we integrated the results from a large scale experiment that included a coupled thermo-photoperiod design. We used plane geometry to estimate how much of the estimated forcing effect (the assumed dominant cue) may actually be attributed to change in photoperiod. The calculations can be found in the supplement.
2. While the original model estimates of the forcing and photoperiod effects (phenological sensitivity; Δ phenological event day/ Δ cue level) were estimate 9.5 and 4.5 advance we estimate that as much about 3.0 (units?) of the forcing effect could be attributed to the photoperiod effect.
3. It is important to stress that this is not a model correction. The original model could actually be correct or it could in fact have underestimated the true forcing effect and inflated the photoperiod effect. We simply cannot say this. (*Probably should think about how to phase all this without making it seem like the Flynn paper is wrong*).
4. Our estimate of “how much of the reported photo-period response could in actuality be driven by the latent differences in thermo-period” can be rephrased as a prediction of the expected difference in estimated photoperiod sensitivity between a coupled and decoupled photo- and thermo-period experiment.

5. While we are aware of no experiments that explicitly test these different designs, a phenological study by ? applied several treatment levels that overlap with those in the ? study to twig cuttings from the same source population. However in the second study the authors decoupled photo- and thermo-period. After subsetting each dataset to include only species and treatment levels common among them, we re-analyzed the data (see supplemental method) and found that difference in the average response to photoperiod among study designs was on the same order our mathematical prediction see figure, though the photoperiod effect was in fact weaker in the uncoupled dataset (??).
6. With such significant uncertainty in partitioning the effect of forcing and photoperiod even in experiment, this might contribute to the debate about the importance of photoperiod.
7. Below we outline several solutions to this experimental design, that should improve the inference from growth chamber studies

6 Solutions

1. Manipulate temperature intensity only and photoperiod. You estimate interactions because you have multiple levels of temperature and orthogonality. Lose some biological realism (??a).
2. Uncouple thermoperiod and photoperiod. As done in ?. While this is probably better than coupled approach as it accounts for statistical interaction, it may introduce new artifact that occur from biological interactions. For example evidence from horticulture studies have demonstrated that cell growth is most sensitive to temperature fluctuation at the beginning of the photoperiod(?). ? found that increasing temperatures in the first two hours of the photoperiod was almost as effective for stimulating shoot elongation as similar temperature increases for the whole photoperiod (??c).
3. Set temperature treatments using metrics that account for period and intensity. Growing degree hours. maintain mean temperature and set photoperiod lengths and thus thermal orthogonality in experiment by proportionately varying diurnal fluctuation across treatment level. However, if the difference between day and night temperature

has a meanful biological effect as has been shown, this introduces another confonding, non-orthogonal factor (??d).

4. While this improvements should improve our ability to assess light and temperature interactions in biology, their challenges should aslo remind us to be humble with inference and think critically about what is, and isn't accounted for.

	predicted difference	observed difference (sd)
budburst sensitivty	3.0	-4.1575777(2.665567)

Table 1: Need a caption, and maybe a better way to show this, and to recheck the analyses

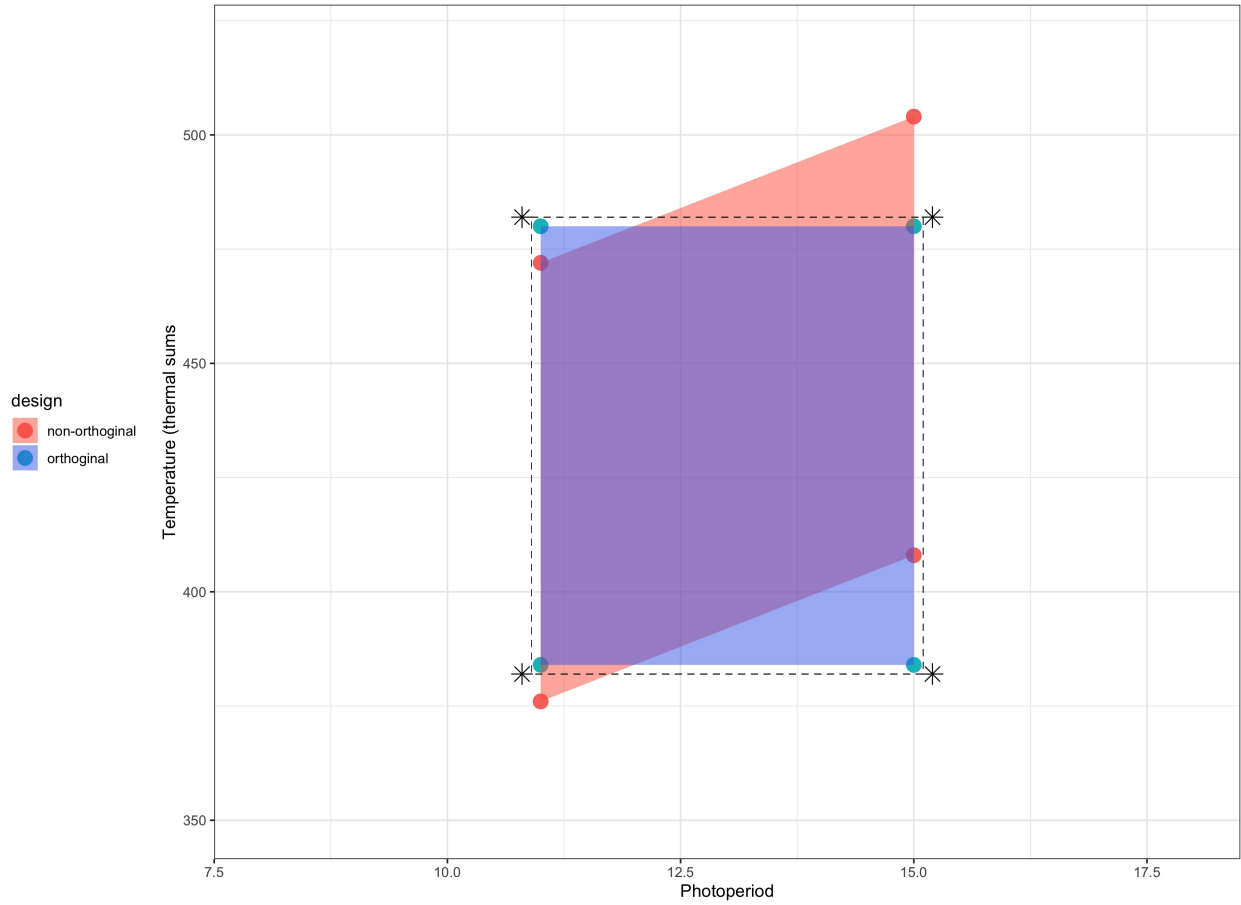


Figure 1: To partition the effects of light and temperature and their interactions in experiments, treatments must apply at least two treatment levels of each variable and be full factorial and orthogonal, that is all possible combination of treatments levels applied and each is independent of the other (blue rectangle). When a daily thermoperiod and photoperiods are coupled, a latent non-orthogonality is introduced as the long photoperiod/ high temperature treatment combination will receive more daily heat exposure (thermal sums) than the short photoperiod/ high temperature combination despite having the same temperature settings.

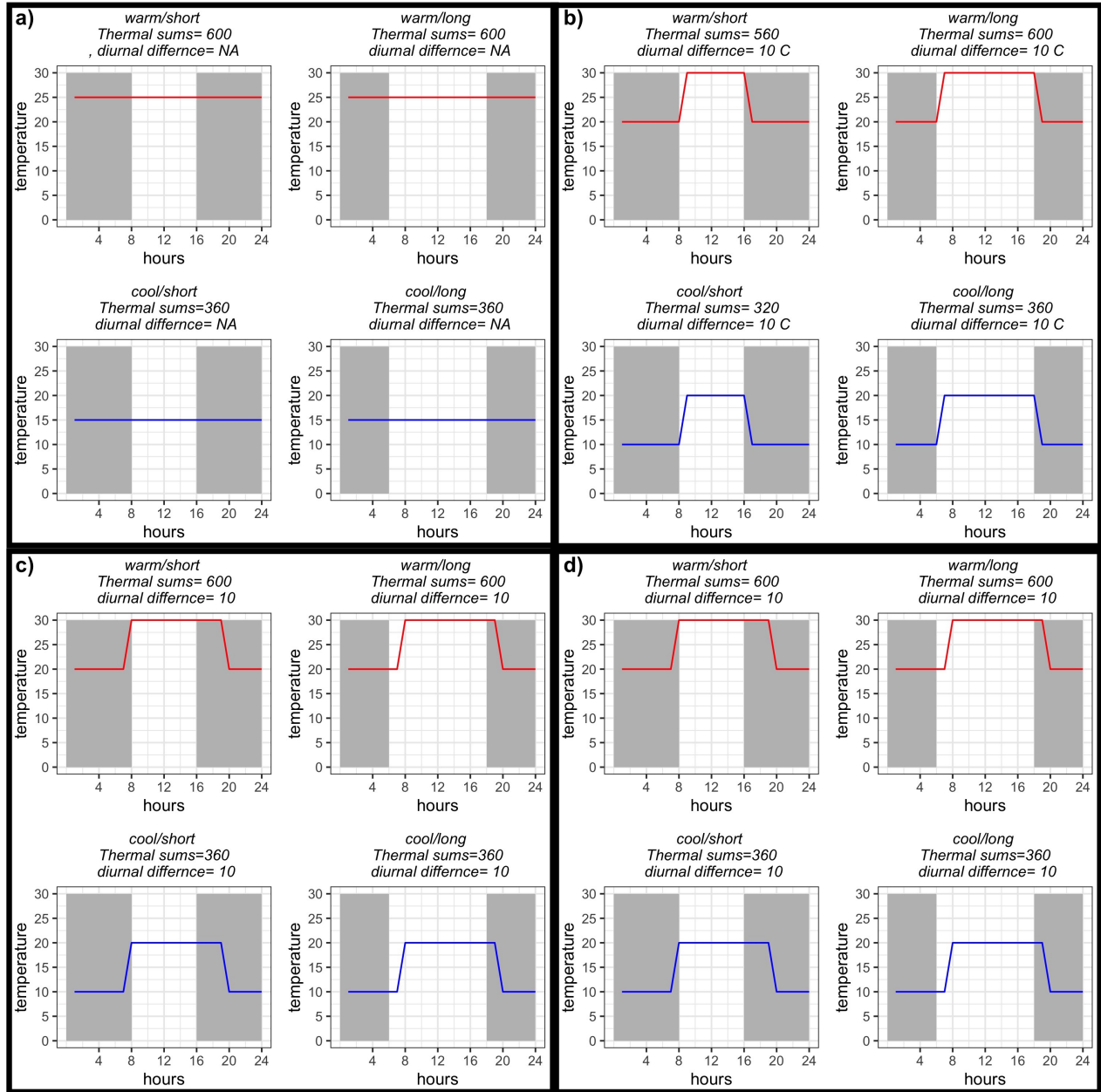


Figure 2: Conceptualized experimental designs to test temperature and daylength interactions on a biological response. All four designs apply two treatment levels of forcing temperatures and two treatment levels of photoperiod yet differences how the thermoperiods are varied relative to photoperiod in each scenario impact the orthogonality of the treatment species, compromising its inference. Design **a)** is orthogonal in temperature and photoperiod, but lack thermoperiod, sacrificing biological realism and compromising any responses that require diurnal temperature fluctuations. Design **b)** incorporates a standardize diurnal temperature fluctuation across all treatment, but because this thermoperiod is coupled with the photoperiod, the daily thermal sums across treatments are non-orthogonal. In **c)** the standard diurnal temperature fluctuation is maintained but the thermoperiod and photoperiod are decoupled and varied independently, maintaining orthogonality in heat sums across treatment combinations. In design **d)** photo and thermo periods are coupled and orthogonality are maintained by proportionately varying the diurnal temperature fluctuations across treatments, introducing a new latent difference among the treatments.