Definition of strong inference consists of applying the following:

1. Devising alternative hypothesis
2. Devising a crucial experiment (or several of them), with alternative possible outcomes, each of which will ,as nearly as possible, exclude one of more of the hypotheses
3. Carrying out the experiment as to get a clean result
4. 4) Recycling the procedure, making subhypothesis or sequential hypotheses to define the possibilities that remain

It is insufficiently appreciated that hypothesis testing in this sense if an inductive or even descriptive procedure, and does not correspond especially closely to the deductive logic of “strong inference”.

Implicit in “strong inference” is an assumption that the competing hypothesis to explain observed phenomena are general, mutually exclusive and to some extent, exhaustive

Nevertheless, many ecologists that evolutionists appear to accept “strong inference” as the proper model for investigation of complex biological phenomena.

Definition-

A series of tests to determine a phenomena, hypothesis, and exchaustive alternative hypothesis, then test each hypothesis, and the point is to get to one hypothesis, falsifiable

What does strong inference assume?

* Alternatives are mutually exclusive, non interacting, alternatives are not involved with each other
* Unicasuality, assuming this in the “heat”
* Falsifiability

Can change the assumptions to make strong inference work, even with the opposites of the three assumptions

Weakness-

* If th ere is no knowledge about the system, hard to determine “strong inference”
* Assumptions have to really be examined

Strengths

* If it’s under the right conditions it can be correct
* Trying to eliminate everything that doesn’t work, exhaustive
* Strict structure, procedural
* Assumptions + Critical Tests= Predicted Outcomes

Pluralist approach to testing will use the hypothetical deductive method, so assume multi causality, assume alternatives are probably interacting,

Pluralist, stronger inference

Might use falsifiability and confirmability