



JASM, 05/19/2014  
Portland, Oregon

# Law of the Minimum, Chlorophyll-Nutrient Model and Eutrophication Management

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## Main Points

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1. Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB): Controlling Factors
2. Chlorophyll-Nutrient Model: Origin and Advance
3. Controlling Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus
4. Reducing Nutrient: Adaptation to Changing Climate

# 1. Harmful Algal Bloom

## ↓ Factors regulating harmful algal bloom

- > Climate (Temperature, solar radiation)
- > Lake shape (Depth, volume and surface)
- > Basin hydrology (Water discharge)
- > Bottom-up effects (Nitrogen, phosphors)
- > Top-down effects (Zooplankton, fish)



*Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 51(1, part 2), 2006, 351–355  
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## Eutrophication of freshwater and marine ecosystems

*Val H. Smith*<sup>1</sup>

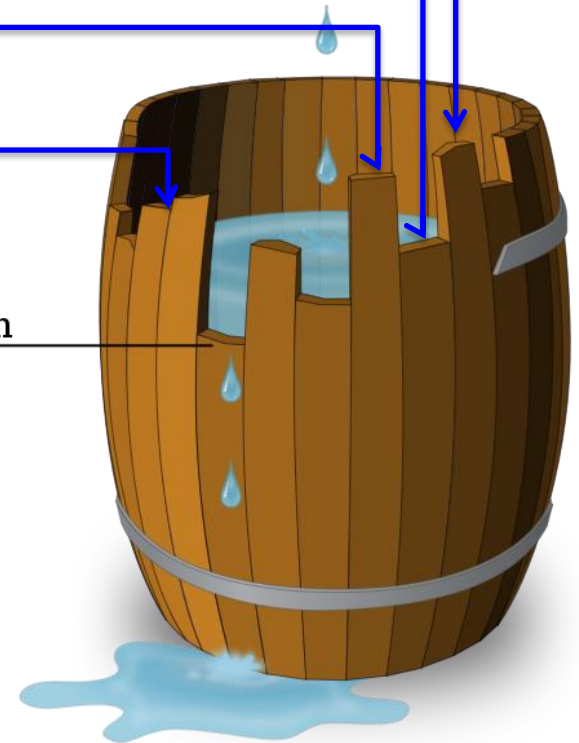
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045

# 1. Harmful Algal Bloom

## Uncontrollable factors

- >Climate (Temperature, solar radiation)
- >Lake shape (Depth, volume and surface)
- >Basin hydrology (Water discharge)
- >Bottom-up effects (Nitrogen, phosphors)
- >Top-down effects (Zooplankton, fish)

Minimum

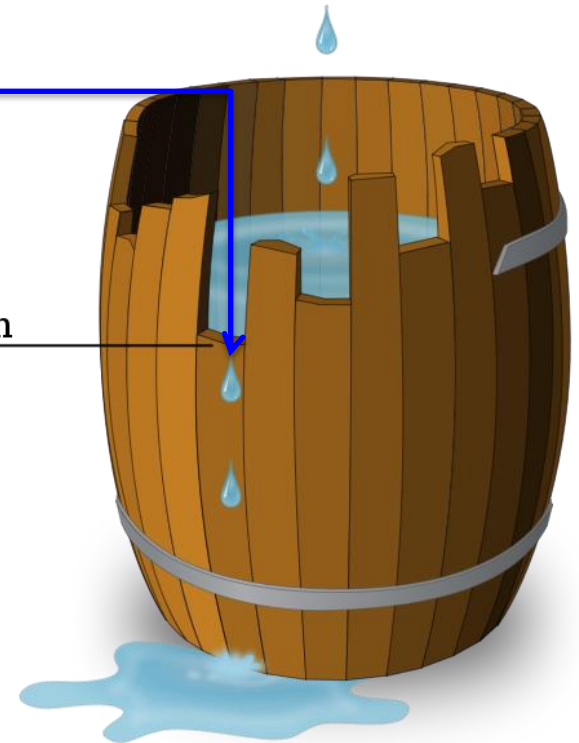


# 1. Harmful Algal Bloom

## ✚ Controllable factors

- > Climate (Temperature, solar radiation)
- > Lake shape (Depth, volume and surface)
- > Basin hydrology (Water discharge)
- > **Bottom-up effects (Nitrogen, phosphors)**
- > Top-down effects (Zooplankton, fish)

Minimum





## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

✦ **Classic regressions: Relate mean CHL to mean TN or TP**

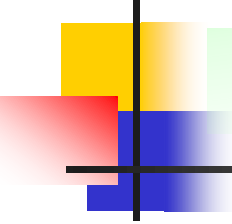
$$\log_{10} Chl = \alpha * \log_{10} TN + \beta \quad (1)$$

$$\log_{10} Chl = \alpha * \log_{10} TP + \beta \quad (2)$$

The phosphorus–chlorophyll relationship in lakes<sup>1,2</sup>

*P. J. Dillon<sup>3</sup> and F. H. Rigler*

Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario



## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

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### +Quantile regressions: Relate max CHL to TN or TP

$$\log_{10}Chl = \alpha * \log_{10}TN + \beta \quad (1)$$

$$\log_{10}Chl = \alpha * \log_{10}TP + \beta \quad (2)$$

REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

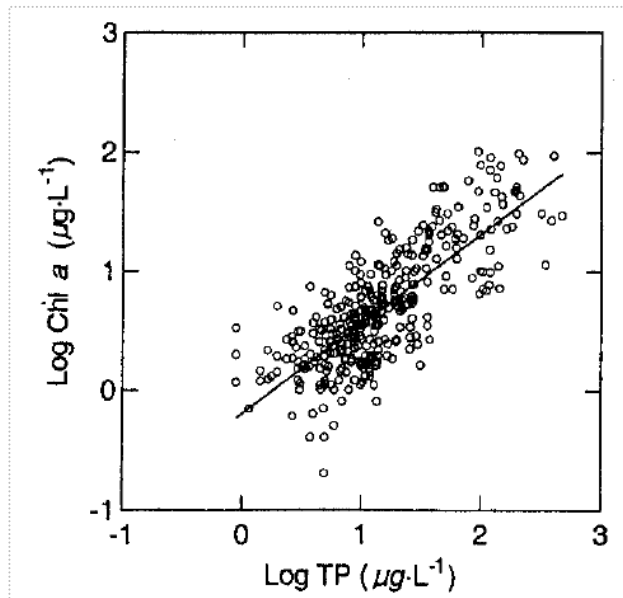
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412

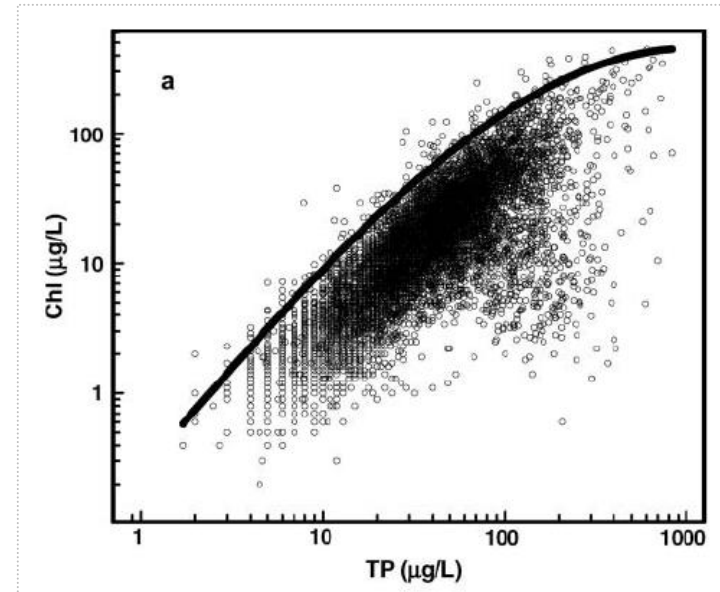
## A gentle introduction to quantile regression for ecologists

Brian S Cade<sup>1,2</sup> and Barry R Noon<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model



Classic regression:  
Modeling annual/summer mean  
(e.g. Haven et al. 2004)



Quantile regression:  
Modeling upper bound  
(e.g. Jones et al. 2011)



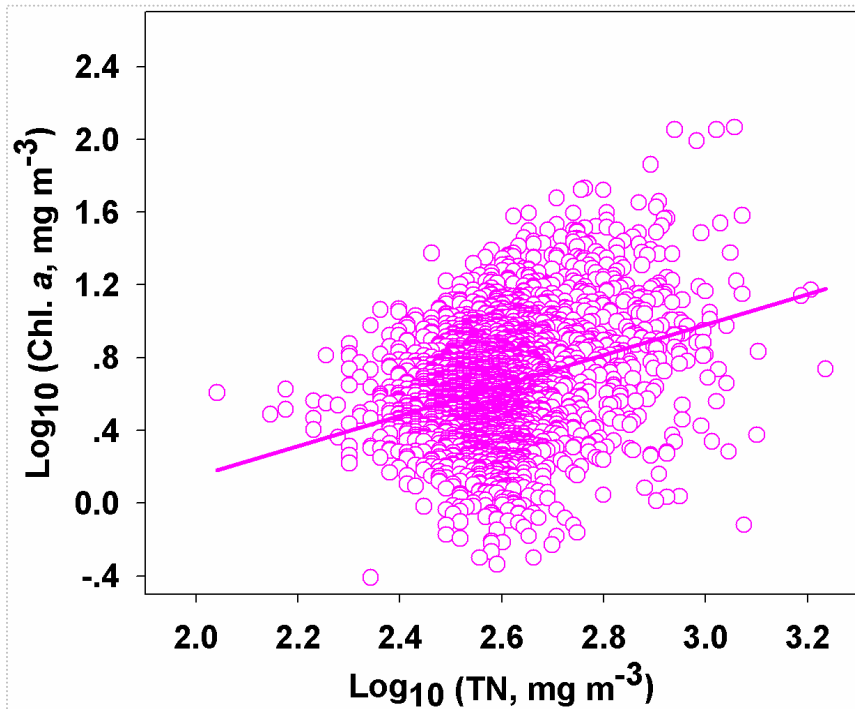
## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

### Lake Champlain dataset: 15 sampling stations (1992~2012)



## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

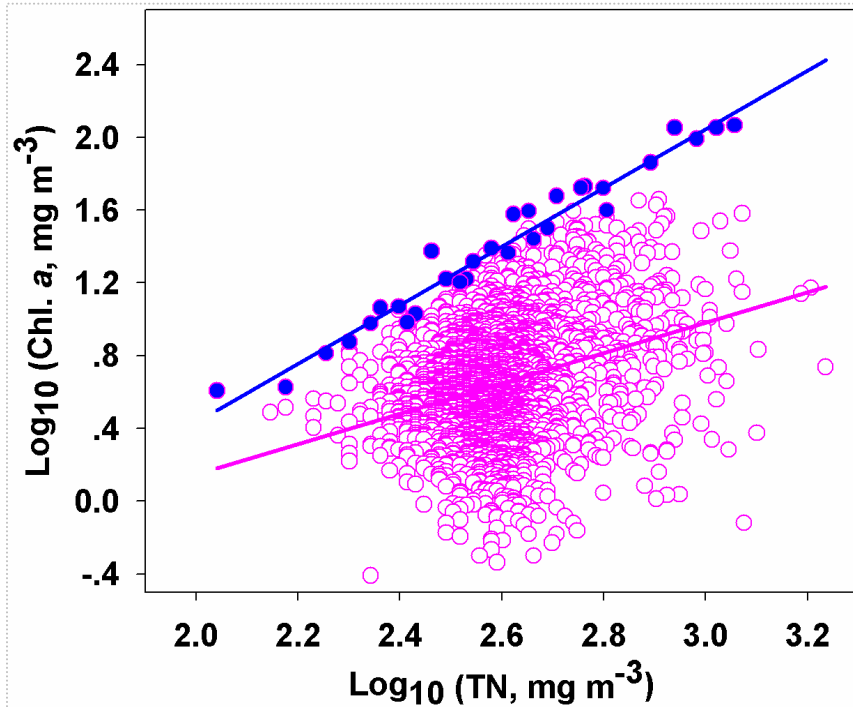
### Mean Chl-TN model with effects of uncontrollable factors



$$\log_{10} \text{Chl} = 0.82 * \log_{10} \text{TN} - 1.52$$
$$r^2 = 0.101, p < 0.01$$

## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

Max Chl-TN model without effects of other uncontrollable factors

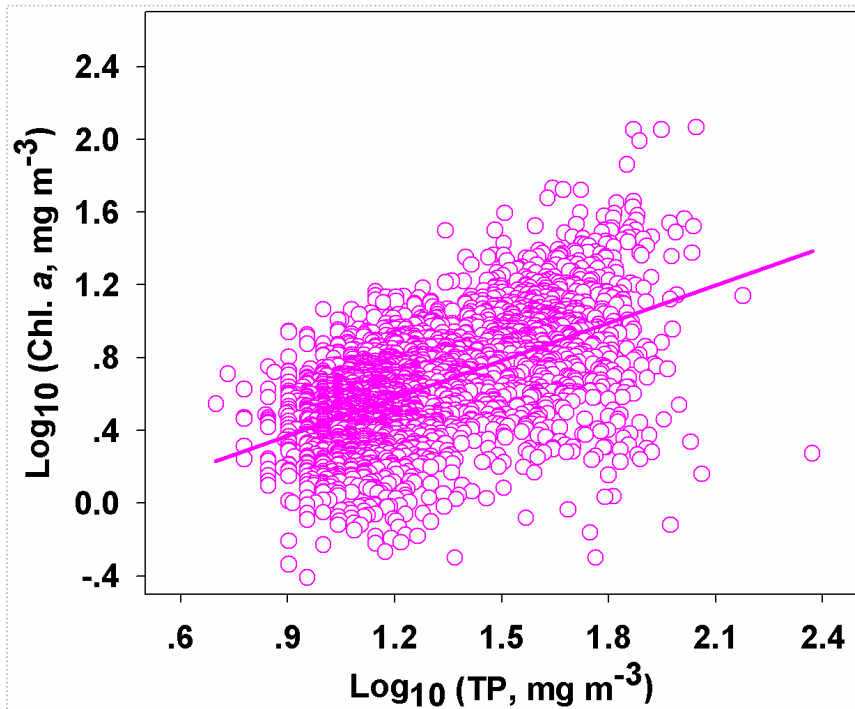


$$\log_{10} Chl_{\max} = 1.61 * \log_{10} TN - 2.79$$
$$r^2 = 0.962, p < 0.01$$

$$\log_{10} Chl = 0.82 * \log_{10} TN - 1.52$$
$$r^2 = 0.101, p < 0.01$$

## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

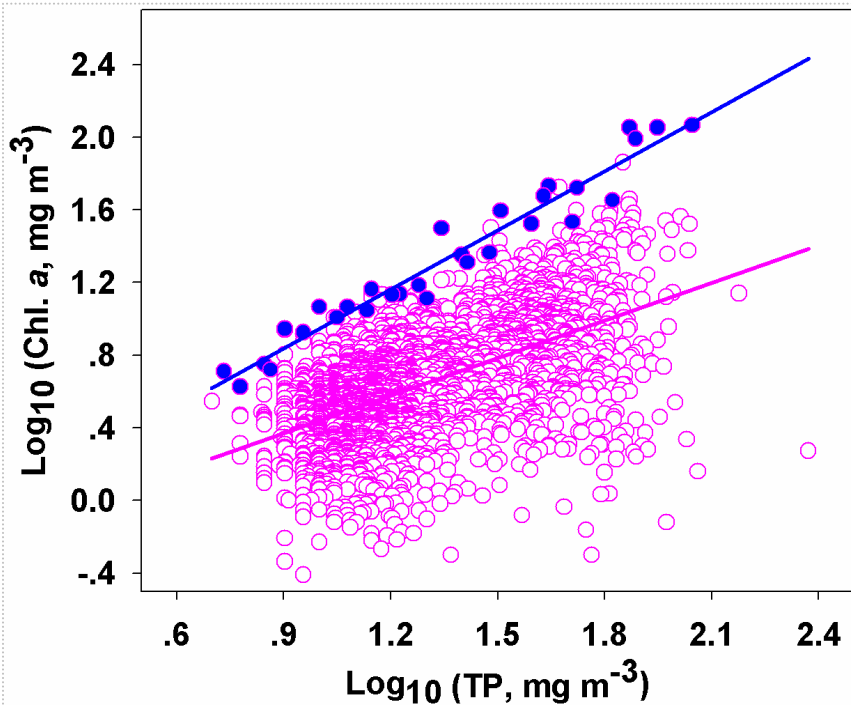
Mean Chl-TP model with effects of uncontrollable factors



$$\log_{10} \text{Chl} = 0.69 * \log_{10} \text{TP} - 0.25$$
$$r^2 = 0.316, p < 0.01$$

## 2. Chlorophyll-nutrient model

Max Chl-TP model without effects of other uncontrollable factors



$$\log_{10} Chl_{\max} = 1.08 * \log_{10} TP - 0.14$$
$$r^2 = 0.948, p < 0.01$$

$$\log_{10} Chl = 0.69 * \log_{10} TP - 0.25$$
$$r^2 = 0.316, p < 0.01$$

### Controlling Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

Daniel J. Conley,<sup>1\*</sup> Hans W. Paerl,<sup>2</sup> Robert W. Howarth,<sup>3</sup> Donald F. Boesch,<sup>4</sup> Sybil P. Seitzinger,<sup>5</sup> Karl E. Havens,<sup>6</sup> Christiane Lancelot,<sup>7</sup> Gene E. Likens<sup>8</sup>

### Eutrophication: Focus on Phosphorus

THE POLICY FORUM BY D. J. CONLEY *ET AL.* (“Controlling eutrophication: Nitrogen and phosphorus,” 20 February, p. 1014) advocates expensive and unnecessary nitrogen (N) control in lakes.

### Eutrophication: Model Before Acting

IN A RECENT POLICY FORUM (“CONTROLLING eutrophication: Nitrogen and phosphorus,” 20 February, p. 1014), D. J. Conley *et al.* made a controversial case for a dual nutrient-reduction strategy to address eutrophication in lakes, estuaries, and coastal areas.

### Eutrophication: Time to Adjust Expectations

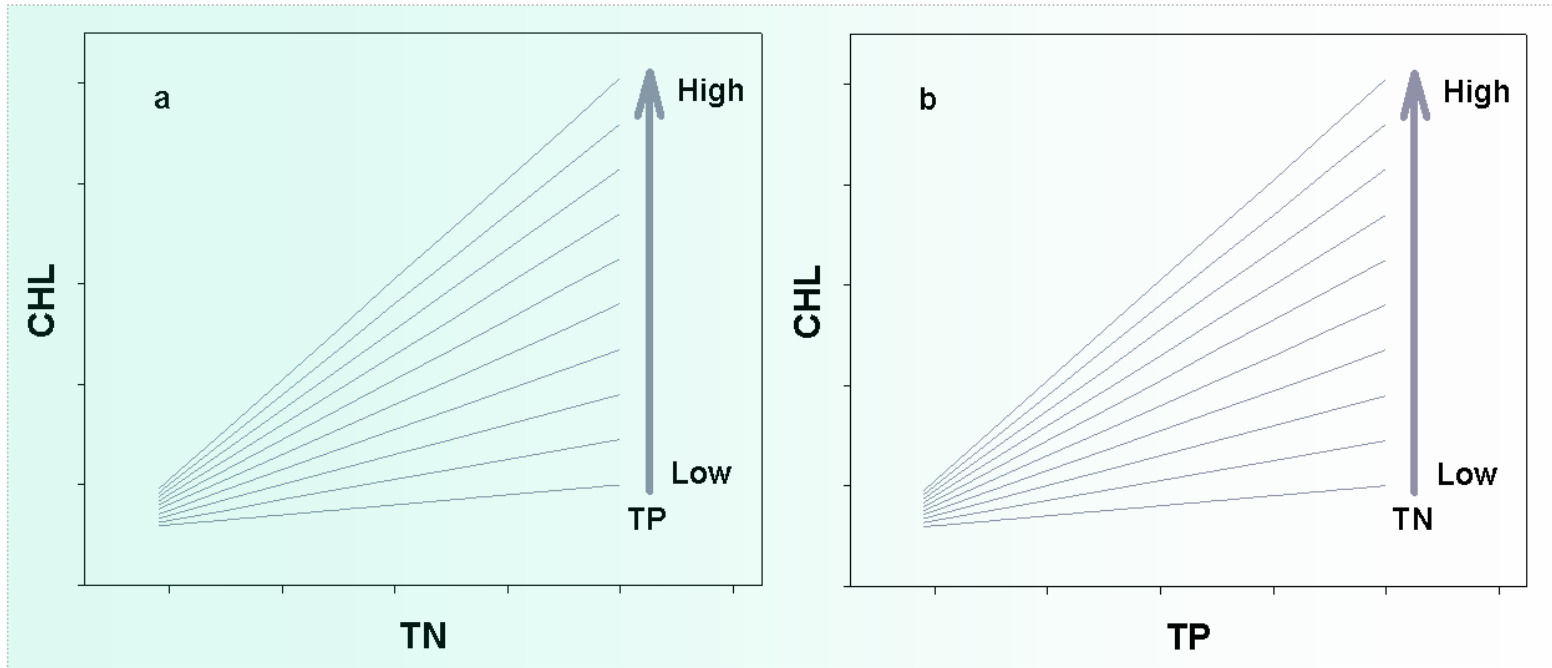
D. J. CONLEY *ET AL.* (“CONTROLLING EUTROPHICATION: Nitrogen and phosphorus,” Policy Forum, 20 February, p. 1014) advocate a shift in strategies to control eutrophication of aquatic systems. We agree that the best hope for success rests with strategies couched in a systems perspective and founded on an understanding of interactions among biogeochemical cycles.

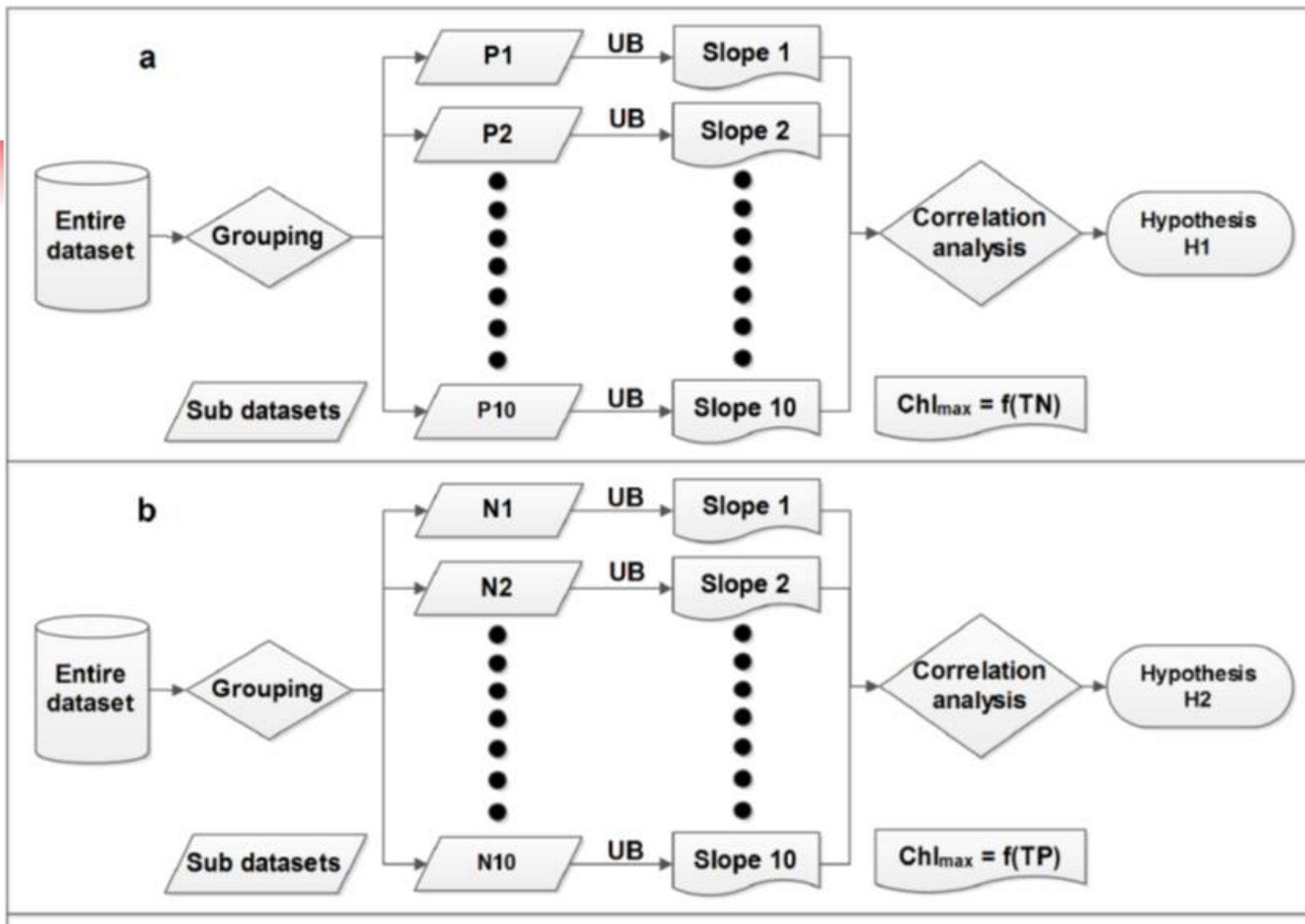
### Eutrophication: More Nitrogen Data Needed

WE AGREE WITH D. J. CONLEY *ET AL.* (“CONTROLLING eutrophication: Nitrogen and phosphorus,” Policy Forum, 20 February, p. 1014) that there are many compelling reasons for controlling agricultural and industrial sources of nitrogen. In many areas, nitrate and ammonium are

### 3. Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

- ✚ Hypothesis (H1): The response of CHL to TN is raised by TP?
- ✚ Hypothesis (H2): The response of CHL to TP is raised by TN?



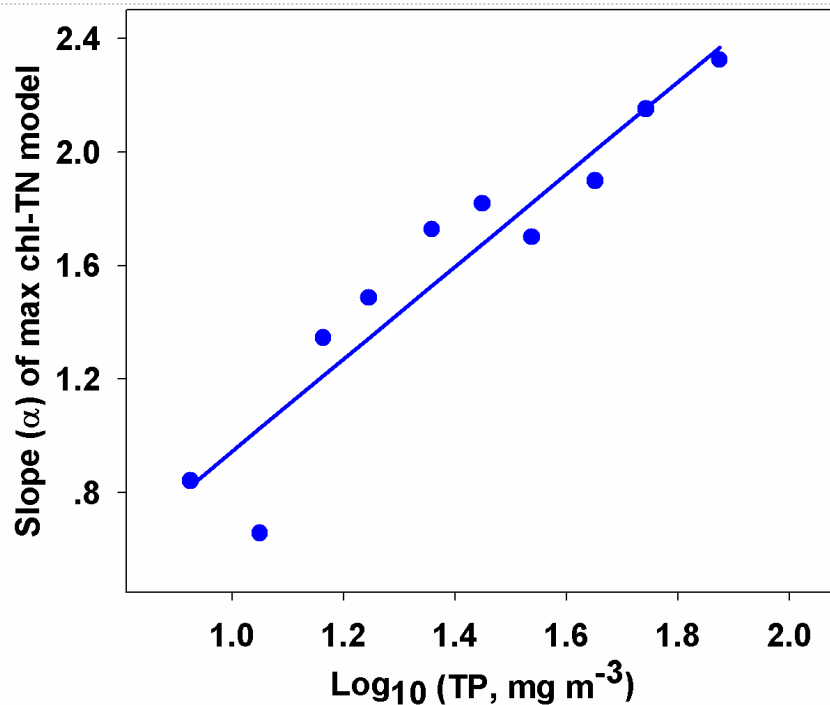




Sub-dataset	TP	Samples	Sub-dataset	TN	Samples
P1	$0.7 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.0$	187	N1	$2.04 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.45$	214
P2	$1.0 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.1$	516	N2	$2.45 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.50$	233
P3	$1.1 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.2$	527	N3	$2.50 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.55$	479
P4	$1.2 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.3$	335	N4	$2.55 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.60$	556
P5	$1.3 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.4$	233	N5	$2.60 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.65$	521
P6	$1.4 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.5$	178	N6	$2.65 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.70$	269
P7	$1.5 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.6$	223	N7	$2.70 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.75$	123
P8	$1.6 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.7$	226	N8	$2.75 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.80$	95
P9	$1.7 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 1.8$	152	N9	$2.80 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 2.85$	64
P10	$1.8 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TP}) < 2.4$	121	N10	$2.85 \leq \text{Log}_{10}(\text{TN}) < 3.24$	144

### 3. Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

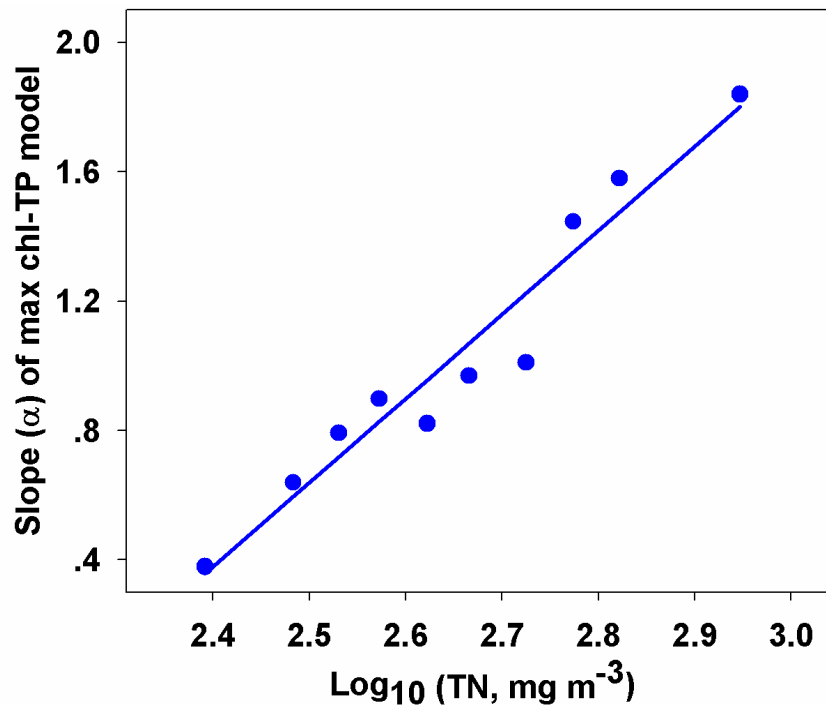
➤ Hypothesis (H1): True  
Increase in TP enhance phytoplankton response to TN (Slope,  $\alpha_{TN}$ )



$$\alpha_{TN} = 1.63 * \log_{10} TP - 0.68$$
$$r^2 = 0.897, p < 0.01$$

### 3. Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

➤ Hypothesis (H2): True  
Increase in TN enhance phytoplankton response to TP (Slope,  $\alpha_{TP}$ )



$$\alpha_{TP} = 2.60 * \log_{10} TN - 5.87$$
$$r^2 = 0.941, p < 0.01$$



### 3. Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

✚Hypothesis (H1): True

Increase in TP enhance phytoplankton response to TN (Slope,  $\alpha_{TN}$ )

✚Hypothesis (H2): True

Increase in TN enhance phytoplankton response to TP (Slope,  $\alpha_{TP}$ )

Dual-nutrient control would be more effective than phosphorus-only reduction to mitigate eutrophication in Lake Champlain

# Blooms Like It Hot

Hans W. Paerl<sup>1</sup> and Jef Huisman<sup>2</sup>

A link exists between global warming and the worldwide proliferation of harmful cyanobacterial blooms.

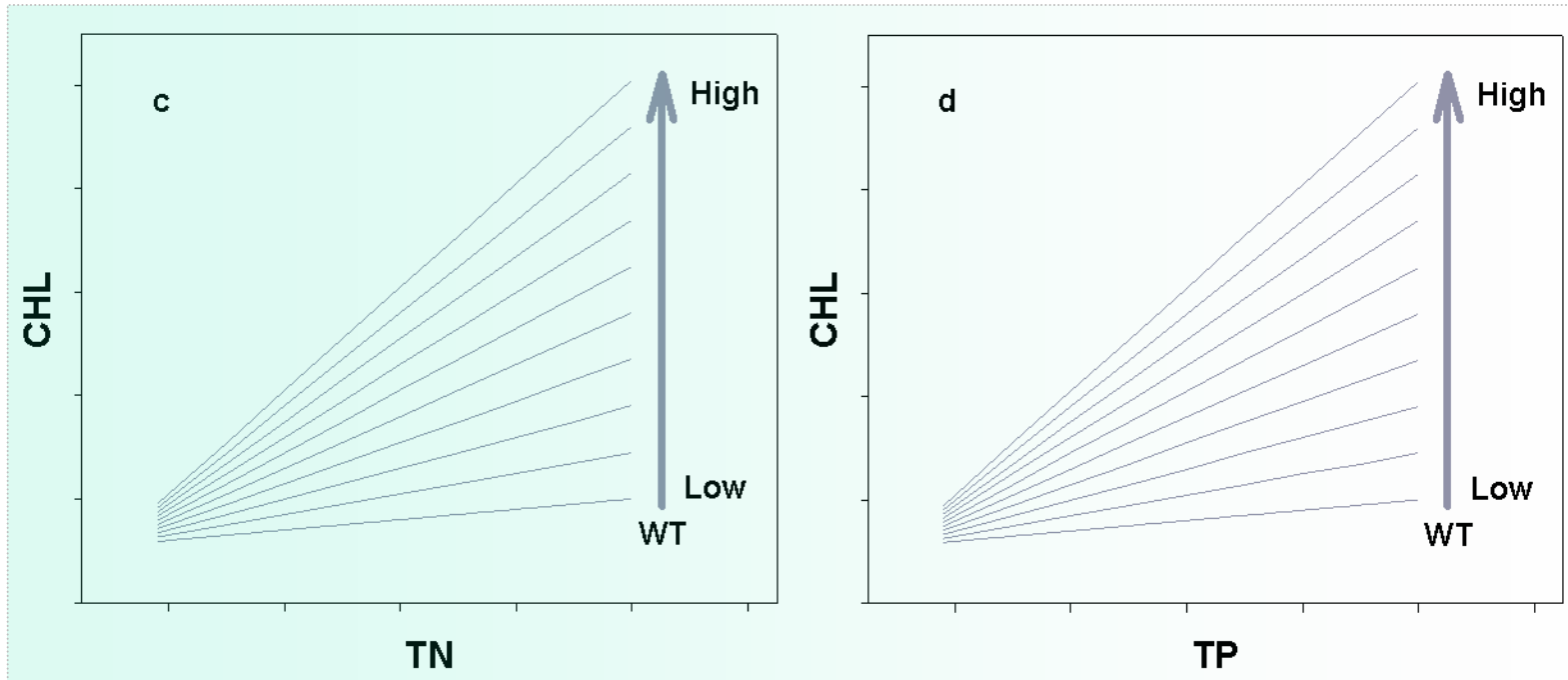
# Resilience to Blooms

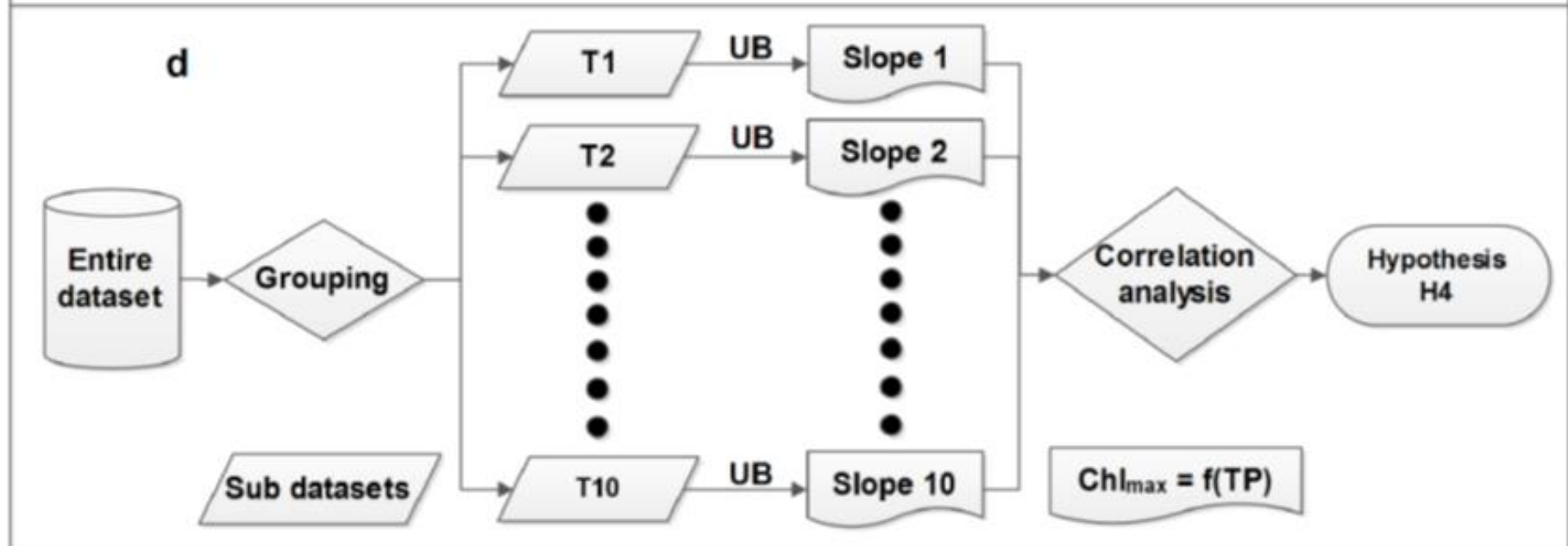
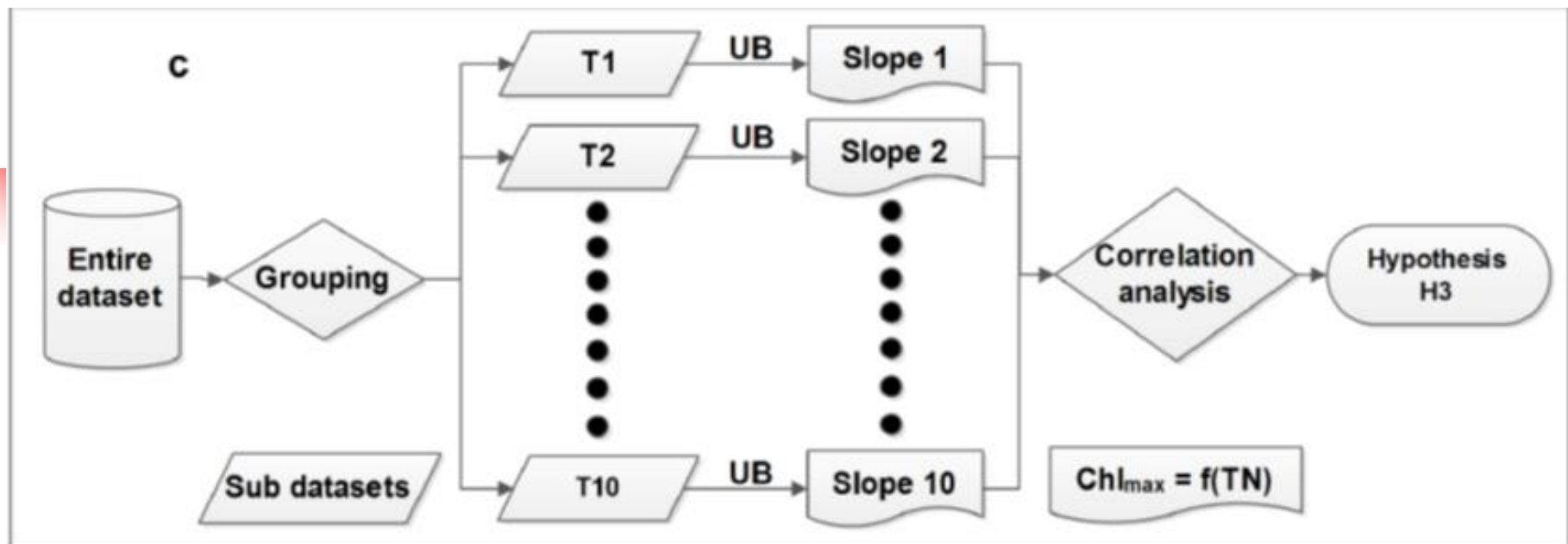
Justin D. Brookes<sup>1</sup> and Cayelan C. Carey<sup>2</sup>

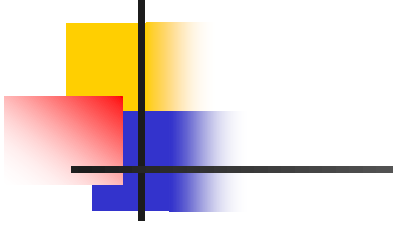
Managing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of fresh water may decrease the risk of cyanobacterial blooms, even in the face of warming temperatures.

## 4. Adaptation to Changing Climate

- ✦ Hypothesis (H3): The response of CHL to TN is raised by WT?
- ✦ Hypothesis (H4): The response of CHL to TP is raised by WT?







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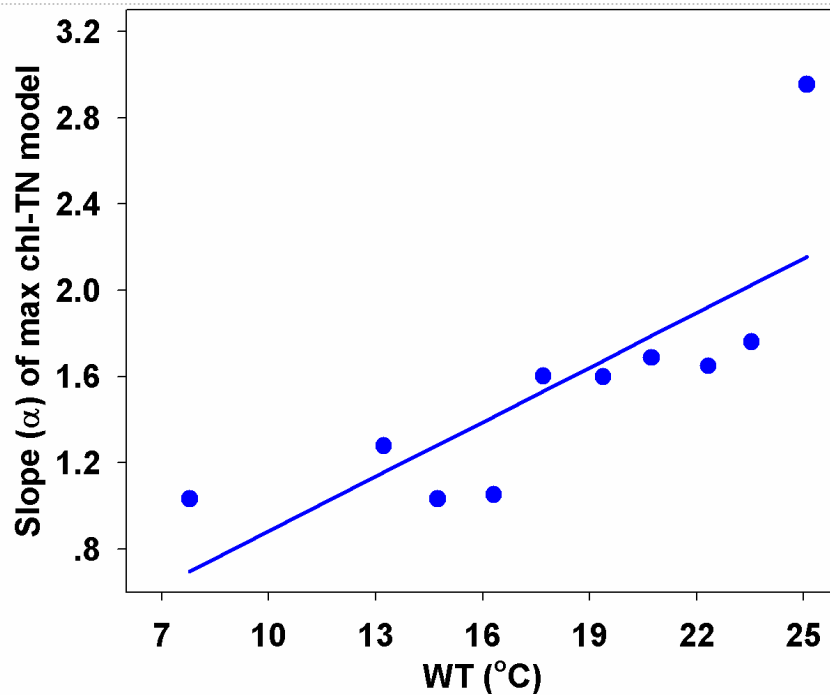
Sub-dataset	WT	Samples
T1	$2.7 \leq \text{WT} < 12.5$	364
T2	$12.5 \leq \text{WT} < 14.0$	165
T3	$14.0 \leq \text{WT} < 15.5$	183
T4	$15.5 \leq \text{WT} < 17.0$	192
T5	$17.0 \leq \text{WT} < 18.5$	266
T6	$18.5 \leq \text{WT} < 20.0$	264
T7	$20.0 \leq \text{WT} < 21.5$	399
T8	$21.5 \leq \text{WT} < 23.0$	390
T9	$23.0 \leq \text{WT} < 24.5$	320
T10	$24.5 \leq \text{WT} < 29.0$	155

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## 4. Adaptation to Changing Climate

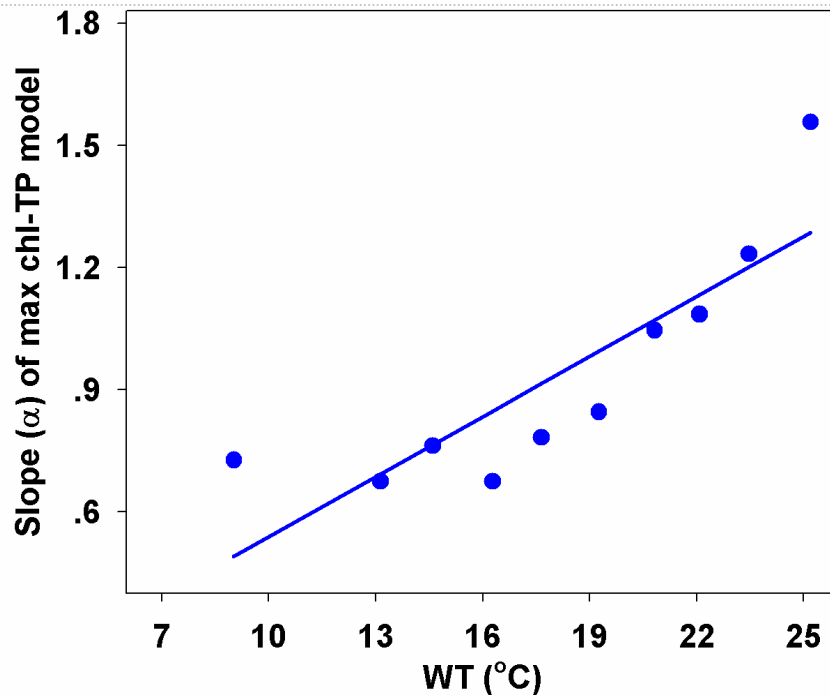
**Hypothesis (H3): True**  
**Increased temperature enhance phytoplankton response to nitrogen (Slope,  $\alpha_{TN}$ )**



$$\alpha_{TN} = 0.084 * WT + 0.039$$
$$r^2 = 0.612, p < 0.01$$

## 4. Adaptation to Changing Climate

**Hypothesis (H4): True**  
**Increased temperature enhance phytoplankton response to phosphorus (Slope,  $\alpha_{TP}$ )**



$$\alpha_{TP} = 0.049 * WT + 0.046$$
$$r^2 = 0.729, p < 0.01$$



## 4. Adaptation to Changing Climate

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**±Hypothesis (H3): True**

**Increased temperature enhance phytoplankton response to nitrogen (Slope,  $\alpha_{TN}$ )**

**±Hypothesis (H4): True**

**Increased temperature enhance phytoplankton response to phosphorus (Slope,  $\alpha_{TP}$ )**

**Tightening nutrient reduction helps mitigate the climate-driven eutrophication, and improve lake adaptation to changing climate**



## Main Points

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1. Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB): Controlling Factors
2. Chlorophyll-Nutrient Model: Origin and Advance
3. Controlling Eutrophication: Nitrogen and Phosphorus
4. Reducing Nutrient: Adaptation to Changing Climate

## Acknowledgements



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