### Stability and Change in Global Atmospheric Carbon

Session 9

#### **Session Goals**

- Climate science ideas: Explore local and global changes in atmospheric and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> and use proxies as scientists do to think about global patterns.
- Using data: Learn about the strategies and practice the skills needed to use archived professionally-collected data from online data portals. Interpret data and use it as evidence (i.e. draw conclusions); and use best fit lines to calculate long-term trends in data.
- Teaching and Learning: Experience a variety of effective practices for teaching and learning, as well as practice designing a testable question.
- Framework/NGSS: Learn about the crosscutting concepts: Stability & Change and Scale, Proportion & Quantity; and the Science and Engineering Practice: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information.

# Topic Area Question → More Focused Questions

**Final Projects** 

#### Example of refining questions

#### How are light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen related?

- A. Make it more specific by where (spatially):
  - a. What is the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration in the Jacques Cousteau Research Reserve?
  - b. Does the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration *vary north to south*? *east to west*? *inland vs. coastal*?

#### Example of refining questions

#### How are light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen related?

- A. Make it more specific by where (spatially)
- B. Make it more specific by when (temporally):
  - a. What is the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration throughout a day? across the seasons? over a year? over a decade?
  - b. Does the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration vary throughout a day? across the seasons? over a year? over a decade?

#### Example of refining questions

#### How are light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen related?

- A. Make it more specific by where (spatially)
- B. Make it more specific by when (temporally)
- C. Make it more specific by what other variables of interest:
  - a. What is the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration as it changes with tides?
  - b. Does the relationship between light energy (PAR) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration *vary in a hurricane*?

#### Partner Work

- 1. Discuss and write down questions about other aspects of your Topic Area Question that you think would be of interest to investigate.
- 2. For each More Focused Question, make a prediction (i.e. hypothesis) about the patterns or relationship you expect to see. Include your rationale.



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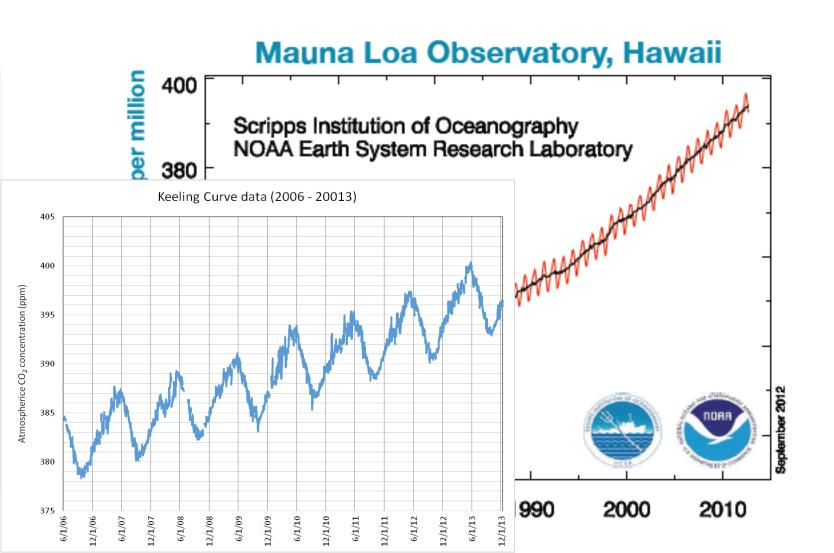
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http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/get/export.cfm



Data Activities: *Using Environmental Data to Investigate Ocean Acidification* 

# Keeling Curve: CO<sub>2</sub> Levels in the Atmosphere

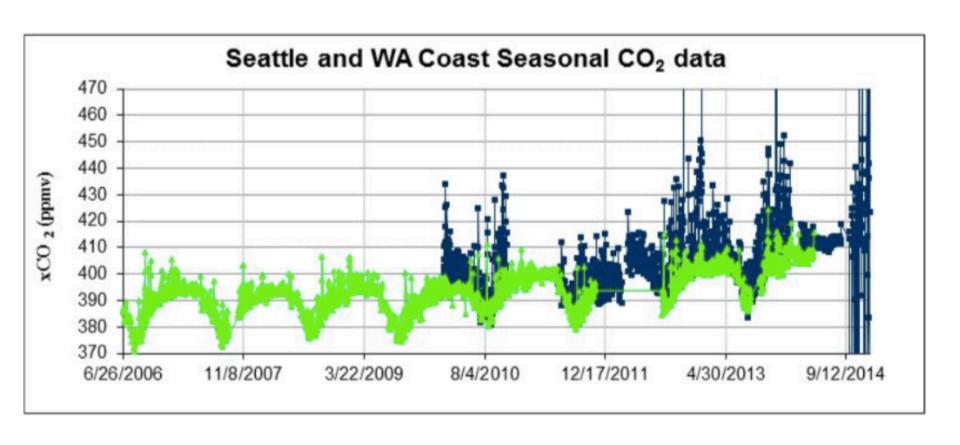


#### **Proxy**

- A measured parameter used to estimate or predict another parameter that cannot be measured or quantified directly.
- Why do you think that this location in Hawaii was chosen to represent, or be the proxy of, the global levels?

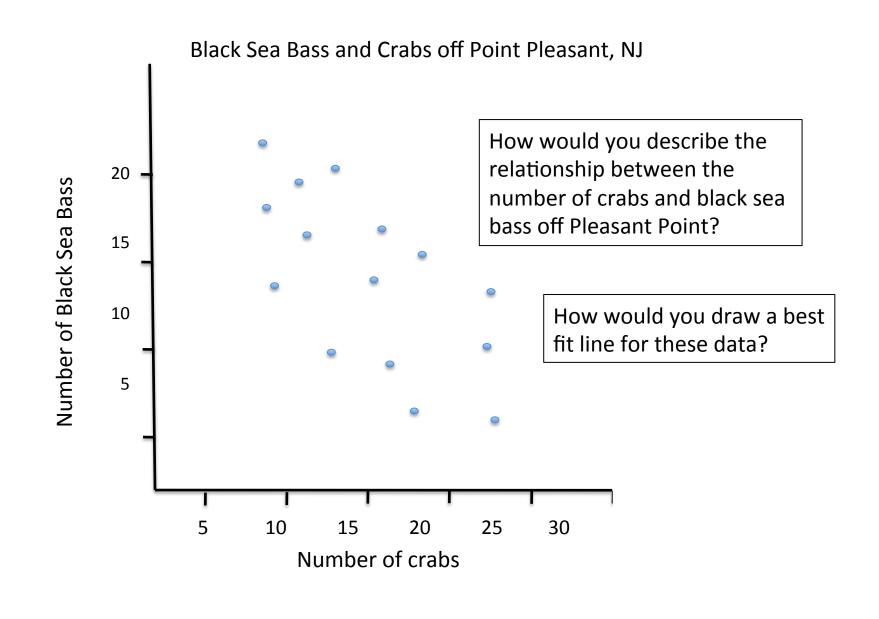
### Using Environmental Data to Track Ocean Acidification

- Complete the handout with a partner
- Read directions carefully
- Ask for assistance if you have questions



Seattle and WA coast Seasonal CO2 data collected by PMEL

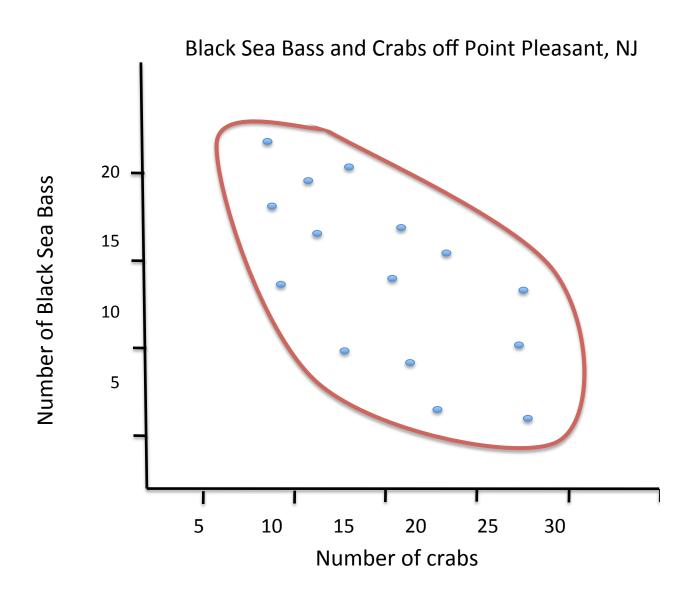
Standard Units



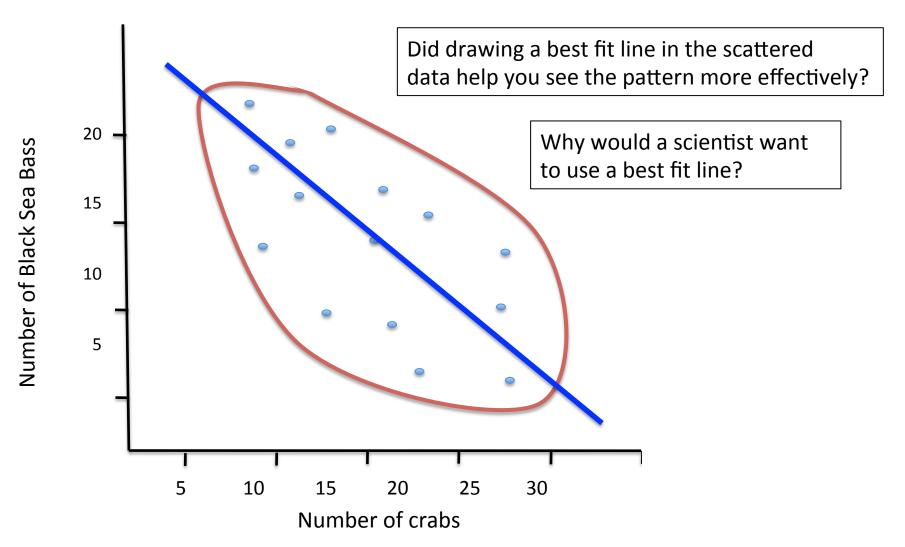
#### One way to draw a best fit line

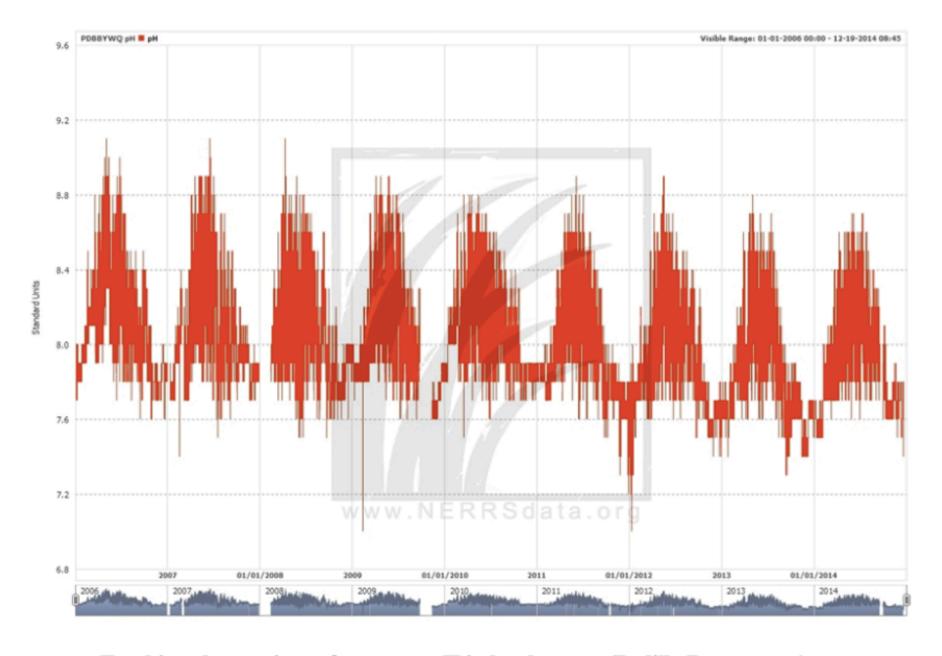
- Draw a line encircling the entire set of data points, trying to enclose the data as best as possible. The resulting ellipse should be as small as possible.
- Draw a line dividing the ellipse along its longest axis such that there are equal areas on either side of the line.
- This is your best fit line.

Best Fit Line Step 1: Draw a circle around the data, enclosing the data as tightly as you can



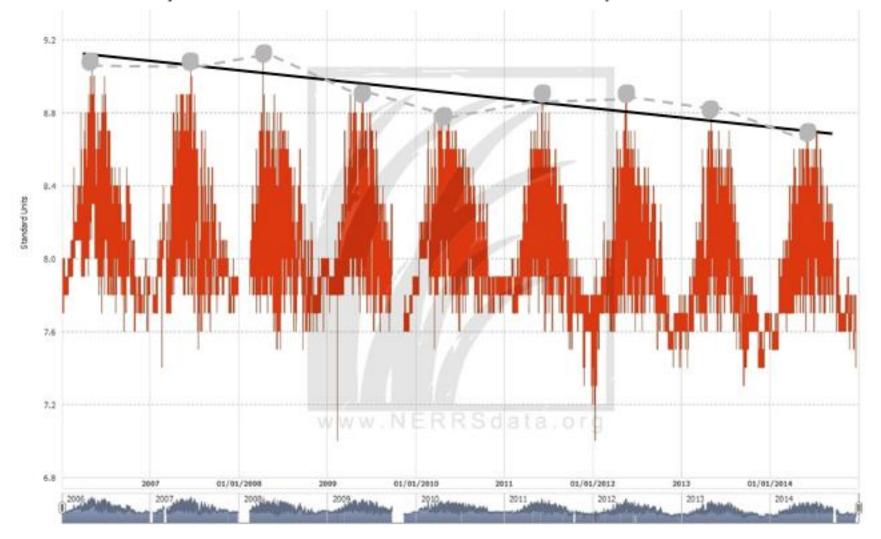
Black Sea Bass and Crabs off Point Pleasant, NJ





Tracking changes in surface water pH in local waters (Padilla Bay estuary)

Did drawing a best fit line in the pH data help you see the pattern more effectively? How else could you have drawn the best fit line in the pH data?



# Turn and Talk— Comparing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> & pH

What benefits could there be from looking at two different environmental variables from the same location over the same time period simultaneously?

#### Comparing pH and CO<sub>2</sub>

- Compare your pH graph to your graph of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured on Washington Coast.
  - Taken individually, what is similar between the data patterns of the ocean pH and the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>?
  - What relationship do you notice between the two variables?
  - What extra information or understanding did we learn from looking at both of these environmental variables together, rather than only looking at them individually, or only at just one?

#### **Quick Write**

In what way(s) are the concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and ocean pH related or not to one another? How do you know? Why does it matter?

#### **Key Concept**

Increases in atmospheric and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> and concurrent decreases in ocean pH can be observed locally and globally.

# Crosscutting Concepts – thinking about the last activity

- Work with a partner and both read the same crosscutting concept from NRC *Framework for K–12 Science Education*. Read one of the following:
  - Stability and Change, pp. 98-101,
  - Scale, Proportion, and Quantity, pp. 89-91
    - Use the Active Reading strategies.
- When you finish reading it individually, discuss with your partner
  - your understanding of the crosscutting concept, and
  - How it was used to frame the phenomena in this session

#### Partner discussion prompts

#### **Stability and Change:**

- 1. What does the data tell us about how the system is stable or changes? What causes stability in this system?
- 2. What does the data tell us about what affects the stability of this system?
- 3. What causes change in this system?
- 4. What is already known about stability and change in this system?
- 5. What is the time scale for this system to remain stable or change?
- 6. If the system is changing, what would make it become stable? Are there feedbacks in the system?

#### Scale, Proportion and Quantity:

- 1. What scales are used to examine the phenomena?
- 2. How can we study nature at these scales?
- 3. How can we accurately measure at these scales?
- 4. What proportions are described by the data?
- 5. Why is a sense of scale important to look at this phenomenon?

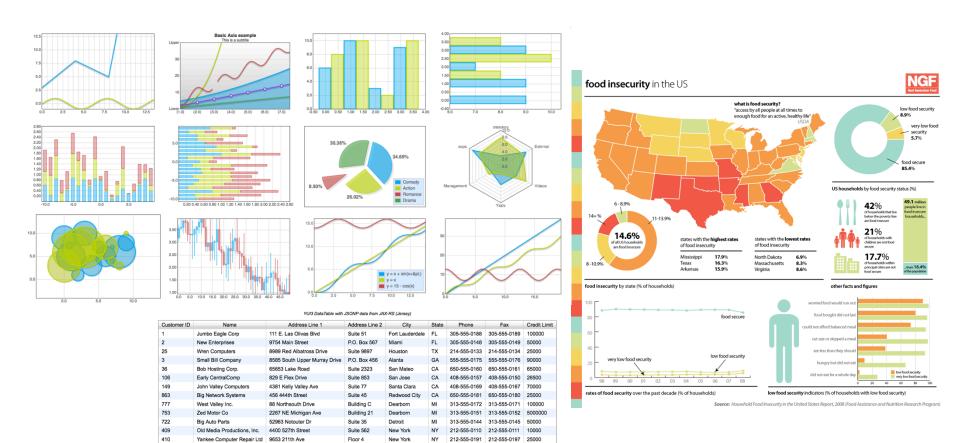
## Group of 4: synthesizing & connecting ideas across CCCs

- How might a sense of scale, proportion and quantity support a learner's understanding of the phenomena? Why do you think that?
- How might a sense of stability and change support a learner's understanding of the phenomena? Why do you think that?
- Was it effective to frame the science concept and explain the phenomena in terms of both of the crosscutting concepts? Did your group feel that one crosscutting concept was more effective in helping to understand the phenomena than the other? Why do you think that?

#### Whole Group Discussion

- Compare and contrast how each of the two crosscutting concepts frames the concepts.
- Think about how the two big ideas might affect a learner's understanding of the phenomena.
- Would one make more sense to use than the other to frame the activities we engaged with today?
   Explain your answer.

#### Variety of data visualizations

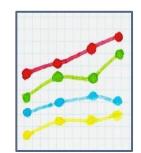


### Choosing the correct data visualization

What kind of data do you have and what are you trying to show: For example

- A <u>comparison</u> of values between variables, or
- The <u>distribution</u> of a variable across a range of possible values, or
- The <u>composition</u> of the components of the variables.

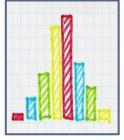




What do you want to show?

**Distribution** 

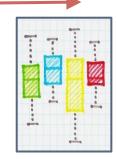
Single Variable



Two Variables

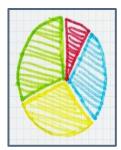




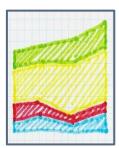


Composition

Static in Time



**Changing Over Time** 



#### Matching words to figure type

	Words	Common Figure Types
Comparis ons:	before/after, categories, compare, contrast, over time, peaks, rank, trend, types, valleys	

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# Accessing and using real time and archived data

#### Turn & Talk

- What are good quality data?
- What is a reliable source of data and how can you tell?

#### **Quick Write**

- What are your overall reflections about using archived data during today's session.
  - Reminder: archived data "are older data (> 30 days old) that are important and necessary for long-term reference."

#### Homework

#### Data Lesson Development

See handout to complete Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Data
 Components of Final Project worksheet. Work with your
 partner to complete the worksheet and bring it to the next
 class to get feedback from peers and instructor. Use the Data
 Components Glossary as needed.

#### Spurious Correlations

 Review the Spurious Correlations website, find a favorite correlation, and be prepared to share it with the group in the next session:

http://www.tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations

#### Reading

 Use the active reading strategy with "Background on CO<sub>2</sub> and Ocean pH"