

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Seasonal time bombs: dominant temperate viruses affect Southern Ocean microbial dynamics

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Rapid warming in the highly productive western Antarctic Peninsula (WAP) region of the Southern Ocean has affected multiple trophic levels, yet viral influences on microbial processes and ecosystem function remain understudied in the Southern Ocean. Here we use cultivation-independent quantitative ecological and metagenomic assays, combined with new comparative bioinformatic techniques, to investigate double-stranded DNA viruses during the WAP spring–summer transition. This study demonstrates that (i) temperate viruses dominate this region, switching from lysogeny to lytic replication as bacterial production increases, and (ii) Southern Ocean viral assemblages are genetically distinct from lower-latitude assemblages, primarily driven by this temperate viral dominance. This new information suggests fundamentally different virus–host interactions in polar environments, where intense seasonal changes in bacterial production select for temperate viruses because of increased fitness imparted by the ability to switch replication strategies in response to resource availability. Further, temperate viral dominance may provide mechanisms (for example, bacterial mortality resulting from prophage induction) that help explain observed temporal delays between, and lower ratios of, bacterial and primary production in polar versus lower-latitude marine ecosystems. Together these results suggest that temperate virus–host interactions are critical to predicting changes in microbial dynamics brought on by warming in polar marine systems.

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Introduction

Polar marine ecosystems are highly susceptible to the effects of warming and climate change because of the significant influence of sea ice in ecosystem dynamics (reviewed by Doney *et al.*, 2012). A focal point of this polar research has been the marine region of the western Antarctic Peninsula (WAP) as it is one of the most rapidly warming regions on the planet (reviewed by Doney *et al.*, 2012; Ducklow *et al.*, 2012a) and is part of the highly productive Southern Ocean, which contributes an estimated 20% of global oceanic CO₂ uptake (Takahashi *et al.*, 2002). Long-term research in the WAP demonstrates that rapid warming has already reduced sea ice extent and duration, affecting multiple trophic levels

ranging from ecosystem foundational microbes to high-level consumers such as krill and penguins (Ducklow *et al.*, 2012a,b; Saba *et al.*, 2014). On land, microorganisms are having significant roles in polar ecosystem changes brought on by thawing permafrost, with some cases showing that the abundance of key microorganisms best predicts carbon cycling and climate feedbacks for global-scale models (McCalley *et al.*, 2014; Mondav *et al.*, 2014). Similarly, marine microbes are critical to the functioning of the WAP food web, and with warming are expected to have increasingly significant ecosystem roles (Sailley *et al.*, 2013).

Viruses are known to have substantial roles in marine ecosystems through their alteration of microbial community dynamics and processes. Viral infections cause *ca* 10–40% of bacterial mortality in marine systems and alter biogeochemical cycling through the release of cellular contents during lysis (reviewed by Fuhrman, 1999; Suttle, 2007; Brum *et al.*, 2014). Further, viruses can possess metabolic genes including those involved in photosynthesis, sulfur metabolism and carbon metabolism, thus directly affecting ecosystem productivity and biogeochemical cycling through expression of these genes during infection of microorganisms (reviewed

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by Breitbart, 2012; Brum and Sullivan, 2015). Quantitative examination of these viral roles in nature has been challenging, but recent methodological advances have drastically expanded our ability to investigate viral ecology and their effects on ecosystem processes (reviewed by Brum and Sullivan, 2015). Critically, these advances include an optimized sample-to-sequence pipeline to generate quantitative double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) viral metagenomes (viromes; reviewed by Solonenko and Sullivan, 2013), which has facilitated leaps in our knowledge of viral genomic diversity, niche differentiation and ecological drivers of community variability (reviewed by Brum and Sullivan, 2015).

Although the above advances facilitate understanding of viruses in marine ecosystems, knowledge of viral roles in polar regions remains quite limited. In the Southern Ocean, the majority of studies to date have focused on spatial and temporal variability of community viral abundance using microscopy (for example, Bird *et al.*, 1993; Marchant *et al.*, 2000; Pearce *et al.*, 2007; Yang *et al.*, 2010). The few studies that have experimentally determined microbial mortality as a result of viral infection in the Southern Ocean have demonstrated strong spatial variability in this parameter and indicated that viral lysis is important as a mortality factor as well as a source of organic matter for microorganisms (Guixa-Boixereu *et al.*, 2002; Brussaard *et al.*, 2008; Evans *et al.*, 2009; Evans and Brussaard, 2012; Malits *et al.*, 2014). Further, investigation of Southern Ocean viral genomic diversity has previously been limited to evaluations of viral genome size distribution (Brussaard *et al.*, 2008), single-gene-based examination of algal virus diversity (Short and Suttle, 2002) and identification of viral genes within six bacterial fosmids (Cottrell and Kirchman, 2012). Recently published results from a global-scale analysis of quantitatively produced viromes include two samples from the Southern Ocean and suggest that viral diversity in this region is lower than that observed at lower-latitude locations (Brum *et al.*, 2015). Thus, although viruses are undoubtedly important in Southern Ocean ecosystem function, they remain understudied there as compared with other marine environments.

Viruses in polar systems are also thought to have diverse replication strategies, which may be critical to understanding viral ecology in low-temperature environments (Anesio and Bellas, 2011). Viral infections can be exclusively lytic, wherein viral takeover of cellular machinery results in new viral progeny and lysis of the host, or may involve a lysogenic stage in the case of temperate viruses wherein viral DNA is maintained within the host as a prophage until induced to replicate lytically (reviewed by Fuhrman, 2000; Miller and Day, 2008). The current paradigm, based on cultivated temperate virus–host systems, is that lytic replication dominates when bacterial production and abundance are high, whereas lysogeny is favored when they are low (reviewed by

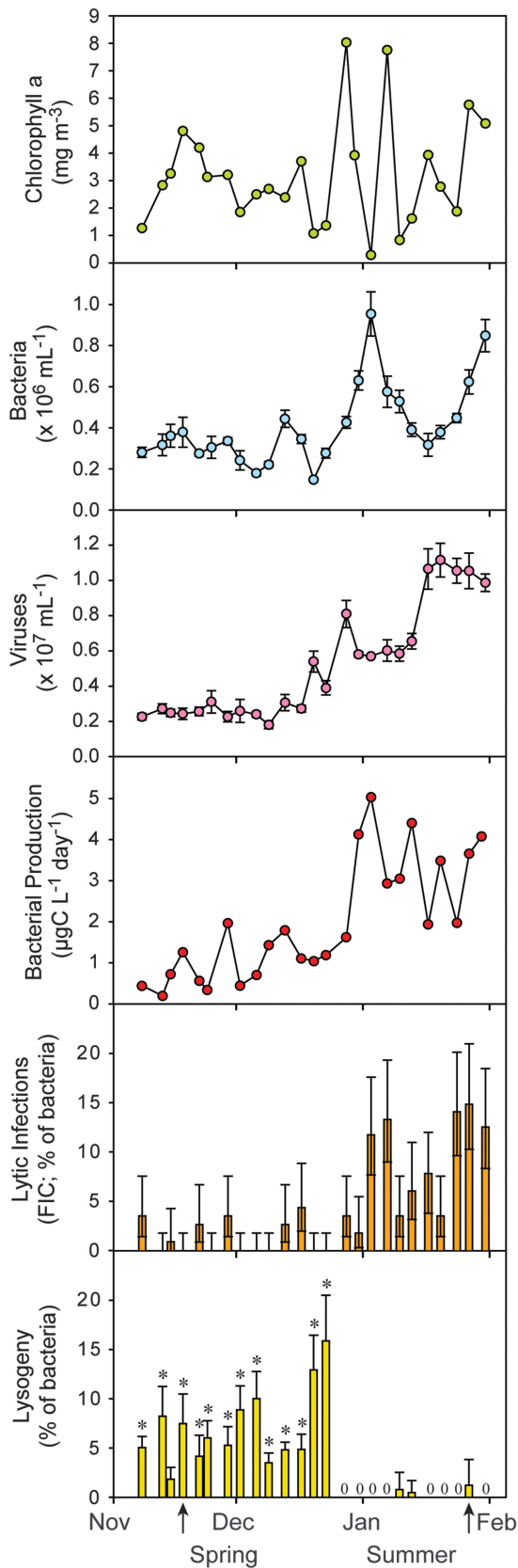
Miller and Day, 2008; Paul, 2008). However, this paradigm remains contentious because of the conflicting evidence obtained from community-level environmental studies (reviewed by Weinbauer, 2004; Paul, 2008). Specifically, community-level temporal studies examining the relationship between lysogeny and bacterial production and/or abundance have shown mixed results including strong negative relationships between these variables (Laybourn-Parry *et al.*, 2007; Payet and Suttle, 2013), weak negative relationships (Williamson *et al.*, 2002), no relationship (Boras *et al.*, 2009) or differing relationships within depth-differentiated data sets from the same study (Thomas *et al.*, 2011). We note that of these studies, the strongest support for the paradigm of negative temporal relationships between lysogeny and bacterial production has been found in polar aquatic regions including the Arctic Ocean (Payet and Suttle, 2013) and Antarctic lakes (Laybourn-Parry *et al.*, 2007). A spatial study including the Southern Ocean also suggests that lysogeny may be more prevalent in regions with lower nutrients and abundance of prokaryotes (Evans and Brussaard, 2012). Further, although no viral metagenomic data exist in Antarctic marine waters, such data from the Arctic Ocean derived from non-quantitatively amplified DNA (Yilmaz *et al.*, 2010) yielded more prophage-related sequences in the Arctic than lower-latitude marine systems (Angly *et al.*, 2006), which is at least qualitatively consistent with polar regions having more temperate viruses. We thus hypothesized that temperate viruses (that is, those capable of both lysogeny and lytic replication) are more abundant in polar regions, and that this may explain the divergent support for this paradigm in aquatic systems across latitudes.

Here we target the WAP region of the Southern Ocean to specifically evaluate the hypotheses that viral replication strategy is determined by bacterial activity, and that temperate viruses dominate polar aquatic regions. To this end, we combined quantitative ecological, metagenomic and bioinformatic analyses across the WAP spring–summer transition to (i) track temporal changes in lysogeny and lytic viral replication in relation to bacterial production and abundance, (ii) evaluate the influence of temperate viruses in this region and (iii) compare WAP dsDNA viral communities with those from lower-latitude marine systems.

Results and Discussion

Temporal changes in viral replication strategies

Nearly 3 months of sampling across the spring–summer transition in the WAP revealed contrasting viral and microbial community dynamics (Figure 1), with lysogeny negatively correlated and lytic infections positively correlated with bacterial abundance, bacterial production and viral abundance (Table 1).



Springtime’s moderate levels of bacterial abundance, production and chlorophyll *a* concentration were matched by moderate viral abundance, with few lytic viral infections and a large fraction (5–16%) of lysogens (that is, bacteria that contained inducible prophages). In contrast, summertime had characteristically higher levels of all measured parameters except lysogeny, which was nearly undetectable. Although the virus to bacterium ratio (VBR) varied considerably during the study period, ranging from 6 to 34 (Supplementary Figure S1), there was no significant relationship between VBR and lysogeny or lytic infections (Table 1). Notably, sampling in this study occurred after the sea ice had melted, therefore the observed dynamics cannot be directly attributed to the release of ice-associated viruses and microorganisms into the water column following seasonal ice melt (Paterson and Laybourn-Parry, 2012).

Comparative analyses of dsDNA viromes constructed from free viruses and induced viruses (that is, temperate viruses chemically induced to switch from lysogeny to lytic replication) at two sampling dates in the spring and summer were conducted using a new shared k-mer-based social network analysis that takes into account the abundance of shared and unique sequences among samples, and does not require assembly or annotation of the virome sequences (Hurwitz *et al.*, 2014). Although these viromes do not include single-stranded DNA or RNA viruses, the <0.2 µm dsDNA viruses that they do include are thought to be numerically dominant in marine viral assemblages (reviewed by Brum and Sullivan, 2015). The spring-free virome was markedly different from both induced viromes, with the majority (59%) of its sequences absent from the induced viromes, suggesting they represented lytic viruses (Figure 2). In contrast, the summer-free virome was highly similar to both induced viromes (sharing 82% of its sequences with the induced viromes) and was therefore assumed to be predominantly comprising temperate viruses capable of utilizing both lysogeny and lytic replication (Figure 2). Given that summer-free viruses were *ca* fourfold more abundant than spring-free viruses (Figure 1), these results also suggest that temperate viruses dominate the WAP viral assemblage, at least for dsDNA viruses examined here.

Together, the ecological and metagenomic results suggest that temperate viruses primarily used

Figure 1 Ecological variables measured in the surface ocean at Palmer LTER Station B from November 2010 through January 2011. Bacteria refers to *Bacteria* plus *Archaea*. Lytic viral infections are measured as the frequency of infected cells (FICs) and lysogeny is measured as the percentage of bacteria with inducible prophages. Error bars for FICs are upper and lower 95% confidence intervals. Error bars for bacteria, viruses and lysogeny are s.d. of the means of triplicate samples. 0, below detection; *, statistically significant results for lysogeny; arrows indicate when samples for virome construction were collected.

Table 1 Correlation matrix for ecological variables collected in this study

	<i>Lysogeny</i>	<i>Lytic infections</i>	<i>Bacterial production</i>	<i>Bacterial concentration</i>	<i>Viral concentration</i>	<i>VBR</i>
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> concentration	-0.359 <i>P</i> =0.078	0.294 <i>P</i> =0.154	0.058 <i>P</i> =0.783	0.191 <i>P</i> =0.360	0.260 <i>P</i> =0.210	-0.011 <i>P</i> =0.960
VBR	-0.055 <i>P</i> =0.794	0.178 <i>P</i> =0.395	0.106 <i>P</i> =0.614	-0.214 <i>P</i> =0.303	0.699 <i>P</i><0.001	
Viral concentration	-0.576 <i>P</i>=0.003	0.696 <i>P</i><0.001	0.616 <i>P</i>=0.001	0.463 <i>P</i>=0.020		
Bacterial concentration	-0.622 <i>P</i><0.001	0.705 <i>P</i><0.001	0.809 <i>P</i><0.001			
Bacterial production	-0.641 <i>P</i><0.001	0.637 <i>P</i><0.001				
Lytic infections	-0.632 <i>P</i><0.001					

Abbreviation: VBR, virus to bacterium ratio.

Pearson correlation coefficient and *P*-value are reported for each comparison. Significant correlations (*P*<0.05) are shown in bold and italicized.

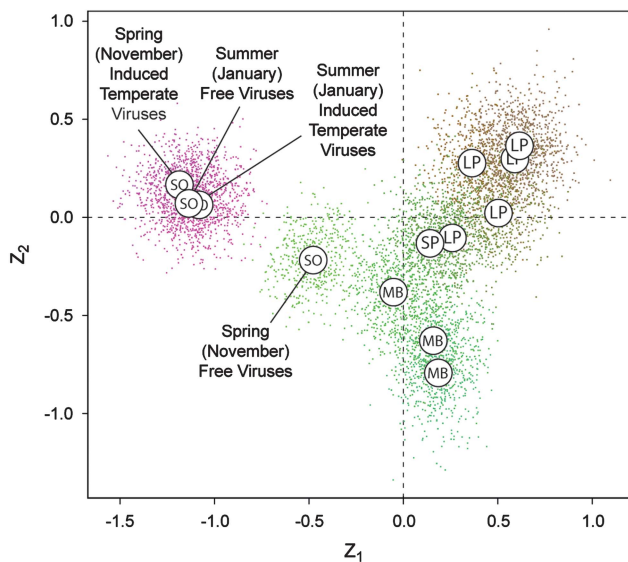


Figure 2 Social network analysis comparing all sequences in the four WAP viromes from the Southern Ocean (SO) with nine lower-latitude, seasonally variable surface samples from the POV data set including five viromes from the LineP transect (LP), three from the Monterey Bay Line 67 transect (MB) and one from Scripps Pier (SP). The network analysis compares viromes based on the abundance of shared k-mers among all sequences in each virome. Small dots represent the probability of the virome position given shared sequence content, labeled white dots represent the mean virome position and dot colors encode proximity of viromes on the plot.

lysogeny in spring and switched to lytic replication in summer in response to increased bacterial abundance and productivity. This supports the paradigm that viral replication strategy is determined by bacterial physiological status, as evidenced in many cultivated temperate virus–host systems including the model system of *Escherichia coli* and phage lambda (reviewed by Weinbauer, 2004; Miller and Day, 2008; Paul, 2008). Specifically, in this paradigm host physiological state affects the lytic–lysogenic switch, with poor host physiological conditions (for example, low bacterial production in spring) driving the viruses toward lysogeny, and greater host metabolic health (for example, higher bacterial production in summer) resulting in lytic replication because the viruses have the

resources to produce viral progeny (reviewed by Miller and Day, 2008).

Dominance of temperate viruses in polar regions

The hypothesis that temperate viruses are more abundant in polar than lower-latitude aquatic systems was supported by comparative metagenomic analyses in this study. Comparison of WAP dsDNA viromes with nine surface-water lower-latitude Pacific Ocean dsDNA viromes (from the Pacific Ocean virome (POV) data set prepared using the same quantitative methodology; Hurwitz and Sullivan, 2013) showed two clear patterns. First, temperate virus-enriched WAP viromes (that is, summer ‘free’ and both induced viromes) were considerably more divergent from the lower-latitude POV than was the lytic virus-enriched WAP virome (that is, the spring ‘free’ virome; Figure 2). Second, the functions, where annotatable (Supplementary Table S1), of sequences unique to WAP relative to POV paralleled those of unique sequences observed in temperate virus-enriched versus lytic virus-enriched WAP viromes (Table 2). Although the lower-latitude POV samples did not include induced temperate viromes, they did include samples from multiple seasons at the same location. Thus, any significant seasonal changes in the POV-free viromes because of a high portion of temperate viruses should have been evident like they are in the WAP virome data set. Together, this information is consistent with temperate viruses dominating WAP but not lower-latitude dsDNA viral assemblages.

Comparative analysis of viromes also generated new insights regarding differences between temperate and lytic viruses in the WAP. Although the percentage of taxonomically annotated viral sequences was low in WAP viromes (5–7%) as is common in marine viromes (Hurwitz and Sullivan, 2013), notable taxonomic trends emerged. Specifically, myoviruses were more abundant in the lytic-enriched virome (spring-free virome) and podoviruses were more abundant in temperate-enriched viromes (summer-free, spring and summer-induced viromes) as evident in the taxonomic composition of these viromes (Supplementary Figure S2), as well as analysis of the sequences that were unique to

temperate and lytic viruses (Figure 3). This contradicted the common view that temperate viruses are mainly siphoviruses, with podoviruses including phage P22 (reviewed by Susskind and Botstein, 1978) as the exception. Of course, as 93–95% of the reads remain taxonomically unassigned, these patterns may or may not hold as more reference genomes become available for refining such analyses.

Functionally, temperate-enriched viromes had more genes encoding for replication and structural functions, whereas metabolic and membrane transport functions were *ca* five- to ninefold more abundant in the lytic-enriched virome (Supplementary Table S2). Further, metabolic and membrane transport genes comprised only 4% of the functionally annotated unique temperate viral sequences in contrast to 24% of the unique lytic viral sequences,

and also drove the difference between the WAP lytic-enriched virome and POV (Table 2). These auxiliary metabolic genes are defined as viral metabolic genes not directly involved in viral replication, and function to modify host metabolic processes for the purpose of enhancing viral replication (reviewed by Breitbart, 2012; Brum and Sullivan, 2015). The enrichment of auxiliary metabolic genes in WAP lytic viruses implies that to survive intense seasonal changes in bacterial production in the WAP, the minority lytic viruses enhance their host's metabolism through auxiliary metabolic genes, presumably to aid replication when resources are limiting. In contrast, the numerically dominant temperate viruses appear to alternate replication strategies to compensate for seasonally variable host productivity.

Table 2 Percentage of Pfam-annotated unique sequences in each functional category from comparisons between WAP and POVs

Functional category	Unique to all WAP vs POV (n = 47 541)	Unique to WAP temperate vs POV (n = 31 311)	Unique to WAP temperate vs WAP lytic (n = 51 589)	Unique to WAP lytic vs WAP temperate (n = 18 170)	Unique to WAP lytic vs POV (n = 14 853)
DNA replication, recombination, repair; nucleotide metabolism	29.8	37.2	41.9	16.7	5.4
Transcription, translation, protein synthesis	15.4	15.8	17.2	14.5	9.8
Structural	16.7	22.0	24.1	7.9	1.5
Lysis	2.6	3.3	2.4	1.1	0.4
Metabolism (AMGs)	9.0	4.3	3.0	17.4	24.1
Membrane transport	3.4	1.2	0.8	6.9	5.3

Abbreviations: AMG, auxiliary metabolic gene; POV, Pacific Ocean virome; WAP, western Antarctic Peninsula. WAP temperate refers to temperate-enriched WAP viromes (summer free and both induced viromes). WAP lytic refers to the lytic-enriched WAP virome (spring free). Metabolism (AMGs) refers to metabolic genes not involved in DNA replication, recombination, and repair, or nucleotide metabolism. Shading scales with percentage for ease of comparison.

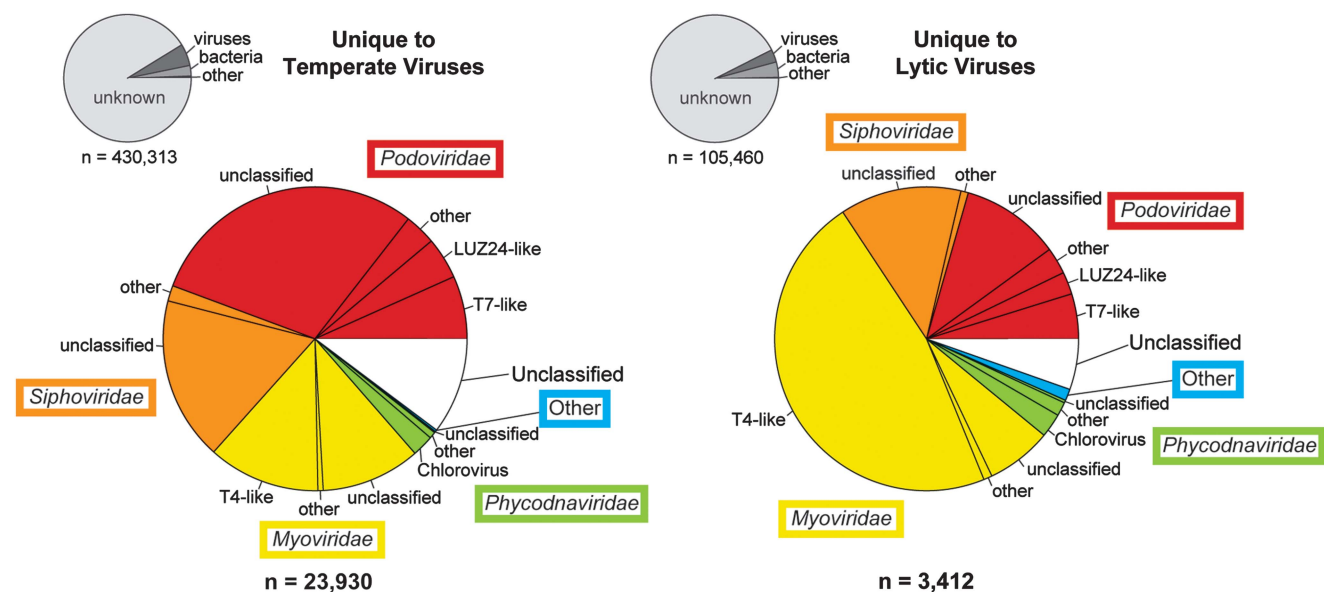


Figure 3 Taxonomic composition of all sequences (small pie graphs) and of sequences identified as viral (larger pie graphs) unique to temperate and lytic viruses in the WAP. Taxonomic groups comprising <2% of the sequences are included as 'other'.

Quantifying the importance of temperate viruses in nature has long been desired as they are critical for modeling microbial ecosystems. However, such cultivation-independent quantification has previously not been attainable because of technical limitations that result in non-quantitative viromes (Yilmaz *et al.*, 2010; Duhaime and Sullivan, 2012; Marine *et al.*, 2014; Brum and Sullivan, 2015). Our findings utilizing a combination of experimental methods and quantitative dsDNA virome construction and comparison suggest that temperate viruses dominate polar aquatic systems, probably because the intense seasonal variations in productivity that characterize these regions favor viruses capable of switching replication strategies in response to changes in host productivity. This may explain the lack of consensus among temporal aquatic studies relating lysogeny to bacterial production and abundance at various latitudes (Table 3). Although the range of percent lysogeny detected in these studies shows no relationship with latitude, it is clear from the observed temporal trends that higher-latitude environments display strong seasonality in percent lysogeny, with the highest values in winter and spring, in contrast to lower-latitude environments where lysogeny is sporadically detected. Further, significant correlations between lysogeny and bacterial production and abundance (where available) are weak or absent in lower-latitude environments but strengthen at high latitudes. These trends with latitude may be explained by the relative abundance of temperate viruses. Specifically, if the majority of viruses in lower-latitude aquatic environments are incapable of lysogeny (that is, are not temperate viruses), this could explain the reduced strength of temporal correlations between lysogeny and total community bacterial production and abundance, resulting in the weak relationships or lack of relationship between these variables observed in lower-latitude studies (Williamson *et al.*, 2002; Boras *et al.*, 2009; Thomas *et al.*, 2011). In contrast, the strong seasonal relationships observed between lysogeny and bacterial production in polar aquatic systems (Laybourn-Parry *et al.*, 2007; Payet and Suttle, 2013; this study) most likely resulted from higher relative abundances of temperate viruses.

Effects of temperate viral dominance on polar ecosystem function

Dominance of temperate viruses in the Southern Ocean also has significant implications for interpreting corresponding microbial dynamics. For example, prophage induction alters bacterial community composition through selective mortality (Hewson and Fuhrman, 2007; Supplementary Figure S3) and likely contributes to observed temporal variability in WAP bacterial assemblage composition (Ghiglione and Murray, 2012; Grzymalski *et al.*, 2012; Williams *et al.*, 2012; Supplementary Figure S3) and metabolic potential (Grzymalski *et al.*, 2012; Williams *et al.*, 2012).

Specifically, chemical induction of lysogens in spring resulted in a decrease in Gammaproteobacteria and a concomitant increase in Flavobacteria (Supplementary Figure S3). Although bacterial composition is only available for two sampling dates in this study, the available data are consistent with the hypothesis that the shift from lysogeny to lytic viral replication when bacterial productivity increased (late December; Figure 1) could substantially alter the WAP bacterial community.

In addition, temperate viral dominance may help resolve the decades-long debate regarding whether the relationship between primary and bacterial production in the Southern Ocean is altered in comparison with lower-latitude marine ecosystems (reviewed by Moran *et al.*, 2001; Kirchman *et al.*, 2009; Ducklow *et al.*, 2012a). In the Southern Ocean, increased solar radiation in springtime results in the melting of sea ice followed by generation of phytoplankton blooms and subsequent increases in bacterial production fueled by phytoplankton-derived dissolved organic carbon (Ducklow *et al.*, 2007, 2012a, b). Studies conducted during the onset of Southern Ocean phytoplankton blooms conclude that bacterial production is ‘uncoupled’ from primary production inferred from a greater delay between phytoplankton bloom initiation and increased bacterial production relative to lower latitudes, as well as a reduced ratio of bacterial to primary production (Billen and Becquevort, 1991; Karl *et al.*, 1991; Lochte *et al.*, 1997; Bird and Karl, 1999; Ducklow *et al.*, 2001; Moran and Estrada, 2002; Duarte *et al.*, 2005). In contrast, during full-bloom or non-bloom conditions in the Southern Ocean, bacteria and phytoplankton are described as temporally ‘coupled’, although still with reduced ratios of bacterial to primary production relative to lower latitudes (Moran *et al.*, 2001; Moran and Estrada, 2002; Ducklow *et al.*, 2012b). Although this altered relationship between primary and bacterial production in the Southern Ocean was previously hypothesized to result from lower temperatures (Pomeroy and Wiebe, 2001), further study does not support that hypothesis (Kirchman *et al.*, 2009; Ducklow *et al.*, 2012b).

We hypothesize that temperate virus dominance may help explain these altered relationships between primary and bacterial production in the Southern Ocean as follows (summarized in Figure 4). First, viral gene expression during lysogeny can reduce host metabolism to increase survival when resources are limiting (reviewed by Paul, 2008). Specifically, in cultivated temperate virus–host systems including *E. coli* and phage lambda, as well as a *Pseudoalteromonas* phage system from Arctic sea ice, prophage-infected hosts exhibit reduction in substrate usage and growth rate compared with uninfected hosts, thereby increasing the fitness of the infected hosts when resources are scarce (Chen *et al.*, 2005; Paul, 2008; Yu *et al.*, 2015). Thus, lysogeny, which dominated pre-bloom (Figure 1),

Table 3 Summary of results from temporal studies investigating community-level lysogeny in relation to bacterial production and abundance in aquatic environments

<i>Location (latitude; depth)</i>	<i>Seasons investigated (length of study)</i>	<i>Lysogeny range (% bacteria; average)</i>	<i>Observed temporal trend in lysogeny</i>	<i>Correlations between lysogeny and bacterial variables^a</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Tampa Bay, Gulf of Mexico, USA (27° 46.2'N; surface)	All (13 months)	0–68% ^{b,c}	Lysogeny sporadically detected	Bacterial concentration (not reported for 'unaltered' treatments; visually, does not appear to be related to lysogeny). Bacterial production (not reported for 'unaltered' treatments; visually, does not appear to be related to lysogeny)	Williamson <i>et al.</i> , 2002
Blanes Bay, Mediterranean Sea, Spain (41° 40'N; surface)	All (23 months)	Only lysogenic viral production reported	Lysogeny sporadically detected	Bacterial concentration (no significant correlation with lysogenic viral production). ^d Bacterial production (not reported; visually, does not appear to be related to lysogenic viral production)	Boras <i>et al.</i> , 2009
Lake Bourget, France (45° 44'N, 231 m altitude; 2 m, 50 m)	Winter–summer (8 months)	0–60% ^e	Clear temporal trend with highest values in winter	Bacterial concentration (2 m depth, 0.6, $P > 0.05$; 50 m depth, 0.05 , $P < 0.05$). ^f Bacterial production (2 m depth, 0.017 , $P < 0.05$; 50 m depth, 0.52, $P > 0.05$) ^f	Thomas <i>et al.</i> , 2011
WAP, Southern Ocean (64° 46.45'S; surface)	Spring–summer (3 months)	0–17%	Clear temporal trend with highest values in spring	Bacterial concentration (– 0.622 , $P < 0.001$). ^d Bacterial production (– 0.641 , $P < 0.001$) ^d	This study
Ace Lake and Pendant Lake, Antarctica (68°S; combined depths of 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 m)	All (12 months)	0–71%	Clear temporal trend with highest values in winter and spring	Bacterial concentration (not reported; visually, appears to be negatively related to lysogeny). Bacterial production (not reported; visually, appear to be negatively related to lysogeny)	Laybourn-Parry <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Beaufort Sea, Canada (69.5–71.4°N ^g ; surface or deep chlorophyll maximum)	Spring–summer (4 months)	4–38%	Temporal trend with highest values in spring	Bacterial concentration (– 0.85 , $P < 0.001$). ^f Bacterial production (– 0.92 , $P < 0.001$) ^f	Payet and Suttle, 2013

Studies are ordered based on latitude.

^aSignificant correlations ($P < 0.05$) are reported in bold. When statistical results are not reported, visual examination of results are indicated.

^bFor 'unaltered' treatments.

^cEstimated visually based on graphical display of the data.

^dPearson correlations.

^eUsing the $1 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ mitomycin C treatment.

^fSpearman correlations.

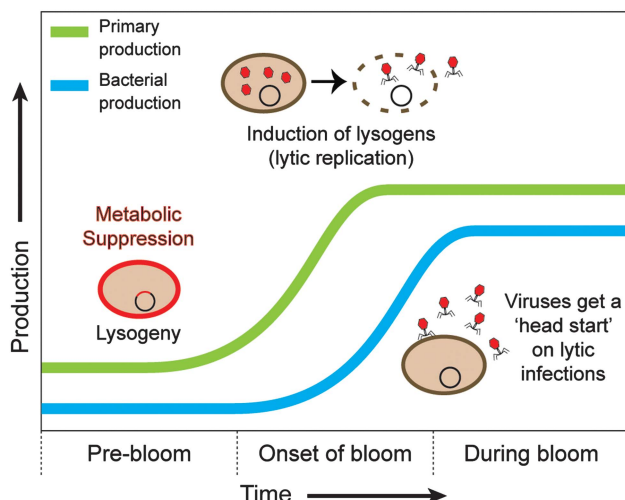


Figure 4 Generalized illustration showing how the dominance of temperate viruses in the Southern Ocean can delay bacterial response to phytoplankton blooms and reduce the ratio of bacterial production to primary production relative to lower-latitude marine environments. Lysogeny dominates pre-bloom and has been shown to suppress metabolic activity in host bacteria, whereas induction of lysogens at the onset of phytoplankton blooms results in bacterial mortality and production of free viruses, which proceed to cause bacterial mortality via lytic infections.

may decrease the ratio of bacterial to primary production before seasonal phytoplankton blooms. Second, lysogeny sharply declined from 16% (average) to 0% during bloom initiation (in late December), indicating induction of lysogens (Figure 1). Bacterial mortality caused by the induction of these temperate viral ‘time bombs’ (*sensu* Paul, 2008) likely delays increases in bacterial abundance and production at the onset of phytoplankton blooms. Finally, prophage induction may give viruses a head start on lytic infection dynamics relative to lower latitudes as demonstrated by the increase in viral abundance before bacterial abundance in this study (Figure 1). This would result in reduced bacterial production following phytoplankton blooms because the increased contact rates between viruses and their hosts would contribute to the increase in fatal lytic infections evident in this study (Figure 1). Together, these points suggest temperate viral dominance may help explain the observed temporal uncoupling of bacteria and phytoplankton at the onset of seasonal phytoplankton blooms, as well as reduced responses of bacteria to phytoplankton-derived dissolved organic carbon at all times in the Southern Ocean, relative to lower latitudes (Figure 4).

Conclusions

In summary, this study provides quantitative viral metagenomic data contextualized by viral ecological measurements to demonstrate that temperate viruses dominate the WAP dsDNA viral assemblage,

primarily utilizing lysogeny when bacterial production is low and switching to lytic replication when bacterial production increases. Temperate viral dominance in polar regions offers a mechanism for viral ‘survival’ under harsh winter conditions, and helps resolve long-standing questions about the links between lysogeny and lytic viral replication along ecological gradients and altered microbial dynamics observed in the Southern Ocean. These results complement long-term ecological research in the WAP (Ducklow *et al.*, 2012a, b; Saba *et al.*, 2014) and suggest that temperate viruses have substantial roles in modulating microbially driven processes such as carbon and elemental cycling in this region. Given model-predicted increased microbial roles as warming intensifies (Sailley *et al.*, 2013), such fundamental new understanding of virus–host interactions is critical to improving predictions of ecosystem function in polar marine regions, which are currently bearing the brunt of climate change (Doney *et al.*, 2012; Ducklow *et al.*, 2012a).

Materials and methods

Ecological parameters

Surface seawater samples were collected twice weekly, as weather permitted, from the Palmer, Antarctica Long-Term Ecological Research Program (Ducklow, 2008) Station B (64° 46.45' S, 64° 03.27' W), a coastal site near Palmer Station on the WAP, between 8 November 2010 and 31 January 2011. The water samples were collected at the surface by submerging clean bottles into the seawater by hand.

Triplicate samples (4 ml) for viral and bacterial enumeration were preserved with EM-grade glutaraldehyde (2% final concentration), flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored between –72 °C and –80 °C until analysis. Viral and bacterial concentration were determined based on a previously described method (Noble and Fuhrman, 1998) in which thawed samples were filtered onto 0.02-µm-pore-size filters (Anodisc, Whatman, GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Piscataway, NJ, USA), stained with SYBR Gold nucleic acid stain (Invitrogen, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and enumerated using an epifluorescence microscope (Axio Imager. D2, Zeiss, Jena, Germany).

Chlorophyll *a* concentration was determined from 1 to 2 liter of seawater (depending on biomass) by fluorescence of extracted samples (Holm-Hansen *et al.*, 1965). Bacterial production rates were measured using the microcentrifuge method (Kirchman *et al.*, 1985; Smith and Azam, 1992; Kirchman, 1993) based on incorporation of ³H-leucine (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA; 144 Ci mmol⁻¹, 20 nM final concentration) in triplicate, 1.5 ml pseudoreplicates incubated for 3 h at *in situ* temperatures (*ca* 1 °C). A blank killed with trichloroacetic acid was also incubated along with the triplicate samples and the ³H-leucine incorporation of the blank was subtracted

from the samples. A conversion factor of 1.5 kg C produced per mole of leucine incorporated (Ducklow *et al.*, 2000, 2012b) was used to calculate bacterial production rates.

The percentage of cells with lytic viral infections was determined by transmission electron microscopy to quantify the frequency of visibly infected cells (Proctor and Fuhrman, 1990) using intact cells (Brum *et al.*, 2005). Seawater samples were preserved with EM-grade glutaraldehyde (2% final concentration), flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored between -72°C and -80°C until analysis. Samples (26–40 ml, depending on bacterial concentration) were centrifuged for 1 h at 55 000 *g* using an ultracentrifuge (LM-80, Beckman, Brea, CA, USA) onto grids (200 mesh copper grids with carbon-stabilized formvar support; Ted Pella, Redding, CA, USA) made hydrophilic with 20 s of glow discharge (Hummer 6.2, Anatech, Battle Creek, MI, USA). Grids were then stained with uranyl acetate and analyzed as previously described (Brum *et al.*, 2005) to determine the frequency of visibly infected cells using a transmission electron microscope (CM12, Philips, Eindhoven, The Netherlands). The frequency of infected cells was then calculated from the frequency of visibly infected cells (Binder, 1999). Burst size was also determined from the visibly infected cells as previously described (Brum *et al.*, 2005). Given the low sample size for burst size at most sampling dates (Supplementary Figure S4), this variable was not included in the temporal analysis and instead was used only to calculate percent lysogeny (see below).

The percentage of cells with lysogenic viral infections (lysogeny) was determined using the prophage induction method (Paul and Weinbauer, 2010) in which six replicates (50 ml), three of which were amended with the inducing agent mitomycin C ($1\ \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, final concentration), were incubated in the dark at *in situ* temperatures (*ca* 1°C) for 24 h. Viral concentration was determined at the start and end of the incubation as described above. Increases in viral concentration in the mitomycin C-amended samples versus control samples (no treatment) were evaluated for statistical significance using ANOVA (SigmaPlot version 11.0, Systat Software, Chicago, IL, USA). Lysogeny was calculated using the average burst size of 41 determined for this study, as described above. For samples in which viral concentrations in mitomycin C-amended replicates were slightly (but not significantly) lower than those in control replicates, lysogeny was reported to be below detection.

Virome construction

Viral concentrates for metagenomic analysis were collected on 18 November 2010 and 29 January 2011, at Station B. Surface seawater was pumped into large containers, after which concentrates of free viruses were obtained from 120 liter of $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$ -filtered

(Polycap 75 TC, Whatman, GE Healthcare Life Sciences) seawater using iron chloride flocculation (John *et al.*, 2011). Concentrates of induced viruses were also obtained from 120 liter surface samples by first filtering the sample through a $3\ \mu\text{m}$ pore size filter (Isopore, Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) to reduce the concentration of grazers and large phytoplankton, then concentrating the sample to *ca* 1.4 liter with a $0.22\ \mu\text{m}$ pore size tangential flow filter (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) to recover bacteria (*ca* 60% and 63% recovery in November and January, respectively) and remove free viruses (*ca* 94% and 75% removal in November and January, respectively). This sample was then split into control (*ca* 200 ml) and mitomycin C-amended ($1\ \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ final concentration) treatment (*ca* 1.2 l) samples and incubated for 24 h in the dark at *in situ* temperature (*ca* 1°C), resulting in an 2-fold and 1.2-fold increase in viral concentration in the treatment versus control samples for the November (spring) and January (summer) incubations, respectively. Treatment samples were then $0.22\ \mu\text{m}$ filtered (Steripak, Millipore) and viruses were concentrated using iron chloride flocculation (John *et al.*, 2011) and stored at 4°C until analysis. Approximately 20% of the collected free and induced viral concentrates for each sampling date (equivalent to *ca* 20 l of starting seawater sample) were then processed to construct viromes as follows, with the remainder set aside for future experiments. Viral concentrates were resuspended with ascorbic acid buffer, treated with DNase and purified using cesium chloride density gradients as previously described (Hurwitz *et al.*, 2013). Viral dsDNA was then extracted and linker amplified as previously described (Duhaime *et al.*, 2012), followed by pyrosequencing (GS-FLX, 454 Life Sciences, Branford, CT, USA) at the Emory Integrated Genomics Core (Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA).

Virome analysis

Quality-controlled WAP virome reads were compared against the Similarity Matrix of Proteins (Rattei *et al.*, 2006) released 25 June 2011, using BLASTX to assign taxonomy and function (based on Pfam) as previously described (Hurwitz and Sullivan, 2013). Hits were considered significant if they had an E-value <0.001 and only top hits were retained.

Comparisons were made among the four WAP viromes and nine selected 10-m viromes from the POV data set (Hurwitz and Sullivan, 2013) including LineP Station 26 in February, June and August (L.Win.O.10 m, L.Spr.O.10 m and L.Sum.O.10 m, respectively); LineP Station 12 in June (L.Spr.I.10m); LineP Station 4 in June (L.Spr.C.10 m); MBARI Stations H3, 67–70 and 67–155 in October (M.Fall.C.10 m, M.Fall.I.10 m and M.Fall.O.10 m, respectively); and Scripps Pier in April (SFC.Spr.C.5 m). These viromes were compared with one another with a shared k-mer approach using the

vmatch package version 2.1.5 (<http://www.vmatch.de>) with parameters (-pl -allout -v) and k-mer length of 20 to identify unique and shared reads (mode k-mer occurrence >2 and <1000) among the viromes as previously described (Hurwitz *et al.*, 2014). The results of the shared k-mer analysis were then assembled into a matrix consisting of the average of the counts ($\bar{y}_{i,j}$) in common out of the average of the total possible counts ($\bar{n}_{i,j}$) between virome *i* and virome *j* (for $i=1,\dots,13$) and used as input into a social network analysis for the four WAP viromes and nine POV as previously described (Hurwitz *et al.*, 2014). Briefly, the social network analysis is a robust statistical framework to visually compare samples based on their shared k-mers in k-dimensional latent space wherein viromes that are closer together are more similar, and those that are physically separate are significantly different. The code for analyses is available in the open source github code repository (<https://github.com/hurwitzlab/fizkin>).

Bacterial community diversity

Bacterial 16S ribosomal RNA gene diversity was obtained from the 0.2 μm pore size filters used to prepare both the free and induced viral concentrates, which were stored between -72°C and -80°C until analysis. DNA was extracted based on a filter extraction method (Rich *et al.*, 2008) modified for the capsule filters used in this study (V. Rich, personal communication, May 2012). For the larger filters (Polycap 75 TC, Whatman), 45 ml of lysis buffer (40 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris pH 8.3, 0.73 M sucrose) was added directly to the frozen filters, which were then sealed and thawed on ice. Lysozyme (13.5 ml of 5 mg ml⁻¹ lysozyme in lysis buffer) was then added and filters were incubated, rotating, at 37 °C for 1 h. Proteinase K (4.5 ml of 10 mg ml⁻¹ proteinase K in lysis buffer) and 6.75 ml of 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate were then added to the filters and incubated, rotating, at 55 °C overnight. The lysate was recovered from the filters, which were then rinsed with an additional 20 ml of lysis buffer and pooled with the recovered lysates. For the smaller filters (Steripak, Millipore), the above volumes were reduced by 75%. Pooled lysates were then extracted twice with phenol–chloroform–isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1, pH 8.0) and once with chloroform–isoamyl alcohol (24:1). The aqueous phases were concentrated to *ca* 200 μl with centrifugal concentrators (Amicon Ultra-15 with 100 kDa cut-off, Millipore), rinsed twice with 8 ml of TE buffer (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) and concentrated to *ca* 200 μl . Samples were then ethanol extracted, resuspended in TE buffer and stored at -20°C . Extracted DNA was pyrosequenced (GS-FLX, 454 Life Sciences) after amplification with 16S ribosomal RNA gene primers (926F and 1492R; Lane, 1991) at the Australian Center for Ecogenomics (University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia).

Taxonomy of the sequence reads was determined using PyroTagger (Kunin and Hugenholtz, 2010) with the Uclust algorithm (<http://www.drive5.com/uclust>) and a threshold length of 220 bases.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Author contributions

JRB performed the project planning; JRB performed the experimental work; JRB and BLH performed the data analysis; JRB, BLH, OS, HWD and MBS wrote the manuscript.

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