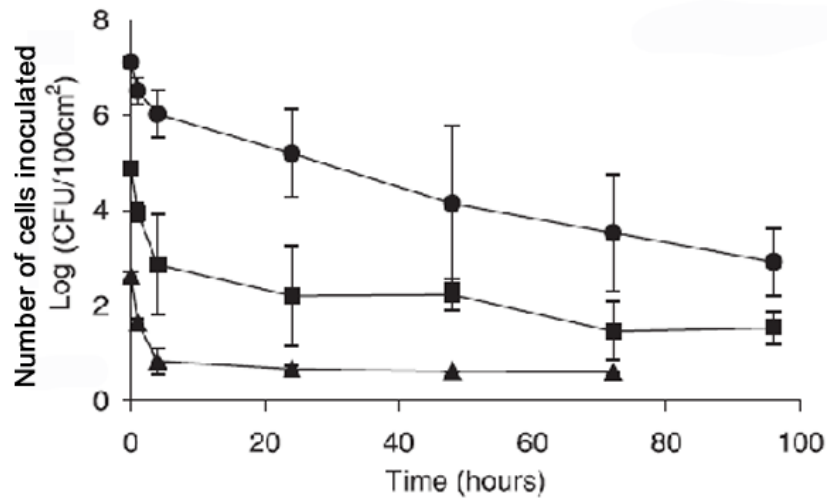


EEES 3900 – Graph Interpretation Exercise

Graphs published in the primary literature (often referred to as “figures”) are used to present important relationships in the data in visual format. A good figure, along with its caption, should be able to “stand alone”. In other words it should enable the reader to determine what the results of the study were without having to read the main text of the article. Let’s look at the following figure (from Kusumaningrum et al., 2003) and discuss what it is trying to relate to the reader.



Some questions to consider:

What did the investigator measure?

How long was the study done?

At what intervals were samples collected?

How many treatments were there? What were they?

How many controls were run?

How many times were the treatments replicated?

Does each data point represent a single sample, or the mean of several samples? How do you know this?

What is the variable of interest?

Why was the number data plotted on a log scale?

Why is time not plotted on the Y-axis, and cell number on the X-axis?