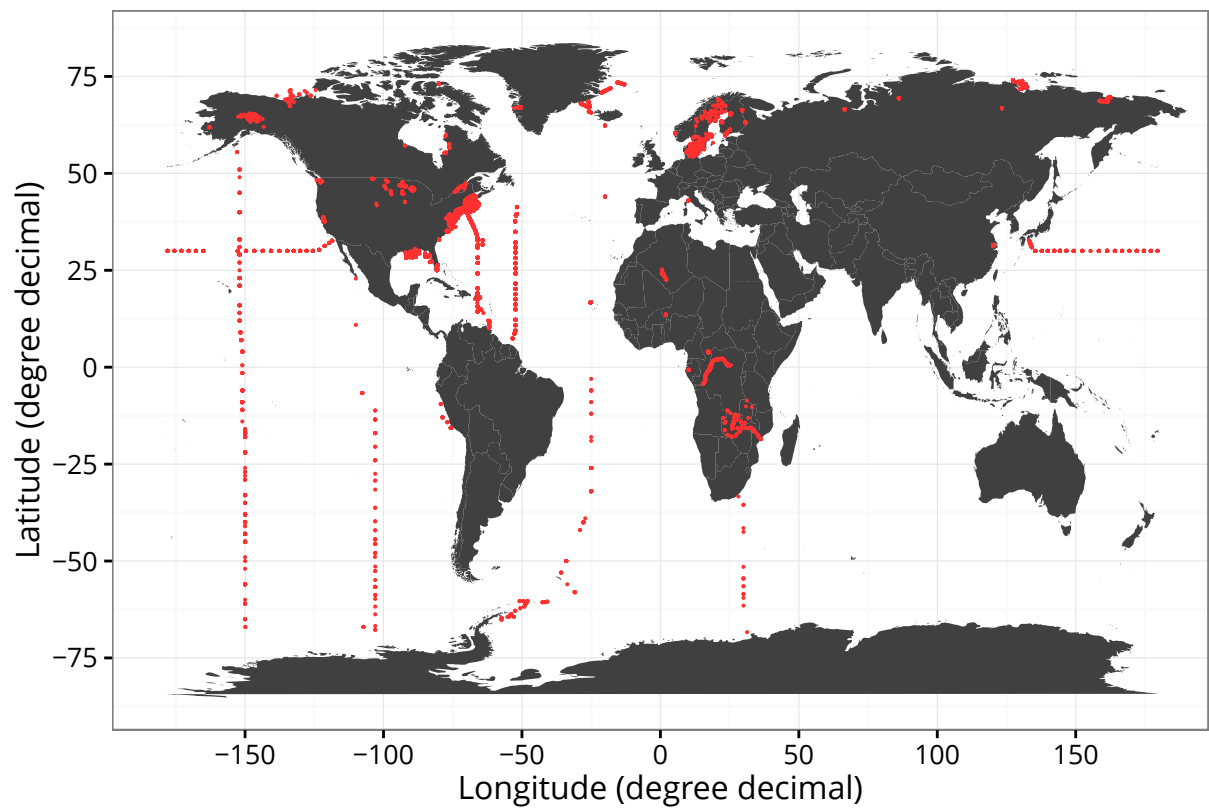
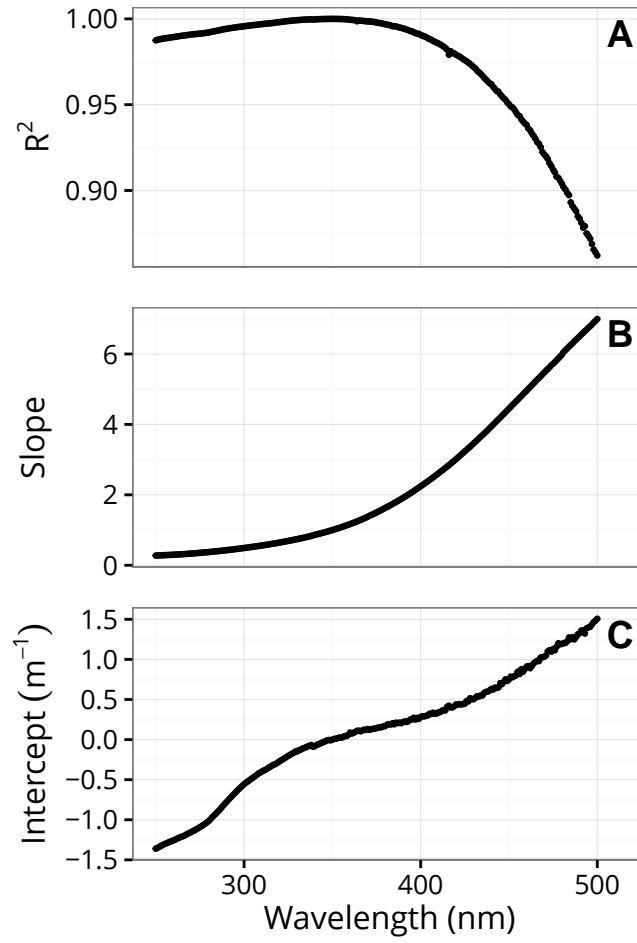


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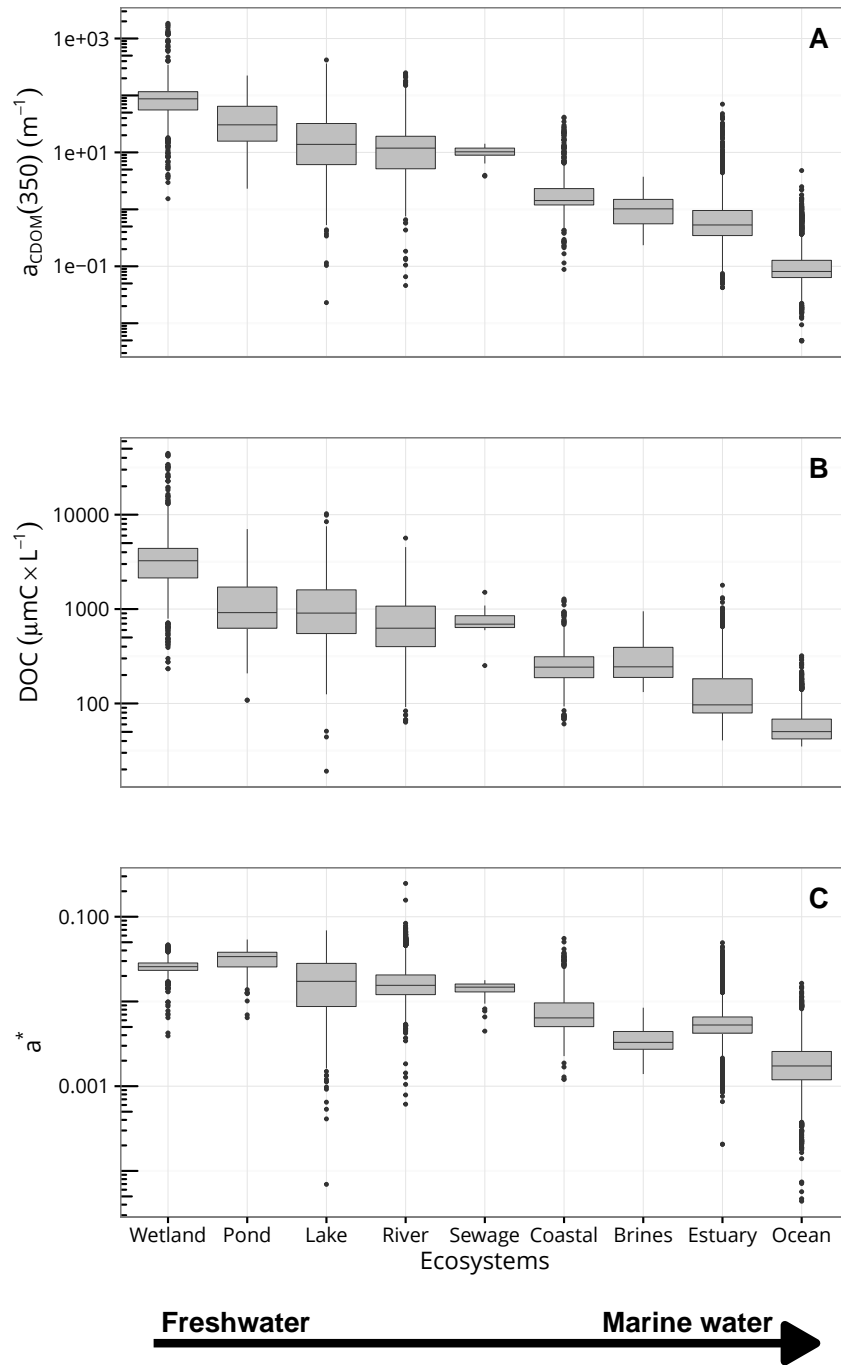
## Figures



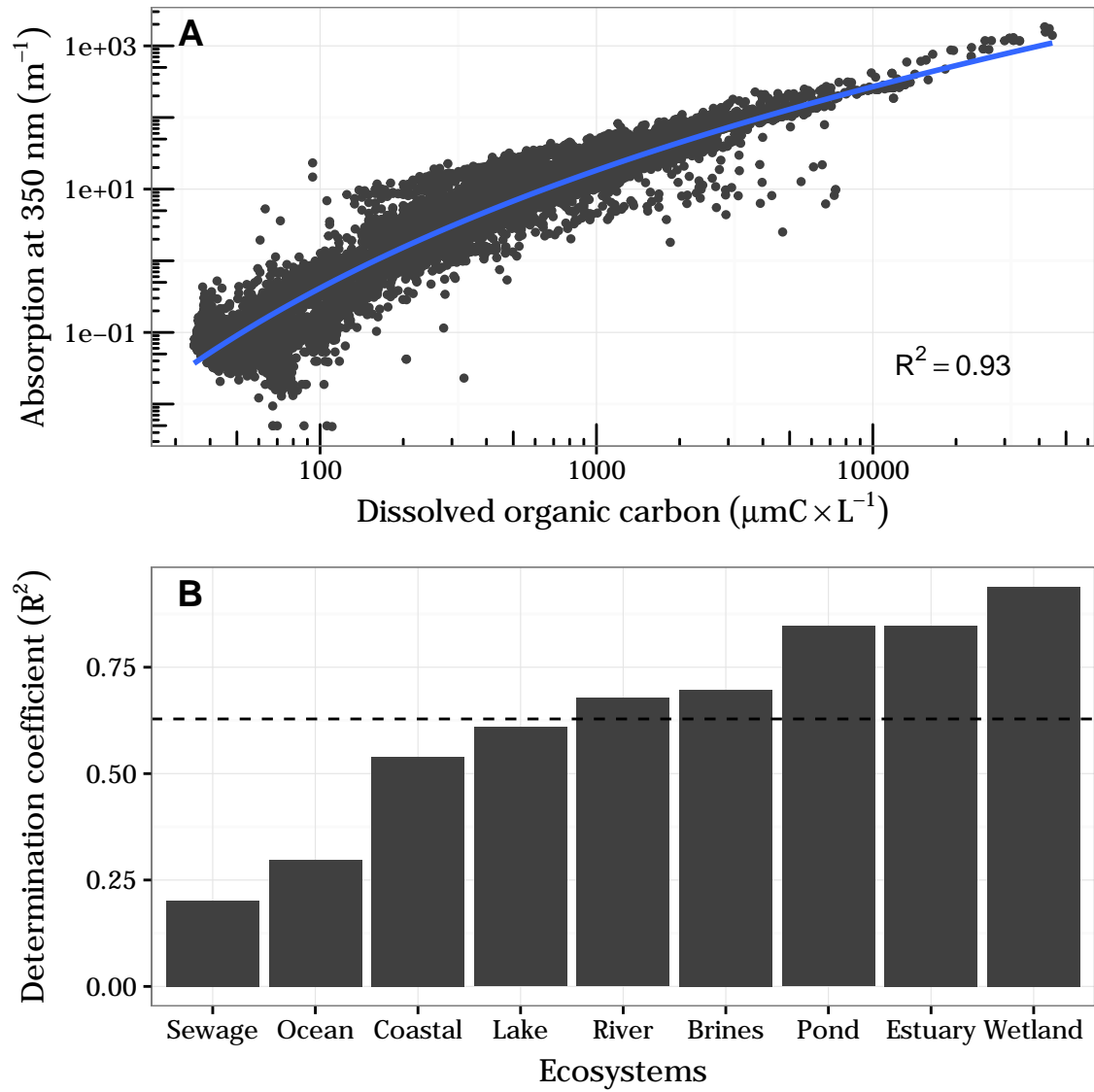
**Figure 1:** World map showing the spatial distribution of the observations extracted from the literature ( $n = xxx$ ).



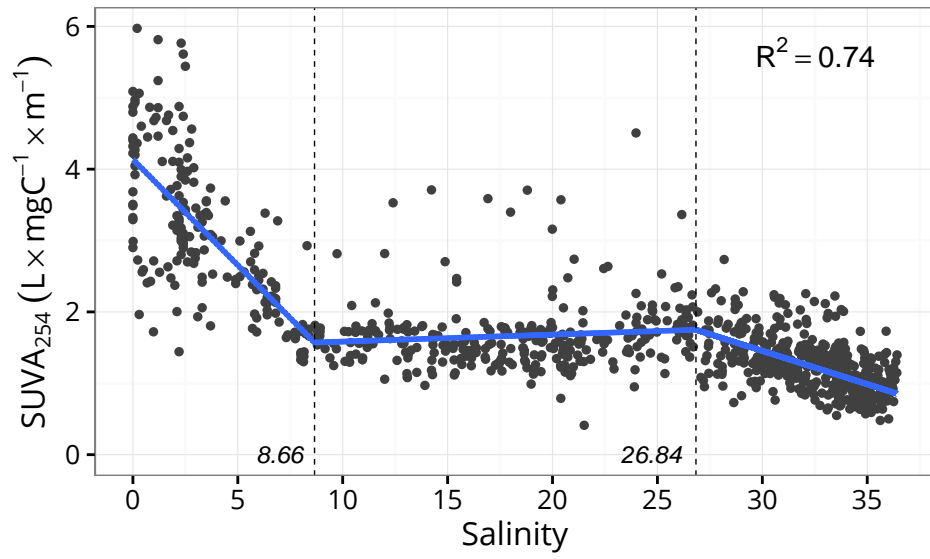
**Figure 2:** Results of the linear regressions between  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$  and  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(\lambda)$ . **(A)** Determination coefficients ( $R^2$ ), **(B)** slopes and **(C)** intercepts of the linear regressions. Panels contain the results of 251 linear models, each based on 2321 data points. Note that at  $\lambda = 350$  nm,  $R^2 = 1$ , slope = 1 and intercept = 0.



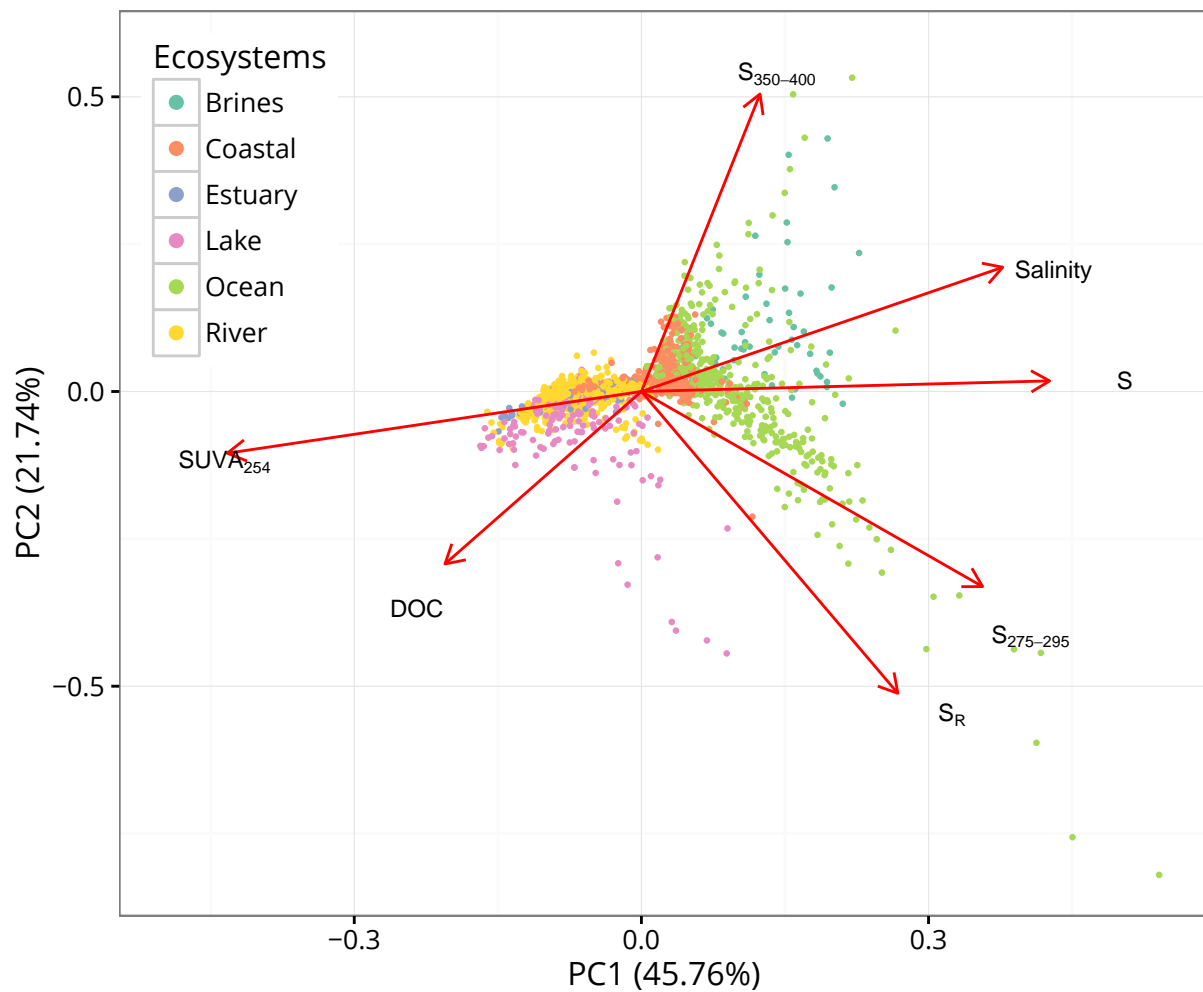
**Figure 3:** Boxplots showing the distribution of (A) absorption coefficients at 350 nm ( $a_{CDOM}(350)$ ), (B) dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and (C) the so-called  $a^*$ . Y-axis are log-transformed given the wide ranges spanned by the data.



**Figure 4:** **(A)** Global relationship between absorption at 350 nm  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$  and dissolved organic carbon. The blue line is the fitted values of a linear model  $y = \log(x)$ ,  $R^2 = 0.93$ ,  $p < 0.00001$ ,  $n = 11562$ . **(B)** Barplot showing the determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of the linear relationships between  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$  and DOC by ecosystems. The dashed horizontal line represents the average of  $R^2$ .



**Figure 5:** Segmentation analysis performed on the linear relationship between  $SUVA_{254}$  and salinity ( $R^2 = 0.74, p < 0.00001, n = 1841$ ). Dashed vertical lines represent the identified breakpoints at salinity 8.66 and 26.84.



**Figure 6:** Principal component analysis showing the linear relationships between selected variables ( $n = 1841$ ). The total variance explained by the first two principal components is 67.5%.