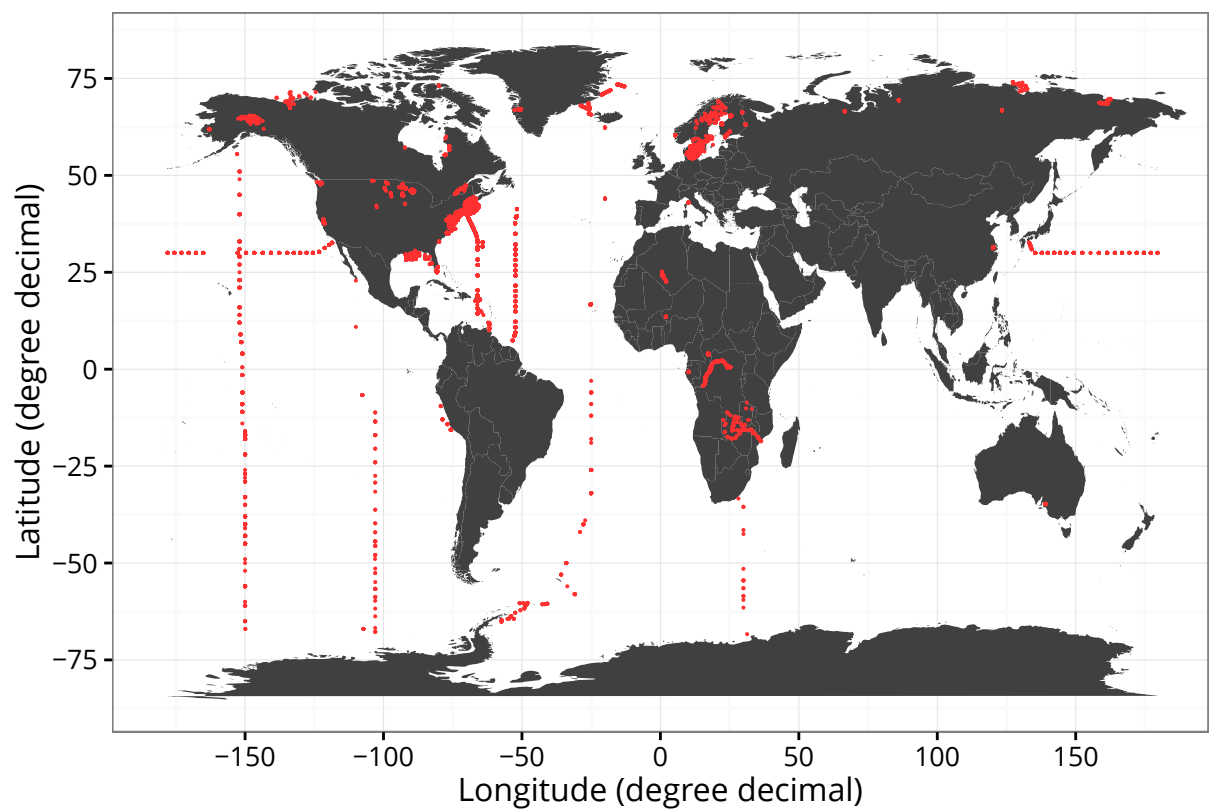
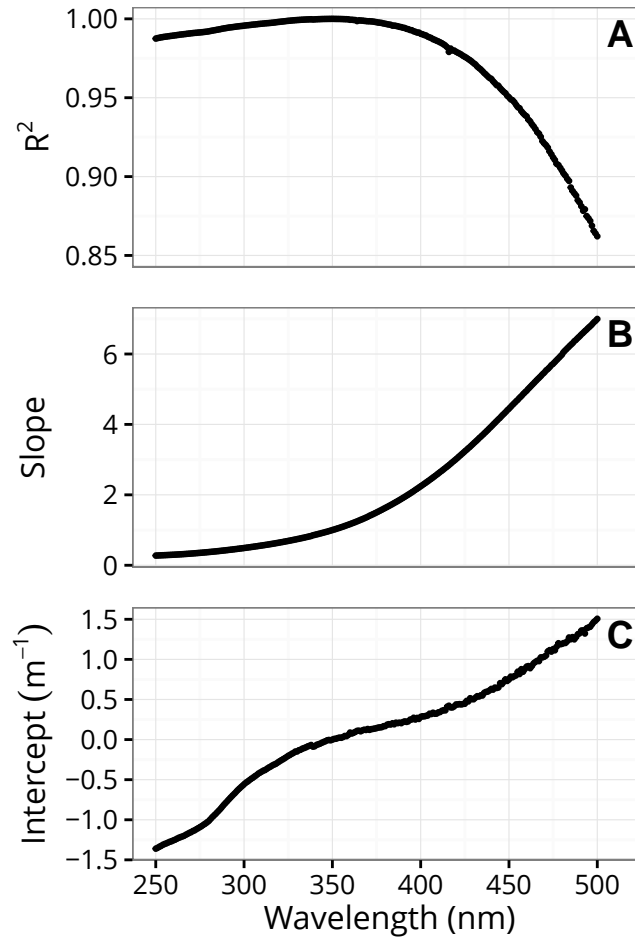


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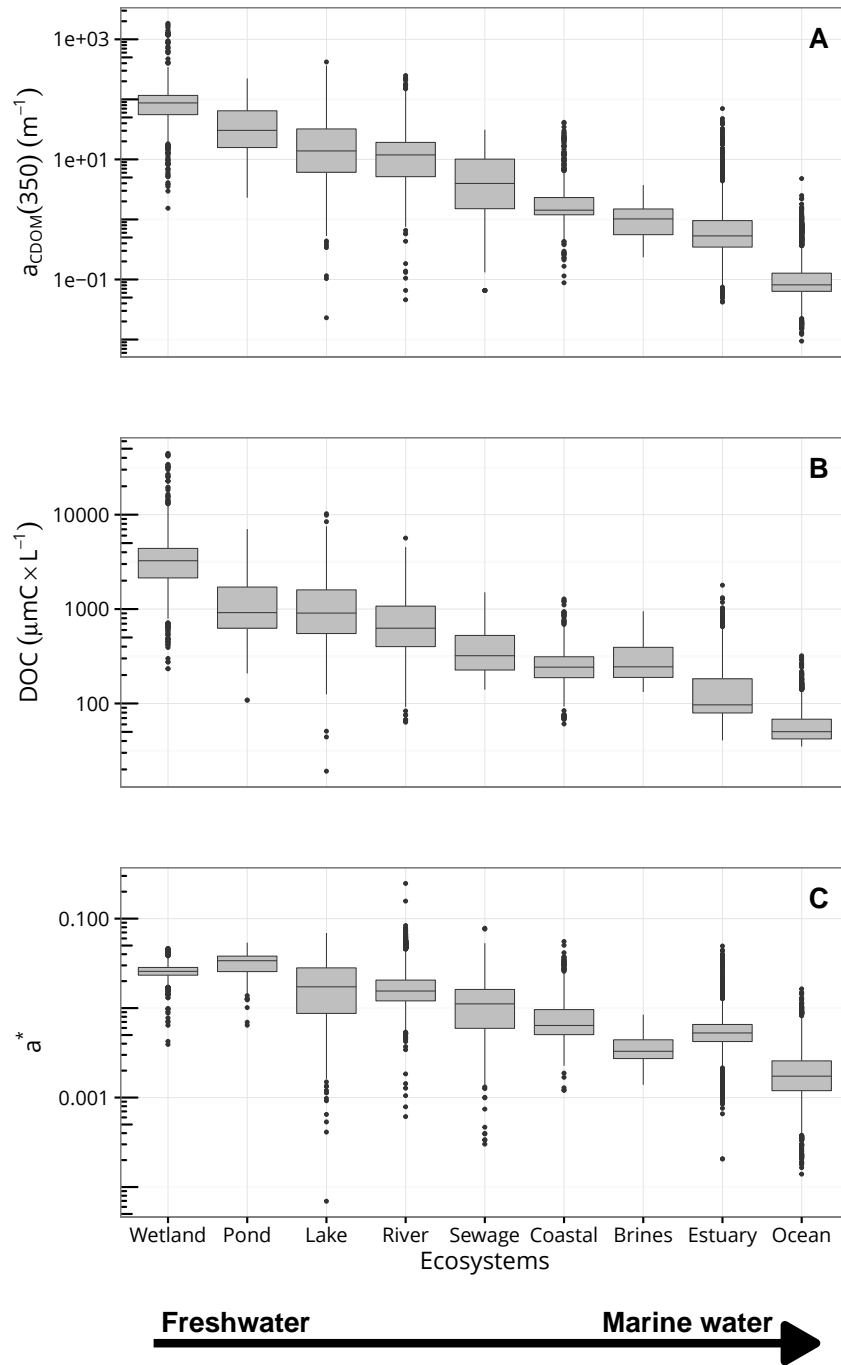
## Figures



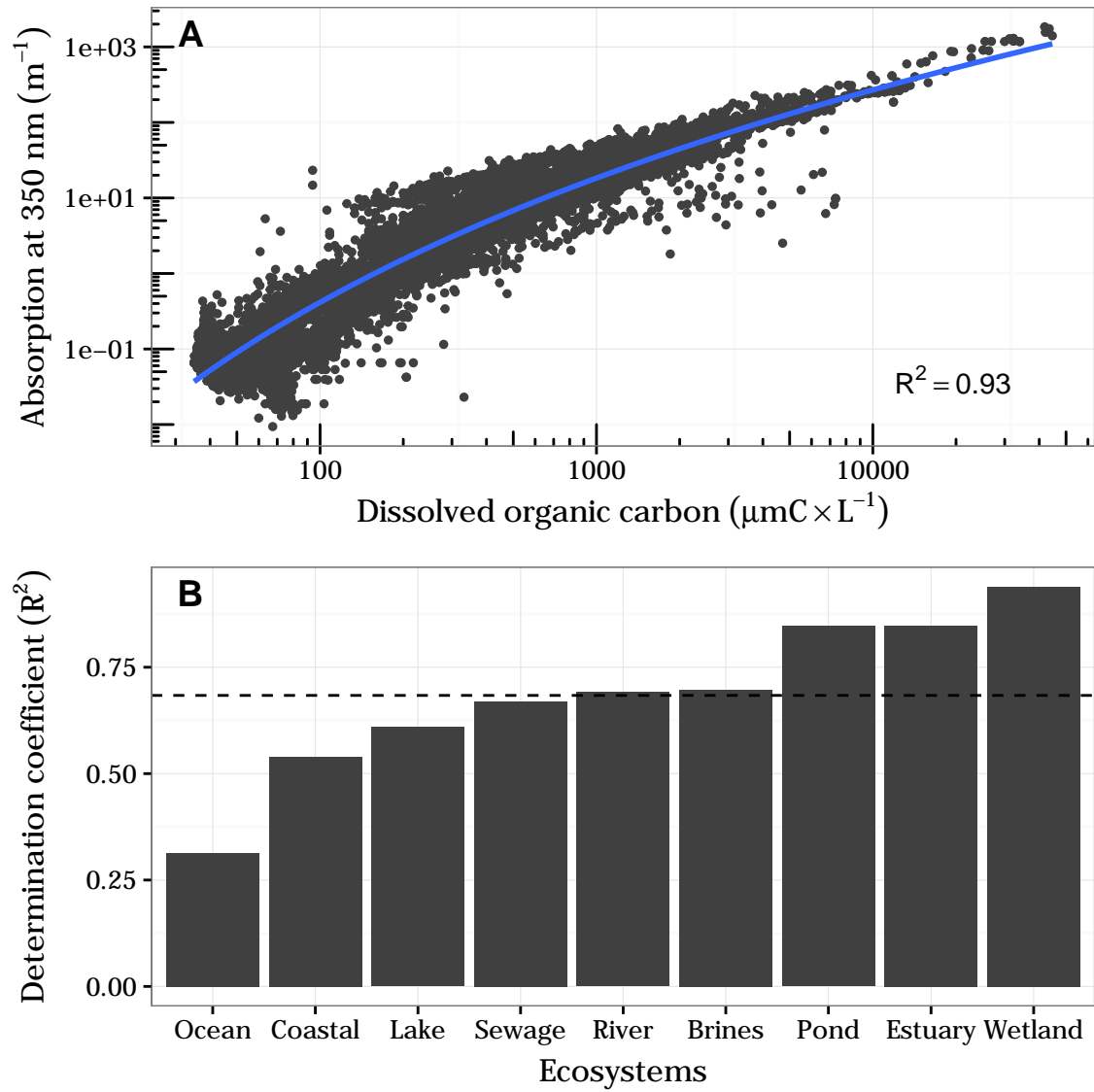
**Figure 1:** World map showing the spatial distribution of the observations extracted from the literature ( $n = xxx$ ).



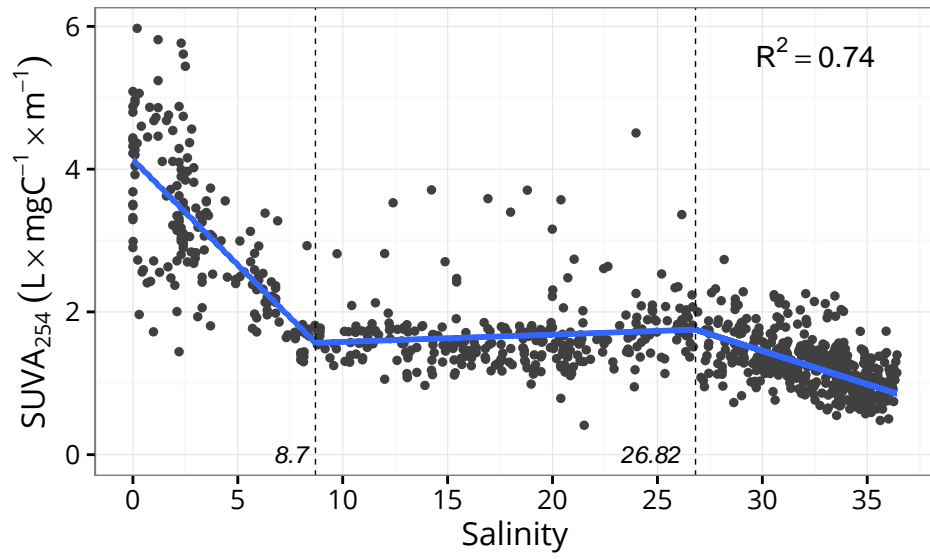
**Figure 2:** Results of the linear regressions between  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$  and  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(\lambda)$ . **(A)** Determination coefficients ( $R^2$ ), **(B)** slopes and **(C)** intercepts of the linear regressions. Panels contain the results of 251 linear models, each based on 2321 data points.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



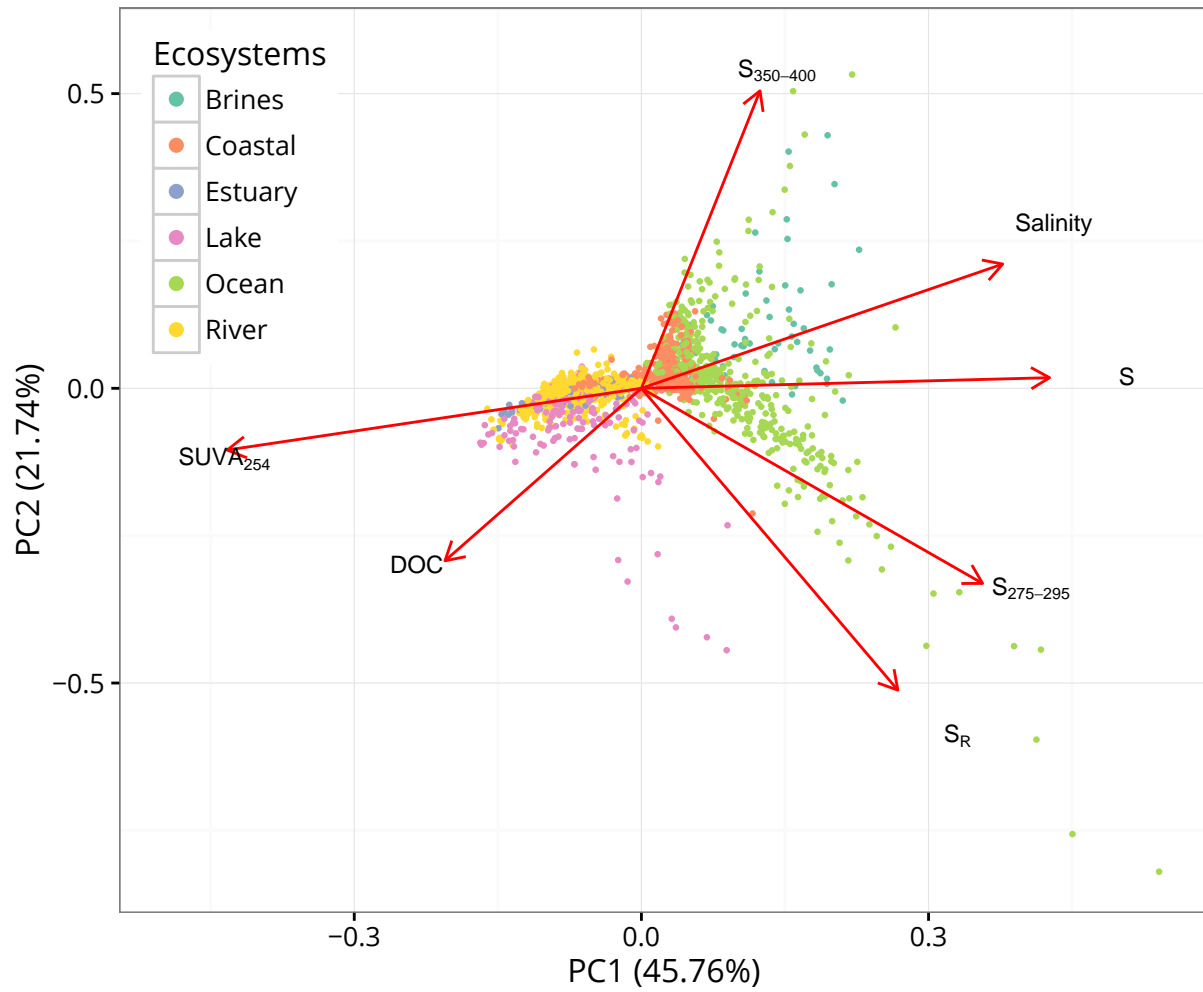
**Figure 3:** Boxplots showing the distribution of (A) absorption coefficients at 350 nm ( $a_{CDOM}(350)$ ), (B) dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and (C) the so-called  $a^*$ . Y-axis are log-transformed given the wide ranges spanned by the data.



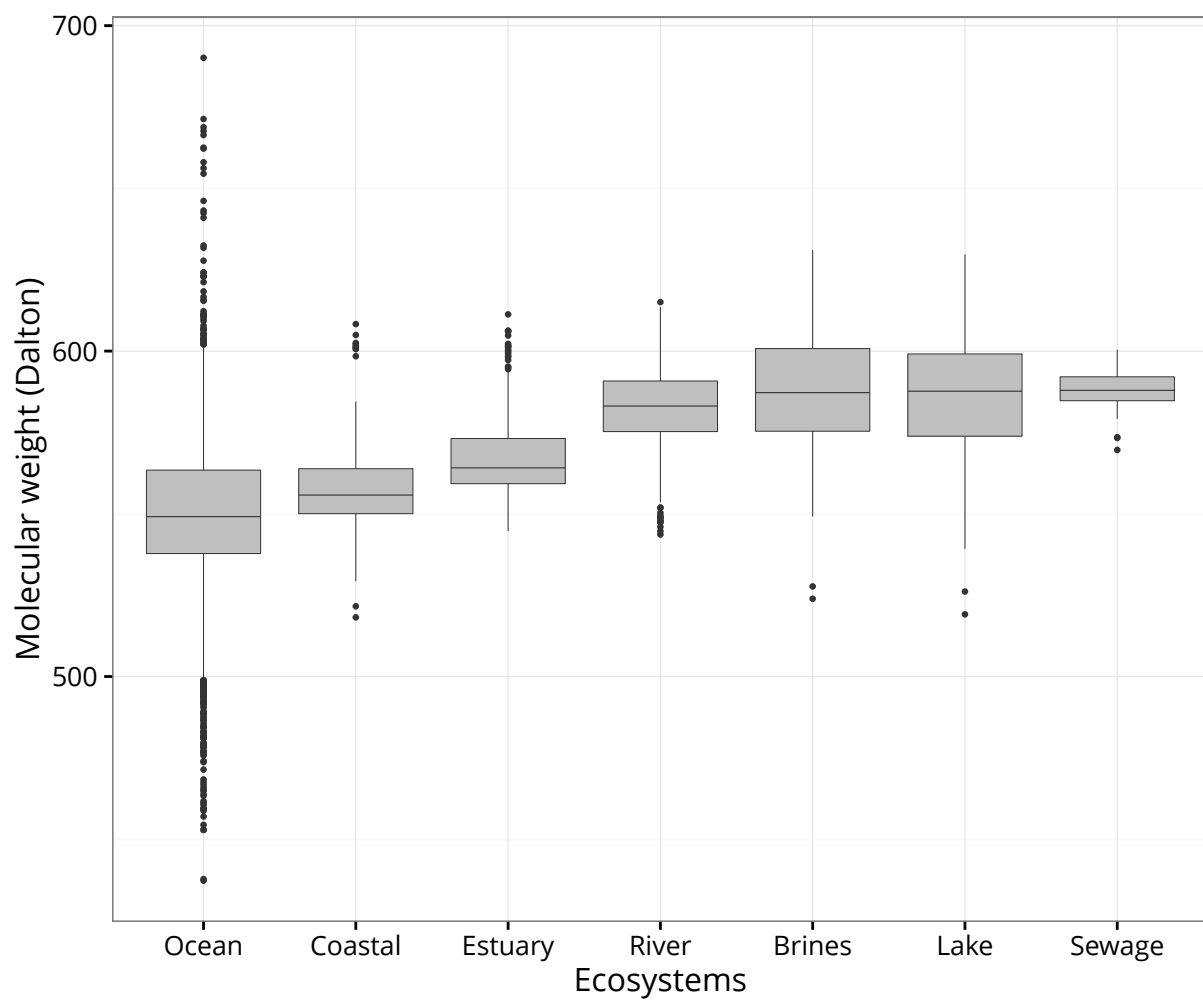
**Figure 4:** **(A)** Global relationship between absorption at 350 nm  $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$  and dissolved organic carbon. The blue line is the fitted values of a linear model  $y = \log(x)$ ,  $R^2 = 0.93$ ,  $p < 0.00001$ ,  $n = 11562$ . **(B)** Barplot showing the determination coefficient ( $R^2$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



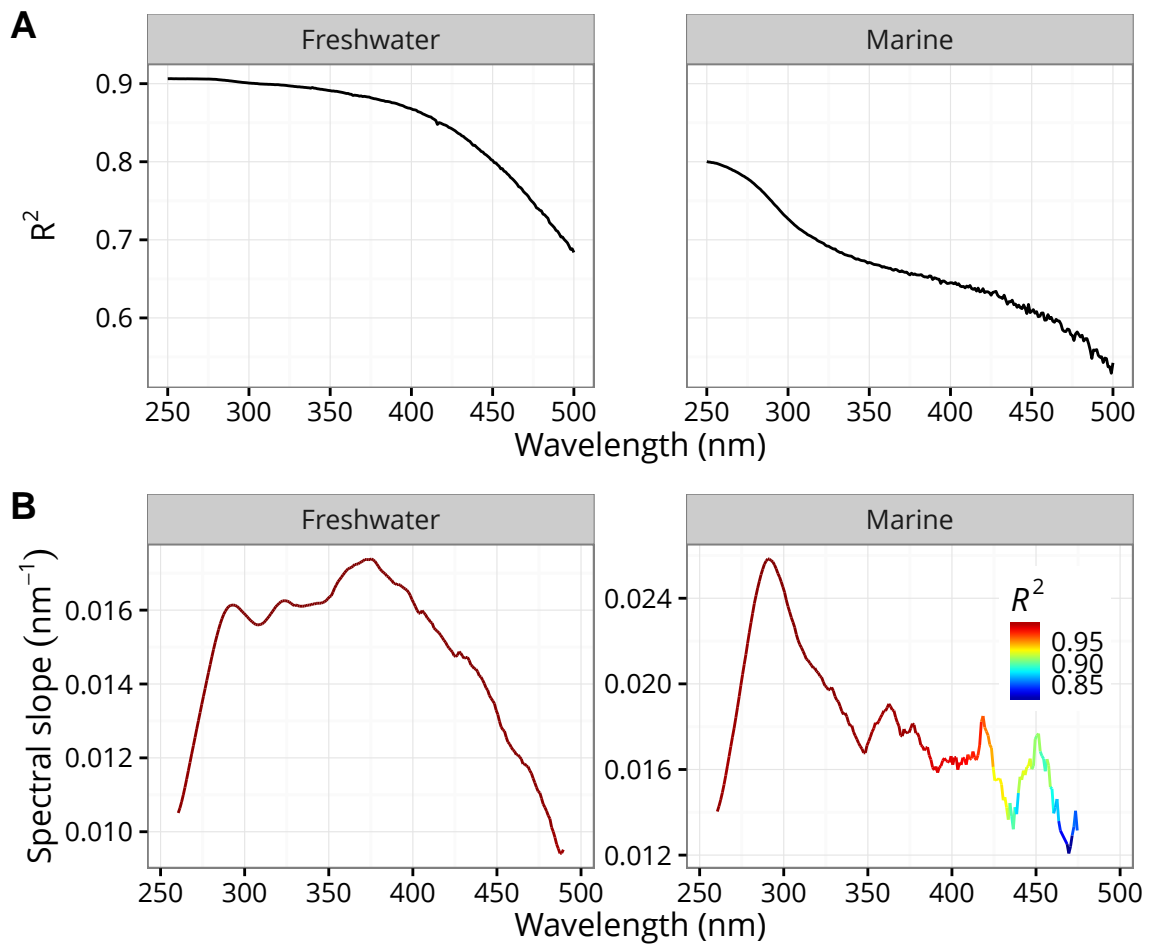
**Figure 5:** Segmentation analysis performed on the linear relationship between  $SUVA_{254}$  and salinity ( $R^2 = 0.74, p < 0.00001, n = 1841$ ). Dashed vertical lines represent the identified breakpoints at salinity 8.66 and 26.84.



**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%.

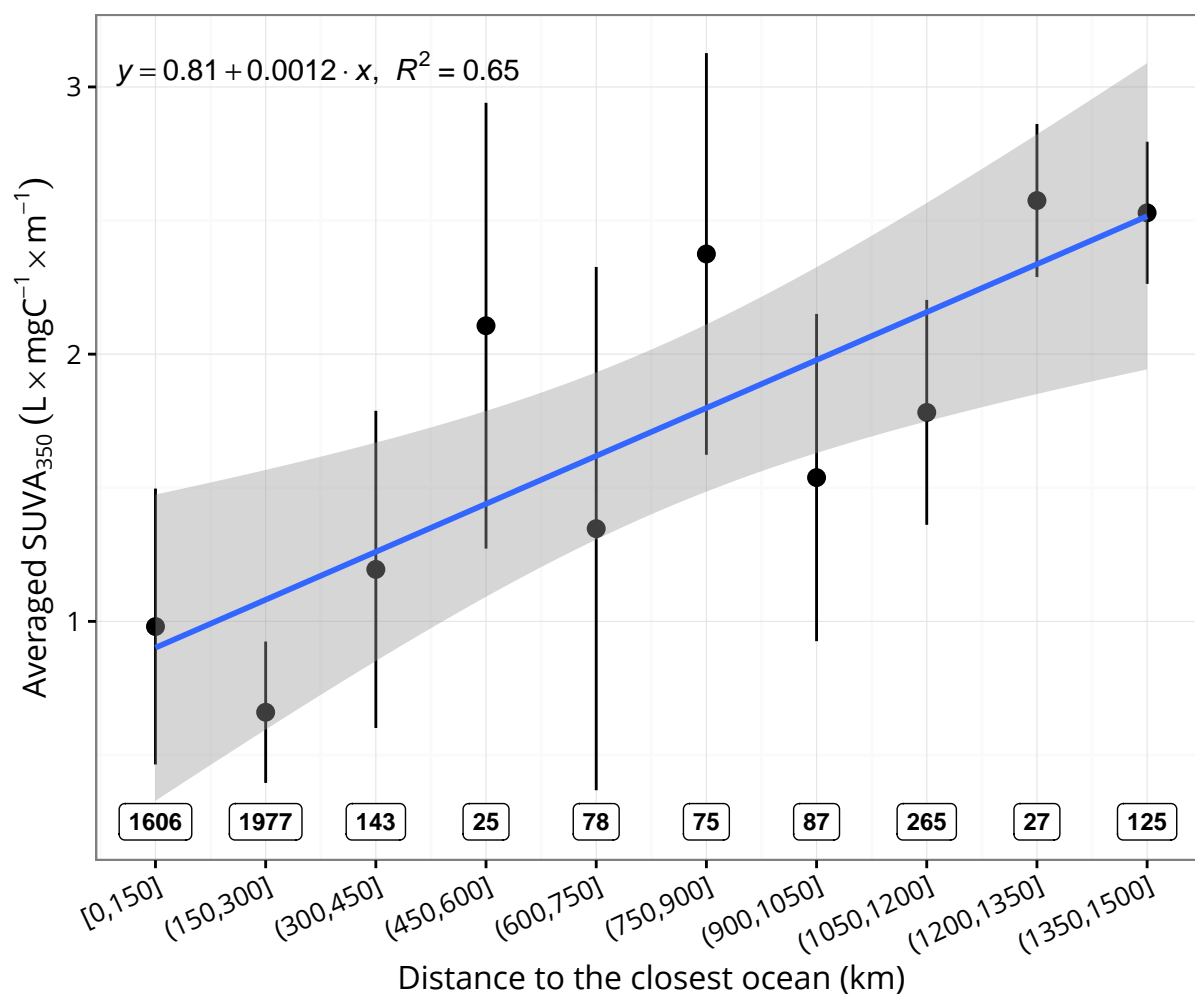


**Figure 7**



**Figure 8:** (A) Determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ) showing the goodness of the linear fit between DOC and absorption coefficients measured at different wavelengths for both freshwater and marine ecosystems. (B) Spectral slope curve calculated on averaged absorption spectra on freshwater and marine ecosystems using a 21 nm wavelength interval.





**Figure 9:** Averaged  $SUVA_{350}$  calculated using observations from river ecosystem as a function of the distance to the closest ocean. The vertical error bars represent the standard deviation.