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Figures

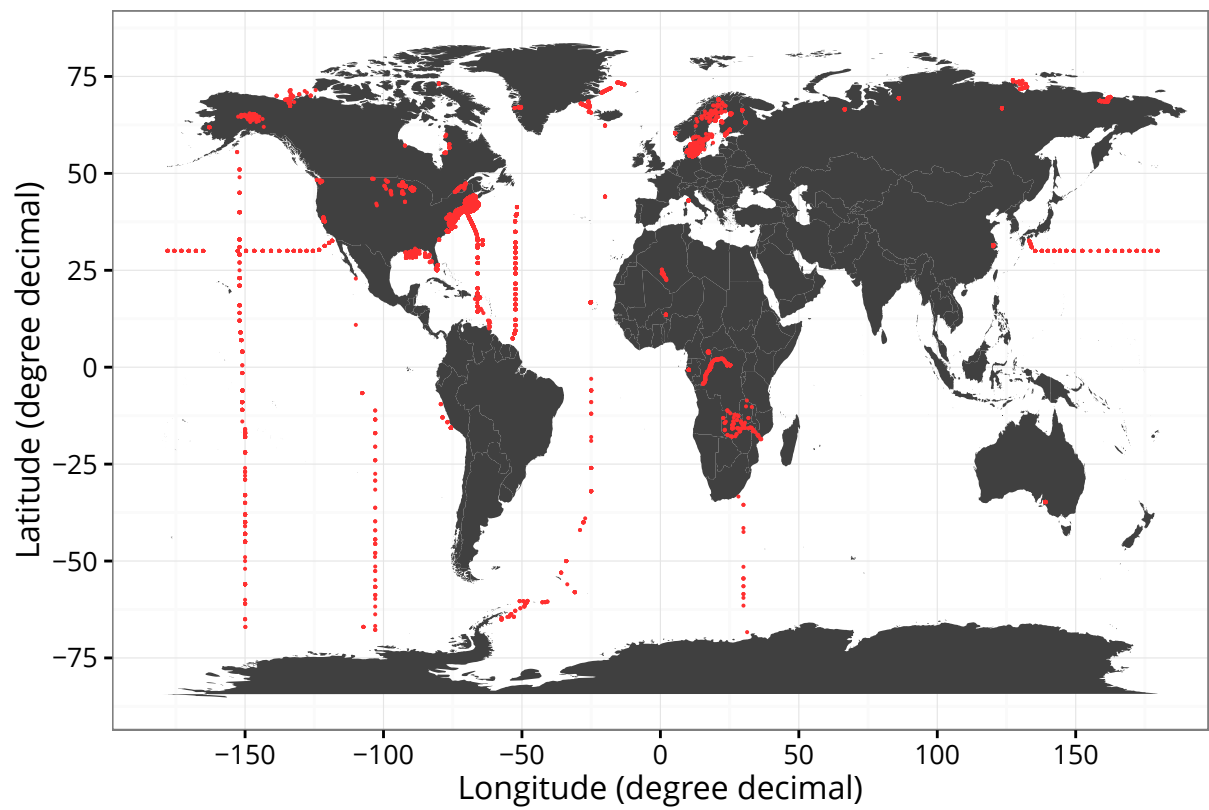


Figure 1: World map showing the spatial distribution of the observations extracted from the literature ($n = xxx$).

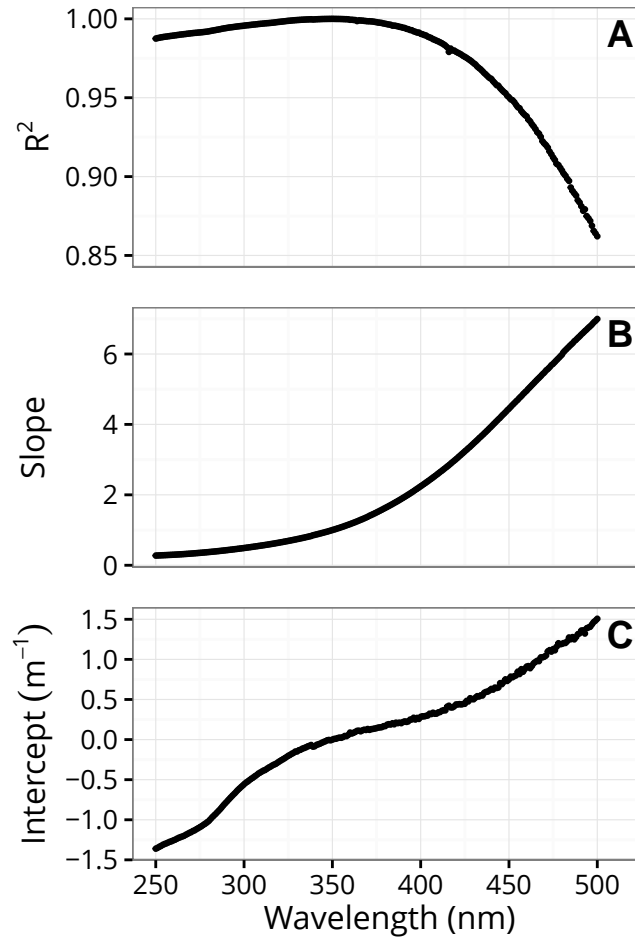


Figure 2: Results of the linear regressions between $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$ and $a_{\text{CDOM}}(\lambda)$. **(A)** Determination coefficients (R^2), **(B)** slopes and **(C)** intercepts of the linear regressions. Panels contain the results of 251 linear models, each based on 2321 data points. Note that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

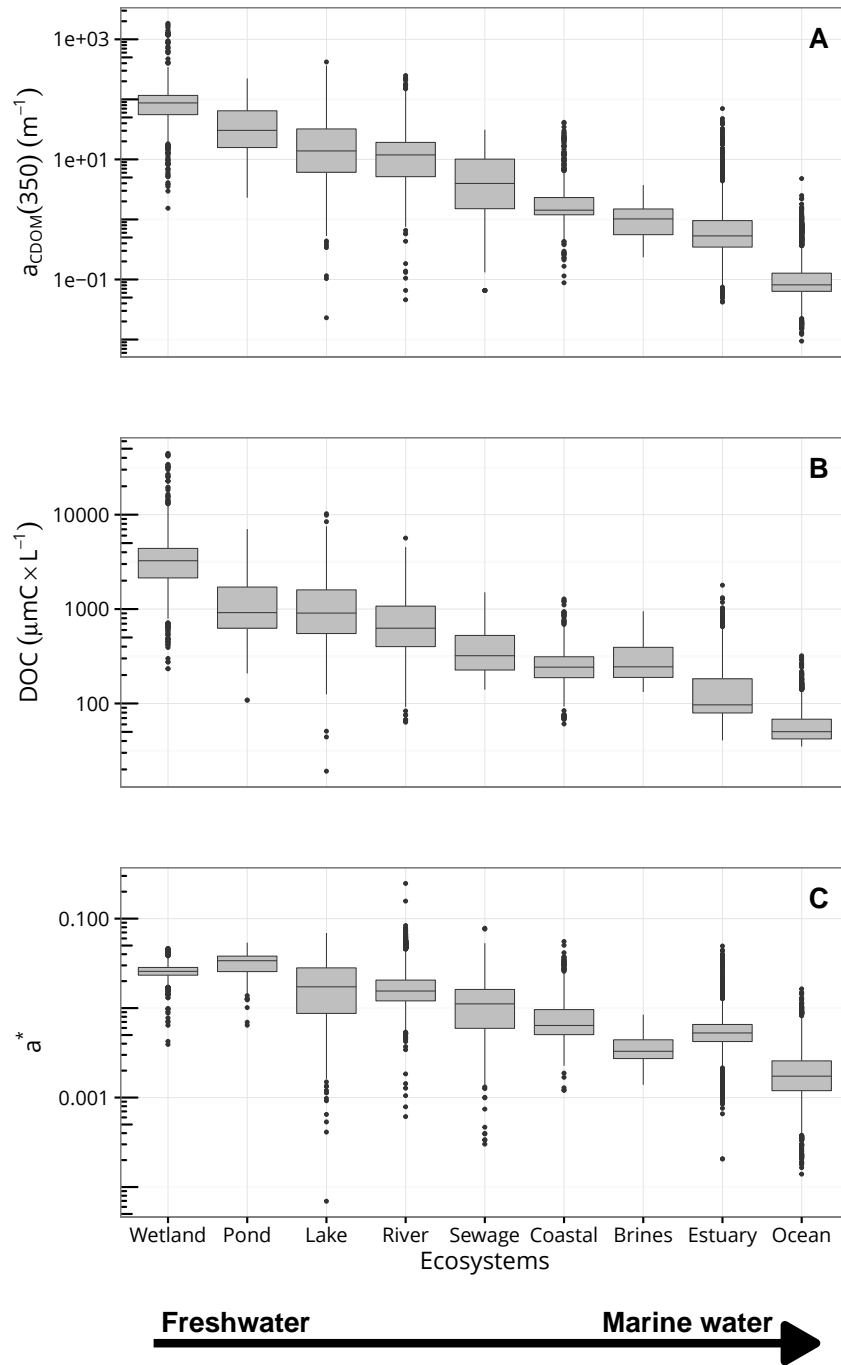


Figure 3: Boxplots showing the distribution of (A) absorption coefficients at 350 nm ($a_{CDOM}(350)$), (B) dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and (C) the so-called a^* . Y-axis are log-transformed given the wide ranges spanned by the data.

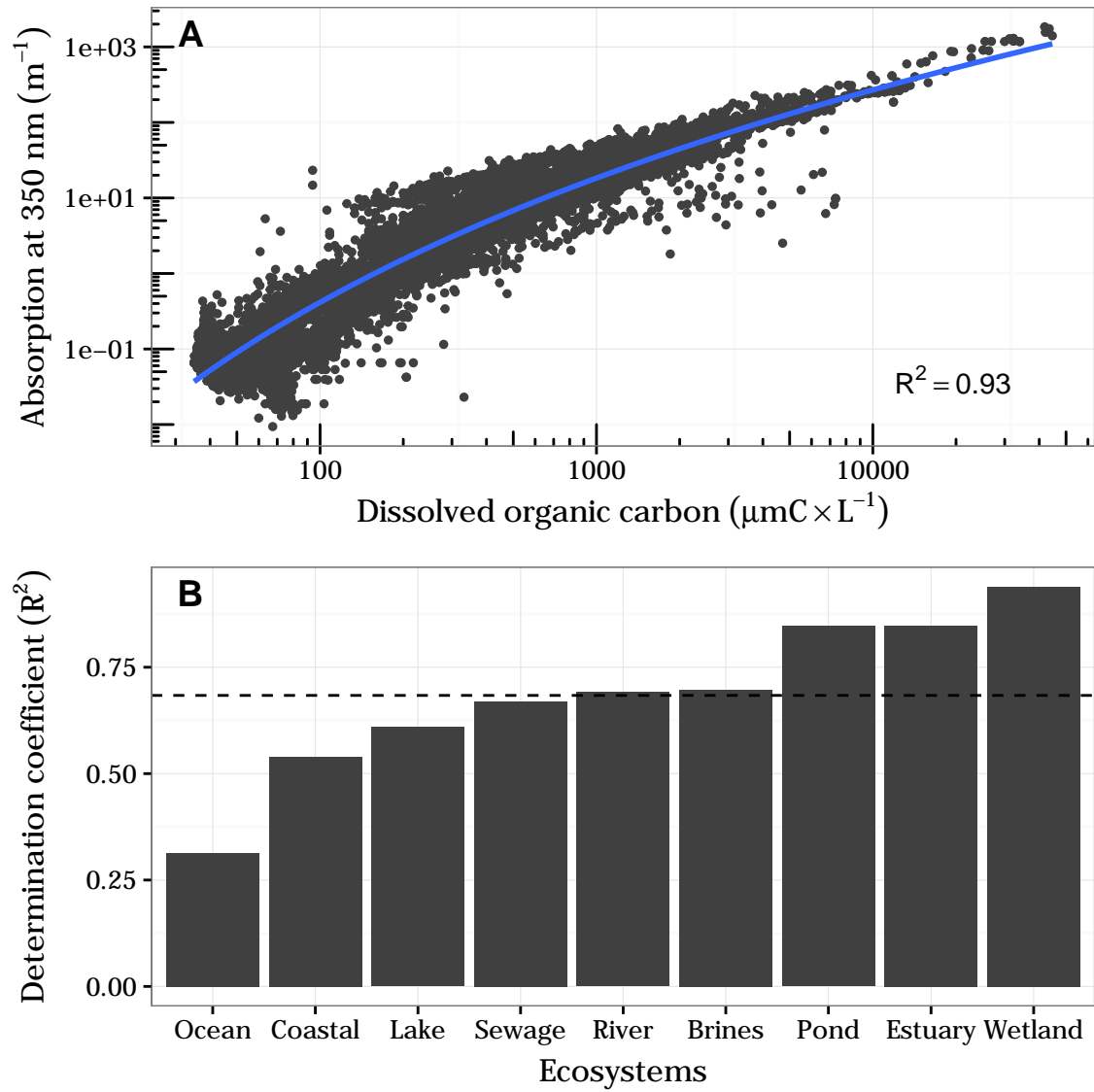


Figure 4: **(A)** Global relationship between absorption at 350 nm $a_{\text{CDOM}}(350)$ and dissolved organic carbon. The blue line is the fitted values of a linear model $y = \log(x)$, $R^2 = 0.93$, $p < 0.00001$, $n = 11562$. **(B)** Barplot showing the determination coefficient (R^2) of the linear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

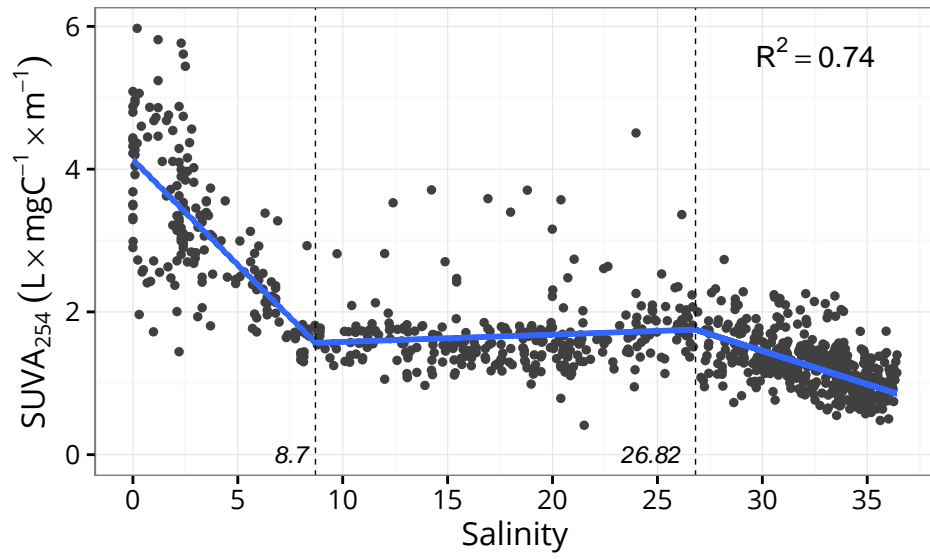


Figure 5: Segmentation analysis performed on the linear relationship between $SUVA_{254}$ and salinity ($R^2 = 0.74$, $p < 0.00001$, $n = 1841$). Dashed vertical lines represent the identified breakpoints at salinity 8.66 and 26.84.

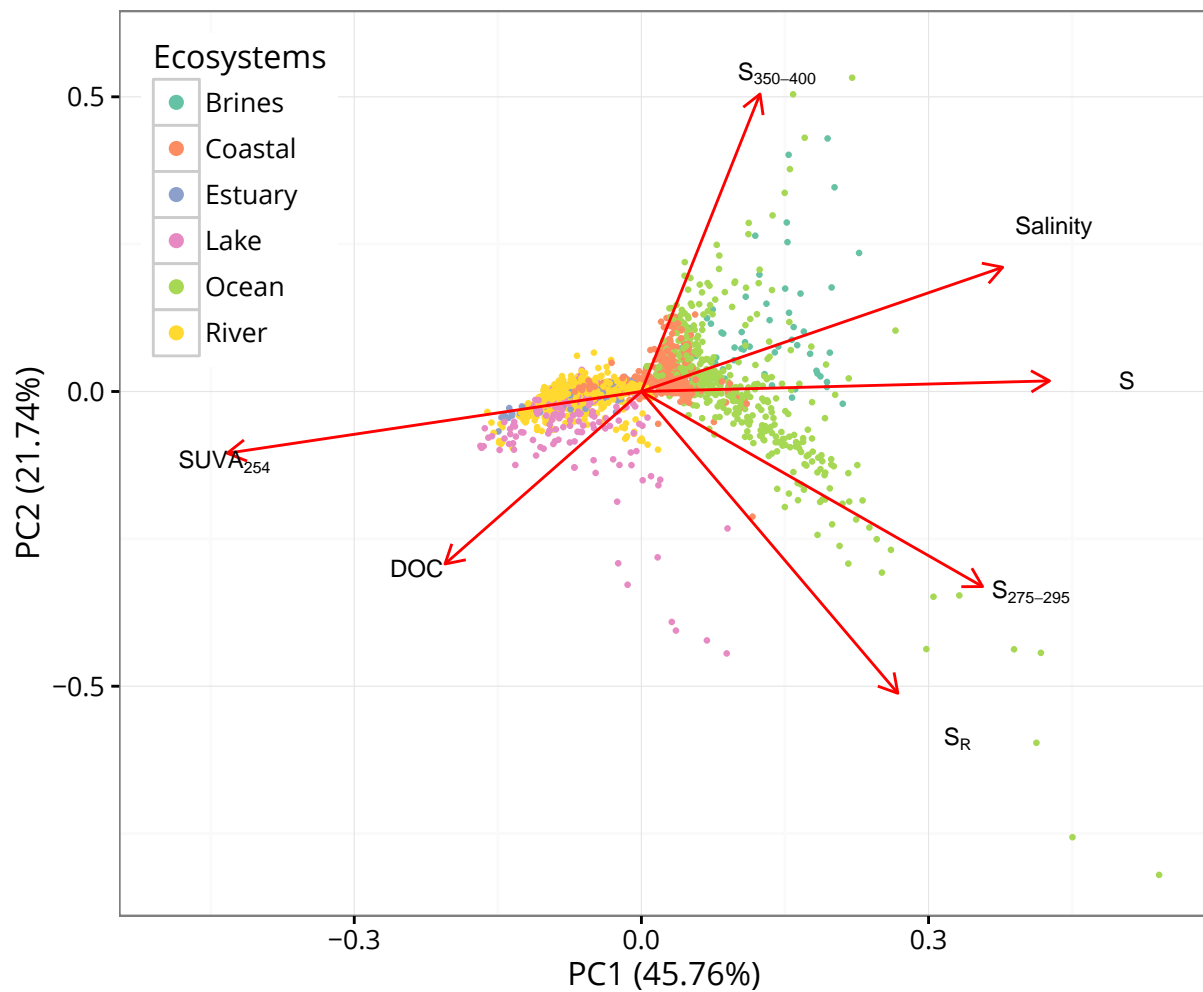


Figure 6: Principal component analysis showing the linear relationships between selected variables ($n = 1841$). The total variance explained by the first two principal components is 67.5%.