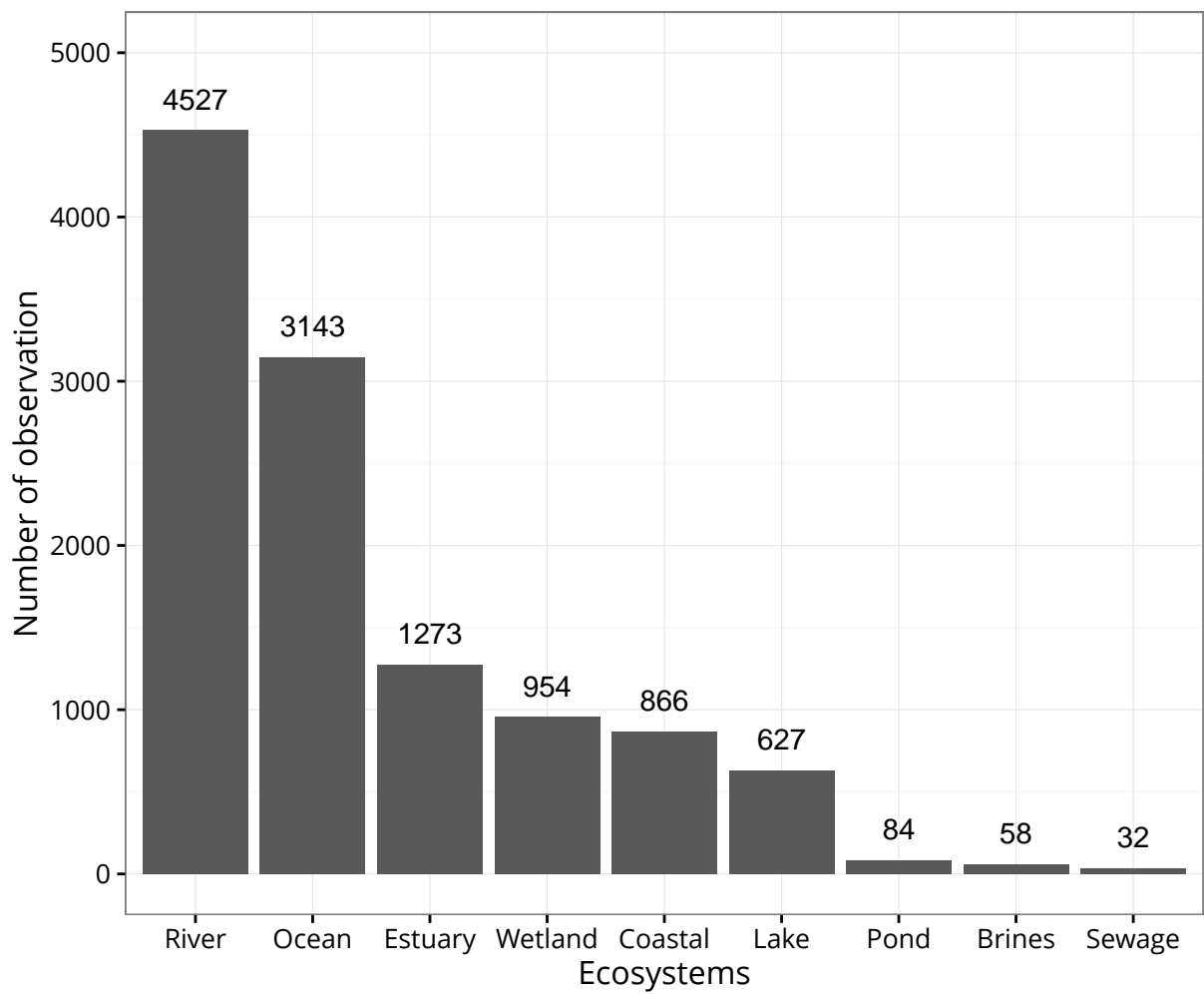
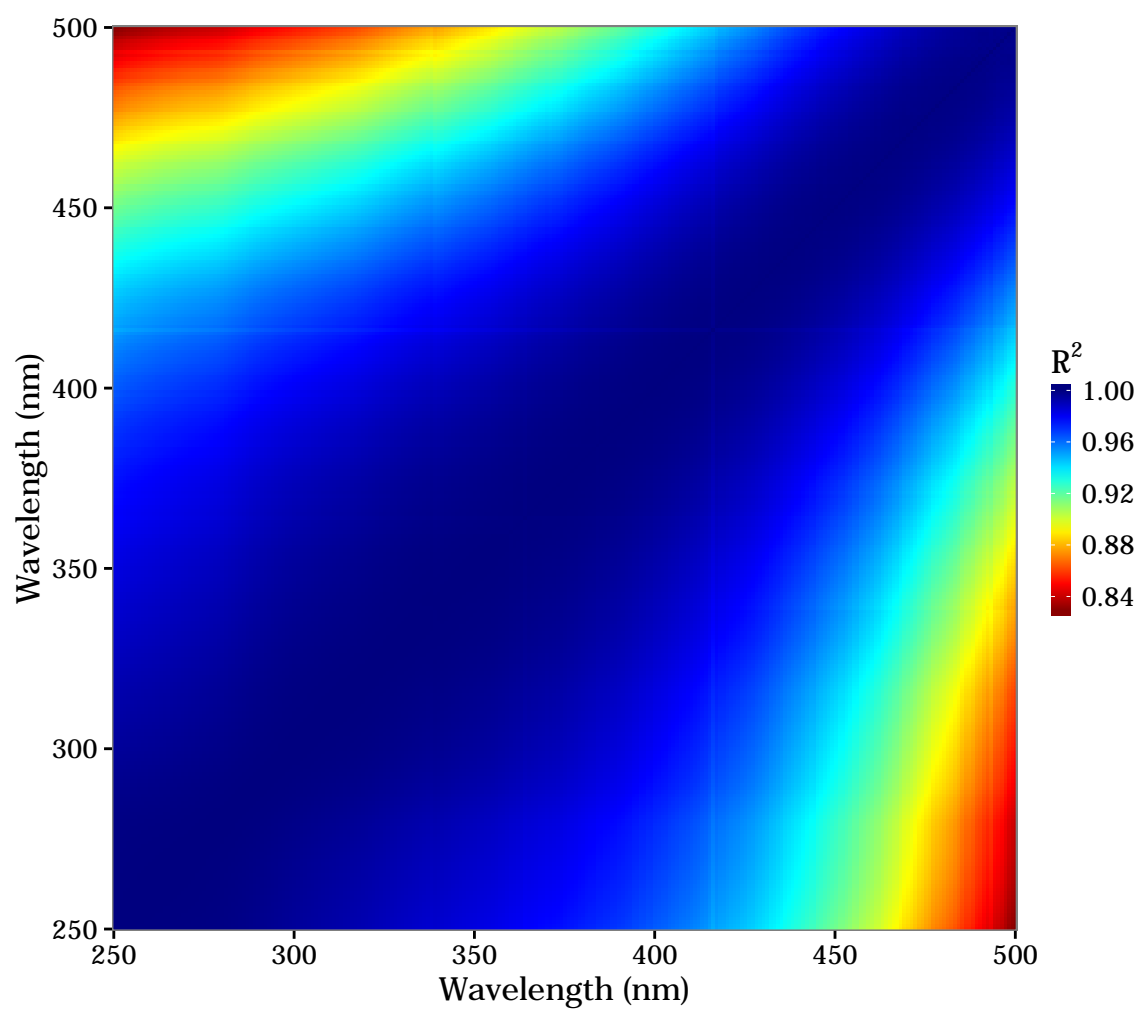


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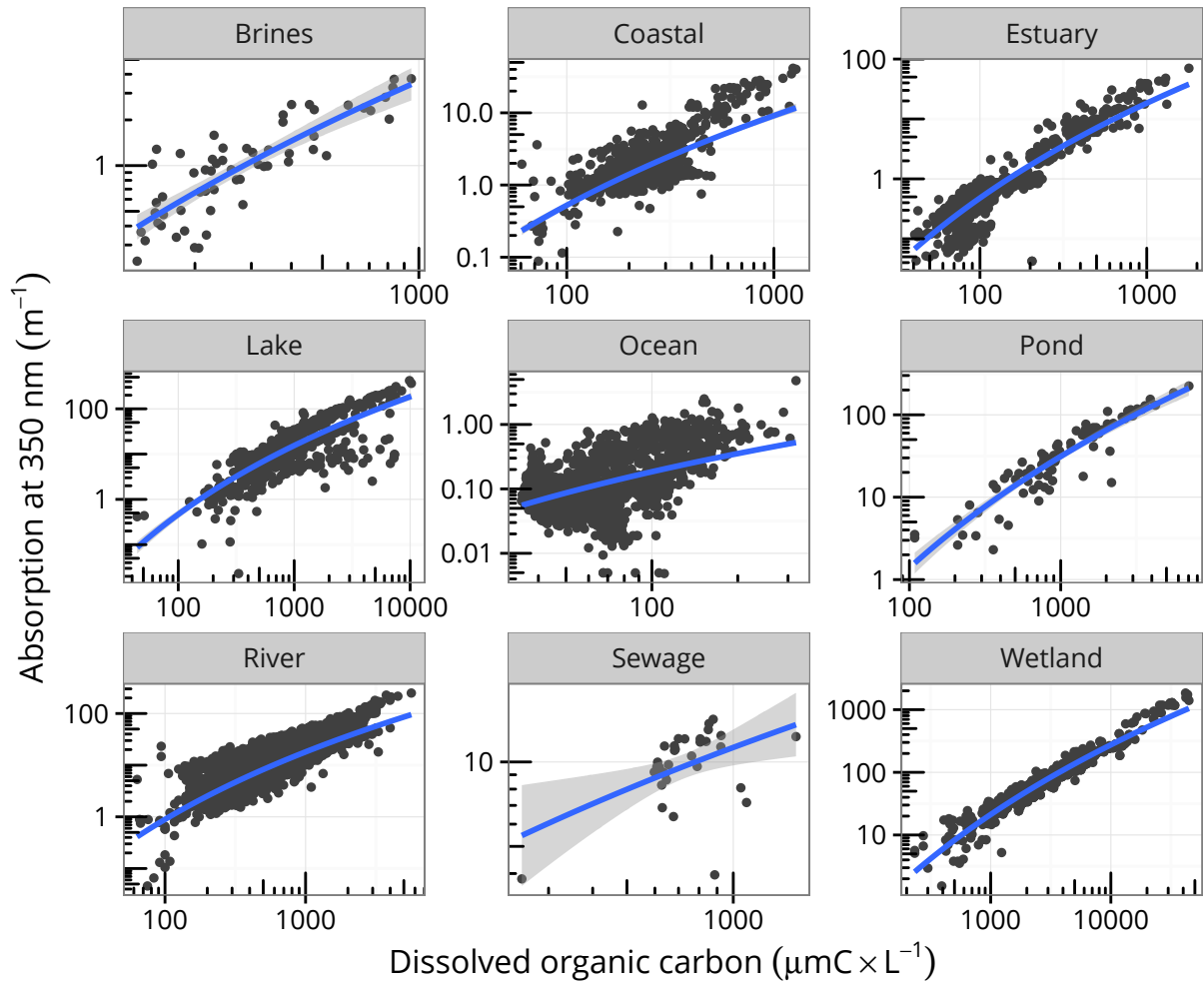
Supplementary materials



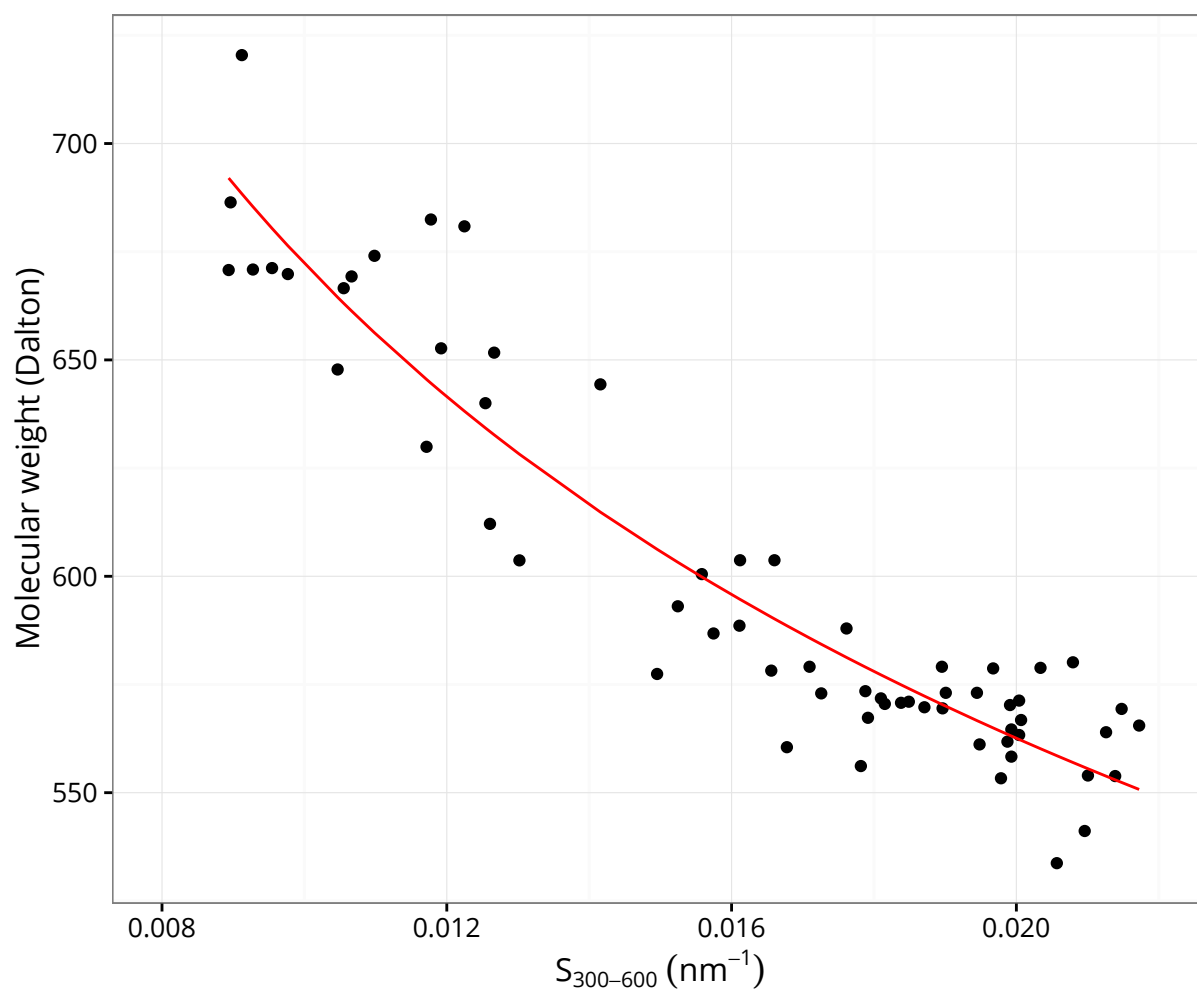
**Supplementary Fig. 1:** Barplot showing the number of unique observations in each ecosystem.



**Supplementary Fig. 2:** Heat map showing the determination coefficients ( $R^2$ ) of the linear regressions between absorption values for each pair of wavelengths between 250 and 500 nm ( $n = 63001$ ). Each regression is based on 2194 observations. Note that the diagonal of the plot shows  $R^2 = 1$ .



**Supplementary Fig. 3:** Log-linear relationship between  $a_{CDOM}(350)$  and DOC divided by ecosystems. The blue line is the fitted values of a linear model  $y = \log(x)$ . The shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals. A total of 11562 observations are distributed across all panels (see supplementary Fig. 1 for details).



**Supplementary Fig. 4:** Power regression between molecular weight and spectral slope calculated between 300 and 600 nm ( $S_{300-600}$ ). Data have been extracted from Stedmon 2015. One outlier was removed from the analysis. Equation of the model:  $y = 205.81x^{-0.26}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.88$ ,  $n = 62$ .