Assignment 3: Data Exploration

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OVERVIEW

This exercise accompanies the lessons in Environmental Data Analytics on Data Exploration.

Directions

1. Rename this file `<FirstLast>_A03_DataExploration.Rmd` (replacing `<FirstLast>` with your first and last name).
2. Change "Student Name" on line 3 (above) with your name.
3. Work through the steps, **creating code and output** that fulfill each instruction.
4. Be sure to **answer the questions** in this assignment document.
5. When you have completed the assignment, **Knit** the text and code into a single PDF file.
6. After Knitting, submit the completed exercise (PDF file) to the dropbox in Sakai.

The completed exercise is due on Sept 30th.

Set up your R session

1. Check your working directory, load necessary packages (tidyverse), and upload two datasets: the ECOTOX neonicotinoid dataset (ECOTOX_Neonicotinoids_Insects_raw.csv) and the Niwot Ridge NEON dataset for litter and woody debris (NEON_NIWO_Litter_massdata_2018-08_raw.csv). Name these datasets "Neonics" and "Litter", respectively. Be sure to include the subcommand to read strings in as factors.

```
setwd("/Users/xueningtang/Desktop/R lab/EDA-Fall2022")
getwd()
```

```
## [1] "/Users/xueningtang/Desktop/R lab/EDA-Fall2022"
```

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
## Warning: replacing previous import 'lifecycle::last_warnings' by
## 'rlang::last_warnings' when loading 'pillar'
```

```
library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)
```

```
## Warning: package 'tidyverse' was built under R version 4.1.2
```

```
## Warning: package 'tibble' was built under R version 4.1.2
## Warning: package 'tidyr' was built under R version 4.1.2
```

```
## Warning: package 'readr' was built under R version 4.1.2
```

```
Neonics <- read.csv("../Data/Raw/ECOTOX_Neonicotinoids_Insects_raw.csv")
Litter <- read.csv("../Data/Raw/NEON_NIWO_Litter_massdata_2018-08_raw.csv")
```

Learn about your system

2. The neonicotinoid dataset was collected from the Environmental Protection Agency's ECOTOX Knowledgebase, a database for ecotoxicology research. Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides used widely in agriculture. The dataset that has been pulled includes all studies published on insects. Why might we be interested in the ecotoxicology of neonicotinoids on insects? Feel free to do a brief internet search if you feel you need more background information.

   Answer: Neonicotinoids are used on over 140 different agricultural crops in more than 120 countries. Due to the prevalence of using it, the danger to ecosystems and insects are not negelectable. They attack the central nervous system of insects, causing overstimulation of their nerve cells, paralysis and death, which could pose huge risk to the ecosystem balance and biodiversity.

3. The Niwot Ridge litter and woody debris dataset was collected from the National Ecological Observatory Network, which collectively includes 81 aquatic and terrestrial sites across 20 ecoclimatic domains. 32 of these sites sample forest litter and woody debris, and we will focus on the Niwot Ridge long-term ecological research (LTER) station in Colorado. Why might we be interested in studying litter and woody debris that falls to the ground in forests? Feel free to do a brief internet search if you feel you need more background information.

   Answer:

4. How is litter and woody debris sampled as part of the NEON network? Read the NEON_Litterfall_UserGuide.pdf document to learn more. List three pieces of salient information about the sampling methods here:

   Answer: 1. 2. 3.

Obtain basic summaries of your data (Neonics)

5. What are the dimensions of the dataset?

```
dim(Neonics)
```

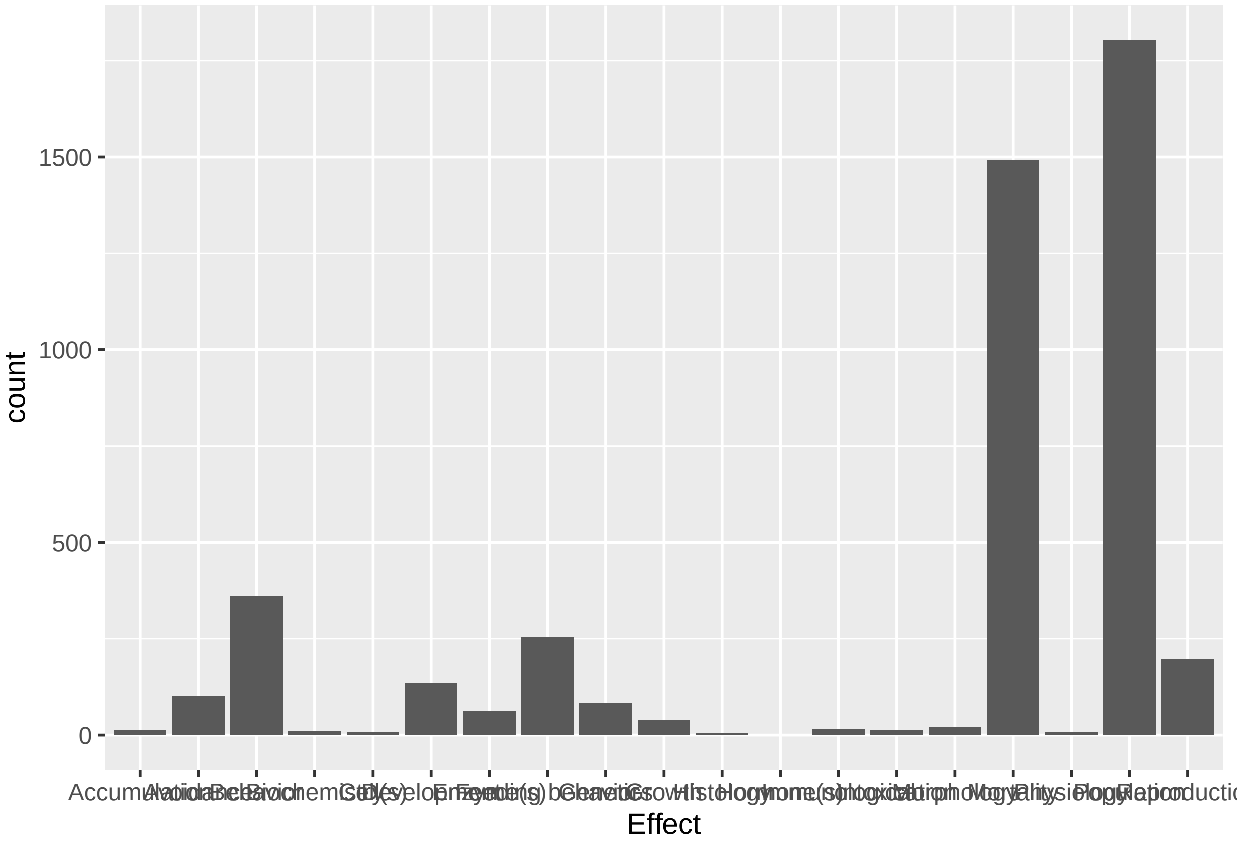
```
## [1] 4623   30
```

6. Using the `summary` function on the "Effect" column, determine the most common effects that are studied. Why might these effects specifically be of interest?

```
summary(Neonics$Effect)
```

```
##    Length     Class      Mode 
##      4623 character character
```

```
ggplot(Neonics, aes(x = Effect)) +
  geom_bar()
```



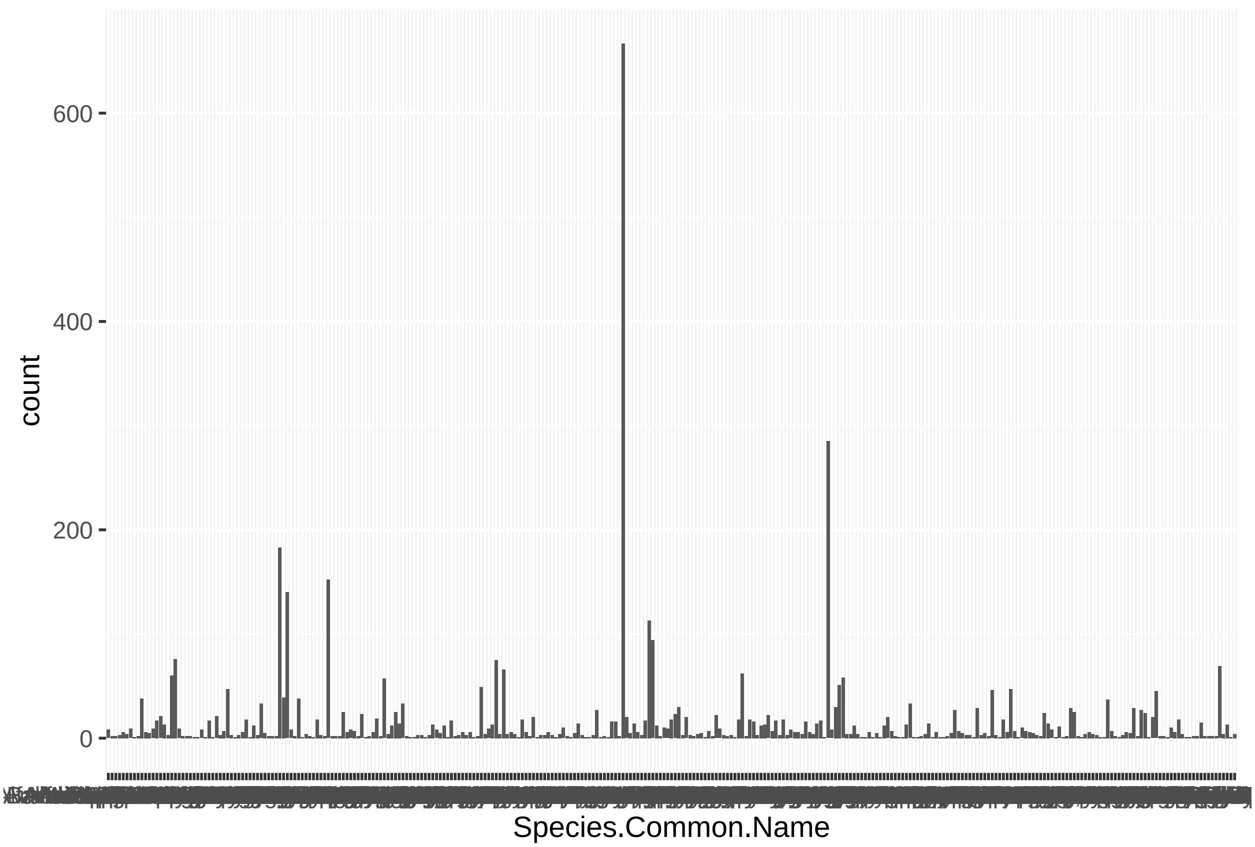
Answer:The most common effect studied is “Mortality”. Because the most severe effect for insects group is causing death and it could show how much toxic effects on insects.

7. Using the `summary` function, determine the six most commonly studied species in the dataset (common name). What do these species have in common, and why might they be of interest over other insects? Feel free to do a brief internet search for more information if needed.

```
summary(Neonics$Species.Common.Name)
```

```
##    Length     Class      Mode 
##      4623 character character
```

```
ggplot(Neonics, aes(x = Species.Common.Name)) +
  geom_bar()
```



Answer:

8. Concentrations are always a numeric value. What is the class of Conc.1..Author. in the dataset, and why is it not numeric?

```
class(Neonics$Conc.1..Author.)
```

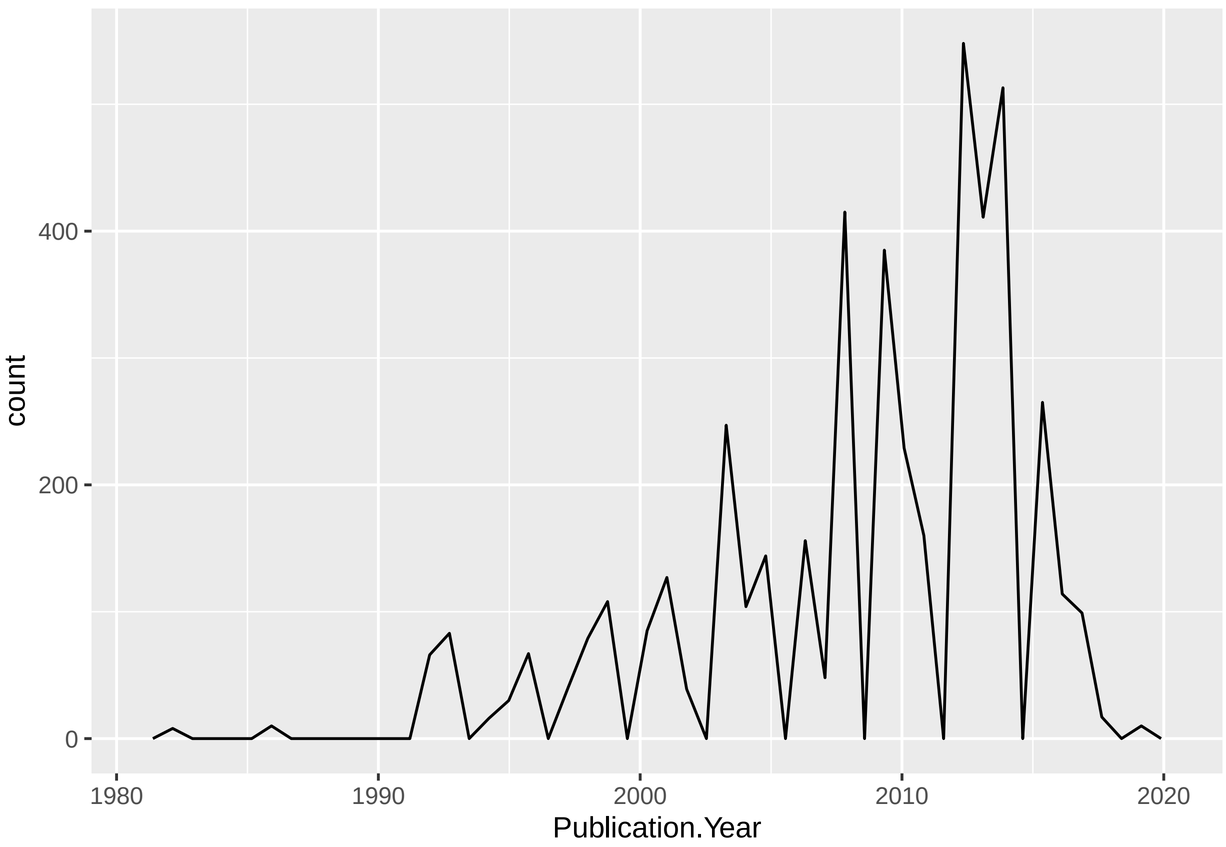
```
## [1] "character"
```

Answer:

Explore your data graphically (Neonics)

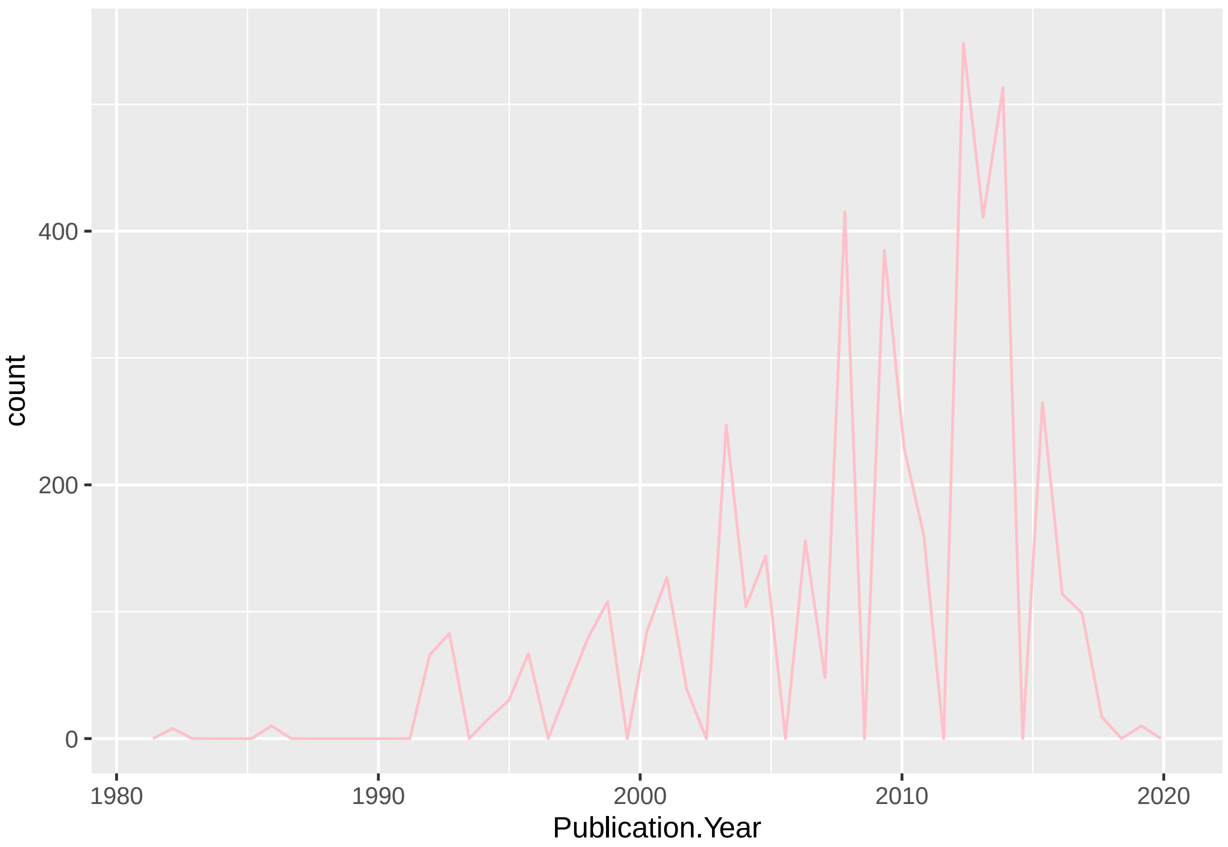
9. Using `geom_freqpoly`, generate a plot of the number of studies conducted by publication year.

```
ggplot(Neonics) +
  geom_freqpoly(aes(x = Publication.Year ), bins = 50)
```



10. Reproduce the same graph but now add a color aesthetic so that different Test.Location are displayed as different colors.

```
ggplot(Neonics) +
  geom_freqpoly(aes(x = Publication.Year ), bins = 50, color = "pink")
```

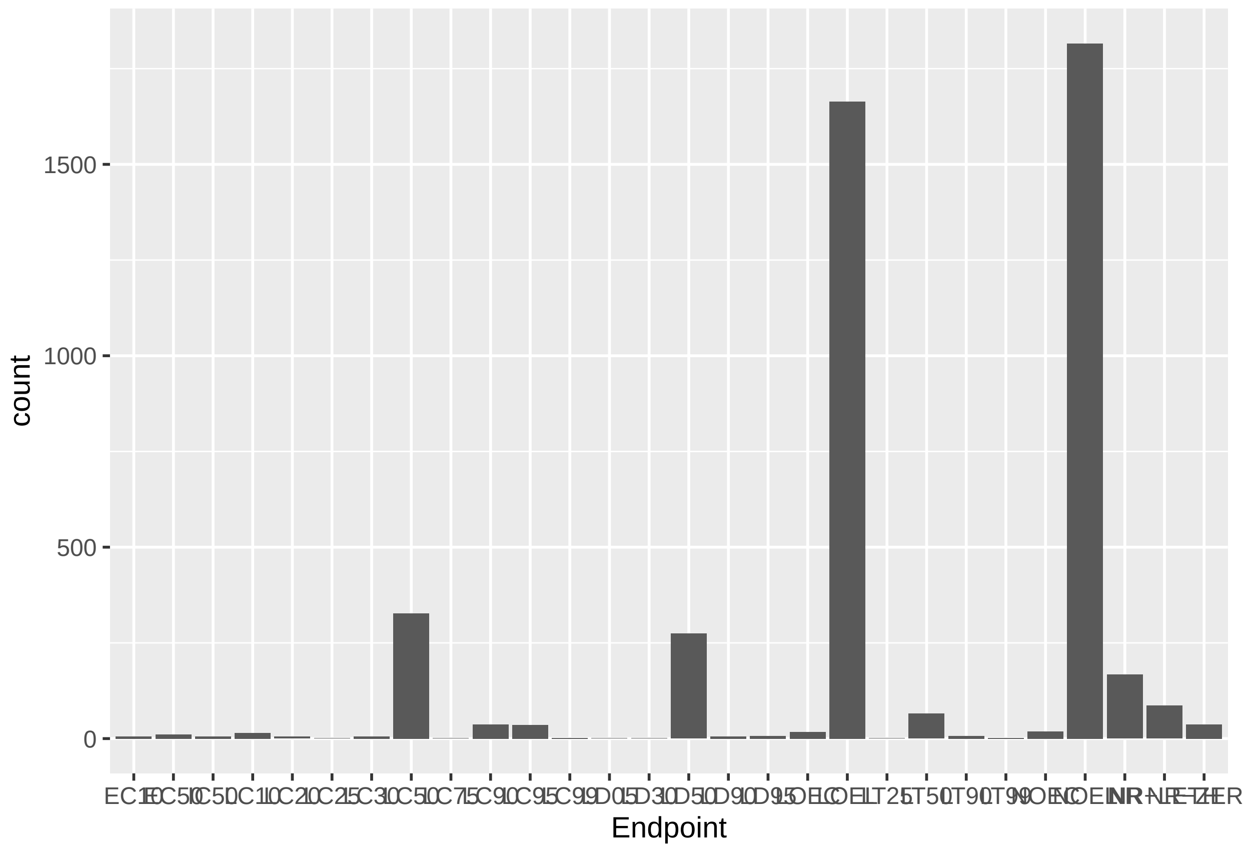


Interpret this graph. What are the most common test locations, and do they differ over time?

Answer:

11. Create a bar graph of Endpoint counts. What are the two most common end points, and how are they defined? Consult the ECOTOX_CodeAppendix for more information.

```
ggplot(Neonics, aes(x = Endpoint)) +
  geom_bar()
```



Answer:

Explore your data (Litter)

12. Determine the class of collectDate. Is it a date? If not, change to a date and confirm the new class of the variable. Using the `unique` function, determine which dates litter was sampled in August 2018.

```
class(Litter$collectDate)
```

```
## [1] "character"
```

```
Litter$collectDate <- as.Date(Litter$collectDate, format = "%m/%d/%y")
class(Litter$collectDate)
```

```
## [1] "Date"
```

```
unique(Litter$collectDate)
```

```
## [1] NA
```

13. Using the `unique` function, determine how many plots were sampled at Niwot Ridge. How is the information obtained from `unique` different from that obtained from `summary`?

Answer:

14. Create a bar graph of functionalGroup counts. This shows you what type of litter is collected at the Niwot Ridge sites. Notice that litter types are fairly equally distributed across the Niwot Ridge sites.
15. Using `geom_boxplot` and `geom_violin`, create a boxplot and a violin plot of dryMass by functionalGroup.

Why is the boxplot a more effective visualization option than the violin plot in this case?

Answer:

What type(s) of litter tend to have the highest biomass at these sites?

Answer: