Assignment 5: Data Visualization

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OVERVIEW

This exercise accompanies the lessons in Environmental Data Analytics on Data Visualization

Directions

1. Change "Student Name" on line 3 (above) with your name.
2. Work through the steps, **creating code and output** that fulfill each instruction.
3. Be sure to **answer the questions** in this assignment document.
4. When you have completed the assignment, **Knit** the text and code into a single PDF file.
5. After Knitting, submit the completed exercise (PDF file) to the dropbox in Sakai. Add your last name into the file name (e.g., "Fay_A05_DataVisualization.Rmd") prior to submission.

The completed exercise is due on Tuesday, February 23 at 11:59 pm.

Set up your session

1. Set up your session. Verify your working directory and load the tidyverse and cowplot packages. Upload the NTL-LTER processed data files for nutrients and chemistry/physics for Peter and Paul Lakes (both the tidy [`NTL-LTER_Lake_Chemistry_Nutrients_PeterPaul_Processed.csv`] and the gathered [`NTL-LTER_Lake_Nutrients_PeterPaulGathered_Processed.csv`] versions) and the processed data file for the Niwot Ridge litter dataset.

2. Make sure R is reading dates as date format; if not change the format to date.

```
#1
getwd()
```

```
## [1] "C:/Users/Zoe/OneDrive/DukeMEM_Yr1/Spring/Environmental_Data_Analytics_2021/Assignments"
```

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
## -- Attaching packages ---------------------------- tidyverse 1.3.0 --

## v ggplot2 3.3.2     v purrr   0.3.4
## v tibble  3.0.3     v dplyr   1.0.2
## v tidyr   1.1.2     v stringr 1.4.0
## v readr   1.3.1     v forcats 0.5.0

## -- Conflicts ------------------------------- tidyverse_conflicts() --
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()    masks stats::lag()
```

```
library(cowplot)
library(lubridate)
```

```
##
## Attaching package: 'lubridate'

## The following object is masked from 'package:cowplot':
##
##     stamp

## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##     date, intersect, setdiff, union
```

```
NTL.tidy <- read.csv("../Data/Processed/NTL-LTER_Lake_Chemistry_Nutrients_PeterPaul_Processed.csv")
NTL.gathered <- read.csv("../Data/Processed/NTL-LTER_Lake_Nutrients_PeterPaulGathered_Processed.csv")
Niwo <- read.csv("../Data/Processed/NEON_NIWO_Litter_mass_trap_Processed.csv")

#2
NTL.tidy$sampledate <- as.Date(NTL.tidy$sampledate, format = "%Y-%m-%d")
NTL.gathered$sampledate <- as.Date(NTL.gathered$sampledate, format = "%Y-%m-%d")
Niwo$collectDate <- as.Date(Niwo$collectDate, format = "%Y-%m-%d")
```

Define your theme

3. Build a theme and set it as your default theme.

```
mytheme <- theme_light(base_size = 12) +
  theme(axis.text = element_text(color = "black"),
        legend.position = "top")
theme_set(mytheme)
```

Create graphs

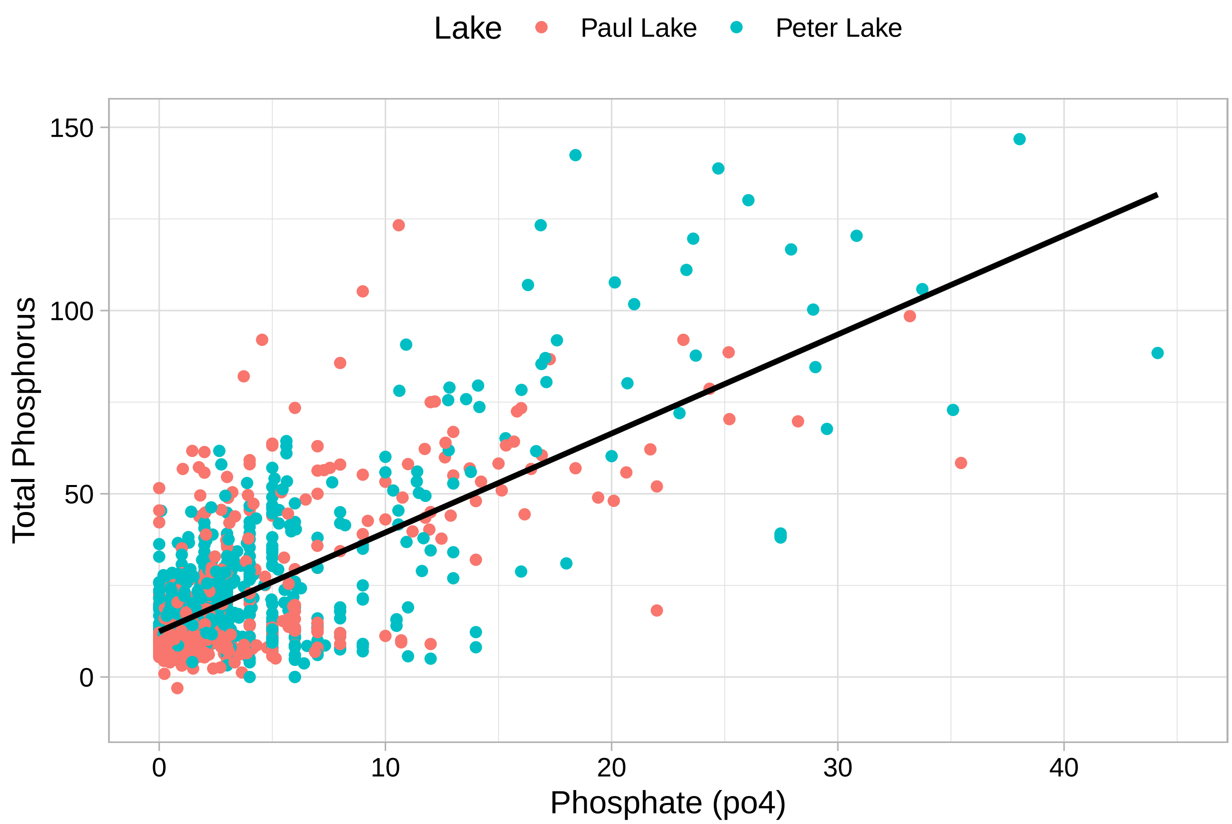
For numbers 4-7, create ggplot graphs and adjust aesthetics to follow best practices for data visualization. Ensure your theme, color palettes, axes, and additional aesthetics are edited accordingly.

4. [NTL-LTER] Plot total phosphorus (`tp_ug`) by phosphate (`po4`), with separate aesthetics for Peter and Paul lakes. Add a line of best fit and color it black. Adjust your axes to hide extreme values.

```
NTL.phos <- ggplot(NTL.tidy, aes(x = po4, y = tp_ug, color = lakename)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, color = "black", se = FALSE) +
  xlim(0, 45) +
  ylim(-10, 150) +
  labs(color = "Lake", y = "Total Phosphorus", x = "Phosphate (po4)")
print(NTL.phos)
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using formula 'y ~ x'
```

```
## Warning: Removed 21947 rows containing non-finite values (stat_smooth).

## Warning: Removed 21947 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```

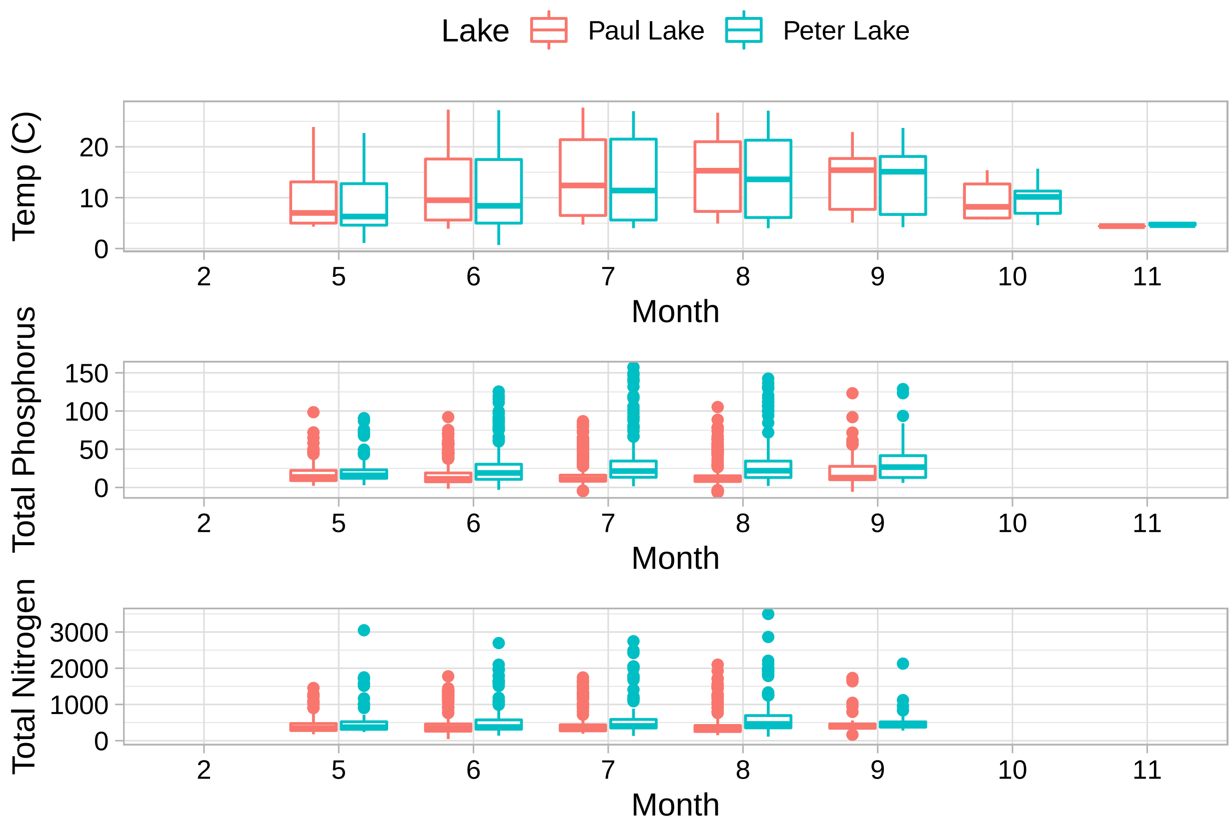


5. [NTL-LTER] Make three separate boxplots of (a) temperature, (b) TP, and (c) TN, with month as the x axis and lake as a color aesthetic. Then, create a cowplot that combines the three graphs. Make sure that only one legend is present and that graph axes are aligned.

```
NTL.temp <- ggplot(NTL.tidy, aes(x = as.factor(month), y = temperature_C)) +
  geom_boxplot(aes(color = lakename)) +
  labs(x = "Month", color = "Lake", y = "Temp (C)")

NTL.tp <- ggplot(NTL.tidy, aes(x = as.factor(month), y = tp_ug, color = lakename)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  labs(x = "Month", y = "Total Phosphorus") +
  theme(legend.position = "none")

NTL.tn <- ggplot(NTL.tidy, aes(x = as.factor(month), y = tn_ug, color = lakename)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  labs(x = "Month", y = "Total Nitrogen") +
  theme(legend.position = "none")

plot_grid(NTL.temp, NTL.tp, NTL.tn, nrow = 3, align = 'v', rel_heights = c(1.5, 1, 1))
```

```
## Warning: Removed 3566 rows containing non-finite values (stat_boxplot).
```

```
## Warning: Removed 20729 rows containing non-finite values (stat_boxplot).

## Warning: Removed 21583 rows containing non-finite values (stat_boxplot).
```

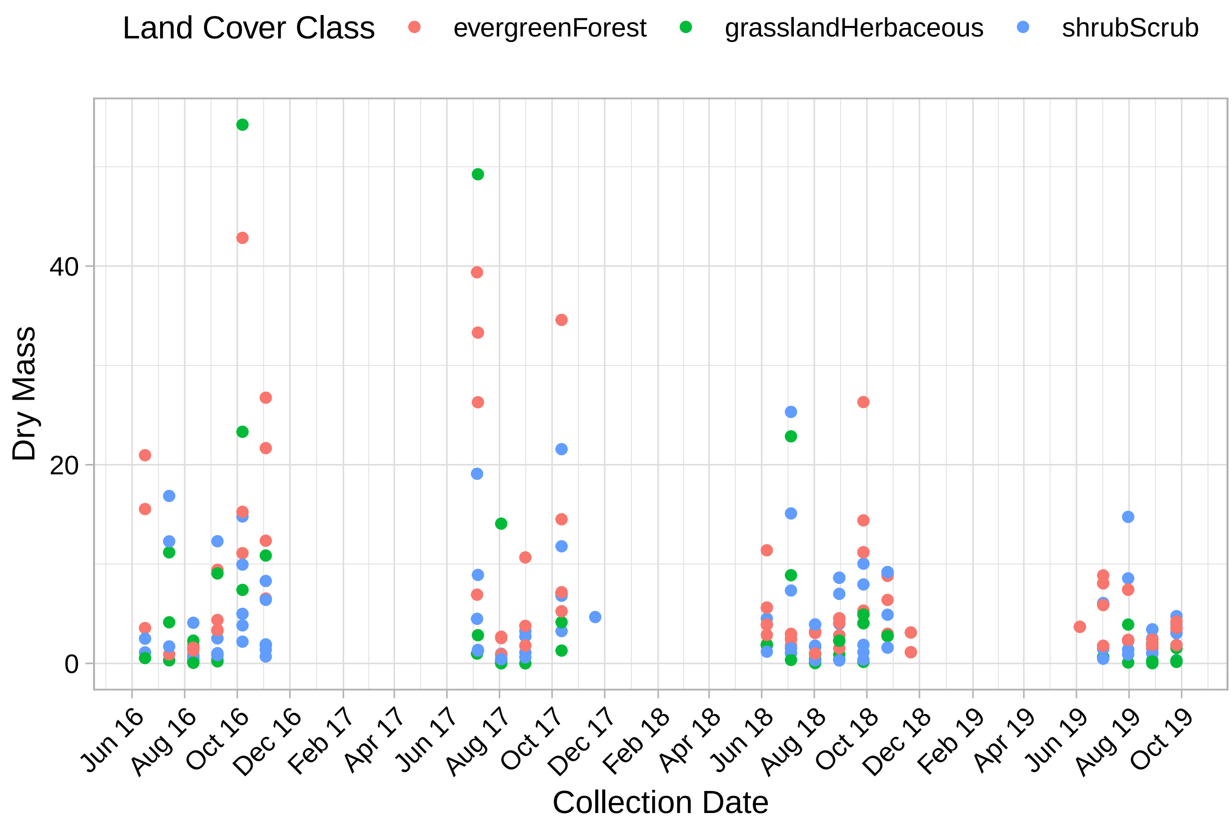


Question: What do you observe about the variables of interest over seasons and between lakes?

> Answer: Paul Lake has consistently lower tn, tp, and temperature readings than Peter Lake. The range of values in Paul Lake is also smaller than Peter Lake for each variable. Temperature in both lakes rises during the summer, peaks around July or August, and then begins to fall. TP and TN also appear to rise in Peter Lake during the summer, although readings for Paul Lake stay relatively steady.

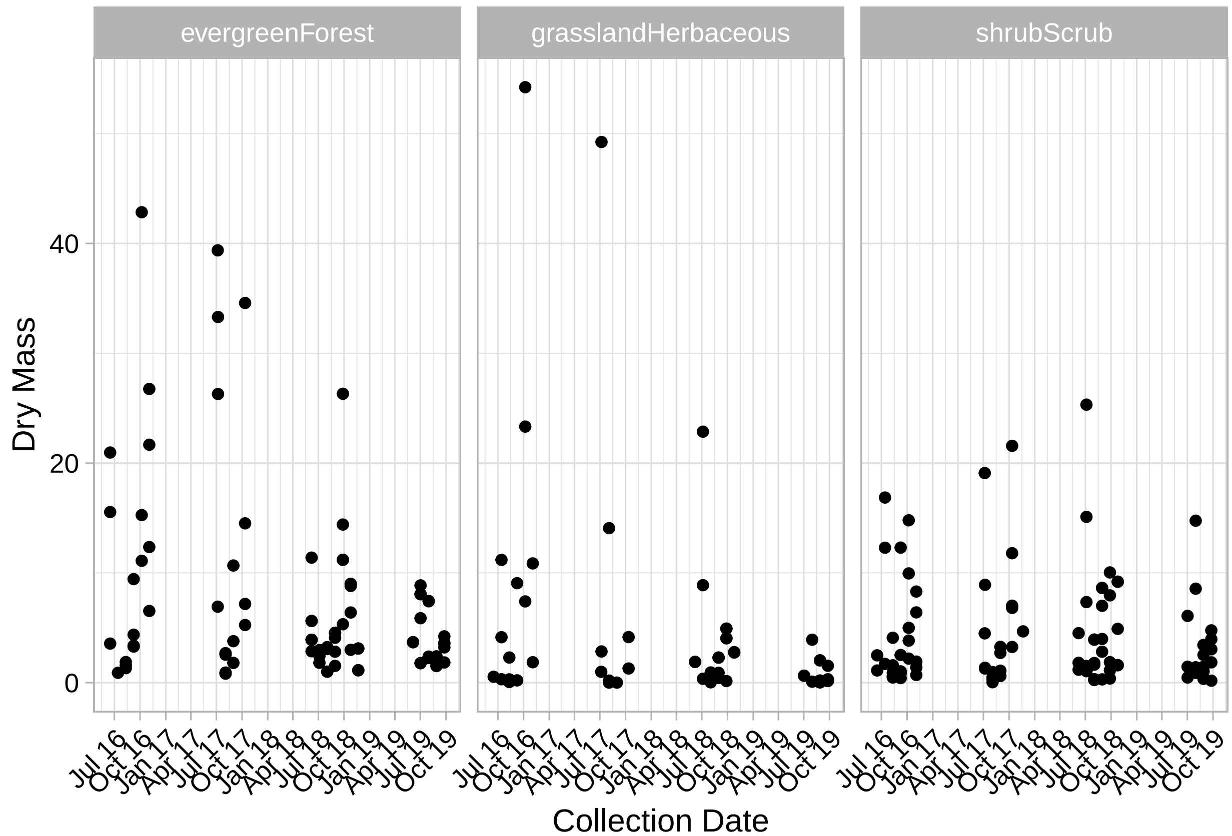
6. [Niwot Ridge] Plot a subset of the litter dataset by displaying only the "Needles" functional group. Plot the dry mass of needle litter by date and separate by NLCD class with a color aesthetic. (no need to adjust the name of each land use)

```r
needles <- ggplot(subset(Niwo, functionalGroup == "Needles")) +
  geom_point(aes(x = collectDate, y = dryMass, color = nlcdClass)) +
  labs(color = "Land Cover Class", y = "Dry Mass", x = "Collection Date") +
  scale_x_date(breaks = "2 months", date_labels = "%b %y") +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45,  hjust = 1))
print(needles)
```



7. [Niwot Ridge] Now, plot the same plot but with NLCD classes separated into three facets rather than separated by color.

```
needles.facet <- ggplot(subset(Niwo, functionalGroup == "Needles")) +
  geom_point(aes(x = collectDate, y = dryMass)) +
  facet_wrap(vars(nlcdClass), nrow = 1) +
  scale_x_date(breaks = "3 months", date_labels = "%b %y") +
  labs(x = "Collection Date", y = "Dry Mass") +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45,  hjust = 1))
print(needles.facet)
```



Question: Which of these plots (6 vs. 7) do you think is more effective, and why?

Answer: I think plot 7 is more effective because it's easier to see the differences in dry mass between each land use type. It's difficult to distinguish the colors in plot 6.