Final discussion

If I am honest I had high expectations for this subject, but fortunately they were completely met. Every aspect of the programme (workshops, conferences) felt fit for a certain purpose and had a lesson with no overlap (I was worried about lessons being repetitive in methods or objectives).

Personally I was used to working with the terminal, but I had to learn everything by googling commands. Self-teaching is a very hard and long path, and in my case… not so optimum. Just in the first workshop I learned a lot about commands I thought I knew. For example, the real functioning of some of their features and also new ones. It was the same situation in the case of ggplot2, a package I worked with several times but very naïvely. There were a lot of options I struggled with before, but after the workshop it all came as crystal clear. How cool is it when there is someone who teaches you how to figure out stuff?
The rest of the workshops were as useful. The step-by-step layout is very intuitive and self-explaining, so it adapts gently to every one's own pace. Personally, I really enjoyed performing a GWAS in all its stages and learning how to customize a Manhattan plot.
Also, creating a paper using Overleaf was so much fun! We tried to imitate official papers and it became a very entertaining exercise. Texts look so neat in LateX I think I am going to write my shopping list using it.
By the way, working with my classmates on our Github group has been great too.

If I had to point out a downside of some of the workshops (especially the most complex ones, 3 and 4), it is that sometimes you may get a feeling of uncertainty of not really knowing why you are doing what you are doing. "So I have to copy these commands and execute … hmmm … nice" but you do not know what it has done for it to be nice. It is true though that most command lines are explained in detail, and the ones which are not might be too complex for us to care about at this point.

About the conferences, I liked that they were very diverse. Their objective as a whole is not only to teach us about new bioinformatic applications but how to live as a bioinformatician (and as a scientist, in general). It was cool to attend conferences from the MSC too.

In conclusion this was a nice subject, the learning outcomes are very useful and practical. I feel like I have learned things I will use recurrently in the next few years, and would recommend it for prospective students.