

# Single Cell RNA-Seq Analysis of Pancreatic Cells

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## Introduction

The human pancreas is a composite organ with both exocrine and endocrine functions[1]. The exocrine compartment consists of two cell types: acinar cells that produce digestive enzymes, and ductal cells that secrete bicarbonate and channels these enzymes into the duodenum. The endocrine portion helps maintain glucose homeostasis and comprises five major cell types found in islets of Langerhans: alpha cells, beta cells, delta cells, gamma (PP) cells, and epsilon cells[2]. In their study *A Single-Cell Transcriptomic Map of the Human and Mouse Pancreas Reveals Inter- and Intra-cell Population Structure*, Baron et al performed single cell RNA sequencing using the inDrop platform in a set of human donor pancreatic cells from four subjects and two strains of mice in order to describe pancreatic cell types at a high resolution[3].

The goal of this project is to replicate their primary findings using current analytical methodology and software packages by analyzing sequencing data from one of the four human donors (donor 2). We utilized a graph-based clustering method different from the original authors and identified six major pancreatic cell types characterized by different transcriptional expression profiles, four of which confirmed by gene set enrichment analysis results.

## Methods

### Datasets

Single Cell RNA-Seq datasets comprising 3 replicates sequenced from the 51-year-old female donor (donor 2, GSM2230758) were obtained from the GEO database ([GEO Accession viewer \(nih.gov\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/accessionviewer/?acc=GSM2230758)). The barcoding scheme of the inDrop sequencing library was designed to be 19 nucleotides long, followed by an unique molecular identifier (UMI) with six bases. The barcode for each cell and UMIs for each transcript had been processed beforehand, such that read1 files only contain barcoding sequences (barcodes and UMIs).

### Barcode preprocessing

The number of reads by barcodes (bc1 and bc2) was calculated for each run, and statistical visualization was performed in R. Infrequent reads were eliminated by filtering out barcodes with a number of reads less than 10,000 across all replicates. The remaining barcodes were used as a whitelist for the purpose of transcript quantification.

### Transcript quantification

Using the latest transcriptome reference and annotations (GRCh38.p13), transcriptome indices were built with comprehensive decoy sequences of the genome by using the mapping-based mode in Salmon[4]. A cell-by-gene count matrix was generated using the Alevin module which worked under the same indexing scheme.

### Data preprocessing

The UMI count matrix was filtered with two criteria: 1) having at least 200 non-zero genes per cell, 2) having a minimum of three non-zero count cells per gene before entering downstream analysis. The Seurat package in R was used for exploring the quality control metrics, for which we further filtered out cells with unique features counts over 4000 or less than 200, as well as cells having more than 10% mitochondrial counts. We normalized the feature expression measurements for each cell by the total expression, multiplied by a scale factor of 10,000, and log-transformed the result. The 2,000 most highly variable features were selected, and clusters of cell type subpopulations were identified using a graph-based clustering approach.

### Marker genes analysis

Differential expression analysis was performed to examine marker genes for each cluster. Only positive marker genes with at least 25% coverage in either group of cells and passed the threshold of log2FC greater than 0.25 were reported as valid cluster biomarkers. Cell type annotations and literature reference were identified using CellMarker [ref]. UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection), was used as a dimension reduction technique to visualize the clustering results.

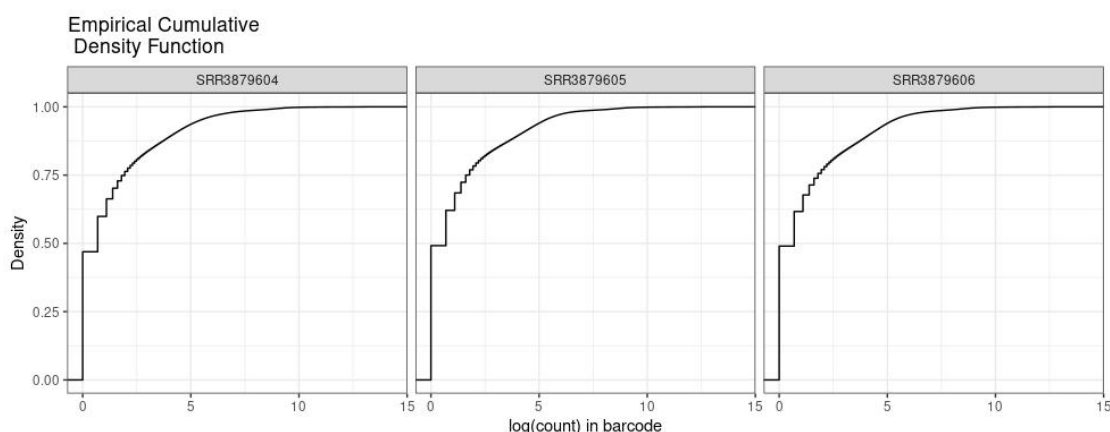
### Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA)

Gene set enrichment analysis was performed using the enrichR (version 3.0)[5] R package, an R interface of the Enrichr database (R version 4.0.3). Four annotation databases used for the analysis were: GO Molecular Function 2018, GO Cellular Component 2018, GO Biological Process 2018, and KEGG 2019 Human. Enrichment results were filtered using adjusted P-value < 0.1, and the top 5 enriched terms ranked by combined score were selected for each annotation source. The combined score is a composite evaluation metric computed by multiplying the log of the p-value computed with the Fisher exact test by a corrected z-score[5].

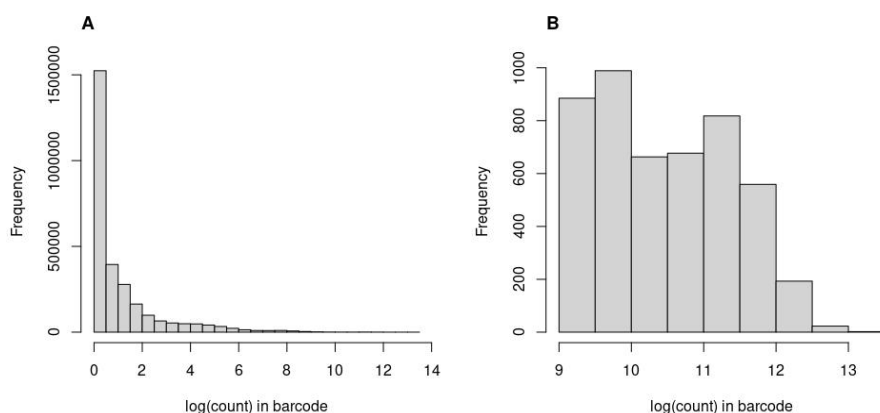
## Results

Barcode preprocessing is critical for the single cell sequencing datasets due to the presence of unknown technical bias derived from library preparation or sequencing errors. There were in total 1,267,907, 1,300,473 and 1,197,807 unique UMIs for the three replicates SRR3879604, SRR3879605, and SRR3879606, respectively. The cumulative distributions of log barcode counts demonstrated that reads were distributed similarly from each other across different replicates (Figure 1). The majority of barcodes had extremely low expression levels (Figure 2A) as we expected. After removing barcodes with low quality (See Methods), 4809 unique UMIs (Figure 2B) were left to be served as a whitelist for cell detection and cellular barcode sequence correction.

To evaluate expression levels across different cells, the UMIs count matrix was estimated and quantified based on the barcodes derived from above. Table 1 highlights that a noticeable proportion of reads were detected as noise, and mapping rate was low (about 30%).



**Figure 1. Cumulative distribution of log(barcode) over three replicates.**

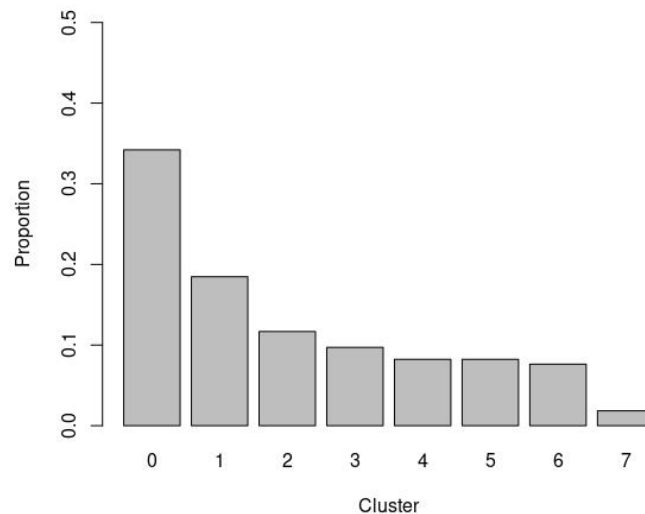


**Figure 2. The histograms of barcode counts.** A. The frequency distribution of log(count) before filtering; B. The frequency distribution of log(count) after filtering.

**Table 1. A summary of the mapping statistics from the Alevin**

| Class               | Count/Rate    |
|---------------------|---------------|
| total_reads         | 1,324,837,961 |
| reads_with_N        | 67,930        |
| noisy_cb_reads      | 554,924,208   |
| noisy_umi_reads     | 35,254        |
| used_reads          | 769,775,315   |
| mapping_rate        | 30.35%        |
| total_cbs           | 4,251,176     |
| used_cbs            | 86,516        |
| mean_umis_per_cell  | 2,572         |
| mean_genes_per_cell | 1,239         |

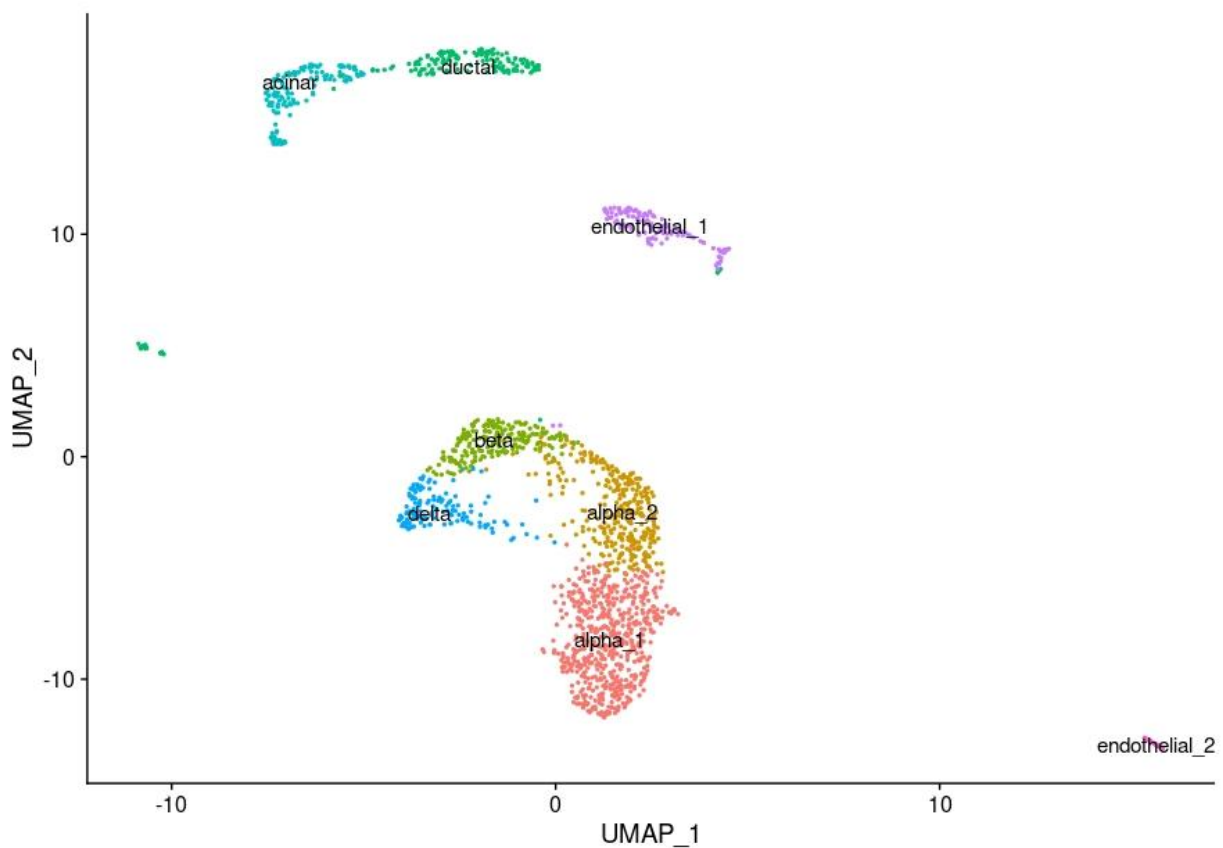
Exploratory Data Analysis can reveal biological patterns within the massive datasets. There were in total 60232 genes and 4798 cells in the unfiltered count matrix. After filtering out low-quality cells as well as features, 25950 genes and 1678 cells remained. Eight clusters were identified based on the top 2000 features of cells (**Figure 3**), suggesting that each cluster may represent a specific set of cellular activities and functions.



**Figure 3. The proportion of cells across different clusters.**

To further understand biological patterns embedded in different clusters, we identified marker genes derived from differential expression analysis. Provided with annotations of marker genes, it is evident that the cells clustered together by cell types (**Figure 4**), despite that a small proportion of cells mixed up with each other. Expression profiles of the top ten marker genes across different clusters was plotted in **Figure 5**, which showed significant differences in gene expression across different cell types.

It was possible that there were other differentially expressed genes in each cluster which can be used to discriminate cell types besides the existing marker genes, therefore we selected the single most differentially expressed gene from each cluster (**Figure 6**). Given that both GCG and PPY were already identified as marker genes according to the original study[ref], the rest of genes were considered as novel marker genes capable of identifying cell types.



**Figure 4. Unsupervised clustering results by cell types**

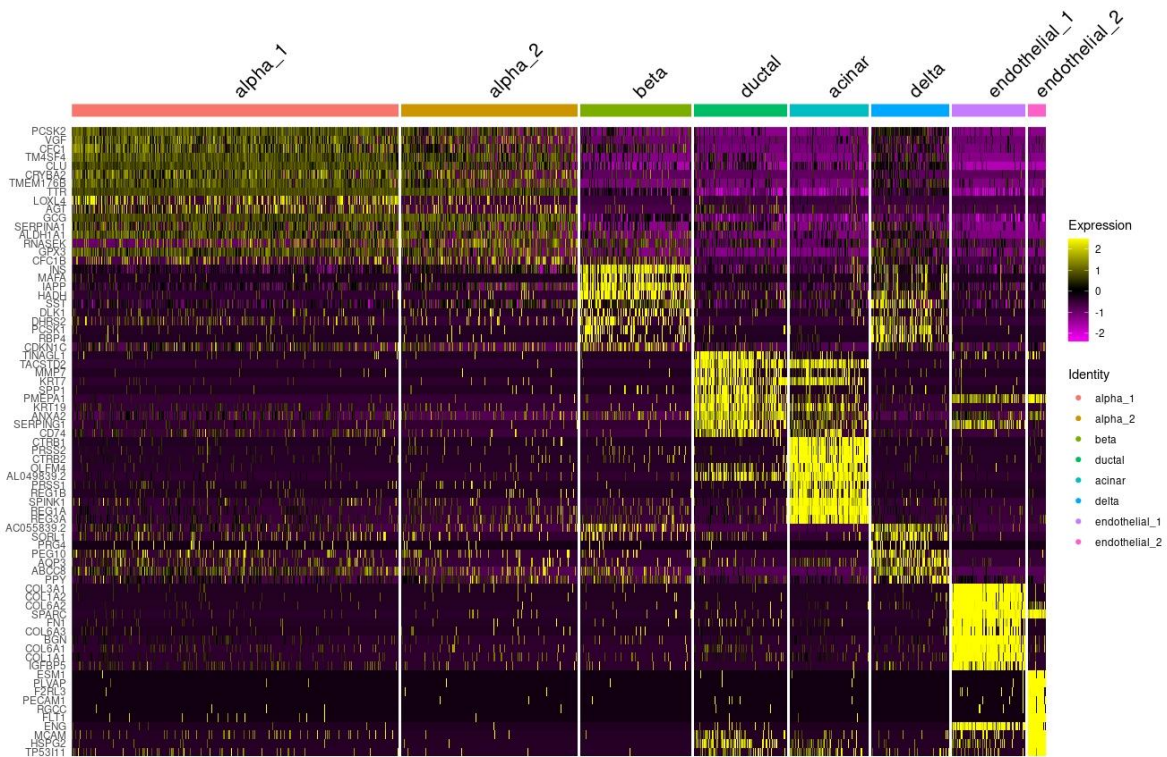


Figure 5. Unsupervised clustering of the top ten marker genes.

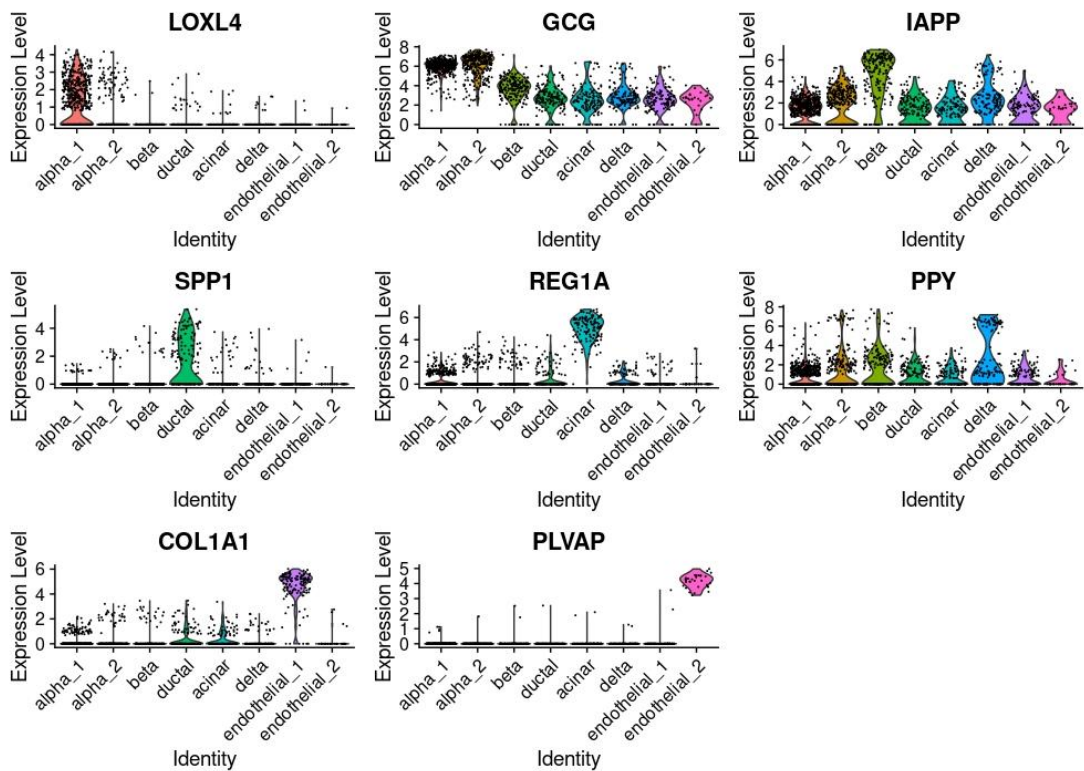


Figure 6. The top one maker genes across different cell types.

A summary of enrichment analysis results are listed in Table 2. Complete GSEA results are reported in Appendix Table S1.

**Table 2. GSEA summary**

| cluster | cell type   | # marker genes | identity confirmed? | brief description  |
|---------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 0       | alpha       | 634            | No                  | intracellular membrane trafficking; cell signaling; lysosomal catabolism   |
| 1       | alpha       | 24             | No                  | mixed metabolic enzymes; blood-clotting-related processes; neural signaling and CNS related processes                              |
| 2       | beta        | 67             | Ambiguous           | translational activities; protein targeting; insulin and diabetes related processes; viral contamination                           |
| 3       | ductal      | 676            | Yes                 | cell-cell/cell-matrix junctions; secretory granules and exocytosis   |
| 4       | acinar      | 726            | Yes                 | cell-cell/cell-matrix junctions; protein modifications and folding; unfolded protein response (UPR); secretion                     |
| 5       | delta       | 301            | Yes                 | neurotransmitting activities; regulation of peptide hormone secretion; potassium ion channels and calcium ion dependent activities |
| 6       | endothelial | 790            | Ambiguous           | binding of multiple growth factor receptors; cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix organization                                    |
| 7       | endothelial | 565            | Yes                 | angiogenesis, cell adhesion, TGF- $\beta$ and VEGF receptor binding, leukocyte recruitment   |

## Discussion

Single cell sequencing libraries sometimes contain unwanted variations and contaminants that lead to technical biases. As we expected, the majority of barcode sequences were potentially results of PCR amplification errors. The low mapping rate (about 30%) during transcript quantification also demonstrated that our library quality was less confident for the downstream analysis.

Unsupervised clustering methods were used to classify cells types. We identified in total eight cell clusters in pancreatic tissue, whereas some of them were classified into the same group, suggesting that the graph-based method implemented in this project is less robust for performing clustering analysis than the iterative hierarchical clustering method used by Baron et al. In addition, we observed that the clustering results were sensitive to the way we filtered cells in the UMI count matrix, indicating that our results are somewhat biased compared with the original study.

Comparing with cell types identified by Baron et al, the relatively rare cell types of epsilon-cells, T cells, vascular cells, Schwann cells, quiescent and activated stellate cells, and four types of immune cells were missing from our clustering results, while most of the major endocrine and exocrine cell types were successfully identified. In order to confirm cell type classification results, gene set enrichment analysis was performed for each cluster, and enriched terms were closely examined for each by comparing with existing literatures on the identified cell types.

### Cluster 0-2

Alpha cells secrete glucagon, a hormone that raises blood glucose levels by stimulating hepatic glucose synthesis and mobilization[6]; beta cells secretes insulin, which lowers blood glucose levels by stimulating cells to take up glucose from the bloodstream[[7]. While these two hormones have opposing effects on blood sugar levels and on the metabolism of nutrients, alpha and beta cells share similar glucose sensing mechanisms and are both regulated by insulin and glucagon simultaneously, thereby creating difficulty for confirming cell type classification through gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). Based on GSEA results, cluster 0 is possibly a misclassification of beta cell as alpha cell because of the term insulin secretion and several lysosomal catabolism and glycolysis related terms, which are some of the GO terms with highest combined score.

Classification of cluster 1 is also unreliable, as only 24 marker genes have been identified and the most significant terms consist of a mix of several metabolic enzymes, blood clotting, and neural signaling related processes. Cluster 2 is classified as beta cells. The most prominent enrichment terms with extremely high combined scores (~400 to ~40000) relate to translational activities and protein targeting. These characteristics coincide with the signature function of pancreatic acinar cells, which are known to have high rates of protein synthesis and export[8]. Insulin secretion and diabetes related



processes are also captured in KEGG human annotation terms, and the presence of the term viral gene expression (combined score=26439.8) suggests viral contamination. Therefore, cluster 2 is considered a hybrid and contaminated cluster of beta cells and acinar cells.

#### Cluster 3&4

Acinar and ductal cells of the exocrine pancreas form a close functional unit. Acinar cell synthesizes, stores, and secretes digestive enzymes, while ductal cells provide a structural framework for delivering these enzymes to the duodenum[8,9], and secrete bicarbonate that neutralizes stomach acidity[10]. Production of digestive enzymes in acinar cells requires protein synthesis, trafficking, and processing[8]. Cluster 3 is classified as ductal cell, which is supported by enrichment terms involving structural components such as cell-cell/cell-matrix junctions as well as terms that relate to intercellular transport and communication. Cluster 4 is classified as acinar cells, supported by the enrichment terms that relate to protein modifications and folding, unfolded protein response (UPR) and secretion. However, protein synthesis related processes are absent from this cluster.

#### Cluster 5

Delta cells are known to secrete somatostatin, a hormone that regulates secretion of many other hormones including insulin and glucagon, and is involved in the exocrine, endocrine, and CNS systems[11]. Secretion of somatostatin is triggered by changes in blood glucose levels detected via KATP channels[12] as well as action potential firing and subsequent Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx [13]. GSEA results support the classification of cluster 5 as delta cells. Although the main function of “somatostatin secretion” is absent from top ranked enrichment terms, physiological mechanisms that initiate or dependent upon somatostatin secretion are indeed reflected in terms involving neurotransmitting activities, regulation of peptide hormone secretion, and potassium ion channels and calcium ion dependent activities.

#### Cluster 6&7

The endocrine pancreas is highly vascularized[14], where blood vessels are lined by endothelial cells that regulate exchanges between the bloodstream and the surrounding tissues[15]. Previous studies have demonstrated that pancreatic endothelial cells play an important role in beta cell differentiation and proliferation[14], and signals from endothelial cells organize the growth and development of connective tissue cells that form the surrounding layers of the blood-vessel wall[15]. Cluster 6 and 7 are classified as endothelial cells, while major enriched terms involve binding of several growth factors such as PDGF (platelet-derived growth factor), TGF- $\beta$  (transforming growth factor beta), and VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor), as well as terms that relate

to cytoskeleton and ECM structures and organizations. Classification of this cluster is partially supported by the aforementioned growth factors, which are known to interact with endothelial cells and participate in angiogenesis[16]. However, the presence of a large amount of actin cytoskeleton and ECM related terms could also suggest identity of stellate cells, a type of pancreatic cells that support the formation and maturation of pancreatic endothelial cells[16] and are shown to promote islet fibrosis and regulate ECM turnover[17].

Cluster 7 is enriched with angiogenesis related processes, TGF- $\beta$  and VEGF receptor binding as well as leukocyte recruitment, all of which are typical functions of pancreatic endothelial cells. Therefore, cluster 6 remains unconfirmed and cluster 7 is considered correct.

## Conclusion

In summary, we implemented a single-cell RNA-seq method to characterize the transcriptomes of thousands of pancreatic cells from one human donor. Transcript quantification was performed against the latest transcriptome reference. We customized the UMI count matrix by filtering out unwanted variations, as well as low quality records. Cells were clustered into six different types based on the expression profiles: alpha cells, beta cells, delta cells, acinar cells, ductal cells, and endothelial cells. Based on GSEA results, cluster 0 is likely a misclassification of beta cell as alpha cell; cluster 1 has ambiguous identity due to mixed enrichment terms; cluster 2 is considered a hybrid and contaminated cluster of beta cells and acinar cells; cluster 6 is likely a hybrid of endothelial and stellate cells; cluster 3,4,5 and 7 were correctly classified.

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## Appendix

**Table S1.** Gene set enrichment analysis result

| <b>cluster 0 alpha_1</b>  |          |                |                            |
|---|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Term  | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
| amyloid-beta binding<br>(GO:0001540)  | 7.35E-02 | 53.5           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| clathrin coat of trans-Golgi<br>network vesicle (GO:0030130)                    | 1.52E-03 | 297.1          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| invadopodium (GO:0071437)   | 7.49E-03 | 120            | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| lysosomal lumen<br>(GO:0043202)   | 5.00E-05 | 87.8           | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| integral component of<br>endoplasmic reticulum<br>membrane (GO:0030176)         | 5.00E-05 | 68.3           | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| AP-1 adaptor complex<br>(GO:0030121)  | 8.88E-02 | 65.6           | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| protein retention in ER lumen<br>(GO:0006621)                                   | 9.94E-02 | 228.2          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| maintenance of protein<br>localization in endoplasmic<br>reticulum (GO:0035437) | 4.01E-02 | 223.9          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| insulin secretion (GO:0030073)  | 6.71E-03 | 173            | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| regulation of long-term<br>neuronal synaptic plasticity<br>(GO:0048169)         | 8.44E-02 | 143.9          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| regulation of insulin secretion<br>(GO:0050796) | 1.85E-04 | 100   | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Lysosome  | 4.57E-07 | 122.5 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Circadian entrainment                           | 2.73E-04 | 68.3  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Sphingolipid metabolism                         | 5.06E-03 | 58.1  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Glycosaminoglycan<br>degradation                | 4.83E-02 | 48.6  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Biosynthesis of unsaturated<br>fatty acids      | 3.19E-02 | 45.8  | KEGG_2019_Human            |

| <b>cluster 1 alpha_2</b>   |          |                |                            |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Term   | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
| ubiquinone binding<br>(GO:0048039)                               | 7.01E-02 | 857.3          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| retinal dehydrogenase activity<br>(GO:0001758)                   | 7.01E-02 | 692.1          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| 3-chloroallyl aldehyde<br>dehydrogenase activity<br>(GO:0004028) | 7.01E-02 | 576.7          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| tau protein binding<br>(GO:0048156)                              | 7.01E-02 | 576.7          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| activin receptor binding<br>(GO:0070697)                         | 7.01E-02 | 576.7          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| apical dendrite (GO:0097440)                                     | 3.71E-02 | 576.7          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| spherical high-density<br>lipoprotein particle<br>(GO:0034366)   | 3.71E-02 | 576.7          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| secretory granule lumen<br>(GO:0034774)                          | 8.04E-04 | 171.6          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| platelet alpha granule lumen<br>(GO:0031093)                     | 3.24E-02 | 162.6          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| platelet alpha granule<br>(GO:0031091)                                | 3.24E-02 | 108.1 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| positive regulation of cardiac<br>muscle contraction<br>(GO:0060452)  | 8.20E-02 | 857.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| negative regulation of<br>catecholamine secretion<br>(GO:0033604)     | 8.20E-02 | 857.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| regulation of relaxation of<br>cardiac muscle (GO:1901897)            | 8.20E-02 | 857.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| nucleobase metabolic process<br>(GO:0009112)                          | 8.20E-02 | 857.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| negative regulation of<br>erythrocyte differentiation<br>(GO:0045647) | 8.20E-02 | 857.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Thyroid hormone synthesis   | 4.02E-02 | 141.9 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Complement and coagulation<br>cascades                                | 4.02E-02 | 129.6 | KEGG_2019_Human            |

| <b>cluster 2 beta</b>                                       |          |                |                            |
|---|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Term  | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
| small ribosomal subunit rRNA<br>binding (GO:0070181)        | 4.04E-03 | 1027.5         | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| mRNA 5'-UTR binding<br>(GO:0048027)                         | 3.54E-05 | 985.8          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| insulin-like growth factor<br>receptor binding (GO:0005159) | 4.66E-04 | 859.9          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| RNA binding (GO:0003723)                                    | 4.91E-19 | 621.1          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |

|  |          |         |                            |
|--|----------|---------|----------------------------|
| translation elongation factor activity (GO:0003746)                              | 9.26E-03 | 394.5   | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| cytosolic ribosome (GO:0022626)  | 3.37E-50 | 21659.1 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| cytosolic large ribosomal subunit (GO:0022625)                                   | 7.01E-38 | 18294.1 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| large ribosomal subunit (GO:0015934)   | 1.59E-37 | 16978.8 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| cytosolic part (GO:0044445)  | 9.31E-47 | 14560.9 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| polysomal ribosome (GO:0042788)  | 1.54E-15 | 5879.5  | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| SRP-dependent cotranslational protein targeting to membrane (GO:0006614)         | 2.18E-54 | 38352.3 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| cotranslational protein targeting to membrane (GO:0006613)                       | 5.67E-54 | 35415.8 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| protein targeting to ER (GO:0045047)   | 1.81E-53 | 32857.4 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| viral gene expression (GO:0019080)   | 1.33E-51 | 26439.8 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| nuclear-transcribed mRNA catabolic process, nonsense-mediated decay (GO:0000184) | 2.03E-51 | 25647.5 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Ribosome   | 6.29E-49 | 17301.4 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Maturity onset diabetes of the young   | 1.11E-06 | 1346.3  | KEGG_2019_Human            |



|                           |          |       |                 |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|
| Type II diabetes mellitus | 1.21E-02 | 165.2 | KEGG_2019_Human |
| Insulin secretion         | 6.49E-03 | 131   | KEGG_2019_Human |
| Butanoate metabolism      | 7.74E-02 | 130.4 | KEGG_2019_Human |

### cluster 3 ductal

| Term  | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
|---|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| cadherin binding (GO:0045296)   | 1.41E-25 | 467            | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| cadherin binding involved in cell-cell adhesion (GO:0098641)            | 1.32E-05 | 341.4          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| protein binding involved in cell-cell adhesion (GO:0098632)             | 2.67E-05 | 272.3          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| MAP kinase tyrosine/serine/threonine phosphatase activity (GO:0017017)  | 4.50E-02 | 144.5          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| protein binding involved in heterotypic cell-cell adhesion (GO:0086080) | 4.50E-02 | 144.5          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| focal adhesion (GO:0005925)   | 1.07E-38 | 830.2          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| cortical cytoskeleton (GO:0030863)                                      | 3.22E-10 | 331.7          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| specific granule (GO:0042581)   | 2.57E-14 | 265.8          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| tertiary granule (GO:0070820)   | 4.09E-14 | 252.2          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| pseudopodium (GO:0031143)   | 9.68E-04 | 203.7          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| establishment of endothelial intestinal barrier (GO:0090557)            | 8.29E-04 | 627.1          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| positive regulation of myeloid leukocyte cytokine production involved in immune response (GO:0061081) | 8.29E-04 | 627.1 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| regulation of extracellular exosome assembly (GO:1903551)   | 8.29E-04 | 627.1 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| hemidesmosome assembly (GO:0031581)   | 5.61E-05 | 496.7 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| cell-substrate junction assembly (GO:0007044)   | 5.61E-05 | 496.7 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| ECM-receptor interaction  | 2.13E-12 | 339   | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Focal adhesion  | 5.26E-15 | 263.6 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Leukocyte transendothelial migration  | 2.77E-12 | 261.8 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Tight junction  | 3.87E-14 | 257.3 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC)  | 6.83E-10 | 240.5 | KEGG_2019_Human            |

| <b>cluster 4 acinar</b>                                      |          |                |                            |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Term   | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
| cadherin binding involved in cell-cell adhesion (GO:0098641) | 1.00E-06 | 454.3          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| protein binding involved in cell-cell adhesion (GO:0098632)  | 2.39E-06 | 356.5          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| cadherin binding (GO:0045296)                                | 1.83E-21 | 342.5          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| bile acid binding (GO:0032052)  | 4.13E-03 | 244   | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| protein-disulfide reductase activity (GO:0047134)   | 1.70E-02 | 187.6 | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| focal adhesion (GO:0005925)   | 5.10E-22 | 321.7 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| zonula adherens (GO:0005915)  | 5.83E-03 | 187.6 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| pseudopodium (GO:0031143)   | 1.87E-03 | 183.2 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| tertiary granule lumen (GO:1904724)   | 2.41E-06 | 138.7 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| integral component of luminal side of endoplasmic reticulum membrane (GO:0071556)                     | 1.51E-04 | 122.3 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| positive regulation of myeloid leukocyte cytokine production involved in immune response (GO:0061081) | 1.81E-03 | 567.1 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| PERK-mediated unfolded protein response (GO:0036499)  | 2.69E-04 | 355.2 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| positive regulation of apoptotic cell clearance (GO:2000427)  | 3.35E-03 | 348.9 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| positive regulation of viral entry into host cell (GO:0046598)  | 4.50E-03 | 244   | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| regulation of apoptotic cell clearance (GO:2000425) | 4.50E-03 | 244   | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Pancreatic secretion                                | 6.17E-08 | 153.1 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Fluid shear stress and atherosclerosis              | 6.17E-08 | 111.4 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Adherens junction                                   | 4.81E-06 | 98.8  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Focal adhesion                                      | 6.17E-08 | 93.6  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Tight junction                                      | 1.24E-07 | 92.9  | KEGG_2019_Human            |

| cluster 5 delta  |          |                |                            |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Term   | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
| syntaxin-1 binding (GO:0017075)                          | 6.79E-02 | 109.2          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| syntaxin binding (GO:0019905)                            | 7.26E-03 | 83.8           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| ankyrin binding (GO:0030506)                             | 9.92E-02 | 80.1           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| hydrogen-exporting ATPase activity (GO:0036442)          | 9.92E-02 | 61.7           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| inward rectifier potassium channel activity (GO:0005242) | 9.92E-02 | 61.7           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| adrenal gland development (GO:0030325)                   | 9.89E-02 | 223.4          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| regulation of insulin secretion (GO:0050796)             | 4.15E-04 | 129.6          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| regulation of peptide hormone secretion (GO:0090276)     | 1.16E-03 | 127            | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| negative regulation of neurogenesis (GO:0050768)         | 4.44E-02 | 106.6          | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |

|   |          |       |                            |
|---|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| regulation of calcium ion-dependent exocytosis (GO:0017158) | 4.44E-02 | 75.5  | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Insulin secretion   | 1.06E-07 | 259.6 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Maturity onset diabetes of the young                        | 2.62E-03 | 161.1 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Synaptic vesicle cycle                                      | 2.34E-03 | 81.9  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Vasopressin-regulated water reabsorption                    | 1.24E-02 | 64.7  | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Type II diabetes mellitus                                   | 1.24E-02 | 59.8  | KEGG_2019_Human            |

#### **cluster 6 endothelial\_1**

| Term   | P_adj    | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB               |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| platelet-derived growth factor binding (GO:0048407)                | 2.21E-09 | 2788           | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| collagen binding (GO:0005518)                                      | 5.11E-15 | 719.2          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 binding (GO:0043184) | 1.41E-03 | 502.9          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| transforming growth factor beta binding (GO:0050431)               | 1.20E-06 | 399.4          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| protein binding involved in cell-matrix adhesion (GO:0098634)      | 2.62E-03 | 308.7          | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| focal adhesion (GO:0005925)  | 8.67E-52 | 1260.3         | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| endoplasmic reticulum lumen (GO:0005788)                           | 3.19E-21 | 335.4          | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |

|  |          |       |                            |
|--|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| actomyosin (GO:0042641)  | 1.05E-07 | 200.5 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| contractile actin filament bundle (GO:0097517)   | 6.39E-07 | 184.2 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| stress fiber (GO:0001725)  | 6.39E-07 | 184.2 | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| bleb assembly (GO:0032060)   | 6.80E-05 | 807   | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| negative regulation of platelet-derived growth factor receptor-beta signaling pathway (GO:2000587) | 6.80E-05 | 807   | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| extracellular matrix organization (GO:0030198)   | 4.59E-32 | 797.6 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| collagen fibril organization (GO:0030199)  | 5.75E-10 | 640.4 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| epithelial to mesenchymal transition involved in endocardial cushion formation (GO:0003198)        | 7.51E-04 | 502.9 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| Focal adhesion   | 2.98E-21 | 418.9 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| ECM-receptor interaction   | 4.63E-11 | 258.3 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Regulation of actin cytoskeleton   | 3.94E-12 | 164.4 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Bacterial invasion of epithelial cells   | 1.67E-07 | 144.4 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Protein digestion and absorption   | 3.38E-07 | 113.1 | KEGG_2019_Human            |

### cluster 7 endothelial\_2

| Term | P_adj | Combined.Score | AnnotationDB |
|------|-------|----------------|--------------|
|------|-------|----------------|--------------|

|   |          |        |                            |
|---|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| type I transforming growth factor beta receptor binding (GO:0034713)        | 7.70E-05 | 803.7  | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| ephrin receptor binding (GO:0046875)  | 3.87E-07 | 659.7  | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| vascular endothelial growth factor-activated receptor activity (GO:0005021) | 8.96E-04 | 498.3  | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 binding (GO:0043184)          | 7.81E-03 | 268.8  | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| vascular endothelial growth factor receptor binding (GO:0005172)            | 2.22E-03 | 264.7  | GO_Molecular_Function_2018 |
| focal adhesion (GO:0005925)   | 6.36E-18 | 265.9  | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| platelet alpha granule (GO:0031091)   | 3.53E-08 | 176.1  | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| membrane raft (GO:0045121)  | 1.43E-08 | 162.8  | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| platelet alpha granule lumen (GO:0031093)                                   | 1.39E-06 | 144    | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| platelet alpha granule membrane (GO:0031092)                                | 1.33E-03 | 135.9  | GO_Cellular_Component_2018 |
| mitral valve morphogenesis (GO:0003183)                                     | 2.95E-06 | 1186.6 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| vascular smooth muscle cell development (GO:0097084)                        | 2.33E-04 | 804.6  | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| vasculogenesis (GO:0001570)   | 6.19E-10 | 657.7  | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |

|  |          |       |                            |
|--|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| branching involved in blood vessel morphogenesis (GO:0001569)  | 2.96E-06 | 593.1 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| negative regulation of endothelial cell migration (GO:0010596) | 1.21E-09 | 574.8 | GO_Biological_Process_2018 |
| ECM-receptor interaction                                       | 7.25E-12 | 344.3 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Focal adhesion   | 4.65E-14 | 260.4 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Rap1 signaling pathway   | 9.80E-12 | 180.6 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Proteoglycans in cancer  | 2.55E-11 | 171.2 | KEGG_2019_Human            |
| Leukocyte transendothelial migration                           | 8.88E-09 | 157.9 | KEGG_2019_Human            |