

Celltype prediction

Åsa Björklund

asa.bjorklund@scilifelab.se

Ahmed Mahfouz

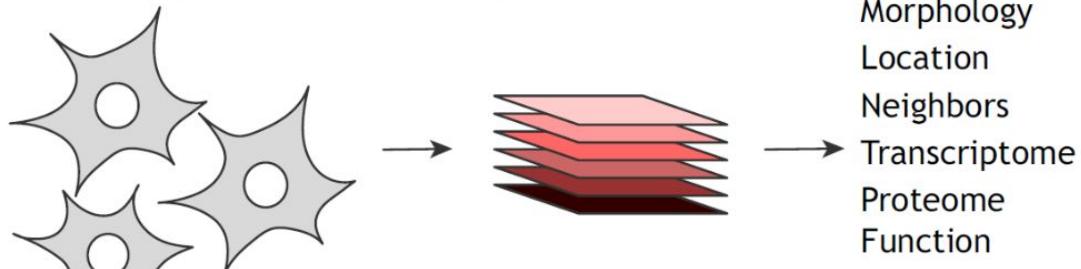
Leiden University Medical Center / TU Delft

Outline

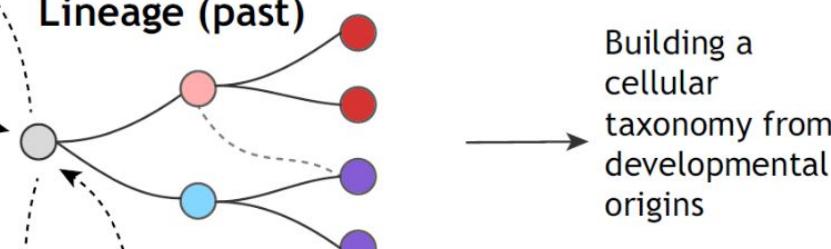
- Introduction
- Normalization
- Removal of confounders
- Gene set selection

Cell identity

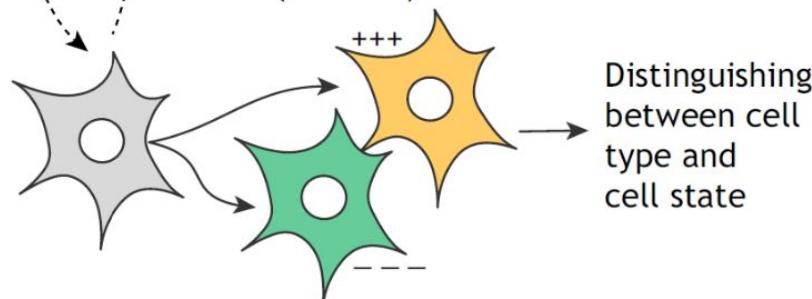
Phenotype and function (present)



Lineage (past)



State (future)



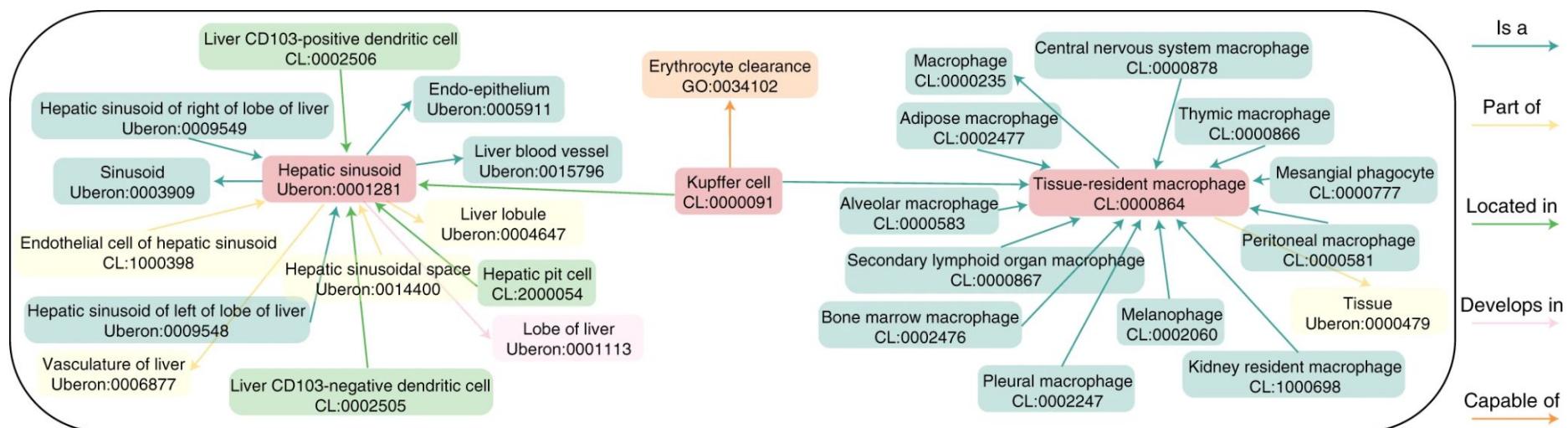
Why do we want to classify celltypes?

- In a novel tissue - what celltypes are there?
- Compare same celltype across conditions.
- Compare abundance of celltypes across conditions.
- Infer communication between celltypes
-

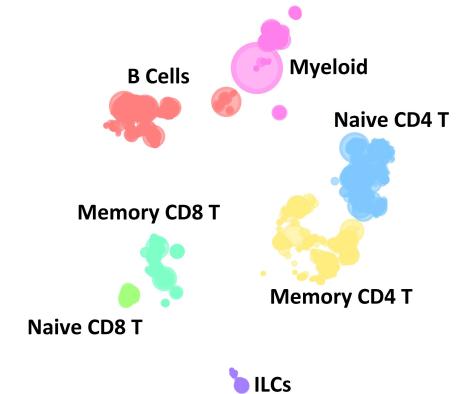
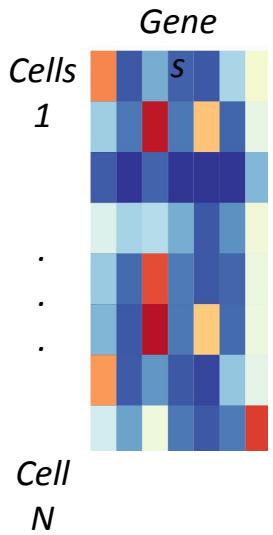
Celltype ontologies

We need a standardized way of classifying celltypes.
Mainly driven by cell atlas projects.

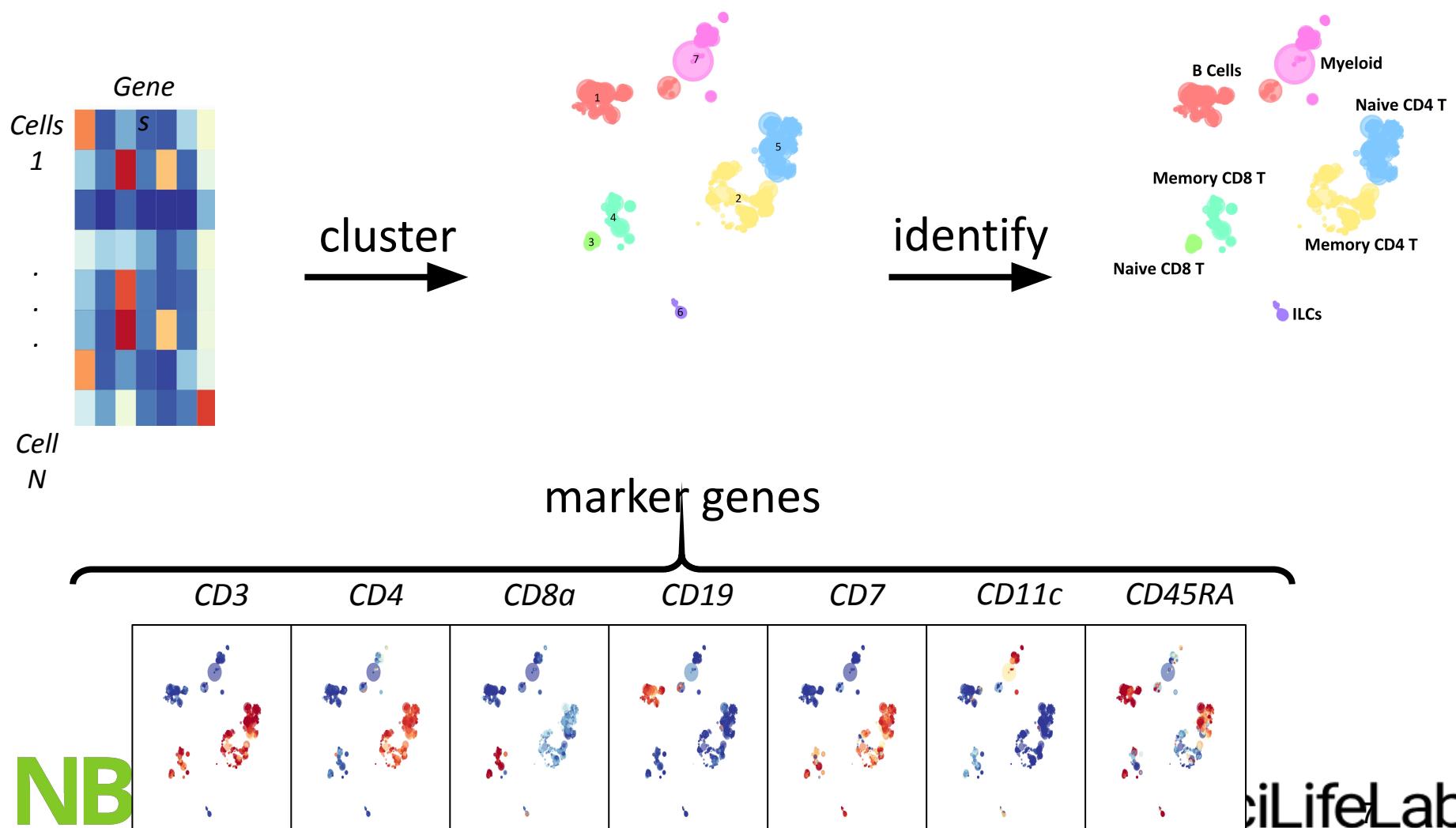
Including HuBMAP, Human Cell Atlas (HCA), cellxgene, Single Cell Expression Atlas, BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network (BICCN), ArrayExpress, The Cell Image Library, ENCODE, and FANTOM5,



How can we identify cell populations?

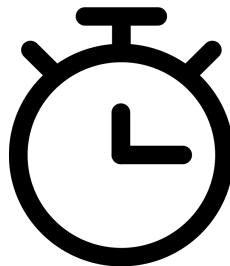


How can we identify cell populations?

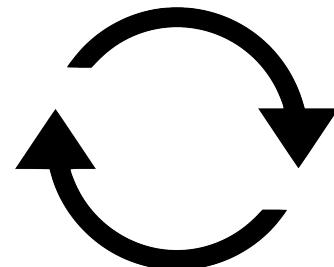


Unsupervised celltype identification is problematic

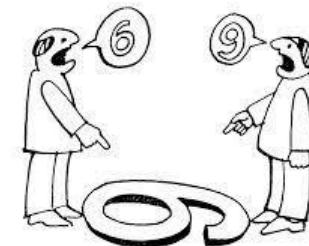
Time
consuming



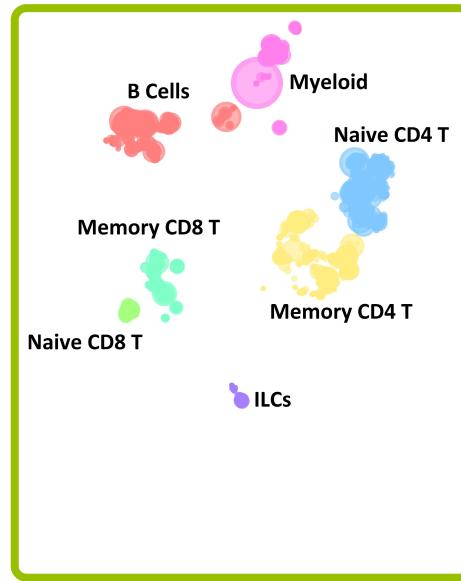
Not
reproducible



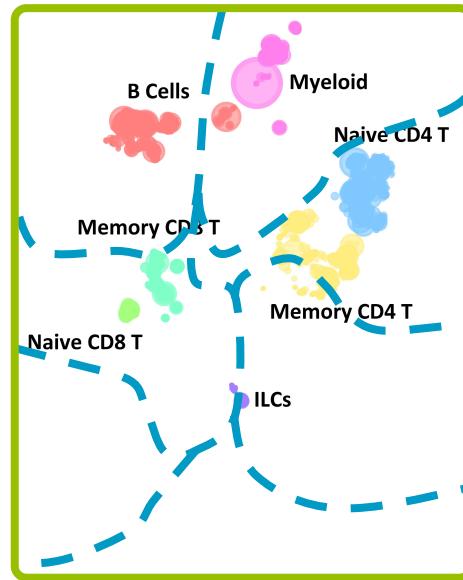
Subjective



Can we automatically identify cell populations?



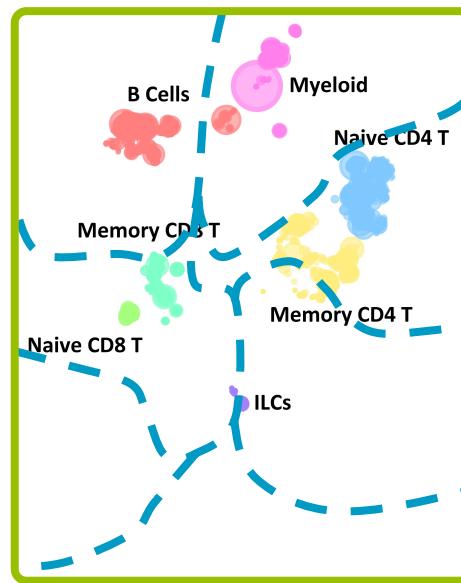
Can we automatically identify cell populations?



Can we automatically identify cell populations?

Clustering

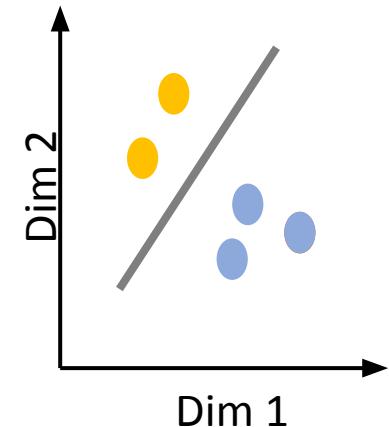
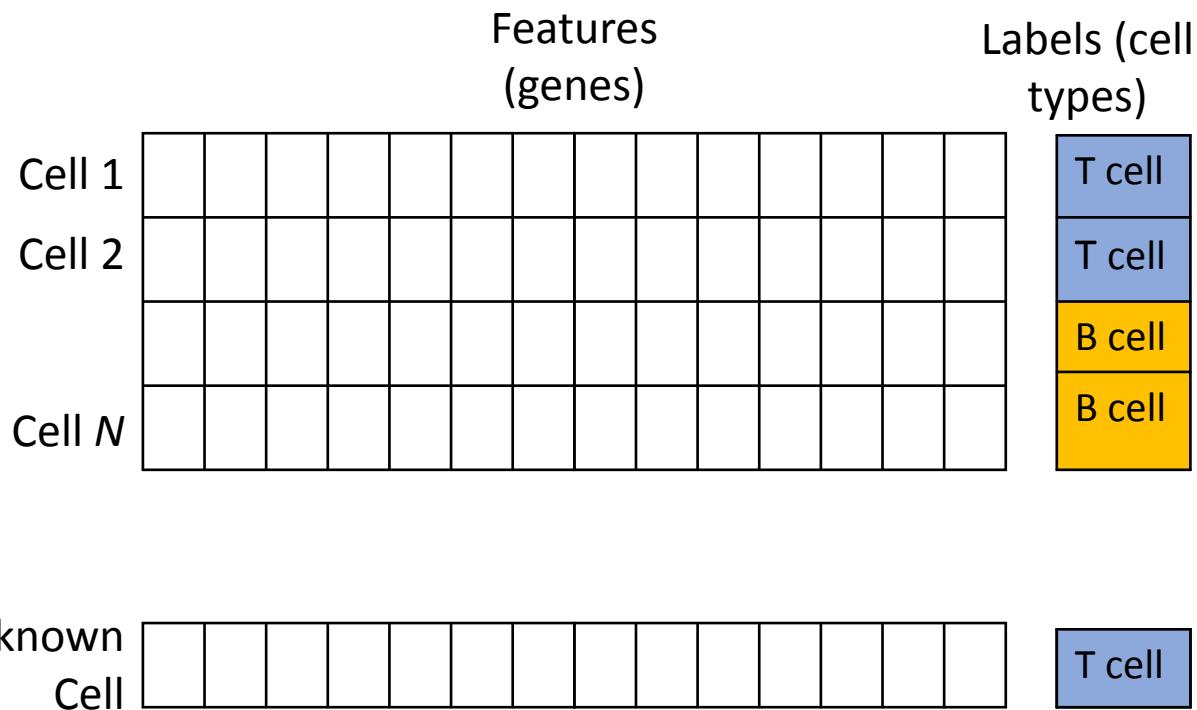
- **Unsupervised** learning
- Discovering structure/relations
- Clusters are defined by a decision boundary



Classification

- **Supervised** learning
- Prior information available about different groups
- Classifiers find descriptions of decision boundaries

Classification

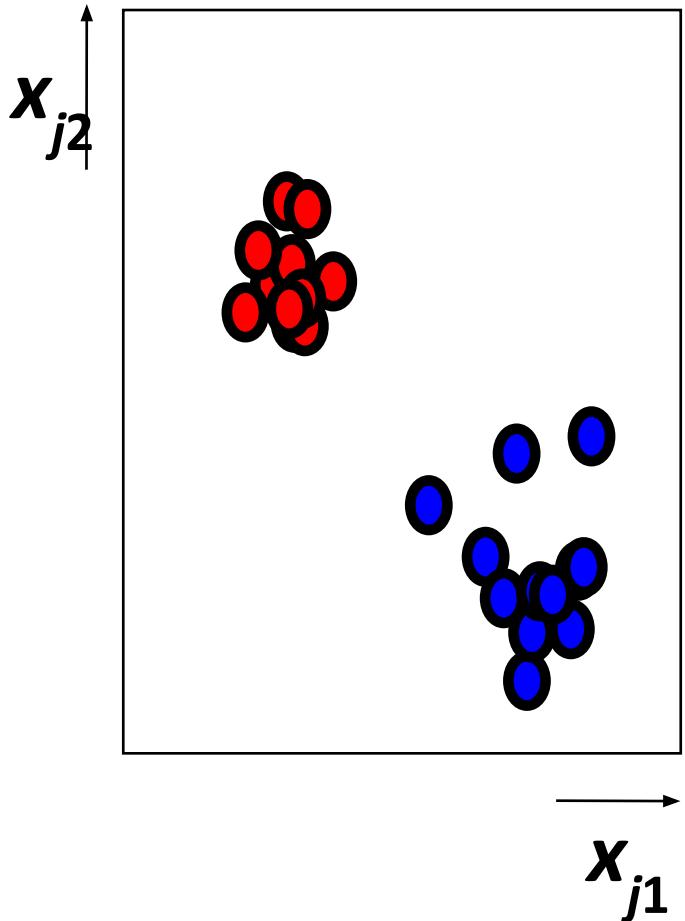


Classifier training

- Dataset: for j^{th} cell:
 - gene expressions x_j
 - class label: $y_j \in \{1=T, -1=B\}$
- Classifier: $\hat{y}_j = W(x_j)$

- Errors: $E = \sum(E_j) \quad E_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \hat{y}_j \neq y_j \\ 0 & \text{if } \hat{y}_j = y_j \end{cases}$

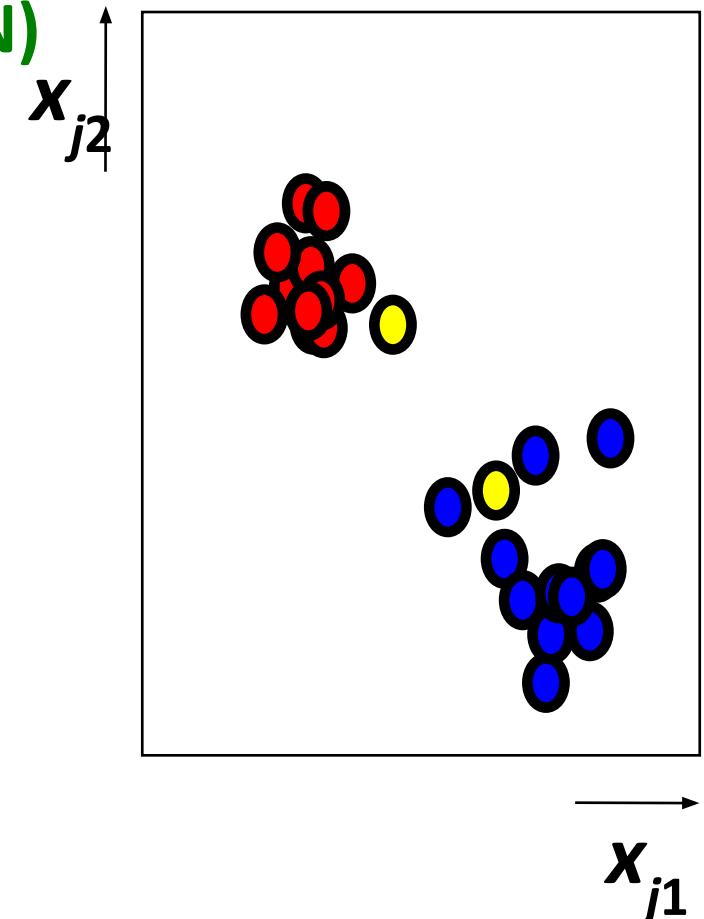
- Place decision boundary (i.e. change W) s.t. E is minimal



Instance Based Learning (Lazy Classification)

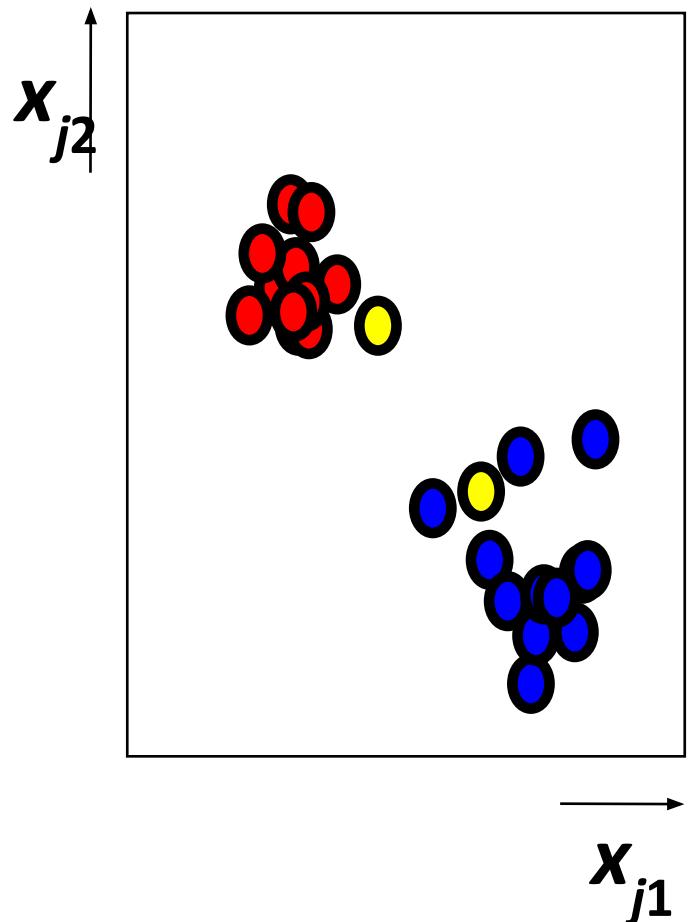
- Example: **Nearest neighbor (k-NN)**

- Keep the whole training dataset
 - A query example (vector) comes
 - Find closest example(s)
 - Predict
-
- *No actual training*



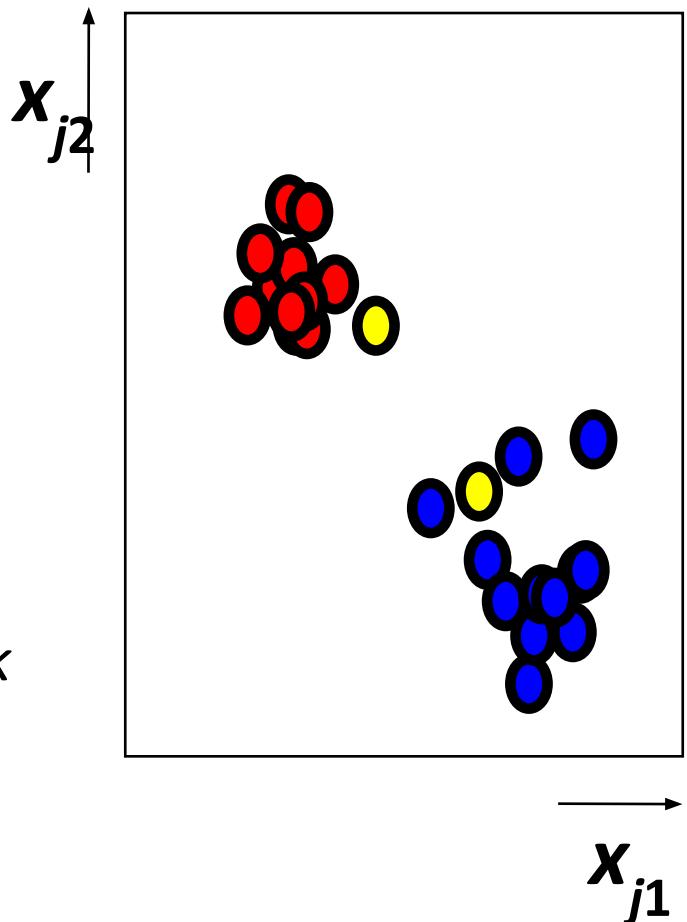
Nearest Neighbor (k-NN)

- To make Nearest Neighbor work we need 4 things:
 - 1) Distance metric:
 - 2) How many neighbors to look at?
 - 3) Weighting function (optional)
 - 4) How to fit with the local points?



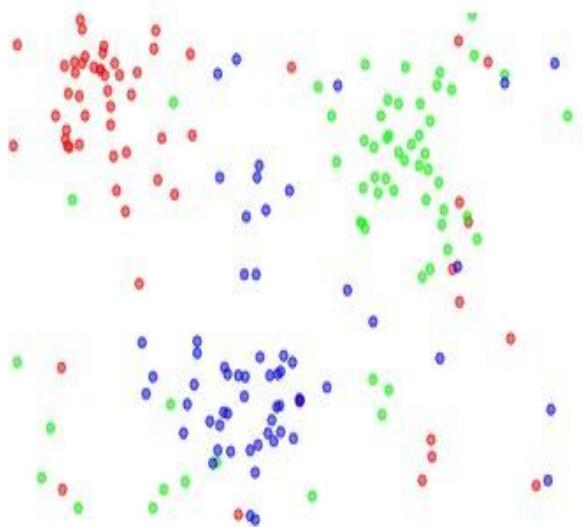
Nearest Neighbor (k-NN)

- Distance metric:
 - Euclidean
- How many neighbors to look at?
 - k
- Weighting function (optional):
 - Unused
- How to fit with the local points?
 - Predict the average output among k nearest neighbors

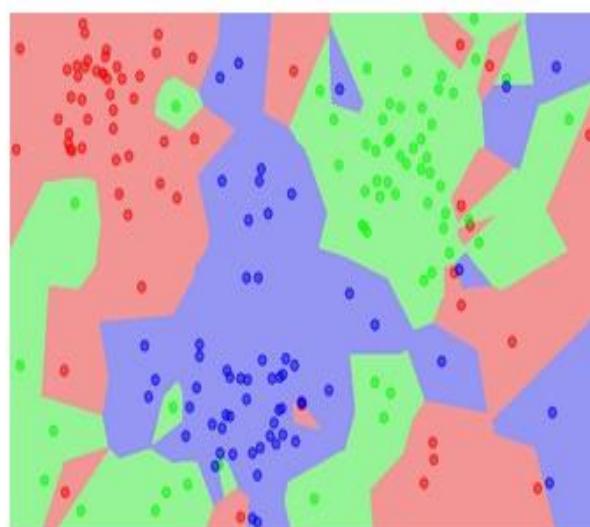


Effect of k

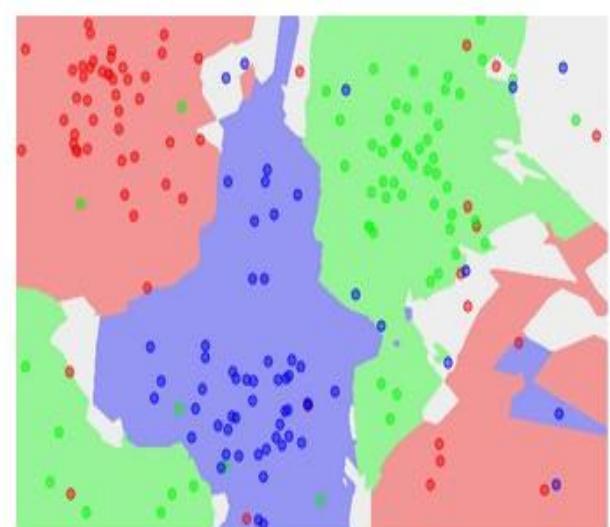
the data



NN classifier



5-NN classifier



Weighted Nearest Neighbor (kernel regression)

- Distance metric:
 - Euclidean
- How many neighbors to look at?
 - All of them!

- Weighting function:

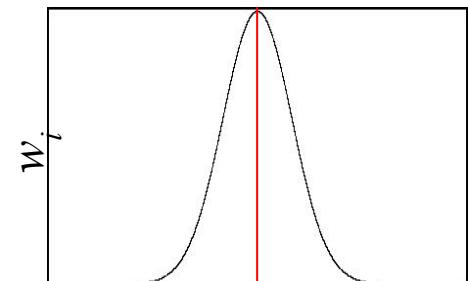
$$w_i = \exp\left(-\frac{d(x_i, q)^2}{K_w}\right)$$

- Nearby points to a query q are weighted more strongly. K_w : kernel width

- How to fit with the local points?

- Predict the weighted average

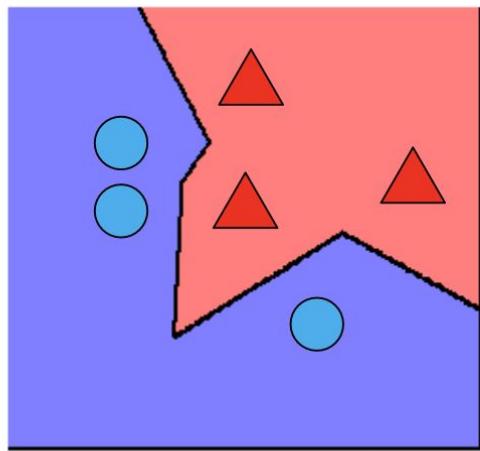
$$\frac{\sum_i w_i y_i}{\sum_i w_i}$$



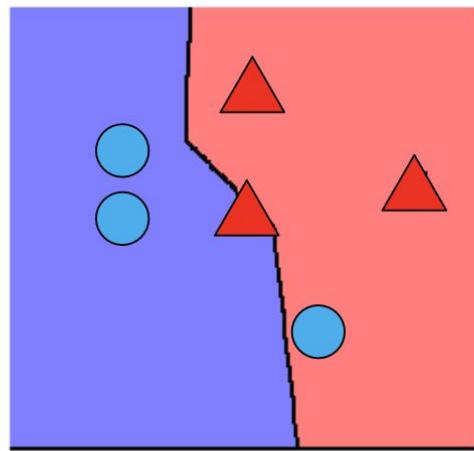
$$\begin{aligned} d(x_i, q) \\ = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Comparison: K=1, K=2, kernel

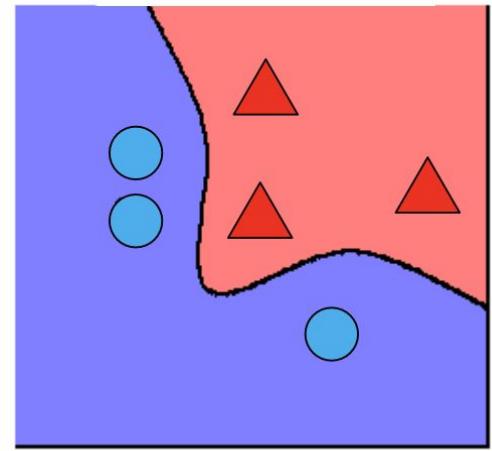
K=1



K=2



kernel



Seurat data transfer

```
pancreas.anchors <- FindTransferAnchors(reference = pancreas.ref, query = pancreas.query, dims =  
1:30,  
  reference.reduction = "pca")  
predictions <- TransferData(anchorset = pancreas.anchors, refdata = pancreas.ref$celltype, dims =  
1:30)  
pancreas.query <- AddMetaData(pancreas.query, metadata = predictions)
```

```
TransferData(  
  anchorset,  
  refdata,  
  reference = NULL,  
  query = NULL,  
  query.assay = NULL,  
  weight.reduction = "pcaproject",  
  l2.norm = FALSE,  
  dims = NULL,  
  k.weight = 50,  
  sd.weight = 1,  
  eps = 0,  
  n.trees = 50,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  slot = "data",  
  prediction.assay = FALSE,  
  only.weights = FALSE,  
  store.weights = TRUE
```

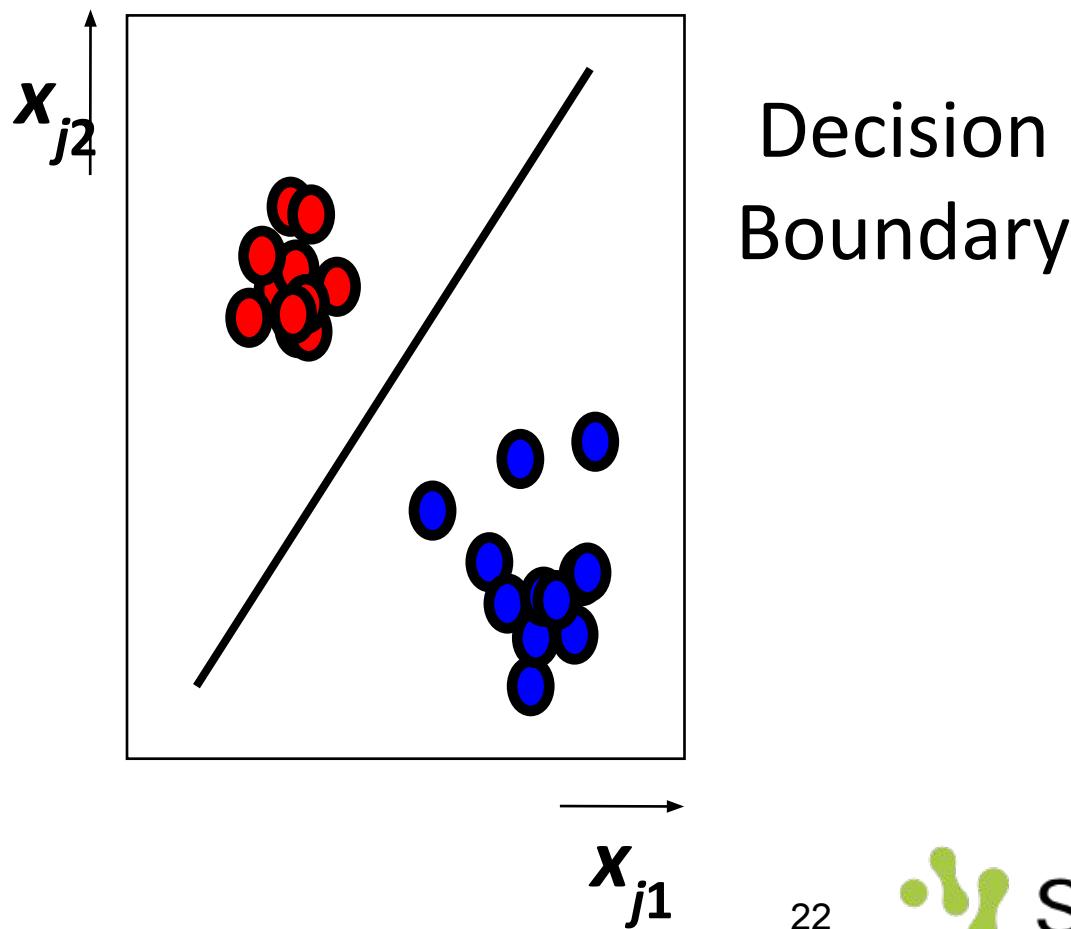
Scanpy data transfer

scanpy.tl.ingest

```
scanpy.tl.ingest(adata, adata_ref, *, obs=None, embedding_method= ('umap', 'pca'), labeling_method='knn', neighbors_key=None, inplace=True, **kwargs)
```

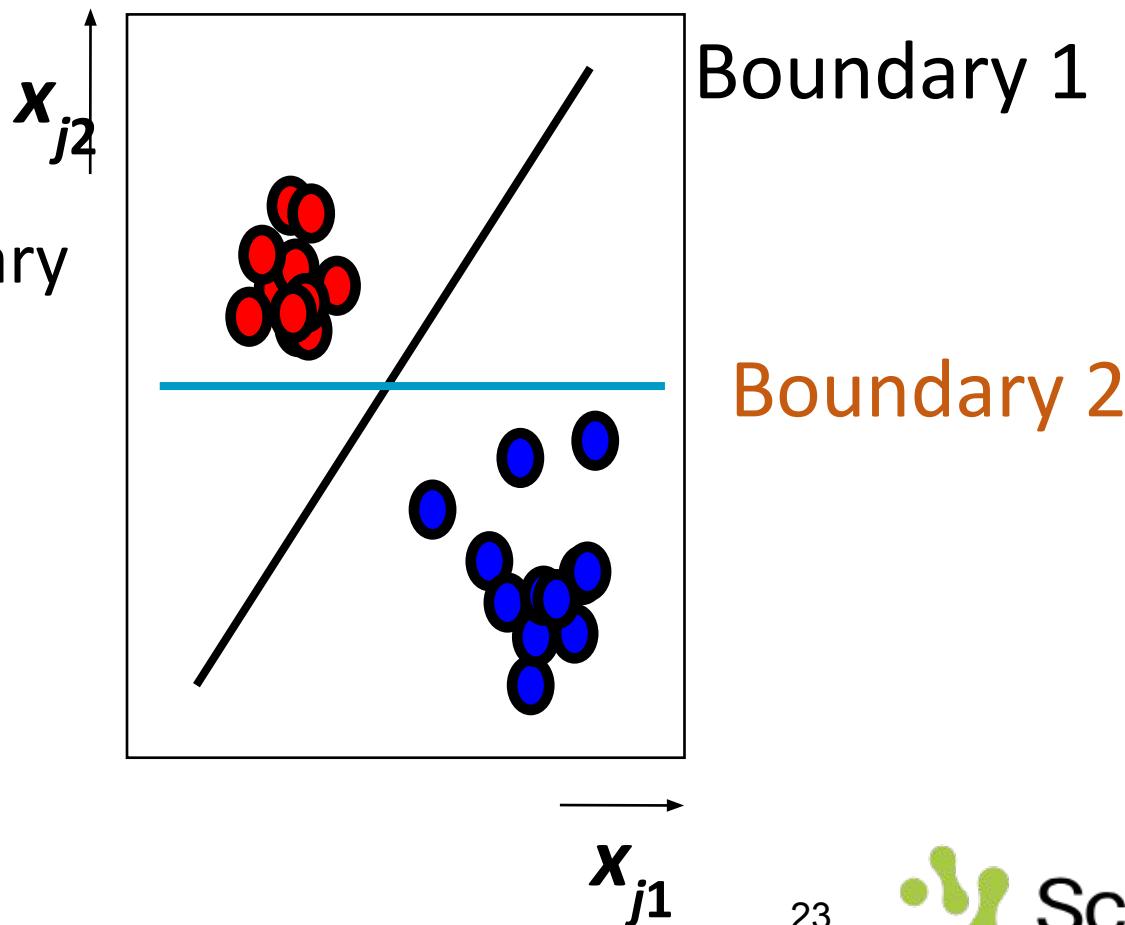
[\[source\]](#)

Support Vector Machine (SVM)



Support Vector Machine (SVM)

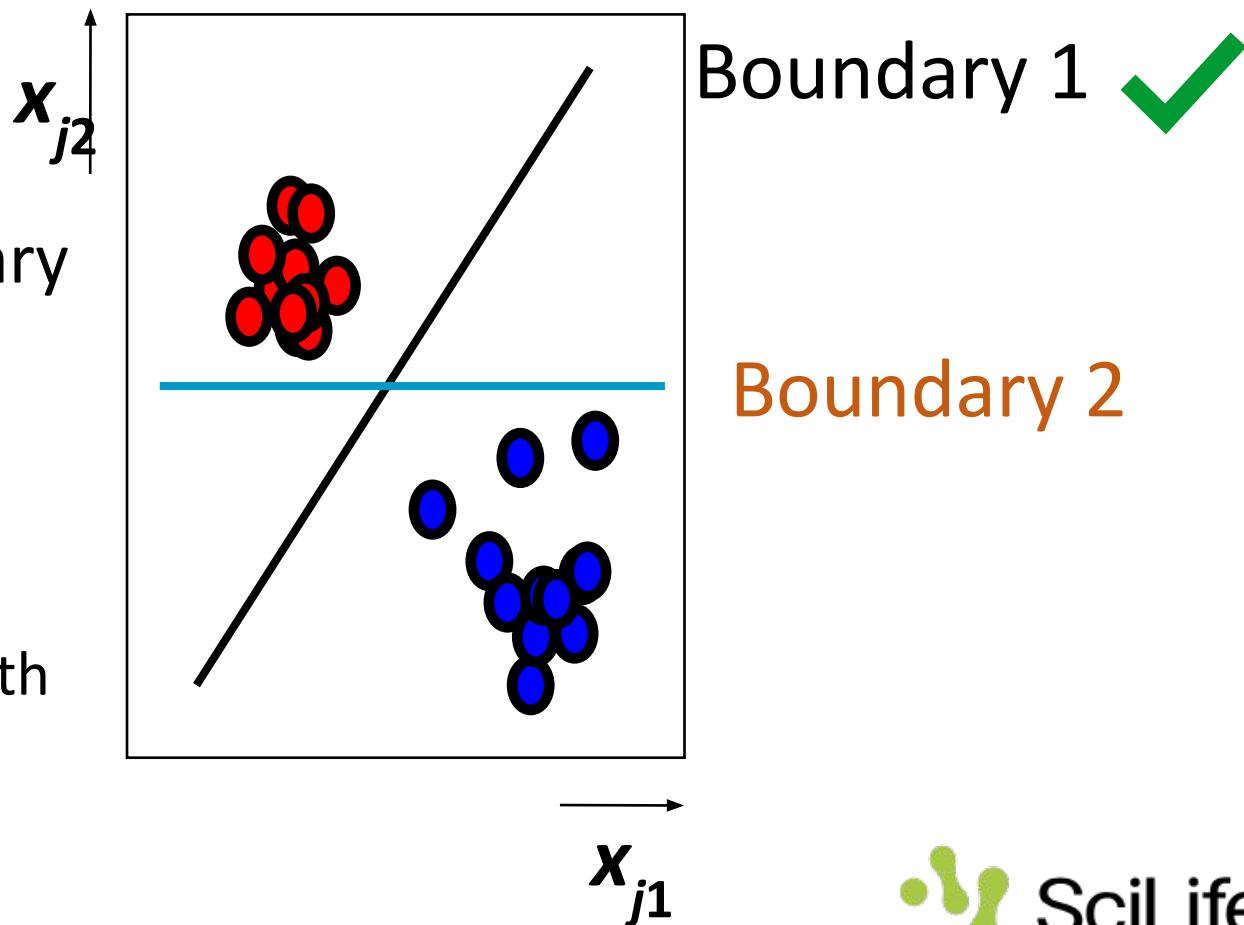
Which boundary
is better?



Support Vector Machine (SVM)

Which boundary is better?

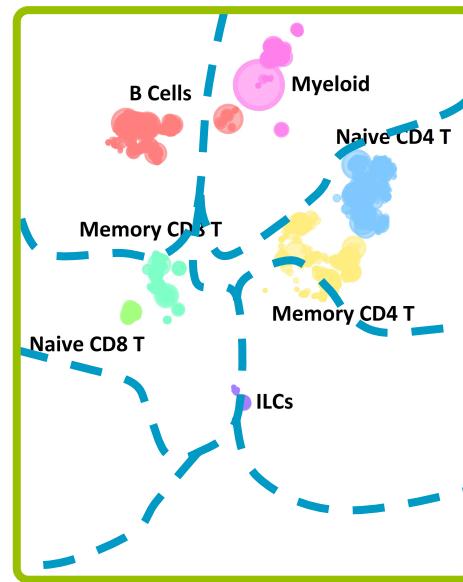
The one that maximizes the margins from both labels.



Can we automatically identify cell populations?

*Training
data*

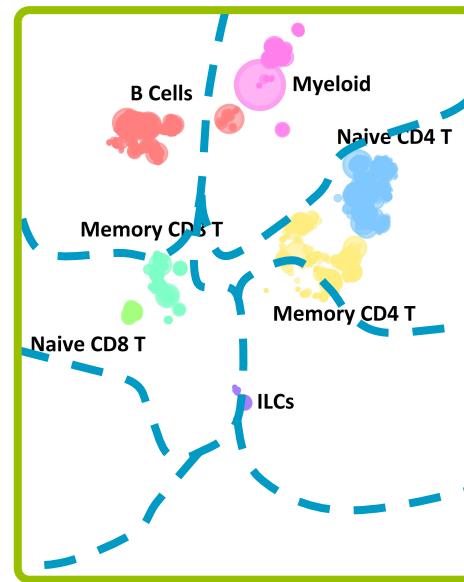
Annotated
Cells
(e.g. atlas)



Can we automatically identify cell populations?

*Training
data*

Annotated
Cells
(e.g. atlas)



*Prior
knowledge*

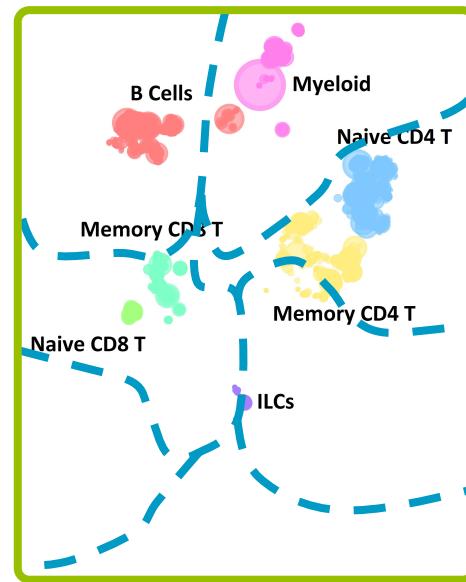
Marker
genes



Can we automatically identify cell populations?

*Training
data*

Annotated
Cells
(e.g. atlas)



Annotated
cells

*Prior
knowledge*

Marker
genes



Test data

Unannotated
cells



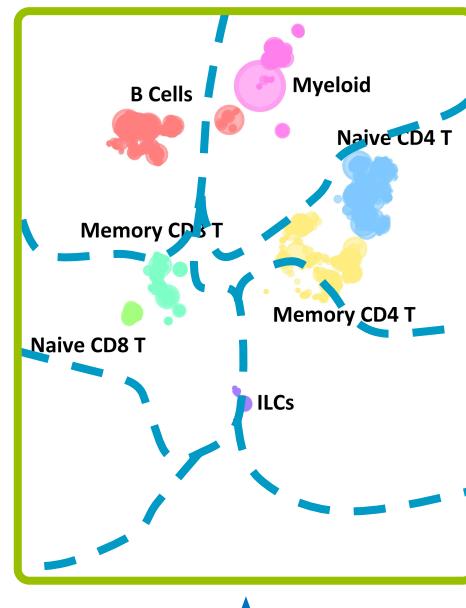
Can we automatically identify cell populations?

*Training
data*

Annotated
Cells
(e.g. atlas)

Marker
genes

*Prior
knowledge*



Test data

Unannotated
cells

Annotated
cells

Unknown
(novel) cells

*Rejection
option*

Benchmark paper 2019

Research | [Open access](#) | Published: 09 September 2019

A comparison of automatic cell identification methods for single-cell RNA sequencing data

[Tamim Abdelaal](#), [Lieke Michielsen](#), [Davy Cats](#), [Dylan Hoogduin](#), [Hailiang Mei](#), [Marcel J. T. Reinders](#) & [Ahmed Mahfouz](#) 

[Genome Biology](#) **20**, Article number: 194 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

60k [Reads](#) | 277 [Citations](#) | 76 [Altmetric](#) | [Metrics](#)

16 existing classifiers (April 2019)

scPred	CaSTLe	scmap _{cluster}
Moana	LAmbDA	
	SingleCell	
	Net	
	CHETAH	
	SingleR	
scmap _{cell}		Garnett
		SCINA
		DigitalCellSorter
		Cell-Blast
scID	scVI	
	ACTINN	

SVM

scPred

Moana

Correlation

CHETAH

SingleR

kNN

scmap_{cell}

LDA

scID

Neural networks

scVI

ACTINN

RF

CaSTLe

LAmbDA

SingleCell

Net

NMC

scmap_{cluster}

Others

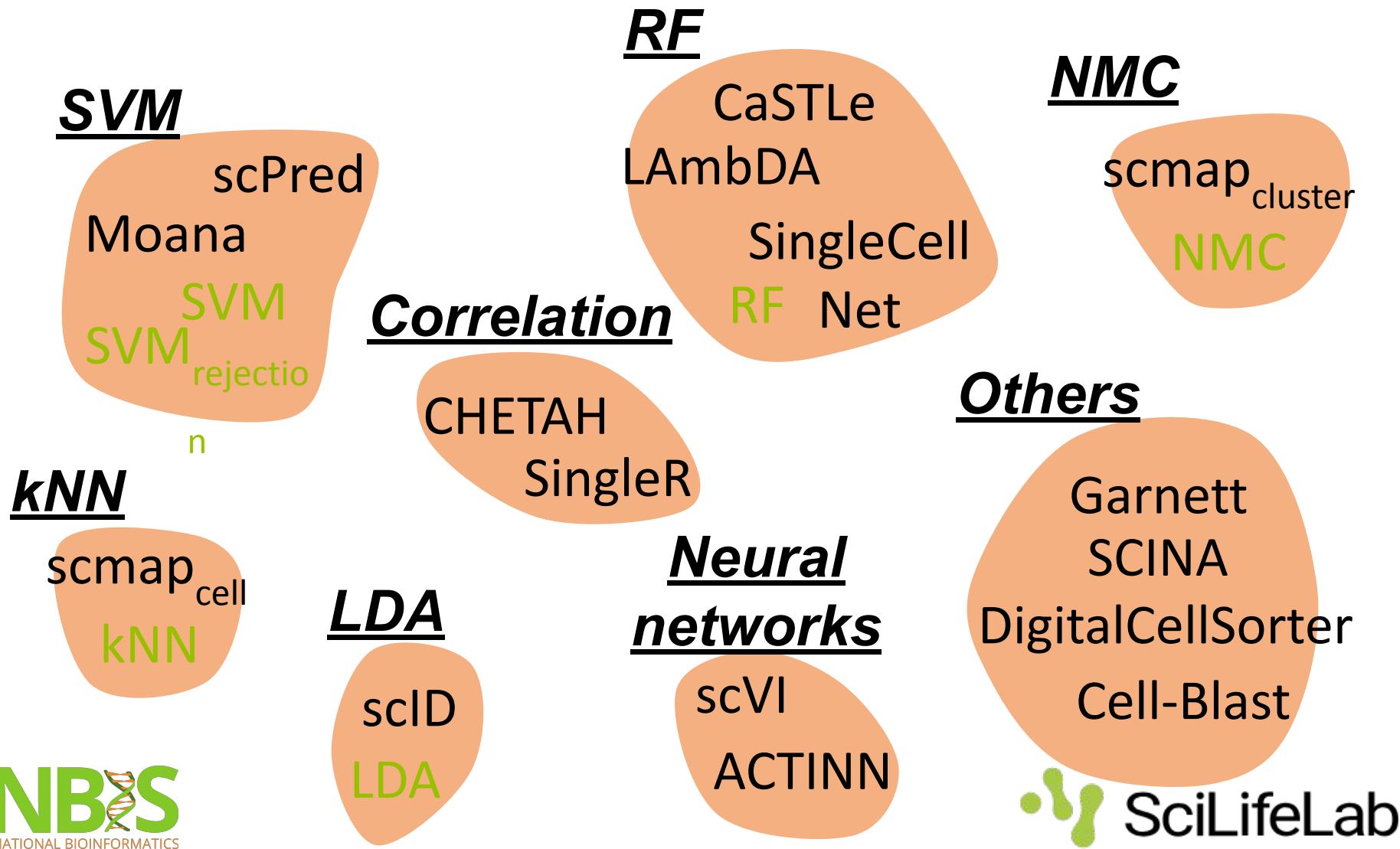
Garnett

SCINA

DigitalCellSorter

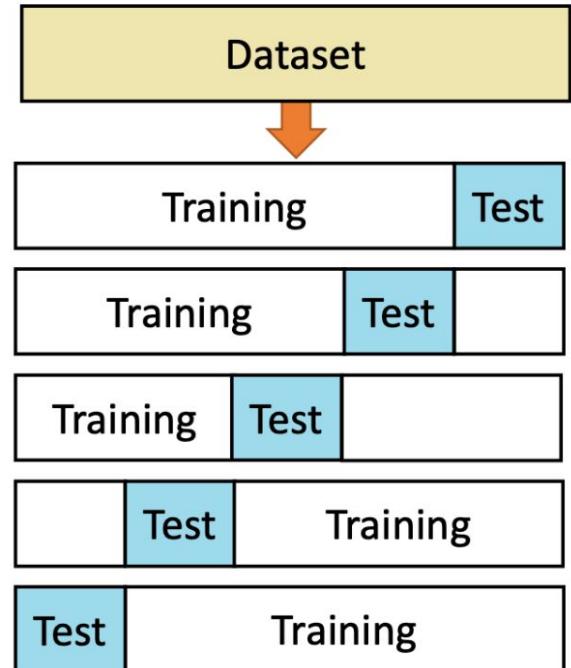
Cell-Blast

16 existing + 6 off-the-shelf classifiers



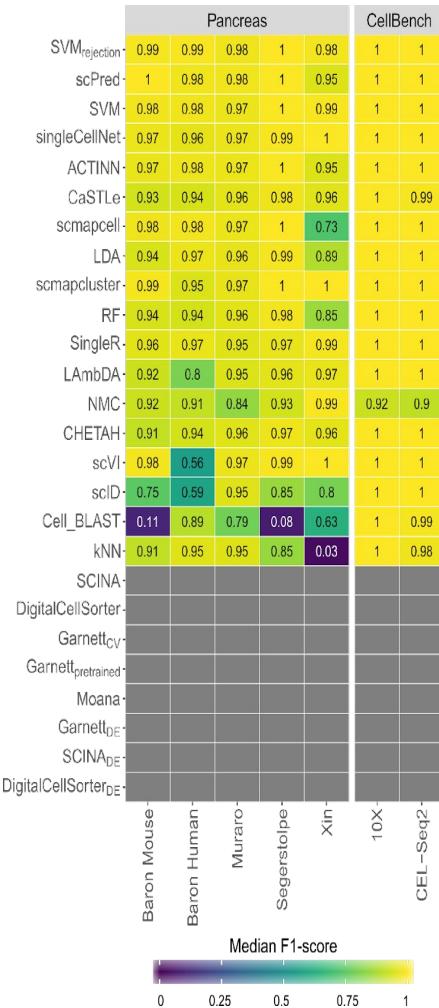
Experiment 1: intra-dataset evaluation

- Stratified 5-fold cross validation
- Performance evaluation
 - Median F1-score: $F1 = 2 \frac{precision \cdot recall}{precision + recall}$
 - % unlabelled cells

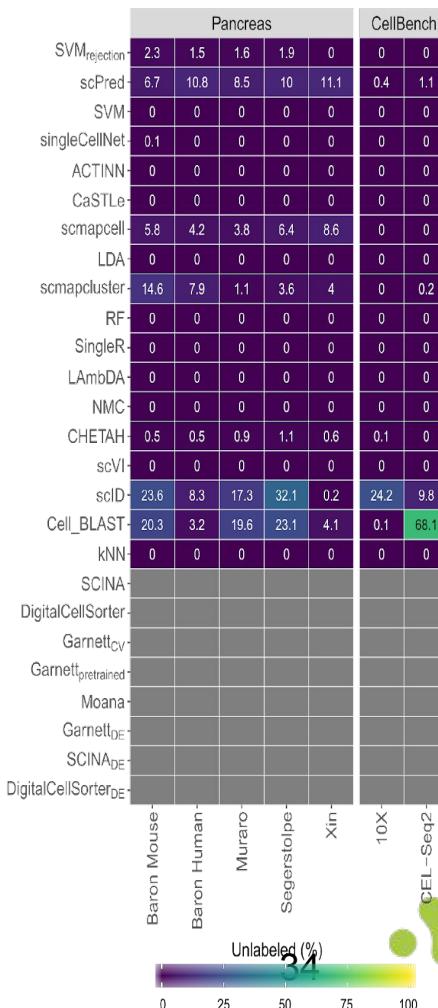


Most classifiers work well

Median F1-score



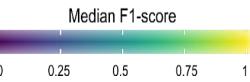
% Unlabeled



Performance drops with deeper annotation

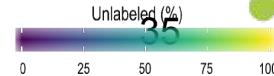
Median F1-score

Allen Mouse Brain		
SVM _{rejection}	1	1
scPred	1	1
SVM	1	0.99
singleCellNet	1	0.99
ACTINN	1	0.99
CaSTLe	1	0.99
scmapcell	1	1
LDA	1	0.99
scmapcluster	1	0.98
RF	1	0.99
SingleR	1	0.97
LAmbDA	1	0.99
NMC	0.99	0.97
CHETAH	1	0.96
scVI	1	0.97
scID	1	0.95
Cell_BLAST	1	0.99
kNN	1	0.64
SCINA		
DigitalCellSorter		
Garnett _{CV}		
Garnett _{pretrained}		
Moana		
Garnett _{DE}		
SCINA _{DE}		
DigitalCellSorter _{DE}		



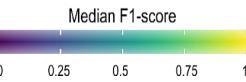
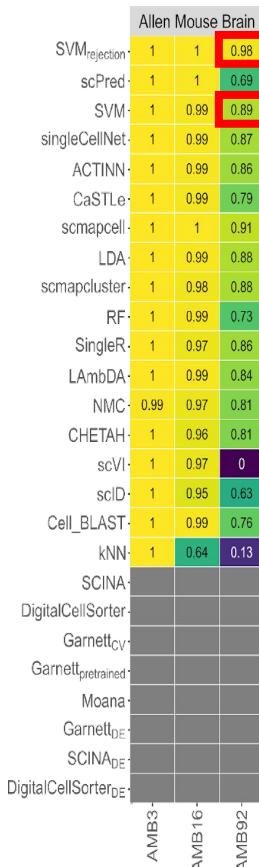
% Unlabeled

Allen Mouse Brain		
SVM _{rejection}	0	1.1
scPred	0.2	8.4
SVM	0	0
singleCellNet	0	0
ACTINN	0	0
CaSTLe	0	0
scmapcell	0.1	4.9
LDA	0	0
scmapcluster	0.3	1.1
RF	0	0
SingleR	0	0
LAmbDA	0	0
NMC	0	0
CHETAH	1.2	2.4
scVI	0	0
scID	5.3	1
Cell_BLAST	0	0.4
kNN	0	0
SCINA		
DigitalCellSorter		
Garnett _{CV}		
Garnett _{pretrained}		
Moana		
Garnett _{DE}		
SCINA _{DE}		
DigitalCellSorter _{DE}		

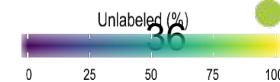
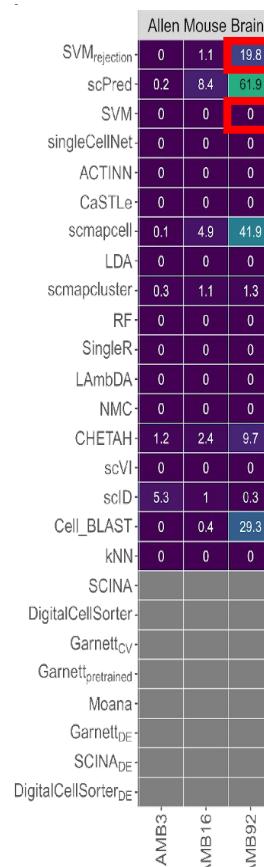


Trade-off between high performance and rejecting cells

Median F1-score

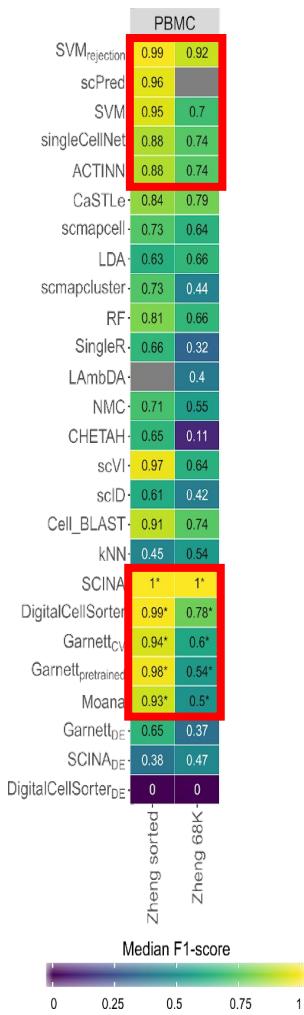


% Unlabeled

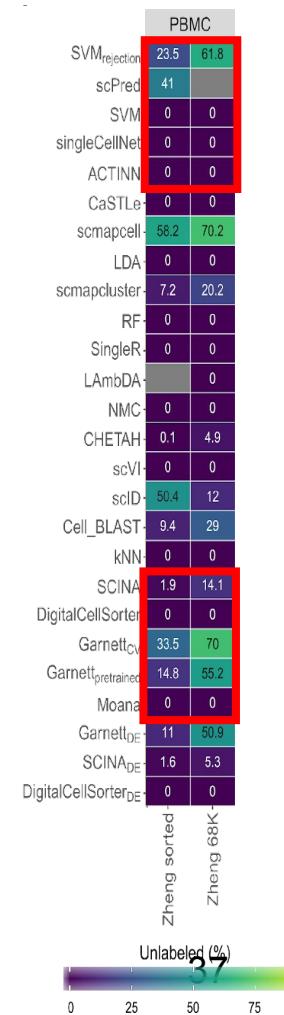


Prior knowledge is not always beneficial

Median F1-score



% Unlabeled



Lower
number
of

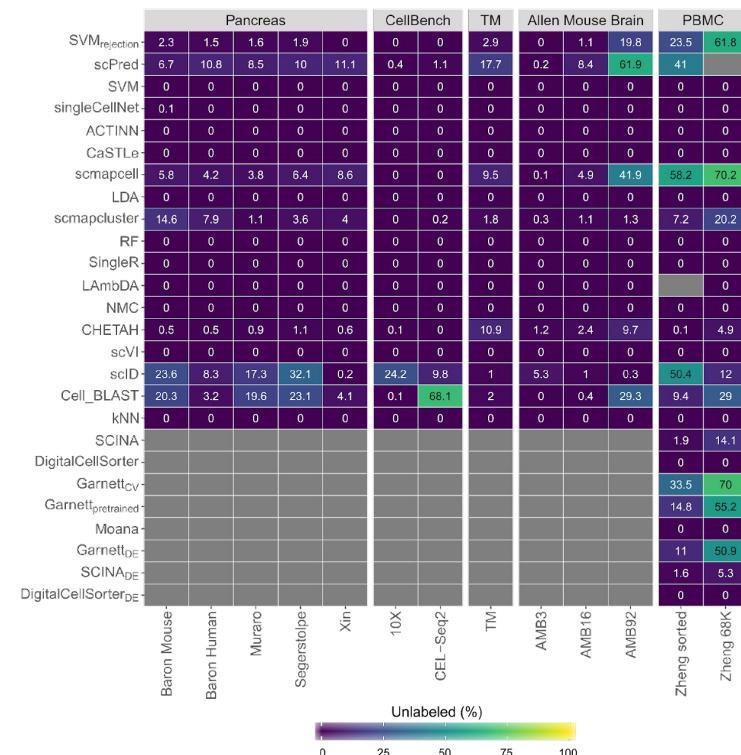
classes!

Off-the-shelf SVM outperforms dedicated single cell classifiers

Median F1-score

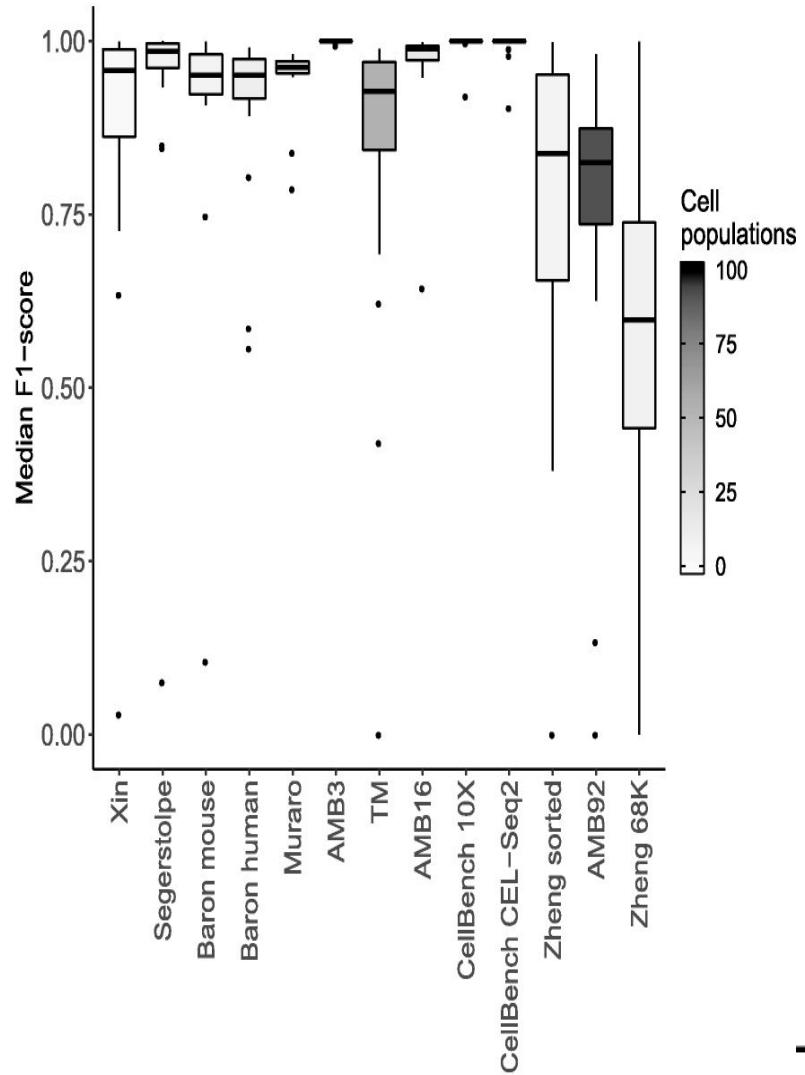
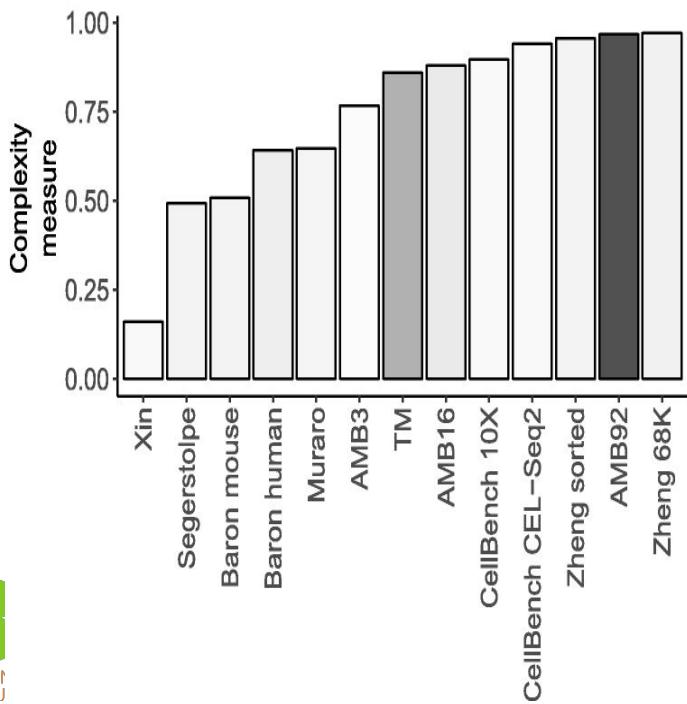


% Unlabeled



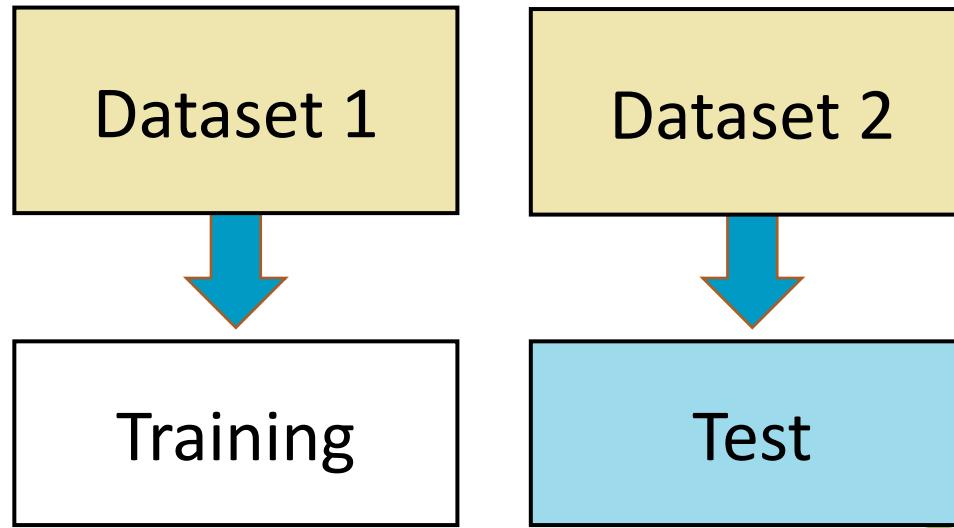
Performance depends on dataset complexity

$$\text{Complexity} = \text{mean} \left(\max_{\forall i, j} \text{corr} \left(\text{avg}_{C_i}, \text{avg}_{C_j} \right) \right)$$

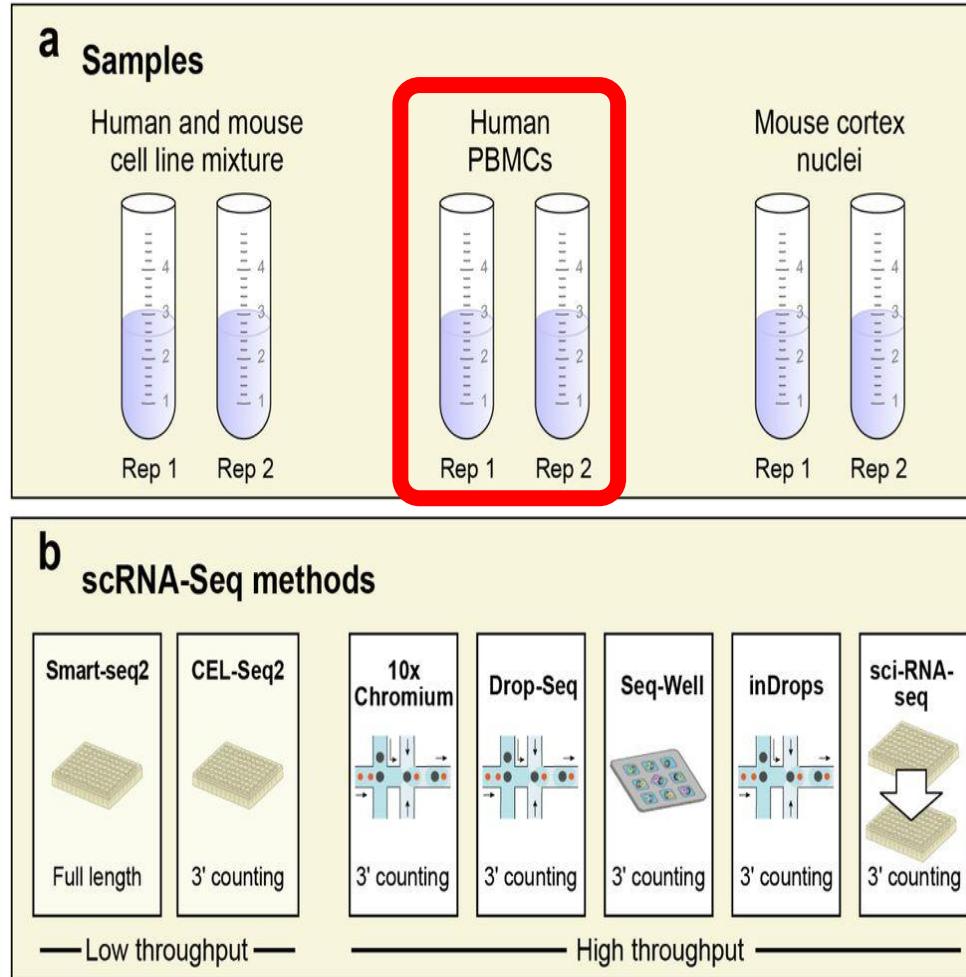


Experiment 2: inter-dataset evaluation

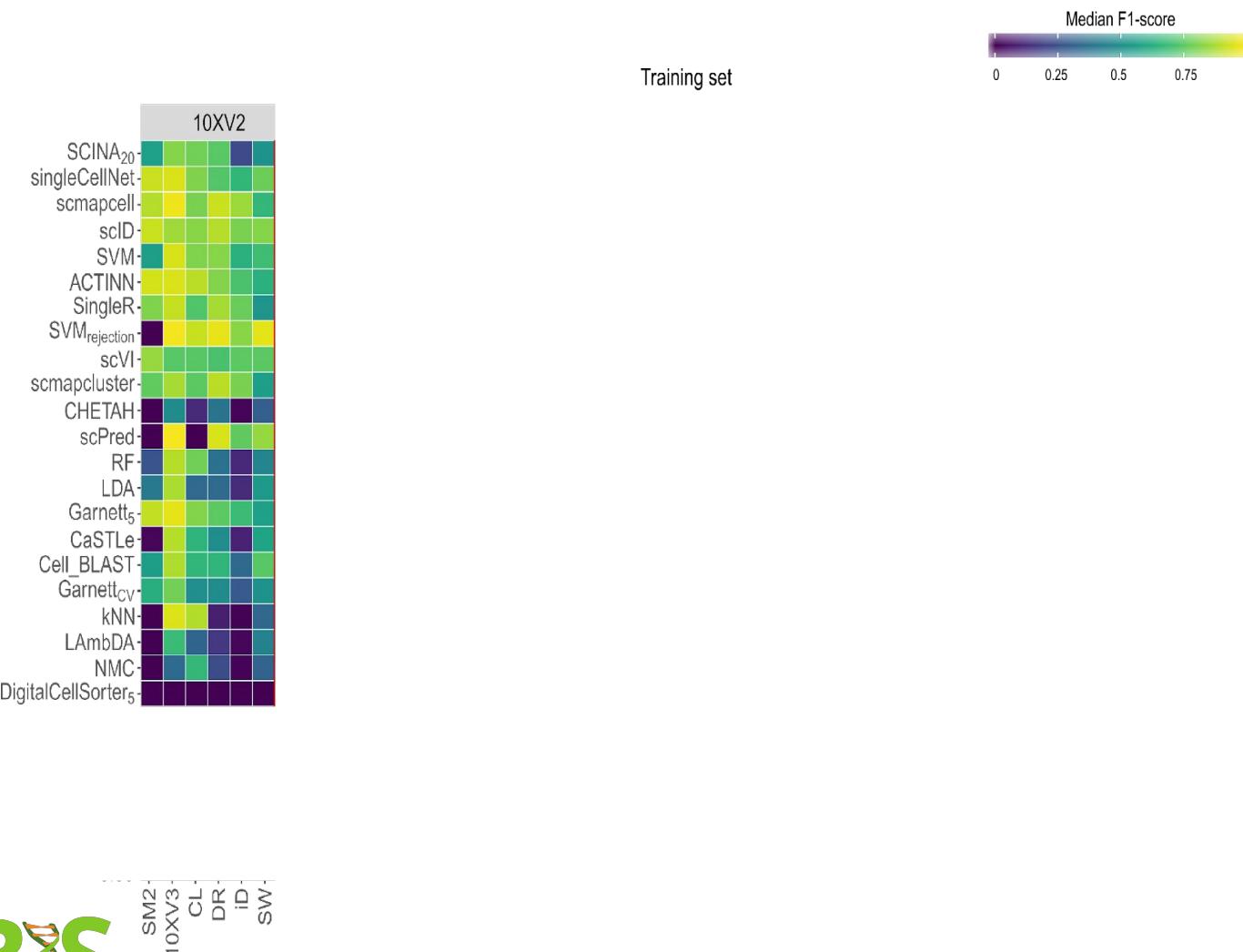
- Train on one dataset, evaluate on another
- More realistic scenario
- More challenging, data is not aligned



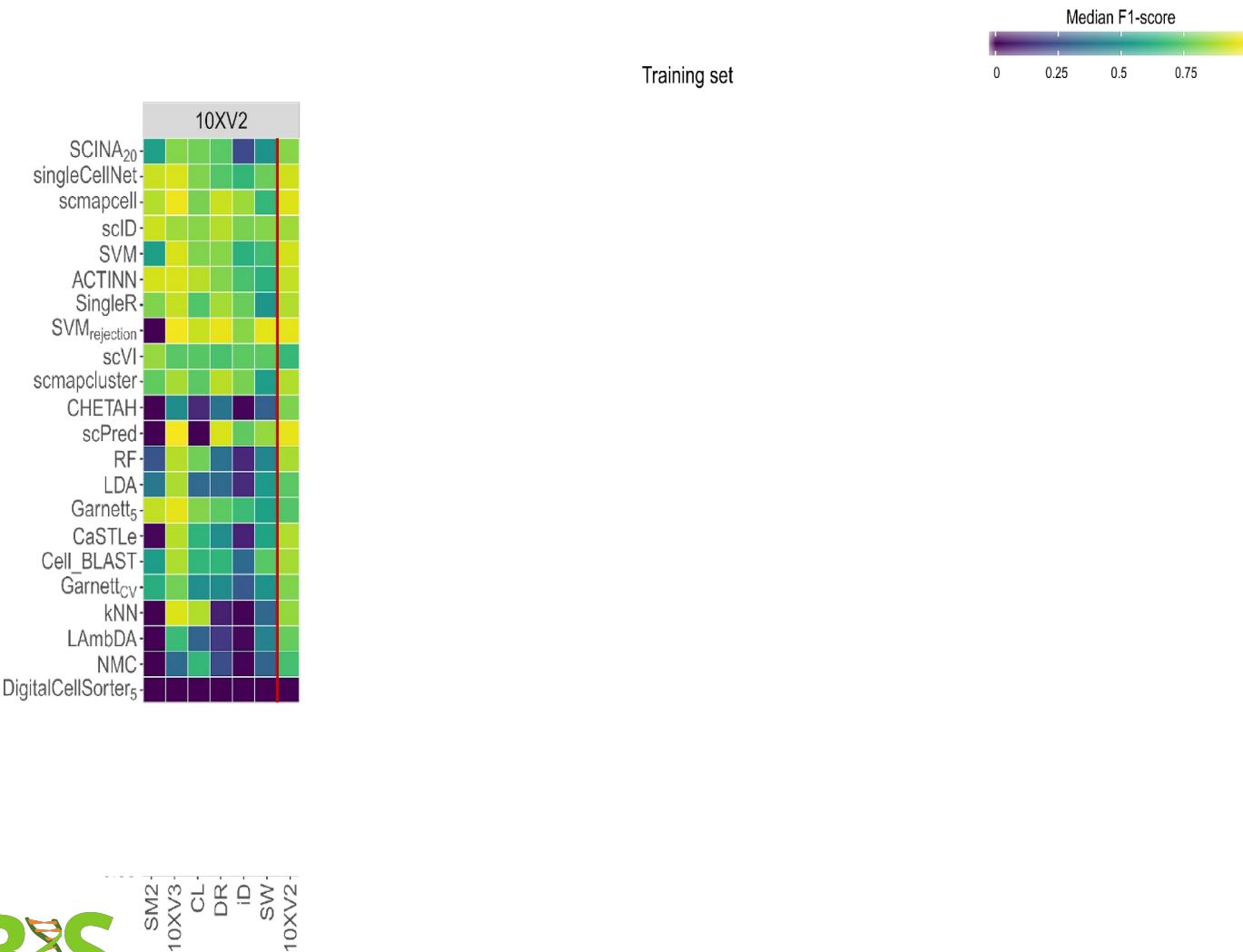
Experiment 2: inter-dataset evaluation



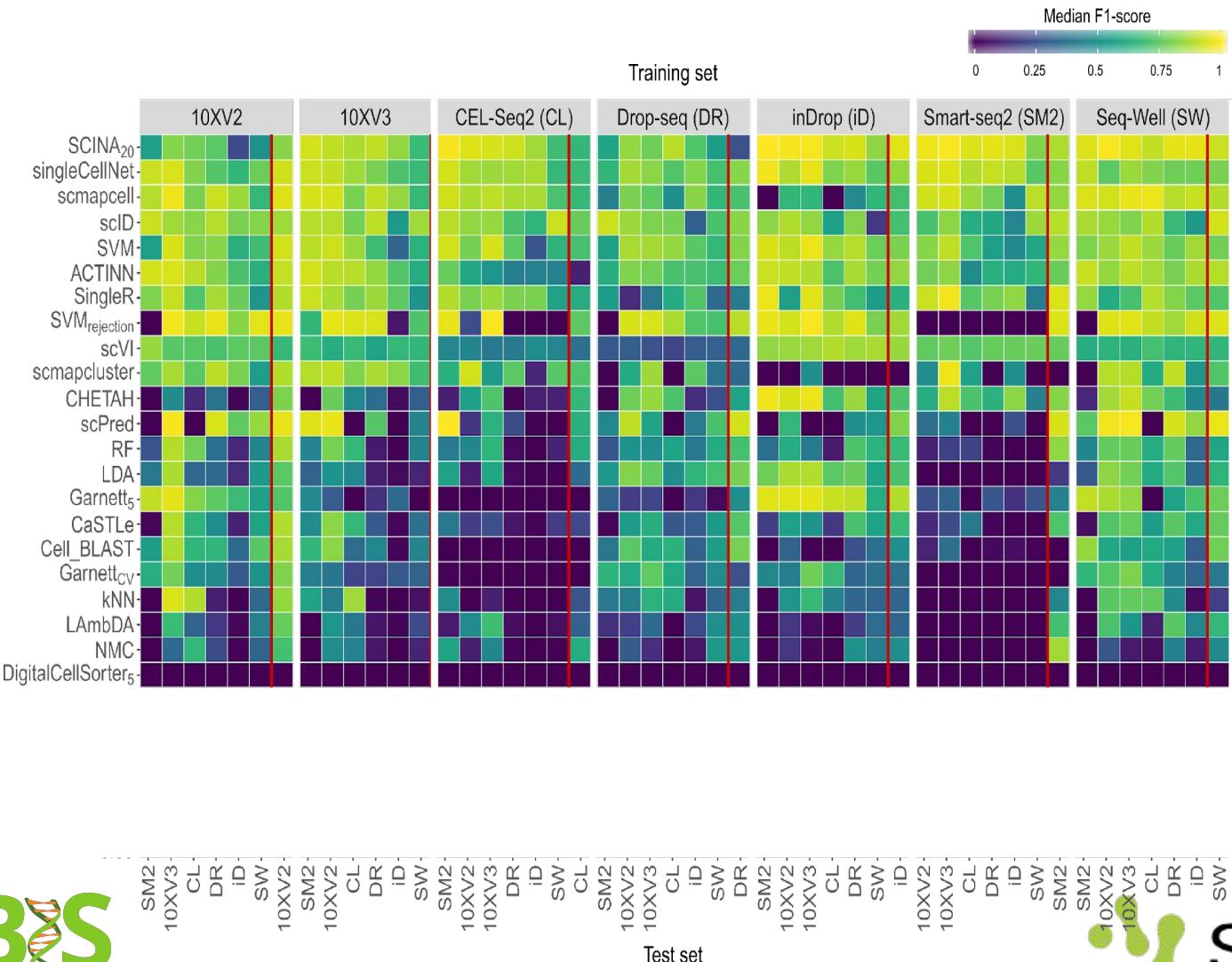
Prediction across protocols



Prediction across protocols



Prediction across protocols



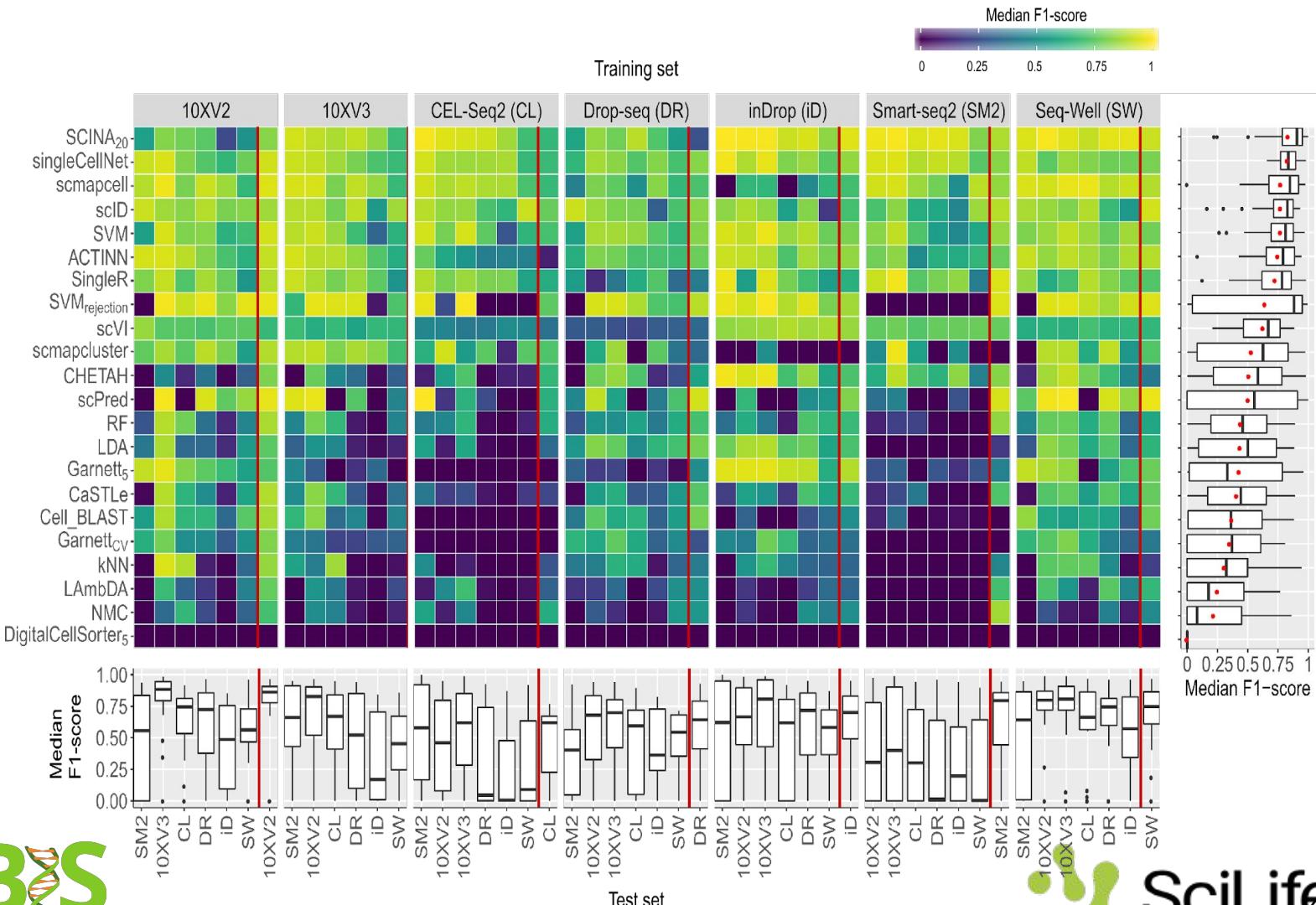
Prediction across protocols



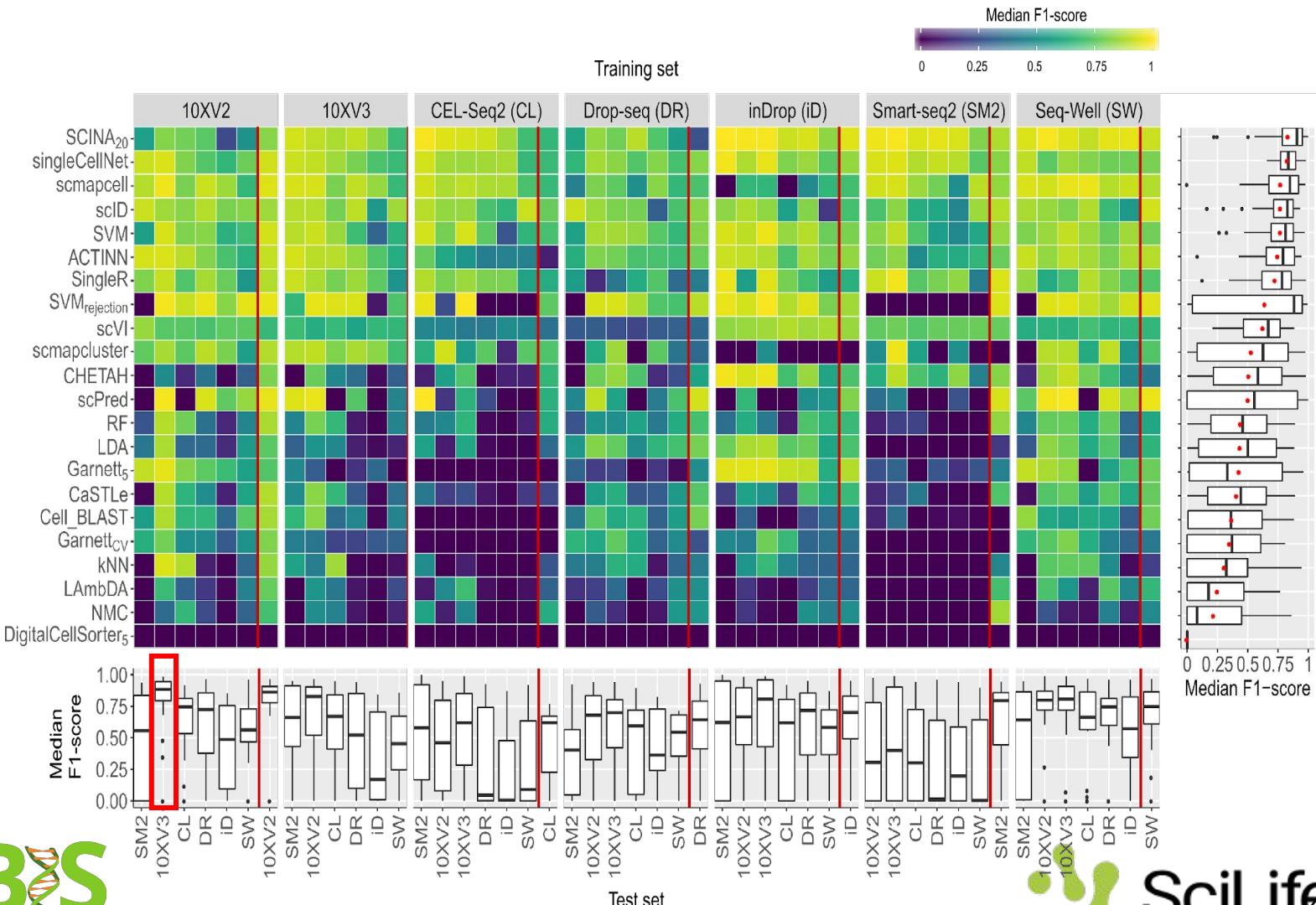
Prediction across protocols



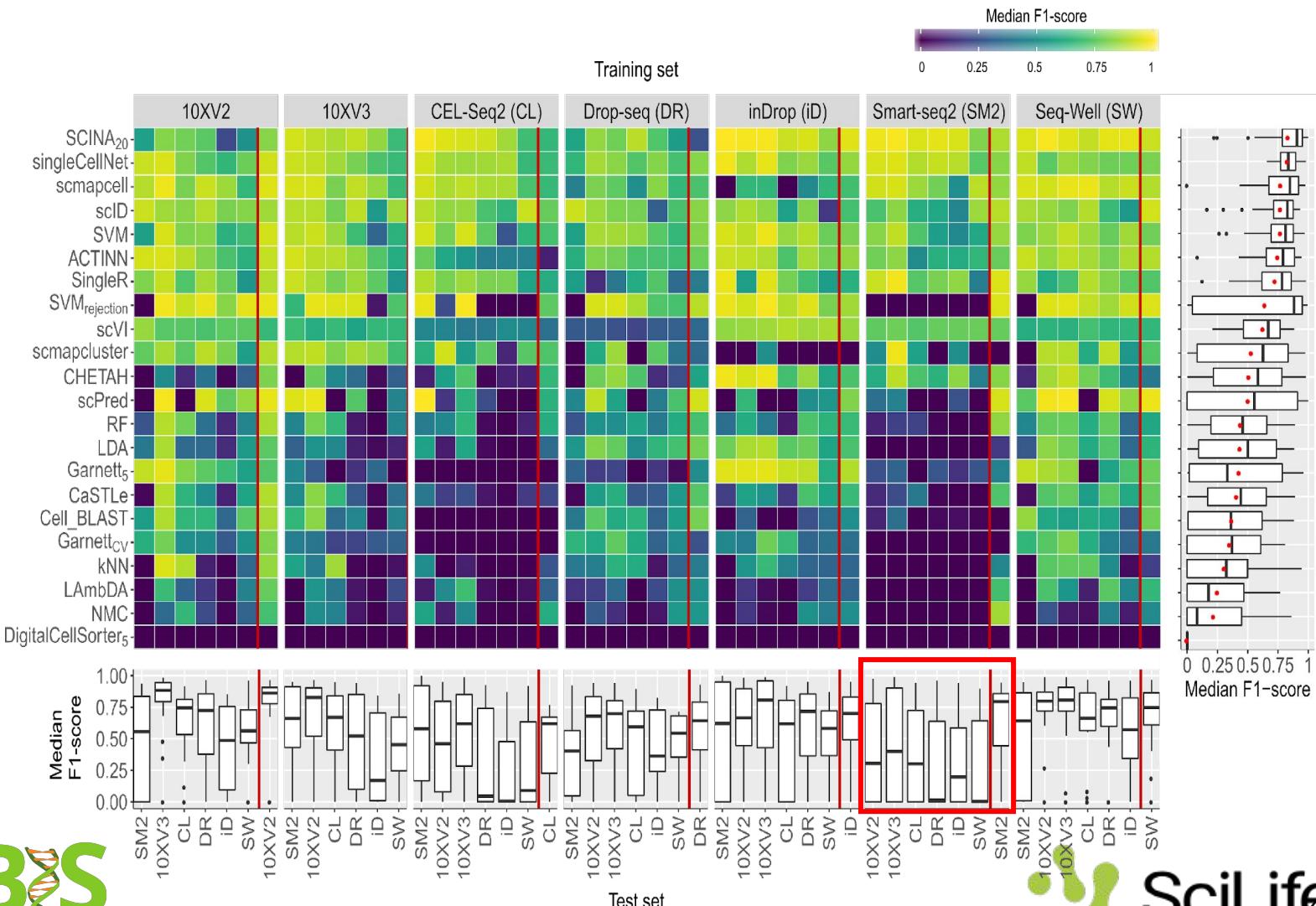
Prediction across protocols



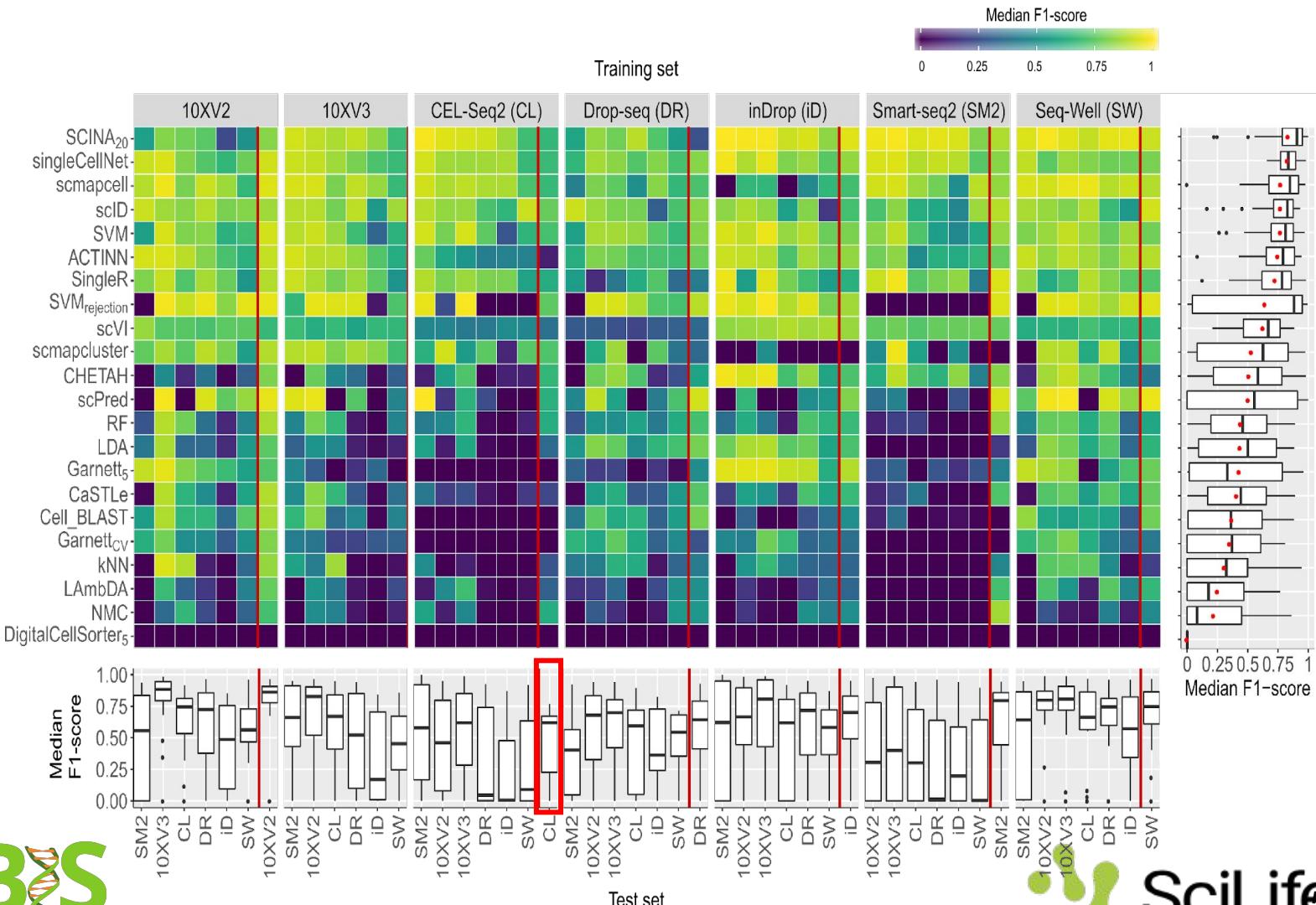
Prediction across protocols



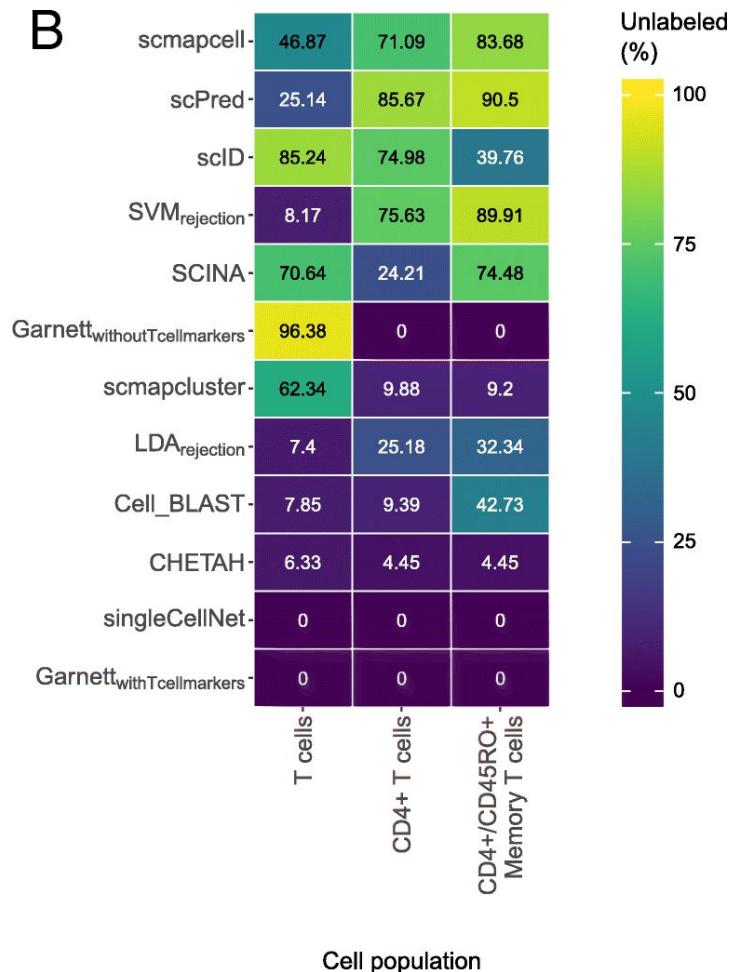
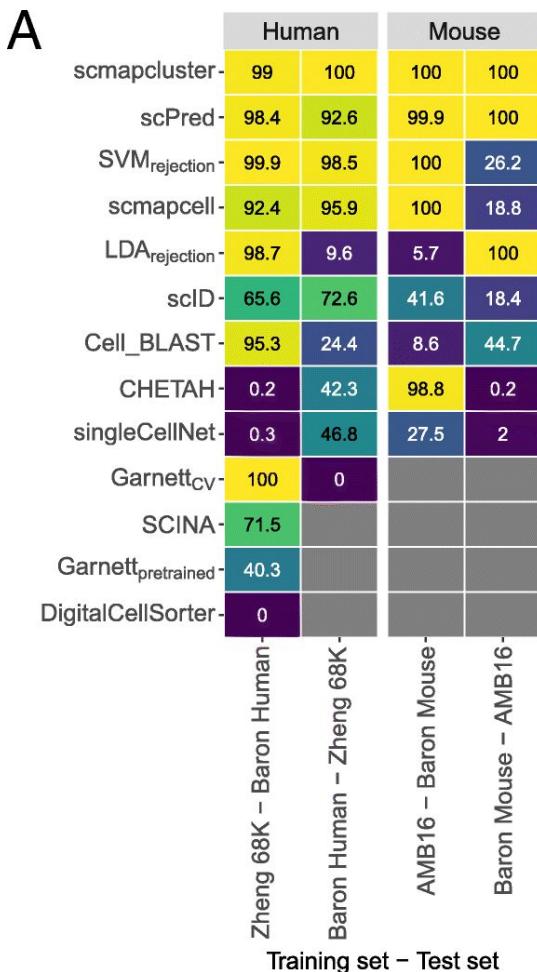
Prediction across protocols



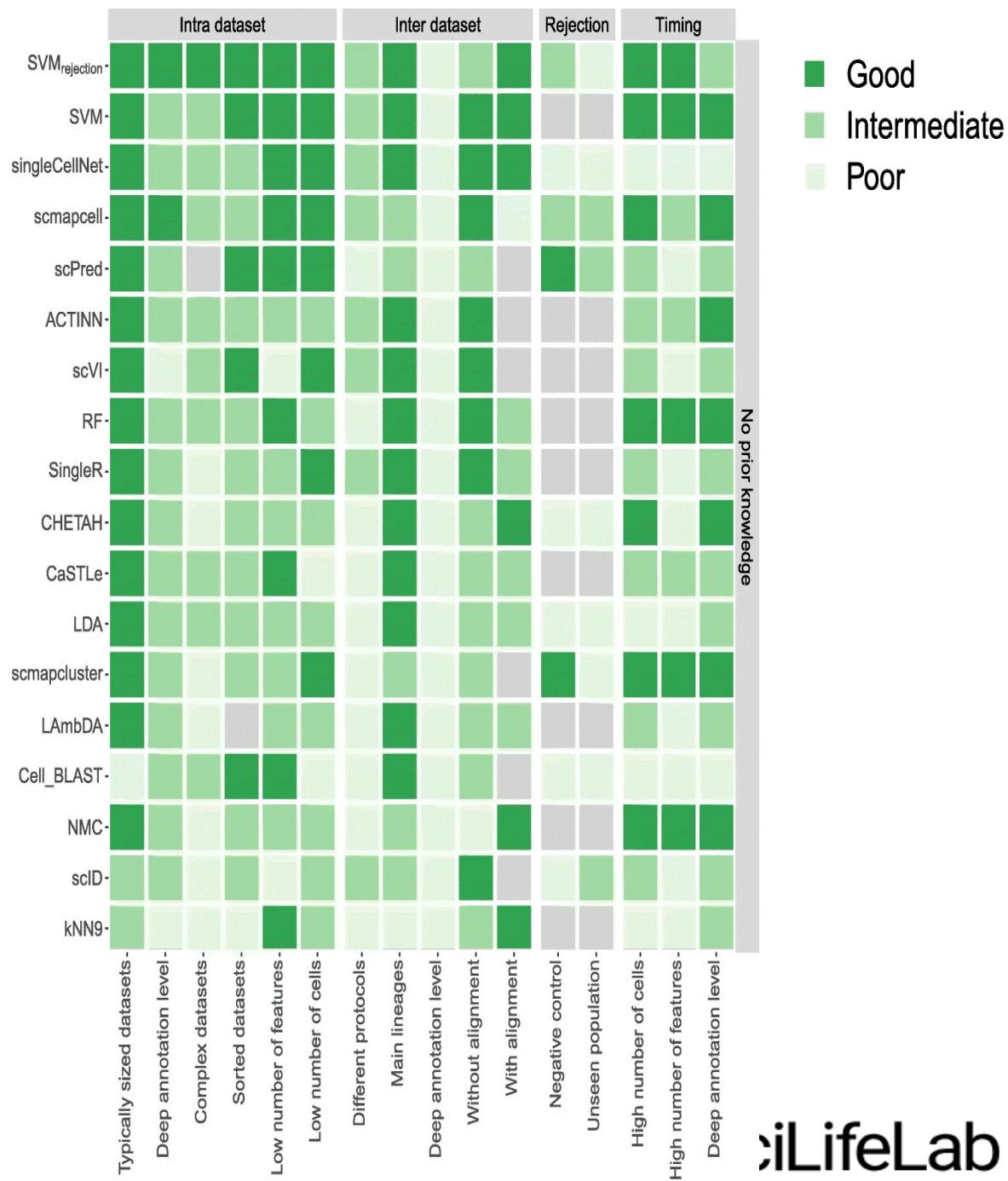
Prediction across protocols



Experiment 3: rejection evaluation



Performance Summary



Conclusions so far

- Simple, off-the-shelf classifiers outperform dedicated single cell methods (see also Köhler et al. bioRxiv 2019)
- Prior-knowledge does not improve performance (highly dependent on selected markers)
- Rejection is difficult
- SnakeMake pipeline:
https://github.com/tabdelaal/scRNAseq_Benchmark/

Benchmark paper 2021

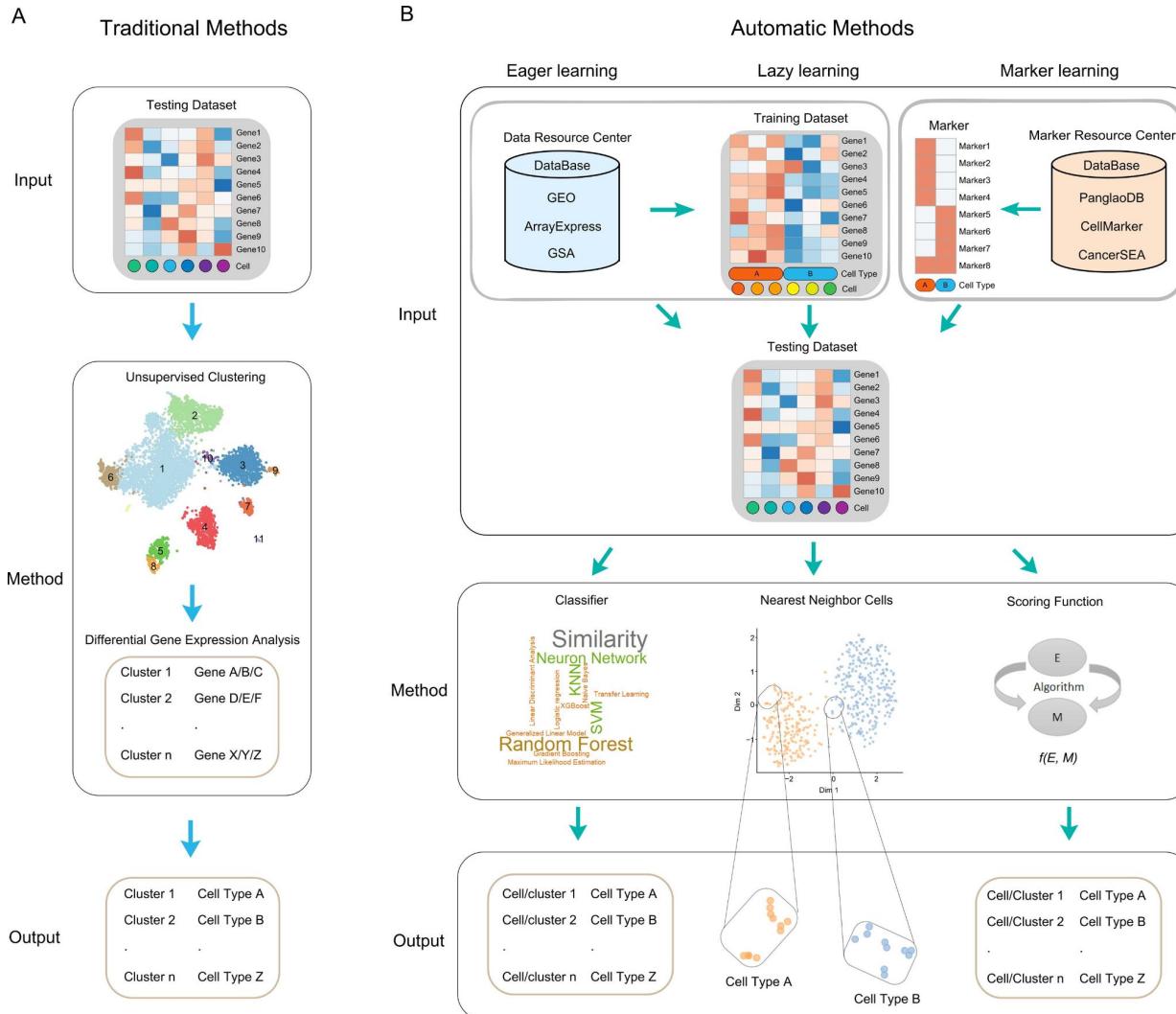
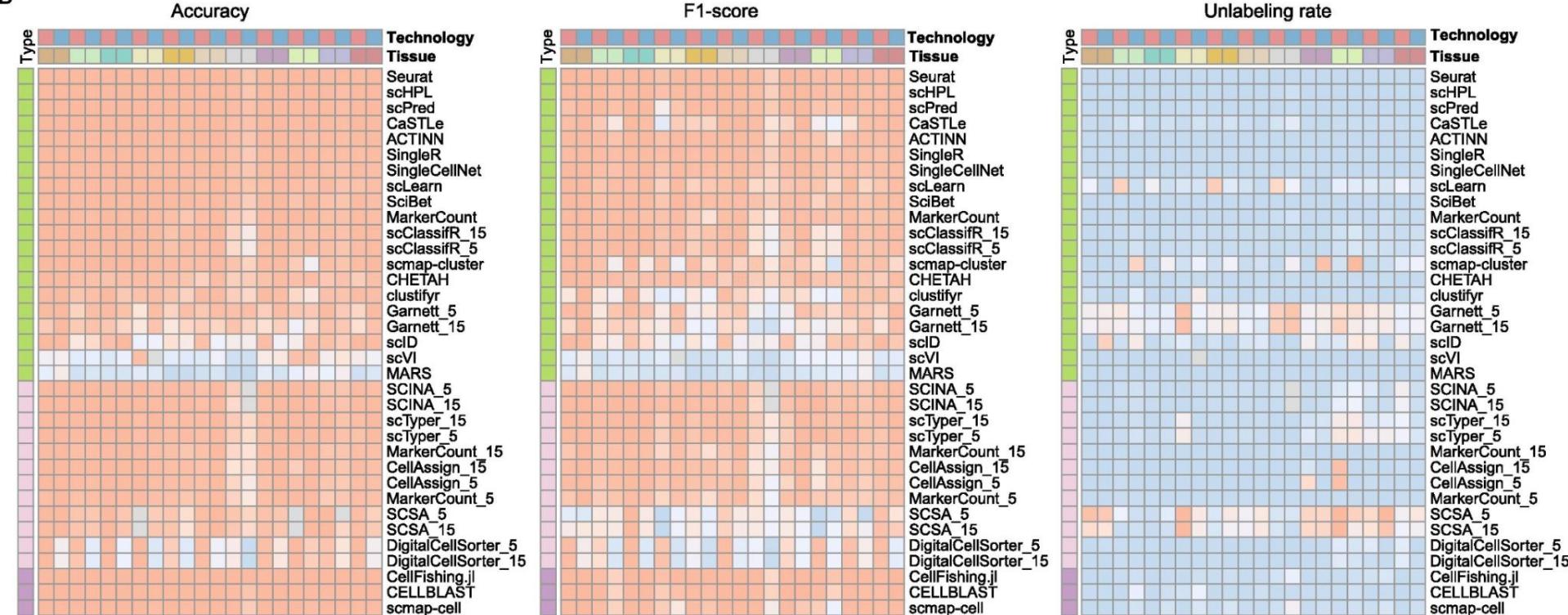


Table with all the methods

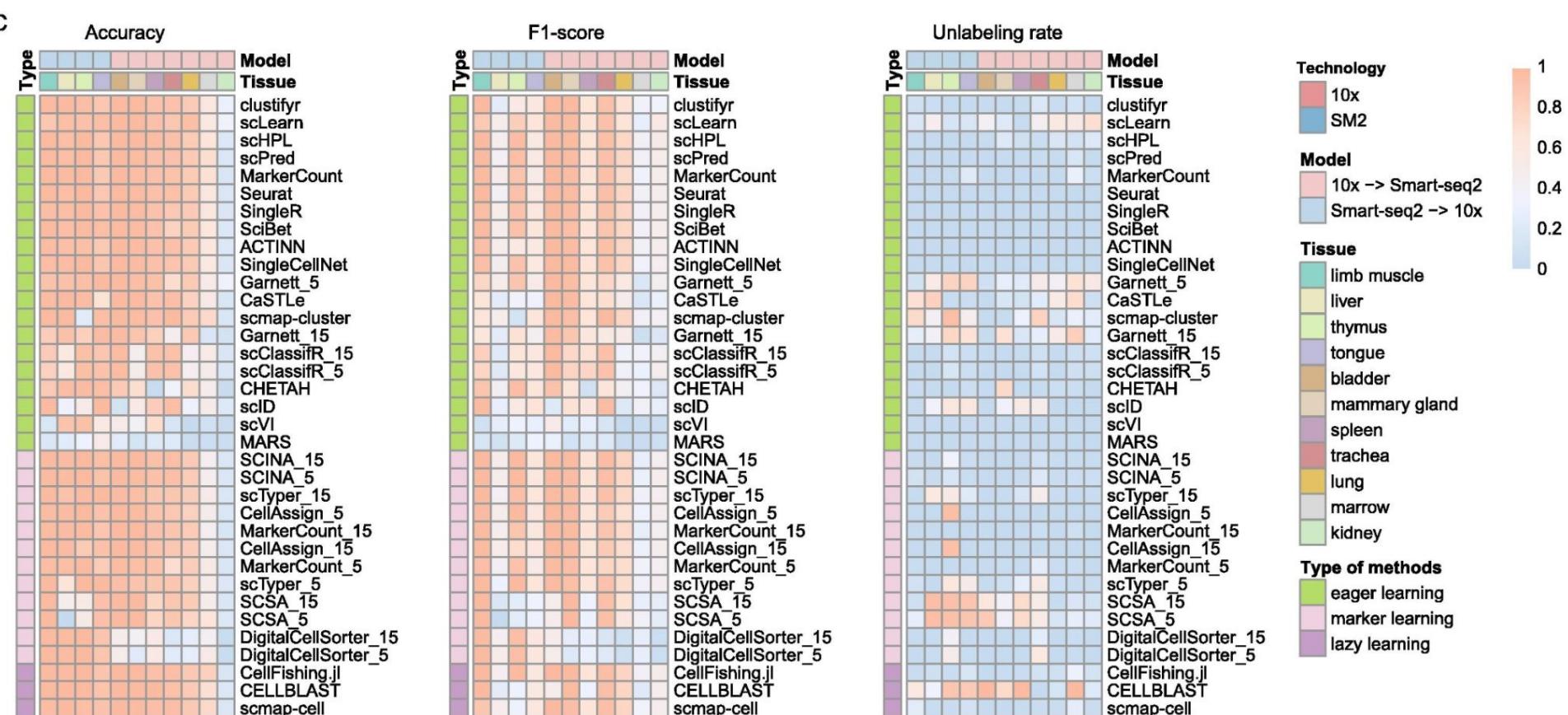
<https://www.csbj.org/action/showFullTableHTML?isHTML=true&tableId=t0005&pii=S2001-0370%2821%2900449-9>

Within dataset training/testing with cross-validation

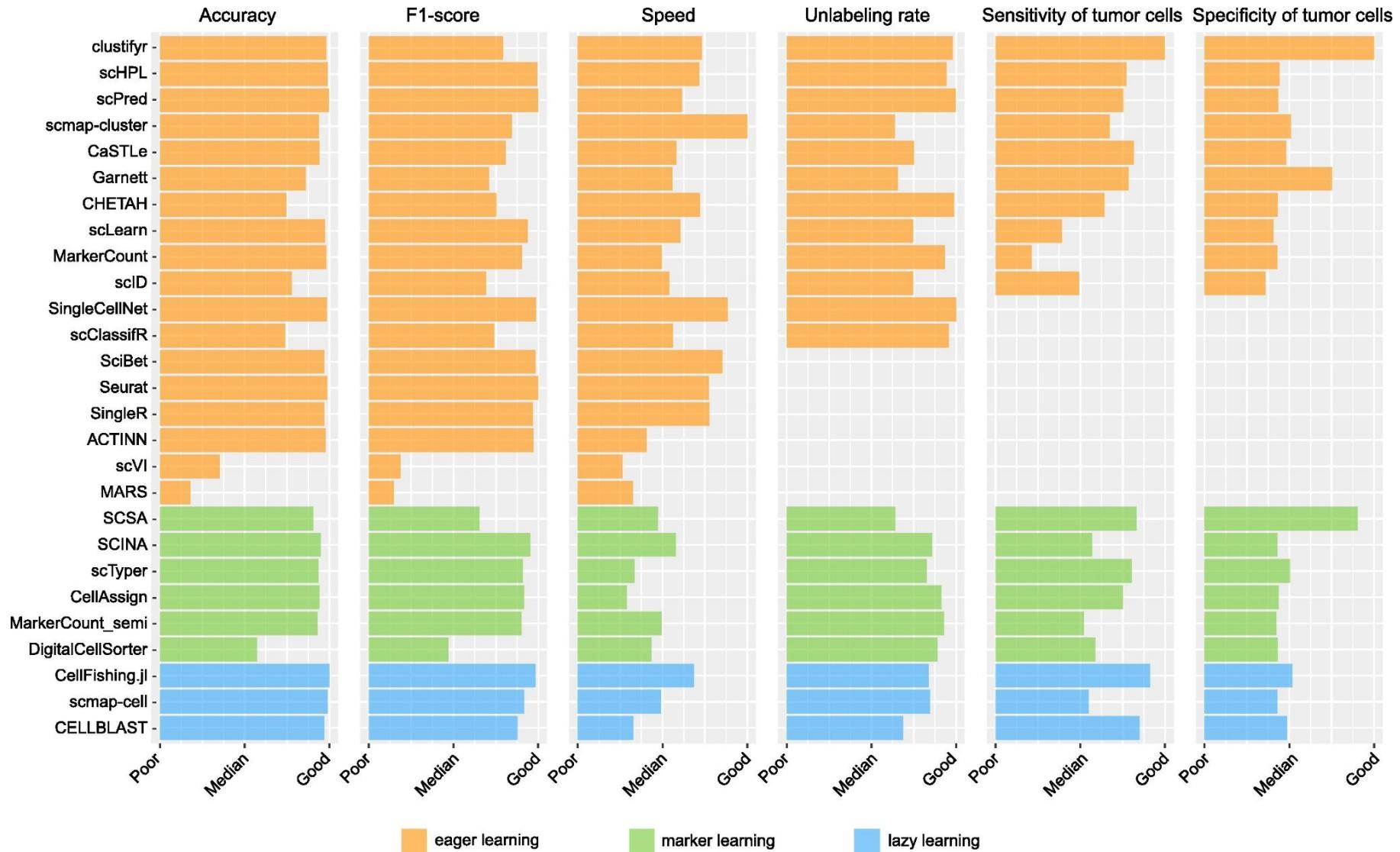
B



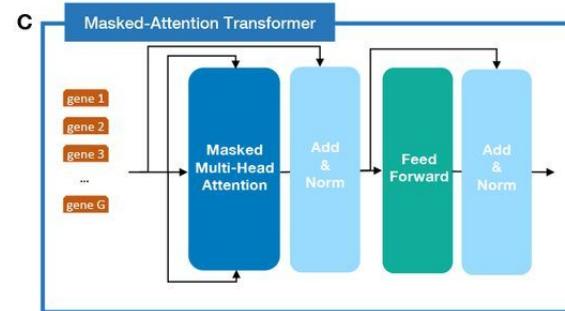
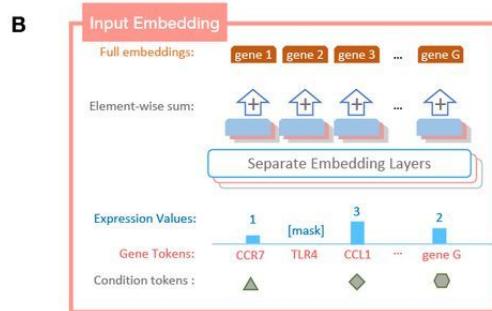
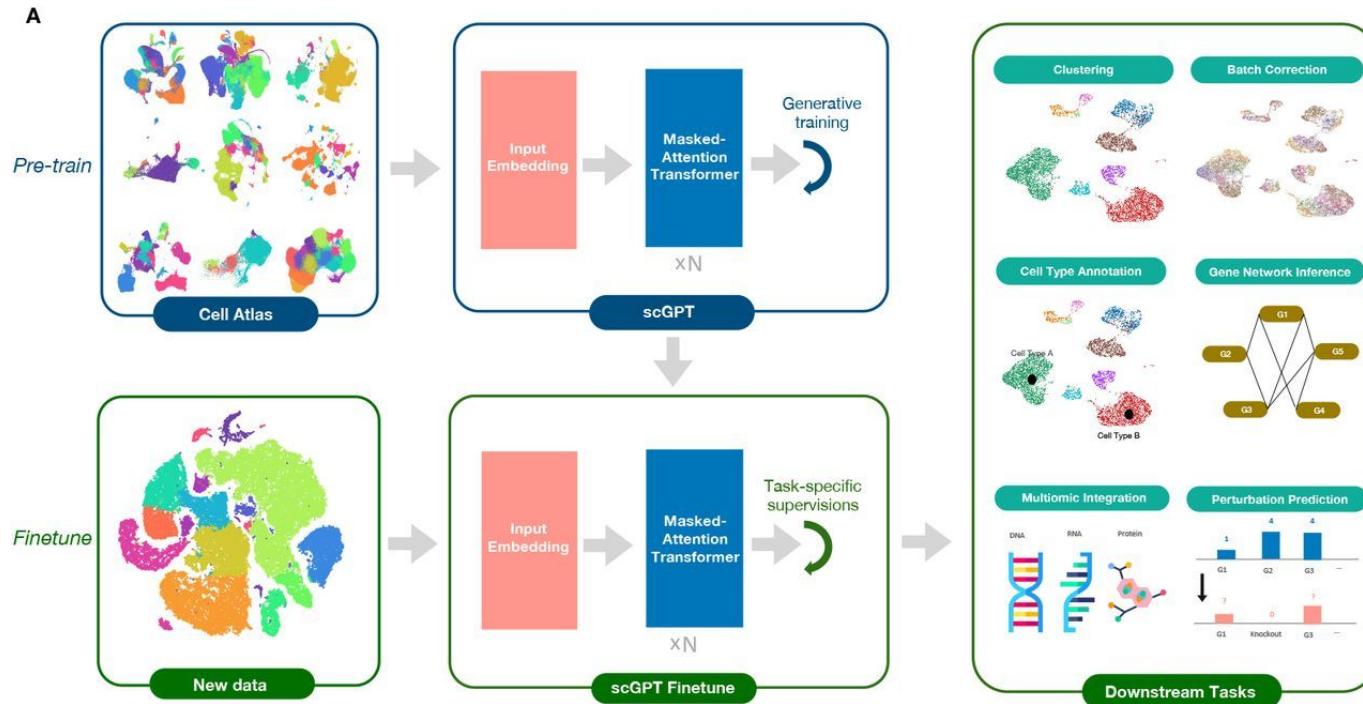
Across technologies



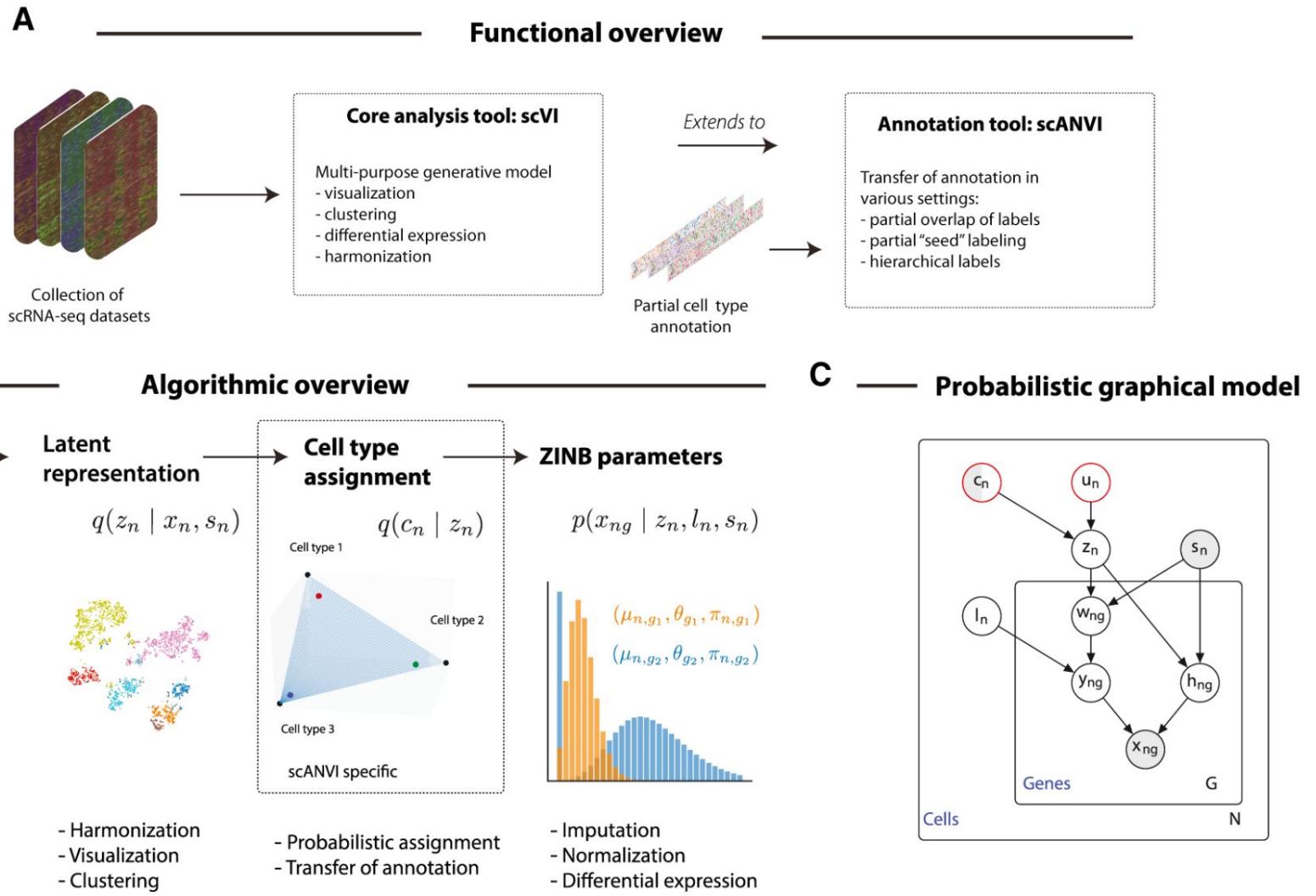
Summary



Generative learning is the next big thing? scGPT



Generative learning is the next big thing? scANVI



Some useful resources

- Azimuth - Seurat label transfer to reference sets
 - <https://azimuth.hubmapconsortium.org/>
 - online or R package
- DISCO - CellMapper to several tissues
 - <https://www.immunesinglecell.org/>
- Celltypist - Regularised linear models with Stochastic Gradient Descent
 - <https://www.celltypist.org/>
 - online or python package

Summary

- Cell identification is moving from unsupervised (clustering/visualization) to supervised (classification) learning
- Check what reference you are using!
 - The more similar reference is to your data - the better the prediction.
 - Same technology matters
 - Do you trust their celltype annotations?
- Atlases do not contain all tissues/celltype and especially not all disease states of cells.
- Also look at DGE and known markers and check that predictions makes sense