Multi-Modal Knowledge-Primed Neural Networks (MM-KPNNs)

Purpose & Biological Context

This exercise guides you through developing a Graph Neural Network (MM-KPNN) pipeline that integrates single-cell multi-omic data—combining scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq—into a unified graph-based framework for cell-type classification.

Pipeline Overview

Step-by-step methodology: from data loading and preprocessing to model training, evaluation, explainability, and extension.

- 1. **Core Workflow (Steps 1–9):** Environment setup, model definition, example data, training & evaluation, embeddings visualization.
- 2. **Real-Data Integration (Step 10):** Swap in your own multi-omic datasets without changing the core pipeline.
- 3. **Technical Enhancements (Step 11):** Hyperparameter tuning, graph variations, and model extensions.
- 4. **Biological Expansion (Step 12):** Integrate regulatory priors, validate feature importance, and adapt to spatial or batch contexts.

· Application cases:

- 1. **scRNA-seq PBMC3k:** classify peripheral blood mononuclear cell types using transcriptomic features.
- 2. **Spatial Transcriptomics (Visium Lymph Node):** incorporate spatial coordinates and transcription-factor network priors to resolve tissue microenvironments.

By explicitly fusing gene expression and chromatin accessibility into node features and leveraging k-NN and radius graphs for spatial context, MM-KPNN captures molecular, regulatory, and phenotypic relationships—enabling robust classification and biological insight.

Step 1. Imports & Environment Setup

Library	Version	Purpose
Python	3.9.16	Language runtime
PyTorch (+cpu)	2.7.0+cpu	Core DL framework
PyTorch-Geometric	2.6.1	GNN layers & utilities
Scanpy	1.9.1	Single-cell data I/O & preprocessing
scikit-learn	1.0.2	k-NN, train/test splits, metrics
umap-learn	0.5.3	Embedding visualization
Matplotlib	3.5.3	Plotting

Step 2. Model Definition

Define **MM-KPNN** with:

- Two GCNConv layers → ReLU → Linear head → cell-type logits
- Rationale: successive graph convolutions propagate features across 2 hops, capturing local and broader neighborhood structure.

```
class MMKPNN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(...):
        super().__init__()
        self.conv1 = GCNConv(in_feats, hidden)
        self.conv2 = GCNConv(hidden, hidden)
        self.fc = nn.Linear(hidden, out_feats)

def forward(self, x, edge_index):
        x = F.relu(self.conv1(x, edge_index))
        x = F.relu(self.conv2(x, edge_index))
        return self.fc(x)
```

Step 3. Dataset Loading & Preprocessing

- Load example data: scanpy.datasets.pbmc3k_processed() → HVG matrix + PCA
- 2. **Graph construction:** k-NN (k=10) on PCA coords via NearestNeighbors → edge index
- 3. **Splitting:** 80/10/10 train/val/test masks (node-level boolean arrays).

Step 4. Model Instantiation & Device Setup

- Detect device: device = torch.device("cuda" if ... else "cpu")
- Move model and data: model.to(device), data.to(device)

Step 5. Loss & Metrics

- Loss: nn.CrossEntropyLoss() (optionally with class weights or FocalLoss)
- Metrics: accuracy via masked indexing; classification_report, macro-F1 via scikit-learn.

Step 6. Training & Validation Loop

- Iterate epochs: optimizer.zero_grad(), forward, loss.backward(), optimizer.step()
- Log train/val loss & accuracy every N epochs.

Step 7. Test Set Evaluation

- Compute test loss & accuracy on test mask
- Print classification report(true, preds) with precision/recall/F1 per cluster.

Step 8. Explainability

- Gradient Saliency: compute ∂(target_logit)/∂x for a target node
- Bar plot: top-K features (genes/LS dims) by absolute gradient.

Step 9. Embedding Visualization & Cluster Quality

- Extract second-layer embeddings, run UMAP → 2D
- Compute silhouette score on embeddings
- 2D scatter plot colored by true cell type.

Step 10. Swap in Real Data

Load your own scRNA .h5ad and scATAC 10x-mtx:

- QC, normalization, HVG selection (RNA); TF-IDF + LSI (ATAC)
- Concatenate features, build k-NN graph, stratified splits
- **Plug-and-play:** downstream steps 4–9 remain unchanged.

Step 11. Technical Recommendations

Hyperparameter Tuning with Optuna. Graph variations, Model extensions and Cross-validation

Step 12. Biological Expansion

- **TF-Prior Integration:** add self-loop edges for top-quartile co-expression of TF→target pairs
- Spatial Transcriptomics: use physical coords for graph construction
- **Next expansions:** pathway enrichment, comparative biology -test healthy vs. disease samples, cross-tissue analysis, batch integration -correct batch effects, pre-train on large atlases, fine-tune per datase