Erson Analysis Vignette

Sebastian Reyes 2025-05-16

0. Knitting this Document

```
# this chunk knits the document
# if all necessary objects are not loaded into the environment, clear it and run the chu
nk below prior to knitting
rmarkdown::render("Erson_Analysis_Vignette.Rmd", envir = globalenv())
```

1. Introduction

The below framework outlines a workflow I designed to streamline the steps outlined in this Seurat vignette (https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial) for the purposes needed by the Erson Lab in the summer of 2024—when I made this. Really, the entire framework below is a reframing of this vignette to better suit the specific needs of the Erson Lab—from the perspective of my specific project, anyway.

To explain the "custom functions" created below: many of these functions are used repeatedly with different parameters during the exploratory analyses I conducted on the Erson Lab's samples. Making these custom functions quickened the workflow and allowed parameters to more easily be edited.

That said, reading the aforementioned Seurat vignette (https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial) would provide the reader with the vast majority of the information contained in the below outline.

2. Installing Packages Needed

```
install.packages("dplyr")
install.packages("Seurat")
install.packages("patchwork")
install.packages("tibble")
install.packages("SingleR")
install.packages("SCINA")
BiocManager::install("celldex")
install.packages("ggplot2")
```

3. Loading Packages Needed

```
library(dplyr)
library(Seurat)
library(patchwork)
library(tibble)
library(SingleR)
library(SCINA)
library(celldex)
library(ggplot2)
```

4. All Custom Functions Used

CreateSeuratObject

Explanation:

- More easily creates a Seurat object based on file directory
- · Parameters:
 - fileDirectory: file path (must be h5 file for this specific function)
 - objectName: self-explanatory
 - projectName: self-explanatory

AddMitoRna

Explanation:

Appends mitochondrial RNA data to Seurat object on a cell-by-cell basis

```
AddMitoRna <- function(seuratObject){
  seuratObject[["percent.mt"]] <- Seurat::PercentageFeatureSet(seuratObject, pattern =
"^MT-")
  return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

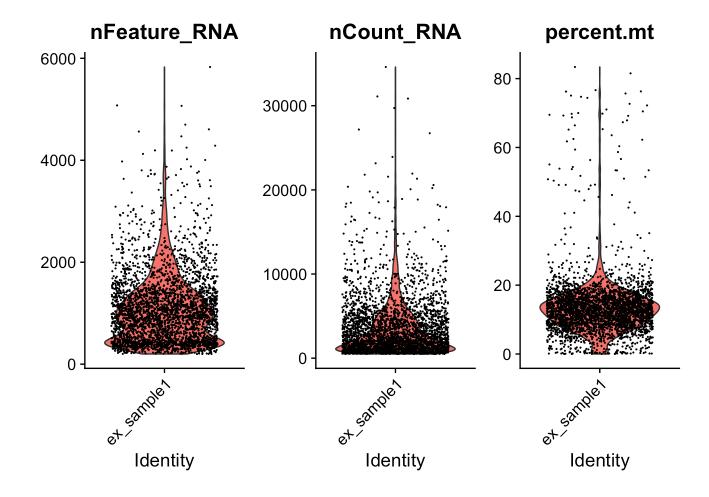
MakeVInPlot

Explanation:

- More easily creates violin plots for QC purposes
 - nFeature_RNA = gives the number of unique features (genes) in a given cell, each point represents one cell
 - nCount_RNA = gives the total number of RNA molecules in a cell, each point represents one cell
 - percent.mt = percentage of mitochondrial RNA, each point represents one cell

```
MakeVlnPlot(ex_sample1)
```

Warning: Default search for "data" layer in "RNA" assay yielded no results; utilizing "counts" layer instead.



```
## An object of class Seurat
## 18197 features across 3301 samples within 1 assay
## Active assay: RNA (18197 features, 0 variable features)
## 1 layer present: counts
```

QCSeurat

Explanation:

- Streamlines the quality control process, allows for low-quality cells to be eliminated based on feature count and mitochondrial RNA percentage
- Parameters usually decided based on violin plots to minimize outliers/maximize viable retained data

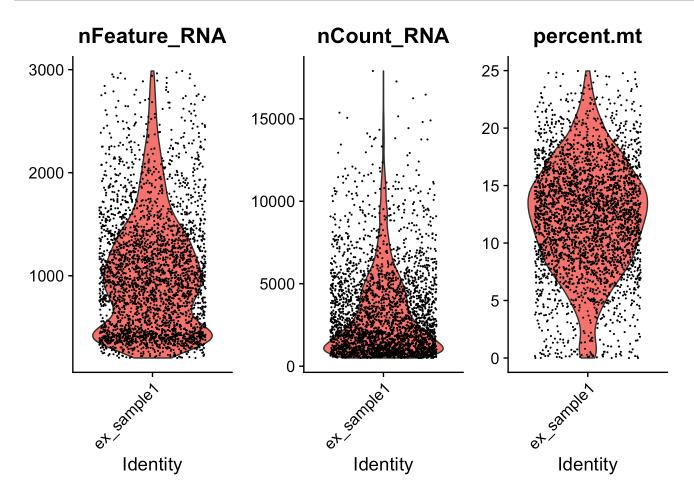
Parameters:

- seuratObject = seuratObject to be trimmed
- minFeature = minimum number of genes a cell must contain to remain included in data
- maxFeature = maximum number of genes a cell can contain to remain included in data
- percentMT = maximum percentage of mitochondrial RNA which a cell can contain to remain included in data

```
QCSeurat <- function(seuratObject, minFeature, maxFeature, percentMT) {
   seuratObject <- subset(seuratObject, subset = nFeature_RNA > minFeature & nFeature_RNA
< maxFeature & percent.mt < percentMT)
   return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

```
# Violin plot prior to QC
MakeVlnPlot(ex_sample2)
```

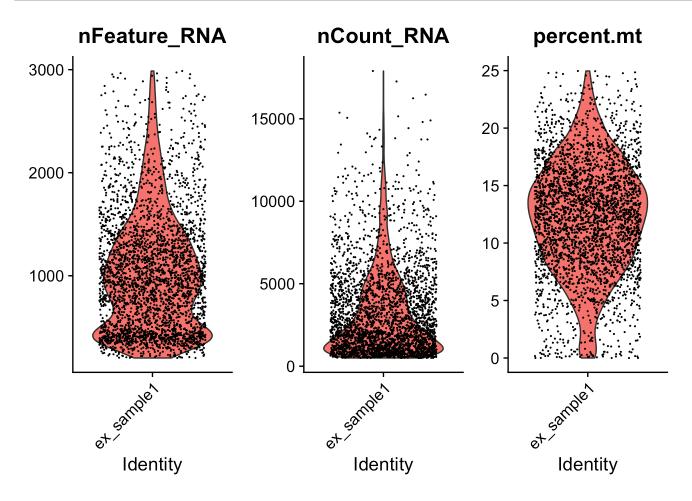
Warning: Default search for "data" layer in "RNA" assay yielded no results; utilizing "counts" layer instead.



```
## An object of class Seurat
## 18197 features across 3121 samples within 1 assay
## Active assay: RNA (18197 features, 0 variable features)
## 1 layer present: counts
```

```
ex_sample2 <- QCSeurat(ex_sample2, 200, 3000, 25)
#Violin plot following QC
MakeVlnPlot(ex_sample2)</pre>
```

Warning: Default search for "data" layer in "RNA" assay yielded no results; utilizing "counts" layer instead.



```
## An object of class Seurat
## 18197 features across 3121 samples within 1 assay
## Active assay: RNA (18197 features, 0 variable features)
## 1 layer present: counts
```

NormalizeAndVariable

Explanation:

• Normalizes data, finds genes within Seurat object that display variable expression patterns, and creates a plot highlighting the top 10 genes with the highest degree of variability in their expression.

```
NormalizeAndVariable <- function(seuratObject) {
    seuratObject <- NormalizeData(seuratObject)
    seuratObject <- FindVariableFeatures(seuratObject, selection.method = "vst", nfeatures
    = 2000)
    top10 <- head(VariableFeatures(seuratObject), 5)
    plot1 <- VariableFeaturePlot(seuratObject)
    plot2 <- LabelPoints(plot = plot1, points = top10, repel = TRUE)
    print(plot2)
    return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

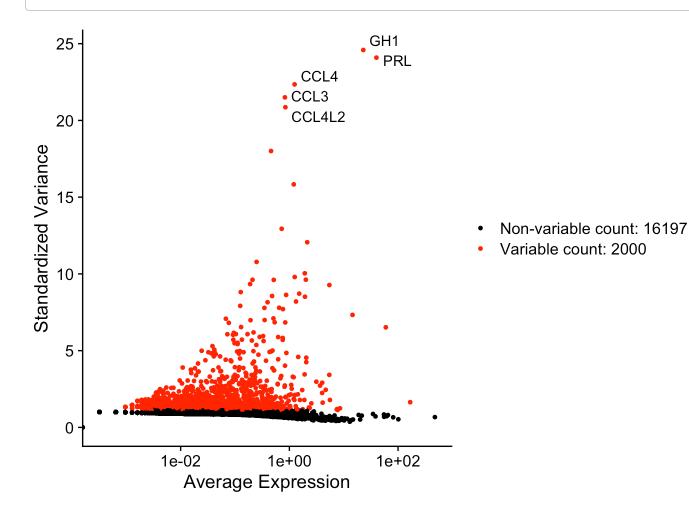
```
ex_sample3 <- NormalizeAndVariable(ex_sample3)</pre>
```

```
## Normalizing layer: counts
```

Finding variable features for layer counts

When using repel, set xnudge and ynudge to 0 for optimal results

Warning in scale_x_log10(): log-10 transformation introduced infinite values.



Scale

Explanation:

Scales the Seurat object as per the workflow outlined in the Seurat vignette

```
Scale <- function(seuratObject) {
  seuratObject <- ScaleData(seuratObject, features = rownames(seuratObject))
  seuratObject <- ScaleData(seuratObject, vars.to.regress = "percent.mt",)
  return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

PcaElbow

Explanation:

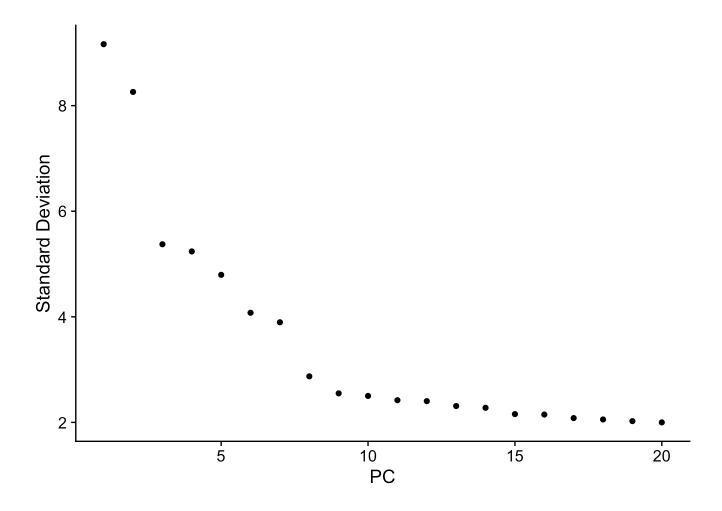
· Runs a principal component analysis and creates an elbow plot based on it

```
PcaElbow <- function(seuratObject) {
  seuratObject <- RunPCA(seuratObject, features = VariableFeatures(seuratObject))
  print(ElbowPlot(object = seuratObject))
  return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

```
# Must be run previously
ex_sample4 <- Scale(ex_sample4)</pre>
```

```
ex_sample4 <- PcaElbow(ex_sample4)</pre>
```

```
## PC 1
              IL1B, LYZ, PLAUR, CTSS, IER3, CXCL8, HLA-DRA, FCN1, OLR1, SRGN
## Positive:
       S100A9, VCAN, BCL2A1, TYROBP, AIF1, EREG, FCER1G, NLRP3, S0D2, CXCL2
##
       CD74, FGL2, CCL20, S100A8, MS4A7, VIM, THBS1, G0S2, MNDA, NFKBIA
##
## Negative: CHGB, GNAS, SCG2, MEG3, PEG10, NNAT, SEC11C, MIR7-3HG, CCND1, RPS24
       CALY, RAB3B, SHTN1, HSPA12A, KRT18, TMEM136, CITED1, DLK1, ASCL1, PTN
##
##
       PEG3, POLR3A, PRDX4, KRT8, ARG2, ORAOV1, CYFIP2, POU1F1, MAP1B, INSM1
## PC 2
## Positive: TIMP3, SPARCL1, IGFBP4, IGFBP5, GNG11, IFITM3, A2M, IFI27, PLVAP, SPARC
       ABCG2, ADGRF5, KDR, EMCN, RAMP2, CAVIN2, SLCO2A1, PLPP3, STC1, ADGRL4
##
##
       IGFBP7, EPAS1, PLAT, HYAL2, PCAT19, CD9, IGFBP6, ESAM, PODXL, TGM2
## Negative: LYZ, IL1B, CTSS, BCL2A1, S100A9, TYR0BP, FCN1, S100A8, EREG, SAMSN1
##
       FCER1G, AIF1, PTPRC, CD44, OLR1, NLRP3, CCL20, S100A12, MNDA, VCAN
       LCP1, PLAUR, C5AR1, FGL2, MS4A7, G0S2, CLEC7A, AC020656.1, CSTA, CYBB
##
## PC 3
## Positive: CCND1, SHTN1, RAB3B, RPS24, HSPA12A, TMEM136, ASCL1, INSR, ORAOV1, PMAIP1
       SPP1, POLR3A, TBX19, RCN1, ARG2, PCSK1, SCG2, GAL, GADD45B, PPP1R17
##
       CYP3A4, RGS16, CREG1, INSM1, FILIP1, PRDX4, CHGB, TRDN, OSBPL1A, NEB
##
## Negative: TMSB4X, NKG7, B2M, CCL5, IL32, KLRB1, GZMA, CD52, GZMB, CST7
       GNLY, CD3D, CXCR4, HCST, TRBC2, S100A4, GZMH, ARL4C, CD2, KLRD1
##
       ZFP36L2, CD7, FGFBP2, CTSW, IL7R, PTPRC, TRBC1, CD247, GZMM, S100A6
##
## PC 4
## Positive: ABCG2, PLVAP, KDR, SLC02A1, IFI27, EMCN, RAMP2, ADGRL4, CA4, HYAL2
##
       PCAT19, PODXL, HLA-B, ITM2A, TMEM88, ESAM, DNASE1L3, PTPRB, CLEC14A, ITGA6
##
       RGCC, CD34, PLPP3, EGFL7, TM4SF18, ROBO4, MMRN2, SLC9A3R2, CYP26B1, NRP2
## Negative: DCN, MGP, BGN, RGS5, TAGLN, FBLN1, IGFBP7, IGFBP2, CCL2, STEAP4
       MYL9, CRISPLD2, SERPING1, COL1A2, C1S, GPC3, LUM, NTRK3, NR2F1, APOD
##
       APOE, TPM2, TWIST1, IGFBP6, CALD1, C1R, LAMC3, PCOLCE, RARRES2, COL6A1
##
## PC 5
              CXCR4, TMSB4X, NKG7, TMSB10, CCL5, RPS24, IL32, GNLY, CD52, GZMA
## Positive:
       GZMB, HLA-B, CST7, KLRB1, CD3D, HCST, ZFP36L2, RAB3B, GZMH, S100A4
##
       TRBC2, PTPRC, CD2, ARL4C, CTSW, CD7, CCND1, FGFBP2, KLRD1, ASCL1
##
## Negative: MEG3, DLK1, LINC00632, MIR7-3HG, POU1F1, HTATSF1, ARC, EGR3, GNAS, NNAT
       EGR1, SCGN, ARHGAP36, PITX1, CITED1, CADM1, TCEAL5, TAGLN3, ALDH1A1, PEG3
##
       TCEAL6, NR4A1, FOSB, C14orf132, CADPS, EGR4, GH1, VMP1, PRL, ENPP1
##
```



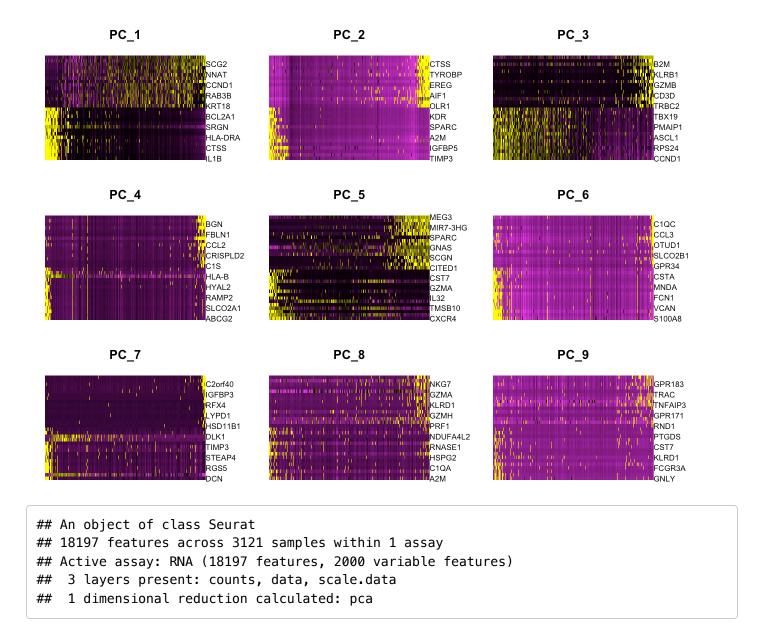
MakeHeatmap

Explanation

- Creates one heatmap for every principal component included in PcNumberVector
 - PcNumberVector should be a numeric vector

```
MakeHeatmap <- function(seuratObject, PcNumberVector){
  DimHeatmap(seuratObject, dims = PcNumberVector, balanced = TRUE)
  return(seuratObject)
}</pre>
```

```
# Note: PcaElbow must be run first, as it attaches PCA data to the Seurat object MakeHeatmap(ex_sample5, 1:9)
```



FindCellClusters

Explanation:

- · Finds clusters of cells based off principal component behavior
- Parameters:
 - seuratObject = self-explanatory
 - PCs = a numeric vector containing the principal components to be used
 - resolution = a value between 0 and 1; defines the granularity of the clusters
- Cluster assignments may be found via the dataframe seuratObject@meta.data, column = seurat_clusters

```
FindCellClusters <- function(seuratObject, PCs, resolution) {
   seuratObject2 <- FindNeighbors(seuratObject, dims = PCs)
   seuratObject3 <- FindClusters(seuratObject2, resolution = resolution)
   return(seuratObject3)
}</pre>
```

```
# Below code finds 11 clusters
ex_sample6 <- FindCellClusters(ex_sample6, 1:7, 0.5)</pre>
```

Computing nearest neighbor graph

```
## Computing SNN
```

```
## Modularity Optimizer version 1.3.0 by Ludo Waltman and Nees Jan van Eck
##
## Number of nodes: 3121
## Number of edges: 91787
##
## Running Louvain algorithm...
## Maximum modularity in 10 random starts: 0.9101
## Number of communities: 13
## Elapsed time: 0 seconds
```

MakeUMAP

Explanation:

- Runs UMAP + creates a UMAP plot based on the specified principal components
- Parameters:
 - seuratObject = self-explanatory
 - PCs = a numeric vector containing the principal components to be used

```
MakeUMAP <- function(seuratObject1, PCs) {
  seuratObject2 <- RunUMAP(seuratObject1, dims = PCs)
  print(DimPlot(seuratObject2, reduction = "umap"))
  return(seuratObject2)
}</pre>
```

```
ex_sample7 <- MakeUMAP(ex_sample7, 1:7)
```

```
## 15:44:03 UMAP embedding parameters a = 0.9922 b = 1.112
```

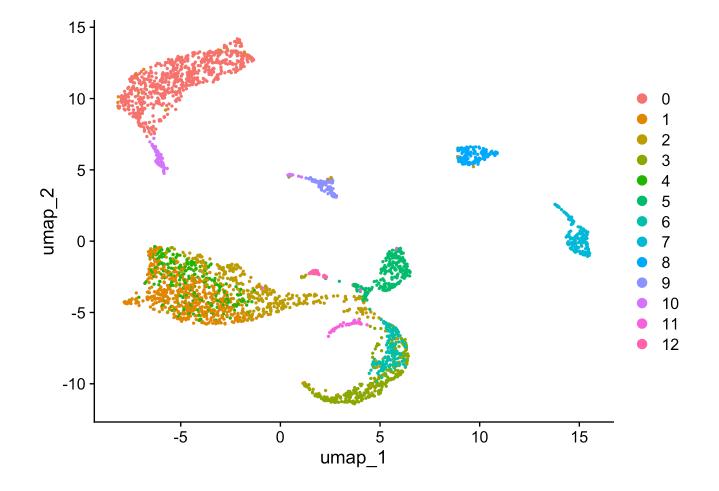
```
## 15:44:03 Read 3121 rows and found 7 numeric columns
```

15:44:03 Using Annoy for neighbor search, n_neighbors = 30

15:44:03 Building Annoy index with metric = cosine, n_trees = 50

0% 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100%

[----|----|----|



FindPosMarkers

Explanation:

Finds markers that are upregulated within previously established clusters

```
FindPosMarkers <- function(seuratObject){
  posMarkers <- FindAllMarkers(seuratObject, only.pos = TRUE)
  posMarkers %>%
    group_by(cluster) %>%
    dplyr::filter(avg_log2FC >1)
    return(seuratObject)
}
```

Top5Markers

Explanation:

· Prints out the top 5 most upregulated genetic markers on a cluster-by-cluster basis

```
Top5Markers <- function(seuratObject) {
  posMarkers <- FindAllMarkers(seuratObject, only.pos = TRUE)
  separatedMarkers <- posMarkers %>%
    dplyr::filter(avg_log2FC >1) %>%
    group_by(cluster) %>%
    slice_head(n = 5)
  print(separatedMarkers, n = Inf)
}
```

Example:

```
# the actual output is 65 rows
head(Top5Markers(ex_sample8))
```

p_val <dbl></dbl>	avg_log2FC <dbl></dbl>	pct.1 <dbl></dbl>	pct.2 <dbl></dbl>	p_val_adj <dbl></dbl>	cluster <fctr></fctr>	gene <chr></chr>
0.000000e	5.220663	0.793	0.033 0.	.000000e	0	DLK1
0.000000e	7.499710	0.644	0.011 0.	.000000e	0	LINC00632
0.000000e	3.948433	0.970	0.433 0.	.000000e	0	MEG3
1.365985e	5.079439	0.588	0.025 2.	.485682e	0	POU1F1
6.449769e	3.402770	0.781	0.150 1.	.173664e	0	MIR7-3HG
6.356813e	2.291421	0.979	0.342 1.	.156749e	1	CCND1

6 rows

SingleHPCA

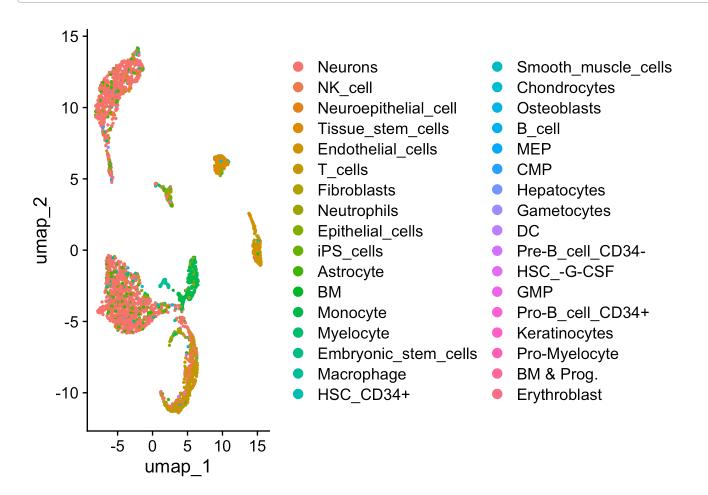
Explanation:

 Annotates each individual cell based on its expression profile's closest match within the Human Primary Cell Atlas reference dataset; based on the use of SingleR

- HPCA dataset is more generic than the below neuroendocrine or immune cell datasets, but is good for establishing an initial tissue composition overview
- Cell identities may be found via the dataframe seuratObject@meta.data, column = HPCACellLabels

```
ex_sample9 <- SingleHPCA(ex_sample9)</pre>
```

```
Idents(ex_sample9) <- ex_sample9@meta.data$HPCACellLabels
DimPlot(ex_sample9, reduction = "umap")</pre>
```



SingleNeuro

- **Explanation:** Annotates each individual cell its expression profile's closest match within the dataset linked from the paper linked here (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19012-4), via the use of SingleR
 - Reference dataset is of neuroendocrine cells
 - Reference dataset file is in the GitHub repository and should automatically be utilized when calling this function

Reference Dataset

```
#Just run entire chunk

NeuroMeta <- read.csv("Reference Datasets/NeuroMeta.csv.gz")

NeuroExpression <- read.csv("Reference Datasets/NeuroExpression.csv.gz")

columns_to_keep <- colnames(NeuroExpression) %in% NeuroMeta$X | colnames(NeuroExpression) == "X"

NeuroExpressionFiltered <- NeuroExpression[, columns_to_keep]

rm(NeuroExpression)

rownames(NeuroExpressionFiltered) <- NeuroExpressionFiltered[,1]

NeuroExpressionFiltered <- NeuroExpressionFiltered[,-1]

NeuroExpressionFiltered <- NeuroExpressionFiltered %>%
    mutate(across(everything(), as.numeric))

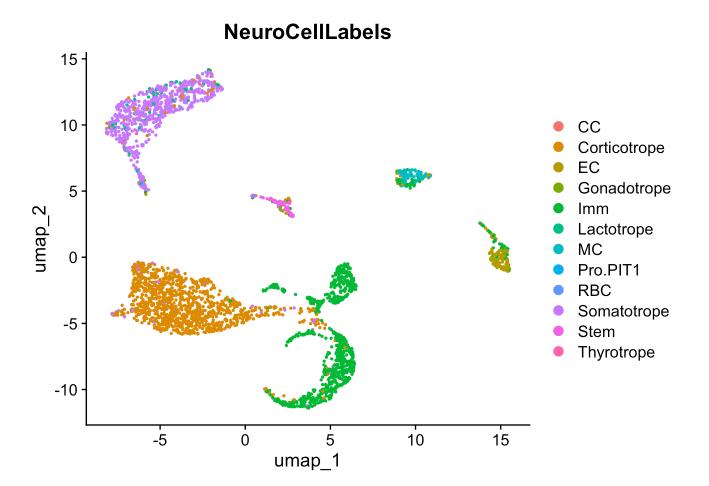
NeuroIDs <- as.character(NeuroMeta$cell_type)
    names(NeuroIDs) <- colnames(NeuroExpressionFiltered)

rm(NeuroMeta)
NeuroExpressionFiltered <- as.matrix(NeuroExpressionFiltered)
```

Function

```
ex_sample10 <- SingleNeuro(ex_sample10)</pre>
```

```
DimPlot(ex_sample10,
    reduction = "umap",
    group.by = "NeuroCellLabels")
```



SingleImmune

Explanation:

- Annotates each cell identified based on its expression profiles' closest match within the dataset from the paper linked here (https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abl5197), via the use of SCINA (https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6678337/).
- Cell identities may be found via the dataframe seuratObject@meta.data, column = ImmuneCellLabels
- **Note:** Notice that some of the cells from the previous SingleNeuro() function were labeled "Imm". These are typically the only cells that I ran this function on, so as to not mischaracterize previously identified neuroendocrine cells.
- Note: SCINA is used in place of SingleR due to the different structure of the reference dataset.
- **Note:** The function is named *Single* Immune purely for syntax consistency, as the function serves the same effective purpose as the aforementioned SingleHPCA despite using SCINA instead of SingleR.
 - Reference dataset is of immune cells.
 - Reference dataset file is in the GitHub repository and should automatically be utilized when calling this function

Reference Dataset

```
ImmuneRef <- read.csv("Reference Datasets/ImmuneRef.csv")
ImmuneRef_list <- lapply(1:39, function(i) {
    genes <- ImmuneRef[, i]
    genes <- genes[!is.na(genes)]
    return(genes)
})

names(ImmuneRef_list) <- colnames(ImmuneRef)
ImmuneRef <- ImmuneRef_list
rm(ImmuneRef_list)</pre>
```

Function

```
SingleImmune <- function(seuratObject) {
SeuratObjectExpressionData <- as.matrix(GetAssayData(seuratObject, assay = "RNA", layer
= "data"))
#NOTE: significant overlap of genetic signatures between cell types—had to set rm_overl
ap to FALSE

results <- SCINA(SeuratObjectExpressionData, ImmuneRef, rm_overlap = FALSE)
seuratObject1 <- AddMetaData(seuratObject, metadata = results$cell_labels, col.name = "I
mmuneCellLabels")
Idents(seuratObject1) <- "ImmuneCellLabels"
return(seuratObject1)
}</pre>
```

```
#notice that we are leveraging our SingleNeuro characterizations
ex_sample10 <- SingleImmune(ex_sample10)
ex_sample10imm <- subset(ex_sample10, NeuroCellLabels == "Imm")

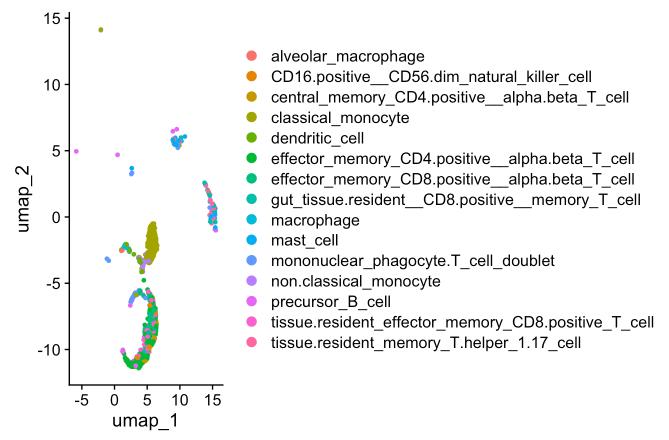
# this dataset results in a VERY large number of cell IDs, so for legibility, we are get
ting rid of any cell ID with less than 5 cells

CategoryCounts <- ex_sample10imm@meta.data %>%
    group_by(ImmuneCellLabels) %>%
    tally()

ValidCategories <- CategoryCounts %>%
    filter(n >= 10) %>%
    pull(ImmuneCellLabels)
```

```
DimPlot(subset(ex_sample10imm, ImmuneCellLabels %in% ValidCategories),
    reduction = "umap",
    group.by = "ImmuneCellLabels")
```

ImmuneCellLabels

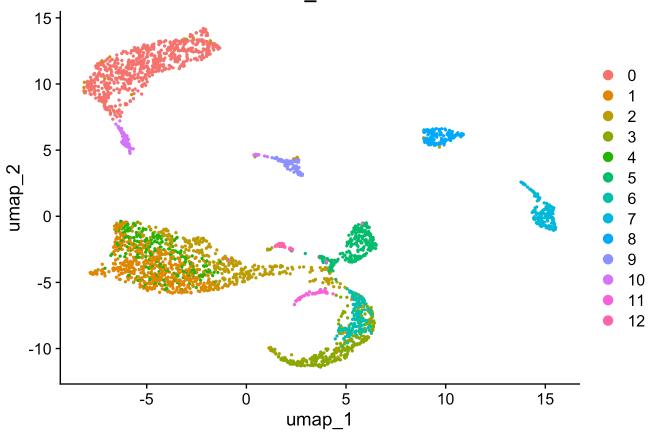


SingleUnbiasedNeuro

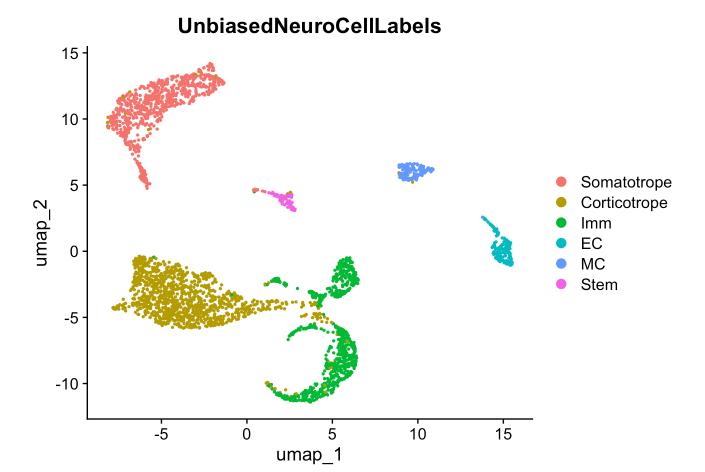
- Explanation: Annotates each individual cluster previously identified via principal component analysis (aka via FindCellClusters) based on its collective expression profile's closest match within the dataset linked from the paper linked here (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19012-4), via the use of SingleR
 - Reference dataset is of neuroendocrine cells (same as SingleNeuro)
 - Reference dataset file is in the GitHub repository and should automatically be utilized when calling this function
 - Annotations can be referenced via seuratObject@meta.data\$UnbiasedNeuroCellLabels

```
ex_sample10 <- SingleUnbiasedNeuro(ex_sample10)
```

seurat_clusters



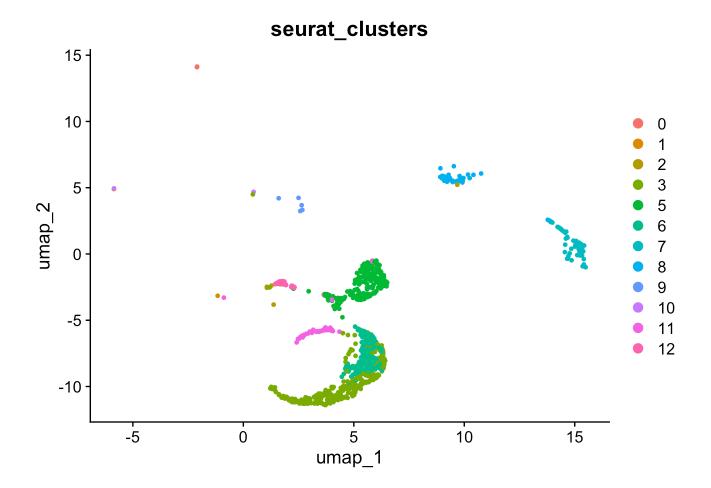
```
DimPlot(ex_sample10,
    reduction = "umap",
    group.by = "UnbiasedNeuroCellLabels")
```



SingleUnbiasedImmune

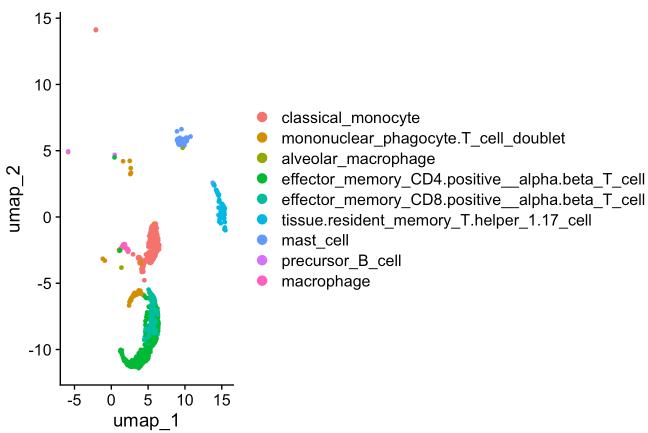
- Explanation: Annotates each individual cluster previously identified via principle component analysis (aka via FindCellClusters) based on its expression profiles' closest match within the dataset from the paper linked here (https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abl5197), via the use of SCINA (https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6678337/).
- Note: SCINA is used in place of SingleR due to the different structure of the reference dataset.
- **Note:** The function is named *Single* UnbiasedImmune purely for syntax consistency, as the function serves the same effective purpose as the aforementioned SingleUnbiasedNeuro, despite using SCINA instead of SingleR.
 - Reference dataset is of immune cells
 - Reference dataset file is in the GitHub repository and should automatically be utilized when calling this function

notice that we are using the Seurat object that is subsetted to only have immune cells
(identified via SingleNeuro)
ex_sample10imm <- SingleUnbiasedImmune(ex_sample10imm)</pre>



```
DimPlot(ex_sample10imm,
    reduction = "umap",
    group.by = "UnbiasedImmuneCellLabels")
```

UnbiasedImmuneCellLabels



BarPlotIdPercent

- Explanation: Creates a barplot detailing the percentage each cell identity makes up of the total sample
 - Note: the Identity parameter needs to be a character string in quotation marks for the function to work properly
- Parameters:
 - Identity: the cell annotation that will be used to make the barplot
 - e.g. "NeuroCellLabels" or "seurat_clusters"

```
#To create an inclusive barplot based on cell identities
BarPlotIdPercent <- function(seuratObject, Identity){</pre>
 TotalCells <- dim(seuratObject@meta.data)[1]</pre>
  cellIdentities <- seuratObject@meta.data[[Identity]]</pre>
  cellCounts <- table(cellIdentities)</pre>
  cellCountsDF <- as.data.frame(cellCounts)</pre>
  colnames(cellCountsDF) <- c("CellIdentity", "Count")</pre>
  ggplot(cellCountsDF, aes(x = CellIdentity,
                            y = Count/TotalCells*100,
                            fill = CellIdentity)) +
    geom_bar(stat = "identity") +
    theme_minimal() +
    labs(title = "Distribution of Cell Types", x = "Cell Identity", y = "Percentage of C
ells") +
    theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, hjust = 1)) +
    theme(text = element_text("sans"))
}
```

BarPlotIdPercent(ex_sample10, "NeuroCellLabels")

