





AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

NATIONAL RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MICROSCOPY AND BIOIMAGE ANALYSIS

GLOBAL BIOIMAGE ANALYST'S SOCIETY

Using Large Language Models for Data Analysis Robert Haase

These slides can be reused under the terms of the CC-BY4.0 license.







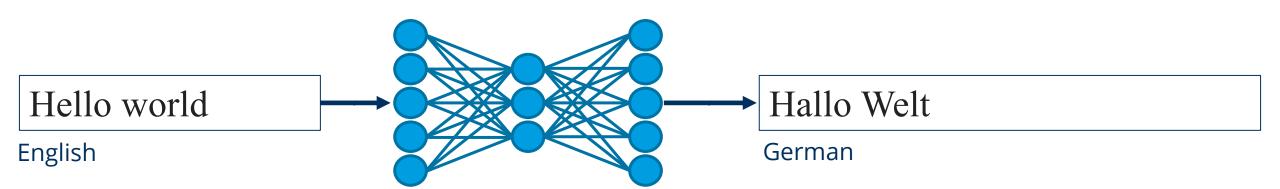






Large Language Models (LLMs)

Text-to-text, translation

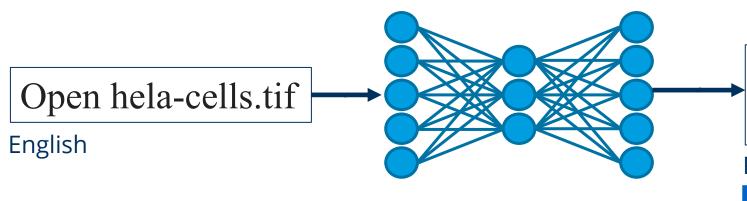






Large Language Models (LLMs)

Text-to-text, translation, code generation



from skimage.io import imread image = imread("hela-cells.tif")

Python

Published as a conference paper at ICLR 2024

SWE-BENCH: CAN LANGUAGE MODELS RESOLVE REAL-WORLD GITHUB ISSUES?

Carlos E. Jimenez* 1,2 John Yang* 1,2 Alexander Wettig^{1,2}
Shunyu Yao^{1,2} Kexin Pei³ Ofir Press^{1,2} Karthik Narasimhan^{1,2}

¹Princeton University ²Princeton Language and Intelligence ³University of Chicago





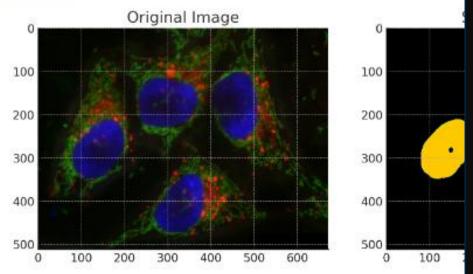


Bio-image Analysis using Large-L

Analysing images in the browser, e.g. using Chat(

ChatGPT

Prompt:
"Please segment
the nuclei in the
blue channel of
the image"



The segmentation of the nuclei has been performed on the blue change the figure shows the segmented nuclei in different colors, each correst the field of view. Each color represents a unique label assigned to the image. [>-]





Analysis

```
from skimage import io, filters, measure, morphology
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
# Load the image
image = io.imread('/mnt/data/hela-cells-8bit.png')
# Since it's a color image, we'll just take the blue chann
blue_channel = image[:, :, 2]
# Threshold the image to get the binary image for nuclei
thresh = filters.threshold_otsu(blue_channel)
binary = blue_channel > thresh
# Remove small objects and perform morphological closing t
cleaned = morphology.remove_small_objects(binary, 50)
closed = morphology.closing(cleaned, morphology.disk(3))
# Label the image
label_image = measure.label(closed)
# Plot the original image and the binary image
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 6))
ax[0].imshow(image)
ax[0].set_title('Original Image')
ax[1].imshow(label_image, cmap='nipy_spectral')
ax[1].set title('Segmented Nuclei')
plt.show()
```

Reproducibility: Python

Technical: I can rerun the workflow because it is well documented.

Inter-personal: I understand a workflow and can explain all steps.

```
from skimage.io import imread, imsave
import stackview
import pyclesperanto as cle
import numpy as np

image = imread('data/lund.tif')

# Apply top hat filter to the image
processed_image = np.asarray(cle.top_hat_box(image, radius_x=10, radius_y=10, radius_z=0))
# Segment the image using voronoi otsu labeling
label_image = cle.voronoi_otsu_labeling(processed_image, spot_sigma=2, outline_sigma=2)
print(label_image.max())
```

Output: 285

We cannot follow the workflow, because we do not see intermediate results.

Technical:
Inter-personal: X







Reproducibility: Python + Jupyter

Technical: I can rerun the workflow because it is well documented.

Inter-personal: I understand a workflow and can explain all steps.

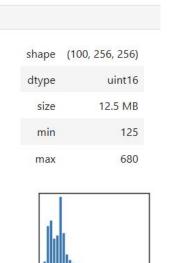
```
[2]: image = imread('data/lund.tif')
    image.shape

[2]: (100, 256, 256)

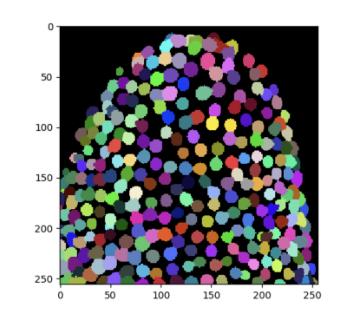
[3]: stackview.insight(image)

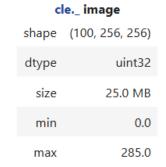
[3]: shape (100, 256, 256)
    dtype uint16
    size 12.5 MB
```

300









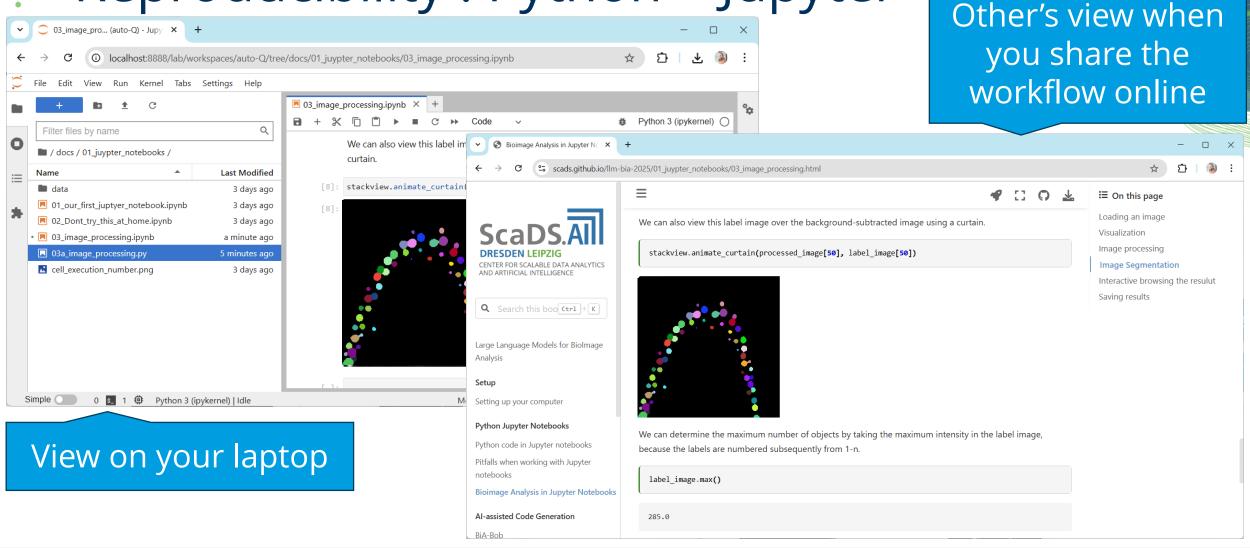
Technical: <a>Inter-personal:







Reproducibility: Python + Jupyter

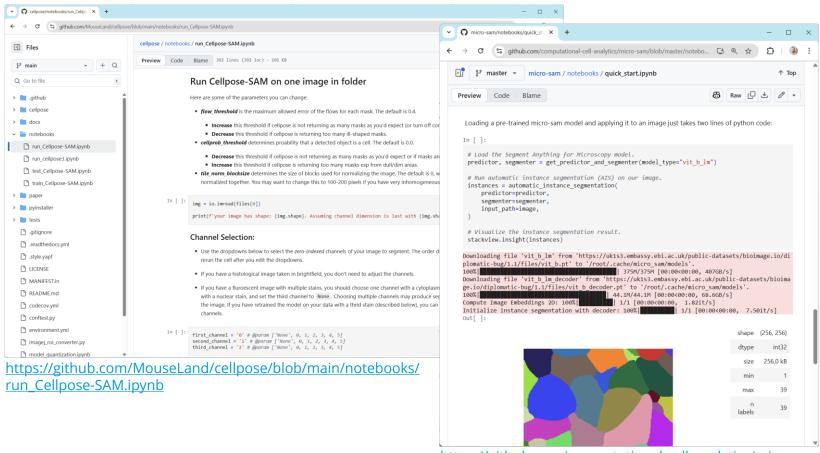




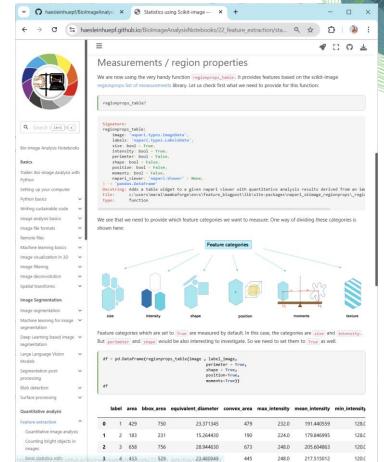




Reproducibility: Python + Jupyter



https://github.com/computational-cell-analytics/microsam/blob/master/notebooks/quick_start.ipynb



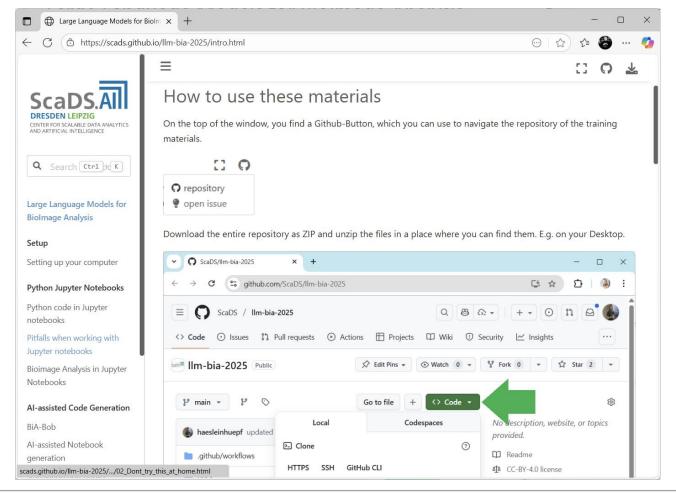
https://haesleinhuepf.github.io/BioImageAnalysisNotebooks/ 22_feature_extraction/statistics_with_scikit_image.html

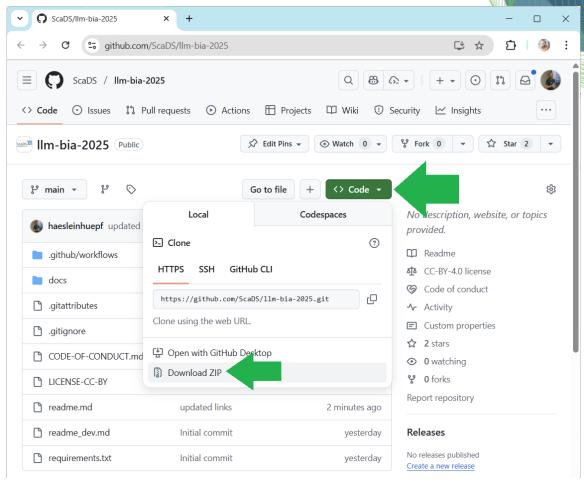






Training materials for today







Using LLMs
Bio Image Analysis
Robert Haase
@haesleinhuepf
September 2025





Why code generation using LLMs?

Output of LLMs is often criticized for

- Limited reproducibility
- Hard to evaluate (automatically)

Output of LLM-generated code is

- Reproducible
- Can be executed and evaluted (automatically)



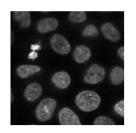






How good are LLMs for Bio-image Analysis?

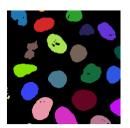
Test case: segment the image and measure the average area of objects.















858.04





How good are LLMs for Bio-image Analysis?

Example test-case inspired by HumaEval (Chen et al 2021)

```
[1]: def workflow segmentation measurement summary(image):
        This function implements a workflow consisting of these steps:
         * threshold intensity input image using Otsu's method
                                                                               Prompt
         * label connected components
         * measure area of the labeled objects
         * determine mean area of all objects
        import skimage
         import numpy as np
        binary image = image > skimage.filters.threshold otsu(image)
                                                                              Reference
        label image = skimage.measure.label(binary image)
         stats = skimage.measure.regionprops(label image)
                                                                              solution
         areas = [s.area for s in stats]
         return np.mean(areas)
[2]: def check(candidate):
         import numpy as np
         assert candidate(np.asarray([
                                                                              Unit test
             [0,0,0,0,0],
             [1,1,1,0,0],
                                                                               (excerpt)
             [1,1,1,0,0],
             [1,1,0,0,0],
```

Open for your (!) contributions

18 more currently on their way...

We formulated 57 of such test-cases (yet)



Using LLMs
Bio Image Analysis
Robert Haase
@haesleinhuepf
September 2025

[0,0,0,0,0],

1)) == 8

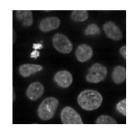




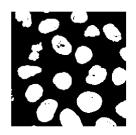


How good are LLMs for Bio-image Analysis?

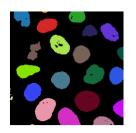
Test case: segment the image and measure the average area of objects.



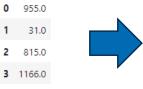












858.04

workflow segmentation measurement summary

Unit-test pass-rate (n=10):

Large language models

lama3-70b-instruct-q8

4 1135.0

gemini-pro llama3-8b-instruct-fp16 command-r-plus-104b-q4_

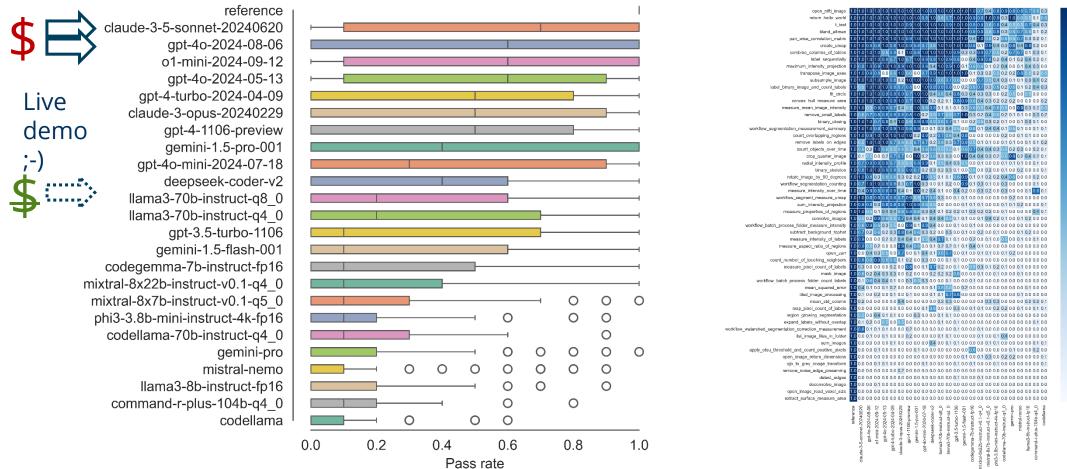
codellama-70b-instruct-q4_





Benchmarking LLMs for Bio-image Analysis

Summary: 57 use-cases (yet), 24 LLMs (yet), n=10











To further improve LLMs capabilities





Modify a prompt until it works.

Write python code to open the image file 'data/blobs.tif' and threshold it using Otsu's method.

Apply connected component labeling to the result to retrieve a label image. Visualize the label image.

Here is the python code to achieve the task:

```
import cv2
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Load the image
img = cv2.imread('data/blobs.tif', 0)
# Apply Otsu's thresholding
_, thresholded = cv2.threshold(img, 0, 255, cv2.THRESH_BINARY + cv2.THRESH_OTSU)
# Apply connected component labeling
num labels, labels = cv2.connectedComponents(thresholded)
# Visualize the label image
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
plt.imshow(labels, cmap='nipy spectral')
plt.colorbar()
plt.show()
```

Make sure you have the necessary libraries (OpenCV, NumPy, and Matplotlib) installed in your Python environment before running the code.







Modify a prompt until it works.

Write python code to open the image file 'data/blobs.tif' and threshold it using Otsu's method.

Apply connected component labeling to the result to retrieve a label image. Visualize the label image.

Do not explain the solution.

Only write Python code and short comments are ok.



```
import cv2
import numpy as np

# Read the image
img = cv2.imread('data/blobs.tif', cv2.IMREAD_GRAYSCALE)

# Apply Otsu's thresholding
_, thresh = cv2.threshold(img, 0, 255, cv2.THRESH_BINARY + cv2.THRESH_OTSU)

# Apply connected component labeling
num_labels, label_image = cv2.connectedComponents(thresh)

# Visualize the label image
cv2.imshow('Label Image', label_image.astype(np.uint8) * 50)
cv2.waitKey(0)
cv2.destroyAllWindows()
```





Modify a prompt until it works.

Write python code to open the image file 'data/blobs.tif' and threshold it using Otsu's method.

Apply connected component labeling to the result to retrieve a label image. Visualize the label image.

Do not explain the solution.

Only write Python code and short comments are ok.

Assume the code is executed in a Jupyter notebook.

Do not use any of these Python libraries:

* OpenCV

* PIL

* Pillow



```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from skimage import io, filters, measure
# Load the image
image = io.imread('data/blobs.tif')
# Threshold using Otsu's method
thresh = filters.threshold otsu(image)
binary image = image > thresh
# Connected component labeling
label image = measure.label(binary image)
# Visualize the label image
plt.figure(figsize=(8,8))
plt.imshow(label image, cmap='nipy spectral')
plt.axis('off')
plt.show()
```









Scientific code writing: bia-bob



First steps: Keep it simple

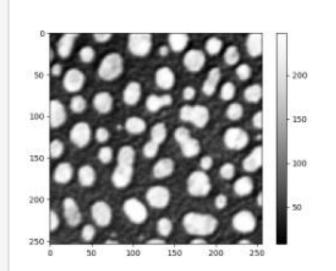
```
%bob Load the blobs.tif image file and show it.
```

I will load the blobs.tif image file and then display it using the appropriate visualization function.

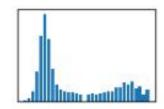
```
from skimage.io import imread
import stackview

# Load the image file
filename = 'blobs.tif'
image = imread(filename)

# Display the image
stackview.insight(image)
```











Scientific code writing: bia-bob

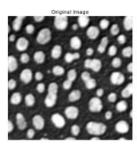
After learning how to prompt for code: try more complex workflows

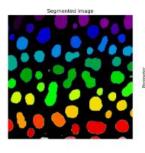
import bia_bob

1: %%bob

- * Load blobs.tif from disk
- * Segment the bright objects on the dark background
- * Measure area and perimeter of the objects
- * Show the original image, the segmented image and an area versus perimeter plot side-by-side using subfigures.

This notebook may contain text, code and images generated by artificial intelligence. Used model: claude-3-5-sonnet-20240620, vision model: claude-3-5-sonnet-20240620, endpoint: None, bia-bob version: 0.21.0.. Do not enter sensitive or private information and verify generated contents according to good scientific practice. Read more: https://github.com/haesleinhuepf/bia-bob#disclaimer





Area vs Perimete









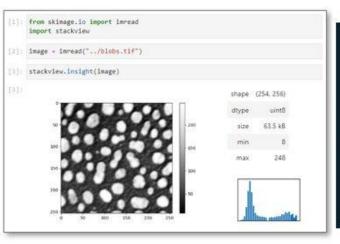


print(df.head())



Optimizing documentation

E.g. to make code more readable

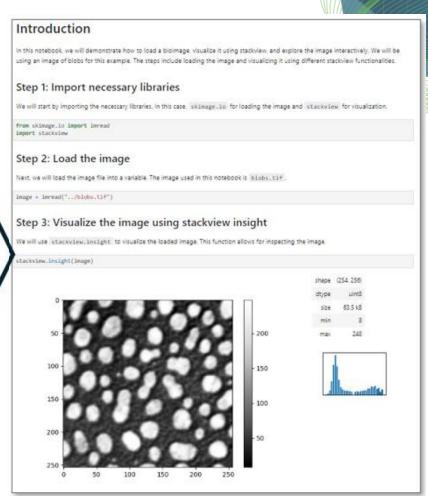


from bia_bob import bob

%%bob modify the notebook `mod_notebook.ipynb` by
adding explanatory markdown cells between the code cells.
Also add a markdown cell at the very beginning that
introduces the entire notebook shortly.

The modified notebook has been saved as mod_notebook_1.ipynb.



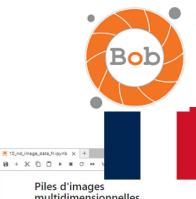








Translating notebooks



"Please translate notebook

<xyz.ipynb> to <language>."

tidimensional image

nensionsal image data data can be handled in a similar ulti-channel image data.

e-dimensional image stacks

also images with three spatial dimensions: X, Y, and Z. voical examples in microscopy and in medical imaging. a look at an Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) data

atplotlib.pyplot as plt ack = imread('../../data/Haase MRT tfl3d1.tif')

e slicina

hogonal to the image plane and corresponding to al planes. To orient the images correctly, we can their axes by adding .T by the end.

image_stack[:,:,128]. image_stack[:,128,:].T

fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize*(15,15))

axs[0].imshow(saggital, cmap='Greys_r') axs[0].set title('Saggital'

axs[1].imshow(coronal, cmap='Greys_r') axs[1].set_title('Coronal')

axs[2].imshow(transverse, cmap='Greys_r')



Videos

If an image dataset has a temporal dimension, we call it a video. Processing videos works similar to multi-channel images and

Multidimensional Bildstapel

Multidimensionale Bilddaten können ähnlich wie mehrkanalige Bilddaten behandelt werden.

Dreidimensionale Bildstapel

Es gibt auch Bilder mit drei räumlichen Dimensionen: X, Y und Z. Typische Beispiele finden sich in der Mikroskopie und in der medizinischen Bildgebung. Schauen wir uns ein Magnetresonanztomographie (MRT) Datensatz an:

[1]: from skimage.io import imread from stackview import imshow import matplotlib.pyplot as plt image_stack = imread('../../data/Haase_MRT_tfl3d1.tif')

Bildschnitte

B + % □ □ > ■ C

Da alle drei Dimensionen räumliche Dimensionen sind, können wir auch Schnitte orthogonal zur Bildebene machen, die den Anatomischen Ebenen entsprechen. Um die Bilder korrekt zu orientieren, können wir ihre Achsen transponieren, indem wir .T

[2]: saggital = image_stack[:,:,128].T coronal = image_stack[:,128,:].T transverse = image_stack[96]

fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15,15))

orthogonale Ebenen anzeigen

axs[0].imshow(saggital, cmap='Greys_r') axs[0].set_title('Sagittal')

axs[1].imshow(coronal, cmap='Greys r') axs[1].set_title('Coronal')

axs[2].imshow(transverse, cmap='Greys_r')



Videos

Wenn ein Bilddatensatz eine zeitliche Dimension hat, nennen wir ihn ein Video. Die Verarbeitung von Videos funktioniert ähnlich wie die mehrkanaliger Bilder und Bildstapel. Öffnen wir einen Mikroskopie

Pilas de imágenes multidimensionales

₱ 10_nd_image_data_es.ipynb ● +

8 + % D D > = C >>

Los datos de imágenes multidimensionales se pueden manejar de manera similar a los datos de imágenes multicanal.

Pilas de imágenes tridimensionales

También hay imágenes con tres dimensiones espaciales: X, Y y Z. Puedes encontrar ejempios típicos en microscopía y en imágenes médicas. Echemos un vistazo a un conjunto de datos de Imágenes por Resonancia Magnética (IRM):

from skimage.io import imread from stackview import imshow import matplotlib.pyplot as plt image_stack = imread('../../data/Haase_MRT tfl3d1.tif')

Corte de imágenes

Como las tres dimensiones son dimensiones espaciales, también podemos hacer cortes ortogonales al plano de la imagen y correspondientes a Planos Anatómicos. Para orientar correctamente las imágenes, podemos trasponer sus eles añadendo . T al final.

saggital = image_stack[:,:,128].T coronal = image_stack[:,128,:].T transverse = image_stack[96]

fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15,15))

mostrar planos artogonales

axs[0].imshow(saggital, cmap='Greys_r') axs[0].set_title('5agital')

axs[1].imshow(coronal, cmap='Greys_r') axs[1].set_title('Coronal')

axs[2].imshow(transverse, cmap='Grevs r')

Videos





Si un conjunto de datos de imágenes tiene una dimensión temporal, lo llamamos video. Procesar videos funciona de manera similar a las imánenes multicanal y a las nilas de imánenes. Vamos a abrir i

Piles d'images multidimensionnelles

Les données d'images multidimensionnelles peuvent être traitées de manière similaire aux données d'images multi-canaux.

Piles d'images tridimensionnelles

Il existe aussi des images avec trois dimensions spatiales : X, Y et Z. Vous trouvez des exemples typiques en microscopie et en imagerie médicale. Regardons un ensemble de données d'imagerle par résonance magnétique (IRM) :

from skimage.io import imread import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

Coupe d'image

Comme les trois dimensions sont des dimensions spatiales, nous pouvons également faire des coupes orthogonales au plan de l'image et correspondant aux plans anatomiques. Pour orienter correctement les images, nous pouvons transposer leurs axes en aloutant . T à la

image_stack = imread('../../data/Haase_MRT_tfl3dl.tif')

[2]: saggital = image_stack[:,:,128].T coronal = image stack[:.128.:].T transverse = image stack[96]

fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15,15))

montrer des plans orthogonaux axs[0].imshow(saggital, cmap='Greys r')

axs[0].set_title('Saggital') axs[1].imshow(coronal, cmap='Greys_r') axs[1].set_title('Coronal')

axs[2].set title('Transverse');







Vidéos

Si un ensemble de données d'image a une dimension temporelle. nous l'appelons une vidéo. Le traitement des vidéos fonctionne de





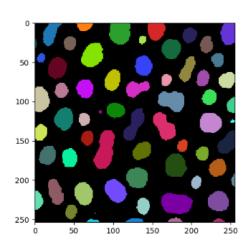


GPU-Accelerating code



Original:

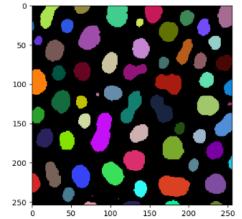




(254, 256)	shape
int32	dtype
254.0 kB	size
0	min
64	max

Replacement:





It's our responsibility that results are comparable!

https://link.spring er.com/chapter/1 0.1007/978-3-030-76394-7_5







Exercises



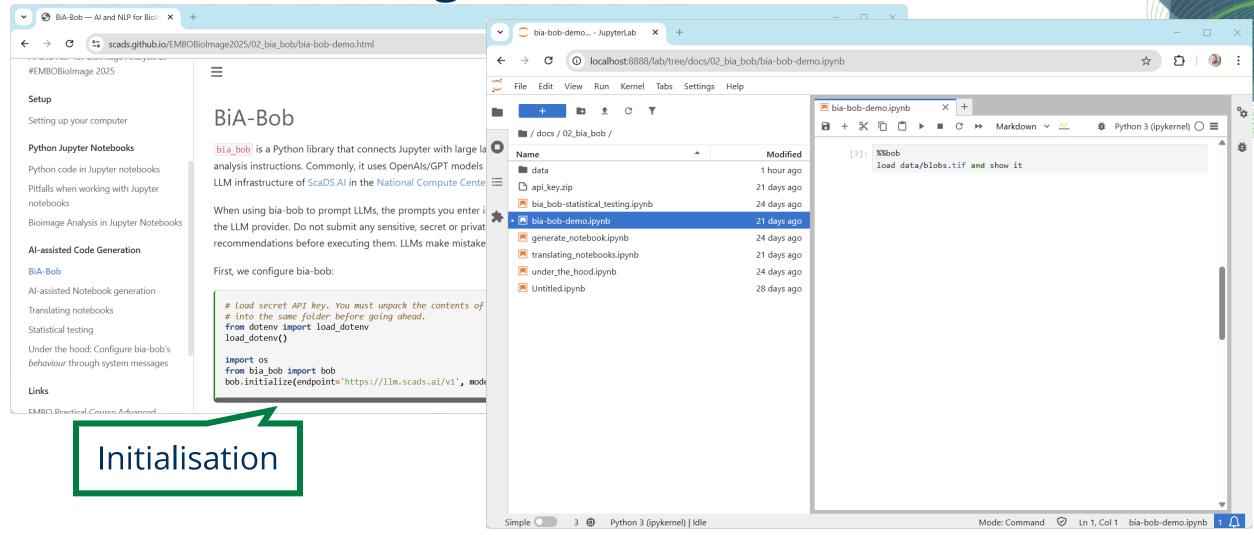
https://scads.github.io/llm-bia-2025/







Bia-Bob: code generation



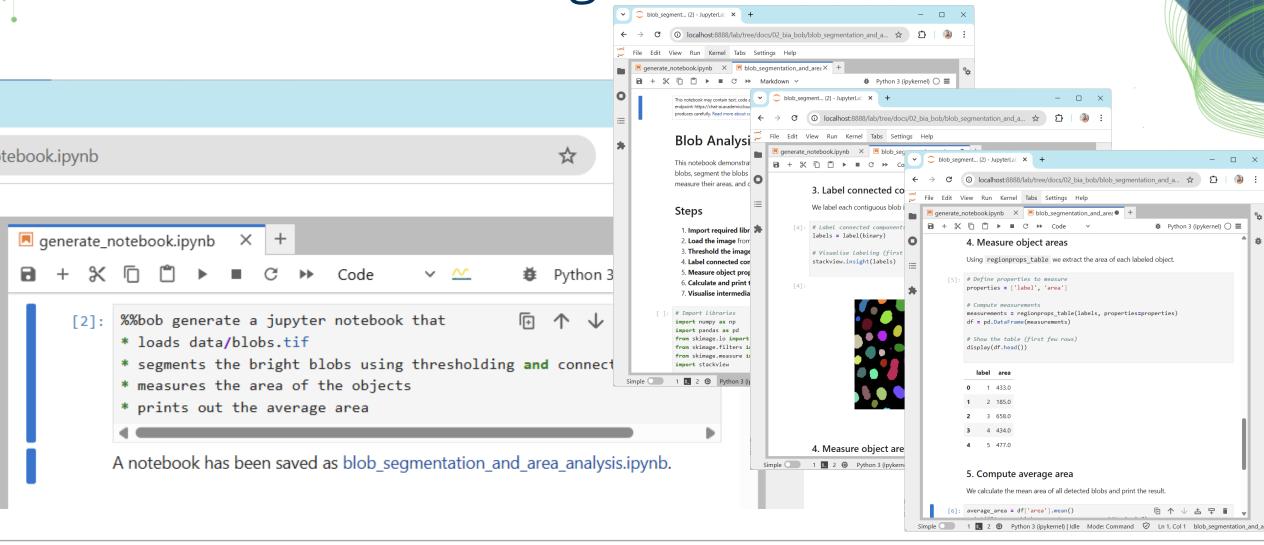








Bia-Bob: notebook generation









Code for statistical analysis

Be careful when prompting for code and provide as many details as you can!

%%bob load data/data.csv and determine if the columns A and B are significantly different.

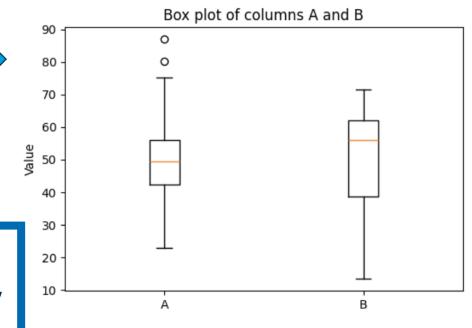


```
import numpy as np
from scipy.stats import ttest_ind
 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
df = pd.read_csv('data/data.csv')
df = df[['A', 'B']].dropna()
# 3 Extract the two series
a = df['A'].values
b = df['B'].values
# 4. Perform independent two-sample t-test
t_stat, p_val = ttest_ind(a, b, equal_var=False) # Welch's t-test
print(f"t-statistic: {t_stat:.4f}")
print(f"p-value: {p_val:.4e}")
if p_val < 0.05:
   print("=> The difference between columns A and B is statistically significant (α=0.05)."
   print("=> No statistically significant difference detected (q=0.05).")
# 6. Visual comparison: box-plot
plt.figure(figsize=(6, 4))
plt.boxplot([a, b], labels=['A', 'B'])
plt.title('Box plot of columns A and B')
plt.ylabel('Value')
plt.show()
```

LLMs often provide "simple" solutions.

t-statistic: -1.3287 p-value: 1.8428e-01

=> No statistically significant difference detected (α =0.05).









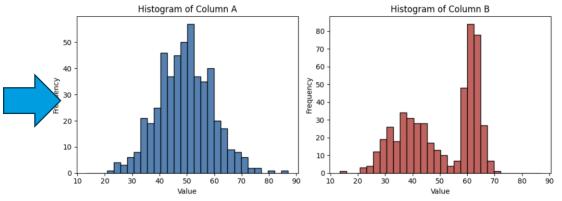


Code for statistical analysis

Be careful when prompting for code and provide as many details as you can!

```
%%bob
Plot histograms for A and B
```

```
# Assuming df, a, b are already defined from the previous step
# If not, uncomment the following lines to load them again:
# df = pd.read_csv('data/data.csv')[['A', 'B']].dropna()
# a = df['A'].values
\# b = df['B'].values
# Determine a common bin range for both histograms
min val = min(a.min(), b.min())
max_val = max(a.max(), b.max())
bins = 30 # you can adjust the number of bins
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 4))
# Histogram for column A
plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.hist(a, bins=bins, range=(min_val, max_val), color='steelblue', edgecolor='black')
plt.title('Histogram of Column A')
plt.xlabel('Value')
plt.ylabel('Frequency')
# Histogram for column B
plt.hist(b, bins=bins, range=(min_val, max_val), color='indianred', edgecolor='black')
plt.title('Histogram of Column B')
plt.xlabel('Value')
plt.ylabel('Frequency')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



Look at your data!







Code for statistical analysis

Be careful when prompting for code and provide as many

%%bob

Please test again if columns A and B are significantly different. Before applying a statistical test, ensure that the necessary pre-conditions are met.



```
frem scipy.tats import shapire, levene, manndainnys a force; pander (pd.), namy (ng.), nami (ng.), nam
```

```
=== Assumption checks ===
Shapiro-Wilk A: statistic=0.9972, p=5.6236e-01 normal
Shapiro-Wilk B: statistic=0.8937, p=4.0635e-18 non-normal
Levene variance test: statistic=80.6718, p=1.3016e-18 unequal variances
=== Final hypothesis test ===
Test used: Mann-Whitney U test (non-parametric)
Statistic = 113657.0000
P-value = 1.3000e-02
=> Significant difference between columns A and B (α=0.05).
```

LLMs cannot be *brave* scientists yet, but you can!







Acknowledgements

Collaborators & contributors

Christian Tischer (EMBL Heidelberg), Jean-Karim Hériché (EMBL Heidelberg), Nico Scherf (MPI CBS Leipzig), Loïc A. Royer (CZ Biohub), Elena Nicolay (UFZ Leipzig), Kevin Yamauchi (ETH Zurich / Basel), Seth Hinz, Teun A.P.M. Huijben, Jordão Bragantini (CZ Biohub San Francisco), Ilan Theodoro (CZ Biohub and the State University of Campinas, Brazil), Ian C. (University of British Columbia), Pradeep Rajasekhar (WEHI Australia)

Communities & platforms







Funding



Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt



Diese Maßnahme wird gefördert durch die Bundesregierung aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages. Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des von den Abgeordneten des Sächsischen Landtags beschlossenen Haushaltes.



Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

BIDS Team @ ScaDS.AI / UL









