

# **Single-cell analysis workshop**

**Sydney Precision Bioinformatics Group**

**Workshop presenters:**

**Hani Kim**

**Yingxin Lin**

**Shila Ghazanfar**



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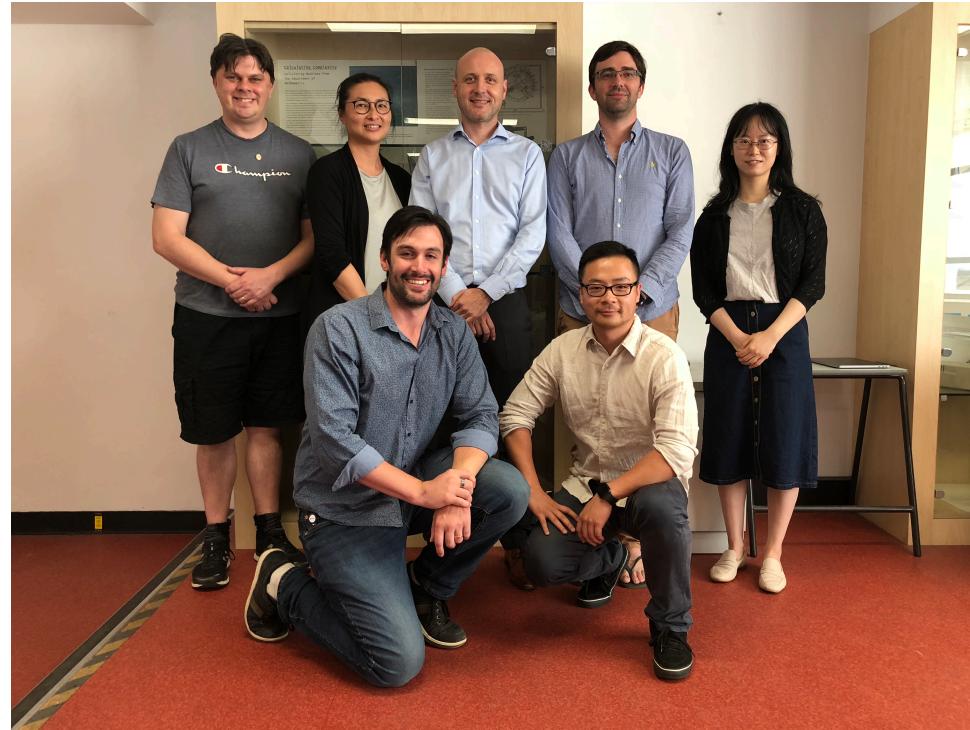
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# Sydney Precision Bioinformatics Research Group

We share an interest in developing statistical and computational methodologies to tackle the foremost significant challenges posed by modern biology and medicine.

Meet our senior and junior research leaders:

A/Prof. John Ormerod; Prof. Jean Yang; Prof. Samuel Mueller; Dr. Garth Tarr; Dr. Rachel Wang



Dr. Ellis Patrick; Dr. Pengyi Yang

and senior research associates, PhD candidates, Honours and TSP students.

Find out more:

<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/bioinformatics/>

Shiny apps:

<http://shiny.maths.usyd.edu.au/>

Github:

<https://github.com/SydneyBioX>

# Roadmap for the workshop



Setting up: 13:30 – 13:45 Google cloud set up



Session 1: 13:45 – 14:15 Single cell analysis overview (scdney)



Session 2: 14:15 – 15:00 Quality control and data integration



AFTERNOON TEA: 1500-1530



Session 3: 15:30 – 16:00 Overview of single-cell downstream analysis



Session 4: 16:00 – 16:45 Downstream analysis: cell type identification, identify marker genes & cell type composition



Extension: cell type identification via supervised classification and single cell trajectory analysis

## Configuring Google Cloud and workshop materials

- Workshop materials:

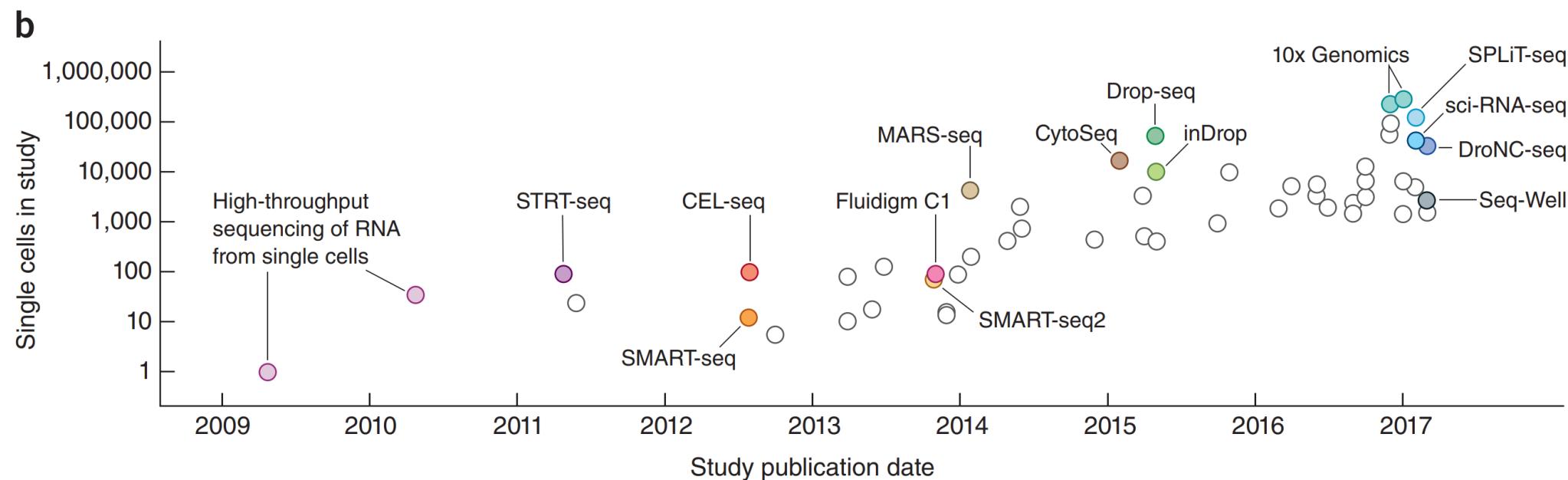
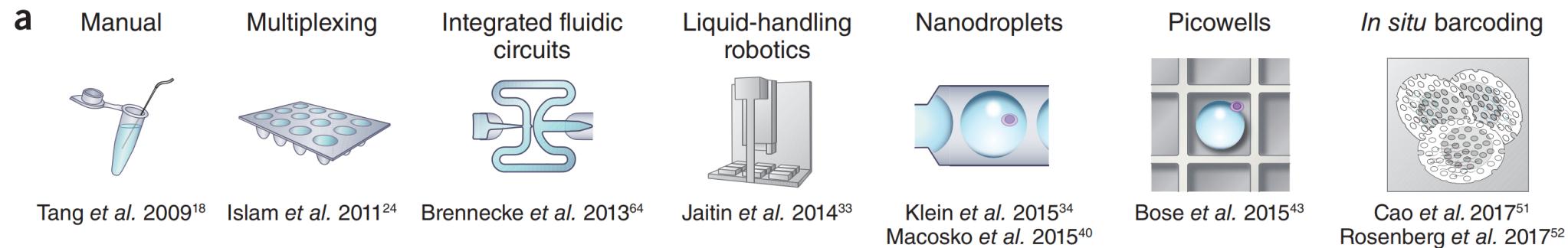
[https://sydneybiox.github.io/BIS2019\\_SC/index.html](https://sydneybiox.github.io/BIS2019_SC/index.html)

– Machine 1: 34.68.240.36

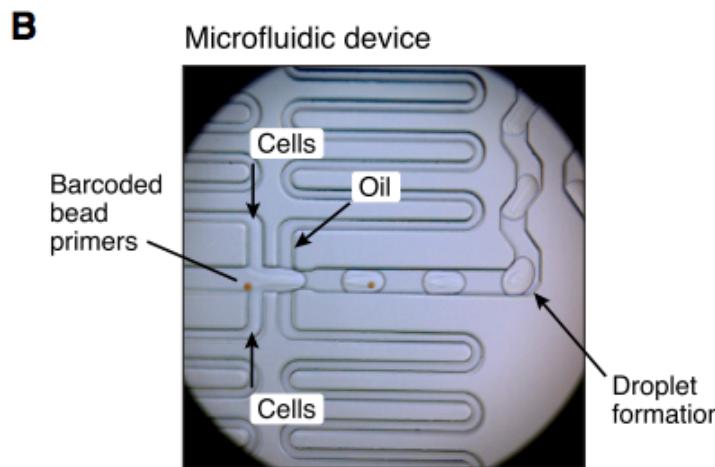
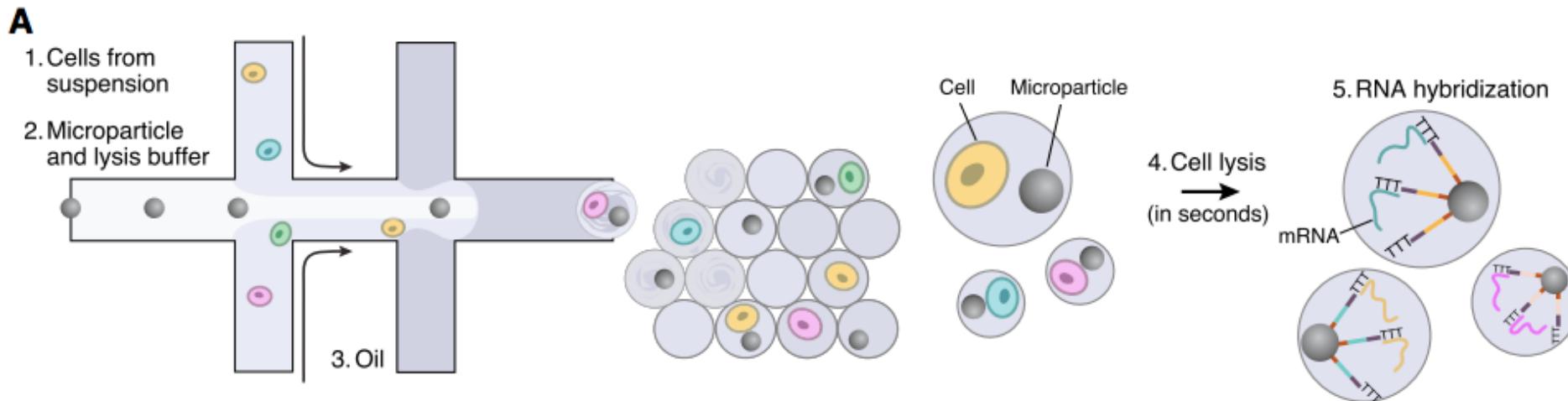
– Machine 2: 34.94.37.174

`source("/home/user_setup.R")`

# Exponential growth in single cell RNA seq technologies



# Droplet based technologies are now dominating



Macosko et al. (2015), Cell

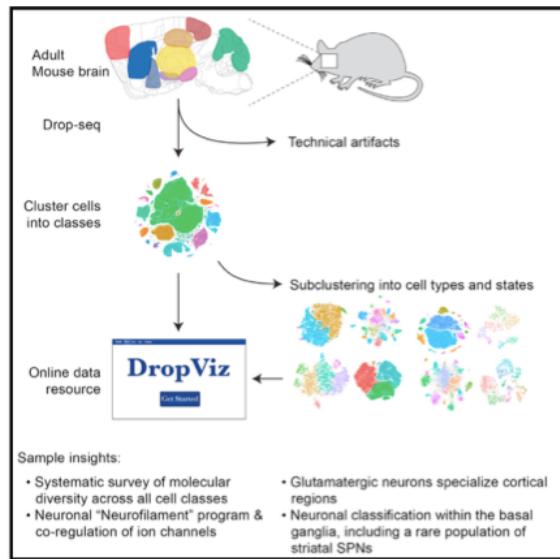
10X Genomics is a commercial provider of droplet based scRNAseq platform

# scRNAseq experiments approaching 1 million cells

Cell

## Molecular Diversity and Specializations among the Cells of the Adult Mouse Brain

### Graphical Abstract



### Resource

#### Authors

Aripar Saunders, Evan Z. Macosko,  
Alec Wysoker, ..., Sara Brumbaugh,  
David Kulp, Steven A. McCarroll

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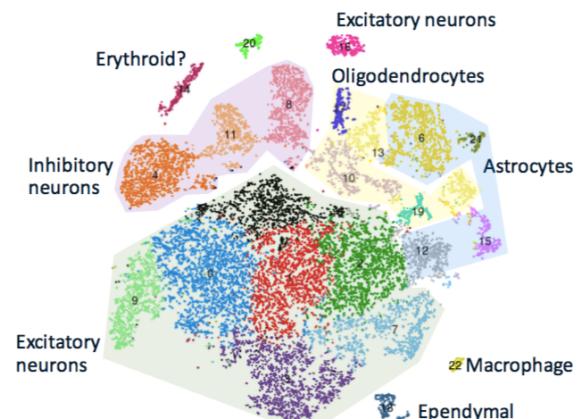
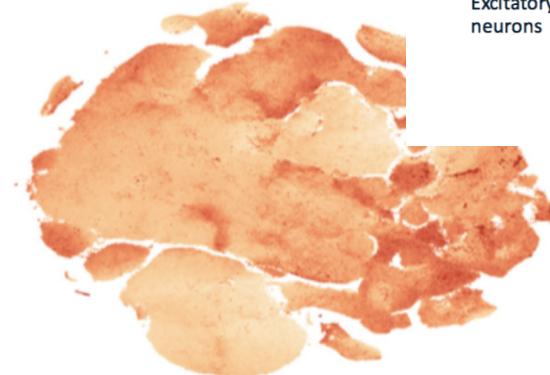
#### In Brief

Sampling across multiple brain regions identifies hundreds of transcriptionally distinct groups of cells and reveals large-scale features of brain organization and neuronal diversity.

Saunders et al., (2018) Cell

**690,000 individual cells** from 9 regions  
of adult mouse brain

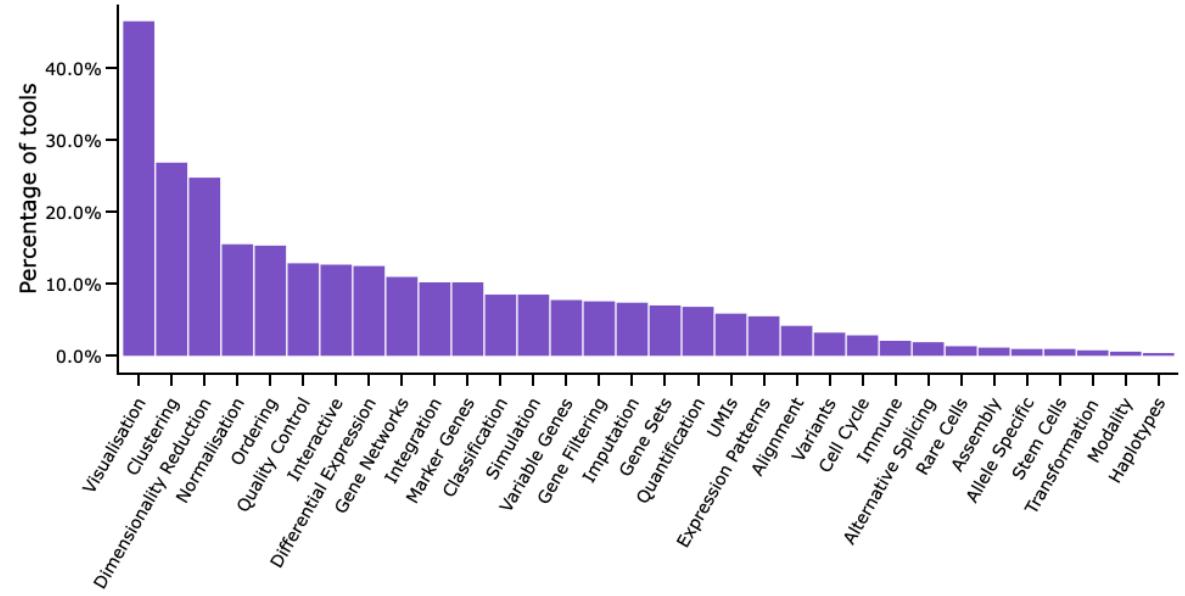
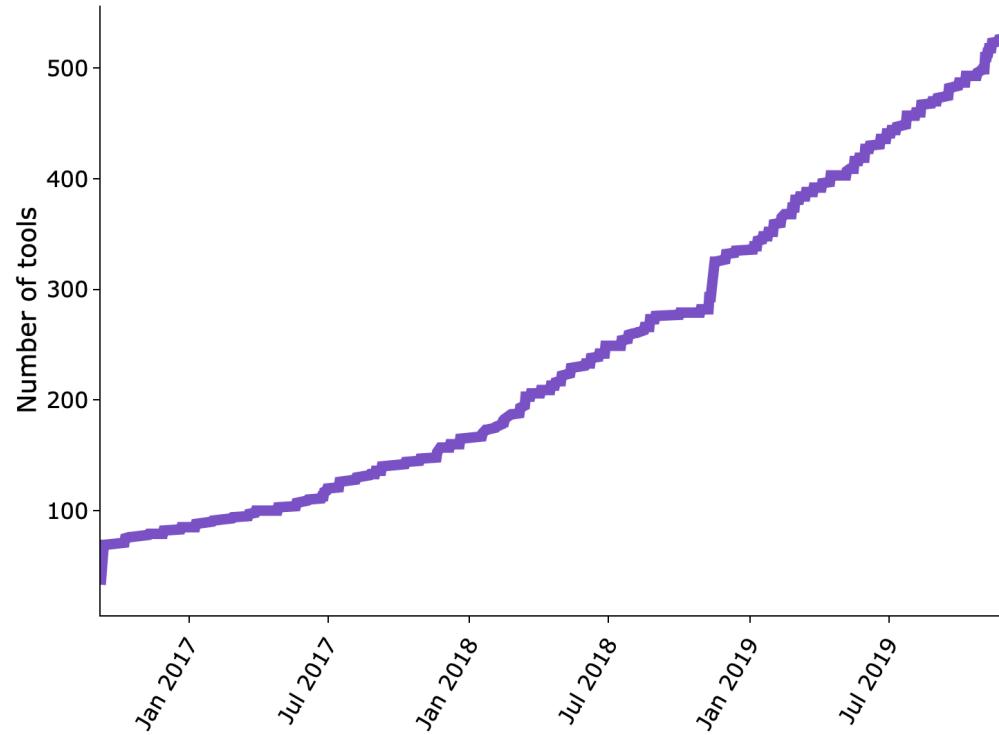
### Application Note



CHROMIUM™

Transcriptional Profiling of 1.3  
Million Brain Cells with the  
Chromium Single Cell 3' Solution

# Number of scRNAseq tools also increasing rapidly



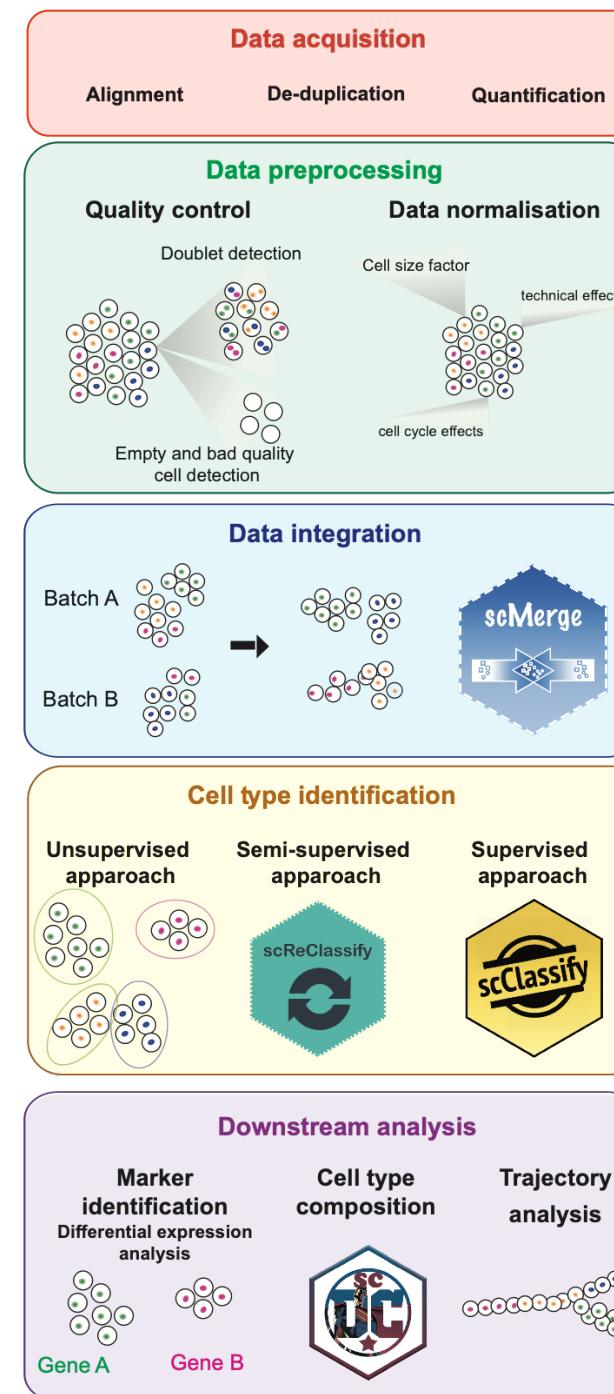
Downloaded from [www.scrna-tools.org](http://www.scrna-tools.org)

# Single-cell RNA-seq analysis



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# Components of a typical scRNA-seq analysis process



# Component 1: Data acquisition



## Input

- BCL or fastq file from the sequencer

## Output

- Gene/cell counts matrix

	Cell barcode	UMI	cDNA	
Cell 1	TTGCCGTGGGT	GGCGGGGA.....	CGGTGTTA	DDX51 1
	TTGCCGTGGGT	TATGGAGG.....	CCAGCAC	NOP2 1
	TTGCCGTGGGT	TCTCAAGT.....	AAAATGGC	ACTB 1
Cell 2	CGTAGATGGCA	GGGCCGGG.....	CTCATGT	LBR 1
	CGTAGATGGCA	ACGTTATA.....	ACGGGTAC	ODF2 1
	CGTAGATGGCA	TCGAGATT.....	AGCCCTTT	HIF1A 1
Cell 3	AAATTATGACGA	AGTTTGTA.....	GGGAATTA	ACTB 2
	AAATTATGACGA	AGTTTGTA.....	AGATGGGG	
	AAATTATGACGA	TGTCGTTG.....	GACTGCAC	RPS15 1
Cell 4	GTTAACCTAC	CTAGCTGT.....	GATTTCT	GTPBP4 1
	GTTAACCTAC	CGAGAACT.....	GTGCGGT	GAPDH 1
	GTTAACCTAC	AAAGCTTG.....	CAAAGTTC	ARL1 2
	GTTAACCTAC	TTCCGGTC.....	TCCAGTCG	

(Thousands of cells)

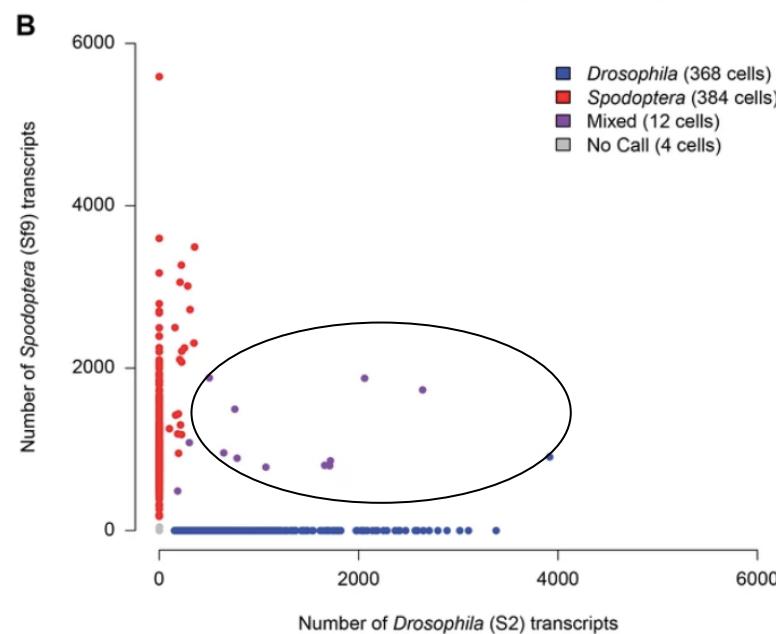
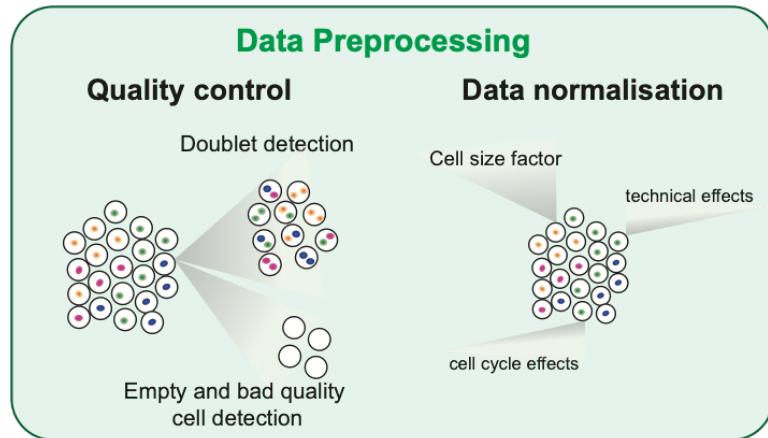
## Software

- CellRanger for 10X Genomics data
- Macosko's custom scripts for DropSeq data
- STAR for alignment plus custom scripts (or there is STAR-solo)

## Considerations

- Single or mix of species? Does it include ERCC spike-ins? May need to build a custom reference
- Barcode and/or UMI sequencing errors – CellRanger takes care of this automatically
- Align to exon or exon and intron?

## Component 2: Data preprocessing – Quality control



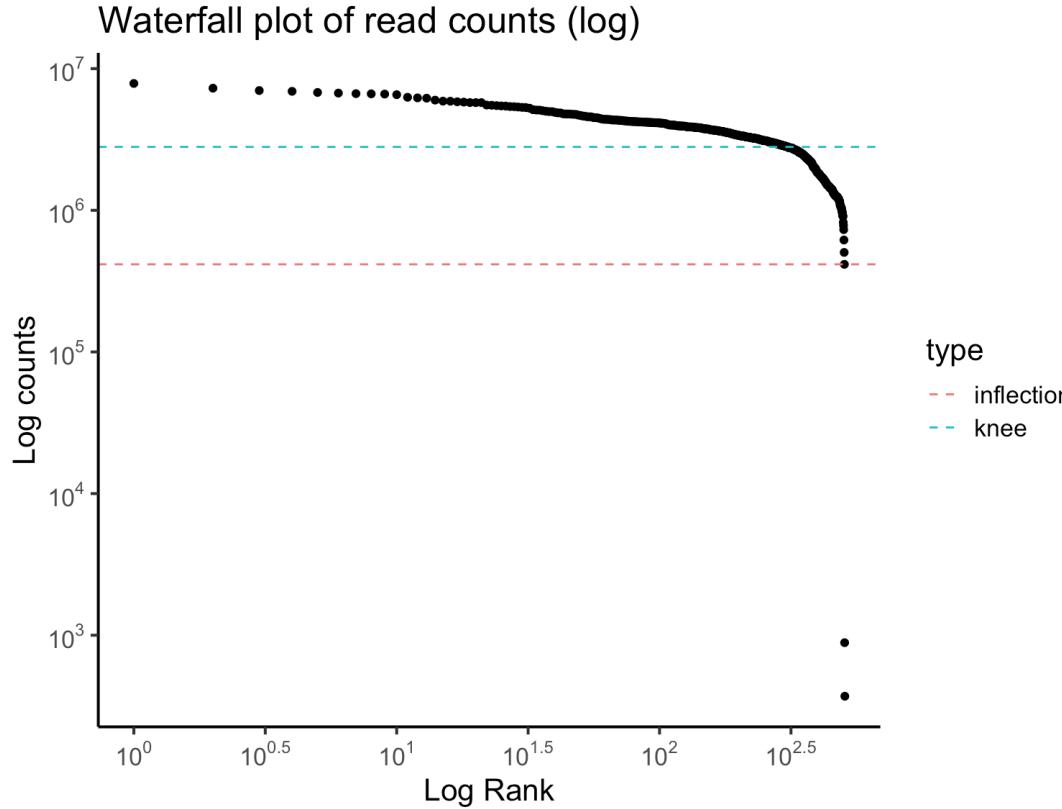
### Software

- Seurat (all-purpose single cell R package)
- Scater
- DropletUtils (R package with a number of handy utility functions)
- Your own custom scripts

### Considerations

- Filter out droplets with doublets – may be difficult to find. Can estimate expected rate by doing species mixture experiment

## Component 2: Data preprocessing – Quality control



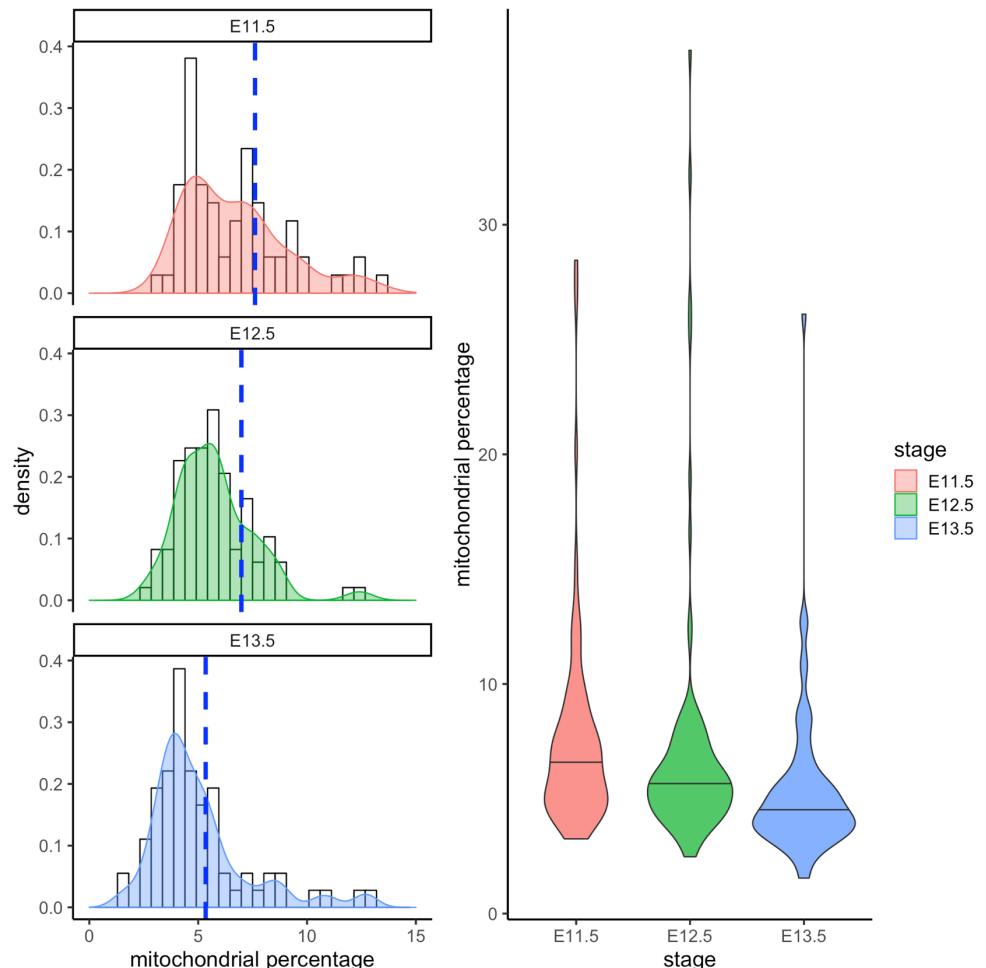
### Software

- Seurat (all-purpose single cell R package)
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- Your own custom scripts

### Considerations

- Filter out droplets with doublets – may be difficult to find. Can estimate expected rate by doing species mixture experiment
- Filter out droplets with no cells

## Component 2: Data preprocessing – Quality control



### Software

- Seurat (all-purpose single cell R package)
- Scater
- DropletUtils (R package with a number of handy utility functions)
- Your own custom scripts

### Considerations

- Filter out droplets with doublets – may be difficult to find. Can estimate expected rate by doing species mixture experiment
- Filter out droplets with no cells
- Filter out droplets with damaged cells – look for high mitochondrial gene content or high spike-in

## Component 2: Data normalisation

### Software

- scran for non-full-length datasets (Lun et al. Genome Biology 2016)
- bulk methods for full-length datasets (TPM normalisation)

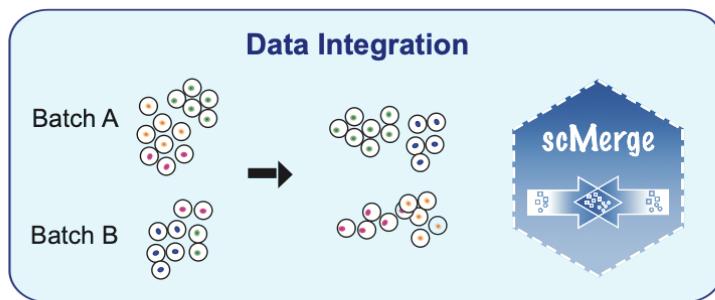
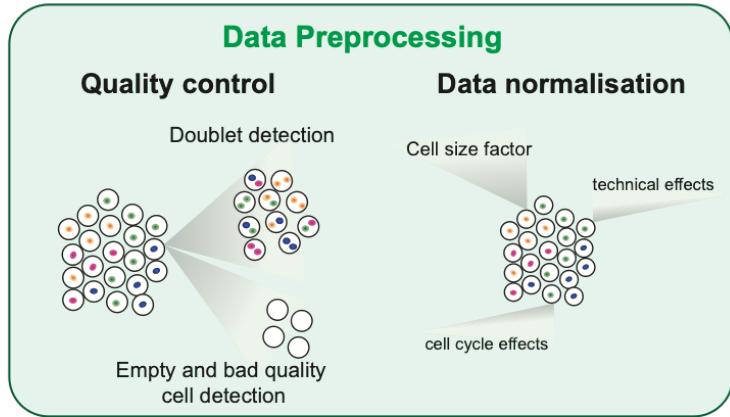
### Normalisation aims to address

- Removing sampling effects
- Scaling count data to obtain correct relative gene expression abundances between cells

### After normalisation, data matrices are typically $\log(x+1)$ -transformed

- Distances represent log-fold changes
- log transformation mitigates (but does not remove) the mean–variance relationship in single-cell data
- reduces the skewness of the data

# Component 3: Data integration



## Software

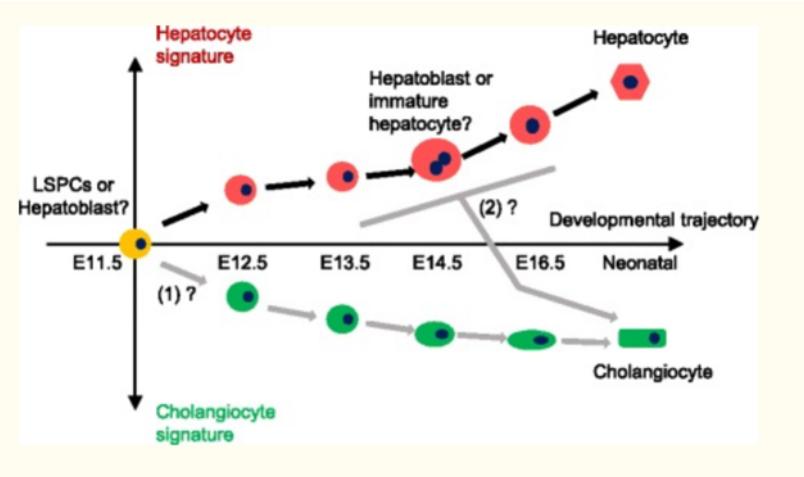
- Seurat (all-purpose single cell R package) for very basic normalization
- Batch effect correction
  - mnnCorrect
  - Harmony
  - Liger
  - **scMerge**

# scMerge motivation - Liver fetal development time course dataset



E9.5    E10.5    E11.5    E12.5    E13.5    E14.5    E15.5    E16.5    E17.5

GSE87795  
Su et al.



BMC Genomics. 2017; 18: 946.  
Published online 2017 Dec 4. doi: [10.1186/s12864-017-4342-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-017-4342-x)

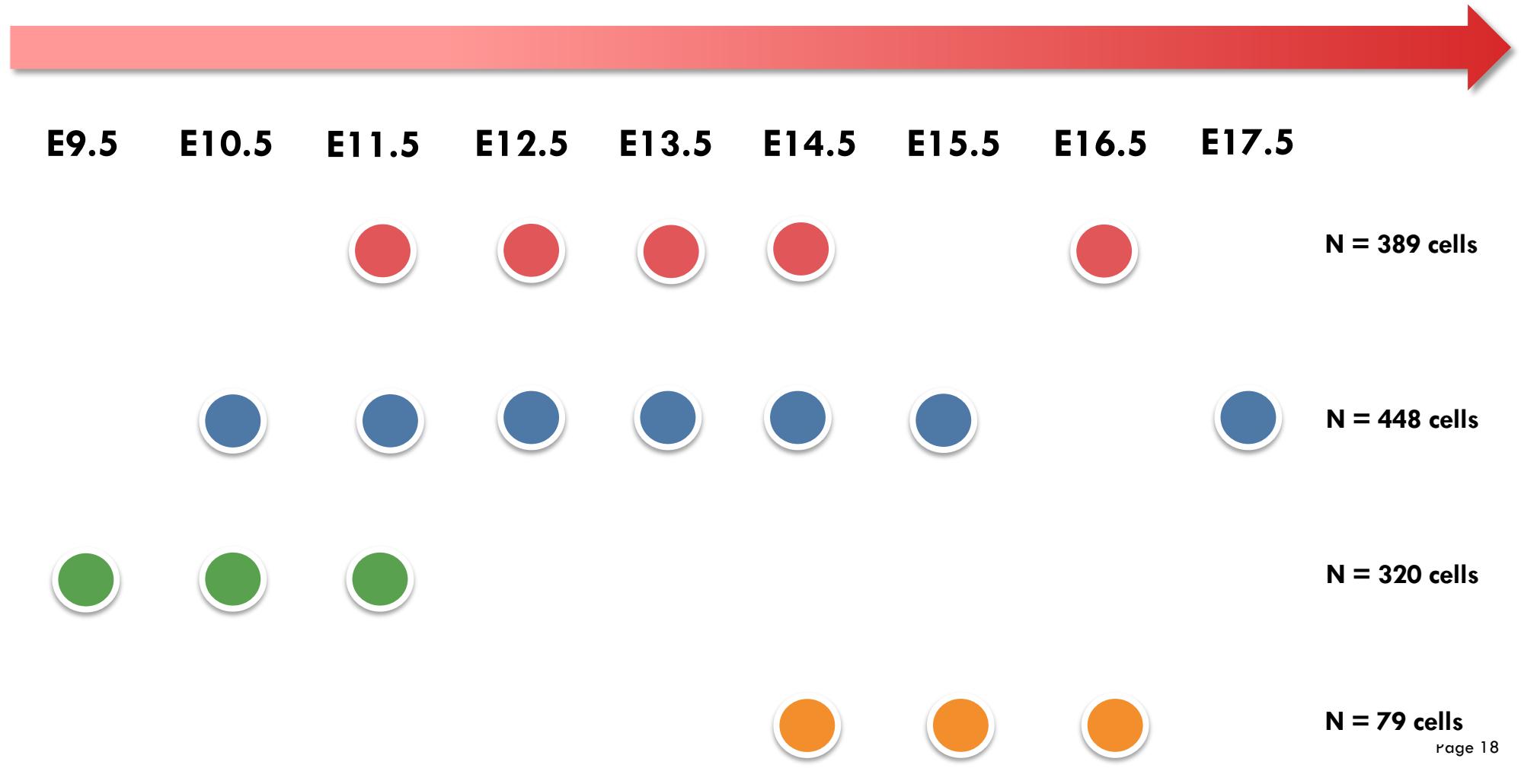
PMCID: PMC5715535  
PMID: [29202695](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29202695/)

Single-cell RNA-Seq analysis reveals dynamic trajectories during mouse liver development

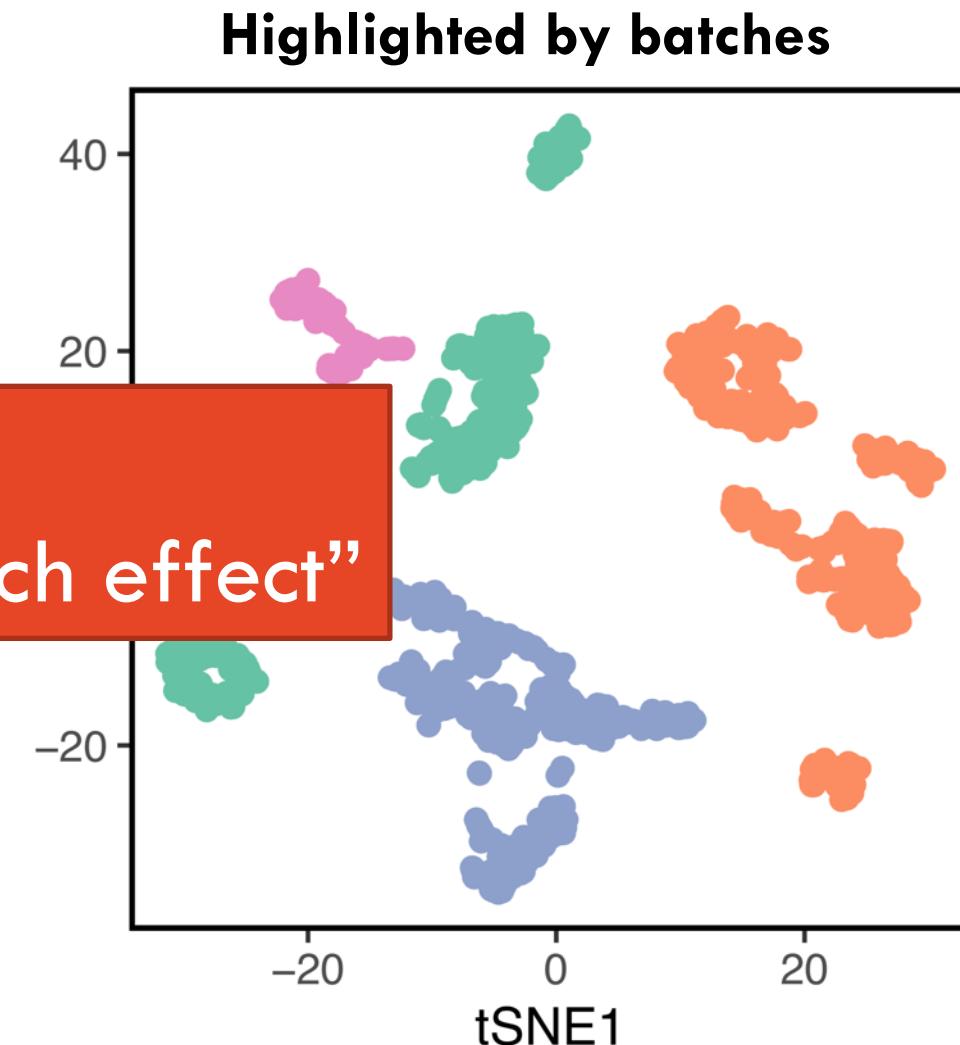
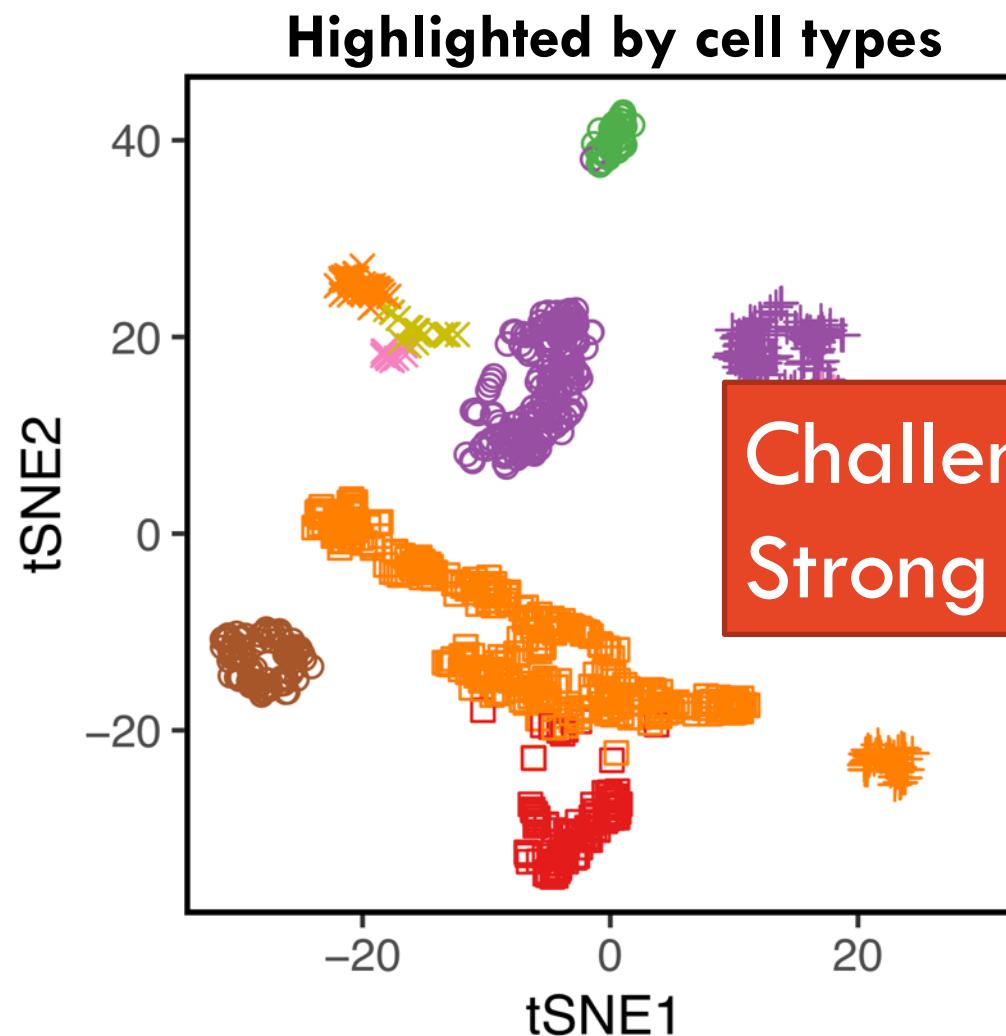
Xianbin Su,<sup>#1</sup> Yi Shi,<sup>#1</sup> Xin Zou,<sup>#1</sup> Zhao-Ning Lu,<sup>#1</sup> Gangcai Xie,<sup>2</sup> Jean Y. H. Yang,<sup>3</sup> Chong-Chao Wu,<sup>1</sup> Xiao-Fang Cui,<sup>1</sup> Kun-Yan He,<sup>1</sup> Qing Luo,<sup>1</sup> Yu-Lan Qu,<sup>1</sup> Na Wang,<sup>1</sup> Lan Wang,<sup>1</sup> and Ze-Guang Han<sup>✉,1,4</sup>

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## Liver fetal development time course datasets



# tSNE of liver fetal development time course datasets



## Breaking observed data into components

For  $n$  cells with data collected for  $m$  genes

$$Y = X\beta + Wa + \epsilon$$

The data we observe

Biologically relevant  
variation  
cell types  
 $p$  wanted variables

Unwanted variation  
batch and technical  
effects  
 $k$  unwanted variables

Random noise

## scMerge algorithm

Estimated by **stably expressed genes** by factor analysis

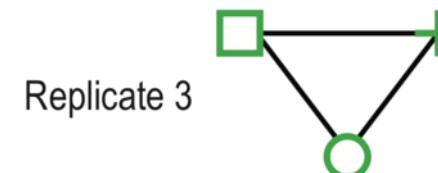
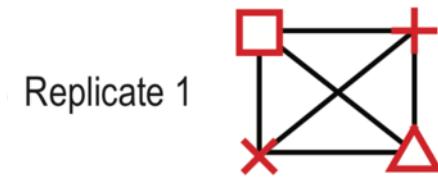
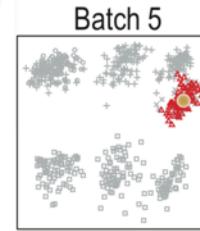
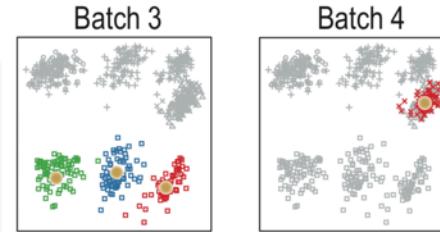
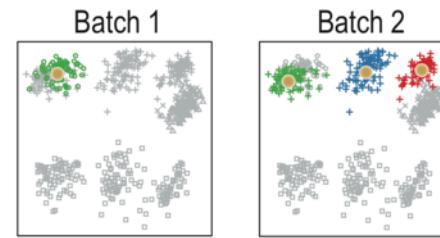
$$Y = X\beta + W\alpha + \epsilon$$

Estimated with **replicates** by factor analysis

RUVIII algorithm Molania et al. (2019), Nuclei Acids Res

# scMerge algorithm

Clustering for each batch  
(k-means by default)



Pseudo-replicates

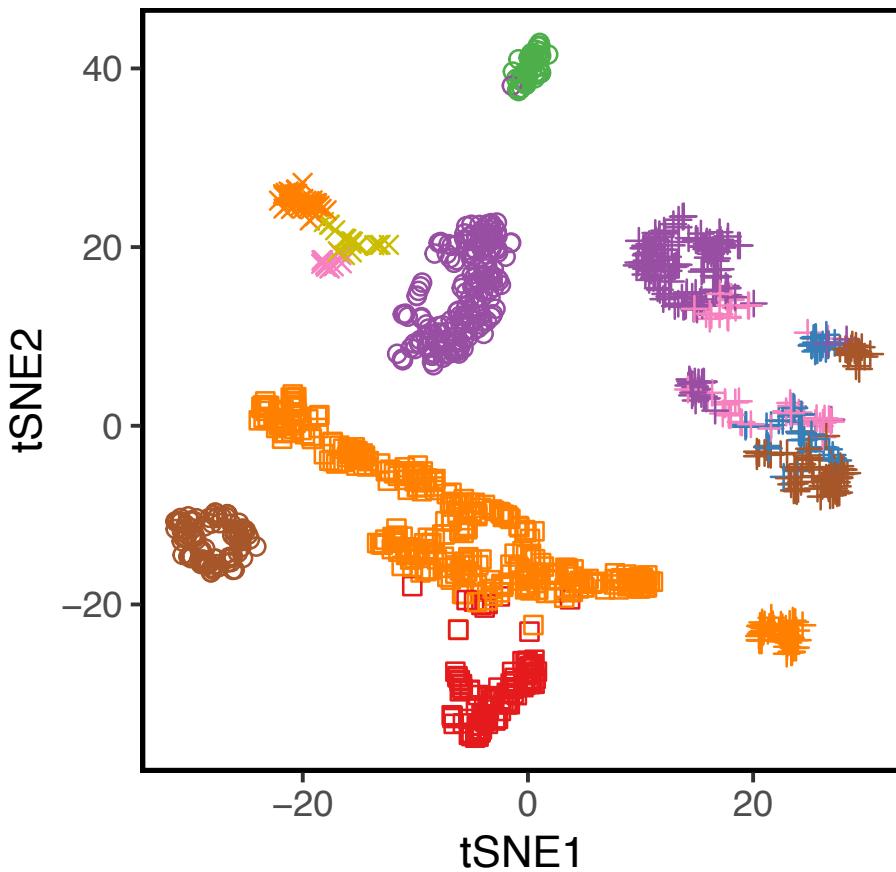
Find Mutual Nearest Clusters  
as pseudo-replicates

Cell 1	1	0	0
Cell 2	1	0	0
Cell 3	0	1	0
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
Cell C	0	0	1
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3

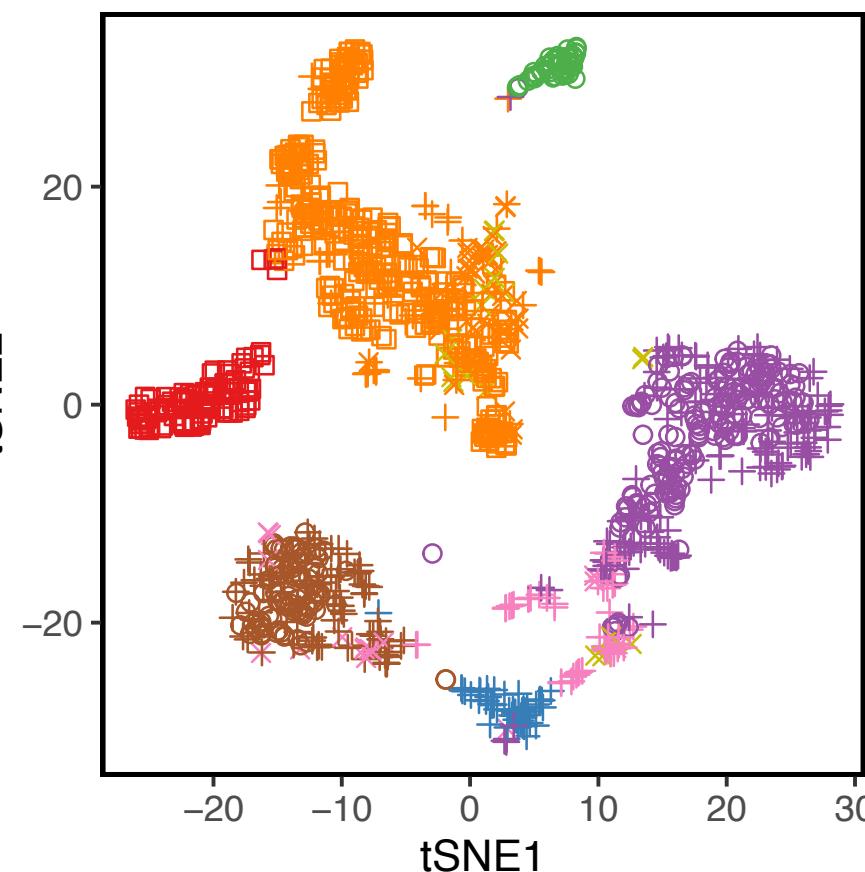
Frame as pseudo-replicate information

## Coming back to our motivational data – Liver fetal development time course datasets

**Before scMerge**



**After scMerge**



cell\_types

- cholangiocyte
- Endothelial Cell
- Epithelial Cell
- Hematopoietic
- hepatoblast/hepatocyte
- Immune cell
- Mesenchymal Cell
- Stellate Cell

batch

- GSE87038
- + GSE87795
- GSE90047
- × GSE96981

# More information

## PNAS:

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1820006116>

### scMerge leverages factor analysis, stable expression, and pseudoreplication to merge multiple single-cell RNA-seq datasets

Yingxin Lin<sup>a</sup>, Shila Ghazanfar<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Kevin Y. X. Wang<sup>a,1</sup>, Johann A. Gagnon-Bartsch<sup>c</sup>, Kitty K. Lo<sup>a</sup>, Xianbin Su<sup>d,e</sup>, Ze-Guang Han<sup>d,e</sup>, John T. Ormerod<sup>a</sup>, Terence P. Speed<sup>f,g</sup>, Pengyi Yang<sup>a,b,2</sup>, and Jean Yee Hwa Yang<sup>a,b,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia; <sup>b</sup>Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia; <sup>c</sup>Department of Statistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; <sup>d</sup>Key Laboratory of Systems Biomedicine, Ministry of Education, Shanghai Center for Systems Biomedicine, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200240, China; <sup>e</sup>Collaborative Innovation Center of Systems Biomedicine, Shanghai Center for Systems Biomedicine, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200240, China; <sup>f</sup>Bioinformatics Division, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, VIC 3052, Australia; and <sup>g</sup>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia

Edited by Wing Hung Wong, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, and approved April 2, 2019 (received for review November 26, 2018)

**Concerted examination of multiple collections of single-cell RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) data promises further biological insights that cannot be uncovered with individual datasets. Here we present scMerge, an algorithm that integrates multiple single-cell RNA-seq datasets using factor analysis of stably expressed genes and pseudoreplicates across datasets. Using a large collection of public datasets, we benchmark scMerge against published methods and demonstrate that it consistently provides improved cell type separation by removing unwanted factors; scMerge can also enhance biological discovery through robust data integration, which we show through the inference of developmental trajectories.**

portions of cell types, e.g., as a result of fluorescence-activated cell sorting applied to a set of samples; mnnCorrect addresses this by estimating a set of “mutual nearest neighbors,” a mapping of individual cells between batches or datasets, but it can be unstable due to the selection of individual pairs of cells, as opposed to the more robust selection of pairs of cell clusters.

#### Results

**scMerge.** To enable effective integration of multiple scRNA-seq datasets, scMerge leverages factor analysis of single-cell stably

STATISTICS

## scMerge R package and website:

<https://sydneybiox.github.io/scMerge/>

scMerge 0.1.14  Home Vignette Reference Case Study ▾

## scMerge

scMerge is a R package for merging and normalising single-cell RNA-Seq datasets.

### Installation

The installation process could take up to 5 minutes, depending if you have some of the packages pre-installed.

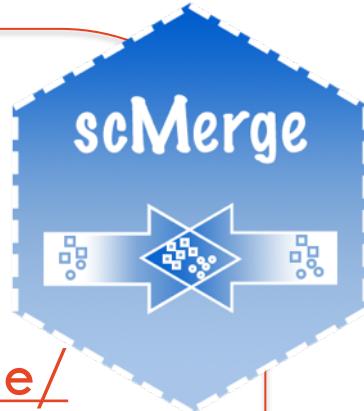
```
# Some CRAN packages required by scMerge
install.packages(c("rvu", "rsvd", "igraph", "pdist", "proxy", "foreach", "doSNOW", "distr", "Rcpp", "RcppEigen", "devtools::install_github("theislab/kBET"))

# Some BioConductor packages required by scMerge
# try http:// if https:// URLs are not supported
source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
biocLite(c("SingleCellExperiment", "M3Drop"))

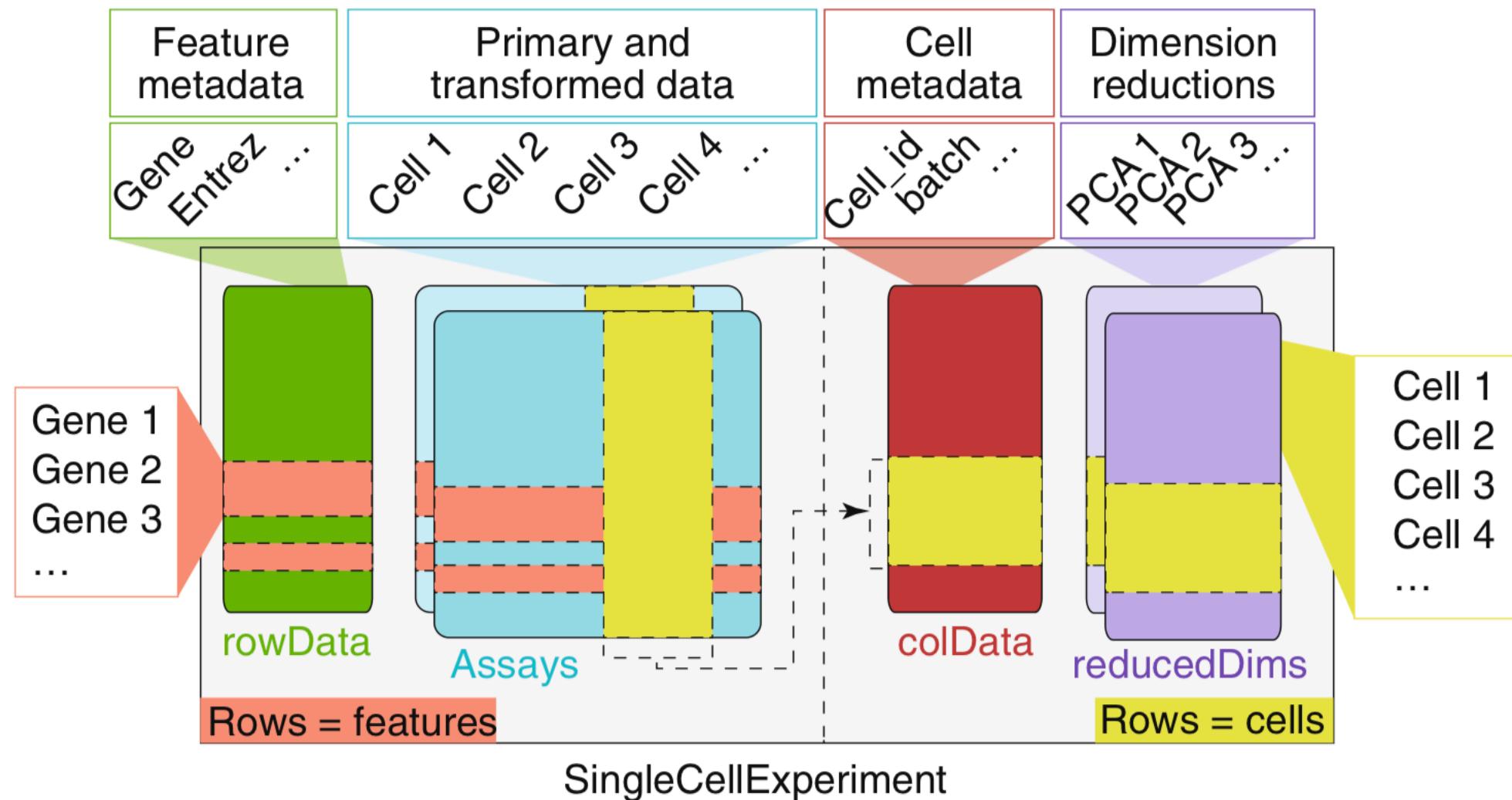
# Installing scMerge and the data files using
devtools::install_github("SydneyBioX/scMerge.data")
devtools::install_github("SydneyBioX/scMerge")
```

## Vignette

You can find the vignette at our website: <https://sydneybiox.github.io/scMerge/index.html>.



# SingleCellExperiment Object



**We will try this soon ...**

**14:15 – 15:00 Quality control and  
data integration**



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Extension: cell type identification via supervised classification and single cell trajectory analysis

# **Summary and Q&A**



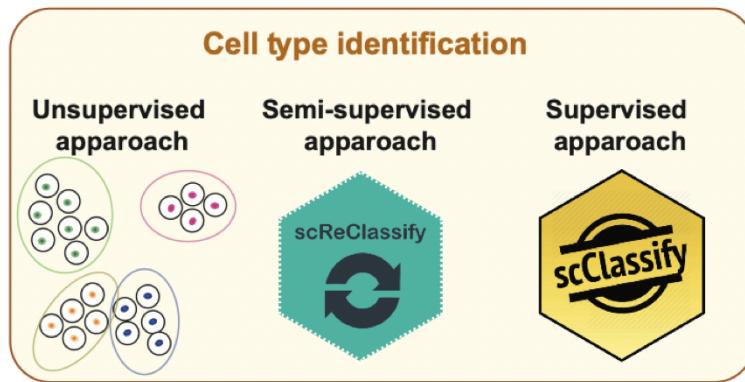
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# **Afternoon Tea**



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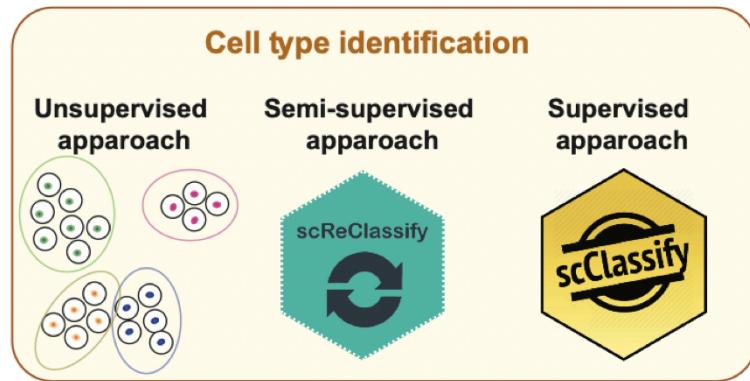
## Component 4: Cell type identification



### Science questions

- What cell types are present in the dataset?
- Can we identify the cell types?

## Component 4: Cell type identification



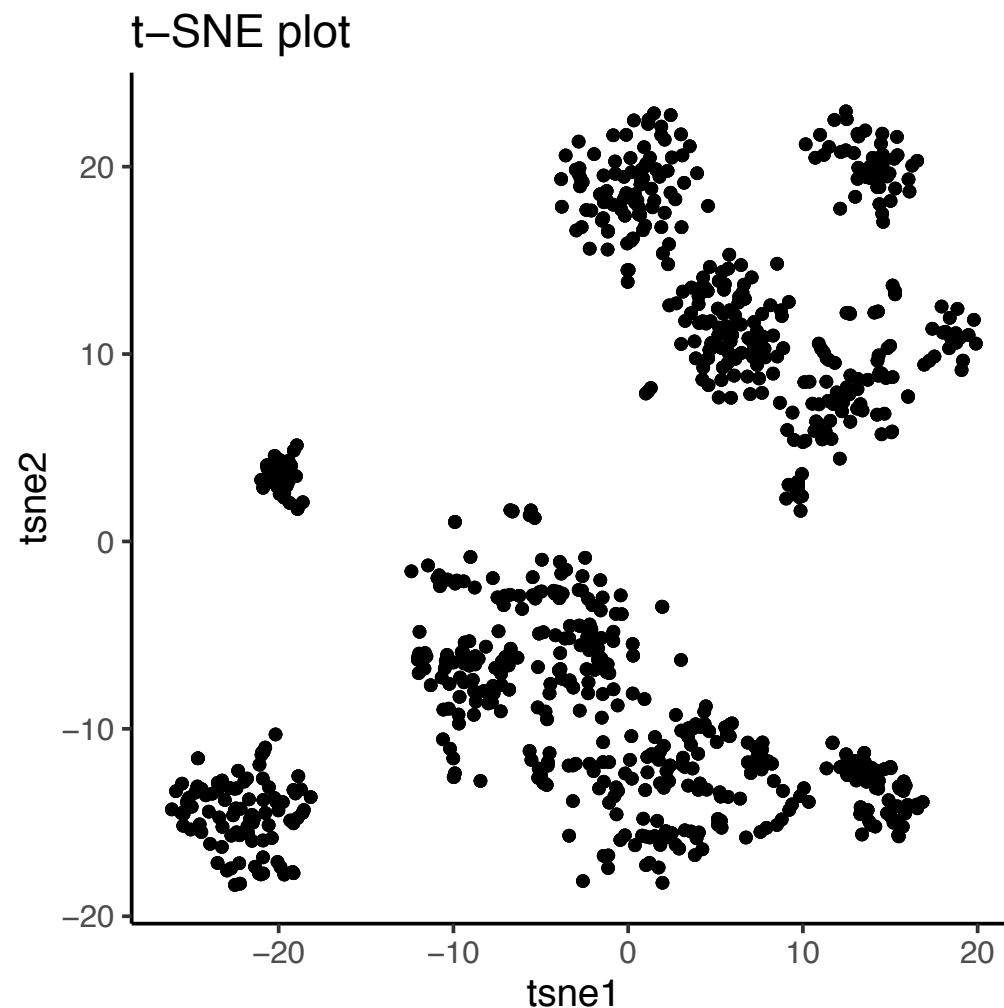
### Science questions

- What cell types are present in the dataset?
- Can we identify the cell types?

### Analysis techniques

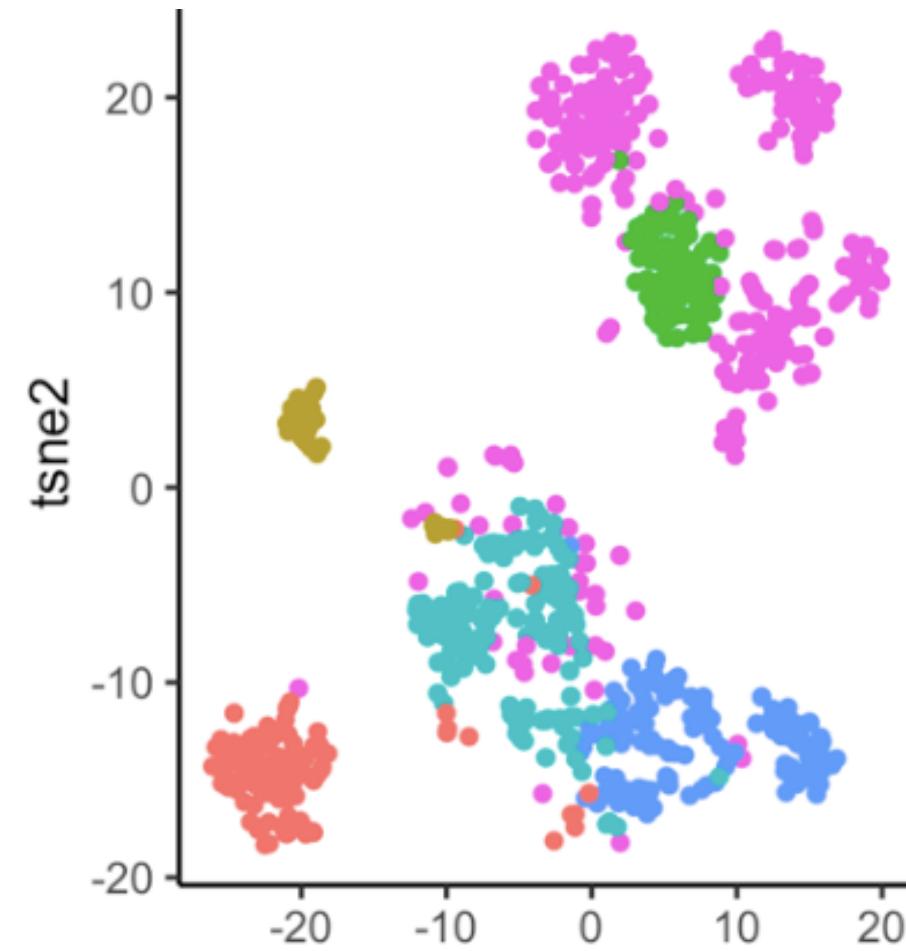
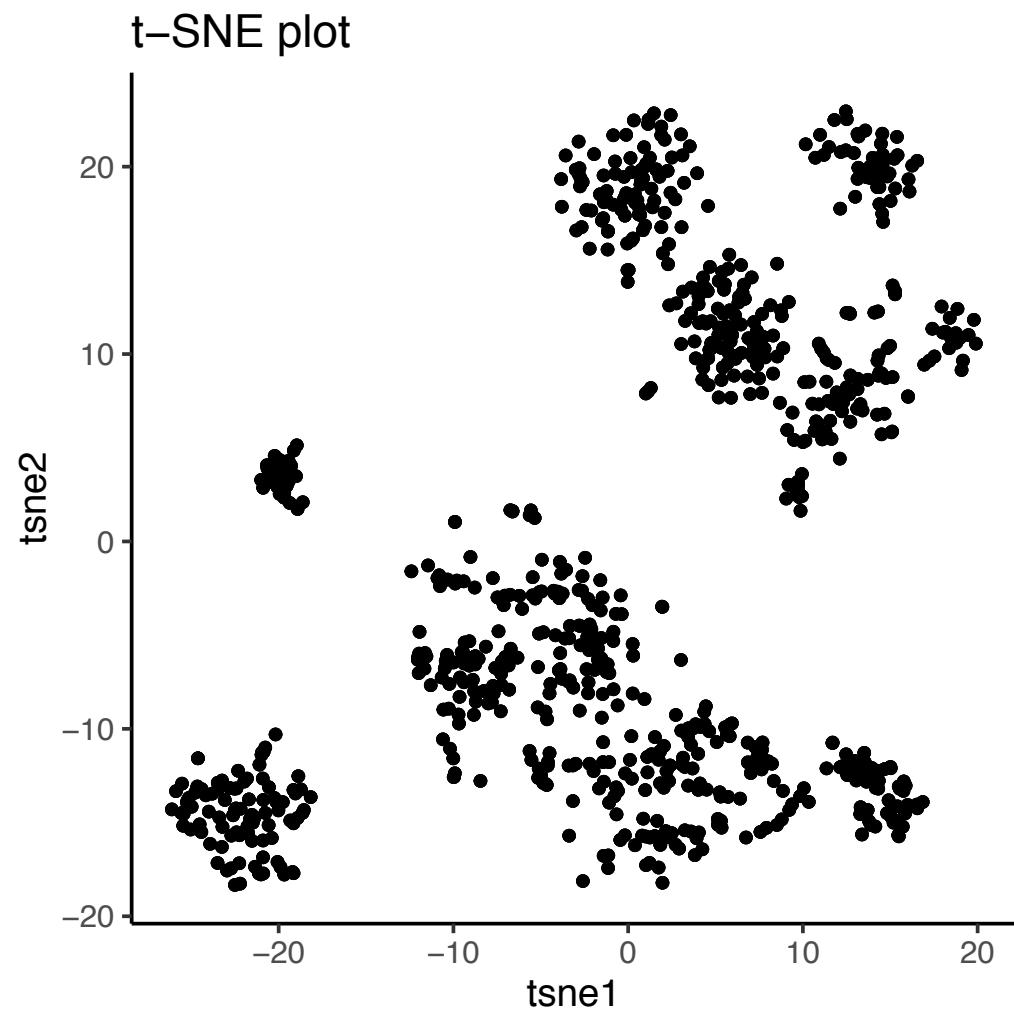
- Visualization (dimension reduction)
- Clustering (unsupervised learning)
- Classification (supervised learning)

## Dimension reduced plot of our data (tSNE plot)



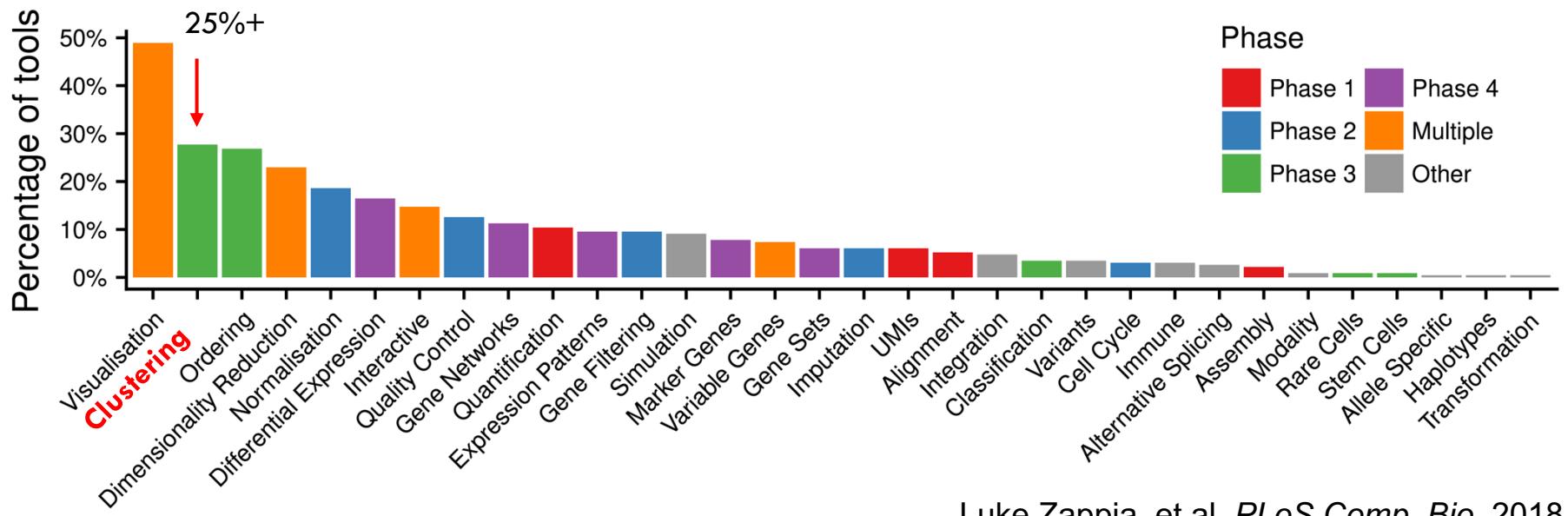
How many cell types are there?  
What are the cell types?

## k-means clustering



# Clustering algorithms for scRNA-seq

- k-means**
- Hierarchical**
- RacelID**
- SC3**
- CIDR**
- countClust**
- RCA**
- SIMLR**



Luke Zappia, et al. PLoS Comp. Bio. 2018

# Similarity metric is the core of clustering algorithm

- k-means
- Hierarchical
- RaceID
- SC3
- CIDR
- countClust
- RCA
- SIMLR

**Key question:** is there a similarity metric that performs (on average) better for clustering single cells based on their transcriptome?

## Euclidean

$$s_{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{ig} - x_{jg})^2};$$

## Manhattan

$$s_{ij} = \sum_{g=1}^G |x_{ig} - x_{jg}|;$$

## Maximum

$$s_{ij} = \max_g |x_{ig} - x_{jg}|.$$

## Pearson

$$s_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{ig} - \bar{x}_i)(x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{ig} - \bar{x}_i)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)^2}};$$

## Spearmann

$$s_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G (r_{ig} - \bar{r}_i)(x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (r_{ig} - \bar{r}_i)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)^2}},$$

Correlation-based

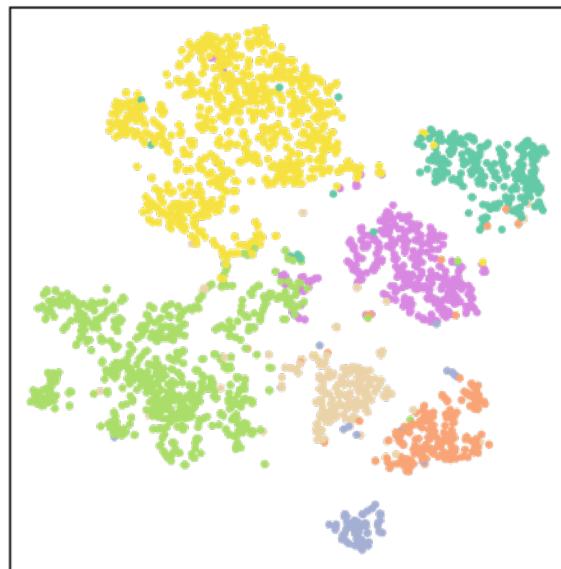
Distance-based

# **k-means Clustering on GSE60361**

## **k-means**

(a)

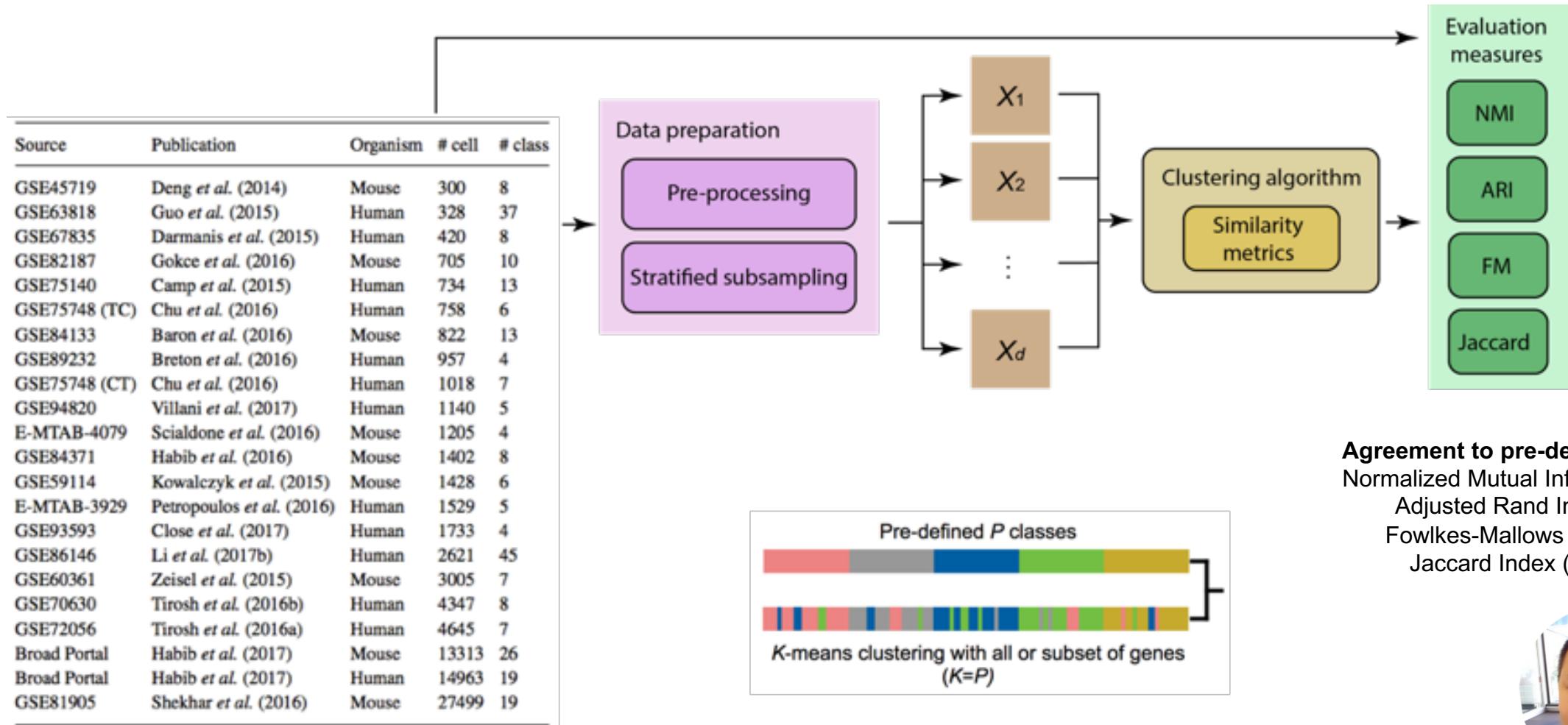
Annotated cells (GSE60361)



pre-defined cell types

- pyramidal CA1
- pyramidal SS
- interneurons
- microglia
- oligodendrocytes
- endothelial mural
- astrocytes ependymal

# Evaluation framework

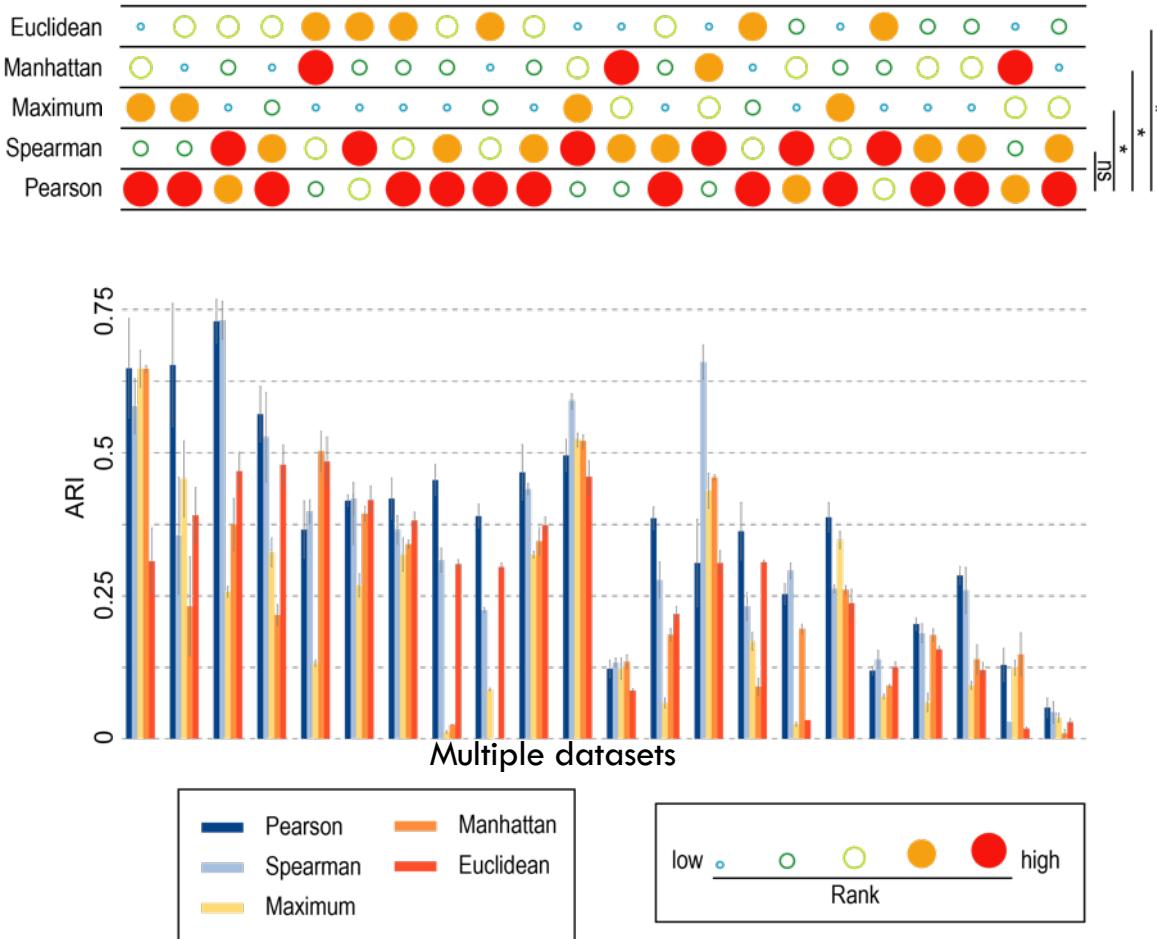


**Agreement to pre-defined classes:**  
 Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)  
 Adjusted Rand Index (ARI)  
 Fowlkes-Mallows Index (FM)  
 Jaccard Index (Jaccard)



Taiyun Kim

# Evaluation results (against the pre-defined cell types)



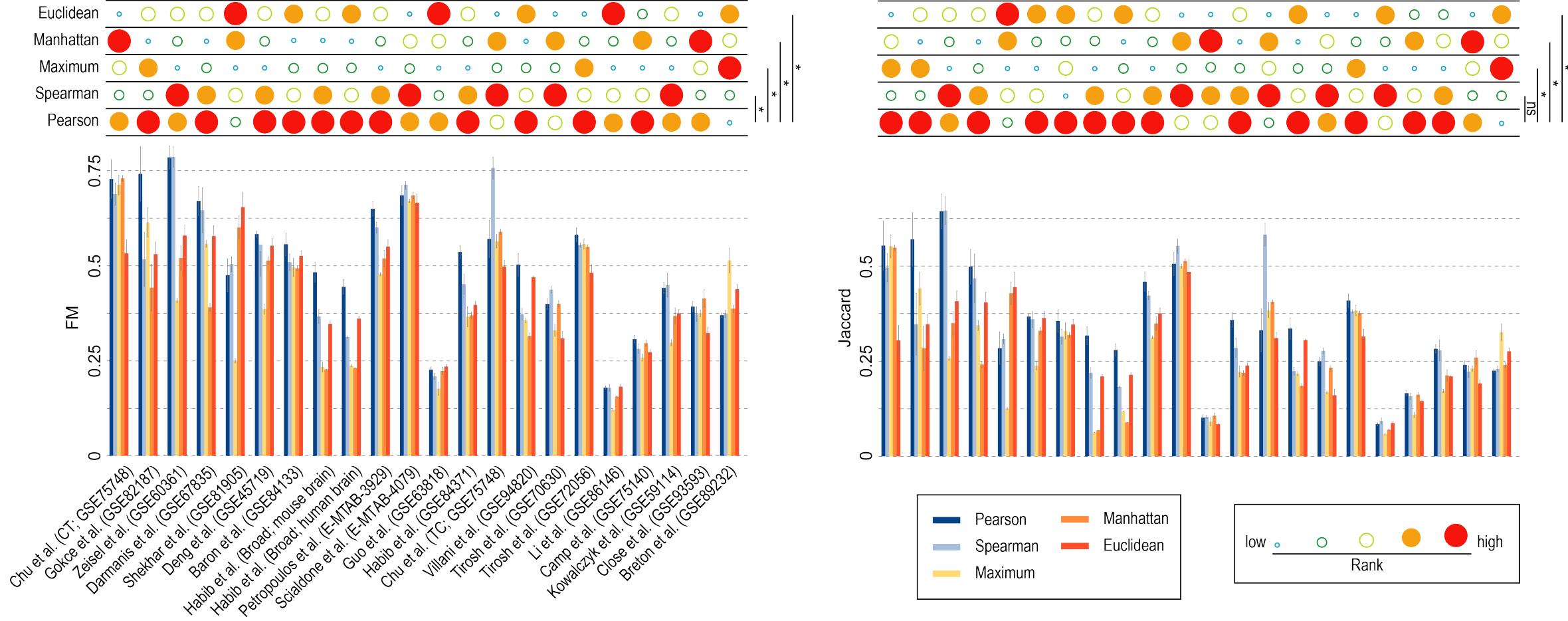
## Impact of similarity metrics on single-cell RNA-seq data clustering

Taiyun Kim, Irene Rui Chen, Yingxin Lin, Andy Yi-Yang Wang,  
Jean Yee Hwa Yang, Pengyi Yang

*Briefings in Bioinformatics*, bby076,

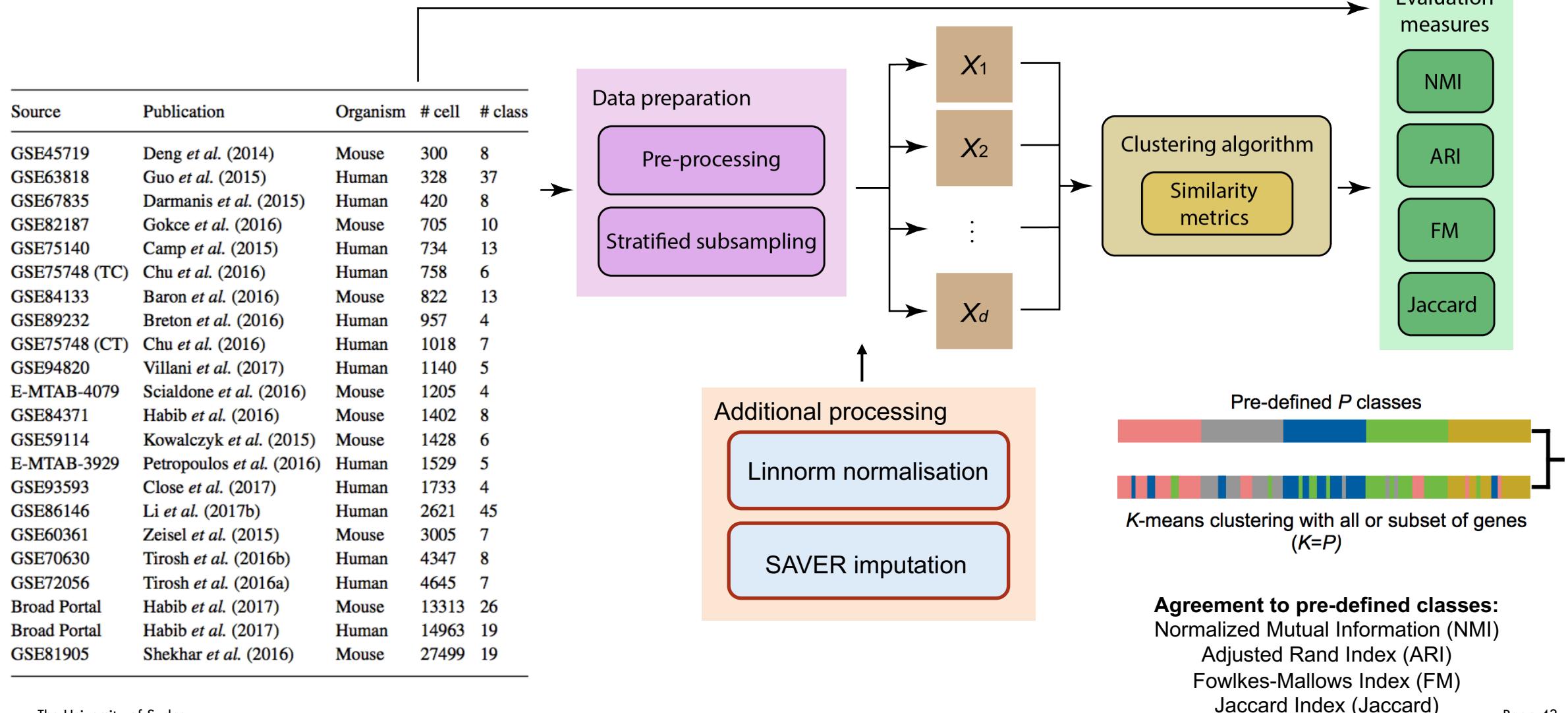
**PhD student: Taiyun Kim**

# Evaluation results (against the pre-defined cell types) using other measures

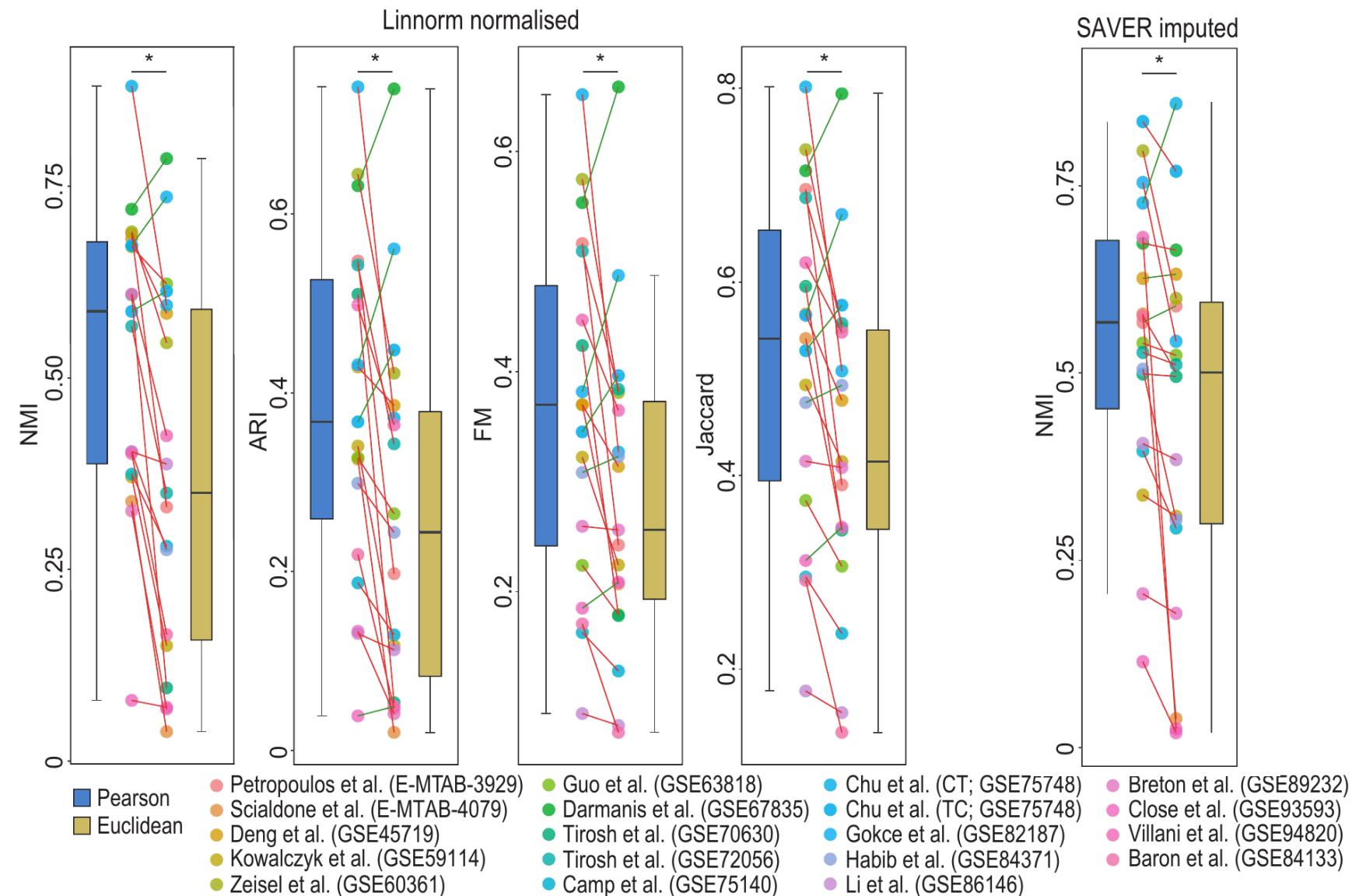


On average, correlation-based metrics improved on distance-based metrics by 31.5% (NMI), 39.6% (ARI), 16% (FM), 23% (Jaccard)

# Account for data scaling and zero-counts



# Account for normalisation and imputation

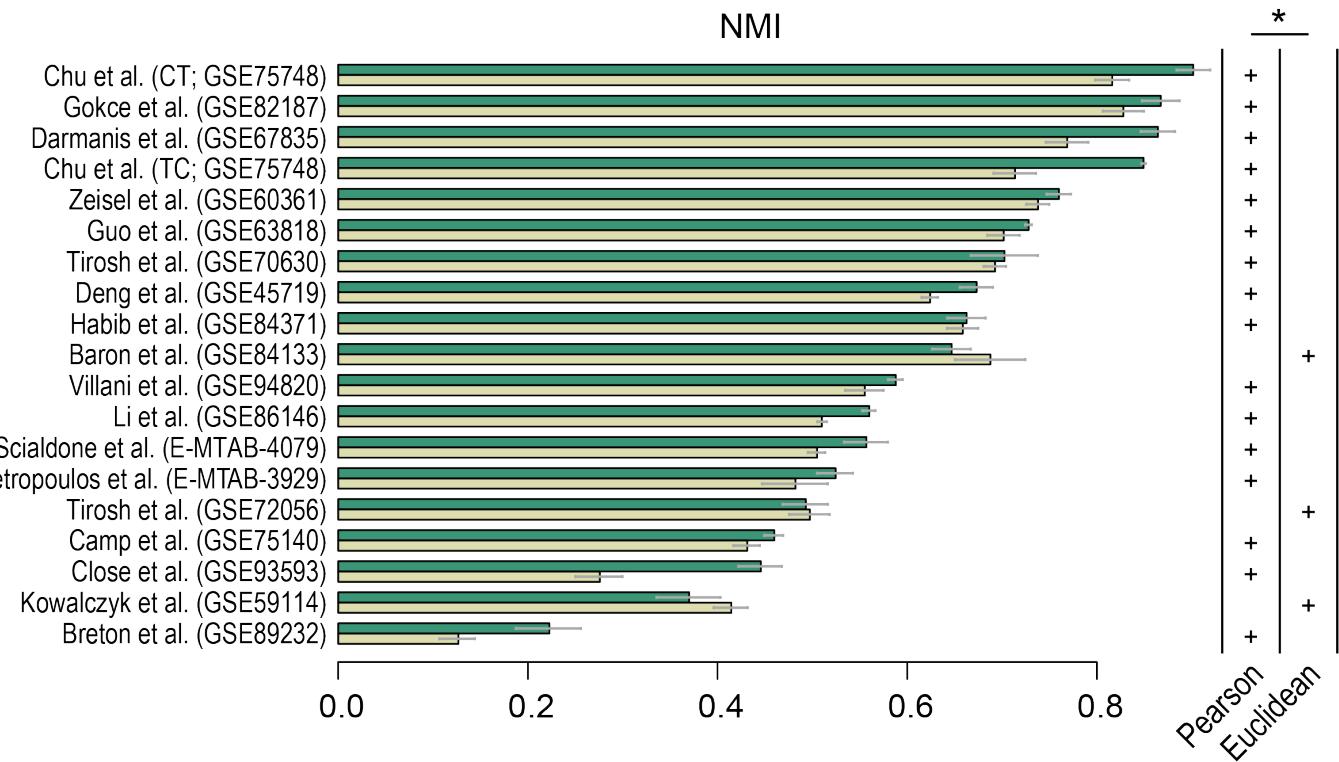


# Improving the state-of-the-art clustering method using correlation metric

SIMLR

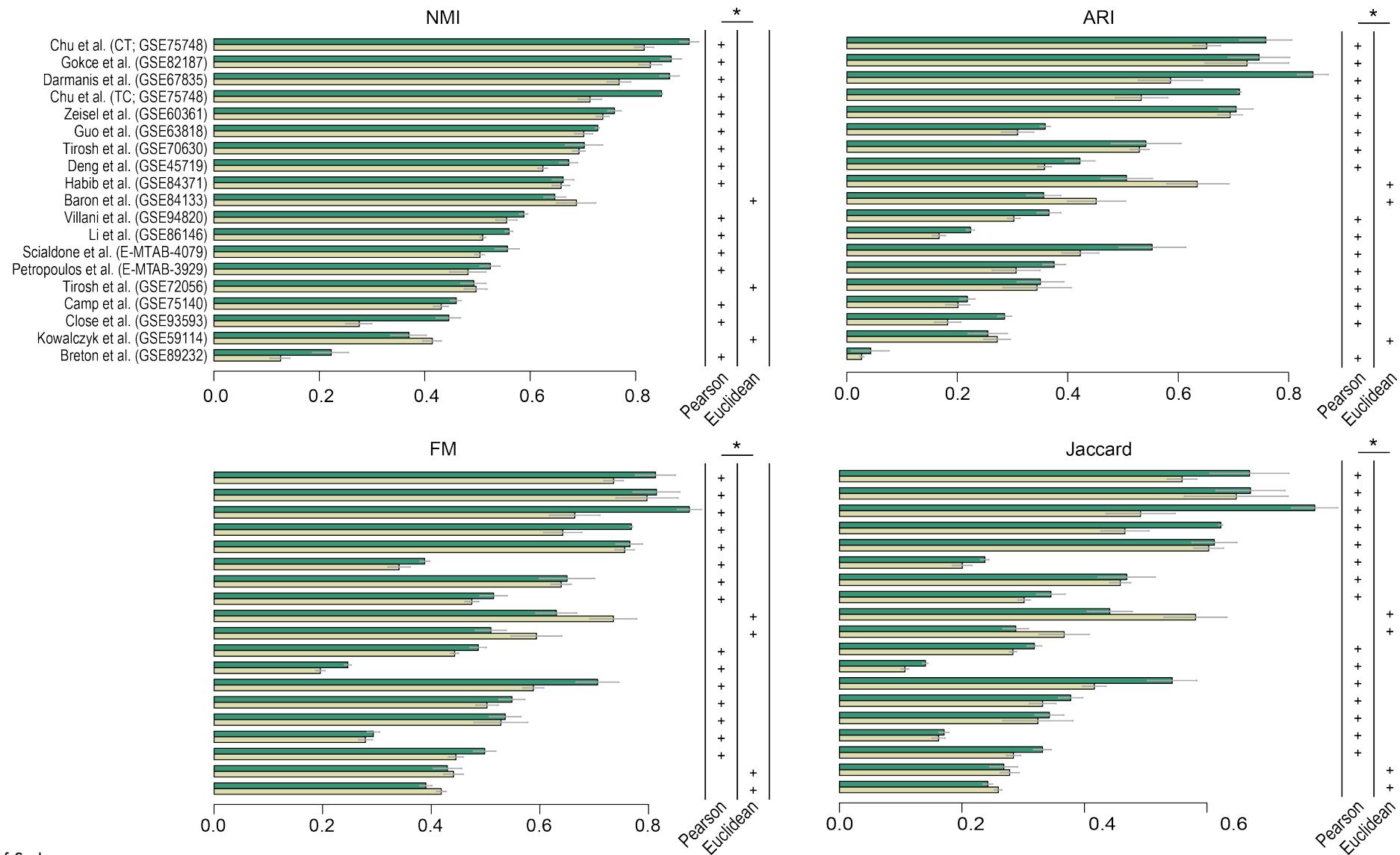
$$K(x_i, x_j) = \frac{1}{\epsilon_{ij} \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\epsilon_{ij}^2}\right)$$

$$s_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{ig} - \bar{x}_i)(x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{ig} - \bar{x}_i)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^G (x_{jg} - \bar{x}_j)^2}};$$

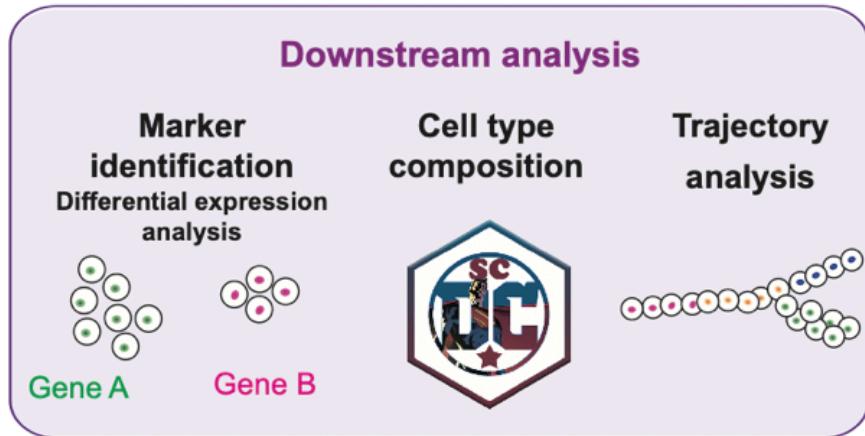


Wang, B., Zhu, J., Pierson, E., Ramazzotti, D., and Batzoglou, S. (2017). Visualization and analysis of single-cell rna-seq data by kernel-based similarity learning. *Nature Methods*, **14**(4), 414.

# Evaluation results of SIMLR with Pearson or Euclidean metrics



## Component 5: Downstream analysis



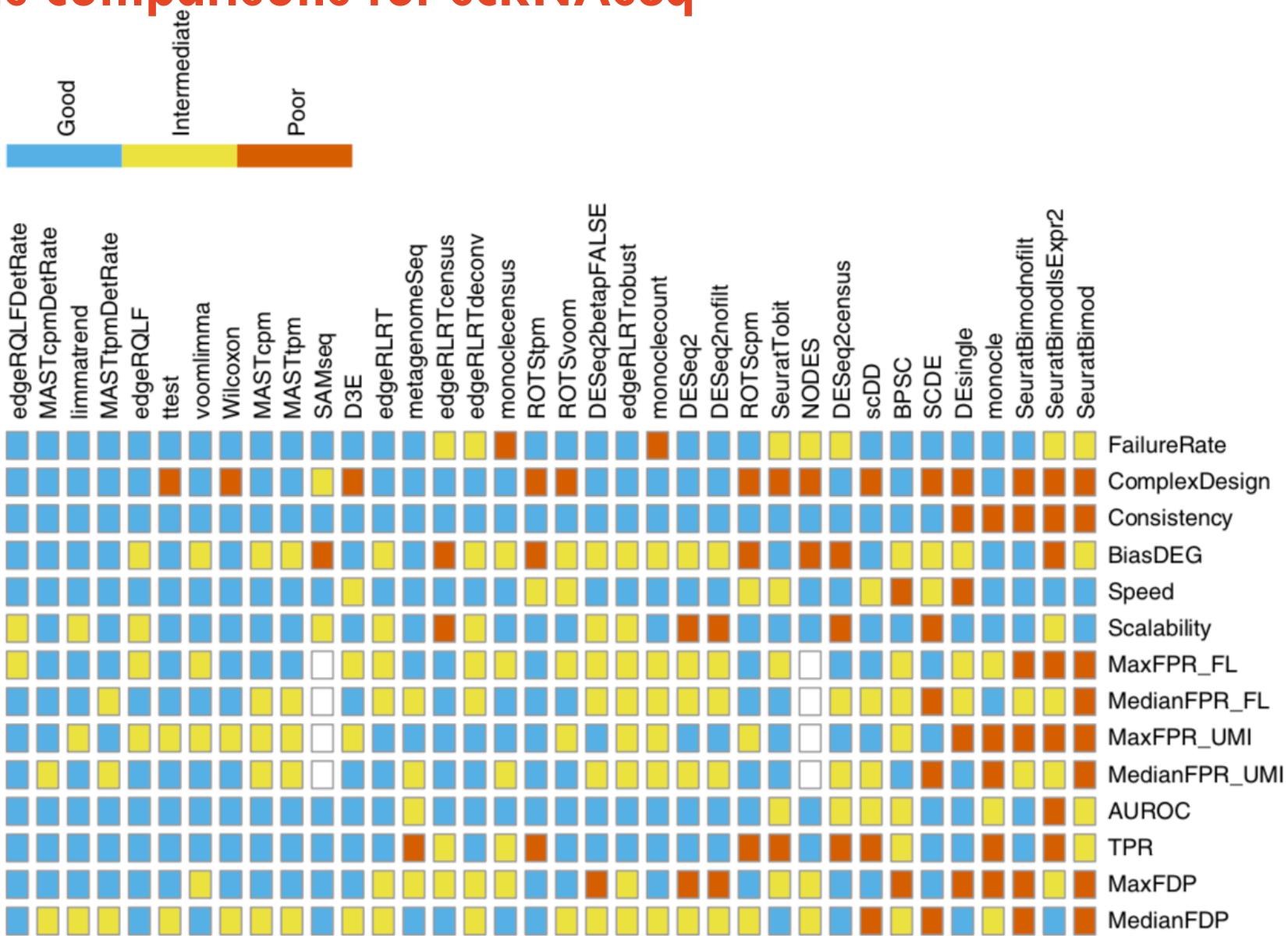
## Science questions

- Which genes are differentially expressed between cell types?
- What are the marker genes for each cell type?
- What is the cell type composition?
- Are the cells transitioning from one state to another?

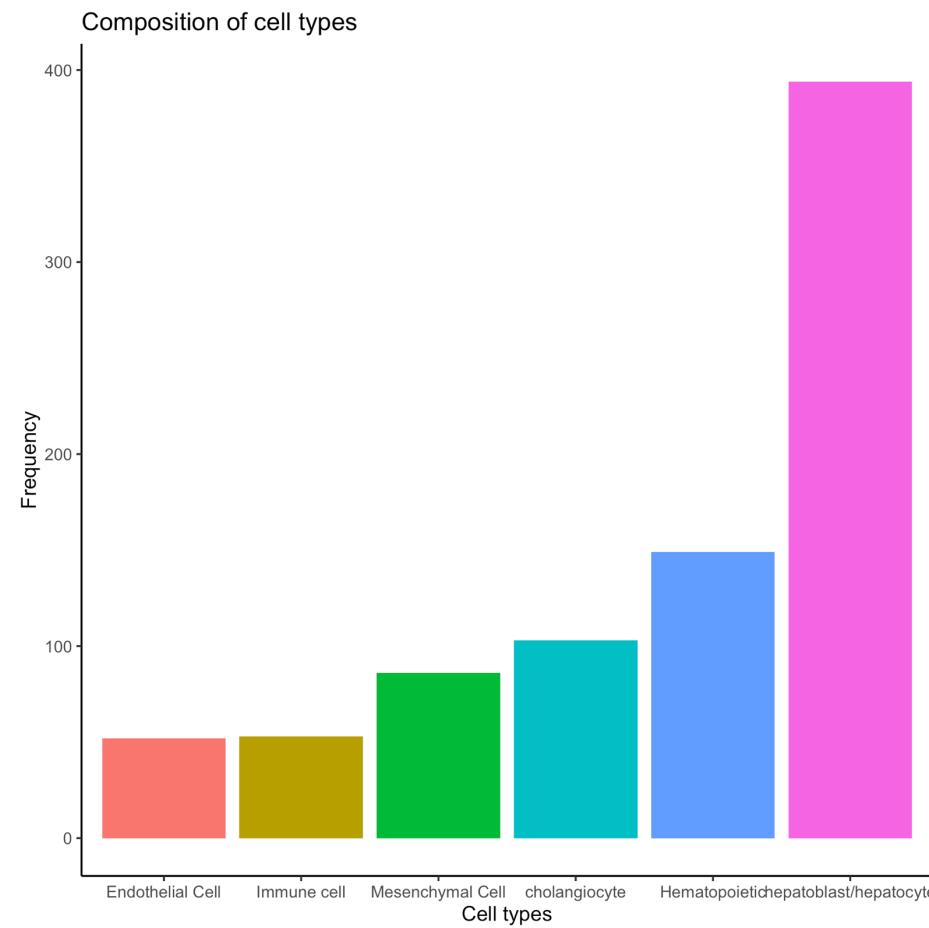
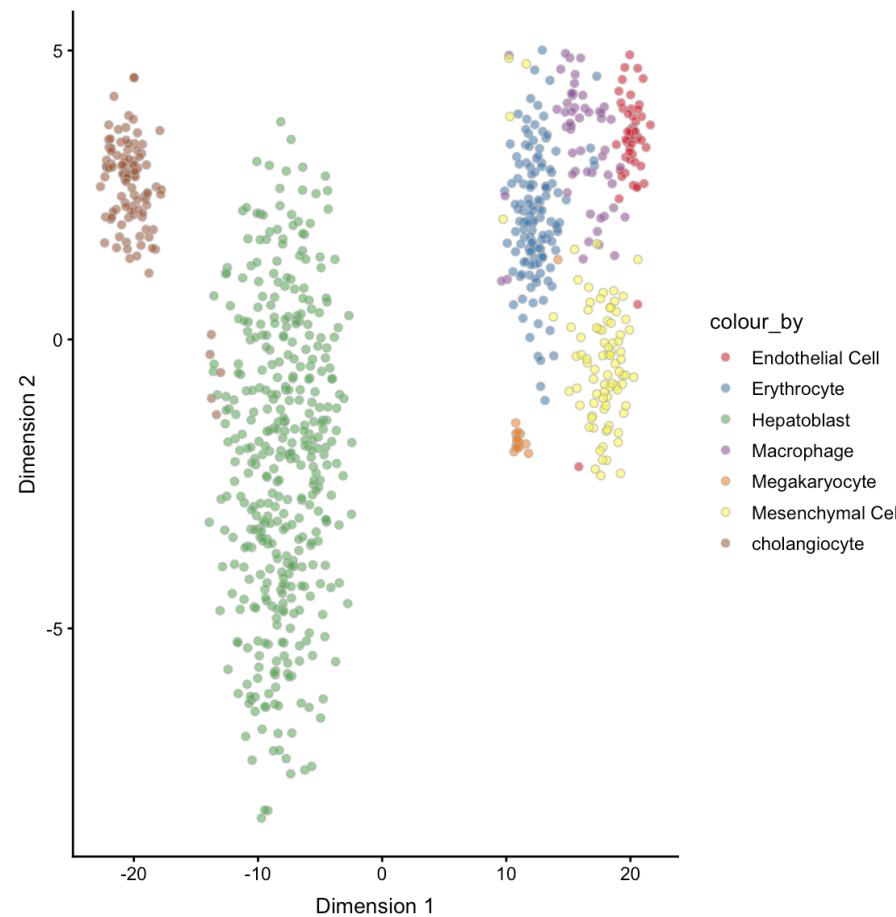
# Differential expression testing: Differences between single cell and bulk RNAseq

- Advantage of single-cell:
  - Account for cellular heterogeneity: DE tests can be now performed within cell-identity clusters across experimental conditions.
- Unique challenges for single-cell:
  - Dropout
  - High cell-to-cell variability
- Bulk DE methods
  - edgeR
  - limma
  - DESeq2
- Single-cell DE methods
  - MAST
  - ZINB-WaVE
  - DECENT
  - ...

# DE methods comparisons for scRNASeq



# Cell type composition



Can we conclude that there are more cholangiocytes than mesenchymal cells?

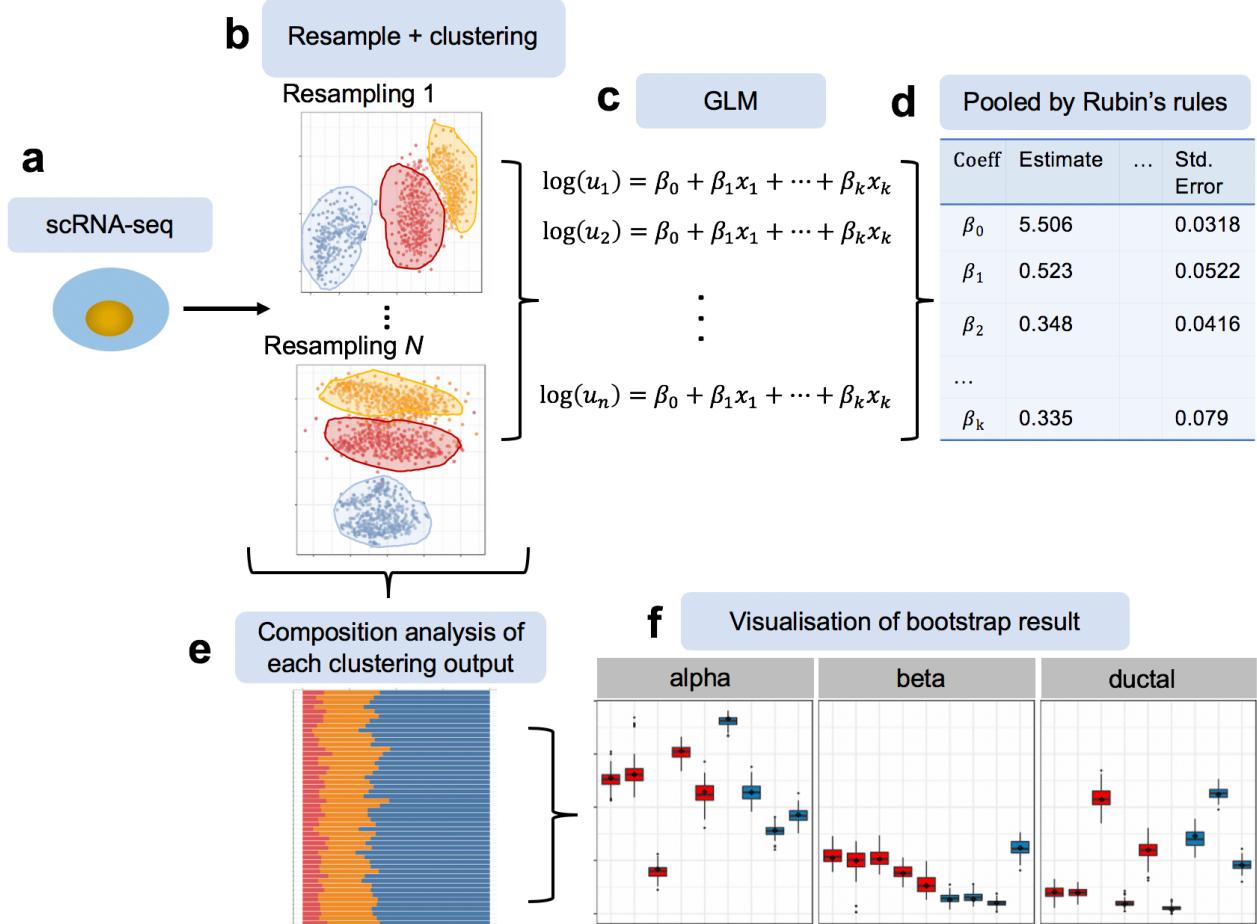
# Single cell Differential Composition (scDC)



scDC simulates **uncertainty** in cell-type proportions via bootstrapping

Main components:

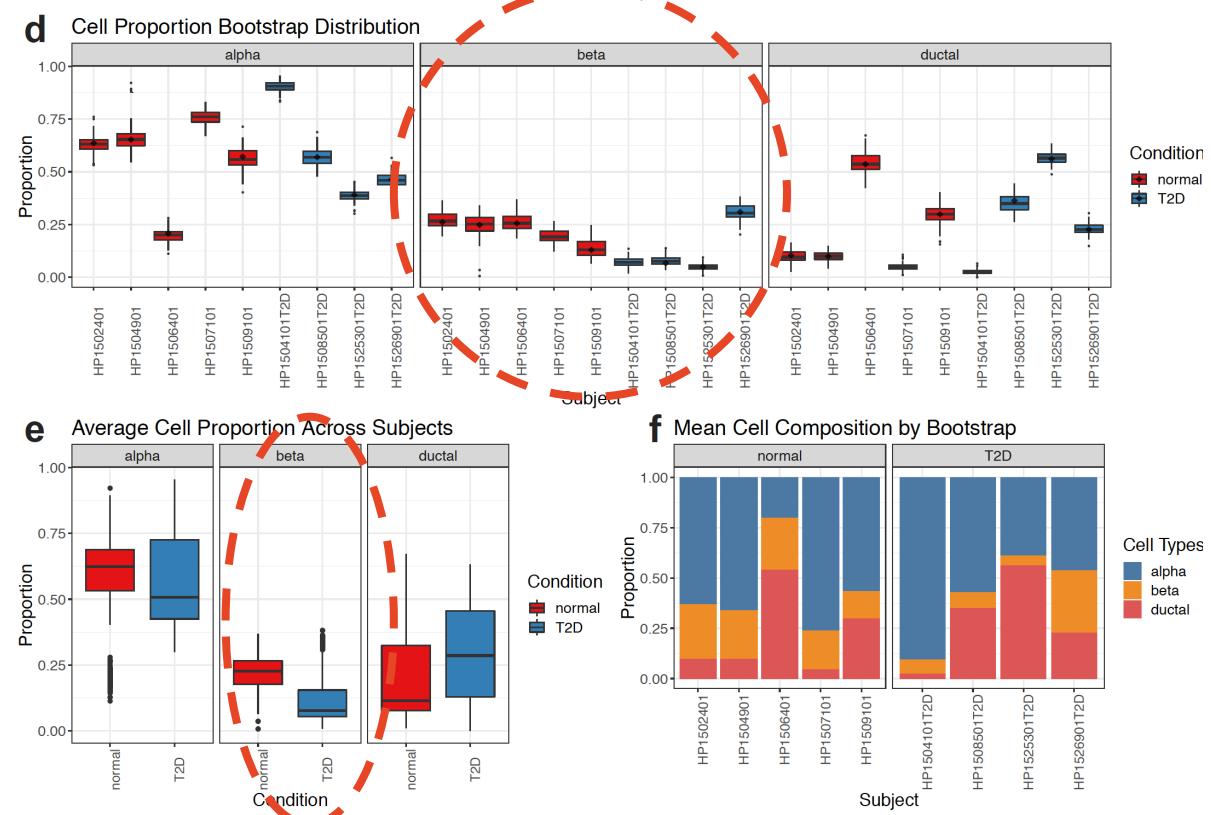
- Sample with replacement from count matrix, stratified by patient
- Cell type identification via clustering (PCA -> Kmeans (Pearson correlation))
- Calculations of cell – type proportions standard error from bootstrap samples
- Calculation of pooled log-linear model using Rubin's pooled estimate



# Single cell Differential Composition (scDC)



- Examined two synthetic datasets constructed from two sets of real experimental data — Pancreas (T2D vs healthy) and Neuronal (developing mouse)
- In pancreas dataset
  - confirmed the original finding that 1 of the 4 subjects has a higher beta cell value, as IQR non overlap
- In neuronal dataset
  - Revealed new finding that progenitor cells percentage increase over time



We will try this soon...

**16:00 – 16:45 Downstream analysis: identify marker genes & cell type composition**



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**Extension:**

- 1. cell type identification via  
supervised classification**
- 2. single cell trajectory analysis**

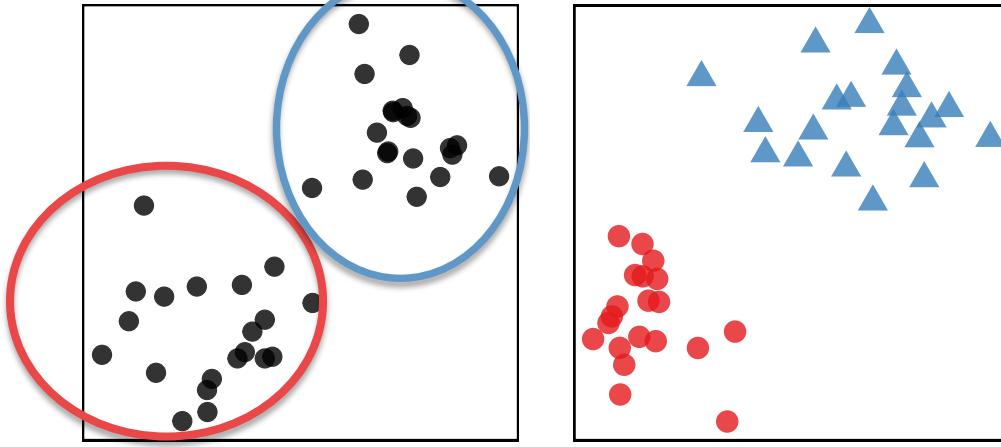


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# An alternative approach of cell type identification: supervised learning

## Clustering (unsupervised learning)

- Group the cells that are “close” to each other
- Annotated each cluster by DE genes or other characteristics
- Identify the novel cell type

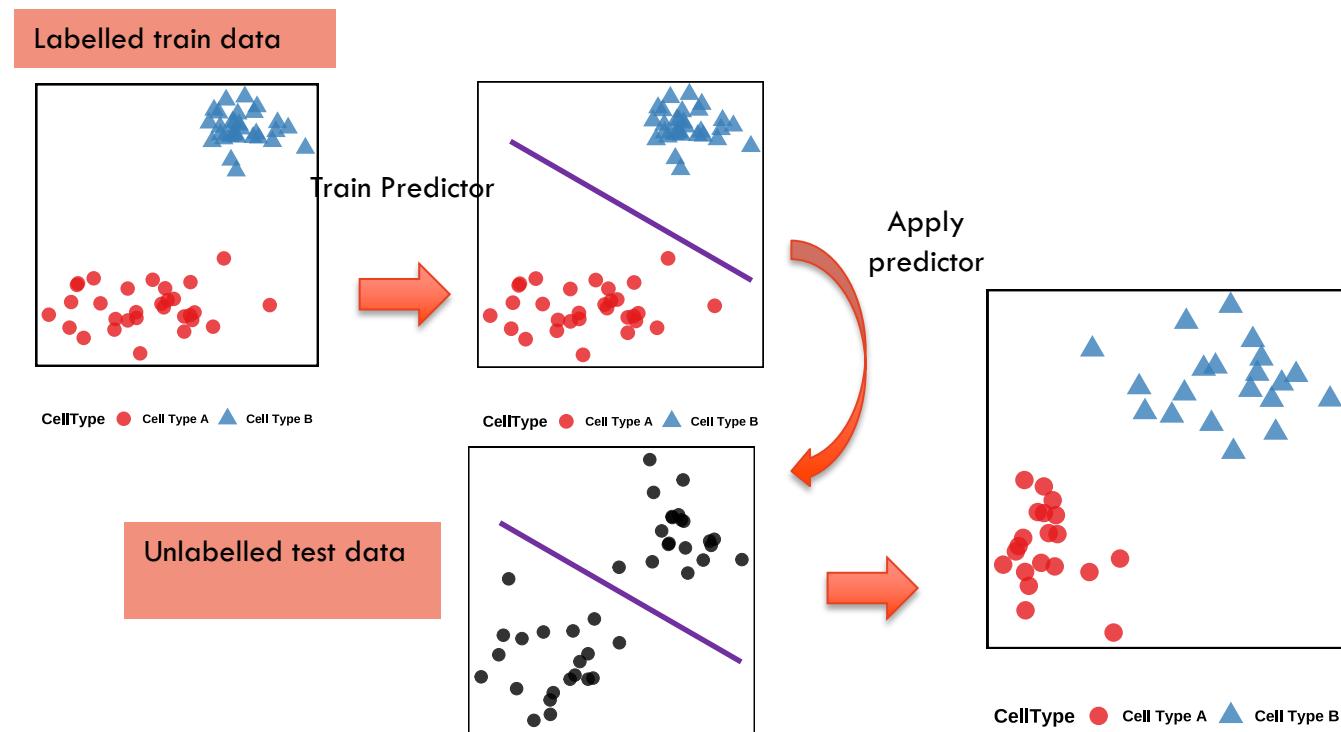


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CellType ● Cell Type A ▲ Cell Type B

## Classification (supervised learning)

- Required reference labelled datasets
- Predict cell types label directly
- What if there are cell types that are not in the reference data?

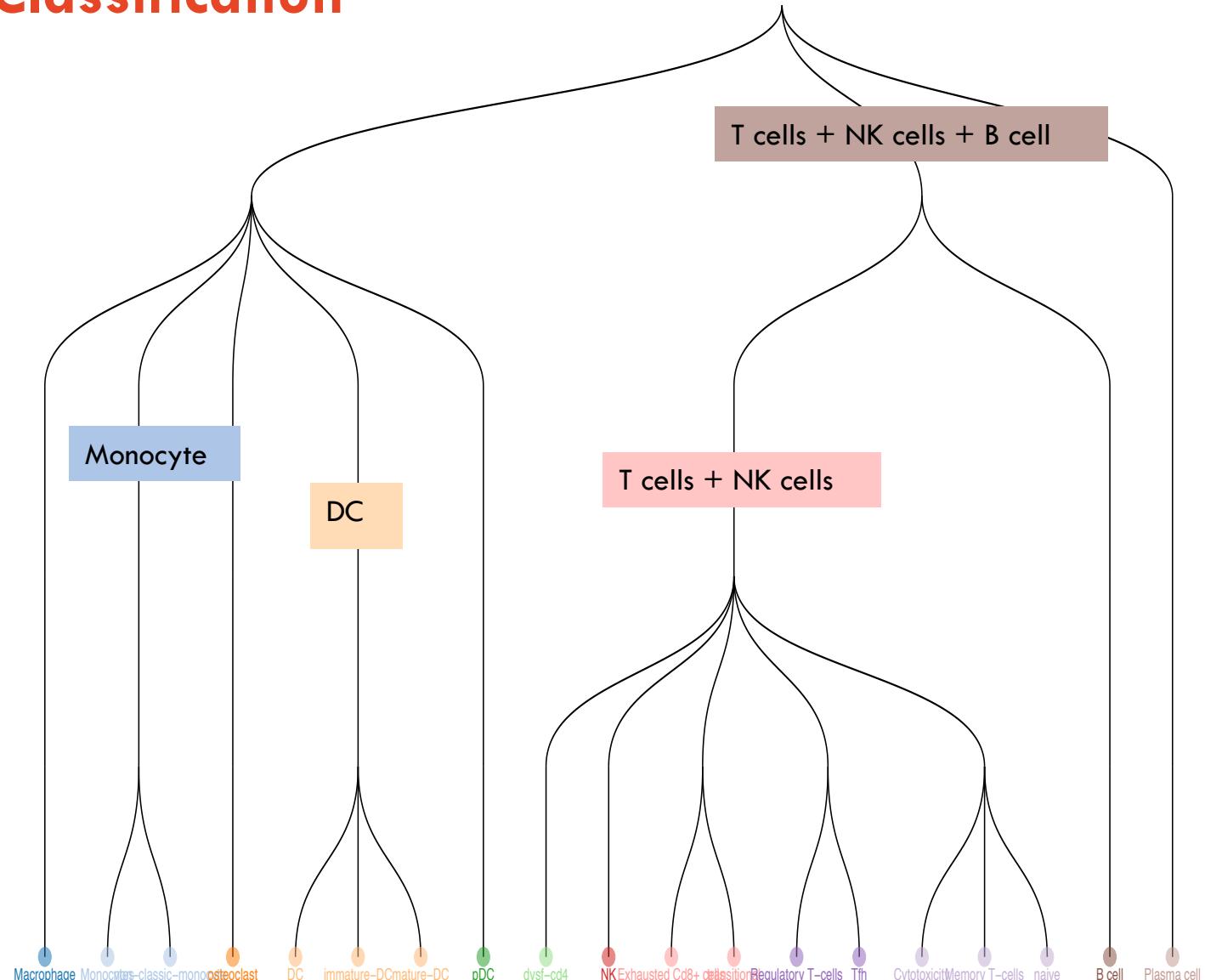


CellType ● Cell Type A ▲ Cell Type B

# scClassify: Hierarchical Classification

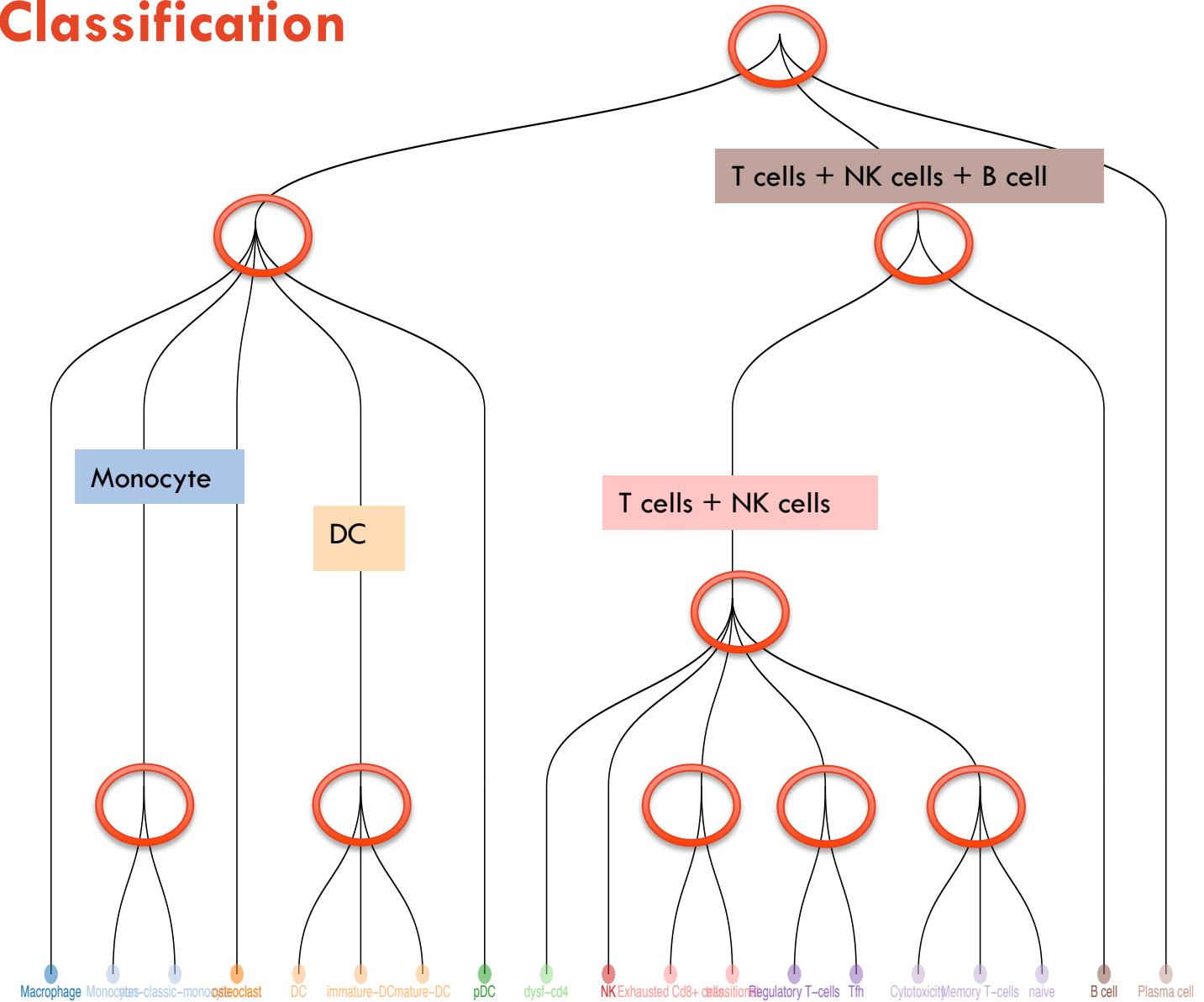
## Step 1: Constructing cell type hierarchical tree:

We use *hierarchical ordered partitioning and collapsing hybrid (HOPACH)* to generate the cell type hierarchical tree based on the reference dataset.



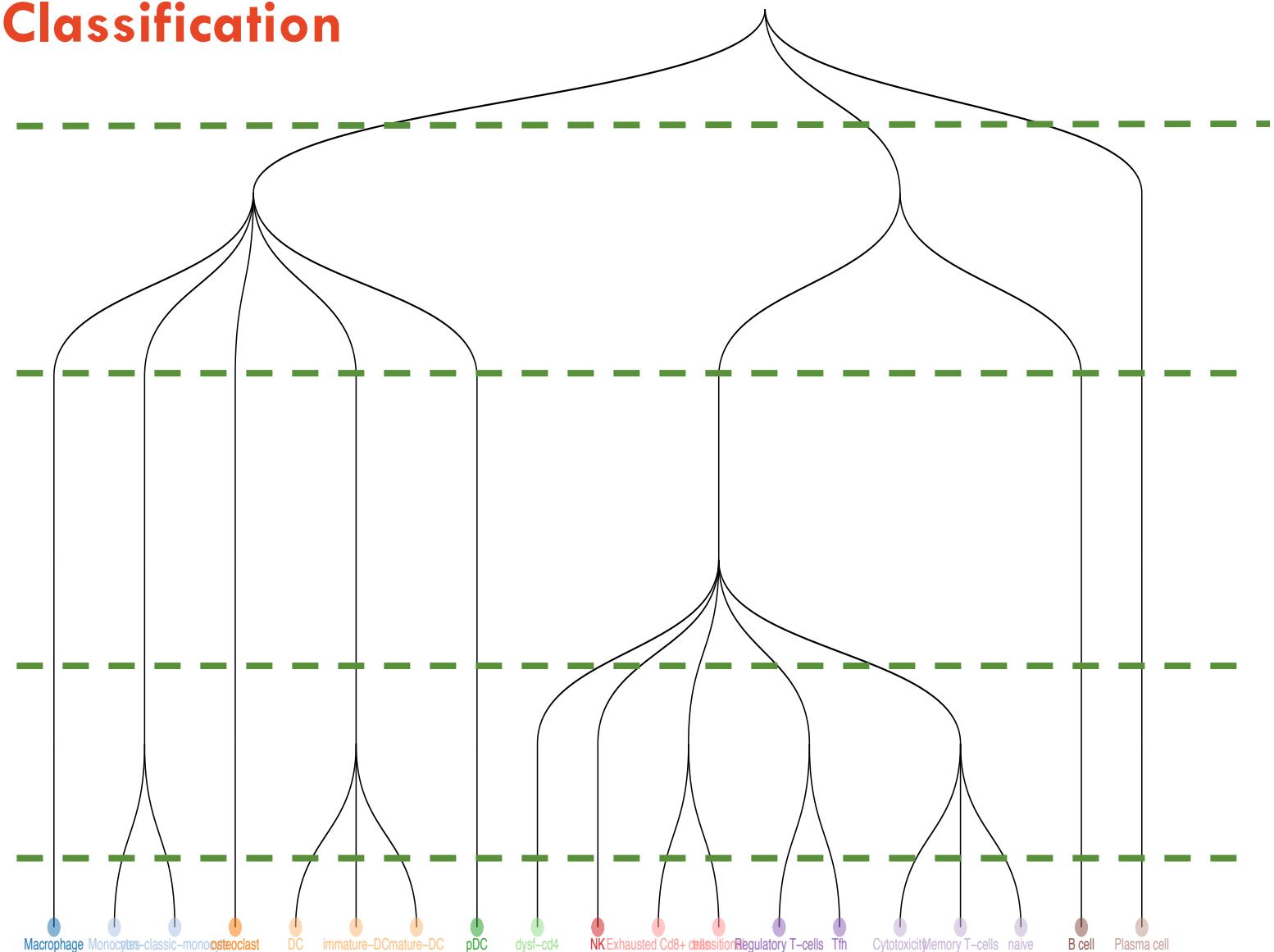
# scClassify: Hierarchical Classification

**Step 2: Feature selection at each branch point.**



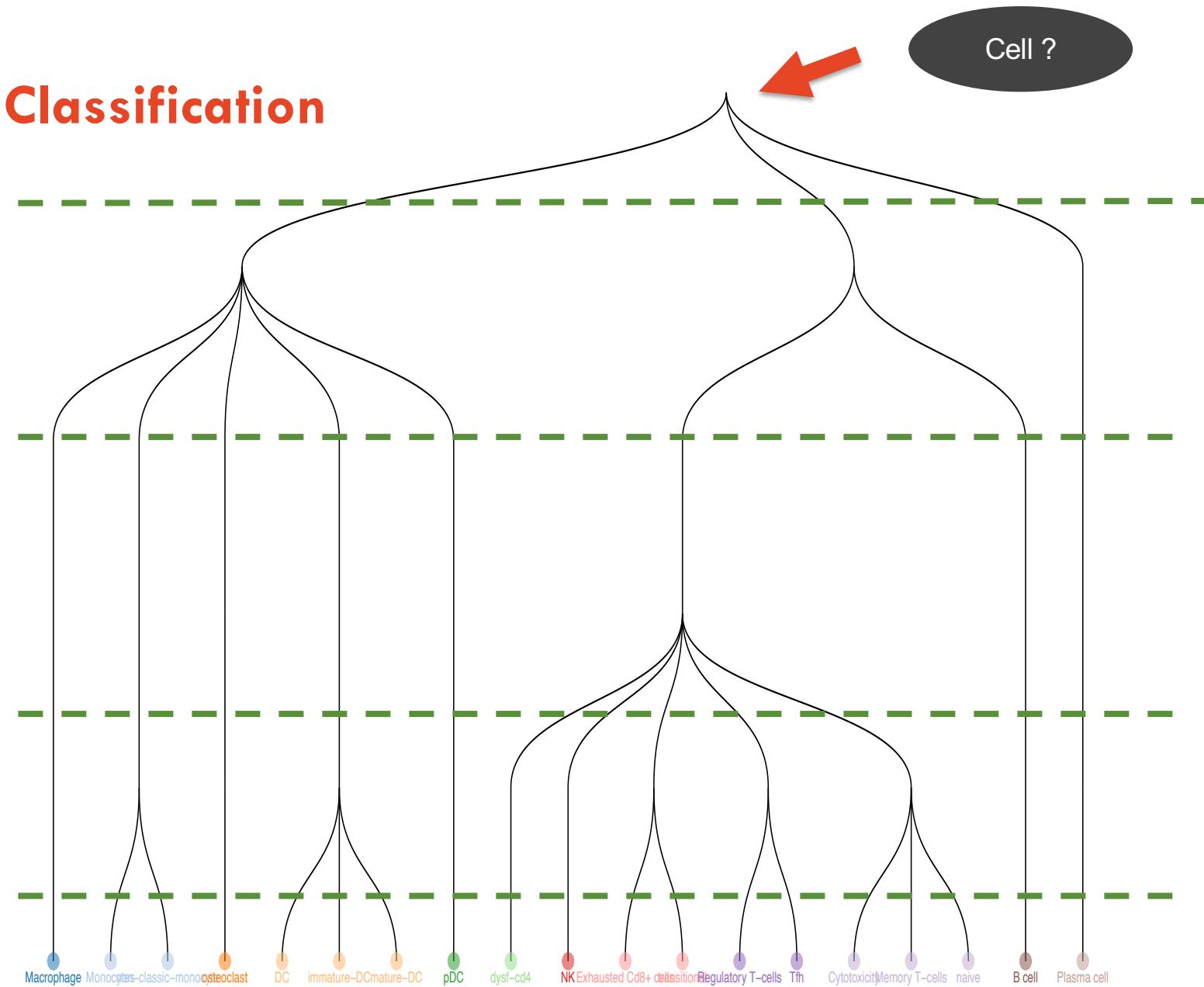
## scClassify: Hierarchical Classification

**Step 3: Performing correlation-based weighted kNN for each level of the cell type hierarchical tree:**



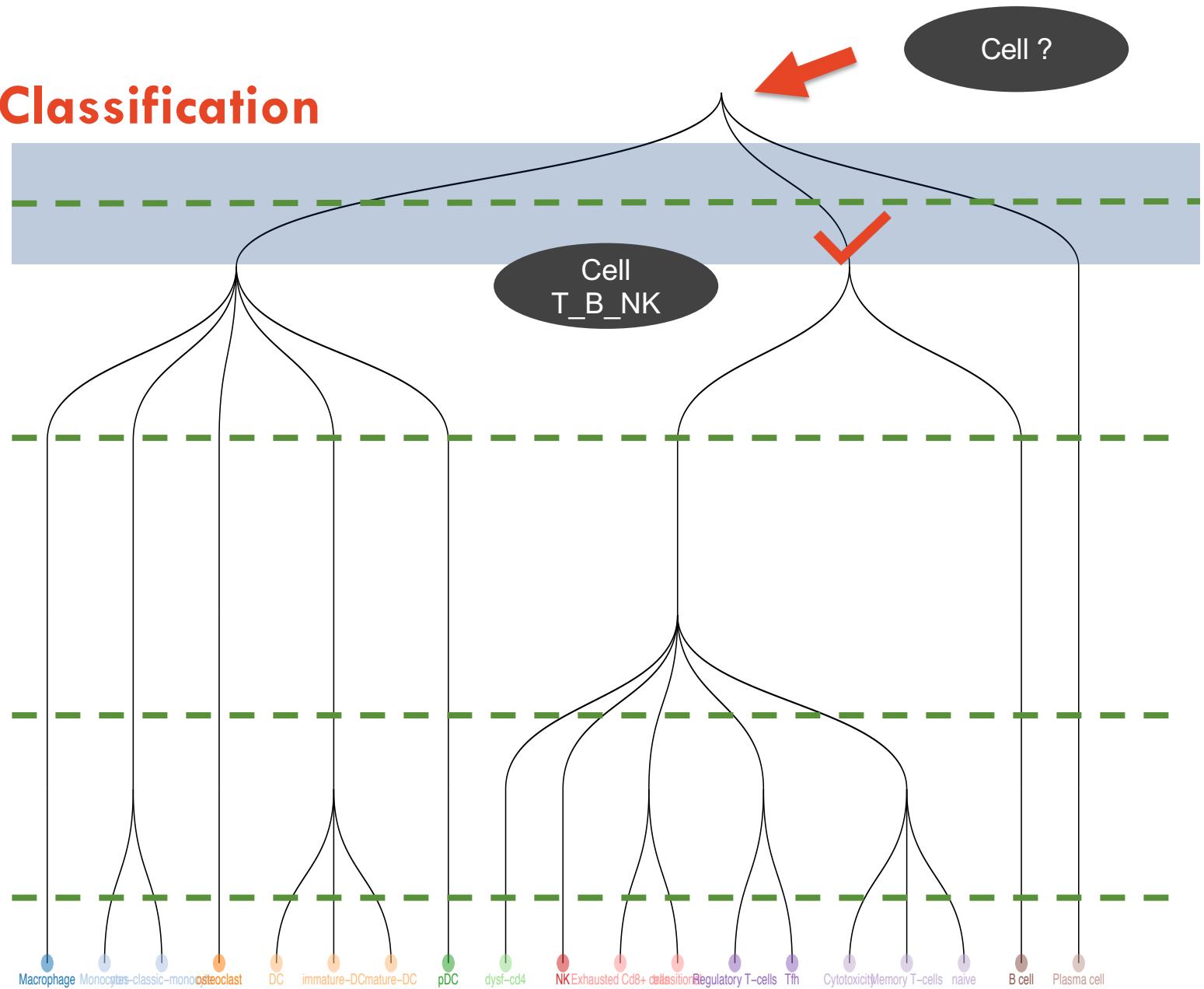
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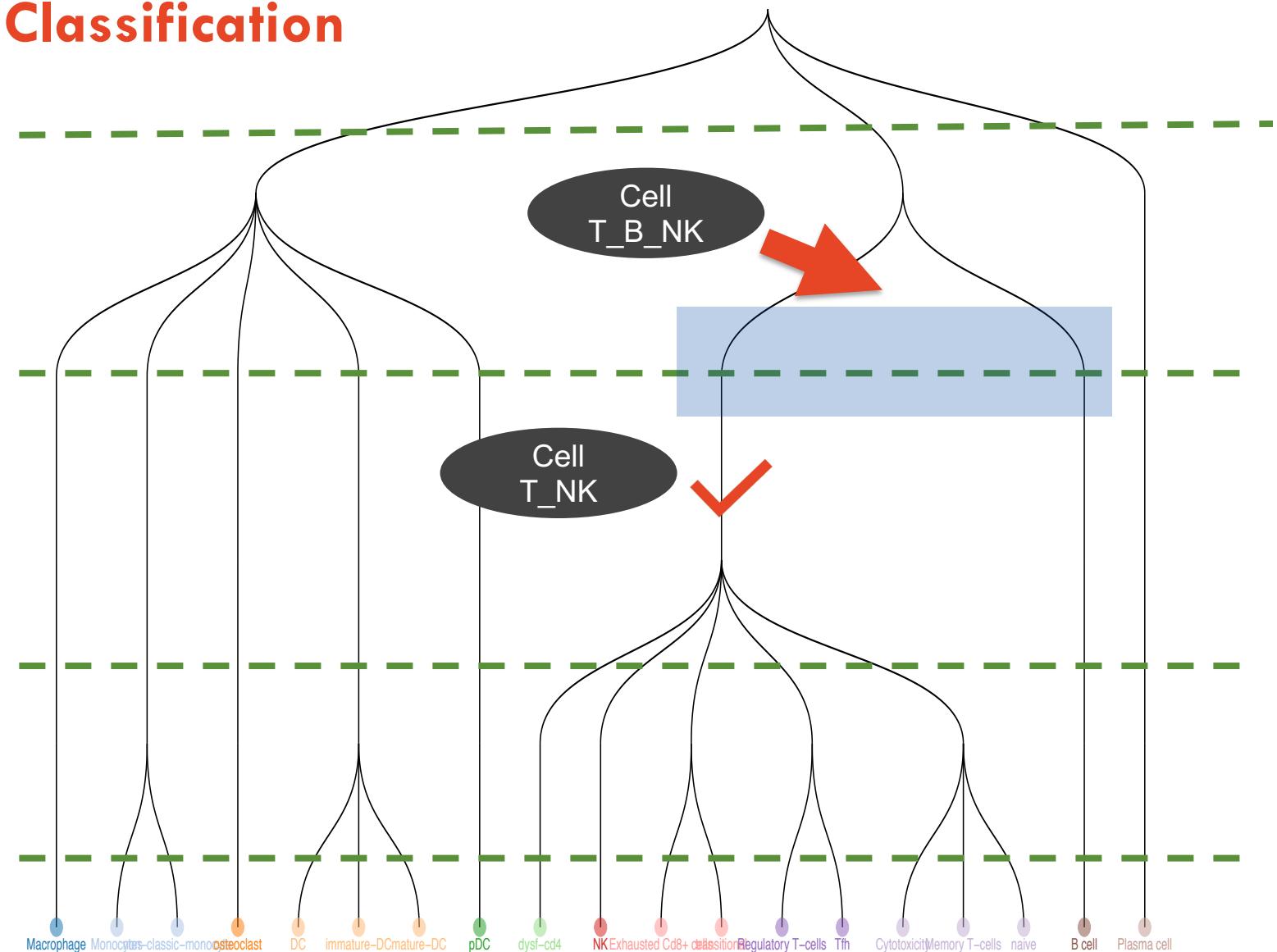
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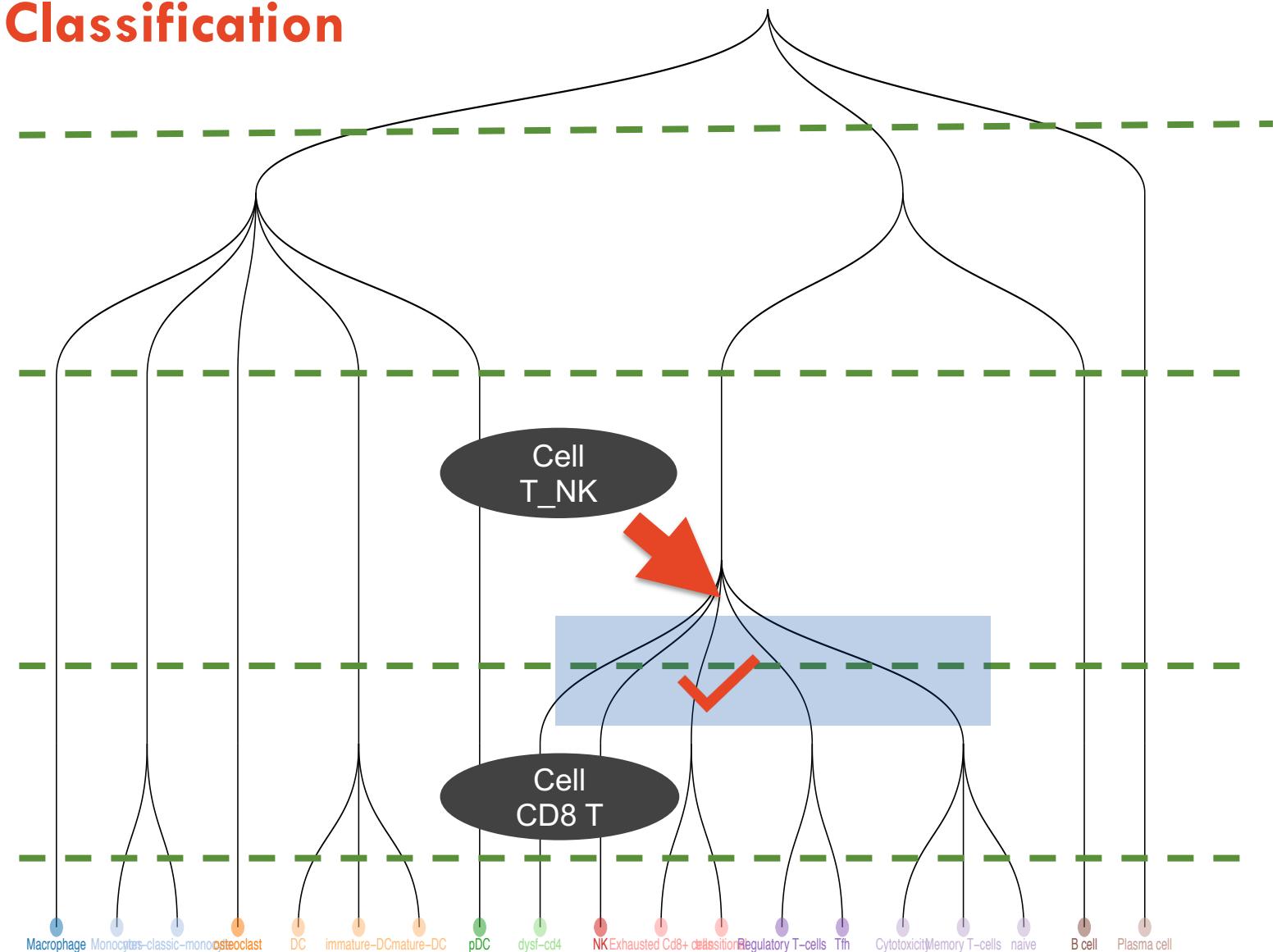
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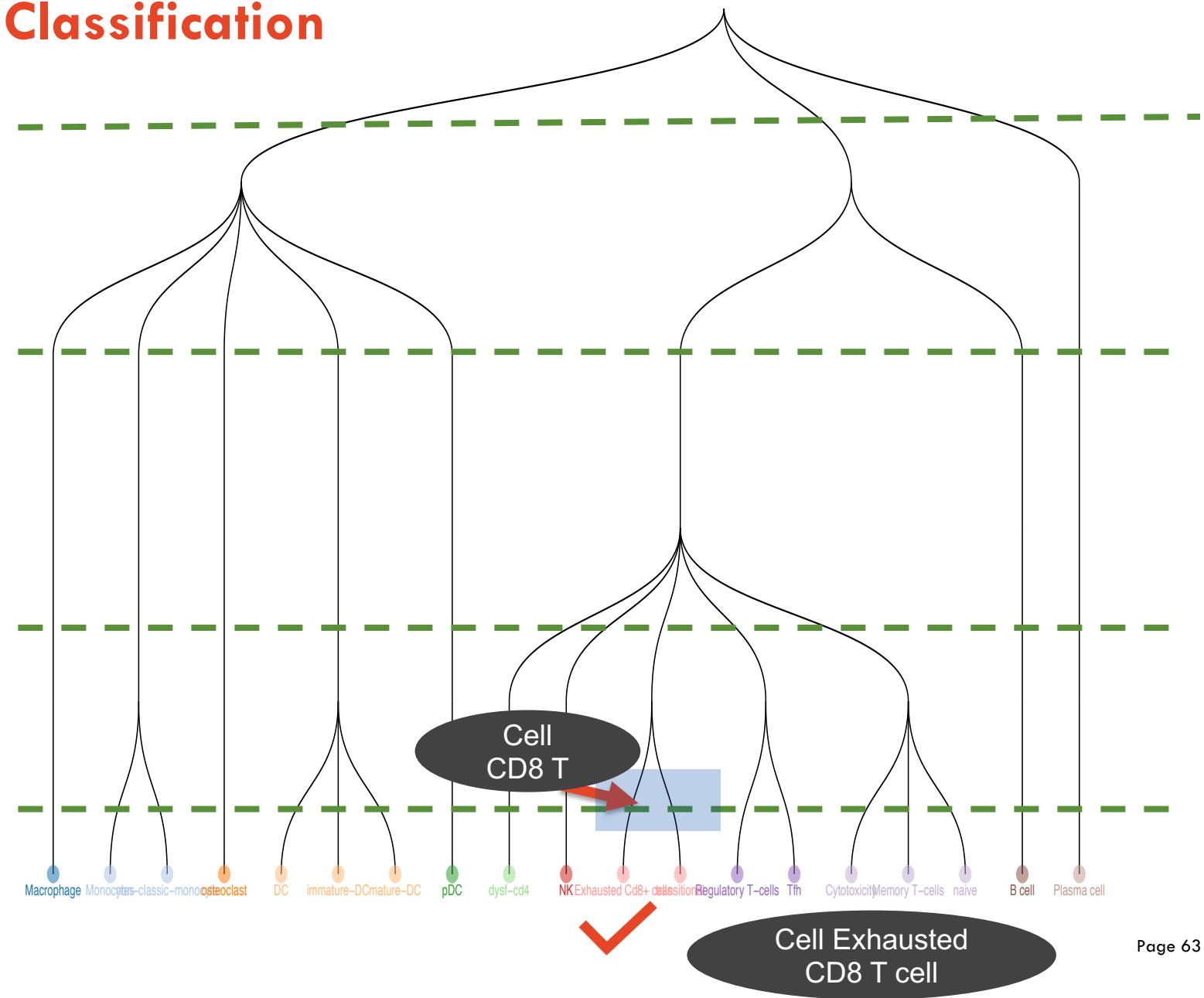
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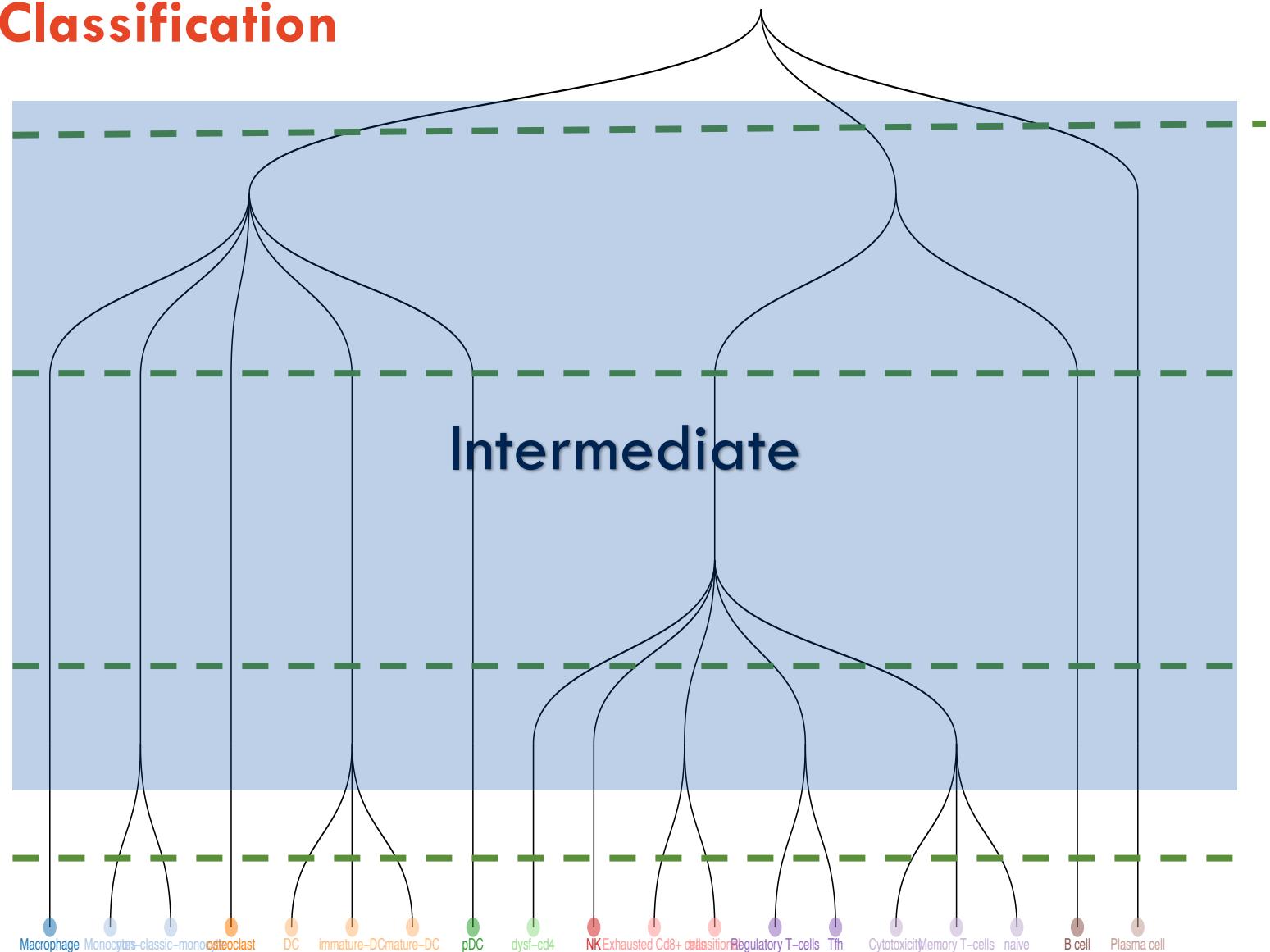
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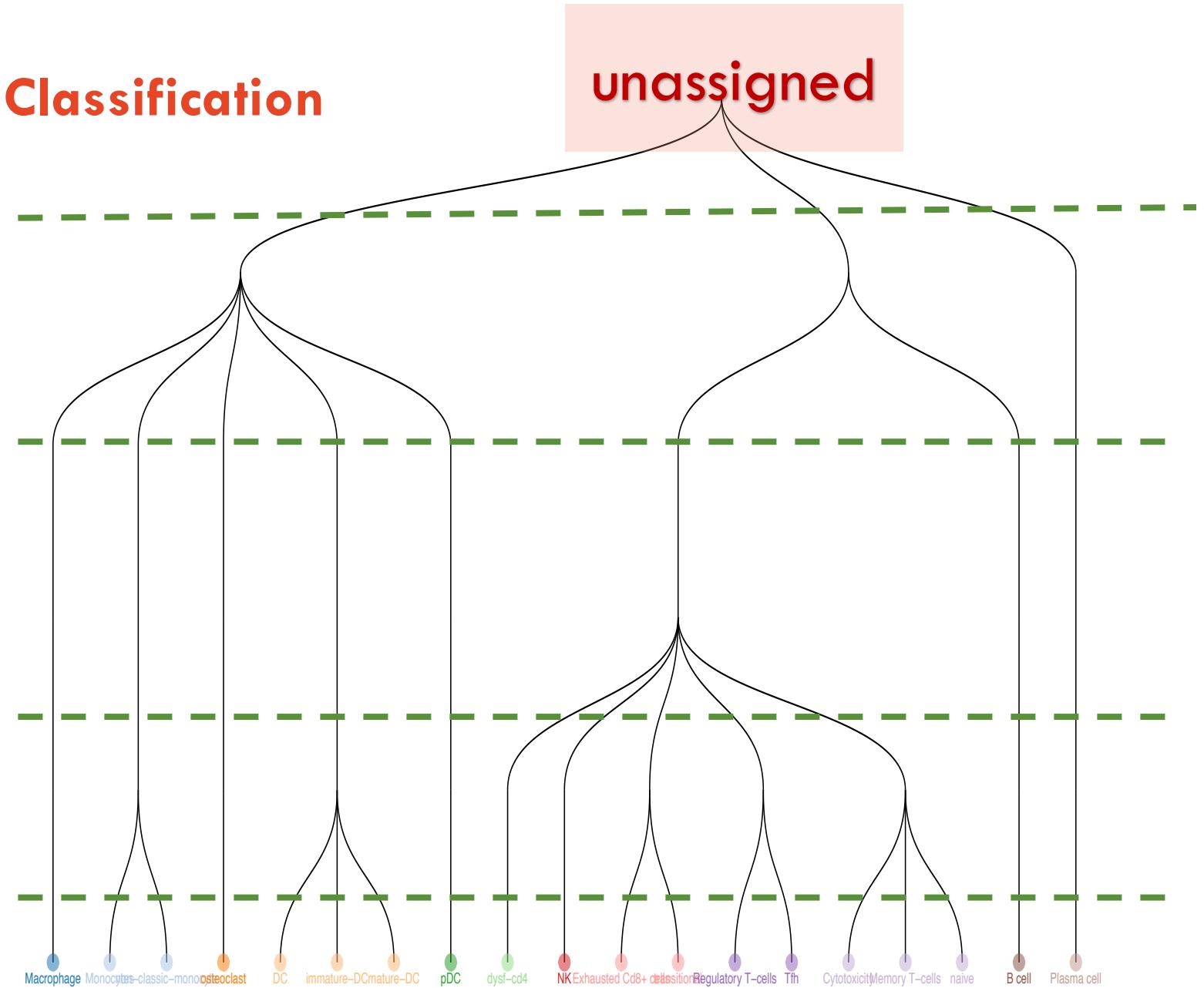
# scClassify: Hierarchical Classification

**Step 3: Performing correlation-based weighted kNN for each level of the cell type hierarchical tree:**



# scClassify: Hierarchical Classification

**Step 3: Performing correlation-based weighted kNN for each level of the cell type hierarchical tree:**



# scClassify

Try scClassify: <https://sydneybiox.github.io/scClassify/>

scClassify 0.2.0   Classify Your Cells ▾   Build Your Own Models ▾   Functions   Pretrained Models ▾   ★ Interactive scClassify shiny app (beta)

## scClassify: hierarchical classification of cells

Single cell classification via cell-type hierarchies based on ensemble learning and sample size estimation.

build passing

### Installation

Install Bioconductor packages S4Vectors , hopach and limma packages using BiocManager :

```
# install.packages("BiocManager")
BiocManager::install(c("S4Vectors", "hopach", "limma"))
```

Then install scClassify using devtools :

```
library(devtools)
devtools::install_github("SydneyBioX/scClassify")
```



### License

GPL-3

### Developers

Yingxin Lin  
Maintainer



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### Vignette and Shiny app

You can find the vignette at this website: <https://sydneybiox.github.io/scClassify/index.html>.

Also, you can find our interactive shiny application (beta) at this website: <http://shiny.maths.usyd.edu.au/scClassify>.

### Pretrained models

Currently available pre-trained scClassify models (in scClassifyTrainModel class)

Tissue      Organism      Training Data      Accession      Summary      Download .rds

### New Results

[Comment on this paper](#)

## scClassify: hierarchical classification of cells

Yingxin Lin, Yue Cao, Hani J Kim, Agus Salim, Terence P. Speed, Dave Lin, Pengyi Yang, Jean Yee Hwa Yang  
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# Trajectory inference

## Why trajectory analysis?

- Cells may not be sufficiently described by a discrete classification system such as clustering
- Biological processes drive development are usually continuous process
- Trajectory inference therefore can be used to model
  - the transitions between cell identities
  - Branching differentiation process
  - Dynamic gene regularization model

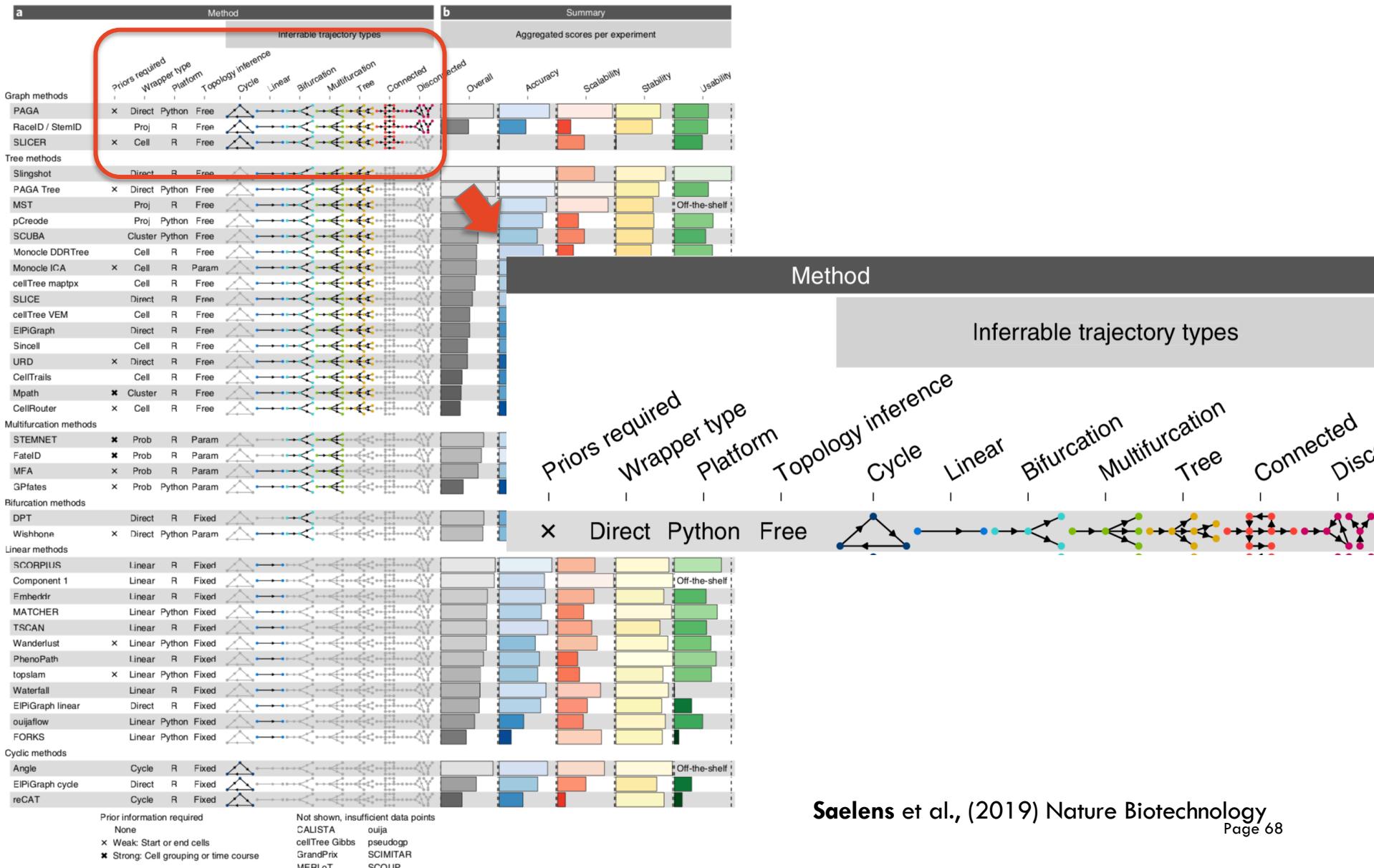
## What is trajectory inference?

- Interpret single-cell data as a snapshot of a continuous process.

## Typical steps involved in trajectory inference:

- Reduce the dimensionality of the single cell data
- Finding paths through the reduced dimension space, by minimizing the changes between neighboring cells
- Order the cells by pseudotime

# Comparisons of pseudotime inference methods

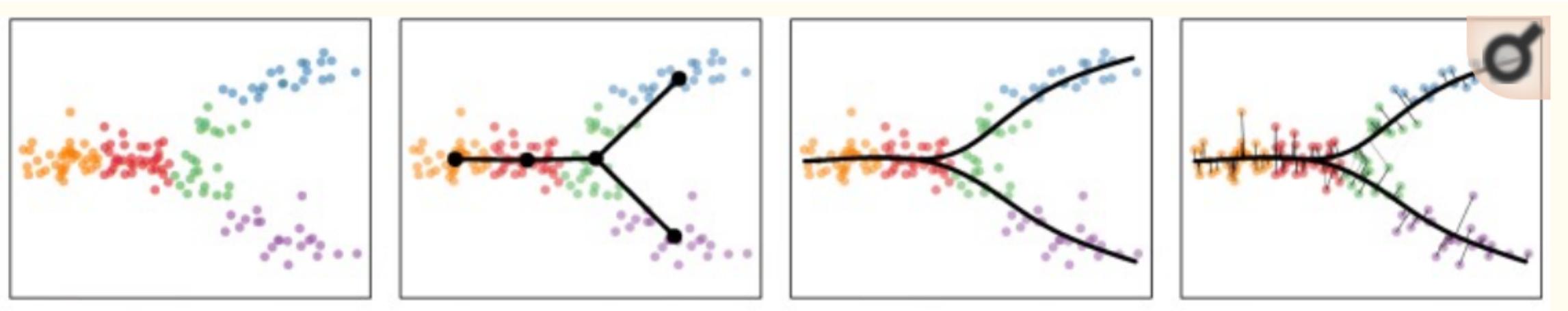


Saelens et al., (2019) Nature Biotechnology  
Page 68

## Slingshot example (Street et al., 2018)

Three stages:

1. Reduced dimension of the data
2. Inference of the global lineage structure. Uses cluster-based minimum spanning tree
3. Inference of pseudotime variables for cells along each lineage. Fits simultaneous **principal curves**



# **Summary**



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