CANCER RESEARCH UK | CAMBRIDGE CENTRE

Introduction to single-cell RNA-seq analysis

Quality Control

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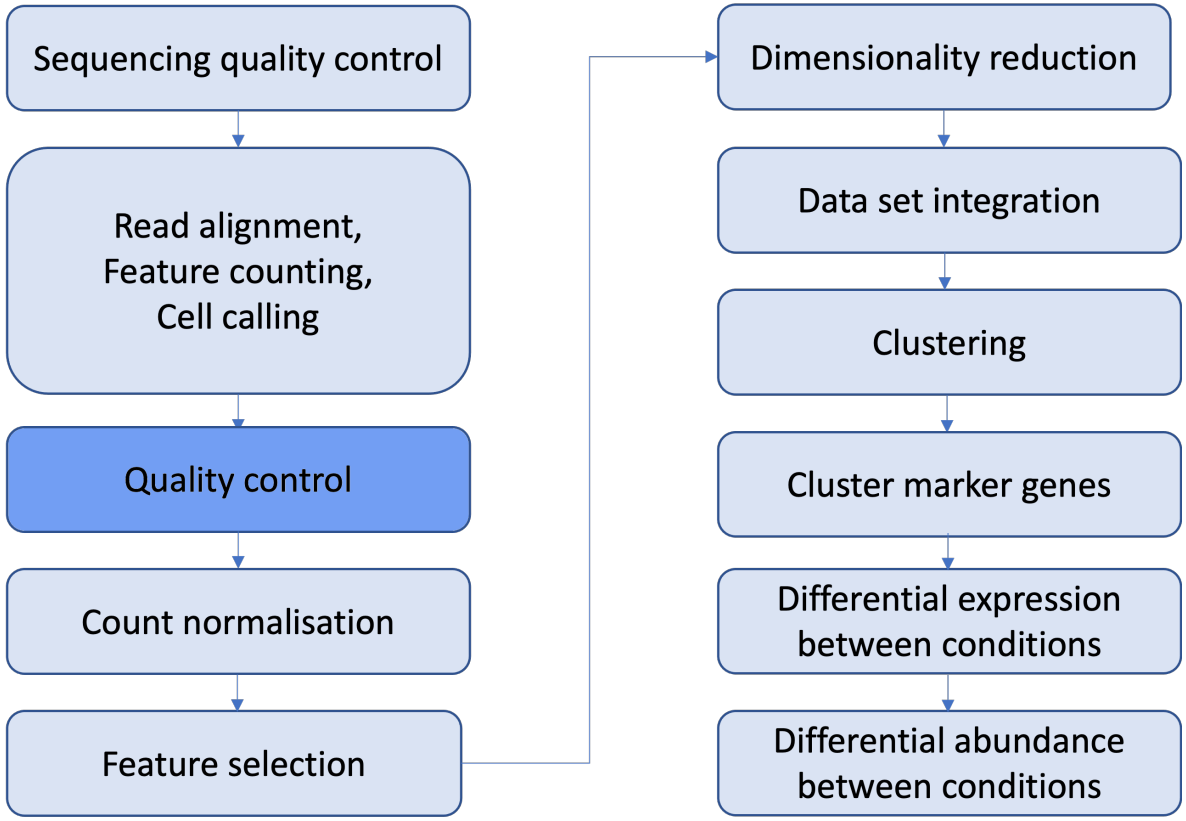
29th October 2021

Single Cell RNAseq Analysis Workflow



Quality Control

We will now check the distribution of key quality metrics.

We will then:

- Filter out genes that are not expressed in any cell
- Identify low-quality cells
- Filter and/or mark low quality cells

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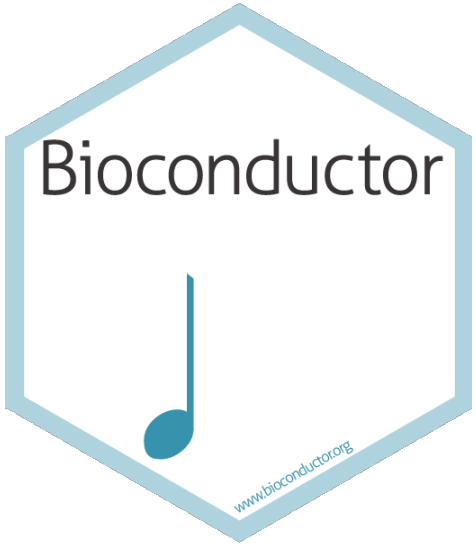
Quality Control

Bioconductor R packages:

- *scater*
- *DropletUtils*

Orchestrating Single-Cell Analysis with Bioconductor
Robert Amezquita, Aaron Lun, Stephanie Hicks, Raphael Gottardo

http://bioconductor.org/books/release/OSCA/



Read CellRanger outputs into R

```
%h%-$ ls SRR9264343/outs/raw_feature_bc_matrix
barcodes.tsv.gz
features.tsv.gz
matrix.mtx.gz
```

Loading a single sample

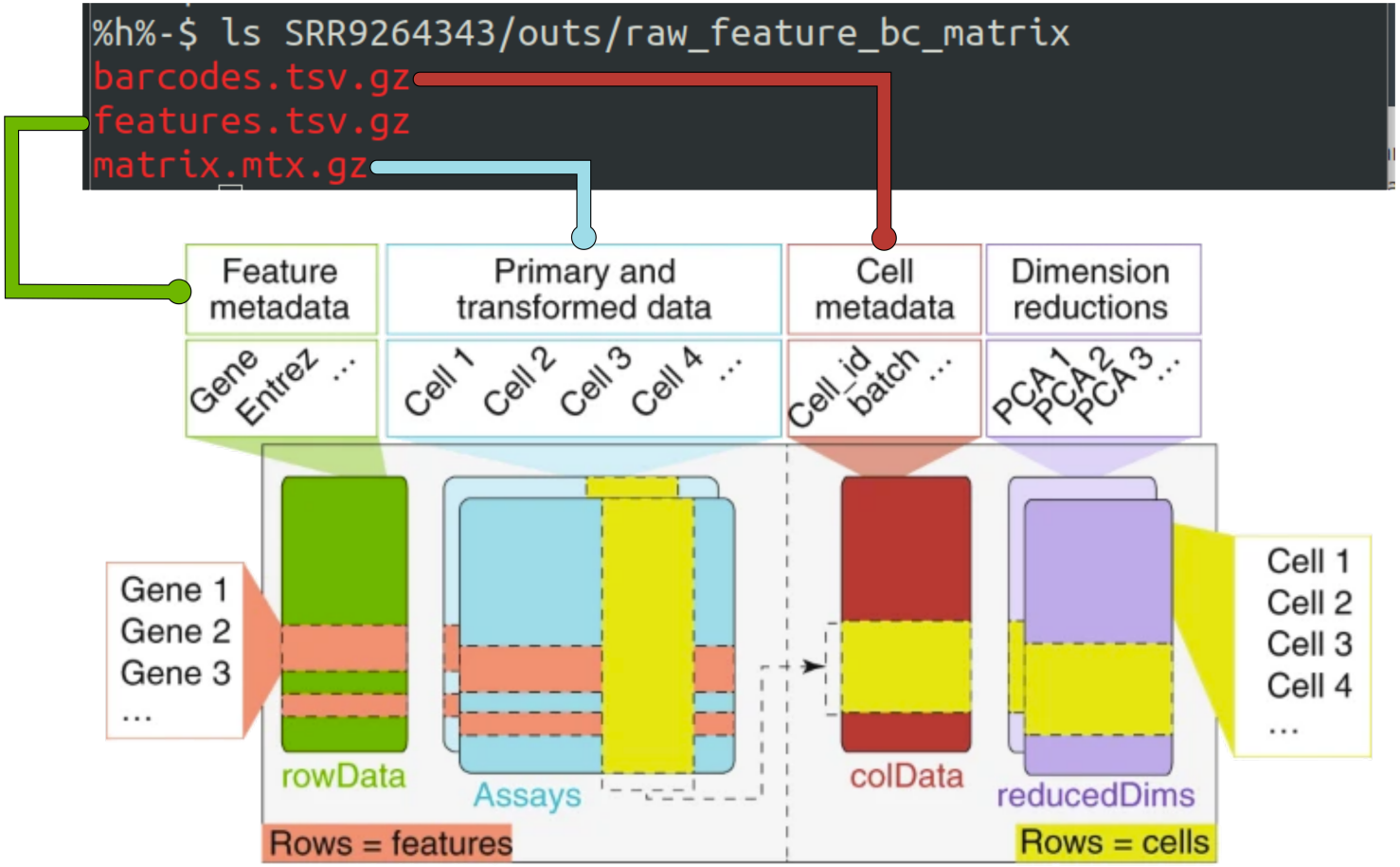
```
sample.path <- c(SRR9264343 = "CellRanger_Outputs/SRR9264343/outs/filtered_feature_bc_matrix/")
sce <- read10xCounts(sample.path, col.names=TRUE)
sce <- read10xCounts(sample.path, col.names=FALSE)
```

Loading multiple samples

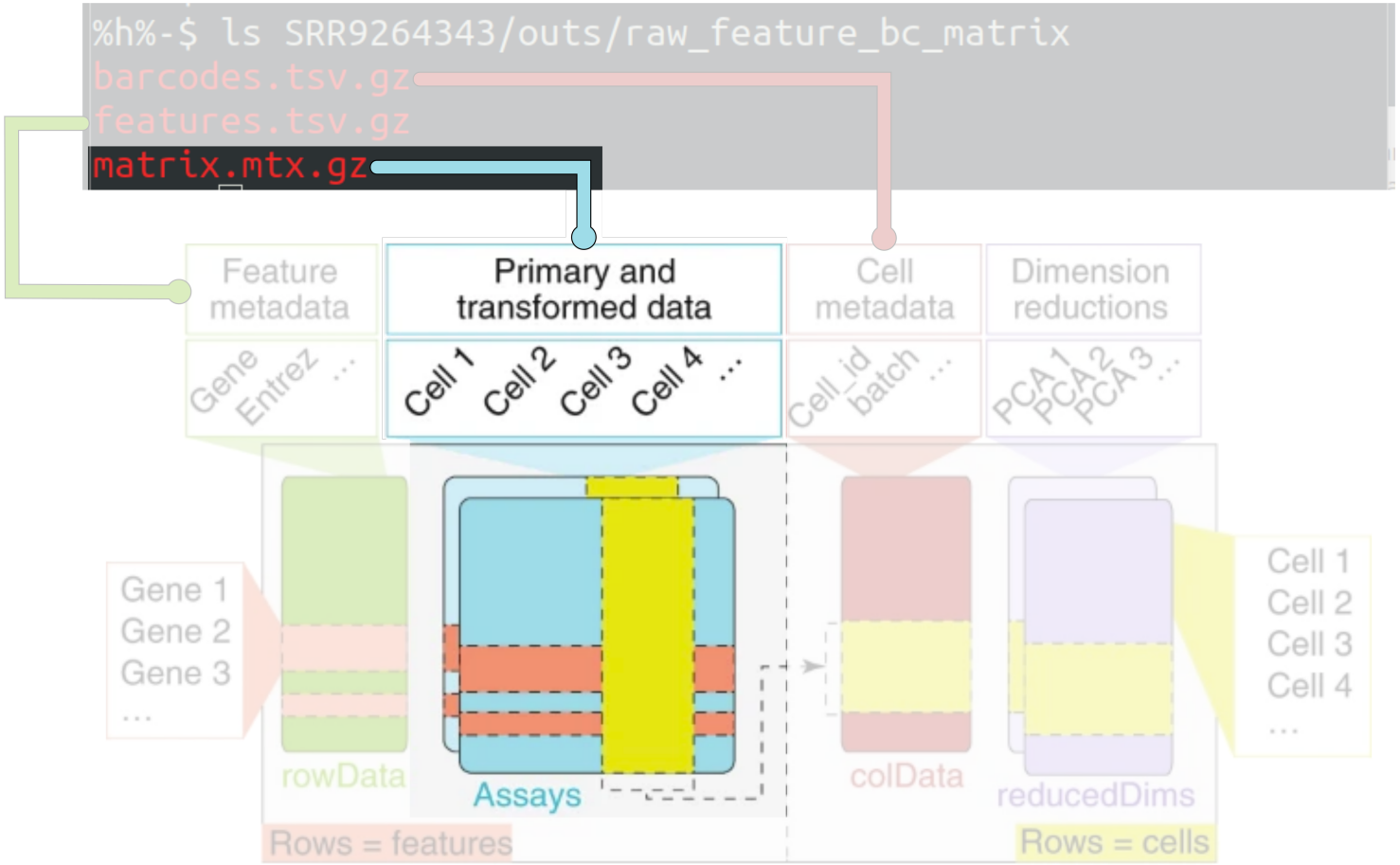
```
list_of_files <- c(SRR9264343 = "CellRanger_Outputs/SRR9264343/outs/filtered_feature_bc_matrix",
                   SRR9264344 = "CellRanger_Outputs/SRR9264344/outs/filtered_feature_bc_matrix",
                   SRR9264347 = "CellRanger_Outputs/SRR9264347/outs/filtered_feature_bc_matrix")
sce <- read10xCounts(list_of_files, col.names=TRUE)
```

→ *SingleCellExperiment* object

The *SingleCellExperiment* object



The Counts Matrix

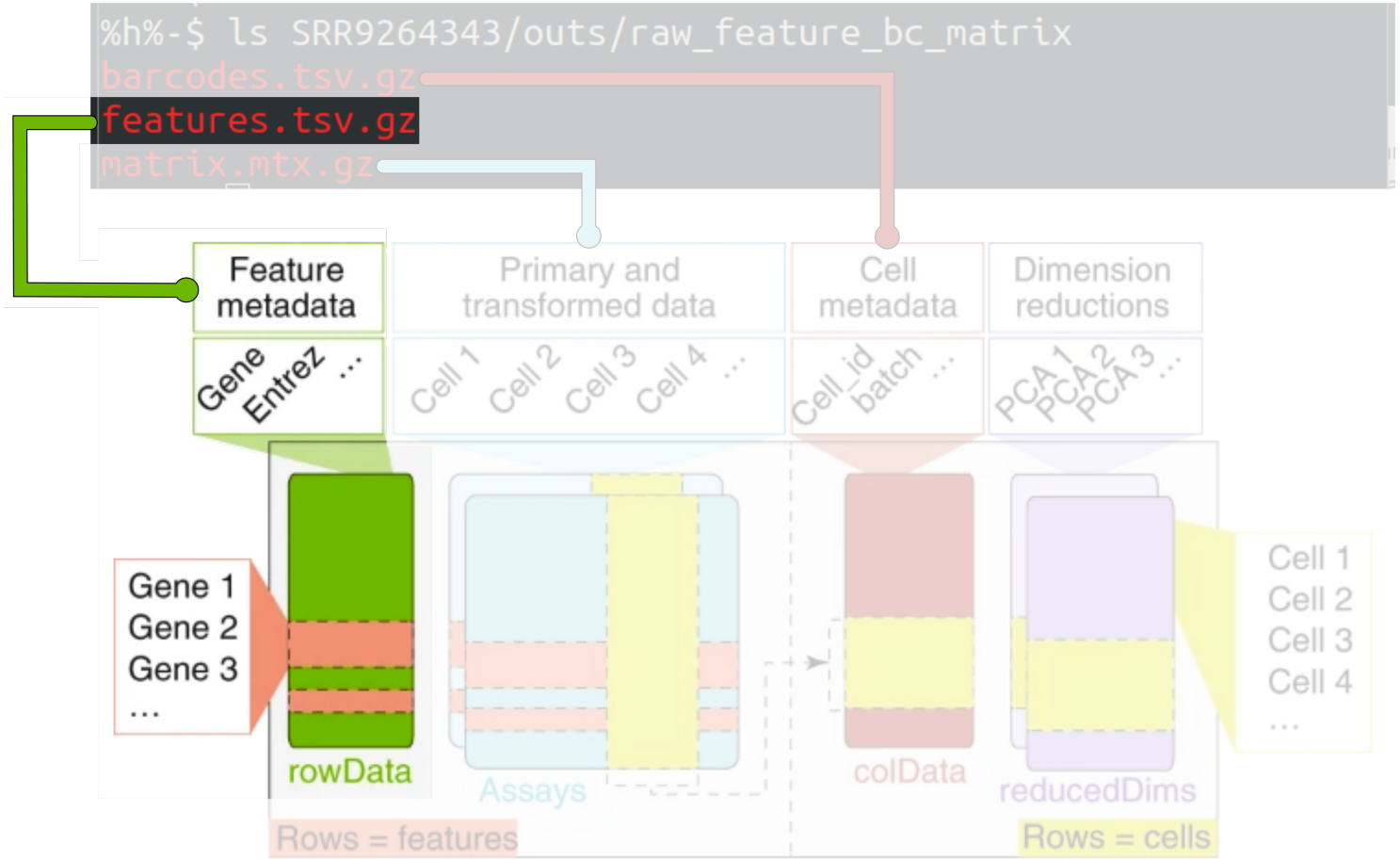


The Counts Matrix

```
counts(sce)
```

```
## 36601 x 3094 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
##
## ENSG00000175756 1 2 . 1 1 . . 1 . . . 2 1 . 1 2 2 1 . . 1 . 1 3 1 1 2 1 2 2 . 6 . . 1 1 1 . . . 1 3 1 . 2 . 1 5
## ENSG00000221978 . 2 . . . . . . . . 3 . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . 1 . . . . 1 . . . . . . 1 . . . . 1
## ENSG00000224870 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000242485 1 2 . 1 2 . . 1 . 1 1 4 . . 1 . 1 2 . 2 . 1 2 . . . . . 1 . . 2 2 . . 1 1 1 1 . 1 . 1 . . . . .
## ENSG00000272455 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000235098 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000225905 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000205116 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000225285 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000179403 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000215915 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000160072 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000197785 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000205090 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000160075 2 1 . . . . 1 3 1 4 2 3 1 . . . 1 1 . 2 2 1 . 4 2 1 1 1 . . 1 2 . . . 1 . . 1 . 1 2 . . . . 1 2
## ENSG00000215014 . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1
## ENSG00000228594 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000286989 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000272106 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
## ENSG00000197530 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . 1 . . 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1
## ENSG00000189409 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
##
##  ..............................
##  ........suppressing 3046 columns and 36560 rows in show(); maybe adjust 'options(max.print= *, width = *)'
##  ..............................
##
## ENSG00000272141 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
```

Feature metadata

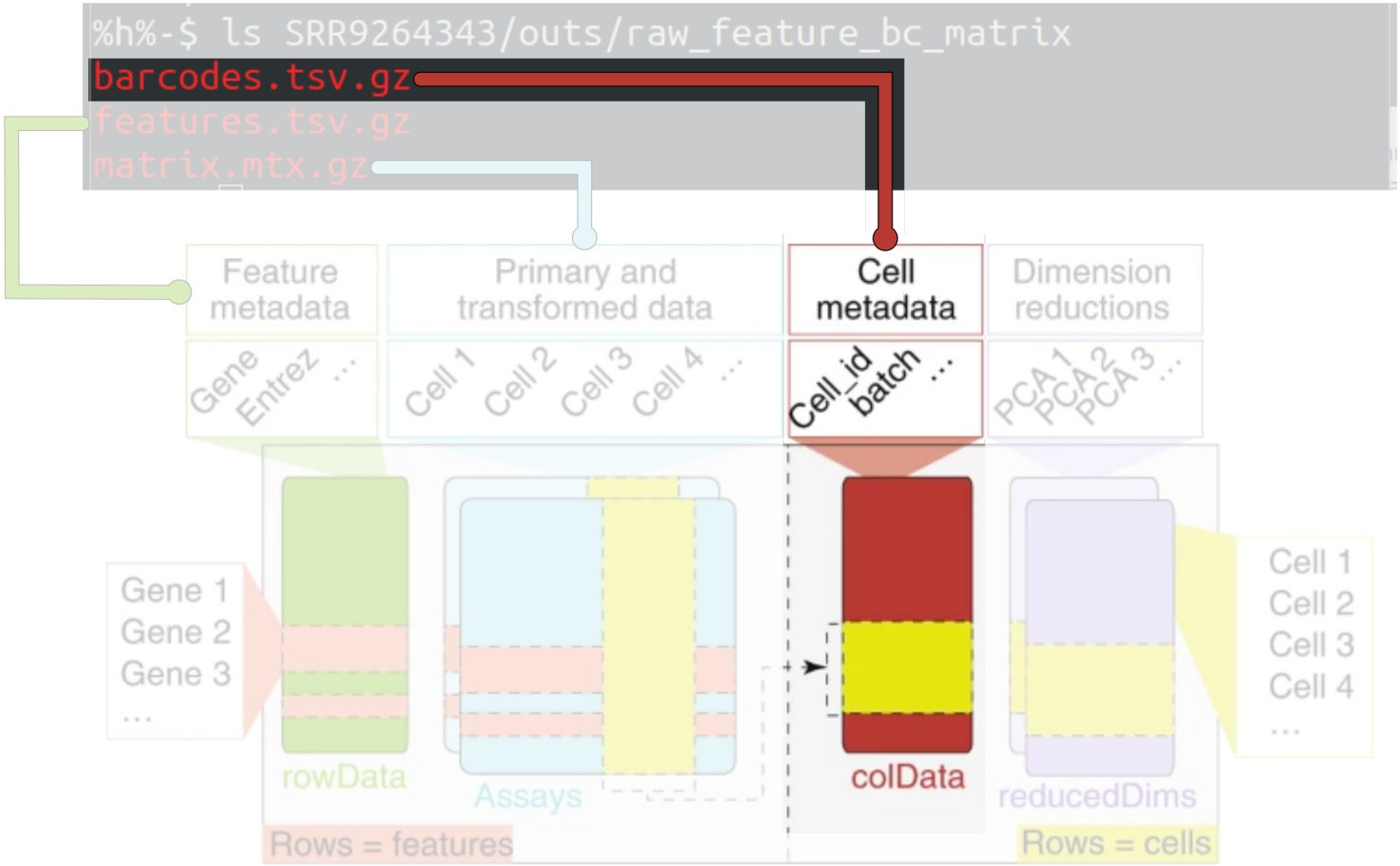


Feature metadata

```
rowData(sce)
```

```
## DataFrame with 36601 rows and 3 columns
##                             ID      Symbol            Type
##                    <character> <character>     <character>
## ENSG00000175756 ENSG00000175756    AURKAIP1 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000221978 ENSG00000221978       CCNL2 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000224870 ENSG00000224870  MRPL20-AS1 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000242485 ENSG00000242485      MRPL20 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000272455 ENSG00000272455  AL391244.2 Gene Expression
## ...                         ...         ...             ...
## ENSG00000240731 ENSG00000240731  AL139287.1 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000224051 ENSG00000224051        CPTP Gene Expression
## ENSG00000169962 ENSG00000169962      TAS1R3 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000107404 ENSG00000107404        DVL1 Gene Expression
## ENSG00000162576 ENSG00000162576       MXRA8 Gene Expression
```

Droplet annotation (Cell metadata)



Droplet annotation (Cell metadata)

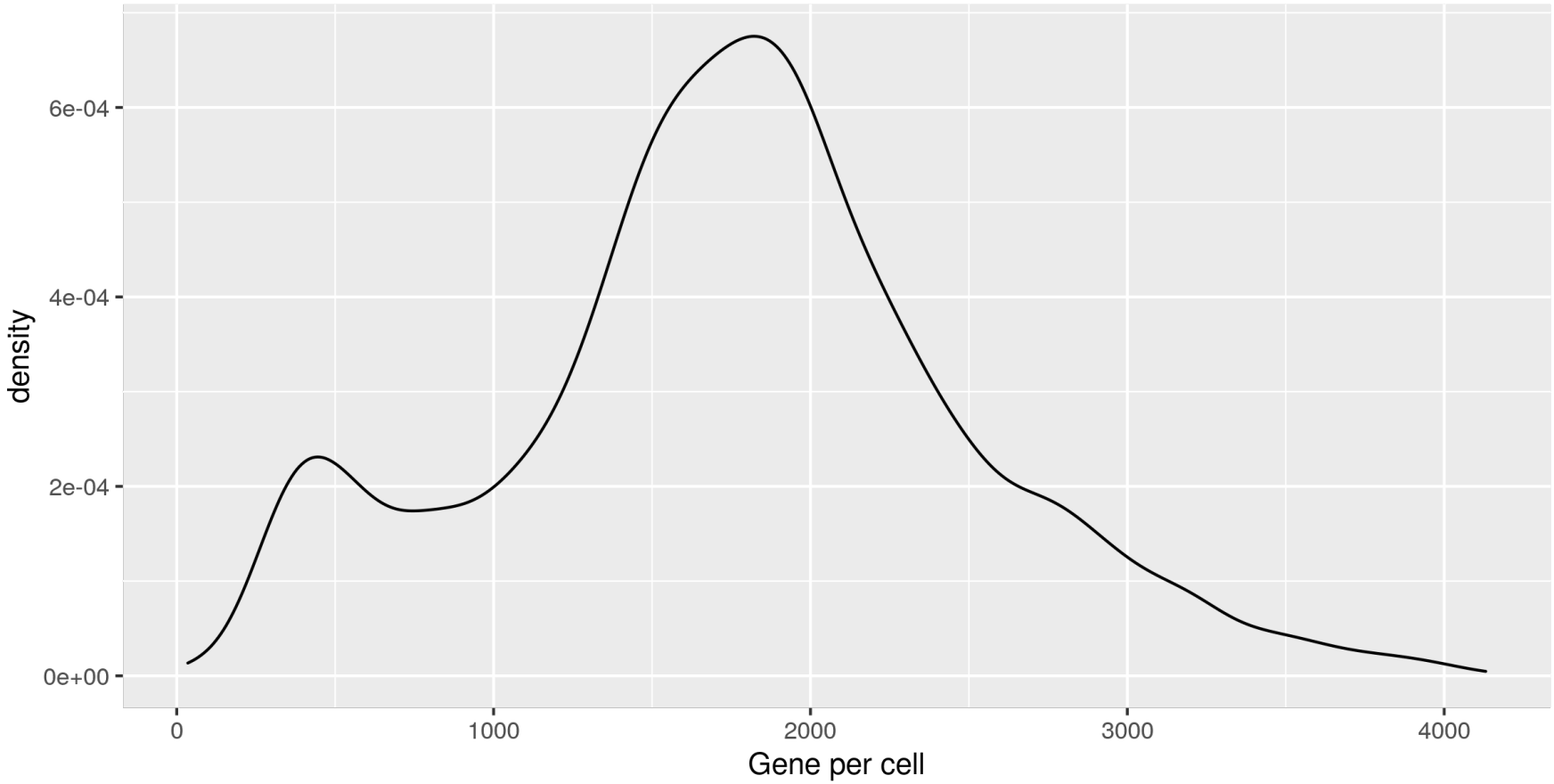
```
colData(sce)
```

```
## DataFrame with 3094 rows and 2 columns
##           Sample            Barcode
##      <character>        <character>
## 1     SRR9264343 AAACCTGAGACTTTCG-1
## 2     SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTCTTCAAG-1
## 3     SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTGCAACTT-1
## 4     SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTGTTGAGG-1
## 5     SRR9264343 AAACCTGTCCCAAGTA-1
## ...          ...                ...
## 3090  SRR9264343 TTTGGTTTCTTTAGGG-1
## 3091  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAAGAAACGAG-1
## 3092  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAAGGACGAAA-1
## 3093  SRR9264343 TTTGTCACAGGCTCAC-1
## 3094  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAGTTCGGCAC-1
```

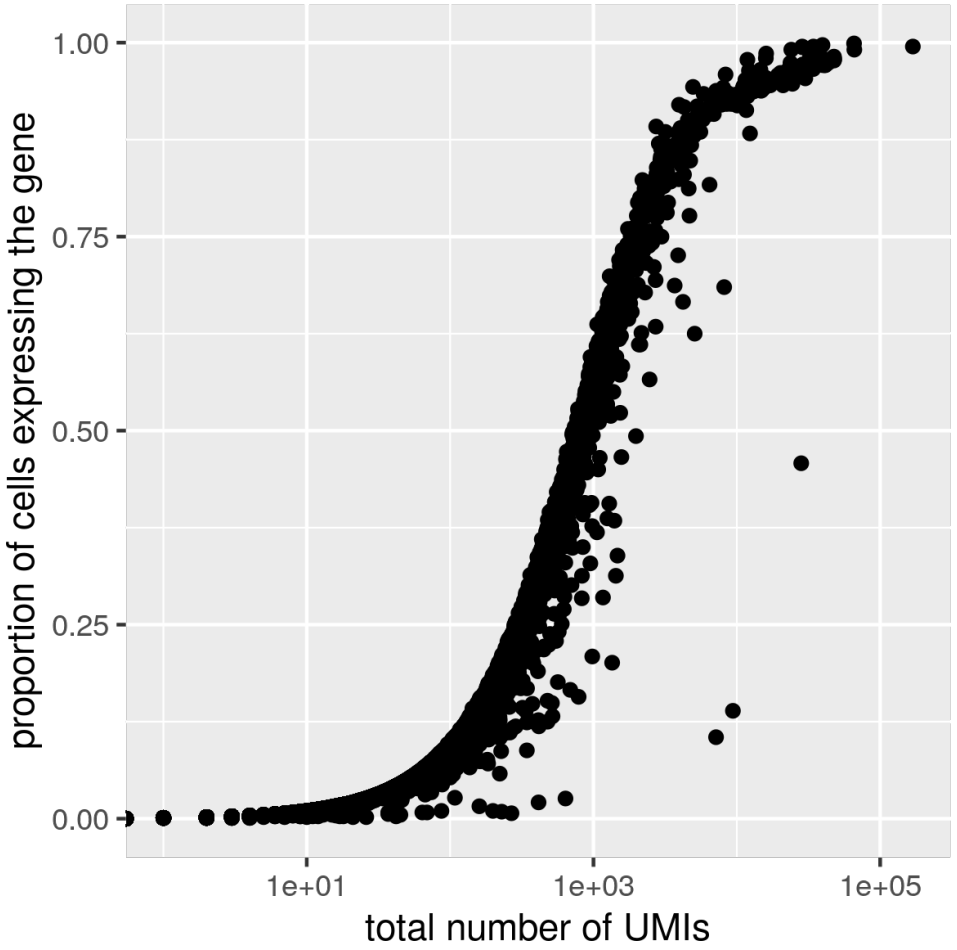
```
colnames(counts(sce))
```

```
## NULL
```

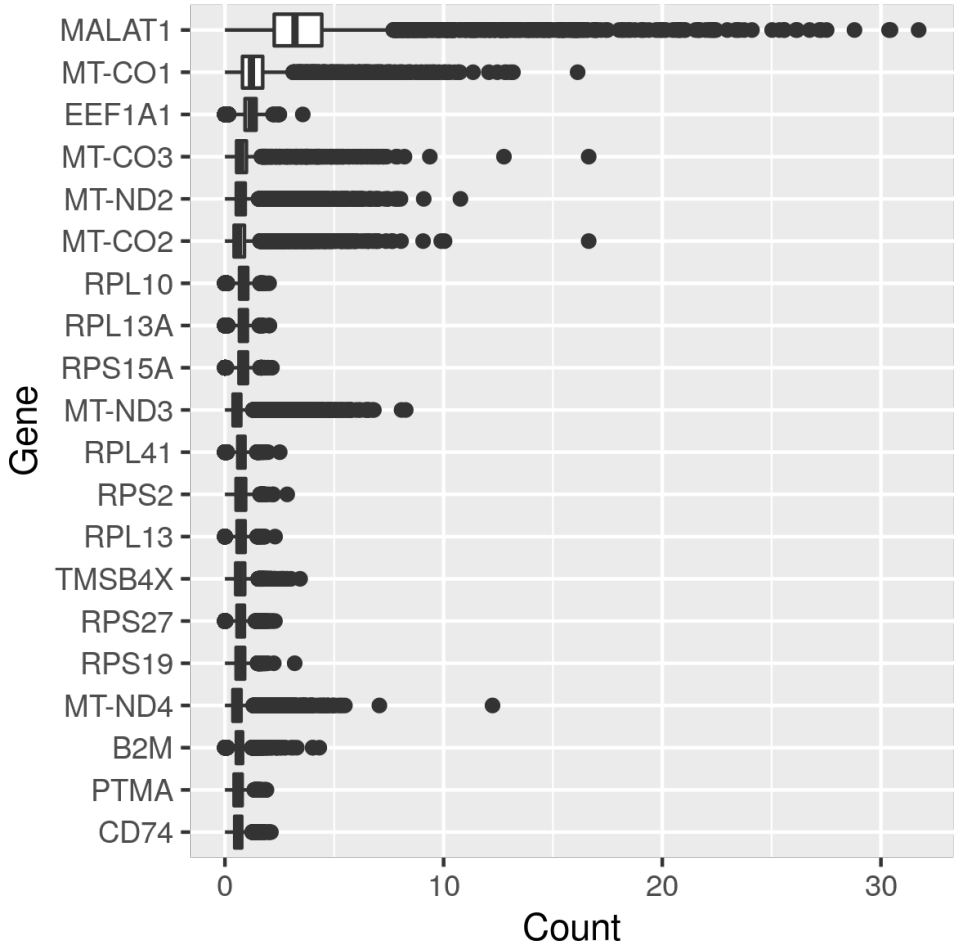
Properties of RNAseq data - Number of genes detected per cell



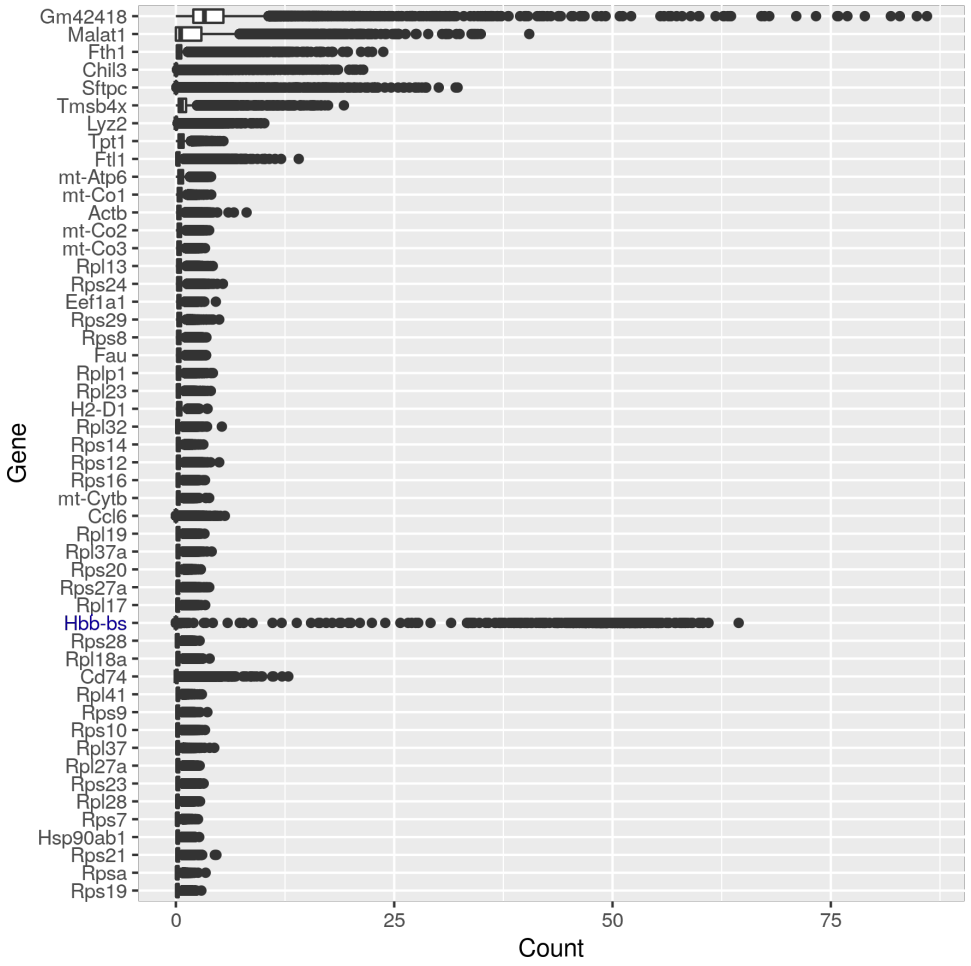
Properties of RNAseq data - Total UMIs



Properties of RNAseq data - Distribution of counts for a gene across cells



Properties of RNAseq data - Distribution of counts for a gene across cells



Remove undetected genes

Although the count matrix has 36601 genes, many of these will not have been detected in any droplet. We can remove these to reduce the size of the count matrix.

```
undetected_genes <- rowSums(counts(sce)) == 0
sce <- sce[!undetected_genes,]
sce
```

```
## class: SingleCellExperiment
## dim: 19938 3094
## metadata(1): Samples
## assays(1): counts
## rownames(19938): ENSG00000175756 ENSG00000221978 ... ENSG00000169962 ENSG00000107404
## rowData names(3): ID Symbol Type
## colnames: NULL
## colData names(2): Sample Barcode
## reducedDimNames(0):
## mainExpName: NULL
## altExpNames(0):
```

Quality Control

- Not all of the droplets called as cells by CellRanger will contain good quality cells
- Poor quality droplets will adversely affect downstream analysis
- We can use QC metrics to filter out poor quality droplets:
  - Total UMIs (Library size)
  - Number of gene detected
  - Proportion of UMIs mapping to mitochondrial genes

Quality Control

- Add gene annotation to identify Mt genes - `AnnotationHub`

```
rowData(sce)
```

```
## DataFrame with 19938 rows and 4 columns
##                            ID      Symbol            Type  Chromosome
##                   <character> <character>     <character> <character>
## ENSG00000175756 ENSG00000175756    AURKAIP1 Gene Expression           1
## ENSG00000221978 ENSG00000221978       CCNL2 Gene Expression           1
## ENSG00000224870 ENSG00000224870  MRPL20-AS1 Gene Expression           1
## ENSG00000242485 ENSG00000242485     MRPL20 Gene Expression           1
## ENSG00000272455 ENSG00000272455  AL391244.2 Gene Expression           1
## ...                         ...         ...             ...         ...
## ENSG00000212907 ENSG00000212907     MT-ND4L Gene Expression          MT
## ENSG00000198886 ENSG00000198886      MT-ND4 Gene Expression          MT
## ENSG00000198786 ENSG00000198786      MT-ND5 Gene Expression          MT
## ENSG00000198695 ENSG00000198695      MT-ND6 Gene Expression          MT
## ENSG00000198727 ENSG00000198727      MT-CYB Gene Expression          MT
```

Quality Control

```
is.mito <- which(rowData(sce)$Chromosome=="MT")
sce <- addPerCellQC(sce, subsets = list(Mito = is.mito))
```

Adds six columns to the droplet annotation:

- **sum**: total UMI count
- **detected**: number of features (genes) detected
- **subsets_Mito_sum**: number of UMIs mapped to mitochondrial transcripts
- **subsets_Mito_detected**: number of mitochondrial genes detected
- **subsets_Mito_percent**: percentage of UMIs mapped to mitochondrial transcripts
- **total**: also the total UMI count

Quality Control

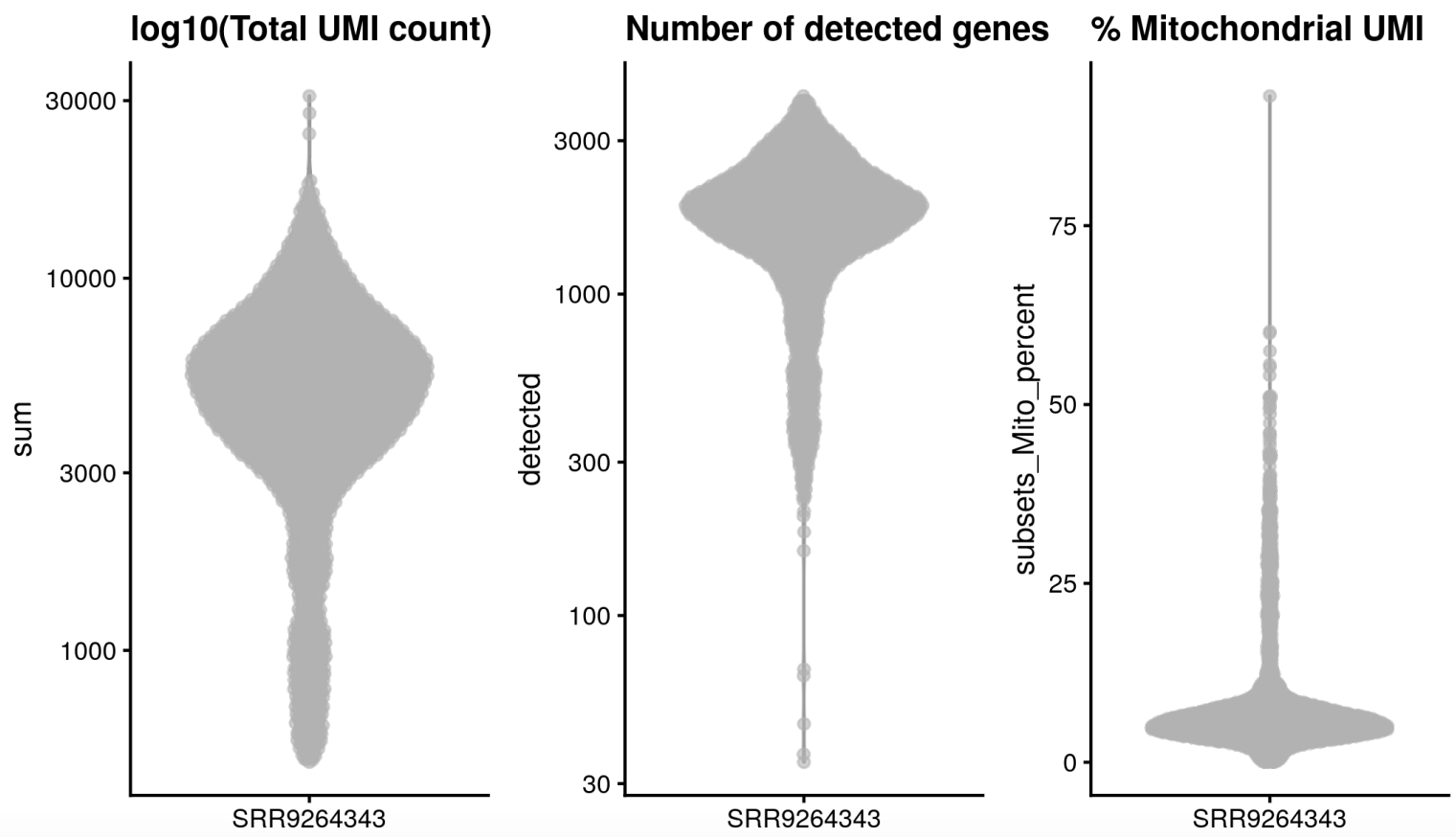
```
is.mito <- which(rowData(sce)$Chromosome=="MT")
sce <- addPerCellQC(sce, subsets = list(Mito = is.mito))
```

```
colData(sce)
```

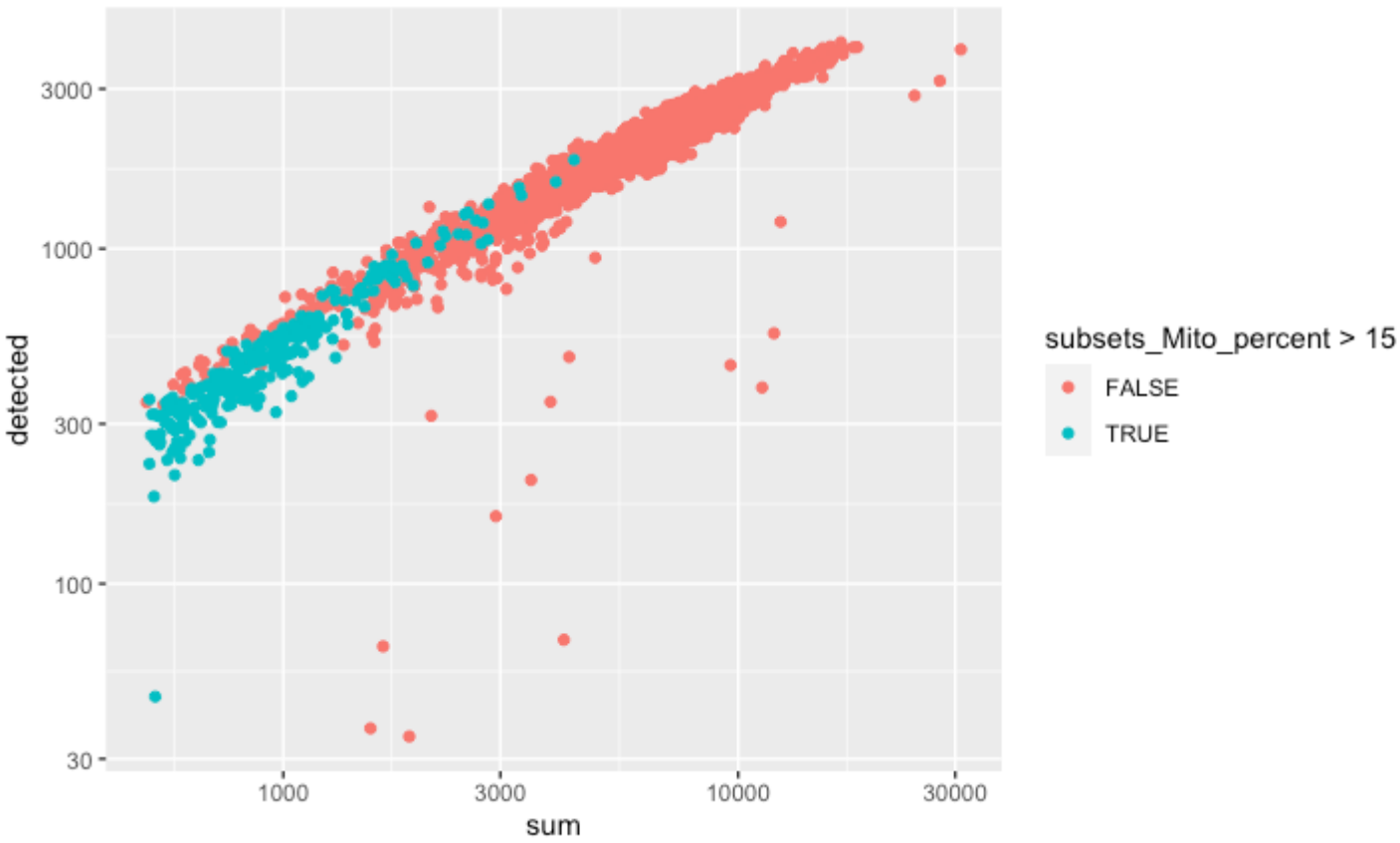
```
## DataFrame with 3094 rows and 8 columns
##                          Sample            Barcode       sum  detected subsets_Mito_sum
##
## AAACCTGAGACTTTCG-1  SRR9264343 AAACCTGAGACTTTCG-1      6677      2056              292
## AAACCTGGTCTTCAAG-1  SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTCTTCAAG-1     12064      3177              575
## AAACCTGGTGCAACTT-1  SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTGCAACTT-1       843       363              428
## AAACCTGGTGTTGAGG-1  SRR9264343 AAACCTGGTGTTGAGG-1      8175      2570              429
## AAACCTGTCCCAAGTA-1  SRR9264343 AAACCTGTCCCAAGTA-1      8638      2389              526
## ...                        ...                ...       ...       ...              ...
## TTTGGTTTCTTTAGGG-1  SRR9264343 TTTGGTTTCTTTAGGG-1      3489      1600              239
## TTTGTCAAGAAACGAG-1  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAAGAAACGAG-1      7809      2415              548
## TTTGTCAAGGACGAAA-1  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAAGGACGAAA-1      9486      2589              503
## TTTGTCACAGGCTCAC-1  SRR9264343 TTTGTCACAGGCTCAC-1      1182       591              224
## TTTGTCAGTTCGGCAC-1  SRR9264343 TTTGTCAGTTCGGCAC-1     10514      2831              484
##                    subsets_Mito_detected subsets_Mito_percent     total
##
## AAACCTGAGACTTTCG-1                    12              4.37322      6677
## AAACCTGGTCTTCAAG-1                    12              4.76625     12064
## AAACCTGGTGCAACTT-1                    11             50.77106       843
## AAACCTGGTGTTGAGG-1                    12              5.24771      8175
## AAACCTGTCCCAAGTA-1                    13              6.08937      8638
## ...                                  ...                  ...       ...
## TTTGGTTTCTTTAGGG-1                    11              6.85010      3489
## TTTGTCAAGAAACGAG-1                    12              7.01754      7809
## TTTGTCAAGGACGAAA-1                    12              5.30255      9486
```

QC metrics - distribution

```
plotColData(sce, x="Sample", y="sum") + scale_y_log10()
plotColData(sce, x="Sample", y="detected") + scale_y_log10()
plotColData(sce, x="Sample", y="subsets_Mito_percent")
```

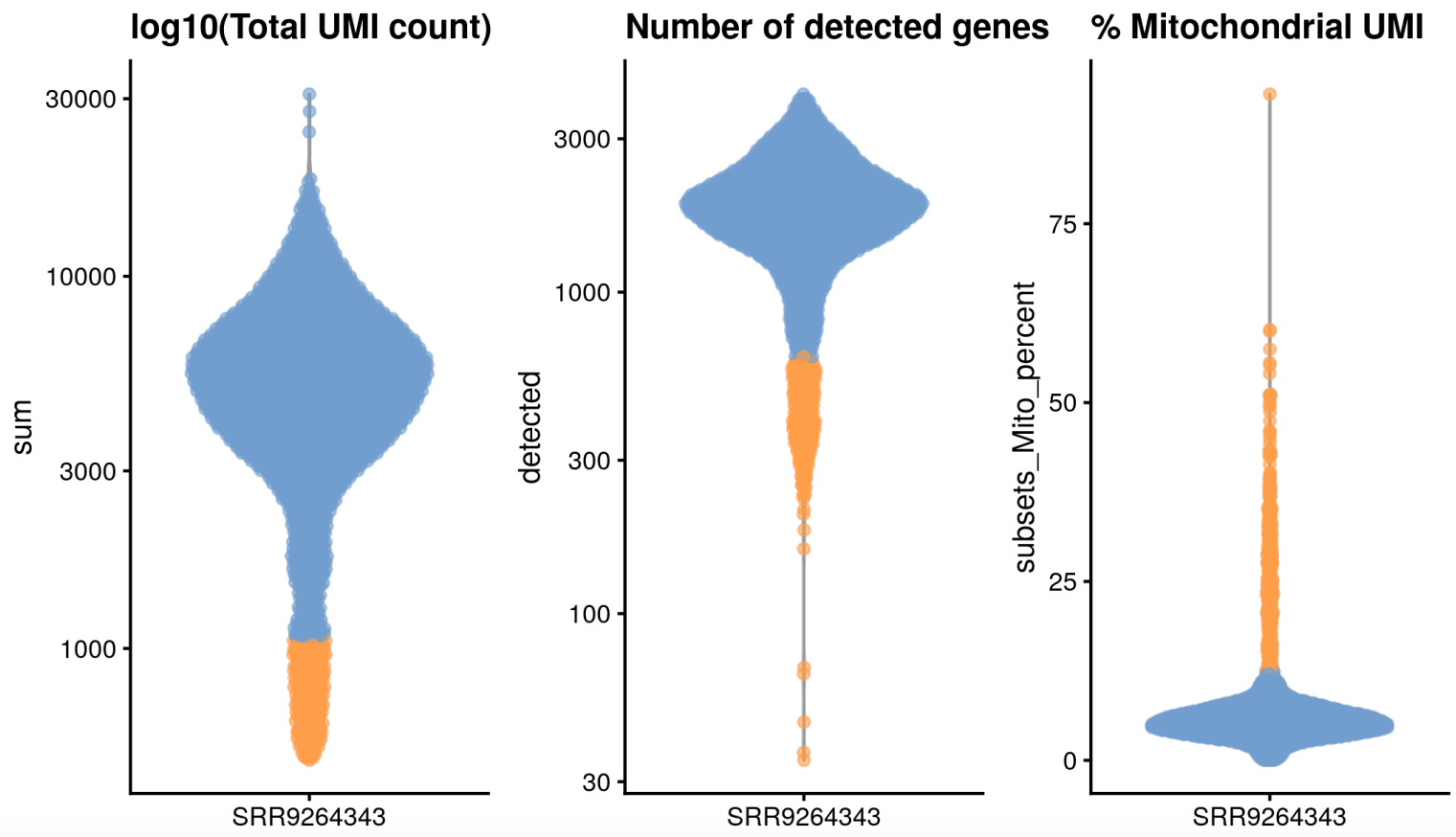


QC metrics - relationship



Identification of low-quality cells with adaptive thresholds

```
sce$low_lib_size <- isOutlier(sce$sum, log=TRUE, type="lower")
sce$low_n_features <- isOutlier(sce$detected, log=TRUE, type="lower")
sce$high_Mito_percent <- isOutlier(sce$subsets_Mito_percent, type="higher")
```



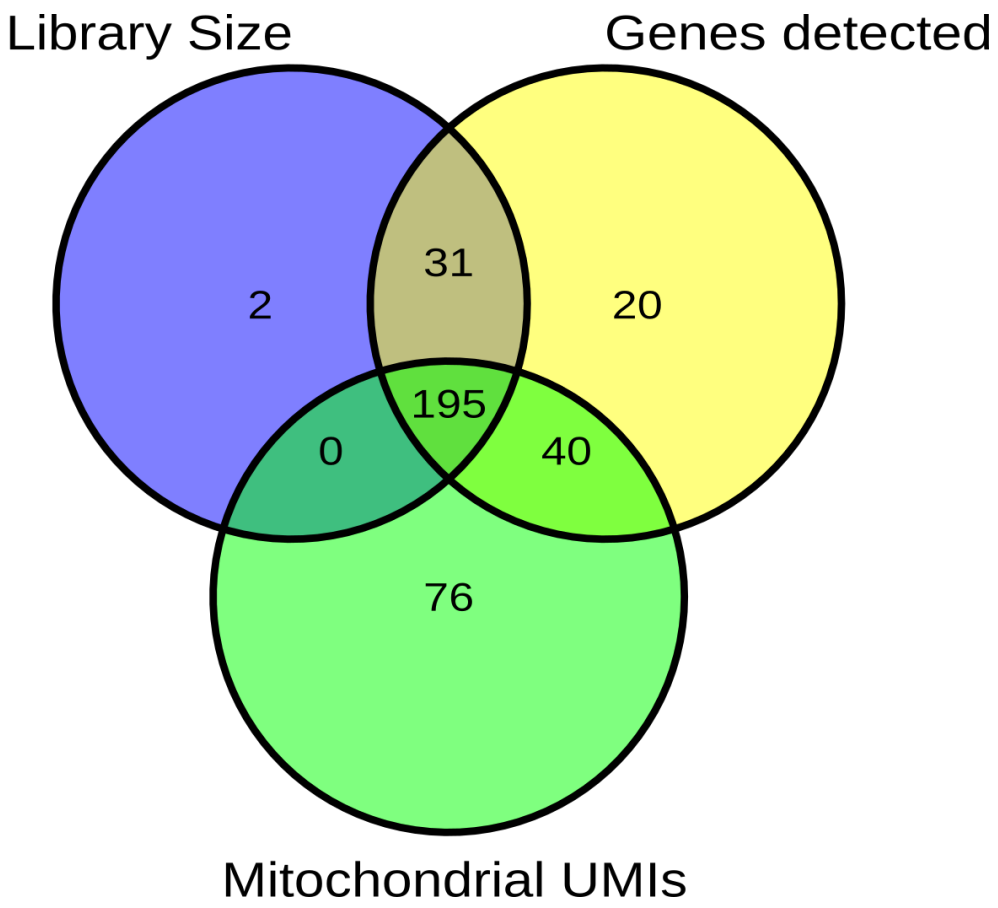
All three filter steps at once

```
cell_qc_results <- quickPerCellQC(colData(sce), percent_subsets=c("subsets_Mito_percent"))
```

```
## DataFrame with 3094 rows and 4 columns
##          low_lib_size   low_n_features high_subsets_Mito_percent   discard
##      <outlier.filter> <outlier.filter>          <outlier.filter> <logical>
## 1              FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 2              FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 3               TRUE             TRUE                      TRUE      TRUE
## 4              FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 5              FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## ...              ...              ...                       ...       ...
## 3090           FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 3091           FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 3092           FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
## 3093           FALSE             TRUE                      TRUE      TRUE
## 3094           FALSE            FALSE                     FALSE     FALSE
```

All three filter steps at once

```
cell_qc_results <- quickPerCellQC(colData(sce), percent_subsets=c("subsets_Mito_percent"))
```



Filter the Single Cell Object

- Filter cells according to QC metrics.

```
sce.Filtered <- sce[, !cell_qc_results$discard]
sce.Filtered
```

```
## class: SingleCellExperiment
## dim: 19938 2730
## metadata(1): Samples
## assays(1): counts
## rownames(19938): ENSG00000175756 ENSG00000221978 ... ENSG00000169962 ENSG00000107404
## rowData names(4): ID Symbol Type Chromosome
## colnames: NULL
## colData names(8): Sample Barcode ... subsets_Mito_percent total
## reducedDimNames(0):
## mainExpName: NULL
## altExpNames(0):
```