

## Single Dell Data Analysis Course

### **Dimensionality reduction 2: UMAP and graph-based clustering**

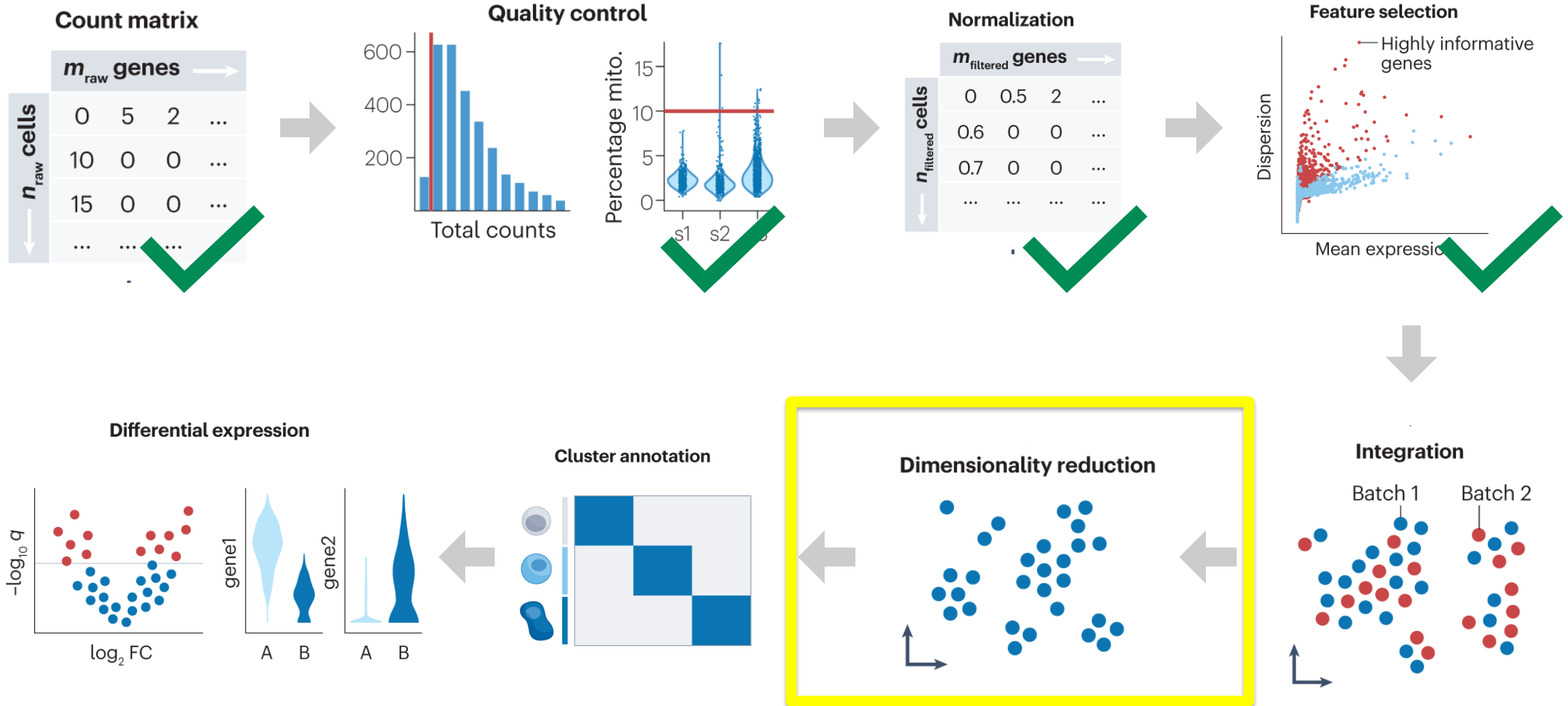
Lisa Buchauer

*Professor of Systems Biology of Infectious Diseases*

Department of Infectious Diseases and Intensive Care

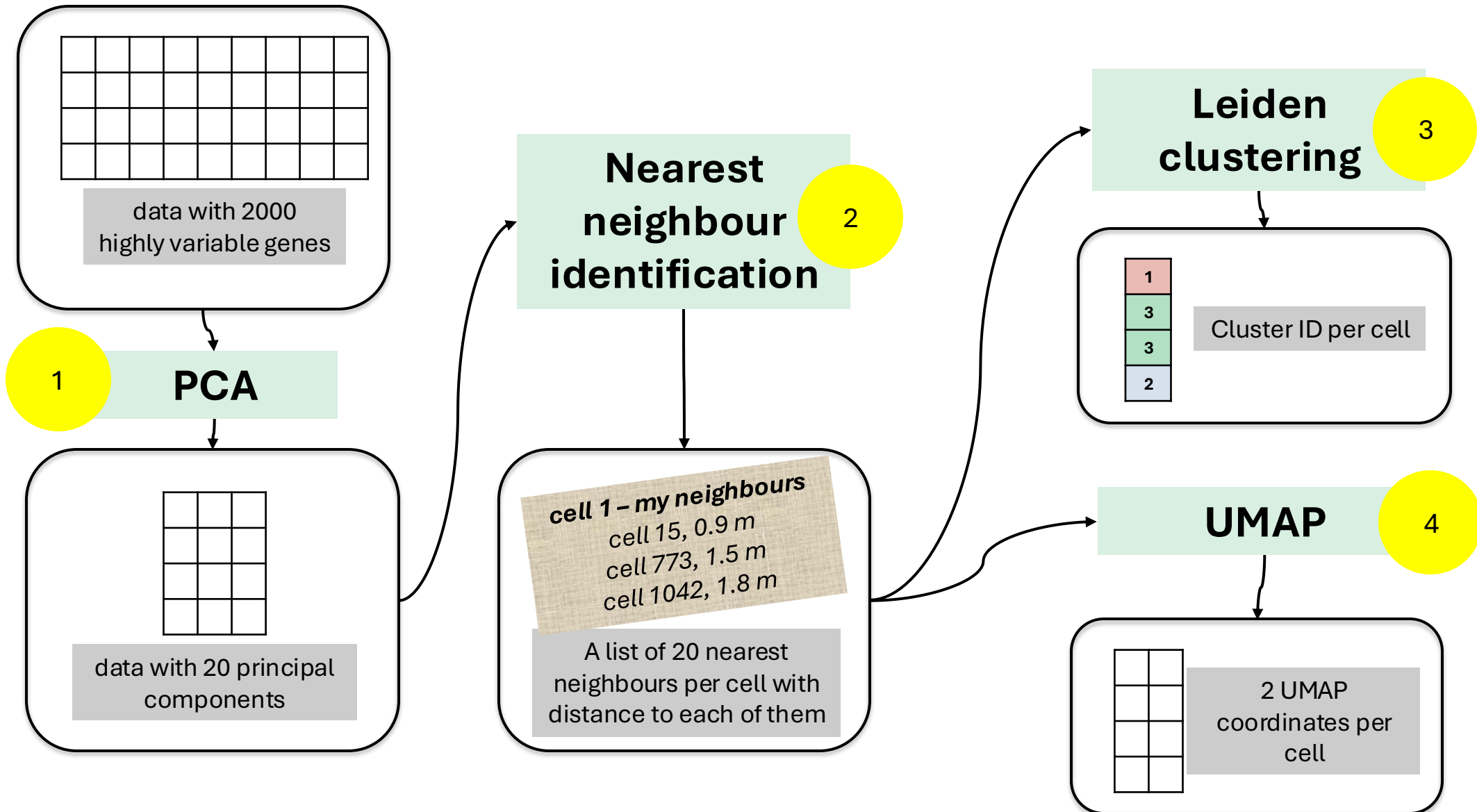
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

# Today



Heumos, L., Schaar, A.C., Lance, C. et al. Best practices for single-cell analysis across modalities. Nat Rev Genet 24, 550–572 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41576-023-00586-w>

# Data types along the processing path



## Finding Nearest neighbours



python

```
sc.pp.neighbors(adata, n_neighbors=10, n_pcs=40)
```

R

```
pbmc <- FindNeighbors(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
```



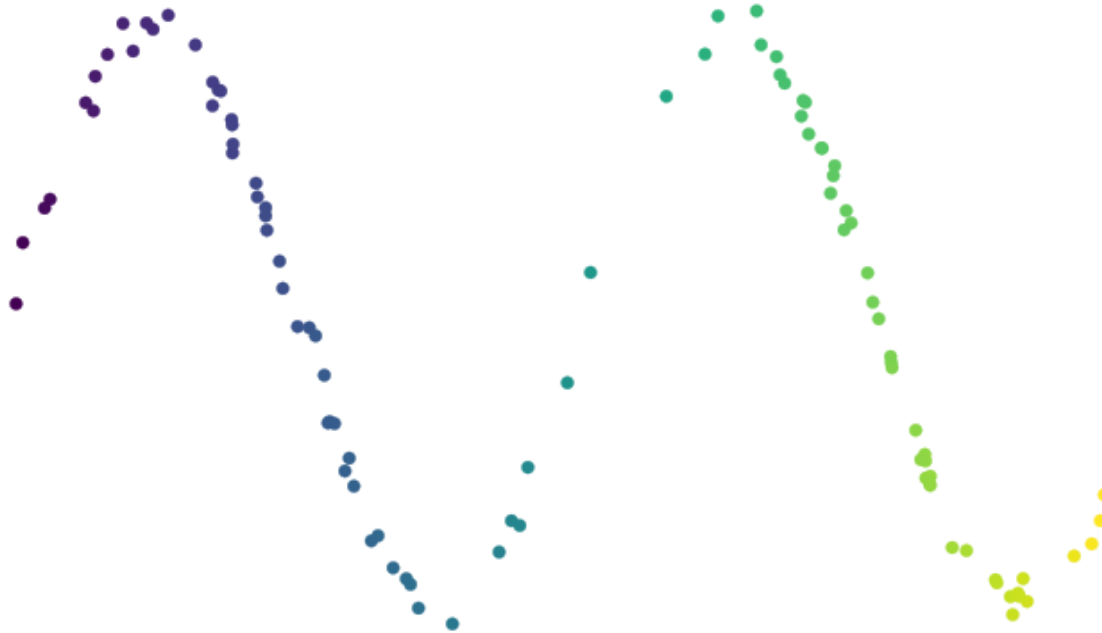
## Finding Nearest neighbours

python

```
sc.pp.neighbors(adata, n_neighbors=10, n_pcs=40)
```

R

```
pbmc <- FindNeighbors(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
```



[https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k\\_tutorial](https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial)  
<https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/tutorials/basics/clustering.html>  
[https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how\\_umap\\_works.html](https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how_umap_works.html)



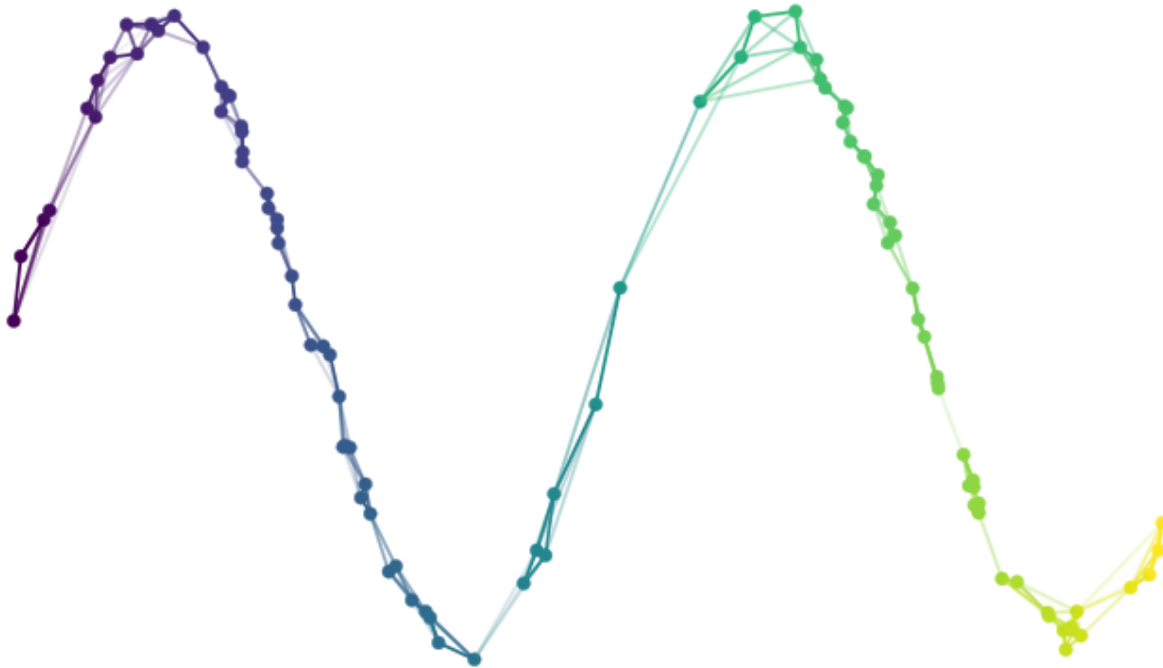
## Finding Nearest neighbours

python

```
sc.pp.neighbors(adata, n_neighbors=10, n_pcs=40)
```

R

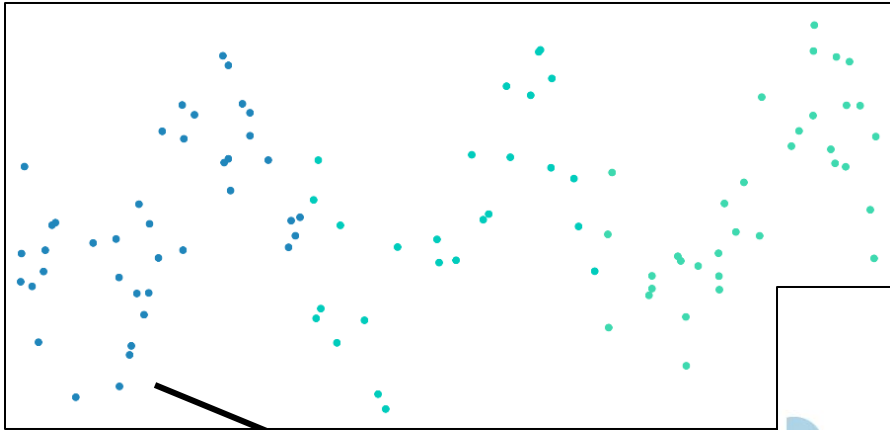
```
pbmc <- FindNeighbors(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
```



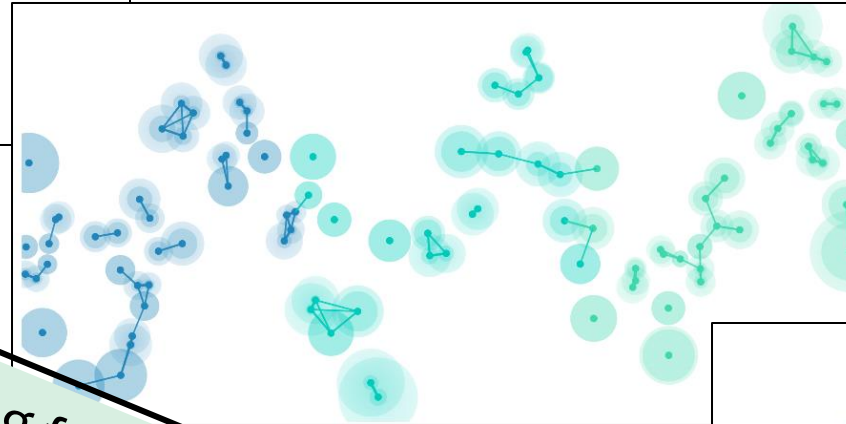
Idea: describing a dataset by way of each data point's k nearest neighbours retains relevant structural information and allows efficient computations

[https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k\\_tutorial](https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial)  
<https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/tutorials/basics/clustering.html>  
[https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how\\_umap\\_works.html](https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how_umap_works.html)

# How many neighbours are selected impacts what information is retained in the graph

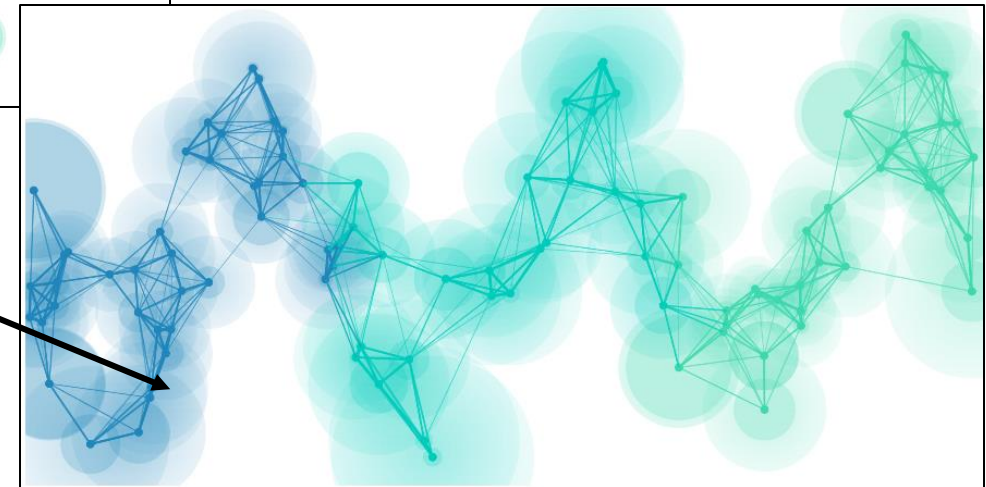


describes hyperlocal  
structure

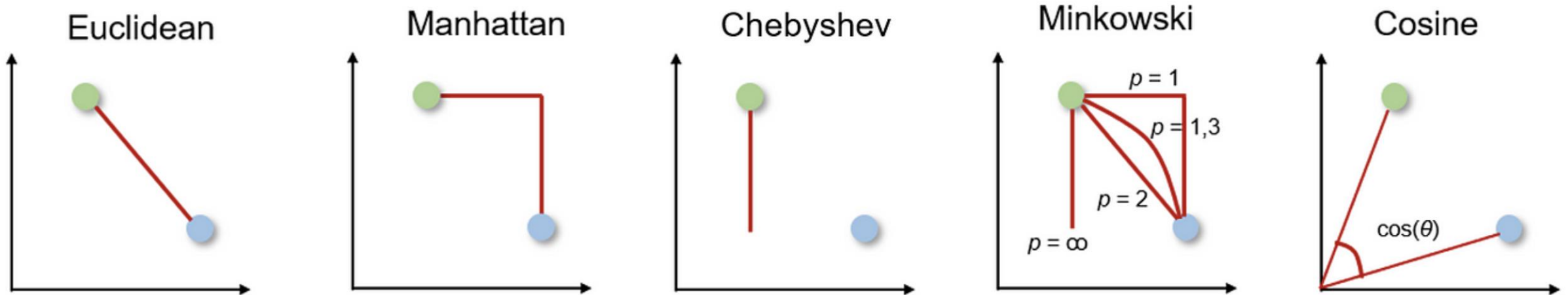


describes slightly  
more global structure

Searching for **more  
neighbours** in a **wider  
radius**



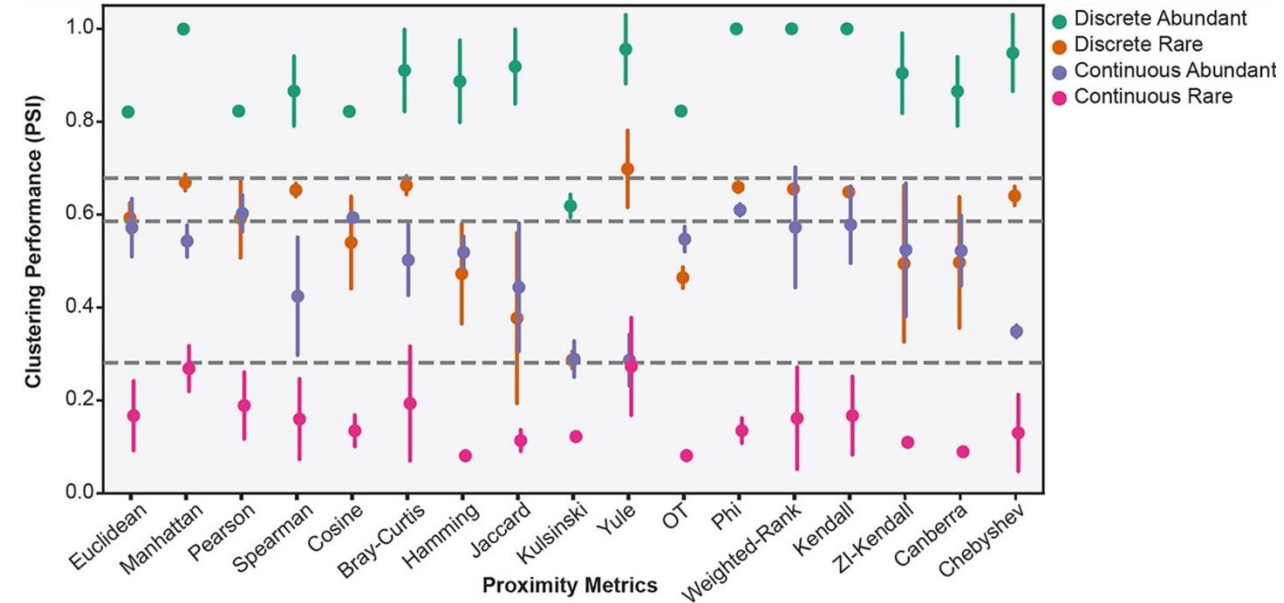
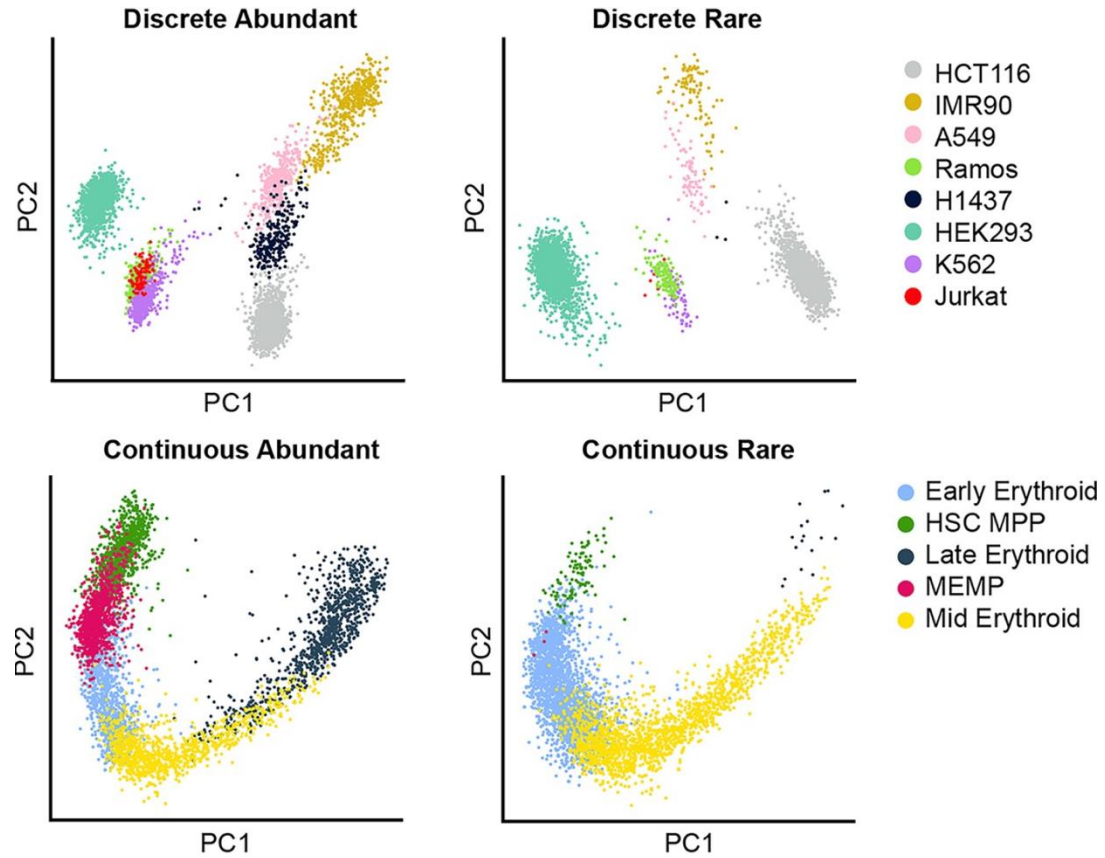
## Side topic: The role of the distance metrics



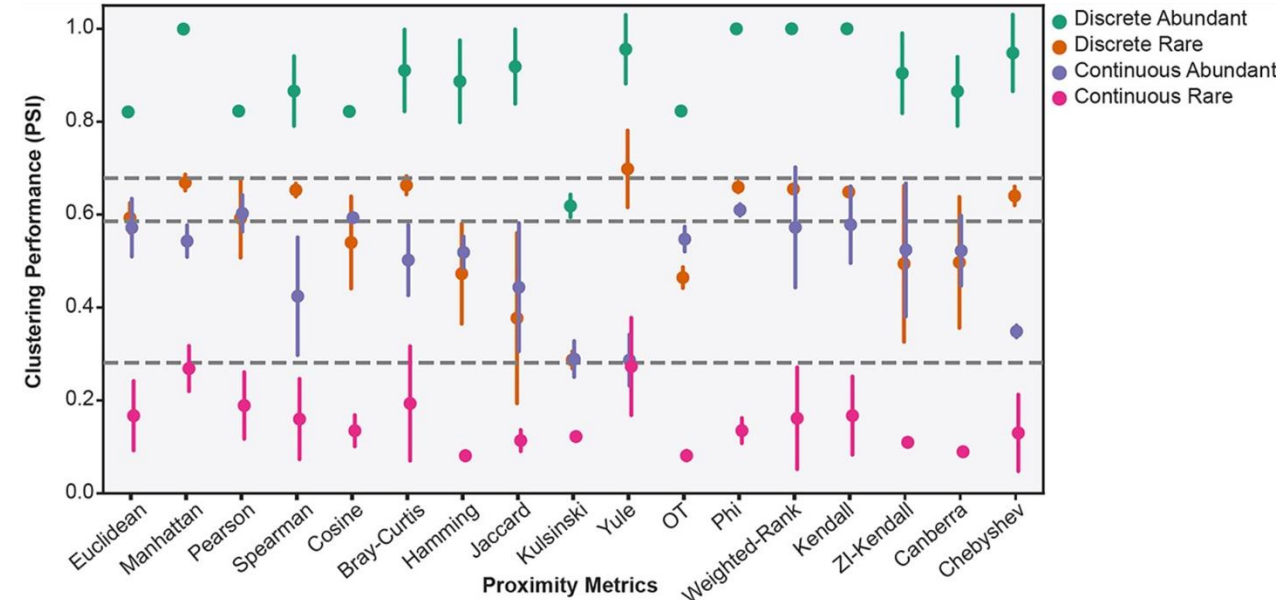
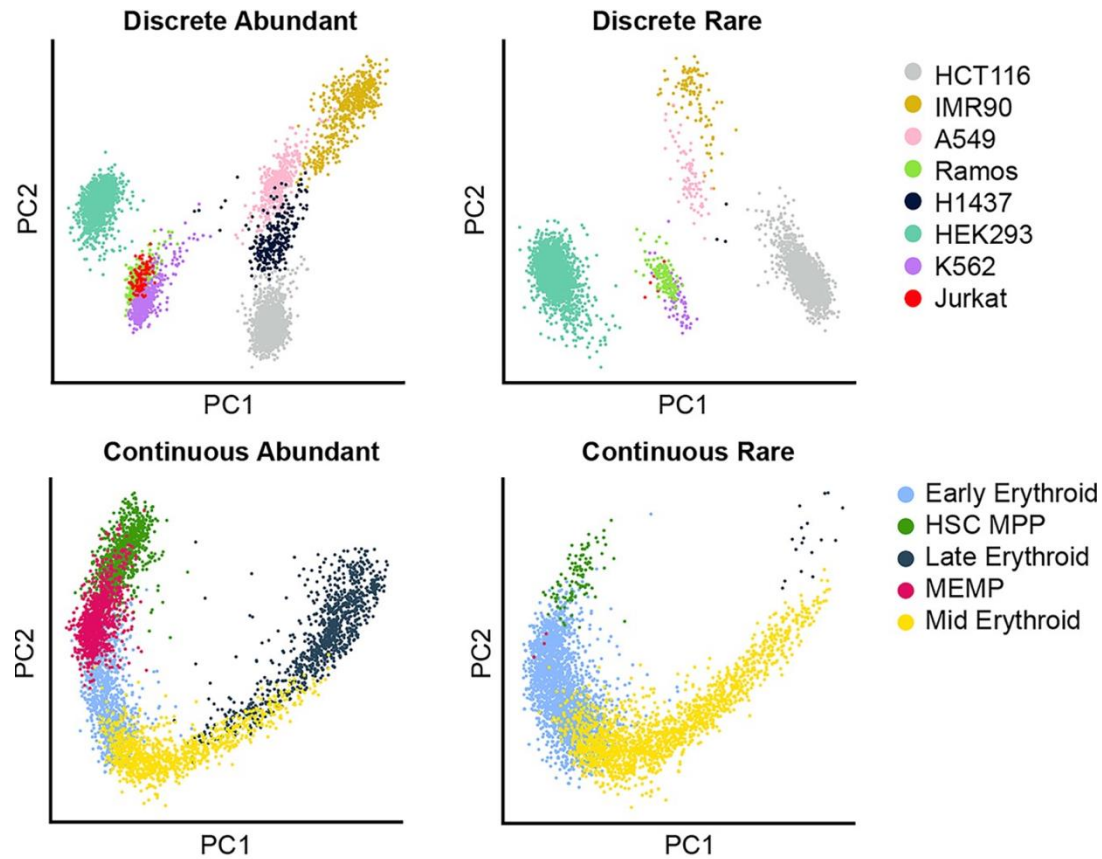
```
metric : Union[Literal['cityblock', 'cosine', 'euclidean', 'l1', 'l2',
                        'manhattan'], Literal['braycurtis', 'canberra', 'chebyshev',
                        'correlation', 'dice', 'hamming', 'jaccard', 'kulsinski',
                        'mahalanobis', 'minkowski', 'rogerstanimoto', 'russellrao',
                        'seuclidean', 'sokalmichener', 'sokalsneath', 'sqeuclidean',
                        'yule'], Callable[[ndarray, ndarray], float]] (default:
                        'euclidean')
```



## Side topic: The role of the distance metrics



## Side topic: The role of the distance metrics



Choice of distance metric has a bearing on results – but in practice, the default (Euclidean in PC-space) is almost always used



**cell 1 – my  
neighbours**  
cell 15, 0.9 m  
cell 773, 1.5 m  
cell 1042, 1.8 m

adjacency matrix for  
2 nearest neighbours

	Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3	Cell 4	Cell 5
Cell 1	1	1	0	1	0
Cell 2	1	1	1	0	0
Cell 3	0	1	1	0	1
Cell 4	1	0	0	1	1
Cell 5	0	0	1	1	1



## Finding Nearest neighbours

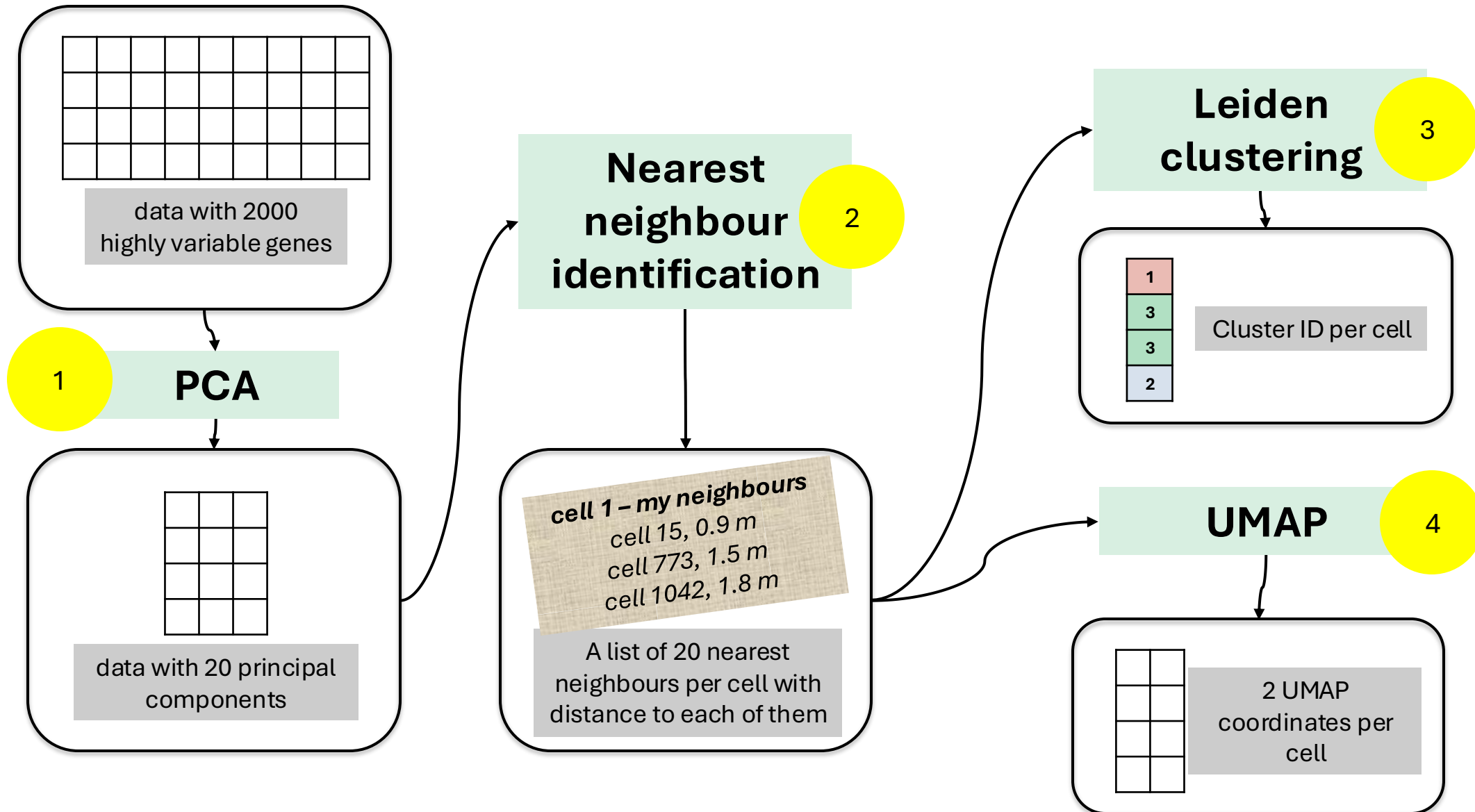
Slightly more information can be retained with a “fuzzy adjacency matrix”, in which the nearest neighbour gets connectivity 1 and additional neighbours get lower connectivities based on distances.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
0	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.442861	0.444071	0.000000	0.434997	0.000000
1	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.348746	0.000000	0.000000	0.472147	0.000000	0.501032	0.000000	1.000000
2	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.529206	0.172009	0.620710	0.000000	0.000000
3	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.320071	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000014	0.990871	0.331041	0.000000	1.000000
4	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.562689	0.391506	0.000000	0.000000	0.367735
5	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.320071	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.756879	0.244988
6	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.550696	0.765252	0.005983
7	1.000000	0.348746	1.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	1.000000	0.649921	0.436091	0.435187	0.522817
8	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.428062	0.408286	0.485575	0.000000
9	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.447287	0.140004	0.000000	0.734638	0.000000
10	0.442861	0.472147	0.529206	0.000014	0.562689	1.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.447287	0.000000	0.634077	0.534171	0.459211	1.000000
11	0.444071	0.000000	0.172009	0.990871	0.391506	0.000000	1.000000	0.649921	0.428062	0.140004	0.634077	0.000000	1.000000	1.000000	0.688714
12	0.000000	0.501032	0.620710	0.331041	0.000000	0.000000	0.550696	0.436091	0.408286	0.000000	0.534171	1.000000	0.000000	0.427533	1.000000
13	0.434997	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.756879	0.765252	0.435187	0.485575	0.734638	0.459211	1.000000	0.427533	0.000000	0.000000
14	0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.367735	0.244988	0.005983	0.522817	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	0.688714	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000

3k PBMC dataset → downsampled to 15 cells → computed 4 nearest neighbours  
with the UMAP neighbour algorithm (via scanpy)



# Data types along the processing path





# Clustering / community-detection with the Leiden algorithm

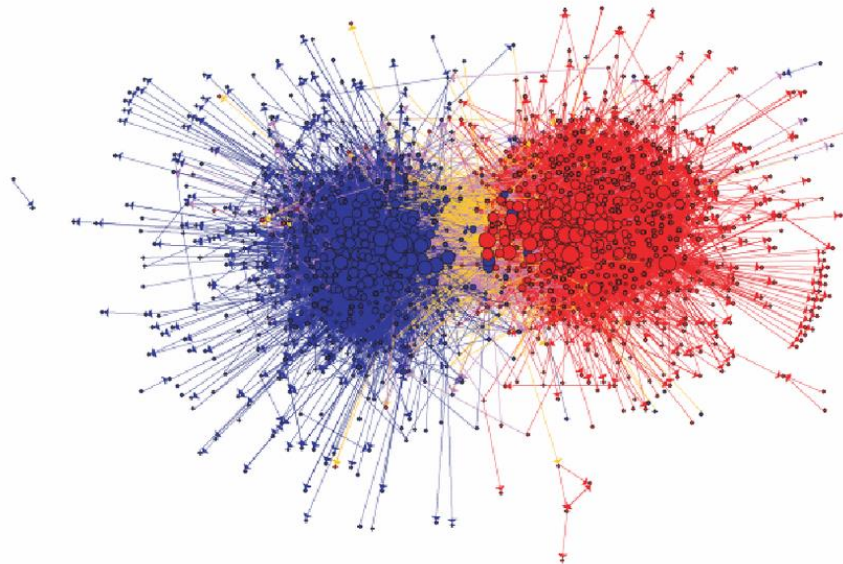


python

```
sc.tl.leiden(adata, flavor="igraph", n_iterations=2)
```

R

```
pbmc <- FindClusters(pbmc, resolution = 0.5)
```



Arms et al.: “From Wayback Machine to Yesternet: New Opportunities for Social Science”,  
<https://www.cs.cornell.edu/wya/papers/Yesternet.pdf>

# Clustering / community-detection with the Leiden algorithm



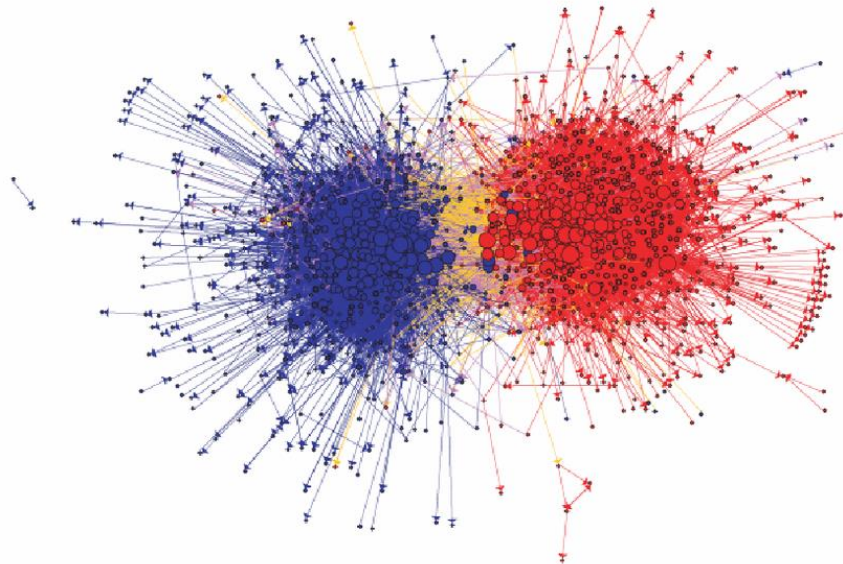
python

```
sc.tl.leiden(adata, flavor="igraph", n_iterations=2)
```

R

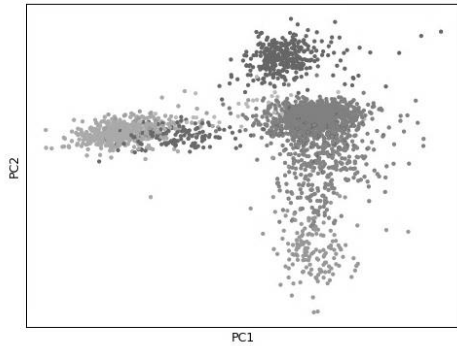
```
pbmc <- FindClusters(pbmc, resolution = 0.5)
```

**US political blogs**  
red – conservative,  
blue – liberal,  
edges represent direct  
hyperlinks



Arms et al.: “From Wayback Machine to Yesternet: New Opportunities for Social Science”,  
<https://www.cs.cornell.edu/wya/papers/Yesternet.pdf>

# Clustering / community-detection with the Leiden algorithm



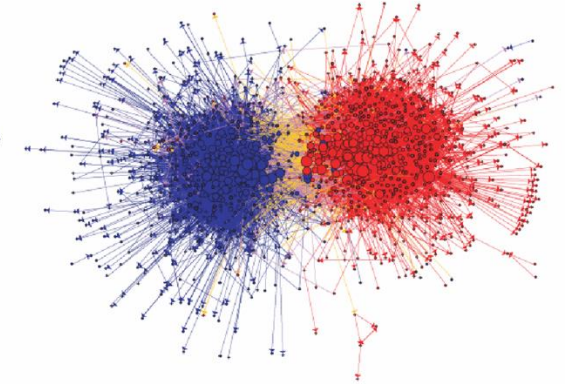
“raw” data

neighbour  
search

	Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3
Cell 1	1	1	0
Cell 2	1	1	1
Cell 3	0	1	1

adjacency matrix  
(graph edges)

Leiden  
clustering



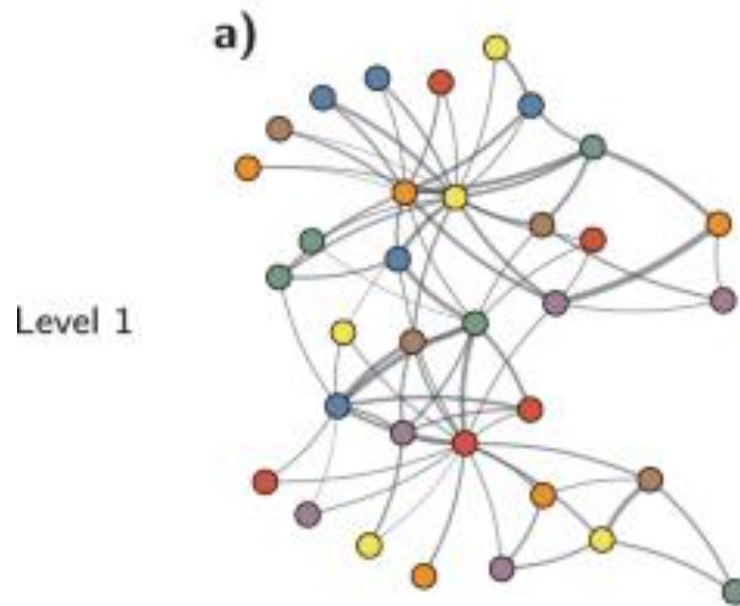
community  
assignment  
(colors)

**Leiden** (and Louvain) algorithms optimize **modularity** – the density of connections within a community compared to between communities



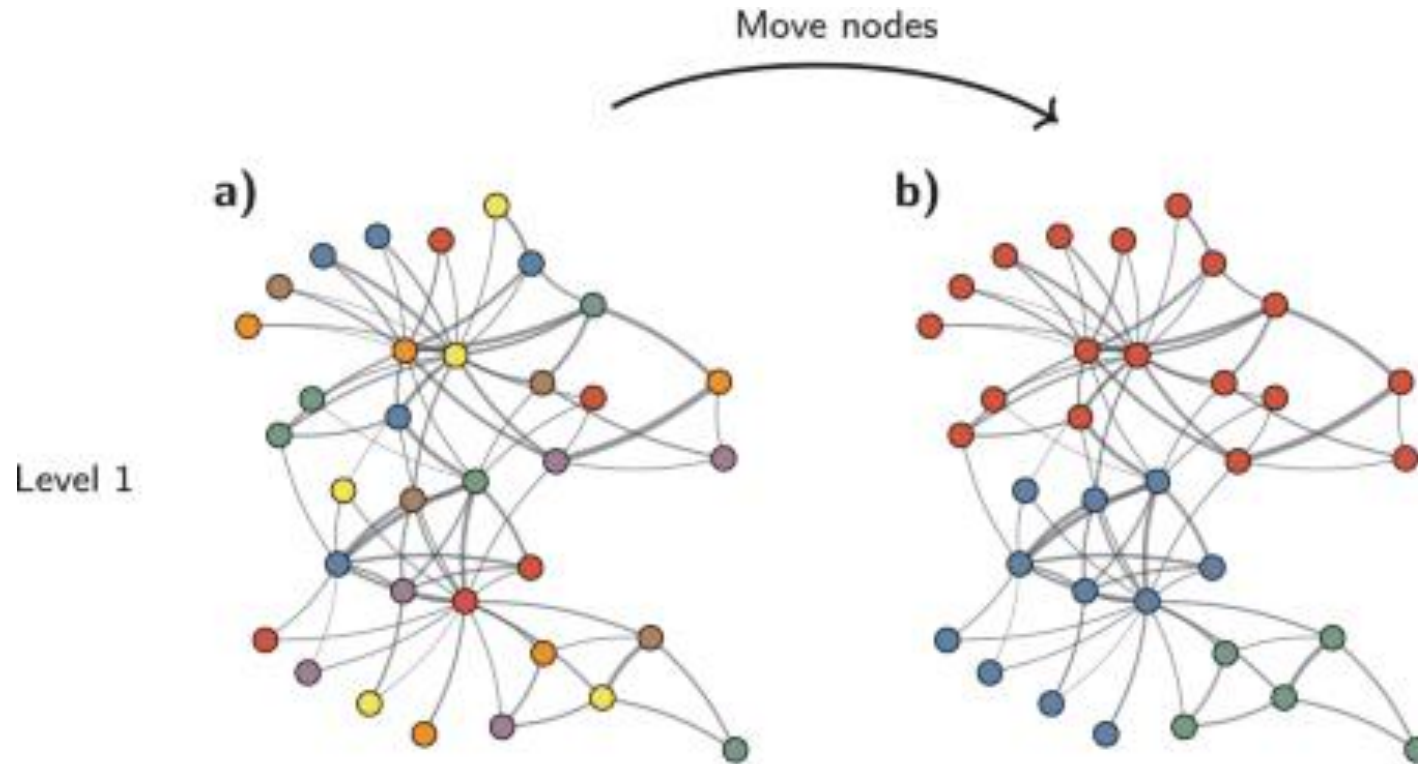


**modularity** –  
the density of  
connections  
within a  
community  
compared to  
between  
communities



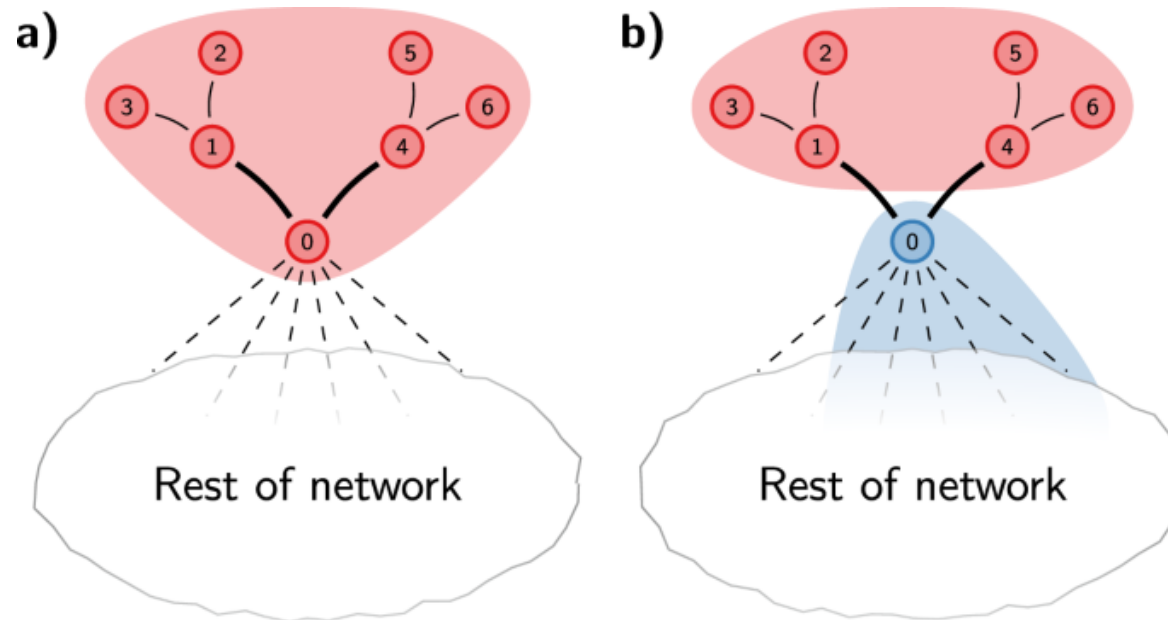


**modularity** –  
the density of  
connections  
within a  
community  
compared to  
between  
communities





## Choose Leiden over Louvain.



\*Louvain: after node 0 moves to another community, 1-6 stay in one cluster even though they are no longer connected

- Louvain risks returning “disconnected communities”\*, fixed in Leiden
- Leiden runs faster

# Non-linear dimension reduction – example: UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection)



python

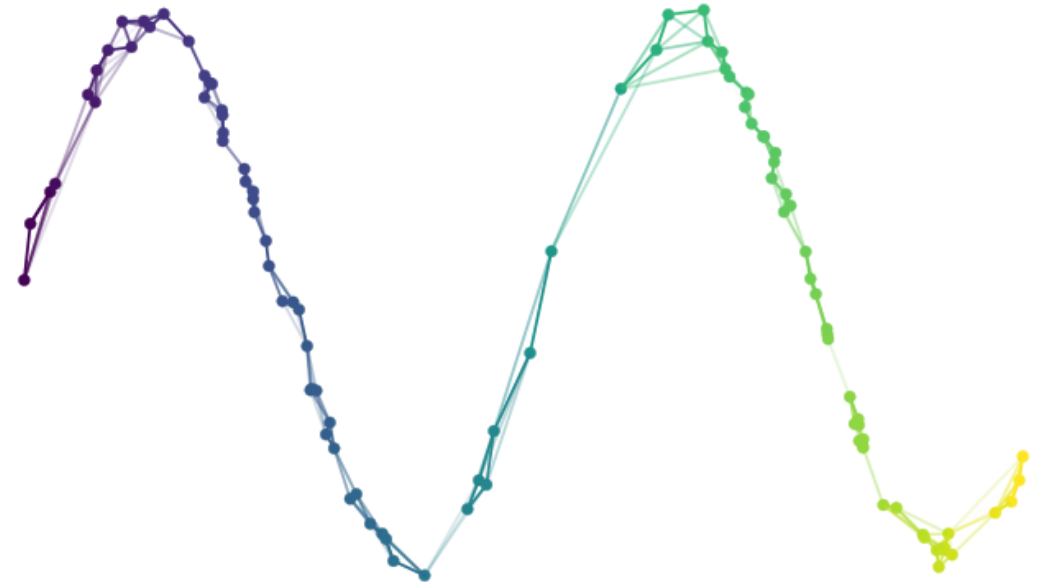
```
sc.tl.umap(adata)
```

R

```
pbmc <- RunUMAP(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
```

## Goal

Embed the cellular graph into lower dimensions in such a way that neighbourhoods (= **local structure**) are preserved.



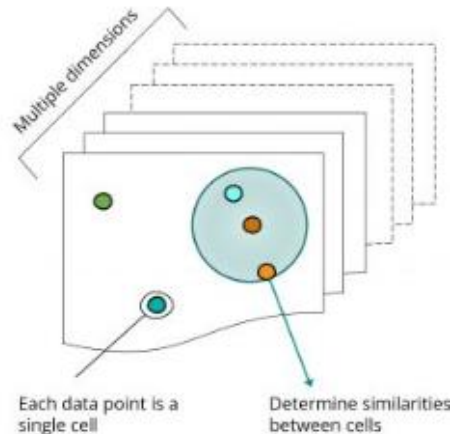
[https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k\\_tutorial](https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial)  
<https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/tutorials/basics/clustering.html>  
[https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how\\_umap\\_works.html](https://umap-learn.readthedocs.io/en/latest/how_umap_works.html)

# Non-linear dimension reduction – example: UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection)



## Phase 1 – in high D

- Determine similarities between cells in high-dim space (= fuzzy adjacency matrix)

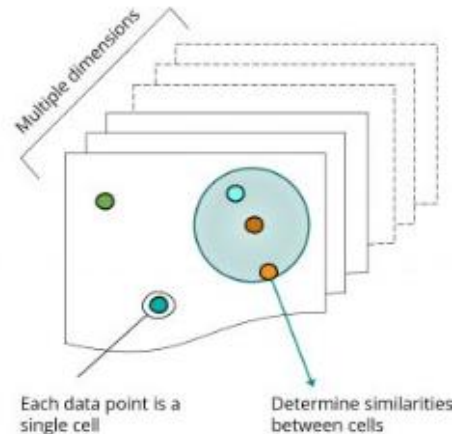


# Non-linear dimension reduction – example: UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection)



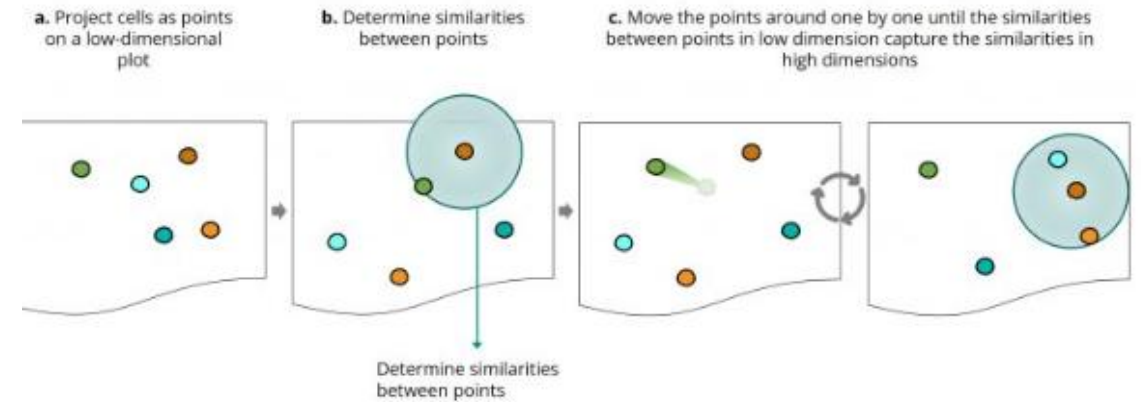
## Phase 1 – in high D

- Determine similarities between cells in high-dim space (= fuzzy **adjacency matrix**)

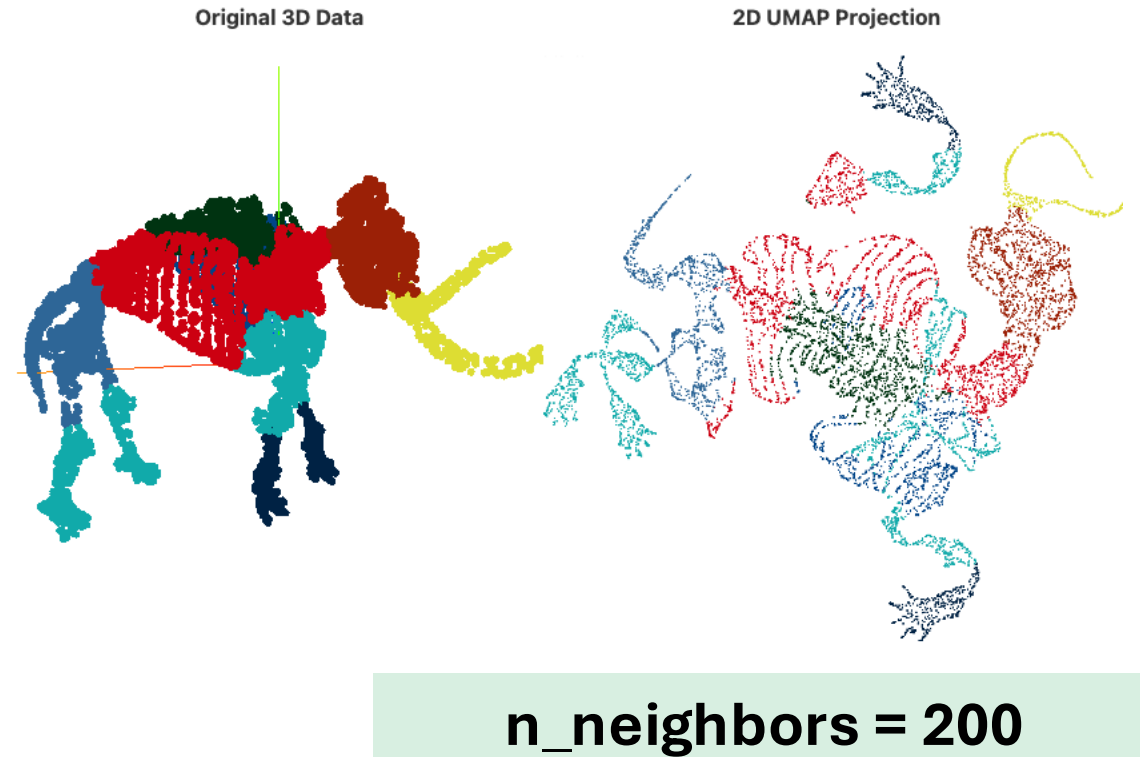
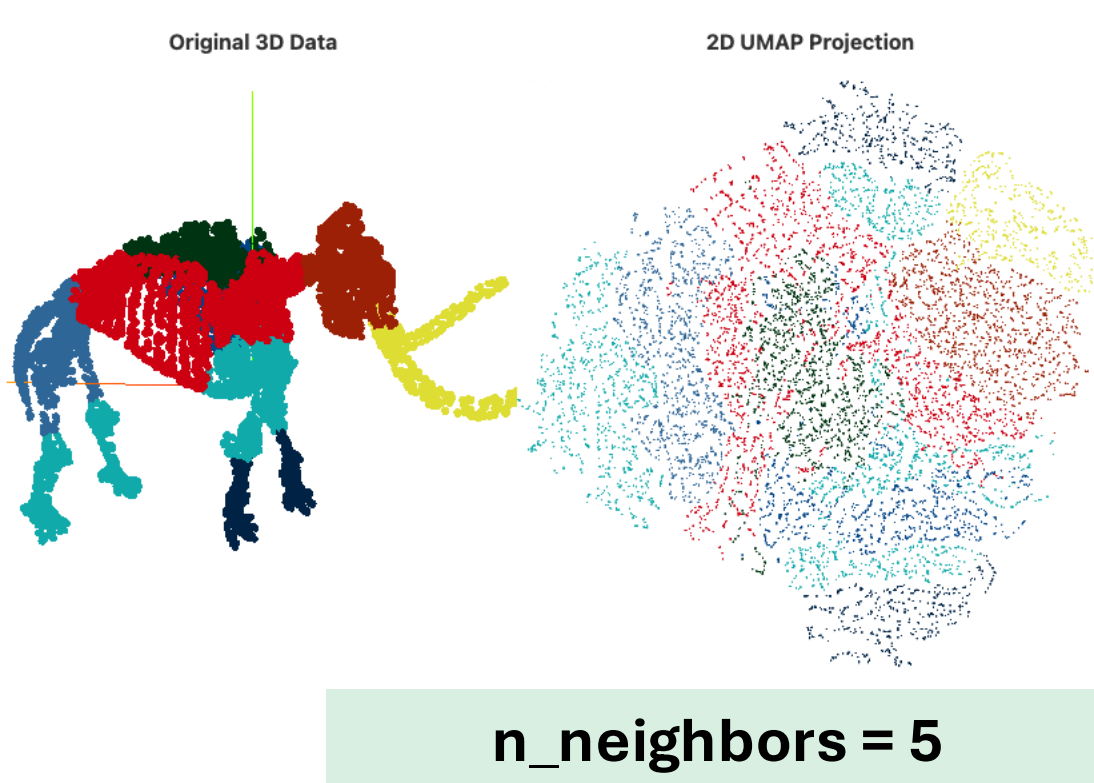


## Phase 2 – in 2/3 D

- Project cells into low D
- Determine similarities between cells in low D
- Move cells around until adjacency matrix resembles the one from high D



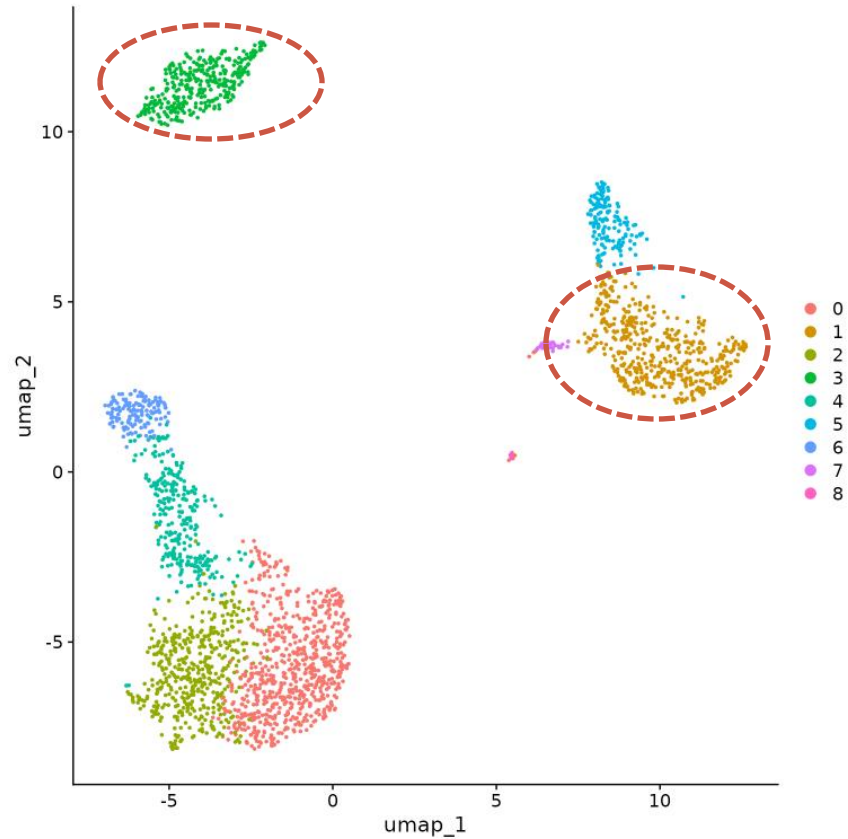
# The most important UMAP parameter: the number of neighbours with which to build the graph





# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world

*The green cluster is less variable than the beige-brown cluster because it is smaller.*





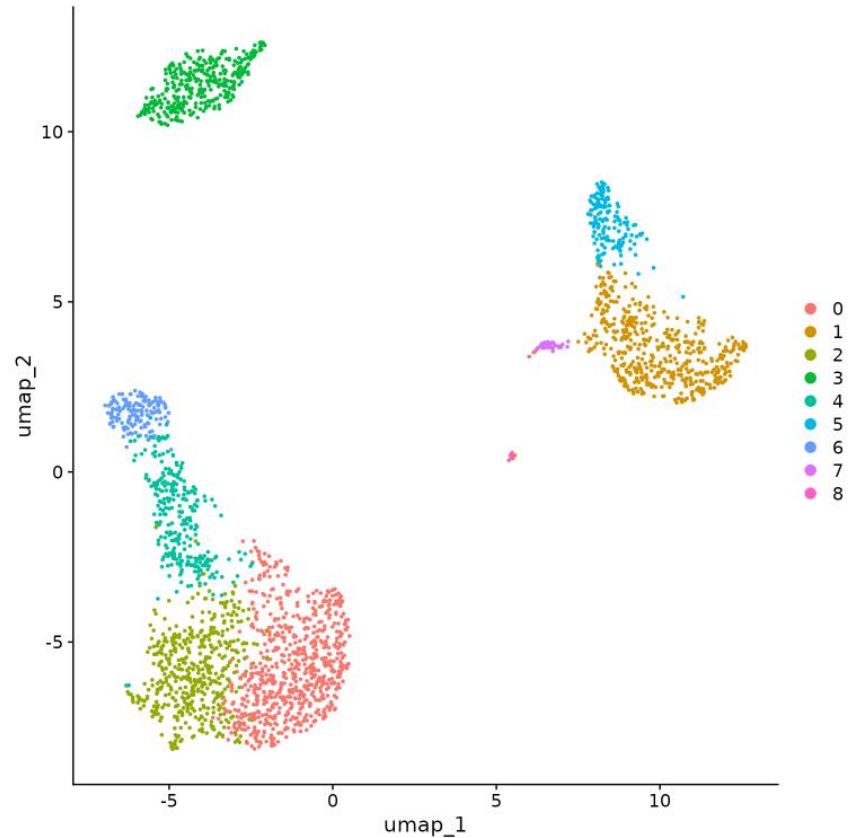


# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world

*The green cluster is less variable than the beige-brown cluster because it is smaller.*

**You shall not**

Interpret visual cluster size



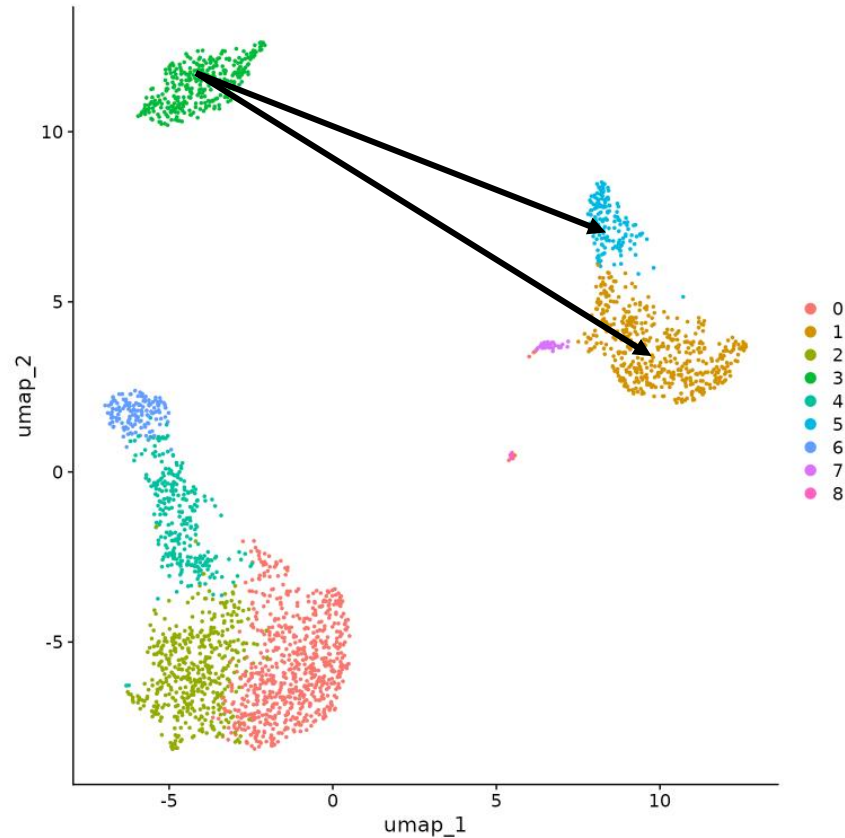


# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world

*The green cluster is more similar to the blue cluster than to the brown cluster because it is closer.*

**You shall not**

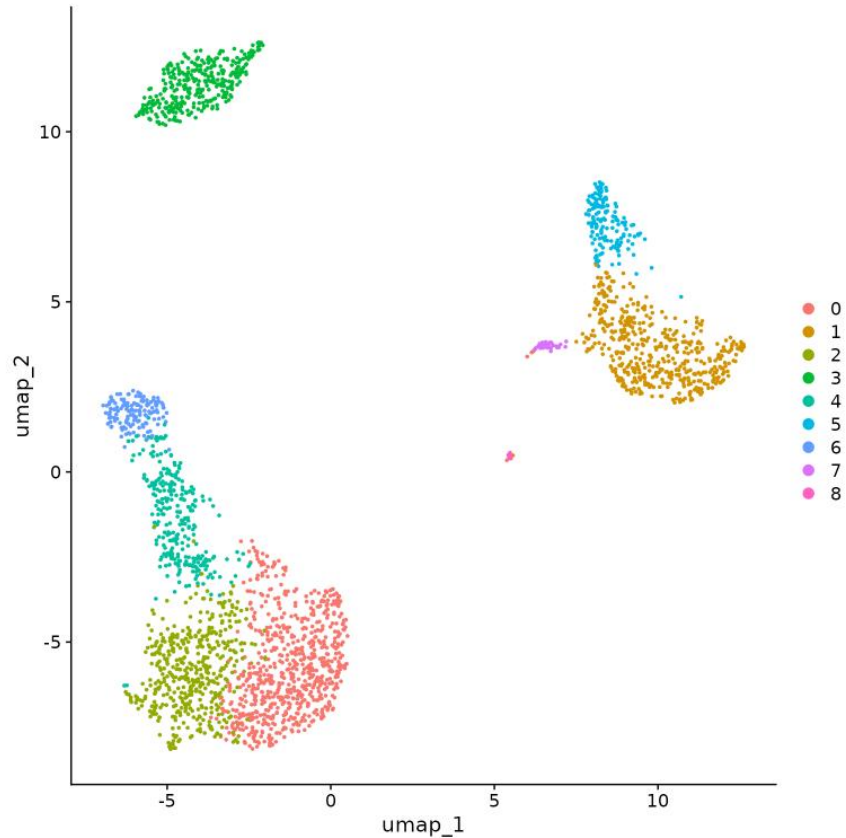
Interpret visual cluster size



# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world



*The green cluster is more similar to the blue cluster than to the brown cluster because it is closer.*



## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



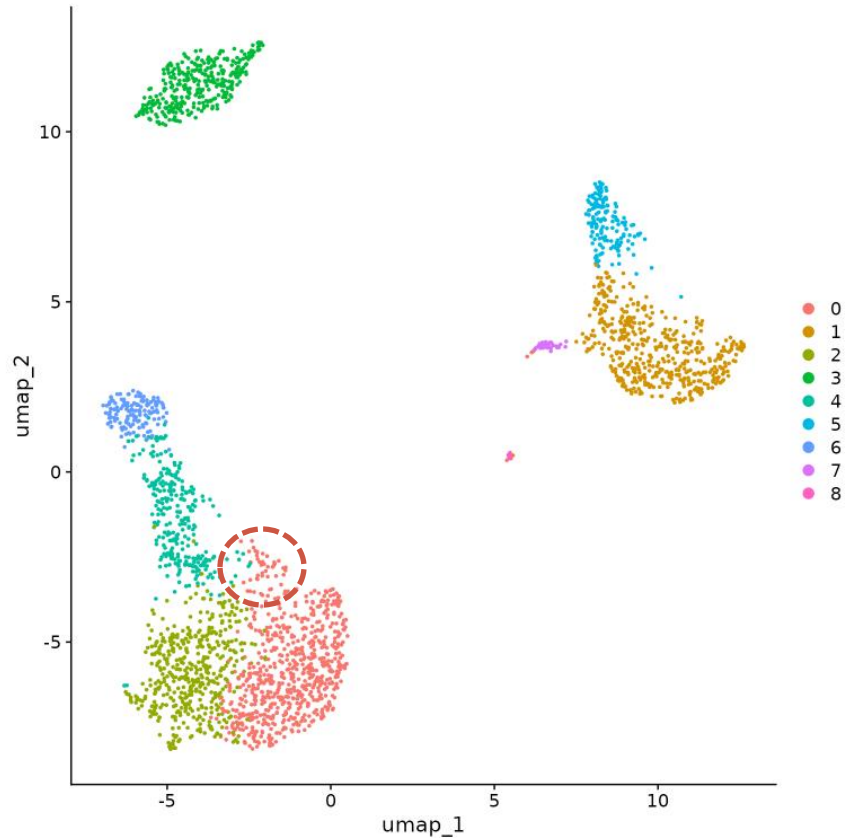
Interpret distances between cluster



# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world



*There are clearly several subpopulations within the red cluster.*



## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



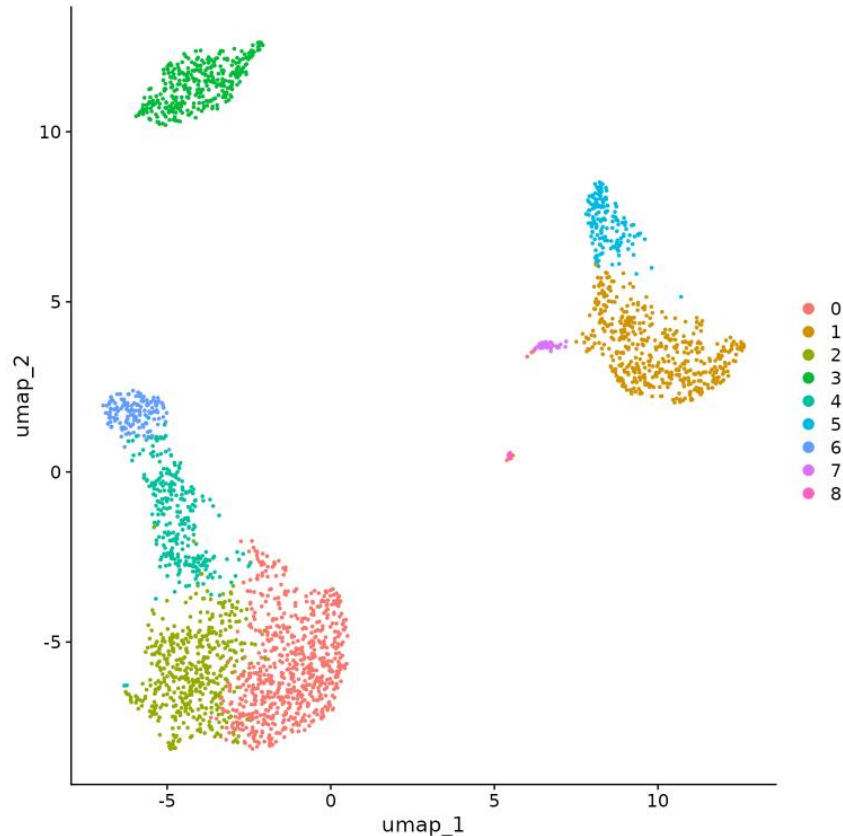
Interpret distances between cluster



# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world



*There are clearly several subpopulations within the red cluster.*



## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



Interpret distances between cluster



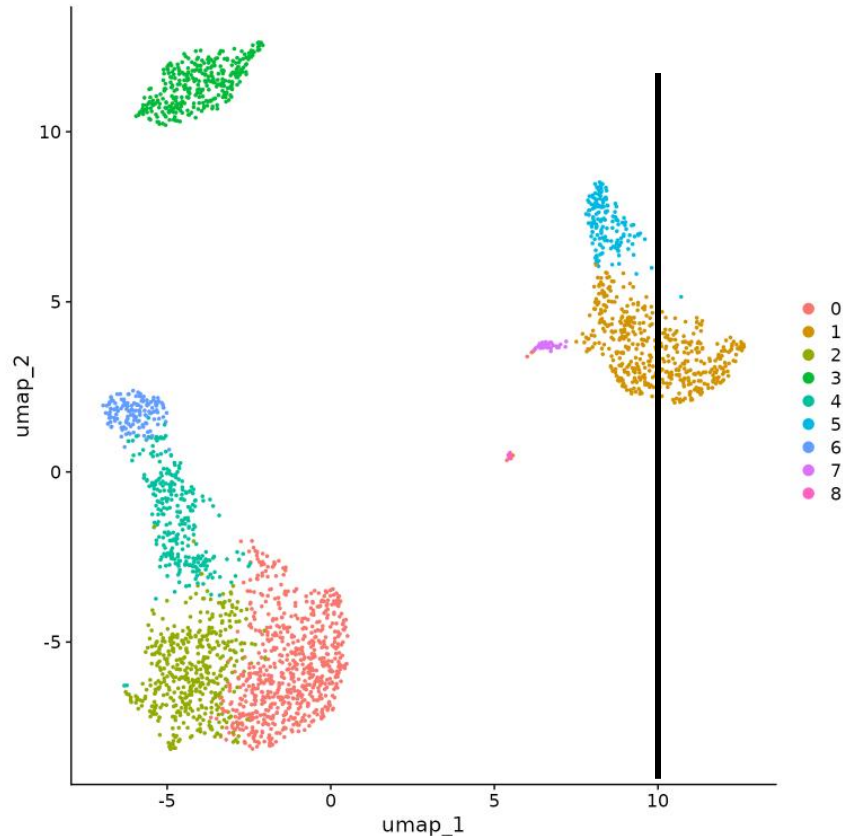
Perform clustering (manual or automatic) on UMAP/tSNE



# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world



*We considered all cells with  $umap\_1 > 10$  as marker-positive for the analysis.*



## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



Interpret distances  
between cluster



Perform clustering  
(manual or automatic) on  
UMAP/tSNE

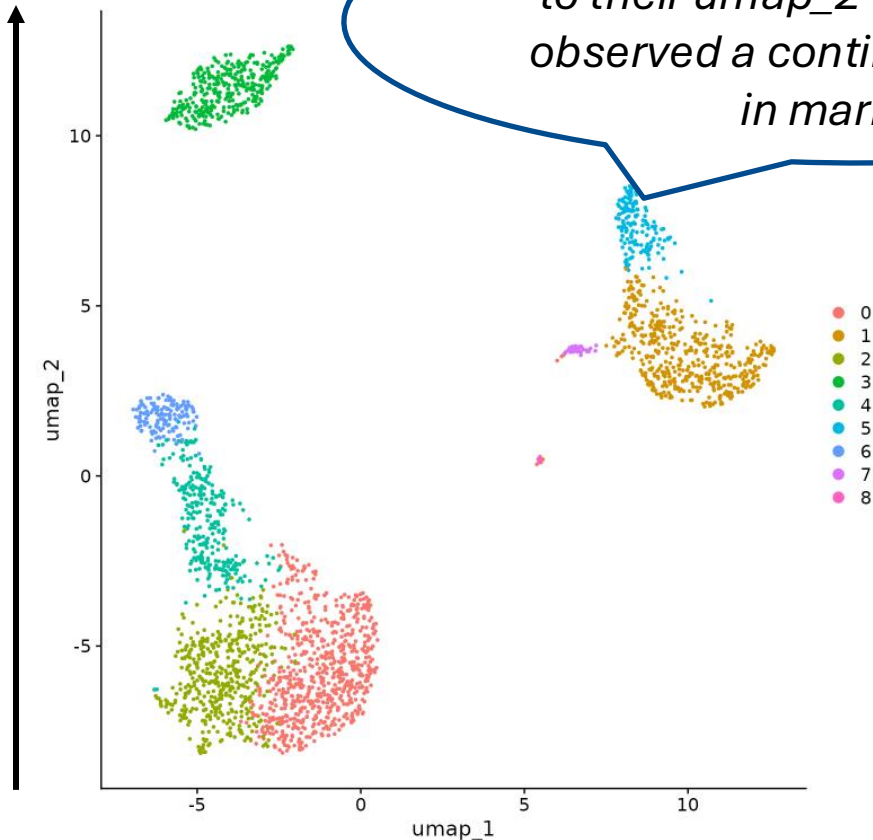




# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world

*We considered all cells with  $umap\_1 > 10$  as marker x-positive for the analysis.*

*When we ordered cells according to their  $umap\_2$  coordinate, we observed a continuous increase in marker y.*



## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



Interpret distances between cluster

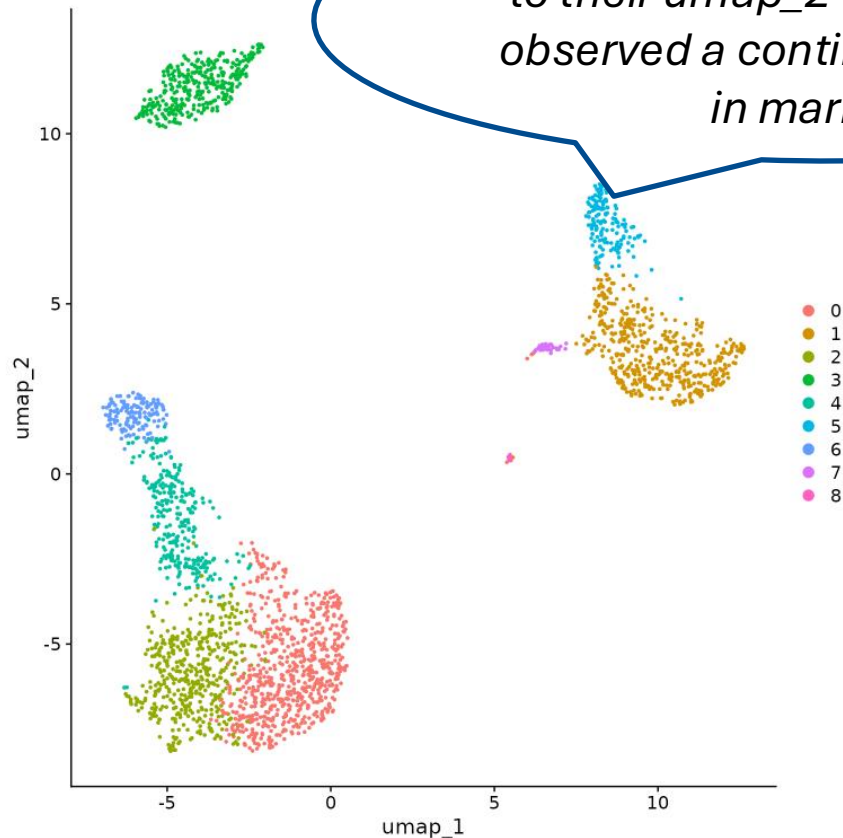


Perform clustering (manual or automatic) on UMAP/tSNE





# Interpreting tSNE and UMAP in the single-cell world



*We considered all cells with  $umap\_1 > 10$  as marker x-positive for the analysis.*

*When we ordered cells according to their  $umap\_2$  coordinate, we observed a continuous increase in marker y.*

## You shall not

Interpret visual cluster size



Interpret distances between cluster



Perform clustering (manual or automatic) on UMAP/tSNE



Perform gating or ordering based on UMAP/tSNE coordinates.



[https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbm3k\\_tutorial.html#perform-linear-dimensional-reduction](https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbm3k_tutorial.html#perform-linear-dimensional-reduction)



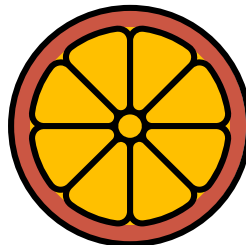
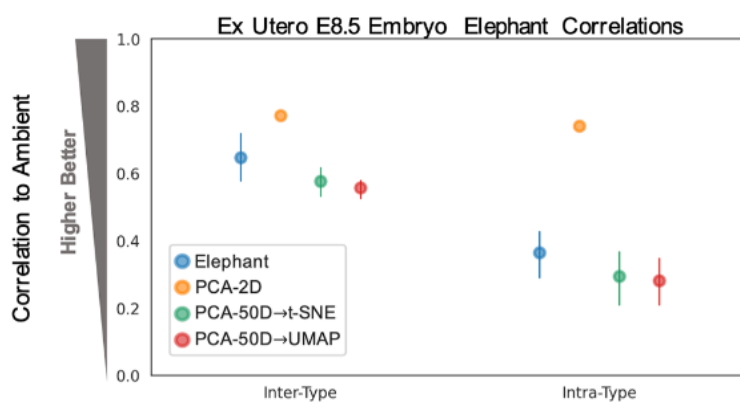


# The “UMAP is wrong and useless” controversy

## The specious art of single-cell genomics

Tara Chari, Lior Pachter 

Published: August 17, 2023 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1011288>



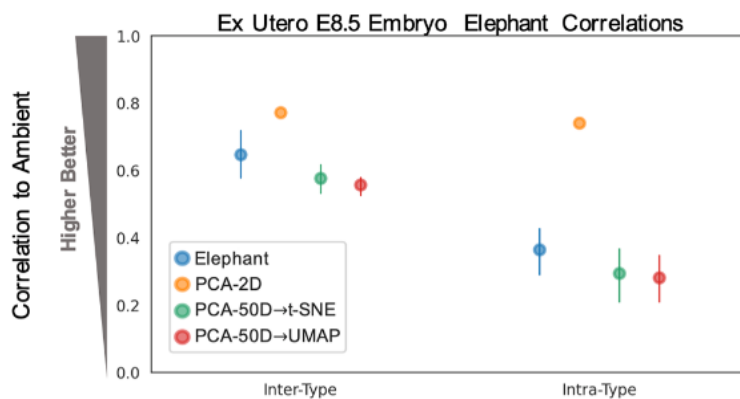


# The “UMAP is wrong and useless” controversy

## The specious art of single-cell genomics

Tara Chari, Lior Pachter

Published: August 17, 2023 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1011288>



## THE ART OF SEEING THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: 2D EMBEDDINGS OF SINGLE-CELL DATA DO MAKE SENSE

Jan Lause <sup>1,2</sup>, Philipp Berens <sup>1,2</sup>, and Dmitry Kobak <sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hertie Institute for AI in Brain Health, University of Tübingen, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Tübingen AI Center, Tübingen, Germany

<sup>3</sup>IWR, Heidelberg University, Germany

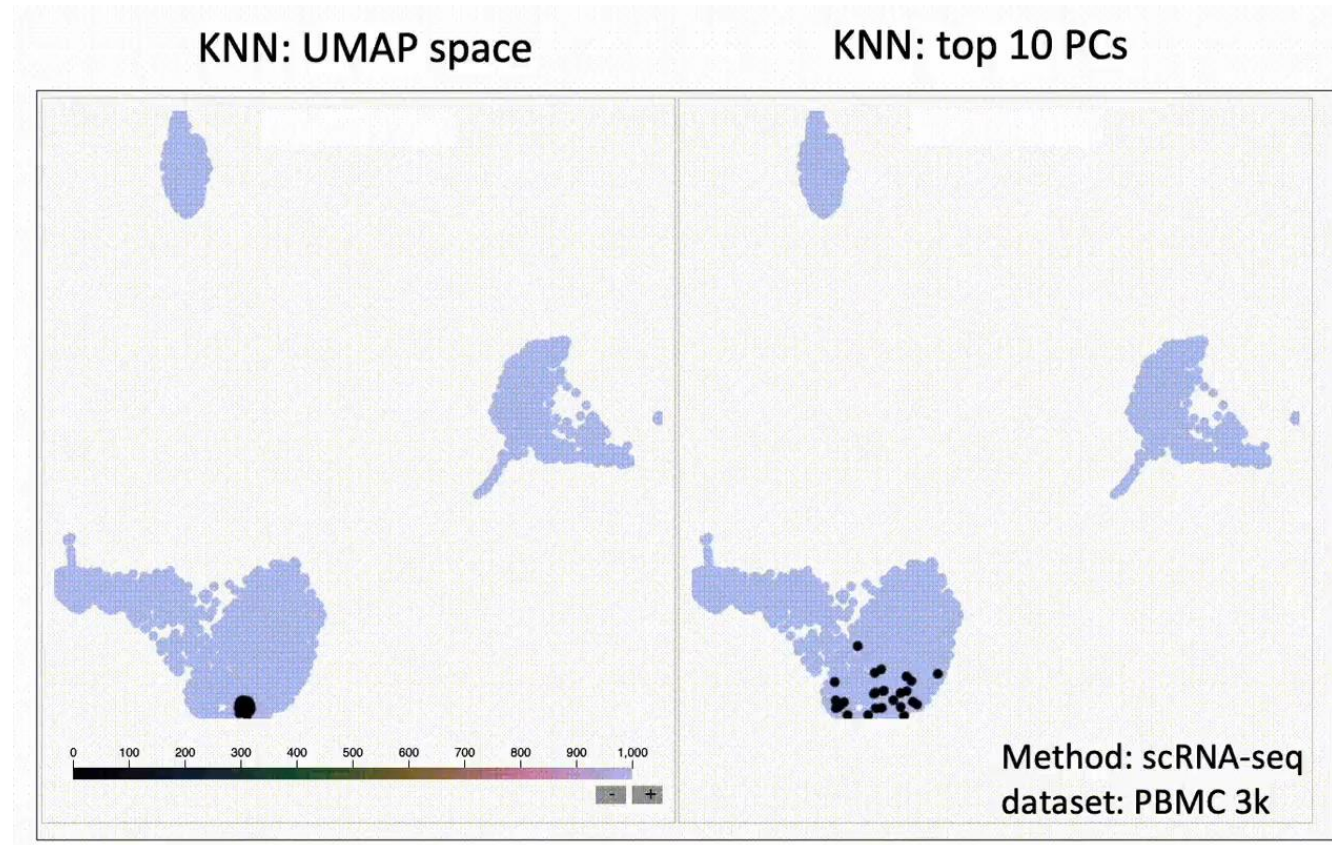
✉ [name.surname@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:name.surname@uni-tuebingen.de)

March 26, 2024

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.03.26.586728>  
v1

<https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1011288>

While 50D can approximate the full information reasonably,  
**2D cannot preserve the full information.**



# Data types along the processing path

