“Programming is about trying to make the future less painful. It’s about making things easier for our teammates.”

The Pragmatic Programmer
Andy Hunt & Dave Thomas

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SCIENCE IS OUR MEDICINE

CENTER FOR MEDICAL DATA SCIENCE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
Institute of Artificial Intelligence

BOCK LAB

MrBiomics
More Time for Science!

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Predoctoral Fellow @ Bock Lab
November 6th, 2024

MrBiomics – More Time for Science!

Modules & Recipes augment Bioinformatics for Multi-Omics Analyses at Scale

Achieve 80% of standard biomedical data science analyses semi-automatically with 20% effort by leveraging Snakemake's module functionality to use and combine pre-existing workflows into arbitrarily complex analyses.

- ATAC-seq Analysis
- RNA/ATAC-seq Integrative Analysis
- scRNA-seq Analysis
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- RNA-seq Analysis
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- Split, Filter, Normalize & Integrate NGS data
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- Enrichment Analysis (regions & genes)
- ATAC-seq Processing
- Perturbation Analysis using Seurat
- Differential Analysis using limma
- Unsupervised Analysis

Public | In Development | Recipes*

Contributors

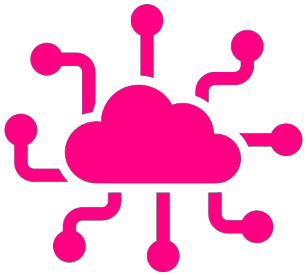
>165 GitHub stars across all 9 modules

3 Project repository: https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics; GitHub list: https://github.com/stars/sreichl/lists/MrBiomics; * Recipes (WIP): https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki

Motivation – Three Observations at the End of 2021

Increased demand,
but limited resources.

Increased fields of relevance,
but not more time.



Reproducibility crisis and
technological developments.

Over time it became clear that I created MrBiomics
because I need it to handle my many multi-omics projects!

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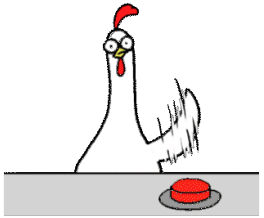
https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki

Scope of MrBiomics



What it facilitates (in scope):

- Accelerated arbitrarily complex end-to-end best practice analyses.
- Exploration of the computational option space and comparison of different approaches/hypotheses.
- Reproducible, transparent, documented, scalable, portable data analysis.

What it doesn't facilitate (out of scope):

- Liberate you of thinking, the opposite is the case. It provides you with more time to think.
- Tell you how to use the supported methods e.g., parameters.
- Critically assess and interpret your results.

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Metaprogramming | Separation of Concerns

Explained Using The World's Simplest Program

"Out with the details!" Get them out of the code. While we're at it, we can make our code highly configurable and "soft"—that is, easily adaptable to changes.

Not reusable, single-purpose code.

```
print("Hello World!")
```

↓

Hello World!

Bad practice, but most first analyses.

Reusable by copy-paste-edit, but duplication of code base.

```
message = "Hello World!"
...
print(message)
```

↓

Hello World!

Common practice, most analyses in papers.

Reusable.

config.yaml

```
message: "Hello Mars"
```

↓

```
message = config["message"]
...
print(message)
```

↓

Hello Mars!

Best practice, but rare in papers.

https://highlight.hohli.com/; https://github.com/HugoMatilla/The-Pragmatic-Programmer?tab=readme-ov-file#27-metaprogramming;

Metaprogramming | Separation of Concerns

Advantages

Reusable.

```
message: "Hello Mars"
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config.yaml


```
message = config["message"]
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```


Hello Mars!

Best practice,
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Advantages

- "Do not repeat yourself" (DRY-)principle of coding
- Enables continuous improvement and compounding effects (i.e., solve it once for everyone → YAY Science).
- Reusable for different data, do not re-invent the wheel.
- Less error prone (i.e., change parameter, variable, path).
- Consistency, stability, robustness, …
- Scalable, reproducible, portable, …

Everyone

But Stephan, this looks like SO MUCH more work.

Okay, convinced, but it looks difficult…

Yes and no. Only use it for reusable code that works. Copy-paste-edit doubles code .

True, but luckily someone else already did the heavy-lifting.

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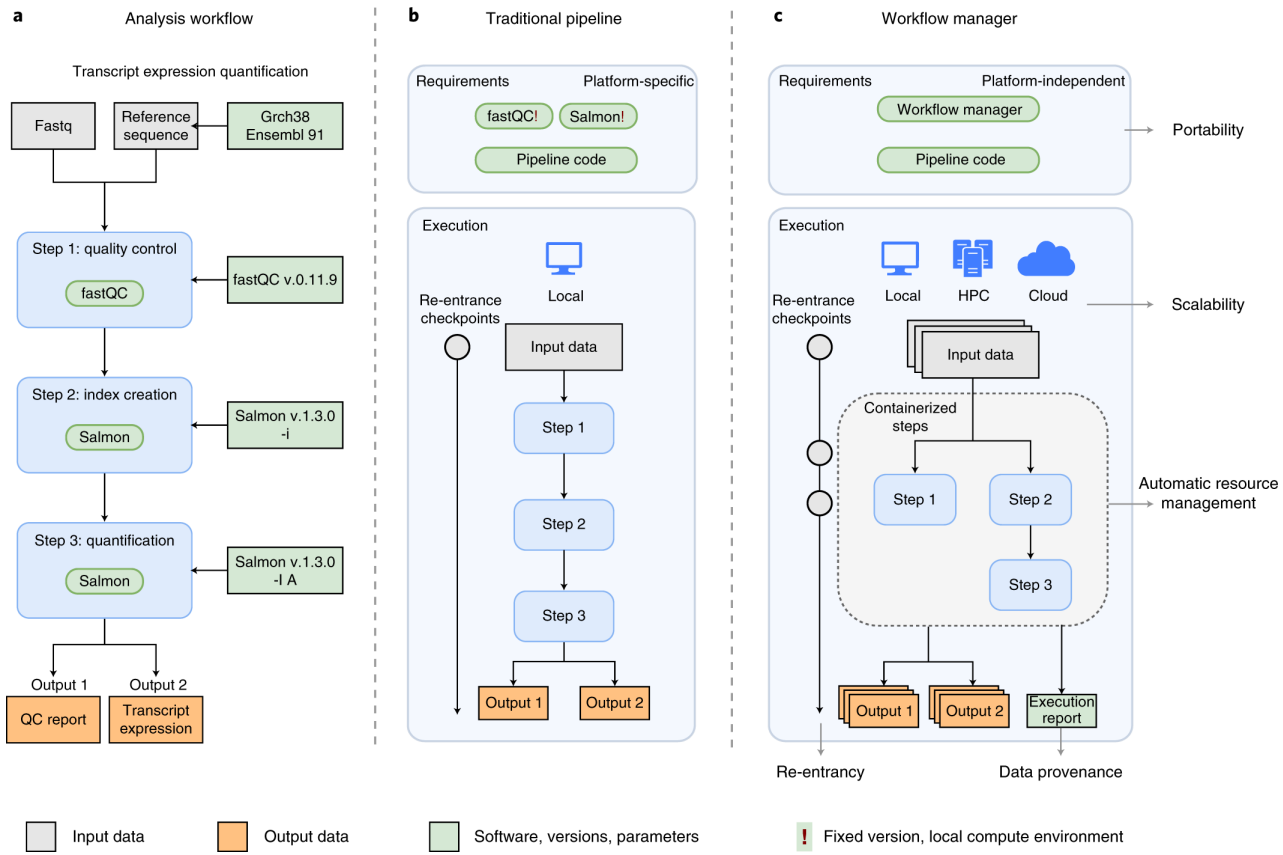
Workflow Management Systems & Snakemake



What is Snakemake?
A framework for reproducible and scalable data analysis

- Readability (python based)
- Portability (conda & container)
- Modularization (script, notebooks, wrapper),
- Transparency (reports)
- Scalability (local, cluster, cloud)

Highly popular

- >11 new citations per week
- >1,000,000 downloads
- Open source (MIT licensed)

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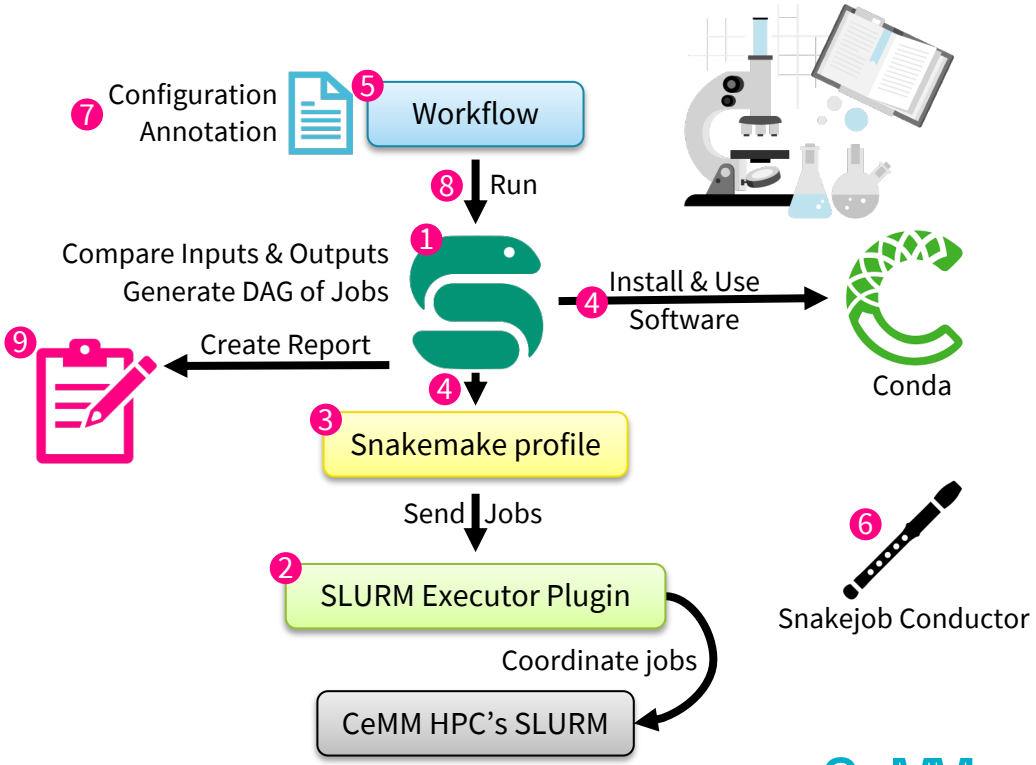
Wratten et al 2021 Nature Methods; https://snakemake.github.io/; https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/

Workflow Management by Snakemake

How to run a Snakemake Workflow (at CeMM)

1. Install Snakemake[1]*
2. Install SLURM executor plugin*.
3. Clone CeMM's global Snakemake profile[2]*
4. Set environment variables*/**
   a. Conda environments
   b. Snakemake profile
5. Clone/Deploy workflow
6. Setup Snakejob Conductor[2]**
7. Configure workflow for analysis
8. Run workflow within Snakemake
9. Generate Snakemake report
10. Do great science and have fun!



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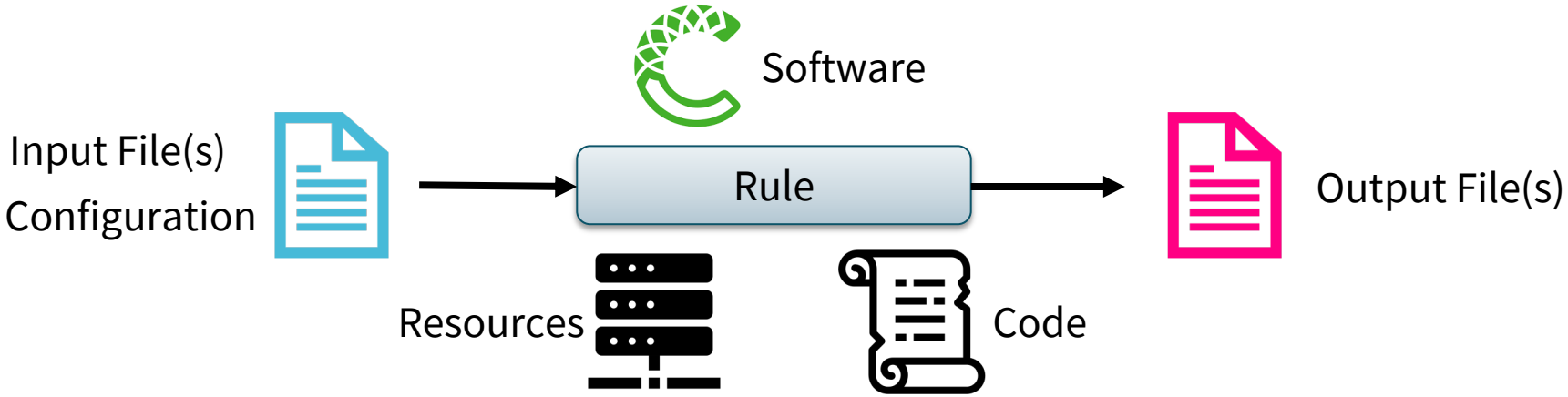
(1) https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/; (2) https://github.com/epigen/cemm.slurm.sm; *only once; **optional, but recommended

Rules - Definition

Rules are specific computational tasks.
They can be bash commands, scripts, notebooks, or plain (Python) code.
Input, output, software, configuration and computational resources are pre-defined.



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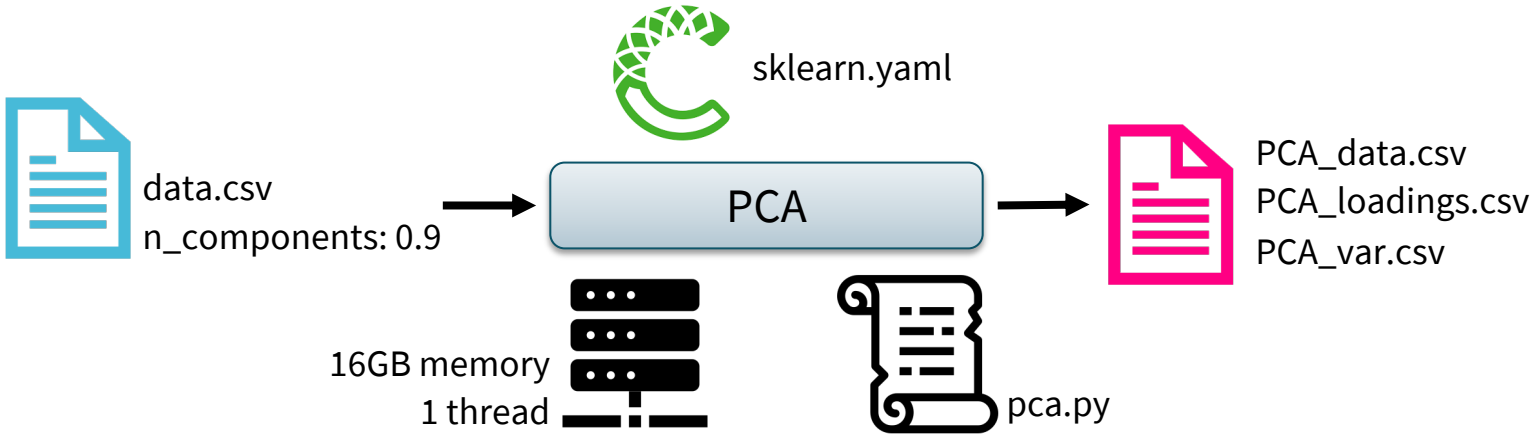
Rules – Example: PCA

Rule

Perform a Principal Component Analysis (PCA), using software provided in `sklearn.yaml` and code in `pca.py`, on `data.csv` with configuration `n_components: 0.9`. The job will get `16GB` of memory and `1` thread.



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https://github.com/epigen/unsupervised_analysis/blob/b52cb55ef2499bb8b9080e443d66f75d5a5b454c/workflow/rules/dimred.smk#L1-L23

Rules – Example: PCA - Code

Rule

```
####### perform Principal Component Analysis (PCA) #######
rule pca:
    input:
        unpack(get_sample_paths),
    output:
        …
        result_data = os.path.join(result_path,'{sample}','PCA','PCA_{parameters}_data.csv'),
        …
    resources:
        mem_mb=config.get("mem", "16000"),
    threads: config.get("threads", 1)
    conda:
        "../envs/sklearn.yaml"
    log:
        os.path.join("logs","rules","PCA_{sample}_{parameters}.log"),
    params:
        samples_by_features = get_data_orientation,
    script:
        "../scripts/pca.py"
```

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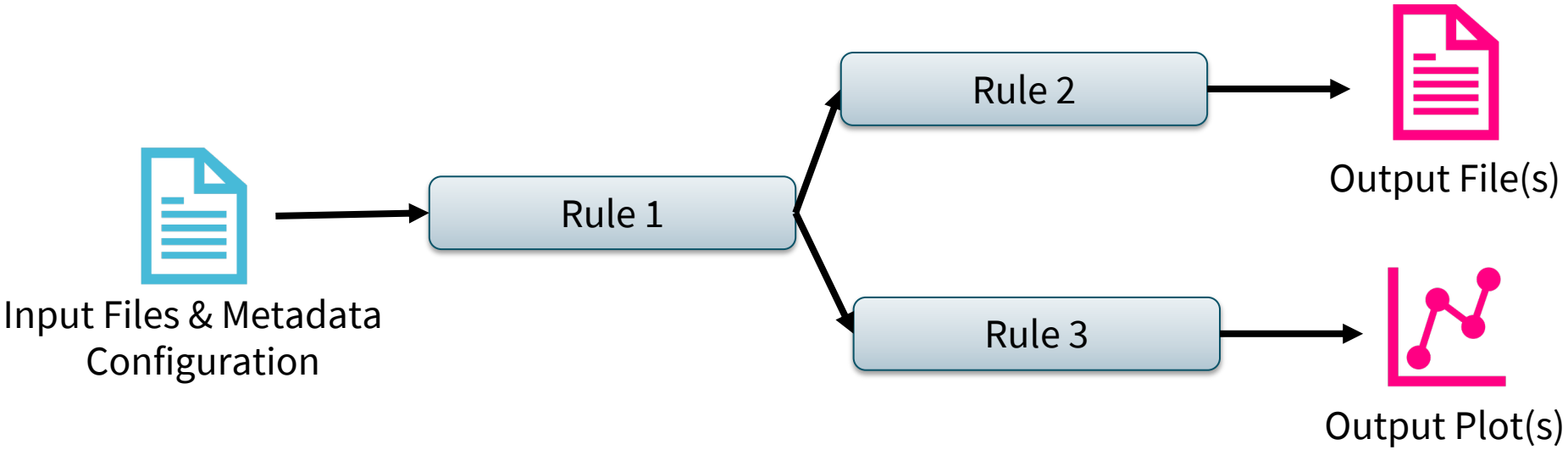
https://github.com/epigen/unsupervised_analysis/blob/b52cb55ef2499bb8b9080e443d66f75d5a5b454c/workflow/rules/dimred.smk#L1-L23

Modules - Definition

Modules are Snakemake workflows, consisting of **Rules** for multi-step analyses.
They can be general-purpose (e.g., Unsupervised Analysis) or modality-specific (e.g., RNA-seq).



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https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics?tab=readme-ov-file#-modules

Modules – Example: Unsupervised Analysis

Rule

Computation

Visualization

umap_graph

leiden_cluster

aggregate_clustering_results

clustification

PCA

aggregate_all_clustering_results

pca

prep_feature_plot

umap_embed

densmap_embed

validation_internal

plot_pca_diagnostics

clustree_analysis_metadata

plot_dimred_metadata

plot_dimred_interactive

plot_dimred_clustering

plot_dimred_features

plot_umap_diagnostics

plot_umap_connectivity

clustree_analysis

validation_external

aggregate_rank_internal

2D/3D Interactive Plots with metadata

plot_indices

plot_heatmap

env_export

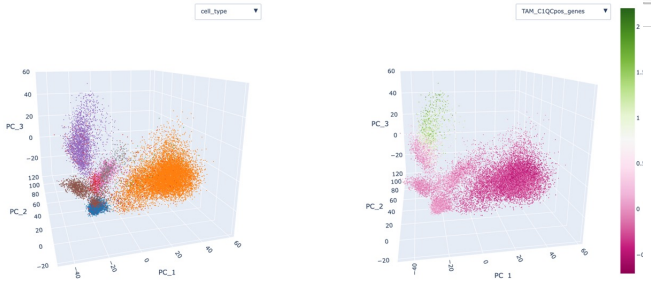
config_export

annot_export

Categorical Metadata

Numerical Metadata

all



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*https://github.com/epigen/unsupervised_analysis

Sustainable & Reproducible via Documentation & Reports

Rapid changes and updates to projects are great, but there's one aspect of development that has long suffered from quick iteration: **project documentation**. – Techrepublic*

GitHub Repository
GitHub Page
Authors
Software
Methods
Features
Usage
Configuration
Examples
Links

Hook for Releases →

Zenodo Repository for DOI

Automatic Curation →

Snakemake Workflow Catalog

Snakemake Reports
Self contained HTML

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* https://www.techrepublic.com/article/state-documentation-why-failing-it-users/; https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki/Sustainability-%26-Reproducibility

Projects using (multiple) Modules

You can (re-)use and combine pre-existing workflows within your projects by loading them as **Modules**. i.e., Workflows-of-Workflows.

```
# load local clones of a module
module MyData_other_workflow:
    snakefile: "path/to/other_workflow/Snakefile"
    config: config["MyData_other_workflow"]

use rule * from MyData_other_workflow as MyData_other_workflow_*

# load modules directly from GitHub
module MyData_other_workflow:
    snakefile: github("epigen/unsupervised_analysis", path="workflow/Snakefile", tag="v2.0.0")
    config: config["MyData_other_workflow"]

use rule * from MyData_other_workflow as MyData_other_workflow_*
```

The combination of multiple modules into projects that analyze multiple datasets represents the overarching vision and superpower of MrBiomics.

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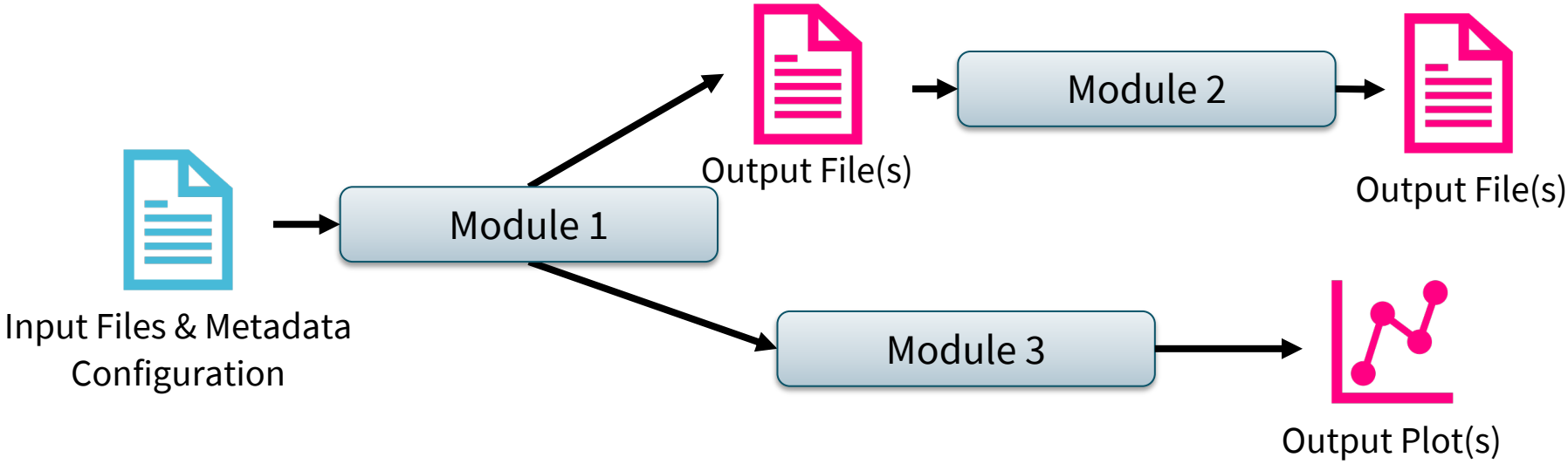
https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/en/stable/snakefiles/modularization.html#modules; https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki/Module-Usage-in-Projects

Recipes - Definition

Computational Module

Recipes are combinations of existing modules into end-to-end best practice analyses.



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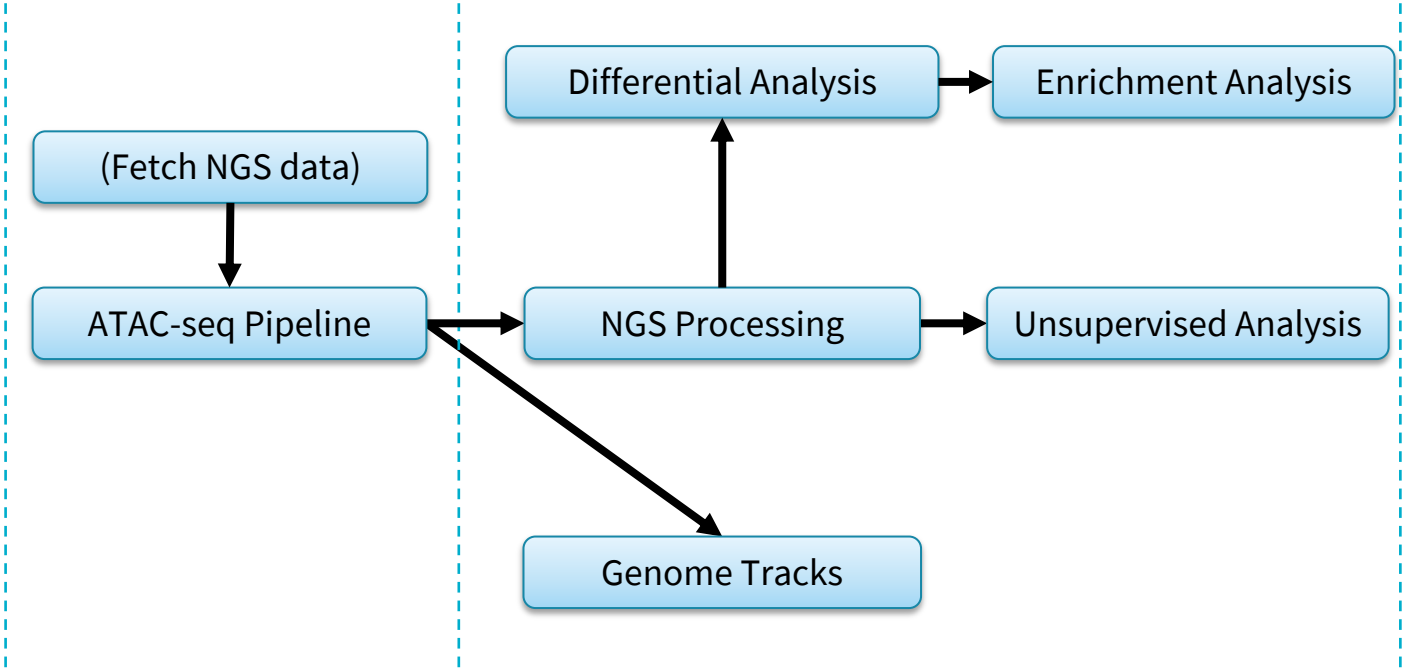
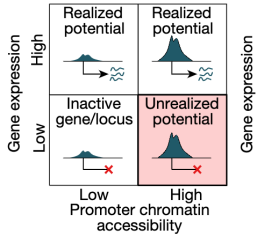
https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics?tab=readme-ov-file#-recipes

Recipe for ATAC-seq Analysis

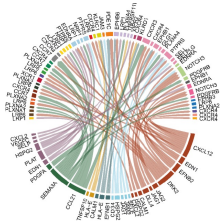


More time for downstream analyses!

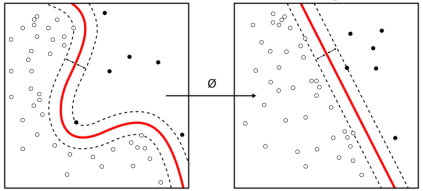
Epigenetic potential



Cell-cell communication



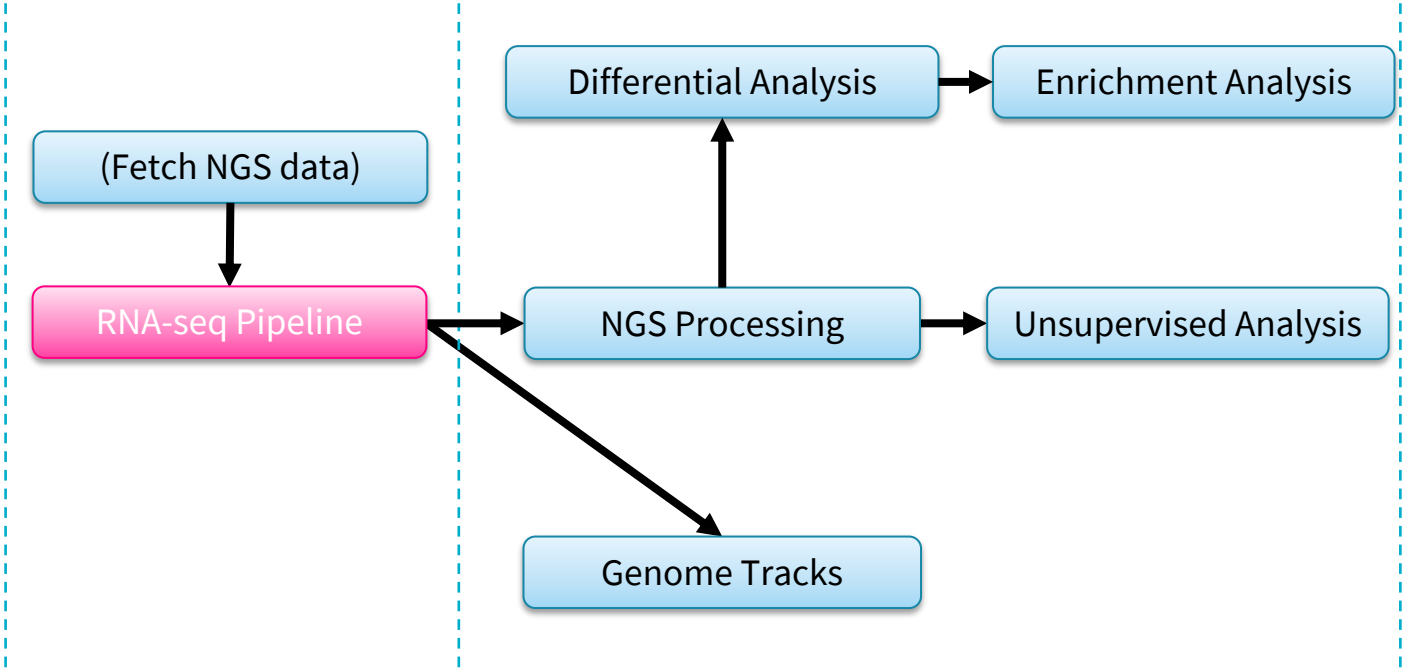
Machine learning



Data → Information → Knowledge

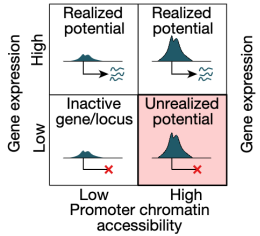
https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki/ATACseq-Analysis-Recipe

Recipe for RNA-seq Analysis



More time for downstream analyses!

Epigenetic potential



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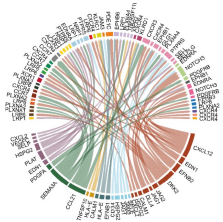

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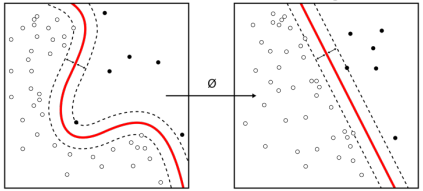
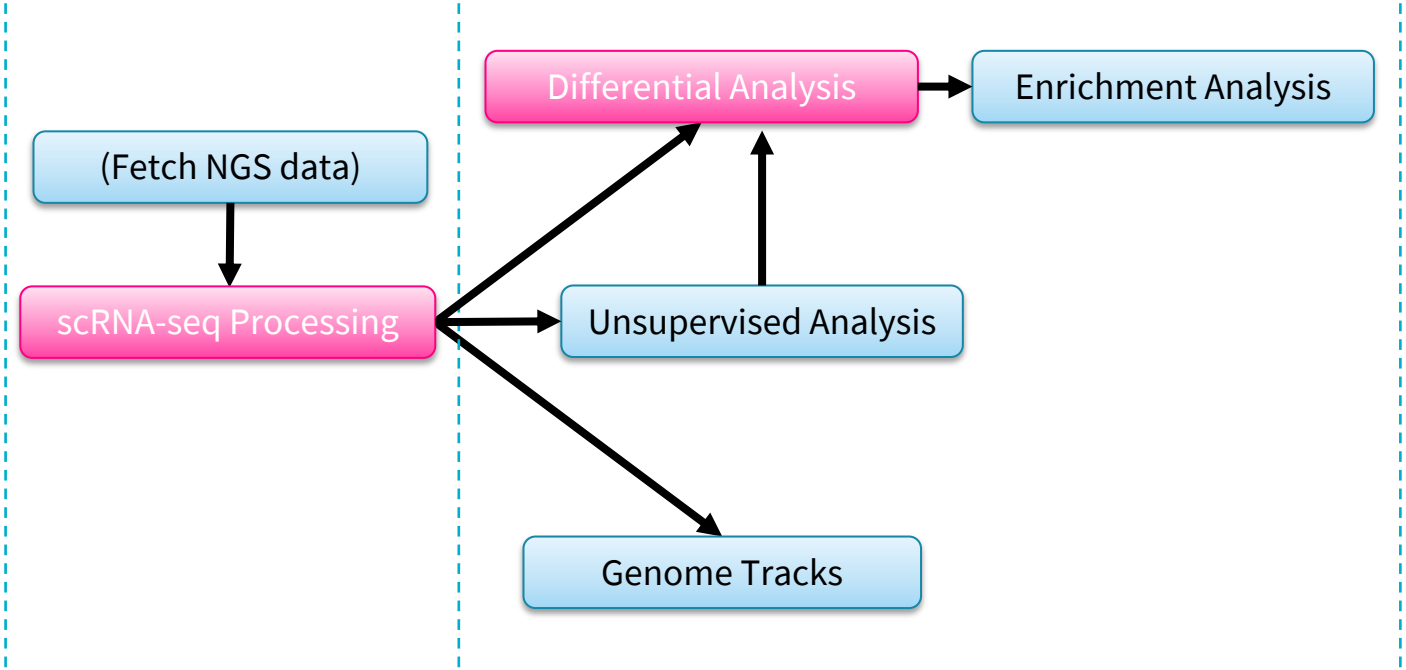


Data → Information → Knowledge

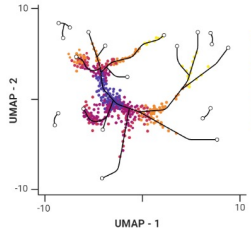
https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki/RNAseq-Analysis-Recipe

Recipe for scRNA-seq Analysis



More time for downstream analyses!

Trajectory analysis



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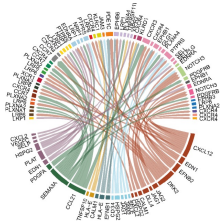

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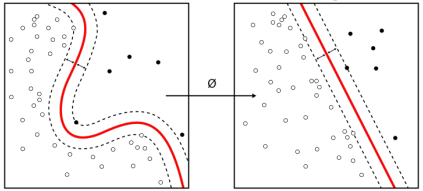


Data → Information → Knowledge

https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics/wiki/scRNAseq-Analysis-Recipe

Recipe for scCRISPR-seq Analysis

More time for downstream analyses!

(Fetch NGS data)

scRNA-seq Processing

Differential Analysis → Enrichment analysis

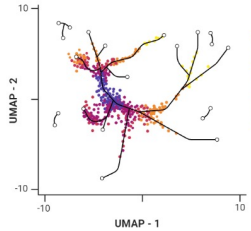
Perturbed Cells

Mixscape Analysis → Genome Tracks

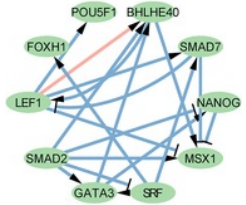
Perturbation Signature

Unsupervised Analysis

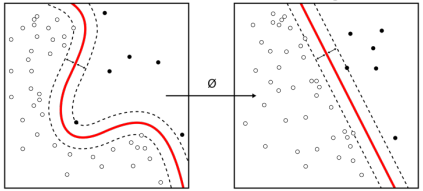
Trajectory analysis



Gene regulatory networks



Machine learning



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Public | In Development | Recipes*

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Resources

MrBiomics

- List of current modules https://github.com/stars/sreichl/lists/MrBiomics
- Project repository: https://github.com/epigen/MrBiomics

External Snakemake Workflows:

- snakePipes https://snakepipes.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
- seq2science https://vanheeringen-lab.github.io/seq2science/index.html
- Snakemake Workflow catalog https://snakemake.github.io/snakemake-workflow-catalog/

Software:

- Snakemake Documentation https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
- Conda https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/

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