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Abbreviations

aMM asymptomatic Multiple Myeloma	2
BM Bone Marrow	2
BMME Bone Marrow Microenvironment	66
BMPC Bone Marrow Plasma Cell	5
BMSC Bone Marrow Stromal Cell	4
CAM Cell Adhesion Molecule	4
ECM Extracellular Matrix	4
EMT Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition	3
hMSC human Mesenchymal Stromal Cell	69
MSC Mesenchymal Stromal Cell	6
MGUS Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance	2
MM Multiple Myeloma	66
MMR Multiple Myeloma Relapse	3
MBD Multiple Myeloma related Bone Disease	9
PCL Plasma Cell Leukemia	2
SP Solitary Plasmacytoma	2
SASP Senescence-Associated Secretory Phenotype	9

Introduction

Aims

This PhD thesis is designed to bridge significant gaps in the understanding and analysis of myeloma cell behavior and the handling of complex biomedical datasets. The specific aims are as follows:

- Develop an *in vitro* model to elucidate the mechanisms of myeloma cell dissemination in interaction with mesenchymal stromal cells (hMSCs), focusing particularly on:
 - Observing and quantifying cell proliferation, attachment, and detachment dynamics using time-lapse microscopy.
 - Isolating and characterizing distinct myeloma subpopulations interacting with hMSCs to understand differential gene expression related to cell adhesion and patient survival.
- Design and implement a Python-based software tool, `plotastic`, to facilitate the analysis of multidimensional datasets generated in biomedical research. This tool will aim to:
 - Streamline the data analysis process, making it more efficient and reproducible.
 - Integrate visualization and statistical analysis capabilities to ensure that data analysis protocols are aligned with the ways in which data is visualized.
 - Provide a case study demonstrating the application of `plotastic` in the analysis of *in vitro* dissemination experiments, emphasizing the tool's ability to handle semi-big data and enhance reproducibility.
- Synthesize the findings from the experimental and software development components to advance the understanding of myeloma dissemination and improve research practices in biomedical data analysis.

These aims are crafted to address both the biological and technical challenges in current cancer research methodologies and data science applications in biomedicine, fostering advancements that could lead to novel therapeutic strategies and more robust scientific inquiries.

Summarising Discussion

Time-Lapse Microscopy Added Intuition to Exploratory Cell Biology

- When starting this project, dissemination has not been the main topic. - Surprisingly, Time-lapse identified detaching cells - Hence, Time-lapse proved pivotal for this project, shifting the focus onto in vitro dissemination.

Microscopy holds vast amounts of information. Cell movements themselves add a lot more info. Time-lapse video has proven invaluable for exploratory cell biology

the most important key insight on the mechanism of dissemination identified by timelapse was Cell Division - further insights were multiple time measurements

measuring the minimum time for detachments to begin, or the time required for daughter cells to re-attach to the hMSC monolayer. Such mechanistic insights

Other methods like RNAseq and survival analysis did provide molecular and clinical connections, time-lapse microscopy documented cell interactions as-is, but allowed for a deep and intuitive understanding of cryptic molecular data, placing the conclusions into a context that answer key questions about potential and limits of this study, such as the aggregation behavior of INA-6 cells.

Novel Methods of Isolating Adhering Subpopulations

In this work, innovative *in vitro* methodologies (Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation and V-Well adhesion Assay) were developed. this was required to fill in gaps of isolating cells with minimized variability introduced by user-bias to clearly separate subpopulations and precisely quantify them.

It is evident that direct or indirect contact with MM can have different effects on both hMSCs and Myeloma cells and methods to differentiate between those are crucial for understanding the change of the Bone Marrow Microenvironment (BMME) during Multiple Myeloma (MM) progression (Fairfield et al., 2020; Dziadowicz et al., 2022)

cite all those methods for cell isolation! - Turning around wellplates: Doesn't allow isolation, just quantification - The author did not show all his washing experiments - Washing is very bad (data not shown): Highly dependent on user: position of cell on well bottom (border cells receive less force),

position of pipette tip in well (depth, angle and position on bottom) - This motivated us to explore more reproducible methods

It's a challenge: either quantify cell population, or isolate them! - It's better to specialize in one method, than to do both poorly - Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation is badly suited for quantification, but possible - we switched to developing V-well adhesion assay for quantification - We realized, V-well isolation allows both ultra precise quantification and isolation of small amounts of cells! - unmatched precision through centrifugation, no washing - But V-well pellets comprise only few cells requiring a lot of technical replicates and an untiring pipetting hand

The Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation (WPSC) used two different techniques to dissociate MA-INA6 cells from the hMSC monolayer. This had no impact on the ratio of isolated MA-INA6 to nMA-INA6, since nMA-INA6 isolation was performed prior to dissociation using the same protocol consistently. We tried this to test if MACS was really necessary, after all it is costly, time-consuming, introduces an antibody bias and requires cell cold-treatment during antibody: Strong pipetting ('*Wash*') and repeated Accutase treatment followed by magnetic activated cell sorting ('*MACS*').

Dynamic Regulation of Adhesion Factors During Dissemination

One main question arises:

INA-6 was initially isolated from plasma cell leukemia as an extramedullary plasmacytoma located in the pleura from a donor of age. There is not much more information available on the background of that patient (*Two New Interleukin-6 Dependent Plasma Cell Lines Carrying a Chromosomal Abnormality Involving the IL-6 Gene Locus. Abstract Two Plasma Cell Lines, INA-6 and JK-6, Have Been Initiated and Continuously Cultured from Two Patients with Malignant Plasma Cell Diseases. Both Cell Lines Are EBNA Negative and Show Morphological and Immunophenotypical Features of Plasma Cells. INA-6 Expresses the CD39 and CDw75 Antigens, JK-6 Is Strongly Positive with CD38 and CD39 Antibodies. By Flow Cytometry They Were Non-Reactive with Ia Antibodies and B Cell Reagents CD19, CD20, CD21, CD22, and CD24. While INA-6 Cells Are Releasing Kappa Light Chains Only, JK-6 Cells Produce IgG Kappa. Both Cell Lines Could Only Be Initiated with IL-6 Supplemented Medium and Remained IL-6 Responsive throughout Continuous Culture. INA-6 Is Strictly Dependent on IL-6. No Spontaneously Secreted IL-6 Was Found nor Could It Be Induced by IL-1 β /TNF α Stimulation. Molecular Analysis with RT-PCR Revealed mRNA for the IL-6 Receptor in Both Lines. No IL-6 mRNA Was Detectable in INA-6 Cells, While in JK-6 Minute Amounts Were Observed. Cytogenetic Analysis of Both Lines Revealed, among Other Abnormalities, a Deletion (7)(P13). Interestingly, the 7p Deletion Affects the Location of the IL-6 Gene. In Both Cell Lines, IL-6 Dependent Proliferation Could Be Inhibited by IFN α . IFN α Had Growth Regulatory Effects Only on JK-6: While High Concentrations Were Inhibitory, Low IFN α Amounts Were Clearly*

Stimulatory. A Wide Variety of Other Cytokines Including GM-CSF and IL-11 Did Not Have the Capacity to Influence Proliferation. These Plasma Cell Lines Do Not Only Allow to Further Characterize Regulatory Events in Plasma Cell Neoplasias but Also Provide Tools to Study Therapeutic Interventions., n.d.; Burger, Guenther, et al., 2001). But assuming that This is a highly advanced stage of myeloma. However, Chapter 2 shows that adhesion factors are lost during MM progression. INA-6 are highly adhesive to hMSCs.

This is a contradiction that needs to be resolved.

For example, circulating MM cells show lower levels of integrin $\alpha4\beta1$ compared to those residing in the BM. Furthermore, treatment with a syndecan-1 blocking antibody has been shown to rapidly induce the mobilization of MM cells from the BM to peripheral blood in mouse models, suggesting that alterations in adhesion molecule expression facilitate MM cell release (Zeissig et al., 2020).

However, INA-6 do not express adhesion factors. They do that only in hMSC presence Hence MAINA-6 could be a smaller fraction of MM cells, specialized on preparing a new niche for the rest of the MM cells. This could be a reason why they are so adhesive.

This assumption dictates that aggressive myeloma cells gain the ability to dynamically express adhesion factors. It could be that INA-6 has gained the capability to express adhesion factors fast in order to colonize new niches, such as pleura from which they were isolated.

This shows that not just the stage of the disease, but also the location of the myeloma cells plays a role when considering adhesion factors. According to this, this thesis predicts a low expression of adhesion factors in circulating myeloma cells, but a high expression in adhesive cells, e.g. non-circulating, or rather those

indeed CD138 paper isolated cells from circulating MM cells (Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020)

indeed, temporal subclones have been identified (Keats et al., 2012).

Subsets of Adhesion Factors Contribute To Different Steps of Adhesion

- adhesion molecules during vascular involvement have these adhesion molecules: JAM-C and CD138. - NONE of Them were shown in Chapter 2 of this study, (except for JAM-B)

- One has to consider that intravasation and/or extravasation would require a different set of adhesion factors than adhesion to BM or extramedullary environments.

This has great implications for targeting adhesion factors for therapy, as it suggests that different adhesion factors should either be antagonized or agonized depending on the function of the adhesion factor. According to this assumption, adhesion factors involved in intra- and extravasation adhesion

should be antagonized, while adhesion factors involved in BM adhesion —as identified in Chapter 2— should be agonized. Indeed, Adhesion factors for endothelium were shown to decrease tumour burden in mouse models (Asosingh et al., 2001; Mrozik et al., 2015)

Bou Zerdan et al. (2022): "Classically, the BMM has been divided into endosteal and vascular niches"

Together, a detailed mapping of the niches available in the bone marrow is required to understand the adhesion factors required for each niche. This is a highly complex task, as the bone marrow is a highly complex organ.

What Triggers Release: One Master Switch, Many Small Switches, or is it just Random?

Papers like Akhmetzyanova et al. (2020) make it seem as if there is one molecule that decides if a myeloma cell is circulating or not.

It's less about one clear (molecular) mechanism that decides that a myeloma cell decides to become a disseminating cell, but rather a indirect consequence of a combination of many processes. These processes are: - Loss of adhesion factors or dynamic expression of adhesion factors - Loss of dependency from bone marrow microenvironment - asdf

Our thesis postulates that there is no big switch that decides if a myeloma cell detaches from the bone marrow, *it simply happens* once these processes are present.

Outlook: High-Value Research Topics for Myeloma Research Arising from this Work

As an Outlook, the Author lists research topics arising from this work that have great potential for breakthroughs in myeloma research.

Anti tumor effects of MSCs: This thesis has discussed the pro-tumor effects of MSCs. However, MSCs have also been shown to have anti-tumor effects (Galderisi et al., 2015). This work has also shown that primary human Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (hMSCs) can induce apoptosis in INA-6 cells initially —probably through the action of death domain receptors—, but inhibit apoptosis during prolonged culturing.

This shows that hMSCs could be leveraged as a therapeutic target that could prevent myeloma progression.

Cell Division as a Mechanism for Dissemination Initiation: The author describes how the detachment of daughter cells from the mother cell after a cycle of hMSC-(re)attachment and proliferation could be a key mechanism in myeloma dissemination. This mechanism was shown in other studies of extravasation. The author sees great potential in this mechanism as a target for future research. It is probably under-researched due to requirement of sophisticated time-lapse equipment, yet the simplicity of detachment through cell division is intriguing through its simplicity. It implies asymmetric cell division. Cancer cells are known to divide asymmetrically, e.g. moving miRNAs to one daughter cell.

Time as a Key Parameter: The area Thermodynamics of started with scientists measuring how long it takes for gases to cool down. The author claims, by measuring the time it takes for cancer cells to detach could lead to breakthroughs in research of myeloma dissemination.

- Cell adhesion is highly time-dependent. - Cell detachment is required for metastasis and dissemination -

key mechanistic insights

measuring the minimum time for detachments to begin, or the time required for daughter cells to re-attach to the hMSC monolayer. Such mechanistic insights

The author recommends high time resolutions, e.g. 1 frame every 15 min, which is a high resolution for common live cell imaging when compared to Purschke et al. (2010). Time-resolution was mostly limited by available disk space. Investing into more hard drives is worth it, since

Lists of Adhesion Gene Associated With Prolonged Patient Survival: The author lists adhesion genes that are associated with prolonged patient survival. These genes are highly expressed in myeloma samples from patients with longer overall

At this time we could be on the verge of a new era of myeloma therapy, including bi-specific antibodies and cell based approaches (Morè et al., 2023; Engelhardt et al., 2024). Currently available CAR-T Cell therapies (ide-cel, cilta-cel) are extremely expensive, but show complete remission rates of up to 80 % and a 18-month progression free survival rate of 66 % (Bobin & Leleu, 2022). An affordable “off-the-shelf” CAR-T Cell product could become reality since the problem of deadly graft-versus-host disease during allogeneic transplantation seems to be solvable (Qasim et al., 2017), hence, research groups and biotech companies are racing towards developing a safe allogeneic CAR-T Cell technology (Depil et al., 2020).

Conclusion 1: Cancer & Myeloma & Dissemination is bad

lorem ipsum yes yes very bad

Semi-Automation was Critical for Establishing *in vitro* Methods

In vitro research is valued for their speed at creating precise data (Moleiro et al., 2017). In this work, the development and publication of innovative *in vitro* methodologies necessitated the adoption of semi-automated data analysis tools. These novel methods introduced complexities that span multiple experimental parameters, making the results multidimensional. This demanded precise, efficient and standardized data handling capabilities which were facilitated by Python tools like `seaborn` and `plotastic` (Waskom, 2021; Kuric & Ebert, 2024).

Inherent Multidimensionality of Adhesion Studies: Cell adhesion studies often involve multiple independent parameters, posing significant analytical challenges. Two critical dimensions are particularly notable: ‘*Subpopulation*’ and ‘*Time*’. Analyzing cell adhesion often involves isolation of adherent and non-adherent subpopulations, effectively introducing ‘*Subpopulation*’ as a vital dimension in the dataset (Dziadowicz et al., 2022). This study specifically categorized cells into three levels of MSC-interaction: CM-INA6, nMA-INA6, and MA-INA6, representing INA-6 cells incubating in MSC-conditioned medium, INA-6 cells not adhering to MSCs, and INA-6 cells adhering to MSCs, respectively. Furthermore, the dynamic nature of cell adhesion processes is profoundly influenced by the factor ‘*Time*’, making it a crucial experimental parameter for investigation (Rebl et al., 2010; McKay et al., 1997; Bolado-Carrancio et al., 2020). This work includes extensive time-lapse microscopy experiments utilizing a high time resolution (1 frame every 15 min), similar to those time resolutions used by Purschke et al. (2010). This precision was required for key mechanistic insights on hMSC-INA-6 interaction dynamics. These included identifying rolling movements of nMA-INA6 daughter cells around MA-INA6 mother cells, measuring the minimum time for INA-6 detachments to begin, and measuring the time required for daughter cells to re-attach to the hMSC monolayer, etc. Next to mechanistic insights, adhesion time played a crucial methodological role in this study as well: During the V-Well adhesion experiments, we did not know initially how long INA-6 cells required to form strong adhesion with hMSCs before pelleting nMA-INA6, but required a timepoint with hour precision to capture detachments after cell division that was accelerated through prior cell cycle synchronization at M-Phase.

The extensive facetting features of `seaborn` and `plotastic` were essential for visualizing these multidimensional datasets, allowing for quick exploration of the data (Waskom, 2021).

Further Contributions and Remedies to Multidimensional Complexity: In addition to ‘*Subpopulation*’ and ‘*Time*’, this study faced additional layers of complexity that were managed through semi-automated analysis.

Experiments typically involved at least three biological replicates and corresponding technical replicates. Although replicates were not treated as independent variables — instead serving for displaying variance — they can add substantially to the data management workload. In this work,

semi-automation nullified the manual burdens of handling technical replicates: pandas was used to automate aggregation of technical replicates into means after removing technical outliers through z-score thresholding, while the jupyter notebook format allowed for reviewing filtered data for specific data losses. The removal of technical noise was especially relevant for qPCR data, where low gene expression can lead to sudden increase in Ct value (non-detects). In fact, the decision to remove or impute non-detects is under active discussion, however, available algorithms are hard to understand for non bioinformaticians, but also do not separate biological from technical variance, which is considered bad practice by Motulsky (2018) (McCall et al., 2014; Sherina, 2020). Semi-automation also nullified the burden of handling biological replicates: The automatic aggregation of datapoints during plotting is a key feature of seaborn, on which plotastic was built. Without such automation, calculating means and standard deviations for simple barplots would have required extensive manual computation in *Microsoft Excel*, or tedious plot configurations in *GraphPad Prism* due to limited facetting functionality of multiple variable tables (*GraphPad Prism 10 User Guide*, 2024).

Replicates can expand datasets as this factor comprises a lot of levels. Similarly, the factor ‘Gene’ multiplied the dataset by a total of 30 genes when validating RNAseq data with RT-qPCR. With three subpopulations, one timepoint, eleven biological replicates, and three technical replicates, the qPCR dataset used in this study grew to 2970 datapoints to be statistically analyzed and visualized. This is a manageable size for manual analysis, but the effort involved illustrates the definition of semi-big data.

Methodological variability also introduced additional dimensions: The Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation (WPSC) used two different techniques to dissociate MA-INA6 cells from the hMSC monolayer: Strong pipetting (‘Wash’) and repeated Accutase treatment followed by magnetic activated cell sorting (‘MACS’). These variations, recorded as the factor ‘method’, further complicated the dataset. Although this distinction is not discussed in this work — rather pooled into one group —, this showcases how protocol changes can add dimensions to the dataset that are not necessarily relevant for the biological question but essential for method optimizations and validation.

Agility During Establishment of V-Well Assay: The concept of agility in laboratory research, inspired by the Agile Manifesto’s principle of “*Responding to change over following a plan*” (*Manifesto for Agile Software Development*, 2001), is increasingly relevant in biomedical research (West, 2018; Quanbeck et al., 2022). This adaptive approach was particularly crucial during the development of the V-Well adhesion assay in this study. This experiment was planned such that the author performed fluorescent readout using microscopy and preliminary analysis, while a technical assistant prepared the samples for the next timepoint. Semi-automation accelerated the preliminary data analysis and visualization to a point that results were reviewable before the next sample timepoint was prepared and ready for fluorescent readout. This enabled immediate adjustments to the experimental protocol inbetween sample measurements, allowing for quick troubleshooting of small and avoidable

problems that are often unforeseeable when establishing new methodologies. Without such agility, these problems would have been identified after the experiment, requiring a complete re-run of a very work-intensive experiment that included cell cycle synchronization. Such an agile and adaptive work environment, facilitated by python tools and seaborn, proved invaluable for refining the *in vitro* methods being developed.

Additionally, the simplicity offered by seaborn for complex data plotting, such as the cell cycle profiling shown in Appendix A.1: Fig. 3, which required minimal code to produce a detailed series of 24 histograms, underscores the utility of semi-automation in enhancing laboratory efficiency. While this work does not quantify the full benefits of semi-automation, the author's experiences suggest potential impacts on the speed and adaptability of method development in biomedical research.

plotastic Exceled in Re-Doing Statistical Analyses and Plots

Establishing new methods of *in vitro* dissemination required not just innovative experimental protocols, but also adaptive ways to visually present complex data. This need for adaptability is crucial during the publication process, where researchers must often experiment with different ways to visually represent their findings to best convey their significance. This process typically involves frequent adjustments to how data is displayed in plots. Such adjustments become especially cumbersome when subsequent adjustments are involved. Traditional tools (*Microsoft Excel* or *Graphpad Prism*) fail at handling semi-big data, while Python packages like *seaborn* reach their limits in terms of adaptability, making the development of plotastic a critical step in this work.

plotastic addresses these challenges by not only automating statistics, but also by enhancing the adaptability of data visualization as well, making it easier to modify how data is presented without repetitive manual adjustments. The author saw four key steps that required streamlining through plotastic:

1. Re-arranging facets
2. Plotting multiple layers of different plot types
3. Statistical Re-Analysis and Re-Annotation
4. Fine-Tuning for publication grade quality

These adjustment steps made re-plotting tedious, since a change in prior steps required a complete re-work of following steps, something which plotastic prevented. Its key design feature is the centralized storage of facetting parameters (`x`, `hue`, `col`, `row`). These parameters define which data points are shown on the x-axis, what categories are highlighted by color (`hue`), and how data is grouped into separate plots (by columns and/or rows) into separate plots. This centralization means that once these parameters are set, they not only automate statistical analysis, but also can be automatically applied across all subsequent adjustments made to the plot. This contrasts with seaborn, where

changing these parameters required adjusting multiple lines of subsequent code.

Re-arranging Facets: `plotastic`'s `.switch()` method allowed for easily shifting the arrangement of plots — for example, switching the data represented on the x-axis with that represented by color — to explore different perspectives of the data quickly. This proved particularly useful when trying to find the most effective way to illustrate complex interactions or trends that might not be immediately apparent. In `seaborn`, changing facets is easy and proved useful during intermediate data analysis, but unfeasible when plots involved multiple layers, sophisticated style edits or statistical annotations, as this can require re-writing subsequent adjustments.

Plotting Multiple Layers of Different Plot Types: Modern journal standards increasingly demand the representation of individual datapoints alongside aggregated data, for example plotting datapoints above a bar- or boxplots. `seaborn` does not automate this, but can require calling two plotting functions in sequence, e.g. `sns.boxplot()` followed by `sns.swarmplot()`. This can get repetitive, as adjusting the style of these plots to match each other, e.g. defining the point size or transparency of individual data points to fit into a barplot. `plotastic` was designed for multi-layered plotting, offering single-line functions for plot combinations with pre-configured style-parameters.

Statistical Re-Analysis and Re-Annotation To the author's knowledge, `plotastic`'s capability of streamlining statistical re-analysis is unique and unmatched. `seaborn` alone can not perform this without multiple lines of `statannotations` (Charlier et al., 2022). `plotastic` automates the inclusion of statistical annotations directly into plots. This is a significant enhancement because it ensures that any statistical significance noted in the data is immediately visible and correctly updated whenever the data presentation is changed. This feature proved particularly useful during the peer review process of Kuric et al. (2024), where a reviewer asked for a complete statistical analysis of Chapter 15 D, which at that time included only paired t-tests between selected groups.

Fine-Tuning for Publication Grade Quality: `plotastic` simplified the creation of publication-quality figures by automating style adjustments that are typically manually coded with `matplotlib` when using `seaborn`. These include adjustments like angled x-axis labels or consistent visual styles across multiple figures, which are important for maintaining the professional appearance of published data.

Outlook: Could `plotastic` Address a Re-Analysis Bottleneck? Re-doing analyses and plots is often overlooked bottlenecks in the reproducibility of scientific research, although it does overlap with two principles of the FAIR-guidelines for scientific data management and stewardship: Interoperability⁹ and Re-Usability (Wilkinson et al., 2016). This challenge was exemplified during this work's experiments using RT-qPCR. The field of qPCR, where reproducibility issues have been notoriously prevalent. As Bustin (2014) noted, many publications using PCR-based methods have

⁹Wilkinson et al. (2016): “*Interoperability — the ability of data or tools from non-cooperating resources to integrate or work together with minimal effort.*”

been seriously flawed, underscoring the need for updated approaches (Bustin et al., 2013; Ruiz-Villalba et al., 2021). Furthermore, the evolution of the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ formula over recent years highlights the dynamic nature of data analysis standards in biomedicine (Pfaffl, 2001; Ramakers et al., 2003; Ruijter et al., 2021). Despite these challenges, current data analysis infrastructures seldom facilitate a smooth revision or complete redoing of figures, which could hamper efforts to re-analyse and apply the latest techniques to existing datasets, which could be requested e.g. during peer-review (Wilkinson et al., 2016). In response, `plotastic` was specifically designed to streamline the reconfiguration and reanalysis of data visualizations. This work serves as a case study showing that —according to the author’s experiences— the manual effort involved was effectively reduced, making the task of re-analysis seem a lot more inviting, especially for handling semi-big data.

Conclusion 2: Demonstrating the Advantages of Semi-Automation in Biomedical Research Methodologies

This thesis illustrates the challenges and solutions associated with managing the inherent complexity of adhesion studies and related methodologies, such as Cell Cycle profiling. These methodologies necessitate sophisticated data handling tools to address two primary challenges: (1) the multidimensionality of semi-big data and (2) the rapid iterative loop of results evaluation and protocol adjustments, a process for which *in vitro* methods are valued.

`seaborn` and `plotastic` have been instrumental in addressing these challenges. `seaborn` facilitated the rapid processing of intermediate results during method development, while `plotastic` was crucial for crafting publication-grade analyses and figures, filling in the capabilities that `seaborn` lacks. This includes facilitating the easy (re-)design of visualizations and statistical analyses, which are critical for late-stage data processing.

Though this work does not provide empirical evidence quantifying the benefits of semi-automation, it serves as a practical case study demonstrating the transformative potential of such technologies in biomedical research. The integration of semi-automation tools streamlined complex *in vitro* methodologies, significantly enhancing operational agility. This case study bridges biomedical research with bioinformatics, highlighting how semi-automation can reduce data analysis workloads and enable researchers to focus more on exploratory research within the laboratory setting.

To the author’s experience, the gained efficiencies not only saved valuable time but also enhanced the clarity and communicative power of the research findings. This is particularly crucial in fields like myeloma dissemination, where precise and transparent data presentation is essential for advancing understanding and treatment strategies. This conclusion suggests a need for further empirical research to validate these benefits more broadly and encourage wider adoption of semi-automation tools in biomedical research.

However, adopting `plotastic` poses its own set of challenges, particularly in the realm of biomedicine where researchers may prefer graphical user interfaces (GUIs) over command-line interfaces (CLIs). While `plotastic` offers a powerful CLI that is efficient and capable of handling complex data manipulation and visualization tasks, the transition from GUIs to CLIs can be intimidating for those accustomed to more visual interaction with software. This barrier can be mitigated by the integration of tools like ChatGPT, which can facilitate the use of CLIs by offering context understanding, code assistance, and error identification.

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- Two new interleukin-6 dependent plasma cell lines carrying a chromosomal abnormality involving the IL-6 gene locus.* Abstract Two plasma cell lines, INA-6 and JK-6, have been initiated and continuously cultured from two patients with malignant plasma cell diseases. Both cell lines are EBNA negative and show morphological and immunophenotypical features of plasma cells. INA-6 expresses the CD39 and CDw75 antigens, JK-6 is strongly positive with CD38 and CD39 antibodies. By flow cytometry they were non-reactive with Ia antibodies and B cell reagents CD19, CD20, CD21, CD22, and CD24. While INA-6 cells are releasing kappa light chains only, JK-6 cells produce IgG kappa. Both cell lines could only be initiated with IL-6 supplemented medium and remained IL-6 responsive throughout continuous culture. INA-6 is strictly dependent on IL-6. No spontaneously secreted IL-6 was found nor could it be induced by IL-1beta /TNFalpha stimulation. Molecular analysis with RT-PCR revealed mRNA for the IL-6 receptor in both lines. No IL-6 mRNA was detectable in INA-6 cells, while in JK-6 minute amounts were observed. Cytogenetic analysis of both lines revealed, among other abnormalities, a deletion (7)(p13). Interestingly, the 7p deletion affects the location of the IL-6 gene. In both cell lines, IL-6 dependent proliferation could be inhibited by IFNalpha. IFNalpha had growth regulatory effects only on JK-6: While high concentrations were inhibitory, low IFNalpha amounts were clearly stimulatory. A wide variety of other cytokines including GM-CSF and IL-11 did not have the capacity to influence proliferation. These plasma cell lines do not only allow to further characterize regulatory events in plasma cell neoplasias but also provide tools to study therapeutic interventions. (n.d.). Retrieved 2023-03-22, from <https://www.cellosaurus.org/cellopub/CLPUB00060>
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Appendices

A Supplementary Data & Methods

A.1 Figures

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A.2 Tables

A.3 Materials & Methods

B Documentation of plotastic