

# Normalizing for cell type: Does it matter?

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## BACKGROUND

- DNA methylation (DNAm) plays a crucial role in maintaining patterns of gene expression during human development and aging.
- Understanding the human methylome is important for determining both biomarkers for - and direct pathways implicating - health and disease [1].
- Aberrant DNAm patterns have been correlated with common neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease [2], as well as with mental disorders such as schizophrenia [3,4].
- However, much of the literature on either the diseased or healthy brain methylome fails to separate DNAm data by cell type composition - a major driver of DNAm variability - or by brain region [5-8].
- Dataset:** We are using publically available data that is used and described in the [Hannon et al. paper](#).

## AIM

- To determine whether cell type correction between brain regions is necessary in the analysis of Illumina HumanMethylation450 BeadChip array data
- To investigate genes differentially methylated between cerebellum and cortex regions

## METHODS

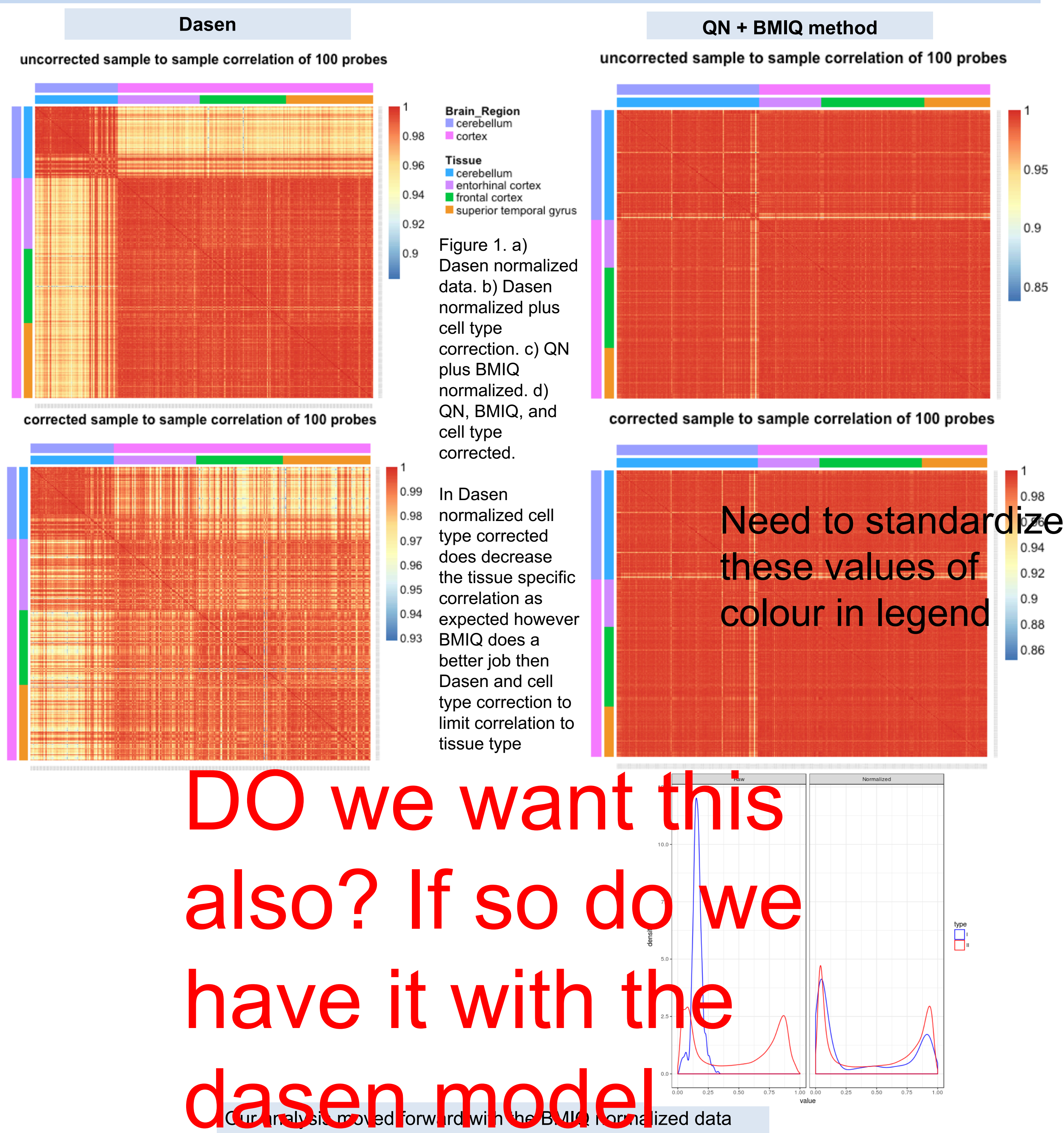
• Filler.....

Pipeline:

Image of pipeline (hilary is making) or PCA?

## RESULTS

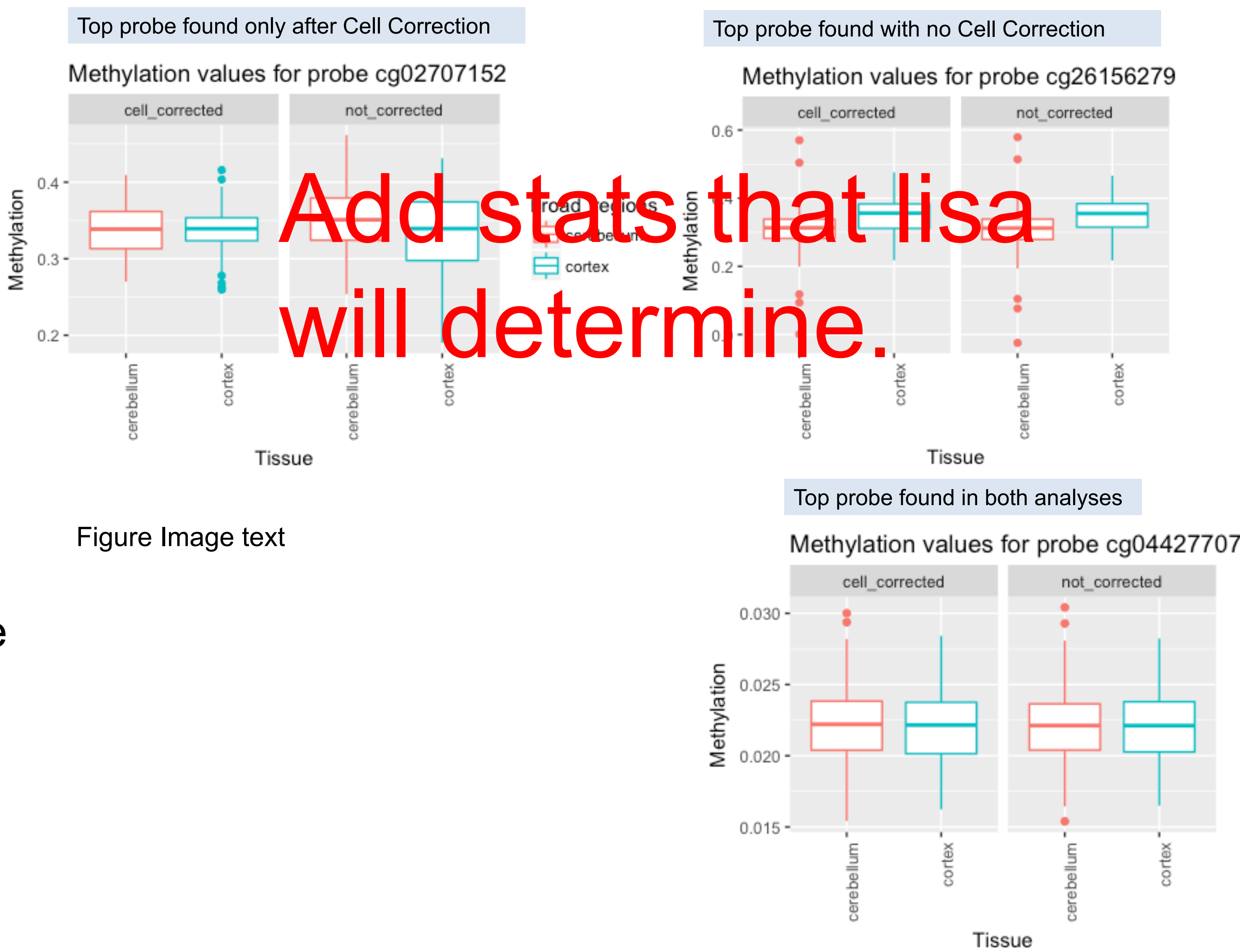
### 1. BMIQ normalization may be more appropriate than Dasen



### 2. Differential expression analysis found... Filler

Vendiagram  
+ volcano?  
List of most  
interesting  
genes

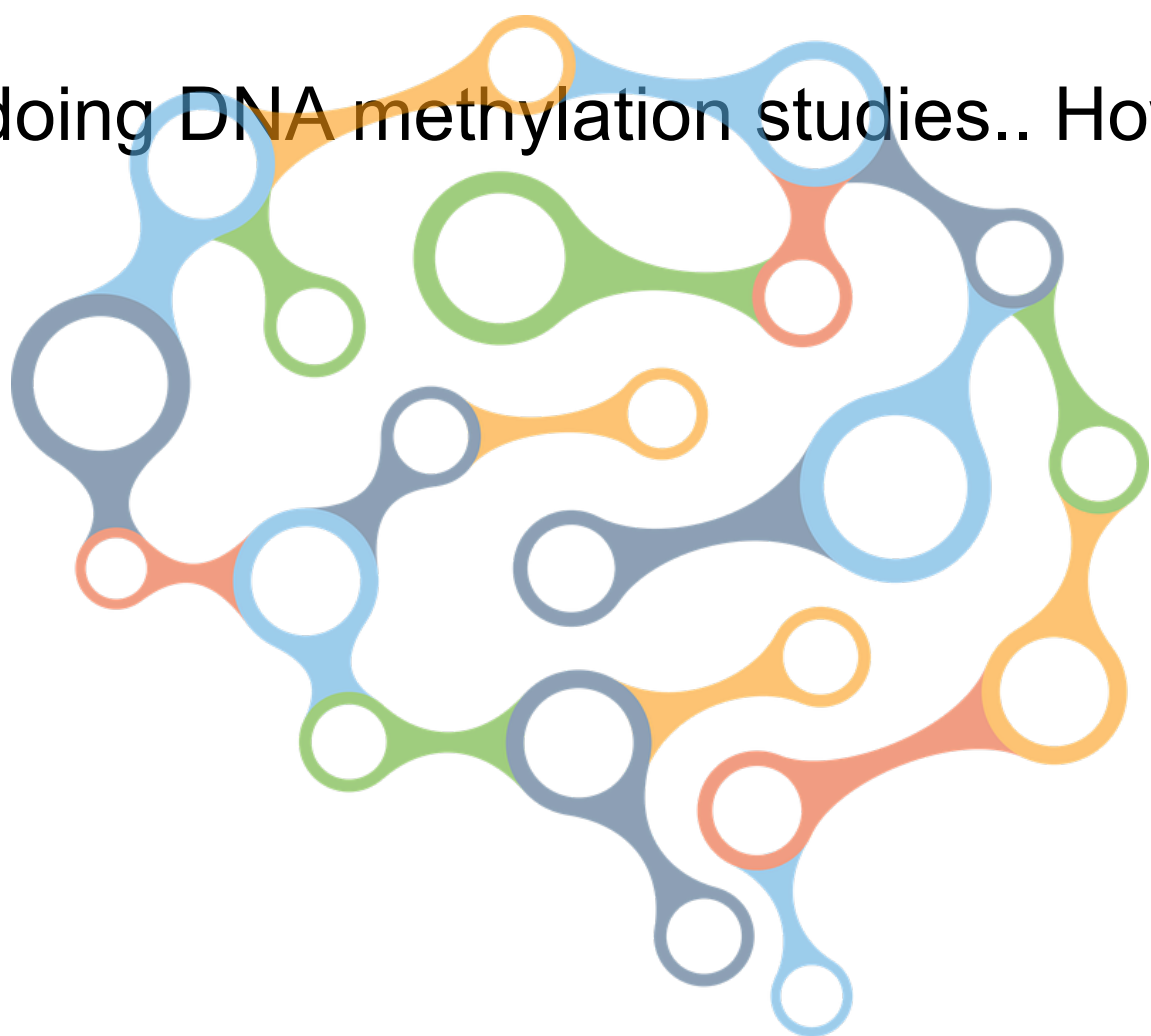
### 3. Cell type correction has greater effect in certain probes and brain regions



5.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Guidelines for those doing DNA methylation studies.. How to normalize and such.



## FUTURE WORK

Filler Text

**References:** [1] Bernstein et al. *Cell* (2007). [2] Sanchez-Mut et al. *Transl Pysch*. [3] Huang et al. *PloS one* (2007). [4] Huang et al. *Journal of Neuroscience* [5] Shin et al. *Nat Neurosci* (2014). [6] Jaffe et al. *Genome Biology* (2014). [7] Guintivano et al. *Epigenetics* (2013). [8] Montano et al. *Genome Biol* (2013).