



# Differential abundance (DA) and differential state (DS) analysis of single cell cytometry data

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@markrobinsonca

Many many slides from:



Helena



Lukas



Gosia



Charlotte



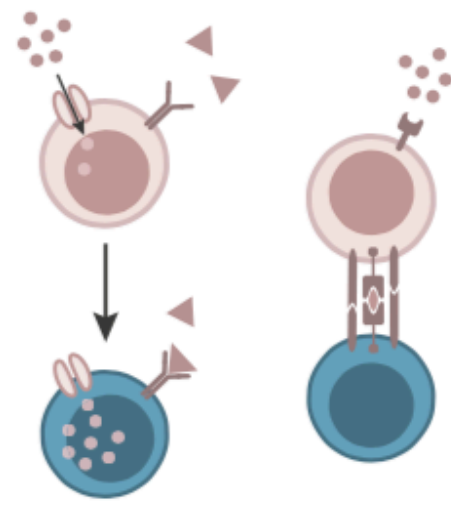
Fiona

# Outline

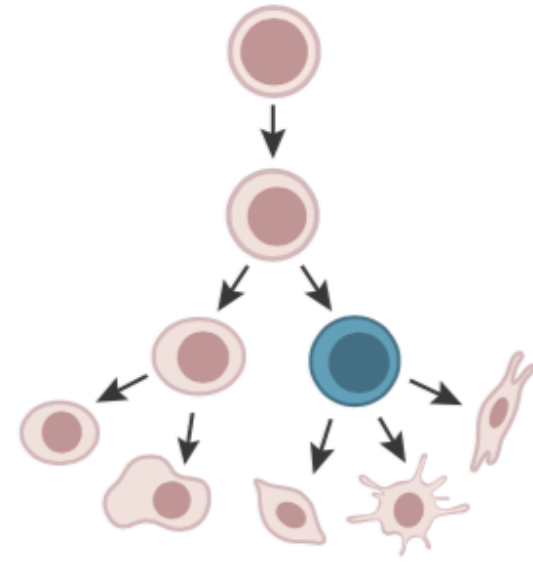
- Preliminaries
- **compensation** for CyTOF using single stains
- **clustering** “high” dimensional CyTOF
- **Differential analyses (diffcyt)**: abundance of populations, state transitions
- Parallels to single cell RNA-seq
- Working with tree representations of cells

a

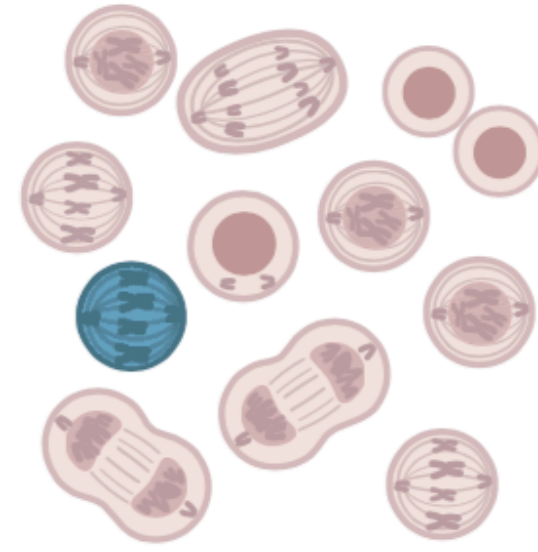
Environmental stimuli



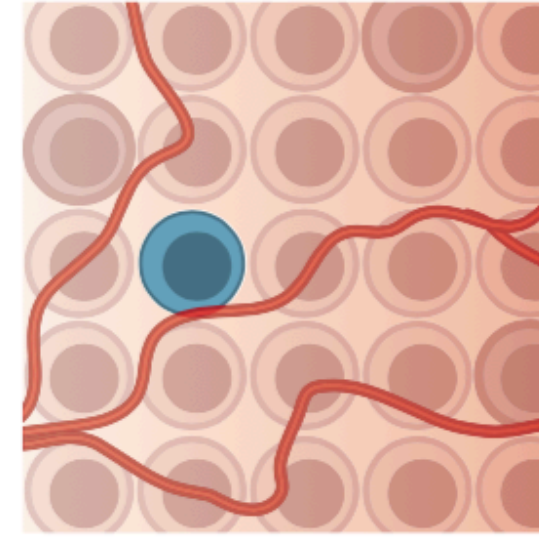
Cell development



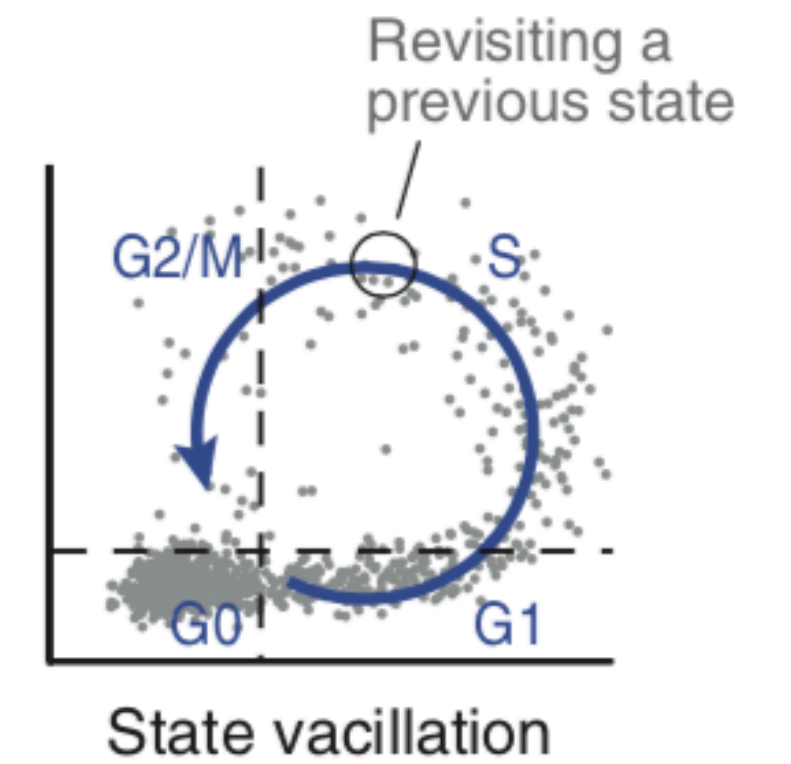
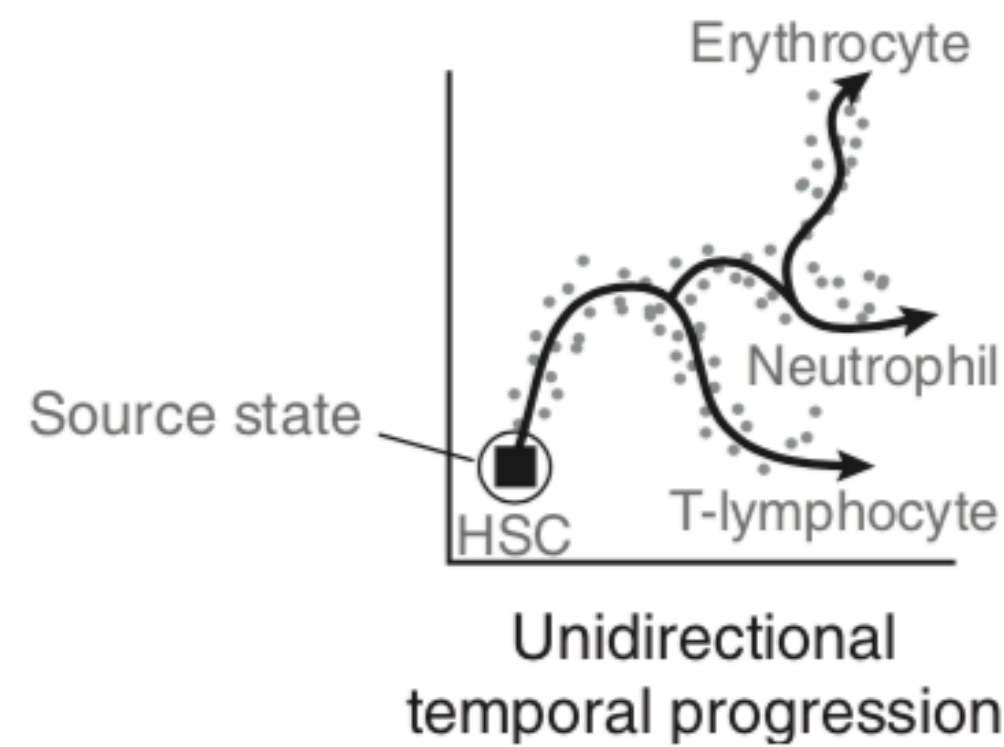
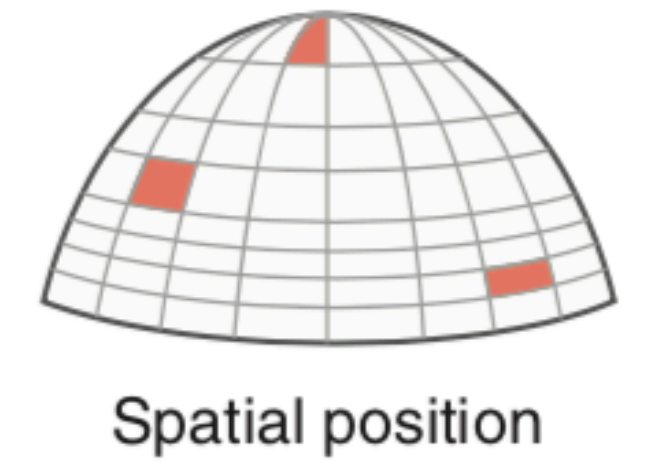
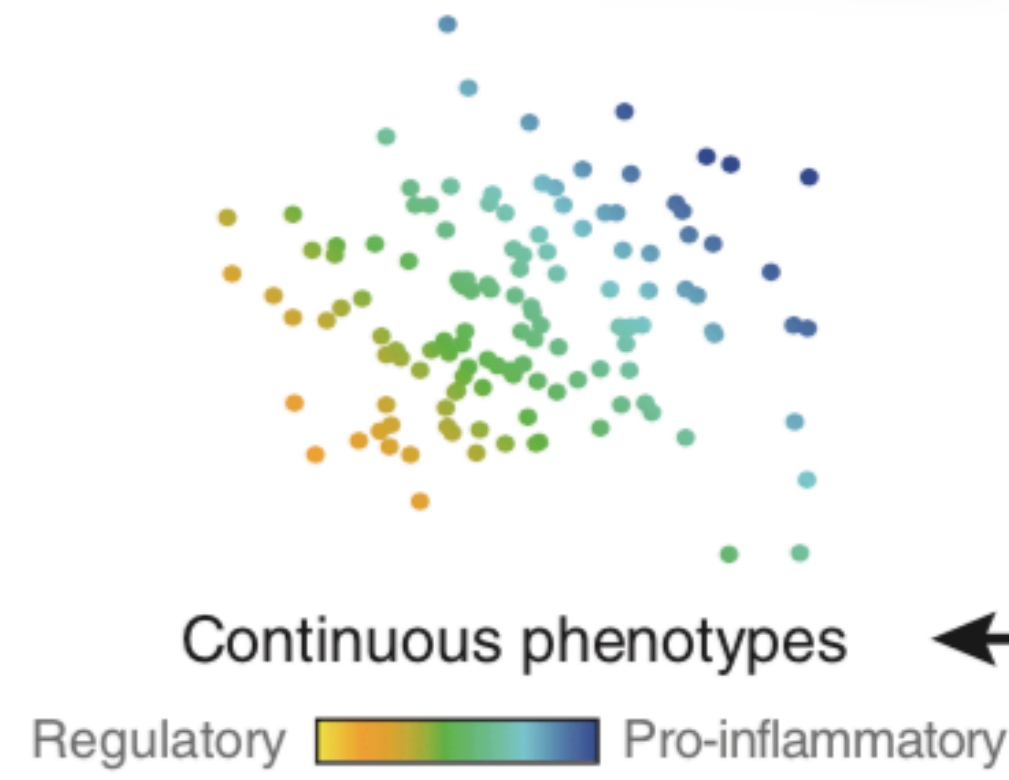
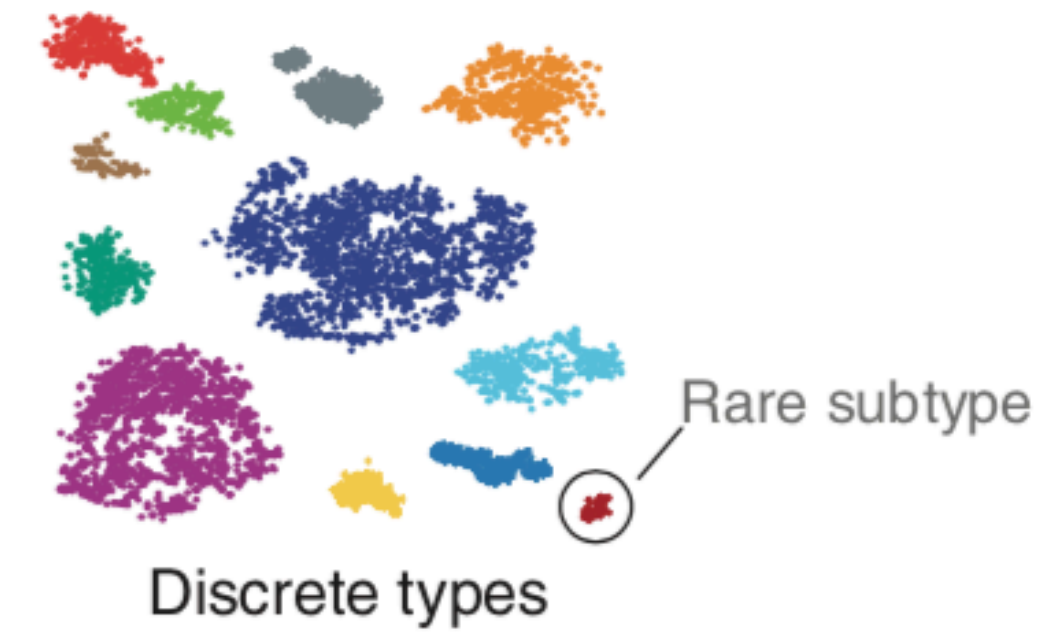
Cell cycle



Spatial context



# Applications



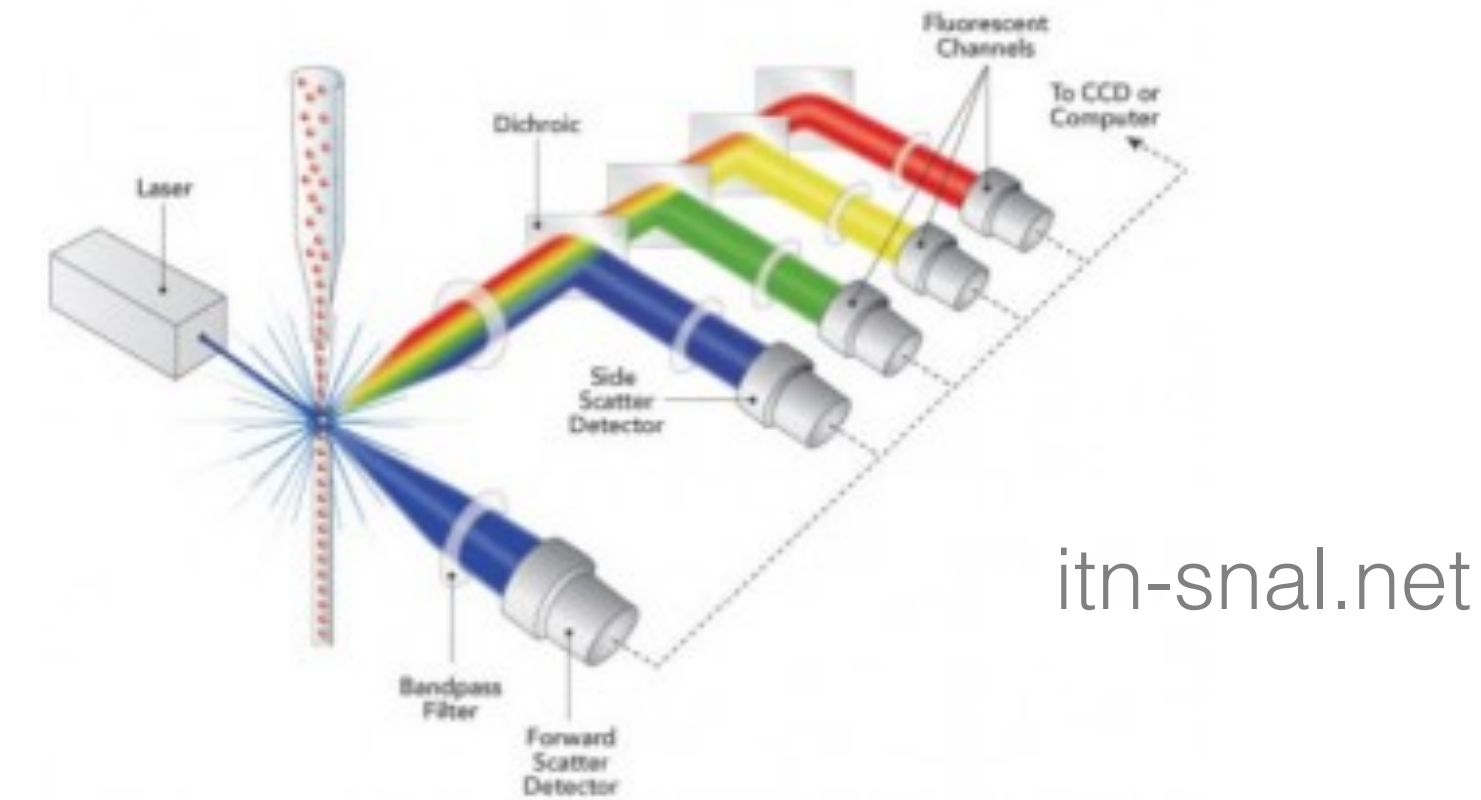
Revealing the vectors of cellular identity with single-cell genomics

Allon Wagner<sup>1</sup>, Aviv Regev<sup>2,3,5</sup> & Nir Yosef<sup>1,4,5</sup>



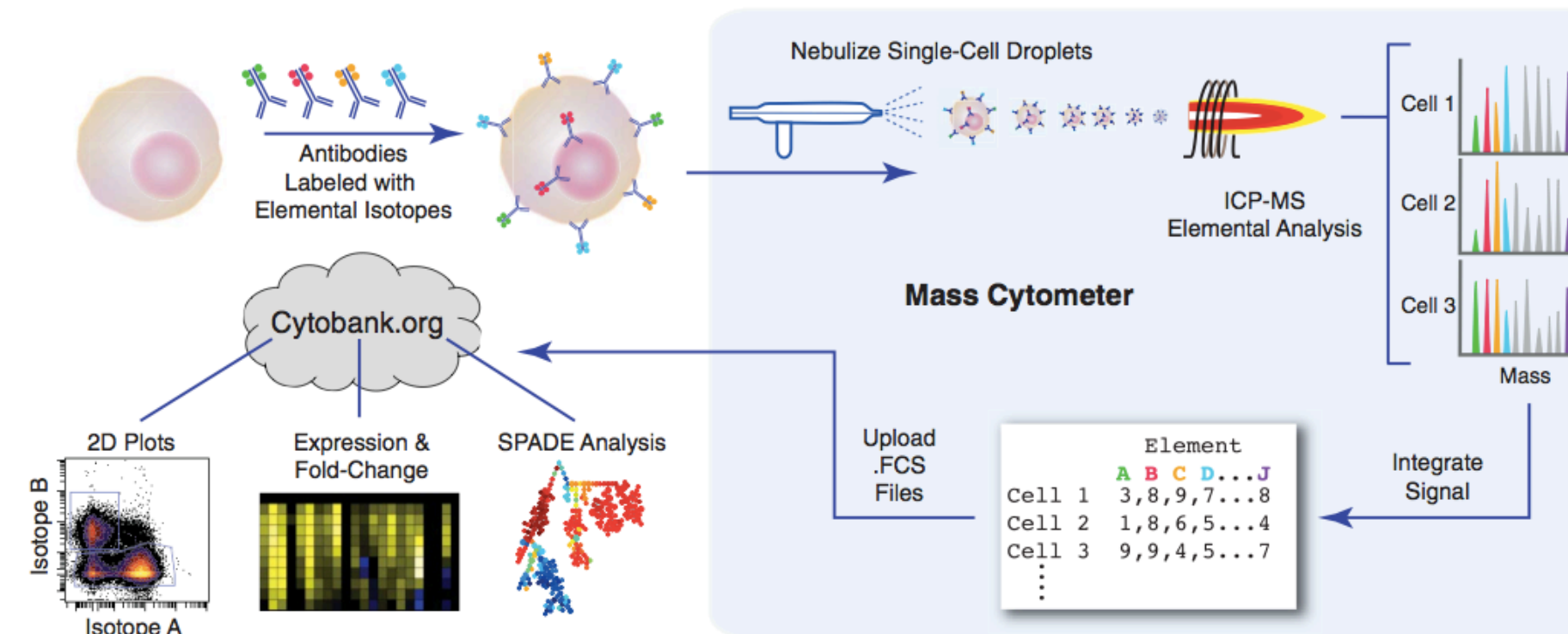
# High-dimensional cytometry

Measure **targeted protein expression levels** in single cells using **antibodies**

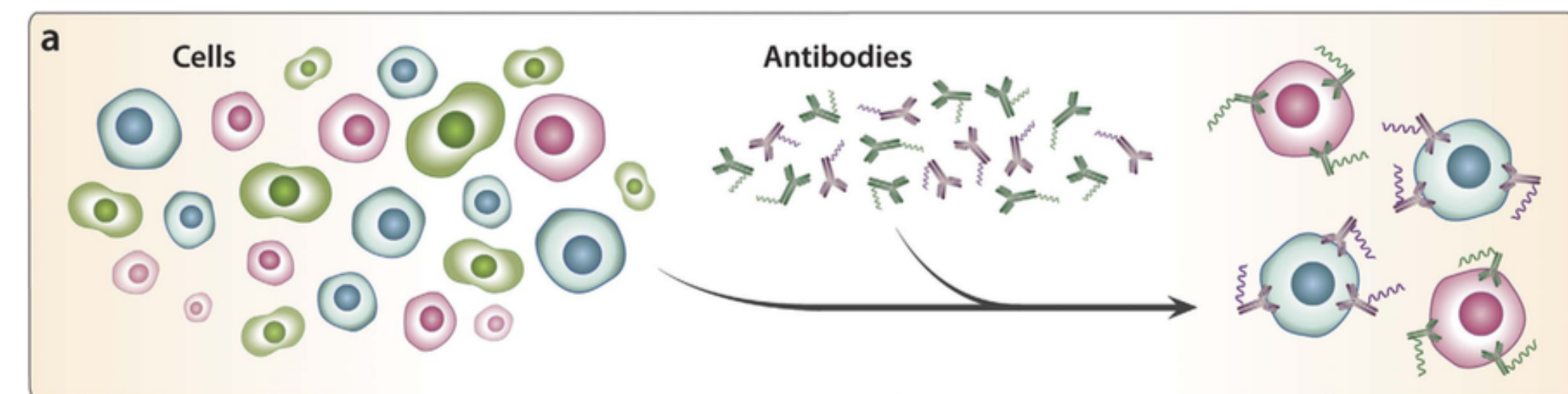


(A) Fluorescent flow cytometry / FACS  
>20 proteins/cell; 1000s cells/sec

(B) Mass cytometry / CyTOF  
>40 proteins/cell; 100s cells/sec



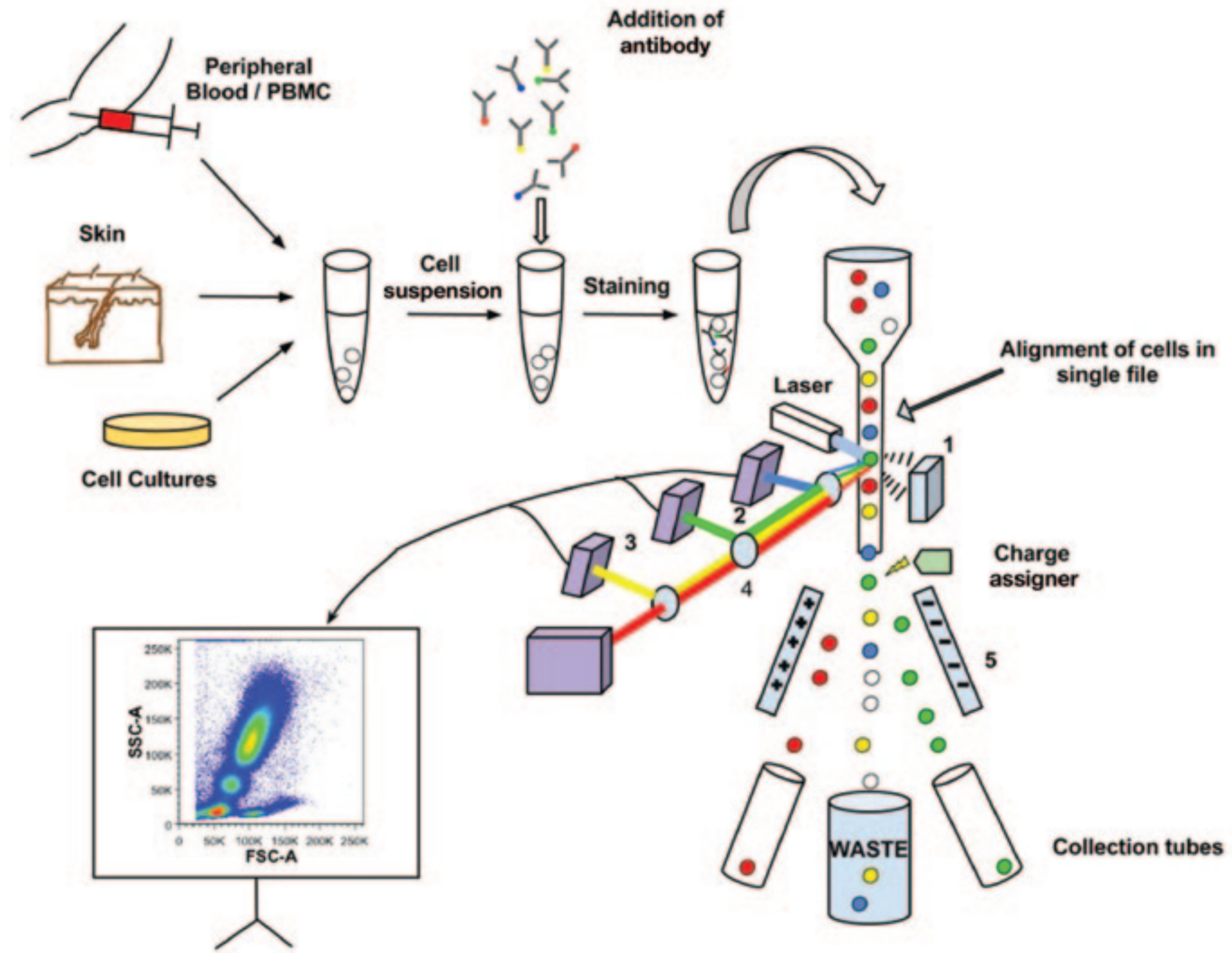
(C) sequence-based cytometry  
>100 proteins/cell



Shahi et al. (2017), Fig. 1A

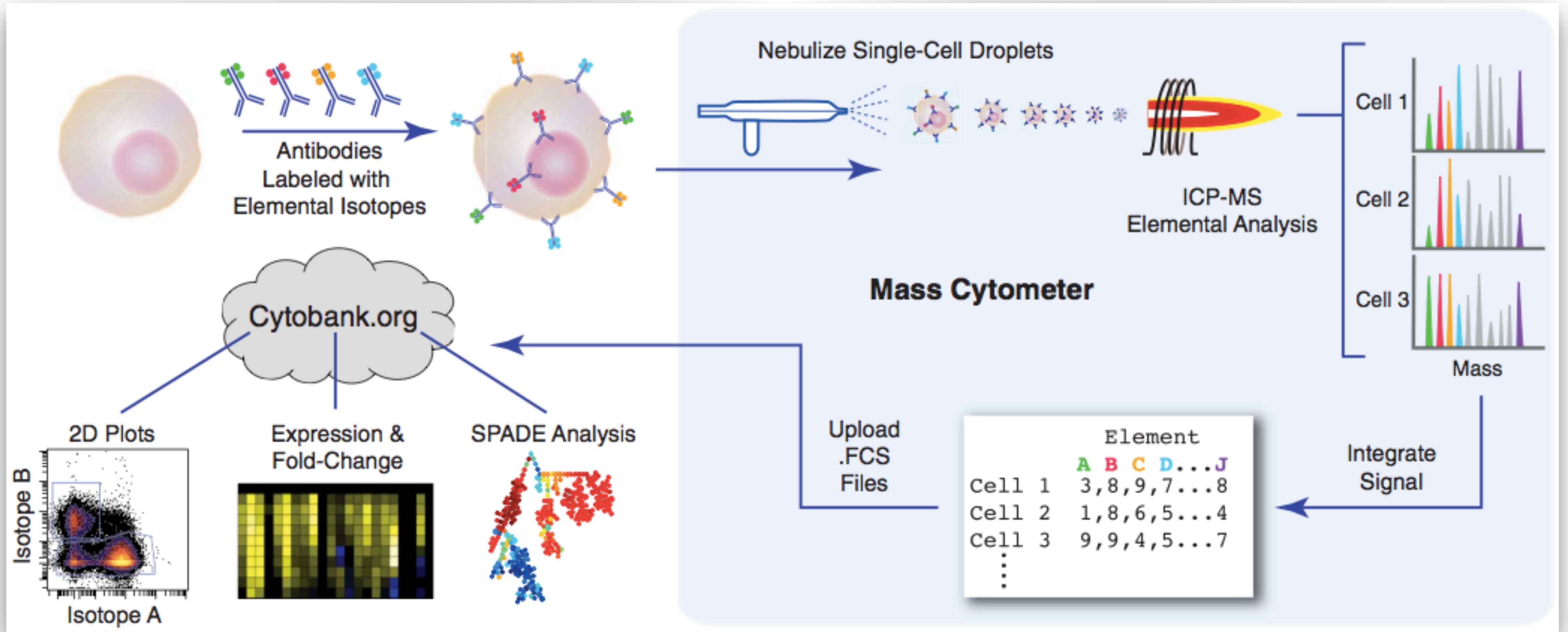


# Flow cytometry



**Figure 1. Schematic representation of a flow cytometer.** For details please see text. (1) Forward-scatter detector, (2) side-scatter detector, (3) fluorescence detector, (4) filters and mirrors, and (5) charged deflection plates.

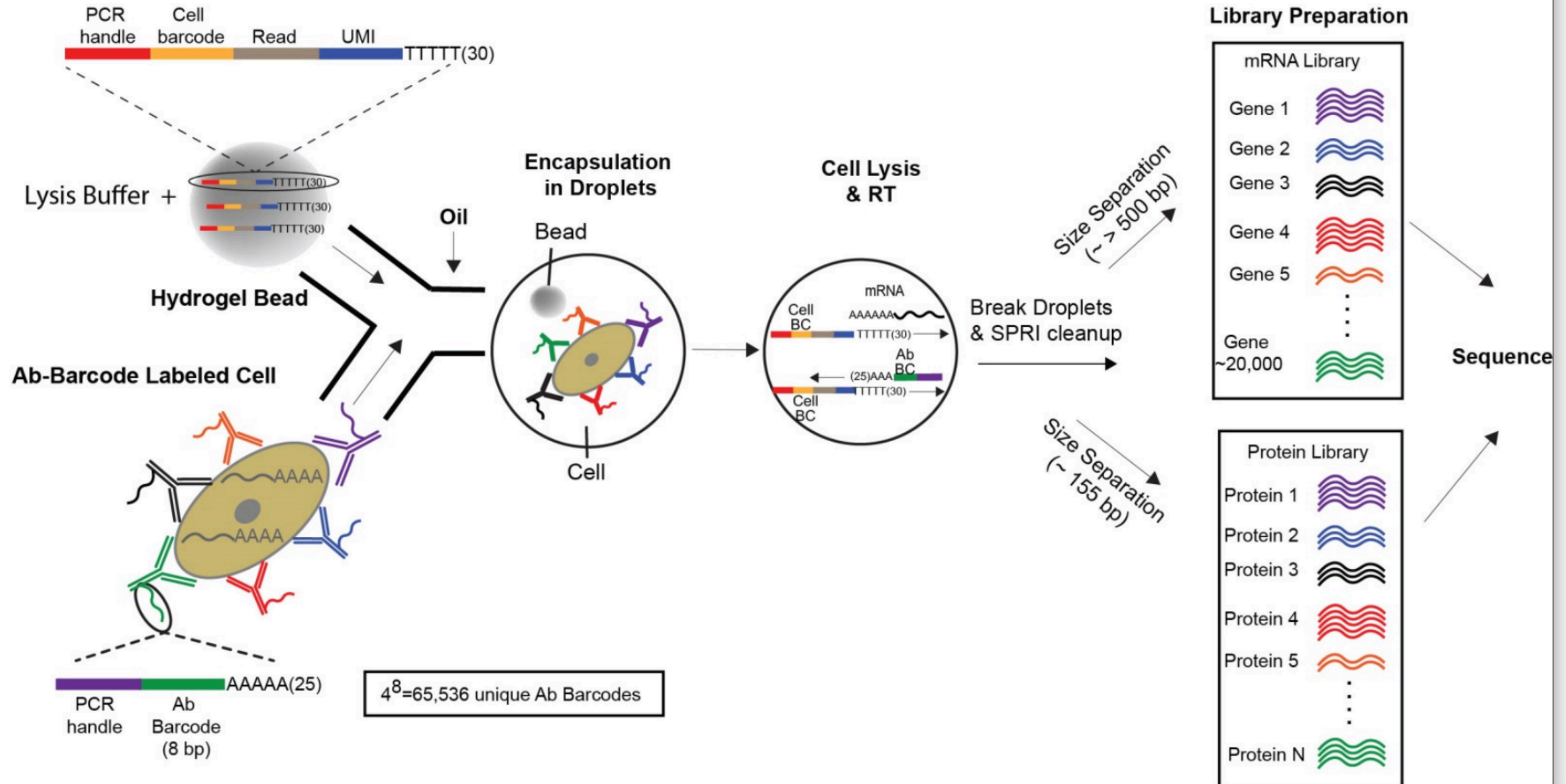
# Mass cytometry





# REAP-seq / CITE-seq

a



# Spectral overlap vs. spillover

- **CyTOF = increase in the number of parameters + massive decrease in spectral overlap**
- **but, still three sources of signal overlap:**

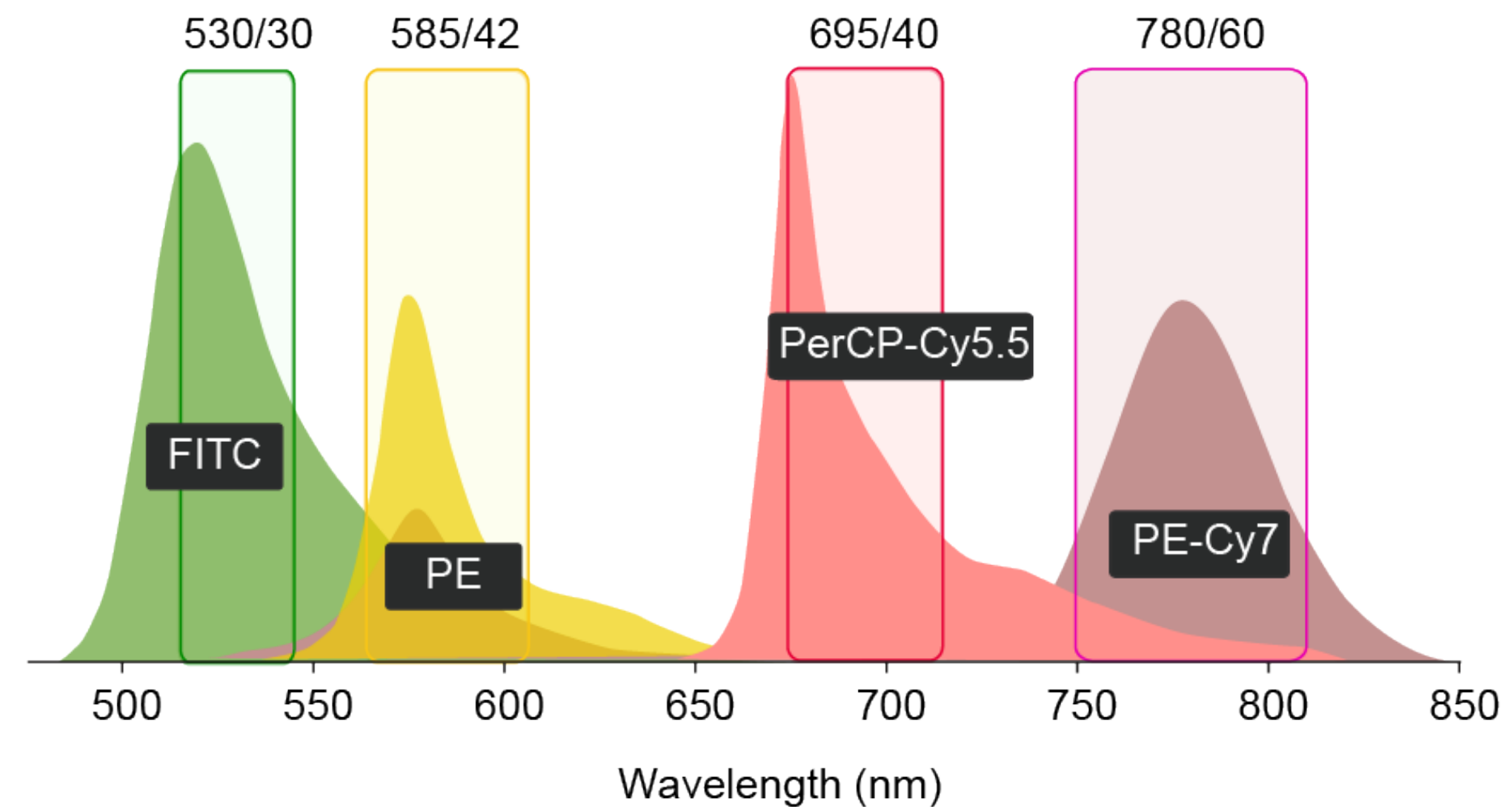
## 1. abundance

**sensitivity** :=  $(M \pm 1) / M$

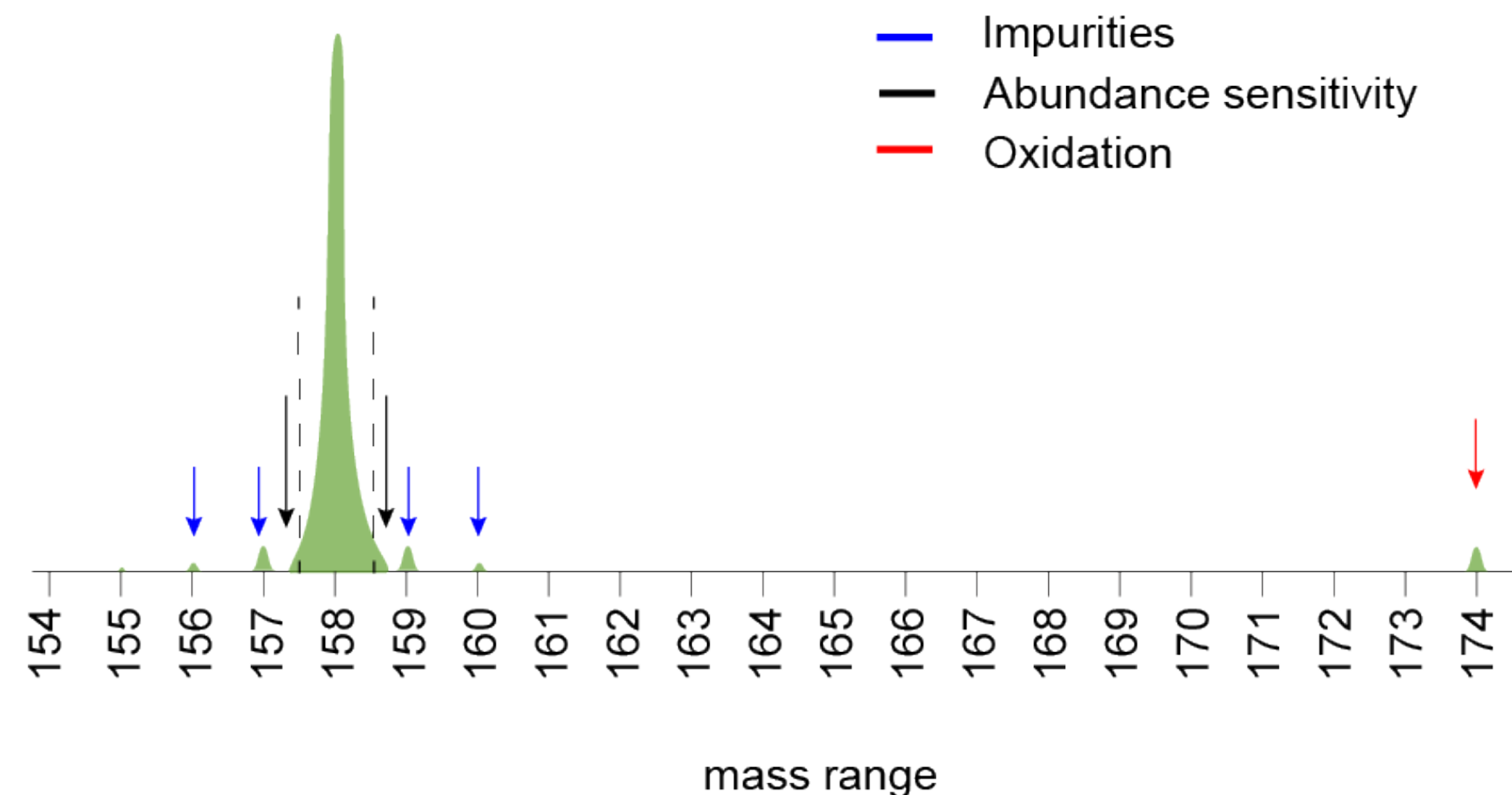
**2. oxide formation: +16M**

**3. isotopic impurities: up to  $\pm 6M$**

FACS



Mass cytometry





# Do we need to compensate CyTOF data?

The ability to multiplex up to 40 cellular subset markers in mass cytometry, without a requirement for compensation for overlap in fluorescence signals as needed in conventional flow cytometry, makes mass cytometry an ideal technology to deeply phenotype cells in complex cell populations. This feature was elegantly demonstrated by

Atkuri et al. 2015 Drug Metabolism and Disposition

The metals that are sold as part of antibody labeling kits are of very high purity (98% and higher in most cases). As a practical matter, this means that “compensation” analogous to fluorescent antibodies is not needed, as most of the signal will be of the specified mass, with little to no signal at “M+1” or another contaminating mass. However, metal salts from other commercial sources may be of lesser purity. For example, the

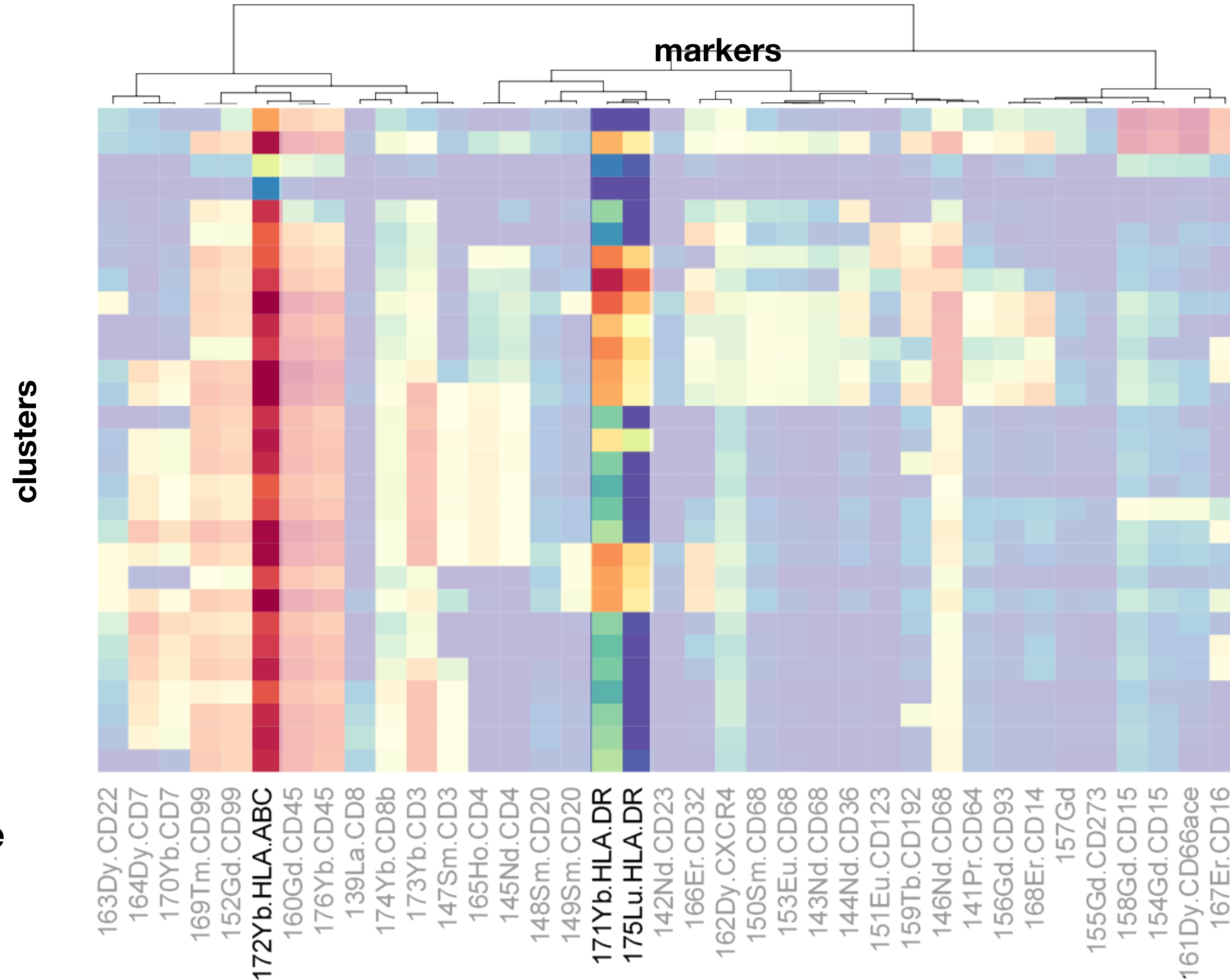
Leipold al. 2015 Immunosenescence: Methods and Protocols, Methods in Molecular Biology

**It should be made clear, though, that “minimal spillover” does not equal “no spillover.”**



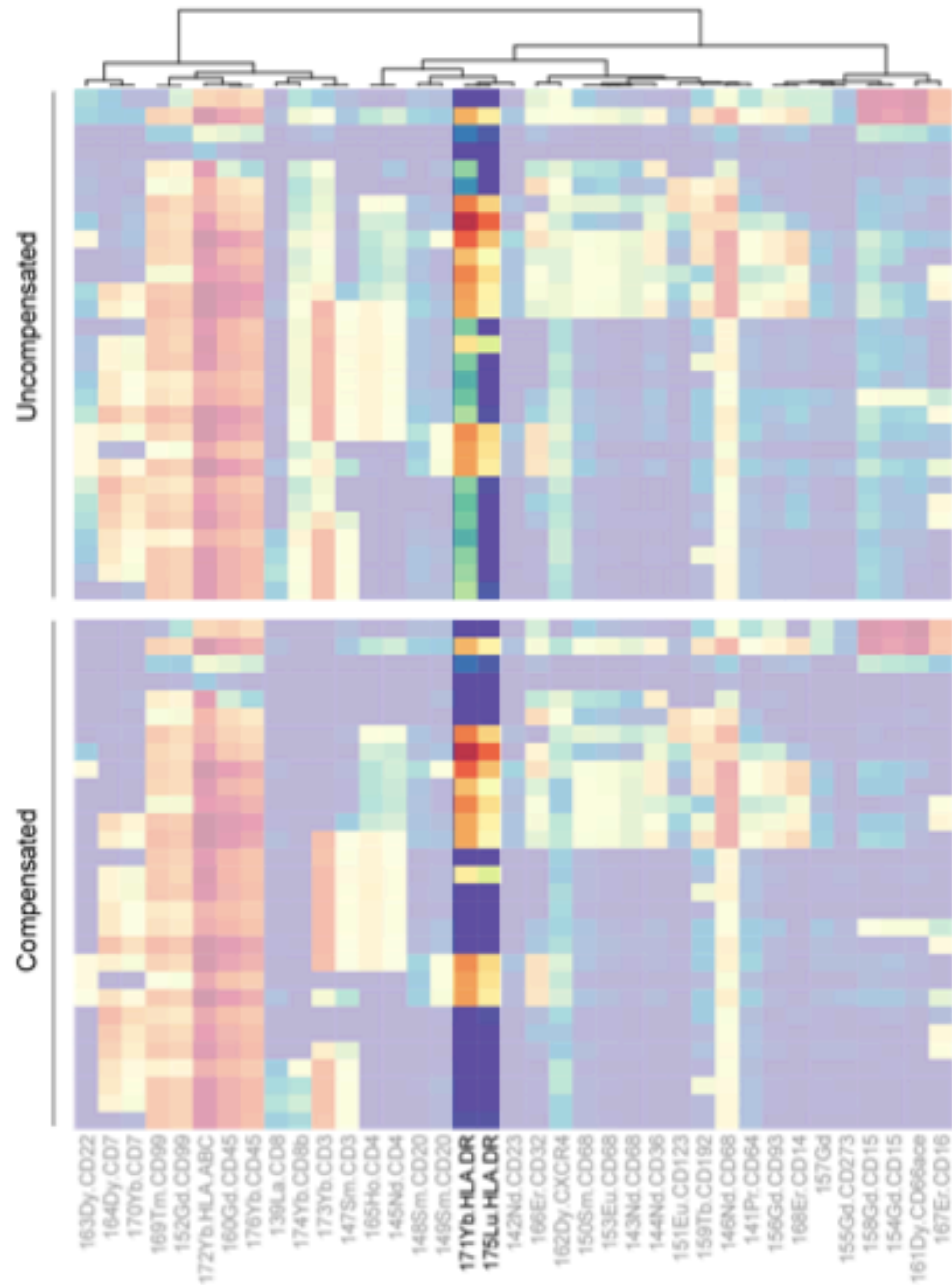
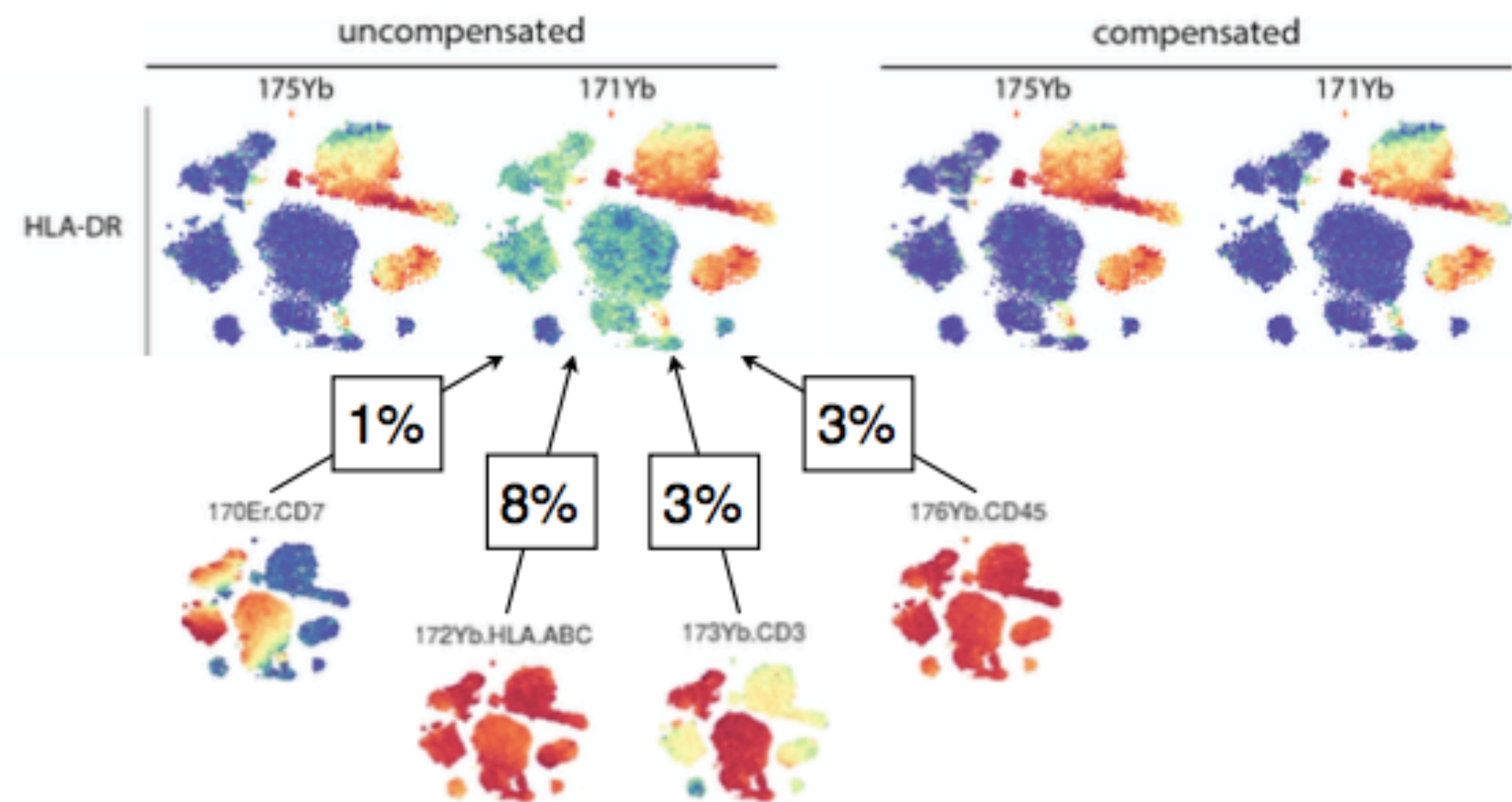


# Short answer: Yes, even ~2-5% of a high signal can be significant



PBMCs measured,  
clustered with  
Phenograph; several  
antibodies used twice  
with different metals

# Correction of spillover artefacts on a 36ab panel



Spillover matrix estimated via single-stain beads:  
non-negative least squares





# R/Bioconductor CATALYST package: preprocessing (differential analysis comes later)

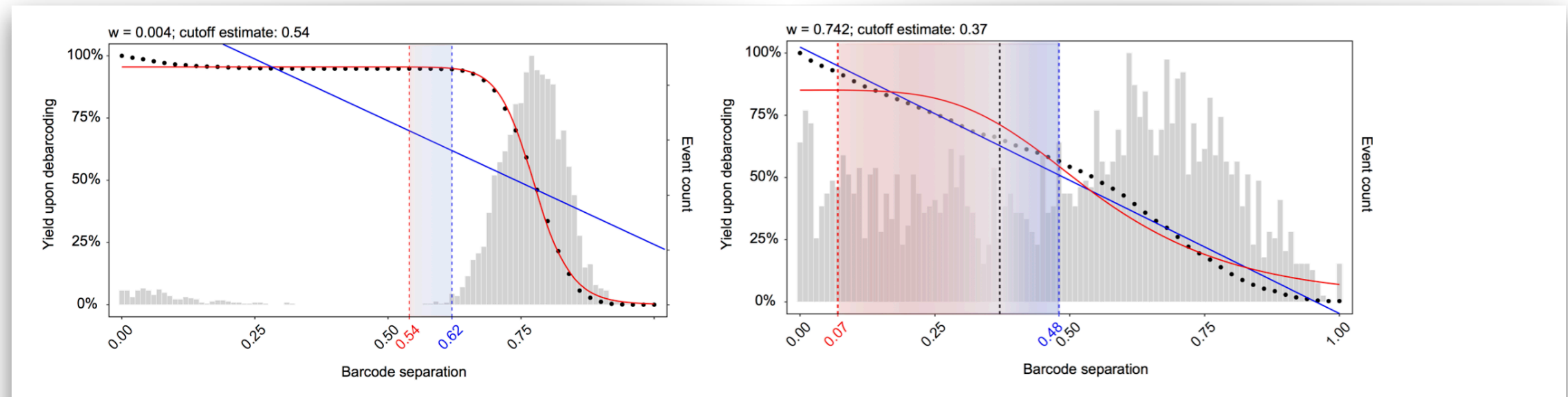
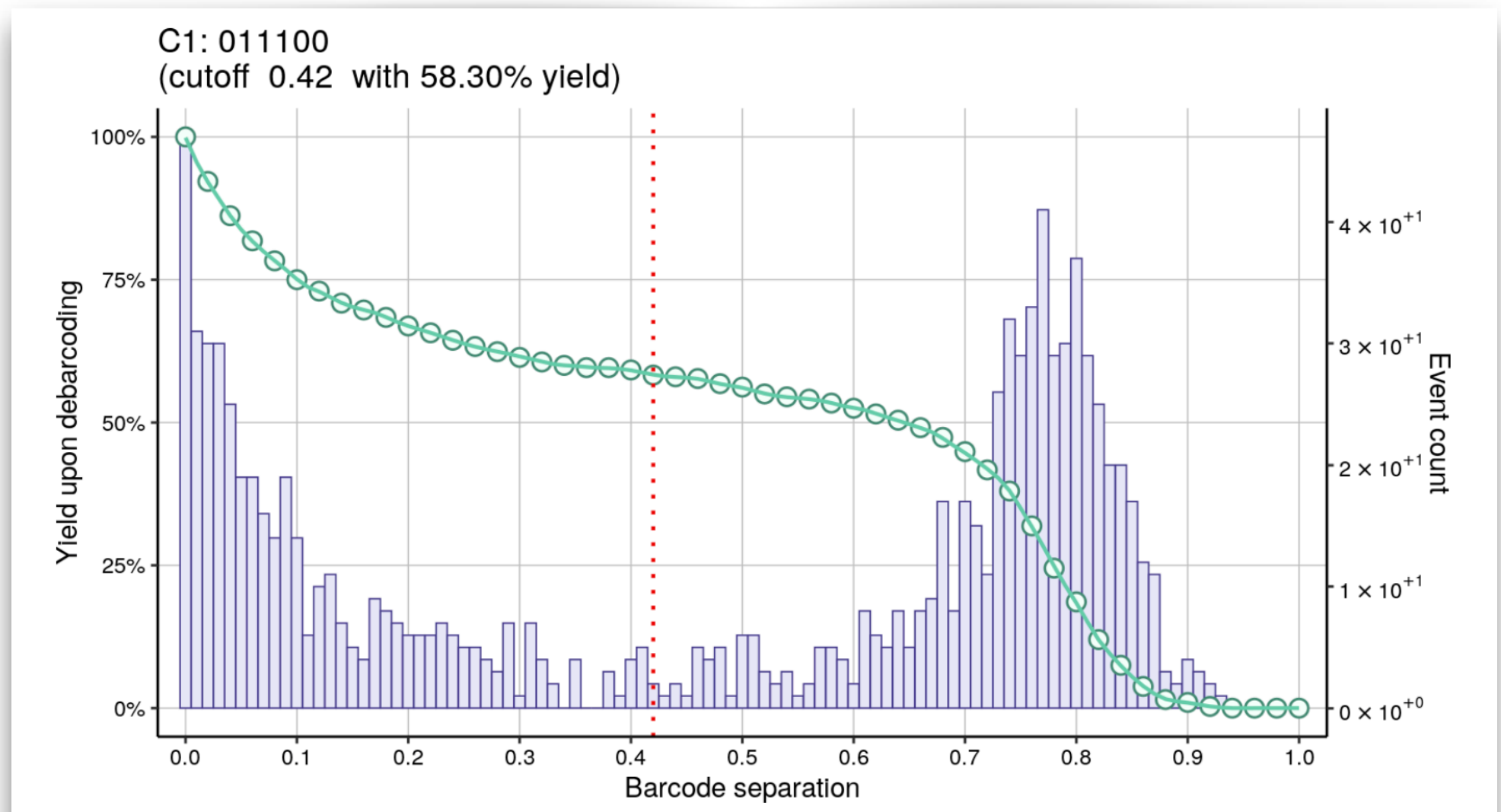
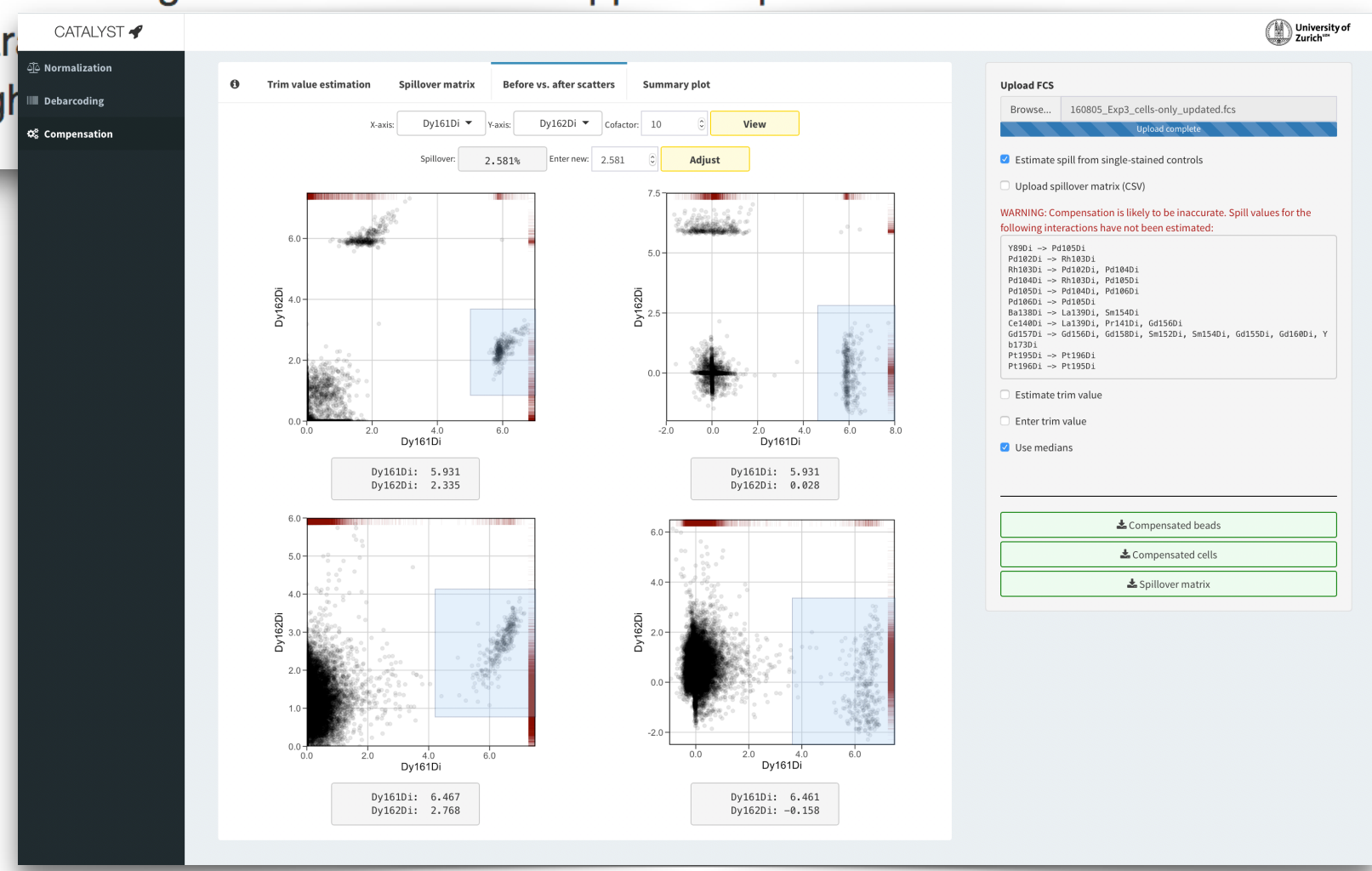
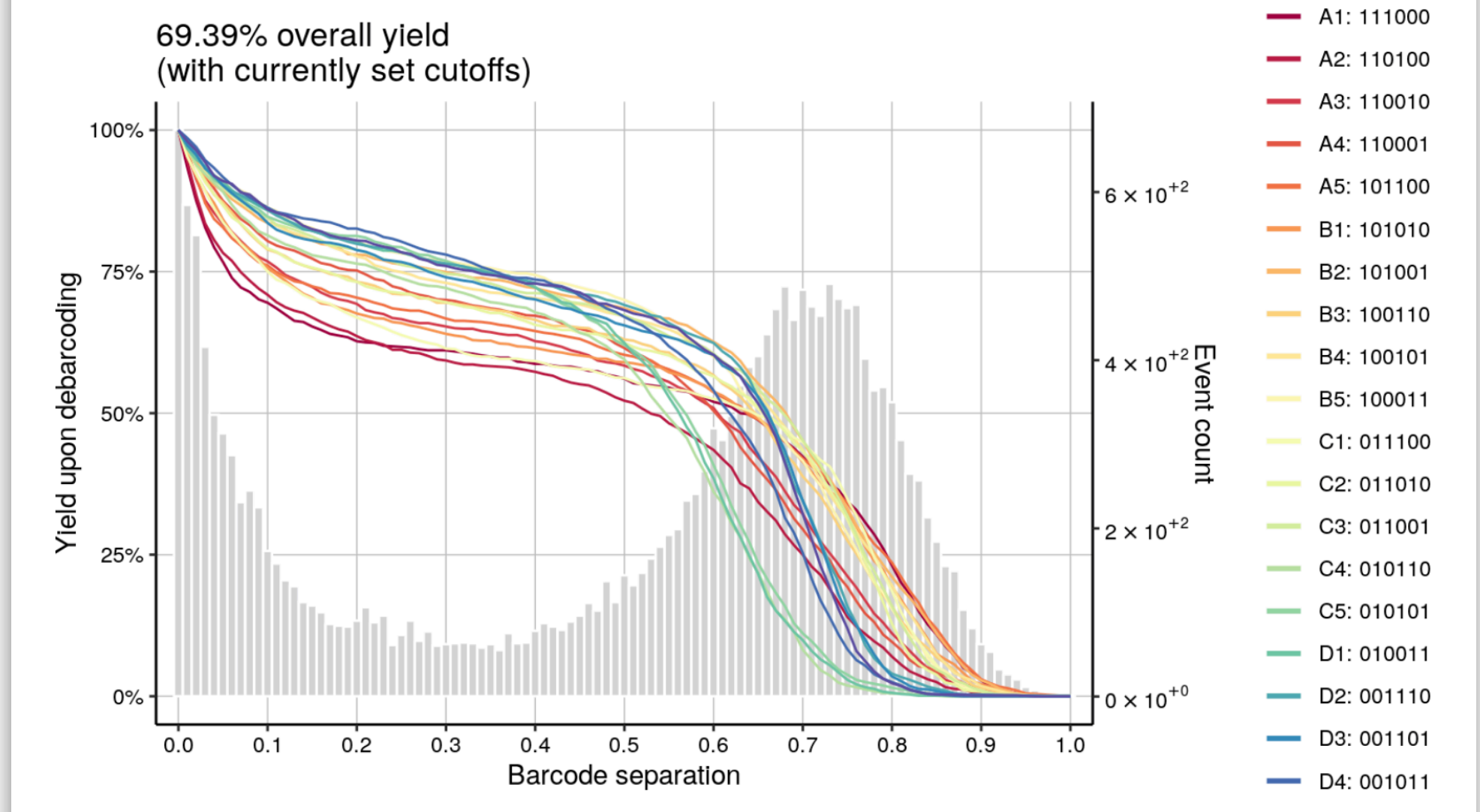


Figure 1: **Description of the automatic cutoff estimation for each individual population**  
 The bar graphs indicate the distribution of cells relative to the barcode distance and the dotted line corresponds to the yield upon debarcoding as a function of the applied separation cutoff. This curve is fitted with a linear regression (blue line) and a three part fits, weigh

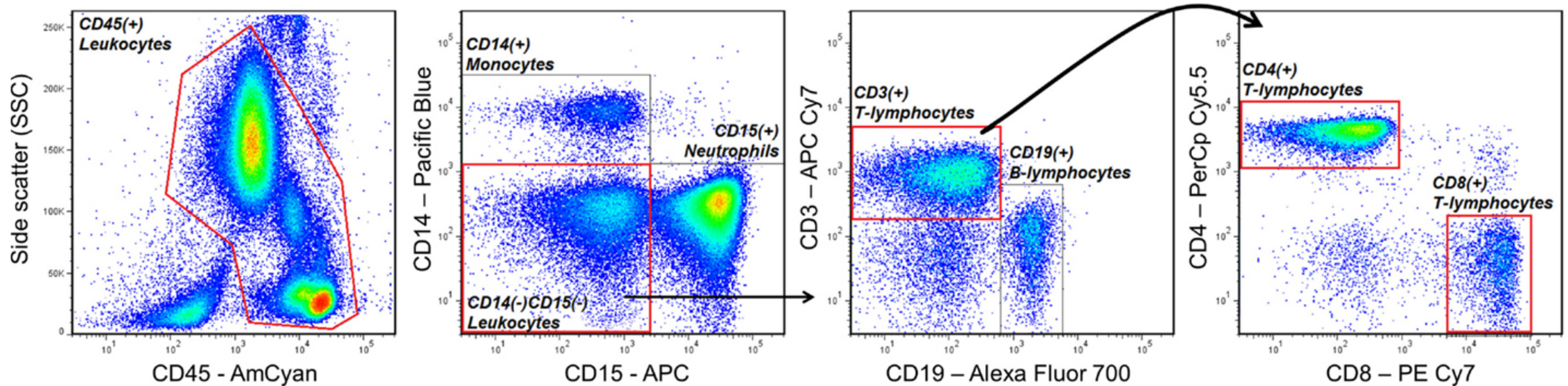


Helena



# Manual gating

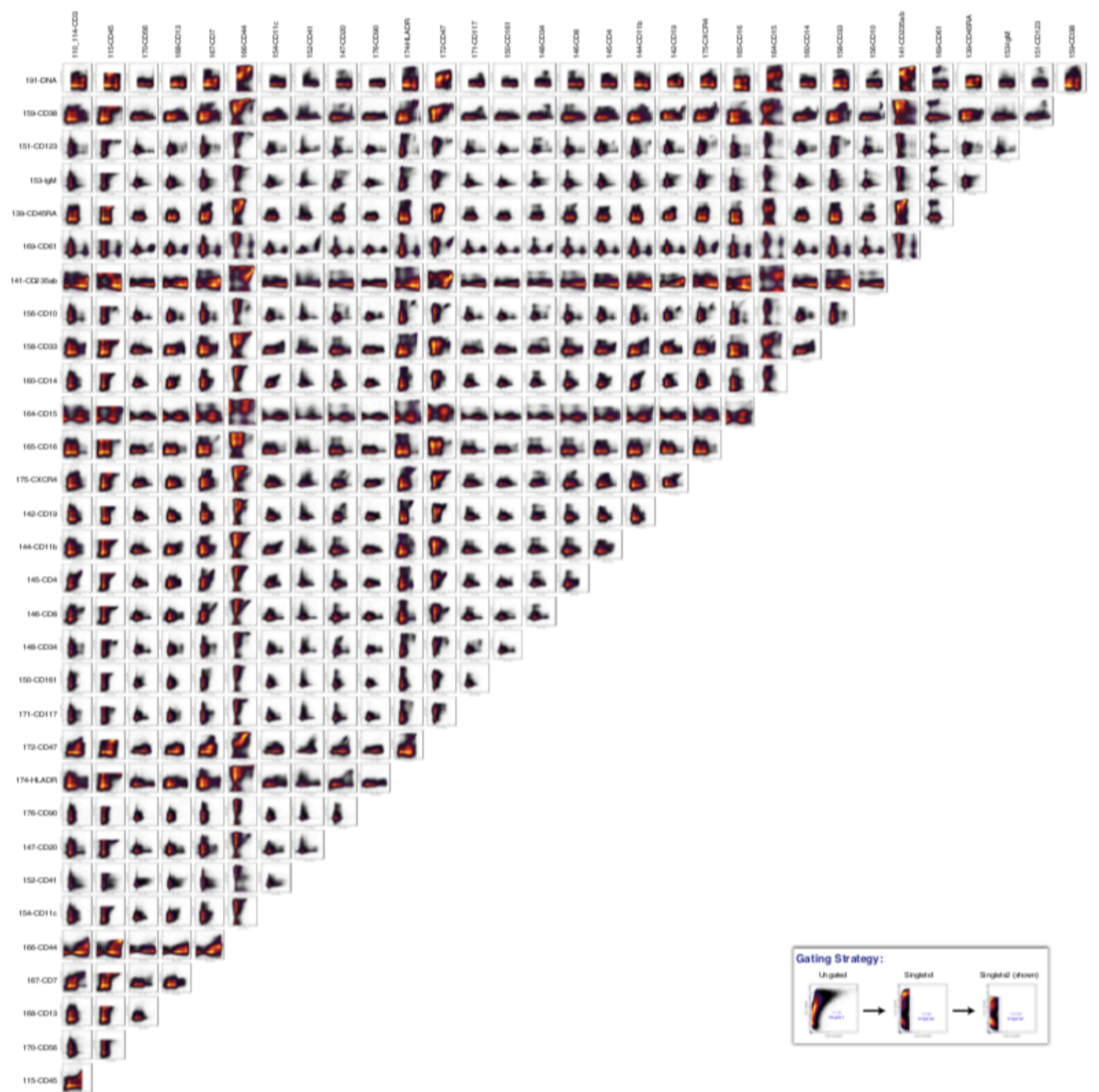
Identification of cell populations



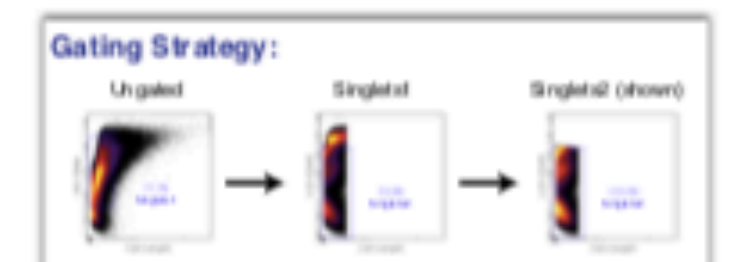


# Manual gating

Not feasible in high-dimensional data



Bendall et al. (2011), Supp.





# Comparison of clustering algorithms

Algorithms for low-dimensional data: **FlowCAP consortium**

## **Critical assessment of automated flow cytometry data analysis techniques**

Nima Aghaeepour<sup>1</sup>, Greg Finak<sup>2</sup>, The FlowCAP Consortium<sup>3</sup>, The DREAM Consortium<sup>3</sup>, Holger Hoos<sup>4</sup>, Tim R Mosmann<sup>5</sup>, Ryan Brinkman<sup>1,7</sup>, Raphael Gottardo<sup>2,7</sup> & Richard H Scheuermann<sup>6,7</sup>

2013



# Clustering high-dimensional flow and mass cytometry

Motivation: Many new computational methods, explosion in the number of dimensions (both FACS and CyTOF) — what works “best”?



Lukas

**EDITOR'S CHOICE**

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**Cytometry**  
PART A  
Journal of the  
International Society for  
Advancement of Cytometry

**Comparison of Clustering Methods for  
High-Dimensional Single-Cell Flow and Mass  
Cytometry Data**

Lukas M. Weber,<sup>1,2</sup> Mark D. Robinson<sup>1,2\*</sup>

# Laundry list of methods

**Table 1.** Overview of clustering methods compared in this study

METHOD	ENVIRONMENT AND AVAILABILITY	SHORT DESCRIPTION	REF.
ACCENSE	Standalone application with graphical interface	Nonlinear dimensionality reduction (t-SNE) followed by density-based peak-finding and clustering in two-dimensional projected space.	22
ClusterX	R package (cytofkit) from Bioconductor	Density-based clustering on t-SNE projection map; faster than DensVM.	23
DensVM	R package (cytofkit) from Bioconductor	Density-based clustering on t-SNE projection map; similar to ACCENSE, with additional support vector machine to classify uncertain points.	24
FLOCK	C source code (also available in ImmPort online platform)	Partitioning of each dimension into bins, followed by merging of dense regions, and density-based clustering.	25
flowClust	R package from Bioconductor	Model-based clustering based on multivariate <i>t</i> mixture models with Box-Cox transformation.	26
flowMeans	R package from Bioconductor	Based on k-means, with merging of clusters to allow non-spherical clusters.	27
flowMerge	R package from Bioconductor	Extension of flowClust; merges cluster mixture components from flowClust.	28
flowPeaks	R package from Bioconductor	Peak-finding on smoothed density function generated by k-means; using finite mixture model.	29
FlowSOM	R package from Bioconductor	Self-organizing maps, followed by hierarchical consensus meta-clustering to merge clusters.	30
FlowSOM_pre	R package from Bioconductor	Same as FlowSOM, but without the final consensus meta-clustering step.	30
immunoClust	R package from Bioconductor	Iterative clustering based on finite mixture models, using expectation maximization and integrated classification likelihood.	31
k-means	R base packages (stats)	Standard k-means clustering.	
PhenoGraph	Graphical interface (cyt) launched from MATLAB (Python implementation also available)	Construction of nearest-neighbor graph, followed by partitioning of the graph into sets of highly interconnected points (“communities”).	18
Rclusterpp	R package from GitHub (older version on CRAN)	Large-scale implementation of standard hierarchical clustering, with improved memory requirements.	32
SamSPECTRAL	R package from Bioconductor	Spectral clustering, with modifications for improved memory requirements.	33
SPADE	R package from GitHub (older version on Bioconductor; also available in Cytobank online platform)	“Spanning-tree progression analysis of density-normalized events”; organizes clusters into a branching hierarchy of related phenotypes.	34
SWIFT	Graphical interface launched from MATLAB	Iterative fitting of Gaussian mixture models by expectation maximization, followed by splitting and merging of clusters using a unimodality criterion.	35
X-shift	Standalone application (VorteX) with graphical interface (command-line version also available)	Weighted k-nearest-neighbor density estimation, detection of local density maxima, connection of points via graph, and cluster merging.	17



# Manually gated populations

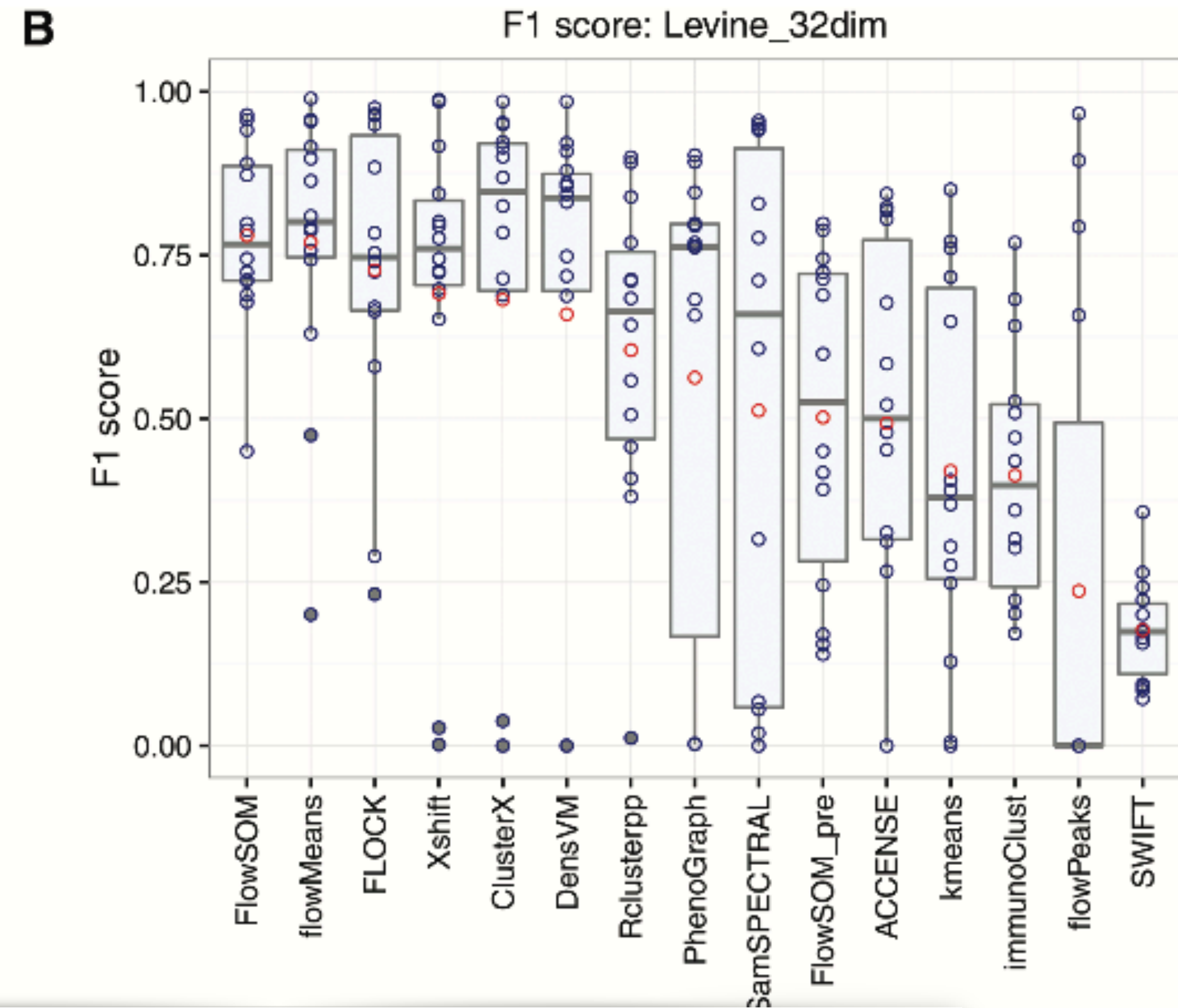
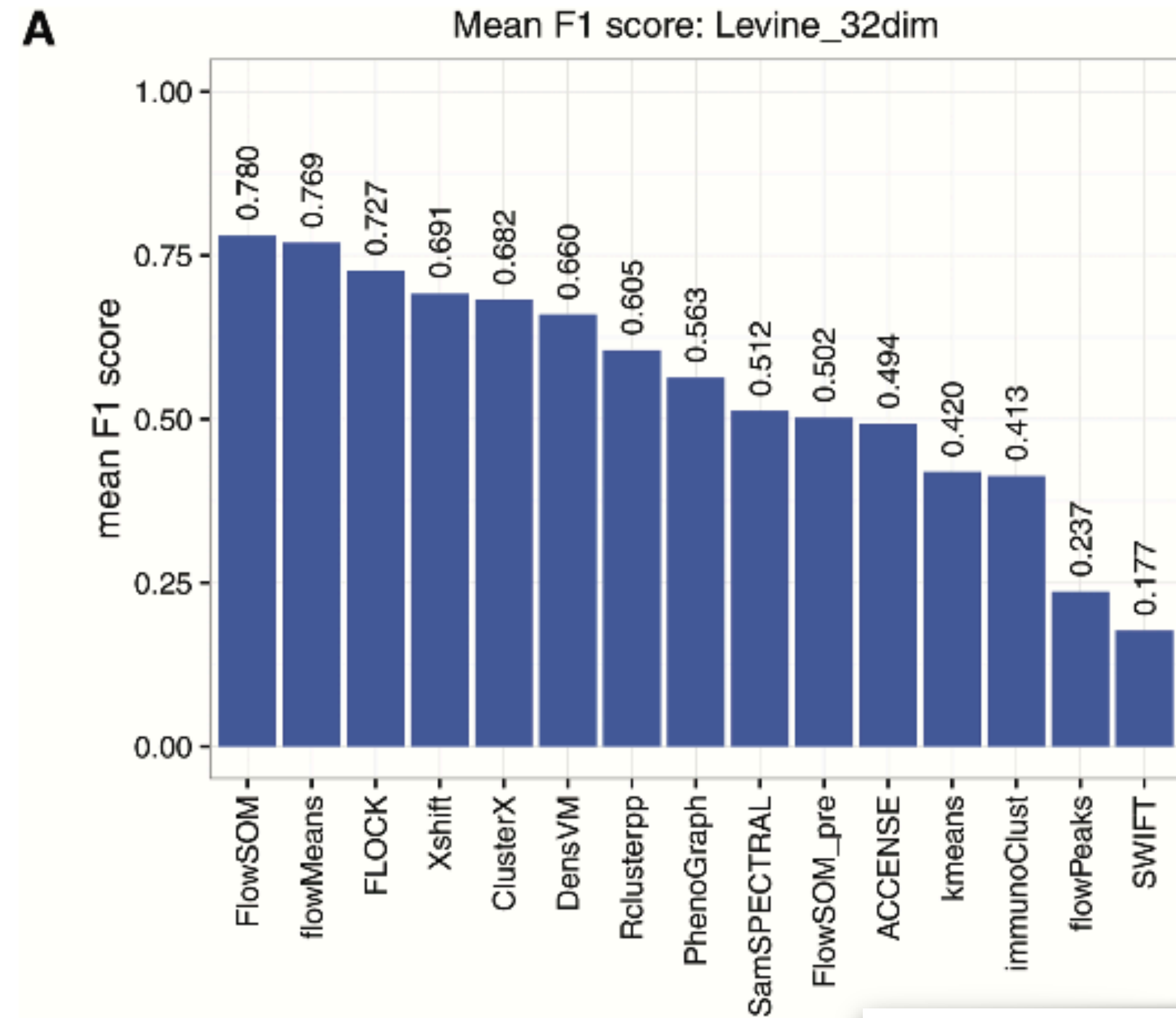
Manual gates = "truth"

**Table 2.** Summary of data sets used to evaluate clustering methods

DATA SET	CYTOF OR FLOW CYTOMETRY	CLUSTERING TASK	NO. OF CELLS	NO. OF DIMENSIONS	NO. OF MANUALLY GATED POPULATIONS OF INTEREST	NO. OF MANUALLY GATED CELLS	ORGANISM	NO. OF INDIVIDUALS (PATIENTS, MICE)	SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	REF.
Levine_32dim	CyTOF	Multiple populations	265,627	32 (surface markers)	14	104,184 (39%)	Human	2	Bone marrow cells from healthy donors	(18)
Levine_13dim	CyTOF	Multiple populations	167,044	13 (surface markers)	24	81,747 (49%)	Human	1	Bone marrow cells from healthy donor	(18)
Samusik_01	CyTOF	Multiple populations	86,864	39 (surface markers)	24	53,173 (61%)	Mouse	1	Replicate bone marrow samples from C57BL/6J mice (sample 01 only)	(17)
Samusik_all	CyTOF	Multiple populations	841,644	39 (surface markers)	24	514,386 (61%)	Mouse	10	Replicate bone marrow samples from C57BL/6J mice (all samples)	(17)
Nilsson_rare	Flow cytometry	Rare population	44,140	13 (surface markers)	1 (hematopoietic stem cells)	358 (0.8%)	Human	1	Bone marrow cells from healthy donor	(36)
Mosmann_rare	Flow cytometry	Rare population	396,460	14 (surface and intracellular)	1 (activated memory CD4 T cells)	109 (0.03%)	Human	1	Peripheral blood cells from healthy donor, stimulated with influenza antigens	(35)



# Comparison of clustering methods



## Hungarian algorithm to match clusters to populations

### F1 score

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*"F score" redirects here. For the significance test, see F-test.*

In [statistical analysis](#) of [binary classification](#), the **F<sub>1</sub> score** (also **F-score** or **F-measure**) is a measure of a test's accuracy. It considers both the [precision](#)  $p$  and the [recall](#)  $r$  of the test to compute the score:  $p$  is the number of correct positive results divided by the number of all positive results, and  $r$  is the number of correct positive results divided by the number of positive results that should have been returned. The F<sub>1</sub> score can be interpreted as a weighted average of the [precision and recall](#), where an F<sub>1</sub> score reaches its best value at 1 and worst at 0.

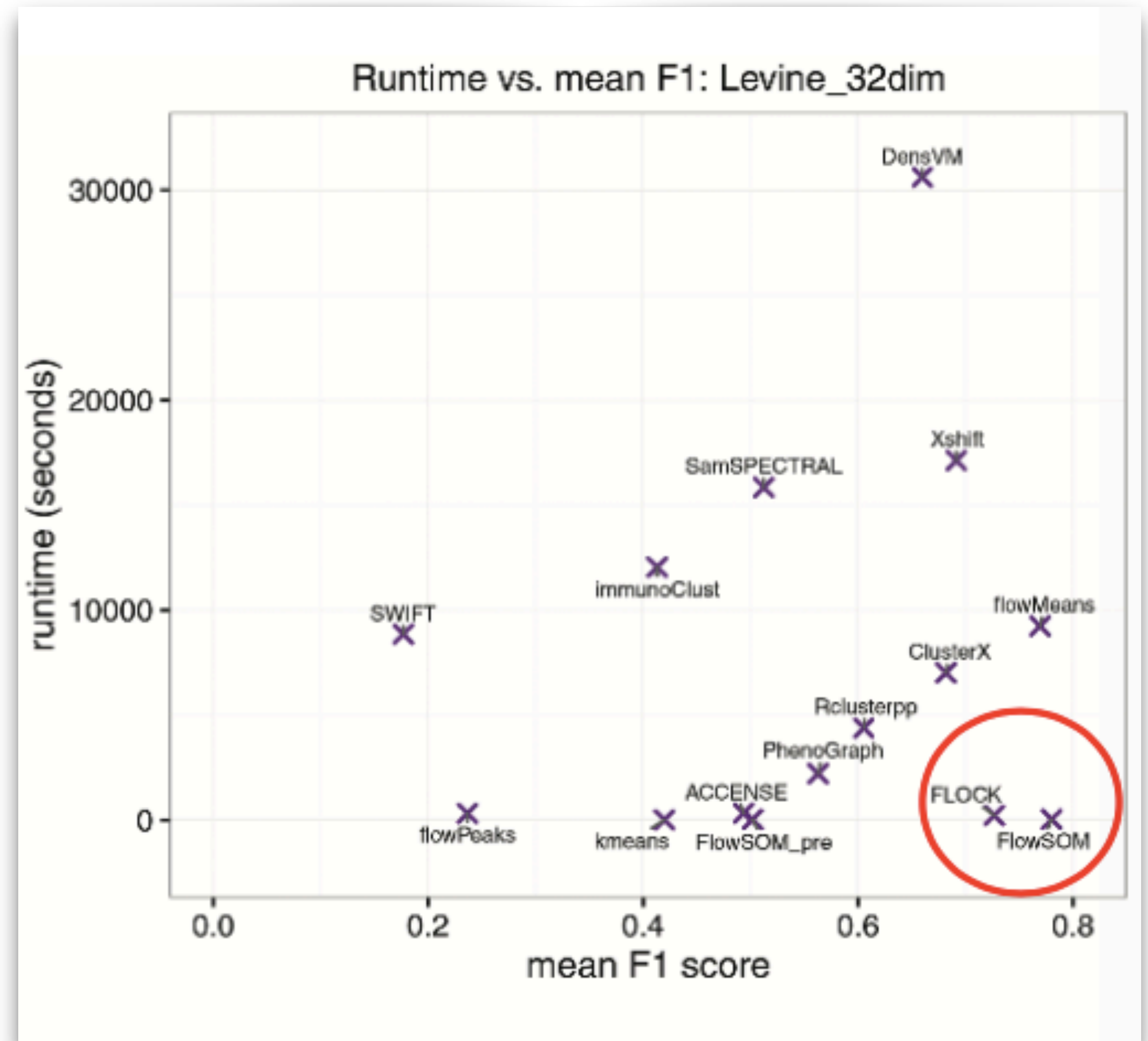
The traditional F-measure or balanced F-score (**F<sub>1</sub> score**) is the [harmonic mean](#) of precision and recall — multiplying the constant of 2 scales the score to 1 when both recall and precision are 1:

$$F_1 = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\text{recall}} + \frac{1}{\text{precision}}} = 2 \cdot \frac{\text{precision} \cdot \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}}$$



# Comparison of clustering methods

- several methods performed well: *FlowSOM*, *X-shift*, *PhenoGraph*, *Rclusterpp*, *flowMeans*
- **FlowSOM** gave best performance (for several data sets) and was fast
- **X-shift** gave best performance for rare cell populations
- several methods sensitive to random starts (rare populations)
- code, data freely available



# Revealing the vectors of cellular identity with single-cell genomics

Allon Wagner<sup>1</sup>, Aviv Regev<sup>2,3,5</sup> & Nir Yosef<sup>1,4,5</sup>

Perspective

## Defining cell types and states with single-cell genomics

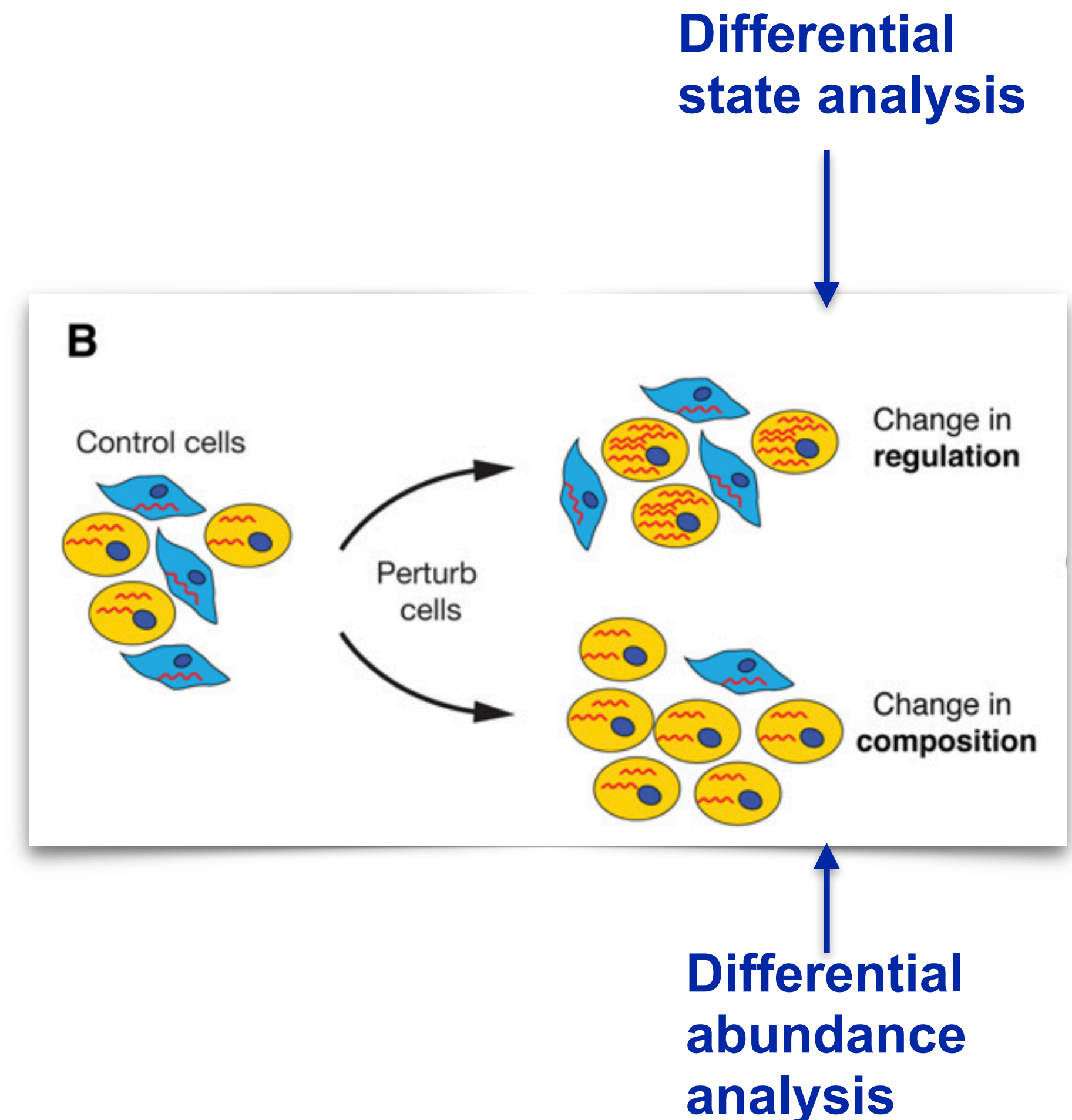
Cole Trapnell

Department of Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98105, USA

### Box 1 The many facets of a cell's identity

We define a cell's identity as the outcome of the instantaneous intersection of all factors that affect it. We refer to the more permanent aspects in a cell's identity as its type (e.g., a hepatocyte typically cannot turn into a neuron) and to the more transient elements as its state. Cell types are often organized in a hierarchical

**Type:** more permanent  
**State:** more transient

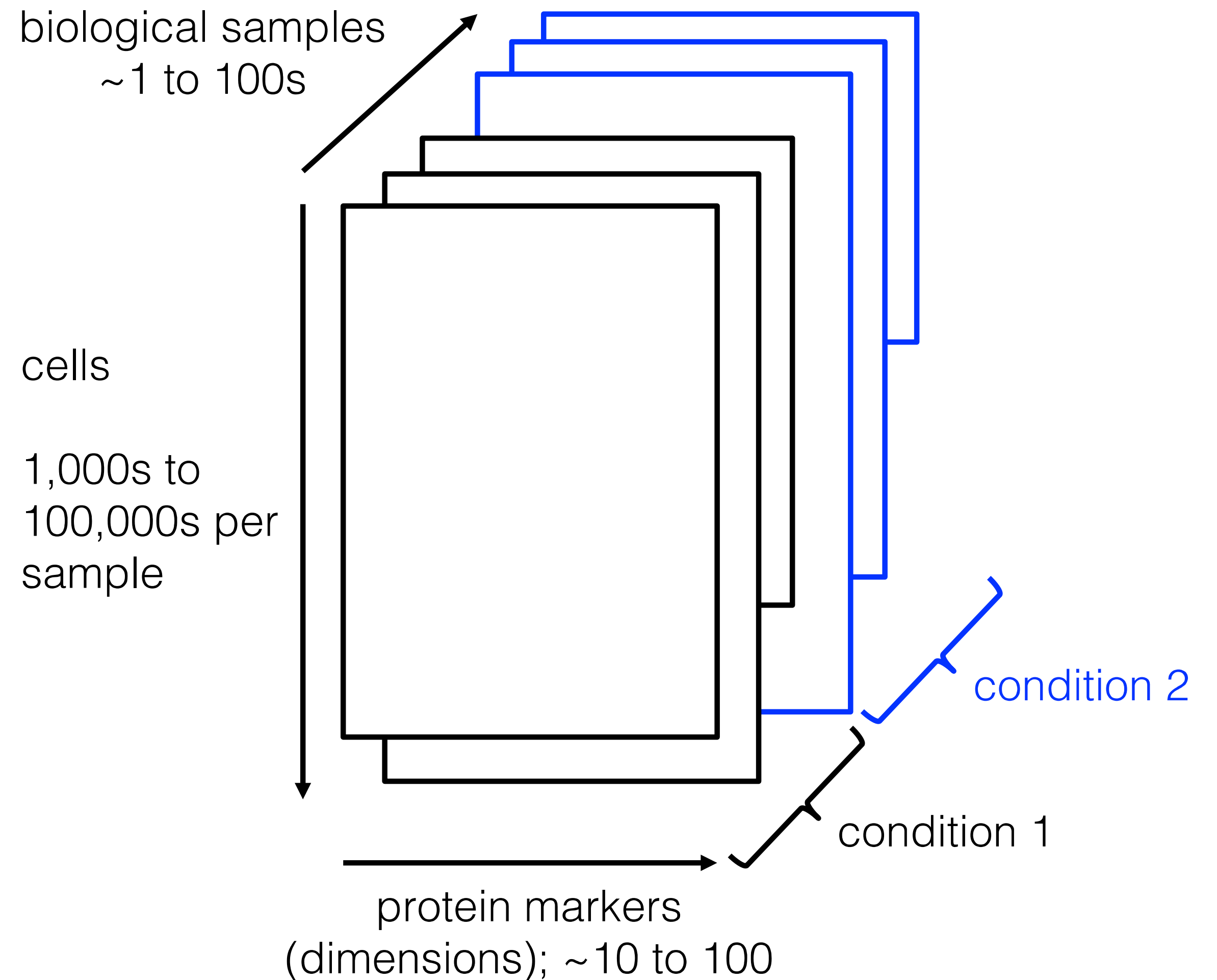




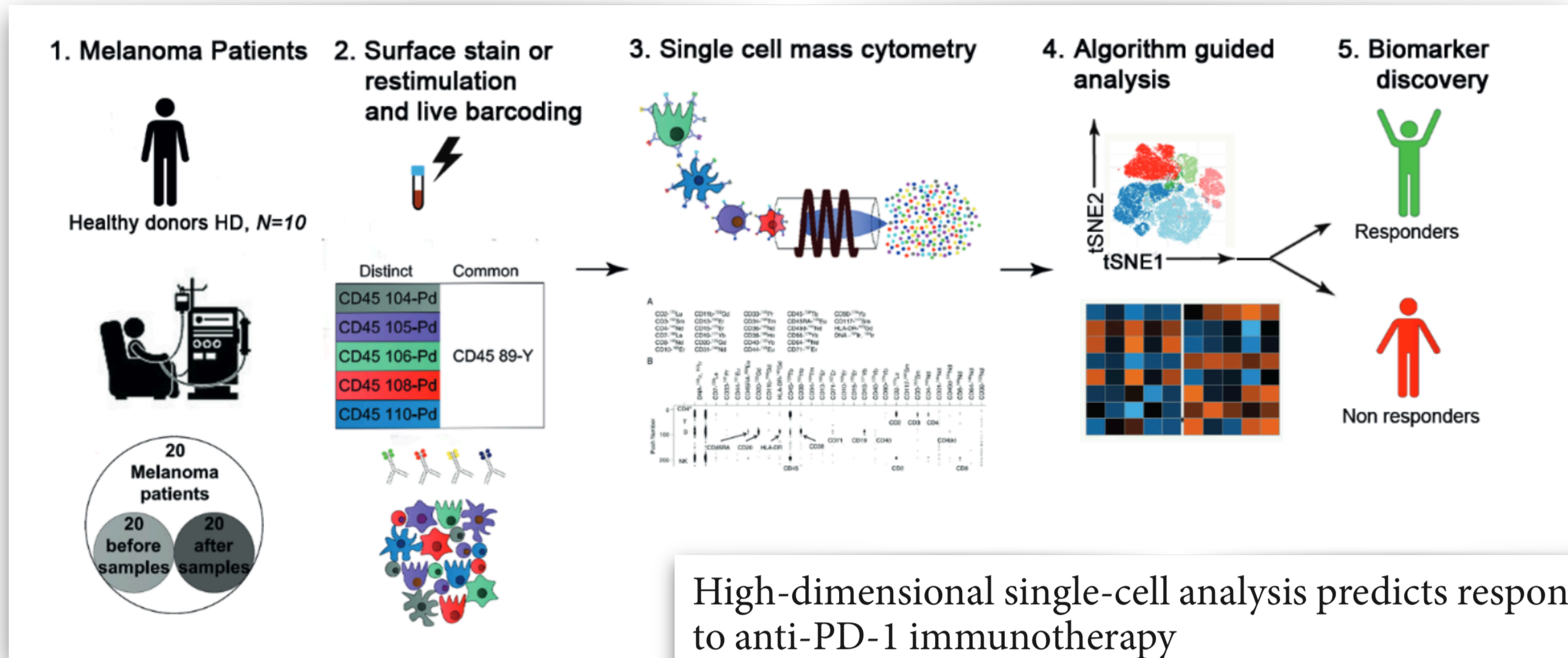
# Data structure and differential analysis







## Two types of differential analysis

- **differential abundance** (DA) of cell populations
- **differential states**  
e.g., differential expression of functional proteins (e.g., signaling) within cell populations



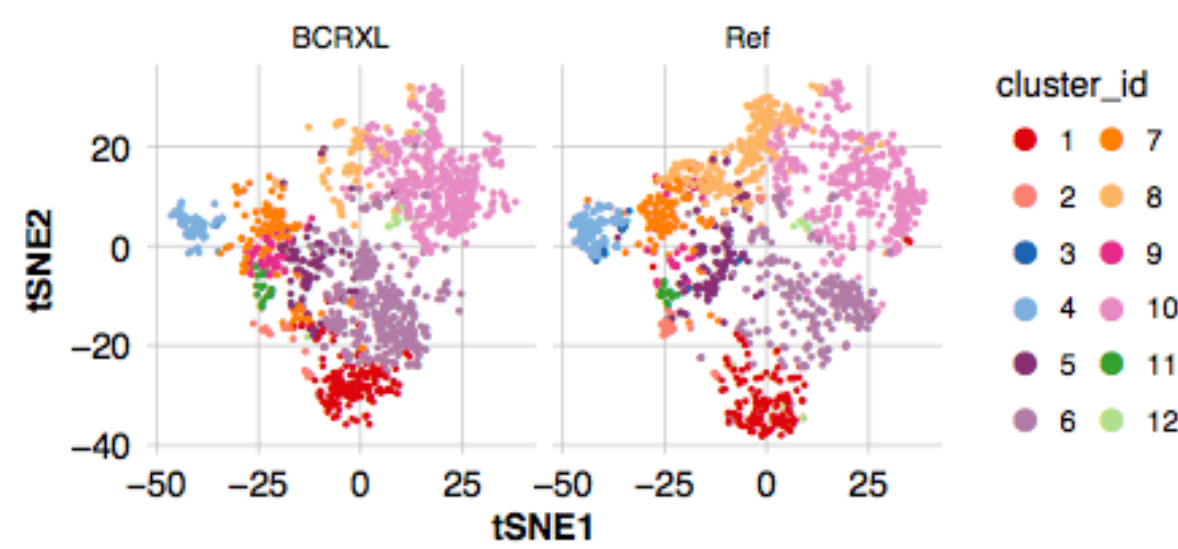
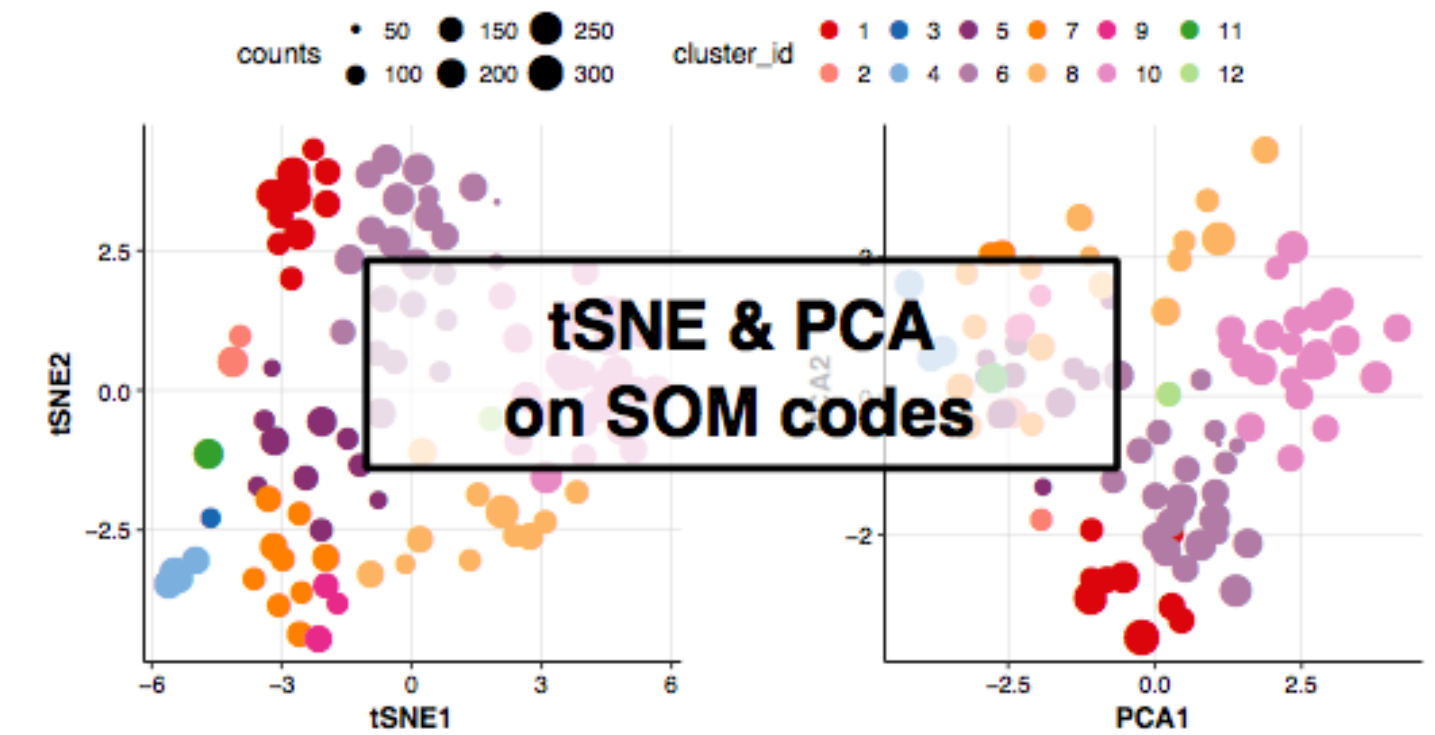
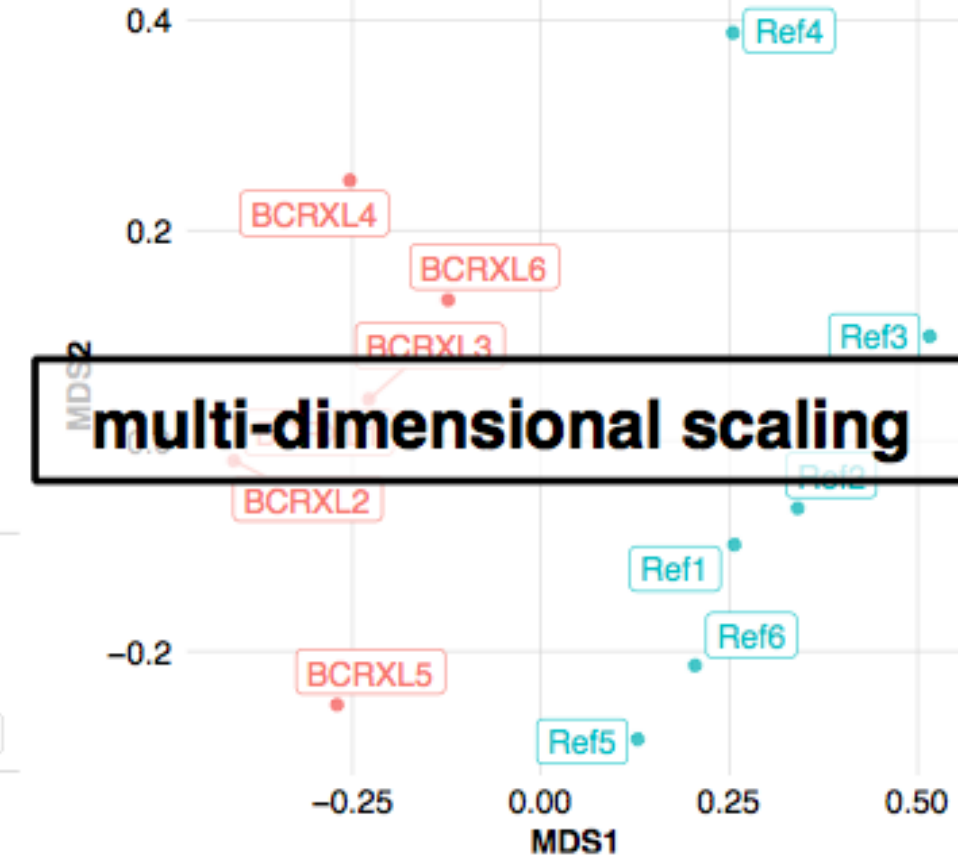
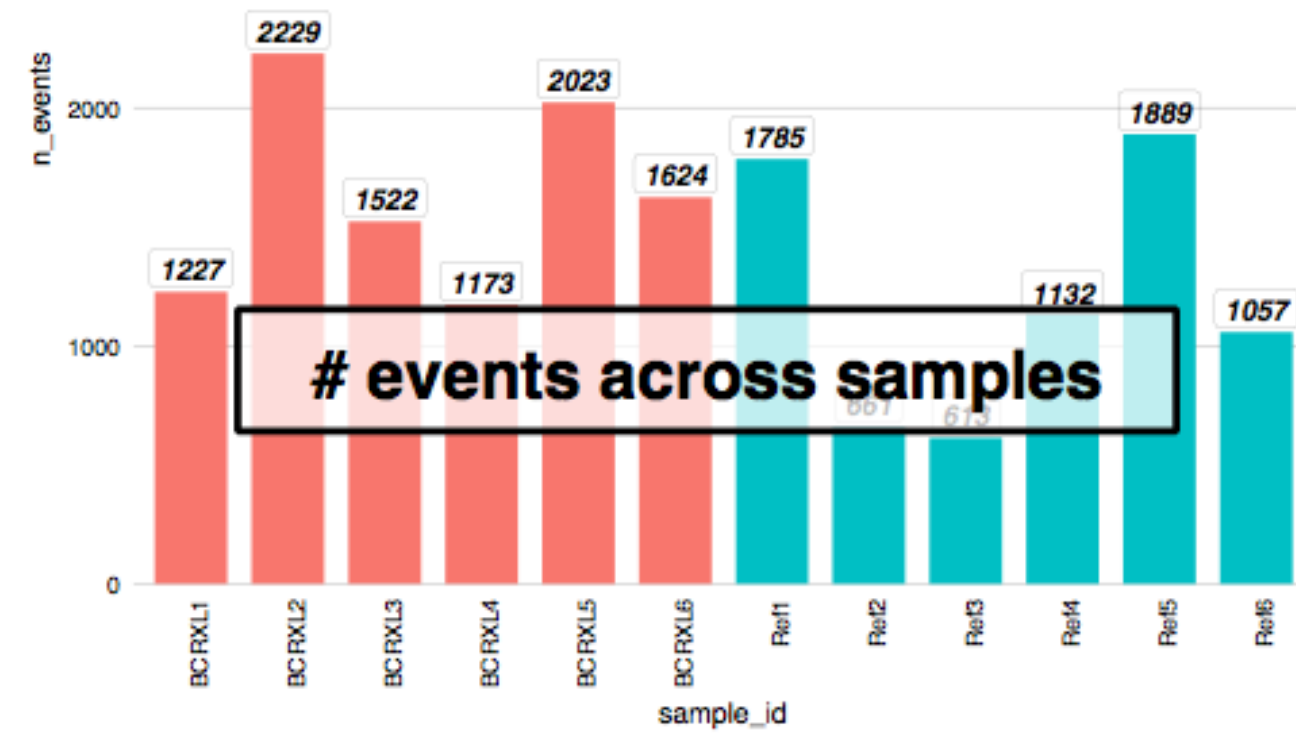
# Motivation for differential analysis: finding cancer biomarkers



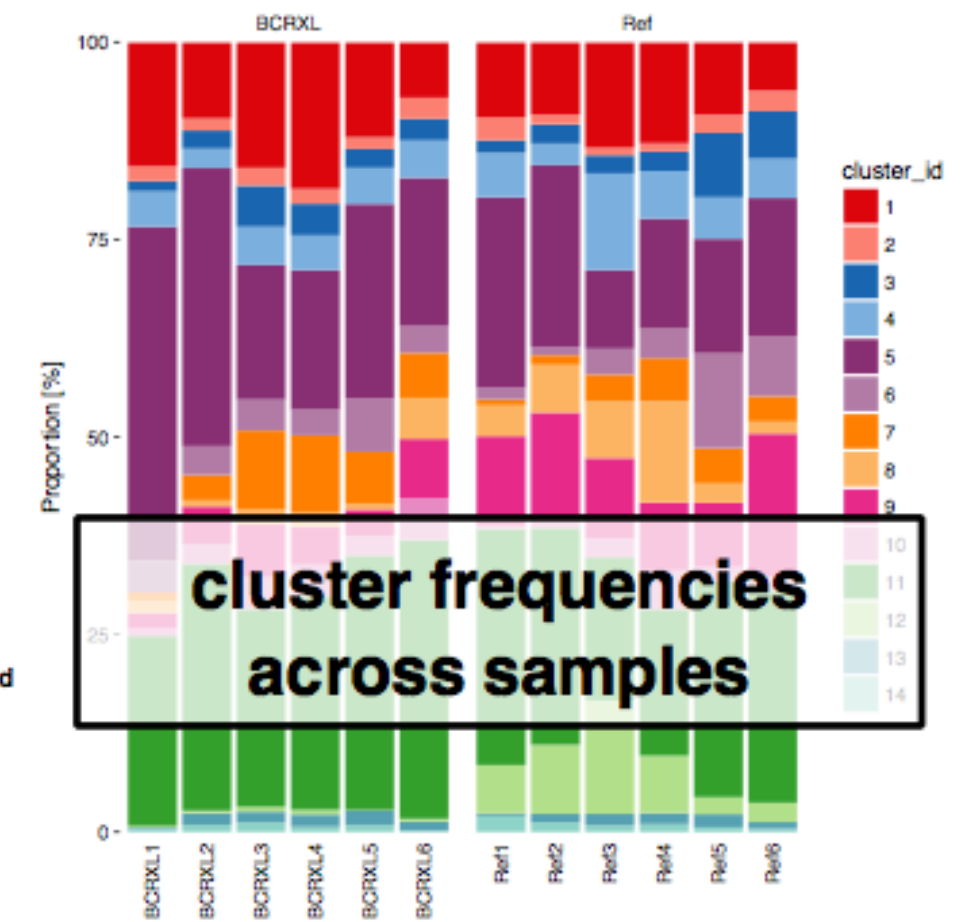
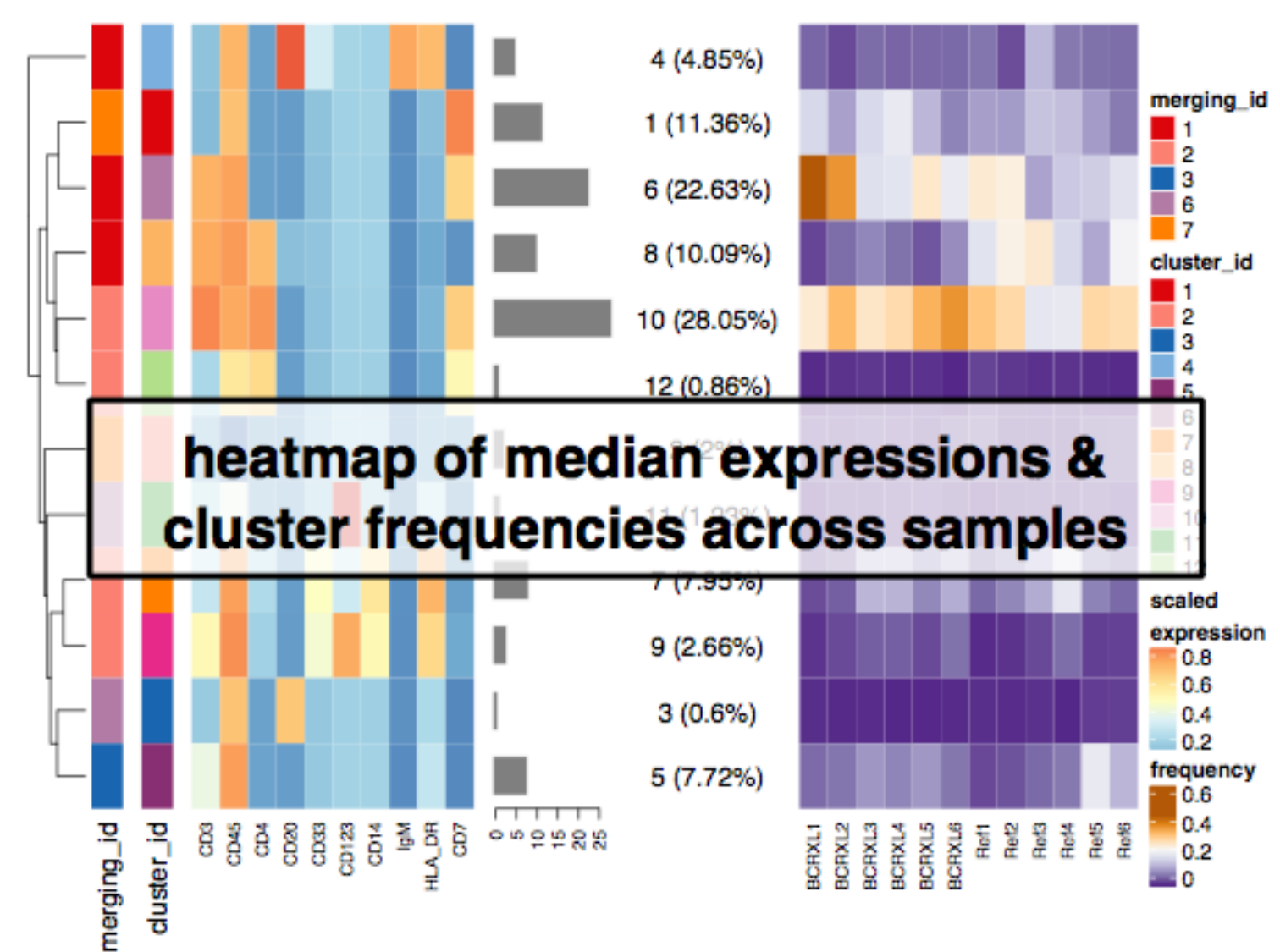
Carsten Krieg<sup>1,6</sup> , Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>2,3</sup>, Silvia Guglietta<sup>4</sup>, Sabrina Schindler<sup>5</sup>, Felix J Hartmann<sup>1</sup> ,  
 Lukas M Weber<sup>2,3</sup> , Reinhard Dummer<sup>5</sup>, Mark D Robinson<sup>2,3</sup> , Mitchell P Levesque<sup>5,7</sup>  & Burkhard Becher<sup>1,7</sup> 



# Analysis pipelines



METHOD ARTICLE  
**REVISED** **CyTOF workflow: differential discovery in high-throughput high-dimensional cytometry datasets [version 3; peer review: 2 approved]**  
 Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>1,2</sup>, Carsten Krieg<sup>3</sup>, Helena L. Crowell<sup>1,2</sup>, Lukas M. Weber<sup>1,2</sup>, Felix J. Hartmann<sup>3</sup>, Silvia Guglietta<sup>4</sup>, Burkhard Becher<sup>3</sup>, Mitchell P. Levesque<sup>5</sup>, Mark D. Robinson<sup>1,2</sup>





# Cytometry workflow: looking across multiple samples



Gosia




F1000Research

F1000Research 2019, 6:748 Last updated: 24 MAY 2019

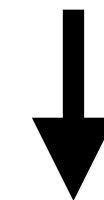


METHOD ARTICLE

**REVISED** **CyTOF workflow: differential discovery in high-throughput high-dimensional cytometry datasets [version 3; peer review: 2 approved]**

Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>1,2</sup>, Carsten Krieg<sup>3</sup>, **Helena L. Crowell<sup>1,2</sup>**, Lukas M. Weber <sup>1,2</sup>, Felix J. Hartmann <sup>3</sup>, Silvia Guglietta<sup>4</sup>, Burkhard Becher<sup>3</sup>, Mitchell P. Levesque<sup>5</sup>, Mark D. Robinson <sup>1,2</sup>

preprocessing



cluster all cells, all samples (merging or over-clustering)



differential statistics

**F1000 Bioconductor channel workflow published May 2017; updated May 2019 with drastically simplified code (functionality in CATALYST); will be updated again in Oct 2019 because of changes in BioC (again simplifications)**



Helena

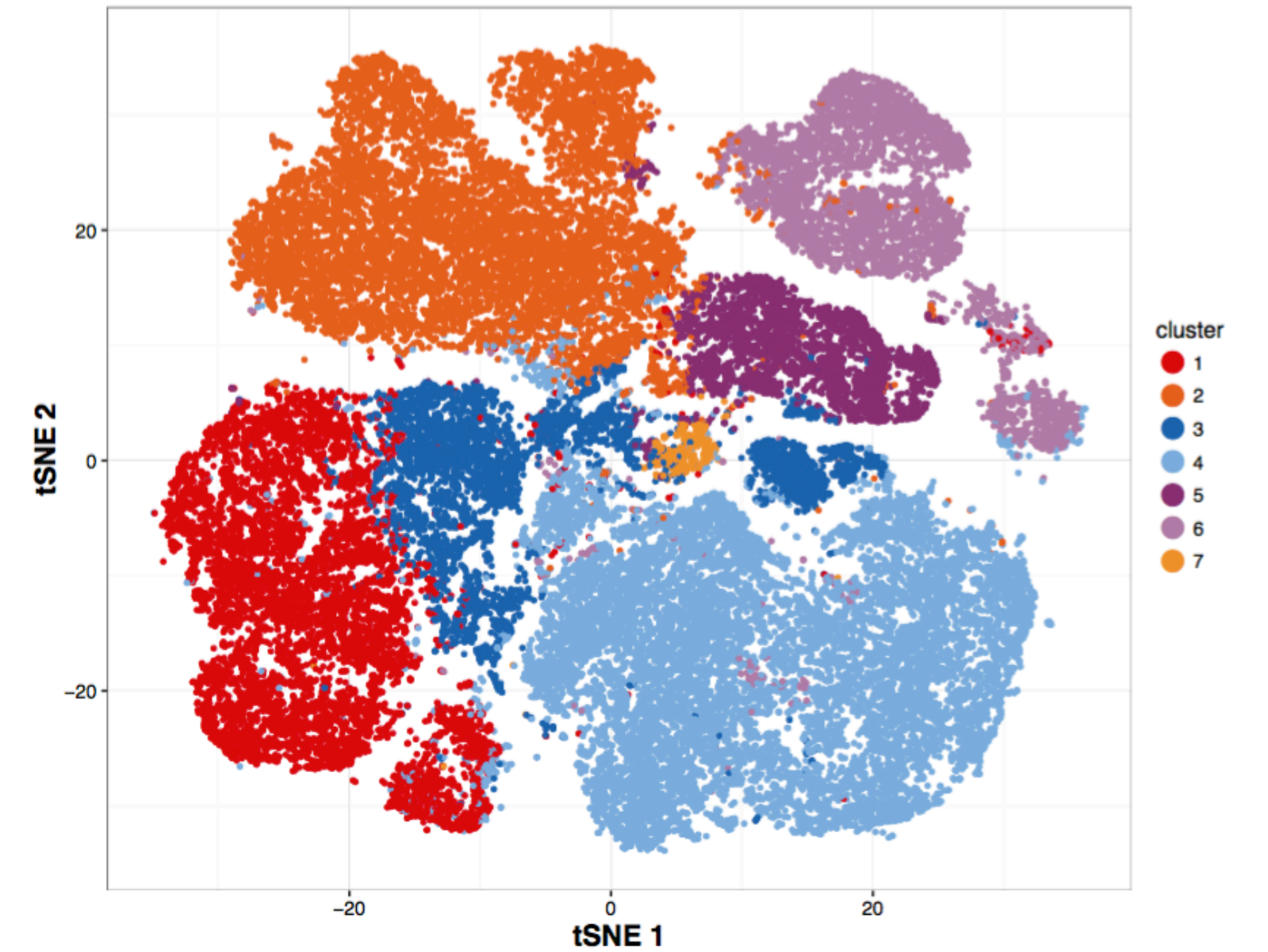
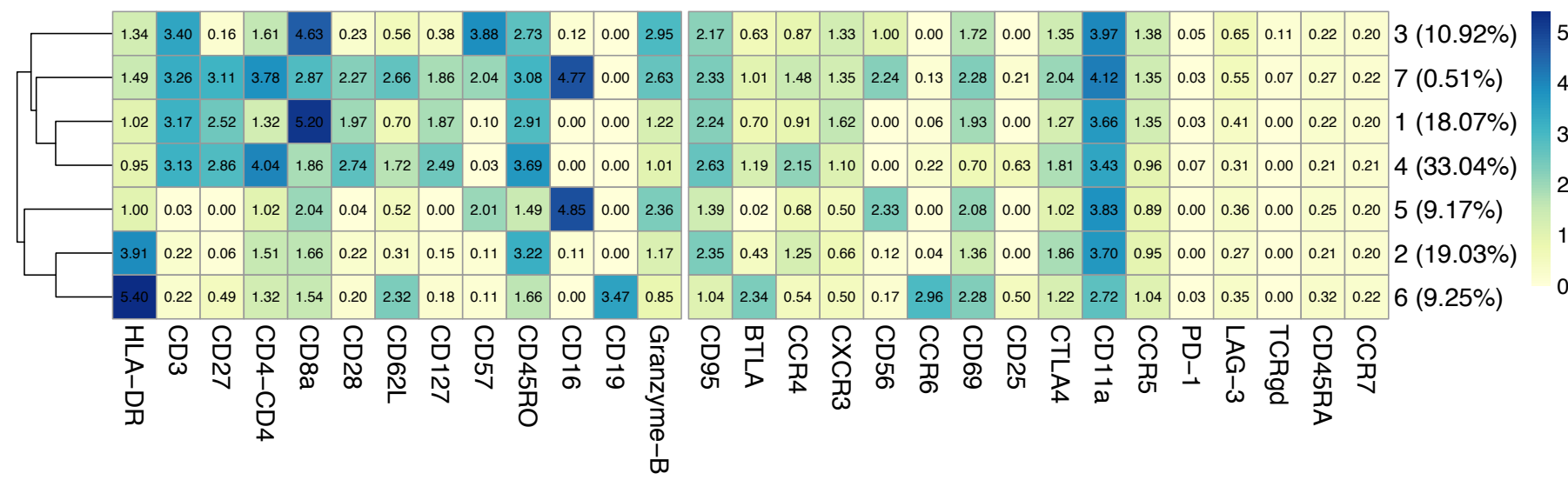


# Key elements of CyTOF workflow

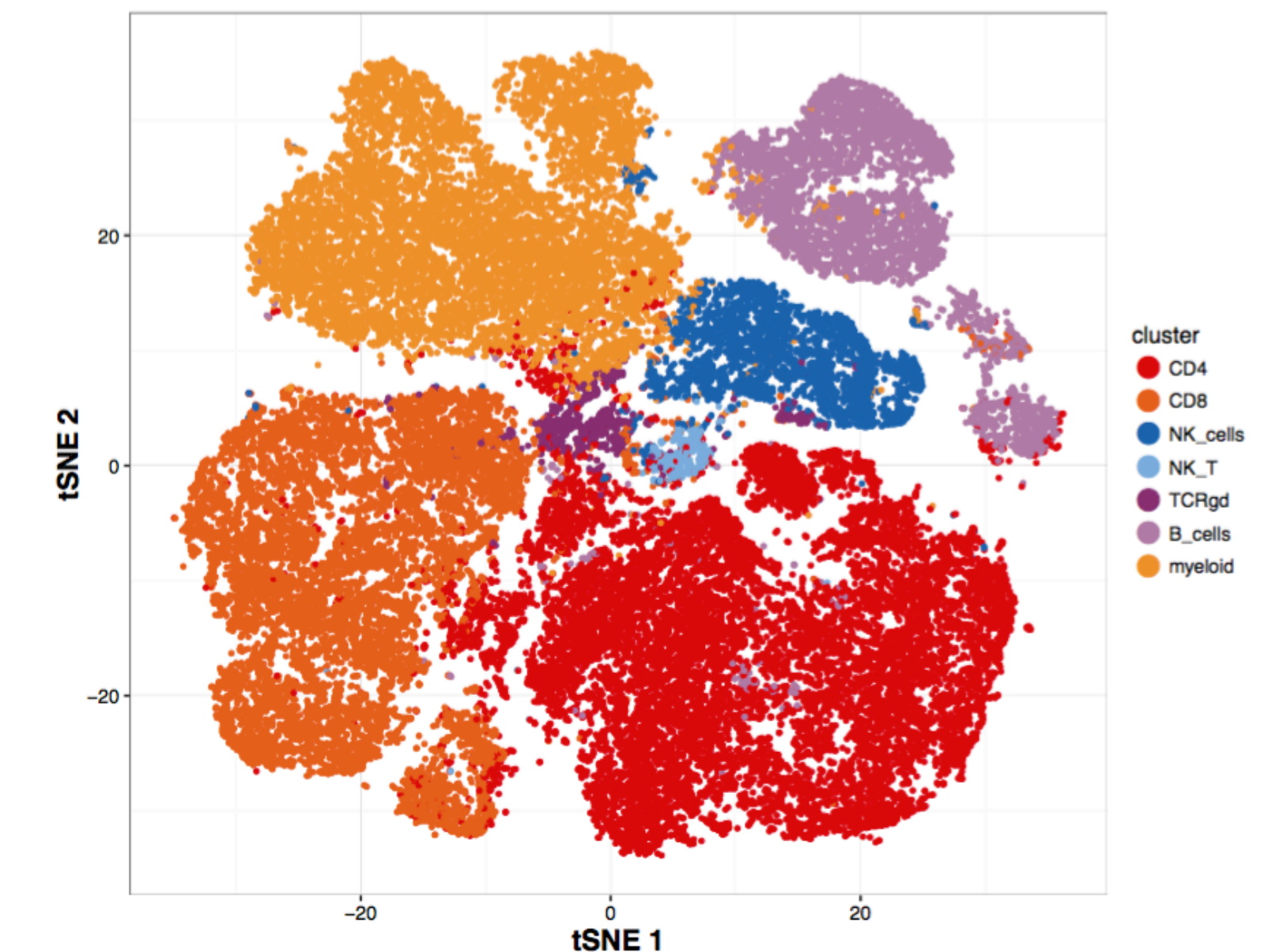
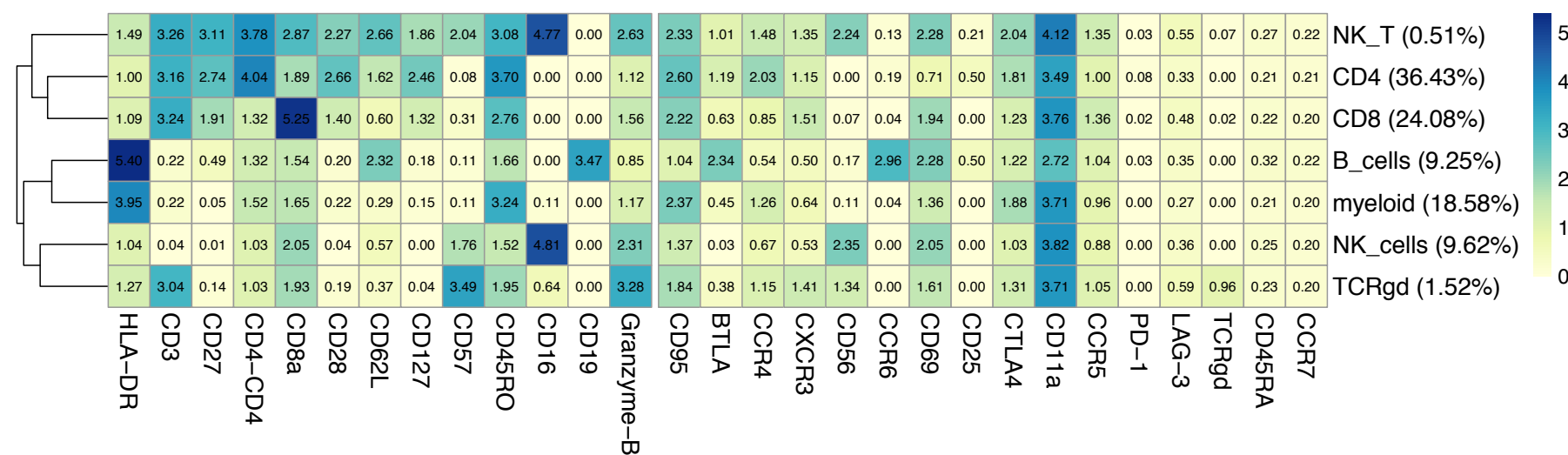
- Exploration of various data aspects at each step
- Separation of **type** and **state** markers
- Put all samples together and cluster (FlowSOM or other)
- Optional: manually merge clusters (via visualizations: heatmaps, low dimensional projections)
- Differential abundance analysis (count-based model, somewhat similar to RNA-seq)
- For **state** markers, differential state analysis (aggregate and use linear model)

# Merging clusters from 20 to 7

7 clusters



7 clusters by expert









Carsten Krieg, now at MUSC  
 PBMCs from metastatic melanoma patients, comparing  
 responders to non-responders)

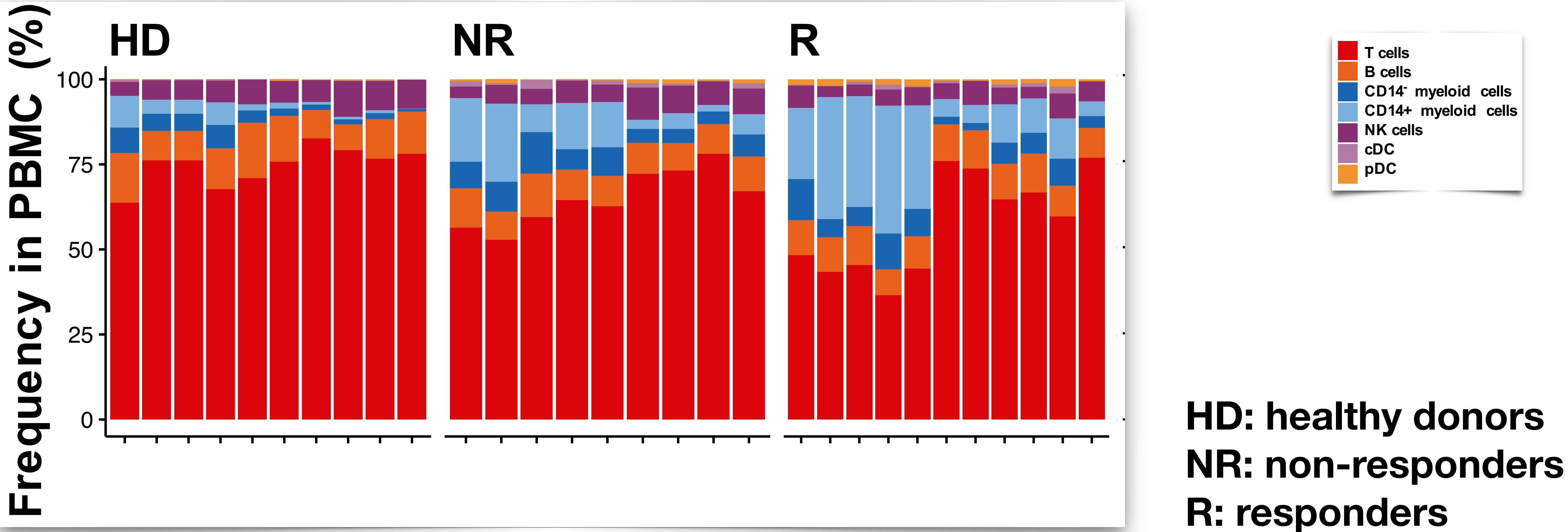


Good / Bad news: large batch effect, but nice experimental design (all conditions in every batch) so can be separated in statistical models.

# High-dimensional single-cell analysis predicts response to anti-PD-1 immunotherapy

Carsten Krieg<sup>1,6</sup> , Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>2,3</sup>, Silvia Guglietta<sup>4</sup>, Sabrina Schindler<sup>5</sup>, Felix J Hartmann<sup>1</sup> , Lukas M Weber<sup>2,3</sup> , Reinhard Dummer<sup>5</sup>, Mark D Robinson<sup>2,3</sup> , Mitchell P Levesque<sup>5,7</sup>  & Burkhard Becher<sup>1,7</sup> 

## Part 1: Differential abundance of cell populations



**HD: healthy donors**  
**NR: non-responders**  
**R: responders**

After clustering (and manual merging), *generalized linear mixed model* is applied to cell count table to find differential abundance (n.b.: similar to RNA-seq differential expression).

# Bioconductor workflow



Manual merging of cell populations based on phenotypes

Generalized linear mixed models (differential abundance)

$$E(Y_{ij} | \beta_0, \beta_1, \gamma_i, \xi_{ij}) = \text{logit}^{-1}(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \gamma_i + \xi_{ij}),$$

Linear mixed models (differential expression within populations)

$$Y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \gamma_i + \epsilon_{ij},$$



# Limitations of existing methods

**Table 1 Overview of existing methods and limitations**

Method	Short description	Limitations	Ref.
<i>Citrus</i>	Uses hierarchical clustering and regularized regression or classification models to select predictive features, such as cluster abundances or median expression of functional markers, that are associated with an outcome of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detected features cannot be ranked by importance</li> <li>• Lasso-regularized models cannot easily detect multiple correlated features</li> <li>• Rare cell populations cannot easily be detected, due to minimum cluster size requirement and computational limitations</li> <li>• Response variable is the clinical outcome variable, which makes it difficult to account for complex experimental designs (including batch effects, paired designs, and continuous covariates)</li> </ul>	9
<i>CellCnn</i>	Applies convolutional neural networks in a representation learning framework to detect rare cell populations associated with an outcome of interest; designed specifically for detecting rare cell populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranking of detected cells cannot be interpreted in terms of statistical significance</li> <li>• Interpretation of detected populations (referred to as filters) can be difficult, since they may be composed of multiple distinct cell populations</li> <li>• Response variable is the clinical outcome variable, which makes it difficult to account for complex experimental designs (including batch effects, paired designs, and continuous covariates)</li> <li>• All protein markers are treated identically; there is no conceptual split between cell type and cell state (or functional) markers</li> </ul>	10
<i>cydar</i>	Assigns cells to overlapping hyperspheres in the high-dimensional space; tests for differential abundance between hyperspheres using moderated tests from <i>edgeR</i> <sup>15,16</sup> , while controlling the spatial false discovery rate among overlapping hyperspheres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare cell populations cannot easily be detected, due to their relatively small volume in the high-dimensional space</li> <li>• All protein markers are treated identically; there is no conceptual split between cell type and cell state (or functional) markers</li> </ul>	11
classic regression-based approach	Automated clustering using <i>FlowSOM</i> <sup>14</sup> , followed by manual merging and annotation to define cell populations; differential testing of features such as population abundances or median expression of functional markers using generalized linear mixed models, linear mixed models, or linear models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual merging and annotation step requires expert biological knowledge, and can be time-consuming and subjective</li> <li>• When testing large numbers of clusters, e.g. to detect rare cell populations: loss of statistical power due to multiple testing penalty; no sharing of information across clusters</li> </ul>	12

Overview of recently developed methods for performing differential analyses in high-dimensional cytometry data. For each method, a short description of the methodology and a summary of limitations are provided

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-019-0415-5>

OPEN

diffcyt: Differential discovery in high-dimensional cytometry via high-resolution clustering

Lukas M. Weber<sup>1,2</sup>, Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Charlotte Soneson<sup>1,2,4</sup> & Mark D. Robinson<sup>1,2</sup>

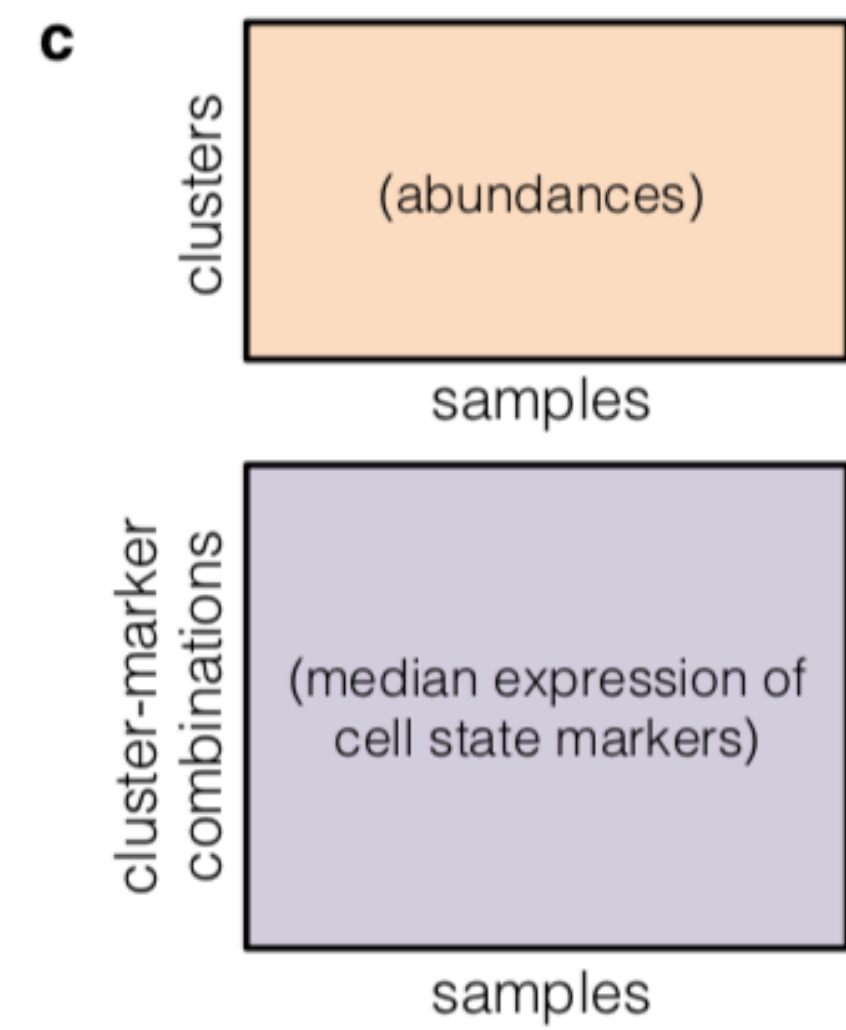
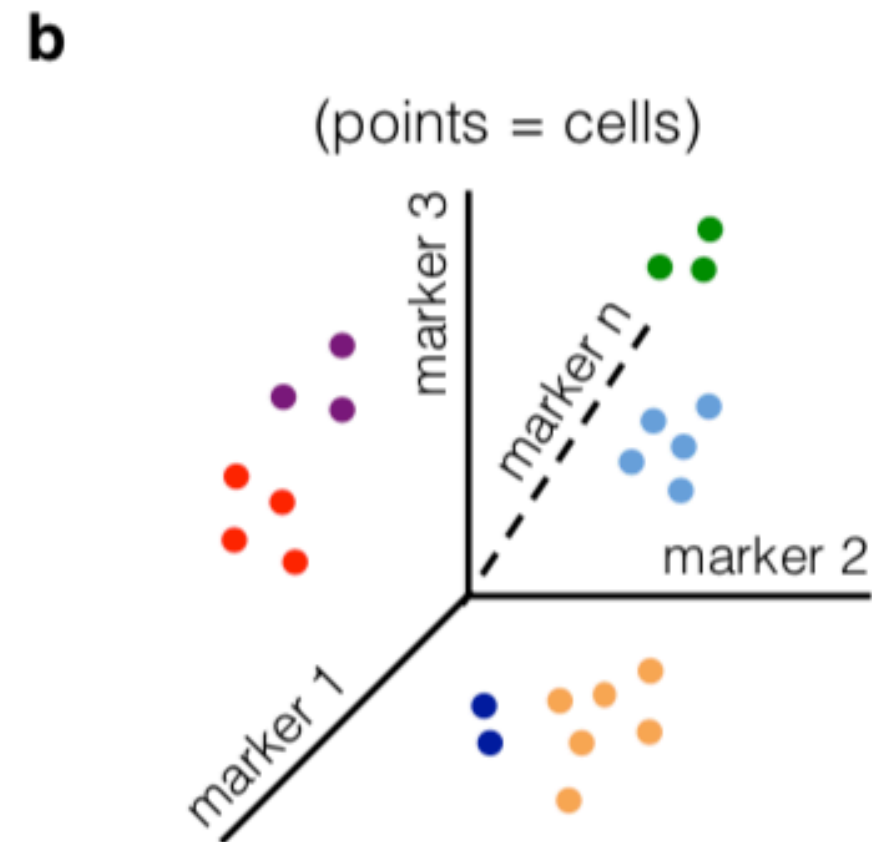
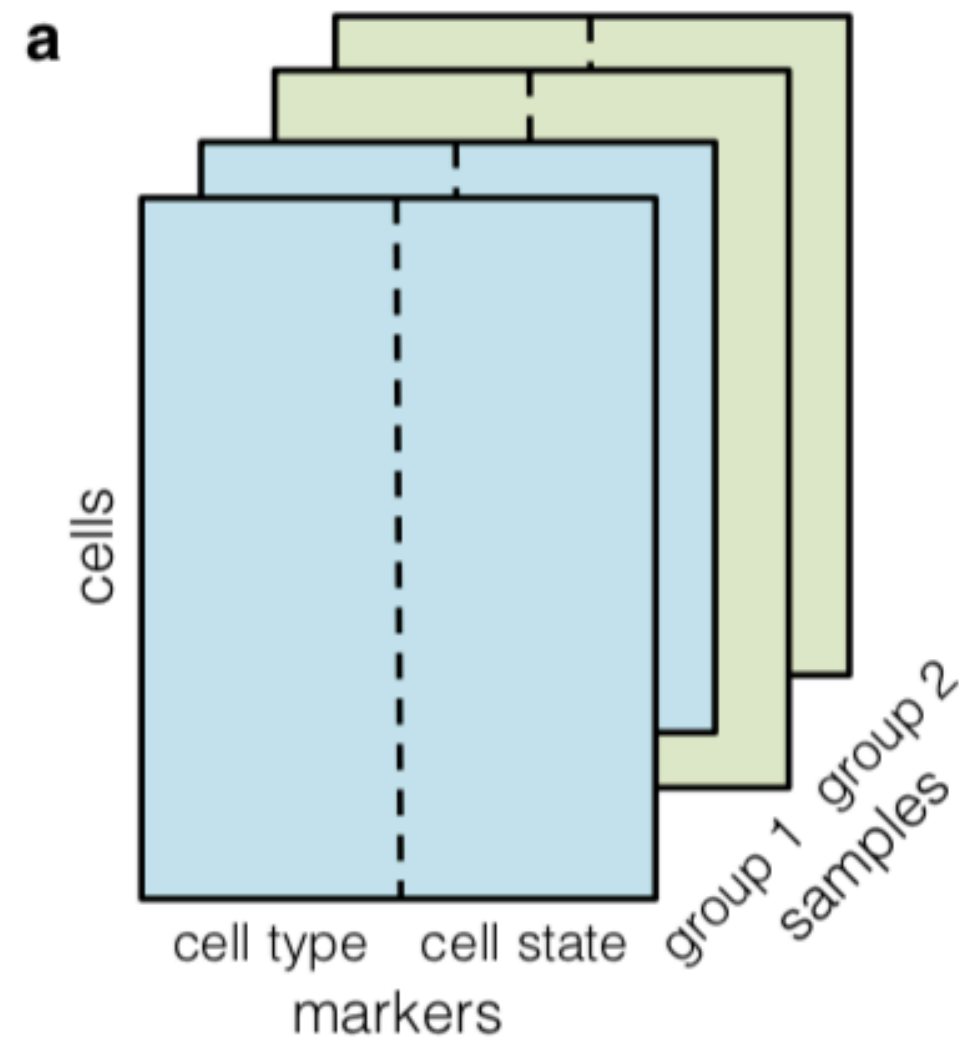
n.b. Citrus/CellCnn models are reversed to ours (response variable: patient/experimental condition; explanatory variables: CyTOF measurements)

cydar doesn't distinguish type and state

# diffcyt: differential tests more formalised



Lukas



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-019-0415-5>

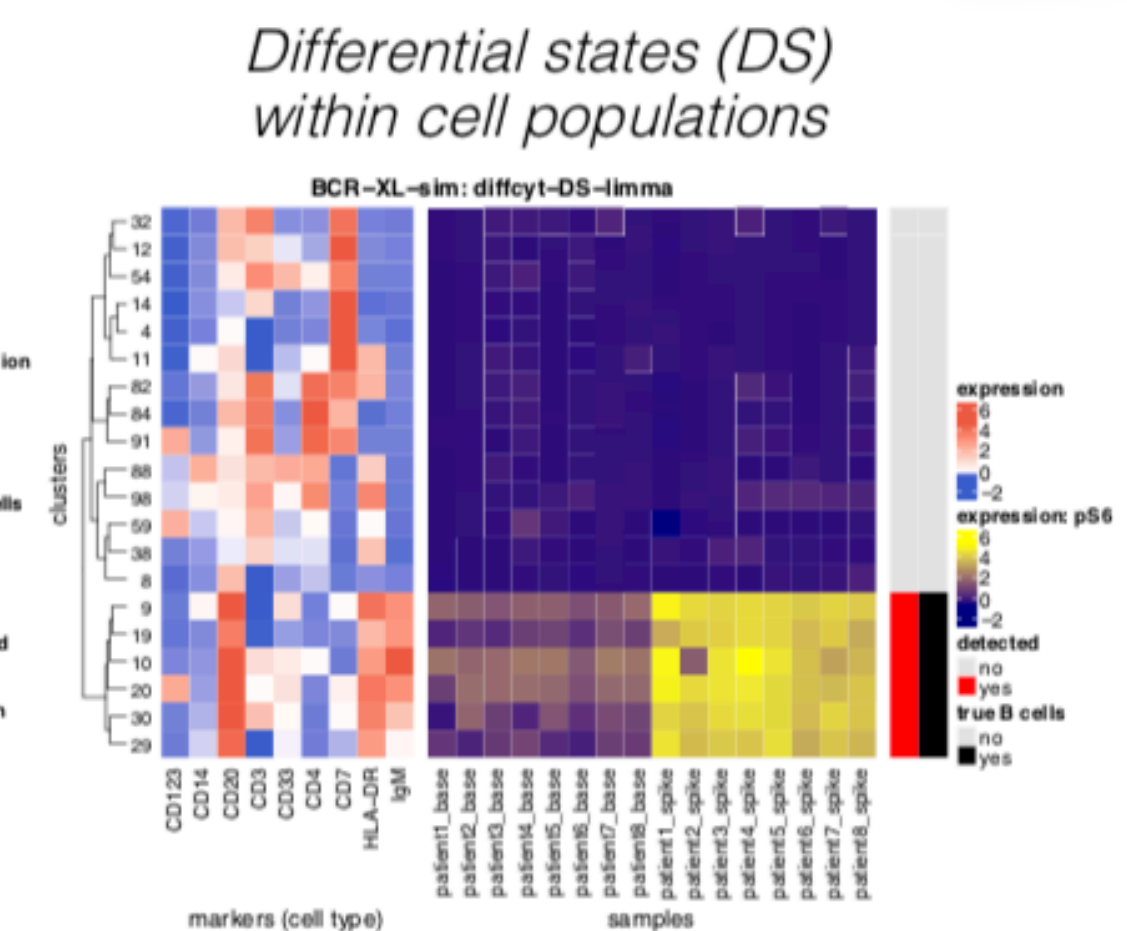
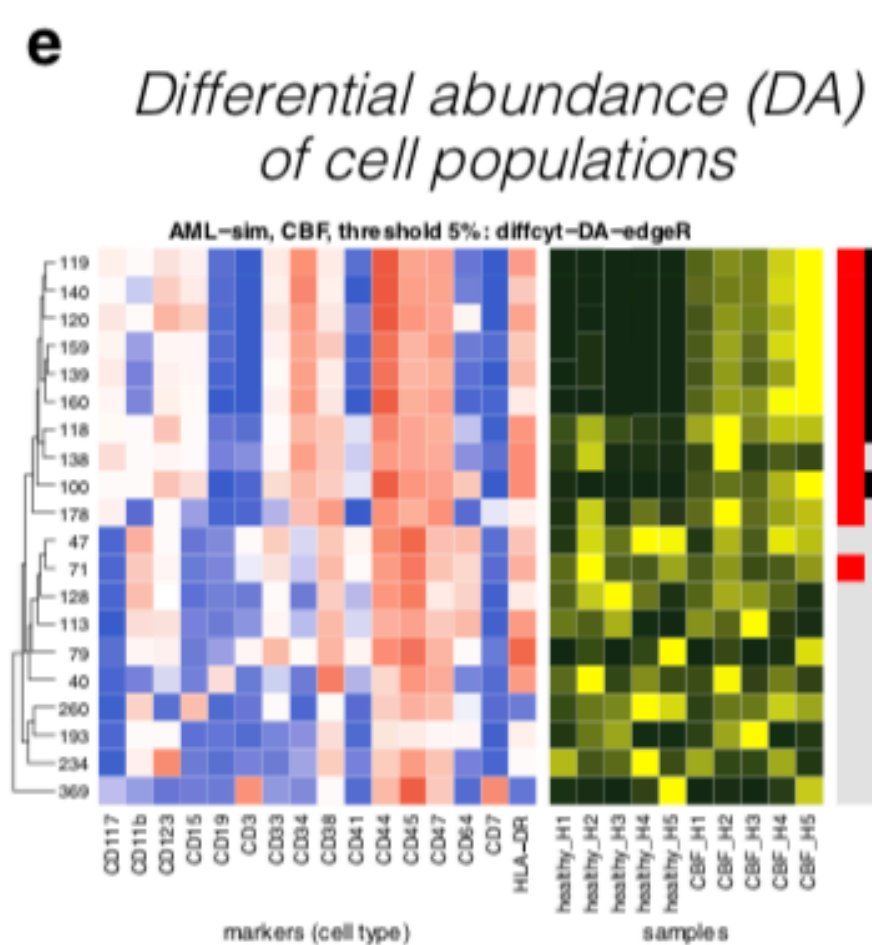
OPEN

diffcyt: Differential discovery in high-dimensional cytometry via high-resolution clustering

Lukas M. Weber<sup>1,2</sup>, Malgorzata Nowicka<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Charlotte Sonesson<sup>1,2,4</sup> & Mark D. Robinson<sup>1,2</sup>

**d**

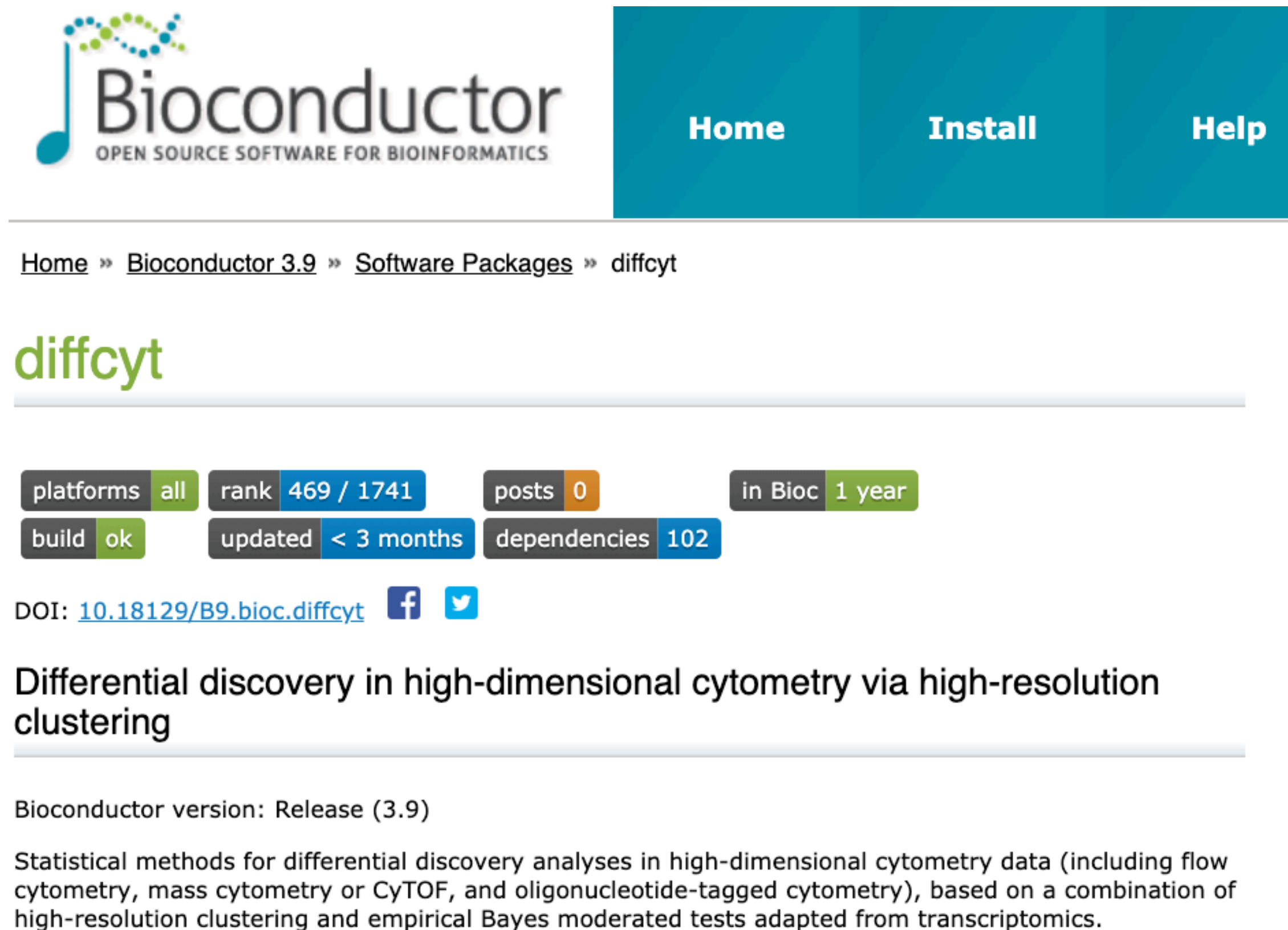
Test type	Methods
Differential abundance (DA) of cell populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>diffcyt-DA-edgeR</li> <li>diffcyt-DA-voom</li> <li>diffcyt-DA-GLMM</li> </ul>
Differential states (DS) within cell populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>diffcyt-DS-limma</li> <li>diffcyt-DS-LMM</li> </ul>



**Note: for differential state analysis, aggregates are always taken. We are testing this now with scRNA-seq data**

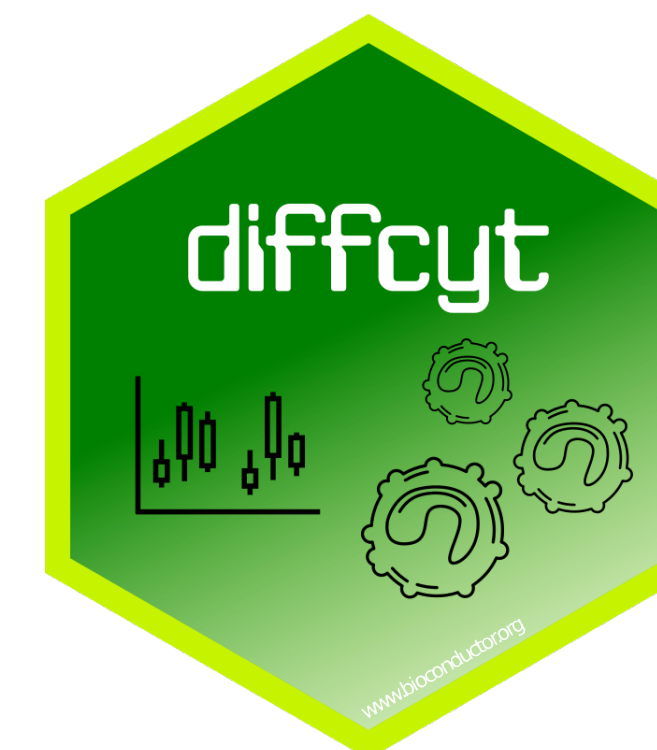


# *diffcyt*: Bioconductor package



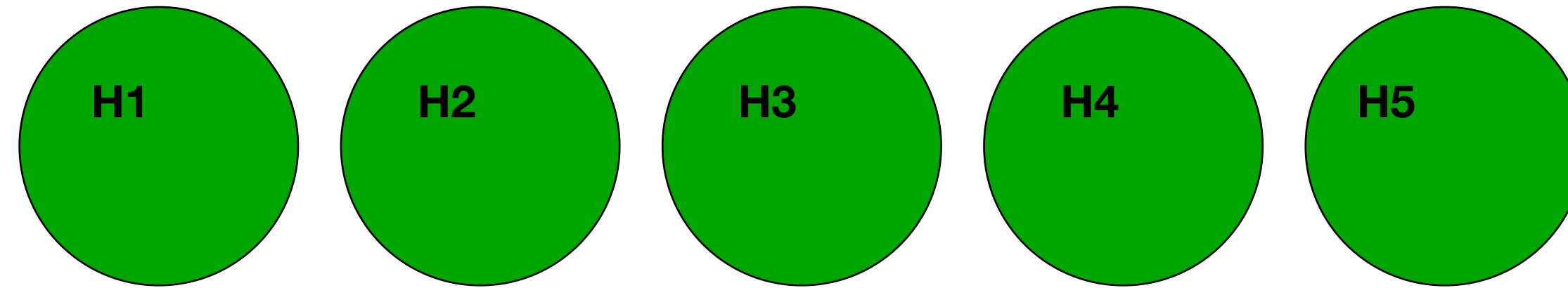
The screenshot shows the Bioconductor website for the *diffcyt* package. At the top left is the Bioconductor logo with the tagline "OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR BIOINFORMATICS". To the right are navigation buttons for "Home", "Install", and "Help". Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: "Home » Bioconductor 3.9 » Software Packages » diffcyt". The package name "diffcyt" is displayed in a large green font. Below this are several status indicators in colored boxes: "platforms all", "rank 469 / 1741", "posts 0", "in Bioc 1 year", "build ok", "updated < 3 months", and "dependencies 102". There are also social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a DOI link: "DOI: 10.18129/B9.bioc.diffcyt". The main title of the package is "Differential discovery in high-dimensional cytometry via high-resolution clustering". Below the title, it specifies the Bioconductor version as "Release (3.9)" and provides a detailed description: "Statistical methods for differential discovery analyses in high-dimensional cytometry data (including flow cytometry, mass cytometry or CyTOF, and oligonucleotide-tagged cytometry), based on a combination of high-resolution clustering and empirical Bayes moderated tests adapted from transcriptomics."

Interoperable with CATALYST for pipelines

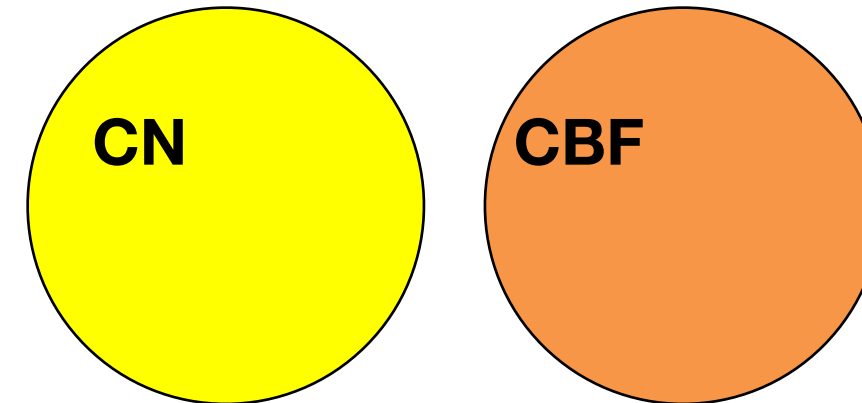


# Creation of a benchmark: AML-sim data generation strategy

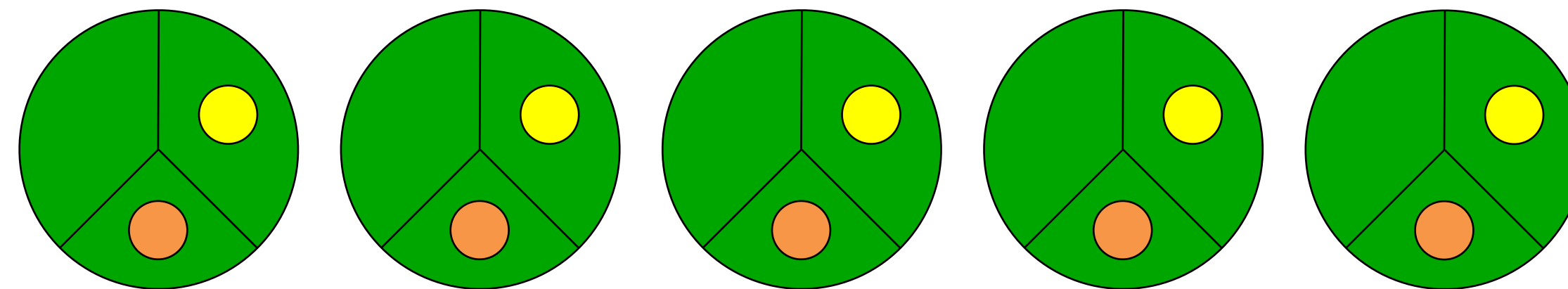
**5x healthy samples**



**AML: 1x CN, 1x CBF**



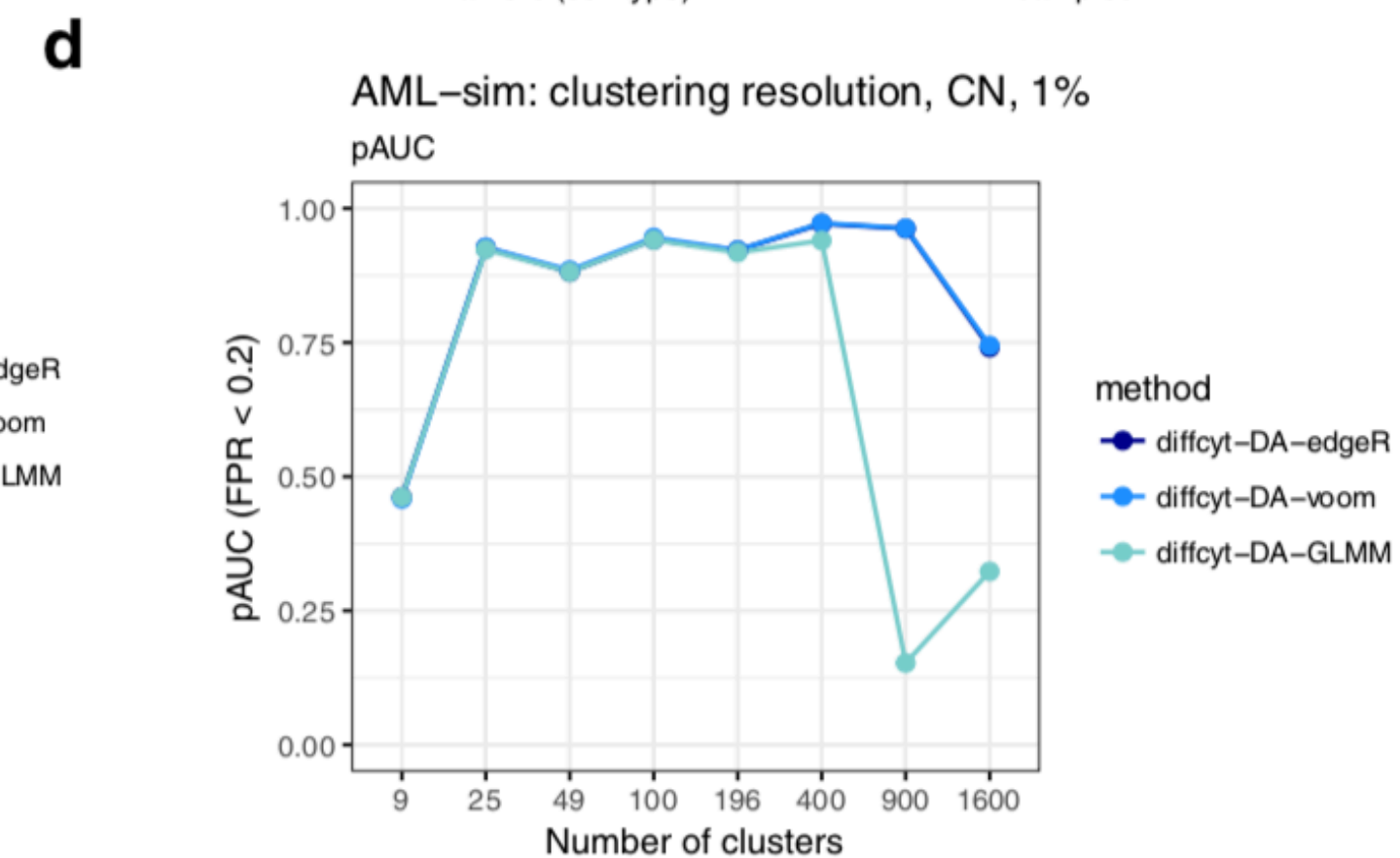
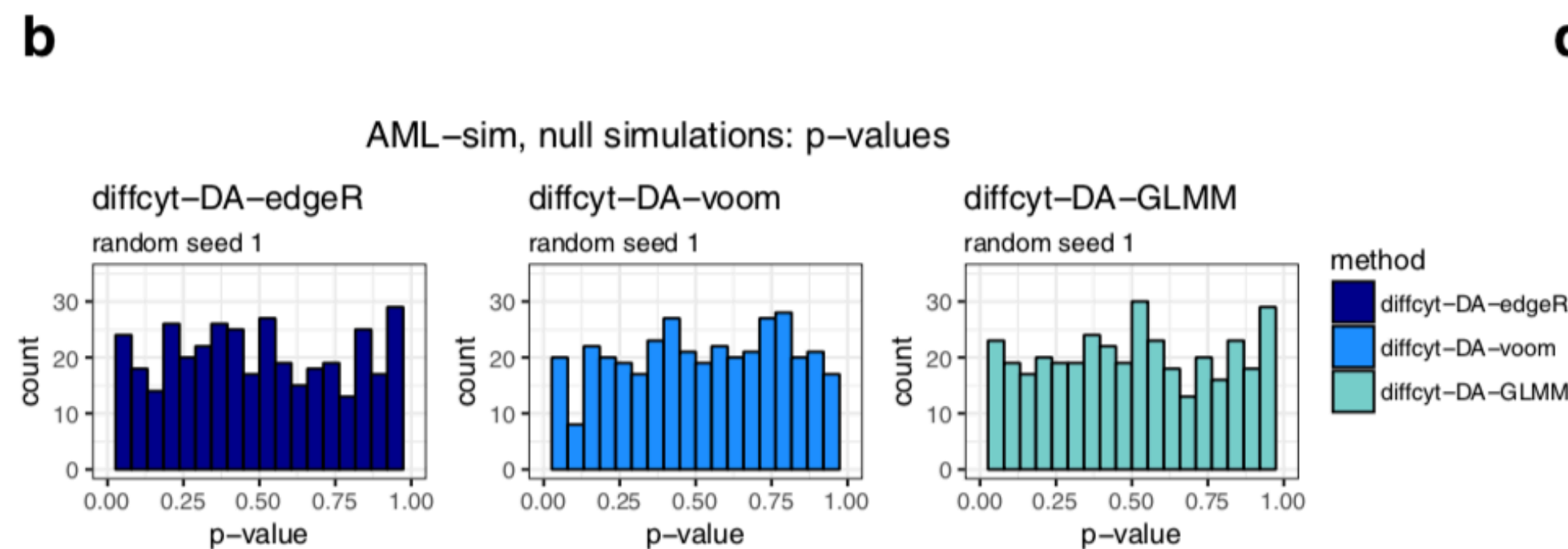
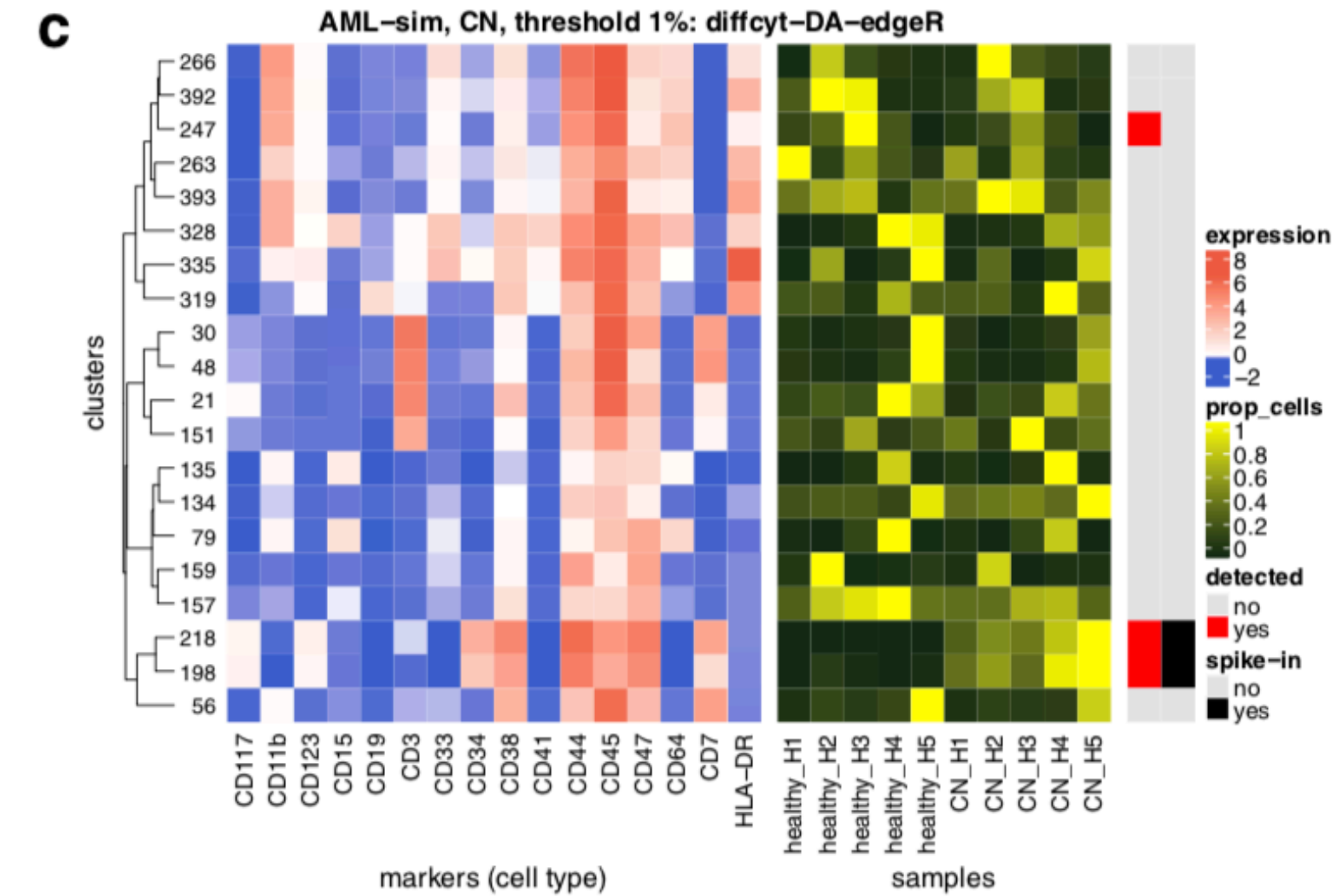
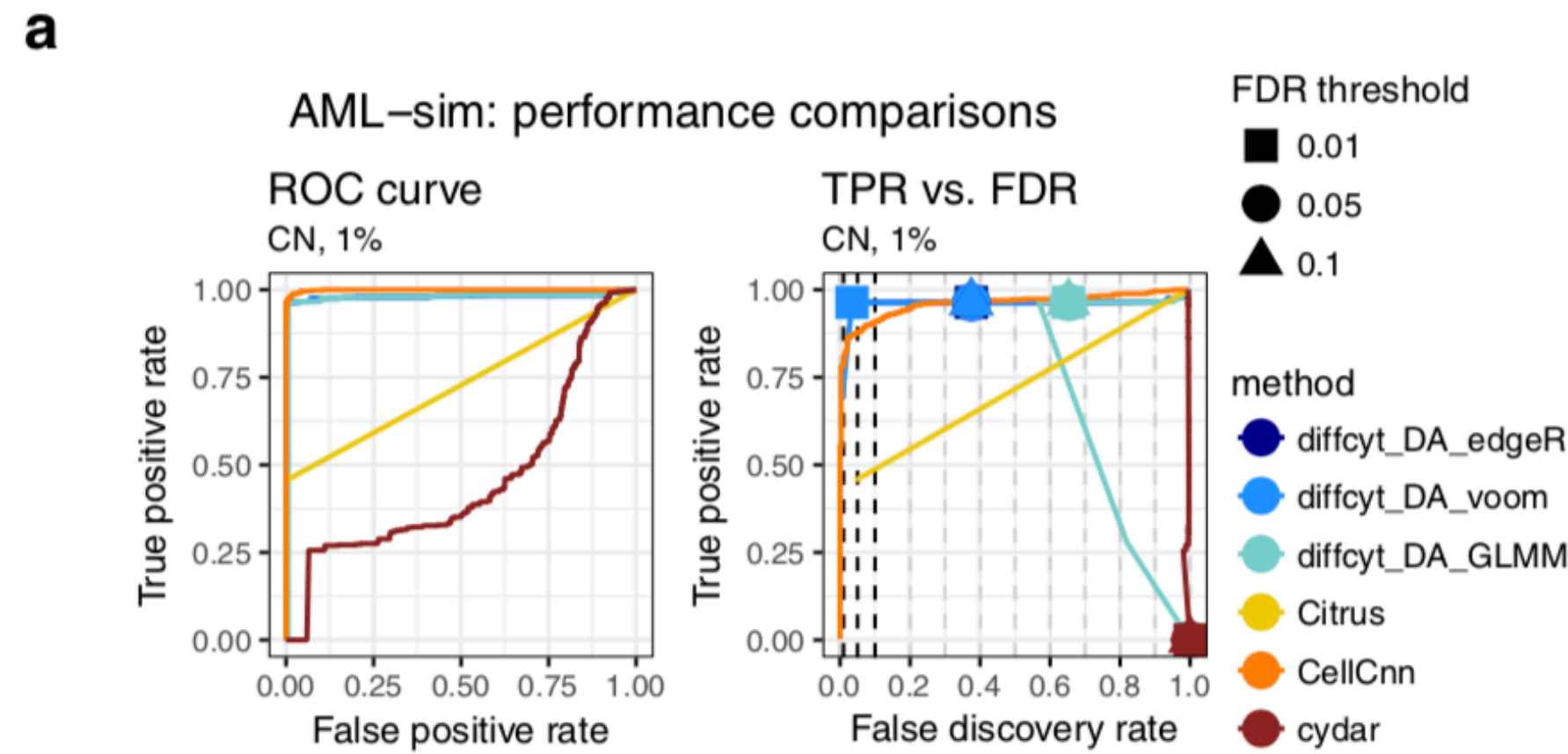
**Split each healthy sample into 3 equal parts; computationally “spike in” CN and CBF cells**

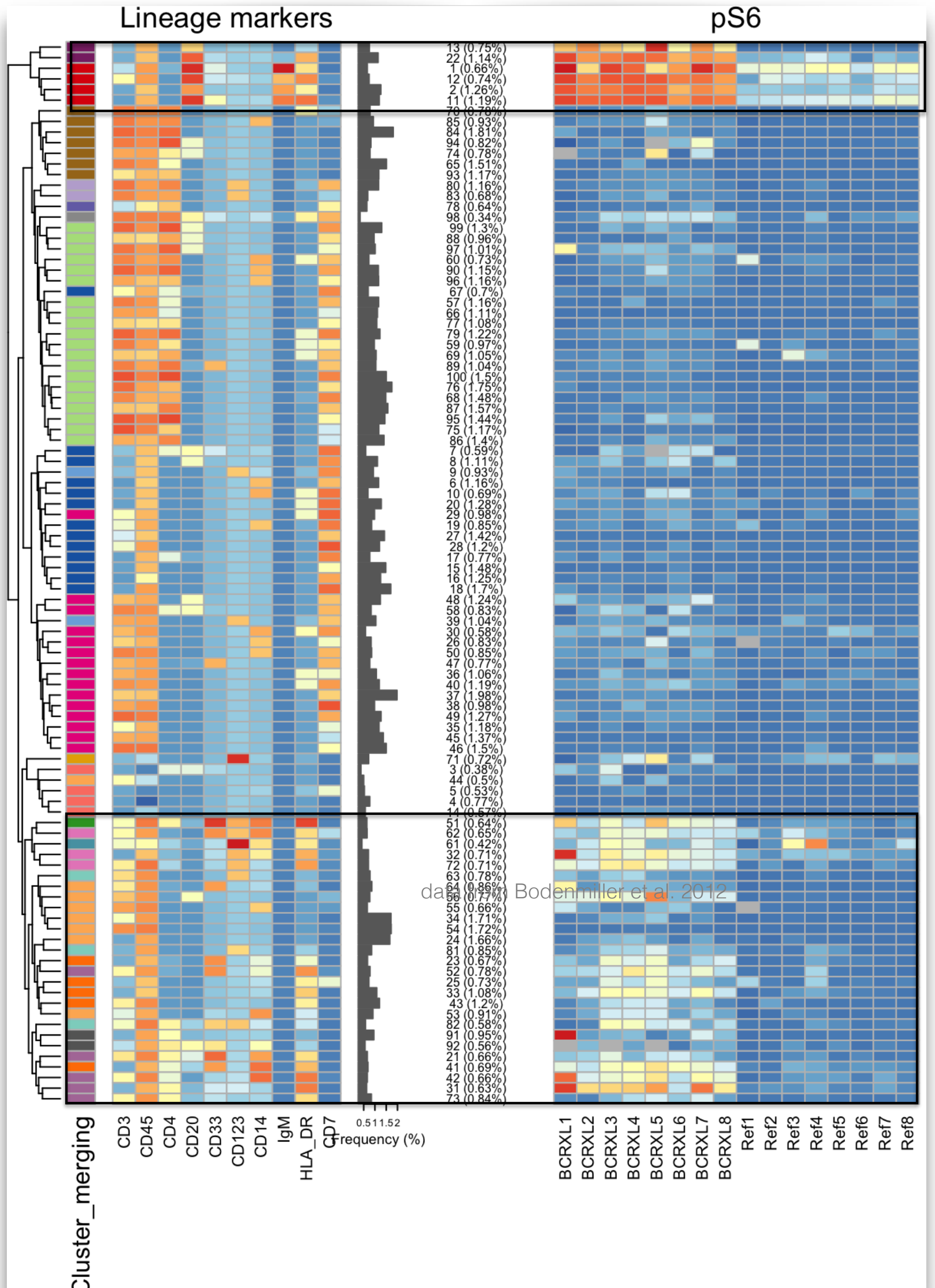


**Repeat for different thresholds: 5%, 1%, 0.1%, 0.01%**



# Differential abundance detection performance across methods





Clustered here to 100 groups; for each, look across samples in functional marker

→  
median lineage marker signal by cluster

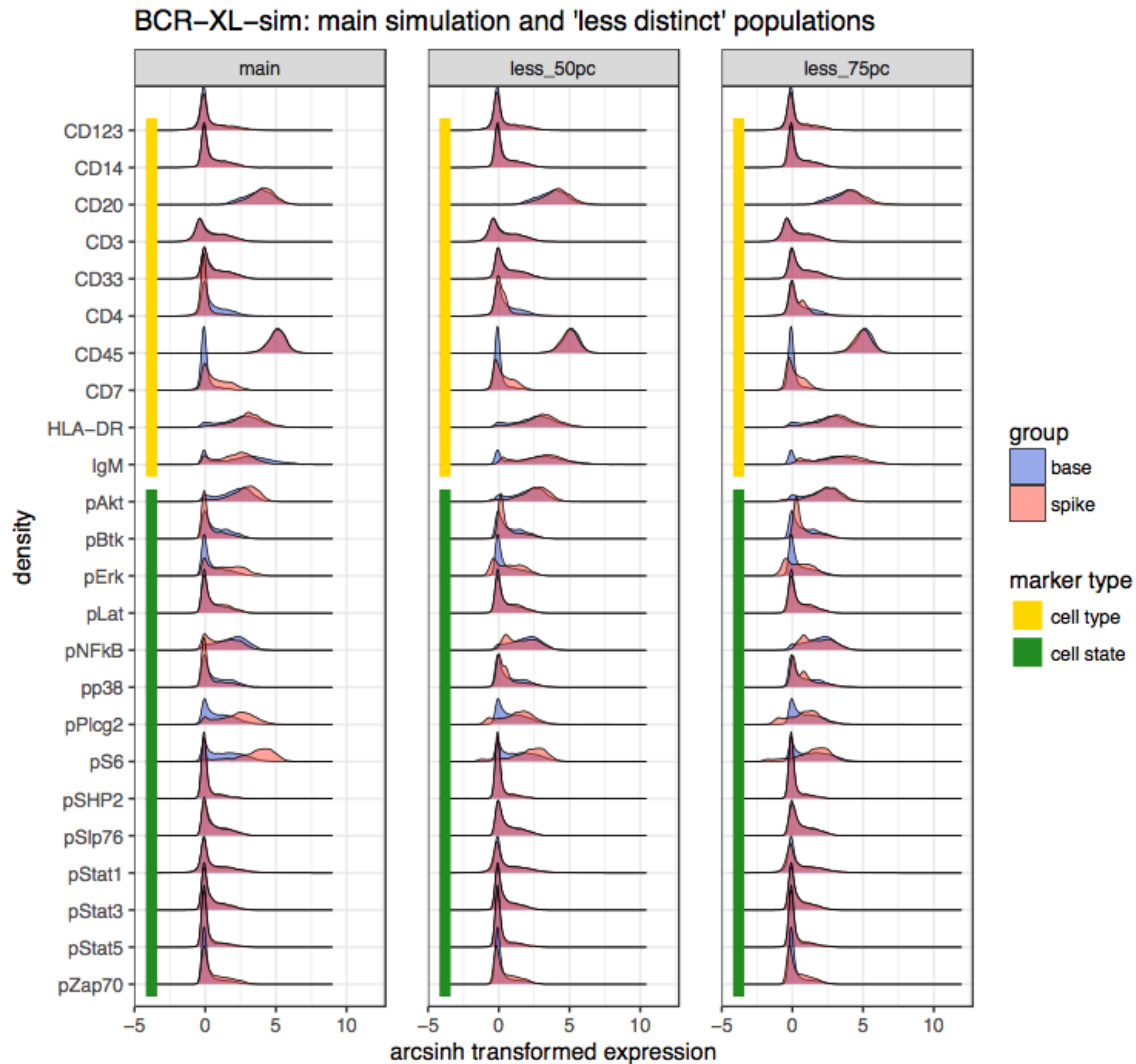
Part 2: subpopulation-specific differential analyses (“state”)

←  
median functional marker signal by sample

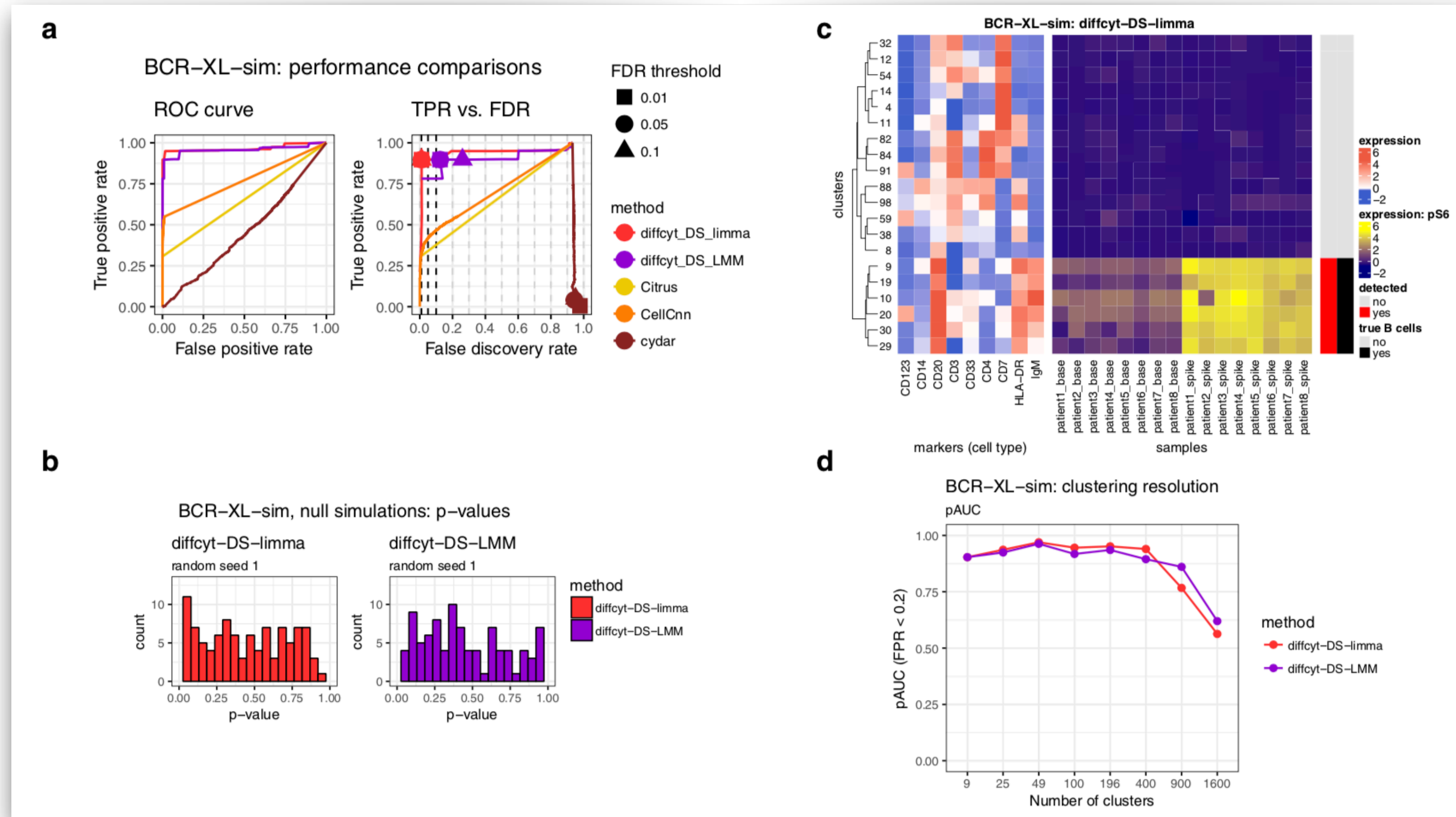


# *diffcyt*: benchmarking

Sensitivity



# Differential state detection performance across methods





# Some notes on CyTOF differential discovery

- Flexibility in definition of type and state
- For rare populations, ability to detect changes in abundance is driven jointly by “distinctness” (clustering) and “rarity” (more abundant → easier); also related to depth of sampling
- Fairly wide range in the “sweet spot” of clustering
- Cell type assignment as an alternative to clustering is easily accommodated

# HDCytoData package

Collection of benchmark datasets in Bioconductor formats

## HDCytoData

---

platforms **all** rank **134 / 371** posts **0** build **ok**  
updated **before release** dependencies **93**

DOI: [10.18129/B9.bioc.HDCytoData](https://doi.org/10.18129/B9.bioc.HDCytoData)  

Collection of high-dimensional cytometry benchmark datasets in  
Bioconductor object formats

---

Bioconductor version: Release (3.9)

Data package containing a collection of high-dimensional cytometry benchmark datasets saved in SummarizedExperiment and flowSet Bioconductor object formats, including row and column metadata describing samples, cell populations (clusters), and protein markers.

Author: Lukas M. Weber [aut, cre], Charlotte Soneson [aut]

Maintainer: Lukas M. Weber <lukmweber at gmail.com>

Citation (from within R, enter `citation("HDCytoData")`):

Weber L, Soneson C (2019). *HDCytoData: Collection of high-dimensional cytometry benchmark datasets in Bioconductor object formats*. R package version 1.4.0, <https://github.com/lmweber/HDCytoData>.



# HDCytoData package

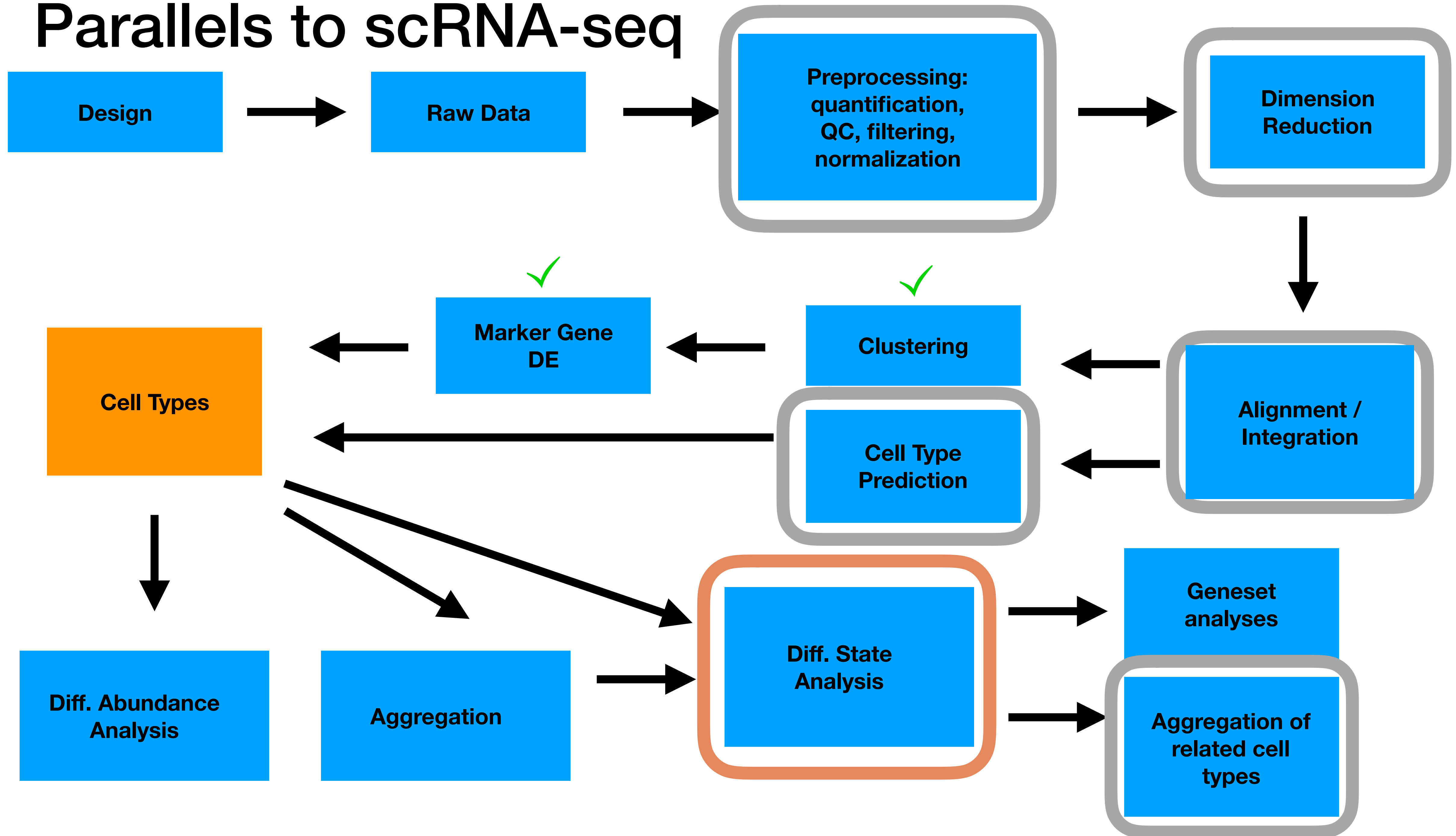
Bioconductor ExperimentHub

```
> library(HDCytoData)

> data_SE <- Levine_32dim_SE()
> data_flowSet <- Levine_32dim_flowSet()

> ehub <- ExperimentHub()
> query(ehub, "HDCytoData")
> data_SE <- ehub[["EH1119"]]
> data_flowSet <- ehub[["EH1120"]]
```

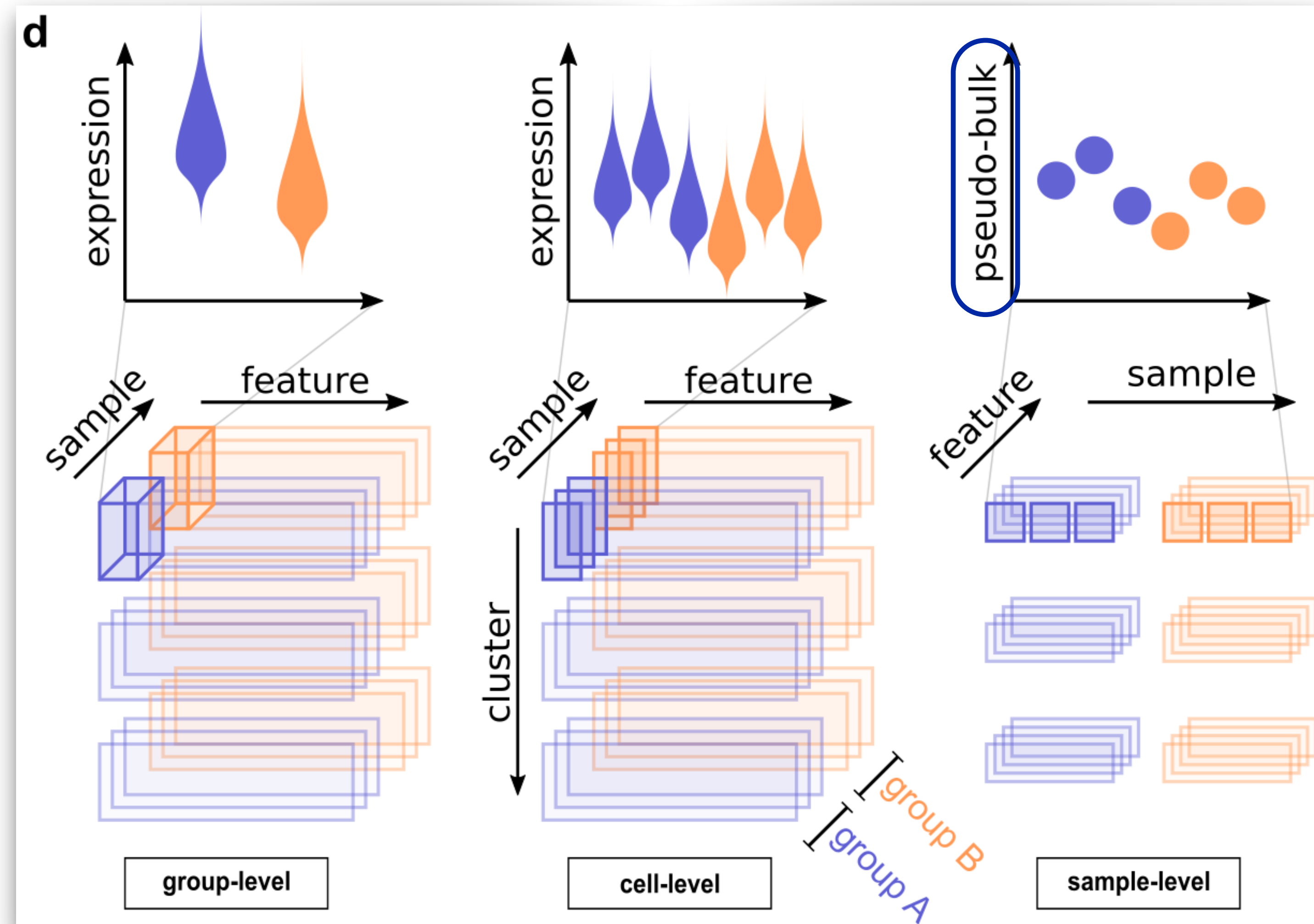
# Parallels to scRNA-seq





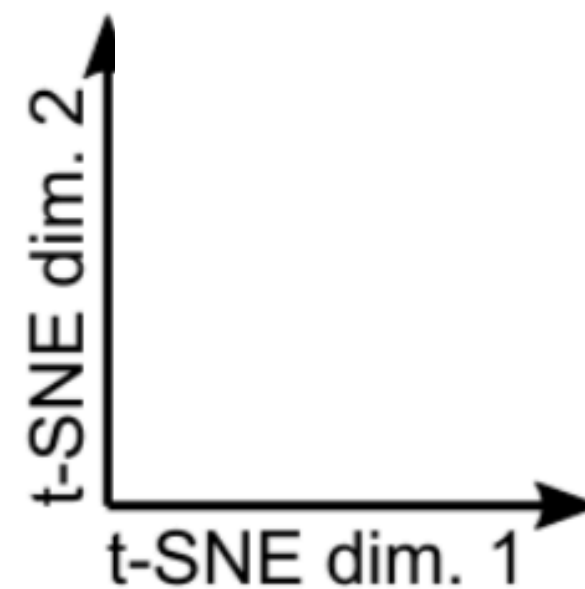
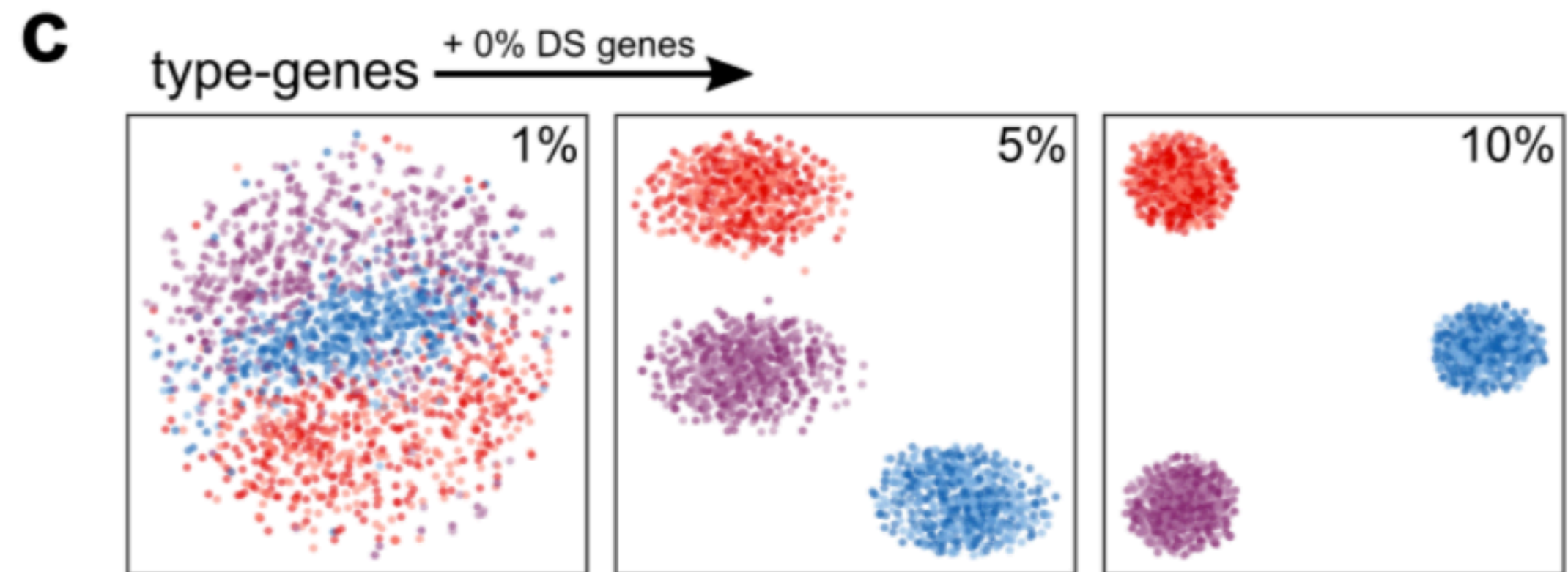
# After “Cell Type Prediction” / “Clustering”, various ways to view the differential state inference problem

Multi-sample  
Multi-condition  
Multi-population



# Flexible simulation

- knobs for: sample size, # of cells, changes in abundance, subpopulation-specific state changes
- batch effects?



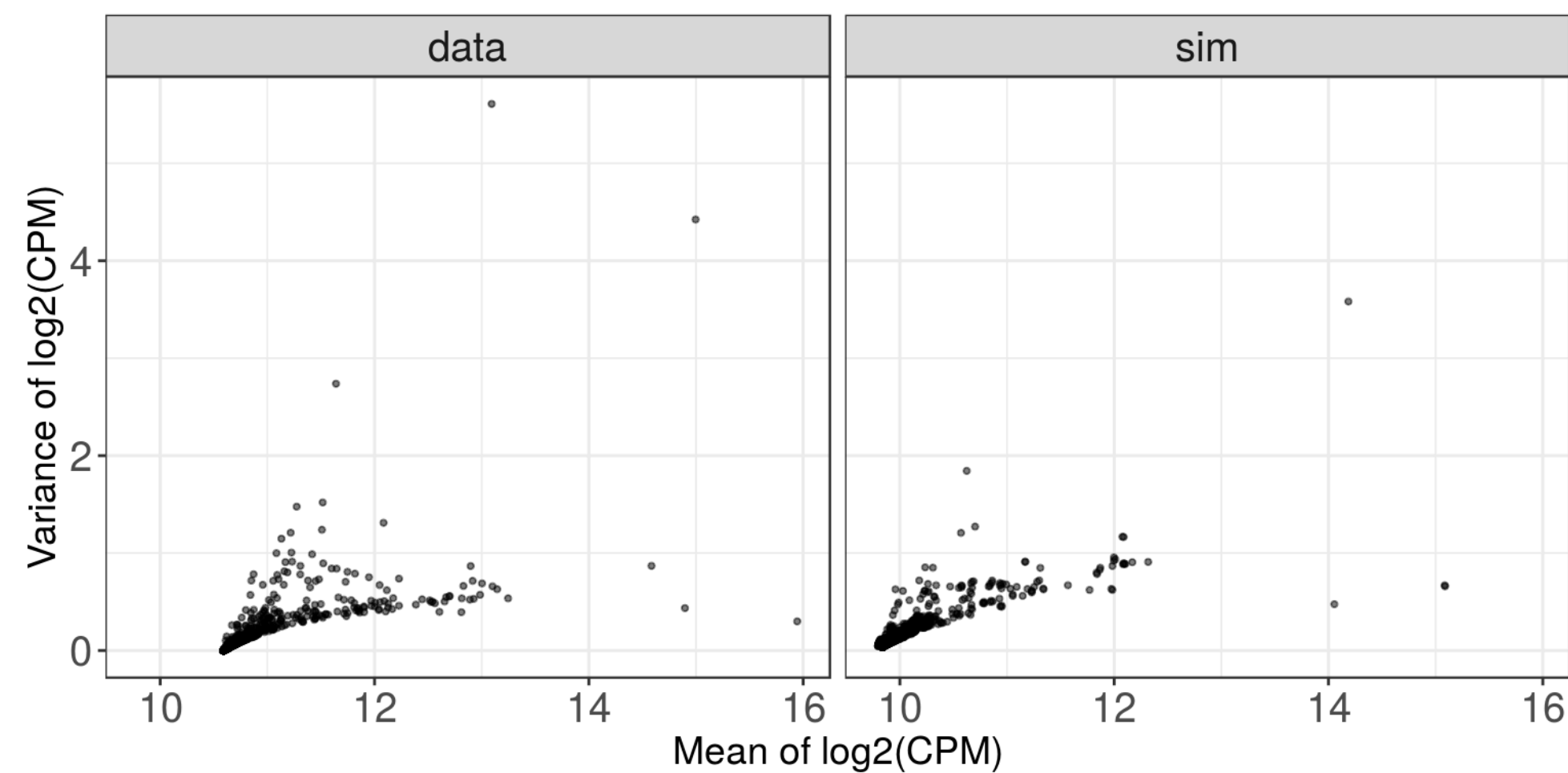
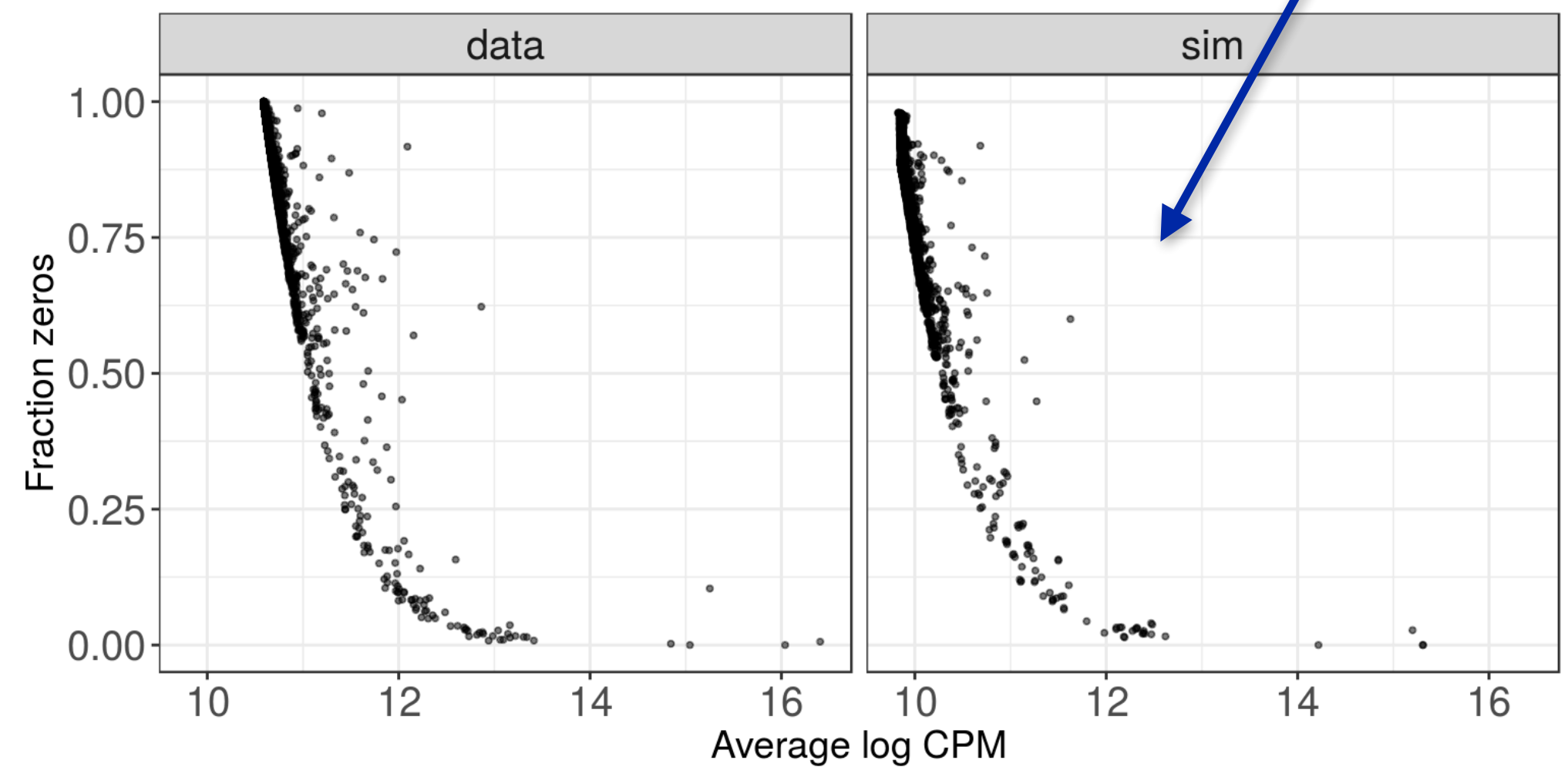
cluster **1** **2** **3** group **A** **B**



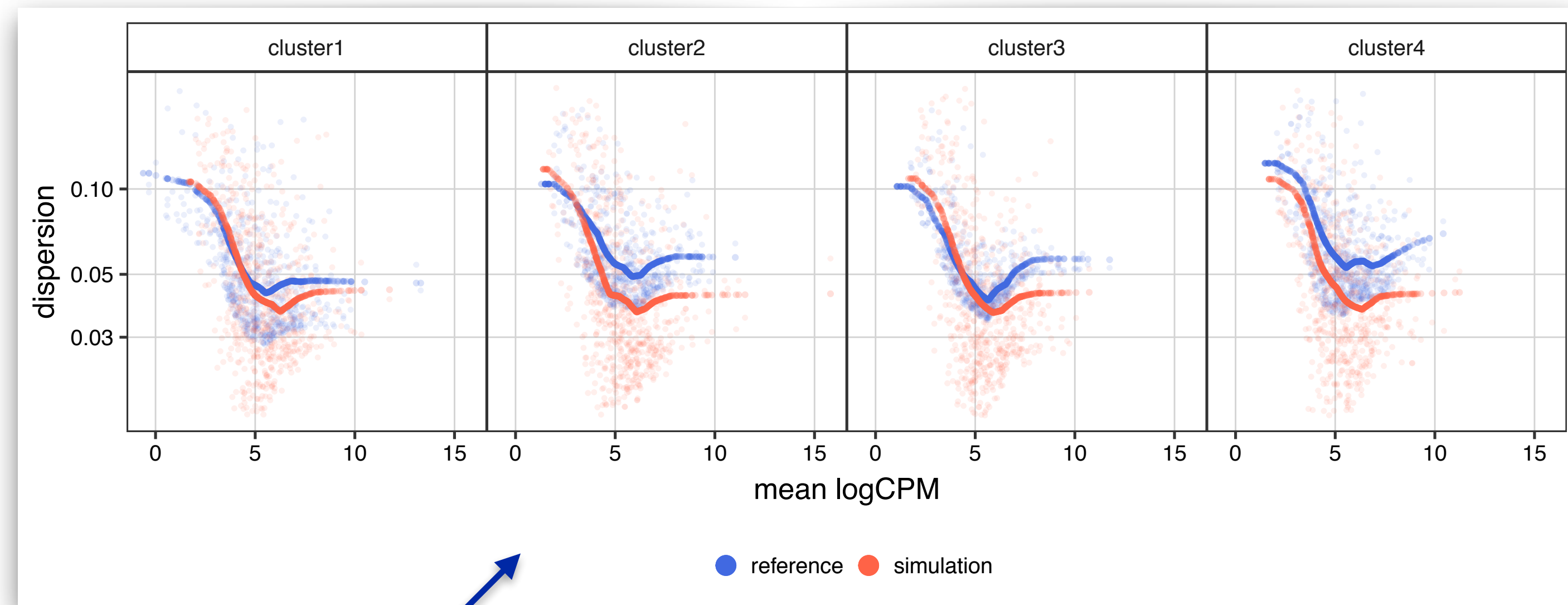


# countsimQC: comparing simulated data to real data

cell-level properties

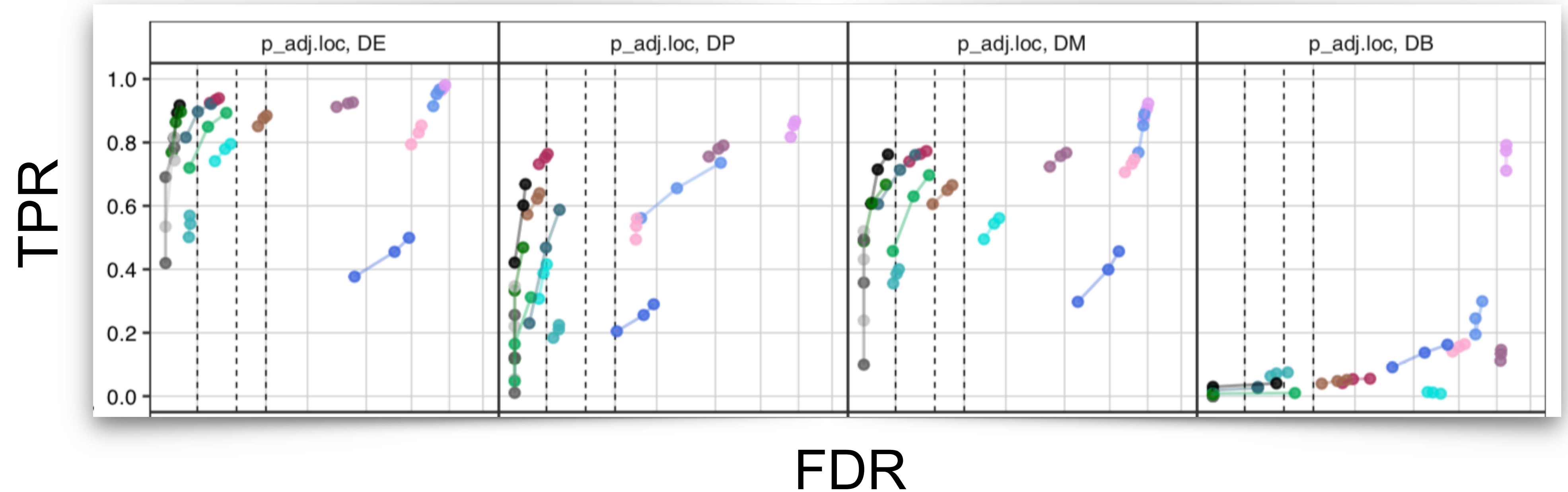
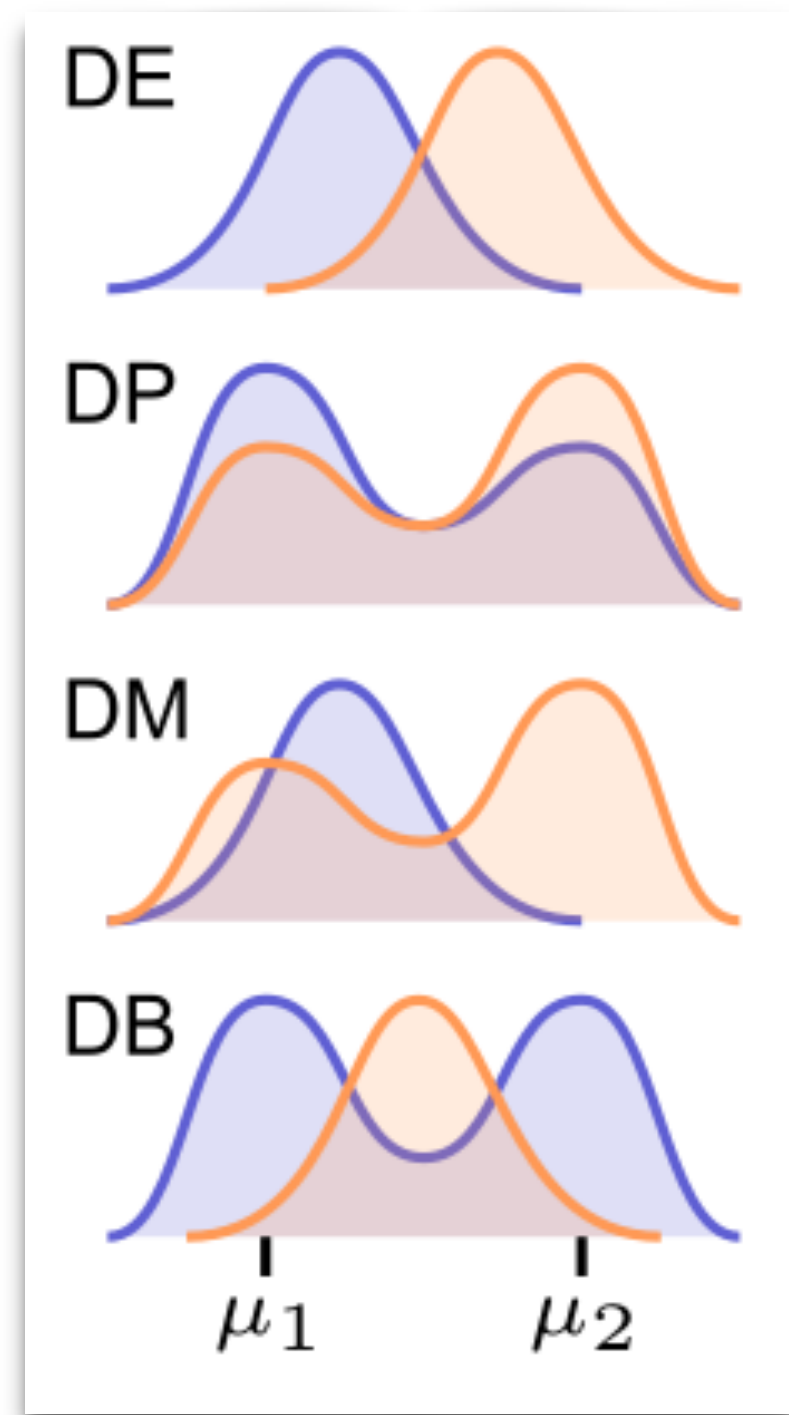


pseudobulk-level dispersion-mean relationships



aggregate-level properties

# Aggregation works well, mixed models work well. DB especially difficult to detect

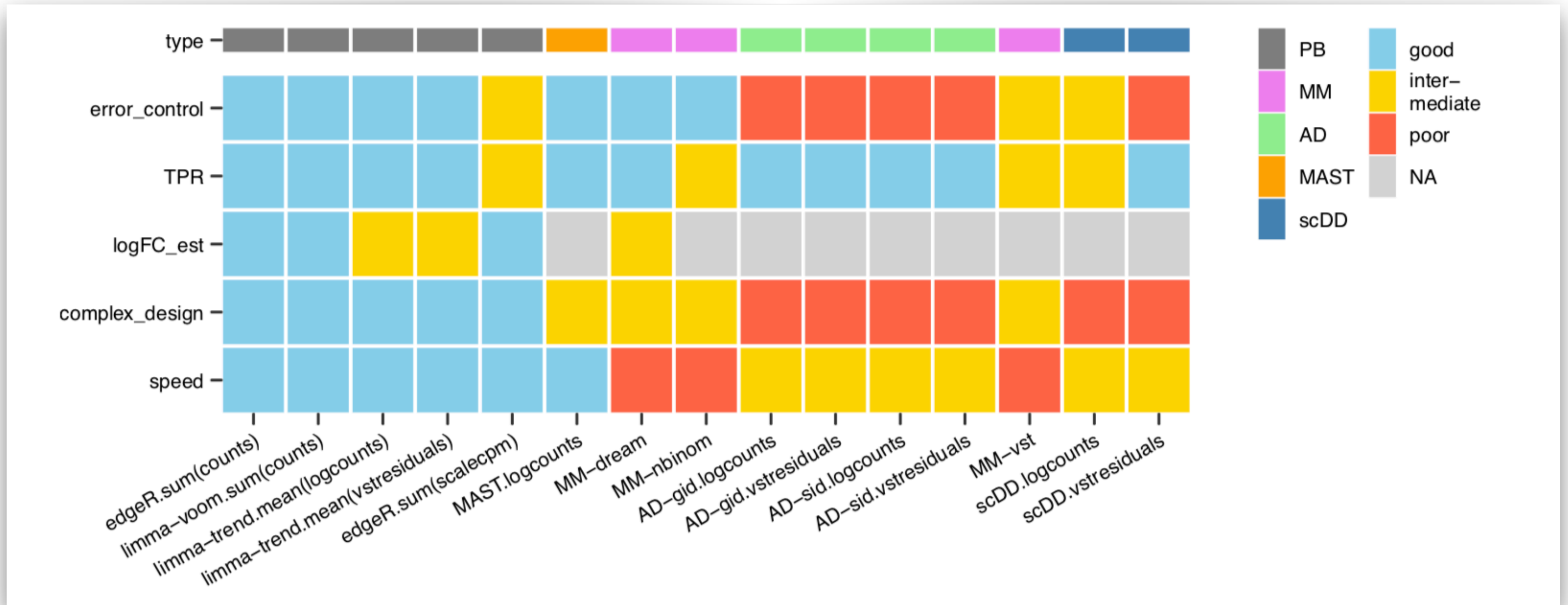


AD = Anderson-Darling  
MM = mixed models



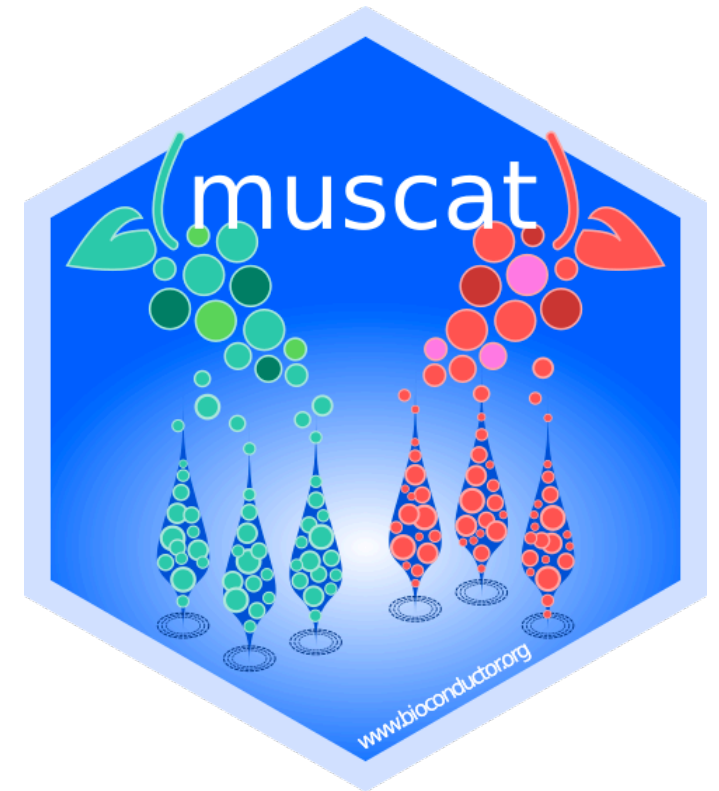


# Current rating



PB = pseudobulk  
 AD = Anderson-Darling  
 MM = mixed models

# Application to LPS dataset: clustering + annotation subpopulations

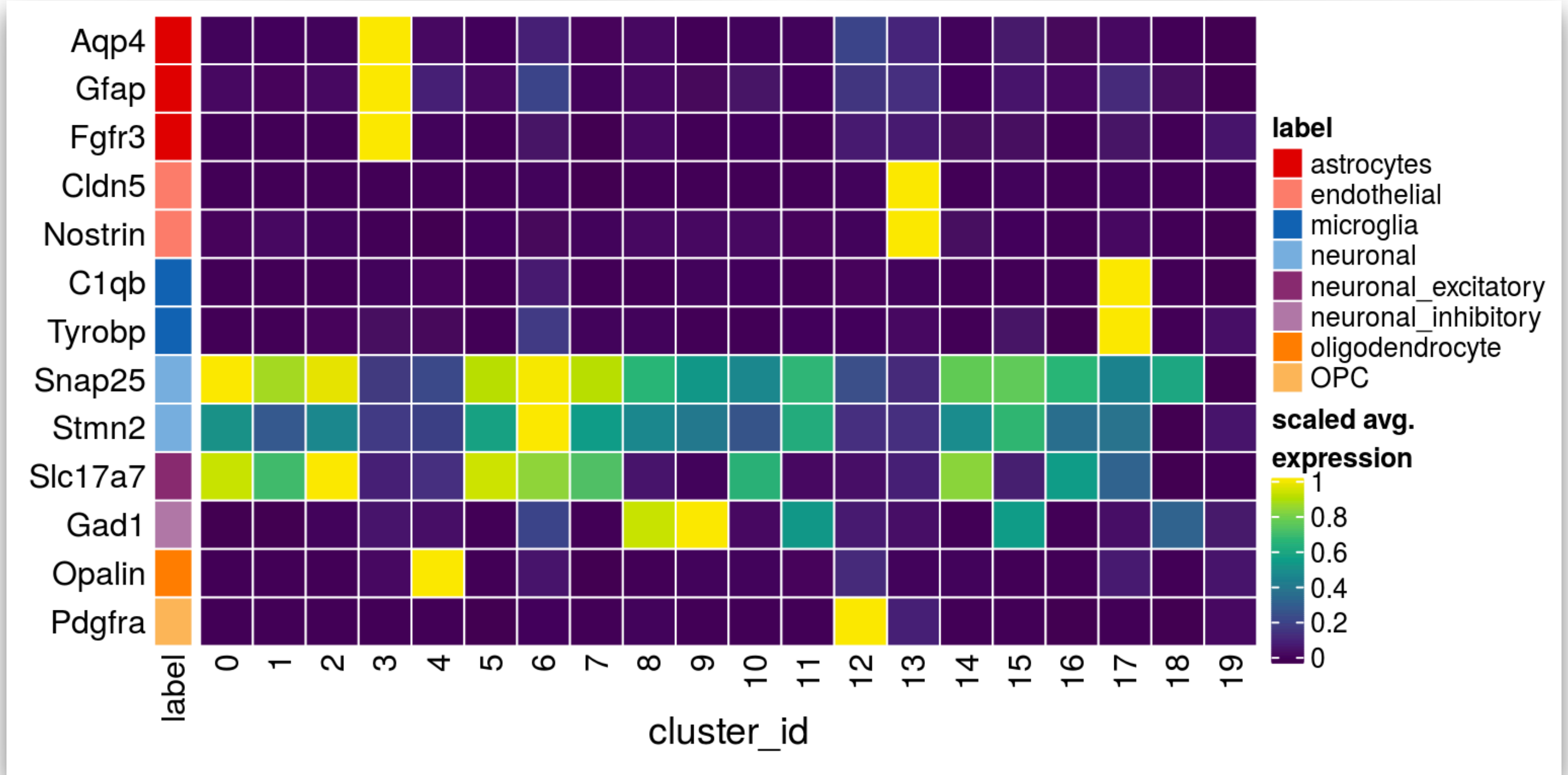


Data from:  
 4 mice treated with vehicle  
 4 mice treated with LPS

frontal cortex

single nuclei RNA-seq (10x)

usual preprocessing:  
 filtering, doublet removal,  
 Seurat integration,  
 clustering





# Application to LPS dataset: subpopulation-level visualization

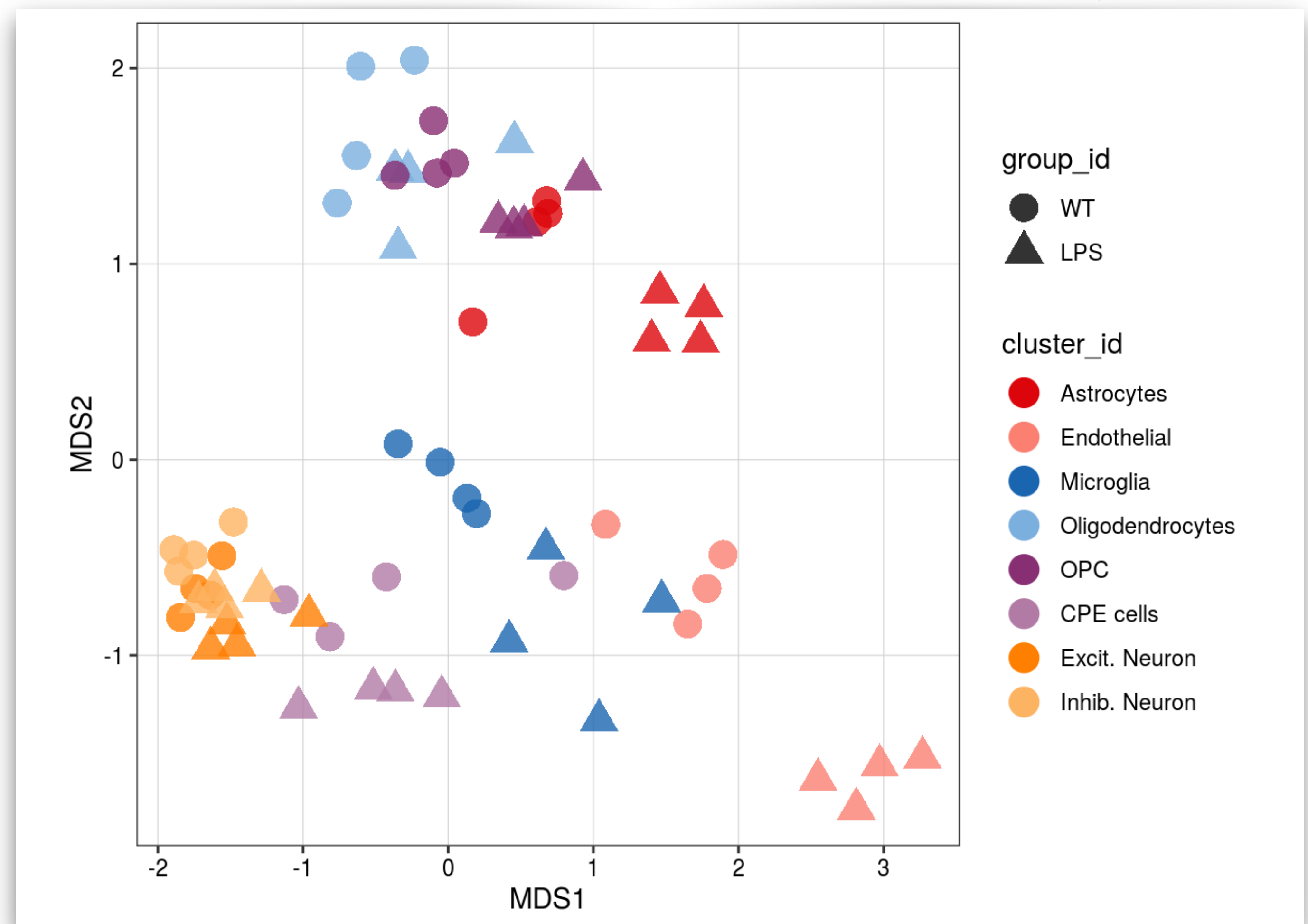


Data from:

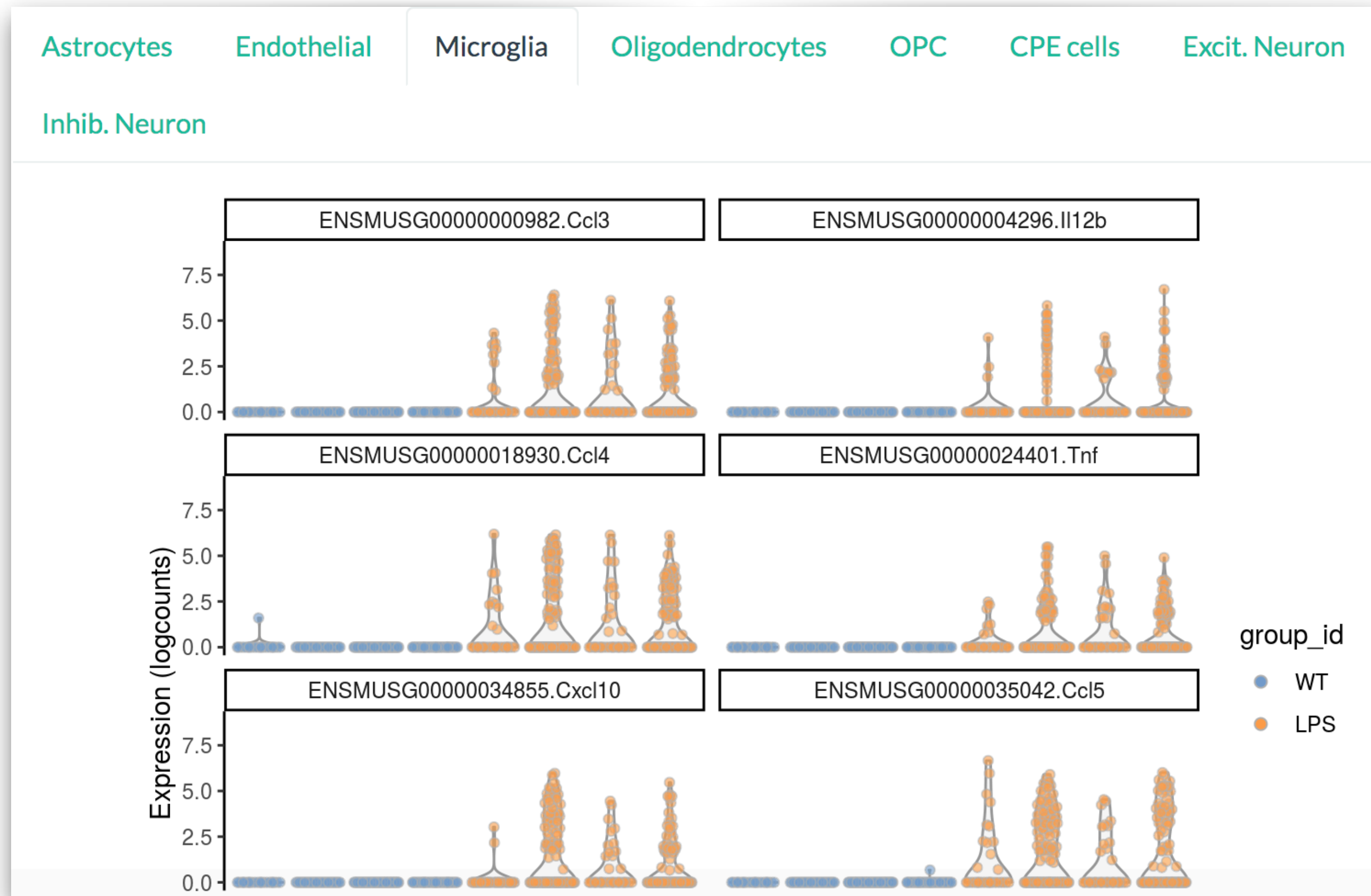
4 mice treated with vehicle

4 mice treated with LPS

Each dot is one subpopulation/  
sample combination



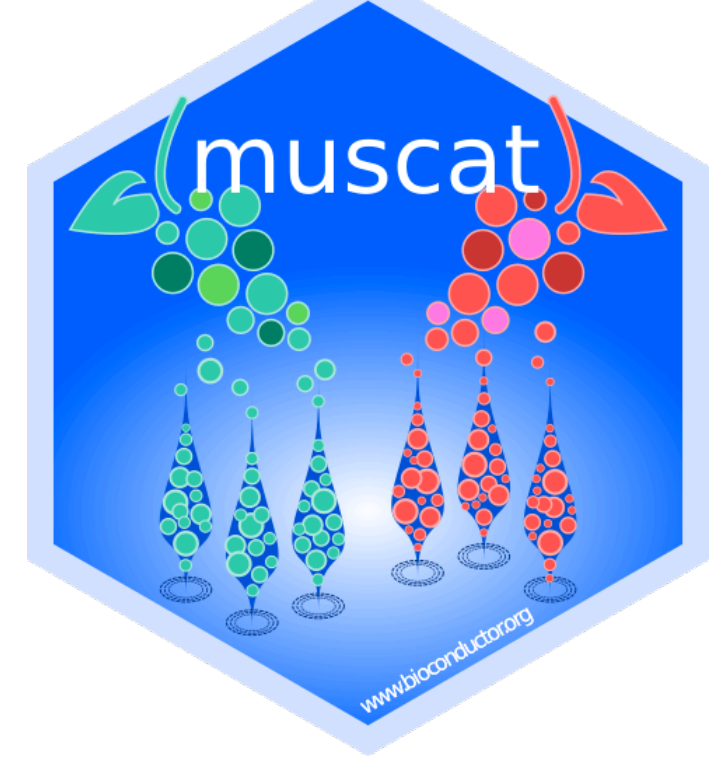
# Application to LPS dataset: go back to cell-level response (discovery based on pseudobulk)



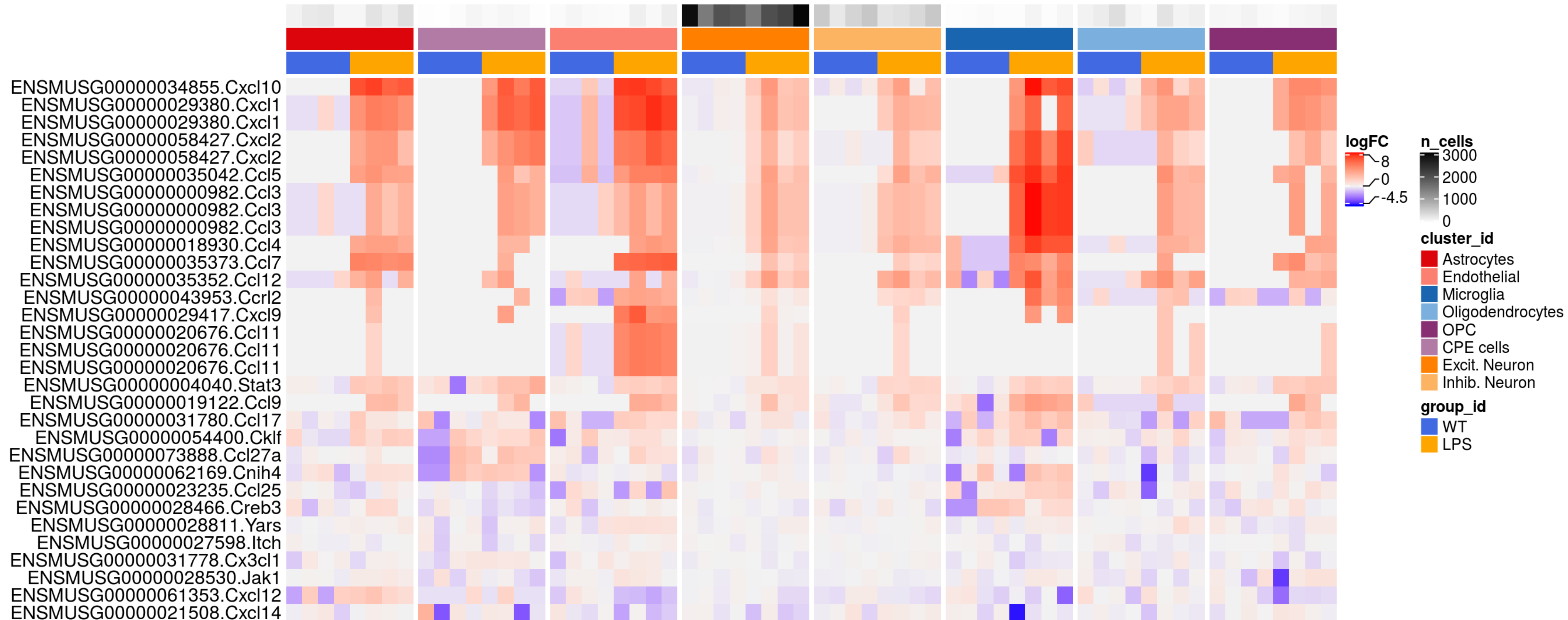
workflow !



# Application to LPS dataset: look at genes (genesets) changing {within specific, common across} subpopulations



DE genes related to chemokine receptor binding

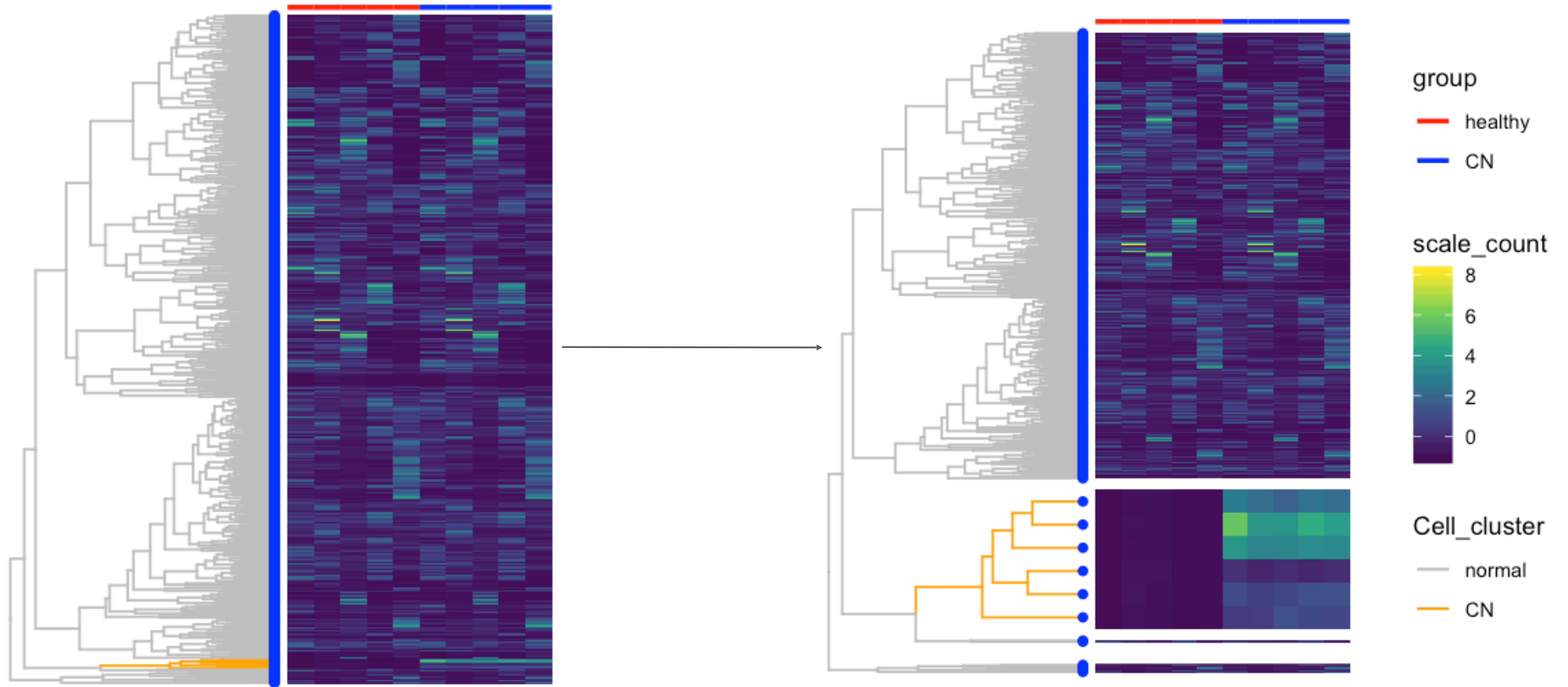


# LPS dataset: interplay of cell type and cell state



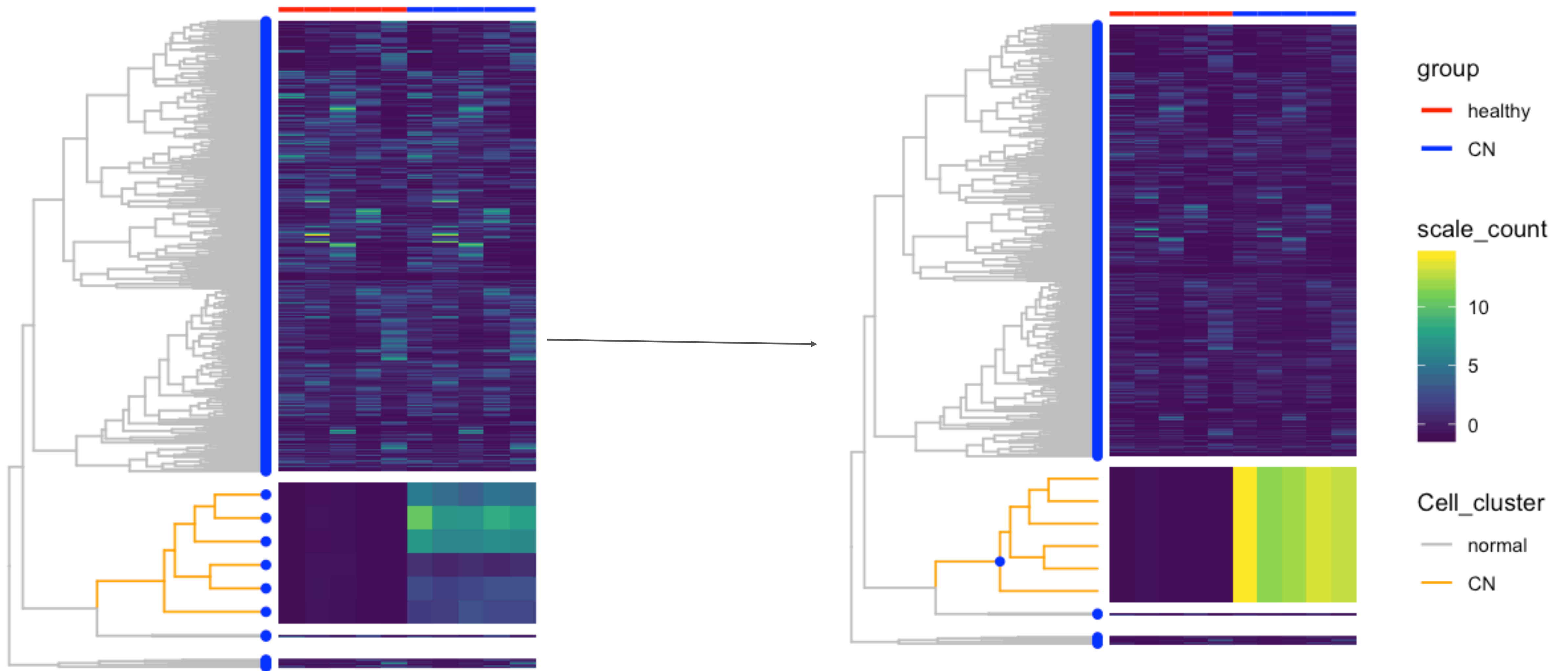


# Motivation: can we use the tree information in the differential inferences?



Give more space to orange branch; The visualization is on the leaf level (blue points)

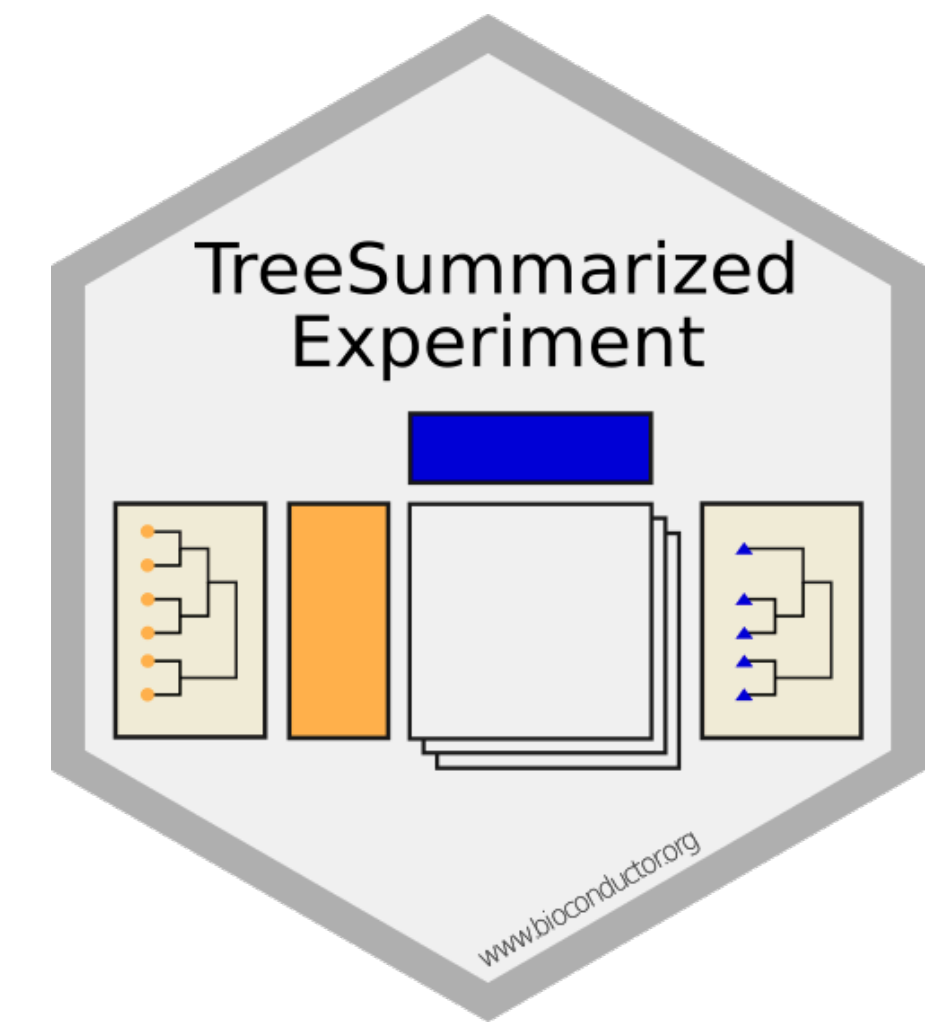
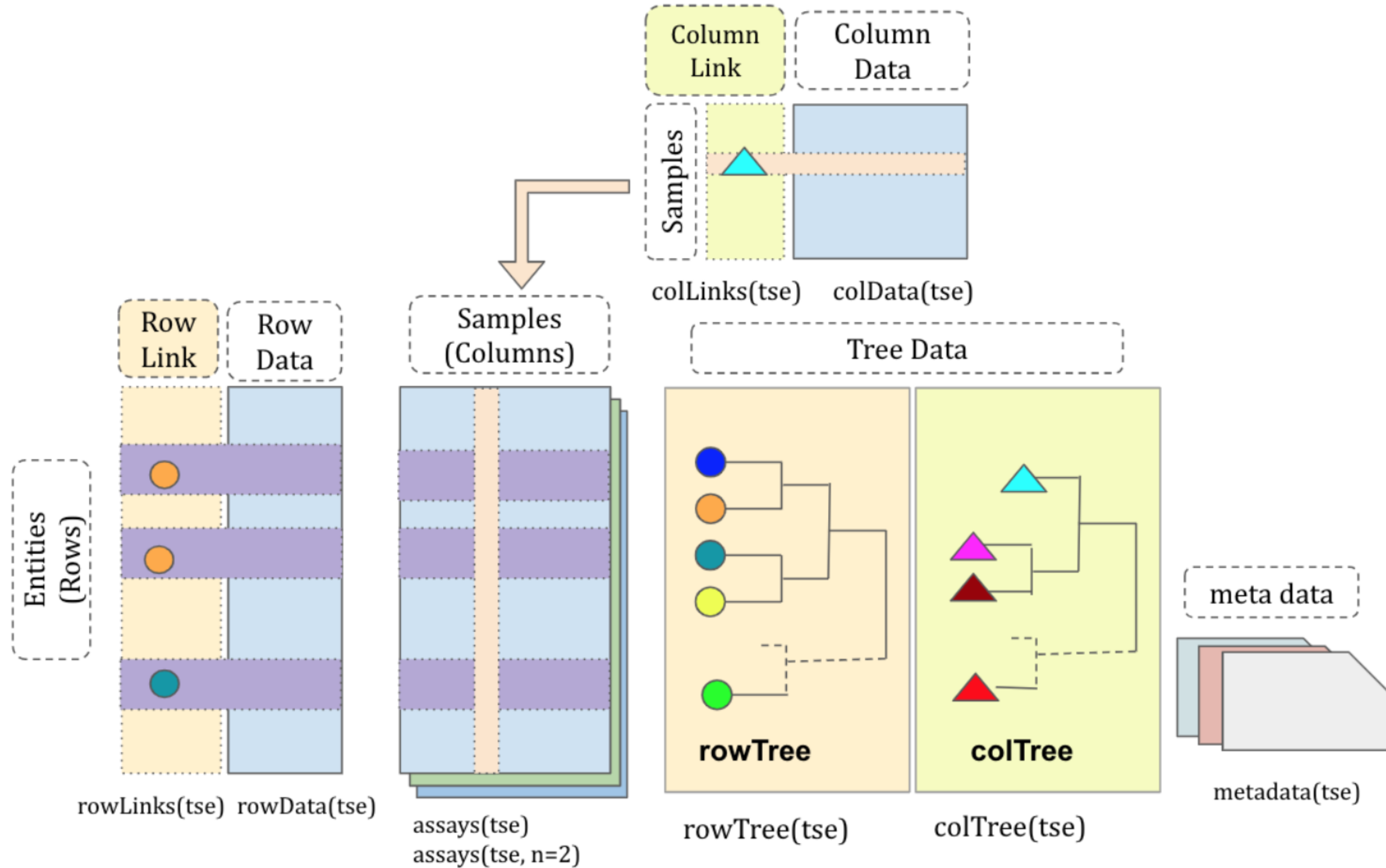
# Visualization: TreeHeatmap



Change visualization to a specified level



# The structure



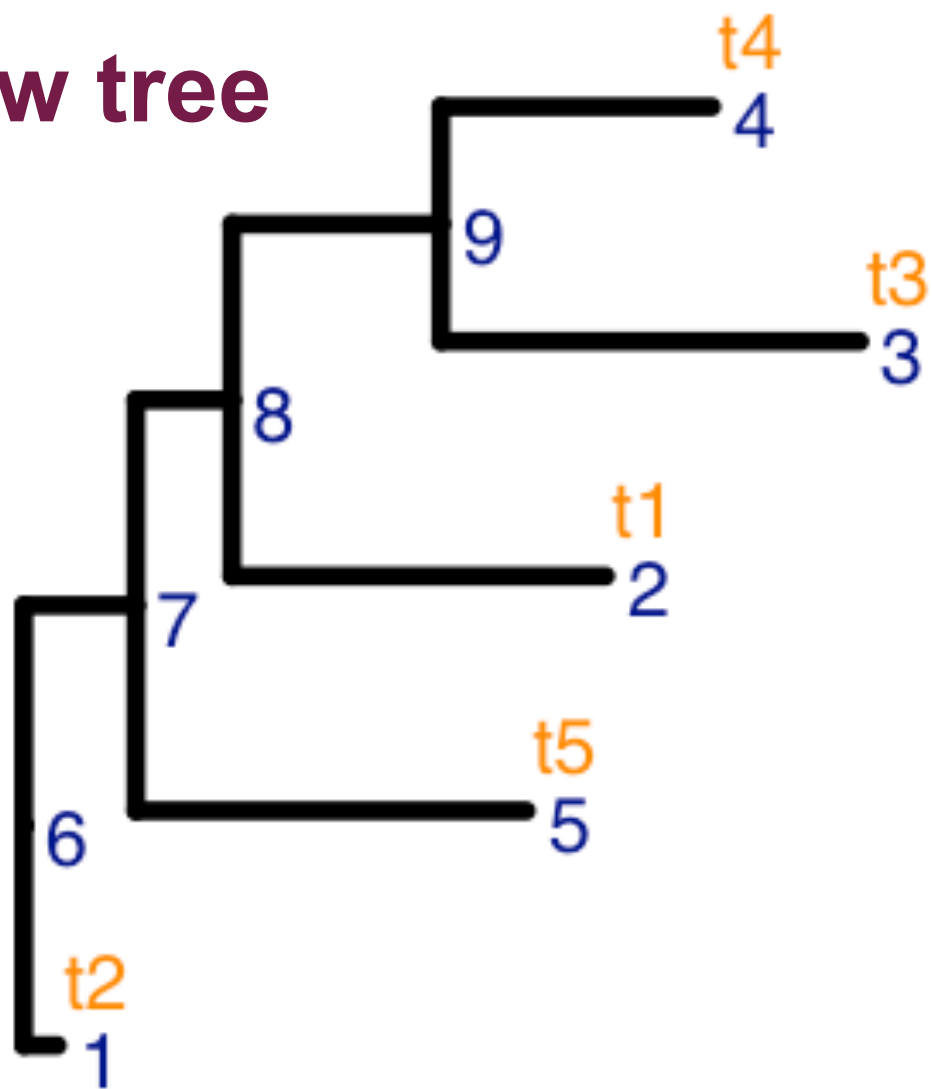
# The components

```
> row_data
DataFrame with 5 rows and 2 columns
      var1      var2
  <character> <logical>
entity1      a      TRUE
entity2      b     FALSE
entity3      a      TRUE
entity4      b     FALSE
entity5      b      TRUE
```

```
> assay_data
      A_1 A_2 B_1 B_2
entity1  0  0  0  0
entity2  1  5  9 13
entity3  2  6 10 14
entity4  3  7 11 15
entity5  4  8 12 16
```

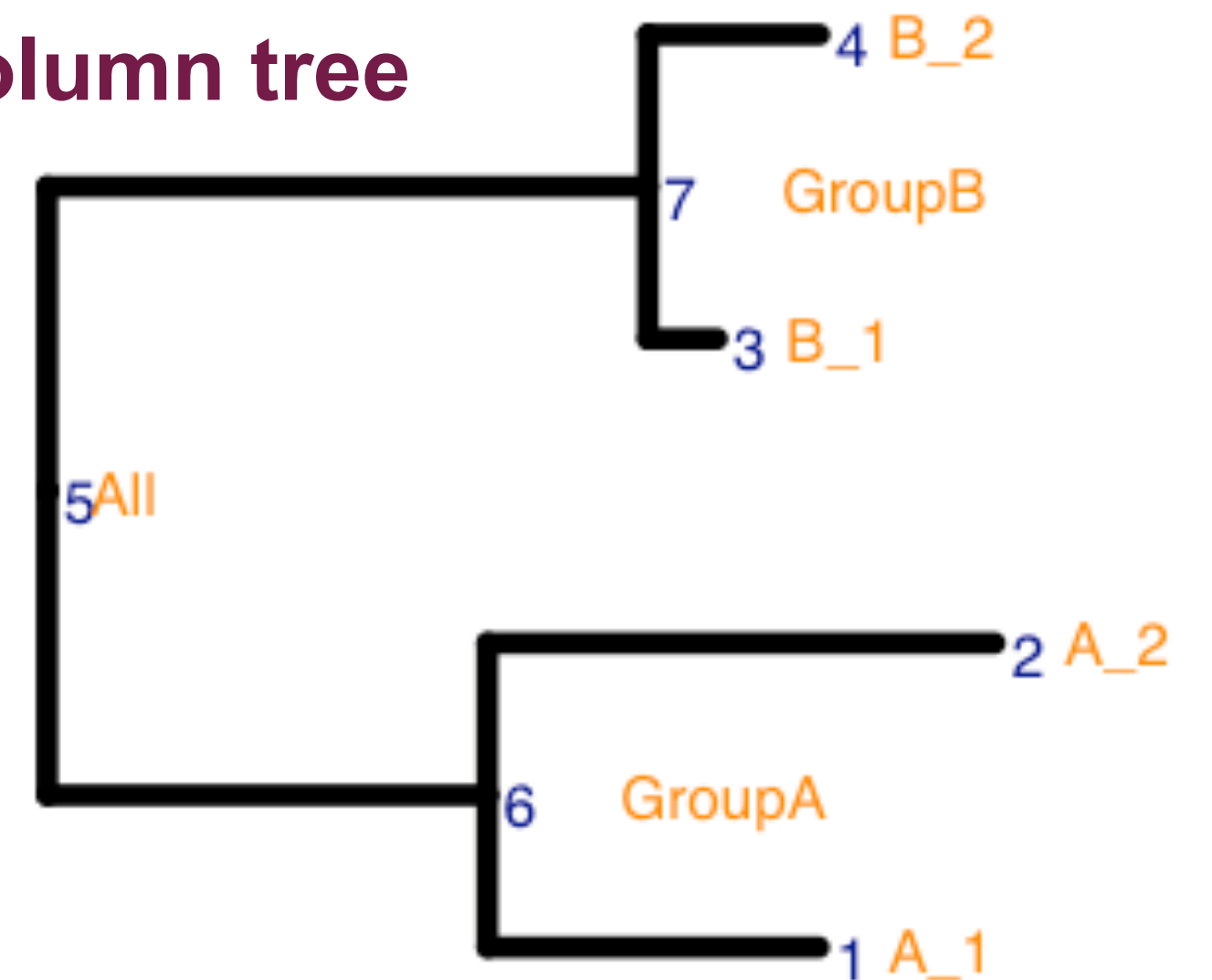
```
> col_data
DataFrame with 4 rows and 2 columns
      gg      group
  <numeric> <character>
A_1      1          A
A_2      2          A
B_1      3          B
B_2      3          B
```

The row tree



Note: The tip labels of the row tree are different to the row names of the row data

The column tree





# Discussion points

- Framework that explicitly builds in **type** and **state**
- Differential (relative) abundance bears similarity to RNA-seq DE: cluster cell counts
- Differential state also bears similarity to DE, but on aggregates (microarrays for CyTOF, RNA-seq for scRNA-seq)
- Linear modelling approaches always worth their weight in gold .. flexibility for experimental designs .. fast, sensitive to find many types of changes
  
- Can we get everything from aggregates? (We are still finding out)
- How to best use batch correction methods, cell type assignment methods
  
- Use of trees (TreeSummarizedExperiment and friends)
  
- Code/data is available for basically everything we do



# Statistical Bioinformatics Group, IMLS, UZH



scRNAseq:  
Dheeraj Maholtra  
Daniela Calini

CyTOF:  
Carsten Krieg  
Burkhard Becher  
Mitch Levesque

CATALYST:  
Helena Crowell  
Vito Zanutelli  
Stephane Chevrier  
Bernd Bodenmiller

