

SincellTE 2022

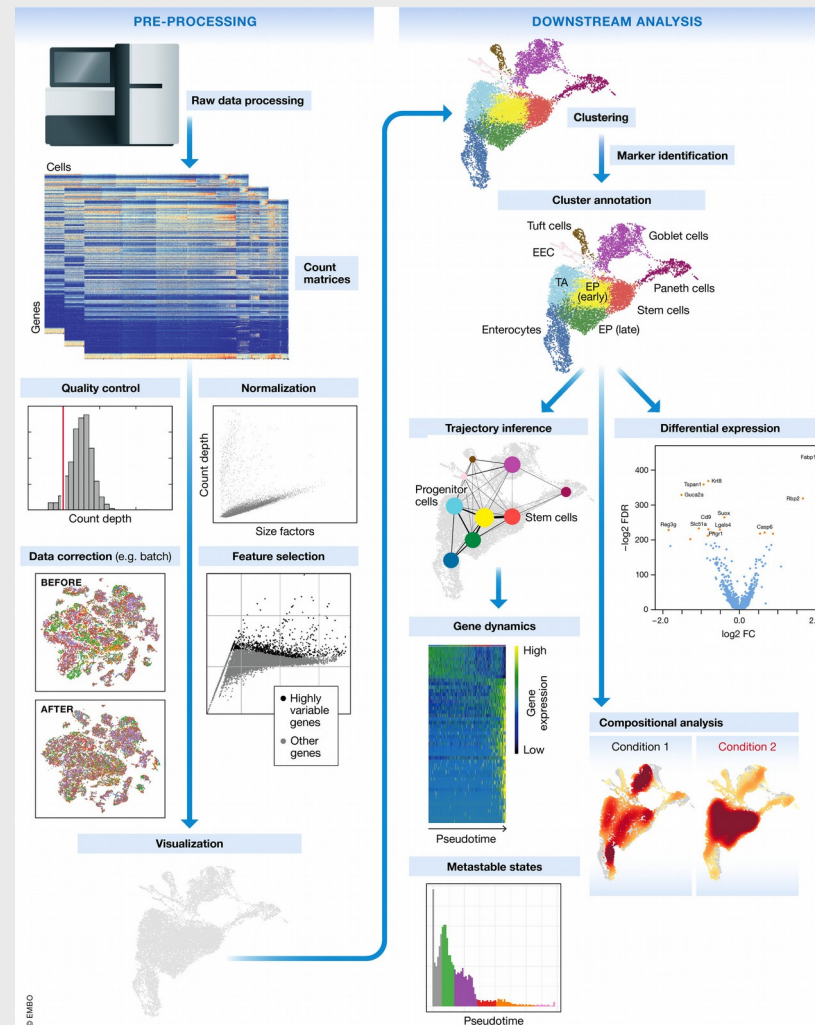
Marine AGLAVE

Rémi MONTAGNE

# Mapping, quality control and quantification

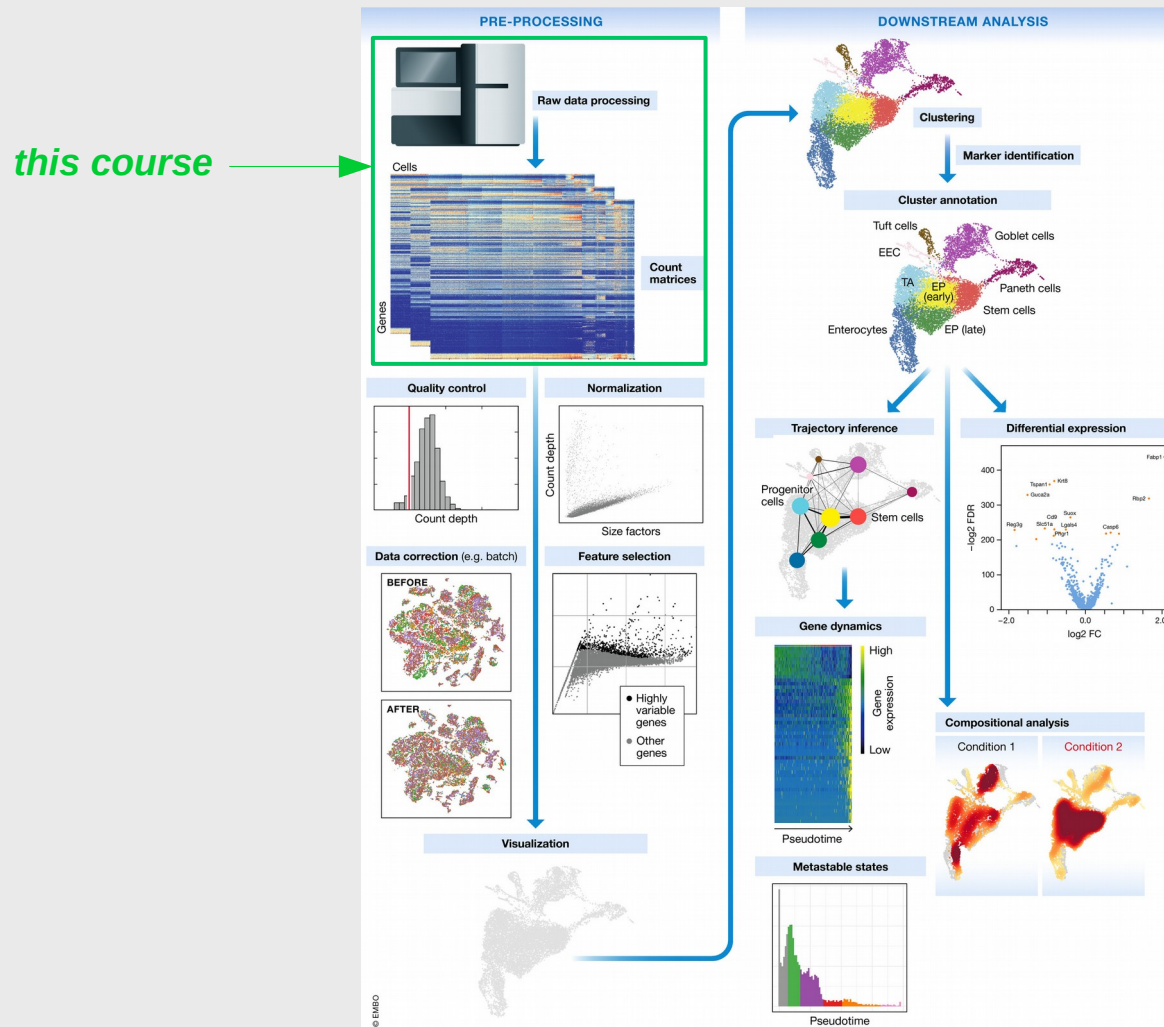


## Main steps of single cell data processing



From Luecken and Theis, Mol Systems Biology 2019

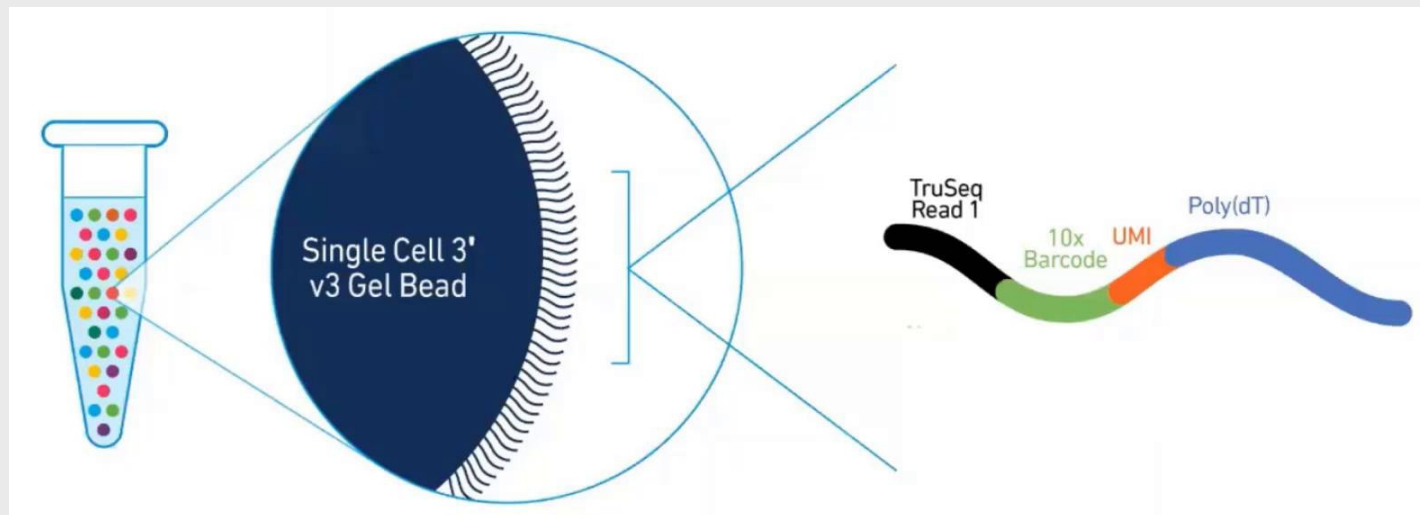
## Main steps of single cell data processing



From Luecken and Theis, Mol Systems Biology 2019

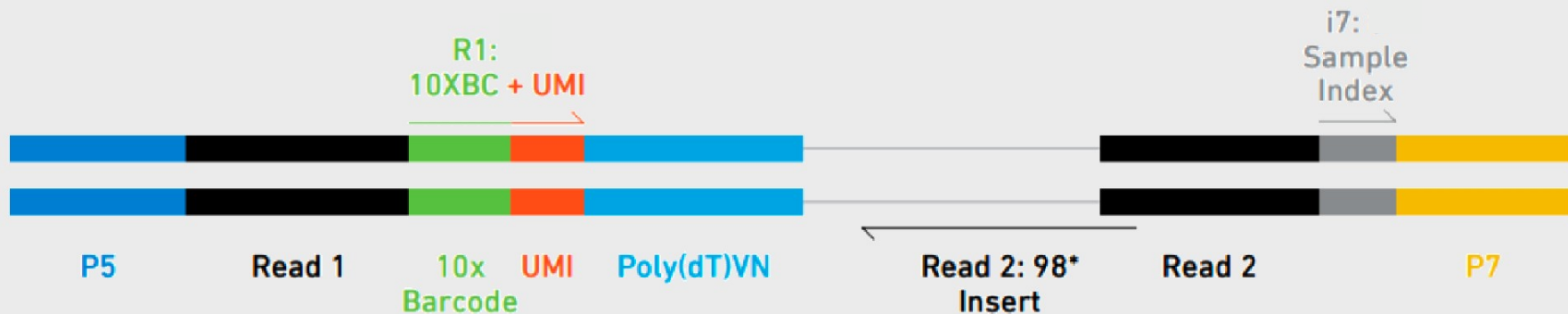
## The starting library

We will use a droplet-based library as an example.



## The starting library

We will use a droplet-based library as an example.



Read1: unique cell barcode (x nt) + UMI (y nt)

Read2: RNA 3' sequence

I7: sample index

## Plan

- Demultiplexing: generating fastqs from bcl
- Quality Check
- Generating a gene x cell count matrix

- Illumina's sequencer output is base call files (bcl).
- Convert them to fastq ?

⇒ bcl2fastq

⇒ 10X's cellranger mkfastq

## bcl2fastq

- Usual sample sheet
- You must know :
  - i7 (i5) index sequence
  - R1 and R2 lengths  
(depends on technology, version...)
- 10X: 1 index = 4 sequences ⇒ 4 lines

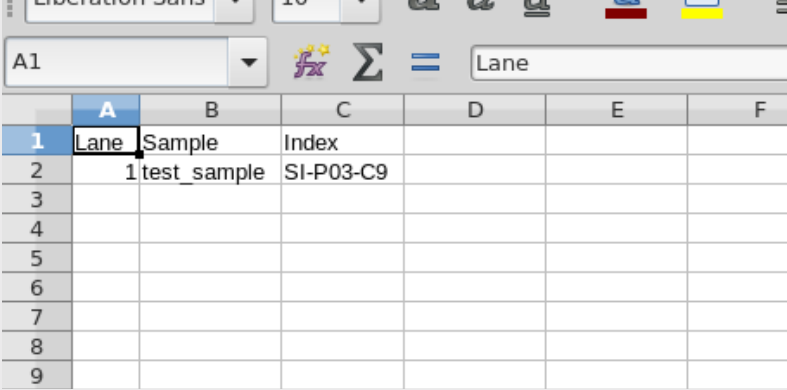
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	[Header]					
2	IEMFileVersion		5			
3	Investigator Name	MD				
4	Experiment Name	sincelte				
5	Date		31/12/18			
6	Workflow	GenerateFASTQ				
7	Application	NovaSeq FASTQ Only				
8	Instrument Type	NovaSeq				
9	Assay	Chromium SingleCell 10x				
10	Index Adapters	Chromium SingleCell 10x Indexes (4x96 Indexes)				
11	Description	PE26-98_SingleCell-10X				
12	Chemistry	Default				
13	[Reads]					
14		26				
15		98				
16	[Settings]					
17	[Data]					
18	Lane	Sample_ID	Sample_Name	index	Sample_Project	Description
19		1 SI-3A-A1_1	sample1	AAACGGCG	Chromium_20211119	Homo_sapiens
20		1 SI-3A-A1_2	sample1	CCTACCAT	Chromium_20211119	Homo_sapiens
21		1 SI-3A-A1_3	sample1	GGCGTTTC	Chromium_20211119	Homo_sapiens
22		1 SI-3A-A1_4	sample1	TTGTAAGA	Chromium_20211119	Homo_sapiens

<https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/using/bcl2fastq-direct>



## Cellranger mkfastq

- A wrapper around bcl2fastq with additional features:
  - Automatic translation of index names to sequences
  - Splitting work into multiple jobs (HPC)
- Simpler samplesheet : csv file, 3 columns
- Additional barcodes QC-metrics

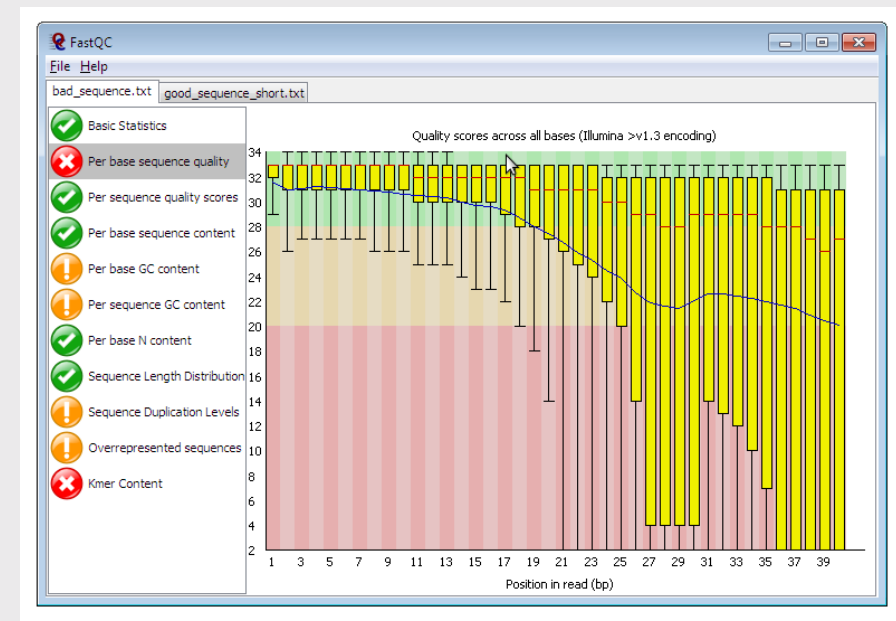


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Lane	Sample	Index			
2	1	test_sample	SI-P03-C9			
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

[https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/using/mkfastq#simple\\_csv](https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/using/mkfastq#simple_csv)

## Check reads quality : fastqc

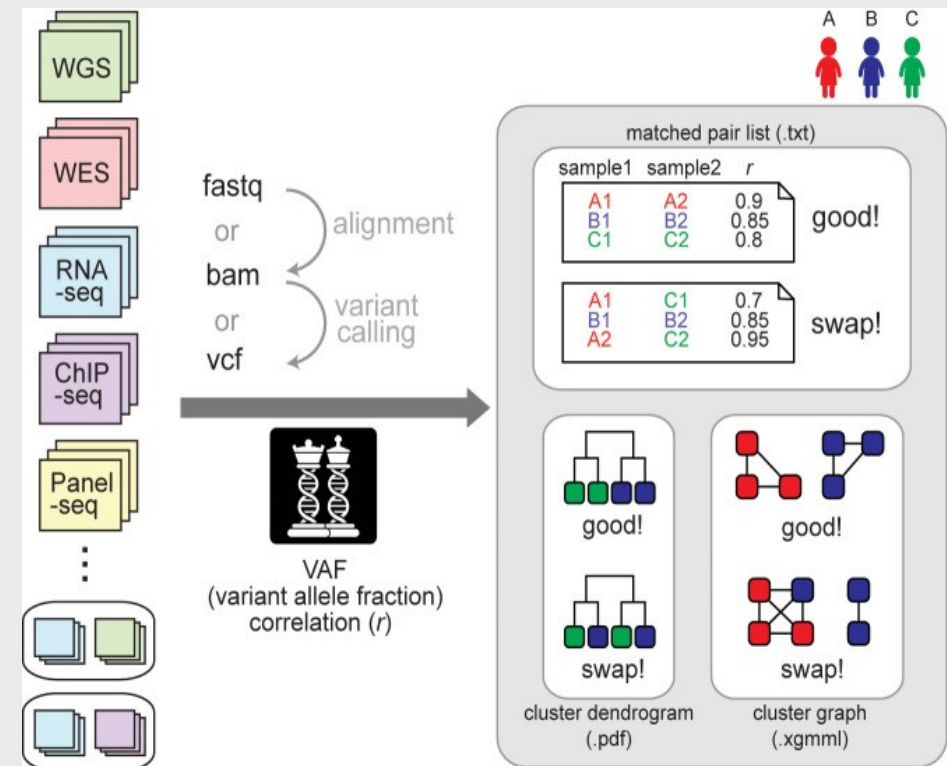
- Performs various basic QC on reads
- For 10X scRNA datasets :
  - R1 (BC + UMI) : QC is mandatory. Watch out for Ns and highly repeated sequences
  - R2 : do as usual



<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>

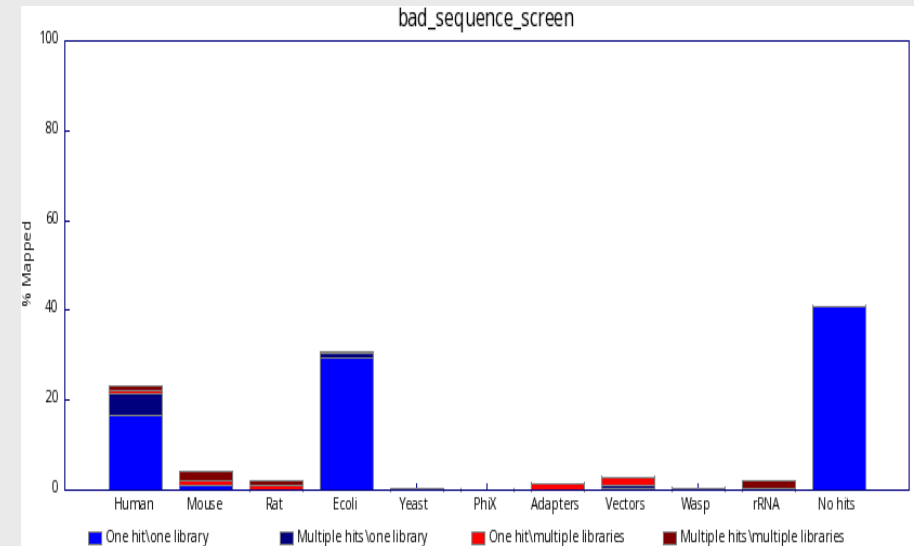
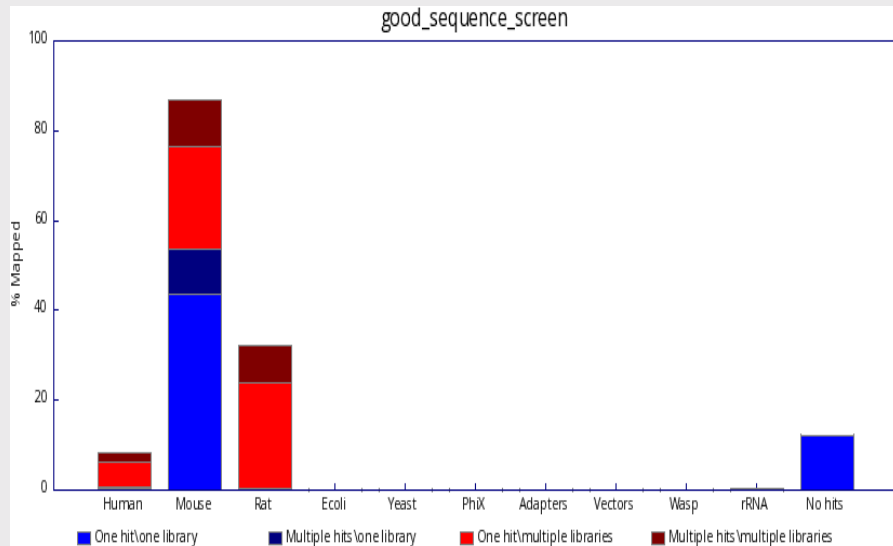
## Check close samples : NGS CheckMate

- When expected closeness : family, matched samples (e.g. : healthy-tumor)
- Check samples proximity using a set of known SNPs.
- Many data types : WES, WGS, RNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq, Panel-seq  
Many input formats : fastq, bam, VCF
- Helps controlling mislabelled samples



<https://github.com/parklab/NGSCheckMate>

## Check cross-species contaminations: FastQ Screen

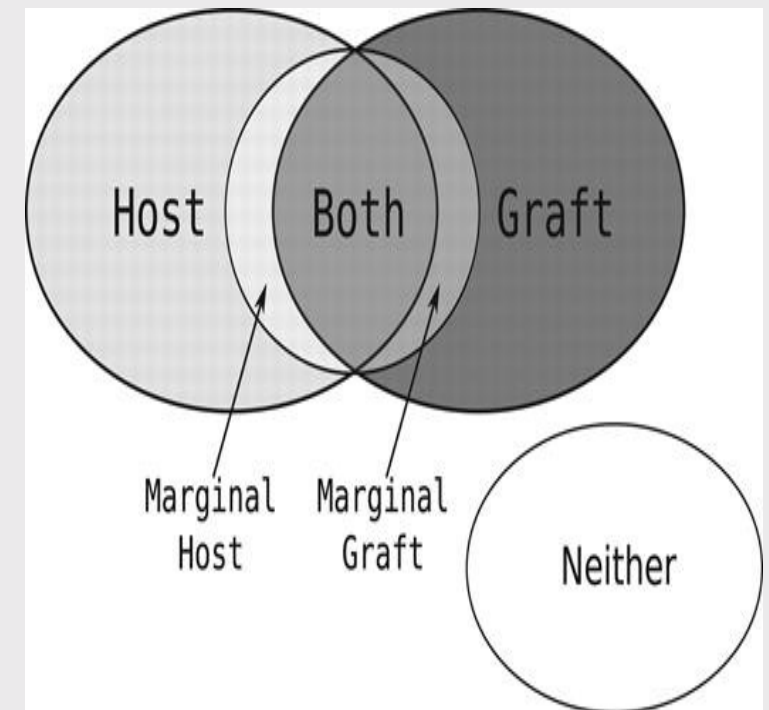


[https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastq\\_screen/](https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastq_screen/)

- Quick mapping (bowtie2) of a subset of reads across multiple genomes and common contaminants: human, mouse, rat, E. coli, adapters, vectors...
- Identifies **1hit-1library**, **multi hits-1library**, **1hit-multi libraries** and **multi hits-multi libraries**

## Multiple species: Xenome

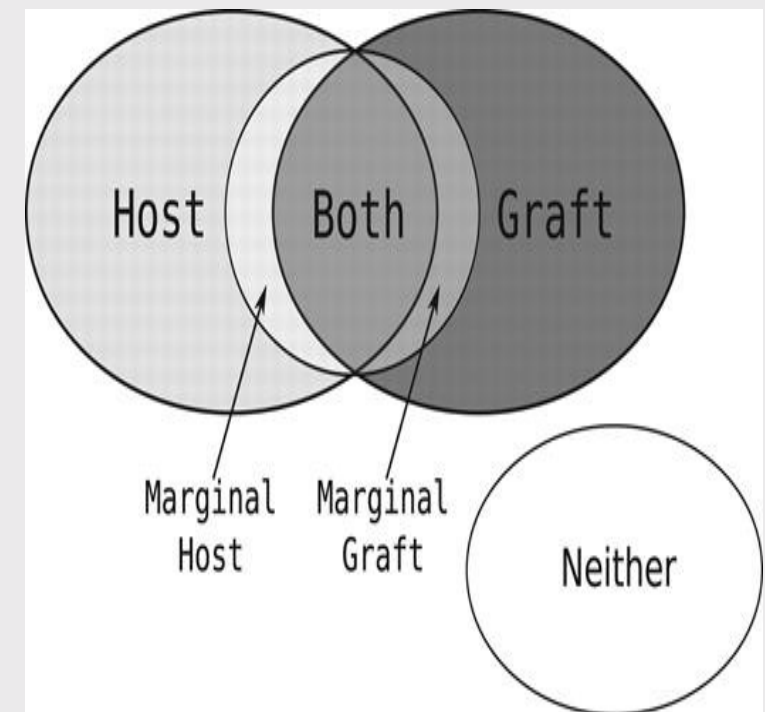
- For xenografts or contaminated samples
- 5 fastq files :
  - Graft
  - Host
  - Both
  - Neither
  - Ambiguous
- For single cell, apply to R2 only and sync R1: e.g. `seqkit`:
  - `seqkit seq` lists the selected read names.
  - `seqkit grep` filters R1 by keeping only reads in this list.
  - `seqkit pair` pairs filtered R1 with R2.



<https://github.com/data61/gossamer/blob/master/docs/xenome.md>

## Multiple species: Xenome

- Xenome version is bugged: patch gossamer  
<https://github.com/data61/gossamer>
- Alternatives :
  - Xensort (Zentgraf and Rahmann, S. Mol Biol 2021).
  - Xenofilter (Kluin *et al*, BMC Bioinfo 2018)
  - Bamcmp (Khandelwal *et al.*, MCR 2017).
  - XenoSplit: (<https://github.com/goknurginer/XenoSplit> Unpublished 2019).

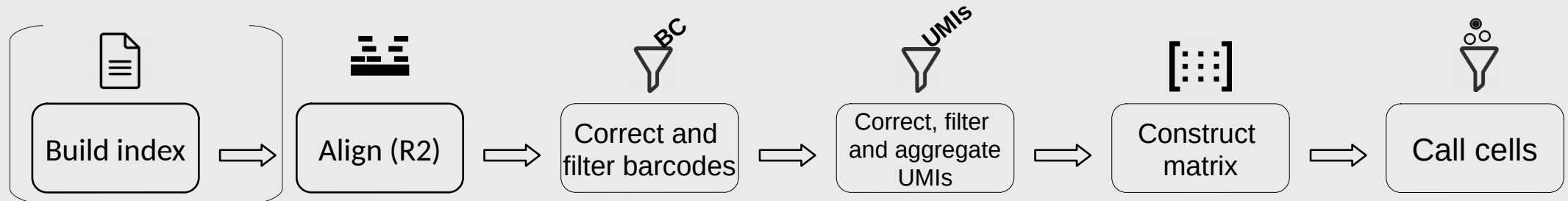


<https://github.com/data61/gossamer/blob/master/docs/xenome.md>

## Trimming

- If QC is not good:
  - Low base quality
  - Remaining adapter sequence
  - Homopolymer tailing
  - Low complexity
- Many tools to trim reads:
  - Trimmomatic (Bolger A.M. *et al.*, Bioinformatics (2014)).
  - TrimGalore (Krueger F., [https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim\\_galore/](https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/), unpublished 2012).
  - Cutadapt (Martin M., EMBnet.journal 2011)
  - Fastp (Chen *et al.*, Bioinformatics 2018).
- For single cell, like with xenome, apply to R2 file, then sync the R1 file.

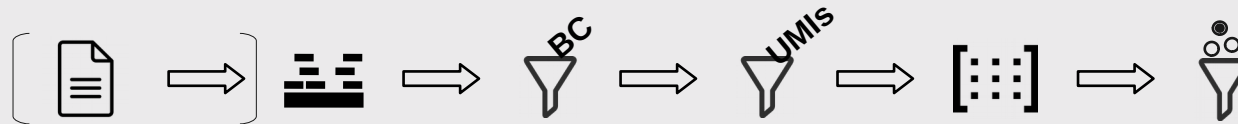
## Principle



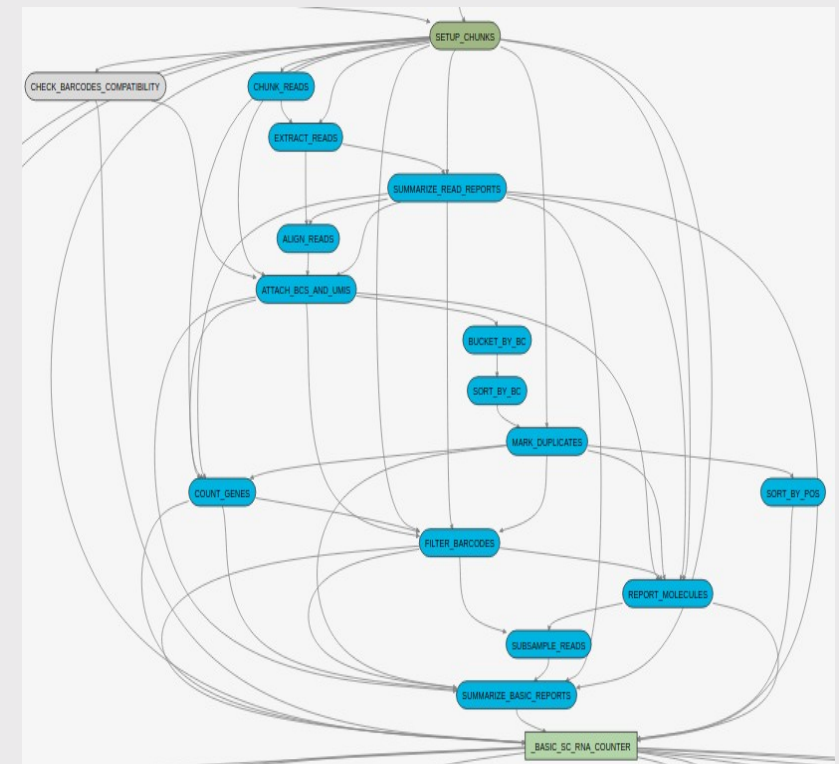
- Various tools have been developed:
  - **Cellranger**: 10X solution for 10X libraries only
  - **STARsolo**: an open source alternative to cellranger
  - **kallisto+bustools**: a pseudomapper and tool suite needing very little resources
  - (**Alevin**: a pseudomapper integrated with the salmon software)



## Cellranger

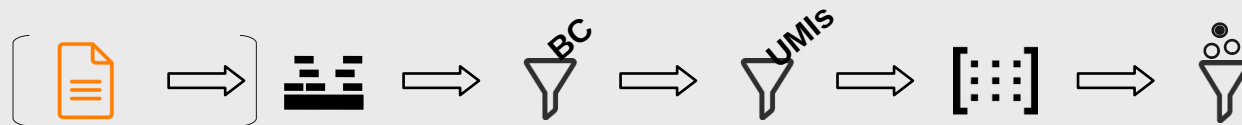


- A set of pipelines for single cell analysis
- Many languages + task scheduler Martian
- Aligner: STAR
- single cell gene expression: *cellranger count*



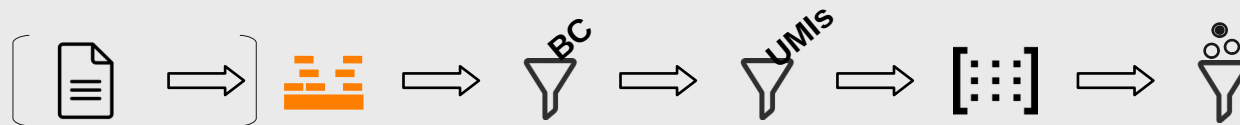
<https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/downloads/latest>

## Cellranger



- Pre-built references: human (hg19, GRCh38), mouse (mm10) or both (xenografts)  
[https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/using/tutorial\\_mr](https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/using/tutorial_mr)
- For custom reference: *cellranger mkgtf* and *cellranger mkref*. Needs:
  - a genome FASTA
  - STAR compatible GTF file (Ensembl)
- Possible filtering according to biotype (lncRNA, protein coding...)

## Cellranger



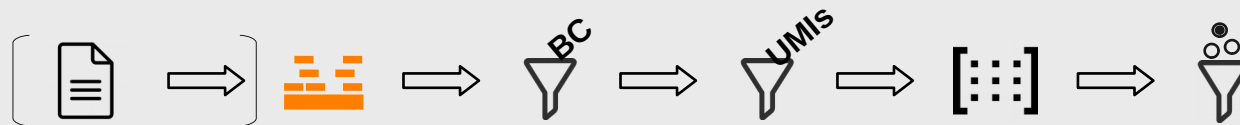
1 Splicing-aware genome alignment by STAR

2 Using gtf file, bucket the reads into:

- exonic : at least 50% mapping on an exon
- intronic : non exonic read intersecting an intron
- intergenic otherwise

3 Mapping quality adjustment: for reads that align on 1 single exon + non-exonic loci, the read is considered confidently mapped to the exon. MAPQ forced to 255.

## Cellranger



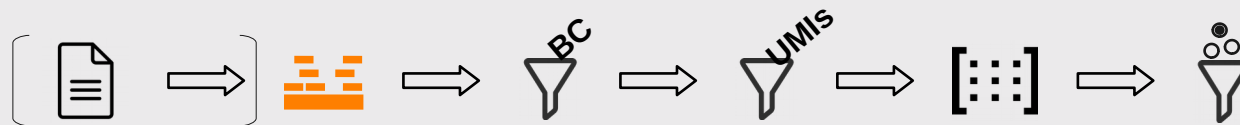
1 Splicing-aware genome alignment by STAR (work only at the genome level)

2 Using gtf file, bucket the reads into:

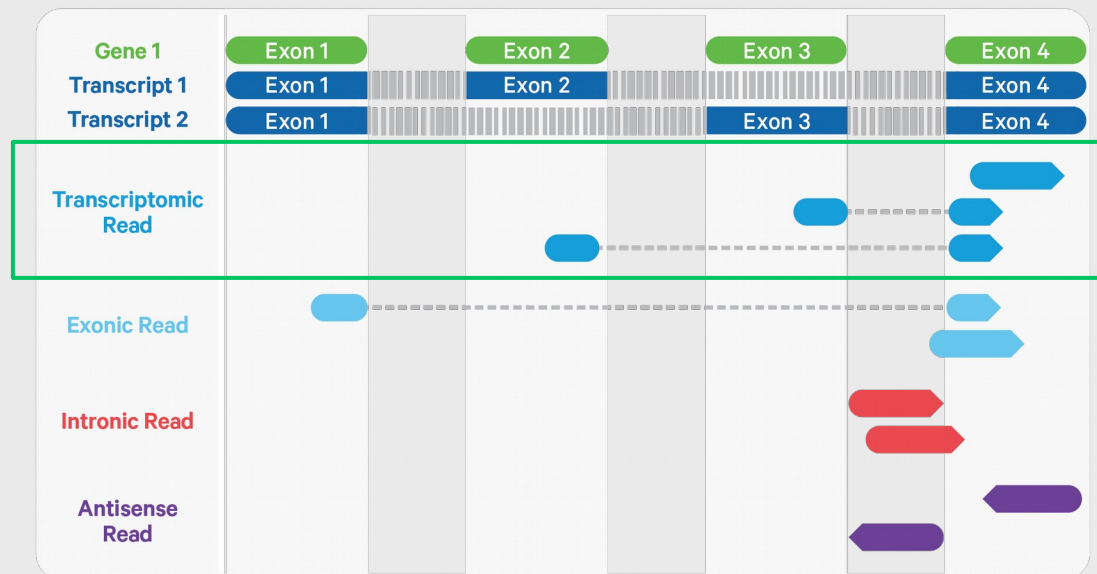
- exonic : when it intersects an exon for at least 50% of its own length
- intronic : when the read is not exonic and intersects an intron
- ~~intergenic otherwise~~

3 Mapping quality adjustment: for reads that align to 1 single exon + non-exonic loci, the read is considered confidently mapped to the exon. MAPQ forced to 255.

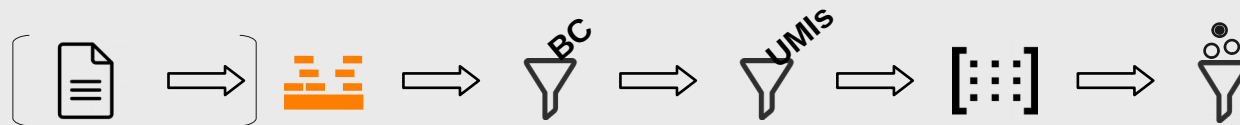
## Cellranger



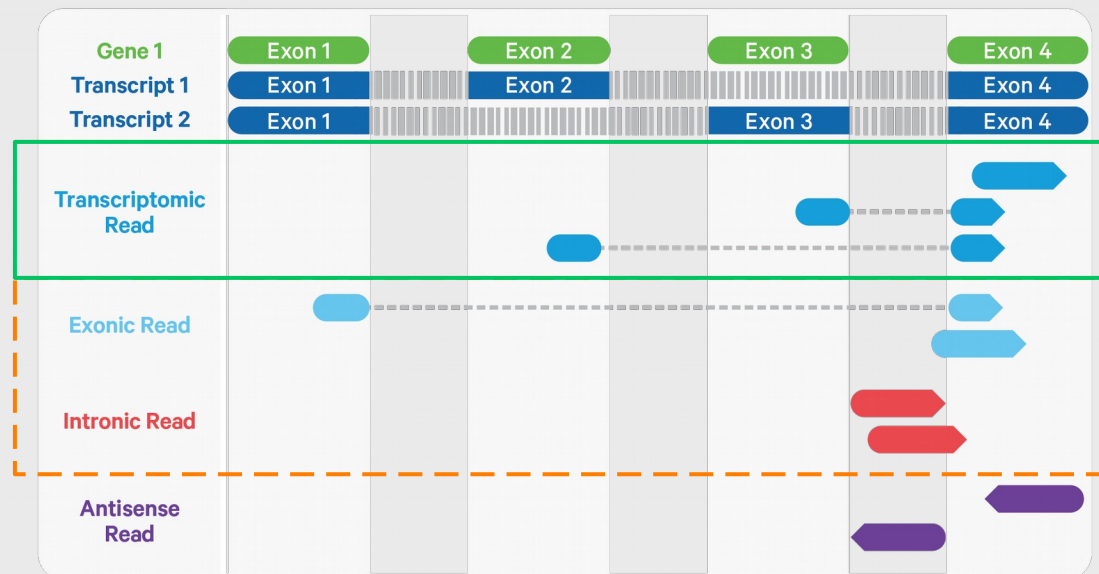
4 Transcriptome alignment of exonic and intronic reads (gtf file). Reads that are exonic, sens and compatible with a known transcript are selected.



## Cellranger

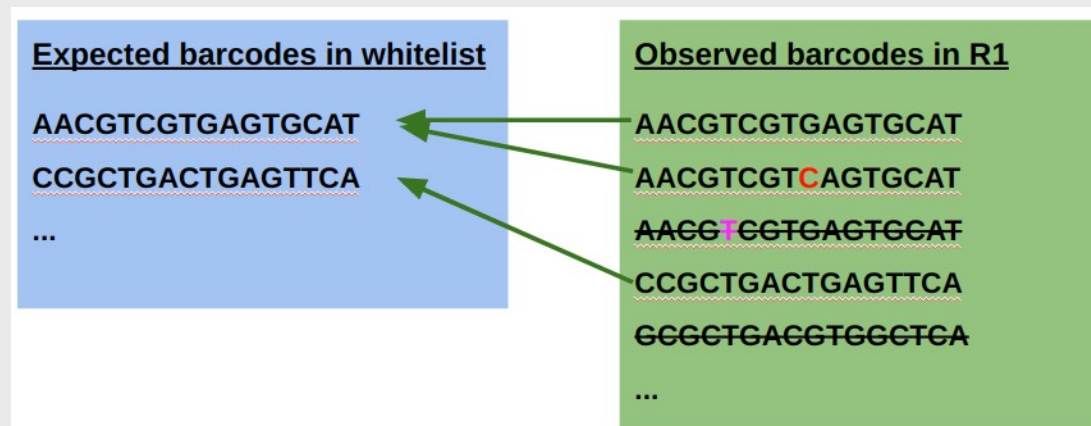
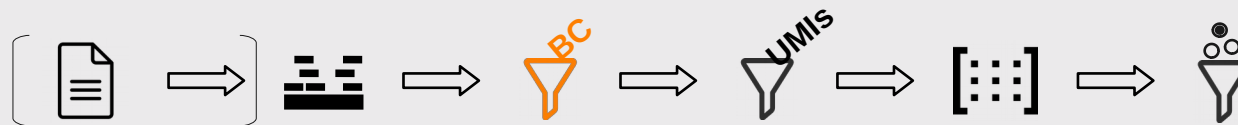


4 Transcriptome alignment (gtf) of exonic and intronic reads. Reads that are sens and compatible with a known transcript are selected.



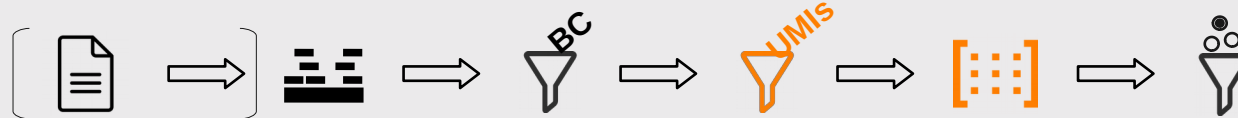
Selection of every sens read can be forced (assays on nuclei, many unspliced reads)

## Cellranger



- Attribute each selected read to 1 cell
- White lists with all possible 10x barcodes
- Correction: barcodes with Hamming distance = 1 from a whitelist BC, ie one mismatch, are corrected (if the mismatch has a low BASEQ).
- Filtering: keep only BC in the whitelist.

## Cellranger

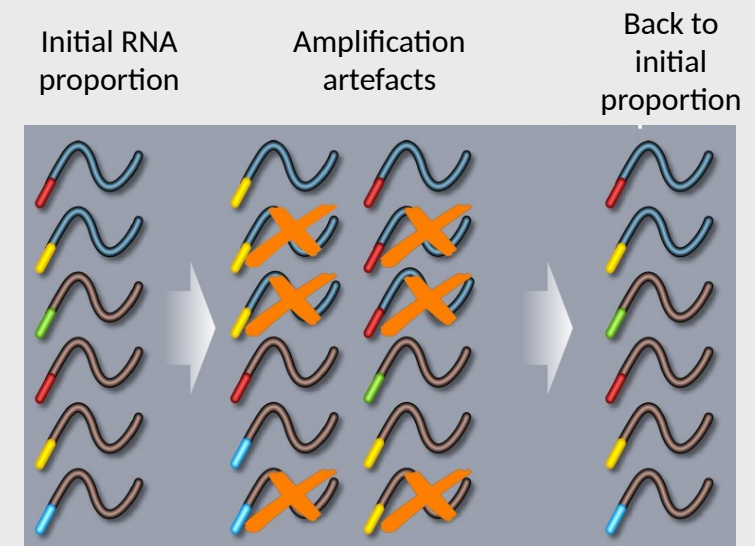


- **Correct amplification artefacts**

- **Filtering : remove incorrect UMIs:**

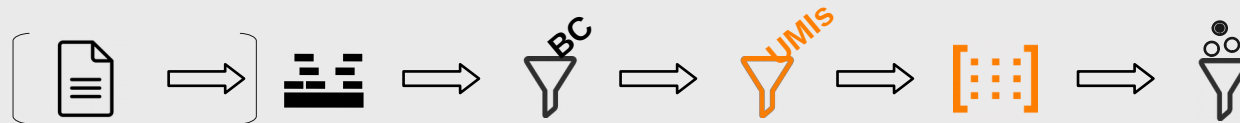
- homopolymers (e.g. AAAAAAAAAA)
- Contains 1 or several N
- contains any base with BASEQ < 10

- **Correction:** if 2 UMIs have the same cell BC, the same gene alignment and a Hamming distance of 1, the lower-count UMI changed to the higher count UMI.

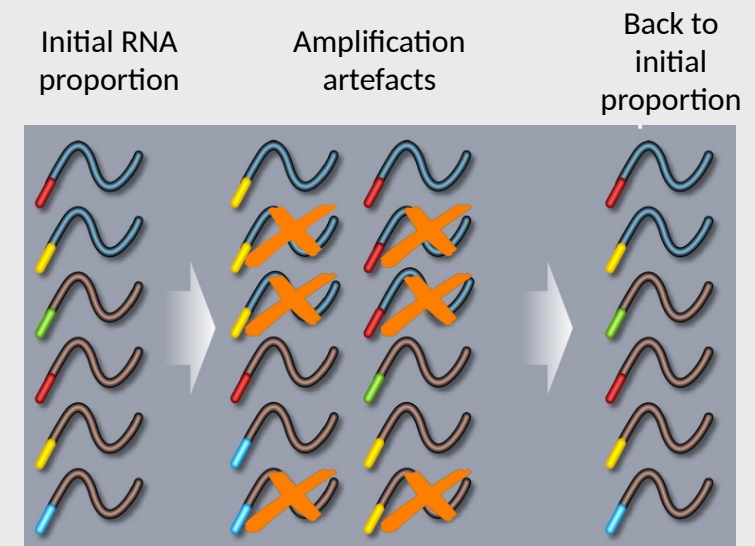




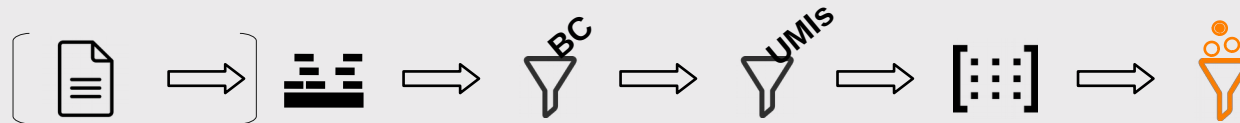
## Cellranger



- **Correct amplification artefacts**
- **Filtering** : remove incorrect UMIs:
  - homopolymers (e.g. AAAAAAAAAA)
  - Contains 1 or several N
  - contains any base with BASEQ < 10
- **Correction**: if 2 UMIs have the same cell BC, the same gene alignment and a Hamming distance of 1, the lower-count UMI changed to the higher count UMI.
- **Aggregation**: 1 BC+UMIs = 1 unique RNA molecule (filter excess)
- Finally, construct matrix with selected reads: *genes x barcodes*



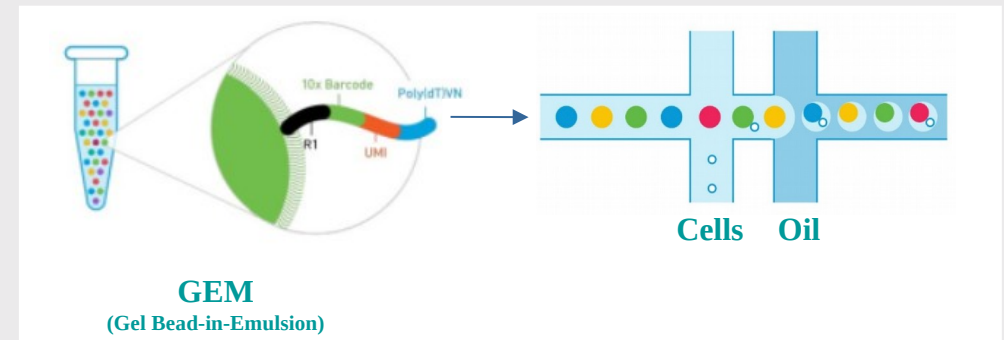
## Cellranger



- Most droplets contain no cell:

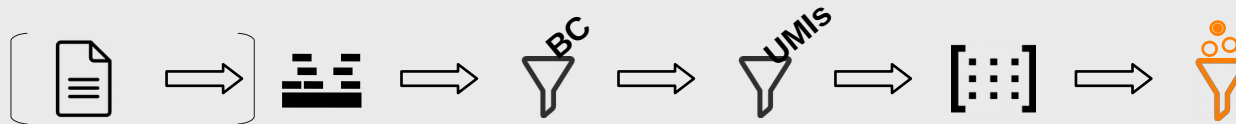
- ~ 10 000 cells
- ~ 100 000 droplets

- Call the actual cells

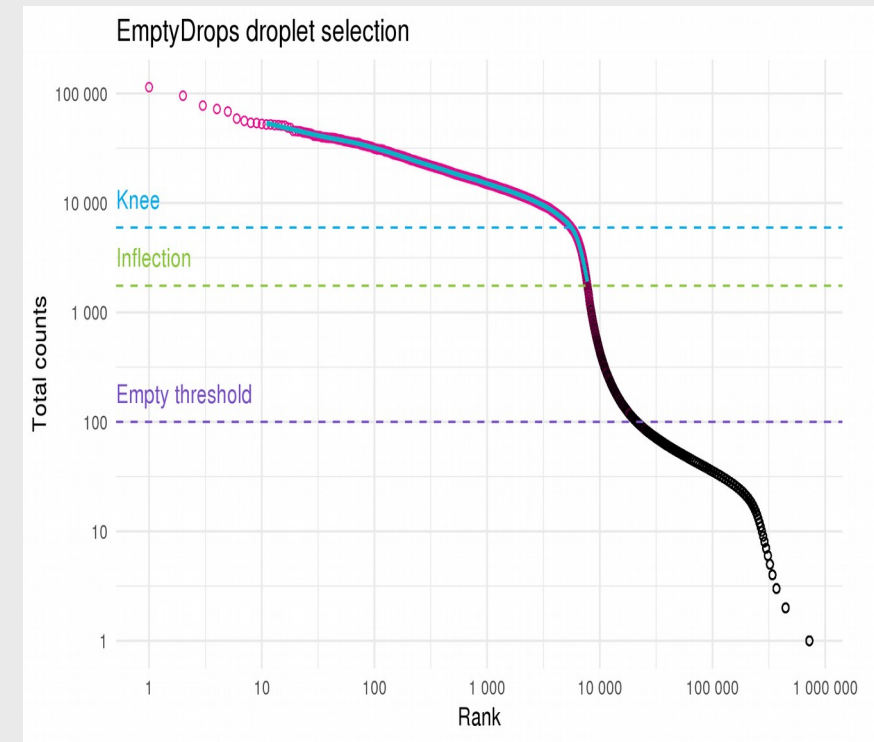


- But they contain circulating RNA from dead cells, i.e. a meaningless ambient 'soup'.

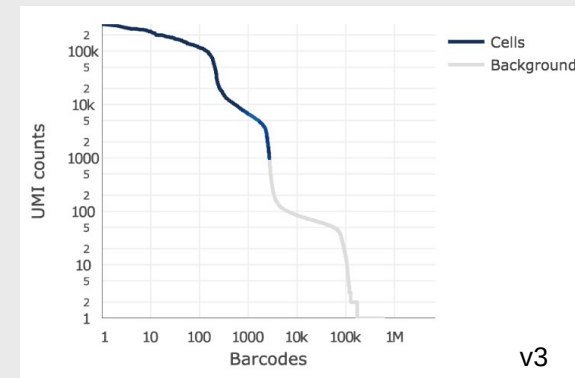
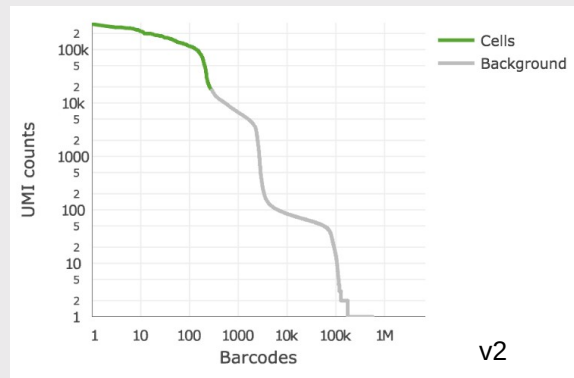
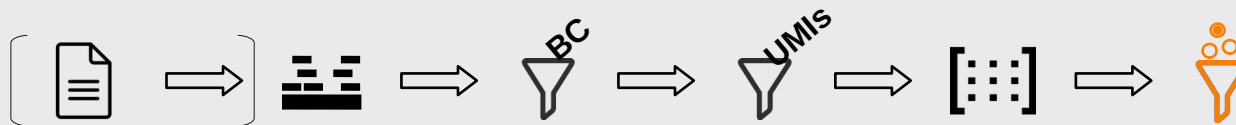
## Cellranger



- 1<sup>st</sup> version of cell calling algorithm was specific to cellranger: a simple threshold:
  1. Rank droplets by decreasing count: kneeplot.
  2. Take nb UMIs in one of the most populated droplets (99<sup>th</sup> percentil):  $m$ .
  3. Select droplets where nb UMIs  $\geq m/10$



## Cellranger

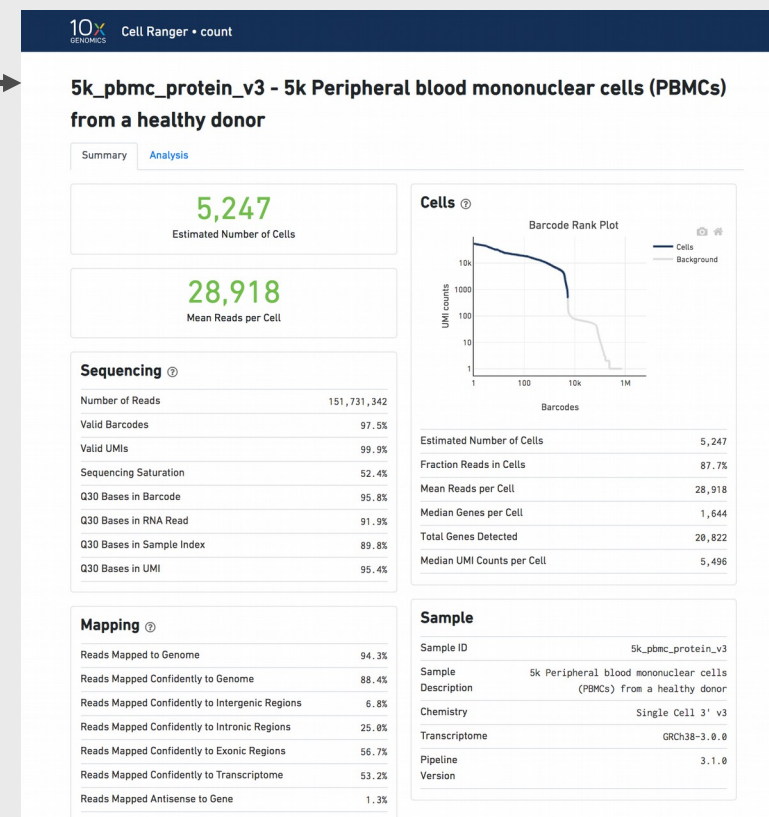


- **Problems for complex libraries:** e.g. tumors with high RNA content tumor cells + low RNA content tumor infiltrating lymphocytes
- Cellrangerv3 added a 2<sup>nd</sup> step (re-implementation of open source EmptyDroplets):
  - deduce background from low content droplets
  - select droplets with very different composition
- During next steps, a last filtering will generally be needed.

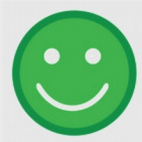
## Cellranger

### Outputs

File Name	Description
web_summary.html	Run summary metrics and charts in HTML format
metrics_summary.csv	Run summary metrics in CSV format
possorted_genome_bam.bam	BAM file containing both unaligned reads and reads aligned to the genome and transcriptome annotated with barcode information
possorted_genome_bam.bam.bai	Index for possorted_genome_bam.bam
filtered_feature_bc_matrix	Filtered feature-barcode matrices containing only cellular barcodes in MEX format. (In Targeted Gene Expression samples, the non-targeted genes are not present.)
filtered_feature_bc_matrix_h5.h5	Filtered feature-barcode matrices containing only cellular barcodes in HDF5 format. (In Targeted Gene Expression samples, the non-targeted genes are not present.)
raw_feature_bc_matrices	Unfiltered feature-barcode matrices containing all barcodes in MEX format
raw_feature_bc_matrix_h5.h5	Unfiltered feature-barcode matrices containing all barcodes in HDF5 format
analysis	Secondary analysis data including dimensionality reduction, cell clustering, and differential expression
molecule_info.h5	Molecule-level information used by <code>cellranger aggr</code> to aggregate samples into larger datasets
cloupe.cloupe	Loupe Browser visualization and analysis file



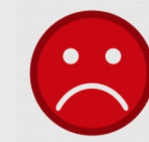
## Cellranger



- Turnkey solution

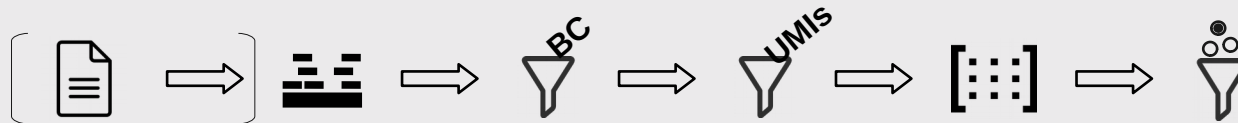
```
cellranger count --id=count_hgmm_100_hg19_mm10 \  
--transcriptome=/db/off_biomaj/10xgenomics/refdata-cellranger-hg19-and-mm10-3.0.0 \  
--fastqs=../Data/fastqs/original --sample=hgmm_100 --jobmode=local \  
--localcores=4 --localmem=50 --expect-cells=100 --nosecondary
```

- Many QC-metrics, results summarized in 1 html.
- Some secondary analysis
- More complex experiences: VDJ analysis, feature-barcoding
- Versions for ATAC-Seq, multiomics



- Proprietary
- Analyze only 10X product (cannot customize BC and UMI)
- A lot of resource and time
- Has its own scheduler: hard to include in another pipeline
- Compatibility not guaranteed with all HPC managers

## STARsolo



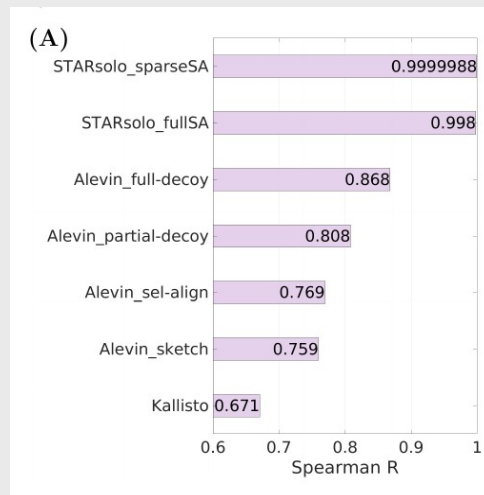
- Turnkey solution
- Implemented in STAR aligner
- Drop-in replacement for cellranger
- Same steps as cellranger:
  - Splice-aware genome alignment
  - Cell barcodes and UMI correction, filtering and aggregation
  - Matrix creation
  - Cell calling

The image shows a screenshot of a bioRxiv preprint page. At the top left is the CSH Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory logo. The bioRxiv logo is prominently displayed in the center, with the tagline 'THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY'. A yellow warning box states: 'bioRxiv posts many COVID19-related papers. A reminder: they have not been formally peer-reviewed and should not guide health-related behavior or be reported in the press as conclusive.' Below this, the text 'New Results' is followed by a 'Follow this preprint' button. The main title of the preprint is 'STARsolo: accurate, fast and versatile mapping/quantification of single-cell and single-nucleus RNA-seq data'. The authors listed are Benjamin Kaminow, Dinar Yunusov, and Alexander Dobin, with a DOI link: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.05.442755>. A note indicates the article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review. At the bottom, there are social media sharing icons for comments (2), email (0), print (0), settings (0), and tweets (201). Navigation links for 'Abstract', 'Full Text', 'Info/History', and 'Metrics' are present, along with a 'Preview PDF' button.

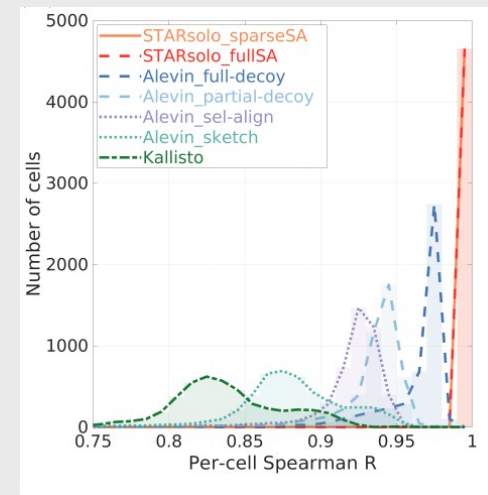
<https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR>

## STARsolo

- Designed to give results as similar to Cellranger's results as possible with the right set of parameters



Element-wise comparison of a gene-cell matrix with cellranger results



Per cell comparison with cellranger results

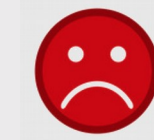
From Kaminow *et al.*, BioRxiv 2020



## STARsolo

- But highly configurable:
  - Alignment parameter
  - Read-to-gene assignment rule: e.g.: keep reads with several targets help keeping signal for paralogs
  - R1 structure (CB + UMI geometry ) **Allows analysis of non 10X technologies**
  - Rules for CB and UMI filtering
  
- Possibility to work at the transcripts level

## STARsolo



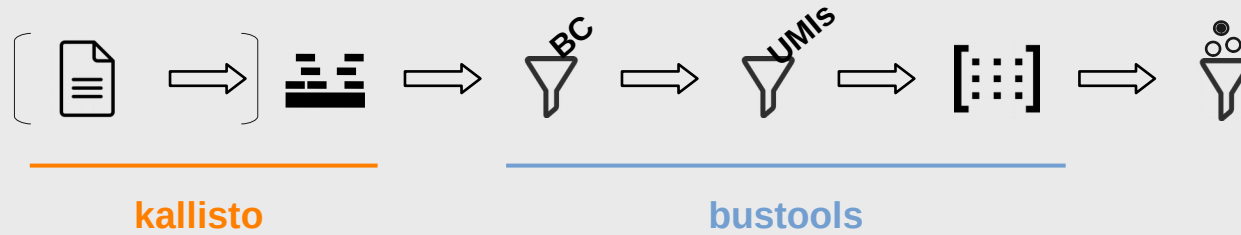
- Turnkey solution

```
STAR --genomeDir ${index} --readFilesIn $r2 $r1 --outFileNamePrefix STARsolo_${prefix}_ ${unzip} \  
--sjdbGTFfile ${gtf} \  
--outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate \  
--soloType Droplet --soloCBwhitelist ${whiteList} --soloCBlen ${cbLen} --soloUMIstart ${umiStart} --soloUMIlen ${umiLen} \  
--soloCBmatchWLtype 1MM_multi_Nbase_pseudocounts --soloUMIfiltering MultiGeneUMI_CR --soloUMIdedup 1MM_CR \  
--runThreadN ${task.cpus}
```

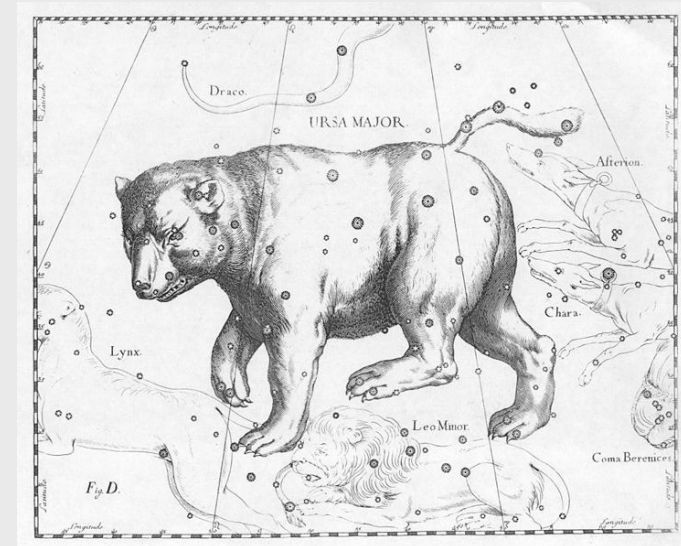
- Not proprietary
- Highly configurable (allows analysis of non 10X technologies)
- Needs less resource than cellranger
- Easy to include in a pipeline
- Compatible with HPC managers

- Many QC files but not summarized
- No secondary analysis
- Does not take in charge more complex experiences (feature barcoding), ATAC-Seq...

## Kallisto/bustools

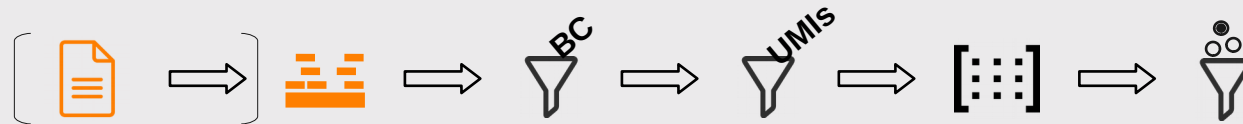


- Make use of the pseudo-aligner kallisto and the toolsuite bustools
- Very good time and memory performance.



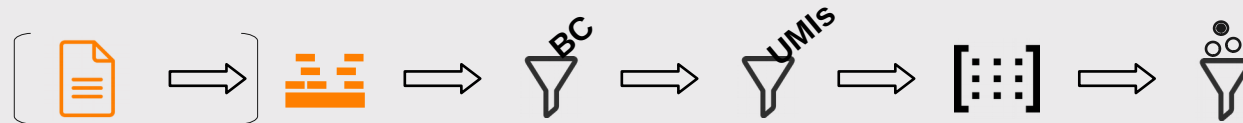
<https://pachterlab.github.io/kallisto/download>

## Kallisto/bustools

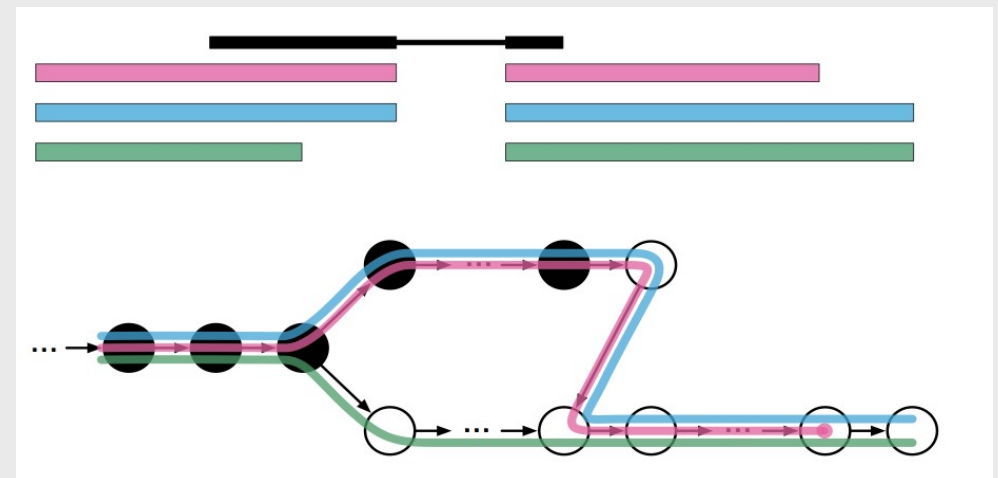


- Kallisto is a pseudo aligner: fast, low memory
- Working with a reference transcriptome, not genome

## Kallisto/bustools



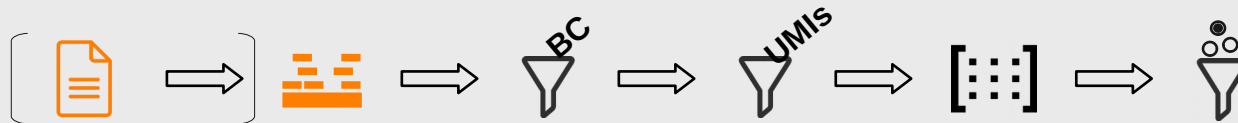
- Kallisto is a pseudo aligner: fast, low memory
- Working with a reference transcriptome, not genome
- Principle:
  - reference chunked into k-mers ==> de Bruijn Graph
  - Reads chunked into k-mers and assigned to the transcript(s) they overlap with
  - 1 read generally compatible with several transcripts: proportion of transcripts computed by Expectation Maximization from all reads



A very nice explanation of kallisto: <https://bioinfo.irc.ca/fr/comprendre-comment-kallisto-fonctionne>

From Bray *et al.*, *Nat Biotechnol* 2016

## Kallisto/bustools



- Many technologies already accepted, the CB + UMI geometry is configurable

Allows analysis of non 10X technologies

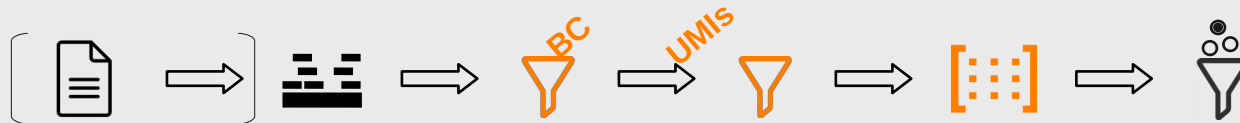
- Gives relative abundance, not absolute counts
- Output format in a specific, compressed format: bus instead of sam or bam files.

2-bit encoding

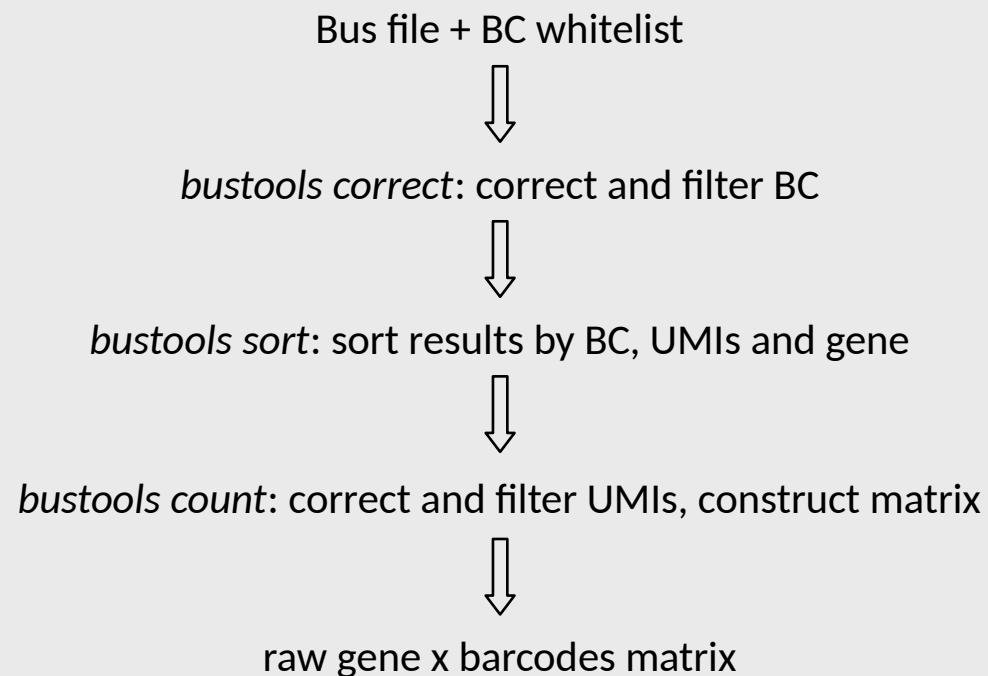
<32bp barcode	<32bp umi	32bit eq. class id	32bit count	32bit flags
01001101001...	110111...	000001101001...	000100111001...	0000...
01001101001...	110111...	110010010010...	111011001100...	0000...
01001101001...	110111...	000001101001...	000100111001...	0000...
01001101001...	010010...	000001101001...	000100111001...	0000...
01001101001...	110111...	000001101001...	111010011111...	0000...
01001101001...	110111...	100100100010...	000100111001...	0000...
11010001001...	110111...	000001101001...	000100111001...	0000...
11010001001...	110111...	000001101001...	001110010101...	0000...
11010001001...	110111...	000001101001...	001110010101...	0000...
11010001001...	110111...	000001101001...	001110010101...	0000...

From Melsted *et al.*, *Bioinformatics* 2019

## Kallisto/bustools



- Next steps: bustools

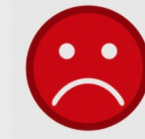


- The matrix must then be filtered: e.g. EmptyDrops (Lun *et al.*, Genome Biol 2019).

## Kallisto/bustools



- For modular pipeline construction
- Not proprietary
- Allows analysis of non 10X technologies
- The fastest and less resource consuming (can run on a laptop)
- Easy to include in a pipeline
- Compatible with HPC managers

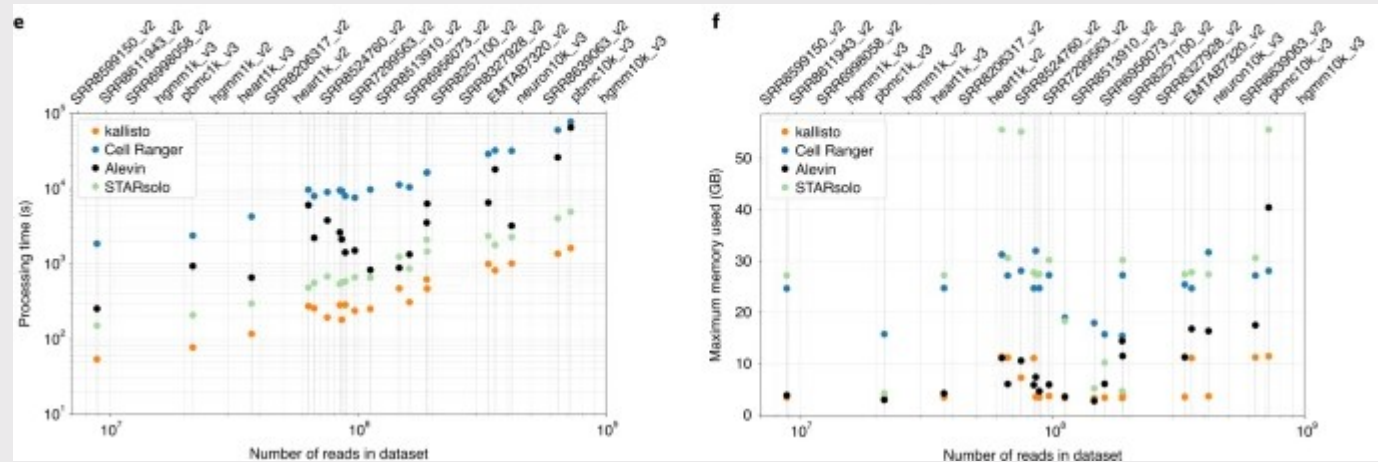


- Not a turnkey solution
- No secondary analysis
- Gap with cellranger
- No empty droplets filtering



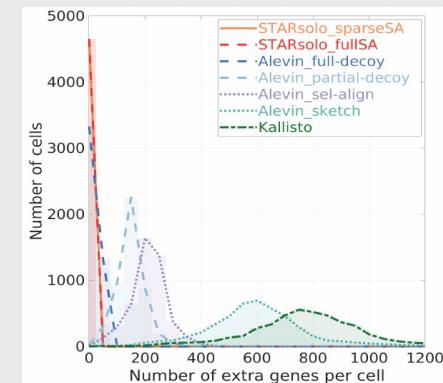
## Which alternative to cellranger ?

- Kallisto has the best performances



Melsted P. *et al.*, Nat. Biotech. (2021)

- Specificity: Brüning *et al.* and Kaminow *et al.* report more genes per cells and more false positive with pseudomappers (kallisto)

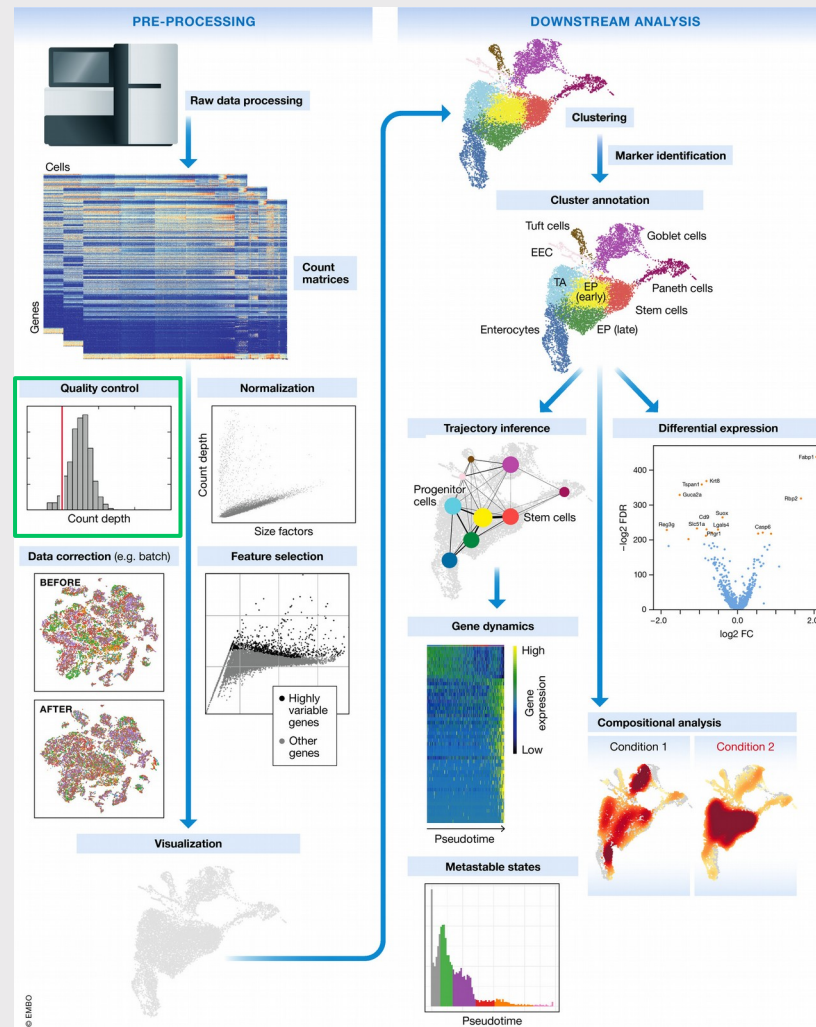


Kaminow *et al.*, BioRxiv (2020)

Technical Overview mapper				
	Cell Ranger	STARsolo	Alevin	Kallisto
<b>Mapping scheme</b>	Exact alignment	Exact alignment	Pseudo mapping	Pseudo mapping
<b>Internal Mapper</b>	Star	Star	Salmon	Kallisto
<b>Reference</b>	Genome	Genome	Transcriptome + Genome	Transcriptome
<b>Supported sequence technology</b>	10X Chromium v1 – v3	10X Chromium v2;v3, Smart-seq, Drop-seq, inDrop	10x Chromium v2;v3, Drop-seq, Cel-seq, Cel-seq2, Quartz-seq2	10x Chromium v1 – v3, Cel-seq, Cel-seq2, Drop-seq, inDrops v1-v3, SCRBS-Seq, SureCell
<b>Barcode correction</b>	1-Hamming distance based	1-Hamming distance based	Edit distance calculation	1-Hamming distance based
<b>Whitelisting</b>	Whitelist based	Whitelist based	Frequency based, no whitelist needed	Whitelist based
<b>Alternative Splicing detection</b>	no	yes	no	no
<b>UMI correction</b>	Two round correction by barcode, read count and annotation	Two round correction by barcode, read count and annotation	graph based correction	NA
<b>Index</b>	Suffix array	Suffix array	Colored De-Bruijn Graph	Colored De-Bruijn Graph
<b>Handling of multimapped reads</b>	discarded	discarded	Distributing read count between genes by EM-algorithm	discarded
<b>Output</b>	Matrix + Bam-File and summary file as html-file with primary results as well as clustering and DEG analysis	Gene count matrix and primary results summary	Gene count matrix ready for analysis	External software required to create gene count matrix

Summary				
	Cell Ranger	STARsolo	Alevin	Kallisto
<b>Mapping performance</b>	Lowest runtime	Similar results with Cell Ranger that are accomplished in a shorter time	Whitelisting causes loss or gain of barcodes depending on the data	Fastest runtime with highest mapping rate, more cells are detected with a small gene content
<b>Barcode correction and filtering</b>			Final barcode set included barcodes that are not present in the whitelist	Reports more cells with a low gene content
<b>Gene discovery</b>				Detection of more genes than all other tools. Highest UMI count for genes not expressed in studied tissue
<b>MT-content</b>	Highly affected by complete annotation including pseudogenes	See Cell Ranger	Smaller difference between the mapping with filtered and unfiltered annotation	See Cell Ranger
<b>Clustering</b>	Highest Overlap with SCINA classification	Very similar to Cell Ranger with minor differences	Cell types contain lower amount of cells with SCINA classification	Cell types contain the lowest amount of cells with SCINA classification
<b>DEG</b>	No difference detected	No difference detected	No difference detected	No difference detected

R. S. Brüning *et al.*, bioRxiv (2021)



Malte D Luecken & Fabian J Theis  
Molecular Systems Biology (2019)

SincellTE 2022

Marine AGLAVE  
Rémi MONTAGNE

**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**

## **Additional resources**

A very handy training session about scRNAseq :

- Main page (2020 edition) :  
[https://hbctraining.github.io/scRNA-seq\\_online/schedule/](https://hbctraining.github.io/scRNA-seq_online/schedule/)
- Quantification matrix QC (2018 edition) :  
[https://hbctraining.github.io/In-depth-NGS-Data-Analysis-Course/sessionIV/lessons/SC\\_quality\\_control\\_analysis.html](https://hbctraining.github.io/In-depth-NGS-Data-Analysis-Course/sessionIV/lessons/SC_quality_control_analysis.html)

Thanks to Bastien Job