

Github page for workshop:

[https://github.com/margaretc-ho/BCBB\\_STx\\_workshop\\_2024](https://github.com/margaretc-ho/BCBB_STx_workshop_2024)

# Spatial Transcriptomics Workshop Part 2: Hands On Tutorial with R and **Seurat** to analyze Visium dataset

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# Learning Objectives of Part 2

- Introduce techniques for processing and analyzing Visium STx data with R and **Seurat**
  - Understand hierarchical structure within **Seurat** object to store spatial dataset
  - Be familiar with count data overdispersion (Poisson, Negative Binomial)
  - Filtering data, and normalization using **scTransform**
  - Learn steps of unsupervised analysis: **Dim Reduce, Clustering, Visualize with UMAP, DE Markers**
  - Be able to plot counts, genes, and clusters for STx: **VlnPlot, SpatialDimPlot, SpatialFeaturePlot, ImageDimPlot and ImageFeaturePlot**
  - **Identify Spatially Variable Genes with Moran's I**
  - **Annotate cell identities with a scRNA-seq reference dataset using RCTD**

**Coming up: 15 slides of intro // Seurat commands, then we'll get to Rstudio!**

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Platform

# of genes profiled

Spatial Resolution

Imaging Area

Time Required

10X Visium

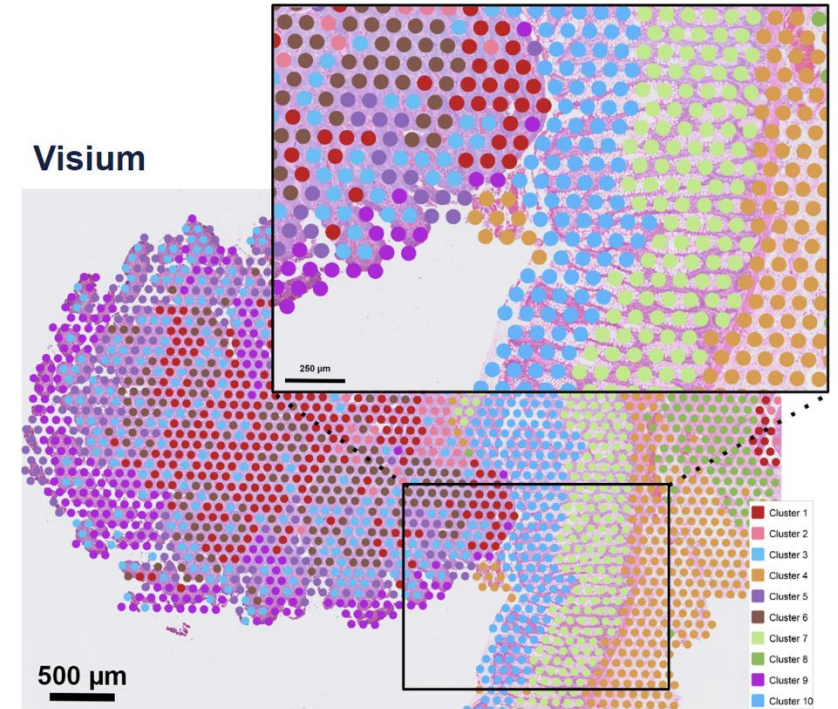
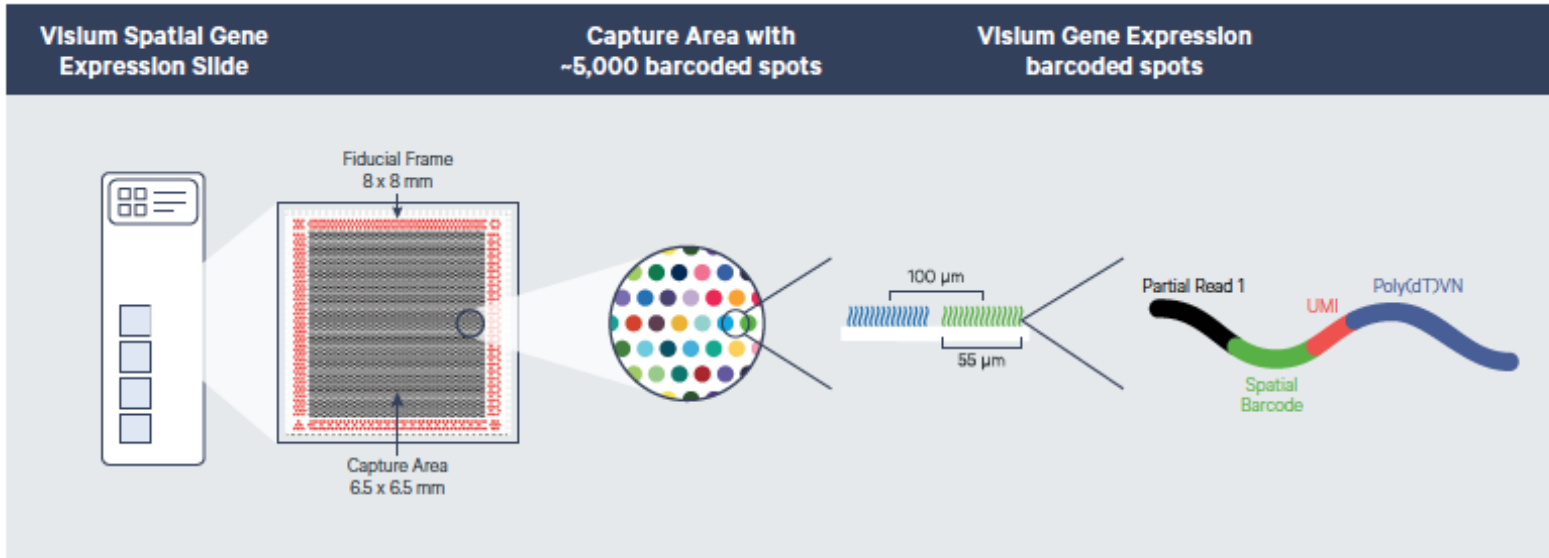
Whole Transcriptome

100um

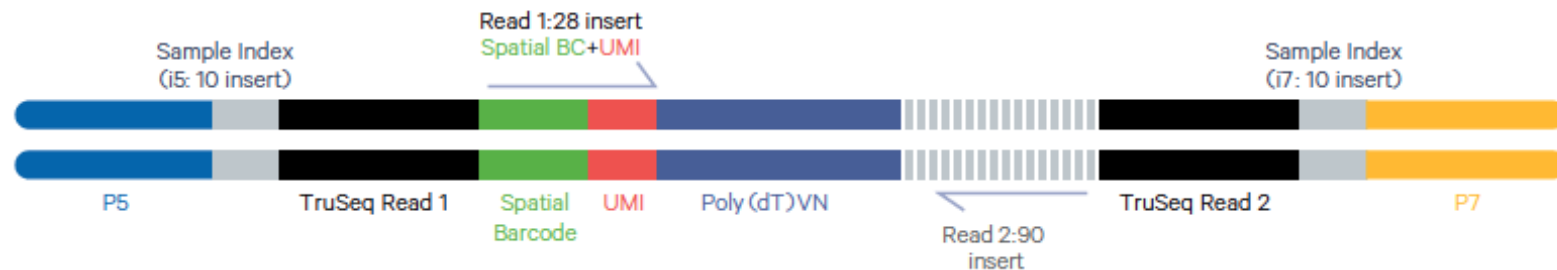
(6.5 mm × 6.5 mm)x4

Few hours

### 10X Visium Spot array-based spatial barcoding



#### Visium Spatial Gene Expression Library



4992 total spots per each of 4 capture areas  
Sequence to at least 15k read pairs per spot

1-10 mammalian cells per spot  
depending on tissue type

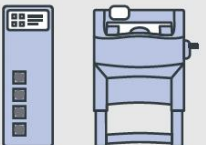

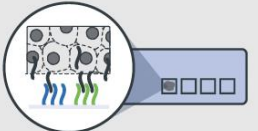


**Fresh Frozen Only**

Platform	# of genes profiled	Spatial Resolution	Imaging Area	Time Required
10X Visium	Whole Transcriptome	100um	(6.5 mm × 6.5 mm)x4	Few hours

## 10X Visium

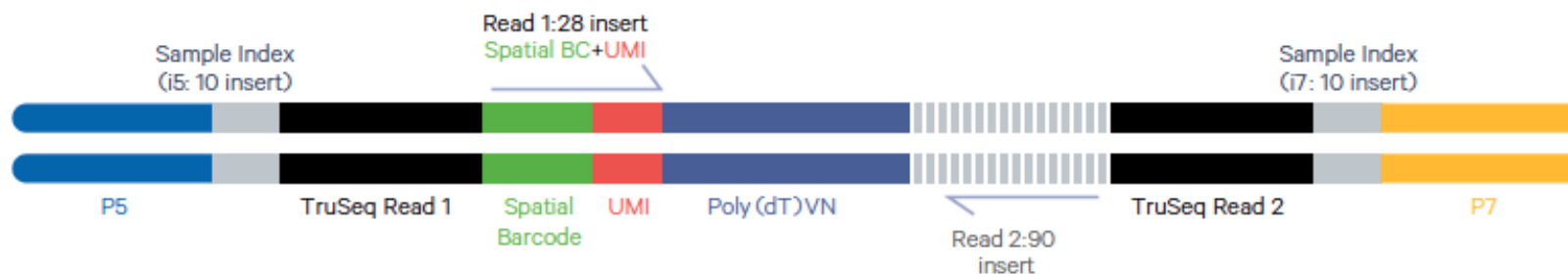
### Spot array-based spatial barcoding

#### Fresh frozen

1 Sample preparation	2 Staining / imaging	3 Permeabilization & barcoding	4 Transfer to tube	5 Library construction
Snap-frozen & OCT-embedded tissue sections on Visium slide  Fresh frozen  	IF or H&E   >1 h	RT reaction, 2nd strand synthesis & denaturation   ~2 h	qPCR, cDNA amplification & QC   ~2 h	Fragmentation, end repair, A-tailing, SI-PCR, cleanup & QC   ~4 h

→ Standard NGS

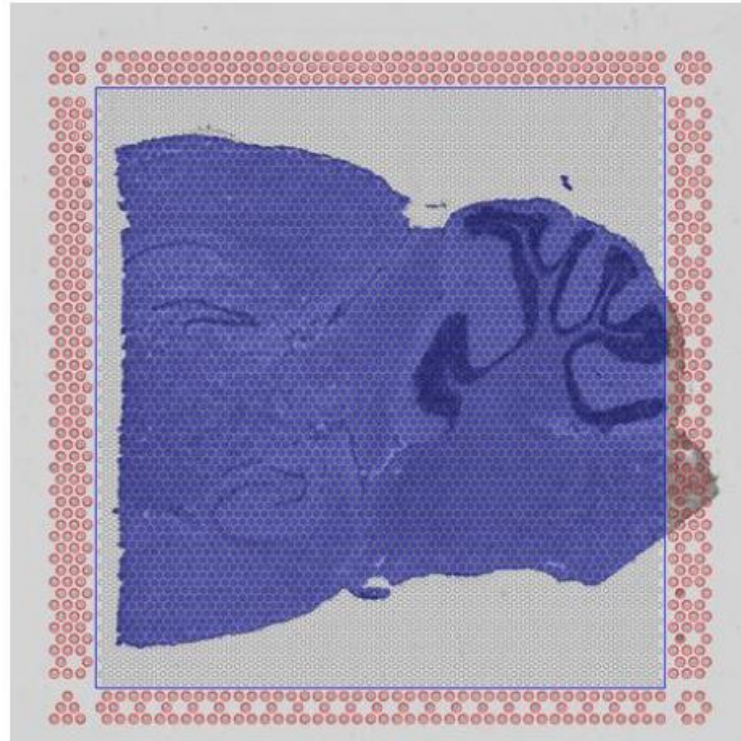
#### Visium Spatial Gene Expression Library



Wang, Y., Liu, B., Zhao, G., Lee, Y., Buzdin, A., Mu, X., Zhao, J., Chen, H., & Li, X. (2023). Spatial transcriptomics: Technologies, applications and experimental considerations. *Genomics*, 115(5), 110671.

# STxBrain Example **Visium** Dataset

- Fresh frozen sagittal mouse brain slice data generated using **Visium v1** chemistry.
- There are two serial anterior sections, and two (matched) serial posterior sections – we will be analyzing anterior slice 1



**Web summary:** [https://cf.10xgenomics.com/samples/spatial-exp/1.0.0/V1\\_Mouse\\_Brain\\_Sagittal\\_Posterior/V1\\_Mouse\\_Brain\\_Sagittal\\_Posterior\\_web\\_summary.html](https://cf.10xgenomics.com/samples/spatial-exp/1.0.0/V1_Mouse_Brain_Sagittal_Posterior/V1_Mouse_Brain_Sagittal_Posterior_web_summary.html)

3,353

Number of Spots Under Tissue

87,180

Mean Reads per Spot

4,564

Median Genes per Spot

## Sequencing ⓘ

Number of Reads	292,313,529
Valid Barcodes	97.6%
Valid UMIs	100.0%
Sequencing Saturation	73.8%
Q30 Bases in Barcode	97.2%
Q30 Bases in RNA Read	94.5%
Q30 Bases in UMI	97.2%

## Mapping ⓘ

Reads Mapped to Genome	94.0%
Reads Mapped Confidently to Genome	90.8%
Reads Mapped Confidently to Intergenic Regions	4.4%
Reads Mapped Confidently to Intronic Regions	1.6%
Reads Mapped Confidently to Exonic Regions	84.8%
Reads Mapped Confidently to Transcriptome	82.3%
Reads Mapped Antisense to Gene	0.8%



## Mouse Brain Serial Section 1 (Sagittal-Posterior)

Spatial Gene Expression Dataset by Space Ranger 1.0.0

10x Genomics obtained fresh frozen mouse brain tissue (Strain C57BL/6) from BioIVT Asterand. The tissue was embedded and cryosectioned as described in Visium Spatial Protocols - Tissue Preparation Guide (Demonstrated Protocol CG000240). Tissue sections of 10 µm thickness from a sagittal slice of the posterior were placed on Visium Gene Expression Slides.

The H&E image acquired using a Nikon Ti2-E microscope with the following settings:

- Color camera
- 10X objective
- Numerical Aperture: 0.45
- Exposure: 10 ms
- Gain: 4.5X

## Visium Spatial Gene Expression Library

The library (T1T2-F3) was prepared following the Visium Spatial Gene Expression Reagent Kits User Guide (CG000239) and was sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000.

- Sequencing Depth: 87,180 read pairs per spot
- Sequencing Configuration: 28 x 120 bp
- Sequencing Coverage: Read 1 - 28 bp (includes 16 bp Spatial Barcode, 12 bp UMI); Read 2 - 120 bp (transcript); i7 sample index - 10 bp; i5 sample index - 10 bp.
- Slide: V19L29-035
- Area: A1

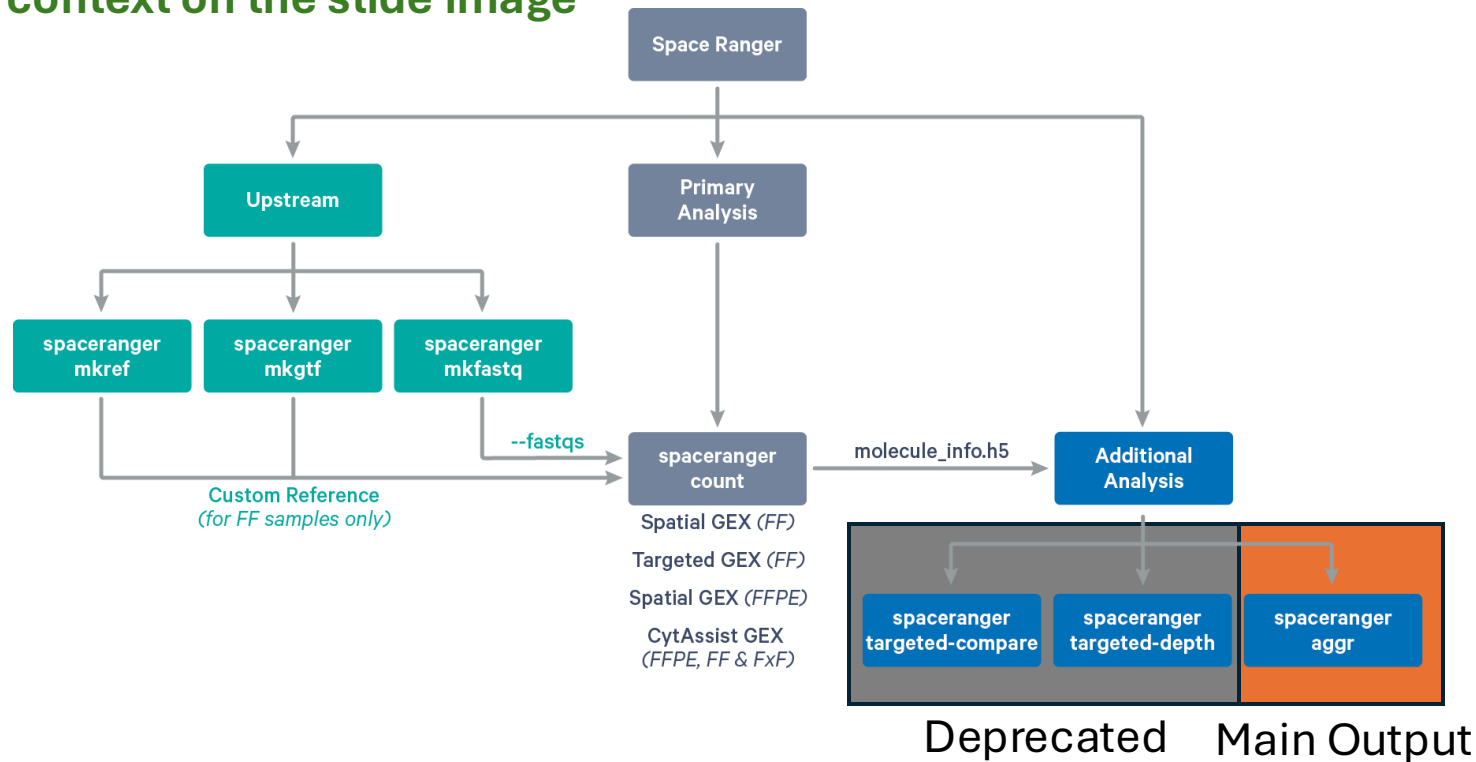
Key cell metrics were:

- Spots detected under tissue - 3,353
- Median UMI counts per spot - 14,864
- Median genes per spot - 4,564

# Space Ranger

## for Visium/Visium HD data

Space Ranger detects tissue, aligns reads, **generate feature-spot matrices**, perform clustering and gene expression analysis, and **place spots in spatial context on the slide image**



Spaceranger aggr output files:

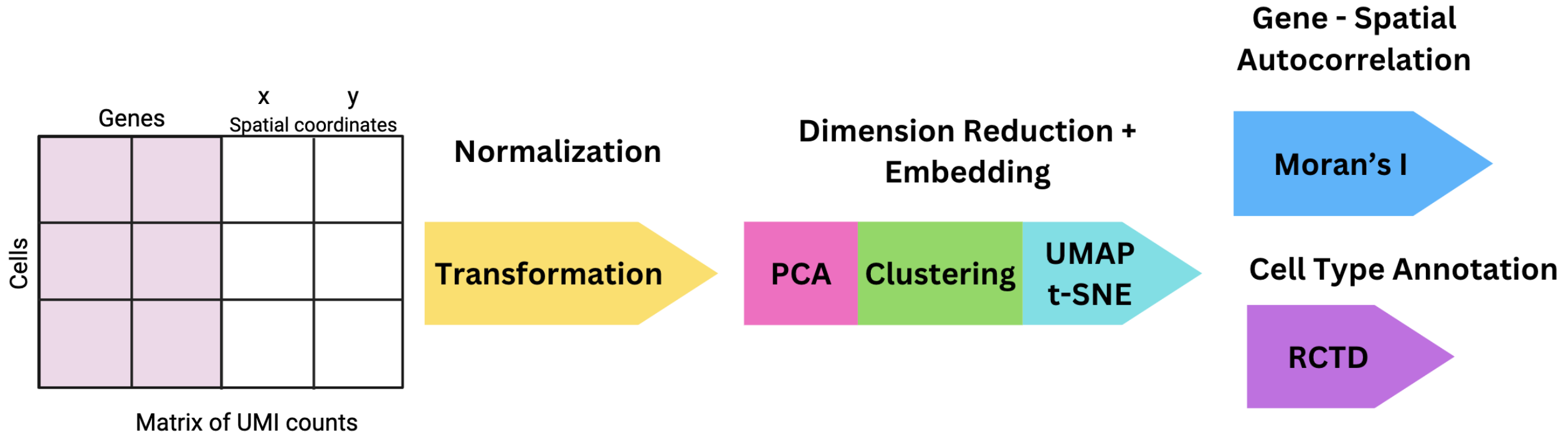
```

outs
├── aggregation.csv
├── aggr_tissue_positions.csv
├── analysis
│   ├── clustering
│   ├── diffexp
│   ├── pca
│   ├── tsne
│   └── umap
├── cloupe.cloupe
├── filtered_feature_bc_matrix
│   ├── barcodes.tsv.gz
│   ├── features.tsv.gz
│   └── matrix.mtx.gz
├── filtered_feature_bc_matrix.h5
├── spatial
│   ├── LV123
│   │   ├── scalefactors_json.json
│   │   ├── tissue_hires_image.png
│   │   └── tissue_lowres_image.png
│   ├── LB456
│   │   ├── scalefactors_json.json
│   │   ├── tissue_hires_image.png
│   │   └── tissue_lowres_image.png
│   └── LP789
│       ├── scalefactors_json.json
│       ├── tissue_hires_image.png
│       └── tissue_lowres_image.png
├── summary.json
└── web_summary.html
  
```

Adapted from <https://support.10xgenomics.com/spatial-gene-expression/software/pipelines/latest/what-is-space-ranger>

SpaceRanger on Biowulf: <https://hpc.nih.gov/apps/spaceranger.html>

# R/Seurat Workflow for STx Analysis

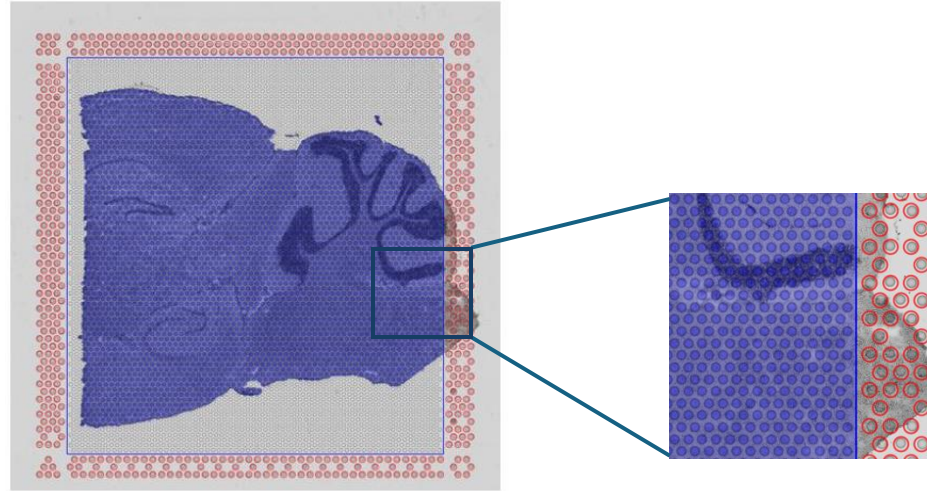




# Seurat Commands: Load Visium Data

	Genes	Spatial coordinates	
		x	y
Cells			

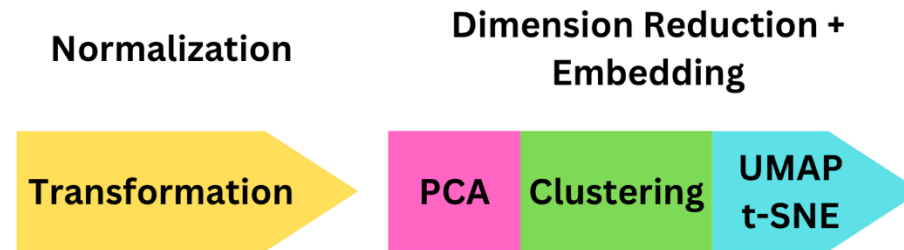
Matrix of UMI counts



- **Load10x\_Spatial**(dir="/data/dir/", filename = "**filtered\_feature\_bc\_matrix.h5**", assay = "**Spatial**", slice = "slice1")

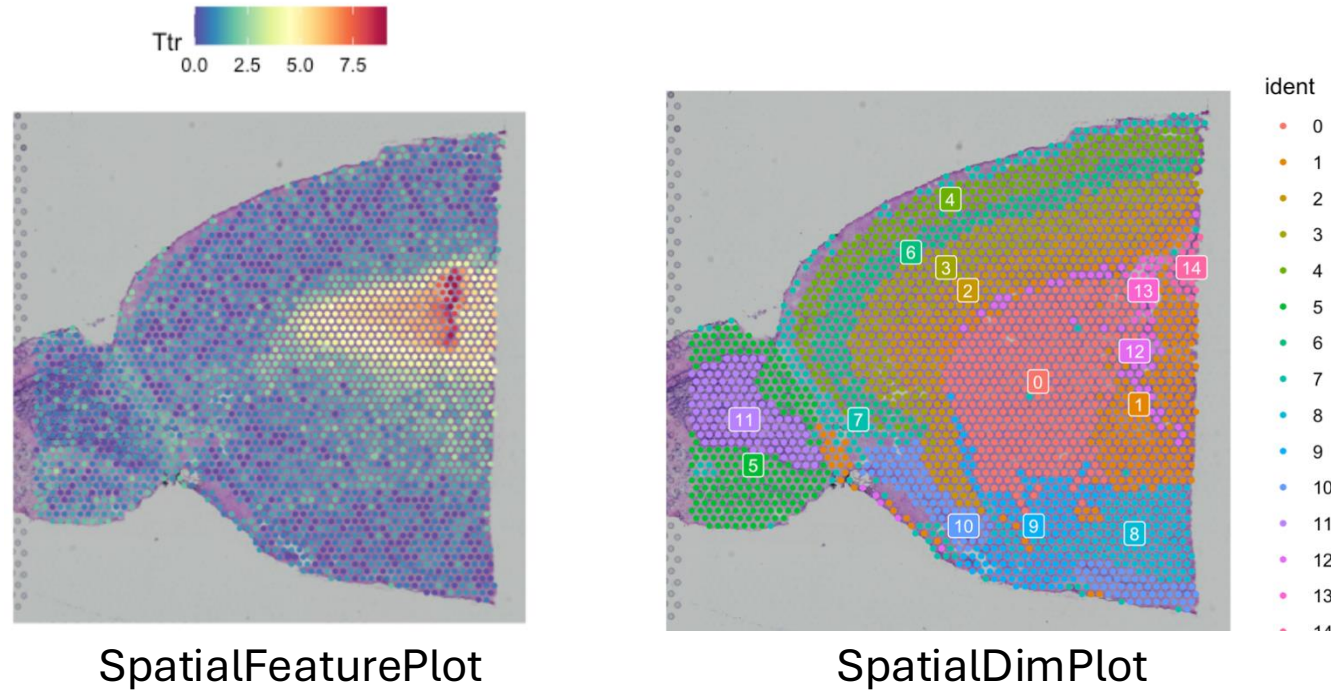
Note: **LoadVizgen** (for MERFISH) and **LoadXenium** (for Xenium)

# Seurat Commands: Normalize, Cluster, PCA, UMAP



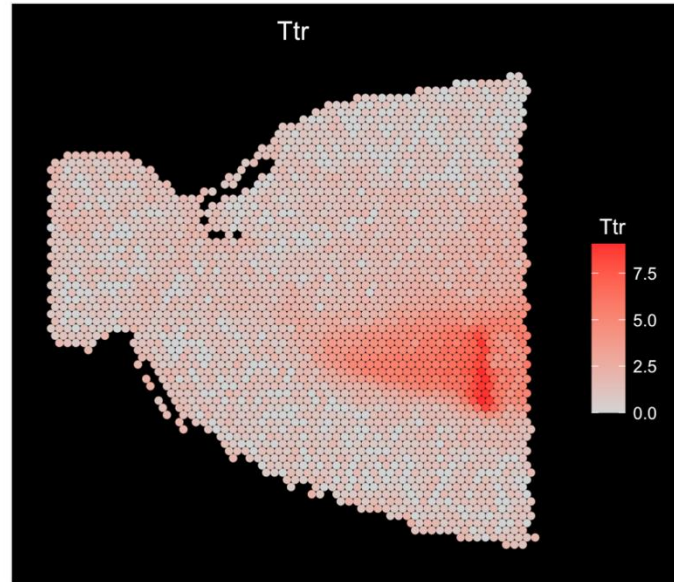
- **SCTransform** perform sctransform-based normalization
- **RunPCA**(object, assay = "SCT")
- **FindNeighbors**(object, reduction = "pca", dims = 1:30) – computes shared nearest neighbors (SNN) graph
- **FindClusters** – identify clusters of cells by SNN optimization
- **RunUMAP**(object, reduction = "pca", dims = 1:30)
- **FindMarkers** perform DE genes using Wilcoxon Rank Sum test

# Seurat Commands: Spatial Plotting

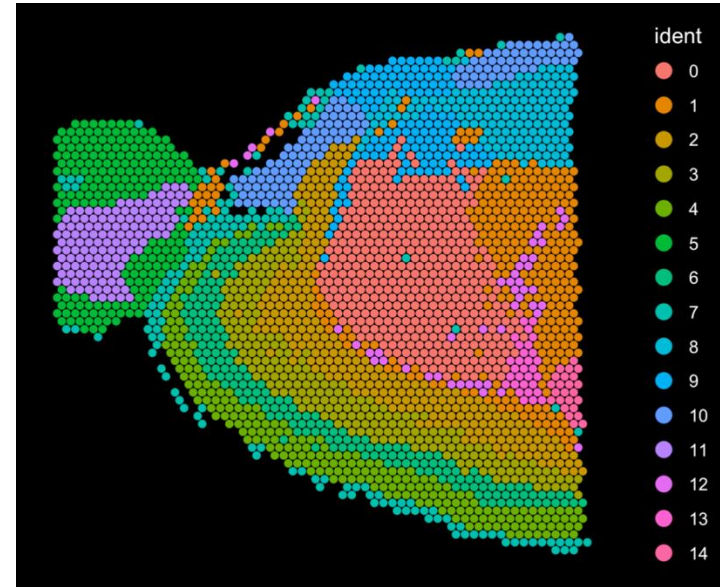


- **SpatialFeaturePlot** - plots molecular data over tissue histology image
- **SpatialDimPlot** - plots clusters or categorical groupings over tissue histology image

# Seurat Commands: Image Plotting



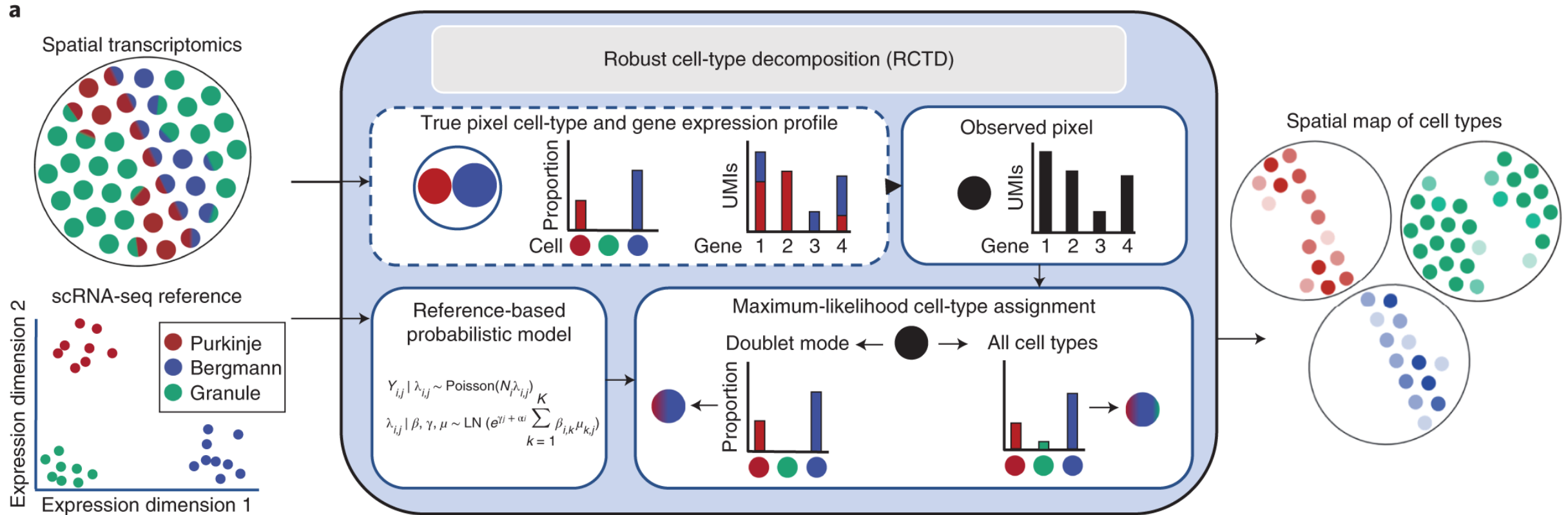
ImageFeaturePlot



ImageDimPlot

- **ImageFeaturePlot** – plot gene/features on a spatial map
- **ImageDimPlot** – plot clusters or other categorical groupings on a spatial map

# Annotation with ref scRNA-seq data using RCTD



Cable, DM et al. (2022). Robust decomposition of cell type mixtures in spatial transcriptomics. *Nat Biotech*, 40(4), 517–526.

Li, B et al. (2022). Benchmarking spatial and single-cell transcriptomics integration methods for transcript distribution prediction and cell type deconvolution. *Nat Methods*, 19(6), 662–670.

Li, Y et al. (2021). Benchmarking computational integration methods for spatial transcriptomics data. *bioRxiv* <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.08.27.457741>



# RCTD essential commands

```
Reference(  
  counts,  
  cell_types,  
  nUMI = NULL,  
  require_int = TRUE,  
  n_max_cells = 10000,  
  min_UMI = 100  
)
```

Reference

```
SpatialRNA(  
  coords,  
  counts,  
  nUMI = NULL,  
  use_fake_coords = FALSE,  
  require_int = TRUE  
)
```

Query (spatial)

```
create.RCTD(  
  spatialRNA,  
  reference,  
  max_cores = 4,  
  test_mode = FALSE,  
  gene_cutoff = 0.000125,  
  fc_cutoff = 0.5,  
  gene_cutoff_reg = 2e-04,  
  fc_cutoff_reg = 0.75,  
  UMI_min = 100,  
  UMI_max = 2e+07,  
  counts_MIN = 10,  
  UMI_min_sigma = 300,  
  class_df = NULL,  
  CELL_MIN_INSTANCE = 25,  
  cell_type_names = NULL,  
  MAX_MULTI_TYPES = 4,  
  keep_reference = F,  
  cell_type_profiles = NULL,  
  CONFIDENCE_THRESHOLD = 5,  
  DOUBLET_THRESHOLD = 20  
)
```

RCTD object

**Create RCTD reference object from the scRNAseq reference counts, cluster annotations, and nUMI**

```
reference <- Reference(ref_counts, ref_cluster, ref_nUMI)
```

**Create the RCTD spatial query object**

```
query <- SpatialRNA(query_coords, query_counts_hd, colSums(query_counts_hd))
```

**Create RCTD object and run RCTD**

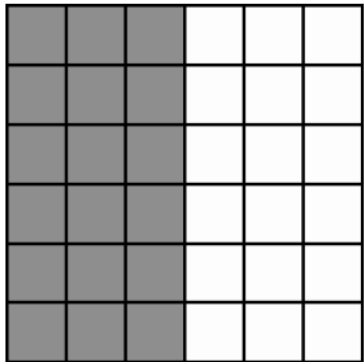
```
RCTD_object <- create.RCTD(query_obj, reference_obj, max_cores = 28,  
CELL_MIN_INSTANCE=10)
```

```
run.RCTD(RCTD_object, doublet_mode = "doublet")
```

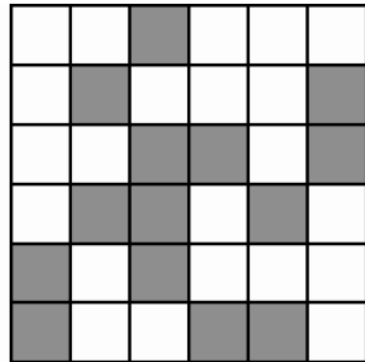


# Identify spatially variable genes (SVGs) with Moran's I

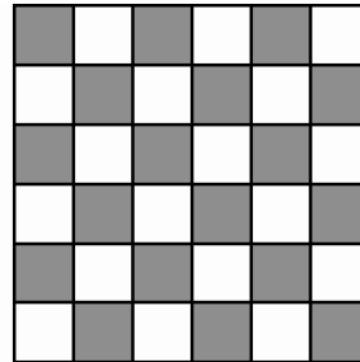
**FindSpatiallyVariableFeatures** to identify genes whose variability in expression can be explained to some degree by spatial location. Can use **markvariogram** or **moransi** as selection.method



Positive spatial autocorrelation



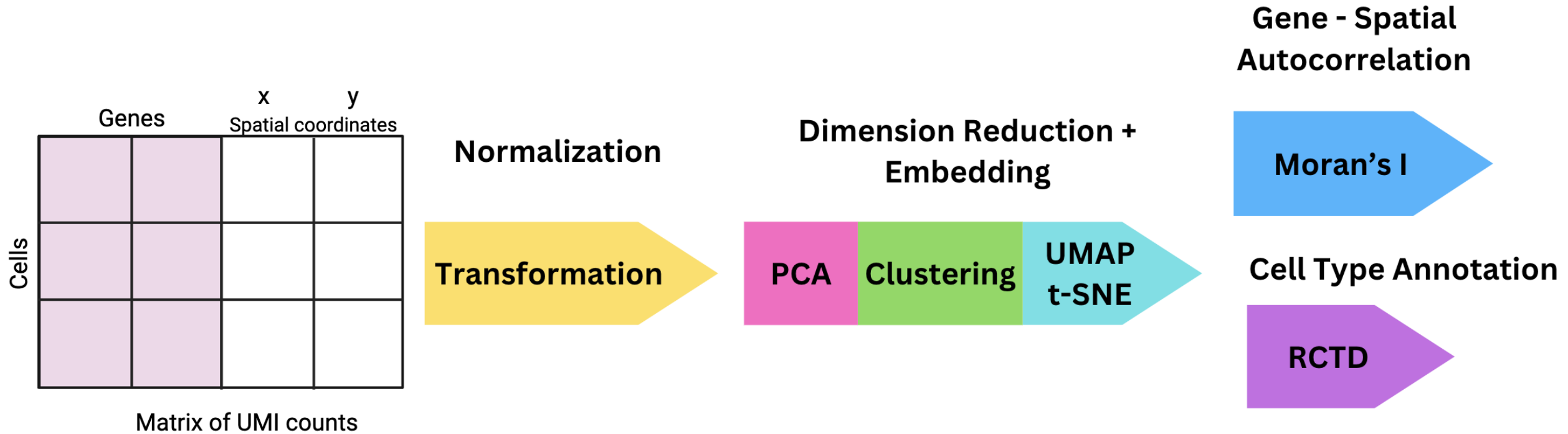
No spatial autocorrelation



Negative spatial autocorrelation

```
FindSpatiallyVariableFeatures(  
  object,  
  spatial.location,  
  selection.method = c("markvariogram", "moransi"),  
  r.metric = 5,  
  x.cuts = NULL,  
  y.cuts = NULL,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  ...  
)
```

# R/Seurat Workflow for STx Analysis



# Questions? :) Before going onto RStudio

**More about BCBB:**

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/bioinformatics-and-computational-biosciences-branch-scientific-services>

**Looking for bioinformatic and genomics analysis expertise? [bioinformatics@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:bioinformatics@niaid.nih.gov)**