

Multi-omics Data Preprocessing and Functional Clustering

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Introduction

1. EVALUATE NORMALIZATION METHODS IN MULTI-OMICS DATASETS

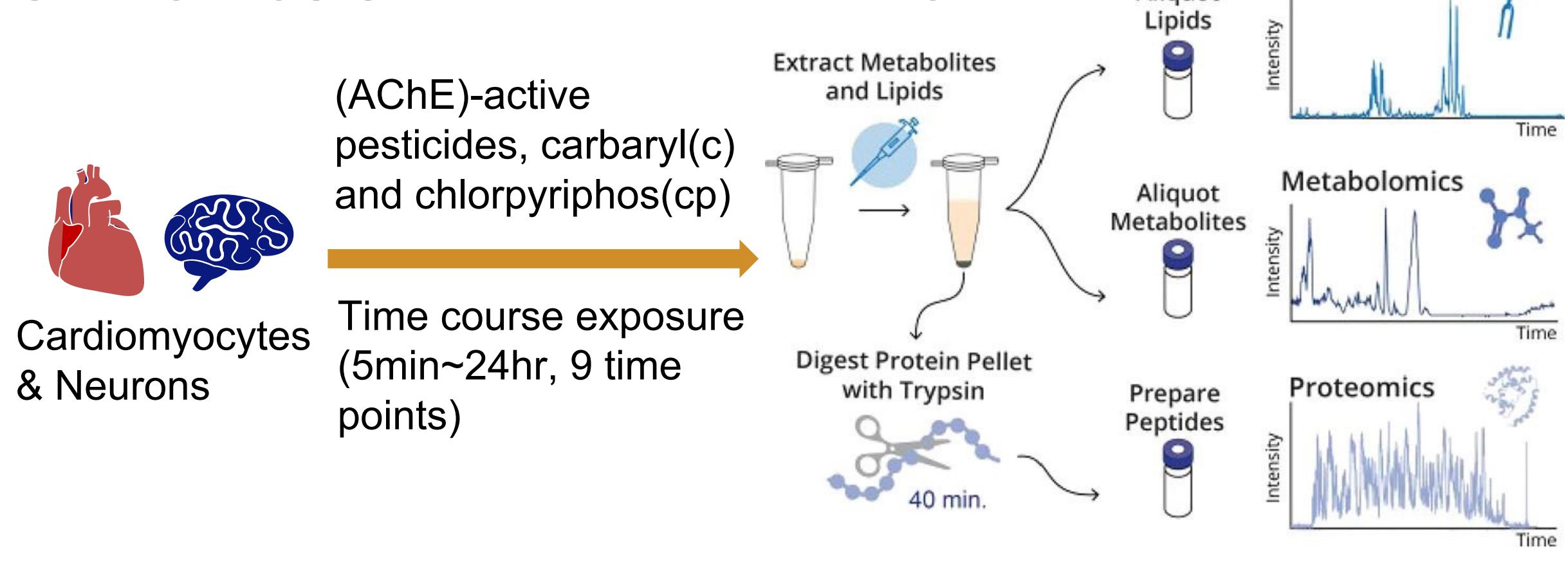
- Examining normalization strategies is critical for multi-omics data preprocessing to reduce systematic error and discover biological differences.
- In this study, multi-omics datasets were acquired from the cardiomyocyte and motor neuron cells in a time-course exposure study to acetylcholinesterase (AChE)-active chemicals. We compared different normalization methods and assessed the effectiveness by observing if a normalized dataset could improve QC feature consistency and treatment-related variance while preserve time-related variance.

2. FINITE MIXTURES FOR FUNCTIONAL CLUSTERING

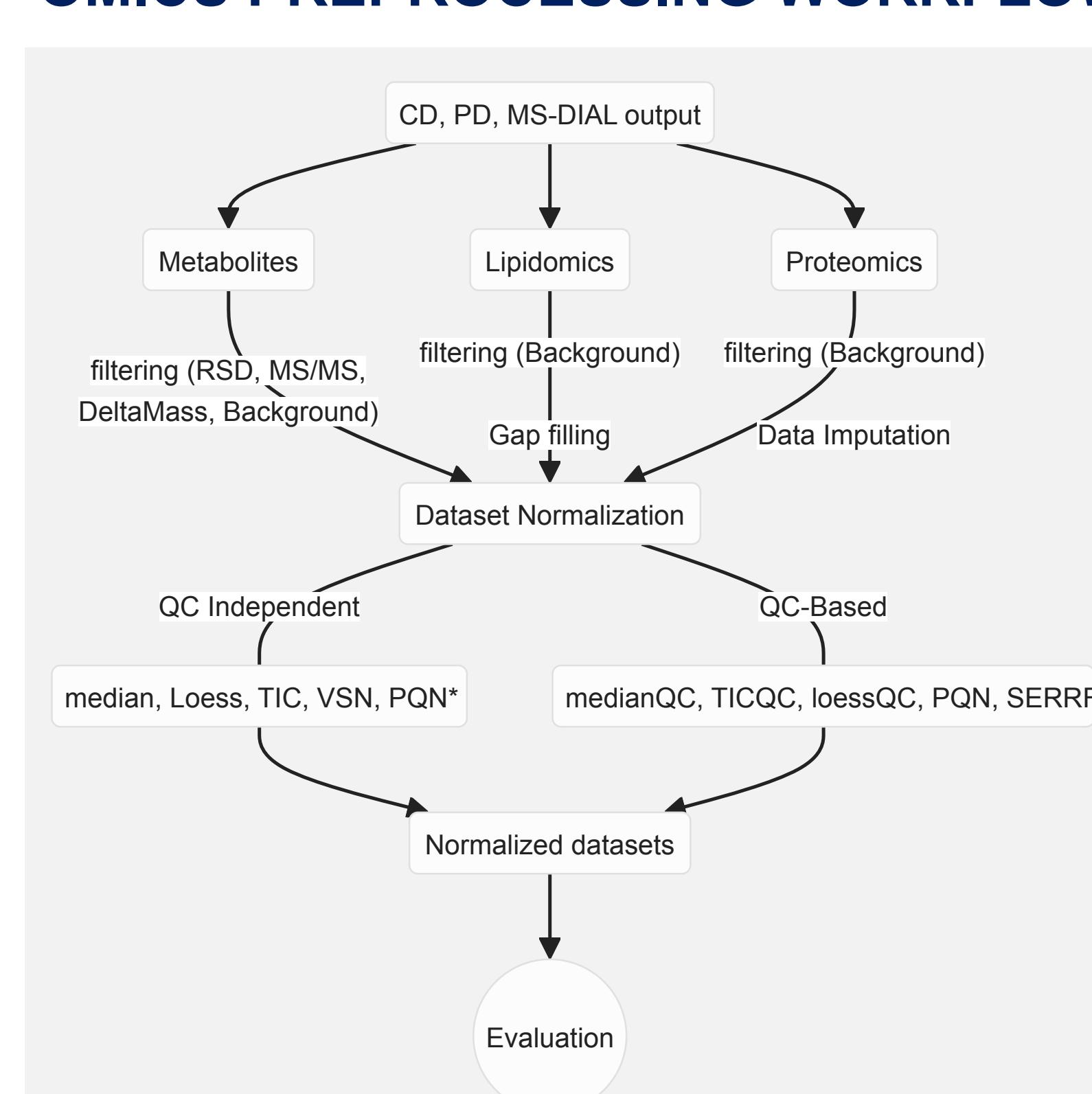
- We use Bayesian hierarchical modeling (BHM) framework for functional clustering. Each time-varying omic feature is assumed to belong to a latent cluster while capturing uncertainty and hierarchical structures.

Material and Methods

MULTI-OMICS SAMPLE PREPARATION



OMICS PREPROCESSING WORKFLOW



NORMALIZATION EVALUATION

- QC feature consistency (RSD < 0.2)
- The change in variance explained by time or treatment after normalization.

FUNCTIONAL CLUSTERING

- Proteomics: 105 significant features (chlorpyriphos vs control) were selected for functional clustering.

MODEL STATEMENT

1. VARIANCE EXPLAINED BY TIME OR TREATMENT

- PERMANOVA MODEL
- Main effects of Time, Treatment, and their interaction (Bray-Curtis Distance)*

The adonis2() result includes:

- R²: Proportion of variance explained by each predictor.
- F-value: Ratio of explained to unexplained variance.
- p-value: Statistical significance

2. FUNCTIONAL CLUSTERING

- Let $Y_{ir}(t)$ be the expression value of omic feature i for replicate r at time t transformed to log₂FC relative to time 0

1. Spline Representation:

For each cluster k , we have a vector of spline coefficients $\beta_k \in \mathbb{R}^B$ and a B-spline basis where $\mathbf{B}(t)$, which gives the functional mean for that cluster:

$$\mu_k(t) = \mathbf{B}(t)\beta_k$$

2. Cluster Membership:

Each omic feature $Y_{i*}(t)$ is assumed to belong to a cluster indexed by a latent indicator z_i where $z_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$.

3. Data Likelihood:

Given the cluster membership z_i , the observation $Y_{ir}(t)$ is centered around the cluster-specific mean $\mu_{z_i}(t)$, with shared noise σ :

$$Y_{ir}(t) | z_i, \sigma^2 = k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_k(t), \sigma^2)$$

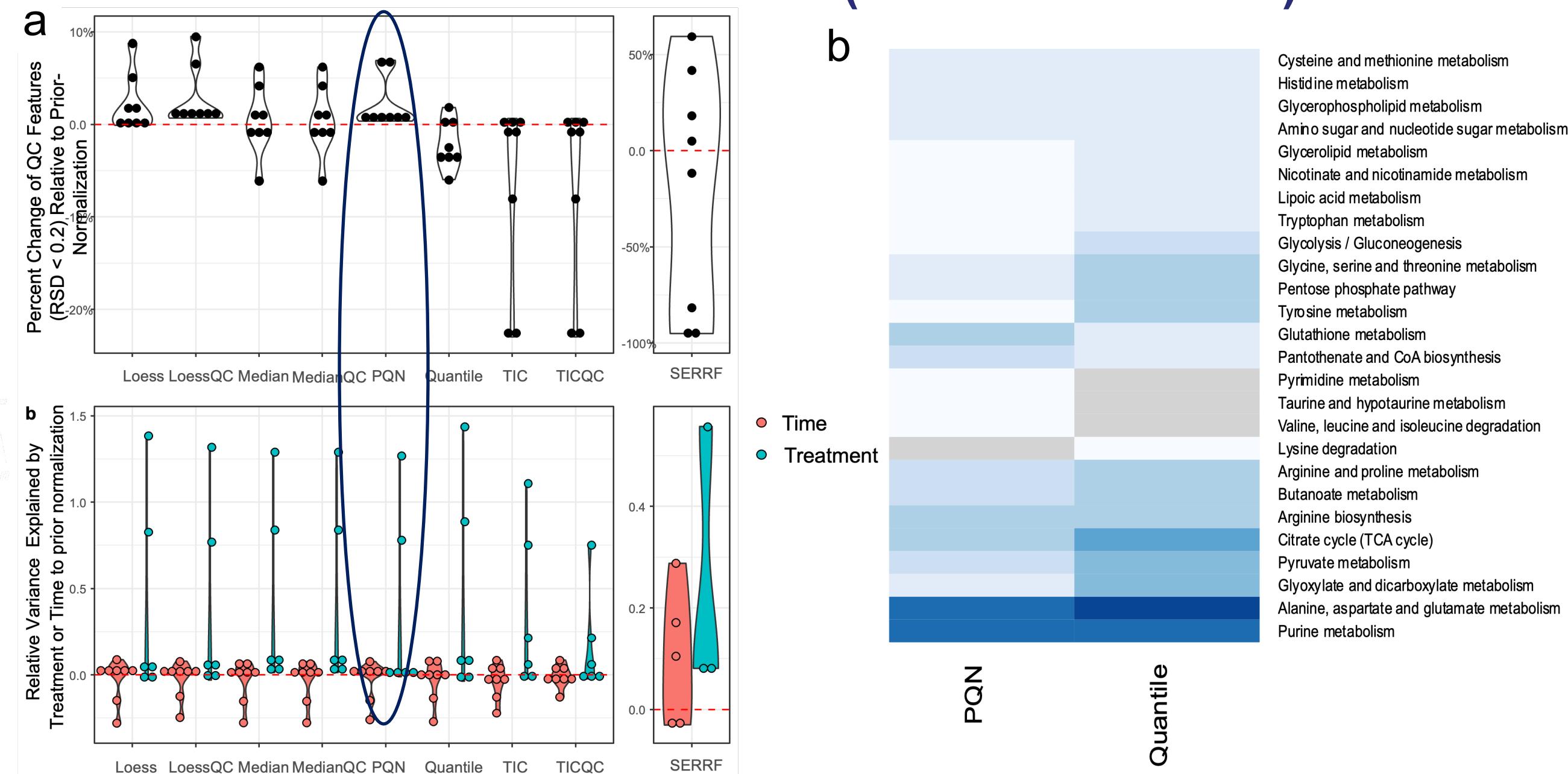
4. Prior Distributions

- Mixture proportions $\pi \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha)$
- Bayesian smoothing spline prior for each cluster:
$$\beta_{k1} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2)$$

$$\beta_{kj} \sim \mathcal{N}(\beta_{kj-1}, \sigma_\beta^2), \quad j = 2, \dots, p$$
- Observation noise parameter:
$$\sigma \sim \mathcal{N}^+(0, 1)$$

Results and Discussion

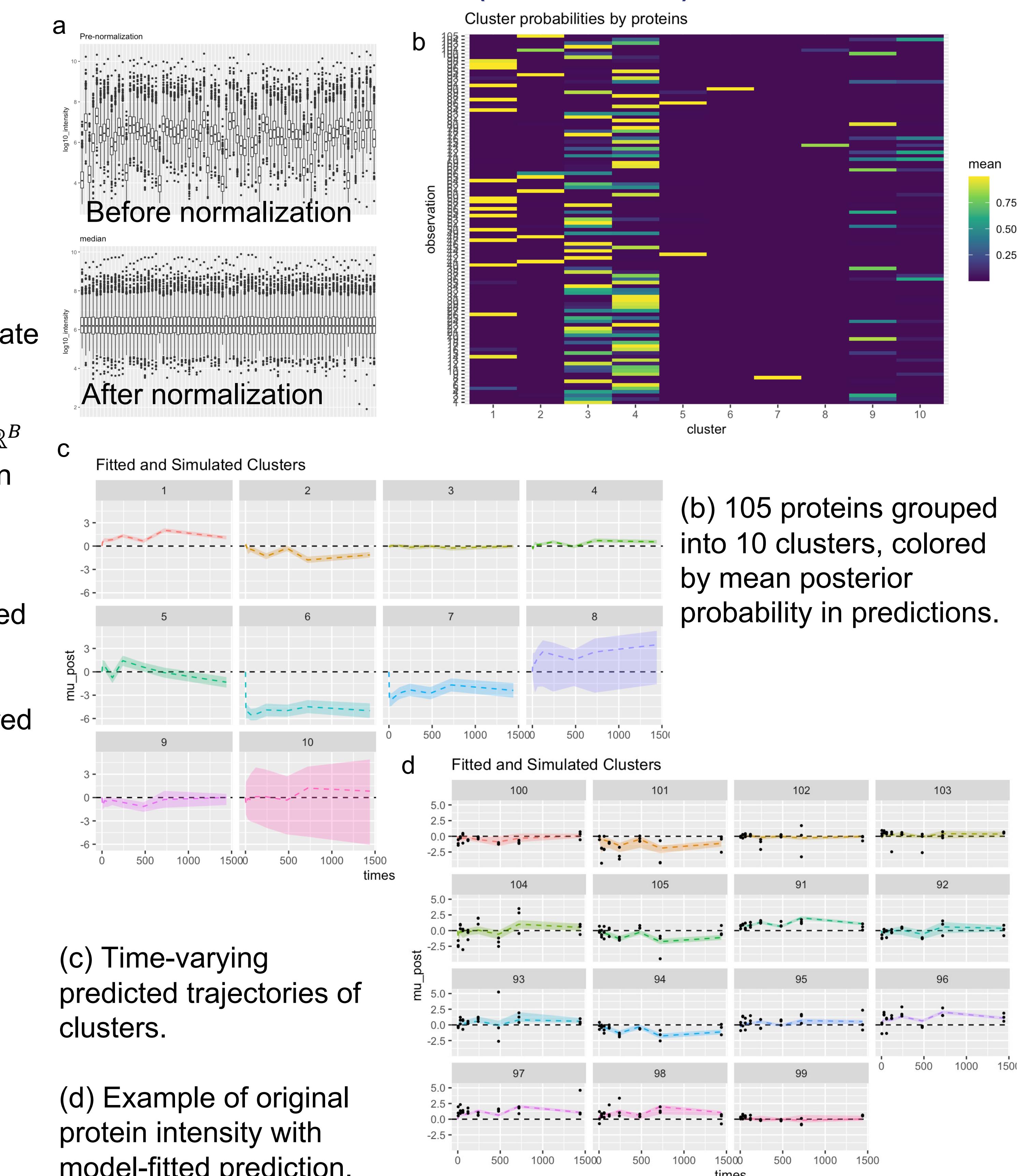
NORMALIZATION EVALUATION (METABOLOMICS)



(a) PQN caused the most consistent change in QC feature consistency and variance explained by treatment.

(b) KEGG pathways PQN > Quantile

FUNCTIONAL CLUSTERING (PROTEOMICS)



(b) 105 proteins grouped into 10 clusters, colored by mean posterior probability in predictions.

Conclusion

We identified the most effective normalization methods for multi-omics datasets and demonstrate a clustering strategy that accounts for the uncertainty and hierarchical structures of time-varying omics features.

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Reference

- Muehlbauer, L. K., et al. Anal. Chem. 2023, 95 (2), 659–667.