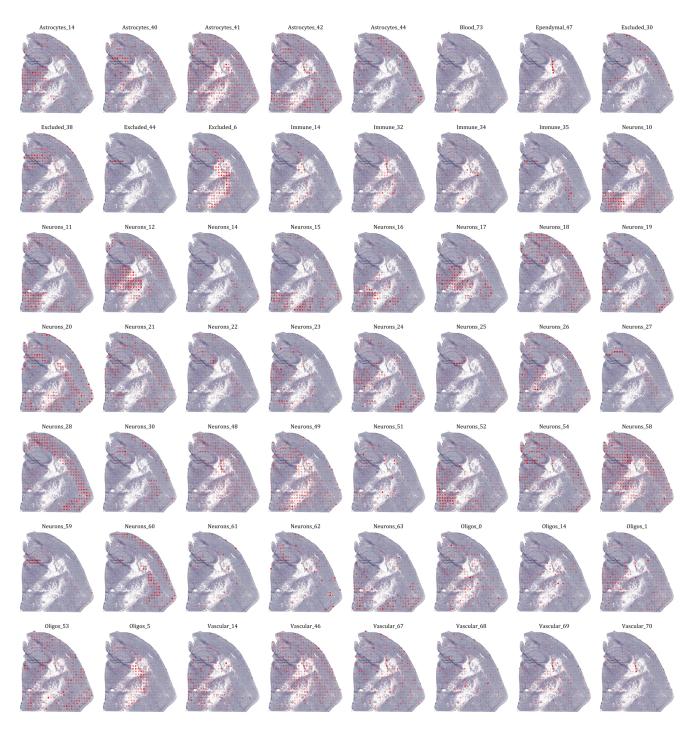
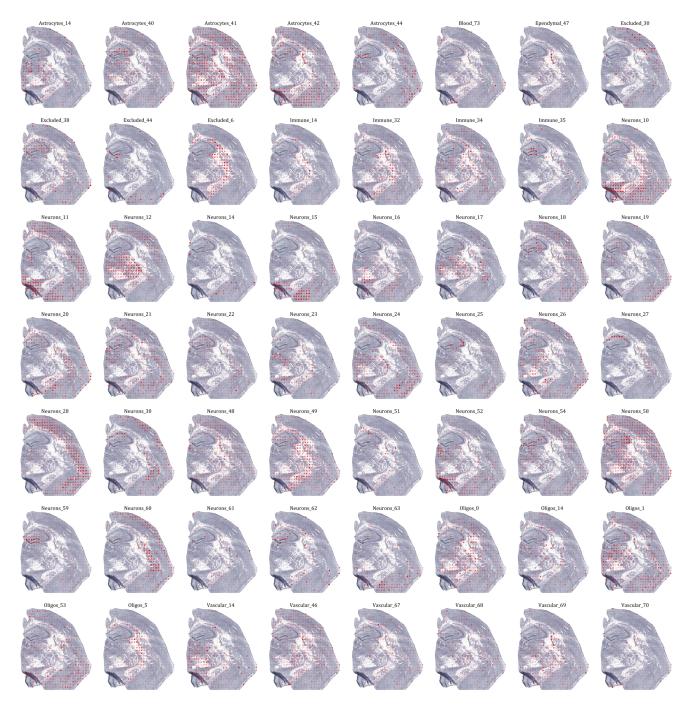
Single-cell and spatial transcriptomics enables probabilistic inference of cell type topography

July 31, 2020

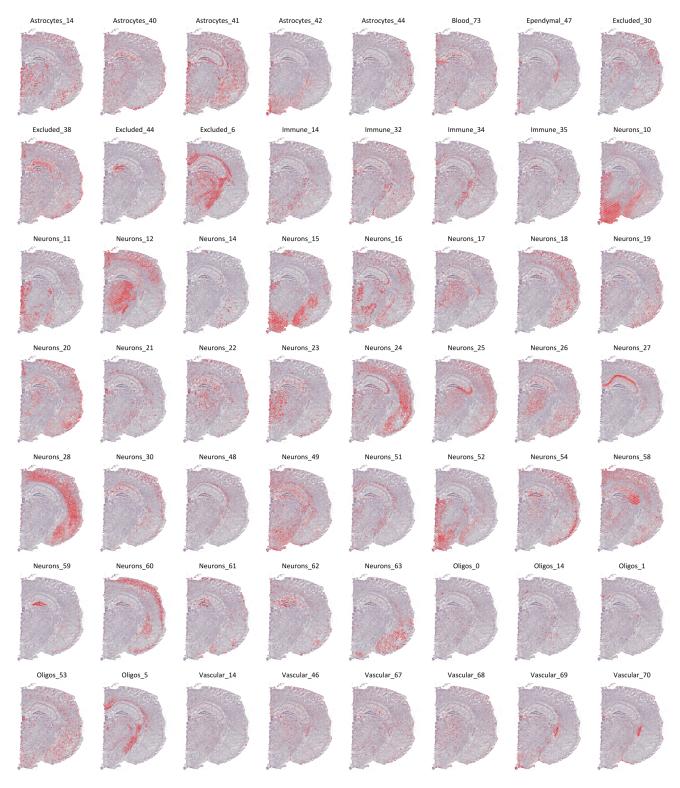
Supplementary Figures



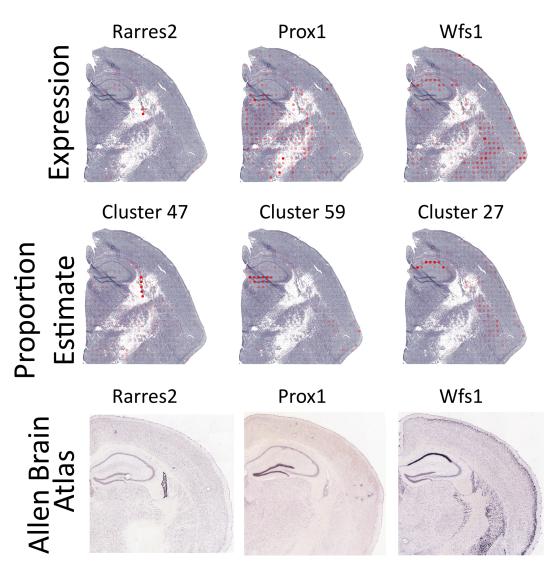
Supplementary Figure 1: Visualization of proportion estimates for section mb-ST1 (ST array, 100 micron spots) of the mouse brain, scaled within each cell type.



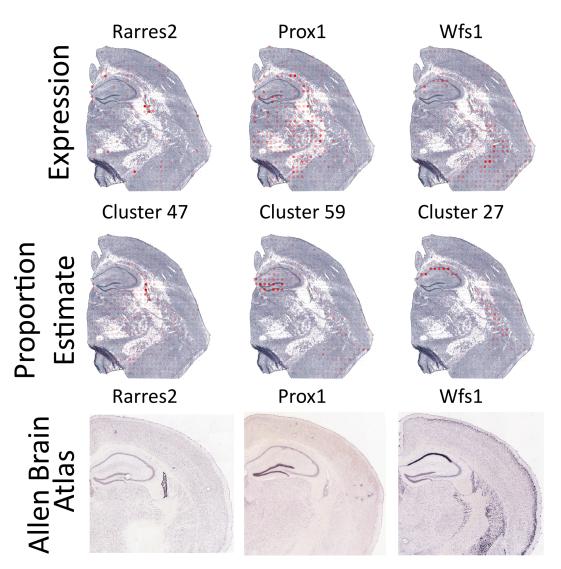
Supplementary Figure 2: Visualization of proportion estimates for section mb-ST2 (ST array, 100 micron spots) of the mouse brain, scaled within each cell type.



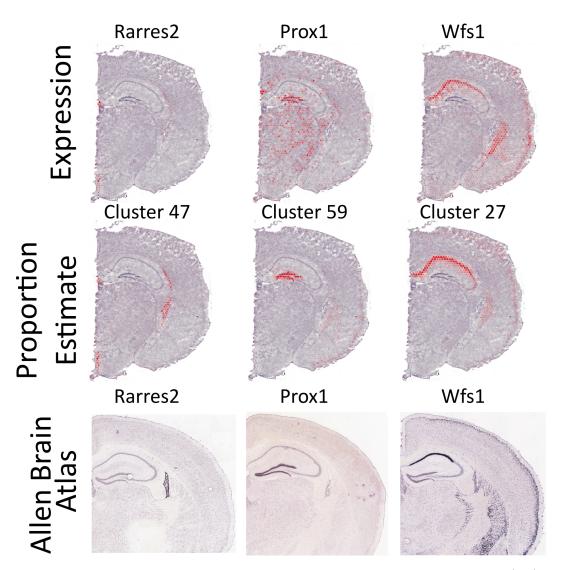
Supplementary Figure 3: Visualization of proportion estimates for section mb-V1 (Visium array, 55 micron spots), scaled within each cell type.



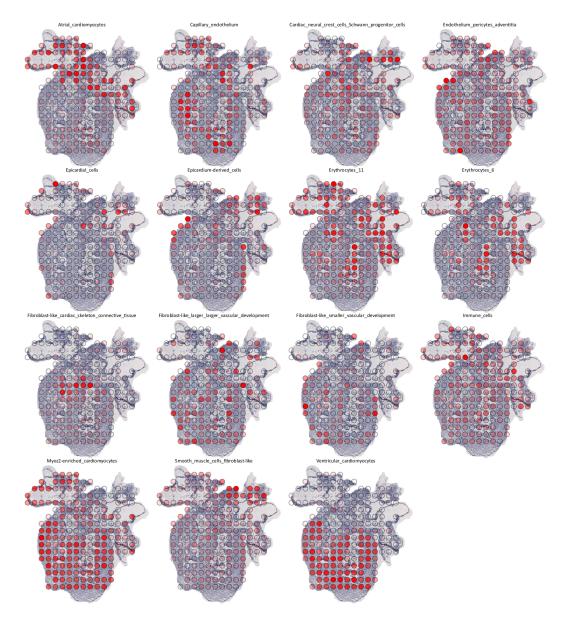
Supplementary Figure 4: Comparison between visualization of marker genes' relative expression (top) and proportion estimate (middle) in section mb-ST1, with Allen Brain Atlas ISH images (bottom) as reference. The relative gene expression is obtained by dividing the number of observed transcripts at a given spot (x_{sg}) by the total number of observed transcripts in the given spot. The relative gene expression values are visualized according to the same procedure as the proportion values (Methods).



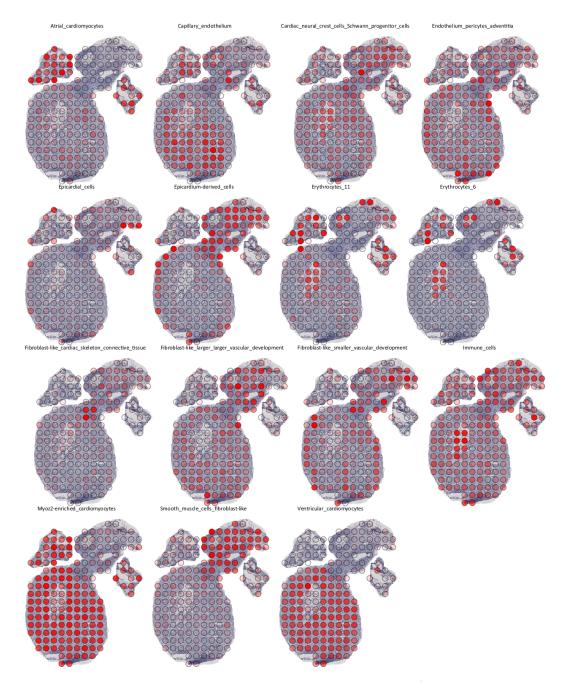
Supplementary Figure 5: Comparison between visualization of marker genes' relative expression (top) and proportion estimate (middle) in section mb-ST2, with Allen Brain Atlas ISH images (bottom) as reference. The relative gene expression is obtained by dividing the number of observed transcripts at a given spot (x_{sg}) by the total number of observed transcripts in the given spot. The relative gene expression values are visualized according to the same procedure as the proportion values (Methods).



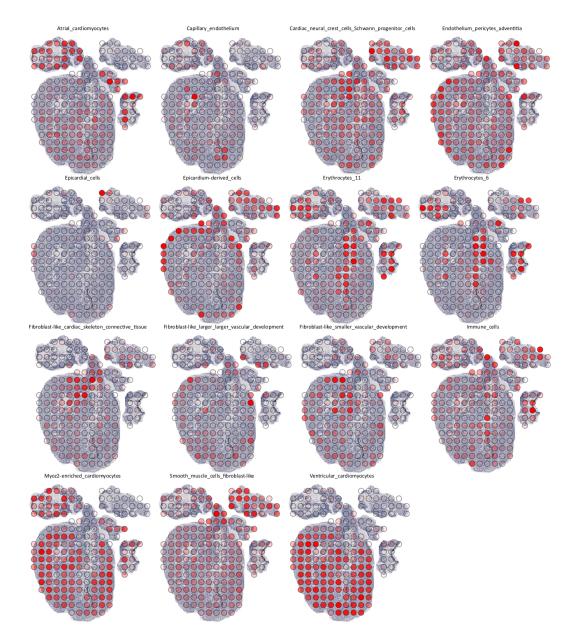
Supplementary Figure 6: Comparison between visualization of marker genes' relative expression (top) and proportion estimate (middle) in section mb-V1, with Allen Brain Atlas ISH images (bottom) as reference. The relative gene expression is obtained by dividing the number of observed transcripts at a given spot (x_{sg}) by the total number of observed transcripts in the given spot. The relative gene expression values are visualized according to the same procedure as the proportion values (Methods).



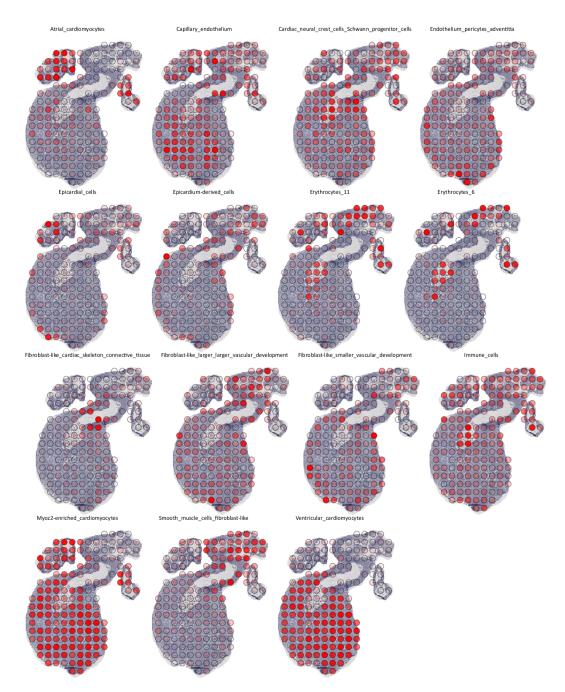
Supplementary Figure 7: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-A (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



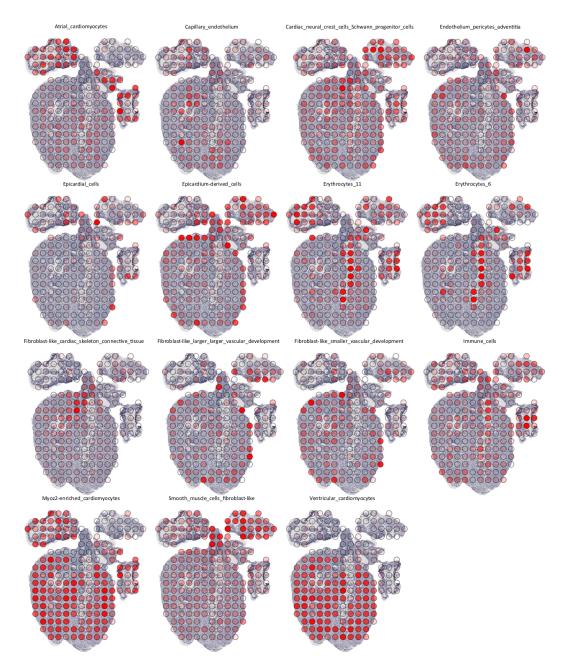
Supplementary Figure 8: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-B (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



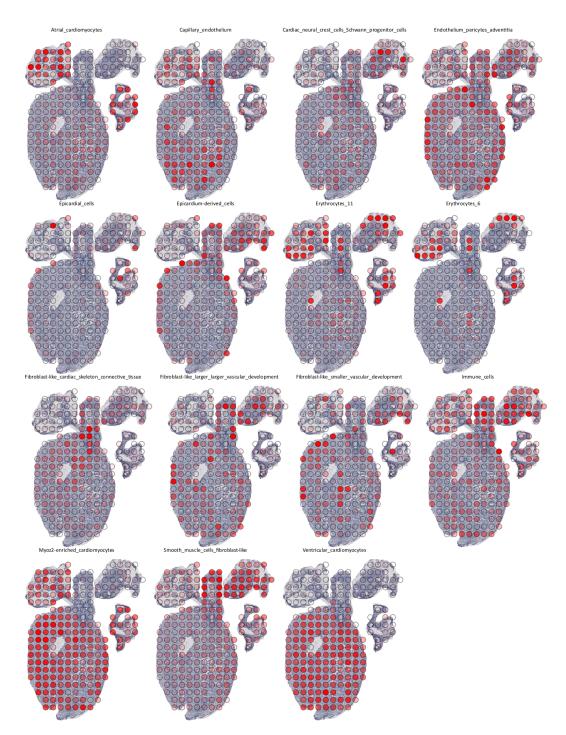
Supplementary Figure 9: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-C (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



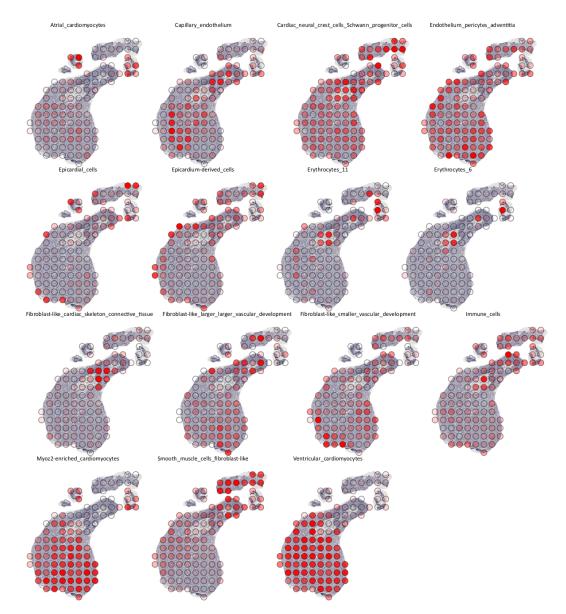
Supplementary Figure 10: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-D (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



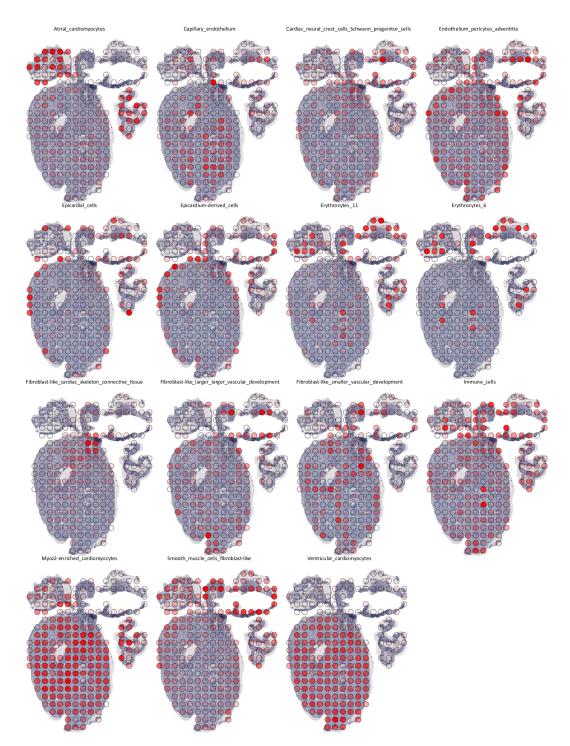
Supplementary Figure 11: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-E (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



Supplementary Figure 12: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-F (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



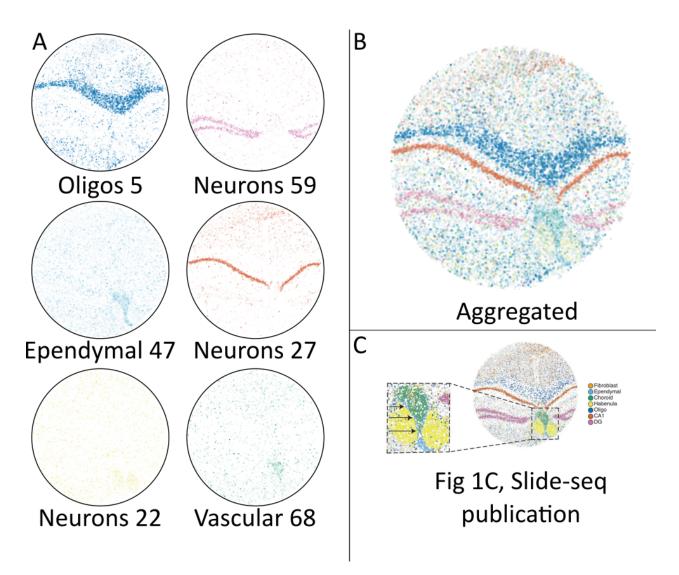
Supplementary Figure 13: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-G (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.



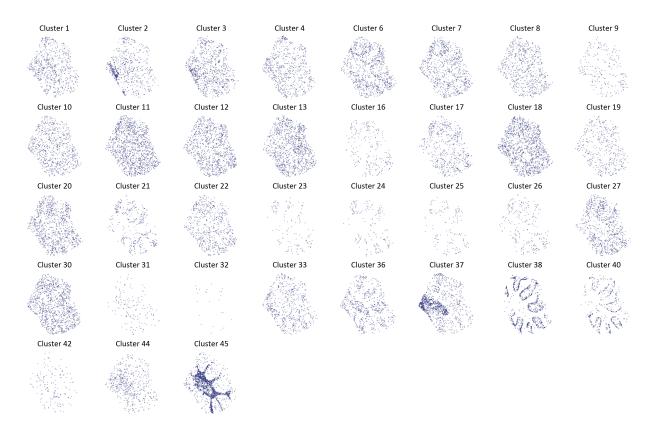
Supplementary Figure 14: Visualization of proportion estimates for section dh-H (from a series of eight independent sections from the same developmental heart, named A-H), scaled within each cell type.

Astrocytes_14	Astrocytes_40	Astrocytes_41	Astrocytes_42	Astrocytes_44	Blood_73	Ependymal_47	Excluded_30
						r	
Excluded_38	Excluded_44	Excluded_6	Immune_14	Immune_32	Immune_34	Immune_35	Neurons_10
	Sec. 4				S.		
Neurons_11	Neurons_12	Neurons_14	Neurons_15	Neurons_16	Neurons_17	Neurons_18	Neurons_19
A	No and and a second sec				AR DO	and the second s	. Alto
1967	and the second second		Sec. March	Physics -	Sec.		in and the
Neurons_20	Neurons_21	Neurons_22	Neurons_23	Neurons_24	Neurons_25	Neurons_26	Neurons_27
	a de la composition de la comp	3.6					
Neurons_28	Neurons_30	Neurons_48	Neurons_49	Neurons_51	Neurons_52	Neurons_54	Neurons_58
Neurons_59	Neurons_60	Neurons_61	Neurons_62	Neurons_63	Oligos_0	Oligos_14	Oligos_1
~ ~	N. S.						
Oligos_53	Oligos_5	Vascular_14	Vascular_46	Vascular_67	Vascular_68	Vascular_69	Vascular_70
	\sim						

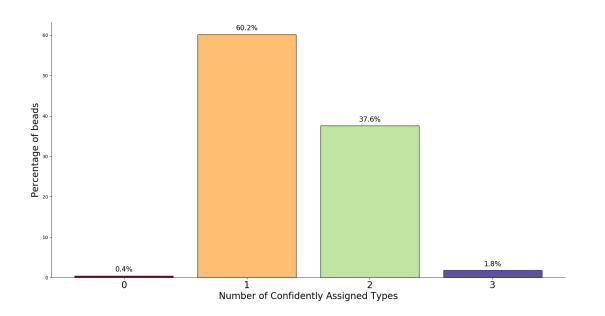
Supplementary Figure 15: Visualization of the proportion estimates for the Slide-seq mouse brain hippocampus data. The alpha value is proportional to the estimated proportion value, meaning that dark blue areas correspond to regions where the given cell type constitutes a high proportion of the cells while the opposite is true for those of white color.



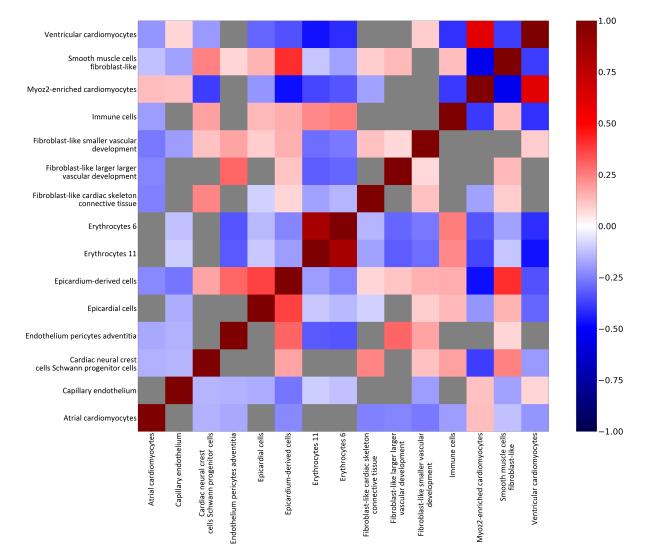
Supplementary Figure 16: **A)** Visualization of proportion estimates for six clusters (Oligos 5, Neurons 59, Ependymal 47, Neurons 27, Neurons 22 and Vascular 68) present in the single cell data. These clusters are colored using the same palette as the corresponding cell types in the Slide-seq method paper. [1] **B)** Aggregation of the six types visualized in A, produced by plotting their respective proportion values in one single plot. **C)** Modified version of Fig. 1C from the Slide-seq method paper. [1]



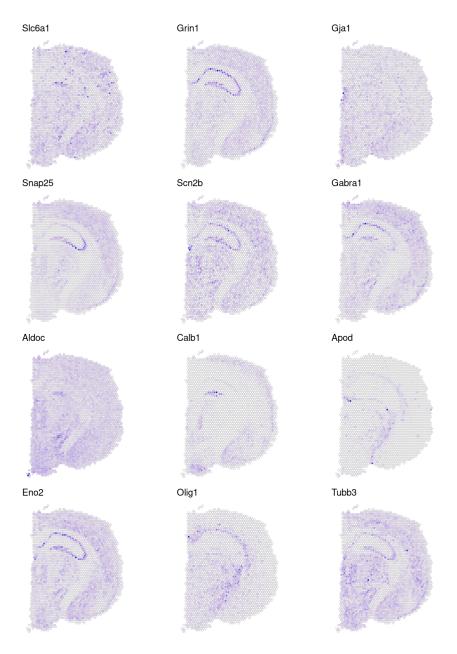
Supplementary Figure 17: Visualization of the proportion estimates for the Slide-seq mouse brain cerebellum data. Visualized by the same procedure as outlined in Figure 15.



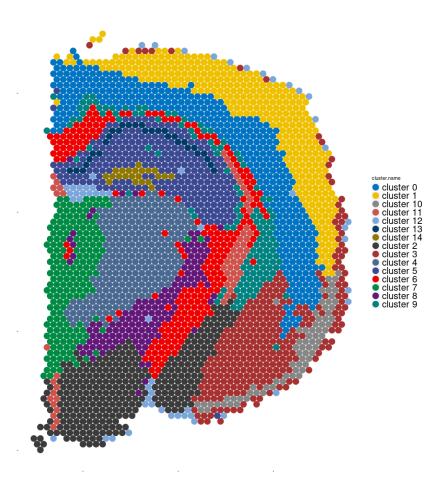
Supplementary Figure 18: Number of cell types confidently assigned to each bead in the mouse brain cerbellum data set. Confidently cell types are those (within a given bead) with a proportion value higher than half the L2-norm of the associated proportion vector, see Supplementary Section 1.6 for further details.



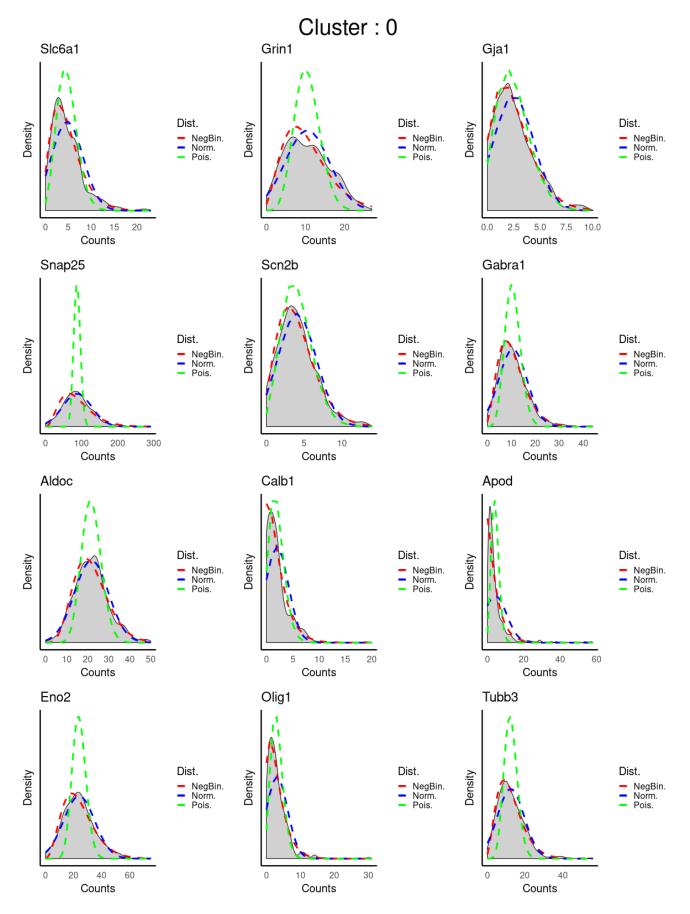
Supplementary Figure 19: Correlation between cell types (Methods) within the developmental heart. Gray areas represent correlation values where the correlation is not significant ($p \le 0.01$). The correlation values are computed over all 8 sections (n = 1375 capture locations).



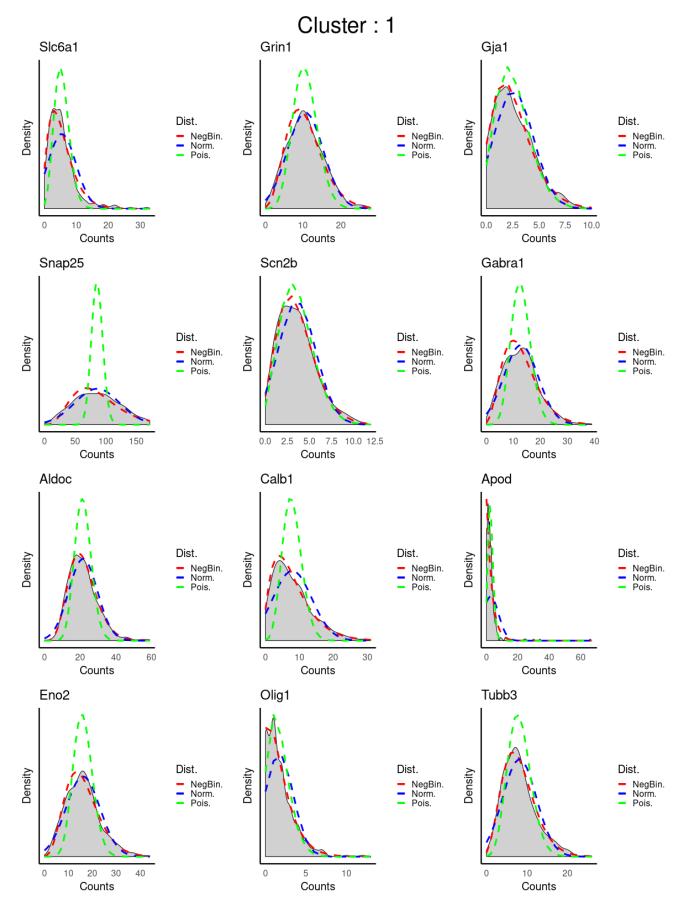
Supplementary Figure 20: In the mb-V1 sample; spatial gene expression of 12 genes listed, by the database panglaodb.se, as markers for different cell types found within the mouse brain [2]



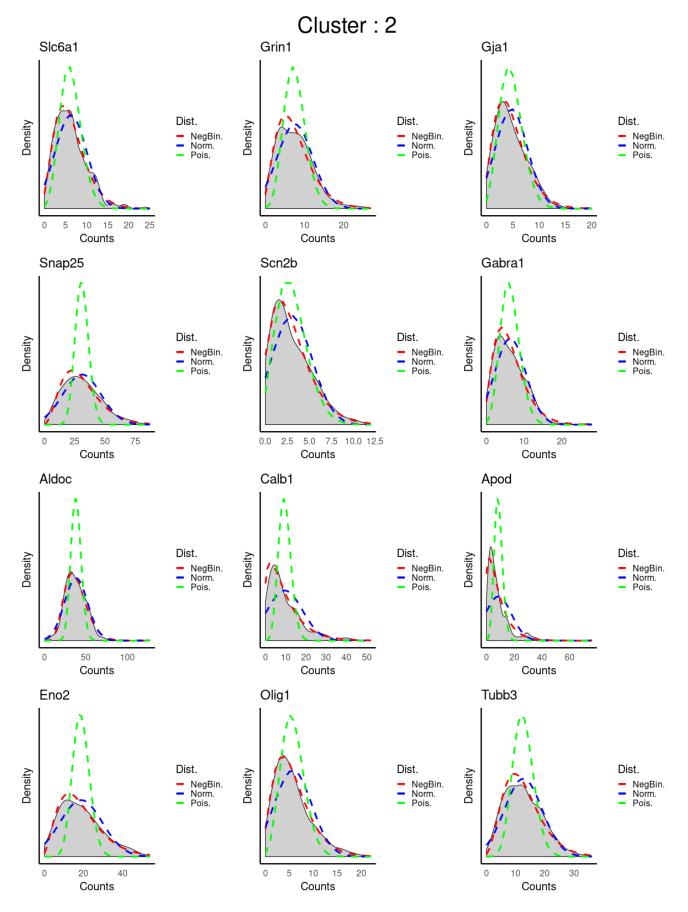
Supplementary Figure 21: Expression-based clustering of mb-V1, the normalization and clustering was obtained by using Seurat (v.3.0). A total of 15 clusters were obtained using a resolution of 0.8 in the SNN (Shared Nearest Neighbor) approach. Capture locations belonging to the same cluster share the same color. For more details, see Supplementary Section 1.1.1



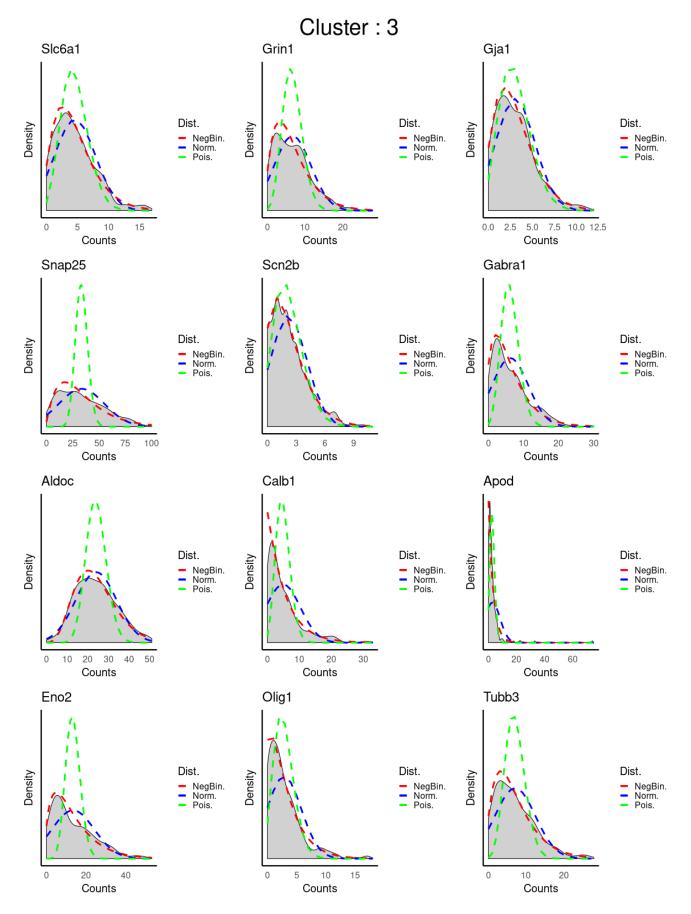
Supplementary Figure 22: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 0. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



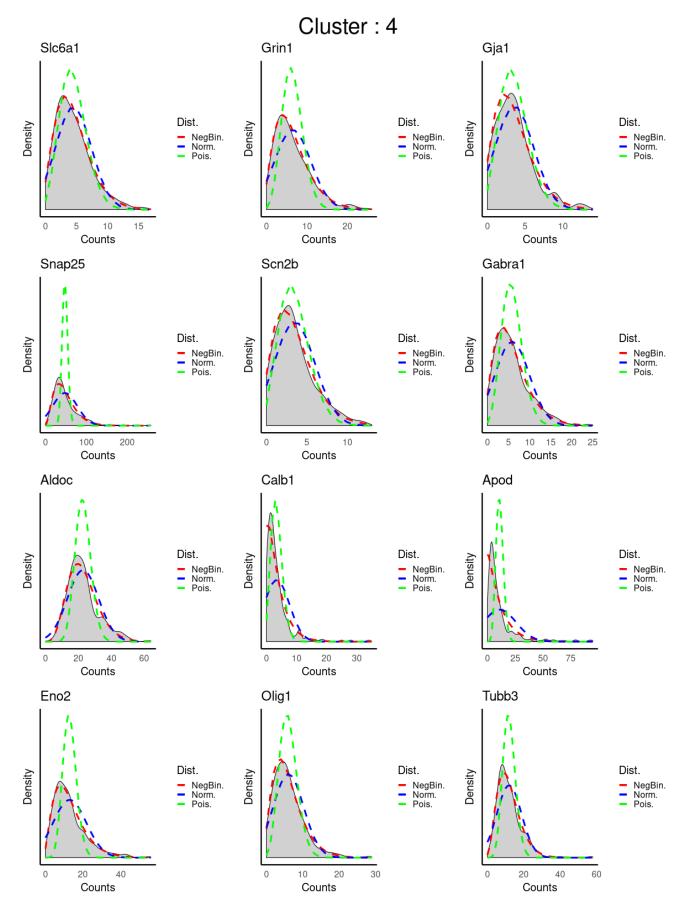
Supplementary Figure 23: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 1. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



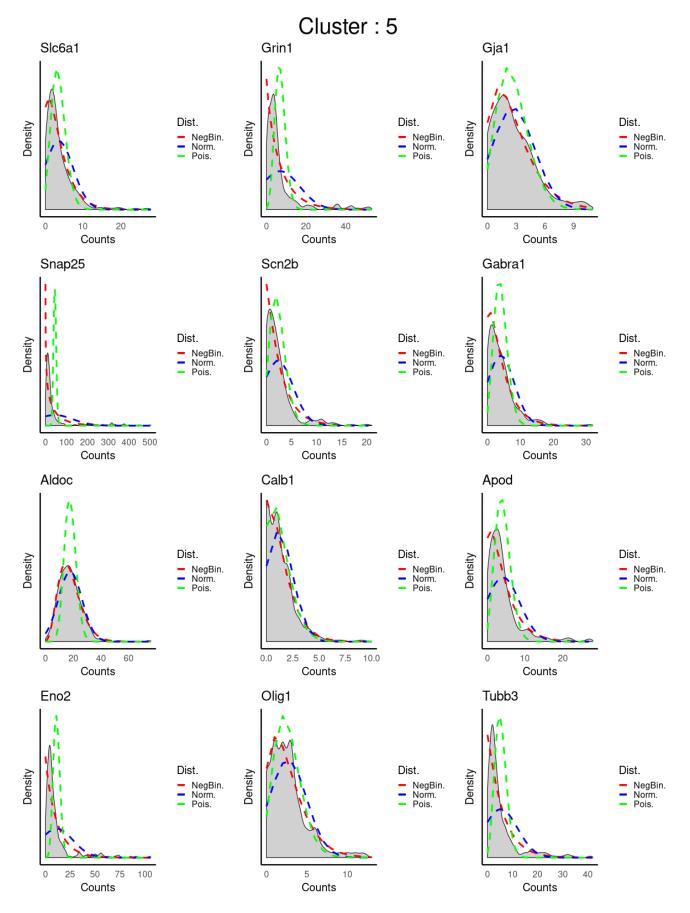
Supplementary Figure 24: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 2. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



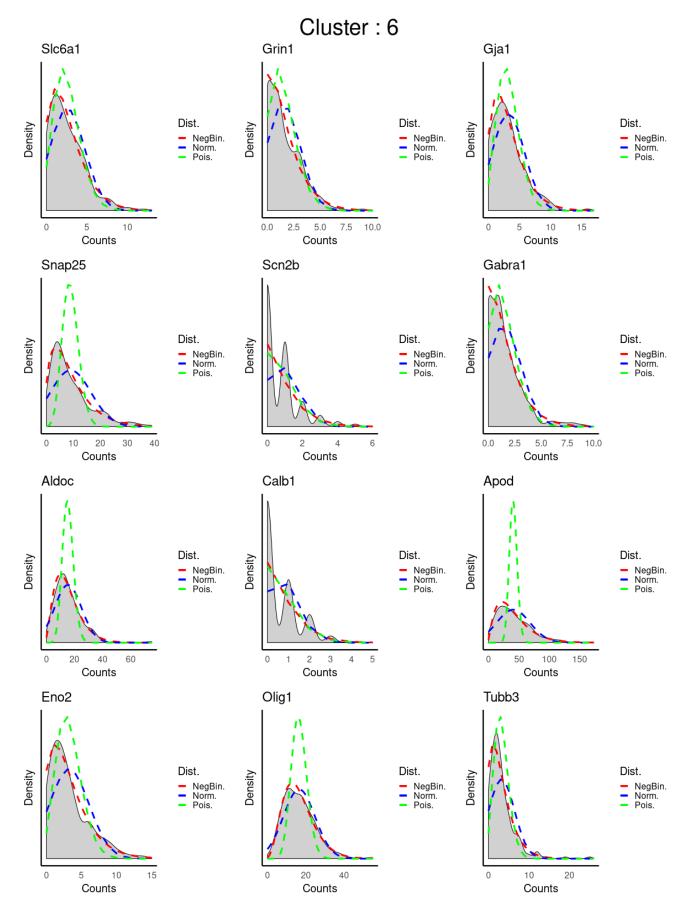
Supplementary Figure 25: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 3. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



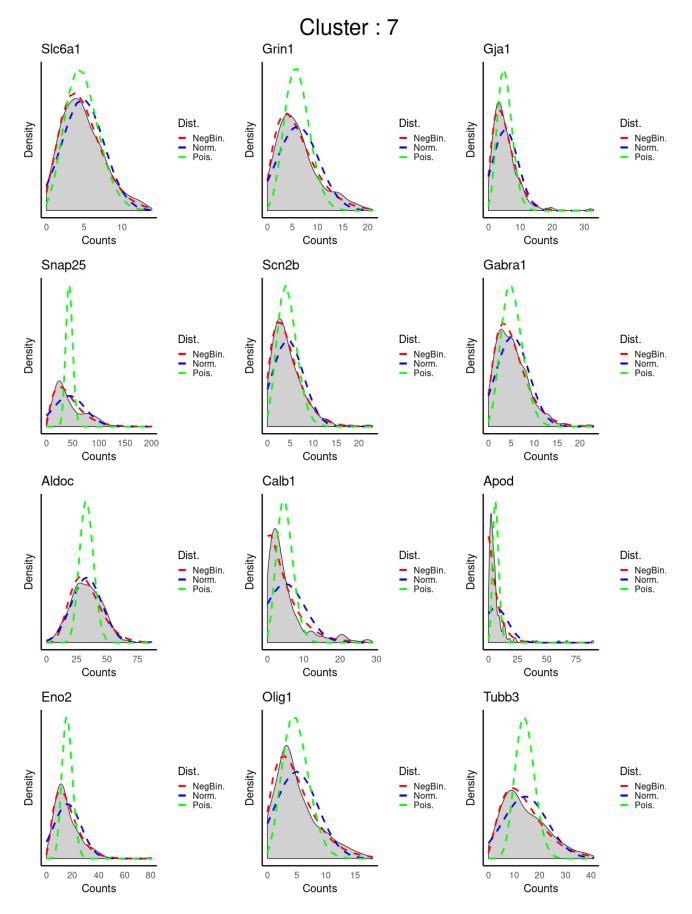
Supplementary Figure 26: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 4. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



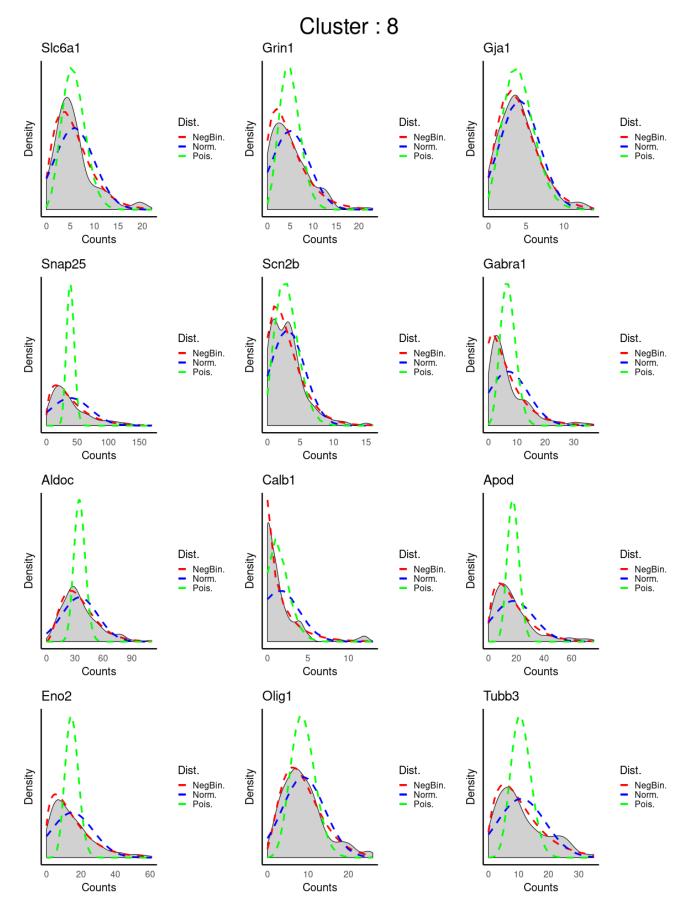
Supplementary Figure 27: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 5. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



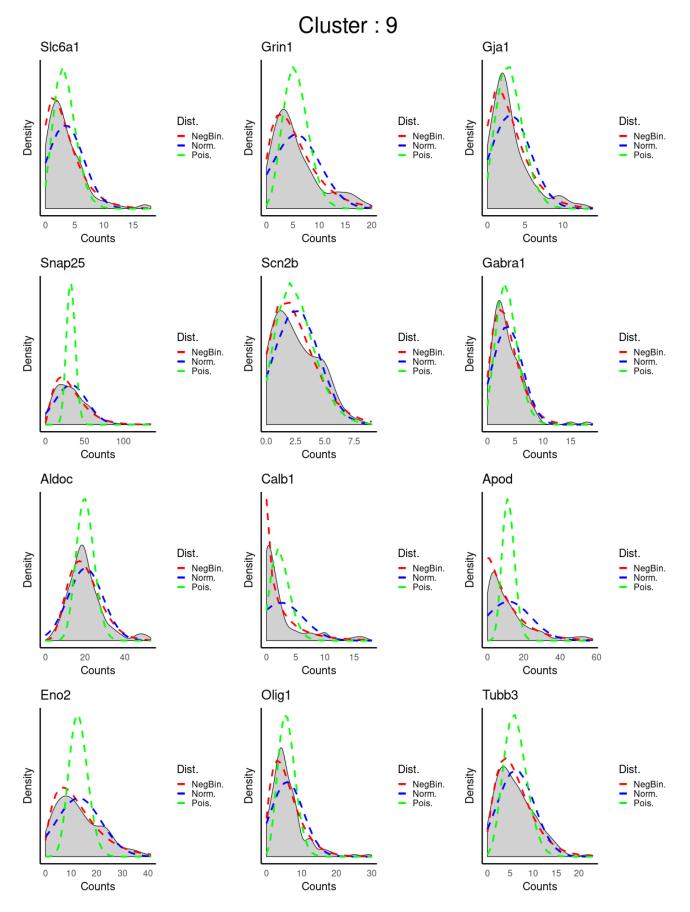
Supplementary Figure 28: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 6. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



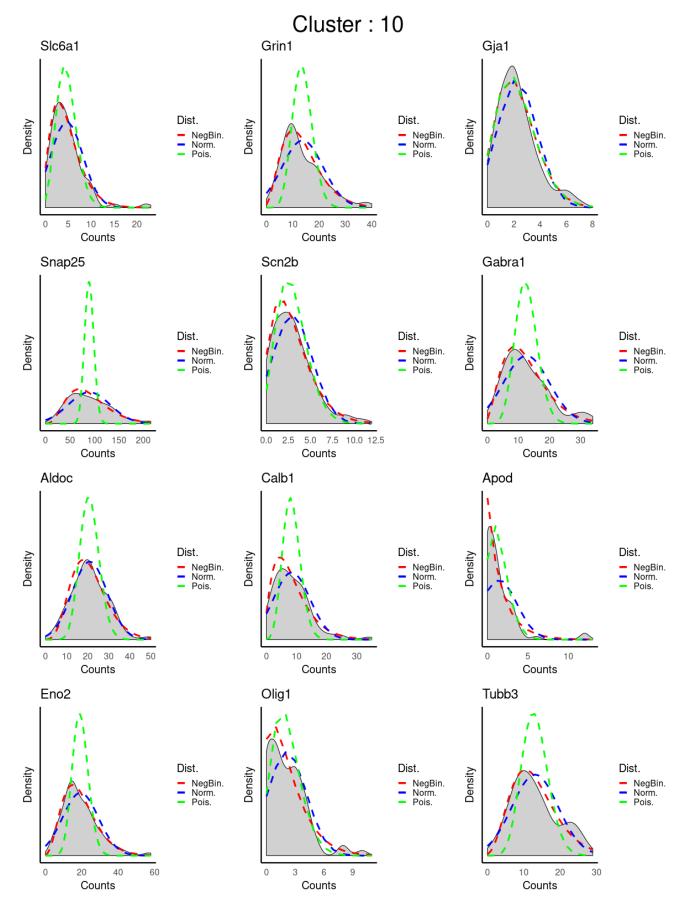
Supplementary Figure 29: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 7. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



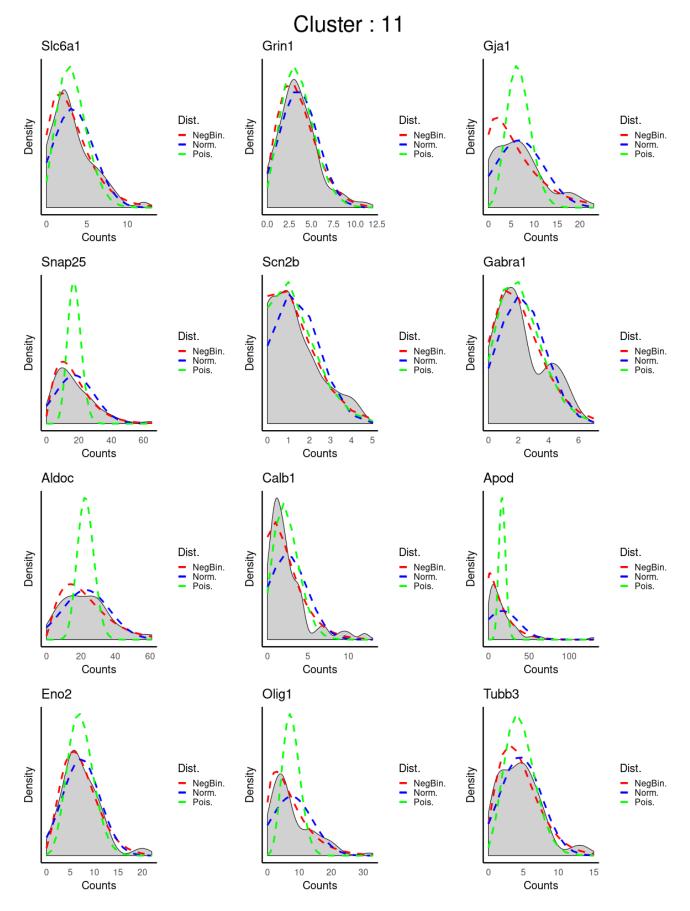
Supplementary Figure 30: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 8. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



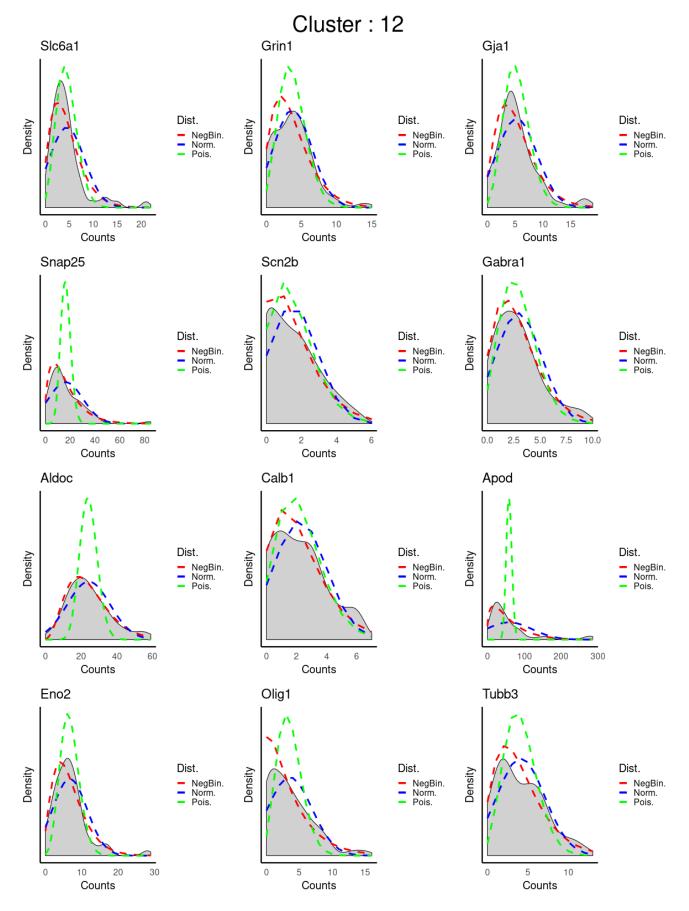
Supplementary Figure 31: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 9. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



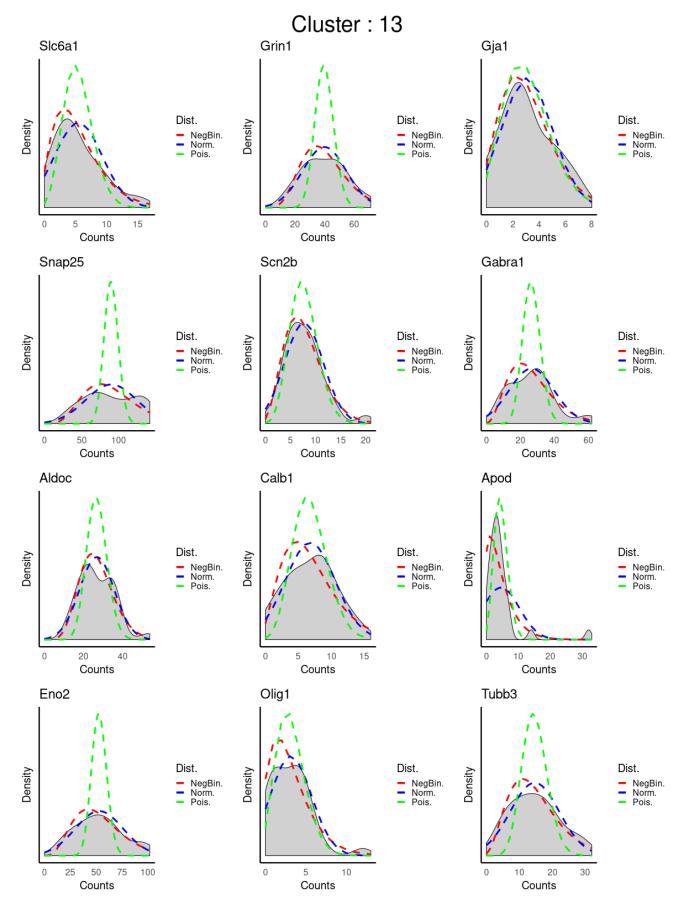
Supplementary Figure 32: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 10. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



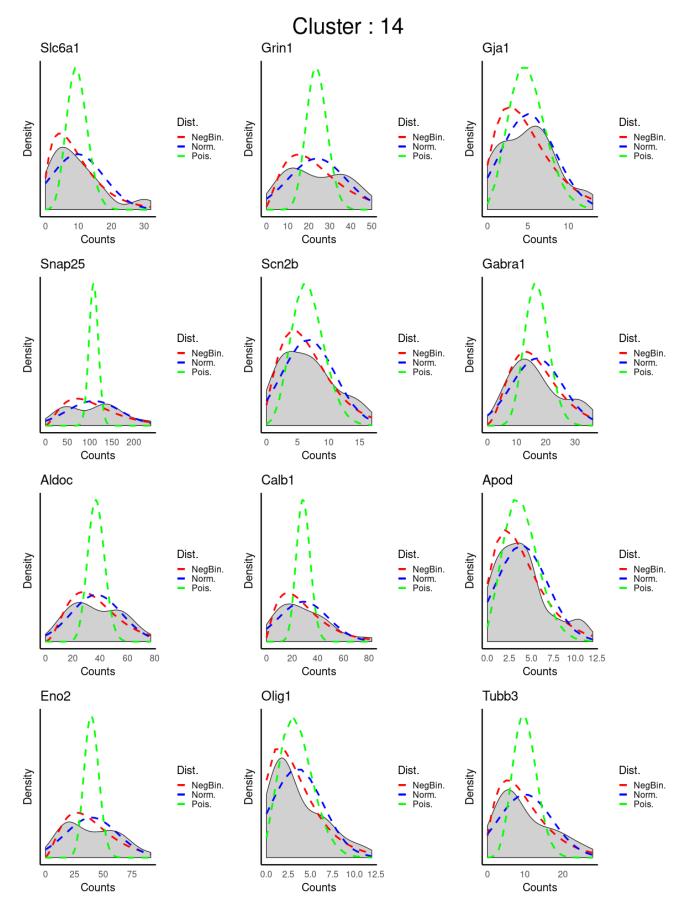
Supplementary Figure 33: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 11. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



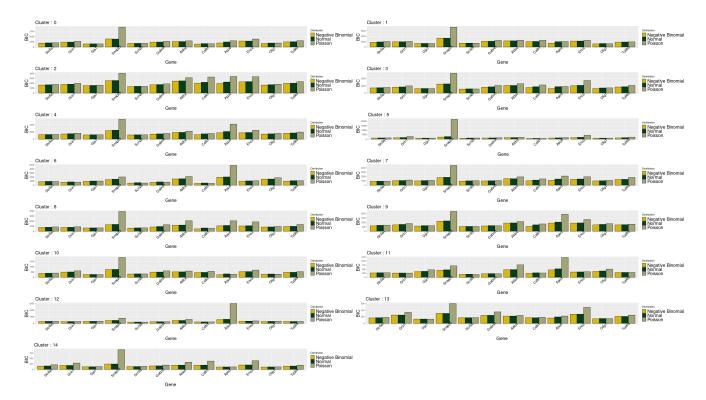
Supplementary Figure 34: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 12. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



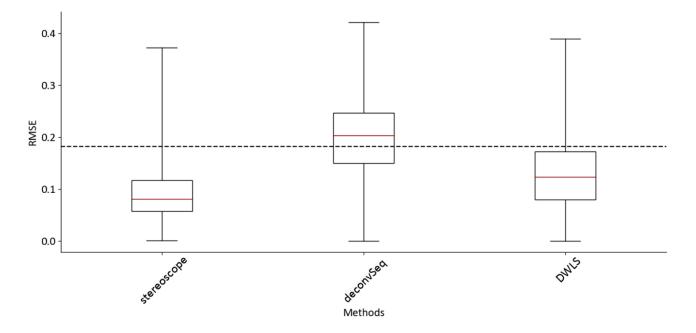
Supplementary Figure 35: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 13. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



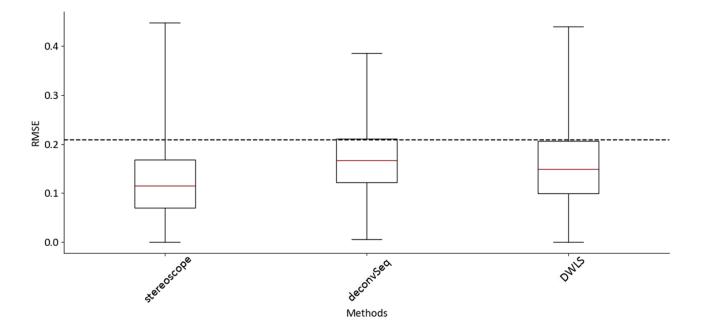
Supplementary Figure 36: Fitted vs. Empirical Distributions for Cluster 14. Gray - empirical distribution, Red - Negative Binomial, Green - Poisson, Blue - Normal



Supplementary Figure 37: BIC score for the different distributions fitted to each marker gene and across clusters.



Supplementary Figure 38: Comparison between *stereoscope* and other methods designed to estimate proportions of cell types in bulk data with the help of single cell data. The boxes spans the range between the lower and upper quartiles of the data. The red line indicates the median. Whiskers show the full range. The dashed line indicates the average value from computing the RMSE from n = 1000 proportion estimate vectors (of each spatial location) generated from a Dirichlet distribution (concentration set to 1 for all types).



Supplementary Figure 39: Similar to Supplementary Figure 38 but for the synthetic data where cell density is set to range between 1 - 10 cells.

Supplementary Tables

Data Set	Accession	Comment
Mouse Brain (ST1K)	https://github.com/almaan/stereoscope/1 blob/master/data/mousebrain/mouse-st-data.zip	password : zNLXkYk3Q9znUseS
Mouse Brain (Visium) https://support.10xgenomics.com/spatial-gene-expression N /datasets/1.0.0/V1_Adult_Mouse_Brain N		N/A
Mouse Brain Hippocampus (Slide-seq) https://singlecell.broadinstitute.org/single_cell/ P		Puck : 180413_7
Mouse Brain Cerebellum (Slide-seq)	https://singlecell.broadinstitute.org/single_cell/ study/SCP354/slide-seq-study	Puck : 180819_11
Mouse Brain Hippocampus (Single Cell)	https://storage.googleapis.com/ linnarsson-lab-loom/l1_hippocampus.loom	N/A
Mouse Brain Cerebellum (Single Cell)	https://storage.googleapis.com/ linnarsson-lab-loom/l1_cerebellum.loom	N/A
Developmental Heart (ST1K and Single Cell)	https://www.spatialresearch.org/ resources-published-datasets/ doi-10-1016-j-cell-2019-11-025/	N/A

Supplementary Table 1: Data access, links to all the data sets presented in the manuscript, additional information is given in the "Comments" columns when relevant.

	Cell Type	Number of Cells		Туре	Number of Cells		Type	Number of Cells
1	Astrocytes_14	250	20	Neurons_15	250	39	Neurons_54	30
2	Astrocytes_40	250	21	Neurons_16	52	40	Neurons_58	48
3	Astrocytes_41	31	22	Neurons_17	250	41	Neurons_59	250
4	Astrocytes_42	250	23	Neurons_18	248	42	Neurons_60	250
5	Astrocytes_44	41	24	Neurons_19	55	43	Neurons_61	106
6	Blood_73	46	25	Neurons_20	38	44	Neurons_62	42
7	Ependymal_47	27	26	Neurons_21	250	45	Neurons_63	250
8	Excluded_30	30	27	Neurons_22	27	46	Oligos_0	250
9	Excluded_38	25	28	Neurons_23	249	47	Oligos_1	158
10	Excluded_44	56	29	Neurons_24	250	48	Oligos_14	101
11	Excluded_6	87	30	Neurons_25	250	49	Oligos_5	250
12	Immune_14	63	31	Neurons_26	250	50	Oligos_53	250
13	Immune_32	131	32	Neurons_27	250	51	Vascular_14	75
14	Immune_34	250	33	Neurons_28	250	52	Vascular_46	61
15	Immune_35	38	34	Neurons_30	26	53	Vascular_67	250
16	Neurons_10	35	35	Neurons_48	183	54	Vascular_68	250
17	Neurons_11	250	36	Neurons_49	25	55	Vascular_69	41
18	Neurons_12	250	37	Neurons_51	250	56	Vascular_70	33
19	Neurons_14	250	38	Neurons_52	241		Total	8449

Supplementary Table 2: Composition of the subsampled single cell mouse brain hippocampus data set.

	Cluster	Number of Cells		Cluster	Number of Cells
1	1	156	19	22	62
2	2	126	20	23	500
3	3	434	21	24	466
4	4	378	22	25	317
5	6	44	23	26	151
6	7	48	24	27	48
7	8	58	25	30	27
8	9	187	26	31	499
9	10	69	27	32	498
10	11	30	28	33	91
11	12	29	29	36	499
12	13	28	30	37	125
13	16	282	31	38	76
14	17	92	32	40	499
15	18	33	33	42	467
16	19	144	34	44	133
17	20	49	35	45	361
18	21	500		Total	7506

Supplementary Table 3: Composition of the subsampled single cell mouse brain cerebellum data set.

	Cell Type	Number of Cells
1	Atrial_cardiomyocytes	152
2	Capillary_endothelium	662
3	$Cardiac_neural_crest_cells_Schwann_progenitor_\dots$	75
4	$Endothelium_pericytes_adventitia$	127
5	Epicardial_cells	128
6	Epicardium-derived_cells	392
7	Erythrocytes_11	113
8	$Erythrocytes_6$	186
9	Fibroblast-like_cardiac_skeleton_connective_ti	463
10	Fibroblast-like_larger_larger_vascular_develop	150
11	Fibroblast-like_smaller_vascular_development	337
12	Immune_cells	76
13	Myoz2-enriched_cardiomyocytes	97
14	Smooth_muscle_cells_fibroblast-like	263
15	Ventricular_cardiomyocytes	496
	Total	3717

Supplementary Table 4: Composition of the single cell developmental heart data set.

	Cell Type	Number of Cells	
1	Astrocyte	250	
2	Astrocyte, Neurons	58	
3	Astrocyte,Oligos	47	
4	Blood	40	
5	Immune	250	
6	Neurons	250	
7	Neurons,Cycling	94	
8	Neurons, Oligos	33	
9	Oligos	250	
10	Vascular	250	
	Total	1522	

Supplementary Table 5: Composition of the *generation* and *validation* single cell data sets (the two share identical compositions).

Compared to.	W	estimate	p-value	CI-upper
deconvSeq	33148.0	-0.110118	6.571734e-107	-0.105184
DWLS	59784.0	-0.035190	2.970104e-77	-0.032272

Supplementary Table 6: Results from an one-sided paired Wilcoxon signed-rank test between ours (*stereoscope*) and other methods devised for bulk deconvolution aided by single cell data. In short, this tests whether the difference between the location-wise paired RMSE values are symmetrically distributed around zero, or if this distribution is skewed in favor of stereoscope. W is the test statistic, *estimate* is the estimated location of the difference between the estimates from *stereoscope* and the other methods. The p-value represents the probability of no asymetry existing between the methods. CI-upper is the upper 95% confidence level. Hence, a negative estimate with a significant p-value is to be interpreted in favor of stereoscope. The test was conducted using the *wilcox.test* function in R (v.3.5) with a total of n = 1000 synthetic data spots

Compared to.	W	estimate	p-value	CI-upper
deconvSeq	103377.0	-0.046208	1.176005e-48	-0.041459
DWLS	127372.0	-0.024165	2.110848e-32	-0.020732

Supplementary Table 7: Similar to Supplementary Table 6 but for the synthetic data where cell density is set to range between 1 - 10 cells.

1 Supplementary Notes

1.1 Characterization of Spatial Expression Data

Our method assumes that gene expression data can be sufficiently modeled by a Negative Binomial (NB) distribution. This idea is by no means novel; several methods designed for analysis of either bulk or single cell RNA-seq data relies on variations of the very same assumption (e.g., edgeR, DeSeq2, ZINB-WaVE and sctransform) [3–6]. Spatial data generated from capture based technologies, like those discussed within this work, share several features with single cell data; the most obvious being how both are constituted of positive integer values representing the number of transcripts associated with a given observation (cell alternatively capture location). The experimental methods by which such spatial data is obtained nevertheless differ substantially from those of single cell data, and thus caution should be payed to extrapolation of assumptions between the data modalities. Aware of this, we here seek to justify our assumptions and present support for our spatial data being NB-distributed, as to ensure we're not working on false premises.

To briefly recapitulate some of the terminology and properties of the NB distribution: We let x_{sgc} denote the observable transcripts of a given gene (g), from a specific cell (c), at a given capture location (s). Our main assumption is that $x_{sgc} \sim \mathcal{NB}(., p_g)$, as a consequence of the additive property of NB distributions with shared second parameters (p_g) , we therefore have that $x_{sg} = \sum_{c \in C_s} x_{sgc} \sim \mathcal{NB}(., p_g)$ as well.

There are however two prominent issues that must be addressed in the context of this quest, namely that: (1) x_{sgc} is not observed in any of the experimental platforms included in this study, and we are therefore limited to computational inferences of these values; (2) while we do observe x_{sg} (being entries of the count matrices), we only have *one* such observation per distribution that we wish to characterize; this sparsity prevents us from making any general statement regarding the distributions. Due to (1) we will focus our efforts on characterization of x_{sg} rather than x_{sgc} , to then consider support for the former being NB distributed as strongly implicating the latter having the same property. In order to circumvent (2), we will cluster the capture locations based on their gene expression profiles and assume that members within the same cluster (k) can be taken to have approximately the same first parameter (r_{kg}) ; meaning that $x_{sg}|s \in k = x_{kg} \sim \mathcal{NB}(r_{kg}, p_g)$. As a result of this simplification, we have multiple observations from respective distribution (x_{kg}) and are able evaluate how well the NB distribution approximates this.

For the purpose of this inquiry, we use the mb-V1 section (Visium) and a set of genes (n = 12) listed as markers for cell types within the brain (taken from panglaodb.se), these genes also exhibit varying spatial distributions, see Supplementary Figure 20. [2] We used the *Seurat* package in R to normalize and cluster our data, from this we obtained 15 clusters, shown in Figure 21. See Supplementary Section 1.1.1 for more details regarding the clustering. Next, within each cluster and for each marker gene, we fitted 3 different parametric distributions (Negative Binomial, Normal and Poisson) to the observed expression (using the R package *fitdistrplus*). The empirical and fitted distributions for each cluster and marker gene are visualized in Supplementary Figures 22-36. As can be seen in the aforementioned figures, the NB distribution (red) tends to provide a good approximation for the observed empirical distribution (gray). Some deviations and ill-fits are observed, but these are mainly confined to clusters with few members or where the specific gene's expression do not overlap very well with the cluster (in the spatial domain). For a more quantitative assessment of how well the different distributions were able to describe the data, we compared their respective BIC (*Bayesian information criterion*) values, once the distributions had been fitted to the data. For all marker genes, the NB distribution outperformed the alternative distributions, as shown in Supplementary Figure 37.

We believe these results support and speak in favor of our assumption that x_{sg} is well approximated by an NB distribution, hence also being affirmative of our model's design. Furthermore, from a theoretical standpoint it's also motivated to take the spatial data as NB-distributed; the NB distribution is often interpreted as an "overdisperssed" Poisson distribution, which represents the number of iid events that occur in given interval of time or space - a definition that translates well to the capture of mRNA at specific locations in the spatial assays. If we were to accept this as sufficient support for our assumption regarding the sum x_{sg} , it's also motivated to assume that the respective constituents are NB-distributed, as this would indeed produce a new NB-distributed variable like that of x_{sg} .

All results related to the discussion regarding the assumption of spatial capture-based data being Negative Bino-

mial distribution, can be reproduced by running the script test-NB.R (found in the referenced github and Zenodo repositories), where the only input needed is the mb-V1 count file and a list of genes (the marker genes used) to be analyzed.

1.1.1 Seurat Clustering

To cluster the data, we followed the steps outlined in the Seurat Vignette [7], without any modifications (meaning, resolution = 0.8). In total 15 clusters were identified, as presented in Supplementary Figure 21.

1.2 Method Comparison

To compare and benchmark our method against alternative methods designed for deconvolution of bulk RNA-seq data using single cell RNA-seq data, we generated synthetic data according to the procedure outlined in Table 1 (Methods). The synthetic data generation produces sets with known proportion values, which can be used to quantitatively evaluate method performance. We conducted two comparative analyses:

- Comparison 1, 10-30 cells per capture location: For this comparison; cell density (cells per capture location) was set to 10 30 cells during synthetic data generation. The intention was to generate data that resembled that obtained from the older ST (1k array) platform. Results are shown in Supplementary Figure 38 and Supplementary Table 6, where it can be seen how *stereoscope* outperforms the other methods.
- Comparison 2, 1-10 cells per capture location: For this comparison; cell density (cells per capture location) was set to 1 10 cells during synthetic data generation. For this set the intetion was to generate data that resembled that produced by the Visium platform. Results are shown in Supplementary Figure 39 and Supplementary Table 7, *stereoscope* performs better than the alternative methods in this comparison as well.

1.3 Data : Mouse Brain

Single Cell

Single cell data was downloaded from *mousebrain.org*, where data from Hippocampus and Cerebellum were provided as loom-files containing a total of 29519 cells (hippocampus) and 27998 cells (cerebellum). As stated in the methods section: for the hippocampus data, the labels given as "Clusters" and "Class" were joined together in order to define more granular cell types; while for the cerebellum data we used the "Clusters" labels. Applying the subsampling scheme described in Methods, data sets consisting of 8449 (hippocampus) and 7506 (cerbellum) cells were assembled, the exact compositions of these sets are found in Supplementary Table 2 and 3.

ST/Visium

We analyzed two 100 micron array ST sections (mb-ST1 and mb-ST2), data can be accessed at the github page, original source in currently in press. We excluded all spots that were not covered by the tissue. We downloaded Visium (55 micron array) data from the website of 10x GenomicsTM, listed under "Support", "Spatial Gene Expression" and "Datasets", selecting the set listed as "Mouse Brain Section (Coronal)". [8] For the Visium data we only included spots under the tissue in our analysis.

Slide-seq

We analyzed two Slide-seq pucks: the puck visualized in Fig.1C (hippocampus) and one of the pucks used to generate Fig.2C (cerebellum) - figure numbers refer to the publication where the method was first presented. [1] The data was accessed from the "Single Cell Portal" provided by Broad Institute, pucks with ID 180413_7 (hippocampus) and 180819_11 (cerebellum) were downloaded. We used the files *MappedDGEForR.csv* and *MappedLocationsForR.csv*, associated with pucks of said IDs, to assemble an expression matrix with beads as rows and genes as columns. [9] We also replaced the original row names containing the barcode ids with each bead's spatial coordinates given as "[x_coordinate]x[y_coordinate]". All beads with non-zero total counts were used in the analysis.

1.4 Data : Developmental Heart

Both single cell and ST data for the analysis of the developmental heart are taken from the publication "A spatiotemporal organ-wide gene expression and cell atlas of the developing human heart.". [10] The complete set of

single cells was used, while only the 8 ST sections from PCW (Post Conceptional Week) 6.5 were used as spatial data. Supplementary Table 4 gives the specifics of the single cell data set.

1.5 Data : Synthetic Data

Single Cell

To generate synthetic single cell data, the data set originating from hippocampal tissue was downloaded from *mousebrain.org* (the same set as used for the analysis of the mouse brain) where the "Subclass" annotations were used as cell type identifiers. A generation and validation set of equal compositions (in terms of number of cells from each cell type) were generated, exact structure given in Supplementary Table 5.

Spatial Data

A total of 1000 spots were synthesized according to the procedure described in the Methods section. Only data from the top 500 highest expressed genes in the generation data set were used, hence a 1000×500 count matrix was generated. All synthetic data sets and the code used for the "synthesis" is available in the github repository of this paper, where also a tutorial to reproduce the results is presented.

1.6 Slide-seq analysis

With no histological image being provided for the Slide-seq data, we depict the obtained proportion estimates in a similar fashion to the ST data – each bead is represented by a circular marker where the alpha value is proportional to the estimated proportion for each cell type – but without a background tissue image. Due to the large number of beads present in the Slide-seq assays (and thus data points to visualize) the proportion estimates are multiplied by the scalar 0.6 in Fig.15, rendering a result which is easier to inspect and interpret. While Slide-seq provides high resolution, a one-to-one mapping between bead and cell is not guaranteed, given how beads tend to have between 1-3 cells contributing to them. [1] We therefore do not apply "hard" cluster assignments (i.e., assigning each bead to the type with highest associated proportion estimate) but rather use the proportion estimates. No scaling within cell type nor section is performed upon visualization.

Our main reason for including the cerebellum Slide-seq data was to assess whether we obtained the same number of cell types distributed across the beads as reported in the original Slide-seq study. The authors report that for the 7 Cerebellum pucks approximately $65.8 \pm 1.4\%$ of the beads are matched to a single cell type while $32.6 \pm 1.2\%$ mapped to two cell types (numbers reported as mean \pm standard deviation).

To compare our results with those obtained in the Slide-seq study, we implemented an approach similar to what the Slide-seq authors used when calling the number of cell types assigned to a bead; in our case a cell type was "confidently assigned" to a bead if the proportion value of a cell type was greater than half the L2 norm of a bead's proportion vector. By doing so we could observe how 60.2% and 37.6% of beads had one respectively two cell types confidently assigned to them, see Figure 18. While these values both fall outside of the reported error range, it should be noted that we used a different single cell data set with a larger number of cell types; it's therefore plausible to suggest that what was called as contribution from one cell type in the Slide-seq study might in some cases (since we are operating at a higher granularity) be matched to two types in our data - explaining the slight discrepancies between the reported values.

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