Illumina Unamplified Indexed Library Construction: An Automated Approach

Christopher A. Hack¹, Alex Sczyrba¹, Jan-Fang Cheng¹

¹Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

March 2011

The work conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute is supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231
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Introduction

Manual library construction is a limiting factor in Illumina sequencing. Constructing libraries by hand is costly, time-consuming, low-throughput, and ergonomically hazardous, and constructing multiple libraries introduces risk of library failure due to pipetting errors. The ability to construct multiple libraries simultaneously in automated fashion represents significant cost and time savings.

Here we present a strategy to construct up to 96 unamplified indexed libraries using Illumina TruSeq reagents and a Biomek FX robotic platform. We also present data to indicate that this library construction method has little or no risk of cross-contamination between samples.

Workflow

DNA Shearing  
2 min/sample on Covaris E210 ultrasonicator. Plate used is compatible with downstream processing.

End Repair

Size Selection and Purification  
2 ½ hours

A-tailing

Adapter Ligation

Final Library Purification

Library QC and Quantification

Pooling of Indexed Libraries for Downstream Illumina Sequencing

Following DNA shearing, a single operator can construct 96 libraries and set up QC in a single day.

Instrument Layout

Library QC Data

Sequence data was analyzed for potential cross-contamination between adjacent libraries. Sequence data was analyzed for potential cross-contamination between adjacent libraries. Sequence data was analyzed for potential cross-contamination between adjacent libraries. Sequence data was analyzed for potential cross-contamination between adjacent libraries.

Proof of Principle Experiment

24 unamplified indexed TruSeq libraries were constructed using this method and subsequently pooled and sequenced in a 1x36 run on an Illumina GAii instrument. Sequence data was analyzed for potential cross-contamination between adjacent libraries.

For each index there are a handful of reads that mapped to the “wrong” reference genome. When the mapping is redone excluding reads from ribosomal DNA, the instances of “wrong” mapping are not seen. This indicates that the reads mapping to unexpected reference genomes are not a result of cross-contamination during library construction, but rather just representative of highly conserved regions of ribosomal DNA.

Reads corresponding to Index #4 were observed in both pools, despite the fact that no library constructed with Adapter #4 was included in either pool. We hypothesize that this is the result of contamination of kit reagents, and was not introduced during library construction.

Conclusion

We have successfully demonstrated the ability to construct up to 96 Illumina unamplified indexed libraries in high-throughput fashion, and that the risk of cross-contamination in the library construction process is minimal. We have high hopes of being able to scale up this process for use in a production sequencing environment.