

Cas9 Targeted Enrichment for Nanopore Profiling of Methylation at Known Cancer Drivers

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- 5-10 Gb from a single MinION Flow Cell
- 3Gb in human genome



Goals:

Enrich for specific loci using CRISPR/Cas9–

Higher coverage at selected loci from a single flow cell









Approach

- DNA/RNP complex assembly
- Complex capture with magnetic beads

Performance

- Single bacterial and mixed microbial populations
- Human cell lines

Methylation Analysis

- Compare with illumina data
- Look at allele specific methylation



Clinical Applications

- DNA methylation
- Tandem repeats / Structural variants







Approach









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Shear and End-Prep DNA

















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Enrichment Yield



Enrichment Yield

16s rRNA gene is slow to evolve and used in characterizing microbial identification







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Enrichment in Mixed Microbial Population

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Genomic DNA fraction	Predicted crRNA binding sites
12	7
12	7
12	1
12	2
12	0
12	0
12	0
12	0
2	5
2	2
	Genomic DNA fraction 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12

Tested performance of this crRNA on a more diverse population



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Species	Genomic DNA fraction	Predicted crRNA binding sites
Escherichia coli	12	7
Salmonella enterica	12	7
Bacillus subtilis	12	1
Lactobacillus fermentum	12	2
Enterococcus faecalis	12	0
Staphylococcus aureus	12	0
Listeria monocytogenes	12	0
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	12	0
Cryptococcus neoformans	2	5
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	2	2

Tested performance of this crRNA on a more diverse population





Enrichment in Mixed Microbial Population Input: 1ug combined microbial genomic DNA

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Total Data	230 Mb
Mean Read size	1950 bp

Size distribution of Data







Significant coverage in species with crRNA/PAM site from mixed population

	crRNA sequence	РАМ
	AGACCAAAGAGGGGGGACCTT	N <mark>GG</mark>
E. coli (7)	AGACCAAAGAGGGGGGACCTT	CGG
Salmonella (7)	AGACCAAAGAGGGGGGCCTT	CGG
B. sub tilis	CAAAGAGGGGGACCTT	
Lactobacillus Fermentum	G A C C A A A G A G G G G G	
Cryptococcus Neoformans	AAGAGGGGGACCTT	
S. Cerevisiae	AAGAGGGGGACCTT	







Enrichment in Mixed Microbial Population



Enrichment peaks observed in species without BLAST-identified crRNA target sequence













crRNA



Human Enrichment: hTERT gene

- hTERT gene encodes a core protein protein component of Telomerase
- hTERT activity is widespread in human cancers
- Methylation frequently disrupted at hTERT promoter in human cancers
- Repetitive and high GC nature of this region make it difficult to query with PCR amplicons

Liu et al. Genes. 2016 Jul; 7(7): 38.



Telomeres



Image source: Stanford Medicine





Input DNA: 2ug thyroid cancer cell line genomic DNA

Sheared DNA (TapeStation/BioA Trace)



Size distribution of Data





Chromosome 5







Chromosome 5







Chromosome 5







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Catalytically Inactive Cas9





Catalytically Inactive Cas9







Catalytically Inactive Cas9



Reads centered at location of crRNA

Cas9 complex evicted by ONT motor protein





Enrichment with DeadCas9







Methylation Analysis



Epigenetics – 3,000 ft view





Cytosine methylation part a complex organizational system that regulates transcriptional activity



5-mC Detection with Nanopore Sequencing





Training sets generated by treating PCR amplicons with methyltransferase (M. Sssl)

Able to distinguish between (TG / CG / C^mG) in context of different k-mers

Simpson JT. et al. Nature Methods. 14, p.407–410 (2017)



Methylation at the hTERT promoter

Thyroid carcinomas cell lines show distinct pattern of hypermethylation at the hTERT TSS



Brittany Avin



illumina BS-amplicon data





illumina and nanopore methylation calls at the hTERT promoter in BCPAP thyroid cancer cell line



Methylation calls in nanopore enrichment data demonstrates overlap with pattern observed in illumina data (BS-amplicons)



Methylation Calls Visualized



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Using SNPs to Phase Reads





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Clinical Applications



Image source: wikimedia commons By Nephron, CC BY-SA 4.0,

Clinical Applications : Cancer Screening



Profiling simultaneous of numerous cancer genes facilitates evaluating the cancer methylome

Diagnostic and prognostic potential







Clinical Applications : FSHD

FSHD

(Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy) caused by shortening or hypomethylation of 3.2kb tandem repeat on chr4



Image author: Peter Jones, PhD





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