

Jan 30, 2020

DNaseI and flowcell clearing for increasing long read yields and multi-sample sequencing

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DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.7eqhjdww>

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DNaseI and Flowcell
Clearing

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External link: <https://www.longreadclub.org/mountain-protocol/>

Protocol Citation: John Tyson 2020. DNaseI and flowcell clearing for increasing long read yields and multi-sample sequencing. protocols.io <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.7eqhjdww>

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: September 17, 2019

Last Modified: January 30, 2020

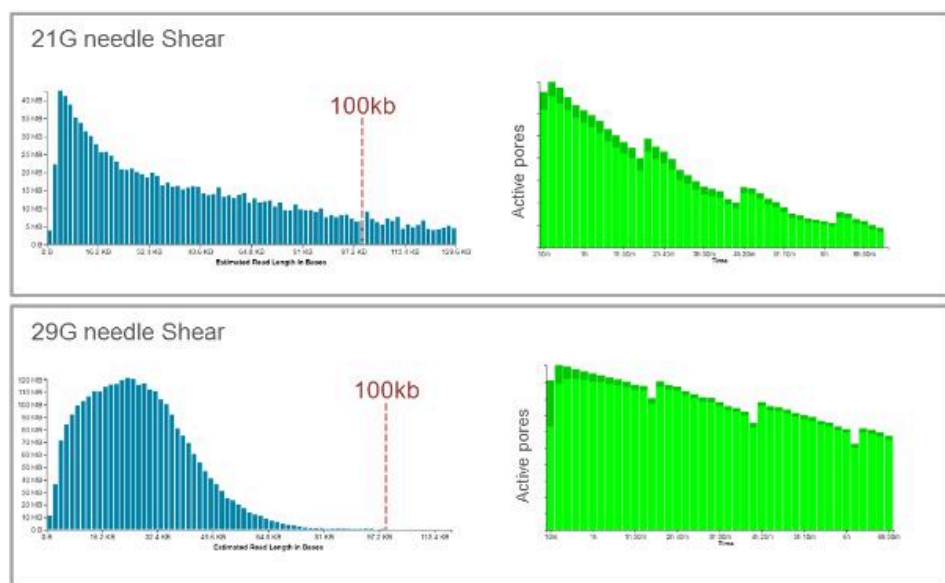
Protocol Integer ID: 27824

Keywords: flowcell clearing, use of the nuclease flush protocol, accumulation of pore blockage, dna fragment length dependent, pore blockage, digestion of dna, dna fragment, rat genomic sample, nuclease flush protocol, increasing long read yield, native rat genomic, long read yield, reported pore, flowcell, flowcell surface, sequencing effort, surface of the flowcell, clearing, pores on top

Abstract

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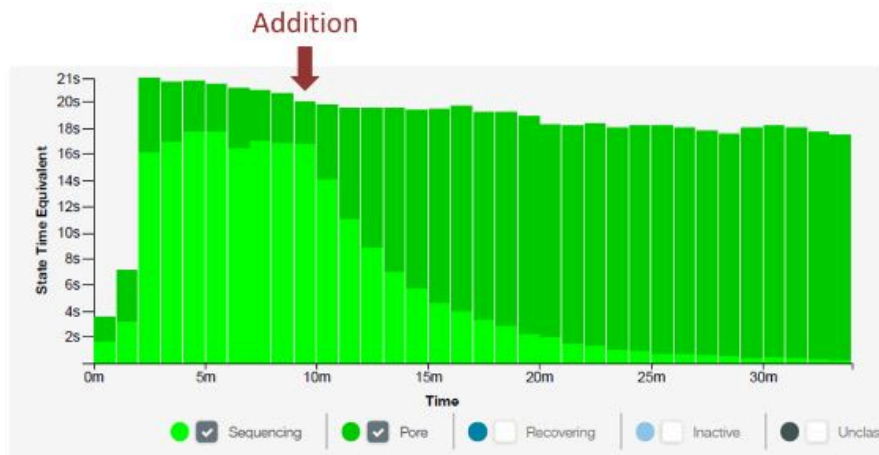
The use of the Nuclease flush protocol (**DNaseI digestion of DNA on the surface of the flowcell**) has become an integral part of our long reads sequencing efforts. These can be seen in the figure above (Protocol 'Modified LSK109 ligation prep with needle shear and bead clean up') and can be seen as increases in data yield accumulations on the curves. In the case of our native rat genomic sequencing we see an accumulation of pore blockage over time that is DNA fragment length dependent. Shown below are two libraries produced from an identical sample sheared to an increasingly smaller size and run.



Using DNaseI surface clearing we often see recovery of an additional 50 – 80 % of total reported pores on top of what a mux scan reports before treatment as long as the flowcell surface has not been “damaged” in some other way. You can monitor the process live if you restart a run and then pipette in the DNaseI clearing solution and watch the duty plots (see below). Once complete in ~30 mins flushing back to FLB/PFB and re-tethering will on a restart produce a pore count of what you have left to use. The flowcell is “reset” ready for the next library addition and run restart. That may be the same library again or something different.....



DNaseI digestion of library on flowcell surface



With our “blocky” rat genomic samples sheared to 18-34kb we have been performing these resets every 16 – 24 hrs. For larger fragment lengths we will likely shorten this time period so the flowcell is not sitting there in an unproductive “blocked” state. It might be time for some MinKNOW scripted automated yield monitoring and hardware surface clearing hacks ;o).

Safety warnings

⚠ Please see SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for hazards and safety warnings.



- 1 Mix together  200 μ L FB +  2 μ L [M] 100 millimolar (mM) CaCl_2 +  2 μ L DNaseI (2U per μ L) to form DNaseI flowcell digestion buffer
- 2 Start MinKNOW and monitor Single Pore : Strand numbers
- 3 Open Sample Port and remove any air as usually done when first using a flowcell
- 4 Add 200ul of DNaseI Digestion buffer to the flowcell through the sample port and close
- 5 Incubate for 20mins to 2hrs depending on sample, monitoring the Single Pore : Strand numbers reported in MinKNOW
- 6 Once strand pore count has dropped to desired level stop MinKNOW
- 7 Open Open Sample Port and remove any air
- 8 Flush flowcell by adding 400ul of FB buffer through the Sample Port
- 9 Add 500ul of FB + Tether to the flowcell through the Sample Port
- 10 Close Sample Port and Incubate for 5 mins
- 11 Open Sample Port and remove any air. Open SpotOn port and prime by addition of a small volume of FB + Tether through the Sample Port.
- 12 Add 75ul freshly prepared library (DNA + SQB + LLB (optional)) by spotting onto the SpotON port. Once library has entered the flowcell close first the SpotON Port followed



by the Sample Port.

13 Now ready to Start the sequencing run in MinKNOW