

Feb 19, 2020 Version 3

Smart-seq3 Protocol V.3



In 1 collection

DOI

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Human Cell Atlas Metho...

single cell transcriptome



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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: February 19, 2020

Last Modified: February 19, 2020

Protocol Integer ID: 33276



Guidelines

- If you are pro, and want to change the volumes indicated in the protocol, make sure that the reaction concentrations stay similar. Also ensure that the spillover concentrations into the next reaction also stay similar. Failing to do so can lead to decreased performance of the protocol. In terms of the tagmentation reaction make sure to keep the ratio of cDNA input to Nextera TN5 amount, if you contemplate to miniaturize this reaction.
- The current protocols is based on the TN5 from Nextera Xt kit. However Illumina TDE1, works as well.
- For determining PCR cycles, a good general guideline is to add 1-2 cycles more than using Smart-seg2. However as always, this is good to empirically test first, before running important samples.

List of oligos:

Oligo	Vendo r	Purificati on	Working concentration	Sequence	
Smartseq3_Oligod T30VN	IDT	HPLC	100uM	/5Biosg/ACGAGCATCAGCAGCATACGATTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT	
Smartseq3_N8_TS O	IDT	RNase- Free HPLC	100uM	/5Biosg/AGAGACAGATTGCGCAATGNNNNNNN NrGrGrG	
Fwd_PCR_primer	IDT	HPLC	100uM	TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACA GATTGCGCAA*T*G	
Rev_PCR_primer	IDT	HPLC	100uM	ACGAGCATCAGCAGCATAC*G*A	

^{*} phosphorothioate bonds

- It is absolute fine to use standard desalting instead of HPLC, both works fine in our hands, same goes for handmixed vs machine mixed degenerate bases. Using the regular DNA oligos service at IDT should provide based on their QC full length oligos.
- We use custom Nextera Indexes primers (standard 25 nmol oligo preps from IDT, delivered at 200 nM concentration in IDTE buffer) and we typically get performance that is indistinguishable from Illumina's primers.

For making your own primers, we recommend using the "DNABarcodes" R package, using the following settings: Barcode length: 10 bp (or 8bp like Illumina primers, depending on the amount of cells you need indexed and sequenced at the same time)

Minimal levenshtein distance: 3 Filter out homopolymers >= 3 Filter for uneven GC content

Additionally, there seems to be an artifact on the NovaSeq platform for i5 index primers starting with the bases "AC", so we recommend to avoid those too!

(see supplementary information in this paper: https://bmcgenomics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12864-018-4703-0#Sec13)



• For troubleshooting: feel free to leave comments or message directly.



Materials

MATERIALS

- Triton X-100 Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #T8787-50ML
- Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit Agilent Technologies Catalog #5067-4626
- Nextera XT DNA Library Preparation Kit Illumina, Inc. Catalog #FC-131-1096
- QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit Qiagen Catalog #28704
- DNA LoBind Tubes, 1.5 mL Eppendorf Catalog #0030108051
- 🔯 Recombinant RNAse Inhibitor **Takara Bio Inc. Catalog #**2313A
- Dithiothreitol (DTT) Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #707265ML
- 🔯 dNTP Set 100 mM Solutions **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #**R0182
- 🔯 UltraPure™ DNase/RNase-Free Distilled Water Thermo Fisher Catalog #10977035
- X EDTA (0.5 M), pH 8.0, RNase-free Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9260G
- SDS, 10% Solution, RNase-free Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9822
- Maxima H Minus Reverse Transcriptase (200 U/µL) Thermo Fisher Catalog #EP0751
- 🔯 Poly Ethylene Glycol (PEG) 8000 Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #89510-250G-F
- Sodium Chloride (5M) Invitrogen Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9760G
- Magnesium Chloride (1M Solution) Invitrogen Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9530G
- X GTP (Tris buffered solution 100mM) Thermo Scientific Catalog #R1461
- X Trizma-base Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #T6791-100G
- X KAPA HiFi Hotstart PCR kit Roche Catalog #KK2502
- 🔯 Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (2 U/μL) **Thermo Scientific Catalog #** F530L
- 🔯 Sera-Mag Speed Beads **GE Healthcare Catalog** #65152105050250
- Sodium Azide Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S2002-100G
- IGEPAL® CA-630 Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #18896
- 🔯 Armadillo PCR Plate 96-well clear semi-skirted white wells **Thermo Scientific Catalog #**AB3596
- X Armadillo PCR Plate 384-well **Thermo Scientific Catalog #** AB2384B
- QuantiFluor® dsDNA System **Promega Catalog** #E2670
- **⊠** E-Gel[™] EX Agarose Gels 2% **Thermo Scientific Catalog** #G402002
- 2-propanol Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #19516
- NN-Dimethylformamide Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #D4551



Before starting

1 This protocol should be carried out in a clean environment. Use ethanol, RNAseZAP, DNA-OFF, or similar to prepare work bench before start.

Prepare master-mixes right before use.

Use multichannel pipettes, liquid dispensers etc. to dispense the master-mixes. Avoid pipetting up and down, to minimize the loss of material.

• Take a look at the Guidelines section for more info about Oligos etc. used in this protocol.

Prepare lysis plates

2 Prepare lysis buffer mix

Reagent	Reaction conc.	uL per. reacti on	96 well plate	384 well plate
Guanidine Hydrochloride (8000mM ; Optional)	0mM - 50mM	0.00	-	-
Poly-ethylene Glycol 8000 (50% solution)	5%	0.40	44	164
Triton X-100 (10% solution)	0.1%	0.03	3.3	12.3
ERCC spike-ins (Optional)	-	-	-	_
RNAse Inhibitor (40u/uL)	0.5u/uL	0.04	4.1	15.4
OligodT30VN (100uM)	0.5uM	0.02	2.2	8.2
dNTPs (25mM/each)	0.5mM/each	0.08	8.8	32.8
Nuclease Free Water		2.43	267.6	997.3
Total		3 uL	330 uL	1230 uL

Reaction concentrations for PEG8000, OligodT30VN and dNTPs, are adjusted to and reflect their concentration in the reverse transcription reaction (4uL)

The lysis master-mix contains PEG! Ensure that PEG is fully mixed into solution, by either pipetting up and down until the liquid is clear, or start with vortexing the



required master-mix volume of water and PEG together before adding the remaining reagents.

Add A 3 µL lysis buffer to each well of a 96/384 well plate.

Quick centrifugation to collect the lysis buffer before storage until use.

Sample collection

3 Sort single cells into \perp 3 μ L lysis in either 96 or 384 wells.

Seal with appropriate seals (-80 C to >100 C) and centrifuge the finished sorted plate immediately after, and transfer it to a 4 -80 °C freezer or dry-ice.

Cell lysis

Remove the plate of sorted cells from the -80 freezer and incubate in a thermocycler with heated lid at \$\mathbb{\m storage seal sheet on the plate, unless damaged or loose).

Reverse Transcription

5 While the plate is incubating as per step 4, prepare the following Reverse transcription master-mix.

Reag ent	React ion conc.	uL per. reacti on	96 well plate	384 well plate
Tris- HCI pH 8.3 (1M)	25m M	0.1	11	41
NaCI (1M)	30m M	0.12	13.2	49.2
MgCI 2 (100 mM)	2.5m M	0.1	11	41
GTP (100 mM)	1mM	0.04	4.4	16.4



DTT (100 mM)	8mM	0.32	35.2	131.2
RNas e Inhibi tor (40u/ uL)	0.5u/ uL	0.05	5.5	20.5
TSO (100u M)	2uM	0.08	8.8	32.8
Maxi ma H- minus RT enzy me (200 U/uL)	2u/uL	0.04	4.4	16.4
Nucle ase Free Water		0.15	16.5	61.5
Total		1uL	110uL	410u L

Add \perp 1 μ L RT mix to each well of a 96/384 well plate.

Replace the storage seal with a PCR seal. Ensure that the plate is properly sealed, to avoid evaporation.

Do a quick centrifugation to collect reaction at the bottom, before incubating the plate in a thermocycler at;

	42 °C	90 min	1x
	50 °C	2 min	10x
	42 °C	2 min	10%
	85 °C	5 min	1x

Preamplification PCR

6



Start preparing the PCR mix, when the incubation of the reverse transcription reaction is near completion, by combining the following components.

! Note that the KAPA DNA polymerase has a 3-5' exonuclease activity that is not HotStart. Therefore add polymerase just before using the master-mix.

Reagent	React ion conc.	uL per. reacti on	96 well plate	384 well plate
Kapa HiFi HotStart buffer (5X)	1X	2.0	220	820
dNTPs (25mM/each)	0.3m M/ea ch	0.12	13.2	49.2
MgCl2 (100mM)	0.5m M	0.05	5.5	20.5
Fwd Primer (100uM)	0.5u M	0.05	5.5	20.5
Rev Primer (100uM)	0.1uM	0.01	1.1	4.1
Polymerase (1U/uL)	0.02U /uL	0.2	22	82
Nuclease Free Water		3.57	392.7	1463. 7
Total		6uL	660u L	2460 uL

Add \perp 6 μ L PCR mix to each well of a 96/384 well plate.

Quick centrifugation to collect reaction at the bottom, before running the following PCR program in a thermocycler.

Step	Temp eratu re	Time	Cycle s
Initial denat uratio n	98 °C	3 min	1x
Denat uratio n	98 °C	20 sec	18- 25x
Anne aling	65°C	30 sec	



Elong ation	72 °C	4 min	
Final Elong ation	72 °C	5 min	1x
Hold	4 °C	Hold	

The PCR cycle number depends on the input, and is very cell-type specific. See the Guidelines & warnings for help determining PCR cycles needed.

cDNA purification (preferable but optional)

PEG Clean-up Beads used for cleaning up the preamplified cDNA. These beads perform similar to Ampure XP beads. Beads are prepared as per mcSCRB-seq protocol

CITATION

Johannes Bagnoli, Christoph Ziegenhain, Aleksandar Janjic, Lucas Esteban Wange, Beate Vieth, Swati Parekh, Johanna Geuder, Ines Hellmann, Wolfgang Enard. mcSCRB-seq protocol. Nature Communications.

LINK

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.p9kdr4w

Reag ent	Amo unt
PEG 8000	11 g
NaCI, 5M	10 mL
Tris- HCL, 1M, pH 8.0	500 μL
EDTA, 0.5M	100 μL
IGEP AL, 10% soluti on	50 μL



Ultra Pure Water	up to 49 mL 49
Sodiu m Azide , 10% soluti on	250 μL

Add all ingredients into a 450 mL falcon tube, but do not add the total amount of water until after PEG is completely solubilized.

Incubate at 40 °C and vortex regularly until PEG is completely dissolved.

Resuspend bead stock carefully (Sera-Mag Speed Beads).

Pipette \perp 1000 μ L of bead suspension into a 1.5 mL tube.

Place on magnet stand Remove supernatant.

Add \perp 1000 μ L 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA (TE), and resuspend beads. Place on magnet stand.

Remove supernatant. Repeat wash one more time.

Add \perp 900 μ L 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA (TE), and resuspend beads.

Add to PEG solution above and mix well.

- 8 1. To purify cDNA add **0.6:1** ratio of 22% PEG beads to sample, and mix by gently pipetting up and down.
 - 2. Incubate at \$\mathbb{8}\$ Room temperature for \(\oldsymbol{5} \) 00:08:00 \.
 - 3. Place on magnet and allow beads to settle. Roughly 👏 00:05:00 .
 - 4. Discard supernatant, and wash once with $20 \mu L$ / $100 \mu L$ of freshly prepared 80% Ethanol for 384 / 96 well plates respectively.



- 5. Remove Ethanol and let the beads air dry for 6000:02:00 6000:05:00
- 6. Elute cDNA in 🚨 12 uL UltraPure Water, resuspend beads and incubate for

(*) 00:05:00 .

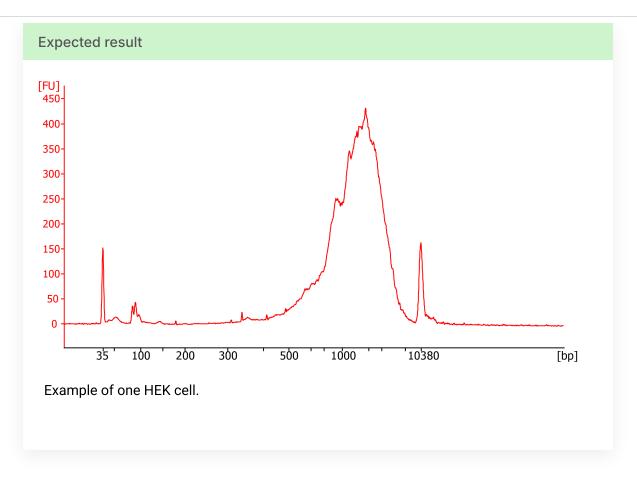
DNA concentration measurement and normalization (Optional, but recommended)

- 9 1. Prepare 1X TE buffer by either diluting the 20X TE buffer from the QuantiFluor® dsDNA kit or by preparing a solution of 10mM Tris-HCl, 0.1mM EDTA, pH 8.
 - 2. Dilute the QuantiFluor® dsDNA Dye 1:400 in 1X TE buffer and mix.
 - 3. Prepare dsDNA standards for plate read-out, according to manufacturers protocol.
 - 4. Dispense Δ 49 μL / Δ 99 μL per well of the ready Quantiflour dye mix into black, flat-bottom 384/96 well plates, respectively.
 - 5. Add Standards to a separate plate.
 - 6. Add 🚨 1 μL of cDNA to each well. Incubate asssay for 🚫 00:05:00 at Room temperature
 - 7. Use a plate reader, to measure fluorescence (504nM Excitation/ 531nM Emission)
 - 8. Calculate cDNA concentration.
 - 9. Calculate water needed to dilute Δ 1 μL cDNA to [M] 100 pg/uL.
- 10 1. Prepare **normalization plate** by adding the calculated water volumes to each well.
 - 2. Add 🛴 1 uL of preamplified cDNA to each well.

Quality Control check (Optional)

11 Check the cDNA preamplification library content and quality on a Agilent Bioanalzyer, using High Sensitivity DNA Analysis chips.





Tagmentation

12

1. Prepare 4x Tagmentation buffer as following. Aliquots of 4xTD buffer can be stored for later use. The TD buffer (2x) from Nextera Kits can also be used, however with the current small amount of ATM used, the Illumina TD buffer will at some point run out.

Safety information

Dimethylformamide (DMF) should be handled in a fume hood and according to local safety regulations.

Reag ent	Amo unt (uL)	Conc entra tion in 4X	
Tris- HCI pH 7.5 (1M)	40	40m M	



Total	1000 uL		
Ultra Pure Water	560		
Dimet hylfor mami de (DMF)	200	20%	
MgCI 2 (100 mM)	200	20m M	

2. Prepare Tagmentation mix.

• Please note that the ATM amount is a suggested starting point for 100pg/uL input, and some optimization might be necessary to reach a desired UMI-read to Internal-read ratio, based on input and celltype..

Reag ent	React ion conc.	uL per. reacti on	96 well plate	384 well plate
Tagm entati on buffer (4x)	1X	0.5	55	205
Ampli con Tagm entati on Mix (Tn5)		0.08	8.8	32.8
Ultra Pure water		0.42	46.2	172.2
Total		1uL	110uL	410u L

- 3. Dispense \perp 1 μ L of Tagmentation mix to a new 96 or 384 well plate.
- 4. Add \perp 1 μ L of **normalized 100pg/uL cDNA (step 10)** to the plate containing tagmentation mix.

- 5. Apply a quick spin-down of the plate before incubation in a thermocycler at \$\mathbb{4}\$ 55 °C for 🚫 00:10:00 .
- 6. To strip off the Tn5 from the DNA, add \perp 0.5 μ L of 0.2% SDS to each well. Centrifuge quickly and incubate for (5) 00:05:00 .
- 7. Concerning Nextera Index primers: We highly suggest to design or order custom Nextera Index primers. This ensures higher flexibility while also being much cheaper in the long run! The following protocol is designed as such. If using Nextera index primers purchased from Illumina, dilute all primers 5x with UltraPure water, and proceed to use similar volume as follows.
- 8. Add \perp 1.5 μ L Nextera Index primers to each well as follows

Reag ent	React ion conc.	uL per. reacti on	
Custo m S50X index prime r (0.5u M)	0.1uM	0.75	
Custo m N70X index prime r (0.5u M)	0.1uM	0.75	

9. Prepare **Tagmentation PCR mix**.

Reag ent	React ion conc.	uL per. reacti on	96 well plate	384 well plate
Phusi on HF buffer (5X)	1X	1.4	154	574
dNTP s	0.2m M/ea	0.06	6.2	23



(25m M/ea ch) Phusi				
on HF (2U/u L)	0.01U /uL	0.04	3.9	14.4
H2O		1.51	166	618.7
Total		3uL	330u L	1230 uL

10. Add 🚨 3 μL of **Tagmentation PCR mix** to each well, centrifuge quickly and incubate in a thermocycler using the following PCR program.

Step	Temp eratu re	Time	Cycle s
Gap- filling	72 °C	3 min	1x
Initial denat uratio n	98 °C	3 min	1x
Denat uratio n	98 °C	10 sec	
Anne aling	55 °C	30 sec	12x
Elong ation	72 °C	30 sec	
Final Elong ation	72 °C	5 min	1x
Hold	4 °C	Hold	

Library clean-up

- 13 For the final library clean-up, pool all the Tagmented cDNA (step 12) sample wells in a 1.5mL or 5mL eppendorf tube.
 - 1. Add 0.6:122% PEG beads to final volume of the pooled tagmentation cDNA. Mix gently by pipetting and incubate for 00:08:00 at 8 Room temperature



- 2. Place on magnet and allow beads to settle. Roughly 00:05:00.
- 4. Discard supernatant, and wash twice with >= $\frac{L}{2}$ 1000 μ L freshly prepared 80% Ethanol.
- 5. Remove Ethanol and let the beads air dry for at least 00:05:00

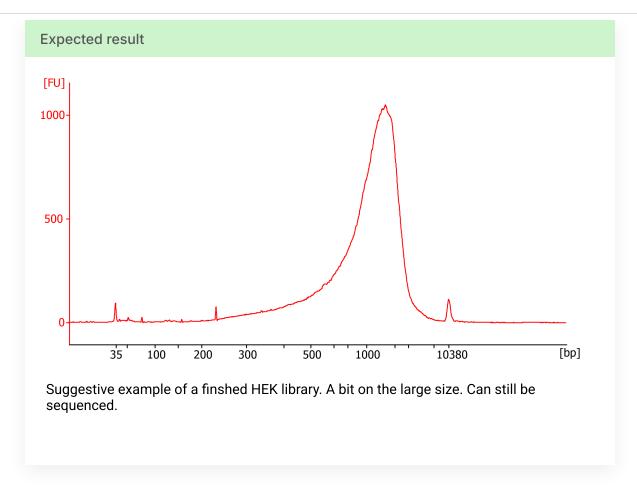
(Optional) Size selection via Gel-cutting and extraction

- To further select for longer tagmented fragments, an optional step including a size selection step can be included.
 - 1. Load $\stackrel{\text{\em L}}{=}$ 20 μ L of the eluted tagmented library from step 13 into a **2% Agarose E-Gel EX** together with 50bp DNA ladder.
 - 2. Run gel for 👏 00:12:00
 - 3. After finished run, open the gel casing and cut the gel between **550bp 2kb** using a clean scalpel or blade.
 - 4. Purify the excised gel slice using Qiagen QIAquick Gel extraction kit according to manufacturers protocol.

Final Library Quantification

15

Run the final library on a Agilent Bioanalyzer (High Sensitivity DNA), to inspect the quality and median base-pair length of your library.



Use Qubit fluorometer or similar to quantify the library.

Calcutate the final library concentration, using above metrics.

Sequencing

The sequencing ready library should be sequenced on any Illumina compatible sequencer, either Single-end or Paired-end, depending on the question and need.

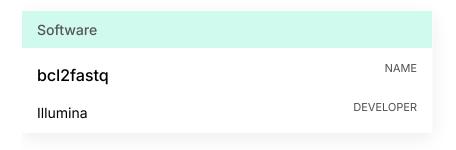
For final library whether gel cut/size selected or not, the expected median base-pair should be around or above 1kb. In our experience NovaSeq/HiSeq sequncers are more tolerant towards wider or longer size fragment distributions, than the NextSeq. Because of this consider increasing the loading concentration a bit to ensure proper cluster density. However "your milage may vary". Empircal investigation or a pilot run is always adviced, if possible.

Primary Data processing



17 After sequencing has completed successfully, binary base-call files (BCL) need to be converted to fastq.

For this, bcl2fastq should be used in the latest version (bcl2fastq v2.20).



At this stage, demultiplexing into per-cell fastg files is not necessary - a sample sheet is thus not needed.

Be sure to adjust the base mask to represent your sequencing layout and the length of your barcode reads.

Remove the option --no-lane-splitting if the same cell barcodes have been reused for different libraries on different lanes of the flow cell.

You may restrict the number of cores used with the following options:

- --loading-threads
- --processing-threads
- --writing-threads

Command

bcl2fastq: 2×150bp dual-index

bcl2fastq --use-bases-mask Y150N,I8,I8,Y150N --no-lane-splitting -create-fastq-for-index-reads -R /mnt/storage1/NextSeqNAS/191011_NB502120_0154_AHVG7JBGXB

- -R denotes the runfolder and you may redirect the fastg output to a different folder with the -o option.
- 18 After generating fastq files, the zUMIs pipeline should be used to process Smart-seq3 data to ensure correct handling of UMI reads and internal reads.



CITATION

Parekh S, Ziegenhain C, Vieth B, Enard W, Hellmann I (2018). zUMIs - A fast and flexible pipeline to process RNA sequencing data with UMIs.. GigaScience.

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giy059



We recommend the newest version v2.5.6 at the time of this protocol.

All options are set in a configuration file following the YAML format. Here is a best practice example:



Command

Smartseq3.yaml

```
project: Smartseq3
sequence files:
  file1:
    name: /smartseq3/fastq/Undetermined_S0_R1_001.fastq.gz
    base definition:
      - cDNA(23-150)
      - UMI(12-19)
    find pattern: ATTGCGCAATG
  file2:
    name: /smartseq3/fastq/Undetermined_S0_R2_001.fastq.gz
    base_definition:
      - cDNA(1-150)
  file3:
    name: /smartseq3/fastq/Undetermined_S0_I1_001.fastq.gz
    base definition:
      -BC(1-8)
  file4:
    name: /smartseq3/fastq/Undetermined_S0_I2_001.fastq.gz
    base_definition:
      - BC(1-8)
reference:
  STAR_index: /resources/genomes/Mouse/STAR5idx_noGTF/
  GTF_file: /resources/genomes/Mouse/Mus_musculus.GRCm38.91.gtf
  additional_STAR_params: '--clip3pAdapterSeq CTGTCTCTTATACACATCT'
  additional files:
    - /resources/genomes/spikes/ERCC92.fa
out_dir: /smartseq3/zUMIs/
num threads: 20
mem_limit: 50
filter_cutoffs:
  BC filter:
    num_bases: 3
    phred: 20
  UMI filter:
    num_bases: 2
    phred: 20
barcodes:
  barcode_num: ~
  barcode_file: /smartseq3/expected_barcodes.txt
  automatic: no
```



BarcodeBinning: 1 nReadsperCell: 100 demultiplex: no counting_opts: introns: yes downsampling: '0' strand: 0 Ham Dist: 1 write_ham: no velocyto: no primaryHit: yes twoPass: no make_stats: yes which_Stage: Filtering samtools_exec: samtools pigz_exec: pigz

STAR_exec: STAR

Rscript_exec: Rscript

Be sure to use full paths to all files and folders. For further descriptions of the individual options visit the zUMIs GitHub repository wiki

Now, simply start zUMIs with the following command:

Command

Invoke zUMIs

zUMIs-master.sh -y Smartseq3.yaml



Citations

Step 18

Parekh S, Ziegenhain C, Vieth B, Enard W, Hellmann I. zUMIs - A fast and flexible pipeline to process RNA sequencing data with UMIs.

https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giy059

Step 7

Johannes Bagnoli, Christoph Ziegenhain, Aleksandar Janjic, Lucas Esteban Wange, Beate Vieth, Swati Parekh, Johanna Geuder, Ines Hellmann, Wolfgang Enard. mcSCRB-seq protocol dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.p9kdr4w