

Update on the Continuation of the DNA Sequencing Research Group 2000 Study: An evaluation of the methods used to sequence and isolate bacterial artificial chromosomes.

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Introduction:

At the 2000 meeting of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF) the DNA Sequencing Research Group (DSRG) presented the results of a study in which the protocols used to sequence bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) in member laboratories were surveyed in an attempt to correlate methodology with sequencing outcome. The results of this study suggest that there are two critical determinants of sequence quality when dealing with BAC templates:

- amount of template used
- number of cycles in the thermocycling program

The correlation between these factors and sequencing quality were not as strong as expected. It was concluded that the weak correlation was due to the accumulation of uncertainty arising from systematic differences in the experimental parameters used in the participating laboratories. To eliminate this uncertainty the DSRG conducted an internal study on the effects of these factors under rigorously controlled conditions. The results of this internal study are presented below and were used to develop an optimized protocol for sequencing BAC templates.

Member laboratories were asked to sequence a sample of the standard BAC template using the optimized procedure to test its efficacy. These results are also presented and clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of this protocol.

About the Template:

The standard BAC used for this study was selected at random from a library of *Brassica oleracea*. A stock of this clone was used to inoculate and grow cultures from which the BAC DNA was purified using the Midi Prep Kit from Qiagen.

This study was intended to explore the effects of template size on sequencing success. This template does not represent a significant challenge from the point of view of GC content (Avg. about 45%).

Methods:

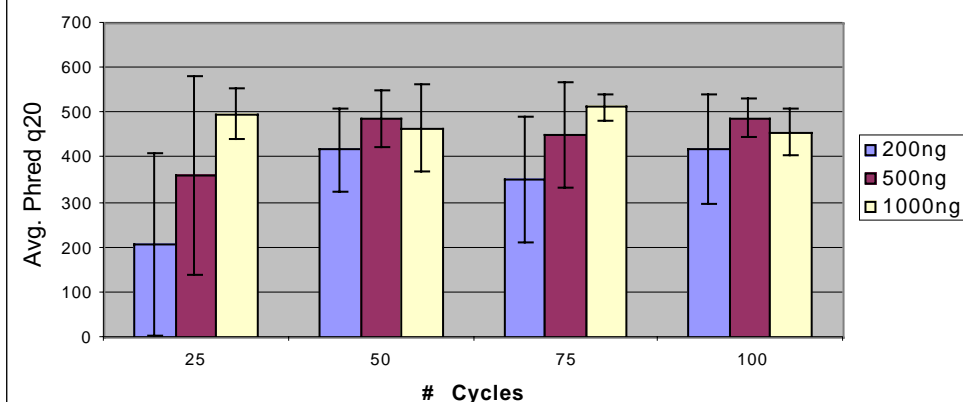
To determine the correlation between amount of template used and length of thermocycling program to sequence quality an experimental program was carried out using the following standard operating procedures:

Experimental Program	Sequencing Chemistry
(2 X 200 ng) X 25, 50,75, 100 cycles	Reaction Volume: 20 µl
(2 X 500 ng) X 25, 50,75, 100 cycles	T7 Primer: 10 pmol
(2 X 1000 ng) X 25, 50,75, 100 cycles	Chemistry: Big Dye Term.
Total of 96 samples	Premix Volume: 8 µl
Thermocycling Conditions	Electrophoretic Conditions
Hot Start 95°C 5 min.	377 Sequencer
96°C 30 sec.	36 cm WTR
50°C 20 sec.	0.2mm combs
60°C 4 min.	64 lanes
repeat for N cycles	Module: 36E-1200
4°C Hold	10 hours
	Temperature 48°C

The performance level of each submission was judged by sequence quality. To determine sequence quality the unedited sequences were analyzed by phred (1,2). The total number of base calls with a quality value >20 ("phred score") for each sequence was determined with the program "quat" (written by J.V.),

The results of these experiments are summarized in Figure 1:

Figure 1. Effect of # of Cycles on Sequence Quality



Findings:

- For samples containing >1 µg of template a standard 25 cycle thermocycler program is sufficient to produce high quality sequence.
- For samples containing <1 µg of template increasing the number of cycles to 50 will improve sequence quality.
- Increasing the number of cycles in the thermocycling program beyond 50 has little effect on sequencing quality even for very low amounts of template (0.2 µg).

Based on these findings the following protocol is recommended for sequencing BAC templates:

Recommended BAC Sequencing Procedure:

- Template quantity: 1000 ng
- Number of cycles: 50
- Reaction volume: 20 µl
- Primer: 10 pmoles total
- Chemistry: Big Dye Terminator
- Volume Big Dyes: 8 µl
- Cycling conditions: Hot start 95° C for 5 min, 96° C for 30 sec, 50° C for 20 sec, 60° C for 4 min x 50 cycles, hold 4 degrees

Samples of the standard BAC template and T7 primer were then sent to participating ABRF laboratories who were asked to sequence them using the recommended procedure. The sequencing results were returned to the DSRG electronically and analyzed for sequence quality as described above. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion/ Future Directions:

- The recommended procedure for sequencing BAC templates (see above) is capable of generating high quality sequencing results using the ABRF's standard BAC template.
- However this procedure needs to be tested by sequencing a variety of different BAC templates before it can be considered fully validated.
- Preliminary reports from laboratories that have adopted this procedure suggest that it will prove generally effective.

Table 1. Results of Quality Analysis

Instrument	Filename	Phred Score			WTR	RunTime (hr)	Chemistry
		Q20	Q30	Q40			
4200L-2	5949A.scf	805	665	460	66 cm	12	IRDye800 Acyclo-Terminators
3100	9696a.abi	537	471	391	50 cm	2.5	BigDye Terminators
	9696B.abi	503	399	217	50 cm	2.5	BigDye Terminators
3700	7553a.abi	627	553	407	50 cm	2.8	BigDye Terminators
	7553b.abi	673	528	333	50 cm	2.8	BigDye Terminators
373S-36	3303C.abi	21	5	4	36 cm	14	Old rhod terminators
	9701A.abi	472	289	58	36 cm	12	BigDye Terminators v2
373S-48	0255A.abi	639	467	250	48 cm	15.5	BigDye Terminators
	0255B.abi	451	292	115	48 cm	15.5	BigDye Terminators
	0583A.abi	597	491	421	48 cm	17	BigDye Terminators
	0583B.abi	651	578	474	48 cm	17	BigDye Terminators
	4666.abi	5	0	0	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators
377-36-2X	3358A.abi	553	491	363	36 cm	8	BigDye Terminators
	3358B.abi	460	333	127	36 cm	8	BigDye Terminators
	8488A.abi	503	407	217	36 cm	8	BigDye Terminators
	8488B.abi	536	436	264	36 cm	8	BigDye Terminators
	8980c.abi	451	376	274	36 cm	9	BigDye Terminators
	8980d.abi	461	269	126	36 cm	9	BigDye Terminators v2
	8980e.abi	351	270	171	36 cm	9	BigDye Terminators
	8980f.abi	465	318	187	36 cm	9	BigDye Terminators v2
377-48-2x	2088A.abi	804	699	560	48 cm	16.5	BigDye Terminators
	2088B.abi	742	631	520	48 cm	16.5	BigDye Terminators v2
	2454A.abi	652	558	391	48 cm	14	BigDye Terminators
	3380A.abi	613	439	263	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators v2
	4503.abi	690	592	463	48 cm	16	BigDye Terminators
	5677A.abi	772	686	564	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators v2
	5677B.abi	762	650	525	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators v2
	5677C.abi	602	395	170	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators v2
	5677D.abi	633	401	141	48 cm	18	BigDye Terminators v2
	bac_study	351	195	69	48 cm	10	BigDye Terminators

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