Illumina Read Preprocessing

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Read Preprocessing

Steps taken to improve the overall data quality.

Typically includes removal of adapter sequences and low quality bases.





Reads 1 and 3 are "forward" and "reverse" reads from your DNA-of-interest, and they are on opposite strands.



Read (2) is the "barcode," which identifies particular reads as belonging to a particular sample.

All sequencing libraries contain a distribution of molecule sizes. The smaller molecules (such as adapter dimers) will more easily find a place on the flowcell.

Any DNA insert that is shorter than the read length will generate some adapter contamination.



Contamination is the result of the sequencer *reading through* a short read, into adapter sequence that *didn't come from your sample*!



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Where can you find adapter sequences?

- Illumina Adapter Sequences Document
- Find them in your data
- Contact the library kit manufacturer
- Google "github ucdavis-bioinformatics", look for Scythe, look for "*_adapters.fa"
- Check Seqanswers.com

>TruSeq_forward_contam

AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCAC[8bp index]ATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTTGAAAAA

>TruSeq_reverse_contam

AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGT[8bp index]GTGGTCGCCGTATCATTAAAAA

>Nextera_forward_contam
CTGTCTCTTATACACATCTCCGAGCCCACGAGAC[8bp index]ATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTTG
>Nextera_reverse_contam
CTGTCTCTTATACACATCTGACGCTGCCGACGA[8bp index]GTGTAGATCTCGGTGGTCGCCGTATCATT

>TruSeq_SmallRNA_forward_contam
TGGAATTCTCGGGTGCCAAGGAACTCCAGTCAC[6bp adapter]ATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTTG
>TruSeq_SmallRNA_reverse_contam
GATCGTCGGACTGTAGAACTCTGAACCTGTCG

Adapter Removal: Scythe

Scythe (Vince Buffalo, Joe Fass) is an adapter trimmer for Illumina reads that employs a Bayesian model that considers base qualities.



Low Quality Trimming: Sickle

Sickle (*Nik Joshi, Joe Fass*) is a sliding window trimmer for Illumina reads that tries to keep the longest high quality 5'-justified sequence from each read.

Moving from 5' to 3', windows of N bases are tested for average quality > Q. In the first window that fails, bases are trimmed starting with the first base with quality < Q.



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