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3 **1 A reference human genome dataset of the BGISEQ-500 sequencer**
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7 2 Jie Huang^{1*}, Xinming Liang^{2*}, Yuankai Xuan^{3*}, Chunyu Geng², Yuxiang Li², Haorong
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9 3 Lu², Shoufang Qu¹, Xianglin Mei³, Hongbo Chen¹, Ting Yu¹, Nan Sun¹, Hui Jiang²,
10
11 4 Xin Liu², Zhaopeng Yang^{1#}, Feng Mu^{2#} and Shangxian Gao^{1#}
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16 6 *These authors contribute equally to the article

17
18 7 #Correspondence: Shangxian Gao, gaoshangxian@126.com, Feng Mu
19
20 8 mufeng@genomics.cn and Zhaopeng Yang yangzp@nifdc.org.cn
21

22 9 ¹ National Institutes for food and drug Control (NIFDC), Beijing 100050, P. R. China

23
24 10 ² BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, P. R. China

25
26 11 ³ State Food and Drug Administration Hubei Center for Medical Equipment Quality
27
28 12 Supervision and Testing, Wuhan 430000, P. R. China
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1 **Abstract**

2 **Background:** BGISEQ-500 sequencer is a new desktop sequencer developed by BGI.
3 Using DNA nanoballs (DNB) and combinational probe-anchor synthesis (cPAS)
4 developed from Complete GenomicsTM sequencing technology, it generates short
5 reads at a large scale, which can help fulfill the growing demands for sequencing.

6 **Findings:** Here, we present the first human whole genome sequencing dataset from
7 the BGISEQ-500. The dataset was generated by sequencing the widely used Genome
8 in a Bottle Consortium cell line, HG001 (NA12878) in one sequencing run. And the
9 sequencing data were ~1,000 million paired sequences with the length of 50 bp
10 (PE50). We also include examples of the raw images from the sequencer for reference.
11 Finally, we carried out variation calling based on the dataset and compared it that
12 identified from similar amount of publicly available HiSeq2500 data and the
13 previously identified high confident variations.

14 **Conclusions:** We found that despite the shorter length of the BGISEQ-500 data, the
15 data quality was comparable to data from other sequencing platforms. For SNP calling,
16 BGISEQ-500 dataset had relatively lower false positive rate and sensitivity. We also
17 found some discrepancies of the BGISEQ-500 data, especially for indel calling, which
18 would require further improving of the data quality as well as the data analysis tools.
19 Our dataset can serve as the reference dataset providing basic information not just for
20 future developing, but also for all the researches and applications based on the new
21 sequencing platform.

22 **Keywords:** Genomics, sequencing, second generation sequencing, BGISEQ-500

1 **Data Description**

2 Massively parallel sequencing technologies (also called as the second generation
3 sequencing) generate large amount of data with lower cost, shorter reads and higher
4 single base error rate compared to Sanger sequencing technology [1]. With the large
5 amount of data and well-developed analysis tools, second generation sequencing data
6 can be used to effectively and accurately identify genomic variations in a much more
7 cost effective manner than previous sequencing technologies [2] thus it has been
8 widely applied in both researches and applications [3]. Currently there are several
9 commercially available second generation sequencing platforms with different
10 performances and data features [4, 5]. With more and more research and applications
11 to apply sequencing to, new sequencing platforms are being developed to continue to
12 move the field forward. BGISEQ-500 is a new low cost desktop sequencer first
13 released by BGI in October, 2015. It was developed based on Complete Genomics™
14 sequencing technologies, and applies DNA nanoball (DNB) technology [6] for
15 sequencing library construction and combined primer anchor synthesis (cPAS) for
16 sequencing. We present here a reference dataset generated from the BGISEQ-500
17 sequencer, including example of the raw images and the final sequences. We also
18 conducted variation calling using this dataset and compared the variation calling
19 result to that from other sequencers. This dataset can be served as a useful reference
20 for community to develop bioinformatics methods and sequencing based applications
21 on this new sequencing platform.

22 **DNA preparation**

23 NA12878 cell line (RRID: CVCL_7526) genomic DNA was ordered from Coriell
24 Institute, and consisted of 50ug per tube. The genomic DNA was quantified by Qubit
25 3.0 fluorometer (Life Technologies, USA) and the integrity was qualified on a 2%
26 agarose gel to make sure the genomic DNA was larger than 23 kb and not
27 substantially degraded.

28 **Sequencing library preparation**

1 For the sequencing library construction, the NA12878 genomic DNA was fragmented
2 by a Covaris LE220 sonicator (Covaris, USA) to 50 bp~800 bp DNA fragments
3 according to the manufacturer's instructions. The fragmented DNA was further
4 selected to 100 bp~300 bp fragments by AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, USA).
5 The selected DNA fragments were then repaired to obtain a blunt end and modified at
6 the 3' end to get a dATP sticky-end. The dTTP tailed adapter sequence was ligated to
7 both ends of the DNA fragments. The ligation product was then amplified for 8 cycles
8 and subjected to the single strand circularization process. The PCR product was
9 heat-denatured together with a special molecule which was reverse complemented to
10 one special strand of the PCR product, and the single strand PCR product was ligated
11 using DNA ligase. The remaining linear molecule was digested with the exonuclease,
12 thus finally we obtained the single strand circle DNA library (Figure 1a).

13 **Sequencing**

14 We conducted sequencing according to the BGISEQ-500 protocol (Figure 1b). There
15 were three steps including making DNBs, loading DNBs and sequencing. For making
16 DNBs, 6 ng single strand circle DNA library was first subjected to rolling circle
17 amplification (RCA) for 10 minutes in an 80 ul reaction volume with pure water,
18 buffer and DNB polymerase. After the RCA reaction, 20 ul DNBs stopping buffer was
19 added to stop the RCA reaction. Finally, we used the Qubit® ssDNA Assay Kit to
20 quantify the DNBs on Qubit® Fluorometer (concentration ≥ 10 ng/ μ L).

21 For loading DNBs, we first added 33ul DNBs loading buffer to the DNBs product,
22 and the mixture was placed on the BGIDL-50 (the sample preparation machine). Then
23 we selected the DNBs loading process (Version: sample load 2.0) to load DNB onto
24 the sequencing chip, which included 96 minutes' loading time and 30 minutes'
25 incubation at room temperature.

26 Finally, we applied the BGISEQ-500 protocol to conduct sequencing. We selected
27 sequence control software Version 1.1.0.10003, sequence process Version 1.0.06 and
28 Zebrecall Version 0.5.0.13875 (the base calling software, for which a detailed

1 description can be found in the next section) for sequencing. Sequencing was initiated
2 after the sequencing reagents pre-loaded and sequencing chip installed, and this
3 process was finished in ~72 hours.

4 **Base calling and raw images**

5 During sequencing, four channels of 16-bit grey scale images were captured by high
6 resolution sCMOS with ~5.5 million pixels per image. About ~570K DNBs were
7 loaded onto the grid-patterned arrays of spots which were photolithographically
8 etched and surface modified on the sequencing chip. The spots were illuminated by
9 the lasers with different wavelengths. Spots from the neighboring channel would also
10 be observed due to crosstalk effect.

11 The sequences of DNBs were base-called by the software Zebracall (base calling
12 software developed for BGISEQ-500). After background subtraction and registration
13 of images from 4 channels, intensities of DNBs were extracted according to a
14 template of grid-pattern. Correction within channels and neighbor cycles was applied
15 to increase the quality and stabilization. After all correction step, reads were converted
16 into FASTQ format with Phred+33 quality score. An example dataset of the images
17 was included and the base calling process is illustrated in Figure 2.

1 **Results**

2 **Sequencing data summary**

3 The sequencing data consists of two lanes, and the total raw reads were $\sim 2.7 \times 10^9$
4 pairs (Table 1), and for each paired reads, the sequencing length of each read was 50
5 bp. We then conduct data filtering to filter low quality reads which had more than 10%
6 bases with sequencing quality lower than 10, and reads which had more than 1% Ns
7 (ambiguous bases). In this way, we filtered $\sim 12.3\%$ low quality raw reads thus
8 obtained $\sim 2.4 \times 10^9$ pairs of clean reads which was ~ 118.9 G bp. We then used FastQC
9 [7] to conduct quality control for the clean reads (Figure 3). We also used a subset
10 (from 8 sequencing libraries and 16 lanes, 2×148 reads, ~ 98.5 G bp data) of Illumina
11 HiSeq2500 reads of the same cell line from GIAB (Genome in a Bottle) [8]. After the
12 same data filtering process which filtered $\sim 7.95\%$ raw reads, we carried out the same
13 quality control for comparison (Figure 3).

14 **Variation calling and False positive/negative ratios estimation**

15 In order to further depict the data quality and test applications of the new sequencing
16 platform, we carried out variation calling using this dataset. We adapted the currently
17 widely used pipeline (mapping using BWA [9] and variation calling using GATK
18 [10-12], an illustration of the pipeline and key parameters can be found in Figure 4a)
19 for variation calling. We observed higher mapping rate, similar sequencing coverage
20 (in the condition of similar sequencing depth) and similar sequencing uniformity in
21 the dataset comparing to the HiSeq data (Table 2). And the lower unique mapping rate
22 probably reflected the shorter read length of the dataset (2×50 bp comparing to 2×150
23 bp). We also observed relatively higher duplication rate and mismatch rate in the
24 dataset comparing to the HiSeq data (Table 2).

25 In total, we identified 3,451,124 SNPs and 554,568 indels (insertions and deletions)
26 using the dataset, which were less than those identified using the HiSeq data

1 (3,621,362 SNPs and 686,697 indels) (Table 3). The SNPs were similar to those
2 identified from HiSeq data in different features including dbSNP rate, proportion of
3 SNPs in different regions related to genes and Ti/Tv (transition-transversion) ratio,
4 which indirectly reflected the SNP accuracy. We also observed similar situation for
5 indels.

6 Further to assess the accuracy of the variations, we used the high confident region
7 (~2.5 Gb human genome region with explicit genotypes, and 3,154,902 of them were
8 SNPs) previously identified in NA12878 [13]. In the high confident region, 2,975,482
9 SNPs were also identified using the BGISEQ-500 dataset (Figure 4b), resulting in a
10 rough estimation of the sensitivity to be 94.3%, comparing to 97.2% for the HiSeq
11 dataset. For the 179,420 high confident SNPs in region which were not identified
12 using the BGISEQ-500 data, we found significantly lower sequencing depth
13 comparing to the identified high confident SNPs (Wilcox rank sum test, $P < 0.01$)
14 (Figure 4c), indicating that sequencing depth should be one of the reasons for lower
15 sensitivity and improving sequencing depth would probably improve the sensitivity.
16 In the high confidence region, we identified 11,934 SNPs which were not included in
17 the high confidence SNPs thus should probably be false positives. In this way we
18 estimated the false positive rate to be 0.4%, comparing to 0.07% of the HiSeq data
19 (2,213 SNPs in the high confident region but not in the high confident SNPs).
20 However, for indels, we observed similar false positive rate (0.38% for BGISEQ-500
21 and 0.14% for HiSeq data) but much lower sensitivity (69.2% comparing to 93.0% of
22 the HiSeq data), indicating a discrepancy in the dataset in indel identification.

23

1 **Discussion**

2 Using the new sequencer, BGISEQ-500, we obtained paired reads with sequencing
3 length of 50 bp at both ends. The raw data was ~135.5 G bp and was generated in two
4 sequencing lanes of a single sequencing run in ~72 hours. Thus the sequencing
5 throughput and turnaround time were comparable to HiSeq2500 sequencer (~80 G bp
6 per lane and ~40 hours). The single base quality, reads quality reflected by duplication
7 rate, mapping rate and unique mapping rate, were therefore comparable to those of the
8 data from other sequencing platforms. Furthermore, the SNP calling result was similar
9 to that identified using similar amounts of HiSeq data, further reflected that the
10 sequencer can be used in different researches and applications. In the meantime, we
11 also observe some discrepancies in the dataset. Especially for the current sequencing
12 length, the indel identification and probably structural variation calling might be
13 problematic. Future improvements over data quality, sequencing length, different and
14 optimized insert sizes of the paired reads, as well as specially modified or designed
15 software/bioinformatics tools are necessary. From this first reference dataset of
16 sequencing data from BGISEQ-500 sequencer, we provided an overview and some
17 basic information for the new sequencing platform. This dataset can serve as reference
18 for all the researches using the BGISEQ-500 sequencing platform. And we anticipate
19 it to help stimulating the further technical improving, and developing of novel tools
20 for accurately analyzing the data.

1 **1 Availability of supporting data**

2 2 The BGISEQ-500 dataset (sequences) described in this article is available in the
3 3 GigaDB repository (ftp://user14@climb.genomics.cn/BGISEQ-500_WGS/), and the
4 4 European Nucleotide Archive under accession number PRJEB15427. This GigaDB
5 5 repository for this article also contains examples of the raw image data including
6 6 images of all the sequencing cycles in a small region and images of the first and last
7 7 10 cycles of the whole flowcell. Future data which are to be generated will also be
8 8 updated in this GigaDB repository with versions indicated.

9

1 **Abbreviations**

2 DNBs: DNA nanoballs; SNPs: Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms; indels: insertions
3 and deletions

4 **Competing interests**

5 JH, YX, SQ, XM, HC, TY, NS, ZY and SG are involved in the beta test of the
6 BGISEQ-500 sequencer. X Liang, CG, YL, HL, HJ, X Liu and FM are involved in the
7 BGISEQ-500 sequencer developing, library construction technology optimization,
8 base calling software developing, or alpha and beta tests.

9 **Authors' contributions**

10 JH, ZY, FM and SG designed the project. YX, SQ and CG conducted sample
11 preparation and sequencing library construction. HL, XM, HC, TY and NS conducted
12 sequencing. X Liang, YL, X Liu and HJ conducted data analysis. X Liu, X Liang, YL,
13 CG, HL, JH and HJ wrote the manuscript.

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19 **Author details**

20 ¹ National Institutes for food and drug Control (NIFDC), Beijing 100050, P. R. China

21 ² BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, P. R. China

22 ³ State Food and Drug Administration Hubei Center for Medical Equipment Quality
23 Supervision and Testing, Wuhan 430000, P. R. China

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1 **Figure Legends**

2 **Figure 1. Flowchart of library construction and sequencing.** The library
3 construction includes fragmentation, size selection, end-repair and A-tailing, adaptor
4 ligation and PCR amplification and splint circularization (a). The sequencing includes
5 making DNBs, loading DNBs and sequencing (b).

6
7 **Figure 2. Raw image data processing on the BGISEQ-500 platform. a.**
8 **Registration of images from different channels.** Relative coordinates will be
9 calculated according to the pattern layout of DNBs. **b. Intensity correction between**
10 **channels and cycles.** In order to correct the interference by optical and chemical,
11 correction was applied to different channels and the neighbor cycles. **c. Connecting**
12 **called bases to FASTQ.** Bases from all cycles will be collected and converted to
13 FASTQ format. Phred score calculation and statistics will be applied during the
14 conversion.

15
16 **Figure 3. Quality control of the dataset after data filtering. a) Base-wise quality**
17 **scores of the BGISEQ-500 reads.** For each position along the reads, the quality
18 scores of all reads were used to calculate the mean, median and quantile values thus
19 the box plot can be shown. **b) Base-wise quality scores of the HiSeq2500 reads.**
20 The reads were 150 bp long and pair-end reads. **c) The quality score distribution of**
21 **BGISEQ-500 and HiSeq2500 data.** The quality scores of BGISEQ-500 reads were
22 lower than the HiSeq2500 reads. **d) GC content distribution of the BGISEQ-500**
23 **and HiSeq2500 data.** The GC content distributions were similar.

24
25 **Figure 4. Variation calling based on the dataset and comparison of the SNPs. a)**
26 **Flowchart of the variation calling process.** The major steps included data filtering,
27 alignment and variation calling, and the major parameters are also indicated. **b) and c)**
28 **Estimation of the SNP/indel detection sensitivity and false positive rate.** The high

1 confident regions were previously determined 2.5 Gb region with explicit genotypes
2 (indicated as the grey box), and within these regions there were variations of which
3 the genotypes were different from the reference (indicated as the light red box). The
4 SNPs/indels identified using BGISEQ-500 data were indicated as the green box while
5 those of HiSeq2500 data were indicated as the red box.

6

1 **Tables**

2 **Table 1. Summary of the dataset*.**

	Read ($\times 10^9$)	Bases (Gbp)	Percentage of Ns	GC content	>Q20	>Q30	Error rate
L1R1	0.70	35.03	0.15%	41.49%	98.14%	91.48%	0.30%
L1R2	0.70	35.03	0.18%	41.55%	94.08%	83.21%	0.69%
L1	1.40	70.06	0.16%	41.59%	96.11%	87.34%	0.50%
L2R1	0.66	32.77	0.09%	41.57%	97.89%	90.71%	0.27%
L2R2	0.66	32.77	0.16%	41.61%	93.87%	82.69%	0.68%
L2	1.31	65.55	0.12%	41.64%	95.88%	86.70%	0.48%

3 *This dataset was from a single run of the BGISEQ-500 sequencer. It has two lanes (Lane 1
4 denoted as L1 and Lane 2 denoted as L2, respectively), and the reads were paired (Read 1
5 denoted as R1 and Read 2 denoted as R2, respectively) with 50 bp in length each (2 \times 50 bp).
6 For the read number and bases, some statistics of the two reads probably doesn't add up to the
7 statistics of the lane just because of rounding. '>Q20/Q30 percentage' indicates the percent of
8 bases with quality score ($-10 \times \lg(\text{error rate})$) higher than 20 and 30 (indicating error rates of 1%
9 and 1‰ respectively). In the final column, error rate was the average error rate of all the
10 bases.

11
12 **Table 2. Mapping statistics of the dataset*.**

Metrics	BGISEQ-500	HiSeq2500
Clean reads	2,378,725,921	665,279,408
Clean bases(bp)	118,936,296,050	98,461,352,384
Mapping rate	97.87%	95.74%
Unique rate	93.17%	97.22%
Duplicate rate	6.26%	0.98%
Mismatch rate	0.34%	0.27%
Average sequencing depth	37.57	31.94
Coverage	99.28%	99.01%
Coverage at least 4 \times	98.90%	98.46%
Coverage at least 10 \times	97.97%	97.34%

Coverage at least 20×	95.78%	91.61%
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*The BGISEQ-500 data were 50 bp paired reads while the HiSeq2500 data were 150 bp paired reads. The statistics shown here are calculated based on the clean reads (raw reads after filtering, the two platforms' data went through the same filtering process). Unique mapping rate indicates proportion of reads with unique alignment in the genome.

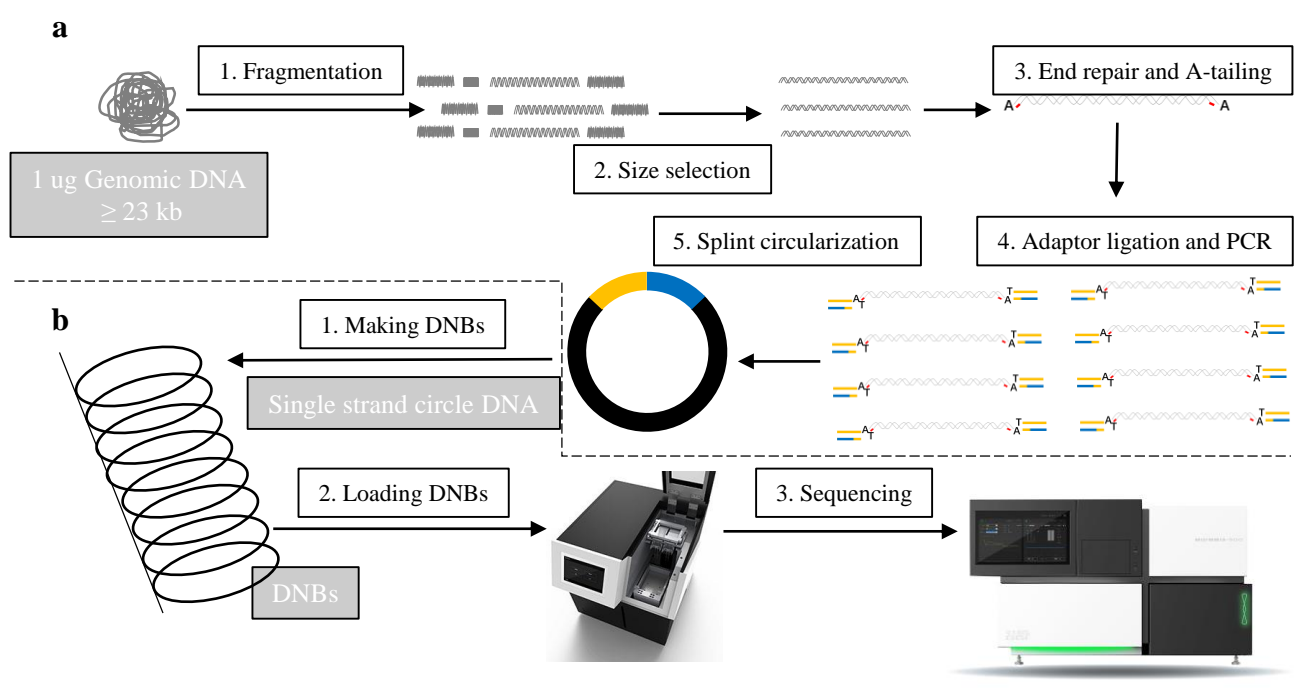
Table 3. Variation statistics of the dataset*.

Sample	BGISEQ-500	HiSeq2500
Total	3,451,124	3,621,362
1000genome and dbsnp141	3,242,083	3,342,070
1000genome specific	1,260	1,712
dbSNP141 specific	180,935	246,684
dbSNP rate	99.19%	99.10%
Novel SNPs	26,846	30,896
Homozygous SNPs	1,426,328	1,475,262
Heterozygous SNPs	2,024,796	2,146,100
Synonymous SNPs	19,880	20,786
Ti/Tv	2.05	2.04
dbSNP Ti/Tv	2.06	2.05
Novel Ti/Tv	0.89	1.08

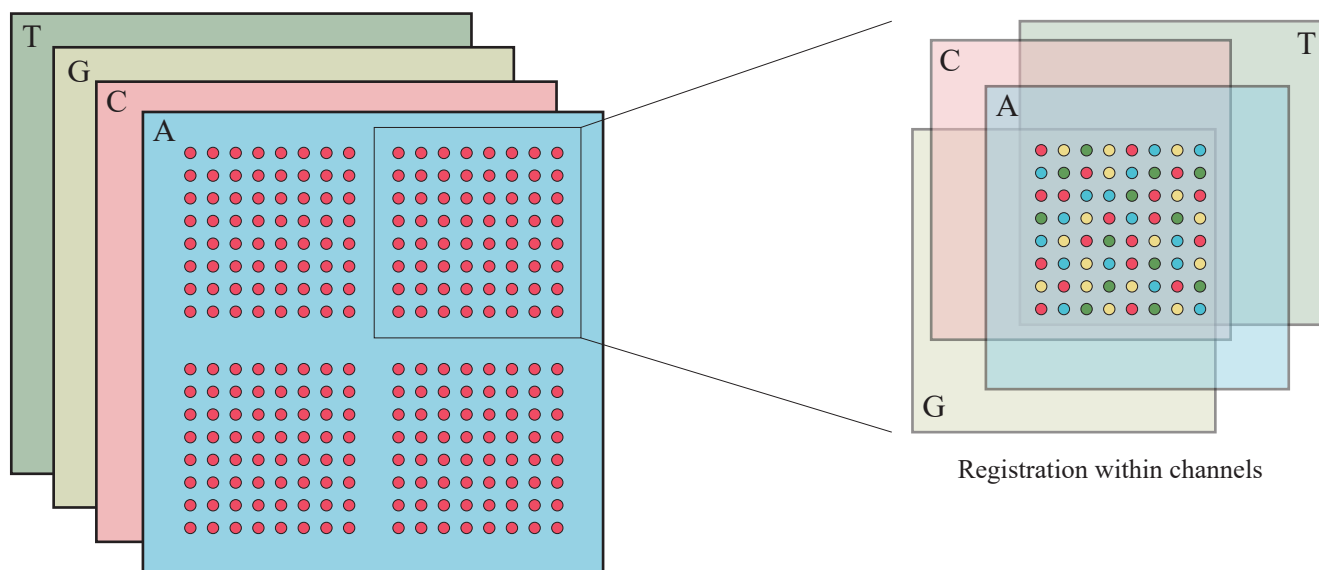
*1000genome and dbsnp141 equals the number of SNPs that are found in both 1000 genome and dbSNP databases, 1000genome specific equals the number of SNPs that are only found in 1000 genomes database. dbSNP rate equals the number of SNPs found in dbSNP database/total detected SNPs. Novel SNP equals the number of SNPs that are not found in SNP database. Ti/Tv equals the ratio of SNP type are transition/SNP type are transversion. TP (True Positive) equals the number of SNPs that are found in high-confidence reference dataset, FP (False Positive) equals the number of SNPs that are not found in reference dataset, FP equals FP/(FP+TN), which TN equals the number of positions

1 that are same as reference. FN equals the number of SNPs that are not detected but are
2 recorded in reference dataset, FN rate equals $FN/(FN+TP)$. Sensitivity equals
3 $TP/(TP+FN)$. PPV is short for positive predictive value, which equals $TP/(TP+FP)$.

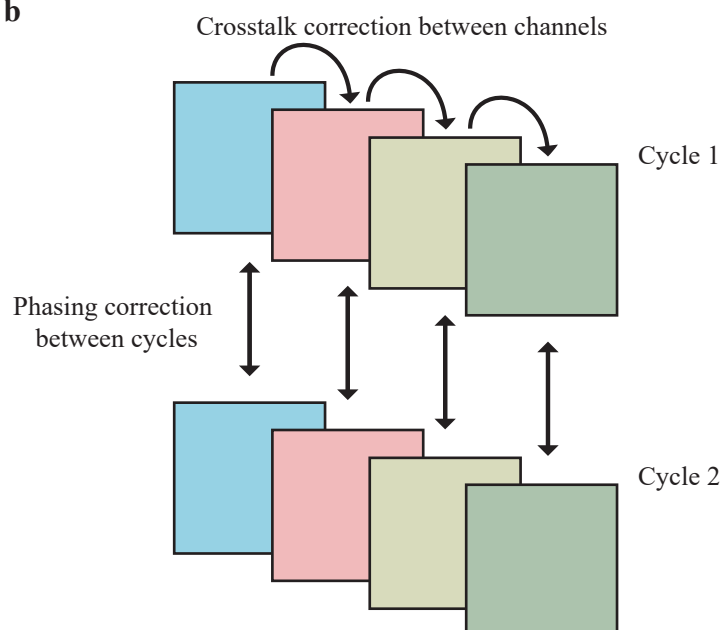
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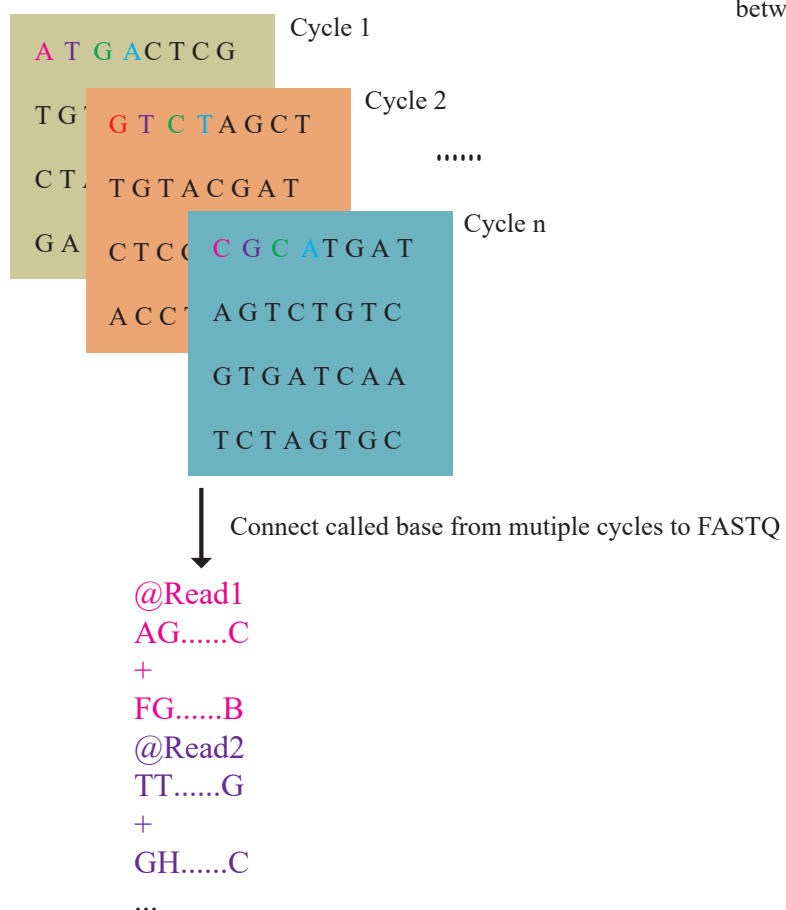
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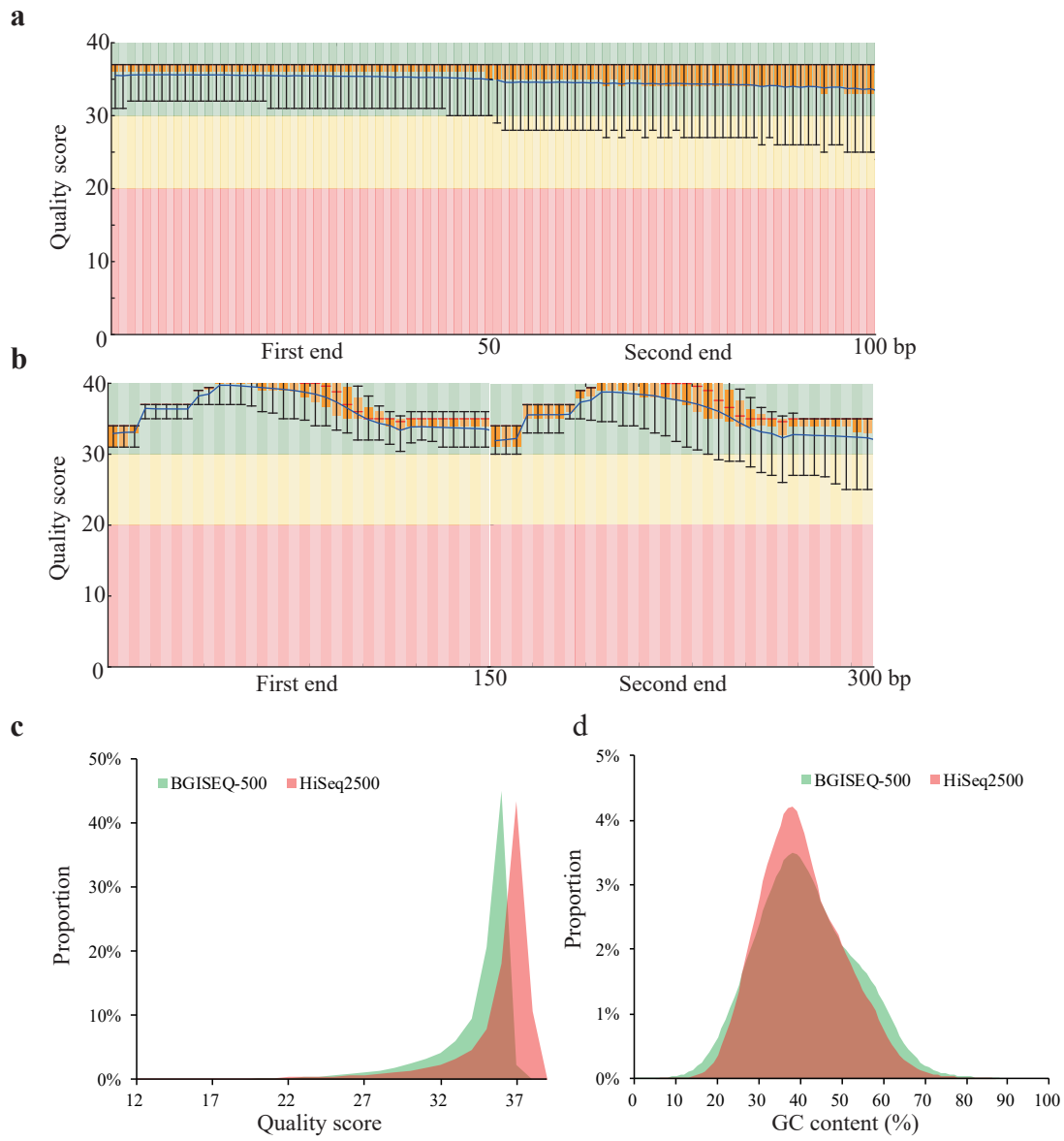


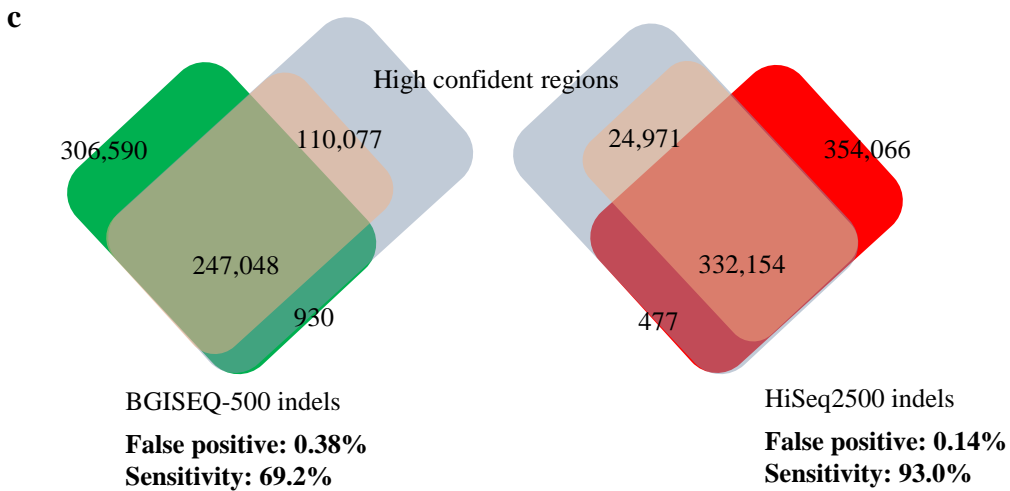
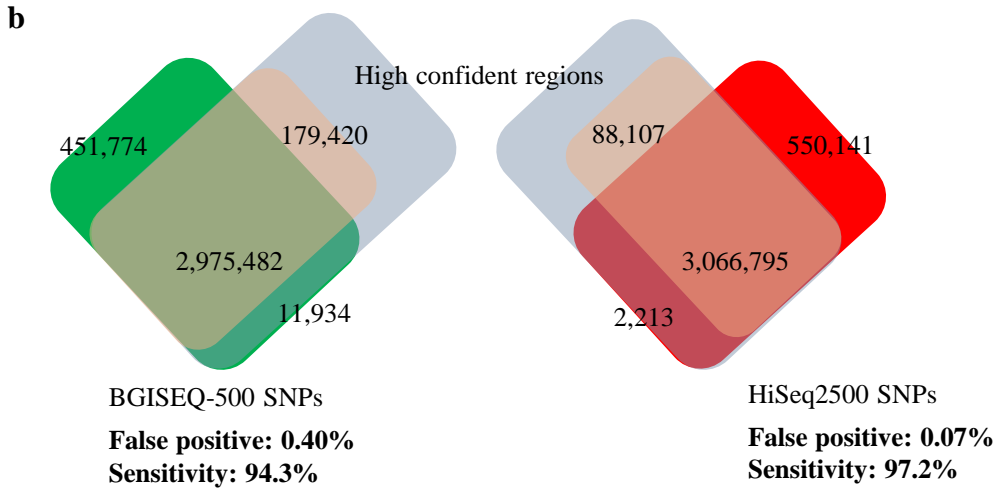
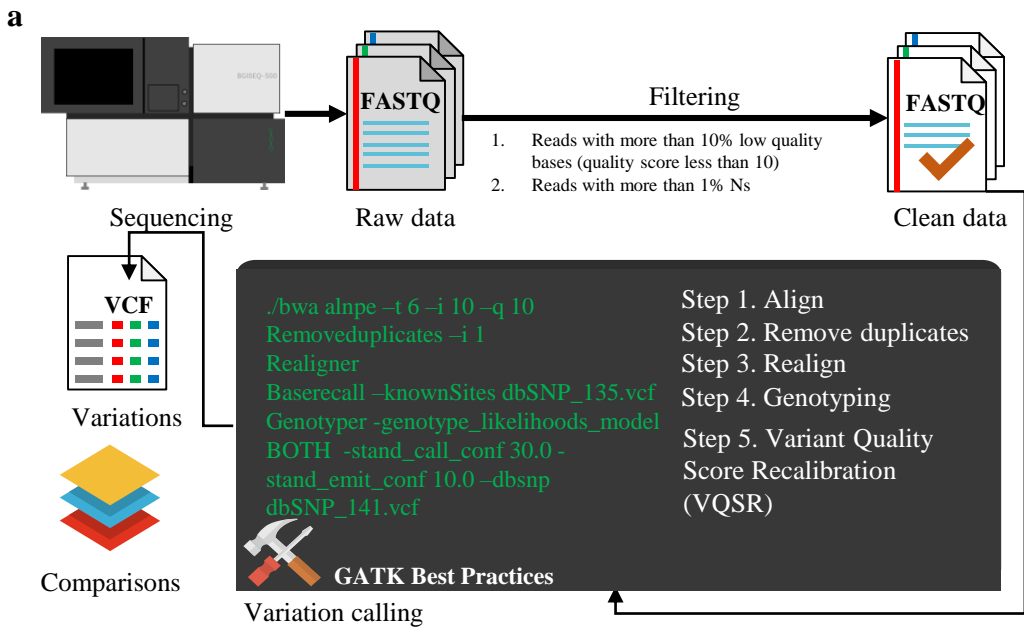
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Dear Editor,

We are now submitting a manuscript entitled *A reference human genome dataset of the BGISEQ-500 sequencer* for you to consider as a data note in *GigaScience*. In this manuscript, we have for the first time presented the sequencing data from the new sequencing platform BGISEQ-500. We obtained ~30× data of the commercially available cell line NA12878 from the new sequencing platform, and the sequencing data were 50 bp in length and paired (50 PE). We compared the data quality to similar amount of HiSeq sequencing data of the same cell line previously generated by the Genome in A Bottle consortium (GIAB), which were of high quality. Furthermore, we used the BGISEQ-500 dataset to conduct the variation calling, and compared the variation calling results identified from the HiSeq dataset. We found good sequencing quality of the BGISEQ-500 data, and good sensitivity and accuracy for variation calling, although some discrepancies were also observed indicating directions for future improvements.

We think that the new platform can be widely applied in both researches and applications, thus the comprehensive assessment of the data quality would be very valuable and will serve as reference for many other researches using the new platform, providing important information to a broad audience. In the meantime, further improvement of the data quality would also refer to the current analysis conducted in this manuscript thus we think it would fit the requirement of *GigaScience*. We hope that you will also find the manuscript potential interesting and consider for sending out for review. Any further suggestions are welcome and we can do further revision if necessary.

Our submission includes (1) the main manuscript file containing the main text, 3 tables, and 4 figures, along with the comprehensive dataset.

Yours sincerely,

Xin Liu, Ph. D.

Research Scientist, BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, PRC.

Email: liuxin@genomics.cn