

The first whole transcriptomic exploration of pre-oviposited early chicken embryos using single and bulked embryonic RNA-sequencing --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>Background The chicken is a valuable model organism, especially in evolutionary and embryology research because its embryonic development occurs in the egg. However, despite its scientific importance, no transcriptome data have been generated for deciphering the early developmental stages of the chicken because of practical and technical constraints accessing pre-oviposited embryos.</p> <p>Findings Here, we determine the entire transcriptome of pre-oviposited avian embryos, including oocyte, zygote, and intrauterine embryos from Eyal-giladi and Kochav stage I (EGK.I) to EGK.X collected using a non-invasive approach for the first time. We also compare RNA-sequencing data obtained using bulked embryo sequencing and single embryo/cell sequencing technique. The raw sequencing data were pre-processed with two different genome builds, Galgal4 and Galgal5, and the expression of 17,108 and 26,102 genes was quantified in the respective builds. There were some differences between the two techniques, as well as between the two genome builds, and these were affected by the emergence of long intergenic non-coding RNA annotations.</p> <p>Conclusion The first transcriptome datasets of pre-oviposited early chicken embryos based on bulked and single embryo sequencing techniques will serve as a valuable resource for investigating early avian embryogenesis, for comparative studies among vertebrates, and for novel gene annotation in the chicken genome.</p>	
Corresponding Author:	Jae Yong Han, Ph.D. Seoul National University Gwanak-gu, Seoul KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	
Corresponding Author Secondary Information:		
Corresponding Author's Institution:	Seoul National University	
Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:		
First Author:	Young Sun Hwang	
First Author Secondary Information:		
Order of Authors:	Young Sun Hwang Minseok Seo Hee Jung Choi Sang Kyung Kim Heebal Kim Jae Yong Han, Ph.D.	
Order of Authors Secondary Information:		
Opposed Reviewers:		
Additional Information:		

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1 **1 The first whole transcriptomic exploration of pre-oviposited early chicken**
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4 **2 embryos using single and bulked embryonic RNA-sequencing**
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8 4 Young Sun Hwang^{1,†}, Minseok Seo^{2,3,†}, Hee Jung Choi¹, Sang Kyung Kim¹, Heebal Kim^{1,2,4},
9
10 5 and Jae Yong Han^{1,4,*}
11

12 6 †These authors contributed equally to this work
13
14
15
16

17 8 *Corresponding Author
18

19 9 Jae Yong Han, Ph.D.
20

21 10 Seoul National University, 1 Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 08826, Korea
22

23 11 Phone: +82-2-880-4810
24

25 12 FAX: +82-2-874-4811
26

27 13 E-mail: jaehan@snu.ac.kr
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1 15 **Abstract**

2
3 16 **Background**

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8 18 research because its embryonic development occurs in the egg. However, despite its
9
10 19 scientific importance, no transcriptome data have been generated for deciphering the early
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14 21 accessing pre-oviposited embryos.

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16
17 22 **Findings**

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21 24 oocyte, zygote, and intrauterine embryos from Eyal-giladi and Kochav stage I (EGK.I) to
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23 25 EGK.X collected using a non-invasive approach for the first time. We also compare RNA-
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25 26 sequencing data obtained using bulked embryo sequencing and single embryo/cell
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28 27 sequencing technique. The raw sequencing data were pre-processed with two different
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30 28 genome builds, Galgal4 and Galgal5, and the expression of 17,108 and 26,102 genes was
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32 29 quantified in the respective builds. There were some differences between the two techniques,
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34 30 as well as between the two genome builds, and these were affected by the emergence of
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36 31 long intergenic non-coding RNA annotations.

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38
39 32 **Conclusion**

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41 33 The first transcriptome datasets of pre-oviposited early chicken embryos based on bulked
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43 34 and single embryo sequencing techniques will serve as a valuable resource for investigating
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45 35 early avian embryogenesis, for comparative studies among vertebrates, and for novel gene
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47 36 annotation in the chicken genome.

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50 37 **Keywords**

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52 38 RNA-seq - Single embryonic sequencing - Single cell sequencing - Early embryo - Chicken
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39 **Background**

40 Avian species are valuable animal models in many research areas, especially in embryology,
41 because the avian embryo develops in an egg before hatching. This is an excellent *in vitro*-
42 like *in vivo* system that has allowed extensive research of the developmental events during
43 embryogenesis. Previous studies have examined primitive streak formation and gastrulation
44 after oviposition in avian species [1–4]. Nevertheless, despite the importance of the initial
45 events in avian embryogenesis before oviposition, only a few morphological studies have
46 examined pre-oviposited embryos because of practical difficulties accessing the embryos [5–
47 7]. The temporal regulation of gene expression during the pre-oviposited stages is important
48 for understanding early embryonic development.

49 Recently, the Bird10K project was initiated because of the intermediate position of
50 birds in the comparative biology of vertebrates and their broad utility for diverse research.
51 This project used the genome sequences of 48 species of birds to construct a phylogenetic
52 hierarchy of avian species and examine the comparative genomics of flight and functional
53 adaptations [8–10]. However, no transcriptomic approach to early bird embryos has been
54 performed. Here, we present whole transcriptome sequencing of pre-oviposited chicken
55 embryos, including oocyte, zygote, and intrauterine embryos from Eyal-giladi and Kochav
56 stage I (EGK.I) to EGK.X (Fig. 1a). Furthermore, a single oocyte, zygote, and EGK.X
57 blastoderm from one hen were sequenced (Fig. 1b) and compared with the results for bulked
58 embryos. Based on the whole transcriptome of early chicken embryos, we mapped our
59 sequencing reads on the two most recent chicken (*Gallus gallus*) genome references,
60 Galgal4 and Galgal5, and examined the differences in gene expression between the two
61 builds with or without long intergenic non-coding RNA (lincRNA) annotations.

63 **Data description**

64 **Collection of bulked early chicken embryos**

1 65 In the chicken, the initial 25 h of embryonic development from fertilization to oviposition
2
3 66 progresses through the oviduct. The mature oocyte on top of the yellow yolk is ovulated into
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5 67 the infundibulum 30 min after oviposition. Then, fertilization occurs and the zygote passes
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7 68 through the magnum without any morphological changes in the embryo. According to the
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10 69 well-defined criteria of Eyal-Giladi and Kochav [5, 6], the first cleavage is observed 5 h after
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12 70 fertilization in the shell gland and has been designated EGK.I. Beginning with this event, the
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14 71 pre-ovipositional development of birds is divided into 10 stages, including the cleavage
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16 72 (EGK.I to EGK.VI) and area pellucida formation (EGK.VII to EGK.X) periods. During the
17
18 73 cleavage stages, rapid cellularization and an increase in layers lead to formation of a multi-
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20 74 layered blastula by EGK.VI. In the second half of intrauterine development, the first
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22 75 morphological segregation, including the area pellucida and area opaca regions, occurs with
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24 76 anterior–posterior axis formation and layer reduction. Finally, a thinner, longer, bi-layered
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26 77 blastoderm is established at EGK.X. Based on the morphological dynamics that occur during
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28 78 intrauterine development, we chose critical representative stages to analyze: EGK.I, EGK.III,
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30 79 EGK.VI, EGK.VIII, EGK.X, the oocyte, and the zygote (Fig. 1a).
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34 80 The egg-laying times of white leghorn (WL) hens were recorded, and intrauterine
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36 81 eggs from EGK.I–VIII were harvested using an abdominal massage technique [11]. Briefly,
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38 82 the abdomen was pushed gently until the shell gland was exposed; the surface of the shell
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40 83 gland expands when an egg is present for egg shell formation. After expansion of the shell
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42 84 gland surface, massaging was used to move the egg gently towards the cloaca until the
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44 85 intrauterine egg was released. EGK.X blastoderms were collected from WL hens after
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46 86 oviposition. To collect oocytes and zygotes, WL hens were sacrificed and the follicles were
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48 87 collected. Zygote embryos located in the magnum and showing no cleavage were collected
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50 88 within 1 h post-fertilization according to the recorded egg-laying times. All embryos were
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52 89 classified according to morphological criteria (Fig. 1c). All stages were prepared in triplicate
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54 90 and each replicate contained three to seven embryos, while there were ten embryos per
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1 91 replicate of the post-oviposited EGK.X blastoderm (Fig. 2a). Shortly after collection, the
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3 92 embryos were separated from the egg using sterilized paper, and the shell membrane and
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5 93 albumen were detached from the yolk. A piece of square filter paper (Whatman, Maidstone,
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7 94 UK) with a hole in the center was placed over the germinal disc. After cutting around the
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10 95 paper containing the embryo, it was gently turned over and transferred to saline to remove
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12 96 the yolk and vitelline membrane and allow embryo collection. Total RNA was isolated from
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14 97 early embryos using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). The quality and
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16 98 quantity of the extracted total RNA were determined using the Trinean DropSense96 system
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18 99 (Trinean, Gentbrugge, Belgium), a RiboGreen kit (Invitrogen), and an Agilent 2100
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21 100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The average concentration and
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23 101 amount of total RNA in the early stages was 157.7 ng/ μ L and 7,026.2 ng, respectively, with
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25 102 the exception of EGK.X, which contained 368.9 ng/ μ L and 18,495.8 ng due to the larger
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27 103 number of embryos pooled (Fig. 2b, c). Based on the amount of total RNA and the number of
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29 104 embryos in each sample, we estimated the total amount of RNA per embryo in each stage.
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32 105 On average, the early chicken embryos contained 1,457 ng of total RNA (Fig. 2d).
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36 107 **Collection of a single oocyte, zygote, and EGK.X blastoderm from one hen**

37 108 In accordance with the estimated amount of total RNA per embryo, a single RNA-rich
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39 109 embryo could be used to perform RNA-sequencing (RNA-Seq) without an amplification
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41 110 technique. In this way, probable sequencing errors due to library amplification from low-input
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43 111 RNA can be avoided. Furthermore, the deviation of transcriptomes among early embryos at
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45 112 the same stage can be examined. Chicken physiology allows a single oocyte, zygote, and
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47 113 EGK.X blastoderm to be collected from one hen at the same time, which minimizes any
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49 114 individual variation and maternal effects (Fig. 1b). On the day when single embryos were
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51 115 acquired, a single EGK.X blastoderm was collected and the time was recorded. Within 1 h
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53 116 post-fertilization according to the recorded egg-laying times, a WL hen was sacrificed and a
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1 117 single oocyte and zygote were simultaneously collected. All stages were prepared in
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3 118 triplicate (Fig. 2a). The subsequent steps, including embryo separation and total RNA
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5 119 isolation and quantification, were the same as for the pooled embryos. With the single-
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7 120 embryo approach, the RNA concentration was 105.3 ng/μL and the amount of total RNA
8
9 121 averaged 2123.5 ng (Fig. 2b, c). The total amount of RNA for a single embryo was higher
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11 122 and more constant among the different stages than with the bulked embryo collection (Fig.
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13 123 2d).

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15 125 **Library preparation and whole transcriptome sequencing**

16 126 Total RNA was used to construct cDNA libraries using the TruSeq Stranded Total RNA
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18 127 Sample Preparation kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). The resulting libraries were
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20 128 subjected to transcriptome analysis using the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform to produce
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22 129 paired 150 base pair reads.
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32 131 **Summary statistics of pre-processing for RNA-seq data**

33 132 Thirty RNA-seq samples were used in the pre-processing step for the quantification of gene
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35 133 expression in the early developmental stages in the chicken. First, adapter sequences and
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37 134 poor-quality reads were removed from the raw paired-end sequenced files using
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39 135 Trimmomatic ver. 0.33 [12]. The quality of the clean reads was verified using FastQC ver.
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41 136 0.11.2 [13]. On average, 58,930,612 (96.75%) and 39,969,608 (86.16%) paired-end reads
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43 137 remained after the quality-control step for bulked and single-embryo sequencing,
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45 138 respectively (Table 1).
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50 139 The clean reads were mapped into the two different builds of the Galgal4 and
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52 140 Galgal5 reference genomes, which were obtained from the Ensembl database. The Galgal4
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54 141 build was the so-called “golden standard” reference chicken genome at the end of 2015, and
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56 142 many studies have employed this build. In December 2016, a new genome build, Galgal5
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1 143 (Ref Seq assembly accession: GCA_000002315.3) and an improved gene model were
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3 144 established using advanced sequencing techniques. One of the features of Galgal5
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5 145 compared with Galgal4 is the different read length used when the gene model was
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7 146 established. This change improved inaccurate gene annotations, especially the structure of
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10 147 isoforms, in existing short-read based gene models through an isoform sequencing
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12 148 technique using the Pacific Biosciences (PacBio) long reads. Furthermore, PacBio long-read
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14 149 sequencing technology makes it possible to establish lincRNAs, which is important in
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16 150 developmental biology [14]. Given that our data were not only an early developmental
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18 151 sample of a chicken but also a sample of all types of RNAs, this must be considered when
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20 152 quantifying gene expression levels in the RNA-seq pipeline. Therefore, we decided to
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22 153 quantify the expression level of the entire transcriptome using the two different versions of
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24 154 the genome builds, and then compared the results to examine the differences. In the
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26 155 alignment step, HISAT2 ver. 2.0.0 [15] was used with the "--rna-strandness RF" option to
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28 156 consider a stranded specific library. As a result, an average of 76.07 and 73.27% mapping
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30 157 rates were observed in Galgal4 and Galgal5, respectively, in the 21 bulked embryo samples
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32 158 and 84.41 and 84.28% were observed in the nine single embryo or cell samples (Table 1).
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34 159 For Galgal4 and Galgal5, the average observed difference in the mapping rate between the
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36 160 bulked and single embryo samples was 8.35 and 11%, respectively. We suspected that this
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38 161 difference in mapping rates was caused by the diversity of genetic information. Since
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40 162 transcriptome data generated using single embryo sequencing technology contains only
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42 163 genetic information for a single entity, it is assumed that the mapping rate is increased by
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44 164 alleviating the heterogeneity problem derived from various genetic backgrounds. We also
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46 165 observed small differences in the average mapping rates (0.028 and 0.001% were
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48 166 decreased in Galgal5, for the bulked and single embryo samples, respectively), which
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50 167 implies that there are no large differences between the two genome builds at the DNA level.
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52 168 Following the alignment step using the two different versions of the genome builds,
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1 169 alignment files (.SAM files) were converted into binary alignment files (.BAM) using
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3 170 SAMtools ver. 1.4.1 [16]. Based on the alignment files, the gene expression levels (number
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5 171 of mapped reads) were quantified using HTSeq-count [17] with the Ensembl gene annotation
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7 172 files corresponding to the genome builds (Ensembl release 85 for Galgal4 and 86 for
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10 173 Galgal5). As a result, the number of mapped reads was quantified in each pipeline and
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12 174 17,108 and 26,102 genes were annotated in the Galgal4 and Galgal5 genome builds,
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14 175 respectively.
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18 19 177 **Comparison of the gene expression patterns between Galgal4 and Galgal5 in chicken** 20 21 178 **early embryo samples**

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23 179 Based on the mapped-count matrix of the genome builds and the Ensembl annotation, we
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25 180 systematically investigated how many and which types of genes differed between the two
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27 181 genome builds. First, we found that many genes were differentially annotated in each build in
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29 182 terms of their Ensembl IDs (Fig. 3a). Of the 17,108 and 26,102 annotated genes in Galgal4
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31 183 and Galgal5, respectively, only 11,451 Ensembl IDs were shared by both annotations, while
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33 184 5,657 and 14,651 Ensembl IDs were annotated only in the respective builds. Next, we
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35 185 compared the two genome builds based on the genes actually expressed in the early
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37 186 embryo samples of chickens. For this comparison, we filtered out genes with no mapped
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39 187 counts across all 30 RNA-seq samples. As a result, 901 and 3,849 genes were filtered out in
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41 188 the raw gene annotations of Galgal4 and Galgal5, respectively (*i.e.*, 16,207 and 22,253
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43 189 genes remained). Because the same pattern of results was observed when validated with
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45 190 the filtered Ensembl IDs (Fig. 3b), we then examined which RNAs produced the difference
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47 191 between Galgal4 and Galgal5. As a result, many lincRNAs and protein-coding genes were
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49 192 newly identified in Galgal5 and confirmed to be expressed in early chicken embryos (Fig. 3c
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51 193 and Table 2). With the development of sequencing technology, lincRNA has been added to
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53 194 over 5,166 new genes, and it was confirmed that it is actually expressed in our data. Unlike
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1 195 lincRNA, which was unilaterally added to Galgal5, there were many changes in protein-
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3 196 coding genes (Table 2). A total of 4,892 protein-coding genes were discarded, while 5,613
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5 197 were added in the new version of the gene annotation (based on the Ensembl ID matching).
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7 198 Since there is still a lack of empirical evidence and practical discussion of the validity of both
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9 199 gene models, it is impossible to determine which genome build is correct for quantifying
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11 200 gene expression in our study. However, we expect to contribute to further studies by
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13 201 providing the entire transcript expression metrics for early embryos of chickens in both builds.
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15 202 Finally, correlations between the 30 samples were examined based on the quantified
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17 203 expression of 11,001 genes common to the gene annotations of these two builds (Fig. 3d).
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19 204 Based on bulked embryo sequencing, high correlations (≥ 0.9) were observed between
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21 205 Galgal4 and Galgal5, except for the oocyte and zygote. In comparison, single embryo and/or
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23 206 cell sequencing showed the high correlation between Galgal4 and Galgal5 including the
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25 207 oocyte and zygote. This demonstrates the excellent reproducibility of the data produced
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27 208 based on the unique genetic background of a single experimental subject. Most of the
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29 209 embryonic transcriptome data generated to date have involved pooling problems and we
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31 210 expect to be able to perform more sophisticated downstream analysis using single embryo
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33 211 and/or cell sequencing, which is now possible due to technological developments.
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41 213 **Comparison of bulked embryo sequencing and single embryo and/or cell sequencing** 42 43 214 **with chicken early embryos**

45 215 To investigate the differences between the two technologies more systematically,
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47 216 multidimensional scaling analysis was performed using information from 30 RNA-seq
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49 217 samples in two gene expression matrixes: Galgal4 and Galgal5. All of the samples in both
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51 218 gene expression matrixes clearly clustered according to their developmental stage, except
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53 219 for the zygote, EGK.I, and EGK.III (Fig. 4). This means that although there are morphological
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55 220 differences, there is no transcriptome change during the early embryonic development of the
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1 221 chicken for a specific time after zygotic gene activation. In fact, the time from the zygote to
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3 222 EGK.III is also very short. While most of the patterns seem to be concordant between
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5 223 Galgal4 and Galgal5, distinct differences were observed between the bulked and single
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7 224 embryo RNA-seq techniques for the oocyte and zygote samples based on the Galgal5 gene
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9 225 expression matrix. However, no difference was detected between the two techniques for the
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11 226 EGK.X samples, which is presumably due to the difference between the bulked and single
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13 227 cells because we performed single embryo RNA-seq for the oocyte, zygote, and EGK.X
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15 228 stages. The RNA samples from the oocyte and zygote were derived from a single cell,
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17 229 whereas those from EGK.X were derived from bulked cells. As we have already examined
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19 230 the difference in gene annotation between Galgal4 and Galgal5, more than 10,000 genes
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21 231 have been changed, which includes both protein-coding genes and lincRNAs. Of these
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23 232 changes, 5,166 newly added lincRNAs may be a major factor causing this difference
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25 233 because lincRNA plays an important role in the zygote as an epigenetic marker in both
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27 234 humans and mice, which have been subjected to lincRNA annotation and early embryonic
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29 235 transcription studies. Furthermore, epigenetic markers are very sensitive, exhibiting subject-
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31 236 or cell-specific characteristics. Therefore, our RNA-Seq data based on the single embryo
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33 237 and cell technique for oocytes and zygotes is more accurate than ordinary RNA-Seq data
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35 238 because it eliminates epigenetic and genetic pooling effects. For example, bulked zygote
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37 239 samples were separated from the cluster of EGK.I and EGK.III samples in a
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39 240 multidimensional scaling (MDS) analysis based on the Galgal5 gene matrix, whereas there
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41 241 was no difference in the Galgal4 gene expression matrix (Fig. 4, right panel). This shows that
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43 242 quantifying gene expression using the standard RNA-Seq pooled embryo sequencing
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45 243 technique can lead to false positive results regarding differentially expressed genes.
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52 244 In summary, we produced the first whole transcriptome sequences of pre-oviposited
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54 245 early chicken embryos based on standard RNA-Seq and single embryo sequencing
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56 246 techniques. We then quantified and compared gene expression using the standard gene
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1 247 annotation used for the chicken and a new chicken gene annotation based on the advanced
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3 248 long-read sequencing technique. As a result, we not only demonstrated the accuracy of
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5 249 RNA-Seq data based on single embryo or cell sequencing but also successfully quantified
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7 250 5,166 lincRNAs in the new chicken gene model, for the pre-oviposited early chicken embryo.
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10 251 We expect that the transcriptome sequences of pre-oviposited early chicken embryos will fill
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12 252 the gap in comparative developmental and evolutionary studies of vertebrates as a valuable
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14 253 resources and provide comprehensive knowledge of early avian embryogenesis.
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16 254 Furthermore, the oocyte and early chicken embryos express numerous types of RNA,
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18 255 including mRNA and lincRNA, so our dataset should help to establish novel transcript and
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21 256 gene annotations for the chicken reference genome. Our large dataset should also be useful
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23 257 for future studies of avian and comparative genomics because the data were generated
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25 258 using the latest sequencing platform and whole transcriptome sequencing enabling the
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28 259 characterization of all RNA transcripts, including primary transcripts, regardless of
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30 260 polyadenylation.

31 32 261 33 34 262 **Availability of supporting data**

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36 263 The bulked and single embryo RNA-Seq data have been deposited in the NCBI GEO
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38 264 database (GSE86592 and GSE100798, respectively). Supporting data including pre-
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40 265 processed gene expression levels are also available in the GigaScience database (GigaDB).

41 266 42 43 267 **Abbreviations**

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45 268 EGK: Eyal-giladi and Kochav; lincRNA: long intergenic non-coding RNA; MDS:
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47 269 multidimensional scaling; PacBio: Pacific Biosciences; RNA-Seq: RNA-sequencing; WL:
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49 270 white leghorn.

50 271 51 52 272 **Experimental animals and animal care**

1 273 The care and experimental use of chickens were approved by the Institute of Laboratory
2
3 274 Animal Resources, Seoul National University (SNU-150827-1). Chickens were maintained
4
5 275 according to a standard management program at the University Animal Farm, Seoul National
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7 276 University, Korea. The procedures for animal management, reproduction and embryo
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10 277 manipulation adhered to the standard operating protocols of our laboratory.
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12 278

14 279 **Competing interests**

16 280 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.
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19 281

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24
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26

27 285

30 286 **Authors' contributions**

32 287 YSH and JYH conceived and designed the experiments. YSH, HJC, and SKK collected
33
34 288 embryos. YSH prepared RNA samples and generated whole-transcriptome RNA-seq reads.
35
36 289 YSH, MS, HK, and JYH analyzed and wrote the manuscript. All authors read and edited the
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39 290 manuscript.
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43 292 **Author details**

45 293 ¹Department of Agricultural Biotechnology and Research Institute of Agriculture and Life
46
47 294 Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Korea. ²CHO&KIM genomics, SNU
48
49 295 Research Park, Seoul National University Mt.4-2, Seoul 08826, Korea. ³Channing Division of
50
51 296 Network Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston,
52
53
54 297 Massachusetts, USA. ⁴Institute for Biomedical Sciences, Shinshu University, Minamiminowa,
55
56 298 Nagano 399-4598, Japan.
57

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3 300 **References**

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352 **Table 1.** Summary statistics of the RNA-seq processing

Bulked embryonic sequencing				
Samples	Surviving reads	Surviving rates	Mapping rates (Galgal4)	Mapping rates (Galgal5)
Oocyte_S1_Bulked	56024575	94.81%	82.73%	84.32%
Oocyte_S2_Bulked	56043780	94.14%	82.77%	79.54%
Oocyte_S3_Bulked	59498675	95.54%	82.16%	82.39%
Zygote_S1_Bulked	53378148	96.74%	82.43%	85.89%
Zygote_S2_Bulked	53999584	96.77%	82.19%	79.86%
Zygote_S3_Bulked	50027929	98.02%	80.90%	87.58%
EGK.I_S1_Bulked	56909314	97.36%	74.55%	70.70%
EGK.I_S2_Bulked	61447014	97.94%	73.24%	68.64%
EGK.I_S3_Bulked	50188847	96.80%	81.34%	77.01%
EGK.III_S1_Bulked	60876681	97.30%	76.06%	69.37%
EGK.III_S2_Bulked	56357690	97.90%	75.20%	70.47%
EGK.III_S3_Bulked	45715485	98.02%	75.30%	70.38%
EGK.VI_S1_Bulked	62075038	97.53%	71.14%	63.68%
EGK.VI_S2_Bulked	65223164	97.77%	80.95%	72.89%
EGK.VI_S3_Bulked	49604292	98.16%	75.12%	69.22%
EGK.VIII_S1_Bulked	67401388	97.35%	70.10%	67.32%
EGK.VIII_S2_Bulked	56396268	96.82%	66.53%	60.37%
EGK.VIII_S3_Bulked	71309063	97.44%	70.68%	70.70%
EGK.X_S1_Bulked	67730502	95.70%	72.24%	69.29%
EGK.X_S2_Bulked	74109500	95.02%	70.64%	69.62%

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EGK.X_S3_Bulked	63225919	94.65%	71.13%	69.51%
Average	58930612.19	0.967514286	0.760666667	0.732738095
Single embryonic or cell sequencing				
Oocyte_S1_SingleCell	23558381	86.61%	86.28%	86.67%
Oocyte_S2_SingleCell	53963445	84.75%	85.95%	85.86%
Oocyte_S3_SingleCell	24660386	84.95%	84.95%	84.33%
Zygote_S1_SingleEmbryo	31742857	87.17%	84.32%	84.40%
Zygote_S2_SingleEmbryo	91033778	85.72%	76.59%	76.15%
Zygote_S3_SingleEmbryo	27687195	87.60%	86.02%	85.96%
EGK.X_S1_SingleEmbryo	30914824	86.41%	83.67%	83.16%
EGK.X_S2_SingleEmbryo	47159061	86.29%	88.38%	89.10%
EGK.X_S3_SingleEmbryo	29006546	85.94%	83.57%	82.86%
Average	39969608.11	0.8616	0.844144444	0.842766667

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1 355 **Table 2.** Comparison of Galgal4 and Galgal5 gene annotations

RNAs	Annotated in Galgal4 only	Commonly annotated	Annotated in Galgal5 only
lincRNA	0	0	5,166
miRNA	204	487	253
misc_RNA	15	71	43
Mt_rRNA	2	0	2
Mt_tRNA	10	0	14
protein_coding	4,892	10,213	5,613
pseudogene	29	10	25
rRNA	6	8	58
scaRNA	0	0	4
snoRNA	41	172	44
snRNA	7	40	30
Total	5,206	11,001	11,252

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1 358 **Figure legends**

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3 359 **Fig. 1.** The bulked and single embryonic RNA-Sequencing (RNA-Seq) in early chicken
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5 360 development. a) The diagram of bulked embryonic RNA-seq. Total 137 pre-oviposited
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7 361 embryos were collected. Each replicate contains from three to ten embryos pooled. The
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9 362 bulked embryo RNA-Seq was performed in triplicate. b) The diagram of single embryonic
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11 363 RNA-Seq. The single oocyte, zygote, and Eyal-giladi and Kochav stage X (EGK.X)
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13 364 blastoderm were obtained from one hen simultaneously. Samples was collected from three
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15 365 hen. Single embryo was sequenced as one replicate and each stage consists of triplicated
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17 366 embryos from three hen, respectively. c) The representative stages of chicken early embryos
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19 367 used for RNA-Seq. Dorsal views of whole embryos from the oocyte to EGK.X are shown. A
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21 368 germinal vesicle oocyte in the ovary and fertilized zygote in the magnum without cleavage
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23 369 were obtained. The intrauterine embryos were obtained 5.5 (EGK.I), 8.5 (EGK.III), 15.5
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25 370 (EGK.VI), and 20.5 (EGK.VIII) h after fertilization. The EGK.X embryo was obtained after
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27 371 oviposition. Scale bar, 1000 μm .
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34 373 **Fig. 2.** Collection of bulked and single embryos during early chicken development. a) The
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36 374 number of embryos in each sample. b) The RNA concentration and c) total amount of RNA
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38 375 for each stage used in RNA-Seq. d) The estimated total RNA per embryo in the bulked
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40 376 samples and the total amount of RNA in a single embryo. The RNA concentration, amount of
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42 377 RNA, and total RNA per embryo did not differ significantly among the groups (Kruskal–Wallis
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44 378 test, $P > 0.05$).
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50 380 **Fig. 3.** Comparison of two different builds of gene annotation for the early chicken embryo
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52 381 samples. a) Using the Ensembl annotation with the two different genome builds, annotated
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54 382 genes were compared based on the Ensembl ID. As a result, 5,657 and 14,651 Ensembl IDs
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56 383 were identified in Galgal4 and Galgal5, respectively, while 11,451 Ensembl IDs are common
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1 384 to the two different annotations. b) Based on the expressed genes at any stage of the
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3 385 chicken early embryos, the gene lists were compared between Galgal4 and Galgal5. c)
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5 386 Investigation of the change in annotated genes in Galgal5 among genes expressed in early
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7 387 chicken embryos. As a result, a large number of lincRNAs was added as new features in
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10 388 Galgal5. d) A correlation analysis of the total gene expression based on 11,001 common
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12 389 annotated genes shared between Galgal4 and Galgal5.

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16 391 **Fig. 4.** Multidimensional scaling plots based on all annotated genes in Galgal4 and Galgal5.
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19 392 The gene expression patterns of early chicken embryos quantified based on Galgal4 were
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21 393 clearly differentiated by developmental stage regardless of the sequencing technique used.
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23 394 In comparison, there was a difference between the bulked and single embryo sequencing
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25 395 techniques in the oocyte and zygote in Galgal5.

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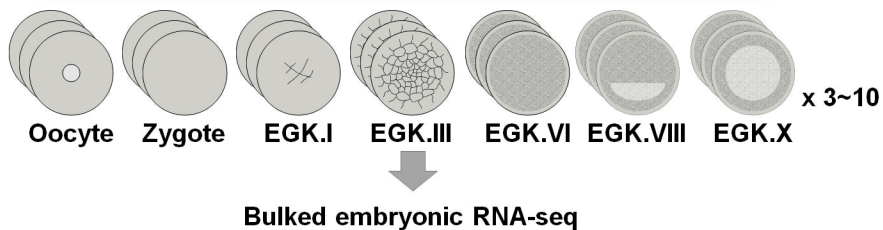
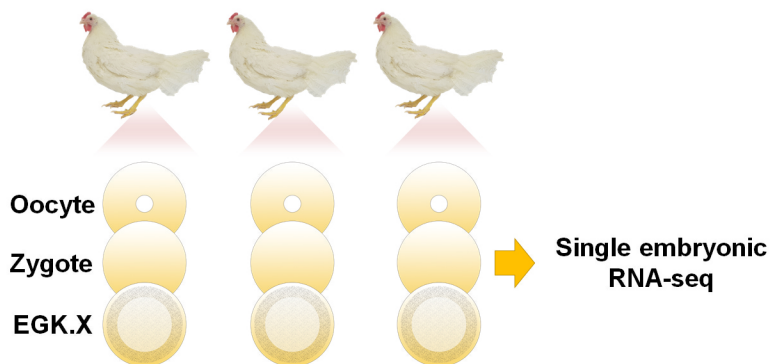
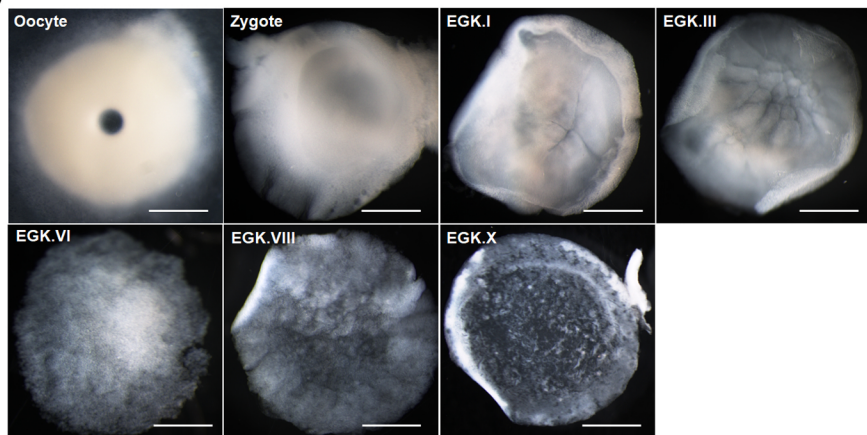
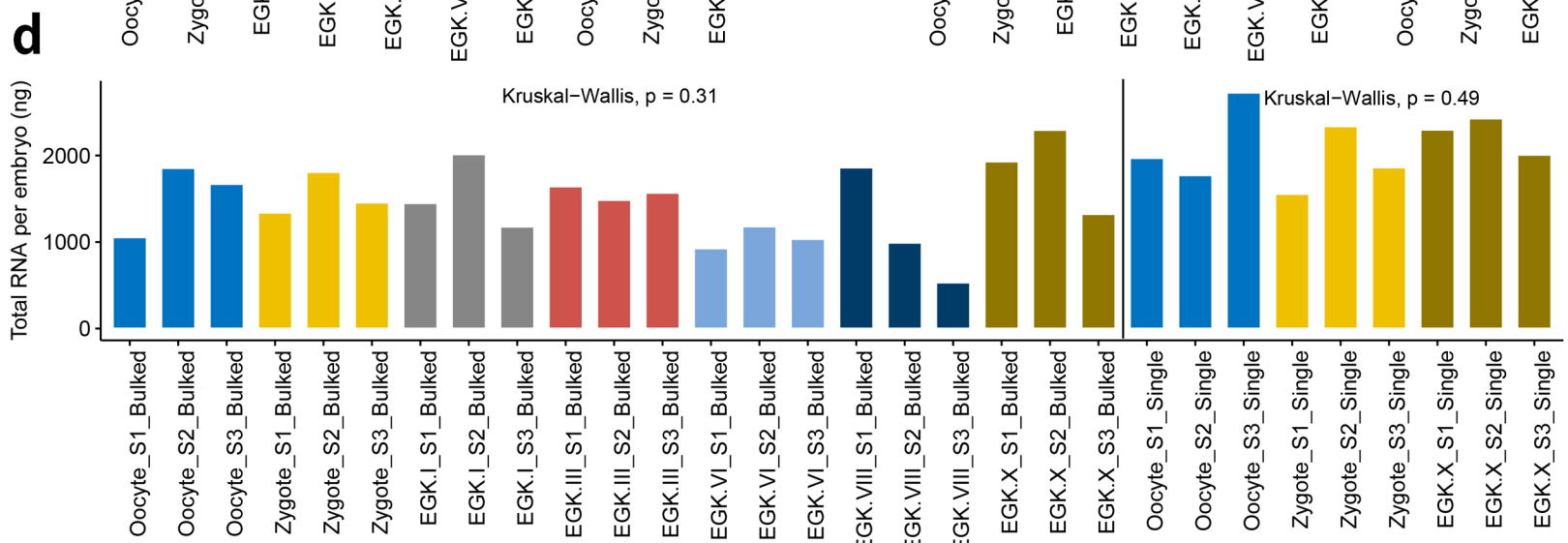
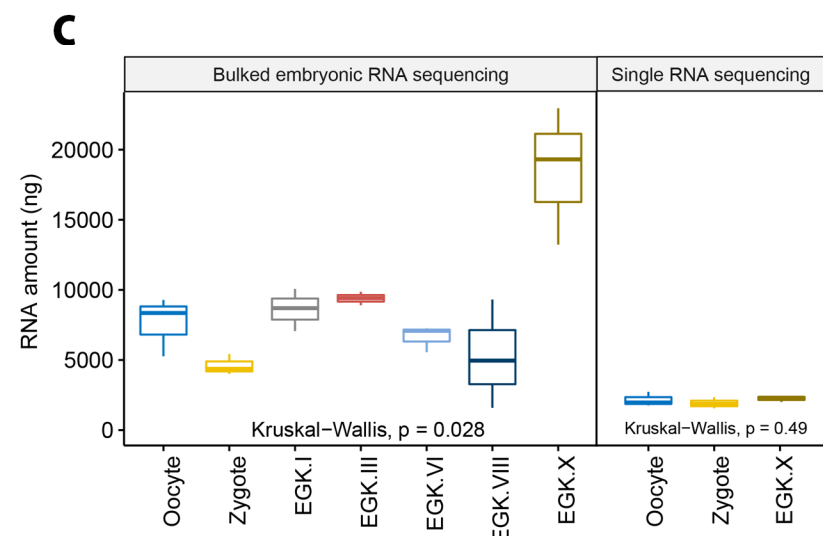
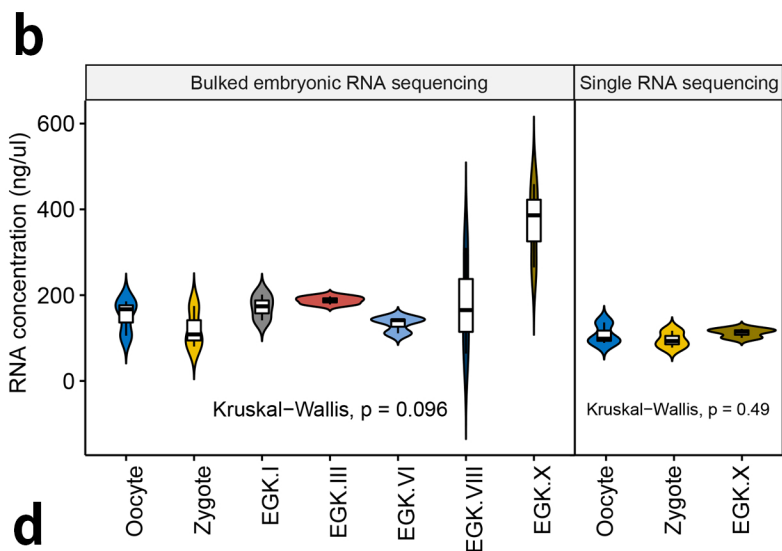
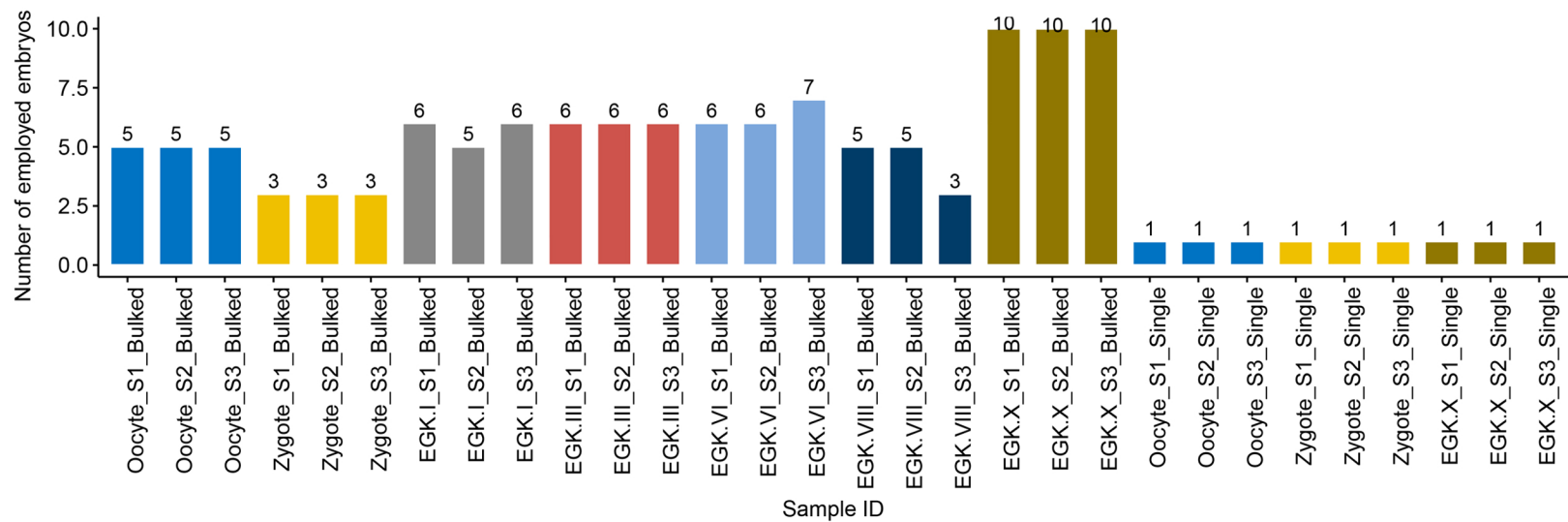
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Figure 2

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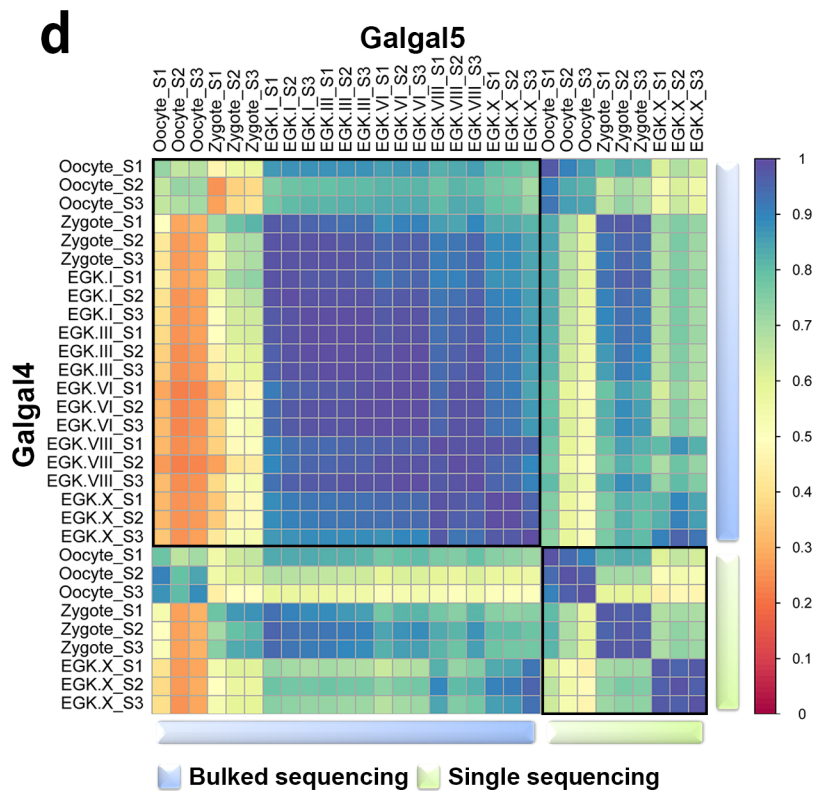
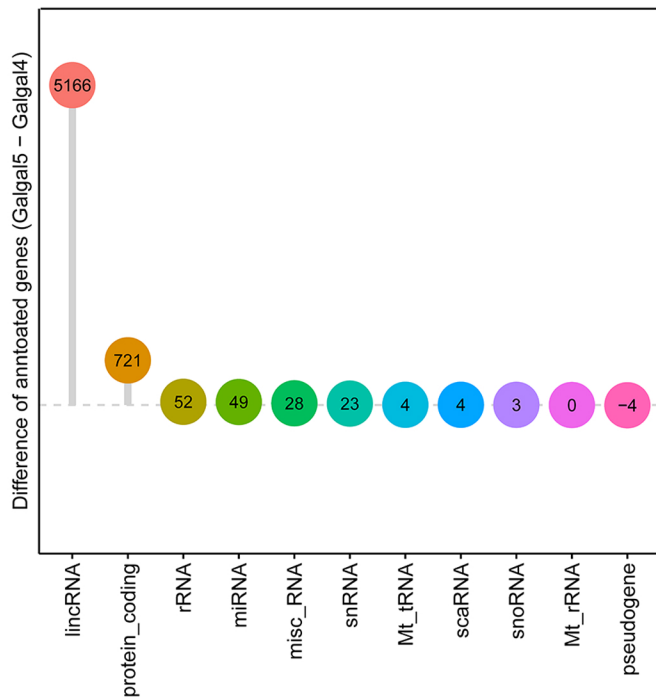
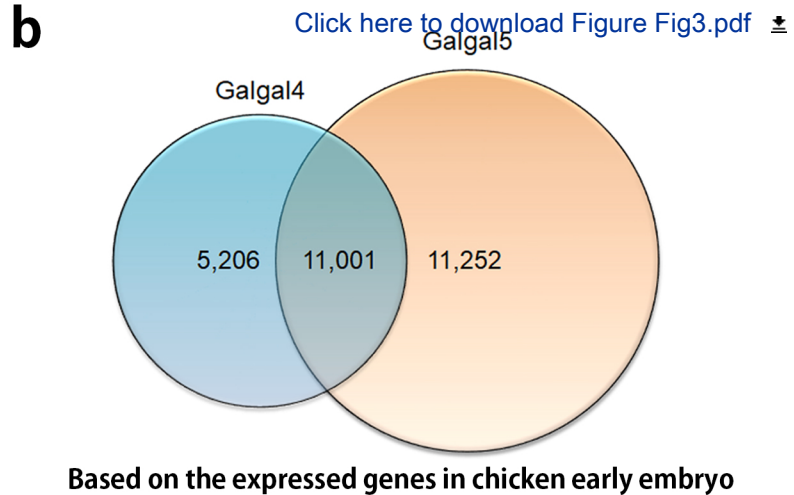
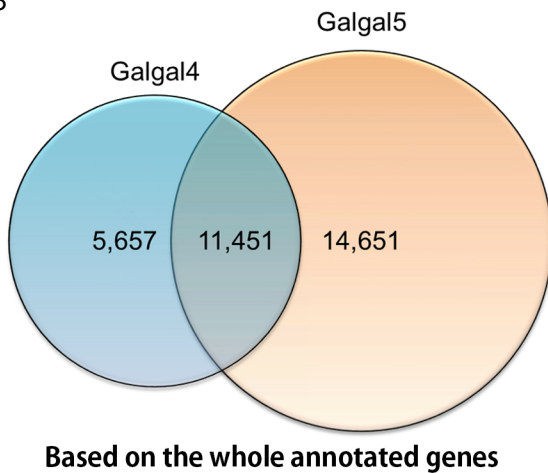
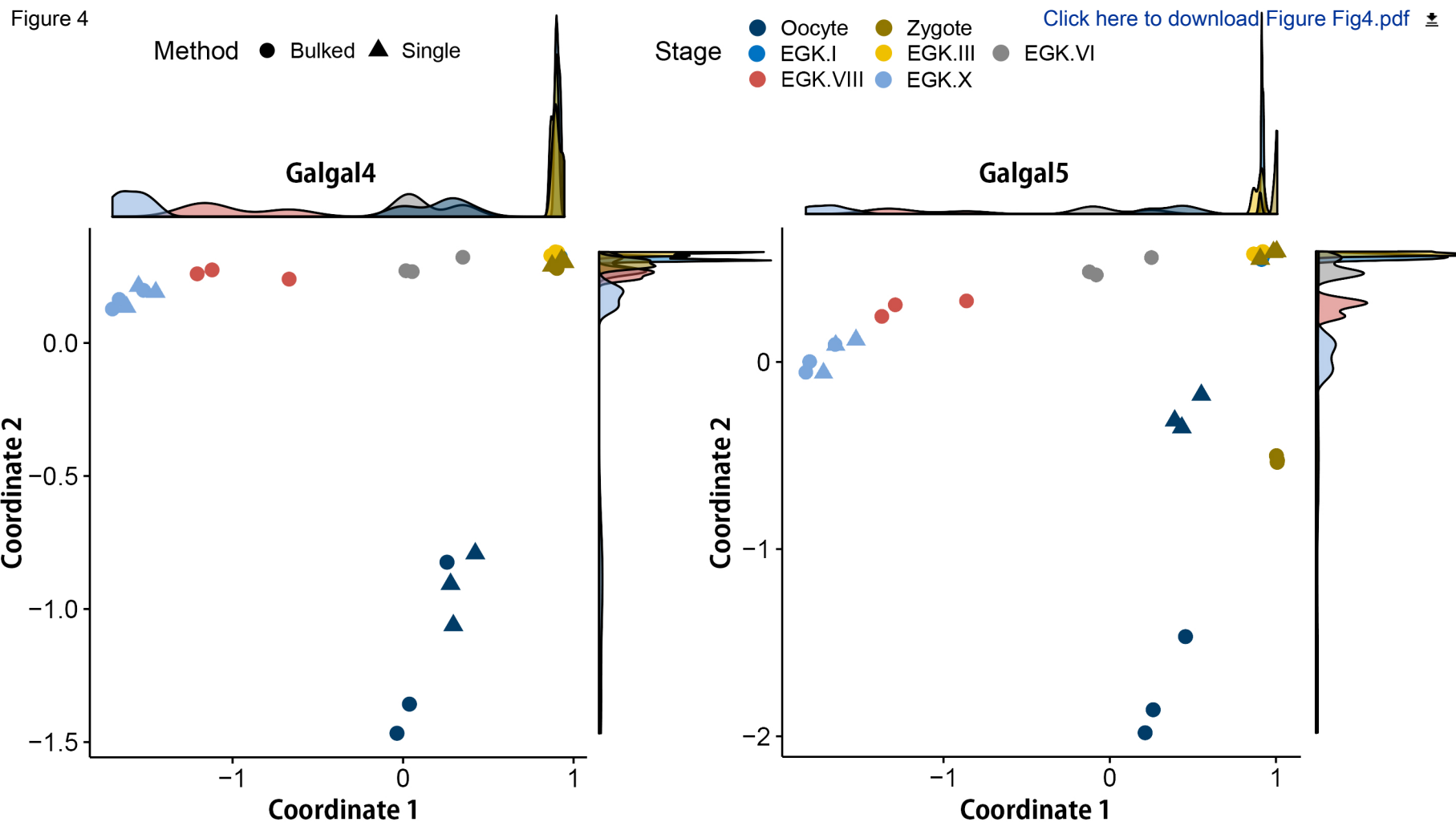


Figure 4



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