Target peak footprint	Actual peak footprint	# Suffix array blocks	Difference cover period	2-bit-per-base references	Build time
16 GB	14.40 GB	1	256	no	4h:36m
8 GB	5.84 GB	6	1024	no	5h:05m
4 GB	3.39 GB	34	4096	no	7h:40m
2 GB	1.39 GB	34	4096	yes	21h:30m

Table 1: Maximum virtual memory footprint and wall-clock running times for various configurations of the Bowtie index-building tool run on a single CPU of a server with a 2.4 GHz AMD Opteron 850 processor and 32 GB of RAM. Reference sequences were the contigs of Genbank human genome build 36.3. In all cases, the index produced is about 2.2 GB on disk.