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Enrichment of a specific polyadenylated RNA for nanopore direct RNA sequencing (RNA SPACE) V.1

Paul MK. Gordon¹

¹University of Calgary

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Paul MK. Gordon
University of Calgary



ABSTRACT

This RNA Sequence Picking After Cutting Enzymatically (RNA SPACE) protocol is intended to enrich for a specific polyadenylated RNA, to be performed before the Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) [direct RNA sequencing](#) protocol. This could be used to promote sequencing of a low abundance polyadenylated transcript in a mixture (e.g. polyadenylated viral RNA in a human clinical sample), or to elucidate the unknown 5' of a transcript (i.e. replacement for 5' RACE sequencing). This methods should become increasingly valuable as lower throughput nanopore devices such as the Flongle, Plongle and SmidgION get official support for direct RNA sequencing.

The RNA SPACE protocol takes advantage of the unusual property of six DNA restriction enzymes ([AvalI](#), [AvrII](#), [BamI](#), [HaeIII](#), [HinfI](#) and [TaqI](#)) to cut the RNA strand in RNA:DNA duplexes.



Murray IA, Stickel SK, Roberts RJ (2010). Sequence-specific cleavage of RNA by Type II restriction enzymes.. Nucleic acids research. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkq702>

This introduces a 3' end that is uniquely targetable using the Oxford Nanopore Technologies protocol's sequence-specific "RTA Oligo B" probe option, rather than the standard poly(dT) overhang version of "RTA Oligo B" which pulls down all polyadenylated transcripts.

The RNA SPACE software designs two oligonucleotide (oligo) probes for this protocol, for any given gene:

- the "RE" oligo to generate a RNA:DNA duplex in the known transcripts of interest
- the sequence-specific RTA Oligo B

MATERIALS

NAME ▾	CATALOG # ▾	VENDOR ▾
CutSmart Buffer - 5.0 ml	B7204S	New England Biolabs
BamI - 5,000 units	R0118S	New England Biolabs
DNAse/RNase free distilled water	10977023	Thermo Fisher Scientific
1.5ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tubes		
RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit	74204	Qiagen
DNA Oligo, Next-day Service fee (up to 48 oligos per order)	A15603	Thermo Fisher
Human Kidney Total RNA	AM7976	Thermo Fisher
Oxford Nanopore Direct RNA sequencing (SQK-RNA002)	SQK-RNA002	Oxford Nanopore Technologies

MATERIALS TEXT

Human Kidney Total RNA is a placeholder for 1ug (or more) of your total RNA sample.

BamI is a placeholder for the restriction enzyme selected in Step 1.

DNA Oligo is a placeholder for the 3 oligos designed in Step 1.

For a list of materials required for the downstream nanopore sequencing protocol, please see its checklist protocol:

<https://community.nanoporetech.com/protocols/ss-direct-rna-sequencing-sqk-rna002/checklist.pdf?devices=minion>

BEFORE STARTING

Have a few millilitres of buffered saline solution in stock: 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl. This should be prepared with nuclease free water.

Oligonucleotide design

1 

Have the three oligos synthesized (RE oligo, RTA Oligos A & B), by designing your own using the open source software and your reference data.



RNA SPACE [↗](#)

by Paul Gordon

Targeted RNA:DNA duplex formation

2 

2m

In a 1.5 ml tube, add up to 2µg of your total RNA (in 10µl or less), and 1µl of 1µM RE oligo.

RNA secondary structure reduction

3 

10m

Incubate 10 minutes at 80°C.

Enzymatic cleavage of target RNA

4 

3h

In the same tube, perform 3h or overnight restriction digest according to the NEB protocol for your enzyme, e.g. <http://nebcloner.neb.com/#!/protocol/re/single/Taq1> (65°C for Taq1, 37°C for the other 5 restriction enzymes)

The longer incubation is suggested due to the lower efficiency of RNA:DNA restriction compared to DNA:DNA.

Step 5 can be performed while you wait for the incubation to finish.

Sequencing adapter (oligo duplex) formation

5 

2m

If this is the first time using these custom oligos: In a new tube, anneal standard RTA oligo A and custom RTA oligo B 1:1 at 1.4 μ M in buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl) by heating to 95° C for 2 min and letting them cool down slowly (0.1° C/sec).

Otherwise: fetch the custom oligo duplex left over from a previous run.

RNA Purification

6 

15m

After the 3 hour incubation has finished, perform the RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit protocol (spin column) on the contents of the NEB enzyme reaction tube.

Sequencing adapter competitive hybridization

7 

2m

Add 1 μ l of the RTA duplex to the tube of eluted RNA. Store any remainder of the RTA duplex, for future uses.

8 


20m

Heat the incubation tube to 80° C for 2 min and let it cool down slowly (0.1° C/sec).

Direct RNA Sequencing

9 Perform the Oxford Nanopore Technologies Direct RNA sequencing protocol (RNA-002 kit) on the RNA isolated by MinElute. ^{2h}

<https://community.nanoporetech.com/protocols/ss-direct-rna-sequencing-sqk-rna002/checklist.pdf?devices=minion>

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