Assembly and  
Characterization

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# 🔒 Secret Workflow for SARS-CoV-2 Assembly and Lineage Classification V.3



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protocol .

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This protocol provides instructions to install and run the Secret workflow as part of the StaPH-B Toolkit. Secret produces SARS-CoV-2 consensus sequence assemblies from either single- or paired-end Illumina reads in fastq (or fastq.gz) format and assigns lineage classifications using Pangolin and Nextclade. This document applies to all whole-genome sequencing runs on the Illumina platform and downstream bioinformatics for public health laboratories.

For technical assistance, please contact: [TOAST@cdc.gov](mailto:TOAST@cdc.gov)

[https://github.com/StaPH-B/staphb\\_toolkit](https://github.com/StaPH-B/staphb_toolkit)

Erin L Young, Technical Outreach and Assistance for States Team 2021. Cecret Workflow for SARS-CoV-2 Assembly and Lineage Classification . **protocols.io** <https://protocols.io/view/cecret-workflow-for-sars-cov-2-assembly-and-lineag-by72pzqe>  
Technical Outreach and Assistance for States Team



## (ILLUMINA MENU) Protocols for SARS-CoV-2 Library Prep with ARTIC Primers, Bioinformatic Analysis, and Database Submission

SARS-CoV-2, Genomics, Pangolin, StaPH-B

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### Software Dependencies

Load software dependencies

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Cecret and the StaPH-B Toolkit require the following dependencies:

1. Singularity or Docker,
2. Python 3.6 or later,
3. Java version 8 or later.

Additional instructions are provided here: [https://staph-b.github.io/staphb\\_toolkit/install/](https://staph-b.github.io/staphb_toolkit/install/)

Ensure all dependencies are in your system's PATH environment variable.

Within certain high-performance computing environments, these software can be loaded using GNU module commands similar to:

Loading dependencies for staphb\_toolkit

```
module load Python/3.9.1  
module load java/jdk1.8.0_221  
module load nextflow/20.04.1  
module load singularity/3.5.3
```

#### Installing StaPH-B Toolkit

- 2 The Cecret assembly workflow can be installed as part of the StaPH-B Toolkit using the following commands:

staphb\_toolkit Install

```
git clone https://github.com/StaPH-B/staphb_toolkit.git  
cd staphb_toolkit/packaging/  
python3 setup.py install --user  
cd ../  
export PATH=$PATH:$(pwd)
```

#### Running Cecret Workflow

- 3 Run the Cecret workflow to perform SARS-CoV-2 genome sequence assembly and lineage classification

The input directory for Cecret should contain a set of single or paired-end (default) fastq.gz

The input directory for Cecret should contain a set of single or paired end (usually) fastq.gz or fastq reads from amplicon prepared libraries. By default, Cecret is configured to use the ARTIC V3 primer set but can be customized to use other primer sets.

In the examples below, the *--profile* argument is set to use Singularity containers, but Cecret works with Docker containers as well (*--profile docker*).

Detailed descriptions of parameters are provided here: <https://github.com/UPHL-BioNGS/Cecret>

Cecret Input and Output File Paths

**#Input Sequencing Reads File Path:**

**/Full\_Path\_to\_Fastq\_File\_Directory/INPUT/SRR11953697**

**#Output Directory:**

**/Full\_Path\_to\_Cecret\_Output\_Directory/SRR11953697\_cecret\_output**

Cecret Workflow Command

**mkdir -p cachedir**

**SINGULARITY\_CACHEDIR=/PATH/for/cache**

**staphb-wf cecret /Full\_Path\_to\_Fastq\_File\_Directory/INPUT/SRR11953697**

**--output**

**/Full\_Path\_to\_Cecret\_Output\_Directory/SRR11953697\_cecret\_output --  
profile singularity**

Default cache directory is ~/.singularity/cache. -resume is available if you would like to retry an interrupted workflow.

Getting/Using an optional configuration file

```
staphb-wf cecret --get_config
staphb-wf cecret /Full_Path_to_Fastq_File_Directory/INPUT/SRR11953697
--output
/Full_Path_to_Cecret_Output_Directory/SRR11953697_cecret_output --
profile singularity -c
/Full_Path_to_Config_File_Directory/date_cecret.config
```

## Output Files

### 4 Information about output files

Complete output files structure

```
cecret_run_results.txt          # information about the sequencing run
that's compatible with legacy workflows
covid_samples.csv              # only if supplied initially
cecret
|-aligned
| |-pretrimmed.sorted.bam
|-bamsnap
| |-sample
| |-ivar
|   |-variant.png              # png of variants identified via ivar
|   |-bcftools
|     |-variant.png            # png of variants identified via bcftools
|-bedtools_multicov
| |-sample.multicov.txt        # depth per amplicon
|-consensus
| |-sample.consensus.fa        # the likely reason you are running this
workflow
|-fastp
| |-sample_clean_PE1.fastq     # clean file: only if
params.cleaner=fastp
| |-sample_clean_PE2.fastq     # clean file: only if
params.cleaner=fastp
|-fastqc
| |-sample.fastqc.html
| |-sample.fastqc.zip
|-filter                        # optional: turns aligned bams into fastq files
| |-sample_filtered_R1.fastq
```

```

| |-sample_filtered_R2.fastq
| |-sample_filtered_unpaired.fastq
|-iqtree                # optional: relatedness parameter must be set
to true
| |-iqtree.treefile
|-ivar_trim
| |-sample.primertrim.bam      # aligned reads after primer trimming.
trimmer parameter must be set to 'ivar'
|-ivar_variants
| |-sample.variants.tsv        # list of variants identified via ivar and
corresponding scores
|-kraken2
| |-sample_kraken2_report.txt   # kraken2 report of the percentage of
reads matching virus and human sequences
|-logs
| |-process_logs              # for troubleshooting purposes
|-mafft                    # optional: relatedness parameter must be set
to true
| |-mafft_aligned.fasta        # multiple sequence alignment
generated via mafft
|-nextclade                 # identification of nextclade clades and
variants identified
| |-sample_nextclade_report.csv # actually a ";" delimited file
|-pangolin
| |-lineage_report.csv         # identification of pangolin lineages
|-samtools_ampliconstats
| |-sample_ampliconstats.txt    # stats for the amplicons used
|-samtools_coverage
| |-aligned
| | |-sample.cov.hist          # histogram of coverage for aligned reads
| | |-sample.cov.txt           # tabular information of coverage for
aligned reads
| | |-trimmed
| | | |-sample.cov.trim.hist    # histogram of coverage for aligned
reads after primer trimming
| | | |-sample.cov.trim.txt     # tabular information of coverage for
aligned reads after primer trimming
|-samtools_depth
| |-aligned
| | |-sample.depth.txt         # read depth for each read position
| | |-trimmed
| | | |-sample.depth.txt       # read depth for each position
|-samtools_flagstat
| |-aligned
| | |-sample.flagstat.txt      # samtools stats for aligned reads

```

```

| | -trimmed
| | -sample.flagstat.trim.txt      # samtools stats for trimmed reads
|-samtools_plot_ampliconstats
| | -sample.*.png                 # images corresponding to amplicon
performance
|-samtools_stats
| | -aligned
| | | -sample.stats.txt           # samtools stats for aligned reads
| | -trimmed
| | | -sample.stats.trim.txt      # samtools stats for trimmed reads
|-seqclean
| | -sample_clean_PE1.fastq       # clean file
| | -sample_clean_PE2.fastq      # clean file
|-snp-dists                       # optional: relatedness parameter must be set
to true
| | -snp-dists                   # file containing a table of the number of snps
that differ between any two samples
|-submission_files                # optional: is only created if
covid_samples.txt exists
| | -sample.genbank.fa           # fasta file with formatting and header
including metadata for genbank
| | -sample.gisaid.fa            # fasta file with header for gisaid
| | -sample.R1.fastq.gz          # renamed raw fastq.gz file
| | -sample.R2.fastq.gz          # renamed raw fastq.gz file
|-summary
| | -sample.summary.txt          # individual results
|-summary.csv                    # tab-delimited summary of results from
the workflow
reads
| | -sample_S1_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz # initial file
| | -sample_S1_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz # initial file
work                             # nextflows work directory. Likely fairly large.
vadr
| -vadr*                         # vadr output

```

Cecret Consensus Sequence and Summary Report Paths

**#Consensus Sequence Path:**

**/Full\_Path\_to\_Cecret\_Output\_Directory/SRR11953697\_cecret\_output/consensus**

**#Summary Report Path:**

**/Full\_Path\_to\_Cecret\_Output\_Directory/SRR11953697\_cecret\_output/summary**

```
sample_id      sample_aligner_version ivar_version pangolin_lineage pangolin_status nextclade_clade fastqc_raw_reads_1 fastqc_raw_reads_2 seqcycle
an_pairs_kept_after_cleaning seqcycle_percent_kept_after_cleaning fastp_reads_passed depth_after_trimming coverage_after_trimming %_human_reads %_SARS-
COV-2_reads ivar_num_variants_identified bioftools_variants_identified bedtools_num_failed_amplicons samtools_num_failed_amplicons num_N num_degeneragen
sam_peto num total
SRR11953697 SRR11953697 bwa : Version: 0.7.17-r1188 ivar version 1.3.1 B.1 passed_qc 20C 1636962 1636962 1293666 79.0285 null 16.1089
9.4315 null null 7 null 1 86 8557 0 21340 29897
```

Example Summary.txt output file

Additional documentation for the Cecret workflow is available here:

<https://github.com/UPHL-BioNGS/Cecret>

And further details about the StaPH-B Toolkit are available here:

[https://staph-b.github.io/staphb\\_toolkit](https://staph-b.github.io/staphb_toolkit)

Before submitting the resulting SARS-CoV-2 consensus sequence assemblies to public repositories, such as NCBI GenBank or GISAID, refer to the following documentation describing submission criteria and minimum quality control thresholds:

GenBank Submission Criteria: [About GenBank Submission \(nih.gov\)](#)

GISAID Submission Criteria: [Gisaid inclusion criteria.pdf](#)

## Alternative Lineage Assignment

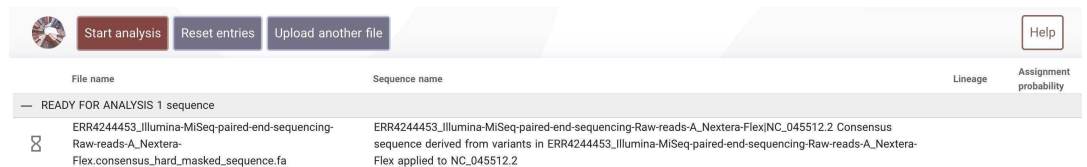
- 5 The SARS-CoV-2 consensus sequence assembly generated by the Cecret workflow can also be uploaded to other lineage assignment software.



## 5.1 Upload the consensus sequence for each sample to the **Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner** at:

<https://pangolin.cog-uk.io/>

Click the 'Start analysis' button:

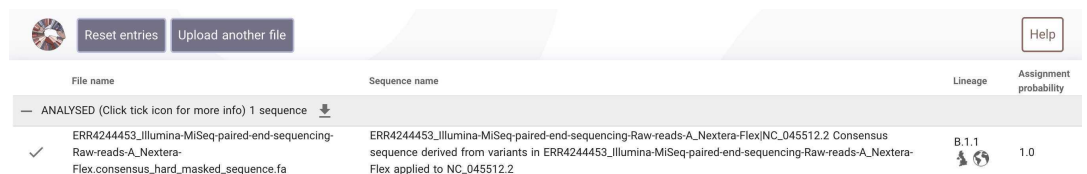


The screenshot shows the Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Start analysis', 'Reset entries', and 'Upload another file'. Below these buttons is a table with columns: File name, Sequence name, Lineage, and Assignment probability. The table contains one row with the following data:

File name	Sequence name	Lineage	Assignment probability
ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex.consensus_hard_masked_sequence.fa	ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex(NC_045512.2 Consensus sequence derived from variants in ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex applied to NC_045512.2		

Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner example

The Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner returns the lineage classification and assignment probability:



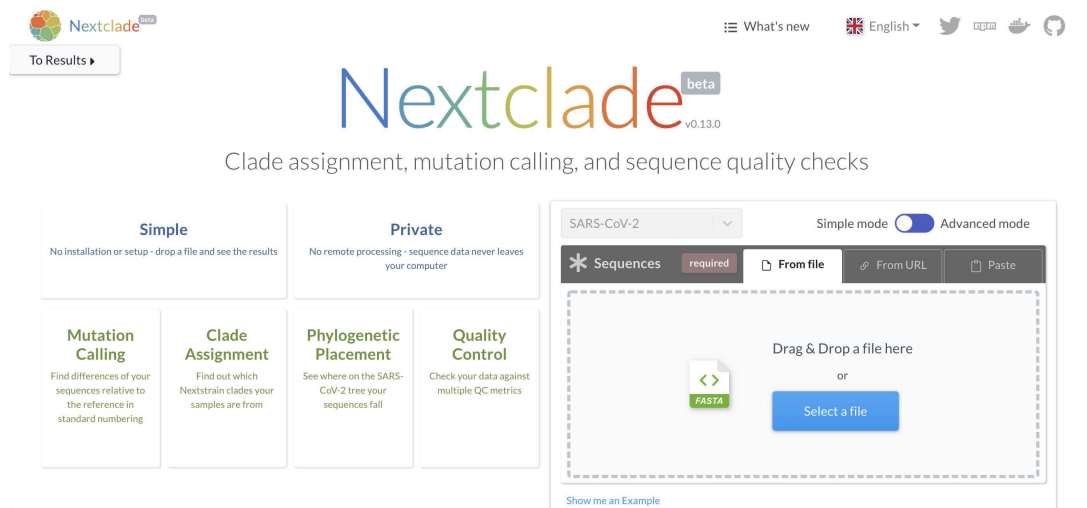
The screenshot shows the Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner interface after analysis. The 'Start analysis' button is now disabled, and the 'Reset entries' and 'Upload another file' buttons are visible. The table now shows the results of the analysis:

File name	Sequence name	Lineage	Assignment probability
ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex.consensus_hard_masked_sequence.fa	ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex(NC_045512.2 Consensus sequence derived from variants in ERR4244453_Illumina-MiSeq-paired-end-sequencing-Raw-reads-A_Nextera-Flex applied to NC_045512.2	B.1.1	1.0

Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner output

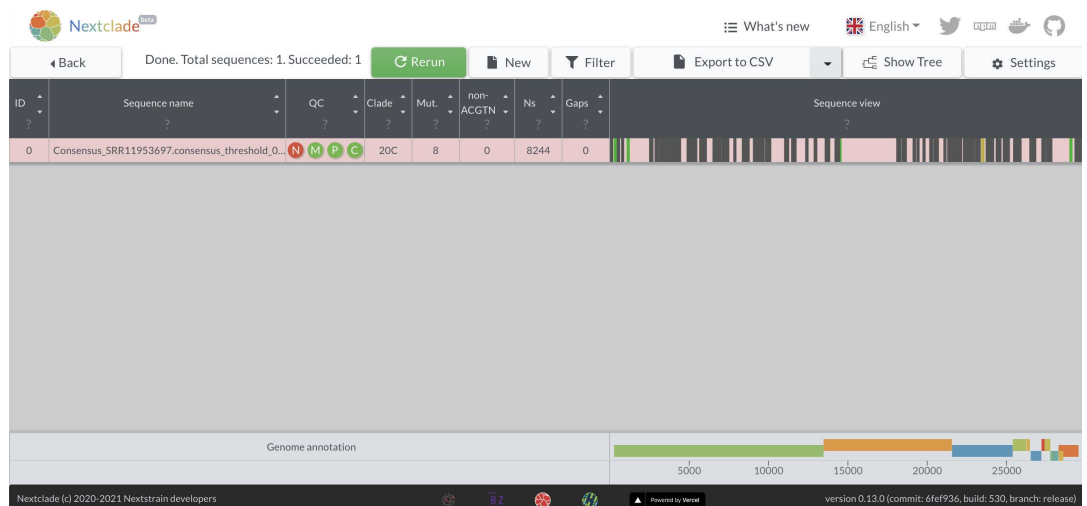
## 5.2 Or upload the consensus sequence for each sample to the **Nextclade** clade assignment web portal at:

<https://clades.nextstrain.org/>



NextClade assignment web portal

The Nextclade server provides clade classification as well as QC metrics and a list of amino acid substitutions. A summary output file can be downloaded with the 'Export to CSV' button.



Nextclade clade assignment output