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scNMT-seq v2

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ABSTRACT

scNMT-seq (single cell Nucleosome, Methylome, and Transcriptome sequencing) allows the parallel study of a single cell chromatin status, methylation profile, and transcriptome.

Here, we are developing and testing modifications of the scNMT-seq pipeline. The protocol is carried out in 96w plates and typically takes 4-5 days to complete.

The number of pre-amplification cycles is adjusted to tackle the problem of poor recovery after BS conversion. Primers are optimized for first-strand and second-strand synthesis to solve the problem of unmapped reads and poor amplification. Both are testified as compatible with the original scNMTseq.

PROTOCOL CITATION

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KEYWORDS

Single-cell, scRNA-seq, G&T-seq, BS-seq, chromatin accessibility, DNA methylation, gene expression, rna, single cell, single, cell, ASAPCRN, scNMTseq, open chromatin

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69707

MATERIALS TEXT

[GpC Methyltransferase \(M.CviPI\) - 1,000 units](#) **New England**

Biolabs Catalog #M0227L

[IGEPAAL-CA630](#) **Sigma**

Aldrich Catalog #I3021 SIGMA-ALDRICH

[☒ RNase Inhibitor Thermo](#)
Fisher Catalog #N8080119
[☒ RLT Plus Buffer Qiagen](#)
[☒ Dynabeads MyOne Streptavidin T1 Thermo Fisher](#)
Scientific Catalog #65601
[☒ Superscript II Invitrogen - Thermo](#)
Fisher Catalog #18064014
[☒ ERCC RNA Spike-In Mix or order custom-made synthetic sequences Thermo Fisher](#)
Scientific Catalog #4456740

[☒ dNTP Mix \(10 mM ea\) Thermo](#)
Fisher Catalog #18427013
[☒ Nextera XT DNA Sample Preparation Kit, 96 samples illumina Catalog #FC-131-1096](#)
[☒ Nextera XT Index Kit v2 Set A \(96 indexes 384 samples\) illumina Catalog #FC-131-2001](#)
[☒ Betaine 5M Sigma](#)
Aldrich Catalog #B0300
[☒ Magnesium Chloride \(MgCl₂\) Solution - 6.0 ml New England](#)
Biolabs Catalog #B9021S
[☒ DTT Sigma](#)
Aldrich Catalog #D0632
[☒ Kapa HiFi Hotstart ReadyMix \(2x\) Kapa](#)
Biosystems Catalog #KK2612
[☒ Ampure XP beads Beckman](#)
Coulter Catalog #A63881
[☒ Lambda DNA Thermo](#)
Fisher Catalog #SD0011
[☒ EZ-96 DNA Methylation-Direct MagPrep Zymo](#)
Research Catalog #D5044
[☒ Klenow \(3'→5' exo-\) \(High Concentration\) Enzymatics Catalog #P7010-HC-L](#)
[☒ QuantiFluor® dsDNA System Promega Catalog #E2670](#)

A	B
Name	Sequence (5' to 3')
Oligo-dT primer	Biotin-TEG-AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTACTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTNN
TSO	AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTACATrGrG+G
IS PCR	AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT
Pre-amplification primer	Biotin-TGACTGGAGTTTACAGCTGTGCTCTTCCGATCTHHHHHHH*H
Adapter2 primer	ACACTCTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTDDDDDDD*D
PE 1.0	AATGATACGGCGACCAACGAGATCTACACTCTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATC*T
iPCRTag primer	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATXXXXXXXXGTGACTGGAGTTTACAGCTGTGCTCTTCCGATC*T

All oligos should be ordered with HPLC purification

Cell isolation and GpC methylation

1

Prepare plates containing **2.5µl** GpC methylase reaction mixture in each well:

A	B	C	D
Component (initial)	Component(final)	Volume (µl)	Mastermix (110 samples)
M.CviPI reaction buffer (10x)	1x	0.25	27.5
M.CviPI (4U/µl)	2U	0.5	55
SAM (320µM)	160µM	1.25	137.5
IGEPAL (10%)	0.1%	0.025	2.75
RNasein (20U/µl)	1U/µl	0.125	13.75
Nuclease-free water		0.35	38.5

2

Isolate cells manually or using FACS in **2.5 µL** of GpC methylase reaction buffer

3

After cell isolation, spin down plates at **≥1000g** for **≥10s** **4 °C**

4

Incubate the samples at **37 °C** for **00:15:00**

15m

5

Stop reaction by adding **5 µL RLT plus buffer**

6

Store the plates at -80°C until processed

Oligo-dT₃₀VN bead preparation

30m

2m

7

Add **55 μL** Dynabeads into a new Eppendorf tube. Place the tube on a magnet for **00:02:00** and discard supernatant

2m

8

Resuspend beads in **200 μL Dynabead solution A** (**0.1 Molarity (M) NaOH**, **0.05 Molarity (M) NaCl**). Place the tube on a magnet for **00:02:00** and discard supernatant

9

Repeat step 8 once

2m

10

Resuspend beads in **200 μL Dynabead solution B** (**0.1 Molarity (M) NaCl**). Place on a magnet for **00:02:00** and discard supernatant

20m

11

Resuspend the beads in **55 μL of 2x B&W** (**2 Molarity (M) NaCl**, **10 millimolar (mM) Tris-HCl**, **1 millimolar (mM) EDTA**) and **55 μL Biotinylated Oligo-dT₃₀VN** (**100 micromolar (μM)**). Incubate **00:20:00** on a thermomixer while shaking at **2000rpm** at **Room temperature**

*In the meantime, prepare the **bead resuspension buffer***

A	B
Superscript FS buffer (5x)	220 μl
Nuclease-free Water	825 μl
RNase inhibitor (20U/μl)	55μl

After adding RNase inhibitor, use beads within 30min

*In the meantime, prepare **1x B&W** buffer by mixing **440 μL Nuclease-free water** with **440 μL 2x B&W** buffer*

2m

12

Place beads on a magnet for **00:02:00** and discard supernatant

2m

13

Resuspend the beads in **200 μL 1x B&W** buffer. Place beads on a magnet for **00:02:00** and discard supernatant

14

Repeat step 13 **three** more times

15

Resuspend the beads in the **bead resuspension buffer**

Physical separation of mRNA and gDNA

16

Thaw the 96-well plate containing the single cell lysates on ice

17

Add **1 µL ERCC spike-ins** at 1:1Million - 1:128Million dilution to each sample using a multi-dispensing pipette.
Run the pulse centrifugation program to spin ERCCs down to the bottom

18

Take 4 tubes(**1069 µL** per tube) of **G&T wash buffer**(**50 millimolar (mM) Tris-HCl** **pH 8.3**,
75 millimolar (mM) KCl, **3 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂**, **0.5% Tween 20 Solution**) and add to each tube
137.5 µL DTT and **25 µL RNaseIn**

19

Add **50 µL G&T-Seqwash buffer** per well to the "G&T-Seq wash plate"

20

Add **10 µL Oligo-dT beads** per well to the "bead plate"

21

Add an empty **non-skirted** 96 well plate labeled "gDNA collection"

22

Spin all plates and run the adapted G&T-separation program robotically or manually.


*While the separation program is running, prepare the **RT master mix***

A	B	C	D
Component (C_initial)	C_final	Volume(μl)	Mastermix (110 samples)
dNTP (10mM)	1mM	0.5	55
TSO (100μM)	1μM	0.05	5.5
MgCl ₂ (1M)	6mM	0.03	3.3
Betain (5M)	1M	1	110
S II First strand buffer (5x)	1x	1	110
DTT (100mM)	5mM	0.25	27.5
Nuclease-free water		1.8	198
RNase inh (20U/μl)	0.5U/μl	0.125	13.75
Superscript reverse transcriptase II (200U/μl)	10U/μl	0.25	27.5

Adding enzyme within less than 30 min before running the Reverse Transcription program

Separation is performed robotically on the Hamilton platform in this protocol. If performed manually, steps should be as follows

22.1

Manually pipette  **10 μL** of prepared **oligo-dT beads** to each well of the **sample plate** using a multichannel pipette

22.2

20m


Mix at maximum speed for  **00:20:00**

22.3

5m

Place on magnet for  **00:05:00** . Aspirate  **17.5 μL** and transfer to the empty low-bind plate for gDNA collection

22.4

Add  **15 μL** of G&T-seq wash buffer off magnet.

22.5

10m

Mix at maximum speed for  **00:10:00**

22.6

2m

Place on magnet for  **00:02:00** . Aspirate  **15 μL** and transfer to the empty low-bind plate for gDNA collection

22.7 Repeat steps 22.3-22.6 twice more

Lysate (17.5ul) combined with 3 washes (15ul each) should now have been collected into the gDNA plate

Reverse transcription 1h 45m

23

Collect the polyA(+) mRNA plate and using the multi-dispenser dispense **5 µL RT master mix** into each well of the bead-containing 96-well plate

24

Seal the mRNA and gDNA plates and spin.

Store gDNA at **-80 °C** until processed

25

1h 45m

Incubate the polyA(+) mRNA 96-well plate on a **thermomixer C** using the program below (approx. duration **01:45:00**)

A	B	C	D
Cycle	Temp (°C)	Time	Mixing (rpm)
1	42	2 min	2000
2	42	60 min	1500
3	50	30 min	1500
4	60	10 min	1500

26

*In the meantime prepare **PCR mastermix***

A	B	C
Component	Volume(µl)	Mastermix (110 samples)
KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix (2x)	6.25	687.5
IS PCR primer (10µM)	0.124	13.64
Nuclease-free water	1.13	124.3

PCR amplification of cDNA 30s

27

Add **7.5 µL PCR reaction mastermix**, seal the plate and centrifuge

28

30s

Resuspend the beads for **00:00:30** at **2000rpm** using the Thermomixer

29

Perform cDNA amplification as follows


A	B	C
Cycles	Temperature(°C)	Time
1	98	3 min
18-25	98	20 s
	67	15 s
	72	6 min
1	72	5 min
1	4	Hold

Amplification cycles differ

PCR cleanup of amplified cDNA

22m 10s

30

Add  **12.5 µL Agencourt AMPure beads** (1:1 ratio), mix thoroughly by pipetting up and down

31

Incubate  **00:05:00** at  **Room temperature**

5m

32

Pellet the beads on a Low-elution magnet for  **00:05:00**

5m

33





Remove the supernatant without disturbing the beads

34

Wash the beads twice with  **150 µL** of freshly prepared 80% ethanol for  **00:00:10**

10s

35

Allow the beads to dry for approximately  **00:05:00** . Resuspend in  **25 µL** nuclease-free water. Incubate for  **00:02:00**  **Room temperature**

7m

36

Return the 96-well plate to the magnet and allow the Agencourt AMPure beads to settle for  **00:05:00**

5m

37

Carefully transfer the supernatant to a new 96-well plate

Quality control: QUBIT+BIOANALYZER
expected cDNA concentration: $\geq 1\text{ ng}/\mu\text{l}$
expected cDNA length: 500-2000bp, peaking at 1-1.5kb

Library preparation of cDNA (Nextera XT)

9m

38

Dilute the **cDNA** of each sample to **0.2ng/ μl** with nuclease-free water

39

Add **2.5 μL Tagment DNA(TD) buffer** to a new Hard-Shell skirted 96-well plate

40

Add **1.25 μL diluted cDNA** and **1.25 μL amplicon tagment mix (ATM)** to TD buffer and mix

41

Centrifuge the plate at **280 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00**

1m

42

Incubate on a thermal cycler

A	B	C
Segment	Temp(°C)	Duration(min)
1	55	10
2	10	Hold

43

Add **1.25 μL Neutralize Tagment Buffer (NT)**

44

Vortex & spin down at **800 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00**

1m

45

Incubate at **Room temperature 00:05:00**

5m

46

Add **1.25 μL Index (i7) adapter** to each column and **1.25 μL Index 2 (i5) adapter** to each row

47

Add  **3.75 µL** **Nextera PCR mastermix** and mix

48

1m

Centrifuge the samples at  **280 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00** and amplify as follows:


A	B	C
Cycle	Temp (°C)	Duration
1	72	3min
2	95	30s
3-14	95	10s
	55	30s
	72	30s
15	72	5min
16	4	Hold

49

1m

Centrifuge the plate at  **280 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00**

50

Purify libraries at a **0.66:1 ratio** and elute in  **12.5 µL** **EB buffer**

Libraries can be stored for at least a year at -20°C

51

Pool libraries and quantify using qPCR

*expected pool concentration: 4nM
expected pool size: 250-1500bp*







scBS-seq library preparation (gDNA)

52

Bisulfite conversion 39m

53

19m

Prepare the CT conversion reagent by mixing  **7.9 mL M-Solubilisation buffer** and  **3 mL M-Dilution buffer** and  **00:15:00** vortexing at  **Room temperature**
Finally, add  **1.6 mL M-Reaction buffer** and vortex  **00:04:00** at  **Room temperature**

54

Add  **32.5 µL AMPure XP beads** to the gDNA plate (0.65:1 ratio)

55

Incubate  **00:20:00**  **Room temperature**

20m

56

Place the plate on the magnet for  **00:20:00** and discard the supernatant

20m

57

Wash the beads twice with  **200 µL 80% ethanol**

58

Resuspend the beads in  **10 µL** elution buffer, optionally containing 60fg unmethylated lambda DNA

Do not transfer the samples from the beads
Do not dry the beads after the second wash, a dry step when purifying gDNA lowers recovery

59

Add  **65 µL** CT conversion reagent **without mixing**

Watch out for bubbles, centrifuge shortly if necessary

60



Incubate the mixture as follows:

A	B	C
Segment	Temperature(°C)	Duration(min)
1	98	8
2	65	180
3	4	Hold

BS converted DNA is stable for 3 days at -20°C or 20h at 4°C

Purification of the bisulfite converted DNA 33m

61

Mix  300 µL M-binding buffer and  5 µL MagBinding beads

*Tip: to minimize loss of sample due to pipetting use a thermomixer to mix instead of pipetting
Use a deep-well plate*

62

5m

Transfer the samples to the M-binding buffer - MagBinding beads mix and incubate  00:05:00

 Room temperature

63

3m




Pellet the beads on a magnet for  00:03:00 and discard the supernatant

64

Resuspend the beads in  200 µL M-Wash buffer


65

15m

Pellet beads on the magnet and discard the supernatant. Resuspend the beads in  100 µL M-Desulphonation buffer and incubate  00:15:00  Room temperature

The beads sink quite fast to the bottom, during these 15 mins you can slowly mix on regular basis with the thermomixer

66

Pellet beads on the magnet and discard the supernatant. Wash the beads twice with  **200 µL** M-Wash buffer

10m

67

Dry the beads on a heating element at  **55 °C** for  **00:10:00**

*In the meantime, prepare the **pre-amplification mix** as follows*

A	B	C	D
Component	Amount (µl)	Final concentration	Mastermix (110 samples)
Blue buffer (10×)	4	1x	440
dNTP mix (10mM)	1.6	0.4mM	176
Preampl Oligo (10 µM)	1.6	0.4 µM	176
H2O	32.8		3608
Total volume	40		4400

Pre-amplification

8m 5s

68

Resuspend the beads in a  **40 µL pre-amplification mix**

69

4m

Incubate the mixture at  **55 °C** for  **00:04:00** and place it on the magnet

70

After the beads are pelleted transfer  **39 µL** to a new plate

71

3m 10s

Incubate the samples  **00:03:00** at  **65 °C** and immediately cool on a pre-cooled aluminum rack

Centrifuge the plate at  **500 x g, Room temperature, 00:00:10**

72

Add  **1 µL klenow exo- polymerase** (50U/µl)

Vortex the samples and amplify as follows:

A	B	C	D
Segment	Temp (°C)	Duration (min)	Ramp speed (°C/min)
1	4	5	-
2	4-37	8.25	4
3	37	30	-
4	4	Hold	

73

In the meantime, prepare 6 tubes of **pre-amplification mix**

Only add klenow exo to the mix before use

A	B	C	D
Component	Amount (µl)	Final concentration	Mastermix (samples)
Blue buffer (10x)	0.25	1x	
dNTP mix (10mM)	0.1	0.4mM	
Preamp Oligo (10 µM)	1	4 µM	
Klenow exo- (50 U/µl)	0.5	10 U/µl	
H2O	0.65		
Total volume	2.5		

74

45s

Heat the plate to **95 °C** for **00:00:45** and transfer it to an aluminum rack pre-cooled on ice

75

10s

Centrifuge the plate at 500g for **00:00:10** at 15-25°C

76

Add **2.5 µL** of the **pre-amplification mix**

77

Repeat steps 72-76 **five more times**

78

Incubate as follows:

A	B	C	D
Segment	Temp (°C)	Duration (min)	Ramp speed (°C/min)
1	4	5	-
2	4-37	8.25	4
3	37	90	-
4	4	Hold	

The first-strand product can be stored ON at 4°C or for at least a month at -20°C

Exonuclease I treatment 1h

79

Dilute the samples to a volume of **98 µL** with **nuclease-free water**

80

Add **2 µL exonuclease I** (20U/µl) to the pre-amplified product and incubate **01:00:00** at **37 °C** with the heated lid set to **50 °C**

Purification 18m

81

Add **75 µL AMPure XP beads** (0.75:1 ratio) and mix thoroughly by pipetting up and down

Tip check the volume of some samples first and adjust volumes of beads to add accordingly

82

Incubate **00:10:00** **Room temperature**
In the meantime, prepare **Adaptor 2 mix**

A	B	C	D
Component	Amount (µl)	Final concentration	Mastermix (samples)
Blue buffer (10x)	4.7	1x	
dNTP mix (10mM)	1.9	0.4mM	
Adapter 2 Oligo (10 µM)	1.9	0.4µM	
H2O	38		
Total volume	46.5		

83

Place on the magnet for **00:03:00** and discard the supernatant

84

Add **200 µL** of 80% (vol/vol) ethanol while keeping the plate on the magnet then discard ethanol after **±10sec**

85

Repeat 84 once. Dry the AMPure XP beads for **00:05:00** **Room temperature**

86

Resuspend the beads in  **46.5 µL Adapter 2 mix**

87


Incubate for  **00:10:00**  **Room temperature**

10m

88

Transfer samples to a new plate

89

Heat mixture to  **95 °C** for  **00:00:45** then immediately cool on ice using an aluminum rack



45s

90

Spin down at 500g for  **00:00:10** at 15–25°C

10s

91

Add  **1 µL Klenow exo-** (50 U/µl), vortex gently, and spin down at 500g for  **00:00:10** at 15–25°C

10s

92

incubate as follows:

A	B	C	D
Segment	Temp (°C)	Duration (min)	Ramp speed (°C/min)
1	4	5	-
2	4-37	8.25	4
3	37	30	-
4	4	Hold	

93

*In the meantime, prepare 1 tube of **Adapter 2 mix***

A	B	C	D
Component	Amount (µl)	Final concentration	Mastermix (samples)
Blue buffer (10×)	0.25	1x	
dNTP mix (10mM)	0.1	0.4mM	
Preamp Oligo (10 µM)	1	4 µM	
Klenow exo- (50 U/µl)	0.5	10 U/µl	
H2O	0.65		
Total volume	2.5		

94

45s

Heat the plate to **95 °C** for **00:00:45** and transfer it to an aluminum rack pre-cooled on ice

95

10s

Centrifuge the plate at 500g for **00:00:10** at 15-25°C

96

Add **2.5 µL** of the **Adapter 2 mix**

97

Incubate as follows:

A	B	C	D
Segment	Temp (°C)	Duration (min)	Ramp speed (°C/min)
1	4	5	-
2	4-37	8.25	4
3	37	90	-
4	4	Hold	

Purification

21m 10s

98

Add **37.5 µL** AMPure XP beads (**0.75:1 ratio**)

99

10m

Incubate **00:10:00** at room temperature

*In the meantime, prepare the **library amplification mix***

A	B	C	D
Component	Amount (µl)	Final Concentration	Mastermix (samples)
KAPA HIFI HotStart ReadyMix (2x)	25	1x	
PE1.0 (10µM)	1	0.2µM	
Nuclease-free water	23		
Total volume	49		

100

3m

Place on a magnet for **00:03:00**

101

3m

Place on a magnet for ⌚ 00:03:00 and discard the supernatant

102

10s

Add 🧴 200 µL ethanol (70%) without disturbing the beads. After ⌚ 00:00:10 remove ethanol

103

5m

Repeat step 102 once then dry beads ⌚ 00:05:00 at room temperature

Library amplification

10m

104

Resuspend the beads in 🧴 49 µL **library amplification mix**

105

10m

Incubate the mixture ⌚ 00:10:00 🌡 Room temperature

106

Place on a magnet and transfer supernatant to a new plate

107

Add 🧴 1 µL **10µM reverse iPCRTag primer**(containing a sample-specific index)

Amplify as follows:

A	B	C
Cycles	Temperature (°C)	Time
1	95	3 min
17-20	98	80 s
	65	30 s
	72	30 s
1	72	3 min
1	4	Hold

The PCR product can be stored ON at 4°C or for at least a month at -20°C

Purification of amplified libraries

28m

108

Add 37.5µl **AMPure XP beads** (0.75:1 ratio) and mix well

109

10m

Incubate ⌚ 00:10:00 🌡 Room temperature

110

Place on the magnet for ⌚ 00:03:00 and discard supernatant

3m

111

Add 🧴 200 µL ethanol (70%) without removing the plate from the magnet then discard the ethanol

112

Repeat step 111 once then dry beads ⌚ 00:05:00

5m

113

Resuspend the beads in 🧴 15 µL EB

114

Incubate ⌚ 00:10:00 🌡 Room temperature

10m

115

Place on a magnet then transfer supernatant to a new plate

Library quantity and quality can be checked using Qubit HS Assay and Bioanalyzer

expected gDNA concentration: $\geq 1\text{ ng}/\mu\text{L}$

expected fragment length: $>200\text{bp}$ and on average $400\text{-}600\text{bp}$

Libraries can be stored for at least a year at -20°C