
**Genomics informatic — Quality
control metrics for DNA sequencing**

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Genomics informatics*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The rapid progress in Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology has drastically reduced the cost and time for genomic analysis. A number of research institutions, corporations, and government agencies are competitively collecting a large volume of genomic data through multi-national, multi-institutional projects such as “DiscovEHR”^[9], “gnomAD”^[10] and “UK Biobank”^[11]. The demand for sharing of “high quality” genomic data is growing because large-scale reference data is required for reliable detection of mutation for both industrial and clinical applications.

However, the quality of available genomic data is less than desirable. To establish consistent quality control metrics, details of each stage of NGS process need to be recorded, shared and standardized (processes and data elements collected and coded for each stage and sub-stage). These processes include sample preparation, library preparation, sequencing, and data processing, among others, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

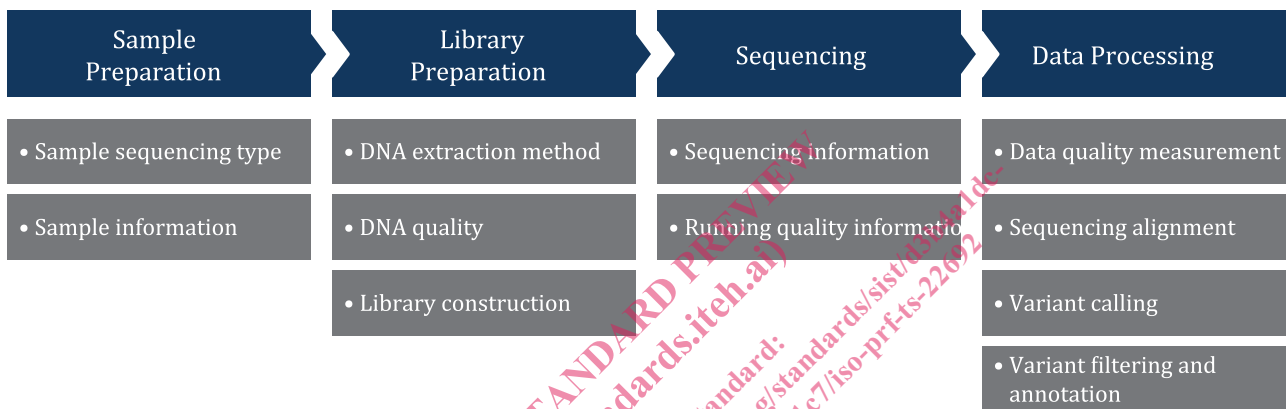


Figure 1 — NGS process

Genomics informatic — Quality control metrics for DNA sequencing

1 Scope

This document identifies quality metrics for the detection of DNA variants using next generation sequencing (NGS) technology. It also defines the data types, relationships, optionality, cardinalities and terminology bindings of the data.

This document provides a basis for sharing and for the application of “high quality” genomic data and contributes to the realization of the precision medicine and the development of relevant industries.

This document is intended to serve as a catalogue of sequencing data elements used to address quality metrics for various clinical, industrial and commercial applications. The exchange of these data allows researchers, commercial entities, and regulatory bodies to assess for the purpose of selective utilization of the data by setting application-specific quality criteria.

This document is not intended for

- sequencing methods other than NGS, such as the Sanger sequencing,
- targets other than genome, such as transcriptome or proteome, or
- specimens of species other than humans.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

3.1

copy number variation

CNV

variation ([3.18](#)) in the number of copies of one or more sections of the *DNA* ([3.3](#))

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.7]

3.2

deletion

contiguous removal of one or more bases from a genomic sequence

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-2:2019, 3.4]

3.3

DNA

deoxyribonucleic acid

molecule that exists in nuclei and in mitochondria of human cells and is composed of a linear array of 4 bases (Adenine: A, Thymine: T, Guanine: G and Cytosine: C)

[SOURCE: ISO 18074:2015, 4.1, modified — Note 1 to entry deleted.]

3.4

DNA sequencing

determining the order of nucleotide bases (adenine, guanine, cytosine and thymine) in a molecule of DNA (3.3)

Note 1 to entry: Sequence is generally described from the 5' end.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 17822-1:2014, 3.20]

3.5

exome

part of the genome formed by exons

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.13]

3.6

FASTA

genomic information representation that includes a name and a nucleotide sequence for each *sequence read* (3.17)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-2:2019, 3.7, modified]

3.7

FASTQ

genomic information representation that includes FASTA (3.6) and quality values

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-2:2019, 3.8]

3.8

gene

basic unit of hereditary information composed of chains of nucleotide base pairs in specific sequences that encodes a protein or protein subunit

[SOURCE: ISO 11238:2018, 3.29]

3.9

germline

series of germ cells each descended or developed from earlier cells in the series, regarded as continuing through successive generations of an organism

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.17]

3.10

indel

insertion (3.11) or/and *deletion* (3.2)

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.18]

3.11

insertion

contiguous addition of one or more bases into a genomic sequence

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-2:2019, 3.18]

3.12

large indel

insertion (3.11) or *deletion* (3.2) up to around 1 kb

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.21]

3.13 nucleotide

monomer of a nucleic acid polymer such as *DNA* (3.3) or RNA

Note 1 to entry: Nucleotides are denoted as letters ('A' for adenine; 'C' for cytosine; 'G' for guanine; 'T' for thymine which only occurs in DNA; and 'U' for uracil which only occurs in RNA). The chemical formula for a specific DNA or RNA molecule is given by the sequence of its nucleotides, which can be represented as a string over the alphabet ('A', 'C', 'G', 'T') in the case of DNA, and a string over the alphabet ('A', 'C', 'G', 'U') in the case of RNA. Bases with unknown molecular composition are denoted with 'N'.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-2:2019, 3.20]

3.14 polymerase chain reaction PCR

in vitro enzymatic technique to increase the number of copies of a specific DNA fragment by several orders of magnitude

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.148]

3.15 quality score Phred quality score

Q score

quality measure used to assess the accuracy of a sequencing reaction

Note 1 to entry: This quality measure indicates the probability that a given base is called incorrectly by the sequencer. Phred scores are on a logarithmic scale. Therefore, if Phred assigns a Q score of 30 (Q30) to a base, this is equivalent to the probability of an incorrect base call 1 in 1 000 times. A lower base call accuracy of 99 % (Q20) will have an incorrect base call probability of 1 in 100, meaning that every 100 base pairs sequencing read will likely contain an error.

[SOURCE: ISO 21286:2019, 3.4]

3.16 reference sequence

nucleic acid sequence with biological relevance

Note 1 to entry: Each reference sequence is indexed by a one-dimensional integer coordinate system whereby each integer within range identifies a single nucleotide. Coordinate values can only be equal to or larger than zero. The coordinate system in the context of this standard is zero-based (i.e. the first nucleotide has coordinate 0 and it is said to be at position 0) and linearly increasing within the string from left to right.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 23092-1:2019, 3.22]

3.17 sequence read read

fragmented nucleotide sequences that are used to reconstruct the original sequence for next generation sequencing technologies

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.26]

3.18 sequence variation DNA sequence variation variation

differences of DNA sequence among individuals in a population

Note 1 to entry: Variation implies *copy number variation* (3.1), *deletion* (3.2), *insertion* (3.11), *indel* (3.10), *small indel* (3.20), *large indel* (3.12), or *single nucleotide variant* (3.19).

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.30]

3.19
single nucleotide variant
SNV

DNA sequence variation (3.18) that occurs when a single nucleotide, A, T, C, or G, in the genome (or other target sequence) differs between templates

[SOURCE: ISO 20395:2019, 3.35]

3.20
small indel

insertion (3.11) or deletion (3.2) of 2 nucleotides to 100 nucleotides

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.32]

3.21
specimen

biospecimen

biological specimen

sample of tissue, body fluid, food, or other substance that is collected or acquired to support the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a disease, disorder or abnormal physical state, or its symptoms

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.34]

3.22
targeted sequencing

disease-targeted gene panel

technique used for sequencing only selected/targeted genomic regions of interest from a DNA sample

Note 1 to entry: For further details, see Reference [12].

3.23
whole exome sequencing
WES

technique for sequencing the *exomes* (3.5) of the protein-coding *genes* (3.8) in a genome

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.38]

3.24
whole genome sequencing
WGS

technique that determines the complete DNA sequence of an organism's genome at a single time

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 20428:2017, 3.39]

4 Abbreviated terms

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| BAM | Binary Alignment/Map |
| BED | Browser Extensible Data |
| FMA | Foundational Model of Anatomy |
| HGNC | HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee |
| HUGO | Human Genome Organization |
| NGS | Next Generation Sequencing |
| RefSeq | NCBI Reference Sequences |