Installation and use of the OneCellPipe pipeline

1CellBio Support

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Company

Our flagship inDrop™ System, a high-resolution, single-cell transcriptomics platform, delivers greater experimental control, more rare actionable information and lower overall cost per result compared to all other existing platforms.

Research laboratories around the world are now adopting our platform for a wide range of single-cell applications from tumor profiling to stem cells to embryo development to the identification and validation of new drug targets. Founded by leading scientists at Harvard University, we are based in Cambridge, MA, and we support our growing number of customers through a team of international sales and field application scientists.

Summary

Described here is a software wrapper (a.k.a., OneCellPipe or OCP) which controls the management and execution of the indrops software pipeline for processing single-cell sequencing data generated using 1CellBio’s inDrop™ sequencing technology. The software leverages the NextFlow workflow management software to control the processing steps in a validated and consistent Singularity environment.

Supported platforms

We support execution of OCP in two configurations.

1. One a single server (or cloud instance) running Ubuntu 16.04.
2. On a high-performance computing cluster, with job scheduling managed by SLURM.

It may be possible, however, to install and execute OCP on systems with different configurations or batch scheduling software. However, 1CellBio will only provide support for the above configurations.

System requirements and recommendations

While individual experiments may warrant different amounts of resources, we recommend that the servers which process the sequencing data have at least eight modern CPUs and at least 16 GB of RAM. In addition to size of the sequencing files, an additional 300 GB—1 TB of data storage will also be required to accommodate filtered sequencing files, alignment files, and other temporary files utilized by OCP.

• The OneCellPipe software should be run on a Linux-based operating system with bash and curl installed. We built the pipeline on and recommend Ubuntu 16.04.
• You will need to install Nextflow as the workflow engine Singularity as the container software. Our install script may be able to do this for you.
• The pipeline can process data produced by the OneCellBio inDrop™ technology. We only support Version 2 of the library protocol at this time. The files may be organized in several parts but in
a single library (e.g., A5_S1_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz, A5_S1_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz, A5_S1_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz, A5_S1_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz) or as a single part in a single library (e.g., R1.fastq.gz and R2.fastq.gz).

Quickstart

After a server meeting the platform and resource requirements is setup, the OCP pipeline can be installed using the commands below, preferably in a script. These commands below have been verified on Ubuntu 16.04. For RPM distributions, you will need to update the apt packages to their counterparts, installed with either yum or dnf.

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install -y python build-essential mosh libarchive-dev python-pip htop unzip
sudo apt install -y default-jre --fix-missing
wget -qO- get.nextflow.io | bash
sudo mv nextflow /usr/local/bin/
echo export PATH=$PATH:$PWD >> ~/.bashrc; source ~/.bashrc
VERSION=2.5.1
wget https://github.com/singularityware/singularity/releases/download/$VERSION/singularity-$VERSION.tar.gz
 tar xvf singularity-$VERSION.tar.gz
 cd singularity-$VERSION
 ./configure --prefix=/usr/local
 make
 sudo make install
 cd ..
 rm singularity-$VERSION.tar.gz
 unzip onecellpipe.1.19 Cf.zip
 rm onecellpipe.1.19 Cf.zip
 pip install awscli
```

After the installation of all required components and software is complete, the pipeline can be started using the included sample data.

```
cd ~/onecellpipe
nextflow onecellpipe.nf --dir sampledata
```

Description

The inDrop technology greatly simplifies the massively parallel sequencing of single cells. It is a high-throughput droplet-microfluidic approach for barcoding the RNA from thousands of individual cells for the analysis by next-generation sequencing and is described in the following key publications:
Pipeline execution overview

1. As a first step, **OCP** will run a quick parameter and system check.

2. If the Singularity image containing all additional software cannot be found, it will be downloaded automatically.

3. Next, two quality control steps perform FastQC and a barcode counting step against the fastq files of single-cell data you provided. The results will be formatted as web page generated by MultiQC.

4. The indrops processing itself consists of multiple consecutive steps described below.

5. Finally a second version of the output matrix is created, showing genes (rows) counts of barcode (columns) data.

6. The indrops filtering results, as well as a barcode abundance chart, are presented on a web page. All other data from the indrops analysis can be found within a folder with the name of the library.

Data processing details

To simplify dependency management as well as provide a consistent and tested environment, most of the software for the analysis of inDrop™ data is packaged inside a container (e.g, Singularity) image. The first time the pipeline is run on a machine, this container image will be downloaded, according to environment configuration.

1. If run locally, the file onecellpipe-*simg will be downloaded during the first run.

2. If run on an HPC system, the images are downloaded on demand. The timing will be the same as for the previous option. This option is required to efficiently run on a cluster: Every node in the cluster will need access to a copy of the image - or it can (and probably should be) be shared using the cacheDir setting.

After downloading and launching the container image, the indrops software takes over and performs the following steps:

1. Filtering of the input reads
2. Identification of abundant barcodes
3. Sorting of the reads according to their assigned barcode of origin
4. Filtering and quantification of the barcode expression and generation of BAM files (i.e., alignment)
5. Aggregation of the quantification results and generation of the expression matrix

**Included reference genomes**

The following reference genomes are provided. These are soft-masked Bowtie indices

- Human: Homo sapiens, GRCh38, Ensembl build 91
- Mouse: Mus musculus, GRCm38, Ensembl build 91

---

**Setting the species value**

When executing the pipeline without a custom indrops configuration file, you should explicitly specify this parameter with the appropriate value, either:

```
--species human or --species mouse
```

---

**Running the pipeline**

**Command line parameters**

You can run the entire raw data processing with the following command after navigating to the `onecellpipe` folder

```
nextflow onecellpipe.nf --dir {path/to/your/fastq-files}
```

**Required arguments:**

| --dir {path} | Path to the directory with the fastq files you want to process. The result data will be written here as well unless you specify --out. Avoid spaces and special characters. |
Optional arguments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--worker {number N}</td>
<td>Use N different parallel processing jobs, default: 1. This will affect the filter and sorting processes. It is recommended to keep this number of 1 to process a single library, especially if you see strange failures or error messages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--worker2 {number N}</td>
<td>Use N different parallel processing jobs for the quantification step, default: 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--config {file.yaml}</td>
<td>Use a complete configuration file as expected by the indrops library. Use this option if your set up differs from the default the system is expecting, default: NULL (auto-generate the config file with standard settings).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--out {dir}</td>
<td>Write the output to a specific directory. Default: . (Use the same directory the fastq files are in).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--min_reads {number N}</td>
<td>Indrops quantify parameter: Ignore barcodes with less than the specified number of reads, default: 100.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--min_counts {number N}</td>
<td>Indrops quantify parameter: Ignore output for barcodes with less than the specified number of UMIFM counts (This would speed up downstream processing.), default: 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--samplesheet {path to SampleSheet.csv}</td>
<td>If you provide the sample sheet for the given run, QC results can list sample names instead of barcode sequences. The required format of the file can be seen in sampledata/SampleSheet.csv, Default: - (no sample sheet).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-email {<a href="mailto:your@email.com">your@email.com</a>}</td>
<td>Send a notification email (hosting and receiving mail server must support it) when the pipeline has ended, default: NULL (do not send an email).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--qc {0,1}</td>
<td>Activate the QC steps for fastq files, default: 0 (don’t run QC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--species {human, mouse}</td>
<td>Use the reference genome of either ‘human’ (default) or ‘mouse’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--name {name}</td>
<td>Provide a specific name for the project. This is only used within indrops. Avoid spaces and special characters. Default: - (use library name read from fastq files).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--help</td>
<td>Only print usage instructions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--transpose {0,1}</td>
<td>Create a second count matrix with barcodes vs. genes at the end. (Default = 0; do not transpose).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--timezone {name}</td>
<td>Set a specific timezone for the timestamp at the top of the log file. Default &quot;EST&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--bam {0,1}</td>
<td>Create bam files with the processed data, default: 0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QC data can be very useful

- We recommend always running with --qc 1 to generate the FastQC and MultiQC output

Don't forget about the species parameter

- Don’t forget to make sure that --species is set appropriately. For example, if your sequencing data is from mouse, and you don’t specify --species mouse when running OCP, your reads will be mapped against the default species (i.e., human), which is not likely something that you want.

Additional Nextflow parameters:

Note that these are with used with a single `-`.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-with-report [file name]</td>
<td>Report the execution status, the launch command, overall execution time and some other workflow metadata (Details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-with-timeline [file name]</td>
<td>Nextflow can render an HTML timeline for all processes executed (Details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-with-trace</td>
<td>Create trace.txt in the current directory with information about each process (Details)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parallelization

To enable or increase parallel processing, and therefore increase the analysis speed (and when using a HPC), increase the number of “worker” jobs on the command line, e.g. 100 for the quantification step and 5 for other steps with the OneCellPipe parameters:

```
--worker 5 --worker2 100
```

Please be aware that the indrops software sometimes may fail at the next step of the pipeline if the number of workers is too high.

Custom indrops configuration

If your file set up different from the default expected by the pipeline, you can still use the OCP by executing the pipeline with the --config parameter, providing it with your prepared configuration file. The file has to be in the expected format, as in the examples below.

Single part and single library
Files

R1.fastq.gz
R2.fastq.gz

Command line

nextflow onecellpipe.nf --config
/data/onecellpipe/data_results(indrop_config_to_use.yaml --out
/data/onecellpipe/data_results
# project and library settings
project_name : "libA5"
project_dir : "/data/onecellpipe/data_results"
sequencing_runs :
  - name : "libA5"
    version : "v2"
    dir : "/data/onecellpipe/data"
    fastq_path : "{read}.fastq.gz"
    library_name: "libA5"

# standard indrops config
# part 1: general software paths within the container, do not change
paths :
  bowtie_index : '/home/onecellbio/ref/Homo_sapiens.GRCh38.91.annotated'
  bowtie_dir : '/home/onecellbio/bowtie'
  rsem_dir : '/home/onecellbio/RSEM/bin'
  python_dir : '/home/onecellbio/pyndrops/bin'
  indrops_dir : '/home/onecellbio/indrops'
  java_dir : '/usr/bin'
  samtools_dir : '/home/onecellbio/samtools-1.3.1'

# part 2: analysis parameters
parameters :
  umi_quantification_arguments:
    m : 10 #Ignore reads with more than M alignments, after filtering on distance from transcript end.
    u : 1 #Ignore counts from UMI that should be split among more than U genes.
    d : 600 #Maximal distance from transcript end, NOT INCLUDING THE POLYA TAIL
    split-ambigs : False #If umi is assigned to m genes, add 1/m to each genes count (instead of 1)
    min_non_polyA : 15 #Require reads to align to this much non-polyA sequence. (Set to 0 to disable filtering on this parameter.)
  output_arguments :
    output_unaligned_reads_to_other_fastq : False
    filter_alignments_to_softmasked_regions : False
  bowtie_arguments :
    m : 200
    n : 1
    l : 15
    e : 80
  trimmomatic_arguments :
    LEADING : "28"
    SLIDINGWINDOW : "4:20"
    MINLEN : "30"
    argument_order : ['LEADING', 'SLIDINGWINDOW', 'MINLEN']
  low_complexity_filter_arguments :
    max_low_complexity_fraction : 0.50
Single part, multiple libraries

Another more complicated example for a single part but multiple libraries is following.

Files

A5_S12_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
A5_S12_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
A5_S12_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
A5_S12_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz
A6_S1_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
A6_S1_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
A6_S1_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
A6_S1_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz

Command line

nextflow onecellpipe.nf --config
/data/onecellpipe/data_results/indrop_config_to_use.yaml --out
/data/onecellpipe/data_results_2
# project and library settings
project_name : "libA5"
project_dir : "/data/onecellpipe/data_results_2"
sequencing_runs :
  - name : "libA5"
    version : "v2"
    dir : "/data/onecellpipe/more_data"
    fastq_path : "{read}.fastq.gz"
    split_affixes : ["L001", "L002"]
libraries :
  - {library_name: "A5", library_prefix: "A5_S12"}
  - {library_name: "A6", library_prefix: "A6_S1"}  

# standard indrops config
# part 1: general software paths within the container, do not change
paths :
  bowtie_index : '/home/onecellbio/ref/Homo_sapiens.GRCh38.91.annotated'
  bowtie_dir : '/home/onecellbio/bowtie'
  rsem_dir : '/home/onecellbio/RSEM/bin'
  python_dir : '/home/onecellbio/pyndrops/bin'
  indrops_dir : '/home/onecellbio/indrops'
  java_dir : '/usr/bin'
  samtools_dir : '/home/onecellbio/samtools-1.3.1'
# part 2: analysis parameters
parameters :
  umi_quantification_arguments:
    m : 10 #Ignore reads with more than M alignments, after filtering on distance from transcript end.
    u : 1 #Ignore counts from UMI that should be split among more than U genes.
    d : 600 #Maximal distance from transcript end, NOT INCLUDING THE POLYA TAIL
    split-ambigs : False #If umi is assigned to m genes, add 1/m to each genes count (instead of 1)
    min_non_polyA : 15 #Require reads to align to this much non-polyA sequence. (Set to 0 to disable filtering on this parameter.)
  output_arguments :
    output_unaligned_reads_to_other_fastq : False
    filter_alignments_to_softmasked_regions : False
  bowtie_arguments :
    m : 200
    n : 1
    l : 15
    e : 80
  trimmomatic_arguments:
    LEADING : "28"
    SLIDINGWINDOW : "4:20"
    MINLEN : "30"
    argument_order : ['LEADING', 'SLIDINGWINDOW', 'MINLEN']
  low_complexity_filter_arguments :
    max_low_complexity_fraction : 0.50
**Multiple runs, multiple libraries**

Even more complicated: An example for multiple runs (for the same samples in different directories) and multiple libraries is following.

**Files**

```plaintext
Run1/A5_S12_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A5_S12_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A5_S12_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A5_S12_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A6_S1_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A6_S1_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A6_S1_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run1/A6_S1_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz

Run2/A5_S12_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A5_S12_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A5_S12_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A5_S12_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A6_S1_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A6_S1_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A6_S1_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz
Run2/A6_S1_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz
```

**Command line**

```
nextflow onecellpipe.nf --config
 /data/onecellpipe/data_results/indrop_config_to_use.yaml
```

**indrop_config_to_use.yaml**

```yaml
# project and library settings
project_name : "libA5"
project_dir : "/data/onecellpipe/data_results_2"
sequencing_runs :
  - name : "Run1"
    version : "v2"
    dir : "/data/onecellpipe/more_data/Run1"
    fastq_path : "{read}.fastq.gz"
    split_affixes : ["L001", "L002"]
    libraries :
      - {library_name: "A5", library_prefix: "A5_S12"}
      - {library_name: "A6", library_prefix: "A6_S1"}
  - name : "Run2"
    version : "v2"
    dir : "/data/onecellpipe/more_data/Run1"
    fastq_path : "{read}.fastq.gz"
    split_affixes : ["L001", "L002"]
    libraries :
```

```yaml
```
# standard indrops config
# part 1: general software paths within the container, do not change
paths:
bowtie_index: '/home/onecellbio/ref/Homo_sapiens.GRCh38.91.annotated'
bowtie_dir: '/home/onecellbio/bowtie'
rsem_dir: '/home/onecellbio/RSEM/bin'
python_dir: '/home/onecellbio/pyndrops/bin'
indrops_dir: '/home/onecellbio/indrops'
java_dir: '/usr/bin'
samtools_dir: '/home/onecellbio/samtools-1.3.1'
# part 2: analysis parameters
parameters:
umi_quantification_arguments:
m: 10 #Ignore reads with more than M alignments, after filtering on distance from
transcript end.
u: 1 #Ignore counts from UMI that should be split among more than U genes.
d: 600 #Maximal distance from transcript end, NOT INCLUDING THE POLYA TAIL
split-ambigs: False  #If umi is assigned to m genes, add 1/m to each genes count
(instead of 1)
min_non_polyA: 15  #Require reads to align to this much non-polyA sequence. (Set
to 0 to disable filtering on this parameter.)
output_arguments:
output_unaligned_reads_to_other_fastq: False
filter_alignments_to_softmasked_regions: False
bowtie_arguments:
m: 200
n: 1
l: 15
e: 80
trimmomatic_arguments:
LEADING: "20"
SLIDINGWINDOW: "4:20"
MINLEN: "30"
argument_order: ['LEADING', 'SLIDINGWINDOW', 'MINLEN']
low_complexity_filter_arguments:
max_low_complexity_fraction: 0.50

Example data and results

The download of the OCP archive, contains a set of example fastq files you can use to test your set
up. It is small enough to run on a standard desktop or laptop computer. As it is not a full data set,
the results will not allow a meaningful interpretation with data analysis tools, but will show you
the type of output. Within the onecellpipe folder you can run the samples using the command:

nextflow onecellpipe.nf --dir sampledata ①
By default, this will use --species human, not run quality control steps, and generate a default configuration file for use with indrops.

Depending on the computer system you are using, and parallelization options, the pipeline will go through all steps in about 30 minutes. Progress will be printed on the command line as well as in the sampledata/indrop_log.txt file. The results will be written into the sampledata folder, the directory should look like the following after the pipeline finished successfully:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A5_S12_L001_R1_001.fastq.gz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5_S12_L001_R2_001.fastq.gz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5_S12_L002_R1_001.fastq.gz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5_S12_L002_R2_001.fastq.gz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index.html</td>
<td>Web page generated with result data and quality control information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indrop_log.txt</td>
<td>The pipeline log file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qc</td>
<td>Directory with quality control data (optional, specified with --qc 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barcode-test</td>
<td>Directory with files from barcode sequence counting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fastqc</td>
<td>Directory with FastQC results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiqc</td>
<td>Directory with MultiQC results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resources</td>
<td>Files used during the pipeline run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.counts.2.tsv</td>
<td>Barcode count matrix (barcodes as headers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Indrops result data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abundant_barcodes.pickle</td>
<td>Temporary data storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filtered_parts</td>
<td>Directory with filtered fastq files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.bam</td>
<td>Bam file &amp; index from processed data (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>libA5.bam.bai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.barcode_abundance.png</td>
<td>Diagrams showing the barcode distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.barcode_abundance_by_barcode.png</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.counts.tsv.gz</td>
<td>Barcode count matrix (genes as headers) (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.filtering_stats.csv</td>
<td>Table with filtering results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.ignored_barcodes.txt</td>
<td>Any barcodes that were filtered out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5.quant_metrics.tsv.gz</td>
<td>Table with quantification results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quant_dir</td>
<td>Directory with quantification results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main output from running this analysis can also be seen in the sampleresults folder provided.

Using the container for additional analyses

The OCP software image has all the software installed to run the indrops pipeline and the other
analysis parts described here within an Ubuntu Linux system. If you are familiar with this environment, you can also manually create a container from the image, log in and run these or other analysis steps on the command line. Using Singularity with the image file already available this would be:

```
singularity shell /path/to/onecellpipe-26-2.img
```

① By default, the image is located in `/tmp`

### Software packages and licenses


- Singularity is a container system available at [http://singularity.lbl.gov](http://singularity.lbl.gov) and released with a BSD 3-clause. It is used to package all third-party software except NextFlow.

- Docker open source is distributed under the Apache 2.0 license and available from [https://store.docker.com/search?type=edition&offering=community](https://store.docker.com/search?type=edition&offering=community). It is used as an alternative container system to package all third-party software except NextFlow.

- The Singularity images provided through this pipeline contain a small Ubuntu-based system called phusion/baseimage version 0.9.22. It is released under the MIT license and available at [https://github.com/phusion/baseimage-docker](https://github.com/phusion/baseimage-docker). Within this image the following software packages are installed.

- The indrops software (version 4.2) is open source software and available at [https://github.com/indrops/indrops](https://github.com/indrops/indrops). It is used as the main processing and analysis method.

- Indrops contains the Trimmomatic software available here: [https://github.com/timflutre/trimmomatic](https://github.com/timflutre/trimmomatic) with a GPL license.

- Miniconda2 (version 4.3.27-Linux-x86_64) is used as a package and environment management system. More details can be found at [https://conda.io/docs/](https://conda.io/docs/) and the license terms are described at [https://conda.io/docs/license.html](https://conda.io/docs/license.html).

- Samtools (version 1.3.1) is used by indrops and is available here: [https://github.com/samtools/samtools](https://github.com/samtools/samtools) with a MIT/Expat license.

- Bowtie (version 1.2.2.2) is used by indrops and is available here: [http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net](http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net) with an Artistic license.

- RSEM (version 1.3.0) is used by indrops and is available here: [https://github.com/deweylab/RSEM](https://github.com/deweylab/RSEM) with a GPL3 license.

- FastQC (version 0.11.5) is used for QCing the fastq files. The software is available at [https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc](https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc) with a GPL3 licence.

- MultiQC (version 1.3) is used to generate a QC report. It is available as open source at [http://multiqc.info](http://multiqc.info).

- Ensembl data (release 91) is used as genome index files. Software and data disclaimer can be
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