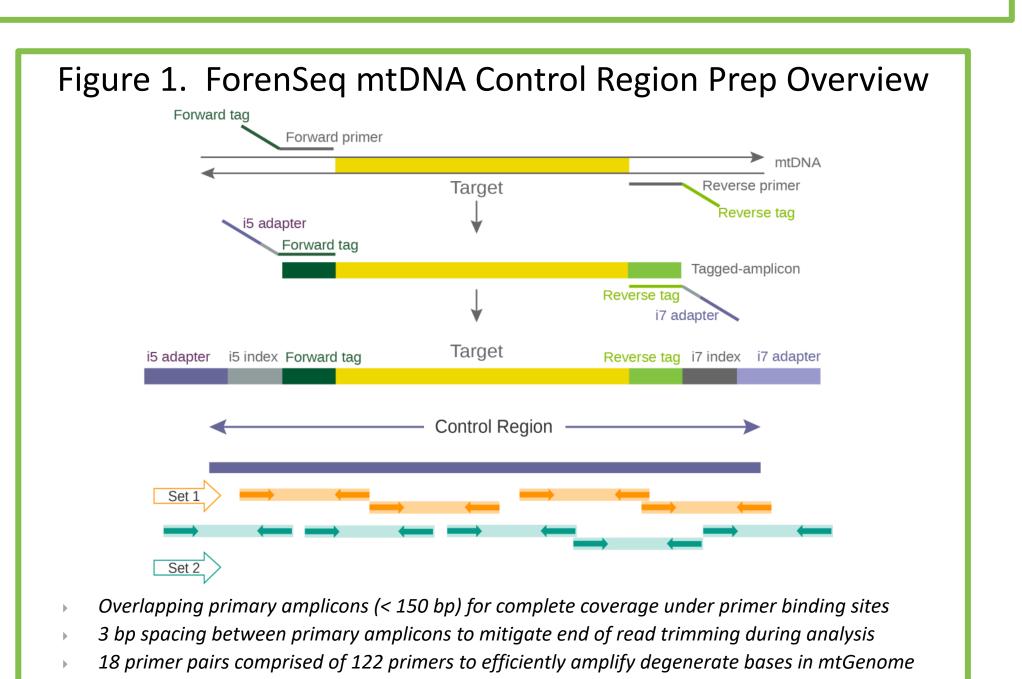


Introduction

Massively parallel sequencing (MPS) of human mitochondrial DNA surpasses Sanger sequencing and capillary electrophoresis with regard to labor intensity, reagent quality control and data quantity and quality. These improvements assist forensic samples in the context of research studies, criminal and missing persons casework and disaster victim identification.

We present a brief overview of recent advances in mtDNA genome knowledge and resultant design improvements now achieved in forensic mtDNA analysis. These include more comprehensive variant detection, heteroplasmy determination, and sensitivity using the MiSeq FGx sequencer and ForenSeq[®] Universal Analysis Software (UAS) v2. We show initial validation data that were generated using the ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Kit and analyzed in ForenSeq Universal Analysis Software (UAS) v2.

ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Kit library preparation uses the same basic workflow as the ForenSeq[®] DNA Signature prep kit (Fig 1) with the exception that two PCRs are prepared for each sample, each with a different Primer Mix (Set 1, Set 2). This approach supports a tiled approach to the primer design, which helps to ensure coverage (reads) across the entire control region (Fig 1).



Materials and Methods

Human mtDNA libraries were prepared from different input gDNA concentrations (1 pg – 100 pg) using the Verogen ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Kit. 12 or 48 libraries (HL-60 at varying inputs with replicates, other DNA samples at varying inputs, and 2-4 negative controls, as indicated) were sequenced together or the MiSeq FGx using the MiSeq FGx Regent Micro Kit following the User Guide (2 x 151 bp; run time = 18 hours). gDNA from matched sets of hair and buccal samples from volunteers was extracted¹. DNA was quantified using DNA One assay on the Quantifluor². Results were analyzed in the ForenSeq UAS 2.0. Samples included HL-60 Control DNA³, five extracted DNAs from teeth⁴, twelve extracted DNAs from bones^{5,6}, extracted matched sets of buccal and hair DNAs from eight volunteers, 2800M² and six high quality purchased DNAs^{7,8}.

Results & Discussion

Sensitivity studies were conducted to illustrate the ideal DNA input range and limit of detection of the ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region kit, under specific parameters. High quality DNA samples were serially diluted to input 1 to 100 pg gDNA and split between the two amplifications with the two primer mix sets (set 1, Set 2). The ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region kit supports two options for normalization prior to pooling and sequencing:

The Bead-Based Normalization (BBN) method is best for large numbers of high-quality samples (8-48) and especially when automated platform(s) are desired to conduct library normalization, prior to sequencing.

Libraries from low DNA input (<20 pg gDNA) or lower quality DNA samples benefit from the Manual Quantification and Normalization method as illustrated in Figure 2.

Compared to BBN, increased read coverage was observed from the lower input DNA samples when the Manual Quantitation and Normalization method was used. Coverage levels and variant calls concordance, analyzed in the UAS, showed reproducibility across the input ranges tested independent of the normalization method (Fig 3A,B). Coverage levels depend upon the numbers of samples sequenced together (sequencing multiplexy), sample type, quality, and the degree of heteroplasmy detection desired. 48 libraries were sequenced together for in this study for variant calling >10%. If lower level detection is desired, sequencing fewer (<48) samples together can provide much higher coverage to assist in detection of low-level variants To obtain deeper coverage, 12 of the 48 libraries described here were also sequenced independently on the MiSeq FGx. Four times higher coverage per sample was seen for the 12plex run compared to the same samples on the 48-plex run (Fig 4). The higher coverage seen in the 12 samples run did not adversely impact variant calling (Fig 5).

Control DNAs, that had Sanger-based variant calls available, were analyzed in a concordance study. SRM 2392⁸ samples were sequenced in triplicate at 100 pg. All calls were concordant with the Certificate of Analysis from NIST with the exception of heteroplasmy seen at position 64 in sample CHR (Table 1). Heteroplasmy was detected at this position using ForenSeq and went undetected using Sanger sequencing⁹.

ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region library prep's inhibitor resistance was studied using calcium ions, humic acid and bacterial DNA (Fig 6). Coverage similar to the control samples (no inhibitor) was observed. All calls were made across the concentrations of inhibitors tested.

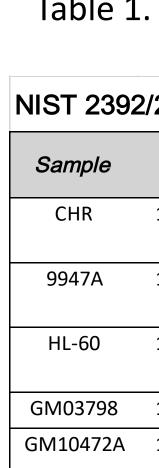
Mixture samples were analyzed to determine the limit of detection of low-level variants in 48plex runs on MiSeq FGx micro flow cells. Using a threshold setting of 2.5% for the AT and the IT, all variants from the minor contributor were detected with 100 pg gDNA as input template amount. The majority of variants from the minor contributor were detected in the mixture samples with 5 pg of gDNA. Once occurrence of drop-in was observed in the 1:5 mixture 5 pg gDNA sample that was also observed in the 5 pg gDNA HL-60 control library.

Performance of the ForenSeq library prep and software on mock casework samples was studied using DNA extracts from hair shafts (0.5 cm or 2 cm in length; no roots) and from buccal swabs, from the same individuals. 6 μL of hair and buccal extract was used in each of the ForenSeq amplifications, and from bone and teeth samples. 92% and 90% concordance were observed for the 2 cm and 0.5 cm hair extracts, respectively, relative to buccal samples for the 8 individuals tested. Seven of eight of the discordant calls were in the C-stretch of HVII. Results for two of the individuals are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Subject 2 (Table 3) shows an example of the C-stretch discordance. EMPOP reports were generated for each of these samples in the ForenSeq UAS; haplogroups were determined on the EMPOP website (https://empop.online/haplotypes). Results are shown in Table 5. Libraries were prepared from 100 pg gDNA extracted from a tooth from five different individuals⁴ and from seven DNA extracts from burned or cremated bones⁶. Complete coverage across the control region was observed (Figs 7 and 8), and all variants were correctly called (Table 6). Performance was also

assessed on DNA extracts from interred bone ⁵. Libraries were generated from approximately 2000-4000 mitochondrial DNA copies ¹ (data not shown) per ForenSeq PCR (Fig 9, coverage plot). Variants observed for these samples are shown in Table 6. Sample "Interred Bone 2" had lower coverage and some loss of coverage which may be the result of DNA damage (Fig 9). from 100-42,000 reads.

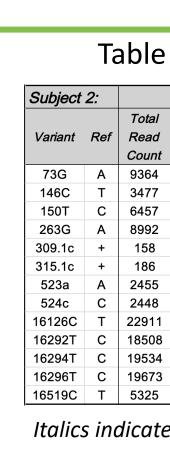
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l Counts	160000 140000 120000 100000 80000 60000 40000 20000 0	Bead-B	
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* Analysis Settings us

ForenSeq libraries were prepared from 100 pg of five NIST SRM gDNAs, split across the two mtDNA control region PCRs, and in triplicate. The resulting 15 libraries were sequenced on a MiSeq FGx with 27 other libraries, including negative controls, for a 42-sample plex run.

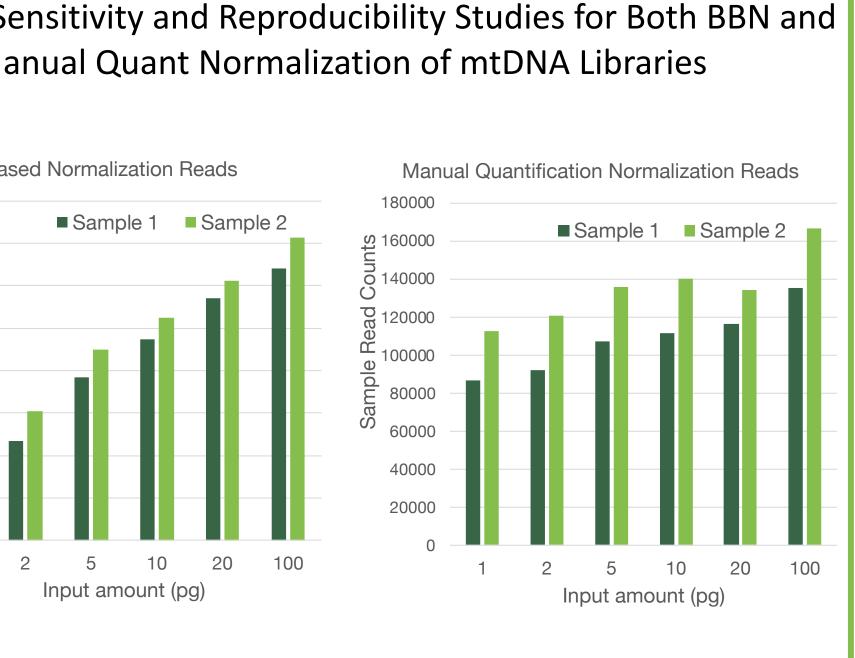


Table

Subject 3: Variant Ref Read 309.1c + 315.1C 489CT145316223TC1208816311YT40703

Performance Evaluation of the ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Solution

Verogen, Inc., 11111 Flintkote Ave., San Diego, CA 92121, USA



s were prepared from two high quality DNAs across a range of gDNA input amounts s were either normalized using the Bead-Based or the Manual Quantification Normalization methods following the user guide. The pools were sequenced independently and the

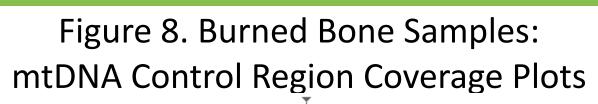
Table 1. Control DNAs, Concordance: ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Kit and Software

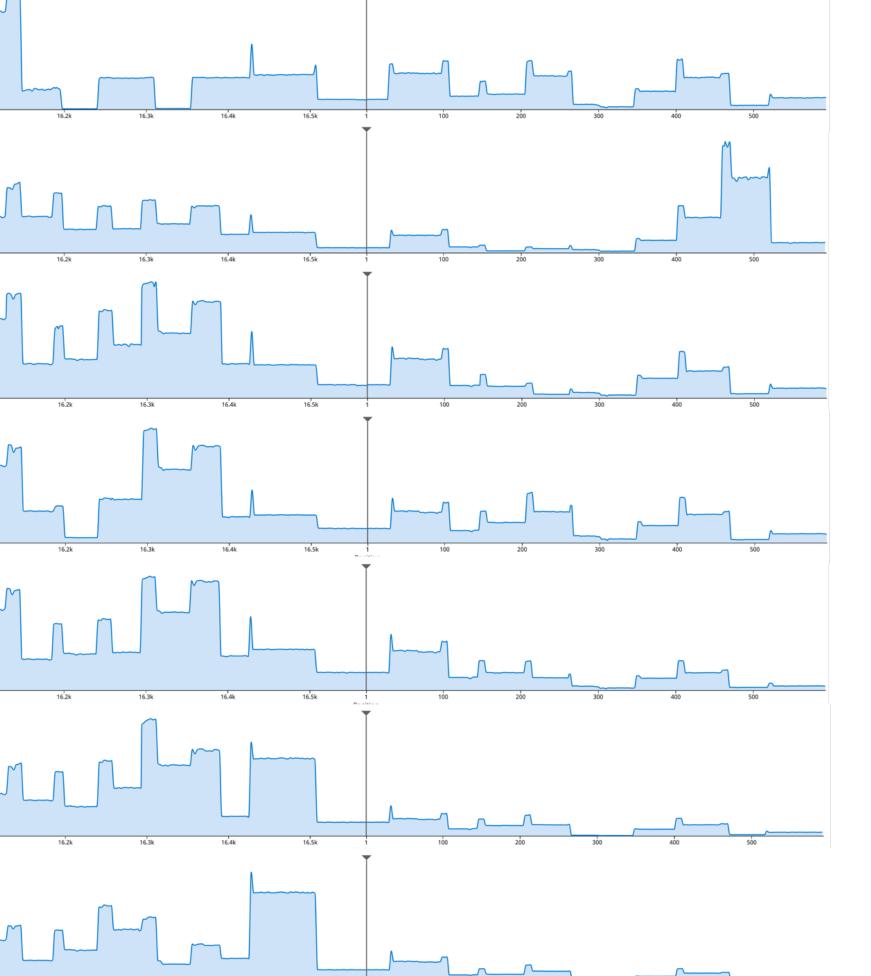
NIST 2392/2392-I Control Evaluation *

Input	Reps	Concordance	Expected Variants	Observed Variants
100 pg	3	93%	73G 195C 204C 207A 263G 309.1C 315.1C 16183C 16189C 16193.1C 16223T 16278T 16519C	64Y† 73G 195C 204C 207A 263G 309.1C 315.1C 16183C 16189C 16193.1c‡ 16223T 16278T 16519C
100 pg	3	100%	93G 195C 214G 263G 309.1C 309.2C 315.1C 16311C 16519C	93G 195C 214G 263G 309.1C 309.2C 315.1C 16311C 16519C
100 pg	3	100%	73G 150T 152C 263G 295T 315.1C 489C 16069T 16193T 16278T 16362C	73G 150T 152C 263G 295T 315.1C 489C 16069T 16193T 16278T 16362C
100 pg	3	100%	263G 315.1C 16357C 16519C	263G 315.1C 16357C 16519C
100 pg	3	100%	73G 185A 228A 263G 295T 315.1C 462T 482C 489C 16069T 16126C 16292T	73G 185A 228A 263G 295T 315.1C 462T 482C 489C 16069T 16126C 16292T

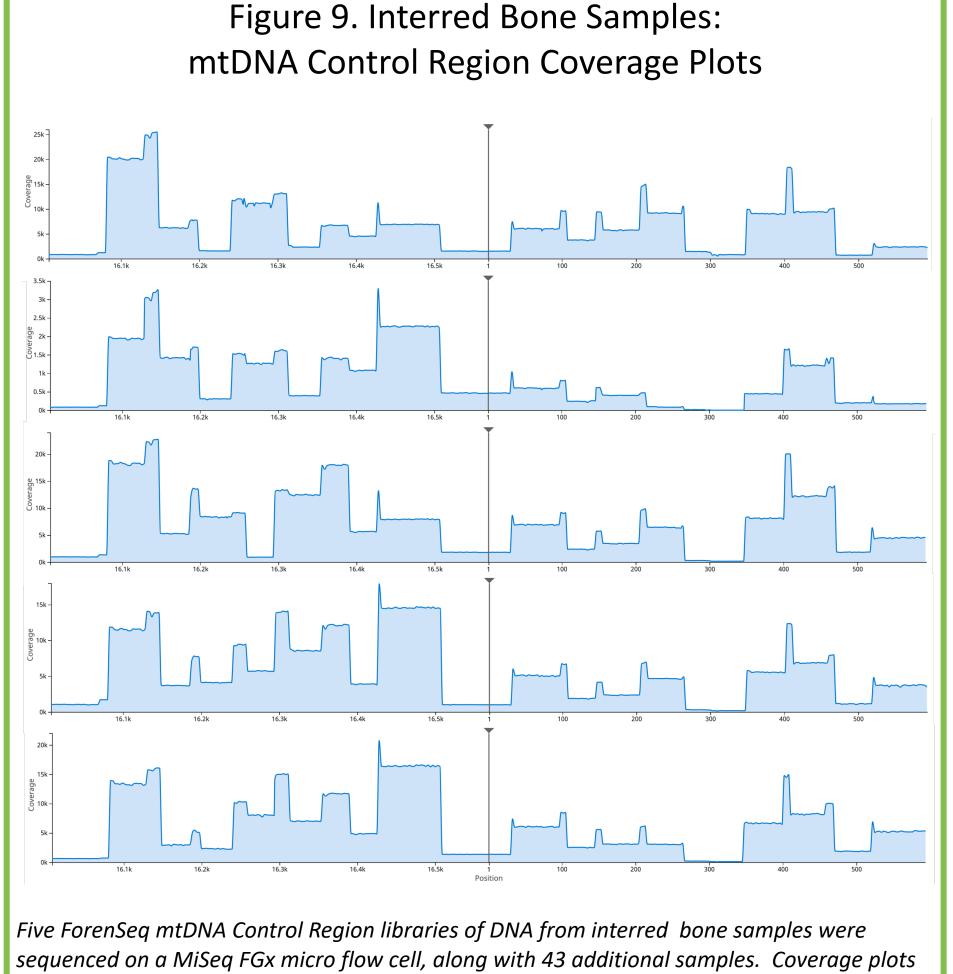
† Heteroplasmy observed in MiSea FGx data ⁴ \ddagger Insertion called as minor allele (43.2% ava, n = 3)

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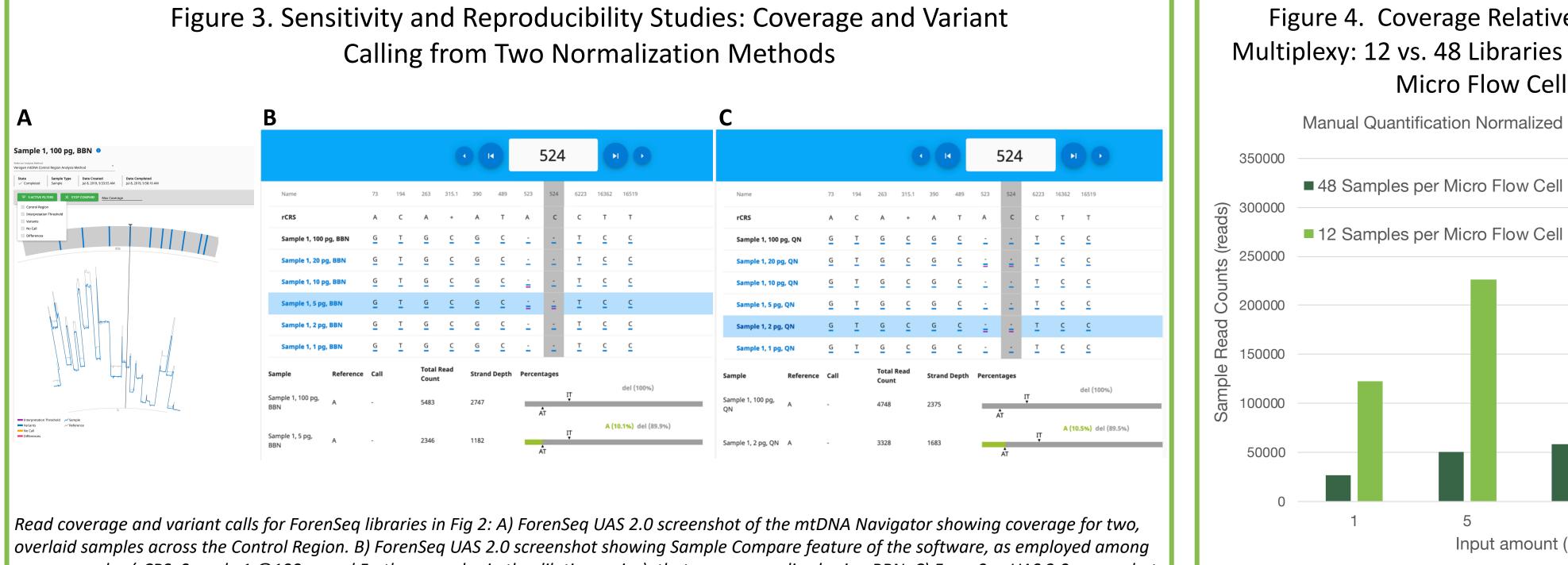




Seven ForenSeg mtDNA Control Region libraries of DNA from burned bone samples were sequenced on a MiSeq FGx micro flow cell, along with 41 additional samples. Coverage plots from ForenSeq UAS 2.0 show total read read counts per base (y-axis) across the control region (x-axis, positions 16008-595) ranged



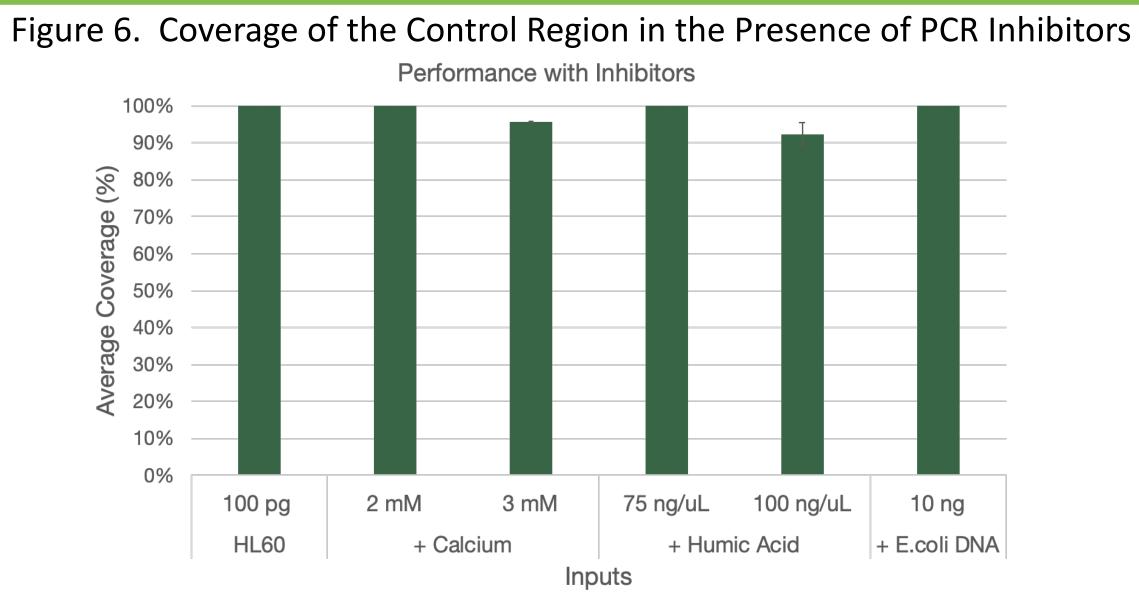
from forensic UAS 2.0 show total read read counts per base (y-axis) across the control region (x-axis, positions 16008-595) ranged from 0-25,000 reads.



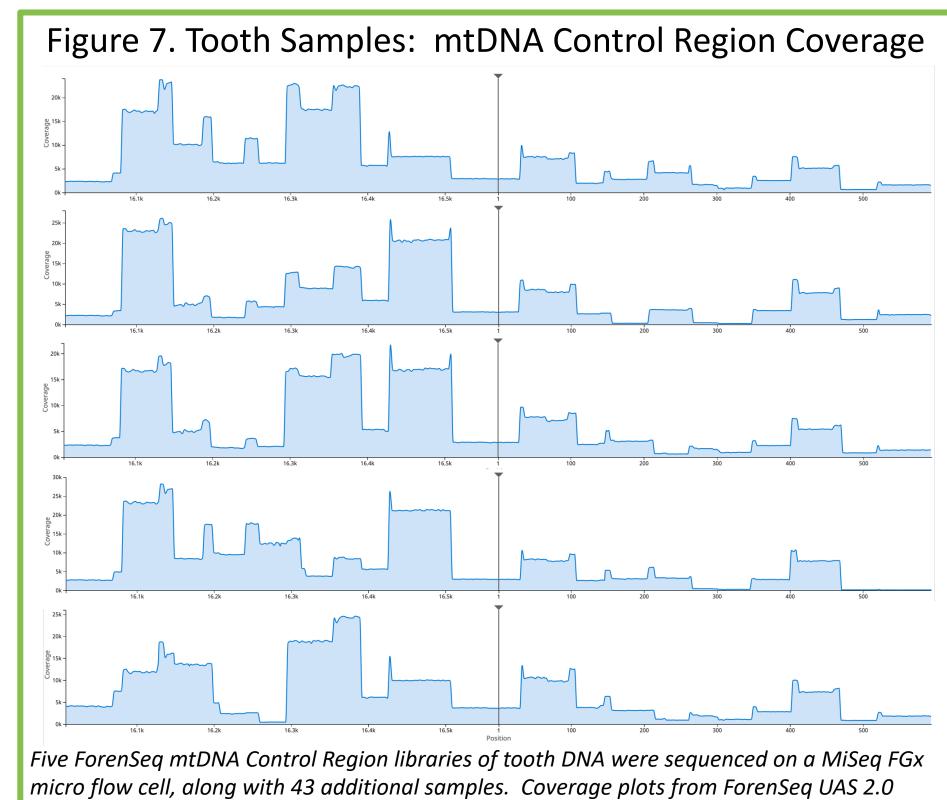
seven samples (rCRS, Sample 1 @100pg and 5 other samples in the dilution series), that were normalized using BBN. C) ForenSeq UAS 2.0 screenshow showing Sample Compare feature of the software, as employed among the same samples as 3B) but normalized using Manual Quantification and Normalization (QN). The ForenSeq UAS 2.0 Analytical Threshold was 10%; heteroplasmy proportions for Sample 1 at positions 523/524 hovered at ~10%, leading to call rate variation for the 5pg sample.

Paulina Walichiewicz, Justin Eagles, Anthony Daulo, Meghan Didier, Chris Edwards, Keenan Fleming, Yonmee Han, Timothy Hill, Sanja Li, Anthony Rensfield, Dan Sa, Julian Husbands, Cydne Holt, Kathryn Stephens

> Reducing the sample multiplexy on a MiSeg FGx micro flow cell by 4fold (48 samples and 12 samples) increases read coverage 4.1 - 4.6 fold for the 4 ForenSeq libraries represented above (1, 5, 50 and 500 pg gDNA), with a range of 4.1 - 5.0 across all 12 libraries.



Inhibitors (calcium, humic acid, E. coli DNA) were added to 100 pg of HL-60 gDNA, to final concentrations indicated on the x-axis, in ForenSeq PCR1. Coverage (read counts) was normalized to the control sample with no inhibitor (sample at far left). All control region bases were called correctly. The sample containing E. coli DNA was also analyzed for presence of microbial DNA in the sequencing results. No bacterial sequence was detected as analyzed using BWA alignment to the E. coli genome (data not shown).



show total read read counts per base (y-axis) across the control region (x-axis, positions 16008-595) ranged from 100-28,000 reads.



Sample, Extraction Method	Input	CR Coverage	Observed Variants
Tooth 1661, InnoGenomics	100 pg	100%	73G 150T 152C 263G 315.1C 523C 524C 16124C 16223T 16311C 16399G
Tooth 1662, InnoGenomics	100 pg	100%	73G 153G 195C 225A 226C 263G 309.1c 315.1C 16189C 16193.1c 16223T 16278T 16519C
Tooth 1663, InnoGenomics	100 pg	100%	73G 150T 152C 195C 198T 263G 315.1C 16189c 16223T 16320T 16519C
Tooth 1664, InnoGenomics	100 pg	100%	73G 146C 152C 195C 263G 309.1C 315.1C 507C 16223T 16278T 16286T 16294T 16309G 16390A 16519C
Tooth 1665, InnoGenomics	100 pg	100%	64T 93G 185A 189G 200G 236C 247A 263G 315.1C 522DE 523DEL 16129A 16148T 16168T 16172C 16187T 16188G 16189C 16223T 16230G 16311C 16320T 16325C 16362C
Cremated Bone, PrepFiler BTA	100 pg	100%	73G 150T 263G 315.1C 16189C 16193.1c 16270T 16398A
Embalmed Bone, Total Demin.	100 pg	100%	73G 150T 185A 228A 263G 295T 309.1C 315.1C 462T 489 16069T 16126C
Embalmed Bone, PrepFiler BTA	100 pg	100%	73G 143A 146C 152C 189G 195C 263G 315.1C 16129A 16189C 16192T 16223T 16278T 16294T 16309G 16390A
arly Decomp. Bone, PrepFiler BTA	100 pg	100%	73G 152C 263G 315.1C 16093C 16256T 16270T 16399G
Burned Bone, Total Demin.	100 pg	100%	195C 263G 315.1C 523DEL 524DEL
Mildly Burned Bone, PrepFiler BTA	100 pg	100%	73G 263G 309.1c 315.1C 16126C 16294T 16296T 16519C
Mildly Burned Bone, PrepFiler BTA	100 pg	100%	263G 309.1C 315.1C 316A 16291T 16519C
Interred Bone 1, Unknown	8000 copies	100%	73G 263G 315.1C 16192T 16256T 16270T 16291T 16399G
Interred Bone 2, Unknown	4000 copies	96%*	73G 152Y 185K 189G 195Y 263G 357G 482Y 489Y 523DEL 524DEL 16126C 16187T 16189C 16223Y 16264T 16270T 16278T 16293G 16311C 16519C
Interred Bone 3, Unknown	8000 copies	100%	152C 263G 309.1C 315.1C 16234T
Interred Bone 4, Unknown	8000 copies	100%	257G 263G 315.1C 477C 16519C
Interred Bone 5, Unknown	8000 copies	100%	73G 153G 195C 263G 309.1C 309.2c 315.1C 489G 16189c 16223T 16278T 16294T 16519C



Figure 4. Coverage Relative to Sample Multiplexy: 12 vs. 48 Libraries per MiSeq FGx Micro Flow Cell Manual Quantification Normalized Read Counts 500 Input amount (pg)

Figure 5. Coverage Relative to Sample Multiplexy: Improved Coverage & High Confidence Variant Calls

								5	15.	•		
Name		73	150	152	263	295	315.1	489	16069	16193	16278	16362
rCRS		A	С	Т	A	С	+	Т	С	С	С	т
HL-60, 500 pg,	12 samples	G	Ţ	С	G	Ţ	<u> </u>	C	Ţ	Ţ	Ţ	<u>C</u>
HL-60, 500 pg,	48 samples	G	Ţ	C	G	Ţ	<u> </u>	C	Ţ	Ţ	Ξ	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 50 pg, 1	2 samples	G	T	С	G	T	<u> </u>	С	Т	Ţ	Т	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 50 pg, 4	8 samples	G	T	С	G	Т	C	С	T	T	Т	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 5 pg, 12	samples	G	T	C	G	T	C	С	T	Ţ	Т	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 5 pg, 48	samples	G	T	C	G	T	C	С	T	Ţ	Т	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 1 pg, 12	samples	G	Ţ	C	G	Ţ	<u> </u>	C	Ţ	Ţ	Ţ	<u>c</u>
HL-60, 1 pg, 48	samples	G	T	C	G	Т	C	С	Т	Ţ	Т	C
Sample	Reference	Call			otal Rea ount	ad	Strand	l Depth	Perc	entage	S	
HL-60, 500 pg, 12 samples	+	с		56	509		5345			ÂT.	IŢ ▼	ref (4%) C (96%)
HL-60, 500 pg, 48	+	с		12	248		1190				IŢ	ref (4.2%) C (95.8%)
samples										ÂT		

ForenSeg UAS 2.0 Sample Compare feature employed across 8 samples (HL-60 500 50, 5, and 1 pg on MiSeq FGx micro flow cell runs of 12 and 48 samples). All mtDNA control region variants called correctly at the varying DNA inputs in the 48-plex sequencing run and in the 12-plex sequencing run.

Table 2.	Detection	of Minor	Contributor	Variants in	Mixture	Samples
	Beteetion	01111101		Variance in		Campies

Mix Ratio	Expected VAF	Minor Component Range	Major Component Range	Expected Variants	Observed Minor Component Variants
1:3	33 / 67 %	22 - 36 %	64 - 78 %	10	10
1:5	16 / 84 %	10 - 17 %	82 - 90 %	10	10
				10	10
1:15 2800M	6 / 94 % HL-60 M	4 - 7 % ixtures, 5 pg Inp	93 - 96 % ut, 2.5% AT/IT*	10	10
		ixtures, 5 pg Inp		10 Expected Variants	Observed Minor
2800M <i>Mix</i>	HL-60 M Expected	ixtures, 5 pg Inp <i>Minor Component</i>	ut, 2.5% AT/IT* <i>Major Component</i>	Expected	
2800M Mix Ratio	HL-60 M Expected VAF	ixtures, 5 pg Inp Minor Component Range	ut, 2.5% AT/IT* <i>Major Component</i> <i>Range</i>	Expected Variants	<i>Observed Minor</i> <i>Component Variant</i>

Conclusions

The ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region solution using a tiled, targeted amplicon approach for the analysis of the human mitochondrial control

The ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region Kit allows library preparation from up to 12 µL of sample volume to assist with low DNA concentration samples. The primary amplicons in the tiling design are <150 bp, facilitating degraded sample amplification.

MiSeq FGx sequencing allows flexibility with ability to choose between the Micro or Standard MiSeq FGx Reagent kits for increased coverage of degraded or low-level input samples and modulation of sample numbers, depending on project or casework needs. Two normalization methods are provided for library preparation to support processing of large numbers of high quality samples (bead based normalization) or small numbers of low input or low-quality samples (manual quantification and normalization). Sequencing at low or high sample multiplexy modulates the amount of coverage seen for each sample with no effect on variant calls. 48 high quality samples can be sequenced together to determine variant calls with the Micro MiSeq FGx Reagent kit, but if low level heteroplasmy detection, deeper coverage across the C-stretch regions or better coverage of low-quality/low input samples is desired, fewer samples can be sequenced together (<12).

ForenSeq UAS 2.0 enables accurate and confident base calls, examination of read depth and strandedness of coverage, user-adjustable threshold settings for Analytical and Interpretation Thresholds, Minimum Read Counts, and can compare samples (with and without filtering for variants). The software creates reports for export for samples, project, CODIS upload, or EMPOP queries.

The system accurately amplifies and sequences known, control DNA samples as illustrated in the concordance data. The library prep method is resistant to known inhibitors which improves performance on hair, bone and teeth DNA extracts.

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