

# BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit

## USER GUIDE

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**Revision history**

**Table 1** Pub. No. 4337035

Revision	Date	Description
C	14 April 2016	Updated compatible instrumentation, matrix and sequencing standards; added BigDye XTerminator™ purification and new basecalling reference sections.

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# Product information

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**IMPORTANT!** Before using this product, read and understand the information in the “Safety” appendix in this document.

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## Product description

The BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit provides pre-mixed reagents for Sanger sequencing reactions.

The kit reagents are suitable for performing fluorescence-based cycle sequencing reactions on single-stranded or double-stranded DNA templates, on PCR fragments, and on large templates (for example, BAC clones).

The kit includes BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer , which is specifically optimized for use with the BigDye™ Ready Reaction mixes.

The kit has been formulated to deliver robust performance across a wide variety of DNA sequences while maximizing readlengths. When used in combination with Minor Variant Finder Software, the kit can also be used to detect variants as low as 5% in a sample (see *Minor Variant Finder Software User Guide* (Pub. No. MAN0014835).

## Workflow



## Kit contents and storage

Table 2 BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit Contents

Contents	Cat. no. 4337454 (24 reactions)	Cat. no. 4337455 (100 reactions)	Cat. no. 4337456 (1,000 reactions)	Cat. no. 4337457 (5,000 reactions)	Cat. no. 4337458 (25,000 reactions)	Storage
BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Ready Reaction Mix	1 × 192 µL	1 × 800 µL	10 × 800 µL	2 × 20 mL	10 × 20 mL	Store at –15 to –25°C.
pGEM™-3Zf(+) double-stranded DNA Control Template (200ng/ µL)	1 × 10 µL	1 × 10 µL	1 × 250 µL	2 × 250 µL	10 × 250 µL	
–21 M13 Control Primers (0.8pmol/ µL)	1 × 10 µL	1 × 10 µL	1 × 200 µL	2 × 200 µL	10 × 200 µL	
BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer <sup>[1]</sup>	1 × 1 mL	2 × 1 mL	1 × 12 mL	2 × 28 mL	10 × 28 mL	Store at 4°C.

<sup>[1]</sup> Shipped separately from the rest of the kit

### Usage guidelines

- Avoid excess freeze-thaw cycles (no more than 10). If needed, aliquot reagents into smaller amounts.
- Before each use of the kit, allow the frozen stocks to thaw on ice or at room temperature (do not heat).
- Keep thawed materials on ice during use. Do not leave reagents at room temperature for extended periods.
- Protect dyes from light to avoid photobleaching.

**IMPORTANT!** Mix each stock thoroughly, then centrifuge briefly to collect all the liquid at the bottom of each tube.

## Compatible sequencing instruments

This guide provides general instructions for using the kit to generate samples for these instruments. For more detailed instructions, refer to the appropriate instrument or chemistry guide.

- 310 Genetic Analyzer
- 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer
- 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer
- 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer

## Thermal cyclers

The protocols provided in this guide were optimized using Applied Biosystems™ thermal cyclers, including the:

- GeneAmp™ PCR System 9700 Dual 96-Well
- GeneAmp™ PCR System 9700 Dual 384-Well
- Veriti™ 96-Well *Fast* Thermal Cycler
- Veriti™ 384-Well Thermal Cycler

It is possible to use a different thermal cycler, although you may need to re-optimize the thermal cycling conditions. Ramping time is very important. If the thermal ramping time is too fast ( $>1^{\circ}/\text{second}$ ), poor (noisy) data may result.

## Required materials

Unless otherwise indicated, all materials are available through **thermofisher.com**.

MLS: Fisher Scientific (**www.fisherscientific.com**) or other major laboratory supplier.

Item	Source
<b>Reagents</b>	
BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit	4337456
UltraPure™ DNase/RNase-Free Distilled Water	10977015
Hi-Di™ Formamide <b>Note:</b> Not required for BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit purification.	4311320 or 4440753
Sequencing and PCR primers (HPLC-purified recommended)	Primers can be designed and ordered with the Primer Designer™ Tool at <a href="http://www.thermofisher.com/primerdesigner">http://www.thermofisher.com/primerdesigner</a> . See "Primer Designer™ Tool" on page 41.
<b>Laboratory supplies</b>	
MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film	4306311
MicroAmp™ Optical 96-Well Reaction Plate	8010560



Item	Source
Plate Septa, 96 well	4315933
MicroAmp™ Optical 384-Well Reaction Plate	4343370
Digital Vortex-Genie™ 2 or equivalent	Scientific Industries, Inc. SI-A536
Centrifuge with swinging bucket (with PCR plate adapter)	MLS
<b>Reagents for BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit purification (optional)</b>	
BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit	4376486
<b>Reagents for Centri-Sep™ purification (optional)</b>	
UltraPure™ SDS Solution, 10%	24730020
Centri-Sep™ 96-Well Plates	4367819
Centri-Sep™ 8-Well Strips (for <96 samples)	4367820
<b>Reagents for ethanol/EDTA purification (optional)</b>	
0.5M EDTA, pH 8.0 for molecular biology	AM9260G
Ethanol, absolute, for molecular biology	MLS



# Prepare templates

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## Control template

Include a control DNA template in every set of sequencing reactions. The results from the control help determine whether failed reactions are the result of poor template quality or sequencing reaction failure.

- pGEM™-3Zf(+) is included with the kit as a double-stranded control (see Appendix C, “Partial sequence of pGEM™-3Zf(+)” for the partial sequence)

**Note:** The corresponding –21 M13 forward primer is also included.

- M13mp18 is recommended as a single-stranded control.

## Template preparation methods

Cycle Sequencing can be performed directly from single- or double-stranded DNA, plasmids, cosmids, BACs or purified PCR products. For high complexity DNA, PCR amplification of the target of interest before cycle sequencing is recommended.

For general guidelines on DNA isolation, see *DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide* (Pub. No. 4305080) or *DNA Fragment Analysis by Capillary Electrophoresis User Guide* (Pub. No. 4474504) for information on preparing single- and double-stranded templates.

### DNA isolation of single- and double-stranded templates

For a comprehensive list of Thermo Fisher Scientific products available for DNA isolation, go to <https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/life-science/dna-rna-purification-analysis/dna-extraction.html>.

### DNA isolation of BAC templates

With larger DNA targets such as bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs), DNA template quality is important to the success of the sequencing reaction. Two methods have provided good sequencing results:

- Alkaline lysis; include extra phenol extraction and isopropanol precipitation if very clean DNA is desired
- Cesium chloride (CsCl) banding

For Thermo Fisher Scientific BAC DNA preparation products, go to:

<https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/life-science/dna-rna-purification-analysis/dna-extraction.html>

### DNA template amplification with PCR

PCR templates can also be used to perform reliable cycle sequencing. For optimal results, purify PCR templates before sequencing. In general, any method that removes unincorporated dNTPs and primers should work.

See <https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/life-science/dna-rna-purification-analysis/dna-extraction.html> for a range of suitable kits.

See the *DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide* (Pub. No. 4305080) for information on sequencing PCR templates.

## Template quality

DNA quality can significantly influence the length of the fragment that can be amplified and the reproducibility of amplification from one sample to another. Even if the fragment successfully amplifies, poor quality DNA can result in decreased signal or increased background fluorescent noise from the sequencing reactions.

DNA quantity can also significantly effect amplification. For recommended quantities of DNA template per reaction, see “Template quantity” on page 12.

### Factors affecting template quality

- **Type and amount of source material** – Influences the effectiveness and sensitivity of PCR amplification and the quality of sequencing results. The number of sequencing targets relative to the amount of primer molecules can influence the efficiency and read-length of the sequencing reaction.
- **Contamination** – Can inhibit PCR amplification and cycle sequencing. Potential contaminants include:
  - Proteins, RNA or chromosomal DNA
  - Excess PCR primers, dNTPs, enzyme, and buffer components
  - Residual salts, organic chemicals such as phenol, chloroform, and ethanol, or detergents.
  - Heparin—can weaken or completely inhibit PCR amplification and cycle sequencing. The Dynabeads™ DNA DIRECT™ Blood Kit and the QIAamp™ Blood Kit (QIAGEN, GmbH) successfully remove heparin from heparin blood samples, leaving genomic DNA ready for PCR amplification.

**Note:** For paraffin-embedded tissue, use a DNA isolation kit specifically designed formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue, and make sure that amplicon sizes are appropriate to the length of DNA fragment size that can be isolated. Smaller amplicons compatible with FFPE-fragmented DNA can be selected using the free Primer Designer™ Tool found at <http://www.thermofisher.com/primerdesigner>.

## Determining template quality and quantity

Use a spectrophotometer to determine DNA quality and to check for protein contamination. Optimum absorbance ratios ( $A_{260/280}$ ) are between 1.8 and 2.0.

If DNA and/or RNA contamination is suspected, run your sample on an agarose gel. A single band should be present for high quality DNA.

For DNA quantitation,  $A_{260}$  values can be converted into  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$  using Beer's Law:

- Concentration of single-stranded DNA =  $A_{260} \times 33 \text{ mg}/\mu\text{L}$ .
- Concentration of double-stranded DNA =  $A_{260} \times 50 \text{ mg}/\mu\text{L}$ .

Optical density (OD) measurements are used to determine template concentration. Highly concentrated ( $\text{OD} > 1.0$ ) or very dilute ( $\text{OD} < 0.05$ ) DNA samples can be inaccurate. Dilute or concentrate the DNA as needed to obtain an OD value between 0.05 to 1.

**Note:** OD measurement is not a reliable method to determine template concentration following enzymatic PCR purification protocols. Instead, estimate PCR product purity and concentration using an agarose gel or a fluorescence-based method like the PicoGreen™ reagent for use on the Qubit™ quantitation platform.

## Template quantity

The table below lists the recommended quantity of template to use in a single cycle sequencing reaction. The quantity of PCR product is optimized to maximize the number of primer binding sites for the BigDye™ reaction and is dependent upon the length and purity of the PCR product.

**Note:** In general, higher DNA quantities give higher signal intensities.

**Table 3** Recommended DNA quantities

DNA template	Quantity
PCR product:	
• 100–200 bp	1–3 ng
• 200–500 bp	3–10 ng
• 500–1000 bp	5–20 ng
• 1000–2000 bp	10–40 ng
• >2000 bp	20–50 ng
Single-stranded DNA	25–50 ng
Double-stranded DNA	150–300 ng
Cosmid, BAC	0.5–1.0 $\mu\text{g}$
Bacterial genomic DNA	2–3 $\mu\text{g}$

# 3

## Perform cycle sequencing

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### Prepare the reactions

#### Set up the sequencing reactions

**IMPORTANT!** Protect dye terminators from light. Cover the reaction mix and sequencing plates with aluminum foil before use.

1. Completely thaw the contents of the BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit and your primers and store on ice.
2. Vortex the tubes for 2 to 3 seconds, then centrifuge briefly (2 to 3 seconds) with a benchtop microcentrifuge to collect contents at the bottom of the tubes.
3. Add components as indicated:

**IMPORTANT!** Change pipette tips after each transfer.

**IMPORTANT!** For control reactions, use 4 µL of the control primers for 20 µL and 10 µL reactions. Control primer concentration = 0.8pmol/µL.

Component	Standard reaction (20 µL)			Standard reaction (10 µL)		
	Quantity per reaction	Example Forward	Example Reverse	Quantity per reaction	Example Forward	Example Reverse
BigDye™ Terminator 3.1 Ready Reaction Mix	8 µL	8 µL	8 µL	4 µL	4 µL	4 µL
Forward primer (3.2 µM)	3.2 pmol	2 µL	—	3.2 pmol	1 µL	—
Reverse primer (3.2 µM)		—	2 µL		—	1 µL
Deionized water (RNase/DNase-free)	Varies based on template and primer volume	8 µL	8 µL	Varies based on template and primer volume	4 µL	4 µL
Template	See “Template quantity” on page 12	2 µL <sup>[1], [2]</sup>	2 µL <sup>[1], [2]</sup>	See “Template quantity” on page 12	1 µL <sup>[1], [2]</sup>	1 µL <sup>[1], [2]</sup>
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>20 µL</b>	<b>20 µL</b>	<b>20 µL</b>	<b>10 µL</b>	<b>10 µL</b>	<b>10 µL</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> e.g. 150-300ng/µL of dsDNA

<sup>[2]</sup> Concentration of template may affect volume, if template volume differs, adjust the volume of water in the reaction mix.

**Note:** Store on ice and protected from light.

4. Seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film.
5. Vortex the plate for 2 to 3 seconds, then centrifuge briefly in a swinging bucket centrifuge to collect contents to the bottom of the wells (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 x g.

**Note:** Bubbles may be present within the wells, but do not adversely affect the reaction.

### Using BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer to dilute sequencing reactions

Some cycle sequence reactions may be optimized using diluted BigDye™ Terminator Ready Reaction Mix. The BigDye™ Terminator Ready Reaction Mix is provided at a 2.5X concentration and can be diluted using BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer to a final end reaction concentration of 1X.

Calculate the volume of BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer to use:

$0.5 * ((\text{total reaction volume})/2.5) - \text{volume of BigDye™ Terminator Ready Reaction Mix}$

**Note:** Dilution of the BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer without optimization, may cause deterioration of sequencing quality. We can not guarantee the performance of BigDye™ chemistry when it is diluted.

Component	Diluted reaction (0.5X)		
	Quantity per reaction	Example Forward	Example Reverse
BigDye™ Terminator 3.1 Ready Reaction Mix	4 µL	4 µL	4 µL
BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 & v3.1 5X Sequencing Buffer	2 µL	2 µL	2 µL
Forward primer (3.2 µM)	3.2 pmol	2 µL <sup>[1]</sup>	—
Reverse primer (3.2 µM)		—	2 µL <sup>[1]</sup>
Deionized water (RNase/DNase-free)	Varies based on template and primer volume	10 µL	10 µL
Template	See “Template quantity” on page 12	2 µL <sup>[2], [3]</sup>	2 µL <sup>[2], [3]</sup>
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>20 µL</b>	<b>20 µL</b>	<b>20 µL</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> The control primer is provided at 0.8pmol/µL. Use 8 µL to obtain a total primer quantity of 3.2 pmol per 20 µL reaction. If primer volume differs, adjust the volume of water in the reaction mix.

<sup>[2]</sup> e.g. 150-300ng/µL of dsDNA

<sup>[3]</sup> Concentration of template may affect volume, if template volume differs please adjust the volume of water in the reaction mix.

## Perform cycle sequencing

### Run the sequencing reactions

1. Place the tubes or plate(s) in a thermal cycler and set the correct volume:
  - 20  $\mu$ L for microcentrifuge tubes or 96-well reaction plates
  - 10  $\mu$ L for 384-well reaction plates
2. Perform cycle sequencing:

Parameter	Stage/step				
	Incubate	25 cycles			Hold
		Denature	Anneal	Extend	
Ramp rate	—	1°C/second			
Temperature	96°C	96°C	50°C	60°C	4°C
Time (mm:ss)	01:00	00:10	00:05	04:00 <sup>[1]</sup>	Hold until ready to purify.

<sup>[1]</sup> Shorter extension times can be used for short templates.

3. Briefly centrifuge the reactions and proceed to Chapter 4, “Purify the sequencing reactions”.

# 4

## Purify the sequencing reactions

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- Purify the sequencing reactions with Centri-Sep™ plates ..... 17
- Purify the sequencing reactions with ethanol/EDTA precipitation ..... 19

Salts, unincorporated dye terminators, and dNTPs in sequencing reactions obscure data in the early part of the sequence and can interfere with basecalling.

Three different methods to purify sequencing products are provided below. For a list of the required materials for each method, see “Required materials” on page 8.

### Purify sequencing reactions with BigDye XTerminator™

The following protocol takes approximately 40 minutes.

For detailed instructions, see the *BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit Protocol* (Pub. No. 4374408).

**Note:** Use disposable reagent reservoirs and an 8-channel P200 pipette, if available, to facilitate the clean-up process. Use wide bore pipet tips when pipetting the BigDye XTerminator™ reagent.

**Note:** If you use a 3730 DNA Analyzer, standard heat sealing techniques can be used. This protocol describes plate sealing with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film. The MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film must be removed before loading the plate on the instrument.

1. Vortex the bottle of BigDye XTerminator™ beads for 8 to 10 seconds before mixing with the SAM solution.

---

**IMPORTANT!** For effective BigDye XTerminator™ clean-up, it is essential to keep the materials well mixed. Keep reagents on ice between pipetting steps.

---

2. Prepare the SAM/BigDye XTerminator™ bead working solution:

Component	Volume per 10 µL reaction	Volume per 20 µL reaction
SAM solution	45 µL	90 µL
BigDye XTerminator™ bead solution	10 µL	20 µL
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>55 µL</b>	<b>110 µL</b>

3. Remove MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film from the sequencing plate.



4. Transfer the indicated volume of bead mix (BigDye XTerminator™ bead solution and SAM solution) to each sample.

---

**IMPORTANT!** To mix thoroughly, aspirate and dispense the solution 3 to 4 times before each transfer. Re-mix solution after each dispense step.

---

5. Seal the plate using MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film.
6. If you are using the Digital Vortex-Genie™ 2, vortex the 96-well plate for 20 minutes at 1,800 rpm. For alternative vortex mixer manufacturers and settings, see the *BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit Quick Reference Card* (Pub. No. 4383427).
7. In a swinging bucket centrifuge, centrifuge the plate at 1,000 x g for 2 minutes.

**Note:** To store for up to 10 days, seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film, and store at 4°C for capillary electrophoresis (CE) preparation or at -20°C until use. BDx plates can be stored at room temperature for up to 48 hours inclusive of time on the CE instrument.

## Purify the sequencing reactions with Centri-Sep™ plates

The following protocol takes approximately 45 minutes (~25 minutes for purification and ~20 minutes for drying).

---

**IMPORTANT!** Do NOT skip the drying step in this procedure. Running samples that have not been dried can affect signal variation when injected on CE instrumentation due to nature of the highly purified/desalted elution solution.

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**Note:** Individual Centri-Sep™ Spin columns can be used if few sequencing reactions need to be purified. Centri-Sep™ Spin columns must be hydrated for approximately 2 hours before use. See the *DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide* (Pub. No. 4305080) for more information.

1. Prepare 2.2% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate) in standard deionized water.

**Note:** Store 2.2% SDS at room temperature. The SDS will precipitate at 4°C or below.

2. Briefly centrifuge the sequencing plate in a swinging bucket centrifuge (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 x g.
3. Remove the MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film.

4. Prepare the SDS heat treatment:

Component	Volume	
Sequencing reaction	10 µL	20 µL
UltraPure™ DNase/RNase-Free Distilled Water	10 µL	—
2.2% SDS	2 µL	2 µL
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>22 µL</b>	<b>22 µL</b>

5. Vortex the plate for 2 to 3 seconds, then centrifuge briefly (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 x g.

6. Perform the SDS heat treatment.

Parameter	Stage/step		
	Denature	Incubate	Hold
Temperature	98°C	25°C	4°C
Time	5 min	10 min	Hold

7. Prepare the Centri-Sep™ 96-well plate:

**Note:** The Centri-Sep™ 96-well plates come pre-hydrated. The initial centrifugation step removes the hydration solution.

- Allow the plate to equilibrate to room temperature.
  - Place the Centri-Sep™ 96-well plate in an empty 96-well plate.
  - Centrifuge for 2 minutes at 1,500 x g to remove the hydration solution from the plate.
  - Discard the plate with flow-through hydration solution.
  - Place a new MicroAmp™ Optical 96-Well Reaction Plate beneath the prepared Centri-Sep™ 96-well plate to collect purified BigDye™ sequencing reaction product.
- Briefly centrifuge the SDS heat-treated extension product plate in a swinging bucket centrifuge (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 x g and remove the MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film.
  - Dispense 20 µL SDS heat-treated extension product to the corresponding Centri-Sep™ well. Dispense slowly into the center of the well (e.g. electronic pipette setting 4). Do not touch the sides of the well or the gel material.
  - Place a new 96-well collection plate beneath the Centri-Sep™ plate. Using a swinging bucket centrifuge, centrifuge the Centri-Sep™ plate containing the SDS heat treated sample for 2 minutes at 1,500 x g to collect purified sample.

11. Dry the sample in a vacuum centrifuge without heat or on the low heat setting for 10 to 15 minutes or until dry.

**Note:** To store, seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film, and store at 4°C for CE preparation or –20°C until use.

## Purify the sequencing reactions with ethanol/EDTA precipitation

The following protocol takes approximately 90 minutes.

**Note:** This method produces a clean signal, but it can cause subtle loss of small molecular weight fragments.

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**IMPORTANT!** Absolute ethanol absorbs water from the atmosphere, which gradually decreases its concentration and can affect sequencing results. Store appropriately and replace frequently.

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1. Prepare a 125 mM EDTA solution from 0.5 M EDTA, pH 8.0.
2. Prepare 70% ethanol using absolute ethanol.

**Note:** Replace every 2 weeks.

---

**IMPORTANT!** Do NOT pre-mix 125 mM EDTA solution and absolute ethanol. This can cause precipitation of the EDTA.

---

3. Briefly centrifuge the sequencing plate in a swinging bucket centrifuge (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 × g.
4. Remove the MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film from the plate.
5. Add the following in order:

Component	Volume	
sequencing reaction (starting volume)	10 µL	20 µL
125 mM EDTA solution	2.5 µL	5 µL
absolute ethanol	30 µL	60 µL
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>42.5 µL/ well</b>	<b>85 µL/ well</b>

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**IMPORTANT!** Dispense EDTA directly into the sample in each well. If droplets are visible on the wall of the well, briefly centrifuge the plate to ensure that the EDTA mixes with the sequencing reactions.

---

6. Seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film.
7. Vortex the plate for 2 to 3 seconds, then centrifuge briefly (5 to 10 seconds) at 1,000 × g.

8. Incubate the plate at room temperature for 15 minutes.

---

**IMPORTANT!** Timing of this step is critical.

---

9. Centrifuge the plate in a swinging bucket centrifuge at  $1,870 \times g$  ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for 45 minutes.

---

**IMPORTANT!** Proceed to the next step immediately. If this is not possible, then centrifuge the plate for 2 minutes before performing the next step.

---

10. Slowly remove the MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film to prevent disruption of the pellet. Place 4 layers of absorbent paper into the centrifuge and carefully invert the plate onto the paper without dislodging the pellet. Centrifuge at  $185 \times g$  for 1 minute.

Do not tip out liquid first. Do not tap plate to facilitate liquid removal.

11. Add 70% ethanol to each well.

Starting reaction volume	Volume 70% ethanol
10 $\mu\text{L}$	30 $\mu\text{L}$
20 $\mu\text{L}$	60 $\mu\text{L}$

12. Seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film and centrifuge at  $1,870 \times g$  ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for 15 minutes.

---

**IMPORTANT!** Proceed to the next step immediately. If this is not possible, then centrifuge the plate for 2 minutes before performing the next step.

---

13. Slowly remove the MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film to prevent disruption of the pellet. Place 4 layers of absorbent paper into the centrifuge and carefully invert the plate onto the paper towel without dislodging the pellet. Centrifuge at  $185 \times g$  for 1 minute.

**Note:** Do not tip out liquid first. Do not tap plate to facilitate liquid removal.

14. Allow the plate to air dry, face up and protected from light, for 5 to 10 minutes at room temperature.

**Note:** To store, seal the plate with MicroAmp™ Clear Adhesive Film, and store, protected from light, at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for CE preparation or  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until use.

# Capillary electrophoresis

■ Capillary electrophoresis guidelines .....	21
■ Calibration guidelines .....	22
■ Electrophoresis on the 310 Genetic Analyzer .....	23
■ Electrophoresis on the 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer .....	23
■ Electrophoresis on the 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer .....	24
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## Capillary electrophoresis guidelines

We recommend that you verify the quality of your current matrix file or spectral calibration before proceeding. To generate a new matrix file or spectral calibration, use the appropriate matrix and/or sequencing standard for your instrument.

The existing mobility files can be used with their respective platforms.

- Resuspend purified and dried sequencing reactions in 10- $\mu$ L of Hi-Di™ Formamide  
Do not heat samples to resuspend. Run samples as soon as possible after resuspension.  
**Note:** It is not necessary to resuspend samples purified with the BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit.
- Standard heat seal consumables can only be used for the 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer.
- Select the correct mobility file for your instrument, polymer and dye chemistry.  
For example: Select KB\_3500\_POP7\_BDTv3.mob for data electrophoresed on a 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer with POP-7™ polymer and generated with BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 chemistry.
- Use the BDx run modules if you used the BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit for sequencing reaction clean up.
- If the wrong mobility file is used, this can be corrected with Sequencing Analysis Software. For more information go to *DNA Sequencing Analysis Software 6* (Pub. No. 4474239).
- Check **At PCR Stop** in the Basecalling tab and the **Use Mixed Base Identification** in the Mixed Bases tab when analyzing PCR products with Sequencing Analysis Software. Do not select these settings when performing *de novo* or plasmid sequencing.

## Calibration guidelines

Matrix or sequencing standards provide a sample for multi-color spectral correction for the dye emission overlap of the BigDye™ Terminators.

Spectral calibrations for the BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 are not compatible with BigDye™ Terminator v3.1.

Perform new spectral calibrations after you install a capillary array or move capillaries in the detection areas.

See your specific instrument user guide for more information on calibration.

### Dye set and matrix standards for the 310 instrument

Instrument	Dye set	Standards for instrument (matrix) file generation <sup>[1]</sup>
310 Genetic Analyzer	E	310 Genetic Analyzer Matrix Standards, BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 (Cat. No. 4336948)

<sup>[1]</sup> Refer to the matrix or sequence standards product insert for instructions on generating matrices.

### Dye set and spectral matrix standards for the 3130, 3500, and 3730 instruments

Instrument	Dye set	Standards for spectral calibration <sup>[1]</sup>
3130/3130x/ Genetic Analyzer	Z	31xx Matrix Standards Kit, BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 (Cat. No. 4336974 )
3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer		
3730 DNA Analyzer		N/A <sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Refer to the matrix or sequence standards product insert for instructions on performing spectral calibrations.

<sup>[2]</sup> Matrix standards are not designed for use on the 3730 DNA Analyzer; use sequencing standards only.

### Sequencing standards

Instrument	Kit	Cat. no.
310 Genetic Analyzer	310/31xx Genetic Analyzer Sequencing Standards, BigDye™ Terminator v3.1	4336935
3130/3130x/ Genetic Analyzer		
3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer	3500/3500xL Sequencing Standards, BigDye™ Terminator v3.1	4404312
3730/3730x/ DNA Analyzer	3730/3730x/ DNA Analyzer Sequencing Standards, BigDye™ Terminator v3.1	4336943

## Electrophoresis on the 310 Genetic Analyzer

Item	Module name	Polymer	Capillary length	Mobility files
Dye set E run modules	P4StdSeq (1 mL) E	POP-4™	36-cm	KB_310_POP4_BDTv3_36Std.mob
	P4RapidSeq (1 mL) E	POP-4™	36-cm	KB_310_POP4_BDTv3_36Rapid.mob
	Seq POP6 Rapid (1 mL) E	POP-6™	36cm	KB_310_POP6_BDTv3_36Rapid.mob
	Seq POP6 (1 mL) E	POP-6™	50-cm	KB_310_POP6_BDTv3_50Std.mob

### Performing electrophoresis

For information on performing sample electrophoresis on the 310 instrument, see the *310 Genetic Analyzer Manual for Windows™* (Pub. No. 4317588).

## Electrophoresis on the 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer

Item	Module name	Polymer	Capillary length	Mobility files
Dye set Z run modules	UltraSeq36_POP4	POP-4™	36-cm	KB_3130_POP4_BDTv3.mob
	StdSeq50_POP4	POP-4™	50-cm	
	LongSeq80_POP4	POP-4™	80-cm	
	RapidSeq36_POP6	POP-6™	36-cm	KB_3130_POP6_BDTv3.mob
	StdSeq50_POP6	POP-6™	50-cm	
	UltraSeq36_POP7	POP-7™	36-cm	KB_3130_POP7_BDTv3.mob
	RapidSeq36_POP7	POP-7™	36-cm	
	FastSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	
	StdSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	
	LongSeq80_POP7	POP-7™	80-cm	

### Performing electrophoresis

For information on performing sample electrophoresis on the 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer, see:

- *Applied Biosystems™ 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzers Getting Started Guide* (Pub. No. 4477796)
- *Applied Biosystems™ 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzers Maintenance, Troubleshooting, and Reference Guide* (Pub. No. 4352716)

## Electrophoresis on the 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer

Item	Module name	Polymer	Capillary length	Mobility files
Dye set Z run modules	StdSeq50_POP6	POP-6™	50-cm	KB_3500_POP6_BDTv3.mob
	RapidSeq36_POP6	POP-6™	36-cm	
	RapidSeq50_POP6	POP-6™	50-cm	
	FastSeq50_POP6	POP-6™	50-cm	
	StdSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	KB_3500_POP7_BDTv3.mob
	RapidSeq36_POP7	POP-7™	36-cm	
	RapidSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	
	FastSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	
	ShortReadSeq50_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	
	MicroSeq_POP7	POP-7™	50-cm	

### Performing electrophoresis

For information on performing sample electrophoresis on the 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer, see:

- *3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer with 3500 Series Data Collection Software 3.1 User Guide* (Pub. No. 100031809 )
- *3500 Series Genetic Analyzer Software Compatibility Matrix and User Documents Reference* (Pub. No. 4485219 )

## Electrophoresis on the 3730/3730xL DNA Analyzer

Item	Module name	Polymer	Capillary length	Mobility files
Dye set Z run modules	StdSeq36_POP-6™	POP-6™	36-cm	KB_3730_POP6_BDTv3.mob
	LongSeq50_POP-6™	POP-6™	50-cm	
	StdSeq36_POP-7™	POP-7™	36-cm	KB_3730_POP7_BDTv3.mob
	FastSeq50_POP-7™	POP-7™	50-cm	
	RapidSeq36_POP-7™	POP-7™	36-cm	
	TargetSeq36_POP-7™	POP-7™	36-cm	
	LongSeq50_POP-7™	POP-7™	50-cm	
	XLRSeq50_POP-7™	POP-7™	50-cm	



## Performing electrophoresis

For information on performing sample electrophoresis on the 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer, see:

- *3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer Software Compatibility Matrix and Reference Documents* (Pub. No. 4449681)
- *Chemistry Guide, 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer* (Pub. No. 4331467)
- *User Guide: Applied Biosystems™ 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer* (Pub. No. 4331468)
- *Applied Biosystems™ 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzers Maintenance, Troubleshooting, and Reference Guide* (Pub. No. 4359473)



# Troubleshooting Sanger sequencing data

## Troubleshooting poor Sanger sequencing quality

Common sources of noise	How to recognize the source	Page Number
No signal	Little to no raw signal.	28
Low signal intensity	The raw signal is below the recommended minimum relative fluorescence units (RFU).	30
Mixed sequence throughout	Mixed sequence content throughout the length of the trace.	32
Mixed sequence up to or after a point	Mixed sequence content starting at a specific point.	33
Poor mobility correction	Peaks overlapped and unevenly spaced	34
Dye blobs	Large broad peak normally seen at 85–90 bp or 125–130 bp.	35
Signal saturation	The raw signal exceeds the recommended maximum RFU. <b>Note:</b> Excessive raw signal causes pull-up peaks in the analyzed data, which can incorrectly be identified as mixed bases.	37
Poor 5' sequencing quality	Poor quality sequence in the first 35 nucleotides of the trace.	39

For more information on Sanger sequencing symptoms and troubleshooting, see the *DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide* (Pub. No. 4305080).

## Recommended raw signal ranges

Different instruments have different recommended fluorescence ranges and levels at which signal is saturated. Data quality can be compromised when signals do not fall in the appropriate range. The subsequent troubleshooting sections will help you to recognize and correct issues relating to raw fluorescent signals.

Instrument	Recommended raw signal range in relative fluorescent units (RFU)	Fluorescence saturation
310	150–4,000	8,100
3130/3130xl	150–4,000	8,100
3500/3500xl	150–10,000	32,000
3730/3730xl	175–10,000	32,000

## The use of controls

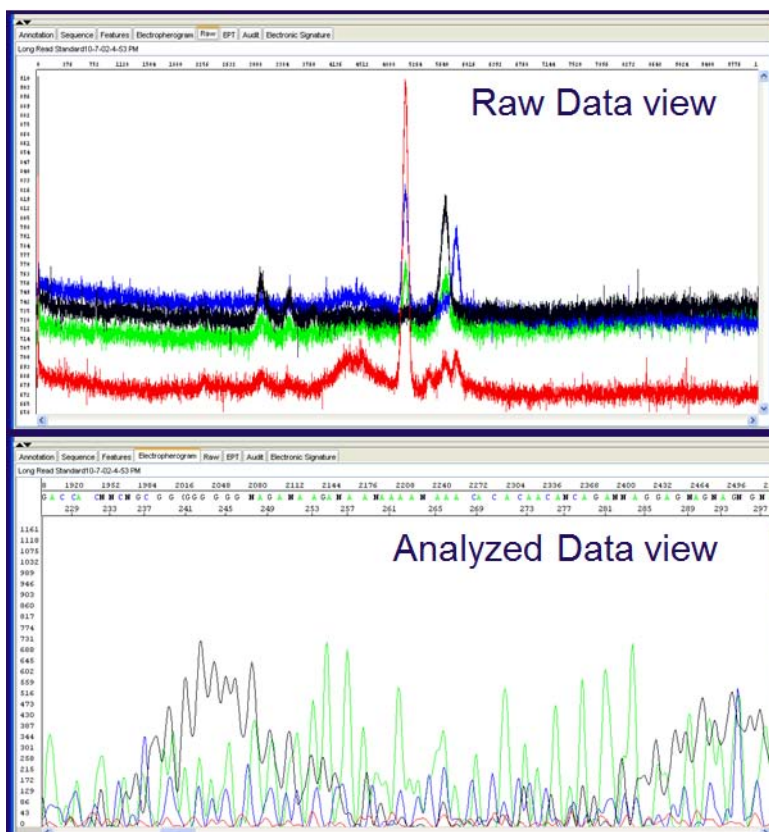
The use of controls are recommended to simplify troubleshooting.

- Control DNA template (pGEM)—Results can help you determine whether failed reactions are caused by poor template quality or sequencing reaction failure. See “Control template” on page 10.
- Big Dye Terminator Sequencing standards—Results can help you distinguish between chemistry problems and instrument problems.
- Use of Hi-Di Formamide only injection (*Optional*)—Results can help distinguish sample problems and instrument problems related to contamination.

## No signal

Lack of signal can be determined by looking at the scale of signal produced in the raw data view. Signal should be above the minimum recommended RFU. See “Recommended raw signal ranges” on page 27. Lack of signal can be caused by many factors. These include problems in the sequencing reaction (template quantity/quality), thermal cycler malfunction (plate failure) and capillary electrophoresis failure (failing laser, air bubbles in lines, etc.).

### Example of no signal



No signal due to hardware failure or a failed reaction

### No signal: possible causes and recommended actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
Insufficient template	Quantitate the DNA template.
	Increase the amount of DNA in the sequencing reactions. See “Template quantity” on page 12.
Inhibitory contaminant in the template	Clean up the template. See Chapter 2, “Prepare templates”
Insufficient primer	Quantitate the primer and increase the amount of primer in the sequencing reactions if needed.



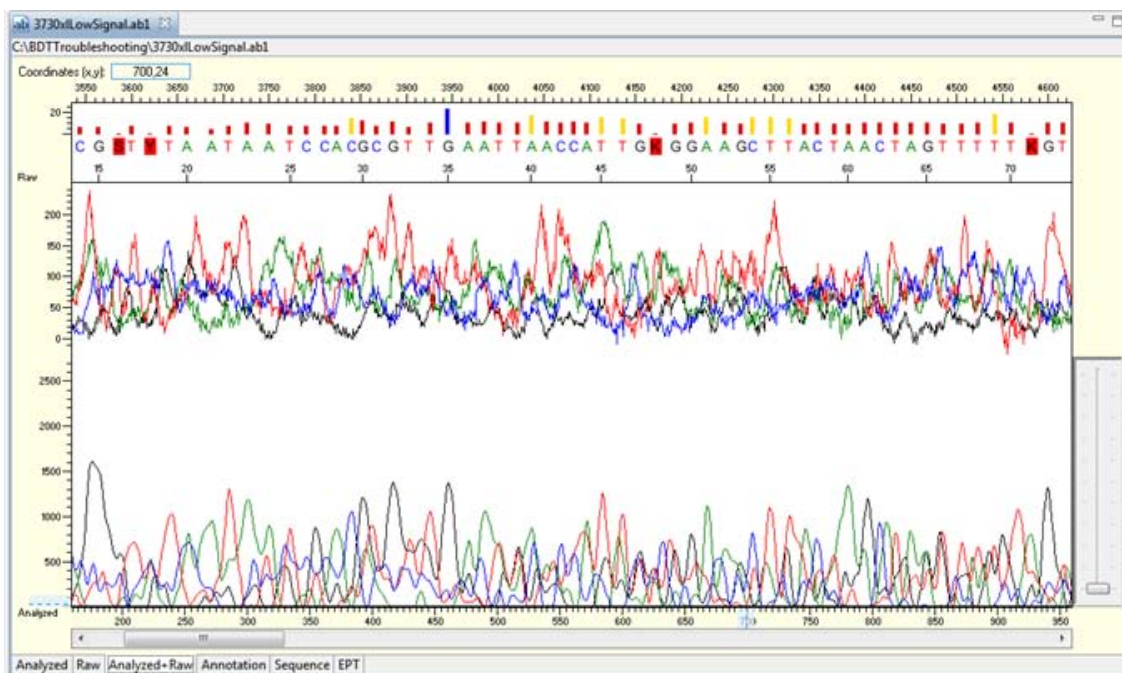
Possible cause	Recommended action
Primer has no annealing site	Use a primer that is complementary to the template.
Poor primer design or incorrect primer sequence	Review the primer design and if needed redesign the primer.
Missing reagent	Repeat the reactions, carefully following the protocol. Use pGEM control to confirm reagent workflow performance.
Old or mishandled reagents	Use fresh reagents.
Thermal cycler malfunction	Test the thermal cycler per the manufacturer's instruction and repeat the reactions.
Thermal cycling conditions incorrect	Calibrate the thermal cycler regularly.
	Use the correct thermal cycling parameters.
	Use the correct tubes or plates for your thermal cycler.
	Set the ramp rate to 1°C/second.
Extension products lost during reaction cleanup	Use the correct centrifuge speeds and times for the precipitation procedures and the spin column or spin plate procedures.
	Check that the ethanol concentration is correct for the precipitation protocols.
Extension products not resuspended	Carefully resuspend the sample pellet in Hi-Di™ Formamide.
Electrokinetic injection failure	<p>Run the Sequencing standard to confirm the performance of the instrument and capillary array.</p> <p>Confirm the BDX run module is being used for BigDye XTerminator™-purified samples.</p> <p>Confirm the correct volume is in the well.</p> <p>Confirm that the sample plate does not have a bubble at the bottom of the well. Briefly centrifuge to remove bubble.</p>

## Low signal

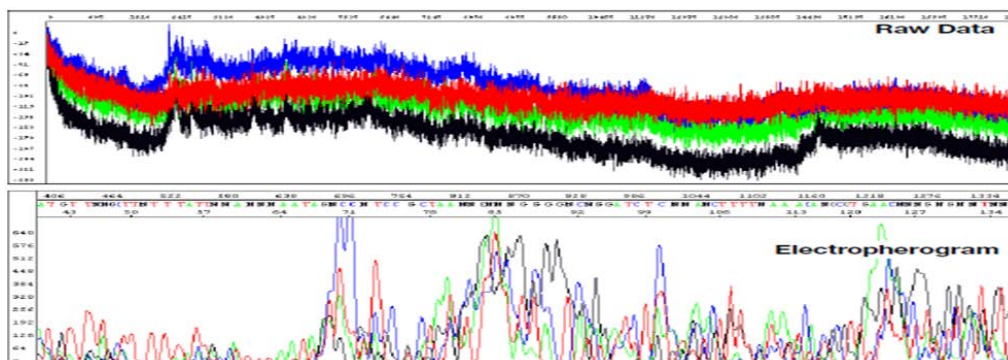
Low signal intensity can be caused by many factors including thermal cycler malfunction (in the case of an entire plate failure) and insufficient sequencing template quantity/quality.

### Examples of low signal intensity

The examples below show severely low signal traces.



**Figure 1** Severely low signal intensity



**Figure 2** Severely low signal intensity due to hardware failure or a failed reaction  
More severe signal issues are often related to poor injection, failed reaction, or a blocked or broken capillary.



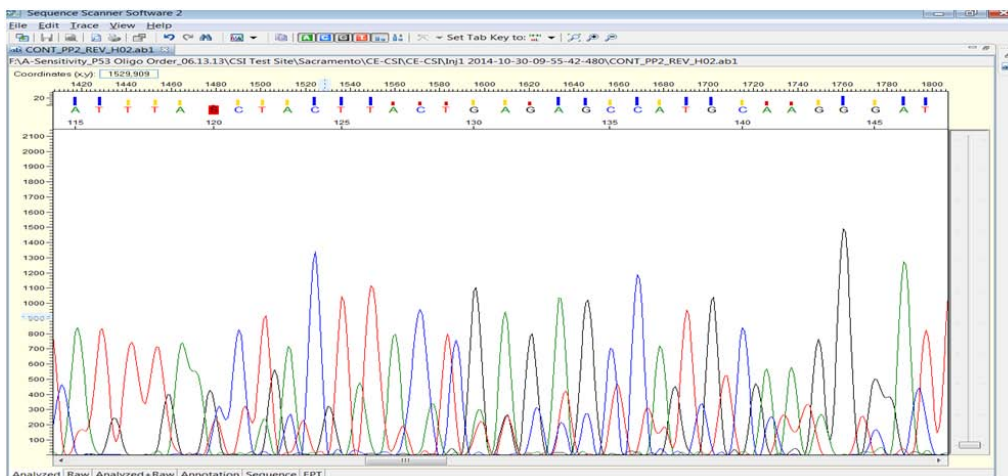
## Low signal possible causes and recommended actions

**Note:** When sequencing signal is weak, increasing the injection time (re-injecting sample) or increasing primer and/or template in the cycle sequencing reactions can improve signal strength if DNA quality, PCR purification, and sequencing reaction purification steps have been performed properly.

Possible cause	Recommended action
Insufficient DNA in the sequencing reactions	Increase DNA quantity in the sequencing reactions. See "Template quantity" on page 12.
	Load or inject more of the resuspended sequencing reactions by modifying the run module and increasing the injection time. See the appropriate instrument User Guide for additional information..
Poor primer quality or quantity	Prepare a fresh working stock of primer or order new primer. Use 3.2pmol in the final reaction.
Degraded template	Prepare fresh DNA and repeat the reactions.
Poor PCR cleanup	Purify PCR products before use. See "DNA template amplification with PCR" on page 11.
Old or mishandled reagents	Use fresh reagents.
Thermal cycling conditions incorrect	Calibrate the thermal cycler regularly.
	Use the correct thermal cycling parameters.
	Use the correct tubes or plates for your thermal cycler.
	Set the ramp rate to 1°C/second.
Insufficient Ready Reaction Mix in the reactions	Sequencing chemistry was diluted. See "Prepare the reactions" on page 13 for recommended procedures.  <b>Note:</b> Thermo Fisher Scientific can not support diluted reactions or guarantee the performance of diluted BigDye chemistry.

## Mixed sequence throughout the electropherogram

### Example of mixed sequence throughout



**Figure 3** Secondary sequence contamination caused by well-to-well contamination of one sample into another

### Mixed sequence throughout possible causes and recommended actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
Inhibitory contaminant in the template	Clean up the template.
Multiple templates in the sequencing reaction	Examine the template on an agarose gel to be sure that only one template is present.
Multiple priming sites	Verify that the primer has only one priming site. If needed, redesign the primer. See Appendix B, "Select sequencing primers"
Multiple primers when sequencing PCR products	Purify the PCR template to remove excess primers.
Primer with N-1 contamination	Use an HPLC-purified primer
High signal saturating the detector	Use less DNA in the sequencing reactions. See "Template quantity" on page 12. Load or inject less of the resuspended sequencing reactions by modifying the run module and decreasing the injection time. See the appropriate instrument User Guide for additional information.
Incorrect run module	Use a default run module.
Incorrect instrument (matrix) file	Use the correct instrument file for BigDye™ Terminator chemistry.



## Mixed sequence up to or after a certain point

Example of mixed sequence after a point



**Figure 4** Example of mixed sequence content following a heterozygous insertion or deletion. Mixed sequence content is seen in both forward and reverse traces.

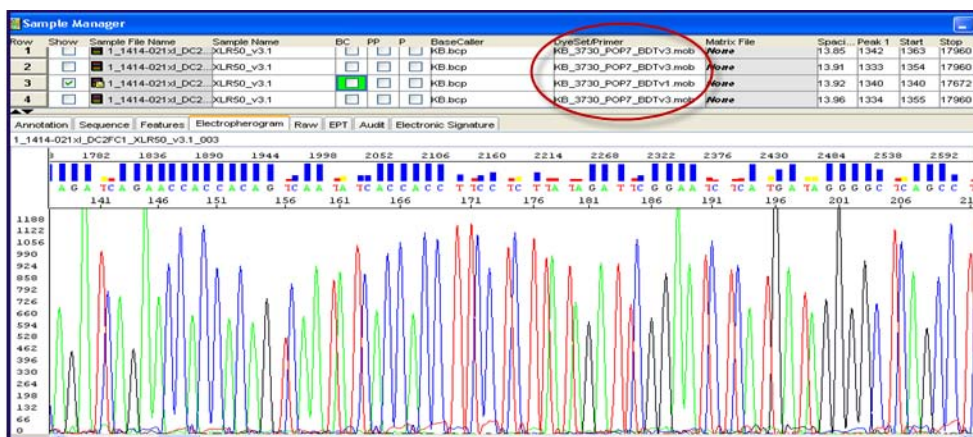
### Mixed sequence up to or after a certain point possible causes and recommended actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
Mixed plasmid separation	Be sure that you have only one template.
Multiple PCR products	
Primer-dimer contamination in PCR sequencing	Optimize your PCR amplification.
	Be sure that there is no sequence complementarity between the two PCR primers.
	Be sure that your sequencing primer does not overlap the sequences of the PCR primers.
	Use a Hot Start technique, such as with AmpliTaq Gold™ DNA Polymerase.
Slippage after repeat region in template	Try an alternative sequencing chemistry.

Possible cause	Recommended action
Slippage after repeat region in template	Use an anchored primer.  Some customers have gotten past poly(A) regions using a mixture of oligo dT18 primers with either a C, A, or G as the 3' terminal dinucleotide or 2-base anchors. See the <i>DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide</i> (Pub. No. 4305080) for more information.
Heterozygous insertion or deletion mutation (HIM)	Obtain forward and reverse sequence data and assemble using SeqScape™ Software or Variant Reporter™ Software.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SeqScape™ Software lists HIMs in the Mutations Report. Clicking the <b>Base Change</b> in the Mutations Report to view the mutation in the Project view.</li> <li>Variant Reporter™ Software lists HIMs in the Project Summary Report.</li> </ul>

## Poor mobility correction

### Example of poor mobility correction



Example electropherogram with the wrong mobility file selected.

### Poor mobility correction possible causes and recommended actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
Incorrect dye set/primer (mobility) file	Use the correct dye set/primer file.
Incorrect Peak 1 location for data analysis	Select a new Peak 1 location.

## Dye blobs

Dye blobs are caused by unincorporated dye terminators remaining in solution after purification of the cycle sequencing reactions. Unincorporated dye terminators from the BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit and BigDye™ Direct Cycle Sequencing Kit are most commonly seen to co-migrate with the ~ 85–90 bp labeled fragments. In more severe instances, these blobs can also be detected at ~ 60–65 bp and within 125–140 bp regions. Dye blobs are typically seen as broad “C” or “T” peaks, but can also show up as “G” blobs. Dye blobs are more common when first testing new sequencing purification methods.

### Example of dye blobs

Figure 5 shows severe dye blobs in the 60–65bp, 85–100bp, and 125–140bp regions. Although the sequence quality appears high, the blobs obscure nearly 40 bp of the 100 bases displayed. This would make the sequence unsuitable for variant detection.

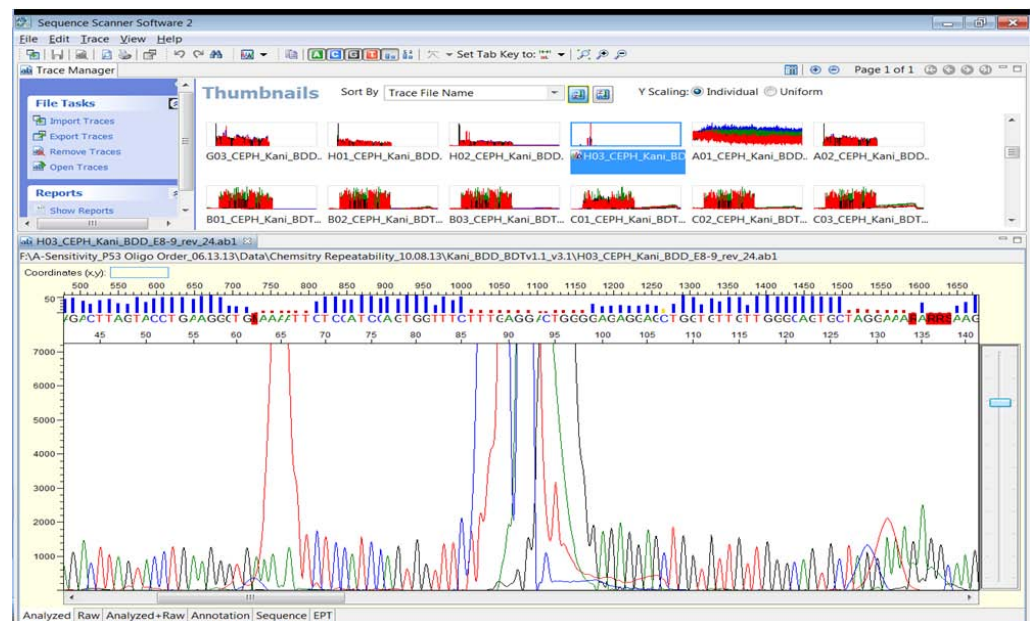


Figure 5 Severe dye blobs in the 60–65bp and 125–140bp regions

### Dye blobs: possible causes and recommended actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
Sample bypassed the purification material when using spin columns/spin plates for sequencing clean-up.	Ensure transfer of the sample to the center of the purification material without the pipet tip touching the purification material. Sample dispensed along the walls of the clean-up column may bypass the purification material. Use a single channel pipette and/or position the tip directly above the spin column/plate while dispensing at low speed.
Ethanol concentration is too high during ethanol precipitation. This leads to unincorporated dye terminators and salts precipitating with the sequencing product.	Repeat procedure with correct ethanol concentration.



Possible cause	Recommended action
Incorrect ratio of BigDye XTerminator™ reagents.	Vortex the BigDye XTerminator™ Solution bulk container at maximum speed for at least 10 seconds before dispensing. Use wide bore tips when pipetting Xterminator solution. If you pre-mix the SAM/BDX solution, ensure that the solution is well mixed before each sample well dispense step to maintain the appropriate ratio of reagents.
Insufficient mixing during the vortexing step when using the BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit.	Verify that the plate is firmly attached to the vortexer. Follow the protocol for vortexing. See <i>BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit Quick Reference Card</i> (Pub. No. 4383427) for recommended vortexers.

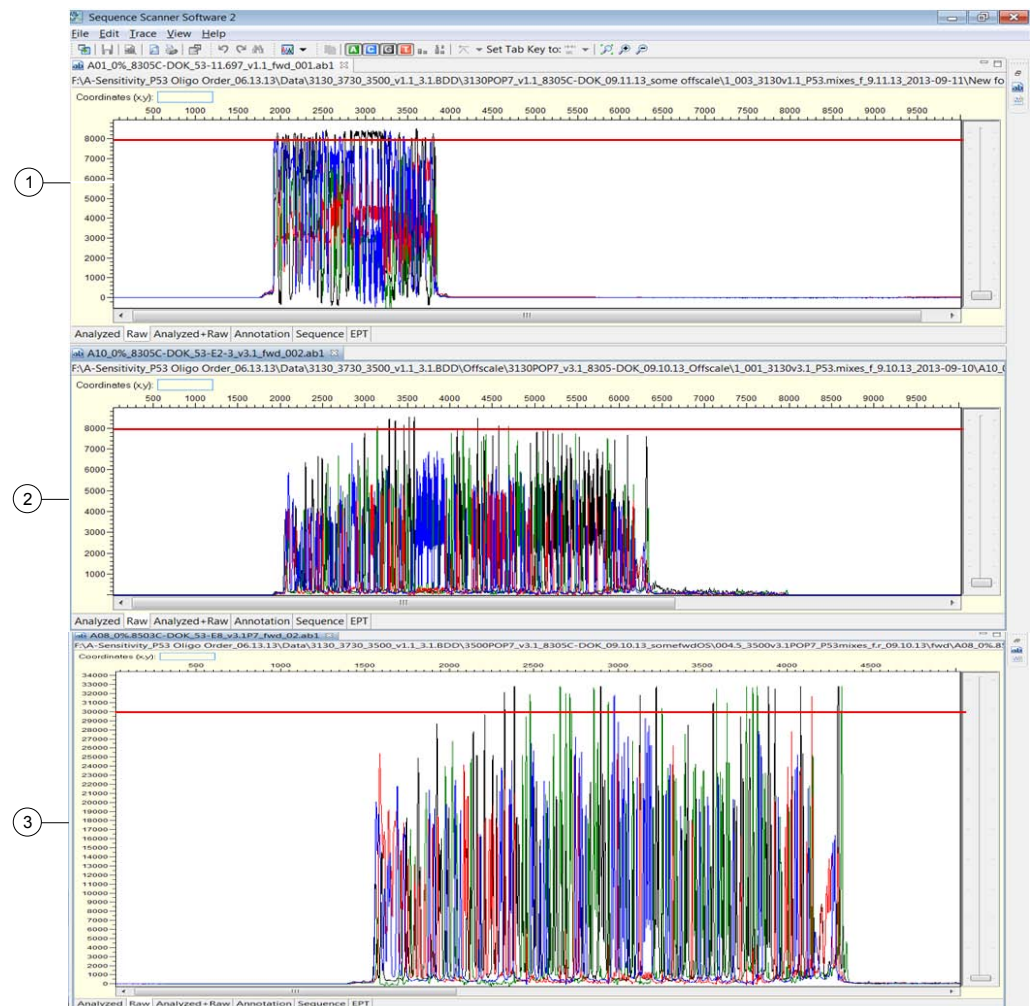
## Signal saturation

High sample signal causes saturation of the CCD camera. Signal saturation causes pull-up spectral peaks that cannot be corrected by spectral calibration. Extreme signal saturation will appear as mixed sequence.

**Note:** The 3500 Data collection software flags .ab1 files with off-scale peaks. You must manually check for off-scale peaks from data generated with the 310 Genetic Analyzer, the 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer or the 3730/3730xl DNA Analyzer platforms.

### Examples of signal saturation

The following figure shows examples of signal saturation. The red line indicates the maximum raw signal recommended.

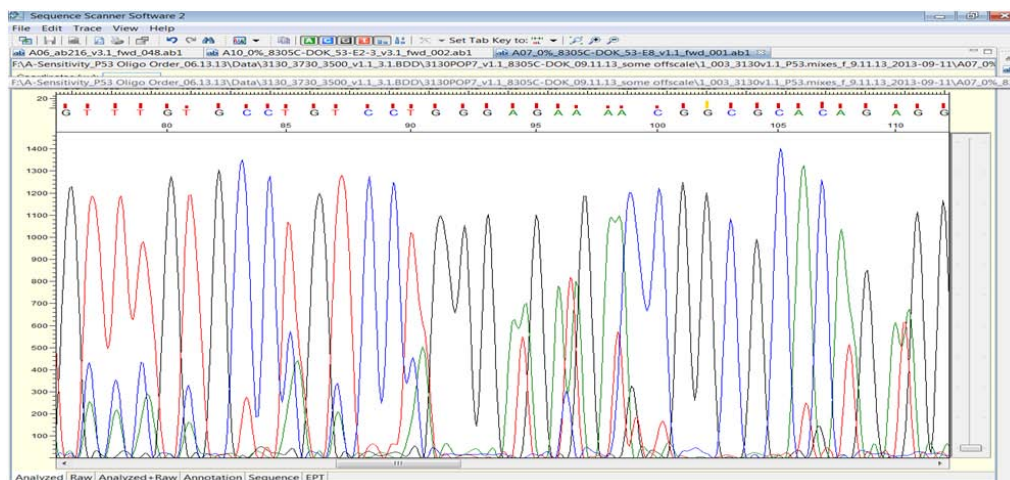


**Figure 6** Signal saturation – Raw data view

- ① Severe signal saturation on a 3130 Genetic Analyzer
- ② Minor signal saturation on a 3130 Genetic Analyzer
- ③ Minor signal saturation on a 3500 Genetic Analyzer



## Example of extreme signal saturation



Mixed sequence in the Analyzed view. Mixed sequence can be due to extreme signal saturation caused by pull-up peaks. A quick review of the raw data can help diagnose a scenario such as this; the raw data view of the analyzed sample shown here is shown in the top panel in Figure 6.

## Signal saturation: possible causes and recommended actions

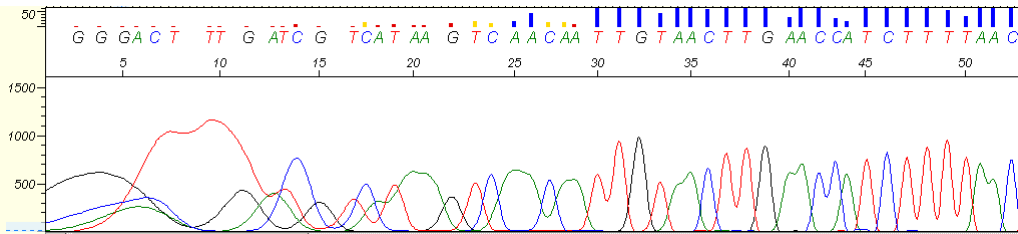
Possible cause	Recommended action
Too much template was used in the sequencing reaction resulting in too much sequencing product.	If the sample has been on instrument <24 hours, reduce injection time in run module, then re-inject the sample.
	If the sample is purified with the BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit and has been on instrument <24 hours, carefully remove 10 µL of sample off the BigDye XTerminator™ beads in the plate, then add 10 µL of 0.1 mM EDTA to dilute the sample. Re-inject the sample using a standard run module (non-BigDye XTerminator™ module). Decrease the injection voltage and injection time to match the BDX run module.
	Repeat the sequencing reaction using less template.
Water was used as the injection solution.	Use Hi-Di™ Formamide or a 0.1 mM EDTA injection solution for samples. <b>Note:</b> Using water as an injection solution causes highly variable quantities of DNA to be injected, because there is no competition for the charged DNA/salts.



## Poor 5' sequencing quality

Although BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 and POP-7™ provide robust read lengths, properties of the dyes and polymer limit the ability to resolve the first 20–25-bp in sequences. If a reading close to the first base following the sequencing priming region is required, an alternative approach would be to try BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 in combination with POP-6™ polymer or using the BigDye™ Direct Cycle Sequencing Kit.

### Example of poor 5' sequencing quality



### Poor 5' sequencing quality causes and actions

Possible cause	Recommended action
This is normal within the first 35 bp when using POP-7™ polymer and BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 chemistry.	To obtain sequence close to the primer, the use of POP-6™ polymer and the BigDye™ Terminator v1.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit, or the BigDye™ Direct Cycle Sequencing Kit is recommended.
BigDye XTerminator™ purification reagents exposed to temperature over 25°C.	Keep BigDye XTerminator™ purification reagents on ice if working with reagents for more than 30 minutes.



# Select sequencing primers

## Primer considerations

The following factors can have a significant effect on the quality of the sequencing data obtained in dye terminator cycle sequencing reactions with this kit:

- Choice of sequencing primer sequence
- Approach to primer purification

These decisions are particularly important when sequencing is done on capillary electrophoresis systems where signal strength is critical. Some of the guidelines provided below are based on information that is general knowledge, while others are based on practical experience gained by our scientists.

## Primer guidelines

The method of primer purification and choice of M13 tailed- or non-tailed sequencing primers can have a significant effect on the ease of reaction set-up and the quality of the sequencing data obtained in dye terminator cycle sequencing reactions.

- HPLC-purification of all primers is recommended to minimize cycle sequencing noise and provide longer sequencing reads.
- M13 sequencing primers are highly recommended because they facilitate the sequencing workflow set-up when sequencing multiple PCR products and they reduce the loss of valuable 5' unresolvable bases. With the M13 sequencing primers, you make single forward and reverse reaction mixes instead of pipetting a sequencing master mix followed by transfer of the appropriate forward/reverse PCR primers to each individual sequencing reaction.

**Note:** The M13 forward or reverse sequence must be incorporated at the 5' end of the PCR primer in order to use the M13 sequencing primers.

## Optimize primer selection

Follow these guidelines to optimize primer selection:

- Primers should be at least 18 bases long to:
  - Ensure good hybridization
  - Minimize the chance of having a secondary hybridization site on the target DNA



- Avoid primers that have secondary structure or that can hybridize to form dimers.

Several computer programs for primer selection are available. These programs help identify potential secondary structure problems and determine if a secondary hybridization site exists on the target DNA.

- Avoid runs of an identical nucleotide, especially guanine, where runs of four or more Gs should be avoided.
- Keep the G–C content in the 30–80% range.
- For cycle sequencing, primers with melting temperatures ( $T_m$ ) above 45°C produce better results than primers with lower  $T_m$ s.
- For primers with a G–C content < 50%, it may be necessary to extend the primer sequence beyond 18 bases to keep the  $T_m$  > 45°C.

## Primer Designer™ Tool

Primer Designer™ Tool is a free online tool to search for the appropriate PCR/Sanger primer pair from a database of >650,000 pre-designed primer pairs for resequencing the human exome.

Go to: <http://www.thermofisher.com/primerdesigner> for more information, including a direct link to purchase the designed primers online.

Primers ordered through the tool are free of known SNPs and primer-dimers, highly target-specific, and used under universal PCR conditions. Primers can be ordered unmodified, M13-tailed, HPLC-purified or desalted. The primers are checked by mass spectrometry and strict bioinformatics metrics, with bench validation showing a >95% success rate.



# Partial sequence of pGEM<sup>TM</sup>-3Zf(+)

TGTAACGACGGCCAGT (-21 M13 forward primer)				
GAATTGTAAT	ACGACTCACT	ATAGGGCGAA	TTCGAGCTCG	40
GTACCCGGGG	ATCCTCTAGA	GTCGACCTGC	AGGCATGCAA	80
GCTTGAGTAT	TCTATAGTGT	CACCTAAATA	GCTTGCGTA	120
ATCATGGTCA	TAGCTGTTTC	CTGTGTGAAA	TTGTTATCCG	160
CTCACAATTC	CACACAACAT	ACGAGCCGGA	AGCATAAAGT	200
GTAAAGCCTG	GGGTGCCTAA	TGAGTGAGCT	AACTCACATT	240
AATTGCGTTG	CGCTCACTGC	CCGCTTTCCA	GTCGGGAAAC	280
CTGTCGTGCC	AGCTGCATTA	ATGAATCGGC	CAACGCGCGG	320
GGAGAGGCGG	TTTGCCTATT	GGGCGCTCTT	CCGCTTCCTC	360
GCTCACTGAC	TCGCTGCGCT	CGGTCGTTCC	GCTGCGGCGA	400
GCGGTATCAG	CTCACTCAAA	GGCGGTAATA	CGGTTATCCA	440
CAGAATCAGG	GGATAACGCA	GGAAAGAACA	TGTGAGCAAA	480
AGGCCAGCAA	AAGGCCAGGA	ACCGTAAAAA	GGCCGCGTTG	520
CTGGCGTTTT	TCCATAGGCT	CCGCCCCCCT	GACGAGCATC	560
ACAAAAATCG	ACGCTCAAGT	CAGAGGTGGC	GAAACCCGAC	600
AGGACTATAA	AGATACCAGG	CGTTTCCCCC	TGGAAGCTCC	640
CTCGTGCGCT	CTCCTGTTCC	GACCCTGCCG	CTTACCGGAT	680
ACCTGTCCGC	CTTTCTCCCT	TCGGGAAGCG	TGGCGCTTTC	720
TCATAGCTCA	CGCTGTAGGT	ATCTCAGTTC	GGTGTAGGTC	760
GTTGCTCCA	AGCTGGGCTG	TGTGCACGAA	CCCCCGTTTC	800
AGCCCGACCG	CTGCGCCTTA	TCCGGTAACT	ATCGTCTTGA	840
GTCCAACCCG	GTAAGACACG	ACTATCGCC	ACTGGCAGCA	880
GCCACTGGTA	ACAGGATTAG	CAGAGCGAGG	TATGTAGGCG	920
GTGCTACAGA	GTTCTTGAAG	TGGTGGCCTA	ACTACGGCTA	960
CACTAGAAGG	ACAGTATTTG	GTATCTGCGC	TCTGCTGAAG	1000



# Safety



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**WARNING! GENERAL SAFETY.** Using this product in a manner not specified in the user documentation may result in personal injury or damage to the instrument or device. Ensure that anyone using this product has received instructions in general safety practices for laboratories and the safety information provided in this document.

- Before using an instrument or device, read and understand the safety information provided in the user documentation provided by the manufacturer of the instrument or device.
  - Before handling chemicals, read and understand all applicable Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection, etc). To obtain SDSs, see the “Documentation and Support” section in this document.
-

## Chemical safety



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**WARNING! GENERAL CHEMICAL HANDLING.** To minimize hazards, ensure laboratory personnel read and practice the general safety guidelines for chemical usage, storage, and waste provided below, and consult the relevant SDS for specific precautions and instructions:

- Read and understand the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) provided by the chemical manufacturer before you store, handle, or work with any chemicals or hazardous materials. To obtain SDSs, see the “Documentation and Support” section in this document.
  - Minimize contact with chemicals. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when handling chemicals (for example, safety glasses, gloves, or protective clothing).
  - Minimize the inhalation of chemicals. Do not leave chemical containers open. Use only with adequate ventilation (for example, fume hood).
  - Check regularly for chemical leaks or spills. If a leak or spill occurs, follow the manufacturer's cleanup procedures as recommended in the SDS.
  - Handle chemical wastes in a fume hood.
  - Ensure use of primary and secondary waste containers. (A primary waste container holds the immediate waste. A secondary container contains spills or leaks from the primary container. Both containers must be compatible with the waste material and meet federal, state, and local requirements for container storage.)
  - After emptying a waste container, seal it with the cap provided.
  - Characterize (by analysis if necessary) the waste generated by the particular applications, reagents, and substrates used in your laboratory.
  - Ensure that the waste is stored, transferred, transported, and disposed of according to all local, state/provincial, and/or national regulations.
  - **IMPORTANT!** Radioactive or biohazardous materials may require special handling, and disposal limitations may apply.
-

## Biological hazard safety



**WARNING! BIOHAZARD.** Biological samples such as tissues, body fluids, infectious agents, and blood of humans and other animals have the potential to transmit infectious diseases. All work should be conducted in properly equipped facilities using the appropriate safety equipment (for example, physical containment devices). Safety equipment also may include items for personal protection, such as gloves, coats, gowns, shoe covers, boots, respirators, face shields, safety glasses, or goggles. Individuals should be trained according to applicable regulatory and company/ institution requirements before working with potentially biohazardous materials. Follow all applicable local, state/provincial, and/or national regulations. The following references provide general guidelines when handling biological samples in laboratory environment.

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)*, 5th Edition, HHS Publication No. (CDC) 21-1112, Revised December 2009; found at:  
[www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/BMBL.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/BMBL.pdf)
- World Health Organization, *Laboratory Biosafety Manual*, 3rd Edition, WHO/CDS/CSR/LYO/2004.11; found at:  
[www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/Biosafety7.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/Biosafety7.pdf)



# Documentation and support

## Related documentation

Document	Publication number	Description
<i>DNA Sequencing by Capillary Electrophoresis Chemistry Guide</i>	4305080	This chemistry guide is designed to familiarize you with Applied Biosystems™ genetic analyzers for automated DNA sequencing by capillary electrophoresis, to provide useful tips for ensuring that you obtain high-quality data, and to help troubleshoot common problems.
<i>Generating high-quality data using the BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit</i>	MAN0014628	This user bulletin provides guidance for generating high-quality data using the <i>BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit User Guide</i> for analysis with Minor Variant Finder Software.
<i>Troubleshooting Sanger sequencing data</i>	MAN0014435	This document provides guidance for the review of your data and troubleshooting tips for improving sequencing data quality.
<i>BigDye XTerminator™ Purification Kit Protocol</i>	4374408	Describes protocols for BigDye XTerminator™ purification
<i>310 Genetic Analyzer Manual for Windows™</i>	4317588	This manual provides instructions for the set-up, operation, and maintenance of the 310 Genetic Analyzer. It also provides the instructions for setting up the Data Collection software for a run and contains additional information for instrument troubleshooting.
<i>Applied Biosystems™ 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzers Getting Started Guide</i>	4477796	This manual provides instructions for the set-up and operation of the 3130/3130xl Genetic Analyzer. It provides the instructions for setting up the Data Collection software, autoanalysis, monitoring and viewing data for a run.

Document	Publication number	Description
<i>3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer with 3500 Series Data Collection Software 3.1 User Guide</i>	100031809	This manual provides instructions for the set-up, operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of the 3500/3500xL Genetic Analyzer. It also provides the instructions for setting up the Data Collection software, analysis, monitoring and viewing data for a run.
<i>User Guide: Applied Biosystems™ 3730/3730xL DNA Analyzer</i>	4331468	This manual provides instructions for the set-up and operation of the 3730xL DNA Analyzer. It provides the instructions for setting up the Data Collection software, autoanalysis, monitoring and viewing data for a run.

Portable document format (PDF) versions of this guide and the documents listed above are available at **thermofisher.com**.

## Customer and technical support

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- Worldwide contact telephone numbers
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  - Product FAQs
  - Software, patches, and updates
- Order and web support
- Product documentation, including:
  - User guides, manuals, and protocols
  - Certificates of Analysis
  - Safety Data Sheets (SDSs; also known as MSDSs)

**Note:** For SDSs for reagents and chemicals from other manufacturers, contact the manufacturer.

## Limited product warranty

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