

Genome Enrichment of Rare, Unknown Species from Complicated Microbiome by Nanopore Selective Sequencing

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1 Abstract

2 Rare species are vital members of a microbial community, but retrieving their genomes
3 is difficult due to their low abundance. The ReadUntil (RU) approach allows nanopore
4 devices to sequence specific DNA molecules selectively in real-time, which provides an
5 opportunity for enriching rare species. However, there is still a gap in RU-based
6 enriching of rare and unknown species in environmental samples whose community
7 composition is unclear, and many species lack corresponding reference in public
8 databases. Here we present metaRUpore to overcome this challenge. We applied
9 metaRUpore to a thermophilic anaerobic digester (TAD) community, it successfully
10 redirected the sequencing throughput from high-abundance populations to rare species
11 while facilitating the recovery of 41 high-quality metagenome-assembled genomes
12 (MAGs) at low sequencing effort. The simplicity and robustness of the approach make
13 it accessible for labs with moderate computational resources and hold the potential to
14 become the standard practice in future metagenomic sequencing of complicated
15 microbiomes.

16 1 Introduction

17 Microbial communities are composed of a high number of rare species¹. Rare species
18 play a vital role in ecosystem health and stability². For example, the slow-growing
19 autotrophic microbes of ammonia-oxidizing bacteria or archaea (AOB/AOA) and
20 anammox enable the rate-limiting step for natural nitrogen turnover^{3,4}. Therefore,
21 identifying the functional capacities of these rare species is essential to understanding
22 the community dynamics and ecological function of a natural microbiome^{2,3}.

23

24 The recovery of draft genomes (referred to as metagenome-assembled genomes, MAGs)

25 from high-throughput metagenomic whole-genome sequencing (hereafter short as
26 metagenomic) datasets ushered in a new era for understanding the ecological and
27 evolutionary traits of the unculturable majority of natural microbiomes. However, high-
28 quality (HQ, usually defined as >90% completeness with <5% contamination and the
29 intact rRNA operon⁴⁴) MAGs recovery for low abundant species is always difficult. In
30 metagenomic sequencing, the low-abundance microorganisms are often missed or
31 simply neglected due to low sequencing coverage. To get sufficient genome coverage of
32 low-abundance species, extremely deep sequencing will be required. It would be a great
33 waste if the study aims were to focus on rare species. Things can become more
34 intractable during the data analyses that recovering the unknown genomes from
35 hundreds of gigabytes to terabytes of data is a massive computational challenge⁴.

36

37 To raise coverage of rare taxa from a high-abundance background, molecular biology-
38 based methods including hybrid capture or CRISPR-Cas9 enrichment are adapted in
39 library preparation to enrich target^{5,6}. On the other hand, depletion of high abundance
40 species may serve the same purpose. Saponin-based host DNA depletion in human
41 metagenomic communities is used for rapid clinical diagnosis of relatively low
42 abundance pathogenic bacteria⁷. What is evident, however, is that these approaches
43 require the use of extra reagents and preparatory procedures. This is compounded by the
44 fact that they require known information about the enrichment or depletion targets in
45 order to design the experiment, which does not appear to work for enriching low
46 abundance species in metagenomic communities with unknown compositions.

47

48 Unlike the endeavors made prior to sequencing, Nanopore sequencing (Oxford
49 Nanopore Technology, ONT) users can program their system to reverse the voltage
50 polarity of the sequencing pore to eject reads identified as not of interest, which provides
51 a potential solution to enrich for rare species in metagenomic samples. This ‘selective
52 sequencing’ or Read Until (RU) strategy was first implemented by Loose and colleagues
53 in 2016⁸. The earliest adopted dynamic time warp (DTW) algorithm-based approach
54 could not scale to references larger than millions of bases, which limits its widespread

55 usage⁸. With the similar goal of mapping streaming raw signal to DNA reference,
56 UNCALLED has a lighter computational footprint than DTW⁹. Still, it requires abundant
57 computational resources. The newly designed Readfish toolkit eliminates the need for
58 complex signal mapping algorithms, and exploits existing ONT tools to provide a robust
59 toolkit for designing and controlling selective sequencing experiments¹⁰. Until now, the
60 application of RU is principally limited to the elimination of known host species^{9, 10, 11}
61 or the enrichment of known targets such as mitogenomes of blood-feeding insects^{12, 13}.

62

63 By ejecting dominant species while accepting low-abundance species, selective
64 sequencing provides a potential solution to enrich rare species in metagenomic samples.
65 Nonetheless, enrichment for low abundance species in real metagenomic samples by
66 selective sequencing remains challenging because the community composition is never
67 known, and a large proportion of the species lacks a corresponding reference in public
68 databases. To specifically address such metagenomic-issue and to realize effective
69 targeted enrichment of rare species within a complicated environment microbiome, here
70 we introduced metaRUpore, a protocol consisting of know-how for configuring selective
71 nanopore sequencing and necessary bioinformatic scripts to achieve efficient enrichment
72 of rare species within a complicated environment microbiome. We initially assessed the
73 efficacy of enriching low abundance species in a mock community. Based on this
74 evaluation, we elaborated the principles and processes of metaRUpore and applied it to
75 a thermophilic anaerobic digester (TAD) community that was treating waste sludge of a
76 domestic wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Meanwhile, we demonstrate a robust and
77 effective procedure for assembling and binning HQ-MAGs from RU-based nanopore
78 datasets. And an archaeal HQ-MAG retrieved from the TAD community revealed a giant
79 (112Kbp) function-related genomic island, extending the evolutionary traits of the
80 important *Bathyarchaeota* phylum.

81 **2 Results**

82 ***H. mediterranei* enrichment in a mock community**

83 To evaluate nanopore performance on enriching low abundance species with RU, we
84 firstly constructed a mock community. The *Haloferax mediterranei* strain which
85 accounts for 1% of the mock community, was the target of our enrichment, while the
86 other seven bacteria species were targets to be depleted during the RU run. In the mock
87 run, a MinION flow cell was configured into two parts, where the first half of the
88 channels did selective sequencing, and the other half did normal sequencing as a control.
89 In the RU channels, the reads were basecalled and then mapped to a 33-M reference
90 which contained all these eight microorganisms when they are being sequenced. A DNA
91 molecule would be firstly sequenced for 0.4s before the obtained sequence was aligned
92 to decide it should be sequenced continually or ejected. The average length of rejected
93 reads was 537 bases, it demonstrated that the entire process of basecalling, mapping, and
94 rejection decision could be completed in about 1.3s, based on the average nanopore
95 sequencing speed of 400bp/s with R9.4.1 chemistry¹⁰. In the RU-delivered dataset, >99.9%
96 of archaeal reads were kept while >99% of bacterial reads were ejected. *H. mediterranei*
97 got enriched to the absolute dominant population within the community with a relative
98 abundance of 62% in kept reads (Fig. 1a) with the coverage increased twice to 21.19×
99 in RU data (Fig. 1b).

100

101 Despite the high rejection precision and fairly ideal enrichment result, it must be noted
102 that the total yield of selective sequencing was approximately 60% lower than that of
103 normal sequencing (Fig. 1c). This reduction in throughput can be partly attributed to the
104 increased idle time of each nanopore caused by a large number of ejections⁹. At an
105 enriched target prevalence of 1% within a community, each nanopore ejected an average
106 of 2,430 short fragments while 267 continuous long fragments were sequenced in a 7-
107 hour run. In addition, a rapid drop in active channels happened after 1-hour sequencing in
108 RU channels (Fig. 1 d and Supplementary Fig. 1) and the effective pore got depleted

109 after 6-hour runtime which was 4 times shorter than normal run whose pores could
110 normally last for 24 hours (Fig. 1d). Consequently, it's critical to establish an appropriate
111 target proportion for selective sequencing to achieve the best tradeoff between
112 enrichment effectiveness and throughput loss. Fortunately, increasing sequencing effort
113 could easily compensate for the RU-induced per flow cell throughput loss.

114 **In situ Metagenomic selective sequencing protocol and**
115 **performance**

116 We introduced a pipeline, MetaRUpore (<https://github.com/sustc-xylab/metaRUpore>),
117 to selectively sequence rare populations in complex microbiome samples. The protocol
118 consists of three consecutive steps (Fig. 2a): (1) 1h normal sequencing to obtain an
119 overall picture of the community structure and the genomic profile of the dominant
120 populations, (2) bioinformatics analysis to determine the reference and target dataset for
121 optimized RU configuration, and (3) finally a 40h selective sequencing for enriching
122 rare populations in the sample. The pore control of the nanopore device was
123 implemented by Readfish¹⁰ which combines Guppy with minimap2¹⁴ to determine the
124 eject/keep action for a pore.

125
126 Here we show our results in applying the metaRUpore protocol to facilitate the genome
127 recovery of rare populations within the TAD community, which consists of 2,977 OTUs
128 with a Shannon index of 8.74, representing a typical diversity level of bioreactor systems
129 (Supplementary Fig. 2). Rarefaction analysis demonstrated that the reads sequenced in
130 the first 1 h normal sequencing already cover 90% of the overall diversity in the TAD
131 community (Supplementary Fig. 5). Among the 125,606 reads sequenced, 66% of them
132 could be assigned to a known reference by Centrifuge¹⁵. All of these classified reads
133 obtained in the first 1 h run were set as the target for ejection in subsequent RU run as it
134 mostly consisted of the known and abundant populations within the community. Notably,
135 using whole-genome sequences from close species (same family or genus) as the
136 reference for RU run will result in poor performance in ejecting the dominant

137 populations because environmental microbiomes typically contain a high proportion of
138 genetic fragments that are distinct from all the sequences deposited in whole-genome
139 collections. In fact, even with the entire bacterial whole genome collection set as the
140 ejection target, only an ejection efficiency of 22% was achieved in RU sequencing of
141 the TAD community, leaving the community profile largely unchanged after selective
142 sequencing. Another thing to note is that the classified reads obtained in the firstly 1h
143 normal sequencing, inevitably contain genomic fragments from the rare and unknown
144 populations we intend to enrich, which will result in incomplete genome coverage of
145 rare populations in the sequences obtained in the RU channels. Therefore, a small
146 fraction of the channels still needed to be set to normal sequencing in the subsequent 40h
147 RU run and the delivered dataset needs to be assembled together with the RU-derived
148 datasets. For our RU-sequencing of the TAD community, we set 1/8 channels to normal
149 sequencing (--channels 1 448) (Fig. 2b). Our subsequent data analysis revealed that 29
150 HQ-MAGs would be missed if reads derived from selective sequencing were assembled
151 alone. To further manipulate the selection, the users can manually select which taxa to
152 keep during subsequent RU run; reads belonging to these taxa will be subtracted from
153 the target dataset based on their taxonomic affiliations determined by ARGpore2¹⁶. For
154 example, in our TAD community, we intended to keep all the archaea reads, so we
155 eliminated them from the ejection target datasets. The entire aforementioned
156 bioinformatic analysis can be completed in less than 30 min, such short suspension will
157 not affect the flow cell chemistry and the subsequent RU run may directly start without
158 refreshing the sequencing library.

159
160 The 40h RU run on one flow cell delivered 6.84 Gbp of effective long reads with an
161 average read length of 3.46 kbp, while the normal sequencing channels produced 1.71
162 Gbp reads with an average read length of 3.60 kbp (Supplementary Fig. 3). To ensure
163 adequate genome coverage, we sequenced the TAD community following metaRUpore
164 protocol using three flow cells one by one on GridION X5. Given the concern to exhaust
165 computation capacity on GridION X5, we did not test RU run with multiple flow cells
166 sequenced simultaneously. RU sequencing using metaRUpore protocol resulted in a

167 marked change in the community structure. As shown in the 3D density plot of
168 phylogeny distribution of the overall TAD community (Fig. 3a), several density peaks
169 of the original TAD community were depleted in the RU-run delivered datasets,
170 indicating DNA of the high abundance populations of the TAD community was
171 effectively ejected during RU-sequencing and the community got homogeneous with
172 coverage of different populations become much more unified. Such unified coverage of
173 different populations will help to minify the disparity of kmer frequency in the dataset,
174 preventing kmers of the rare species from being filtered out as error-containing kmers
175 due to coverage drop during the kmer-counting step of a *de novo* assembly algorithm¹⁷,
176 ¹⁸.

177 **Bioinformatics pipeline for *de novo* metagenomic assembly 178 and genome recovery**

179 As illustrated in the assembly pipeline (Fig. 2c), the 31G data consisting of RU and
180 normal sequencing were assembled together respectively using three different
181 assemblers, namely Canu¹⁹, Unicycler²⁰, and metaFlye²¹. The basic statistics of
182 assembled contigs were summarized in Supplementary Table 1. To improve the
183 robustness of the binning, 139 > 1Mbp contigs were firstly picked, as the candidate of
184 HQ genome²². The rest shorter contigs derived by the three assemblers were respectively
185 binned by MetaBAT2²³. Only contigs longer than 100 kbp were kept for subsequent
186 binning. The MAGs retrieved above were subject to consensus correction by Medaka
187 with nanopore data and polished by Pilon²⁴ with Illumina short reads (SRs). Next,
188 polished MAGs were further corrected for frame-shift errors using MEGAN-LR²² based
189 on DIAMOND alignment against the *nr* database. Finally, MAGs obtained by the
190 different assemblers were de-duplicated using dRep²⁵ with a relatedness threshold of
191 ANI > 0.95 to obtain species-level representative MAGs. Totally, we obtained 46 draft-
192 quality MAGs after dereplication. Among them, 41 MAGs including 6 complete circular
193 genomes were high-quality (HQ) (Supplementary Fig. 8 and Supplementary Table 2).
194 32 of these HQ MAGs were firstly picked single >1Mbp contigs, while the remaining

195 15 HQ MAGs were obtained by binning. All of these MAGs contained less than 13
196 contigs with an average N50 > 2 Mbp, demonstrating that they are highly continuous. In
197 comparison, the normal nanopore sequencing dataset yielded 29 draft-quality MAGs,
198 including 16 HQ MAGs. 15 of them were included in the 41 HQ MAGs retrieved by
199 metaRUpore strategy (Supplementary Fig. 8). Worth noting is that the 26 HQ MAGs
200 that are additionally obtained by RU-based selective sequencing were mainly from the
201 rare populations of the TAD community (Fig. 3b). Additionally, evident coverage
202 reduction was observed in the dominant populations that the coverage of MAG17,
203 MAG4, and MAG30, which together accounted for 21% of the TAD community,
204 dramatically reduced by 78% after RU-based selective sequencing (Fig. 3b and
205 Supplementary Table 3), demonstrating the effectiveness of metaRUpore protocol in
206 eliminating dominant populations during sequencing. Despite the lowered overall
207 throughput, coverage of the rare species MAG33, MAG35, MAG57, and MAG56 was
208 doubled at the current sequencing effort and the application of the metaRUpore protocol
209 has reduced the abundance limit for HQ-MAG recovery in the TAD community to 0.7%.
210 It could be expected that by using additional flow cells, HQ-MAGs could be obtained
211 for populations with even lower prevalence.

212

213 **3 Discussion**

214 **Complete genomes recovered from TAD community**

215 The 41 HQ MAGs introduce 5 new phyla, namely *WOR-3*, *OLB16*, *Omnitrophota*,
216 *Gemmatimonadota*, and *Deferrribacterota*, into the global HQ genome collection of AD
217 microbiome²⁶ (Fig. 4). Furthermore, our MAGs show much better integrity and
218 continuity than those in the previous collection assembled with SRs in terms of N50,
219 number of contigs as well as intact rRNA operon. Additionally, evolutional traits
220 analysis reveals a much more conservative scale of gene flow based on HQ genomes we
221 assembled than that based on fragmented MAGs²⁷ (Supplementary Fig. 9) .

222

223 **Versatile metabolic capacities of *Bathyarchaeota* phylum in**
224 **TAD community**

225 *Bathyarchaeota* was recently recognized as a methanogenesis contributor²⁸ that may
226 play active roles in global biogeochemical cycles³¹. However, the absence of pure
227 cultures of the phyla has hampered our understanding of their ecological functions and
228 evolutionary positions from a genome-centric perspective^{29,30}. Genomes reported for this
229 phylum so far are highly fragmented (Fig 5a). In this work, MetaRUpore has boosted
230 the abundance of *Bathyarchaeota* in the TAD community from 0.19% to 0.32%,
231 facilitating its genome recovery as MAG56, which to the best of our knowledge, is the
232 first complete genome for this phylum. MAG56 represented a novel *Bathyarchaeota*
233 lineage with the closest neighbor being Bathy-5 (Fig 5b). The genome size of MAG56
234 is 1.9Mbp, notably larger than the average size of previously assembled genomes of
235 *Bathyarchaeota* phylum (1.23Mbp)^{29,30,31}. *Bathyarchaeota* was previously proposed to
236 have methyl-dependent hydrogenotrophic methanogenic potential^{28,32} as MAGs
237 recovered from deep aquifers³⁴ possess an MCR-like complex. However, no MCR
238 homology could be detected in MAG56. Given the complete nature of the genome
239 obtained in this study, a functioning methanogenic pathway in the TAD community
240 lineage of *Bathyarchaeota* seemed implausible.

241

242 Remarkably, we found three genomic islands (GIs) (Fig 5a) in MAG56 with the largest
243 being 36 kbp in length. These GIs were always missing in previously genomes
244 assembled by short reads due to the defective resolving of repetitive fragments flanking
245 the exogenous genetic island^{33,34}. In the largest GIs of 36 Kbp, we identified six copies
246 of Tyrosine recombinase (*xerA*, *xerC*, or *xerD*), which had previously been reported to
247 facilitate the insertion of gene islands into the host chromosome by catalyzing site-
248 specific, energy-independent DNA recombination^{34,36}. Additionally, we identified a heat
249 shock protein, *HtpX*, that may contribute to the heat shock response facilitating the cell's

250 survival in a thermophilic environment. Collectively, this GI represents a highly mobile
251 fitness island³³ that offers selective advantages for the archaeal population within the
252 thermophilic digester community. And the recovery of complete MAGs by metaRUpore
253 undoubtedly enabled the discovery of the role of large GIs in shaping *Bathyarchaeota*'s
254 evolution.

255

256 Overall, we proposed metaRUpore, a method for enriching low-abundance and
257 undiscovered microorganisms in complex microbial communities based on nanopore
258 selective sequencing. The heuristic ejecting targets determined through initial short-term
259 *de novo* sequencing of the dominant populations, overcome the constraints imposed by
260 the absence of reference genomes for selective sequencing of complex communities.
261 metaRUpore unifies the sequenced community structure and increases the genome
262 coverage of low-abundance species, facilitating the assembly of additional HQ genomes
263 of rare species within the microbiota. HQ MAGs retrieved from the TAD community by
264 metaRUpore contribute to the building of a more comprehensive database of AD-
265 associated microbes, which will ultimately allow for an in-depth understanding of their
266 biological characteristics. More importantly, metaRUpore protocol is robust and requires
267 minimal modification to the experimental procedure of nanopore library construction
268 and sequencing, making it easily applicable to metagenomic investigations of other
269 environmental microbiomes. Even though selective sequencing for the rare sphere is
270 inevitably associated with a reduction in per-flow cell data yield. Future implementation
271 of the RU API on PromethION will easily provide a throughput boost, overcoming the
272 coverage barrier and enabling complete genome recovery of rare species with even lower
273 abundance from complex microbiomes using the metaRUpore protocol.

274 4 Methods

275 Sampling and DNA extraction

276 Genomic DNA of the eight microorganisms of the mock community was extracted by QIAamp DNA
277 Micro Kit (50). Samples for TAD community were taken when the methanogenic bacteria were at
278 their highest activity. Genomic DNA of the TAD community samples was extracted by QIAGEN
279 DNeasyR PowerSoilR Kit (100). DNA concentration was determined using the Life Technologies

280 Qubit high sensitivity assay kits. The quality of the DNA was measured by Thermo Scientific™
281 NanoDrop™ to assure that it all met the requirements for library construction.

282

283 **Construction of the synthetic mocks**

284 We synthesized a mock community of eight microorganisms, of which Archaea accounted for 1%
285 and the other seven bacteria species shared the rest equally based on DNA concentration determined
286 from qubit average measurements. The archaeal species is *Haloferax mediterranei* and these seven
287 bacteria are *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella*
288 *pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Serratia marcescens*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

289

290 **Library construction and Sequencing**

291 All sequencing libraries were constructed using the ONT Ligation Sequencing Kit (no. SQK-LSK109)
292 according to the manufacturer's instructions. When preparing the reactor sample libraries, in order to
293 remove as many very short DNA fragments as possible, 0.4X beads was used for each step of the
294 cleanup, and therefore the initial amount of genomic DNA was increased to 2ug to ensure a sufficient
295 amount of DNA of the final library. ONT MinION flowcells v.R9.4.1 were used for all sequencing
296 on an ONT GridION.

297

298 **Selective sequencing via metaRUpore**

299 The execution of metaRUpore to enrich for unknown low abundance taxa is divided into the
300 following three steps: firstly, a period (in this case 60 min) of normal sequencing is performed to
301 generate reference file for selective sequencing using Readfish¹⁰ which should contain the vast
302 majority of taxa in the community. Next, the sequenced data is fed into metaRUpore to obtain the
303 reference and target needed to configure Readfish TOML for selective sequencing. During this time,
304 it is advisable to keep the MinION flowcell with the DNA library in a 4°C refrigerator to avoid the
305 loss of activity of the nanopores affecting the subsequent sequencing. We put the reference and target
306 paths into the TOML file and set config_name = "dna_r9.4.1_450bps_fast", single_on = unblock,
307 multi_on = unblock, single_off = stop_receiving, multi_off = stop_receiving, no_seq = proceed,
308 no_map = proceed. As recommended by the author of Readfish, we deactivated adapter scaling by
309 editing the config files (dna_r9.4.1_450bps_fast.cfg) in the guppy data directory. Next, selective
310 sequencing was started. the configuration on MinKNOW was the same as for normal sequencing.
311 Readfish runs at the same time as the sequencing starts.

312

313 **Analysis of long-read sequence data**

314 Sequencing-derived fastq reads were performed adaptor trimming using Porechop ([GitHub -
315 trwick/Porechop](https://github.com/trwick/Porechop)) (version 0.2.2) with default settings. These reads were subsequently assembled by
316 the three tools: Canu¹⁹ (version 2.2, default setting except -nanopore, genomeSize=3m,
317 maxInputCoverage=10000, corOutCoverage=10000, corMhapSensitivity=high, corMinCoverage=0,
318 redMemory=32, oeaMemory=32, batMemory=200 useGrid=false), Unicycler²⁰ (version 0.4.9b,
319 default setting except -t 40, --keep 3) and Flye¹⁷ (version 2.8.3, default setting except --nano-raw, --
320 threads 50, --plasmids, --meta, --debug). Generated contigs that was at least 1Mbp in length were
321 regarded as potential whole-chromosome sequence. Among the remaining contigs that are less than
322 1Mbp, we did metagenomic binning for the contigs that are greater than 100kbp in length. Metabat2²¹

323 (version 2.12.1 with default setting) is used to respectively binning the contigs assembled by above
324 three assemblers.

325 Next, we took multiple steps to correct the >1Mbp potential chromosome and bins we obtained.
326 Firstly, we used nanopore data to perform consensus correction on them using Medaka ([GitHub -
327 nanoporetech/medaka](https://github.com/nanoporetech/medaka))(version 1.4.3, default setting except -t 20, -m r941_min_high_g360). They
328 were then further corrected with the short reads data using Pilon²³ (version 1.24 with default setting
329 except --fix all, --vcf). We used DIAMOND³⁵ (version 0.9.24) to align the Pilon polished potential
330 chromosome (with default settings except -f 100 -p 40 -v --log --long-reads -c1 -b12) against the
331 NCBI-NR database³⁸ (July 2021). We used daa-meganizer in MEGAN Community Edition suite³⁹
332 (version 6.21.7, run with default settings except --longReads, --lcaAlgorithm longReads, --
333 lcaCoveragePercent 51, --readAssignmentMode alignedBases) to format the .daa output file and
334 receive frame-shift corrected sequence with 'Export Frame-Shift Corrected Reads' option.

335 We checked the completeness and contamination of these potential genomes with CheckM⁴⁰ (version
336 v1.0.12, run with default setting except lineage_wf, -t 20). All the putative genomes were de-
337 replicated using the dRep²⁵ (version 3.2.2, run with default setting except -p 40 -sa 0.95 --genomeInfo)
338 to get species-level unique MAGs. Next, gene annotations were obtained using Prokka⁴¹ (version
339 1.13). Microbial taxonomic classifications were assigned using GTDB-Tk⁴² (version 1.3.0, GTDB-
340 Tk reference data version r89).

341

342 **Calculation of the abundance and assessment of the quality of MAG**

343 Abundance was calculated from both selective sequencing data and normal sequencing data, by
344 mapping these data to the MAGs using minimap2¹⁴ (version 2.17) separately using the following
345 flags -ax map-ont -t 40. We used samtools⁴³ (version 1.11) to extract .sam file that matched each
346 MAG individually. The abundance of each MAG is calculated by dividing the number of bases in all
347 reads in this .sam file by the total number of bases selectively sequenced or normally sequenced.
348 Analogously, sorted .bam files were used in the calculation of coverage of the MAGs.

349 We defined high-quality (HQ) MAGs as encoding multiple rRNA genes (23S/16S/5S), SCG-
350 completeness > 90% and contamination < 5%⁴⁴. Draft-quality (DQ) MAGs means MAGs having >
351 70% SCG-completeness, < 10% contamination, and the presence of 16S rRNA. While if a MAG
352 meets all of the DQ criteria but misses 16S rRNA were regarded as low-quality (LQ) genomes.

353

354

355 **Code availability**

356 The metaRUpore workflow is available on the GitHub page: [https://github.com/sustc-
xylab/metaRUpore](https://github.com/sustc-
357 xylab/metaRUpore).

358

359 **Availability of data and materials**

360 The raw nucleotide sequence data (both Illumina and Nanopore) used in the present study has
361 been deposited in the NCBI database under project ID PRJNA794848.

362

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370

371 **Conflict of interests**

372 The authors claim no conflict of interests.

373

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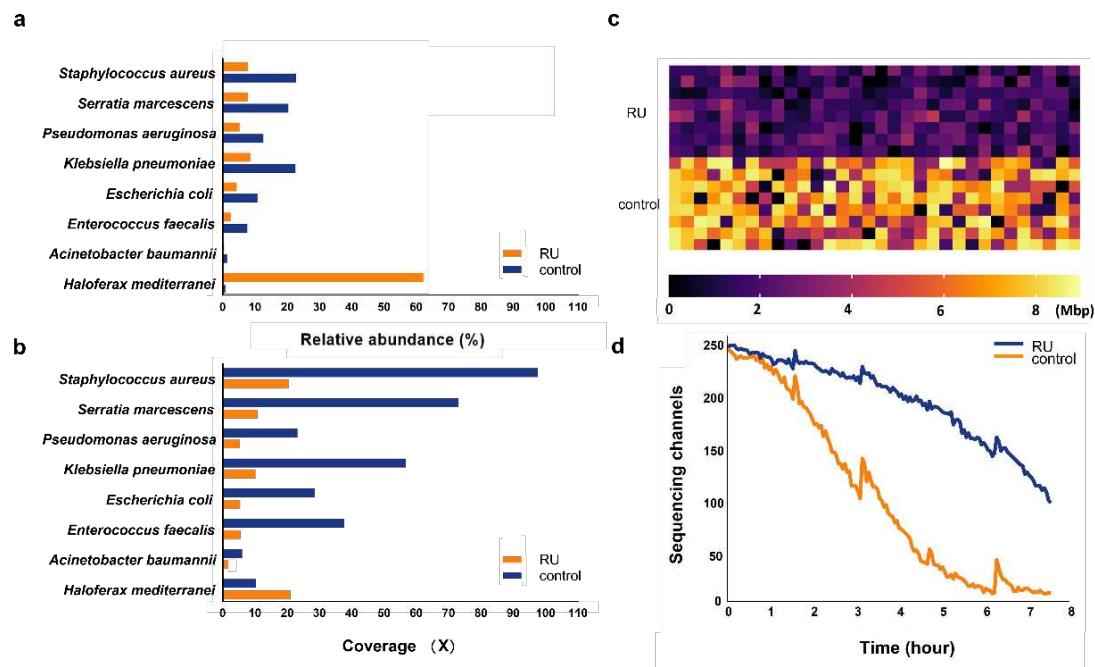
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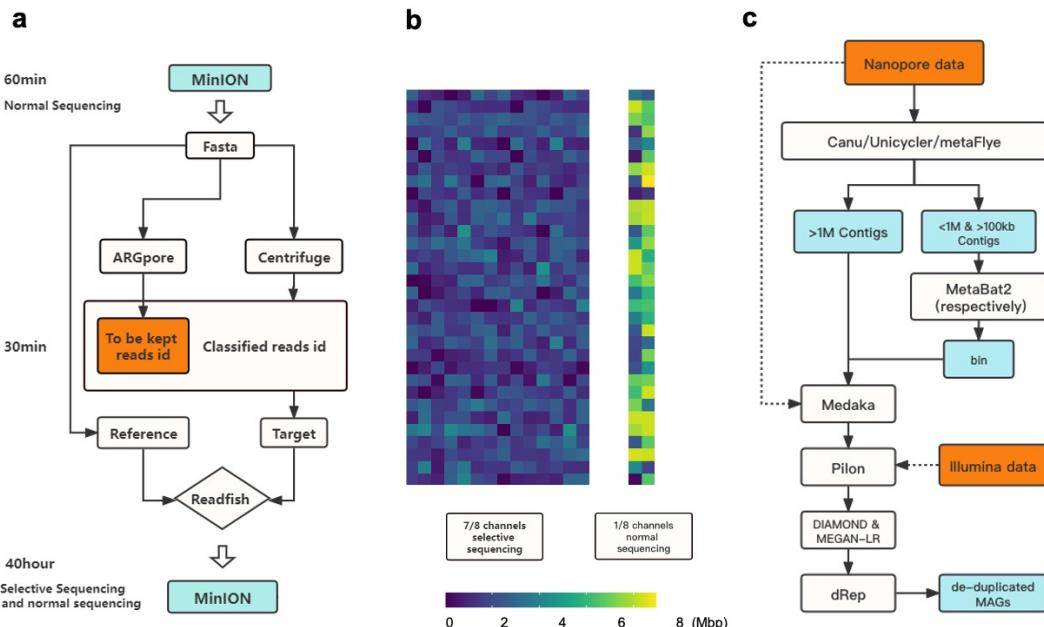
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484

485 **Fig. 1 Enriching low abundance species in mock community with RU.** **a**, Bar plot of the
486 abundance of the seven microbial species in RU and control runs. **b**, Bar plot of the coverage of the
487 seven microbial species' genome in RU and control runs. **c**, heatmap of data yield per channel in RU
488 and control runs, and **d**, plot of the number of sequencing channels over the course of the sequencing
489 run.

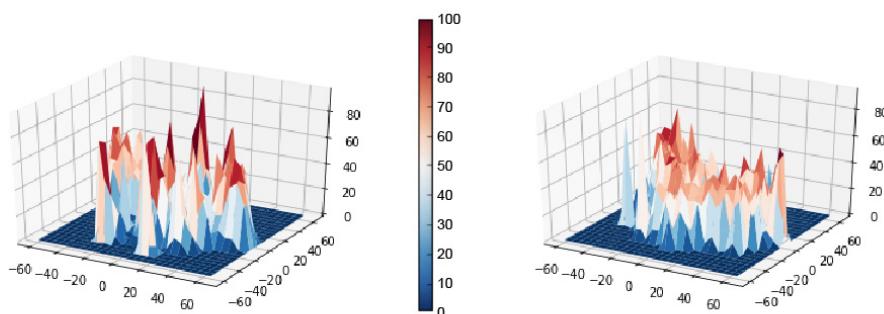


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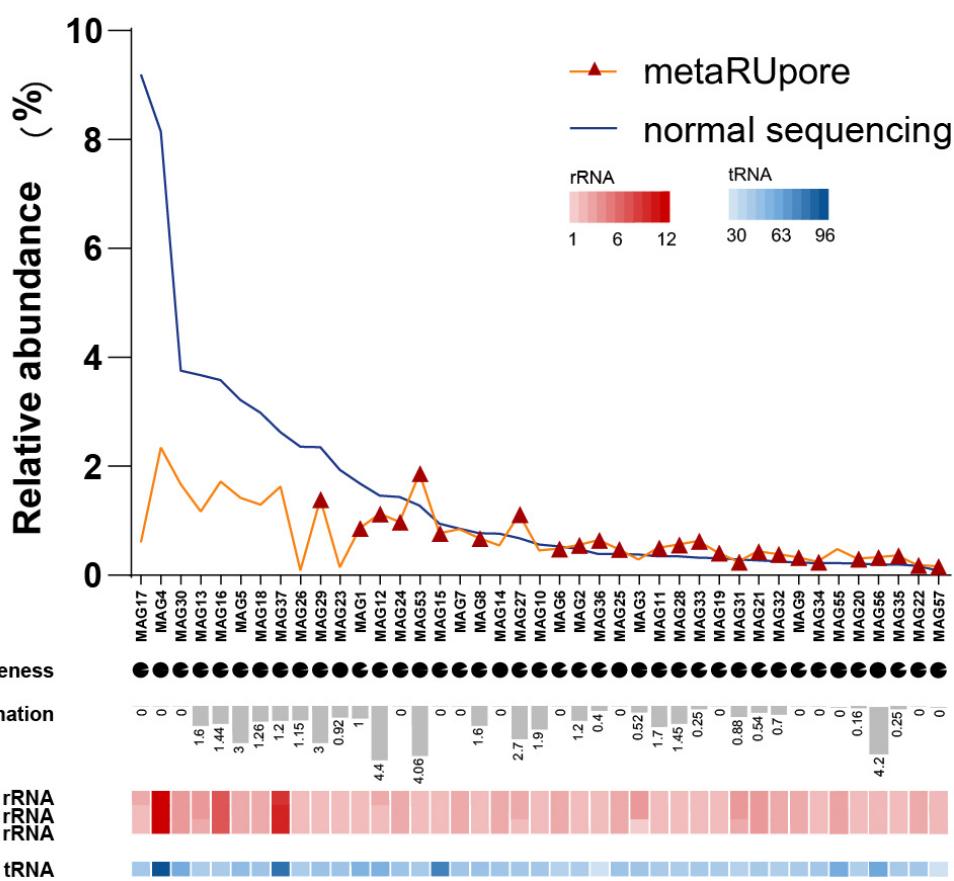
491 **Fig. 2 a**, The workflow of metaRUpore. **b**, A MinION flow cell in metaRUpore is
492 configured into two parts, 1/8th of the channels for normal sequencing and the remaining
493 channels for selective sequencing. **c**, The bioinformatic workflow for HQ-MAGs
494 retrieval based on datasets derived from nanopore selective sequencing and Illumina
495 sequencing.

a

normal sequencing metaRUpore



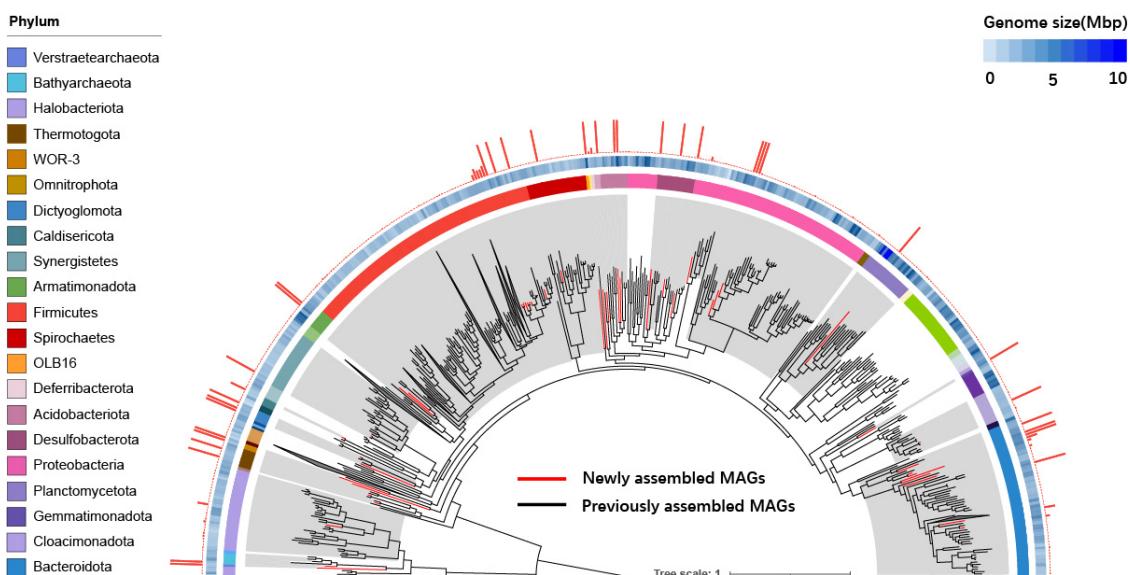
b



496

497 **Fig. 3 Performance of metaRUpore on recovery of high-quality MAGs in TAD community.** a, 3D
498 3D density plots of t-SNE downscaling results for normal sequencing datasets and selective sequencing
499 datasets by metaRUpore at four base frequencies, showing that metaRUpore renders the community
500 structure homogenous. b, The distribution of 41 retrieved HQ MAGs in normal and RU sequencing
501 dataset. The red triangles indicate MAGs that were could only be assembled in the metaRUpore dataset.
502 The pie chart and bar chart represent the level of genomic completeness and contamination by CheckM.
503 The copy number of 16S rRNA, 23S rRNA, and 5S rRNA is represented by the red heatmap, while the
504 copy number of tRNA is represented by the blue heatmap.

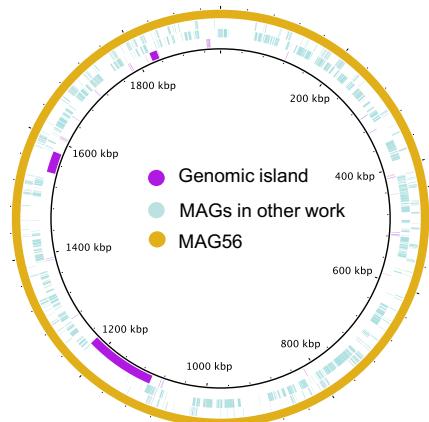
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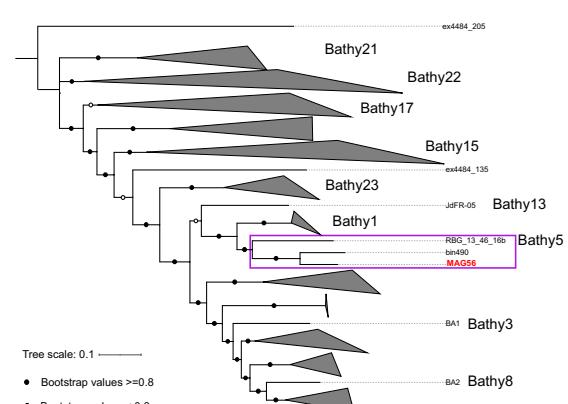
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Fig. 4 Phylogenomics of MAGs in anaerobic reactor. A phylogenetic tree was constructed from 41 HQ-MAGs derived by metaRUpore (red branches) and 1,108 HQ-MAGs collection derived from other AD systems (black branches). External circles represent, respectively: (1) taxonomic assignment at phylum level, (2) genome size (heatmap), (3) bar plot representing the genome continuity, which is calculated as the reciprocal of the number of contigs. The grey shaded areas indicate phyla with near-complete genomes obtained by metaRUpore, and the name of each phylum is in the legend on the left.

a



b



514

Fig. 5 a, Genomes comparison of MAG56 and other MAGs of Bathyarchaeota from prior research. The outermost ring stands for the circular genome of MAG56 reconstructed by metaRUpore. The second to third circles from the outside represent the MAGs of phylum Bathyarchaeota reconstructed by short reads-only assembly method (MAGs covered by purple boxes in Figure 5c). The innermost purple circle represents the genomic island. b, A Maximum Likelihood Tree showing the phylogeny of Bathyarchaeota based on the MAGs from the current study (MAG56) and prior research²⁹. Bootstrap values for these phylogenies are shown with open (< 80%) and filled (≥ 80%) circles.

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