



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US90/06178 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 26 October 1990 (26.10.90) <b>(30) Priority data:</b> 427,321                      26 October 1989 (26.10.89)      US <b>(71) Applicant:</b> SRI INTERNATIONAL [US/US]; 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493 (US). <b>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor:</b> TSIEN, Roger. Y. [US/US]; 8535 Nottingham Place, La Jolla, CA 92037-2125 (US). <b>(72) Inventors:</b> ROSS, Pepi ; 745 Contra Costa Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707 (US). FAHNESTOCK, Margaret ; 2724 Gamble Court, Hayward, CA 94542 (US). JOHNSTON, Allan, J. ; 909 North California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US).	<b>(74) Agents:</b> CHEN, John, Y.; SRI International, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493 (US) et al.  <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
<b>(54) Title:</b> DNA SEQUENCING  <b>(57) Abstract</b> <p>The present invention relates to an instrument and a method to determine the nucleotide sequence in a DNA molecule without the use of a gel electrophoresis step. The method employs an unknown primed single stranded DNA sequence which is immobilized or entrapped within a chamber with a polymerase so that the sequentially formed cDNA can be monitored at each addition of a blocked nucleotide by measurement of the presence of an innocuous marker on specified deoxyribonucleotides. The invention also relates to a method of determining the unknown DNA nucleotide sequence using blocked deoxynucleotides. The blocked dNTP has an innocuous marker so that its identity can be easily determined. The present instrument and method provide a rapid accurate determination of a DNA nucleotide sequence without the use of gel electrophoresis.</p>		

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## DNA SEQUENCING

Background Of The Invention

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to DNA sequencing. More particularly, it relates to methods and apparatus for determining the sequence of deoxyribonucleotides within DNA molecules.

Description of Background Art

DNA sequencing is an important tool. A current goal of the biological community in general is the determination of the complete structure of the DNA of a number of organisms, including man. This information will aid in the understanding, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease.

Current DNA sequencing methods employ either chemical or enzymatic procedures to produce labeled fragments of DNA molecules. In the chemical method, reactions are performed that specifically modify certain of the nucleotide bases present in the end-labeled DNA. These reactions are carried out only partially to completion so that only a portion of the bases present in the molecules are reacted. These modified bases are then treated with piperidine, to cleave the DNA chains at the modified bases producing four sets of nested fragments. These fragments are then separated from one another according to size by electrophoresis in polyacrylamide gels. The fragments can then be visualized in the gels by

means of radioactive labels. The position of the fragments in the gel indicates the identity of the last nucleotide in each fragment so that on the gel a "ladder" of fragments, with each step identified, is assembled to  
5 provide the overall sequence.

In the enzymatic method, the DNA to be sequenced is enzymatically copied by the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I or by a similar polymerase enzyme such as Taq polymerase or Sequenase<sup>™</sup>. The enzymatic copying is carried  
10 out in quadruplicate. In each of the four reactions a low concentration of a chain terminating dideoxynucleotide is present, a different dideoxynucleotide being present in each of the four reactions (ddATP, ddCTP, ddGTP and  
15 ddTTP). Whenever a dideoxynucleotide is incorporated, the polymerase reaction is terminated, again producing sets of nested fragments. Again, the nested fragments have to be separated from one another by electrophoresis to determine the sequence.

Recently, new advances in sequencing technology  
20 have introduced automated methods. Applied Biosystems has developed an instrument based on the use of fluorescent labels and a laser-and computer-based detection system (Smith et al., 1986; Smith, 1987). An automated system developed by E.E. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc.  
25 (Prober et al., 1987) is similar to the Applied Biosystems instrument but uses fluorescently labeled ddNTPs to terminate the reaction instead of fluorescent primers. Hitachi (Japan) and EMBL (West Germany) have developed similar systems (Ansorge et al., 1986). Other approaches  
30 involve multiplexing technology (Church and Kieffer-Higgins, 1988), detection of radioactively labeled DNA fragments by sensitive Beta-detectors (EG&G), automated gel readers (BioRad), and automated liquid  
35 handlers (Beckman Instruments; Seiko; Goodenow, University of California, Berkeley).

The need to rely on electrophoresis and a separation according to size as part of the analytical scheme is a severe limitation. The gel electrophoresis is a time-consuming step and requires very highly trained skilled personnel to carry it out correctly. The present invention provides methods and apparatus for sequencing DNA which do not require electrophoresis or similar separation according to size as part of their methodology.

10 References of Interest

The following articles and patents relate to the general field of DNA sequencing and are provided as a general summary of the background art. From time to time reference will be made to these items for their teaching of synthetic methods, coupling and detection methodologies, and the like. In these cases, they will generally be referred to by author and year.

W.B. Ansorge, et al., (1987) Nucleic Acid Research, 15:4593-4602.

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G. M. Church, et al., (1988) Science 240:185-188.

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L.F. Clerici, et al., (1979) Nucleic Acids Research, 6:247-258.

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