Reviewer's report

Title: SICTIN: Rapid footprinting of massively parallel sequencing data.

Version: 1 **Date:** 12 May 2010

Reviewer: Yang Chen

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents a simple but useful computer software to generate footprints for massively parallel sequencing data based on a binary representation of signals. The software was implemented and tested using large public datasets under two different systems.

Major Compulsory Revisions

- As the authors stated the main goal was to present rapid/fast ways of footprinting", the authors should either (i) list in the "Background", the existing methods or related works (in the literature, if exist); or (ii) claim that their work is the first attempt for this problem. In the former case, they also need to compare SICTIN with them in the "Results" (in terms of time/space cost).

- Before the implementation details of their software, I suggest the authors to first describe a little more on its design or the main idea. For example, you may explain why the binary-format storage was employed, and the advantages/disadvantages compared with its alternatives (if exist).

Minor Essential Revisions

- Figures 1-3 are too small to see.

- In Figure 1(A), it seems that, with the increase of "nr fragments", the build time under two systems grows in a different way. Why?

Discretionary Revisions

- It will facilitate better understanding if the authors could present, in the "Implementation", a flowchart or the pseudo-code of their programs. In addition, a small example may be used to illustrate the computing process (if possible), which will also be helpful to readers.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.