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- (71) Applicants: **ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LIMITED** [GB/GB]; 19 Granta Park, Great Abington, Cambridge CB21 6DF (GB). **ILLUMINA, INC** [US/US]; 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **VERMAAS, Eric Hans**; 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122 (US). **KHOSROHEIDARI, Mahdieh**; 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122 (US).

KALBANDE, Angela; 19 Granta Park, Great Abington, Cambridge, CB21 6DF (GB).

(74) Agent: **CAMPBELL, Keith, M.**; Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A., P.O. Box 581336, Minneapolis, MN 55458-1336 (US).

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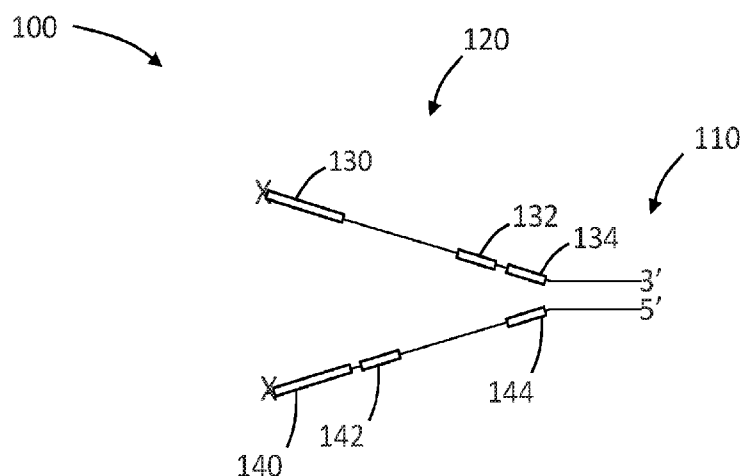


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention is concerned with compositions and methods for improving the rate of correct sample identification in indexed nucleic acid library preparations for multiplex next generation sequencing by exonuclease treatment after protective adapters are ligated to target polynucleotides to degrade unincorporated adapters prior to amplification and sequencing.

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