

Genome analysis

panISa: *ab initio* detection of insertion sequences in bacterial genomes from short read sequence data

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Abstract

Motivation: The advent of next-generation sequencing has boosted the analysis of bacterial genome evolution. Insertion sequence (IS) elements play a key role in prokaryotic genome organization and evolution, but their repetitions in genomes complicate their detection from short-read data.

Results: *PanISa* is a software pipeline that identifies IS insertions *ab initio* in bacterial genomes from short-read data. It is a highly sensitive and precise tool based on the detection of read-mapping patterns at the insertion site. *PanISa* performs better than existing IS detection systems as it is based on a database-free approach. We applied it to a high-risk clone lineage of the pathogenic species *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and report 43 insertions of five different ISs (among which three are new) and a burst of *ISPa1635* in a hypermutator isolate.

Availability and implementation: *PanISa* is implemented in Python and released as an open source software (GPL3) at <https://github.com/bvalot/panISa>.

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Supplementary information: [Supplementary data](#) are available at *Bioinformatics* online.

1 Introduction

Insertion Sequences (ISs) are the smallest transposable elements (TEs) and are widespread throughout all domains of life (Siguier *et al.*, 2014). The common IS structure consists of (i) one or two transposase-encoding genes, (ii) two terminal inverted repeats (IRs) and (iii) two direct repeated sequences (DRs; Siguier *et al.*, 2015). ISs are independently mobilizable. The classification of ISs mostly relies on the amino-acid similarity of their transposases (Mahillon and Chandler, 1998). In 2017, the ISfinder database reported 4000 ISs belonging to 29 families (Mahillon and Chandler, 1998; Siguier *et al.*, 2015).

IS insertion can result in gene disruption and modulation of the expression of neighboring genes by disruption of the promoter or creation of an alternative promoter (Vandecraen *et al.*, 2017). IS transposition enables the host to adapt to new environmental challenges and colonize new niches (Vandecraen *et al.*, 2017). Most examples of IS transposition are linked to antibiotic resistance because related phenotypes are easy to detect. For example, the insertion of *IS1* or *IS10* upstream of the efflux pump *acrEF* increases the resistance of *Salmonella enterica* to fluoroquinolones (Olliver *et al.*, 2005). Similarly, inactivation of the gene *oprD* by an IS induced the resistance to imipenem in clinical strains of *Pseudomonas*

aeruginosa (Sun et al., 2016). In addition, IS transposition can affect bacterial virulence and metabolism (Siguier et al., 2014; Vandecraen et al., 2017). These mobile elements also affect the architecture of host genomes. Indeed, ISs can be recognized by the host cell recombination machinery, allowing their amplification and recombination events between individual copies, leading to deletion, inversion and duplication of portions of the host genome (Vandecraen et al., 2017).

The detection of such sequences is crucial in evolutionary studies, as IS activity is one of the most dynamic forces at play in bacterial genome modification. Next-generation sequencing of whole bacterial genomes to analyze genomic evolution and structure has become routine, with Illumina being the most commonly used technology. NGS pipeline analysis can easily detect SNPs or small insertions/deletions by aligning reads against reference genomes. In contrast, IS analysis is more complicated due to the fact that this element is repeated and that the read length (<300 bp) is usually shorter than that of ISs. Several bioinformatics tools have been developed to overcome this problem (Ewing, 2015). They are based on two different approaches: (i) Structural variant tools (i.e. DD_DETECTION or TIDDIT) search break junctions in the genome to detect potential insertions or deletions (Eisfeldt et al., 2017; Kroon et al., 2016). But the identification of the sequence inserted needs further efforts; (ii) Other tools like ISMapper or RetroSeq identify the insertion of TEs based on a query TE database as input, preventing the detection of unknown elements (Hawkey et al., 2015; Keane et al., 2013). Furthermore, most of tools have been developed to detect TE in the genomes of eukaryotes rather than in prokaryotes. Hence, there is still a need for a simple tool to identify insertions in bacterial genomes using structural variant detection method from short-read data, but which export data that facilitate the validation of IS insertions *ab initio* (i.e. with a database-free approach).

Here, we created a tool that identifies and locates unknown IS insertion in bacterial genomes from NGS data. We evaluated its sensitivity and precision on simulated data, compared its performances with those of available tools and used it to decipher the evolution of a high-risk clone lineage of the pathogenic species *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Software design

The *panISa* program is a python script that parses a read-mapping file SAM/BAM (Li et al., 2009) using the PYSAM library (<https://github.com/pysam-developers/pysam>). Potential IR regions are detected with EINVERTED executable from the EMBOSS package (Rice et al., 2000). PanISa was developed under the GPL3 license and is freely accessible at Github (<https://github.com/bvalot/panISa>). We named it *panISa*, with pan- as a prefix (Greek *pan*, 'all') and IS for IS, making a pun with the first author's name.

2.2 Evaluation of the panISa performances

We evaluated the performance of *panISa* using the genomes of five major human bacterial pathogens: *Escherichia coli*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Vibrio cholerae*, in which ISs were artificially inserted. Sequence data from reference strains and ISs were obtained from NCBI and ISFinder, respectively (Table 1 and Supplementary Table S1; Siguier et al., 2006).

For simulation, ISs were randomly inserted in the genome along with a DR, of which the length was consistent with those of the IS

Table 1. Reference bacterial strains used to evaluate the *panISa* program

| Strains | NCBI accession number | IS ^a (n) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> K12 substrain MG1655 | NC_000913 | 22 |
| <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> H37Rv | NC_000962 | 3 |
| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> PAO1 | NC_002516 | 25 |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> NCTC8325 | NC_007795 | 8 |
| <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> O1 biovar El Tor strain N16961 | NC_002505 and NC_002506 ^b | 9 |

^aNumber of different ISs used in simulation (Supplementary Table S1 for details).

^bThe two NCBI accession numbers correspond to the two chromosomes of the strain.

family. Thirty ISs were randomly picked for each bacterial species, with at least one representative of each IS family. Illumina short reads were simulated from each 'artificial' genome using DWGSIM v.0.1.11-3 (<https://github.com/nh13/DWGSIM>) and aligned against the original genome using BWA-MEM (Li and Durbin, 2009). We ran *panISa* on the aligned reads to detect the IS and compared the output with the expected results.

We evaluated the impact of read-data quality on the performance of *panISa* by simulating three read lengths (100, 150 and 300 bp) and five coverage depths (20, 40, 60, 80 and 100x) for each bacterial genome (1 genome per species except 2 for *V. cholerae*) in which 30 ISs were inserted. Each point was repeated ten times, resulting in a total of 27 000 simulated IS transpositions. The factors influencing sensitivity and precision of the detection were analyzed by ANOVA, followed by Tukey's range test for those which were significant. Results were considered to be significant for *P*-values < 0.01.

2.3 Analysis of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* clinical isolates

Five clinical isolates of *P. aeruginosa* were collected from patients hospitalized in the University Hospital of Besançon (France) from October 2007 to May 2008. They were considered to be clonal since they shared the same band pattern after pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (data not shown; Talon et al., 1996). Multilocus sequence typing revealed that they all belonged to the high-risk clone ST233. After DNA extraction, genome isolates were sequenced using Illumina HiSeq technology with 2 x150 bp and sub-sampling to 80x by random selection of paired-end reads. The genome of the earliest isolate (10–2007) was assembled using Ray software with the default value for Illumina data (Boisvert et al., 2010), generating 118 contigs for a total of 6,997,480 bp, from which 5086 genes were detected by Prodigal (Hyatt et al., 2010). We then used blastP to search for homologous proteins against the proteome of *P. aeruginosa* (Uniprot, 50 812 entries). The raw WGS data of the four later isolates (11–2007, 01–2008, 04–2008 and 05–2008) were aligned against the assemblies of the 10–2007 isolate using BWA-MEM (Li and Durbin, 2009) and variants were called using FreeBayes (<https://github.com/ekg/freebayes>). We experimentally assessed the mutation rate of all clinical isolates and that of the PAO1 reference strain using the procedure previously described (Oliver et al., 2002). ISs were detected by running *panISa* on the five aligned ST233 genomes with the 'minimum clipped reads' option set at 20. Left and right sequences of potential ISs were clustered using SumaClust (<https://git.metabarcoding.org/obitools/sumaclust/wikis/home>) with

an identity of 95%. We then searched for homologous sequences for each representative in the ISFinder database (Siguier *et al.*, 2006). The presence and position of IS sequences was further experimentally verified by PCR and sequencing with specific primers (Supplementary Table S2).

3 Results and discussion

3.1 The regular NGS analysis pipeline does not reveal IS

We explored the evolution of an epidemic clone of *P. aeruginosa* ST233 by WGS and retrieved 397 SNPs or indels in the collection with almost all ($n=389$) occurring within the genome of the 11–2007 isolate. In contrast, only 7 to 12 SNPs or indels were found in the other genomes. Mutations in 11–2007 were evenly distributed throughout its genome, making a unique horizontal transfer event unlikely. All isolates had been collected within a period of 8 months. Such rapid genetic drift led us to hypothesize that the 11–2007 isolate had a hypermutator phenotype (Oliver *et al.*, 2000). We experimentally found that the 10–2007, 01–2008, 04–2008 and 05–2008 isolates had mutation rates between 2×10^{-8} and 5×10^{-9} (mean, 1.5×10^{-8}), comparable to that of the PAO1 reference strain (5.9×10^{-9}). In contrast, the 11–2007 isolate had a 159-fold higher mutation frequency (2.4×10^{-6}), typical of hypermutators. This phenotype is known to be most often due to mutation in the DNA mismatch repair genes *mutS*, *mutL* and *uvrD* (Oliver *et al.*, 2002). However, mapping of the 11–2007 reads on the 10–2007 assemblies did not reveal any mutations in these three genes. We then assembled the reads of the 11–2007 isolates *de novo* and carefully searched the DNA mismatch repair genes, revealing that *mutS* was split between two contigs which had a partial sequence that aligned with *ISPa1635* (GenBank accession number AY539834) at one extremity. PCR experiments and sequencing confirmed the *ISPa1635* insertion within *mutS* (Antonio Oliver, personal data). Based on this experience, we aimed to develop a tool that can detect ISs in bacterial genomes from WGS sequencing data using an IS database-free approach.

3.2 Implementation

Careful examination of the alignment of the 11–2007 reads on the 10–2007 assemblies revealed a pattern at the insertion site: many clipped reads (i.e. reads mapping partially on the reference) ending at one side of the DR region (Fig. 1). Most IS detection tools use discordant mate-paired reads combined with genome annotation of repeat regions or a list of known ISs as inputs (Ewing, 2015). The position of the IS is then refined using the clipped read information. Our strategy differs, as the detection of potential IS insertions only relies on clipped reads. The *panISa* program selects clipped reads and groups them by position and side (start or end) of the clip (Fig. 1B). Two close genomic positions with clipped reads in opposite directions correspond to the boundaries of a potential IS. *PanISa* then creates the consensus sequence of the DR and the left (IRL) and right (IRR) limits of the inserted sequences from the clipped reads. IRs, which are good markers of ISs, are searched for in IRL and IRR (Siguier *et al.*, 2014). All potential IS insertions are reported in a tabular format (Supplementary Table S3).

PanISa is designed to potentially detect the insertion of all mobile elements (e.g. ISs, bacteriophages, integrative conjugative elements) or chromosomal rearrangements (i.e. inversions, duplications). The list of potential ISs must be manually inspected and confirmed. The homology of potential ISs with already described ISs is

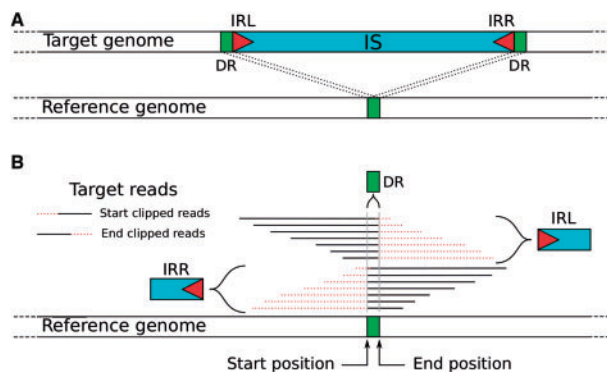


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of an IS insertion signature. (A) Structure of the IS insert in the target genome relative to the reference genome. (B) Read alignment of the target genome that partially maps with the reference genome at the IS insertion site. The IRL, IRR and DR could be obtained from these clipped reads

sought by the alignment of the reconstruction of IRL and IRR against the ISFinder database (Siguier *et al.*, 2006). We propose the automation of this validation step with the script *ISFinder_search.py* (found in the github repository).

3.3 Validation of *panISa* on simulated data

We evaluated the performance of *panISa* by artificially inserting ISs in the genomes of reference strains from five major pathogenic bacterial species and assessed the impact of sequencing data quality on the output (i.e. read length and coverage depth). In total, 900 genomes containing 30 IS insertions were simulated. The sensitivity of IS detection depended on the species considered ($p = 1.8 \times 10^{-3}$) and the coverage depth ($p = 1.8 \times 10^{-9}$), but was not affected by the read length (Fig. 2A). The nature of the bacterial species had a slight effect on the sensitivity of our tool. For example, only ISs from *P. aeruginosa* were significantly retrieved at a higher rate than those of *M. tuberculosis*, corresponding to the two extremes. In addition, the sensitivity was significantly lower for 20x coverage than for higher coverage (Fig. 2A). For higher coverages (from 40x to 100x), the sensitivity of *panISa* reached a mean of 98% (95% CI [97.9%–98.2%]).

The precision of IS detection was affected by read length ($p = 4.3 \times 10^{-8}$) and coverage ($p = 4 \times 10^{-7}$), but not the species considered (Fig. 2B). Multiple comparisons show that the use of 100-bp reads reduced the precision relative to that obtained with 150- and 300-pb reads. Coverage and precision were inversely correlated, particularly with 100-bp reads, for which high coverages (>80x) resulted in lower precision than for a coverage depth of <60x (Fig. 2B). Nevertheless, the precision of the *panISa* program reached a mean of 98% (95% CI [97.6%–98.6%]) with 150- and 300-pb reads, irrespective of the coverage tested. Most of the false positive positions corresponded to small repeated regions. Hence, more clipped reads of low quality were recognized in these genomic regions with higher coverage depth. This limitation can be easily resolved by sub-sampling high-coverage sequencing data or increasing the minimum number of required clipped reads. In conclusion, the optimal input data for *panISa* are 150–300-bp reads with a 40 to 60x coverage depth, which allows the detection of ISs with high sensitivity and precision.

3.4 Localization and identification of ISs

The *panISa* program can determine the position and sequence of DRs and the presence of IRs between the left and right sequences of

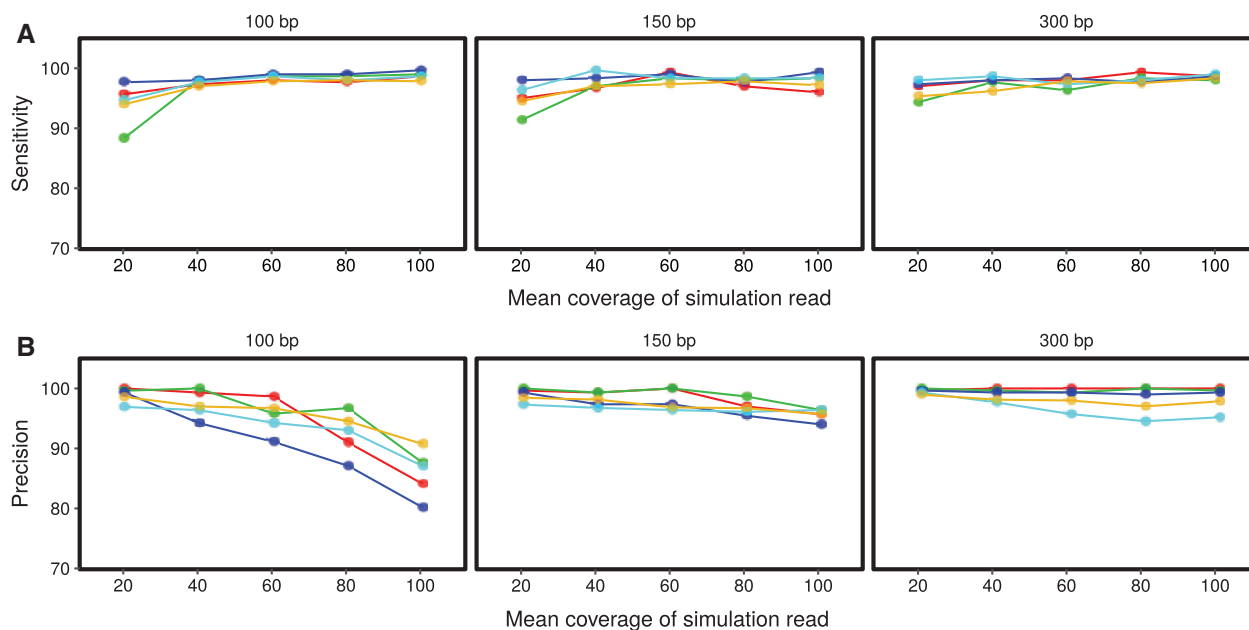


Fig. 2. Sensitivity (A) and precision (B) of *panISa* for IS detection on simulated data. Simulations were performed with read lengths of 100, 150 and 300 bp. Data from *E. coli* are in red, *M. tuberculosis* in green, *P. aeruginosa* in dark blue, *S. aureus* in light blue and *V. cholerae* in yellow

the IS. *PanISa* retrieved the exact position and length of the DR in 56.8% of the cases (95% CI [55.5%–57.5%]) from the simulated data. Most (99.5%) of the incorrect predicted DRs were 1- to 5-bp longer than the simulated DR. This error was due to the identity of the nucleotide sequence between the IR and that of the opposite flanking region of the DR, thereby shifting the position of the clip. IRs were detected with a sensitivity of 74% (95% CI [71.2%–76.8%]) and a precision of 99.9% (95% CI [99.87%–100%]). This relatively low sensitivity can be explained by the presence of ISs with highly divergent IRs in the dataset that were never detected (e.g. *ISVch7* and *ISPa61*).

3.5 IS burst in a *P. aeruginosa* ST233 lineage

The *panISa* program retrieved 46 new potential insertions in the collection of four late isolates of the epidemic clone ST233 relative to the first isolate, 10–2007. IRL and IRR sequences clustered within eight different sequences, among which six were highly similar to ISs already present in ISFinder (Siguier et al., 2006). These six ISs correspond to 44 mutational events in the genomes of the four late isolates (Table 2). Two putative inserted sequences (one 18-bp insertion and one palindromic region) were manually removed. We experimentally confirmed the IS insertions by PCR with six pairs of specific primers that target the surrounding positions predicted by *panISa*, using the 10–2007 early isolate as a control (Supplementary Fig. S1). The six PCRs amplified 250–450 bp DNA fragments in the control. Five PCRs amplified DNA fragments that were 1500 to 2500-bp heavier in the genomes of the late isolates, in which ISs were predicted, than in the control. The PCR that targeted ‘*ISPpu7* partial’ amplified DNA fragments of similar length in the control and the late isolate in which this IS was predicted. We confirmed the identities of the ISs by sequencing and identified two known ISs (*ISPa1635* and *ISPa45*) and three new ISs (*ISPa77*, *ISPst3* and *ISPst5*) not yet described in *P. aeruginosa* (data not shown). Overall, 43 of the 46 IS insertions predicted by *panISa* were experimentally confirmed. This precision (93.5%) is consistent with that obtained in simulations.

Table 2. Detection of new ISs in a collection of clonally-related *P. aeruginosa* ST233 by *panISa*

| Homologous IS | IS present in the earliest isolate (10-2007) | Number of new insertions of each IS in late isolates | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------------|---------|----------------|
| | | 11–2007 | 01–2008 | 04–2008 | 05–2008 |
| <i>ISPa1635</i> | Yes | 34 ^a | — | — | 2 |
| <i>ISPa45</i> | Yes | — | — | — | 1 ^a |
| <i>ISPa77</i> | Yes | — | 2 | — | 1 ^a |
| <i>ISPst3</i> | Yes | — | 2 ^a | — | — |
| <i>ISPpu7</i> partial | NA ^b | — | 1 | — | — |
| <i>ISPst5</i> | Yes | — | 1 ^a | — | — |

^aThe presence of a copy of the IS was confirmed by PCR and sequencing (Supplementary Figure S1).

^bNot determined.

The five ISs predicted *in silico* were already in the genome of the earliest isolate (10–2007) of the epidemic clone *P. aeruginosa* ST233. During the spread of this clone in hospitalized patients, the ISs mostly duplicated once or twice in new locations of the chromosomes of the late isolates (Table 2). In contrast, *ISPa1635* proliferated in the hypermutator isolate (11–2007), in which we found 34 copies (Fig. 3), presumably due to the mutation of the DNA mismatch repair gene *mutS* (Oliver et al., 2002).

3.6 Comparison with existing IS detection tools

The performances of *panISa* were compared to those of existing tools (Table 3) on the sequencing data of the isolate 11–2007 using the genome of the 10–2007 isolate as a reference.

We first tested four tools searching for structural variant: *breseq* dedicated to prokaryotes (Barrick et al., 2014), *Manta*, *Pindel* (DD_detection) and *TIDDIT* dedicated to eukaryotes (Chen et al., 2016; Eisefeldt et al., 2017; Kroon et al., 2016). We ran *breseq* with the annotation of the IS in the reference genome. This tool correctly located the 34 ISs, although 2 ISs were found with only a single

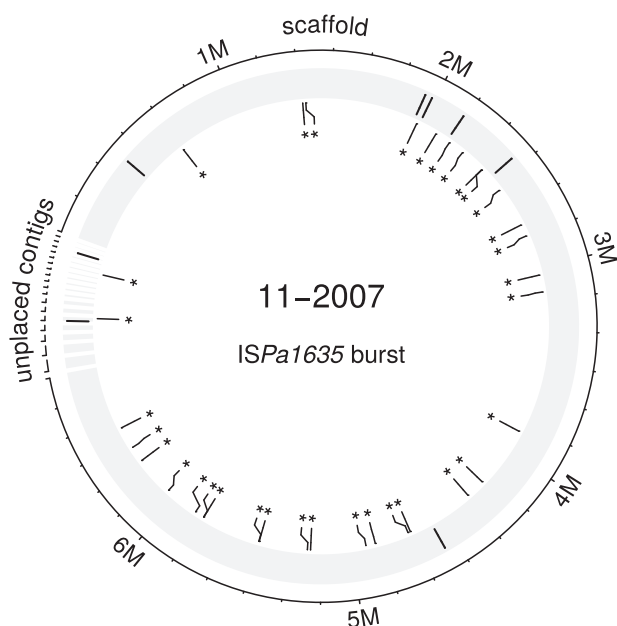


Fig. 3. IS burst in a *P. aeruginosa* ST233 lineage. Initial positions of *ISPa1635* in the chromosome of the early isolate 10–2007 are indicated by black lines on the shaded outer circle. New insertions of the *ISPa1635* in the late isolate 11–2007 are represented by asterisks

junction. Manta found no breakpoints at insertion sites of ISs, probably because the program could not be run in haploid mode. Pindel reported all discordant pair-end reads, but only retrieved 15 of the 34 IS locations with sufficient accuracy. TIDDIT found 32 positions with a break end.

We then tested four TE detection tools: ISMapper developed for prokaryotes (Hawkey *et al.*, 2015) and RetroSeq, RelocaTE and TE-Locate developed for eukaryotes using McClintock pipeline (Keane *et al.*, 2013; Nelson *et al.*, 2017; Platzer *et al.*, 2012; Robb *et al.*, 2013). All tools were run on the 11–2007 isolate using the 5 ISs sequences identified by *panIsa* (*ISPa1635*, *ISPa45*, *ISPa77*, *ISPst3* and *ISPst5*) as input. RetroSeq retrieved no IS. RelocaTE and TE-Locate detected IS insertions at 30 and 32 positions, respectively. Surprisingly, all positions detected by TE-Locate were shifted of around 400–600 bp. ISMapper retrieved the same 34 ISs than *panIsa*. False positive results were mostly due to similarity with genes encoding transposase or presence of large deletions in the genome.

Overall, all tools optimized for prokaryotes found the same 34 positions. However, breseq and ISMapper needed the position of IS in the reference genome and the sequence of IS to search as input, respectively. In contrast, tools dedicated to eukaryotes produced highly heterogeneous results. Hence, some tools retrieved the majority of the IS positions while other only gave a negative signal.

4 Conclusion

IS elements can deeply affect the evolution of their host (Vandecraen *et al.*, 2017). However, this role is presumably underestimated, since the detection of ISs from high-throughput short-read sequencing data is complicated. Available tools are restricted to the detection of known ISs, preventing the identification of new elements (Ewing, 2015). Here, we developed *panIsa*, a sensitive and precise program for the *ab initio* detection of ISs in bacterial genomes. *PanIsa* only requires short reads and a reference sequence as input. We validated

Table 3. Comparison of different tools for the detection of *ISPa1635* burst in the *P. aeruginosa* isolate 11–2007

| Tool | Type of detection | Super kingdom targeted | Number of <i>ISPa1635</i> insertions detected | Number of false positive ^a |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| PanIsa | Structural variant/ TE detection | Prokaryote | 34 | 1 |
| breseq | Structural variant | Prokaryote | 32 (2) ^b | 6 |
| Manta ^c | Structural variant | Eukaryote | 0 | ND |
| Pindel (DD_detection) | Structural variant | Eukaryote | 15 | ND |
| TIDDIT | Structural variant | Eukaryote | 32 | ND |
| ISMapper | TE detection | Prokaryote | 34 | 1 |
| RetroSeq | TE detection | Eukaryote | 0 | ND |
| RelocaTE | TE detection | Eukaryote | 30 | 4 |
| TE-Locate ^d | TE detection | Eukaryote | 32 | 17 |

^aFalse positives were evaluated only for tools which give IS insertion or junction with known IS regions; ND, not determined.

^bbreseq identified IS insertion where two new junctions were connected with *ISPa1635* in reference genome. The number in parenthesis indicates the number of cases where only one side junction was found.

^cManta could not be run in haploid mode, as this parameter is not in option.

^dTE-Locate found most of the insertions of *ISPa1635*, but all positions were shifted from 400 to 600 bp.

this new tool on the genomes of five major human bacterial pathogens using simulated data from the widespread technology Illumina. We explored the evolution of a lineage of the high-risk clone of *P. aeruginosa* ST233 with *panIsa*. It allowed the identification of the transposition of five different ISs during the spread of this clone among patients and a burst of one IS in a hypermutable isolate. Overall, *panIsa* will accelerate the identification of new ISs from short-read data and will enrich the panel of existing tools for the elucidation of the evolution of prokaryote lineages.

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