Core Pseudomonas genome from 10 Pseudomonas species

Abstract
Core genome of a set of organisms represents the set of homologous genes shared between the set of organisms with many applications. The Pseudomonas genus is highly diverse with both plant and animal pathogens. Hence, the core genome of Pseudomonas genus can be useful. Current studies presented contradictory results with the core genome of Pseudomonas genus marginally larger than that of Pseudomonas aeruginosa. In this study, we attempt to identify a core Pseudomonas genome from 10 publicly available annotated genomes by intersecting homologous coding sequences using BLAST. Our results suggest a 218-gene core genome, which is 3.46% of the coding sequences of P. aeruginosa. 136 of 218 genes were mapped to official gene symbols and were enriched in 8 clusters in Gene Ontology biological processes related to central metabolism. Here, we attempt to identify a core Pseudomonas genome from 10 publicly available annotated genomes. Our results suggest a 218-gene core genome, which is 3.46% of the coding sequences of P. aeruginosa.

Materials and methods
Genome data set: The genome of 10 Pseudomonas species; namely, (i) Pseudomonas aeruginosa (Accession CP045002.1; P1), (ii) Pseudomonas mandelii (Accession NZ_CP005960.1; P2), (iii) Pseudomonas ballearica (Accession CP045858.1; P3), (iv) Pseudomonas chlororaphis (Accession NZ_CP027716.1; P4), (v) Pseudomonas fluorescens (Accession NZ_CP048607.1; P5), (vi) Pseudomonas fulva (Accession NZ_CP023048.1; P6), (vii) Pseudomonas orientalis (Accession NZ_CP018049.1; P7), (viii) Pseudomonas psychrophila (Accession NZ_CP049004.1; P8), (ix) Pseudomonas putida (Accession NZ_CP026115.2; P9), and (x) Pseudomonas synxantha (Accession NZ_CP027754.1; P10); were obtained from NCBI.

Determining core genome by intersecting genomes: The core genome of Pseudomonas was determined as the intersection of the 10 Pseudomonas genomes. Operationally, the intersection of 2 genomes; such as, P. aeruginosa (P1) and P. mandelii (P2); was determined by constructing a BLAST database out of the coding sequences of P. aeruginosa and the coding sequences of P. mandelii were used as query in BLASTN version 2.10.0. The expectation value (E-value) in BLAST is defined as per-search expected false positive rate and was set to less than 1E-9, which had been used in pan-genomics and homology. Only the top match was taken for each of the query sequences. The result represented the core genome of P. aeruginosa and P. mandelii (denoted as P1P2). Subsequently, the coding sequences of P. ballearica (P3) was used to construct a BLAST database for sequence comparison with P1P2 under the same E-value threshold.

Introduction
The core genome for a set of related genomes represents a set of orthologous genes within a set of related genomes, which may be from different strains of a species or different species of a genus. Hence, core genome represents the intersection of the set of genomes under study. Therefore, phylogenetically related genomes tend to share more genes and likely to have a larger core genome. This is different from pan-genome, which is the entire set of all genes from the genomes under study. There are many applications of core genomes. For example, the core genome is crucial to observe genomic distance within a species, which can then be used for disease surveillance and outbreak monitoring. It can also be used to study speciation events and the evolutionary history of an organism.

The Pseudomonas genus is one of the most diverse bacterial genera inhabiting a wide variety of environments, including pathogens of both plants and animals. For example, Batrich et al. found a variety of Pseudomonas species demonstrating antibiotics resistance and metal tolerance near Lake Michigan. Hence, it is useful to elucidate the core genome of Pseudomonas genus for further applications. A study by Hesse et al. examined 166 Pseudomonas type strains to deduce a core genome of 794 genes while Freschi et al. focused on identifying Pseudomonas aeruginosacore genome and used 1,311 P. aeruginosa genomes sequences to obtain a 665-gene P. aeruginosa core genome. However, there is a contradiction–should the core genome of P. aeruginosa is 665 genes, it is not likely for the core genome of Pseudomonas genus to be only 794 genes. This may be due to low stringency criteria in identifying orthologs used by Hesse et al., which is 30% identity at 50% coverage; as compared to Freschi et al., which is 50% identity at 85% coverage. This suggests that the core genome of Pseudomonas genus warrants further study.
The result represented the core genome of *P. aeruginosa*, *P. mandelii* and *P. balearica* (denoted as P1P2P3). This process was repeated until all 10 *Pseudomonas* genomes were intersected, which represented the core genome and was denoted as P1P2P3P4P5P6P7P8P9P10.

**Determining functions of core genome:** The functional properties of the core genome were determined by gene set enrichment analysis\(^{21-23}\) for biological processes using PANTHER\(^{24,25}\) on the official gene symbols.

**Results and discussion**

The number of coding sequence (CDS) ranges from 4274 in *P. balearica* to 6305 in *P. aeruginosa* (Table 1). Using genome intersection, a 218-gene core genome was identified, which amounts to 3.46% of *P. aeruginosa* genome (Table 2). A study on 23 *Corallococcus* genomes\(^{26}\) suggest that the size of pan-genome\(^5\) can be estimated to be 8127N\(^{0.5481}\) genes, where N is the number of genomes. Using this estimation,\(^{26}\) the size of pan-genome of the 10 *Pseudomonas* species is estimated to be 28,750 CDS or genes. Inglin et al.\(^{27}\) examined 98 complete genomes of the genus *Lactobacillus* and found the core and pan-genome to be 266 genes and 20,800 genes, respectively. This amounts to 1.28% of the pan-genome being the core genome. We evaluate the use of this core genome to pan-genome ratio in this case. Using this ratio, where the size of core genome is 1.28% of pan-genome, on our estimated 28,750-gene *Pseudomonas* pan-genome, we will expect a core genome of 368 genes, which 68% more than that identified in this study. The difference may be due to the higher stringency on the E-value threshold used in this study (E-value<1E-9), which is commonly used as threshold for pan-genomics\(^{19}\) and homology\(^{20}\) studies, as compared to Inglin et al.,\(^{27}\) whom uses E-value of less than 1E-5. This suggests that the estimation of the size of pan-genome\(^{26}\) from number of genomes and the estimation of the size of core genome from the size of pan-genome by ratio\(^{27}\) may be a useful heuristic (Table 1&2).

### Table 1 Number of Coding Sequences (CDS) in each organism

| Label | Organism     | Accession number | Number of CDS |
|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| P1    | *P. aeruginosa* | CP045002.1       | 6305          |
| P2    | *P. mandelii*  | NZ_CP005960.1    | 6139          |
| P3    | *P. balearica* | CP045858.1       | 4274          |
| P4    | *P. chlororaphis* | NZ_CP027716.1   | 5886          |
| P5    | *P. fluorescens* | NZ_CP048607.1   | 5914          |
| P6    | *P. fulva*     | NZ_CP023048.1    | 4541          |
| P7    | *P. orientalis* | NZ_CP018049.1    | 5248          |
| P8    | *P. psychrophila* | NZ_CP049044.1  | 4737          |
| P9    | *P. putida*    | NZ_CP026115.2    | 5561          |
| P10   | *P. synxantha* | NZ_CP027754.1    | 6135          |

### Table 2 Progressive reduction of number of CDS

| CDS Set      | Number of CDS | Percentage |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| P1           | 6305          | 100.00%    |
| P2           | 6139          | 97.37%     |
| P1P2         | 1320          | 20.94%     |
| P1P2P3       | 1294          | 20.52%     |
| P1P2P3P4     | 796           | 12.62%     |
| P1P2P3P4P5   | 575           | 9.12%      |
| P1P2P3P4P5P6 | 402           | 6.38%      |
| P1P2P3P4P5P6P7 | 344       | 5.46%      |
| P1P2P3P4P5P6P7P8 | 237    | 3.76%      |
| P1P2P3P4P5P6P7P8P9 | 230   | 3.65%      |
| P1P2P3P4P5P6P7P8P9P10 | 218 | 3.46%      |
The first five enriched terms (GO:1901068, GO:0009064, GO:0006163, GO:0072522, and GO:0006418) are related often to response to nutrient levels (GO:0031667), which is linked to central metabolic processes and nutrient metabolism.

Hence, the biological processes of Pseudomonas core genome identified in this study are supported by current studies in other bacterial genus.

In conclusion, this study identified a 218-genes core genome of Pseudomonas which is linked to central metabolic processes and nutrient metabolism.

Data availability

The data files for this study can be downloaded at https://bit.ly/CorePseudomonasGenome, which is a zip file containing four folders; namely, (i) FASTA Files contain the 10 Pseudomonas genomes, (ii) BLAST Files contain the results from BLASTN, (iii) Intersection Files contain the progressive genomic intersections after BLAST where PIP2P3P4P5P6P7P8P9P10.fasta is the core genome of the 10 Pseudomonas species, (v) Core Genome contains the description and GSEA results of the core genome.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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