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2 **PRISM-Seq: An Ultra-sensitive Sequencing Approach For Mapping Lentiviral**
3 **Integration Sites**
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Abstract

Retroviral integration into host genomes underlies both HIV-1 persistence and the safety and function of lentiviral vectors used in gene and cell therapies. Existing integration site assays remain limited by sensitivity, input requirements, and analytical complexity, and none have been validated at the single-molecule detection limit. Here we introduce PRISM-seq, an ultra-sensitive workflow for genome-wide recovery of lentiviral-host junctions, paired with BulkIntSiteR, an open-source, fully automated pipeline for integration site annotation. We show that PRISM-seq accurately identifies proviral insertions across diverse genomic contexts, including euchromatin, heterochromatin, and repeat-rich centromeric regions, and detects high-confidence integration events down to a single input template molecule. By systematically characterizing assay- and amplification-associated noise, we developed a five-step quality control framework that removes PCR and sequencing artifacts. PRISM-seq also enables quantitative clonal tracking through replicate-based sampling and achieves performance comparable to or exceeding high-input assays at substantially reduced cost.

Introduction

Integration of retroviral DNA into host DNA is central to both HIV-1 pathogenesis and the use of lentiviral vectors in gene therapy. In HIV-1 infection, the site of viral integration predicts viral transcription and reactivation potential[1-3], while in lentiviral vector-based gene therapies, vector insertional profiles inform safety and clonal dynamics[4-10].

Existing proviral integration site sequencing assays and bioinformatics workflows (e.g., INSPIIRED[11,12], VISPA/VISPA2[13], QuickMap[14], VISA[15], MAVRIC[16], GeIST[17], IS-Seq[18], VSeq-Toolkit[19] face three practical barriers. First, many require relatively high template input, typically ~1-10 μg of genomic DNA per library[20,21], are incompatible with single cell sorting, and none were validated down to the single-molecule detection limit nor across distinct genome contexts, including difficult-to-map regions. Second, computational workflows are fragmented, platform-specific, and/or require bioinformatics expertise for read processing and annotation[12,20]. Third, per-sample per-replicate costs remain elevated due to multi-step library construction and sequencing depth requirements.

Here, we present proviral integration site mapping sequencing (PRISM-seq), an ultra-sensitive, single-copy, and bulk-input compatible lentiviral integration site sequencing assay, together with BulkIntSiteR, a fully automated and platform-agnostic bioinformatics analysis pipeline that converts with one-click raw sequencing data files into annotated proviral integration sites.

Results

PRISM-seq design

PRISM-seq detects single-molecule inputs and single-copy species in bulk samples. The core

of the PRISM-seq design that enabled ultra-sensitive single-molecule compatible detection is

bacteriophage phi29-mediated multiple displacement amplification (MDA), which is not

commonly used in integration site identification (Fig. 1a and see methods for the origin and

foundation assays for PRISM-seq). In this study, reactions were performed using 50-template

inputs, but the assay also accommodates substantially higher input levels (~10,000

templates[22]). MDA-amplified DNA is processed by ligation-mediated PCR (LM-PCR)

involving restriction digestion, adaptor ligation, and amplification of both 5′ and 3′ virus-host

junctions using virus- and adaptor-specific primer pairs (Fig. 1a, Fig. S1 and S2a). The PRISM-

seq primer sets were designed for broad compatibility across lentiviruses, including HIV and

lentiviral vector delivery systems (Fig. S2b)[23-27]. PRISM-seq amplicons containing viral-host

junctions can be sequenced on any next-generation sequencing (NGS) platform. Reads were

processed using BulkIntSiteR, a one-click, open-source computational pipeline developed for

automated mapping and annotation of integration sites (Fig. 1b).

Identification of proviral integration sites across the diverse human genome landscape

We first benchmarked PRISM-seq/BulkIntSiteR using the 8E5/LAV cell line, which harbors a

single HIV-1 provirus at a known intergenic locus[28]. We identified a single viral integration

site on chromosome 13 at position 67,485,907 (5'LTR) and 67,485,903 (3'LTR) in the negative

strand, consistent with published data[28]. We did not observe any low-abundance secondary IS

(noise).

The single provirus in 8E5/LAV cells is associated with heterochromatin (supplementary table

1). However, viral integration can occur in diverse regions of the human genome, including

actively transcribing genes[29], and in repeat-rich, telomeric, and centromeric satellite

regions[3,6,30,31]. We generated 14 putative singly-infected Jurkat cell clones (Clones #1-14) using

low-MOI (0.3) infection with a replication-deficient HIV-1 reporter (V1/SBP-GFP), followed

by sorting of GFP/SBP-positive cells, limiting dilution, and expansion via culturing. Proviral

integration sites in these 14 clones were expected to be mostly in genes since HIV-1 integration

favors actively transcribing genomic regions[29]. To evaluate PRISM-seq performance within

centromeric regions typically associated with difficult-to-map satellite DNA repeats, we

analyzed two additional HIV-1-infected primary cell clones (#15 and #16) previously found to

each contain a single provirus within centromeric regions[31].

Without noise removal, our raw data showed 1-70 (min-max) unique proviral insertion sites in

clones #1-16 (Fig. S3a-c and S4a-c). The observation that some clones contained more than

one unique integration site suggested that methods for integration site determination should be

systematically evaluated for assay noise, for example, by leveraging the theoretically clonal

nature of our sample set.

An initial quality control filter designated each of our raw integration sites as either high- or

low-confidence. High-confidence was defined if an integration site (i) contained precise viral

DNA 5′ or 3′ ends linked to a human sequence without gaps/missing bases, and (ii) was detected

by both 5′ LTR and 3′ LTR viral-host junctions or (iii) had greater than 10 reads when identified

only by either 5′ LTR or 3′ LTR. All other integration sites were designated "low-confidence."

Among clones #1-14, 9/14 (64%) yielded a single high-confidence integration site (Fig. S3c).

Clone 6 and clone 10 showed multiple high-confidence integration sites, consistent with

expectations from Poisson statistics for infections at MOI 0.3[32]. Clone 8, clone 11, and clone

12 had more than one integrations, but all were found in the same gene, suggesting potential

assay-associated artifacts. We used two human reference genomes: hg38 and T2T-CHM13[33],

and their results were 100% concordant for clones #1-14. For clones 15 and 16, our data showed

multiple high-confidence integration sites with proviruses integrated within the centromeric

repeat regions of chromosomes 9 (8 sites) and 22 (2 sites), respectively (Fig. S4c), which were

only detected using T2T-CHM13 as the reference genome, while hg38 returned no maps. Due

to the clonal nature of these clones, we suspected repeat-driven ambiguity in mapping. All

ambiguities were further explored in the next section.

Across all 16 analyzed clones, high-confidence proviral integration sites were distributed

within 12 chromosomes spanning genic, intergenic, and repeat-rich centromeric satellite

regions, confirmed by the chromHMM model[34] based on distinct histone-mark ChIP-seq

datasets from the ENCODE database[35] (Supplementary Table 1). The average distance between

proviral integration sites and the nearest accessible chromatin region (ATAC-seq peak) varied

widely, ranging from 292 bp to 278,541 bp (Supplementary Table 1). These findings reflect

the diverse genomic landscape of proviral integration recovered by PRISM-seq.

Analyses of low-confidence integration sites and implementation of additional quality control filtering criteria

In 15 of 16 analyzed clones, we detected 174 low-confidence secondary integration sites. We next characterize this putative noise to design a quality-control filter. Of these low-confidence integration sites, 57/174 (33%) mapped to the same gene or within ±10 kb relative to the corresponding high-confidence integration sites (Fig. S3a-c, S4a-c, S5a-b, and supplementary table 2). Given the clonal nature of most of the samples, we reasoned they were likely artifacts. The remaining low-confidence sites were either in intergenic regions or in distinct genes.

To further investigate, we performed manual alignment of the host sequences of low-confidence integration sites, and showed that many differed from the corresponding high-confidence site only by short indels or 1–10 bp shifts in the junction sequence (e.g., clones 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 16) (Fig. S6-S12). These cases are likely the artifact signatures previously highlighted to be found in integration site sequencing assays, mainly because of PCR recombination, whole-genome amplification artifacts, sequencing errors, or ambiguous mapping in repeat-rich chromosomal regions[20,36,37]. Collectively, the short indel cases, same gene integration in a putative clone, and low read-count (≤10) when captured by only one proviral end accounted for 174/174 (100%) of the low-confidence integration sites detected among clones #1-16 (supplementary table 2).

Given these observations, we implemented a five-step quality control filter strategy to improve the specificity of PRISM-seq (Fig. S13). Steps 1-4 are fully automated, and the accompanying script is included with the BulkIntSiteR package; Step 5 requires manual curation and removes

5.7% (10/174) of the noise in our data. Step 5 is especially critical when proviruses are

integrated within repeat-rich genomic regions: without it, 7 of 8 (87.5%) and 1 of 2 (50%)

integration sites were called as high-confidence sites for the two clones (#15 and #16) with

centromeric proviral insertion site (Fig. S14a-e). Incorporating step 5 yielded a single high-

confidence integration site for each clone. All integration sites that passed the final filter are

designated "high confidence integration sites" and used for downstream analysis.

PRISM-seq detection efficiency and cumulative recovery in an artificial mix

Next, we examined whether PRISM-seq can accurately detect integration sites in samples with

more than one unique integration site, each with varying abundance. Variation in template input

copies, as well as multiple authentic proviral insertions, can limit detection efficiency and

accuracy due to PCR competition and recombination[12,20,38]. To model this scenario, we

generated two artificial pools composed of clones #1-14 (Pool 1 and Pool 2), each with

integration sites represented at different relative input frequencies, and used them to assess the

detection efficiency of PRISM-seq in a mixed template context (Fig. 2a-b).

With a 10-replicate setup, the abundant 40- and 10-copy-input integration site was detected at

100% efficiency in both pools (Fig. 2a-b and S15-17). For the single copy integration site

templates, after adjusting for Poisson sampling expectations, the probability of detection of all

high-confidence single copy integration sites increased with the number of replicates and

reached 100% at 6 and 5 replicates in pool 1 and pool 2, respectively (Fig. 2c-d), despite the

presence of a more abundant ~40 or ~10 copy template competitor. Moreover, the cumulative

recovery of all expected high-confidence integration sites was proportional to the number of

replicates in both pool 1 and pool 2 (Fig. 2e-f). Across 10 replicates, we recovered 14/17 (82%)

and 19/20 (95%) of all expected high-confidence integration sites in pool 1 and pool 2,

respectively. Overall, these findings demonstrate that PRISM-seq can reliably recover

integration sites in a sample expected to contain both rare and abundant templates, with an

average recovery of 89% integration sites across pools, and can detect down to a single-

molecule input at a 100% detection efficiency with 5-6 replicates.

Estimation of the extent of clonal expansion within a sample using PRISM-seq

Across replicate analyses, repeated detection of the same integration site signifies that the

original sample contains multiple copies of that viral-host junction (Fig. 3a). In a clinical

context, such an observation would indicate clonal expansion of infected cells. We reasoned

that the frequency with which an integration site appears across PRISM-seq replicates would

be an indirect quantitative measure of the relative size of the clone harboring that integration.

As proof of principle, we applied this framework to the post-filtered datasets for our artificial

pools. As anticipated, the dominant clones, present at ~400 copies in pool 1 and ~100 copies

in pool 2, were detected in the largest number of replicates and therefore showed the highest

clonal abundance (Fig. 3b-e).

Application to longitudinal clinical samples from a person with HIV-1 on ART

To demonstrate the clinical utility of PRISM-seq, we longitudinally sampled CD4$^+$ T cells from

a study participant living with HIV-1 before ART initiation (pre-ART), and 3 months, 1 year,

and 7 years post-ART (Supplementary Table 3). Each sample was expected to contain multiple

unique integration sites originating from infected cells exhibiting variable levels of clonal

expansion[39-42]. Using 2-5 replicates and after only sampling 100-250 HIV-containing templates

per time point, we recovered 69, 67, 11, and 17 unique and high-confidence integration sites

from each time point, respectively (Fig. 4a). The proportion of proviruses integrated into genic

or intergenic regions remained stable over time (Fig. 4b). The fraction of proviruses integrated

into ZNF genes increased from 2%-3% (pre-ART and 3 months) to 9% (1 year) and 18% (7

years) post-ART time points (Fig. 4c), consistent with previous reports indicating that

proviruses persisting in ZNF genes and transcriptionally repressive genomic contexts are more

likely to be transcriptionally silent and capable of long-term persistence[6,30].

With longitudinal sampling and the replicate setup, we tracked clonally expanded infected

cells: we observed identical viral integration sites in BUB1B-PAK6(chr15:40226639(+)) and

intergenic region (chr13:105139021(+)) across all 4 time points sampled over 7 years (Fig. 4d),

an indicator that HIV-1 infected cells with integrations at these loci were expanded *in vivo* and

persisted during treatment over time. Overall, our findings show that PRISM-seq could be

directly applied to clinical samples that had an extremely low target concentration, and

provided a wealth of integration site data and biological insights with minimal sample input.

Discussion

In this study, we present PRISM-seq and its accompanying software BulkIntSiteR. The assay

recovers integration sites from single-molecule input, captures diverse genomic contexts,

quantifies clonal expansion, and is compatible with *ex vivo* clinical samples.

Existing bulk integration site assays, including assays INSPIIRED[11,12], VISPA/VISPA2[13],

QuickMap[14], VISA[15], MAVRIC[16], GeIST[17], IS-Seq[18], VSeq-Toolkit[19], do not support reliable

single-molecule detection or broad performance across challenging genomic contexts. PRISM-

seq overcomes these limitations through its MDA-enabled single-molecule capture workflow,

which efficiently recovers rare viral-host junctions from minimal DNA input. Although MDA

has been used previously in MIP-seq, that approach requires limiting dilution, is not designed

for bulk integration site analysis, and is costly. PRISM-seq provides a bulk-input compatible,

sensitive, and scalable platform for high-confidence integration site profiling.

Another key advance of PRISM-seq is the systematic characterization and mitigation of assay-

associated noise, an aspect that has not been quantitatively defined in prior proviral integration

site sequencing methods[12,20] nor formalized into a standardized filtering framework. Across

biologically pure samples with a single provirus integration site, we identified recurring artifact

classes arising from whole-genome amplification, PCR recombination, sequencing errors, and

mapping ambiguity in repeat-rich regions. These artifacts manifested as displaced junctions,

small indels, low-read viral-host chimeras detected by only one LTR end, and clusters of look-

alike integration sites mapping within the same gene or genomic window as the true high-

confidence site. Using clonal standards, including centromere-integrated proviruses resolvable

only using T2T-CHM13, we were able to distinguish genuine proviral insertions from

amplification- or sequencing-derived noise and develop a five-step quality control pipeline that

removes >85–90% of raw artifacts while preserving bona fide integration sites.

Application of PRISM-seq to longitudinal samples from a study participant living with HIV-1

revealed persistent clones integrated within transcriptionally repressive, ZNF-rich genomic

regions. These findings reinforce prior observations that proviruses can integrate and persist in

epigenetically repressed environments, including KRAB-ZNF gene clusters and other

heterochromatic regions[2,6,30,43]. The compatibility of PRISM-seq with low sample input, and

its ability to capture low-abundance, genomically diverse proviruses directly from clinically-

derived material highlights its utility for high-resolution reservoir characterization.

Furthermore, our companion study (Pal et al., 2025, preprint available in BioRivX [cite])

applied PRISM-seq to a novel mouse model engrafted with HIV-infected cells, demonstrating

that proviral integration sites play a key determinant role in latency fate decisions in

immunocompromised settings, underscoring the biological insight gained through single-

template-level mapping of proviral integrations.

PRISM-seq has several limitations. First, clonal expansion estimates currently require replicate

reactions. Future iterations incorporating unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) could enable

direct quantification of clonal abundance from single reactions. Second, increasing input

concentration beyond $\geq$50 templates per reaction is possible[22] but means users should turn off

the same-gene filter (step 3 in Fig. S9 and see Monte Carlo stimulation Fig S5b) with modest

compromise to specificity. Third, while our quality-filtering framework effectively reduces

artifacts, it may occasionally exclude rare authentic sites detected by only one proviral end with

low read counts - manual check is always recommended. Finally, PRISM-seq provides precise

integration sites mapping but does not assess proviral genome intactness, which remains

specific to HIV-1 reservoir studies and should be complemented with assays that evaluate

proviral sequence integrity [5,44,45].

Overall, we have shown that PRISM-seq is an ultra-sensitive, streamlined, and economical method for detecting lentiviral integration sites with single-template resolution. Coupled with its automated bioinformatics pipeline BulkIntSiteR and noise-mitigating steps, the assay delivers a fully integrated workflow for high-confidence integration site identification, filtering, and annotation, especially for rare template detection.

Method

Viral-host junction amplification and sequencing

Genomic DNA was extracted (QIAGEN DNeasy kit), quantified for HIV-1 gag by droplet digital PCR (Bio-Rad), subjected to whole-genome amplification using multiple displacement amplification (MDA; QIAGEN REPLI-g Single Cell Kit), and processed using an adaptor-ligation PCR workflow adapted from the Clontech Lenti-X Integration Site Analysis Kit[5]. Final nested PCR was used to selectively enrich viral-host junction products and sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq platform (2 × 150 bp). Full protocol details, origin of PRISM-seq, reagent specifications, and cost are provided in the Extended Methods. Technical replicates were defined as independent MDA reactions from the same DNA extraction; 10 replicates were used for pooling experiments, 2–5 for clinical samples, and none for 8E5/LAV or clones #1–16.

Identification of HIV-1 IS using BulkIntSiteR

Illumina sequencing-derived FASTQ files were processed using BulkIntSiteR, a one-click R-based, fully automated pipeline designed to detect, map, and annotate HIV-1 integration sites

in the human genome. BulkIntSiteR is cross-platform and can handle non-Illumina data. All

scripts are available freely on GitHub (https://github.com/guineverelee/BulkIntSiteR/).

Briefly, each small read was independently assessed for the presence of high-quality viral ends

(containing HXB2 1 or 9719 using BLAST+ suite[46]). For each read positively identified to

contain a viral end, the non-viral portion of the read was mapped to the human genome using

BLAT[47]. See GitHub documentation for the full algorithm.

Generation of 14 putative clones with a single integrated provirus

To generate the V1/SBP-GFP HIV-1 reporter virus, 7.5×10^7 293T cells (ATCC #CRL-3216;

RRID: CVCL_0063) were seeded in 875 cm² 5-layer flasks 1 day prior to transfection. 293T

cells were transfected with 75 μg pV1/SBP-GFP, 75 μg pCRV1/NLGagPol, and 15 μg pVSV-

G (Yee et al., 1994) using polyethyleneimine (PEI). After 12 hours, the medium was replaced

with fresh growth medium. Supernatants were collected 48 hours post-transfection, filtered,

and concentrated by ultracentrifugation over a 20% sucrose cushion. The pellet containing the

virus was resuspended in PBS + 10% BSA, aliquoted, and stored at -80 °C. The viral stock titre

(IU/ml) was determined by infecting MT4-LTR-GFP cells and using flow cytometry to assess

GFP expression.

For infection, Jurkat and MOLT-4 cells were infected with V1/SBP-GFP at a multiplicity of

infection (MOI) of 0.3. Infected cells were enriched using streptavidin bead-based magnetic

selection. Single-cell clones of infected Jurkat and MOLT-4 cells were isolated by limiting

dilution by diluting to 0.5 cells per well in RPMI growth medium, and 100 μL of the suspension

was seeded into each well of 96-well plates. The clonal outgrowth was monitored

microscopically, and wells containing single-cell-derived colonies were transferred to fresh

wells for expansion.

Clinical samples

334 The HIV-1-infected study participant was recruited at the Maple Leaf Clinic in Toronto,

335 Canada. PBMC samples were used according to protocols approved by the respective

336 Institutional Review Boards. CD4$^+$ T cells were enriched from total PBMCs using a CD4$^+$ T

337 Cell Isolation Kit (STEMCELL Technologies, catalog 17952). Clinical and demographical

338 characteristics of the study participant are summarized in Supplemental Table 3.

Extended methods (Supplementary)

Cost and origin

PRISM-seq is an evolution of our previously published matched integration site and proviral

sequencing (MIP-seq) protocol[5], which itself was adapted from the Clontech LentiX

integration site analysis method (catalog #631263). MIP-seq was designed to co-capture HIV

integration sites together with full-length proviral genomes at single-input-template resolution.

In contrast, PRISM-seq is optimized for multiple-template input and focuses specifically on

capturing viral integration sites, enabling substantially higher throughput at dramatically

reduced cost. At the time of writing, while MIP-seq was prohibitively expensive, with an

estimated cost of $240,000 to capture 100 integration sites and their associated proviral

genomes. PRISM-seq offers an economical solution at $280 per sample with detection

sensitivity down to a single template, making the assay broadly accessible. In addition, PRISM-

seq is fully supported by a publicly available bioinformatics (BulkIntSiteR) and quality control

pipeline, which automates integration site calling, annotation, and quality assessment.

Input template quantification by Droplet digital PCR (ddPCR)

DdPCR quantifications were performed to estimate the HIV-1 *gag*-containing proviral

template concentration[48]. CD4$^+$ T cells were enriched from total PBMCs using a CD4$^+$ T Cell

Isolation Kit (STEMCELL Technologies, catalog 17952) and subjected to DNA extraction

using commercial kits (QIAGEN DNeasy, 69504). We amplified total HIV-1 DNA using

ddPCR (Bio-Rad), with primers and probes described previously (127-bp 5′-LTR-gag

amplicon; HXB2 coordinates 684-810). PCR was performed using the following program:

95°C for 10 minutes; 45 cycles (95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 1 minute); 98°C for 10 minutes.

The droplets were subsequently read by a QX100 droplet reader, and data were analyzed using

Quanta- Soft software (BIO-RAD).

Multiple Displacement Amplification

Genomic DNA was isolated from the V1/SBP-GFP infected single cell clone using commercial

kits (QIAGEN DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit, catalog 69504), according to the manufacturer's

instructions. To maximize the likelihood of capturing a single HIV-1 proviral DNA copy, the

genomic DNA was amplified using multiple displacement amplification (MDA) with phi29

polymerase (QIAGEN REPLI-g Single Cell Kit, catalog 150345).   Buffers DLB, D1

(denaturation buffer), and N1 (neutralization buffer) were prepared according to the

manufacturer's protocol. The genomic DNA (2.5 μL) was denatured by the addition of 2.5 μL

of buffer D1, followed by an incubation at room temperature for 3 mins. The mix was

neutralized by adding 5 μL of buffer N1. 40 μL of the MDA master mix, consisting of nuclease-

free water, REPLI-g single cell Reaction Buffer, and REPLI-g single cell DNA Polymerase,

was added to the 10 μL denatured genomic DNA sample. The final 50 μL reaction was

incubated at 30°C for 4 h, followed by heat inactivation at 65°C for 3 mins. The amplified

product was purified using AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) and was used for

downstream integration site analysis.

Enzymatic digestion of genomic DNA

This protocol was adapted and modified from the Clontech Lenti-X Integration Site Analysis

Kit (catalog #631263), which, in its standard form without MDA, lacks sufficient sensitivity to

detect single-copy proviral DNA in a sample. Purified MDA products were digested using three

blunt-end restriction enzymes - HpaI (NEB #R0105L), SspI (NEB #R3132L), and DraI (NEB

#R0129L) - to fragment genomic DNA and facilitate subsequent ligation-based integration site

analysis. Briefly, 5 μL of purified MDA product was added to a master mix containing

nuclease-free water, 10× restriction enzyme buffer, and either DraI or SspI (20 U μL⁻¹) or HpaI

(5 U μL⁻¹), to a final reaction volume of 50 μL. Reactions were incubated at 37 °C for 18 hours

to ensure complete digestion. The digested genomic DNA was then purified using AMPure XP

beads and carried forward to adaptor ligation.

Ligation of the genome-walker adaptor to the digested genomic DNA

The genomic DNA fragments are ligated with double-stranded T-linker DNA (genome walker)

(see section below for exact sequence), in which the shorter strand is an oligonucleotide with

a 5' end phosphorylated (to enable efficient linker ligation) and the 3' end is modified with an

amino modification, which limits the extension of the short strand by DNA polymerase and

restricts the linker self-ligation amplicons amplification**.** Digested genomic DNA (4.8 μL) was

ligated to adaptors in an 8 μL reaction containing 1.9 μL adaptor (25 μM), 0.8 μL 10× ligation

buffer, and 0.5 μL T4 DNA ligase (6 U μL⁻¹; NEB #M0202L). Ligation was performed at 16

°C overnight in a thermal cycler to ensure temperature stability. The reaction was terminated

by heat inactivation at 70 °C for 5 min, followed by dilution with 32 μL of DEPC-treated water

(Ambion #4387937) to a final volume of 40 μL.

Viral-host junction PCR amplification

The adaptor ligated genomic DNA fragments were used as a template for nested PCR

amplification of viral-host junctions. The 5′LTR HIV-1 junction was amplified using LSP1

(GCTTCAGCAAGCCGAGTCCTGCGTCGAG)   and   LSP2

(GCTCCTCTGGTTTCCCTTTCGCTTTCAA) as forward primers, both derived directly from

the CloneTech LentiX kit. The 3′LTR HIV-1 junction was amplified using LestralLTR1

(CTTAAGCCTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTGAG)   and   LestralLTR2

(AGACCCTTTTAGTCAGTGTGGAAAATC) [5]. These were paired with adaptor-specific

reverse primers AP1 (GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGC) and AP2

(ACTATAGGGCACGCGTGGT) for the first and second PCR reactions, respectively. The

AP1 primer is specific to the 5' single-stranded region of the T-linker to avoid unwanted

amplification of the host DNA. The adaptor sequence was adapted from the CloneTech LentiX

kit (catalog #631263).

Each 25 µL PCR reaction contained 1× reaction buffer, 1× dNTP mix, 0.2 µM of each primer,

and Advantage 2 polymerase (Clontech Advantage® 2 PCR Kit, Cat. #639206). For the first

PCR, 15 µL of master mix was combined with 10 µL of diluted adaptor-ligated genomic DNA,

using AP1/LSP1 for 5′LTR junctions and AP1/LestralLTR1[5] for 3′LTR junctions. Cycling

conditions were: 7 cycles of 94 °C for 25 s and 72 °C for 3 min, followed by 32 cycles of 94

°C for 25 s and 67 °C for 3 min, and a final extension at 67 °C for 7 min.

For the second (nested) PCR, 24 µL of master mix was combined with 1 µL of first-round PCR

product, using AP2/LSP2 for 5′LTR junctions and AP2/LestralLTR2[5] for 3′LTR junctions.

Cycling conditions were: 5 cycles of 94 °C for 25 s and 72 °C for 3 min, followed by 20 cycles

of 94 °C for 25 s and 67 °C for 3 min, with a final extension at 67 °C for 7 min. Both 5′LTR

and 3′LTR viral-host junctions were successfully amplified under these conditions. The

resulting PCR products were subjected to Illumina MiSeq paired-end 150 base pairs (bp)

sequencing.

Cell culture

Jurkat cells and MOLT-4 cells were cultured at 37 °C and 5% CO_2 in RPMI supplemented with

10 % FCS and Gentamycin. All cell lines were monitored by the SG-PERT assay[49] regularly

to ensure the absence of retroviral contamination. Cell lines used in this study were devoid of

mycoplasma contamination.

Availability

BulkIntSiteR is available under an open-source license at:

https://github.com/guineverelee/BulkIntSiteR/

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Figure 1. Experimental and bioinformatic workflow for proviral integration sites identification using PRISM-seq. (a) Experimental workflow of PRISM-seq. The viral-host junction is specifically amplified using the gDNA samples of HIV-1 infected or lentiviral vector-

transduced cell samples and sequenced. **(b)** The bioinformatics steps involved in the BulkIntSiteR pipeline to process the raw sequencing data and generate an output containing the list of proviral integration sites. BulkIntSiteR normalizes junction coordinates to the 5′ LTR convention, accounting for the characteristic 4-bp offset between the 5′ and 3′ LTR junctions (Craigie and Bushman, 2012). The large disparity in junction-containing reads between the 5′ and 3′ LTR integration sites libraries (e.g. 8E5/LAV benchmarking experiment) likely reflects the differences in amplicon composition, relative to Illumina tagmentation and read length. The 5′ LTR amplicon contains ~681 nt of viral sequence, whereas the 3′ LTR amplicon contains only ~34 nt. Because tagmentation generates fragments of ~300 bp on average and the sequencing read length was 150 bp, most 5′ LTR reads fall entirely within the viral portion of the amplicon and never reach the host sequence, which would markedly reducing the number of recoverable viral-host chimeras.

Figure 2. Single-molecule detection efficiency of PRISM-seq in artificial mixes. (a and b) Two artificial pools were constructed to test PRISM-seq's ability to recover integration sites in samples with multiple unique integration sites at varying relative abundance. Pool 1 contained 11 of the 14 clones #1-14 encompassing at least 17 unique high confidence integration sites, whereas pool 2 contained all 14 clones #1-14 with at least 20 unique high confidence integration sites (designs described in Methods). To model differences in template clonal abundance, pool 1 included one dominant clone (Clone #1) at ~400 genome copies and ten minor clones at 10 copies each; pool 2 included four abundant clones at 100 copies each and ten minor clones at 10 copies each. Each pool was divided into ten independent genomic DNA sampling replicates resulting in each reaction containing an average of ~50 total proviral copies per reaction, equivalent to an average of ~40

copies of the dominant clone plus ten single-copy clones for pool 1, and four 10-copy clones plus ten single-copy clones for pool 2. Each of the 10 replicates was independently subjected to PRIMS-seq. The Table shows the number of high-confidence integration sites present in the artificial pool 1 (a) and pool 2 (b), respectively. The colored matrix shows the recovery of expected high-confidence integration sites across 10 replicates. The color highlights if a high-confidence integration site was recovered by both 5′LTR and 3′LTR (blue), or exclusively by either 5′LTR (red), or 3′LTR (yellow) viral-host junction. The true/false denotes if a high-confidence integration site was recovered by either proviral end. **(c and d)** Cumulative recovery of single-copy clone integration sites after adjusting for Poisson sampling expectation across 10 replicates. Clones #6 and #10 were excluded from this analysis. **(e and f)** Percent cumulative recovery of all expected high-confidence integration sites from pool 1 and pool 2, respectively.

Figure 3. Post-quality filter recovery of high-confidence integration sites and estimation of clonal abundance. (a) Schematics showing the identification of expanded clones using PRISM-seq. We used the post-filtered data to evaluate integration site authenticity and to estimate clonal abundance in mixed, non-clonal samples, Pool 1 and Pool 2. The post-filtered datasets resulted in the recovery of a total of 16 high-confidence unique integration sites in pool 1 and 22 in pool 2, closely matching the expected input sites (17 for pool 1 and 20 for pool 2), with false-positive calls limited to 2 of 16 (12.5%) and 3 of 22 (13.6%), respectively. For each integration site, we counted the number of replicate reactions in which it was recovered. Integration sites detected in multiple replicates are highly likely to represent true biological events, whereas those observed only once

are more likely to reflect residual noise. **(b and c)** post-filter estimation of the relative clonal abundance of individual clones found in pool 1 and pool 2 after 10 replicates, respectively. The top 4 abundant clones are labelled in the legend. **(d and e)** The dot plots show the total number of integration sites retrieved from individual sequencing replicates of pool 1 (a) and pool 2 (b), respectively. The expected high-confidence integration sites are highlighted if recovered by both 5′LTR and 3′LTR (blue), or exclusively by either 5′LTR (red), or 3′LTR (yellow) viral-host junction. The unexpected integration sites are colored in black. The quality filter led to 2 of 16 (12.5% noise) and 3 of 22 (13.6% noise) unexpected integration sites identification as noise in pool 1 and pool 2, respectively.

Figure 4. Longitudinal clonal tracking and identification of proviral integration sites in a person with HIV-1 infection. **(a)** Number of unique integration sites identified using PRISM-seq from an HIV-1 infected person under long-term ART treatment. Across the number of replicates performed, we sampled in total 250, 250, 100, and 100 HIV-containing templates at each indicated time point. **(b)** The precent genic and intergenic distribution of proviral integration sites. **(c)** The distribution of proviruses in ZNF and non-ZNF genes in the genome. P-value denotes Fisher's exact test. **(d)** Clonal tracking of HIV-1 infected cell clones over time under ART. The shared clones identified at all the time points are labelled with their respective proviral integration sites.

Figure S1. Genome-wide distribution of the restriction enzyme recognition site. The karyoplot shows the DraI (yellow), SspI (cyan), and HpaI (orange) restriction sites distribution genome-wide on the human reference genome assembly hg38. RE, restriction enzymes.

Figure S2. Distribution of restriction enzyme sites within the provirus genome and PRISM-seq primer binding sites compatibility across HIV and lentiviral vector delivery systems. (a) Location of DraI and SspI restriction sites in the genome of the full-length HIV-1 reference sequence (HXB2) and replication-deficient HIV-1 reporter (V1-SBP-GFP) from 5′ to 3′ direction. The restriction sites coordinate in the proviral genome are mentioned within brackets next to each restriction enzyme. The black and gray colors represent the identical and non-identical sequences, respectively, between the V1-SBP-GFP and HXB2 genome sequence. **(b)** Multiple sequence alignment of HXB2, replication-deficient single-round HIV-1 reporters (V1- SBP-GFP and V1-CCheGW), pCSIB (lentivirus-based overexpression construct to generate stable cell lines), LentiCRISPRv2 (CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing lentiviral vector), HIV7-Bcl2-CD28-CD3z-T2A-EGFR, and pXL001-TQM IL13 CAR lentiviral vectors. The primer binding sites for 5′LTR (LSP1 and LSP2) and 3′LTR (LestralLTR1 and LestralLTR2) viral-host junction amplification are conserved across these sequences.

Figure S3. Identification of proviral integration sites using PRISM-seq in putative single-cell clones #1-14, raw data. (a-c) The proviral integration sites retrieved from individual putative clones, either from the 5′LTR (a) or 3′LTR (b) or combined (c) viral host junction. The blue, red, and yellow dots represent the integration sites identified by both 5′LTR and 3′LTR, exclusively by 5′LTR or 3′LTR, respectively. LTR; long terminal repeat of lentiviruses.

Figure S4. Identification of proviral integration sites using PRISM-seq in clones with known centromeric integrations #15 and #16, raw data. (a-c) The proviral integration sites were identified in clones #15 and #16, either from the 5′LTR (a) or 3′LTR (b) or combined (c) viral host junction using PRISM-seq. Results for clones #15 and #16 are shown for both technical duplicate reactions.

a

Number of cases	Types of staggers	examples
1	Integration sites 1 base pair apart (1 bp stagger)	REV3L (chr6:111352829 in negative strand) and REV3L (chr6:111352830 in negative strand)
2	Integration sites 1-10 base pair apart (1-10 bp stagger)	PLCB1-IT1 (chr20:8251940 in positive strand) and PLCB1-IT1 (chr20: 8251936 in positive strand)
3	Integration sites 10-100 bp pair apart (10-100 bp stagger)	EIF4G3 (chr1:20971026 in negative strand and EIF4G3 (chr1:20971114 in positive strand)
4	Integration sites 100 - 3000 bp apart (100-3000 bp stagger)	KATNA1(chr6: 149598014 in negative strand and KATNA1 (chr6: 149596202 in positive strand)

b

Figure S5. Identification of look-alike integration site artifact cases and the relationship between integration events and the probability of having true multiple integrations into the same gene(s). (a) Characterization of artifacts generated during the integration sites assay. Each staggered case is distinguished based on its genomic distance (bp) from the high-confidence integration sites coordinates of a putative clone. The examples shown here were observed in distinct putative clones. Bp: base pairs. **(b)** Regarding Step 3 in our proposed quality filter which involves collapsing integration sites that mapped to the same gene if found within a single reaction: We recognize that when PRISM-seq is applied to non-clonal clinical samples, there will be a genuine possibility that proviruses had integrated into distinct locations within the same gene. The likelihood of detecting genuine gene integration depends on the number of integration events sampled within a PRISM-seq reaction. We performed a Monte Carlo simulation and confirmed that the likelihood of detecting genuine same-gene integration was 0%, 0%, 14%, 50% and 99% when 1, 10, 50, 100, and 250 unique integration events were sampled. Therefore, we suggest that users should quantify targeting viral DNA copies by techniques such as Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR), and turn off Step 3 if more than 50 target copies were input into each PRISM-seq reaction, with the caveat that specificity would be compromised. In this study, all reactions were performed at 50 copies per reaction input.

Figure S6

Figure S6. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found within the putative clones. The host sequence derived from the viral-host chimeric junction read for individual integration sites retrieved from putative clones 1-5 by the 5′LTR and 3′LTR viral-host junction. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clones 1, 2, and 4.

Figure S7

Figure S7. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found within the putative clones. The host sequence derived from the viral-host chimeric junction read for individual integration sites retrieved from putative clones 6-9 by the 5′LTR and 3′LTR viral-host junction. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clones 6, 8, and 9.

Figure S8

Figure S8. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found within the putative clones. The host sequence derived from the viral-host chimeric junction read for individual integration sites retrieved from putative clone 10 by the 5′LTR and 3′LTR viral-host junction. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clone 10.

Figure S9

Figure S9. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found within the putative clones. The host sequence derived from the viral-host chimeric junction read for individual integration site retrieved from putative clones 11-14 by the 5′LTR and 3′LTR viral-host junction. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clones 11 and 12.

Figure S10

clone 15 replicate 1_3'LTR

Figure S10. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found in clones isolated from HIV-1-infected individuals. The host sequence derived from the 3′ LTR viral-host chimeric junction read for all unique integration sites identified for clone #15 replicate 1. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clone 15.

Figure S11

clone 15 replicate 2_3'LTR

Figure S11. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found in clones isolated from HIV-1-infected individuals. The host sequence derived from the 3′ LTR viral-host chimeric junction read for all unique integration sites identified for clone #15 replicate 2. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clone 15.

Figure S12

Figure S12. Comparison of host sequences for each unique integration site found in clones isolated from HIV-1-infected individuals. The host sequence derived from the viral-host chimeric junction read for all unique integration sites identified for clone #16 replicates 1 and 2, respectively. The low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clone 16.

Figure S13. Data-guided noise removal approach. Leveraging the clonal nature of Clones #1-16, we devised a final quality control filter to remove assay noise. This set of quality filters is applied to the BulkIntSiteR output; (1) filter and remove the spillover noise of integration site identified by 3′ LTR in the 5′ LTR library and vice versa. (2) integration sites within ≤10 bp were collapsed by retaining the site with the highest read count; (3) integration sites located within the same gene were filtered to retain only one site with the highest read count, excluding all others if the input template count is ≤50 copies; (4) integration sites detected exclusively by either 5′ LTR or 3′ LTR junctions were excluded if supported by ≤10 read counts. Integration sites detected by

both 5′ LTR and 3′ LTR virus-host junctions, regardless of the raw read counts, and the sites that passed step 4 were classified as high-confidence. An optional Step (5), involving user-guided homology clustering of host sequences derived from the viral-host chimeric reads, removes look-alike integration sites that share identical junction sequences and co-occur within the same reaction, retaining only the site with the highest read count (Fig. S9). Steps 1-4 are fully automated, and the accompanying script is included with the BulkIntSiteR package; Step 5 requires user input and manual curation. If Step 5 is not performed, PRISM-seq results in 5.7% (10/174) noise in our data. This final step 5 is particularly critical when proviruses are expected to be integrated within repeat-rich genomic regions. Without Step 5, BulkIntSiteR identified 7 of 8 (87.5%) and 1 of 2 (50%) integration sites as low-confidence (noise) for the two clones (#15 and #16) with provirus integrated in centromeric regions (Fig. S14a-e). Incorporating step 5 and removing redundant low-confidence sites sharing the same junction sequence yielded one high-confidence integration site for each clone (0% noise), underscoring its importance for accurate proviral insertion site detection in repetitive loci.

Figure S14

Figure S14. Post-filter recovery of proviral integration sites found within centromeric clones.
(a) The BulkIntSiteR integration sites output data was processed using the QC filtering pipeline, and results for clones #15 and #16 are shown for technical duplicate reactions. **(b-e)** Comparison of the host sequence for all unique integration sites after QC filtering for clones #15 and #16. The unexpected low-confidence integration sites share the same junction sequence as the high-confidence integration site for clones 15 and 16.

Figure S15. Proviral integration sites identification in artificial pool 1. (a-c) The dot plot represents the total number of unique integration sites identified in each replicate of pool 1 by either the 5′LTR (a) or 3′LTR (b) or combined (c) viral-host junction. The total number of unique integration sites retrieved in an individual replicate is represented as an n value. The blue, red, and yellow dots represent the integration site identified by both 5′LTR and 3′LTR, exclusively by 5′LTR or 3′LTR, respectively. (d) Post-filter identification of low-confidence expected and unexpected integration sites.

a Pool 2 5′LTR

b Pool 2 3′LTR

c Pool 2 combined (pre-filter)

high-confidence

5′LTR and 3′LTR   5′LTR   3′LTR   • low-confidence

d Pool 2 post-filter (low-confidence)

expected

5′LTR and 3′LTR   5′LTR   3′LTR   • unexpected

Figure S16. Proviral integration sites identification in artificial pool 2. (a-c) The dot plot represents the total number of unique integration sites identified in each replicate of pool 2 by either the 5′LTR (a) or 3′LTR (b) or combined (c) viral-host junction. The total number of unique integration sites retrieved in an individual replicate is represented as an n value. The blue, red, and yellow dots represent the integration sites identified by both 5′LTR and 3′LTR, exclusively by 5′LTR or 3′LTR, respectively. (d) Post-filter identification of low-confidence expected and unexpected integration sites.

Figure S17

Figure S17. Comparison of host sequences of unexpected integration sites observed in pool 1 and pool 2, respectively (a and b). The host sequence derived from unexpected integration sites found in pool 1 replicate 9 (a) and pool 2 replicate 4 (b) by 5′LTR and 3′LTR viral-host junction. The unexpected integration sites sharing the same junction sequence or ±10 kb away from the expected high-confidence integration site are labelled with an asterisk (*).