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Preface

This volume contains the papers which were selected for oral presentation at the first Bioinformatics Research and Development (BIRD) conference held in Berlin, Germany during March 12-14, 2007. BIRD covers a wide range of topics related to bioinformatics like microarray data, genomics, single nucleotide polymorphism, sequence analysis, systems biology, medical applications, proteomics, information systems.

The conference was very competitive. From about 140 submissions only 36 were selected by the Program Committee for oral presentation at BIRD and for publication in these proceedings. The acceptance rate was 1/4. The decisions of the Program Committee were guided by the recommendations of several reviewers for each paper. It should be mentioned that these proceedings have companion proceedings published by the Austrian Computer Society where selected poster presentations of the BIRD conference are included.

The invited talk titled "From Flies to Human Disease" by Josef Penninger, one of the leading researcher in genetic experiments for investigating disease pathogenesis, was very inspiring and gave new insights into future bioinformatics challenges.

Many contributions utilized microarray data for medical problems or for modeling biological networks. In the field of systems biology new approaches were introduced, especially for flux distribution, for regulatory modules where the inverse problem theory is applied, and for inferring regulatory or functional networks. Several contributions are related to medical problems: therapy outcome prognosis, SNP data, genome structure, genetic causes of addiction, HIV virus, MEDLINE documents, analyzing TP53 mutation data, investigation satellite-DNA data, or testing bioactive molecules. Another main topic was sequence analysis, where contributions propose new coding schemes, new profiles, and new kernels and where Markovian approaches for genome analysis and protein structure were developed. A major research field was proteomics, which can be sub-divided into measurement- and structure-related issues. Another research field focused on databases, text retrieval, and Web services.

The first BIRD conference was a great success to which many persons contributed. The editors want to thank first of all the authors, whose work made this volume possible. Then we want to thank once again the invited speaker, Josef Penninger. We thank especially the Program Committee members, who ensured the high quality of the conference and the publications in this volume, provided their experience and expert knowledge, and invested time to select the best submission. The conference was only possible by the excellent support of the local Organizing Committee Camilla Bruns and Klaus Obermayer (Technical University of Berlin), whom we want to thank. Many thanks also to the President of the Technical University of Berlin, Kurt Kutzler, for hosting this conference. We thank the Web administrators (A. Anjomshoa, A. Dreiling, C. Teuschel) who took care of the online submission process and registration. Thanks to the "Arbeitskreis Bioinformatik" of the Austrian Computer Society for the support of

the BIRD conference. Many thanks also to Noura Chelbat, Djork-Arne Clevert, and Martin Heusel for their support in setting up this first BIRD conference.

Most of all we wish to express our gratitude to Gabriela Wagner (DEXA Society), who managed the conference, which includes organizing the submission and the review process, setting up and coordinating the decisions of the Program Committee, being responsible for the final paper versions, planning and supervising the technical program schedule including the banquet, looking after the editorial and printing issues, and many more. Last but not least our thanks to Rudolf Ardelt, Rector of the Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria, who enabled this conference by establishing Bioinformatics at the JKU Linz.

January 2007

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Table of Contents

Session 1: Microarray and Systems Biology I (Networks)

Bayesian Inference of Gene Regulatory Networks Using Gene Expression Time Series Data	1
<i>Nicole Radde and Lars Kaderali</i>	
Biological Network Inference Using Redundancy Analysis	16
<i>Patrick E. Meyer, Kevin Kontos, and Gianluca Bontempi</i>	
A Novel Graph Optimisation Algorithm for the Extraction of Gene Regulatory Networks from Temporal Microarray Data	28
<i>Judit Kumuthini, Lionel Jouffe, and Conrad Bessant</i>	

Session 2: Microarray and Systems Biology II

Analysing Periodic Phenomena by Circular PCA	38
<i>Matthias Scholz</i>	
Identification of Cold-Induced Genes in Cereal Crops and <i>Arabidopsis</i> Through Comparative Analysis of Multiple EST Sets	48
<i>Angelica Lindl�f, Marcus Br�utigam, Aakash Chawade, Bj�rn Olsson, and Olof Olsson</i>	
Mining Spatial Gene Expression Data for Association Rules	66
<i>Jano van Hemert and Richard Baldock</i>	

Session 3: Medical, SNPs, Genomics I

Individualized Predictions of Survival Time Distributions from Gene Expression Data Using a Bayesian MCMC Approach	77
<i>Lars Kaderali</i>	
Comparing Logic Regression Based Methods for Identifying SNP Interactions	90
<i>Arno Fritsch and Katja Ickstadt</i>	
Stochastical Analysis of Finite Point Sampling of 3D Chromatin Fiber in Interphase Cell Nuclei	104
<i>E. Gladilin, S. Goetze, J. Mateos-Langerak, R. van Driel, K. Rohr, and R. Eils</i>	

Session 4: Medical, SNPs, Genomics II

Structural Screening of HIV-1 Protease/Inhibitor Docking by Non-parametric Binomial Distribution Test	119
<i>Piyarat Nimmanpipug, Vannajan Sanghiran Lee, Jeerayut Chaijaruwanich, Sukon Prasitwattanaseree, and Patrinee Traisathit</i>	
satDNA Analyzer 1.2 as a Valuable Computing Tool for Evolutionary Analysis of Satellite-DNA Families: Revisiting Y-Linked Satellite-DNA Sequences of <i>Rumex</i> (Polygonaceae)	131
<i>Rafael Navajas-Pérez, Manuel Ruiz Rejón, Manuel Garrido-Ramos, José Luis Aznarte, and Cristina Rubio-Escudero</i>	
A Soft Hierarchical Algorithm for the Clustering of Multiple Bioactive Chemical Compounds	140
<i>Jehan Zeb Shah and Naomie bt Salim</i>	

Session 5: Systems Biology

A Novel Method for Flux Distribution Computation in Metabolic Networks	154
<i>Da Jiang, Shuigeng Zhou, and Jihong Guan</i>	
Inverse Bifurcation Analysis of a Model for the Mammalian G_1/S Regulatory Module	168
<i>James Lu, Heinz W. Engl, Rainer Machné, and Peter Schuster</i>	
Weighted Cohesiveness for Identification of Functional Modules and Their Interconnectivity	185
<i>Zelmina Lubovac, David Corne, Jonas Gamalielsson, and Björn Olsson</i>	
Modelling and Simulation of the Genetic Phenomena of Additivity and Dominance via Gene Networks of Parallel Aggregation Processes	199
<i>Elena Tsiorkova and Veselka Boeva</i>	

Session 6: Sequence Analysis I (Coding)

Protein Remote Homology Detection Based on Binary Profiles	212
<i>Qiwen Dong, Lei Lin, and Xiaolong Wang</i>	
Biological Sequences Encoding for Supervised Classification	224
<i>Rabie Saidi, Mondher Maddouri, and Engelbert Mephu Nguifo</i>	
Fast Search Algorithms for Position Specific Scoring Matrices	239
<i>Cinzia Pizzi, Pasi Rastas, and Esko Ukkonen</i>	

Session 7: Sequence Analysis II

A Markovian Approach for the Segmentation of Chimpanzee Genome... <i>Christelle Melodelima and Christian Gautier</i>	251
Synthetic Protein Sequence Oversampling Method for Classification and Remote Homology Detection in Imbalanced Protein Data <i>Majid M. Beigi and Andreas Zell</i>	263
Stem Kernels for RNA Sequence Analyses <i>Yasubumi Sakakibara, Kiyoshi Asai, and Kengo Sato</i>	278
Prediction of Structurally-Determined Coiled-Coil Domains with Hidden Markov Models <i>Piero Fariselli, Daniele Molinini, Rita Casadio, and Anders Krogh</i>	292

Session 8: Proteomics I

Patch Prediction of Protein Interaction Sites: Validation of a Scoring Function for an Online Server <i>Susan Jones and Yoichi Mukarami</i>	303
Statistical Inference on Distinct RNA Stem-Loops in Genomic Sequences <i>Shu-Yun Le and Jih-H. Chen</i>	314
Interpretation of Protein Subcellular Location Patterns in 3D Images Across Cell Types and Resolutions <i>Xiang Chen and Robert F. Murphy</i>	328

Session 9: Proteomics II (Measurements)

Bayesian Inference for 2D Gel Electrophoresis Image Analysis <i>Ji Won Yoon, Simon J. Godsill, ChulHun Kang, and Tae-Seong Kim</i>	343
SimShiftDB: Chemical-Shift-Based Homology Modeling <i>Simon W. Ginzinger, Thomas Gräupl, and Volker Heun</i>	357
Annotation of LC/ESI-MS Mass Signals <i>Ralf Tautenhahn, Christoph Böttcher, and Steffen Neumann</i>	371

Session 10: Proteomics III (Structure)

Stochastic Protein Folding Simulation in the d-Dimensional HP-Model. <i>K. Steinhöfel, A. Skaliotis, and A.A. Albrecht</i>	381
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Enhancing Protein Disorder Detection by Refined Secondary Structure Prediction	395
<i>Chung-Tsai Su, Tong-Ming Hsu, Chien-Yu Chen, Yu-Yen Ou, and Yen-Jen Oyang</i>	
Joining Softassign and Dynamic Programming for the Contact Map Overlap Problem.....	410
<i>Brijnesh J. Jain and Michael Lappe</i>	
 Session 11: Databases, Web and Text Analysis	
An Evaluation of Text Retrieval Methods for Similarity Search of Multi-dimensional NMR-Spectra	424
<i>Alexander Hinneburg, Andrea Porzel, and Karina Wolfram</i>	
Ontology-Based MEDLINE Document Classification.....	439
<i>Fabrice Camous, Stephen Blott, and Alan F. Smeaton</i>	
Integrating Mutations Data of the TP53 Human Gene in the Bioinformatics Network Environment	453
<i>Domenico Marra and Paolo Romano</i>	
Efficient and Scalable Indexing Techniques for Biological Sequence Data.....	464
<i>Mihail Halachev, Nematollah Shiri, and Anand Thamildurai</i>	
 Author Index	 481