
Contents

Preface

Chapter 1 Introduction to Bioinformatics 1

1.1	Biology and Bioinformatics	1
	The Nature of Publicly Funded Research.....	3
	Genomics and Proteomics	6
	Metabolic Databases	6
	Public and Proprietary Bioinformatics.....	7
1.2	Computers in Biology and Medicine	9
	Computer Algorithms	10
	Different Types of Computers for Different Tasks	11
	Supercomputers	12
	Limitations of Computational Tools: Paradoxical Promise of the Internet	13
	The Need for Computational Tools	15
	New Approaches to Scientific Research with Computers.....	16
1.3	Biological Macromolecules	17
	Proteins	17
	Protein Structure	20
	Protein Folding	22
	Protein Functions.....	25
	DNA and RNA Structure	27
	Nucleic Acid Structure and Function	27
	Genetic Code	29
	Genes and Evolution.....	31

Chapter 2 Databases and Search Tools 33

2.1	Computational Tools and Databases.....	33
	National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).....	34
	European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI).....	44
	GenomeNet — Japanese Bioinformatics Servers.....	54
2.2	Database Mining Tools	66
	Sequence Similarity Search Tools: BLAST	66
	Pattern Recognition Tools and Databases	80

Chapter 3 Genome Analysis 83

3.1	DNA Cloning and PCR	83
	DNA Cloning	84
	Transcriptional Profiling	85
	Positional Cloning	86
	Polymerase Chain Reaction: PCR	87
	Sequencing Technologies Under Development	88
	Monitoring Sequencing Progress	89
3.2	Computational Tools for DNA Sequence Analysis	90
	Database Submissions	91
	Data Retrieval	96
	Sequence Alignment	99
	What a Sequence Reveals About the Biological Function of a Gene	101
	How to Identify a Gene: ORFs and URFs	102
	A Word About Redundancy	104
	Better Search Engines for Better Computers?	104
3.3	Genome Analysis	107
	Genome Organization	107
	Mapping the Genome	112
	Human Genome Mapping Progress	118
3.4	Functional Genomics	120
	Unidentified Reading Frames: URFs	123
	Cluster of Orthologous Groups: COGs	124

Chapter 4 Proteome Analysis.....129

4.1	Proteomics.....	129
	2-D Page at Expsy	134
	Yeast Proteome Database	136
4.2	Metabolic Reconstruction	137
	KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes	137
	The Functional Reconstruction Model	138
	<i>E. coli</i> Metabolic Database: EcoCyc	139
	Where Should We Be in the Future?	140

Chapter 5 The Computer Revolution in Neurobiology143

5.1	Human Brain Project	143
	The Influence of Computers in Science	144
	Computers in Neurobiology and the Mapping of the Human Brain	145
	From Molecules to Neurodegenerative Diseases	149

5.2	Computer Simulations and Visualization of Molecular Structures....	154
	3-D Visualization	154
	The Virtual Doctor: (Virtual and Remote Surgery)	157
5.3	Predictive Biology	159
	Protein Structure Prediction	160
	Structure Prediction Software	166
	Glossary	169
	Index	173