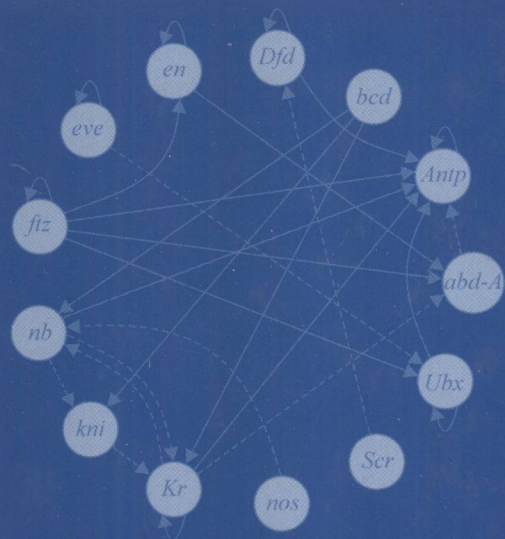




# Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure II

Edited by

Nikolay Kolchanov

Ralf Hofstaedt

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# BIOINFORMATICS OF GENOME REGULATION AND STRUCTURE II

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## Preface

The last 15 years in development of biology were marked with accumulation of unprecedentedly huge arrays of experimental data. The information was amassed with exclusively high rates due to the advent of highly efficient experimental technologies that provided for high throughput genomic sequencing; of functional genomics technologies allowing investigation of expression dynamics of large groups of genes using expression DNA chips; of proteomics methods giving the possibility to analyze protein compositions of cells, tissues, and organs, assess the dynamics of the cell proteome, and reconstruct the networks of protein–protein interactions; and of metabolomics, in particular, high resolution mass spectrometry study of cell metabolites, and distribution of metabolic fluxes in the cells with a concurrent investigation of the dynamics of thousands metabolites in an individual cell.

Analysis, comprehension, and use of the tremendous volumes of experimental data reflecting the intricate processes underlying the functioning of molecular genetic systems are unfeasible in principle without the systems approach and involvement of the state-of-the-art information and computer technologies and efficient mathematical methods for data analysis and simulation of biological systems and processes.

The need in solving these problems initiated the birth of a new science—postgenomic bioinformatics or systems biology *in silico*. The following problems embody the key directions of the systems computer biology: (1) Integration of the heterogeneous experimental data that are obtained by various methods of structural and functional genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and other approaches of modern biology in databases; (2) Integrated computer analysis aimed at detection of the patterns in functioning of molecular genetic systems of the living organisms from microorganism to



humans; (3) Construction of mathematical models of molecular biological and molecular genetic systems and processes that would form the background for analyzing the mechanisms involved in realization of genetic information; and (4) Investigation of the principles underlying organization and function of gene networks, which provide for formation of phenotypic characteristics of the living organisms basing on the information encoded in their genomes.

These issues of the utmost importance were discussed at the International Conference on Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure (BGRS), organized biennially by the Laboratory of Theoretical Genetics with the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia. BGRS'2004, hold in July 2004, was the fourth event in the series (<http://www.bionet.nsc.ru/meeting/bgrs2004/>).

The program of the Fourth International Conference comprised five main sections, covering most topical aspects of theoretical, experimental, and applied directions of bioinformatics research, namely: (i) computer structural and functional genomics; (ii) computer structural and functional proteomics; (iii) computer evolutionary biology; (iv) computer systems biology, and (v) new approaches to analysis of data and processes in molecular biology.

We are glad to offer to the readers the second book *Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure*, which summarizes results of the works presented at BGRS'2004. The book contains selected reviewed papers of the Conference participants from many countries all over the world including Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA.

We hope that this book will be useful for the scientists involved in basic and applied research in the field of experimental and theoretical studies of structure–function organization of genomes, on the one hand, and teachers and students of universities and colleges, mathematicians and biologists, on the other, that is, to a wide range of readers who are interested in the modern state, problems, possibilities, and prospects of bioinformatics.

*Professor Nikolay Kolchanov*  
*Head of the Laboratory of Theoretical Genetics*  
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*Chairman of the Conference*

*Professor Ralf Hofstaedt*  
*Faculty of Technology, Bioinformatics Department*  
*University of Bielefeld, Germany*  
*Co-Chairman of the Conference*

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PART 1

COMPUTATIONAL STRUCTURAL,  
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