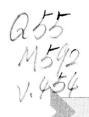
# Methods in ENZYMOLOGY

Volume 454
Computer Methods,
Part A

Edited by
Michael L. Johnson
Ludwig Brand





**VOLUME FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR** 

# METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY Computer Methods, Part A

# EDITED BY

MICHAEL L. JOHNSON

Departments of Pharmacology and Internal Medicine University of Virginia Health System Charlottesville, Virginia

# LUDWIG BRAND

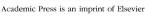
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# **CONTRIBUTORS**

# Thomas J. Balkin

Department of Behavioral Biology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Division of Neuroscience, Silver Spring, Maryland

# Daniel A. Beard

Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center and Department of Physiology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# **Gregory Belenky**

Sleep and Performance Research Center, Washington State University, Spokane, Washington

# Patrick L. Benitez

Departments of Pharmacology and Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

# **Marc Breton**

University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# **Emre Brookes**

Department of Biochemistry, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

# Yang Cao

Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

# William Clarke

University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# **Borries Demeler**

Department of Biochemistry, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

# Harold B. Dowse

School of Biology and Ecology and Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

# William S. Evans

Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Medicine, and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

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# Leon S. Farhy

Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# David M. Freiberger

Sleep and Performance Research Center, Washington State University, Spokane, Washington

# Alan Genz

Department of Mathematics, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

# A. Granada

Institute for Theoretical Biology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

# **Alexander Greene**

School of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

# R. M. Hennig

Behavioral Physiology, Biology Department, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

# H. Herzel

Institute for Theoretical Biology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

# Michael L. Johnson

Departments of Pharmacology and Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

# **Boris Kovatchev**

University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# A. Kramer

Laboratory of Chronobiology, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

# Gary H. Kamimori

Department of Behavioral Biology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Division of Neuroscience, Silver Spring, Maryland

# Martin J. Kushmerick

Departments of Radiology, Bioengineering, Physiology and Biophysics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

# George I. Makhatadze

Department of Biology and Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

# Jay I. Myung

Department of Psychology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

# Luitgard Nagel-Steger

Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Institut für Physikalische Biologie, Düsseldorf, Germany

#### Ralf Nass

Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# Jens Erik Nielsen

School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Centre Synthesis and Chemical Biology, UCD Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin, Ireland

# **Robert Palais**

Department of Pathology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

# Lenore Pipes

Departments of Pharmacology and Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

# Mark A. Pitt

Department of Psychology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

# Raina Robeva

Department of Mathematical Sciences, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia

# B. Ronacher

Behavioral Physiology, Biology Department, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

#### David C. Samuels

Center for Human Genetics Research, Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Nashville, TN

# Katrina L. Schweiker

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Penn State University College of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Department of Biology and Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

# Amber D. Smith

Sleep and Performance Research Center, Washington State University, Spokane, Washington

# Yun Tang

Department of Psychology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

# Joel Tellinghuisen

Department of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

xiv Contributors

# Michael O. Thorner

Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

# Hans P. A. Van Dongen

Sleep and Performance Research Center, Washington State University, Spokane, Washington

# Paula P. Veldhuis

Departments of Pharmacology and Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

# Kalyan C. Vinnakota

Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center and Department of Physiology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# Carl T. Wittwer

Department of Pathology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

# Fan Wu

Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center and Department of Physiology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# PREFACE

The use of computers and computational methods has become ubiquitous in biological and biomedical research. This has been driven by numerous factors, a few of which follow: One primary reason is the emphasis being placed on computers and computational methods within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) roadmap; another factor is the increased level of mathematical and computational sophistication among researchers, particularly among junior scientists, students, journal reviewers, and NIH study section members; and another is the rapid advances in computer hardware and software, which make these methods far more accessible to the rank-and-file research community.

A general perception exists that the only applications of computers and computer methods in biological and biomedical research are either basic statistical analysis or the searching of DNA sequence data bases. While these are important applications, they only scratch the surface of the current and potential applications of computers and computer methods in biomedical research. The various chapters within this volume include a wide variety of applications that extend this limited perception.

The training of the majority of senior M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s in clinical or basic disciplines at academic medical centers rarely includes advanced coursework in mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, or computer science. Generally, their hardware and software are maintained by a hospital staff that installs all hardware and software and even restricts what is available on their computers. Therefore, a critical aspect of this volume is information and methodology transfer to this target audience. This specific audience is indifferent as to whether the hardware and software are modern, object-oriented, portable, reusable, use the latest markup language, interchangeable, or easily maintained. These users are only interested in analyzing their data. The chapters within this volume have been written in order to be accessible to this target audience.

Michael L. Johnson and Ludwig Brand

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