Contents

Papers
183 Kernel methods for large-scale genomic data analysis
Xuening Wang, Yexi P. Yang and crawf J. Deininger
193 Sequencing technologies and tools for short tandem repeat variation detection
Minh Luu, Cao, Sana Khan, Vassios Rokade and Nadira Bleden
205 A multi-Poisson dynamic mixture model to cluster developmental patterns of gene expression by DNA-sequencing
Meixia Ye, Zhong Wang, Yaqun Wang and Rongling Wu
216 A primer to frequent itemset mining for bioinformatics
Stefan Naulaerts, Pieter Meysman, Wout Bittremieux, Trung Nghia Vu, Wim Vanden Berghe, Bart Goethals and Koen Ceulemans
222 An assessment of computational methods for estimating purity and clonality using genomic data derived from heterogeneous tumor tissue samples
Vinod Kumar Yadav and Subhajyoti De
232 Comparative analysis of methods for identifying somatic copy number alterations from deep sequencing data
Amit K. Alakndy, Ritu Luthra and Sameer Heir
255 Advances in network-based metabolic pathway analysis and gene expression data integration
Alberto Krebs, Jan Pey, Luis Taboada, Angel Rabo, John E. Bradley and Francisco J. Paredes
280 Translational research platforms integrating clinical andomics data: a review of publicly available solutions
Vincent Couvel, Bastien Rance, Paul Avildsen, Patrice Degoulet and Atsia Burgan
291 Genome-wide identification and predictive modeling of polyadenylation sites in eukaryotes
Gauri K. Jaitly, Guang Guo, Yong Zhang, Qinghuan Q. Li and Xinchun Wu
314 Towards more accurate prediction of protein folding rates: a review of the existing web-based bioinformatics approaches
Catherine Cheng, Han Zhang, Meng T. Tye, Jianguang Song and Kamal H. M. N. N. R. Raman
325 Toward more realistic drug-target interaction predictions
Ivan Patilak, Shyam Arora, Sameer Bhatia, Susan Underwood, Alvina Sharma, Jing Yang and Tao Antonuk
338 Letter to the Editor: On the term ‘interaction’ and related phrases in the literature on Random Forests
Anne-Laure Boulesteix, Silke Janitza, Alexander Hapfelmeier, Kristel Van Steen and Carolin Strobl
346 How to establish a bioinformatics postgraduate degree programme—a case study from South Africa
Mike Wearmouth and Colleen Rayment-Scott
355 Bioinformatics Education—Perspectives and Challenges out of Africa
Galen Tuson Bishop, Eriko Jared, Ahmed M. Alobany, Dean Everett, Kari Goodell, Amel Ghoula, Jadi Kamath, Noelle C. Jackson, Sameer Patel and Hugh S. Paterson (for the H3AIbNet Consortium and members of the H3Africa Consortium)
365 Briefing from the Editorial Board: Aims of Briefings in Bioinformatics further defined
Anne-Laure Boulesteix
The aim of Bioinformatics is to provide an indispensable resource for the experimental practitioner seeking awareness of the disparate sources of data and analytical tools of contemporary biology, biotechnology and medicine based on the molecular level. This includes all areas of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, interactomics and network biology, imaging, systems biology, chemoinformatics, computational biology and clinical/medical informatics that have a molecular foundation to the study. Large-scale instrumentation and computerisation is reducing the time that needs to be spent in the laboratory. Instead, the rule-limiting step is the analysis and interpretation of data. The journal provides topical reviews of new methodologies as they become established.

The Editors, Martin Bishop and Russ Altman, welcome the submission of review papers and case studies for publication. Essential criteria for the publication of papers are that they provide practical guidance to the users of bioinformatics software and databases to supplement available manuals and tutorials, providing a brief conceptual review and overview of the problem addressed, its solution, dynamic range and limitations. We publish reviews of clearly defined subject areas for both experimental biologists and for bioinformatics specialists. Reviews may be broader or more narrowly focussed but must cover a variety of approaches to a very well-specified biological problem or research area. We do not publish work on new methods that have not yet been described elsewhere. Please do not submit manuscripts concerning original research as they will be immediately rejected.

Some areas that members of the Editorial Board have identified as important and presently underrepresented in the pages of the Journal include the complex fields of epigenetics and the construction of evolutionary models and the elucidation of evolutionary relationships. Methodological approaches of interest include software comparison and benchmarking, data cleaning and curation, accuracy of predicted and extracted information, ontologies and test-mapping, solutions that allow for the large-scale analysis of biological data in reasonable time (high performance computing solutions and cloud systems), standards, training and change management activities, and the determination of causal relationships from data. There was specific mention of the use of ontologies for semantic-based analysis of molecular data and interaction networks, methods and tools for the automatic or semiautomatic annotation of biological data with terms extracted from ontologies, and methods and tools for enrichment analysis. Articles focusing on illustrating the bottleneck problems in important bioinformatics approaches will be especially helpful to readers. It must be emphasised that these comments are suggestions and are not intended to be prescriptive. As science advances the details of what is important changes and the Editors, Editorial Board and Reviewers will be flexible in their policies.

Types of Submission
Submissions of the following types are accepted for review in the Journal:

- Review articles (2000–5000 words)
- Protocols for solving a specific problem using different sets of programs (2000–5000 words)
- Case studies in biological research applied to clinical practice (2000–5000 words)
- Opinion articles: topical or controversial areas that do not warrant a full review (500–1000 words)
- Letters to the Editors (relating to a topic previously published in the journal) (500–1000 words)
- Software and website reviews (by authors other than the originators) (500–1000 words)
- Book review (500–1000 words)