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Ignacio Rojas · Olga Valenzuela ·
Fernando Rojas · Luis Javier Herrera ·
Francisco Ortuño (Eds.)

Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering


9th International Work-Conference, IWBBIO 2022
Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain, June 27–30, 2022
Proceedings, Part I


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Preface

We are proud to present the final set of accepted full papers for the 9th International Work-Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering (IWBBIO 2022) held in Gran Canaria, Spain, during June 27–30, 2022.

IWBBIO seeks to provide a discussion forum for scientists, engineers, educators, and students about the latest ideas and realizations in the foundations, theory, models, and applications for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research encompassing disciplines of computer science, mathematics, statistics, biology, bioinformatics, and biomedicine.

The aim of IWBBIO 2022 was to create a friendly environment that could lead to the establishment or strengthening of scientific collaborations and exchanges among attendees, and therefore IWBBIO 2022 solicited high-quality original research papers (including significant work in progress) on any aspect of bioinformatics, biomedicine, and biomedical engineering.

Submissions relating to new computational techniques and methods in machine learning; data mining; text analysis; pattern recognition; data integration; genomics and evolution; next generation sequencing data; protein and RNA structure; protein function and proteomics; medical informatics and translational bioinformatics; computational systems biology; modeling and simulation; and their application in the life science domain, biomedicine, and biomedical engineering were especially encouraged. The list of topics in the call for papers has also evolved, resulting in the following list for the present edition:

1. **Computational proteomics.** Analysis of protein-protein interactions. Protein structure modeling. Analysis of protein functionality. Quantitative proteomics and PTMs. Clinical proteomics. Protein annotation. Data mining in proteomics.
2. **Next generation sequencing and sequence analysis.** De novo sequencing, re-sequencing, and assembly. Expression estimation. Alternative splicing discovery. Pathway analysis. Chip-seq and RNA-Seq analysis. Metagenomics. SNPs prediction.
3. **High performance in bioinformatics.** Parallelization for biomedical analysis. Biomedical and biological databases. Data mining and biological text processing. Large scale biomedical data integration. Biological and medical ontologies. Novel architecture and technologies (GPU, P2P, Grid, etc) for bioinformatics.
4. **Biomedicine.** Biomedical computing. Personalized medicine. Nanomedicine. Medical education. Collaborative medicine. Biomedical signal analysis. Biomedicine in industry and society. Electrotherapy and radiotherapy.
5. **Biomedical engineering.** E-computer-assisted surgery. Therapeutic engineering. Interactive 3D modelling. Clinical engineering. Telemedicine. Biosensors and data acquisition. Intelligent instrumentation. Patient monitoring. Biomedical robotics. Bio-nanotechnology. Genetic engineering.
6. **Computational systems for modelling biological processes.** Inference of biological networks. Machine learning in bioinformatics. Classification for

biomedical data. Microarray data analysis. Simulation and visualization of biological systems. Molecular evolution and phylogenetic modeling.

7. **Healthcare and diseases.** Computational support for clinical decisions. Image visualization and signal analysis. Disease control and diagnosis. Genome-phenome analysis. Biomarker identification. Drug design. Computational immunology.
8. **E-health.** E-health technology and devices. E-health information processing. Telemedicine/E-health application and services. Medical image processing. Video techniques for medical images. Integration of classical medicine and E-health.
9. **COVID-19.** A special session analyzing different aspects, fields of application, and technologies that have been applied against COVID-19.

After a careful peer review and evaluation process (each submission was reviewed by at least 2, and on average 3.1, Program Committee members or additional reviewers), 75 papers were accepted, according to the recommendations of reviewers and the authors' preferences, to be included in the LNBI proceedings.

IWBBIO 2022 featured several Special Sessions, which are a very useful tool in order to complement the regular program with new and emerging topics of particular interest for the participating community. Special Sessions that emphasized multidisciplinary and transversal aspects, as well as cutting-edge topics were especially encouraged and welcomed, and in this edition of IWBBIO 2022 the following were received:

– **SS1. High-throughput Genomics: Bioinformatic Tools and Medical Applications.**

Genomics is concerned with the sequencing and analysis of an organism's genome. It is involved in the understanding of how every single gene can affect the entire genome. This goal is mainly afforded using the current, cost-effective, high-throughput sequencing technologies. These technologies produce a huge amount of data that usually require high-performance computing solutions and open new ways for the study of genomics, as well as transcriptomics, gene expression, and systems biology, among others. The continuous improvements and broader applications of sequencing technologies are producing a continuous new demand for improved high-throughput bioinformatics tools.

In this context, the generation, integration, and interpretation of genetic and genomic data is driving a new era of healthcare and patient management. Medical genomics (or genomic medicine) is an emerging discipline that involves the use of genomic information about a patient as part of the clinical care with diagnostic or therapeutic purposes to improve the health outcomes. Moreover, it can be considered a subset of precision medicine that has an impact in the fields of oncology, pharmacology, rare and undiagnosed diseases, and infectious diseases. The aim of this Special Session was to bring together researchers in medicine, genomics, and bioinformatics to translate medical genomics research into new diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive medical approaches. Therefore, we invited authors to submit original research, new tools or pipelines, and update and review articles on relevant topics, such as (but not limited to):

- Tools for data pre-processing (quality control and filtering)
- Tools for sequence mapping
- Tools for the comparison of two read libraries without an external reference
- Tools for genomic variants (such as variant calling or variant annotation)
- Tools for functional annotation: identification of domains, orthologues, genetic markers, and controlled vocabulary (GO, KEGG, InterPro, etc.)
- Tools for gene expression studies and tools for Chip-Seq data
- Integrative workflows and pipelines

Organizers: M. Gonzalo Claros, Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, University of Málaga, Spain; Javier Pérez Florido, Bioinformatics Research Area, Fundación Progreso y Salud, Seville, Spain; and Francisco M. Ortuño, Department of Computer Architecture and Technology, University of Granada, Spain.

– **SS2. Feature Selection, Extraction, and Data Mining in Bioinformatics: Approaches, Methods, and Adaptations.**

Various applications of bioinformatics, system biology, and biophysics measurement data mining require proper, accurate, and precise preprocessing or data transformation before the analysis itself. Here, the most important issues are covered by the feature selection and extraction techniques to translate the raw data into the inputs for the machine learning and multivariate statistic algorithms. Even if this is a complex task, it reduces the problem dimensionality, by removing redundant or irrelevant data, without affecting significantly the principal information. The methods and approaches are often conditioned by the physical properties of the measurement process, mathematically congruent description and parameterization, and biological aspects of specific tasks. With the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence methods to solve bioinformatics problems, it is necessary to understand the conditionality of such algorithms, to choose and use the correct approach and avoid misinterpretations, artefacts, and aliasing effects. The adoption often uses existing knowledge from different fields, and direct application might underestimate the required conditions and corrupt the analysis results. This Special Session provided a forum to discuss the multidisciplinary overlaps, development, implementation, and adoption of feature and selection methods for datasets with a biological origin in order to setup the pipeline from measurement design through signal processing to obtaining the results. The topic should cover theoretical questions, practical examples, and results verifications.

Organizer: Jan Urban, Laboratory of Signal and Image Processing, Institute of Complex Systems, South Bohemian Research Center of Aquaculture and Biodiversity of Hydrocenoses, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

– **SS3. Smart Healthcare Solutions for Handling COVID-19.**

Smart healthcare plays an important role towards providing robust solutions, especially for COVID-19 related problems, both locally and globally. Collection and interpretation of data worldwide and systematic research helps in identifying the potential solutions as well as predicting the future issues. This Special Session was

organized to emphasize the potential problems and the related solutions, focusing on the following topics:

- Smart wearable healthcare
- Microbiological analysis
- Minimal invasive sensors
- Biomedical waste management
- Drug-induced therapy
- Early prediction and diagnosis
- Biostatistical driven solution
- Explainable AI and deep learning driven solutions

Organizer: N. Sriraam, Department of Medical Electronics, M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, India.

– **SS4. Computational Systems for Modeling of Medical Micro Sensors.**

Medical sensors are micro devices containing several parts mainly including micro-tubes, micro-valves, biological/body fluids (blood, plasma, saliva, etc.), and chemical materials (reagents and other materials). Microfluidics is an interdisciplinary field that involves the science and technology of fluid flow through systems with micro scales. Computational systems and engineering simulation are essential from the start to the end of the medical sensor design and development process. The main advantages of computational systems (AI, CFD, etc.) in medical sensors design and development are as follows:

- Improvement and optimization of design
- Acceleration in medical device innovation
- Reduction of cost and failure risk
- Reduction of production times and regulatory approval processes

The main objectives of this Special Session were as follows:

- To determine the role of computational systems (AI, CFD, etc.) in medical sensors design and development
- To determine the role of simulation in optimizing the analysis process and design of medical micro-sensors
- To discuss the use of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) in analyzing medical micro sensors
- To discuss the use of computational systems to combine engineering, biology, chemical, and other criteria

Organizers: Patrizia Piro and Behrouz Pirouz, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Calabria, Italy.

It is important to note that for the sake of consistency and readability the accepted papers are organized into 15 chapters over two volumes, essentially following the topics

list included in the call for papers. The first volume (LNBI 13346), entitled “Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering. Part I” is divided into eight main parts and includes the contributions on

1. Biomedical Computing
2. Biomedical Engineering
3. Biomedical Signal Analysis
4. Biomedicine. New Advances and Applications
5. Biosensors and Data Acquisition
6. Image Visualization and Signal Analysis in Biomedical Applications
7. Computational Support for Clinical Decisions
8. COVID-19. Bioinformatics and Biomedicine

The second volume (LNBI 13347), entitled “Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering. Part II” is divided into seven main parts and includes the contributions on:

1. Chip-seq and RNA-Seq Analysis
2. Bioinformatics and Biomarker Identification
3. Computational Proteomics
4. Computational Systems for Modelling Biological Processes
5. Feature Selection, Extraction, and Data Mining in Bioinformatics: Approaches, Methods, and Adaptations
6. Machine Learning in Bioinformatics
7. Next Generation Sequencing and Sequence Analysis

This 9th edition of IWBBIO was organized by the University of Granada. We wish to thank our main sponsor as well as the Department of Computer Architecture and Computer Technology at the University of Granada (CITIC-UGR) and International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) for their support and grants. We also wish to thank the editors in charge of different international journals for their interest in publishing special issues of a selection of the best papers of IWBBIO 2022. In this edition of IWBBIO there were two awards (best contribution award and best contribution from student participant) sponsored by the Editorial Office of Genes, a MDPI journal.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the members of the different committees for their support, collaboration, and good work. We especially thank the Program Committee, the reviewers, and the Special Session organizers. We also want to express our gratitude to the EasyChair platform. Finally, we wish to thank Springer for their continuous support and cooperation.

April 2022

Ignacio Rojas
Olga Valenzuela
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