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Keith A. Crandall Jens Lagergren (Eds.)

# Algorithms in Bioinformatics

8th International Workshop, WABI 2008  
Karlsruhe, Germany, September 15-19, 2008  
Proceedings

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# Preface

We are very pleased to present the proceedings of the *8th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics (WABI 2008)*, held as part of the *ALGO 2008* meeting at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany on September 15–19, 2008. *WABI 2008* covered all research on algorithmic work in bioinformatics and systems biology with an emphasis on discrete algorithms and machine-learning methods that address important problems in molecular biology. Such algorithms are founded on sound models, are computationally efficient, and have been implemented and tested in simulations and on real datasets. The goal of these proceedings is to present recent research results, including significant work-in-progress, and to identify and explore directions for future research. Original research papers were solicited in all aspects of algorithms in bioinformatics, targeting the following areas in particular:

- Exact, approximate, and machine-learning algorithms for sequence analysis, gene and signal recognition, alignment and assembly, molecular evolution, structure determination or prediction, gene expression, pathways, gene networks, proteomics, functional genomics, and drug design;
- High-performance computing approaches to computationally hard learning and optimization problems in bioinformatics;
- Methods, software, and dataset repositories for development and testing of such algorithms and their underlying models.

The goal of the workshop is to bring together an interdisciplinary group of individuals with research interests in bioinformatic algorithms. For this reason, this year's workshop was held in conjunction with the *16th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA)*, the *6th Workshop on Approximation and Online Algorithms (WAOA)*, the *8th Workshop on Algorithmic Approaches for Transportation Modeling, Optimization, and Systems (ATMOS)*, and the *ALGO 2008 Graduate Students Meeting*. We believe this interdisciplinary group, especially with the specific inclusion of graduate students and young scientists, is essential for moving the field of bioinformatics forward in exciting and novel ways. We hope this volume attests to that fact with the assortment of exceptional papers contributed to the volume.

We received a total of 81 submissions in response to our call for papers for *WABI 2008* from which 32 were selected to be contributions to this volume. The topics range in biological applicability from genome mapping, to sequence assembly, to microarray quality, to phylogenetic inference, to molecular modeling.

This volume was made possible by the excellent submissions to *WABI 2008*. We thank all the authors for their submissions and especially those of papers selected for inclusion in this volume for their help in revising their work according to peer-review comments. We also thank our distinguished Program Committee

for their great help in making difficult decisions on which papers to include in this volume. Anyone who has served on a program committee knows that this involves a great deal of concentrated effort over a short period of time. We are truly grateful for the excellent reviews and recommendations received by our Program Committee. These individuals are listed on the next page.

We were very fortunate to attract Eytan Ruppin of Tel Aviv University to present the Keynote Address for *WABI 2008* on the topic of large scale *in silico* studies of human metabolic diseases. We appreciate his willingness to deliver this address and establish the quality of the meetings. Finally, we would like to thank Peter Sanders and Dorothea Wagner and their local organizing committee (Veit Batz, Reinhard Bauer, Lilian Beckert, Anja Blancani, Daniel Delling, Dennis Luxen, Elke Sauer, and Dominik Schultes) for their excellent job in organizing these joint conferences.

We hope that you will consider contributing to future *WABI* events, through a submission or by participating in the workshops.

September 2008

Keith Crandall  
Jens Lagergren

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# Table of Contents

Multichromosomal Genome Median and Halving Problems .....	1
<i>Eric Tannier, Chunfang Zheng, and David Sankoff</i>	
A Branch-and-Bound Method for the Multichromosomal Reversal Median Problem .....	14
<i>Meng Zhang, William Arndt, and Jijun Tang</i>	
Decompositions of Multiple Breakpoint Graphs and Rapid Exact Solutions .....	25
<i>Andrew Wei Xu and David Sankoff</i>	
Read Mapping Algorithms for Single Molecule Sequencing Data.....	38
<i>Vladimir Yanovsky, Stephen M. Rumble, and Michael Brudno</i>	
Exact Transcriptome Reconstruction from Short Sequence Reads.....	50
<i>Vincent Lacroix, Michael Sammeth, Roderic Guigo, and Anne Bergeron</i>	
Post-Hybridization Quality Measures for Oligos in Genome-Wide Microarray Experiments .....	64
<i>Florian Battke, Carsten Müller-Tidow, Hubert Serve, and Kay Nieselt</i>	
NAPX: A Polynomial Time Approximation Scheme for the Noah's Ark Problem .....	76
<i>Glenn Hickey, Paz Carmi, Anil Maheshwari, and Norbert Zeh</i>	
Minimum Common String Partition Parameterized .....	87
<i>Peter Damaschke</i>	
Hardness and Approximability of the Inverse Scope Problem .....	99
<i>Zoran Nikoloski, Sergio Grimbs, Joachim Selbig, and Oliver Ebenhöh</i>	
Rapid Neighbour-Joining .....	113
<i>Martin Simonsen, Thomas Mailund, and Christian N.S. Pedersen</i>	
Efficiently Computing Arbitrarily-Sized Robinson-Foulds Distance Matrices .....	123
<i>Seung-Jin Sul, Grant Brammer, and Tiffani L. Williams</i>	
Efficient Genome Wide Tagging by Reduction to SAT .....	135
<i>Arthur Choi, Noah Zaitlen, Buhm Han, Knot Pipatsrisawat, Adnan Darwiche, and Eleazar Eskin</i>	

Computing the Minimal Tiling Path from a Physical Map by Integer Linear Programming .....	148
<i>Serdar Bozdag, Timothy J. Close, and Stefano Lonardi</i>	
An Efficient Lagrangian Relaxation for the Contact Map Overlap Problem .....	162
<i>Rumen Andonov, Nicola Yanev, and Noël Malod-Dognin</i>	
A Faster Algorithm for RNA Co-folding .....	174
<i>Michal Ziv-Ukelson, Irit Gat-Viks, Ydo Wexler, and Ron Shamir</i>	
An Automated Combination of Kernels for Predicting Protein Subcellular Localization .....	186
<i>Cheng Soon Ong and Alexander Zien</i>	
Fast Target Set Reduction for Large-Scale Protein Function Prediction: A Multi-class Multi-label Machine Learning Approach .....	198
<i>Thomas Lingner and Peter Meinicke</i>	
Multiple Instance Learning Allows MHC Class II Epitope Predictions Across Alleles .....	210
<i>Nico Pfeifer and Oliver Kohlbacher</i>	
An Algorithm for Orienting Graphs Based on Cause-Effect Pairs and Its Applications to Orienting Protein Networks .....	222
<i>Alexander Medvedovsky, Vineet Bafna, Uri Zwick, and Roded Sharan</i>	
Enumerating Precursor Sets of Target Metabolites in a Metabolic Network .....	233
<i>Ludovic Cottret, Paulo Vieira Milreu, Vicente Acuña, Alberto Marchetti-Spaccamela, Fábio Viduani Martinez, Marie-France Sagot, and Leen Stougie</i>	
Boosting the Performance of Inference Algorithms for Transcriptional Regulatory Networks Using a Phylogenetic Approach .....	245
<i>Xiuwei Zhang and Bernard M.E. Moret</i>	
Fast Bayesian Haplotype Inference Via Context Tree Weighting .....	259
<i>Pasi Rastas, Jussi Kollin, and Mikko Koivisto</i>	
Genotype Sequence Segmentation: Handling Constraints and Noise .....	271
<i>Qi Zhang, Wei Wang, Leonard McMillan, Jan Prins, Fernando Pardo-Manuel de Villena, and David Threadgill</i>	
Constructing Phylogenetic Supernetworks from Quartets .....	284
<i>Stefan Grünewald, Andreas Spillner, Kristoffer Forsslund, and Vincent Moulton</i>	
Summarizing Multiple Gene Trees Using Cluster Networks .....	296
<i>Daniel H. Huson and Regula Rupp</i>	

Fast and Adaptive Variable Order Markov Chain Construction .....	306
<i>Marcel H. Schulz, David Weese, Tobias Rausch, Andreas Döring,     Knut Reinert, and Martin Vingron</i>	
Computing Alignment Seed Sensitivity with Probabilistic Arithmetic Automata .....	318
<i>Inke Herms and Sven Rahmann</i>	
The Relation between Indel Length and Functional Divergence: A Formal Study .....	330
<i>Raheleh Salari, Alexander Schönhuth, Fereydoun Hormozdiari,     Artem Cherkasov, and S. Cenk Sahinalp</i>	
Detecting Repeat Families in Incompletely Sequenced Genomes .....	342
<i>José Augusto Amgarten Quitzau and Jens Stoye</i>	
Novel Phylogenetic Network Inference by Combining Maximum Likelihood and Hidden Markov Models (Extended Abstract) .....	354
<i>Sagi Snir and Tamir Tuller</i>	
A Local Move Set for Protein Folding in Triangular Lattice Models .....	369
<i>Hans-Joachim Böckenhauer, Abu Zafer M. Dayem Ullah,     Leonidas Kapsokalivas, Kathleen Steinhöfel</i>	
Protein Decoy Generation Using Branch and Bound with Efficient Bounding .....	382
<i>Martin Paluszewski and Paweł Winter</i>	
<b>Author Index .....</b>	<b>395</b>