Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics

7036

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Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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Pattern Recognition in Bioinformatics

6th IAPR International Conference, PRIB 2011 Delft, The Netherlands, November 2-4, 2011 Proceedings



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Volume Editors

Marco Loog
Marcel J.T. Reinders
Dick de Ridder
Delft University of Technology
Pattern Recognition & Bioinformatics Group
Mekelweg 4, 2628 CD Delft, The Netherlands
E-mail: {m.loog, m.j.t.reinders, d.deridder}@tudelft.nl

Lodewyk Wessels Netherlands Cancer Institute Bioinformatics and Statistics Plesmanlaan 121, 1066 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands E-mail: Lwessels@nki.nl

ISSN 0302-9743 e-ISSN 1611-3349 ISBN 978-3-642-24854-2 e-ISBN 978-3-642-24855-9 DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-24855-9 Springer Heidelberg Dordrecht London New York

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011939081

CR Subject Classification (1998): J.3, I.5, F.2.2, I.2, I.4, H.3.3, H.2.8

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 8 - Bioinformatics

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Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

In modern biology, high-throughput measurement devices allow life scientists to gather data at unprecedented rates. To make sense of these data, computational biologists and system biologists construct quantitative models, many of which depend on pattern recognition techniques. Application of these techniques is challenging due to the large volumes of data and background information, noisy measurements and target outputs, highly diverse data types etc. To address these bioinformatics challenges, research in pattern recognition has been forced to move beyond the simple application of classifiers to high-throughput data, with which the field started over a decade ago. In 2006, the Pattern Recognition in Bioinformatics (PRIB) meeting series was established, under the auspices of the International Association of Pattern Recognition (IAPR), to support the exchange of ideas on how pattern recognition can be developed and extended to support the life sciences.

The Sixth conference in this series was organized in Delft, The Netherlands, November 2-4, 2011. In total, 35 papers were submitted, of which 29 were selected for publication in these proceedings after peer review by the Program Committee. The contributions demonstrate the wide range of possible applications of pattern recognition in bioinformatics: novel algorithms to handle traditional pattern recognition problems such as (bi)clustering, classification and feature selection; applications of (novel) pattern recognition techniques to infer and analyze biological networks and studies on specific problems such as biological image analysis and the relation between sequence and structure. In addition to the 29 paper presentations, the conference saw invited presentations by Yves Moreau (Bioinformatics Research Group, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), Mark Girolami (Department of Statistical Science, University College London, UK), Pierre Baldi (Institute of Genomics and Bioinformatics, University of California, Irvine, USA), Alvis Brazma (European Bioinformatics Institute, Hinxton, UK) and Berend Snel (Department of Biology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands).

We would like to thank all participants in the conference, in particular the authors who contributed their work to this book. We are grateful for the support of IAPR's Technical Committee 20 and the PRIB Steering Committee. The help of the members of the Program Committee was invaluable in evaluating the submissions and defining the final program. EasyChair (http://www.easychair.org) was of great help in handling the submissions, reviews, decisions, and accepted papers. We would also like to thank the co-organizers (Jeroen de Ridder, Manuele Bicego, David Tax and Thomas Abeel) as well as members of the Pattern Recognition & Bioinformatics group (Delft University of Technology) for their

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assistance before and during the conference as well as the Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre and the EU PASCAL2 Network of Excellence for financial support. Last but not least, the conference could not have been organized without the invaluable help of Saskia Peters, who took care of administration and local arrangements.

August 2011

Marco Loog Lodewyk Wessels Marcel Reinders Dick de Ridder

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