

IWBBIO 2016

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BIOINFORMATICS AND
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

PROCEEDINGS EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

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Granada (SPAIN)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TAB

Rational confederated GeneCards, Mala

*Noa Rappaport, M
Nudel, Tsippi Iny
Safran and Doron*

A Sequential Kalman Orientation Base

Jung Keun Lee

A platform for en

*Enrique De La Ca
Menéndez, Paula*

High-Level Conte Behavior

*Claudia Villalong
Sungyoung Lee*

A general view of use of fingerprin

*Adrià Ceretó-Mas
Hernández, Cristi
Pujadas and Sant*

Relating drugs to

Violeta Isabel Pe

Network analysis deleterious varia

Janet Piñero and

Biological Activi for Disease Cont

Wael Hozzein, Sa

Identification of Inhibitors by St

*Izabela Marques
Vincent Leroux, I*

Non-steroidal an what we have le

Jose Pedro Cero

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TABLE OF CONTENTS OF EXTENDED ABSTRACTS.

Rational confederation of genes and diseases: NGS interpretation via GeneCards, MalaCards and VarElect	1
<i>Noa Rappaport, Michal Twik, Frida Belinky, Inbar Plaschkes, Gil Stelzer, Ron Nudel, Tsippi Iny Stein, Danit Oz-Levi, Dana Cohen, Simon Fishilevich, Marilyn Safran and Doron Lancet</i>	
A Sequential Kalman Filter Approach for Estimation of Human Body Orientation Based on Body-attached IMMU Signals	13
<i>Jung Keun Lee</i>	
A platform for enhancing the Epilepsy Anamnesis	15
<i>Enrique De La Cal Marín, José Ramón Villar, Javier Sedano, Manuel Menéndez, Paula Vergara and Victor González</i>	
High-Level Context Architecture for Real Time Identification of Human Behavior	23
<i>Claudia Villalonga, Oresti Banos, Hector Pomares, Ignacio Rojas and Sungyoung Lee</i>	
A general view of computational methods for target fishing and focus on the use of fingerprints for chemical similarity searching	28
<i>Adrià Ceretó-Massagué, María José Ojeda, Aleix Gimeno, Sarah Tomás-Hernández, Cristina Valls, Raul Beltrán-Debón, Miquel Mulero, Gerard Pujadas and Santi Garcia-Vallve</i>	
Relating drugs targets and side effects using GES and GESSE	29
<i>Violeta Isabel Perez Nueno</i>	
Network analysis of drug toxicity proteins and the impact of likely deleterious variation	30
<i>Janet Piñero and Laura I. Furlong</i>	
Biological Activities of Actinomycetes Isolated from Saudi Marine Habitats for Disease Control	41
<i>Wael Hozzein, Sameh Khalaf and Mohammed Wadaan</i>	
Identification of Novel Trypanosoma Cruzi Prolyl Oligopeptidase Inhibitors by Structure-Based Virtual Screening	43
<i>Izabela Marques Dourado Bastos, Hugo de Almeida, Flávia Nader Motta, Vincent Leroux, Philippe Grellier, Bernard Maigret and Jaime Martins Santana</i>	
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs as inhibitors of cyclooxygenases: what we have learned and what is next	55
<i>Jose Pedro Ceron-Carrasco, Jorge de La Peña and Horacio Perez-Sanchez</i>	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IWBBIO 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Drug Profile Matching: Drug Discovery by Polypharmacology-based Interaction Profiling	57
<i>Zoltan Simon, Agnes Peragovics, Anna Rauscher, Balazs Jelinek, Pal Czobor, Istvan Bitter, Peter Hari and Andras Malnasi-Csizmadia</i>	
Network based Drug Repositioning Methodology for Neuro-degenerative Diseases	61
<i>Mingmei Shang, Narsis Kiani and Jesper Tegner</i>	
CentoMD®, the largest variant database for rare diseases	64
<i>Daniel Trujillano</i>	
Proving experiment of international virtual slide telepathology, Japan-Vietnam, China, and Myanmar trials	65
<i>Ichiro Mori and Yoshiyuki Osamura</i>	
Adapting GECKO for metagenomics studies	67
<i>Fernando Moreno Jabato, Oswaldo Trelles Salazar and Óscar Torreño Tirado</i>	
Algorithms of NGS data evaluation in patients with Parkinsonism from genetically isolated population	75
<i>Radek Vodicka, Radek Vrtel, Katerina Mensikova, Petr Kanovsky, Iva Dolinova, Kristyna Kolarikova and Martin Prochazka</i>	
Airway transcriptome analysis in a model of asthma reveals impaired homeostasis and tissue repair	82
<i>Laurence Tessier, Olivier Côté, Mary Ellen Clark, Laurent Viel, Andrés Díaz-Méndez, Simon Anders and Dorothee Bienze</i>	
Interaction of miRNAs with cell cycle genes mRNAs	83
<i>Raigul Niyazova, Shara Atambayeva, Aigul Akimniyazova and Anatoly Ivashchenko</i>	
Detection of 3D coordinates in fish shoal behavior monitoring: comparison of methods	92
<i>Aliaksandr Pautsina and Petr Císař</i>	
Crucial nutrients in complex system environment	96
<i>Pavel Soucek, Antonin Barta, Petr Cisar and Petr Tůma</i>	
Probing binding hot spots at protein–RNA recognition sites	103
<i>Amita Barik, Chandran Nithin, Naga Bhushana Rao Karampudi, Sunandan Mukherjee and Ranjit Prasad Bahadur</i>	
A mathematical model for the accurate prediction of protein-RNA binding affinity using structural and physiochemical parameters	104
<i>Chandran Nithin, Sunandan Mukherjee and Ranjit Prasad Bahadur</i>	
Automating water flow estimation in fish tanks	105

*Petr Císař, Movch***Hydration of pro***Amita Barik and I***The Pulsatile Flo
Angiogram***Ho Seong Ji***Managing hyper
diet.***Jose Manuel Alca
Laura García-He***Extraction of lin***Leon Bobrowski***A Framework fo
Modeling Suppo***Mouhamed Gaiith***Computing EFM***José Francisco H
Manuel García C***Comparison of S
Methods on Bra***Mustafa Turan A***Fuzzy vs Kmean***Francisco Girón
and Jesus Soto***A Universal Sig***Waleed Alshaiba***Improving knov***Aurelio Lopez-F
Gomez-Vela***A National Gen***Teemupekka Virt***Electrophysiol***Diego Adrián Re
Pelayo***Modelling strok
variable transfo**

based	57
al Czobor,	
generative	61
	64
Japan-	65
	67
reño Tirado	
m from	75
va Dolinova,	
paired	82
drés Diaz-	
	83
poly	
comparison	92
	96
	103
mandan	
NA binding	104
	105

<i>Petr Císař, Movchan Oleksandr, Jaroslav Hanak and Antonin Barta</i>	
Hydration of protein-RNA recognition sites	113
<i>Amita Barik and Ranjit Prasad Bahadur</i>	
The Pulsatile Flow Feature Investigation through Stenotic Tube based on Angiogram	114
<i>Ho Seong Ji</i>	
Managing hypertension with an app based on an antihypertensive dash diet.	119
<i>Jose Manuel Alcaide Leyva, Leticia Capelo Sanchis, Guillermo Molina Recio, Laura García-Hernández and Rafael Molina Luque</i>	
Extraction of linear separating keys from clinical and genetic data sets	121
<i>Leon Bobrowski</i>	
A Framework for The Disease Trajectory Data Warehouse Conceptual Modeling Support	123
<i>Mouhamed Gaith Ayadi, Riadh Bouslimi and Jalel Akaichi</i>	
Computing EFM's using balanced subgraphs and boolean logic	135
<i>José Francisco Hidalgo Céspedes, Francisco De Asís Guil Asensio and Jose Manuel García Carrasco</i>	
Comparison of Statistical and Artificial Intelligence-based Classification Methods on Brain Cancer Microarray Gene Expression Data	143
<i>Mustafa Turan Arslan and Adem Kalinli</i>	
Fuzzy vs Kmeans clustering in QSAR data partition. A comparative study.	151
<i>Francisco Girón-Rodríguez, Alfonso Pérez-Garrido, Horacio Pérez-Sánchez and Jesus Soto</i>	
A Universal Sign_ Language_to_Voice Translator	153
<i>Waleed Alshaibani, Abdullah Migdadi and Husam Hamad</i>	
Improving knowledge extraction from gene enrichment analysis	159
<i>Aurelio Lopez-Fernandez, Domingo S. Rodriguez-Baena and Francisco A. Gomez-Vela</i>	
A National Genome Research Architecture	161
<i>Teemupekka Virtanen and Qin Zhang</i>	
Electrophysiological measurement of effects of color over level of stress	169
<i>Diego Adrián Renedo, Miguel Ángel López, Jesús Minguillón and Francisco Pelayo</i>	
Modelling stroke disease combining Markov processes and the random variable transformation method	176

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IWBBIO 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Juan Carlos Cortés López, Ana Navarro Quiles, Jose Vicente Romero Bauset and Maria Dolores Roselló Ferragud</i>	
Analysing OMIM disease-related variations: a large-scale investigation at the chromosome level	181
<i>Giulia Babbi, Pier Luigi Martelli, Giuseppe Profiti and Rita Casadio</i>	
Role of Optical Sensors in Precision Aquaculture	183
<i>Mohammadmehdi Saberioon and Petr Cisar</i>	
Inferring Human Behavior by means of Multimodal Context Mining	187
<i>Oresti Banos, Claudia Villalonga, Bang Jaehun, Hur Taeho, Kang Donguk, Park Sangbeom, Thien Huynh-The, Vui Le-Ba and Sungyoung Lee</i>	
Identifying human genetic variants in next-generation sequencing datasets	191
<i>Joana Tavares, Maria Carmo Fonseca and Ana Rita Grosso</i>	
Modeling dependence in multistate processes	193
<i>Gregorio Rubio, Maria Belén García Mora, Cristina Santamaria and José Luis Pontones</i>	
Flexible protein-peptide docking with knowledge about the binding site using CABS-dock	195
<i>Mateusz Kurciński, Maciej Paweł Ciemny, Maciej Błaszczuk, Andrzej Koliński and Sebastian Kmiecik</i>	
Photosynthesis and Electronic Properties of Fenna-Matthews-Olson Light Harvesting Complexes	202
<i>Shyam Badu, Roderick Melnik and Sanjay Prabhakar</i>	
From protein variations to biological processes and pathways with NET-GE	204
<i>Samuele Bovo, Pietro Di Lena, Pier Luigi Martelli, Piero Fariselli and Rita Casadio</i>	
Mapping of RNA binding residues in human proteome using global and local protein sequence features	206
<i>Srinivasan Sivanandan, Chandran Nithin, Sunandan Mukherjee and Ranjit Prasad Bahadur</i>	
Towards protein-protein docking with significant structural changes using CABS-dock	207
<i>Maciej Ciemny, Mateusz Kurcinski, Andrzej Kolinski and Sebastian Kmiecik</i>	
ELIXIR, the European life-science infrastructure for biological information and its implementation phase	214
<i>Rafael C Jimenez</i>	
Gene set disease enrichment analysis from literature data	215
<i>Jean Fontaine and Miguel Andrade-Navarro</i>	

The MINTAct

Pablo Porras M and The Imex C

DisGeNET: a v
research

*Janet Piñero, N
Furlong*

Lightweight M

*Trevor Cickovsk
and Giri Narasin*

A novel standar
characteristic c

Juana-Maria Vi

Unsupervised p
electrophoresis

Jan Urban and L

Processing plug

Antonin Barta, F

Effect of Spatia
Belousov-Zhabo

Anna Zhyrova, R

Multiobjective l

*Savins Puertas M
Pérez Sánchez a*

Precocious Diag
Integrated Mov

*Iker Malaina, R
Aranburu, Ildefo*

GECKO-MGV
of multi-genom

*Sergio Díaz Del
Samuel Benavid*

Translucency T

*María M Pérez,
Razvan Ghinea a*

Molecular mod
against the anti

o Bauset	
gation at	181
	183
ing	187
onguk,	
g datasets	191
	193
José Luis	
ng site	195
Koliński	
on Light	202
h NET-GE	204
d Rita	
al and	206
Ranjit	
ges using	207
mićek	
formation	214
	215

The MINTAct archive for mutations influencing molecular interactions	216
<i>Pablo Porras Millan, Margaret Duesbury, Maximilian Koch, Sandra Orchard and The Imex Consortium Curation Team</i>	
DisGeNET: a versatile platform to support biomedical translational research	218
<i>Janet Piñero, Núria Queralt-Rosinach, Àlex Bravo, Ferran Sanz and Laura I. Furlong</i>	
Lightweight Microbiome Analysis Pipelines	225
<i>Trevor Cickovski, Vanessa Aguiar-Pulido, Wenrui Huang, Shamsed Mahmud and Giri Narasimhan</i>	
A novel standardized partial area index under receiver operating characteristic curves with application to genomic studies	228
<i>Juana-María Vivo, Manuel Franco and Donatella Vicari</i>	
Unsupervised probabilistic detection of protein spots in two-dimensional gel electrophoresis	231
<i>Jan Urban and Dalibor Stys</i>	
Processing plugins for protocols extensions	238
<i>Antonin Barta, Pavel Soucek and Petr Cisar</i>	
Effect of Spatial Constraint on the Self-Organizing Behavior of the Belousov-Zhabotinsky Reaction	246
<i>Anna Zhyrova, Renata Rychtáriková and Tomáš Náhlík</i>	
Multiobjective based scoring function for ligand based virtual screening	258
<i>Savins Puertas Martín, Helena Den-Haan, Juana López Redondo, Horacio Pérez Sánchez and Pilar Martínez Ortigosa</i>	
Precocious Diagnosis of Preterm Labor Immediacy by Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average Models	263
<i>Iker Malaina, Roberto Matorras, Luis Fernandez, Carlos Bringas, Larraitz Aranburu, Ildefonso De La Fuente Martinez, Itziar Arana and Leire Gonzalez</i>	
GECKO-MGV: Evolution Events driven tool for enhanced visual analysis of multi-genome comparisons	275
<i>Sergio Díaz Del Pino, Jose Antonio Arjona Medina, Oscar Torreño Tirado, Samuel Benavides García and Oswaldo Trelles</i>	
Translucency Thresholds in Dental Resin Composites: Preliminary Results	283
<i>María M Pérez, Marianne Salas, Luis Javier Herrera, Rosa Pulgar, Ana Yebra, Razvan Ghinea and Cristina Lucena</i>	
Molecular modeling studies of thieno[3,2-c]pyran analogues as inhibitor against the anti-inflammatory target COX-2	288

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IWBBIO 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dharmendra Kumar Yadav, Sanjeev Misra, Praveen Sharma, Horacio Pérez-Sánchez, Harpreet Singh and Surendra Kumar

- Structural Basis for Understanding Functions of Short Linear Motifs: Bioinformatics and Molecular Dynamics Simulation Study** 303

Nurbubu Moldogazieva and Innokenty Mokhosoev

- Extraction and analysis approach applied to the complementary and alternative medicine** 309

Ghazi Abdelkader Khodjet El Khil, Marwen Landoulsi, Rahma Daikhi and Houssein Khodjet El Khil

- A computational survey of approaches for False Localization Rate measurement in post-translational modifications of proteins.** 311

David Ovelheiro and Santos Blanco

- Human action recognition in realistic scenes based on Action Bank** 314

Carlos Martínez-García, Marcos Baptista-Rios, Cristina Losada-Gutiérrez, Marta Marrón-Romera and Valeria Boggian

- GrantFinder, a web based tool for the search of research grant calls** 326

Jorge Peña-García, Helena Den-Haan, Alberto Caballero, Baldomero Imbernón, José P. Cerón-Carrasco, Antonio Vicente-Contreras and Horacio Pérez-Sánchez

- A hybrid machine learning and molecular modeling methodology for the prediction of novel blood anticoagulants** 334

Ricardo Rodríguez-Schmidt, Jorge Peña-García, Alfonso Pérez-Garrido, Helena Den-Haan, Andrés Bueno-Crespo, José Cerón-Carrasco, Anil Thapa, Jon Atli-Benediktsson, Jesús Soto and Horacio Pérez-Sánchez

- ZincFetcher: a tool for easy compound filtering from ZINC database** 343

Jorge Peña-García, Alfonso Pérez-Garrido, Andrés Muñoz, Helena Den-Haan, Baldomero Imbernón, José P. Cerón-Carrasco, Dariusz Mrozek, Anil Thapa, Jesús Soto, Antonio Banegas-Luna and Horacio Pérez-Sánchez

- Usage of AdaBoost Algorithm as a Feature Selection Method and Comparison with Other Feature Selection Algorithms** 352

Mucahid Barstugan and Rahime Ceylan

- L. sibirica Lebed. Chloroplast Genome Yields Unusual Seven-Cluster Structure** 360

Michael Sadvsky, Julia Putintzeva, Konstantin Krutovsky, Eugenia Bondar and Natalia Oreshkova

- Characterization of the Polymerization Reaction of Dental Nanocomposites by Laser Speckle Patterns** 367

Antonio M Pozo, Ana Yebra, Ana M Ionescu, Juan C Cardona, Francisco Carrillo-Pérez, Razvan Ghinea and Maria M Pérez

Computer-Assisted

*Francesco Rossi, P
Alessandro Savino,*

Audio Enhancement
Care Unit Environ

*Ganna Raboshchuk
Blanca Muñoz Mah*

Non-invasive meas

*Razvan Ghinea, Cr
Cardona, Diana De*

Analysis of questio
approach

Justyna Pieter, Seb

Bioactive heterocy
Algeria desert

Nacéra Tigrine

Rational Design of
QSAR study and M

*Pijittra Meewong, I
Saparpakorn, Supa
Pungpo*

Determining the r
subjects related to

Olga Valenzuela an

A new approach to

Alberto Guillen

A Possible Secure
Healthcare System

Slobodan Bojanić,

Designing a Gamifi

Salvador Moreno, I

Network-inspired

*Vanessa Aguiar-Pu
Huang, Jose M. Eir*

Genetic Algorithm

Jaime Rodríguez-G

racio Pérez-

Motifs: 303

ry and 309

qikhi and

Rate 311

Bank 314

Gutiérrez,

t calls 326

mero

nd Horacio

ogy for the 334

arrido,

Anil Thapa,

atabase 343

na Den-Haan,

Anil Thapa,

nd 352

Cluster 360

a Bondar and

ocomposites 367

ancisco

Computer-Assisted Molecular Traceability for Dairy Farming Products	371
<i>Francesco Rossi, Paola Modesto, Stefano Di Carlo, Gianfranco Politano, Alessandro Savino, Per Luigi Acutis and Alfredo Benso</i>	
Audio Enhancement for Vocalization Detection in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Environment	379
<i>Ganna Raboshchuk, Climent Nadeu, Sergio Vidiella Pinto, Oriol Ros Fornells, Blanca Muñoz Mahamud and Ana Riverola de Veciana</i>	
Non-invasive measurements of translucency in dental biomaterials	385
<i>Razvan Ghinea, Cristina Gasparik, Ana Maria Ionescu, Juan De La Cruz Cardona, Diana Duda and Maria M Pérez</i>	
Analysis of questionnaire-based obstetric data using machine learning approach	396
<i>Justyna Pieter, Sebastian Student, Karolina Sobczyk and Krzysztof Fajarewicz</i>	
Bioactive heterocycles in the leaves essential oil of cotula cinerea growing in Algeria desert	402
<i>Nacéra Tigrine</i>	
Rational Design of Highly Potent M. tuberculosis CYP130 Inhibitors: 3D-QSAR study and Molecular Dynamic Simulations	403
<i>Pijittra Meewong, Pharit Kamsri, Auradee Punkvang, Patchareenart Saparpakorn, Supa Hannongbua, Ubolsree Leartsakulpanich and Pornpan Pungpo</i>	
Determining the relevants 3D regions of the brain for the classification of subjects related to Alzheimer's disease.	414
<i>Olga Valenzuela and Xiaoyi Jiang</i>	
A new approach to improve coping strategies to surgery in children	418
<i>Alberto Guillen</i>	
A Possible Secure Android Web Service Application in SOA Based Mobile Healthcare Systems	426
<i>Slobodan Bojanić, Milan Marković and Goran Đorđević</i>	
Designing a Gamified System to Support Cancer Patients' Recovery	433
<i>Salvador Moreno, Miguel Damas, Hector Pomares and Oresti Banos</i>	
Network-inspired approaches for transcriptomic analyses	437
<i>Vanessa Aguiar-Pulido, Victoria Suarez-Ulloa, Elizabeth Puente, Wenrui Huang, Jose M. Eirin-Lopez and Giri Narasimhan</i>	
Genetic Algorithms for Unified Design Inference	441
<i>Jaime Rodríguez-Guerra Pedregal and Jean-Didier Maréchal</i>	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IWBBIO 2016

Muscle coordination during cycling: a new biofeedback approach in neurorehabilitation	449
<i>Diego Torricelli and Jose Luis Pons</i>	
A predictive model for surgical planning in breast cancer treatment.	454
<i>Daniela Evangelista, Marina Piccirillo, Tiziana Ricciardelli, Massimiliano D'Aiuto and Mario Rosario Guarracino</i>	
Constructing a database for the annotation and characterisation of non-coding genomic regions using Ruby	463
<i>Elena Rojano, Pedro Seoane-Zonjic, Juan Antonio García-Ranea and James Richard Perkins</i>	
Genomic data modeling for interoperability and next generation genomic data management	471
<i>Stefano Ceri, Abdulrahman Kaitoua, Pietro Pinoli and Marco Masseroli</i>	
Exploring outlier documents to investigate potential links between gut microbiota and Alzheimer's disease	475
<i>Bojan Cestnik, Elsa Fabretti, Donatella Gubiani, Nada Lavrač and Tanja Urbančič</i>	
Augmented Reality Card System for Emergency Medical Services	487
<i>Jorge Salvador Ierache, Santiago Igarza, Nicolas Verdicchio, Nicolás Duarte Duarte, Nahuel Mangiarua, Diego Sanz, Jonathan Barth, Cristian Montalvo and Facundo Petrolo</i>	
In silico studies of NSAIDs towards COX-1 and COX-2 inhibition. The correlation between IC50 values and binding energy with ADMET parameters	495
<i>Chrysoula Mikra, Georgios Rossos, Sotirios Hadjikakou and Nikolaos Kourkoumelis</i>	
The feasibility of 3D bioprinting personalised ATMP/device combination products for nasal reconstructive surgery	497
<i>Andrew Gleadall</i>	

Rational interpretation

Noa Rappaport¹,
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Network-inspired approaches for transcriptomic analyses

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Keywords. Network analysis, gene co-expression network, transcriptomics

1 Biological network analysis

Network models have long been used in biological contexts to model interactions between biological entities, with applications to gene regulation, metabolic and signaling pathways, and protein-protein networks, among others [1-4]. Analyzing these network models allows exploring both local and global properties of the networks, which may provide insights that other methods cannot readily offer. Quantifiable network properties include connectivity, average degree, density, distance distribution, scale-freeness, critical nodes and edges, partitionability into clusters, and much more; thus providing a valuable approach to study biological systems.

In the field of transcriptomics, network analysis is carried out by constructing gene co-expression networks. A *gene co-expression network* (GCN) is an undirected graph, where each node corresponds to a gene, and a pair of nodes is connected by an edge if there is a significant co-expression relationship between them [5]. Co-expression relationships between genes can be quantified as a function of their gene expression profiles (e.g., Pearson correlation coefficient). Therefore, with this approach, we can identify pairs of genes with strongly correlated behavior (both positive and negative). GCNs allow generating hypotheses involving genes that may be controlled by the same regulatory element, genes that may be functionally related, or genes that may play a coordinated role in one or more biological processes [6-11].

Transcriptomic data in the form of gene expression profiles may be obtained using technologies such as microarray and, more recently, using the next generation sequencing (NGS) technology named RNA-Seq. While the former focuses on targeted genes, the latter provides an unbiased profile of the organism being studied. Transcriptomic data can be studied from a systems biology perspective in order to unravel potential relationships between expressed genes, and this is the main goal of the present work.

* The first two authors contributed equally to this paper.

2 Application to transcriptomic data analysis

In marine environments, abiotic factors, such as temperature and salinity, have an impact on living organisms as well as entire ecosystems. Furthermore, mankind has altered natural balances leading to additional changes in the environment. As a consequence, marine organisms must adapt to environmental variations in order to survive. Transcriptomic analysis helps us to elicit how such adaptations are achieved.

In this work, a network-based analysis approach was applied to transcriptomic data from the Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, challenged with different temperature and salinity conditions [12]. Raw RNA-Seq data was first processed using standard pipelines [13, 14]. Next, co-expression networks were built as described in prior work [15, 16]. Figures 1 (a) and (b) show the GCNs for *C. gigas* under two different environmental stressors. In these figures, edges between nodes (genes) indicate the strength and nature (positive or negative) of their relationship. Also, connected components with the same color correspond to co-expressed clusters of genes.

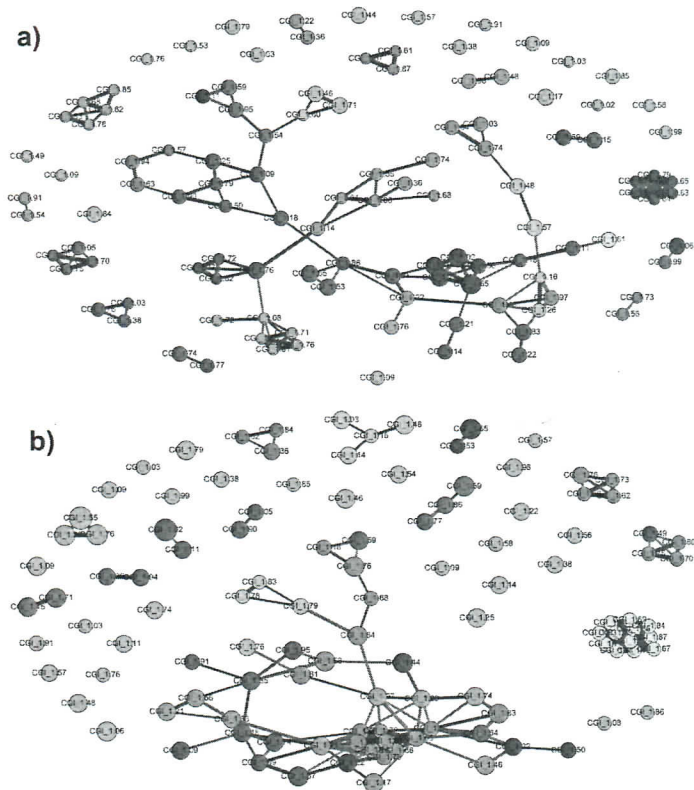


Fig 1. Co-expression networks of *Crassostrea gigas* genes challenged with (a) temperature and (b) salinity

Many useful conclusions can be drawn from pairs of genes that show strong correlations. This can be generalized to different profiles. In this specific application (different loci on the genome), we can indicate direct or indirect relationships between a process or metabolic pathway. This could indicate cooperative roles or incompatible roles or opposite roles.

If multiple networks are built, different expression patterns can be predicted. These can be attributed to processes or pathways under a stressor (i.e., temperature and salinity) or light specific effects that are related to the regulation of biomarkers.

Understanding the changes in gene expression to shed light on the adaptive mechanisms could be of great value in order to develop tools for the development of biomarkers to represent a valuable tool to generate targeted hypotheses.

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Many useful conclusions can be drawn from these networks. First, we can identify pairs of genes that show strongly correlated expression profiles across a set of conditions. This can be generalized to identify clusters of genes with correlated expression profiles. In this specific application, some clusters represent the same gene (from different loci on the genome), showing strong co-expression. Other clusters may indicate direct or indirect relationships between genes involved in the same biological process or metabolic pathway. Within each cluster, positive correlations (green edges) could indicate cooperative roles, while negative correlations (red edges) could indicate incompatible roles or opposite effects.

If multiple networks are compared, common responses and differences between expression patterns can be pinpointed. Clusters that are conserved across networks can be attributed to processes that are independent of the specific environmental stressor (i.e., temperature and salinity), whereas clusters that show changes may highlight specific effects that are characteristic of a stressor, and may lead to the identification of biomarkers.

Understanding the changes that result from variations in the environment is crucial to shed light on the adaptive mechanisms of marine organisms. Such information could be of great value in order to monitor specific environments and has the potential for the development of multi-gene biomarkers. Hence, network-based approaches represent a valuable tool to study changes in gene expression, enabling the further generation of targeted hypotheses for wet-lab validation.

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Genetic Algo

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Abstract. Here we aimed at 3D molecular genetic algorithm (GA) at once and optimization (objectives). The resultant 3D models justify. An API is also provided for the optimization engine. With the built-in (think of competitive) ity (torsion angles, cal groups replacement already been implemented calculations, simple patches, steric clashes, angles, surface come.

To date, thanks to subjects with little or a interesting 3D models. While docking marks when tested

Keywords: Genetic Protein-ligand dock

1 Introduction

Great part of the technology of new materials, atoms were limited, tria part of the standard pr molecular world at the