

REVIEW ARTICLE

Application of Bioinformatics in Biotechnology

¹Seerat Showkat, ¹ Sameeka Nazir ²Sehrish Showkat and ³Farzana

1 College of Temperate Sericulture, Mirgund, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar Srinagar, J&K-190025

2 Faculty of Forestry, Benhama, Ganderbal, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar Srinagar, J&K-190025

3. Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, 110068

ABSTRACT

Bioinformatics, a multidisciplinary field at the intersection of biology, computer science and data analytics, has undergone significant historical development, driven by enabling technologies and has found diverse applications in biotechnology. From early DNA sequencing to the recent CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing revolution, bioinformatics has played a pivotal role in genomics, structural biology, 'omics' data analysis, systems biology, personalized medicine and synthetic biology. Enabling technologies such as high-performance computing, next-generation sequencing, cloud computing, and open-source communities have facilitated its growth. Bioinformatics empowers biotechnology by processing vast biological data, accelerating drug discovery, personalizing medicine, optimizing agriculture and advancing scientific understanding, promising further innovation in the future. Bioinformatics empowers biotechnology by processing, analysing and deriving insights from complex biological data, impacting healthcare, agriculture and environmental conservation. The historical developments and enabling technologies have been integral to bioinformatic's evolution and its ongoing synergy with biotechnology promises further innovation and scientific discovery in the future.

Keywords: Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Genomics, Drug Discovery, Personalized Medicine, Synthetic Biology

Received 14.04.2023

Revised 12.06.2023

Accepted 02.08.2023

INTRODUCTION

Bioinformatics has emerged as a pivotal field at the intersection of biology, computer science, and data analytics. It plays a crucial role in advancing various aspects of biotechnology, revolutionizing how researchers approach complex biological data and enhancing our understanding of living organisms. By harnessing computational tools, algorithms, and data analysis techniques, bioinformatics has paved the way for numerous applications within the realm of biotechnology. These applications have the potential to accelerate research, streamline drug discovery, optimize agricultural processes, and personalize medical treatments.

1. Genomic study: For the study of enormous genomic data, including DNA sequencing, bioinformatics is crucial. It assists in locating genes, control points, and useful areas in genomes. Understanding genetic diseases, evolutionary relationships, and the creation of genetically modified creatures all depend on this knowledge.

2. Functional Genomics: Bioinformatics techniques are used in functional genomics to clarify how genes and their offspring work. This includes using methods like microarray analysis and RNA sequencing to predict protein structures, annotate gene functions, and comprehend patterns of gene expression.

3. Comparative Genomics: Bioinformatics permits the identification of conserved regions, evolutionary changes, and insights into species adaptability by comparing genomes from other species. Understanding the genetic underpinnings of traits and diseases is made easier by this information.

4. Drug Discovery and Design: Bioinformatics accelerates drug discovery by facilitating virtual screening of compounds, predicting their interactions with proteins, and optimizing drug candidates. This leads to more efficient identification and development of potential therapeutic agents.

5. Personalized Medicine: Analyzing individual genomes and molecular profiles allows tailoring medical treatments to a patient's unique genetic makeup. Bioinformatics aids in predicting disease susceptibility, drug responses, and designing personalized treatment strategies.

6. Synthetic Biology: By combining principles from biology and engineering, synthetic biology aims to design and construct new biological parts, devices, and systems. Bioinformatics aids in the design and optimization of synthetic biological components.

7. Agriculture and bio processing: By pinpointing desirable features and expediting the selection of superior cultivars, bioinformatics improves agricultural breeding. It helps biotechnology businesses optimize their fermentation processes.

8. Functional Annotation of Genomes: Bioinformatics tools are used to annotate the functions of genes and proteins in newly sequenced genomes, providing insights into the potential biological roles of various molecular components.

9. Data Integration and Visualization: With the abundance of biological data, bioinformatics provides tools for integrating diverse data types and visualizing complex biological interactions, aiding researchers in forming comprehensive insights.

In essence, bioinformatics empowers biotechnology by providing the means to process, analyze, and derive valuable insights from the vast and intricate biological data. Its applications span from basic research to practical applications that impact healthcare, agriculture, environmental conservation, and more. The synergy between bioinformatics and biotechnology continues to drive innovations and shape the future of scientific discovery

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

As both fields have developed over time, so have the applications of bioinformatics in biotechnology. Bioinformatics' integration with biotechnology has been significantly shaped by historical advancements in the field. The following are some significant historical turning points and advancements in the use of bioinformatics in biotechnology:

1. Early DNA Sequencing and Sequence Databases (1960s-1970s): The field of bioinformatics started with the development of early DNA sequencing methods. Frederick Sanger's development of DNA sequencing techniques in the 1970s paved the way for the accumulation of DNA sequence data. The creation of sequence databases like Gene Bank marked the beginning of data storage and retrieval for biological sequences.

2. Genomic Mapping and the Human Genome Project (1990s): The Human Genome Project marked a significant milestone in bioinformatics and biotechnology. Bioinformatics tools were crucial for managing, analyzing, and annotating the massive amount of DNA sequence data generated. This project demonstrated the power of bioinformatics in decoding complex genomes.

3. Structural Bioinformatics (Late 1990s-2000s): As protein structures became available through methods like X-ray crystallography and NMR spectroscopy, bioinformatics played a role in predicting protein structures and understanding their functions. Tools for protein structure prediction and analysis contributed to drug discovery and enzyme engineering.

4. High-Throughput Technologies and 'Omics' Data (2000s-2010s): The advent of high-throughput technologies, such as microarrays and next-generation sequencing, led to the generation of vast amounts of data for genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics. Bioinformatics tools were crucial for analyzing and interpreting these 'omics' data, leading to insights into gene expression, regulatory networks, and molecular interactions.

5. Systems Biology and Network Analysis (2000s-2010s): The focus shifted towards understanding biological systems as a whole. Systems biology emerged, utilizing bioinformatics to model and analyze complex biological networks, including gene regulatory networks, signaling pathways, and metabolic pathways.

6. Personalized Medicine and Pharmacogenomics (2010s-2020s): With the availability of genomic data, bioinformatics began playing a role in personalized medicine. Analyzing individual genomes allowed for tailoring medical treatments and predicting drug responses based on genetic variations.

7. CRISPR-Cas9 and Genome Editing (2010s-2020s): The development of the CRISPR-Cas9 technology revolutionized genome editing. Bioinformatics tools aided in designing and selecting target sites for precise gene editing, enabling a wide range of biotechnological applications.

10. Synthetic Biology and Design Tools (2010s-2020s): Bioinformatics played a role in designing synthetic biological components and systems. Computer-aided design tools help in designing genetic circuits, optimizing metabolic pathways, and creating novel biological entities.

Throughout its history, bioinformatics has progressed hand in hand with advancements in biotechnology, enabling researchers to leverage computational methods for solving complex biological challenges. As technology continues to evolve, the integration of bioinformatics and biotechnology will likely lead to even more innovative applications with far-reaching impacts.

ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BIOINFORMATICS TOOLS

The development and advancement of bioinformatics tools are heavily reliant on various enabling technologies that provide the necessary computational power, data handling capabilities, and analytical methods. These technologies have evolved over time, allowing bioinformatics to become a powerful and versatile field. Here are some key enabling technologies that have contributed to the development of bioinformatics tools:

1. High-Performance Computing (HPC): Significant computational power is needed to handle the sheer amount of biological data, particularly from massive genomics and proteomics programs. Massive datasets can be processed and analyzed using high-performance computing clusters and supercomputers, which enables bioinformatics tools to efficiently run complicated algorithms.

2. Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS): NGS technologies have revolutionized the study of genomics by making it possible to generate DNA and RNA sequences quickly and affordably. Bioinformatics tools must be able to handle the enormous amounts of data produced by these technologies in order to perform tasks like genome assembly, variant calling, and met genomic analysis.

3. Cloud computing: Platforms that offer scalable and on-demand computational resources, such as those found in cloud computing, are particularly helpful for bioinformatics analyses. Without making significant hardware investments, researchers can undertake resource-intensive activities using cloud-based infrastructures.

4. Data Storage and Management: As biological data accumulates; effective data storage and management solutions are crucial. Distributed file systems and databases specifically designed for biological data (such as Gene Bank, Unipart etc) facilitate data sharing, retrieval, and integration.

5. Algorithms and Software Development: The design of algorithms for tasks such as sequence alignment, protein structure prediction, and network analysis is fundamental to bioinformatics. Developing software tools that implement these algorithms allows researchers to perform complex analyses and gain insights from biological data.

6. Tools for Data Integration and Visualization: Bioinformatics tools frequently require to integrate a variety of data types, including clinical, genomic, and proteomic data. Researchers can mix and analyse various data sets with the use of data integration platforms and visualization tools, producing more thorough insights.

7. Databases and Repositories: Publicly accessible biological databases provide researchers with a wealth of annotated data, including genetic sequences, protein structures, pathways, and more. These resources are essential for the development and validation of bioinformatics tools.

8. Open-Source Communities: The development of bioinformatics tools has benefited greatly from the open-source movement. The research community has access to many free software tools and libraries, which promotes innovation and collaboration.

9. Collaboration and networking: The capacity to connect and network with researchers all over the world has facilitated the interchange of concepts, procedures, and data, advancing bioinformatics.

These enabling technologies collectively contribute to the growth and progress of bioinformatics, enabling researchers to tackle increasingly complex biological questions and develop innovative solutions in various areas of biotechnology.

CONCLUSION

The integration of bioinformatics into biotechnology has revolutionized the way we approach research, analysis, and application of biological systems. This synergy has led to accelerated drug discovery, personalized medicine, improved agriculture, optimized bioprocesses, and enhanced understanding of evolutionary relationships. Bioinformatics serves as a vital bridge between complex biological data and practical applications, driving innovation and shaping the future of multiple industries.

REFERENCES

1. Behjati S, Tarpey P S (2013). What is next generation sequencing? *Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed* 98:236–238.
2. Brenner Setal. (2000). Gene expression analysis by massively parallel signature sequencing (MPSS) on microbead arrays. *Nature Biotechnol* 18:630–634.
3. Gray JJ, Moughon S, Wang C, Furman OC, Kuhlman B, Rohal CA, Baker D (2003). Docking with simultaneous optimization of rigid-body displacement and side-chain conformations. *J Mol Biol* 331:281–299.
4. Sharma A, Chandran D, Singh DD, Vijayan M (2007). Multiplicity of carbohydrate binding sites in β -prism fold lectins: occurrence and possible evolutionary implications. *J Bio Sci* 32:1089–1110.

4. Singh D D, Chandran D, Jeyakani J, Chandra N R (2007). Scanning the genome of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* to identify potential lectins. *Protein Pep Lett* 14:683–691.
5. Singh D D, Saikrishnana K, Kumar P, Surolia A, Sekar K, Vijayan M (2005). Unusual sugar specificity of banana lectin from *Musa paradisica* and its probable evolutionary origin. Crystallographic and modeling studies. *Glycobiology* 15:1025–1032.

CITE THIS ARTICLE

Seerat Showkat, Sameeka Nazir, Sehrish Showkat and Farzana. Application of Bioinformatics in Biotechnology. Res. J. Chem. Env. Sci. Vol 11 [4] August 2023. 26-29