BINC SYLLABUS for Paper-I

BINC BioInformatics Syllabus - Basic

Major Bioinformatics Resources: NCBI, EBI, ExPASy, RCSB

The knowledge of various databases and bioinformatics tools available at these resources, organization of databases: data contents and formats, purpose and utility in Life Sciences

Open access bibliographic resources and literature databases:

Open access bibliographic resources related to Life Sciences viz., PubMed, BioMed Central, Public Library of Sciences (PLoS)

Sequence databases

Formats, querying and retrieval
Nucleic acid sequence databases: GenBank, EMBL, DDBJ;
Protein sequence databases: Uniprot-KB: SWISS-PROT, TrEMBL, PIR-PSD
Repositories for high throughput genomic sequences: EST, STS GSS, etc.;
Genome Databases at NCBI, EBI, TIGR, SANGER
Viral Genomes
Archeal and Bacterial Genomes;
Eukaryotic genomes with special reference to model organisms (Yeast, Drosophila, C. elegans, Rat, Mouse, Human, plants such as Arabidopsis thaliana, Rice, etc.)

3D Structure Database: PDB, NDB
Chemical Structure database: Pubchem
Gene Expression database: GEO, SAGE

Derived Databases

Knowledge of the following databases with respect to: basic concept of derived databases, sources of primary data and basic principles of the method for deriving the secondary data, organization of data, contents and formats of database entries, identification of patterns in given sequences and interpretation of the same

Sequence: InterPro, Prosite, Pfam, ProDom, Gene Ontology
Structure classification database: CATH,SCOP, FSSP
Protein-Protein interaction database: STRING

Compilation of resources: NAR Database and Web server Issues and other resources published in Bioinformatics related journals

Sequence Analysis

File formats: Various file formats for bio-molecular sequences: GenBank, FASTA, GCG, MSF etc
Basic concepts: Sequence similarity, identity and homology, definitions of homologues, orthologues, paralogues
Scoring matrices: basic concept of a scoring matrix, Matrices for nucleic acid and proteins sequences, PAM and BLOSUM series, principles based on which these matrices are derived

Pairwise sequence alignments: basic concepts of sequence alignment: local and global alignments, Needleman and Wunsch, Smith and Waterman algorithms for pairwise alignments, gap penalties, use of pairwise alignments for analysis of Nucleic acid and protein sequences and interpretation of results

Multiple sequence alignments (MSA): the need for MSA, basic concepts of various approaches for MSA (e.g. progressive, hierarchical etc.). Algorithm of CLUSTALW and PileUp and their application for sequence analysis (including interpretation of results), concept of dandrogram and its interpretation

Database Searches:
Keyword-based searches using tools like ENTREZ and SRS
Sequence-based searches: BLAST and FASTA

Sequence patterns and profiles: Basic concept and definition of sequence patterns, motifs and profiles, various types of pattern representations viz. consensus, regular expression (Prosite-type) and sequence profiles; profile-based database searches using PSI-BLAST, analysis and interpretation of profile-based searches

Taxonomy and phylogeny: Basic concepts in systematics, taxonomy and phylogeny; molecular evolution; nature of data used in Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Definition and description of phylogenetic trees and various types of trees

Protein and nucleic acid properties: Computation of various parameters using proteomics tools at the ExPASy server and EMBOSS

Comparative genomics: Basic concepts and applications, whole genome alignments: understanding significance. Artemis as an example

Structural Biology

3-D structure visualization and simulation: Visualization of structures using Rasmol or SPDBV or CHIME or VMD
Basic concepts in molecular modeling: different types of computer representations of molecules. External coordinates and Internal Coordinates
Non-Covalent Interactions and their role in Biomolecular structure and function
Fundamentals of Receptor-ligand interactions.


DNA and RNA: types of base pairing – Watson-Crick and Hoogsteen; types of double helices (A, B, Z), triple and quadruple stranded DNA structures, geometrical as well as structural features; structural and geometrical parameters of each form and their comparison; various types of interactions of DNA with proteins, small molecules
RNA secondary and tertiary structures, t-RNA tertiary structure

Carbohydrates: The various building blocks (monosaccharides), configurations and conformations of
the building blocks; formations of polysaccharides and structural diversity due to the different types of linkages

Glyco-conjugates: various types of glycolipids and glycoproteins

**Classification and comparison of protein 3D structures:**

Purpose of 3-D structure comparison and concepts, Algorithms : CE, VAST and DALI, concept of coordinate transformation, RMSD, Z-score for structural comparison

Databases of structure-based classification; CATH, SCOP and FSSP

**Secondary structure prediction:** Algorithms viz. Chou Fasman, GOR methods; nearest neighbor and machine learning based methods, analysis of results and measuring the accuracy of predictions.

**Tertiary Structure prediction:** Fundamentals of the methods for 3D structure prediction (sequence similarity/identity of target proteins of known structure, fundamental principles of protein folding etc.) Homology/comparative Modeling, fold recognition, threading approaches, and *ab initio* structure prediction methods

**Suggested Books for Reading:**


Thomas E. Creighton, Proteins: structures and molecular properties

Chemoinformatics Edited by Johann Gasteiger and Thomas Engel

Structural Bioinformatics, Edited Philip E. Bourne and Helge Weissig

**BINC Biology Syllabus: Basic**

**Cell Biology and Genetics**

Basic aspects of Prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells (plant and animal cells); membranes and cellular compartments, cell organelles, structure and function

Cell motility and shape: cytoskeletal elements, cilia and flagella; motor proteins

Cell-cell interactions: Intercellular junctions

Cell cycle and its regulation, events during mitosis and meiosis

Concepts of Bioenergetics, respiration, electron transport systems.

Concepts of gene: Allele, multiple alleles, pseudoallele, complementation tests.

Mendelian principles : Inheritance, sex linked inheritance, Dominance, segregation, independent assortment.

Mutations : Types, causes and detection, Mutant types – lethal, conditional, biochemical, loss of
function, gain of function, germinal versus somatic mutants, point/deletion/insertional mutations.

Basic concepts in immunology, antigen-antibody interaction, humoral and cell mediated immunity. Concepts of development and pattern formation.

Molecular Biology
Prokaryotic genome organization and structure
Prokaryotic gene expression, factors involved in gene regulation
Eukaryotic genome organization and structure, mechanisms of gene expression in Eukaryotes, basic mechanisms of transcription and translation
Mechanisms of genome alterations: Recombination, mutation, inversion, duplication, transposition.
Basic concepts of replication.

Biochemistry
Carbohydrates and lipids, their importance in cells
Proteins: Amino acids and their physico-chemical properties, peptide bond and peptides
Nucleic acids: Nucleosides, nucleotides, RNA and DNA. Denaturation and renaturation of DNA
Enzymes: Units of activity, coenzymes and metal cofactors, temperature and pH effects, Michaelis-Menten kinetics, inhibitors and activators, active site
Carbohydrate metabolism: Glycolysis, gluconeogenesis, glycogenolysis, glycogenesis, TCA cycle and oxidative phosphorylation
Pentose phosphate pathway; hormonal control, β-oxidation and biosynthesis of fatty acids
Transamination and deamination of amino acids, ketogenic and glycogenic amino acids, urea cycle
Purine and pyrimidine biosynthesis

Suggested Books for Reading:

1. Principles of Biochemistry by Lehninger
2. The Molecular biology of the Cell by Alberts et al
3. Genes X by B. Lewin
6. Biochemistry Vol1: Biomolecules, mechanisms of enzyme action and metabolism Voet, D and Voet, J.
**BINC Physical Science syllabus: Basic**


Chemical potential. First-order phase transitions

Equation of state for ideal gases. Departures from ideality. Maxwell-Boltzman Distribution

**Suggested Books for Reading:**

- Fundamentals of Physics, 6th Edition  David Halliday & Robert Resnik
- The Feynman Lectures on Physics: Volumes 1, 2 & 3

**BINC Chemical Science Syllabus : Basic**


Tautomerization, geometrical isomerism, inductive effect, stereochemsitry (R/S,D/L); nucleophile, electrophile, nucleophilic substitution, electrophilic substitution, nomenclature of organic compounds. Bioisosterism.

First law of thermodynamics, isothermal process, entropy and second law of thermodynamics, reversible and irreversible processes; Concepts of enthalpy, internal energy and potential energy; Inter- relation between potential energy and force, heat of formation.

Concept of pH, pK, chemical equilibrium, Henderson-Hasselbach equation, structure of water.

**Suggested Books for Reading:**

- Physical Chemistry, P.W.Atkins and and Julio de Paula
- Biophysical chemistry vol I ,Charles R Cantor & Paul Reinhard Schimmel
BINC Mathematics and Statistics Syllabus – Basic

**Mathematics**

Functions and Graphs of polynomial, logarithm, exponential and trigonometric functions.

2D co-ordinate geometry: Equation of a line, circle, ellipse, parabola, hyperbola; focal point, eccentricity and other properties.

3D geometry: Equation of sphere.

Solution of simultaneous and quadratic equations

Sequences and series.

Limits.

Differentiation and integration of the above mentioned functions.

Matrix algebra: Multiplication, inverse and solution of linear equations.

**Statistics**

Discrete random variables, their probability mass function, probability distribution function, mean and variance.

Binomial and Poisson random variables and their properties.

Continuous random variable, their probability density function, probability distribution function, mean and variance.

Normal random variable and its properties.

Conditional probability and Bayes’ theorem.

**Suggested Books for Reading:**


NCERT class 12 mathematics books.

Ewens and Grant: Statistical methods in bioinformatics
BINC Information Technology Syllabus: Basic

Fundamentals in Computing

Types of Processing: Batch, Real-Time, Online, Offline.
Types of modern computing: Workstations, Servers, Parallel Processing Computing, Cluster computing, Grid computing
Introduction to operating systems: Operating System concept, UNIX/LINUX.
Basic Programming Concepts – sequential, conditional and loop constructs

Introduction to Database Systems

SQL Queries

Geometric transformation
Coordinate transformations

**Suggested Books for Reading:**

1. Database Management System – Ramakrishnan and Gehrke
2. Data Structure: Andrew S Tannenbaum
3. Complete Reference to C
4. Complete Reference to Java
5. Complete Reference to Perl
6. Complete Reference to Python