MetaFluxNet: Platform for in silico metabolic flux analysis

Han Min Woo¹, Dong-Yup Lee², Hyung Seok Choi¹, Tae Yong Kim¹,
Hongseok Yun¹, Sang Yup Lee^{1,2}

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology,

¹Dept. Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and
BioProcess Engineering Reearch Center

²Dept. BioSystems and Bioinformatics Research Center

TEL: +82-42-869-5970, FAX: +82-42-869-8800

Abstract

The in silico genome-scale analysis of microbes with myriad of heterologous data generated by x-omics has been applied to improving our understanding of cellular function and physiology and consequently to enhance production of various bioproducts. At the heart of this revolution in silico genome-scale metabolic model has been reconstructed and a systematic approach employing user-friendly software is required. Metabolic flux analysis of genome-scale metabolic network is becoming widely employed to quantify the flux distribution and validate model-driven hypotheses. Here we describe the development of an upgraded MetaFluxNet¹⁾ which allows (1) construction of metabolic models connected to metabolic databases, (2) calculation of fluxes by metabolic flux analysis, (3) comparative flux analysis with flux-profile visualization, (4) the use of metabolic flux analysis markup language² to enable models to be exchanged efficiently, and (5) the exporting of data from constraints-based flux analysis into various formats. MetaFluxNet also allows cellular physiology to be predicted and strategies for strain improvement to be developed from genome-based information on flux distributions. This integrated software environment promises to enhance our understanding on metabolic network at a whole organism level and to establish novel strategies for improving the properties of organisms for various biotechnological applications. This work was financially supported by the Korean Systems Biology Research program of the

Korean Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and LG chemicals Chair Professorship. Hardware for computational analysis supported by the IBM-SUR program.

References

- Lee, D.-Y., H. Yun, S. Y. Lee and S. Park, MetaFluxNet: the management of metabolic reaction information and quantitative metabolic flux analysis (2003), Bioinformatics, 19, 2144-2146.
- Hongseok Yun, Dong-Yup Lee, Joonwoo Jeong, Seunghyun Lee, and Sang Yup Lee MFAML: a standard data structure for representing and exchanging metabolic flux models. (2005), Bioinformatics, 21, 3329-3330.