Contents

Introduction 1

1 DNA: The Molecule of Life 5
1.1 Introduction 5
1.2 The Structure and Manipulation of DNA 6
1.3 DNA as the Carrier of Genetic Information 7
1.4 Operations on DNA 10
1.5 Summary 21
1.6 Bibliographical Notes 21

2 Theoretical Computer Science: A Primer 23
2.1 Introduction 23
2.2 Algorithms and Automata 25
2.3 The Turing Machine 27
2.4 The Random Access Machine 29
2.5 Data Structures 33
2.6 Computational Complexity 39
2.7 P and NP 43
2.8 Summary 43
2.9 Bibliographical Notes 44

3 Models of Molecular Computation 45
3.1 Introduction 45
3.2 Filtering Models 46
3.3 Splicing Models 60
3.4 Constructive Models 61
3.5 Membrane Models 63
3.6 Summary 69
3.7 Bibliographical Notes 70

4 Complexity Issues 71
4.1 Introduction 71
4.2 An Existing Model of DNA Computation 73
4.3 A Strong Model of DNA Computation 76
4.4 Ogihara and Ray's Boolean Circuit Model 77
4.4.1 Ogihara and Ray's Implementation 79
4.5 An Alternative Boolean Circuit Simulation 82
4.6 Proposed Physical Implementation 84
4.7 Analysis 87
4.8 Example Application: Transitive Closure 88
4.9 P-RAM Simulation 90
4.10 The Translation Process 94
4.11 Assessment 100
4.12 A Worked Example: The List Ranking Problem 102
4.13 Summary 106
4.14 Bibliographical Notes 107

5 Physical Implementations 109
5.1 Introduction 109
5.2 Implementation of Basic Logical Elements 109
5.3 Initial Set Construction Within Filtering Models 110
5.4 Adleman's Implementation 112
5.5 Evaluation of Adleman's Implementation 115
5.6 Implementation of the Parallel Filtering Model 117
5.7 Advantages of Our Implementation 118
5.8 Experimental Investigations 119
5.9 Other Laboratory Implementations 135
5.9.1 Chess Games 136
5.9.2 Computing on Surfaces 138
5.9.3 Gel-Based Computing 140
5.9.4 Maximal Clique Computation 141
5.9.5 Other Notable Results 143
5.10 Summary 145
5.11 Bibliographical Notes 145

6 Cellular Computing 147
6.1 Introduction 147
6.2 Successful Implementations 150
6.3 Gene Unscrambling in Ciliates 150
6.4 Biological Background 151
6.4.1 IESs and MDSs 151
6.4.2 Scrambled Genes 152
6.4.3 Fundamental Questions 152

6.5 Models of Gene Construction 153
6.6 Summary 155
6.7 Bibliographical Notes 156

References 157

Index 167