Genetic regulatory networks inference: modeling, parameters estimation & model validation
Fomekong Nanfack, Y.

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A long journey has begun since the day I have started my postgraduate research program in order to obtain my doctorate degree. I still remember the day I came for an interview in Amsterdam. I met Dr Jaap A. Kaandrop with whom I had a very engaging discussion. That day, I was not sure to really seize the magnitude of the challenges to address. Still, as soon as I received the offer of appointment I fought with the Swiss and Dutch administrations to obtain a visa, packed my luggage and moved to Amsterdam. This was the starting point of an intense learning experience: I have been constantly working and learning on wide variety of matters — the main challenge being to learn to be a good scientist. I know now that if one can acquire qualities and skills, being a good scientist is a lifetime and never ending exercise. I also know that learning to be a good scientist is a lost attempt if you do not have good mentors and companions at work and in life: I would not have achieved my objectives over these four years and half without the people who have guided me and accompanied me during this exciting period of my life.

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convictions. He has been thoughtful, patient and also pushy when necessary. One of the sentences I will never forget from Jaap is probably: “when is the paper ready?” Well, his persistence has paid off and once again I would like to express him my infinite gratitude.

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A thesis is not only a scientific work, it is a life experience. One might lose some realities while concentrating on research priorities. I seize the opportunity of this major work to acknowledge a great person who, the same as me, crossed the world to learn and become a scientist, and with whom I collaborated: Jiangjuin. May he rest in peace.

Yves