



Evaluation Data Report

Biological Problems using Binary Matrices

Working Group

Meeting Four: December 14-17, 2010

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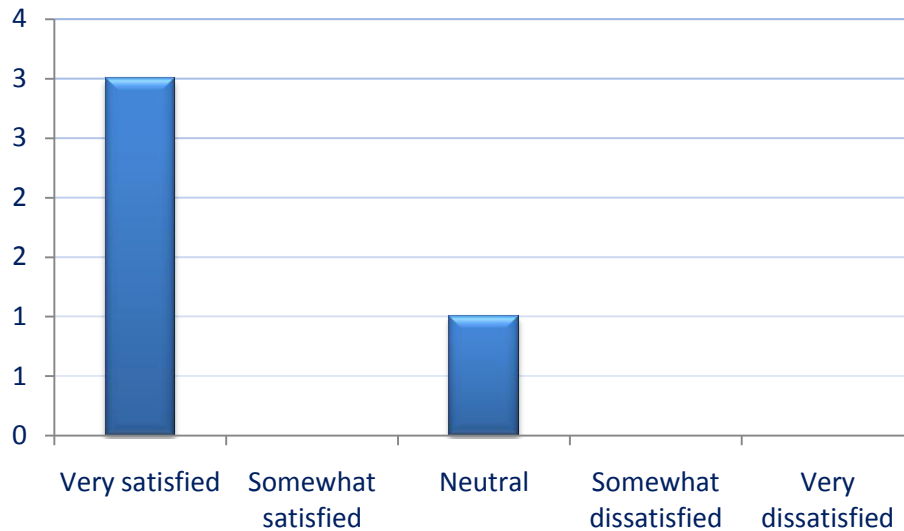
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Biological Problems Using Binary Matrices Working Group Evaluation Data Report

Satisfaction

Figure 1. Overall satisfaction with the working group



Respondent comments about experience with the working group:

The current meeting was very productive. It has taken us 2 years to see how to solve some of the problems we set forward when we convened this group.

Group Progress

Figure 2. Were there research issues that you considered important to the proposed effort, and expected this group to address, that were not dealt with?

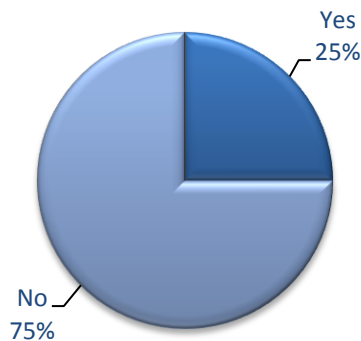
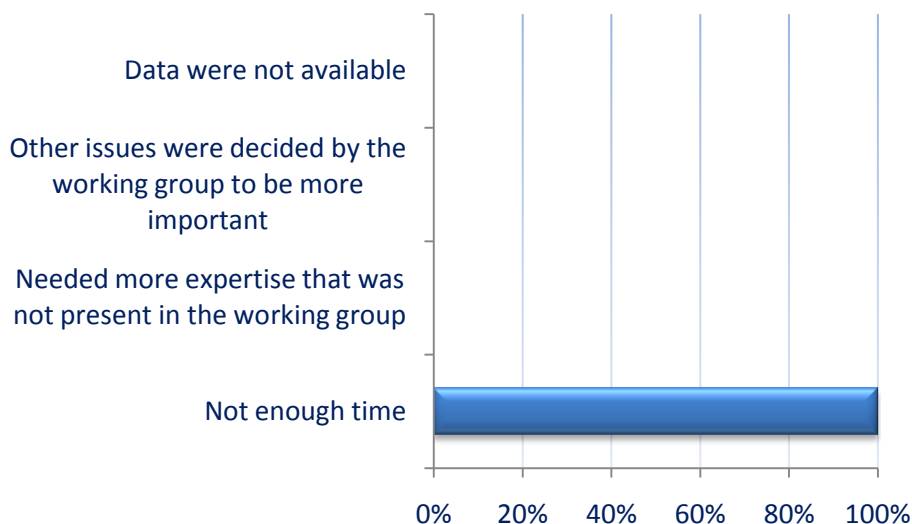


Figure 3. What were the reasons that you feel these research issues were not addressed? (check any that apply)



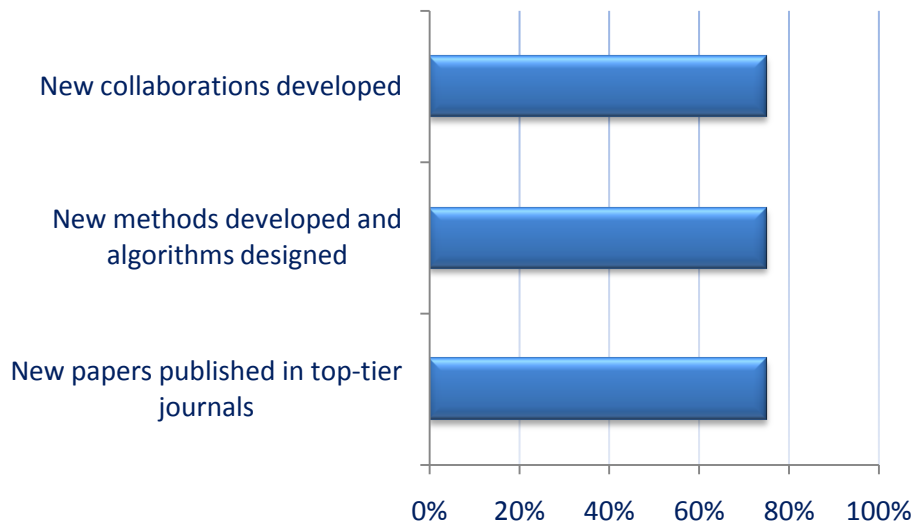
Please use this space to list other reasons not mentioned above, and/or to elaborate on your selected answers:

It has taken the group 2 years to begin to solve some the problems that were first set forth. I expect that we will address others over the next 2 years. Unlike NCEAS or other synthesis institutes, we are developing new methods to solve biological problems and the insights cannot be scheduled so tightly.

Figure 4. In your opinion, did the efforts of the working group lead to new insights and collaborations?



Figure 5. What evidence is there to support this? (check any that apply)



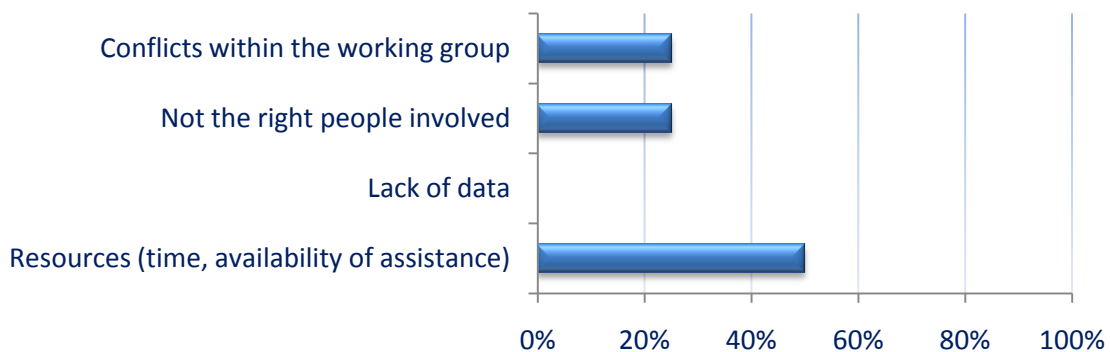
Other evidence and/or comments on your selections above:

We have 1 paper published so far, one that will be submitted in March and 4 others in some state of progress. There are lasting collaborations usually between groups of 2-3 group members that I think will continue at least for the next 2-3 years., The papers that are published or in preparation apply novel modeling approaches to long standing ecological problems., We will be presenting 3 papers from this group at a national meeting next summer.

Several new papers/manuscripts have come out of this work, pitched at leading ecology specific journals.

Group Limitations

Figure 6. What do you feel limited the working group's efforts? (check any that apply)



Other limitations and/or comments on your selections above:

The time of the group members once they returned to their home institutions. Also, the development of new insights/ ideas.

I feel like the group often got sidetracked on interesting but extremely difficult issues instead of focusing on solvable problems. There were also some miscommunications among members.

Collaboration Activities

Table 1. Working Group research collaborations

In what ways do your Working Group collaborations differ from other research collaborations:	<i>n</i>	Much Different	Slightly Different	Not Different	Not Applicable
Scientific questions addressed	4	25%	50%	25%	0%
Disciplinary topics involved	4	0%	50%	50%	0%
Research methods used	4	50%	25%	25%	0%
Competitive grants applied for	4	0%	0%	0%	100%
Journals targeted for publication	4	25%	25%	50%	0%
Academic conferences at which research is presented	4	50%	25%	25%	0%

Comments about collaborations:

Applying different statistical/mathematical approaches to long standing problems.

Suggestions for Future Groups

Looking back, is there anything you would have changed about the working group format or content?

One particular subgroup seems to have made the most important breakthrough that might apply to the other subgroups. Had we been able to make this breakthrough earlier then the other groups would have progressed more. However, I in retrospect, I don't see how we could have anticipated such a result. So, having multiple subgroups working on related problems was effective.

I think that we needed a stronger hand running meetings, defining attainable goals and completing projects. The issues discussed were very interesting, but I don't think we quite met our full potential.