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Abdul S Jarrah (ajarrah@vbi.vt.edu), Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Washington St., Blacksburg, VA 24061, **Reinhard Laubenbacher*** (reinhard@vbi.vt.edu), Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Washington St., Blacksburg, VA 24061, **Paola M Vera-Licona** (mveralic@vbi.vt.edu), Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Washington St., Blacksburg, VA 24061, and **Bernd Sturmfels** (bernd@math.berkeley.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of California, Berkeley, 970 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720. *Parametric inference of biochemical network models*. Preliminary report.

A central problem in molecular systems biology is the inference of models for biochemical networks, such as gene regulatory or metabolic networks from high-throughput data such as DNA microarrays. A wide range of methods is being developed for this purpose, using a variety of modeling frameworks, from statistical models such as Bayesian networks, to discrete dynamical systems such as Boolean networks and systems of ordinary differential equations. Here we present a method using the framework of multistate discrete dynamical systems. The heart of the method is an evolutionary algorithm that finds a model which is optimal with respect to dynamics and model complexity. It uses methods from computational algebra to give a compact mathematical description of the entire model space to be searched. (Received September 20, 2006)