

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 An Informal View on Membrane Computing	1
1.2 A Presentation of This Dissertation	4
2 PREREQUISITES	7
2.1 Elements of Languages, Automata, Complexity	7
2.1.1 Languages	7
2.1.2 Chomsky Grammars	9
2.1.3 Lindenmayer Systems	12
2.1.4 Automata and Register Machines	14
2.1.5 Matrix Grammars	19
2.1.6 Elements of Complexity	24
2.2 Basic Classes of P Systems	26
2.3 Some Computability and Efficiency Results	37
3 APPLICATIONS OF MEMBRANE COMPUTING	39

3.1 Motivation	39
3.2 P Systems as Modeling Tools in Biology	40
3.2.1 Mechanosensitive Channels	41
3.2.2 Biological Dynamics	43
3.2.3 Cell-Mediated Immunity	50
3.2.4 P53 Signaling Pathways	52
3.2.5 EGFR Signaling Cascade	54
3.2.6 Quorum Sensing in Bacteria	56
3.2.7 Respiration and Photosynthesis in Cyanobacteria	58
3.2.8 Photosynthesis	64
3.3 Applications in Computer Science	67
3.3.1 Static Sorting P Systems	68
3.3.2 Sub-LP Systems Used In Computer Graphics	72
3.3.3 An Analysis of a Public-Key Protocol with Membranes	75
3.3.4 Membrane Algorithms	78
3.3.5 Computationally Hard Problems	81
4 OPERATIONS FROM BRANE CALCULI	85
4.1 Mate/Drip Operations in P Systems	85
4.2 Computing Power	88
5 P SYSTEMS WITH PROTEINS ON MEMBRANES	96
5.1 The Model	96
5.2 Computational Results for the Generating Mode	102
5.2.1 Universality for One Type of Rules	105

5.2.2 Using Two Types of Rules	111
5.3 One Protein Case	120
5.4 Accepting and Computing Systems	124
5.5 A Small Universal P System	126
5.6 Solving SAT in Polynomial Time	131
5.7 Using a More Restrictive Type of Rules	141
6 REWRITING P SYSTEMS WITH SYMPORT RULES	149
6.1 The Model	149
6.2 Computational Results	152
7 CONCLUSIONS, OPEN PROBLEMS AND FURTHER RESEARCH . . .	165
BIBLIOGRAPHY	167