**A two step optimization approach for maximizing biosorption of hexavalent chromium ions (Cr(VI)) using alginate immobilized *Sargassum sp* in a packed bed column**

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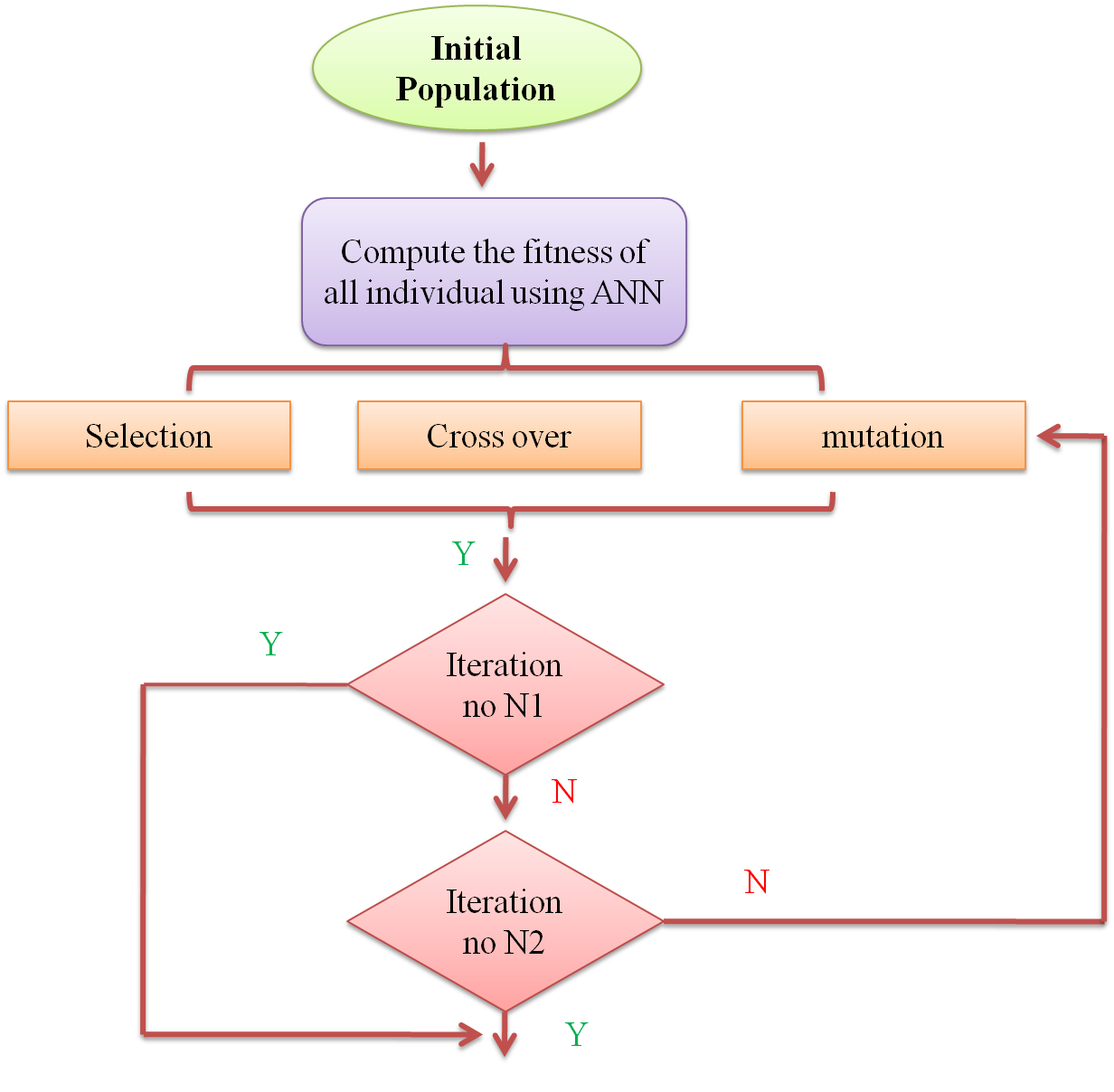
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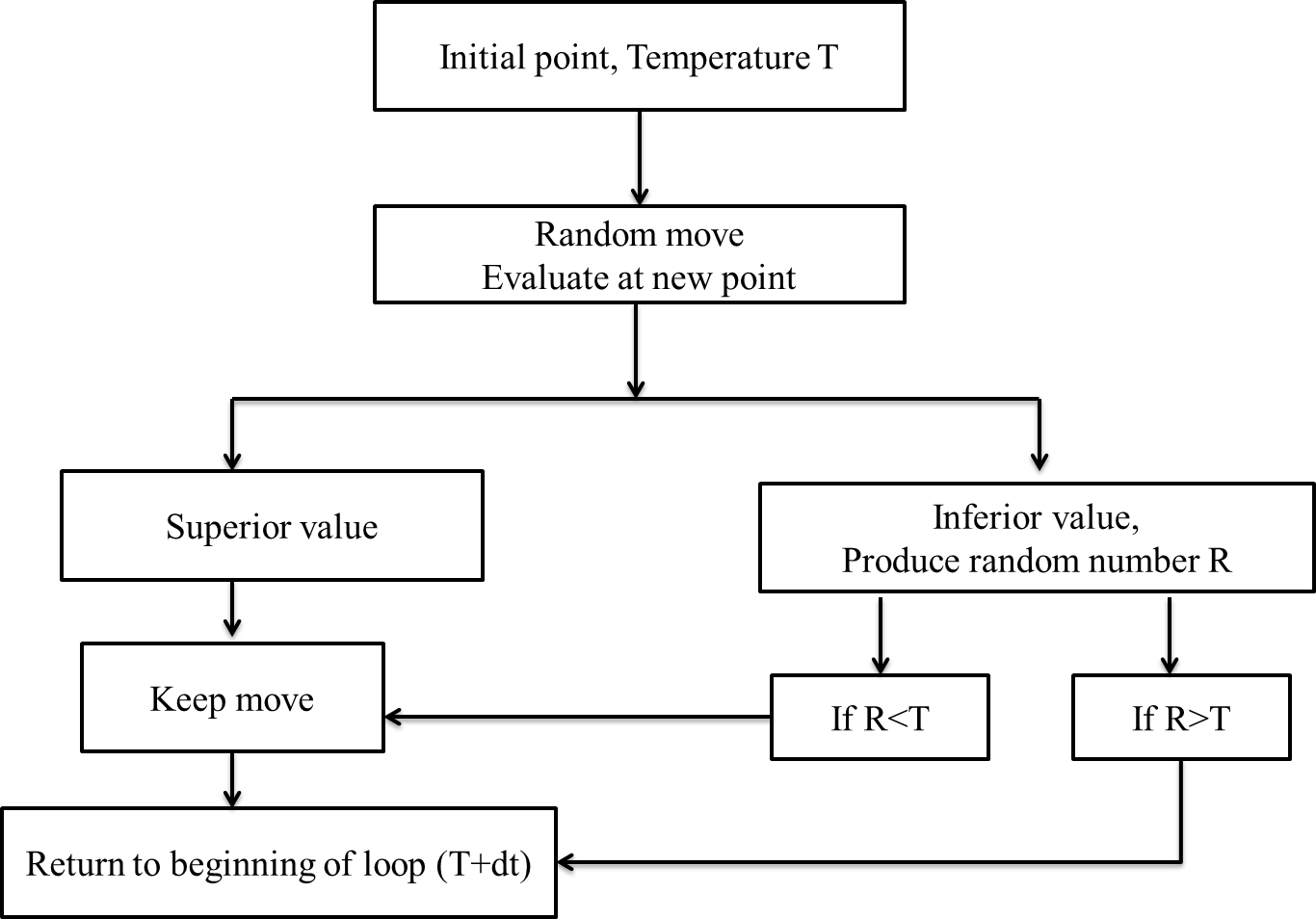
Supporting Information



**Fig S1**: Biosorbent preparation: (A) Washed and Dried *Sargassum sp* (B) Powdered *Sargassum sp* (C) Alginate immobilized *Sargassum sp*.



**Fig S2:** Schematic representation of ANN-GA procedure adopted for Cr(VI) biosorption in packed bed column



**Fig S3**: work flow algorithm of simulated annealing method adopted for Cr(VI) biosorption in packed bed column



**Fig S4**: Graphical representation of data points used for training, validation and Test in ANN



**Fig S5**: Error and learning curve of the neural network