Summary of the class discussion and conclusions for A Database Platform for Bioinformatics
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Basically this paper didn’t provide a brand new concept or method for bioinformatics database platform. All the user-defined features of Oracle could be done outside the database.

Users have to be expert not only at database design, computer programming, even the techniques for DBMS in order to use the features efficiently and correctly.

The benefits of Oracle database management system are that the system administrator could easily do backup and recovery, and maintenance as a whole system. It also improve the performance when many users are concurrently interacted with the database by integrated its functionality to database level.

There are something interesting to do to make user-defined type and operation to be a standard with SQL because these are many common types and their operations in Bioinformatics and platform independent. They can be standardized just like NUMBER, DATE in SQL. While user-defined indexing and optimizer are difficult to make a standard because they are more depending on the vendor’s implementation. For example, each vendor might have different algorithms to approach the optimization of query.

It is biased to talk about one platform to provide the functionality instead of using a generic database management system.

Data mining tool Darwin provides some algorithms to do some Bioinformatics analysis, but it is not clear how is different from other tools like SAS.