

# Summary of the class discussion and conclusions for A Database Platform for Bioinformatics Mao Ni

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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.