University of Pisa

SCUOLA DI INGEGNERIA

Corso di Laurea in Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering



Task1 documentation

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1 Introduction

This is an application to browse and evaluate university courses and professors, called **Student-Evaluation**.

The application is developed to allow students (users) to view all the courses and professors of a specific university with related comments.

There are two buttons to switch the view of the list of professors to the list of courses: this action will update the table below. By clicking an element of this table, on the left section, the user can see more information about the chosen element: general information and comments.

In order to filter the list of professors and subjects, there is a choice box, thanks to which the user can select a specific degree course.

In order to leave a comment, it is necessary to log in, otherwise, the application will allow interaction in read-only.

There are two buttons in the bottom left corner to allow students to update or delete their comments. There is no form to register into the application, it is assumed that users are already registered into the system, but there is an administrator that can add, update and delete professors, subjects and all the informations related.

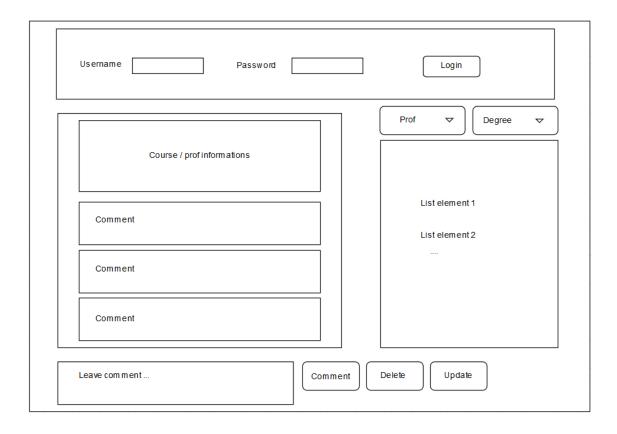


Figure 1: Mockup

2 Analysis and workflow

2.1 Requirements

2.1.1 Functional requirement

The system has to allow the guest to carry out basic functions such as:

- To select a course/professor from the list and view information and comments.
- To select a degree course from the list, filtering professors and subjects.

In addiction to the guest functions, the system has to allow the user to carry out basic functions such as:

- To login into the system.
- To upload comments on a course/professor.
- To update a comment of a course/professor only if the user is the owner.
- To delete a comment of a course/professor only if the user is the owner.

The system has to allow the administrator to carry out basic functions such as:

- To login into the system.
- To add a course/professor.
- To update a course/professor.
- To delete a course/professor.
- To associate to a course a professor.
- To delete any comment.

2.1.2 Non-functional requirements

- Usability, ease of use and intuitiveness of the application by the user.
- Avaliablility, with the service guaranteed h24.
- The system should support simultaneous users.
- The system should provide access to the database with a few seconds of latency.

2.2 Use case

Actors

• Guest : this actor represents a user who is not logged into the system

 \bullet Student : this actor represents a user who is logged into the system

 $\bullet\,$ Admin : this actor represents the administrator of the system

2.2.1 Use Cases Description

Event	UseCase	Actor(s)	Description
Log in, Log out	Login,	Admin, Student	The user logs in/out the application. The system
	Logout		browses the professors' list by the degree course
			of the logged user and returns it on the interface.
View all the profes-	Browse,	User	The user chooses that he wants to view the list of
$\mathrm{sors/subjects}$	Find,		all professors/subjects. The system browses the
	View P/S		data on the db and returns them on the interface.
View the comments	Browse,	User	The user clicks on a record of the professor/sub-
and information of	Find,		ject table. The system browses on the db the
a professor/subject	View C		comments related to that professor/subject and
			returns them on the interface.
Add a comment	Add C	Admin, Student	The user submits the text of his comment. The
			system updates the db and the interface.
Update a comment	Update C	Admin, Student	The user selects the comment and commits the
			new text. The system updates the db and the
			interface.
Delete a comment	Delete C	Admin, Student	The user selects the comment and submits the
			delete. The system updates the db and the inter-
			face.
View the profes-	Browse,	User	The user selects from the choice-boxes the degree
sors/subjects by	$\operatorname{Find},$		course and the list (professors/subjects) he's in-
degree	View P/S		terested in. The system browses on the db the
			professors/subjects filtered by the chosen degree
			and returns them on the interface.
Add a professor/-	$\operatorname{Add} P/S$	Admin	The user submits the name and other informa-
$\operatorname{subject}$			tion of the new professor/subject. The system
			updates the db and the interface.
Update a profes-	Update	Admin	The user selects the professor/subject and com-
$\mathrm{sor/subject}$	P/S		mits the new information. The system updates
			the db and the interface.
Delete a professor/-	Delete	Admin	The user selects the professor/subject and sub-
$\operatorname{subject}$	P/S		mits the delete. The system updates the db and
			the interface.

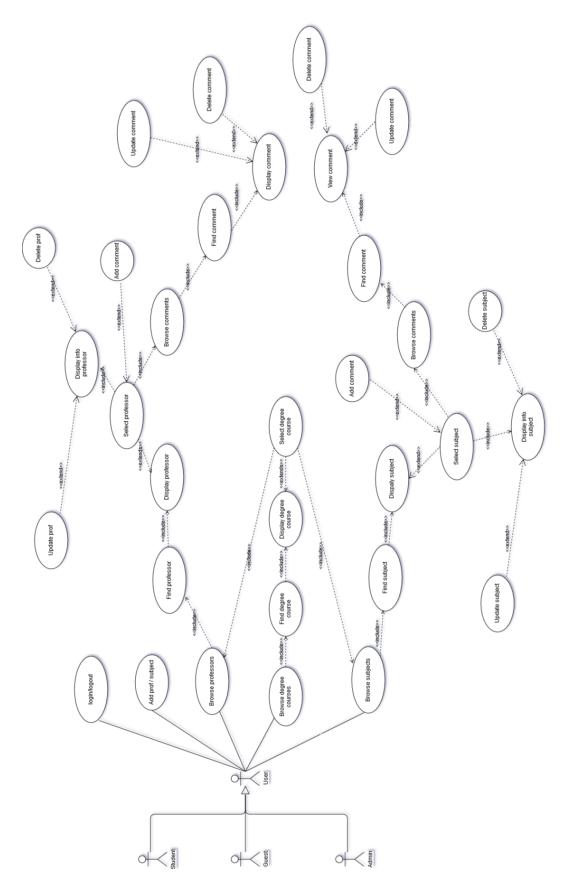


Figure 2: Use cases diagram

2.3 Class diagram

This diagram represent the main entities of the application and the relations between them.

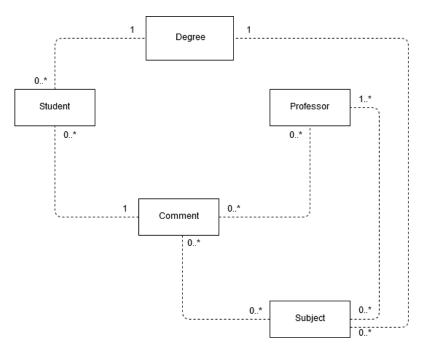


Figure 3: UML analysis diagram

3 Design

3.1 Software architecture

The application is designed over 3 different layers, see figure 4:

- \bullet Front-end
- \bullet Middleware
- \bullet Back-end

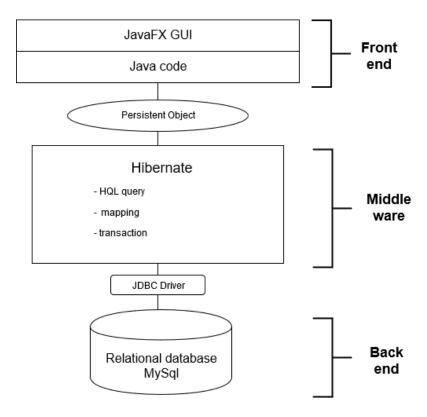


Figure 4: Software architecture diagram

3.2 Database design

The application is developped over a relational-database, using the MySql platform. The figure 5 shows the ER-diagram of the database.

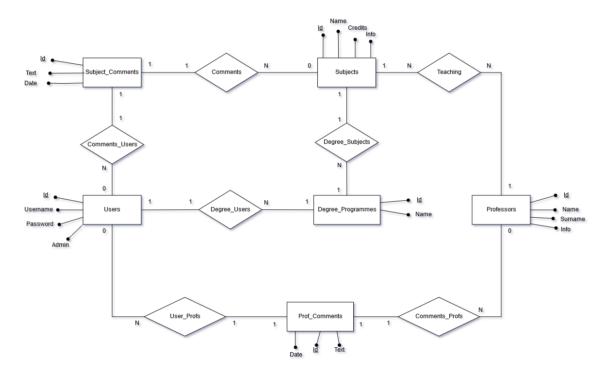


Figure 5: ER diagram

4 Implementation

4.1 Used technologies

The application is developed in java programming language, version 11.0.4, and in JavaFX system to create the GUI, version 11, so it should run on each platform in which JVM is installed, but the application is tested and guardantee on Ubuntu 16 and Window OS. Moreover Maven is used to build and mantain the project, version 3.8.0.

The middleware layer is built thanks to Hibernate, version 5.4.4.0.

The jdbc driver manage the comunication between middleware layer and backend layer, version 8.0.17.

For the backend layer it is used Apache as web-server, version 2.4 (including Php, MySql).

So this application is tested using these technologies, considering these particular versions: for other versions the correct execution isn't guaranteed .

4.2 Snippets of code

This phase describes the most interesting parts about the creation and interaction with the database.

The following classes are mapped in the table of the database:

- Degree
- Student
- Professor
- Subject
- ProfessorComment
- ProfessotSubject
- Degree
- Student
- Professor
- Subject
- ProfessorComment
- ProfessotSubject

These classes are declared using the Hibernate annotations syntax.

4.2.1 Declaration of class Subject

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Subject.

```
@Entity(name = "Subjects")
@Table(name = "subjects")
public class Subject {
     @Column(name = "id")
     @Id
     @GeneratedValue(strategy = GenerationType.IDENTITY)
     private int id;
```

4.2.2 Declaration of class Person

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Person.

```
@ Mapped Superclass
public abstract class Person {
          @Column(name = "id")
          @ Id
          @ Generated Value (strategy = Generation Type.IDENTITY)
          private int id;
          ...
}
```

4.2.3 Declaretion of class Professor

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Professor.

4.2.4 Declaretion of class Student

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Student.

```
@Entity(name = "Users")
@Table(name = "users")
public class Student extends Person {
         private final boolean admin;
         @Column(name = "username", unique = true)
         private String username;
         private String password;
            relation with Degree.
         @ManyToOne(fetch = FetchType.LAZY)
         @JoinColumn (name = "degreeId")
         private Degree deg;
          // relation with Subject Comments.
         @OneToMany(mappedBy = "stud", cascade = CascadeType.ALL, orphanRemoval = true)
private List < SubjectComment > subjectComments = new ArrayList < SubjectComment > ();
         // relation with ProfessorComments.
         @OneToMany(mappedBy = "stud", cascade = CascadeType.ALL, orphanRemoval = true)
         private List < ProfessorComment > professorComments = new ArrayList < ProfessorComment > ();
}
```

4.2.5 Declaretion of class Comment

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Comment.

```
@ MappedSuperclass
public abstract class Comment {
          @Column(name = "id")
          @Id
          @GeneratedValue(strategy = GenerationType.IDENTITY)
          private int id;
          private String text;
          private String date;

          private static String format = "yyyy-MM-dd_HH:mm:ss";
          ...
}
```

4.2.6 Declaration of class SubjectComment

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Subject Comment.

```
@Entity(name = "SubjectComments")
@Table(name = "subject_comments")
public class SubjectComment extends Comment {
          @ManyToOne(fetch = FetchType.LAZY)
          @JoinColumn(name = "userId")
          private Student stud;

          @ManyToOne(fetch = FetchType.LAZY)
          @JoinColumn(name = "subjectId")
          private Subject subj;
          ...
}
```

4.2.7 Declaration of class ProfessorComment

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class ProfessorComment.

4.2.8 Declaretion of class Degree

The following java-code shows a declaration of the class Degree.

```
@Entity(name = "Degree")
@Table(name = "degree_programmes")
public class Degree {

    @Column(name = "id")
    @Id
    @GeneratedValue(strategy = GenerationType.IDENTITY)
    private int id;

    @Column(name = "name", unique = true)
    private String name;

    // relation with students.
    @OneToMany(mappedBy = "deg", cascade = CascadeType.ALL, orphanRemoval = true)
    private List<Student> student = new ArrayList<Student>();

    // relation with subjects.
    @OneToMany(mappedBy = "deg", cascade = CascadeType.ALL, orphanRemoval = true)
    private List<Subject> subject = new ArrayList<Subject>();

...
}
```

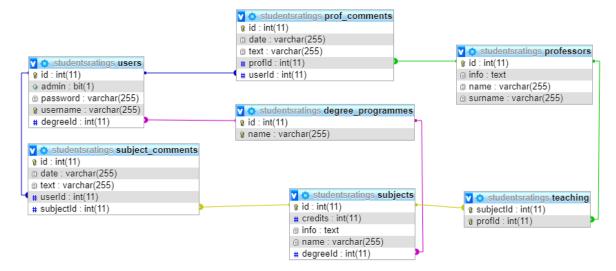


Figure 6: ER diagram

Another foundamental class is ManagerEM, that manages the db-connection and the related operations. The implementation of a set of CRUD operations, regarding the class Subject, is desribed as follows.

4.3 Create

Creating a new subject specifying general informations, the professor holding the course and the associated degree program as parameters.

```
\mathbf{public} \hspace{0.2cm} \textbf{Subject} \hspace{0.2cm} \textbf{createSubject} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{(String name, int credits, String info, } \\
                                           String profIdStr, int degreeId){
        System.out.println("Creating_a_new_subject");
        Subject subject = new Subject (0, name, credits, info);
        String[] professorsId = profIdStr.split(",", 5);
        try {
                 entity Manager = factory . createEntity Manager();
                 Degree degree = entity Manager.find (Degree.class, degreeId);
                 int profId = 0;
                 for (String p : professorsId) {
                         profId = Integer.parseInt(p);
                          Professor professor = null;
                         if (profId > 0) {
                                  professor = entityManager.find(Professor.class, profId);
                         entity Manager.close();
                                  return null;
                         subject . get Professor().add(professor);
                         professor.getSubject().add(subject);
                 degree.getSubject().add(subject);
                 subject . set Deg ( degree );
                 entity Manager . get Transaction (). begin ();
                 entity Manager. persist (subject);
                 entity Manager . get Transaction ().commit();
                 System.out.println("subject_Added");
                 return subject;
```

4.4 Read

This functionality returns a list of subjects interrogating the database using a query written in Hibernate Query Language (HQL).

```
public List <Subject > getSubjects(int degree) {
        List <Subject > results = new ArrayList <>();
        System.out.println("Getting_a_List_of_subjects_based_on_the_degree");
        String selectionSubjects = "SELECT_s_FROM_Subjects_s_S_ORDER_BY_s.name";
        String selection Subject By Degree =
                          "SELECT_s_FROM_Subjects_s_WHERE_degreeId_=_?1_ORDER_BY_s.name";
        try {
                 entity\,M\,anager\,=\,factory\,.\,createEntity\,M\,anager\,(\,)\,;
                 if (degree < 0) {
                         TypedQuery < Subject > query = entity Manager.createQuery
                                  (selectionSubjects, Subject.class);
                         results = query.getResultList();
                 } else {
                         TypedQuery < Subject > query = entity Manager.createQuery
                                  (selectionSubjectByDegree, Subject.class);
                         query.setParameter(1, degree);
                         results = query.getResultList();
        } catch (Exception ex) {
                 ex.printStackTrace();
                 System.err.println("A_problem_occurred_in_retriving_subjects!");
        } finally {
                 entity Manager. close ();
        return results;
}
```

4.5 Update

This operation allows students to update their comments about a selected subject.

```
// if the user is the owner.
                if (subjectComment.getStud().getId() == userId) {
                        entity Manager.get Transaction().begin();
                        subjectComment.setText(text);
                        subjectComment . set Date(date);
                        entity Manager.get Transaction().commit();
                        System.out.println("subject_comment_updated");
                        updated = true;
                } else { // if user is not owner --> error
                        System.err.println("You_are_not_the_owner_of_that_comment,
                            .....please_select_another_comment");
                        entity Manager. close ();
                        return updated;
        } catch (Exception ex) {
                ex.printStackTrace();
                System . err . println ("A_problem_occurred_in_updating_a_subject_comment!");
                entity Manager . close ();
        return updated;
}
```

4.6 Delete

This operation allows a student to delete their comments about a selected subject.

```
public boolean deleteCommentSubject(int subjectCommentId, int userId, boolean admin) {
        try {
                 entity\,M\,anager\,=\,factory\,.\,createEntity\,M\,anager\,(\,)\,;
                 entity Manager.get Transaction().begin();
                Subject Comment subject Comment = entity Manager.find (Subject Comment.class,
                                                           subjectCommentId);
                 // if user is owner OR admin he can delete the comment
                 if (subjectComment.getStud().getId() == userId || admin) {
                         entityManager.remove(subjectComment);
                         deleted = true;
                } else { // if user is not owner AND he is not admin --> error
                         System.err.println("You_are_not_the_owner_of_that_comment,
                            , but the constant of the comment of the constant {\tt please\_select\_another\_comment"} );
                         return deleted;
                }
                 entity Manager.get Transaction().commit();
                System.out.println("subject_comment_removed");
        } catch (Exception ex) {
                ex.printStackTrace();
                 System.err.println("Approblem_occurred_in_removing_a_subject_comment!");
                entity Manager . close ();
        return deleted;
}
```

4.7 **GUI**

Moreover there are 3 classes to manage the graphic user interface:

- $\bullet \ \, GraphicInterface$
- $\bullet \ \ Comment Table$
- $\bullet \ \operatorname{ProfSubjectTable}$

These classes use the javaFX framework to build the GUI and handle the related events.

5 Level DB

Key-values databases are one of the simplest examples of NoSQL stores that can be found. In a key-value database, data are persistently stored assigning a value to a uniqle identifier, which takes the name of key; couples of key-values are stored in namespaces (buckets) and in each buckets, keys must be unique.

The main strengtts of the key-value database are:

- Simplicity
- Speed
- Scalability

Key-value database are mostly used when speed in retrieving data and ease of storage are more important than the organization of data into complex structures. So, in general, classics RDBMS are preferred when organization and management is more important than perfomances; typically, when a database presents a lot of relations among entities, key-values stores aren't the best choice. When the structure of our database is simple, instead, we could use the key-value stores because they are more capable of providing higher performances than RDBMS.

It is also true that simple relations between entities are represented in key-value database as well, just by building up keys in a predefined way.

The new architecture is shown in figure 7:

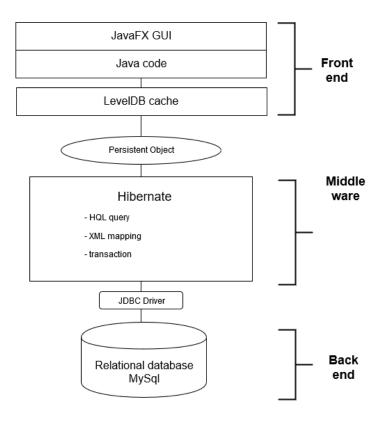


Figure 7: Software architecture diagram

LevelDB is a tool used to create a key-value database. It stores data under the form of key-value pairs locally in .sst file. Thanks to the property of those kind of databases we can think to set up a cache memory for our application using LevelDB.

We need to store information about professors/courses, with their relative comments, belonging to the same degree of the student that is actually logged. The idea is that the student will check those information more frequently than in the case of professors or courses of different degree. When a student logs in, we retrieve and store the sequent data: professors (with their relative comments) and courses (with relative comments) of the same degree of the student. Those informations are then used to populate the tables needed during the normal operations of the application. We create the key for that data in the following way:

- For the professors' data:

 professors:\$professor_id:\$attribute_name

 where the attributes are: name, surname and info.
- For the subjects' data:
 subjects:\$subject_id:\$attribute_name
 where the attributes are: name, credits and info.
- For the professor's comments data:

 prof_comments:\$prof_comments_id:\$user_id:\$professor_id:\$attribute_name
 where the attributes are: text and date.
- For the subject's comments data: subject_comment_id:\subject_id:\subject_id:\subject_id:\subject_name where the attributes are: text and date.

Every time a users choose to see the informations about professors or subjects belonging to his same degree, we display the data stored locally. Once the user select a professor or a subject, the comment for that professor or for that subject are retrieved from the local file.

During the normal operation of the application, a student can add a new comment or update or modify one of his previously submitted comments.

When a user add a comment on one of the target objects (professors or subjects of his same degree), the new comment is first added onthe local file then the adding is propagated on the database. When a user modify or delete a comment, the action is only operated on the local file, when the user logs out those operations are then propagated on the relational database.

The admin, which is a super-user whith higher privileges, has to skip those step; in fact, the admin's operations skip the local file and affect first the relational database, and then the key-value file, without the asynchronous steps.

6 User Manual

When you first run the application, the interface you get is the one in figure 8.

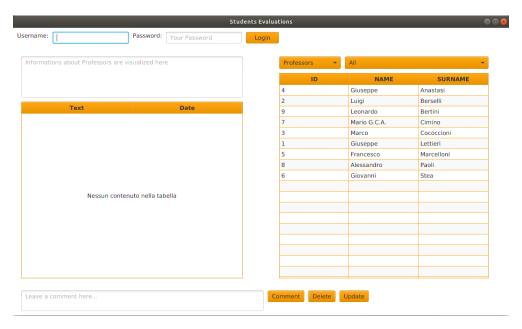


Figure 8: First view of the application

The default display includes the list of all registered professors in the table on the right. You can choose to display the professors of a single degree course, using the drop-down menu on the right (fig. 9), or decide to view the list of subjects (fig. 10), for which is also available the degree course's filter.

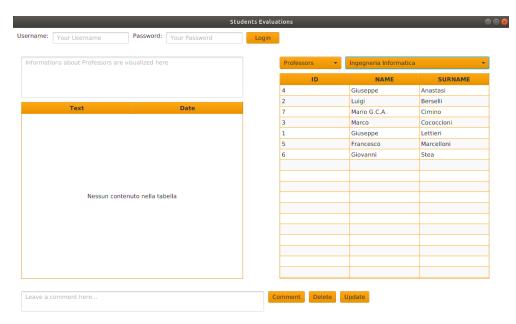


Figure 9: Selection of professors filtered by "Ingegneria Informatica" degree course

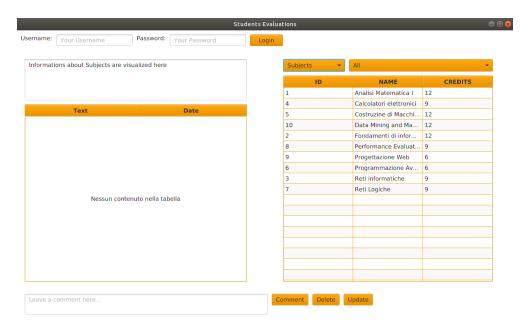


Figure 10: Selection of subjects

If you have a registered account, you can log in to the application, so that the comments' operations aren't blocked. Enter your username and your password in the suited fields at the top and click on "Login" (fig. 11).

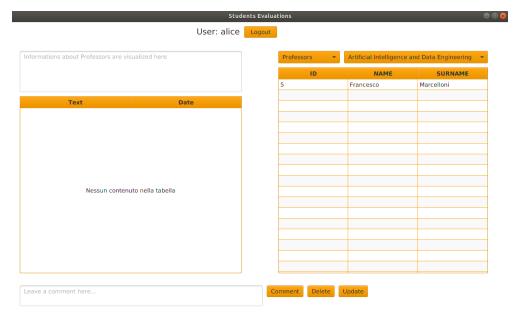


Figure 11: Application interface after the user "Alice" has logged in

If you now want to be able to see the comments associated with a particular professor, you have to click on the name of the professor: in the table on the left the list of comments already received will appear (fig. 12). With this operation, you'll be able to visualize also the information related to that professor.

To leave a comment, you need to enter the text in the field below the table and then click on the "Comment" button. The result obtained from these operations is shown in fig. 13.

You can also decide to modify the comment you just uploaded or another comment you made on a previous session. To do so, you need to click on the comment you want to update, change

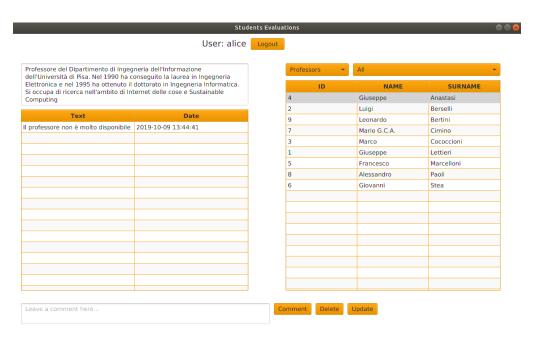


Figure 12: Displaying the comments related to a professor

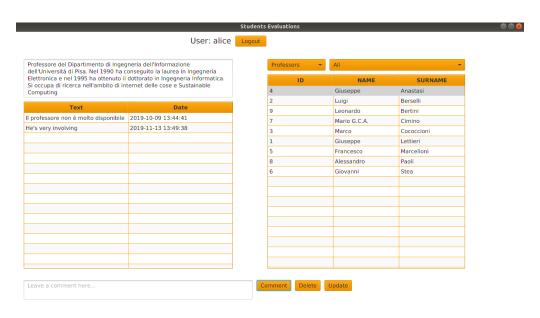


Figure 13: Interface after adding a comment

the text in the field below the table and then click on the "Update" button (fig. 14). Finally you have the chance to delete your comment, by clicking on "Delete" after selecting it. Notice that you can modify or delete just the comments that you made.

The operations of adding, updating and deleting work as well for the the subjects' comments.

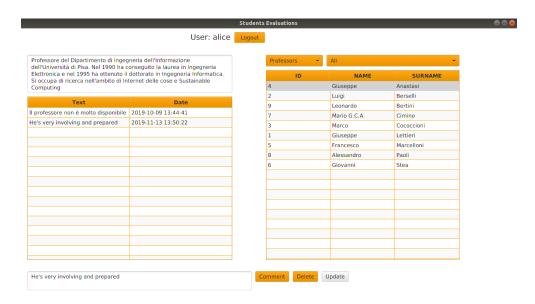


Figure 14: Interface after updating a comment

To log out, just click on the appropriate button at the top, next to the user label.

Moreover, if you don't have a registered username, you can still browse through the application, search for professors 'and subjects' information and read all comments. You are just unable to leave or change any comments.

6.1 Admin Manual

If you have an admin user, you are entitled to make changes both on the professors' and the subjects' lists. You need to log in inserting your username and password, and the application will recognize you as the administrator and show up the buttons for modifying the data (fig. 15).

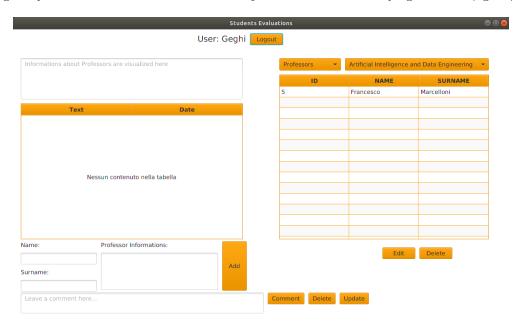


Figure 15: Interface after the administrator has logged in

You can choose to add a new professor, using the input fields at the bottom left. You have to specify the name, surname, and description, then press the "Add" button (fig. 16).

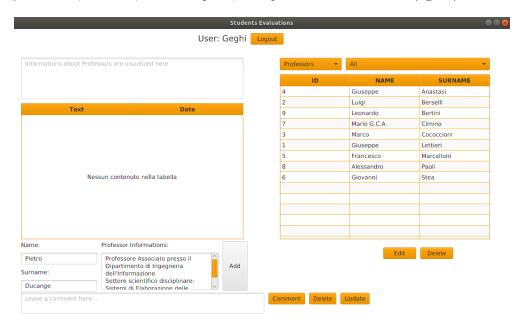


Figure 16: Adding a new professor

You can also modify the data related to a professor: click on the professor you are interested in and change the information shown in the apposite input fields. Finally, you have the chance to delete a professor by clicking on the "Delete" button after selecting the wanted professor (fig. 17).

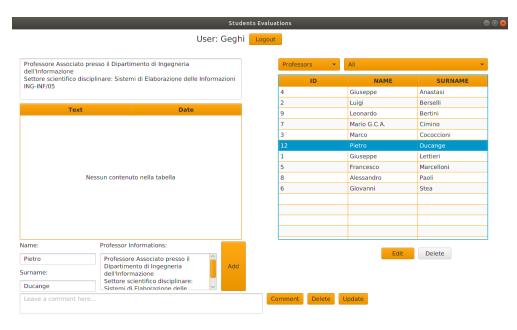


Figure 17: Screen of the application's interface from which you can either update or delete a professor

All these operations are available for the subjects as well. The only difference is that when you want to add a new subject you also need to specify the id of the professor teaching it (or a list of ids, separeted by commas, if there are more professors teaching it). Moreover, you must have precisely displayed in the table the subjects of the same degree course of the new one (fig. 18).

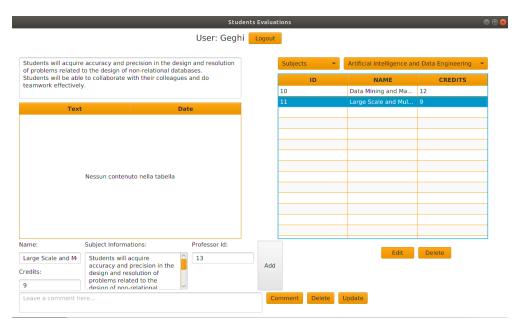


Figure 18: Interface after adding a new subject, ready to modify or delete it

The administrator can delete comments posted by all the users, too. Just click on the comment and then on the "Delete" button (fig. 19).

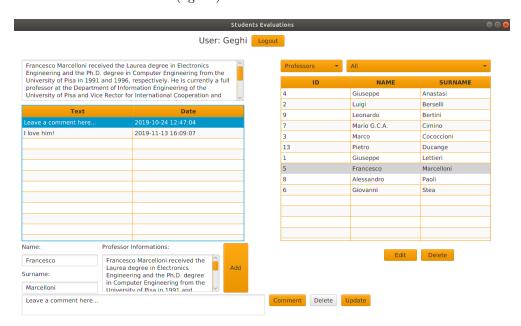


Figure 19: Screen of the application's interface from which the admin can delete a comment