

UNIVERSITY OF PISA



School of Engineering

Master of Science in Computer Engineering

Large-Scale and Multi-Structured Databases Course

TASK 3 PROJECT

CINEMASPACE RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

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1 APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

To improve the user experience offered by CinemaSpace¹, the introduction of a recommendation system, which will be able to suggest films to the subscribed users, is needed.

Since the original archive of the application is optimized for storing and retrieving large collections of data, it is necessary to build an ad hoc parallel system that can store, identify and quickly analyse relationships between users and rated films. As a result, the registered user will be able to access a new section in her personal page, where she will find:

- a selection of recommended films based on genres, identified starting from the recent positive ratings she gave;
- a selection of recommended films based on the ones rated by other users with common interests.

The original application and the new extension will operate on different views and details of the same data, coordinating in order to use different archives and preserve the overall consistency of the dataset.

¹ CinemaSpace is the application developed for the Task 2 project.

2 MAIN ACTORS AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Main actors

- The client user
- The administrator of the community.

2.2 Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to the ones defined and implemented in CinemaSpace.

2.2.1 Functional requirements

The system must allow the registered client user:

- to see on her personal page a selection of recommended films based on genres. The latter are identified taking into account her last positive ratings — the ones with a value equal or higher than 2.5 — and the associated film genres.
- to see on her personal page a selection of recommended films based on the ones rated by other users with common interests. In this case, “users with common interests” refers to a set of users who rated a similar list of films.

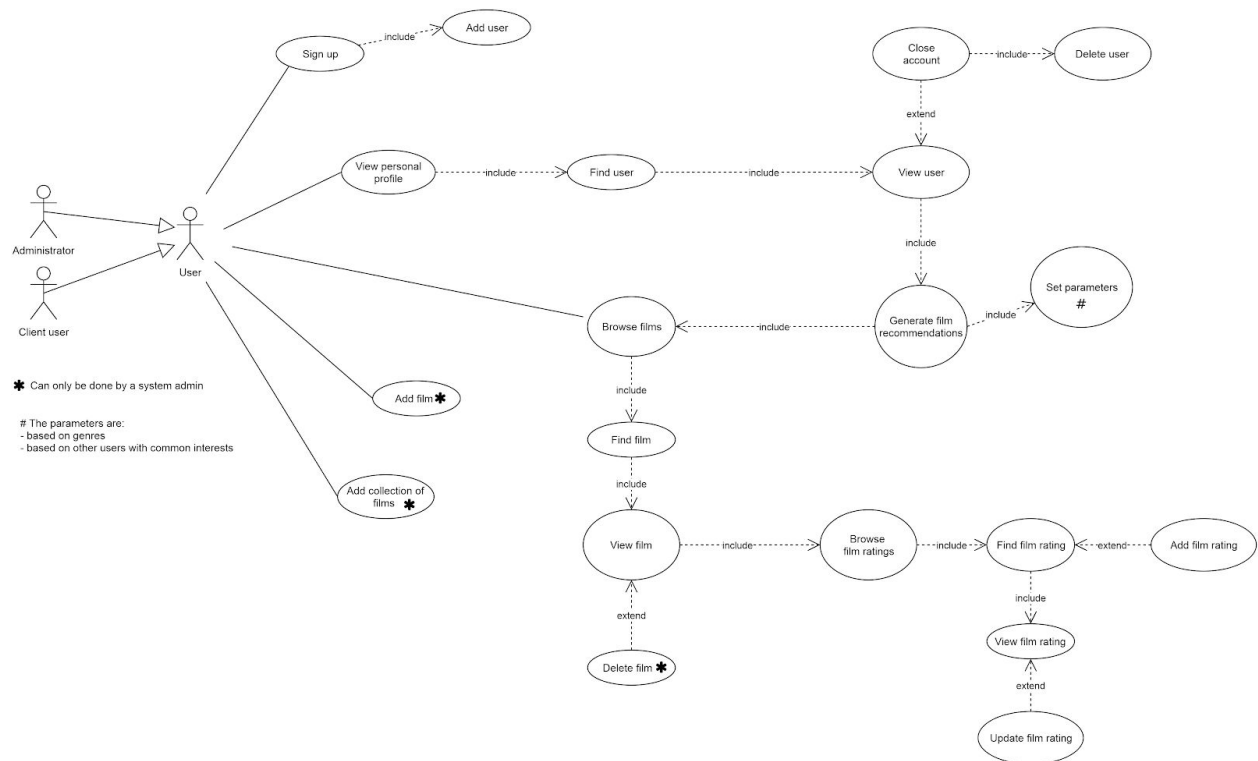
2.2.2 Non-functional requirements

The overall system must ensure:

- quick response to the recommendation requests;
- the duplication of only the strictly necessary information inside the recommendation system's archive;
- the consistency of the databases, where each significant insert, update or delete operation on the main archive must be propagated to the recommendation system's archive to be considered as completed. In case of failure, a rollback of the operation must be performed.

3 USE CASES

The use cases that involve an insert, update or delete operation are the same of the original CinemaSpace application, but they were replicated to underline the fact that their effects must be properly propagated in the recommendation system's archive.



See film recommendations based on genres
Brief description: A user wants to see a selection of films recommended by the system.
Preconditions: The user must be logged in and must have rated at least one film.
Basic flow of events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user enters her profile page. 2. The system generates a list of suggested films based on the genres retrieved from her recent positive ratings. 3. The system displays the films in the associated section of the page.
Extensions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2a. The system fails to generate the suggested films <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system logs information about the system's error and no modification is made to the current state of the application.
Post-conditions: The suggestion section is populated by the identified films and can be browsed by the user.

See film suggestions based on other users with common interests
Brief description: A user wants to see a selection of films recommended by the system.
Preconditions: The user must be logged in and must have rated at least one film.
Basic flow of events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The user enters her profile page. 5. The system generates a list of suggested films based on the films rated by other users with common interests. 6. The system displays the films in the associated section of the page.
Extensions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2a. The system fails to generate the suggested films <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system logs information about the system's error and no modification is made to the current state of the application.
Post-conditions: The suggestion section is populated by the identified films and can be browsed by the user.

4 INTERFACE MOCKUP

Personal profile page (user)

Home

Highest rated

Most Popular

Profile

Disconnection

PROFILE

Username : Name

Email : email@email.com

Date of Birth : dd/mm/yyyy

Gender: Gender

Close Account

Film Rated

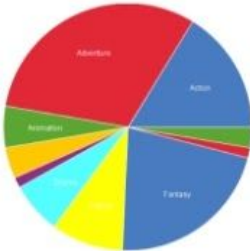
Min

0


Max

5


Confirm




According to your tastes, you might also like ...



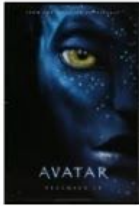
Star Trek



Terminator
Dark Fate



Guardians of the
galaxy vol. 2




Avatar


Previous

Next


Users with a profile like yours have also liked ...




Star Trek



Terminator
Dark Fate



Guardians of the
galaxy vol. 2



Avatar

Previous

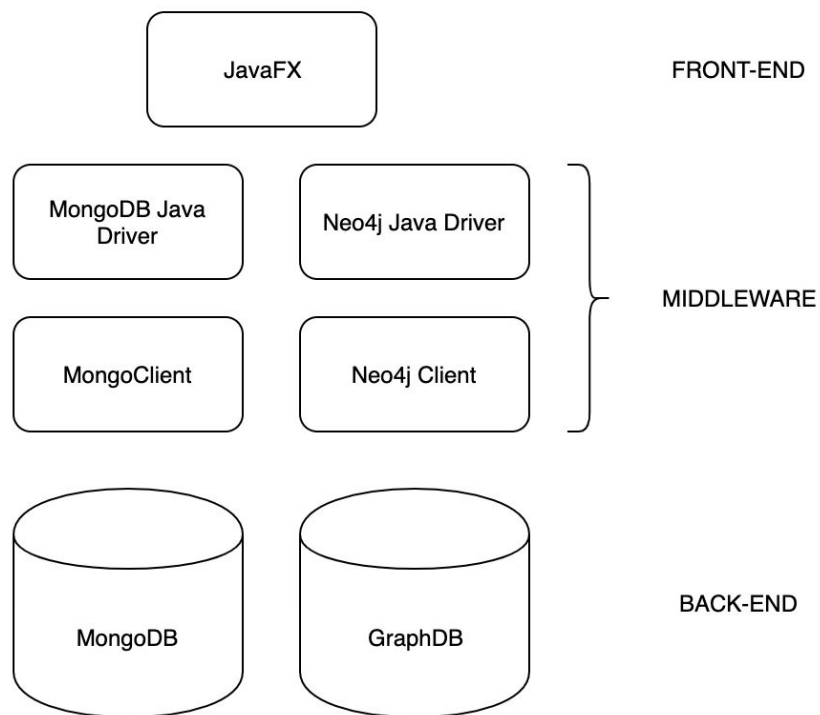
Next

5 PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE

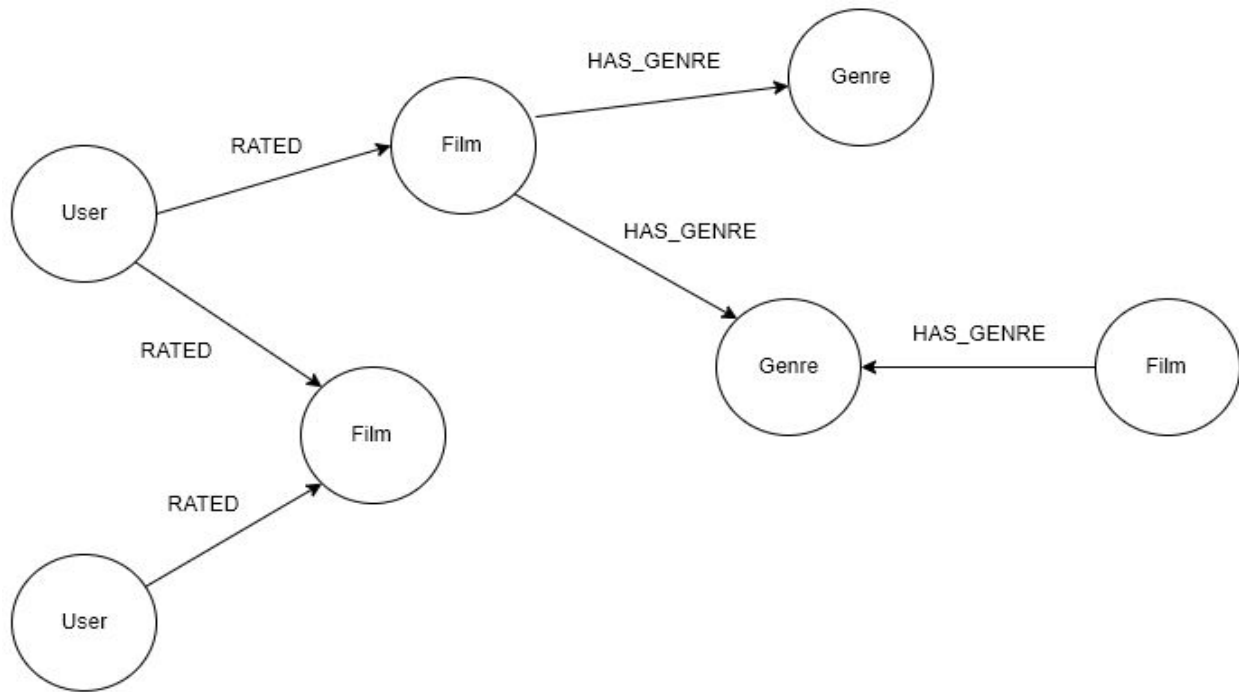
5.1 Overview

Client user and administrator will access the same application through a client-server paradigm, with different privileges. The client application is built in Java, using JavaFX and FXML to build the graphical interface, and it will connect:

- to the MongoDB server to reply to requests about the films, ratings and users;
- to the Neo4j server to elaborate the film recommendations.



5.2 Database structure



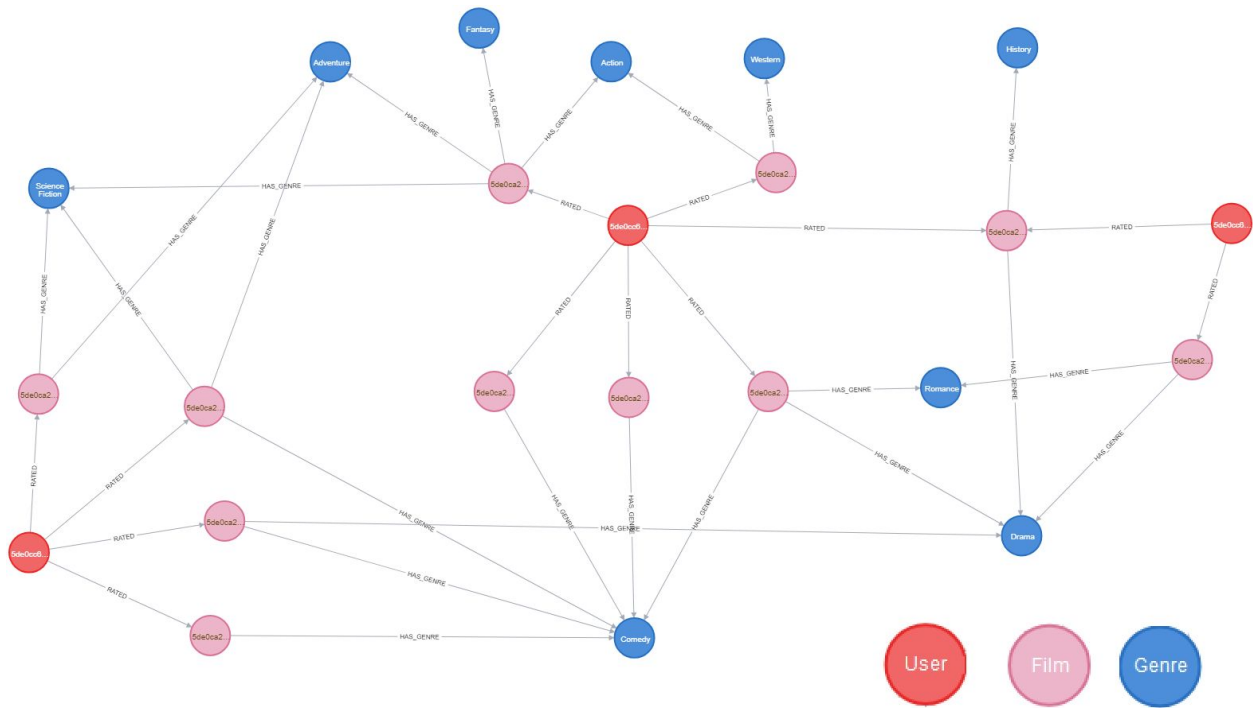
The graph recommendation database is composed of three types of nodes:

- User, with the property *objectId*, which is the hexadecimal string representation of the associated user id stored in the main MongoDB archive;
- Film, with the property *objectId*, which is the hexadecimal string representation of the associated film id stored in the main MongoDB archive;
- Genre, with the property *name*, which is the string representing the name of the film genre (ex. “Action”).

The relationships that connect the nodes are:

- RATED, which connects a User to a Film, with the properties *rating* and *timestamp*. The former represents the value of the rating, while the latter represents a timestamp in the Unix time format (milliseconds);
- HAS_GENRE, which connects a Film to a Genre, without properties.

An example of a graph subset is the following:



5.3 Main queries and indexes

Generate film recommendations based on genres

The recommended films are selected starting from the last positive ratings of the user, i.e. the ratings with a value equal or higher than 2.5, and the associated films. The query returns a random list of films which share at least one genre with the previously retrieved ones and that the user didn't rate yet.

```
MATCH (user:User {objectId: "5de0cc65bab5a6cf3157658f"})-[rated:RATED]->(film:Film)
```

```
WHERE rated.rating >= 2.5
```

```
WITH rated, film, user
```

```
ORDER BY rated.timestamp DESC
```

```
LIMIT 3
```

```
MATCH (film)-[:HAS_GENRE]->(:Genre)<-[:HAS_GENRE]-(suggestedFilm:Film)
```

```
WHERE NOT ((user)-[:RATED]->(suggestedFilm))
```

```
RETURN DISTINCT suggestedFilm.objectId
```

```
ORDER BY rand()
```

```
LIMIT 20
```

The response time of the query can be improved defining an index on the objectId property of User:

```
CREATE INDEX ON :User(objectId)
```

Generate film recommendations based on other users with common interests

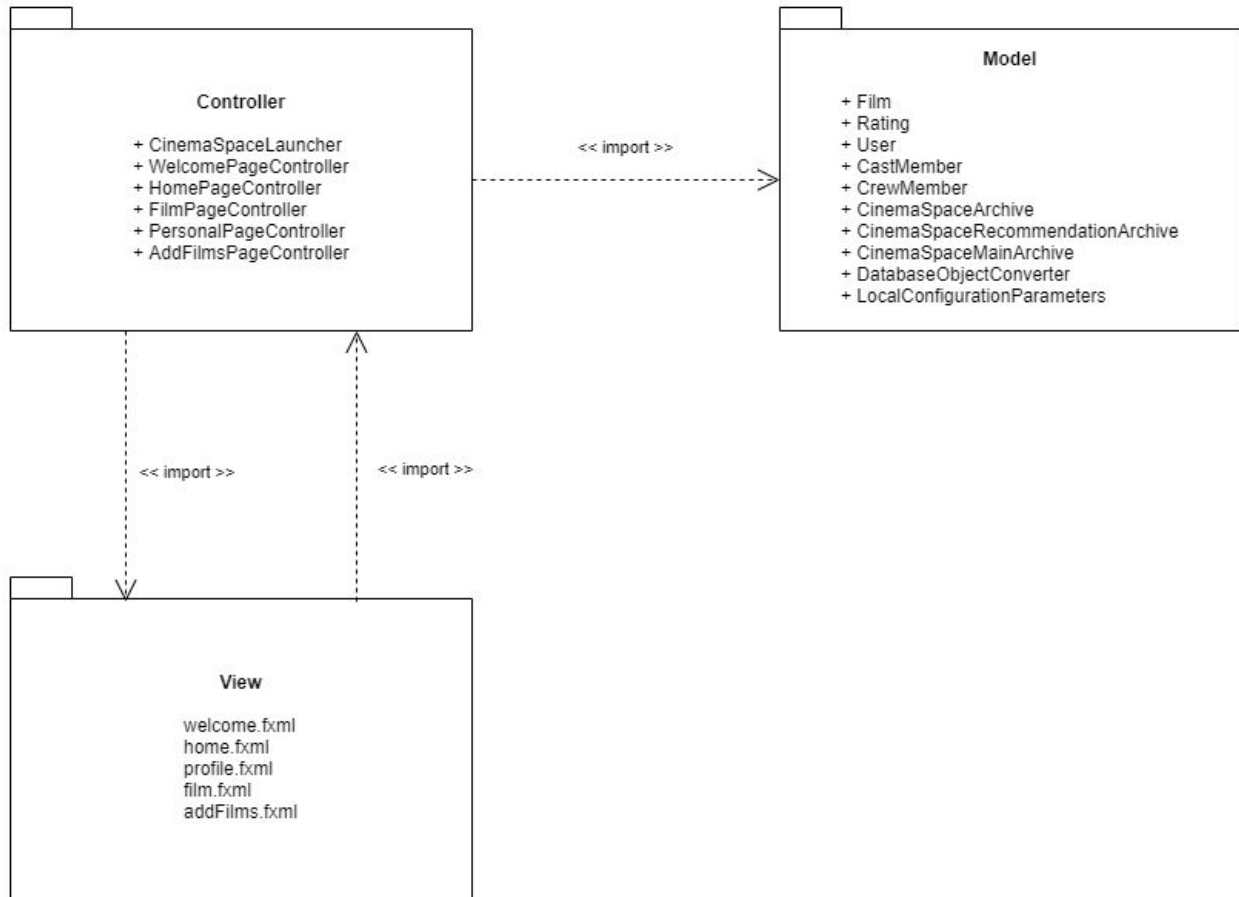
The recommended films are selected starting from a random subset of the users which have at least one rated film in common with the person that made the request; the subset is limited to 1000 users to make the following computations quicker. Then, the Jaccard similarity between the requesting user and each user of the identified subset is generated, taking into account the list of rated films of each one. Finally, starting from the users with the highest similarity coefficient and their positive ratings, a list of random films, that the user hasn't rated yet, is generated.

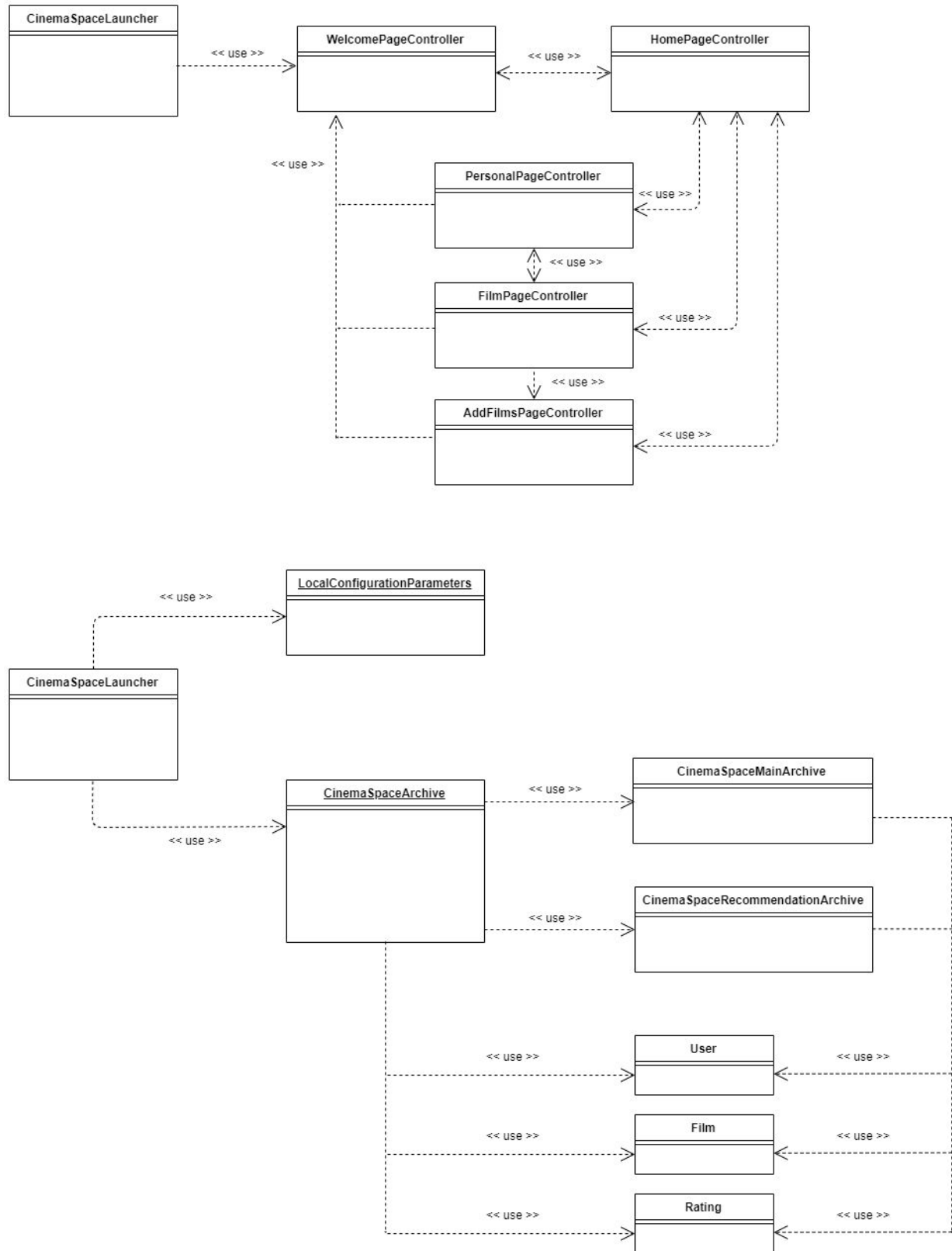
```
MATCH (user:User {objectId: "5de0cc65bab5a6cf3157658f"})  
      -[:RATED]->(Film)<-[:RATED]-(otherUser:User)  
WITH DISTINCT user, otherUser  
ORDER BY rand()  
LIMIT 1000  
MATCH (user:User {objectId: "5de0cc65bab5a6cf3157658f"})-[:RATED]->(film:Film)  
WITH user, collect(id(film)) as userFilms, otherUser  
MATCH (otherUser:User)-[:RATED]->(film:Film)  
WITH user, userFilms, otherUser, collect(id(film)) as otherUserFilms  
WITH user, otherUser, algo.similarity.jaccard(userFilms, otherUserFilms) AS similarity  
ORDER BY similarity DESC  
LIMIT 5  
MATCH (otherUser:User)-[:rated:RATED]->(film:Film)  
WHERE rated.rating >= 2.5 AND NOT((film)<-[:RATED]-(user:User))  
RETURN DISTINCT film.objectId  
ORDER BY rand()  
LIMIT 20
```

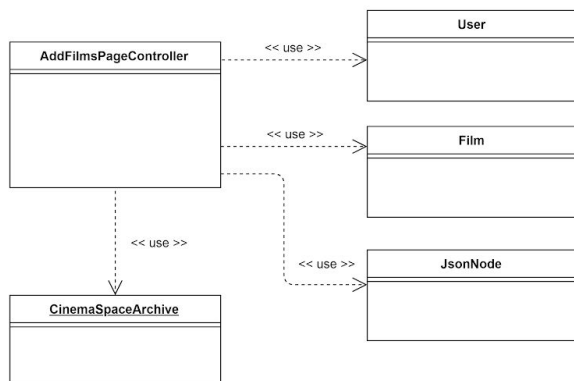
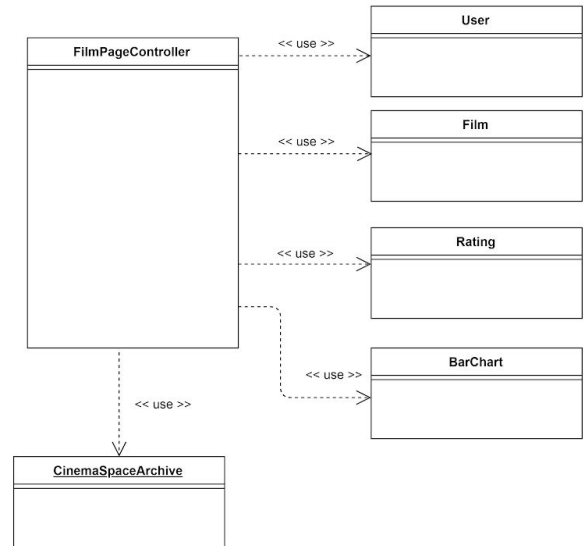
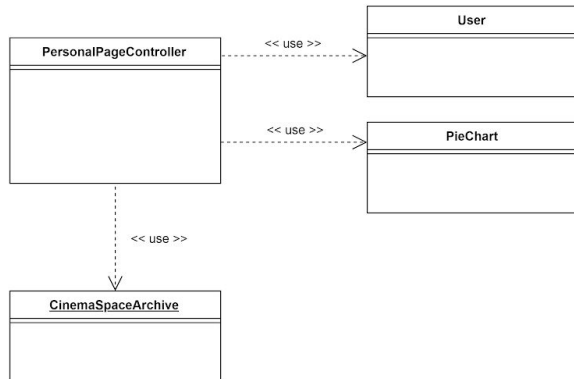
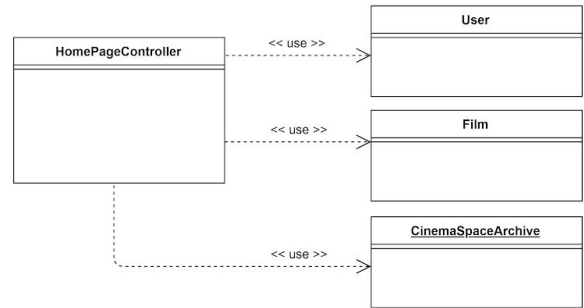
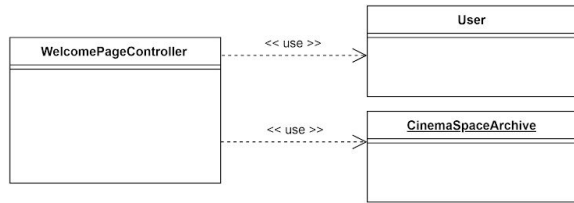
The query benefits automatically of the index previously defined on the objectId property of User.

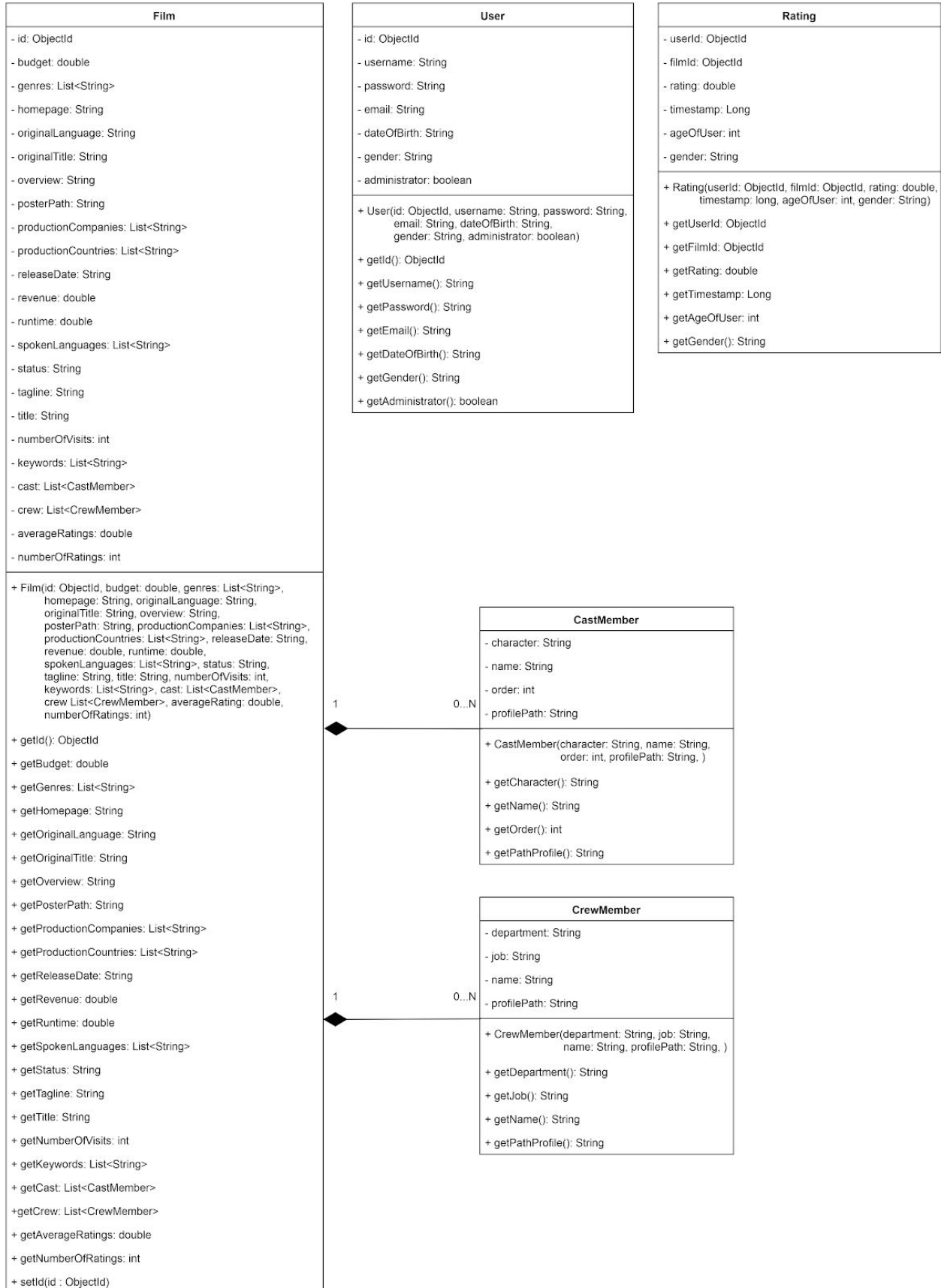
6 IMPLEMENTATION

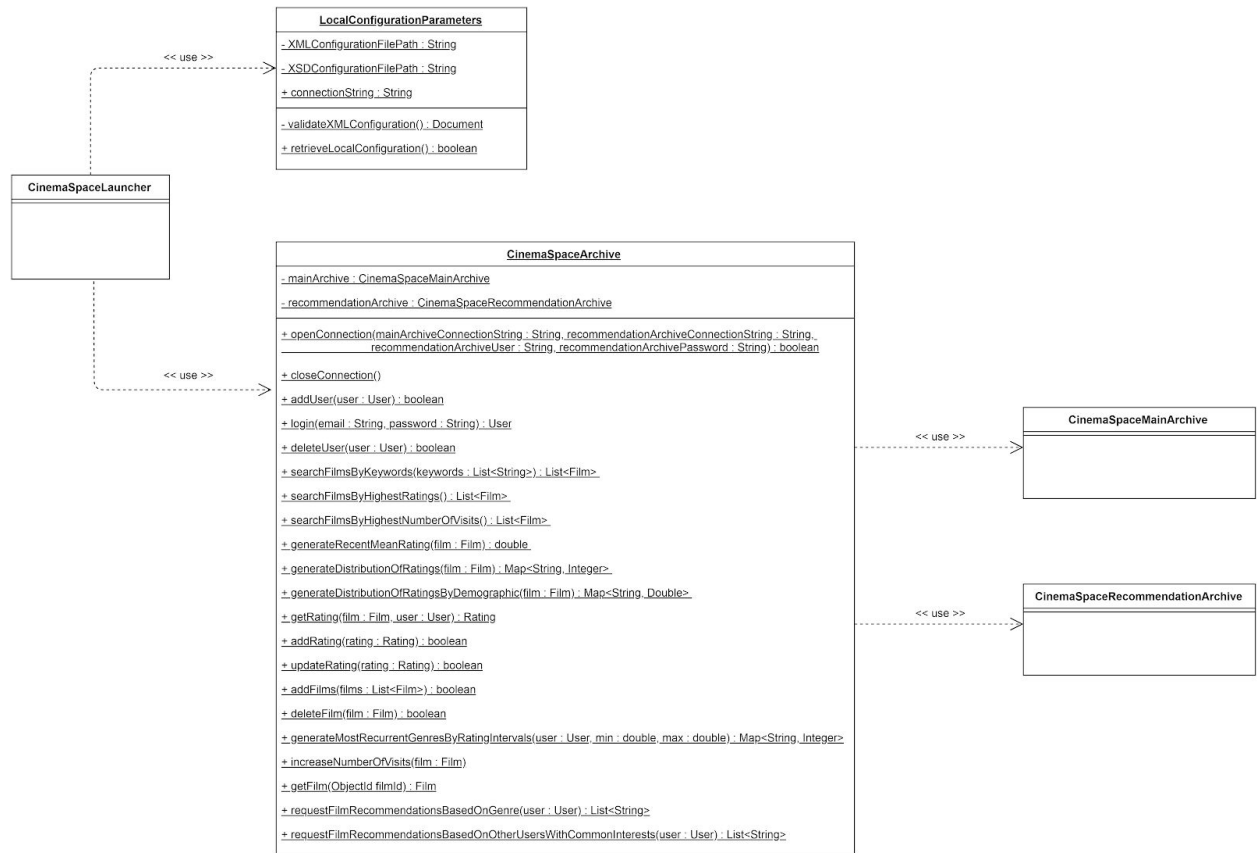
6.1 Class diagram

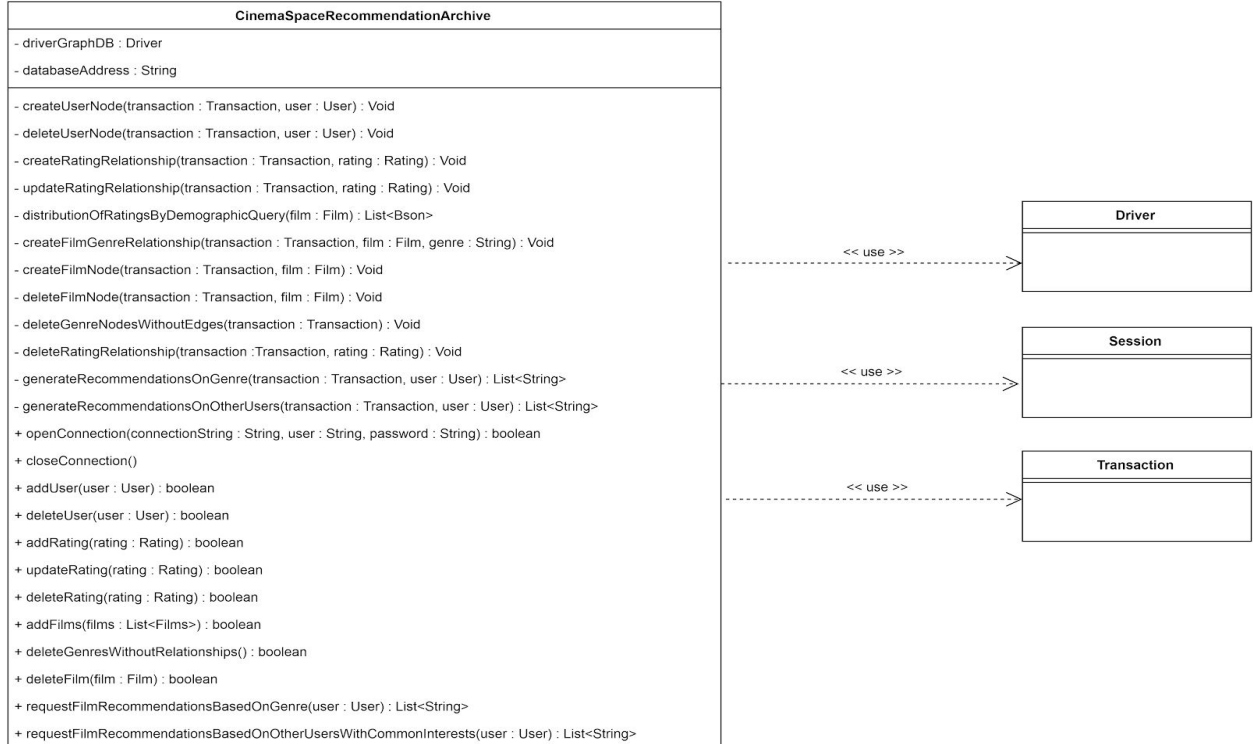
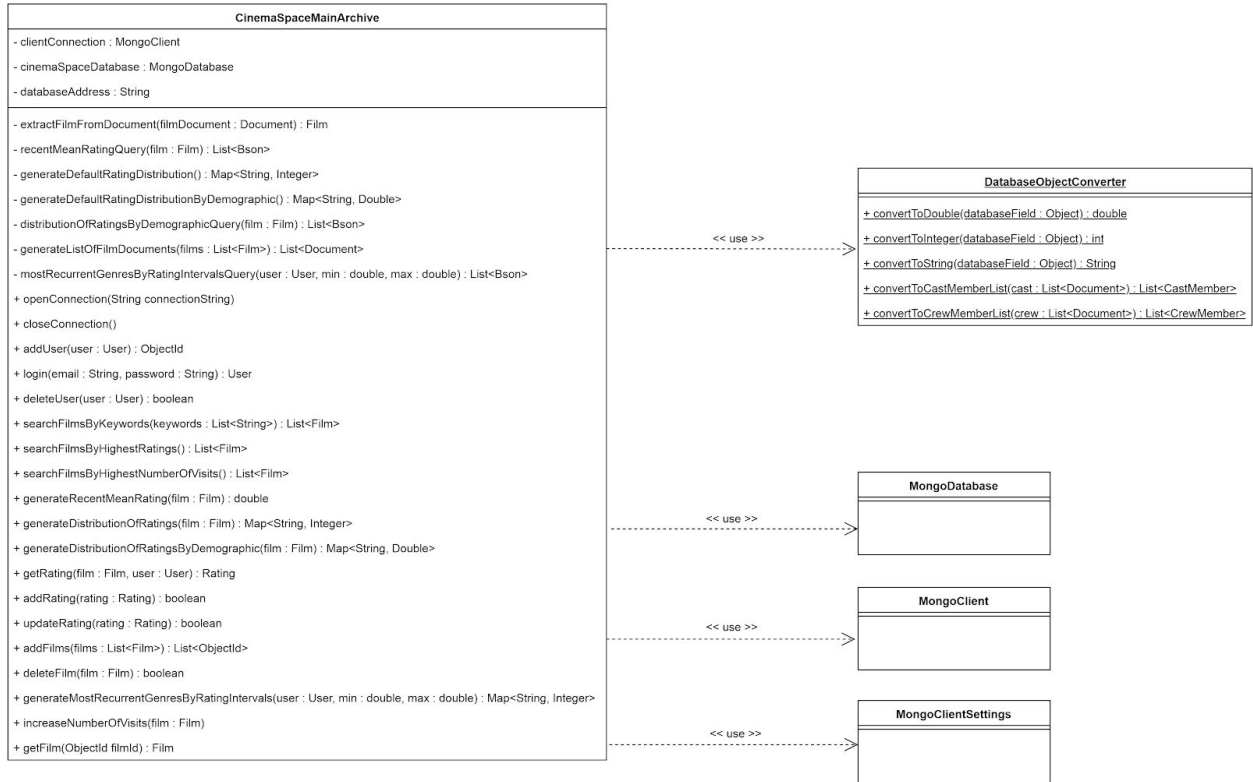












Class responsibilities

User: represents a user in the domain of CinemaSpace.

Film: represents a film in the domain of CinemaSpace.

Rating: represents a rating in the domain of CinemaSpace.

CinemaSpaceLauncher: manages the launch of the application, coordinating the retrieval of the configuration file, the connection to the database and the initialization of the GUI. After this phase, it leaves the control of the application flow to the WelcomePageController.

WelcomePageController: manages the welcome page, coordinating the signup and login services offered to the user. If a login is successfully requested, it leaves the control of the application flow to the HomePageController.

HomePageController: manages the home page and it is responsible for the visualization of the films searched by keywords, by highest ratings and by number of visits. It leaves the control of the application to the FilmPageController, PersonalPageController, AddFilmsPageController or WelcomePageController according to the user requests.

FilmPageController: manages the film page, showing the associated information and statistics, and gives the possibility to use the rating system of the community. It leaves the control of the application to the HomePageController, PersonalPageController, AddFilmsPageController or WelcomePageController according to the user requests.

PersonalPageController: manages the personal profile page of a user, showing the associated information/statistics, displaying the film recommendations and giving the possibility to close the account. It leaves the control of the application to the HomePageController, FilmPageController or WelcomePageController according to the user requests.

AddFilmsPageController: manages the administrator page for adding films to the database from JSON files. It leaves the control of the application to the HomePageController or WelcomePageController according to the user requests.

CinemaSpaceArchive: manages and coordinates the connection to both the main archive and the recommendation archive, with particular attention to the consistency of the overall dataset, using opportune instances of *CinemaSpaceMainArchive* and *CinemaSpaceRecommendationArchive*. It is responsible for responding to the specific requests of the different page controllers and it returns opportune objects of type *List<Film>*, *User*, *Rating* and *Map< >* (the latter in the case of statistic distribution requests).

CinemaSpaceMainArchive: manages the connection to the main archive, using the MongoDB API.

CinemaSpaceRecommendationArchive: manages the connection to the recommendation archive, using the Neo4j API.

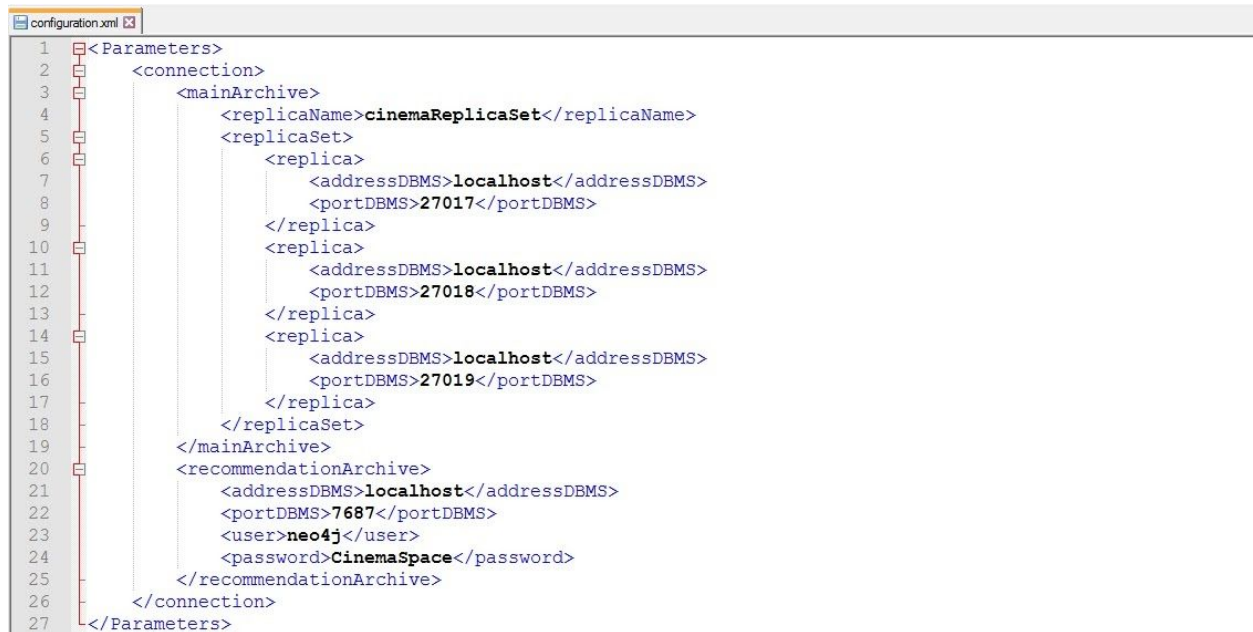
DatabaseObjectConverter: offers utility methods for the conversion of types. It is used by *CinemaSpaceMainArchive* to manage the retrieval of documents with non-fixed types from the MongoDB database.

LocalConfigurationParameters: retrieves and validates the local configuration stored in an XML file, making available its parameters to all the classes.

Note: the connections to the databases are managed by connection pools, which are initialized at the start of the application and closed at the end: in particular, the latter is ensured by binding the opportune method to the *onCloseRequest* window event. Both these steps are executed in the *CinemaSpaceLauncher* class.

6.2 Test manual

To be able to connect the application with the database, an XML configuration file with the addresses of the replica set members must be specified, with the following format:



The configuration is validated at the start using a pre-defined XSD file.

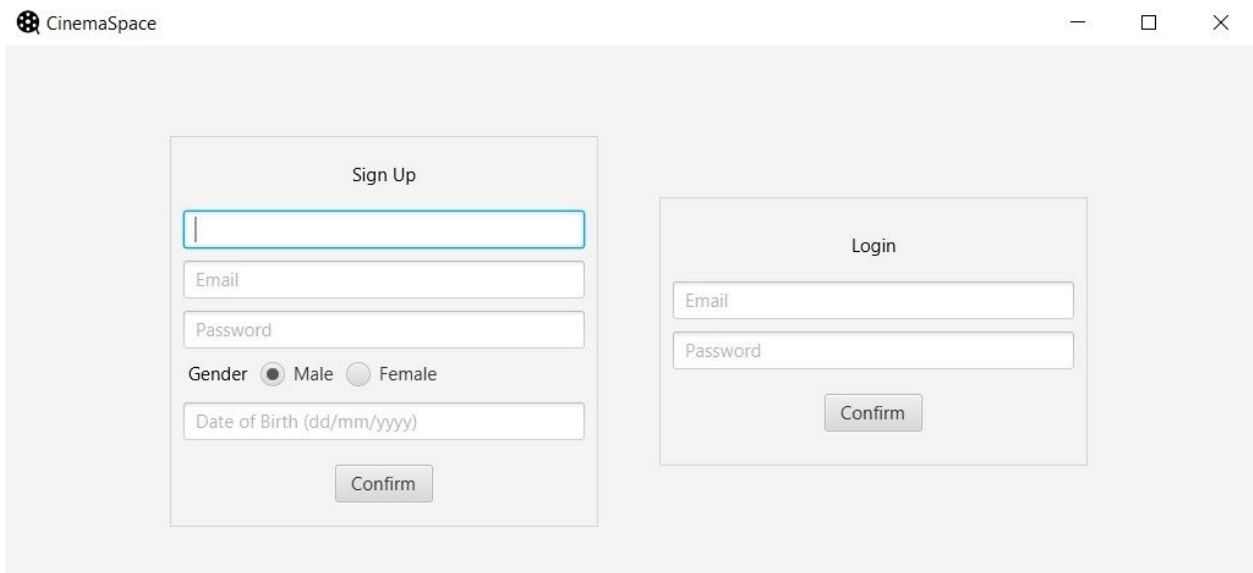
6.2.1 Client user

Sign Up

Preconditions: None

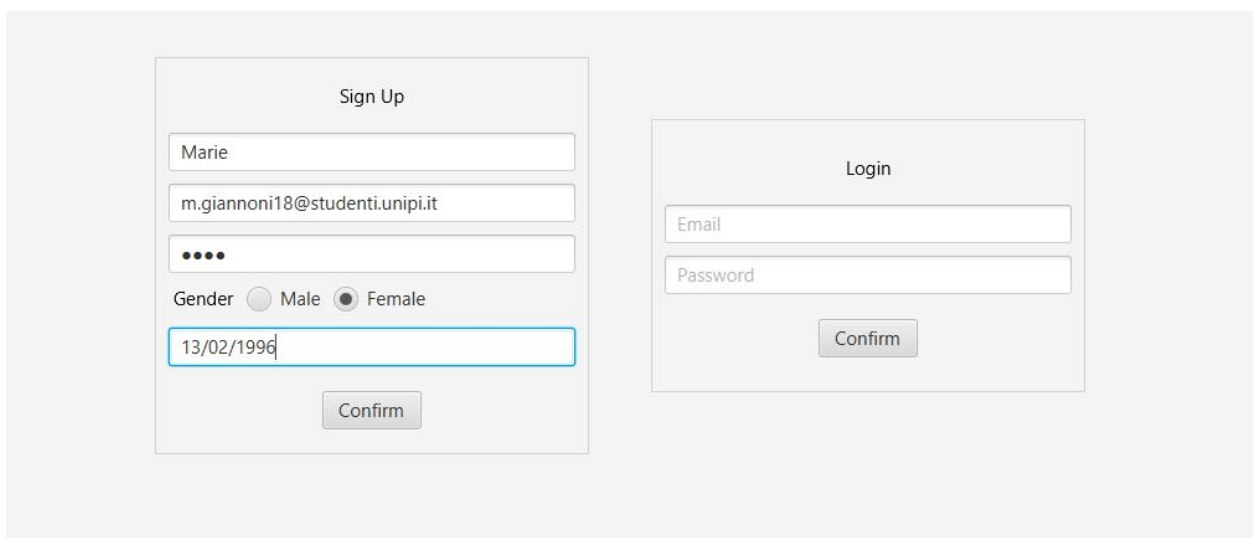
Steps:

1. The user opens the application.



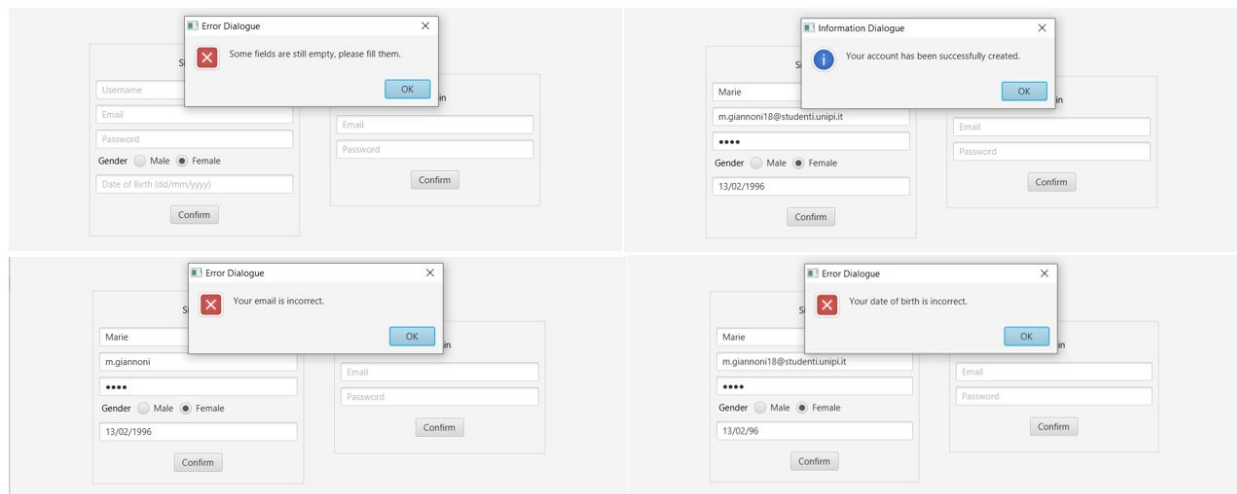
The screenshot shows a web application window titled "CinemaSpace". It contains two forms: "Sign Up" and "Login". The "Sign Up" form has fields for Email, Password, Gender (Male/Female), and Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy), with a "Confirm" button. The "Login" form has fields for Email and Password, with a "Confirm" button.

2. The user fills in all the fields in the Sign Up form and click on the “Confirm” button.



The screenshot shows the same web application window, but the "Sign Up" form is now filled with user data: Name (Marie), Email (m.giannoni18@studenti.unipi.it), Password (masked with dots), Gender (Female), and Date of Birth (13/02/1996). The "Confirm" button is visible at the bottom of the form.

The email must respect the pattern `abc@efg.h`, while the date of birth must be in the format `dd/mm/yyyy`. If these patterns are not respected, the application will show an error message.



Databases status after the insertion - MongoDB

CinemaSpace.User DC

Documents Aggregations Explain Plan Indexes

FILTER {"email":"m.giannoni18@studenti.unipi.it"}

ADD DATA **VIEW**

```
_id: ObjectId("5e108e59fea0cb4dc81be5f5")
username: "Marie"
password: "1234"
email: "m.giannoni18@studenti.unipi.it"
date_of_birth: "13/02/1996"
gender: "Female"
administrator: false
```

Databases status after the insertion - Neo4j

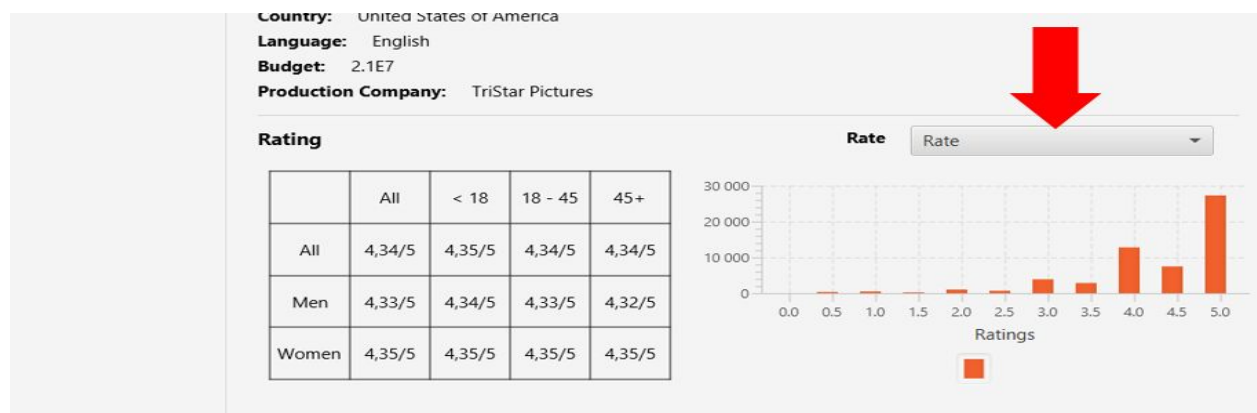


Rate a film

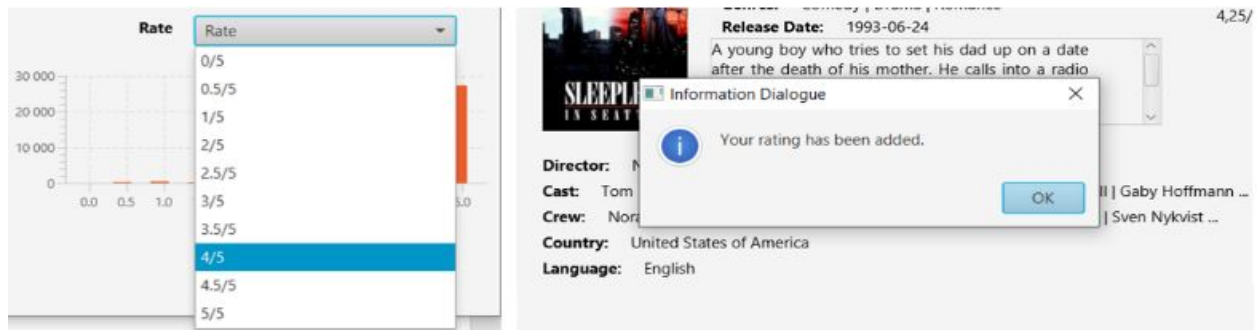
Preconditions: The user must have an account. The user must be logged in and on the film page.

Steps:

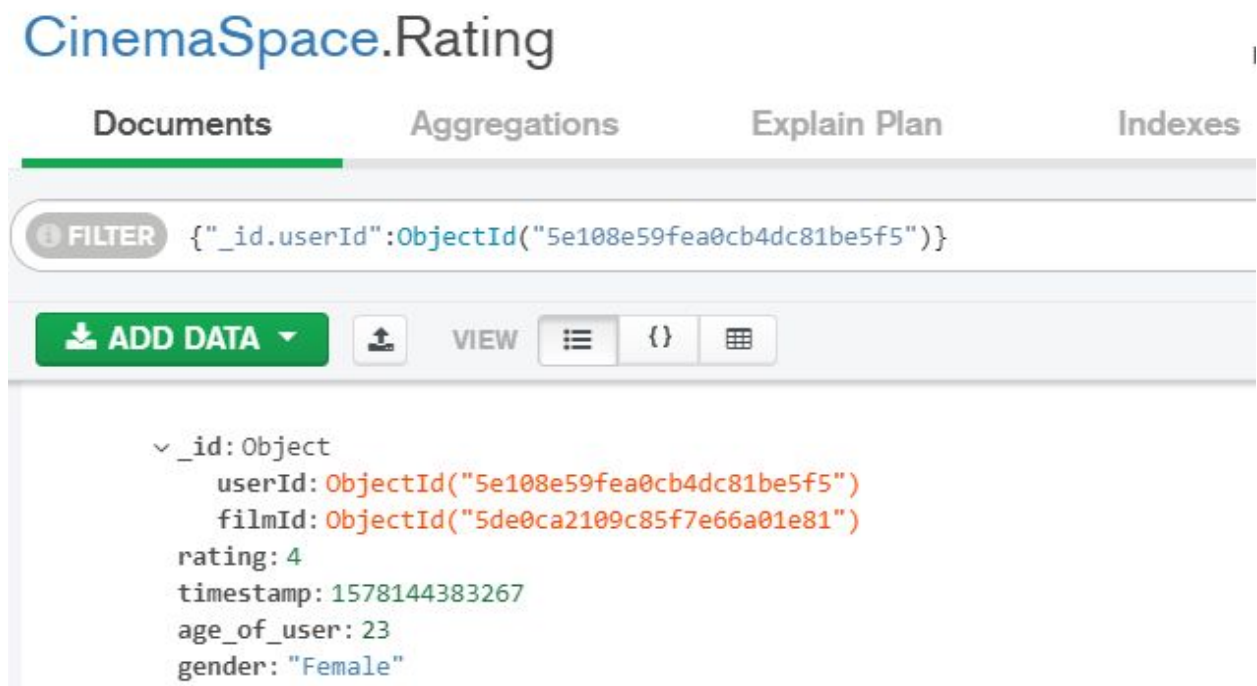
1. The user clicks on the combo box named "Rate".



2. The user selects a rating in the combo box.



Database status after the insertion - MongoDB



Database status after the insertion - Neo4j

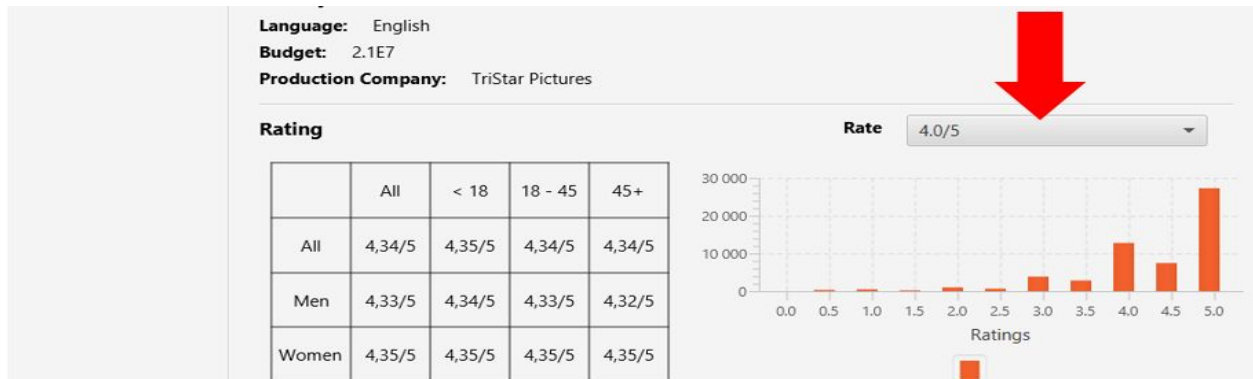


Update a rating of a film

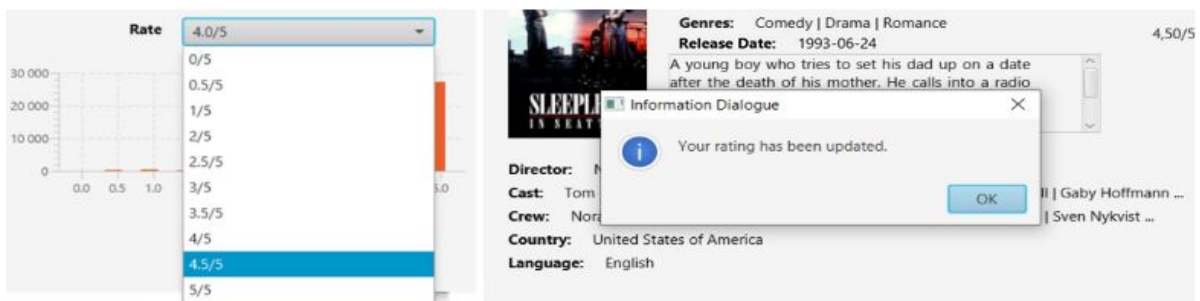
Preconditions: The user must have an account. The user must be logged in and on the page of a film she rated.

Steps:

1. The user clicks on the combo box with the given rating.



2. The user selects a rating in the combo box items.



Database status after the insertion - MongoDB

CinemaSpace.Rating

Documents Aggregations Explain Plan Indexes

FILTER {"_id.userId":ObjectId("5e108e59fea0cb4dc81be5f5")}

ADD DATA **VIEW**

```

  ▾ _id: Object
      userId: ObjectId("5e108e59fea0cb4dc81be5f5")
      filmId: ObjectId("5de0ca2109c85f7e66a01e81")
      rating: 4.5
      timestamp: 1578144807831
      age_of_user: 23
      gender: "Female"

```

Database status after the insertion - Neo4j

```
$ MATCH (user:User {objectId:"5e108e59fea0cb4dc81be5f5"}) RETURN user, user.rating
```

***(2)** **User(1)** **Film(1)**

Graph ***(1)** **RATED(1)**

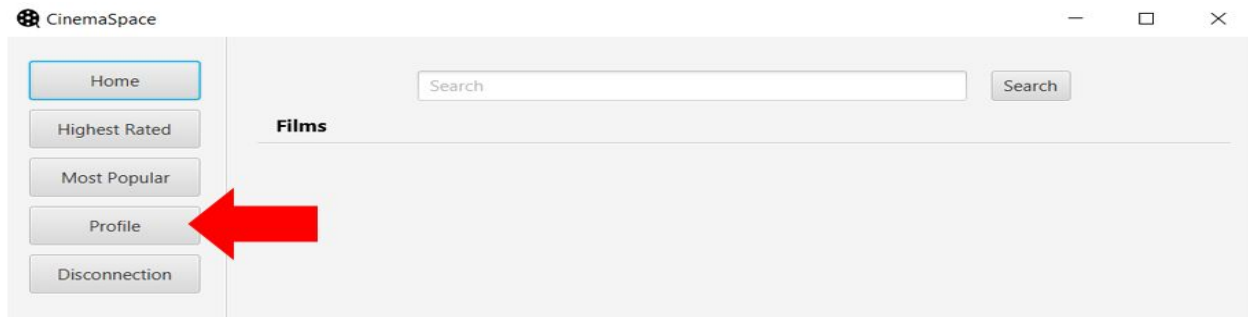
RATED **<id>:** 1093387 **rating:** 4.5 **timestamp:** 1578144807831

See film recommendations based on genres

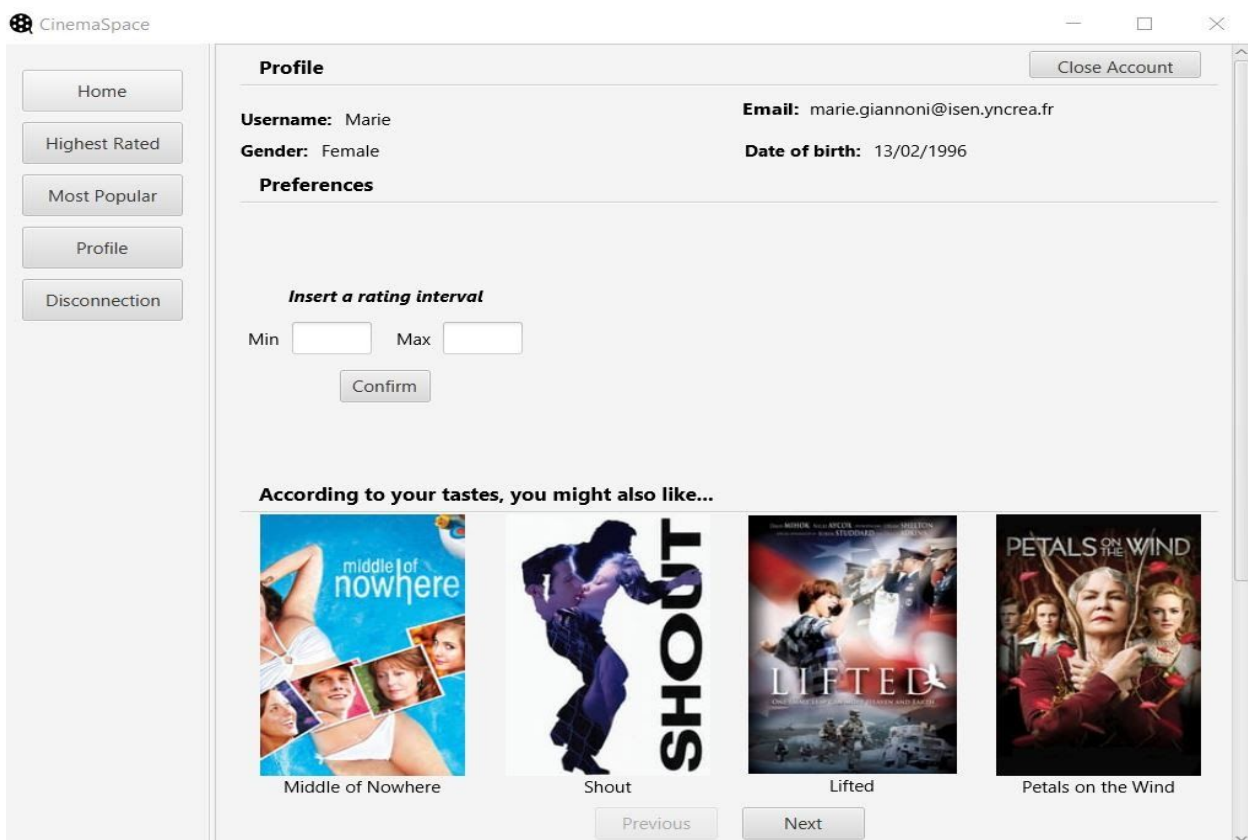
Preconditions: The user must have a profile. The user must be logged in. The user must have rated at least one film.

Steps:

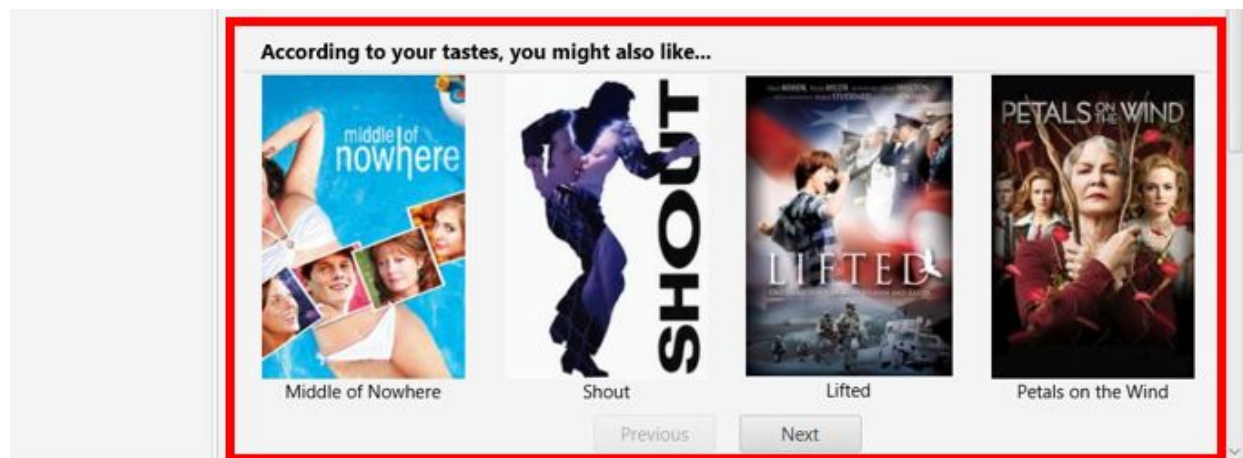
1. The user clicks on the “Profile” button.



2. The “Profile” page is displayed.



3. The recommendations based on genres are displayed on the section “According to your tastes, you might also like...”.

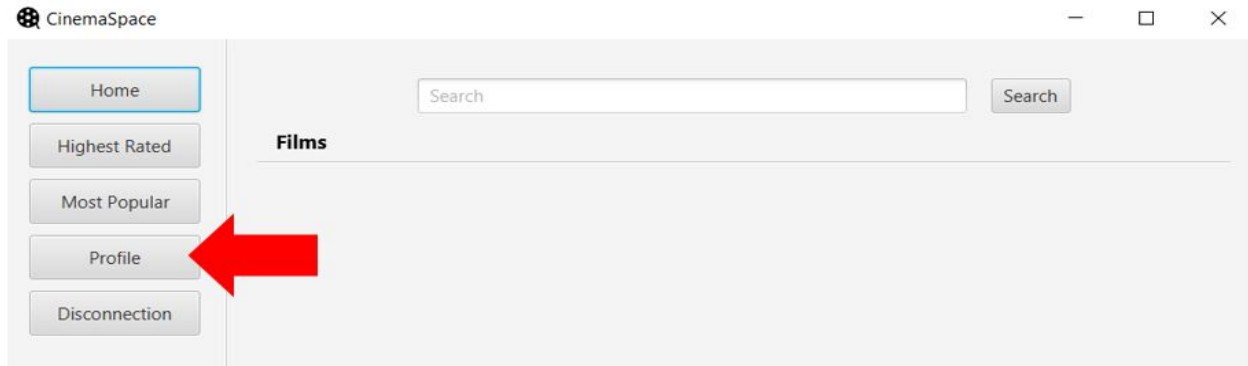


See film recommendations based on other users with common interests

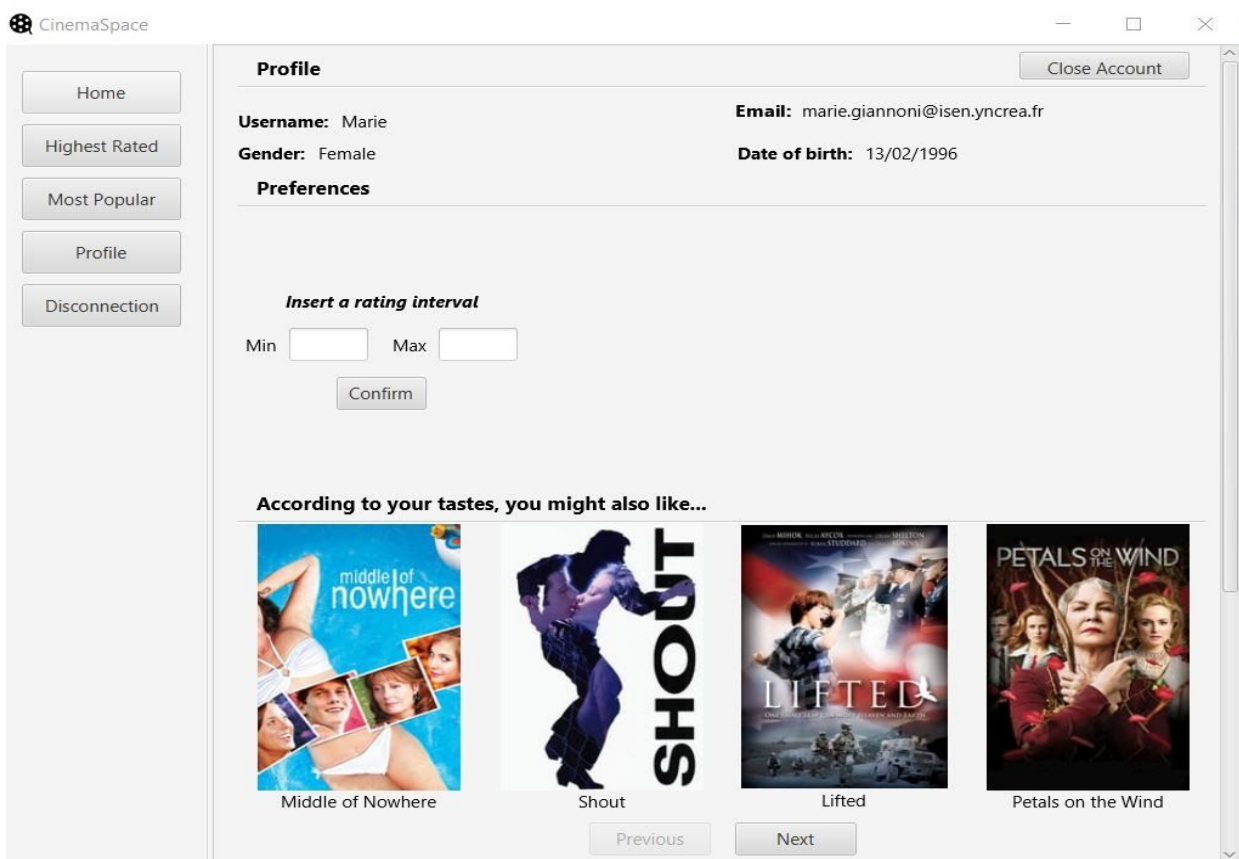
Preconditions: The user must have a profile. The user must be logged in. The user must have rated at least one film.

Steps:

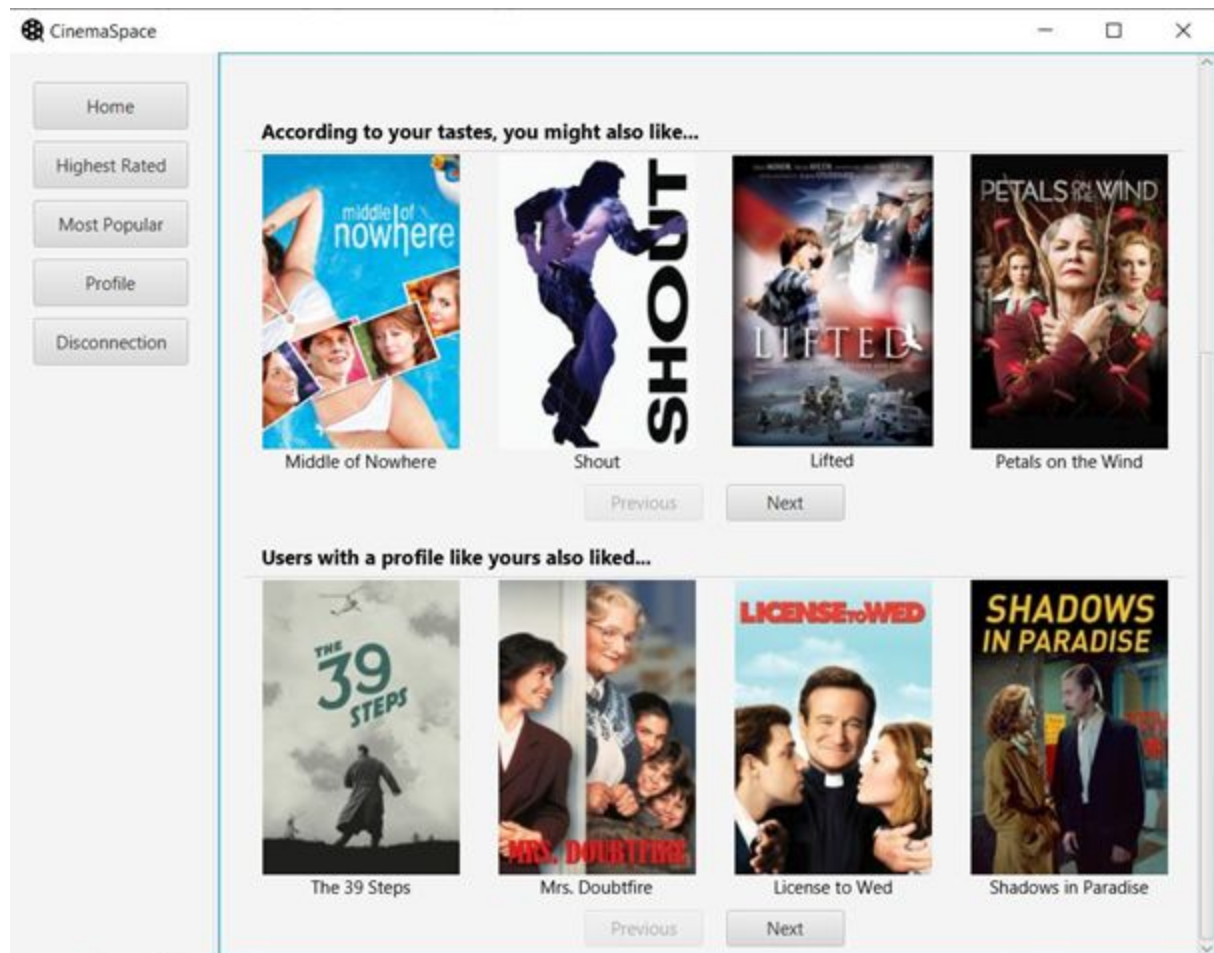
1. The user clicks on the “Profile” button.



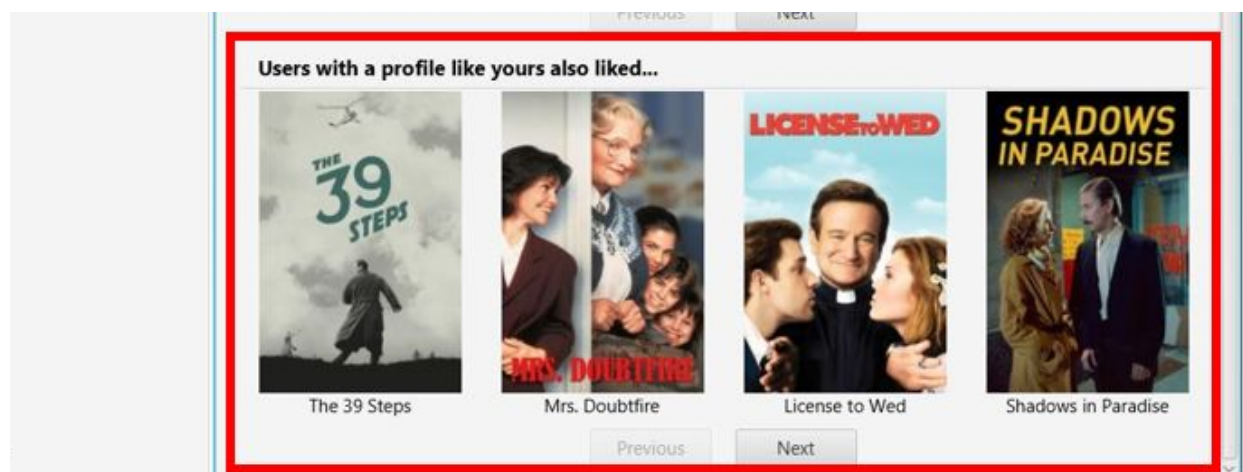
2. The “Profile” page is displayed.



3. The user uses the scroll bar to go down in the page.



4. The recommendations based on genres are displayed on the section “Users with a profile like yours also liked...”.



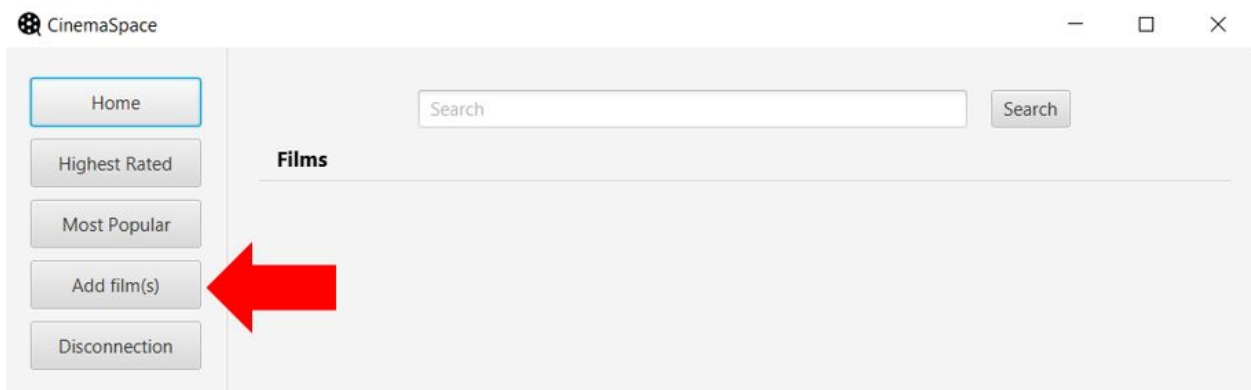
6.2.2 Administrator

Add a film or a collection of films

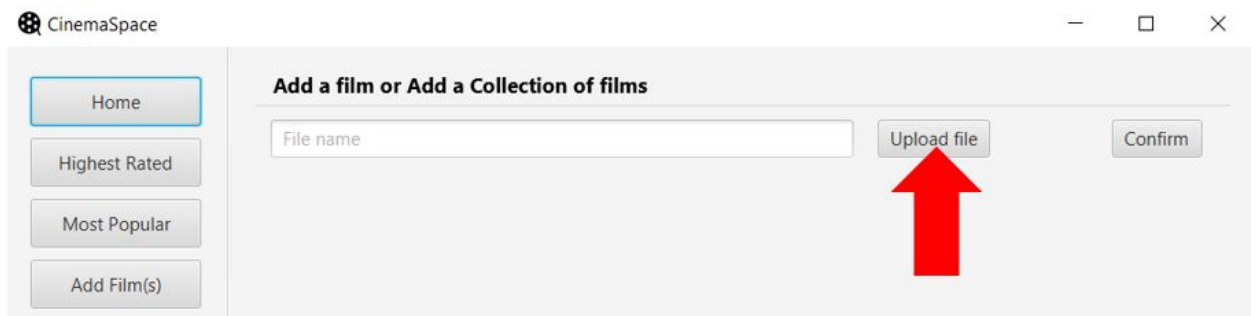
Preconditions: The user must have an account with the privilege of an administrator. The user must be logged in.

Steps:

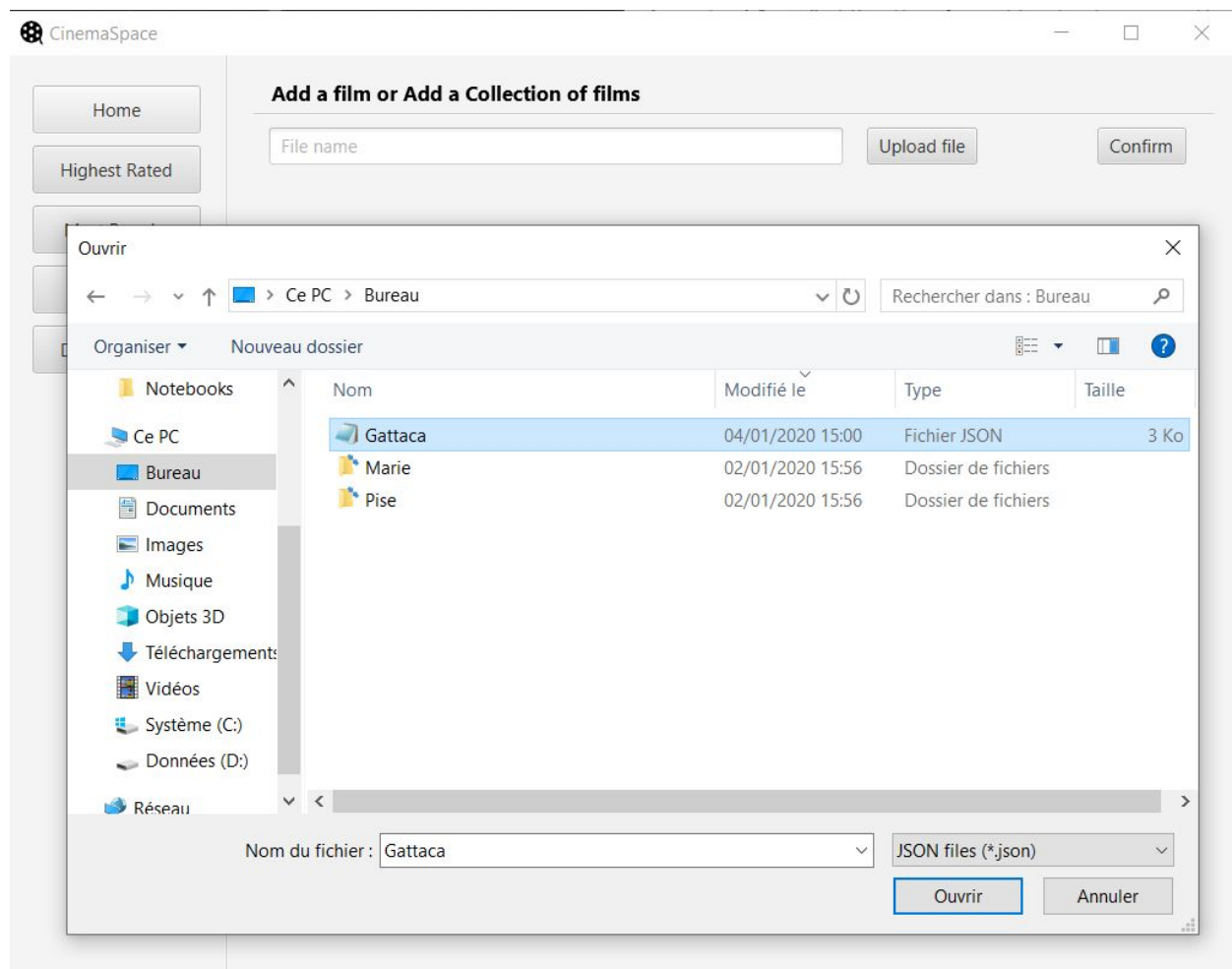
1. The user clicks on the “Add film(s)” button.



2. The user clicks on the “Upload file” button.



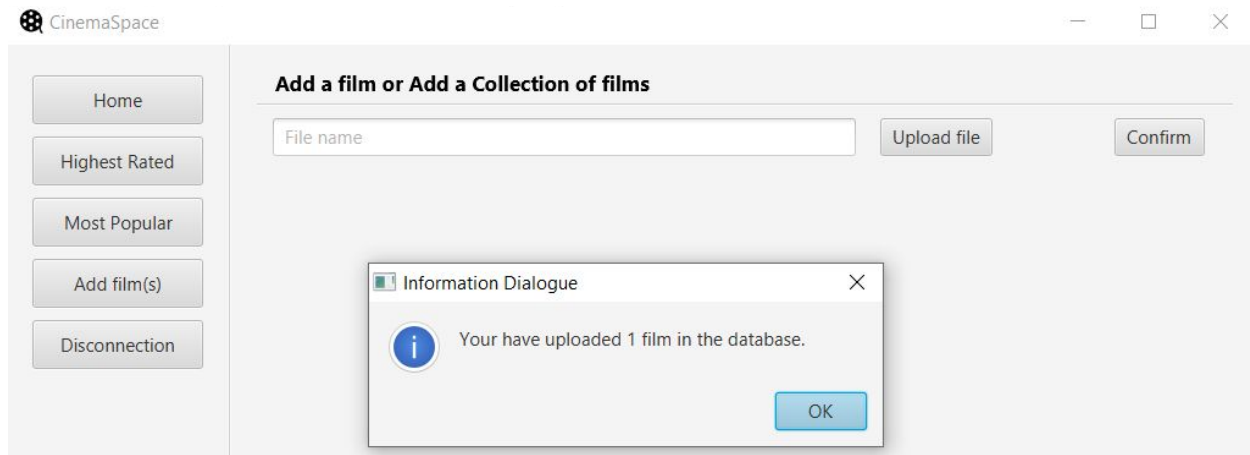
3. The user selects a JSON file with one or more films to add.



4. The user clicks on the “Confirm” button.



5. An Information Dialogue informs that the film or the collection of films were added.



Database status after the insertion - MongoDB

CinemaSpace.Film DOCUMENTS 46

Documents Aggregations Explain Plan Indexes

FILTER {title:"Gattaca"}

ADD DATA VIEW

```
_id: ObjectId("5e10af41fc25501876b88e60")
budget: 36000000
> genres: Array
homepage: ""
original_language: "en"
original_title: "Gattaca"
overview: "In the not-too-distant future, a less-than-perfect man wants to travel..."
poster_path: "/MV5BNDQxOTc0MzMtZmRlOS00OWQ5LWI2ZDctOTAwNmMwOTYxYzlhXkEyXkFqcGdeQXVyM..."
> production_companies: Array
> production_countries: Array
release_date: "1997-4-29"
revenue: 12532777
runtime: 126
> spoken_languages: Array
status: "Released"
tagline: "Only the strong succeed"
title: "Gattaca"
number_of_visits: 0
> keywords: Array
> cast: Array
> crew: Array
average_rating: 0
number_of_ratings: 0
```

Database status after the insertion - Neo4j

```
$ MATCH (film:Film {objectId:"5e10af41fc25501876b88e60"}) RETURN film
```

The screenshot shows the Neo4j interface with the 'Graph' view selected. A single brown circular node is displayed in the center, labeled with the truncated objectId '5e10af4...'. Above the graph, the query results are summarized as ***(1)** **Film(1)**. The left sidebar contains icons for Graph, Table, Text, and Code.

With the genres associated to the inserted film:

```
$ MATCH c=(film:Film {objectId:"5e10af41fc25501876b88e60"})-[:HAS_GENRE]->(:Genre) RETURN c
```

The screenshot shows the Neo4j interface with the 'Graph' view selected. The graph displays a central brown circular node (Film) with the objectId '5e10af4...' connected to three green circular nodes (Genre) labeled 'Sci-Fi', 'Thriller', and 'Drama'. The relationships are labeled 'HAS_GENRE'. Above the graph, the query results are summarized as ***(4)** **Film(1)** **Genre(3)** and ***(3)** **HAS_GENRE(3)**. The left sidebar contains icons for Graph, Table, Text, and Code. At the bottom, a status message reads: 'Displaying 4 nodes, 3 relationships.'