Large-Scale and Multi-Structured Databases

BioConnect

Network Analysis of Protein Interactions and Drugs Connections

Ivan Brillo
Daniel Pipitone
Andrea Bochicchio







Application Highlights

- Similarity and Functional Search (pathways and subcellular location) in Proteins
- Analysis and Research of Biological Interactions between Proteins, Diseases, and Drugs
 - Hypothesis generation that helps researchers to identify possible causes of a biological events
- Trend Analysis of Publications and Patents on Proteins or Drugs.
- Registered users (such as researchers) can provide comments on a biological molecule, for example, to suggest a correction in case of errors

(All the biological information's are **human-related**, we don't take in consideration other spices)

This work draws inspiration from various scientific articles. The most important:

Representing and querying disease networks using graph databases

Artem Lysenko^{1†}, Irina A. Roznovăţ^{2*†}, Mansoor Saqi^{2†}, Alexander Mazein², Christopher J Rawlings¹ and Charles Auffrav²

https://biodatamining.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13040-016-0102-8

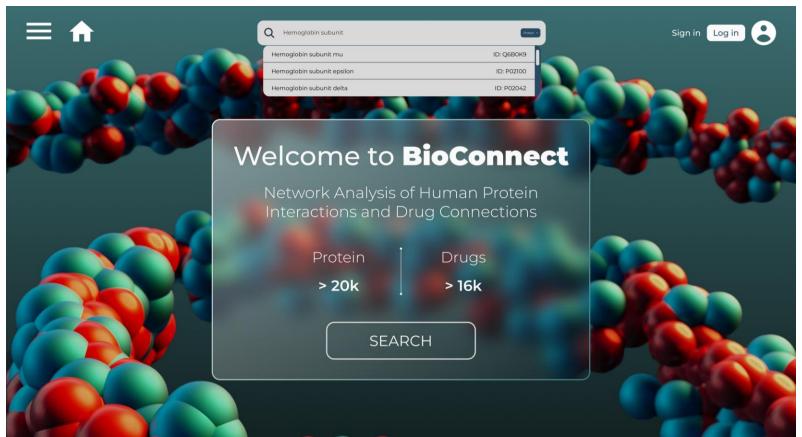






Actors and main mock-ups (1)



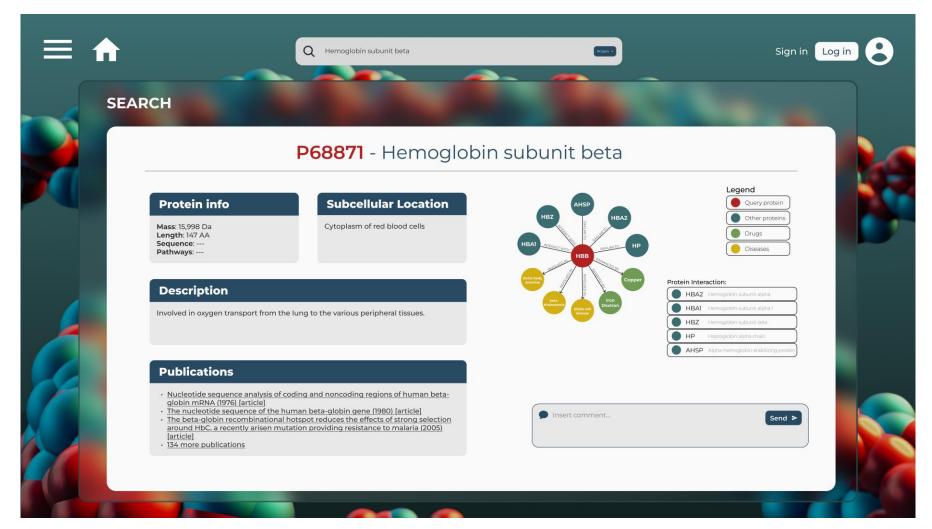








Actors and main mock-ups (2)

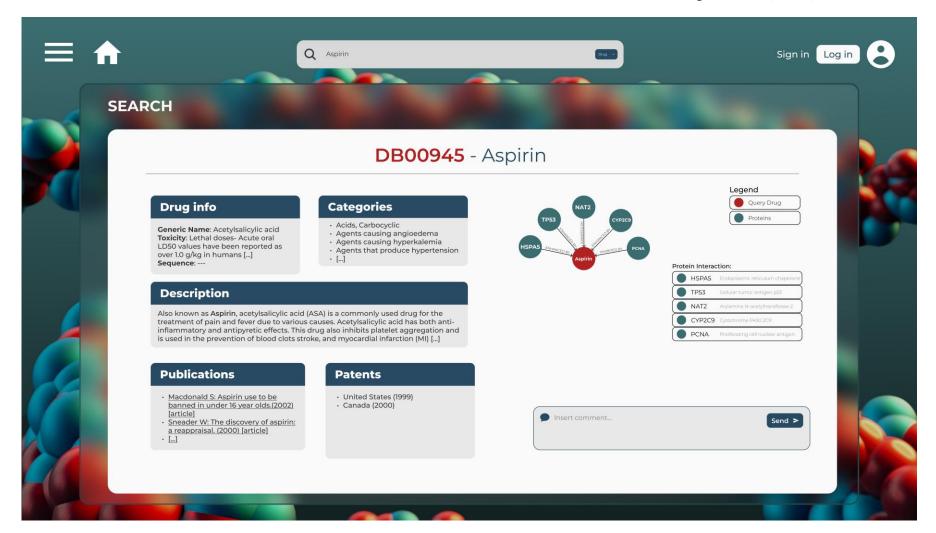








Actors and main mock-ups (3)

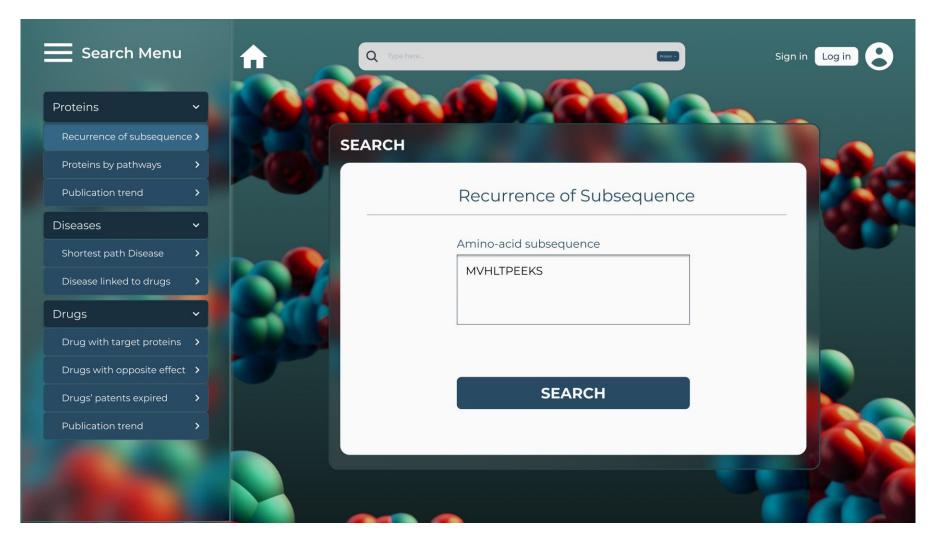








Actors and main mock-ups (4)

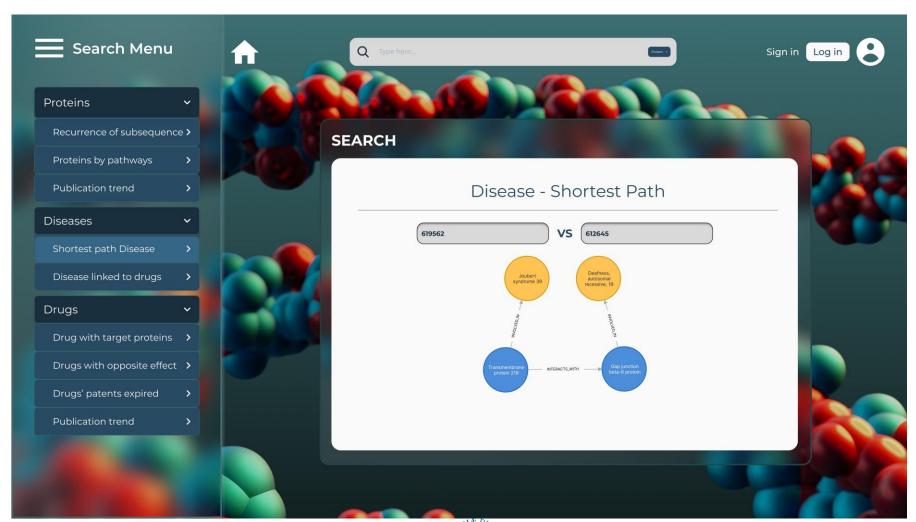








Actors and main mock-ups (6)









Actors and main mock-ups (5)

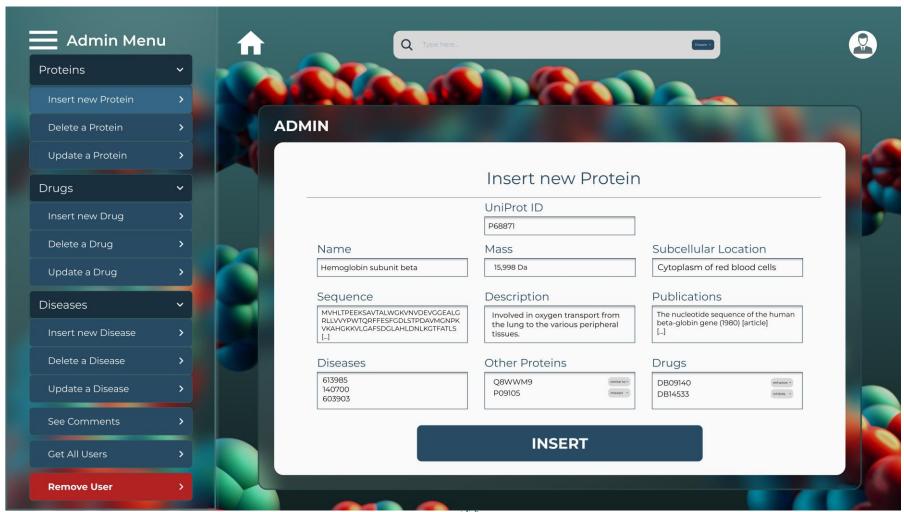








Actors and main mock-ups (7)

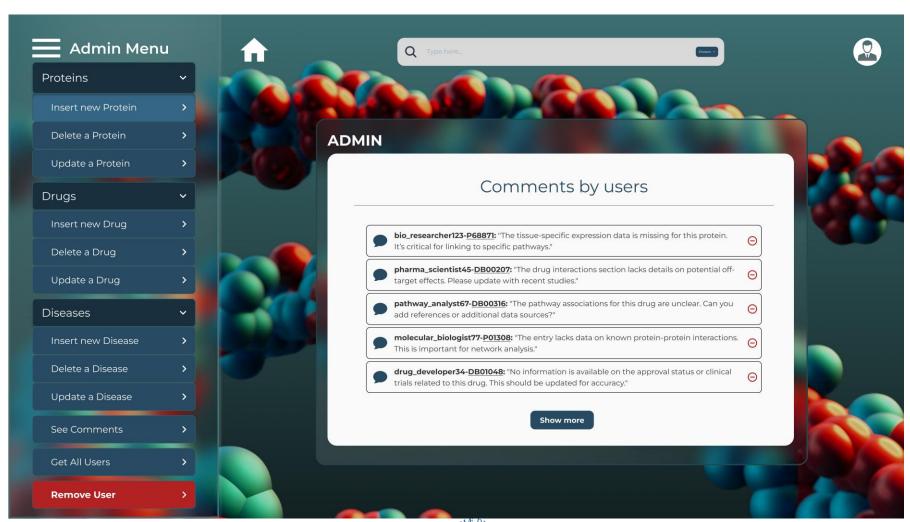








Actors and main mock-ups (8)

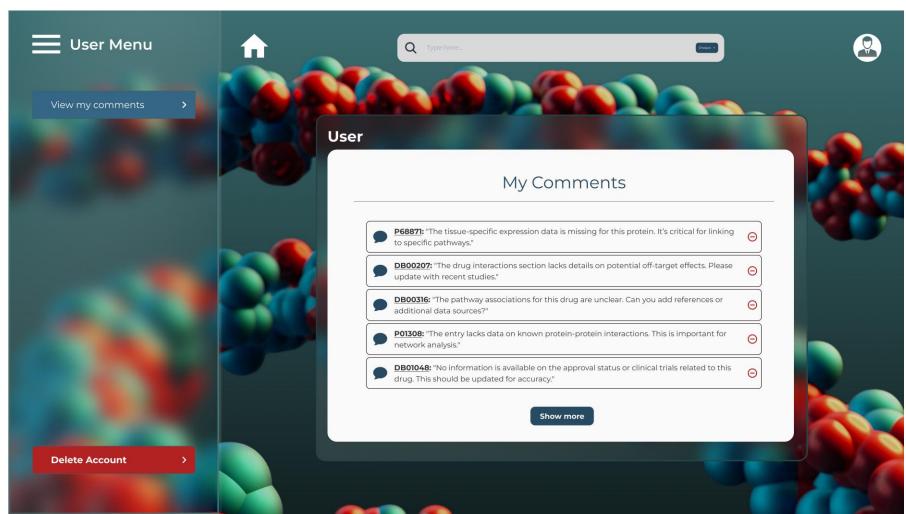








Actors and main mock-ups (9)









Dataset Description

Sources: Uniprot, DrugBank and DisGeNET

Description: Uniprot contains information about proteins and their relations with other proteins. We used **DrugBank** to point out connection's drug-protein and drug-drug. Finally, **DisGeNET** is used to understand the connections between protein and diseases. To get the publication date of scientific materials we used the **National Library of Medicine** API

Pre-processing: Raw data were in various formats: Uniprot (CSV), DrugBank (XML), and DisGeNET (JSON). Python scripts were developed to clean and filter the data, converting all files to JSON for MongoDB collections. Further scripts integrated the data, generating CSV files for populating the Neo4j Graph database







Dataset Description (2)

Volume:

MongoDB (42 MB)	Neo4j CSV File (15MB)
7MB for Drug collection34MB for Protein collection1MB for User collection	1MB for nodes data14MB for relationships data

Variety: High data variety coming from different biological databases

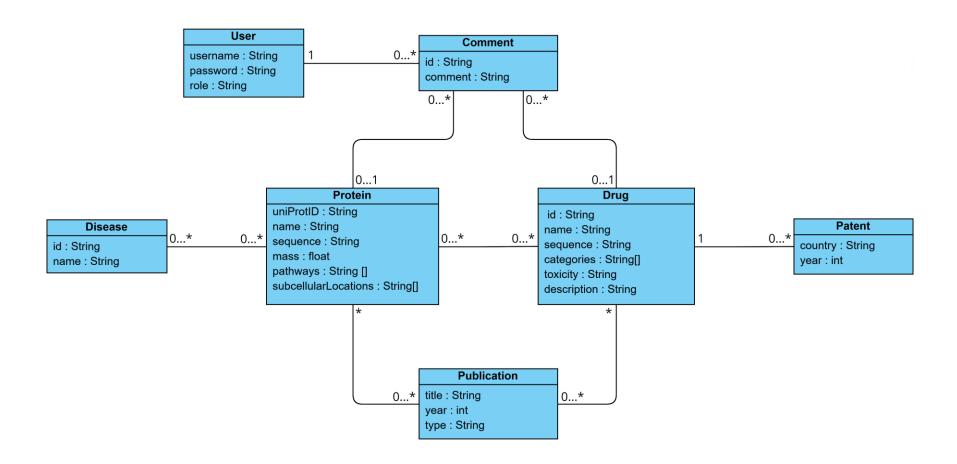
Velocity/Variability: Low data velocity and variability







UML Class Diagram









Application non-functional requirements

Performance

- The system must process complex queries on large biological datasets with high efficiency
- The system must support concurrent user queries without significant performance degradation
- The system must be highly available and fault tolerant

Reliability

The system must prevent permanent data loss

Usability

The user interface must be intuitive and easy to navigate

Security

- Critical system features must ensure efficient and reliable access by requiring role authentication for users
- The system must encrypt the user password

Extensibility

 The system architecture must support easy addition of new biological entities and the extension of the current ones

Error Handling

Error messages must be clear, descriptive, and user-friendly







Document DB Design (1)

Collections

Protein's collection

```
{
    "_id": "C9JR72",
    "name": "Kelch repeat and BTB domain-containing protein 13",
    "description": "Substrate-specific adapter of a BCR (BTB-CUL3-RBX1) E3 ubiquitin ligase complex.",
    "mass": 49485,
    "sequence": "MARGPQTLVQVWVGGQLFQADRALLVEHCGFFR...",
    "pathways": [
        "Protein modification",
        "Protein ubiquitination"
],
    "subcellularLocations": [
        "Cytoplasm"
],
    "publications": [
        "title": "Analysis of the DNA sequence and duplication history of human chromosome 15.",
        "year": 2006,
        "type": "article"
        }
    ]
}
```

Drug's collection

User's collection







Document DB Design (2)

Relevant Queries

Aggregations:

• Trend Analysis of Publications
Identifies trends in the number of publications related to a specific pathway

Given a pathway (**Glycolysis**) found for each year the distribution of publications per type (articles/books/URL)

 Helps identify which pathways are gaining or losing research interest over time

```
db.getCollection('Protein').aggregate(
      $match: { pathways: { $in: ['pathway'] } }
     $project: { publications: 1 } },
      $unwind: {
        path: '$publications',
        preserveNullAndEmptyArrays: false
      $group: {
          year: '$publications.year',
          type: '$publications.type'
        count: { $sum: 1 }
     $sort: { '_id.year': 1 } }
```







Document DB Design (3)

Relevant Queries

Aggregations:

Pathway Recurrence Analysis

Analyzes the recurrence of specific pathways in protein sequences

Given Ubiquitin-Interacting Motif (functional subunit **ATG**) found the number of its recurrence in different pathways

 Identifying their recurrence across pathways can highlight cross-pathway interactions during proteins creations (drugs)

```
db.getCollection('Protein').aggregate(
      $match: {
        sequence: { $regex: 'ATG', $options: 'i' }
     $project: { pathways: 1 } },
      $unwind: {
        path: '$pathways',
        preserveNullAndEmptyArrays: false
      $group: {
        _id: '$pathways',
        count: { $sum: 1 }
     [ $sort: { count: -1 } }
```







Document DB Design (4)

Relevant Queries

Aggregations:

Expired Patents Analysis

Analyzes expired patents by country for a specific drug category

Given the **anticoagulant** category, found the expired patents per Country

Companies can identify opportunities to bring new drugs to market

```
db.getCollection('Drug').aggregate(
    { $match: { categories: 'Anticoagulants' } },
      $project: {
        patents: {
          $filter: {
            input: '$patents',
            cond: { $lt: ['$$this.year', 2005] }
        name: 1
    { $unwind: {
        path : '$patents',
        preserverNullAndEmptyArrays: false,
        _id: '$patents.country',
        expiredPatentCount: { $sum: 1 },
        drugNames: { $addToSet: '$name' }
    { $sort: { expiredPatentCount: -1 } }
```







MongoDB Replica Set Configuration

w=1
journal=true
readPreference=nearest

Writes are acknowledged by one node Writes are persisted to disk-based Reads from the nearest replica

How these configurations support non-functional requirements?

w=1 and **readPreference=nearest** are essential to ensure high availability. Consistency issues are minimal and do not have a significant impact on the system, especially given the low frequency of writes **journal=true** prevent permanent data loss

IP: 10.1.1.76 mongoDB: PRIMARY

IP: 10.1.1.74 mongoDB: SECONDARY

IP: 10.1.1.71

mongoDB: SECONDARY

```
rsconf = {
    _id: "bioconnect",
    members: [
      { _id: 0, host: "10.1.1.71:27020", priority: 1 },
      { _id: 1, host: "10.1.1.74:27020", priority: 2 },
      { _id: 2, host: "10.1.1.76:27020", priority: 5 }
    ]
}
```







MongoDB Indexes

COLLECTION	FIELD	ТҮРЕ	
Protein	_id	Regular (default)	
Protein	name	Text	
Protein	pathways	Regular	
Drug	_id	Regular (default)	
Drug	name	Text	
Drug	categories	Regular	

PROTEIN COLLECTION

Search Protein

before: 20416 document examinated, 19ms

after: 2 document examinated, 0ms

Trend Analysis of Publications for Pathway

before: 20416 document examinated, 64ms

after: 13 document examinated, 2ms

DRUG COLLECTION

Search Drug

before: 16581 document examinated, 17ms

after: 2 document examinated, 0ms

Expired Patents Analysis For Category

before: 16581 document examinated, 37ms

after: 455 document examinated, 3ms

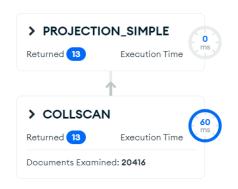




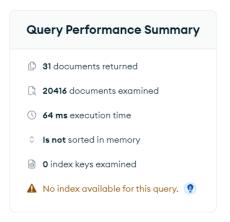


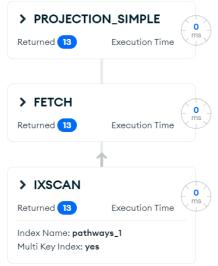
MongoDB Indexes(2)

Trend Analysis of Publications for Pathway



BEFORE 20416 document examinated, 64ms





AFTER

13 document examinated, 2ms



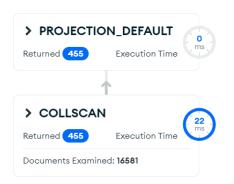




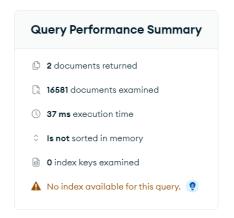


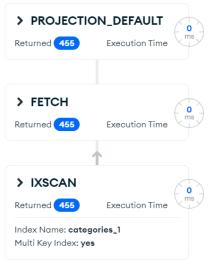
MongoDB Indexes(3)

Expired Patents Analysis For Category

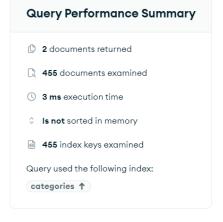


BEFORE 16581 document examinated, 37ms





AFTER
455 document
examinated, 3ms









Discussion on MongoDB Data Sharding

How could sharding have been implemented in MongoDB?

To implement sharding, database designers must select a shard key, which determines how the data is distributed across the various shards.

In this case, the shard keys that could be chosen for each collection are:

```
Drug: _id, Protein: _id and User: _id.
```

Regarding the partitioning algorithm, the **hashed algorithm** could be chosen in all cases since all keys are alphanumeric strings for identification.

Why sharding on our application wouldn't be beneficial?

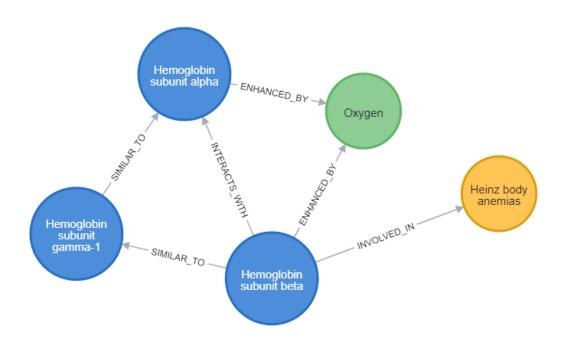
- No Heavy Write Load: Our application primarily involves read operations, with no significant
 write workload, making sharding for load distribution unnecessary, since we can use replicas to
 spread the reads on different nodes.
- **Limited Data Growth**: The number of discoverable biological data in the coming decades is finite, so we don't expect the needing of sharding for scalability.
- **Stable Traffic Patterns**: We do not expect sudden spikes or high variability in user requests, reducing the need for sharding to handle application flexibility.
- Efficient Single-Node Performance: A single-node write setup is sufficient to manage the current and expected data volume, avoiding the added complexity of sharding and its overhead in managing multi-document requests.







Graph DB Design



Entities:

- Protein (id, name)
- Drug (id, name)
- Disease (id, name)

Relationships

- INTERACTS_WITH (Protein-Protein)
- SIMILAR_TO (Protein-Protein)
- INVOLVED_IN (Protein-Disease)
- ENHANCED_BY (Protein-Drug)
- INHIBITED_BY (Protein-Drug)



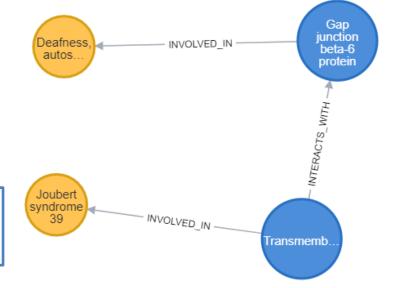




Graph-based queries (1)

Find Shortest Path Between Diseases

- Enables personalized treatment plans for patients with co-occurring diseases by understanding shared molecular pathways.
- Highlights possible common causes (most probable one) between two diseases







Legend:

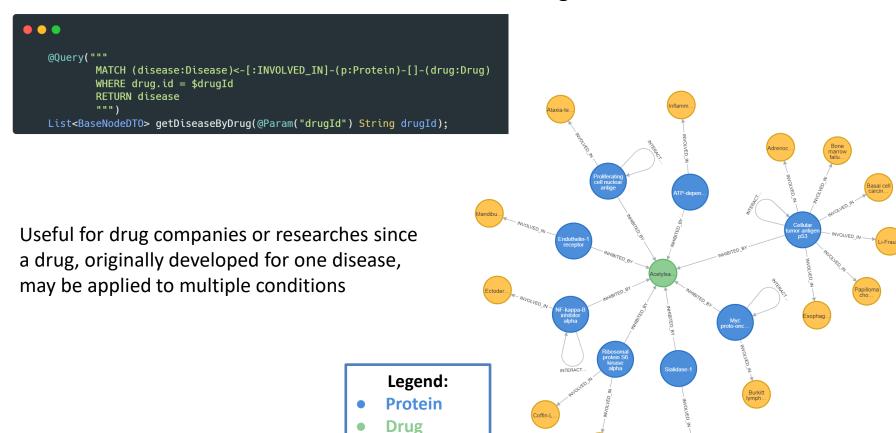
Protein

Disease



Graph-based queries (2)

Get Diseases Linked to Drug







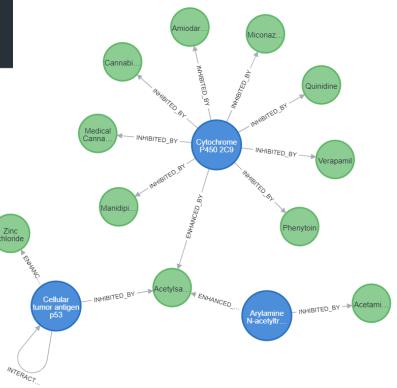
Disease



Graph-based queries (3)

Get Drugs with Opposite Effects on Protein

- Useful to understand Drugs with opposite effects on a specific protein for adverse reaction management or overdoses
- Useful for understanding the problematics of using multi-drugs combinations on a patient







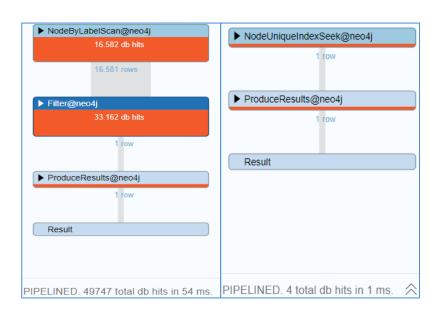
Legend:

Protein Drug



Neo4j Indexes

The main role of **indexes** is to efficiently locate the starting node for a query, so we chose to use indexes on the IDs



COLLECTION	FIELD	
Protein	id	
Drug	id	
Disease	id	

The images on the right illustrate what happens when the **Drug search** is performed with or without using the index

Below each image, the number of database accesses and the time are displayed

The same type of execution occurs when using the other indexes







Handling Intra-DB Consistency

In **Neo4J** the consistency is guaranteed by the atomicity of the CRUD operations inside the single database replica. The only method in our application that perform two sequential modification is handled by a transactional manager.

In **MongoDB**, consistency for the primary node is ensured by the atomicity of CRUD operations within a single document. The only actions in our application that modify multiple documents are managed by a transactional manager.

 For consistency between replicas, MongoDB itself handles eventual consistency across the database nodes.

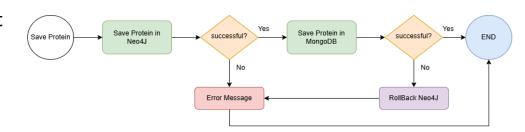


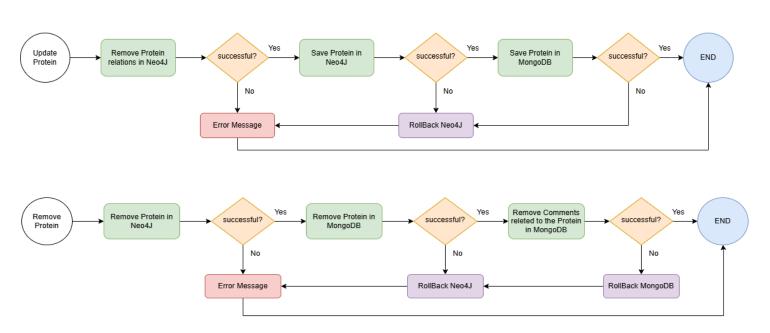




Handling Inter-DB Consistency

The two databases perform joint-operations that complete only if both succeed. Consequently, the data remains consistent between the MongoDB primary and Neo4j, while MongoDB replicas achieve eventual consistency











CAP Theorem

Based on the project requirements and how the entire architecture has been implemented, it is in the AP (Availability and Partition Tolerance) area of the CAP theorem.

- Avoid a single point of failure in the system
- Availability in case of a network partition
- Possible retrieval of stale data

CA
Consistency
Availability

CP
AP
Partition
Tolerance

IP: 10.1.1.76

mongoDB: PRIMARY

IP: 10.1.1.74

mongoDB: SECONDARY

API Server

IP: 10.1.1.71

mongoDB: SECONDARY

Neo4j







System Performance test









readPreference analysis

Total requests sent ① Requests/second ① Avg. response time ① Error rate ①

36,533 ▼ 26,159 119.00 ▼ 85.12 449 ms ▲ 238 0.00 % --

Analysis of the response time for readPreference=primary in contrapposition with readPreference=nearest

Request	Total requests	Requests/s	Resp. time (Avg. ms)
GET Drug Node by id	2,208 * 1,542	7.19 * 5.02	126 × 107
GET Drug target similar protein	2,208 1,539	7.19 v 5.01	180 × 131
GET Drug with opposite effects	2,207 1 ,529	7.19 • 4.98	265 ▼ 201
GET Get a Disease Node	2,196 - 1,516	7.15 * 4.93	86 ~ 67
GET Disease linked to Drug	2,188 - 1,514	7.13 • 4.93	160 - 135
GET Shortest Path	2,178 + 1,505	7.09 • 4.90	229 - 199
GET Protein Search	2,164 • 1,512	7.05 * 4.92	48 - 1
GET Publication Analysis Protein	2,163 × 1,511	7.05 * 4.92	120 - 84
GET Pathways Recurrence	2,119 1 ,553	6.90 ▼ 5.05	5,651 * 4,846
GET getProteinsByPathwayAndLocation	2,116 + 1,556	6.89 ▼ 5.06	42 - 11
GET Expired Patents	2,115 1 ,556	6.89 ▼ 5.06	45 • 13
GET Drug Search By ID or Name	2,113 - 1,558	6.88 * 5.07	39 • 6
GET Publication Analysis for category	2,113 - 1,556	6.88 * 5.06	90 - 53
GET getAllUsers	2,112 1 ,555	6.88 ▼ 5.06	207 • 116
GET getUserByUsername	2,111 ~ 1,554	6.88 * 5.06	34 * 3
GET getAllComments	2,111 - 1,552	6.88 + 5.05	313 - 46
GET getMyComments	2,111 v 1,551	6.88 ₹ 5.05	59 - 5
ME Dr.			

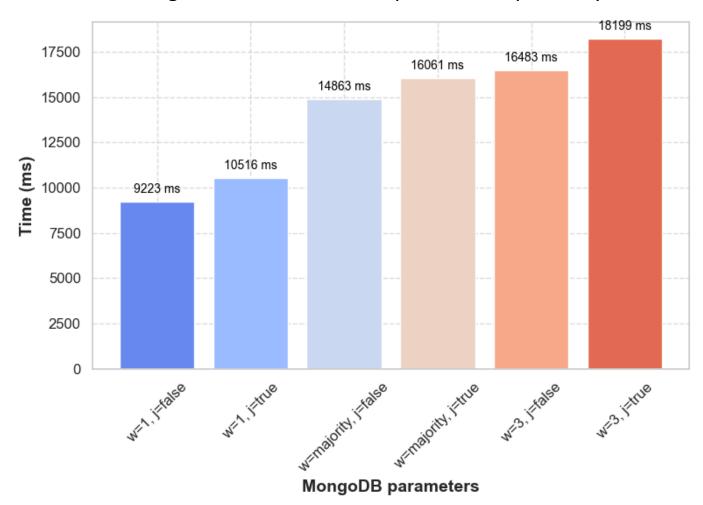






Writes Response Time Comparison

During the insertion of 1000 proteins, sequentially



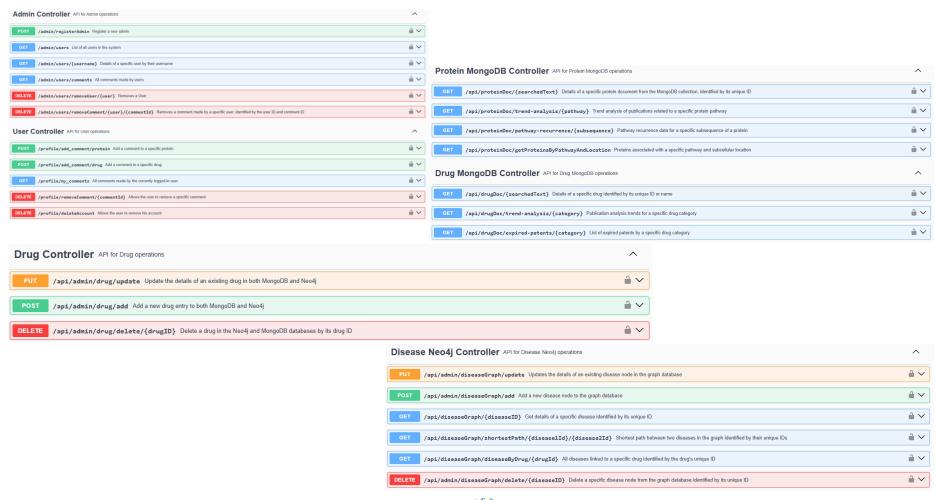






Swagger UI REST APIs documentation

Here are some of the end-points using **Swagger UI**









Swagger UI REST APIs documentation

For each endpoint, we provided examples of **input parameters** and documented the possible **HTTP responses**, including returned payloads and error messages



