

Bio4j: bigger, faster, leaner

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ohnosequences!

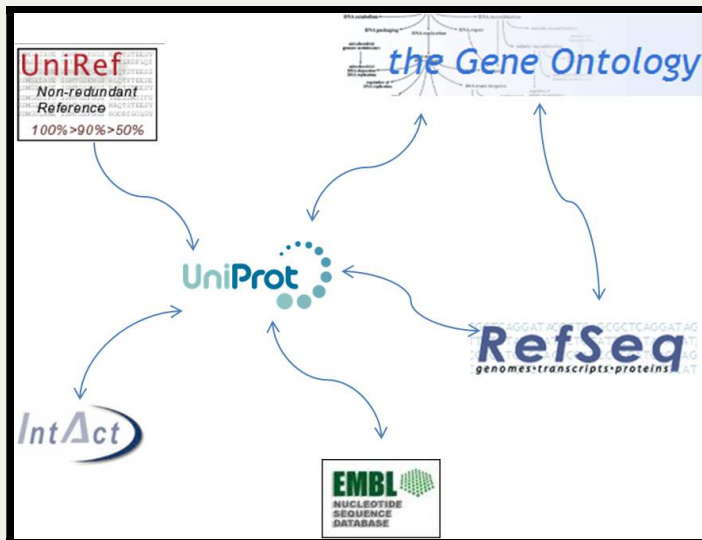
Era7 bioinformatics

Introduction

What is Bio4j?

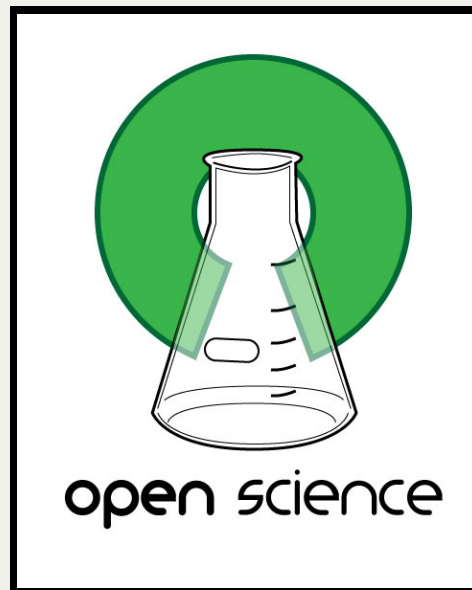
Bio4j is a bioinformatics *graph*-based data platform
integrating the most representative **open data sources**
around **protein information**

Data sources



- *UniProt KB (SwissProt + TrEMBL)*
- *Gene Ontology (GO)*
- *UniRef (50,90,100)*
- *RefSeq*
- *NCBI taxonomy*
- *ExPASy Enzyme DB*

It's open!

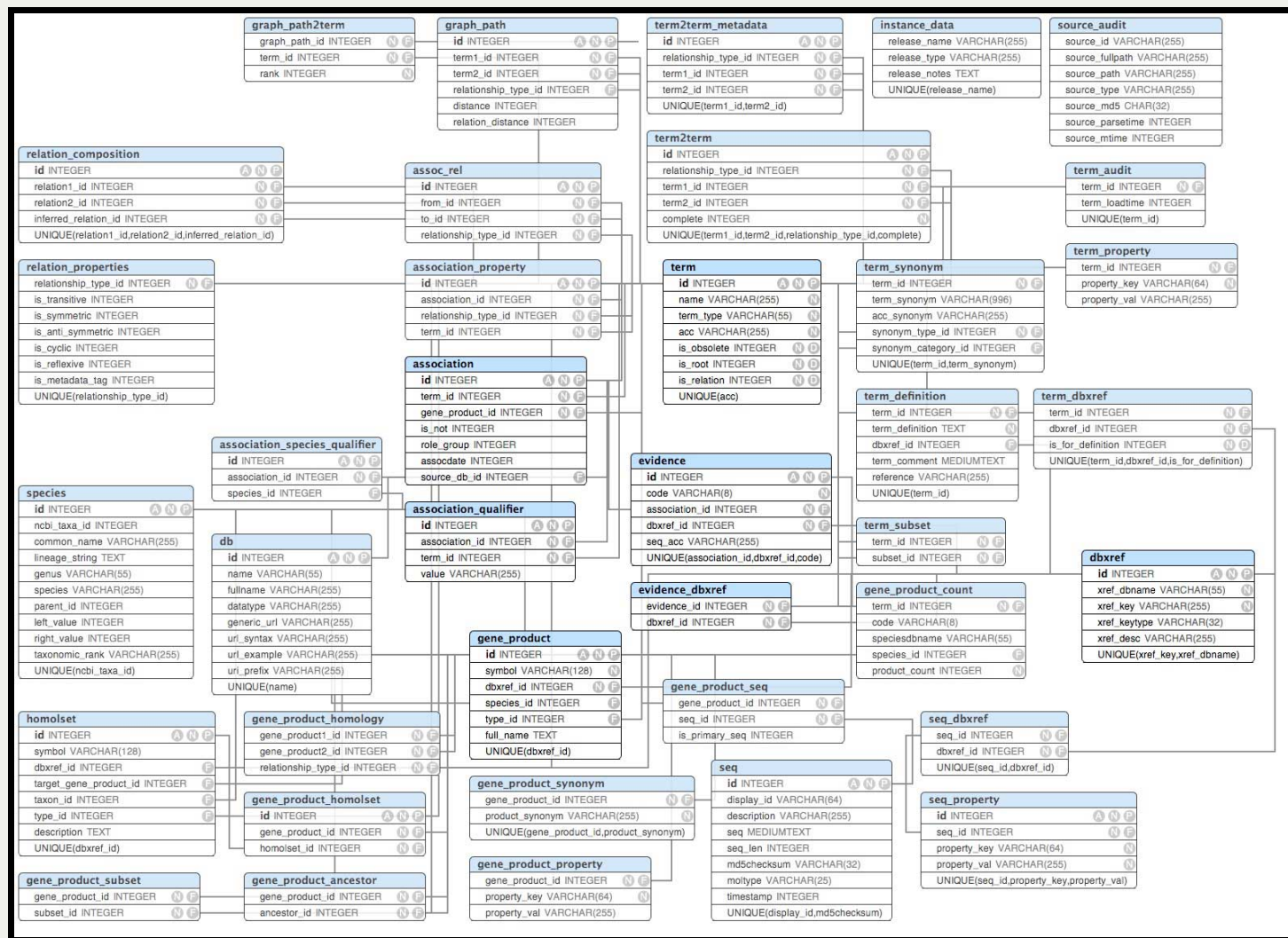


- Code is under the **AGPLv3** license
- Only **Open Data** is integrated
- Implementation & release process is **100% public** and totally transparent

Biology & Databases today

- Highly **interconnected overlapping** knowledge
- spread over **different data sources**
- maintained in the **Relational Databases**
or sometimes even just as plain **CSV files**

That might be fine for simple scenarios
but as the **amount** and **diversity** of data grows,
domain models become *crazily complicated!*



Doesn't look very compelling right?

Relational model

With relational paradigm the double implication

Entity \Leftrightarrow Table

doesn't go both ways, which implies

- **auxiliary tables**
- **artificial IDs**
- **dealing with raw tables**
(in spite of entity-relationship diagrams)

Integrating new knowledge becomes **difficult**

Biology \neq Table

- **Life** in general and **biology** in particular are probably not 100% like a graph...
- but one thing is sure: they *are not a set of tables!*

Why graph databases?

- Data is stored in a way that **semantically represents its own structure**
- Incorporating new data is easy \Rightarrow it's **scalable**
- **Vertex-centric** (*local*) indices allow to overcome the supernode problem

Why in the cloud?



Data as a service

- Services interoperability
- Data distribution
- Backup and storage
- Scalability
- Cost-effectiveness

Bio4j

=

Bio Data

+

Graph Databases

+

The Cloud

Details about Bio4j

How it all started

- Need for **massive access** to *Gene Ontology* annotations
- **BG7** bacterial genome annotation system
- Need for massive direct access to **protein information**

More and more data!

- As *other* data sources were becoming a *bottleneck* they were integrated into Bio4j
- First it was Uniprot KB, then Uniref, ...
- And **we didn't stop yet!**

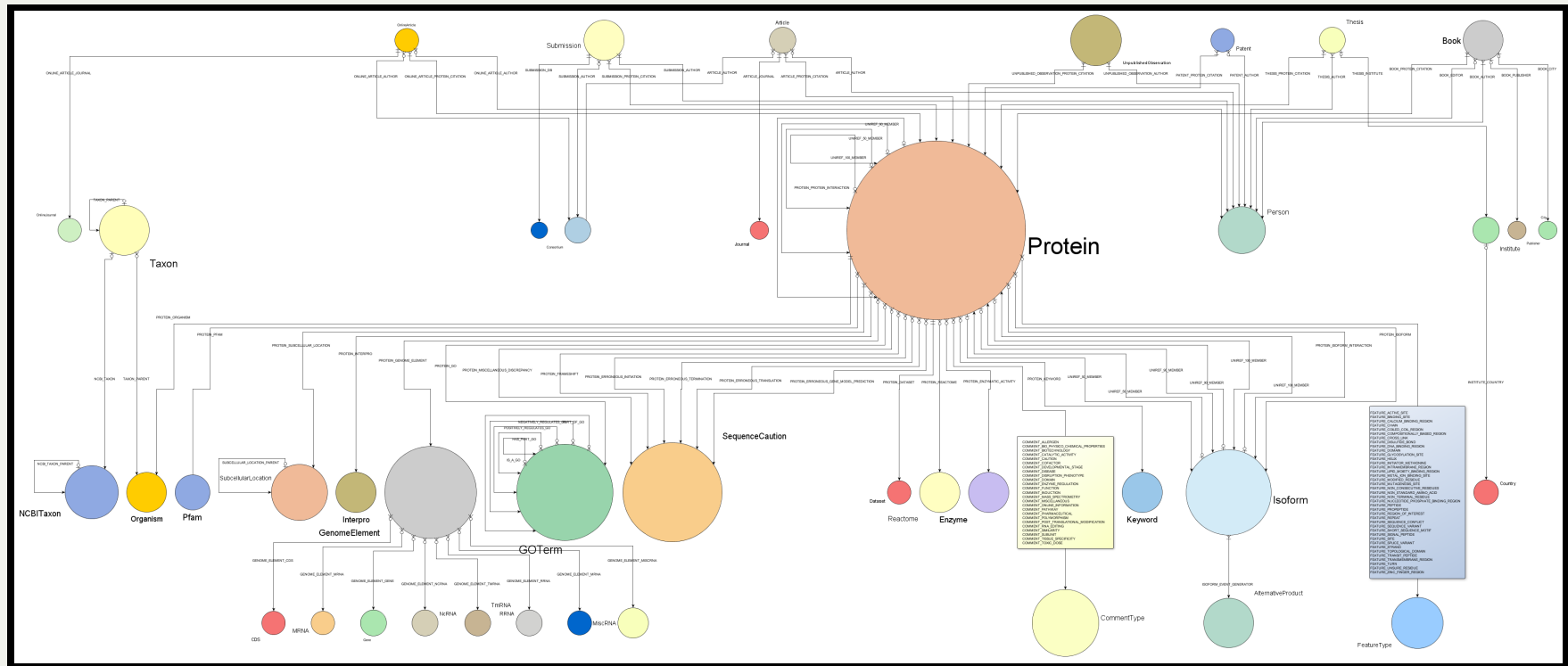
Different layers of Bio4j

1. Abstract **domain model** with precise typing
2. Universal Blueprints implementation
3. **Technology-specific** versions:
 - Neo4j
 - Titan (WIP)
 - OrientDB (planned)

Different **graph topologies** at the storage level,
same **domain model** in the client's code

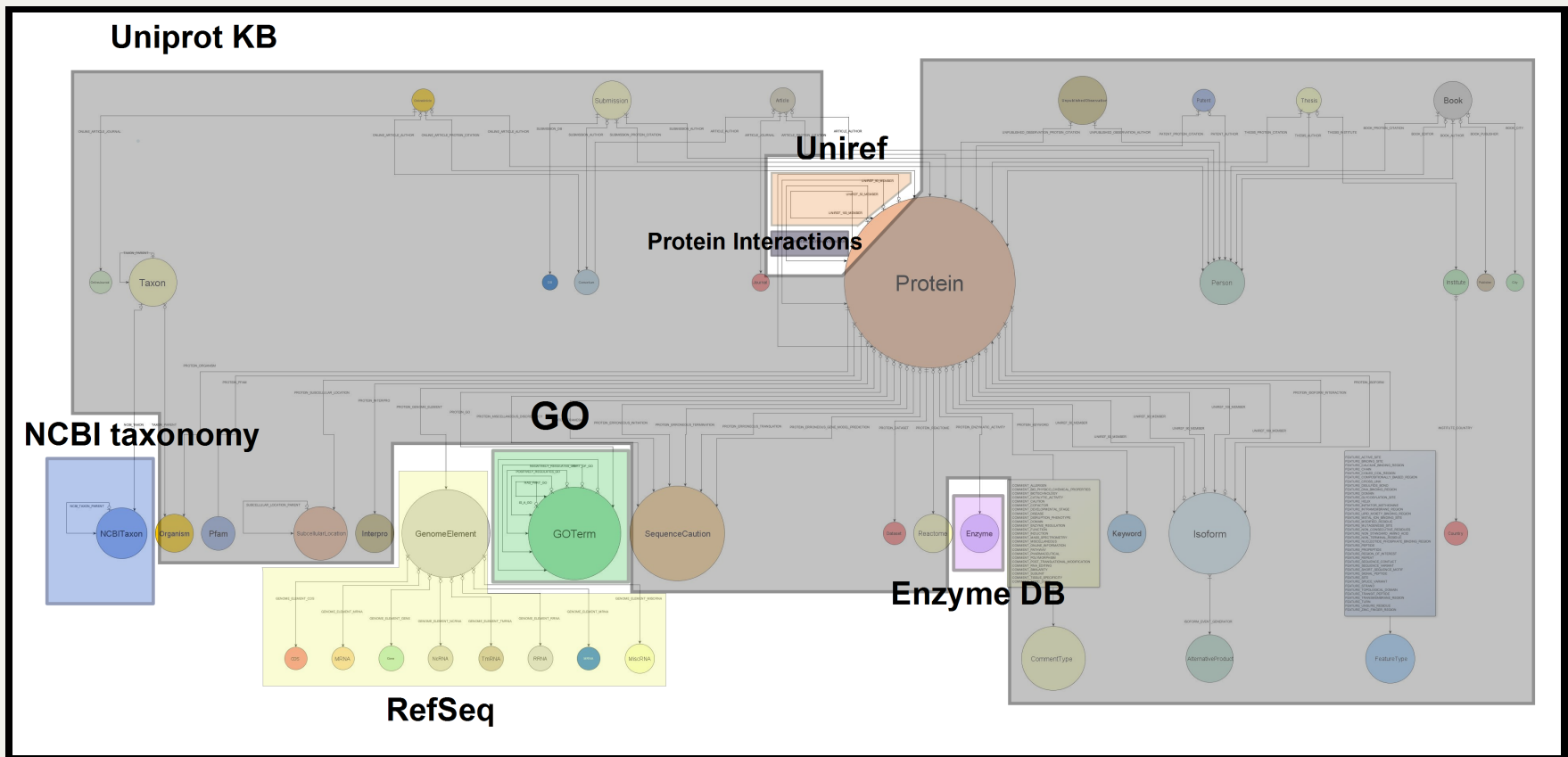
Bio4j domain model

- 10^9 edges of **150 types**
- 2×10^8 nodes of **40 types**
- 6×10^8 properties



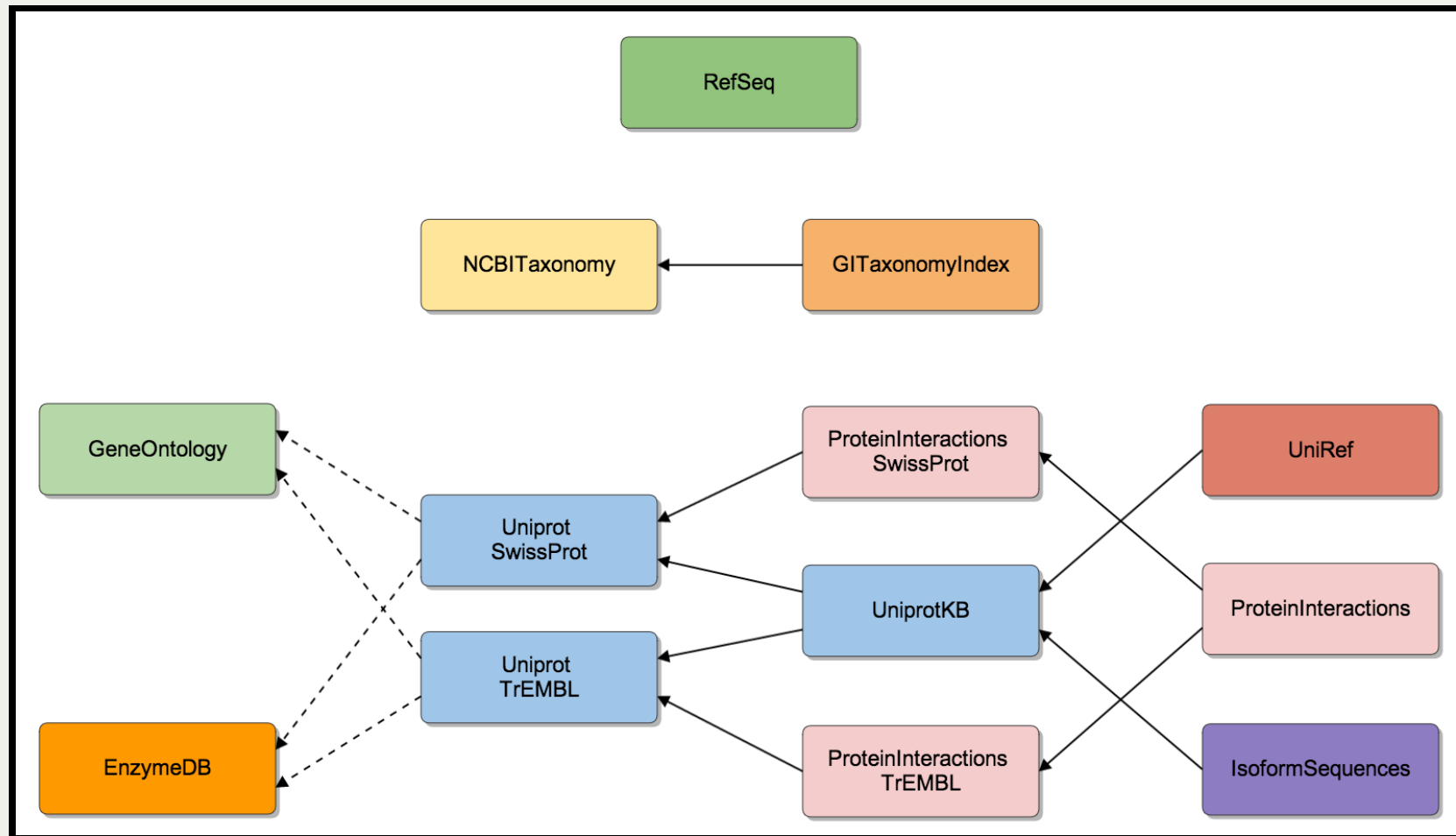
Bio4j structure

The importing process is **modular** and **customizable** allowing you to import just the data you are interested in



Bio4j module system

Statika helps to manage dependencies between modules and simplifies import and deployment in the cloud



Under the
hood

How we use Bio4j in Era7

- **BG7** genome annotation
- **MG7** metagenomics analysis
- Comparative genomics, network analysis, genome assembly, ...

How others use Bio4j

Ohio State University

- **Integration** and **analysis** of Chip-seq data
- **Modeling** genomic information and **gene regulatory networks**

Berkeley Phylogenomics Group

- Graph database for *Big Data challenges* in **genomics** developed **on top of Bio4j**

How we develop Bio4j

- Java + Scala source code
- Statika-based module system
- SBT for building sources
and automated tests & release
- Git + Github: versioning, docs,
collaboration, coordination

Who's doing Bio4j

Ohnosequences!

Era7 bioinformatics R&D group

Pablo Pareja	project leader & main developer
Eduardo Pareja-Tobes	technology & architecture
Raquel Tobes	bio data integration
Marina Manrique	bio data integration
Alexey Alekhin	module system developer
Evdokim Kovach	developer

Contacts

- @bio4j **Twitter** for news
- bio4j **Github** org for the development process
- bio4j-user **Google group** for the user feedback
- bio4j **Linkedin**

bio4j.com

Thank you for attention!

The source and the latest version of these slides can be found at
`github.com/ohnosequences/IWBBIO-2014`