A Web-based Collaboratory for Supporting Environmental Science Research



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WSS'03: WI/IAT 2003 Workshop on Applications, Products of Web-based Support Systems October 13, 2003, Halifax *This research was supported in part by NSF ITR Grant No. 0112820*

Introduction

- Combination of words "collaboration" and "laboratory" first coined by William Wulf (1996): Richard T. Kouzes, James D. Myers, and William A. Wulf. Collaboratories: Doing science on the internet. *IEEE Computer*, 1996
 - Diesel Collaboratory: C. M. Pancerella, L. A. Rahn, and C. L. Yang: The diesel combustion collaboratory: combustion researchers collaborating over the internet. In *Proceedings of the 1999 ACM/IEEE conference on Supercomputing*
 - BioCoRE: <u>http://ks.uiuc.edu/Research/biocore</u>
 - EMSL Collaboratory: <u>http://www.emsl.pnl.gov:2080/docs/collab</u>
 - An example of E-Science
 - G. Fox (2002): E-science meets computational science and information technology. *Computing & Engineering*
 - R. M. Jakobovits, J. F. Brinkley, C. Rosse, and E.Weinberger (1998): Enabling clinicians, researchers, and eductors to build custom Web-based biomedical information system

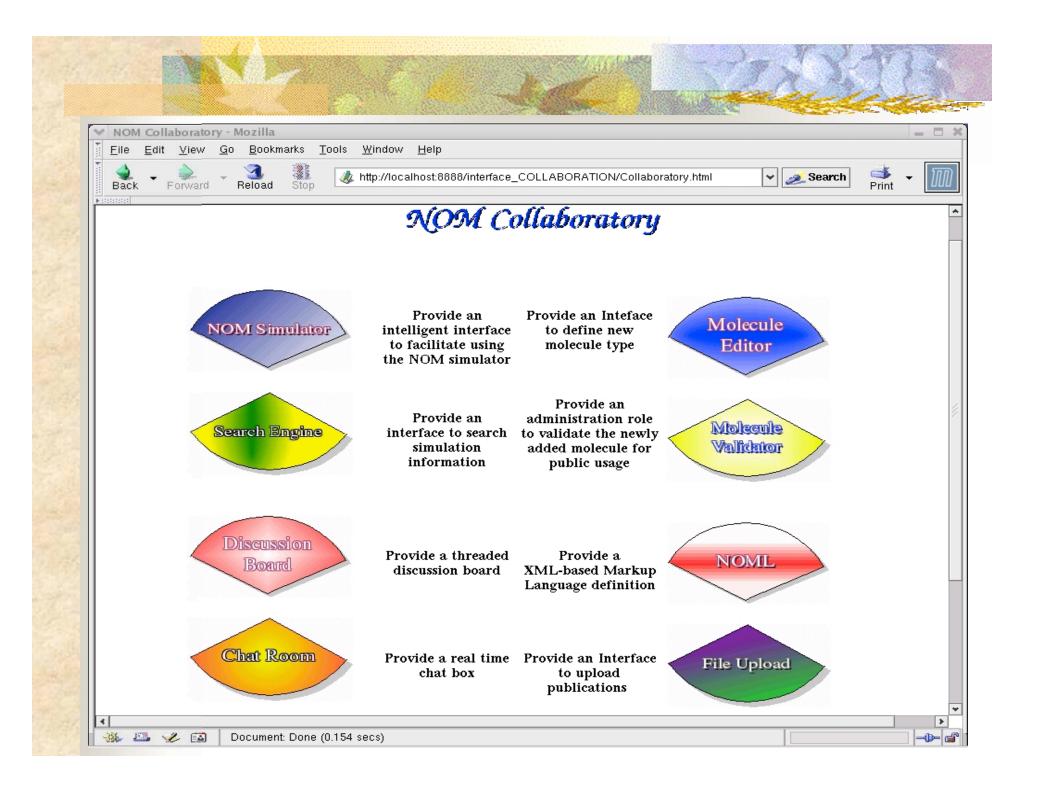
The NOM Collaboratory

- Interdisciplinary project
 - Supporting research on Natural Organic Matter (NOM)
 - Understanding NOM behavior is an important environmental research area
 - Simulations of NOM in the soil and groundwater
- Objectives
 - Information and model sharing
 - Data repository and analysis support tools
 - Electronic communication tools
- No installation or maintenance of computation resources needed by the environmental scientists

NOM Collaboratory Components

- NOM simulators
- Search engine
- NOML upload
- Molecule editor
- Molecule validation
- Simulation finder
- Automatic restart
- Completion predictor

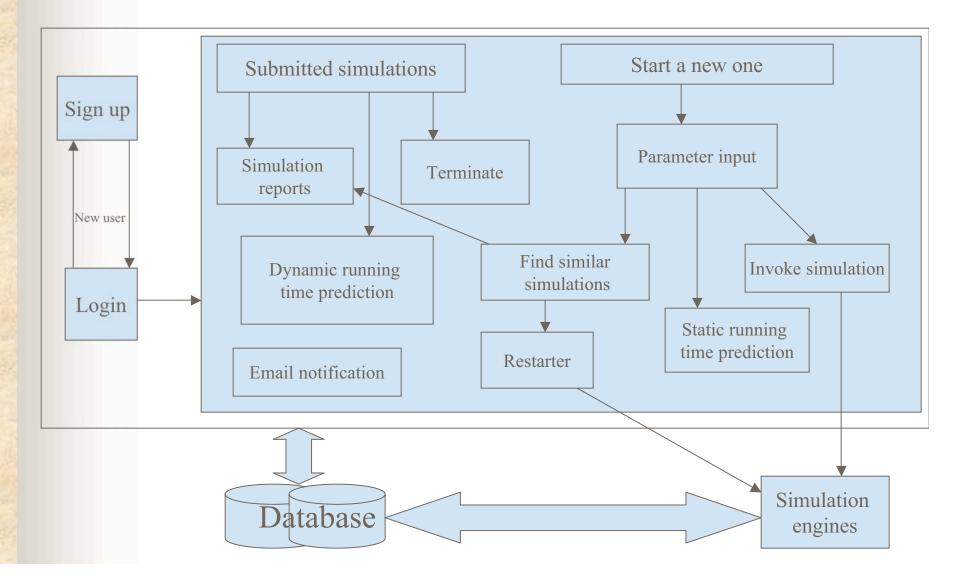
- Data Analysis
 - Graphical reports
 - XML reports
 - Data mining
- Communication Tools
 - Discussion board
 - Chat room
 - File sharing



Web Technologies

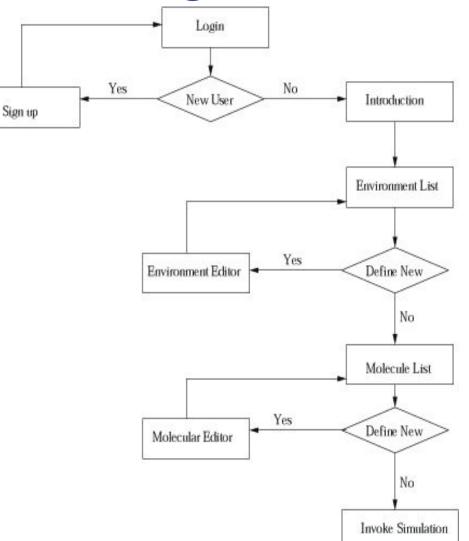
- Sun Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) Java Servlets, Java Server Pages (JSP) Enterprise Java Beans (EJB) Java Transaction Service/API (JTS/JTA) **RDBMS** (Oracle): Java DataBase Connectivity (JDBC) Data analysis packages Data mining technologies XML
 - NOML
 - XSQL

Web-based Interface

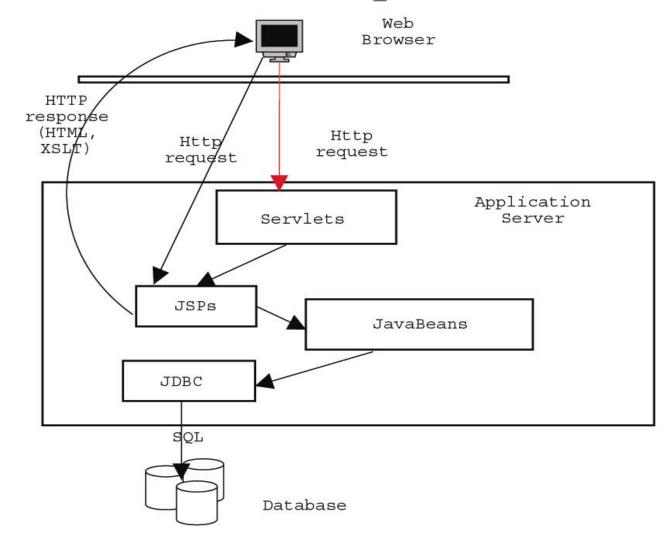


Web-based Interface Logic

- Input the simulation parameters
- Invoke the simulation
- Stop the simulation
- View the realtime simulation results



Web Interface Implementation



Example of Interface



felcome to NOM Research Group

Leilani Arthurs

(^{*}Required fields)

Molecule Name [*] SficFA	Make it available to public				
Atoms of the molecule Each field must be a non-negative integer. Default value is 0.	66 (Atom) O	64 0	om) N om) P		
Functional groups of the molecule Each field must be a non-negative integer. Default value is 0.	DoubleBond	Rings	Phenyl	Alcohols	Phenols 0
	Ethers	Esters	Ketones 0	Aldehydes 0	Acids
	Arylacids	Amines	RingN 0	Amides	Thioethers
	Thiols	Phosphoesters	HPhosphoesters	Phosphates 0	

Create New Molecule Type

Interface Features

- Email notification
- Running time prediction
 - Static
 - number of molecules
 - number of time steps
 - Dynamic
 - current time step
 - current wall clock time

Interface Features (cont)

Find similar simulations

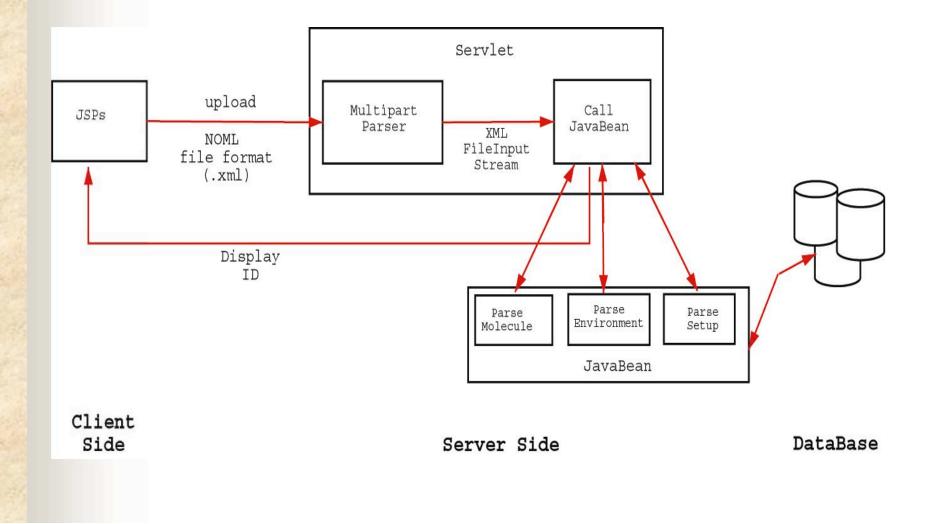
- Environment parameters
- Molecule types and distributions
- Retrieve the data sets from database
- Points on a high dimension space
- Euclidean distance
- Ordered list
- Review the simulation results or restart
- Automatic restarter
 - Save the state of each objects in the system to database every check point
 - Load the state to the core simulation engine

XML-based NOM Markup Language

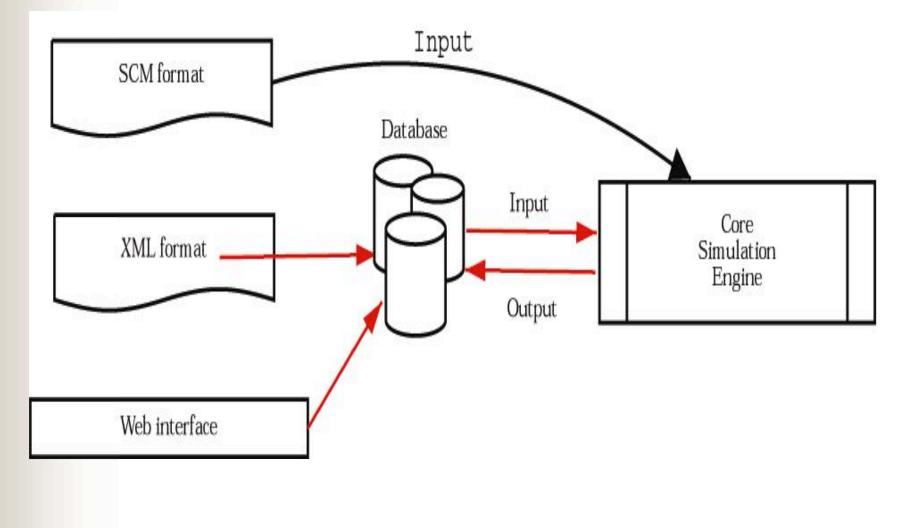
• NOML:

- Standard data format
- Environment.dtd, Molecules.dtd, Setup.dtd
- Environment.xml, Molecules.xml, Setup.xml
- Facilitates communication
 - User ==== User
 - Application ==== Application
 - User ==== Application
- Extensions planned

NOML Uploader



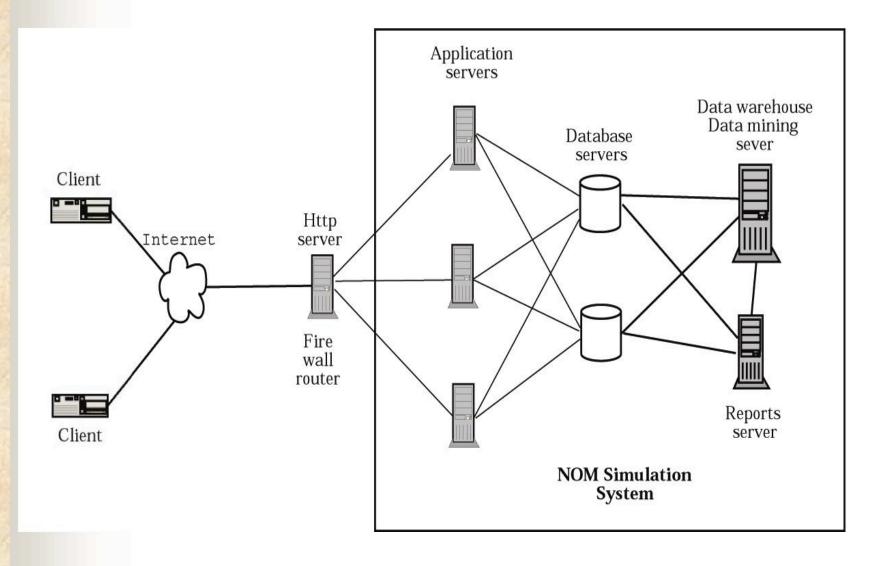
Data Input Options



Other Tools

- Molecule editor
 - Define new molecule type
- Molecule validator
 - Authorized persons (Chemists) to validate data
 - Share the molecule type
- Search engine
 - Ad-hoc query
 - View results of the completed simulations
 - Restart some simulations

Architecture



NOM Simulation Engine

- Design Agent-based XML Simulation Stochastic Engine Discrete event Databases Input Packages Swarm Output RePast Forms Languages Java
 - SQL & PL/SQL

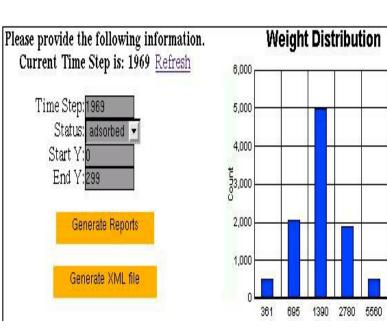
NOM Simulation Engine

- Read simulation parameter from the database (JDBC)
 - Environmental parameters (pH, temperature, light intensity, and so on)
 - Molecule types and distributions
- User defined time has been separated to a large number of equal size time steps
 - Write relevant data into the database every time step (JDBC)
 - Trace the dynamic properties of individuals and the system over time

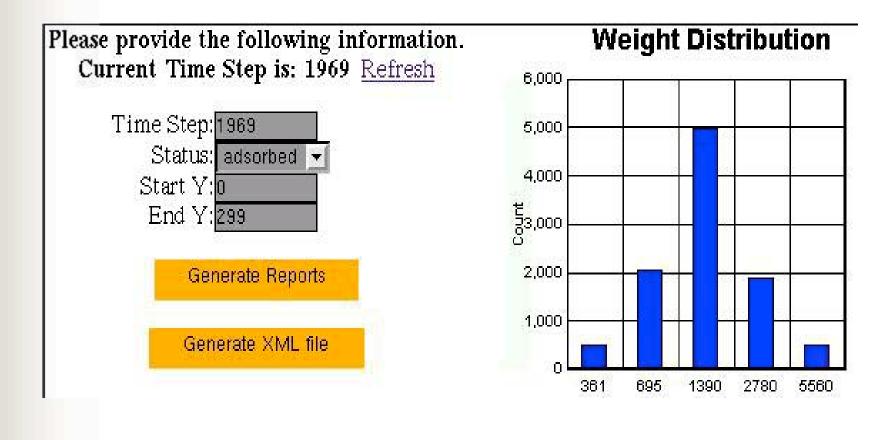
Data Analysis

Analysis

- SQL
- Statistics
- Data mining
- Presentation
 - Oracle Reports
 - XML/XSLT
 - XSQL



Report Example



Conclusion

- Web-based Collaboratory
- A Web-based simulation architecture (multiple simulation servers, database servers, and data mining technologies)
- A Web-based configuration interface
- NOML data upload

Future Work

- Collaboratory
 - More communication tools
 - Audio
 - Video
- More simulation models for NOM study
- NOML extensions
- JDBC performance
 - AutoCommit issues
 - Batch inserts
 - Use of sqlloader
- User testing

Thank You !

