

Smartphone App Concept for Medical Applications.

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Abstract

The market for smartphone based medical applications is a relatively new and growing quickly. The majority of medical apps are relatively simple health management and tracking applications that might remind a user to take his or her medicine or monitor blood pressure and heart rate data provided by accompanying devices. However, more sophisticated apps can directly provide diagnostic information by capturing and analysing data directly. Several apps exist that can assess the risk of skin cancer by tracking changes in the growth of skin lesions over time.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

TODO: Medical Apps / future promise and benefits / communication with experts / fast diagnosis

TODO: Fields that can benefit from Medical Apps on smart phones

TODO: What is cancerous melanoma? danger? importance of early detection.

1.1 Project Description

This bachelor project will investigate the following questions:

- What smartphone based medical apps are available that can track and assess the risk of skin lesions?
- What methods and algorithms can be employed by mobile phones to calculate the risk?
- What is necessary to build a mobile app that can provide a risk assessment of skin cancer melanoma from captured images?

1.2 Goals

1. Research the medical app market to gain an overview of areas of development, what apps are available, what trends are discernible. Of special interest are apps that use internal sensors (e.g., camera) and mathematical algorithms to detect skin cancer melanoma.
2. Gain familiarity with machine learning and image recognition algorithms. Describe the basic principles of these algorithms.
3. Research and compare available data and algorithms (e.g. in computer vision / machine learning). Define the relevant attributes that can be used to train the algorithm. This can also include changes in size over time.

4. Based on the research and comparison choose a specific algorithm and data with which to proceed. The algorithm must be able to
 - (a) identify the skin lesion correctly,
 - (b) compute the relevant attributes,
 - (c) use these attributes to classify the skin lesions whether it is possibly cancerous or not
5. Implement the algorithm as a prototype (using Python for example). Using images of a skin lesion as input, the algorithm will provide a risk assessment as output. Implement tests that can calculate the accuracy of the algorithm. Compare the implemented algorithm with at least one other algorithm.
6. Create a concept for a medical mobile app that can utilise the features of modern smartphones to provide a risk assessment of skin cancer melanoma based on captured images. This includes a full requirements analysis, i.e. use cases, functional / non-functional requirements, architecture.
7. Implement as proof of concept specific aspects of the medical mobile app.

1.3 Expected Results

1. Results of the medical app market research including graphical presentation of trends and statistics.
2. Documentation of the available data and algorithms including high level excursion into the theory behind machine learning and image recognition algorithms.
3. Comparison of available data and algorithms. Definition of relevant attributes.
4. Decision, which algorithm to use.
5. Documentation of the implementation of the algorithm, including tests, evaluation and comparison with at least one other algorithm.
6. Documentation of a concept for a medial app, including defined use cases, requirements, architecture and implemented design patterns.
7. Proof of Concept: implementation of specific aspects of the medical mobile app.

Chapter 2

Market Research

2.1 Data Gathering

2.1.1 Gathering Data from the Apple iTunes Store

Searching the Apple iTunes store is typically done manually via the iTunes Application from which text and data cannot be automatically extracted. Therefore, searching for and gathering data about IOS Applications is not easy. However, Apple does provide an rss feed that can be used to list Apps in specific categories and ordered according to how new, or how popular they are and if they are free or not. The rss feed is limited to 100 items per category. The data provided by the rss feed is minimal, not much more than title and a text description of the app. There are no sub-genres or tags than can be used to further differentiate the apps.

Using a python script data was gathered from the following rss feeds:

Top 100 Free Medical Apps Top 100 Grossing Medical Apps Top 100 Paid Medical Apps This combined results included data about 255 IOS apps. The title and description fields were imported into a database. Other information from the data such as price, right, or image link were ignored.

2.1.2 Gathering App Data from the Google Play Store

In order to gather data from the Goole app store a script was programmed that could extract lists of apps from a specific url. The following urls were scanned:

- Top Paid Medical Apps : https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/MEDICAL/collection/topselling_paid
- Top Free Medical Apps : https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/MEDICAL/collection/topselling_free

For each app listed the script would extract the url of the app's detail page. From the detail page more information would be gathered and stored in a database. The data set is similar to that of the itunes rss feed. The title and description text were imported, other fields such as pricing and copyright were ignored.

Data on 480 Medical Apps for Android was imported. However a significant percentage of the apps could not be classified because the description text was in a language other than English, German, or French.

2.2 Categorization

The term "Medical App" is broad and neither the iTunes nor Google app stores offer any kind of sub categorization. In order to get a better overview of what sort of Medical Apps are available it was necessary to manually browse the gathered data and assign categories to the apps.

A database management tool was created using the python based Django Web Framework. Django provides many tools that makes constructing and interacting with databases very easy. The built-in backend administration tool can be configured to browse, edit, and filter data.

In order to quickly browse through and categorize over 700 apps. The Django backend admin was configured so apps could be categorized one after the other with a minimum of clicks or scrolling. The user was presented a list of uncategorized apps. The first one is clicked. The user is then presented with a page displaying the title and summary text of the app and a field from which a category can be selected. Once saved, the app is no longer presented on the list, the user can select the next app at the top of the list.

2.2.1 Description of Categories

- **Community** - provides some sort of social networking service through which the user can share data with her family or with a network of people suffering from similar disorders.
- **Fun / Entertainment** - These apps have no real medical purpose. They are for enjoyment only.
- **Alert / First Response** - Apps that assist first responders or that help users alert first responders that help is needed.
- **Health / Lifestyle** - Relaxation and meditation apps, or ovulation and fertility reminders
- **Resource Finder** - Apps that locate resources in the vicinity, nearby pharmacies or care providers.
- **Reminder** - Apps with timer or calendar functionality that might remind a user of an appointment or manage medicine consumption.
- **Algorithmic / Diagnostic** - These are apps that provide some sort of diagnostic information based on data that has been gathered by sensors or entered by the user. Examples are seizure detection apps, or stroke severity evaluation apps.

- **Learning / Educational / Reference** - By far the largest category, this includes apps that provide reference information about diseases or education material like anatomy apps for example.
- **Organisational** - Apps in this category might help a user or practitioner organise, share or track data and documents. Examples are apps that help users track the status of their blood pressure or blood sugar levels, create health diaries, or manage clinical data and images.

2.3 Results

2.3.1 IOS Medical Apps

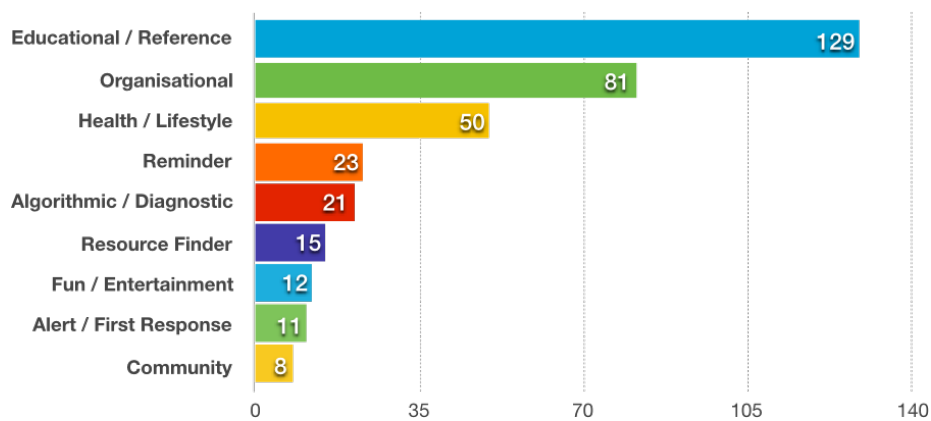


Figure 2.1: Medical Apps on the iTunes Apple Store, Search conducted on 17.05.2016

2.3.2 Android Medical Apps

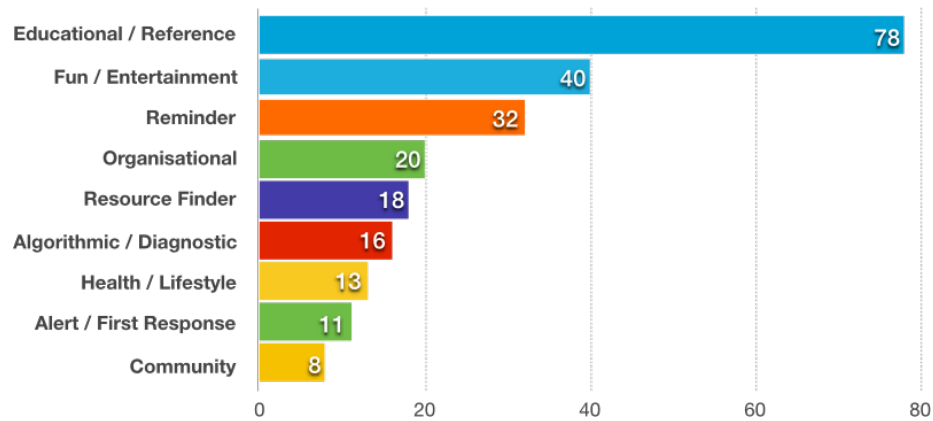


Figure 2.2: Medical Apps on the Google Play Store, Search conducted on 17.05.2016

2.3.3 Dermatology Apps 2013 vs 2016

Mobile apps are an especially good fit for dermatology-related care. Most dermatological conditions are by nature visible. The initial diagnosis and follow up monitoring is mostly done visually. A mobile device with a camera can aid patients and practitioners in the diagnosis of a dermatological condition and tracking its development. The article Mobile Applications in Dermatology [1] in 2013 identified 229 dermatology-related apps across 5 app platforms (Android, Apple, Blackberry, Nokia, and Windows). These were grouped into categories based on their primary functionality. The "Self-surveillance/diagnosis" category was the second largest on the Android and Apple platforms, with 13 and 24 apps respectively.

Category	Android	Apple	Blackberry	Nokia	Windows	Total, No. (%)
Reference	22	35	3	0	1	61 (26.6)
Self-surveillance/diagnosis	13	24	1	0	3	41 (17.9)
Disease guide	20	10	7	0	2	39 (17.0)
Educational aid	7	11	2	0	0	20 (8.7)
Sunscreen/UV recommendation	7	12	0	0	0	19 (8.3)
Calculator	2	9	1	0	0	12 (5.2)
Teledermatology	1	7*	0	0	0	8 (3.5)
Conference	2	3	0	1	0	6 (2.6)
Journal	2	4	0	0	0	6 (2.6)
Photograph storage/sharing	1	4	0	0	0	5 (2.2)
Dermoscopy	0	2	0	0	0	2 (0.9)
Pathology	0	2	0	0	0	2 (0.9)
Other	1	6	0	1	0	8 (3.5)
Total applications, No. (%)	78 (34.1)	129 (56.3)	14 (6.1)	2 (0.1)	6 (2.6)	229 (100.0)

* Two additional Apple iOS teledermatology applications were identified in a query of the term teledermatology during March 2013: HIV-Derm Algo Study (launched October 20, 2012) and SFGH Teledermatology pilot (launched November 12, 2012).

Figure 2.3: Total Applications, Brewer 2013

Using the same search criteria and categories from the article above indicates that the availability of dermatological apps is growing. Today there are 33 dermatological apps on the Apple platform that can be identified as having "Self-surveillance/diagnostic" features. With the exception of the "Reference" category, all other categories show significantly higher numbers of available apps.

Category	Apple 2013	Apple 2016	Android 2013	Android 2016
Reference	35	29	22	31
Self-surveillance/diagnosis	24	33	13	23
Disease guide	10	24	20	46
Educational aid	11	23	7	24
Sunscreen/UV recommendation	12	20	7	19
Calculator	9	4	2	10
Teledermatology	7	19	1	12
Conference	3	11	2	17
Journal	4	19	2	10
Photograph storage/sharing	4	3	1	1
Dermoscopy	2	7	0	3
Pathology	2	0	0	0
Other	6	8	1	4
Total	129	200	78	200

Figure 2.4: Dermatological Apps by Category, July 2013(Brewer 2013) vs May 2016

It is important to note that the categories listed above are not defined in the stores. The apps must be manually assigned to a category based on an interpretation of the description text in the store and information obtainable on related websites. It is possible therefore that apps that were originally designated to the "Reference" category

might have been interpreted in this paper as a “Educational aid” app for example. The interpretation of the functionality of an app is fuzzy in many cases, and many apps have some crossover functionality. An app developed for self-surveillance will often contain information pertaining to symptoms and treatment (reference).

2.3.4 Dermatological Apps with Automatic Risk Assessment

Of the 55 apps identified belonging to the ”Self-surveillance/diagnosis” category, only 2 provided risk assesment features based on automatic analysis of captured images.

- SkinVision : <https://skinvision.com>
- mSkin Doctor <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.maleemtaufiq.mSkinDoctor>

Chapter 3

Image Data Sources

3.1 Dermofit

High quality clinical images with corresponding masks. Great for training and testing.

Image Type	Description	Amount	Comment
Actinic Keratosis	Pre-cancerous patches of flakey or crusty skin, can develop into Squamous Cell Carcinoma	45	Not useful as comparison against melanoma
Basal Cell Carcinoma	Abnormal, uncontrolled growths of the skin's basal cells.	239	Not useful as comparison against melanoma
Dermatofibroma	Common and benign skin tumour.	65	Useful as comparison, some extreme cases might have to be left out of the training set.
Haemangioma	A collection of small blood vessels that form a lump under the skin.	97	Useful as comparison, some extreme cases might have to be left out of the training set
Intraepithelial Carcinoma	A type of squamous cell skin cancer limited to the upper layer of the skin.	97	Not useful
Malignant Melanoma	A type of cancer that develops from the pigment-containing cells known as melanocytes.	76	This is our baseline set, half will be used for training, the other half for testing
Melanocytic Nevus	Typical mole, benign.	331	Very usefull as comparison to Melanoma
Pyogenic Granuloma	Common skin growth, small, round and red in color due to large number of blood vessels.	24	Not usefull
Seborrhoeic Keratosis	Common non-cancerous skin growth.	257	Maybe usefull
Squamous Cell Carcinoma	Abnormal and uncontrolled growth of squamous cells in the epidermis.	88	Not usefull

Table 3.1: Dermofit Image Categories

3.2 DermQuest

Online teaching and learning resource with large image database.

Image were selected based on their usefullness for this project. Usefullness is based on quality and type of image. Dermoscopic images were not selected. Instead images were taken that appeared to be taken with a standard camera. The images only contained the mole to be examined and the surrounding skin area. No other details like eyelids, ears, or dark shadows.

Subgroups of Melanocytic Nevus were chosen. Dysplastic and Intradermal Nevus for the non-cancerous cases, and Malignant Melanoma as the cancerous cases.

Image Type	Description	Amount	Comment
Benign Keratosis		5	
Malignant Melanoma	A type of cancer that develops from the pigment-containing cells known as melanocytes.	39	This is our baseline set, half will be used for training, the other half for testing
Melanocytic Nevus	Typical mole, benign.	51	Very usefull as comparison to Melanoma

Table 3.2: DermQuest Image Categories

3.3 PH2Dataset

Demascopic Images

Many of the mole images extend almost to or even beyond the image border. This makes some of the processing difficult. However the images include an excel spreadsheet which clearly designates what type of mole, including some scoring info such as Asymmetry and Color information. Includes border mask images.

Image Type	Description	Amount	Comment
Common Nevus		79	
Atypical Nevus		79	
Melanoma		39	Baseline set for training

Table 3.3: PH2 Image Categories

Chapter 4

TDS Algorithm

4.1 Description of the Algorithm

Early detection of melanoma greatly increases the chances of successful treatment. A biopsy can be performed in order to gain a definitive diagnosis. However, biopsies are invasive, painful and take time. There are also visual markers Dermatologists look for in order to make a risk assessment. The ABCD Rule, also known as Stokes or TDS Calculation, looks for 4 sets of features. Based on the features the Total Dermoscopy Score (TDS) is calculated.

The 4 sets of features are Asymmetry (A), Border Irregularity (B), Color (C) and Differential Structure or Diameter (D).

Asymmetry can have a value of 0, 1 or 2 depending on the symmetry of the lesion. Where 0 is symmetric and 2 is asymmetric. A value of 1 indicates at least one axis was found across which symmetry exists. The Border score is an integer value from 0 to 8 indicating the presence of border irregularities in 8 regions. Color is an integer value from 1 to 6 indicating the presence of one to six specific colors. Similarly, the value for D indicates the presence of one to five distinct structures or textures. Alternatively, in some literature [2] D is defined as Diameter, where a diameter greater than 6mm results in a value of 5, otherwise 1.

The final TDS Score is the weighted sum of the ABCD Values and is in the range 1.0 to 8.9.

$$TDS = A * 1.3 + B * 0.1 + C * 0.5 + D * 0.5 \quad (4.1)$$

A diagnosis can be made based on the TDS Score according to the following table:

Evaluation	TDS Score
Benign	<4.75
Suspicious	4.75 to 5.45
Malignant	>5.45

Table 4.1: TDS Evaluation [3]

4.2 Automatic Calculation of ABCD Values

The ABCD Rule is used by Dermatologists to differentiate benign from malignant melanocytic tumors. Because it is a clearly defined rule based on easily recognizable visual features it is easy to apply. Clinicians with limited dermoscopy experience achieve better results using the ABCD rule than other methods [3]. The following sections detail methods to automate the calculation of the ABCD scores.

4.2.1 Asymmetry

Asymmetry is a strong indicator of malignancy in a tumor. Of the 4 criteria in the ABCD rule, it is weighted highest.

4.2.2 Border

4.2.3 Color

4.2.4 Differential

4.3 Two Examples

4.3.1 Postitiv Example

4.3.2 False Example

ABCD Values were calculated but classification result was false.

4.4 Results of Algorithm

Performance Evaluation

Chapters 11.1, 11.2, maybe 11.3

Chapter 5

Image Feature Extraction

5.1 Preprocessing

5.2 Segmentation

5.3 Image Feature Extraction

Chapter 6

Machine Learning

6.1 Section Title

6.2 Results of Algorithm

Performance Evaluation

Chapters from book 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6

Chapter 7

Implementaion of the Algorithm

7.1 Section Title

Chapter 8

Concept of the Application

8.1 Use Cases

ID	Short Identifier
Name	Descriptive Title
Description	Use case in user story form
Dependencies	dependencies
Trigger	The event that starts the Use Case
Preconditions	The system state which must be active before the Use Case can occur
Normal Flow	Sequence of events that occur during the use case.
Alternate Flow	Alternative sequence of events that might occur.
Results	triggers
Comments	Other infos

Table 8.1: Use Case Template

ID	UC-1
Name	Capture Image
Description	As a user I can capture an image of the skin lesion that I would like to have analysed.
Dependencies	None
Trigger	The user activated the application and selected the "image capture" navigation item.
Preconditions	The system state which must be active before the Use Case can occur
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Point the camera at the skin lesion. 2. Rotate and move the camera until the skin lesion is centered and optimally sized. 3. The user touches the screen to capture the image. 4. The user is notified (beep) that the image has been captured 5. The user can repeat from the beginning
Alternate Flow	None
Results	The captured images are placed by the system in a processing queue to calculate the lesion's border.
Comments	It is important that a user can capture the image with just one hand. If a lesion is located on a user's hand or arm, it's not possible to use two hands.

Table 8.2: Use Case 1

ID	UC-2
Name	Confirm correct calculation of skin lesion's border
Description	As a user I want to confirm that the skin lesion's borders have been properly calculated.
Dependencies	UC-1
Trigger	The user selected the "confirm border" navigation item.
Preconditions	At least one image has been queued for border calculation.
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user is presented with a list of images. 2. The following step is repeated for each image in the list. 3. The user confirms that the border of the lesion has been precisely calculated.
Alternate Flow	<p>A1. Border calculation for image has not completed.</p> <p>A1.3 The user can refresh the image preview until the results of the border are visible.</p> <p>A1.4 The user confirms that the border of the lesion has been precisely calculated.</p> <p>A2 Border calculation is not precise or has failed.</p> <p>A2.3 The user confirms that the border of the lesion has not been precisely calculated.</p> <p>A2.4 The image is deleted.</p>
Results	After positiv confirmation, images are placed by the system in the risk assessment calculation queue. If no images can be positively confirmed, the user can recapture new images (UC-1)
Comments	

Table 8.3: Use Case 2

ID	UC-3
Name	View risk assessment
Description	As a user I want to view the results of the risk assessment calculation.
Dependencies	UC-2
Trigger	The user selected the "risk assessment results" navigation item.
Preconditions	The system was able to complete the risk assessment calculation
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user is presented with a list of images. 2. The following step is repeated for each image in the list. 3. The user can select and view an image and corresponding results in detail.
Alternate Flow	<p>A1. Risk assessment calculation for image has not completed.</p> <p>A1.3 The user can refresh the results details until the results of a risk assessment is available.</p>
Results	
Comments	

Table 8.4: Use Case 3

ID	UC-4
Name	Save image and results
Description	As a user I want to save the image and the results of the risk assessment.
Dependencies	UC-3
Trigger	The user selects the "save" navigation item.
Preconditions	The system was able to complete the risk assessment calculation.
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user is presented with a list of images. 2. The can select one or more images with the corresponding risk assessment results. 3. The user can add a title and comment. 4. The user is presented with a confirmation that the package has been saved.
Alternate Flow	
Results	A package of images and corresponding risk assessment data is stored in the archive with some metadata (title and comment).
Comments	

Table 8.5: Use Case 4

ID	UC-5
Name	View archived images and data.
Description	As a user I want to view previously saved images and the corresponding risk assessment data.
Dependencies	UC-4
Trigger	The user selects the "archive" navigation item.
Preconditions	The system was able to complete the risk assessment calculation.
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user is presented with a list of archived packages. 2. The user can select an item in the list 3. The user is presented with the images, corresponding risk assessment data and metadata for the selected item.
Alternate Flow	
Results	A package of images and corresponding risk assessment data is stored in the archive with some metadata (title and comment).
Comments	

Table 8.6: Use Case 5

ID	UC-6
Name	Send results to dermatologist.
Description	As a user I want to send a previously saved image, feature extraction data and assessment results to a dermatologist.
Dependencies	UC-4
Trigger	The user selects the "archive" navigation item.
Preconditions	The system was able to complete the risk assessment calculation.
Normal Flow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user is presented with a list of archived packages. 2. The user can select an item in the list 3. The user can send the item as an email attachment.
Alternate Flow	
Results	
Comments	

Table 8.7: Use Case 6

8.2 Requirements

ID	REQ-F-1
Name	Preview Camera Input
Description	The system will let the user view a preview of the camera's input in realtime
Preconditions	None
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	UC-1
Comments	

Table 8.8: Functional Requirement 1

ID	REQ-F-1
Name	Capture Camera Input
Description	The system will let the user capture an image from the camera's input.
Preconditions	None
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	UC-1
Comments	

Table 8.9: Functional Requirement 1

ID	REQ-F-3
Name	Border Extraction
Description	The system must be able to calculate the border of a lesion in a captured image.
Preconditions	None
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	UC-2
Comments	

Table 8.10: Functional Requirement 3

ID	REQ-F-4
Name	Browse Images and Results
Description	The system will let the user browse through a list of images. The list will display the status of the images.
Preconditions	None
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.11: Functional Requirement 4

ID	REQ-F-5
Name	Select Image To View in Detail
Description	The system will let the user select and view an image as well as the results of completed processes.
Preconditions	None
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.12: Functional Requirement 5

ID	REQ-F-6
Name	Border Confirmation
Description	The system will let the user confirm that the border of a lesion has been precisely calculated.
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.13: Functional Requirement 6

ID	REQ-F-7
Name	Feature Extraction
Description	The system must be able to extract relevant features from the isolated lesion image.
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.14: Functional Requirement 7

ID	REQ-F-8
Name	Add To Process Queue
Description	The system must be able to add an image process job to the process queue
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.15: Functional Requirement 8

ID	REQ-F-9
Name	Assign Image to Process
Description	The system must be able to assign an image process to an image process job
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.16: Functional Requirement 9

ID	REQ-F-10
Name	Remove From Queue
Description	When an image process job is complete it will be removed from the process queue.
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.17: Functional Requirement 10

ID	REQ-F-11
Name	Process Queue
Description	The system will process jobs in the process Queue.
Preconditions	
Acceptance Tests	
Relations	
Comments	

Table 8.18: Functional Requirement 11

8.3 Prioritisation

8.4 Software Architecture

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architectural_pattern

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Chapter 9

Appendix

Chapter 10

Notes

10.1 Notes

Research the medical app market:
itunes store search api:

- official api :
<https://affiliate.itunes.apple.com/resources/documentation/itunes-store-web-service-search-api/>
limited to 200 results, no possibility to get next 200.
- python wrapper
<https://github.com/ocelma/python-itunes>
too limited, better to use the python "requests" library
still depends on official api so same limitations
- rss feed with additional filters : <https://rss.itunes.apple.com/us/?urlDesc=%2Fgenerator>
can filter free or paid applications, can rank by user feedback and gross

android seach api:

- no official api
- unofficial : <https://github.com/egirault/googleplay-api>
hackey, pretends to be an android device

FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) Mobile Medical App Submissions

- API : <https://open.fda.gov/device/510k/> example : <https://api.fda.gov/device/510k.json?limit=20&search=tumor%2Fgenerator>
- reference : <https://open.fda.gov/device/510k/reference/>
API is useable but might have too much information (not just for mobile apps).
I need to reasearch if there are adequate filtering possibilities to narrow down results

- A
- B