



American University of Sharjah
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Smart Kitchen: Food Management System

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Abstract

The Smart Kitchen project tackles the critical issue of food waste, a major contributor to environmental and financial challenges, by integrating IoT, AI, and mobile technologies for sustainable kitchen management. The system optimizes food inventory tracking, minimizes waste, and streamlines meal planning through sensors, cameras, and machine learning algorithms to monitor storage conditions, track expiration dates, and suggest recipes based on ingredients and user preferences.

A central processing unit coordinates data from IoT devices like load sensors, gas detectors, and humidity monitors, ensuring real-time tracking of food quantities and conditions. A mobile app offers inventory updates, personalized meal plans, and automated shopping lists, enhancing convenience and reducing household costs while promoting sustainable consumption.

Key benefits include reduced food waste, alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals, and efficient grocery management. Challenges such as privacy concerns, device compatibility, and kitchen integration are addressed through design refinements and user feedback.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the rise of smart home technologies has transformed the way we interact with our living spaces, offering increased convenience, efficiency, and sustainability. One area of focus within this field is the integration of intelligent systems to manage household resources, such as food and energy, more effectively. With growing concerns about environmental sustainability and the economic impact of wasted resources, there is a push to develop smart solutions that can automate everyday tasks while minimizing waste. The convergence of IoT (Internet of Things), AI (Artificial Intelligence), and mobile technology is enabling the creation of innovative systems designed to simplify daily routines, such as inventory management, meal planning, and shopping assistance, making households more efficient and eco-friendly. This project fits into this broader trend by addressing the issue of food waste through an intelligent kitchen management system.

1.1 Motivation and Background

In modern households, food waste is a significant problem that contributes to environmental degradation and significant economic loss. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)[1], approximately one-third of all food produced globally is wasted, this issue arises from various factors like over-purchasing, improper storage, and lack of awareness regarding food expiration dates. Additionally, managing grocery stock and deciding what to buy is typically a very time-consuming and laborious task. Many individuals and families struggle to keep track of what they have in their pantries and refrigerators, leading to unnecessary purchases and wasted food in the long run. Moreover, a lack of easy access to meal planning and inventory tracking tools amplifies the problem. By addressing these challenges, our project seeks to streamline the kitchen inventory management process, helping people make more sustainable choices while minimizing food wastage.

1.2 Project Description

This project aims to develop a system that effectively monitors and manages food inventory within the kitchen to reduce waste. We aim to automate the process to a significant extent while keeping costs low and providing the maximum functionality to aid the user in food management.

The proposed solution is to develop an Intelligent IOT kitchen that can detect food kept in the kitchen and make it convenient for the users to keep track of food items in their kitchen helping them with various purposes. The system is designed with a 360 camera that is capable of identifying items and their specific locations in the kitchen. Additionally, the system monitors the items and provides real-time alerts to the user if an item is near the expiration date and suggests recommendations on the recipes in which they can be used. The system becomes more efficient as the user uses it frequently. This allows the system to learn and understand the user's preferences for recipes and the types of food it can prepare. This system will also use a weighing scale/pressure pad to help automatically calculate the weights of produce for accurate tracking of objects while reducing the amount of manual input from the user. In addition, we will also implement a meal planning system that can allow users to plan their meals, and a smart shopping assistance system that will cross-check the ingredients that are available with the planned meal, and create a shopping list that can either be ordered online or be used by the user to buy personally.

1.3 Design Objectives

- **Inventory Tracking:** It will monitor the food items in the kitchen using sensors and cameras in each cupboard/cabinet, fridge, etc. It will also have a weighing scale/pressure pad to weigh items. Will also keep track of the minimum quantity before requiring a restock of the item through a reminder.

- **Expiration Management:** The system will track and monitor the freshness of food items and their expiry dates, and give reminders for food that is about to expire.
- **Meal Planning:** The system will offer personalized meal planning by suggesting recipes based on the ingredients available in the user's inventory. It will analyze the stored food items and propose meal options, helping users create balanced meals while minimizing waste. The system will also recommend the user recipes which may be to the liking of the user, and the user will also be able to enter their recipes to plan their meals accordingly.
- **Smart Shopping Assistance:** With the help of inventory tracking, the system will generate a shopping list based on the analysis of items present in your inventory and those absent from their meal plan to create a shopping list. It will also allow users to automatically order online if they wish to do so.
- **Mobile Application:** The system will be connected to a mobile application to allow the user easy access to the information in the system, including notifications and reminders.

1.4 Limitations

Potential rejection of the complete system may arise due to concerns about privacy invasion associated with the installation of cameras and other monitoring devices including sensors. Users may perceive these elements as intrusive, leading to a reluctance to use the technology. Additionally, the need for drilling and reorganization of existing kitchen layouts to accommodate the system could prove to be a significant barrier, deterring many users from adopting the technology. These issues must be addressed to increase user acceptance and ensure seamless integration of intelligent kitchen technology into their homes.

Moreover, the installation of pressure pads and other devices into certain cupboards/containers might not be viable due to spatial and areal constraints for wiring and organization.

Considering the already existing smart devices (Smart Fridge or Smart Stove) in the user's home, the possibility of the lack of compatibility with the system is a major concern.

Another limitation is whether or not the camera and software can be used to reliably detect objects and their weights. This is also limited by the amount of time and budget which we have available.

1.5 Overview

This project report starts with a Literature Review that examines existing research to identify gaps relevant to the project. It moves into the System Specification, detailing the functional and non-functional requirements that describe the system's behavior, performance, and optional elements. The Technical Approach and Design Alternatives section defines the problem, and the proposed solution, and includes various design diagrams while also considering alternative designs and resource needs. The Project Management Plan discusses how the project will be managed, focusing on timelines, responsibilities, and resource allocation. The implementation then explores the necessary hardware, software, and system integration. Following that, the Validation, Verification, and Performance Analysis Plan outlines how the system's functionality and performance will be tested and assessed. The broader Global, Economic, and Societal Impact of the project is analyzed to understand its implications beyond the technical scope. The report also includes relevant Standards that the project adheres to, and concludes with a Conclusion that summarizes the key findings and proposes areas for future work.

2. Literature Review

Food management and the reduction of food waste are critical areas of focus, resulting in the development of numerous systems and projects aimed at assisting individuals in better managing their food and groceries. This literature review examines 47 research papers to investigate the various systems implemented, methodologies applied, and the hardware and software utilized in developing Smart Kitchen Systems. The literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the following key areas: existing products in the market (e.g., Bottom Up Smart Kitchen, Samsung Smart Fridge, Siemens Smart Fridge), approaches to object recognition (e.g., RFID, Image Analysis and Smart Vision, NFC stickers), techniques for object quantity measurement (e.g., load/weight sensors, level measurement), database implementation methods (e.g., Google Firebase, MongoDB, MySQL), and the types of sensors used for specific functions (e.g., temperature sensors, humidity sensors, gas sensors, PIR sensors). Additionally, the review explores other supporting systems designed to enhance the accessibility and convenience of smart kitchen solutions for users.

2.1 Existing Products

2.1.1 Bottom Up Smart Kitchen

Smart Kitchens [2], a company by Superior Living in the UAE, specializes in designing and building custom smart kitchens from the ground up. The company offers complete kitchen makeovers, transforming existing spaces into bespoke smart kitchens with Italian-quality design. Each appliance is tailored to fit a specifically designed workflow for each home, ensuring a seamless and personalized experience. Appliances are manufactured in the company's factory and then shipped directly to the customer, delivering both quality and convenience. However, this comes with a high cost and limited availability of appliances as

they are custom-made. Unfortunately, more information was unavailable online, only stating that further details would be provided upon a house visit.

2.1.2 Samsung Smart Fridge

The Samsung Smart Fridge [3], part of the company's Family Hub lineup, seamlessly integrates advanced technology with everyday convenience, offering a range of features designed to meet the needs of modern households. Designed to enhance food management, entertainment, and connectivity, the Samsung Smart Fridge serves as a multifunctional hub for any kitchen.

Key features include a touchscreen control panel that allows users to browse the web, leave digital notes, and serve as a central command center for managing other smart devices in the home. Additionally, the fridge is equipped with internal cameras, enabling users to remotely check the contents of their refrigerator via their smartphones without physically opening the door. This feature provides convenient access to inventory information, helping users avoid purchasing duplicate items or missing essentials.

The fridge also boasts an integrated food management system and voice assistant, which assist users in tracking expiration dates, creating shopping lists, planning meals, and suggesting recipes based on available ingredients. The voice assistant enables hands-free control of these systems, adding a layer of convenience and efficiency to kitchen management.

Despite its innovative features, the Samsung Smart Fridge does come with several drawbacks. The high cost makes it a significant investment, often placing it beyond the reach of many consumers. Additionally, the complexity of the technology may be overwhelming for less tech-savvy users, and the maintenance and software updates required to keep the

system running smoothly can incur additional costs. Privacy concerns also arise from the use of internal cameras and continuous internet connectivity. Furthermore, the reliability of the smart features is highly dependent on stable internet access, which can affect performance if the connection is interrupted or weak.

2.1.3 Siemens Smart Fridge

The Siemens Smart Fridge [4], while similar to the Samsung Smart Fridge, is very limited in its “smart” applications. It allows users to connect and open the door of the fridge using voice commands and also see an image of the items inside the fridge using the internal cameras on the user's smartphone. However, it has most of the disadvantages of the Samsung Smart Fridge, mainly the high price point, security concerns, and the reliability of the smart features.

2.2 Object Identification

2.2.1 RFID

RFID technology plays a crucial role in enhancing smart kitchen systems by enabling efficient inventory management and user interaction. By employing RFID tags, systems can automatically identify and track kitchen items, monitor stock levels, and generate shopping lists to replenish the inventory[5][6]. Research Indicates that RFID can alert users about expired items and suggest recipes based on available ingredients, contributing to a more organized kitchen environment [7]. RFID technology will facilitate automated inventory tracking and restocking processes.

2.2.2 Image Analysis And Smart Vision

Image analysis, particularly through the use of cameras and machine learning, is vital in enhancing the functionality of smart kitchen systems like the IoT-based smart refrigerator.

This particular system allows users to monitor and interact with their fridges in real time, utilizing image analysis for effective object recognition and tracking of items stored inside [8]. Coupled with temperature and humidity sensors, the refrigerator provides critical information alerts and notifications, ensuring optimal food storage conditions. Integrating image analysis into our smart kitchen project will enable automated inventory management and assist in recognizing items.

Smart vision, powered by artificial intelligence, is essential for enhancing the functionality of smart refrigerators by enabling the detection of quality, quantity, and type of fruits and vegetables. As noted by Luo et al.[9] this system utilizes computer vision to recognize, classify, and quantify produce stored within the refrigerator. Integrating smart vision capabilities into our project will significantly improve user experience by providing real-time updates and insights and fostering a deeper understanding of food quality, enriching the overall smart kitchen environment.

2.2.3 NFC stickers

NFC stickers serve as a pivotal element in enhancing smart kitchen systems, exemplified by the pocket pantry storage solution. As discussed by Kim et al. [10], these stickers enable seamless tracking of food items through mobile applications, allowing users to easily monitor their pantry inventory. The integration of NFC technology streamlines interactions with the system, simplifying the process of locating and managing food supplies.

2.3 Quantity Measurement

2.3.1 Load/Weight sensors

We found systems that incorporated a variety of sensors to enhance their functionality, with load sensors playing a particularly crucial role in evaluating the weight of objects [11]. These load sensors are essential for monitoring the weight of stored items, which is fundamental to

tracking inventory levels in real time [12]. The system begins by recording the initial weight of each object [13], which serves as the baseline or full volume [14]. As items are used or removed, the load sensors detect weight changes, allowing the system to calculate the amount consumed.

In addition to the load sensors, the system employs computer vision techniques that work with microcontrollers. The microcontrollers gather data from both the load sensors and the camera, relaying this information to the Raspberry Pi, the system's central processing unit [13]. By combining the weight data and visual information [15], the system can provide a more accurate estimation of the remaining amount of each object [16]. This integrated approach enhances the system's ability to manage and track inventory efficiently, offering a real-time view of available resources, which is especially useful for smart kitchens or automated inventory systems[17].

2.3.2 Level measurement

Building on the idea presented in section 2.3.1, our system also integrates a camera within the cupboard that captures images of the objects stored and the quantity of products available. This camera plays a crucial role in enhancing inventory management by providing a visual representation of the contents. The captured images are processed using MATLAB R2019a, a software known for its robust image-processing capabilities [18] discussed in 2.2.2.

Through image processing techniques, the system analyzes the captured images to determine the level of each product and its current position within the cupboard [19]. This analysis allows for more accurate tracking of inventory, as the system can identify which items are present and their respective quantities. By combining the data from the load sensors with the visual information obtained from the camera, the system creates a comprehensive overview

of the stored items [20]. This multifaceted approach not only improves the accuracy of inventory management but also facilitates better organization and accessibility of products, making it particularly beneficial for users in smart kitchen environments [21][22].

2.4 Sensors

2.4.1 Temperature Sensor

Temperature sensors are crucial components that accurately determine temperature. Ashwathan R. et al [23] introduced a system that used sensors to detect the temperature inside a refrigerator, ensuring consistent temperature for food storage. In another study conducted by Sowndarya Palanisamy et al.[24] used a DHT11 sensor to measure the temperature of containers with great precision, which is crucial for preventing food spoilage. Additionally, Shreya Gupta et al.[25] employed thermistors for temperature measurement in their research. Furthermore, Neethu Nadar et al.[26] utilized an LM35 series sensor for temperature and a DHT22 humidity sensor to detect cooling defects or lower temperatures in the fridge, making it possible to store foods requiring specific temperature conditions.

2.4.2 Humidity Sensor

When it comes to food preservation, humidity is a crucial parameter. Sowndarya et al. [24] conducted a study in which they used a sensor to measure the electrical resistance between two electrodes for accurately detecting and monitoring humidity levels. Additionally, it utilizes a moisture-absorbing substrate to enhance the precision of their humidity measurements. In a separate research conducted by Ashwath R et al [23], they demonstrated the use of a NodeMCU controller to control and power a humidity sensor. Moreover, Devanath B et al [27] demonstrated in the paper that it showcases the implementation of

humidity sensors in the food industry to monitor and maintain conditions for ensuring the safety and quality of food products.

2.4.3 Gas sensor

Gas sensors help in resolving issues by detecting and preventing gas leaks, which can potentially lead to kitchen fires. Additionally, gas sensors can also monitor the concentration of specific gasses, thereby helping to prevent food spoilage. For example, Shah et al. [28] used a system equipped with an MQ-135 gas sensor to detect LPG leaks. Additionally, research by Shah et al. [28] also used the MQ-135 gas sensor, which can detect combustible gasses such as LPG, CH₄, CO, and propane. In another study conducted by Simran Goelet et al., [29] the Flying Fish MQ3 Gas sensor was employed to detect the presence of ethylene. Ethylene is known to induce fruit ripening, and an excessive amount can result in fruit spoilage. This is particularly significant as the spoilage of one fruit can lead to the spoilage of others due to the spread of ethylene.

2.4.4 Other sensors

Various types of sensors are used in different research papers, including passive infrared (PIR) and infrared flame sensors, which are used for detecting human activity and fire incidents. For instance, a study by Shah et al [28] used PIR and infrared flame sensors to identify kitchen fires. Additionally, Nasser et al.'s [30] paper introduces Light Dependent Resistors (LDR) to monitor containers containing liquids.

2.5 Shopping Cart System

Numerous studies have implemented automated shopping list generation by comparing the current inventory with the user's predefined list of stocked items, ensuring that quantities remain above specified minimum thresholds [5][6][31]. The generated list is then transmitted

to the user, either via a mobile application or a web-based platform, for review and further action.

2.6 Database Implementation

2.6.1 Google Firebase

The paper highlights the importance of Google Firebase in the context of smart kitchens, as it provides a good backend solution. In a study conducted by Abrar et al., sensor [32] and microcontroller data were uploaded to Firebase and integrated with the app. Firebase is known for its strong computational capacity and efficient handling of data transfer, which saves time. Another paper by Ashwatan et al [23] discusses using Firebase as a real-time database for storing sensor-collected data. Another paper [33] discusses the use of Firebase to store images which was used for image processing techniques to identify vegetables.

2.6.2 MongoDB

MongoDB is a NoSQL database that allows for dynamic schemas, enabling developers to store unstructured or semi-structured data without requiring predefined schemas. It also supports the distribution of data across multiple servers, which helps improve performance and enables the database to handle high throughput applications with large datasets efficiently. For example, [34] uses MongoDB connected to a Raspberry Pi and a fingerprint reader and

2.6.3 MySQL

MySQL can be used as a central database for managing data from various sensors and microcontrollers in a smart IoT kitchen. It can store information on inventory levels and expiration dates, allowing for real-time updates and notifications. It could be integrated with mobile apps, enabling users to easily manage their kitchens. For example, in a system

proposed by Chatterjee [35], MySQL was used to maintain the database. Moreover, another study by Sivakumar et al. [36] also used MySQL to manage system data efficiently.

2.7 Applications

Applications and interfaces can help users control the system more efficiently and provide real-time data updates. Chatterjee et al.[35] proposed a system that utilizes a mobile app developed for Android. It will send alerts to the user through this app. Additionally, Sandeep et al.[37] presented an article that describes an Android application created using Java in Eclipse. This app allows users to access kitchen parameters such as containers and gas leakage, which are displayed, and regular notifications are sent to the user as they change. Another article by Rezwan et al. [38] discusses an app with a website and mobile app for ordering groceries with cash on delivery. Users can create monthly grocery lists, receive alerts when items are running low, and track their orders through this website. Furthermore, Kim et al. [39] proposed a system that uses a mobile app allowing users to manage pantry supplies. The app uses speech recognition to control the system that shows the requested item. It is built with Google's Flutter, which works on both Android and iOS.

2.8 Recipes recommendation

Smart kitchen systems are increasingly integrating personalized recipe and recommendation features to enhance user experience and promote efficient use of available ingredients. These functionalities leverage data on current inventory, dietary preferences, and cooking habits to suggest meal ideas tailored to the user's needs. By utilizing machine learning algorithms and real-time inventory tracking, many systems can suggest recipes based on items already present in the kitchen, reducing food waste and minimizing additional grocery purchases. For instance, ChefAI.IN demonstrates the potential of AI algorithms in generating culturally specific recipes, such as Indian cuisine, by analyzing ingredients on hand and providing personalized suggestions [40]. Similarly, a system named AutoChef explores the automated

generation of cooking recipes, allowing users to receive recommendations that align with both preferences and availability [41].

2.9 Expiration Date Management

The tracking and estimation of expiration dates is a necessary component of any inventory system as it consistently ensures that no spoilage occurs to the items and to allow the user to be notified for their restocking. However, as we researched more extensively on the implementation, we are yet to see this feature documented properly.

2.10 Conclusion

The literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of existing Smart Kitchen Systems, focusing on the integration of various technologies to enhance food management, reduce waste, and improve user convenience. The review covered 47 research papers that explored diverse approaches to system implementation, object recognition, object quantity measurement, database integration, and the use of various sensors in smart kitchens.

The findings reveal that the implementation of smart kitchen systems involves a combination of advanced hardware and software technologies, such as RFID tags, image analysis, smart vision, and NFC stickers for effective object recognition. These technologies contribute significantly to optimizing inventory management, ensuring accurate tracking of food items, and minimizing waste. Weight and level measurement sensors further aid in the precise monitoring of food quantities, enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of smart kitchen solutions.

Database integration, particularly using platforms like Google Firebase, plays a crucial role in maintaining real-time data, enabling users to manage their kitchens remotely through mobile applications. The review also highlights the importance of environmental sensors, including

temperature, humidity, and gas sensors, which are essential for maintaining the optimal storage conditions needed to prevent spoilage and enhance food safety.

Despite the innovative advancements in smart kitchen systems, several limitations and challenges were identified, such as the high cost of advanced appliances, privacy concerns associated with camera and sensor use, and the dependence on internet connectivity for optimal performance. Addressing these issues will be vital for the widespread adoption and success of these systems in the consumer market.

Our smart IoT kitchen system will use a variety of technologies to enhance user experience and efficiency. We will utilize image analysis and NFC stickers for inventory tracking and supply management. Load sensors will monitor the weight of kitchen items, while gas sensors will detect ethylene gas to assess the ripeness of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, we will implement a shopping cart system for grocery management. Moreover, integrating artificial intelligence into our system will suggest cooking recipes based on available ingredients hence simplifying meal preparation for users. To further optimize the system, we will incorporate passive infrared sensors, as well as temperature and humidity sensors to monitor the kitchen environment. Our development will focus on creating a user-friendly mobile application for Android using Java. A 360-degree camera will enhance image analysis, while RFID tags will improve inventory tracking. By combining these innovative technologies, we aim to create an efficient and intuitive smart IoT kitchen that transforms cooking and grocery management into a more enjoyable experience.

3. System Specification:

3.1 Functional Requirements:

F.R. 1: The system shall monitor and measure food items using sensors, cameras, and scales in kitchen storage areas.

F.R. 2: The system will allow users to input and modify details:

F.R. 2.1: The system shall allow users to input and modify item information manually.

F.R. 2.2: The system shall allow users to input and modify the item restock threshold.

F.R. 2.3: The system shall allow users to add/remove items directly into a shopping list.

F.R. 2.4: The system shall allow users to save and use custom recipes.

F.R. 2.5: The system shall allow users to specify preferred stores and delivery options.

F.R. 2.6: The system shall allow users to directly place orders online from the shopping list

F.R. 2.7: The system shall allow users to set and change notification preferences.

F.R. 2.8: The system shall allow users to input expiration dates by scanning tags.

F.R. 3: The system will allow users to view information and receive alerts:

F.R. 3.1: The system shall allow users to view the details of each item.

F.R. 3.2: The system shall allow users to view detailed reports of their inventory.

F.R. 3.3: The system shall send users an alert when items stock falls below the set restock threshold.

F.R. 3.4: The system shall send users an alert when items near/have reached their expiration date.

F.R. 3.5: The system shall provide users with a summary of items approaching their expiration date.

F.R. 3.6: The system shall provide users with a historical log of inventory changes.

F.R. 3.7: The system shall provide users with a historical log of expired items/ items removed after their expiration date.

F.R. 3.8: The system shall generate and provide users with a shopping list of required/missing items for meal preparation.

F.R. 3.9: The system shall allow users to view previous shopping lists.

F.R. 3.10: The system shall alert users when items are stored incorrectly.

F.R. 3.11: The system shall alert users when items are unable to be identified or incorrectly measured.

F.R. 4: The system shall store and log the necessary information:

F.R. 4.1: The system shall store item name, category, quantity, expiration date, restock threshold (optional), freshness, and order location preferences.

F.R. 4.2: The system shall store user information and preferences regarding delivery address, time and type of delivery, notifications, online stores, and meals.

F.R. 4.3: The system shall log all items added, moved, or used including when and quantity.

F.R. 4.4: The system shall log all items that expired or were removed after the expiration date.

F.R. 4.5: The system shall store where each item is located.

F.R. 4.6: The system shall store recipes specified or entered by the user.

F.R. 4.7: The system shall log all meals planned/made.

F.R. 5: The system shall give users recommendations:

F.R. 5.1: The system shall recommend recipes to the user based on preferences, existing inventory, and past meals.

F.R. 5.2: The system shall recommend recipes to the user based on items nearing expiry.

F.R. 5.3: The system shall recommend how, where and what temperature items should be stored in.

F.R. 5.4: The system shall recommend quantities of items to order based on expiration logs, and meal plans.

F.R. 6: The system shall do the necessary computations:

F.R. 6.1: The system shall compute the change in weight on a pressure pad or weighing scale to measure the weight of an object.

F.R. 6.2: The system shall compare stored item quantity and restock threshold to generate alerts and add to a shopping list.

F.R. 6.3: The system shall compare stored item expiration dates and user preferences on alert timing to generate alerts.

F.R. 6.4: The system shall compare items required for the current meal plan and items in inventory to generate a shopping list.

F.R. 6.5: The system shall compute the optimal quantities of each item to order based on previous usage, meal plan, and expiration log.

F.R. 7: The system shall allow users to make any inputs or receive any reports, lists, or notifications, through an interface or a mobile application.

3.2. Nonfunctional requirements

N.F.R. 1: Performance

N.F.R. 1.1: Response Time: The system must process user commands and interactions with a response time of no more than 2 seconds to ensure a seamless user experience. This is critical for real-time inventory monitoring, notifications, and updates.

N.F.R. 1.2: Multi-User Handling: The system shall support concurrent usage by multiple users without performance degradation. It should handle at least 100 simultaneous users effectively for household and multi-tenant applications.

N.F.R. 1.3: Real-Time Data Updates: The system shall provide real-time updates and notifications for monitored appliances, inventory changes, and kitchen conditions. Users should receive alerts immediately when thresholds or conditions are met.

N.F.R. 2: Security

N.F.R. 2.1: Data Protection: User data, including login credentials, inventory data, meal plans, and shopping lists, must be encrypted both at rest and during transmission using industry-standard encryption protocols (e.g., AES-256 for data at rest, TLS 1.3 for data in transit).

N.F.R. 2.2: Authentication and Access Control: The system shall include secure authentication mechanisms, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), to verify user identity and prevent unauthorized access.

N.F.R. 2.3: Regulatory Compliance: The system must comply with data protection laws and regulations relevant to the target market (e.g., GDPR, CCPA) to safeguard user privacy and ensure that personal data is accessible only by authorized users.

N.F.R. 3: Device Compatibility

N.F.R. 3.1: IoT Protocol Support: The system must support various IoT communication protocols (e.g., MQTT, HTTP, CoAP) to ensure compatibility with a wide range of smart kitchen appliances from different manufacturers.

N.F.R. 3.2: Cross-Platform Accessibility: The system shall be accessible through both iOS and Android mobile applications, as well as major web browsers (e.g., Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge) for ease of use across devices.

N.F.R. 3.3: Hardware and OS Support: The mobile application and web platform must function seamlessly on common operating systems, supporting devices released within the past 5 years to maintain broad usability.

N.F.R. 4: Maintenance

N.F.R. 4.1: Modular Architecture: The system must have a modular design that allows for easy updates and maintenance of individual components (e.g., inventory tracking, meal planning, notification modules) without affecting the entire system's functionality.

N.F.R. 4.2: Remote Updates: The system shall support over-the-air (OTA) updates for firmware and software patches to maintain security, add new features, and fix bugs with minimal user intervention.

N.F.R. 4.3: Diagnostic Tools: Built-in diagnostic tools must be available for developers and users to troubleshoot issues quickly and efficiently, identifying and isolating malfunctioning components.

N.F.R. 5: Reliability

N.F.R. 5.1: Resilience and Failover: The system must be designed for resilience. If a component fails (e.g., a sensor, network connection, or cloud service), other parts of the system should continue to function. Critical functions such as inventory updates and appliance control must have local fallback options to ensure ongoing operations.

N.F.R. 5.2: Data Backup and Recovery: The system shall perform automatic, scheduled backups of all critical data, including user preferences, device settings, and usage history. Restoration capabilities should be available, allowing data recovery within 2 minutes in the event of data loss or system failure.

N.F.R. 5.3: Load Management: The system must manage load distribution effectively to prevent server overloads during peak times. Load balancing mechanisms must ensure a consistent performance experience, even under high user demand.

N.F.R. 6: Usability and User Experience

N.F.R. 6.1: User Interface (UI): The system must offer an intuitive and user-friendly interface that accommodates users of different technical expertise levels. The design must prioritize ease of navigation, clear categorization, and informative feedback during user interactions.

N.F.R. 6.2: Accessibility: The system shall include multi-language support and accessibility features such as screen reader compatibility, adjustable text sizes, and high-contrast mode to cater to users with disabilities.

N.F.R. 6.3: Customization: Users must be able to customize notification settings, including types of alerts, delivery channels (e.g., SMS, push notifications), and timing to suit individual preferences.

N.F.R. 7: Scalability

N.F.R. 7.1: Scalable Architecture: The system must be scalable to accommodate future growth, including the addition of new kitchen appliances, users, and data sources without needing significant architectural changes.

N.F.R. 7.2: Horizontal and Vertical Scaling: The system should support horizontal scaling (adding more machines) and vertical scaling (upgrading existing machine capabilities) to meet increased data processing and user interaction demands.

N.F.R. 8: Data Integrity and Accuracy

N.F.R. 8.1: Data Synchronization: The system must ensure that data across all devices and platforms remains synchronized, preventing data discrepancies and ensuring that users view consistent information.

N.F.R. 8.2: Redundant Data Checks: The system shall perform redundant checks to verify the accuracy of input data from sensors and user interactions, ensuring that inventory and expiration updates reflect true conditions.

Pseudo Requirements (Optional Constraints):

- **Integration with Legacy Systems:** If required by specific users or clients, the system shall interface with pre-existing kitchen automation systems or data repositories, potentially written in older languages or with outdated data structures.
- **Implementation Language:** The primary development language for core modules must align with client preferences (e.g., Python for its IoT libraries, JavaScript for frontend and web integration).

3.3 Use Cases

3.3.1 Use Case Diagram

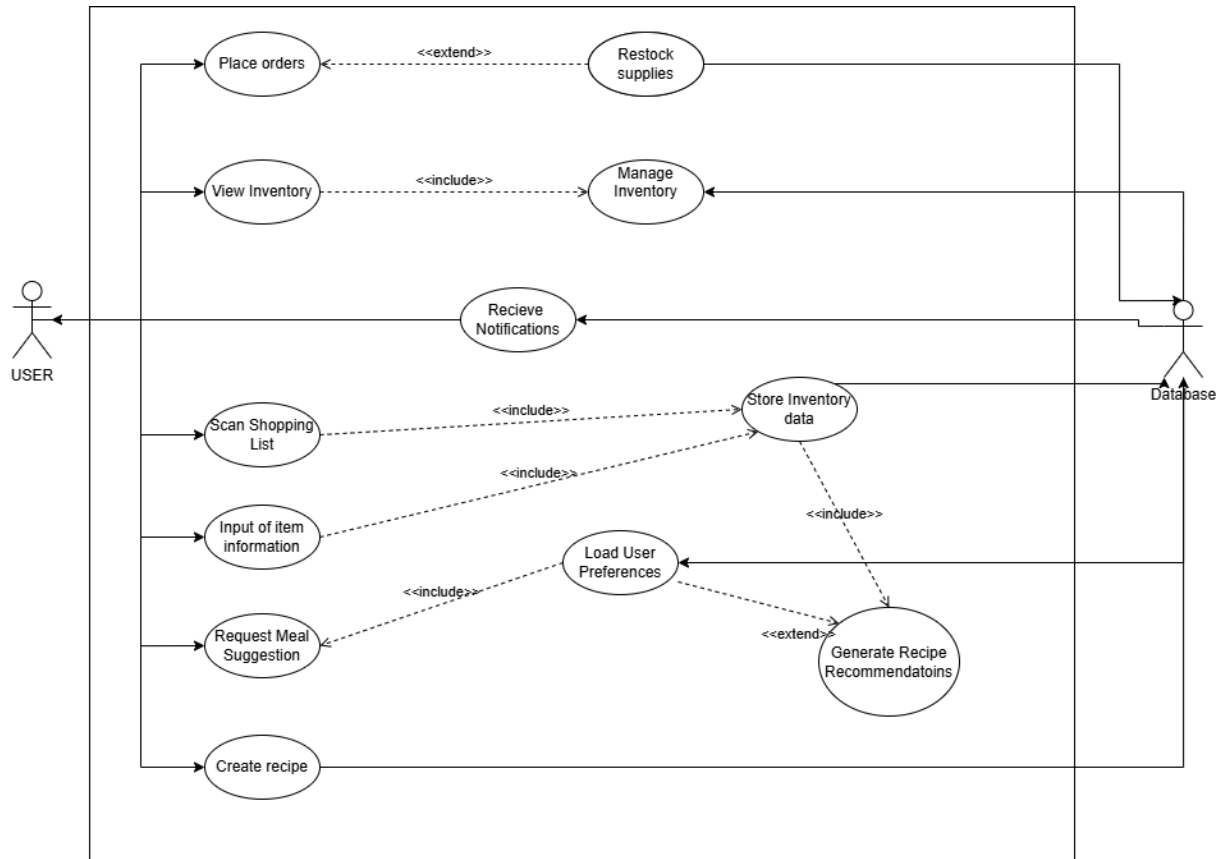


Fig. 1 Use Case Diagram

3.3.2 Use Case Tables

Use Case ID:	FR1.1
Use Case Name:	Visual Inventory Detection
Created By:	Kareem Ahmed
Actors:	User, Database
Description:	The system uses cameras to visually detect and identify items in the kitchen, updating the inventory system.
Preconditions:	Cameras must be installed and configured. The Central Processing System must be

	connected to the cameras and Firebase.
Postconditions:	The detected items are logged in the inventory database. The inventory list is updated and displayed on the user interface.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The interior camera captures images of the cupboard and fridge areas.- The Central Processing System processes the images using computer vision algorithms.- Detected items are identified and matched with the database entries.- The database is updated with the items' quantities and storage locations.- The user sees updated inventory details on the interface.
Alternative Courses:	If an item is not recognized, the system prompts the user to manually input it through the mobile app.
Exceptions:	If the camera fails to detect or capture an image, the system will notify the user to check the camera placement or configuration.
Includes:	Object Detection, Inventory Update
Assumptions (if any):	The cameras are positioned correctly for effective item tracking.

Fig. 2 Inventory Detection via Cameras

Use Case ID:	FR1.2
Use Case Name:	Weight-Based Inventory Tracking
Created By:	Mohammad Arfan Ameen
Actors:	User, Database
Description:	Weight sensors connected to Arduino devices are used to measure and update inventory quantities.
Preconditions:	Weight sensors must be installed and

	connected to the Arduino boards, which interface with the database.
Postconditions:	Updated weight data is stored, reflecting the current quantity of items.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Weight sensors detect changes in item weights.- Arduino boards process the data and send it to the Firebase database.- The system updates the quantity of the item based on the weight measurement.
Alternative Courses:	If the weight data is inconsistent, the system notifies the user for manual verification.
Exceptions:	If a sensor malfunctions, the Arduino board logs the error and triggers a system alert.
Includes:	Data transmission from Arduino, user notification for discrepancies
Assumptions (if any):	Weight sensors are calibrated and functioning properly.

Fig. 3 Weight-Based Inventory Updates

Use Case ID:	FR1.3
Use Case Name:	Environmental Monitoring of Storage Conditions
Created By:	Farzaan Siddiqui
Actors:	User, Database
Description:	Monitoring temperature and humidity levels in storage areas to ensure proper food storage

	conditions.
Preconditions:	Temperature and humidity sensors must be set up and connected to the Arduino devices.
Postconditions:	The system logs the temperature and humidity data in the database, providing the user with current storage condition details.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Temperature and humidity sensors measure the environmental conditions.- Data is processed by the connected Arduino and sent to the Firebase database.- The system displays current temperature and humidity levels on the mobile app.
Alternative Courses:	The system alerts the user if temperature or humidity exceeds set thresholds
Exceptions:	If sensor readings are unavailable, the system retries data collection and logs the failure if it persists.
Includes:	User notifications for threshold breaches
Assumptions (if any):	Sensors are positioned accurately and are operational.

Fig. 4 Temperature and Humidity Monitoring

Use Case ID:	FR2.1
Use Case Name:	Expiration Management - Expiry Date Input
Created By:	Adithya Sankar
Actors:	User, Database
Description:	The system will allow the user to manually input expiry dates for food items stored in the

	system, ensuring items approaching expiry are properly monitored.
Preconditions:	The Central Processing System and the touchscreen interface must be functional. The user must have valid access to the mobile app or touchscreen.
Postconditions:	Expiry dates are stored in the database. Users are notified when an item is approaching its expiry date.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The user inputs the expiry date for a new item either via the touchscreen or mobile app. - The Central Processing System processes and sends the data to the database. - The database updates the item's details, including its expiry date. - The system calculates the time remaining until expiration. - The user receives notifications based on the set threshold before the expiry date.
Alternative Courses:	If the user fails to input a date, the system will remind them to do so within the application.
Exceptions:	If communication fails between the touchscreen and The Central Processing System, the user receives a notification to reattempt input.
Includes:	Database Update, Notification System
Assumptions (if any):	The Firebase database is accessible and operational.

Fig. 5 Expiry Date Input

Use Case ID:	FR2.2
Use Case Name:	Expiry Date Notification Alert
Created By:	Kareem Ahmed

Actors:	User, Database
Description:	The system will send reminders for items approaching their expiration dates based on user-defined thresholds.
Preconditions:	Expiration dates must be properly input and synced with the cloud database.
Postconditions:	Users receive timely reminders, and the system tracks expired items.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The system checks the expiration dates for items in the inventory at regular intervals (daily/weekly).- If an item's expiration date is within a user-defined threshold, a reminder is triggered.- The mobile app sends notifications to the user's device.- The user receives an alert and can plan their usage accordingly.
Alternative Courses:	If the user has disabled notifications, no reminder is sent.
Exceptions:	If there is a failure in the notification service, the system logs the issue and retries sending the alert.
Includes:	Notification system, date checking
Assumptions (if any):	Users have set expiration threshold preferences in the app.

Fig. 6 Expiry Reminder

Use Case ID:	FR2.3
Use Case Name:	Expiration Log
Created By:	Mohammed Arfan Ameen
Actors:	User, Database

Description:	This use case tracks and logs expired items, allowing users to view a history of expired food items and gain insights into food wastage patterns.
Preconditions:	The expiration dates for items are stored in the system. The system tracks all food item removals or disposals after expiration.
Postconditions:	An updated log of expired items is stored in the system. Historical data regarding expired items is available for user review.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As food items approach expiration, the system tracks them for removal or disposal. - When an item expires, it is flagged in the inventory and logged as expired in the system. - The user can view a detailed report of expired items, including dates and usage patterns, via the app or interface.
Alternative Courses:	If items are not removed by the user after expiration, the system sends a reminder for manual removal.
Exceptions:	If an item is incorrectly marked as expired (e.g., due to input error), the system flags the data for review.
Includes:	Data storage for expired items. Historical data analytics for expired item patterns.
Assumptions (if any):	The system properly tracks item removals and updates the expiration log in real-time. Users can view historical logs of expired items via their interface.

Fig. 7 Expiration Log

Use Case ID:	FR3
Use Case Name:	Suggest Recipes Based on Available Ingredients

Created By:	Farzaan Siddiqui
Actors:	User, Database, Meal Planner Algorithm
Description:	Based on the available ingredients detected in the inventory, the system will suggest recipes to the user that match the available items.
Preconditions:	The inventory tracking system must be functional and updated in real-time with current ingredient quantities. The user must have provided dietary preferences and restrictions.
Postconditions:	A list of suggested recipes appears on the user interface. The user selects a recipe to proceed with.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The system retrieves the current inventory data from the database. - The meal planner algorithm analyzes the available ingredients. - Based on the ingredients available, the system generates a list of recipes. - The list of recipes is displayed on the user interface for selection. - The user selects a recipe, which is then added to their meal plan.
Alternative Courses:	The system will suggest substitutions or alternative recipes if there are not enough ingredients for a meal.
Exceptions:	If the inventory data is outdated, the system will prompt the user to update the information.
Includes:	Inventory Analysis, Recipe Generation
Assumptions (if any):	The recipe database contains sufficient options that meet dietary needs. Inventory data is correctly synced with the Firebase database.

Fig. 8 Meal Planning Recommendations

Use Case ID:	FR4
Use Case Name:	Generate Shopping List Based on Missing Items

Created By:	Adithya Sankar
Actors:	User, Database
Description:	The system generates a shopping list based on the analysis of the user's meal plan and current inventory, highlighting missing or low-stock items.
Preconditions:	The meal planning system must be operational. The inventory tracking system must have accurate data.
Postconditions:	A shopping list is generated, displaying missing items. The user may confirm or edit the list.
Normal Course:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The system analyzes the user's meal plan and compares it with the available inventory.- Missing or low-stock items are identified and added to the shopping list.- The user is presented with a shopping list on the touchscreen or mobile app.- The user can manually add or remove items from the list.- The user may choose to purchase directly through the app or store preferences for future shopping.
Alternative Courses:	If the user prefers to shop manually, they can disable automatic list generation.
Exceptions:	If the shopping list algorithm encounters an error (e.g., missing inventory data), the system will notify the user and allow manual input.
Includes:	Inventory and Meal Plan Analysis, Shopping List Creation
Assumptions (if any):	The meal plan data is up-to-date and complete.

Fig. 9 Smart Shopping Assistant

4. Technical Approach and Design Alternatives

4.1 Problem Statement and Proposed Solution

As discussed in Section 1, food waste is a consistent problem in households, leading to environmental, economic, and social costs. A significant amount of food is wasted due to over-purchasing, improper storage, and a lack of awareness and tracking of expiration dates. Current systems and implementations lack easy-to-use, integrated features for inventory tracking, expiration monitoring, meal planning, etc, in a single solution. We aim to solve these issues by developing an intelligent kitchen management system that leverages IoT and AI to streamline food inventory management, reduce waste, and support users in meal planning and grocery shopping. This system includes the following main modules:

- **Inventory Tracking:** Sensors, cameras, and weighing scales monitor food items in the kitchen to track quantity, weight, and location. The system will notify users when items reach a minimum threshold, prompting restock reminders.
- **Expiration Management:** The system will track food freshness and expiration dates, sending reminders for items nearing expiration to minimize spoilage.
- **Meal Planning:** Based on available ingredients, the system will suggest personalized recipes and meal plans. Users can input their recipes, and the system will learn preferences over time to offer more tailored suggestions.
- **Smart Shopping Assistance:** The system will create a shopping list based on meal plan requirements and inventory analysis, and allow for online ordering if desired.
- **Mobile Application:** A mobile app will connect users to the system, providing notifications, reminders, and easy access to inventory and meal planning information on the go.

This solution aims to provide users with an integrated, user-friendly experience that simplifies kitchen management and supports sustainable, efficient grocery shopping while reducing food waste and cost.

4.2 Design of the Solution

The proposed solution has each location localized, with sensors connected to an Arduino which communicates with a main Raspberry Pi. This Raspberry Pi does the main computations and communication with the database and users. Each Arduino has sensors such as Humidity/temperature sensors, gas sensors, load cells connected to amplifiers, and a husky lens (small camera). The overall kitchen is monitored by a 360-degree camera which identifies and tracks items and where items are stored. There is also a central weighing station which is used during cooking or the organization of items to easily identify items and their quantities to be input into the database. The whole system is also connected to a local LCD Monitor and accessible to the user through a mobile application for ease of access.

4.2.1 System Overview

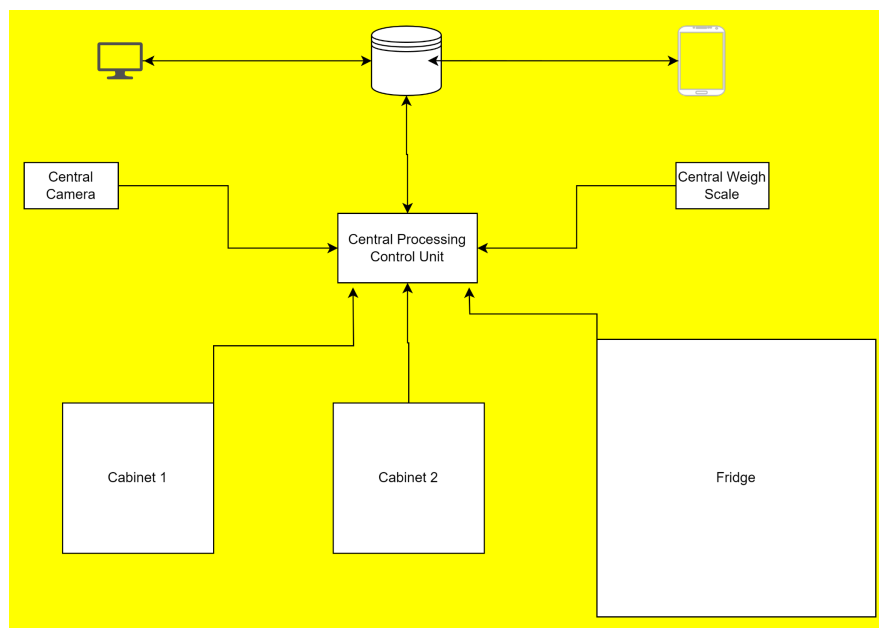
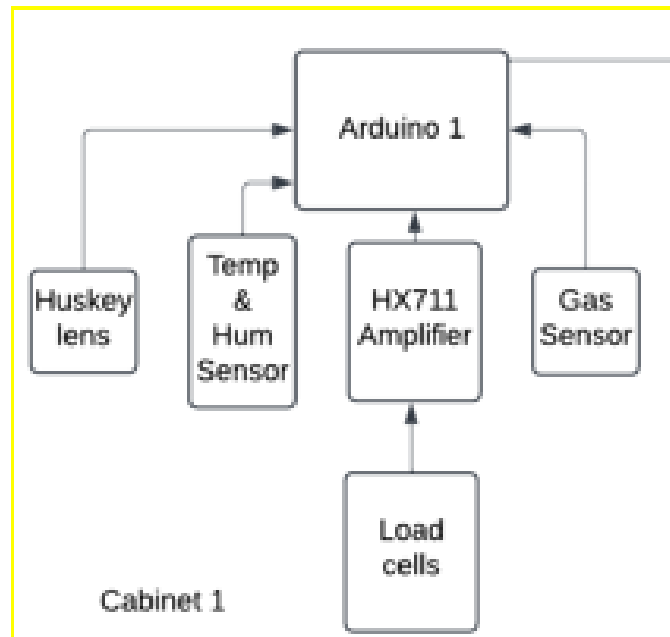


Fig. 10 Block Diagram**Fig. 11 Internal Cabinet Block Diagram**

This block diagram represents the proposed system across multiple kitchen storage areas, such as cabinets and a fridge. At the core of the system is a Raspberry Pi that serves as the central processing unit, coordinating with multiple Arduino microcontrollers (Arduino 1, 2, 3, and 4) assigned to different storage areas. Each Arduino setup is equipped with various sensors to track specific environmental conditions and item characteristics.

For example, each cabinet and the fridge are outfitted with temperature and humidity sensors (DHT11 and HX711 amplifiers) to monitor conditions, gas sensors for detecting spoilage gasses, and load cells to measure the weight of food items, ensuring accurate inventory tracking. The system also includes husky lens cameras to recognize and identify items stored in each area. The Raspberry Pi aggregates data from all sensors and communicates with a weight scale, camera, LCD monitor, and mobile device to provide real-time feedback, reminders, and updates on inventory status.

4.2.2 System Workflow

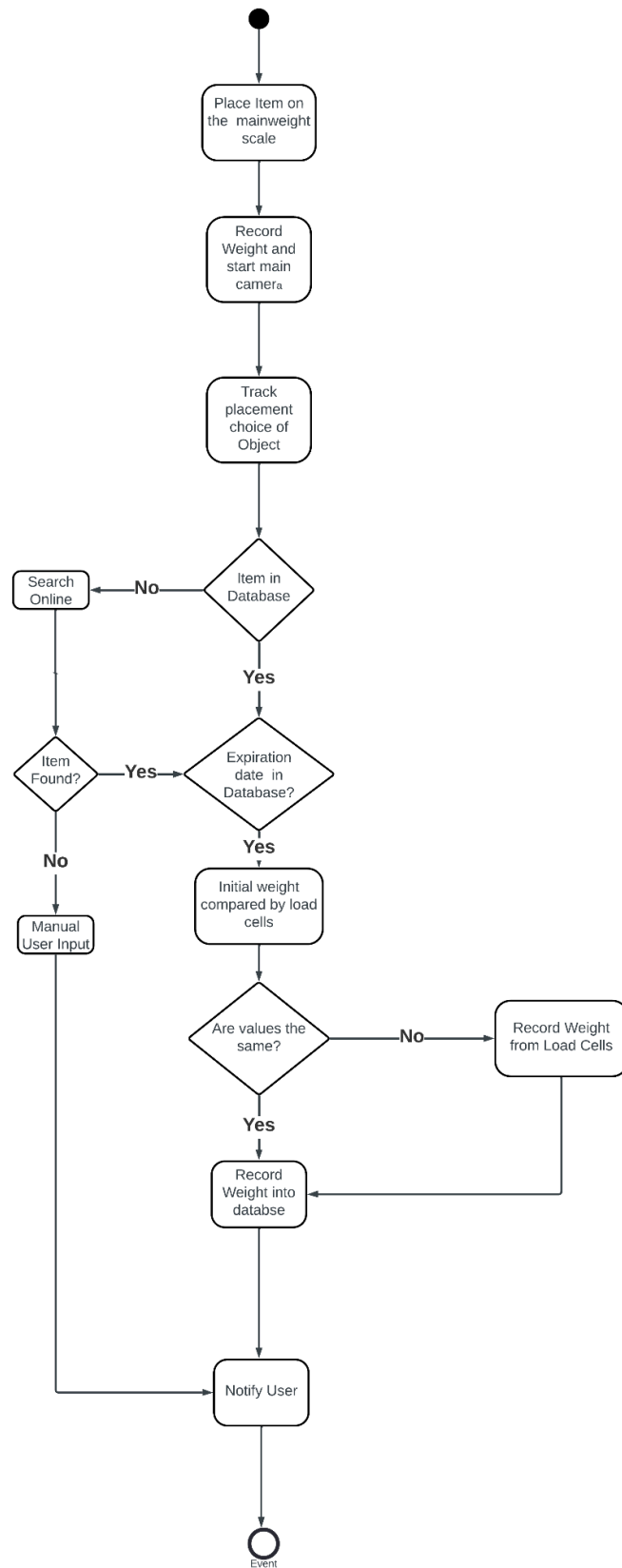


Fig. 12 Workflow Diagram 1: Entry of Items

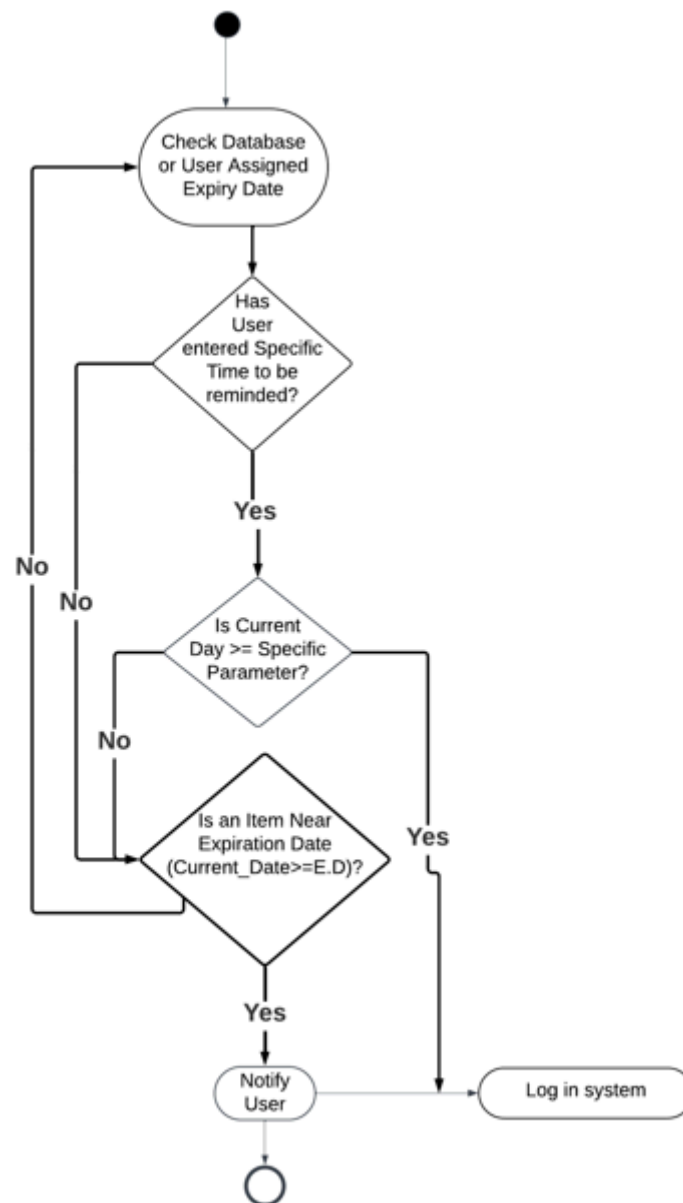


Fig. 13 Workflow Diagram 2: Expiration Check of Items

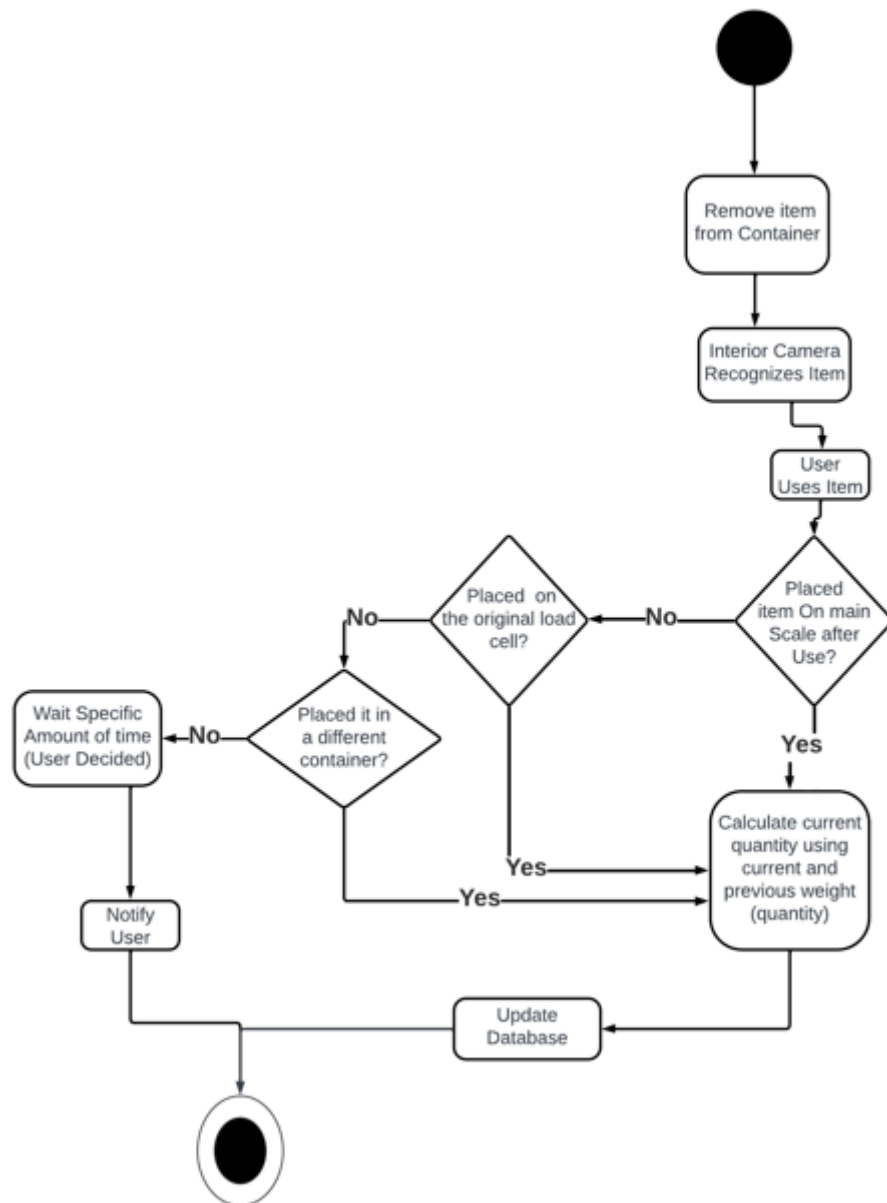


Fig. 14 Workflow Diagram 3: Usage of Items

This workflow diagram represents the flow of instructions in the system. The primary input for the system would be the items. Specific designations are as follows, when the user finishes shopping and scans the receipt, the bought items are processed by the database to map the scanned items to their images on the pre-defined table or add it through a simple

predefined search parameters on the internet to be added. If an item still can not be identified, user intervention is needed.

When the user arrives home the system starts mapping out the locations of the items through the following processes. The user first puts the items individually or as a batch on the main weighing scale. Then the user proceeds to place the item in the designated areas (the cabinets or the fridge). The main camera module tracks the user with the current item at hand and notifies the system of the location chosen; furthermore, the fridge/cupboard camera makes sure that the information is correct. The item's weight is then tracked through both the main scale where the user initially weighed the item and through the load cells present in whichever designated location. To keep track of the percentage of use and/or the item's quantity available.

Using the predesignated database of said items, the expiry date will be set. All the stated information can be accessed and modified by the user (weight, expiry date, type of item) to ensure correctness. When an item nears the expiry date or stock provision, the user will receive a notification of the item, location, and expiry date. The user can set up automatic ordering of said item to reduce user interference. The user will then be given at the beginning of the device's installation a survey to input their food preferences, allergies, and cuisine inclination. Based on the assessment, an AI based recommendation system developed by the team will generate and/or recommend a list of recipes based on available food products in the kitchen; allowing the user to access it via an LCD screen or the web application.

4.2.3 Additional Flow-Charts

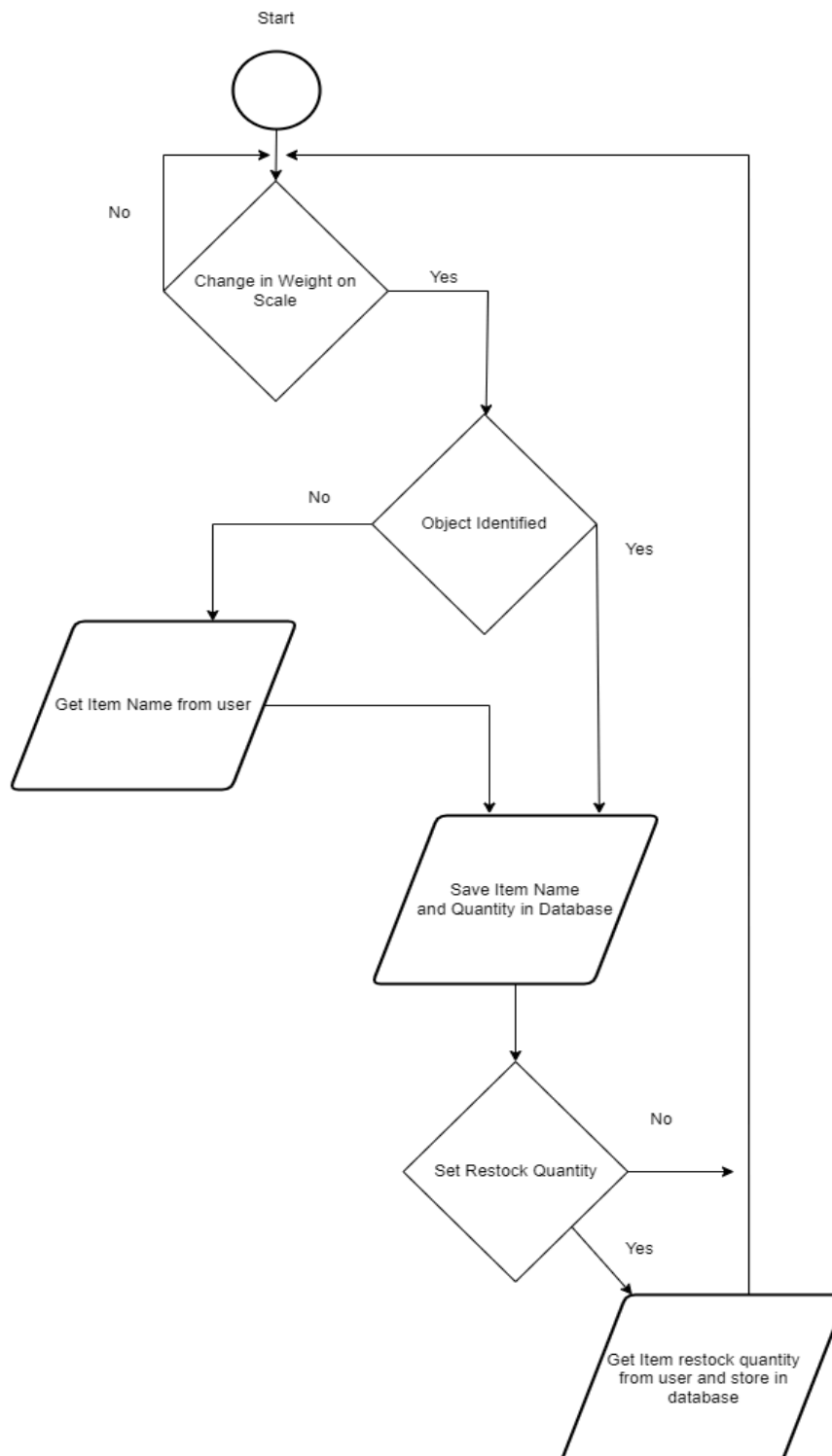


Fig 15 Flow Chart for Item Input

The above figure (fig.4) represents the flow of events when an item is placed into the fridge or cupboard in the kitchen. It begins by detecting a change in weight on the pressure pads to

start the whole process. The item is then identified and any invalid/incomplete data is input into the system by the user. The system also prompts the user for a restock quantity (if the item doesn't exist in the database already) and adds all the details into the database. The system then goes back to idle until a weight change is detected.

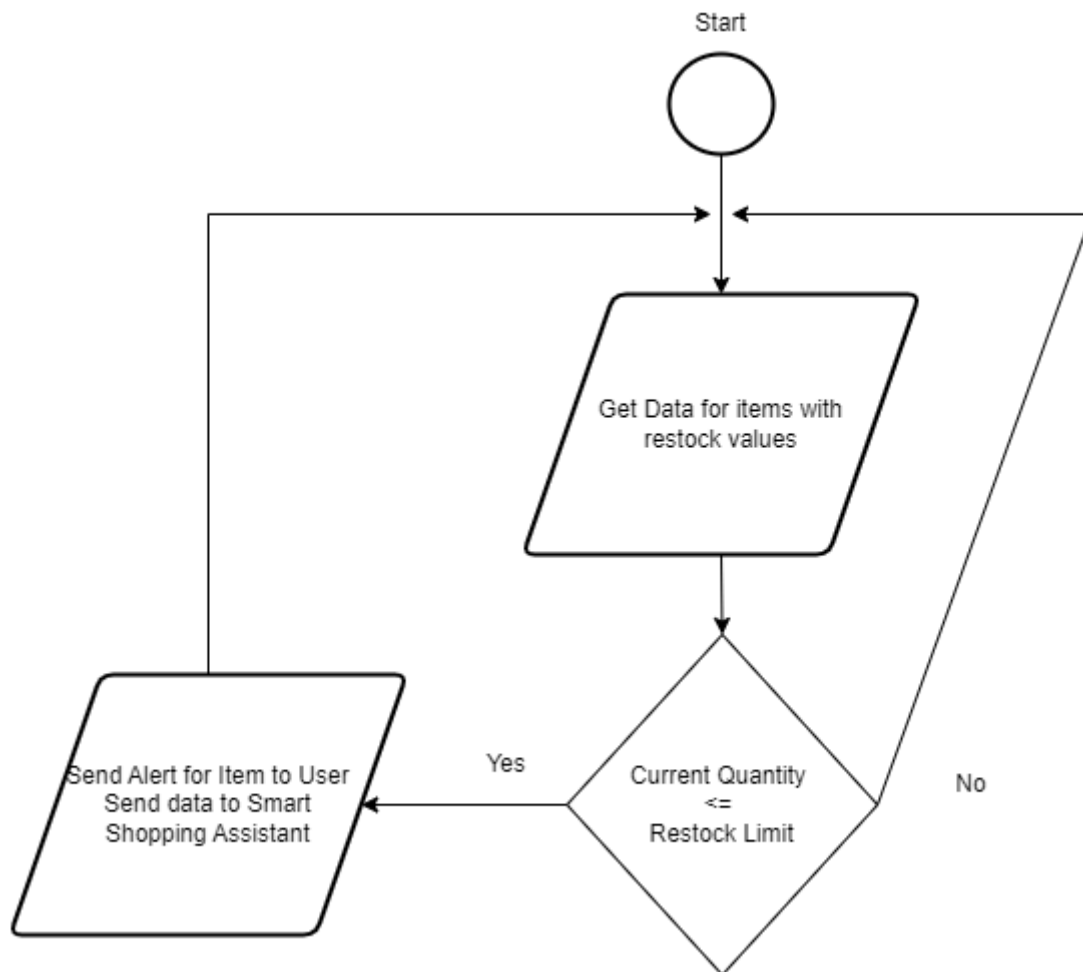


Fig. 16 Flow Diagram for Restock Alert Generation

The above figure (Fig. 5) shows the simple loop for generating restock alerts to the user. Whenever an item is removed or used, the system will take the new quantity (will be 0 if completely used) and check if it is below the restock threshold. If it finds it to be under the restock threshold, it will add that item to the shopping list automatically and send an alert to the user.

4.3 Alternative Designs

Various modules of our system have been previously implemented in different forms, giving us a broad foundation of alternative design ideas to build upon. This range of possibilities has been further expanded by numerous ideas brainstormed by our team.

4.3.1 Object Identification

Instead of the RFID and NFC stickers used by [5][6][7] and [10], it was decided to use a camera-based object identification method, similar to the implementation done by [8] and [9], as it met our requirements for minimizing user inputs and going for automation.

The implementation of the main camera was first decided to be one central 360-degree camera that handled object identification, tracking, and estimation of measurements placed in the center of the kitchen. However, there were certain limitations to this limitation, as in certain situations this camera may not be able to correctly identify and quantify the objects. For example, if an object is hidden from the camera by the user's body or an object, or when the camera is unable to identify the object at all.

We discussed alternatives such as placing 2 cameras or having smaller cameras in each storage area (cabinet etc) which will allow us to reduce blindspots, and make object identification and tracking easier. The final implementation which was decided upon was having 1 main 360-degree camera with smaller cameras in each storage area. This implementation was decided as it minimizes the cost and increases both reliability and redundancy in case of any errors.

4.3.2. Quantity Measurement

The two main methods for quantity measurement discussed were Load/Weight sensors and level measurement. However, the level measurement was inefficient for our needs, especially

in the implementations mentioned in [18] and [19]. We decided to implement load sensors and weighing scales for a more accurate and reliable measurement of quantities.

In terms of the exact implementation, we had discussed multiple layouts for the load cells and weighing scales. The first implementation was having a central weighing scale that the user had to place items on for the system to identify and receive their weight, however, we found that such a method was inconvenient for the user as it added an extra step when preparing food or adding food to the system (the user would have to place items on the scale after using for the system to take the new value).

The possible alternatives we found for the first implementation were either to have multiple weighing stations in the form of a large pad for ease of weighing items or to have smaller load cells in each cabinet. It was eventually decided that we would have one main weighing station and smaller load cells in each cabinet, this allowed minimal extra steps from the user, while allowing the user to use the weighing scale as needed.

4.3.3. Database Implementation

The database is the backbone of the entire system and it is required to be secure while allowing easy access for the modules to make any modifications in the data. Upon reviewing the different implementations used in [32][23][33][34][35] and [36], i.e. Google Firebase, MongoDB, and MySQL, we decided to use Google Firebase due to how easy it is to use and manage, as well as its sufficient security.

5. Implementation

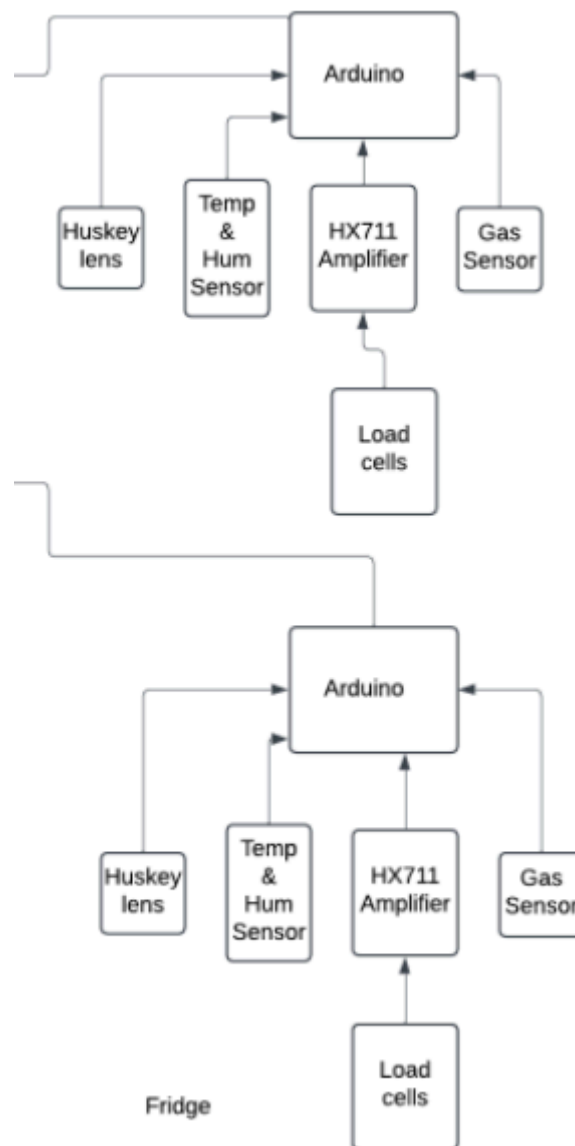
As seen in section 4, it is important to refer to the system overview and architecture diagram, which outlines the functional flow of the smart kitchen food management system. The diagram illustrates the integration of IoT sensors, networking modules, and embedded systems for tracking food inventory and storage conditions, providing a clear framework for hardware-software.

Part	Quantity
Raspberry Pi 8Gb 7 Inch Touchscreen Kit	1 Pieces
ABX00063 Arduino Giga R1 Wifi	4 Pieces
eufy Security 2K Indoor Cam Pan & Tilt, Home Security Indoor Camera	2 Pieces
Gravity: Huskylens	4 Pieces
HX711 LOAD CELL AMPLIFIER+50Kg	10 Pieces
GGQ Food Scale -33lb	2 Pieces
DFR0066 SHT10 DIGITAL TEMP & HUMIDITY SENSOR	5 Pieces
MQ-3 Gas sensor module -Alcohol, Ethanol, and Smoke Sensor for Gas Detection	5 Pieces
RIGID Wall Mounted Cabinet	2 Pieces
URBNLIVING Tier Wooden Bookcase	1 Piece

Fig. 17 Hardware Table

5.1 Hardware

The smart kitchen is designed with two wall-mounted cabinets simulating kitchen cupboards and a wooden shelf representing a refrigerator. These storage units are integrated with sensors and cameras to enable real-time monitoring and precise item tracking.

**Fig. 18 Internal Fridge Block Diagram**

The diagram includes an Arduino as the microcontroller, connected to various sensors and devices. A Husky Lens helps recognize and track items inside the fridge. The temperature

and humidity sensor monitors the fridge's environment, while the gas sensor detects gasses that indicate food spoilage. Load cells, connected through an HX711 amplifier, measure the weight of items to track inventory. Together, these components ensure better food management, improve safety, and make the fridge smarter and more efficient.

Key hardware components include:

5.1.1 Load Cells: Each cupboard is fitted with four load cells, which provide precise weight measurements of items placed by the user. These load cells are connected to HX711 amplifier [42] modules to convert analog signals into digital data, which an Arduino Giga R1 [43] processes for each cupboard. This setup ensures accurate surface coverage and item weight tracking, critical for monitoring the inventory.

5.1.2 Environmental Sensors: The Arduino interfaces with a DFR0066 SHT10 [44] temperature and humidity sensor to monitor environmental conditions critical for food preservation. This sensor allows us to check the temperature in the cabinets or the refrigerator.

5.1.3 Gas Sensors: The system uses MQ-3 [45] gas sensors in both the cupboards and the fridge to detect ethanol and alcohol emissions which are associated with food spoilage. These sensors help identify early signs of deteriorating food quality which helps mitigate food spoilage.

5.1.4 Cameras for object recognition: Two types of cameras are deployed for item recognition and tracking:

- HuskyLens AI Vision Sensor [46]: Positioned within the cupboards, the camera captures and maps user-placed items to specific storage locations. It offers a resolution of 320x240 which will be integrated AI algorithms for object detection, classification, and recognition
- Eufy Indoor Camera [47]: This camera provides broader environmental monitoring, supporting item tracking and enhancing system accuracy in

identifying storage locations. It gives resolution of 2K (2560x1920) and a 125° wide-angle lens. It supports high-definition video, night vision, and AI-based object tracking, making it ideal for tracking items in dynamic environments.\

5.1.5 Central Processing and Communication: Each Audrino communicates wirelessly with a Raspberry Pi 3B [48], which serves as the central processing unit for data aggregation and initial analysis. The Raspberry Pi collects data from load cells, temperature, humidity, and gas sensors, forwarding it to a cloud-based database for advanced processing.

5.1.6 User Interaction and Monitoring: The system includes a tilt-and-pan 360-degree camera with PIR (Passive Infrared) and motion detection to monitor user interactions.

5.1.7 LCD Touchscreen Interface: An LCD touchscreen, part of [48], provides users with a local interface to interact with and monitor the system, in addition to web-based access through an integrated web application.

5.2 Software

The software component of the system integrates various libraries, frameworks, and machine learning algorithms, enabling accurate data processing, expiration date management, object tracking, and user interaction. Key software components include:

- **Object Recognition and Tracking:** The system uses OpenCV for image processing and item recognition [49]. Visual data from the HuskyLens and Eufy cameras is analyzed using machine learning models, enabling object tracking and location mapping within storage areas.

- **Data Processing and Storage:** Sensor data collected by the Raspberry Pi is stored locally before being stored in Firebase, a cloud database. This centralized data storage enables real-time synchronization between the local system and the user application, allowing any changes in the inventory to be updated and viewable in the application in a timely manner. The design for the database schema for each cupboard/fridge can be seen below.
- **Expiration date management:** Primarily we will create or research records that contain the expiry dates for common household food items. Each food item will be checked by our object recognition, then using a simple formula for estimation, we would decrease the estimated duration to ensure proper freshness of all products.

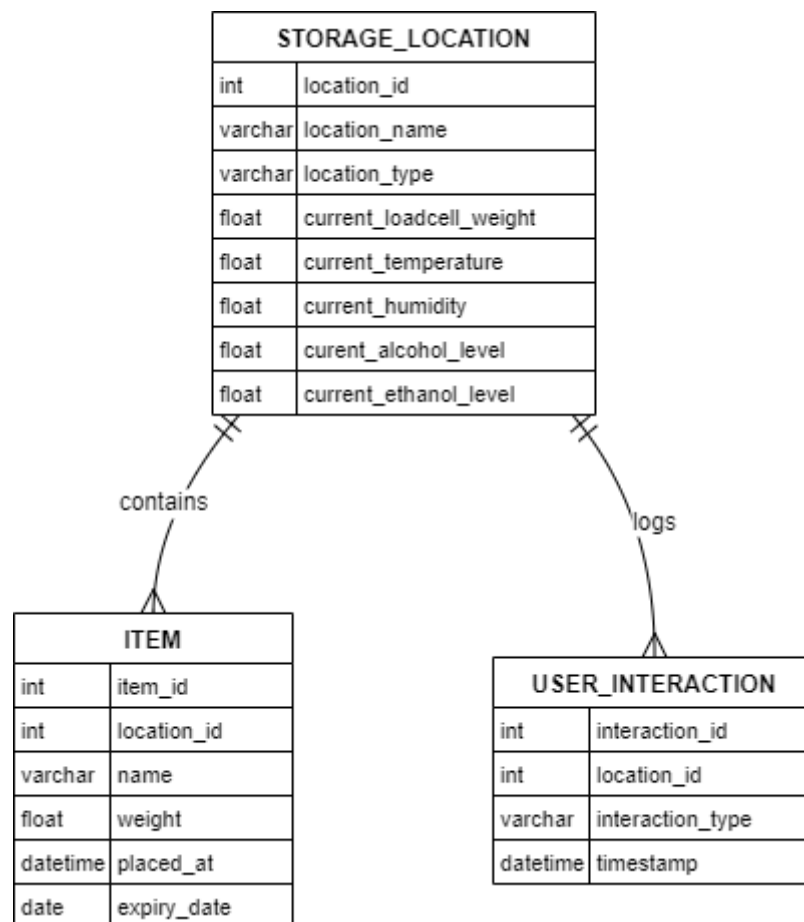


Fig. 19 Simplified Database Schematic

The application will be developed using a combination of Python and JavaScript, following an Object Oriented Design approach to enhance modularity and scalability. This approach supports the system's adaptability, allowing future improvements and ensuring long-term functionality. As the system accumulates more data, the machine learning models will refine their accuracy, adapting to user habits and enhancing the overall performance of the smart kitchen food management application.

5.3 Integration

The Smart Kitchen Food Management System integrates components as follows:

- A. **Networking:** IoT sensors in the fridge and cabinet track food inventory and expiration dates, sending this data to the app through WiFi. This enables users to monitor food status and receive alerts for low-stock or expired items.
- B. **Sensors:** Embedded sensors in containers measure food weight and storage conditions, such as temperature. This data is processed and sent, ensuring accurate tracking and optimal food management.

6. Validation, verification and Performance Analysis Plan

6.1 Testing

To ensure high-quality output and reliability for the Smart Kitchen Food Management System, testing will follow industry-standard methodologies, including both black-box and white-box testing. Black-box testing will focus on verifying the functionality and user experience without knowledge of the internal code, while white-box testing will examine the internal logic and flow of the application to identify issues in implementation.

Each module of the system will undergo comprehensive testing based on the use-case diagram, and specific testing methodologies will be applied to ensure robustness. Below are the modules and their respective testing strategies:

A. Inventory Tracking

1. Functional Testing:

- Verify that sensors, cameras, and weighing scales accurately monitor food items in the kitchen (quantity, and location).
- Ensure the system triggers notifications when items reach a predefined threshold, prompting restock reminders.

2. Code Testing:

- Conduct unit tests on sensor integration and data flow between the sensors and the system to ensure accurate tracking.
- Test third-party integrations (e.g., API calls to external stock systems).

3. User Interface Testing:

- Validate that users can easily view and update the status of inventory.
- Test the clarity and accuracy of alerts for restocking and threshold notifications.

B. Expiration Management

1. Functional Testing:

- Ensure that the system tracks and assigns expiration dates accurately along the database and sends timely reminders for items nearing expiration.

2. Code Testing:

- Test algorithms for calculating and/or fetching the expiration dates and ensuring notifications are triggered on time.

3. User Interface Testing:

- Test the accessibility and clarity of expiration-related notifications in the app and the UI.

C. Meal Planning

1. Functional Testing:

- Verify that the system suggests personalized meal plans based on available ingredients.
- Ensure users can input their recipes, and the system learns their preferences over time to offer better suggestions.

2. Code Testing:

- Conduct unit tests for the recipe database, user preference learning algorithms, and integration with the inventory system.
- Test that meal plan suggestions update in real-time based on ingredient availability.

3. User Interface Testing:

- Ensure that the meal planning interface is simple, allowing users to input and select recipes easily.
- Test the accuracy and relevance of recipe suggestions based on the available ingredients.

D. Smart Shopping Assistance

1. Functional Testing:

- Verify that the system creates accurate shopping lists based on meal plan requirements and inventory analysis.
- Test integration with online shopping platforms, ensuring items can be ordered directly from the app.

2. Code Testing:

- Test shopping list generation logic and integration with inventory data.
- Ensure smooth interaction with online ordering APIs, if available.

3. User Interface Testing:

- Ensure the shopping list is presented clearly to the user, and that the option to order online is easily accessible and functional.

E. Mobile Application

1. Functional Testing:

- Verify that the mobile app can connect to the system and receive notifications, reminders, and meal-planning information.
- Test push notifications for inventory updates, meal plan suggestions, and expiration reminders.

2. Code Testing:

- Test the mobile app's connectivity to the central system, ensuring data synchronization between devices.
- Test that notifications are sent and received correctly on various mobile platforms.

3. User Interface Testing:

- Conduct usability tests to ensure the mobile app is user-friendly and accessible on different devices.
- Test the display and accessibility.

6.2 Validation and Verification (V&V)

Both validation and verification will be conducted throughout the development process.

V&V Activities:

A. Feedback:

- Regular meetings with advisors, to gain feedback on system progress, discuss development challenges, and refine the project's direction.

B. Internal Validation:

- **Code Inspections:** Conduct regular code reviews to catch issues early, confirm adherence to coding standards, and ensure that all functions perform as specified.
- **Design Reviews:** Review design documents and diagrams to ensure the architecture supports all necessary functionalities, such as data tracking and notification systems.
- **Test Planning:** Develop detailed test plans based on functional requirements to systematically validate each feature.

C. User Acceptance Testing (UAT):

- Engage users like students to interact with the system in real-world scenarios.
- Collect feedback on usability, functionality, and overall user experience, incorporating this feedback into the final design refinements.

6.3 Experimentation

Experimentation plays a critical role in optimizing the performance of the smart kitchen food management system by replicating real-world conditions. These aim to test the interaction between software and hardware, ensuring seamless integration and reliability under varying scenarios. The process is divided into three key areas:

A. Feature Testing with Data

Different scenarios are used to evaluate the system's ability to monitor and respond to temperature changes and other environmental conditions. For instance:

- Sensors are exposed to a range of virtual temperature changes, from freezing to ambient, to assess their accuracy and calibration.
- The system's food tracking capabilities are tested by emulating different storage conditions, including perishable and non-perishable items, ensuring accurate categorization and updates.

- Notifications triggered by the system are verified under diverse conditions to confirm timely alerts for users about spoilage risks or replenishment needs.

B. Notification Refinement and Testing

The alert system is tested to ensure notifications are clear, timely, and reliable. Key steps include:

- Scenarios like expiring food, temperature changes, and inventory shortages to generate accurate alerts.
- Improving notification wording and timing to make them user-friendly and actionable.
- Reducing false alerts by refining thresholds and detection logic.
- Testing user interactions to ensure notifications are effective and not overwhelming.³

C. Internal Testing

The system undergoes rigorous internal testing using real data to verify its functionality. Key steps include:

- Testing with real-world environmental data, such as actual readings from a kitchen setup, to validate sensor and software accuracy.
- Simulating cases, such as sensor malfunctions or network interruptions, to evaluate system resilience and recovery mechanisms.
- Observe the timeliness and reliability of alerts under all test conditions to confirm the system meets user expectations.
- Collecting performance metrics, such as alert response times and data accuracy rates, to fine-tune system operations.

Through these simulations, the smart kitchen food management system ensures high reliability, accuracy, and a user-friendly experience before deployment.

7. Project Management Plan

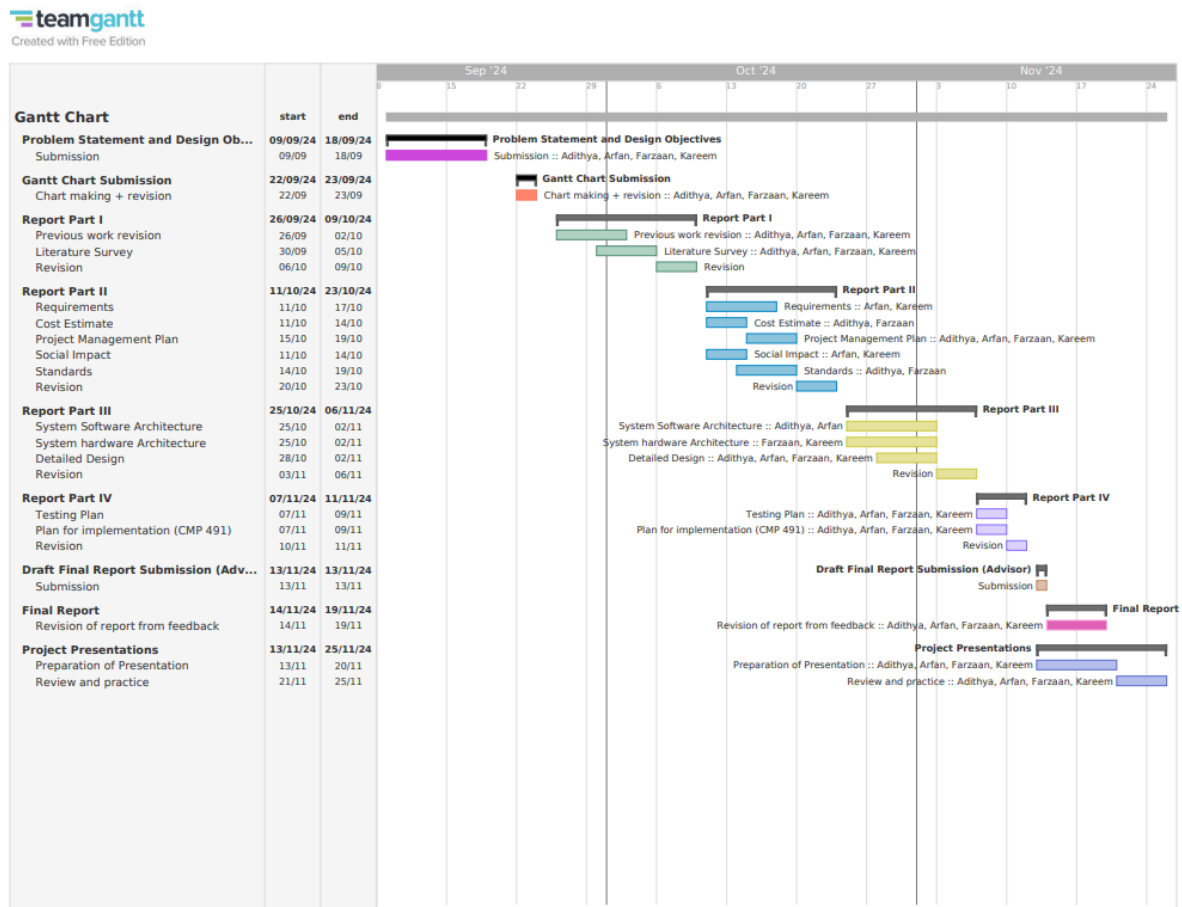


Fig. 20 Project Plan

The Gantt chart outlines the project timeline, starting with defining the objectives and submitting the problem statement. Then follows with the creation and submission of the Gantt chart itself. From September to November, the team works on four major report sections, covering requirements, specifications, system architecture, and design/testing plans. The project wraps up with a presentation. Each phase is assigned specific team members and deadlines to ensure steady progress and timely completion. The figure shows the project timeline, from the problem statement on September 18 to the final presentation on November 25. All tasks were finished on time, with the schedule updated after each task was completed.

8. Project Global, Economic, Societal Impact

The development of our Smart Kitchen Food Management System represents a significant advancement in sustainable food consumption and waste reduction practices.

On a global scale, this project addresses one of the pressing issues of our time- food waste which is a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and resource depletion. By providing a solution that encourages better food inventory management. Additionally, as awareness of environmental sustainability grows, this project aligns with global movements toward more responsible consumption practices, contributing to efforts like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Economically, the system helps households reduce costs by minimizing food waste, ensuring better purchasing decisions, and optimizing meal planning. This particularly is beneficial for low-income households, where food savings can significantly impact financial well-being.

Societally, our system raises awareness of food conservation, fostering responsible consumption. It can also ease meal preparation for busy individuals and find applications in community kitchens or shelters.

9. Standards

Following international standards in a smart kitchen food management system is essential for ensuring that the technology is safe, reliable, and user-friendly. These standards address important aspects such as connectivity, software quality, energy efficiency, user interaction, and the integration of machine learning, making the system effective and dependable.

A. Communications

- **ISO/IEC 14543:** This standard is for home electronic system architecture, which includes smart appliances in home networks. It covers compatibility among smart kitchen devices.
- **ISO/IEC 29180:** Relevant for wireless communication in IoT environments, this standard addresses network connectivity, ensuring the system's communication is efficient and secure.

B. Coding

- **ISO/IEC 25010:** This standard is for software quality requirements, such as functionality, reliability, and maintainability. This ensures the code behind the smart kitchen system is robust and error-free.
- **ISO/IEC 27001:** This standard ensures data security, focusing on protecting user data collected by IoT devices. The system needs to safeguard user privacy and maintain secure food storage and management data.

C. Machine Learning

- **ISO/IEC 22989:** This standard outlines principles for developing and deploying machine learning systems. It ensures the algorithms used for tasks like inventory tracking, expiration prediction, and shopping lists are accurate, ethical, and efficient.
- **ISO/IEC 23053:** This standard provides a framework for evaluating the quality of AI models. It ensures that machine learning models are reliable, adaptive to user behaviors, and optimized for real-time food management applications.

D. Power

- **ISO 50001:** A standard for energy management systems, ISO 50001 helps optimize the power consumption of IoT appliances in the kitchen. This ensures devices consume power efficiently, lowering operational costs and environmental impact.
- **ISO/IEC 30134:** For energy efficiency, it is particularly relevant if devices are used within a data center environment for cloud-based applications, as it measures and helps manage energy use.

E. Quality

- **ISO 9001:** This quality management system standard ensures consistent product quality and continuous improvement in device performance.

F. Human Involvement

- **ISO 9241-210:** This human-centered design process standard ensures that the smart kitchen system is user-friendly and addresses user needs, enhancing food management efficiency.
- **ISO/IEC 82304-1:** This standard guides the health and safety of health software, which can apply to any IoT system monitoring food safety, such as ensuring freshness or quality of stored food items.

10. Conclusion

Our project aims to present an innovative solution to address food waste and streamline kitchen management through the integration of IoT, Computer Vision, and machine learning technologies.

Our team recognized the increasing need for efficient household systems that promote sustainability and reduction of unnecessary waste and this project reflects our commitment to developing a solution that is accessible, convenient, and impactful. Through our system, users

can monitor food inventory in real-time, receive alerts about expiring items, and access personalized meal plans based on available ingredients, helping them make informed decisions and reduce waste.

10.1 Summary

The Smart Kitchen Food Management System consists of several key components: a user-friendly mobile application that connects to a central processing system, a cloud-based database for data storage and advanced analytics, and a range of cameras and sensors to monitor kitchen items and environmental conditions. These components work in tandem to create a seamless experience for users, allowing them to interact with the system both locally and remotely.

Throughout the project, we have identified potential challenges including privacy concerns associated with in-kitchen monitoring devices, compatibility with existing smart home devices, and the physical setup requirements of the system. However, we are certain with further refinement and user feedback, these limitations can be addressed to improve user acceptance and make our smart kitchen a feasible addition to modern homes.

10.2 Future Work

For Senior II, our focus will be on implementing the planned technologies and extensively evaluating our hardware and software components to ensure accuracy, reliability, and user-friendliness. We will implement the object recognition and inventory tracking algorithms, further develop the meal planning features, and collaborate with potential users to gather insights for improvements. Our goal is to deliver a functional and polished smart kitchen solution by the end of the next phase, making significant steps toward a sustainable and intelligent kitchen experience.

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