# FYP PRESENTATION

PROJECT SCE16-0152

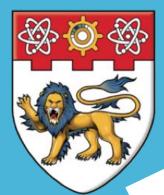
"WEB-BASED MATHEMATICAL DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL FOR MOBILE ANDROID APPLICATION"



Supervisor: A/P Hui Siu Cheung

Examiner: Prof. Lam Kwok Yan

Link to Presentation Slides: <a href="http://bit.ly/fyp\_deka">http://bit.ly/fyp\_deka</a>



### **GUIDE TO THE PRESENTATION**

- » Section 1: Introduction
- » Section 2: System Design
- » Section 3: Server-side Development
- » Section 4: Mathematical Document Retrieval
- » Section 5: Android Development
- » Section 6: Optical Character Recognition
- » Section 7: Demonstration
- » Section 8: Conclusion and Future Recommendations

1

# INTRODUCTION

Background and Motivation, Project Objectives, Approaches, Related Knowledge



"Mobile phones are misnamed. They should be called gateways to human knowledge."

- Ray Kurzweil

### **BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATIONS**

#### » Why mathematics?

- Mathematics is an important subject to be learned by everyone
- Mathematical content is non-trivial: complex structure

#### » Why mobile phones?

- Smartphones are prevalent in human lives
  - convenience, portability, connectivity, powerful
- promotes mobile and interactive learning

#### » Why Android?

- Holds 81% market share of the world population (Gartner Q4 2016)
- Experimented tools are only available for Android devices

# **BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATIONS**

- » Relevant work: previous students' work on mathematical document retrieval
- » Problems:
  - different system design and architecture to the new MathQA system.
  - new MathQA system does not have mathematical document retrieval
  - on clear **evaluation** on the formula-based retrieval performance
  - no mobile application
  - LaTeX content contains erroneous and unstandardised

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- » Develop a Web Server, which provides:
  - educational mathematics contents
    - mathematical content database
    - fix erroneous and unstandardised LaTeX content
  - search services for retrieving mathematical documents
    - text-based and formula-based retrieval
- » Develop an Android Application, which provides:
  - user interface (UI) for accessing and searching mathematical contents
    - display LaTeX
    - access MathQA database content
  - incorporate camera and OCR services to perform search through document image recognition

**MathQA** 

# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

#### 1. **Exploration** Phase:

- a. Mathematical Document Retrieval techniques in [1] and [2]
- Open-source technologies for developing web and mobile applications and OCR in mobile phones

#### 2. **Development** Phase:

- a. web services: database and mathematical document retrieval
- Android application: access the mathematics educational content



# RELATED KNOWLEDGE - MATHEMATICAL DOCUMENTS

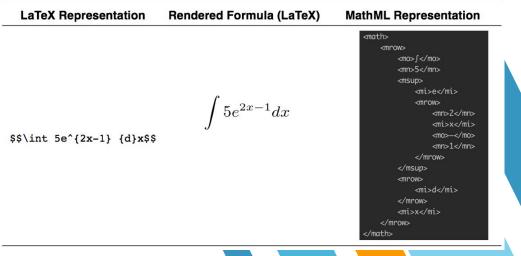
- » documents that contain both formula and textual content
  - textual representation: alphanumeric characters
  - formula representation: LaTeX and MathML
- » in this project, mathematical documents refer to mathematical questions

c characters	T⊒_T H\\
MathML	

TATTY

#### Question 20020100105:

(a) Sketch, on the same diagram and for  $0 \le x \le 2\pi$ , the graphs of  $y=\frac14+\sin x$  and  $y=\frac12\cos 2x$ ;(b) The x-coordinates of the points of intersection of the two graphs referred to in part (a) satisfy the equation  $2\cos 2x-k\sin x=1$ . Find the value of k.

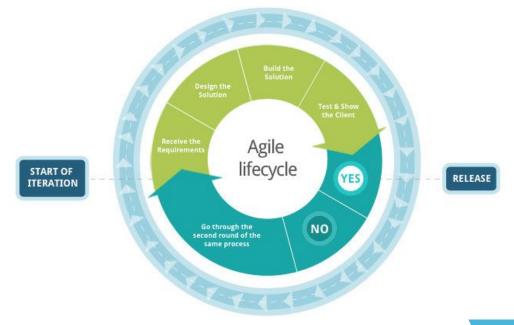




- » OCR systems enable automatic pattern recognition of alphanumeric and handwritten characters in document images
- » Image Pre-processing:
  - Enhancement, Grayscaling, Image Segmentation (Binarisation), De-skewing
- » Investigated Open-Source OCR Technologies
  - Image Pre-processing: Leptonica and Catalano
  - OCR Engines: Tesseract, Google Text API

# RELATED KNOWLEDGE - SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

» Agile Software Development Lifecycle

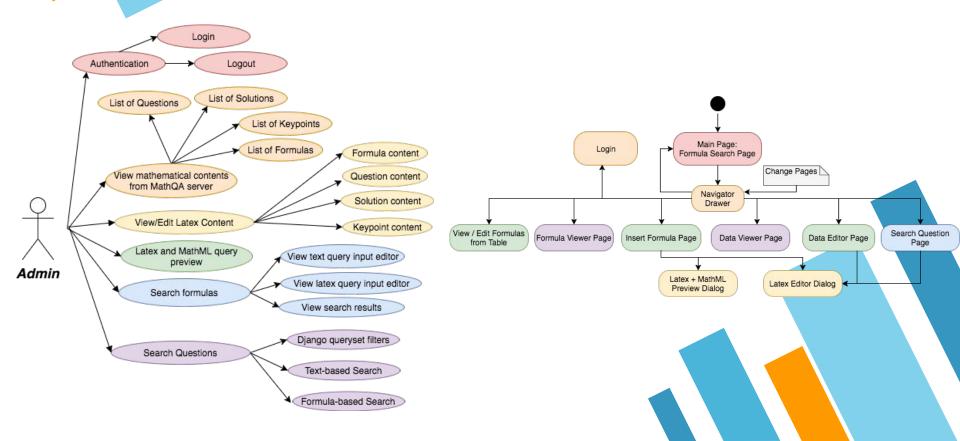


SOLID and Don't Repeat Yourself (DRY) Principles

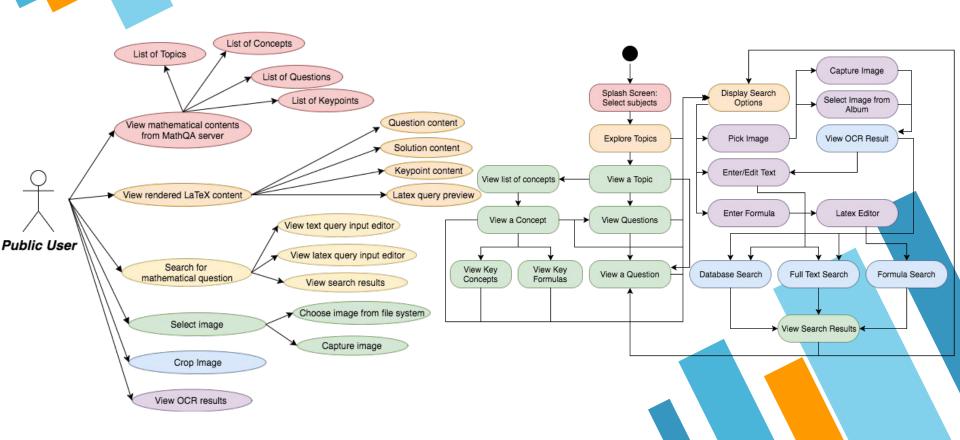
# 2. SYSTEM DESIGN

Use Cases, Architecture, Database Design

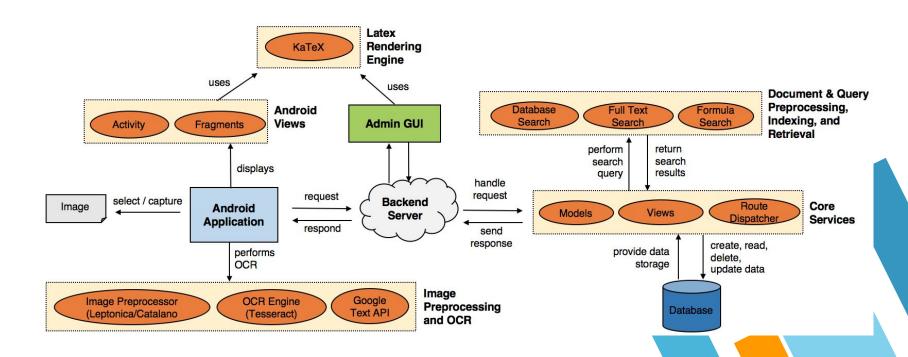
# **SERVER (ADMIN) USE CASES: WEB SERVER**



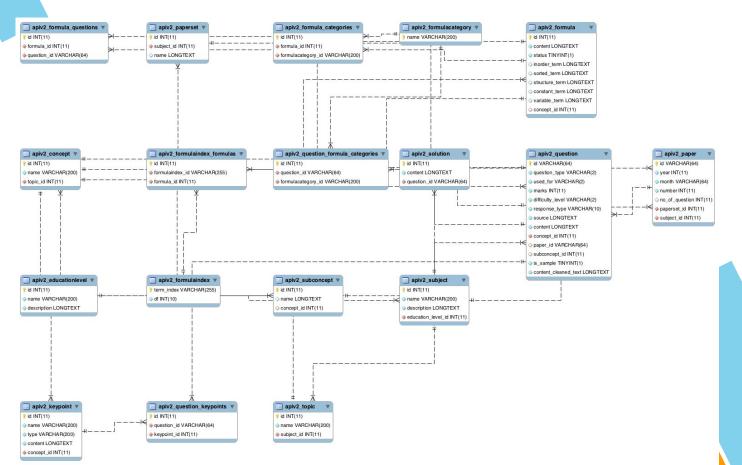
#### **PUBLIC USER USE CASES: ANDROID**



### **OVERALL ARCHITECTURE**



# **DATABASE DESIGN**



3.
SERVER-SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Tools, Web-Server Architecture, Backend, Frontend

# **WEB-SERVER DEVELOPMENT TOOLS**

- Language: Python 2.7
- **Tools and Libraries** 
  - Back-end:
    - Django 1.10
    - MySQL
    - Diango REST framework
    - latex2mathml parser
    - Django Haystack
    - Whoosh
    - Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)
  - Front-end:
    - HTML, CSS and AngularJS Material
    - KaTeX













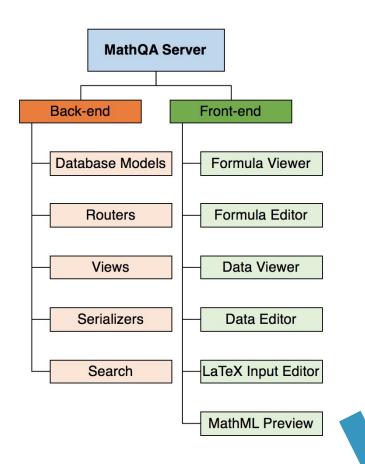




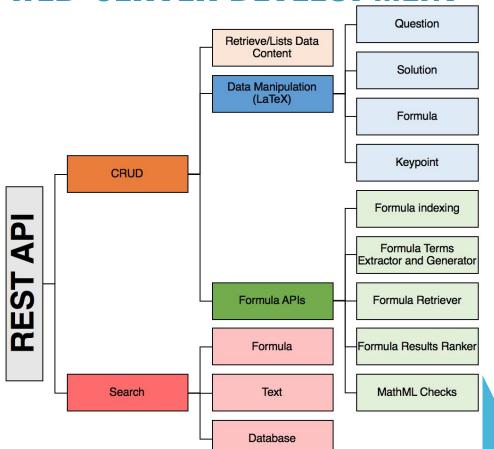




# **WEB-SERVER ARCHITECTURE**



# **WEB-SERVER DEVELOPMENT - BACKEND**



# **WEB-SERVER DEVELOPMENT - BACKEND**

Retrieval Type		HTTP Requests	Actions
Listing objects	GET	/questions	Retrieve all questions from the database
Retrieving an object	GET	/questions/1995102015	Retrieve a question which id is 1996102015
Listing objects with query filters		/questions/?concepts=1	Retrieve all questions that are related to a concept with id of 1

#### Read-Only Access APIs Examples

Search Type	Example Requests	Actions	
Database search (type=d)	<pre>GET/search?type=d &amp;query=curve%20has%20gradient%20%%e^{4x} %2Be^{-x}\$\$</pre>	Perform database exact search for query curve has gradient $\$$ e^{4x}+e^{-x}\$\$	
Full text search (type=t)	GET /search/?type=t &query=curve%20has%20gradient%20%%e^{4x} %2Be^{-x}\$\$	Perform full-text search for query curve has gradient $\$\$e^{4x}+e^{-x}\$$	
Formula search (type=f)	GET /search/?type=f&query=\sin%20x	Perform formula search for the query \sin x	

### **WEB-SERVER DEVELOPMENT - FRONTEND**

- » Admin Graphical User Interface (GUI) is developed for admins to:
  - create / update /delete LaTeX formulas
  - inspect and manipulate LaTeX contents
  - evaluate retrieval performance
- » Components include:
  - Data services: retrieves data from server database
  - View controllers: controls UI behaviour and logic between components
  - ♦ **HTML templates**: provide the UI components of the GUI



4.

# MATHEMATICAL DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL

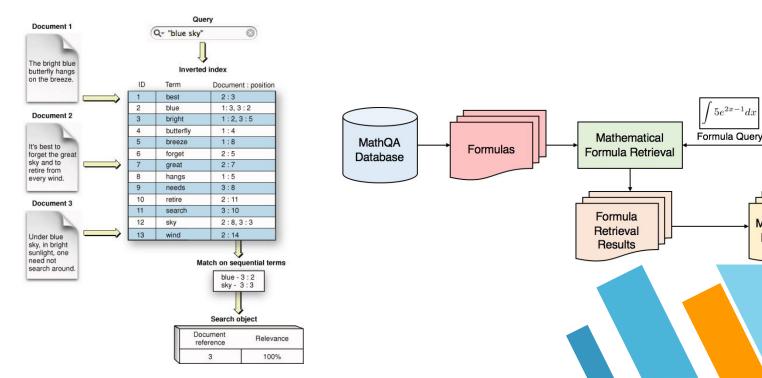
Definition, Text-based Retrieval, Formula-based Retrieval, Formula-based Retrieval Evaluation

#### MATHEMATICAL DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL

Mathematical

**Documents** 

» Separate the retrieval into two phases: Text-based Retrieval and Formula-based Retrieval



#### **TEXT BASED RETRIEVAL**

#### **Database Search**

- » implemented using Django queryset icontains filter
- » expected result: exact (very similar) match with the database
  - order of term appearance matters
- » fewer results (strict)
- » optimised for:
  - looking exact match query results
  - can supply exact LaTeX syntax directly as the query

#### **Full-text Search**

- » implemented using NLTK and Haystack
- » requires document pre-processing, term-indexing and querying
- expected result: get more relevant results rather than exact matching
  - order of term appearance does not matter
- » optimised for:
  - finding most relevant results to the query
  - allowing term suffixes and terms appearing in different order in the query

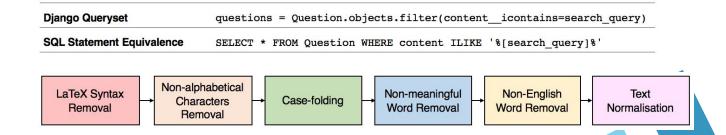


#### **TEXT BASED RETRIEVAL**

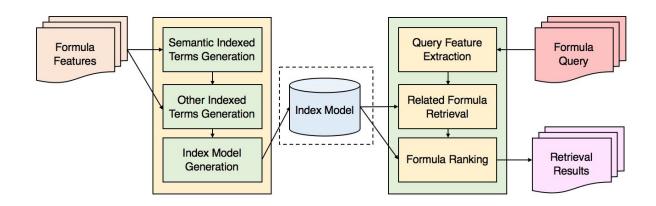
**Exact Database Search** 

Document Pre-processing (Full-Text Search)

Pre-processed Text (Full-Text Search)



"content": "Solve the simultaneous equations 2x - 4y = 13,  $3x - 5y = $$\frac{16}{2}$$$ . [3]", "content\_cleaned\_text": "solv simultan",

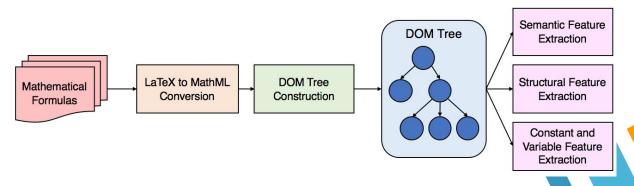


#### **Formula-based Retrieval Steps**

- 1. Formula Features Extraction
- 2. Formula Indexing
- 3. Formula Retrieval
- 4. Formula Ranking
- Mathematical Document Retrieval

#### 1. Formula Feature Extraction

- Formula Features:
  - Semantic Features: capture semantic information → mathematical functions and operators
    - in-order: 2, 3, 4-grams of the original ordered sequence
    - sorted: lexicographically sorted semantic feature
  - Structural Features
  - Constant Features
  - Variable Features



#### 2. Formula Indexing

- indexes formula terms
  - maps formula term to list of formulas containing the term
- create / update Formula and FormulaIndex tables

term_index	df
<pre>f\$msqrt\$+</pre>	4
+	247
msqrt	49
ı	59
msqrt\$mrow\$+	15
msqrt\$mrow\$cn	31
msqrt\$mrow\$var	31

#### Formula Index Table

id	content	status	inorder_term	sorted_term	structure_term	constant_term	variable_term
12346	<pre>\int \sqrt{4x +5} \mathrm{ d}x</pre>	1	[[], [u'\u222b\$msqrt\$+ '], [u'\u222b\$msqrt', 'msqrt\$+']]	[[], [u'+\$msqrt\$\u222 b'], ['+\$msqrt', u'msqrt\$\u222b'] , ['+', 'msqrt', u'\u222b']]	State and a management of the state of the s	['msqrt\$mrow \$cn']	<pre>['var', 'mrow\$var', 'msqrt\$mrow\$v ar']</pre>

#### 3. Formula Retrieval

- uses top-k retrieval technique
- involves query processing, related formula retrieval and ranking
- set union operation between formula and query terms

#### 4. Formula Ranking

- computes the similarity score between related formulas
  - uses set intersection and set difference operations between formula and query
  - o assign more weights to semantic terms
- related formulas is sorted in decreasing order of the similarity score

#### 5. Mathematical Document Retrieval

- many-to-many relationship is established between question and formula
- mathematical questions that contain the ranked relevant formulas are retrieved and returned

#### FORMULA-BASED RETRIEVAL EVALUATION

#### » Test Data Preparation:

- inserted 508 formulas for some formula categories
- created 52 formula test queries
- » Tools: Admin GUI
- » Methodology:
  - 1. Conduct formula search using the formula test queries
  - 2. Extracted top-10 formula results and assign relevance label (0 or 1)
  - 3. Compute Precision@K and Mean Average Precision@K with K=5 and 10

Q: Test queries

$$MAP = \frac{1}{|Q|} \sum_{i=1}^{|Q|} \frac{1}{m_i} \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} Precision(rank_{ik})$$

 $Precision = \frac{\text{\#relevant items}}{\text{\#retrieved items}}$ 

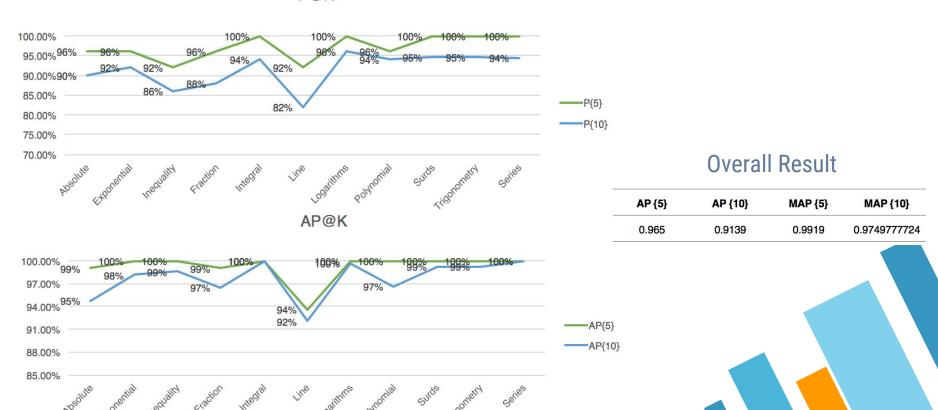
m<sub>i</sub>: number of items retrieved for query i

Precision(rankik): ratio of the top k retrieved items that are relevant

No.	Latex View	Content	Relevance	AP
1	x+1 < 7 < x+3	x+1 < 7 < x+3	1	1
2	-8 < 2x + 3 < 11	-8 < 2x + 3 < 11	1	1
3	-5 < 2x + 3 < 1	-5 < 2x + 3 < 1	1	1
4	-4< 1+x <3	-4 <  1 + x  < 3	1	1
5	$2x^2+7x+9$	2x^{2}+7x+9	0	0.8
6	$14x^3 + ax^2 + bx + 10$	14x^{3}+ax^{2}+bx+10	0	0.67
7	$2x^3 + ax^2 + bx + 3$	$2x^{3} + ax^{2} + bx + 3$	0	0.57
8	$2x^3 + px^2 - 12x + q$	2x^{3}+px^{2}-12x+q	0	0.5
9	$x^3-6x^2+ax+b$	x^{3}-6x^{2}+ax+b	0	0.44
10	$x^3+ax^2+bx-3$	x^{3}+ax^{2}+bx-3	0	0.4
P(5)	0.8		AP(5)	1
P{10}	0.4		AP{10}	1

# FORMULA-BASED RETRIEVAL PERFORMANCE

P@K



#### FORMULA-BASED RETRIEVAL DISCUSSIONS

#### » Problems:

- initially, poor formula-based retrieval accuracy due to:
  - LaTeX syntax errors and incompatible LaTeX syntax e.g. '<' operator</li>
  - ♦ Unparsable LaTeX to MathML
  - Non-standardised LaTeX formulas: similar meaning but different LaTeX representation

#### » Solution:

- encode into HTML entities
- use admin GUI's data editor to fix LaTeX errors
- use rules defined in the report when fixing / entering LaTeX

```
Latex Syntax
                     \log x
                                         \log {x}
                                                                        \log (x)
                 \log x
                                                                \log(x)
                                       \log x
                 <math>
                                                                <math>
                                       <math>
                                                                    <mrow>
                     <mrow>
                                           <mrow>
                                                                        <mi>log</mi>
                         <mi>log</mi>
                                               <mi>log</mi>
                                                                        <mrow>
                         <mi>x</mi>
MathML Preview
                                               <mrow>
                                                                            <mo>&#x00028;</mo>
                     </mrow>
                                                    <mi>x</mi>
                                                                            <mi>x</mi>
                 </mrow>
                                                                            <mo>&#x00029:</mo>
                                           </mrow>
                                                                        </mrow>
                                       </mrow>
```

```
Correct MathML with
                                              Incorrect MathML with
\int {0}^{3} x \mathrm{d}x
                                        \int}^{3} {0} x \mathrm{d}x
                                            \int_0^3 x dx
  \int_0^3 x dx
  <math>
                                            <math>
      <mrow>
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              <mo>&#x0222B:</mo>
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                  <mn>0</mn>
                                                            <mn>0</mn>
              </mrow>
                                                        </mrow>
              <mrow>
                                                        <mi>x</mi>
                  <mn>3</mn>
                                                    </msubsup>
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                                                    <mi>mathrm</mi>
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              <mi>d</mi>
                                                    <mrow>
          </mrow>
                                                        <mn>3</mn>
          <mi>x</mi>
                                                    </mrow>
      </mrow>
                                                </mrow>
```

5.

# ANDROID DEVELOPMENT

Tools, Android Architecture, Background Services, Frontend

# **ANDROID DEVELOPMENT TOOLS**

- » Language: Java 7
- » Tools: Android Studio 2.3
- » Device: Android Marshmallow (Samsung)
- » Application Framework: AndroidAnnotation
- » Libraries
  - Material Design Views: MaterialValues, FlexibleAdapter, FloatingActionButtons, MaterialDialog, ProgressActivity
  - ♦ LaTeX rendering: MathView and KaTeX
  - Network Access and REST API: Retrofit, RxJava2
  - OCR Related Libraries:
    - Dexter: permission
    - Image Cropper
    - ♦ Image Pre-processing: Leptonica, Catalano
    - OCR Engines: Tesseract, Google Text API



















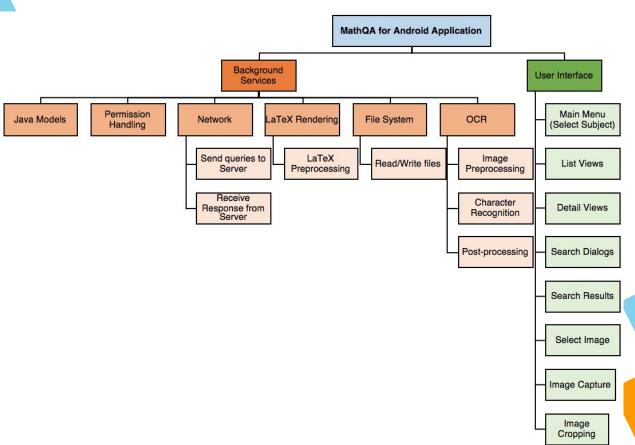








# **ANDROID ARCHITECTURE**





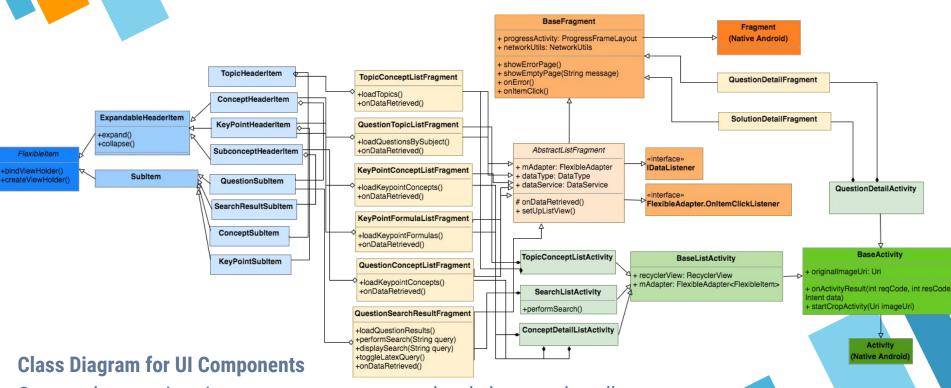
# ANDROID DEVELOPMENT - BACKGROUND SERVICES

- » Java object models: container for storing data from server
- » Network services:
  - data service: requests data retrieval
  - search service: perform mathematical document retrieval
- » Renders LaTeX:
  - No LaTeX renderer is compatible with Android → KaTeX + WebView = MathView
  - LaTeX syntax pre-processing:
    - provides alternative view if LaTeX is erroneous or unavailable

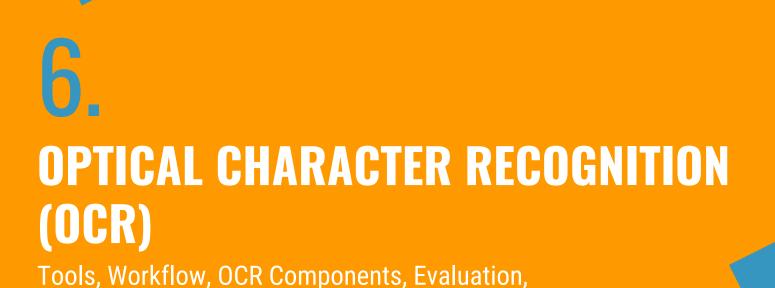
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Search Type	Example Requests	Actions	
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Full text search (type=t)	<pre>GET /search/?type=t &amp;query=curve%20has%20gradient%20\$\$e^{4x} %2Be^{-x}\$\$</pre>	Perform full-text search for query curve has gradient \$\$e^{4x}+e^{-x}\$\$	
Formula search (type=f)	GET /search/?type=f&query=\sin%20x	Perform formula search for the query \sin x	

## **ANDROID DEVELOPMENT - FRONTEND**



Commonly occurring view patterns were extracted and abstracted to allow reusable components which include ViewPagerActivities, ListViewFragments, and DetailViewFragments.



Performance, Discussions

#### **OCR TOOLS**

- » Language: Java 7
- » Tools: Android Studio 2.3
- » Device: Android Marshmallow (Samsung)
- » Main Libraries:
  - Image Selection and Cropping Tools: Dexter and Image Cropper
  - Image Pre-processing:
    - Leptonica
    - Catalano Framework
  - OCR Engines:
    - ♦ Tesseract
    - Google Text API







### OCR WORKFLOW

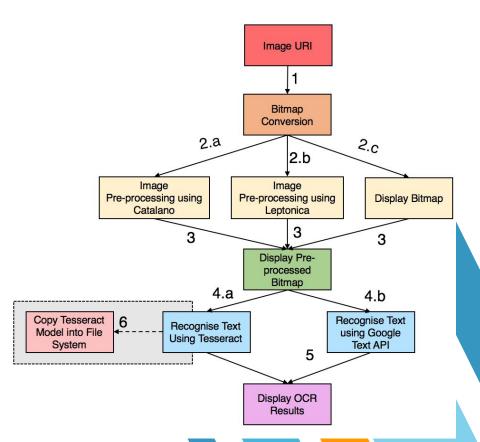
#### **Steps**

 Obtain the image source: generates image URI

image picker  $\rightarrow$  access to file system / camera  $\rightarrow$  cropping / rotation

#### 2. OCR pipeline:

- many pathways to get OCR result from source image
- branching at step 2 and 4 allows a flexibility for OCR processes
- Steps:
  - i. Image Source Conversion to Bitmap
  - ii. Bitmap Image Pre-processing
  - iii. OCR on Pre-processed Bitmap



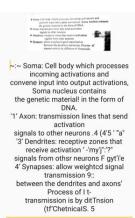
#### OCR WORKFLOW

- Image Source Conversion to Bitmap
- Tesseract and Google Text API only accept bitmap inputs
- Involves image downsizing to produce good quality pre-processed bitmaps

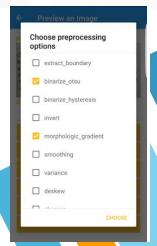
#### 2. Bitmap Image Pre-processing

- optional but necessary for Tesseract if image quality is bad
- conducted experiments to select best pre-processing actions using Leptonica and Catalano
  - (1) contrast and (2) background normalisation, (3) binarisation using sauvola's technique, and (4) image de-skewing with Leptonica were shown to have a promising performance

#### **Tesseract Performance Drop**







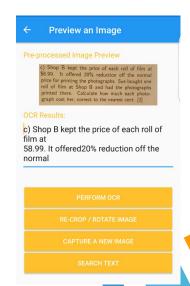
# **OCR WORKFLOW**

- 3. OCR on Pre-processed Bitmap
- pre-processed Bitmap is sent to OCR engine (Tesseract or Google Text API) for character recognition
- OCR result is displayed in an editable text box
- Best Practices:
  - OCR is a heavy process
  - blocking mechanism: prevents user interference

Loading (blocking)

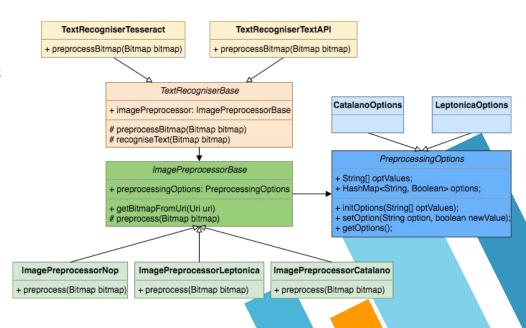


#### **OCR Result**



#### **CLASS DIAGRAM: OCR COMPONENTS**

- » Common features of OCR processes are abstracted into component base classes
  - → new engines or pre-processors can be added by **extending** from **base classes**
- » Impact:
  - new engines or image pre-processing tools can be added / modified / removed without affecting other existing components



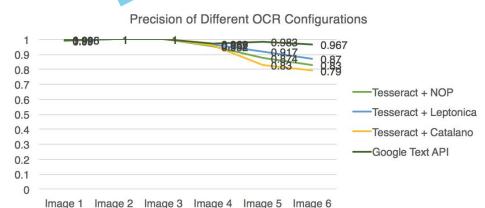
#### **OCR EVALUATION**

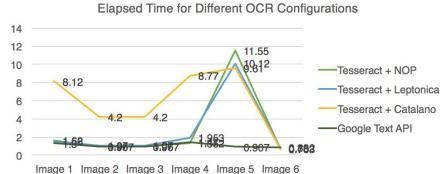
- » Experiment carried out to evaluate different OCR engine and pre-processor performance
- 1. Tesseract without image pre-processing (NOP)
- 2. Tesseract with image pre-processing using Leptonica
- 3. Tesseract with image pre-processing using Catalano Framework.
- 4. Google Text API + NOP
- » Tools: MathQA app, Django, Python

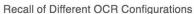
- Test Data Preparation: uses 6 different document images with varying characteristics
  - uses Sans-serif (1-4) / Serif fonts (5-6)
  - ontains (4, 6) / does not contain LaTeX (1-3, 5)
  - Skewed (1) vs non-skewed (2-6)
- » Evaluation Methodology:
- Perform OCR on the test image using 4 OCR configurations
- Evaluate OCR result to calculate the precision, recall, and processing time on each test image for each OCR configuration

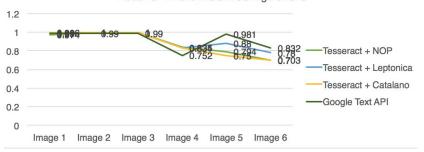
Formula	Definitions		
tp	tp: true positives, the number of correct characters recognised by the ocr.		
$ ext{Precision} = rac{tp}{tp+fp}$	fp: false positives, the number of characters recognised by the ocr but do not exist in the		
	source image.		
$ ext{Recall} = rac{tp}{tp+fn}$	fn: false negatives, the number of characters in the source image that is not recognised		
	by the ocr.		

## **OCR PERFORMANCE**





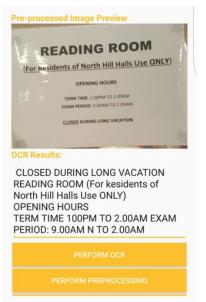




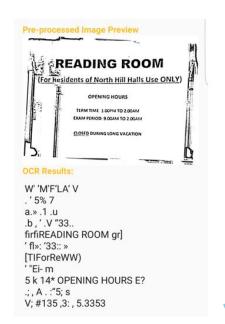
#### **Overall Result**

Metrics	Tesseract + NOP	Tesseract + Leptonica	Tesseract + Catalano	Google Text API
Average Precision	0.941	0.96	0.93	0.986
Average Recall	0.884	0.9145	0.88	0.922
Average Time (s)	2.857	2.76	5.93	1.074

#### **OCR PERFORMANCE**







Google Text API (left), Tesseract (middle and right) Performance in Recognising a Poor-quality Image

# **OCR DISCUSSIONS**

- When the document image is clean, both Tesseract and Google Text API without image pre-processing are robust
- » Catalano can be removed from OCR pipeline
- » Tesseract + NOP outperforms all other OCR configurations when image is clean, contain only alphanumerical symbols and use sans-serif fonts
- » Tesseract requires training data model to be copied onto the phone
- » Google Text API + NOP outperforms all other OCR configurations with the highest precision, recall and fastest processing time

# 7. DEMONSTRATION

Android, Admin GUI

# MATHQA ANDROID DEMO

https://youtu.be/-ySJp6QnE3w

# ADMIN GUI DEMO

https://youtu.be/dE0CVogsElo

# 8. CONCLUSION

Achievements, Conclusion, Future Recommendation

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **Achievements (App Features)**

- » Accessing mathematical contents and perform mathematical document retrieval
  - Supports different modes of mathematical document search
- » Viewing Mathematical contents:
  - LaTeX rendering
  - Intuitive and logical display between object models
- » OCR functionality:
  - Select document image: camera capture and file storage access
  - perform OCR on the selected image
  - Use OCR results to **find** mathematical documents

#### **Achievements (Design)**

- » Initial system design plans, architecture and prototypes were meticulously designed to:
  - provide a maintainable app that adheres to good design principles
  - sustainable for future improvements
- Incorporated best design practises for building good user experience applications as specified in Material Design guideline
  - Various tools and libraries that support
     Material Design were thoroughly explored
     and highly utilised throughout the UI
     development

### CONCLUSION

- » MathQA system is a web-based learning platform that helps students solve mathematical problems with 2 major tasks:
  - build database model and mathematical document retrieval services
    - support three mathematical document retrievals: database, full-text, and formula-based retrievals
      - formula-based retrieval uses inverted index technique and evaluated to be **promising** as it has 97.5% MAP@10 and Average P@10 of 91.4%.
  - develop Android application that utilise the services
    - displays mathematical contents in intuitive manner with Material Design
    - incorporate OCR which allows to perform a retrieval based on image capture
      - **Google Text API** is found to be the best performing among all engines
- » Software engineering principles were adhered to produce software that is maintainable, extensible and sustainable for future developers
- → **Project objective** is successfully **achieved**

# **FUTURE RECOMMENDATION**

- » Mathematical Document Retrieval:
  - combine retrieval techniques for text-based and formula-based instead of executing them separately
  - explore different approaches of obtaining mathematical structure from LaTeX
  - Admin GUI can help future developers to experiment and evaluate new retrieval techniques
- » Document Image Recognition
  - extend OCR to recognise LaTeX content from image
- » Extending MathQA Features
  - enhance existing features by developing dynamic and interactive learning platform where users can interact with their peers, teachers via discussions, QA on top of the current app
- » Conduct Usability Study
  - determine users' satisfaction and areas to be improved

# THANK YOU :)

Any questions?

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