

# Batch Menu Reading with OCR and OMR

## MAJOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

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# **1 Acknowledgment**

I would like to thank Mel Razmjoo and others who have helped and guided me to help complete the project. I would also like to acknowledge that this project, reading paper based menus is based on the menus and procedures of my workplace.

## **2 Abstract**

According to (Forbes, 2016), doctors spent two hours doing paperwork for every hour they took care of patients. Similarly, (The Independent, 2018) shows that nurses have had to sacrifice patient care due to paperworks that they were required to fill. While paperwork are important part of keeping compliance with regulations and are required for audits, finding ways of automating these processes can help both the patients as well create time for staff for other important tasks. This project in a similar light, aims to automate reading and obtaining meaningful data from paper-based menus found in some hospitals.

## **3 Introduction**

I work in a health-care organization in the catering department. One of many ongoing issues we encounter is not having accurate counts of orders in-order-to prepare the right amount of food for the patients while minimizing waste. The problem in the food ordering system is that it is based entirely on paper which requires manual work to count and sort, and is tedious and prone to error.

Batch Menu Processing with OMR utilizes non-traditional<sup>1</sup> OMR<sup>2</sup> technology in order to read and analyze paper based menus, the marks are then stored into a database and used to generate a meaningful report.

### **3.1 Aim of the project**

The objective of this project is to automate the work of a diet aide<sup>3</sup>, or to assist them by making the process faster and reducing manual work. The OMR methodology used in this project can be adapted to read other documents with similar characteristics.

The python program uses open-source libraries like Open-CV and Numpy for image processing, Redis No-SQL database to store data and python-docx to generate the report.

### **3.2 Key Performance Indicators (KPI)**

The indicators for the performance of the the project can be measured by:

- Project Schedule
- Estimation of completion
- Milestones completed

### **3.3 Project Deliverables**

The project deliverable for this undertaking is an application that is capable of reading menus and identifying speical diet needs and generate a useful report based on those information.

## **4 Background**

In order to appreciate the program and what it does, it is essential to understand the role of diet aide who currently performs the tasks as well as how the current food ordering system works. If you do not wish to learn too much about currently existing procedures, you can skip to the next section.

The health-care organization provides meals to about 50 patients daily three times a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner). The orders of the patients are filled by patients themselves (shown below):

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<sup>1</sup>Non-traditional in a sense that it requires no specialized OMR sheet

<sup>2</sup>Optical Mark Recognition, a process of obtaining marks and marked data from printed documents.

<sup>3</sup>A person responsible for preparation and/or handling meals prepared by cooks. (Indeed.com)

PRIVATE HOSPITAL BREAKFAST MONDAY WEEK 1			PRIVATE HOSPITAL LUNCH MONDAY WEEK 1			PRIVATE HOSPITAL DINNER MONDAY WEEK 1								
Name..... Room.....			Name..... Room.....			Name..... Room.....								
<b>FRUITS &amp; YOGHURT</b>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Stewed Apples <input type="checkbox"/> Compote of Prunes			<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Chicken with Basil & Tomato			<input type="checkbox"/> Cream of Cauliflower								
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Yoghurt <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit Yoghurt														
<b>HOT BREAKFAST</b>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Scrambled Egg														
<b>CEREALS</b>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Cornflakes <input type="checkbox"/> Porridge			<input type="checkbox"/> Side Salad			<input type="checkbox"/> Mashed Potato <input type="checkbox"/> Steamed Rice								
<input type="checkbox"/> Weetbix (1) or (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Sultana Bran						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Medley								
<input type="checkbox"/> Muesli														
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk <input type="checkbox"/> Skim Milk <input type="checkbox"/> Hot														
<b>BREADS AND ACCOMPANIMENTS</b>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Toast - White <input type="checkbox"/> Toast - Wholemeal			<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Sandwiches			<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Sandwiches								
<input type="checkbox"/> Butter <input type="checkbox"/> Margarine			<input type="checkbox"/> Mini Pavlova			<input type="checkbox"/> Banana Custard								
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegemite <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter			<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Fruit Plate			<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit Salad								
<input type="checkbox"/> Jam <input type="checkbox"/> Marmalade			<input type="checkbox"/> BREADS & ACCOMPANIMENTS			<input type="checkbox"/> BREADS & ACCOMPANIMENTS								
<input type="checkbox"/> Honey			<input type="checkbox"/> Bread Roll <input type="checkbox"/> Butter <input type="checkbox"/> Margarine			<input type="checkbox"/> Bread Roll <input type="checkbox"/> Butter <input type="checkbox"/> Margarine								
<b>BEVERAGES</b>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Glass of Milk			<input type="checkbox"/> BEVERAGES			<input type="checkbox"/> BEVERAGES								
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Herbal Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee			<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice			<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Glass of Milk								
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk <input type="checkbox"/> Skim Milk			Serving size: <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large			<input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Herbal Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee								
GENERAL MENU									GENERAL MENU			GENERAL MENU		

Figure 1: A sample blank menu given to the patients for filling

## 4.1 Diet Aide

The diet aide performs several important tasks that are required to do prior to providing the menus and a report to the kitchen, who then cook and prepare the meals accordingly. These tasks are:

- handing out menus to every patient (done a day prior, i.e. menus for Monday are given on Sunday),
- collecting them after they are filled by the patients<sup>4</sup> (same day),
- arranging these menus,
- identifying any special diet needs,
- counting the number of each item on the menu
- generating a report for the next day based on the count
- engaging with patients their, family as well as nurses to ensure diet needs are met

The majority of the time spent by the diet aide is counting and generating the report based on the counts of the menus. While not all of the tasks can be automated, by eliminating this manual task of counting and as well as by adding some intelligence to the program that can recognize some diet needs, the work load of the diet aide can be reduced so that he/she may engage more with the patients and may help improve the work experience.

## 4.2 The Menu Life Cycle

During my presentation it seemed that I was not able to convey how menus are used at each step, which is why I have tried to visually represent the steps involved throughout the lifetime of the menus, which may help the reader better understand the scope of the project. While the scope of the project is only to automate the task of one individual (diet aide) and not the whole team of people. The reader must not forget that a software is unable to physically deliver the food to the patients so that must be considered also. In order to narrow it down, the program has only the following functions:

- Read scanned images on menus
- Identify the ticked items and generate a report
- Identify the special diet needs

All of these tasks are done by the diet aide as described in the section earlier.

## 4.3 Menu Structure

The menu is divided into three sections, breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu also consists of other structures such as the day of the week and week. There are two weeks of menus, that is the food items in week one's monday is different from Monday in week two. The diet of the patient is listed at the bottom of the menu, "GENERAL MENU" shown in 6. Other diets can be diabetic, gluten free and minced diets.

## 5 Literature Review

Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) is a process that allows capturing checkboxes and text written into forms and papers. This process differs from optical character recognition (OCR) which is used to read printed and written text from paper. (*OMR vs. OCR – Difference and Comparison – Diffzi*, n.d.) The difference in the application of these two technologies also lies in the application of these technologies. OMR is used for analyzing answers and results in a survey or the answers filled out in a form. Whereas, OCR is generally used to digitize printed documents and is not capable of reading forms and marked surveys. While the technological capabilities may not always be accurate in both technologies, the major drawback of OMR is that it is generally used with a specialized paper answer sheet as shown below:

The problem with implementing OMR is the use of these specialized sheets which may not be available and are less flexible compared to the use of traditional printed papers. Some OMR papers use a specialized ink that looks less pronounced when scanned at specific wavelengths to reduce the margin of error. They may also not be as easy to use compared to traditional paper form for elderly and people with disabilities in the hospitals.

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<sup>4</sup>Sometimes diet aide or a nurse has to assist a patient who is unable to fill the menu themselves

## **Week 2: Saturday Dinner**

Steak & mushroom sauce (Large: Rm15a, 30) 13  
Honey soy chicken (Large: Rm4a, 13, 20b, 23, 26, 38, 40) 36  
Mashed potato 21  
Mixed vegetables 24  
Rice 13

Turkey salad 3

Vegetarian: Cheese salad (if poss: Smoked salmon, olives, Spanish onion & semi-dried tomato rm18.

Side salad 18 Rm42: No garlic, onion & capsicum.

Assorted sandwiches 5

Supper: Rm8, 20b

Apricot sponge & custard 19

Diabetic apricots & custard Rm8, 17, *44, 14*

Two fruits rm22

Fruit salad 21

Ice cream rm 16b, 22, 25, 37, 41, 46.

Banana rm4a & 43, Sliced wholemeal bread rm19 & 28.

### **SPECIAL:**

Half: tomato soup **rm29, 36**

Minced for soft diet: Honey soy chicken & extra sauce, Diced mix vegetables **rm22**

No garlic, onion & capsicum: Minute steak & lemon & mix vegetables **rm42**

No gravy: Soft Minute steak **rm43**

No corn: mix vegetables **rm34**

Figure 2: An actual report prepared by the Diet Aide.

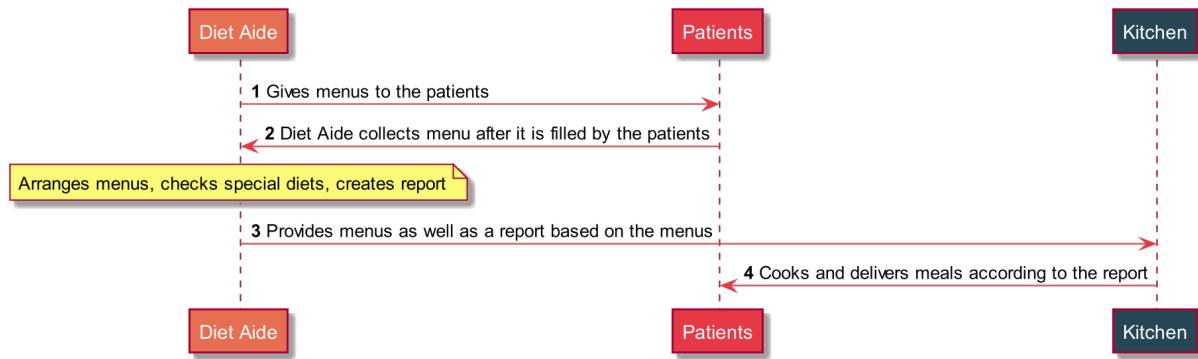


Figure 3: Report generation by the Diet Aide

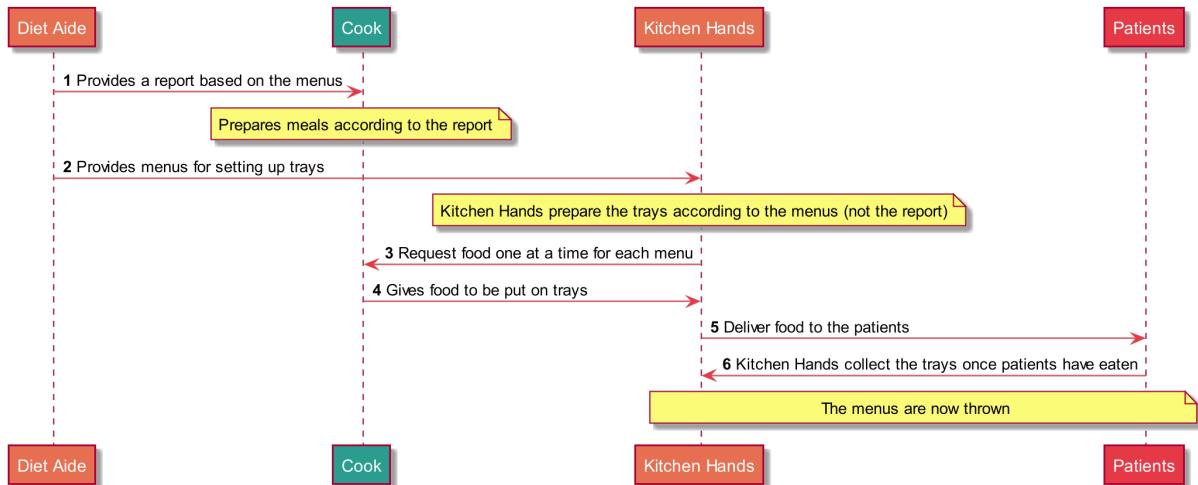


Figure 4: Breakdown of how the report and menus are used

Table 1: Benefits of electronic meal order system (Source: Serial Multivision)

	Traditional	Electronic System
Patient Menu	Genric	Personalized
Safety Checks	Manual	Auto
Order Taker	Nurse	Anyone
Dietitian Instructions	Repeated, Manual	Once, Auto-recurring
Meal Slip sorting	Manual	Auto
Alerts and Notification	No	Yes
Dish and Menu Management	Manual	Auto
Detailed Reports	Manual Effort	Automatic



Figure 5: Example of the tray after it is set up by the kitchen (Image Source: The Canadian Press)

PRIVATE HOSPITAL, SHEEKHAT FRIDAY WEEK 1	
Name	Room
<b>FRUITS &amp; YOGHURT</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Steamed Apple	<input type="checkbox"/> Compote of Pears
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Yogurt	<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Yoghurt
<b>HOT BREAKFAST</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scrambled Egg & Tomato	
<b>CEREALS</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cereals	<input type="checkbox"/> Porridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Weetbix (1) or (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sultana Bran
<input type="checkbox"/> Muesli	
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Skim Milk <input type="checkbox"/> Hot
<b>BREADS AND ACCOMPANIMENTS</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toast - White	<input type="checkbox"/> Toast - Whitewheat
<input type="checkbox"/> Margarine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vgegie	<input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter
<input type="checkbox"/> Jam	<input type="checkbox"/> Macaromade
<input type="checkbox"/> Honey	
<b>BEVERAGES</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Juice	<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Glass of Milk
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Herbed Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Skim Milk

PRIVATE HOTEL		LUNCH	FRIDAY	WEEKEND
Name		Room		
<b>HOT MEAL</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crystallized Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Veal Goulash		
<b>VEGETABLES</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chips	Mashed Potatos		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Peas and Carrots			
<b>MAIN SALAD</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ham Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Coleslaw		
<b>SANDWICHES</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anecdote Sandwiches			
<b>DESSERT</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creamy Rice & Peaches			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fruit Fresh Plate			
<b>BREAD &amp; ACCOMPANIMENTS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bread Roll	<input type="checkbox"/> Butter	<input type="checkbox"/> Margarine	
<b>BEVERAGES</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Juice	<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice		
Serving time: <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large				
CATERING MENU				

<b>PRIVATE HOSPITAL</b>		
<b>DINNER FRIDAY WEEK 1</b>		
Name _____	Room _____	
<b>Soup</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin		
<b>HOT MEAL</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Parmigiana		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna in Creamy white Sauce		
<b>VEGETABLES</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baked Mashed Potato	<input type="checkbox"/> Carrots	<input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta	<input type="checkbox"/> Rice
<b>MAIN SALAD</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> House Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Side salad	
<b>SANDWICHES</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted sandwiches		
<b>DESSERT</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Fruits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Fruit Salad		
<b>BREAD &amp; ACCOMPLIMENTS</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bread Roll	<input type="checkbox"/> Butter	<input type="checkbox"/> Margarine
<b>BEVERAGES</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Juice	<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Juice	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass of Milk
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Herbal Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Skim Milk	
Serving and Meal _____ Date _____ Order _____		
<b>GENERAL MENU</b>		

## Breakfast

## Lunch

## Dinner

Figure 6: Each paper consists of three section.

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, W...**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAM FORM**

Figure 7: A sample OMR page

## 5.1 Why not use iPads, Webiste or a digital system?

An alternate method that can be used is to use a tablet device or iPad to allow patients to order their meals. (*Food Ordering System for Patients / Alpha HIROS*, n.d.) However implementing this requires a large investment per patient compared to traditional paper based method. If OMR can be used in a non-traditional way (without using the specialized sheet) as demonstrated by programs like RescueOMR (*RescueOMR: batch Optical Mark Recognition without foresight*, n.d.), then this system can be used without disrupting the currently existing system based on paper and can reap the benefits of using a digital system with advanced intelligence.

According to the Patent (Taylor, 2004), firstly, the blank template of form or image is scanned as a guide on which the scanned forms are compared after they are transformed using Affine transformation (lines are not altered and ratio of distances are kept same ) to match the base image. After the blank form and new scanned form are aligned as finely as possible, per pixel intensity differences are calculated. The difference in the values can help determine if the region has been marked or not. Same procedure is applied to multiple forms or areas based on the design of the application. Page alignment and resolution changes may also be required in order to achieve accurate results.

## 5.2 Image Registration

Image Registration is the process of normalizing or transforming an image to match characteristics of another image for the purpose of comparision or other advanced image manipulation techniques. (Zitova, 2019) Image registration as well as other methods such as dynamic resolution scaling can futher improve the capability of the program to function with different image scans.

## 5.3 Template Matching

Compared to method described earlier in (Taylor, 2004), which uses per pixel difference after a near accurate image registration (transformed to match a previous template) the method that is being implemented in my project uses template matching. This process involves sliding the template over another image to find regions where the template matches most accurately (*Template Matching – OpenCV 2.4.13.7 documentation*, n.d.). The benefit of this process, I believe is that it can allow use of different scanning devices. This may be accomplished by using various ratios to accomodate the template and the menus that are scanned. Template matching may also allow narrowing down of options and futher OMR contour detection can be applied on the space. The logic behind this is that a template can be an item on the menu such as Soup. This template is checked on the filled menu to narrow down the region where soup is present.



Figure 8: Template matching is used to detect multiple coins

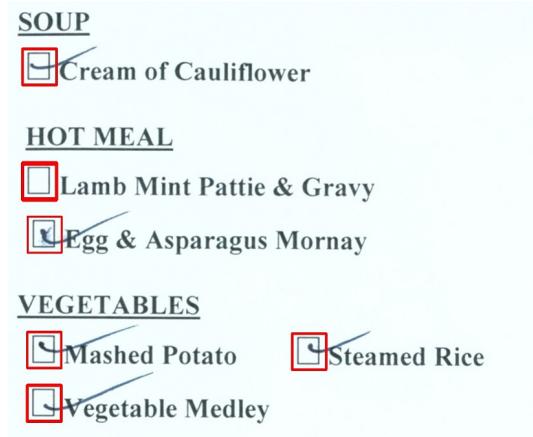


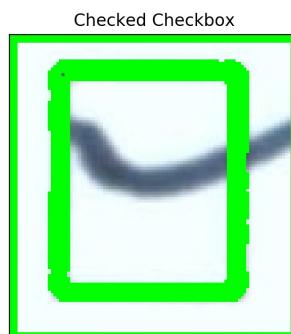
Figure 9: Matches of checkboxes using template matching

#### 5.4 Contour detection

Contour detection is a process of identifying shapes in images. Shapes such as square and bubbles or circles are used for marking or selecting answers generally with OMR. (*A Box detection algorithm for any image containing boxes.*, n.d.) Contour detection helps the program to select only these marking points and ignore the other fields in the form which are not marked by the user. This can be applied after template matching has been done to actually identify if the item corresponding to the template has been checked or not. The shape that marks the answer should be distinct from other shapes in the form or should be enclosed in a table like structure to further isolate the points and reduce the possibility of improper readings done by the software. Projects and tutorials such as (PyImageSearch, 2016) have used contour detection and sorting, however for my project, I have relied exclusively on template matching and it has worked effectively. It is also possible to identify the square shaped contours and then loop over the number of squares



Figure 10: How contour detection can be used to detect shapes, using different values (Source: OpenCV)



## 6 Methodology

The project was undertaken with little understanding and prior knowledge of many components used. Thus, research and learning were major parts of this undertaking. While the general structure of the project was based on waterfall methodology of project management, the coding process of the program was done in small increments similar to Agile methodology. It can be said that this was a hybrid approach in undertaking the project and included the best of the both worlds, i.e. the initial phases were conducted sequentially and the implementation of the project was done in small and functional chunks.

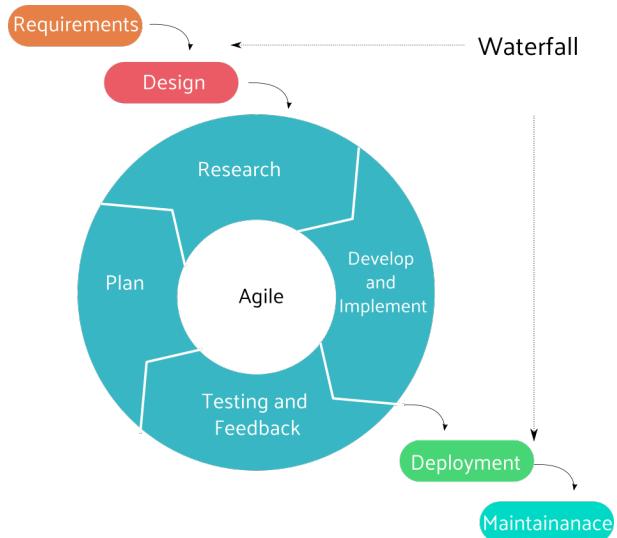


Figure 11: Hybrid project management methodology was used for this project

## 7 Development

As mentioned prior in the section above, the development of the application was done in small sprints in accordance with the Agile methodology. Small features were introduced one at a time and other features were added on top of existing features to achieve the completion of the project.

### 7.1 Jupyter Notebook

Jupyter Notebook is an interactive application that allows developers to write live code, that is the file contains the code as well as returns the results which can be stored in the document. Using Jupyter Notebook, small functionalities like reading the images, rotating the images, and so on can be done step by step with progressive increments.

### 7.2 Timeline

The timeline for the project can be divided into following stages:

- Collecting Requirements
- Research
- Design
- Development
- Testing
- Feedback
- Release and Maintenance

# Rotation and Cropping

```
[101]: import cv2
import numpy as np
import imutils
from imutils.perspective import four_point_transform
from imutils import contours
%config InlineBackend.figure_format = 'retina'
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
img_color = cv2.imread('Scans/Full/blank.jpg')
plt.title('How OpenCV images (BGR) display in Matplotlib (RGB)')
plt.xticks([]), plt.yticks([])
plt.imshow(img_color)
plt.show()
```

How OpenCV images (BGR) display in Matplotlib (RGB)

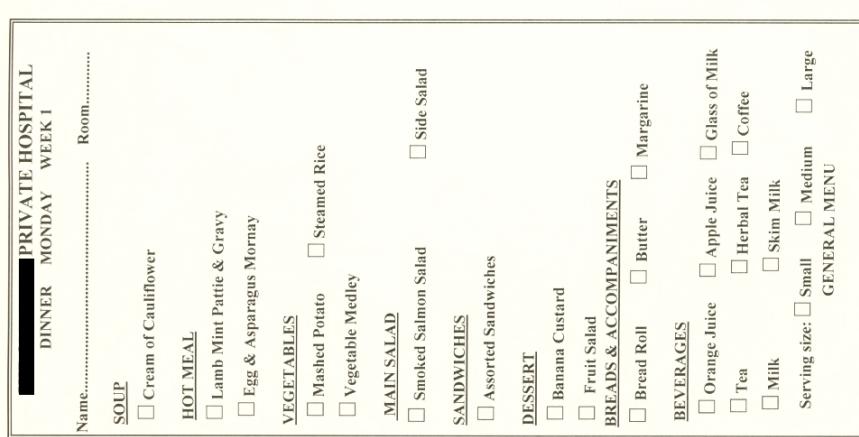
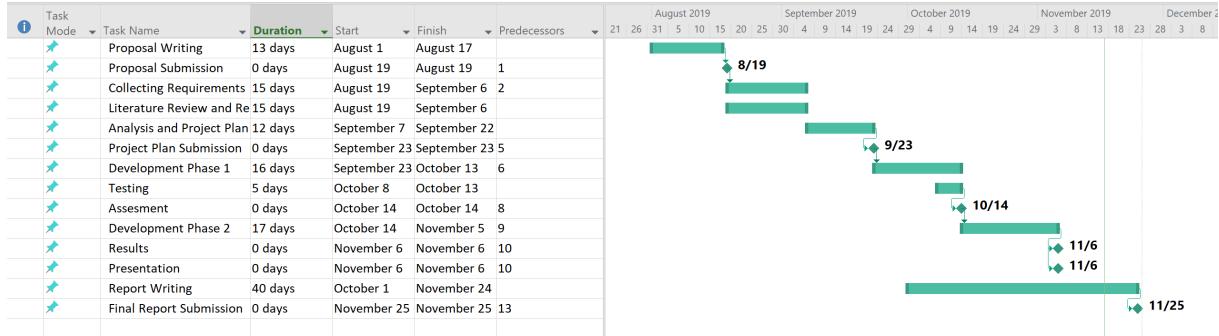


Figure 12: Jupyter Notebook

The timeline for the project was based around the required milestones and deliverables to the subject teacher.



## 8 Cost

There are no costs that are required in developing or creating this project apart from time spent coding and testing. The equipments used are a scanner and a computer to process the code. Scanners are generally available in every hospital or office and hence this project should bear no additional cost when implemented. If no such provisions are in place, a cheap computer such as Raspberry Pi and a scanner that has a feeder tray to scan multiple documents at once is all that is needed. The total costs for these seem to be about \$250.

## 9 Analysis

Batch Menu Processing with OMR and OCR uses several components to perform different actions, collectively working to achieve the end goal, which is to generate a word document from multiple menus.

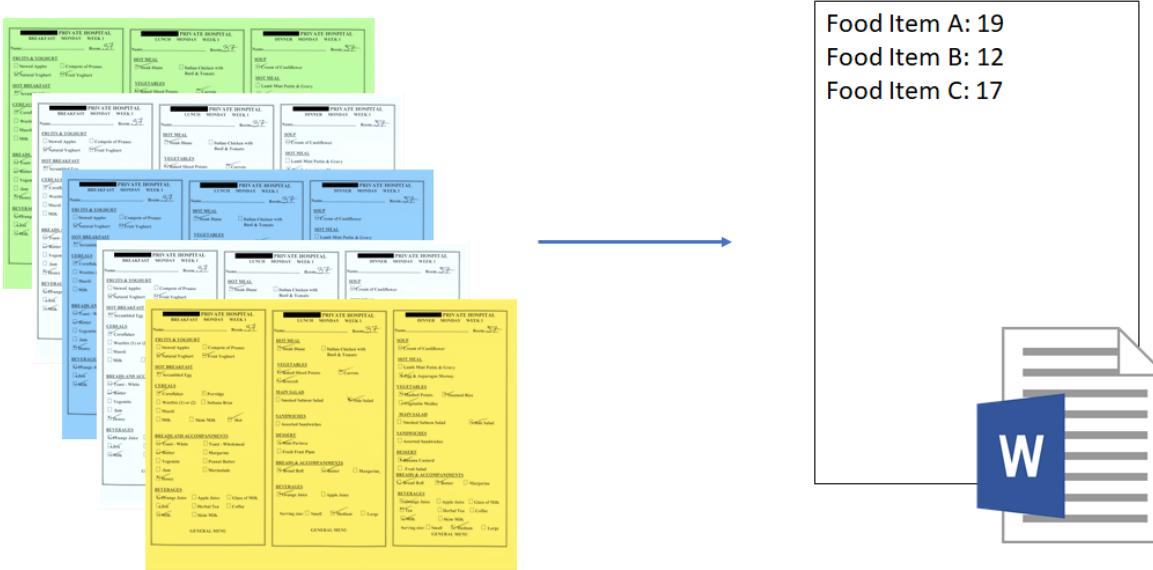


Figure 13: The program, to put it simply generates a report from scanned menus

While it can be seen that the handwriting recognition of tesseract is not as accurate, it is accurate in reading the required printed text.

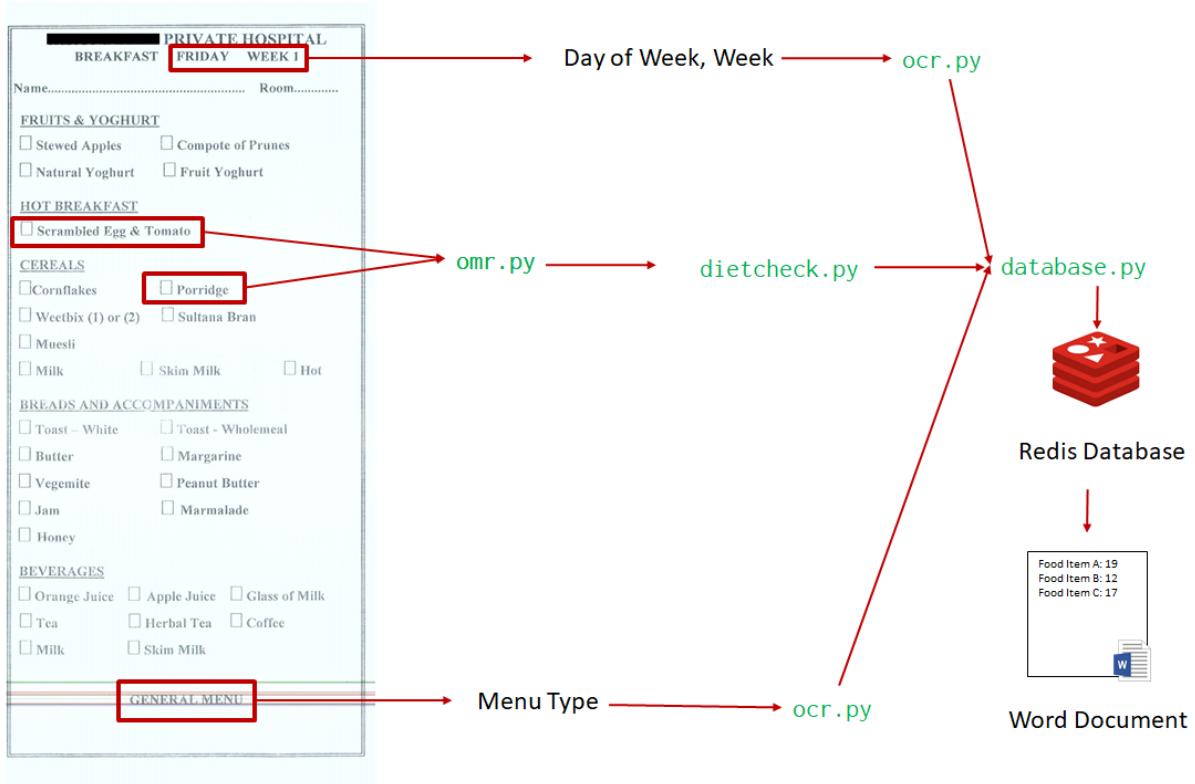
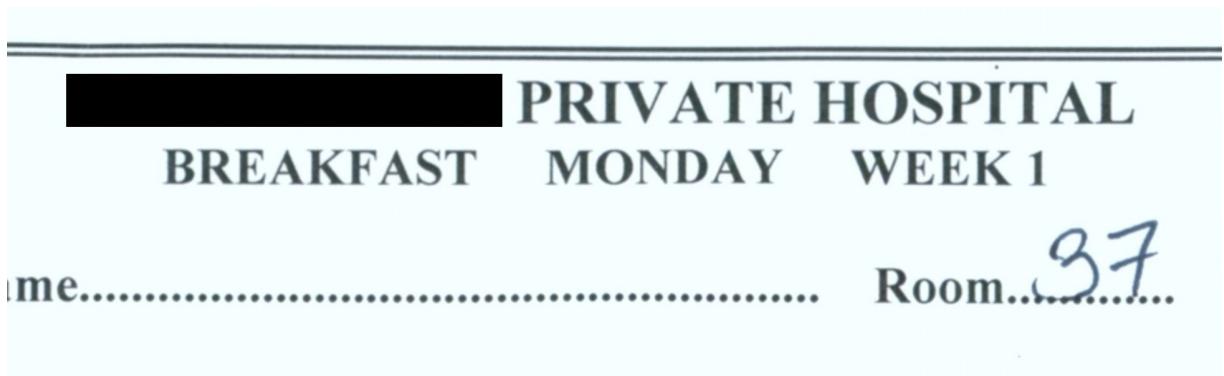


Figure 14: General Breakdown of how the menu is read.

## 9.1 OCR

Optical Character Recognition is used in identifying the week and the day as shown in 14. A minimal section of the image (top 20 % and bottom 20% as determined by measuring the menu) is passed to the 14.5 which uses Tesseract and it's python interface pytesseract is used to read the printed characters in the menu. This allows the program to be robust. OCR with printed text has high level of accuracy.

For example, the section of image sent to the OCR library is:



The resulting output is:

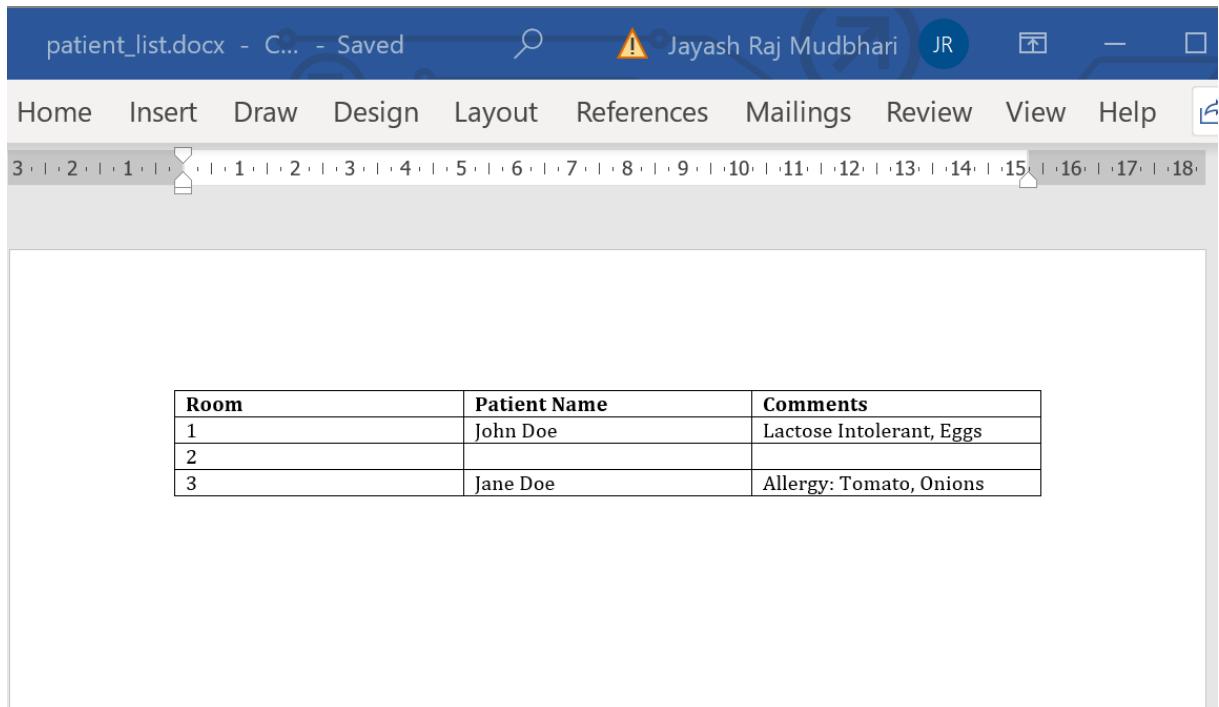
```
'ERE PRIVATE HOSPITAL
```

```
BREAKFAST MONDAY WEEK 1
```

```
DG erie ceieerreesrereees terns Room. 4.
```

### 9.1.1 python-docx: Reading Patient List

The `read()` function in 14.6 reads the "patient\_list.docx" file which could be anywhere in the network or in the local drive. The python script reads the table in the document to identify rooms which are occupied, and identify additional information about the patient.



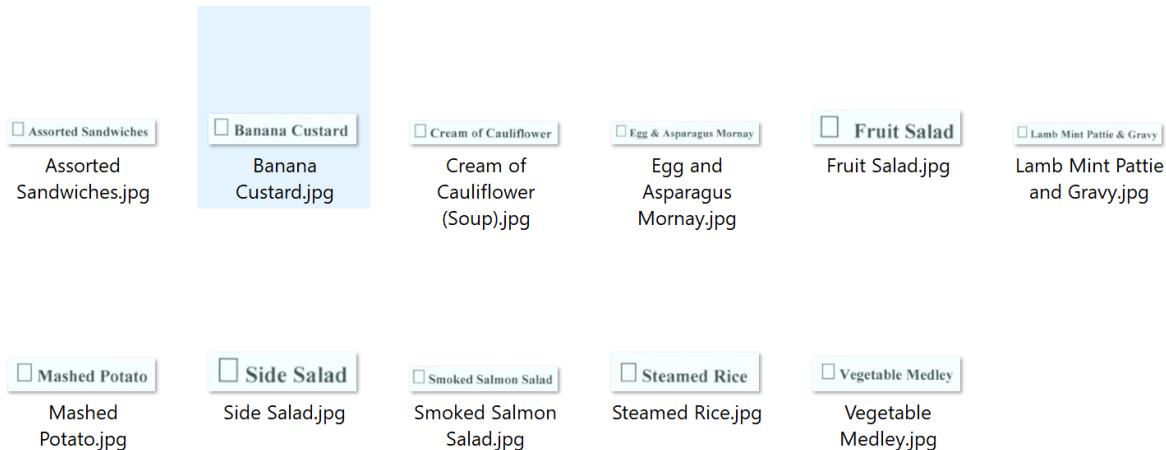
The output generated by the `read()` function is as follows (note: it skips where patient name field is empty, noting that the room is vacant):

```
[{'Room': '1', 'Patient Name': 'John Doe', 'Comments': 'Lactose Intolerant'}, {'Room': '3', 'Patient Name':  
→ 'Jane Doe', 'Comments': 'Allergy: Tomato, Onions'}]
```

## 9.2 OMR

The optical mark recognition component 14.4, reads the templates in the folders organized according to the day, week and the diet type of the menu and identifies if each of the templates are checked or not.

The following is an example such templates:



The templates are sorted in the following way in folders:

Week 1

```

Friday
  Breakfast
  Dinner
  Lunch
Monday
  Breakfast
    Porridge.jpg
    Scrambled Egg.jpg
  Dinner
    Assorted Sandwiches.jpg
    Banana Custard.jpg
    Cream of Cauliflower.jpg
    Egg and Asparagus Mornay.jpg
    Fruit Salad.jpg
    Lamb Mint Pattie and Gravy.jpg
    Mashed Potato.jpg
    Side Salad.jpg
    Smoked Salmon Salad.jpg
    Steamed Rice.jpg
    Vegetable Medley.jpg
  Lunch
    Baked Sliced Potato.jpg
    Broccoli.jpg
    Carrots.jpg
    Fruit Plate.jpg
    Italian Chicken with Basil and Tomato.jpg
    Mini Pavlova.jpg
    Sandwiches.jpg
    Side Salad.jpg
    Smoked Salmon Salad.jpg
    Steak Diane.jpg
Saturday
Sunday
Thursday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Week 2
  Friday
  Monday
  Saturday
  Sunday
  Thursday
  Tuesday
  Wednesday

```

This folder structure allows easily adding and removing required items according to the diet of the patient.

The templates are created manually and identify the items that require to be read by the program.

The method of recognizing checkboxes is by firstly masking checkboxes in template as well as a template of a blank checkbox. Because it is relevant to this section, and is important part of the program it must be described here.

```

1 def is_checked(item):
2     check = cv2.imread("check.jpg")
3     gray_check = cv2.cvtColor(check, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
4     match_param = match_template(check, item)
5     menu_check = item.copy()
6
7     menu_check = crop_this(menu_check, match_param)
8

```

```

9     kernel = np.ones((5,5),np.uint8)
10    modval=100
11    (t, maskLayer) = cv2.threshold(src = check,
12        thresh = modval,
13        maxval = 170,
14        type = cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
15    erosion = cv2.erode(maskLayer,kernel,iterations = 1)
16    (t2, maskLayer2) = cv2.threshold(src = menu_check,
17        thresh = modval,
18        maxval = 170,
19        type = cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
20    erosion2 = cv2.erode(maskLayer2,kernel,iterations = 1)
21    print()
22    print (np.mean(erosion), np.mean(erosion2))
23    if np.mean(erosion) > np.mean(erosion2*1.04):
24        return True

```

To put it briefly, pixels brighter than 170 are masked out, and only darker pixels are stored in the =maskLayer=s, after which erosion<sup>5</sup> of the layers is done. After that the comparision of the checkbox from the cropped out section of the filled menu is compared with the blank checkbox. If the mean pixels in the filled menu's checkbox is significantly darker it is considered to be ticked.

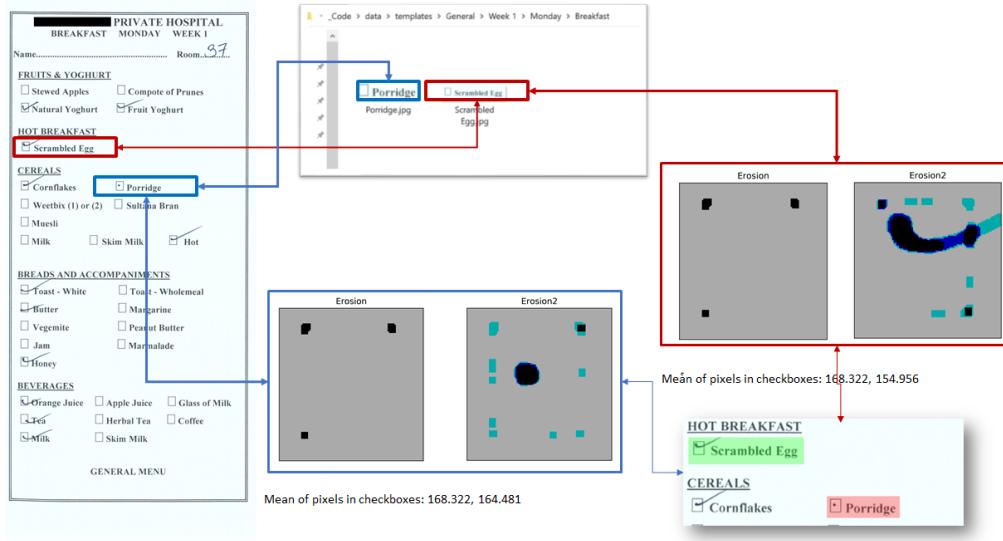


Figure 15: OMR alrogithm works by comparing the mean of pixels to identify if a box is ticked.

### 9.2.1 python-docx: Finding the best values for accurate recognition

The values maxval, modval, iterations and comparision value of 1.04 used on the above function are sensitive and may require tweaking depending on the conditions to reduce false positives and false negatives. These are significant variables and determine the functioning of the function, and the program itself.

## 9.3 Redis

Redis is a No-SQL database which does not require table stuructures and relationships unlike the traditional SQL programs like MySQL, SQLite. This advantage allowed for quick integration and implementation of counting of the ticked items in the menu. It is used by 14.4 to store the ticked items and by 14.6 to read the database and generate a report, as shown below:

<sup>5</sup>Erosion removes the boundary pixels of foreground by changing the pixels to match the boundary pixels.

```

127.0.0.1:6379> keys *
1) "Egg and Asparagus Mornay.jpg:list"
2) "Broccoli.jpg:count"
3) "Scrambled Egg.jpg:list"
4) "Scrambled Egg.jpg:name"
5) "Steak Diane.jpg:count"
6) "Mashed Potato.jpg:count"

127.0.0.1:6379> get "Mashed Potato.jpg:count"
"4"

```

```

jx@iv:/mnt/c/Users/jx$ redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> set item1:count 1
OK
127.0.0.1:6379> get item1:count
"1"
127.0.0.1:6379> incr item1:count
(integer) 2
127.0.0.1:6379> get item1:count
"2"
127.0.0.1:6379> RPUSH item1:list 1
(integer) 1
127.0.0.1:6379> RPUSH item1:list 5
(integer) 2
127.0.0.1:6379> get item1:list
(error) WRONGTYPE Operation against a key holding the wrong kind of value
127.0.0.1:6379> LRANGE item1:list -100 100
1) "1"
2) "5"
127.0.0.1:6379>

```

Figure 16: A simple demonstration of how easily one can store and retrieve data from redis.

## 9.4 python-docx

Python-docx is a python library that allows reading and writing to a word .docx filetype. The choice of word document is intentional as it is primarily used by the staff in the organization.

### 9.4.1 Generating report

`write()` function in 14.6 is used for generating a report at the end, which facilitates the diet aide. The report consists of three pages, one for each section of menu (breakfast, lunch and dinner), with counts for each item. She can then review the `debug.pdf` file produced by 14.8 to review any false positives or false negatives and make changes to the report produced easily. This is the main desired output from this project.

The output generated by the program looks like:

# Dinner

---

Mashed Potato 4:1, 3, 1, 3

Steamed Rice 4:1, 3, 1, 3

Banana Custard 4:1, 3, 1, 3

Side Salad 8:1, 1, 3, 3, 1, 1, 3, 3

Cream of Cauliflower (Soup) 4:1, 3, 1, 3

Vegetable Medley 4:1, 3, 1, 3

Egg and Asparagus Mornay 4:1, 3, 1 (No Eggs), 3

Notice the "No Eggs" this can be seen because the patient\_list.docx for Room 3 contains allergy information.

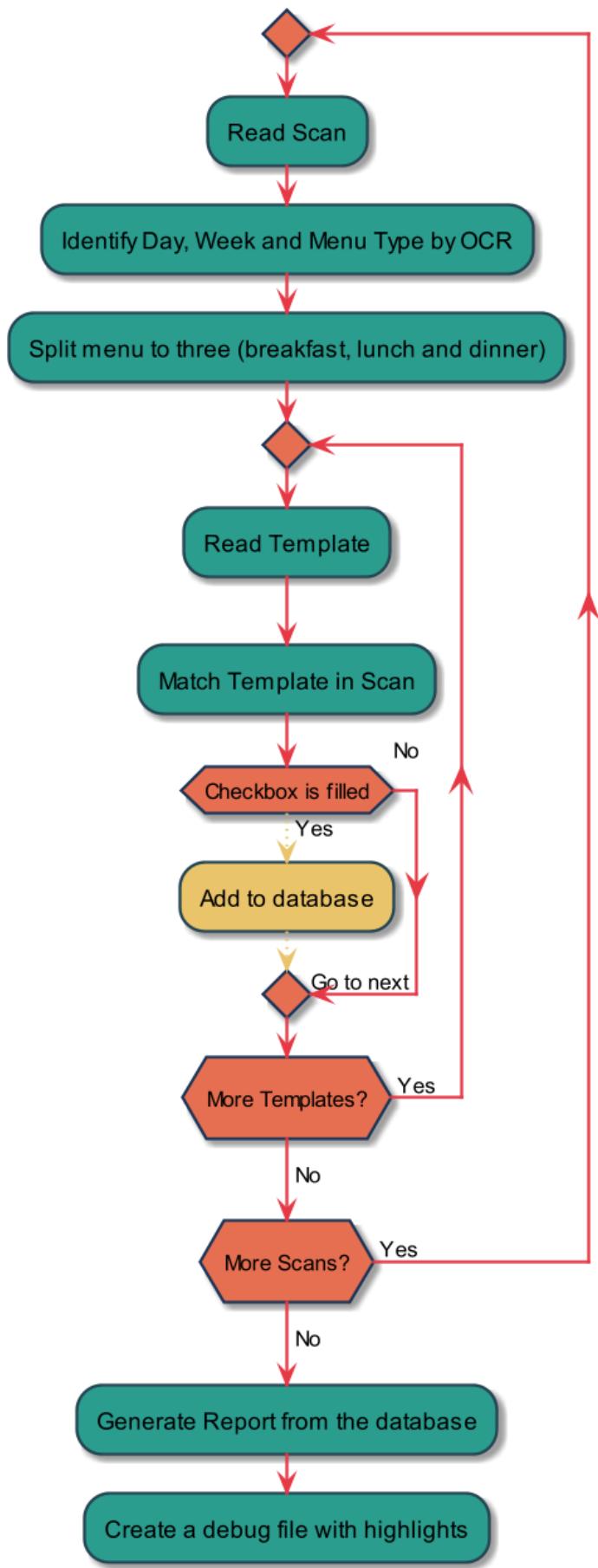
## 9.5 Informational PDF

A PDF file containing highlights is also created for helping review any false positives or false negatives during the process, this is generated by 14.8 and is stored as debug.pdf in the project directory.



## 10 Program Flow

The following flowchart describes the flow of the program which utilizes the components mentioned in the section 9 and can be reviewed using the code presented in the section 14. Another benefit of this application and the way it is created is that various functions and files have their own functioning and can be modified without affecting the rest of the program.



## 11 Assumptions and Requirements

The project makes the following assumptions in order to function properly:

- The templates need to be the same DPI<sup>6</sup> as the scans in order to make proper matches.
- A user checks the output report file as well as the debug pdf containing all the scans to identify any false negatives after the program is finished counting the menus.
- This project assumes that no currently existing procedures are changed, i.e. it aims to perform the tasks with least disruptions (for example: the layout of the menus do not need changing).

## 12 Future Work / Recommendations

The program is not complete in a sense that in order to completely replace the knowledge of the diet aide, there must be more work put into the program as the diet aide has some formal knowledge of dietetics.

Some more functionalities that can be added in the future are:

- Handwriting recognition neural network can be trained using the menus, by cropping out the room numbers so identify room numbers written in the menu, currently the menus need to be sorted and are matched with the list of patients.
- More knowledge of food items by adding recipes can help further reduce diet aide involvement.

## 13 Conclusion

Through this project, I was able to demonstrate how the program can automate the job of a diet aide or assist them in making their jobs easier by use of existing devices such as a scanner and a computer, as well as by using free and open source programs and libraries.

The program is able to perform several functions, which are:

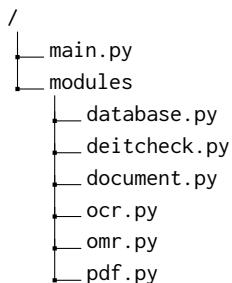
- Read a document (List of patients) to identify number of patients
- Read the scanned menus according to the list of patients
- Identify the day of the week, to look for related menu templates
- "Count" or store the items into a database
- Identify allergies
- Generate a word document with the diet needs mentioned

I would like to remind the assessor to not overlook the complexity of the program and the various functions. I would like to argue that my project is much more complex than presented by other students and this can be seen through the amount of work I've put into the code.

## 14 Appendix

### 14.1 Structure

The program is broken down into following files:



---

<sup>6</sup>This project uses 600dpi scans

## 14.2 main.py

```
1 import modules.ocr as ocr
2 import modules.database as db
3 import modules.document as doc
4 import modules.pdf as pdf
5 import modules.omr as omr
6 import imutils
7 import cv2
8 import numpy as np
9 import os
10 # how having closely cropped tempaltes affect the matching (crop too closely and its gone)
11 # how having ddifferent threshold affets stuff
12
13 scans = os.listdir('scans/')
14 patients = doc.read()
15 prefix = ""
16 db.init()
17
18 def menu_type(text):
19     if "GENERAL MENU" in text:
20         return "General"
21     elif "DIABETIC MENU" in text:
22         return "Diabetic"
23     elif "GLUTEN FREE MENU" in text:
24         return "Gluten Free"
25
26 def week_day(text):
27     def week():
28         if "WEEK 1" in text:
29             return "Week 1"
30         elif "WEEK 2" in text:
31             return "Week 2"
32     def day():
33         if "MONDAY" in text:
34             return "Monday"
35         elif "TUSEDAY" in text:
36             return "Tuesday"
37         elif "WEDNESDAY" in text:
38             return "Wednesday"
39         elif "THURSDAY" in text:
40             return "Thursday"
41         elif "FRIDAY" in text:
42             return "Friday"
43         elif "SATURDAY" in text:
44             return "Saturday"
45         elif "SUNDAY" in text:
46             return "Sunday"
47     return week() + "/" + day()
48
49
50 for filename, info in zip(scans, patients):
51     scan = cv2.imread("Scans/" + filename)
52
53     gray_menu = cv2.cvtColor(scan, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
```

```

56 # https://docs.opencv.org/master/d3/df2/tutorial_py_basic_ops.html
57 # Shape returns number of rows (height) and columns (Width) and channels (none if gray)
58 h,w = gray_menu.shape[:2]
59 if h > w:
60     # Rotate Image
61     #
62     ↳ https://stackoverflow.com/questions/43892506/opencv-python-rotate-image-without-cropping-sides/47248339
63     gray_menu = imutils.rotate_bound(gray_menu, 90)
64     menu_w = int(h/3)
65     menu_h = int(w)
66 else:
67     menu_w = int(w/3)
68     menu_h = int(h)
69
70 menu_names = ["breakfast", "lunch", "dinner"]
71 menus = {}
72 menu_text =""
73 week = ""
74 for i in (range(len(menu_names))):
75
76     temp = scan.copy() #change to gray_menu to use only one channel
77     if i == 2:
78         #
79         ↳ https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6181935/how-do-you-create-different-variable-names-while-in-a-loop
80         # crop_img = img[y:y+h, x:x+w]
81         menus["{}".format(menu_names[i])] = temp [0:menu_h, menu_w*i-50:menu_w*(i+1)]
82     else:
83         menus["{}".format(menu_names[i])] = temp [0:menu_h, menu_w*i:menu_w*(i+1)] # (x1:x2, y1:y2) which
84         ↳ form a rectangle
85     print(menus["{}".format(menu_names[i])].shape)
86     snip_top = menus["{}".format(menu_names[i])][int(0.8*menu_h):menu_h, 0:menu_w]
87     menu_text = menu_text.join(ocr.read(snip_top))
88     snip_bottom = menus["{}".format(menu_names[i])][0:int(0.2*menu_h), 0:menu_w]
89     week = week.join(ocr.read(snip_bottom))
90
91     menu_text = menu_type(menu_text)
92     week = week_day(week)
93     prefix = menu_text + "/" + week + "/"
94
95     print(prefix, info)
96     for i in menu_names:
97         # Snips bottom half of menu for menu type (general, diabetic, gluten free)
98
99         print(menu_text)
100        omr.read_templates(prefix+i,menus[i],menu_text, info)
101
102        combined = np.hstack((menus["lunch"], menus["dinner"]))
103        # adjust the correction of 50 in dinner menu, due to geometry, more borders towards side
104        dinner_adjustments = menus["dinner"].shape[:2]
105        menus["dinner"] = menus["dinner"][:0:dinner_adjustments[0], 50:dinner_adjustments[1]]
106        combined = np.hstack((menus["breakfast"],menus["lunch"], menus["dinner"]))
107        combined= cv2.resize(combined,None,fx=0.25,fy=0.25)
108        cv2.imwrite('debug/{}'.format(filename), combined)
109

```

```
110 doc.write(prefix)
111 pdf.create()
```

### 14.3 database.py

```
1 import redis
2 import modules.deitcheck as diet
3
4 # FOR REDIS
5 redis_host = "localhost"
6 redis_port = 6379
7 redis_password = ""
8 prev_item=""
9
10 r = redis.StrictRedis(host=redis_host, port=redis_port, password=redis_password, decode_responses=True)
11
12 def update(item, menu_type, pt_info):
13     """
14         pt_info: {'Room': '1', 'Patient Name': 'John Doe', 'Comments': 'Lactose Intolerant'}
15     """
16     try:
17         # The decode_repsonses flag here directs the client to convert the responses from Redis into Python
18         # strings
19         # using the default encoding utf-8. This is client specific.
20
21         print ("UPDATE INITIATION")
22         print (item, menu_type, pt_info)
23         note = diet.check(item, menu_type, pt_info)
24         print(r.keys("*:name"))
25         print("msg")
26         msg = r.get("{}:name".format(item))
27         if not msg:
28             r.set("{}:name".format(item), item)
29             r.incr("{}:count".format(item))
30             if note:
31                 r.rpush("{}:list".format(item), pt_info["Room"]+note)
32             else:
33                 r.rpush("{}:list".format(item), pt_info["Room"])
34             print("count")
35             count = r.get("{}:count".format(item))
36             print("{} exists and the count is {}".format(item, count))
37             ptlist = r.lrange("{}:list".format(item), -100, 100)
38             print("{} exists and the list is {}".format(item, ptlist))
39             print("{} is created and the count is {}".format(item, count))
40
41     except Exception as e:
42         print(e)
43
44     def init():
45         r.delete("Contains:*")
46         r.rpush("Contains:Tomato", "Italian Chicken with Basil and Tomato", "Side Salad", "Smoked Salmon Salad")
47         r.rpush ("Contains:Eggs", "Scrambled Egg", "Egg and Asparagus Mornay")
48         r.rpush ("Contains:Gluten", "Chicken Parmigiana", "Crumpled Fish")
49         print("Database initialized")
```

## 14.4 omr.py

```
1 import os
2 import cv2
3 import numpy as np
4 import imutils
5 import modules.database as db
6
7
8 def plot_this(title, image):
9     """
10     Only for Jupyter Notebook. Moved to show.py in modules
11     """
12     pass
13
14 def match_template(template, image):
15     """
16     Matches just one template to any supplied image returns the match percentage and the location,
17     as well as the shape (h,w) of the template image
18     """
19     #needs a grayscale image, template
20     (t, maskLayer) = cv2.threshold(src = template,
21         thresh = 200,
22         maxval = 255,
23         type = cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
24     # Find shape (resolution) of template and match it in the scan
25     h, w = template.shape[:2]
26     result = cv2.matchTemplate(image, maskLayer, cv2.TM_CCOEFF_NORMED)
27     #https://stackoverflow.com/questions/36040630/how-to-interpret-matchtemplate-output-opencv-python
28     min_val, max_val, min_loc, max_loc = cv2.minMaxLoc(result) # max_loc for best match probably
29     return (max_val, max_loc, h, w)
30
31 def draw_rectangle(image, param, color):
32     """
33     Draws a rectangle around a given template
34     color needs to be an array (0,255,0) for green, (255,0,0) for red
35     """
36     overlay = image.copy()
37     # transparency value
38     alpha = 0.3
39     # creates an copy of the image and makes an opaque box in the area and then makes it transparent
40     cv2.rectangle(overlay, param[1], (param[1][0] + param[3], param[1][1] + param[2]), color, -1)
41     #cv2.rectangle(image, param[1], (param[1][0] + param[3], param[1][1] + param[2]), color, 3)
42     # adds the overlay to the original image
43     cv2.addWeighted(overlay, alpha, image, 1 - alpha, 0, image)
44     # for more info https://www.pyimagesearch.com/2016/03/07/transparent-overlays-with-opencv/
45
46
47 def crop_this(image, param):
48     #param is (max_val, max_loc, h, w) else is false
49     image = image[param[1][1]:param[1][1]+param[2], param[1][0]:param[1][0]+param[3]]
50     return image
51
52
53
54 def read_templates(folder, image, diet, pt_info):
55     """
```

```

56     Reads the templates folder and calls match_template, which returns the best match for each template.
57     It then:
58     - Calls draw rectangle, around each template in the folder
59     - Crops the template on the image
60     """
61     entries = os.listdir('data/templates/{}'.format(folder))
62
63
64     for filename in entries:
65         template = cv2.imread("data/templates/{}/".format(folder)+filename)
66         template_gray = cv2.cvtColor(template, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
67         match_param = match_template(template, image)
68         # match_param is (max_val, max_loc, h, w) else is false
69
70         item = crop_this(image, match_param)
71
72         if (is_checked(item)):
73             draw_rectangle(image, match_param, (0,255,0))
74             print ("{} is checked".format(filename))
75             # filename eg: Steamed Rice.jpg
76             db.update(filename, diet, pt_info)
77         else:
78             draw_rectangle(image, match_param, (0,0,255))
79             print ("{} is not checked".format(filename))
80
81
82     def is_checked(item):
83         check = cv2.imread("check.jpg")
84         gray_check = cv2.cvtColor(check, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
85         match_param = match_template(check, item)
86         menu_check = item.copy()
87
88         menu_check = crop_this(menu_check, match_param)
89
90         kernel = np.ones((5,5),np.uint8)
91         modval=100
92         (t, maskLayer) = cv2.threshold(src = check,
93             thresh = modval,
94             maxval = 170,
95             type = cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
96         erosion = cv2.erode(maskLayer,kernel,iterations = 1)
97         (t2, maskLayer2) = cv2.threshold(src = menu_check,
98             thresh = modval,
99             maxval = 170,
100            type = cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
101        erosion2 = cv2.erode(maskLayer2,kernel,iterations = 1)
102        print()
103        print (np.mean(erosion), np.mean(erosion2))
104        if np.mean(erosion) > np.mean(erosion2*1.04):
105            return True

```

## 14.5 ocr.py

```

1 import cv2
2 import pytesseract
3
4 # Set Tesseract Executable location

```

```

5  pytesseract.pytesseract.tesseract_cmd = r'C:\Program Files\Tesseract-OCR\tesseract.exe'
6
7  #text = pytesseract.image_to_string(cv2.imread('test/ocr.jpg'))
8
9  # print(text)
10
11 def read(image):
12     return pytesseract.image_to_string(image)

```

## 14.6 document.py

```

1  import docx
2  import redis
3  import os
4
5
6  # FOR REDIS
7  redis_host = "localhost"
8  redis_port = 6379
9  redis_password = ""
10 prev_item=""
11
12
13 filename = "patient_list.docx"
14 def read():
15     """
16         Reads the document and returns list of patients, skips where name is blank
17
18         Sample Output: [{"Room': '1', 'Patient Name': 'John Doe', 'Comments': 'Lactose Intolerant'},
19                         {'Room': '3', 'Patient Name': 'Jane Doe', 'Comments': 'Allergy: Tomato, Onions'}]
19
20     """
21     doc = docx.Document('data/{}'.format(filename))
22     # https://stackoverflow.com/questions/27861732/parsing-of-table-from-docx-file
23     table = doc.tables[0]
24     # Data will be a list of rows represented as dictionaries
25     # containing each row's data.
26     data = []
27
28     keys = None
29     for i, row in enumerate(table.rows):
30         text = (cell.text for cell in row.cells)
31
32         # Establish the mapping based on the first row
33         # headers; these will become the keys of our dictionary
34         if i == 0:
35             keys = tuple(text)
36             continue
37
38         # looks at the patient name, if empty it is skipped
39         check_empty = row.cells[1]
40
41         if check_empty.text:
42             # Construct a dictionary for this row, mapping
43             # keys to values for this row
44             row_data = dict(zip(keys, text))
45             data.append(row_data)
46
47     return data

```

```

47
48
49
50 def write(prefix):
51     menu_names = ["Breakfast", "Lunch", "Dinner"]
52     r = redis.StrictRedis(host=redis_host, port=redis_port, password=redis_password, decode_responses=True)
53     filename = "report.docx"
54     report = docx.Document()
55     keys = r.keys("*:count")
56     for i in menu_names:
57         if i != "Breakfast":
58             report.add_page_break()
59         report.add_heading(i, 0)
60         entries = os.listdir('data/templates/{}'.format(prefix+i+"/"))
61         for j in keys:
62             nicekeys = j.split(":")
63             if nicekeys[0] in entries:
64                 count = r.get("{}".format(j))
65                 getlist = nicekeys[0]+":list"
66                 print(getlist, nicekeys[0])
67                 lister = r.lrange(nicekeys[0]+":list", -100, 100)
68                 print(lister)
69                 name = j.split(".")
70                 name = name[0]
71                 print(name, count)
72                 report.add_paragraph('{} {}:{}{}'.format(name, count, ', '.join(lister)))
73
74     report.save(filename)

```

## 14.7 dietcheck.py

```

1 import redis
2
3
4
5 # FOR REDIS
6 yredis_host = "localhost"
7 redis_port = 6379
8 redis_password = ""
9 prev_item=""
10 r = redis.StrictRedis(host=redis_host, port=redis_port, password=redis_password, decode_responses=True)
11
12 def check(item, diet, info):
13     # Italian Chicken with Basil and Tomato.jpg General {'Room': '3', 'Patient Name': 'Jane Doe', 'Comments':
14     #     'Allergy: Tomato, Onions'}
15     keys = r.keys("Contains:*")
16     print ("Checking Diet")
17     for i in keys:
18         food_items = r.lrange(i, -100, 100)
19         name = i.split(":") # Contains:Tomato
20         item = item.split('.') # Vegetable Medley.jpg
21         # if 'Tomato' in 'Allergy: Tomato, Onions' and 'Italian Chicken with Basil and Tomato' in
22         #     'Contains:Tomato'
23         print ("testing if {} in {} and {} in {}".format(name[1], info["Comments"], item[0], food_items))
24         if name[1] in info["Comments"] and item[0] in food_items:
25             return " (No {})".format(name[1])
26         else:

```

25                  return str('')

## 14.8 pdf.py

```
1 import os
2 import img2pdf
3
4 newlist=[]
5 def create():
6     # https://stackoverflow.com/questions/27327513/create-pdf-from-a-list-of-images
7     with open("debug.pdf", "wb") as f:
8         debug = os.listdir('debug/')
9         for i in debug:
10             newlist.append('debug/'+i)
11
12     f.write(img2pdf.convert(newlist))
```

## References

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