QuickShop

A faster way to shop

Kunal Malhotra

Sam Britt

College of Computing

Georgia Institute of Technology

Motivation

- User shopping behavior:

  - Adds items to an empty list
  - Categorizes them
  - Starts shopping !!!!

- Existing shopping list apps mostly categorize items into predefined categories, display available coupons, saving cards, display grocery stores in the vicinity, etc.

- Not much work done in optimizing the user's path through the grocery store

- Categories close together in the list can be in different parts of the store which makes the user go back and forth between aisles of the store.

- **What is needed? - A grocery list which dynamically sorts itself by category based on the location of items in the store.**

Functionality of existing shopping list apps

- Help users make a grocery list categorized under existing categories
- Offer free-form item input or have a large database of items for the users to choose from.
- Add frequently purchased items to new lists and keep track of items which have been checked out.
- Store specific coupon recommendation.
- Sync lists with friends / spouse.

QuickShop

- Android app to sort a shopping list by category to make the user pick up items in one pass without returning to a section
- Store layout stored in a SQLite Database
- Dynamic sorting of categories
- Helps saving user's time and effort
- List becomes a virtual guide helping picking up items in the right order.
- Great help in an unfamiliar store

Technologies used

- **Java** - Programming language
- **Eclipse IDE** - Development engine
- **Android SDK** - Application development
- **SQLite Database** - To record store layout information

Database Design

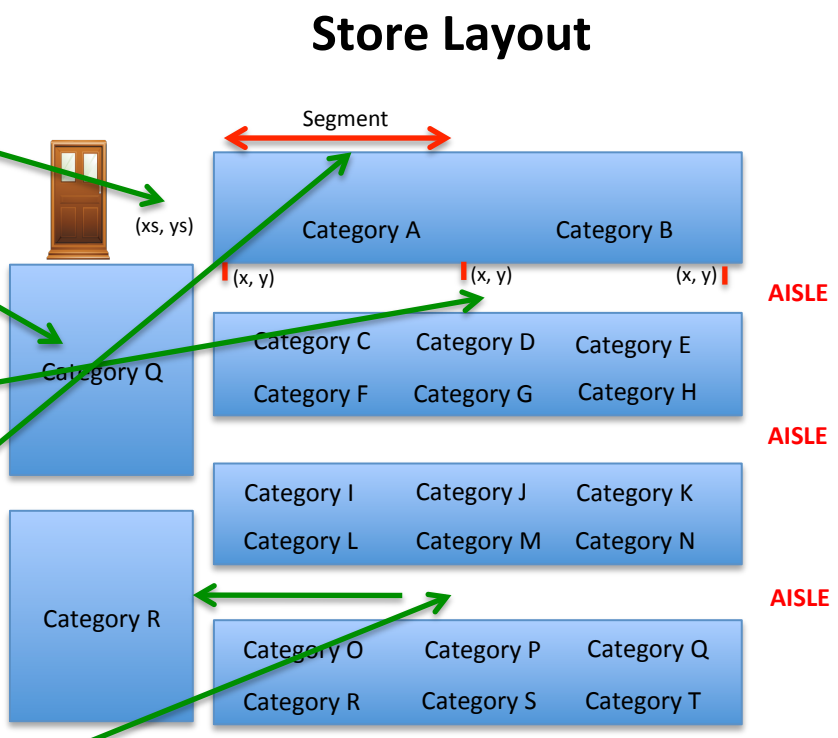
- Store names and location coordinates (Coordinates of the entrance door)

- System specified categories

- Coordinates of each category for every store in the database

- Each category spans one or more segments

- Items can be along the aisle as well as perpendicular to the aisle (Coordinates spanning multiple aisles)



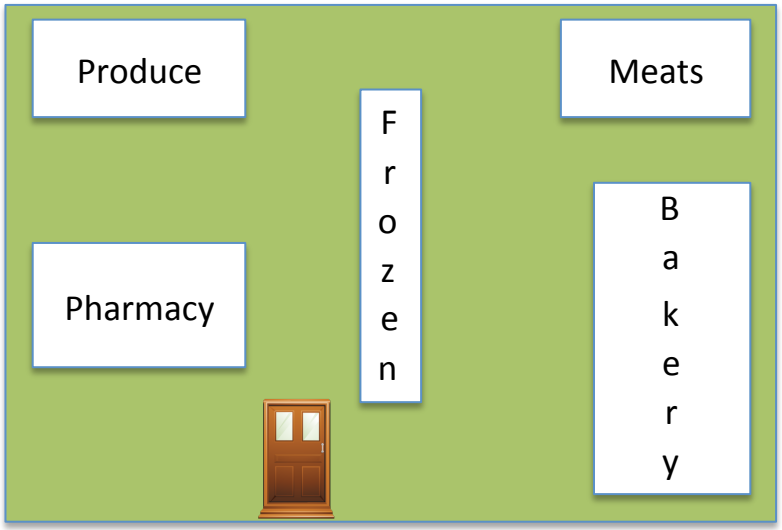
- The design is comprehensive since it plays a primary role in sorting the user's grocery list in a way that can optimize the time he takes to finish shopping.

- Topological component of the store was critical in designing the database

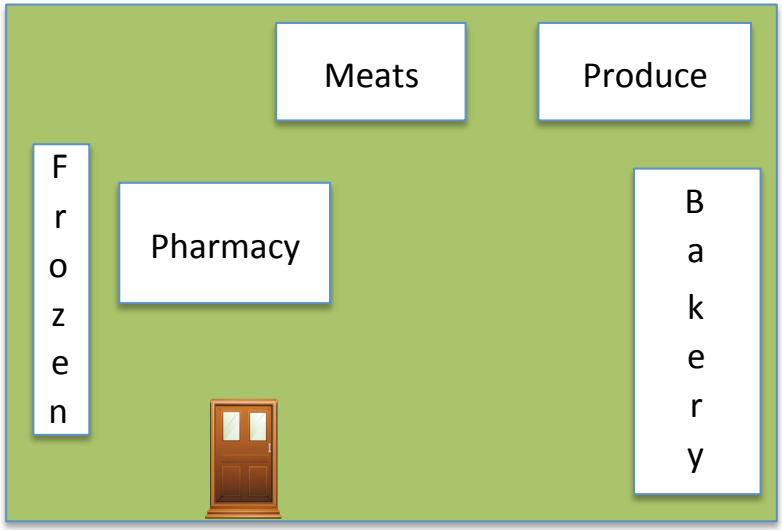
- Store floor plans of major chains are hard to get

- Manual collection of data - imported into our database

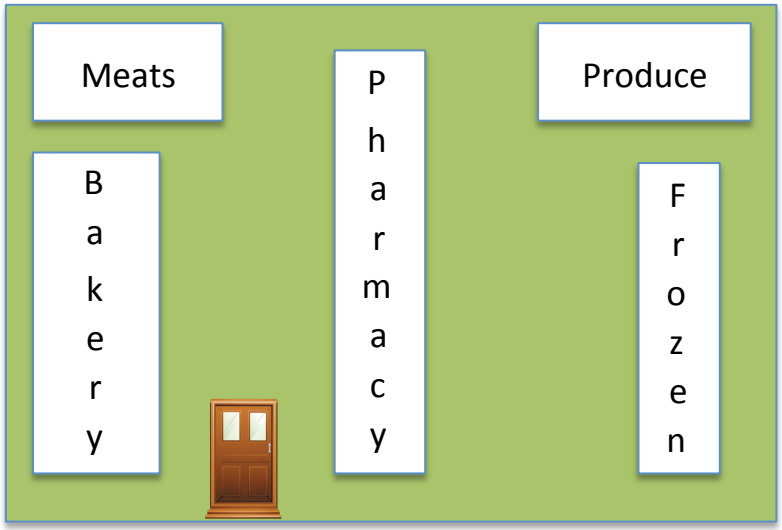
Various Publix Stores across Atlanta



Publix - Holcomb Bridge Road

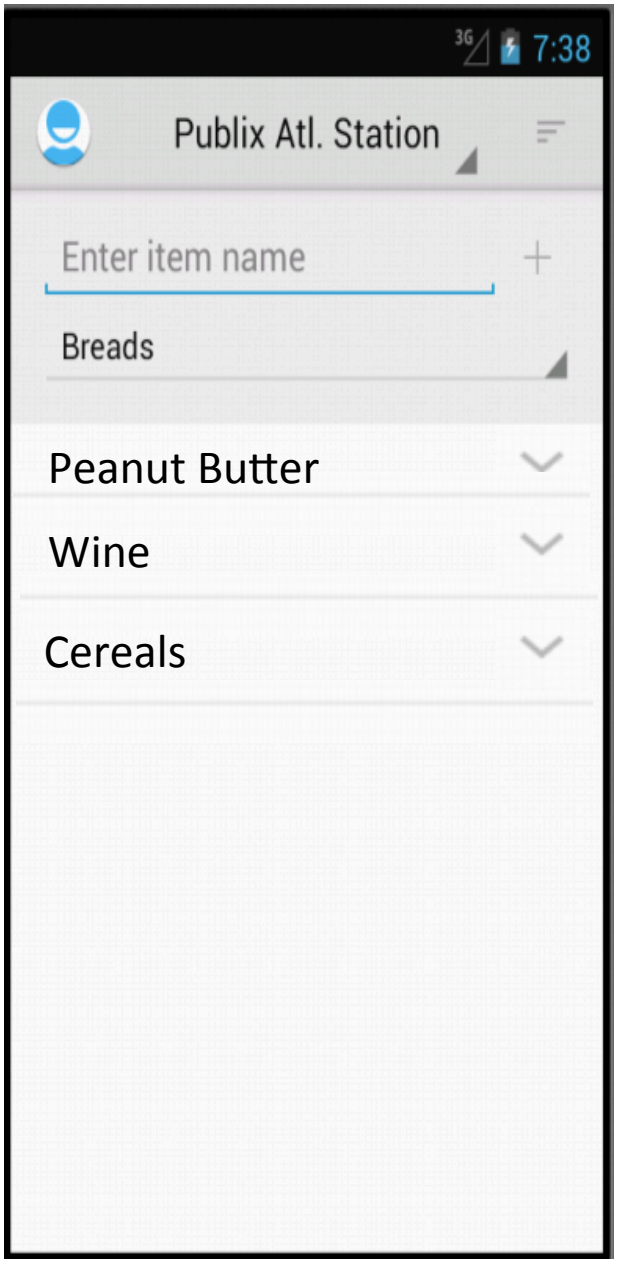


Publix - Atlantic Station



Publix - Shallowford Road

DEMO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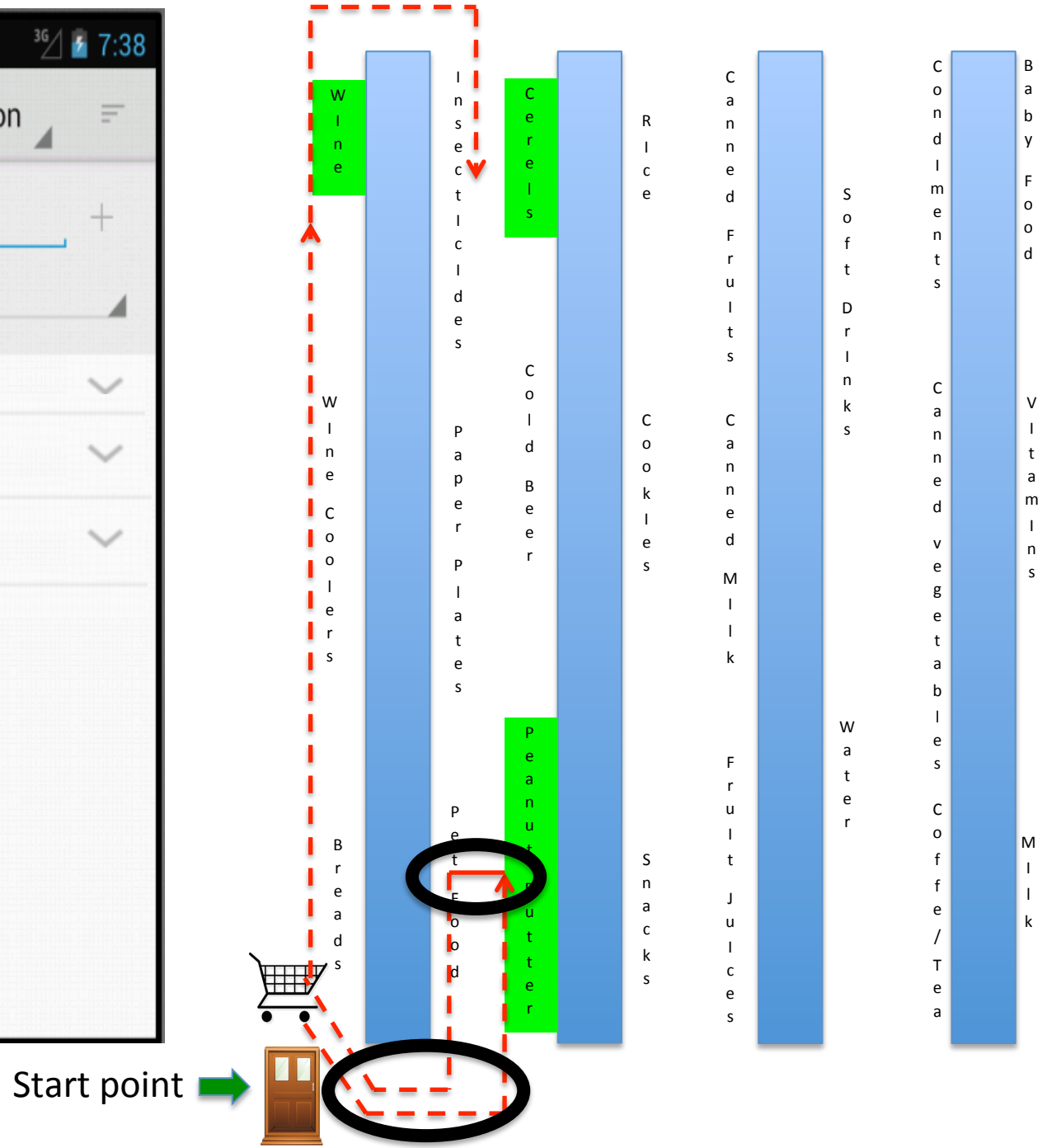
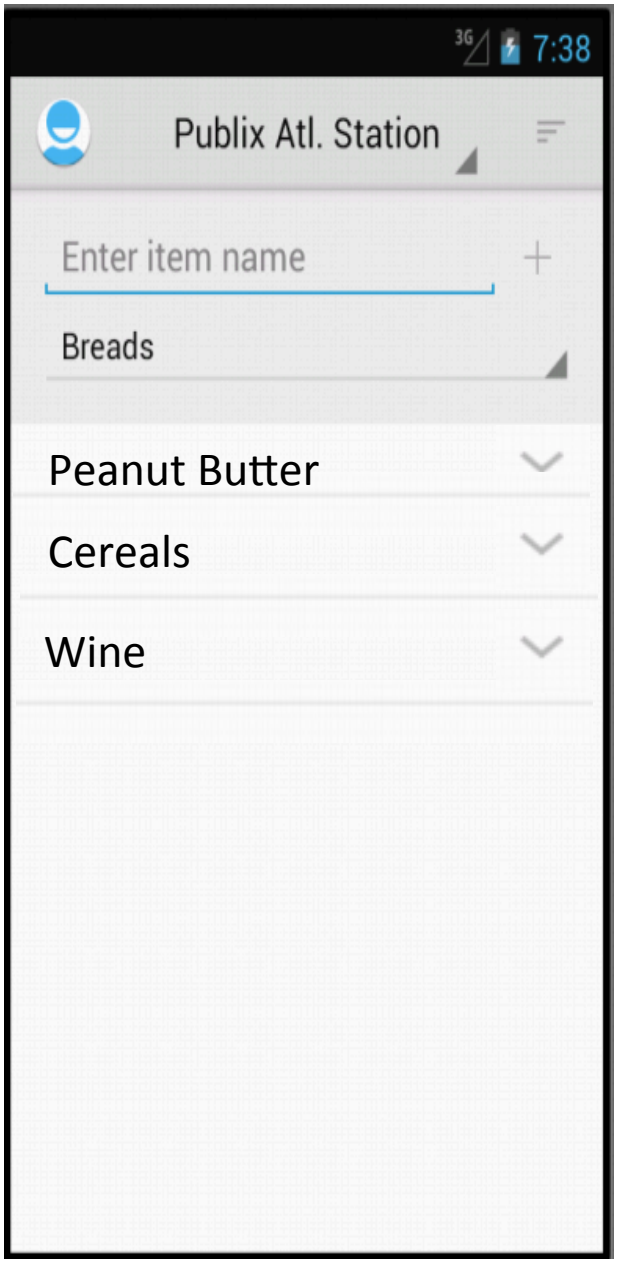
Publix Atl. Station
Enter item name
Breads
Peanut Butter
Wine
Cereals


Wine
Insecticides
Cereals
Rice
Wine Coolers
Paper Plates
Cold Beer
Cookies
Breads
Pet Food
Peanut Butter
Snacks
Canned Fruits
Soft Drinks
Canned Milk
Water
Fruit Juices
Condiments
Baby Food
Canned vegetables
Vitamins
Coffee/Tea
Milk
Start point

W A L L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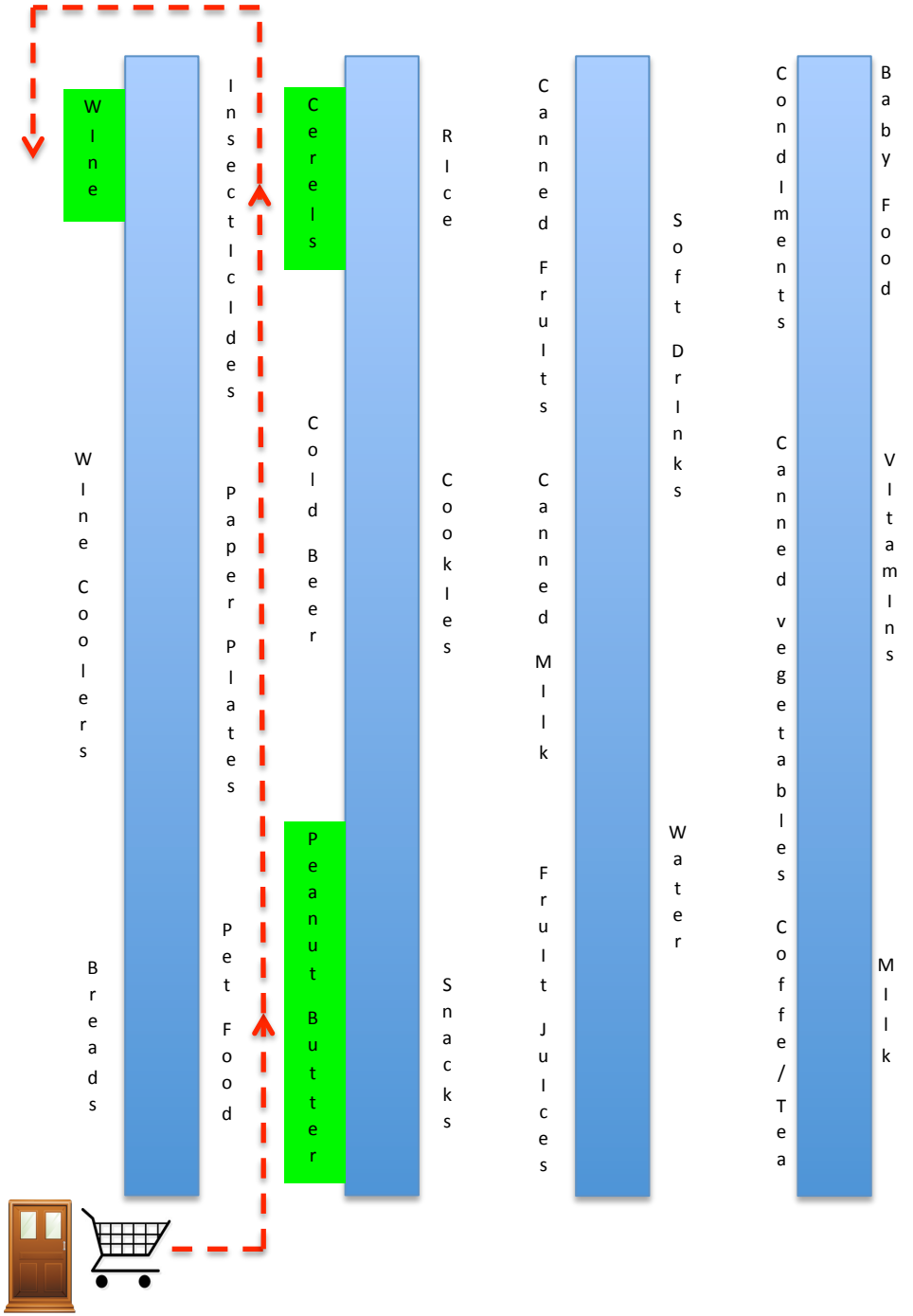
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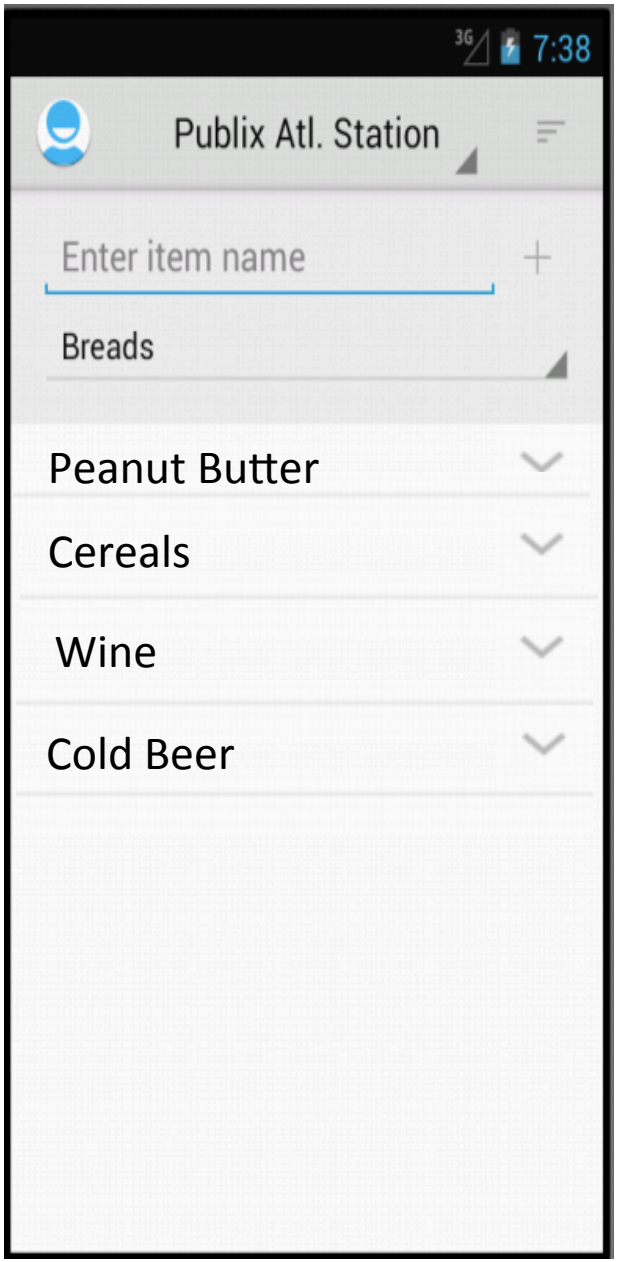
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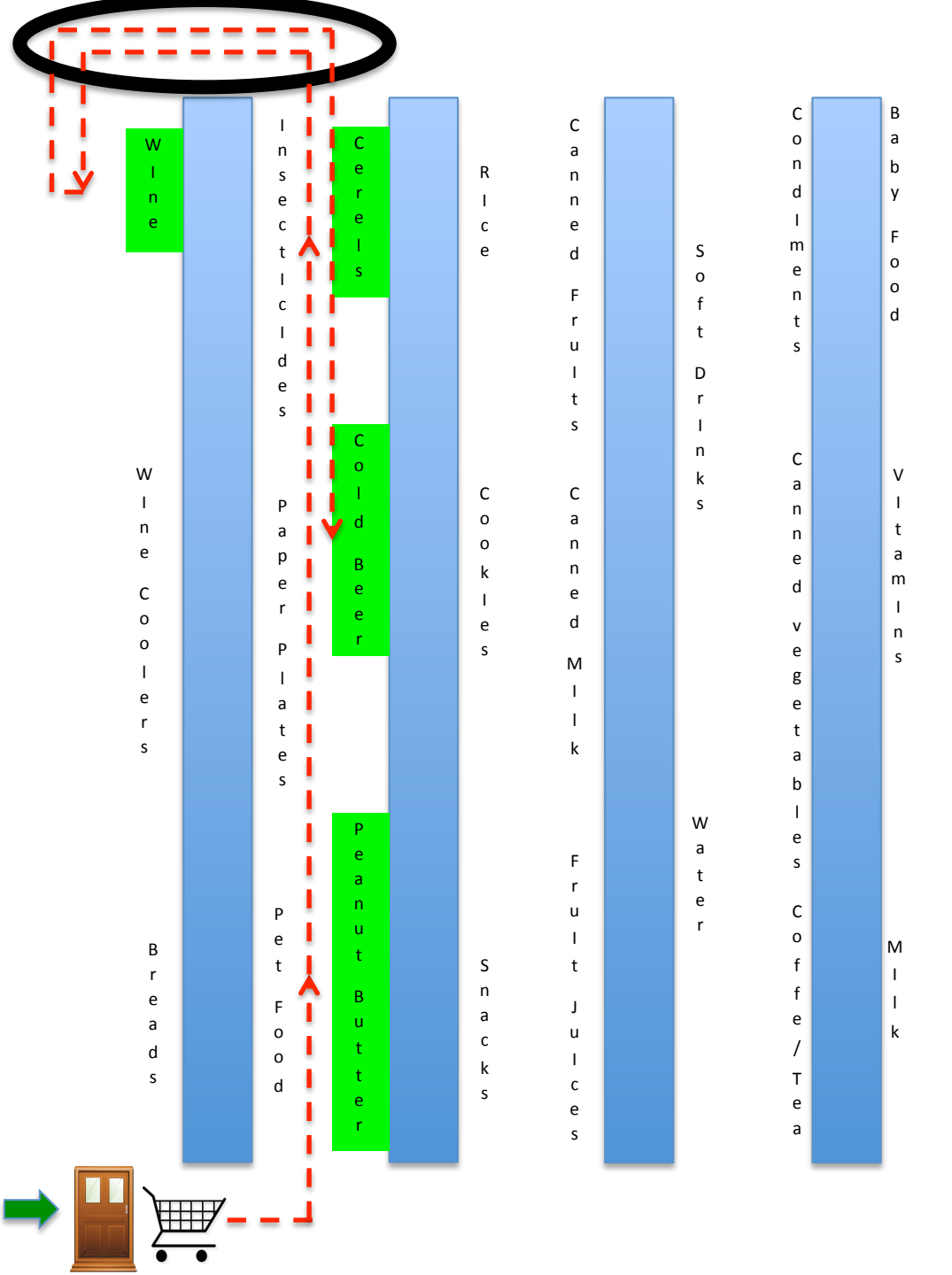
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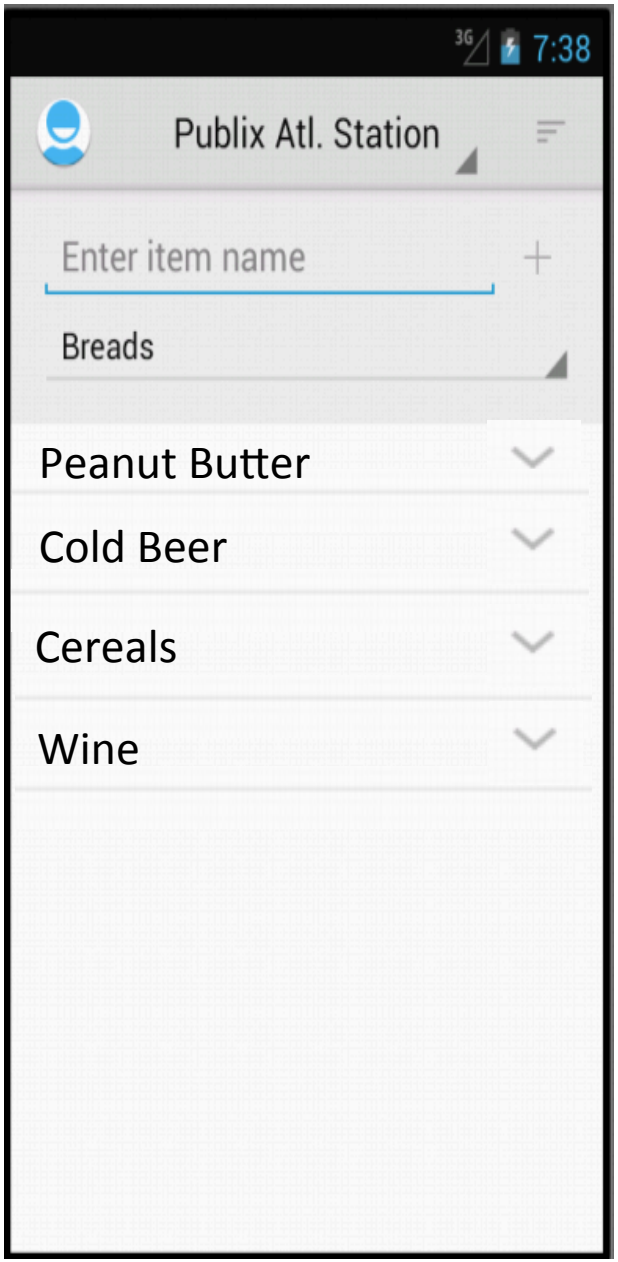
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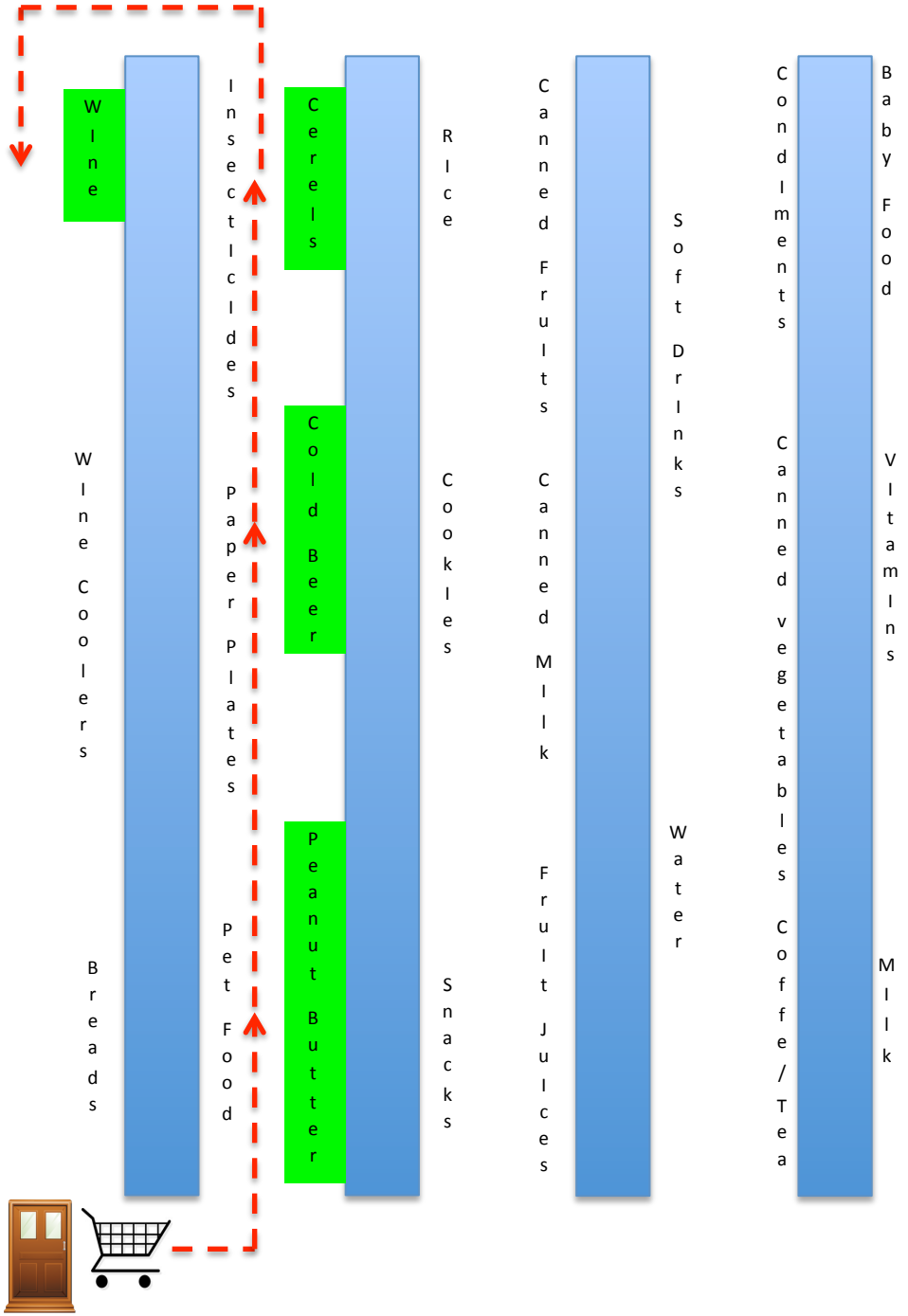
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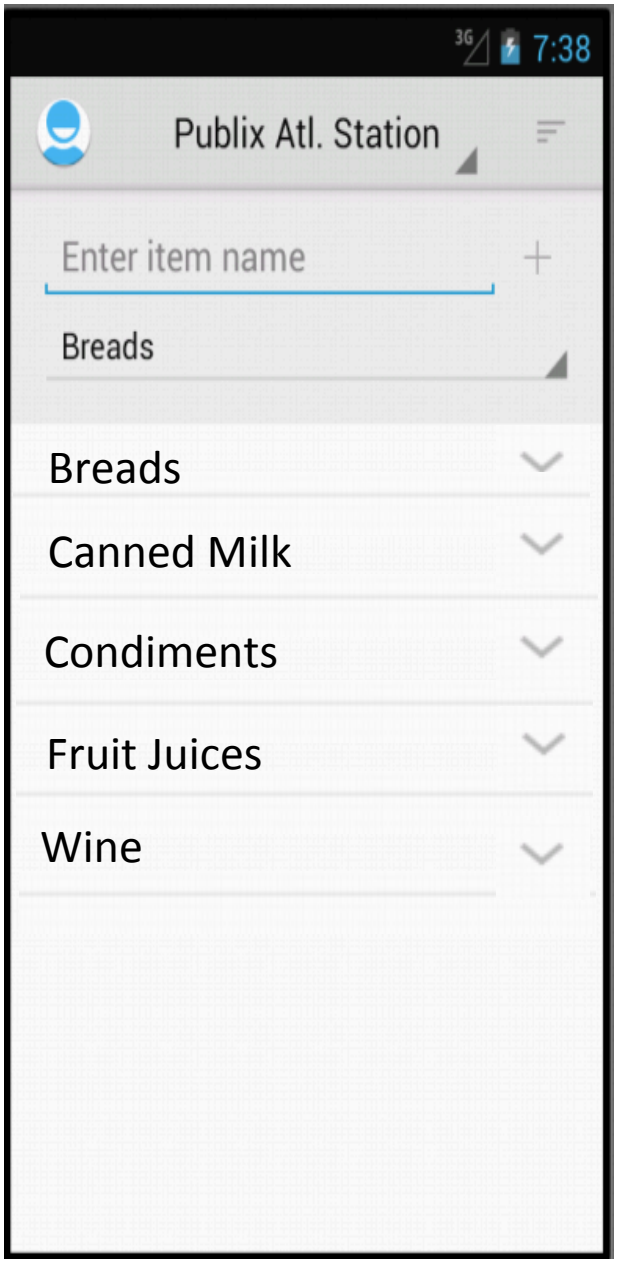
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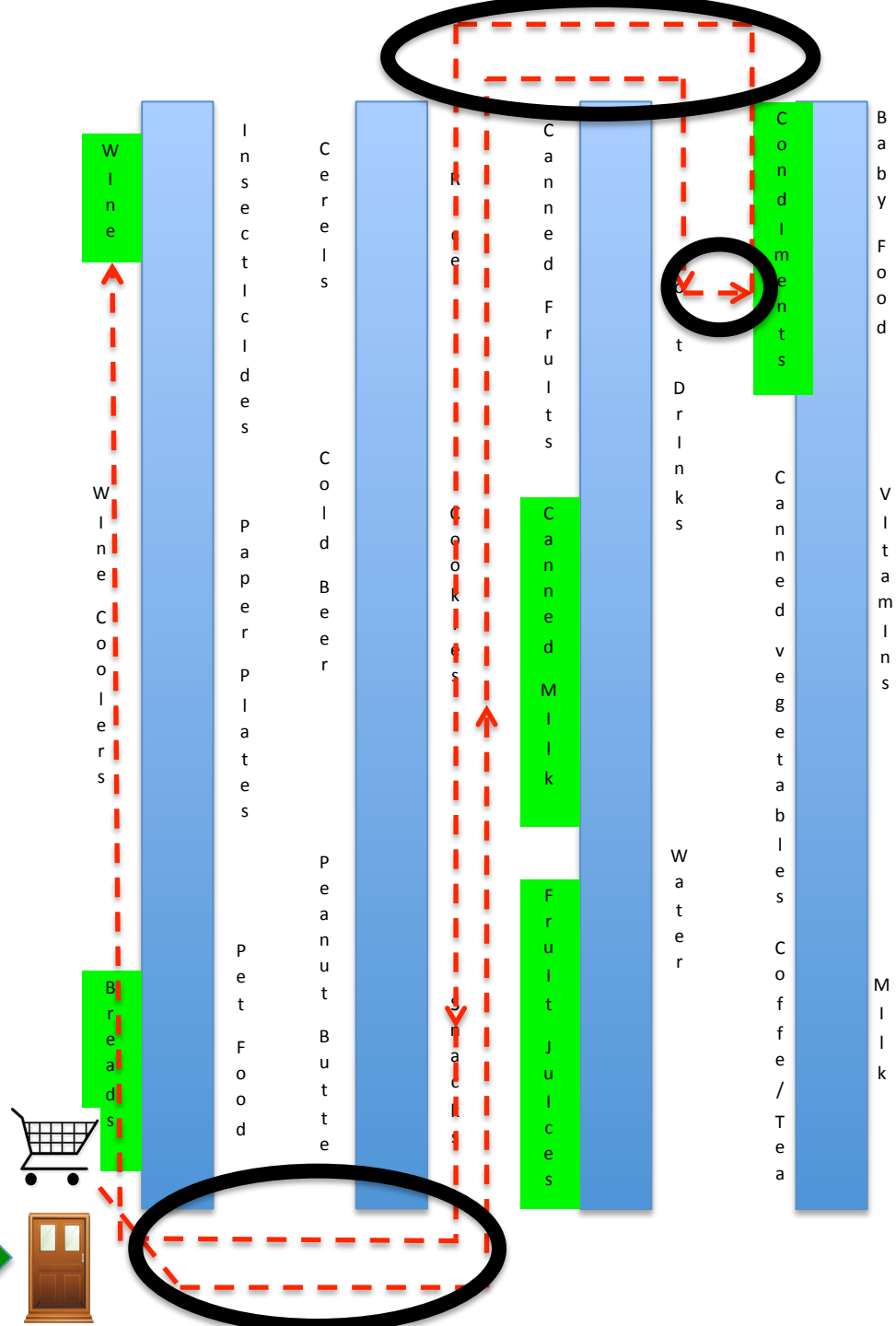
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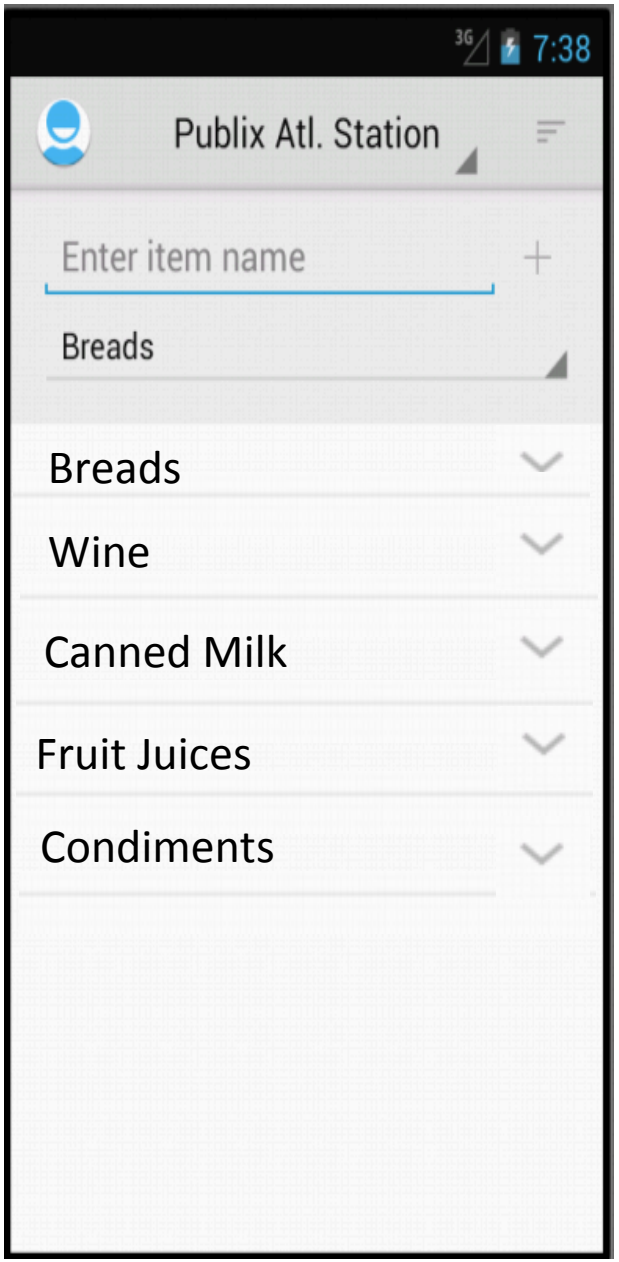
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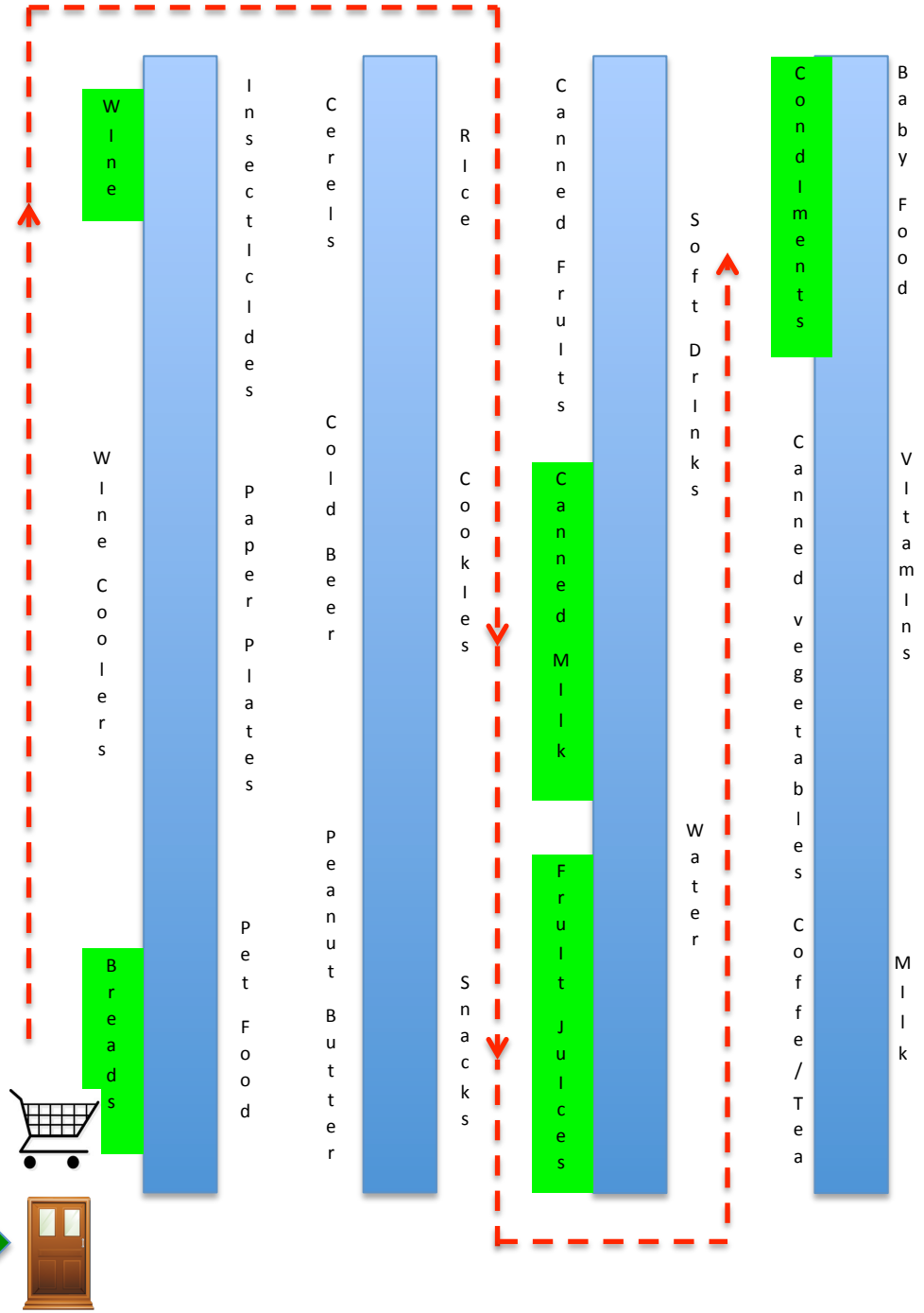
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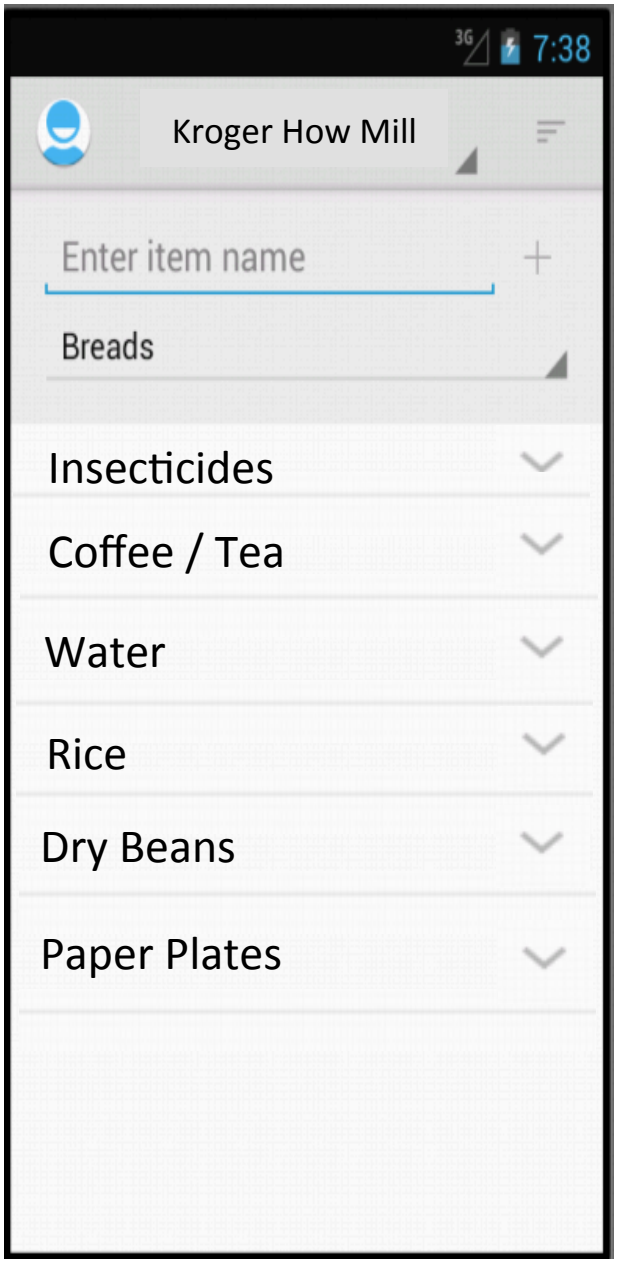
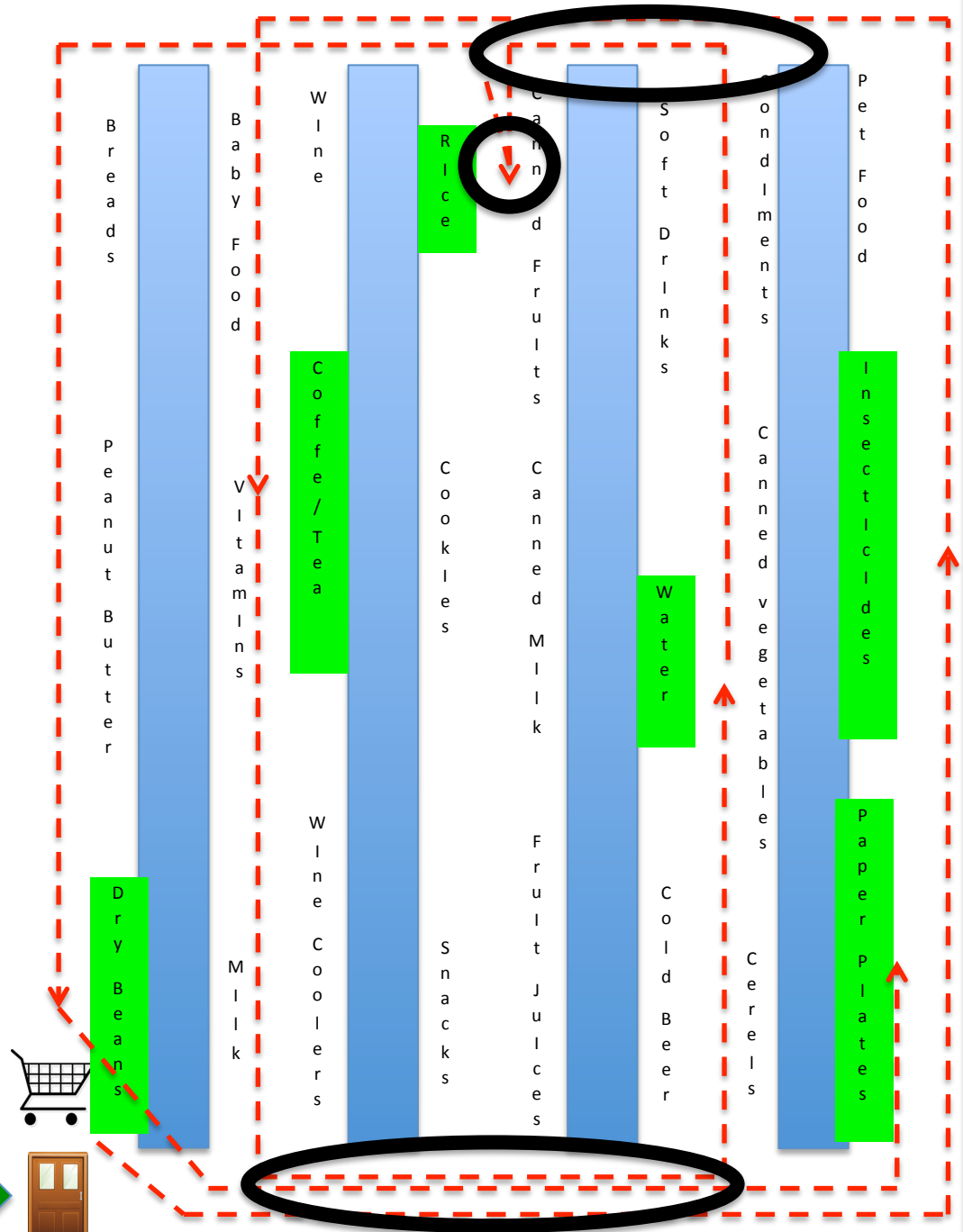

7:38
Kroger How Mill
Enter item name
Breads
Insecticides
Coffee / Tea
Water
Rice
Dry Beans
Paper Plates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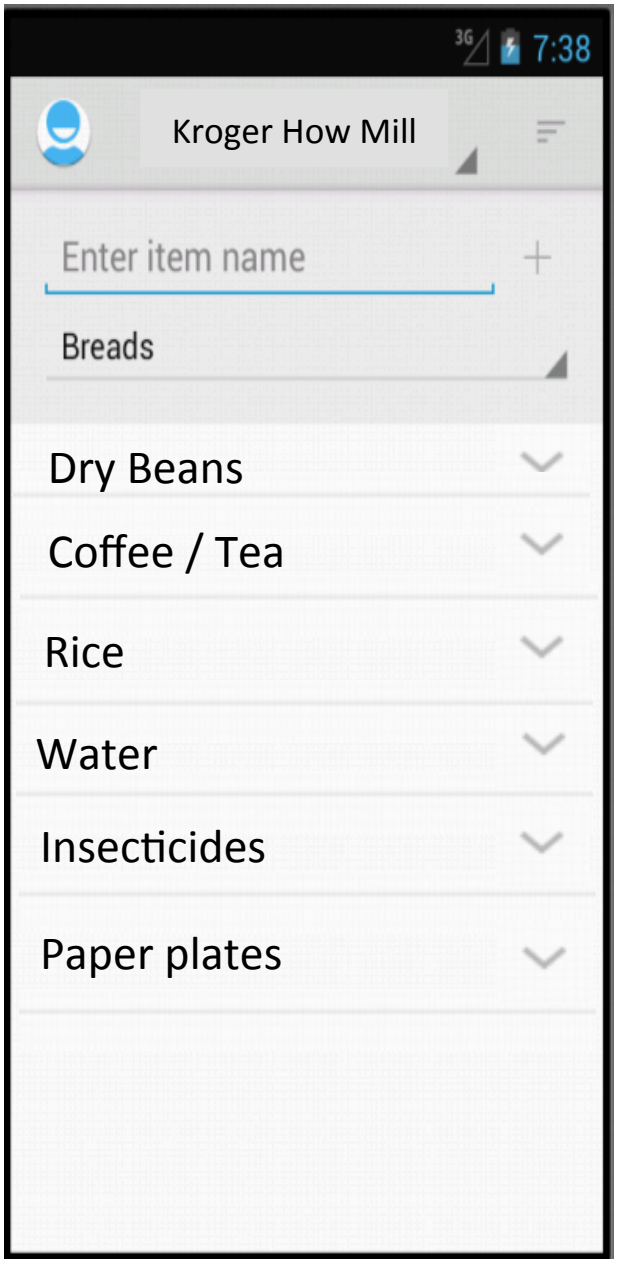
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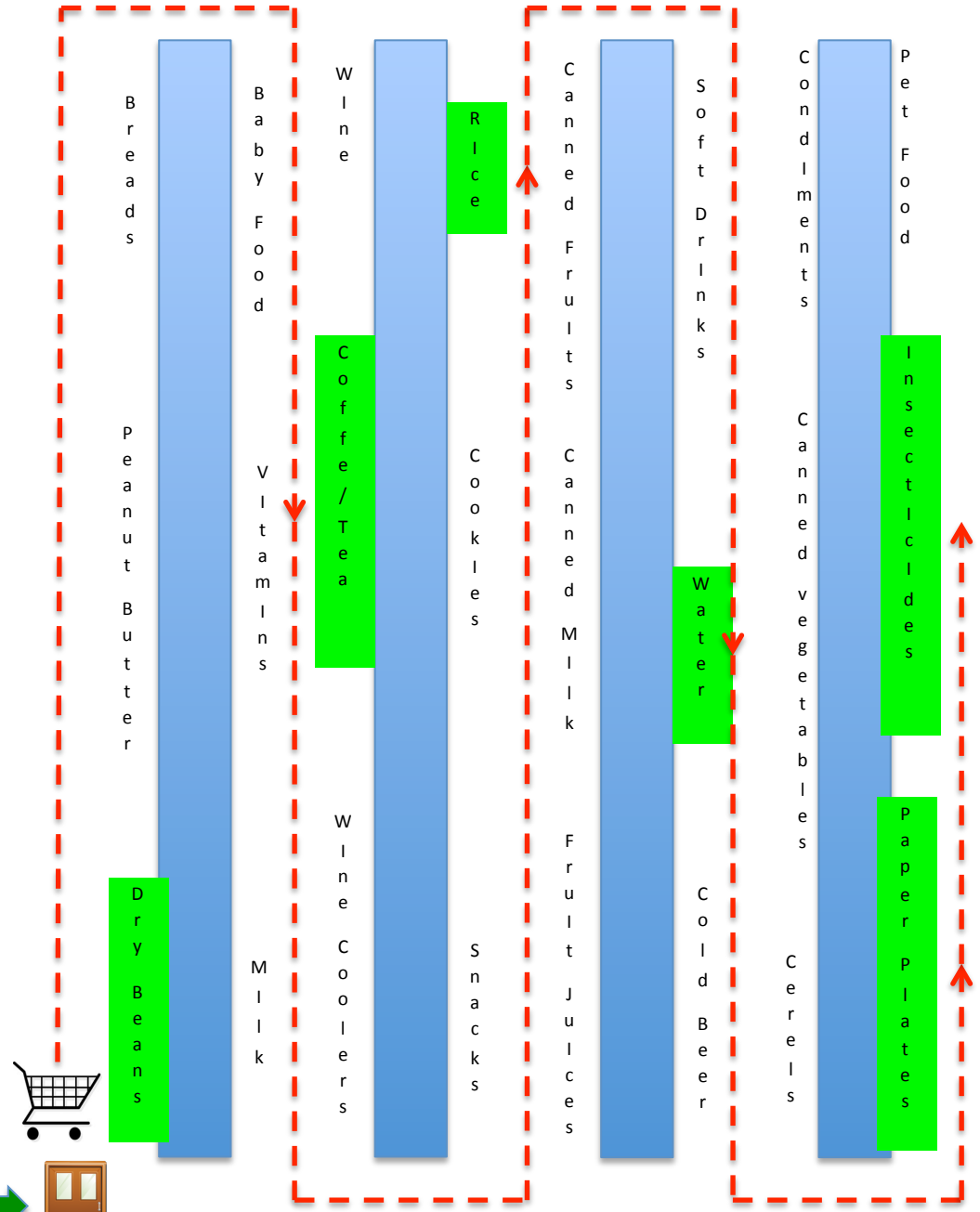
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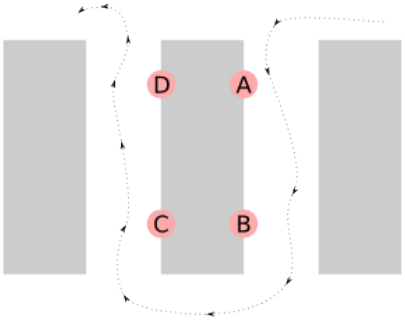
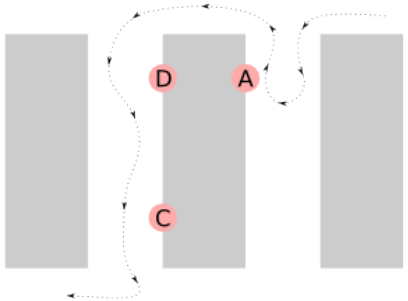
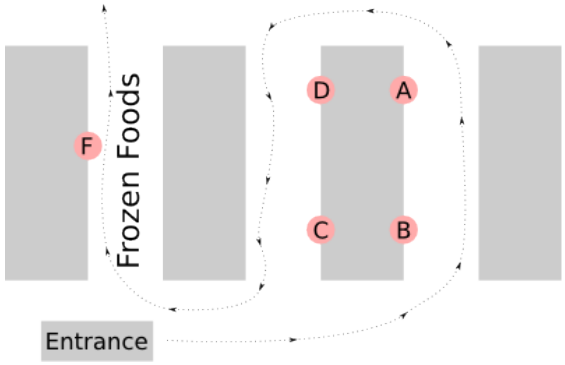
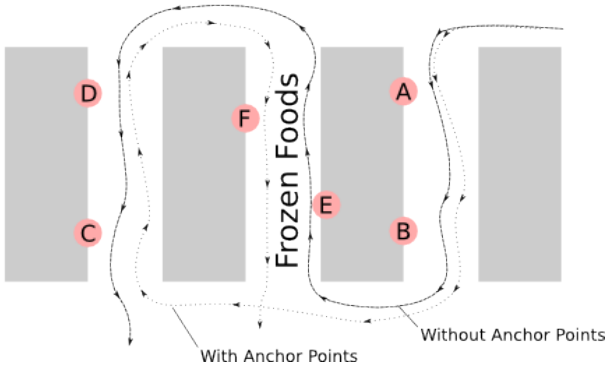
Issues in finding shortest path

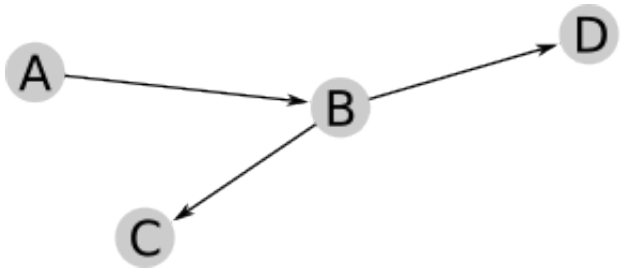




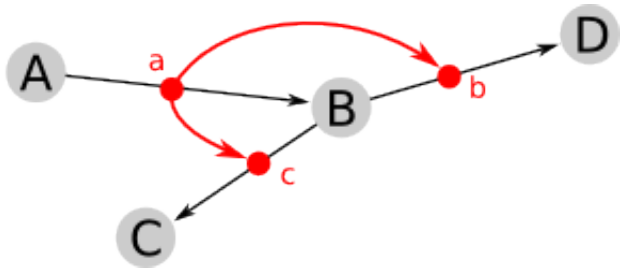




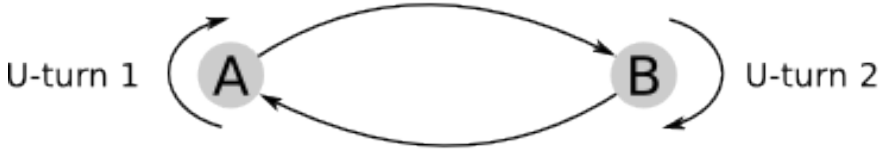
Modeling Turns

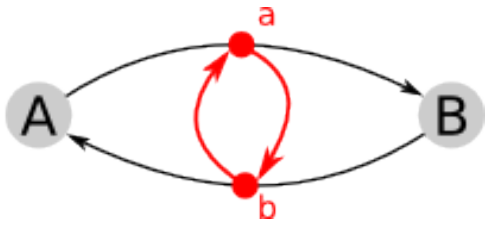


Primal Graph



Dual Graph:
Nodes: Primal edges
Edges: Turns in primal graph

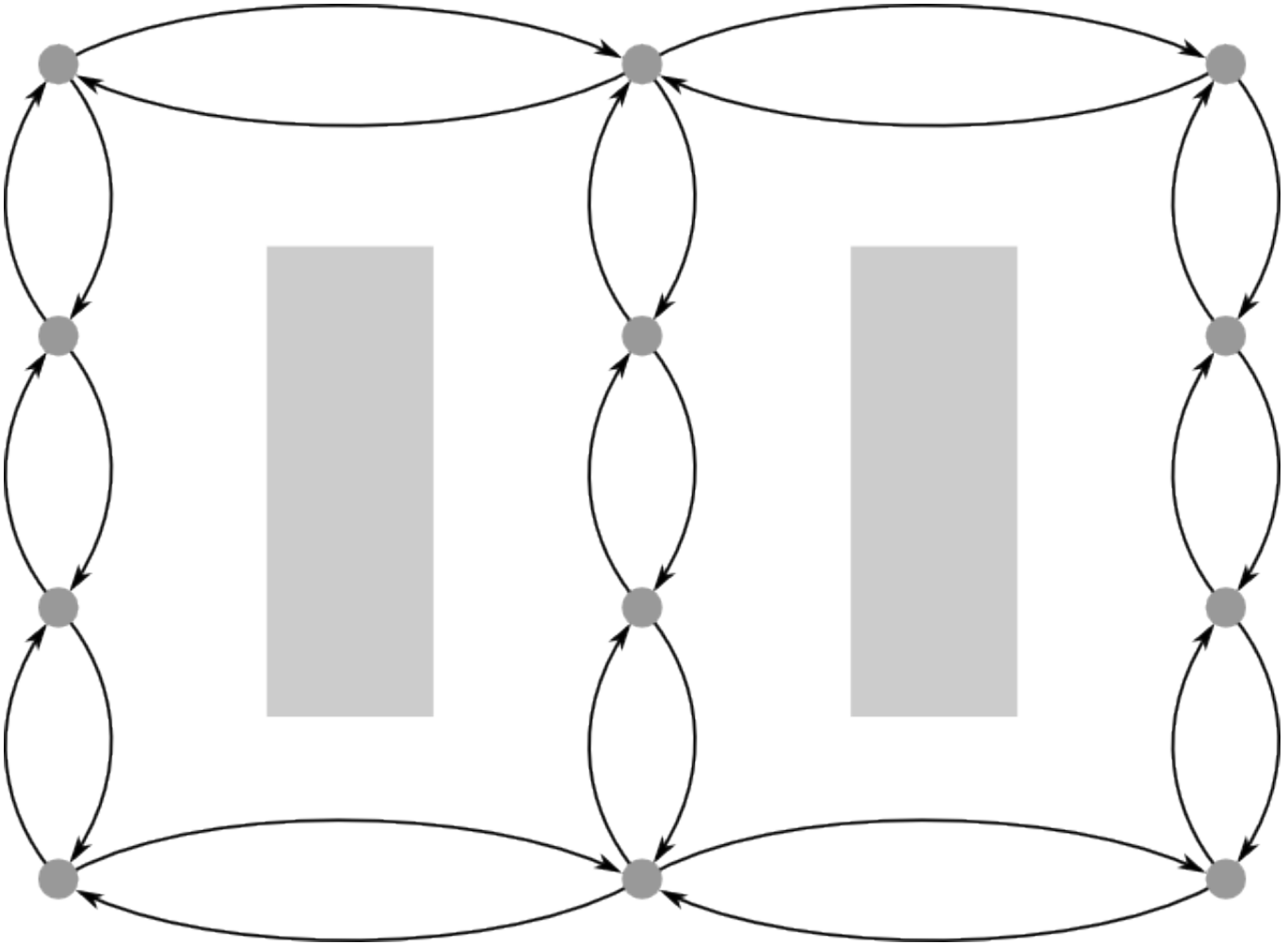




U-turns modeled naturally

Stephan Winter: Modeling Costs of Turns in Route Planning. GeoInformatica 6(4): 363-380 (2002)

Layout of the store



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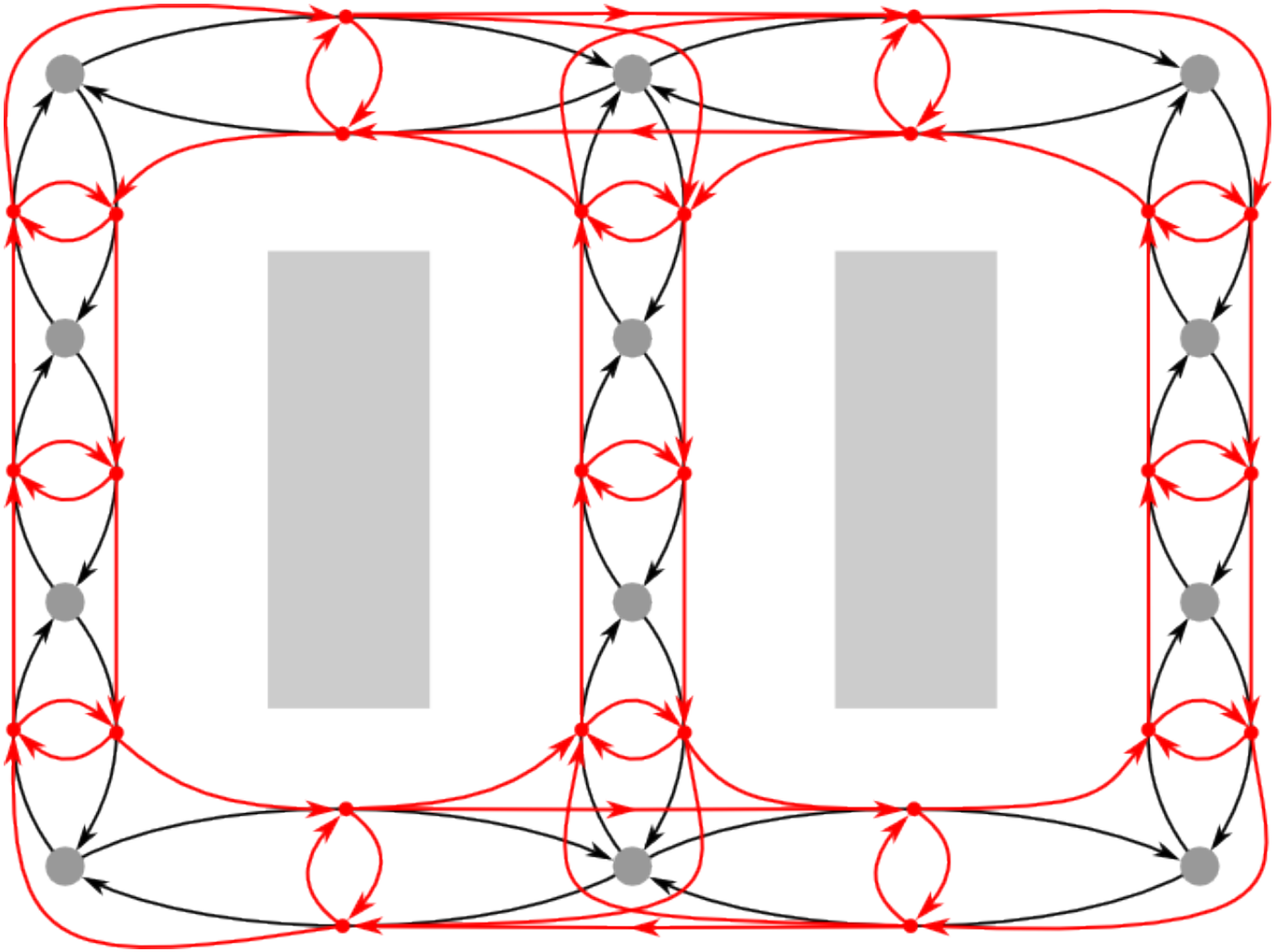
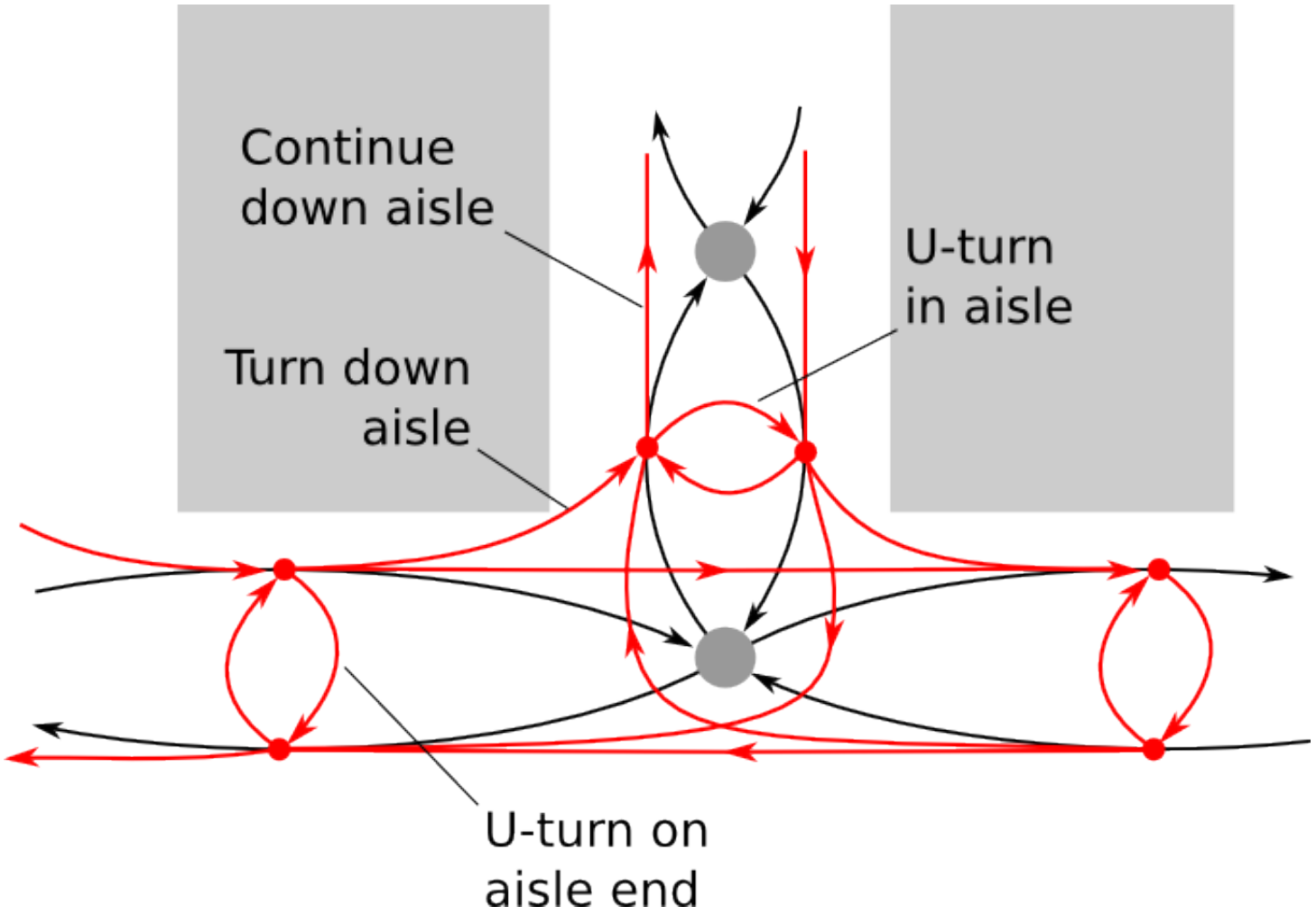


Turns in detail



Algorithm

- Start with fully characterized Dual graph
- Use all-pairs shortest path finder (Dijkstra's algorithm on every node)
- Each category associated with
  - a set of **primal edges**
  - a set of **dual nodes**
- Consider distance from a dual node to a category as:

$$\text{dist}(u, C) = \min_{v \in C}\{\text{dist}(u, v)\}$$

- Greedy algorithm to walk from category to category

Future Work

- Sync the app to automatically gather store layout data into the database.
- Integrate Google Maps in the app to automatically get the store location.
- A useful additional feature for QuickShop would be an easy way for a user to map out a store himself; such data could then be made available to other users in the same area