



# Retina Vessel Segmentation Using U-Net Architecture

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## 1. Abstract

The size, dimension, shape of the blood vessels in the retina are significant anatomical traits that help determine the prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease. In this work, segmenting of the retina arteries based on the spectral fundus pictures are processed using deep learning approaches. The retina Arteries can be characterised to diagnose a variety of eye illnesses. With the use of appropriate image processing approaches and data analytics procedures, classification can be derived. To detect the variety of cardiovascular and ophthalmologic disorders, including diabetes, hypertension, and arteriosclerosis. Utilising U-Net Architecture, vessels are segmented. Our technique is assessed on the DRIVE Dataset.

**Keywords**—Retina, Convolutional, U-Net, vessel, Ophthalmology.

## 2. Introduction

The fact was well acknowledged that thousands of labelled samples for training were necessary for deep neural networks to be correctly trained. In addition to imaging methods, appropriate methods must be selected for data analysis in order to speed up the diagnosis procedure. Retina Vascular segmentation is one of the key jobs of an eye assessment. Numerous number of algorithms for the segmentation of retinal images have been proposed throughout the past few years. Since accurate vein characterization is crucial for the diagnosis of various eye illnesses, the majority of them focus on retina vascular segmentation. Most of the suggested algorithms are based on traditional machine learning schemes, which use handmade features to obtain the segmented image and made by hand feature extraction techniques to be used by obtainable classification algorithms. As far as the researcher is aware, this paper is the first to investigate the use of deep learning algorithms for segmenting retina veins using cornea pictures. Thus, the proof

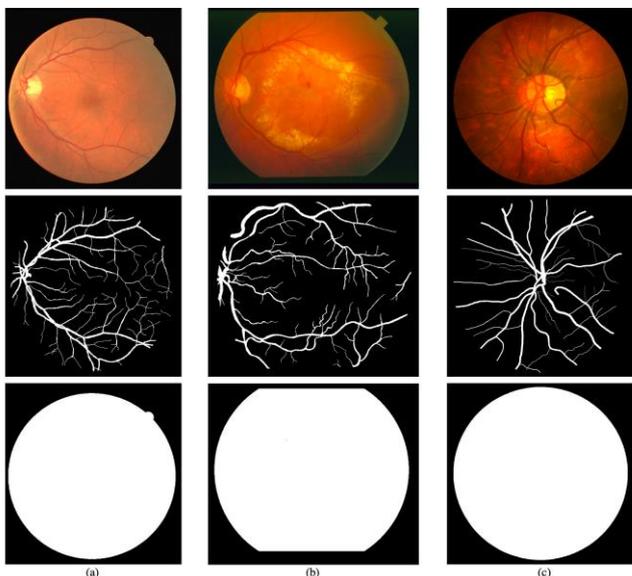
regarding various eye disorders can be obtained by utilising the shape, size, and types of Arteriosclerosis crossings. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs), in particular, have drawn a lot of focus in the field of image processing using deep learning. Deep learning techniques use vast amounts of data and minimal human reasoning to instinctively recognise traits. That is why they are not constrained by a particular application and may naturally learn many level trends, they have higher generalisation and identification abilities. Supervised models can learn from the actual data and learn with labels. Retina artery segmentation is carried out by the models in two steps: 1. extracting Characteristics can be further separated into characteristics that are learned by themselves and features that are locally produced. and 2. image categorization. Characteristics can be further separated into characteristics that are learned by themselves

### 3. Approach

Given that retina vascular segmentation involves a boolean categorization, there given each artery and backdrop a tag. Hence the backdrop will be represented as 0 and artery as 1. Three main steps comprise our suggested method for segmenting retinal blood vessels: 1) Initial processing 2) extraction of patches 3) Augmentation of Data 4) Categorization.

#### 3.1 Dataset

Three widely-used datasets—the STARE, CHASE\_DB1, and DRIVE datasets—have been used to properly trained and extensively test the technique we are utilising. out of the three datasets, the STARE dataset is used for training the model for the given conditions and given images thereby produces results. These Produced Results are assessed and generalised by the other two datasets. For DRIVE dataset contains manual folder which includes real vessels along with retina images and their corresponding masks values



### Digital Retina Visuals for Vessel Extortion

These Truth or Real vessels are used to compare with our produced vessels of our trained model along with Original Retina Image as a Result. The DRIVE dataset is a well-known resource in the domain of retina vascular segmentation processing. Twenty images make up the train set, while another twenty images make up the test set along with their masks and manual values. It was first developed as a screening tool for diabetic retinopathy. Every picture has a manually annotated ground truth that has the retinal vessels painstakingly segmented by humans with experience. Researchers will find the DRIVE dataset especially useful as it provides a common ground for assessing and contrasting alternative vascular segmentation techniques, promoting progress in automated retinal analysis and aiding in the early diagnosis of different retinal illnesses.

#### 3.2 A preliminary approach

A preliminary processing:

The Preliminary Approach for the DRIVE Dataset that contains Retina Images can be done in 4 ways accordingly.

- 1) Scale in grey Transformation
- 2) Z-score standardisation
- 3) Contrast Limited
- 4) Gamma enhancement

1. Scale in grey Transformation:

Typically, retina images are 3-channel RGB images. By transforming these images to grayscale, training computational overhead is decreased and further preprocessing steps are made easier. Grayscale images can be created using the following formula:  $I = 0.299 \times R + 0.587 \times G + 0.114 \times B$ , where R, G, and B represent the pixel values in the R, G, and B channels, respectively, and I is the new pixel value (or intensity) in the grayscale image.

2. Z-score standardisation: Z-score standardisation is done to each and every grayscale image pixel.

$$z = \frac{X - \bar{X}}{S}$$

where z is the standard score,  
S = the standard deviation of a sample,  
X = each value in the data set,  
 $\bar{X}$  = mean of all values in the data set.

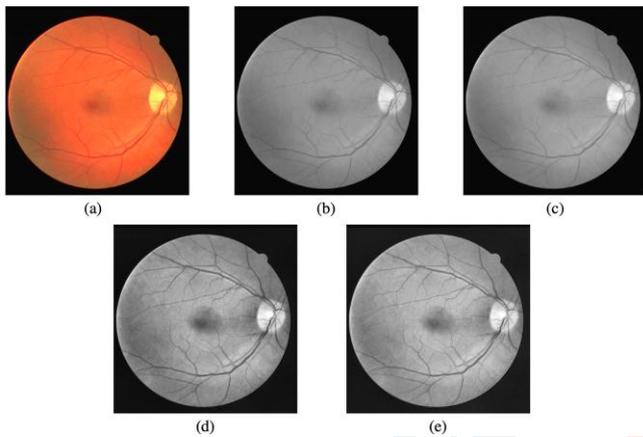
3. Contrast Limited

A version of adaptive histogram Equalisation called Contrast Limited AHE (CLAHE) limits the visibility augmentation in order to lessen the noise augmentation

issue. The gradient of the Generated function in CLAHE indicates the contrast augmentation in the area around the specified pixel value. CLAHE is a method used to make hazy images or videos more visible. In this blog post, we discuss how to boost the resolution of images in a real-time system using the CLAHE method.

#### 4. Gamma Enhancement

Enhancing a picture's luminance to ensure that colours look accurately on display is known as gamma correction. Although everything appears to be evenly bright, each pixel on your display actually emits light at a varying brightness, much like normal light does.



Preprocessing outputs: (a) Actual retina image. (b) Scale in Grey Transformation. (c) Standardisation. (d) CLAHE. (e) Gamma Enhancement.

$$O = \left( \frac{I}{255} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \cdot 255$$

where  $I$  stands for the initial intensity of the pixels and  $O$  for the intensity of the pixels after correction. When  $\gamma$  is greater than 1, there is a rise in contrast in the low-intensity area and a fall in the high-intensity region; conversely, when  $\gamma$  is less than 1, there is a drop in the low-intensity region and an enhancement in the high-intensity region. In this case,  $\gamma$  is set to be greater than 1 to foster the contrast in the lower-intensity area and create the dark-region vessels easier to distinguish.

### 3.3. Data Enhancement

As there are 40 Images present Initially in the DRIVE Dataset the Patches are created. These Patches are used for the Retina Vascular Segmentation. These Extracted Patches are extracted from the the Preliminary Approach and are used in to the network for Training the model instead of Full Images. In order to get more accurate and more precise results we need to increase the Size of the given dataset without disturbing the data

present on it. The process which is used to increase the size of the Dataset is known as the Data Enhancement. Variance results from few pixels that were once within bounds of the picture as a whole becoming the borders of distinct patches when a categorization mask for the entire image is mixed with the categorization maps for the segments. For example, the resulting segmentation mask sometimes seems like an intricate mosaic instead than categorising the entire picture. To teach the algorithm the required sturdiness and uniformity, we additionally used Data Enhancement by rotating modifications, since patch retrieval is not sufficient without it. All of the modifications, including the first retrieved and twisted ones, are mixed indiscriminately before being introduced to the system together with the real truths categorization masked coverings. Average several hypotheses yields the ultimate conclusion outcome. Furthermore, the initial picture is padded with zeros to make the dimensions of an integer number of the patch's dimension in each direction.

## 4. Proposed Methodologies

### 4.1 U-Net Architecture

Strong and well-liked, the U-Net Architecture is one of the Deep Learning models primarily made for image splitting tasks, particularly in the domain of medical imaging. U-Net, which was created in 2015 by Olaf Ronneberger and his colleagues, is now the model of choice for jobs requiring accurate object segmentation and localization within images. The contracting path and the expanding path are the two primary components of its symmetrical, U-shaped layout.

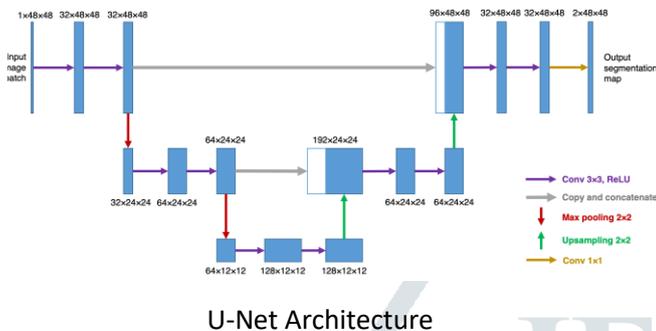
**1. Contracting Path (Encoder):** The convolutional neural network (CNN) standard architecture is followed by this portion of the U-Net. It is made up of two 3x3 convolutional levels applied repeatedly, each one is followed by a rectified linear unit (ReLU) activation function and a maximum pooling operation of 2x2 with stride 2 for downsampling. The no. of specific channels rises and the spatial dimensions of the feature maps decrease as the network moves along this path, collecting the context and fine-grained details of the picture input.

**2. Bottleneck:** - The bottleneck level, which is the link between the encoder and decoder, is located at the base of the U in the network. The image's most abstracted elements are captured by convolutional layers that link the expanding and contracting routes

**3. Expansive approach (Decoder):**- This approach reduces the no. of specific channels while progressively raising the spatial resolution in an effort to recreate the image. Every step in the expanding route starts with upsampling operation that doubles the feature map's geographic parameters (usually a 2 x 2 inverted convolutional or up-convolution). A concatenation with the corresponding feature map from the contraction pathway comes next. By ensuring that the network keeps the encoder's high-resolution features,

this concatenation aids in accurate localization. Two 3x3 convolutional layers are applied after concatenation, and then ReLU activations are performed.

**4. Output Layer:** - The network's last layer is a 1x1 convolutional layer that maps each feature vector having 64 elements to the total no. of classes that are needed, usually two in the case of binary segmentation tasks.



## 4.2 CNN

Convolutional Neural Networks are a specialised kind of neural networks of processing data that has a known grid-like topology. Its capacity to recognize geographical hierarchies of attributes from incoming visuals automatically and readily makes it a very useful tool for tasks like object identification, segmentation, and image classification. A CNN's architecture is derived from the human visual system and consists of several layers that interpret visual data in a hierarchical fashion.

CNN's Fundamental Elements:

**1. Convolution Layers:** The core component of a CNN is the convolutional layer. To create feature maps, it consists of a group of learnable effects, also called as kernels, that are slide over the incoming image. By decreasing the geographic parameters of the incoming image while maintaining the spatial relationship between pixels, this process makes it possible for the network to identify characteristics in the image regardless of where they are located.

**2. Activation Functions:** To add non-linearity to the model, an Activation Function (usually Rectified Linear Unit) is imposed after each convolutional operation. The network can now learn more intricate patterns as a result. ReLU activation facilitates the training of deeper networks by assisting in the mitigation of the vanishing gradient issue

**3. Pooling Layers:** Using pooling layers lowers the computational effort and aids in the management of overfitting by decreasing the geographic parameters of the feature mapping. Max pooling is a widespread category of pooling; it chooses the maximum values inside a particular window.

**4. Fully Connected Layers:** In order to forecast the final output classes, these layers first flatten the 2D feature maps into a 1D feature vector and then apply weights. To complete tasks involving regression or classification, fully connected layers combine the features that were collected from the convolutional layers.

## 5. Experiments

### 5.1 Model development

As mentioned above, 2000 patches are arbitrarily selected from every visual in the collection. 3 rotations—90, 180, 270 degrees—are available for each patch to enhance data. 160000 patches for the DRIVE dataset are produced using the 20 visuals from the training dataset. As a consequence, 128000 training patches were produced from the STARE dataset's original picture collection, which was split into 2 datasets: a training dataset with 16 images and a testing dataset with 4 images. For the CHASE DB1 dataset, a total of 168000 patches were created after dividing the actual image group into a training dataset of twenty-one photographs and a testing dataset of seven shots.

Through backpropagation and optimisation techniques like Adam, the CNN is trained to distinguish between vessel and non-vessel pixels by cutting down on a ShortFall operation, usually dice coefficient damage. Validation datasets are used to track the model's performance throughout training, and hyperparameters are adjusted to maximise accuracy and minimise overfitting. The extensive ecosystem of TensorFlow, which includes programmes like TensorBoard, facilitates debugging, tracking metrics, and training process visualisation. The trained model's ultimate goal is to precisely identify retinal vessels in hidden images, offering a useful tool for visual disease monitoring and early detection.

After the Data Enhancement is done the size of our DRIVE Dataset will be Increases nearly to 120 Images. Now we need to Train the model in order to get the required data. To Train the model the computer vision is used to read the Images and Masks that we get after the data enhancement. we need to assign the epochs. As the number of epoch are increases the result will be more accurate and precise. After building the u-net model compilation will be done. We will get the data in the form of dice loss, optimizer, metrics such as dice coefficient, Input-Output, Recall and Precision.

### 5.2 Metrics of Evaluation

We assessed the effectiveness of our approach using a number of the most widely used measures found in the literature: specificity (Sp), sensitivity (Sn), and accuracy (Acc)

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{\text{True Positives}}{\text{True Positives} + \text{False Negatives}}$$

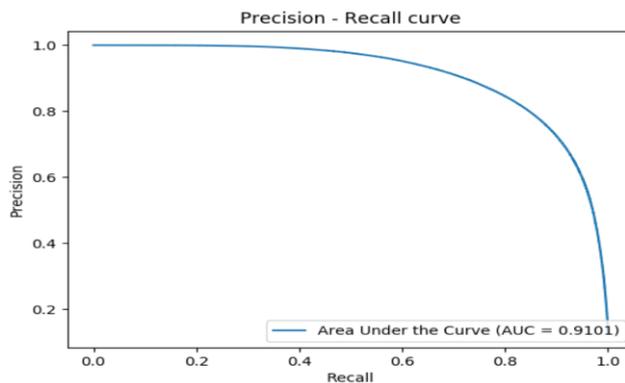
$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{\text{True Negatives}}{\text{True Negatives} + \text{False Positives}}$$

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

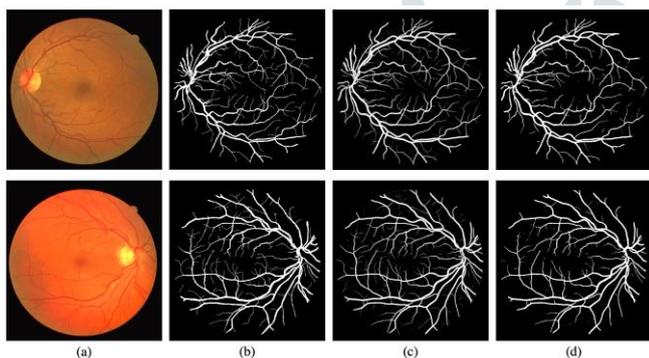
$$F_1 = 2 \cdot \frac{\text{Precision} \cdot \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}}$$



Metrics	Values(%)
Accuracy	94.855
F1_score	53.772
Jaccard	36.838
Recall	89.165
Precision	38.769

### 6.Result

The first column primarily displays the retinal picture; the second and third columns display the ground and output probability maps; the fourth column displays the binary representation of the image. When compared to other approaches, our results show a high degree of accuracy.

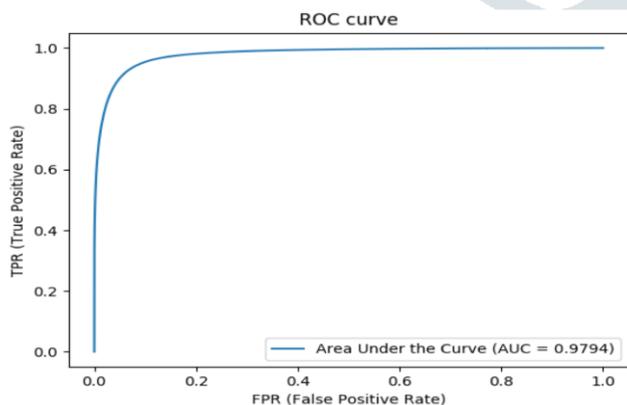


Splitting outputs of DRIVE dataset: (a) Retina Image; (b) Ground Truth Image; (c)Probability Output; (d) Binary Segmentation.

Results of segmentation for DRIVE dataset

### 7. Summary

During our research, we developed a FCN network approach for retina arterial categorization that is patch-based. After removing and supplying retina pictures into the networks, the removed patches spin around to impose data enhancement. To divide the boats, we adopted the U-Net network architecture. Research shows that our method excels the state of the Art methods. Due to certain thin arteries are tiny, fragmented pieces and aren't linked to the main vein tree, our method's constraints are in the ability and connection of the output vessel splitting. The edges of the patch also have some unusual effects when generating the splitting mask for the full image.



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