# RETINAL VESSEL SEGMENTATION
# USING DEEP LEARNING

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Science and Engineering

By


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**APRIL - 2023**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

## BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the bonafide work of **Kambham Jaswitha(39110440)** and **Kallur Harshini(39110437)** who carried out the Project Phase-1 entitled **Retinal Vessel Segmentation using deep learning** under my supervision from **JANUARY** 2022 to **APRIL** 2023.

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**Submitted for Viva voce Examination held on 20.4.2023**

**Internal Examiner** **External Examiner**

## DECLARATION

I, **Kambham Jaswitha(Reg.No- 39110440)** hereby declare that the Project Report entitled **Retinal vessel segmentation using deep learning** done by me under the guidance of **Dr.A.Yovan Felix, M.E.,Ph.D** is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

Jaswitha

**DATE: 20.4.2023**

**PLACE:Chennai** **SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE**

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#### ABSTRACT

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Retinal veins act as an important part of the diagnosis and management of vision problems and a variety of eye diseases. To accurately segment the tiny vessels of the retina, the contrast is often very low, making the task challenging. Computer-based diagnosis of retinal vessels has become increasingly popular, with automated segmentation of retinal arteries becoming a key success using convolutional neural networks (CNNs). To identify the affected retinal vessels, two architectures, a manual architecture, and the standard Unet architecture were compared in this research to determine which performed with the highest accuracy. After the best architecture was determined, a model was created. This model was then used to produce a segmented image for the input image with the help of the CNN algorithm. With this technology, the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of eye diseases can be improved, as well as the identification of systemic diseases that can be seen through retinal changes.

*Keywords: Neural network, U-Net, segmentation*

# CHAPTER 1
# INTRODUCTION

GLOBALLY, the prevalence of diabetes is estimated to rise to 10.2% (578 million) by 2030 and 10.9% (700 million) by 2045, in addition to the predicted prevalence of impairedglucose tolerance of 8.0% (454 million) by 2030 and 8.6% (548 million) by 2045, respectively . About 75% of all these patients reside in low- and middle-income countries where one in three diabetic patients suffer from diabetic retinopathy (DR) . Diabetic retinopathy is a medical condition that affects the eyes of people with diabetes. It is caused by damage to the blood vessels in the retina, which can lead to vision loss if left untreated.The retina is the part of the eye that converts light into neural signals that are sent to the brain. It requires a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients from the blood vessels in order to function properly. In people with diabetes, high blood sugar levels can damage these blood vessels, causing them to leak or become blocked. This can lead to a variety of vision problems, ranging from mild blurriness to complete blindness.

Symptoms of diabetic retinopathy can include blurred or distorted vision, floaters (tiny specks that appear to float in the visual field), and difficulty seeing at night. In some cases, there may be no symptoms at all, particularly in the early stages of the disease.Diabetic retinopathy can be diagnosed through a comprehensive eye exam that includes a dilated eye exam, which allows an ophthalmologist to examine the retina for signs of damage. Treatment options depend on the severity of the disease and can include laser therapy, injection of medications into the eye, or surgery.

Deep learning algorithms, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs) such as U-Net, have been used for the automated diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy. These algorithms are trained on large datasets of retinal images with known disease status, and can accurately classify new images as either healthy or diseased. This can help to improve the efficiency and accuracy of screening programs for diabetic retinopathy, particularly in areas with limited access to ophthalmologists. Moreover, the implementation of screening service in these areas is challenging due to lower number of ophthalmologist per million population. As we know, early diagnosis is critical to manage the DR in preventing blindness. Most guidelines recommend a check-up every 6-12 months for those diabetic patients whom have yet to develop severe DR (non-referable DR). However, population-wide screening poses a major workload on ophthalmologists.

Recent technological development have enabled computer assisted programs to perform retinal screening and automated DR detection. They can be grouped into cloud and mobile based systems. Whereas example cloud-based systems include

EyeArt, IDx-DR, RetmarkerDR or Retmarker Screening, SERI- NUS, the Bosch DR algorithm, RetinaLyze ; on the other hand, example mobile-based technologies in the market include iExaminer, D-Eye, iNview, and Peek Retina . While those

cloud based systems run DR detection on GPU, mobile solutions (mostly CPU based) are merely capturing retina images without detecting the present of DR . To the best of our knowledge, there is yet a DR detection program that actually runs locally in a mobile device. The current state-of-the-arts on DR detection are mainly end-to-end learning type deep convolution neural network (DCNN) model called DR-Net . Such deep network demands huge computing power and results in poor energy efficiency , hence limiting its deployment in mobile devices. To resolve, we first need to develop a more efficient model of DR-Net that can run on local CPU-based devices. In fact, even with the edge devices that soon come with high performance computing, the need for efficient deep network remains relevant .

Each blue box corresponds to a multi-channel feature map. The number of channels is denoted on the top of the box. The x-ysize is provided at the lower left edge of the box. White boxes represent copied feature maps and the arrows denote the different operations. The fundoscopic exam is a procedure that provides necessary information to diagnose different retinal degenerative diseases such as Diabetic Retinopathy, Macular Edema, Cytomegalovirus Retinitis. A highly accurate system is required to segment retinal vessels and find abnormalities in the retinal subspace to diagnose these vascular diseases. Many image processing and machine learning-based approaches for retinal vessel segmentation have so far been proposed. However, such methods fail to precisely pixel-wise segment blood vessels due to insufficient illumination and periodic noises. Attributes like this present in the subspace can create false-positive segmentation. In recent times, UNet based deep learning architectures have become very popular for retinal vessel segmentation. UNet consists of an encoder to capture context information and a decoder for enabling precise localization.

## 1.1. Eye Structure and fundus images

The eye is an organ of sight which typically has a spherical form and located in an orbital cavity. The human eye has a complicated structure which is presented in Fig. 1a. Usually three layers of the eyeball are distinguished: the outer fibrous layer, the middle vascular layer, and the inner nervous tissue layer shown in Figure 1.1.

Eyes diseases include macular, hypertensive retinopathy, diabetic retinopathy and etc. Most of the retinal diseases are usually detected by identifying the size, shape and widen of vessels in the manual way. Thus it will be helpful for diagnosis if we can get vessel diameter automatically. Fundus Photography allows us to take a photograph of the inner surface of the eye, including the retina, optic disc, macula and posteriot pole (i.e. the fundus). The photographs are analysed by our Optometrist, aiding diagnosis and monitoring of any eye disease. Photographs are also very helpful in explaining certain eye conditions such as glaucoma, macular degenaration and genetic disorders as these can be visualised. Fundoscopy provides photo documentation for future reference and provides the opportunity for any photographs to be passed on to an Eye Specialist for analysis even before the patient is seen.

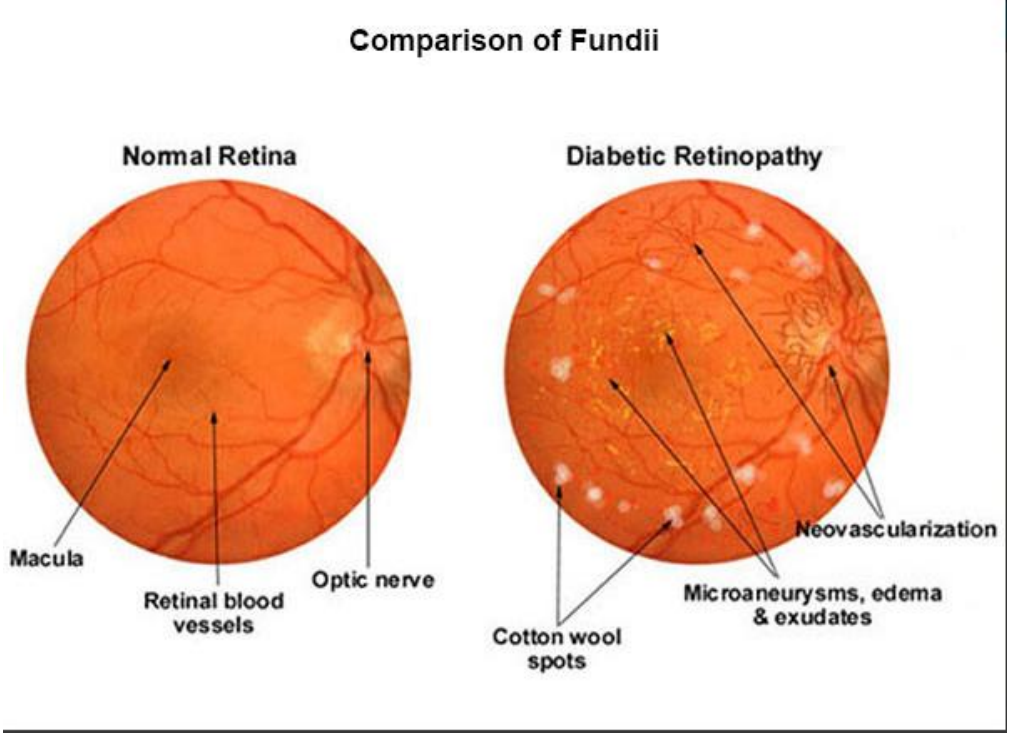


Fig 1.1- fundus structures

## 1.2. Deep neural networks:

Over the past few years major computer vision research efforts have concentrated on convolutional neural networks, commonly referred to ConvNets or CNNs. These research works have produced a better performance on a wide range of classification (e.g [24-25]) and regression (e.g [26-28]) tasks. A typical neural network architecture is made of an input layer, x, an output layer, y, and a stack of multiple hidden layers, h, where each layer consists of multiple cells or units, as depicted in Figure 2. Usually, each hidden unit, hj, receives input from all units at the previous layer and is defined as a weighted combination of the inputs followed by a nonlinearity.

Neural network models have been around for many years (i.e. since the 1960's) they were not heavily used until more recently. There were a number of reasons for this delay. For example, a major contribution that allowed for a progress in the field of deep neural networks is layer-wise unsupervised pretraining, using Restricted Boltzman Machine (RBM) [32]. Restricted Boltzman Machines can be seen as two-layer neural networks where, in their restricted form, only feedforward connections are allowed. These are some shortcomings which limit the application of neural network models. Convolutional networks (ConvNets) are a special type of neural network that are especially well adapted to computer vision applications because of their ability to hierarchically abstract representations with local operations. There are two key design ideas driving the success of convolutional architectures in computer vision. First, ConvNets take advantage of the 2D structure of images and the fact that pixels within a neighbourhood which are usually highly correlated. Further, ConvNet architectures rely on feature sharing and each channel (or output feature map) is thereby generated from convolution with the same filter at all locations. This important characteristic of ConvNets leads to an architecture that relies on far fewer parameters compared to standard Neural Networks. Second, ConvNets also introduce a pooling step that provides a degree of translation invariance making the architecture less affected by small variations in position. Notably, pooling also allows the network to X.C. Wang et al. / Procedia Computer Science 00 (2018) 000–000 gradually see larger portions of the input. The increase in receptive field size (coupled with a decrease in the input's resolution) allows the network to represent more abstract characteristics of the input as the network's depth increase. For example, for the task of object recognition, it is advocated that ConvNets layers start by focusing on edges to parts of the object to finally cover the entire object .

**1.3-Brief introduction of U-Net convolutional networks**

The U-Net architecture consists of a contracting path (encoder) and an expanding path (decoder), as well as skip connections between the two paths.

The contracting path consists of a series of convolutional layers followed by max pooling layers. These layers gradually reduce the spatial resolution of the input image while increasing the number of feature channels. This results in a highly compact representation of the input image that captures important features at different scales.

The expanding path consists of a series of convolutional layers followed by upsampling layers. These layers gradually increase the spatial resolution of the feature maps while decreasing the number of feature channels. The output of each upsampling layer is concatenated with the corresponding feature maps from the contracting path via skip connections. This allows the decoder to access high-resolution features from the contracting path, which helps to preserve fine-grained details in the segmentation output.

The final layer of the network is a 1x1 convolutional layer that maps the feature maps to the desired number of output channels. This layer is usually followed by a non-linear activation function such as sigmoid or softmax, which produces a probability map indicating the likelihood of each pixel belonging to a particular class.

One of the main advantages of U-Net is its ability to handle highly unbalanced datasets, where the number of pixels belonging to different classes varies widely. This is achieved by using a weighted loss function that assigns higher weights to underrepresented classes.

U-Net has been widely used for a variety of medical image segmentation tasks, including segmentation of brain tumors, heart structures, and blood vessels. It has also been applied to other domains such as remote sensing and object detection.

The U-Net architecture consists of a contracting path to capture context and a symmetric expanding path that enables precise localization. The U-Net architecture can be trained end-to-end from very few images and outperforms most of the methods on the ISBI challenge for segmentation of neuronal structures in electron microscopes.
One of the key features of U-Net is the use of skip connections between the encoder and decoder parts of the network. These skip connections allow the decoder to access higher-level feature representations from the encoder, which helps to improve the accuracy of the segmentation.

The U-Net architecture has been shown to be highly effective for a wide range of image segmentation tasks, including cell tracking, brain tumor segmentation, and segmentation of retinal blood vessels.

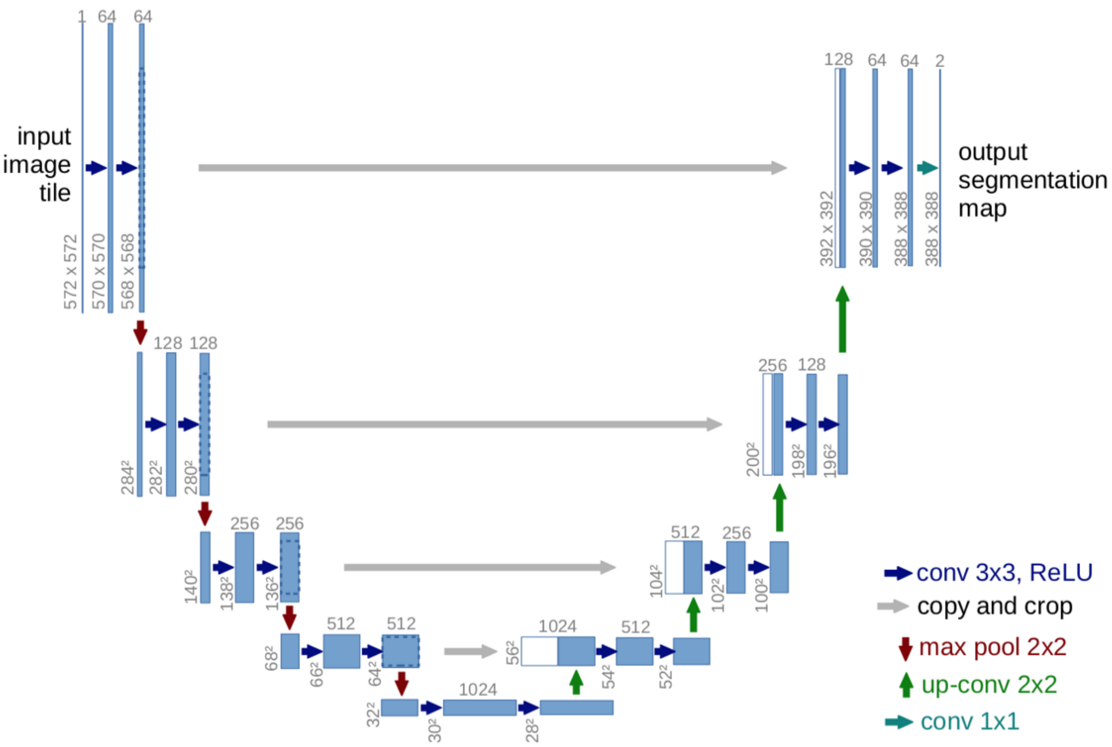


Fig 1.2-U-net architecture

# CHAPTER 2

# LITERATURE SURVEY

**Emerging insights into the relationship between hyperlipidemia and the risk of diabetic retinopathy by Yuyu Chou1 , Jin Ma1 , Xin Su2* and Yong Zhong1***

Hyperlipidemia is correlated with a series of health problems. Notably, aside from its established role in promoting cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, hyperlipidemia has also been considered for modulating the risk and the severity of multiple metabolic disorders. According to the results of epidemiologic investigations, several certain circulating lipoprotein species are correlated with the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy, suggesting that the physiological and pathological role of these lipoproteins is analogous to that observed in cardiovascular diseases. Furthermore, the lipid-lowering treatments, particularly using statin and fibrate, have been demonstrated to ameliorate diabetic retinopathy. Thereby, current focus is shifting towards implementing the protective strategies of diabetic retinopathy and elucidating the potential underlying mechanisms. However, it is worth noting that the relationship between major serum cholesterol species and the development of diabetic retinopathy, published by other studies, was inconsistent and overall modest, revealing the relationship is still not clarified. In this review, the current understanding of hyperlipidemia in pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy was summarized and the novel insights into the potential mechanisms whereby hyperlipidemia modulates diabetic retinopathy were put forward.

**Diabetic Retinopathy–An Underdiagnosed and Undertreated Inflammatory, Neuro-Vascular Complication of Diabetes by Stephen H. Sinclair 1,2 * and Stanley S. Schwartz 3**

Diabetes mellitus is a world-wide epidemic and diabetic retinopathy, a devastating, vision-threatening condition, is one of the most common diabetes-specific complications. Diabetic retinopathy is now recognized to be an inflammatory, neuro-vascular complication with neuronal injury/dysfunction preceding clinical microvascular damage. Importantly, the same pathophysiologic mechanisms that damage the pancreatic β-cell (e.g., inflammation, epigenetic changes, insulin resistance, fuel excess, and abnormal metabolic environment), also lead to cell and tissue damage causing organ dysfunction, elevating the risk of all complications, including diabetic retinopathy. Viewing diabetic retinopathy within the context whereby diabetes and all its complications arise from common pathophysiologic factors allows for the consideration of a wider array of potential ocular as well as systemic treatments for this common and devastating complication. Moreover, it also raises the importance of the need for methods that will provide more timely detection and prediction of the course in order to address early damage to the neurovascular unit prior to the clinical observation of microangiopathy. Currently, treatment success is limited as it is often initiated far too late and after significant neurodegeneration has occurred. This forward-thinking approach of earlier detection and treatment with a wider array of possible therapies broadens the physician's armamentarium and increases the opportunity for prevention and early treatment of diabetic retinopathy with preservation of good vision, as well the prevention of similar destructive processes occurring among other organs.

**Neurovascular Impairment and Therapeutic Strategies in Diabetic Retinopathy byToshiyuki Oshitari**

Diabetic retinopathy has recently been defined as a highly specific neurovascular complication of diabetes. The chronic progression of the impairment of the interdependence of neurovascular units (NVUs) is associated with the pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy. The NVUs consist of neurons, glial cells, and vascular cells, and the interdependent relationships between these cells are disturbed under diabetic conditions. Clinicians should understand and update the current knowledge of the neurovascular impairments in diabetic retinopathy. Above all, neuronal cell death is an irreversible change, and it is directly related to vision loss in patients with diabetic retinopathy. Thus, neuroprotective and vasoprotective therapies for diabetic retinopathy must be established. Understanding the physiological and pathological interdependence of the NVUs is helpful in establishing neuroprotective and vasoprotective therapies for diabetic retinopathy. This review focuses on the pathogenesis of the neurovascular impairments and introduces possible neurovascular protective therapies for diabetic retinopathy.

**Diabetic retinopathy: current understanding, mechanisms, and treatment strategies by Elia J. Duh,1 Jennifer K. Sun,2 Alan W. Stitt3**

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) causes significant visual loss on a global scale. Treatments for the vision-threatening complications of diabetic macular edema (DME) and proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) have greatly improved over the past decade. However, additional therapeutic options are needed that take into account pathology associated with vascular, glial, and neuronal components of the diabetic retina. Recent work indicates that diabetes markedly impacts the retinal neurovascular unit and its interdependent vascular, neuronal, glial, and immune cells. This knowledge is leading to identification of new targets and therapeutic strategies for preventing or reversing retinal neuronal dysfunction, vascular leakage, ischemia, and pathologic angiogenesis. These advances, together with approaches embracing the potential of preventative or regenerative medicine, could provide the means to better manage DR, including treatment at earlier stages and more precise tailoring of treatments based on individual patient variations.

**The Evolving Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy by Sam E Mansour 1,2 David J Browning**

With the recent expansion of management options for diabetic retinopathy, optimal sequences of treatment application and combination in specific clinical situations are under investigation. A review and synthesis of the ophthalmologic literature on treatment of diabetic retinopathy was performed to provide perspective on the relative prioritization of the various treatments in the contexts seen in clinical practice. In general, pharmacotherapy is ascendant, particularly with the anti-VEGF class, while laser treatment continues to have lesser roles in specific situations and under certain economic constraints. Surgical intervention continues to be reserved for those situations which fail to respond to pharmacotherapy, laser or combination therapy. Ongoing refinements in the systemic management of both hyperglycemia and hyperlipidemia continue to demonstrate significant benefits for both diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema. Recent developments involving newer retinal diagnostics are proving beneficial in optimizing both initiation and maintenance of therapy. As well, recent advances in novel pharmaceutical agents and ocular drug delivery methods show promise in better controlling the disease as well as reducing the burden of treatment.

## 2.1. INFERENCES FROM LITERATURE SURVEY

- One of the literature survey focuses on the pathogenesis of the neurovascular impairments and introduces possible neurovascular protective therapies for diabetic retinopathy.
- Classification is being made only to classify whether the nervous system of the retinal is affected by diabetes or not.
- Understanding the physiological and pathological interdependence of the NVUs is helpful in establishing neuroprotective and Vaso protective therapies for diabetic retinopathy.
- One of the surveys introduced possible neurovascular protective therapies for diabetic retinopathy.
- The approach of earlier detection and treatment with a wider array of possible therapies broadens the physician's armamentarium and increases the opportunity for prevention and early treatment of diabetic retinopathy with preservation of good vision, as well the prevention of similar destructive processes occurring among other organs.

## 2.2 OPEN PROBLEMS IN EXISTING SYSTEM

**Existing System:**

Present architecture of convolution neural network for diabetic retinopathy (DR-Net) is based on normal convolution (NC). It incurs high computational cost as NC uses a multiplicative weight that measures a combined correlation in both cross-channel and spatial dimension of layer's inputs. This might cause the overall DR-Net architecture to be over-parameterised and computationally inefficient. This paper reports the development and the experimental results of a new lightweight DR-Net, with DWSC module, called EDR-Net for predicting the presence of referable DR from fundus images. We found that the proposed EDR-Net have similar performance with NC-based DR-Net, with 85% less computational GFLOPs.

**Drawbacks:**

- No comparison of architectures.
- It only classifies the data.

While significant progress has been made in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic retinopathy (DR), there are still several open problems and challenges that need to be addressed. Some of these include:

Early detection and diagnosis: One of the biggest challenges in DR is the lack of early detection and diagnosis. Many people with diabetes are not aware of the need for regular eye exams, and as a result, their DR may not be detected until it has progressed to a more advanced stage. Improving access to screening programs and developing new tools for early detection could help to improve outcomes in DR.

Variability in disease progression: DR can progress at different rates in different people, and there is still a lot of variability in how the disease is diagnosed and treated. Developing more personalized treatment plans that take into account individual differences in disease progression and response to treatment could help to improve outcomes.

Lack of curative treatments: While there are several treatments available for DR, including laser therapy and intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF agents, these treatments are not curative and may have significant side effects. Developing new curative treatments for DR remains a major open problem.

Limited access to care: Access to ophthalmologists and other eye care providers is limited in many parts of the world, particularly in low-income and rural areas. Improving access to care, particularly in underserved communities, could help to reduce the burden of DR and improve outcomes.

Integration of technology: There is a growing need to integrate technology into the diagnosis and treatment of DR. This could include the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to improve the accuracy of diagnosis, as well as the development of new technologies for drug delivery and monitoring of disease progression.

Addressing these open problems will require continued research and collaboration among clinicians, researchers, and industry partners. However, by working together, we can continue to make progress in improving the diagnosis and treatment of DR, and ultimately reduce the burden of this devastating disease.

# CHAPTER 3
# REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

## 3.1 FEASIBILITY STUDIES/RISK ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

Feasibility studies and risk analysis are important components of any healthcare intervention, including those aimed at managing and treating diabetic retinopathy (DR). Here are some considerations that may be included in a feasibility study or risk analysis of DR interventions:

Need assessment: Assessing the need for DR interventions in a given population is an important first step. This may include determining the prevalence of diabetes and DR, the availability of healthcare services, and the burden of DR-related complications.

Intervention options: Evaluating the feasibility of different intervention options for DR is important, including traditional interventions such as laser therapy and intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF agents, as well as emerging technologies such as gene therapy and cell-based therapies. Factors to consider may include the cost of the intervention, the availability of trained healthcare providers, and the level of infrastructure needed to support the intervention.

Patient access and compliance: Assessing patient access to care and their willingness to comply with recommended interventions is critical for the success of any DR intervention. This may include evaluating patient attitudes towards eye care, barriers to accessing care (such as transportation or financial constraints), and cultural beliefs that may impact adherence to treatment.

Economic impact: Evaluating the economic impact of DR interventions is important, including the cost-effectiveness of different interventions and their potential impact on healthcare budgets. This may include a cost-benefit analysis, as well as an assessment of the potential impact of the intervention on the broader economy.

Safety and efficacy: Assessing the safety and efficacy of DR interventions is critical to ensuring that patients receive appropriate care. This may include an evaluation of the risk of adverse events associated with different interventions, as well as the likelihood of success in improving patient outcomes.

By conducting a comprehensive feasibility study and risk analysis of DR interventions, healthcare providers and policymakers can make informed decisions about the most appropriate interventions to address this important public health issue. The feasibility of the project is analysed in this phase and business proposal is put forth with a very general plan for the project and some cost estimates. During system analysis the feasibility study of the proposed system is to be carried out. This is to ensure that the proposed system is not a burden to the company. For feasibility analysis, some understanding of the major requirements for the system is essential. Three key considerations involved in the feasibility analysis are

- ♦ ECONOMICAL FEASIBILITY
- ♦ TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY
- ♦ SOCIAL FEASIBILITY

***Economic feasibility:***

Retinal vessel segmentation is an important step in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic retinopathy and other retinal diseases. While there are several potential economic benefits to retinal vessel segmentation, there are also some challenges that must be considered in a feasibility analysis. Here are some factors to consider:

Cost of implementation: Implementing retinal vessel segmentation technology can be costly, particularly if it requires significant infrastructure upgrades or the purchase of specialized equipment. The cost of the technology must be weighed against the potential benefits it provides, including improved accuracy of diagnosis and more personalized treatment plans.

Time savings: Retinal vessel segmentation can save time in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases, as it can help to quickly identify areas of the retina that require further examination or treatment. This can improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden on healthcare providers, potentially resulting in cost savings over time.

Accuracy of diagnosis: Retinal vessel segmentation can improve the accuracy of diagnosis by providing a more detailed and precise view of the retina. This can help to identify retinal diseases earlier and develop more effective treatment plans, potentially reducing healthcare costs associated with later-stage disease.

Reimbursement: Reimbursement policies for retinal vessel segmentation may vary by region and insurance provider. Healthcare providers must consider the potential reimbursement rates for these services when evaluating the economic feasibility of retinal vessel segmentation.

Competition: There may be competition from other diagnostic technologies and services that offer similar benefits to retinal vessel segmentation. Healthcare providers must assess the potential market for retinal vessel segmentation and consider how it fits into their broader service offerings.

Overall, while retinal vessel segmentation may have initial implementation costs, it has the potential to provide significant economic benefits in the long run by improving accuracy of diagnosis, reducing healthcare costs, and saving time for healthcare providers. However, healthcare providers must carefully consider the economic feasibility of this technology in their specific setting before investing in its implementation. This study is carried out to check the economic impact that the system will have on the organization. The amount of fund that the company can pour into the research and development of the system is limited. The expenditures must be justified. Thus, the developed system as well within the budget and this was achieved because most of the technologies used are freely available. Only the customized products had to be purchased.

***Technical feasibility**:*

Retinal vessel segmentation is a challenging problem in computer vision and medical imaging due to the complex structure of the retinal vasculature and the presence of noise, artifacts, and variations in imaging modalities. However, recent advances in deep learning and computer vision techniques have improved the accuracy and speed of retinal vessel segmentation algorithms. Here are some factors to consider when evaluating the technical feasibility of retinal vessel segmentation:

Image quality: The quality of retinal images is a key factor that affects the accuracy of vessel segmentation algorithms. High-quality images with good contrast, resolution, and field of view are ideal for vessel segmentation. However, in practice, the images may be degraded by noise, blur, and other artifacts, which can affect the segmentation results.

Choice of imaging modality: Different imaging modalities such as fundus photography, optical coherence tomography (OCT), and fluorescein angiography (FA) have different strengths and weaknesses in terms of image quality and the type of vessel features that can be extracted. The choice of imaging modality depends on the clinical context and the specific application of the vessel segmentation algorithm.

Algorithmic complexity: Retinal vessel segmentation algorithms can be based on various techniques such as thresholding, filtering, edge detection, and machine learning. Machine learning-based approaches, particularly deep learning algorithms such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), have shown superior performance in vessel segmentation due to their ability to learn discriminative features from large datasets. However, these algorithms are computationally intensive and require large amounts of training data.

Generalizability: The ability of a vessel segmentation algorithm to generalize to new datasets and imaging conditions is critical for its clinical utility. The algorithm should be robust to variations in image quality, lighting conditions, and other factors that can affect the segmentation accuracy. Transfer learning and data augmentation techniques can improve the generalizability of deep learning-based algorithms.

Evaluation metrics: The accuracy of vessel segmentation algorithms can be evaluated using various metrics such as sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, and Dice coefficient. However, the choice of evaluation metric depends on the clinical context and the specific application of the algorithm. For example, sensitivity and specificity may be more important for detecting small vessels, while accuracy and Dice coefficient may be more important for measuring the overlap between the segmented vessels and the ground truth.

Overall, retinal vessel segmentation is technically feasible with state-of-the-art algorithms and imaging technologies. However, the accuracy and generalizability of the algorithms depend on various factors such as image quality, algorithmic complexity, and evaluation metrics. Careful evaluation and optimization of these factors are critical for the successful implementation of vessel segmentation algorithms in clinical practice. This study is carried out to check the technical feasibility, that is, the technical requirements of the system. Any system developed must not have a high demand on the available technical resources. This will lead to high demands on the available technical resources. This will lead to high demands being placed on the client. The developed system must have a modest requirement, as only minimal or null changes are required for implementing this system.

***Social feasibility:***

Retinal vessel segmentation can have social benefits, including improved diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes. However, there are also social considerations that must be taken into account when evaluating the feasibility of this technology. Here are some factors to consider:

Patient acceptance: Patients may have concerns about the use of retinal vessel segmentation technology, particularly if it involves invasive procedures or the use of specialized equipment. Healthcare providers must communicate the benefits of the technology to patients and address any concerns they may have.

Accessibility: The availability of retinal vessel segmentation technology may be limited in certain regions or healthcare settings. Healthcare providers must consider the accessibility of the technology to all patients, including those in remote or underserved areas.

Healthcare provider adoption: The adoption of retinal vessel segmentation technology by healthcare providers may be slow due to concerns about the accuracy and effectiveness of the technology. Healthcare providers must be educated about the benefits of the technology and how it can improve patient outcomes.Ethical considerations: The use of retinal vessel segmentation technology raises ethical considerations, such as privacy, consent, and the potential for bias. Healthcare providers must adhere to ethical standards and ensure that patients are fully informed about the use of the technology.

Cost-effectiveness: The cost-effectiveness of retinal vessel segmentation technology must be evaluated to ensure that it provides value to patients and healthcare providers. Healthcare providers must consider the cost of the technology and the potential savings in healthcare costs and patient outcomes.

Overall, while retinal vessel segmentation can provide social benefits such as improved diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes, healthcare providers must also consider social considerations such as patient acceptance, accessibility, healthcare provider adoption, ethical considerations, and cost-effectiveness. Careful evaluation of these factors is critical for the successful implementation of retinal vessel segmentation technology in clinical practice. The aspect of study is to check the level of acceptance of the system by the user. This includes the process of training the user to use the system efficiently. The user must not feel threatened by the system, instead must accept it as a necessity. The 18 level of acceptance by the users solely depends on the methods that are employed to educate the user about the system and to make him familiar with it. His level of confidence must be raised so that he is also able to make some constructive criticism, which is welcomed, as he is the final user of the system.

## 3.2 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Software Requirements:

| | |
|---|---|
| Operating System | : Windows 10 or later |
| Tool | : Anaconda with Jupyter Notebook, VSCode |

- Hardware requirements:

| | |
|---|---|
| Processor | : Intel i3 or higher |
| Hard disk | : minimum 10 GB |
| RAM | : minimum 4 GB |

# CHAPTER 4
# DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

This project presents an image segmentation technique using CNN U-Net architecture for vessel segmentation. This system have many good features among different segmentation schemes. It organizes the image elements into, mathematically and structural form, and makes the problem formulation more flexible, and the computation, more efficient. The proposed method consist of segmentation of image by using a CNN algorithm. The datasets of normal and masked images are used for training the image for segmentation. The best architecture from CNN algorithm is used for training the data and the model is created. Finally the model is used for segmenting the retinal vessel.

## 4.1-Selected Methodology or process model

LIST OF MODULES

i. Data Analysis

ii. Pre-processing

iii. Manual Architecture and U-Net Architecture

iv. Deployment

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

**i. *Data Analysis***

Data analysis is the process of cleaning, changing, and processing raw data, and extracting actionable, relevant information that helps businesses make informed decisions. The procedure helps reduce the risks inherent in decision-making by providing useful insights. The data analysis process, or alternately, data analysis steps, involves gathering all the information, processing it, exploring the data, and using it to find patterns and other insights.

In data analysis we analyse the data that how the image data is available. We analyse how many data are available and we check whether the normal data is available corresponding to the mask data.

The DRKaggle and Messidor-2 datasets have been widely used in the evaluation of a few deep learning-based algorithms for detecting diabetic retinopathy (DR). The DRKaggle dataset, which contains 230 coloured fundus images, was divided into two sub-datasets. The training set has 80 images and the test set contains nearly 150 images. Definitions of these images range from 433 × 289 pixels to 5184 × 3456 pixels. The Messidor-2 dataset is composed of 29 images, of which 14.6% are referable. This dataset was only used for testing purposes, as none of its images were used for training. Both datasets were acquired using a Topcon TRC NW6 non-mydriatic camera with a 45-degree field of view centered on the macula [9]. These datasets are invaluable for the development of DR detection algorithms, as they provide accurate and reliable data for the training and evaluation of such models.

***ii. Data Preprocessing***

The dataset images that are collected are filtered with many filters namely blur filter, Gaussian filter, identity filter, Laplacian filter, mean filter, and median filter. These filters are necessary to view the internal filtering process manually to grasp the data from the images for pre-processing. The proposed image normalization method consists of four steps to ensure that the input images are appropriately pre-processed. This image pre-processing can be used for a variety of tasks, such as object detection and segmentation, to improve accuracy and reliability .

Figure 4.1 -Median filter

The Median Filter is an important filtering technique used in image processing and signal processing to remove noise while preserving edges. It works by scanning each input data entry with a median function, also known as the "window" method. The window size is determined by the number of entries in the signal, which can be either odd or even. The Median Filter works by replacing each data entry with the median value of the adjacent data points in the window. This helps to smooth out any noise by replacing it with a value that is closer to that of the surrounding entries.

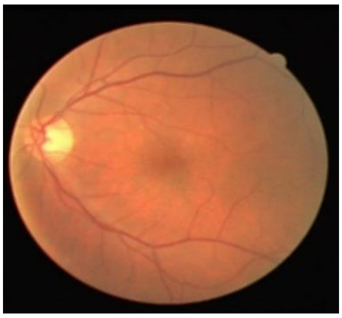

Figure 4.2- Mean filter

Mean filtering is a type of convolution filter used in image processing, where each pixel in an image is replaced with the mean (average) value of its neighbors, including itself. It has the effect of eliminating unusually high or low pixel values that are unrepresentative of their surroundings. A 3 by 3 square kernel is the most commonly used for mean filtering, although larger kernels can be used for more severe smoothing. The larger the kernel, the more times it can be applied to achieve a similar but not identical effect as a single pass with a smaller kernel. Mean filtering is a relatively simple way to improve image quality and reduce noise. It is widely used in applications such as medical imaging, where it is important to eliminate any artifacts that could interfere with an accurate diagnosis. It is also used in video processing, where it helps to reduce flicker and improve overall image quality.

Figure 4.3- Laplasian filter

The process of improving the contrast of an image using Adaptive Histogram Equalization (AHE) starts with a preprocessing block, where a Laplacian filter is applied to the original gray image. This filter acts as an edge-sharpening filter, enhancing the edges of the image. Once the Laplacian filter has been applied, the image is subjected to AHE, which adjusts the contrast and brightness of the image. It works by creating a histogram of the gray levels in an image and adjusting the gray levels accordingly. This is done by stretching the gray level range, which helps to improve the overall contrast of the image. It also helps to reduce the amount of noise present in the image, making it more visually appealing. AHE also takes into account the variations in the image, ensuring that the contrast of the image is improved without losing any details. The Laplacian of an image is a highly effective enhancement technique that is used to highlight regions of rapid intensity change. This technique is known as a second-order or second-derivative method and is based on the concept of a Laplacian operator. The Laplacian operator is particularly useful for images that contain edges, such as silhouettes or aerial photographs. It can also be used to detect lines or other structures in the image [10]. The Laplacian operator is particularly effective compared to other enhancement techniques, as it can reveal unique characteristics in the image that may not be visible with other methods when implemented for the result.

Figure 4.4- Gaussian filter

Gaussian filters are a type of low-pass filter commonly used in image processing, with applications ranging from noise reduction to blur effects[7]. The Gaussian filter is implemented as an odd-sized symmetric kernel, which is passed through each pixel of the region of interest. The kernel is smooth towards drastic color changes, due to the pixels towards the center of the kernel having more weightage towards the final value than the periphery[.The Gaussian filter can be considered an approximation of the Gaussian function, which is a bell-shaped mathematical function. This article will provide an overview of how to utilize Gaussian filters to reduce noise in images, using Python programming language[4]. We will start by discussing the basics of image processing, image noise, and Gaussian filters. We will then provide a step-by-step guide on how to implement the filter in Python, using the OpenCV and NumPy libraries. Finally, we will cover some of the limitations of using Gaussian filters, and potential alternatives.[15]

Figure 4.5- Blur filter

Blurring is a common editing technique used to soften or obscure an image [13]. This effect is achieved through the use of a low-pass filter, which allows low-frequency signals to pass through it while blocking high-frequency signals. This is because around the edges of an image, pixel value changes rapidly, so high-frequency signals should be filtered out to achieve a smooth, blurred image.

To achieve this, a filter is used with each cell having a value of 1. This is done to ensure that the pixel values are close to their neighbouring pixel values, which is necessary to blur the image. It is then divided by 9 to normalize the values, otherwise, the value of each pixel will increase, resulting in more contrast that would detract from the effect.

***iii. Manual Architecture and U-Net Architecture:***

The proposed method of using a convolutional neural network (CNN) U-Net architecture for segmenting vessels in images is highly effective and has several advantages over other segmentation techniques. This approach has a mathematical and structural arrangement of image elements which simplifies the problem and allows for faster calculations. To compare the proposed method to other approaches, two architectures were implemented: a standard U-Net architecture and a manual architecture.

The U-Net architecture proved to be more accurate than the manual architecture, leading to its selection as the model generator. The U-Net network model is an innovative approach to deep learning that combines the advantages of both traditional convolutional and de convolutional neural networks. It consists of an encoder and a decoder, with each component having a 3 × 3 convolutional layer, copy and cropping, and max-pooling layer. The decoder utilizes a step size of 2, and each feature channel is automatically generated according to the learning process. The U-Net network model is unique in that it explicitly models the interdependence between feature channels, allowing for better accuracy and precision when it comes to machine learning tasks.

Furthermore, U-Net networks are capable of learning from both large and small datasets, making them the most powerful tool for deep learning applications. With the potential to rapidly learn from data and accurately identify patterns, U-Net networks are sure to revolutionize how machines learn and process data.

Datasets used to train the segmentation algorithm underwent pre-processing, including image scaling, reshaping, and array form conversion. For testing purposes, any image from the collection of both masked and unmasked photos can be used. The ConvNet then takes the input image, learns different filters on its own, and distinguishes between the elements and objects in the image. Finally, the retinal vessel is segmented using the trained model.

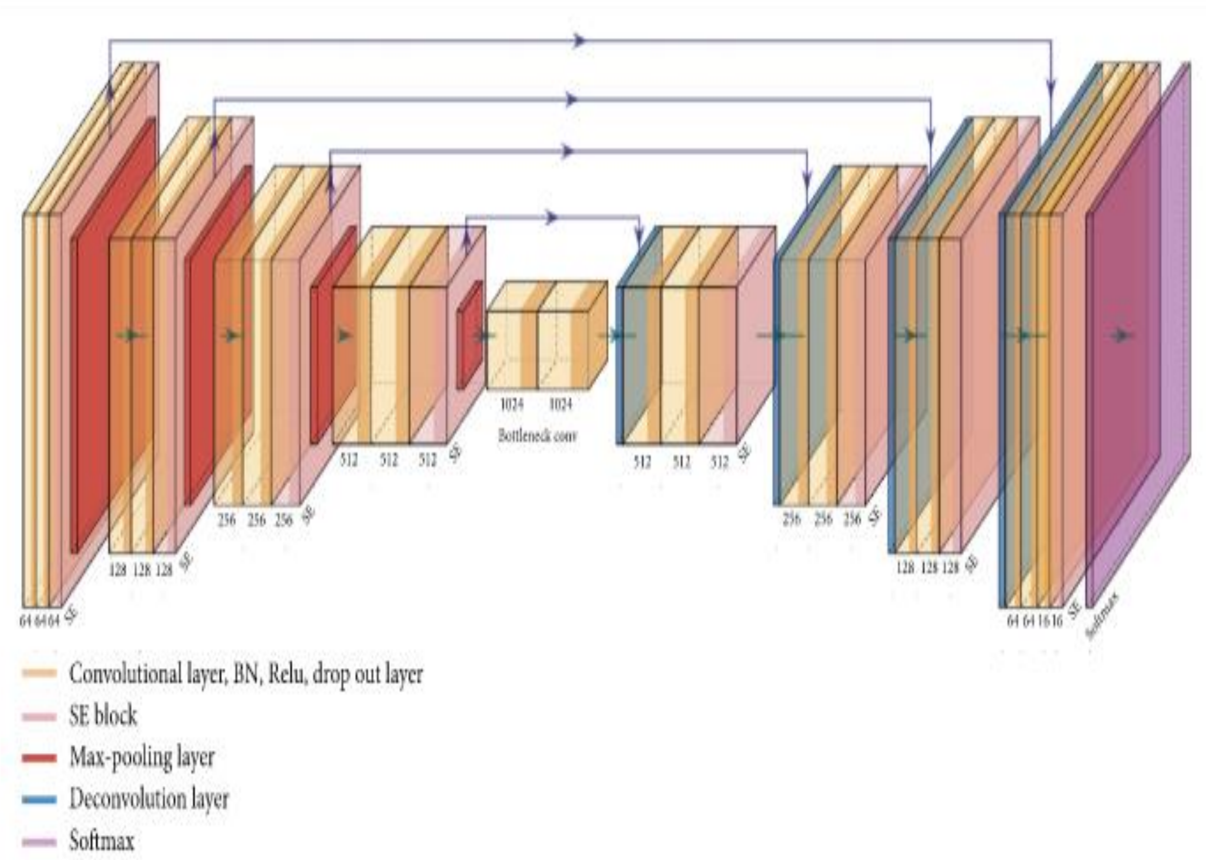


Fig 4.6-Improved U-Net architecture

A Convolutional Neural Network (ConvNet/CNN) is a Deep Learning algorithm which can take in an input image, assign importance (learnable weights and biases) to various aspects/objects in the image and be able to differentiate one from the other. The pre-processing required in a ConvNet is much lower as compared to other classification algorithms. While in primitive methods filters are hand-engineered, with enough training, ConvNets could learn these filters/characteristics. The architecture of a ConvNet is analogous to that of the connectivity pattern of Neurons in the Human Brain and was inspired by the organization of the Visual Cortex. Individual neurons respond to stimuli only in a restricted region of the visual field known as the Receptive Field. Their network consists of four layers with 1,024 input units, 256 units in the first hidden layer, eight units in the second hidden layer, and two output units.

***Input Layer:***

Input layer in CNN contain image data. Image data is represented by three dimensional matrixes. It needs to reshape it into a single column. Suppose you have image of dimension 28 x 28 =784, it needs to convert it into 784 x 1 before feeding into input. In a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), the input layer is the first layer of the network and is responsible for accepting the input data. The input data in a CNN is typically a 3D tensor of shape (height, width, channels), where the height and width represent the dimensions of the input image, and the channels represent the color channels (e.g., red, green, blue) of the image.

The input layer applies no computation to the input data, but simply passes it on to the next layer in the network. The input layer is also responsible for normalizing the input data, such as by subtracting the mean pixel value across the training dataset from each pixel of the input image. This normalization is typically done to make the network more robust to variations in lighting conditions and color balance.

In addition to the input layer, a CNN may also include additional pre-processing layers, such as data augmentation layers, that modify the input data to increase the amount of training data available to the network. Data augmentation techniques can include cropping, scaling, rotating, and flipping the input images, among others.

The input layer is followed by a series of convolutional layers, pooling layers, and activation layers that extract features from the input data and transform it into a format that can be used for classification, regression, or other tasks. These layers form the core of the CNN and are responsible for learning the features that enable the network to make accurate predictions on new, unseen data.

***Convo Layer:***

Convo layer is sometimes called feature extractor layer because features of the image are get extracted within this layer. First of all, a part of image is connected to Convo layer to perform convolution operation as we saw earlier and calculating the dot product between receptive field (it is a local region of the input image that has the same size as that of filter) and the filter. Result of the operation is single integer of the output volume. Then the filter over the next receptive field of the same input image by a Stride and do the same operation again. It will repeat the same process again and again until it goes through the whole image. The output will be the input for the next layer.

***Pooling Layer:***

Pooling layer is used to reduce the spatial volume of input image after convolution. It is used between two convolution layers. If it applies FC after Convo layer without applying pooling or max pooling, then it will be computationally expensive. So, the max pooling is only way to reduce the spatial volume of input image. It has applied max pooling in single depth slice with Stride of 2. It can observe the 4 x 4-dimension input is reducing to 2 x 2 dimensions.

***Fully Connected Layer (FC):***

In Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), fully connected layers are typically used at the end of the network to perform the final classification or regression task. These layers are also referred to as dense layers or linear layers.A fully connected layer takes the output of the previous layer (usually a flattened tensor) and performs a linear transformation on it. This means that each neuron in the fully connected layer is connected to every neuron in the previous layer. The output of the fully connected layer is then passed through an activation function, which introduces non-linearity into the network.

The number of neurons in the fully connected layer is typically determined by the number of classes in the classification task. For example, if the task is to classify images into 10 classes (e.g., digits 0-9), then the fully connected layer will typically have 10 neurons, one for each class.The weights in the fully connected layer are learned during training using backpropagation. The goal of training is to minimize the difference between the predicted output of the network and the true output.

Fully connected layers are powerful because they can learn complex, non-linear relationships between features in the input data. However, they also require a large number of parameters to be learned, which can lead to overfitting if the network is not regularized properly.

***Softmax / Logistic Layer:***

In a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), the softmax layer is typically used as the final layer for classification tasks. The softmax function takes in a vector of arbitrary real-valued scores and outputs a probability distribution over the different classes.The softmax function maps each element of the input vector to a value between 0 and 1, such that the sum of all the values equals 1. This ensures that the output can be interpreted as a probability distribution.

In a CNN, the input to the softmax layer is typically the output of the fully connected layer. Each neuron in the fully connected layer corresponds to a different class, and the output of the neuron represents the score or confidence that the input belongs to that class. The softmax layer then converts these scores into probabilities.

In contrast, the logistic layer (also known as the sigmoid layer) is commonly used in binary classification tasks. The logistic function takes in a single real-valued input and outputs a probability value between 0 and 1. The output of the logistic layer can be interpreted as the probability that the input belongs to the positive class.

In a CNN, the logistic layer can be used as the final layer in a binary classification task. The input to the logistic layer is typically the output of the fully connected layer, and the output of the logistic layer can be interpreted as the probability that the input belongs to the positive class.

***Output Layer:***

In a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), the output layer depends on the specific task being performed. Generally, the output layer is responsible for generating the final output of the network, which can be in the form of class probabilities, regression values, or semantic segmentation maps.

For classification tasks, the output layer is typically a softmax layer, as discussed in the previous answer. The softmax layer computes the probability distribution over the different classes and outputs the class with the highest probability as the predicted class.

For regression tasks, the output layer is typically a linear layer with a single output neuron, which generates a real-valued output that can be used to predict a continuous variable.

For semantic segmentation tasks, the output layer is typically a convolutional layer with a large number of output neurons, where each neuron corresponds to a pixel in the output segmentation map. The output of each neuron is a score that represents the probability that the corresponding pixel belongs to a particular class. The output layer is often followed by a pixel-wise softmax layer, which normalizes the scores across all classes for each pixel, producing a probability distribution over the different classes for each pixel.

It's important to note that the output layer is not the only layer that determines the final output of the network. The output is actually the result of the entire network's computation, including the feature extraction and classification layers that precede the output layer. The output layer is simply the last step in this process, responsible for producing the final output in a format appropriate for the specific task being performed.

**iv. Deployment**

Deploying the model in Django Framework and predicting the output

In this module, the trained deep learning model is converted into a hierarchical data format file (.h5 file) which is then deployed in our Django framework for providing a better user interface and predicting the output of retinal fundus image.

**4.2-Architecture / Overall Design of Proposed System**

The architecture of CNN used for the blood vessel segmentation of the fundus images is presented in Figure 5. It was derived from the U-Net network presented in Figure 4. The U-Net exhibits the encoder-decoder architecture where the decoder gradually recovers it. As a result, it produces a pixel-wise probability map instead of classifying an input image. The U-Net in opposition to other CNN architectures does not require a huge amount of training samples and can be effectively trained with only a few images. This was also in the case of the dataset considered in this study. Compared to the original architecture, some important modifications were introduced in the CNN used in this work. First, the network was downscaled. Particularly, the depth of the network was reduced by removing two (out of five) levels of pooling/upsampling operations with the corresponding convolution. Additionally, the number of feature vectors at each level was halved. As a result, the number of filters varies from 32 at the input to 128 in the lowest resolution. The downscaling was performed since shallower architecture allowed to obtain equivalent results as the original U-Net, but the training became easier and its time was significantly reduced. The final number of layers and their configuration were selected via experimentation and were balanced between the training time and the accuracy of network. Additionally, dropout layers were introduced between the convolutional layers to improve the training performance.

**Training and Prediction:**

The performance of this neural network is tested on the DRIVE database, and it achieves the best score in terms of area under the ROC curve in comparison to the other methods published so far. Also on the STARE datasets, this method reports one of the best performances. Before training, the 20 images of the DRIVE training datasets are pre-processed with the following transformations:

i. Gray-scale conversion

ii.Standardization

**Grayscale conversion :** It is the process of converting a colored image into a black-and-white or grayscale image. In a grayscale image, each pixel value represents the brightness of the corresponding pixel in the original colored image, with values ranging from 0 (black) to 255 (white). There are several ways to convert a colored image into grayscale, including the following methods:

Averaging method: In this method, the grayscale value of each pixel is calculated as the average of the red, green, and blue values of the corresponding pixel in the colored image. This method is simple and fast, but it may not produce the best results in some cases.

Luminosity method: In this method, the grayscale value of each pixel is calculated using a weighted average of the red, green, and blue values of the corresponding pixel, with more weight given to the green channel, which is the most sensitive to human vision. The formula for calculating the grayscale value of a pixel using the luminosity method is as follows:

gray_value = 0.21 * R + 0.72 * G + 0.07 * B

where R, G, and B are the red, green, and blue values of the corresponding pixel in the colored image.

Desaturation method: In this method, the grayscale value of each pixel is calculated using the formula:

gray_value = (max(R, G, B) + min(R, G, B)) / 2

where R, G, and B are the red, green, and blue values of the corresponding pixel in the colored image.

Grayscale conversion is often used in image processing applications, such as edge detection, where color information is not necessary and can actually hinder the detection process.

**Standardization:**

Standardization, also known as normalization, is a common pre-processing step in Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to improve the performance of the network. Standardization is the process of rescaling the input data so that it has a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. This helps to make the input data more uniform and easier to learn by the network, and can improve the convergence of the training process.

To standardize the input data in a CNN, we first compute the mean and standard deviation of the training dataset. Then, for each input image, we subtract the mean and divide by the standard deviation. The resulting output has a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one.

Standardization can be applied to the input data of the CNN, as well as to the outputs of each layer in the network. In the case of the input data, standardization is typically done before the data is passed through the first layer of the network, such as the convolutional layer.

In addition to standardization, other data pre-processing techniques, such as data augmentation, can also be used to improve the performance of the network. Data augmentation involves creating new training data by applying random transformations, such as rotating, scaling, or flipping, to the original training images. This can help to increase the size of the training dataset and make the network more robust to variations in the input data.

### System architecture:

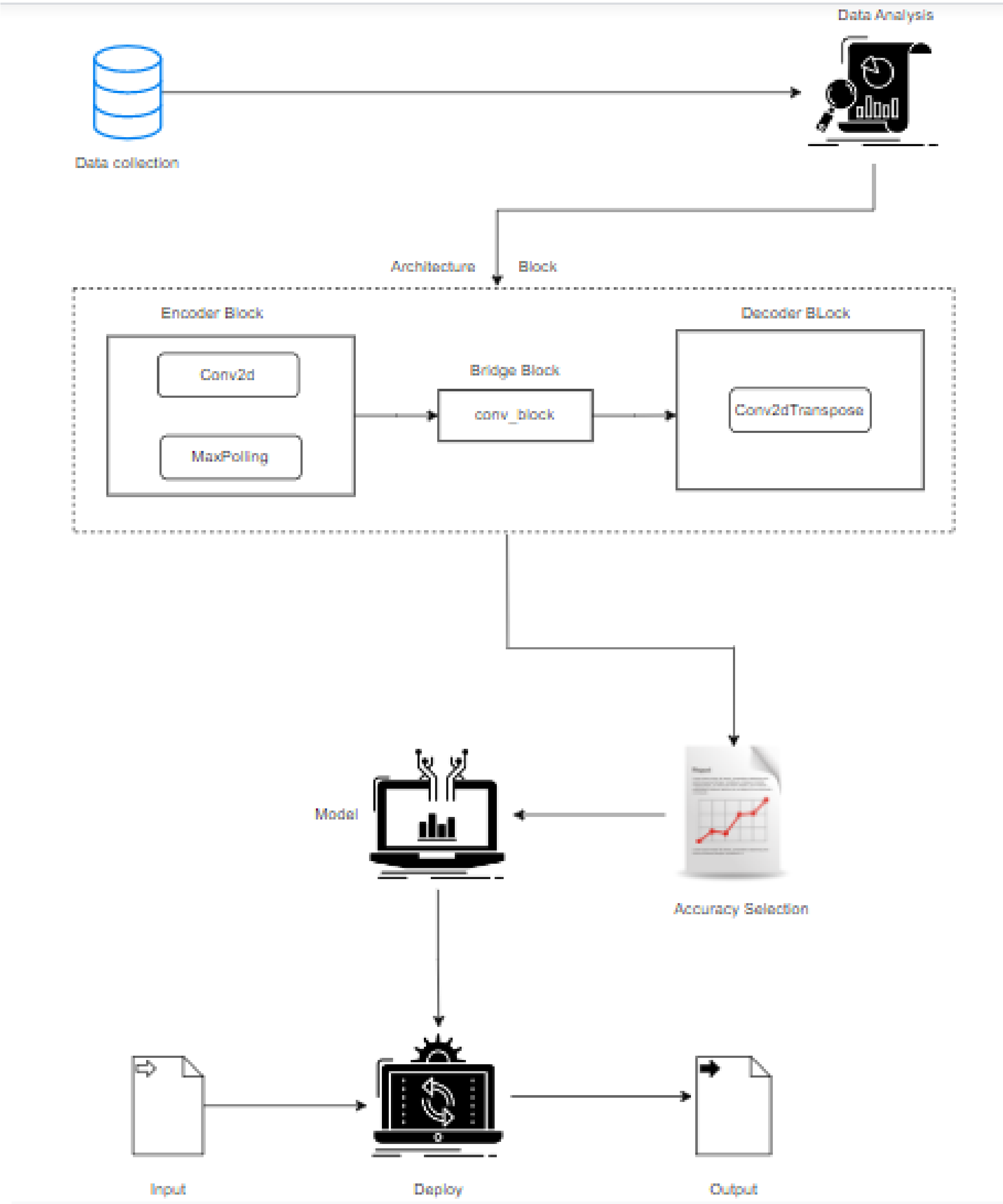


Fig 4.7- System architecture

Initially data gets collected from standard Kaggle website. After the collection and storage of data, Data analysis part takes place. Data gets pre processed to check if there is any invalid sort of data or null data. After cleaning the data, we create user architecture which is manual architecture and then we check the accuracy. We create u-net architecture and calculate the accuracy .We check both the accuracy rates and finalize one for the further computation.We train and test the model and deploy it on web application.It then takes the input and gives corresponding output.

**Work flow diagram:**

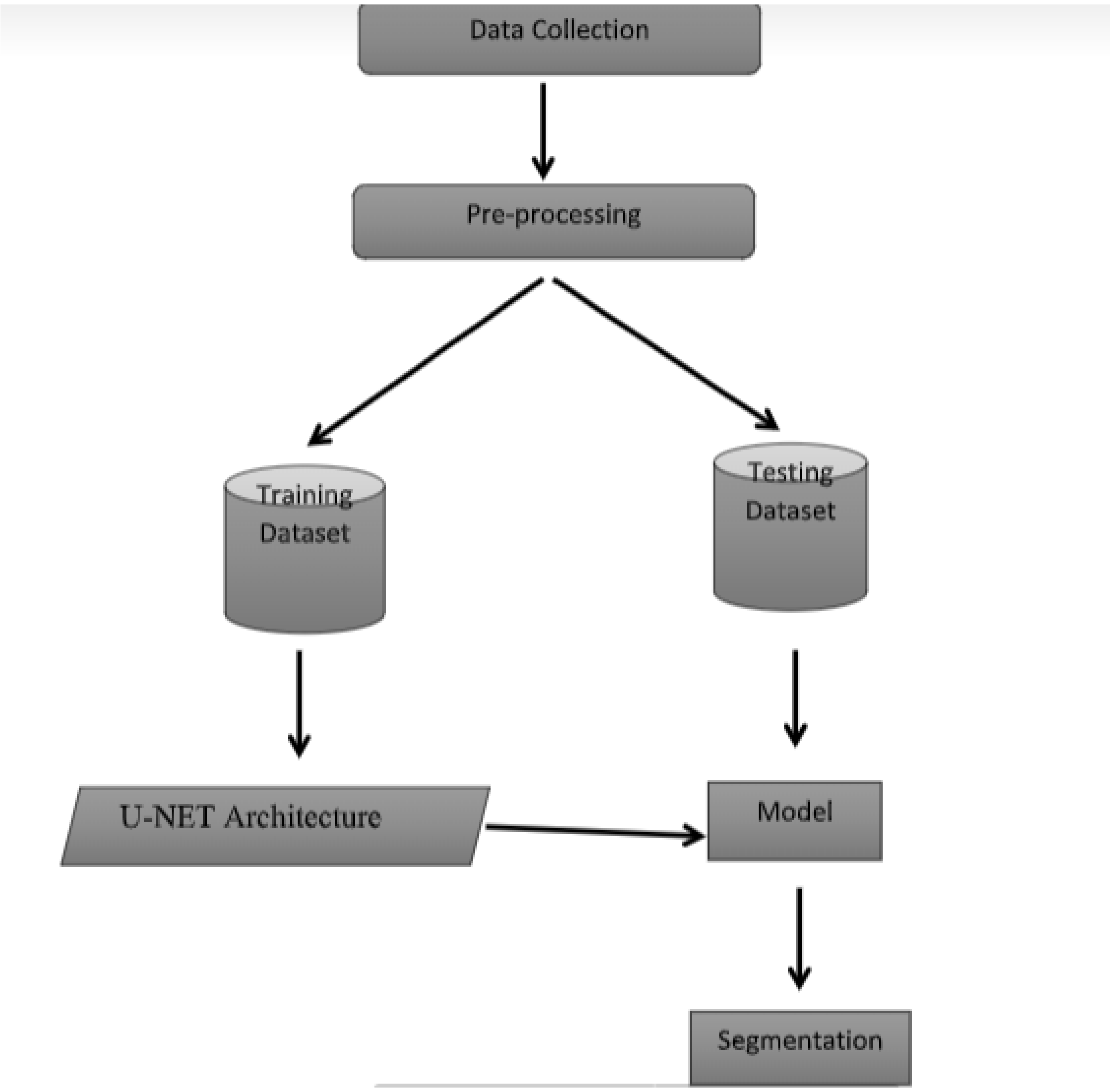


Fig 4.8-Flow diagram

**Use case diagram:**

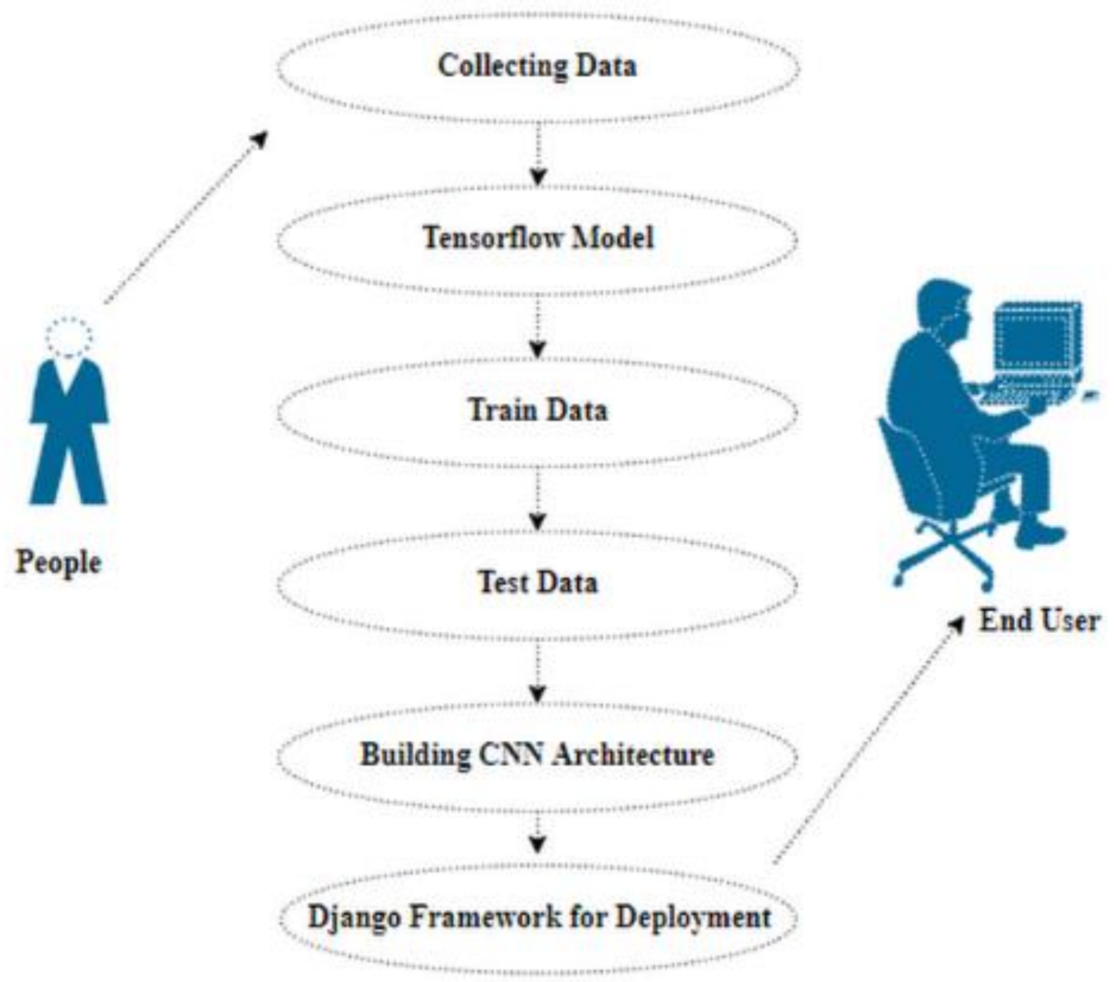


Fig 4.9-Use case diagram

### 4.3-Description of Software for Implementation and Testing plan of the Proposed Model/System:

**Python:**

Python offers concise and readable code. While complex algorithms and versatile workflows stand behind machine learning and AI, Python’s simplicity allows developers to write reliable systems. Developers get to put all their effort into solvingan ML problem instead of focusing on the technical nuances of the language.

Additionally, Python is appealing to many developers as it’s easy to learn. Python code is understandable by humans, which makes it easier to build models for machine learning.

Many programmers say that Python is more intuitive than other programming languages. Others point out the many frameworks, libraries, and extensions that simplify the implementation of different functionalities. It’s generally accepted that Python is suitable for collaborative implementation when multiple developers areinvolved. Since Python is a general-purpose language, it can do a set of complexmachine learning tasks and enable you to build prototypes quickly that allow you totest your product for machine learning purposes.

**Jupyter Notebook:**

The Jupyter Notebook is an incredibly powerful tool for interactively developing and presenting data science projects. This article will walk you through how to use Jupyter Notebooks for data science projects and how to set it up on your local machine.

A notebook integrates code and its output into a single document that combines visualizations, narrative text, mathematical equations, and other rich media. In other words: it’s a single document where you can run code, display the output, and also add explanations, formulas, charts, and make your work more transparent, understandable, repeatable, and shareable.

Using Notebooks is now a major part of the data science workflow at companies across the globe. If your goal is to work with data, using a Notebook will speed up your workflow and make it easier to communicate and share your results.

Best of all, as part of the open source  Jupyter Notebooks are completely free. You can download the software on its own, or as part of the anaconda data toolkit.

Although it is possible to use many different programming languages in Jupyter Notebooks, this article will focus on Python, as it is the most common use case.

**VS Code:**

Visual Studio Code is a streamlined code editor with support for developmentoperations like debugging, task running, and version control. It aims to provide just the tools a developer needs for a quick code-build-debug cycle and leaves more complex workflows to fuller featured IDEs, such as Visual Studio IDE. Visual Studio Code combines the simplicity of a source code editor with powerful developer tooling, like IntelliSense code completion and debugging.

First and foremost, it is an editor that gets out of your way. The delightfully frictionless edit-build-debug cycle means less time fiddling with your environment, and more time executing on your ideas. With support for hundreds of languages, VS Code helps us be instantly productive with syntax highlighting, bracket-matching, auto-indentation, box-selection, snippets, and more. Intuitive keyboard shortcuts, easy customization and community-contributed keyboard shortcut mappings let us navigate the code with ease.

**HTML**

The HyperText Markup Language or HTML is the standard markup_language for documents designed to be displayed in a web browser. It can be assisted by technologies such as Cascading style sheets (CSS) and scripting languages such as javascript.
Web browsers receive HTML documents from a web server or from local storage and render the documents into multimedia web pages. HTML describes the structure of a webpage semantically and originally included cues for the appearance of the document. HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is the code that is used to structure

a web page and its content. For example, content could be structured within a set of paragraphs, a list of bulleted points, or using images and data tables.

**CSS:**

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a stylesheet language used to describe the presentation of a document written in HTML or XML (including XML dialects such as SVG, MathML or XHTML).CSS is a cornerstone technology of the World Wide Web, alongside HTML and JavaScript. Cascading Style Sheets is a simple mechanism for adding style to web documents.

**Django:**

Django follows the Model-View-Controller (MVC) architectural pattern, but it's often referred to as Model-View-Template (MVT) because of the way it handles templates. Django aims to make web development easier and more efficient by providing a set of tools and libraries for common tasks like handling forms, authentication, database management, and URL routing.

Some of the features of Django include:

Object-relational mapping (ORM) for database management
Automatic admin interface for managing application data
Built-in user authentication and authorization system
URL routing for mapping URLs to views
Form handling and validation
Template engine for rendering HTML templates
Built-in support for caching and middleware
Django is widely used by developers and companies around the world, including Instagram, Mozilla, Pinterest, and Disqus. Its popularity is due to its ease of use, scalability, and versatility.

**LIBRARIES REQUIRED:**

**TensorFlow:**

TensorFlow is a Python library for fast numerical computing created and released by Google. It is a foundation library that can be used to create Deep Learning models directly or by using wrapper libraries that simplify the process built on top of TensorFlow.

TensorFlow is a software library or framework, designed by the Google team to implement machine learning and deep learning concepts in the easiest manner. It combines the computational algebra of optimization techniques for easy calculation of many mathematical expressions.

Let us now consider the following important features of TensorFlow −

- It includes a feature of that defines, optimizes and calculates mathematical expressions easily with the help of multi-dimensional arrays called tensors.
- It includes a programming support of deep neural networks and machine learning techniques.
- It includes a high scalable feature of computation with various data sets.
- TensorFlow uses GPU computing, automating management. It also includes a unique feature of optimization of same memory and the data used.

**Keras:**

Keras runs on top of open-source machine libraries like TensorFlow, Theano or Cognitive Toolkit (CNTK). Theano is a python library used for fast numerical computation tasks. TensorFlow is the most famous symbolic math library used for creating neural networks and deep learning models. TensorFlow is very flexible and the primary benefit is distributed computing. CNTK is deep learning framework developed by Microsoft. It uses libraries such as Python, C#, C++, or standalone machine learning toolkits. Theano and TensorFlow are very powerful libraries but difficult to understand for creating neural networks.

Keras is based on minimal structure that provides a clean and easy way to create deep learning models based on TensorFlow or Theano. Keras is designed to quickly define deep learning models. Well, Keras is an optimal choice for deep learning applications.

Features

Keras leverages various optimization techniques to make high level neural network API easier and more performant. It supports the following features −

- Consistent, simple and extensible API.
- Minimal structure - easy to achieve the result without any frills.
- It supports multiple platforms and backends.
- It is user friendly framework which runs on both CPU and GPU.
- Highly scalability of computation.

**Matplotlib:**

Matplotlib is one of the most popular Python packages used for data visualization. It is a cross-platform library for making 2D plots from data in arrays. Matplotlib is written in Python and makes use of NumPy, the numerical mathematics extension of Python. It provides an object-oriented API that helps in embedding plots in applications using Python GUI toolkits such as PyQt, WxPythonotTkinter. It can be used in Python and IPython shells, Jupyter notebook and web application servers also.

Matplotlib has a procedural interface named the Pylab, which is designed to resemble MATLAB, a proprietary programming language developed by MathWorks. Matplotlib along with NumPy can be considered as the open-source equivalent of MATLAB.

**OS:**

The OS module in Python comes with various functions that enables developers to interact with the Operating system that they are currently working on. In this article we'll be learning mainly to create and delete a directory/folder, rename a directory and even basics of file handling.

Python OS module provides the facility to establish the interaction between the user and the operating system. It offers many useful OS functions that are used to perform OS-based tasks and get related information about operating system.

The OS comes under Python's standard utility modules. This module offers a portable way of using operating system dependent functionality.

## 4.4 Project Management plan:

Developing a project management plan for retinal vessel segmentation involves defining the project objectives, scope, timelines, resources, and risks. Here is a sample project management plan for retinal vessel segmentation:

**Project Objectives:**

To develop a retinal vessel segmentation model that accurately detects and segments blood vessels in retinal images.

To achieve a high level of accuracy and robustness in the segmentation results.

To optimize the performance of the model by considering factors such as computational efficiency, memory usage, and generalization to unseen data.

**Project Scope:**

The project will involve working with a dataset of retinal images that have been annotated with ground-truth segmentation maps.

The model will be developed using a deep learning approach, such as a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).The performance of the model will be evaluated using standard metrics, such as sensitivity, specificity, and F1-score.

**Project Timelines:**

The project timeline will be divided into several stages, including data preparation, model development, training and validation, and testing and evaluation.

Each stage will have specific timelines and milestones, with regular progress reviews and updates.

**Project Resources:**

The project team will consist of a project manager, data analysts, machine learning engineers, and medical experts.The project will require access to high-performance computing resources, such as GPUs and CPUs, to train and test the model.The project team will use software tools and libraries, such as Python, TensorFlow, and OpenCV, to develop and evaluate the model.

**Project Risks:**

The project may face challenges related to data quality, such as incomplete or inconsistent annotations, which could affect the accuracy of the segmentation model. The model may be prone to overfitting or underfitting, which could lead to poor generalization and inaccurate results on unseen data.The project may also face challenges related to computational resources, such as long training times or limited memory, which could affect the scalability and efficiency of the model.

**Project Monitoring and Control**:

The project team will use a range of tools and techniques to monitor and control the project, such as regular progress reviews, status reports, and risk assessments.

The project manager will be responsible for monitoring the project timelines, resource utilization, and quality control.The project team will work closely with medical experts to ensure that the segmentation model meets the required performance standards.

In summary, a project management plan for retinal vessel segmentation involves defining the project objectives, scope, timelines, resources, risks, and monitoring and control mechanisms to ensure the successful completion of the project.

## 4.5 FINANCIAL REPORT ON ESTIMATED COSTING:

The cost of retinal vessel segmentation could depend on several factors, such as:

The complexity of the segmentation task: The cost could vary depending on the complexity of the retinal vessel segmentation task. For example, if the segmentation task involves detecting and segmenting vessels in high-resolution retinal images, the cost could be higher than for low-resolution images.

The amount of data to be processed: The amount of data to be processed could affect the cost of the segmentation task. If the dataset is large, the cost could be higher due to the need for more computational resources and storage.

The quality of the data: The quality of the retinal images used for the segmentation task could also affect the cost. If the images are of low quality and require preprocessing to enhance their quality, the cost could be higher.

The expertise and experience of the team: The cost could also vary depending on the expertise and experience of the team working on the segmentation task. If the team has extensive experience in retinal vessel segmentation and uses advanced techniques, the cost could be higher.

In summary, the cost of retinal vessel segmentation could depend on the complexity of the task, the amount and quality of the data, and the expertise of the team. However, the specific cost estimates would depend on the unique circumstances of the project and would require a detailed analysis by professionals in the field.

## 4.6 Transition/Software to operations plan

Transitioning a retinal vessel segmentation model from development to operational use involves several steps, including testing, deployment, and ongoing maintenance. Here is a sample transition/software to operations plan for retinal vessel segmentation:

**Testing:**

Before deploying the segmentation model, it is important to conduct extensive testing to ensure that it meets the required performance standards and is robust enough for operational use.The testing should include rigorous validation of the model's accuracy and efficiency on both training and test datasets.
The testing should also include evaluations of the model's performance on different types of retinal images, such as those with varying levels of image quality and pathology.

**Deployment:**

Once the model has passed the testing phase, it can be deployed for operational use in a production environment. The deployment process should involve setting up the necessary infrastructure, such as servers and storage, to support the model's deployment. The deployment process should also involve integrating the model with other systems, such as electronic medical records, to facilitate the seamless use of the model in clinical workflows.

**Maintenance:**

Once the segmentation model is deployed, it requires ongoing maintenance to ensure that it continues to operate optimally.

The maintenance tasks may include monitoring the model's performance, troubleshooting any issues that arise, and updating the model to incorporate new data or techniques as needed.The maintenance tasks may also involve conducting periodic retraining of the model to ensure that it remains up-to-date and effective.

**User Training:**

It is important to provide appropriate training to the end-users of the segmentation model to ensure that they understand how to use it effectively.The training may involve providing documentation and tutorials on how to use the model, as well as offering support and guidance to users as they begin to use the model in clinical workflows.

**Performance Monitoring and Evaluation:**

It is essential to monitor the performance of the segmentation model on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to meet the required performance standards.

The performance monitoring and evaluation may involve collecting and analyzing data on the model's accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness in clinical practice.

The performance monitoring and evaluation may also involve conducting regular reviews of the model's performance and making any necessary updates or improvements to the model.

In summary, a transition/software to operations plan for retinal vessel segmentation involves testing, deployment, ongoing maintenance, user training, and performance monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the segmentation model is effective and efficient in clinical practice.

# CHAPTER 5

# IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

## 5.1 DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT SETUP

***Backend Development***

The backend development of a retinal vessel segmentation using Django would involve setting up a web server using the Django framework to handle requests and responses from clients, and to process image data for retinal vessel segmentation.

Here are the steps we could follow to develop a backend for retinal vessel segmentation using Django:

Install Django: You can install Django using pip or any other package manager. Once installed, create a new Django project using the command Django-admin start project project name.

Define your models: In Django, models are used to define the structure of your data. In this case, you would define a model for the image data and a model for the segmentation results.

Create views: Views handle incoming requests and perform the necessary processing before returning a response. In this case, you would create a view to handle the image data and perform retinal vessel segmentation using an appropriate algorithm.

Create URLs: URLs define the mapping between incoming requests and views. In this case, you would create a URL to handle image data and return the segmentation results.

Implement the segmentation algorithm: You can use any appropriate algorithm for retinal vessel segmentation, such as a thresholding method, a machine learning-based approach, or a combination of both. Once implemented, the algorithm can be called from within the view to perform the segmentation on the incoming image data.

Store the segmentation results: Once the segmentation is complete, you would store the results in the database using the model you defined earlier.

Return the segmentation results: Finally, you would return the segmentation results to the client as a response to the incoming request.

Overall, developing a backend for retinal vessel segmentation using Django requires knowledge of both Django web development and retinal image processing. It's a complex task that requires careful consideration of performance, security, and accuracy.

***Frontend development:***

Design the user interface: Determine the layout and design of the user interface for uploading the image and displaying the segmentation results. You could use a simple form to allow users to upload the image, and display the segmentation results in a separate area.

Create an HTML page: Create an HTML page that includes the necessary elements to upload the image and display the segmentation results. You could use the <form> element to create the upload form, and the <img> element to display the uploaded image.

Create a CSS stylesheet: Create a CSS stylesheet to style the HTML elements on the page. You could use CSS to add styles to the form, including the input field and submit button. You could also add styles to the image element to ensure that it is displayed correctly on the page.

Add interactivity: You could use JavaScript to add interactivity to the page. For example, you could use JavaScript to handle the form submission and display the segmentation results. You could also use JavaScript to add client-side image processing to optimize the image for segmentation.

Test and refine: Test the user interface and make any necessary refinements to ensure that it is user-friendly and functional.

Overall, developing a frontend for retinal vessel segmentation using HTML and CSS requires knowledge of HTML and CSS web development, as well as some basic understanding of JavaScript. It's a task that requires attention to detail to ensure that the user interface is clear and easy to use, and that the segmentation results are display ed correctly.

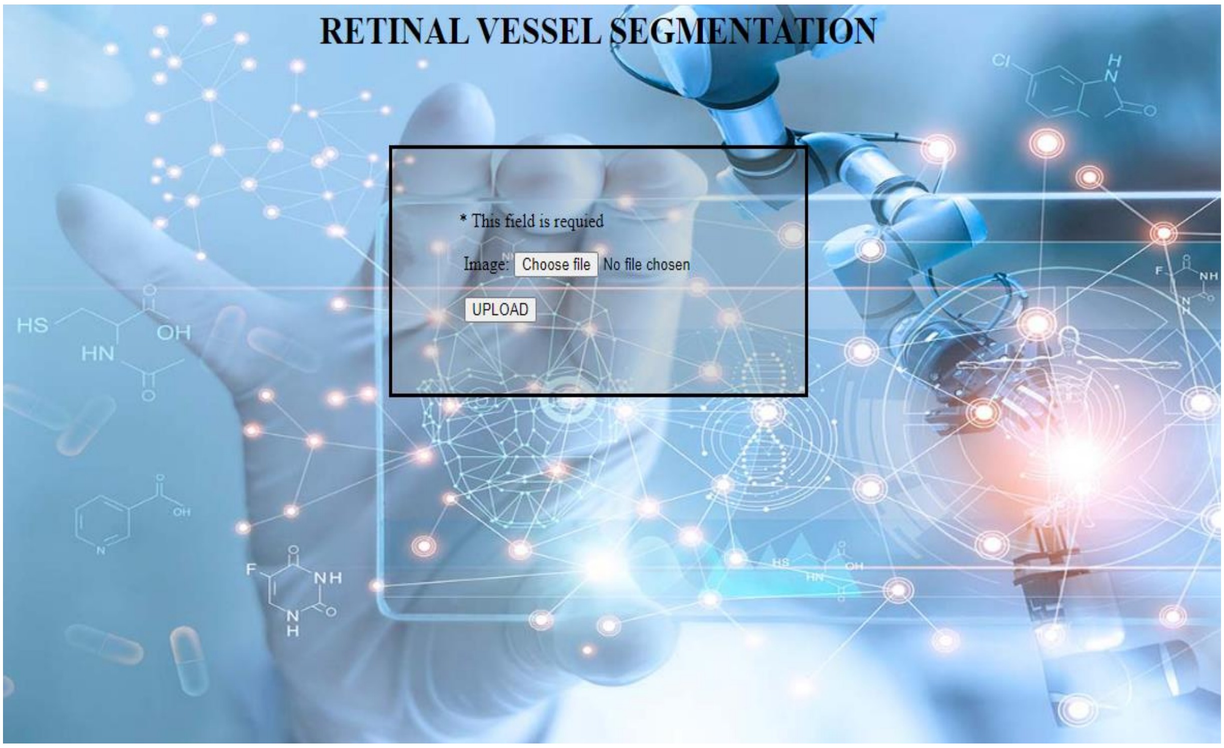


Fig 5.1 – GUI screen

### *5.2 ALGORITHM*

**CNN:**

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) have been successfully used for retinal vessel segmentation. Here are the steps to implement a CNN algorithm for retinal vessel segmentation:

Data preparation: Collect and preprocess retinal images and their corresponding ground truth segmentation masks. You can use publicly available retinal image datasets, such as DRIVE or STARE, for this purpose.

Architecture selection: Choose an appropriate CNN architecture for retinal vessel segmentation. Popular choices include U-Net, DeepLab, and VGG-based models.

Model training: Train the selected CNN architecture on the preprocessed dataset using backpropagation and gradient descent algorithms. You can use an appropriate loss function, such as binary cross-entropy or dice coefficient, to optimize the model.

Model evaluation: Evaluate the trained CNN model on a separate test dataset using appropriate metrics such as sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, and F1 score.

Model optimization: Fine-tune the CNN model based on the evaluation results to achieve better performance.

Inference: Use the trained CNN model for inference on new retinal images to segment retinal vessels.
Post-processing: post-process the segmentation results to remove noise, fill gaps, and improve vessel connectivity. Common techniques include morphological operations, smoothing, and thresholding.

Overall, implementing a CNN algorithm for retinal vessel segmentation requires knowledge of deep learning algorithms, particularly CNNs, and image processing techniques. It is a complex task that requires careful consideration of data preprocessing, architecture selection, and model training and evaluation.

**U-Net Architecture:**

U-Net is a popular convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture for image segmentation, including retinal vessel segmentation. It was first proposed by Ronneberger et al. in their 2015 paper "U-Net: Convolutional Networks for Biomedical Image Segmentation".

The U-Net architecture consists of an encoder and a decoder network. The encoder network consists of convolutional and pooling layers that progressively downsample the input image to capture high-level features. The decoder network upsamples the encoded features to produce a pixel-wise segmentation map of the same size as the input image.

Here are the key features of the U-Net architecture for retinal vessel segmentation:

Contracting path: The encoder network consists of a series of convolutional layers followed by a max-pooling layer. This reduces the spatial resolution of the input image while increasing the number of channels, allowing the network to capture increasingly complex features.

Expanding path: The decoder network consists of a series of upsampling layers followed by a convolutional layer. This increases the spatial resolution of the encoded features while reducing the number of channels to produce a pixel-wise segmentation map.

Skip connections: The U-Net architecture uses skip connections that connect corresponding layers in the encoder and decoder networks. These connections allow the decoder network to use information from earlier layers in the encoder network to produce more accurate segmentation results.

Output activation function: The U-Net architecture uses a sigmoid activation function on the output layer to produce a binary segmentation map of the retinal vessels.

Loss function: The U-Net architecture uses a pixel-wise binary cross-entropy loss function to optimize the segmentation results.

Overall, the U-Net architecture is well-suited for retinal vessel segmentation due to its ability to capture both local and global context information through its skip connections and contracting/expanding paths. It has achieved state-of-the-art results on several retinal vessel segmentation datasets and is widely used in research and applications.

## 5.3 Testing

Testing is an important step in the implementation of a retinal vessel segmentation model, as it helps to ensure that the model is accurate and effective. Here are some implementation details for testing a retinal vessel segmentation model:

Testing Methodology:

There are several methods for testing the performance of a retinal vessel segmentation model, including cross-validation, hold-out validation, and leave-one-out validation.

The specific testing methodology used will depend on the size and complexity of the dataset and the specific requirements of the retinal vessel segmentation application.

**Evaluation Metrics:**

To evaluate the performance of the retinal vessel segmentation model, it is important

to use appropriate evaluation metrics.
Commonly used metrics include sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, F1 score, and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve

**Performance Comparison:**
To assess the performance of the retinal vessel segmentation model relative to other models, it may be necessary to compare its performance to that of other models on the same dataset.
This can be achieved by using statistical tests to compare the performance of the models on different evaluation metrics.

**Error Analysis:**
It is also important to conduct error analysis to identify any specific areas where the model may be struggling or where improvements could be made.
This may involve analyzing the false positive and false negative results generated by the model and examining the specific features of the retinal images that may be contributing to these errors.

In summary, testing a retinal vessel segmentation model involves selecting an appropriate dataset, preprocessing the images, using an appropriate testing methodology, evaluating the model's performance using appropriate metrics, comparing its performance to other models, and conducting error analysis to identify areas for improvement.

# CHAPTER 6
# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The normal image has been converted to the segmented masked image where it is seen the affected retinal area. In the current system, accuracy is the only metric used to determine how effective the classification model is. While this is important, other metrics should also be taken into consideration to get a true picture of the model's performance. To ensure the model's effectiveness, accuracy, recall, loss, precision, and F1-score, and other performance parameters have been measured to get a more complete understanding of the model's performance Moreover, existing systems do not provide the ability to precisely locate where diabetes is affecting the nervous system of the retina. The U-net architecture showed 92% accuracy which was comparatively better than manual architecture. To address retinal issues, a new classification model has been developed in this study to determine if the data is affected by diabetes or not. This model utilizes a deep learning architecture with high accuracy and is also capable of detecting small changes in the structure of the fundus or retinal scans. This enables doctors to use the precise pattern to locate the damaged area precisely.

Additionally, a fundus picture segmented image will then be displayed, providing doctors with a comprehensive view of the affected area. This classification model promises to provide the medical field with a reliable and accurate method of diagnosing and treating diabetic retinopathy.

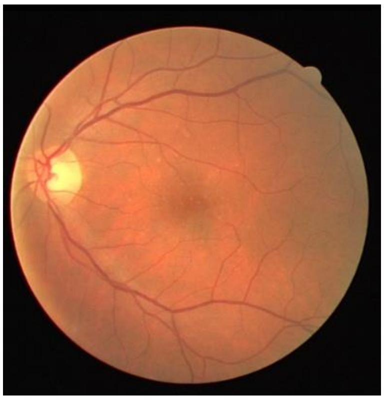

Fig 6.1-Original image

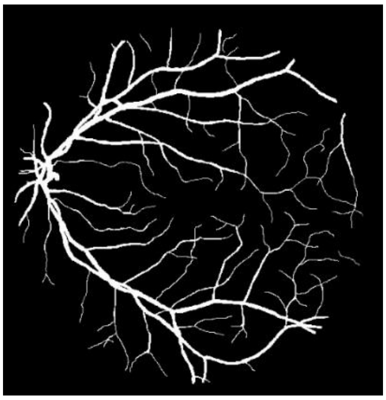

Fig 6.2-Masked Image

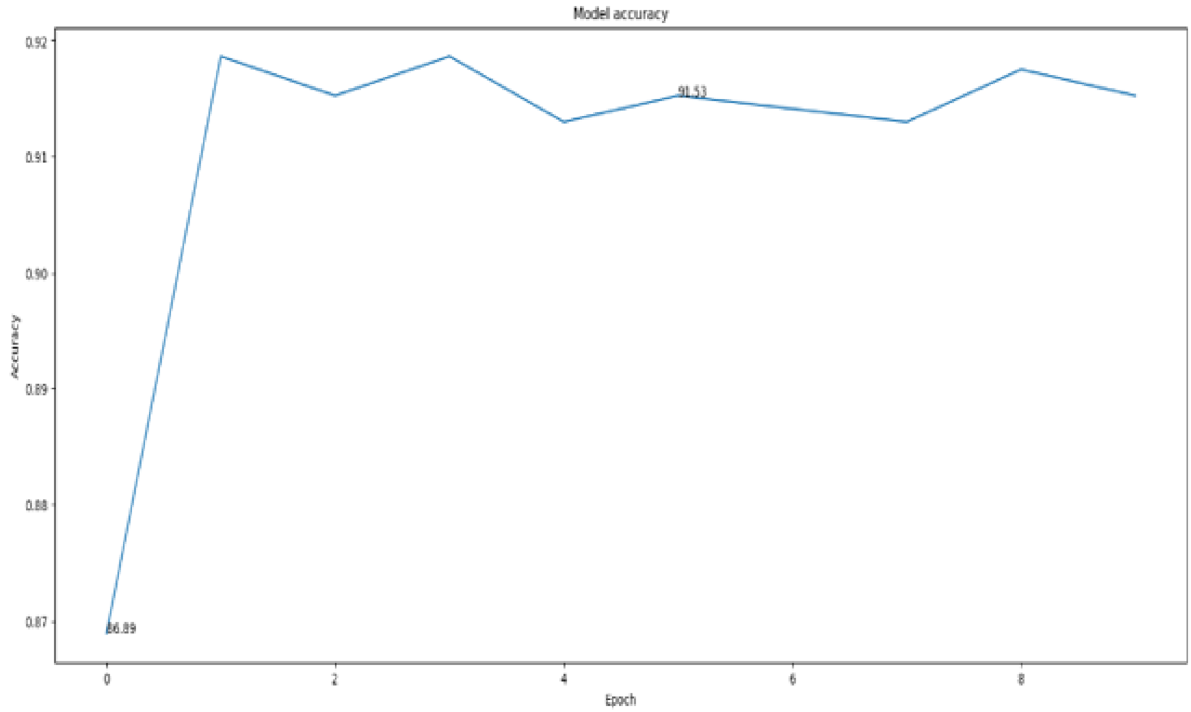


Fig 6.3-Model’s Accuracy vs epoch graph

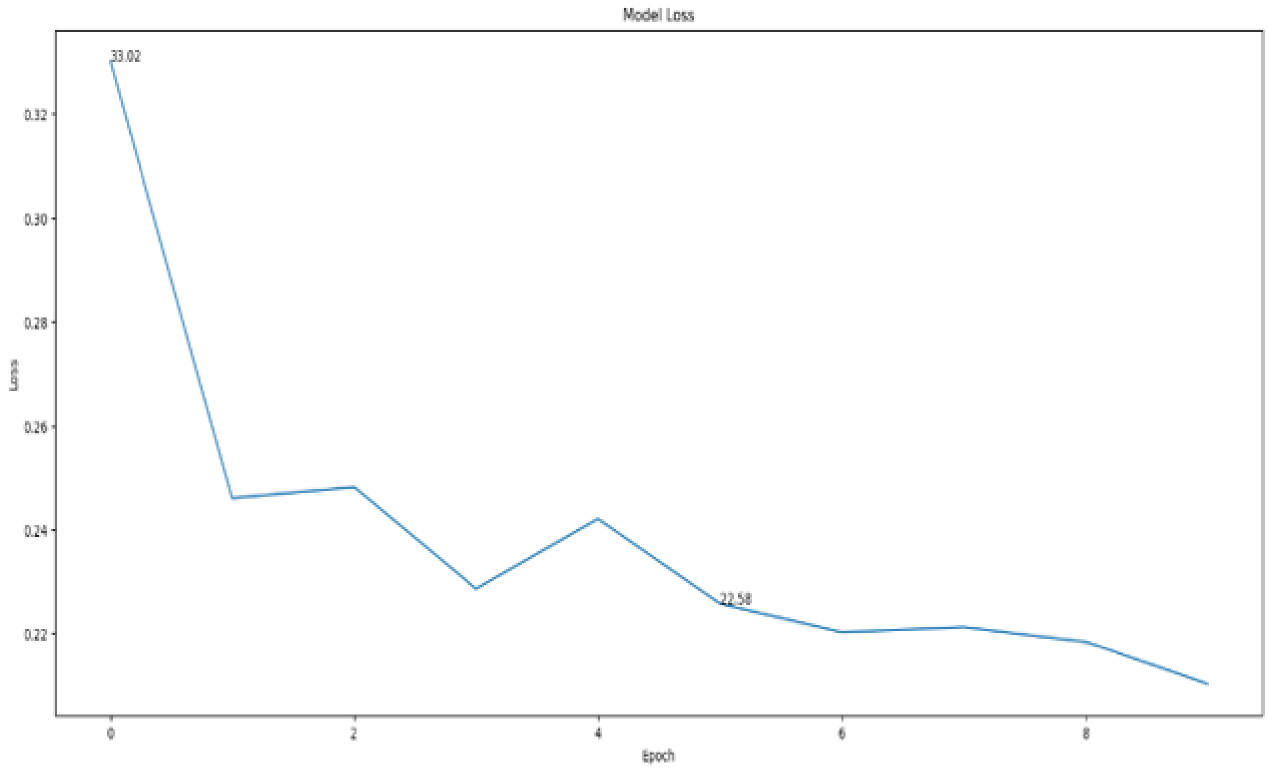


Fig 6.4-Model’s Loss vs epoch graph

It is great to see that the model's accuracy kept on increasing and improving, which suggests that the model was able to learn the underlying patterns in the data and make accurate predictions.

The fact that the model achieved a maximum accuracy of 92% is impressive and suggests that it is a strong performer in the task for which it was trained.

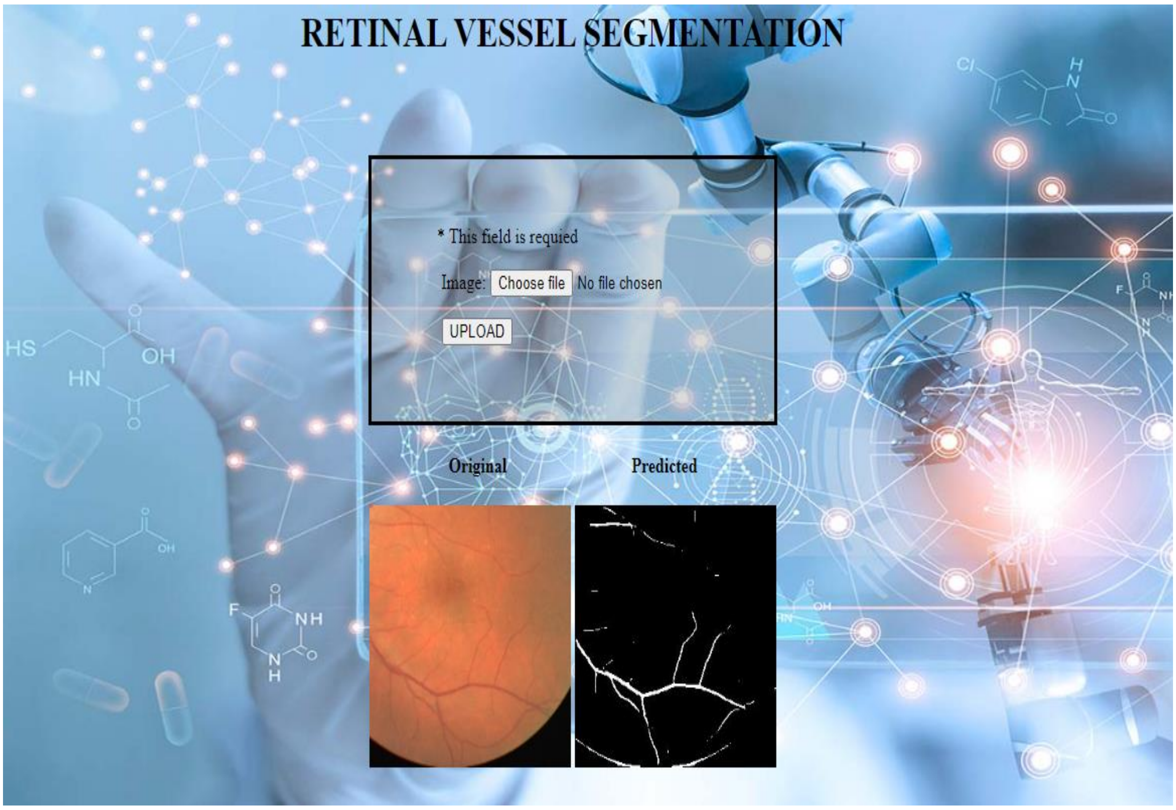


Fig 6.5 – Output

The final output gets displayed on GUI screen with an original image and the required predicted image.

# CHAPTER 7

# CONCLUSION

## 7.1 CONCLUSION

Retinal vessel segmentation is an important task in the medical field. It is used to detect and monitor various conditions that can be diagnosed from the analysis of blood vessel images. Deep learning has revolutionized the field of retinal blood vessel segmentation by allowing more precise and accurate segmentation than ever before. Max pooling convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have been used to effectively detect and segment the retinal blood vessels in a variety of medical applications. These networks have proven to be successful in accurately localizing and distinguishing vessels, allowing for more accurate segmentation, diagnosis, and treatment. The retinal vessel segmentation process consists of extracting the region of interest, pre-processing the image, training a model, and then applying the model to the image to segment the vessels. The data used for training can consist of labelled images that have already been segmented. With this data, a model is built and trained, and then the best model is chosen. This model is then applied to a retinal image to segment the vessels. The deep max-pooling convolutional neural network approach is a promising approach for segmenting blood vessels. This method combines convolutional neural networks with max pooling layers, which help extract the most important features from the data. The deep network learns from the data and can accurately segment vessels from retinal fundus images.

## 7.2 FUTURE WORK

Retinal vessel segmentation is an important task in medical image analysis that aims to identify and extract the blood vessels from retinal fundus images. It has applications in diagnosis and monitoring of various retinal diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

Some potential future work in retinal vessel segmentation includes:
Multi-modal imaging: Combining different imaging modalities such as OCT and angiography can provide complementary information that can improve vessel segmentation accuracy.

Deep learning techniques: Current state-of-the-art methods for retinal vessel segmentation use deep learning techniques such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Future research can explore more advanced architectures such as attention mechanisms and generative models.

Transfer learning: Transfer learning techniques can be used to transfer knowledge learned from one dataset to another, which can help improve performance on smaller datasets and reduce the need for large amounts of labeled data.

Clinical validation: Validation of the accuracy of the segmentation results on large clinical datasets is important to establish the clinical utility of the segmentation algorithms.

Real-time segmentation: Developing real-time segmentation algorithms that can operate in low-power environments can enable point-of-care screening for retinal diseases in remote and under-resourced areas.

Results might be enhanced by training on a set that contains more photos with pathologic alterations. Few other methods can be used to increase the network's accuracy even more. The data can be generalized using the right pre-processing methods. To increase the accuracy of the data, data augmentation can be used. Findings might benefit from some pre-and post-processing, and averaging additional networks would undoubtedly improve results.

## 7.3 RESEARCH ISSUES

Retinal vessel segmentation is an important research area in medical image analysis that involves identifying and extracting blood vessels from retinal fundus images. Here are some research issues that can be addressed in this field:

Dataset availability and quality: The availability of annotated datasets is crucial for training and evaluating retinal vessel segmentation algorithms. However, the quality of the annotations can vary significantly, leading to inconsistencies in performance evaluation. Moreover, datasets may not be representative of different ethnic populations or clinical scenarios, leading to poor generalization.

Handling variations in imaging conditions: Retinal vessel segmentation algorithms need to be robust to variations in imaging conditions such as illumination, focus, and contrast. However, this can be challenging due to the large variability in fundus images acquired from different instruments and settings.

Addressing vessel variations: Blood vessels can vary in size, shape, and orientation, making segmentation challenging. Some vessels may also be obscured by other retinal structures such as the optic disk or hemorrhages, making their detection difficult.

Interpreting segmentation results: Accurate segmentation of retinal blood vessels is important for the diagnosis and management of retinal diseases. However, interpreting the segmentation results and understanding their clinical implications can be challenging for non-experts.

Clinical validation: Retinal vessel segmentation algorithms need to be validated on large clinical datasets to establish their clinical utility. The algorithms should be evaluated in terms of their accuracy, robustness, and generalizability across different clinical settings and populations.

## 7.4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Retinal vessel segmentation is a complex task that involves several implementation issues. Some of these implementation issues are:

Pre-processing: Pre-processing is an important step in retinal vessel segmentation to enhance the quality of the retinal fundus images. Some of the pre-processing techniques include image normalization, contrast enhancement, noise reduction, and image registration.

Feature extraction: Feature extraction is a crucial step in retinal vessel segmentation, where relevant features are extracted from the pre-processed images. Some of the features that can be extracted include vessel thickness, vessel intensity, vessel texture, and vessel curvature.

Algorithm selection: There are several algorithms that can be used for retinal vessel segmentation, such as thresholding, region-growing, and machine learning-based methods. The selection of the appropriate algorithm depends on the characteristics of the images, the complexity of the vessels, and the required accuracy.

Performance evaluation: Performance evaluation is necessary to assess the accuracy of the retinal vessel segmentation algorithms. The evaluation metrics commonly used include sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, and the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC).

Implementation platform: The choice of the implementation platform depends on the requirements of the application. Retinal vessel segmentation algorithms can be implemented using various platforms such as MATLAB, Python, C++, and CUDA. The selection of the appropriate platform depends on factors such as the speed of execution, memory requirements, and the availability of libraries and tools.

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