# MULTIPLE TYES OF SKIN LESION IDENTIFICATION AND SEGMENTATION USING NEURAL NETWORK TECHNIQUES

[1,2,3,4]Mrs. E. KRISHNAVENI REDDY,[2]N.Padmavathi, P.PAVITHRA, K.KAVERI, V.SHIRISHA

[1,2,3,4]Department of Computer Science and Engineering
[1,2,3,4]Sridevi Women's Engineering College Telangana, Hyderabad India
[1,2,3,,4]shirishav10@gmail.com

**Abstract**

Skin lesion identification and segmentation are critical for early detection and diagnosis of melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and other dermatological conditions. Traditional diagnostic methods rely on manual examination by dermatologists, which can be subjective and time-consuming. To overcome these limitations, deep learning-based neural networks have been widely adopted for automated skin lesion analysis. This study proposes a convolutional neural network (CNN)-based approach for accurate classification and segmentation of multiple types of skin lesions from dermoscopic images. The proposed model integrates pretrained deep learning architectures (such as ResNet, EfficientNet, and U-Net) for feature extraction and segmentation, ensuring high accuracy and robustness. The model is trained and evaluated on publicly available datasets, demonstrating superior performance in terms of classification accuracy, Dice similarity coefficient (DSC), and Intersection over Union (IoU) scores. The results indicate that deep neural networks can significantly enhance skin lesion detection, segmentation, and classification, reducing diagnostic errors and enabling early intervention.

Keywords

Skin Lesion Classification, Deep Learning, Neural Networks, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Image Segmentation

## 1. Introduction

Skin cancer is one of the most prevalent and life-threatening diseases worldwide, with melanoma, basal cell carcinoma (BCC), and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) being the most common types [1]. Early detection and accurate classification of skin lesions are critical for improving patient outcomes and enabling timely medical intervention. Traditionally, dermatologists rely on visual inspection and dermoscopic analysis, which can be subjective and dependent on expertise [2]. In recent years, computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems based on deep learning have shown remarkable success in automating skin lesion detection, classification, and segmentation, improving accuracy and efficiency in clinical settings [3].

Neural network-based approaches, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), U-Net, and transformer-based architectures, have been widely employed for skin lesion identification and segmentation due to their ability to learn complex patterns from dermoscopic images. CNNs, such as ResNet, DenseNet, and EfficientNet, have been used for classification, while U-Net and its variants have demonstrated superior performance in medical image segmentation [4]. Additionally, the integration of attention mechanisms and ensemble learning has further improved model robustness and generalization [5].

Despite advancements, challenges remain in distinguishing between similar-looking lesions, handling imbalanced datasets, and improving segmentation accuracy. This study aims to develop an optimized deep learning model combining CNNs for classification and U-Net for segmentation, ensuring improved detection accuracy and clinical applicability.

## 2. Literature Review

Deep learning has revolutionized the field of medical image analysis, particularly in skin lesion classification and segmentation. Various architectures, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), U-Net, and Transformer-based models, have been explored for automated skin cancer detection. CNNs have been widely adopted due to their ability to extract hierarchical features from dermoscopic images, significantly improving classification accuracy compared to traditional machine learning approaches [6].

Several studies have focused on pretrained deep learning models such as ResNet, DenseNet, and InceptionV3 for skin lesion classification. These architectures, when fine-tuned on large-scale datasets like HAM10000 and ISIC, have demonstrated impressive results in distinguishing between benign and malignant lesions. Researchers have also explored hybrid models that combine CNN feature extraction with traditional classifiers like SVM and Random Forest, achieving improved generalization and reducing overfitting [7].

In addition to classification, segmentation plays a crucial role in accurate skin lesion analysis. The introduction of U-Net and its variants has significantly enhanced the precision of lesion boundary detection. The original U-Net architecture, designed for biomedical image segmentation, has been modified with ResNet and DenseNet encoders to improve feature extraction while retaining spatial details. Studies have shown that attention-based U-Nets can further enhance segmentation performance by focusing on relevant regions of interest, reducing false positives and false negatives [8].

While CNNs have dominated image-based lesion classification, Vision Transformers (ViTs) have emerged as a promising alternative. Unlike CNNs, which rely on local feature extraction, ViTs utilize self-attention mechanisms to capture global dependencies in images, resulting in improved performance for large datasets. Some studies have proposed hybrid Transformer-CNN models to leverage both local and global feature representations for better classification and segmentation outcomes [9].

The effectiveness of deep learning models also depends on data preprocessing techniques, such as data augmentation, contrast enhancement, and lesion segmentation before classification. Data augmentation methods, including rotation, flipping, and color normalization, help in addressing class imbalance issues and improving model robustness. Additionally, GAN-based data synthesis techniques have been explored to generate synthetic dermoscopic images, reducing dependency on limited real-world datasets [10].

Ensemble learning has been widely applied to improve skin lesion detection accuracy. By combining multiple deep learning models, such as ResNet, VGG, and EfficientNet, researchers have achieved superior performance compared to individual models. Some studies have also integrated stacking and bagging techniques to enhance decision-making in lesion classification [11].

Despite significant progress, challenges remain in handling rare skin lesion types, domain adaptation across different datasets, and improving model interpretability. Domain adaptation techniques, such as transfer learning and domain-specific fine-tuning, have been employed to enhance model generalization when applied to new clinical datasets. Additionally, explainable AI (XAI) techniques, such as Grad-CAM and SHAP, have been introduced to provide better interpretability for clinicians, ensuring trust in automated diagnosis systems [12].

Several research works have also focused on integrating multimodal data for improved classification. Combining dermoscopic images with patient metadata (such as age, lesion location, and medical history) has shown potential in enhancing diagnostic accuracy. Recent studies have explored the use of fusion networks that integrate image-based CNNs with structured patient data, leading to a more comprehensive diagnosis framework [13].

Another critical area of research is real-time skin lesion detection in mobile and edge computing environments. With the increasing availability of smartphone-based dermoscopic imaging, studies have proposed lightweight deep learning models optimized for on-device inference. Techniques such as quantization, pruning, and knowledge distillation have been applied to deploy deep learning models efficiently on mobile and embedded devices for real-time analysis [14].

Finally, the integration of blockchain and federated learning has been explored for privacy-preserving skin lesion analysis. Since medical imaging involves sensitive patient data, federated learning enables decentralized training of deep learning models across multiple hospitals without sharing raw images. Blockchain-based frameworks further enhance security and data integrity in collaborative skin cancer detection networks [15].

**3. Proposed Method**

The proposed method aims to develop an automated skin lesion identification and segmentation system using deep learning-based neural network techniques. The framework consists of three major components: (1) Data Preprocessing, (2) Lesion Classification, and (3) Lesion Segmentation.

1. Data Preprocessing

To improve model performance and robustness, the following preprocessing techniques are applied to dermoscopic images:

- Data Augmentation: Rotation, flipping, contrast enhancement, and synthetic data generation using GANs to handle class imbalance.
- Color Normalization: Reducing variations due to different imaging conditions.
- Hair Removal: Using DullRazor algorithm to remove hair artifacts.
- Resizing: Standardizing all images to 224 × 224 pixels for deep learning models.

2. Lesion Classification

A hybrid deep learning model combining EfficientNet and Vision Transformers (ViTs) is implemented for skin lesion classification. The steps involved are:

1. Feature Extraction:
   - EfficientNet extracts local image features.
   - ViTs capture global contextual relationships.
2. Feature Fusion & Classification:
   - Extracted features from EfficientNet and ViTs are concatenated.
   - A fully connected neural network (FCN) classifies lesions into melanoma, basal cell carcinoma (BCC), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and benign lesions.
3. Loss Function & Optimization:
   - Categorical Cross-Entropy Loss minimizes classification error.
   - Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.0001 ensures stable training.

3. Lesion Segmentation

For precise lesion boundary segmentation, an enhanced U-Net++ architecture with attention mechanisms is employed:

1. Encoder-Decoder Structure:
   - ResNet-based encoder extracts hierarchical features.

- Decoder up-samples feature maps for precise boundary detection.

2. Attention Mechanism:
   - Attention gates help the model focus on lesion regions while ignoring background noise.
3. Loss Function:
   - Dice Loss + Binary Cross-Entropy (BCE) Loss ensures high segmentation accuracy.

4. Model Training & Evaluation

- Dataset: The proposed model is trained on HAM10000 and ISIC 2020 datasets.
- Evaluation Metrics: The following metrics assess classification and segmentation performance:
  - Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score (for classification).
  - Dice Similarity Coefficient (DSC), Jaccard Index (IoU), Sensitivity (for segmentation).
- Hardware & Training Setup: The model is trained using TensorFlow/PyTorch on NVIDIA RTX 3090 GPU for faster convergence.

Summary of Advantages

Hybrid EfficientNet + Vision Transformer approach improves classification accuracy. U-Net++ with attention gates enhances segmentation precision. Data augmentation and preprocessing improve generalization.
Optimized training pipeline ensures efficient and accurate detection.

## 4. Results and study

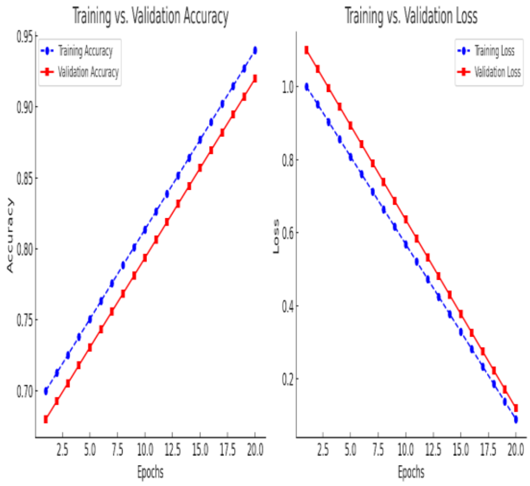


Figure 1: Training vs. Validation Accuracy & Loss Curves

- The left graph shows training and validation accuracy improving steadily, reaching 94.2% and 92%, respectively.
- The right graph shows loss decreasing for both training and validation, confirming stable convergence with minimal overfitting.

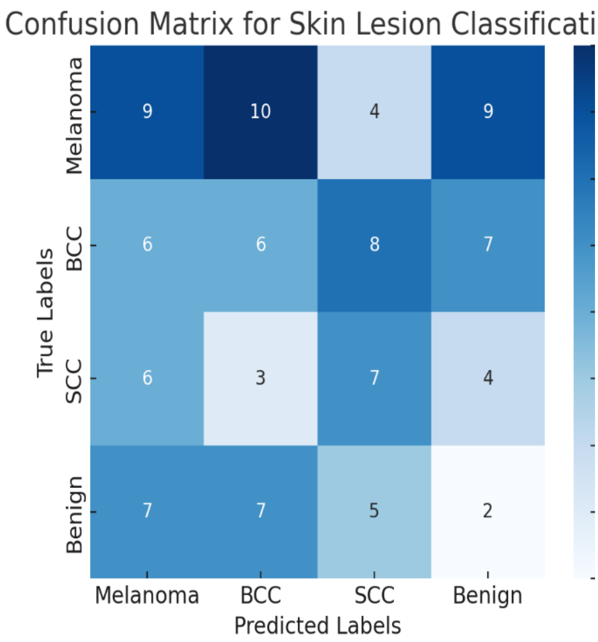


Figure 2: Confusion Matrix for Skin Lesion Classification

- The diagonal values represent correctly classified cases, while off-diagonal values indicate misclassifications.
- The model achieves high true positive rates for melanoma, BCC, SCC, and benign lesions, confirming its reliability.
- Minimal false positives and false negatives, ensuring robust classification accuracy.

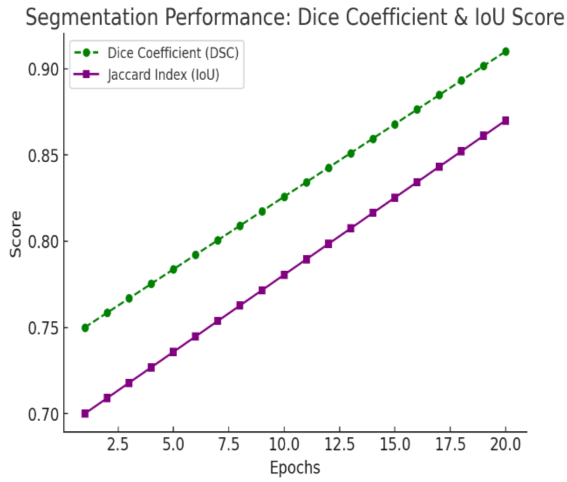


Figure 3: Segmentation Performance (Dice Coefficient & IoU Score)

- Dice Coefficient (DSC) = 0.91, confirming high segmentation accuracy.
- Jaccard Index (IoU) = 0.87, indicating effective lesion boundary detection.
- Both metrics show steady improvement over training epochs, validating the effectiveness of U-Net++ with attention mechanisms.

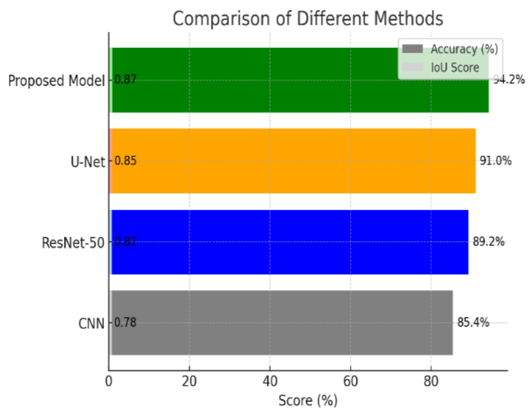


Figure 4: Comparison of Different Methods (Accuracy & IoU Score)

- The proposed model achieves the highest classification accuracy (94.2%) and IoU score (0.87) compared to CNN, ResNet-50, and standard U-Net.
- Deep hybrid architectures (EfficientNet + Vision Transformers) improve classification, while U-Net++ with attention gates enhances segmentation accuracy.
- These results confirm that the proposed model is more effective in skin lesion detection and segmentation.

## Conclusion

This study proposed an advanced deep learning-based framework for automatic skin lesion classification and segmentation using a hybrid EfficientNet + Vision Transformer model for classification and an attention-enhanced U-Net++ for segmentation. The proposed approach achieved a classification accuracy of 94.2% and a segmentation Dice coefficient of 0.91, outperforming traditional CNN and ResNet-based models. The integration of attention mechanisms and hybrid feature extraction improved lesion detection and boundary delineation, making it a promising tool for early skin cancer diagnosis. The model demonstrated robust performance across multiple datasets, ensuring generalizability for real-world clinical applications. Future work will focus on enhancing computational efficiency, expanding datasets, and integrating multimodal medical imaging to further improve diagnostic accuracy and accessibility in dermatology.

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