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# **ABSTRACT**

## **S. Stephe**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6391-9810> Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering, Trichy - 621112. India

# **Santosh Kumar B**

# <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2401-9585>

New Horizon College of Engineering, Ring Road, Bellandur Post, Bengaluru - 560103, India

# **Arunadevi Thirumalraj**

<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-5396-6810> Department of Computer Science and Engineering, K. Ramakrishna College of Technology, Trichy – 621112. India

# **Volodymyr Dzhyvak**

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[https://orcid.org/0000-0002-](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-%204885-7586) 4885-7586 Department of Children`s Diseases and Pediatric Surgery I. Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University, Ternopil, Ukraine

# **TRANSFORMER BASED ATTENTION GUIDED NETWORK FOR SEGMENTATION AND HYBRID NETWORK FOR CLASSIFICATION OF LIVER TUMOR FROM CT SCAN IMAGES**

When a liver disease causes changes in the image's pixel quality, an ultrasonic filter can identify these changes as potential indicators of cancer. An ultrasonic filter may detect changes in the quality of an image's pixels based on the state of the liver, which are indicators of the closeness of malignant development. It is possible that alcohol, rather than liver disease, is the cause of cirrhosis because such alterations are more prevalent in alcoholic liver diseases. Current 2D ultrasound data sets have an accuracy degree of 85.9%, whereas a 2D CT data set has an accuracy rating of 91.02%.

This work presents TAGN, a new Transformer-based Attention Guided Network that aims to improve the semantical segmentation architecture's performance through a combination of multi-level assembly. In order to efficiently learn the non-local interactions among encoder characteristics, TAGN incorporates the self-aware attention (SAA) element with Transformer Self Attention (TSA) besides Global Spatial Attention (GSA), which are inspired by Transformer. In addition, the work aggregates the upsampled features with distinct semantic scales by using extra multi-scale skip connections across decoder blocks. By doing so, the capacity to produce discriminative features from multiscale context information is enhanced.

For the purpose of reliable and accurate liver tumor classification using segmented pictures, this study suggests a system that integrates a Vision with a Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU). By analyzing the input image, the ViT finds important characteristics, and the GRU finds obvious relationships between them. Іn the experimental analysis of the projected ViT-GRU model achieved a recall rate of 95.21, accuracy as a 97.57, precision of 95.62, specificity of 98.33, and an f-score of 95.88.

Based on segmentation and classification analyses performed on publically accessible datasets, the suggested classifier achieved a total accuracy of 98.79% in the experiments. When used optimally, the suggested strategy improves the accuracy of liver tumor diagnoses by medical professionals.

**Keywords:** Computed Tomography Liver tumor; Transformer; Vision Transformer; Gated Recurrent Unit; Global Spatial Attention.

*Corresponding author: Volodymyr Dzhyvak, Department of Children`s Diseases and Pediatric Surgery I. Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University, Ternopil, Ukraine e-mail: [djyvak@tdmu.edu.ua](mailto:djyvak@tdmu.edu.ua)*

#### **INTRODUCTION / ВСТУП**

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In industrialized nations, chronic liver disease (CLD) is the foremost cause of illness and mortality. This condition is frequently caused by viral hepatitis and excessive alcohol consumption. This has been the subject of many investigations that have used objective features derived from CT and ultrasound scans as well as the CLD study categorization methods [1]. The most commonly mentioned characteristics are derived from first-place and co-occurrence data, transform wavelets, and the attenuation and back dispersion factors and coefficients. In order to extract features, a multifrequency technique employs Monogenic Decomposition (MD) [2]. The literature provides a survey of the suggested algorithm's performance using various feature sets. To give local evidence for the illness, the classifications are overlaid with the ultrasound and CT images using the locally generated Networks [3]. When deciding which ROI to focus on because of technique sensitivity, this interactive CAD tool really shines. Ultrasound and computed tomography can detect vascular nodules, which are hallmarks of cirrhosis and liver fibrosis, two outcomes of chronic liver disease [4]. For the majority of therapeutic approaches, medical imaging is a crucial component in the identification and diagnosis of certain human diseases [5]. Radiation (X-ray) has been integrated with a number of medical imaging techniques, including CT scanning, MRI, and ultrasound, to provide a three-dimensional picture of the human body [6]. When looking for morphologic malignancies, the CT scan is by far the most common

transverse imaging method. Because it affects nearly every organ in the human body, a healthy liver is vital for survival [7]. Disseminated liver infections and serious liver illnesses are the two main categories of liver diseases. Fat and cirrhotic liver are not the only parts of the liver that can be infected by a diffuse hepatic infection. Hepatic disorders occur when infections impact a localized region of the liver's surface [8].

Various medical imaging modalities are available, each with its own set of compensations and difficulties, as previously discussed [9]. Radiation X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), are some of the most used medical imaging modalities [10]. There are a lot of financial and time constraints associated with training radiologists, and then there's the problem of radiologists not having enough experience, time, and energy [11]. An aged population and increasingly common scanning techniques are putting a pressure on radiologists because to the growing percentage of MI. The authors proposed a 95% accurate framework for manual texture characteristics called Fisher's Linear Discriminant (FLD). Skilled researchers mostly look for handcrafted details [12].

All of the published works fall into one of three categories: 1) methods that draw the user's focus; 2) methods that take context into account; and 3) methods that rely on transformers. For instance, earlier attentionguided efforts like Attention UNet and Channel-UNet sought to improve the spatial retrieved from the encoding, decoding, and output phases by utilizing various attention processes [13]. In order to readjust the

response of the initial feature maps, these attention processes primarily aim to produce a confidence mask. Using multi-scale connections to investigate contextual information is the second method, which differs from the first two [14]. In order to produce reliable segmentation, it is essential to have access to both highlevel abstract knowledge and low-level pixel information. Computer vision (CV) experts have recently taken a keen interest in Transformer. Models pretrained on a massive external dataset is typically necessary for Transformer-based techniques, and processing feature maps typically involves extremely high compute complexity [15]. The multi-head mechanism, which is central to Transformer, can execute the scaled several aeras in parallel, allowing it to gather long-range contextual information [16]. Consequently, it is undeniably a perfect supplementary component that may effectively fix U-Net's design issues.

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In light of these factors, the research proposes a new multi-level attention-guided U-Net with Transformer in this article. This network combines multi-scale skip connection with multi-level guided attention to improve the segmentation correctness of conventional U-shaped architecture. To be more precise, the suggested model first incorporates a strong self-aware attention (SAA) module to connect subnetworks. The SAA module is the brains of TAGN; it's job is to build strong global spatial linkages and long-range interactions between encoder semantic characteristics by combining the strengths of global spatial attention (GSA). A connection technique is integrated into decoder sub-networks by a succession of transition operations, such as convolution, inspired by the concept of dense shortcut connections and residuals. This allows it to produce more discriminative feature representations by dynamically aggregating the different semantic scales step-by-step. The suggested technique is able to produce appropriate semantic segmentation masks of pictures of liver tumors thanks to the contributions of these supplementary components. Classification experiments are conducted on publicly

available datasets using a hybrid network dubbed ViT and GRU.

# **Related works**

A novel technique dubbed SO-OBL, which combines Snake Optimization (SO) with oppositionbased learning (OBL), has been shown to be successful in global optimization and multilayer picture segmentation; it addresses the inconsistent liver presence and unclear borders that were introduced by Houssein et al., [17]. By comparing SO-OBL to eleven cutting-edge metaheuristic algorithms, tested using CEC'2022 test functions, we can see that it performs better. Furthermore, a state-of-the-art SO-OBL-based liver disease segmentation model uses Otsu's function to improve a multilevel thresholding approach. Impressive segmentation metrics such as  $FSIM = 0.947$ , and execution time = 0.281 demonstrate the model's effectiveness and promise for precise diagnosis in CAD schemes.

A new method for categorization based on ensemble machine learning has been suggested by Badvath et al., [18]. Preprocessing tasks include label encoding and min-max data normalization. Next, the ConvNeXt method is used to obtain demographic information, including age and gender, as well as liver function test results (phosphatase, bilirubin), medical history, and any comorbidities. A more precise selection of crucial characteristics was made possible by the Improved Grasshopper optimization procedure (IGOA). Optimal ensemble learning with naïve Bayes and logistic is then used to categorize the liver cirrhosis illness. To tune the hyperparameters, the optimization technique known as Harris Hawks is used. We compare the suggested method to the current best practices in machine learning. The suggested model outperforms the state-ofthe-art methods with exceptional accuracy (99.18 percent), sensitivity (99.12 percent), and specificity (98.92 percent).

An improved hybrid deep learning model for automated cirrhosis liver disease categorization was presented by Shaheen et al. [19]. Magnetic Resonance

Imaging (MRI) is being evaluated for use in this procedure. At the outset, the noise in the input MRI pictures is removed The picture using Gray Level Runlength Matrix (GRLM) are used to carry out the Feature Extraction (FE) phase. Lastly, a combination of two DL algorithms In order to categorize cirrhosis liver disease, a Convolutional Neural Network and a Capsule Network (HCNN-CN) are combined. We also employ an optimization method called Adaptive Emperor Penguin Optimization (AEPO) to fine-tune the neural network's parameters. Following comparisons with other methods, the recommended HCNN-CN-AEPO achieved sensitivity values of 0.986 and accuracy of 0.993 on the real-time dataset. Results from experiments validated the accurateness of the proposed HCNN-CN-AEPO in tumor diagnosis.

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A new deep learning model for identifying and categorizing tumors in liver disease has been described by Manjunath et al., [20]. Metastasis and cholangiocarcinoma are two terms used to describe tumors found in CT scans. Comparing our model to well-known current algorithms, we find that it adapts well to varied datasets and performs quite well in terms of accuracy, dice similarity coefficient, and specificity metrics. With a result of 98.59% for the dice similarity coefficient, the model is clearly superior.

A novel approach to the automated segmentation and categorization of liver tumors is presented in this study by Saha Roy et al., [21]. Segmenting the liver using mask-RCNN (Regions with Convolutional is the first stage in the process of identifying liver tumors. The second step is tumor detection using MSER. For this categorization, we have employed a deep learning-based hybrid (CNN) model. While the tumors identified, the segmentation outline seeks to discriminate among normal tissue. The objective of this research is to develop a prediction that is free from bias and can be applied without human intervention. Conversely, our suggested approach achieves the best recall value while maintaining the highest precision for lesion diagnosis, and it almost matches the top segmentation and

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classification performance. On average, our suggested method achieves an 87.8 percent success rate in distinguishing between benign or cyst liver tumors, malignant (not including HCCs), and hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs). Using a hybrid CNN-based methodology to classify liver masses, segmenting tumor lesions with MSER, and developing a mask-RCNNbased method for liver part segmentation are the innovative aspects of this study.

When faced with tiny liver pieces, fuzzy liver borders, the proposed technique by Balasubramanian et al. [22] showed remarkable improvement and resilience. The experimental findings back up the claim that the suggested APESTNet outperforms the state-of-the-art models when it comes to liver tumor classification. The suggested approach reduced load on the system without sacrificing precision. When using the suggested strategy to handle lesions or tumors at the liver border, there is a small chance of over- or under-segmentation mistakes. Consequently, we will be focusing on fully leveraging the z-axis info in 3D for future work in order to decrease inaccuracies.

The design of a (3D) ultrasonic imaging scheme that operates in real-time or near-real-time is investigated by Nallasivan et al., [23]. This paper proposes a semantic pixel categorization of road sceneries and uses a Deep Learning (DL) model that has been adjusted to match hepatic CT segmentation. A hierarchical connection of encoder-decoder layers makes up the architecture known as semantic pixel-wise segmentation. During training, the suggested model was tested for tumor accuracy using a standard data set and applied to liver CT images. In the control group, we achieved a seventythree percent accuracy rate for chronic hepatitis cirrhosis, a sixty-nine percent accuracy rate for offset cirrhosis, and a ninety-seven percent accuracy rate for offensive cirrhosis. Making a CAD screening tool that can identify steatosis is the goal. With Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) classification, the findings showed a sensitivity of 94.59%, a case detection rate of 92.11%, and an accuracy of 98.33%. Although there

was no differentiation in the classifier's performance at this level, CNN was suggested as a preferable option because to the strong correlation between accuracy

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By automating the process of liver and tumor segmentation from CT scan images, Appadurai et al. [24] has developed a deep learning-based system that not only speeds up the diagnosis of liver cancer but also reduces the amount of time and labor needed for the procedure. A fundamental component of an Encoder-Decoder is a EfficientNet that acts as the decoder, and an encoder that is a deep neural network constructed on UNet. Our unique preprocessing methods for liver segmentation include creating multichannel images, denoising, enhancing contrast, ensemble, and merging model predictions. Then, as an innovative and estimated efficient deep learning method, we presented the GRAMNet, or Gradational Modular Network. To build bigger and more resilient networks, GraMNet makes use of smaller networks called SubNets in a sum of diverse ways. Each level's learning only makes use of one newly upgraded SubNet module. As a result, less computing power is required for training, which aids in network optimization. The Liver Tumor 3D Image Rebuilding for Comparison of Algorithms are used to compare the segmentation and classification presentation of this work. The evaluation scenarios may be trained to achieve state-of-the-art performance via dissecting deep learning. Here, we produce GraMNets with a reduced computational difficulty architectures. Compared to the benchmark research techniques, the simple GraMNet has better training times, lower memory consumption, and quicker image processing.

The Gradational modular network (GraMNet) is a novel and very efficient deep learning method presented by Suganeshwari et al., [25]. To build bigger and more resilient networks, GraMNet makes use of smaller networks called SubNets in a sum of different ways. Each level's learning only makes use of one newly upgraded SubNet module. As a result, less computing power is required for training, which aids in network optimization. The Liver Tumor Segmentation

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Benchmark (LiTS) and the 3D Assessment of Algorithms Database (3DIRCADb01) are used to compare the segmentation work. The evaluation scenarios may be trained to achieve state-of-the-art performance via dissecting deep learning. Here, we produce GraMNets with a reduced computational difficulty associated learning architectures. Compared to the benchmark research techniques, the simple GraMNet has better training times, lower memory consumption, and quicker image processing.

In this study, Agita et al. [26] proposed mathematical modeling of liver cancer using a fully convolutional neural network (FCNN). As a semantic segmentation tool, FCNN has proven effective in the study of liver cancer. Differentiating between malignant and noncancerous lesions is of utmost importance since the CT-based lesion-type definition dictates the diagnosis and treatment plan. A great deal of expertise and material means are also necessary. The use of a deep learning approach has been investigated, however, in contrastive models, this research aims to develop a binary classifier capable of properly differentiating between a normal liver and a hemochromatosis-affected liver. When it comes to picture training, CNN obtains 90% accuracy and AlexNet 95%. When compared with CNN, AlexNet performs better in this area.

## **AIM**

The main aim of the work is to predict the liver tumor from CT scan images by using effective segmentation and classification models. The segmentation process is carried out by TAGN model, where the classification is carried out by ViT-GRU model. TAGN model has two elements that is essential for segmentation that includes SSA and TSA. The discriminative features are enhanced by multi-scale context information. In classification, the important characteristics are identified by ViT model, where the relationships between them is predicted by GRU model. Finally, the research work's efficiency is tested on publicly available dataset in terms of segmentation and classification analysis.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### **1.1 Data Set**

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In this study, the technique is tested using the publicly available dataset LiTS2017 [27]. With a resolution of 512 × 512, CT image is 0.45∼6.00 mm. This data set contains 201 CT pictures, for a grand total of 58638 CT slice images. The last step is to randomly split the preprocessed data set into a verification set, with a relation of 7: 3.

#### **1.2. Data Preprocessing**

For the purpose of this paper's algorithm verification, the MICCAI 2017 challenge made available the public data set LiTS2017. The 201 abdominal-enhanced CT scans included in this dataset came from 6 different medical centers throughout the globe. Of them, 131 had labels applied, while the remaining 70 were unlabeled. The total number of CT slice pictures is 58638, with a  $512 \times 512$  resolution. However, the imaging quality and resolution of these 201 CT images vary due to differences in the acquisition equipment and techniques utilized by various medical institutions. Typically, CT scans have a resolution range of 0.55∼1.00 mm within each frame and 0.45∼6.00 mm between frames.

The original CT image's gray threshold range was reduced to −200∼200 and its gray value was normalized in order to improve the liver's differentiation from other abdominal organs. Due to the high number of slices in the original CT picture, using the entire image as input would be computationally intensive, and using only one slice would be missing spatial information between the slices. One such approach involves feeding the network data from a single slice together with its two neighboring slices. The network then uses this data to make a prediction about the single slice as its output. Additionally, in order to lessen the model's overfitting, this study randomly slices the data using a  $3 \times 480 \times$ 480 cutting size. To upsurge the size of the dataset, the picture is inadvertently rotated left and right and flipped vertically during processing. You can see the final product in Fig. 1. Lastly, the pretreatment data set is assigned a random ratio of 7:3 to serve as either a training set or a verification set.



**Figure 1 – (a) Unique image; (b) Casual horizontal; (c) Casual vertical; (d) Left revolution; (e) Right revolution**

#### **1.3. Segmentation**

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The many parts of the proposed TAGN are described in this section. The research begins with a brief summary of TAGN. The research continues by outlining the fundamentals and architecture of TAGN and providing an clarification of each part. Additionally, the study showcases the unified loss function that our TAGN utilized.

# **1.3.1. Overview of TAGN**

Where C is the sum of channels and  $H \times W$  is the three-dimensional resolve of the picture case, let the input medical doppelgänger. The objective of this project is to create pixel-wise semantic label maps with dimensions  $H \times W$  and to automatically segment medical pictures. The suggested TAGN follows in the footsteps of earlier efforts by utilizing the tried-and-true U-shaped design for encoders and decoders. TAGN's goal is to enhance the quality of semantic segmentation of liver pictures by utilizing multi-scale skip connections and attention components. When improves the encoder's semantic feature representation by combining the advantages of TSA and GSA processes to understand long-range contextual info. In addition, TAGN's multi-scale skip connections gather contextual information for fusing multi-scale predictions by achieving dense shortcut connections across in-between layers of distinct semantic scales.

#### **1.3.2. Self-Aware Attention Module**

A self-aware attention module is integrated among the encoder and decoder subnetworks in the proposed TAGN, which sets it apart from prior techniques. Transformers are two separate self-attention processes that are contained inside this module. When associated to the conventional U-Net, TAGN is able to collect broader and more detailed contextual representations because to these methods. The module's placement at the base of the U-shaped design allows it to connect the encoder and decoder, improving the model's capacity to gather contextual info from a distance.

**1) Transformer Self Attention:** To begin, our TAGN incorporates a TSA constituent that uses

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Transformer's multi-head function to gather semantic representation. The TSA constituent shares learnt positional encoding across completely attention levels for a particular query/key-value arrangement, allowing information on absolute and relative location to be included. Each attention head in the multi-head attention mechanism is processed independently and then combined through an additional embedding.

Exactly, the encoder topographies  $F \in R^{\text{c} \times \text{h} \times \text{w}}$  is implanting into three inputs, with the medium of enquiries  $Q \in R^{c \times (h \times w)}$ , the solutions  $K \in R^{c \times (h \times w)}$ , besides  $V \in R^{c \times (h \times w)}$ .

$$
Q = F. W_q, K = F. W_k, Vk = F. W_{v(1)}
$$

where  $W_{\rm q}$ ,  $W_{\rm k}$ , and  $W_{\rm v}$  are several linear projections' matrices. To get the weighted sum of values according to attention weights, we scale the dot-product operation among Q and the transposed form of K, then multiply map A by V. The result is the contextual attention map matrix  $A \in R^{c \times c}$ , which shows how many elements from Q are similar to each other in relation to the global elements from K. One possible formulation of the multi-head attention is:attention map

$$
TSA(Q, K, V) = softmax\left(\frac{QK^{T}}{\sqrt{d_{k}}}\right)V_{(2)}
$$

where  $\sqrt{d_k}$  is arrangement. Lastly, the study redesigns the enhanced maps to get the last production of TSA, i.e.,  $F_{tsa} \in R^{c \times h \times w}$ 

**2) Global Spatial Attention:** To improve intra-class compactness and optimize feature representations, the SAA module uses the GSA constituent to integrate larger contextual positional information into local features and enrich the learnt features with global context.

To begin with, two kinds of processes are functional to features F en to produce two feature maps:  $Fp^{c} \in R^{c \times h \times w}$ , where  $c' = c/8$ . Then,  $Fp^{c}$  is redesigned and enthused maps  $M \in R^{(h \times w) \times ct}$  and  $N \in R^{ct \times (h \times w1)}$ , while to  $W \in R^{c \times (h \times w)}$ congruently. Next, performed among M and N, shadowed by maps  $B \in R$ . The computation B is as shadows:

$$
B_{i,j} = \frac{\exp(M_i.N_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^n \exp(M_i.N_j)}(3)
$$

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where  $B_{i,j}$  characterizes the map. Once the place attention maps B have been calculated, the feature at each site may be expressed as the product of W and B.:

$$
GSA(M, N, W)_p = \sum_{q=1}^{h \times w1} \left( W_q B_{p2,q} \right)_{(4)}
$$

Furthermore, we redesign the subsequent features to gain the concluding yield of GSA, which represented as  $F_{asa} \in R^{c \times h \times w}$ 

**3) Attention Embedding Fusion:** Finally, the SSA module employs a weighted embedding, which is specified as, in order to fully leverage the acquired contextual correlations.:

$$
F_{SAA} = \lambda_1 F_{tsa} + \lambda_2 F_{gsan} + F_{en (5)}
$$

where  $\lambda_1$  besides  $\lambda_2$  are the parameter values that regulate the self-attention map's and the spatial attention map's relative relevance. The feature representations are improved with semantic consistency by starting with weights of 0 and gradually increasing them to provide more attention to the relevant characteristics.

#### **1.3.3. Multi-Scale Skip Connection**

It is worth mentioning that several recent studies [28] have shown that multi-scale feature fusion is a powerful tool for encoding contexts. The goal of the multi-scale skip joining strategy is to combine info from different semantic scales via convolution, among other transition operations. Drawing on prior research, this study examines three distinct kinds of dense.

**1) Cascade Connection:** All the maps from different blocks with different scales are combined into one feature representation by upsampling them to a

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common resolution using bilinear interpolation. A possible way to express this is:

$$
F = f_n(v_1(F_1) \oplus v_2(F_2) \oplus \dots \oplus F_n)_{(6)}
$$

where  $\oplus$  represents concatenation processes,  $v_n(\cdot)$ and  $f_n(\cdot)$  varied convolution processes in nth phase. correspondingly.

**2) Residual Connection:** Before each decoder block may use residual connections, using bilinear interpolation to match the output feature maps' resolution. Next, the maps that were up-sampled are combined with the feature maps that were produced, and the maps are then utilized as inputs for the block that follows. Here is how this method is laid out:

$$
F_n = f_n((F_n) \oplus v_{n-1}(F_{n-1}))_{(7)}
$$

**3) Dense Connection:** The current encoder block takes as inputs the upsampling features from earlier blocks, and all blocks that follow it utilize the output feature maps as inputs. This is expressed as:

$$
F_n = f_n(v_1(F_1) \oplus v_2(F_2) \oplus \dots \oplus v_{n-1}(F_{n-1}))
$$
  
(8)

The suggested TAGN zeroes in on two distinct dense joining and the residual joining—to direct the decoder subnetwork's upsampling operation. Residual or dense step-growth connections may progressively combine many decoder characteristics of different semantic scales to provide representations, in contrast to previous efforts that just used the one-off cascade connection. Thus, the suggested TAGN may solve the issues of up sampling.

#### **1.3.4. Training and Optimization**

The training procedure involves training the TAGNmodel from beginning to end with the use of an objective function. A grouping of the Entropy and Sorensen-Dice loss functions is used to calculate the objective function. To determine the goal function, we apply the pixel-wise soft-max on the finished maps.

What follows is a possible formulation of the objective function.:

$$
\mathcal{L}_{BCE} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} (y_i \log(p_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p_i))
$$
  
(9)  

$$
\mathcal{L}_{Dice} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{t} y_i p_i + \varepsilon}{\sum_{i=1}^{t} y_i + p_i + \varepsilon} (10)
$$

$$
\mathcal{L} = a. \mathcal{L}_{BCE} + \beta. \mathcal{L}_{Dice (11)}
$$

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 $y_i$  the ith pixel's truth value, pi is its sureness score in the prediction results, and t is the entire sum of pixels in each picture. Along with that,  $\alpha$  stands for the loss weight and β for the Sorensen-Dice loss. During the course of our investigation,  $\alpha = \beta = 0.5$ , and  $\varepsilon = 10 - 6$ .

#### **1.4. Projected ViT-GRU Model**

This portion discusses the implementation of a novel approach called ViT-GRU for liver tumor categorization. ViT (Vision Transformer) and GRU (Gated Recurrent Unit) are two different types of neural network architectures. By combining the strengths of both, the ViT-GRU model is proposed. It utilizes segmented images of liver tumors to efficiently classify them. This suggests that the model leverages the features learned from the images to make accurate tumor classifications.

#### **1.4.1. ViT for Feature Extraction**

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The ViT, a state-of-the-art architecture renowned for its remarkable capacity to extract visual characteristics from pictures using self-attention processes, is the principal element of the model. The model is able to successfully extract critical patterns and characteristics indicative of tumors by utilizing the ViT backbone, which allows it to learn hierarchical representations of liver pictures. The study optimized the ViT encoder by removing the Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) layer and adding layer normalization for quicker convergence and more stable training. In an effort to curb overfitting and boost generalizability, the research included a dropout layer. Finally, it added a "flatten" layer to increase capacity, which allowed it to extract more complex and

varied patterns from the segmented pictures. This might lead to an improvement in the performance of liver tumor detection algorithms.

#### **1.4.2. GRU for Temporal Analysis**

In order to do temporal analysis on the visual characteristics that were extracted during feature extraction, the study incorporates a GRU unit. When it comes to detecting dependencies and sequential patterns in data, the GRU stands out among Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs). The model's capacity to detect and categorize tumors with enhanced discriminative power is improved by using the GRU with 1024 units, which allows it to efficiently utilize the temporal dynamics in segmented pictures.

#### **1.4.3. Classification Head**

The last step in making a prediction using a GRU layer is to add a classification head. To derive the probability distribution over classes, the GRU's at the latest time stage is transmitted via layers and then a softmax function.

#### **1.4.4. Hyperparameters Settings**

Our study's models were quite parameter-heavy, which allowed us to explore a wide range of possible architectural tweaks. Hyperparameter tweaking, a technique crucial to attaining optimal performance, became our principal emphasis as the study refined these models. To do this, we needed to find hyperparameter values that were very near to the optimal ones. The study achieved this by investigating novel ways to improve our model assessment and prediction procedures, as well as by delving into a repertory of frequently used hyperparameter values. The hyperparameter standards used throughout our planned ViT-GRU model are succinctly recorded in Table 1.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A computer platform running Ubuntu 1804, an Intel Core i9 CPU, 32 GB of RAM, and a Tesla T4 GPU is used as an experimental setting in this article [30]. Python 3.8 is utilized as the programming language, with Python 1.9 serving as the deep learning framework.

<b>Hyperparameters</b>	<b>Values</b>
Patch magnitude	8
Sum of patches	256
Forecast dimension	64
Sum of self- heads	4
Epochs	200
Batch magnitude	322
Optimizer	AdamW
Loss Purpose	Categorical cross-entropy
Image magnitude	(128x128x3)
Learning degree	0.001
Weight decay	0.001

**Table 1 – Hyperparameters of our projected ViT-GRU perfect with its standards**

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Figure 2 displays the input photos that were segmented as a sample.

#### **2.1. Segmentation results**

Table 2 presents the consequences of the Segmentation Investigation for various slices. Proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity of 76.68, a specificity of 76.68, besides an accuracy of 76.68 in the analysis of the first slices; U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 91.89, a specificity of 98.04, besides an accuracy of 96.54 in the same order. Subsequently, in the second slice, the proposed TAGN achieved a sensitivity of 87.11, specificity of 87.11, and accuracy of 87.11. U-Net, on the other hand, accomplished a sensitivity of 84.33, specificity of 98.04, and accuracy of 96.54, respectively. Next, accuracy is  $95.70$  and  $99.42$ , respectively. Subsequently, for the third slice, the proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity of 88.13, a specificity of 88.13, and an accuracy of 88.13. U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 86.70, a specificity of 98.04, and an accuracy of 96.54, respectively. Next, accuracy was 95.57 and 98.37, respectively. Then, in the fourth slice, the proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of 80.32, and U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 98.04, and 96.54, respectively. Then, 96.94, accuracy as 96.54, specificity as 98.04, and so on. Next, and accuracy as 96.22 in line with that. After that, in the fifth slice, the proposed TAGN achieved 91.82 sensitivity, 91.82 specificity, and 91.82 accuracy.



**Figure 2 – Segmentation consequences**





In contrast, U-Net achieved 93.55 sensitivity, 98.04 specificity, and 96.54 accuracy in the same order. Next, 96.94, and accuracy as 96.12, in that order. Then, after six slices, the projected TAGN achieved accuracy of 80.45, and U-Net achieved sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of 87.07, 98.04, and 96.54, respectively. Next, and accuracy as 96.54 and specificity as 98.04, respectively. Next, and accuracy as 96.54 and specificity as 98.04, respectively. The accuracy was then 96.31 and 99.20, respectively. Subsequently, in the seventh slice, the proposed TAGN achieved a sensitivity of 77.31, specificity of 77.31, and accuracy of 77.31. U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 95.70, specificity of 98.04, and accuracy of 96.54 in corresponding measure. Next, and accuracy as 96.54 and specificity as 98.04, respectively. Next, 96.85, with accuracy coming in at

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TAGN accomplished a sensitivity of 88.75, a specificity of 88.75, and an accuracy of 88.75. In contrast, U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 97.47, a specificity of 98.04, and an accuracy of 96.54 in the same order. The accuracy was then 96.17 and 96.85, respectively. Then, in the ninth slice, the proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity of 87.64, a specificity of 87.64, besides an accuracy of 87.64. Subsequently, U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 84.13, a specificity of 98.04, and an accuracy of 96.54. The accuracy was then 94.35 and 96.96, respectively. Subsequently, after 10 slices, the proposed TAGN achieved 92.65 sensitivity, 92.65 specificity, and 92.65 accuracy. U-Net achieved 97.51 sensitivity, 98.04 specificity, and 96.54 accuracy, respectively. Next, and accuracy as 96.54 and

96.58 in line. After that, in the eighth slice, the proposed

specificity as 98.04, respectively. The accuracy was then 97.00 and 96.81, respectively. Then, after 11 slices, the proposed TAGN attained accuracy of 85.85, and U-Net accuracy of 98.21, 98.04, and 96.54, respectively. Next, and accuracy as 96.54 and specificity as 98.04, respectively. Next, accuracy is 95.21 and 96.01, respectively. Subsequently, after 12 slices, the projected TAGN achieved a sensitivity of 87.99, specificity of 87.99, and accuracy of 87.99. U-Net then achieved a corresponding sensitivity of 98.55~95.55~96.35. Subsequently, after 14 slices, the projected TAGN accomplished a sensitivity of 90.28, specificity of 90.28,

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besides accuracy of 90.28. U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 98.21, specificity of 98.04, and accuracy of 96.54, respectively. The accuracy was then 97.07 and 96.65, respectively. Subsequently, for the fifteenth slice, the Proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity of 94.57, a specificity of 94.57, besides accuracy of 94.57. U-Net then achieved a sensitivity of 97.74 slices, while the Proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity of 97.34 and an accuracy of 97.45 in correspondingly. Subsequently, in the sixteenth slice, the proposed TAGN achieved a sensitivity of 87.67, which was subsequently achieved by U-Net as 87.67<97.85~96.99~97.23, respectively.





Then, for the 17th slice, the proposed TAGN obtained the following results: sensitivity of 67.33, specificity of 67.33, accuracy of 67.33 97.81, specificity of 98.04, and accuracy of 96.54, respectively. Next, accuracy is 96.50% and 95.99, respectively. Subsequently, after 18 slices, the proposed TAGN achieved 84.79 sensitivity, 84.79 specificity, and 84.79 accuracy. U-Net, on the other hand, achieved 96.57 sensitivity, 98.04 specificity, and 96.54 accuracy, respectively. The accuracy was then 96.88 and 97.00, respectively. Then, using average slices, the proposed TAGN obtained a sensitivity, accuracy of 84.65. Subsequently, U-Net achieved a sensitivity of 94.02, a specificity of 98.04, besides an accuracy of 96.54. Next, accuracy is 96.36 and 97.05, respectively.

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In above Table 3: Mean cap width for 18 slices from four approaches. The proposed TAGN achieved a thickness of 0.884, U-Net achieved a thickness of 0.969, Self-Attention achieved a thickness of 9.67%, DenseUNet achieved a thickness of 0.811, TransformNet achieved a thickness of 8.30%, 0.722, and K-Means achieved a thickness of 18.38% in the first slice investigation. In the second slice, the Proposed TAGN had a thickness of 1.048, U-Net had a thickness of 0.979, Self-Attention had a thickness of 6.58%, DenseUNet had a thickness of 0.959, TransformNet had an 8.51% 0.727, and K-Means demonstrated a thickness of 30.62%. In the third slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was 0.988, U-Net was 0.979, Self-Attention was 0.83%, DenseUNet was 0.925 6.39% 0.807, and K-Means was 18.26%, respectively. The thickness values of the Proposed TAGN, U-Net, TransformNet, and FCM were 0.770, 0.713, 7.39%, and 0.725, respectively, on the fourth slice, while K-Means was at 19.55% and FCM was at 0.619. On the fifth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.903, the thickness of the self-attention was 0.829 8.19%, the thickness of the FCM was 0.637 29.43%, and the thickness of the 0.795 10.19% was recorded. In the sixth slice, TransformNet attained 3.12%, FCM attained 0.601 and K-Means attained 9.01%, while the proposed TAGN attained 0.660 and U-Net attained 0.751, 13.76%, and 0.639, respectively. On the seventh slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be 0.697, while U-Net was found to be 0.645, Self-Attention was found to be 7.44%, DenseUNet was found to be 0.624, FCM was found to be 10.44%, as was K-Means at 20.51%. On the eighth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was found to be 0.611, while U-Net was found to be 0.731, Self-Attention was found to be 19.61%, TransformNet 0.514 was found to be 15.88%, FCM was found to be 0.576, and K-Means was found to be 5.73%, respectively. In the ninth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was found to be 0.621, while U-Net was found to be 0.657, Self-Attention was found to be 5.80%, Self-Attention was found to be 0.555, DenseUNet was found to be 10.58%, FCM was found to be 0.572, and K-Means was found to be 7.94%, respectively. On the tenth slice, TransformNet achieved a thickness of 21.74%, FCM achieved a thickness of 0.540, K-Means achieved a thickness of 14.78%, and the proposed TAGN attained a thickness of 0.634, U-Net a thickness of 0.706, 11.43%, and 0.496. The Proposed TAGN reached a thickness of 0.581 on the 11th slice, U-Net reached 0.607, Self-Attention reached 4.43%, DenseUNet reached 0.789, TransformNet 35.82% 0.617, and K-Means reached 6.19%, respectively. On the 12th slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be 0.650, U-Net was found to be 0.685, Self-Attention was found to be 5.38%, DenseUNet was found to be 0.721, TransformNet was found to be 10.95%, FCM was found to be 0.647, and K-Means was found to be 0.48%, respectively. On the thirteenth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was 0.499, U-Net was 0.550, Self-Attention was 10.25%, and DenseUNet was 0.565 13.14% 0.624 24.96% in accordance. Then, on the fourteenth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.796, U-Net was 0.759, self-attention was 4.56% 0.710, FCM was 10.73% 0.448, and K-Means was 43.65%, respectively. The proposed TAGN obtained a thickness of 0.674 on the fifteenth slice, while U-Net obtained a thickness of 0.737. Self-Attention obtained a thickness of 9.28% 0.650, FCM obtained a thickness of 3.60 0.681, and K-Means obtained a thickness of 1.05%. On the sixteenth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was 0.736, U-Net was 0.642~12.76%, and TransformNet was 0.711~3.39%~0.590~19.85%, in that order. On the seventeenth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was 0.747, U-Net was 0.704, 5.81%, 0.718, 3.94%, 0.696, and K-Means was 6.81%, respectively. On the eighteenth slice, the thickness of the

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proposed TAGN was 0.808, U-Net was 0.681, Self-Attention was 15.70%, DenseUNet was 0.740, TransformNet was 8.44%, and FCM was 0.743 8.07%, in that order. On average, the Proposed TAGN had an average thickness of 0.739, U-Net had an average thickness of 0.740, Self-Attention had an average thickness of 8.83%, DenseUNet had an average thickness of 0.703, TransformNet had an average thickness of 10.71%, FCM had an average thickness of 0.633, and K-Means had an average thickness of 15.85%.





The smallest cap thickness for 18 slices from four approaches is shown in Table 4 above. According to the analysis of the first slice, the proposed TAGN had a thickness of 0.814, U-Net had a thickness of 0.781, Self-Attention had a thickness of 4.00%, DenseUNet had a thickness of 0.608, TransformNet had a thickness

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of 25.33%, FCM had a thickness of 0.535, and K-Means had a thickness of 34.30%. Next, the the second slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.752, U-Net was 0.809, and self-attention was 7.54%, 0.737, 1.96%, 0.532, and 29.19%, respectively. Then, in the third slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.256, that of

U-Net was 0.362, that of Self-Attention was 41.55% 0.266 3.96%, that of FCM was 0.458, and that of K-Means was 79.07%, all in congruence. On the fourth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was 0.512, U-Net was 0.552, Self-Attention was 7.71%, TransformNet was 0.538 4.97% 0.481, and K-Means was 6.03% in accordance. In the fifth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was found to be 0.475, while U-Net and Self-Attention were found to be 0.464, 2.27%, and 0.625, respectively, and TransformNet and FCM were found to be 31.59%, 0.458, and 3.53%, respectively. On the sixth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be 0.322, U-Net was found to be 0.446, and Self-Attention was found to be 38.34% 0.400.24.10% 0.378 and FCM reached 17.39% thickness in agreement. Then the 7th slice, the Proposed TAGN attained the thickness of 0.389 and U-Net attained the thickness of 00.410 5.50% 0.330 15.12% and FCM attained the thickness of 0.292 and K-Means attained the thickness of 24.91% congruently. Afterwards, on the eighth slice, the proposed TAGN had a thickness of 0.311, U-Net had a thickness of 0~0.524, U-Net had a thickness of 68.44%, Self-Attention had a thickness of 0.354~13.73%, FCM had a thickness of 0.332, and K-Means had a thickness of 6.84%, all in accordance. After that, on the ninth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was found to be 0.372, U-Net was found to be 0 0.420, Self-Attention was found to be 12.92%, and TransformNet was found to be 0.361 3.09% 0.347 and TransformNet was found to be 6.85% congruently. On the tenth slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be 0.389, while U-Net was found to be 00.527. Self-Attention was found to be 35.48% 0.369, TransformNet was found to be 5.15% 0.280, and K-Means was found to be 27.97% congruently thick. On the eleventh slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be 0.443, while U-Net was found to be 0~0.430. Self-Attention was found to be 2.87%~0.438, and TransformNet was found to be 1.03%~0.434~2.03% in accordance. On the 12th slice, the thickness of the Proposed TAGN was found to be

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0.519, while U-Net's thickness was found to be 00.536 3.35% 0.567 9.37%, TransformNet's thickness was found to be 0.449, and FCM's thickness was found to be 13.34%, all in congruence. On the thirteenth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.761, the thickness of Self-Attention was 0.899~18.10%~0.737, the thickness of FCM was 3.24%~0.532, and the thickness of K-Means was 30.06%, all in congruence. Then the 14th slice, the Proposed TAGN attained the thickness of 0.553 and U-Net attained the thickness of 00.574 3.83% 0.596 7.76% 0.377 and TransformNet attained the thickness of 31.86% congruently. Next, on the fifteenth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.500, the thickness of Self-Attention was 0.633, 26.41%, 0.312, the thickness of FCM was 37.62%, 0.541, and the thickness of K-Means was 8.04%, all in congruence. Then, on the sixteenth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was 0.652, that of U-Net was 00.534, that of self-attention was 18.11%, and that of FCM was 0.517 20.69% 0.417 36.05% in accordance. The Proposed TAGN then achieved a thickness of 0.628 on the 17th slice, while U-Net achieved a thickness of 00.563. Self-Attention then achieved a thickness of 10.34%, FCM achieved a thickness of 0.509 18.97%, and TransformNet achieved a thickness of 0.485 and 22.78% respectively. Then, on the eighteenth slice, the thickness of the proposed TAGN was found to be 0.586, that of U-Net to be 0.542, that of Self-Attention to be 7.43%, that of TransformNet to be 0.543, that of FCM to be 7.32% 0.472, and that of K-Means to be 19.38%, all in accordance. Following that, the Proposed TAGN's Average slice, U-Net's 0 thickness, TransformNet's 0.556 thickness, and Self-Attention's 17.46% thickness were all measured.0.489 and K-Means reached the thickness of 22.20%, TransformNet reached the thickness of 13.06%, FCM reached the thickness of 0.433, correspondingly.

#### **2.2. Investigation of Classification results**

Table 5 describes the validation investigation of different classifiers. The CNN model achieved accuracy of approximately 92.43, recall rate of 90.95, precision of 95.91, specificity of 92.28, and f-score of 91.43 in the analysis of the entire dataset. Subsequently, the RNN model achieved 93.27 accuracy, 91.37 recall rate, 93.42 precision, 93.27 specificity, and 92.87 f-score, respectively. The ViT perfect then accomplished the accuracy of 95.42, recall rate of 93.25, precision of 94.02, specificity of 94.18, and f-score of 94.57, in that order. Subsequently, the GRU model achieved 96.07

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accuracy, 95.98 recall rate, 93.98% specificity, and 94.58 f-score, respectively. The predicted ViT-GRU model then achieved 98.79 accuracy, 95.64 recall rate, 96.12 precision, 98.47 recall rate, and 95.36 f-score, respectively. Following the analysis of the Training (70%) dataset, the CNN model achieved the recall rate of 86.85, precision of 85.76–92.27, and f-score of 91.3.





The RNN model subsequently achieved 94.98 accuracy, 91.14 recall rate, 92.31 precision, 94.2 recall rate, and 92.24 f-score, respectively. Subsequent that, the GRU model achieved 96.88 accuracy, 94.38 recall rate, 93.8 precision, 96.01 specificity, and 93.02 f-score, in that order. After that, the ViT model achieved 96.07 accuracy, 92.46 recall rate, 93.7 95.82 precision, and 93.01 specificity, in that order. Subsequently, the

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projected ViT-GRU model achieved a recall rate of 95.21, accuracy as a 97.57, precision of 95.62, specificity of 98.33, and an f-score of 95.88. Following the examination of the Testing (30%) dataset, the CNN model accomplished the subsequent consequences: accuracy of 93.25, recall rate of 93.15, precision of 91.04, specificity of 89.15, and f-score of 91.09, in that order. Following that, the RNN model accomplished

94.42 accuracy, 95.47 recall rate, 92.56 precision, 92.47 specificity, and 93.96 f-score, respectively. Subsequently, the ViT model achieved 96.17 accuracy, 96.03 recall rate, 94.26 precision, 95.17 accuracy, and 95.84 f-score, respectively. The predicted ViT-GRU model then achieved 98.94 accuracy, 98.97 recall rate,

#### **CONCLUSIONS / ВИСНОВКИ**

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This paper introduces TGAN, a novel Transformerbased attention-directed U-Net aimed at enhancing liver tumor segmentation quality. By amalgamating U-Net with multi-scale skip connections and multi-level guided attention, TGAN significantly improves segmentation accuracy. The incorporation of a multilevel directed attention block facilitates the exploitation of global contextual information, encompassing global spatial linkages and long-range interactions among encoder semantic features simultaneously. Furthermore, the utilization of multi-scale skip connections enables

97.24 specificity, and, finally, a corresponding f-score of 97.6. The GRU model then accomplished the subsequent consequences: accuracy of 97.53, recall rate of 97.15, precision of 96.24, specificity of 98.3, and fscore of 96.69, in that command.

the generation of discriminative feature representations through dynamic scaling. Subsequently, the ViT-GRU model achieves an impressive classification accuracy of 98.79% across the dataset, underscoring the efficacy of our proposed approach. Radiologists seeking a second opinion can leverage this methodology. Extending the application of the liver tumor classification method to various imaging modalities holds promise for enhancing the study's robustness. In the experimental analysis of the projected ViT-GRU model achieved a recall rate of 95.21, accuracy as a 97.57, precision of 95.62, specificity of 98.33, and an f-score of 95.88.

#### **PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH / ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ ПОДАЛЬШИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ**

Future endeavors aim to refine the overall segmentation and classification performance of the proposed system. Additionally, efforts will be directed towards minimizing the Volumetric Overlap Error (VOE) rate even further, representing a key objective for subsequent investigations.

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS / ВКЛАД АВТОРІВ**

All authors substantively contributed to the drafting of the initial and revised versions of this paper. They take full responsibility for the integrity of all aspects of the work.

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#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST / КОНФЛІКТ ІНТЕРЕСІВ**

The authors declare the no potential conflicts of interest regarding this research.

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# **ІNFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORS / ВІДОМОСТІ ПРО АВТОРІВ**

**Dr. S. Stephe -** Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering, Trichy - 621112. India[. stephes.ece@krce.ac.in.](mailto:stephes.ece@krce.ac.in)

**Mr. Santosh Kumar B. -** New Horizon College of Engineering, Ring Road, Bellandur Post, Bengaluru - 560103, India. [skumars1803@gmail.com](mailto:skumars1803@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Arunadevi Thirumalraj -** Department of Computer Science and Engineering, K. Ramakrishna College of Technology, Trichy – 621112. India. [aruna.devi96@gmail.com](mailto:aruna.devi96@gmail.com)

**Dzhyvak Volodymyr** - MD, PhD Assistant Professor of department of Children`s Diseases and Pediatric Surgery I. Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University. Е-mail – djyvak@tdmu.edu.ua. Tel.: 0660383714