# MORPHOLOGICAL AND OTSU THRESHOLDING-BASED RETINAL BLOOD VESSEL SEGMENTATION FOR DETECTION OF RETINOPATHY

*[1]Kuryati Kipli, [2]Cripen Jiris, [3]Siti Kudnie Sahari, [4]Rohana Sapawi, [5]Nazreen Junaidi, [6]Marini Sawawi,
[7]Kismet Hong Ping, [8]Tengku Mohd Afendi Zulcaffle

[1-7]*Department of Electrical and Electronic, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300*
*Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia  (*Corresponding Author e-mail: kkuryati @unimas.my).*

## ABSTRACT

*Purpose*: Retinal blood vessel segmentation is crucial as it is the earliest process in measuring various indicators of retinopathy sign such as arterial-venous nicking, and focal arteriolar and generalized arteriolar narrowing. The segmentation can be clinically used if its accuracy is close to 100%. In this study, a new method of segmentation is developed for extraction of retinal blood vessel.

*Methods*: In this paper, we present a new automated method to extract blood vessels in retinal fundus images. The proposed method comprises of two main parts and a few subcomponents which include pre-processing and segmentation. The main focus for the segmentation part is two morphological reconstructions which are the morphological reconstructions followed by the morphological top-hat transform. Then the technique to classify the vessel pixels and background pixels is Otsu's thresholding. The image database used in this study is the High Resolution Fundus Image Database (HRFID).

*Results:* The developed segmentation method accuracy are 95.17%, 92.06% and 94.71% when tested on dataset of healthy, diabetic retinopathy (DR) and glaucoma patients respectively.

*Conclusion:* Overall, the performance of the proposed method is comparable with existing methods with overall accuracies were more than 90 % for all three different categories: healthy, DR and glaucoma.

## Keywords

*Retinopathy, morphological, thresholding. segmentation, retinal blood vessels, detection*

## INTRODUCTION

Retinal blood vessel segmentation is crucial image processing step before performing feature extraction in retinal analysis.  In retinal analysis, segmented blood vessel is useful for microvasculature analysis, vascular geometry extraction, and measurement of various parameters such as artery and vein ratio. Retinal blood vessel segmentation also enable detection of haemorrhages, microaneurysms, irregularities in the route of blood vessels and neovascularization [1-5]. The accuracy of retinal blood vessel segmentation is important to ensure accurate extraction and measurement of features for detection/diagnosis of retinal related diseases, including stroke [6], hypertensive retinopathy (HR) [7], diabetic retinopathy [8], and retinopathy of prematurity [9]. Manual segmentation of the blood vessel is time consuming and prone to human error, thus not practical when number of images is large and the vessel structures are complicated [10, 11]. As a result, an automated blood vessels segmentation algorithm is desired.

Several automated method have been developed to get accurate blood vessel segmentation [8]. The drawback of existing techniques is that they generally output poor segmentation results when applied on unhealthy retinal images that have the presence of lesions [11]. They also need more computational power when the size of an image increases, thus a simple yet fast method is required for real time processing.

In this paper, we present a new automated method to extract blood vessels in retinal fundus images. The main contributions of this study include: i) proposed new methodology for retinal blood vessel segmentation, ii) apply the proposed method of retinal blood vessel segmentation on the retinal fundus image of healthy and unhealthy subjects and iii) evaluate