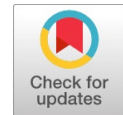


# Road Detection & Extraction for Autonomous vehicles Using Satellite Images

Shelke Poonam Uttam, Parul S. Arora, D.A. Jadhav



**Abstract:** Good roads play important role in positive growth of our civilization. They revolutionize and increase the life style of us and directly affect all our activities. Having record of up-to-date roads helps in taking quick decisions and pre-planning for various occasions like road trip or life critical situations like disasters. . It also helps in making maps for city planning and keeping track of expansion of city. Here, we have adopted morphological operations based techniques. All the images are resized to have same dimensions as they are from different sources. Comparison with ground truth images (manually extracted) is done to examine the performance of the algorithm. As this method is solely based on intensity of road pixels, the effect of different road structures and lane markings is absent. The algorithm has achieved 89% F1-score and 94% accuracy. Further improvement is required in algorithm to detect roads where the intensity of non-road parts (urban area, mowed agricultural land and other similar intensity structures) is similar to road pixels.

**Index Terms:** Satellite images, image processing, road detection, Road extraction, morphological operations, feature extraction, edge detection

## I. INTRODUCTION

With the increase in the population density the need for good transportation system and roads is increasing. Thus, giving rise to increasing city area too. The need for updated maps comes when we have to do planning of the city or when finding shortest route to some place. It also proves helpful during rescue operations. Earlier it was a manual process with lot of human intervention and cost. Manually checking and drawing lines of roads on the map was common sight. With the launch of high-resolution commercial imaging satellites like IKONOS (1999) and Quick Bird (2001), we can use these aerial images for faster processing. For large database the use of neural networks (NN) proves beneficial. Here, we have concentrated on the effect of morphological operations and other image processing techniques to achieve the result. [1] Used method based on threshold detection. Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) images and overlaying road vector data (prior data) the conditions of road were found. Using ArcGIS and eCognition, the image was buffered and segmentation was done. [2] Used edge detection (using Canny operator), Full Lambda Schedule for merging adjacent segments,

Support Vector Machine (SVM) for classification, and morphological operators to improve quality of detected road. Various satellite images from Worldview, QuickBird and UltraCam were used for analysis. Overall accuracy (OA) achieved is more than 85%. Improvement required in detecting complex roads more accurately. [3] Took data from three different places for study, training and test area. From Optech Titan sensor multispectral Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) data were acquired. For comparison open data from National Land Survey (NLS) used. Matlab's fitensemble with bragging used for classification. 80.5% points representing roads were classified correctly. [4] Have used IKONOS panchromatic image and QuickBird image for experiment. Directional Texture Signature (DTS) and Geary's C are used for segmentation of road using radiometric features and to obtain homogeneous map. Geary's C measure spatial autocorrelation (correlation is multi-dimensional and bi-directional) providing us binary image. Using area-based filtering and length-width-ratio-based filtering non-road information is removed. It gave 85.94% correctness. Further improvement can be made using road shape features for threshold selection. [5] Based on object-based methods & uses spatial texture features (extracted by local Moran's I). Hypothesis formed using features (brightness, standard deviation, rectangularity, aspect ratio, and area) and verification done using morphology operations. Achieving 90% accuracy. [6] Automatic extraction of road centerlines was achieved by using automatic thresholding and morphological operations. [7] Presented multi-stage approach based on integration of structural, spectral, textual and contextual information. Tensor voting used to fill missing parts. Have used same road dataset made publicly available by [17]. Author is able to achieve 93.4% Correctness. [8] Devised automated road extraction method based on vectorization approach.

## II. METHODOLOGY

Initial efforts are required to select appropriate dataset / resources for work. Various free to download aerial images and Remote Sensing / Satellite images along with ground truth were collected for processing. They are converted into grey scale image to increase speed of algorithm. Otsu's thresholding method is used to get the automatic thresholding value for the images. It helps in converting the image into binary image. Median filters are used to reduce noise. Finally morphological operations are employed to obtain final road image. All the image planes are resized to 600x800 to have correct comparison report performance metrics.

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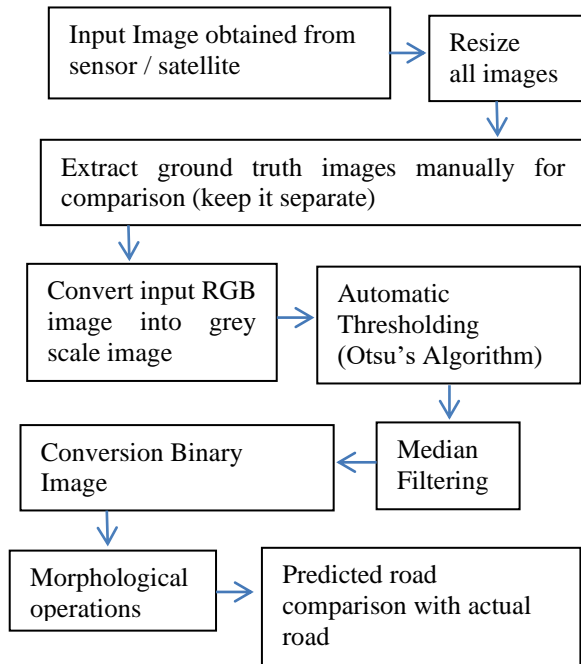
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**Fig 1. Block diagram**

Algorithm:

1. Select RGB Satellite Image and ground truth using `uigetfile()`.
2. Default Image size chosen to be 600 rows X 800 columns for all images. Using `imresize ()` MATLAB function, all images are resized.
3. The ground truth image (extracted manually or already available online for research) is converted into binary image by keeping only pixel values more than 200 (decided after checking histogram of the image) and rescaling them to 1. Thus, removing noise in true ground image.
4. Input image is converted into Grey scale and morphological operations and filters applied as per block diagram. Thus, predicted road structure is obtained. Sobel filter used for edge detection to overlay predicted road on original road image using `vision.AlphaBlender` and `step()`.
5. Finally, the performance parameters measured with respect to predicted road and actual ground truth. The parameters are obtained by comparing both the images pixel values and keeping count of all the True Positive, True Negative, False Positive & False Negative values.

### III. EXPERIMENTS

Various performance metrics are precision, recall, F1-score and accuracy. Precision gives indication of how many pixels are correctly identified from total pixels. Recall (Sensitivity) describes as how many are correctly identified pixels out of labeled pixels. F1-score is weighted average of precision and recall. It is considered better than accuracy as it can handle un-even class distribution of data too. Accuracy is good for symmetric dataset.

Formulae are:

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} \quad (1)$$

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} \quad (2)$$

$$F1\_score = \frac{2Precision \cdot Recall}{Precision+Recall} \quad (3)$$

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+FP+TN+FN} \quad (4)$$

Where,

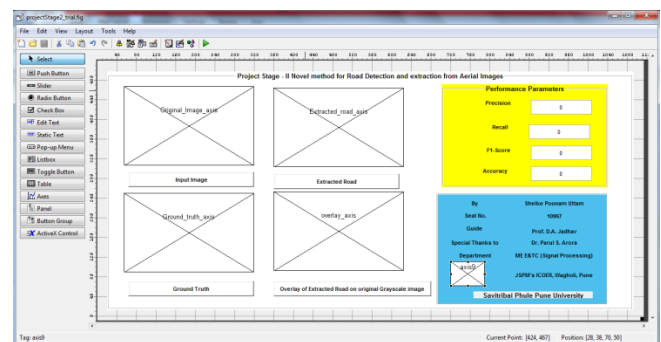
TP = True Positive, pixel predicted as part of segment (correct), equivalent with hit,

TN = True Negative, pixel predicted as not part of segment and from reference it's confirmed its not part of segment, equivalent with correct rejection,

FP = False Positive, Predicted pixel as part of segment but from reference it's not part of segment. Equivalent with false alarm, Type I error

FN = False Negative, Predicted pixel as not part of segment but from reference its part of segment. Equivalent with miss, Type II error.

We have used MATLAB R2017a software on Intel® Core™2 Duo CPU @2.40GHz, 4.00 GB RAM, 64 bit operating system and Windows 7 Ultimate edition. The graphical user interface (GUI) developed has following layout.



**Fig 2. Graphical User interface (GUI) design created using GUIDE**

The method is fully automated and can work with large database with little modification. Following image shows test result for two images.



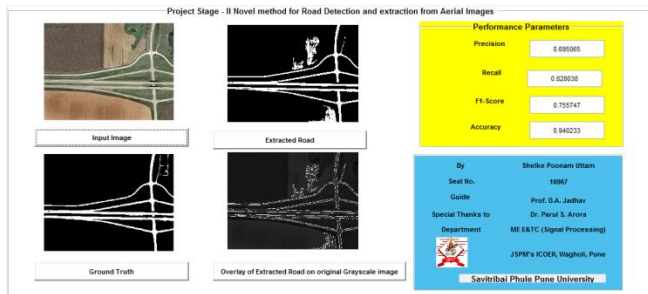


Fig 3. Road extraction result for Image 1, Accuracy 94%

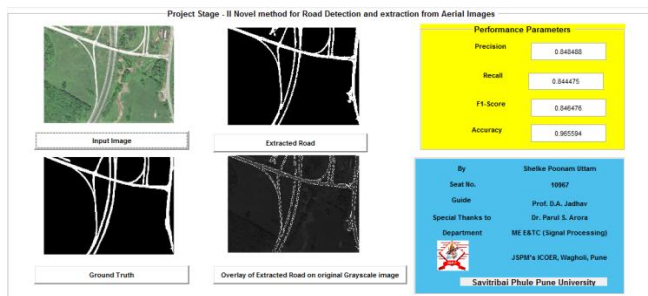


Fig 4. Road extraction result for Image 6, Accuracy=97%

TABLE I. PERFORMANCE METRICS RESULTS OBTAINED FOR VARIOUS IMAGES

S. No.	Image Description	Precision	Recall	F1- score	Accuracy
1	Image 1- most of the road structure linear with less similar non-road components	0.69	0.83	0.76	0.94
2	Image 2 – Linear structure with slowly varying bend	0.81	0.88	0.84	0.95
3	Image 3- complex structure with high contrast image, clear difference in reflectivity of surfaces	0.61	0.81	0.69	0.95
4	Image 4 – Linear simple structure but agricultural farms area having similar intensity to road structure	0.17	0.74	0.28	0.80
5	Image 5 – complex road structure surrounded by buildings- Urban image	0.50	0.81	0.62	0.84
6	Image 6 – Highway road image with surrounding greenery- medium complexity roads	0.85	0.84	0.85	0.97
7	Image 7- Complex road structure with high contrast surroundings and water bodies	0.92	0.87	0.89	0.94
8	Image 8 – star shape simple road structure with agricultural land	0.92	0.80	0.85	0.99
9	Image 9 – low resolution image 2	0.85	0.89	0.87	0.95
10	Image 10- complex , little bit distorted image	0.87	0.73	0.79	0.88
11	Image 11- star shape urban area road	0.91	0.06	0.12	0.84
12	Image 12- complex loop structure , agricultural surrounding , low contrast	0.79	0.09	0.17	0.91
13	Image 13- simple urban road with bypass lanes	0.69	0.83	0.75	0.95
14	Image 14- Simple highway road junction	0.97	0.79	0.87	0.95



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

Images from collection



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7

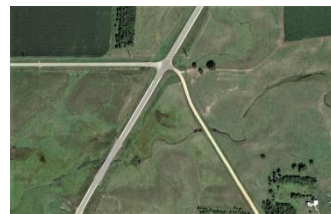


Image 8

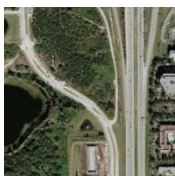


Image 9



Image 10

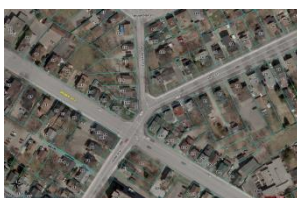


Image 11



Image 12

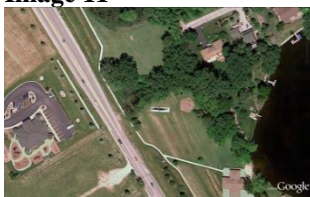


Image 13



Image 14

Fig 5. Details of few Images ( 1 to 14) used for research from Google Images and Github.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The road detection and extraction algorithm was able to achieve more than 90 % performance score for various images with different dimensions and resolution. The decrease in score can be attributed to variation in sources of image, image quality and having man-made & natural structures with similar intensity values like road structure in the image. Future work involves taking into consideration road parts not visible by tree and other structures and also involving a methodology to reduce similar intensity non-road pixels from getting selected as true road pixels. The methodology can be extended for large database using neural networks and updating maps simultaneously. Due to wide area of scope this research is interesting and can be extended to many more application domains.

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