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Method:

We expand VNet module to a two-stage network, called ExNet. The first stage of proposed network learns to predict four extreme points(top-, left-, right-, bottom-most) and one center point of liver while the second stage learns to segment liver. The first stage is an encoder-decoder architecture as same as VNet. The second stage only contains decoder parts in order to reduce the computation. The predicted points in the first stage is then fused to the final feature maps via sum operation so that it can reinforce the segmentation. Besides, the dataset is used in a split way so that we can get more accurate results among z axis. We remove the feature-transpose module between two stages.