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**Publication date**

2023

**Document Version**

Final published version

**Citation (APA)**

Dong, Y., Patil, S., Farah, H., & Hellendoorn, J. (2023). *Sequential Neural Network Model with Spatial-Temporal Attention Mechanism for Robust Lane Detection Using Multi Continuous Image Frames*. 1. Poster session presented at Transportation Research Board 102nd Annual Meeting 2023, Washington, District of Columbia, United States.

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# Sequential Neural Network Model with Spatial-Temporal Attention Mechanism for Robust Lane Detection Using Multi Continuous Image Frames

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Lane detection serves as a fundamental task for automated vehicles and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems. This study develops a novel sequential neural network model with a spatial-temporal attention mechanism that can focus on key features of lane lines and exploit salient spatial-temporal correlations among continuous image frames for the purpose of enhancing the accuracy and robustness of lane detection. Experiments demonstrate the strength and the robustness of the proposed model outperforming available state-of-the-art methods in various testing.

## METHODS

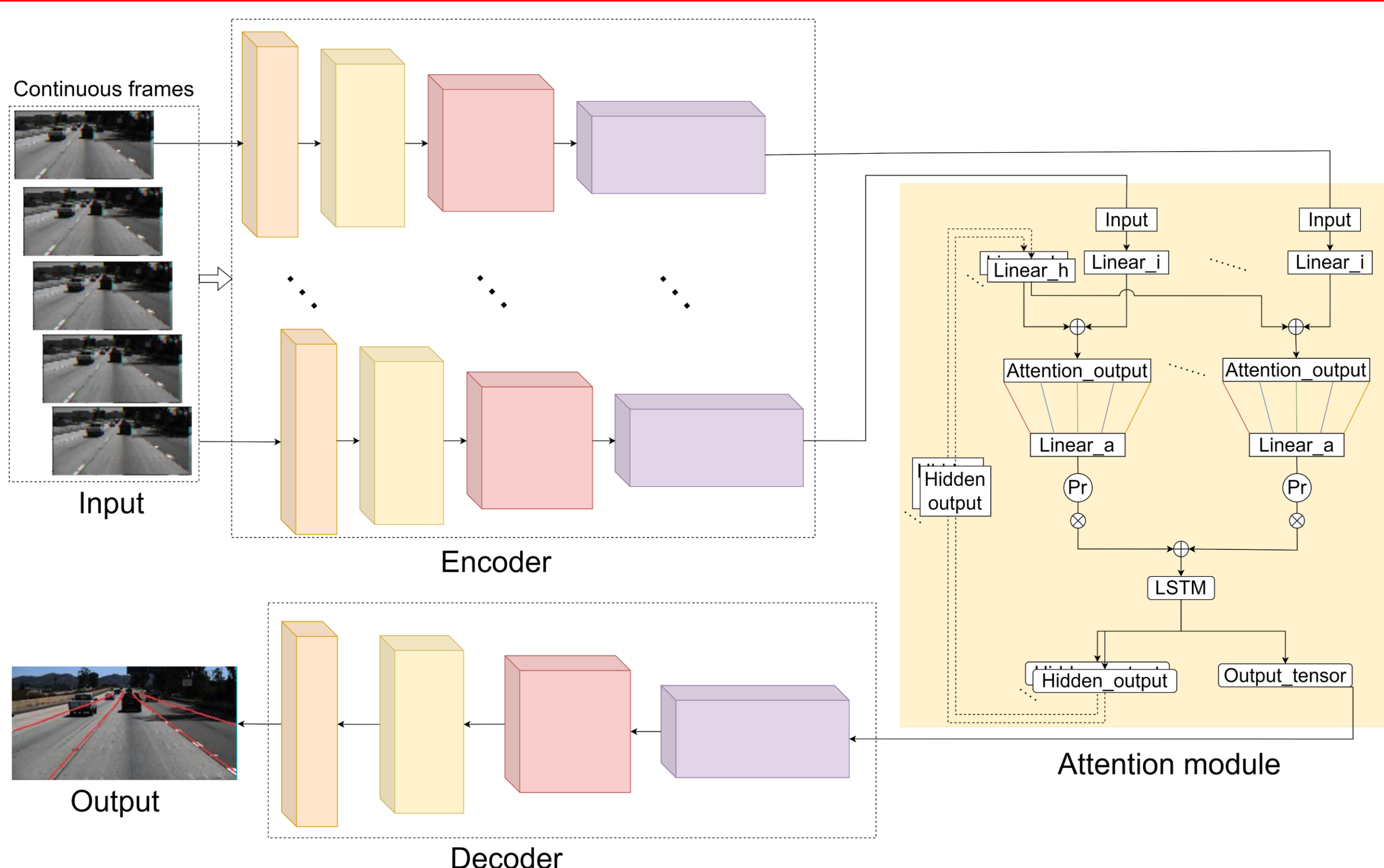


Figure 1. The architecture of the proposed model.

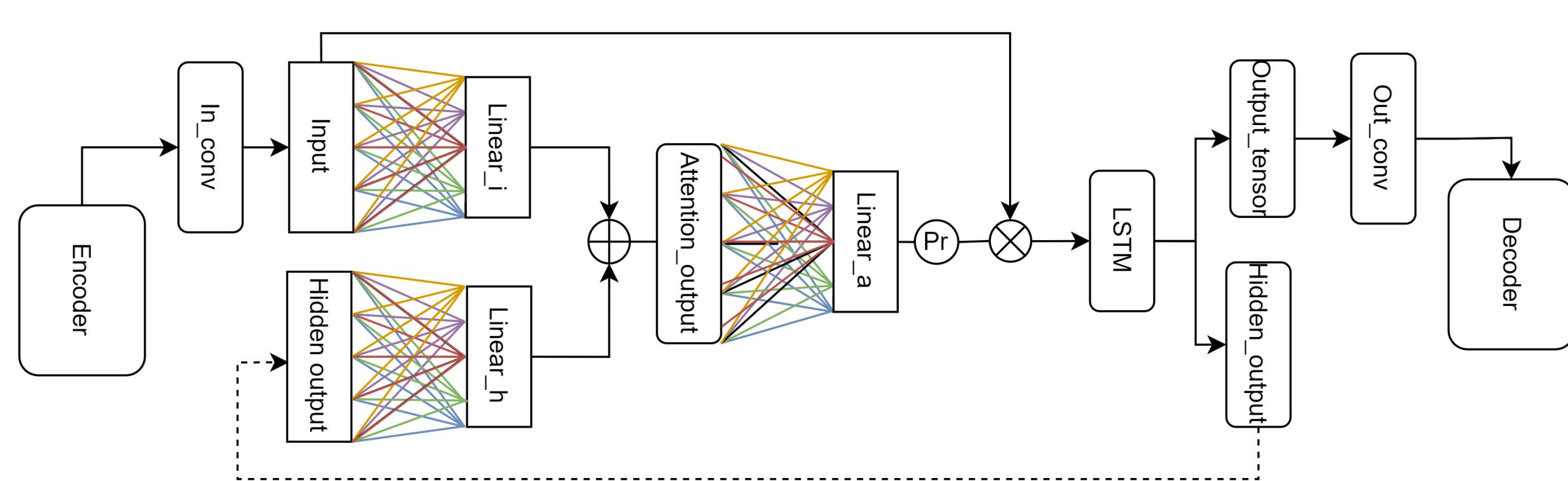


Figure 2. Illustration of spatial-temporal attention with fully connected layers (STFC\_Att).

## Spatial-temporal attention mechanism

$$x^{(t+n)} = (x_{down4}^{(t+n)} * k_{in}) \quad (1)$$

$$z^{(t+n)} = (Ux^{(t+n)} * Vh) \quad (2)$$

$$w^{(t+n)} = softmax(Wz^{(t+n)}) \quad (3)$$

$$\overline{x^{(t)}} = \sum_{n=1}^N w^{(t+n)} x^{(t+n)} \quad (4)$$

After processing the  $N$  images, and getting the average  $\overline{x^{(t)}}$  for the selected sequence,

$$o^{(t+N)}, h^{(t+1+N)} = F(\overline{x^{(t)}}, h) \quad (5)$$

$$x_{out} = (o^{(t+N)} * k_{out}) \quad (6)$$

$$h = h^{(t+1+N)} \quad (7)$$

## RESULTS

Table 1 Quantitative comparison on tvtLane testset #1 (normal)

	Test_Acc (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Measure	MACs (G)	Para (M)
<b>Baseline Models</b>						
U-Net	96.54	0.790	0.985	0.877	15.5	13.4
SegNet	96.93	0.796	0.962	0.871	50.2	29.4
SCNN*	96.79	0.854	0.808	0.722	77.7	19.2
LaneNet*	97.94	0.875	0.927	0.901	44.5	19.7
SegNet_ConvLSTM	97.92	0.874	0.931	0.901	217.0	67.2
UNet_ConvLSTM	98.00	0.857	0.958	0.904	69.0	51.1
<b>Proposed Models</b>						
Tem_Attn-UNet_LSTM	98.08	0.877	0.936	0.906	44.7	13.5
ST_Attn-UNet_LSTM	98.09	0.879	0.941	0.909	44.8	13.5
STFC_Attn-UNet_LSTM	<b>98.14</b>	<b>0.887</b>	0.941	<b>0.911</b>	44.9	13.5
STFC_Attn-UNet_LSTM**	98.20	0.906	0.936	0.921	68.9	13.7

Table 3 Quantitative comparison on TuSimple testing set

	Test_Acc (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Measure	MACs (G)	Params (M)
<b>Baseline Models</b>						
SegNet_ConvLSTM*	97.96	0.852	0.964	0.901	217.0	67.2
UNet_ConvLSTM*	<b>98.22</b>	0.857	0.958	0.904	69.0	51.1
UNet_DoubleConvGRU*	98.04	0.875	0.953	0.912	---	13.4
<b>Proposed Models</b>						
Tem_Attn-UNet_LSTM	98.05	0.876	0.923	0.899	44.7	13.5
ST_Attn-UNet_LSTM	98.14	0.881	0.925	0.902	44.8	13.5
STFC_Attn-UNet_LSTM	<b>98.20</b>	<b>0.886</b>	0.950	<b>0.917</b>	44.9	13.5

Table 2 Quantitative comparison on tvtLane testset #2 (12 challenging scenes)

Models	Challenging Scenes	PRECISION											
		1-curve & occlude	2-shadows	3-bright	4-occlude	5-curve & occlude	6-occlude	7-urban	8-lane & curve	9-lane	10-shadows	11-lane	12-curve & occlude
U-Net	0.7018	0.7441	0.6717	0.6517	0.7443	0.3994	0.4422	0.7612	0.8523	0.7881	0.7009	0.7968	
SegNet	0.6810	0.7067	0.2987	0.2132	0.7738	0.2411	0.3195	0.6642	0.7091	0.7499	0.6225	0.6463	
UNet_ConvLSTM	0.7591	0.8292	0.7971	0.8509	0.8845	0.4153	0.5118	<b>0.8290</b>	<b>0.8484</b>	0.9358	0.7925	<b>0.8402</b>	
SegNet_ConvLSTM	0.8176	0.8020	0.7200	0.6688	0.8645	<b>0.8724</b>	0.4061	0.7988	0.8378	0.8032	0.7753	0.8052	
Tem_Attn-UNet_LSTM	<b>0.8430</b>	<b>0.8090</b>	0.7732	0.5740	0.8322	0.4692	0.4567	0.8358	0.8906	0.9244	0.7893	0.8046	
ST_Attn-UNet_LSTM	0.7938	0.8743	<b>0.8013</b>	0.7014	<b>0.8884</b>	<b>0.8255</b>	<b>0.8035</b>	0.8290	0.8517	0.9296	0.7516	0.8218	
STFC_Attn-UNet_LSTM	0.8239	0.8762	0.7646	<b>0.8701</b>	0.8873	0.8299	0.4848	0.7354	0.9023	<b>0.8395</b>	<b>0.8794</b>	0.7542	

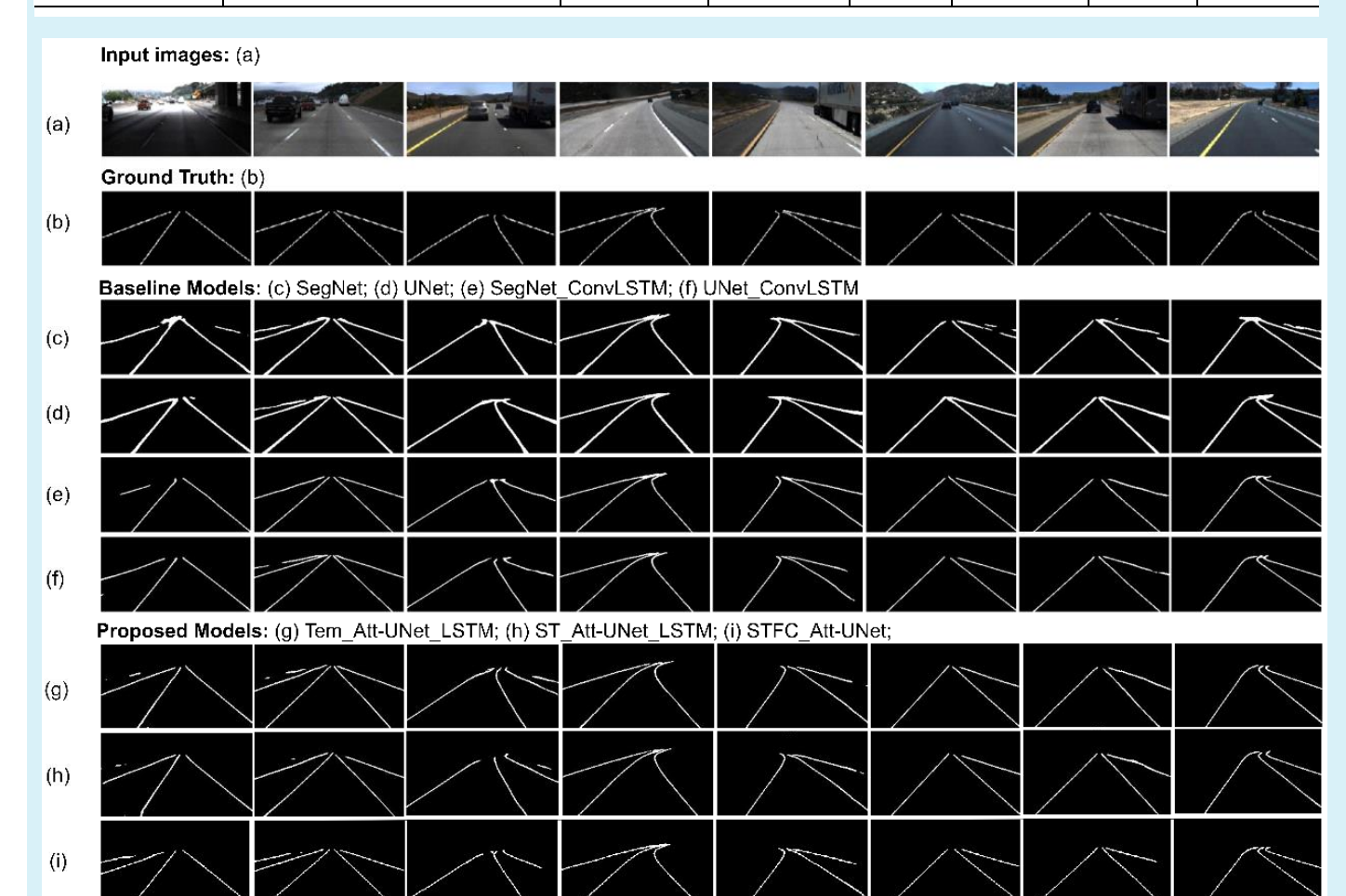


Figure 3. Qualitative comparison on tvtLANE testset #1 (normal).

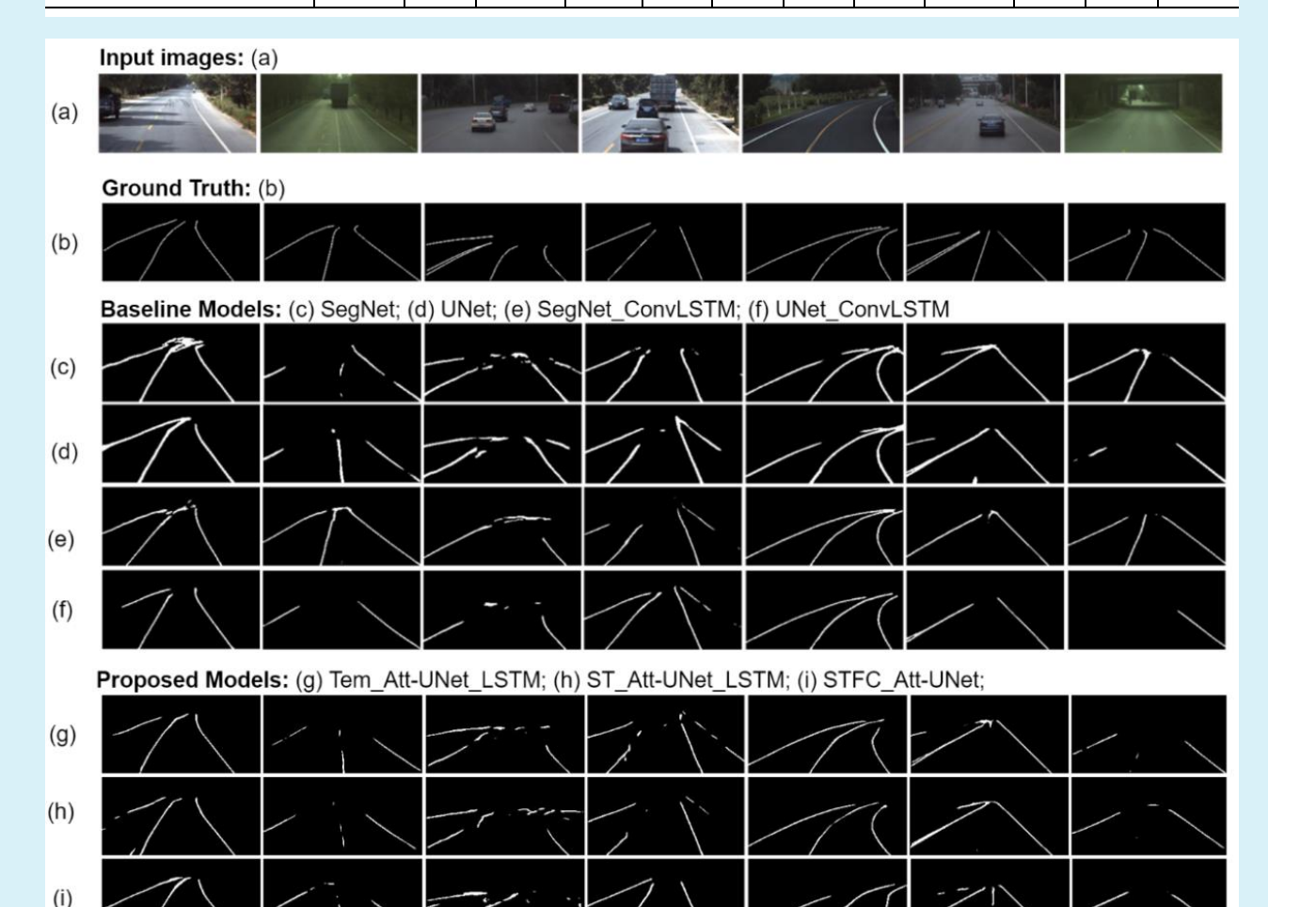


Figure 4. Qualitative comparison on tvtLANE testset #2 (challenging).



Figure 5. Qualitative evaluation results on the LLAMAS dataset.

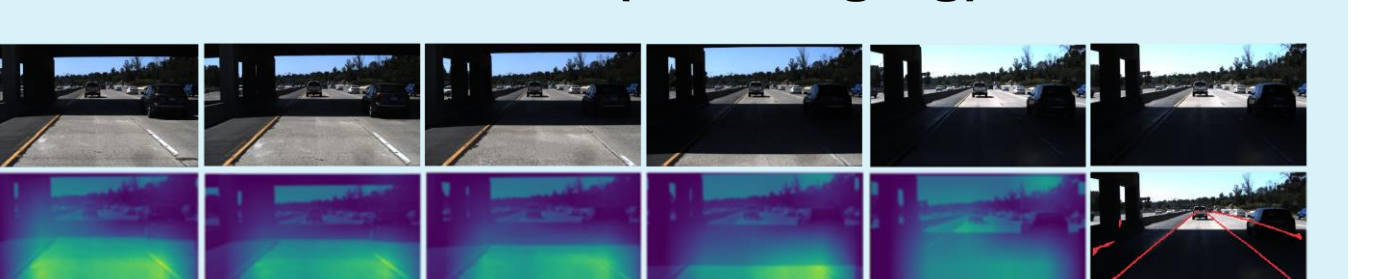


Figure 6. Post-explanation: visualization of lane detection under a bridge with shadow and occlusion.

## CONCLUSION

- The proposed spatial-temporal attention mechanism can focus on key features of lane lines and exploit salient spatial-temporal relevance among continuous frames.
- The proposed model can cooperate with other mechanisms or model structures, and outperforms available state-of-the-art methods in various testing.
- The proposed model possess fewer parameters and smaller multiply-accumulate (MAC) operations.

