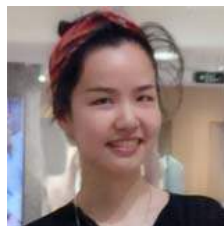


# **AI-Sketcher: A Deep Generative Model for Generating High Quality Sketches**

Nan Cao, **Xin Yan**, Yang Shi, Chaoran Chen



Intelligent Big Data Visualization Lab  
Tongji University





## BACKGROUND - Cave Painting

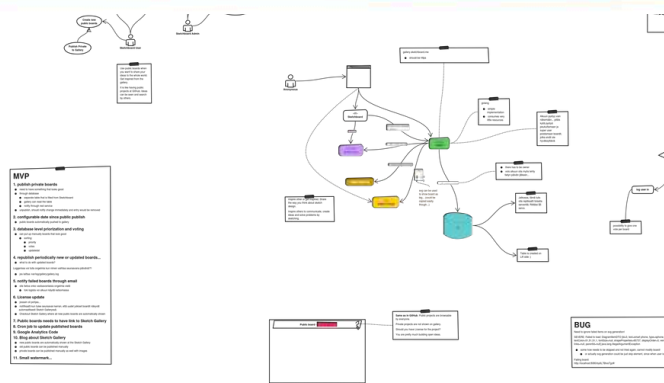
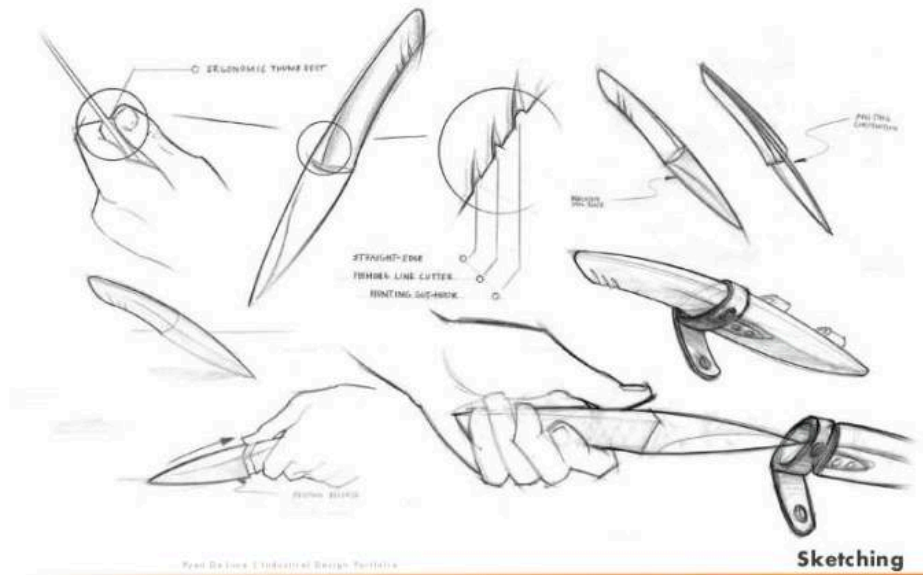




## BACKGROUND - Children's Drawings



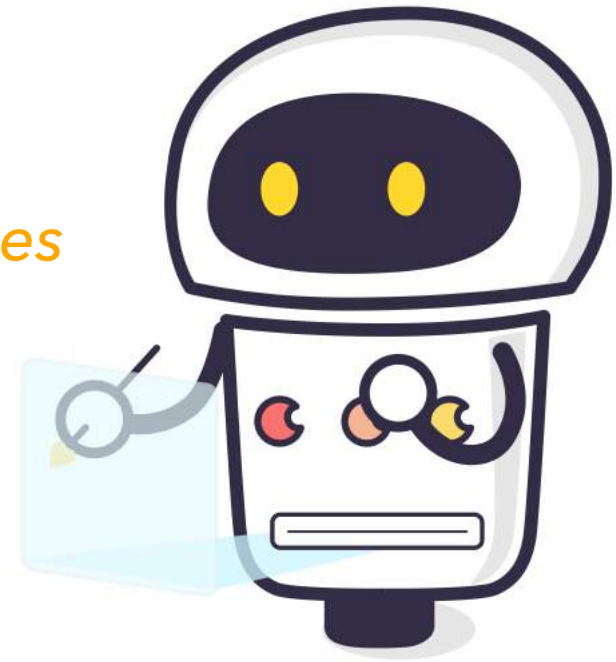
# BACKGROUND - Design Sketches



## **BACKGROUND** - Design Sketches



*Can **AI** help designers create high quality sketches and boost their productivity and creativity?*





Style: Cartoon ▾

Gender: Female ▾

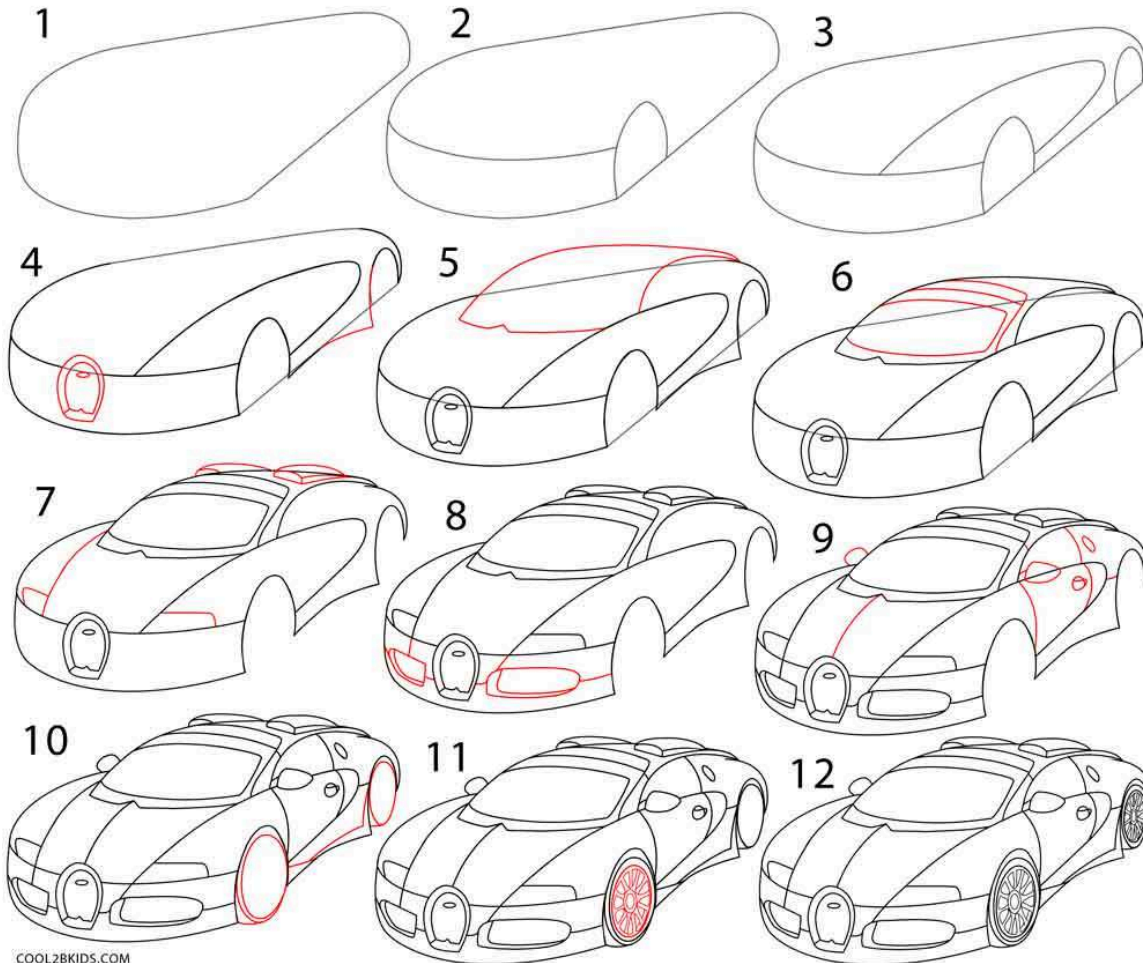


Optimize your drawings here!



# CHARACTERISTICS OF SKETCHING

## How to Draw a Bugatti



COOL2BKIDS.COM

A. Multiple steps

B. Stroke by stroke

C. Only line matters



## Reference Pipeline for AI-Supported Sketching

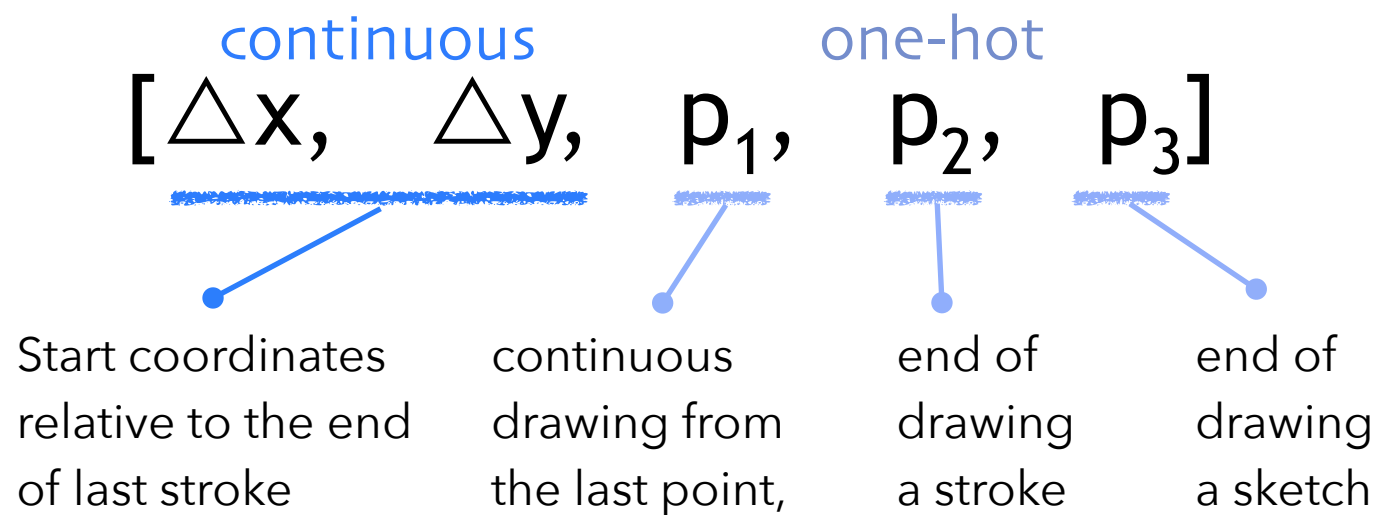


# Stroke Encoding

## Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating

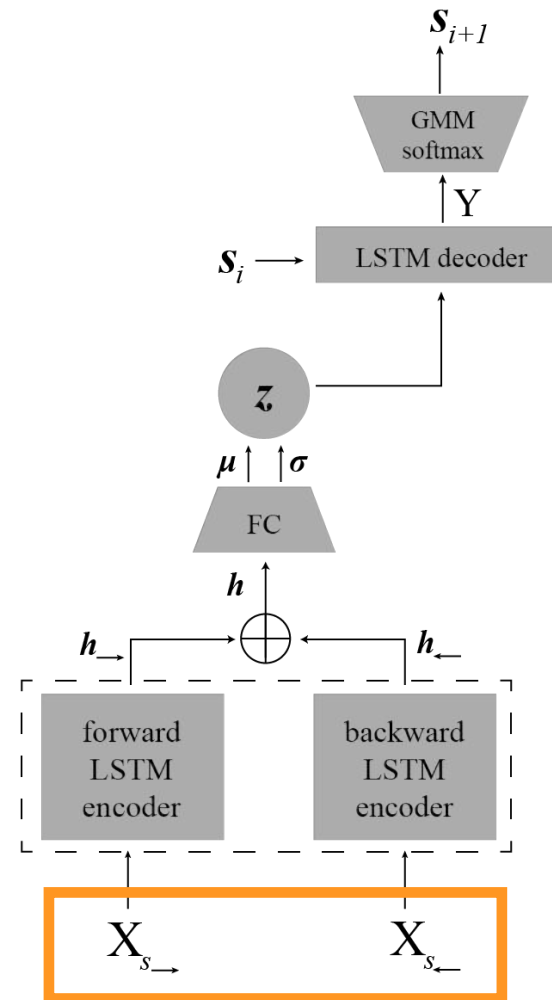


# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Current Stroke

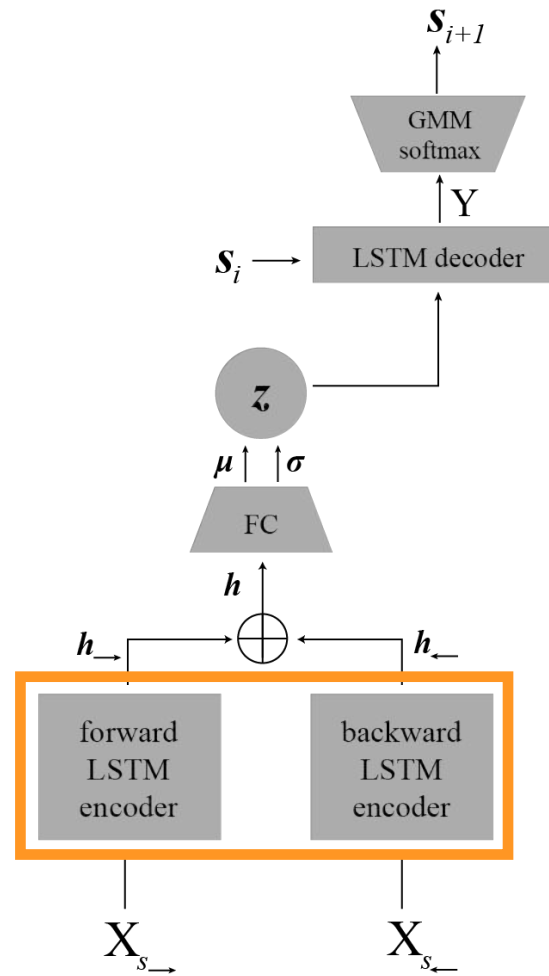


# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



**Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)**

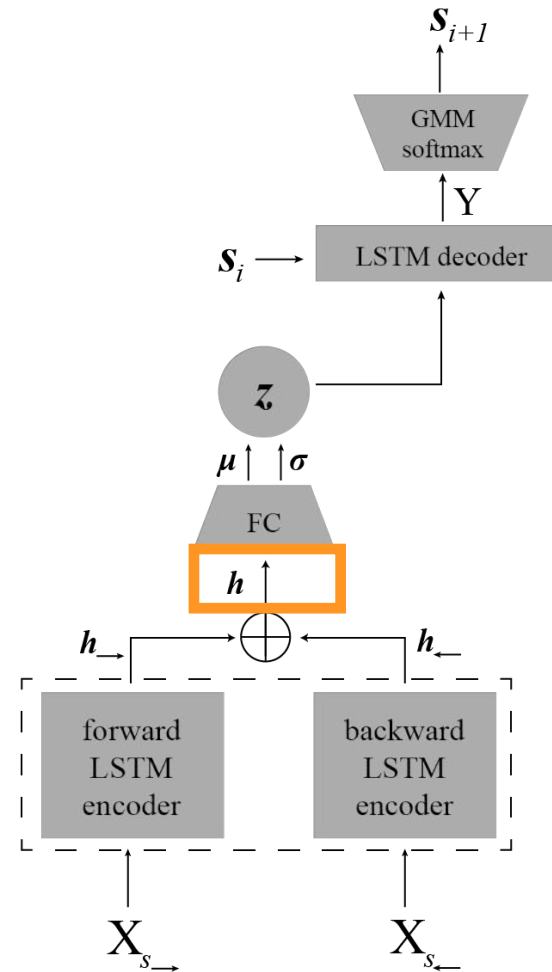
Current Stroke

# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Latent Vector Capturing the drawing behaviors

Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)

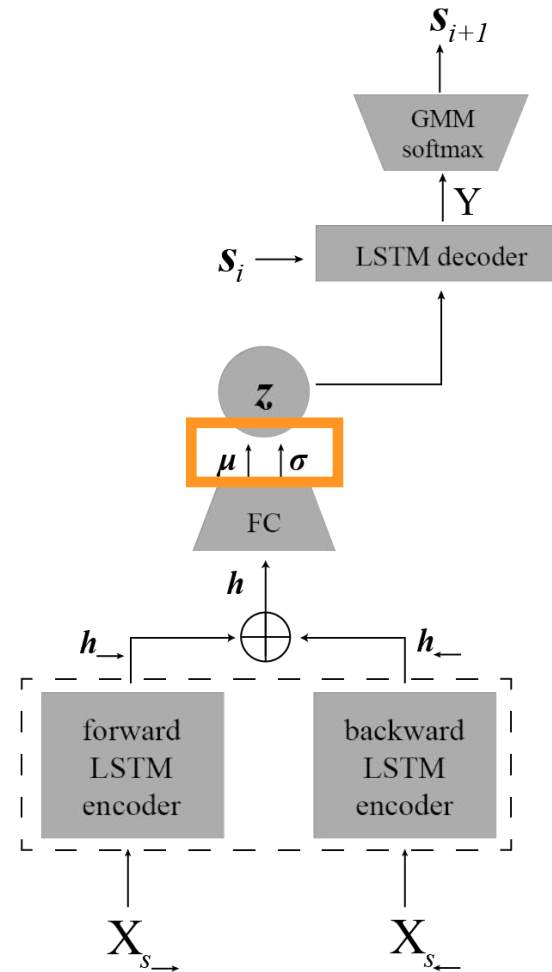
Current Stroke

# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Distribution of strokes

Latent Vector Capturing the drawing behaviors

Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)

Current Stroke

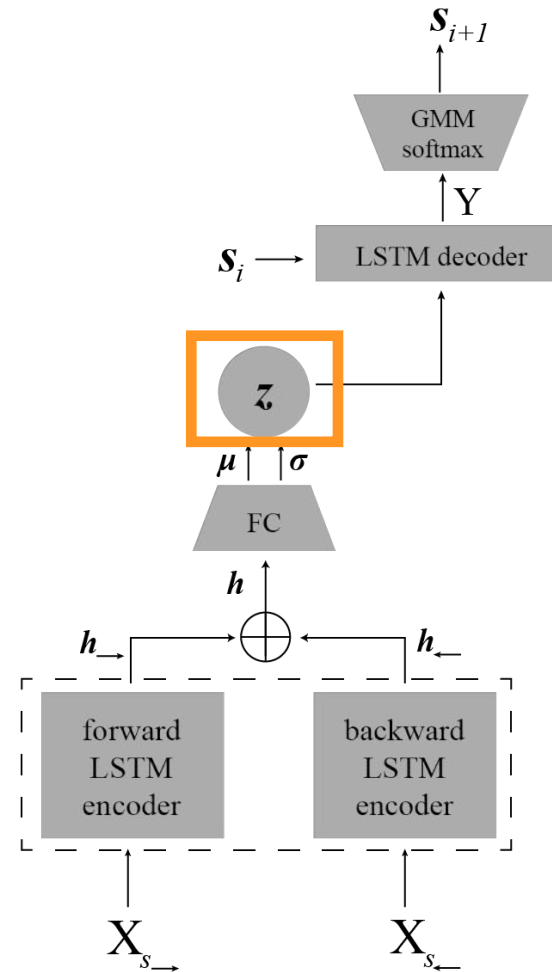


# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Random Sampling for Stroke Generation

Distribution of strokes

Latent Vector Capturing the drawing behaviors

Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)

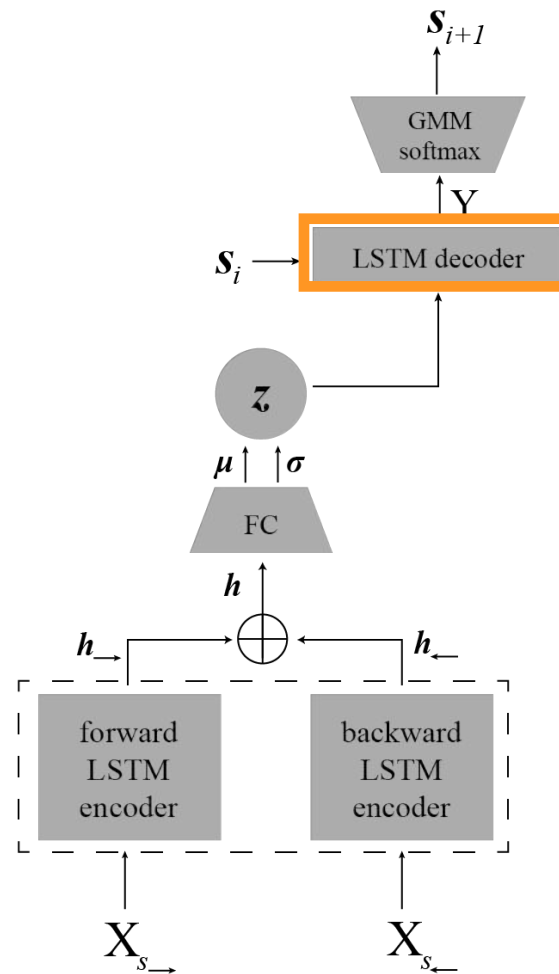
Current Stroke

# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Decoder

Random Sampling for Stroke Generation

Distribution of strokes

Latent Vector Capturing the drawing behaviors

Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)

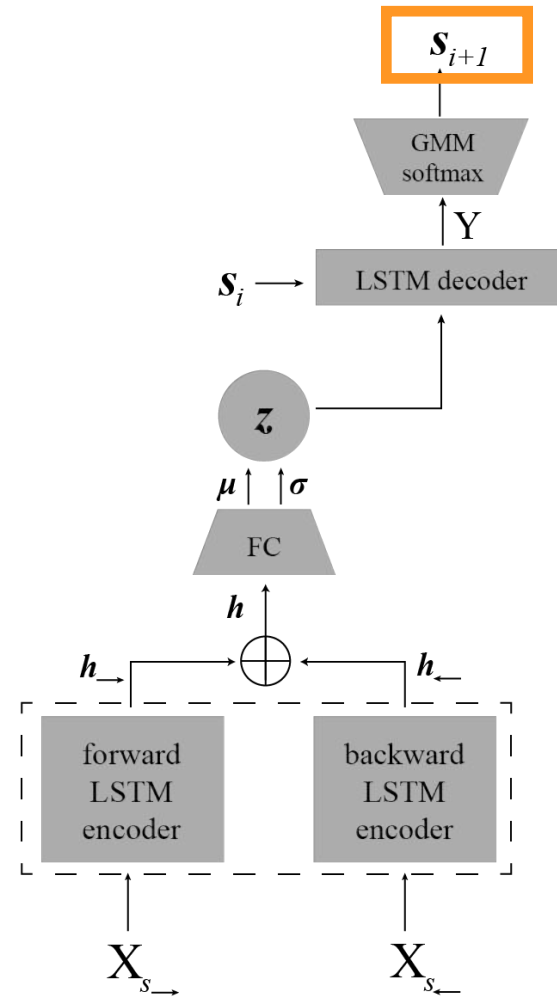
Current Stroke

# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating



Vector of the next Stroke

Decoder

Random Sampling for Stroke Generation

Distribution of strokes

Latent Vector Capturing the drawing behaviors

Encoder: Bidirectional RNN (BRNN)

Current Stroke



# I Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

**Learning**

Generating

**LOSS Function :**

$$\sum_{i=1}^N l_i$$

# | Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating

**LOSS Function :**  $\sum_{i=1}^N l_i$

$$l_i(\theta, \phi) = -E_{z \sim q_\theta(z|x_i)} [\log p_\phi(x_i|z)] + KL(q_\theta(z|x_i) || p(z))$$

# Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating

**LOSS Function :**

$$\sum_{i=1}^N l_i$$

$$l_i(\theta, \phi) = \underbrace{-E_{z \sim q_\theta(z|x_i)} [\log p_\phi(x_i|z)]}_{\text{Reconstruction Loss}} + KL(q_\theta(z|x_i) || p(z))$$

**Reconstruction Loss**

Expected negative log-likelihood of the  $i$ -th image

Encourages the decoder to learn to reconstruct the data

# | Learning (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

Generating

**LOSS Function :**

$$\sum_{i=1}^N l_i$$

$$l_i(\theta, \phi) = -E_{z \sim q_\theta(z|x_i)} [\log p_\phi(x_i|z)] + \underline{KL(q_\theta(z|x_i) || p(z))}$$

**KL Loss**

Measure of how close q is to p = N(0,1)



# Generating (Sketch-RNN)

Stroke Encoding

Learning

**Generating**

```
sketch-rnn cat auto-encoder.
```

clear drawing

cat



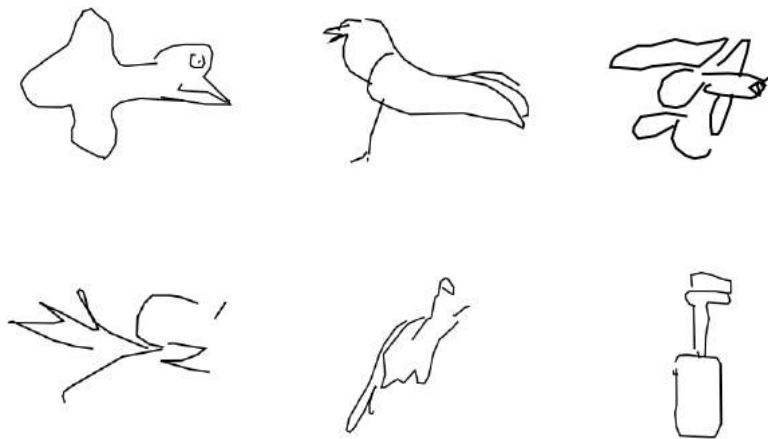
random

auto-encode

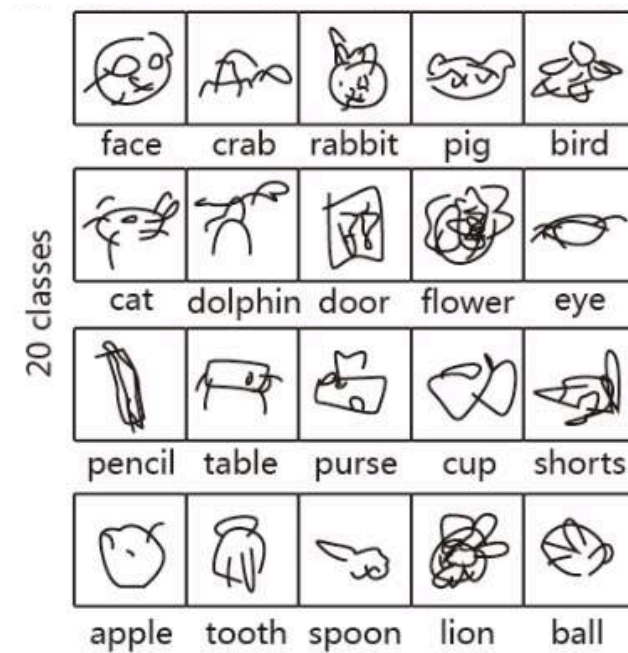
# **LIMITATION OF SKETCH-RNN**

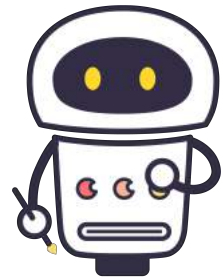
## **Low quality**

1. generating sketches in one category (bird).



2. dealing with multi-class situations

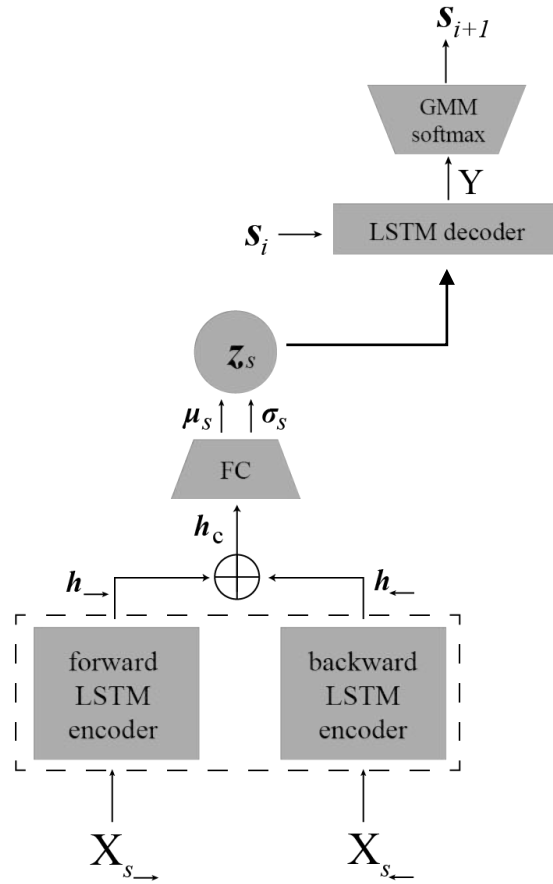




# AI-Sketcher

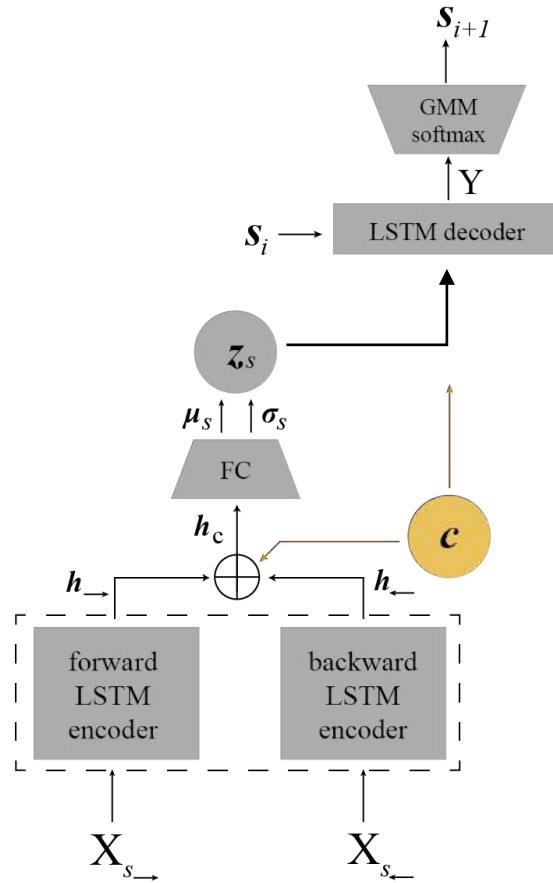
a hybrid deep learning model to automatically generate high quality sketch drawings by learning sequences of strokes

# AI-SKETCHER



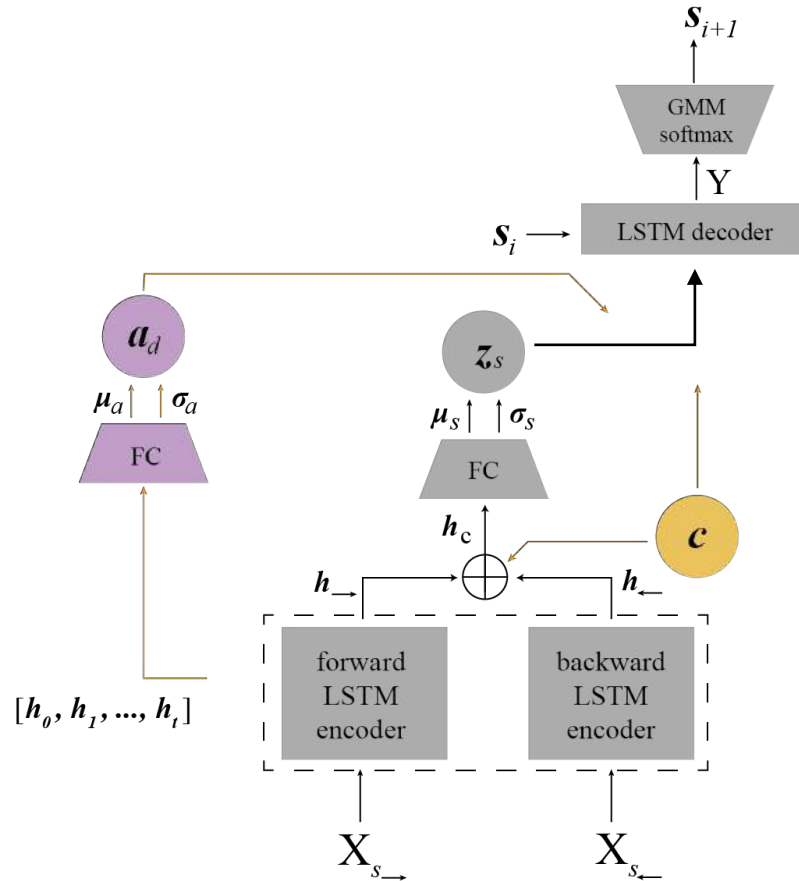


# AI-SKETCHER



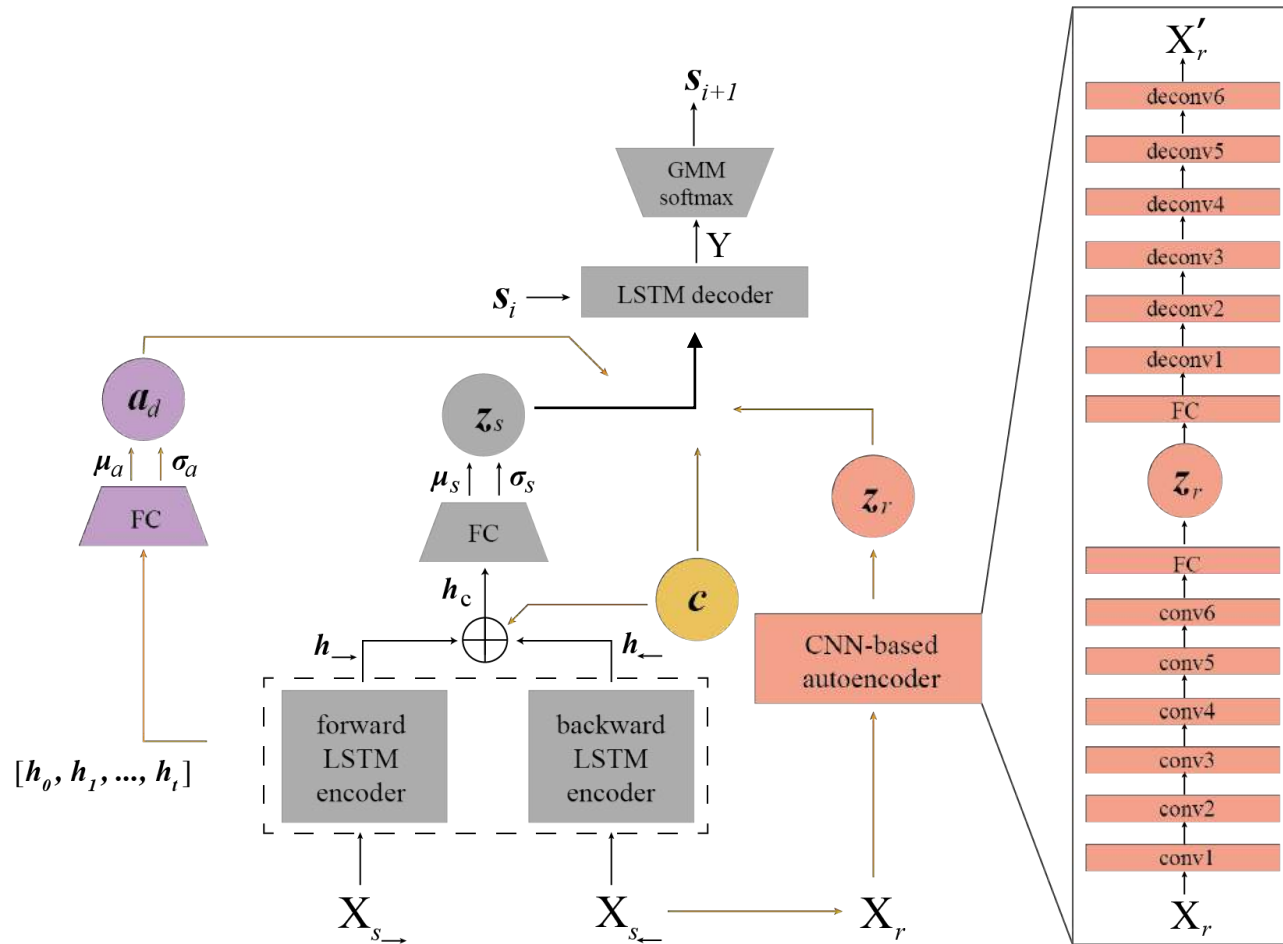
- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

# AI-SKETCHER



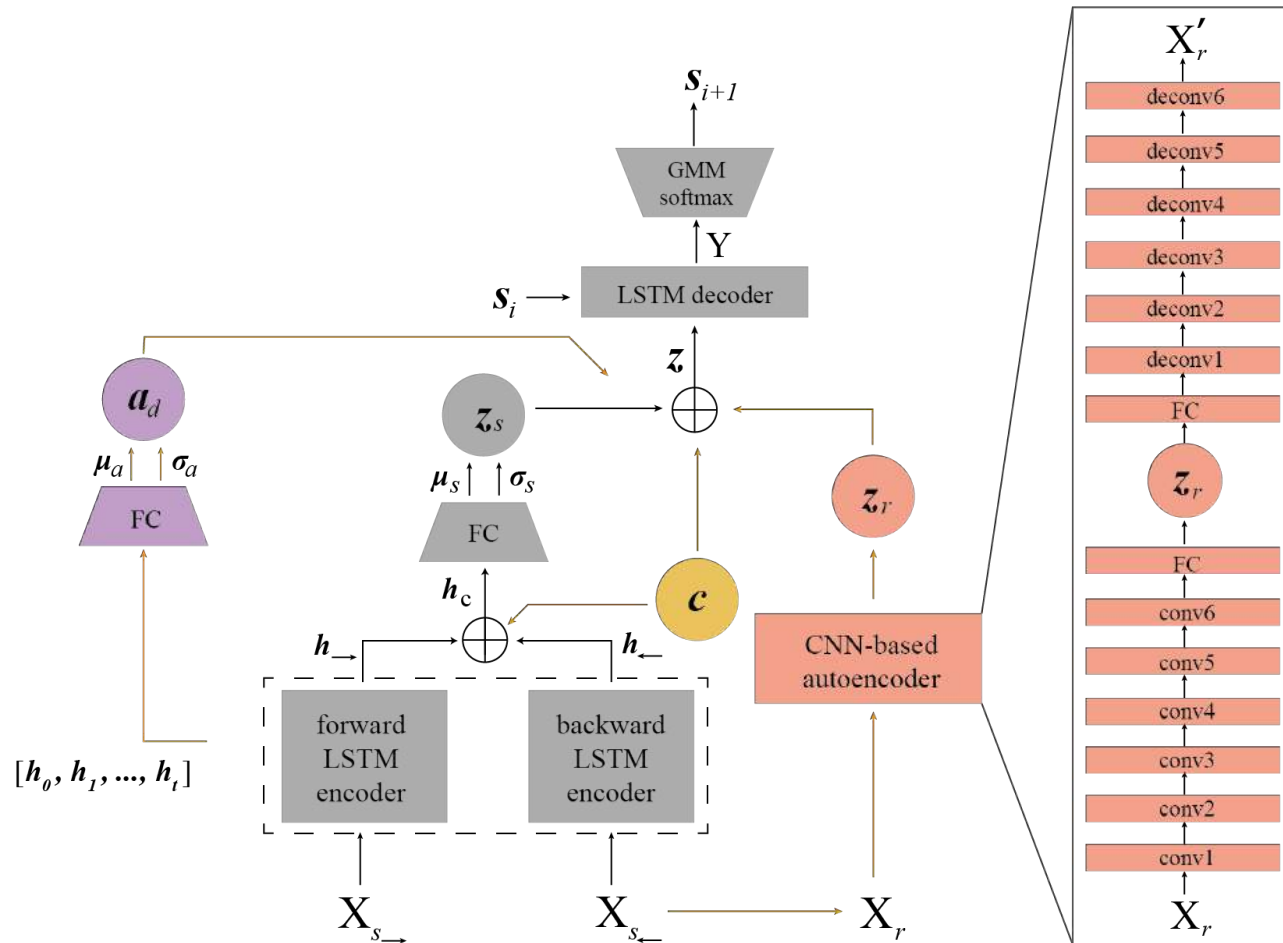
- **A conditional vector** is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.
- **A fully-connected layer is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.**

# AI-SKETCHER



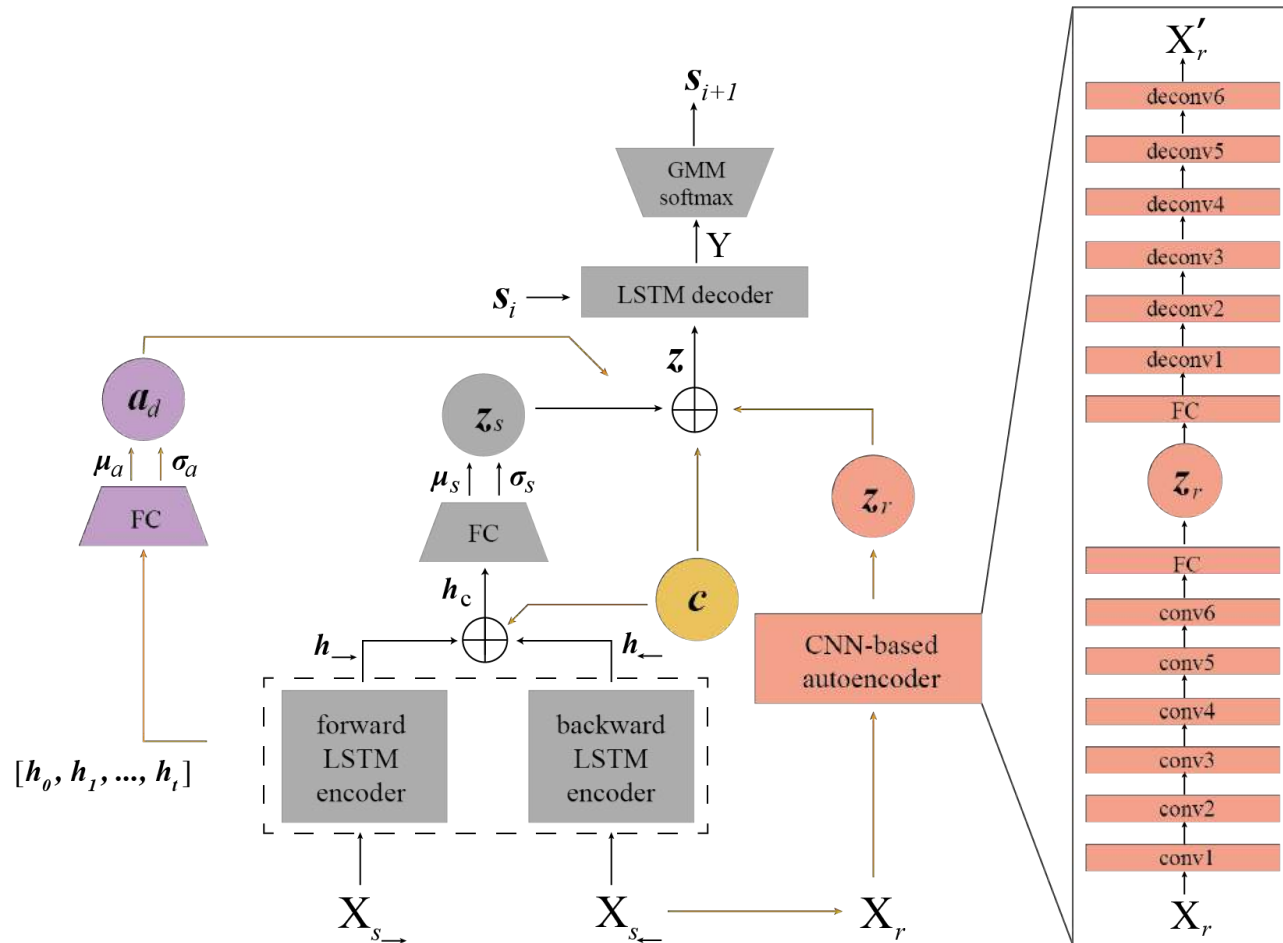
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# AI-SKETCHER



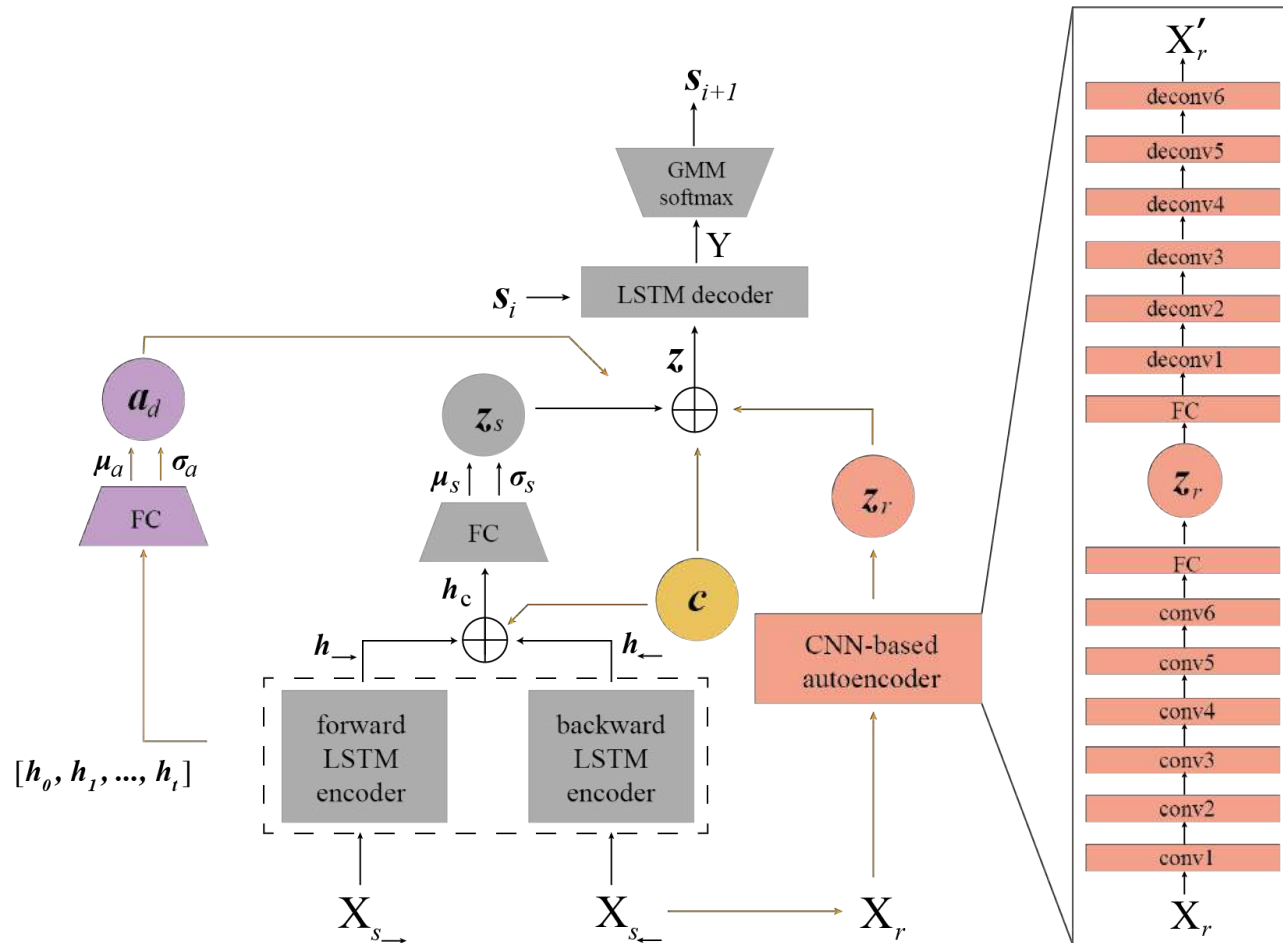
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- **Loss function is modified.**

# AI-SKETCHER



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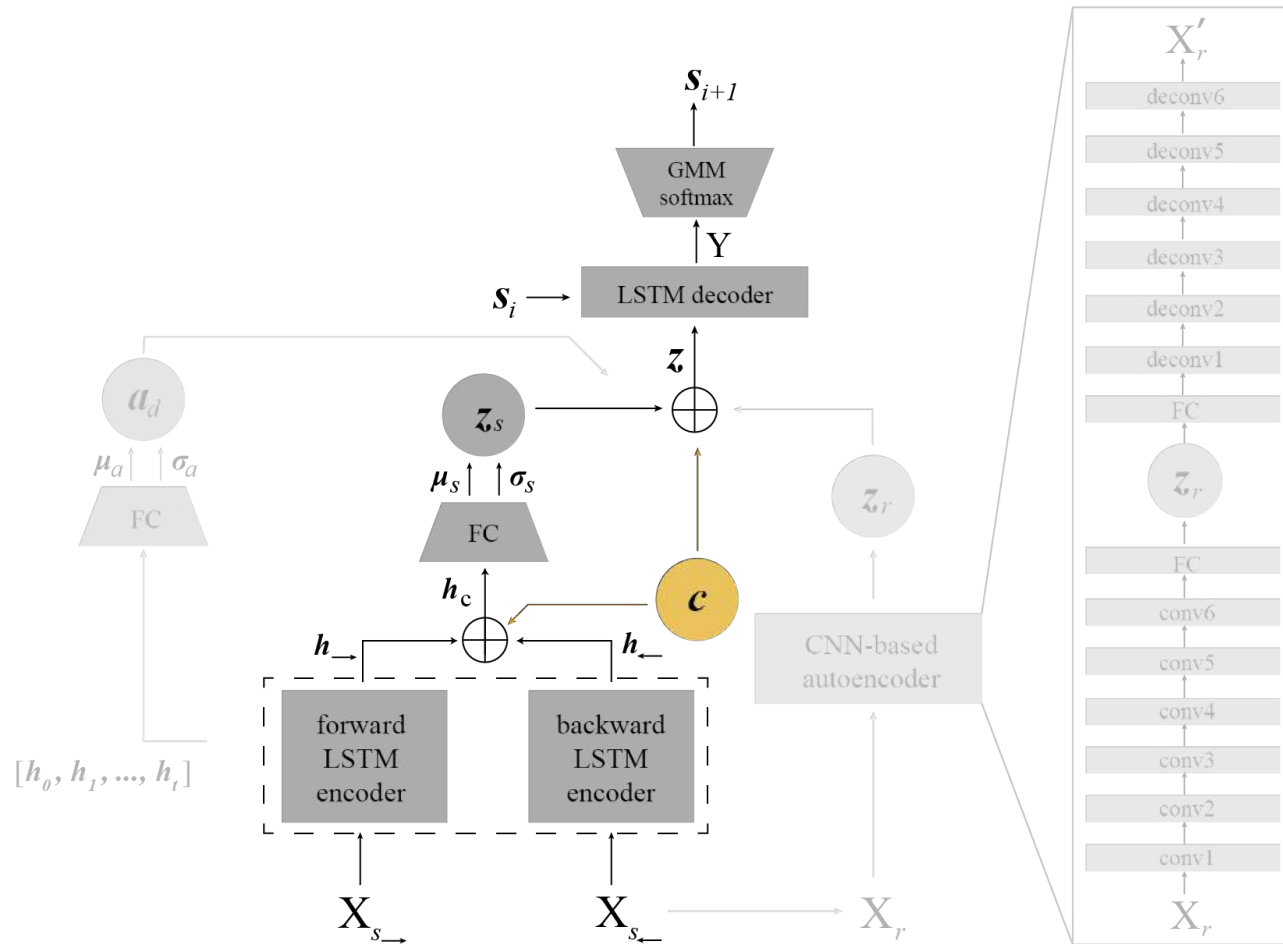
# AI-SKETCHER



- **A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.**
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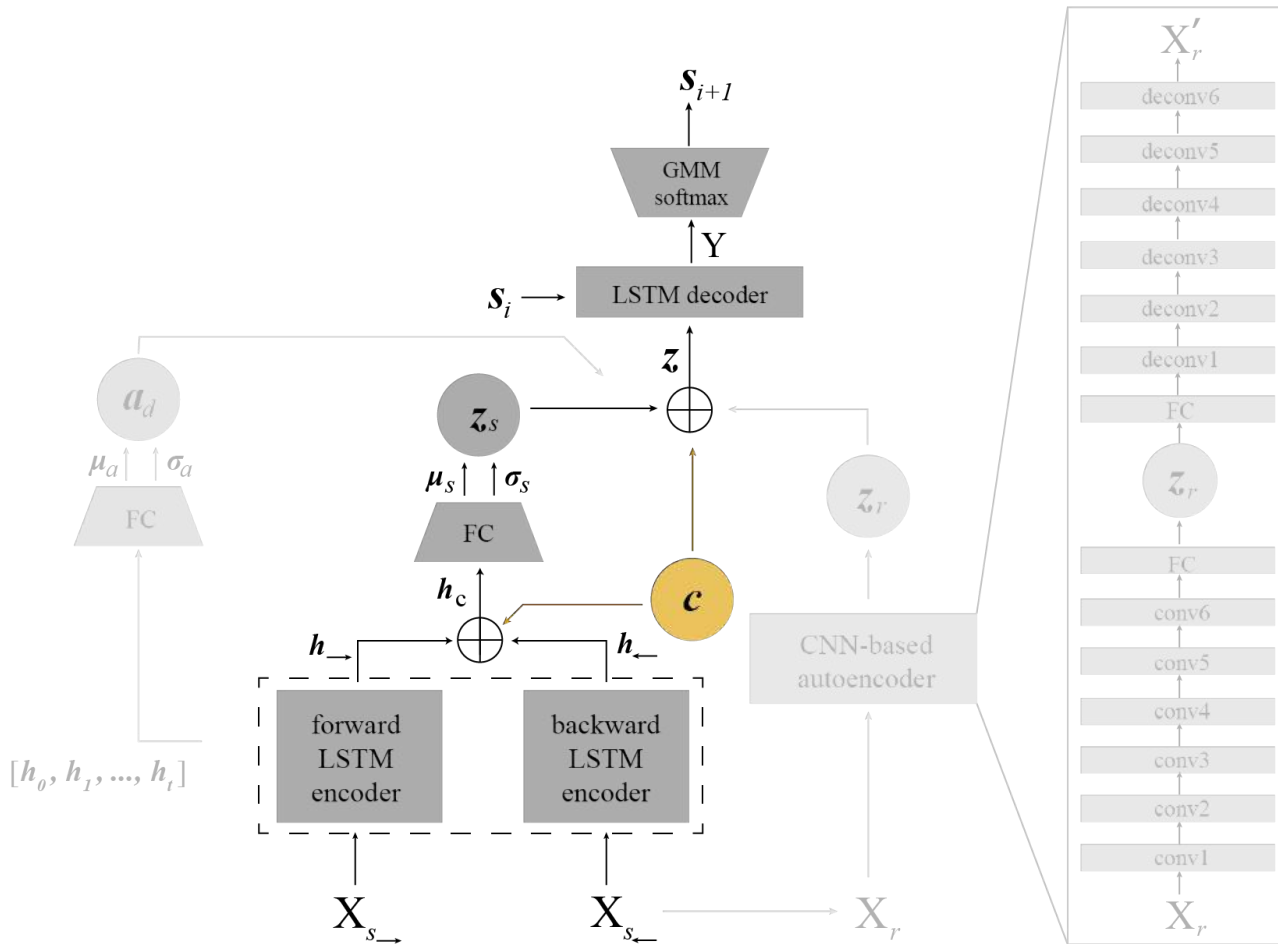


# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE



- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

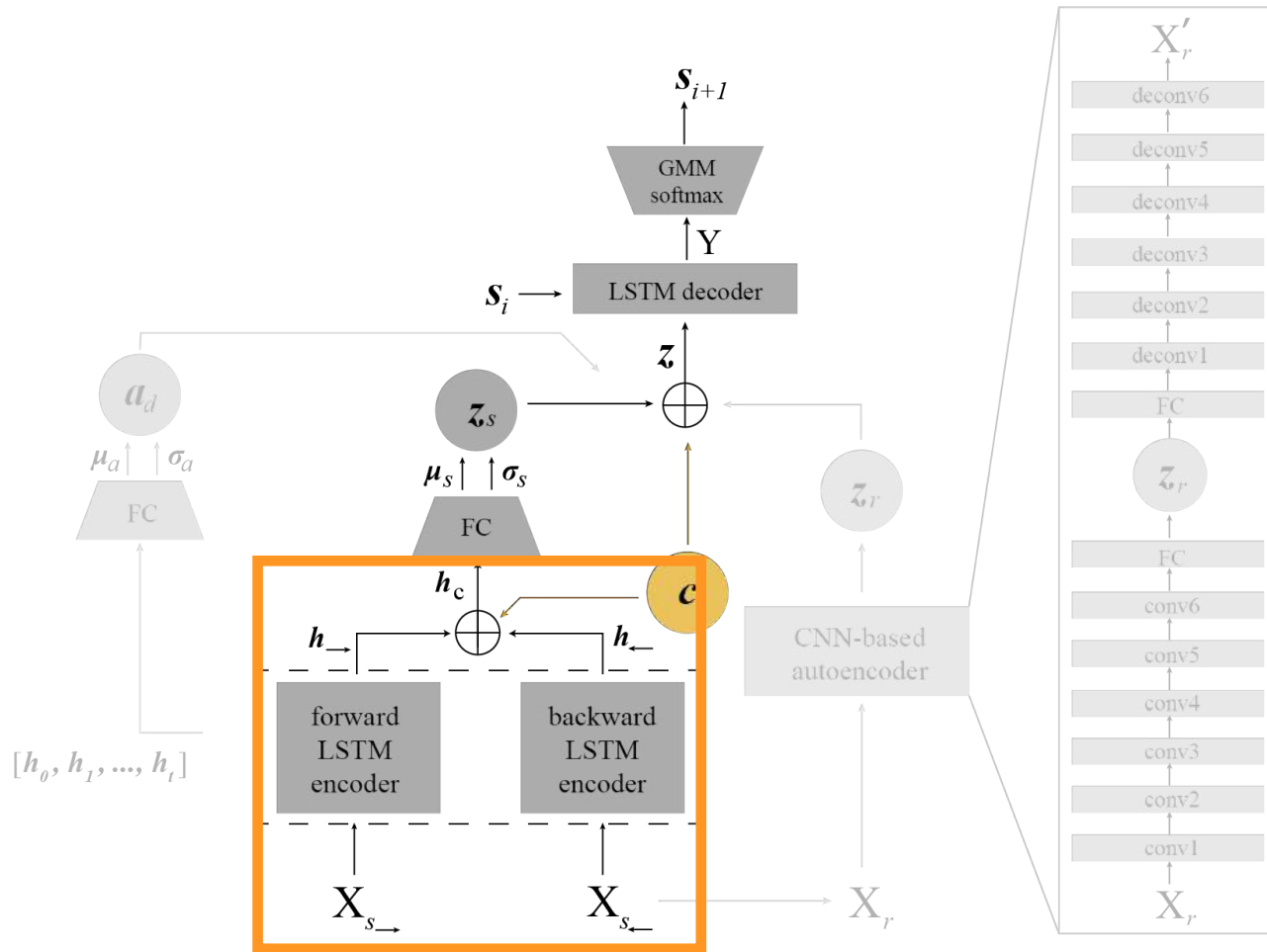
# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE



- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

**Encoder:** Bidirectional RNN

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE

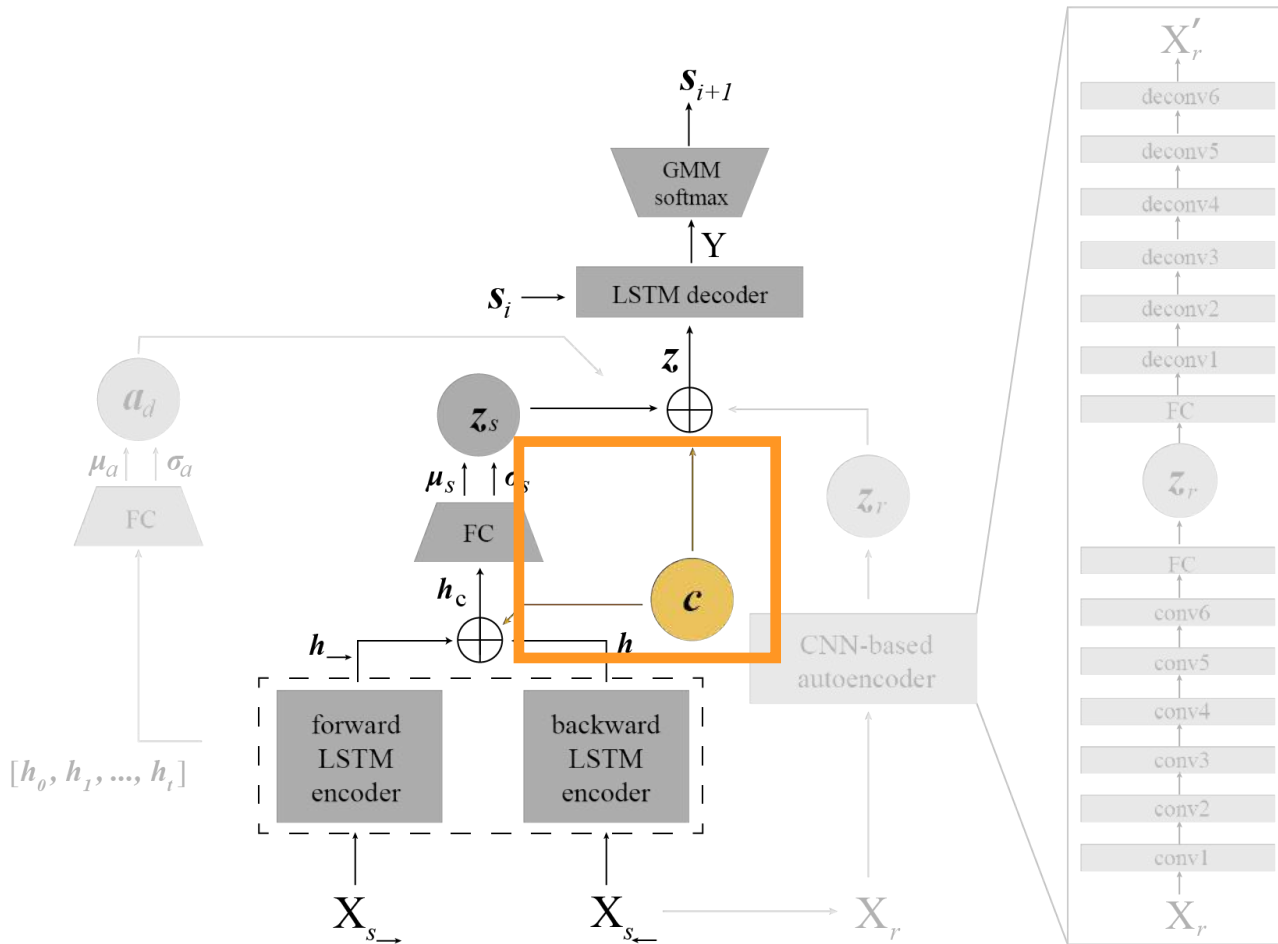


- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

$X_s$ : the sequences of strokes.

$$h^{enc} = \text{encode}(X_s)$$

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE

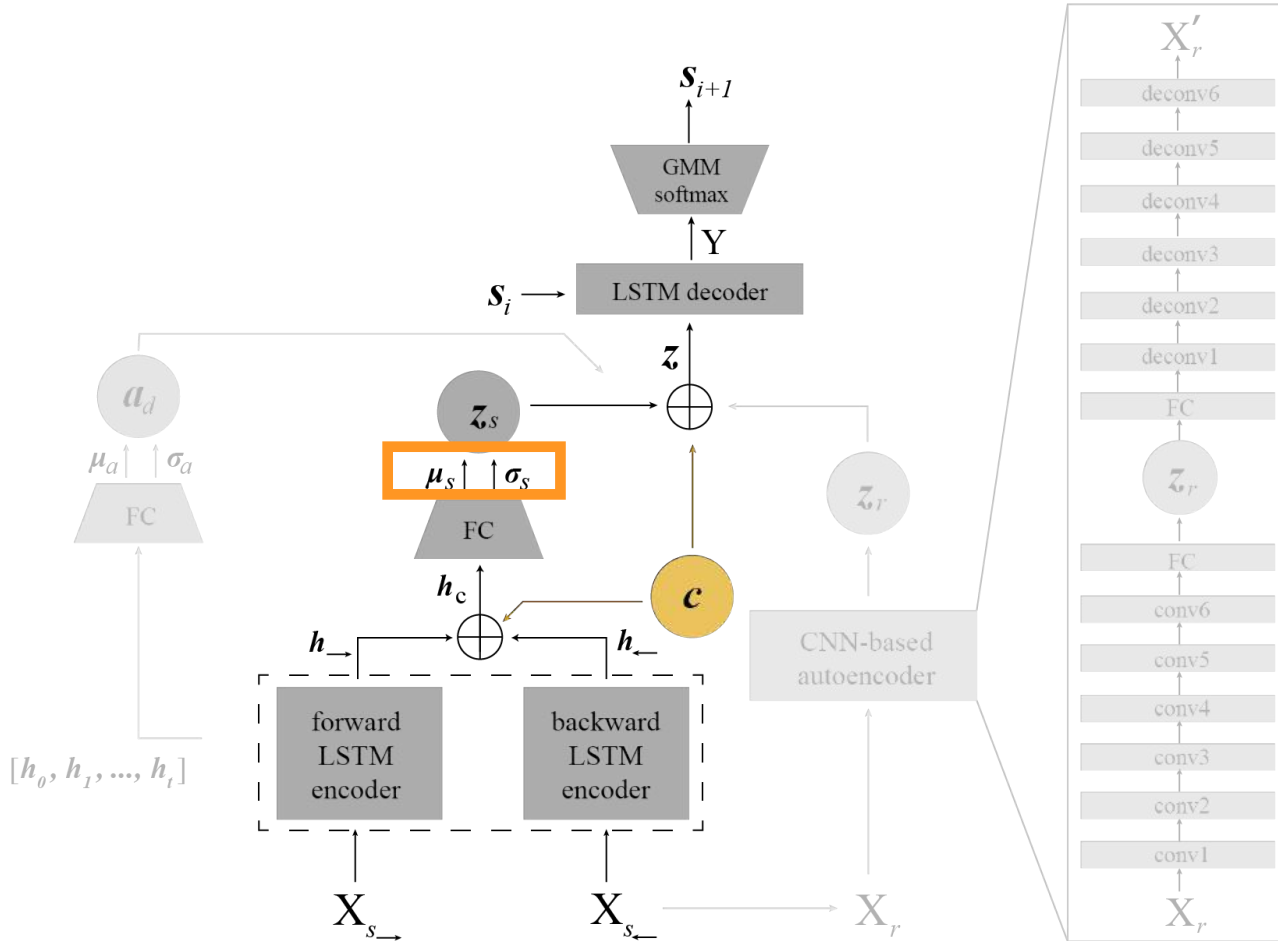


- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

$$h_c = [h^{enc}; c]$$

$c$  is a k-dimensional one-hot conditional vector with k indicates the number of conditions.

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE



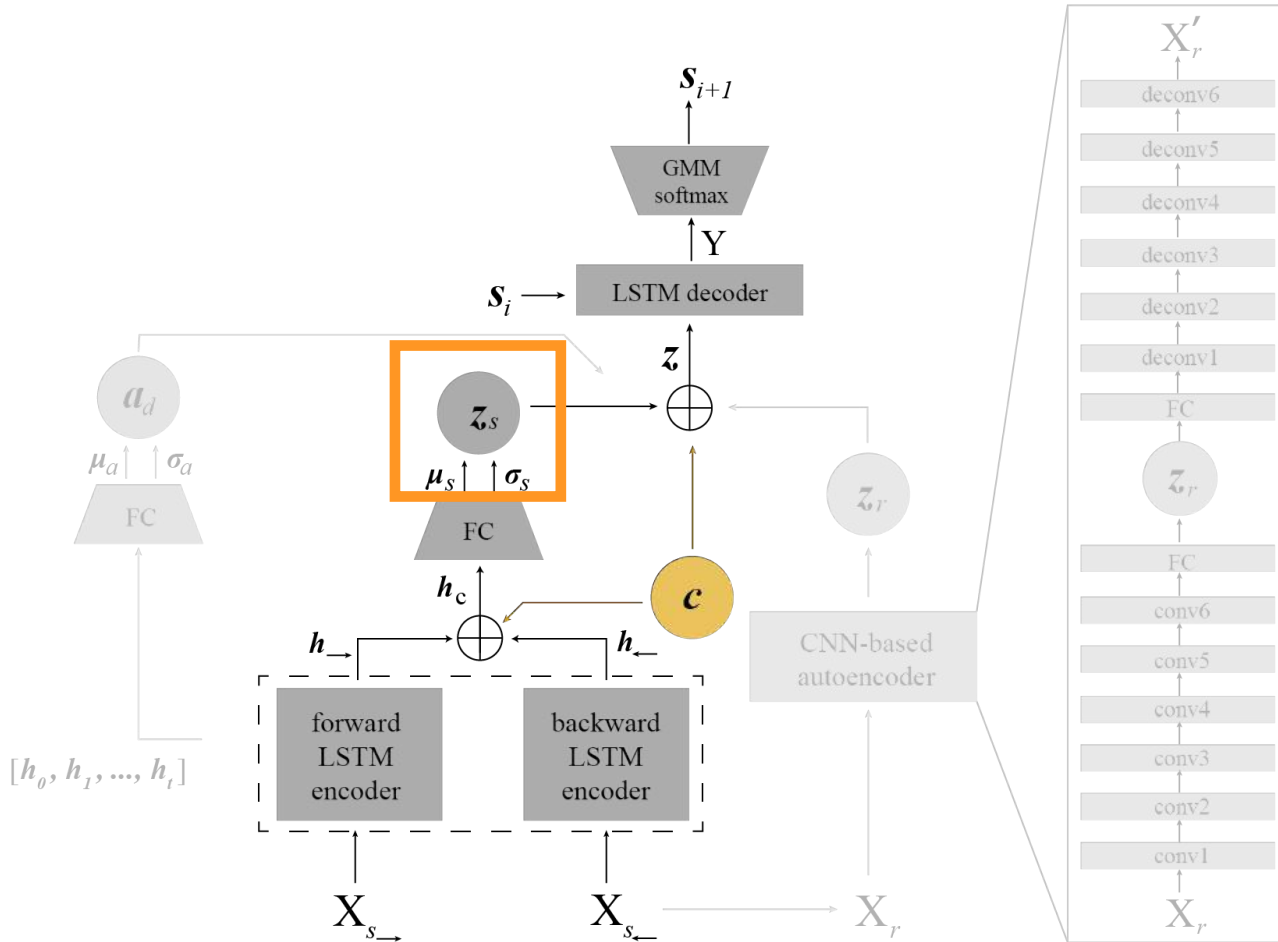
- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

$h_c$  is further transformed into two vectors to capture the distributions of the training strokes:

$$\mu_s = W_\mu h_c + b_\mu$$

$$\sigma_s = \exp\left(\frac{W_\sigma h_c + b_\sigma}{2}\right)$$

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE



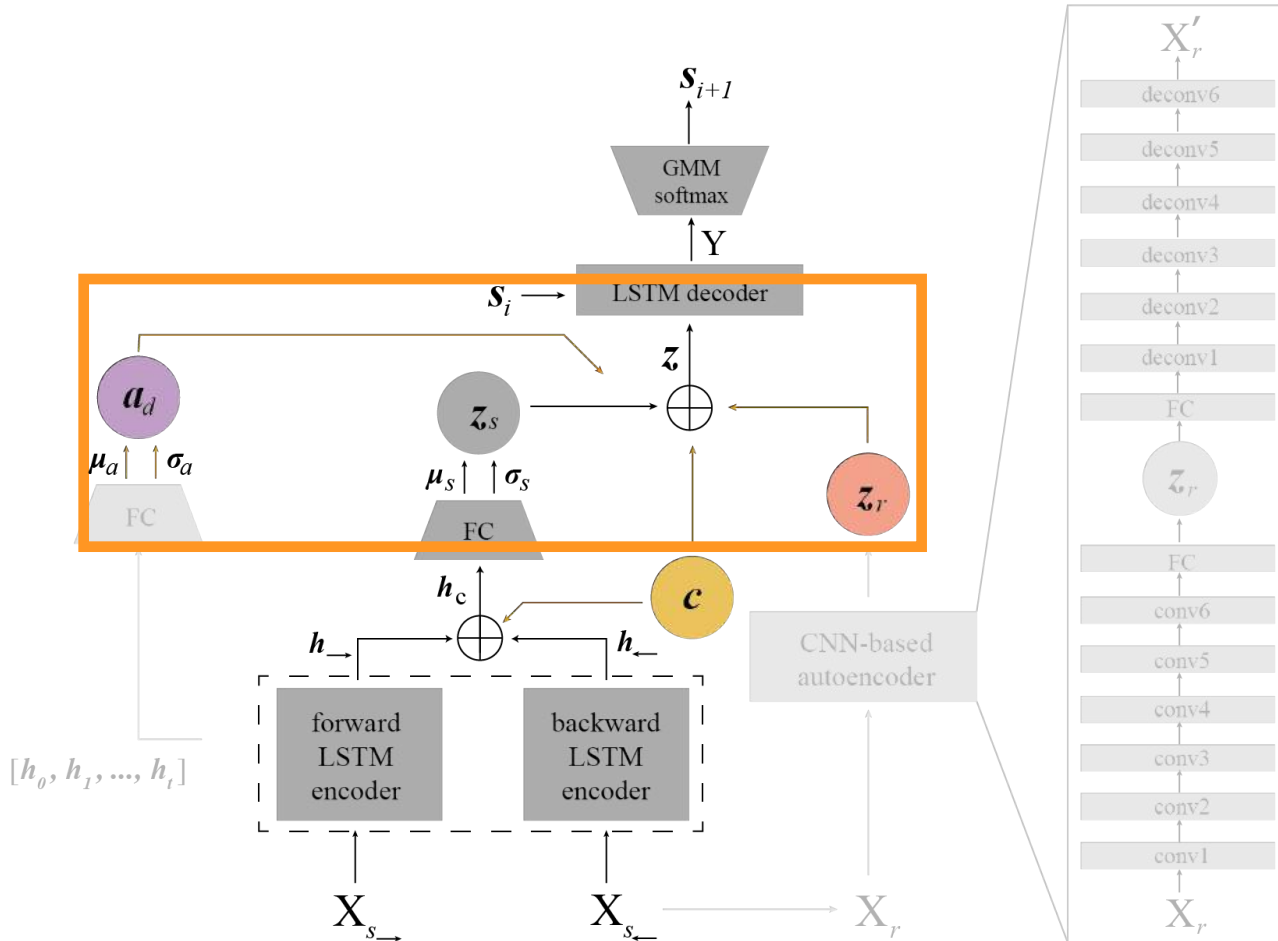
- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

A latent vector has been randomly sampled from the distributions for generating the next strokes:

$$z_s = \mu_s + \sigma_s \cdot \lambda$$



# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE



- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

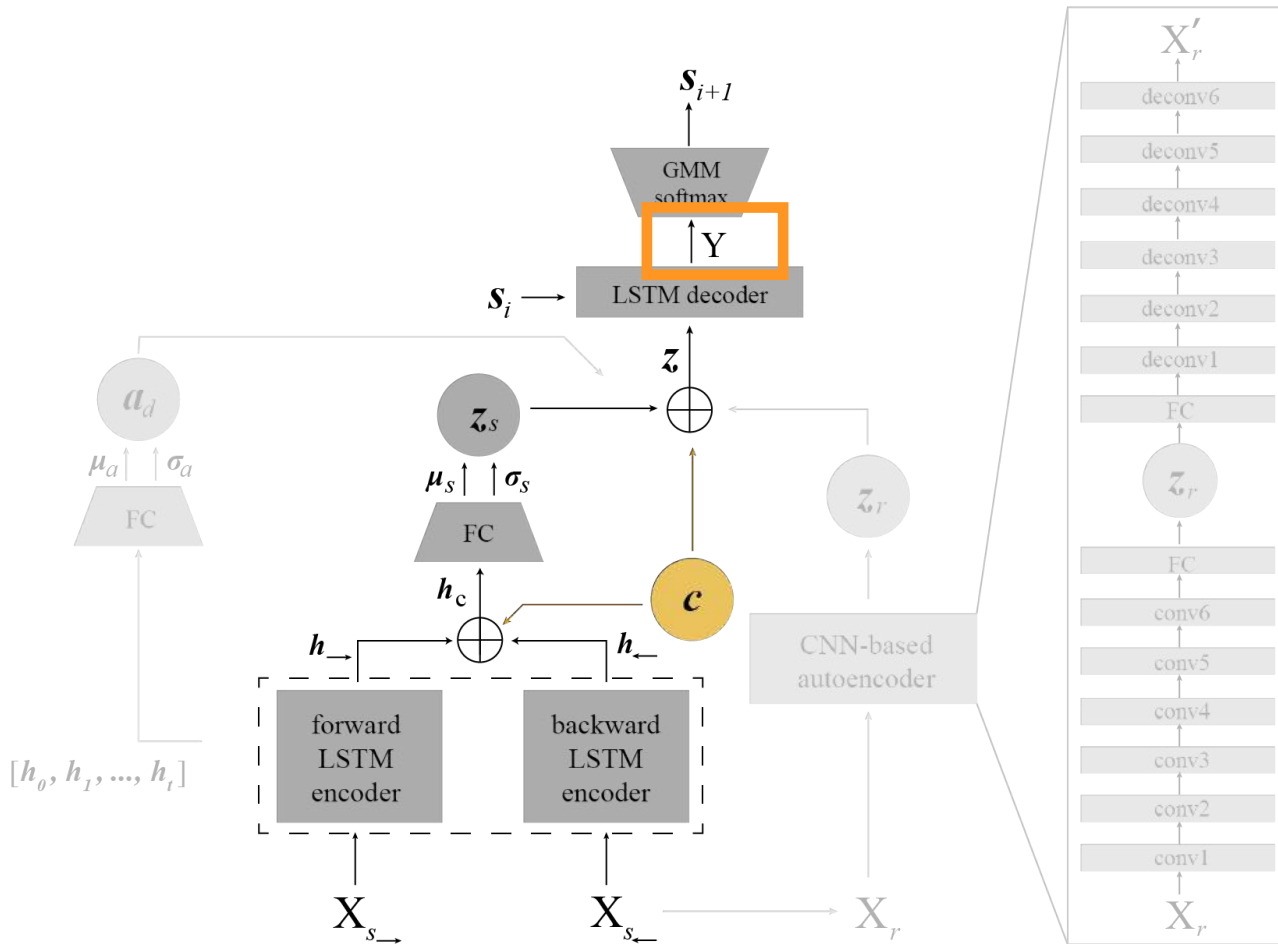
## For decoding

$z_s$  is concatenated together with the image feature vector  $z_r$ , the latent influence vector  $ad$ , the conditional vector  $c$  and the last stroke vector  $Si$ :

$$z = [z_s; z_r; ad; c; Si]$$

$$h^{dec} = decode(z)$$

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE

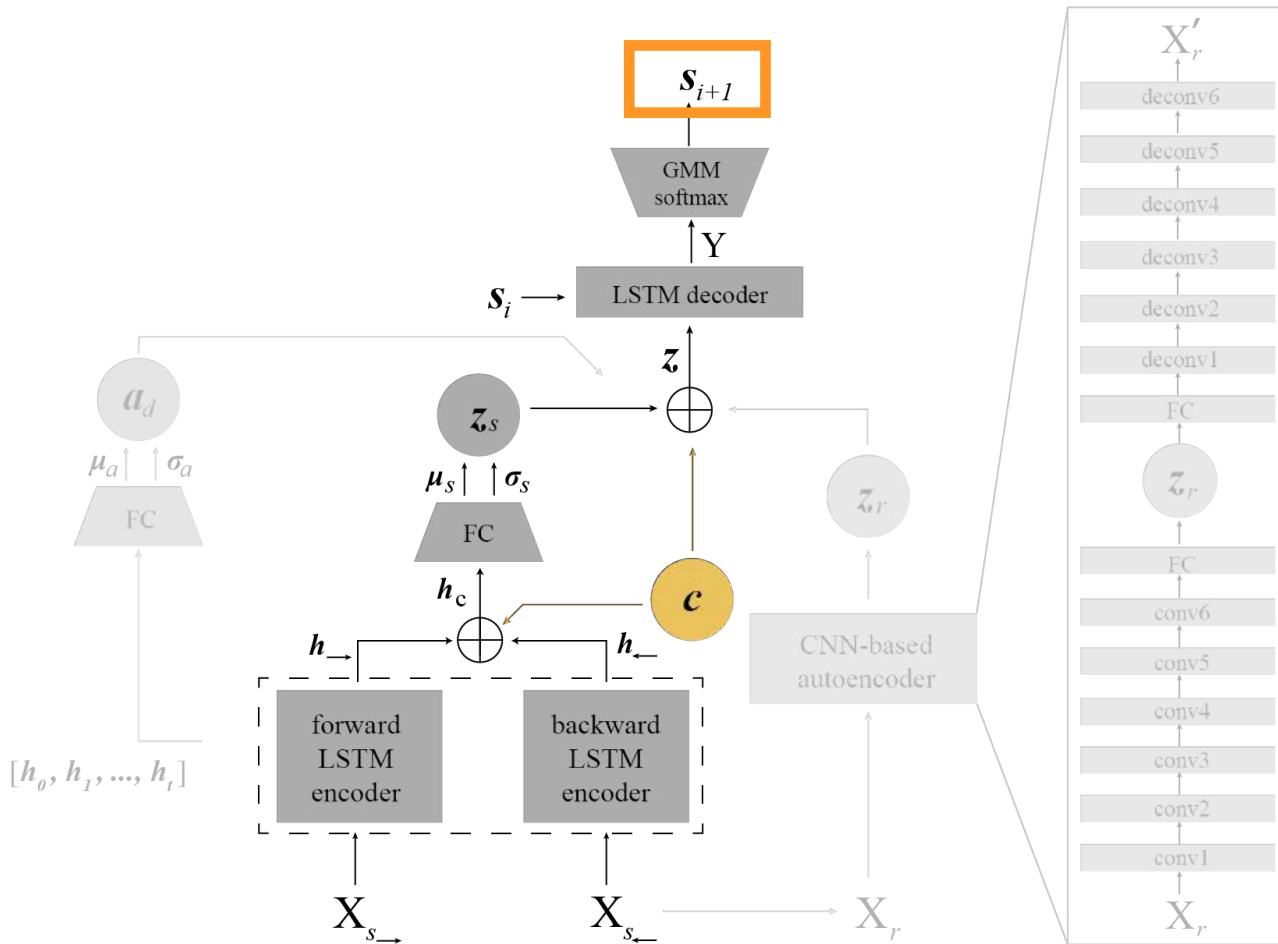


- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

$Y$ : the parameters of a Gaussian mixture model (GMM) employed for **predicting the next stroke**.

$$Y = W_y h^{dec} + b_y$$

# AI-SKETCHER - Conditional Sequence-to-Sequence VAE

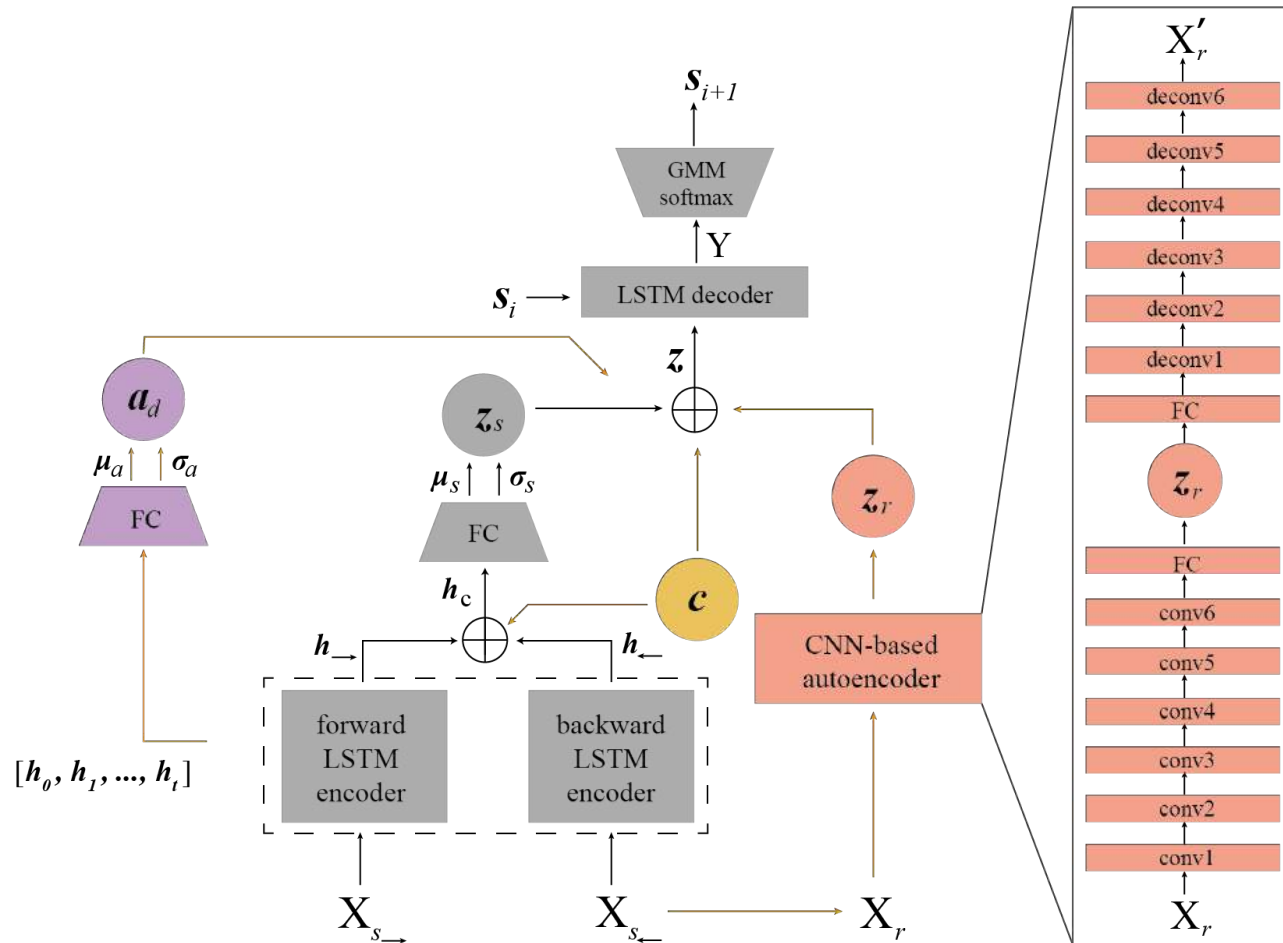


- A conditional vector is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.

predict the **probabilities** of the relative position of the next drawing point:

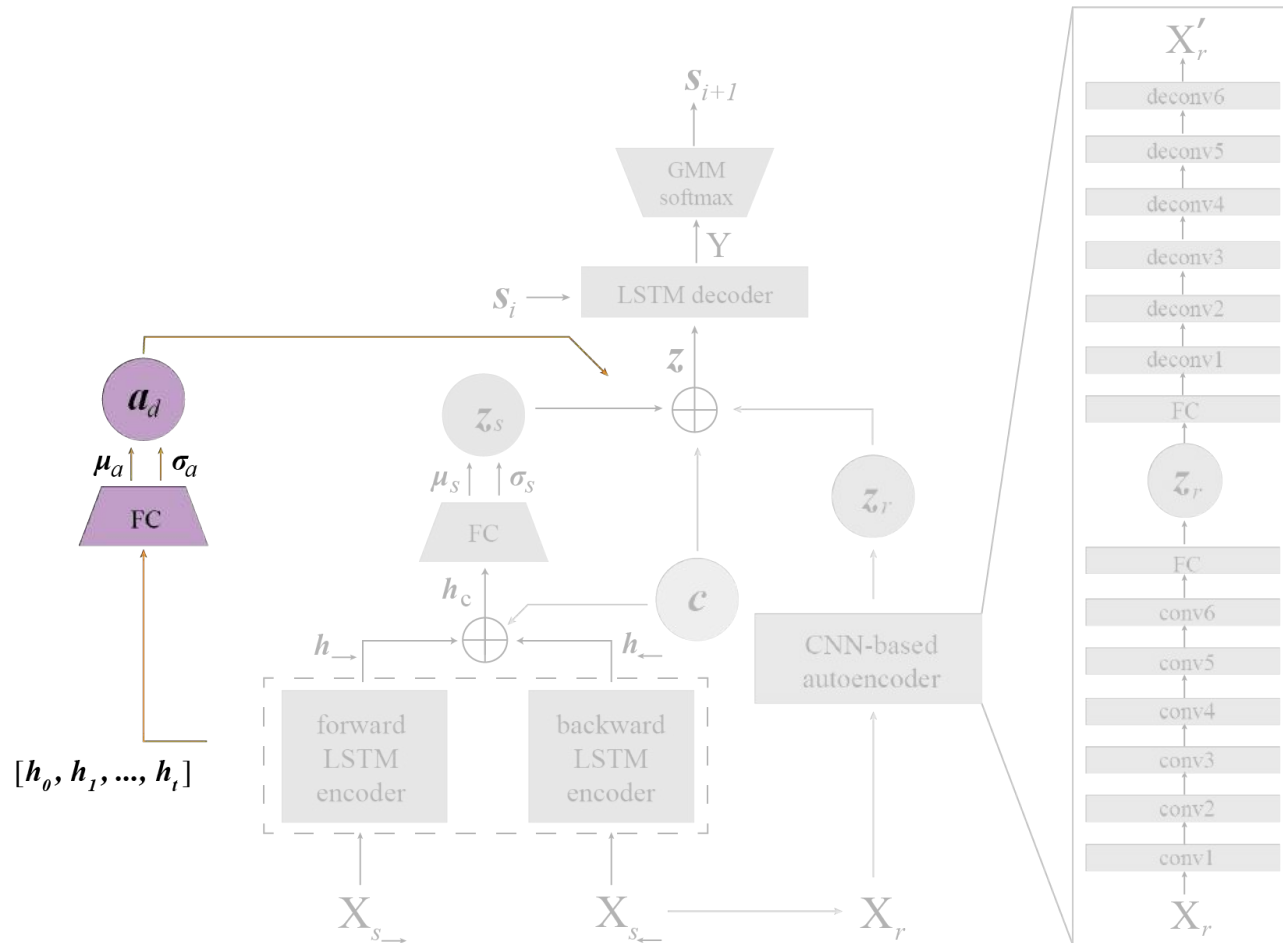
$$p(\Delta x_{i+1}, \Delta y_{i+1})$$

# AI-SKETCHER



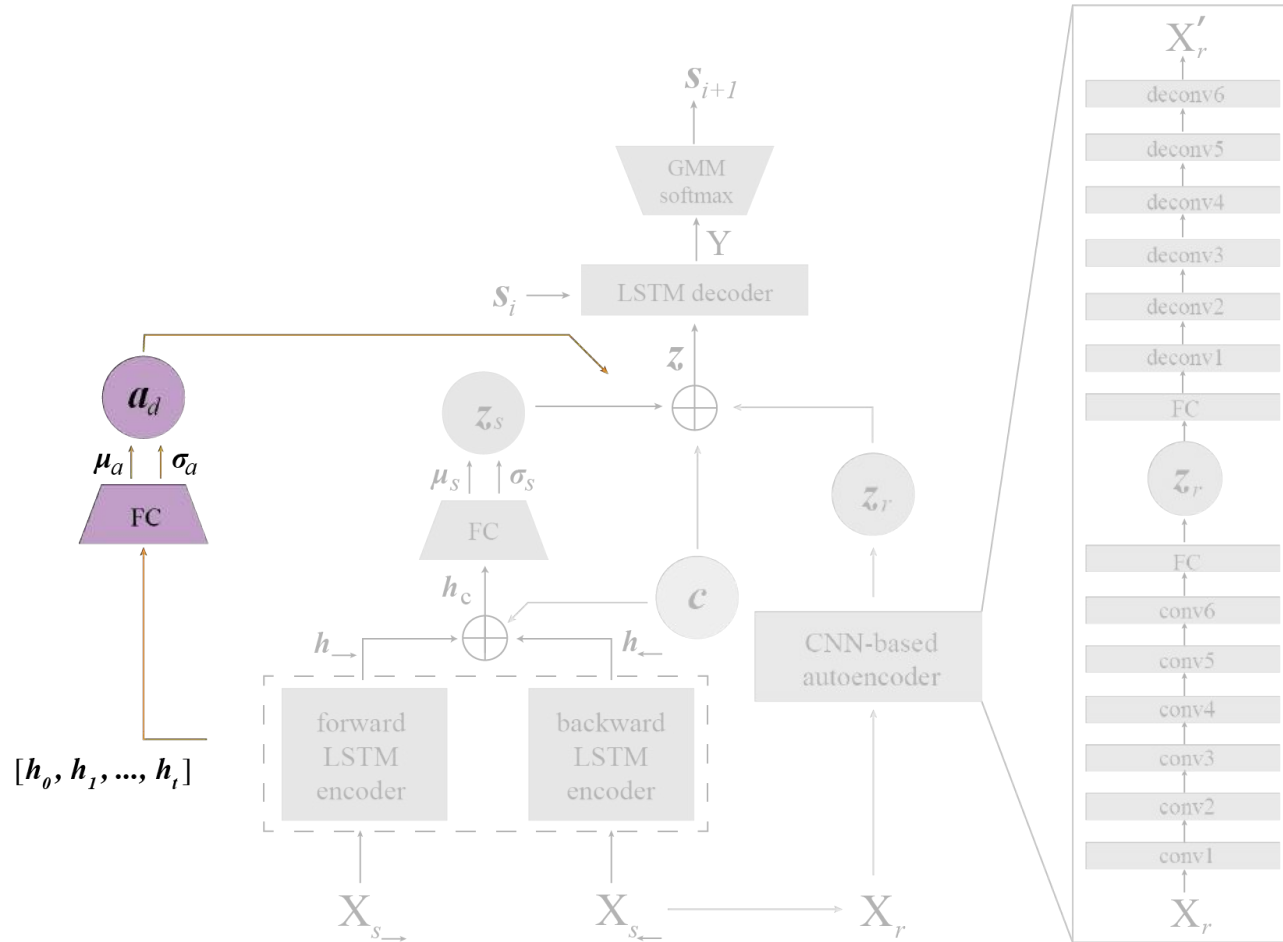
- **A conditional vector** is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.
- **A fully-connected layer** is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.
- **A CNN-based autoencoder** is employed to capture the spatial information of a training set.
- **Loss function** is modified.

# AI-SKETCHER



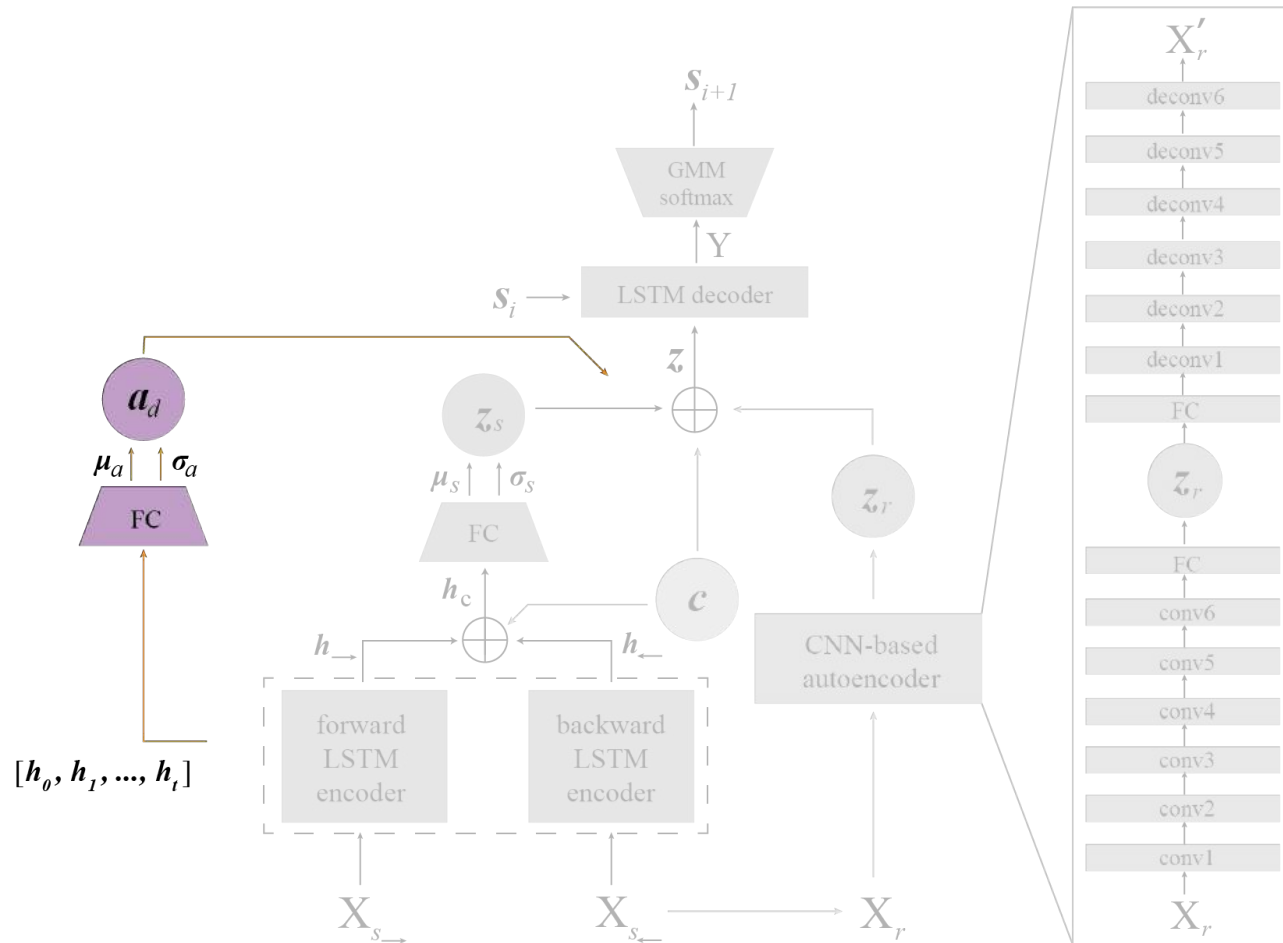
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# AI-SKETCHER - Influence Layer



- A fully-connected layer is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.

# AI-SKETCHER - Influence Layer

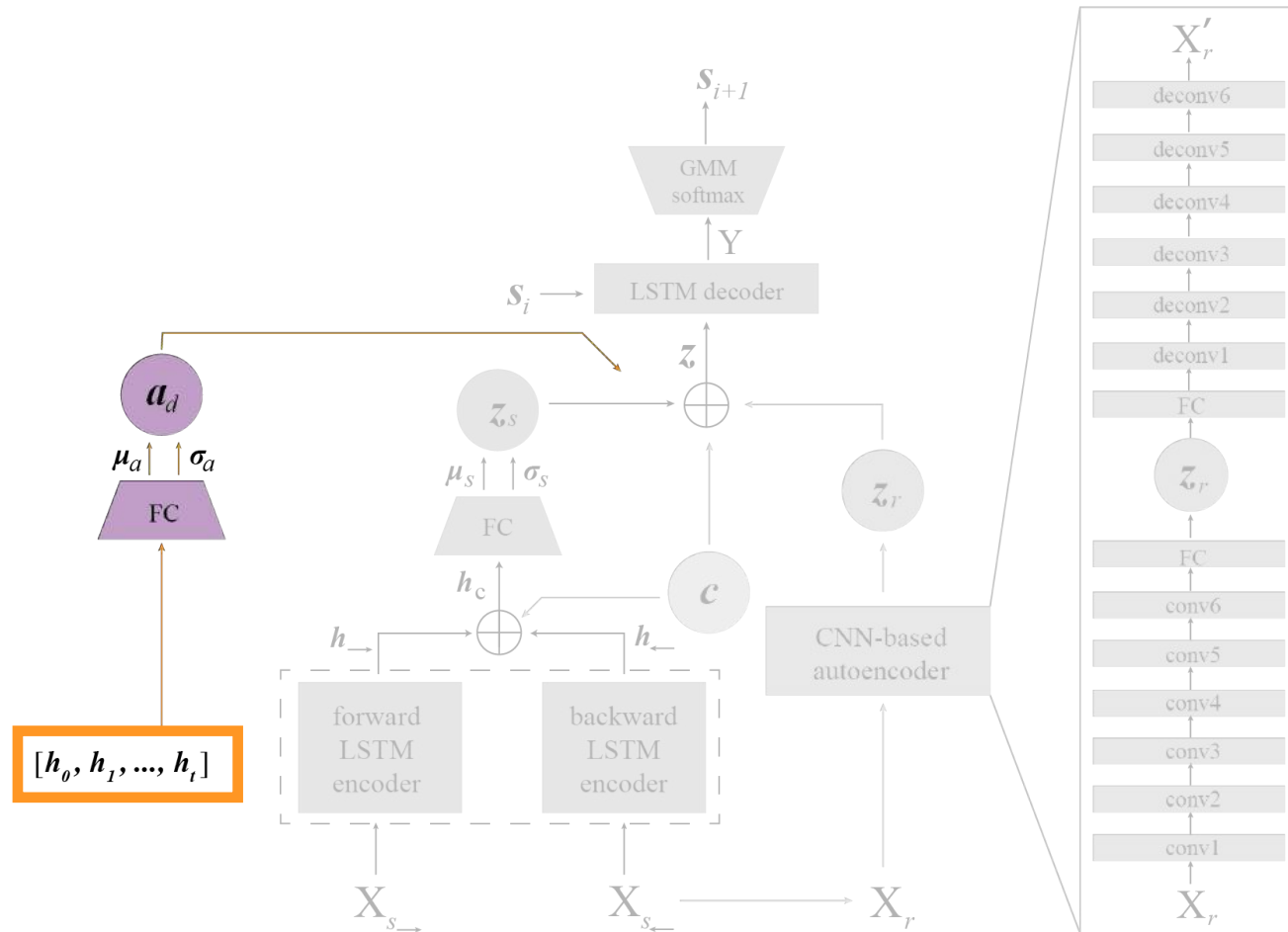


- A fully-connected layer is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.

**The influence layer** is applied to enhance the influence of the input training data on the decoding process.



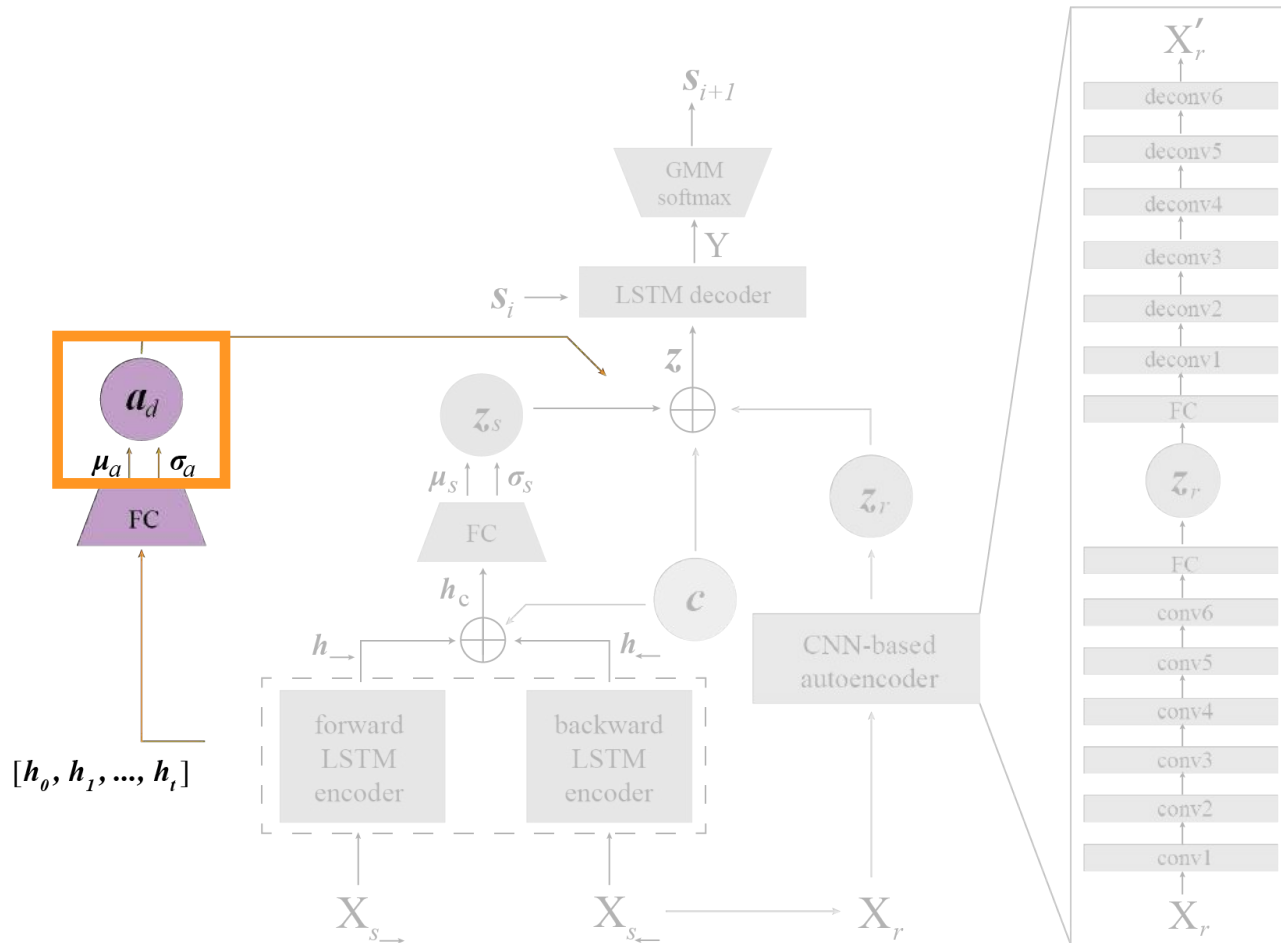
# AI-SKETCHER - Influence Layer



- A fully-connected layer is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.

It considers **all the previous hidden node values** until the latest drawing step in the RNN encoder.

# AI-SKETCHER - Influence Layer

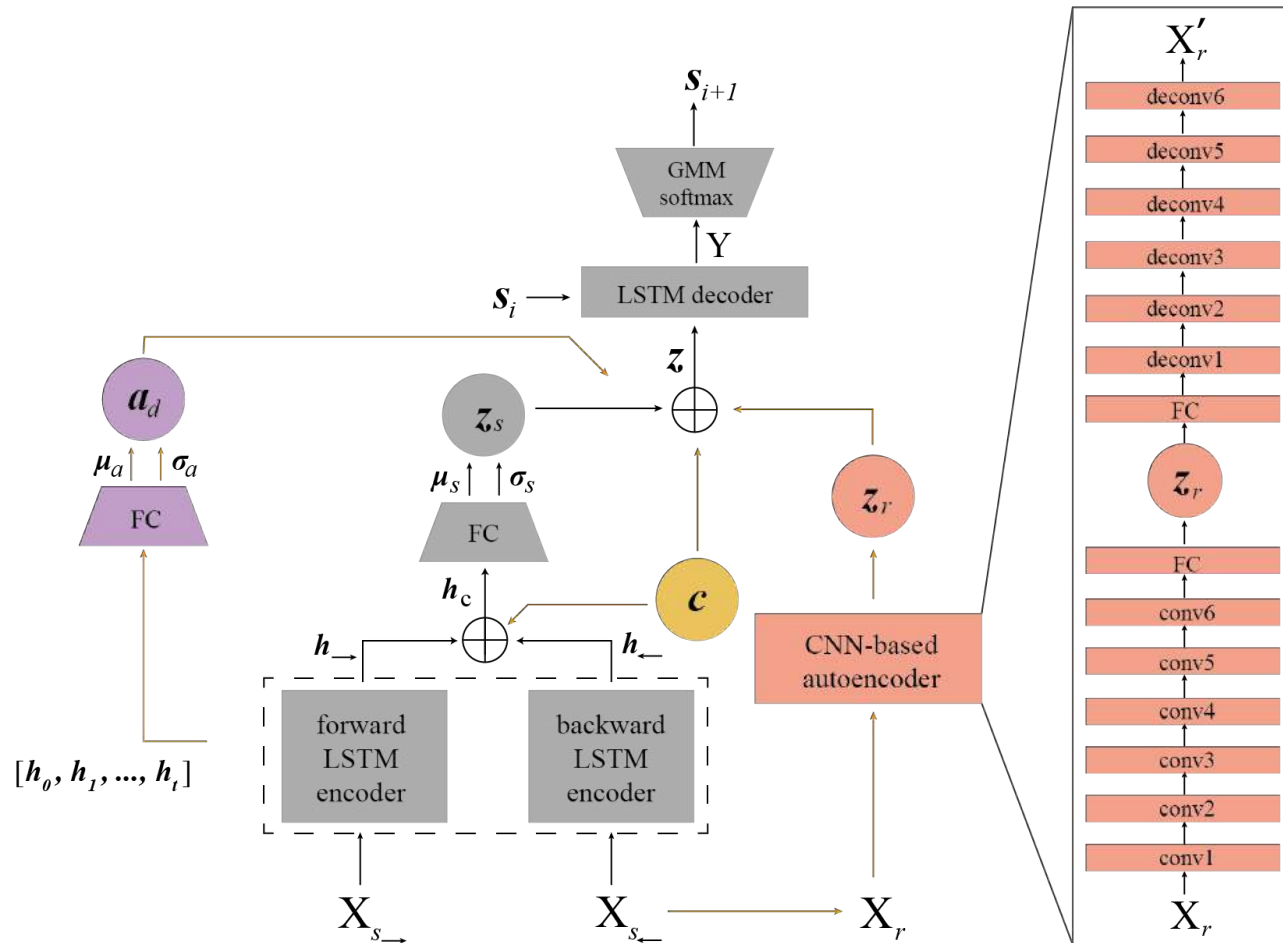


- A fully-connected layer is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.

The influence vector  $a_d$  is a latent vector whose fields are sampled from these normal distributions:

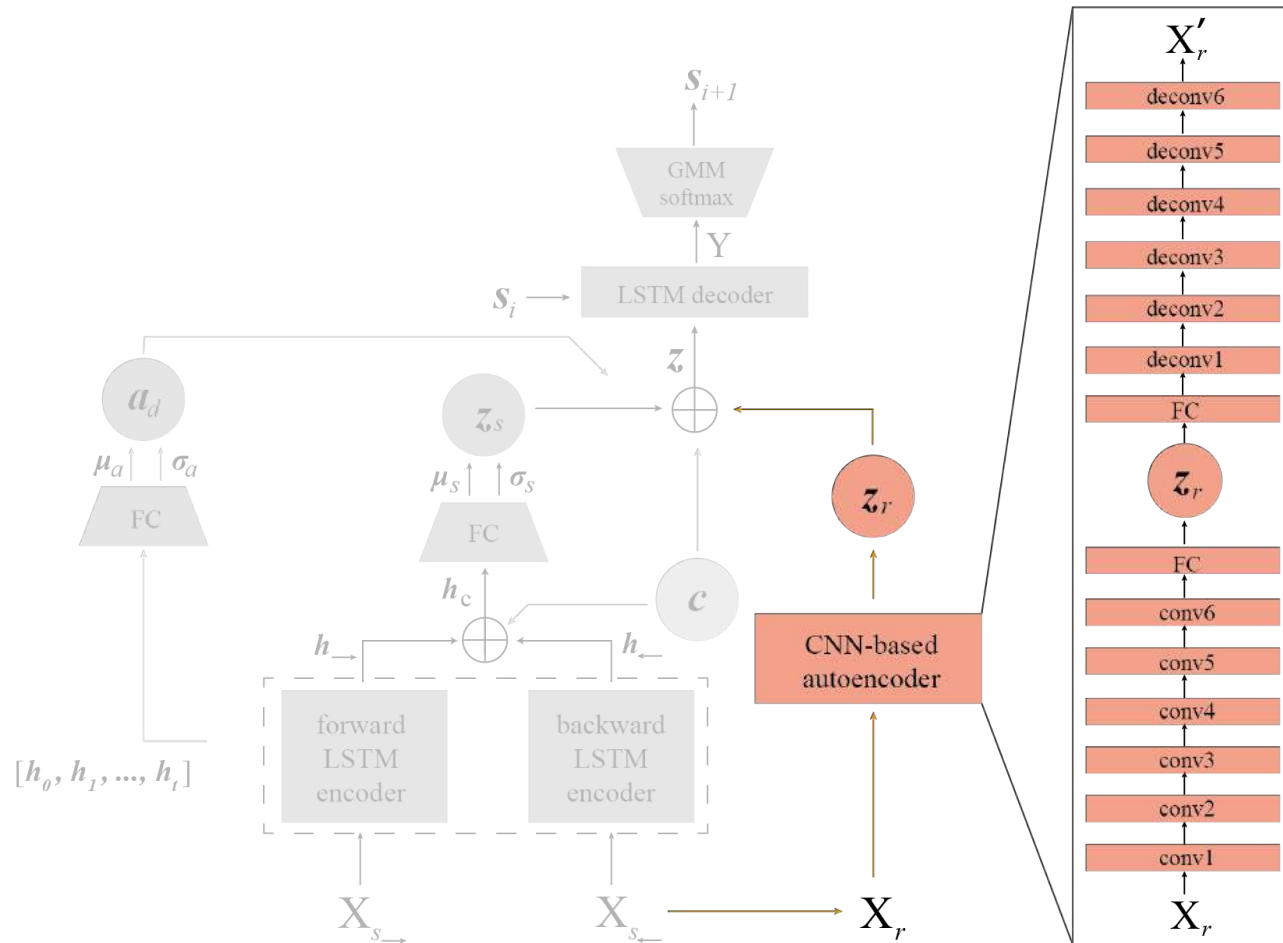
$$a_d = \mu_a + \sigma_a \cdot \lambda_a$$

# AI-SKETCHER



- **A conditional vector** is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.
- **A fully-connected layer** is introduced to estimate how the previous strokes will influence on the next stroke.
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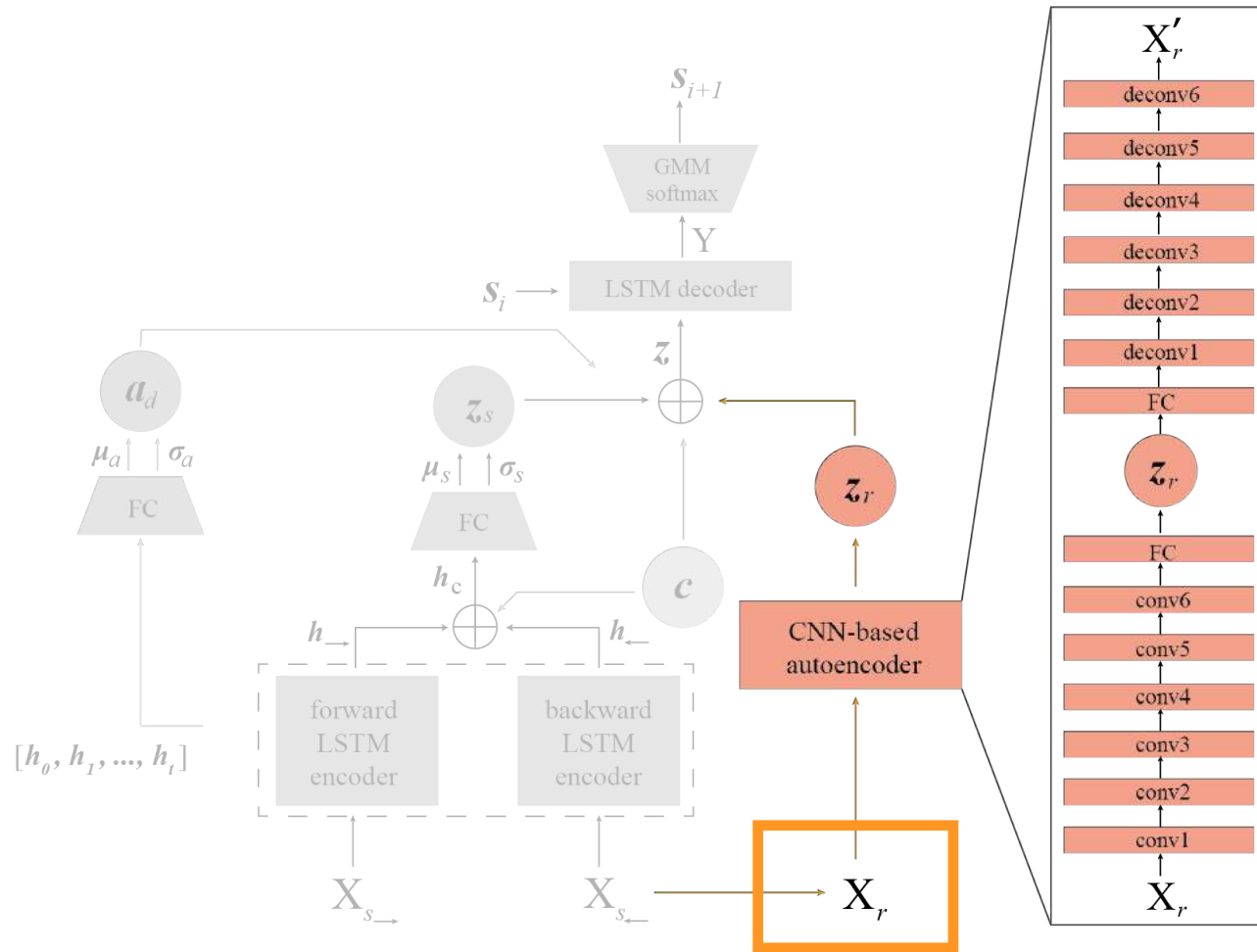
# AI-SKETCHER



- **A conditional vector** is used to ensure a high quality generation of sketches from multiple categories.
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# AI-SKETCHER - CNN-based Autoencoder

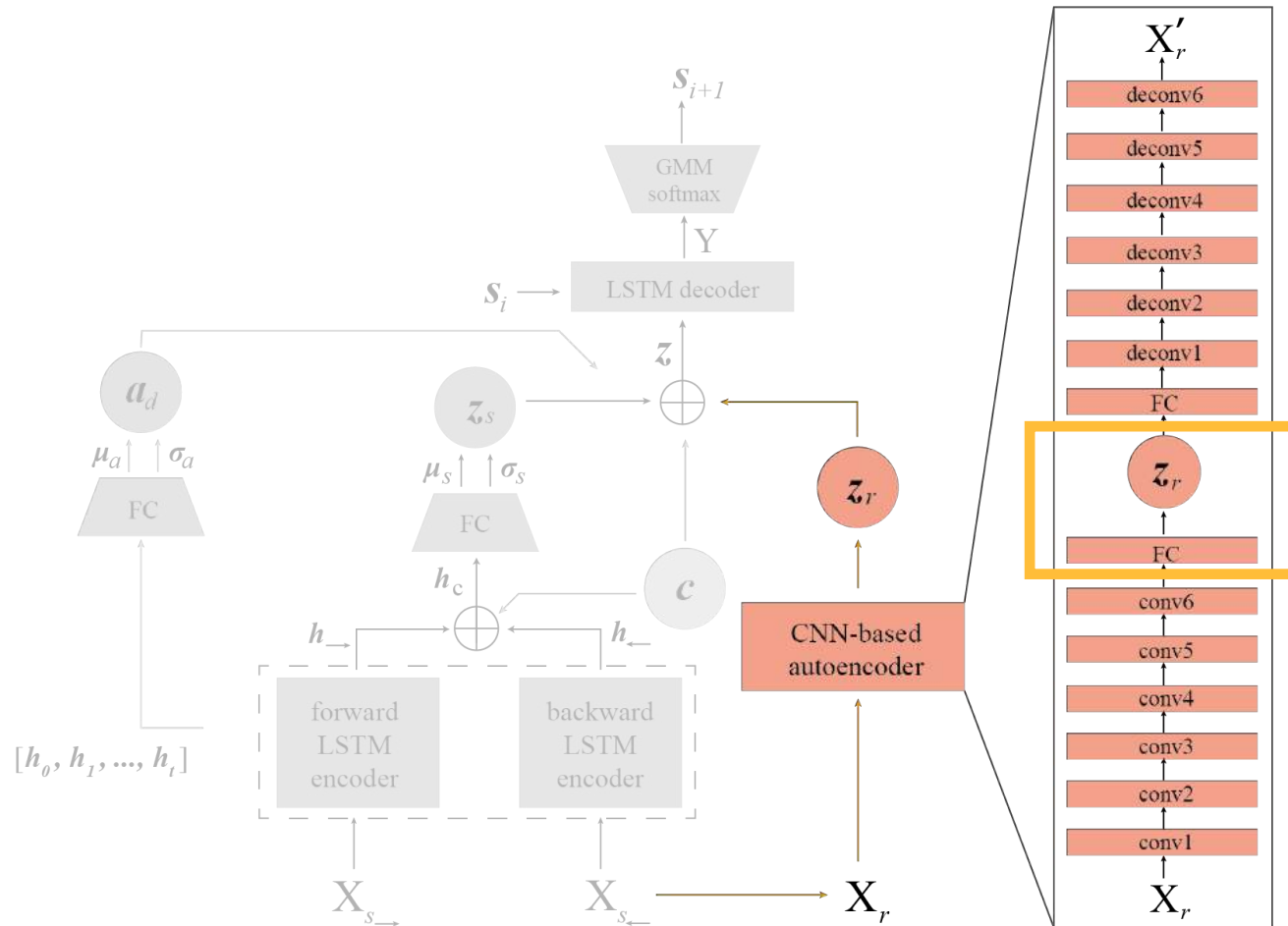


- A CNN-based autoencoder is employed to capture the spatial information of a training set.

$X_r$ : the input raster image matrix.



# AI-SKETCHER - CNN-based Autoencoder



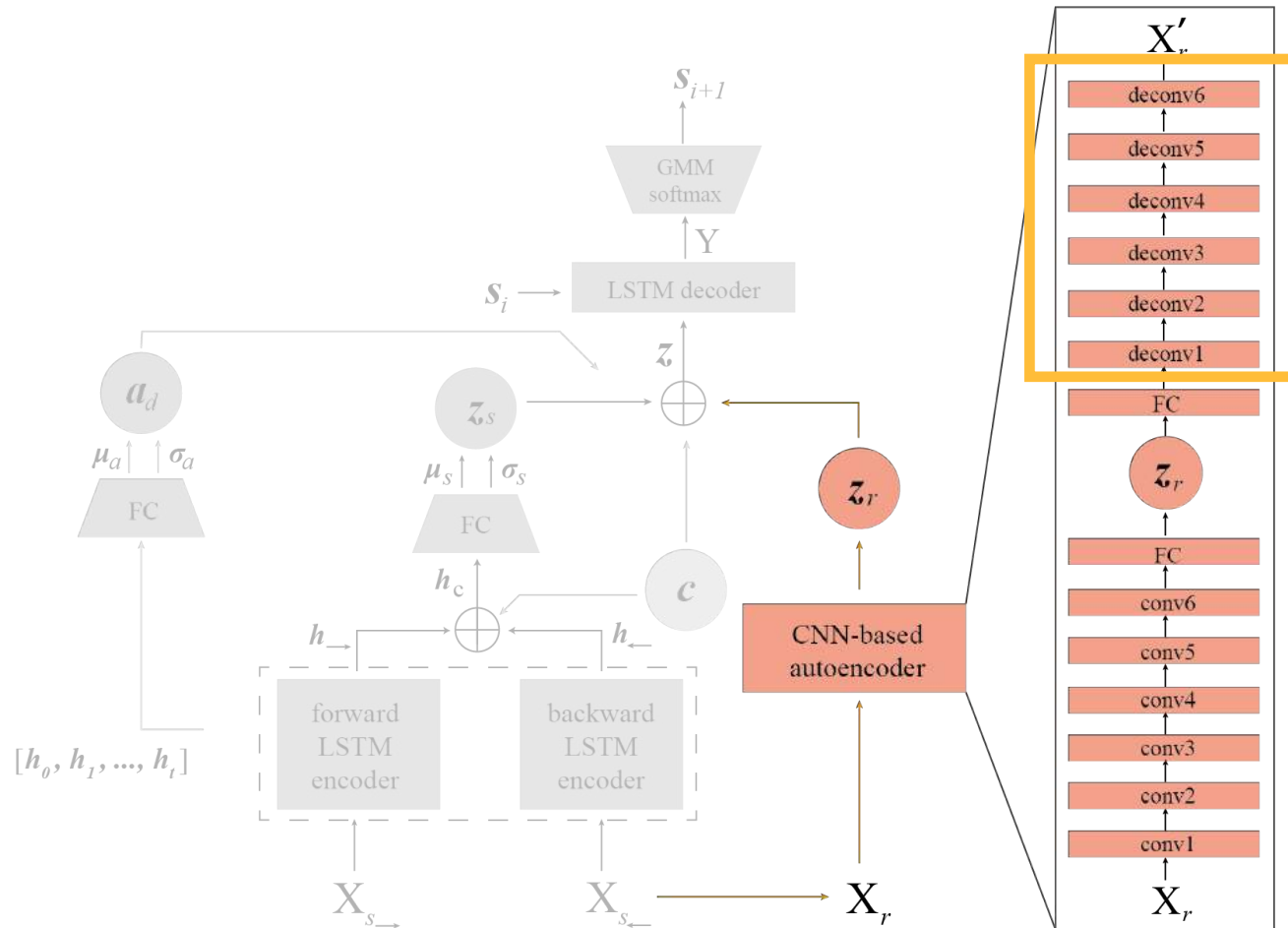
- A CNN-based autoencoder is employed to capture the spatial information of a training set.

## Encoder:

- The last layer is a fully-connected neural network to produce the latent feature vector  $z_r$  with 128 dimensions.



# AI-SKETCHER - CNN-based Autoencoder

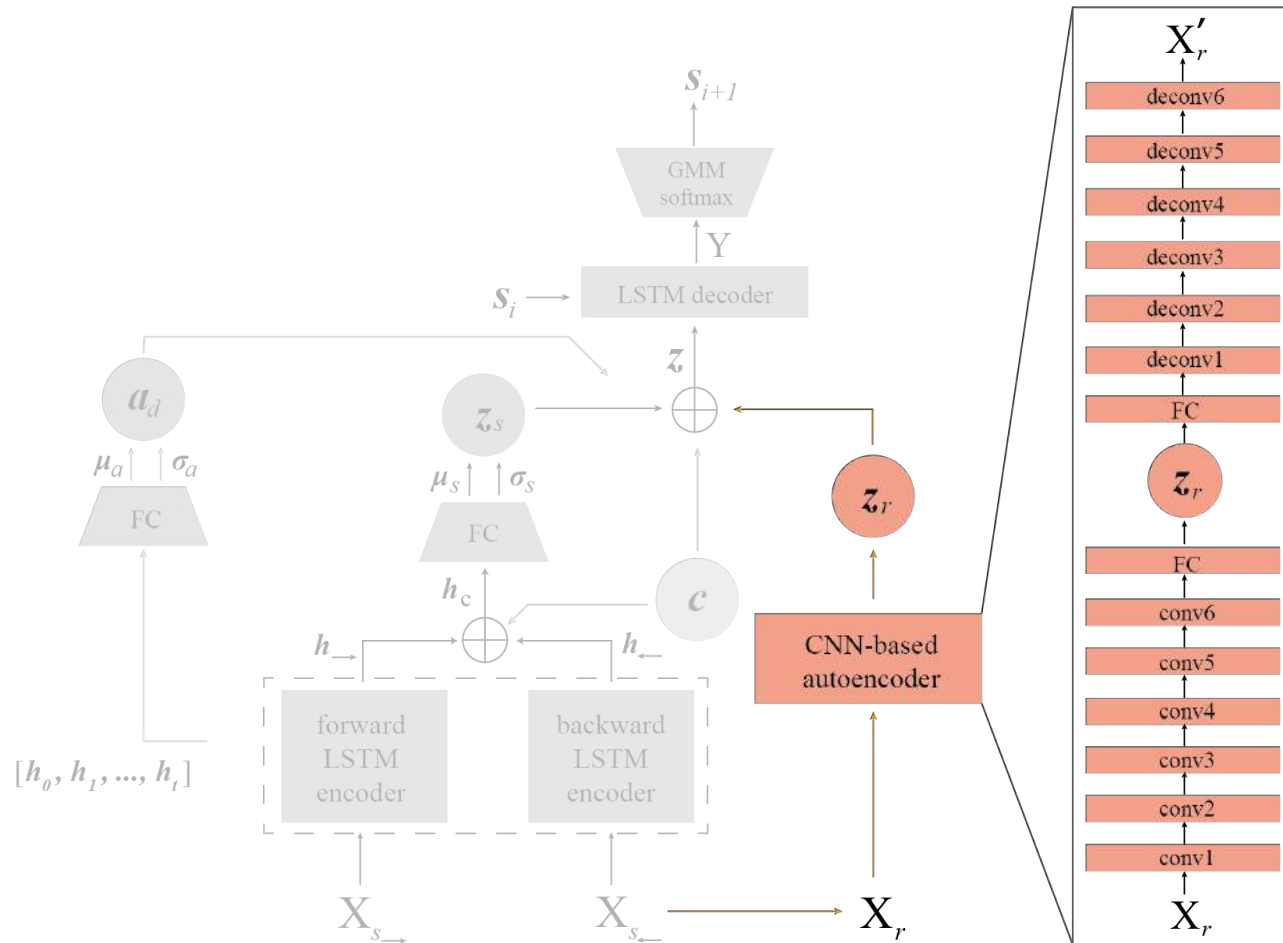


- A CNN-based autoencoder is employed to capture the spatial information of a training set.

## Decoder:

- three deconvolutional layers with stride sizes equal to 2.
- the other three layers with stride sizes equal to 1.

# AI-SKETCHER - CNN-based Autoencoder

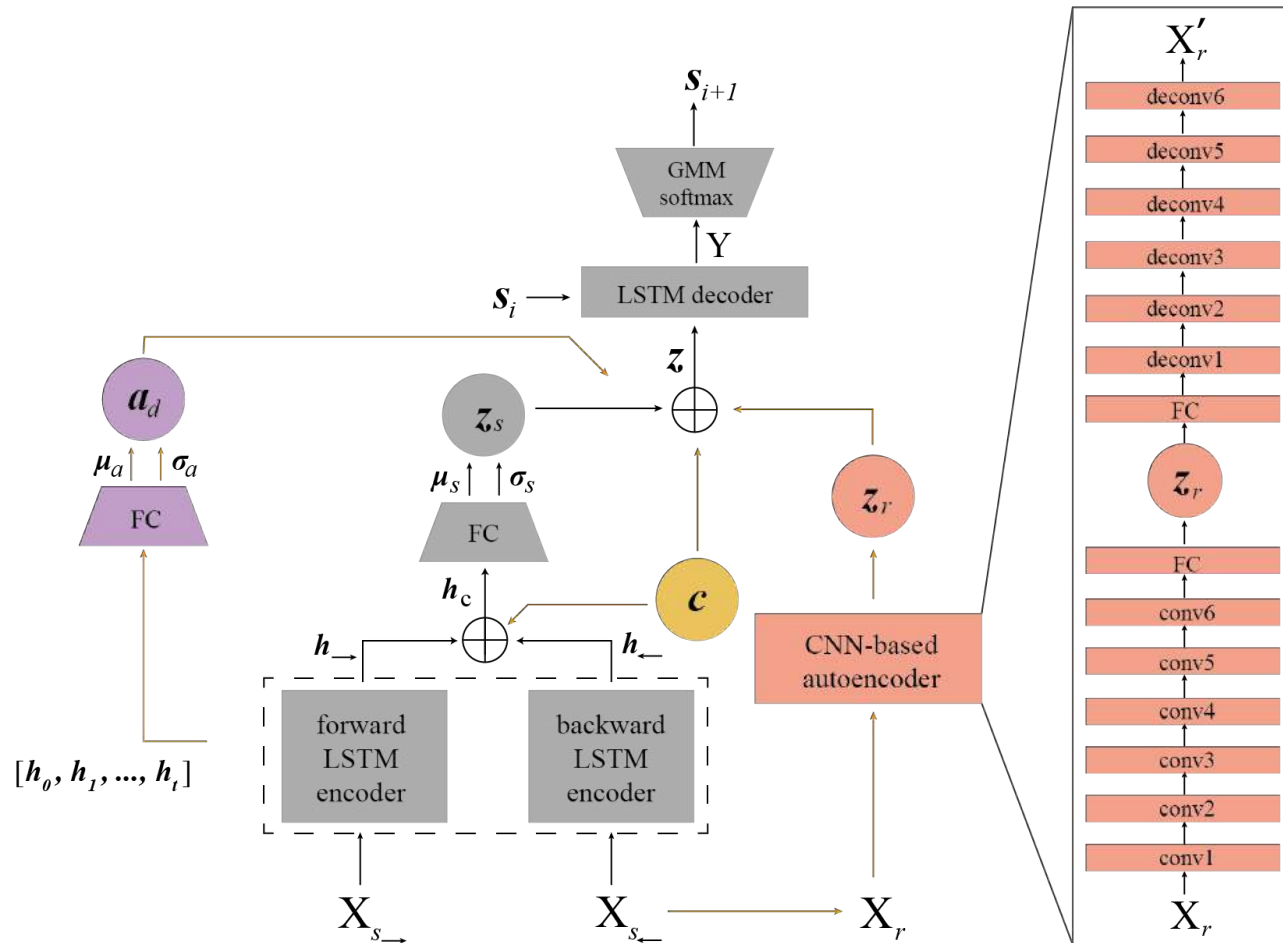


- A CNN-based autoencoder is employed to capture the spatial information of a training set.

**ReLU** is used as the activation function in both convolutional and deconvolutional layers.

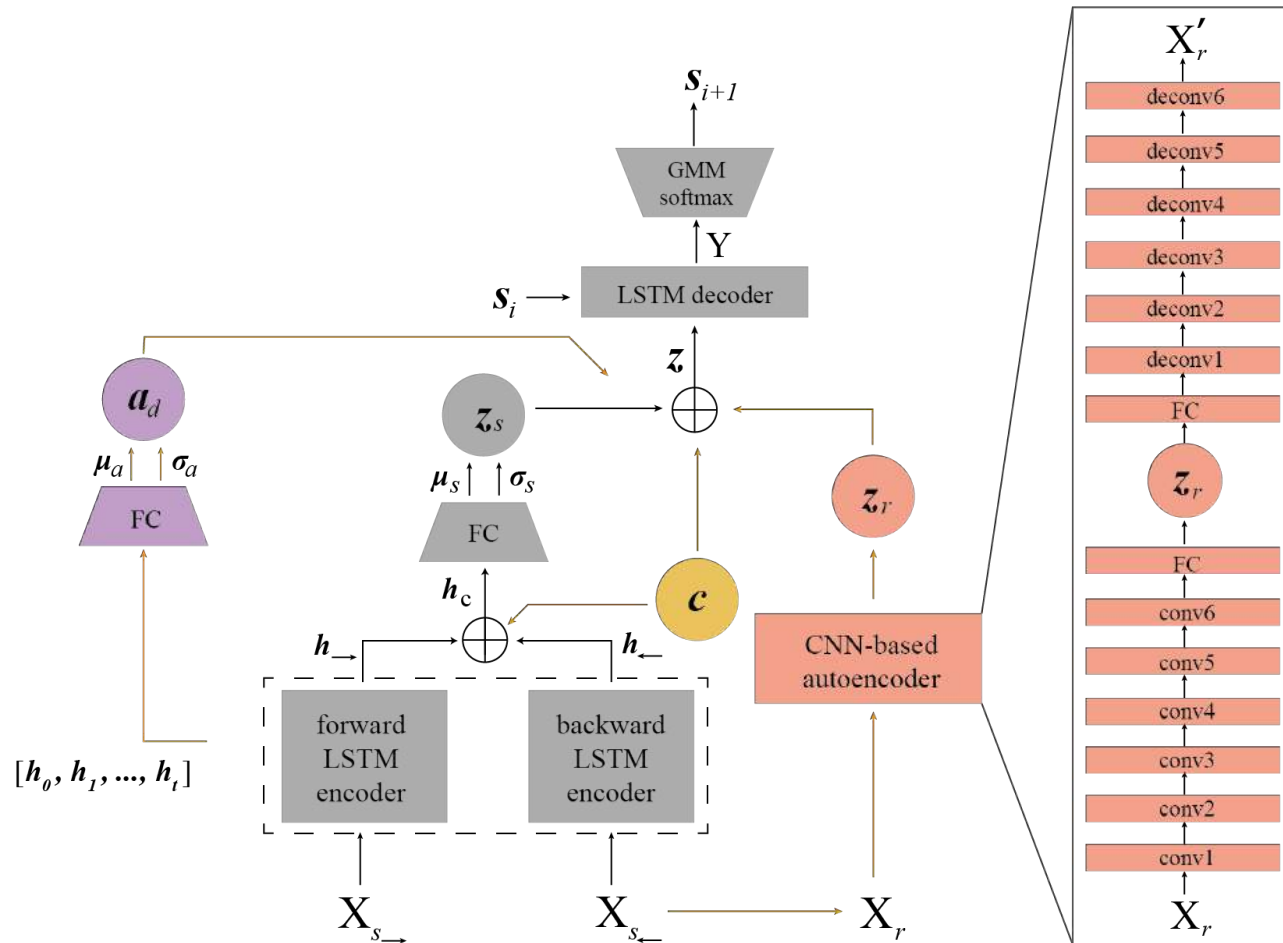
**tanh** is used as the activation function of the fully-connected neural network.

# AI-SKETCHER



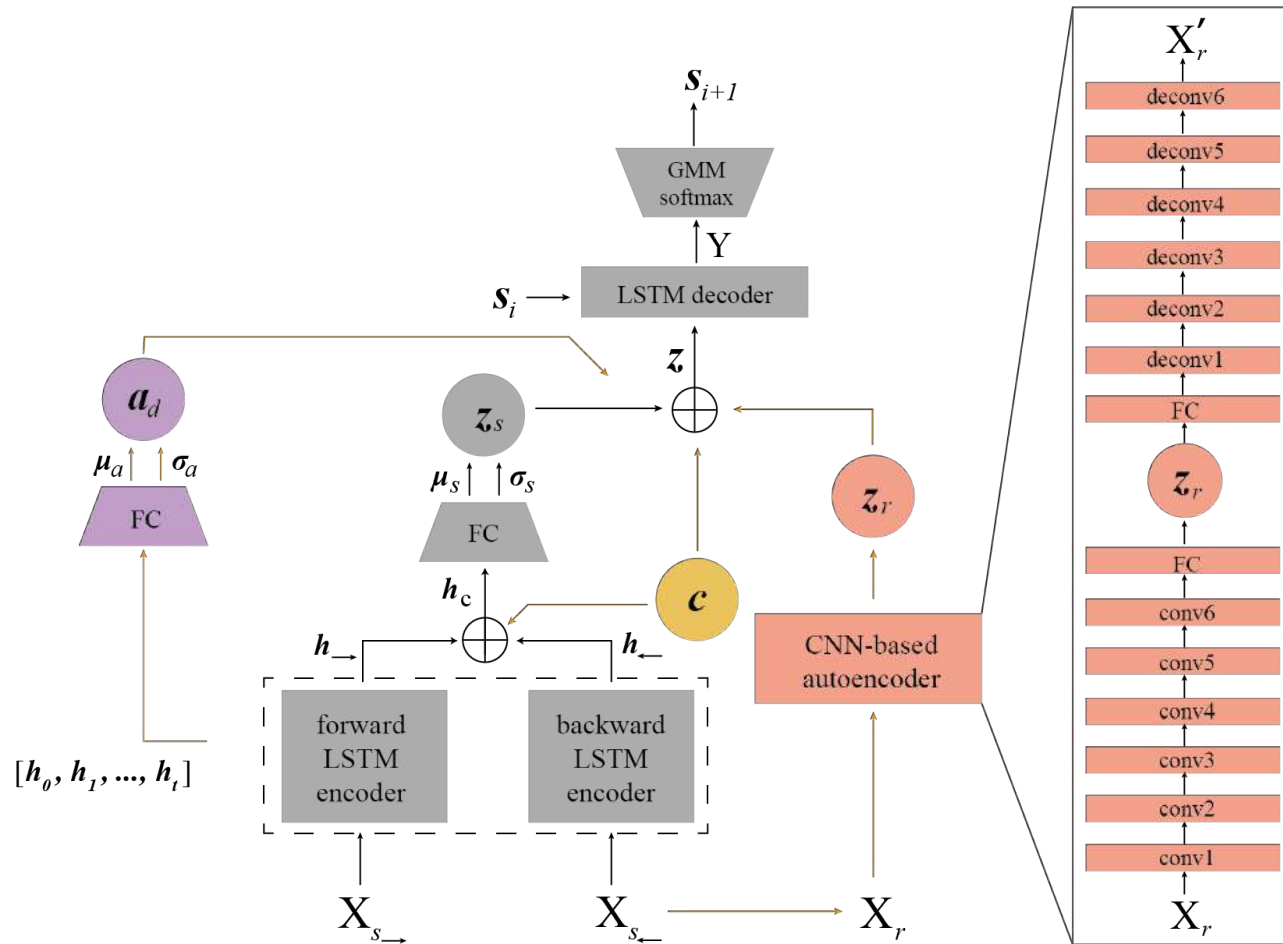
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# AI-SKETCHER



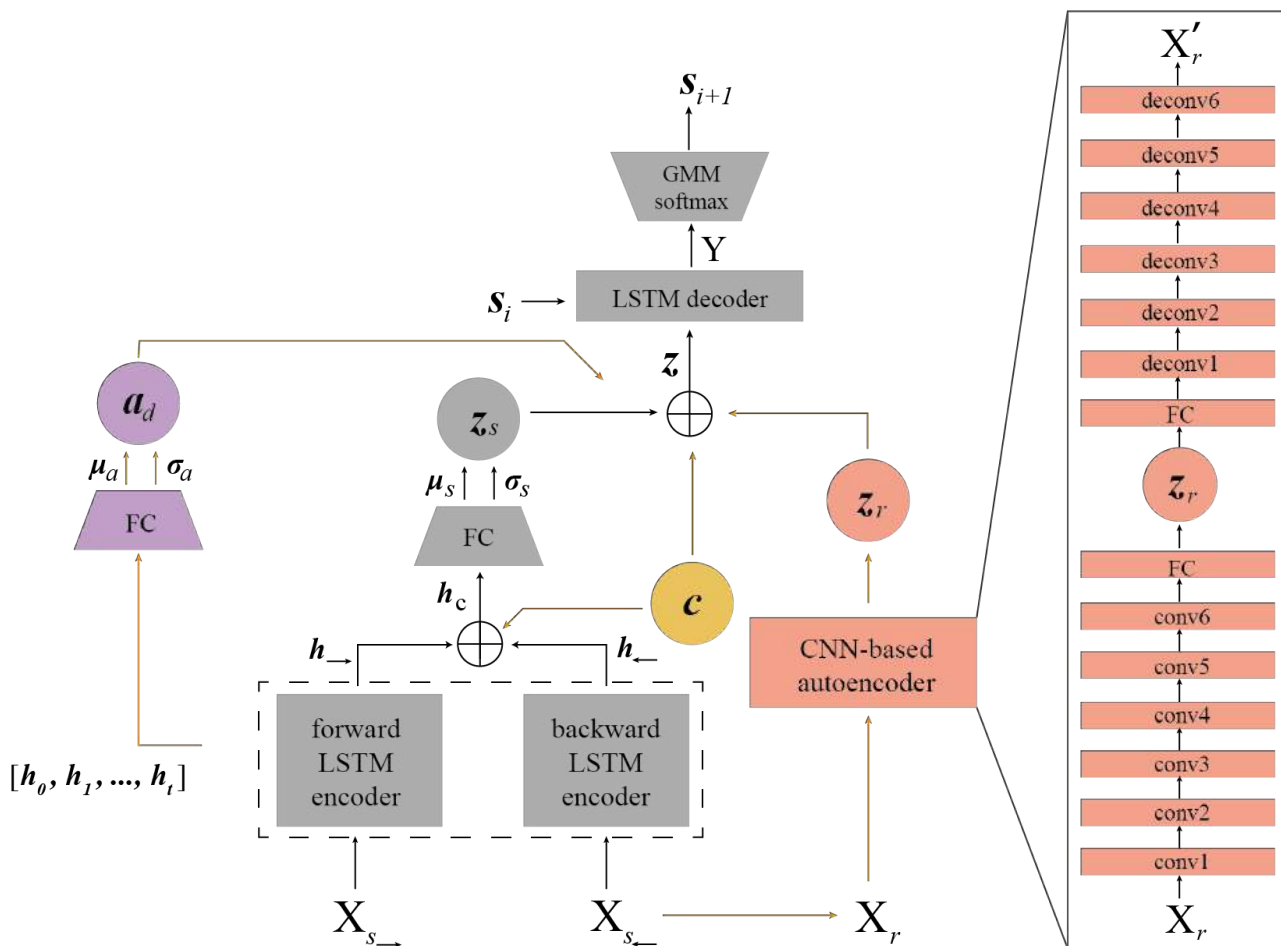
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# AI-SKETCHER - Loss function



- Loss function is modified.

# AI-SKETCHER - Loss function



- Loss function is modified.

$$Loss = l_r + \alpha \cdot \max(l_{kl}, \epsilon)$$

## AI-SKETCHER - Loss function

- Loss function is modified.

$$Loss = l_r + \alpha \cdot \max(l_{kl}, \epsilon)$$

**the reconstruction loss**

estimates the differences between the generated strokes and the training samples.

estimates the distribution differences between the generated strokes and the strokes in the training set.

## AI-SKETCHER - Loss function

- Loss function is modified.

$$Loss = l_r + \alpha \cdot \max(l_{kl}, \epsilon)$$

$$l_z = -\frac{1}{2n_z} \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} (1 + \sigma_{s_i} - \exp(\sigma_{s_i}) - \mu_{s_i}^2)$$

$$l_a = -\frac{1}{2n_a} \sum_{j=1}^{n_a} (1 + \sigma_{a_j} - \exp(\sigma_{a_j}) - \mu_{a_j}^2)$$

$$l_{kl} = l_z + \beta l_a$$



## AI-SKETCHER - Loss function

- Loss function is modified.

$$Loss = l_r + \alpha \cdot \max(l_{kl}, \epsilon)$$

$$l_z = -\frac{1}{2n_z} \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} (1 + \sigma_{s_i} - \exp(\sigma_{s_i}) - \mu_{s_i}^2)$$

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$$l_{kl} = l_z + \beta l_a$$

**$n_a$ : the dimensions of  $a_d$**

## AI-SKETCHER - Loss function

- Loss function is modified.

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$$l_z = -\frac{1}{2n_z} \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} (1 + \sigma_{s_i} - \exp(\sigma_{s_i}) - \mu_{s_i}^2)$$

$$l_a = -\frac{1}{2n_a} \sum_{j=1}^{n_a} (1 + \sigma_{a_j} - \exp(\sigma_{a_j}) - \mu_{a_j}^2)$$

$$l_{kl} = l_z + \beta l_a$$

**$n_a$** : the dimensions of  **$a_d$**

**$l_z / l_a$** : the KL divergence between the distribution of the latent vector  **$z_s / a_d$**  and the distribution of the strokes in the training data

## AI-SKETCHER - Loss function

- Loss function is modified.

$$Loss = l_r + \alpha \cdot \max(l_{kl}) \epsilon$$

$$l_z = -\frac{1}{2n_z} \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} (1 + \sigma_{s_i} - \exp(\sigma_{s_i}) - \mu_{s_i}^2)$$

$$l_a = -\frac{1}{2n_a} \sum_{j=1}^{n_a} (1 + \sigma_{a_j} - \exp(\sigma_{a_j}) - \mu_{a_j}^2)$$

$$l_{kl} = l_z + \beta l_a$$

**$n_a$** : the dimensions of  **$a_d$**

**$l_z / l_a$** : the KL divergence between the distribution of the latent vector  **$z_s / a_d$**  and the distribution of the strokes in the training data

**$\beta$** : a hyperparameter that balances the two terms

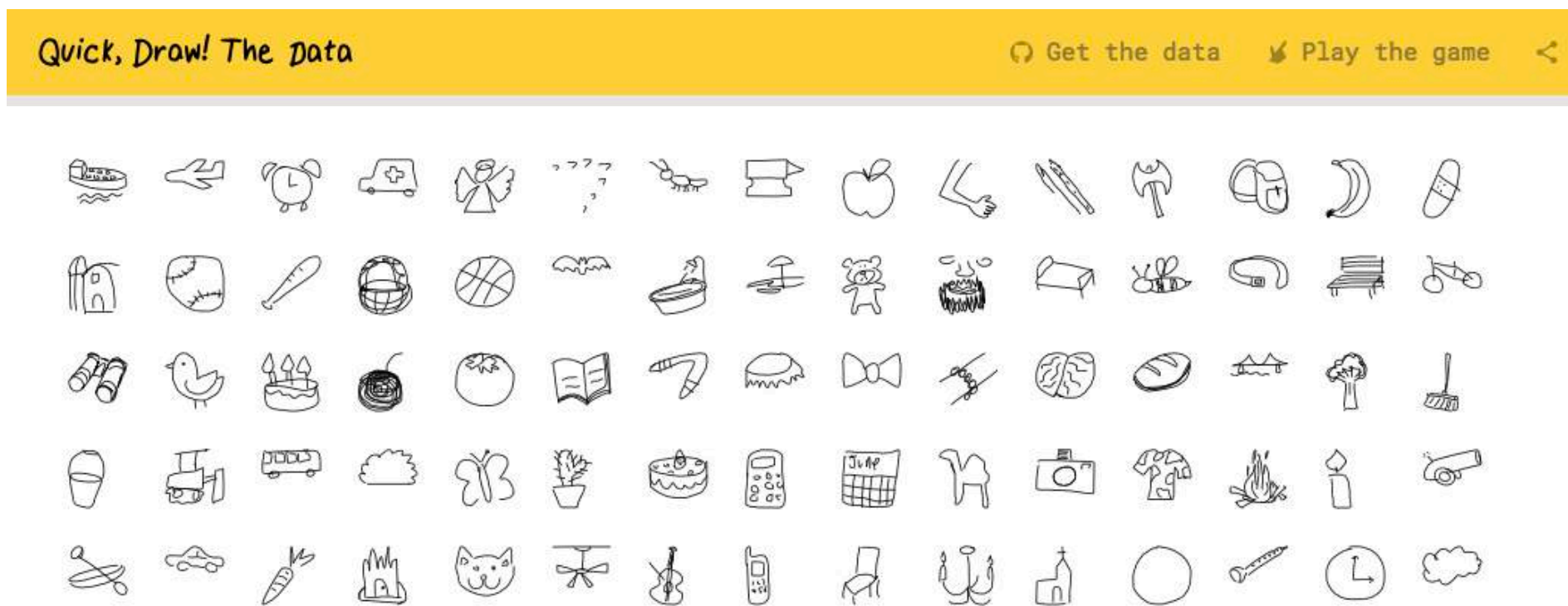
# EVALUATION

We performed three experiments in purpose of validating:

- the AI-Sketcher's **drawing quality**
- its capability of generating sketches from **multiple classes**
- generation **diversity**

## EVALUATION - Dataset

**The QuickDraw dataset** contains over 50 million sketches in 75 object categories and originally used for training Sketch-RNN.



## EVALUATION - Dataset

**The FaceX dataset** consists of 5 million sketches of both male's and female's facial expressions showing seven different types of emotions.

FaceX

[ABOUT US](#) [ACKNOWLEDGEMENT](#)

### A Dataset Containing 5,240,088 Hand-Drawing Sketches

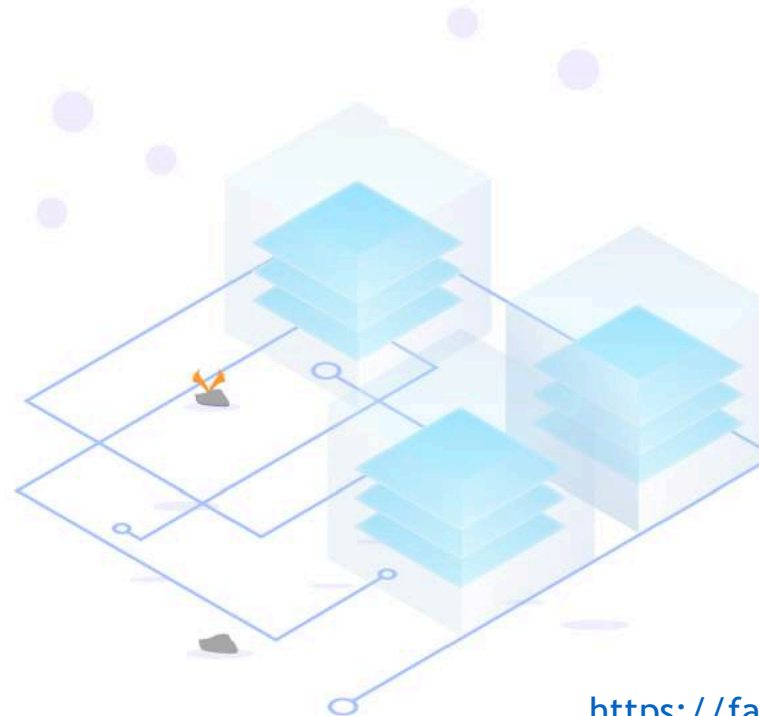
The dataset contains over 5 million labeled facial sketches categorized by genders (male, female), viewing angles (frontal, mid-profile left view), emotions (neutral, happy, sad, angry, fearful, surprised, disgusted), and artistic styles (realistic, cartoon, abstract styles).

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SVG format: 72

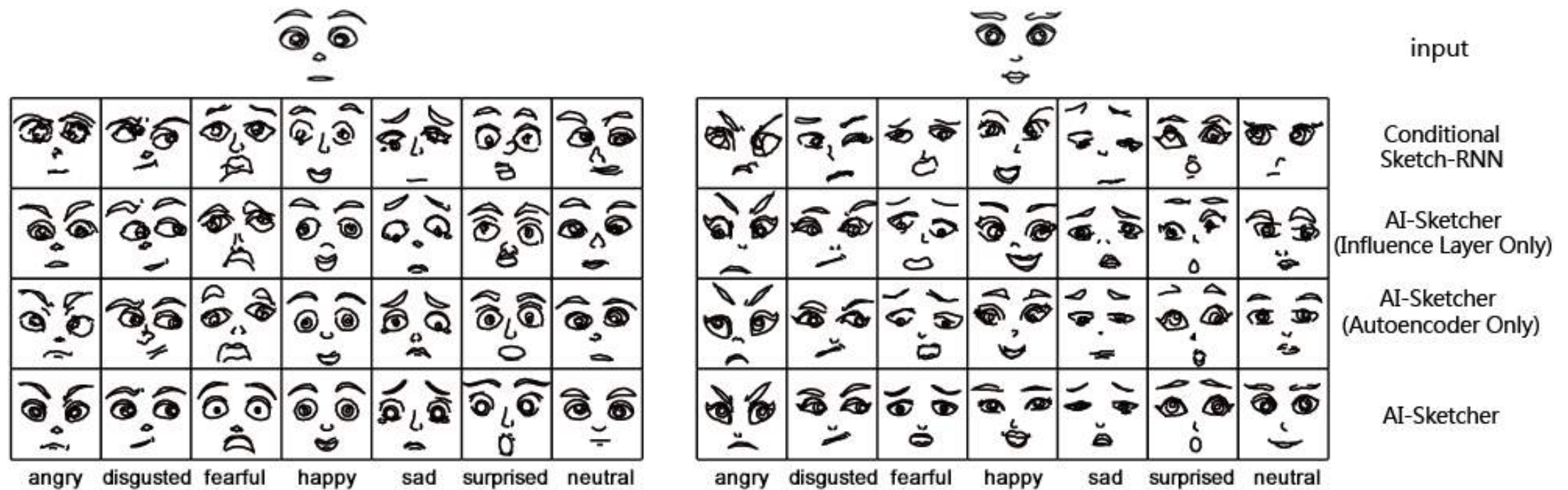
NPZ format: 63



<https://facex.idvxlabs.com/>

# EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

## Drawing quality

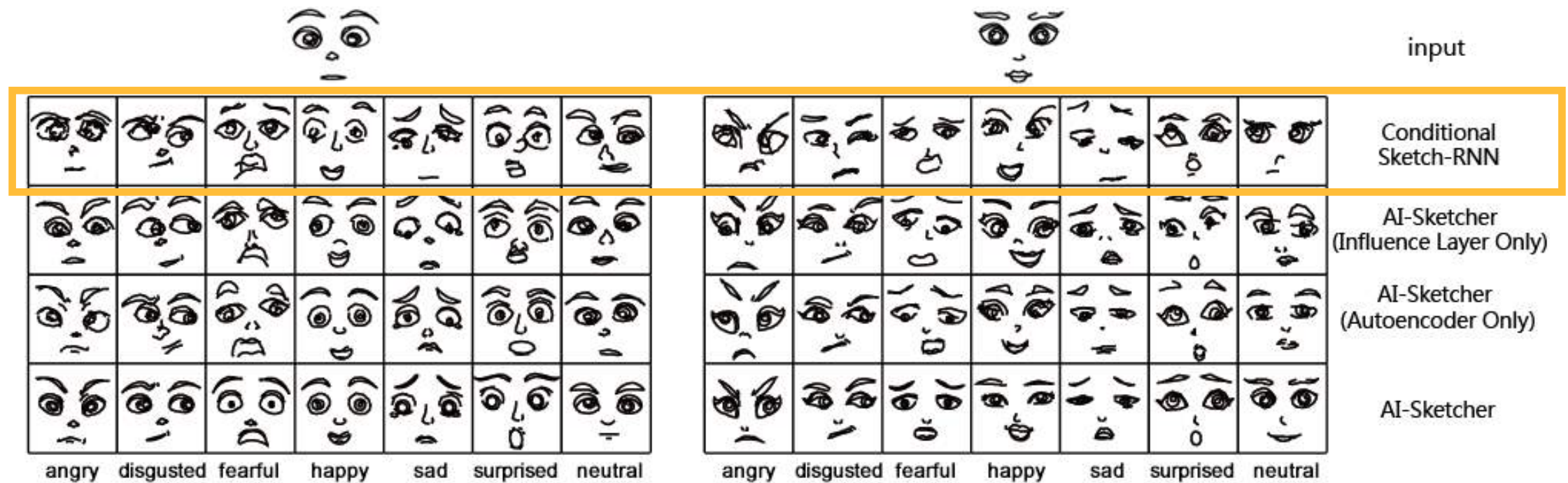


Experiments based on FaceX Dataset



# EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

## Drawing quality

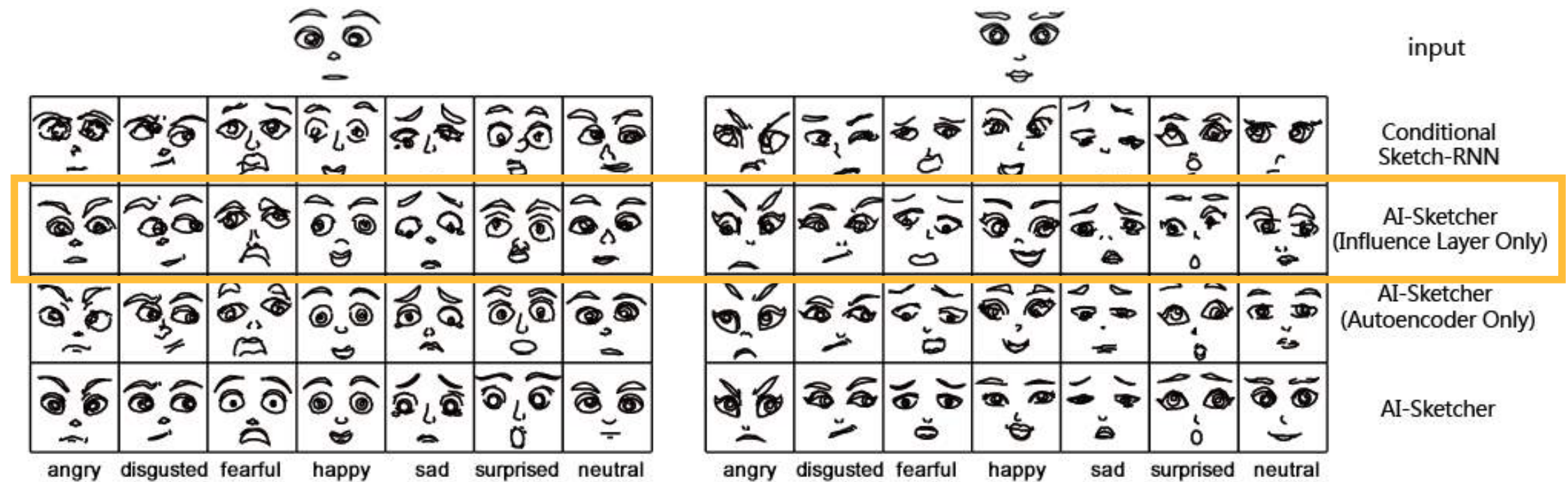


Experiments based on FaceX Dataset



## EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

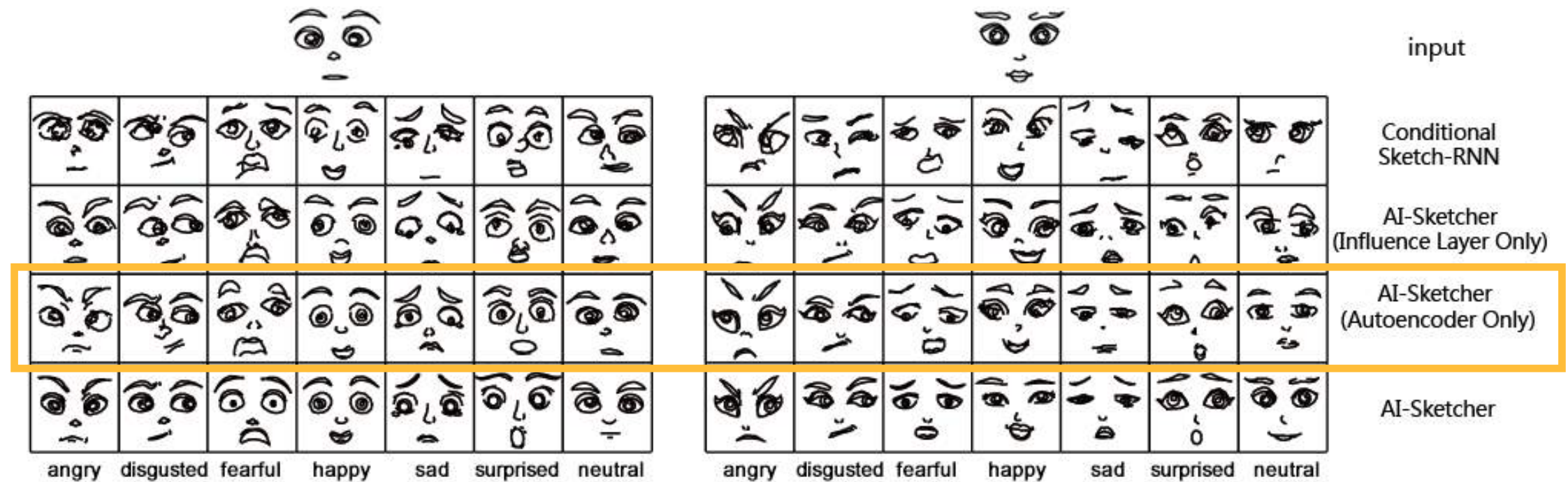
### Drawing quality



Experiments based on FaceX Dataset

# EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

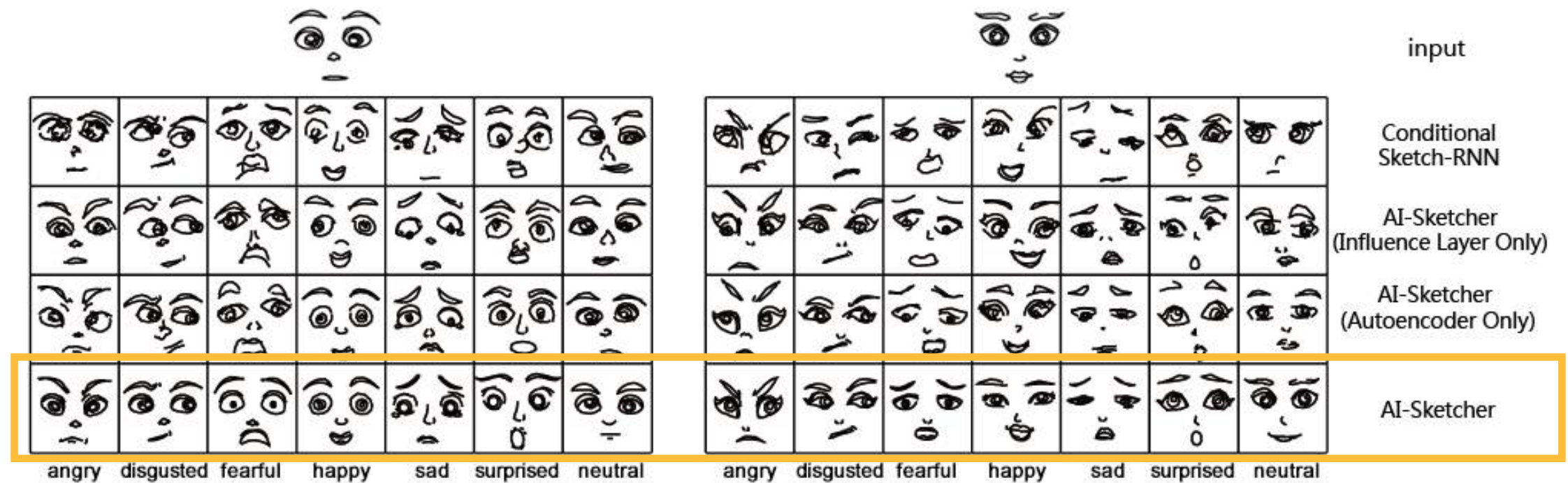
## Drawing quality



Experiments based on FaceX Dataset

# EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

## Drawing quality



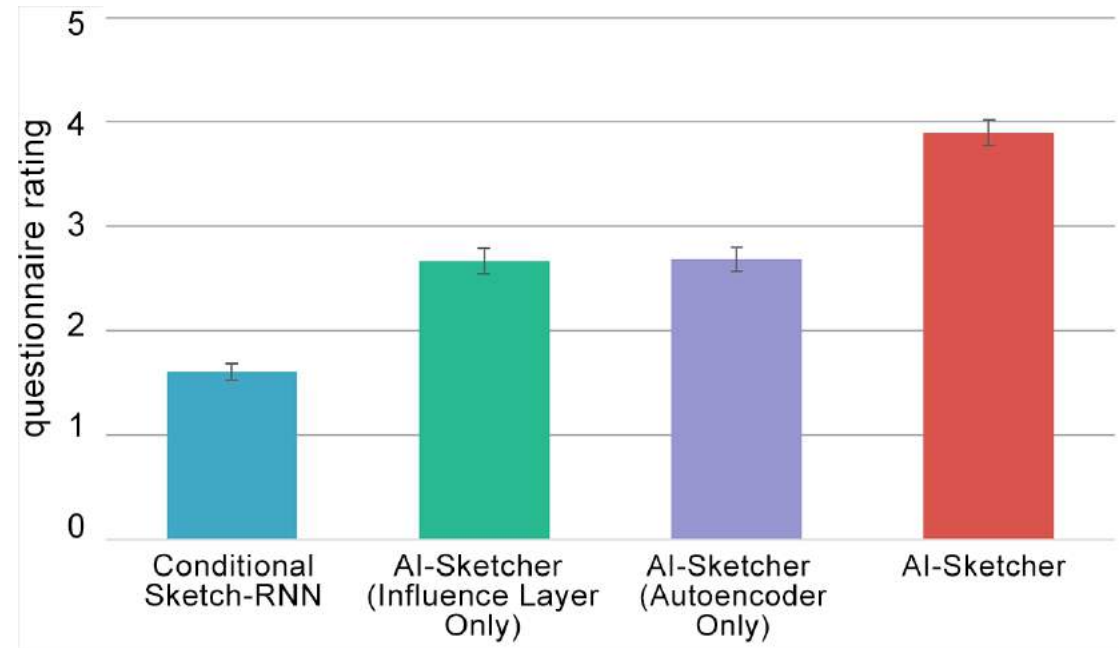
Experiments based on FaceX Dataset

## EVALUATION - 1st Experiment

### Drawing quality

#### A within-subject user study

- 20 participants (10 females)
- The repeated measures one way ANOVA analysis showed that the generation quality of AI-Sketcher had an average rating of **3.9** and was significantly better than that of the baseline models (with all  $p < .01$ ).

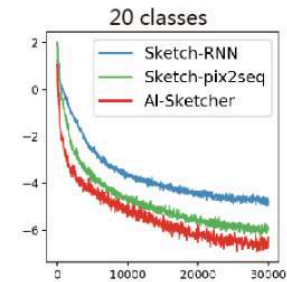
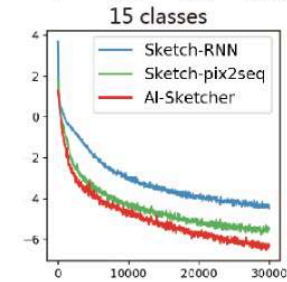
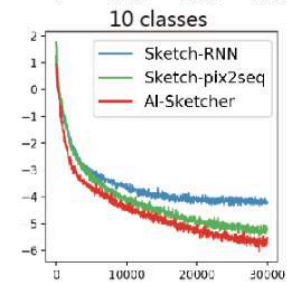
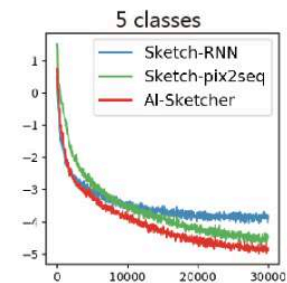
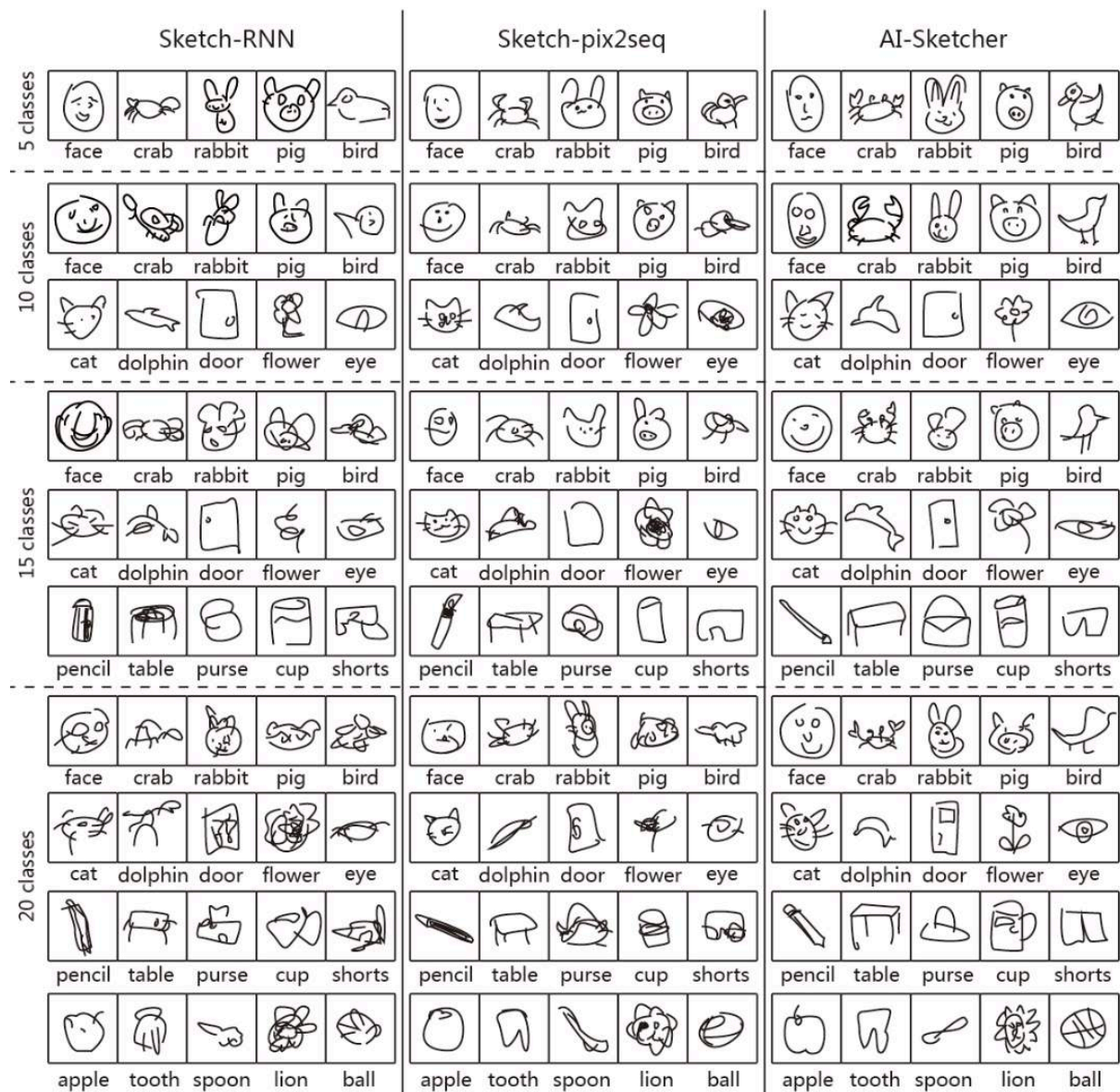




# EVALUATION - 2nd Experiment

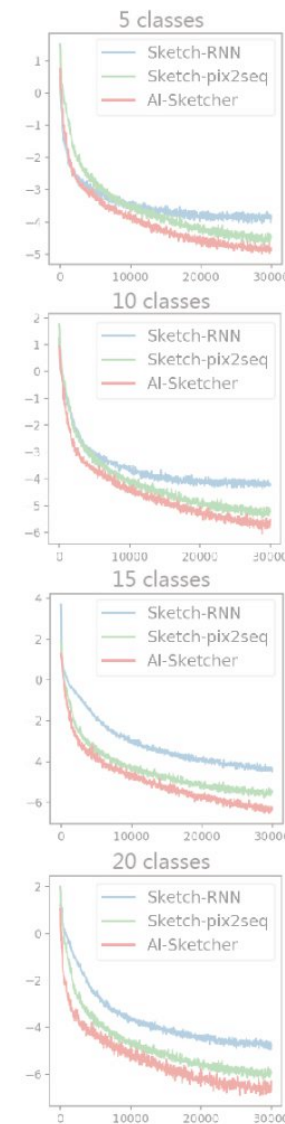
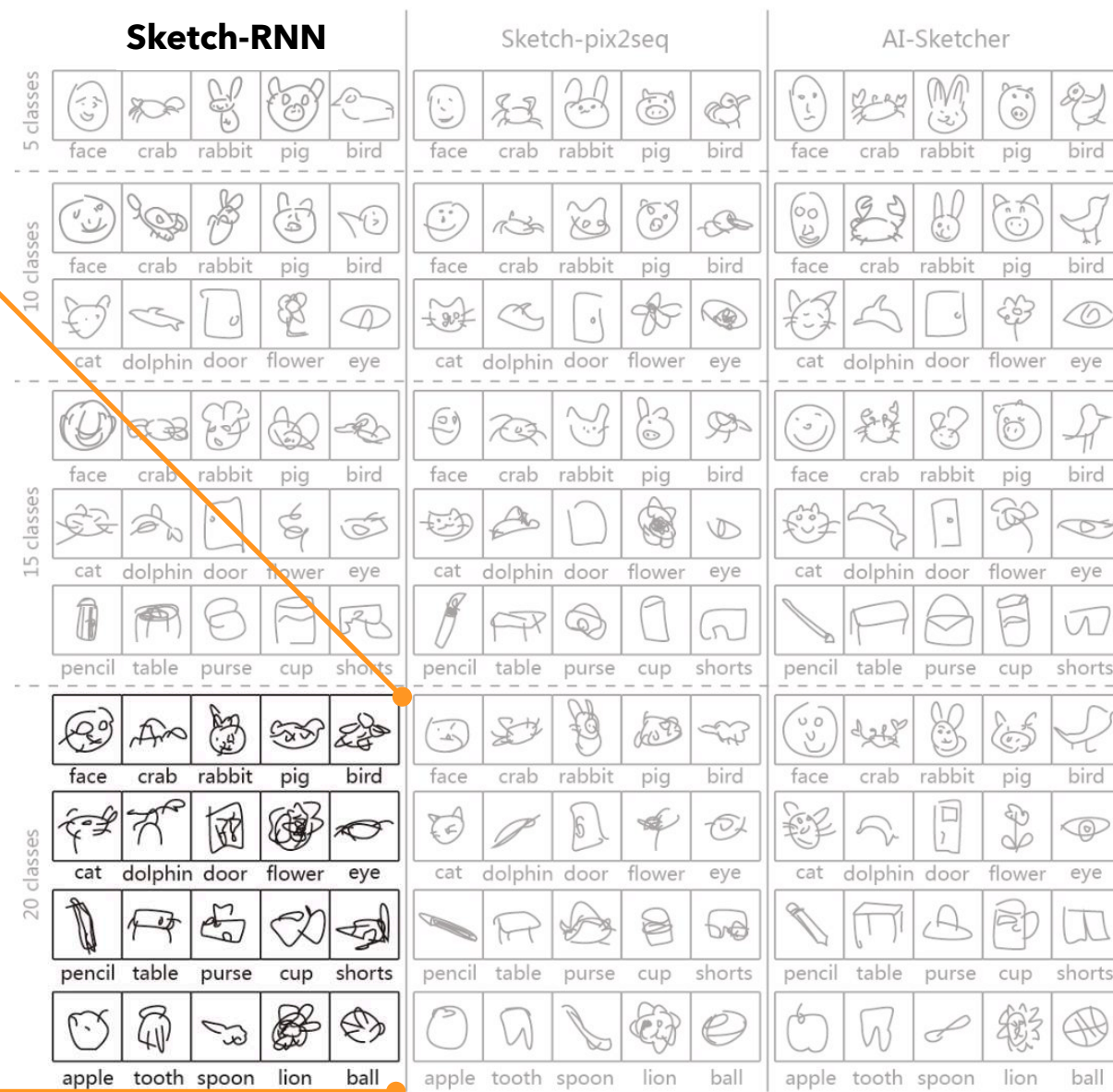
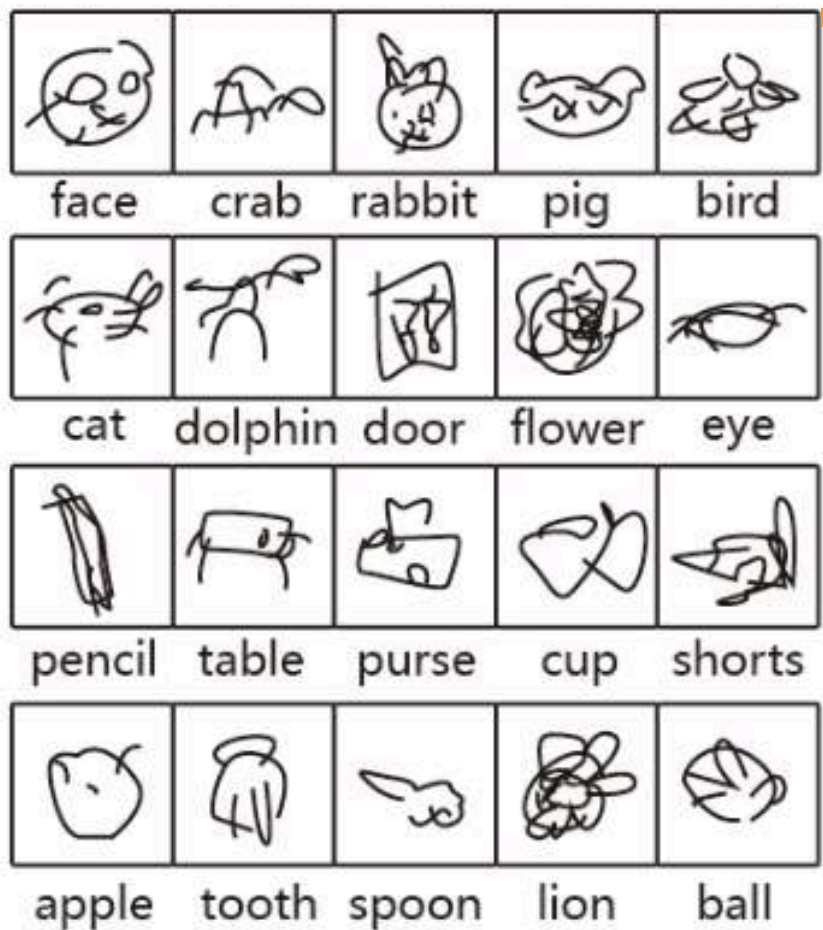
## Generating sketches from multiple classes

Experiments  
based on QuickDraw Dataset



# EVALUATION - 2nd Experiment

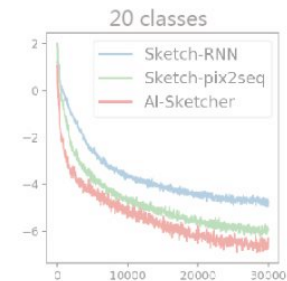
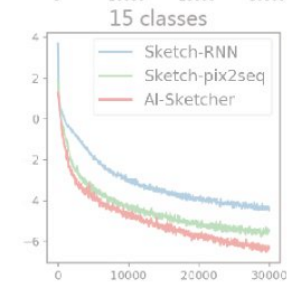
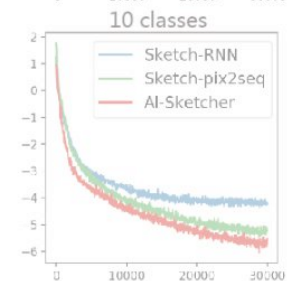
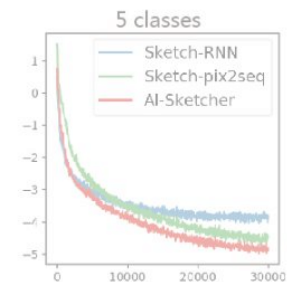
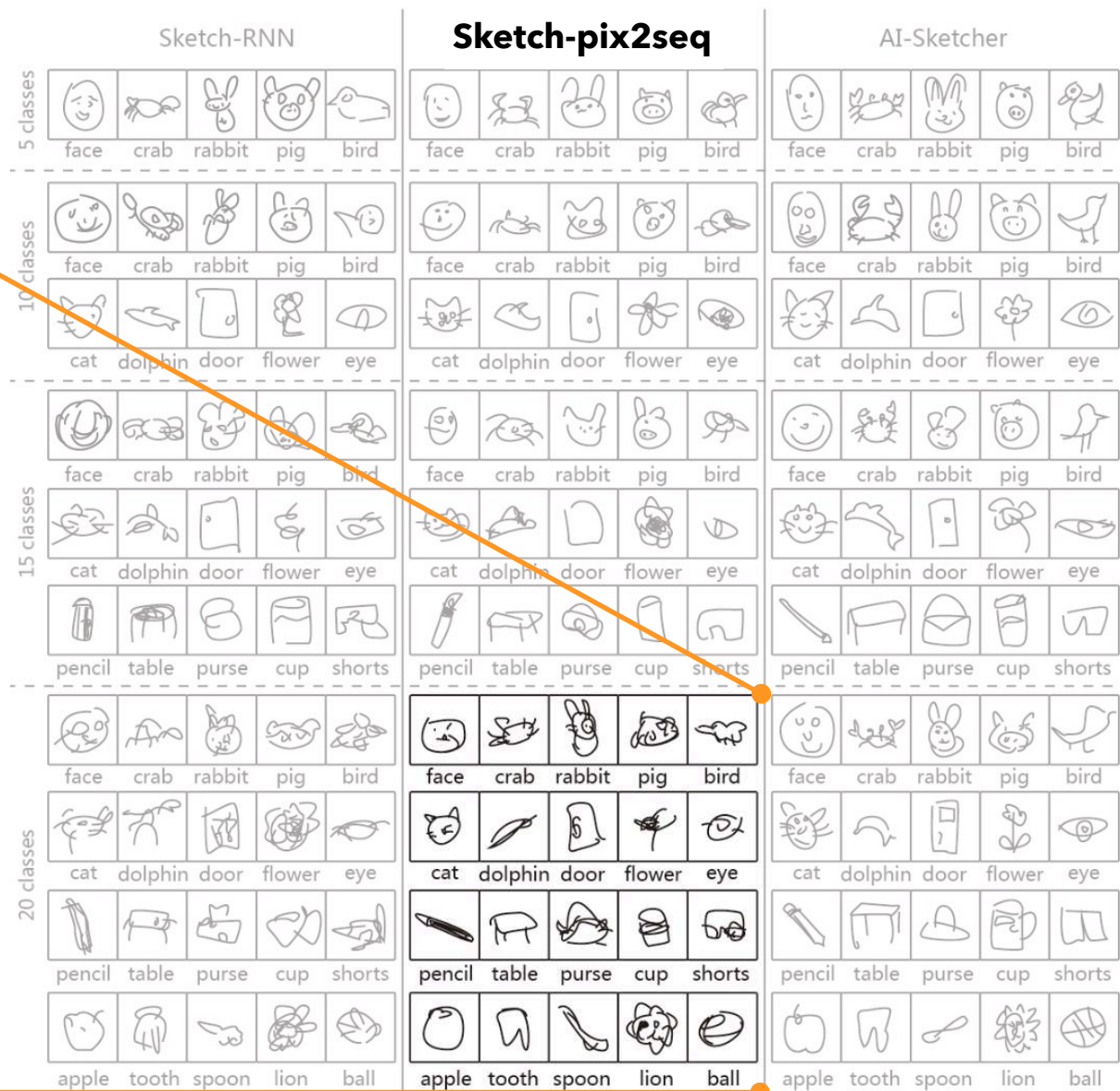
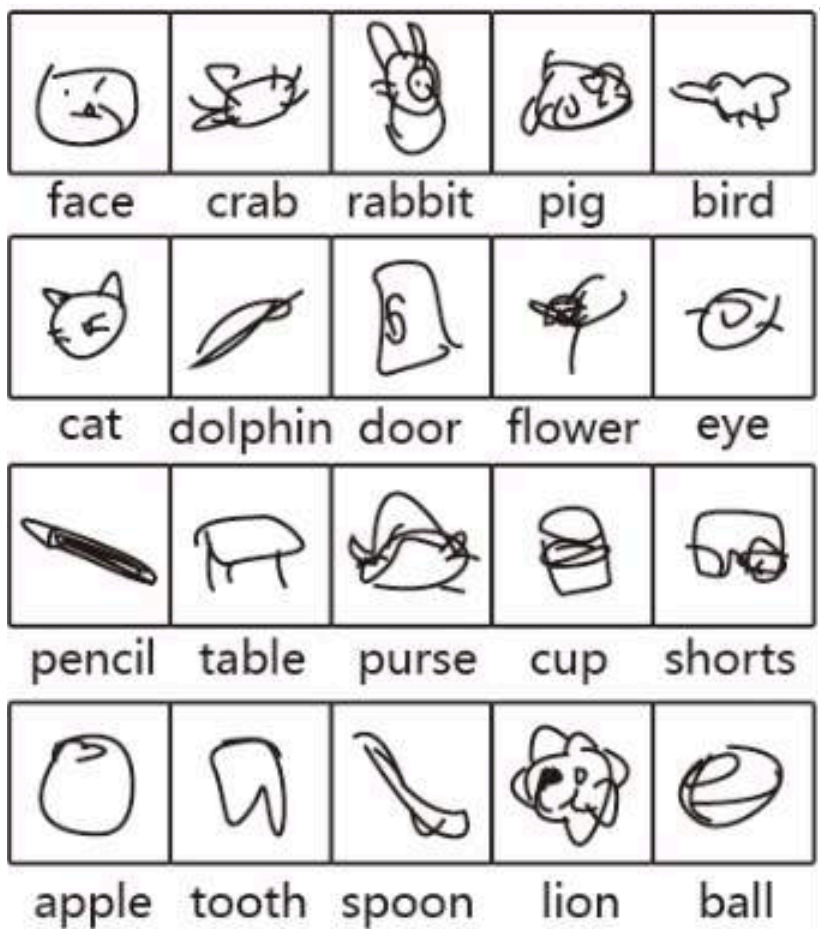
## Generating sketches from multiple classes





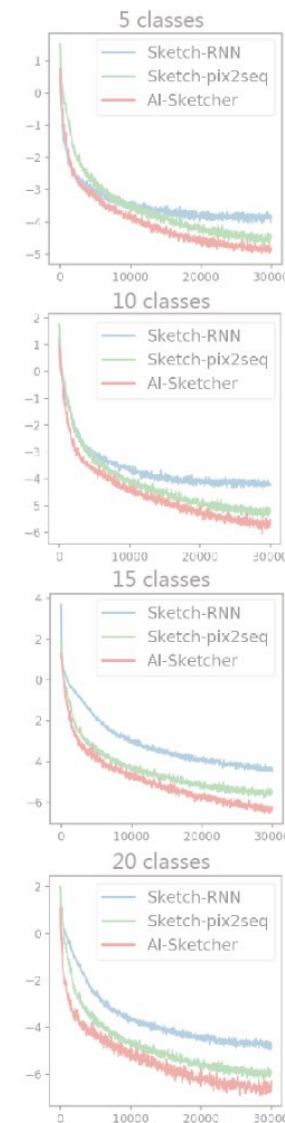
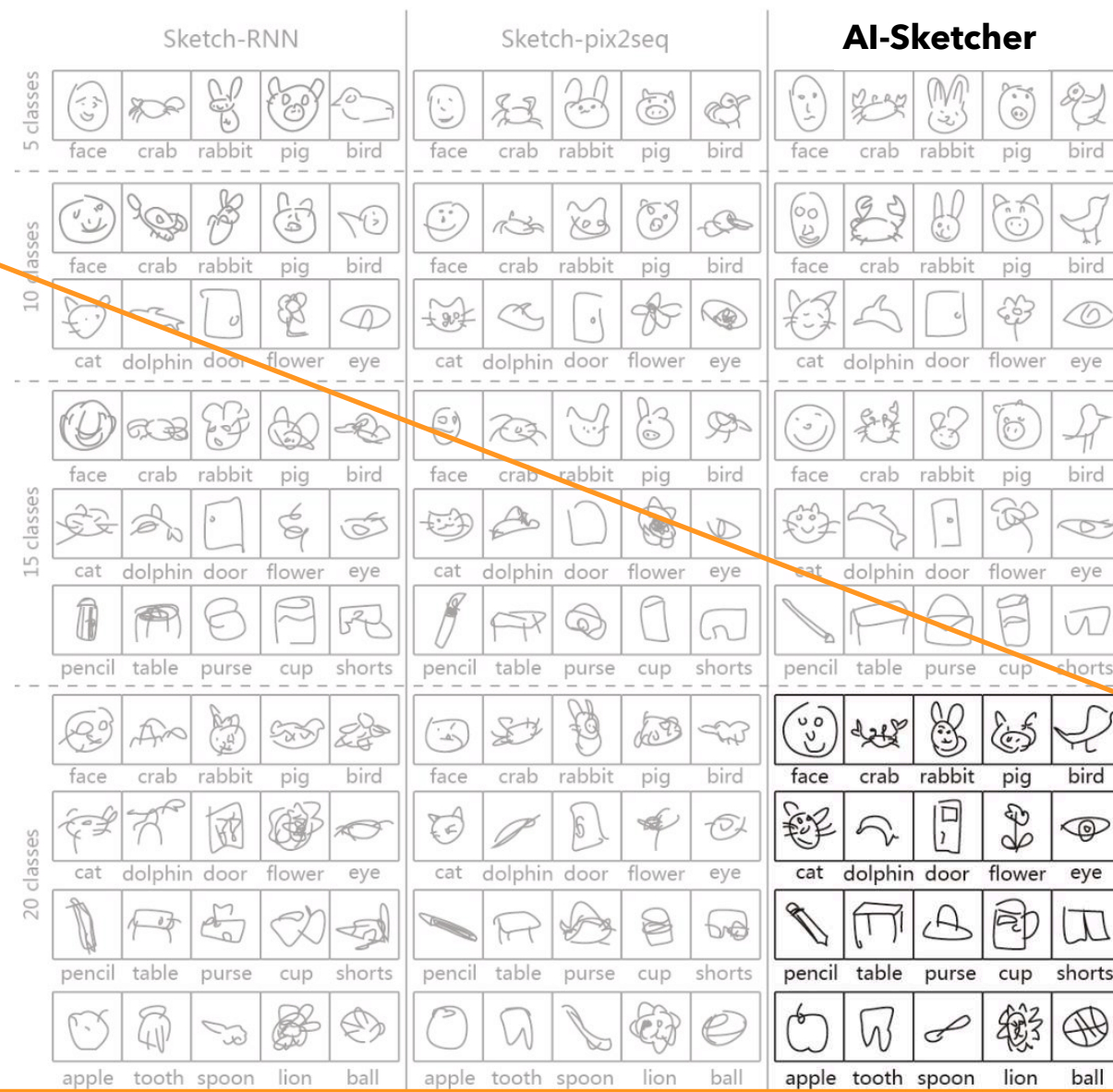
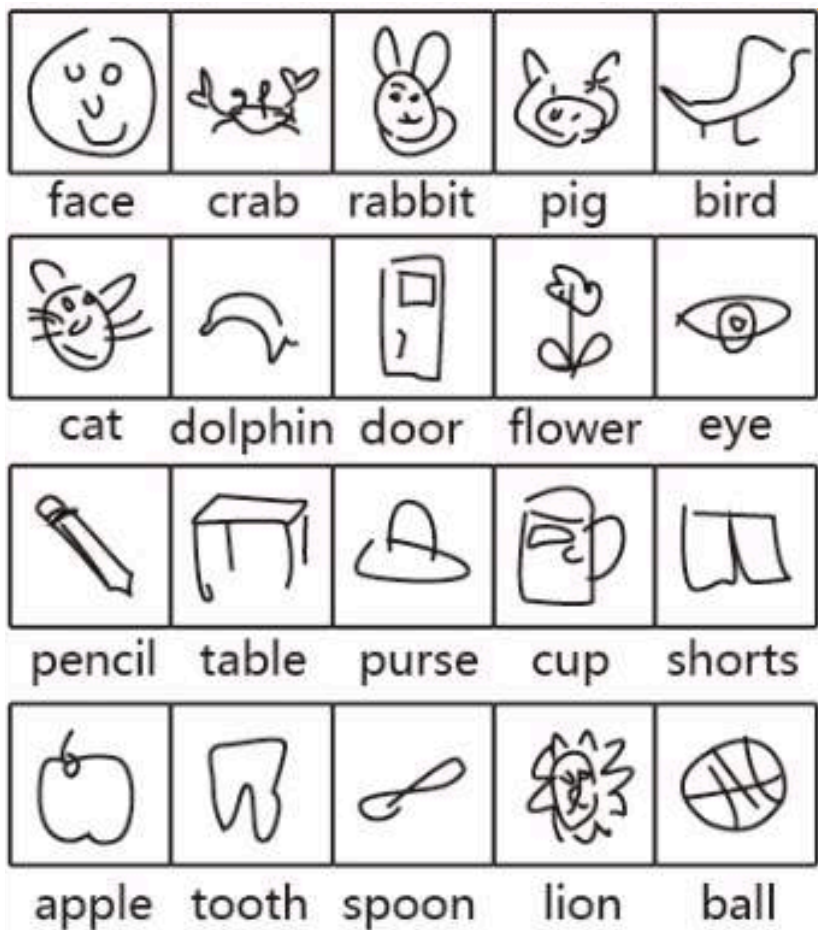
# EVALUATION - 2nd Experiment

## Generating sketches from multiple classes



# EVALUATION - 2nd Experiment

## Generating sketches from multiple classes




















## EVALUATION - 3rd Experiment

### Generation Diversity

The unpaired t-test showed that AI-Sketcher and Sketch-RNN had no significant difference.

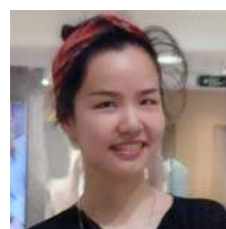
| <b>Input</b>  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Model</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Mean</b>   | 30.66   | 30.97   | 29.76  | 29.87   | 28.98   | 28.82   | 29.23   | 29.45   | 29.66   | 30.00   |
| <b>SD</b>     | 5.18  | 5.54  | 5.79   | 5.84  | 5.93  | 6.20  | 6.08  | 5.87  | 5.37  | 5.83  |
| <b>t(198)</b> | -1.42   |   | -0.53  |   | 0.65  |   | -0.92   |   | -1.53   |   |
| <b>p</b>      | 0.16 > .05  |   | 0.56 > .05   |   | 0.51 > .05  |   | 0.35 > .05  |   | 0.13 > .05  |   |

 AI-Sketcher    Sketch-RNN

Experiments based on QuickDraw Dataset

# Thank You

Nan Cao, **Xin Yan**, Yang Shi, Chaoran Chen



Intelligent Big Data Visualization Lab  
Tongji University



## A Dataset Containing 5,240,088 Hand-Drawing Sketches

The dataset contains over 5 million labeled facial sketches categorized by genders (male, female), viewing angles (frontal, mid-profile left view), emotions (neutral, happy, sad, angry, fearful, surprised, disgusted), and artistic styles (realistic, cartoon, abstract styles).

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SVG format: 73

NPZ format: 64

<https://facex.idvxl.com/>

