# Supplementary material for BézierSketch: A generative model for scalable vector sketches

Ayan Das<sup>1,2</sup>, Yongxin Yang<sup>1,2</sup>, Timothy Hospedales<sup>1,3</sup>, Tao Xiang<sup>1,2</sup>, and Yi-Zhe Song<sup>1,2</sup>

 <sup>1</sup> SketchX, CVSSP, University of Surrey, United Kingdom {a.das,yongxin.yang,t.xiang,y.song}@surrey.ac.uk
 <sup>2</sup> iFlyTek-Surrey Joint Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence
 <sup>3</sup> University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom t.hospedales@ed.ac.uk

### 1 Appendix A

Property 1. Given a  $(\mathbf{T}, \mathcal{P})$  pair where  $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{d}(\mathcal{P})$  for an arbitrary set of t, and  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}, \Sigma)$ , then the decoded  $\widehat{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{d}(\widehat{\mathcal{P}})$  with the same set of t, is distributed as  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{T}, \Sigma')$ , where  $\Sigma$  and  $\Sigma'$  are diagonal covariance matrices.

*Proof.* As  $\Sigma$  is diagonal, we can separate each dimension of  $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}, \Sigma)$  into individual Gaussians and then group x - y components of each control point with its own Gaussian with diagonal covariance  $\Sigma_i \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{x_i}, 0\\ 0, \sigma_{y_i} \end{bmatrix}$ 

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}, \Sigma) = \prod_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{P}_{i}, \Sigma_{i})$$

By drawing samples from the gaussians of individual control points, we get  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}} \triangleq \left[\widehat{\mathbf{P}}_{i}\right]_{i=0}^{n}$  where  $\widehat{\mathbf{P}}_{i} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{P}_{i}, \Sigma_{i})$ . Decoding  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  by  $\mathbf{d}(\cdot)$  gives

$$\widehat{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{d}(\widehat{\mathcal{P}}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{i,n}(t) \cdot \widehat{\mathbf{P}}_{i}$$
(1)

Given any value of t = t, the random variable  $\widehat{\mathbf{T}}$  is a weighted sum of n independent gaussian random variables with weights  $[\mathcal{B}_{i,n}(t)]_{i=0}^{n}$ . Hence,  $\widehat{\mathbf{T}}$  is distributed as

$$\widehat{\mathbf{T}} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{i,n}(t) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{i}, \sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{i,n}^{2}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{i}\right)$$
(2)

Now we know that  $\sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{i,n}(t) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{i} \triangleq \mathbf{T}$  and we denote  $\sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{i,n}^{2}(t) \cdot \Sigma_{i} \triangleq \Sigma'$ .

So,

$$\widehat{\mathbf{T}} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{T}, \Sigma')$$

2 A. Das et al.

#### 2 Appendix B

**Sketch-RNN** [2] is considered the state-of-the-art generative model for freehand vector sketches. Sketch-RNN models the consecutive differences of 2D waypoints of a sketch along with three bits denoting "touching", "stroke-end" and "sketch-end" state of the pen. In control point mode of BézierSketch, we adopted the same architecture and data representation as Sketch-RNN but with control points instead of waypoints. Hence, a sketch  $S_{cp}$  is transformed to a list (of length N) of 5-tuples  $s_i \triangleq (\Delta P_x, \Delta P_y, q_1, q_2, q_3)_i$  where  $[\Delta P_x, \Delta P_y]^T \triangleq \Delta \mathbf{P}$  is the successive difference of control points and  $(q_1, q_2, q_3) \triangleq q$  are the three flag bits described above. As a normalization step, all sketches have been assumed to start from the origin (i.e.,  $[0, 0]^T$ ).

The core model of Sketch-RNN is a Sequence-to-Sequence Variational Autoencoder (Seq2Seq-VAE) [4] with a standard sequence encoder and an autoregressive decoder. The whole sketch sequence is fed into a Bidirectional encoder LSTM with hidden state given as

$$\mathbf{h}_{i} \triangleq \left[\overrightarrow{\mathbf{h}}_{i}; \overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}}_{i}\right] = \text{Bi-LSTM}(s_{i}, \mathbf{h}_{i-1})$$
(3)

and the last state  $\mathbf{h}_N$  is used as a compact representation of the sketch.  $\mathbf{h}_N$  is then used to generate the parameters of a gaussian distribution following the VAE framework [3]. A sample is then drawn from the distribution as

$$\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$$
, where  $[\mu, \sigma] = f(\mathbf{h}_N) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ 

and decoded by an autoregressive decoder. An unidirectional LSTM is employed to initialize from  $\mathbf{z}$  and produce a reconstruction of the sketch sequence similar to [1]. At each time-step j of the decoder, the hidden state is given as

$$\mathbf{g}_{i} = \text{LSTM}([\mathbf{z}; s_{i}], \mathbf{g}_{i-1}), \text{ with } \mathbf{g}_{0} = \tanh(\mathbf{z})$$

The decoder, at every time-step, outputs the parameters of a GMM (with M mixtures) on  $[\Delta P_x, \Delta P_y]^T$  and also a categorical distribution on three flag bits discussed above. Samples from these distributions are fed back as input  $s_{j+1}$  at next time step

$$s'_{j} = (\Delta \mathbf{P}'_{j}, q'_{j}), \text{ where}$$
  
$$\Delta \mathbf{P}'_{j} \sim \text{GMM}(\Delta \mathbf{P}; \mathbf{g}_{j}) \text{ and } q'_{j} \sim \text{Cat}(q; \mathbf{g}_{j})$$
(4)

The network is trained with the following loss that comprises of log-likelihood of the GMM, categorical cross-entropy of the flag bits and a variational KL divergance loss

$$L = -\frac{1}{N_{max}} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^{N} \log \text{GMM}(\Delta \mathbf{P}'_j) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_{max}} q_j \log q'_j \right] -\frac{1}{2Z} (1 + \sigma - \mu^2 - exp(\sigma))$$
(5)

#### 3 Appendix C

We provide visualizations (Refer to Fig. 1) of the optimization dynamics over time. We also annotate a discrete point of the stroke and its corresponding point on the Bézier curve by joining them by a connector.



**Fig. 1.** Visualization of intermediate stages of the fitting for BézierEncoder network. Each row corresponds to one sample and columns denote increasing iterations of training.

## References

- 1. Graves, A.: Generating sequences with recurrent neural networks. CoRR abs/1308.0850 (2013)
- 2. Ha, D., Eck, D.: A neural representation of sketch drawings. In: ICLR (2018)
- 3. Kingma, D.P., Welling, M.: Auto-encoding variational bayes. ICLR (2014)
- 4. Srivastava, N., Mansimov, E., Salakhudinov, R.: Unsupervised learning of video representations using lstms. In: ICML (2015)