

# Physics-informed Machine Learning to Infer Dynamics from Data

**Biswadip Dey**

Siemens Corporation, Technology

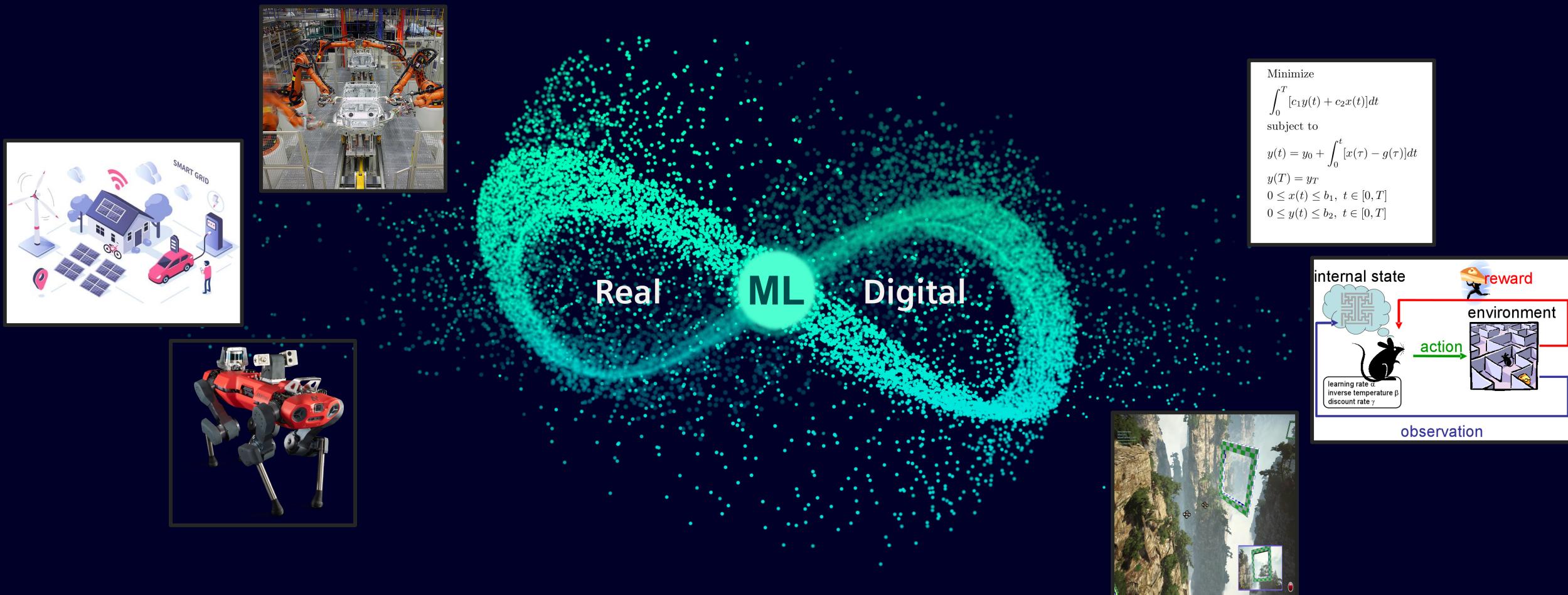
Workshop on *Differentiable Programming for Modeling and Control of Dynamical Systems*

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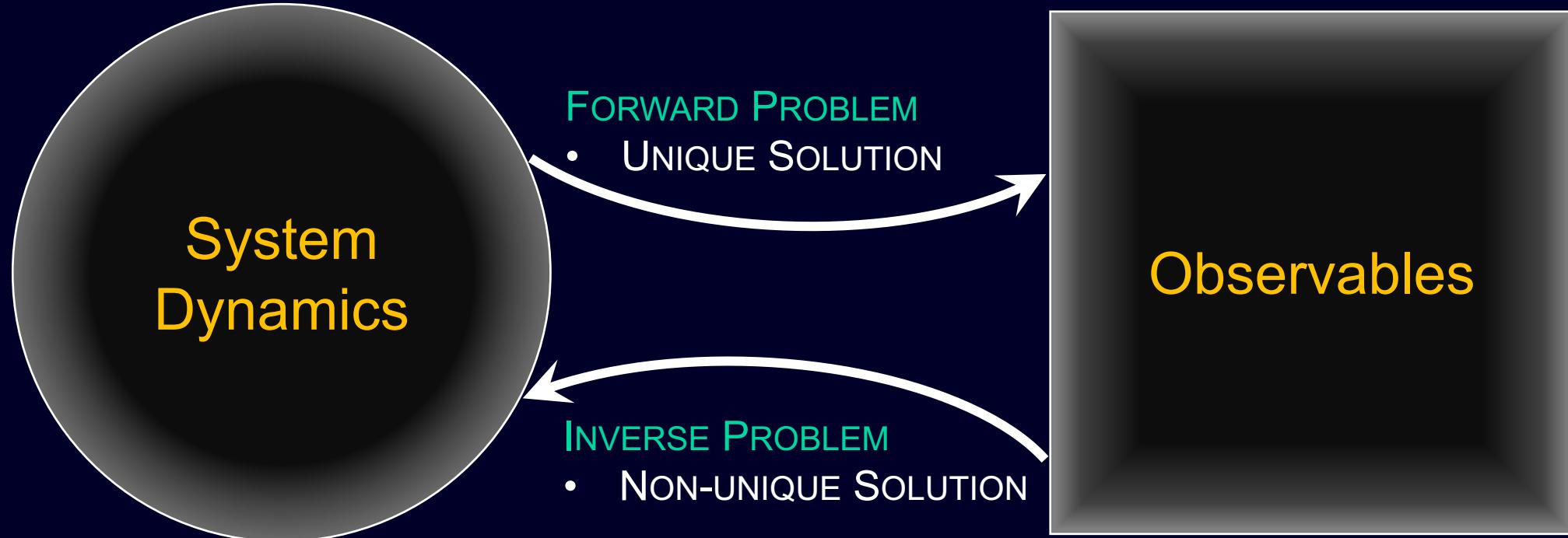
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# Physics-informed ML provides a bridge between the real and the digital



Real-world systems often **lack good quality data** but come with **lots of domain knowledge!**

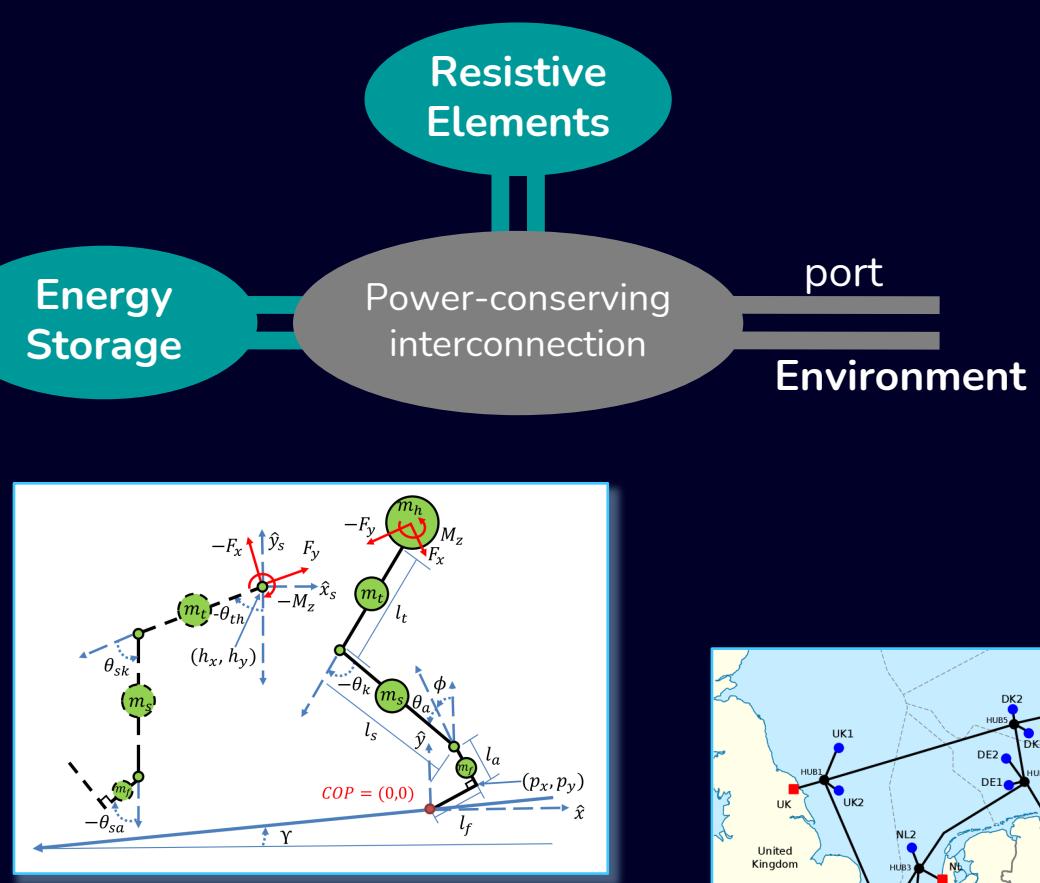
The inverse problem of inferring dynamics from data needs relevant **inductive bias**



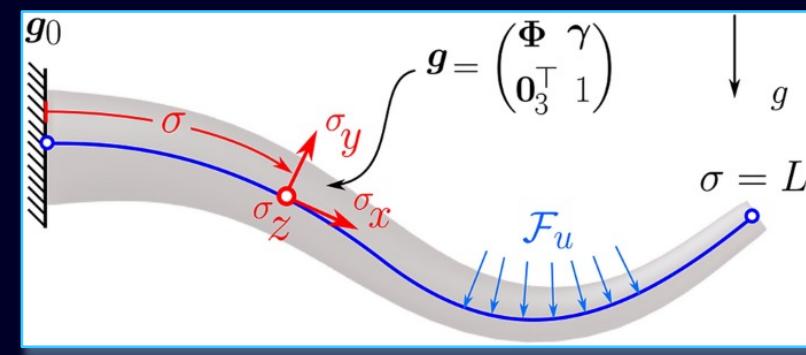
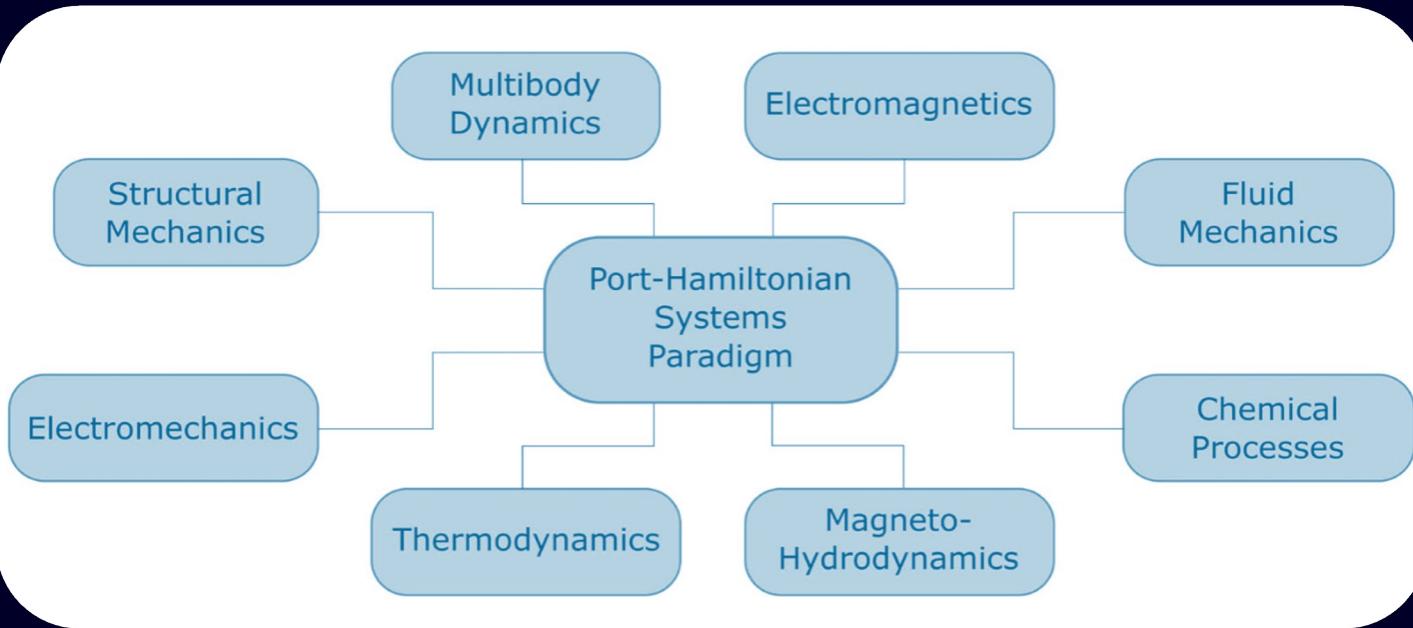
Need to use appropriate **inductive bias**!

Energy-based descriptions!

# Hamiltonian dynamics and port-Hamiltonian formulation provide a relevant inductive bias for a broad class of physical systems



Benedito, et al. | Control Engineering Practice | 2019



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# Hamiltonian dynamics

- Generalized Coordinate –  $q$
- Generalized Momentum –  $p$
- A Conserved Quantity –  $H$ , i.e., the Hamiltonian
  - It usually represents the **total energy**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \\ -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \end{bmatrix}$$

Symplectic gradient  $\Rightarrow \frac{dH}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \dot{q} + \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \dot{p} = 0$



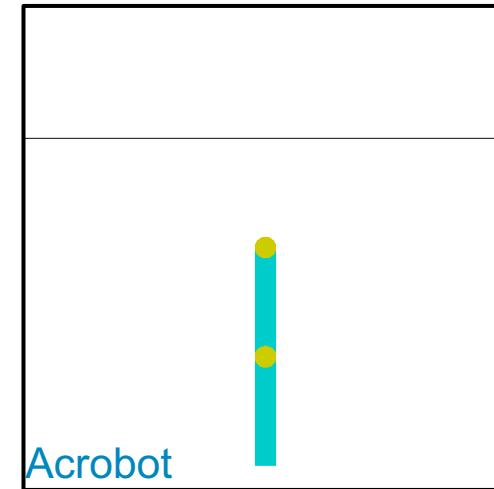
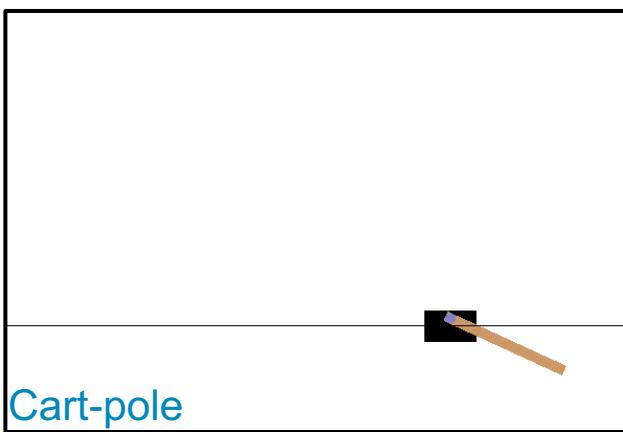
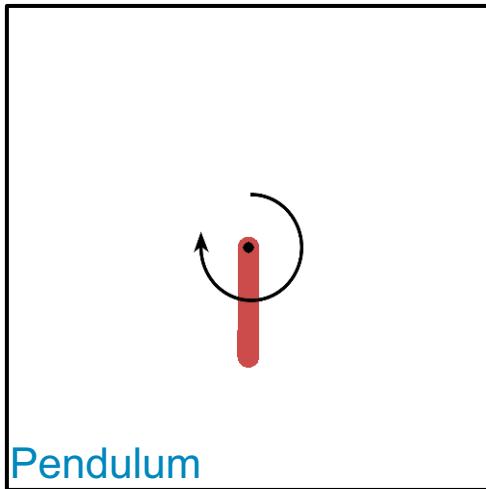
Sir William Rowan Hamilton  
(1833)

- For physical systems, the total energy is:  $H(q, p) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1}(q)p}_{\text{Kinetic energy}} + \underbrace{V(q)}_{\text{Potential energy}}$
- An alternative description is provided by the **Lagrangian Dynamics**, in which the system is described in terms of **generalized position** ( $q$ ) and **generalized velocity** ( $\dot{q}$ ). These two sides are related via **Legendre Transformation**, i.e.,  $p = M(q)\dot{q}$ .

# Hamiltonian dynamics with control offer a natural framework for modeling a large class of systems

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \\ -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(q) \end{bmatrix} u = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(q) \end{bmatrix} \textcolor{red}{u}$$

**External Control:**  
- Force, Torque, etc.



**Port-Hamiltonian System:**

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= (J(x) - D(x)) \nabla_x H + g(x)u \\ y &= g^T(x) \nabla_x H \end{aligned}$$

Symmetric, Positive-semidefinite  
Skew-symmetric

$$\dot{H} \leq y^T u$$

# How do we encode Hamiltonian dynamics into neural networks for learning dynamics from data?

**Data Driven Approach:** Learn a dynamical system governed by a set of differential equations from data



**Prior:**  
Symmetries and Conservation Laws



- Improved model transparency
- Model-based control synthesis
- Better generalization
- Data-efficiency
- Increase in learning speed

**Our Solution: Symplectic ODENet**

Encode Hamiltonian dynamics into the architecture of a neural network

# Symplectic ODENet encodes Hamiltonian dynamics into neural networks

**Available data:**  $(q, p, u)_{t_0, \dots, t_n}$

## □ Leverage Neural ODE<sup>[§]</sup>

- Consider an ODE –  $\dot{x} = f_\theta(x, u)$ , where  $f_\theta(x)$  is parametrized by a neural network
- Use *Neural ODE Solvers* to obtain:  $\hat{x}_{t_1}, \hat{x}_{t_2}, \dots, \hat{x}_{t_n} = \text{ODESolve}(x_{t_0}, f_\theta, u, t_0, \dots, t_n)$
- Minimize an appropriate penalty function  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$  (e.g., MSE, MAE) to find a suitable  $f_\theta(\cdot)$

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^n d(x_{t_i}, \hat{x}_{t_i})$$

**Symplectic  
ODENet**

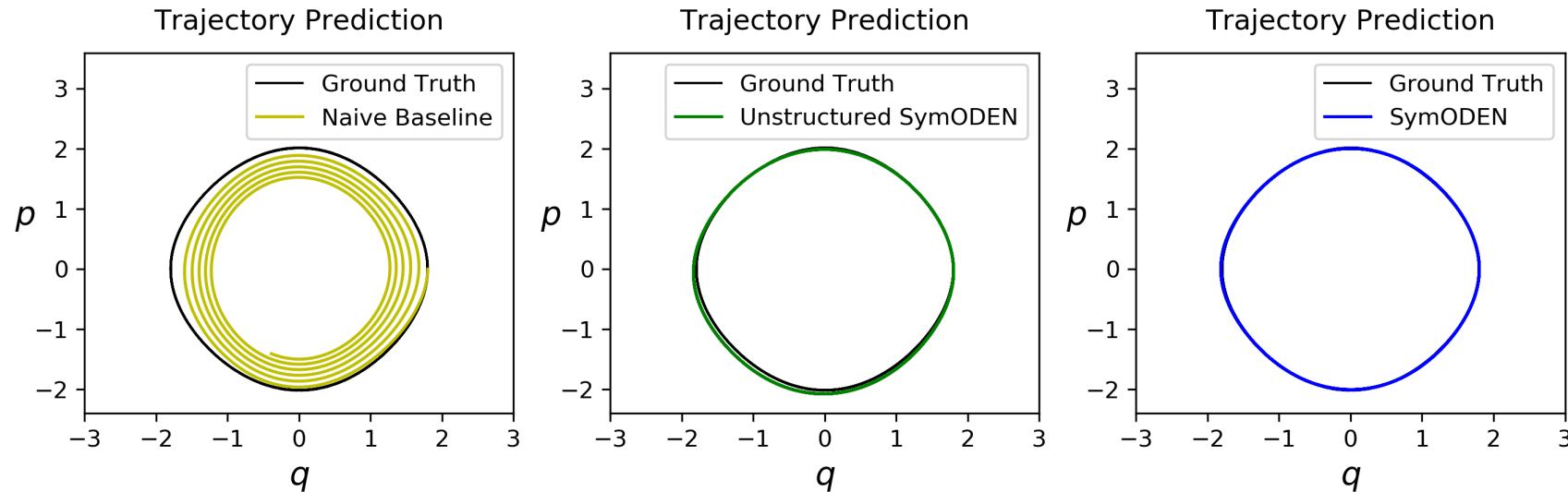
$$f_\theta(q, p, u) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H_{\theta_1, \theta_2}}{\partial p} \\ -\frac{\partial H_{\theta_1, \theta_2}}{\partial q} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ g_{\theta_3}(q) \end{bmatrix} u$$
$$H_{\theta_1, \theta_2}(q, p) = \frac{1}{2} p^T M_{\theta_1}^{-1}(q) p + V_{\theta_2}(q)$$

- $M_{\theta_1}^{-1}(q) = L_{\theta_1} L_{\theta_1}^T$  - Fully-connected Feedforward Network
- $V_{\theta_2}(q)$  - Fully-connected Feedforward Network
- $g_{\theta_3}(q)$  - Fully-connected Feedforward Network

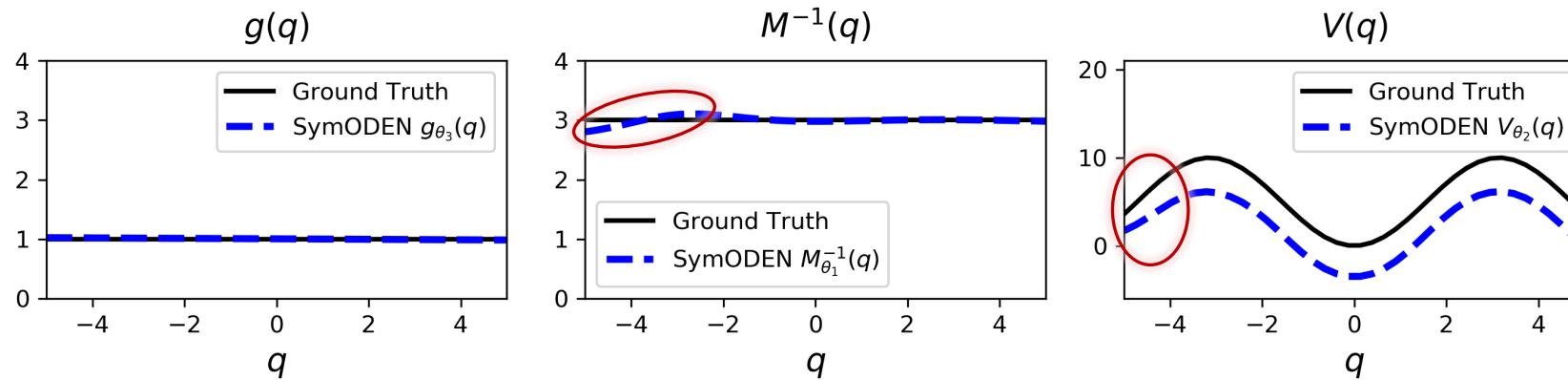
We use mean-squared error (MSE) as the penalty function!

# Can Symplectic ODENet infer the dynamics of a pendulum from data?

## □ Prediction of test trajectories ( $u = 0$ )



## □ Functions learned by SymODEN



# Bridging this gap through an angle-aware Design

- **Theoretical perspective:** Convenient to deal with independent generalized coordinates and momenta, i.e.,  $(q, p)$ .
  
- **Data-driven perspective:** Angle coordinate –  $q$  – is often embedded in  $(\cos q, \sin q)$  format, since treating  $q$  as a variable in  $\mathbb{R}^1$  fail to respect the geometry that  $q$  lies on the manifold  $\mathbb{S}^1$ . Also, the velocity data –  $\dot{q}$  – is often more readily available than the momentum data  $p$ .
  - *Example:* In OpenAI Gym Pendulum-v0 environment, observation data are available in the form  $(\cos q, \sin q, \dot{q})$

**Question: *Can we bridge this gap?***

## Symplectic ODENet with embedded coordinate and momentum Data

- Define  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (\sin q, \cos q, \dot{q})$
- Use **chain-rule** and **Hamiltonian dynamics** to express the dynamics of  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$

$$\dot{x}_1 = -\sin q \circ \dot{q} = -x_2 \circ \dot{q}$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \cos q \circ \dot{q} = x_1 \circ \dot{q}$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = \frac{d}{dt}(\mathbf{M}^{-1}(x_1, x_2)\mathbf{p}) = \frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{M}^{-1}(x_1, x_2) \cdot \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{M}^{-1}(x_1, x_2) \cdot \dot{\mathbf{p}}$$

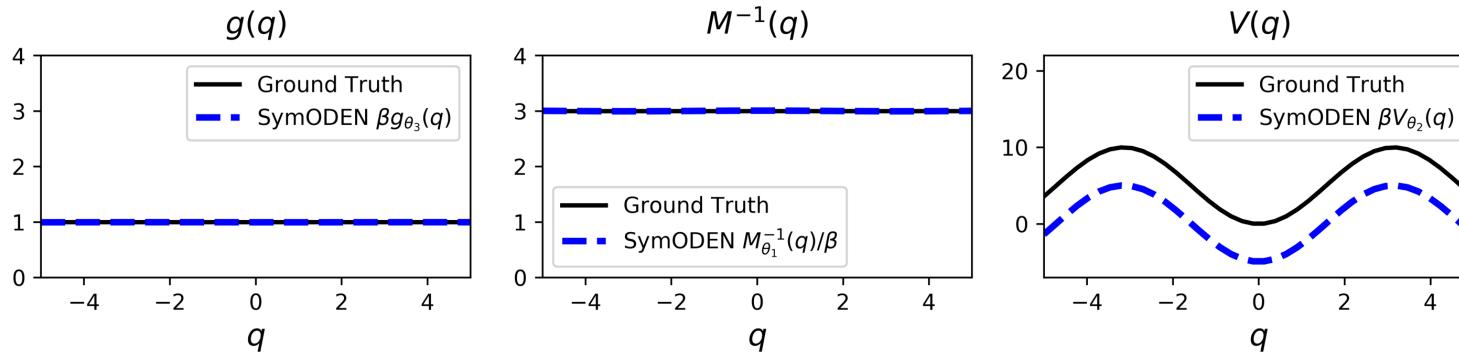
where,  $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{M}(x_1, x_2) \cdot x_3$

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial H(x_1, x_2, \mathbf{p})}{\partial \mathbf{p}}$$

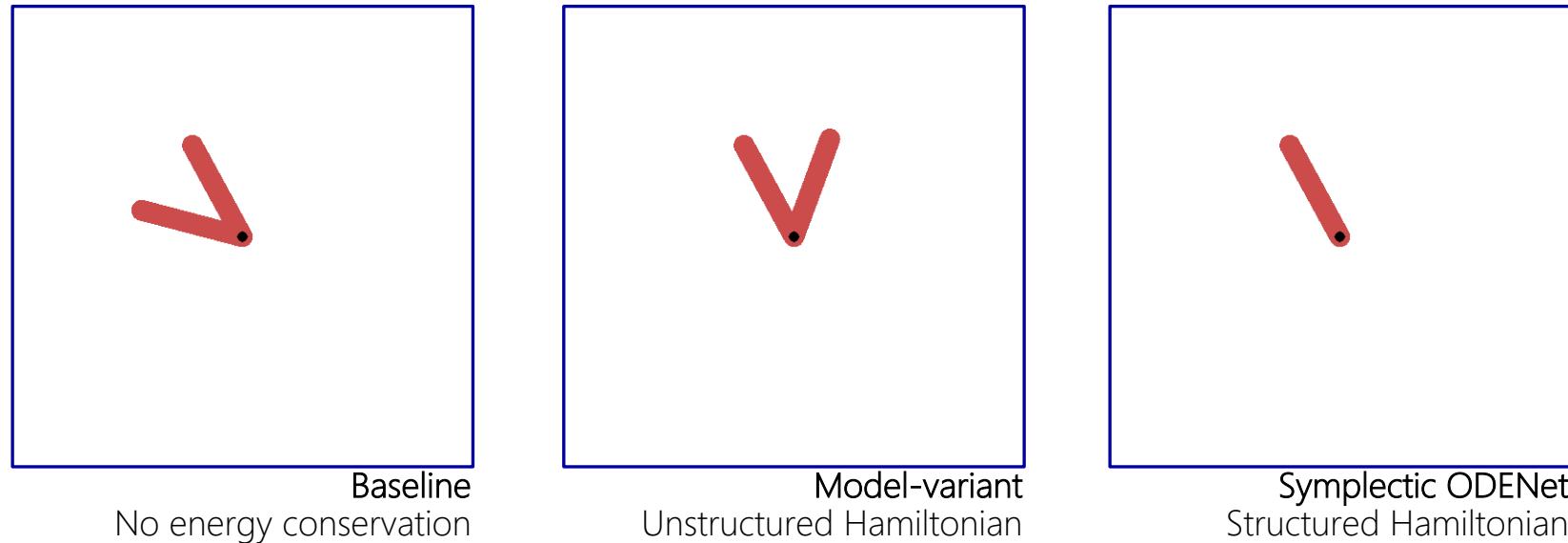
$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial H(x_1, x_2, \mathbf{p})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(x_1, x_2)\mathbf{u} = -\frac{\partial x_1}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_2} + \mathbf{g}(x_1, x_2)\mathbf{u} = x_2 \circ \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_1} - x_1 \circ \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_2} + \mathbf{g}(x_1, x_2)\mathbf{u}$$

# Angle-aware design leads to performance improvement

## ➤ Learned functions



## ➤ Prediction



Gray: Ground Truth  
Orange: Prediction

# Key takeaways

- Symplectic ODENet achieves **better generalization with fewer training samples** by encoding Hamiltonian dynamics into the neural network architecture.
- The **angle-aware design** narrows the gap between model-based and data-driven methods.
- **Integration over longer time-horizon lowers prediction error**, at the cost of increased training time.
- A parallel line of work has investigated similar questions using Lagrangian dynamics!

## DEEP LAGRANGIAN NETWORKS: USING PHYSICS AS MODEL PRIOR FOR DEEP LEARNING

Michael Lutter, Christian Ritter & Jan Peters \*  
Department of Computer Science  
Technische Universität Darmstadt  
Hochschulstr. 10, 64289 Darmstadt, Germany  
[{Lutter, Peters}@ias.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:{Lutter, Peters}@ias.tu-darmstadt.de)

## Modeling System Dynamics with Physics-Informed Neural Networks Based on Lagrangian Mechanics\*

Manuel A. Roehrl \*\* Thomas A. Runkler \*\*  
Veronika Brandstetter \* Michel Tokic \* Stefan Obermayer \*  
  
\* Siemens AG, Corporate Technology, 81739 Munich, Germany (e-mail:  
[manuel.roehrl@siemens.com](mailto:manuel.roehrl@siemens.com); [thomas.runkler@siemens.com](mailto:thomas.runkler@siemens.com);  
[veronika.brandstetter@siemens.com](mailto:veronika.brandstetter@siemens.com); [michel.tokic@siemens.com](mailto:michel.tokic@siemens.com))  
\*\* Technical University of Munich, 85748 Garching, Germany  
(e-mail: [m.roehrl@tum.de](mailto:m.roehrl@tum.de); [thomas.runkler@tum.de](mailto:thomas.runkler@tum.de))

## Deep Lagrangian Networks for end-to-end learning of energy-based control for under-actuated systems

Michael Lutter<sup>1</sup>, Kim Listmann<sup>2</sup> and Jan Peters<sup>1,3</sup>

## Unsupervised Learning of Lagrangian Dynamics from Images for Prediction and Control

Yaofeng Desmond Zhong  
Princeton University  
[y.zhong@princeton.edu](mailto:y.zhong@princeton.edu)

Naomi Ehrich Leonard  
Princeton University  
[naomi@princeton.edu](mailto:naomi@princeton.edu)

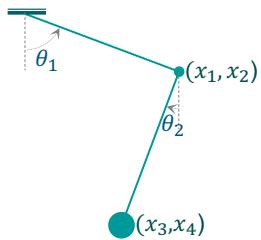
## LagNetViP: A Lagrangian Neural Network for Video Prediction

Christine Allen-Blanchette, Sushant Veer, Anirudha Majumdar, Naomi Ehrich Leonard  
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Princeton University  
[{ca15, sveer, ani.majumdar, naomi}@princeton.edu](mailto:{ca15, sveer, ani.majumdar, naomi}@princeton.edu)

## LAGRANGIAN NEURAL NETWORKS

Miles Cranmer Princeton University <a href="mailto:mcranmer@princeton.edu">mcranmer@princeton.edu</a>	Sam Greydanus Oregon State University <a href="mailto:greydanus.17@gmail.com">greydanus.17@gmail.com</a>	Stephan Hoyer Google Research <a href="mailto:shoyer@google.com">shoyer@google.com</a>	Peter Battaglia DeepMind <a href="mailto:peterbattaglia@google.com">peterbattaglia@google.com</a>
David Spergel* Flatiron Institute <a href="mailto:davidspergel@flatironinstitute.org">davidspergel@flatironinstitute.org</a>	Shirley Ho† Flatiron Institute <a href="mailto:shirleyho@flatironinstitute.org">shirleyho@flatironinstitute.org</a>		

# The notion of angle-aware design can be extended to accommodate **holonomic constraints in the configuration space**



$(\theta_1, \theta_2) \rightarrow$  Independent coordinate, but often results in coordinate dependent mass matrix.

$(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \rightarrow$  Coordinates are constrained, but admits simplified mass matrix.

## Configuration Space with Constraints:

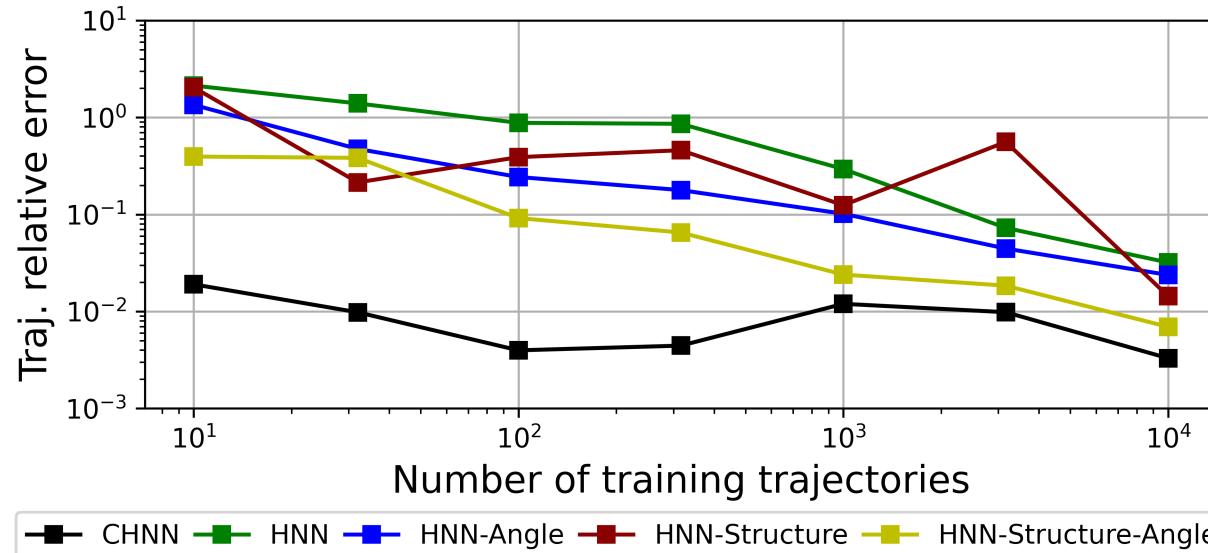
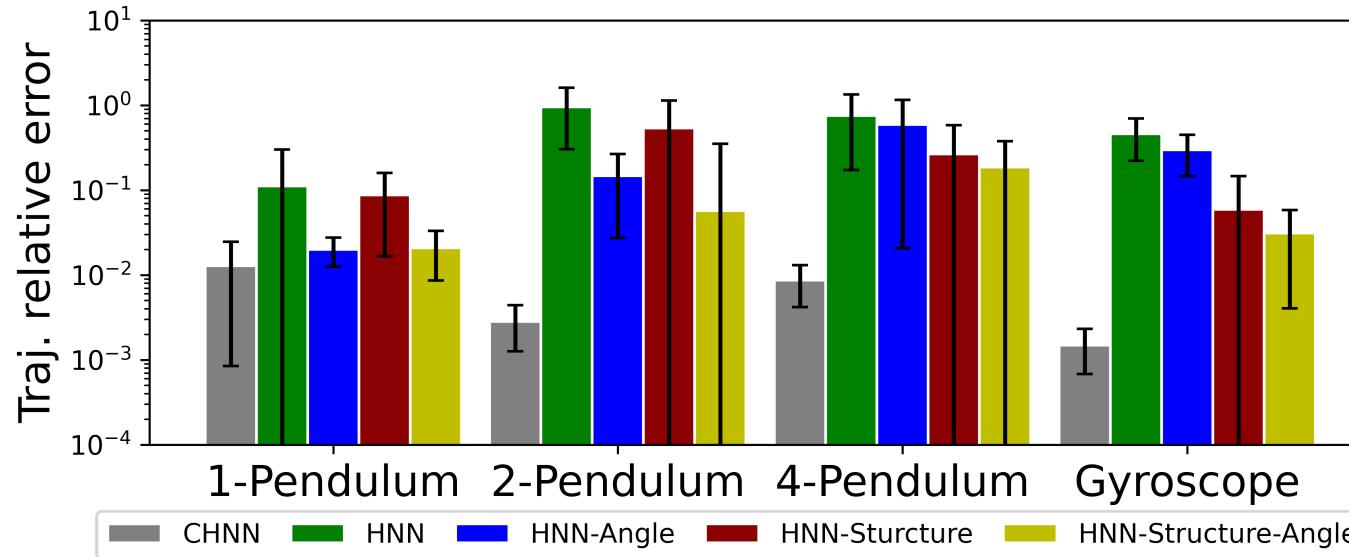
- System configuration is described by Cartesian coordinates  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- Number of degrees of freedom is  $m$ .
- There exists  $k = d - m$  equality constraints:  
 $\Phi_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \Rightarrow \Phi(x) = 0$

## □ Constrained Dynamics:

$$H = \frac{1}{2} p_x^T M^{-1} p_x + V(x) \Rightarrow \dot{x} = M^{-1} p_x \quad \left. \begin{aligned} \Phi(x) = 0 &\Rightarrow (D_x \Phi) \dot{x} = 0 \\ \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow (D_x \Phi) M^{-1} p_x = 0 \Rightarrow \Psi(x, p_x) = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi(x) \\ (D_x \Phi) M^{-1} p_x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{p}_x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_x} \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(x) \end{bmatrix} u - \left[ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{bmatrix} (D_{[x, p_x]} \Psi)^T \left( (D_{[x, p_x]} \Psi) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{bmatrix} (D_{[x, p_x]} \Psi)^T \right)^{-1} (D_{[x, p_x]} \Psi) \right] \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_x} \\ -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Explicit constraints lead to significant improvement in performance



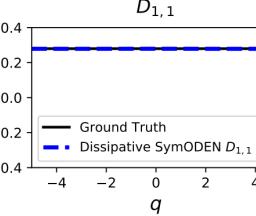
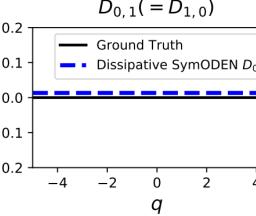
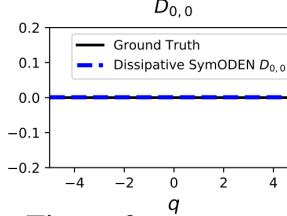
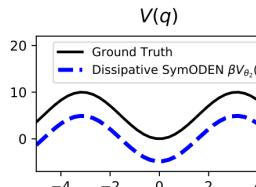
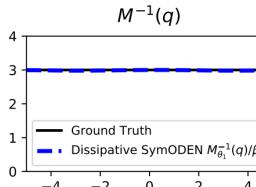
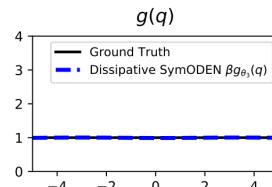
- Models that enforce **explicit constraints** can generate **predictions that are significantly better** than those from models with implicit constraints.
- On the other hand, models that enforce **implicit constraints** are **easier to implement**.

# Symplectic ODENet can also be extended to accommodate energy dissipation

## Without Dissipation

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \\ -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(q) \end{bmatrix} u$$

Pendulum

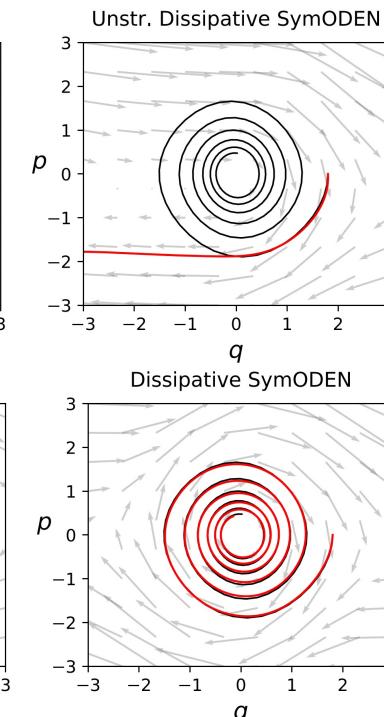
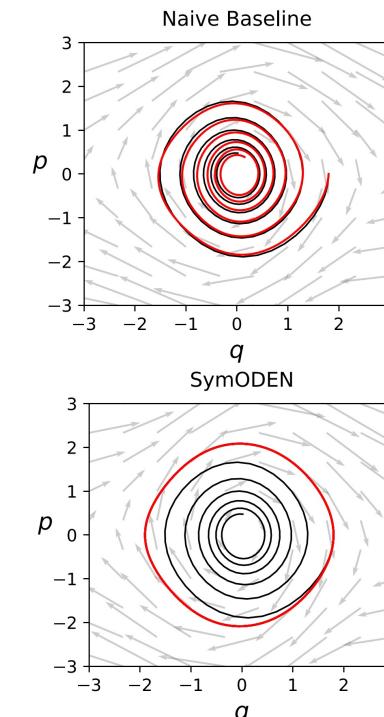


Learned functions

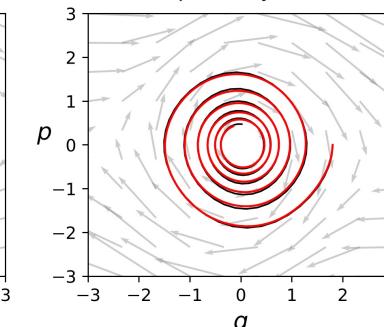
## With Dissipation

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{bmatrix} - D(q) \right) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(q) \end{bmatrix} u$$

- D(q): Positive semi-definite dissipation matrix parametrized via a *Fully-connected Feedforward Network*

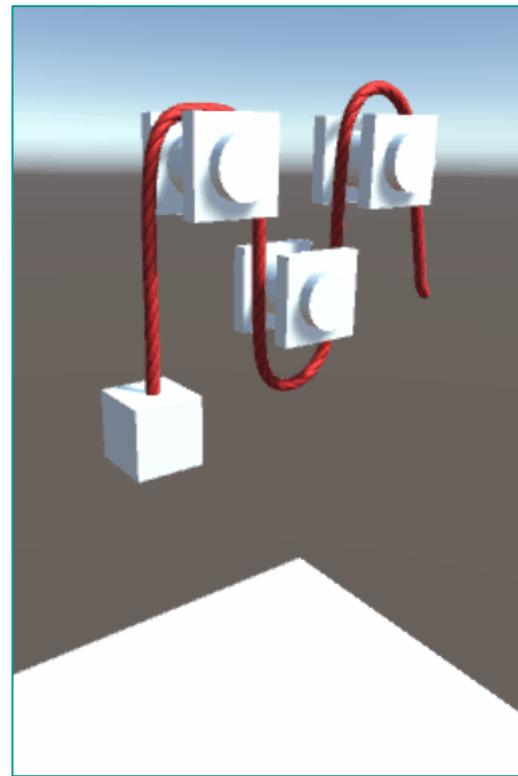


SymODEN



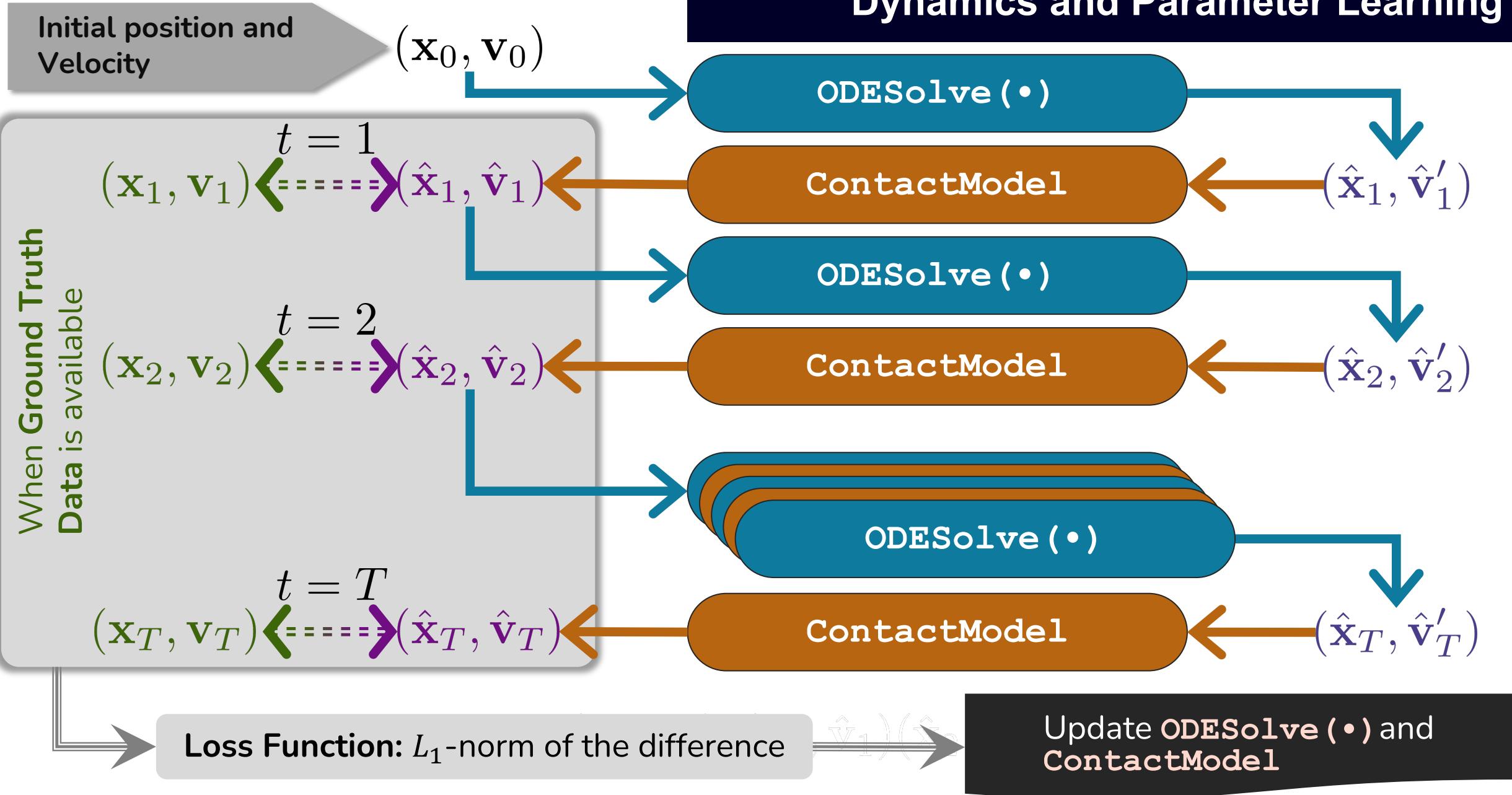
Learned Vector Field

# Can we extend these models to accommodate contacts and collisions?

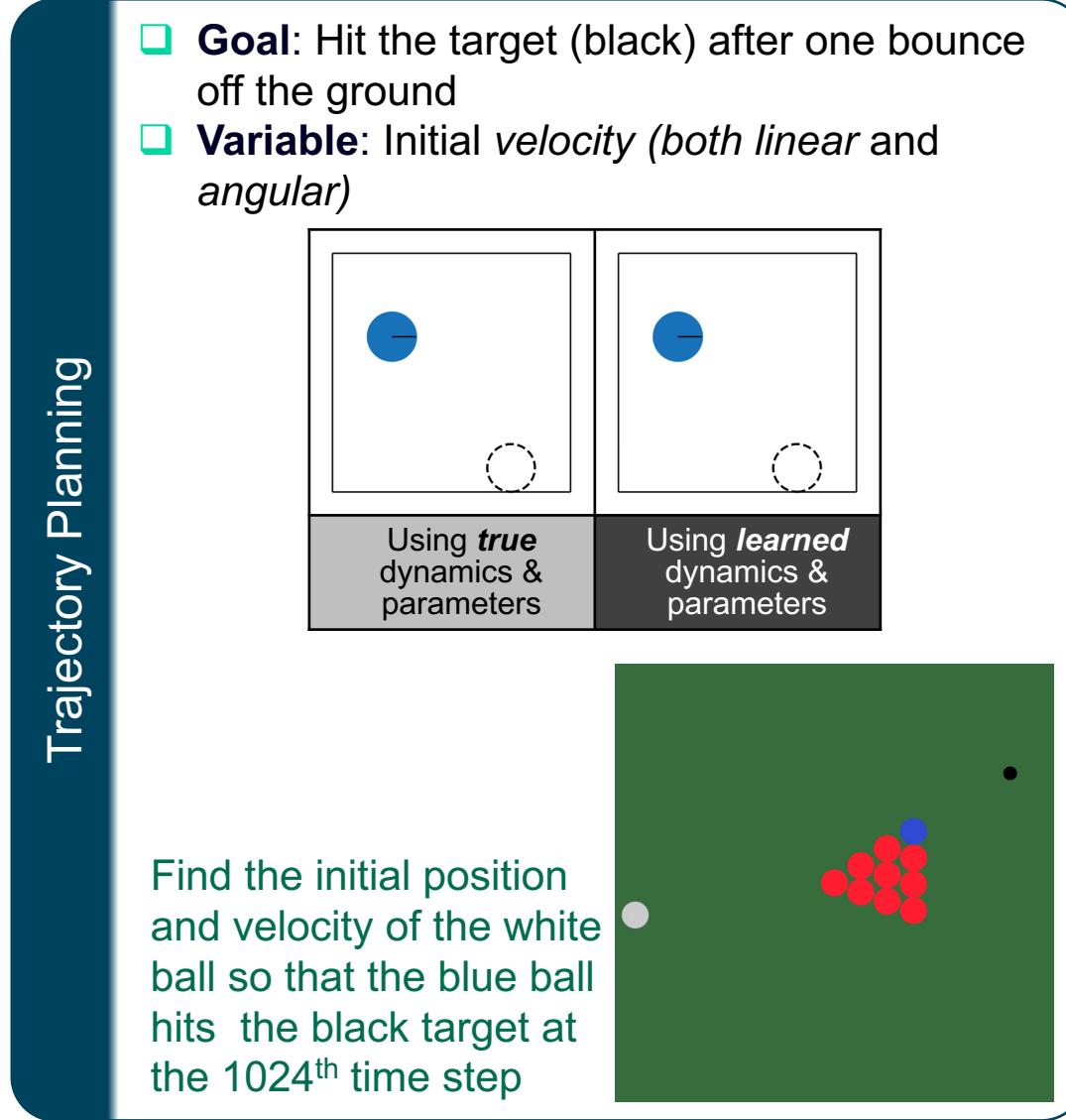
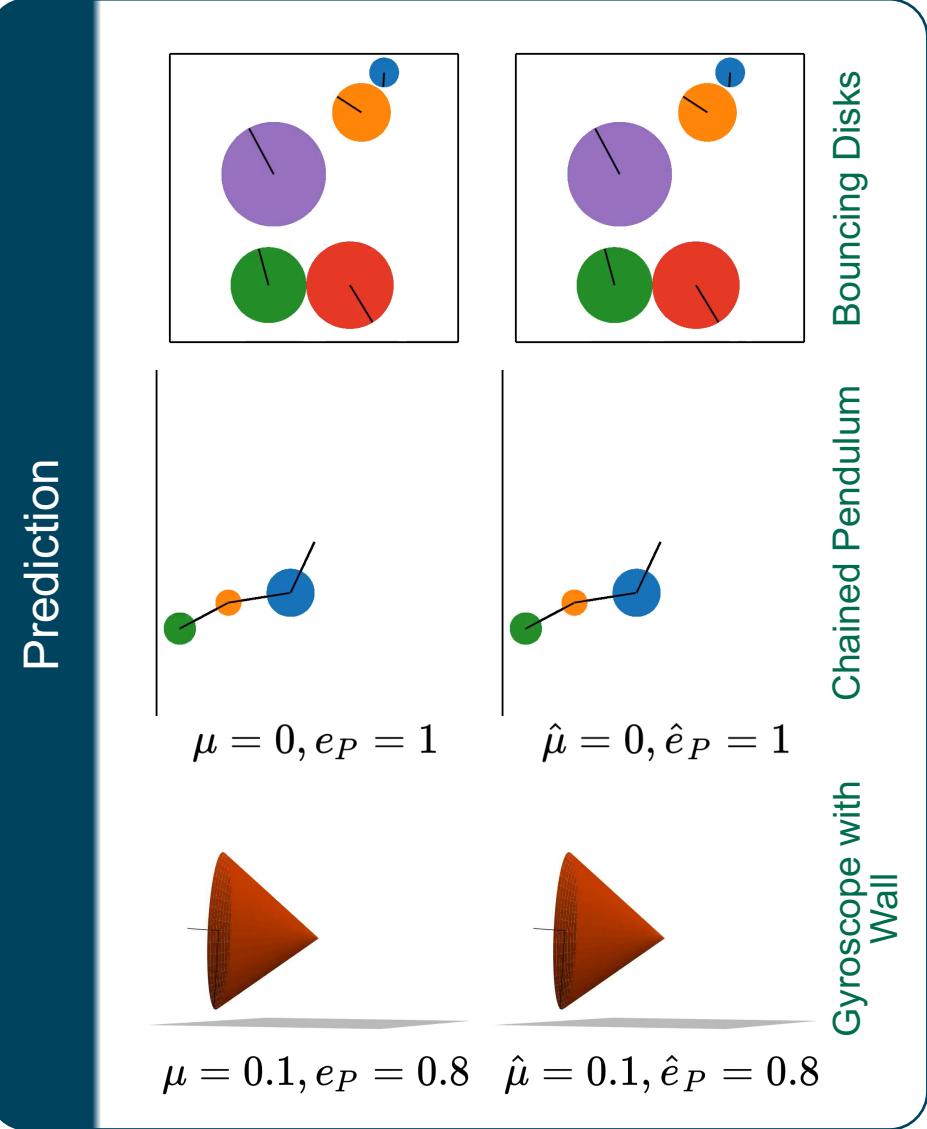


- We utilize **maximum dissipation principle** to solve post-contact velocities
- We formulate the problem as a **two-phase convex optimization** problem
  - Compression Phase
  - Restitution Phase
- This formulation allows us to use *differentiable optimization*<sup>[9]</sup>

# Dynamics and Parameter Learning



# Results



# Key Take-away

- ✓ **Physics-informed ML** exploits the underlying **laws of physics** to define an appropriate **Inductive Bias** (e.g., **ML architecture, Loss function**) for the learning framework
- ✓ This **improves the model transparency, learning speed, data efficiency, and generalization performance**

The work discussed in this presentation has been done in collaboration with:



Y. D. Zhong



A. Chakraborty



biswa-dey@ieee.org



<https://d-biswa.github.io/>



@DBiswadip