

1 We thank reviewers for their thoughtful feedback! We are encouraged that they find our problem setup well-done (R1)  
 2 and significant (R3). We are glad they think our method is novel (R1), sound (R3, R4) and potentially promising (R2).  
 3 We are pleased that they find our method learns explainable (R1) and interpretable (R2) energy that allows for control  
 4 (R2, R4). We address a few specific concerns below and will incorporate all feedback in the camera-ready version.

5 @R2 - **Motivation:** Humans can learn to predict the trajectories of mechanical systems, e.g., basketballs or drones,  
 6 from high-dimensional visual inputs, and learn to control the system, e.g., catch a ball or hover a drone, after a small  
 7 number of interactions with those systems. We hypothesize that humans use domain-specific knowledge, e.g., physics  
 8 laws, to achieve efficient learning. Motivated by this hypothesis, we incorporate the Lagrangian prior to learn and  
 9 control dynamics from image data, hoping to gain interpretability and data efficiency (Please see L25-27 below.)

10 @R1, R4 - **Quantitative results:** We pointed out (L240) that pixel MSE is not a good metric for *long term* prediction.  
 11 Please see [10] (Sec. 1) for more discussion. Instead, in the table below, we report the *short term* ( $T_{\text{pred}} = 4$ ) average  
 12 pixel MSE. Our proposed model has significantly better performance on the CartPole and Acrobot tasks than model  
 13 variants and has similar performance to model variants on the simpler pendulum task. To R4, we have reported on  
 14 training data generation including the sizes (SM Sec. S2.1). We generated testing data of equal size. We will include  
 15 details on model architecture in camera-ready. We will also open source our code for all the experiments.

Average pixel MSE	Pendulum (train   test)		CartPole (train   test)		Acrobot (train   test)	
<b>Lagrangian + caVAE</b>	1.82	1.83	<b>2.78</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>3.14</b>
Lagrangian + VAE	<b>1.52</b>	<b>1.56</b>	9.41	10.30	10.48	10.78
MLPdyn + caVAE	1.92	1.92	14.18	14.97	12.12	12.14

17 @R2, R3 - **Compare with prior work HNN [6], HGN [Toth'20]:** The main contribution of HNN is learning Hamil-  
 18 tonian dynamics from low dimensional data. Although they proposed PixelHNN to learn from pendulum images, the  
 19 angle of the pendulum in the training data is constrained to be in  $[-\pi/6, \pi/6]$ . From our experiments, PixelHNN  
 20 does not work for pendulum with large angles and does not generalize to CartPole and Acrobot. [Toth'20] also has a  
 21 similar observation about PixelHNN. We thank R2 and R3 for pointing to HGN [Toth'20], but we'd like to point out  
 22 three differences. 1) **Control.** Both HGN and HNN learn energy-conserved dynamics and do not learn control. It is  
 23 not clear how to incorporate control into HGN. 2) **Interpretability.** In HGN's pendulum task, the dimension of  $q$  is  
 24  $4 \times 4 \times 16 = 256$ . With such a high dimension (for various tasks), HGN does not assume the degree of freedom is  
 25 given, but it might not be easy to interpret the learned  $q$ , while ours are interpretable. 3) **Data efficiency.** HGN uses  
 26  $30 \times 50K = 1.5M$  training images for the pendulum task, while we use  $20 \times 256 = 5120$  training images (with zero  
 27 control). We may have a huge advantage on data efficiency. Thus, we disagree with R2 that our work is "*solving ...*  
 28 *problem for Lagrangian rather than Hamiltonian ...*". However, we agree with R2 and R3 that we should acknowledge  
 29 [Toth'20] and we will update inaccurate statements about prior works. We are working on implementing HGN and we  
 30 will report the comparison with HGN in terms of pixel MSE, interpretability and data efficiency in the camera-ready.

31 @R4 - **Compare with Kalman VAE (KVAE):** Thanks for pointing to KVAE. We are not convinced about "(KVAE)...  
 32 *performs well in pendulum control*" (R4). Although KVAE models control inputs, there is neither controller design nor  
 33 control results reported in the paper. No pendulum data or pendulum prediction sequences are provided in their Github  
 34 repo and project website. However, we will investigate KVAE trained with our own pendulum data in camera-ready.

35 @R4 - **Discuss neural motion prediction and control from images:** We will add the discussion in camera-ready.

36 @R1 - **Visual difference in Fig. 3:** Our dynamical model enforces energy conservation (Thm 1 in SM), so the learned  
 37 energy will not drift away from the real constant energy but will oscillate around it. This oscillation explains the visual  
 38 difference. This oscillation also shows up in prior works. Please see the oscillations in [6] (Fig. 2) and [7] (Fig. 6).

39 @R2 - **Clarity and exposition:** We presented self-contained preliminary concepts and methods that have been used  
 40 in the prior works in Sec. 2 to prevent a hard-to-follow Sec. 3, which already takes four pages. R3 and R4 say our  
 41 paper is "*a pleasure to read*" and "*easy to follow*", respectively. We provided a short overview of Sec. 3 in L112-120.

42 @R2 - **Training with constant control:** We didn't elaborate since it has been explained in a prior work [7] (Sec. 3.1.)

43 @R2 - **Time-varying mass matrix and input matrix:** In general, the *mass matrix* is not constant even if each rigid  
 44 body has a constant mass, e.g., an Acrobot. Please see the appendix of Sutton'96 for the dependence of mass matrix on  
 45 the angle of the Acrobot. In general, the input matrix is also non-constant. The dependency on coordinates is necessary.  
 46 [Sutton'96] Generalization in Reinforcement Learning: Successful Examples Using Sparse Coarse Coding.

47 @R3 - **Assumptions in one place:** We will summarize and discuss all assumptions in the appendix in camera-ready.

48 @R3 - **Pros in applied settings:** We imagine this new technique would benefit a robot equipped with camera sensors  
 49 to learn to predict and control other systems (robots), because of the interpretability and data efficiency.