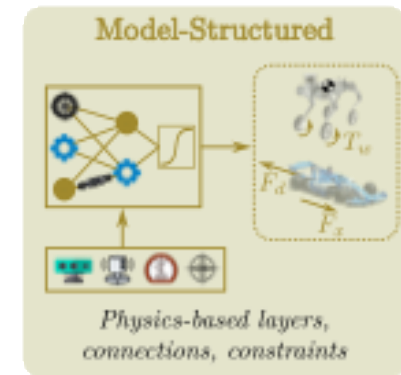
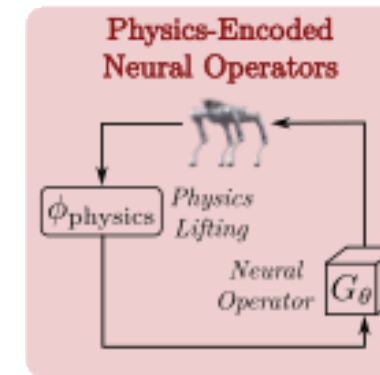
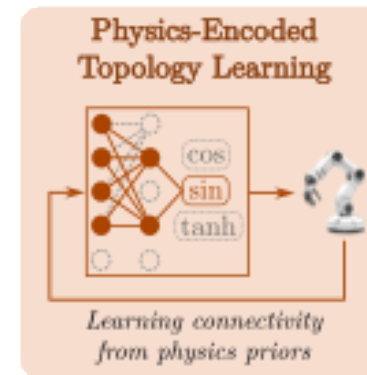
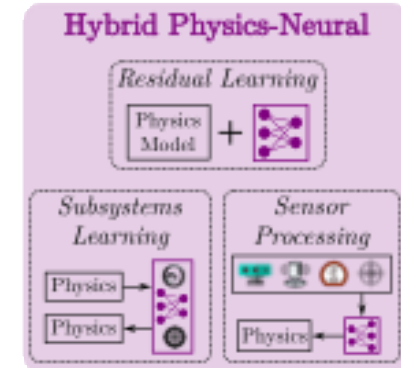
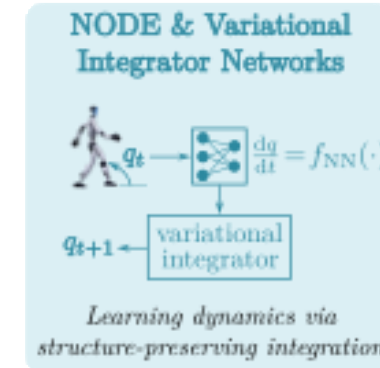
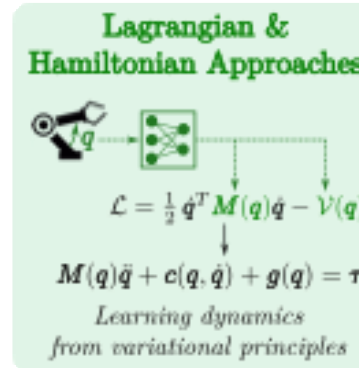
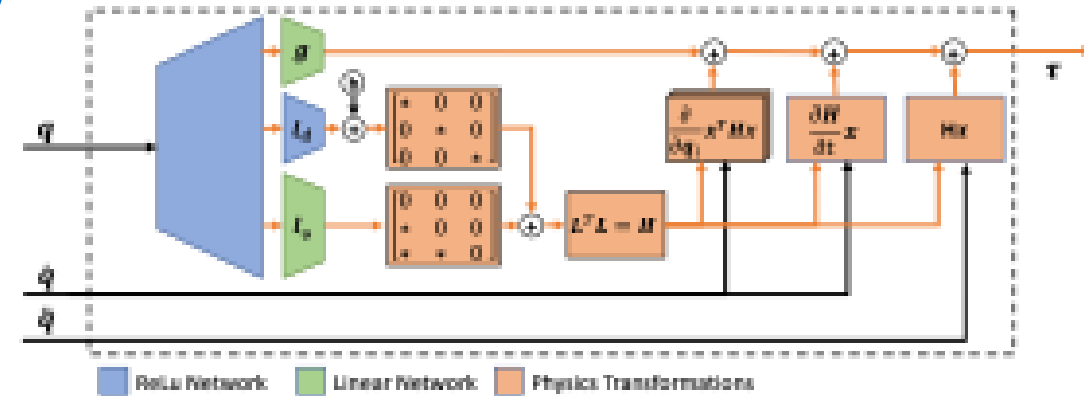


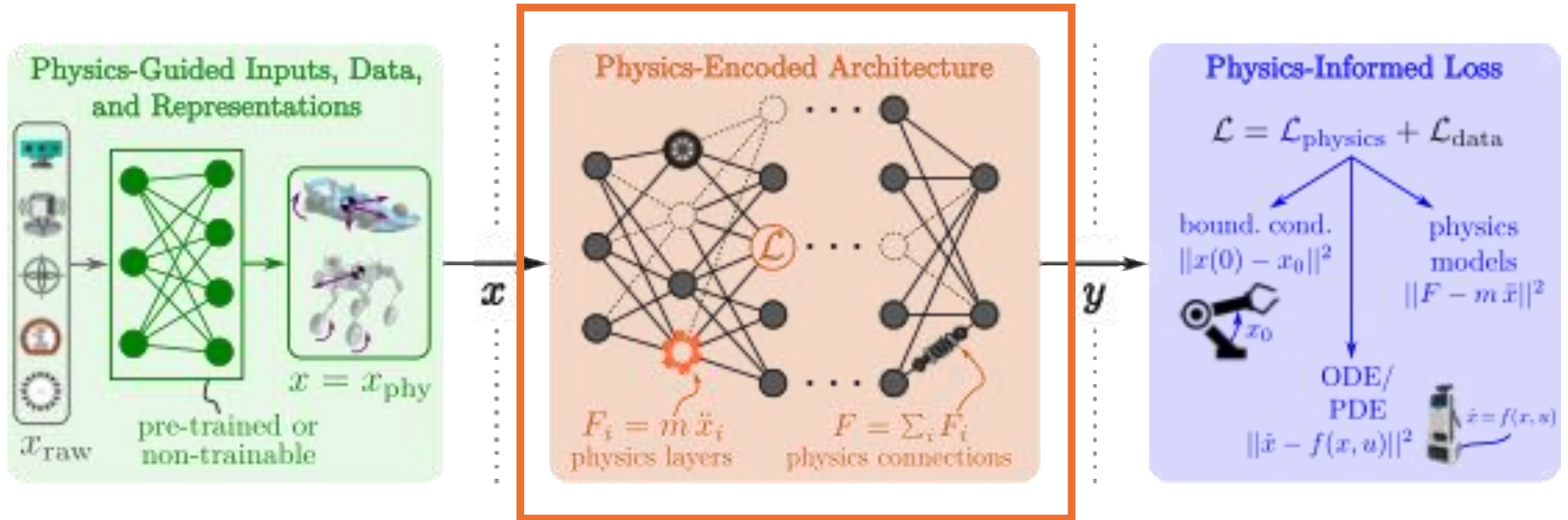
Physics-Encoded Architectures Part I: From Lagrangian to Variational Approaches

Dr. Mattia Piccinini &
Prof. Gastone Pietro Rosati Papini

University of Trento &
Technical University of Munich,
Autonomous Vehicle Systems Lab



Physics-Encoded Architectures: Positioning



Taxonomy

Physics-Encoded Neural Networks forcibly encode known physics into their core architecture (Faroughi et al., 2024)



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ASME Journal of Computing and Information Science in Engineering
Online journal at:
<https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/computingengineering>



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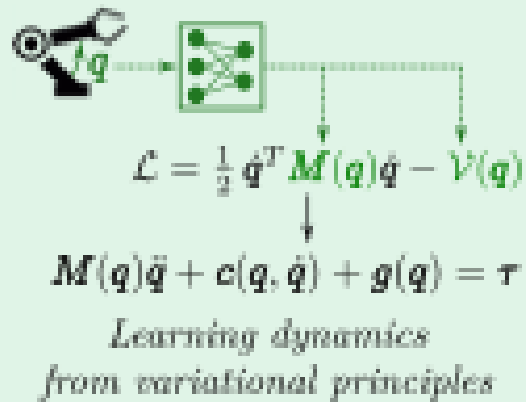
Nikhil M. Pawar
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Célio Fernandes
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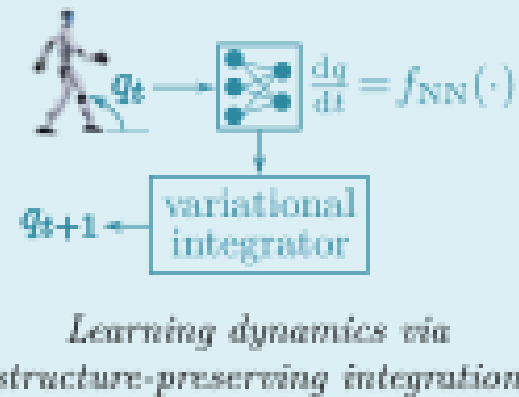
Physics-Guided, Physics-Informed, and Physics-Encoded Neural Networks and Operators in Scientific Computing: Fluid and Solid Mechanics

Physics-Encoded Learning Architectures: Multiple Classes

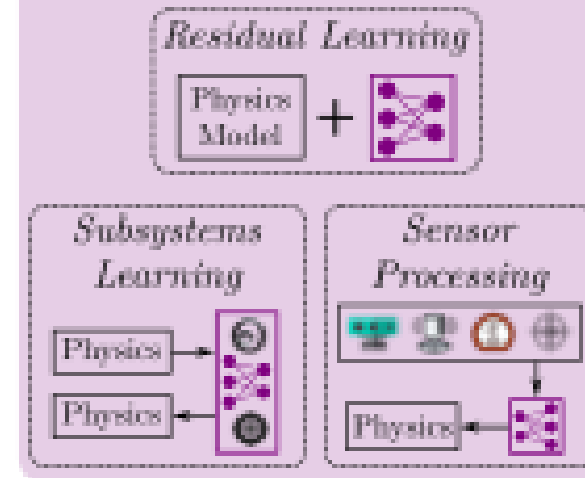
Lagrangian & Hamiltonian Approaches



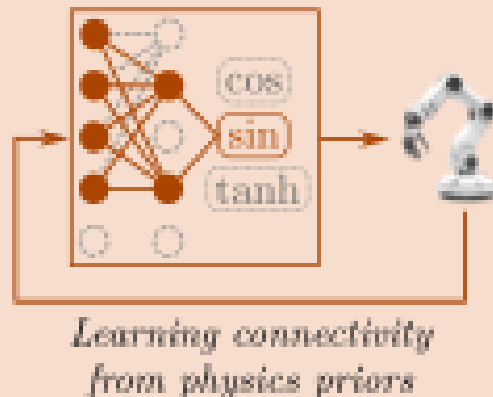
NODE & Variational Integrator Networks



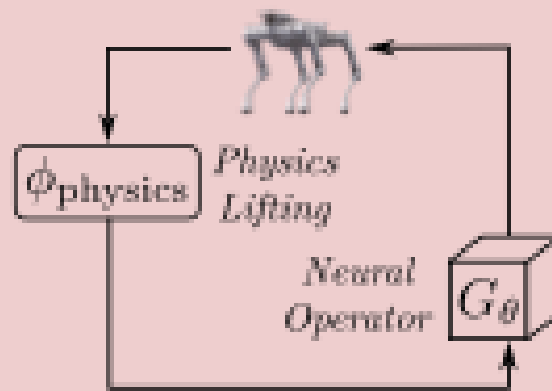
Hybrid Physics-Neural



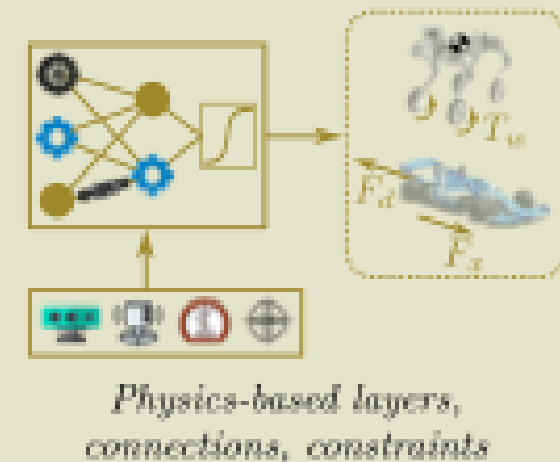
Physics-Encoded Topology Learning



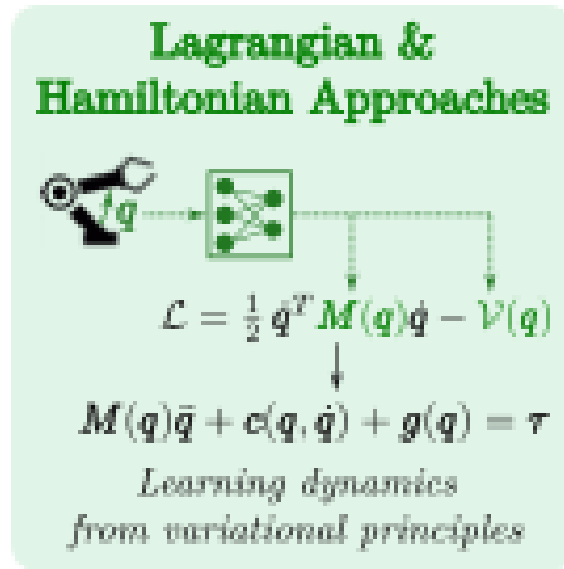
Physics-Encoded Neural Operators



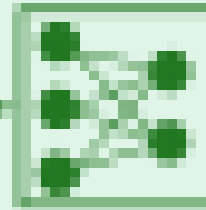
Model-Structured



Physics-Encoded Learning Architectures: Multiple Classes



Lagrangian & Hamiltonian Approaches



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} - V(q)$$



$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q) = \tau$$

*Learning dynamics
from variational principles*

Formulating Equations of Motion

How can we describe the equations of motion for a physical system?

- **Newton** formulation
 - $\sum_i F_i = m a, \quad \sum_i M_i = I \alpha$ for each body
 - Explicit modeling of **forces** and **moments**
- **Lagrange** formulation
 - **Energy**-based approach
 - No need to directly model forces and moments
 - More suited for **multibody systems** with complex kinematics



Let's focus on the **Lagrange** formulation now

Lagrangian Equations of Motion

For a physical (mechanical) system, the **Lagrangian** $\mathcal{L}$ is *typically* defined as:

$$\mathcal{L} = T - V$$

T is the kinetic energy, V is the potential energy

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} \quad \frac{dV}{dq} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$$

- $\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}$ are generalized coordinates and velocities
- $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})$ = inertia matrix (symmetric and positive definite); $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$ = grav. forces

Euler-Lagrange equations (from Calculus of Variations)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad \boldsymbol{\tau} = \text{generalized (non-conservative) forces}$$

Lagrangian Equations of Motion

Substituting $\mathcal{L} = T - V$, $T = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}$, $\frac{dV}{d\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$ in the Euler-Lagrange Equations:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{M}}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \right)^T}_{\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$



$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

Lagrangian Equations of Motion

Substituting $\mathcal{L} = T - V$, $T = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}$, $\frac{dV}{dq} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$ in the Euler-Lagrange Equations:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

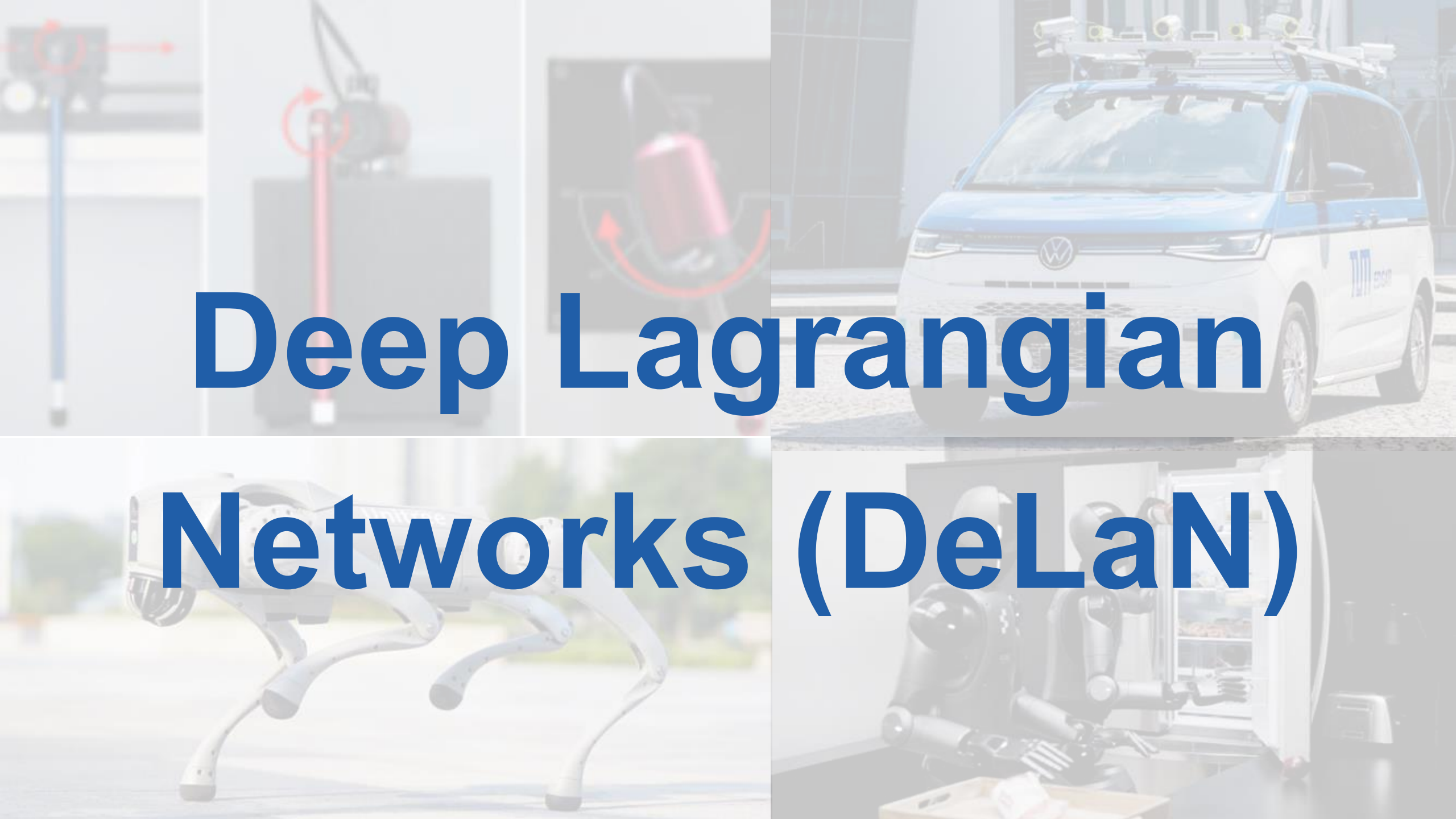
- $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})$: inertia matrix (symmetric and positive definite)
- $\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$: centripetal and Coriolis forces
- $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$: generalized gravitational forces
- $\boldsymbol{\tau}$: generalized (non-conservative) forces

*What if some of these quantities are **not known**?*

Traditional Engineering and Deep Learning

- **Traditional engineering**: compute $M(q)$ and $g(q)$ from measured / estimated masses, inertias, lengths
 - **Pros**: entirely analytic, interpretable, limited complexity
 - **Cons**: model approximations and limiting assumptions remain; real measurements / estimators are needed
- **Deep learning**: ignore the Lagrangian structure and learn everything from **data**
 - **Pros**: flexible, no reliance on approximated models
 - **Cons**: data-hungry, prone to overfit

*Can we integrate **prior physics knowledge** into learning?*

The background is a collage of four images related to robotics. Top-left: A robotic arm with a red vertical shaft and a red circular arrow indicating rotation. Top-right: A blue and white Volkswagen van equipped with a roof-mounted sensor array, likely a self-driving car. Bottom-left: A white quadruped robot (robot dog) in a running pose. Bottom-right: A robotic arm reaching into an open white refrigerator. The text "Deep Lagrangian" is overlaid on the top half, and "Networks (DeLaN)" is overlaid on the bottom half, both in a large, bold, blue font.

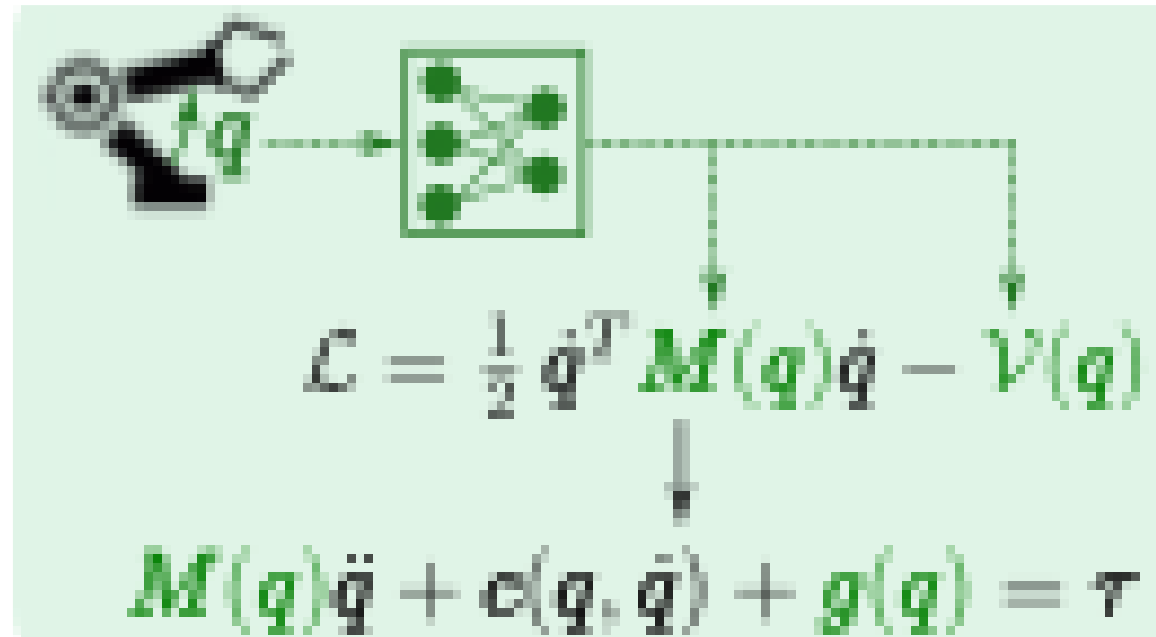
Deep Lagrangian

Networks (DeLaN)

Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN)

Idea: use **neural networks** (multi-layer perceptrons) to learn the unknown:

- $M(q)$ (mass and inertia matrix)
- $V(q)$ (potential energy function), or equivalently $g(q)$

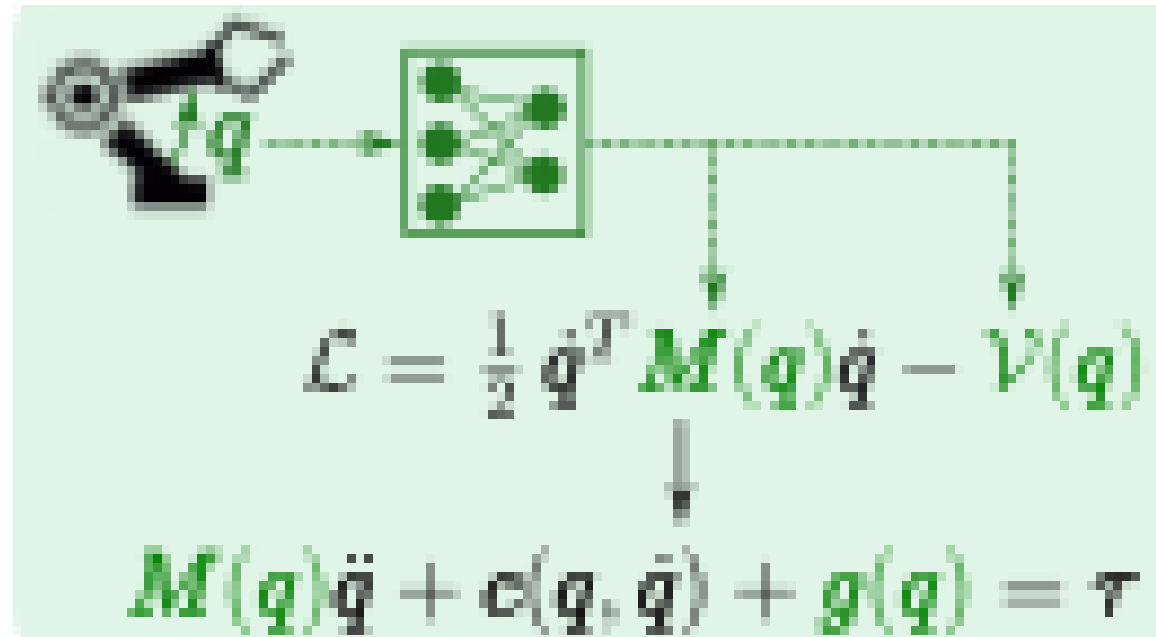


Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN)

What about the **centripetal** and **Coriolis forces** $c(q, \dot{q})$?

We don't need to learn them, as they can be computed from $M(q)$ and $\dot{q}$.

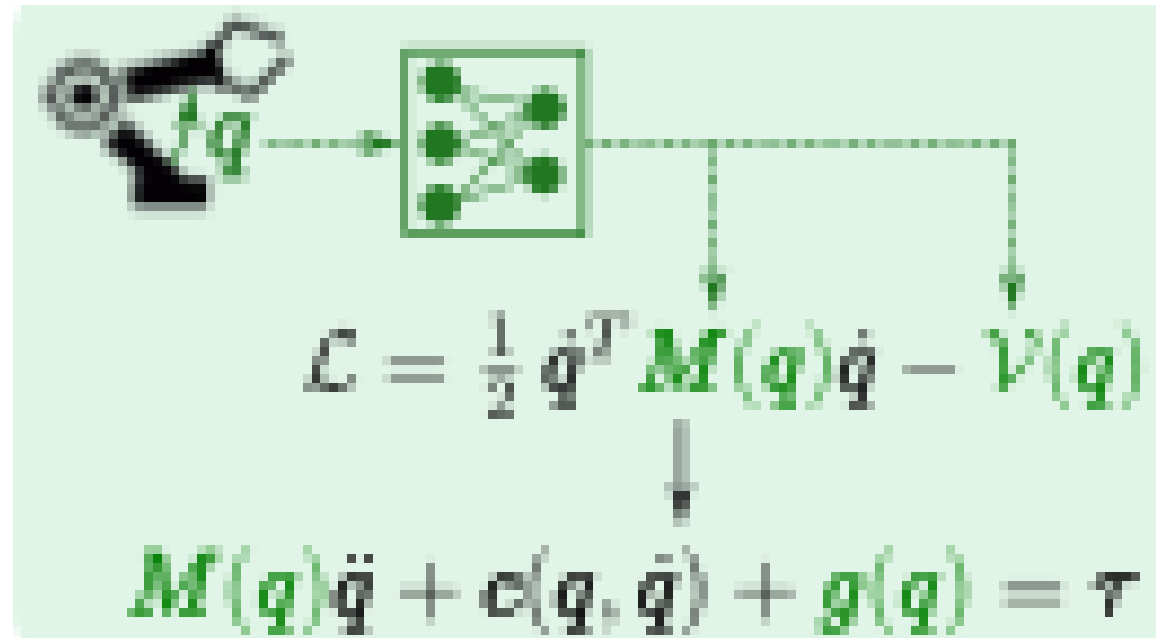
Remember their definition: $c(q, \dot{q}) = \dot{M}(q)\dot{q} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} (\dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q}) \right)^T$



Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN)

Ensuring physical consistency: the mass matrix $M(q)$ must be symmetric and positive definite ($M(q) \succ 0$) $\rightarrow$ learn its Cholesky factoriz. rather than a full matrix

$$M(q) = L(q) L(q)^T \quad \text{with } L(q) = \text{learnable lower-triangular matrix}$$



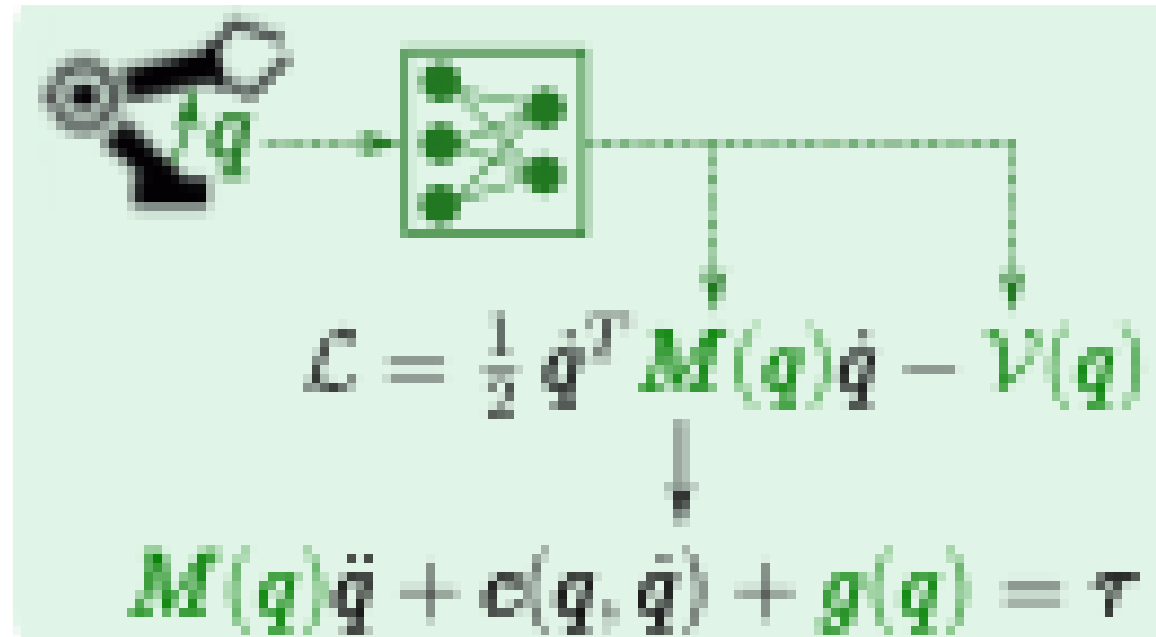
Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN)

Learn $M(q)$ and $g(q)$ with **supervised learning**: minimize the deviations between

- The predicted generalized forces/moments τ computed from

$$\tau = M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q)$$

- The actual actions $\hat{\tau}$ applied to the physical system $\rightarrow$ loss function $\|\tau - \hat{\tau}\|^2$



Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN) - Examples

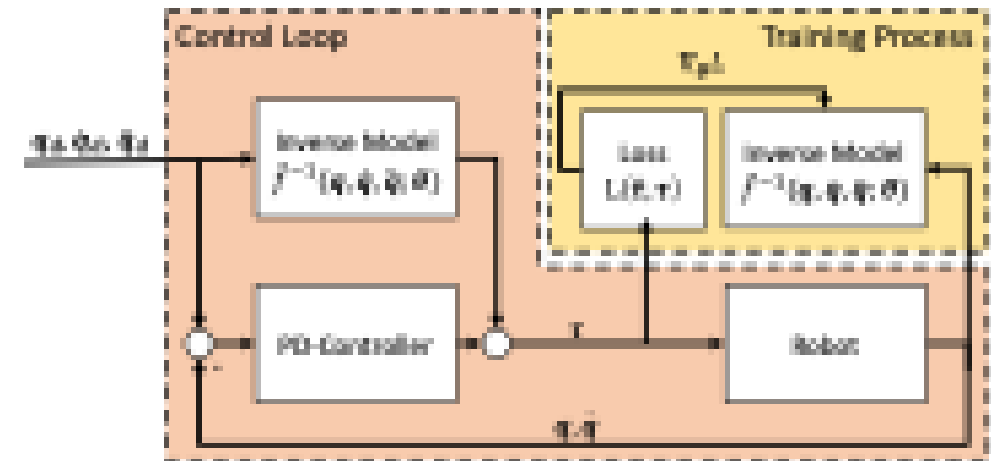
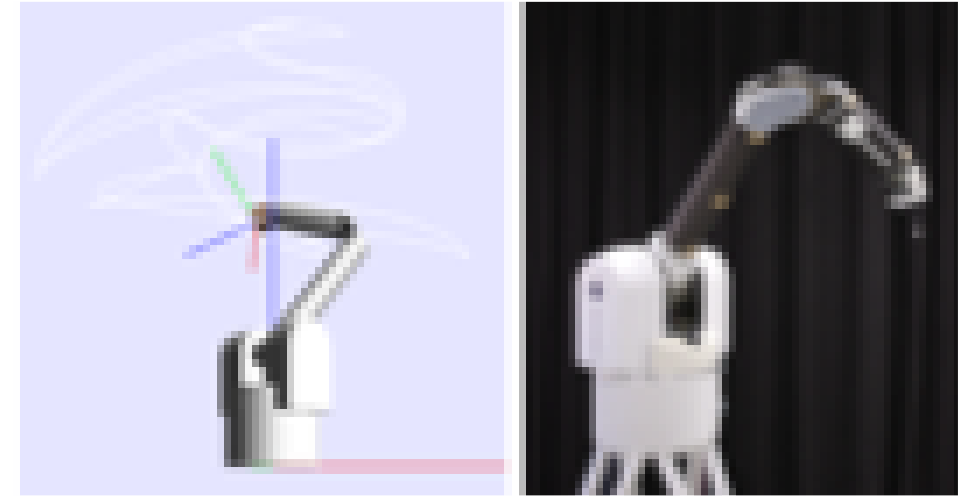
Inverse dynamics learning for robot control

- Trajectory tracking with a 7-DoF robot
- Desired joint pos., vel., acc. $\{q_d, \dot{q}_d, \ddot{q}_d\}$
- Feedforward + feedback (PD) control

$$\tau = K_p(q_d - q) + K_d(\dot{q}_d - \dot{q}) + \tau_{\text{ff}}$$

$$\tau_{\text{ff}} = M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q)$$

with τ = motor torques at the joints



Deep Lagrangian Networks (DeLaN) - Examples

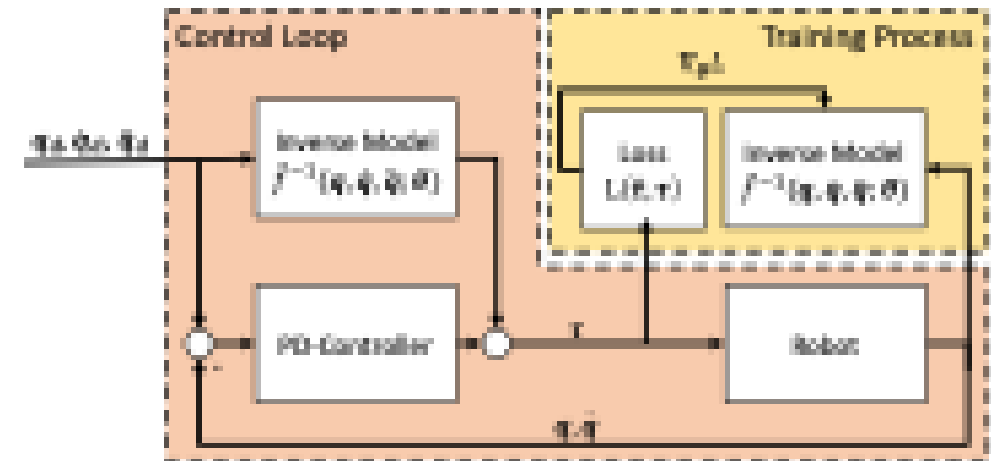
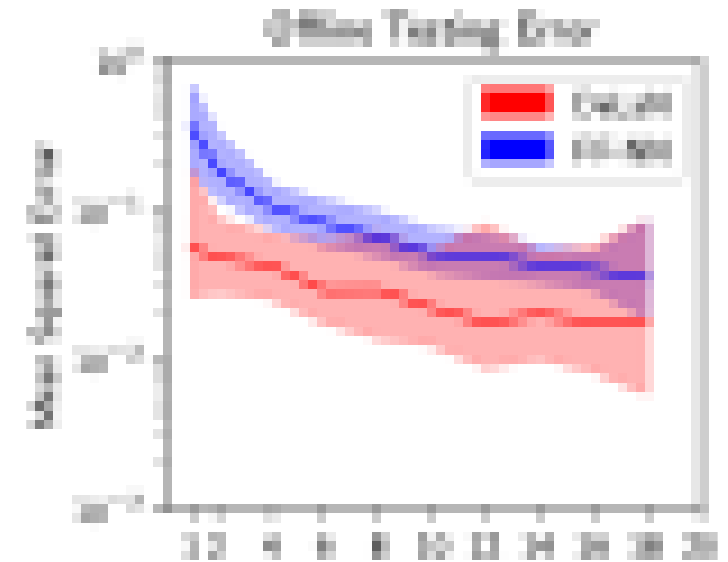
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$$\tau_{\text{ff}} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})$$

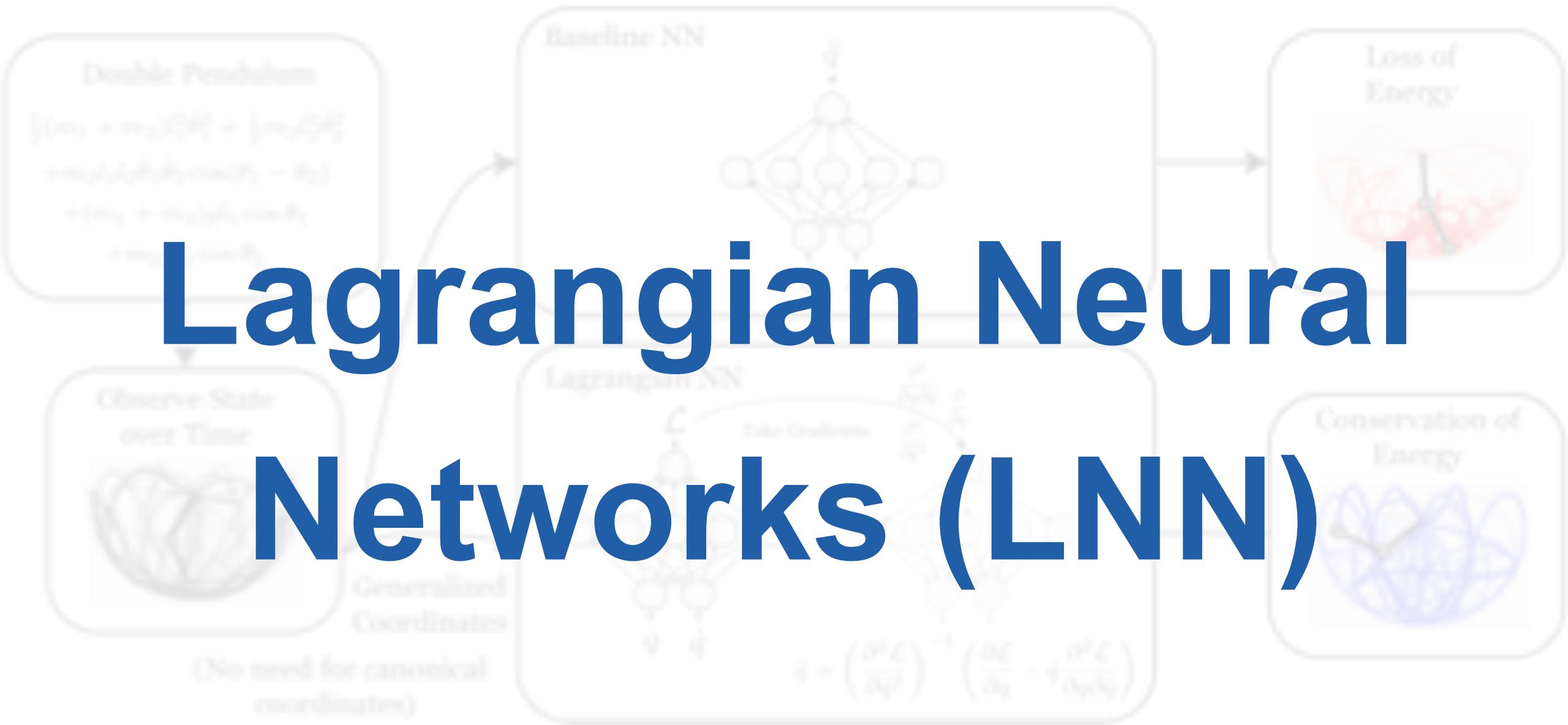
- Outperforming a generic feedforward NN (FF-NN) & **better generalization** to new data



Questions & Discussion



Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN)



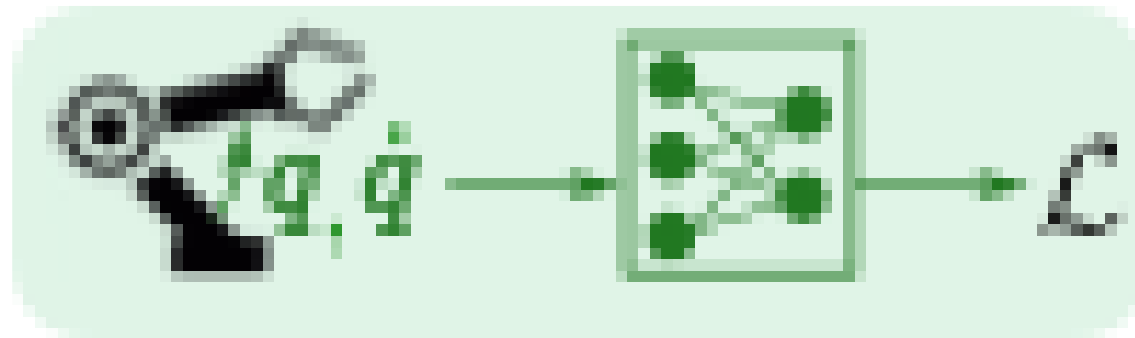
Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN)

Idea: Learn the **whole Lagrangian** $\mathcal{L}$ from measured generalized coordinates $\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}$

- **DeLaNs** assume **specific structures** for $\mathcal{L}$ and the kinetic energy T , which hold for rigid body dynamics but not for other systems (e.g., charged electric particle)

$$\mathcal{L} = T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) - V(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} - V(\mathbf{q})$$

- In contrast, **LNNs** can learn **more general** Lagrangian structures
- **LNNs** aim to ensure **energy conservation**



Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN)

Compute $\ddot{q}$ from $q, \dot{q}$ using the Euler-Lagrange equations:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \nabla_{\dot{q}} \mathcal{L} = \nabla_q \mathcal{L}$$

Use the chain rule to expand $\frac{d}{dt}$ considering that $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q})$

$$(\nabla_q \nabla_{\dot{q}}^T \mathcal{L}) \ddot{q} + (\nabla_q \nabla_{\dot{q}}^T \mathcal{L}) \dot{q} = \nabla_q \mathcal{L}$$

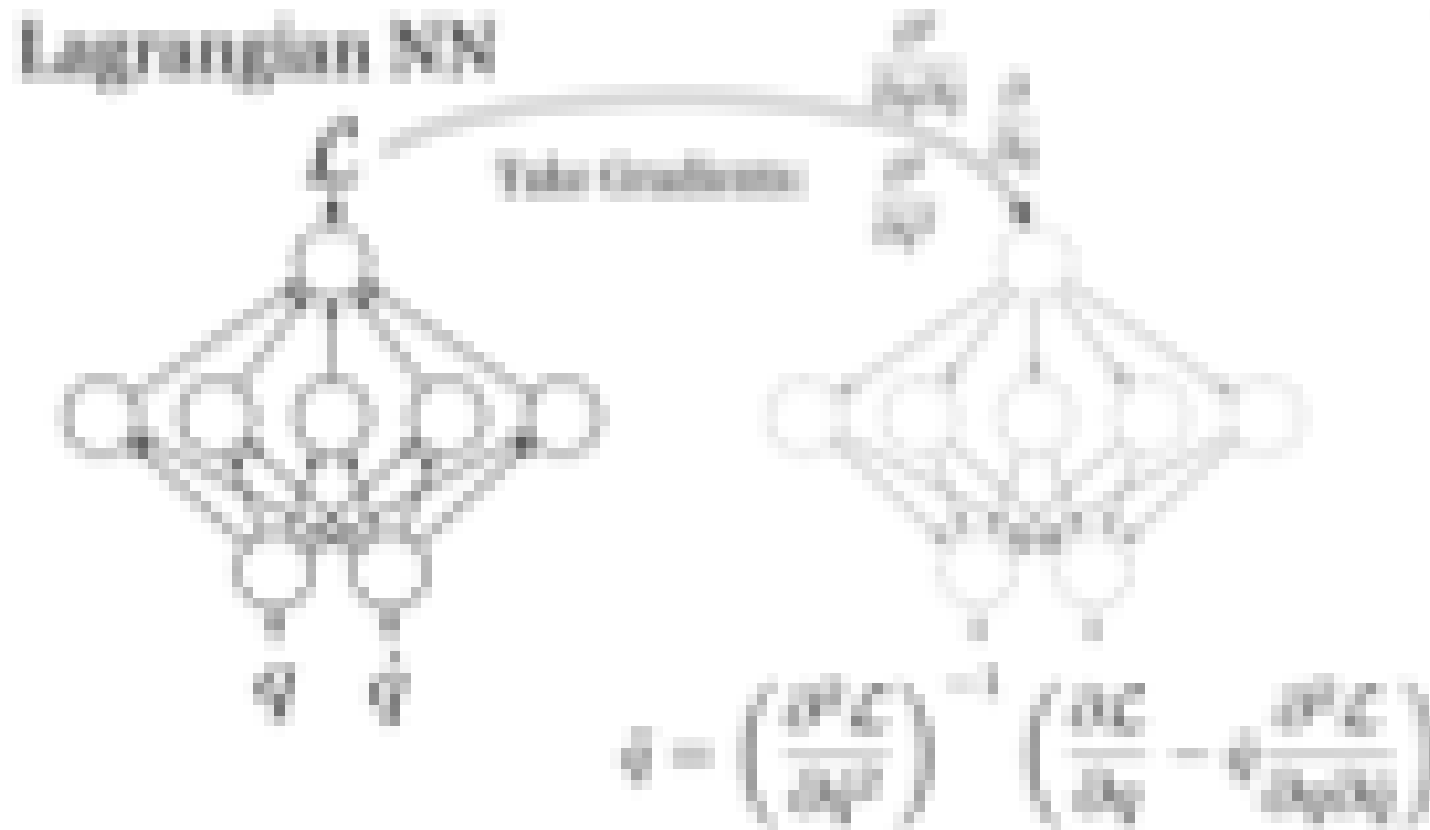


$$\ddot{q} = (\nabla_q \nabla_{\dot{q}}^T \mathcal{L})^{-1} [\nabla_q \mathcal{L} - (\nabla_q \nabla_{\dot{q}}^T \mathcal{L}) \dot{q}]$$

→ loss function $\|\ddot{q} - \hat{\ddot{q}}\|^2$

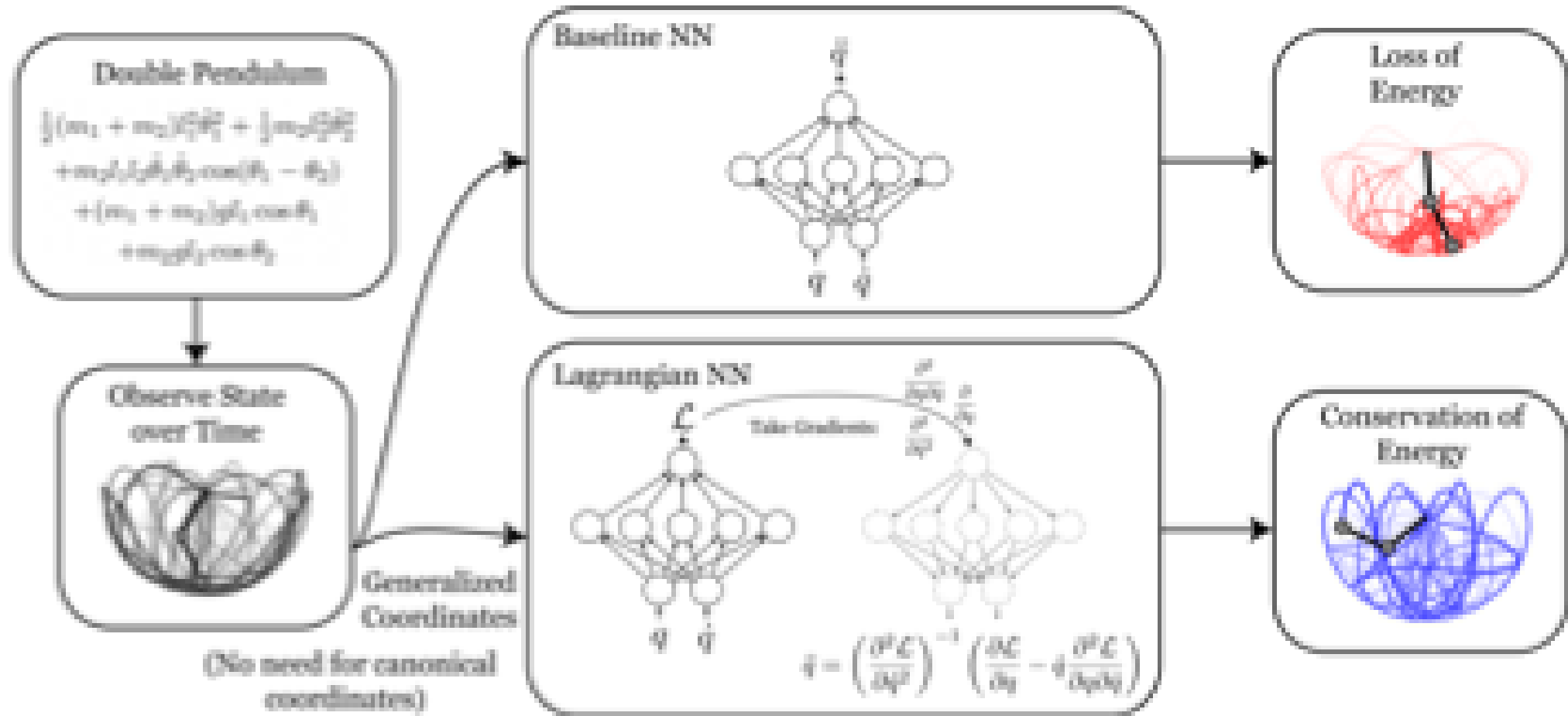
Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN)

$$\bar{q} = (\nabla_q \nabla_q^T \mathcal{L})^{-1} [\nabla_q \mathcal{L} - (\nabla_q \nabla_q^T \mathcal{L})q]$$



Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN)

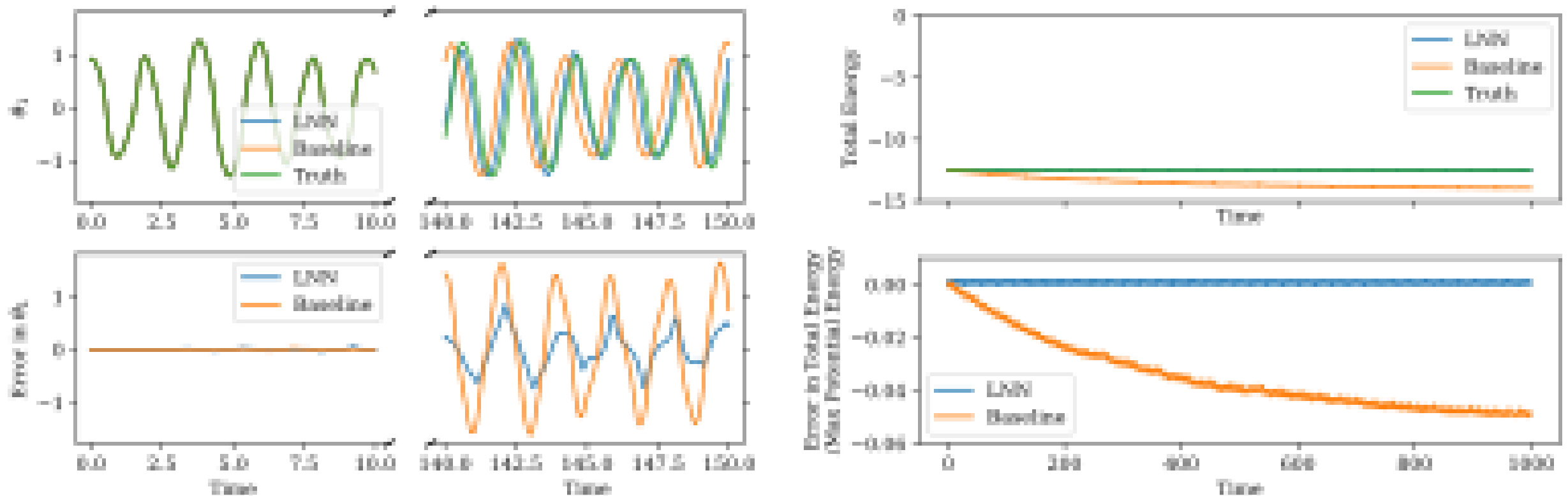
General-purpose NNs lose energy over time $\longleftrightarrow$ LNNs conserve energy



Lagrangian Neural Networks (LNN) - Examples

General-purpose NNs lose energy over time $\longleftrightarrow$ LNNs conserve energy

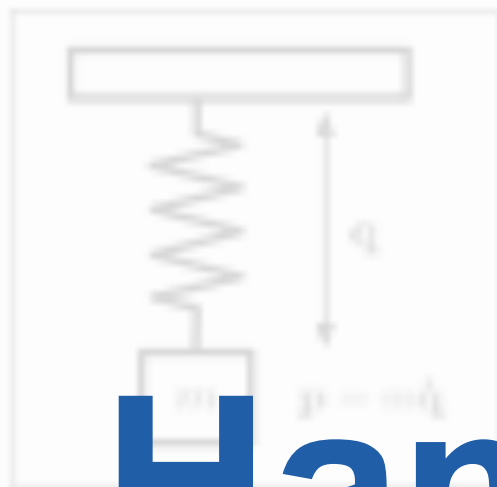
Example: Dynamics learning with a **double pendulum**



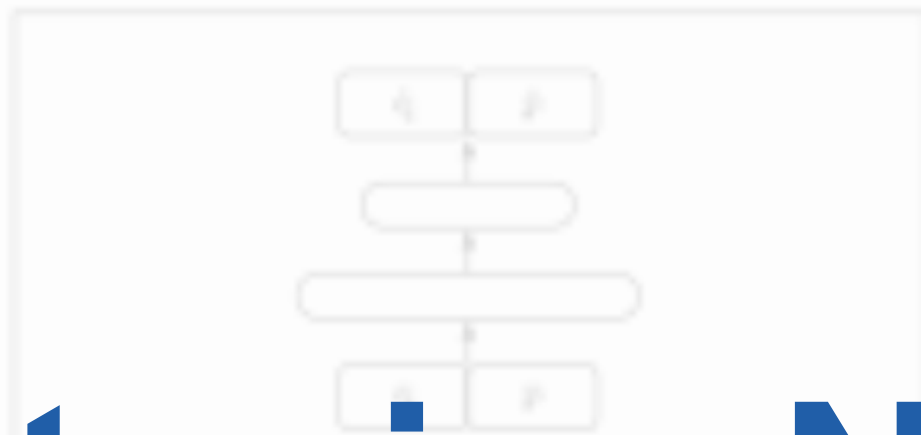
Questions & Discussion



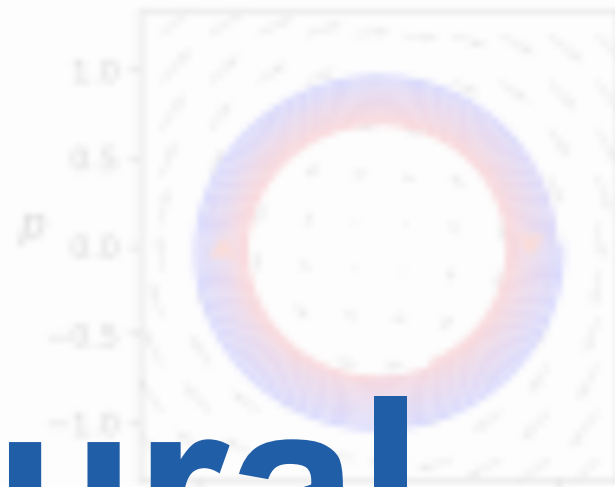
Ideal mass-spring system



Baseline NN

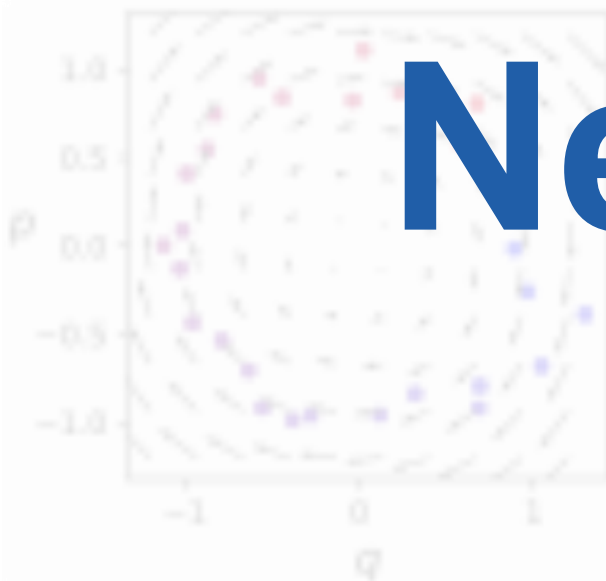


Prediction

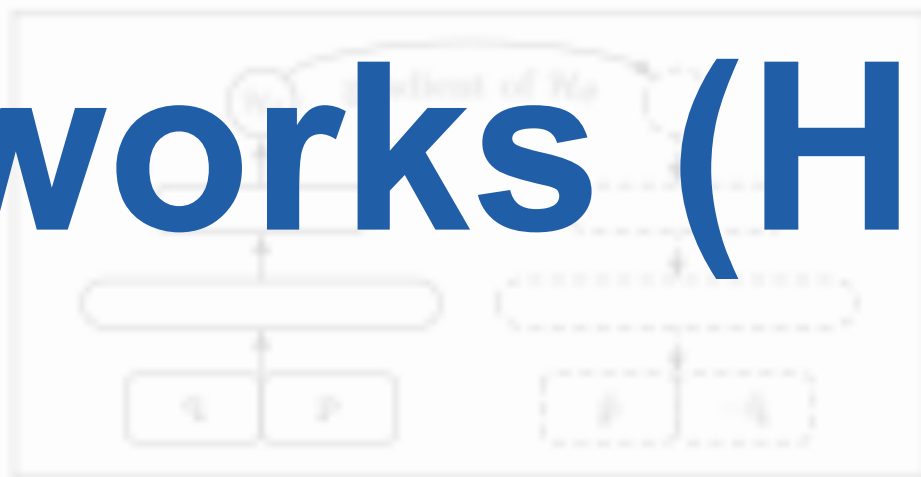


Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN)

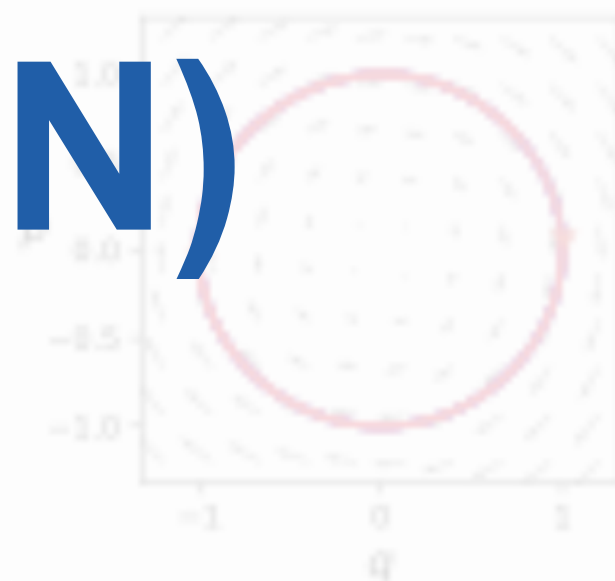
Noisy observations



Hamiltonian NN



Prediction



Formulating Equations of Motion

- **Newton** formulation
 - $\sum_i F_i = m a, \quad \sum_i M_i = I \alpha$ for each body
 - Explicit modeling of **forces** and **moments**
- **Lagrangian** formulation
 - **Energy**-based approach $\mathcal{L} = T - V$
 - No need to directly model forces and moments
 - More suited for **multibody systems** with complex kinematics
- **Hamiltonian** formulation
 - **Energy**-based approach, similar to the Lagrangian
 - Suited for systems with many DoFs (quantum systems, celestial mechanics, fluid dynamics, ...)

Hamiltonian Equations of Motion

For a physical system, the **Hamiltonian** $\mathcal{H}$ is related to the **Lagrangian** $\mathcal{L}$ through the Legendre transformation:

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} - \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \quad \text{With } \mathbf{q} = \text{generalized coordinates, } \mathbf{p} = \text{momentum}$$

Hence, the **Euler-Lagrange** equations can be **rewritten** using $\mathcal{H}$:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \boxed{\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \boldsymbol{\tau}}$$

With $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ = generalized (non-conservative) forces

→ in the autonomous conservative case, $\boldsymbol{\tau} = 0$ and $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$

Hamiltonian Equations of Motion

The Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}$ can be designed to be equal to the **total system's energy**:

$$\mathcal{H} = E_{\text{tot}} , \quad \text{and typically } \mathcal{H} = T + V$$

with T = kinetic energy, V = potential energy

Designing $\mathcal{H}$ **requires domain knowledge** and can be hard for **complex systems**



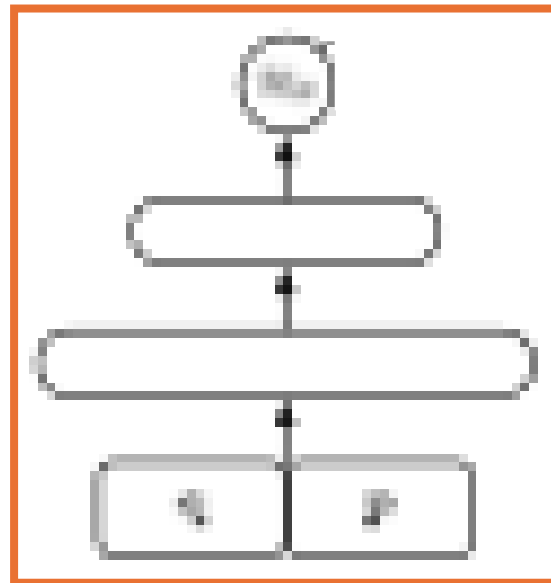
*Can we **learn $\mathcal{H}$ from data** and ensure **energy conservation**?*

Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN)

Idea: Learn the **Hamiltonian** $\mathcal{H}$ from data $\rightarrow$ parametrized model $\mathcal{H}_\theta$

- Goal: satisfy the Hamiltonian equations $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$
- $\rightarrow$ Loss function: $\mathcal{L}_{HNN} = \left\| \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{p}} - \frac{\partial \mathbf{q}}{\partial t} \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{p}}{\partial t} \right\|_2$ Note: $\frac{\partial \mathbf{q}}{\partial t} = \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{p}}{\partial t} = \dot{\mathbf{p}}$

NN to learn $\mathcal{H}_\theta$

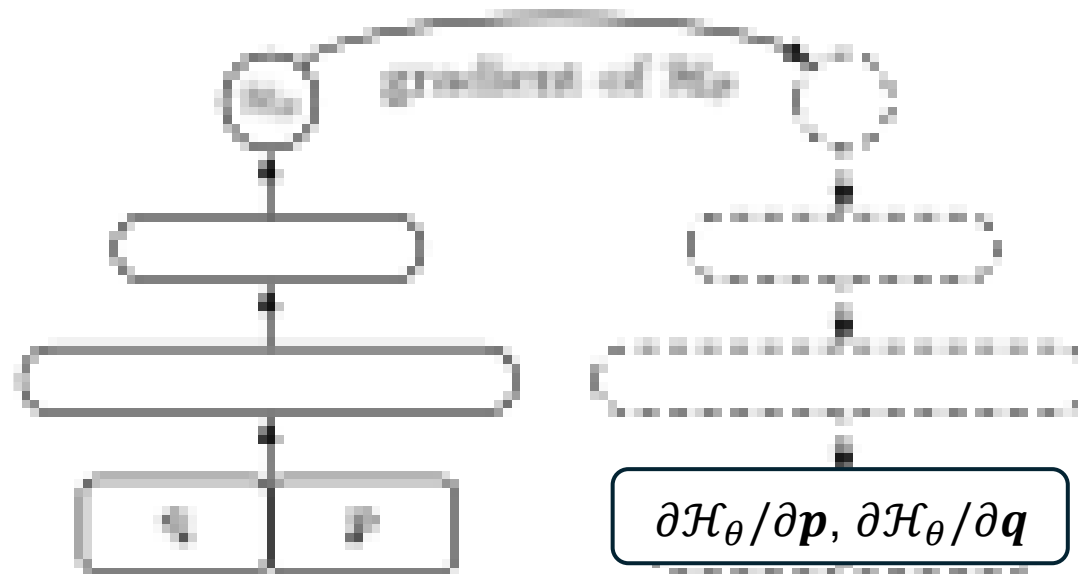


Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN)

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NN to learn $\mathcal{H}_\theta$



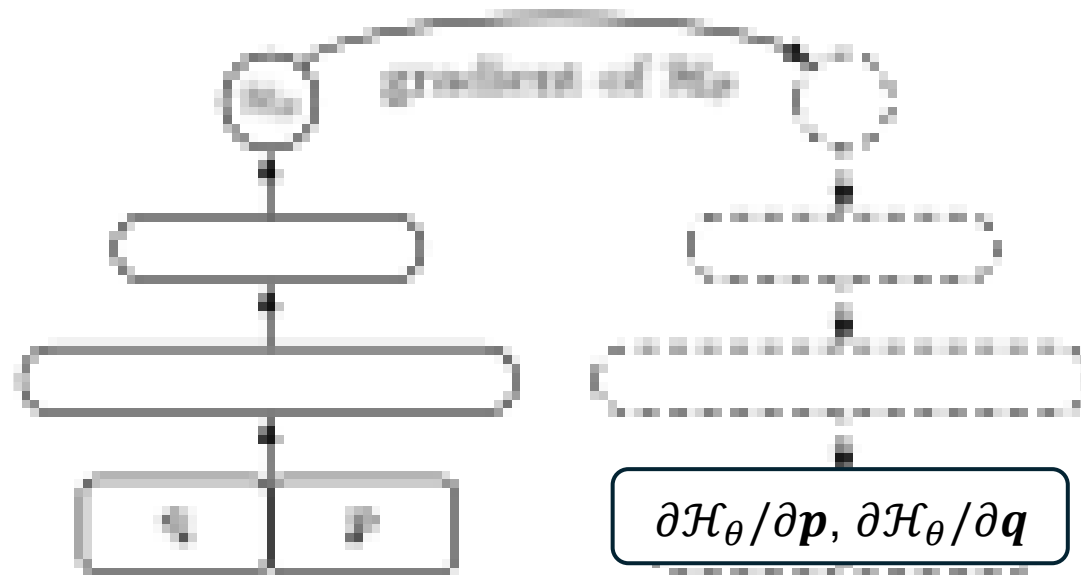
Get $\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$ (with automatic diff.) and compute $\dot{\mathbf{p}}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}$ (numerically from $\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}$)

Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN)

Idea: Learn the **Hamiltonian** $\mathcal{H}$ from data $\rightarrow$ parametrized model $\mathcal{H}_\theta$

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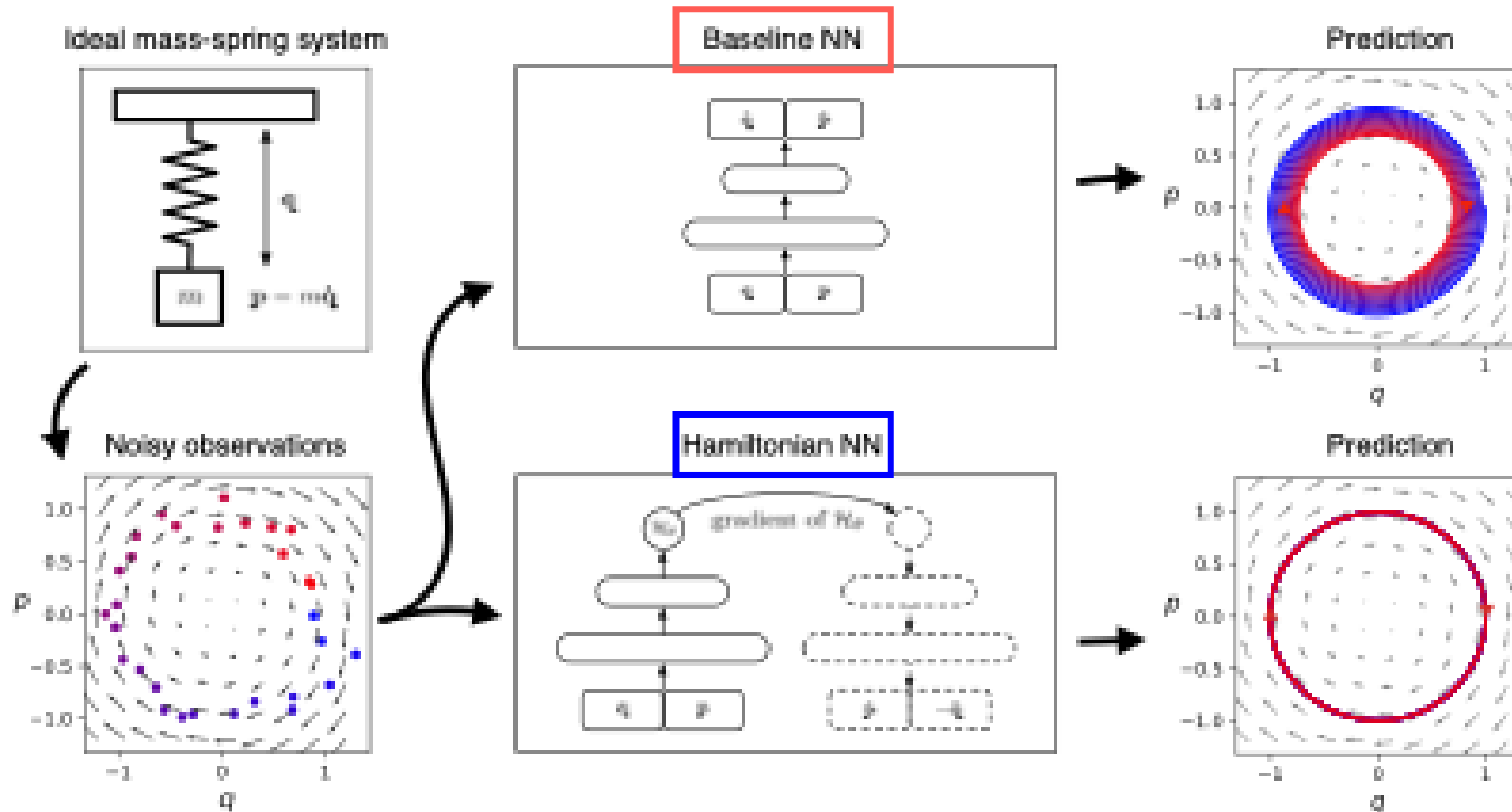
NN to learn $\mathcal{H}_\theta$



Train $\mathcal{H}_\theta$: minimize
the deviations
between $\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\theta}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$
and the computed
(ground-truth) $\dot{\mathbf{p}}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}$

Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN) - Examples

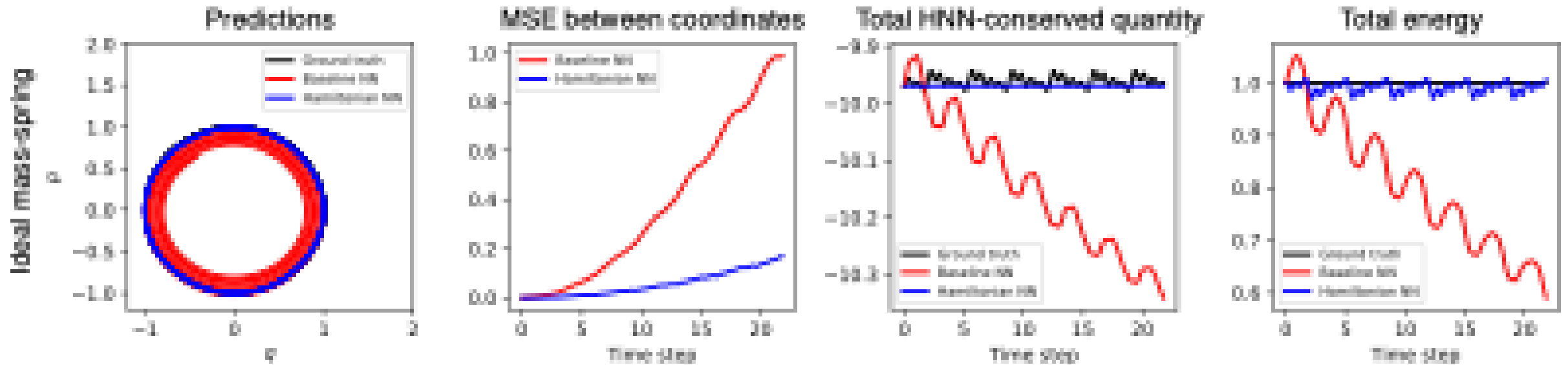
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Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN) - Examples

General-purpose NNs lose energy over time $\longleftrightarrow$ HNNs conserve energy

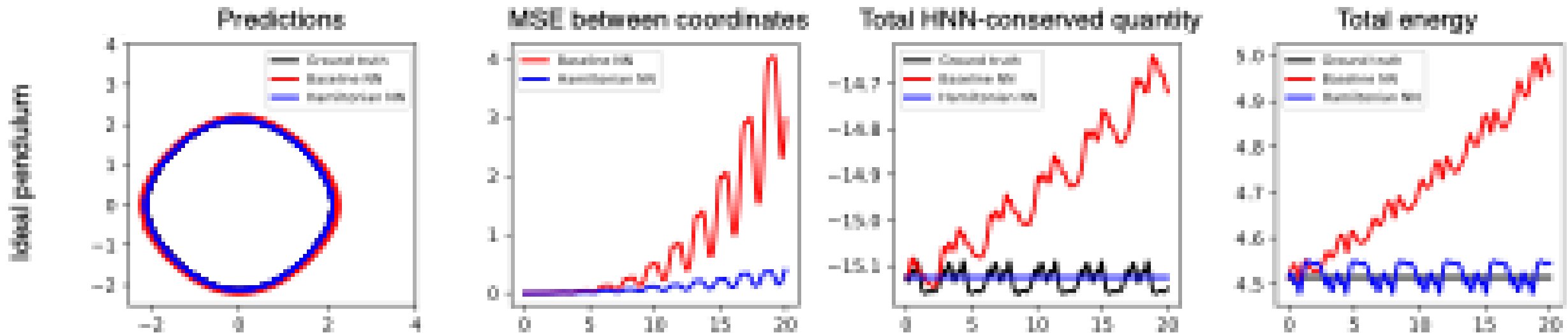
Frictionless mass-spring system



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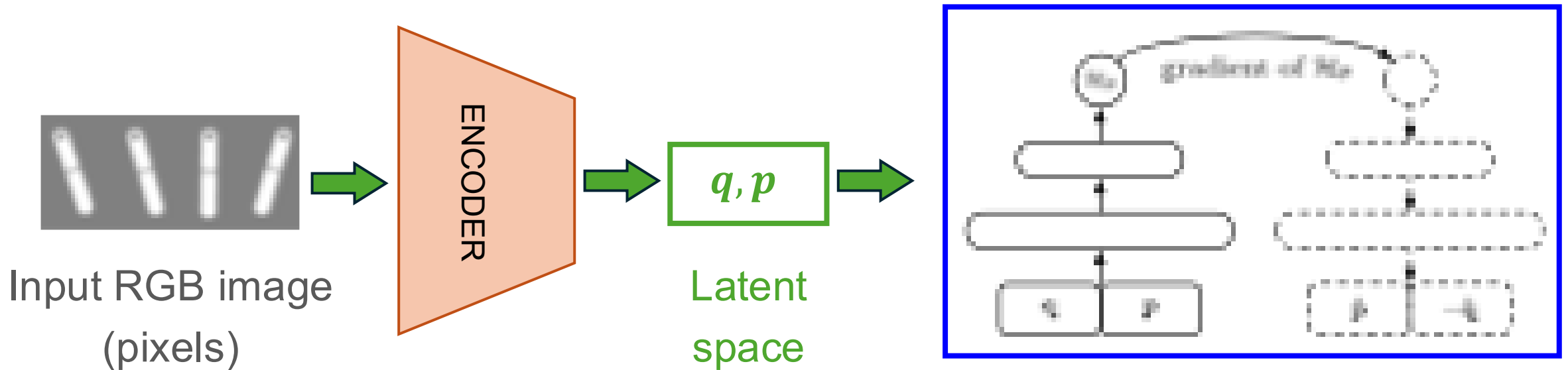
Frictionless pendulum



Hamiltonian Neural Networks (HNN) - Examples

Can a Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}_\theta$ be **learned from pixel** observations?

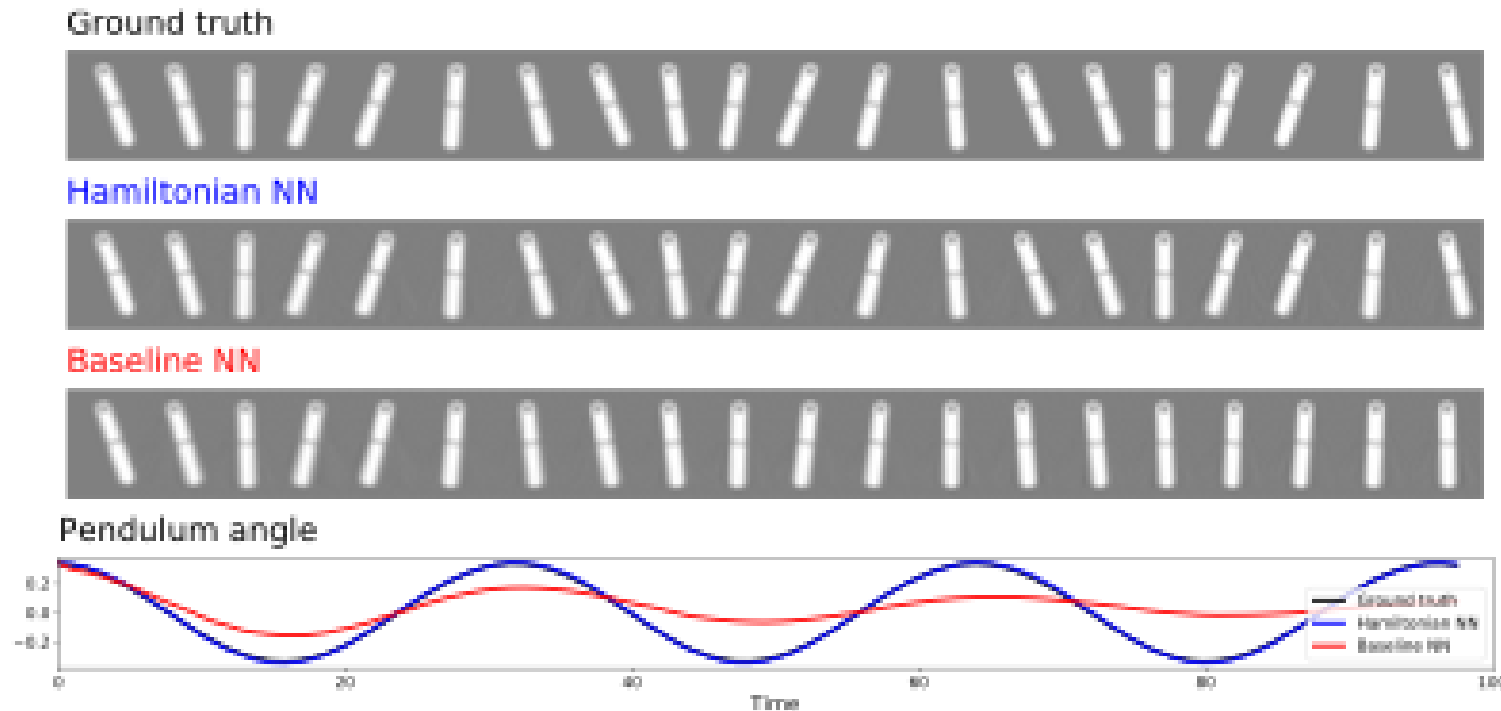
- Coupling an **HNN** with an **autoencoder** to map pixels to a compact latent space
- Instead of training the HNN on the position (q) and momentum (p) coordinates, use the **latent representation** of the input image



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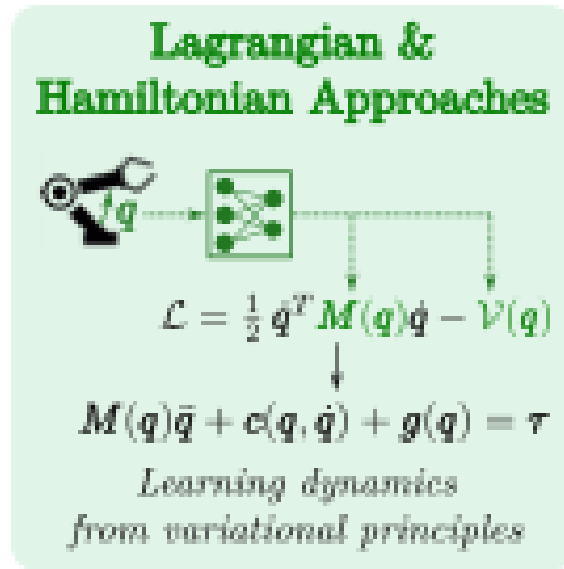
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Questions & Discussion

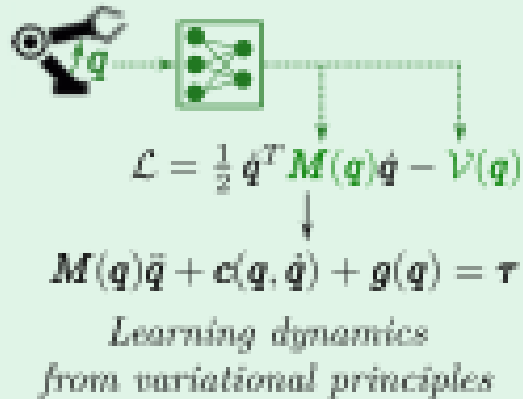


Physics-Encoded Learning Architectures: Multiple Classes

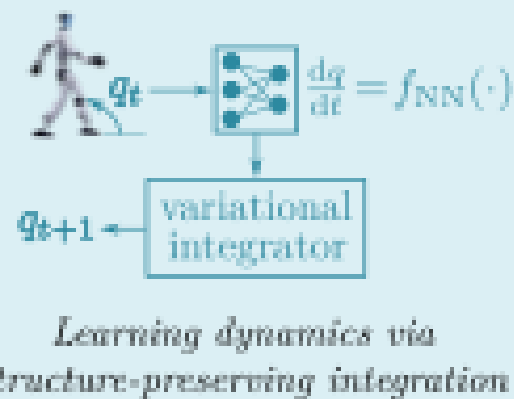


Physics-Encoded Learning Architectures: Multiple Classes

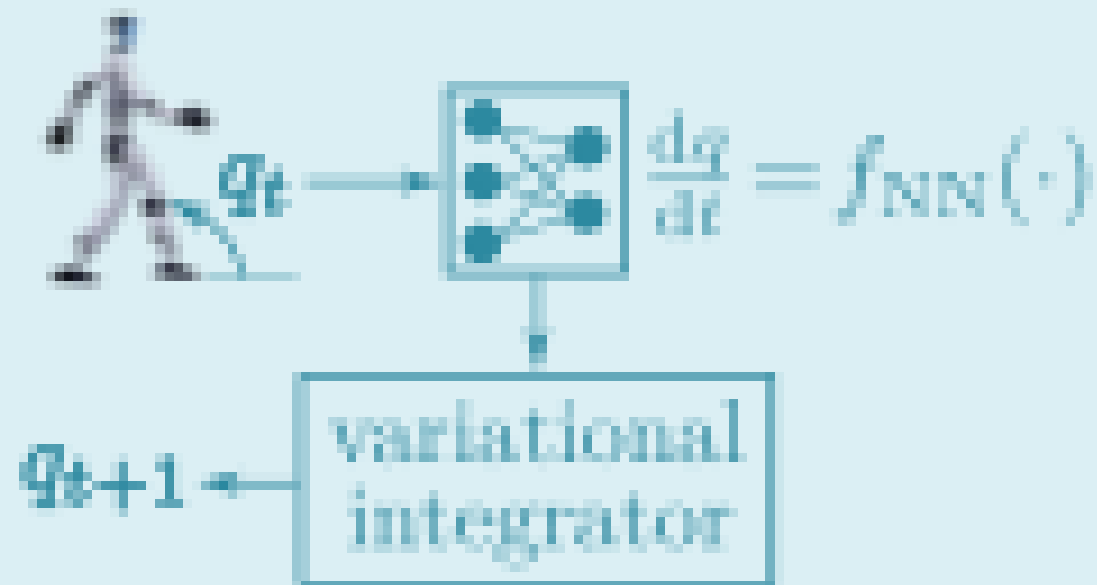
Lagrangian & Hamiltonian Approaches



NODE & Variational Integrator Networks

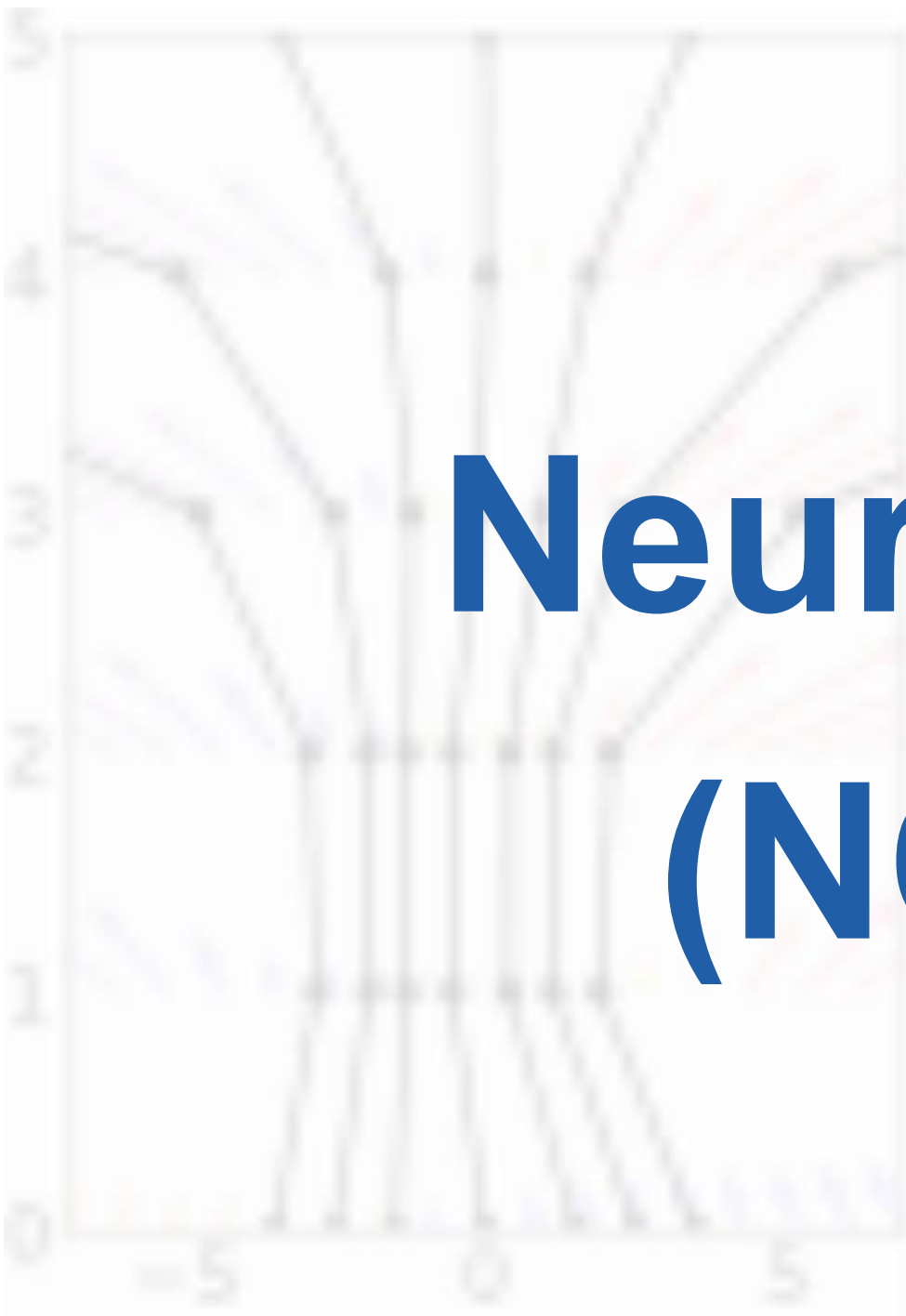


NODE & Variational Integrator Networks



*Learning dynamics via
structure-preserving integration*

Neural ODE (NODE)



Neural ODE (NODE)

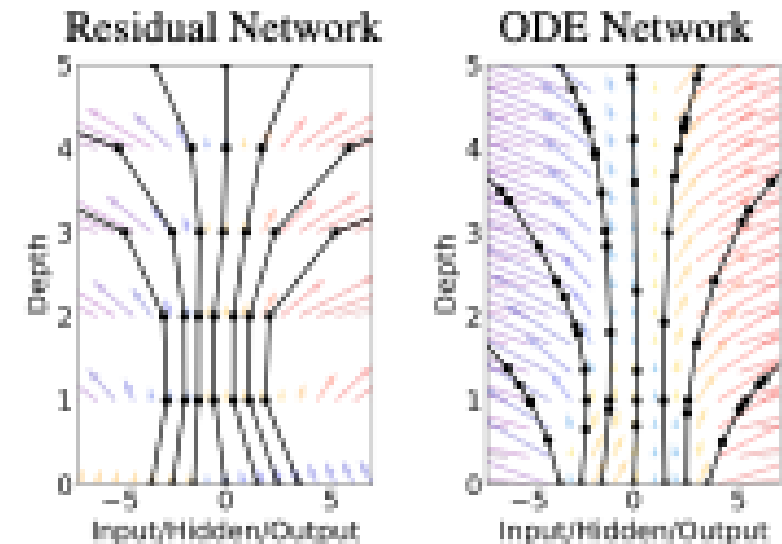
Consider a **continuous-time** Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE)

$$\frac{dh(t)}{dt} = f(h(t), t, \theta)$$

Neural ODEs use a **neural network** f to **learn** the right-hand side from data

Discrete-time case: **residual network** f , obtained by discretizing a NODE

$$h_{t+1} = h_t + f(h_t, \theta_t)$$



Neural ODE (NODE)

$$\frac{dh(t)}{dt} = f(h(t), t, \theta)$$

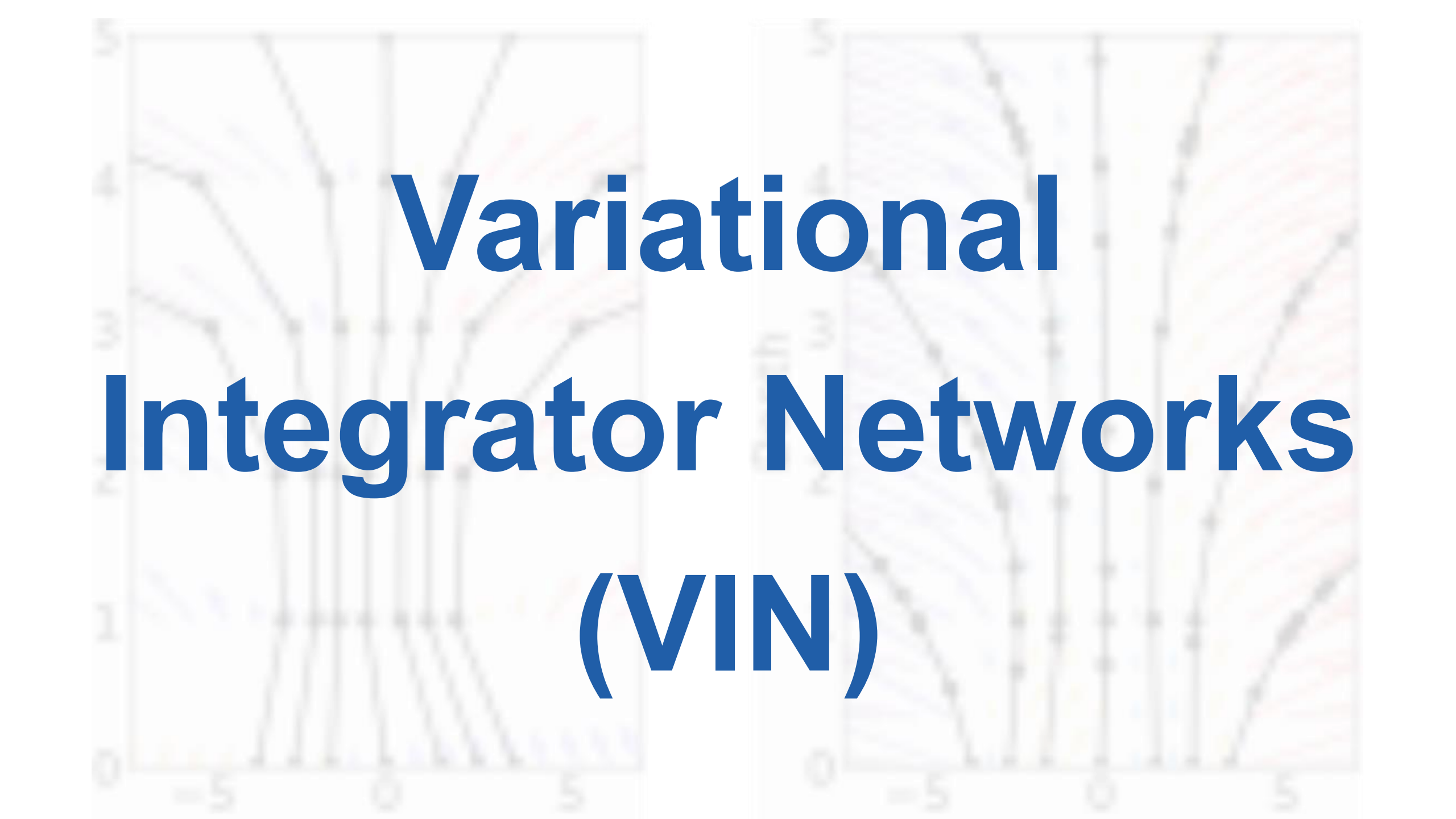
Example loss function: $L = ||\mathbf{h} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}||^2$

Gradient-based training (simplified): $\theta_{k+1} = \theta_k - \eta_k \nabla L_k$, with f parametrized by θ

Challenge: How to backpropagate ∇L_k through an ODE solver?

Solution:

- Neural ODEs compute ∇L_k via the **adjoint sensitivity** method for **automatic differentiation**, which applies to **any** ODE solver (Euler, Runge-Kutta, ...)
- Scales linearly with problem size, has low memory cost, and provides numerical error control

The background of the slide features a faded plot of a dynamical system. It shows numerous trajectories in various colors (black, blue, red, yellow) plotted against a grid. The horizontal axis is labeled with -5, 0, and 5, and the vertical axis is labeled with 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The trajectories represent the evolution of the system over time, with some showing periodic behavior and others more complex, divergent paths.

Variational Integrator Networks (VIN)

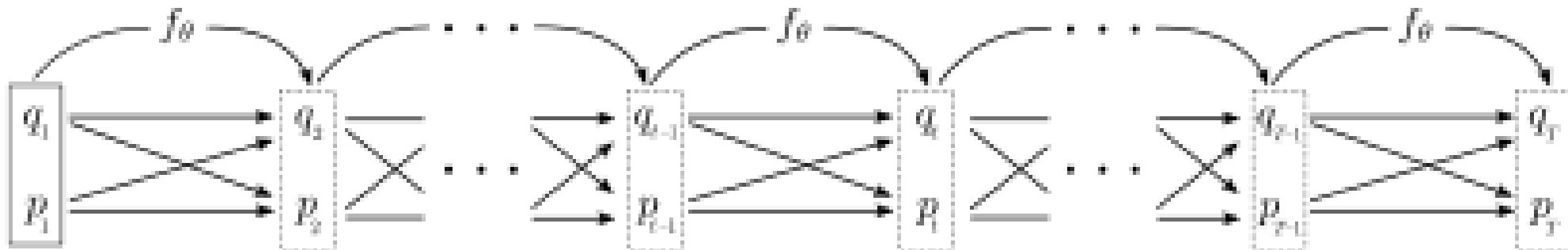
Variational Integrator Networks (VIN)

Limitation of Neural ODEs: Euler / Runge-Kutta solution schemes, which may **not** accurately preserve the **geometric** and **energy** properties of **physical** systems

$$\frac{d\mathbf{h}(t)}{dt} = f(\mathbf{h}(t), t, \theta)$$

Idea of VIN: Use **structure-preserving Variational Integrators (VIs)** instead of a standard ODE solver to solve **Euler-Lagrange ODEs**

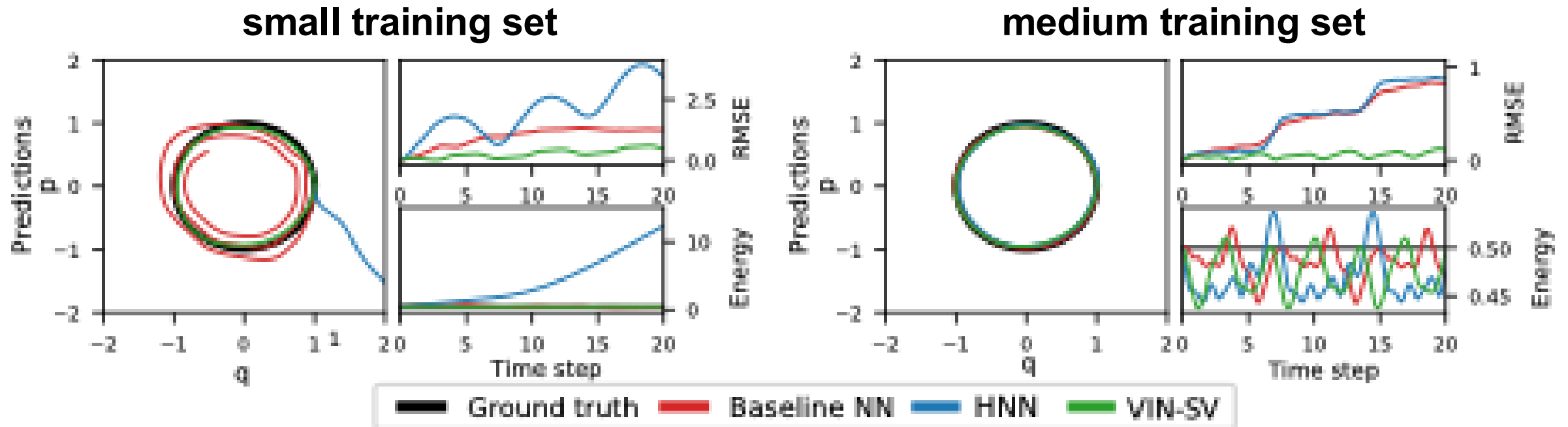
- **VIs** are ***symplectic* integrators**: they approximately **conserve energy & momentum** (introducing 3rd or higher-order errors)



Variational Integrator Networks (VIN) - Examples

Frictionless mass-spring system with *noisy* observations $[q_t, p_t, \dot{q}_t, \dot{p}_t]$ (q being position and p being momentum):

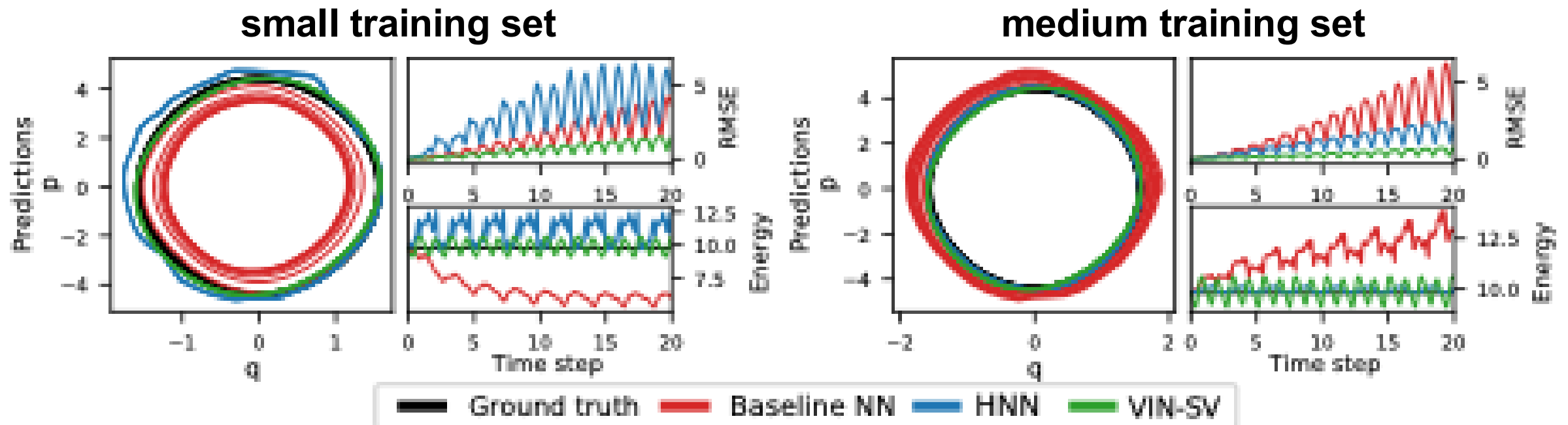
- With a small training set, **Hamiltonian NN (HNN)** tends to overfit and underperform
- **VIN** outperforms **HNN** and a **general-purpose NN**



Variational Integrator Networks (VIN) - Examples

Frictionless pendulum with *noisy* observations $[q_t, p_t, \dot{q}_t, \dot{p}_t]$ (q being position and p being momentum):

- With a small training set, **Hamiltonian NN (HNN)** tends to overfit and underperform
- **VIN** outperforms **HNN** and a **general-purpose NN**



The background is a collage of five images. Top-left: A blue robotic arm with a red circular arrow indicating rotation. Top-middle: A red robotic arm with a red circular arrow indicating rotation. Top-right: A schematic diagram of a mass-spring system with a rectangular mass at the top, a spring in the middle, and a square mass at the bottom, with a vertical double-headed arrow labeled 'a' indicating displacement. Bottom-left: A white quadruped robot (robot dog) in a running pose. Bottom-right: A robotic arm reaching into an open refrigerator to retrieve a glass.

Which Approach

Shall We Choose?

Comparing Neural ODE, HNN, LNN, DeLaN

How to choose?

- Do we have any **physics priors** available?
- Do we want to learn **differential equations**?
- Is **energy conservation** important?
- Is the **structure** of the **Lagrangian** known for the specific problem?

	Neural net	Neural ODE	HNN	DeLaN	LNN
Can model dynamical systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learns differential equations		✓	✓	✓	✓
Learns exact conservation laws			✓	✓	✓
Learns from arbitrary coords.	✓	✓		✓	✓
Learns arbitrary Lagrangians					✓

Hamiltonian vs. Lagrangian Neural Networks (HNNs vs. LNNs)

In principle, **HNNs** and **LNNs** act **similarly**:

- Both learn a **function** (**Hamiltonian** or **Lagrangian**) and aim to **conserve energy**
- For HNNs, **momenta** (p) can be **hard to formulate** for complex systems
- Thus, the canonical coordinates required by HNNs can be a bottleneck
- **LNNs** are more general and can learn from **arbitrary coordinates**

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Questions & Discussion

