

1 We thank all reviewers for insightful comments. *All existing references are numbered per the bibliography in appendices.*

2 **[Reviewer 1] • Language:** As suggested, we have now standardized the paper for formality and removed colloquialisms.

3 **[Reviewer 2] • Language:** Kindly refer to response for Reviewer 1. • **What information is lost in behavior cloning:**

4 We have now included (after Line 55) an example pertinent to us: the **state visitation distribution** of the demonstra-

5 tor—which results from dynamics—is information in the data, but which BC discards by focusing only on action

6 conditionals. • **Line 112, “directly parameterizing a policy”:** You are correct; we are not referring to the parametric/

7 non-parametric distinction. Instead, we are distinguishing: ① methods that first learn a **reward function** [12–19, 32–37],

8 thus **indirectly** inducing a policy (for that reward), vs. ② methods that **directly** learn a **policy mapping** [11, 20–25, 41].

9 We have now clarified this (after Line 113). • **Line 116, “intrinsically batch”:** This simply refers to an algorithm that

10 operates offline *without* recourse to **off-policy evaluation** (vs. off-policy adaptations of online algorithms). We have

11 now clarified this (after Line 117), and also explicitly reference Table 1 for its elaboration. • **Energy-based learning:**

12 You are correct; we rely on a standard technique from statistical physics, and we agree it is more informative—and

13 responsible—to clearly state this from the get-go. We have now updated the manuscript to properly introduce EBMs

14 after defining the objective, importantly invoking the joint EBM technique [44–46]—with particular credit to Eq. 7 in

15 [44] for popularizing the “**discriminative + generative**” model that is our Eq. 10. This introduction now (appropriately)

16 replaces the admittedly decorative (and potentially confusing) presentation of Lemma 1. • **Gradient estimator:** Yes,

17 the choice of step size does affect stability. However, the $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\rho}$ update in Algorithm 1 (Line 9) is analogous to that in

18 standard **contrastive divergence**, and we inherit any practical implementation details from prior work [44]. • **Online**

19 **setting:** The online setting is very different: there is no need to approximate state distributions as we do, since they

20 can just sample from the true distribution directly. We have now included a brief note of this in the Discussion section.

21 • **Stochastic policies:** Policies per Eq. 6 can readily capture stochasticity. We have now included **additional experiment**

22 **results** in the appendices to measure calibration, which EDM generally *improves* over others: e.g. for MIMIC-III-2a,

23 the expected calibration error is **2.32%** less than BC. • **Discussion section:** Agreed; this is now given its own section.

24 **[Reviewer 3]** Thank you for your thoughtful comments. For further detail, we will upload code per official guidelines.

25 **[Reviewer 4] • Proof of Proposition 2:** Thank you for pointing out the need for clearer justification for the transition

26 in Line 504. To be clear, the proposition and algorithm are both **correct** as intended. We agree, however, that additional

27 detail would benefit exposition. While you are correct that gradients and expectations cannot be freely exchanged in

28 the *most general* case, here we can exploit regularity assumptions. To justify the exchange, we have now included a

29 version of the following (known) result as auxiliary **lemma**: Let $\theta \in \Theta$, r.v. $s \in \mathcal{S}$, and fix $f: \mathcal{S} \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $f(s, \theta)$ is

30 continuously differentiable w.r.t. θ and integrable for all θ . Assume for some r.v. X with finite mean that $|\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(s, \theta)| \leq X$

31 a.s. for all θ . Then $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathbb{E}[f(s, \theta)] = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} (\mathbb{E}[f(s, \theta + \delta)] - \mathbb{E}[f(s, \theta)]) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{E}[\frac{1}{\delta} (f(s, \theta + \delta) - f(s, \theta))] =$

32 $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{E}[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(s, \tau(\delta))] = \mathbb{E}[\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(s, \tau(\delta))] = \mathbb{E}[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(s, \theta)]$, where for equality 3 the **mean value theorem** guar-

33 antees existence of $\tau(\delta) \in (\theta, \theta + \delta)$ and equality 4 uses the **dominated convergence theorem** where $|\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(s, \tau(\delta))| \leq X$

34 by assumption [Weir, 1973]. Generalizing to gradients simply requires the bound be on $\max_i |\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} f(s, \theta)|$ for elements

35 i of θ . To be clear, most machine learning models (and energy-based models) meet/assume these regularity conditions or

36 similar variants; we have also now included a brief note about their reasonableness. • **Relationship with Algorithm 1:**

37 While Proposition 2 sets the stage for the analysis in Section 4, the (gradient-based) imple-

38 mentation of Algorithm 1 is *also* correct due to a simpler reason: the batched (empirical loss)

39 $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\rho}$ portion of the update (Line 9) is analogous to that in standard **contrastive divergence**.

40 In other words, simply to show it works as intended, we could have stopped at equality 3 in

41 Line 504 and be done. (Of course, that would have been at the expense of the simplicity of

42 subsequent derivations for Section 4). • **Energy-based learning:** We agree more background

43 on EBMs is beneficial. Since we rely on an existing technique in statistical physics, we agree

44 it is more informative—and responsible—to properly introduce them from the get-go. We

45 have now updated the manuscript to properly introduce EBMs after defining the objective,

46 importantly invoking the joint EBM technique [44–46]—with particular credit to Eq. 7 in [44] for popularizing the

47 “**discriminative + generative**” model that is our Eq. 10. This introduction now (appropriately) replaces the admittedly

48 decorative (and potentially confusing) presentation of Lemma 1. Moreover, we have also streamlined the paper by

49 removing any redundancies/overselling as suggested. • **Approximation of true occupancy:** You are absolutely correct

50 that the *true* state occupancy distribution depends on MDP dynamics, and that the proposed formulation simply involves

51 an *approximation* of this distribution. With the updated presentation of joint EBMs (see previous point), this should now

52 be clear. We now explicitly emphasize it is impossible to obtain the former without actually executing policies online; we

53 agree the (prior) oversold presentation may be misconstrued to suggest that our offline approach achieves the impossible.

54 (We also include a note of this contrast/relation to online distribution-matching). • **Environments + comparisons:**

55 Using common control environments follows recent work in offline IL, and like most (if not all) IL work we use the same

56 NN architecture for all benchmarks for standard comparison [see e.g. **VDICE**, **DSFN**, **GAIL**]; we also go beyond [32–37]

57 by adding more complex (BeamRider) + realistic (MIMIC-III) examples. (Note: MuJoCo is not applicable to categorical

58 actions). We have also added experiments with Linear BC (“LBC”); see above figure for an example on LunarLander.

