

# Sequential Monte Carlo Methods

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- For a linear Gaussian state-space model we can get the exact analytical expressions of the posterior distributions - **Kalman filter**
- For a partially observed finite state-space Markov chain we can also get the analytical solution - **Hidden Markov Model (HMM) filter**

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- Simulation based, flexible, “easy” to implement & applicable in general settings
- **Alias:** *Particle filters, Bootstrap filters, condensation, Monte Carlo filters, interacting particle approximations and survival of the fittest*

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- Model description:

$$p(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

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## Literature example - non-linear time series model

$$x_t = \frac{x_{t-1}}{2} + 25 \frac{x_{t-1}}{1 + x_{t-1}^2} + 8 \cos(1.2t) + u_t$$

$$y_t = \frac{x_t^2}{20} + v_t$$

$$u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_u^2), \quad \sigma_u^2 = 10$$

$$v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_v^2), \quad \sigma_v^2 = 1$$

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We can simulate from this distribution!

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e.g.

- Conditional mean,  $f_t(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}) = \mathbf{x}_{0:t}$
- Conditional covariance,  

$$f_t(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}) = \mathbf{x}_t\mathbf{x}_t' - \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})}[\mathbf{x}_t]\mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})}'[\mathbf{x}_t]$$

- *Posterior distribution (Bayes' theorem):*

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Late 80s computers enabled development of numerical integration methods for *Bayesian filtering*

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- Making importance sampling recursive: **sequential importance sampling, SIS**

## Perfect Monte Carlo sampling

- Assume we can simulate  $N$  random samples (particles) i.i.d. according to  $p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ :  $\{\mathbf{x}_{0:t}^{(i)}; i = 1, \dots, N\}$

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- **Often it is impossible to sample efficiently from the posterior.** MCMC unsuited for recursive problems

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where the *importance weight* is:

$$w(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})}{\pi(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})}$$

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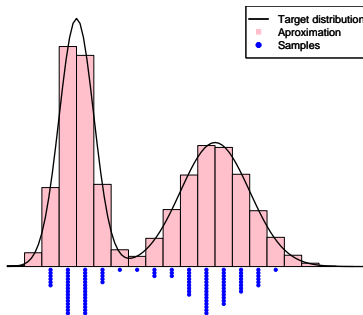
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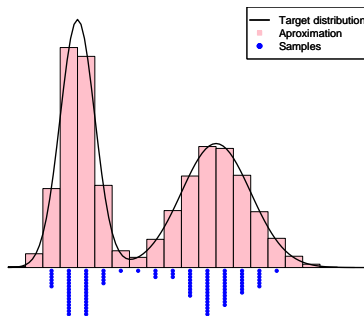
- Under weak conditions, this estimate converges almost surely to  $I(f_t)$  and with additional conditions follows an approximate Gaussian distribution - *rate of convergency still independent of the dimension of the integrand*

- This integration method can also be interpreted as a sampling method where  $p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$  is approximated by  $\tilde{p}_N(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{w}_t^{(i)} \delta_{\mathbf{x}_{0:t}^{(i)}}(d\mathbf{x}_{0:t})$  and  $\tilde{I}_N(f_t)$  is  $f_t(\mathbf{x}_{0:t})$  integrated with respect to the empirical measure  $\tilde{p}_N(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$

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- This method is not adequate for recursive estimation, as we need to get all the data to estimate  $p(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$  - computational complexity increases in time (importance weights).

## Sequential importance sampling, SIS

- Modification of importance sampling such that it is possible to get an estimate  $\tilde{p}_N(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$  without modifying past trajectories  $\{\mathbf{x}_{0:t-1}^{(i)}; i = 1, \dots, N\}$

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- The problem is as  $t$  increases the distribution of the weights becomes more and more skewed and practically after a few steps only one particle has a non-zero importance weight - **need to introduce additional selection step**

## Sequential Importance Sampling with Resampling

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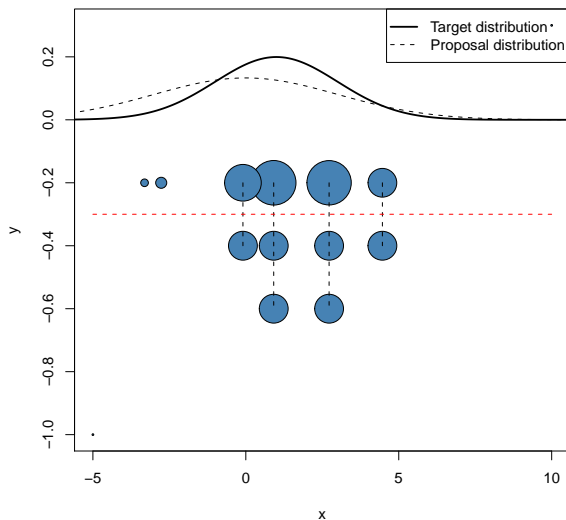
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- In practice: We obtain the surviving particles by sampling  $N$  times from the (discrete) distribution  $\tilde{p}_N(\mathbf{x}_{0:t}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ , which is equivalent to sampling the number of offspring  $N_t^{(j)}$  according to a multinomial distribution of parameters  $\tilde{w}_t^{(j)}$ .

## SISR



## Bootstrap filter algorithm (special particle filter)

### 1 *Importance sampling steps*

Generate sample from predictive density of each old sample point  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(i)}$ :

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)} \sim p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(i)})$$

$$\text{Form } \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{1:t}^{(i)} = \left\{ \mathbf{x}_{1:t-1}^{(i)}, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)} \right\}$$

### 2 Evaluate importance weights for each new sample point $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)}$ :

$$w_t^{(i)} \sim p(\mathbf{y}_t | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)})$$

Normalize them,  $\tilde{w}_t^{(i)} = w_t^{(i)} / \sum_j w_t^{(j)}$

### 3 *Selection step*

Resample with replacement by selecting new samples  $\mathbf{x}_{1:t}^{(i)}$  from the set  $\left\{ \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{1:t}^{(i)} \right\}$  with probabilities proportional to  $\tilde{w}_t^{(i)}$

## Literature example revisited

$$x_t = \frac{x_{t-1}}{2} + 25 \frac{x_{t-1}}{1 + x_{t-1}^2} + 8 \cos(1.2t) + u_t$$

$$y_t = \frac{x_t^2}{20} + v_t$$

$$u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_u^2), \quad \sigma_u^2 = 10$$

$$v_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_v^2), \quad \sigma_v^2 = 1$$

$$x_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 10)$$

#### Literature example revisited

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####Bootstrap filter example:
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####Observations and true states generation:
v.u<-10
v.v<-1
xT<-rnorm(1,0,sqrt(v.u)) #True state
yT<-NULL
for (t in 1:10){ #Generate state x_t=... and obs. y_t=x_t^2/20+vt, vt ~ N(0,vt)
xT<-c(xT,rnorm(1,(xT[t]/2+25*xT[t]/(1+xT[t]^2)+8*cos(1.5*t)),sqrt(v.u)))
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## Monte Carlo methods

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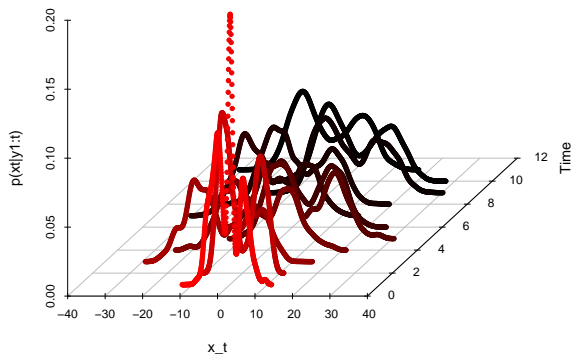
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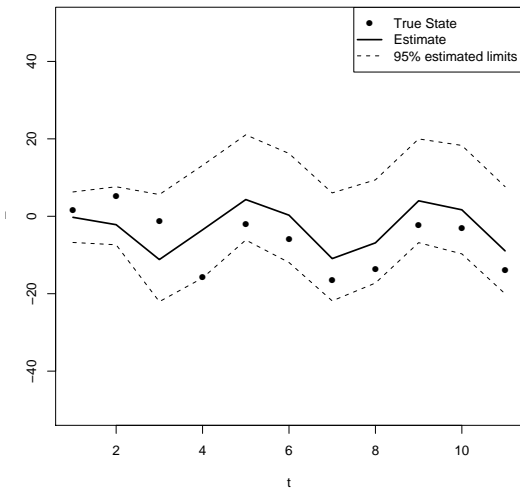
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#Normalize importance weights:
weight<-weight/sum(weight)
####Selection step:
#Sample with replacement N trajectories according to actual importance weights:
index.resamp<-sample(1:N,prob=weight,replace=T)
x.todos<-x.todos[index.resamp,]}

```

## Literature example revisited



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- For example, to overcome a problem of "**particle depletion**" (particles with relative large sizes tend to be chosen many times and dominate):
  - **Kernel smoothing of parameter vectors** at each time step, adding a small perturbation to parameter values, increasing the diversity of parameters values in vicinity of parameter space.
  - **Auxiliary particle filter** (an initial "auxiliary" resample is taken from the population at time  $t$ , with weights calculated according to the expected likelihood of the states at time  $t + 1$ , given the data as time  $t + 1$ . This resampled set of particles is then projected forward from time  $t$  to time  $t + 1$ , and "corrected" using likelihood weights just as with the bootstrap filter, except that the likelihood weights must take account of the auxiliary resampling stage.)

**Thank you!**

# References

- Gordon NJ, Salmond DJ, Smith AFM (1993). *Novel Approach to nonlinea/non-Gaussian Bayesian State Estimation*. IEE Proceedings, 140: 107-113. **(Over 2500 citations!)**
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