



# Sensors networks

## Non-linear filtering

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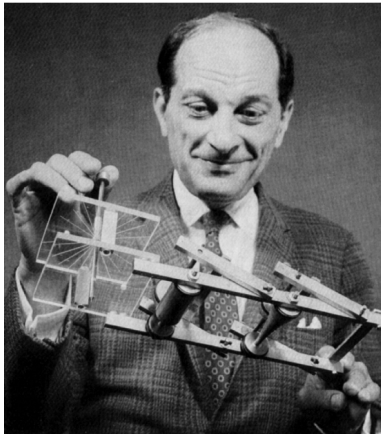
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- 5 Monte Carlo
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- 7 Particle filtering

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# Linearity



“Using a term like nonlinear science is like referring to the bulk of zoology as the study of non-elephant animals”

— Stanislaw Ulam

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# Non-linear dynamic model

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- $$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{w}_t,$$

with  $\mathbf{h}$  being a vector of scalar functions of a vector

$$\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_t) = \begin{bmatrix} h_1(\mathbf{x}_t) \\ h_2(\mathbf{x}_t) \\ \vdots \\ h_N(\mathbf{x}_t) \end{bmatrix}$$

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We **cannot** apply the Kalman filter!!



# Linearized dynamic model

## Goal

To apply the KF over the non-linear model to estimate  $\mathbf{x}_t$  given  $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t$

We can build a linear approximation to the observation equation<sup>1</sup> using a *first-order Taylor series*,

$$\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_t) \approx \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^0) + \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{x}^0} (\mathbf{x}_t - \mathbf{x}^0),$$

where

$$\left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x_{1,t}} & \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x_{2,t}} & \dots & \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x_{M,t}} \\ \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x_{1,t}} & \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x_{2,t}} & \dots & \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x_{M,t}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x_{1,t}} & \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x_{2,t}} & \dots & \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x_{M,t}} \end{bmatrix}$$

is the Jacobian matrix (of partial derivatives) of  $\mathbf{h}$ .

<sup>1</sup>We could do the same thing to deal with a non-linear state equation!!

# Deriving the extended Kalman filter

EKF defines the *corrected* observations,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_t = \mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^0) + \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{x}^0} \mathbf{x}^0,$$

which yield an approximate dynamic model which is both linear and Gaussian

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{v}_t$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_t = \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{x}^0} \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$$



**Success!!**

It is straightforward to apply the KF on the previous model.

# Extended Kalman Filter

- Prediction

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1|t-1}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{F}\mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-1}\mathbf{F}^T$$

# Extended Kalman Filter

- Prediction

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- Update

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}_t &= \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t=\mathbf{x}^0}^\top \left( \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t=\mathbf{x}^0} \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t=\mathbf{x}^0}^\top + \mathbf{R} \right)^{-1} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \mathbf{K}_t(\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1})) \\ \mathbf{P}_{t|t} &= \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} - \mathbf{K}_t \left( \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t=\mathbf{x}^0} \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t} \right]_{\mathbf{x}_t=\mathbf{x}^0}^\top \right) \mathbf{K}_t^\top,\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is the covariance matrix of  $\mathbf{v}_t$ , and  $\mathbf{R}$  that of  $\mathbf{w}_t$ .

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where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is the covariance matrix of  $\mathbf{v}_t$ , and  $\mathbf{R}$  that of  $\mathbf{w}_t$ .

- The linearization point  $\mathbf{x}^0$  must be close enough to  $\mathbf{x}_t$  for the algorithm to work properly. Usually, we take  $\mathbf{x}^0 = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$ .

# Example of non-linear function for tracking

## Goal

Localization and tracking of an object moving with a known constant velocity  $\mathbf{c}$ .

$s_2^\circ$  ×

$s_4^\circ$

$s_1^\circ$

$s_3^\circ$

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Same state equation as before,

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Same state equation as before,

- $$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{c}T + \mathbf{v}_t,$$

...a more *realistic* observation equation based on the Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI),

- $$y_{t,i} = \underbrace{k_1 - k_2 \log \|\mathbf{x}_t - \mathbf{s}_i\|}_{\text{RSSI}_i} + w_{t,i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

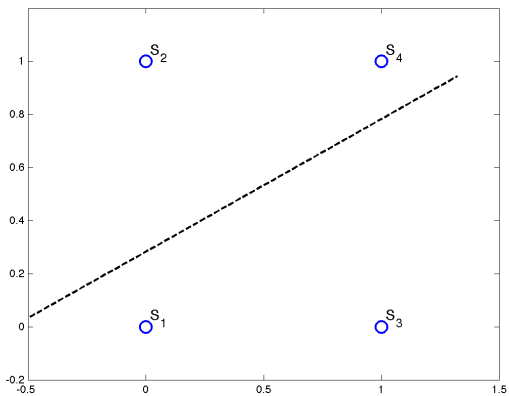
with  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  being some known constants and  $\mathbf{s}_i$  the position of the corresponding sensor.

( previously,  $\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$  )



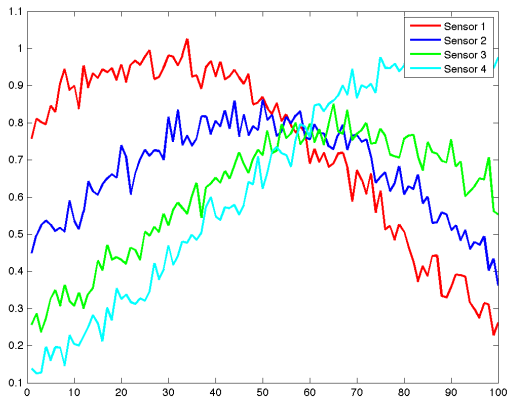
# Example

- True trajectory



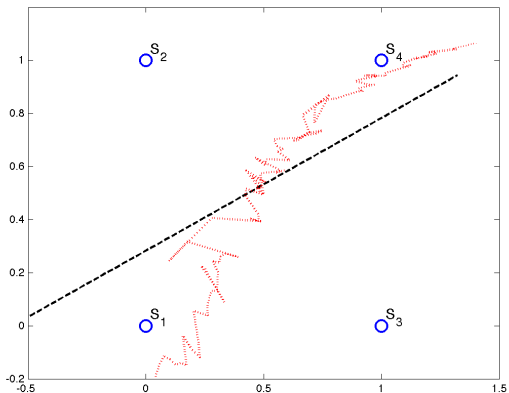
# Example

- Sensors readings



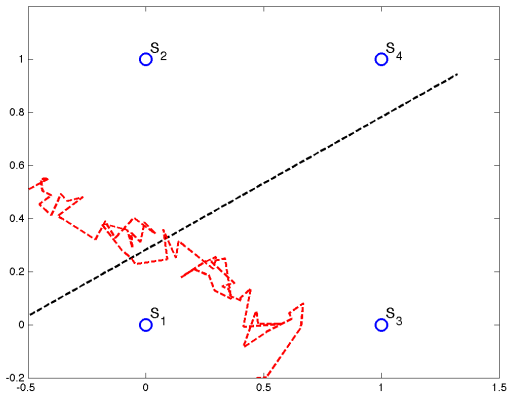
# Example

- Result when filtering using only Sensor 2



# Example

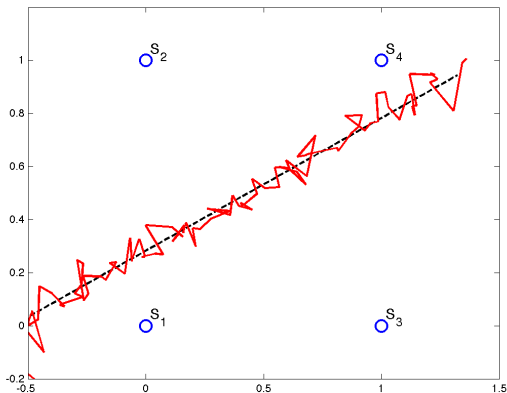
- Result when filtering using Sensors 1 and 2



- Sensors cannot disambiguate the direction.

# Example

- Result when filtering using the four sensors



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# Unscented Kalman filter

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- The model:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_t &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{v}_t), & \mathbf{v}_t &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_n) \\ \mathbf{y}_t &= \mathbf{H}_t \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{w}_t, & \mathbf{w}_t &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}_n)\end{aligned}$$

The observation equation is linear...but the state equation is **not** ( $\mathbf{f}$  is any arbitrary vector function)



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- It relies on the...

## *unscented* transformation

a method for computing the moments of a *Gaussian* random variable that undergoes a nonlinear transformation.

...which in turn makes use of a...

# Sigma point representation

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Let us consider  $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t | \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t, \mathbf{P}_t)$ . We can represent this distribution using a collection of (deterministic) **sigma points**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{X}_t(0) &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t, & \mathbf{W}_t(0) &= \kappa / (M + \kappa) \\ \mathbf{X}_t(i) &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t + \left( \sqrt{(M + \kappa) \mathbf{P}_t} \right)_i, & \mathbf{W}_t(i) &= 1 / (2(M + \kappa)) \\ \mathbf{X}_t(i + M) &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t - \left( \sqrt{(M + \kappa) \mathbf{P}_t} \right)_i, & \mathbf{W}_t(i + M) &= 1 / (2(M + \kappa))\end{aligned}$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, M$ , where  $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\left( \sqrt{(M + \kappa) \mathbf{P}_t} \right)_i$  is the  $i$ -th column of the matrix square root of  $(M + \kappa) \mathbf{P}_t$ .

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## Theorem: Sigma points

This set of weighted samples has the same sample mean and covariance as the original distribution.

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The *update step* is carried out as in the standard KF.

## Remarks

- The mean vector and covariance matrix computed by propagating the sigma points through the nonlinearity are still **estimates**, but more accurate than those produced by the EKF. They are correct up to the 2nd order of a Taylor expansion. ✓

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- Different choices of sigma points are possible. If a Gauss-Hermite quadrature rule is used, a larger number of points is needed but the approximations are more accurate as well.
- UKF algorithms look simple to implement. However performance may actually vary depending, e.g., on the number of points.

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# State space models

- Formal statement of the estimation problem...



# State space models

- Formal statement of the estimation problem...
- ...in a Bayesian framework.

# State space models

- Formal statement of the estimation problem...
- ...in a Bayesian framework.
- Non-linear state space model

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{v}_t) \\ \mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{w}_t) \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x}_0 \sim p(\mathbf{x}_0) \\ \mathbf{x}_t \sim p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) \\ \mathbf{y}_t \sim p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t) \end{array} \right\}$$

where

- $\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{h} \equiv$  state and observation functions;
- $\mathbf{v}_t, \mathbf{w}_t \equiv$  state and observation noise;
- $p(\mathbf{x}_0) \equiv$  prior pdf of the state;
- $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) \equiv$  transition pdf of the state;
- $p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t) \equiv$  conditional pdf of the observation (likelihood of the state).

# Stochastic filtering

## Goal

Tracking the posterior distribution,  $p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ , which allows computing the expectation of any function of interest,  $\mathbf{g}$ , as

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t)] = \int \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t)p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{y}_{1:t})d\mathbf{x}_t$$

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Using Bayes theorem, one can easily show

$$p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{y}_{1:t}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{x}_t) \int p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{y}_{1:t-1})d\mathbf{x}_{t-1}$$

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## Stochastic filtering

There is uncertainty in the observations and/or the noise governing the evolution of the system...that's why we talk about **stochastic filtering**<sup>a</sup>.

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<sup>a</sup>Kalman filter also falls within this category!!

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# Monte Carlo integration

Let  $X$  be a r.v. with pdf  $p(x)$  and consider the problem of approximating

$$\mathbb{E}[h(X)] = \int h(x)p(x)dx$$

for some integrable function  $h$ .

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## One possible approach

If we can **draw  $N$  i.i.d. samples**  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(N)}$  from  $p(x)$  and the variance of the r.v.  $Y = h(X)$  is finite, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N h(X^{(n)}) = \mathbb{E}[h(X)]$$

almost surely (a.s.).



# Sampling

Unfortunately, in many problems it is impossible to draw samples from  $p(x)$ ...



## Example

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{H}^H \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$$

We want to estimate  $\mathbf{x}_t$  from  $\mathbf{y}_t$ , i.e., we aim at approximating  $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_t)$ ...but we cannot sample directly from the latter (how??)

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<sup>2</sup>Say  $p(x) = Kf(x)$  where function  $f(x)$  is known, but constant  $K$  is not.

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...but maybe  $p(x)$  can be evaluated *up to a proportionality constant*<sup>2</sup>:



$$p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_t) = \frac{p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)p(\mathbf{x}_t)}{p(\mathbf{y}_t)} \propto p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t)p(\mathbf{x}_t)$$

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# Importance sampling

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# Importance sampling

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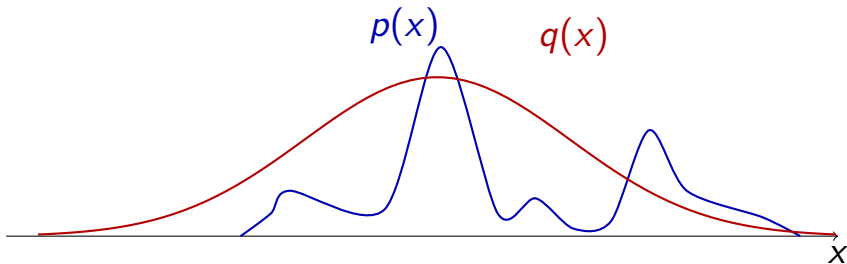
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then we can compute the expectation of any arbitrary function  $h(x)$  with respect to  $p(x)$ ...but using samples from  $q(x)$ !!

# Importance sampling: $q(x)$



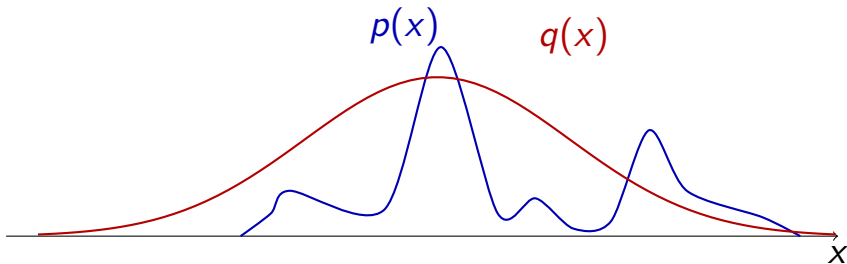
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The support of  $q(x)$  must encompass that of  $p(x)$ ,

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# Importance sampling: $q(x)$



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## How to choose it

For the sake of efficiency, the proposal pdf should be as close as possible to the target pdf.

## Importance sampling: procedure

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- 4 Approximate  $\mathbb{E}[h(X)]$  as

$$\mathbb{E}[h(X)] \approx \sum_{i=1}^N w^{(i)} h(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \quad (1)$$

# Importance sampling: interpretation

Using IS, we end up with a collection of pairs (sample,weight):

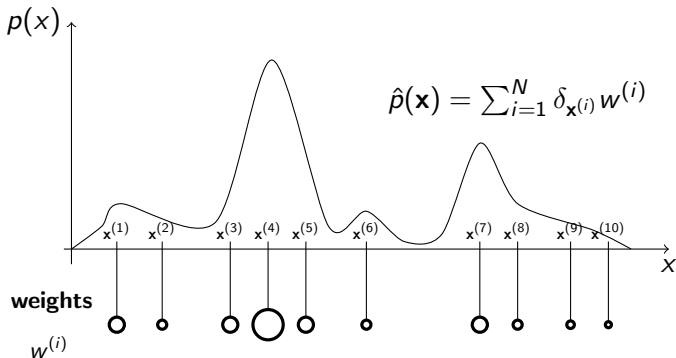
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The weight can be *interpreted* as the probability of the corresponding sample





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We already know how to approximate **any** distribution of interest, and hence we could approximate

$$p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t}), p(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{y}_{1:t+1}), p(\mathbf{x}_{t+2} | \mathbf{y}_{1:t+2}), \dots$$

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### Goal

Build (using importance sampling) an approximation of  $p(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{y}_{1:t+1})$  using one from  $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ .

# Index

- 1 A linear world
- 2 Extended Kalman Filter
- 3 Unscented Kalman filter
- 4 A more general statement of the estimation problem
- 5 Monte Carlo
- 6 Importance sampling
- 7 Particle filtering**

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- samples are drawn from the prior,

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This scheme is called **particle filtering** or *Sequential Importance Sampling* (SIS). Once samples are available, Equation (1) can be used to approximate any integral with respect to  $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ .

# Bootstrap filter

If we choose as proposal function

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t}) = \sum_{i=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(i)}, \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}) w_{t-1}^{(i)}$$



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The resulting algorithm is the **bootstrap filter**, considered the first particle filter

# Bootstrap filter: the proposal function

Drawing samples from the proposal

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t}) = \sum_{i=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(i)}, \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}) w_{t-1}^{(i)}$$

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# Bootstrap filter: the proposal function

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can be seen as a two step procedure:

- **resampling** the previous approximation,

$$\left\{ \left( \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}, w_{t-1}^{(1)} \right), \left( \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(2)}, w_{t-1}^{(2)} \right), \left( \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(3)}, w_{t-1}^{(3)} \right), \dots \right\}$$

to get  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(j_1)}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(j_2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(j_t)}$  with  $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_t \in \{1, \dots, N\}$

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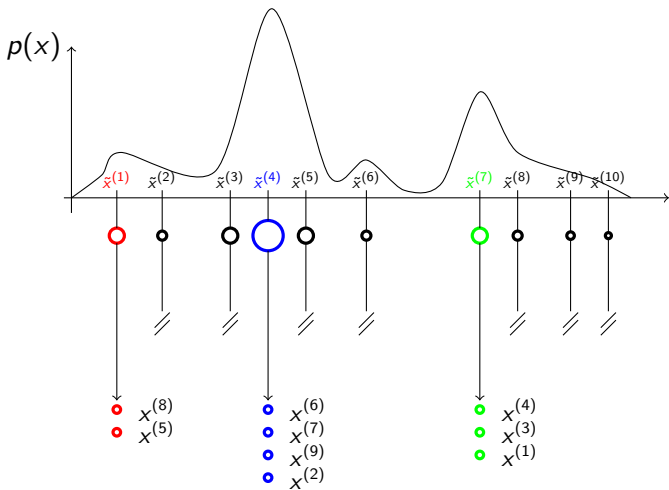
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- **propagating** each resampled particle using the transition pdf,  $p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$ , as

$$\mathbf{x}_t^{(i)} \sim p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(j_i)}), i = 1, \dots, N$$

# Resampling



# Bootstrap filter: implementation

- **Initialization**

- sample  $\mathbf{x}_0^{(i)}, i = 1, \dots, N$  from the prior  $p(\mathbf{x}_0)$

- **Recursion** given  $\hat{p}^N(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^N w^{(i)} \delta_{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1}^{(i)}}$ ,

- ① resampling: let  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1}^{(i)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1}^{(j)}$  with probability  $w^{(j)}, i = 1, \dots, N, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ .
- ② propagation (sampling)

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

- ③ weight computation...

$$w^{*(i)} = p(\mathbf{y}_t | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)}), i = 1, \dots, N$$

...and normalization

$$w^{(i)} = \frac{w^{*(i)}}{\sum_{j=1}^N w^{*(j)}}, i = 1, \dots, N$$

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- 3 resampling: let  $\mathbf{x}_t^{(i)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(j)}$  with probability  $w^{(j)}, i = 1, \dots, N, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ .



# Bootstrap filter: overview

## 1. Initialization

$$\mathbf{x}_0^{(i)} \sim p(\mathbf{x}_0) \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, N$$

## 2. Recursive step: starting from

samples at time instant  $t-1$

### 2.1. Samples propagation

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

### 2.2. Weights computation and normalization

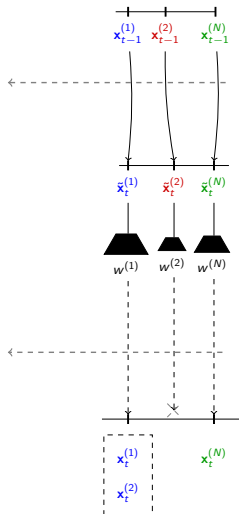
$$w^{(i)} \propto p(\mathbf{y}_t | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)}), i = 1, \dots, N$$

### 2.3. Resampling

$$\mathbf{x}_t^{(i)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(j)}, i = 1, \dots, N$$

with probability  $w^{(j)}, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$

samples at time  $t$



## Bootstrap filter: epilogue

In the above implementation, at the end of every iteration we have samples

$$\mathbf{x}_t^{(1)}, \mathbf{x}_t^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t^{(N)}$$

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but the initial goal was to approximate the expectation of some (known) function of interest,  $\mathbf{g}$ , with respect to  $p(\mathbf{x}_t \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:t})$ , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t)] = \int \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t) p(\mathbf{x}_t \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:t}) d\mathbf{x}_t.$$

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We simply use the samples to compute a Monte Carlo approximation,

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t)] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t^{(n)})$$