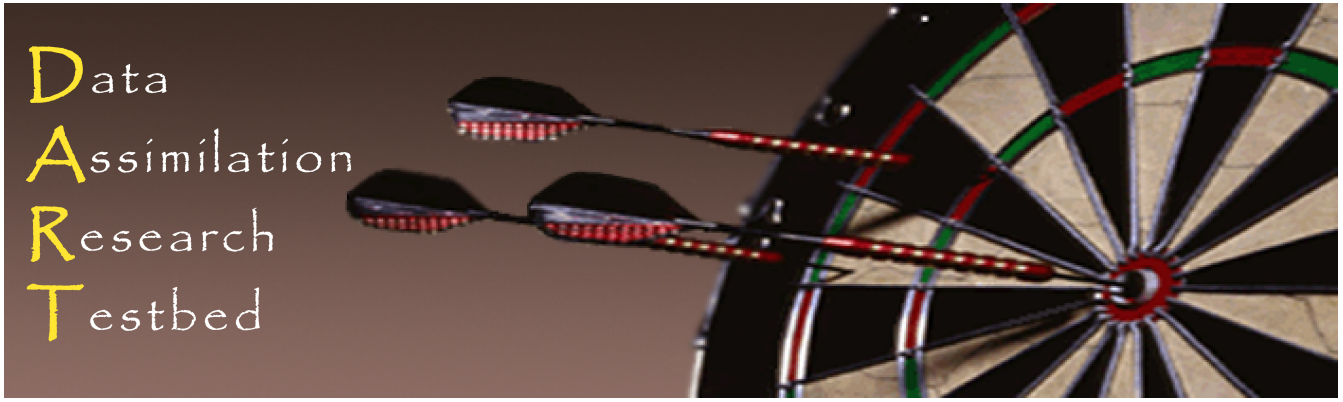
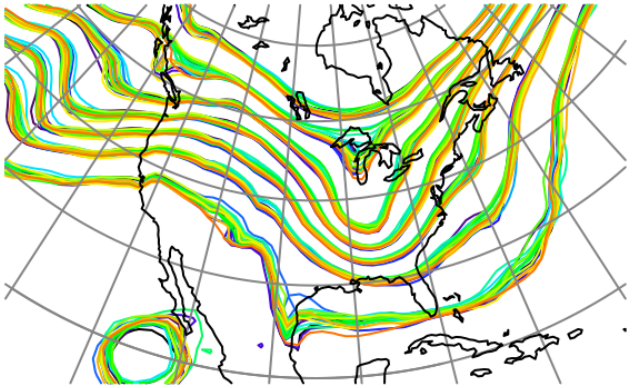


DART_LAB Tutorial Section 1: Ensemble Data Assimilation Concepts in 1D



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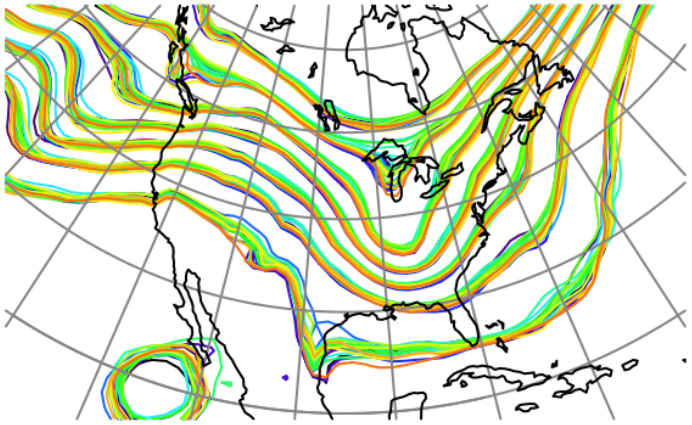
UCAR | Atmospheric Research

What is Data Assimilation?

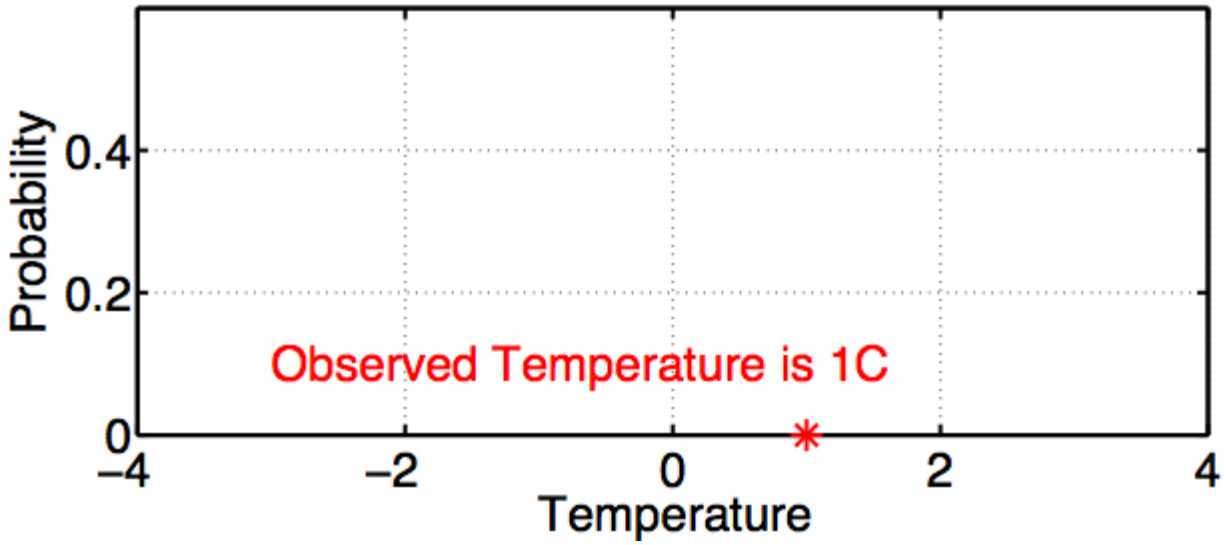
Observations combined with a Model forecast …

…to produce an analysis
(best possible estimate).



Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

An observation has a value (*),



Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

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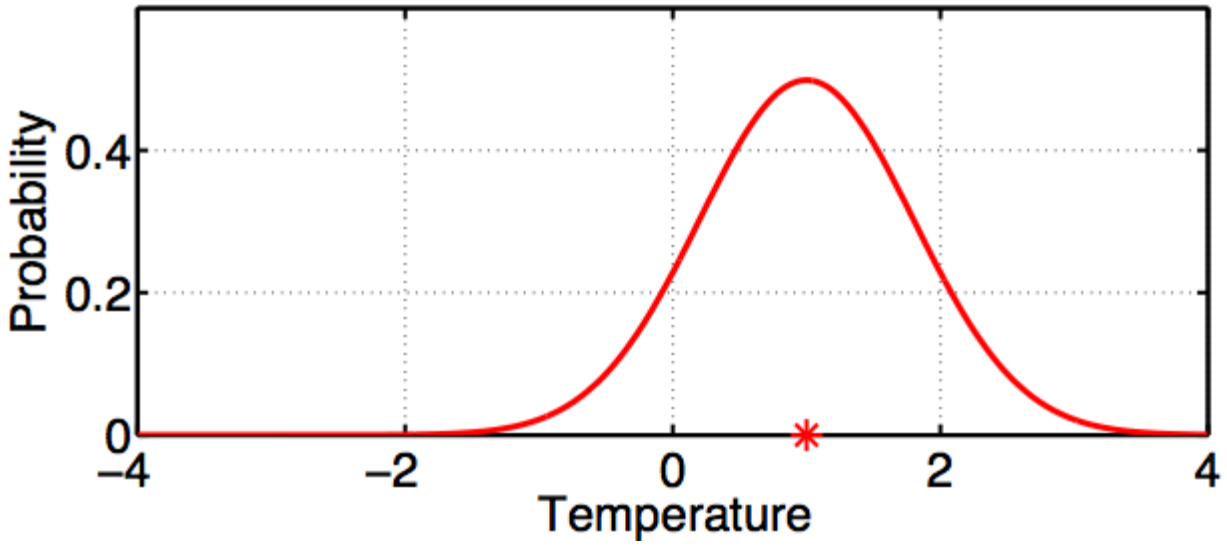
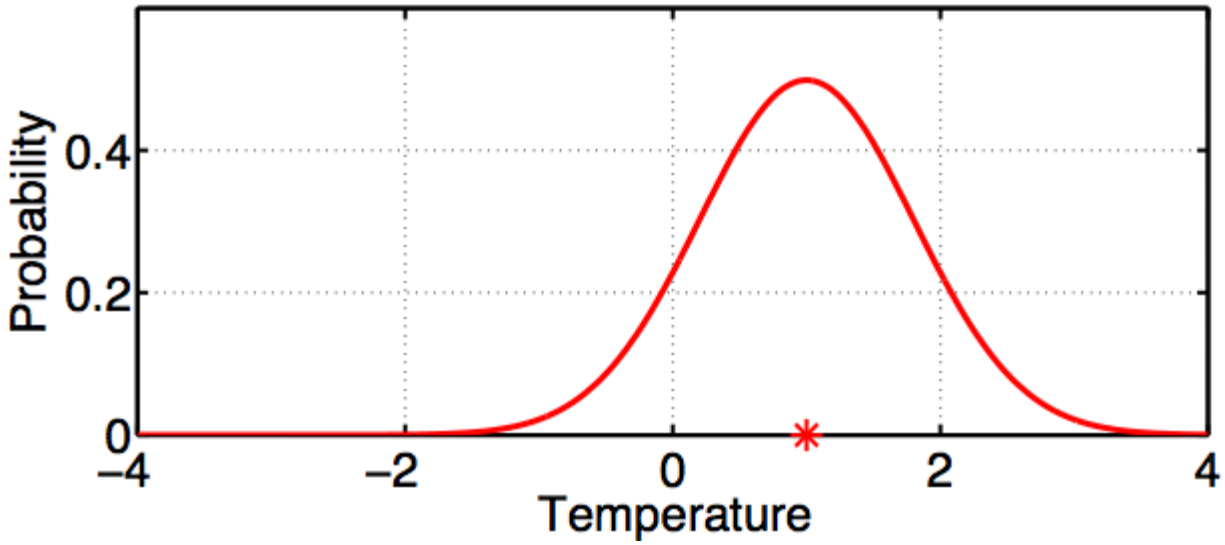


and an error distribution (red curve) that is associated with the instrument.

Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

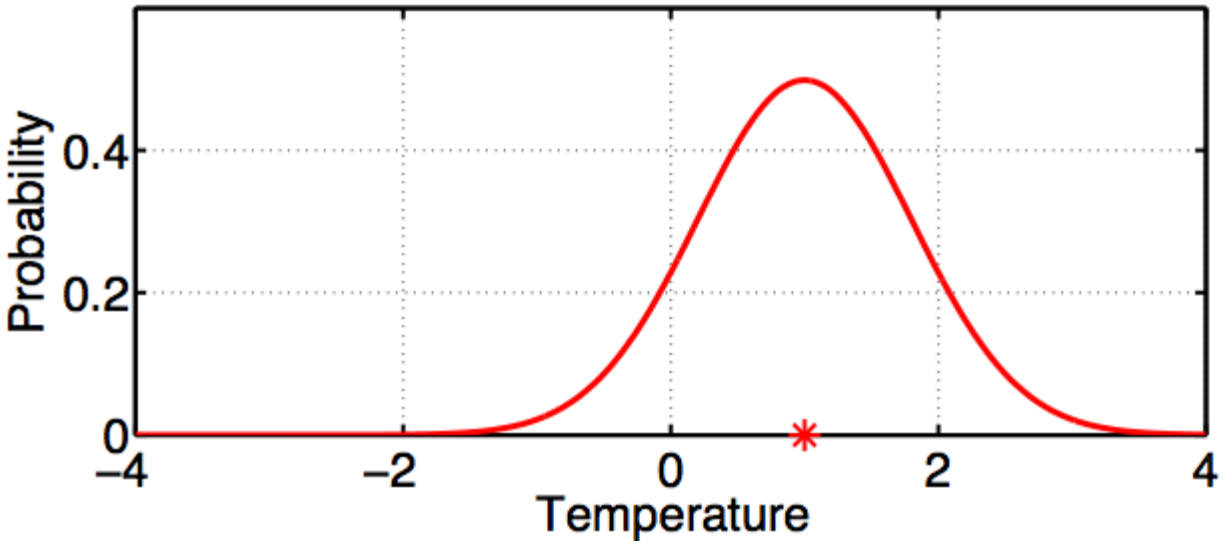
Thermometer outside measures 1° C.



Instrument builder says thermometer is unbiased with +/- 0.8° C gaussian error.

Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

Thermometer outside measures 1° C.

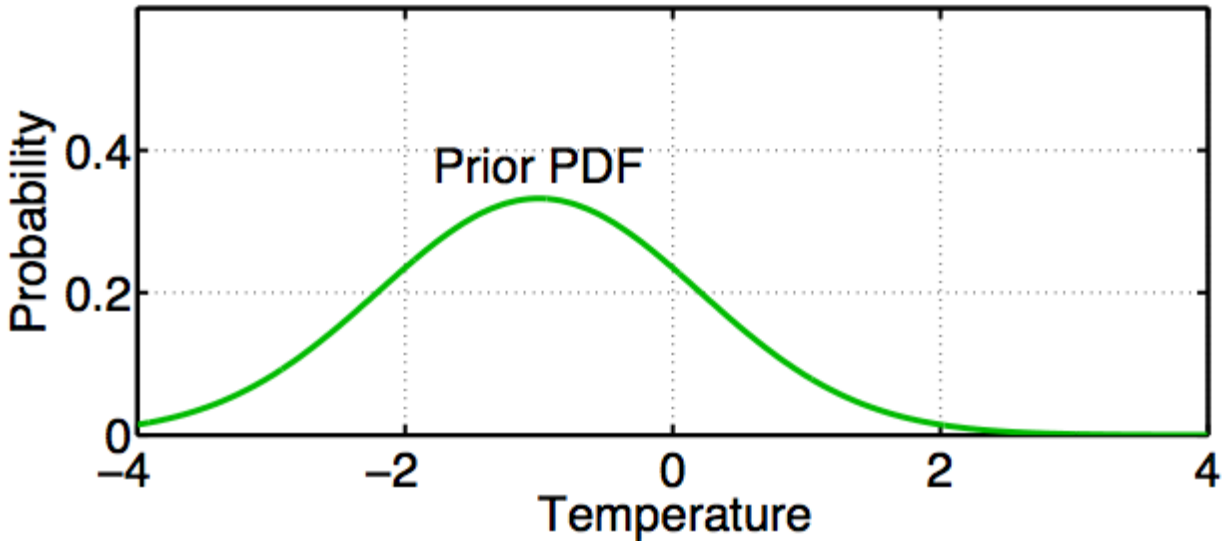


The red plot is $P(T \mid T_0)$;

probability of temperature *given* that T_o was observed.

Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

We also have a prior estimate of temperature.



The green curve is $P(T \mid C)$;

probability of temperature given all available prior information C.

Example: Estimating the Temperature Outside

Prior information C can include:

1. Observations of things besides T;
2. Model forecast made using observations at earlier times;
3. *a priori* physical constraints ($T > -273.15^{o}$ C);
4. Climatological constraints (-30^{o} C < T < 40^{o} C).

Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

Bayes Theorem:

Likelihood: Probability that T_o is observed if T is true value and given prior information C.

$$P(T \mid T_o, C) = \frac{P(T_o \mid T, C)P(T \mid C)}{P(T_o \mid C)}$$

Prior

Posterior: Probability of T given observations and Prior. Also called **update** or **analysis**.

Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

Rewrite Bayes as:

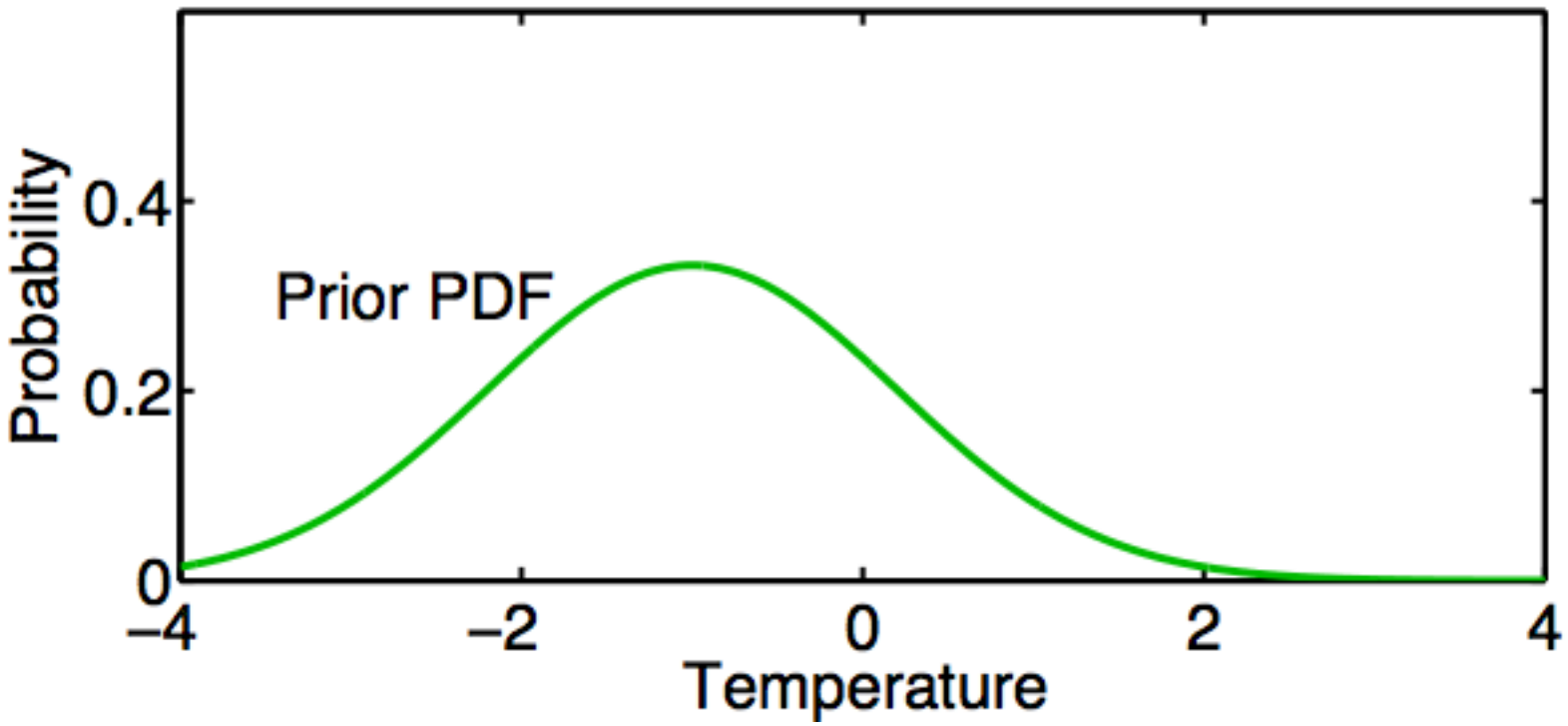
$$\frac{P(T_o \mid T,C)P(T \mid C)}{P(T_o \mid C)} = \frac{P(T_o \mid T,C)P(T \mid C)}{\int P(T_o \mid x)P(x \mid C)dx}$$

$$= \frac{P(T_o \mid T,C)P(T \mid C)}{normalization}$$

Denominator normalizes so Posterior is PDF.

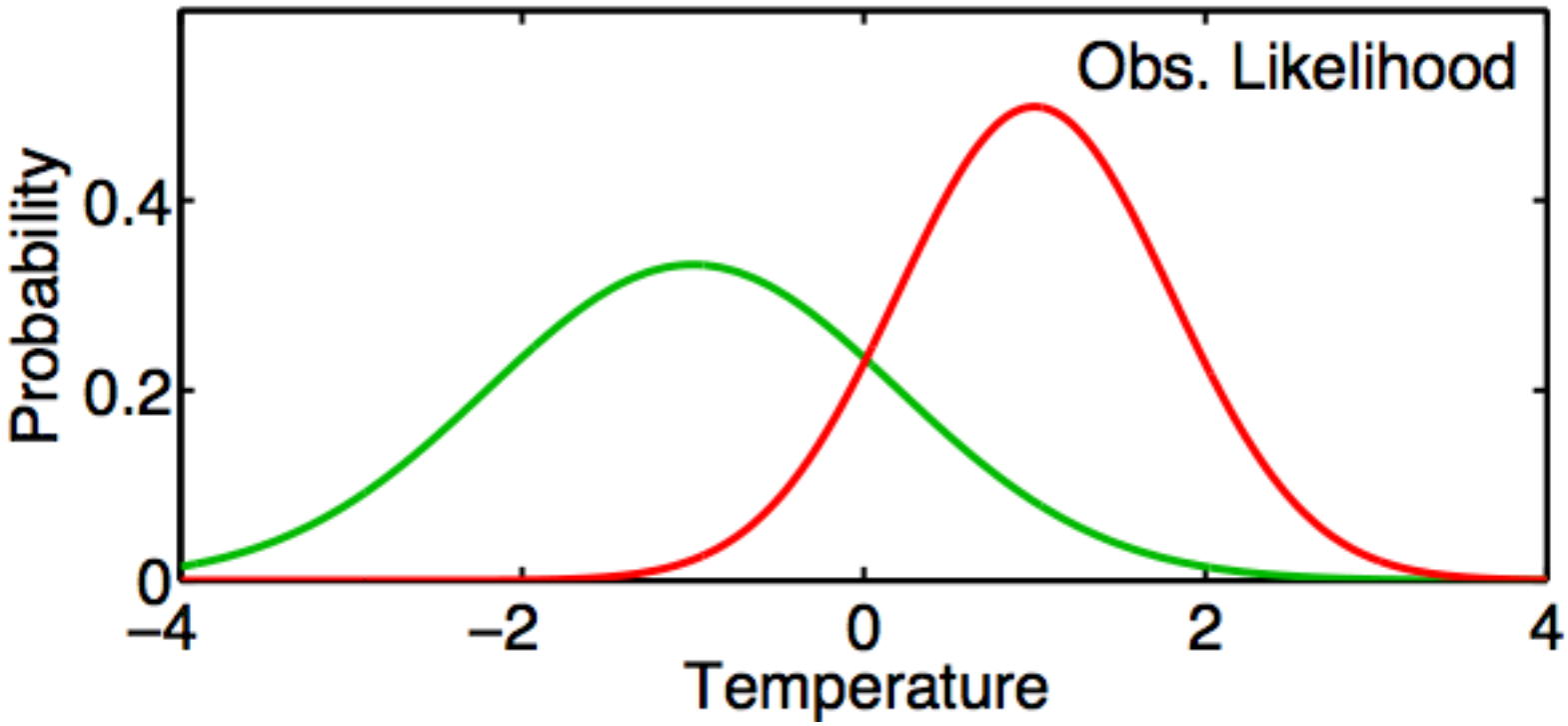
Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

$$P(T \mid T_0, C) = \frac{P(T_0 \mid T, C)P(T \mid C)}{normalization}$$



Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

$$P(T \mid T_0, C) = \frac{P(T_0 \mid T, C)P(T \mid C)}{normalization}$$



Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

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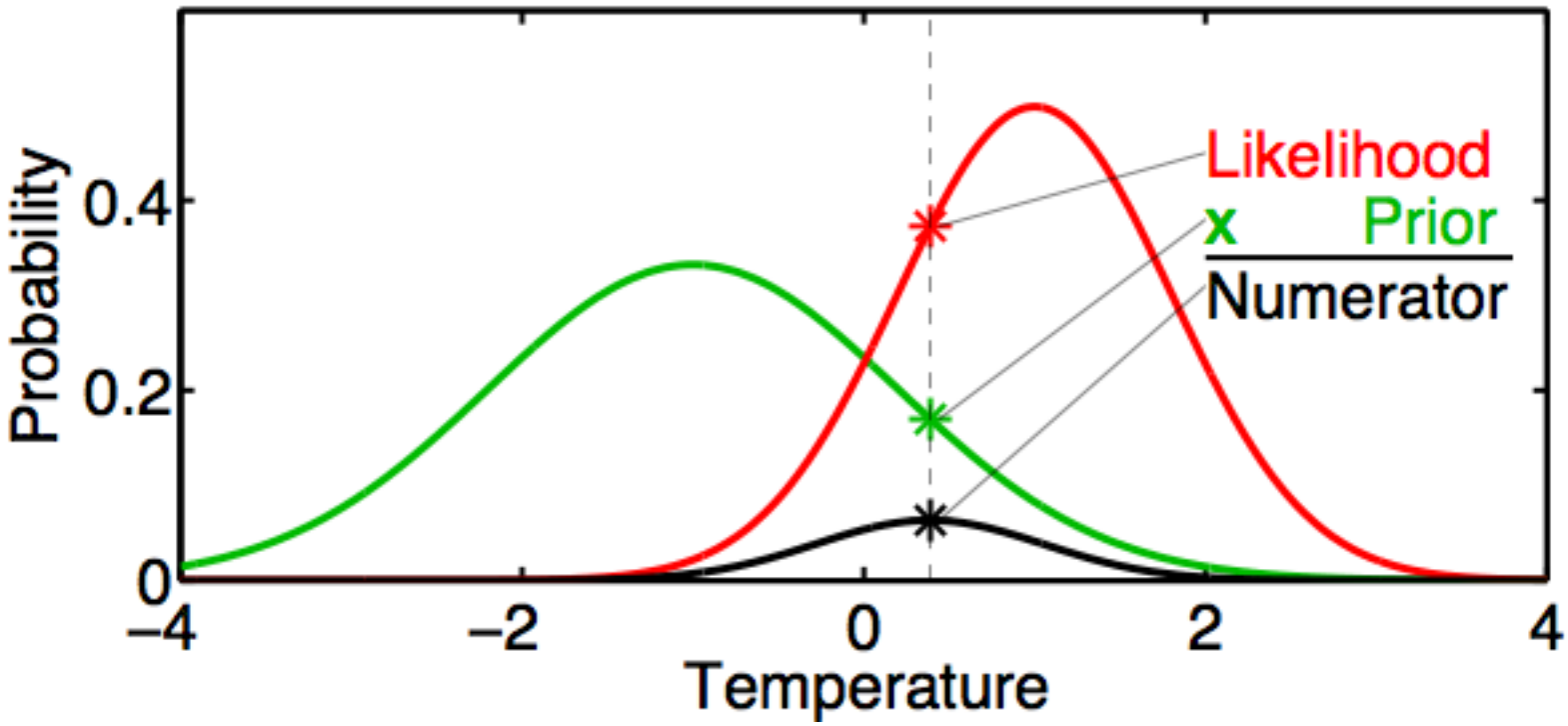

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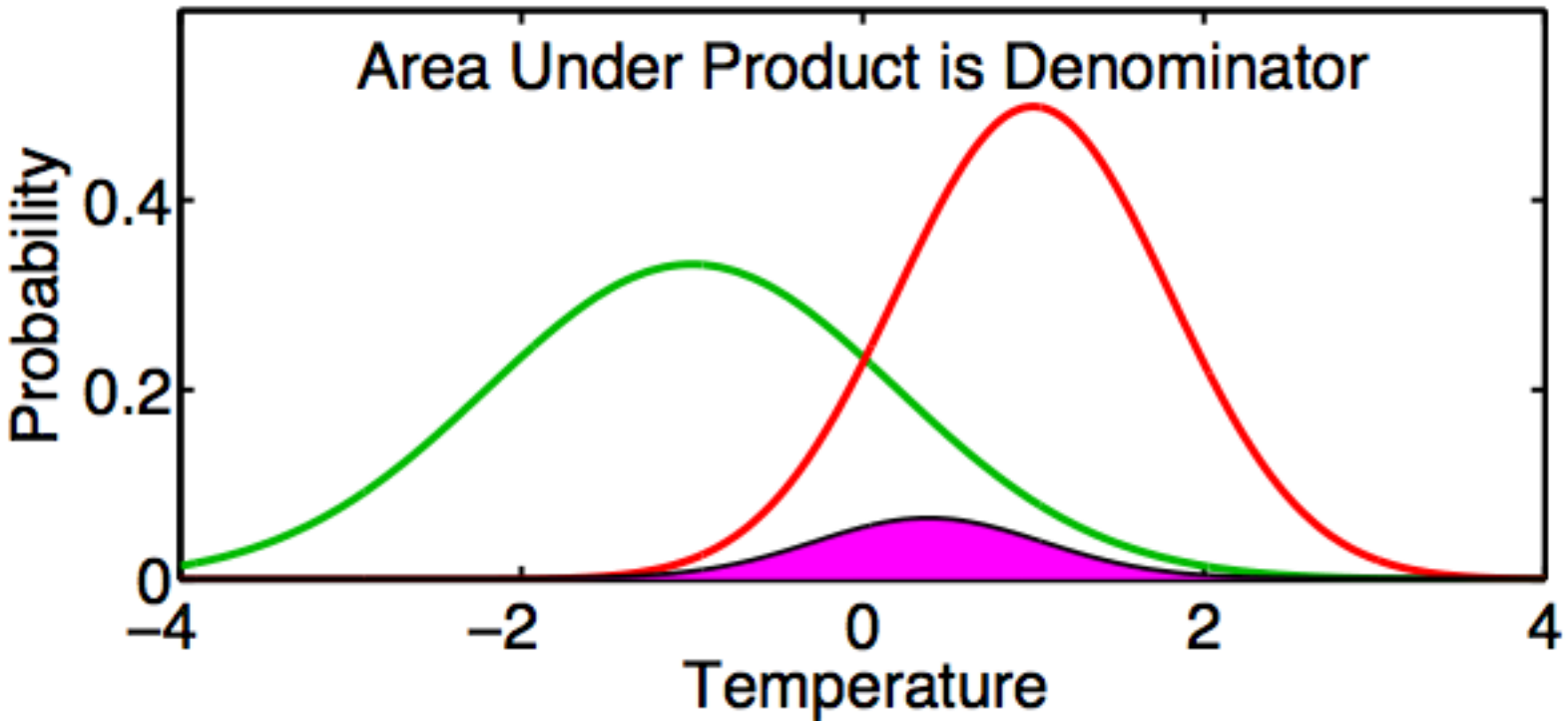

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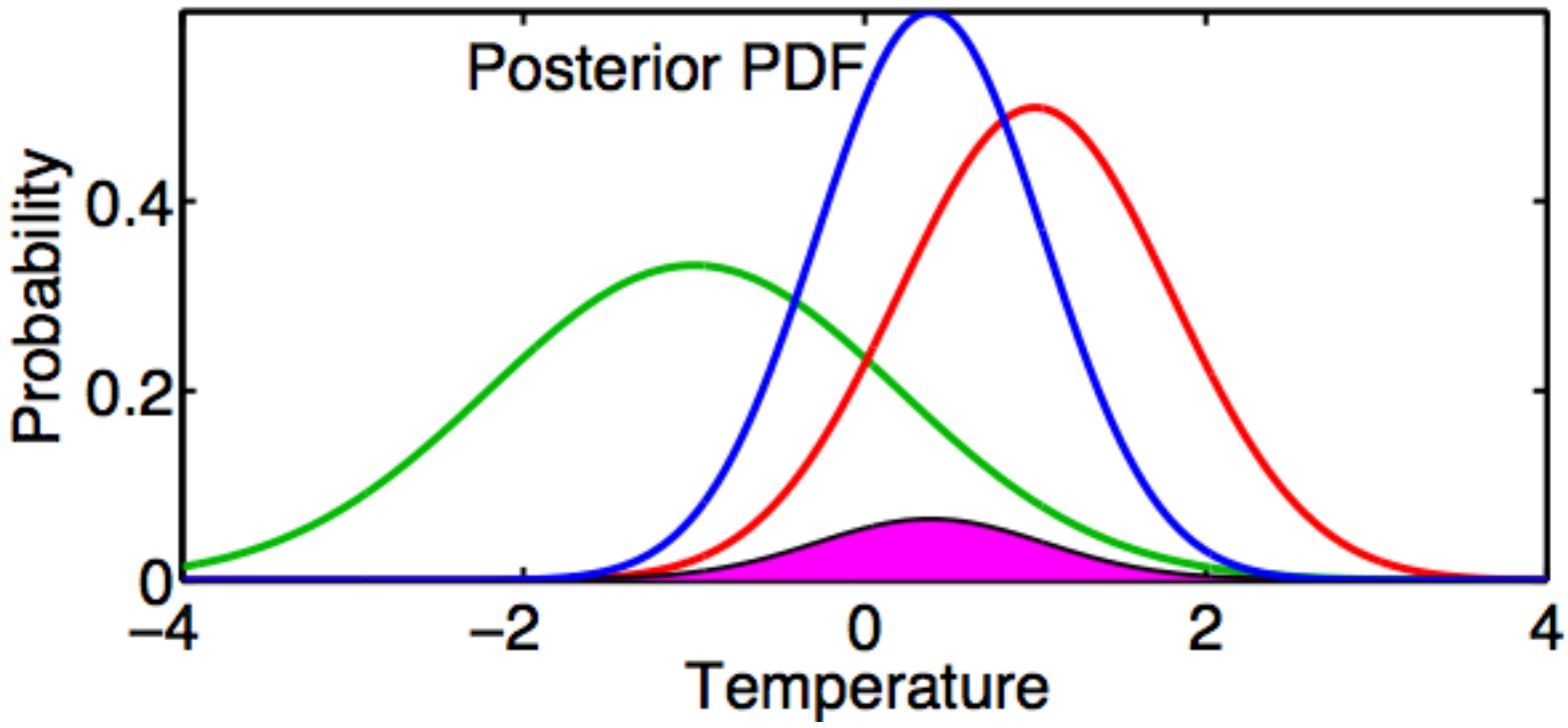


Consistent Color Scheme Throughout Tutorial

Green = Prior

Red = Observation

Blue = Posterior

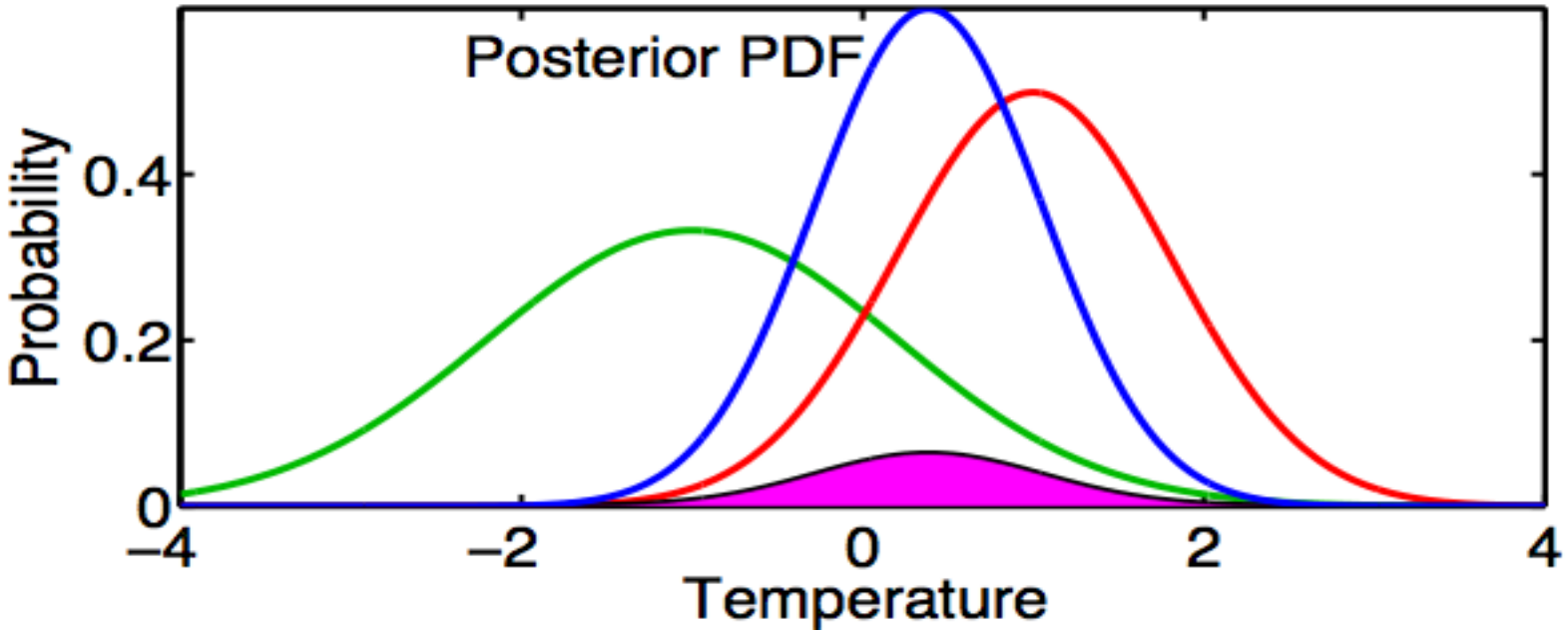
Black = Truth

(truth available only for ‘perfect model’ examples)

Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

$$P(T \mid T_0, C) = \frac{P(T_0 \mid T, C) P(T \mid C)}{normalization}$$

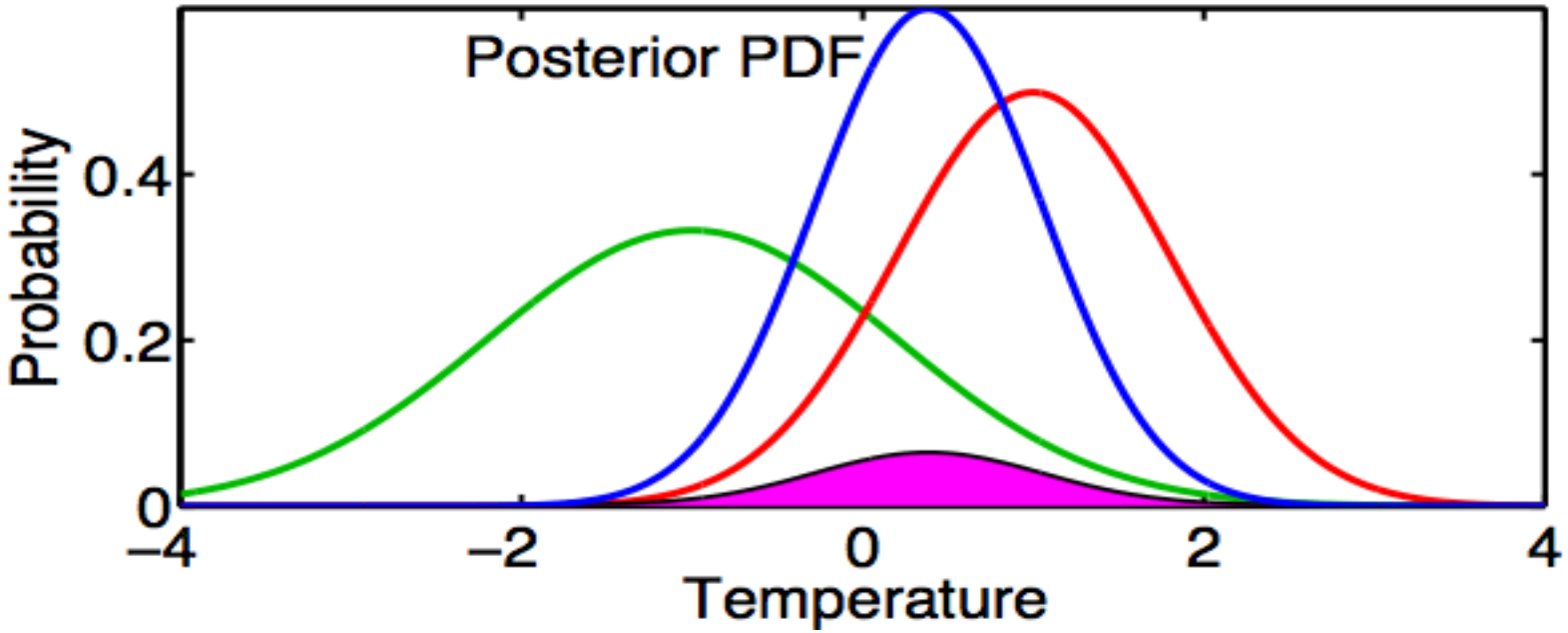
Generally no analytic solution for Posterior.



Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

$$P(T \mid T_0, C) = \frac{P(T_0 \mid T, C)P(T \mid C)}{normalization}$$

Gaussian Prior and Likelihood -> Gaussian Posterior



Combining the Prior Estimate and Observation

For Gaussian prior and likelihood…

Prior $$P(T \mid C) = Normal(T_p, \sigma_p)$$

Likelihood $$P(T_o \mid T, C) = Normal(T_o, \sigma_o)$$

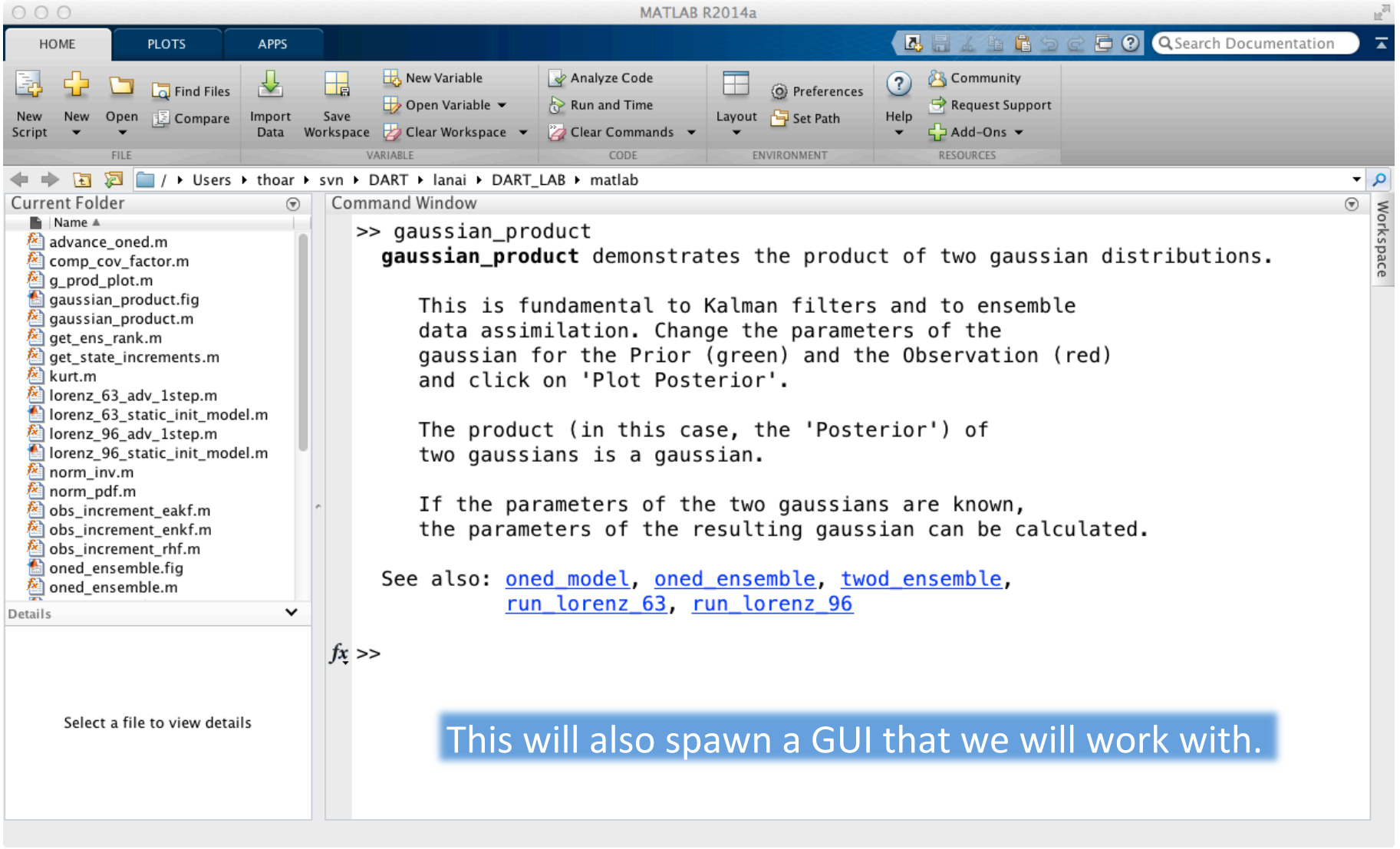
Then, Posterior $$P(T \mid T_o, C) = Normal(T_u, \sigma_u)$$

With

$$\sigma_u = \sqrt{\left(\sigma_p^{-2} + \sigma_o^{-2}\right)^{-1}}$$

$$T_u = \sigma_u^2\left[\sigma_p^{-2}T_p + \sigma_o^{-2}T_o\right]$$

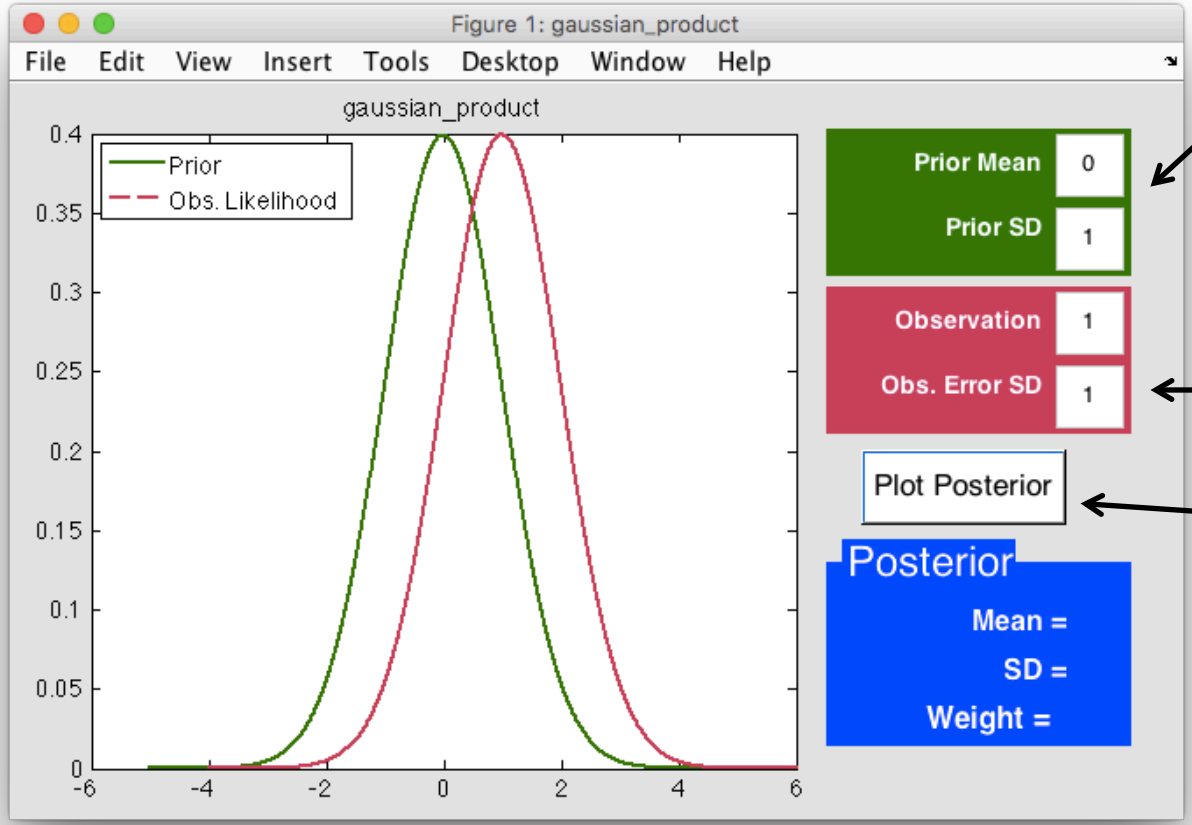
Matlab Hands-on: **gaussian_product**



This will also spawn a GUI that we will work with.

Matlab Hands-on: gaussian_product

Purpose: Explore the gaussian posterior that results from taking the product of a gaussian prior and a gaussian likelihood.



1) Set Prior Mean and Standard Deviation.

2) Set Observation Mean and Observation Error Standard Deviation.

3) Select Plot Posterior to Update the items in blue.

Matlab Hands-on: gaussian_product

Explore!

- Change the mean value of the prior and the observation.
- Change the standard deviation of the prior.
- What is always true for the mean of the posterior?
- What is always true for the standard deviation of the posterior?

The One-Dimensional Kalman Filter

1. Suppose we have a linear forecast model L
   A. If temperature at time $t_1 = T_{1,}$ then the temperature at $t_2 = t_1 + \Delta t$ is $T_2 = L(T_1)$
   B. Example: $T_2 = T_1 + \Delta t T_1$

The One-Dimensional Kalman Filter

1. Suppose we have a linear forecast model L.

   A. If temperature at time $t_1 = T_{1,}$ then the temperature at $t_2 = t_1 + \Delta t$ is $T_2 = L(T_1)$

   B. Example: $T_2 = T_1 + \Delta t T_1$

2. If posterior estimate at time t_1 is *Normal*$(T_{u,1}, \sigma_{u,1})$ then the prior at t_2 is *Normal*$(T_{p,2}, \sigma_{p,2})$.

   $$T_{p,2} = T_{u,1}, + \Delta t T_{u,1}$$

   $$\sigma_{p,2} = (\Delta t + 1)\, \sigma_{u,1}$$

The One-Dimensional Kalman Filter

1. Suppose we have a linear forecast model L.
   A. If temperature at time $t_1 = T_{1,}$ then the temperature at $t_2 = t_1 + \Delta t$ is $T_2 = L(T_1)$
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3. Given an observation at t_2 with distribution *Normal*(t_0, σ_0) the likelihood is also *Normal*(t_0, σ_0).

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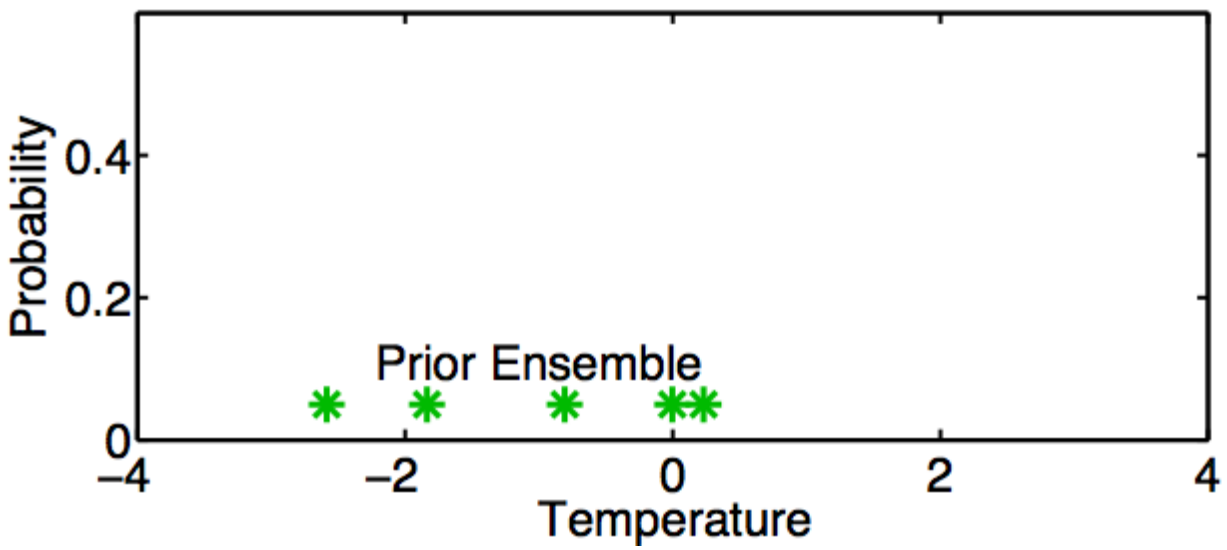
3. Given an observation at t_2 with distribution *Normal*(t_0, σ_0) the likelihood is also *Normal*(t_0, σ_0).
4. The posterior at t_2 is *Normal*$(T_{u,2}, \sigma_{u,2})$ where $T_{u,2}$ and $\sigma_{u,2}$ come from page 19.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter

Represent a prior pdf by a sample (ensemble) of N values:



A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter

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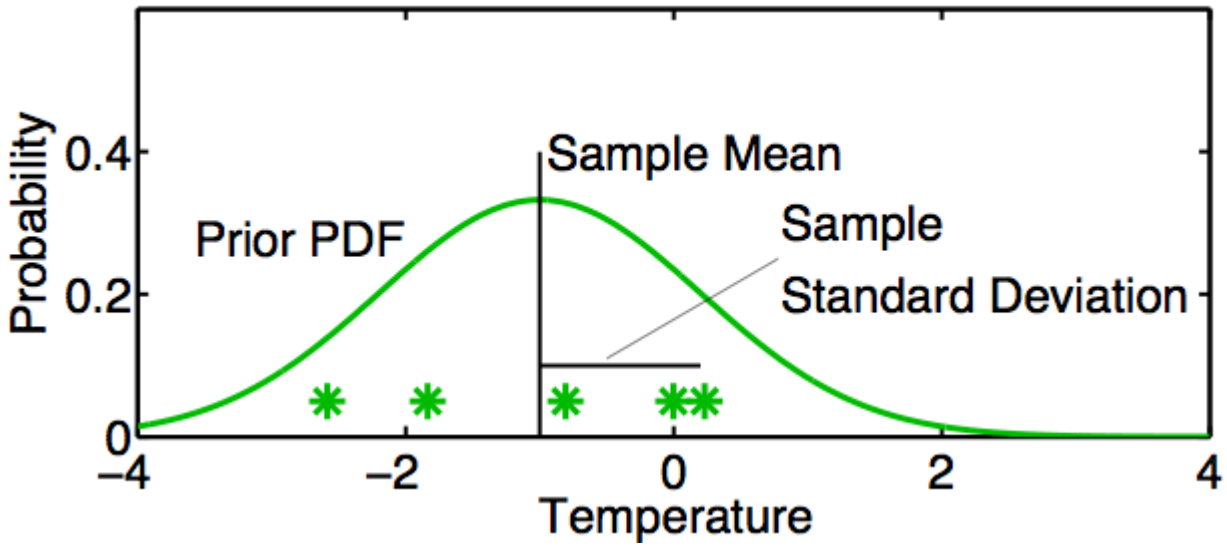


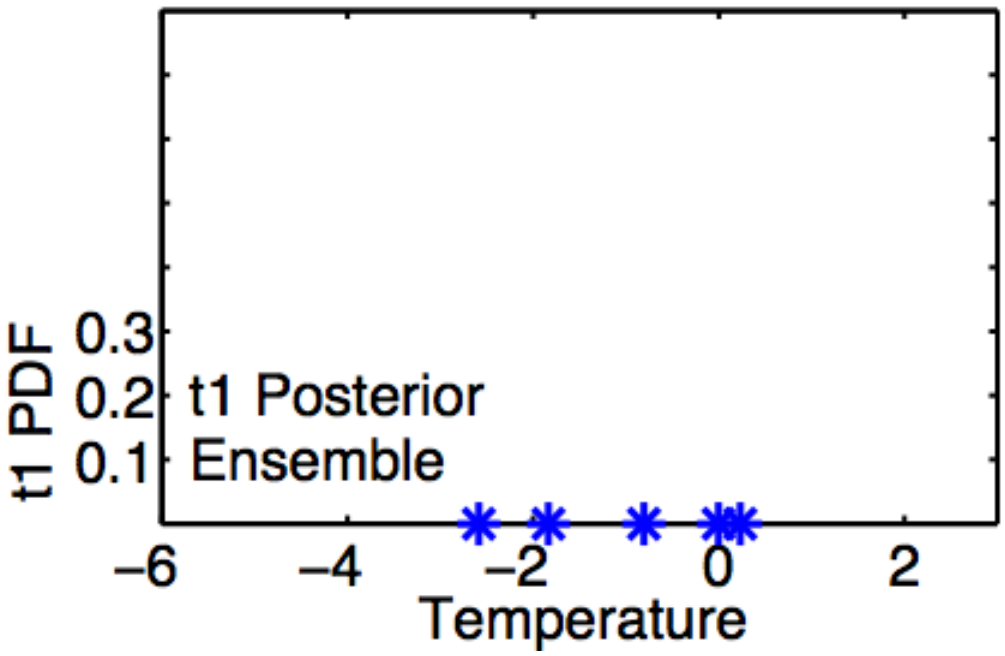
Use sample mean $\overline{T} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} T_n / N$

and sample standard deviation $\sigma_T = \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(T_n - \overline{T}\right)^2 / \left(N - 1\right)}$

to determine a corresponding continuous distribution $Normal\left(\overline{T}, \sigma_T\right)$

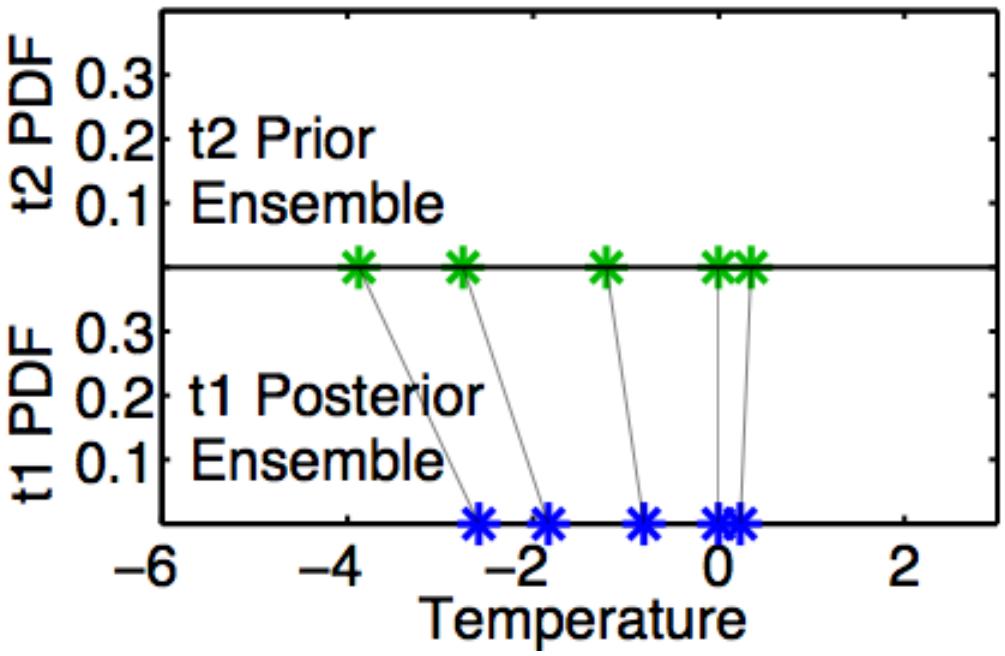
A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Model Advance

If posterior ensemble at time t_1 is $T_{1,n}$, $n = 1, \ldots, N$



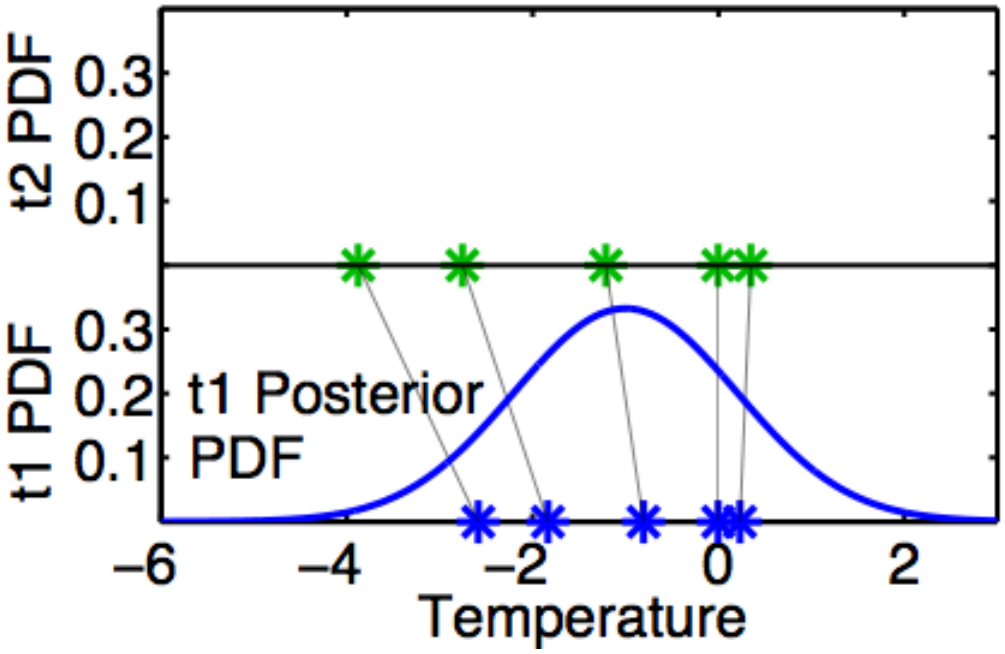
A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Model Advance

If posterior ensemble at time t_1 is $T_{1,n}$, $n = 1, \ldots, N$
advance each member to time t_2 with model, $T_{2,n} = L(T_{1,n})$ $n = 1, \ldots, N$.



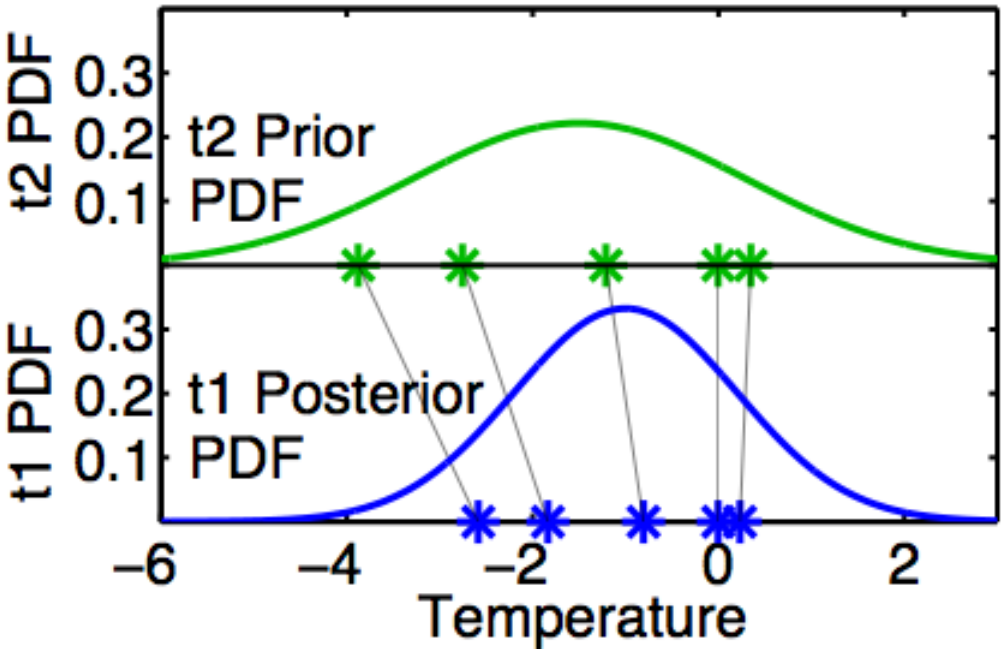
A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Model Advance

Same as advancing continuous pdf at time t_1 …

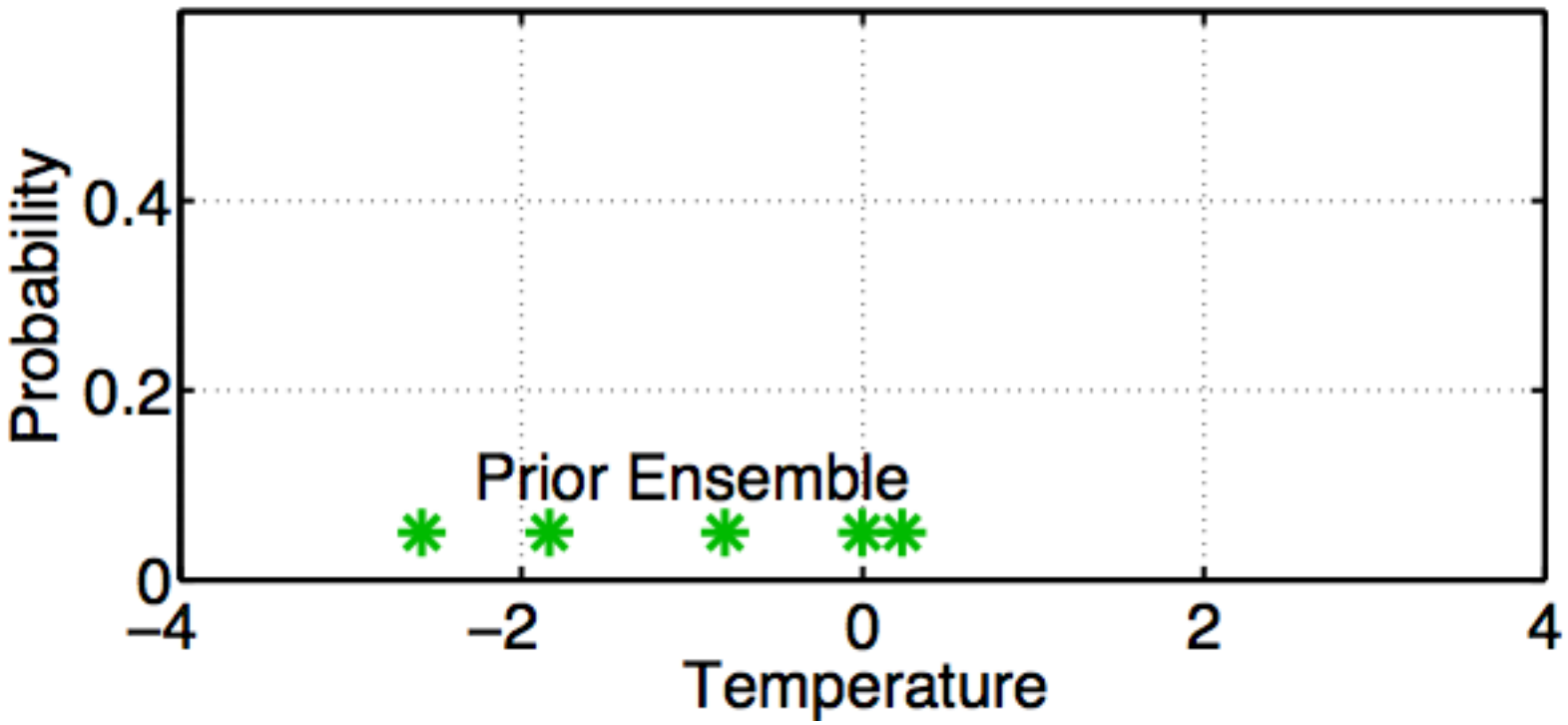


A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Model Advance

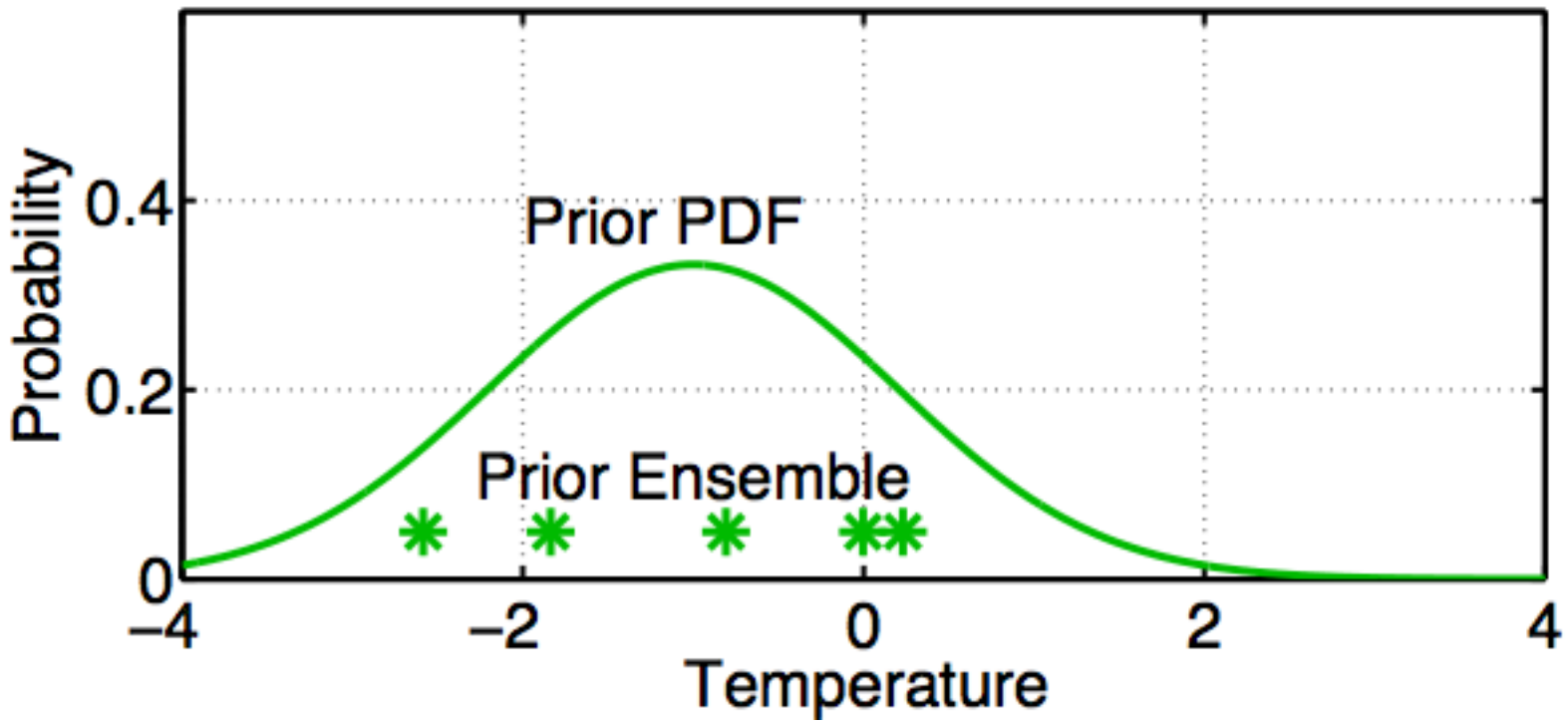
Same as advancing continuous pdf at time t_1 …
to time t_2 with model L.



A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation

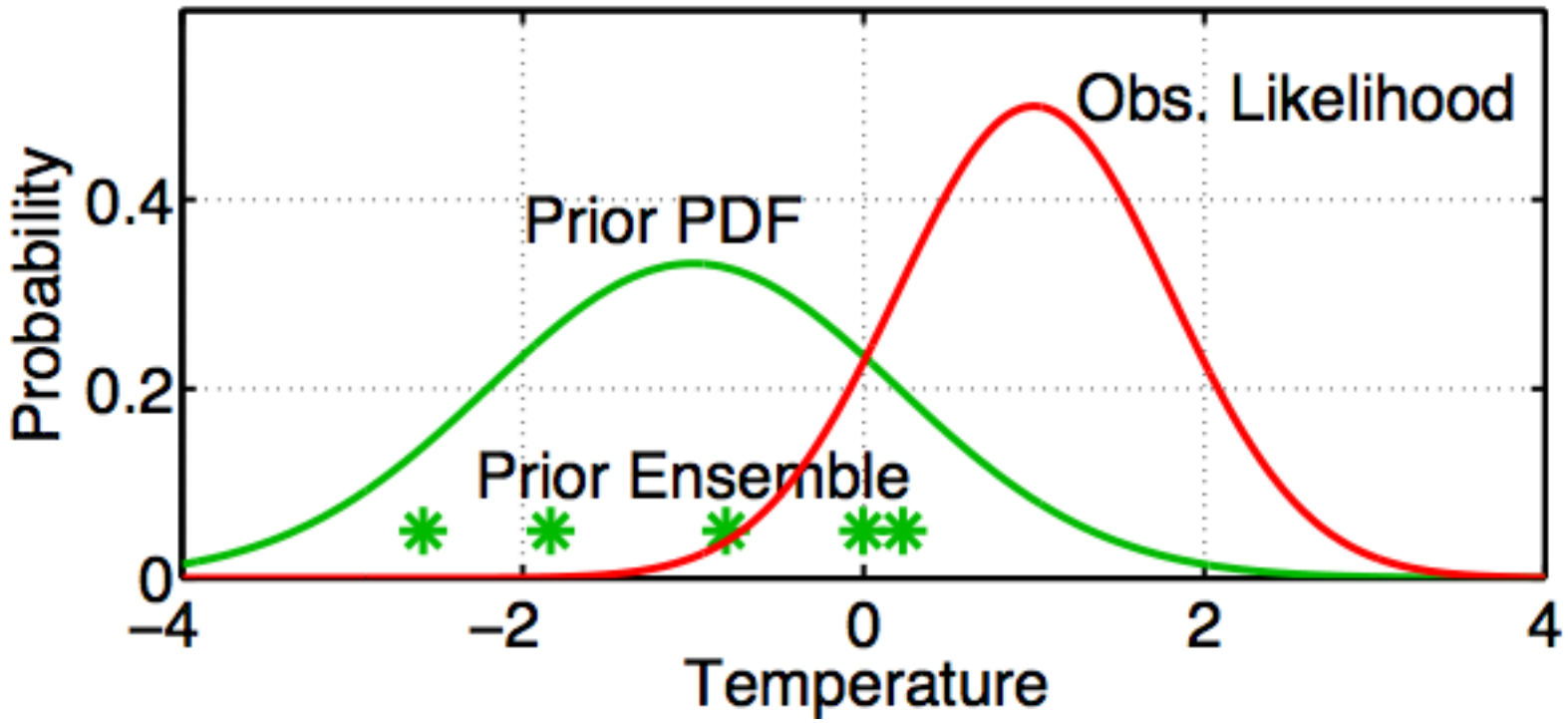


A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation



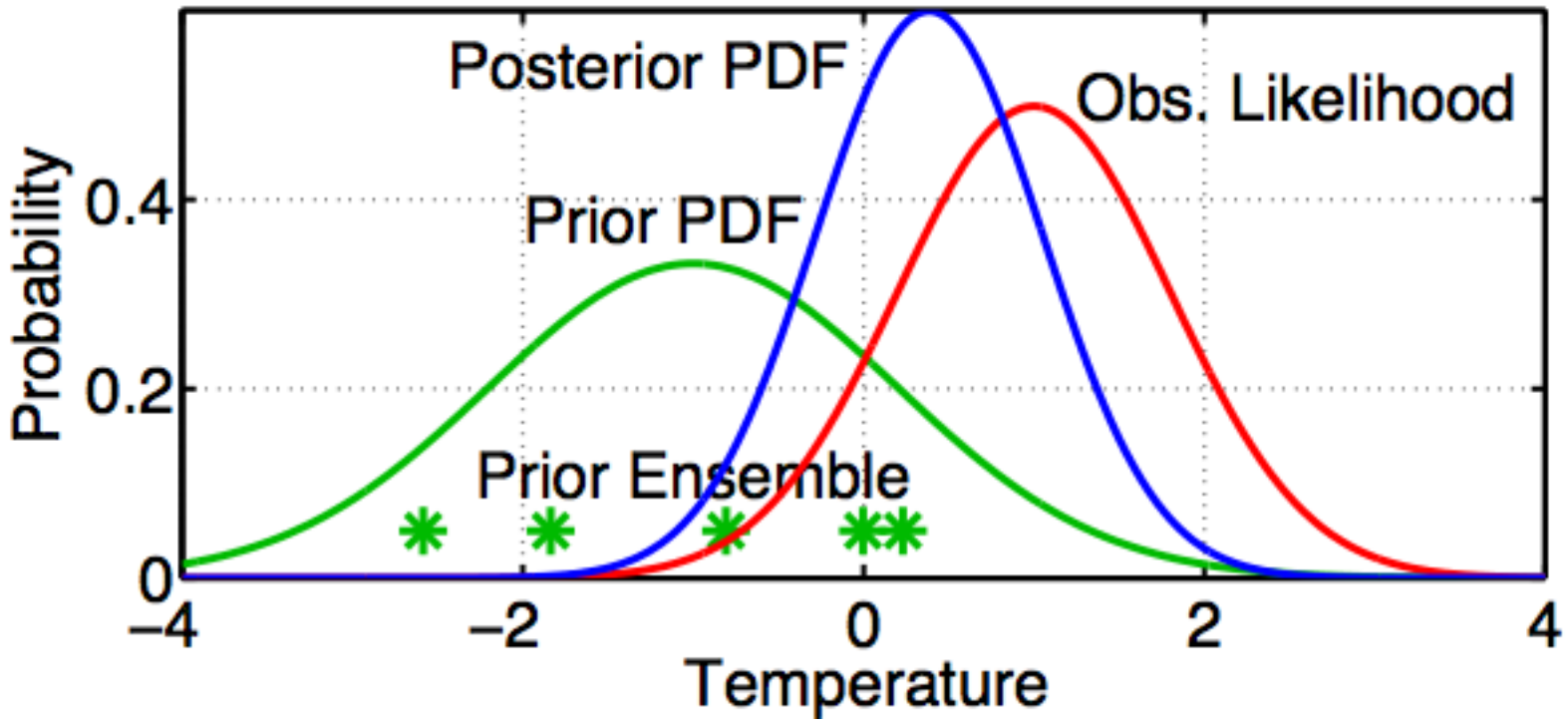
Fit a Gaussian to the sample.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation



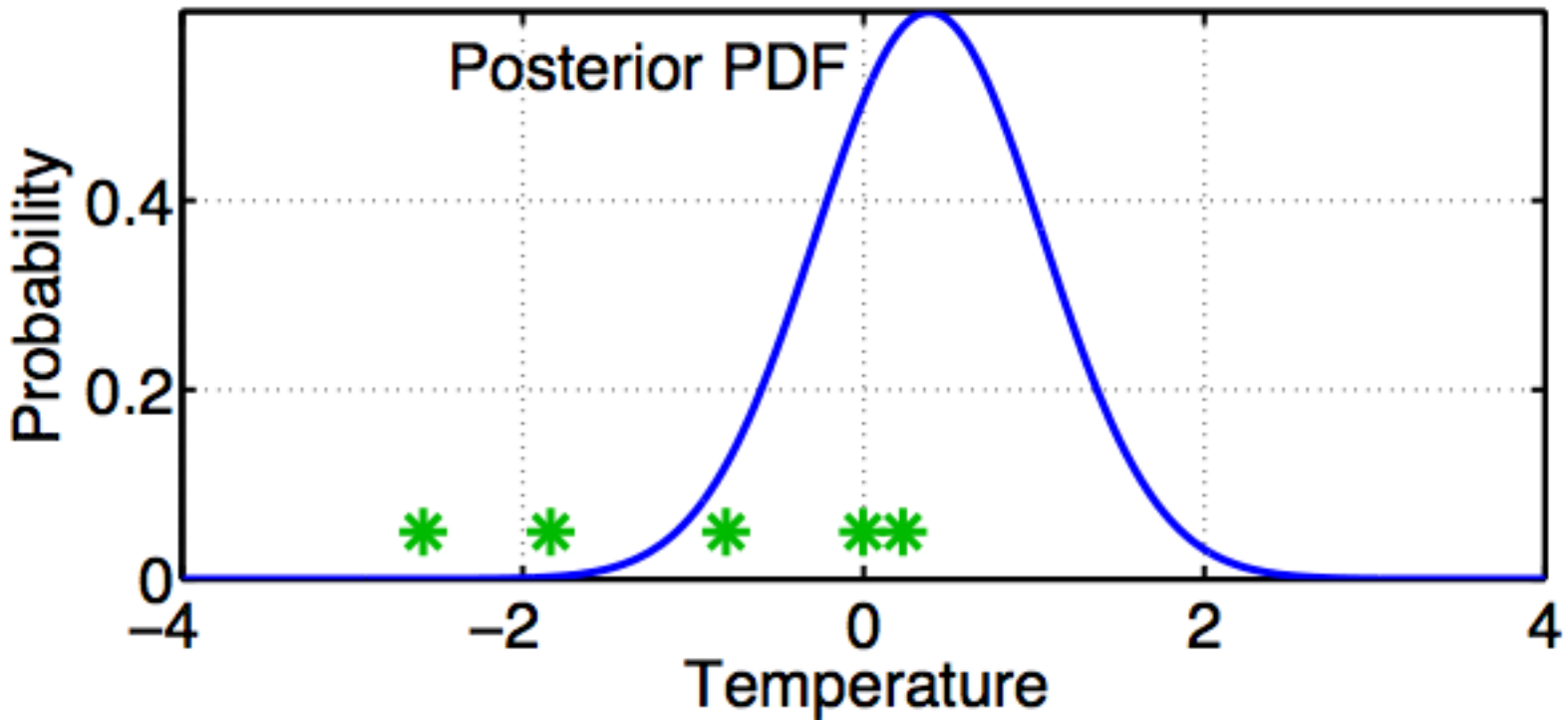
Get the observation likelihood.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation



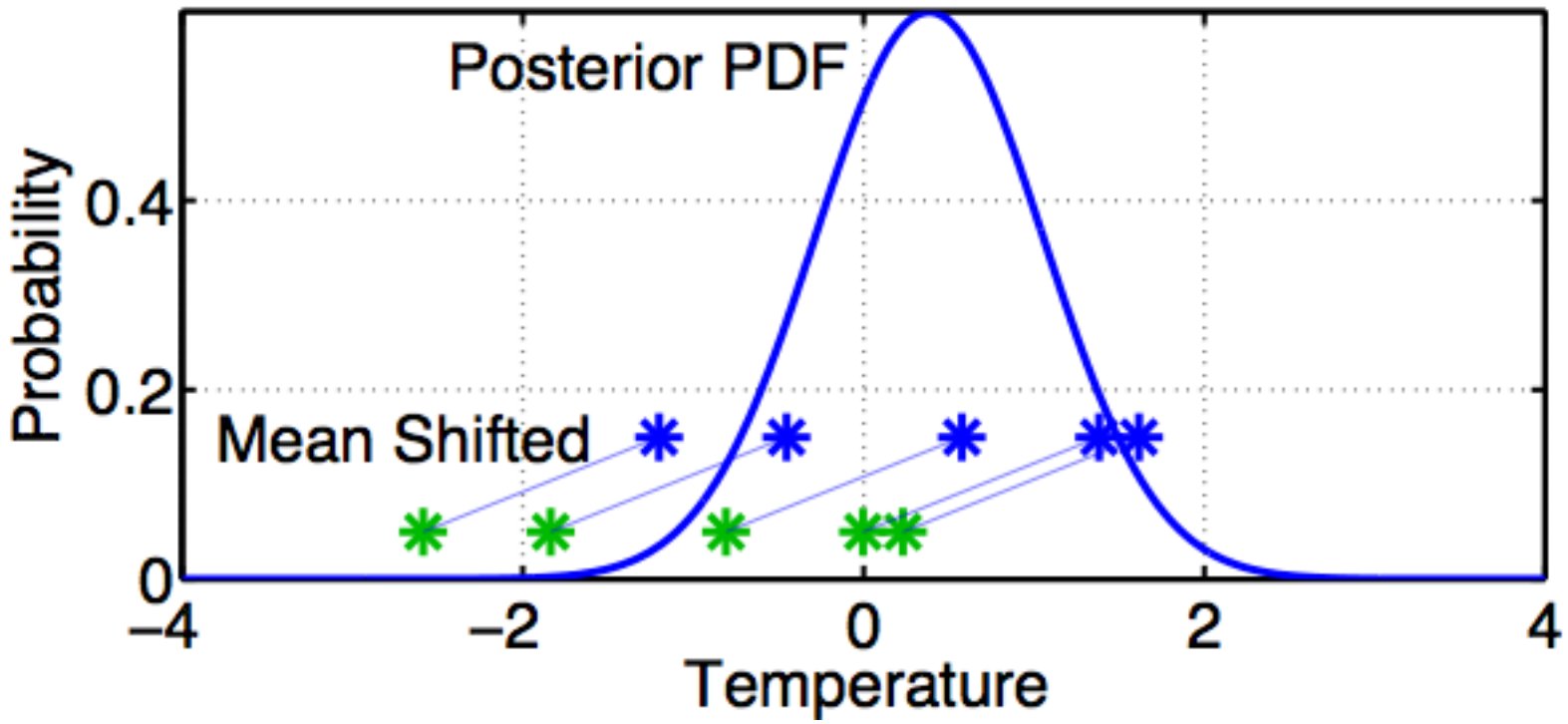
Compute the continuous posterior PDF.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation



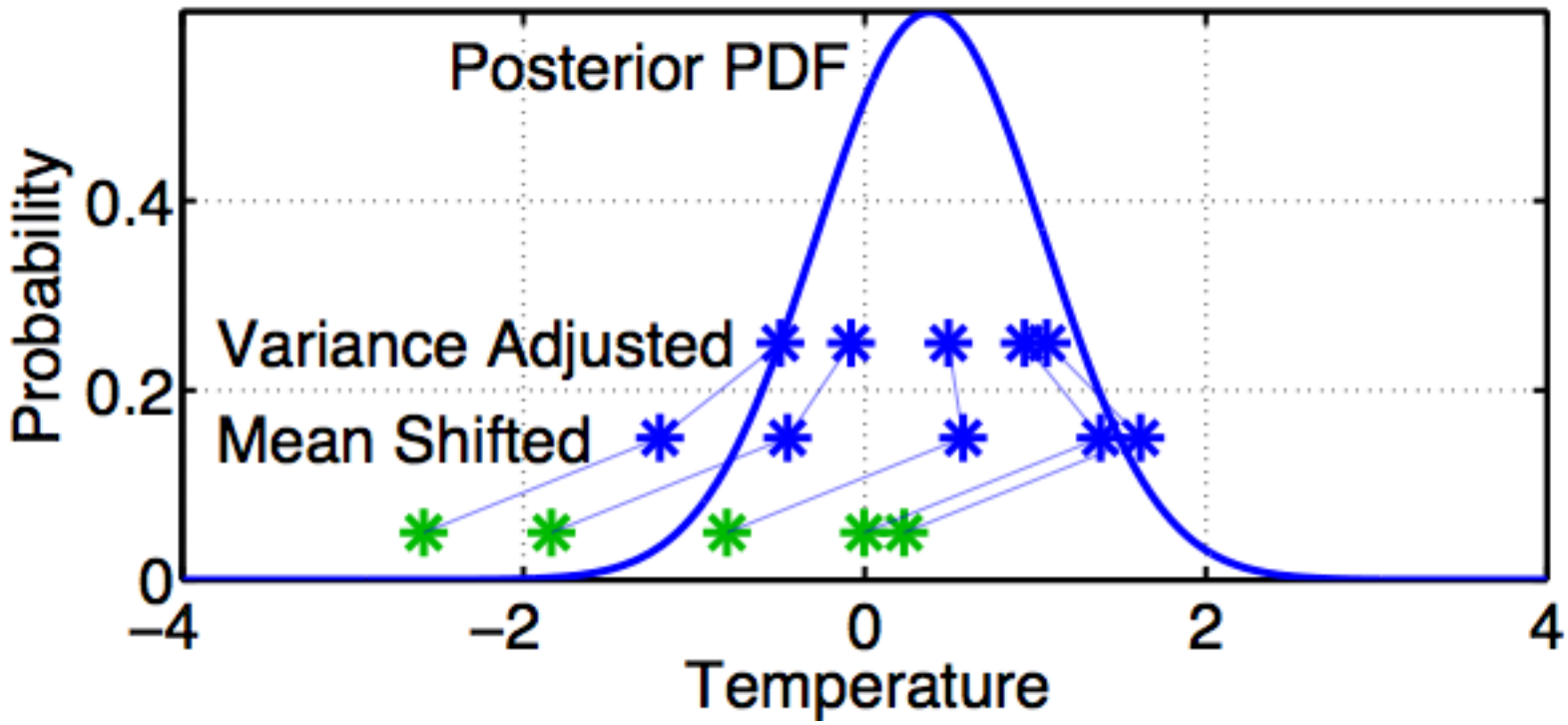
Use a deterministic algorithm to ‘adjust’ the ensemble.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation



First, ‘shift’ the ensemble to have the exact mean of the posterior.

A One-Dimensional Ensemble Kalman Filter: Assimilating an Observation

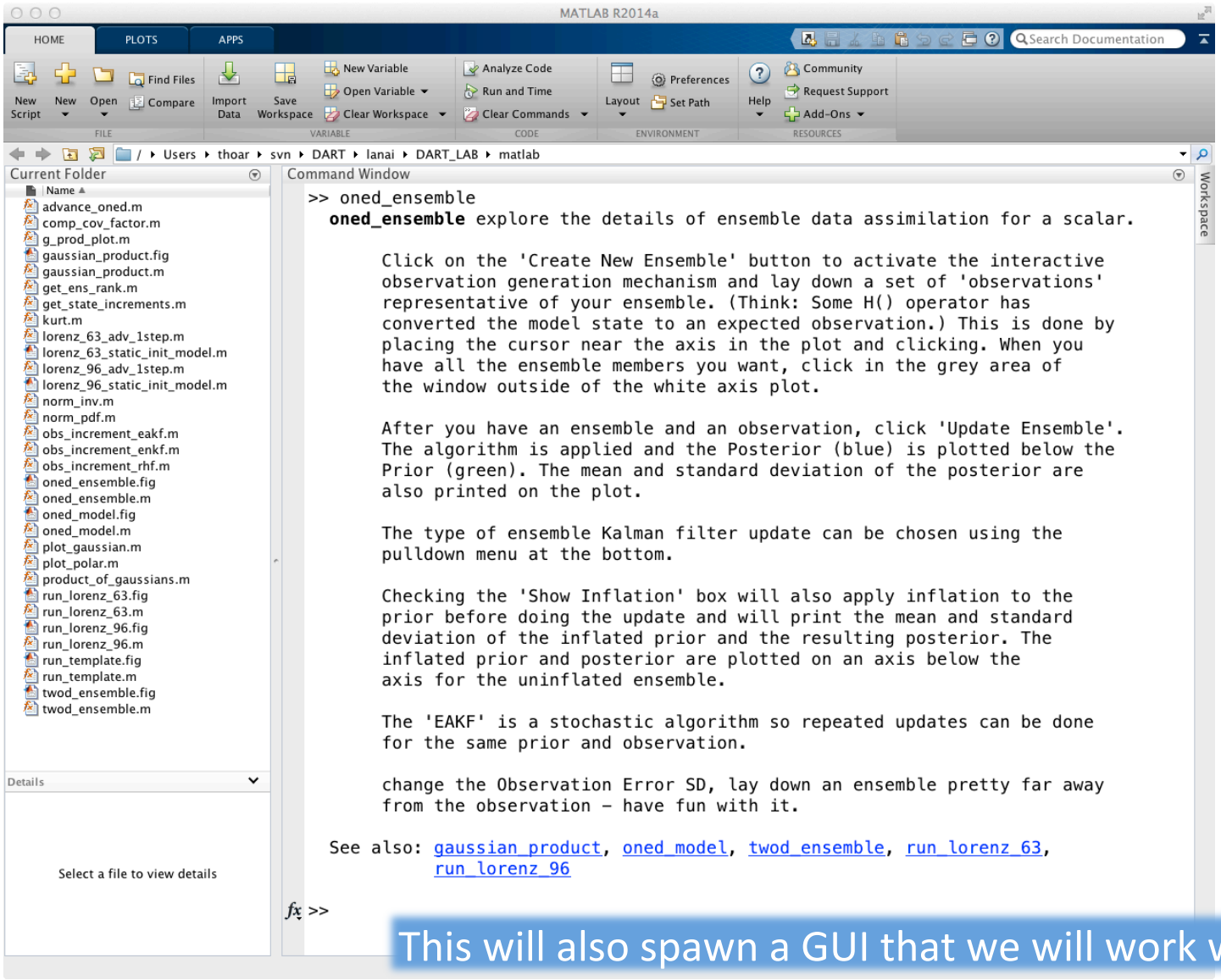


First, 'shift' the ensemble to have the exact mean of the posterior.

Second, linearly contract to have the exact variance of the posterior.

Sample statistics are identical to Kalman filter.

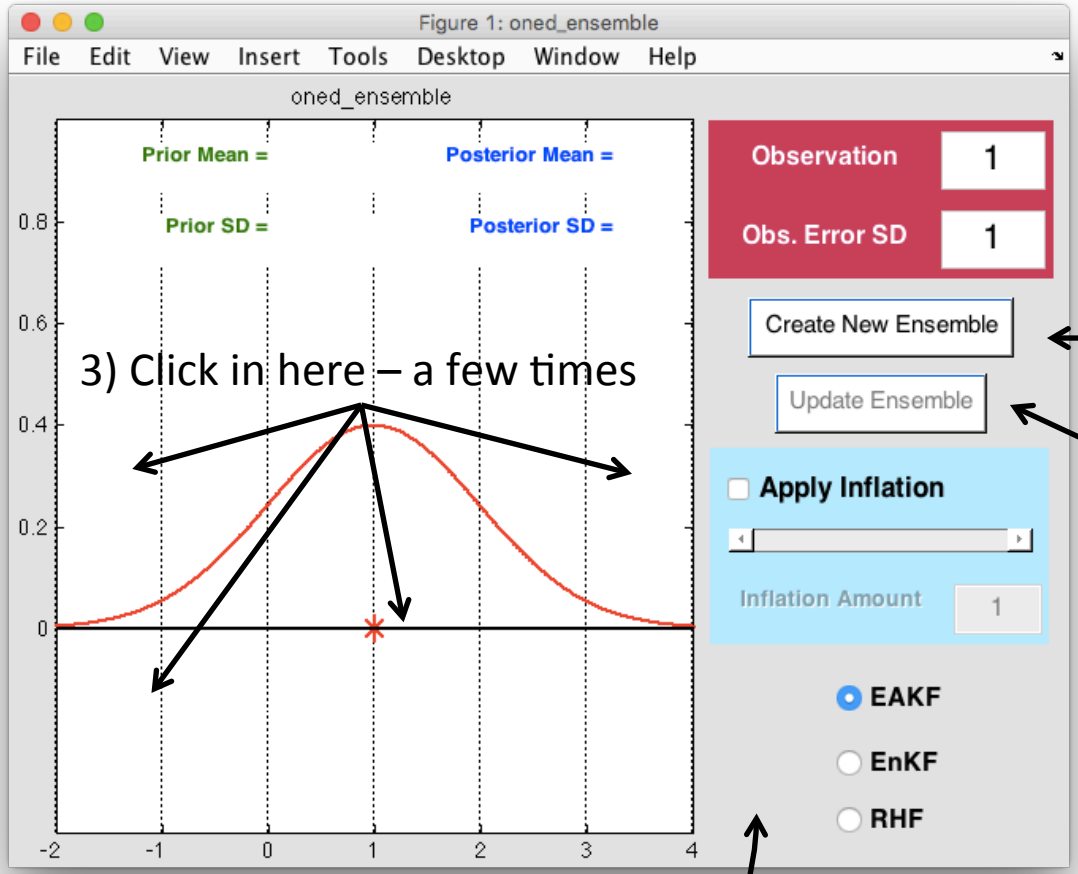
Matlab Hands-On: **oned_ensemble**



This will also spawn a GUI that we will work with.

Matlab Hands-On: oned_ensemble

Purpose: Explore how ensemble filters update a prior ensemble.



1) change these if you want to.

2) Click on Create New Ensemble

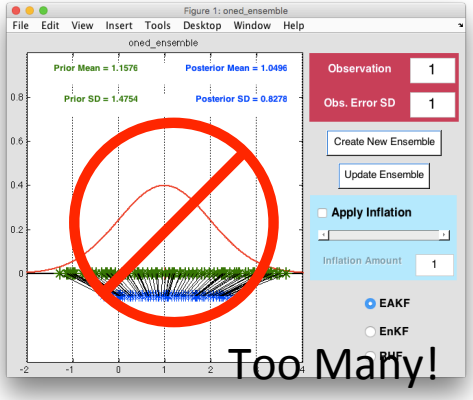
5) Click on Update Ensemble

Ignore the Inflation and EAKF menus for now.

4) Click outside the axis on the gray (anywhere) to finish defining the ensemble.

Matlab Hands-On: oned_ensemble

Explorations:



1. Keep your ensembles small, less than 10, for easy viewing.
2. Create a nearly uniformly spaced ensemble. Examine the update.
3. What happens with an ensemble that is confined to one side of the likelihood?
4. What happens with a bimodal ensemble (two clusters of members on either side)?
5. What happens with a single outlier in the ensemble?

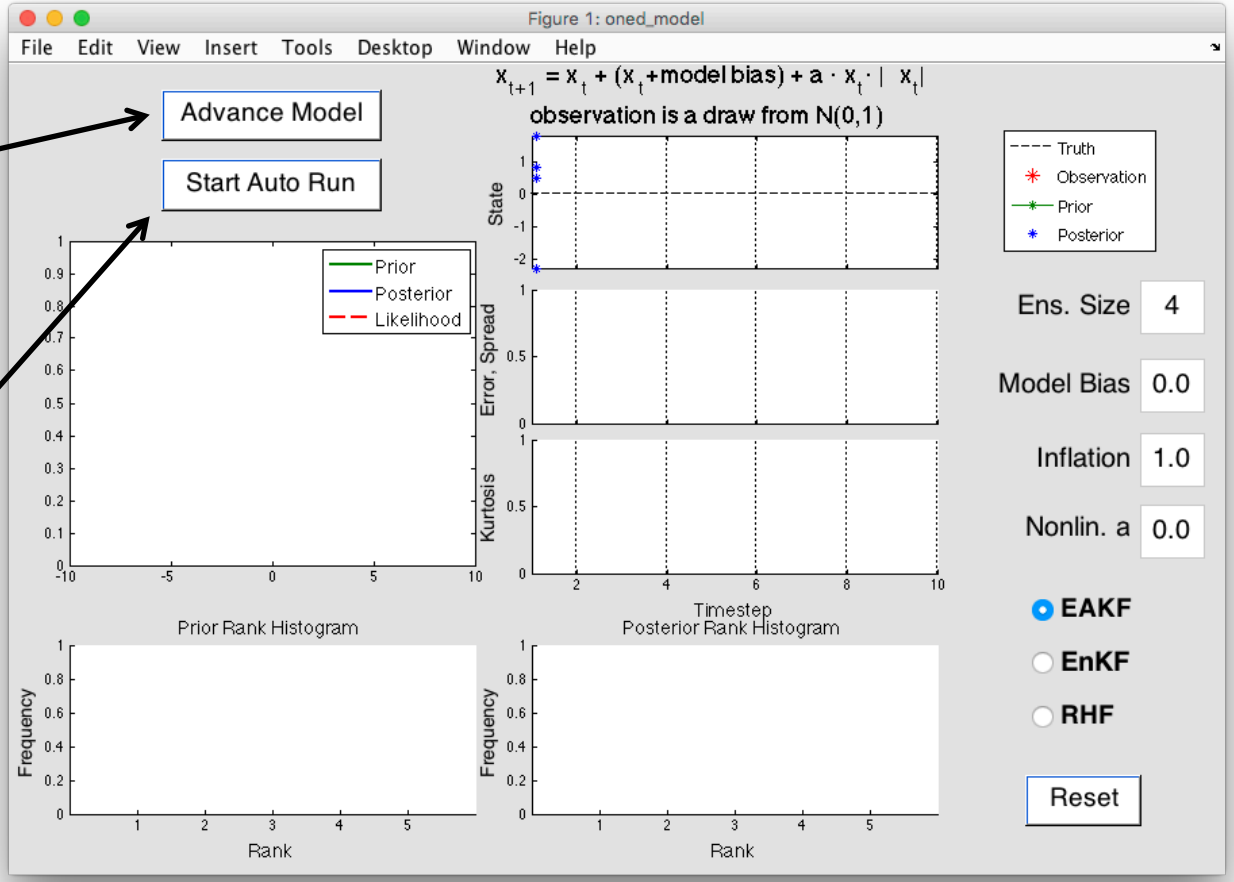
Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
- Look at the behavior of different ensemble sizes.

Top button allows alternating model advance and assimilation steps.

Or automatically sequence advances and assimilations.



Notes:

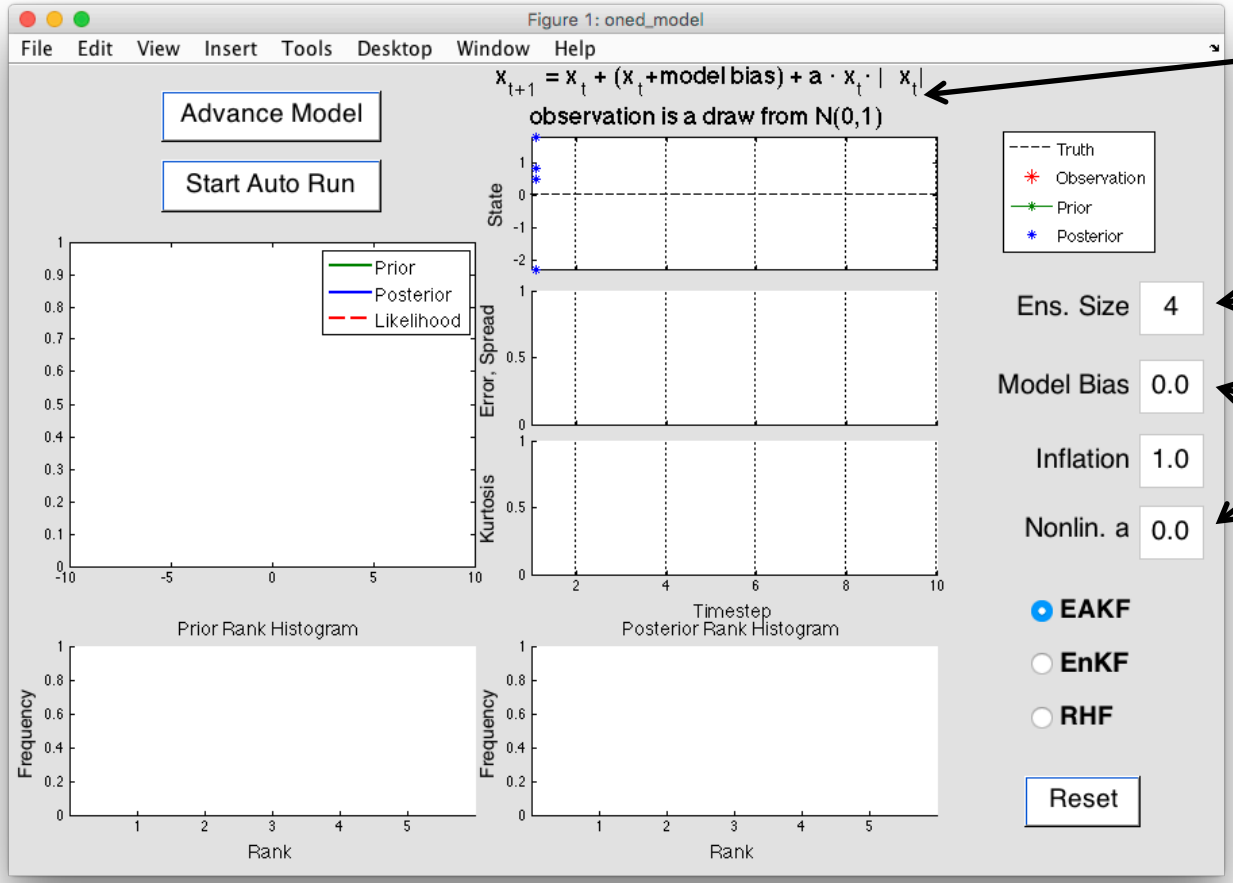
The 'truth' is always 0.

Observation noise is a draw from $N(0,1)$.

Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
- Look at the behavior of different ensemble sizes.



This is the equation for the model time tendency.

Change the ensemble size or the model parameters.

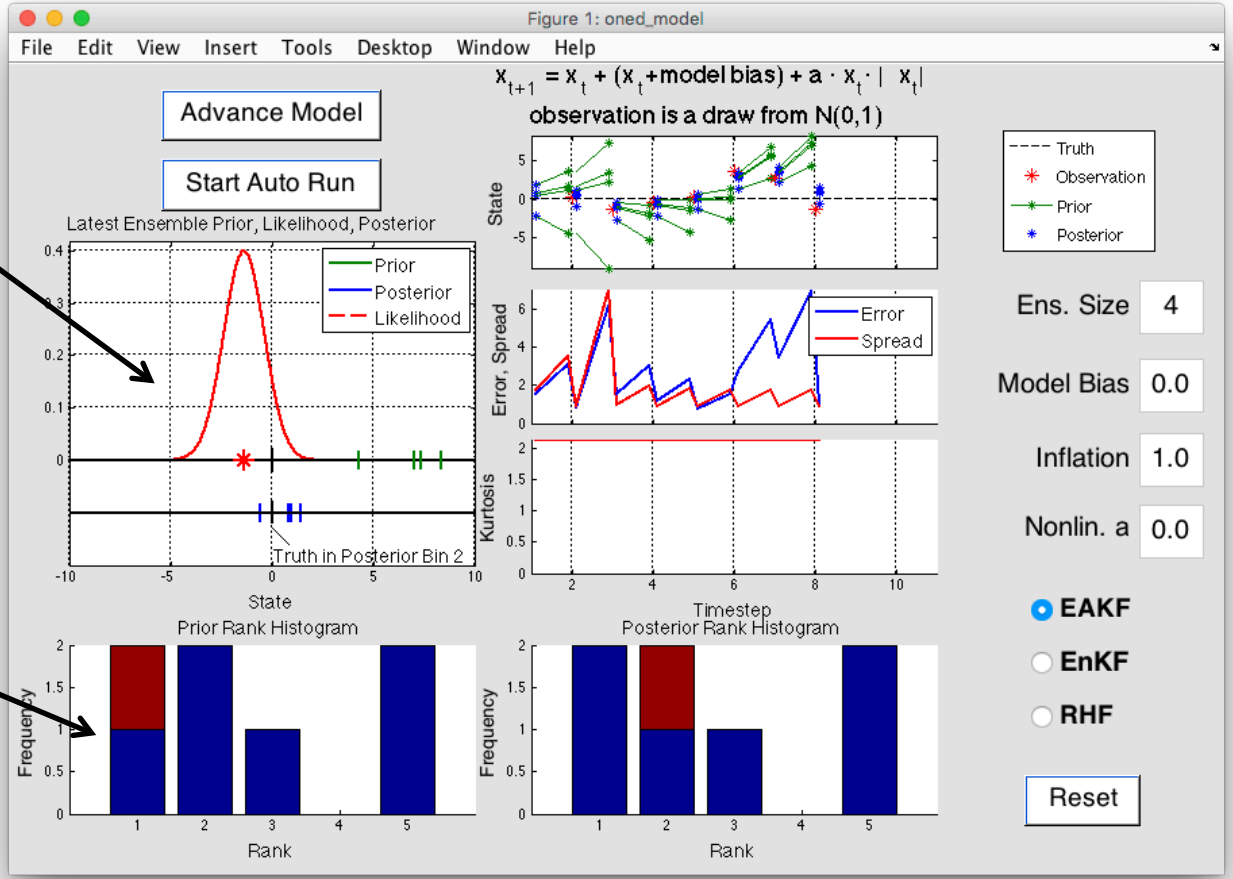
Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
- Look at the behavior of different ensemble sizes.

Prior ensemble members green ticks, Posterior blue, observation is *. Truth is always 0.

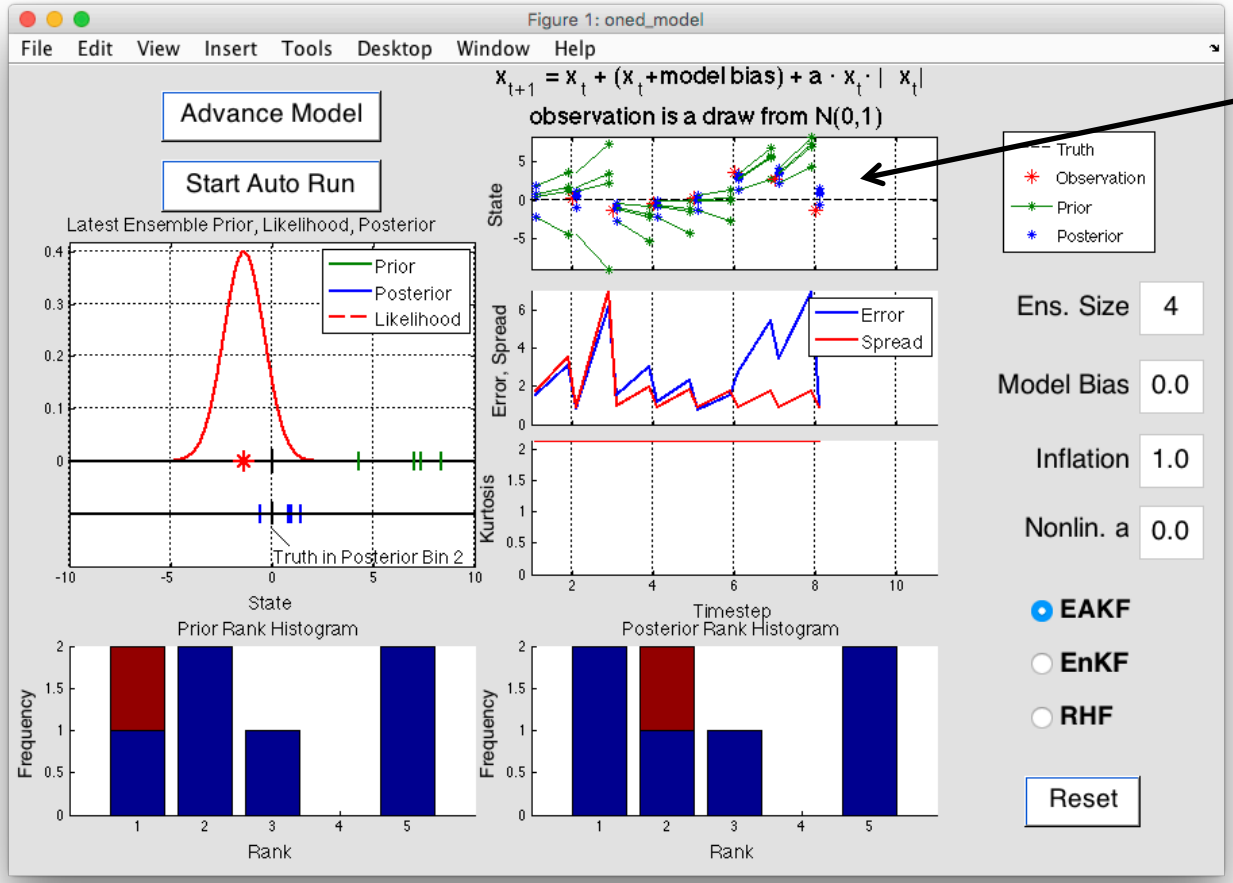
More on rank histograms shortly.



Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
- Look at the behavior of different ensemble sizes.



A time series of the assimilation. Line segments show forecast evolution. Most recent prior, observation, and posterior are same as in upper right window but plotted with a vertical axis.

Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
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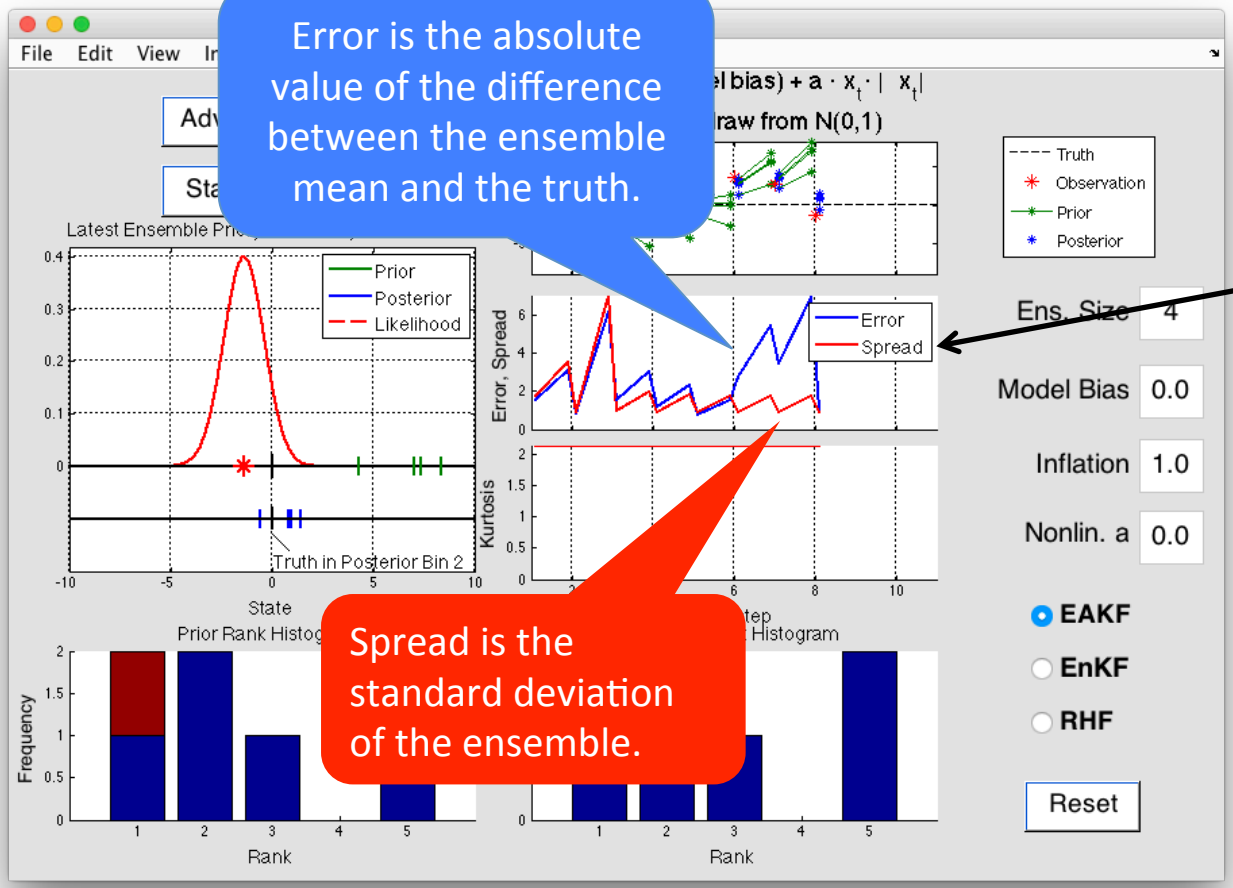
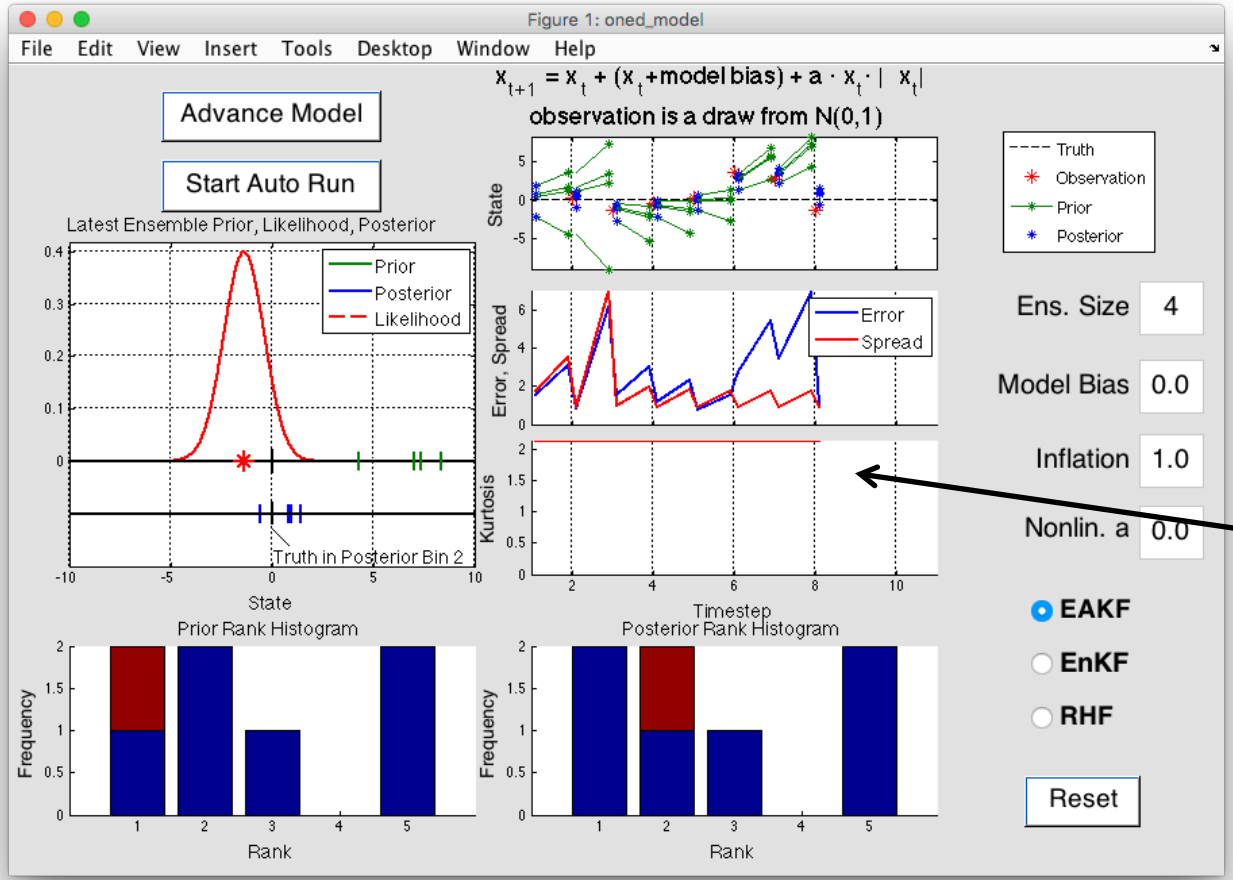


Time series of error and spread. Sawtooth pattern because prior and posterior values are shown for each time.

Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model**

Purpose:

- Explore behavior of a complete 1-D ensemble filter for a linear system.
- Look at the behavior of different ensemble sizes.



Kurtosis as function of time. Stays constant here.

Matlab Hands-On: oned_model

Explorations:

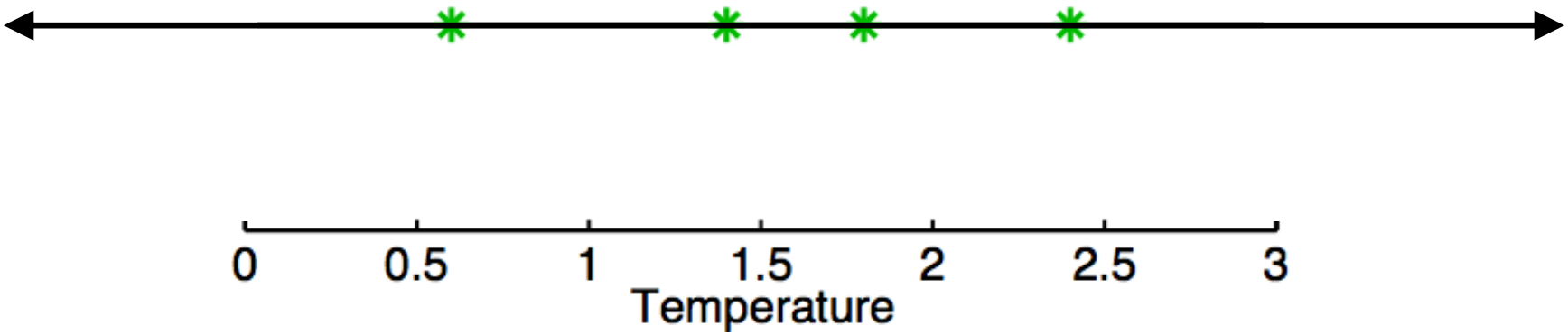
1. Step through a sequence of advances and assimilations with the top button. Watch the evolution of the ensemble, the error and spread.
2. How does a larger ensemble size (< 10 is easiest to see) act?

- Compare the error and spread for different ensemble sizes.
- Note the time behavior of the error and spread.

3. Let the model run freely using the second button.

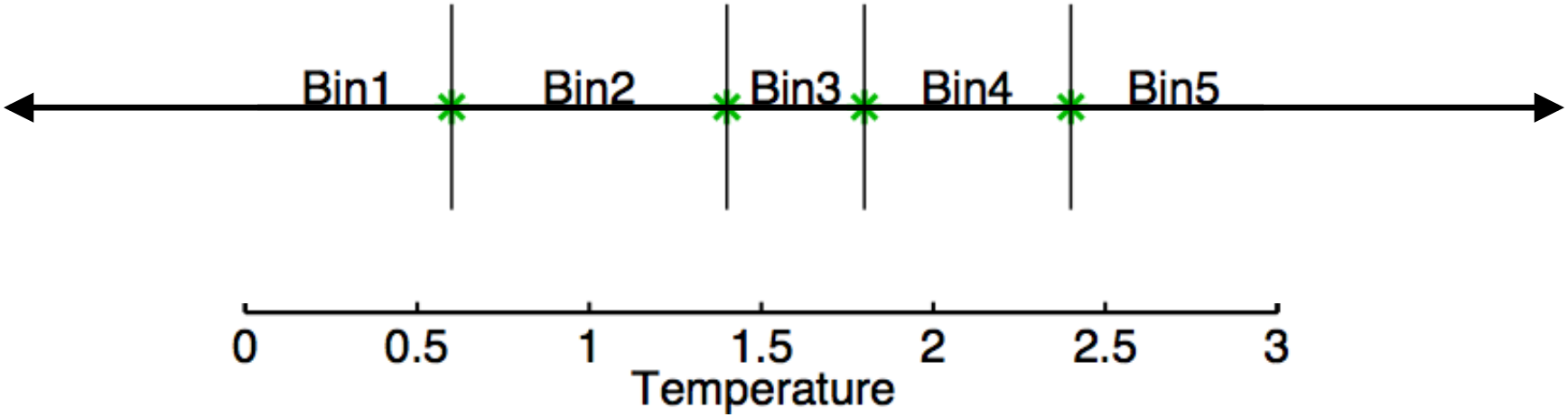
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

Draw 5 values from a real-valued distribution.
Call the first 4 'ensemble members'.



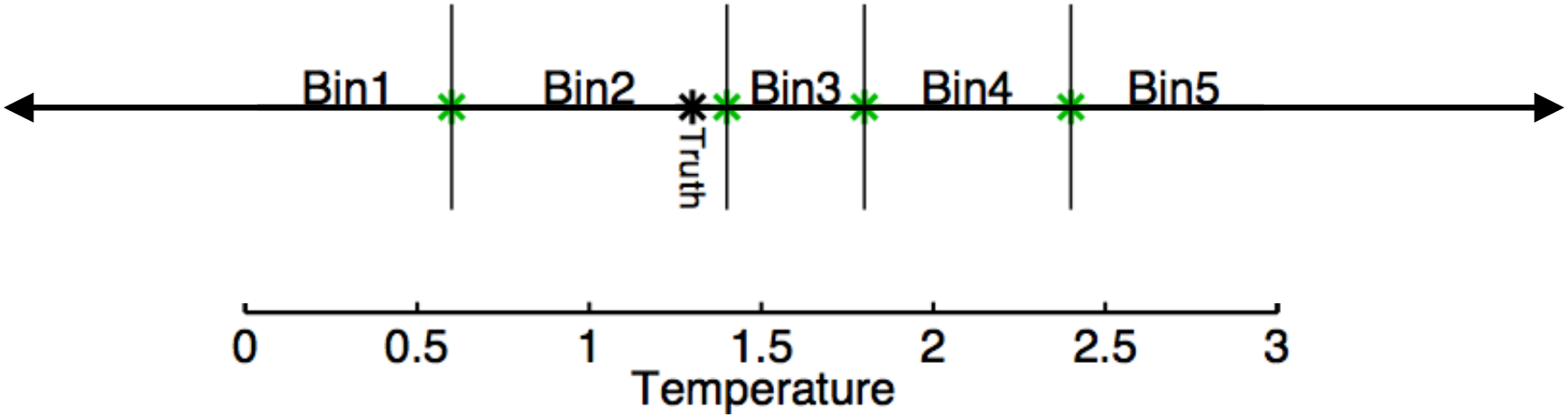
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

These 4 ‘ensemble members’ partition the real line into 5 bins.



The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

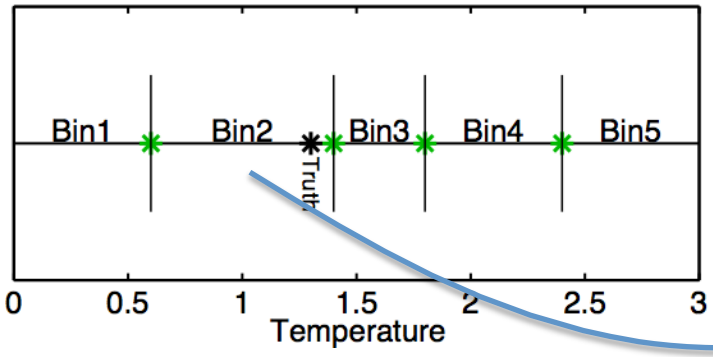
Call the 5th draw the 'truth'.
1/5 chance that this is in any given bin.



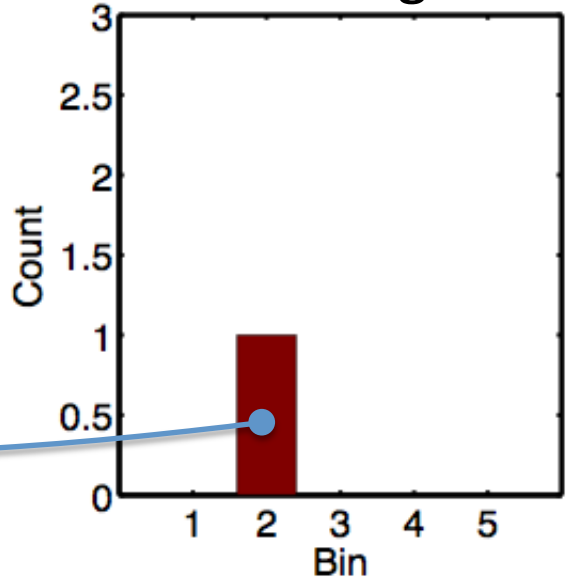
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

Rank histogram shows the frequency of the truth in each bin over many assimilations.

Same figure as previous slide.

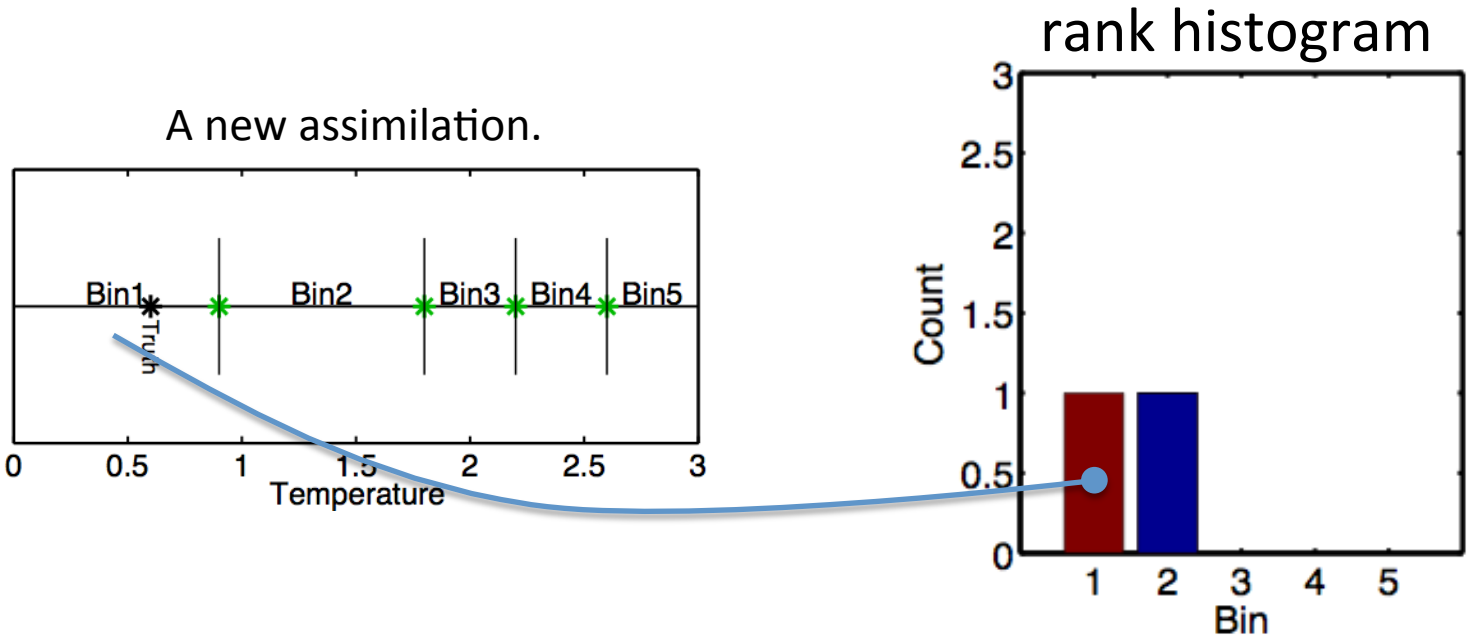


rank histogram



The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

Rank histogram shows the frequency of the truth in each bin over many assimilations.



The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

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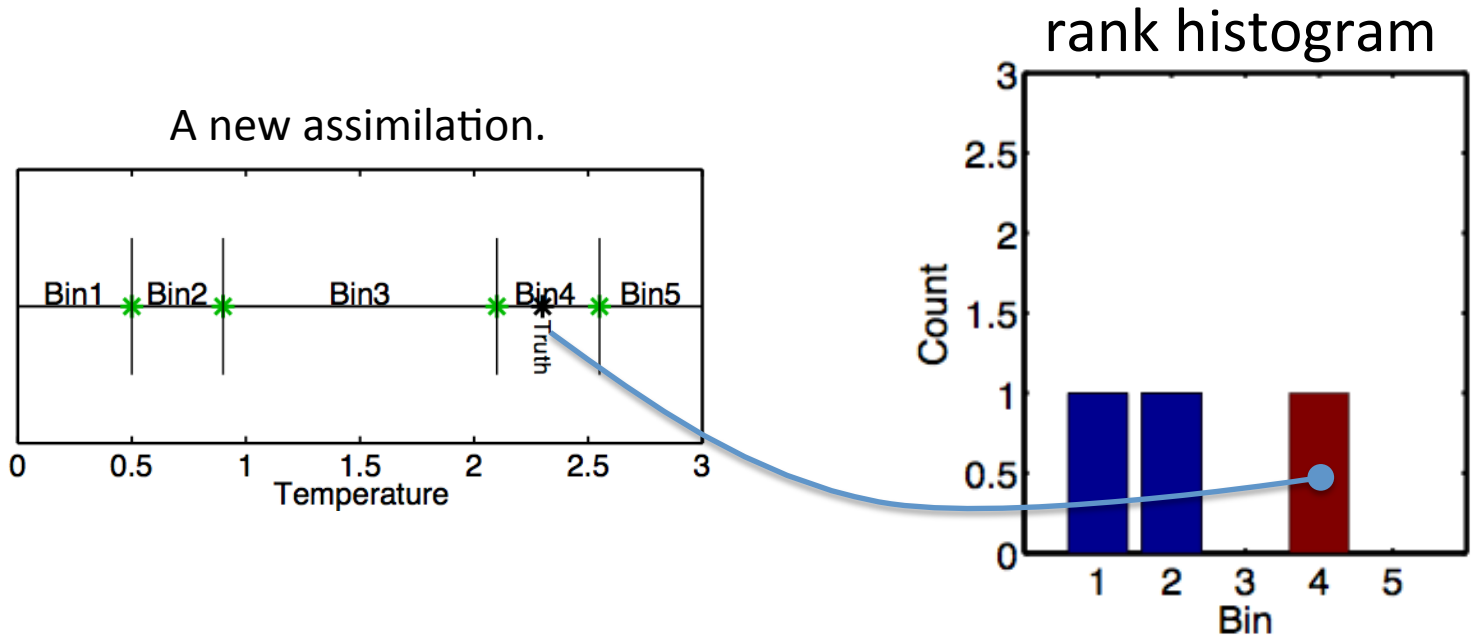
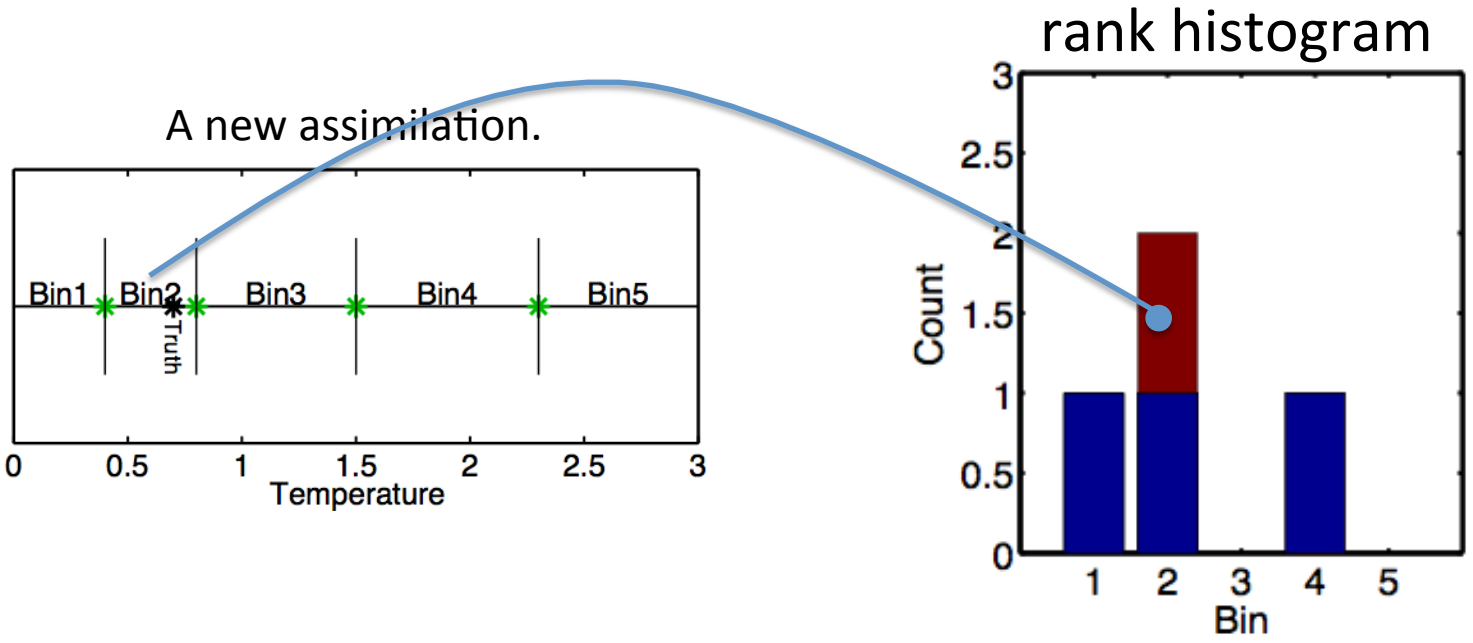


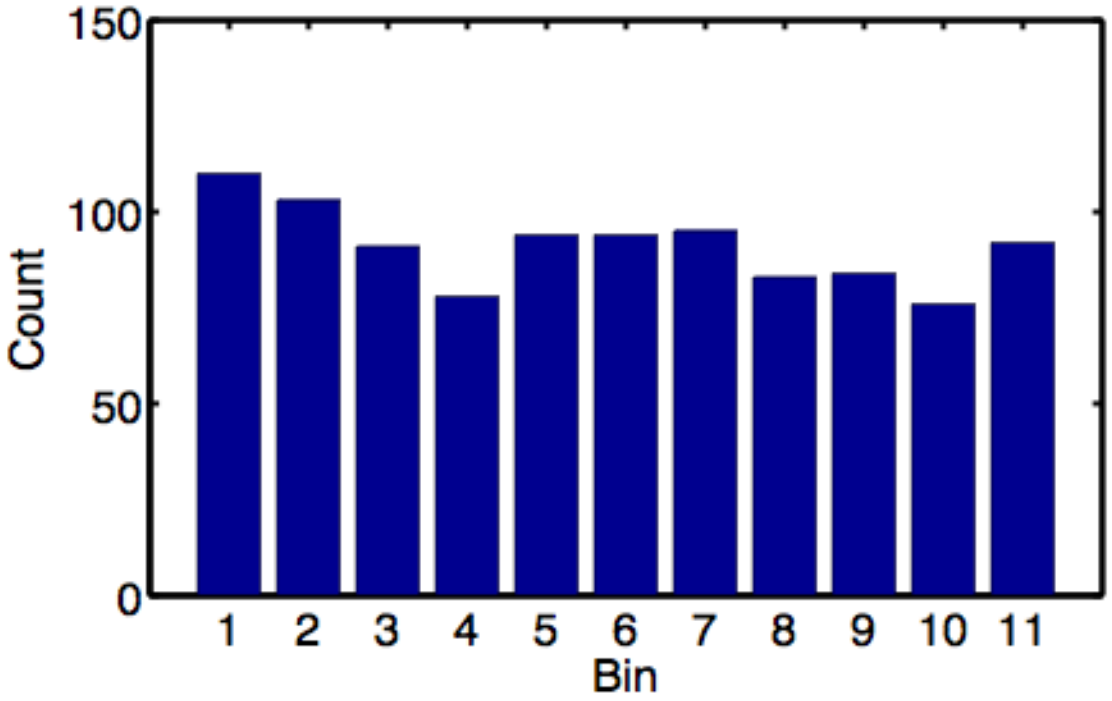
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

Rank histogram shows the frequency of the truth in each bin over many assimilations.



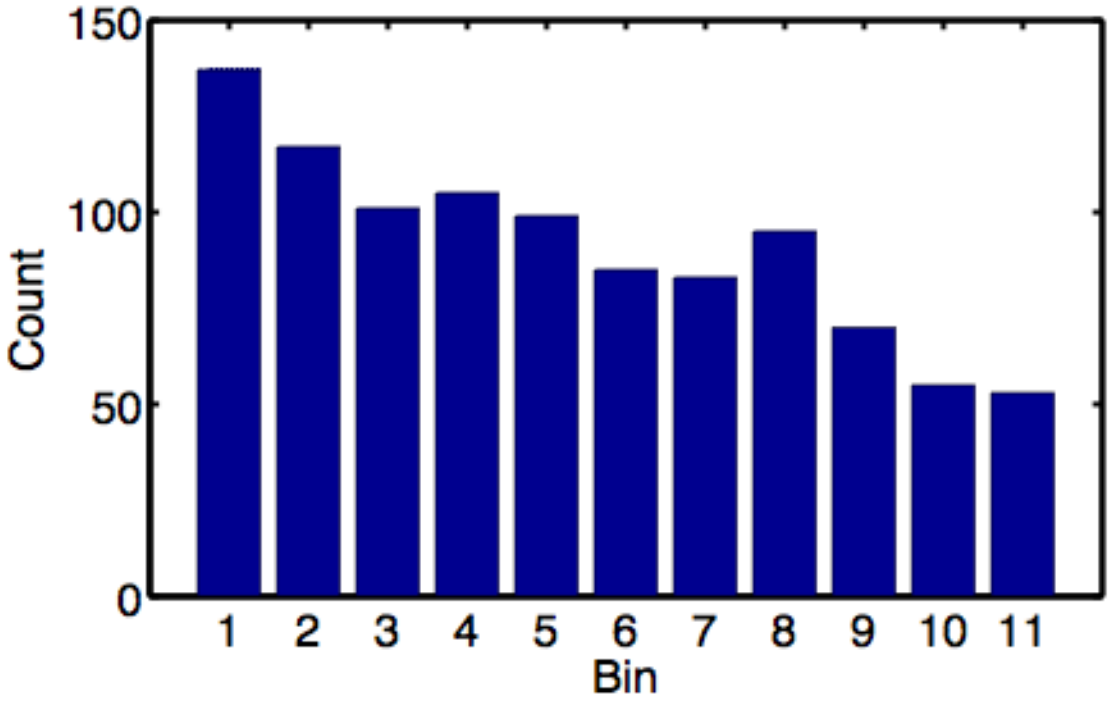
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

Rank histograms for good ensembles should be uniform (caveat sampling noise).
Want truth to look like random draw from ensemble.



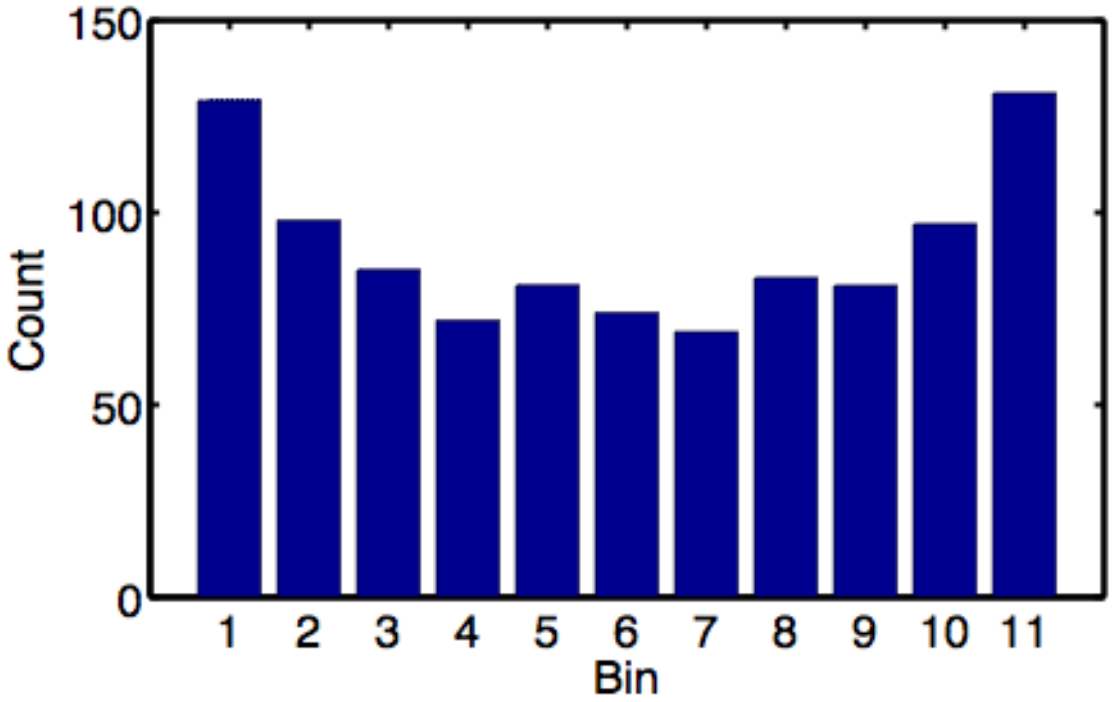
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

A biased ensemble leads to skewed histograms.



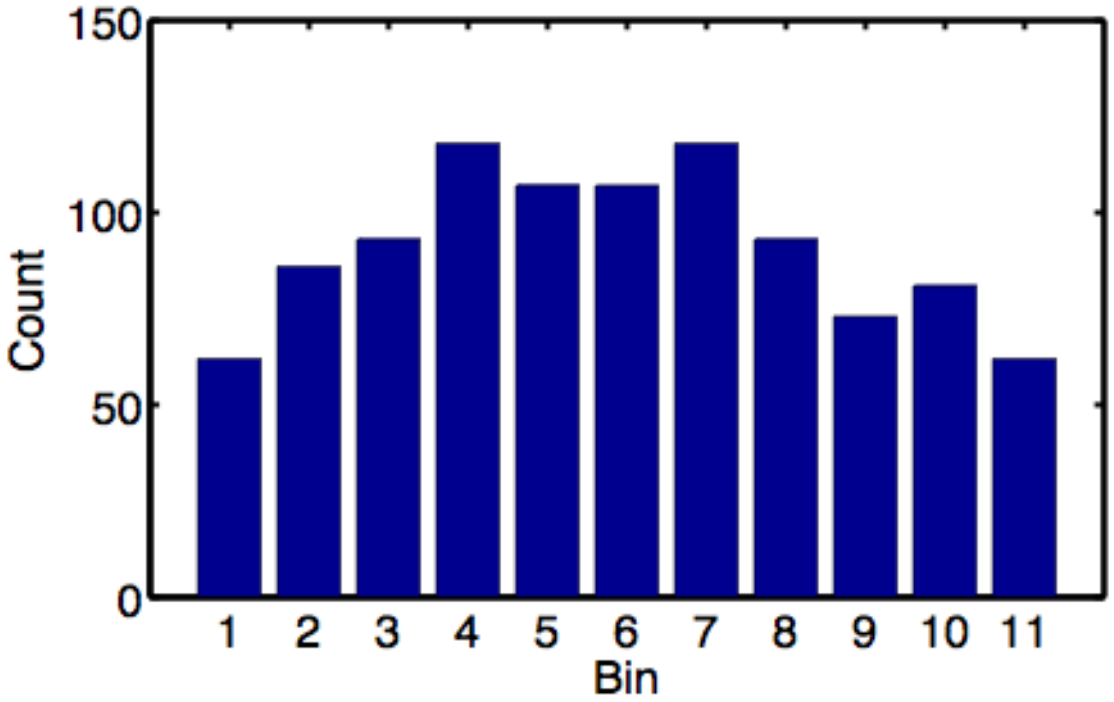
The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

An ensemble with too little spread gives a u-shape.
This is the most common behavior for geophysics.



The Rank Histogram: Evaluating Filter Performance

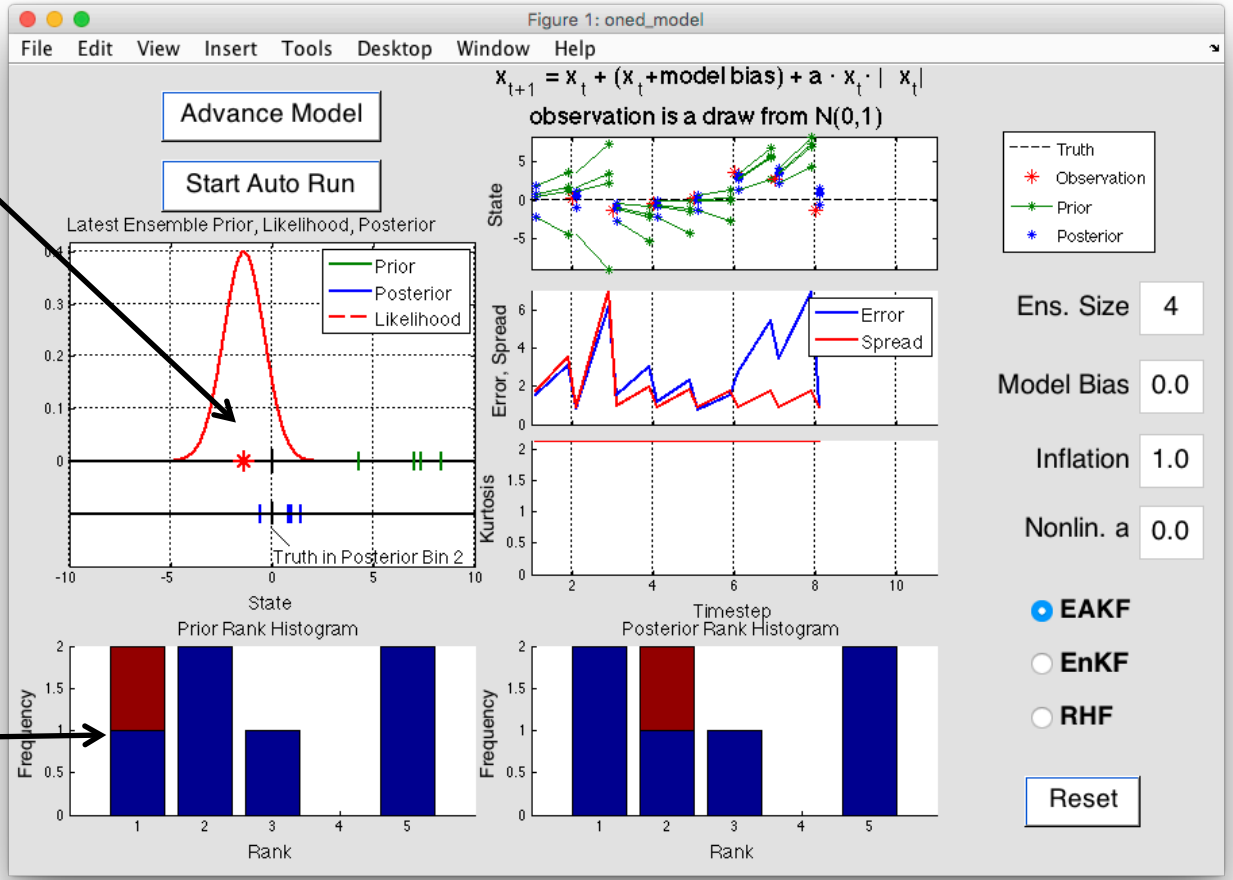
An ensemble with too much spread is peaked in the center.



Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model** Understanding the Rank Histogram

Truth is always 0. For this time, truth is between 1st and 2nd ensemble members; that's the second bin.

Prior (left) and Posterior (right) rank histograms. Rust color is for current time.



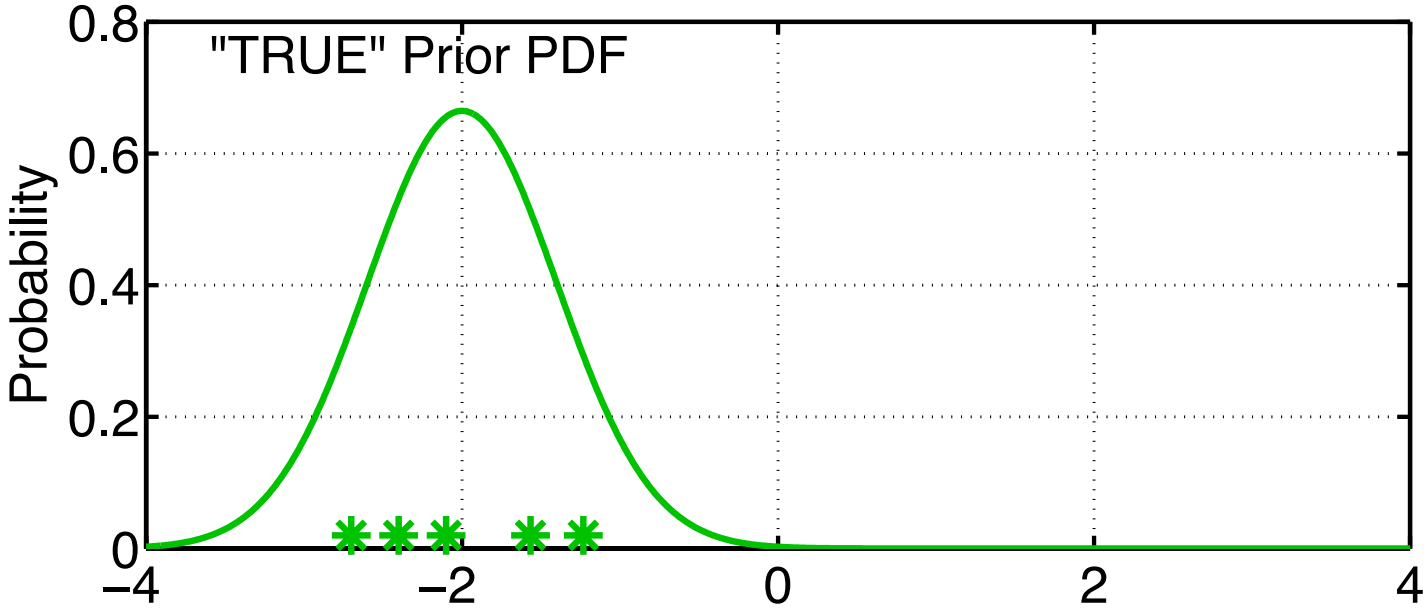
Matlab Hands-On: oned_model Understanding the Rank Histogram

Explorations:

1. Step through a sequence of advances and assimilations with the top button. Watch the evolution of the rank histogram bins.
2. Add some model bias (less than 1 to start) and see how the filter responds.
3. Add some nonlinearity (a< 1) to the model. How do the different filters respond?
4. Can you break the filter (find setting so that the ensemble moves away from zero) with the options explored so far?

Dealing with systematic error: Variance Inflation

Observations + physical system → 'true' distribution.

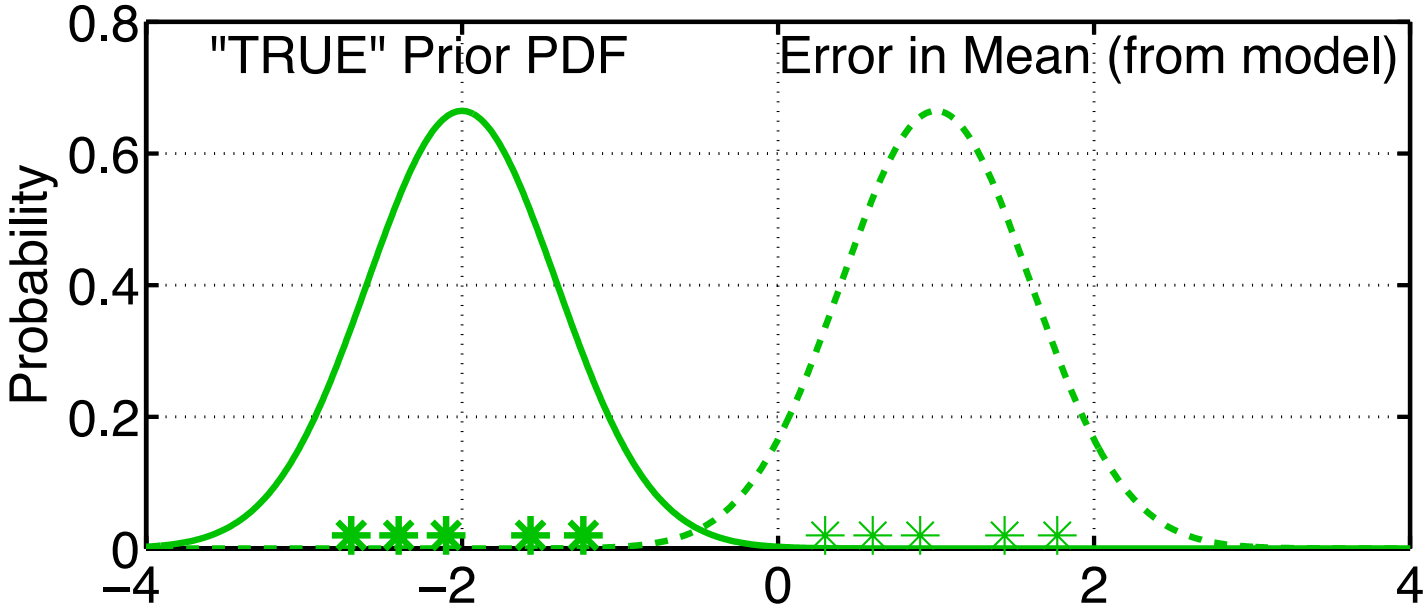


Dealing with systematic error: Variance Inflation

Observations + physical system → 'true' distribution.

Model bias (and other errors) can shift actual prior.

Prior ensemble is too certain (needs more spread).

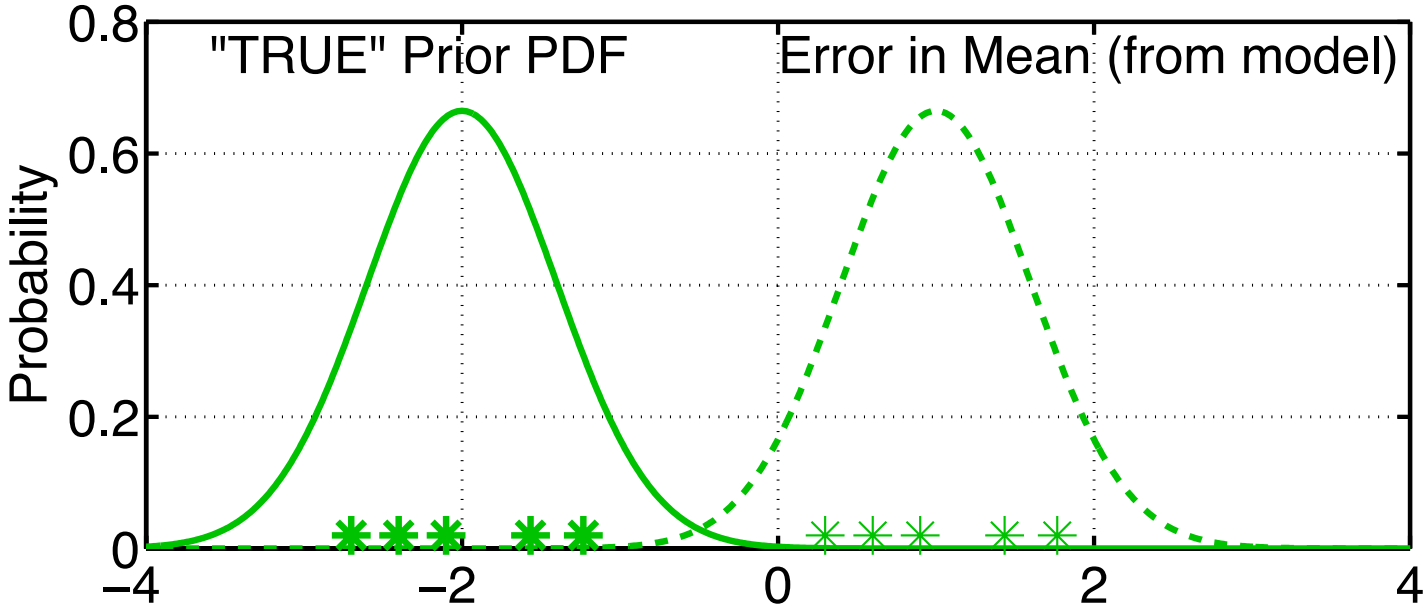


Dealing with systematic error: Variance Inflation

Could correct error if we knew what it was.

With large models, can't know error precisely.

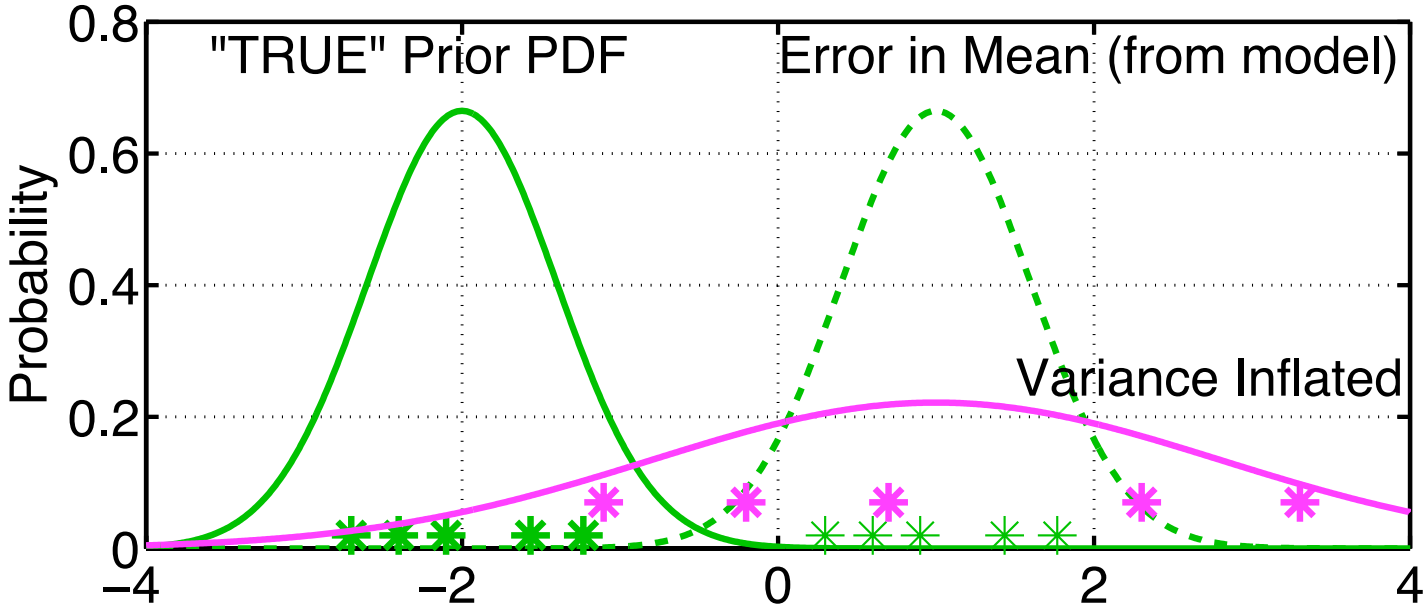
Taking no action can cause observations to be ignored.



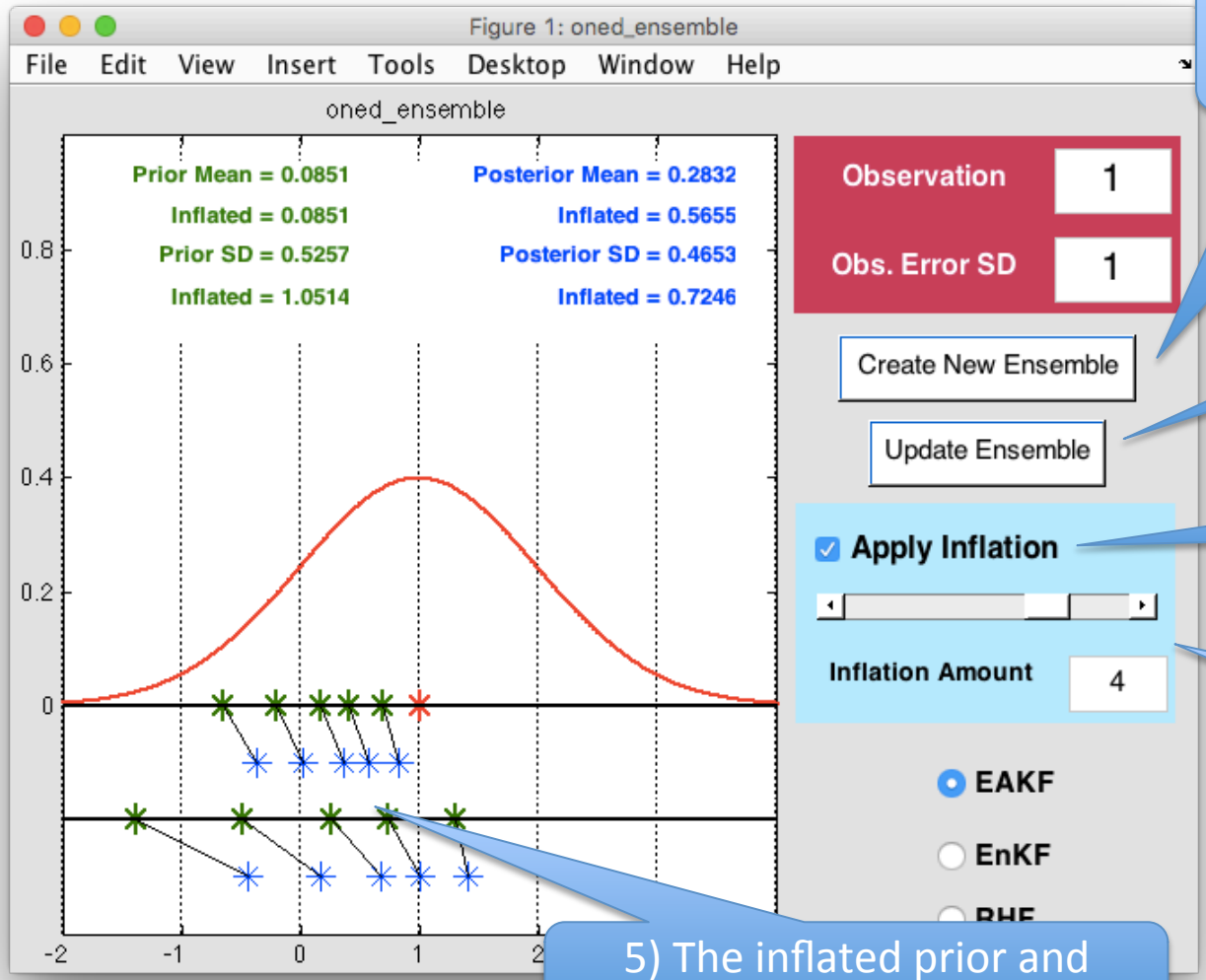
Dealing with systematic error: Variance Inflation

Naïve solution: increase the spread in the prior.

Give more weight to the observation, less to the prior.



Matlab Hands-On: **oned_ensemble** exploring prior inflation



1) Create a new ensemble.

4) Do assimilation.

2) Turn inflation on.

3) Set an inflation value.

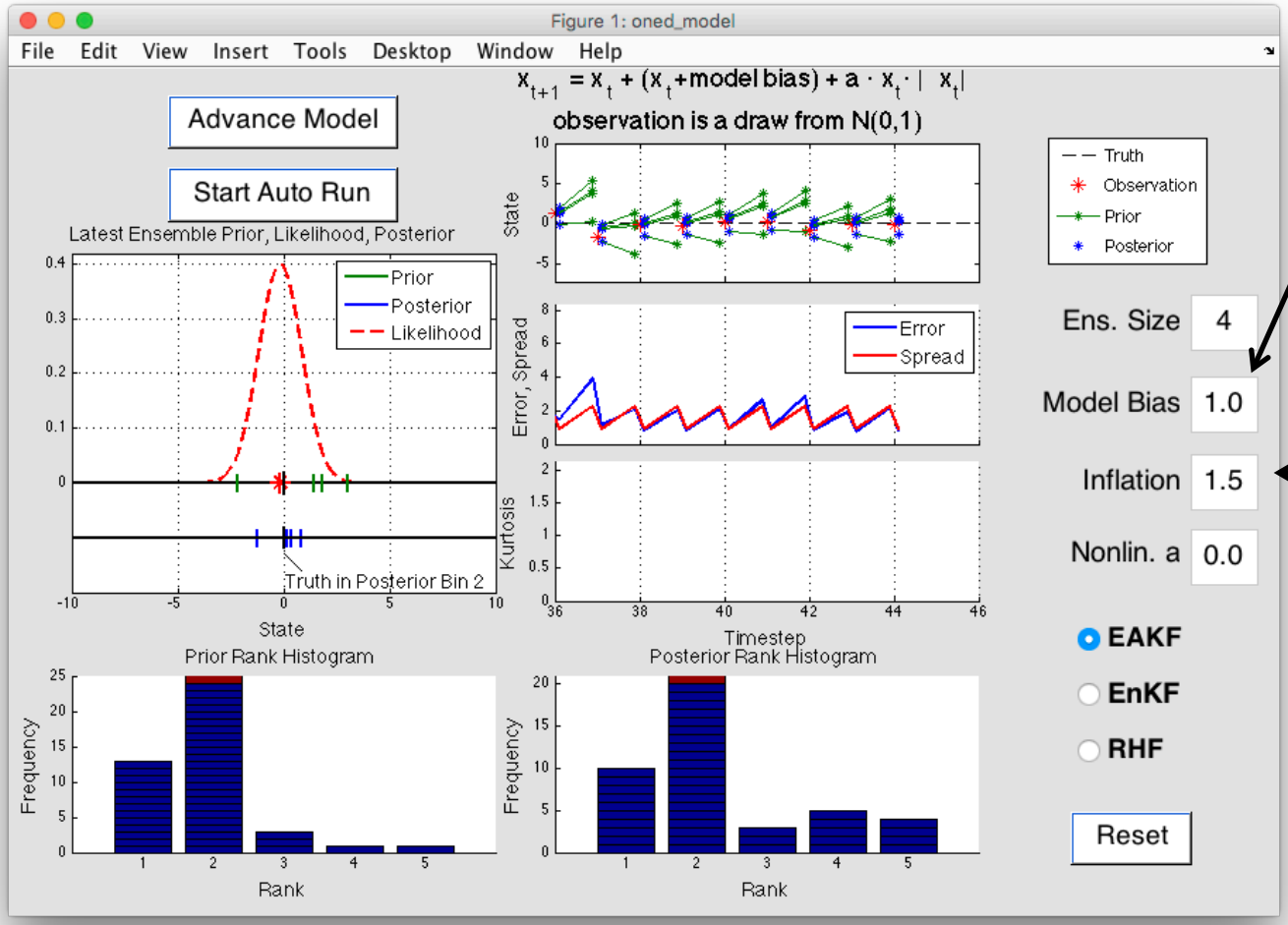
5) The inflated prior and posterior shows up here.

Matlab Hands-On: exploring prior inflation with oned_ensemble

Explorations:

- See how increasing inflation (> 1) changes the posterior mean and standard deviation.
- Look at priors that are not shifted but have small spread compared to the observation error distribution.
- Look at priors that are shifted from the observation.

Matlab Hands-On: **oned_model** using inflation to deal with systematic error



1. Add some model bias to simulate systematic error.
2. Run an assimilation and observe the error, spread, and rank histograms.
3. Add some inflation (try starting with 1.5) and observe how behavior changes.
4. What happens with too much inflation?

Note: The spread is increased by the square root of the inflation.

Matlab Hands-On: oned_model using inflation to deal with systematic error

Explorations:

- Try a variety of model bias and inflation settings.
- Try using inflation with a nonlinear model.