

A Randomized Dormant Ensemble Kalman Filter

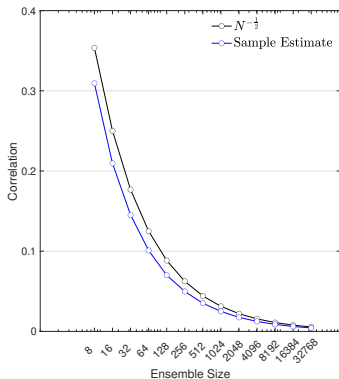
Sampling Errors: An Alternative Look

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ISDA, Fort Collins
June 8, 2022



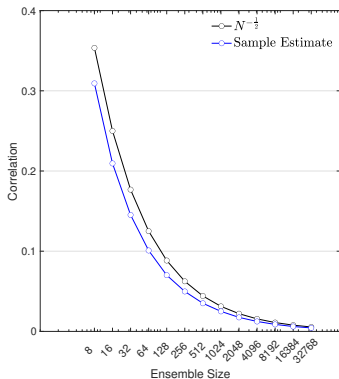
Sampling Errors in the EnKF

- *Bluntly:* Basic statistics tells us small ensemble sizes just won't cut it



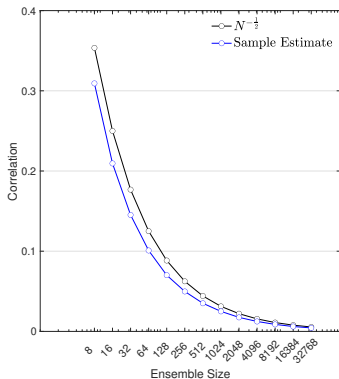
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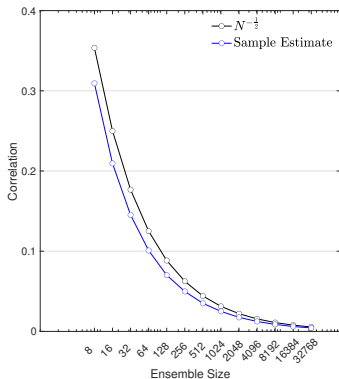
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- Can become even more complex in non-Gaussian and non-linear regimes



Ways to Reduce Sampling Errors

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Two major remedies:

- 1. Localization:** Localize the impact of the observations to nearby state variables only (Houtekamer and Mitchell, 2001)
- 2. Inflation:** Ensemble state covariance is increased by linearly inflating each scalar component of the state while preserving the mean (Pham et al. 1998) :

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{x}_i &\leftarrow \sqrt{\lambda}(x_i - \bar{x}) + \bar{x}, \\ \hat{\sigma}^2 &= \lambda \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2,\end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda > 1$ is an inflation factor and $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

- Adaptive forms (Anderson 2007, 2009; El Gharamti 2018)
- Posterior (El Gharamti 2019), RTPS (Whitaker and Hamill, 2012)

What We Know About Inflation?

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- Large inflation can cause issues for ocean models

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A global coupled ensemble data assimilation system using the Community Earth System Model and the Data Assimilation Research Testbed

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Nancy Collins¹ | Mariana Vertenstein¹ | Kevin Raeder¹ | Tim Hoar¹ | Richard Neale¹ |
Jim Edwards¹ | Anthony Craig³

Randomized Dormant EnKF



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As a way to avoid numerical instabilities in certain models, is it possible to retain sufficient ensemble spread without the need for excessive inflation?

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- The idea is to randomly break down the ensemble each assimilation step into 2 subsets:
 - I. **Active:** Members within this subset go through a regular EnKF update
 - II. **Dormant:** Members within this subset just sit and wait

$$N = N_a + N_d, \quad N_d = \lfloor \alpha N \rfloor \quad \alpha \in [0, 1]$$

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- $$N = N_a + N_d, \quad N_d = \lfloor \alpha N \rfloor \quad \alpha \in [0, 1]$$
- When the observations are assimilated serially (e.g., DART, GSI), the dormant subset can change for each observation

Method Illustration

RD-EnKF: 15 members, 2 available observations, $\alpha = 20\%$

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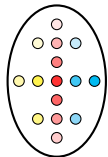
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obs #1

obs #2

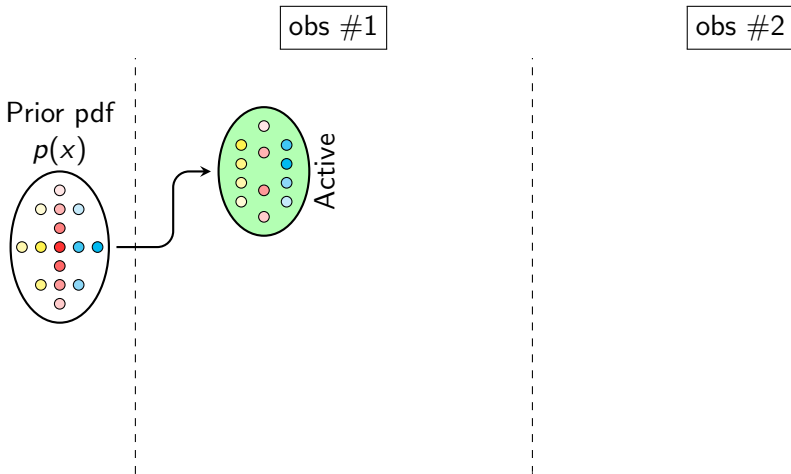
Prior pdf

$p(x)$



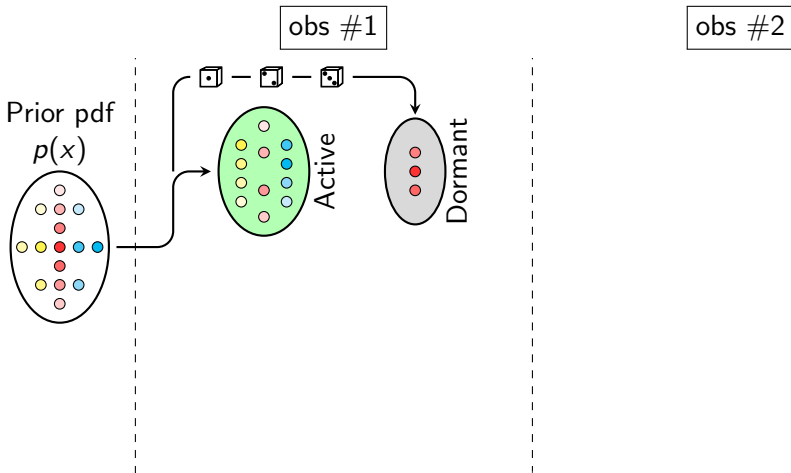
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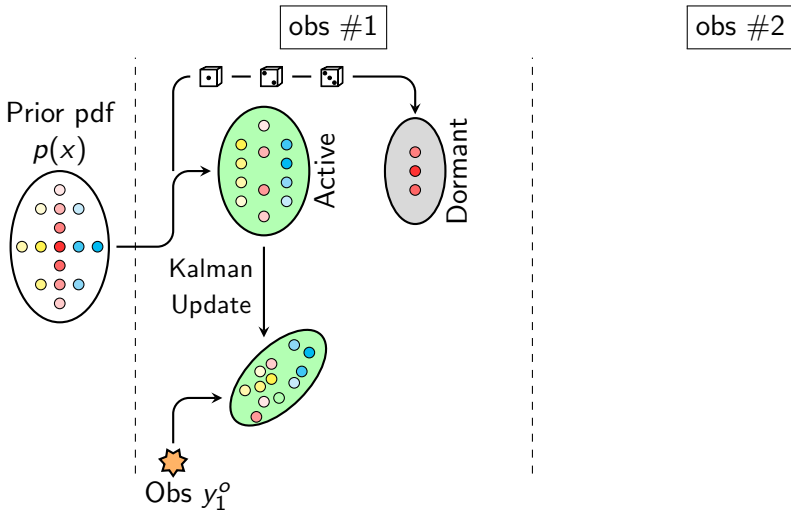
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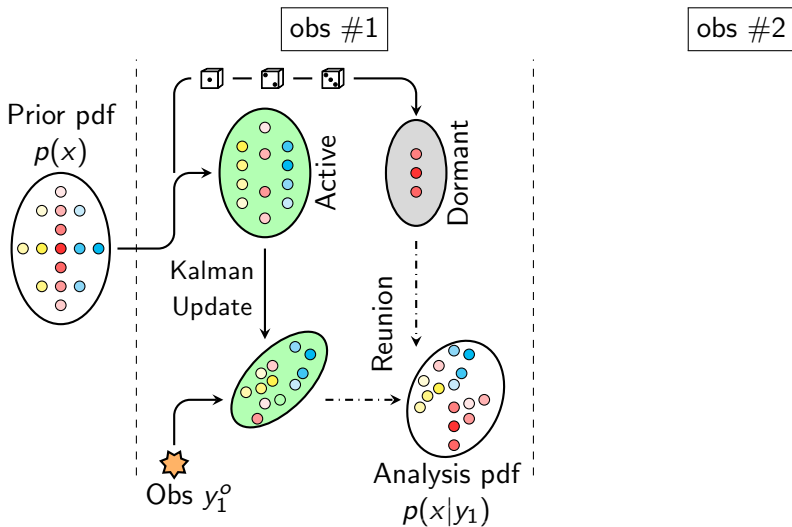
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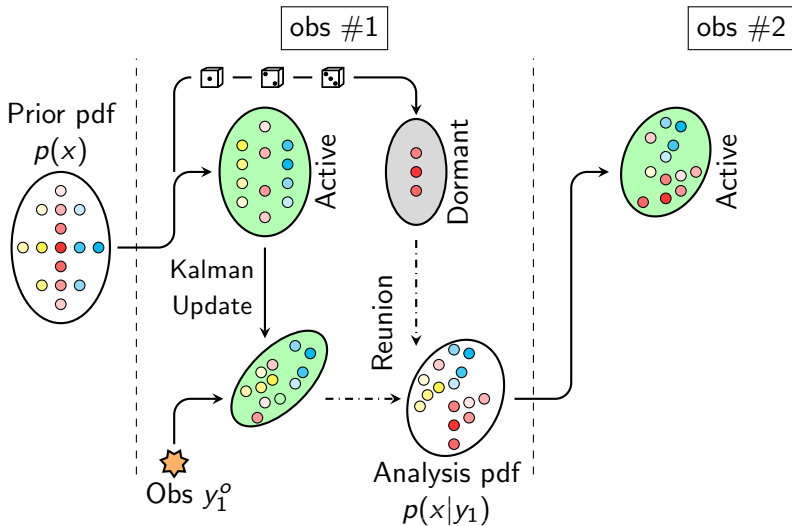
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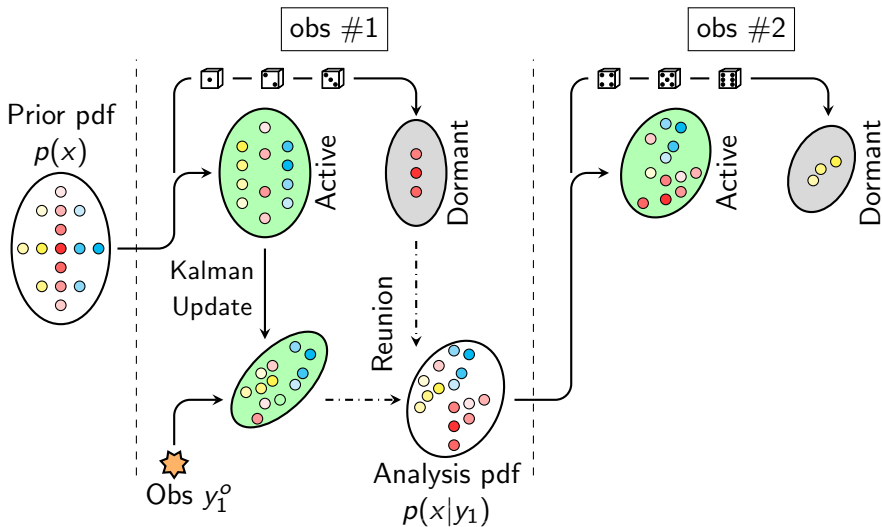
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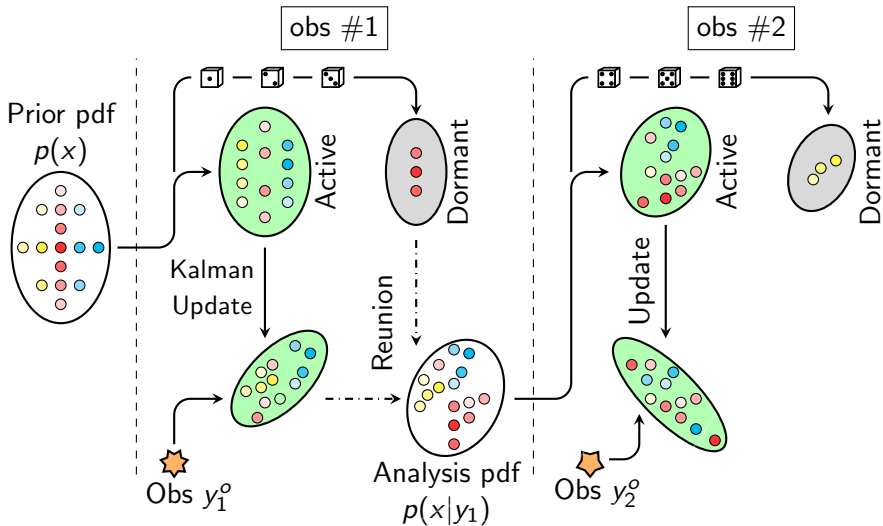
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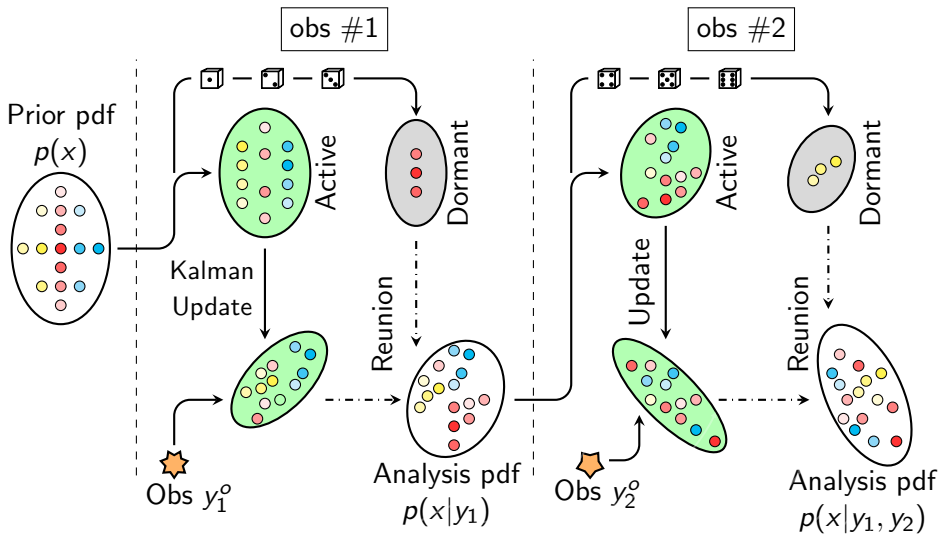
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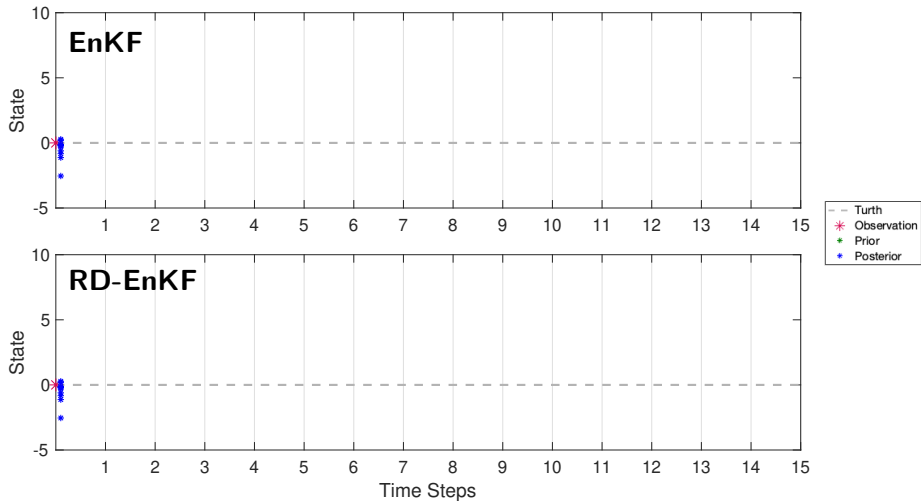
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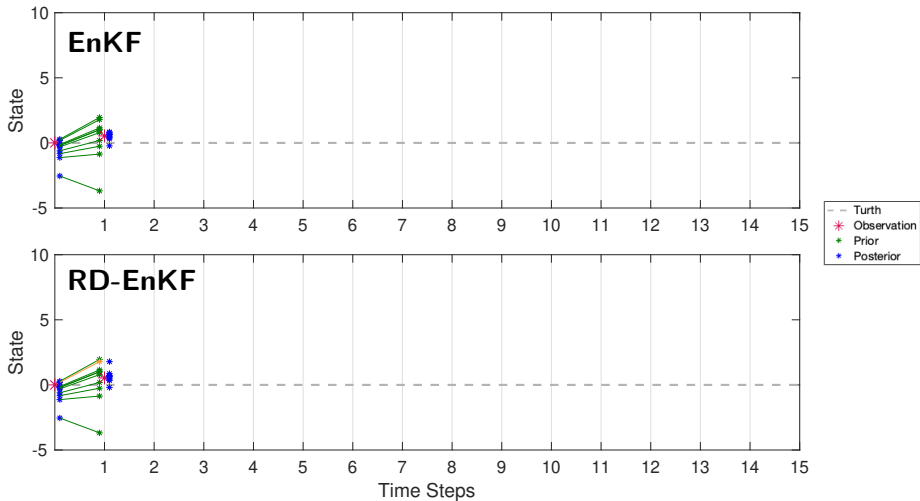
A Scalar Example

10 members, *biased* linear model, **EnKF** vs **RD-EnKF** ($\alpha = 10\%$)



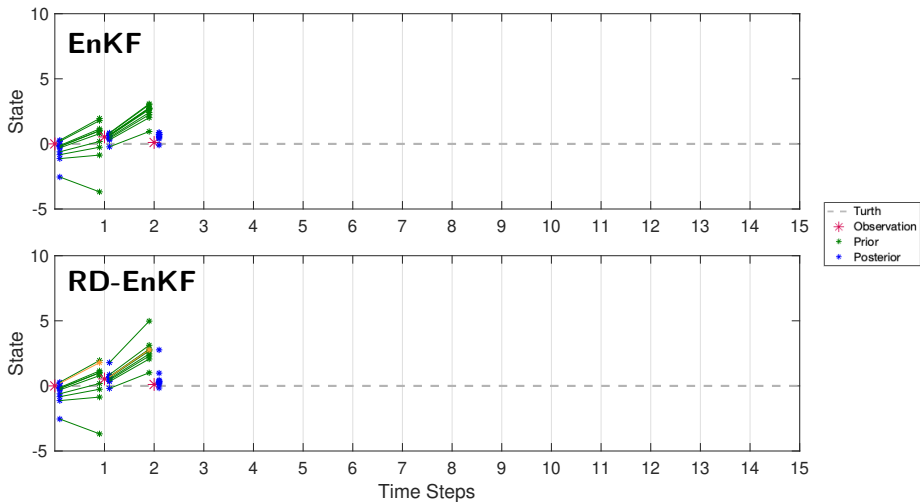
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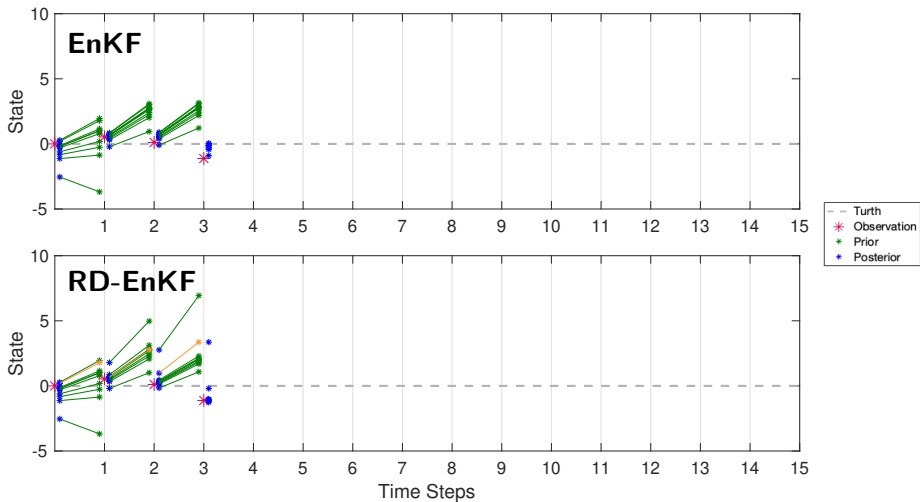
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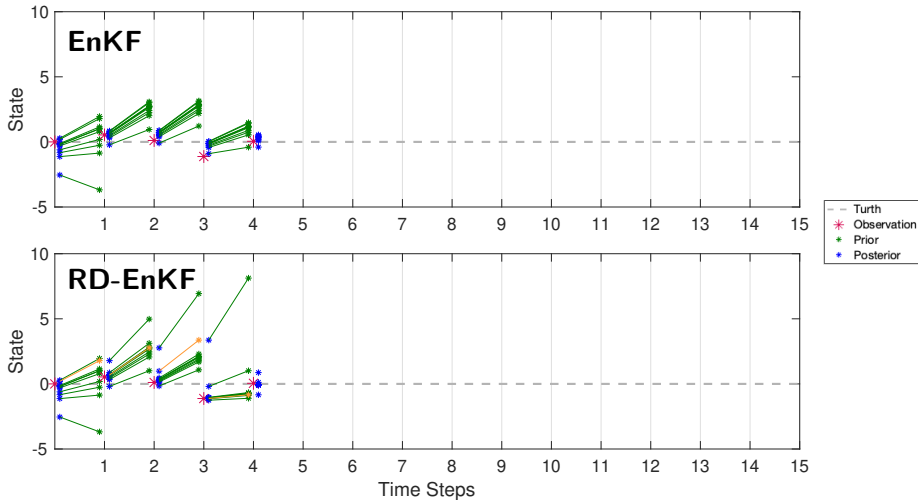
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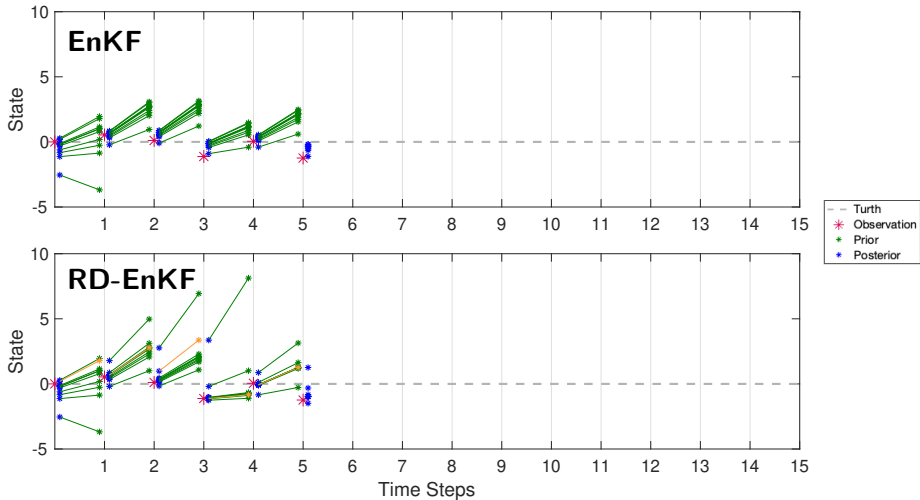
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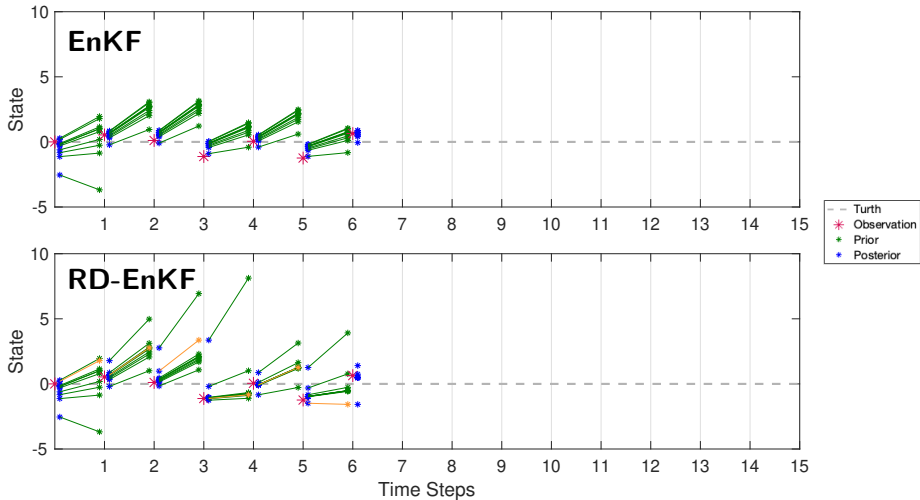
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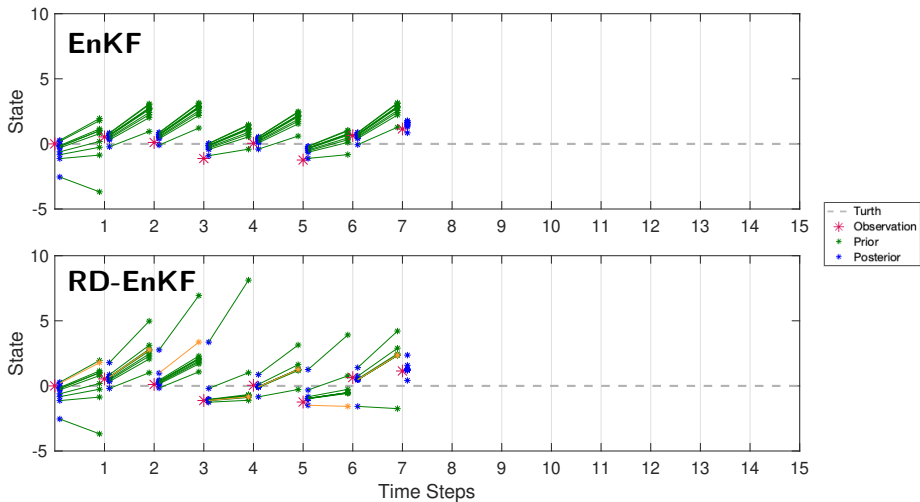
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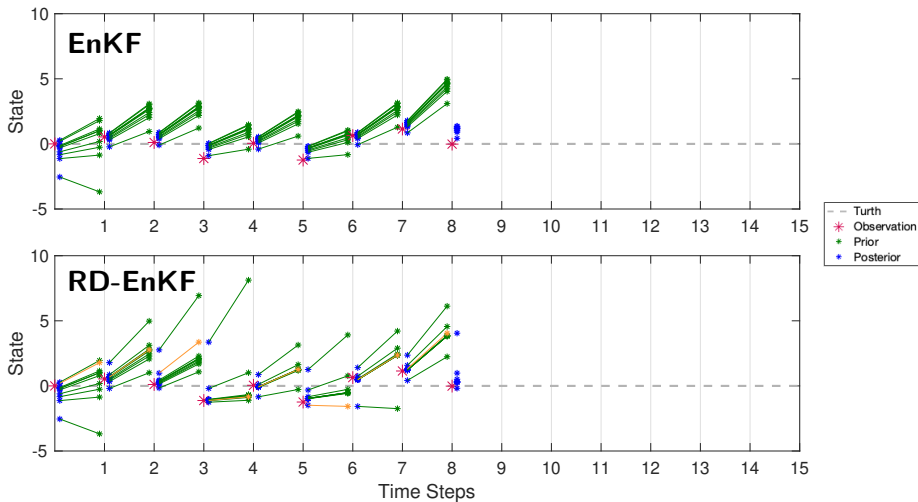
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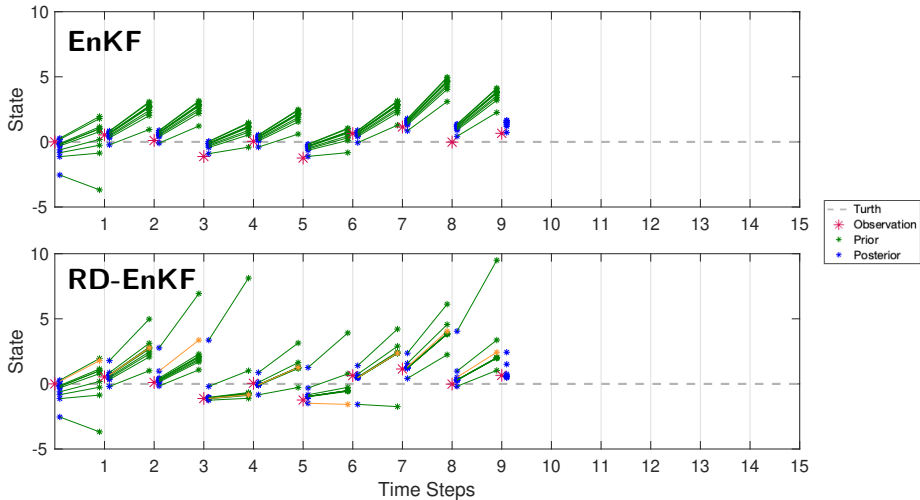
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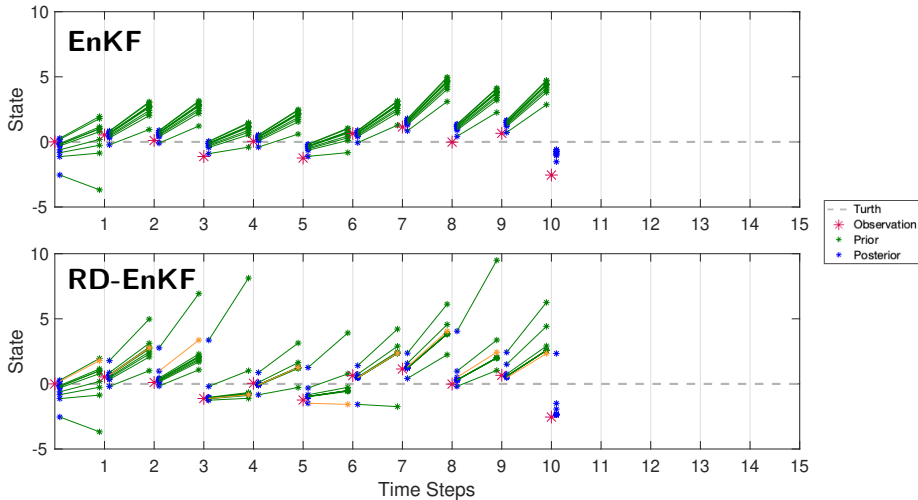
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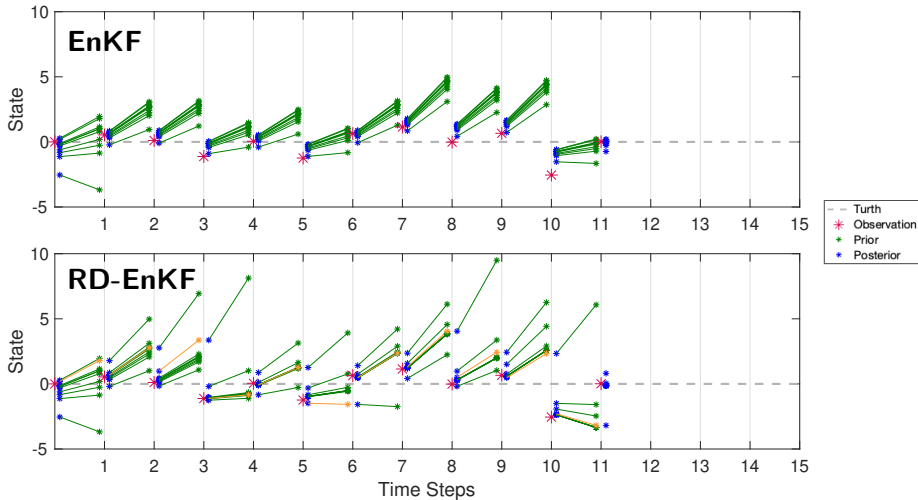
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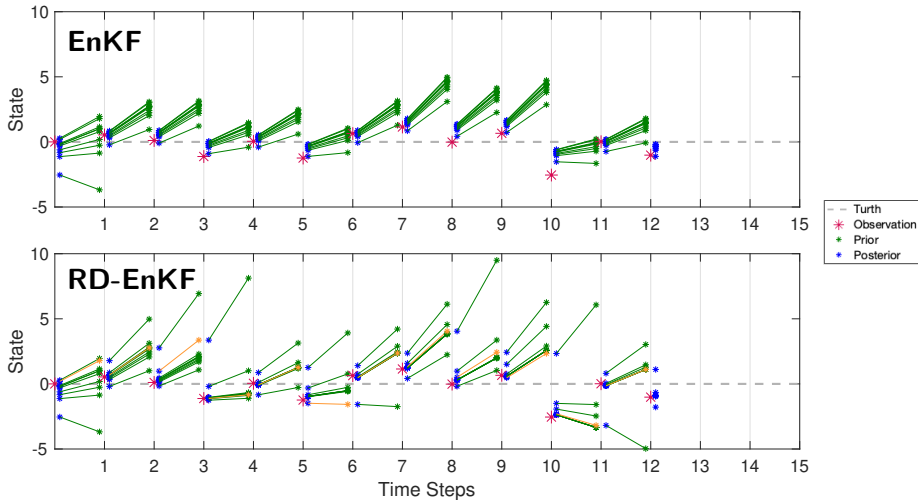
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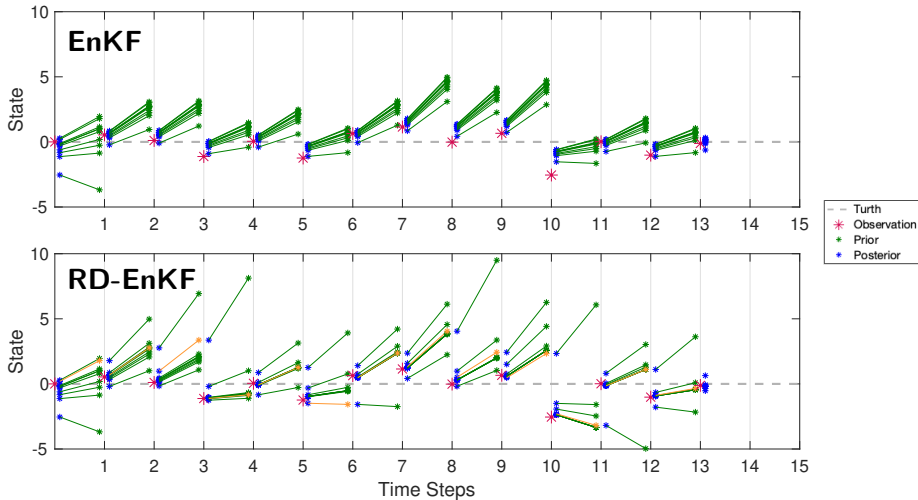
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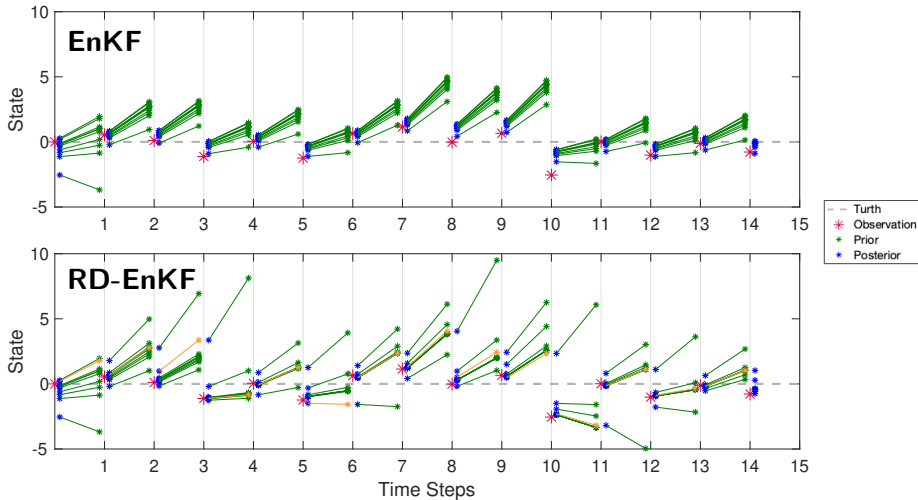
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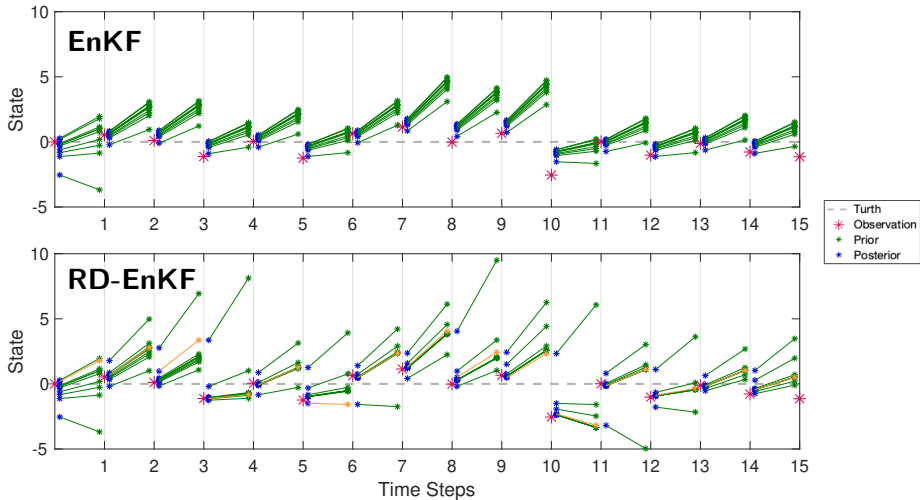
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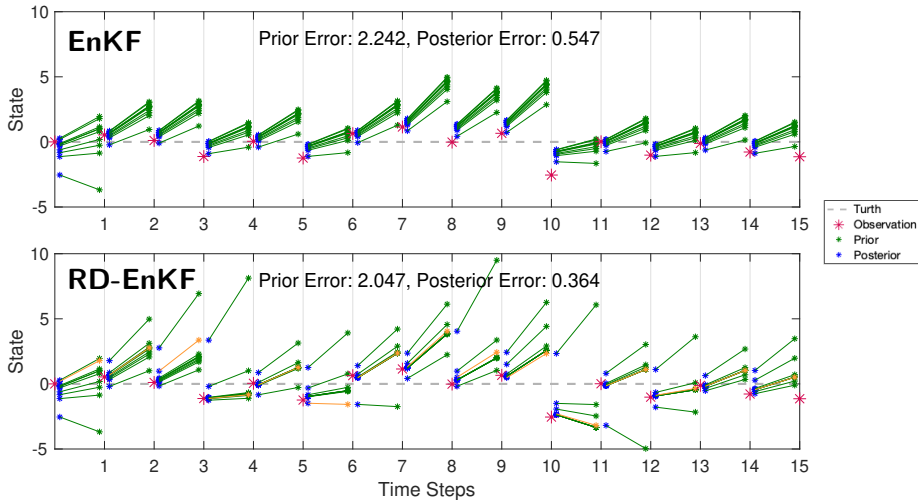
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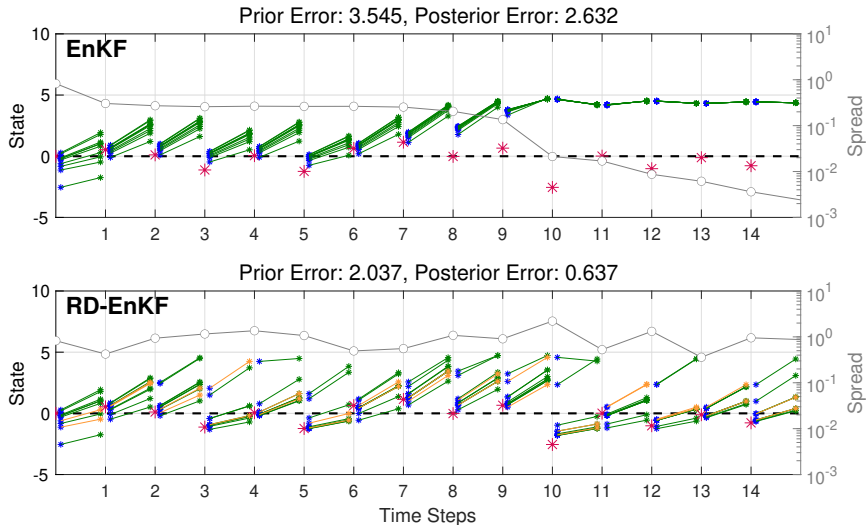
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10 members, *biased & nonlinear* model, **EnKF** vs **RD-EnKF** ($\alpha = 20\%$)

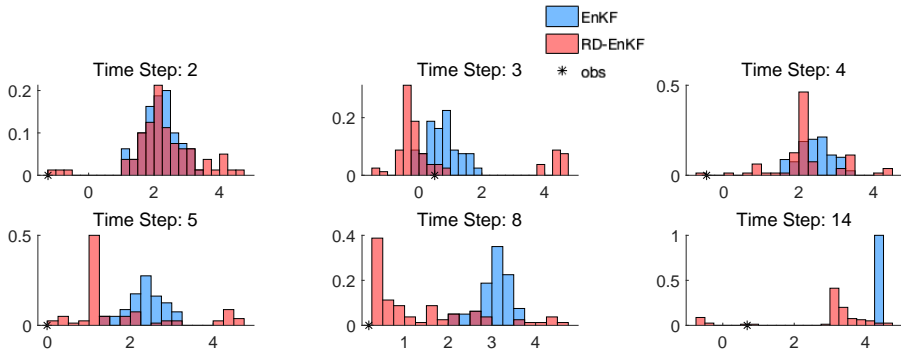


RD-EnKF: Algorithmic Features

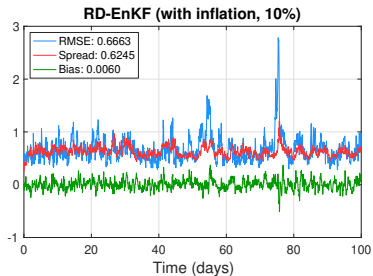
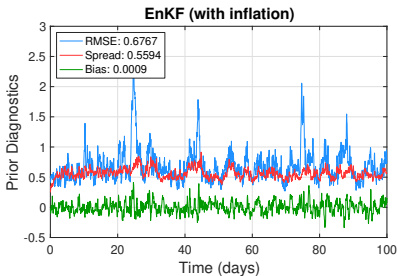
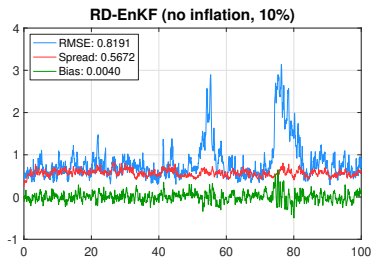
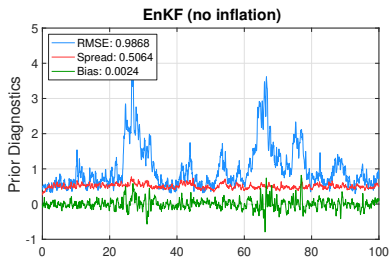
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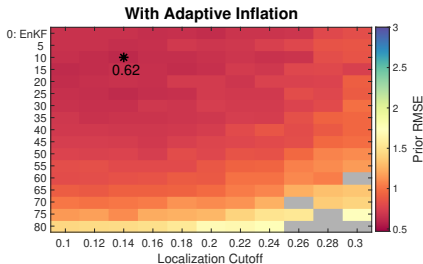
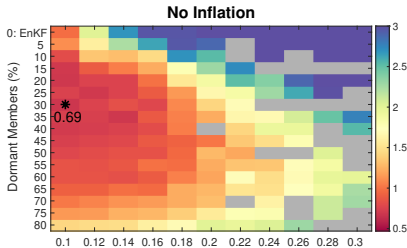
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Experiments using Lorenz'96



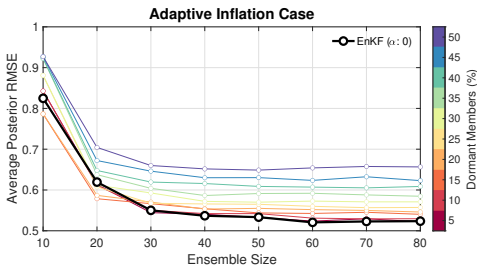
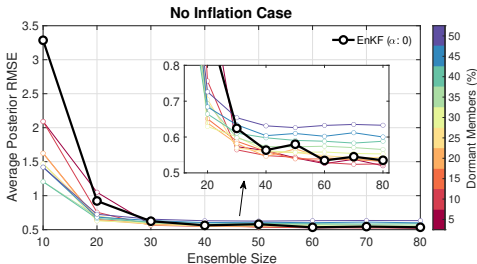
L96: Localization Sensitivity



- Without inflation, the most accurate prior estimates are obtained with a cutoff of 0.1 radians and $\alpha : 30\%$
- **RD-EnKF** performs well even in poorly localized regimes
- Adaptive prior inflation stabilizes the performance and improves the accuracy
- **RD-EnKF** performance *degrades* as α increases

L96: Ensemble Size Sensitivity

- Without inflation and $N = 10$, **RD-EnKF** outperforms the standard **EnKF** for all tested dormancy rates
- For $N = 80$, **RD-EnKF** still outperforms the **EnKF** using $\alpha \in [5, 10]\%$
- With adaptive inflation, the **RD-EnKF** is only more accurate than the **EnKF** for small ensemble sizes; $N \leq 20$

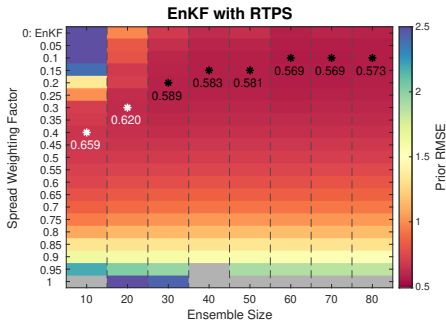
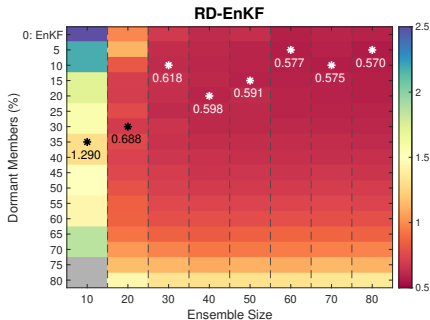


L96: Comparison to RTPS

- Unlike the **RD-EnKF**, **RTPS** update is performed with the entire ensemble and then posterior spread is partially relaxed back to the prior: $\sigma^a \leftarrow \beta (\sigma^f - \sigma^a) + \sigma^a$

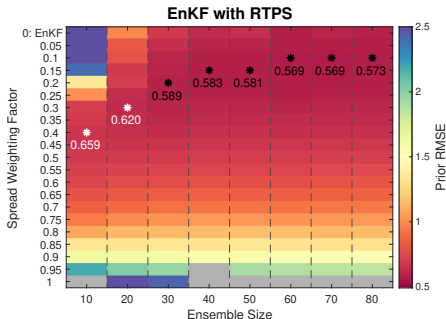
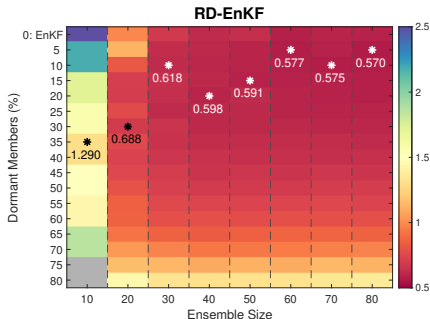
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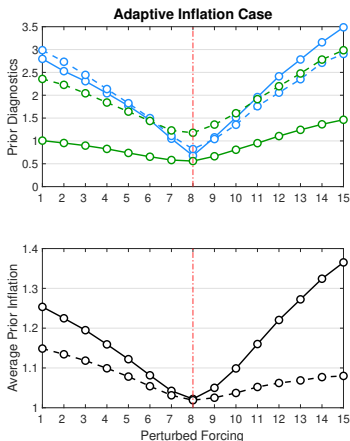
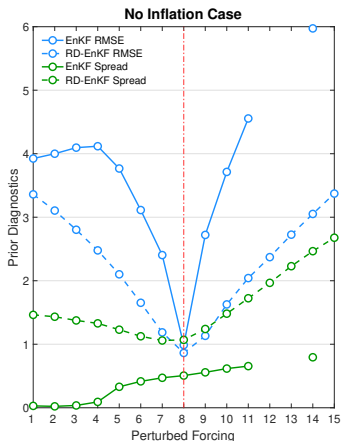
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- For small ensemble sizes (i.e., $N \leq 20$), **RD-EnKF** estimates are less accurate than those obtained with **RTPS**
- Ensemble spread retained by the **RD-EnKF** is consistently larger than the **RTPS**

L96: Model Errors



- Without inflation: **RD-EnKF** is *significantly* better than the **EnKF**
- With inflation: Both schemes perform equally well. The **RD-EnKF** uses less inflation but still yields larger ensemble variability

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- Preliminary results in toy models show several promising aspects about the **RD-EnKF** scheme, particularly:
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 - (1) Ability to maintain sufficient ensemble spread after the update
 - (2) Robust performance even in poorly localized domains
 - (3) The need for less inflation given the inherent spread retention by the dormant members
- Extensive testing: Ocean DA application
- Different ways to randomly (or not) select the dormant members