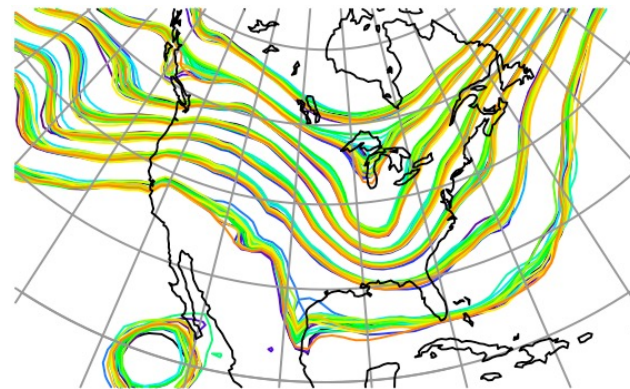


Data  
Assimilation  
Research  
Testbed



## DART Tutorial Section 12: Adaptive Inflation



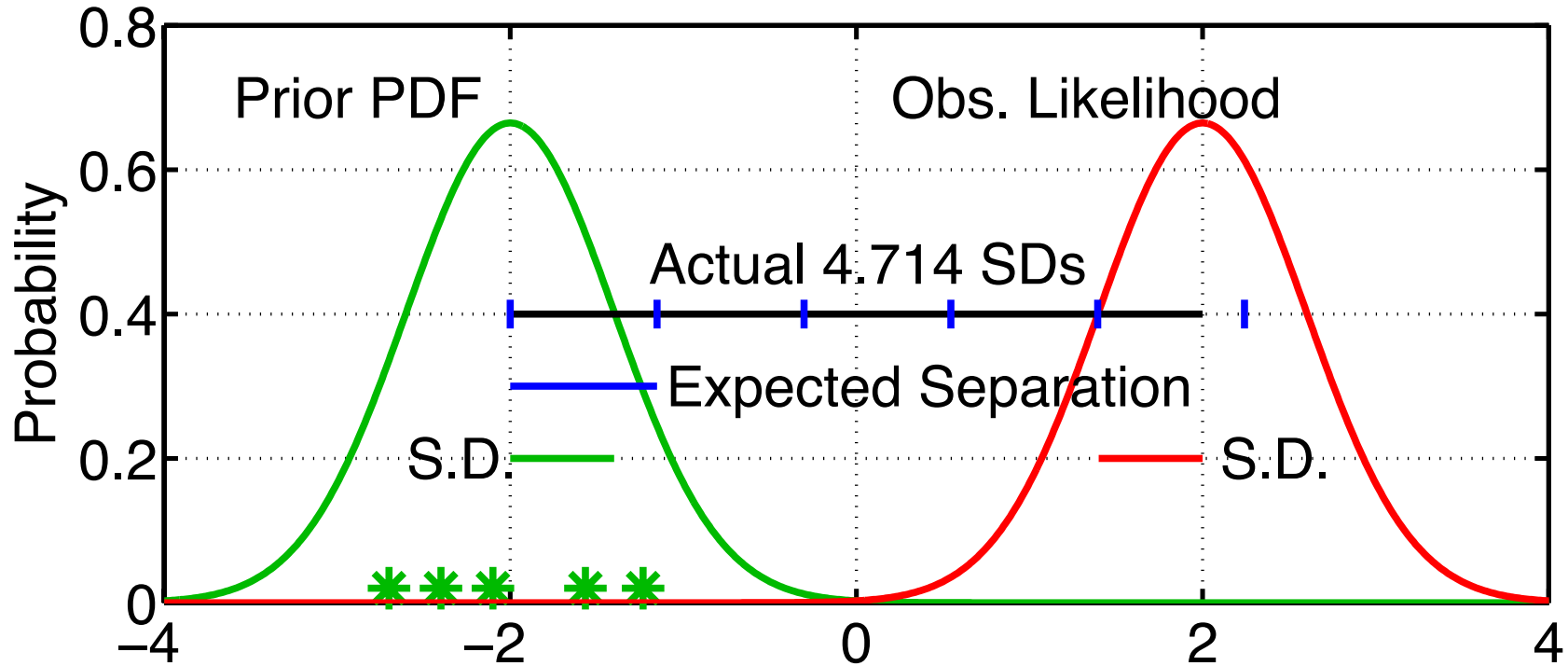
©UCAR



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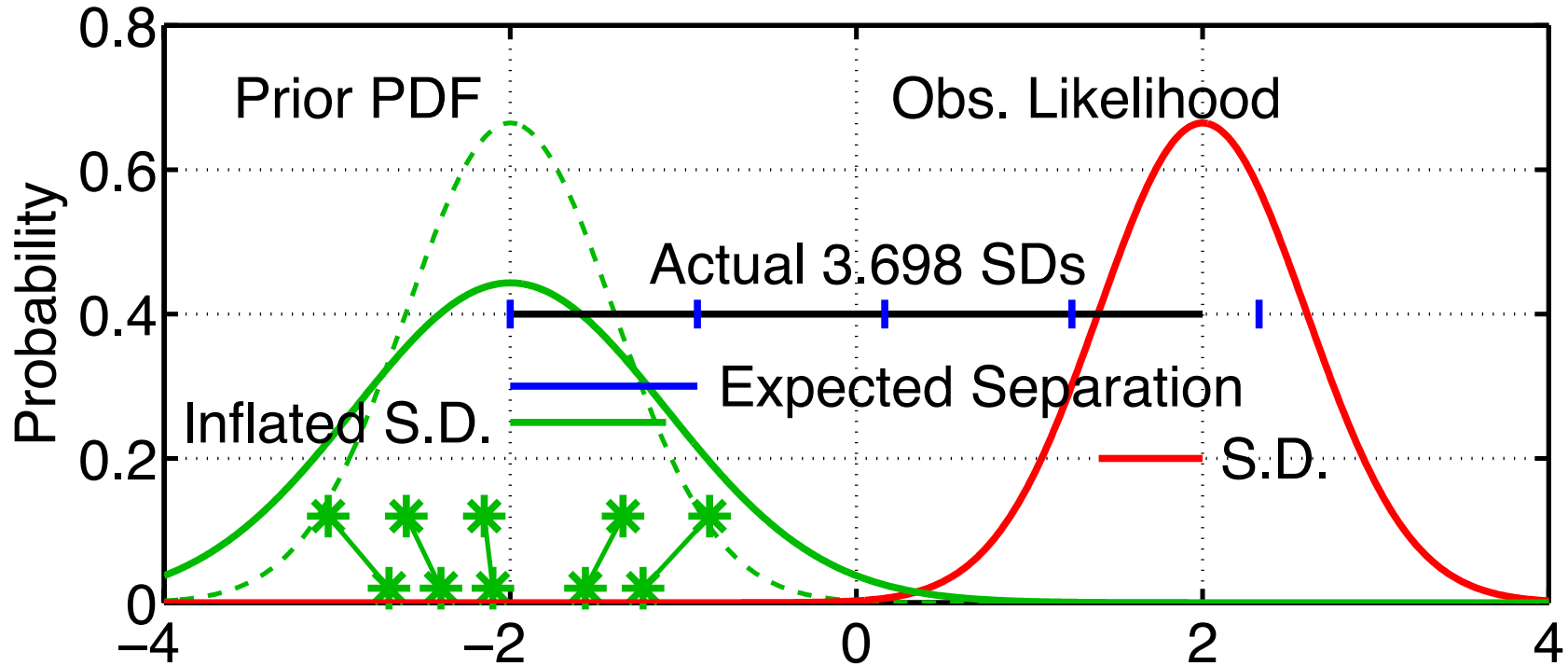
NCAR | National Center for  
UCAR | Atmospheric Research

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter



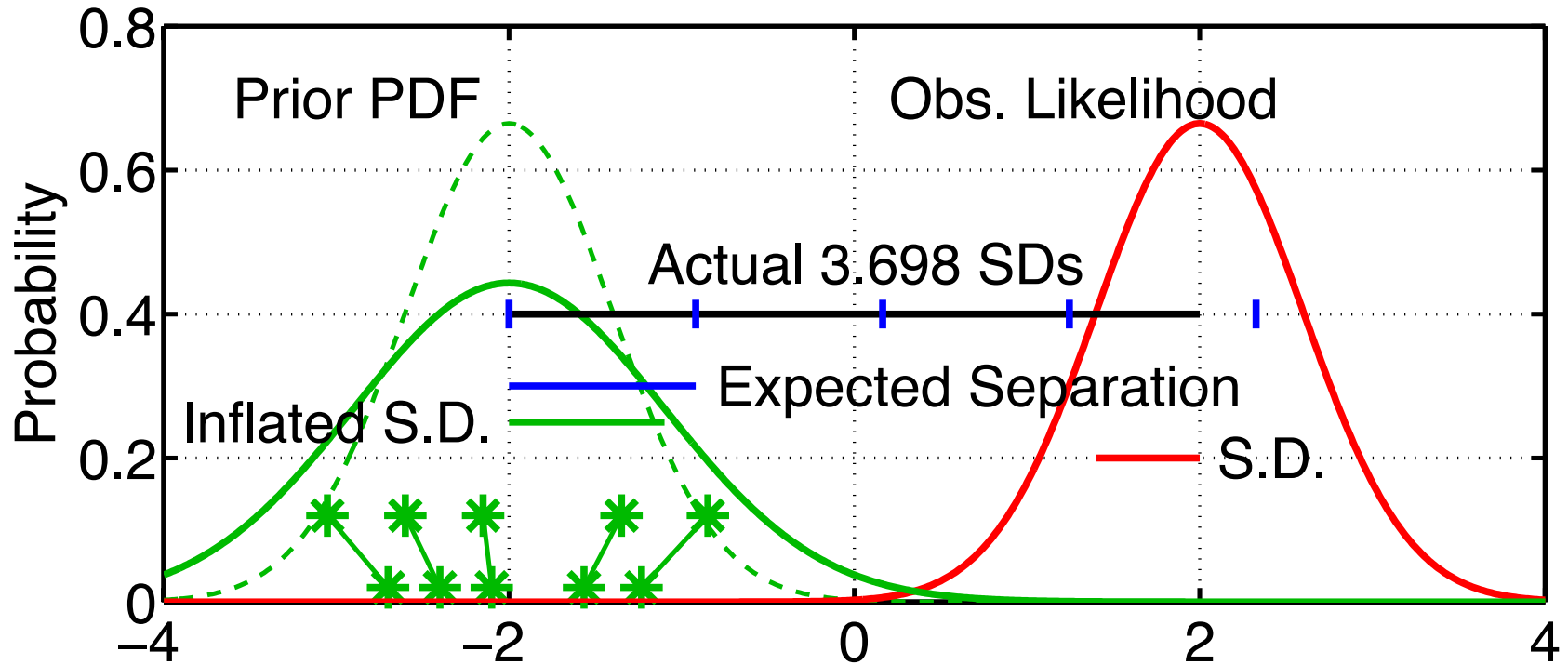
1. For observed variable, have estimate of prior-observed inconsistency.
2. Expected (prior\_mean – observation) =  $\sqrt{\sigma_{prior}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2}$   
Assumes that prior and observation are supposed to be unbiased.  
Is it model error or random chance?

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter



1. For observed variable, have estimate of prior-observed inconsistency.
2. Expected (prior\_mean – observation) =  $\sqrt{\sigma_{prior}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2}$
3. Inflating increases expected separation  
Increases 'apparent' consistency between prior and observation.

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

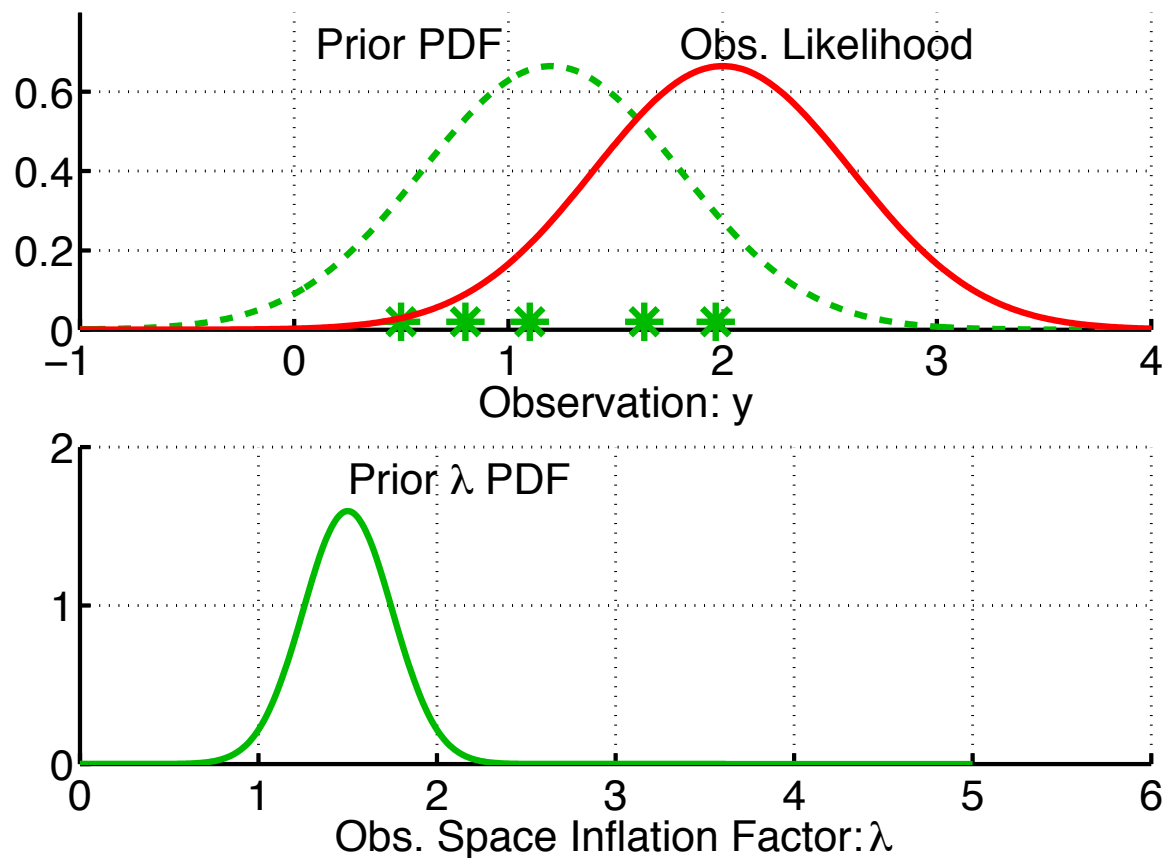


Distance  $D$  from prior mean  $y$  to obs is  $N\left(0, \sqrt{\lambda\sigma_{prior}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2}\right) = N(0, \theta)$

Prob  $y_0$  is observed given  $\lambda$ :  $p(y_o | \lambda) = (2\pi\theta^2)^{-1/2} \exp(-D^2/2\theta^2)$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

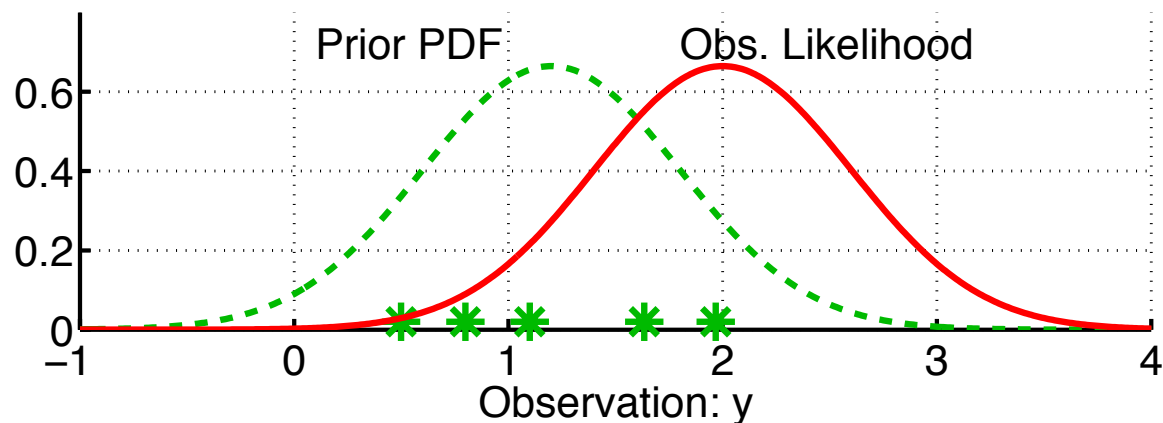
Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Assume prior is Gaussian:  $p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) = N(\bar{\lambda}_p, \sigma_{\lambda, p}^2)$

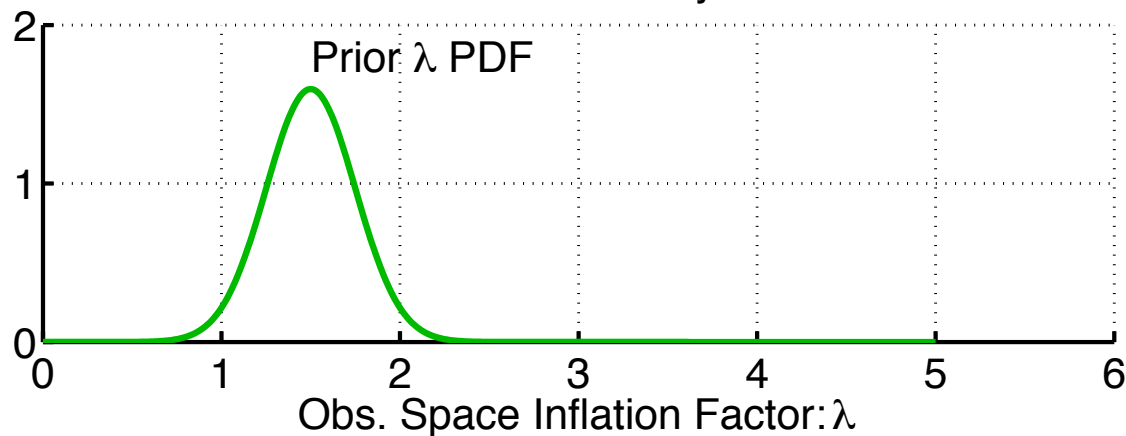
# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



We've assumed a Gaussian for prior.

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})$$

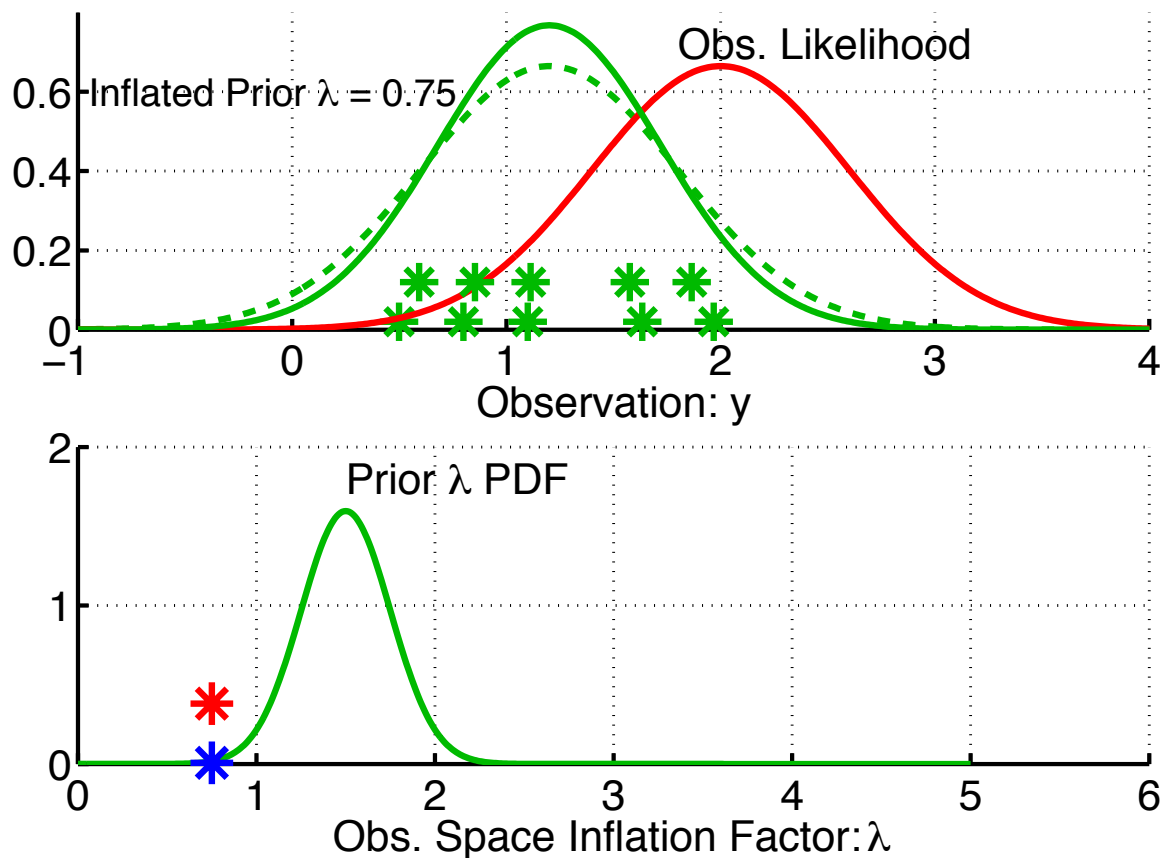


Recall that  $p(y_k | \lambda)$  can be evaluated From normal PDF.

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Get  $p(y_k | \lambda = 0.75)$   
from normal PDF.

Multiply by

$$p(\lambda = 0.75, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})$$

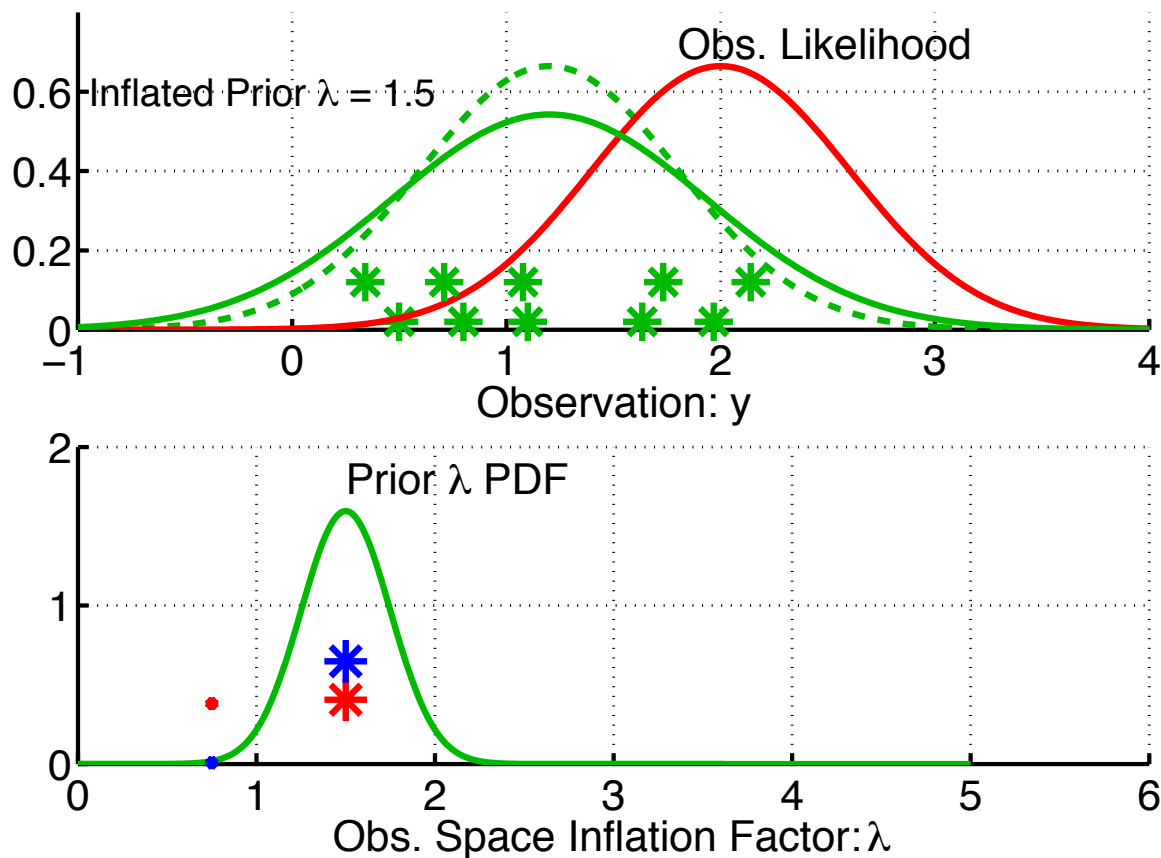
to get

$$p(\lambda = 0.75, t_k | Y_{t_k})$$

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Get  $p(y_k | \lambda = 1.50)$   
from normal PDF.

Multiply by

$$p(\lambda = 1.50, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})$$

to get

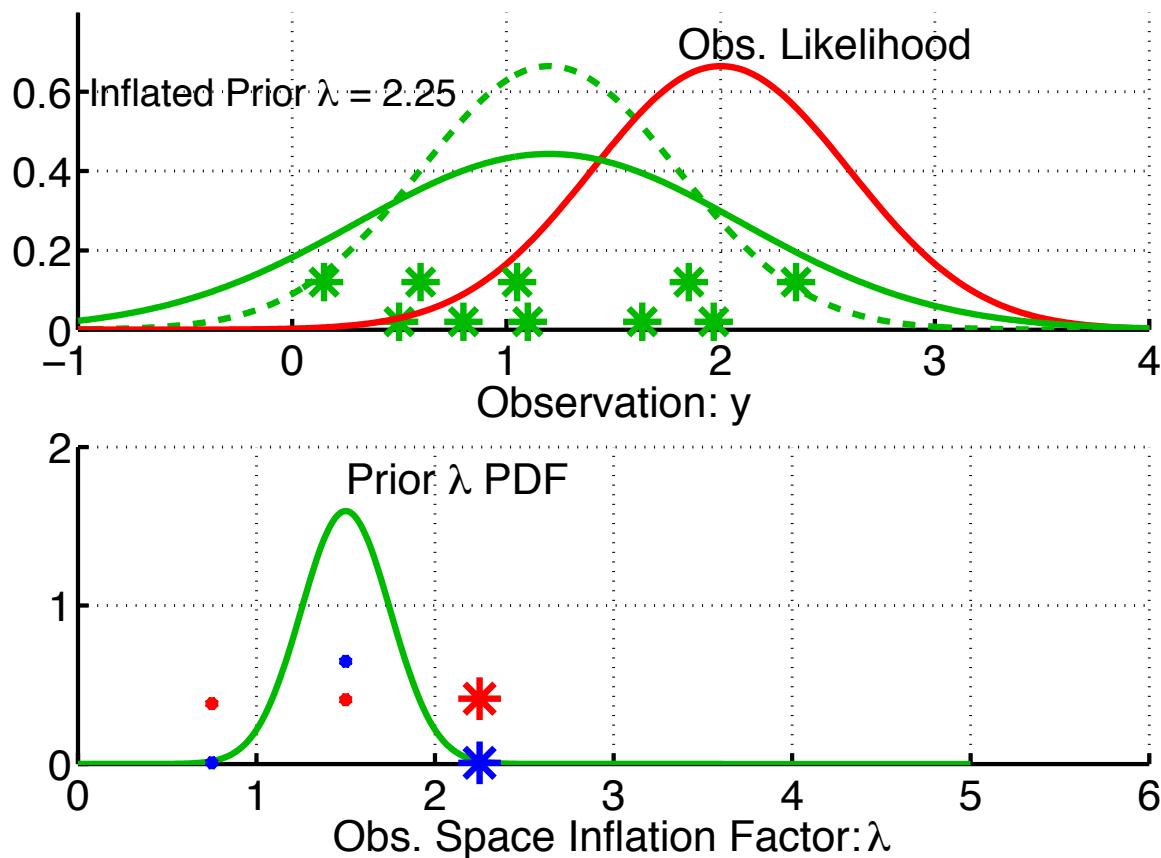
$$p(\lambda = 1.50, t_k | Y_{t_k})$$

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$



# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Get  $p(y_k | \lambda = 2.25)$   
from normal PDF.

Multiply by

$$p(\lambda = 2.25, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})$$

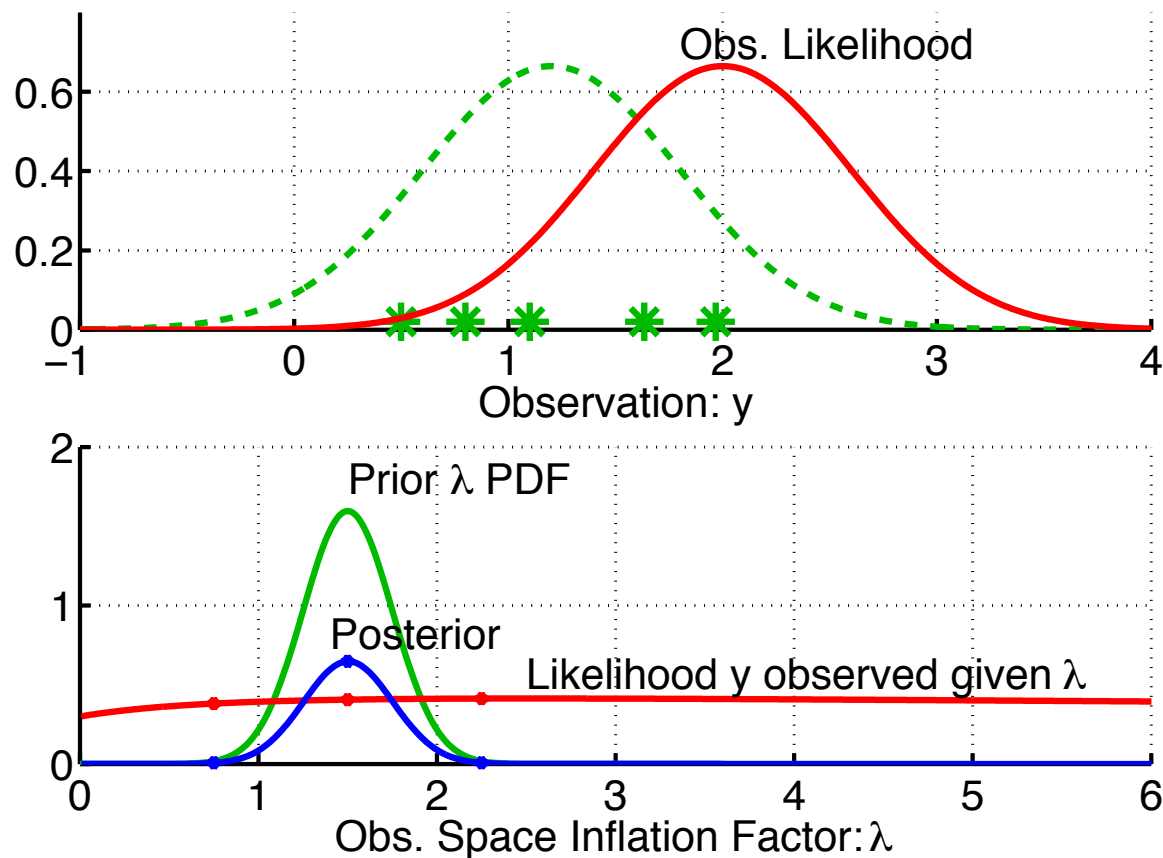
to get

$$p(\lambda = 2.25, t_k | Y_{t_k})$$

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



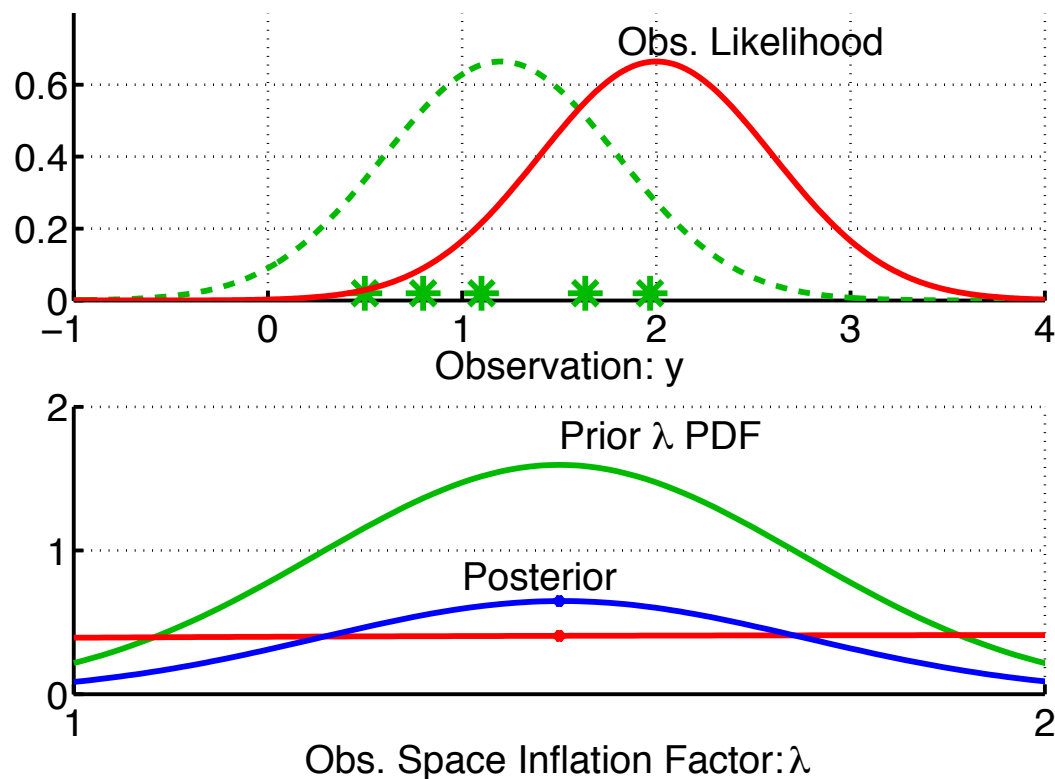
Repeat for a range of values of  $\lambda$ .

Now must get posterior in same form as prior (Gaussian).

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Very little information about  $\lambda$  in a single observation.

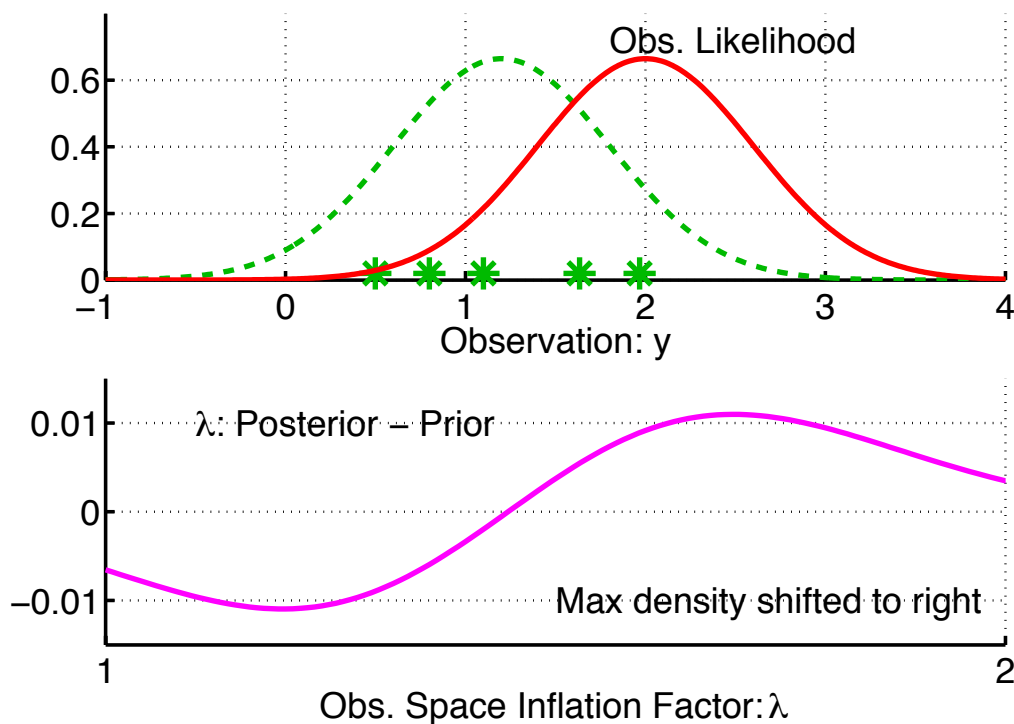
Posterior and prior are very similar.

Normalized posterior indistinguishable from prior.

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



Very little information about  $\lambda$  in a single observation.

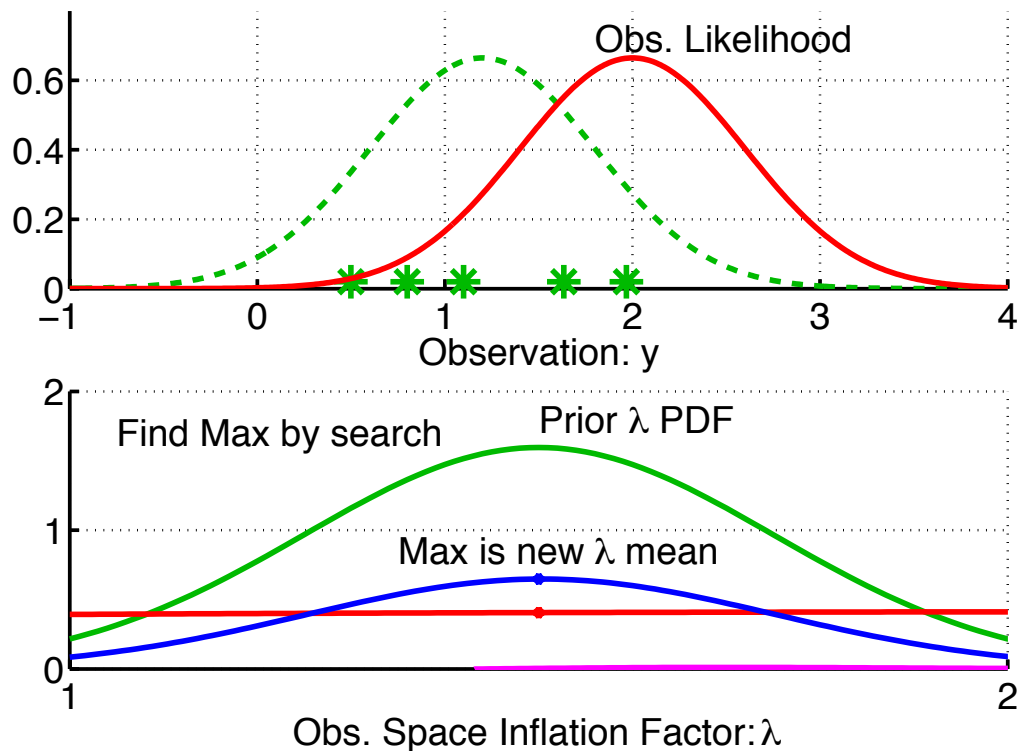
Posterior and prior are very similar.

Difference shows slight shift to larger values of  $\lambda$ .

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

Use Bayesian statistics to get estimate of inflation factor  $\lambda$ .



One option is to use Gaussian prior for  $\lambda$ .

Select max (mode) of posterior as mean of updated Gaussian.

Do a fit for updated standard deviation.

$$p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k}) = p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}}) / \textit{normalization}$$

# Variance inflation for observations: An adaptive error tolerant filter

A. Computing updated inflation mean,  $\bar{\lambda}_u$ .

Mode of  $p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})$  can be found analytically!

Solving  $\partial [p(y_k | \lambda) p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_{k-1}})] / \partial \lambda = 0$  leads to 6<sup>th</sup> order poly in  $\lambda$ .

This can be reduced to a cubic equation and solved to give mode.

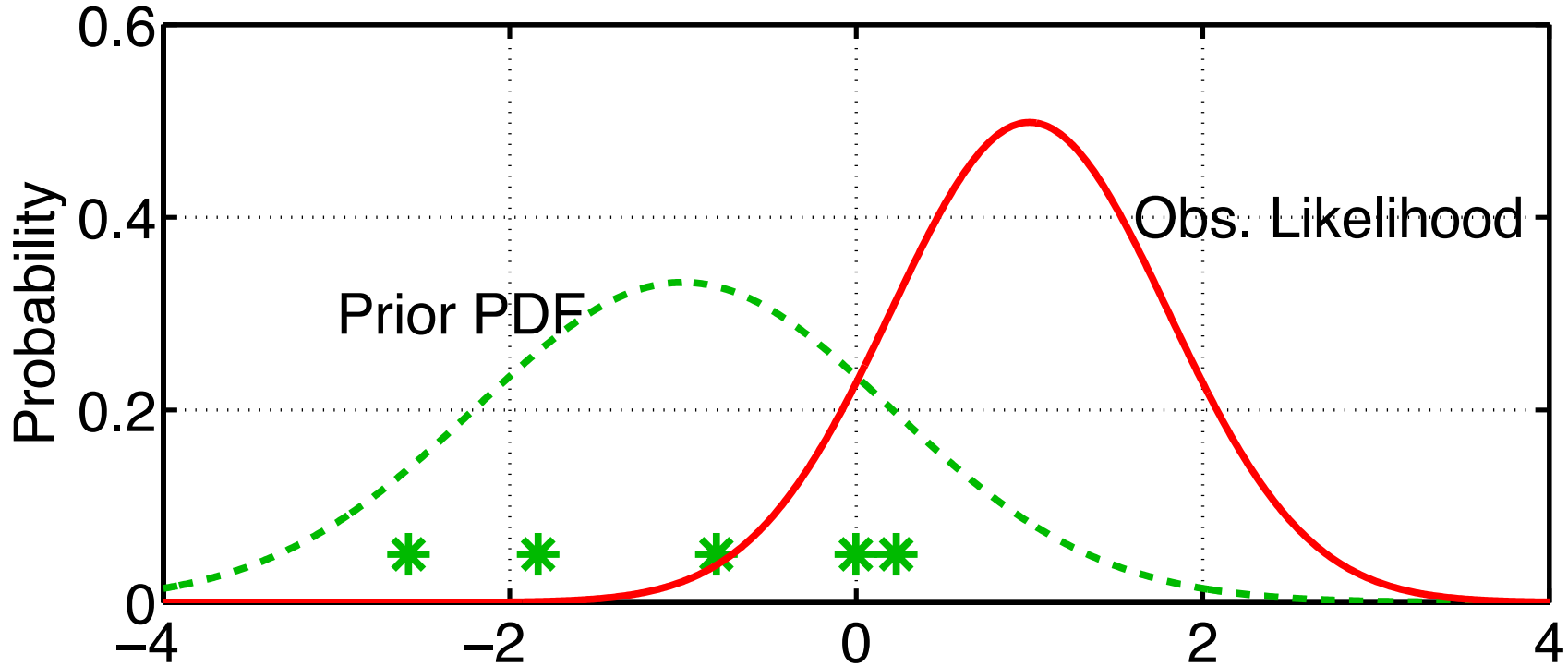
New  $\bar{\lambda}_u$  is set to the mode.

This is relatively cheap compared to computing regressions .

B. Computing updated inflation variance,  $\sigma_{\lambda,u}^2$  .

1. Evaluate numerator at mean  $\bar{\lambda}_u$  and second point, e.g.  $\bar{\lambda}_u + \sigma_{\lambda,p}$
2. Find  $\sigma_{\lambda,u}^2$  so  $N(\bar{\lambda}_u, \sigma_{\lambda,u}^2)$  goes through  $p(\bar{\lambda}_u)$  and  $p(\bar{\lambda}_u + \sigma_{\lambda,p})$
3. Compute as  $\sigma_{\lambda,u}^2 = -\sigma_{\lambda,p}^2 / 2 \ln r$  where  $r = p(\bar{\lambda}_u + \sigma_{\lambda,p}) / p(\bar{\lambda}_u)$

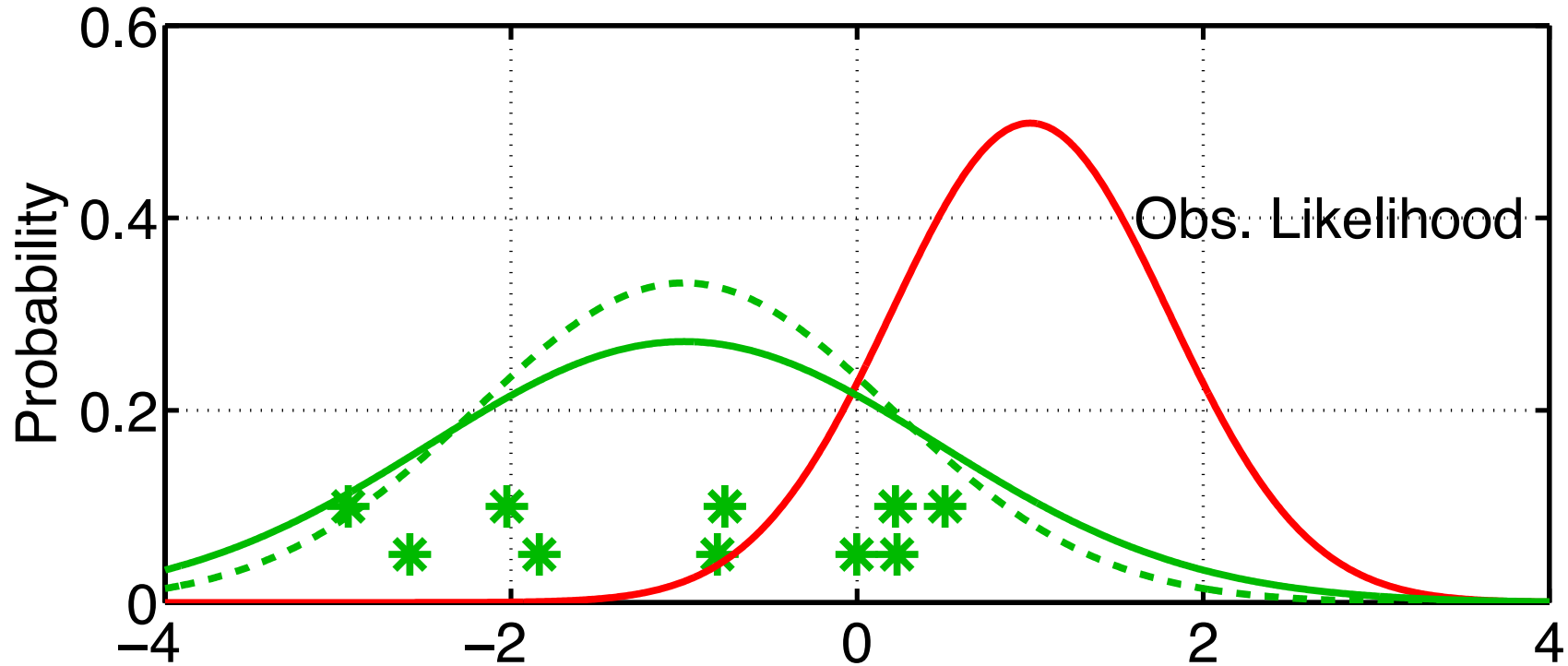
# Observation Space Computations with Adaptive Error Correction



1. Compute updated inflation distribution,  $p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k})$ .

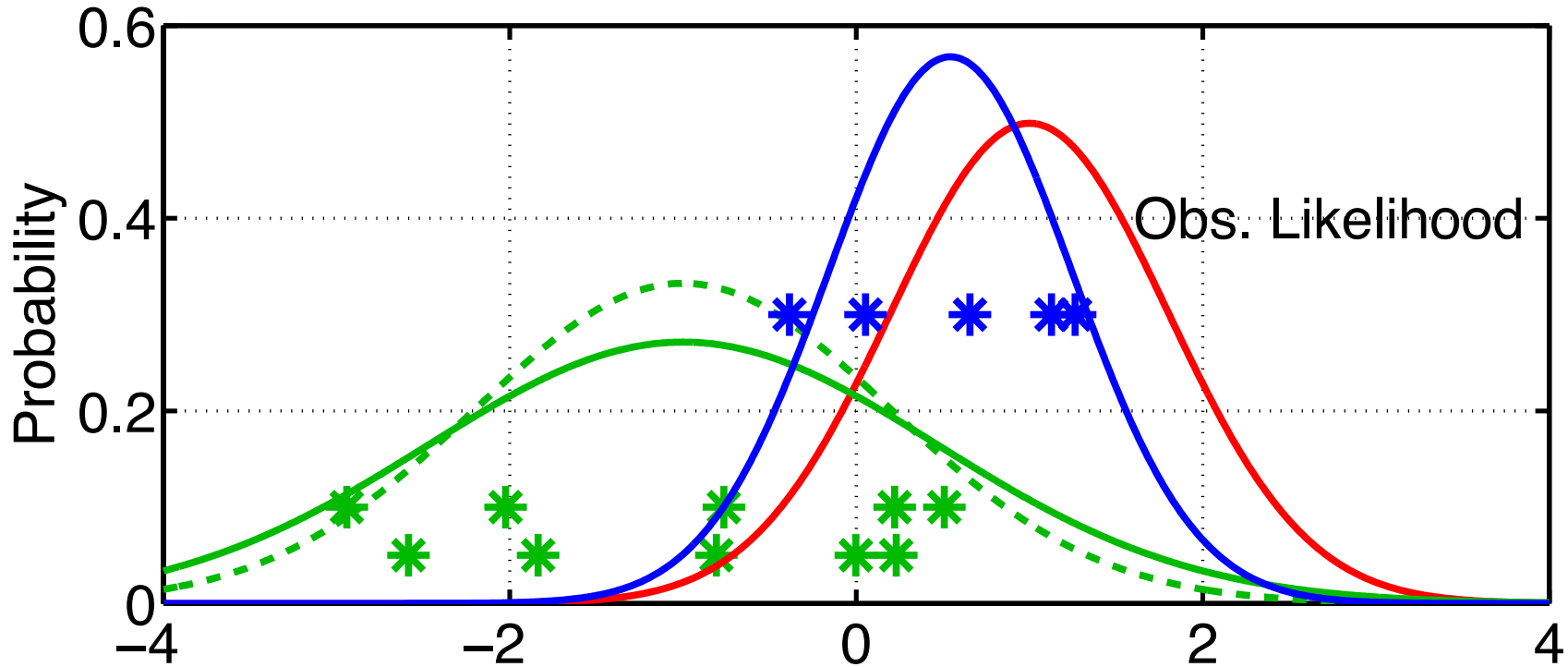


# Observation Space Computations with Adaptive Error Correction



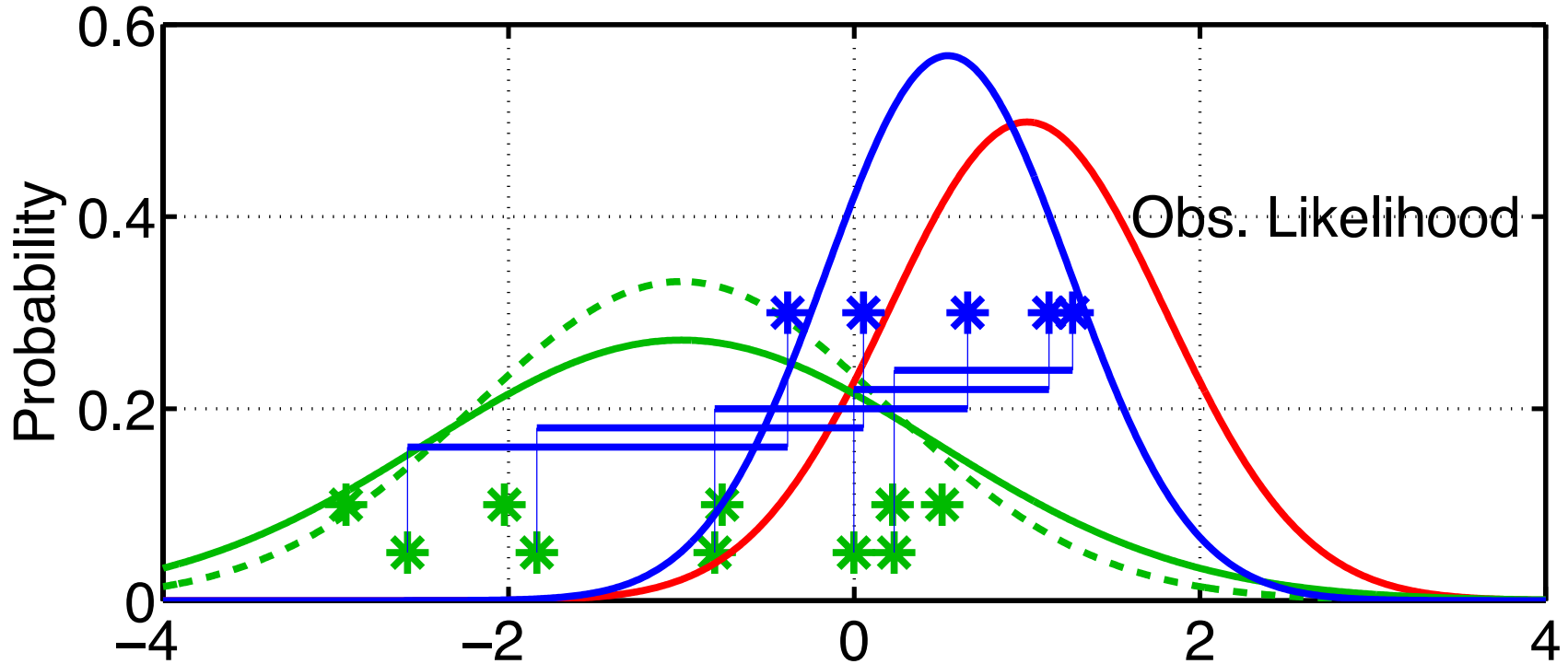
1. Compute updated inflation distribution,  $p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k})$ .
2. Inflate ensemble using mean of updated  $\lambda$  distribution.

# Observation Space Computations with Adaptive Error Correction



1. Compute updated inflation distribution,  $p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k})$ .
2. Inflate ensemble using mean of updated  $\lambda$  distribution.
3. Compute posterior for  $y$  using inflated prior.

# Observation Space Computations with Adaptive Error Correction



1. Compute updated inflation distribution,  $p(\lambda, t_k | Y_{t_k})$ .
2. Inflate ensemble using mean of updated  $\lambda$  distribution.
3. Compute posterior for  $y$  using inflated prior.
4. Compute increments from ORIGINAL prior ensemble.

# Adaptive Observation Space Inflation in DART

Observation space adaptive inflation is not supported in DART Manhattan release

# Potential problems with observation space adaptive inflation

1. Very heuristic.
2. Error model filter divergence (pretty hard to think about).
3. Equilibration problems, oscillations in  $\lambda$  with time.
4. Not clear that single distribution for all observations is right.
5. Amplifying unwanted model resonances (gravity waves)

# Adaptive State Space Inflation Algorithm

Suppose we want a global state space inflation,  $\lambda_s$ , instead.

Make same least squares assumption that is used in ensemble filter.

Inflation of  $\lambda_s$  for state variables inflates obs. priors by same amount.

Get same likelihood as before:  $p(y_o | \lambda) = (2\pi\theta^2)^{-1/2} \exp(-D^2/2\theta^2)$

$$\theta = \sqrt{\lambda_s \sigma_{prior}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2}$$

Compute updated distribution for  $\lambda_s$  exactly as for observation space.

# Implementation of Adaptive State Space Inflation Algorithm

1. Apply inflation to state variables with mean of  $\lambda_s$  distribution.
2. Do following for observations at given time sequentially:
  - a. Compute forward operator to get prior ensemble.
  - b. Compute updated estimate for  $\lambda_s$  mean and variance.
  - c. Compute increments for prior ensemble.
  - d. Regress increments onto state variables.

# Experimenting with spatially-constant state space inflation

	Before Assimilation	After Assimilation	
inf_flavor	= 3,	0,	<b>Flavor:</b> 0=> NONE 2=> varying state space 3=> constant state space
inf_initial_from_restart	= .false.,	.false.,	
inf_sd_initial_from_restart	= .false.,	.false.,	
inf_deterministic	= .true.,	.true.,	
inf_initial	= 1.00,	1.0,	Initial inflation value
inf_sd_initial	= 0.2,	0.0,	Initial standard deviation
inf_damping	= 1.0,	1.0,	
inf_lower_bound	= 1.0,	1.0,	
inf_upper_bound	= 1000000.0,	1000000.0,	
inf_sd_lower_bound	= 0.0,	0.0,	Lower bound on s.d.
	prior inflation	posterior inflation	

Try this in Lorenz 96 (verify other aspects of *input.nml*).

Use 40 member ensemble. (set *ens\_size* = 40 in *&filter\_nml*).

Set red values as above for adaptive spatially-constant state space inflation.



# Experimenting with spatially-constant state space inflation

Run the filter:

Examine performance with *plot\_total\_err* in Matlab.

Time series of inflation mean and standard deviation are in *preassim.nc* file:

- This can be viewed with *ncview* (more on this later).
- Inflation adjusts with time.
- Inflation standard deviation is non-increasing with time.
- This file also has time series of the ensemble.

Final values of inflation for restart are in *filter\_output.nc* file.

# Adaptive Inflation Algorithmic Variants

1. Increase prior state variance by adding random Gaussian noise.

As opposed to 'deterministic' linear inflating.

Set *inf\_deterministic* in first column to `.false.`

Change it back to `.true.` after checking this out.

2. Just have a fixed value for state space  $\lambda$ .

Constant in space and time.

Cheap, handles blow up of state vars unconstrained by obs.

We already tried this in section 9.

Set *inflate\_sd\_initial* and *inf\_sd\_lower\_bound* to 0.

Set *inf\_initial* to desired inflation value.

# Adaptive Inflation Algorithmic Variants

3. Fix value of  $\lambda$  standard deviation,  $\sigma_\lambda$ .

Reduces cost, computation of  $\sigma_\lambda$  can sometimes be tricky.

Avoids  $\sigma_\lambda$  getting small (error model filter divergence, Yikes!).

Have to have some intuition about the value for  $\sigma_\lambda$ .

This appears to be most viable option for large models.

Values of  $\sigma_\lambda = 0.10$  to  $0.60$  work for very broad range of problems.

This is a sampling error closure problem (akin to turbulence).

To fix  $\sigma_\lambda$  :

Set *inflate\_sd\_initial* to fixed value, for instance 0.20,

Set *inflate\_sd\_lower\_bound* to same value.

(s.d. can't get any smaller).

Try this in Lorenz 96. Look at how the inflation varies.

# Adaptive Inflation Algorithmic Variants

## 4. Inflation damping

Inflation mean damped towards 1.0 every assimilation time.

Set by namelist entry *inf\_damping*.

*inf\_damping* = 0.9: 90% of the inflation difference from 1.0 is retained.

Can be useful in models with heterogeneous observations in time.

For instance, a well-observed hurricane crosses a model domain.

Adaptive inflation increases along hurricane trace.

After hurricane, fewer observations, no longer need so much inflation.

For large earth system models, following values may work:

*inf\_sd\_initial* = 0.6,

*inf\_damping* = 0.9,

*inf\_sd\_lower\_bound* = 0.6.

# Simulating Model Error in 40-Variable Lorenz 96 Model

Inflation can deal with all sorts of errors, including model error.

Can simulate model error in Lorenz 96 by changing forcing.  
Synthetic observations are from model with forcing = 8.0.

Use *forcing* in *model\_nml* to introduce model error.

Try forcing values of 7, 6, 5, 3 with and without adaptive inflation.

The  $F = 3$  model is periodic, looks very little like  $F = 8$ .

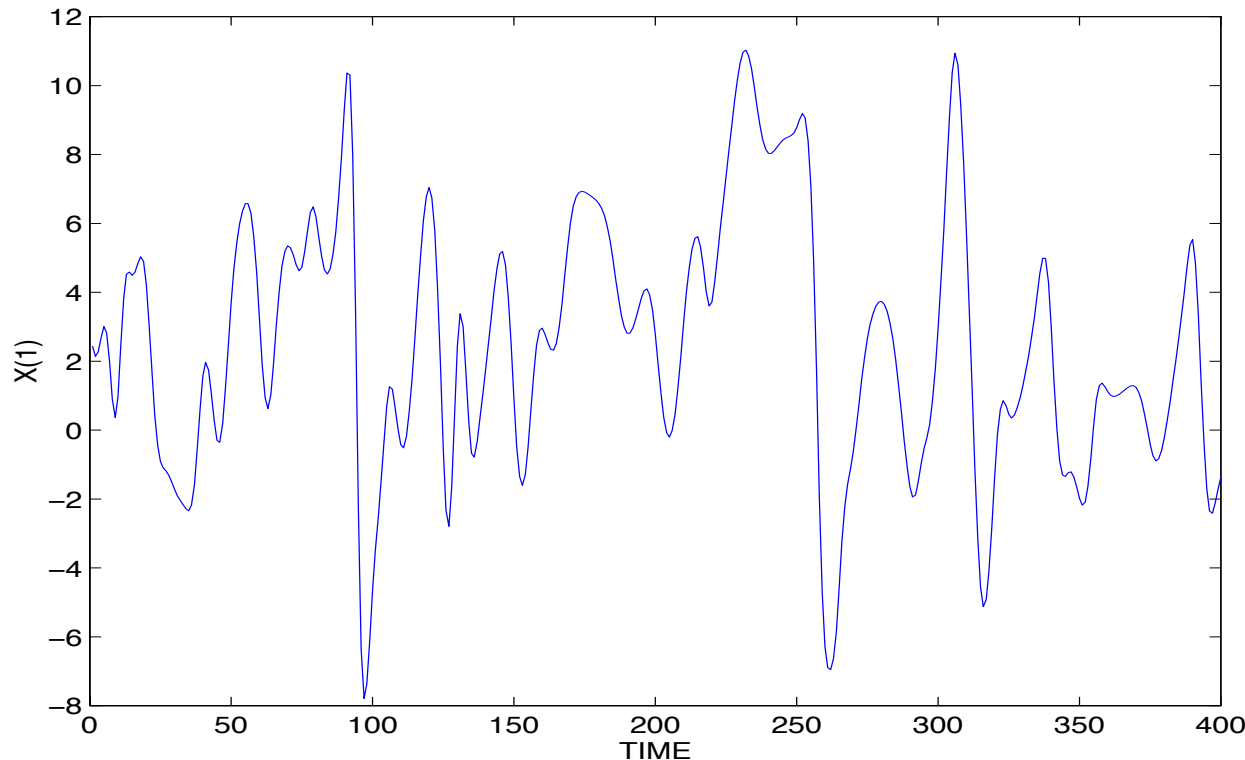
# Simulating Model Error in 40-Variable Lorenz 96 Model

40 state variables:  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N$ .

$$dX_i / dt = (X_{i+1} - X_{i-2})X_{i-1} - X_i + F;$$

$i = 1, \dots, 40$  with cyclic indices.

Use  $F = 8.0$ , 4th-order Runge-Kutta with  $dt=0.05$ .



Time series of  
state variable from  
free Lorenz 96  
integration

# Experimental design: Lorenz 96 Model Error Simulation

Truth and observations comes from long run with  $F=8$

200 randomly located (fixed in time) 'observing locations'

Independent 1.0 observation error variance

Observations every hour

$\sigma_\lambda$  is 0.05, mean of  $\lambda$  adjusts but variance is fixed

4 groups of 20 members each (80 ensemble members total)

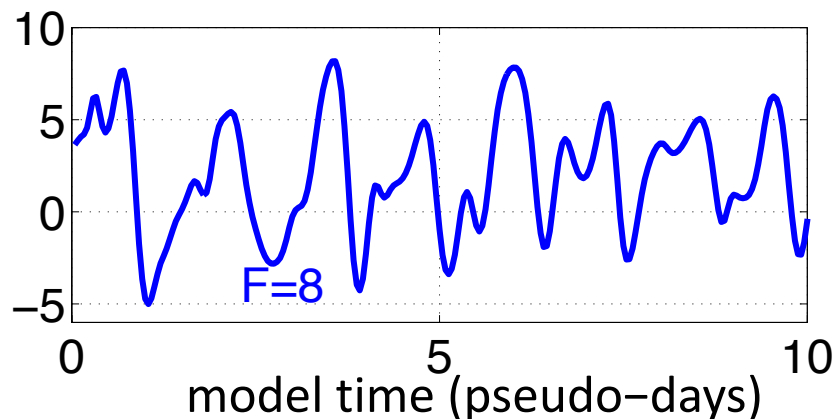
Results from 10 days after 40 day spin-up

Vary assimilating model forcing:  $F=8, 6, 3, 0$

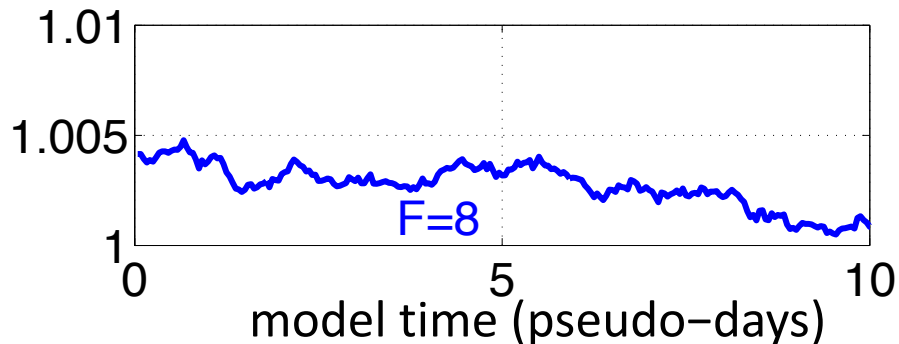
Simulates increasing model error

# Assimilating F=8 Truth with F=8 Ensemble

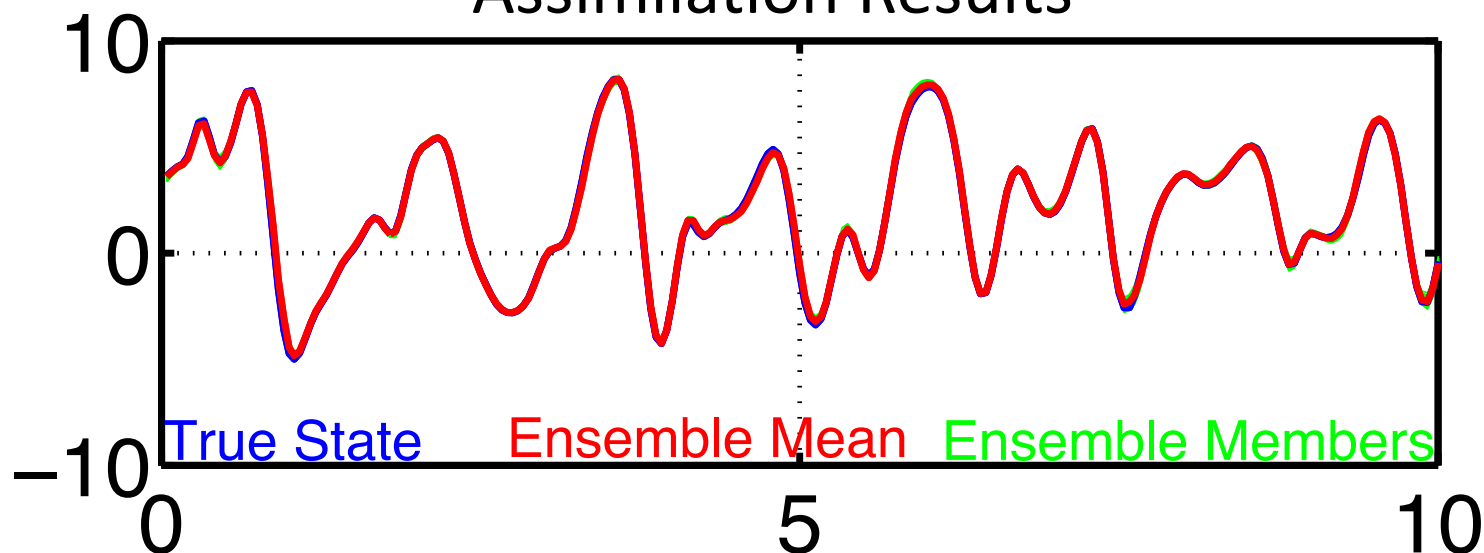
## Model time series



## Mean value of $\lambda$



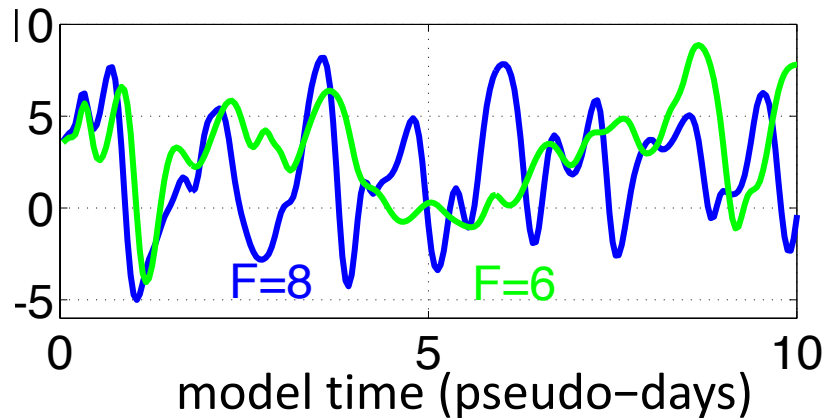
## Assimilation Results



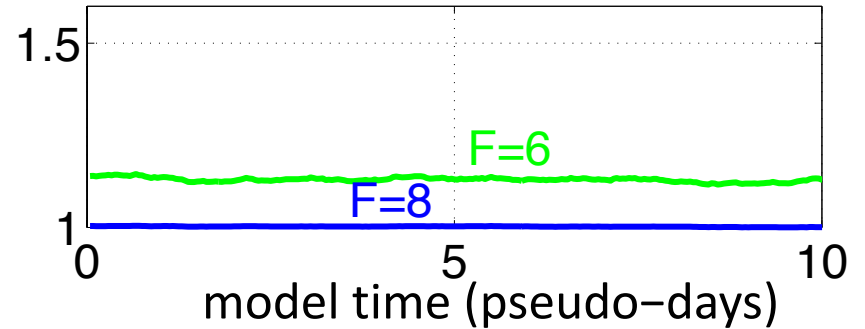


# Assimilating F=8 Truth with F=6 Ensemble

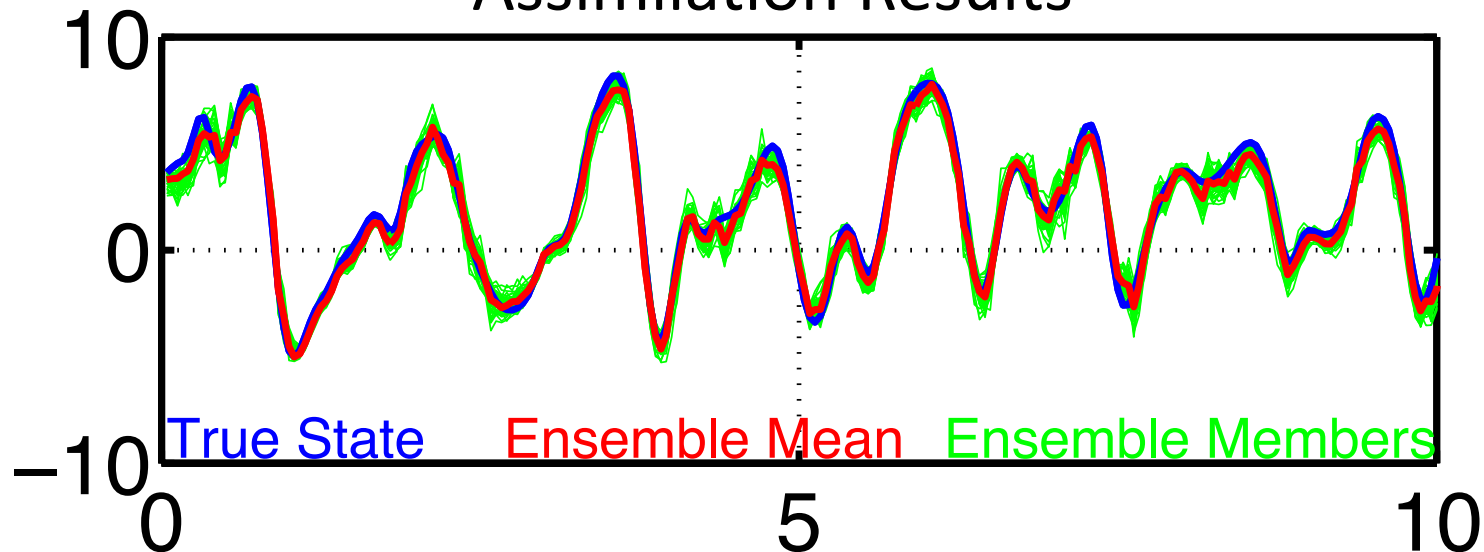
## Model time series



## Mean value of $\lambda$

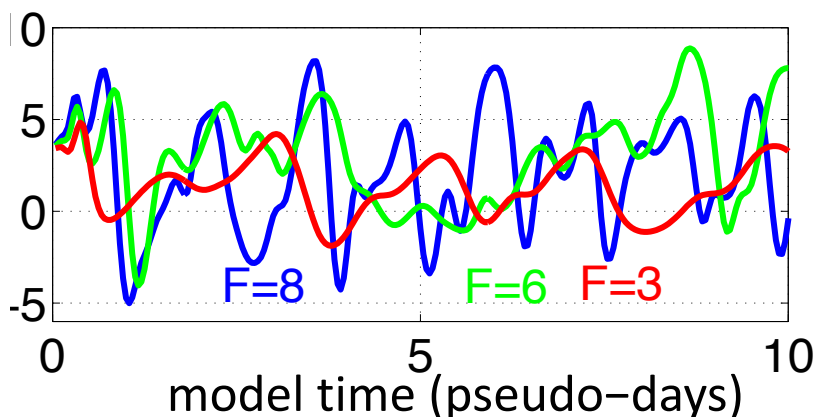


## Assimilation Results

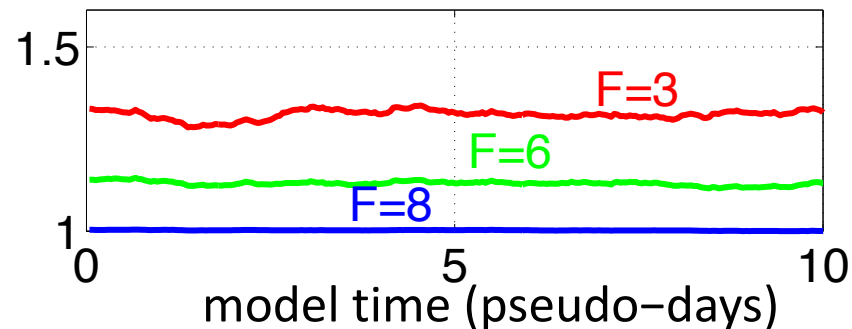


# Assimilating F=8 Truth with F=3 Ensemble

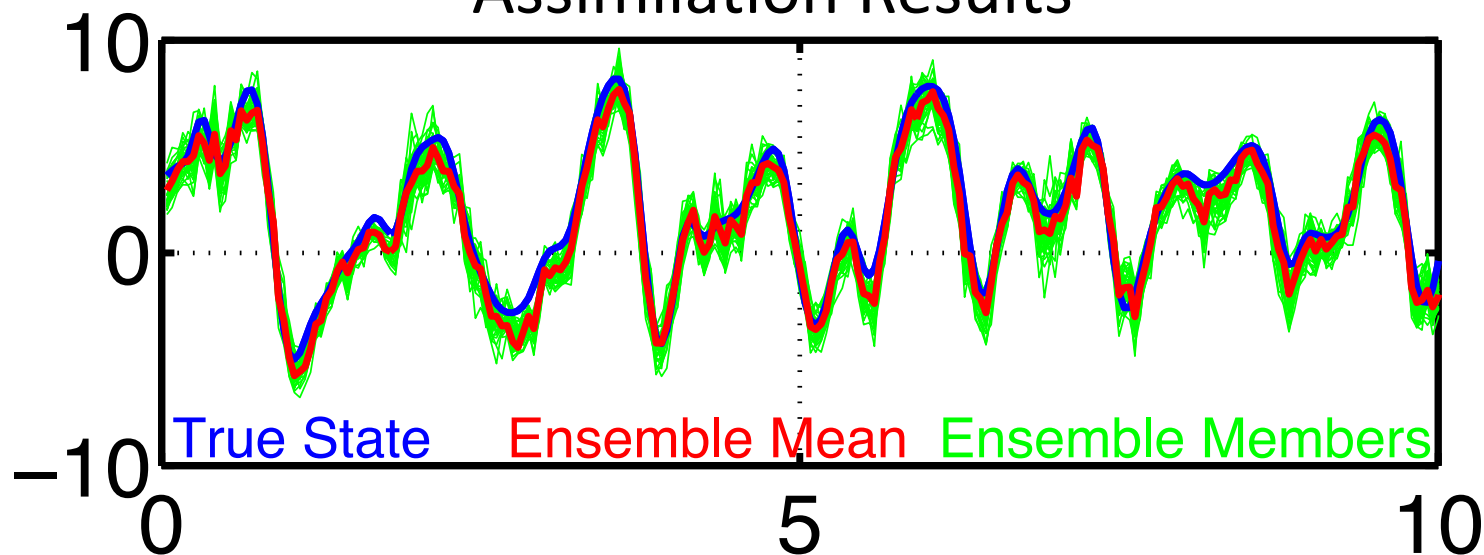
## Model time series



## Mean value of $\lambda$

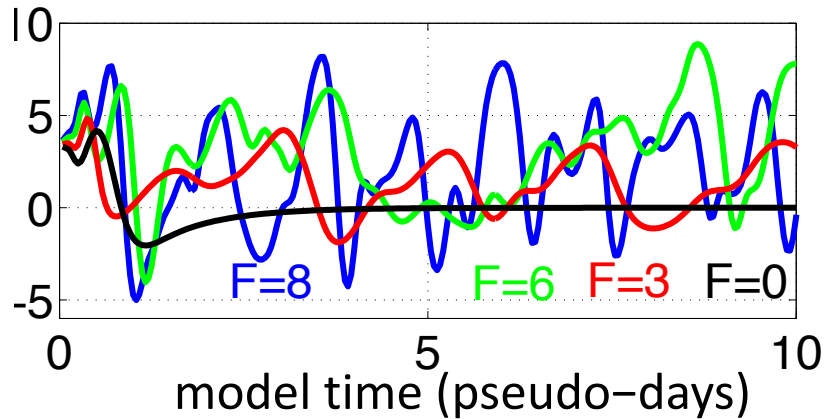


## Assimilation Results

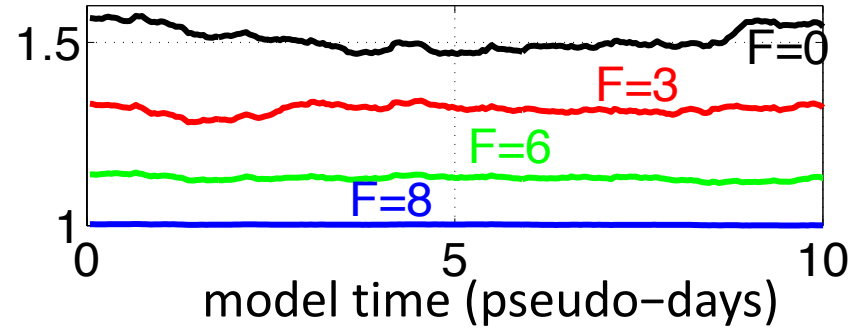


# Assimilating F=8 Truth with F=0 Ensemble

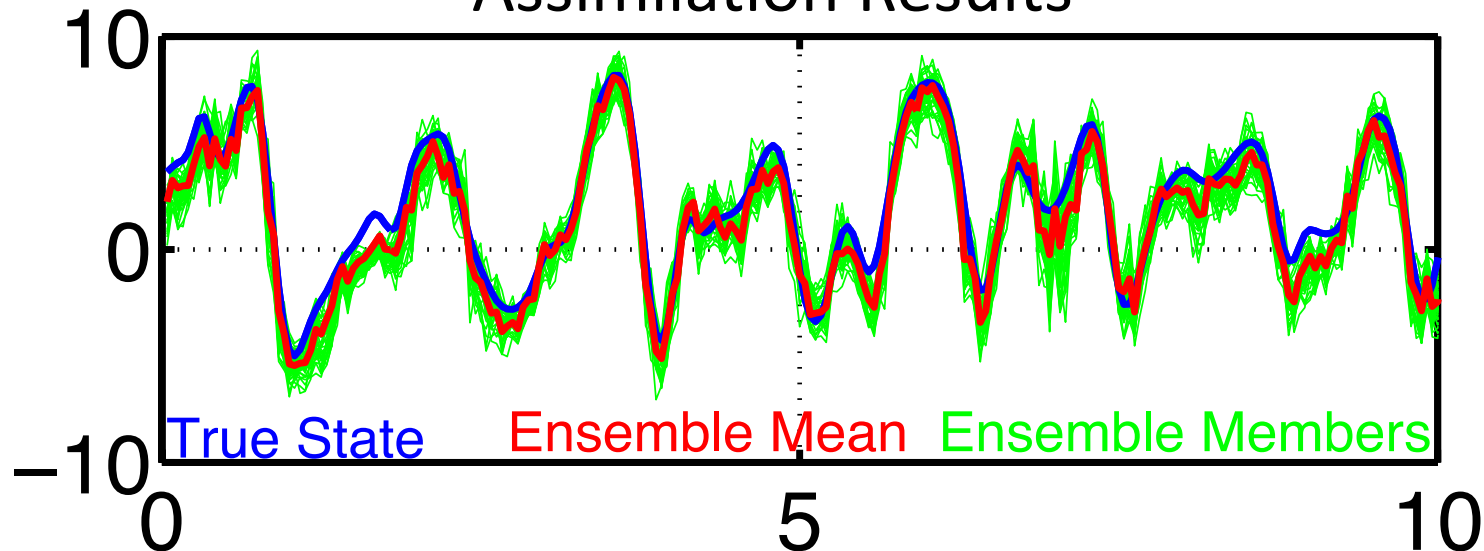
## Model time series



## Mean value of $\lambda$

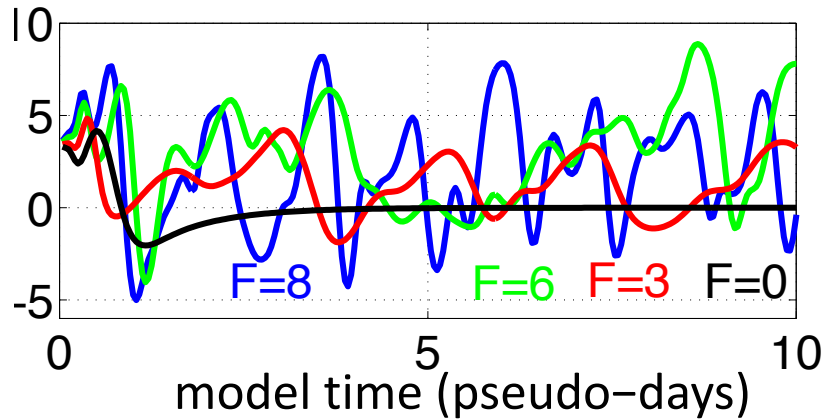


## Assimilation Results

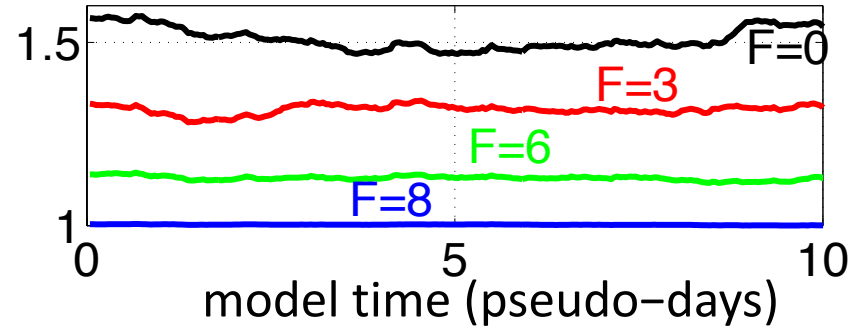


# Assimilating F=8 Truth with F=0 Ensemble

## Model time series

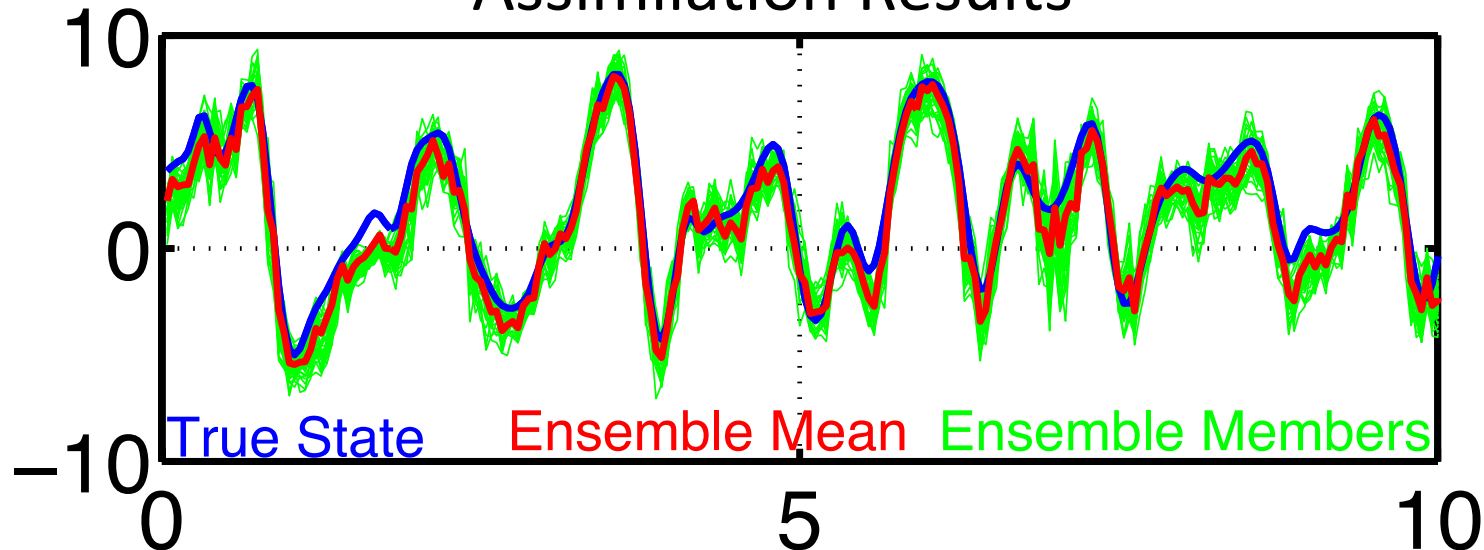


## Mean value of $\lambda$

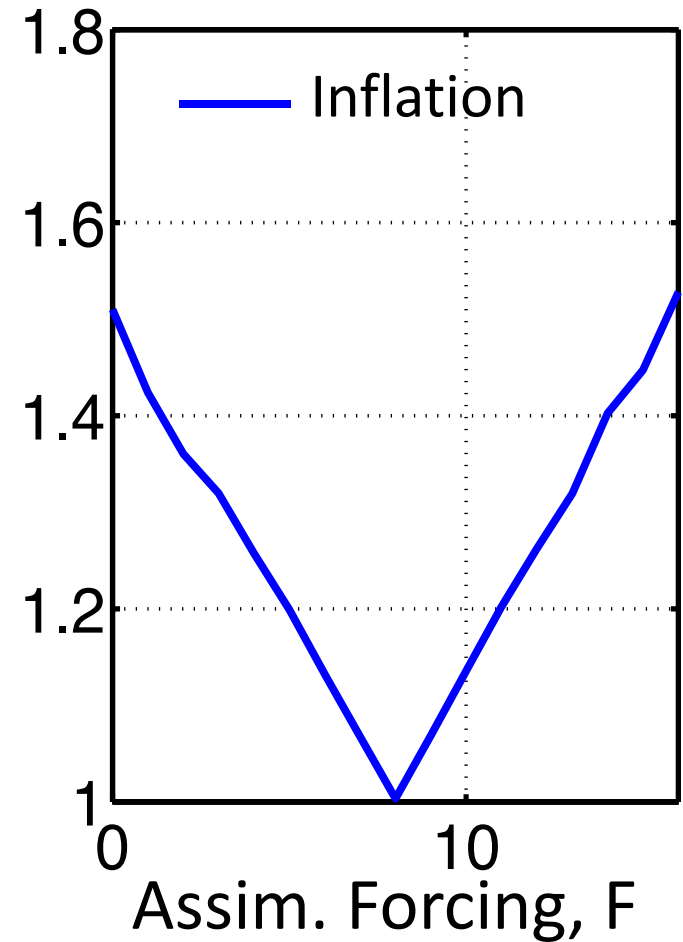
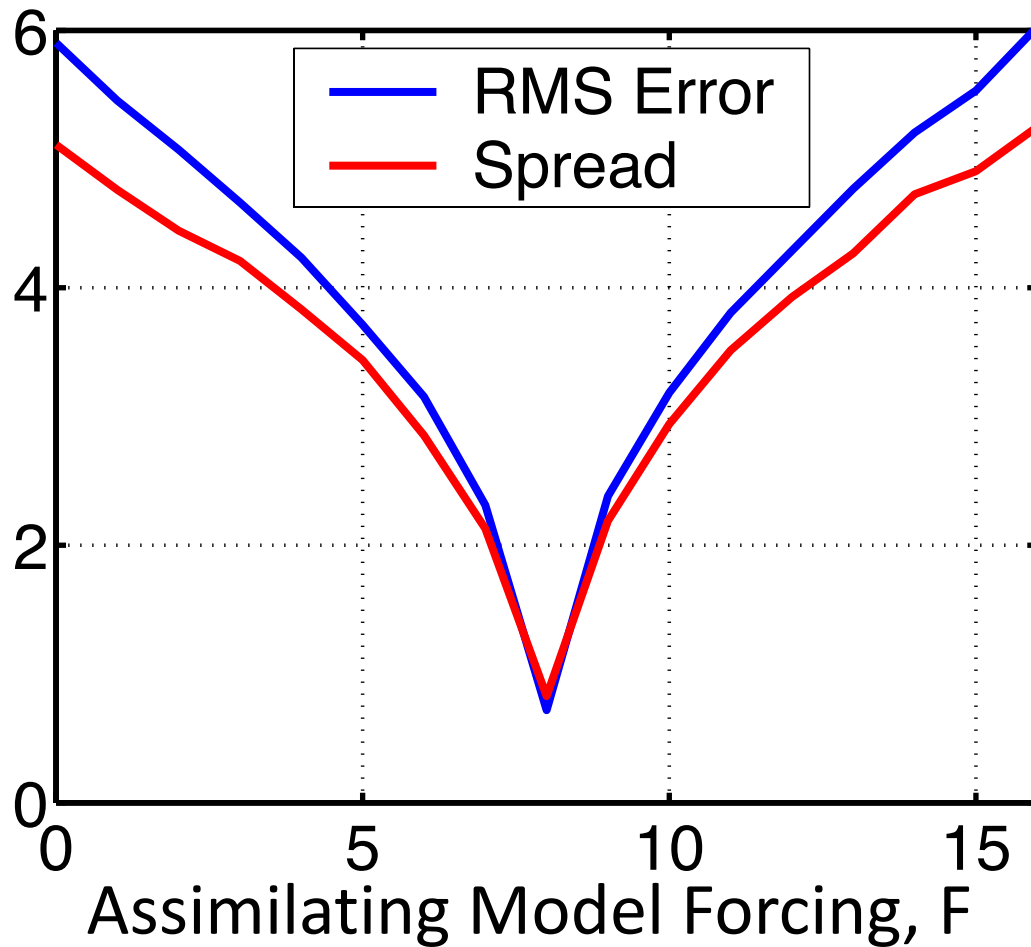


**Prior RMS Error, Spread, and  $\lambda$  Grow as Model Error Grows**

## Assimilation Results



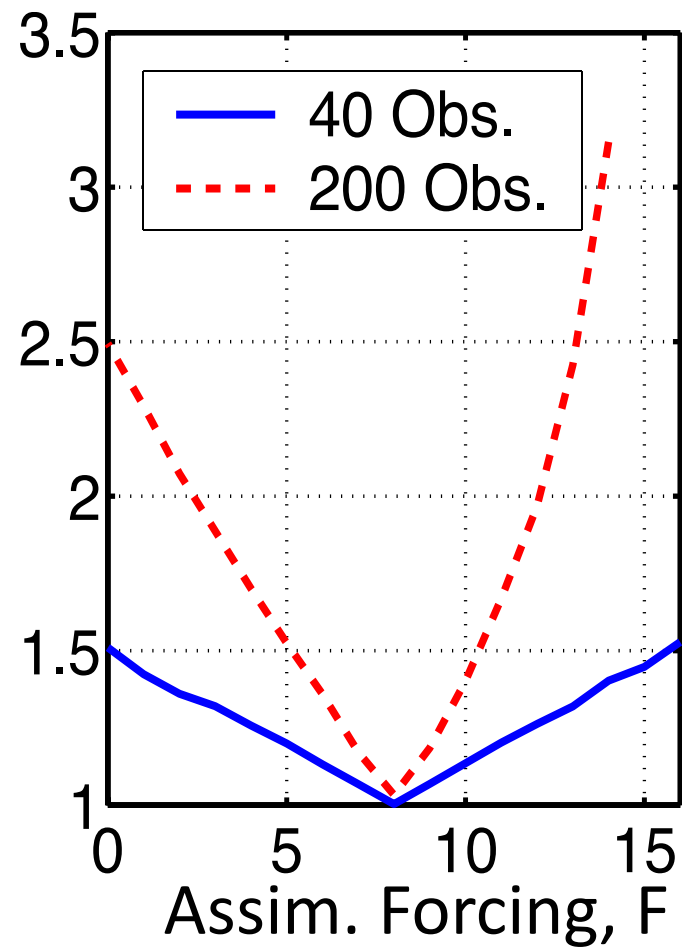
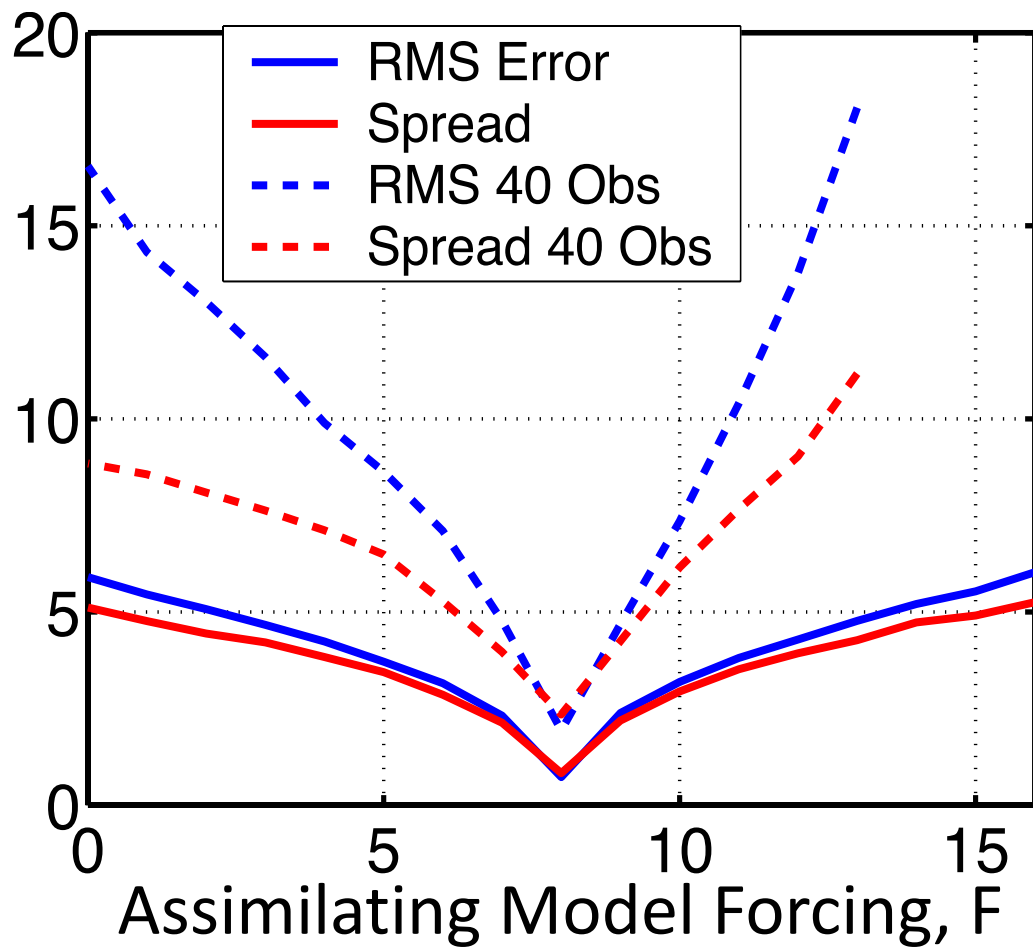
# Base case: 200 randomly located observations per time



(Error saturation is approximately 30.0)

Prior RMS Error, Spread, and  $\lambda$  Grow as Model Error Grows

# Less well observed case, 40 randomly located obs per time



# Spatially varying adaptive inflation algorithm

Have a distribution for  $\lambda$  for each state variable,  $\lambda_{s,i}$ .

Use prior correlation from ensemble to determine impact of  $\lambda_{s,i}$  on prior variance for given observation.

If  $\gamma$  is correlation between state variable  $i$  and observation then

$$\theta = \sqrt{\left[1 + \gamma \left(\sqrt{\lambda_{s,i}} - 1\right)\right]^2 \sigma_{prior}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2}$$

Equation for finding mode of posterior is now full 12th order:

Analytic solution appears unlikely.

Can do Taylor expansion of  $\theta$  around  $\lambda_{s,i}$ .

Retaining linear term is normally quite accurate.

There is an analytic solution to find mode of product in this case!

# Experimenting with spatially-varying state space inflation

## Before Assimilation

inf\_flavor = 2,  
inf\_initial\_from\_restart = .false.,  
inf\_sd\_initial\_from\_restart = .false.,  
inf\_deterministic = .true.,  
inf\_initial = 1.00,  
inf\_sd\_initial = 0.2,  
inf\_damping = 1.0,  
inf\_lower\_bound = 1.0,  
inf\_upper\_bound = 1000000.0,  
inf\_sd\_lower\_bound = 0.0,

## After Assimilation

0,  
.false.,  
.false.,  
.true.,  
1.0, Initial inflation value  
0.0, Initial standard deviation  
1.0,  
1.0,  
1000000.0,  
0.0, Lower bound on s.d.

Flavor:	2=> varying state space
	3=> constant state space
	0=> NONE

models/lorenz\_96/work/

Try this in Lorenz 96 (verify other aspects of *input.nml*).

Use 40 member ensemble. (set *ens\_size* = 40 in *filter.nml*).

Set red values as above for adaptive spatially-varying state space inflation.



# Experimenting with spatially-varying state space inflation

Can try this with the other algorithmic variants.

Spatially-varying adaptive inflation is the most common choice in DART for large earth system models.

# Posterior Inflation

So far, we've always used the first column of the inflation namelist.  
Inflation is performed after model advances but before assimilation.  
Can also do posterior inflation using second column.  
This does inflation after assimilation but before model advance.  
Helps to increase variance in forecasts.

Can also do both prior and posterior inflation (use both columns).  
Diagnostics are in same files with 'post' instead of 'prior'.

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