

# Examples

## Modelling

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# Introduction: Ecological Research

- ▶ Basic problem: Understanding processes not directly observable.
- ▶ Representation: Models with parameters ( $\theta$ ) and latent states.
- ▶ Observations ( $y$ ): Quantities that we can observe.
- ▶ Objective: Discover the probability distribution of unobserved  $\theta$  given observed data ( $\theta|y$ ).

# Representation of Unobserved Processes

- ▶ Models consist of parameters ( $\theta$ ) and latent states.
- ▶ Notation:  $\theta$ .
- ▶ Observations ( $y$ ): Treated as random variables before observation.

# Probability Distributions

- ▶ Data before observation: Random variables.
- ▶ Probability distribution of observing data given  $\theta$ :  $[y|\theta]$ .
- ▶  $\theta$  as a random variable: Governed by probability distribution  $[\theta]$ .

## Objective: Discovering $\theta|y$

- ▶ Discovering the probability distribution of unobserved  $\theta$  given observed data.
- ▶ Notation:  $\theta|y$ .



