

Hierarchical Bayesian Continuous Time Dynamic Models

September 2018

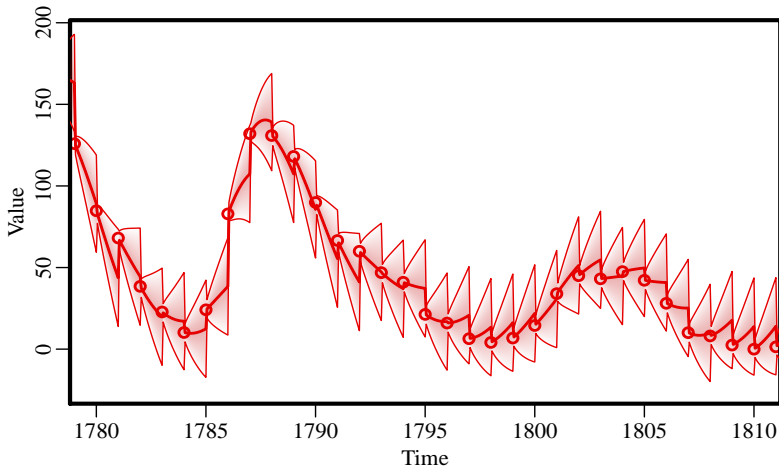
Charles Driver

Max Planck Institute for Human Development





- Model in which the present state depends in some way on the previous state, and an error / uncertainty component





Why use dynamic systems approaches?





- Theories implicitly (or explicitly) dynamic.



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- Mapping fuzzy theory to dynamic system highlights gaps, helps ensure coherent, testable, incrementally improvable theory.





■ Pre register





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- Test





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| Ice cream for all





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- See Tal Yarkoni, Paul Meehl, no doubt others – long running issues!

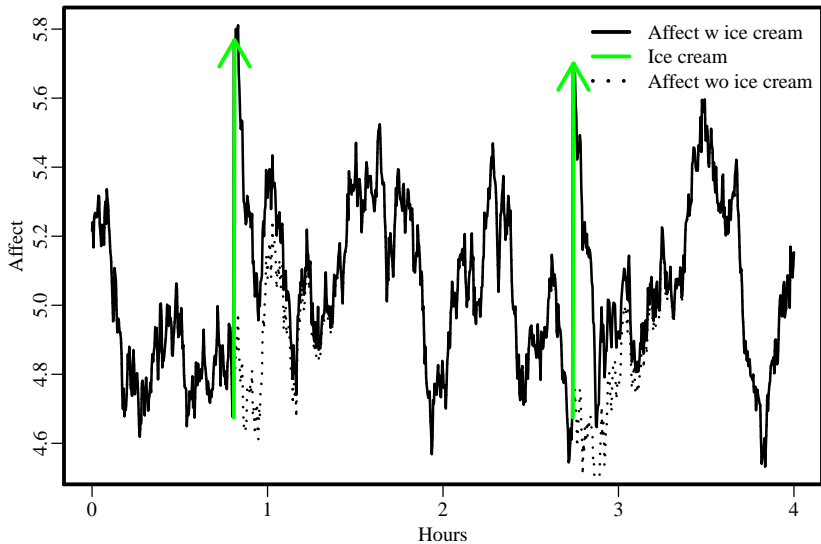


How to resolve?



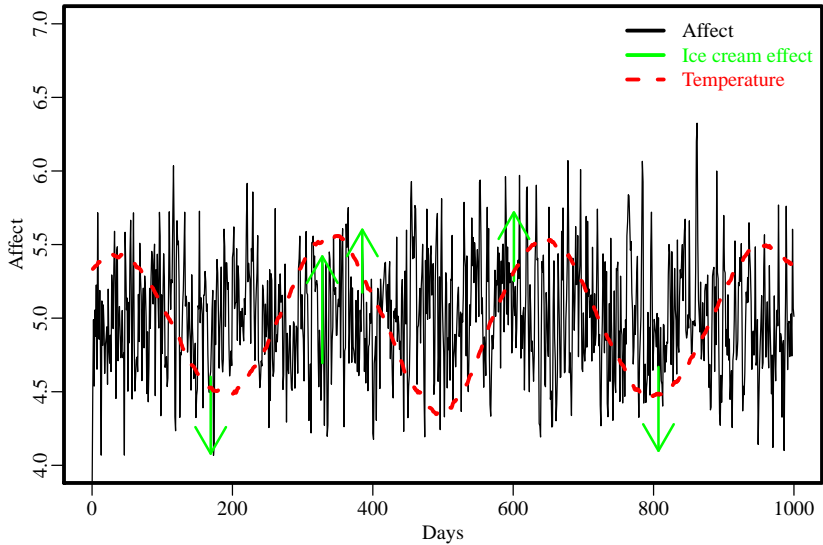


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Other factors?





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- Reduce hand waving and vagueness – away from simple nulls towards numerically grounded theory.
- I'm convinced! How to do it?

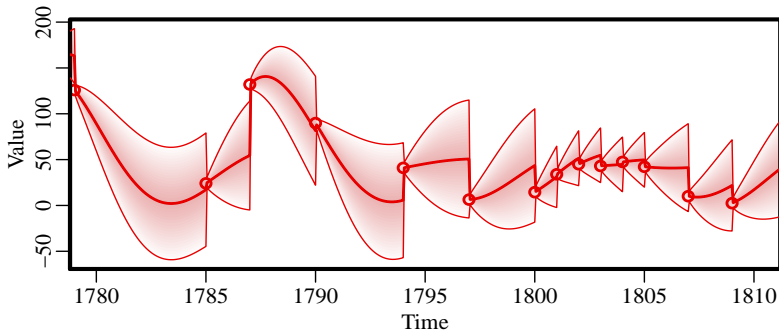


Discrete vs continuous time



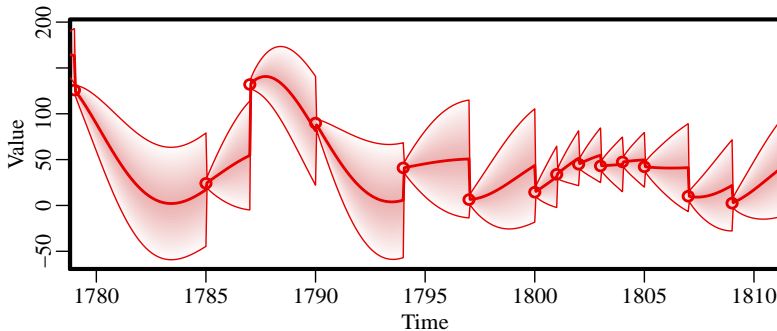


- Typical, discrete time approaches to dynamic modelling (e.g. latent change, autoregressive) directly model the dependence of later states on earlier states. $\eta_t = A\eta_{t-1} + b + \zeta(t)$





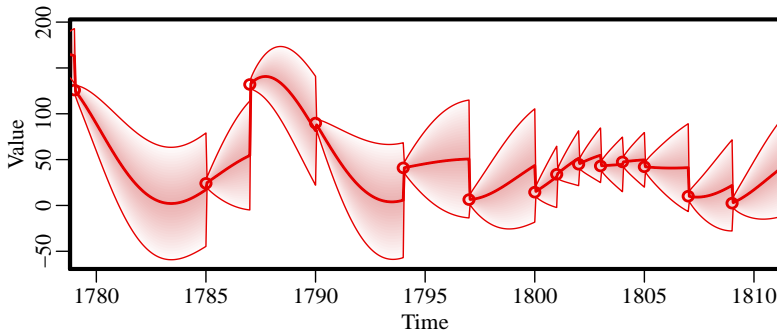
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- Continuous time (differential equation) approaches model the *direction of change* given the current state. $d\eta(t) = A\eta(t) + b + \zeta(t)$
- Expectations regarding future states are then a deterministic function of underlying continuous time parameters and the time interval between measurements.

$$\eta_t = A^* \eta_{t-1} + b^* + \zeta^*(t)$$







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- Downsides:
 - More mathematically demanding than autoregressive / latent change approaches, more computationally demanding in general.



Individual differences

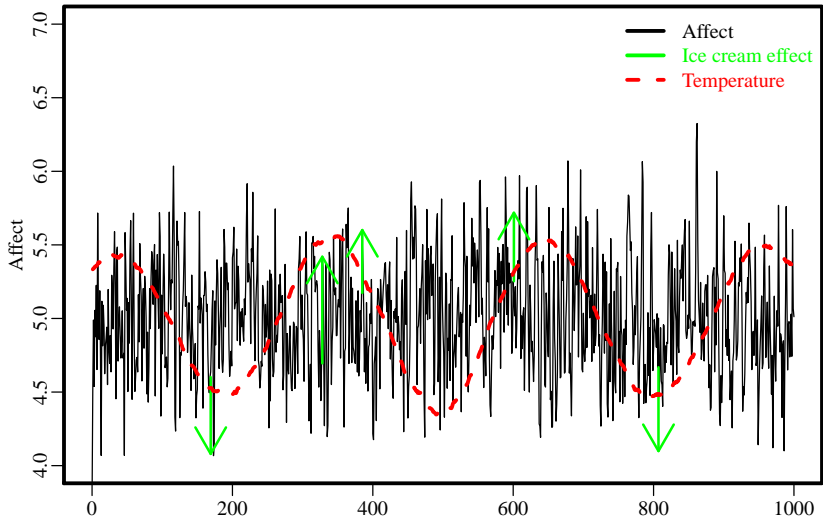




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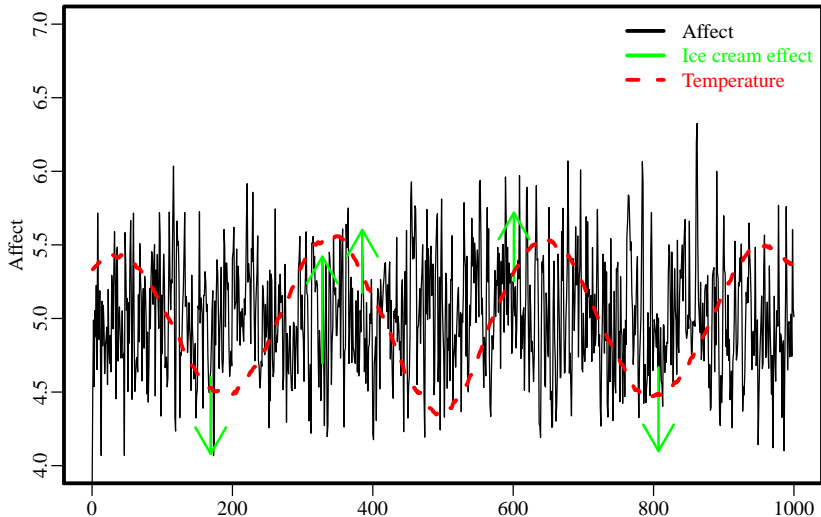


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- They can vary depending on time scale.
- They make estimation trickier.



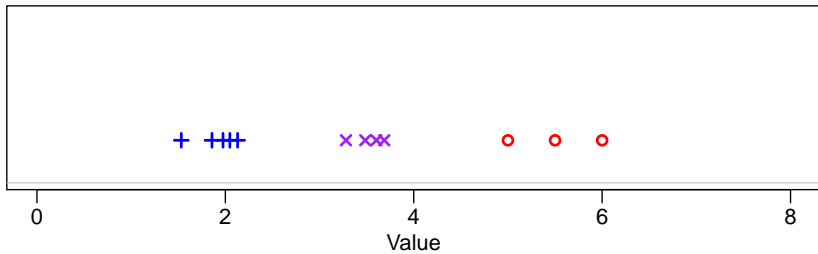


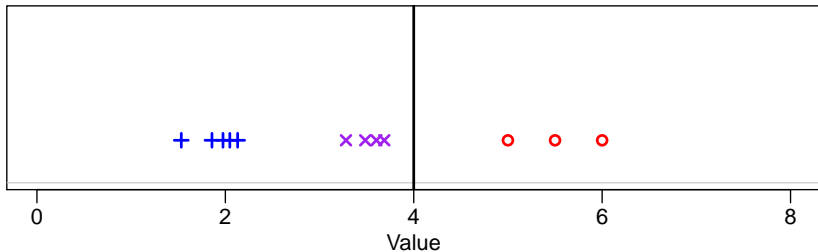
How to model individual differences?



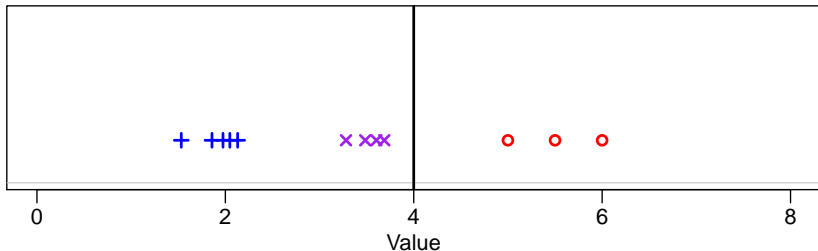


How to model individual differences?

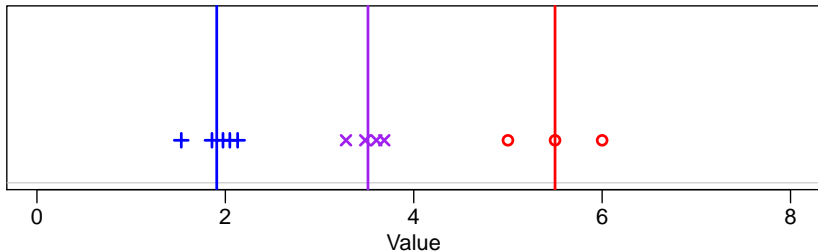




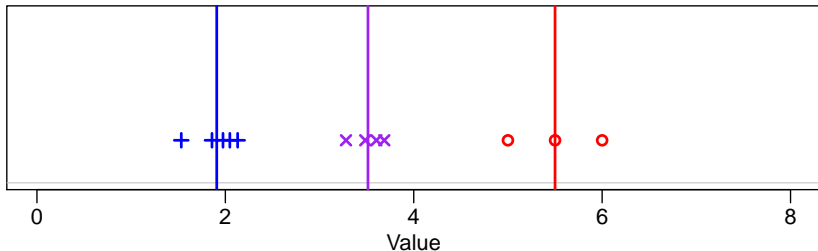
- Complete pooling - estimate single fixed effect parameter for entire sample.



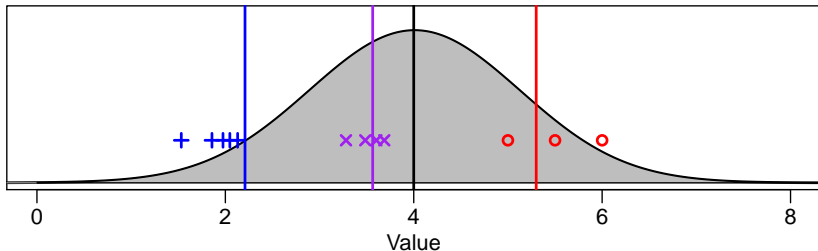
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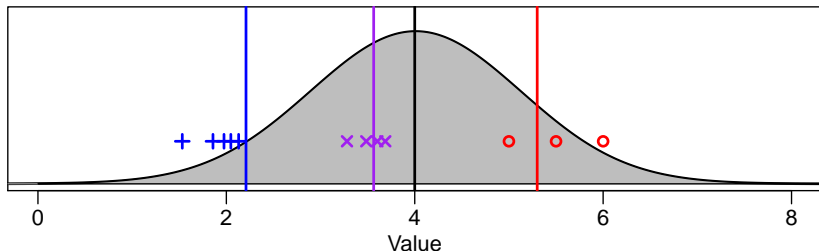
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 - Simple and perfect if sufficient data exists – ‘sufficient’ may be extremely large – otherwise prone to finite sample biases and high variance.
- Partial pooling - estimate population distribution for individual models.
 - More complex models but most flexible - parameters are not either ‘freely varying’ or ‘not varying at all’ but the extent of allowed variation is estimated.



$$p(\Phi, \mu, \mathbf{R}, \beta | \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{Y} | \Phi) p(\Phi | \mu, \mathbf{R}, \beta, \mathbf{Z}) p(\mu, \mathbf{R}, \beta)}{p(\mathbf{Y})} \quad (1)$$

Where subject specific parameters Φ_i are determined in the following manner:

$$\Phi_i = \text{tform} \left(\mu + \mathbf{R} \mathbf{h}_i + \beta \mathbf{z}_i \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{h}_i \sim \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}) \quad (3)$$

$$\mu \sim \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}) \quad (4)$$

$$\beta \sim \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}) \quad (5)$$



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- ctStanFit function constructs a Stan model and calls rstan for estimation, using either Kalman filter for continuous variables or direct sampling of states for other measurement models.



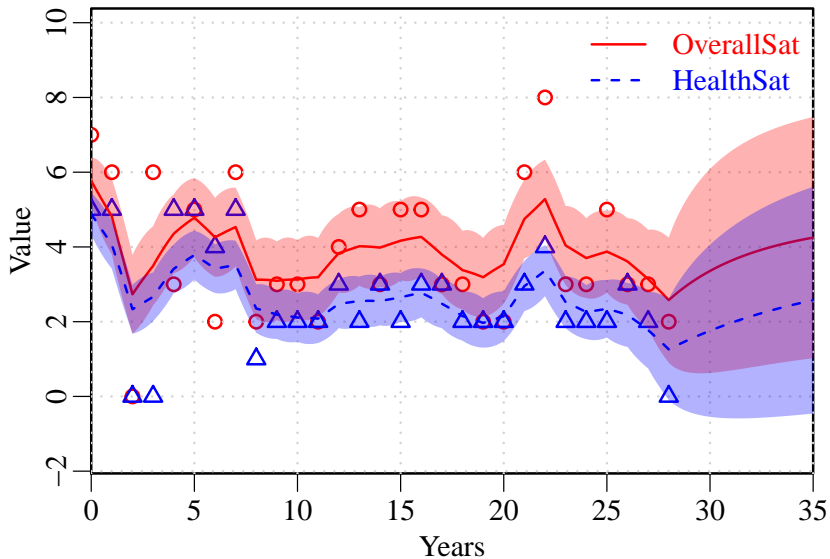
- 200 subjects at random from German socioeconomic panel, 1984-2012.
Mean ages 30-70. Maximum of 29 obs. per subject.

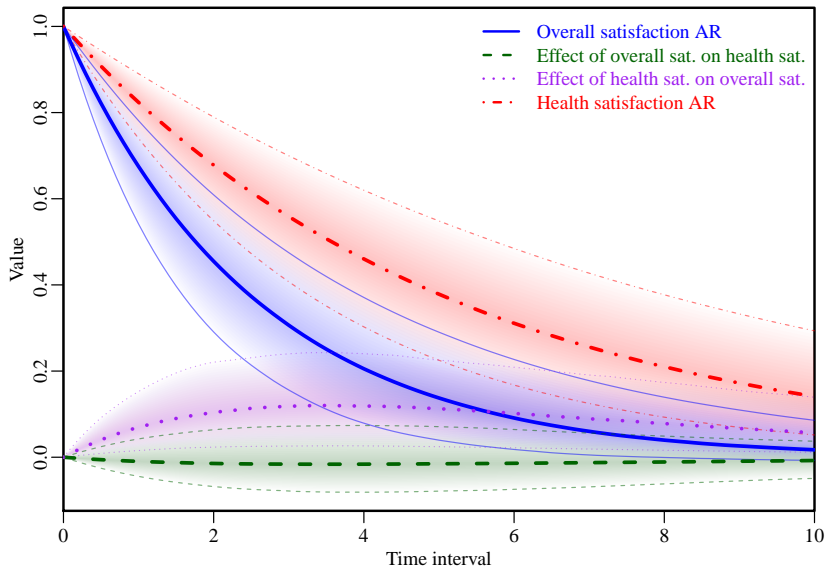


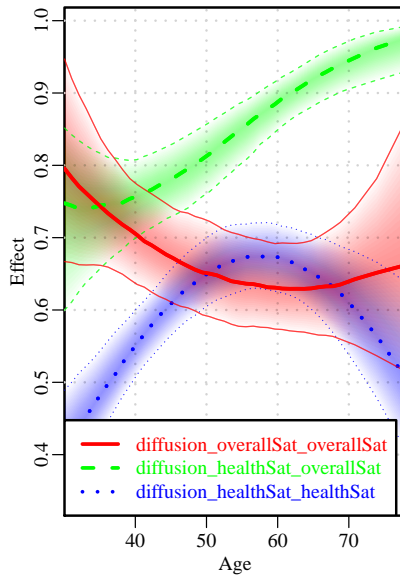
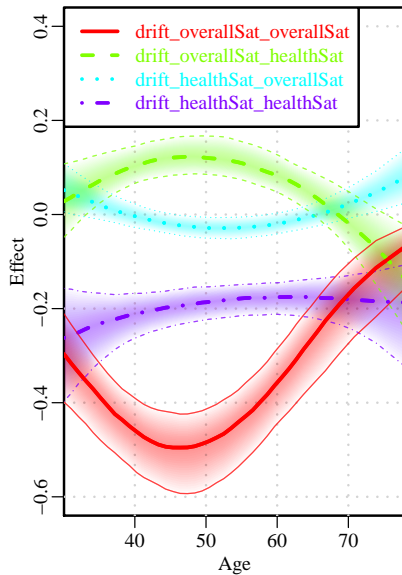
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- Scores of overall life satisfaction and satisfaction with health, 0-10 point scale.
- Fit basic bivariate process model to examine individual dynamics, relations between dynamics, and differences in dynamics given age.







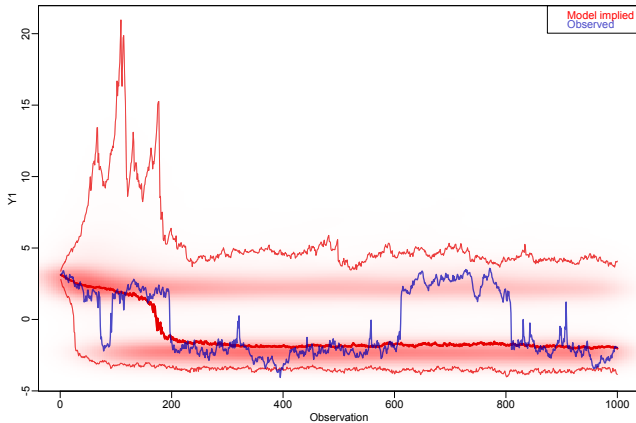


Recent developments



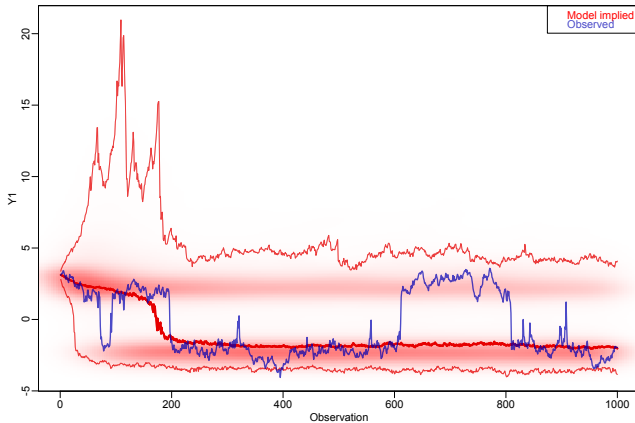


■ Nonlinear / time varying models



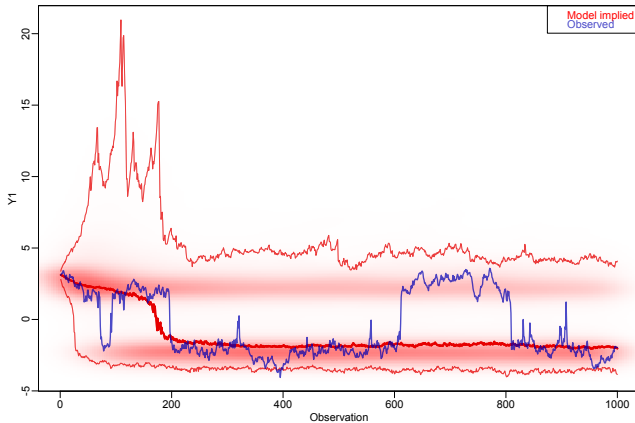


- Nonlinear / time varying models
- Optimization + importance sampling approach – much quicker than full Bayes





- Nonlinear / time varying models
- Optimization + importance sampling approach – much quicker than full Bayes
- Various posterior predictive plots



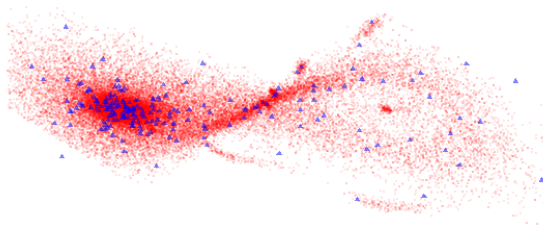


The end.



- ctsem and vignettes

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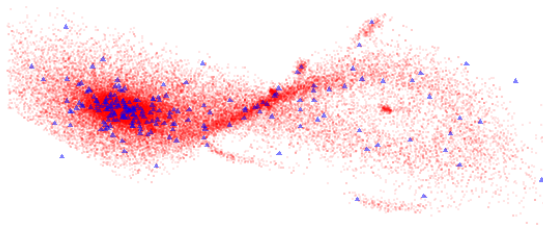


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- Thanks!

