

Active Learning for Level Set Estimation

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Swimmers of Lake Zurich, beware!



Steffen Schmidt / EPA

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— *Scientific American*

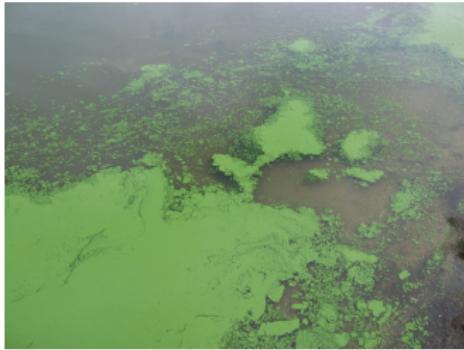
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[www.limnobiotics.ch](http://www.limnobotics.ch)

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Flickr/Dr. Jennifer L. Graham/U.S. Geological Survey

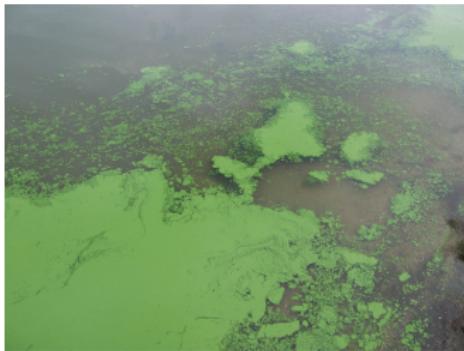
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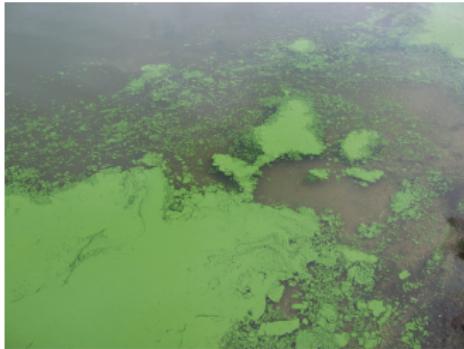
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“Microcystins [...] are cyanotoxins and can be very toxic for plants and animals including humans. Their hepatotoxicity may cause serious damage to the liver.”

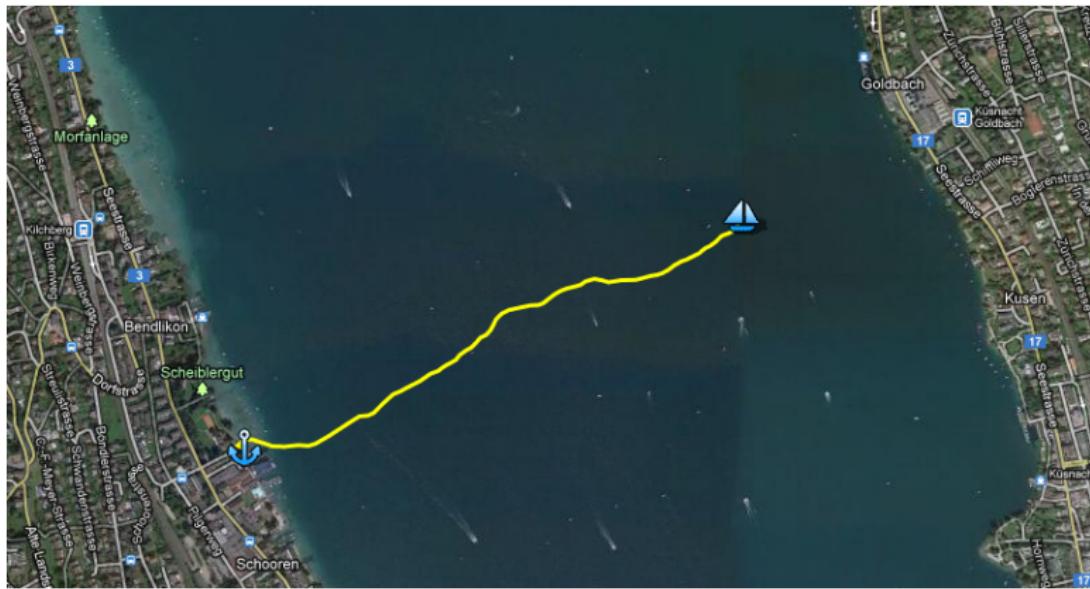
— *Wikipedia*

Autonomous surface vehicle developed by the Autonomous Systems Lab of ETH

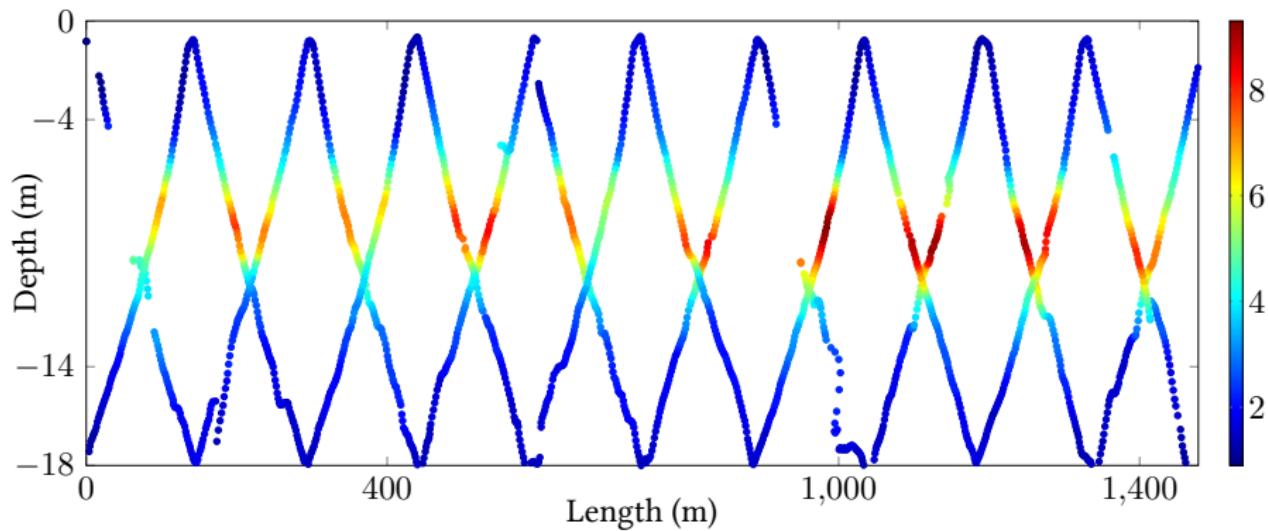


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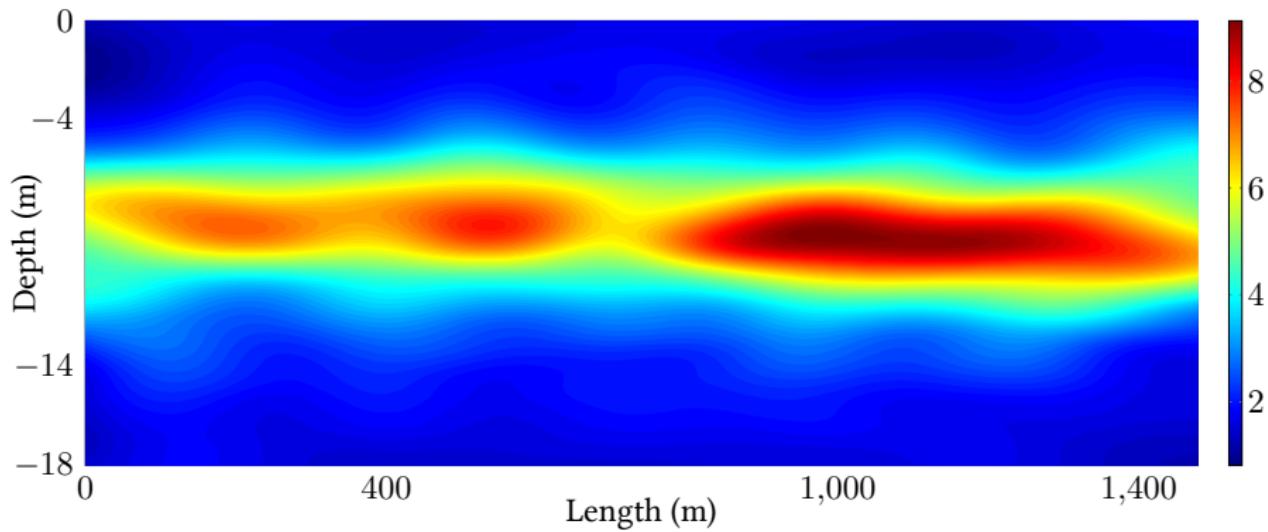
Take measurements on a vertical transect of the lake



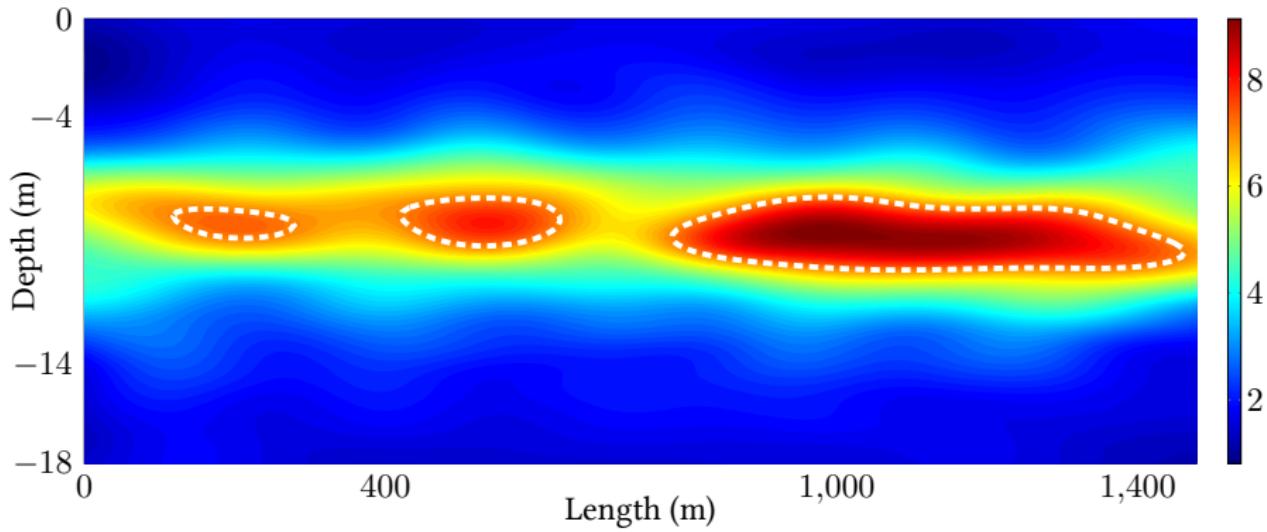
Original algae concentration measurements (~ 2000)



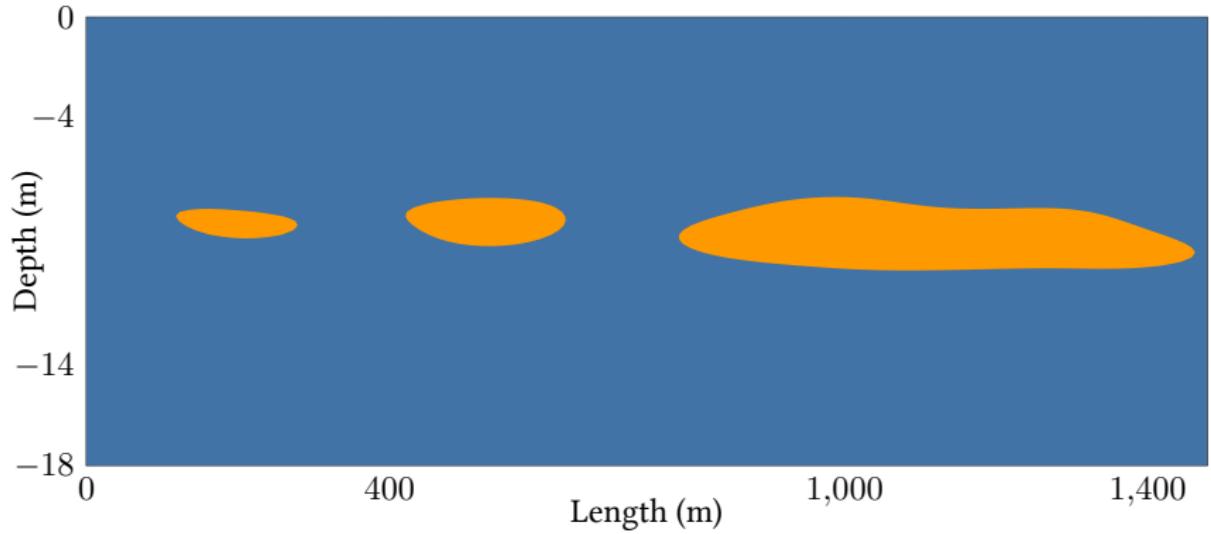
Interpolated algae concentration field



Focus on accurately estimating regions of “high” concentration (e.g. ≥ 7)



Classify transect into a **super-** and a **sublevel** set



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- ▶ Update our classification estimate

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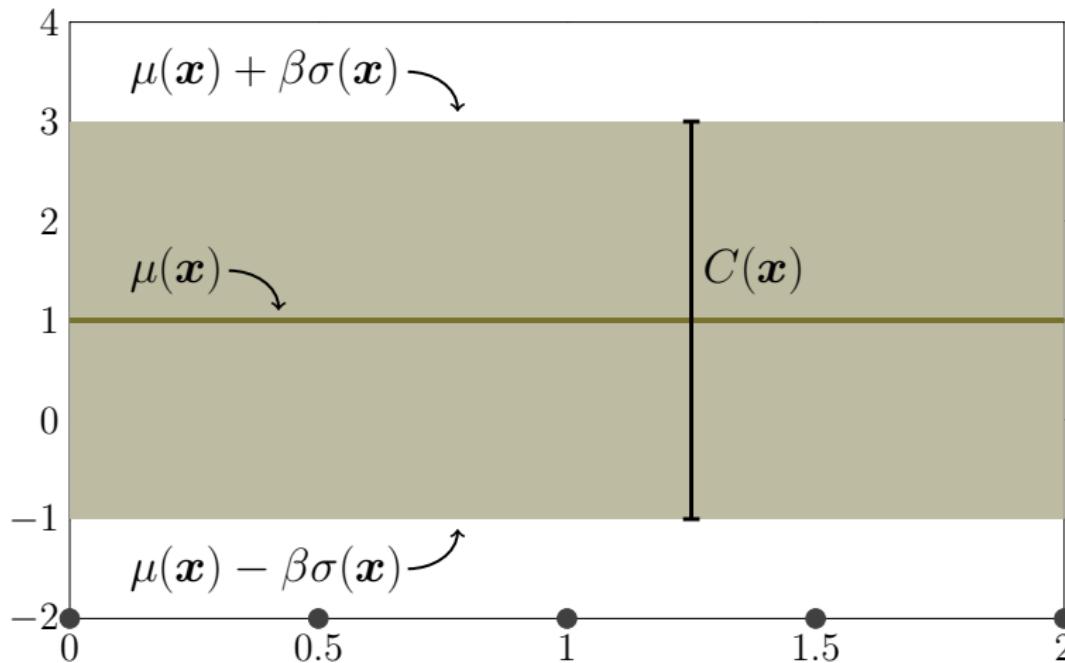
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Gaussian processes to the rescue!

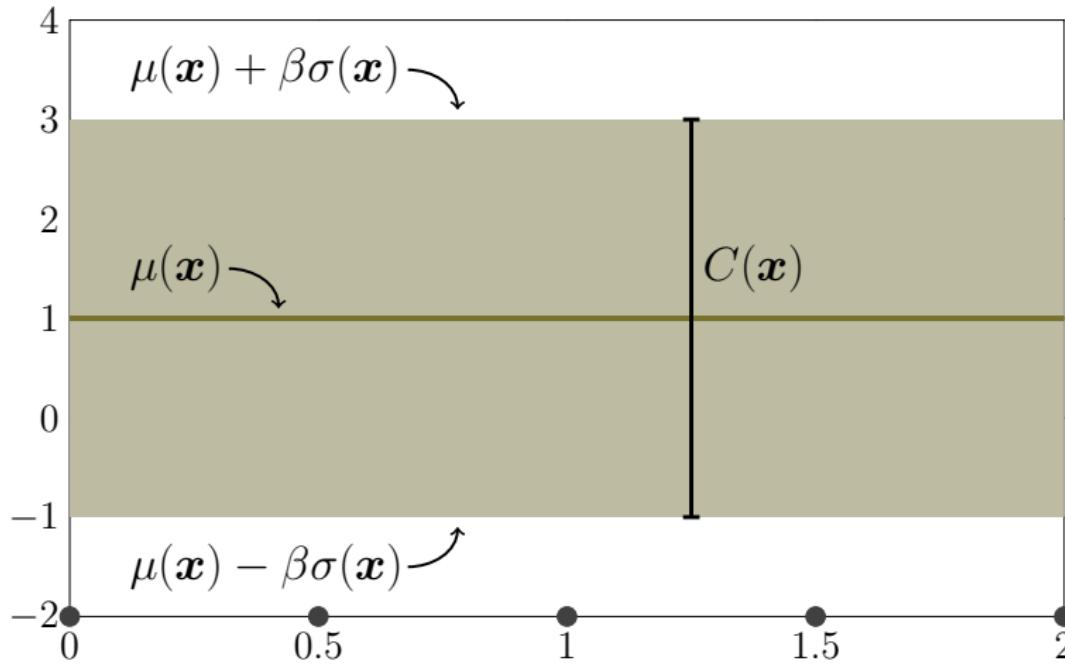
Gaussian processes

- ▶ Mean and variance estimates: construct confidence intervals $C(\mathbf{x})$



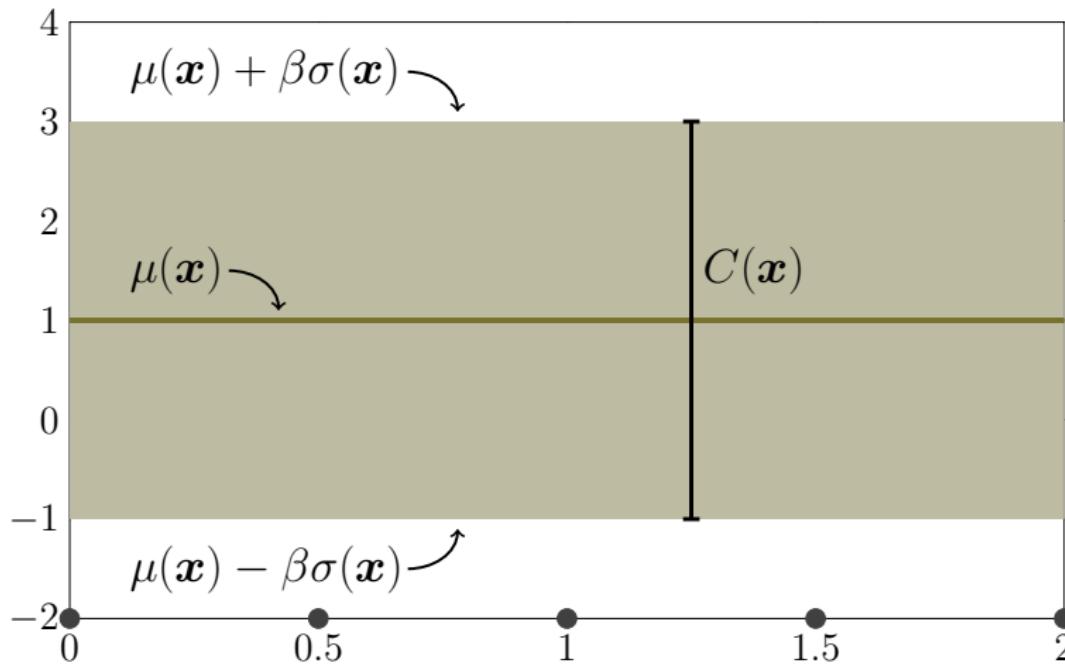
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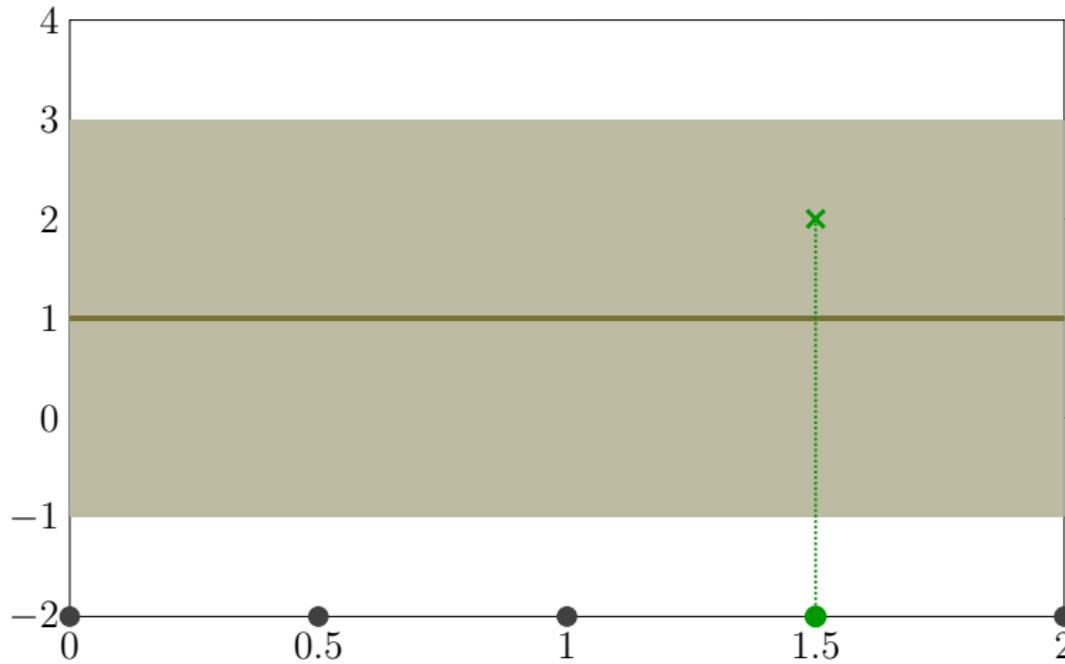
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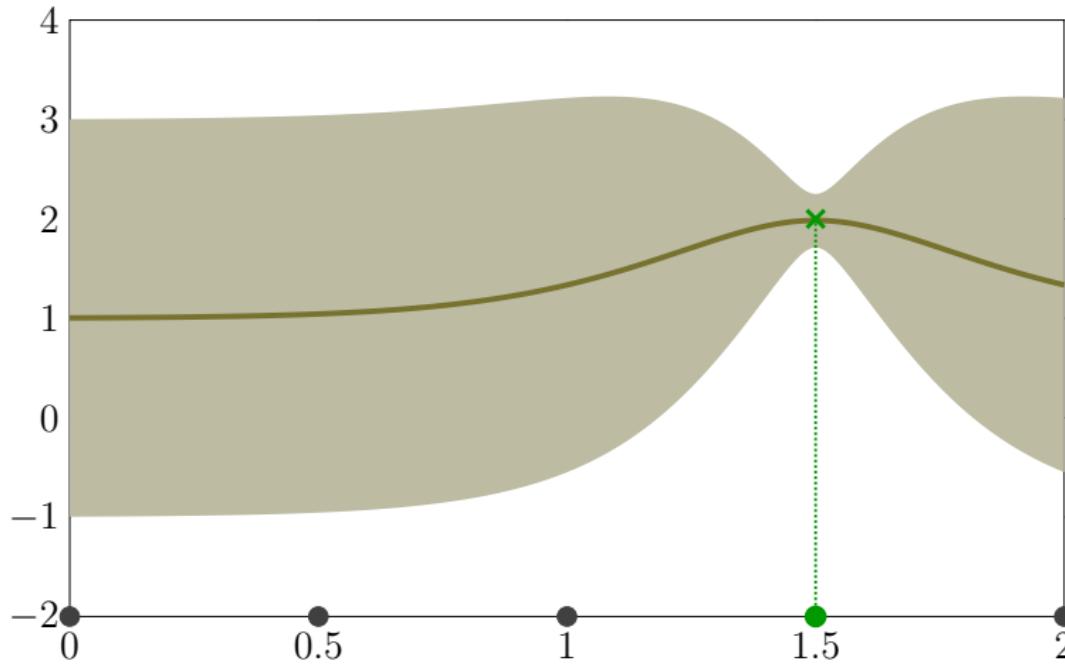
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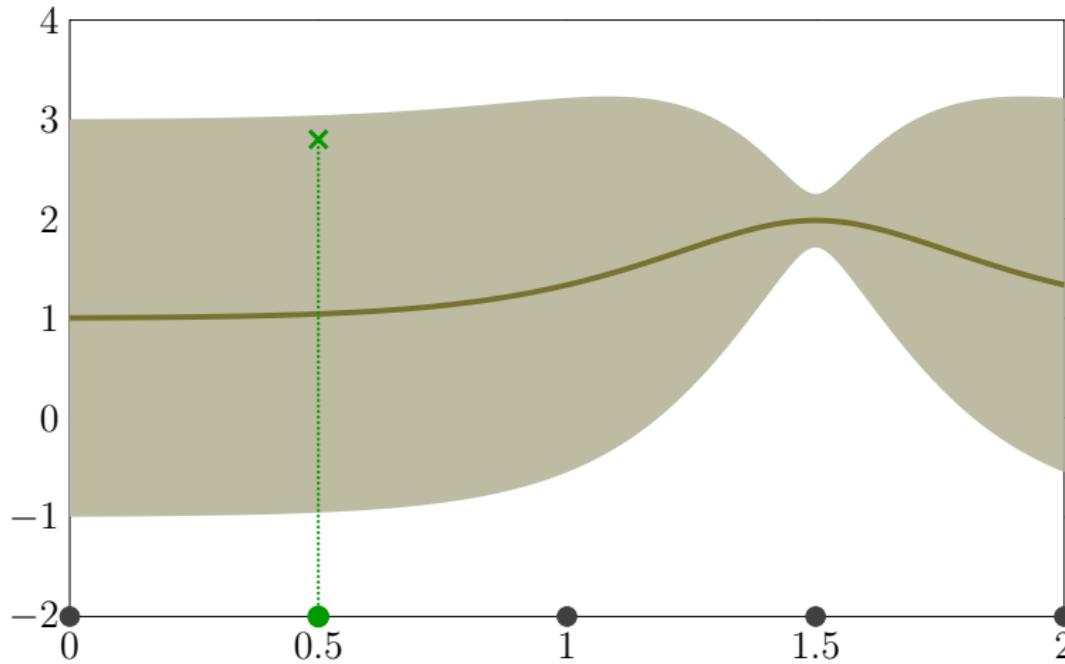
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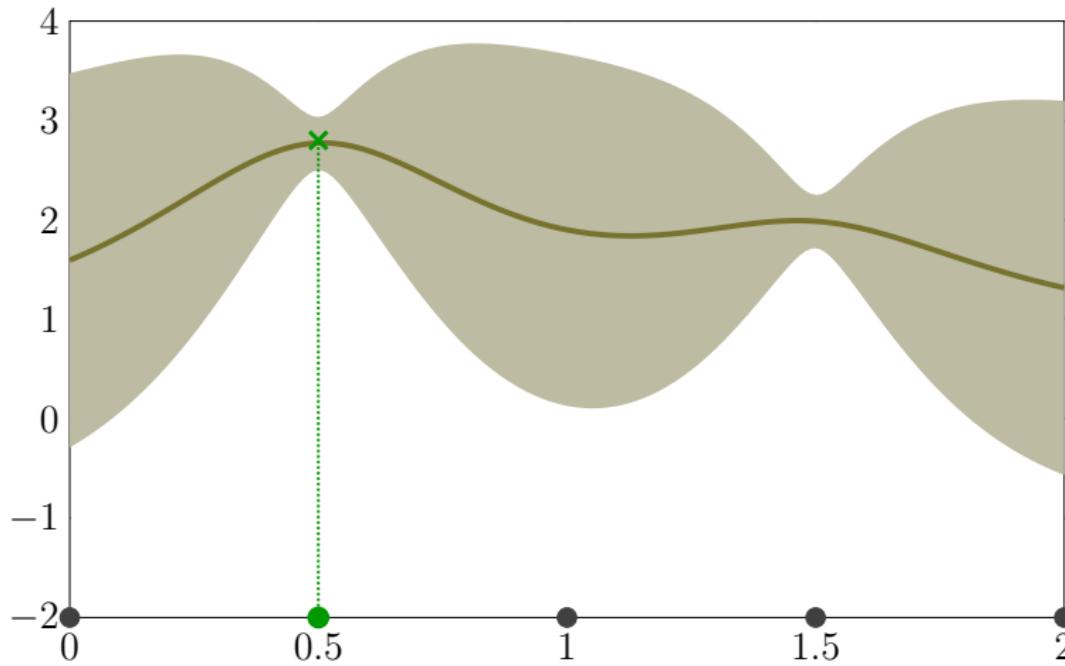
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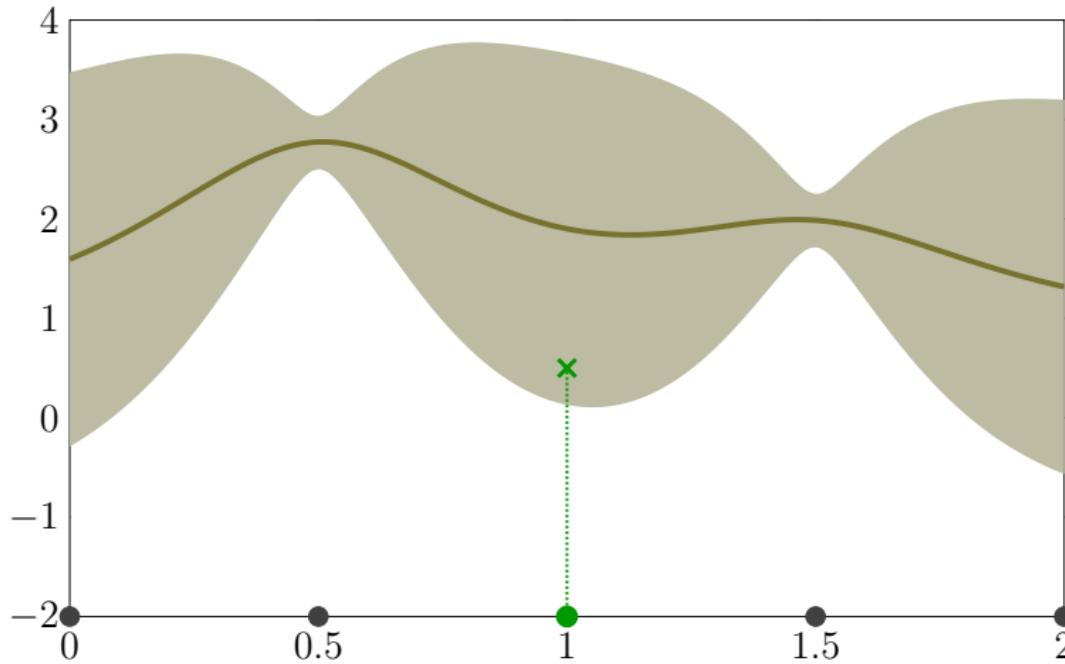
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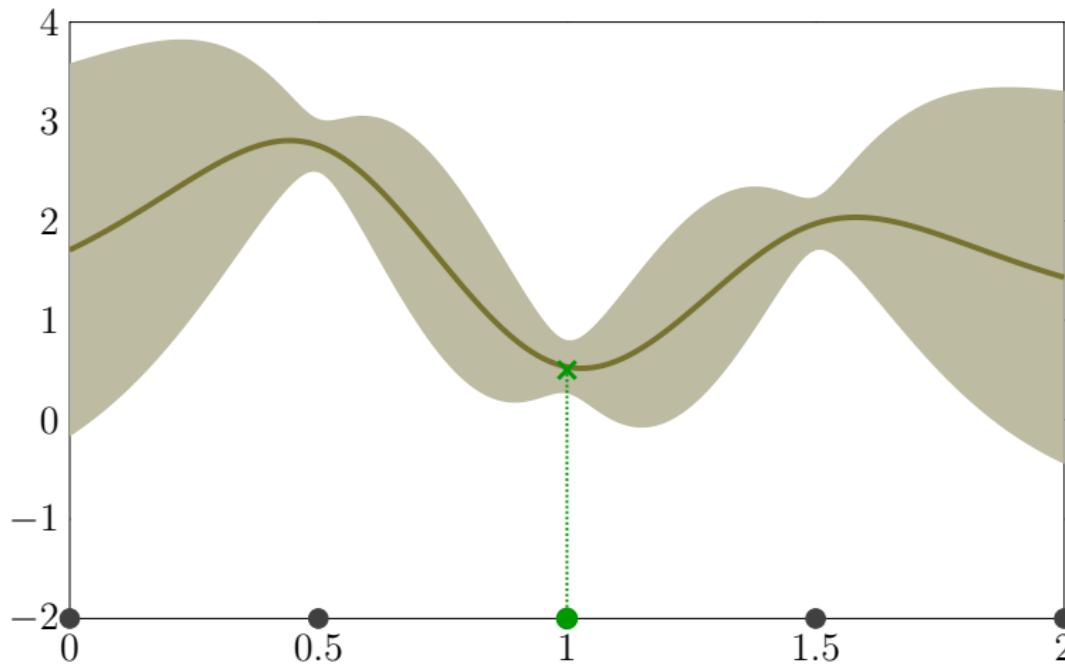
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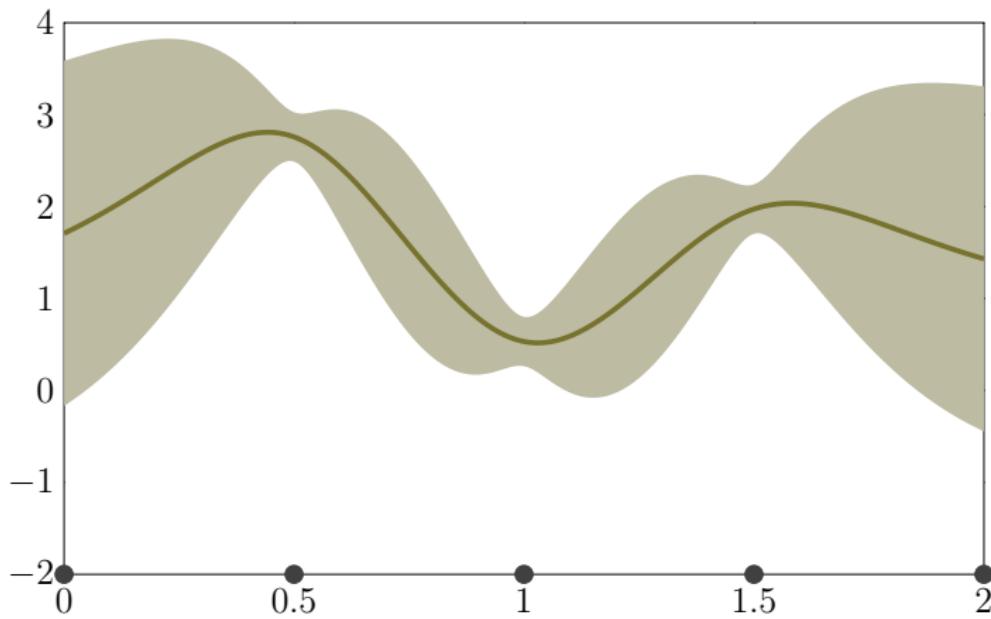
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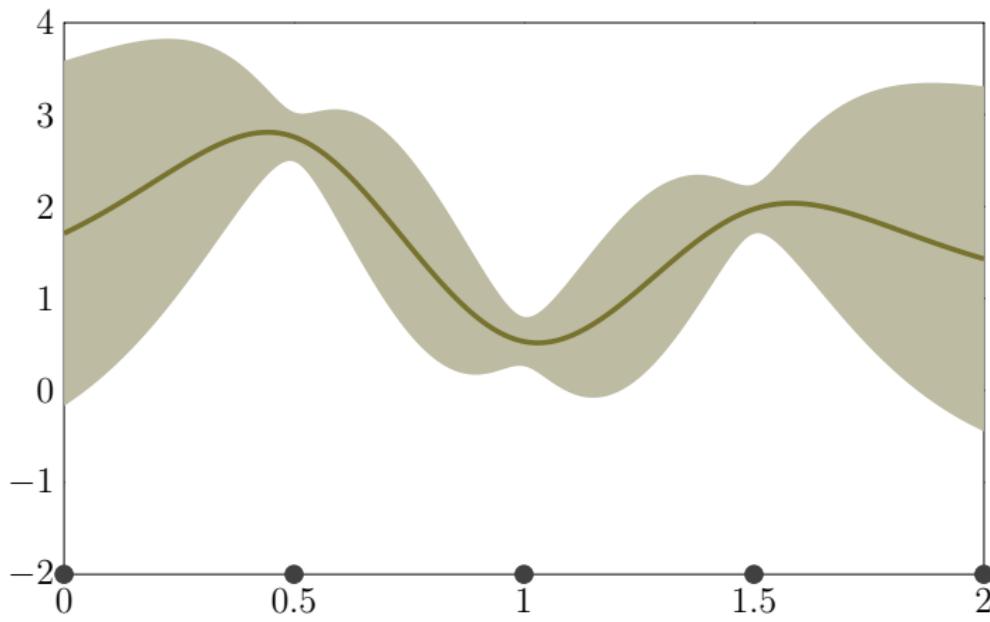


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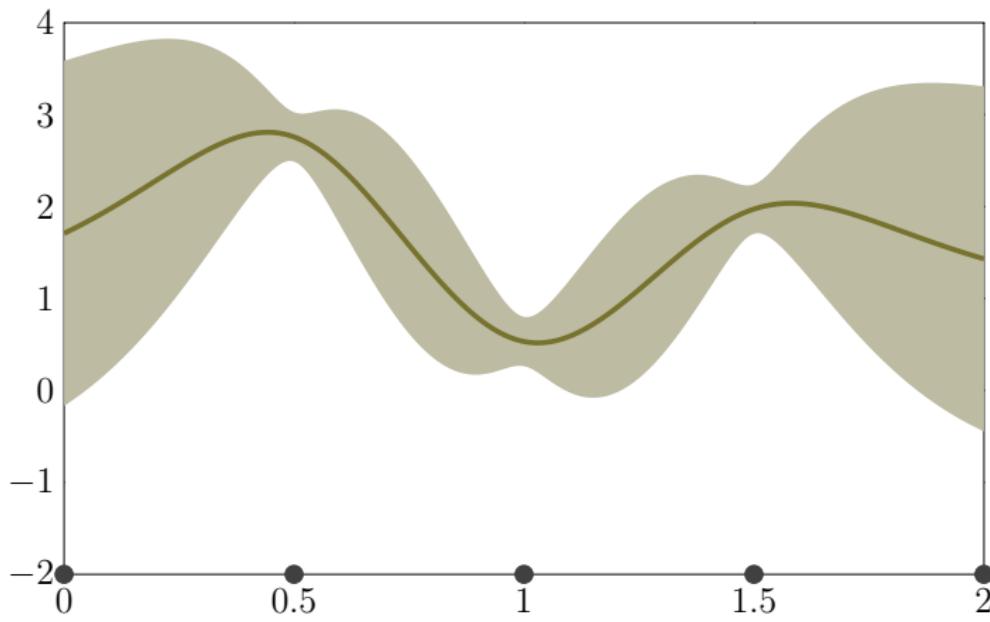


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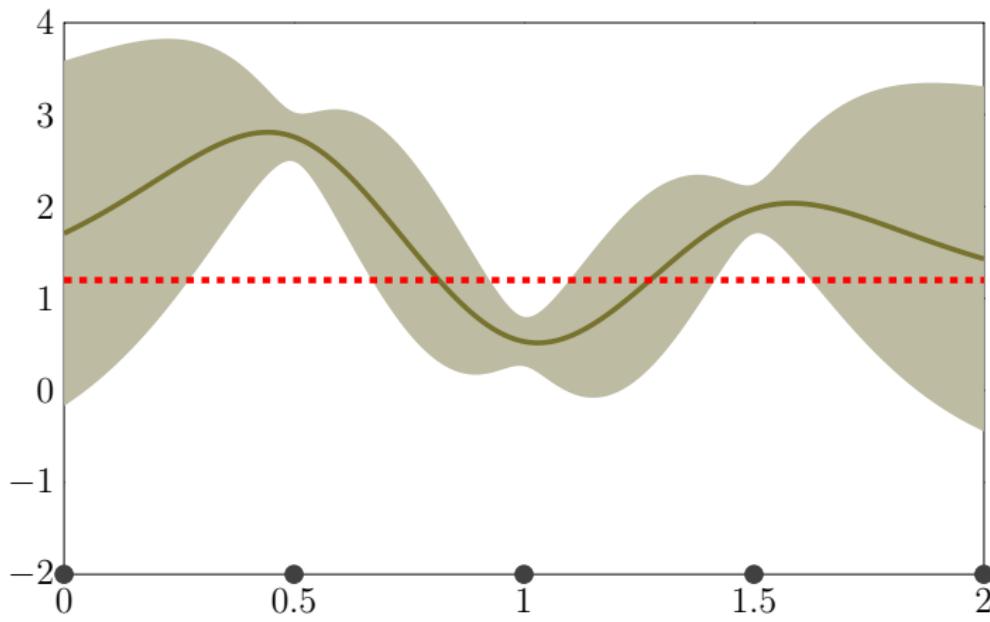
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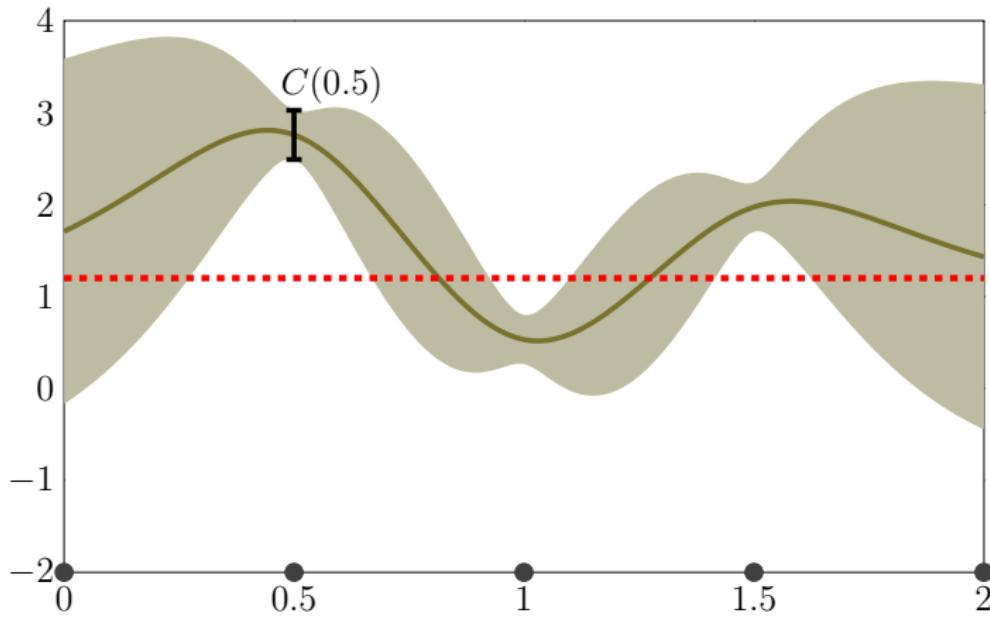
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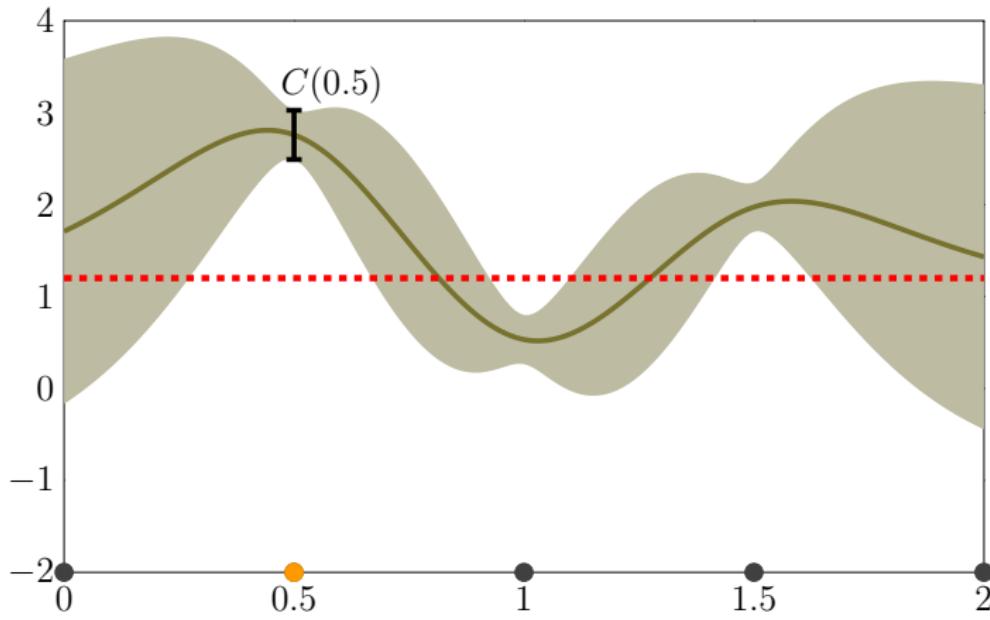
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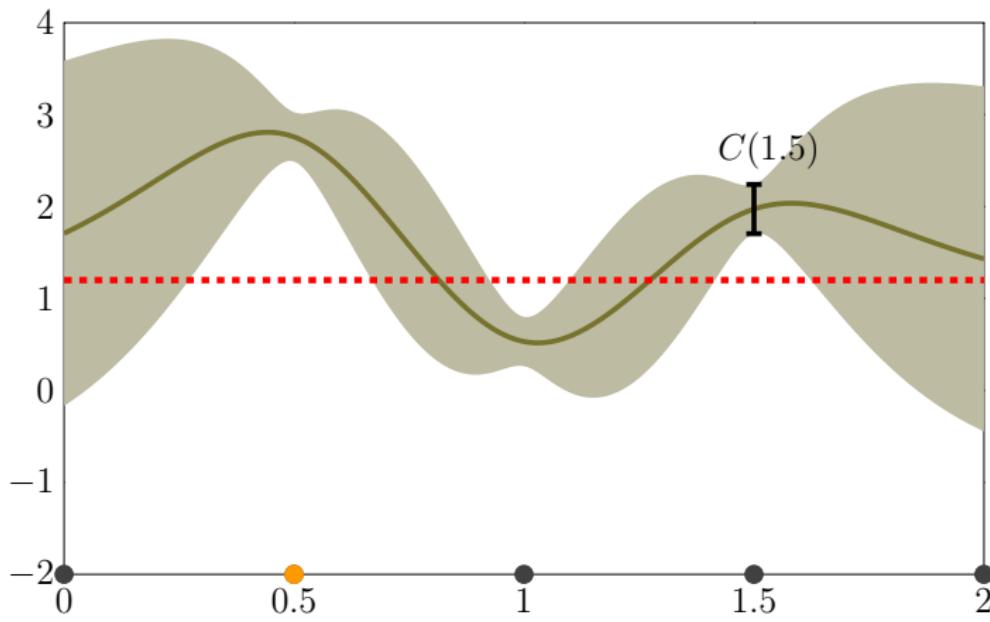
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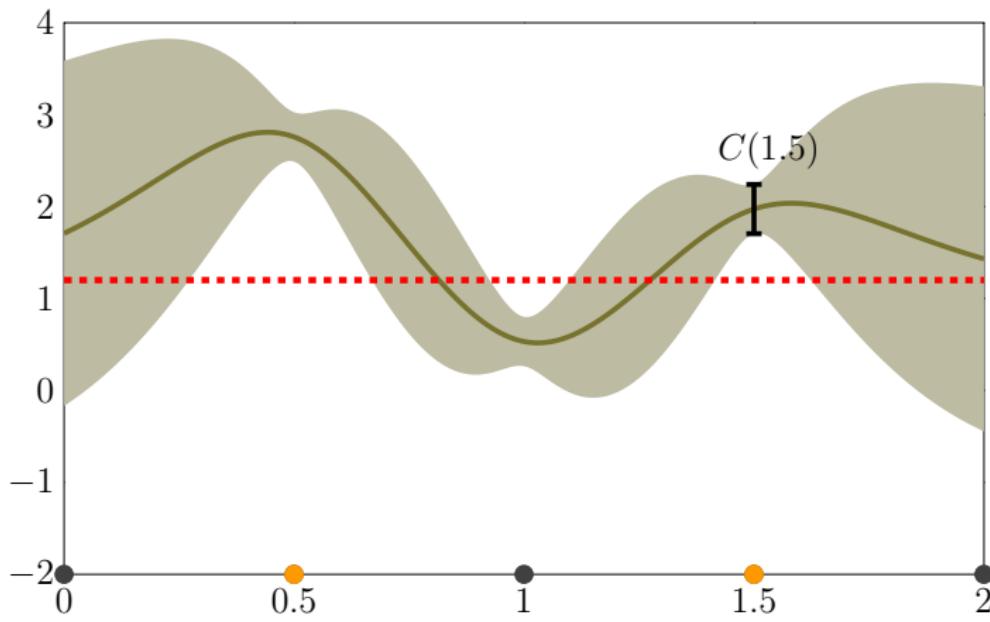
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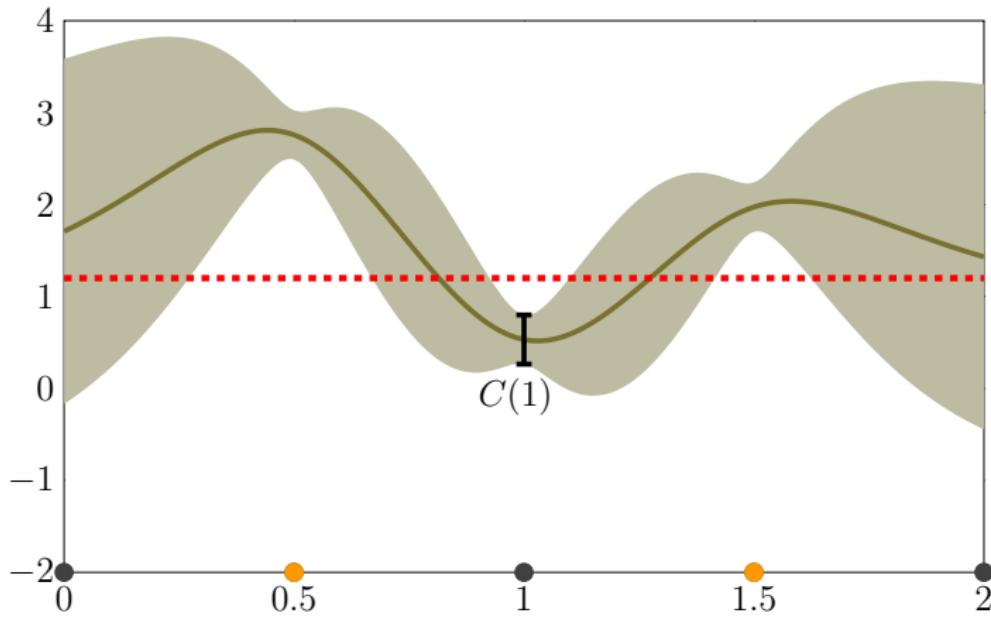
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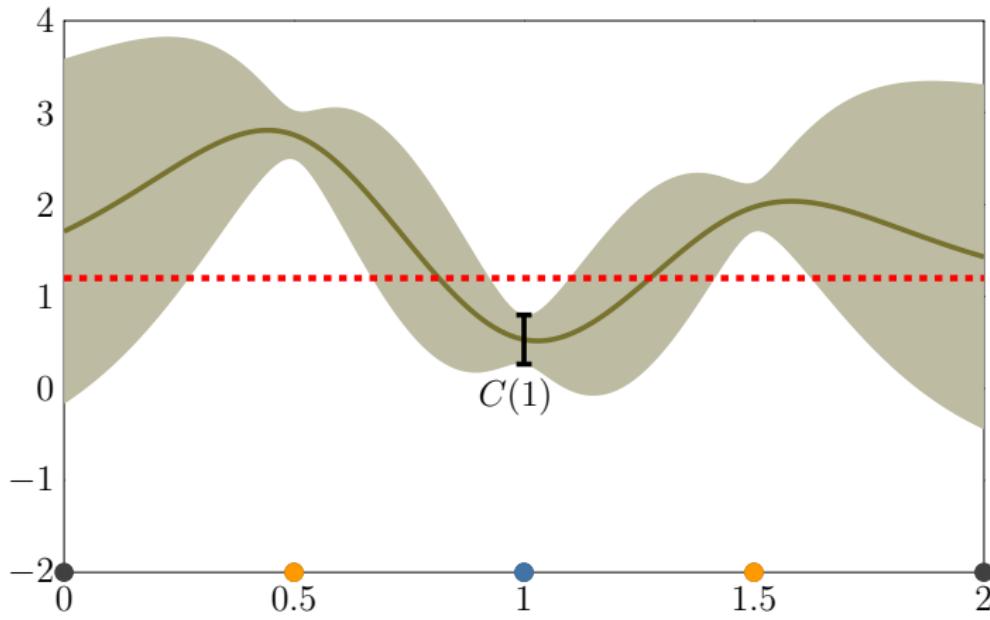
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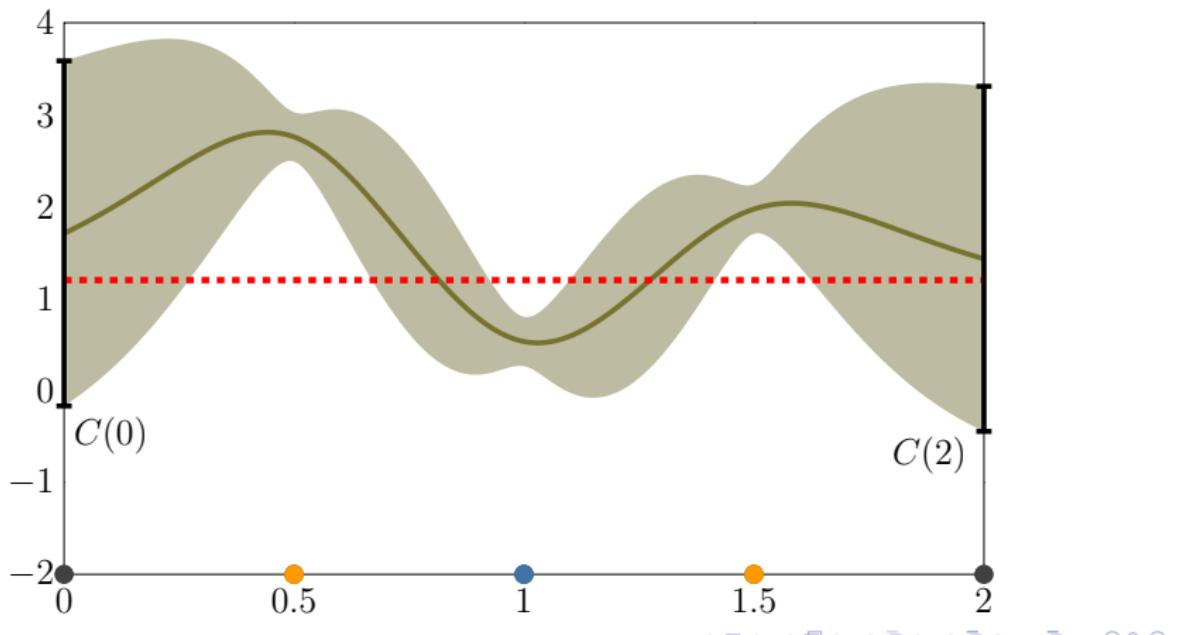
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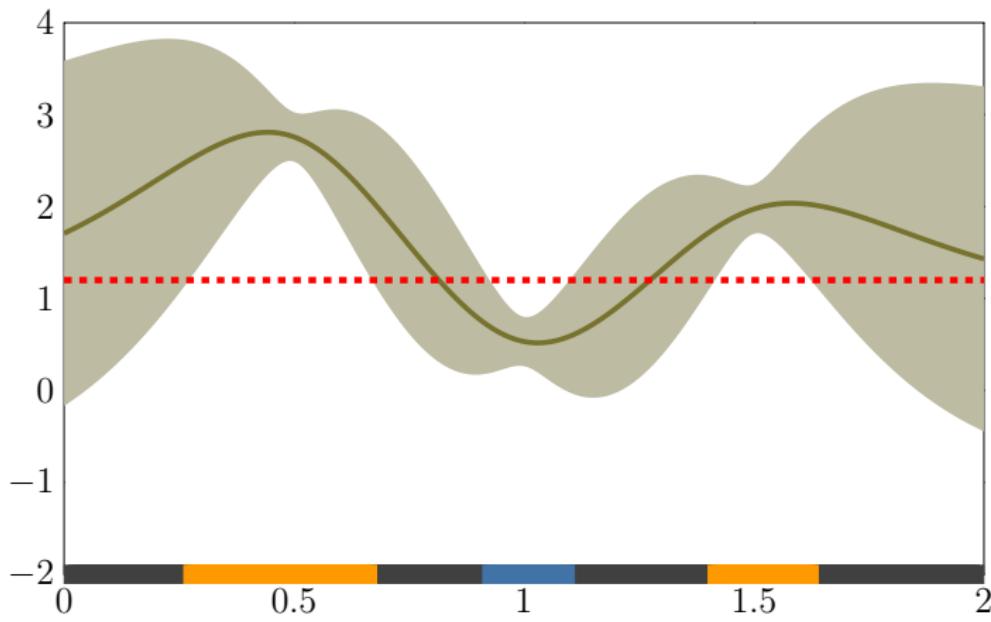
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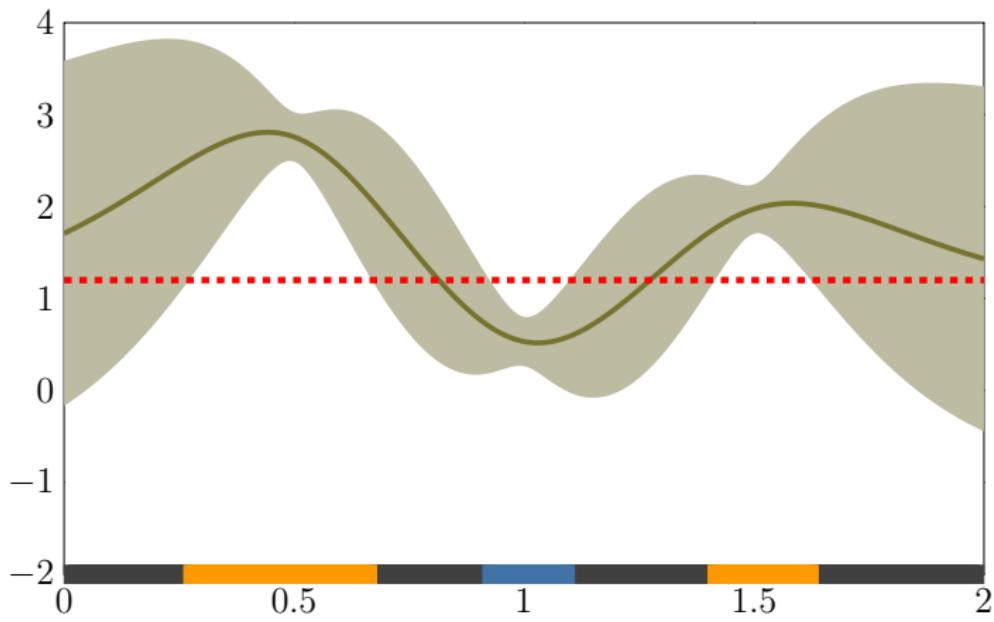
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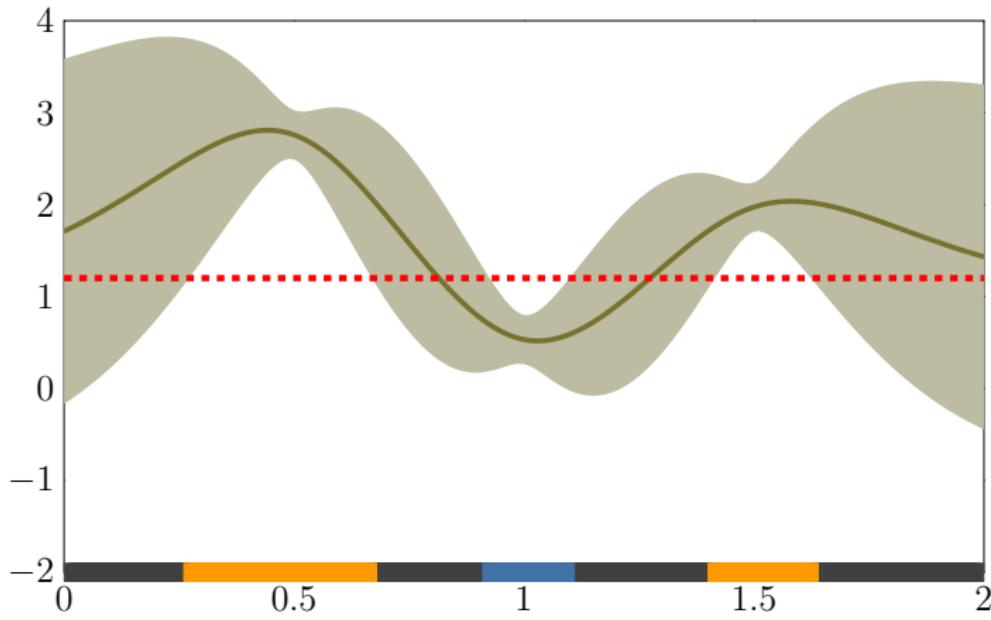


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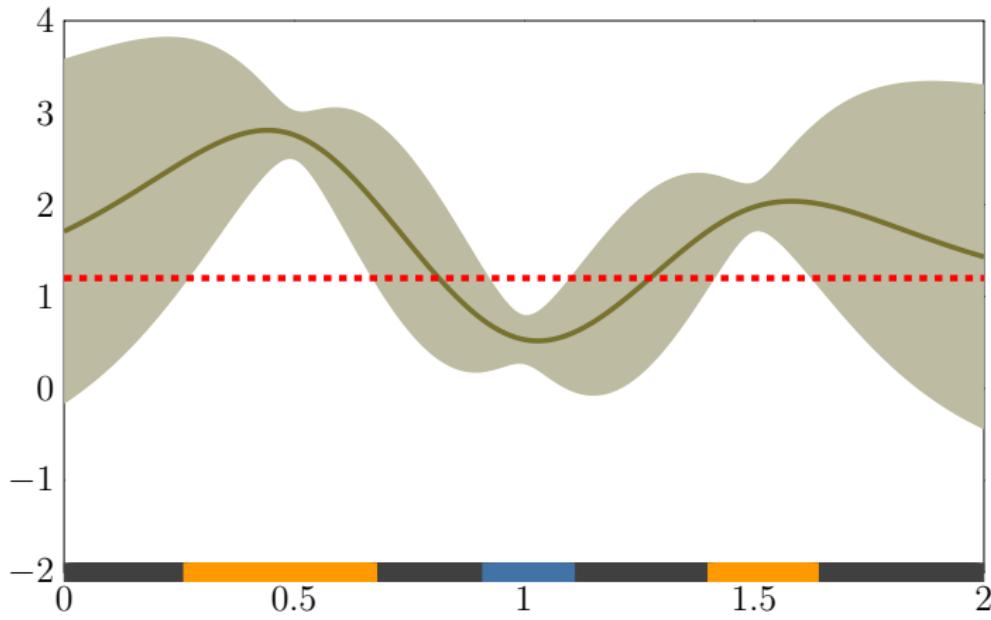
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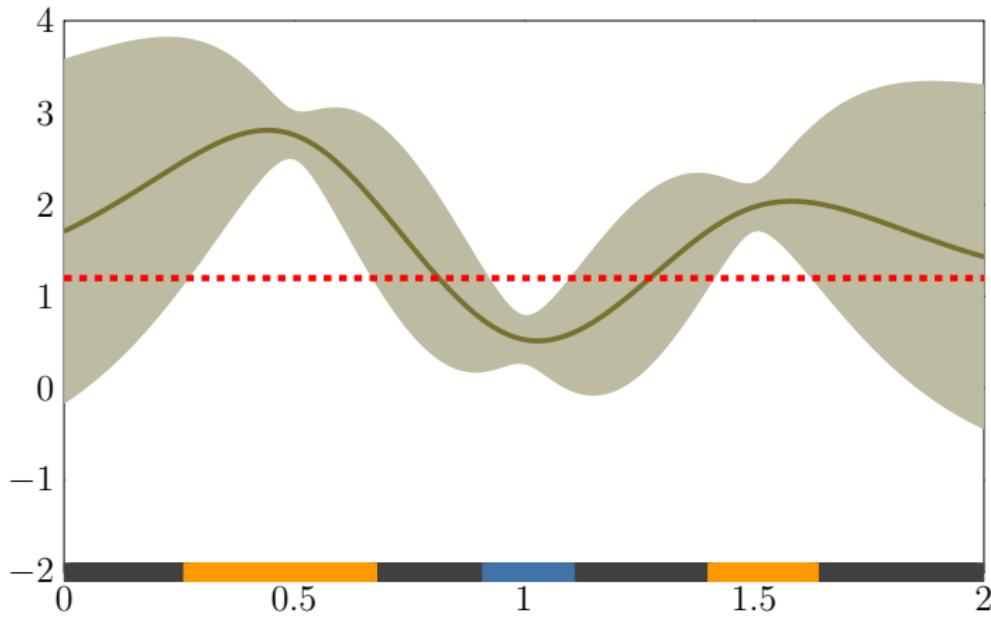
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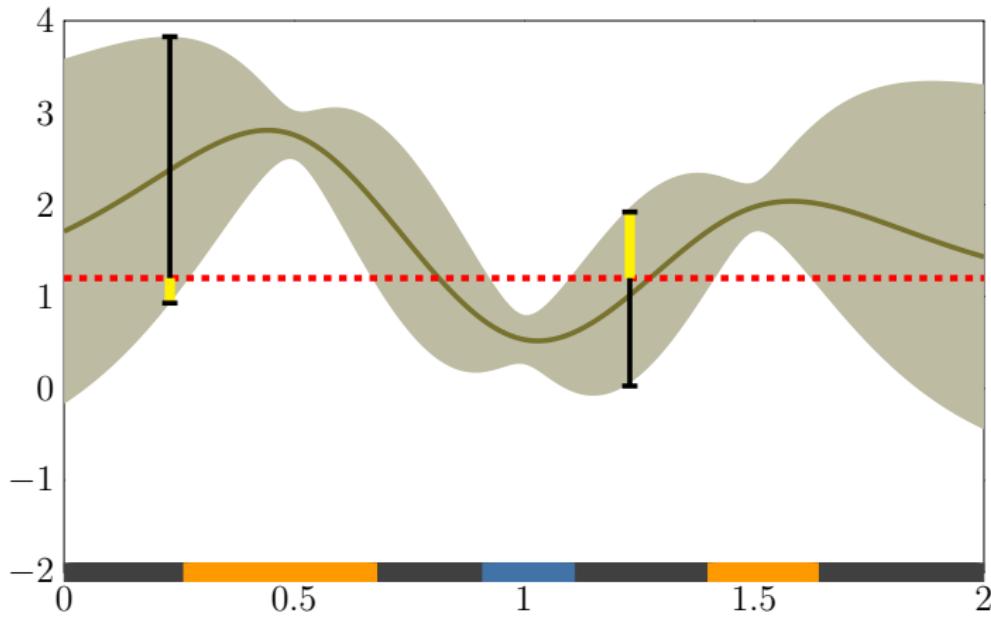
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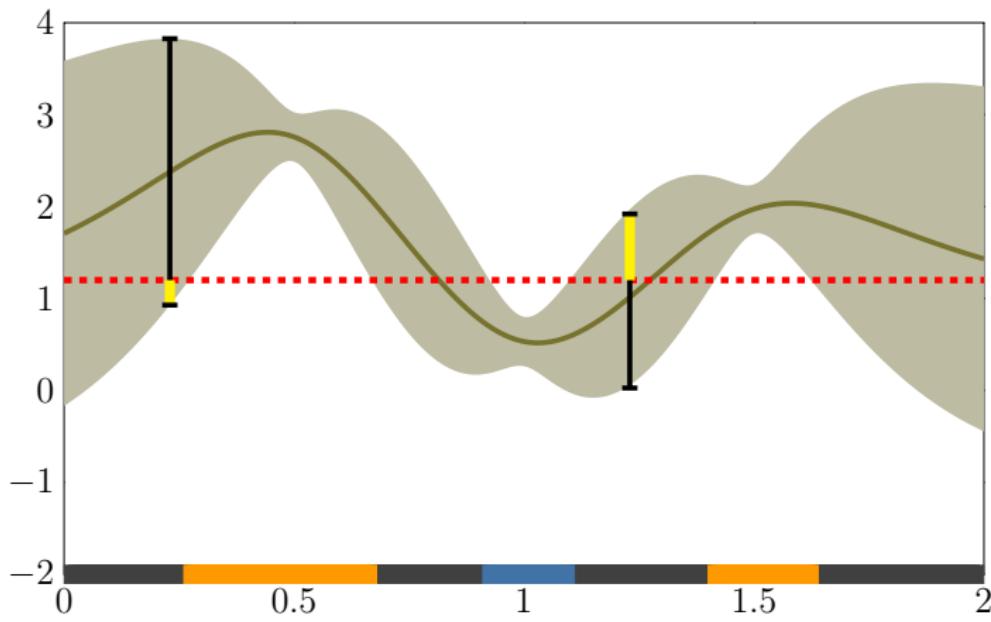
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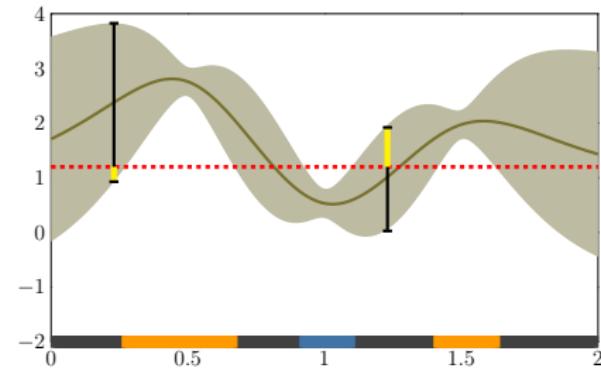
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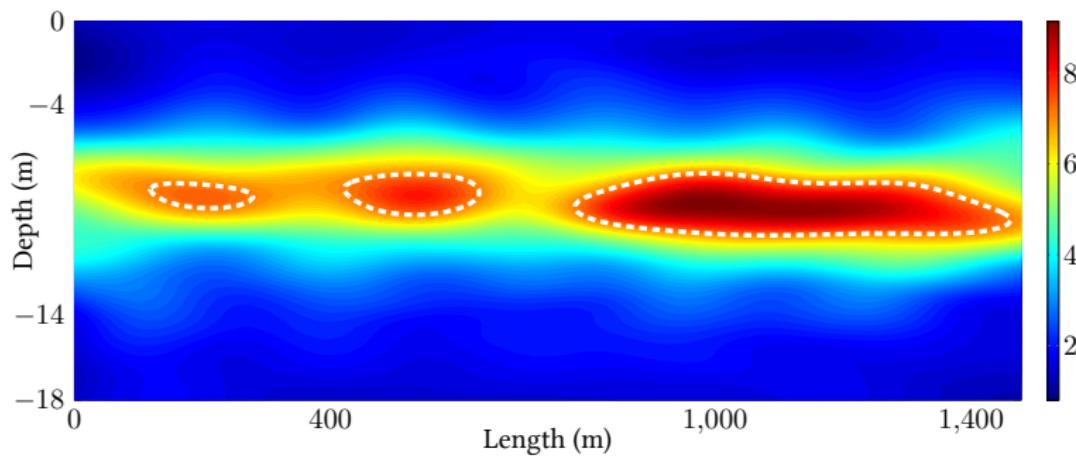
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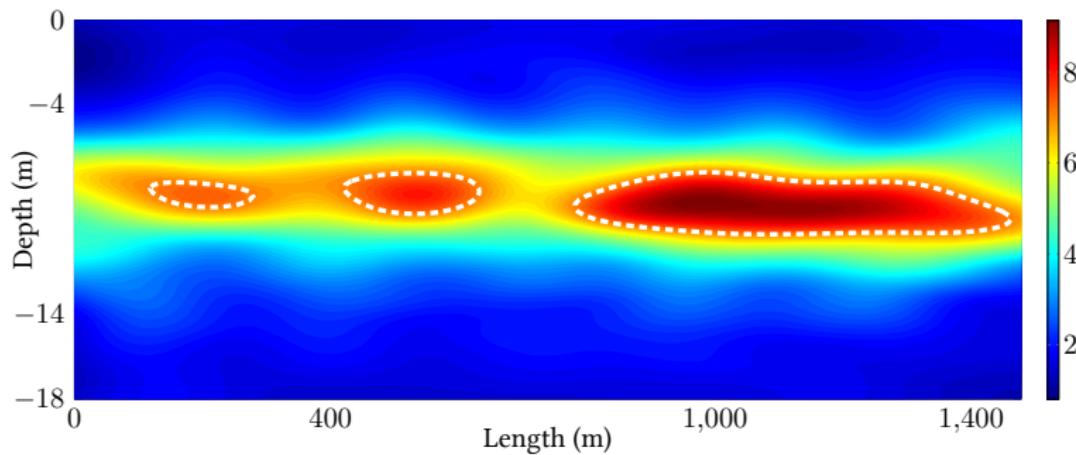
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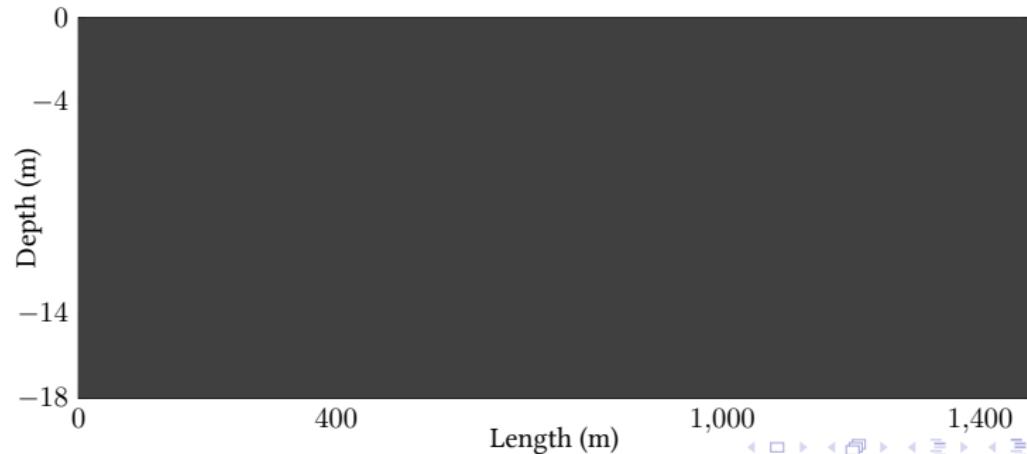
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- ▶ Relax classification rules by an accuracy parameter ϵ

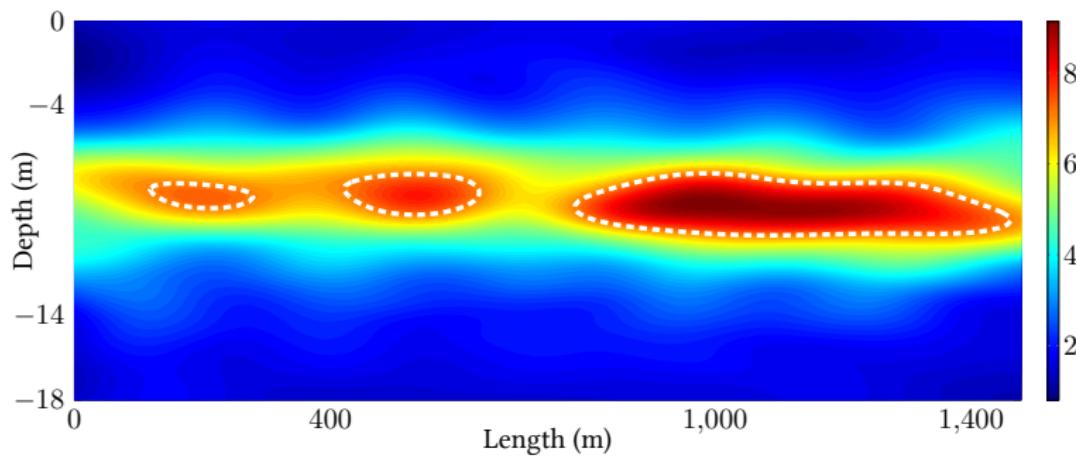




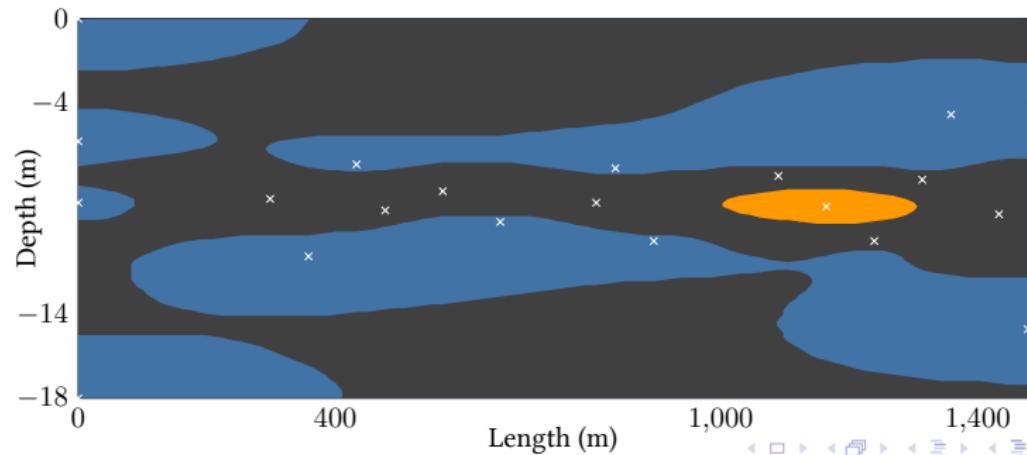


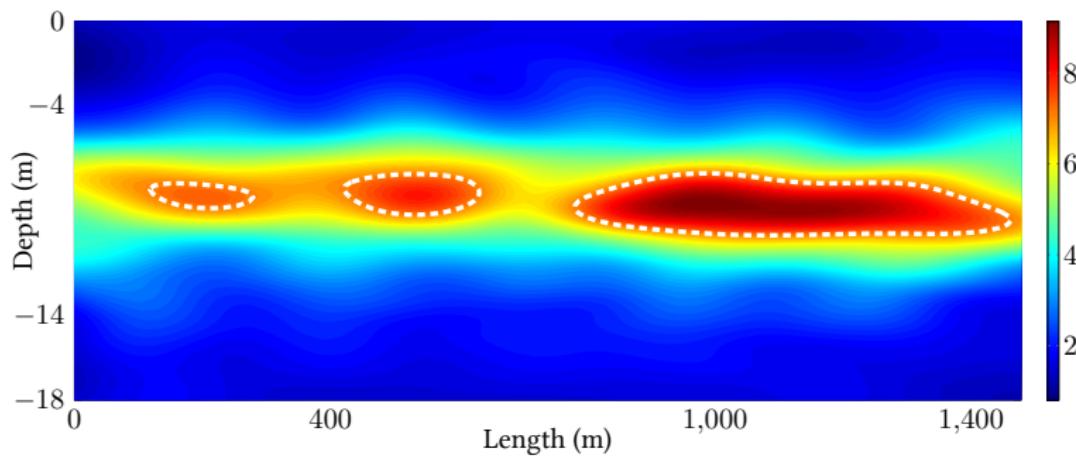
$t = 0$



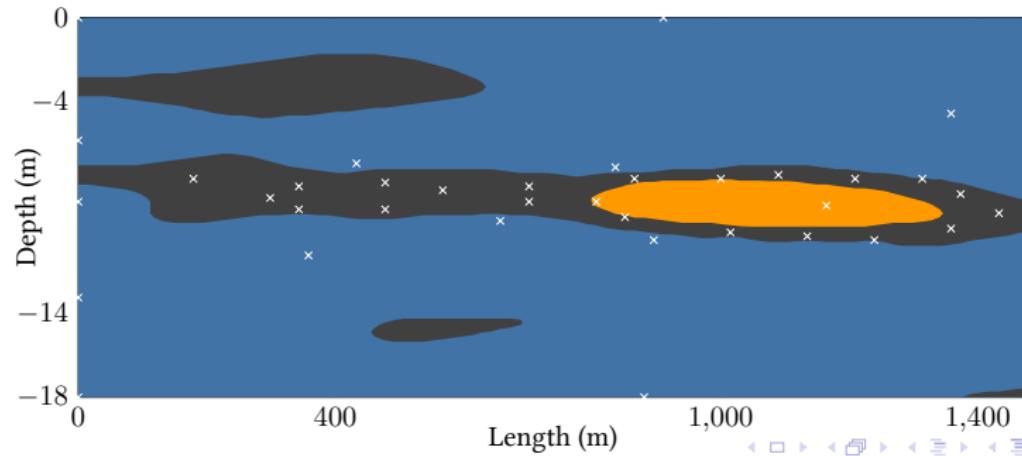


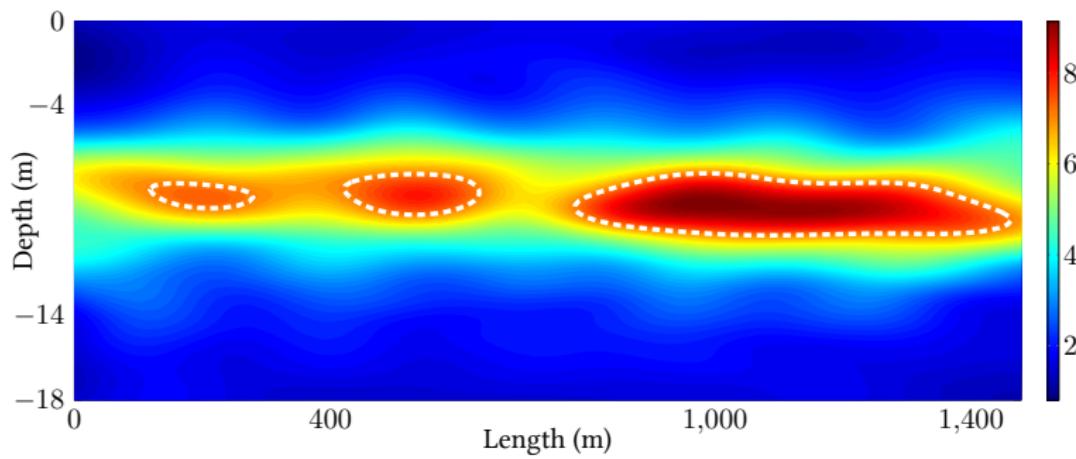
$t = 20$



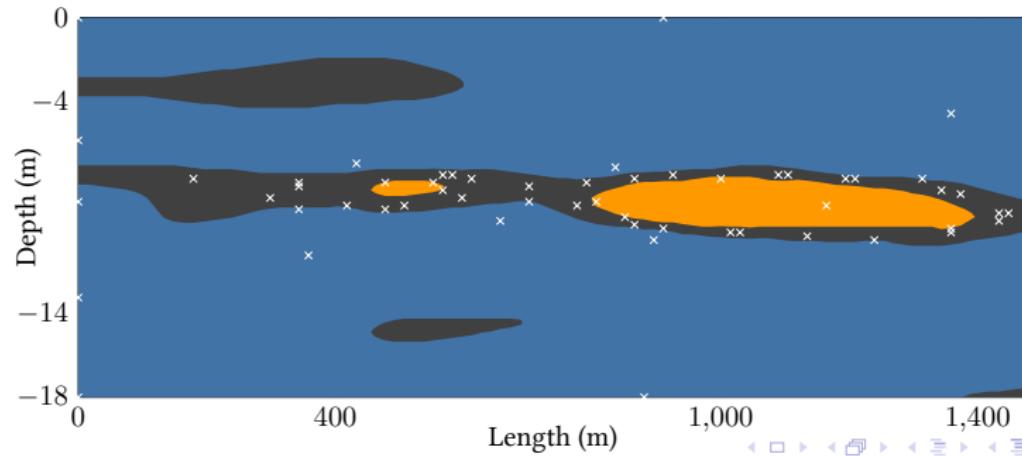


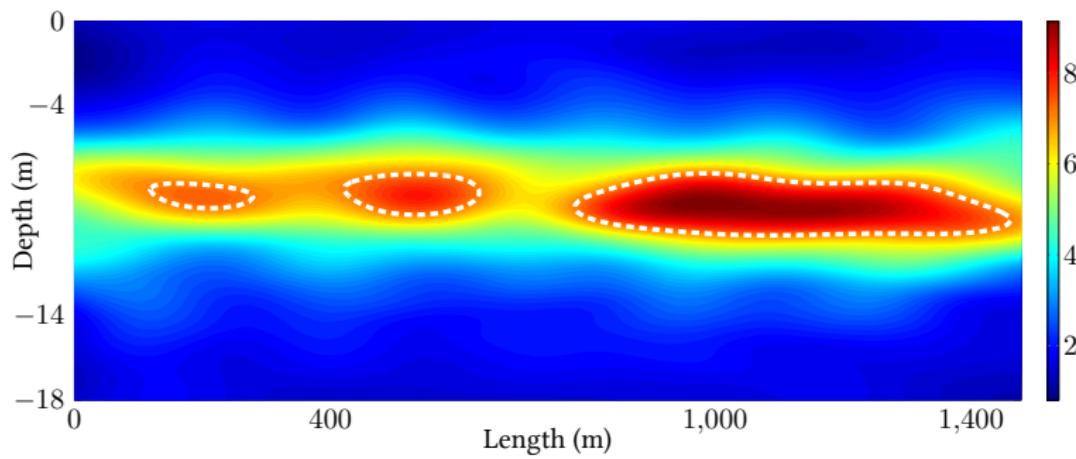
$t = 40$



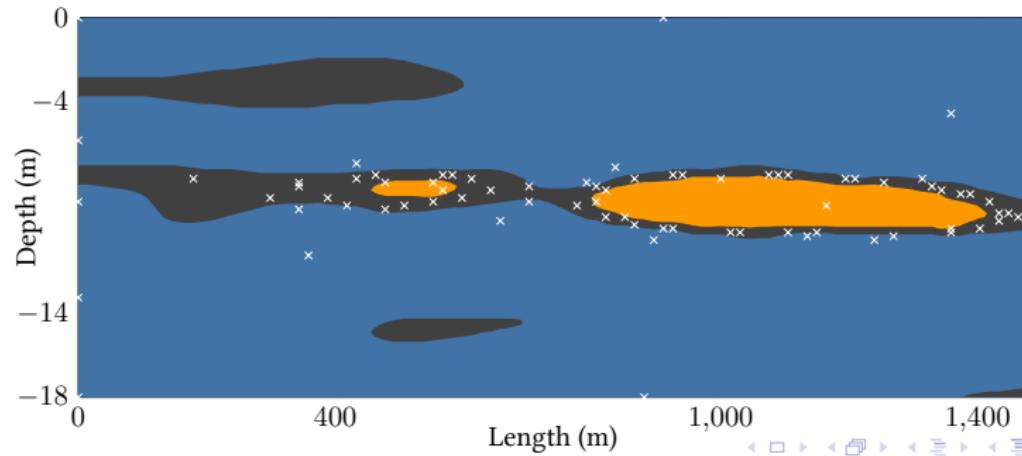


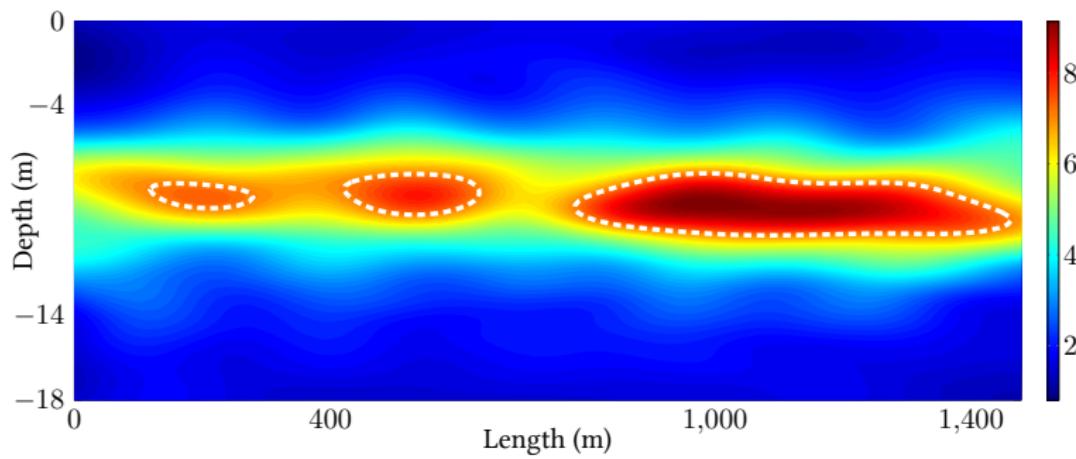
$t = 60$



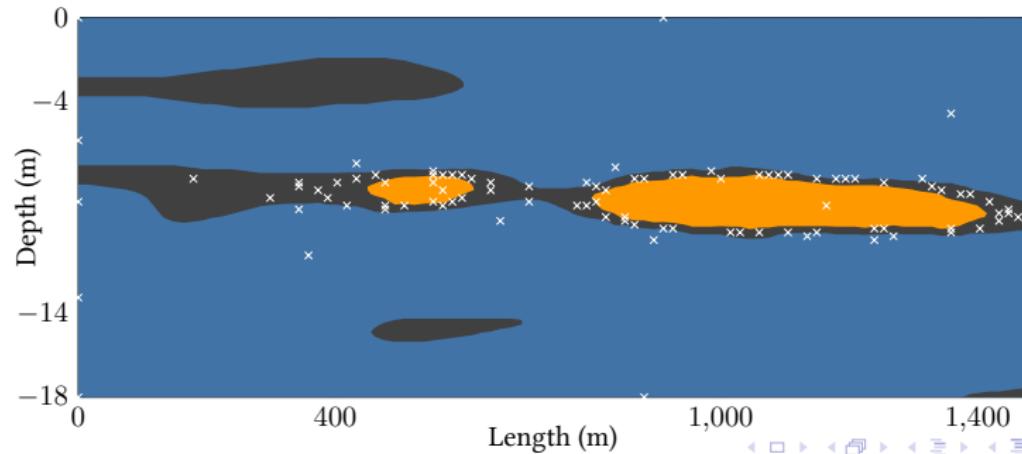


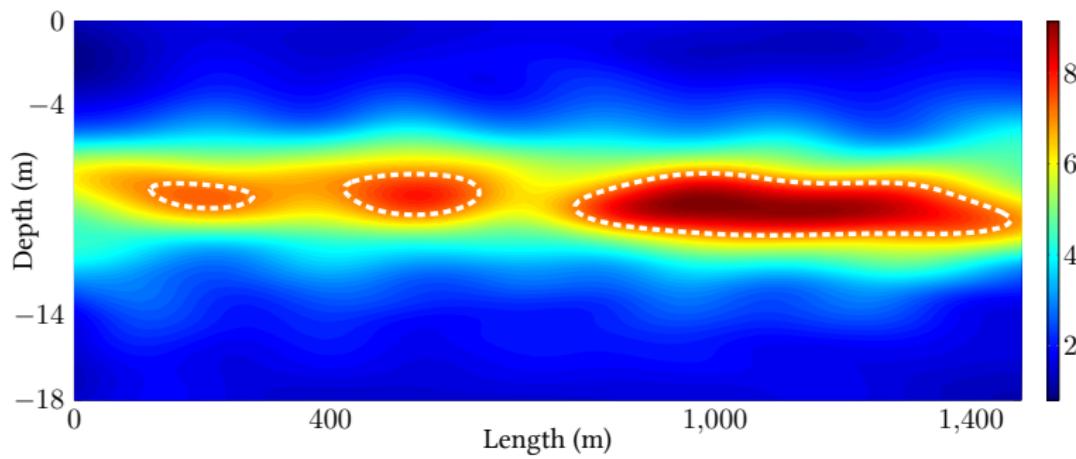
$t = 80$



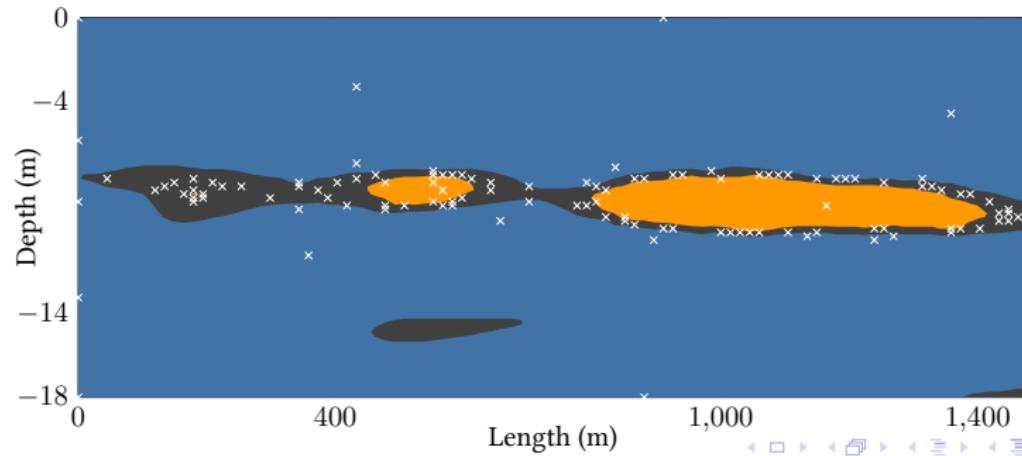


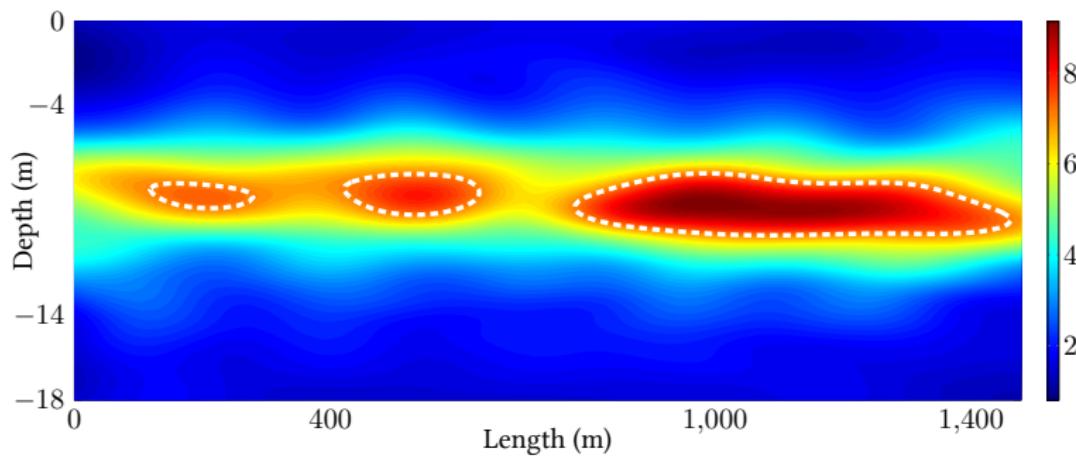
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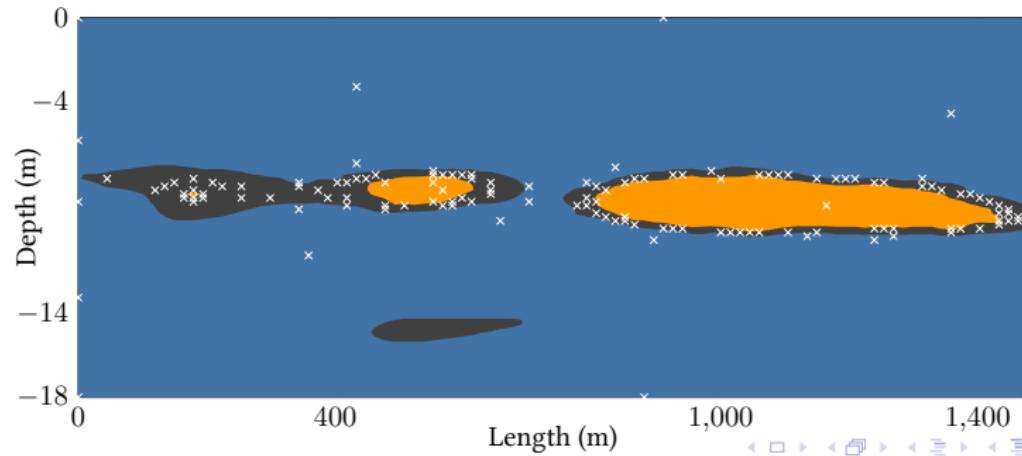


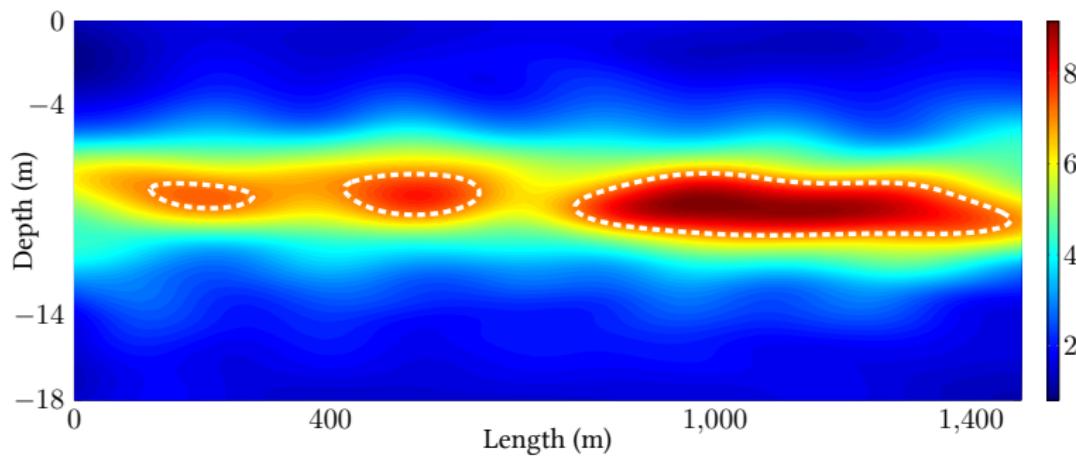
$t = 120$



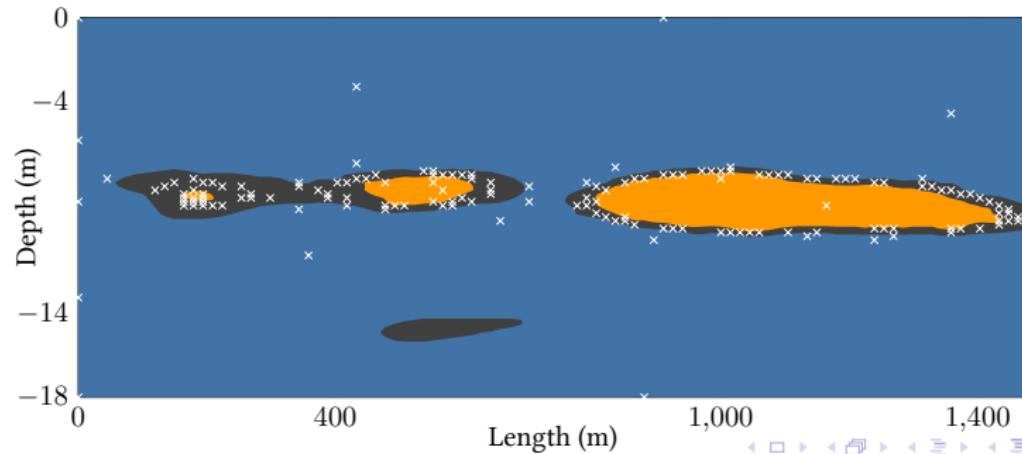


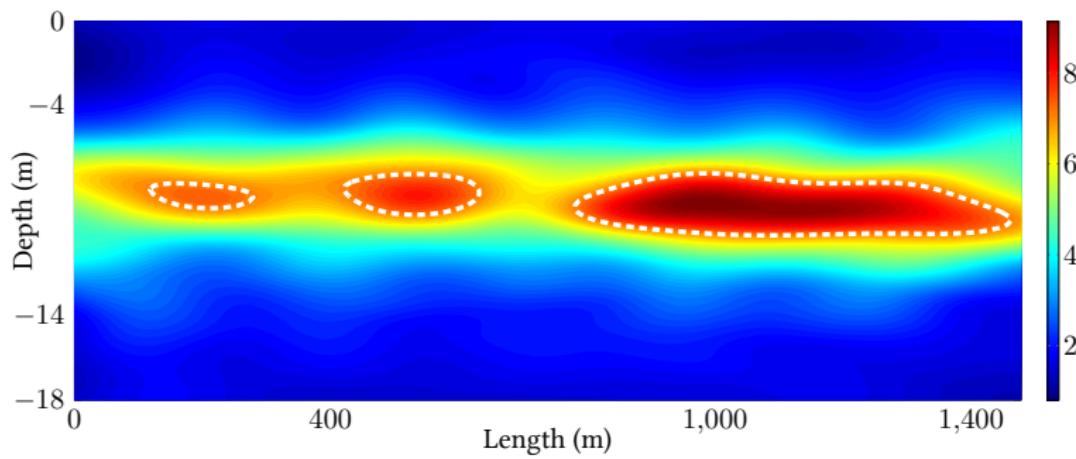
$t = 140$



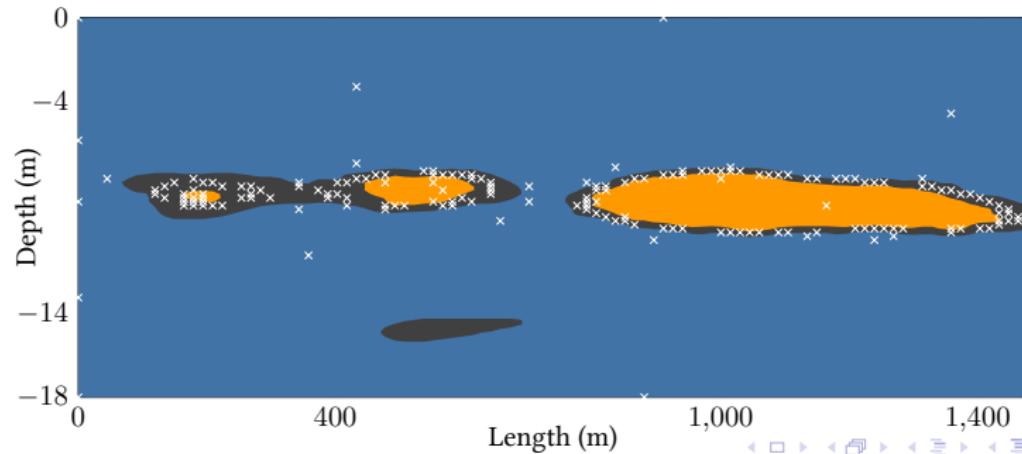


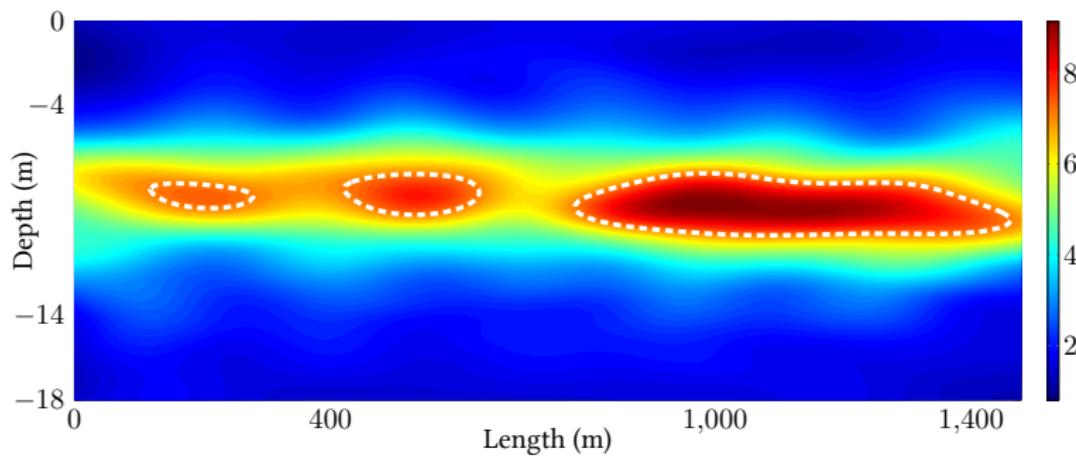
$t = 160$



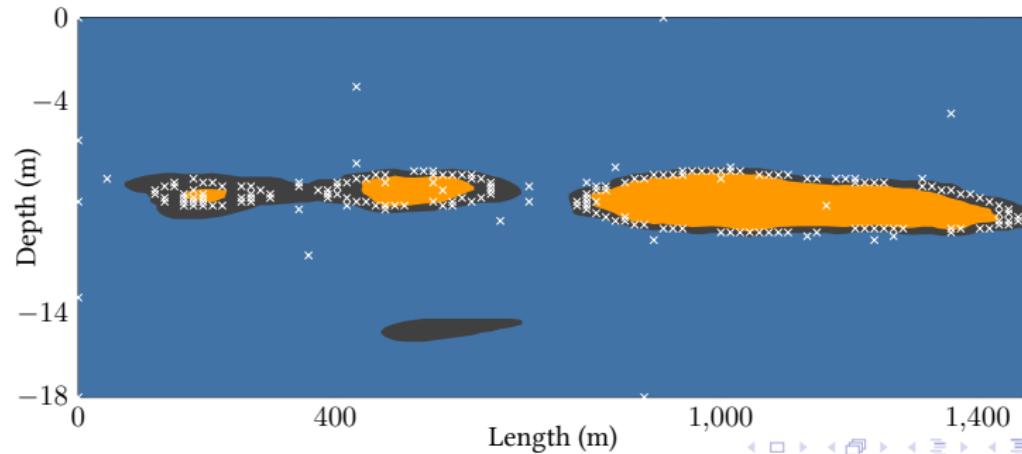


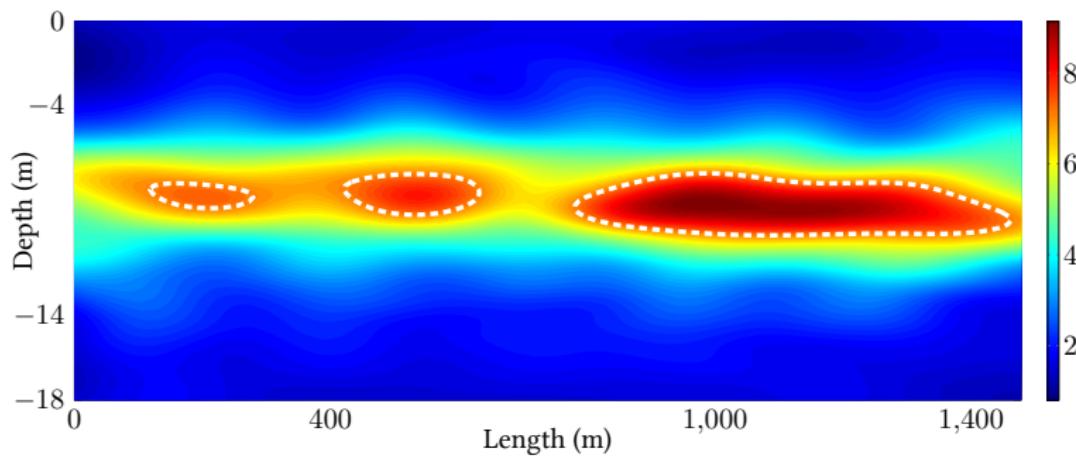
$t = 180$



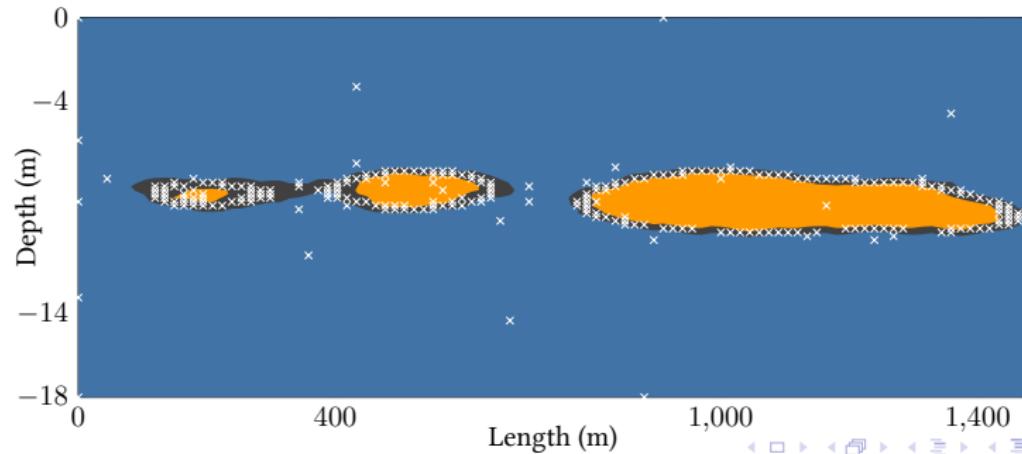


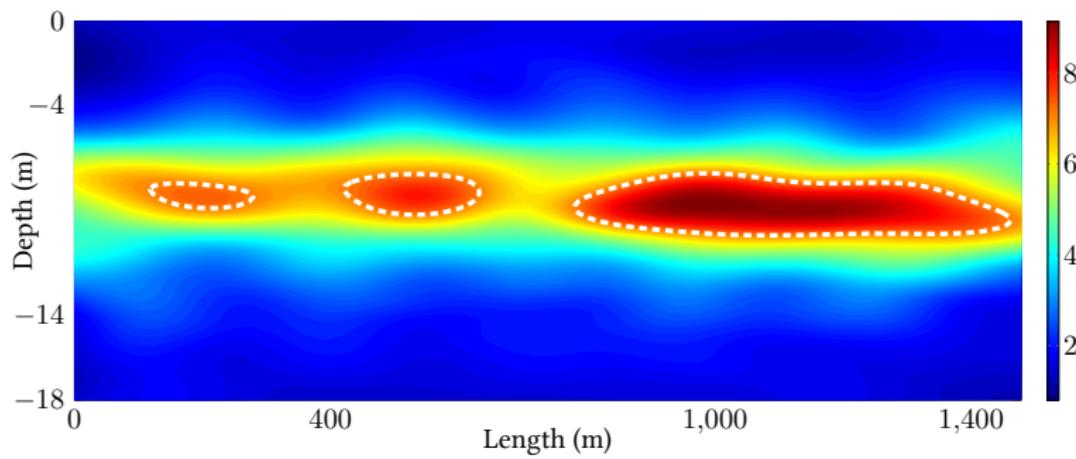
$t = 200$



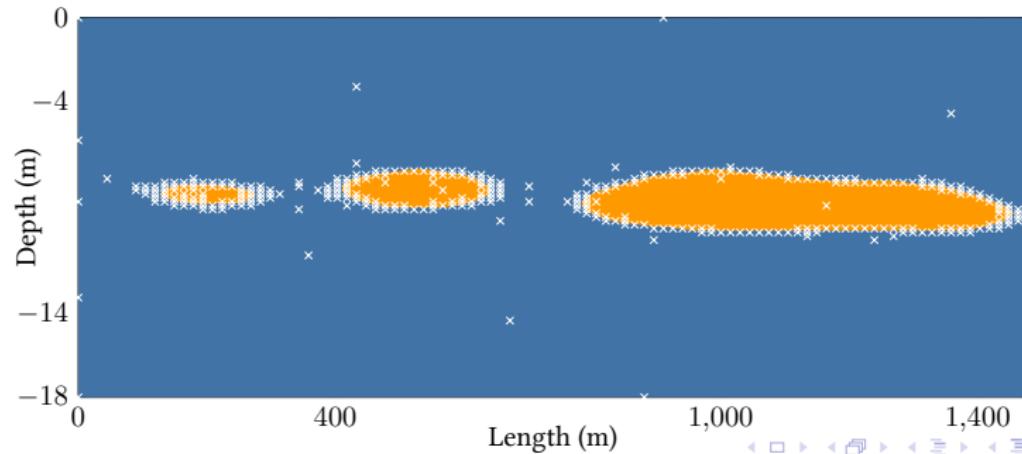


$t = 260$





$t = 354$



Theorem (Convergence of LSE)

For any $h \in \mathbb{R}$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$, and $\epsilon > 0$, if $\beta_t = 2 \log(|D| \pi^2 t^2 / (6\delta))$, LSE terminates after at most T iterations, where T is the smallest positive integer satisfying

$$\frac{T}{\beta_T \gamma_T} \geq \frac{C_1}{4\epsilon^2},$$

where $C_1 = 8/\log(1 + \sigma^{-2})$.

Furthermore, with probability at least $1 - \delta$, the algorithm returns an ϵ -accurate solution, that is

$$\Pr \left\{ \max_{\mathbf{x} \in D} \ell_h(\mathbf{x}) \leq \epsilon \right\} \geq 1 - \delta.$$

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If we choose β appropriately (large enough), then:

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Experiments

1. LSE

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2. Maximum variance sampling:

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in D} \sigma_{t-1}(\mathbf{x})$$

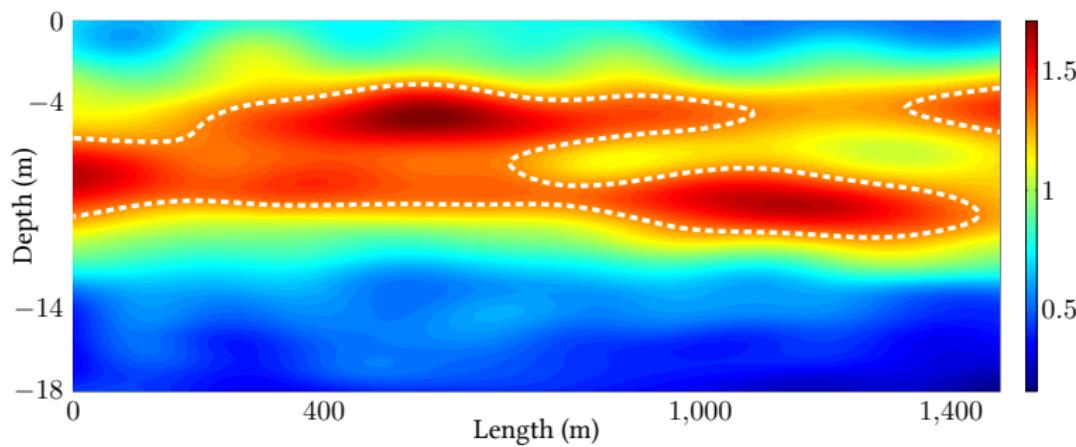
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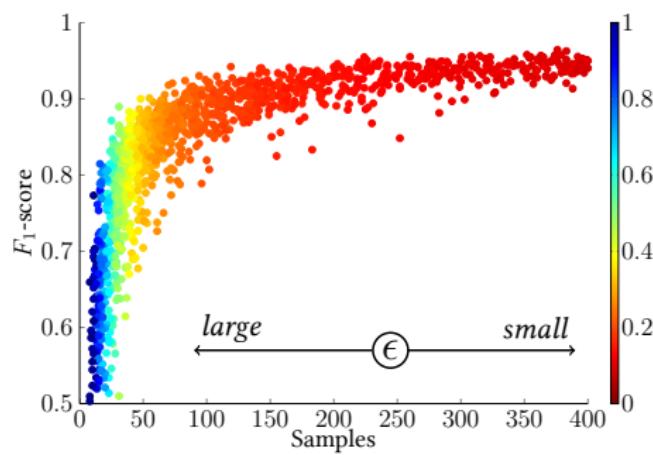
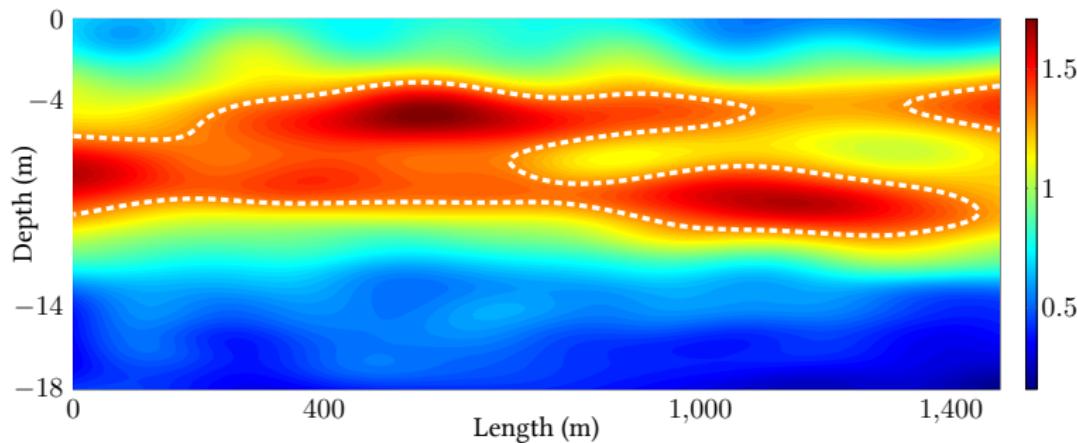
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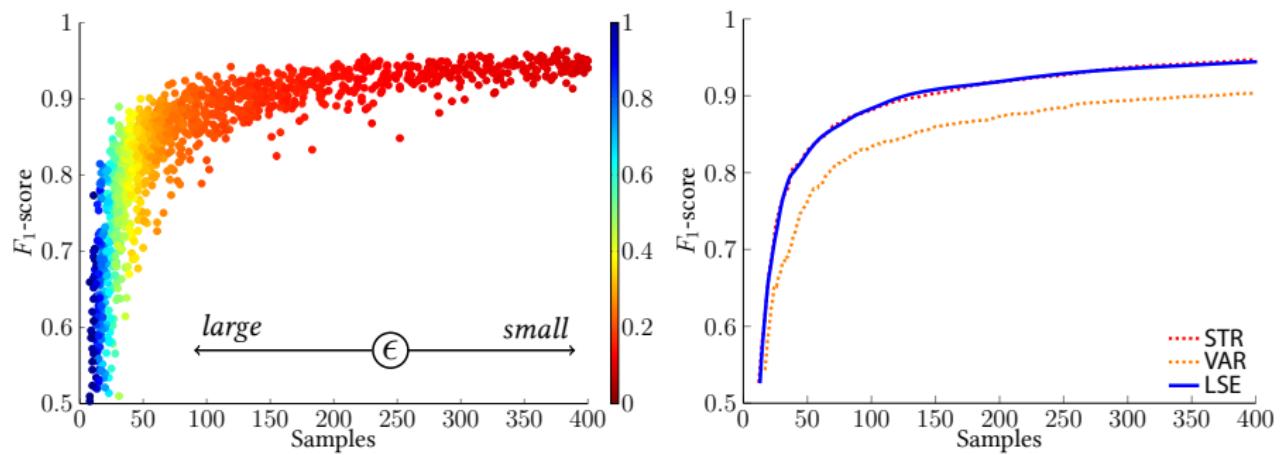
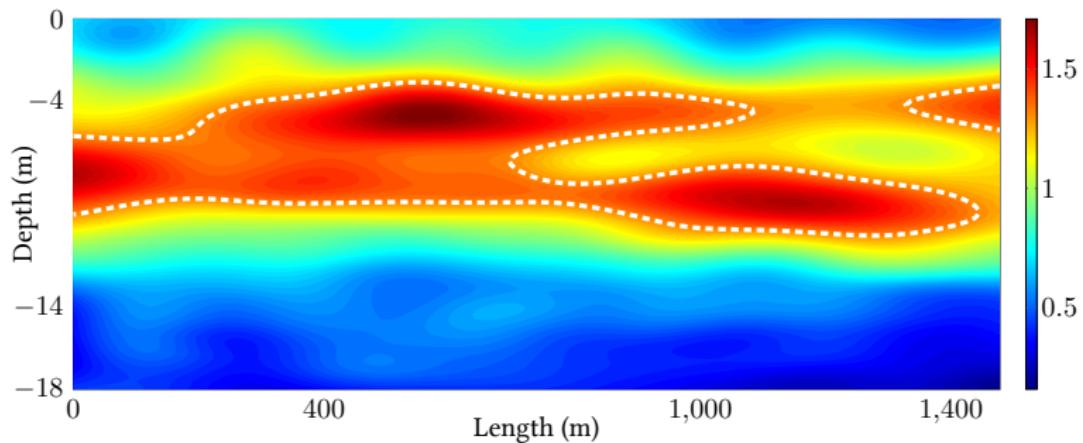
$$\mathbf{x}_t = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in D} \sigma_{t-1}(\mathbf{x})$$

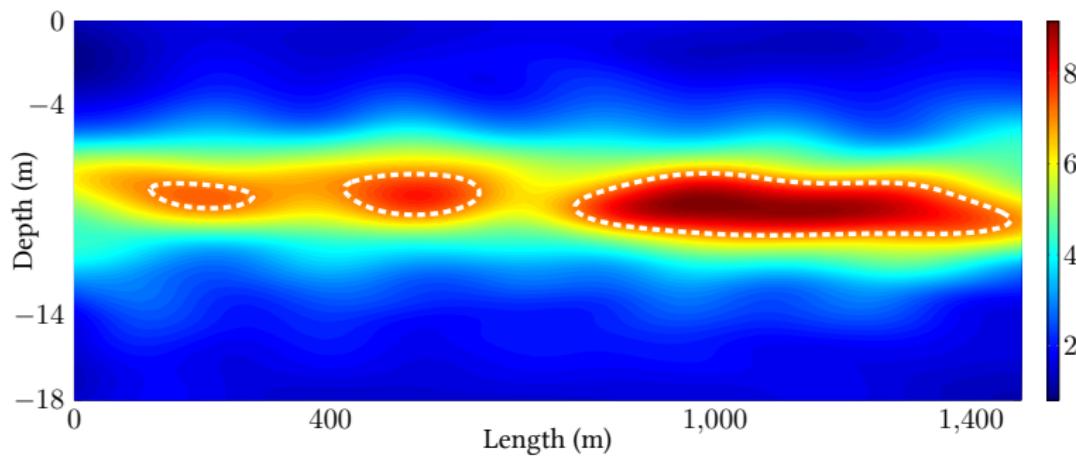
3. State of the art “straddle” heuristic (Bryan *et al.*, 2005):

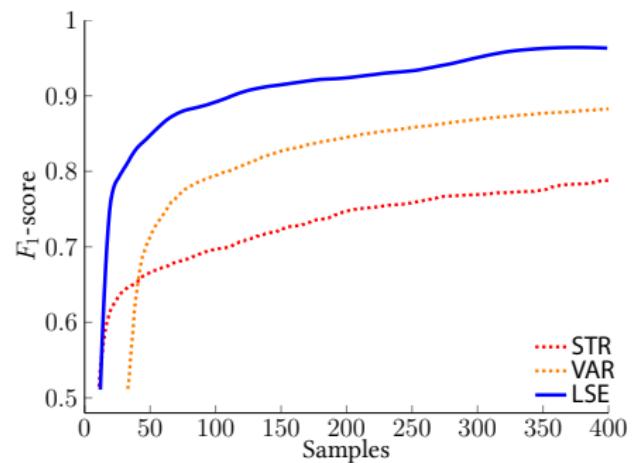
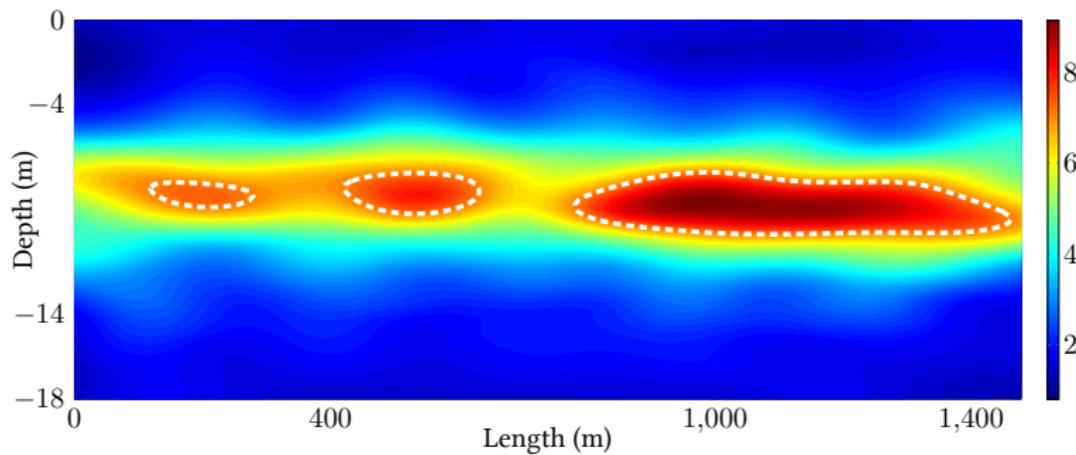
$$\mathbf{x}_t \approx \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in D} a_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}) \quad (\text{for } \beta_t^{1/2} = 1.96)$$

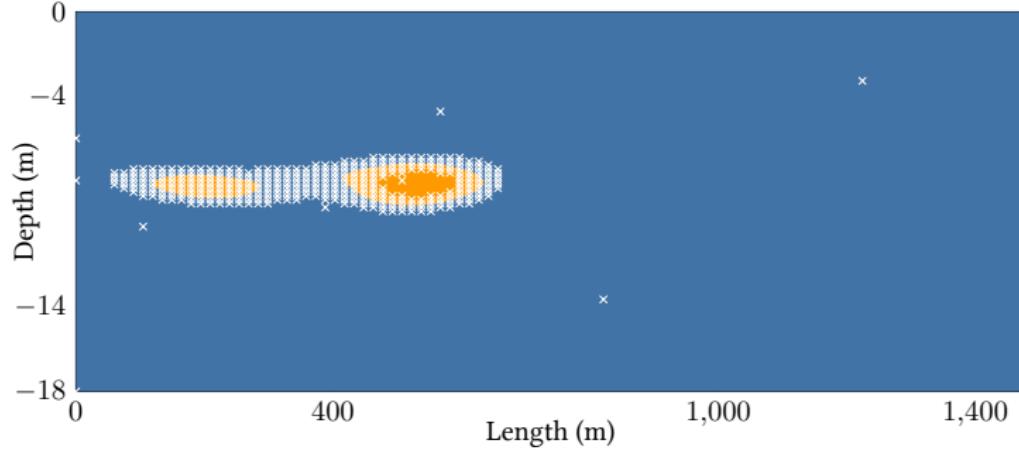
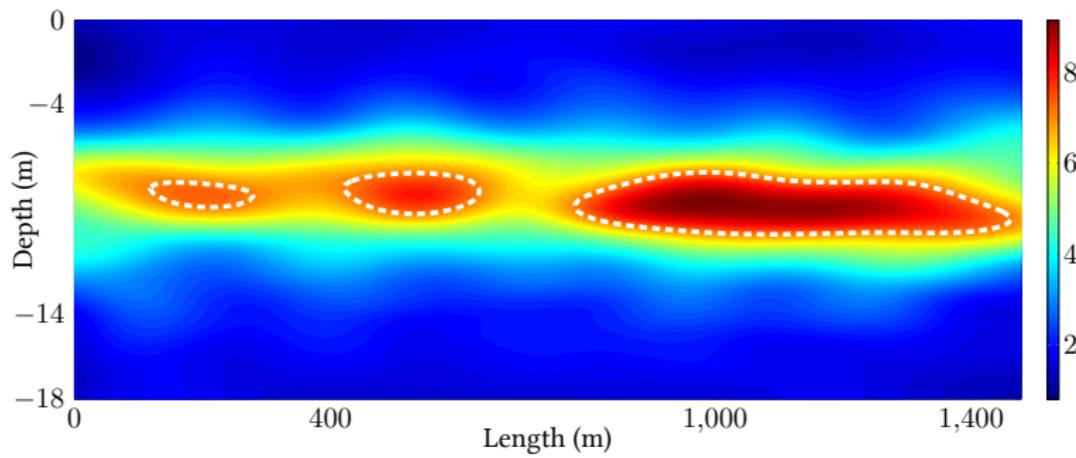












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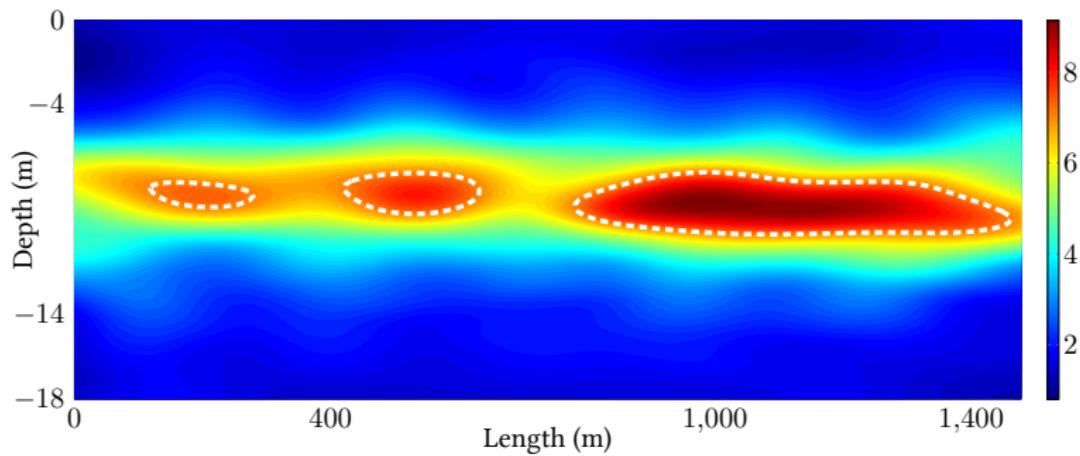
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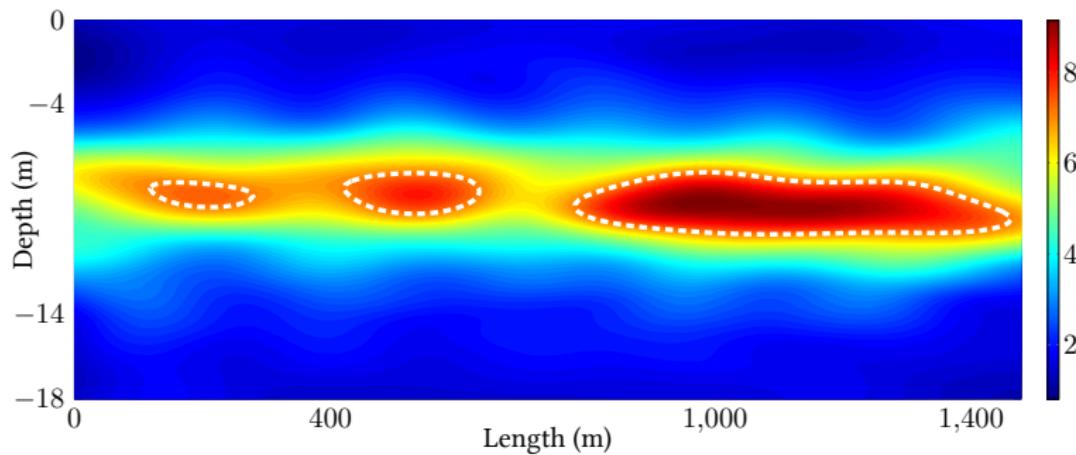
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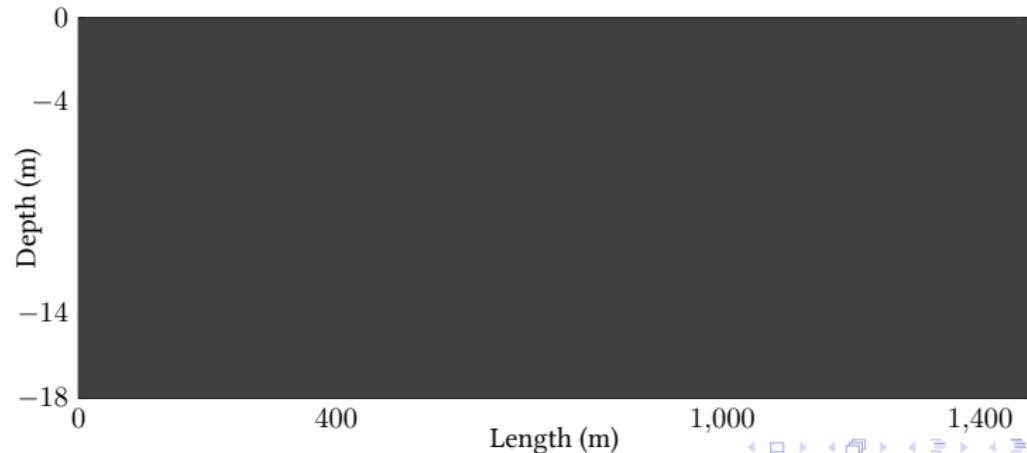
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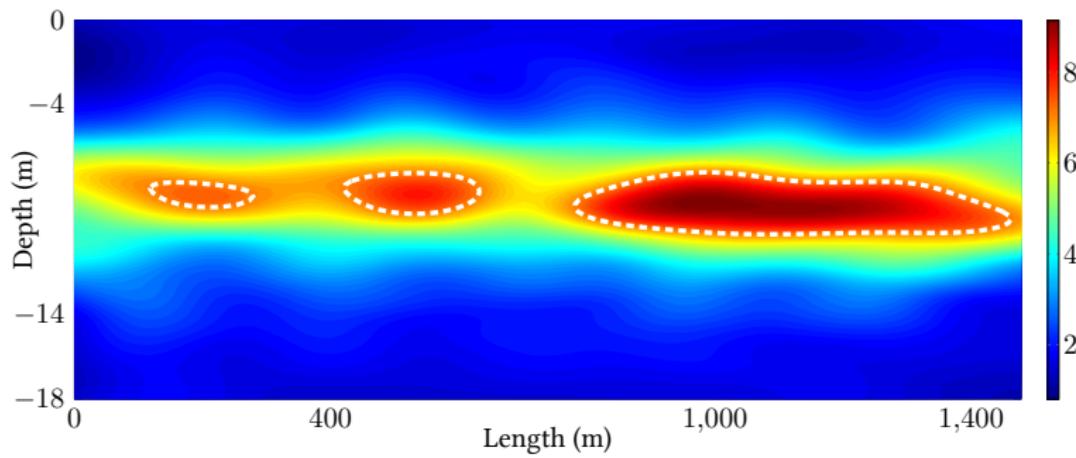
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 - ▶ Need to accurately estimate the maximum → modified selection rule



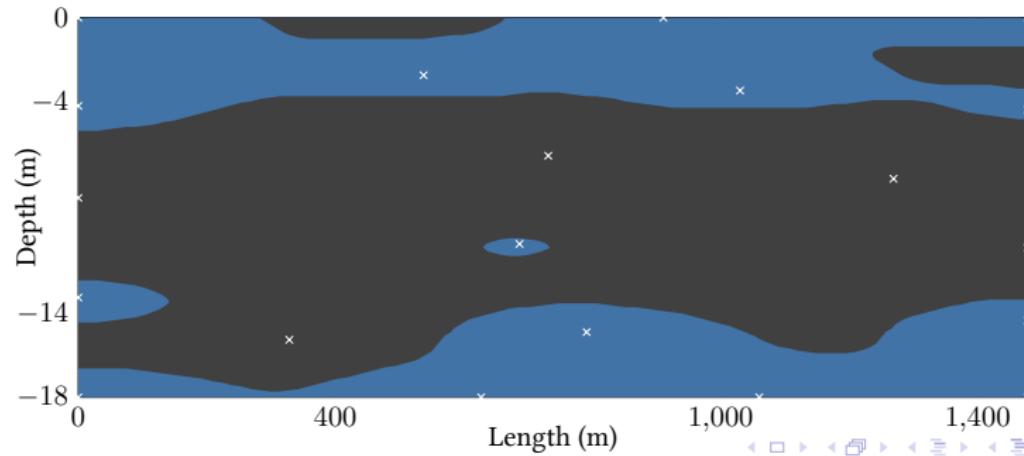


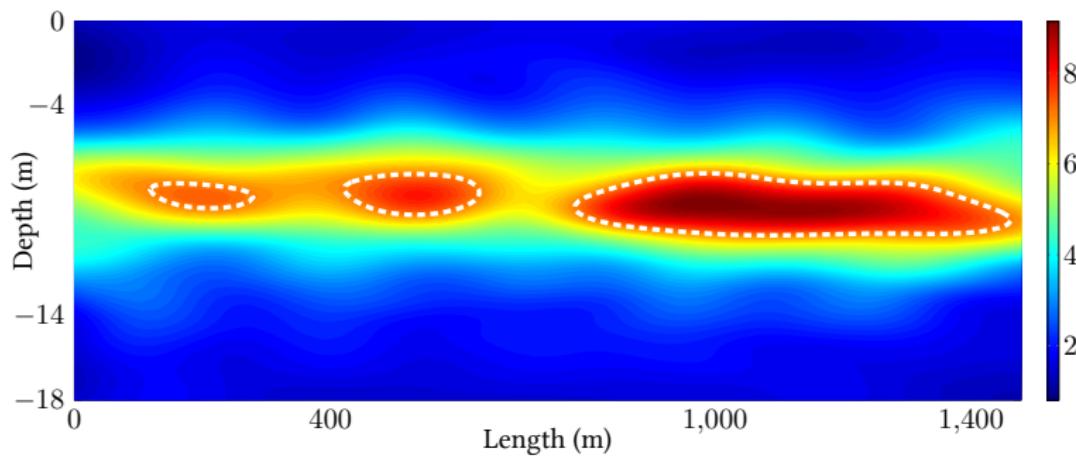
$t = 0$



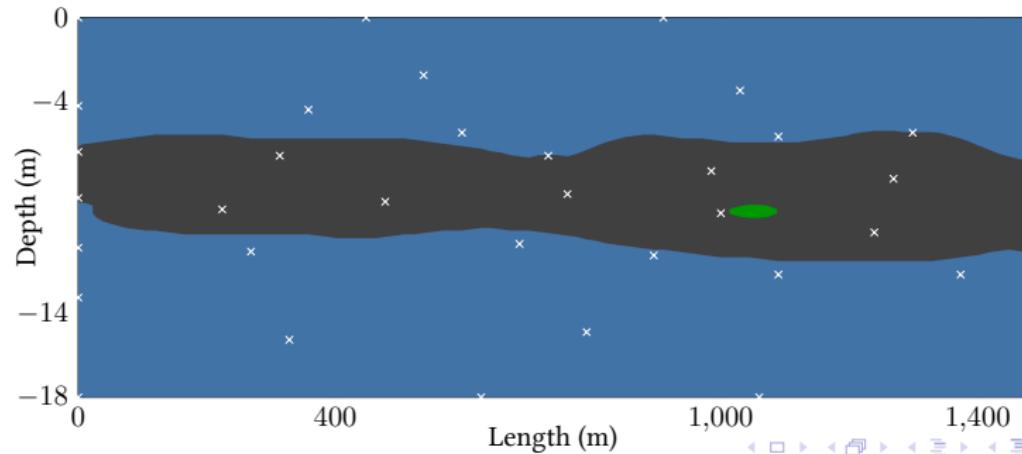


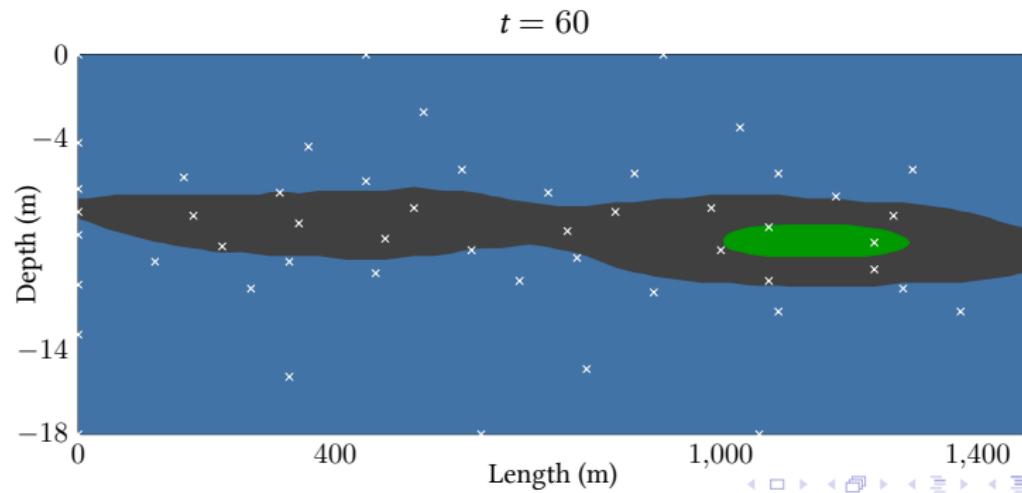
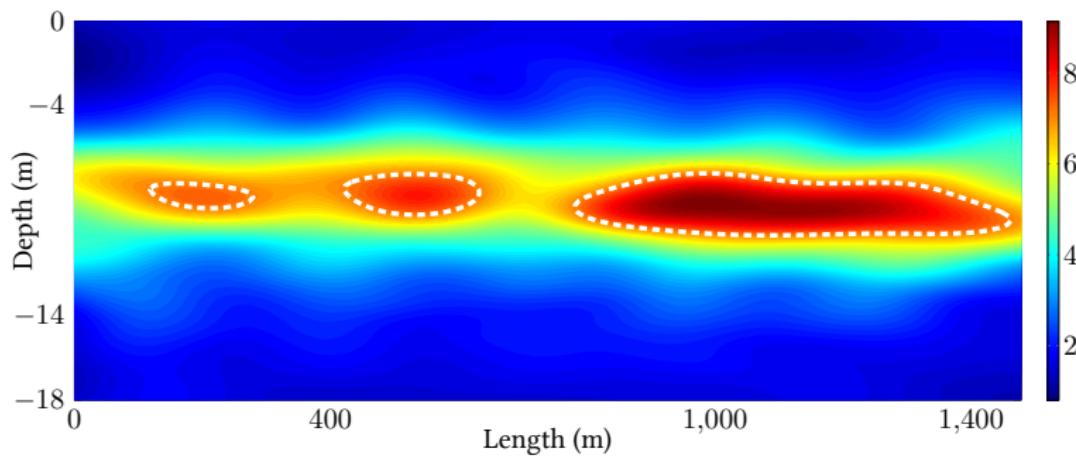
$t = 20$

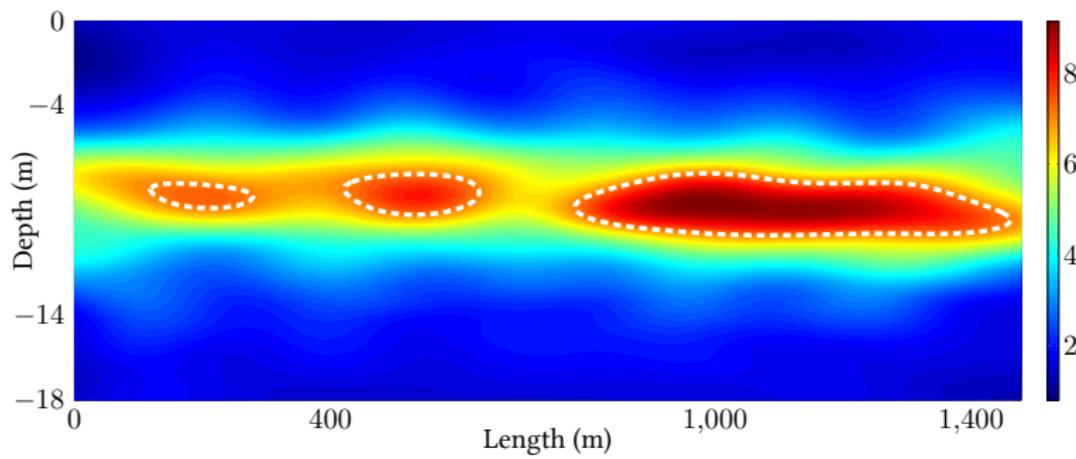




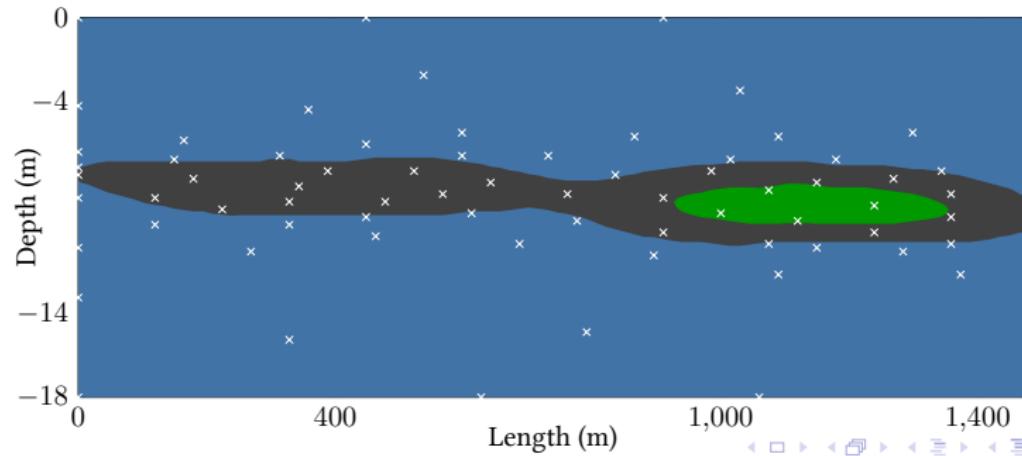
$t = 40$

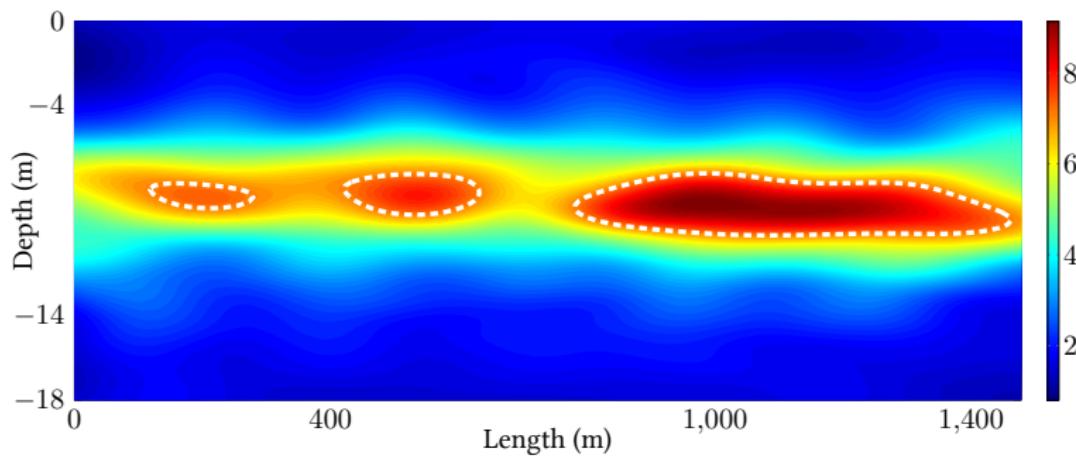




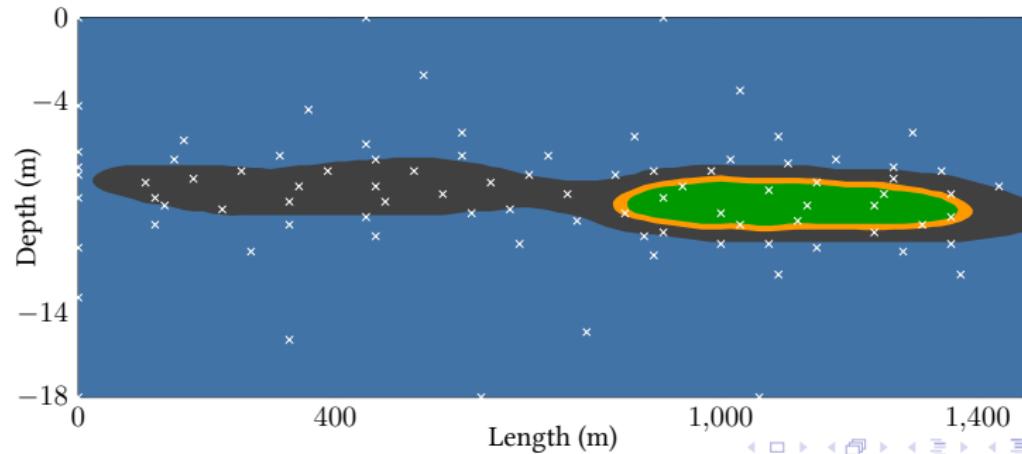


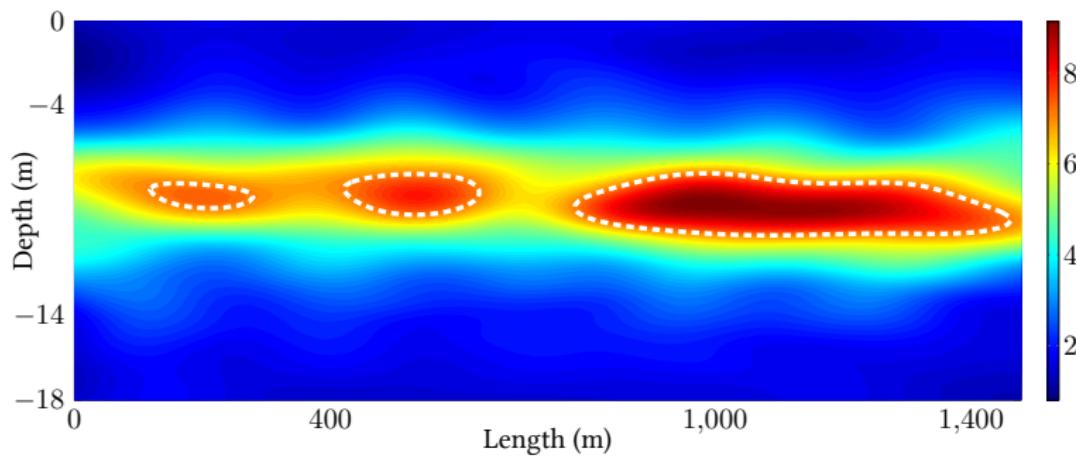
$t = 80$



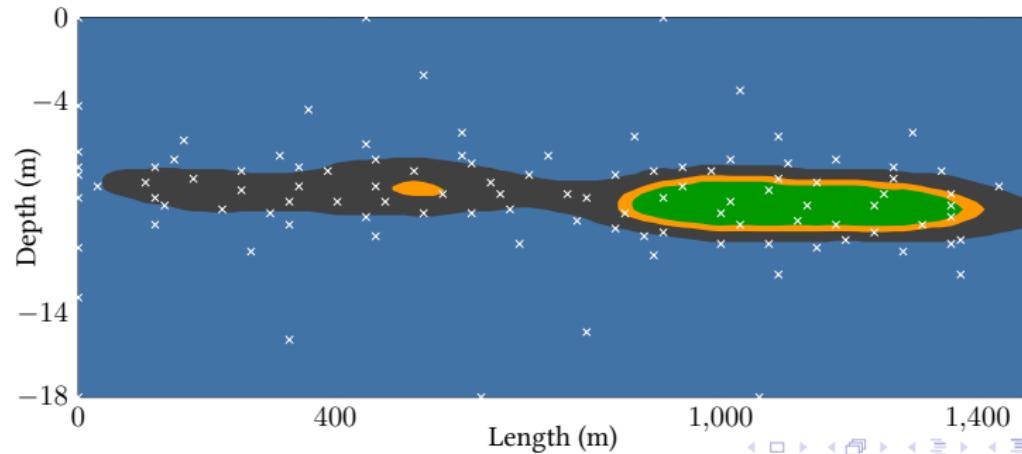


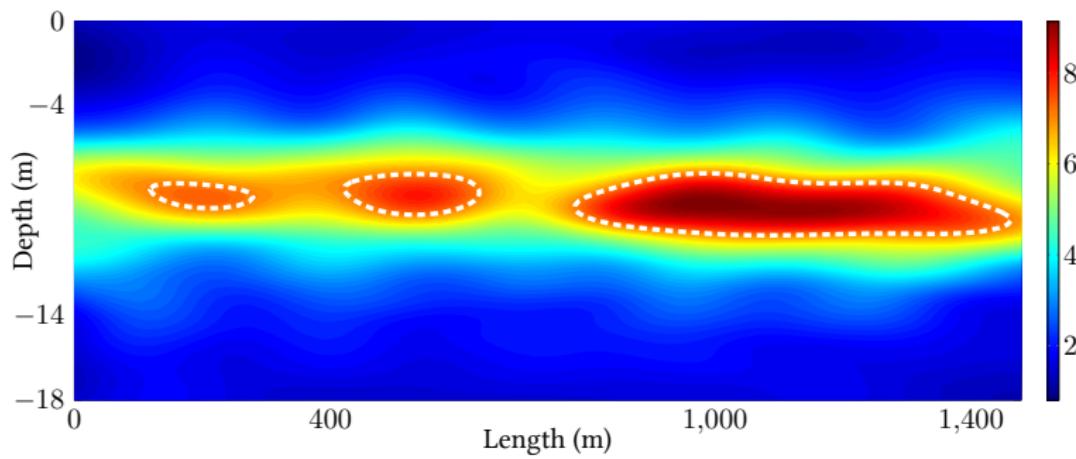
$t = 100$



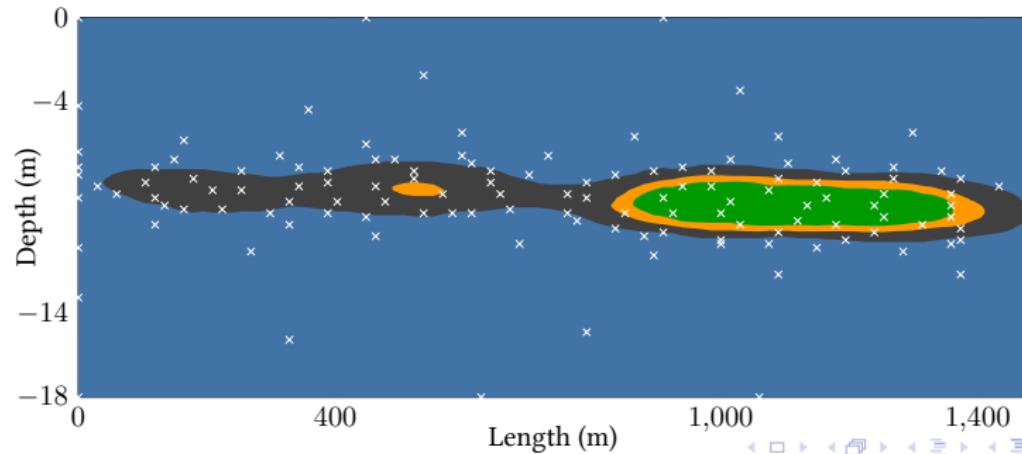


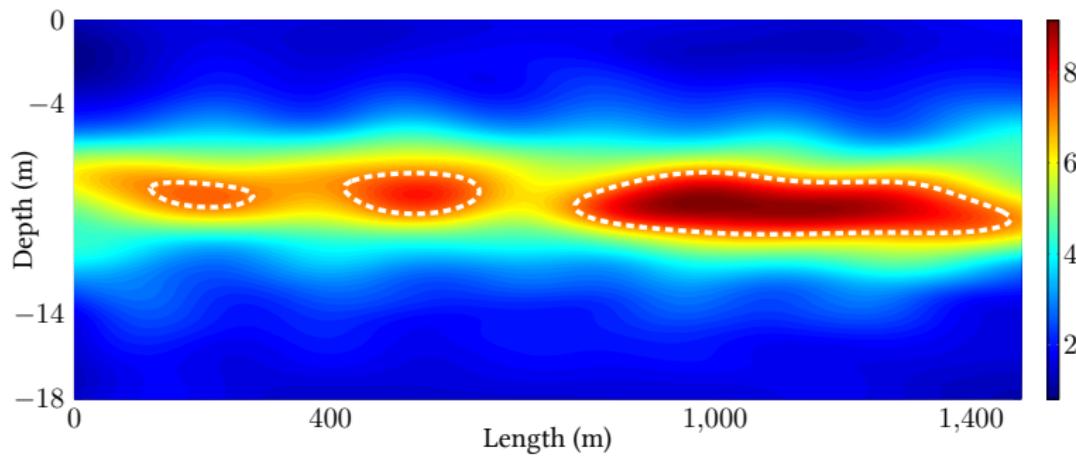
$t = 120$



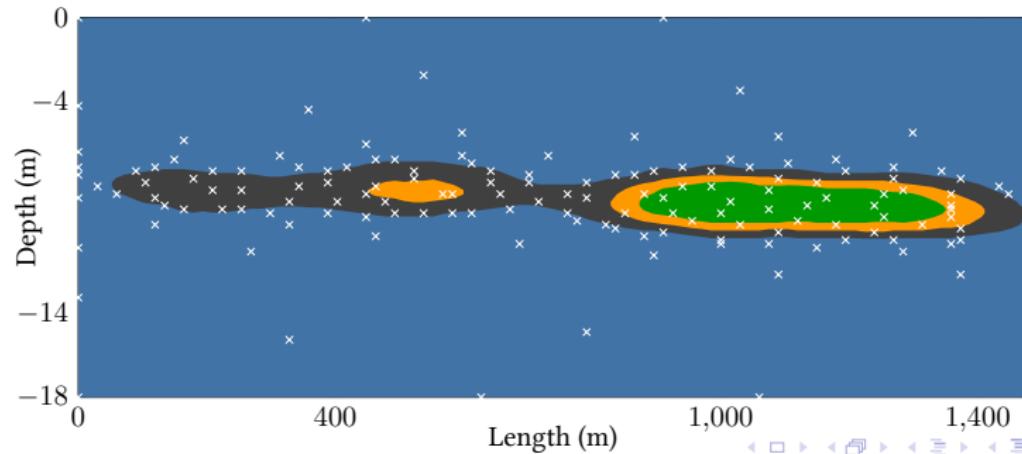


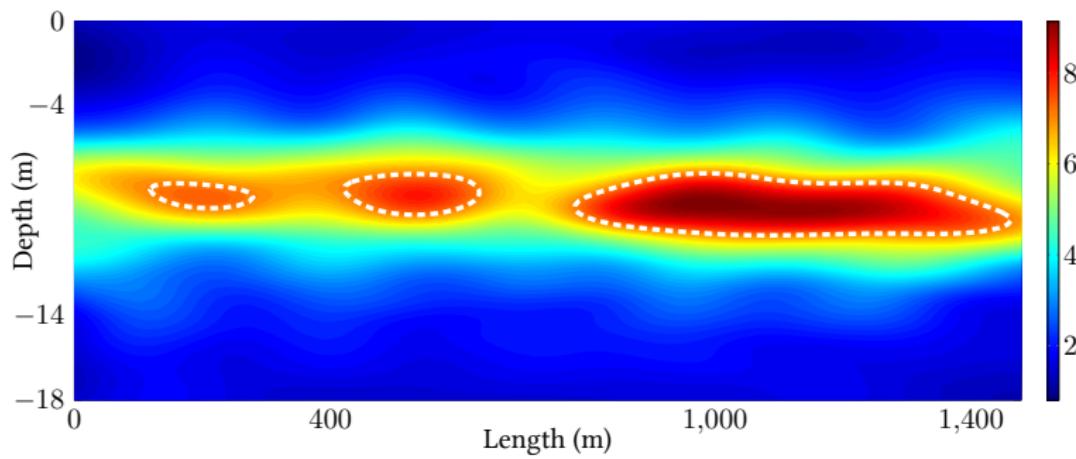
$t = 140$



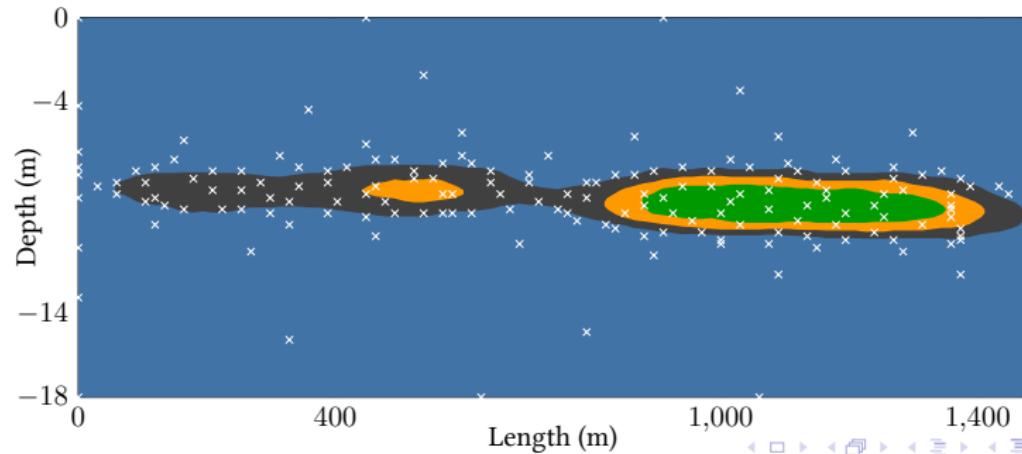


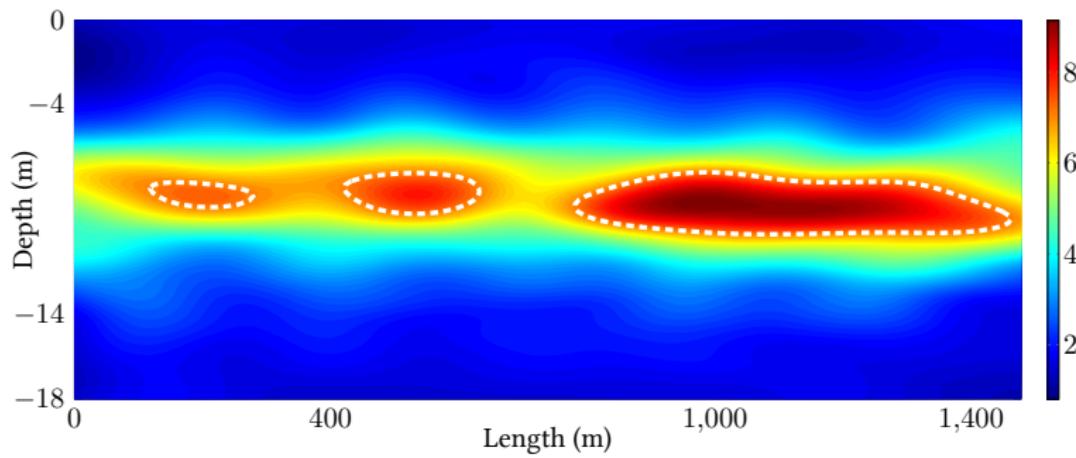
$t = 160$



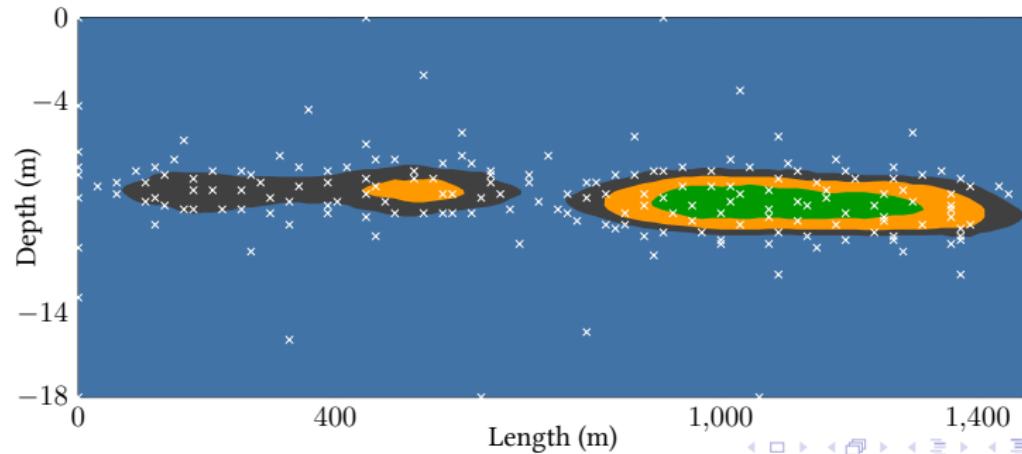


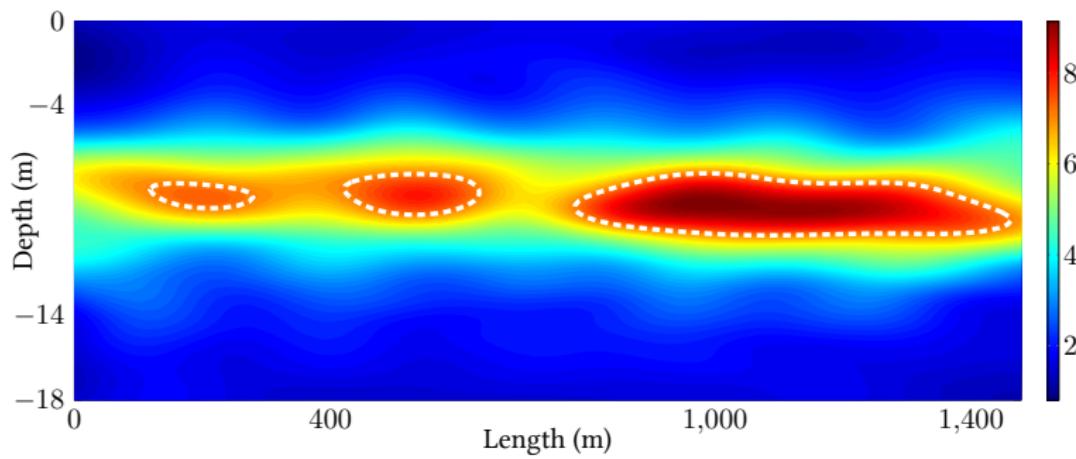
$t = 180$



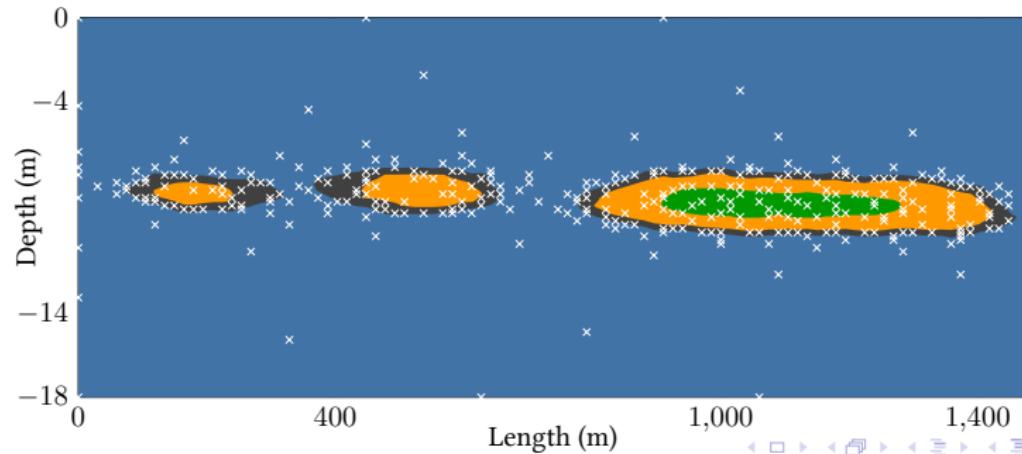


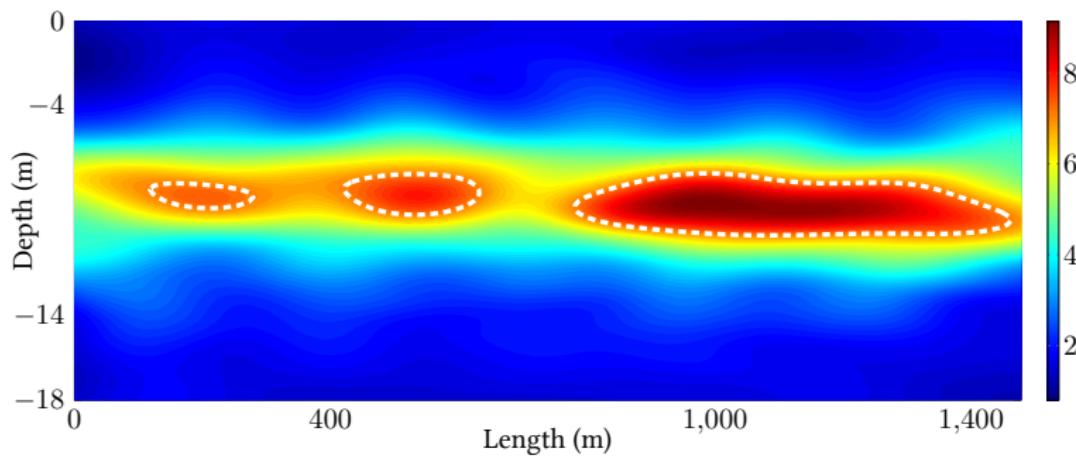
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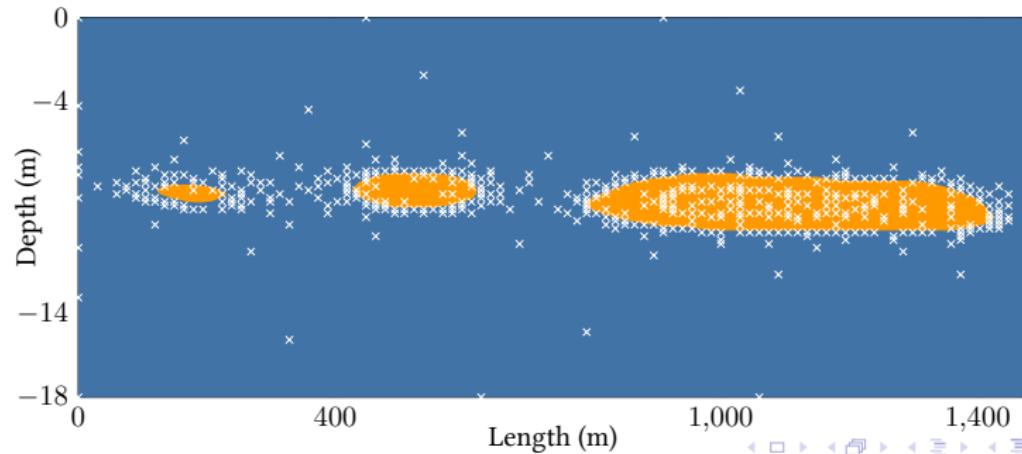


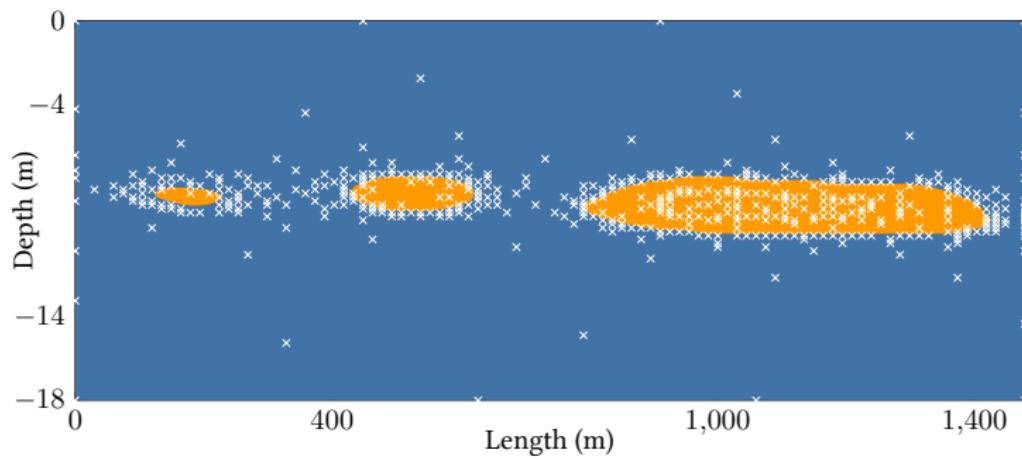
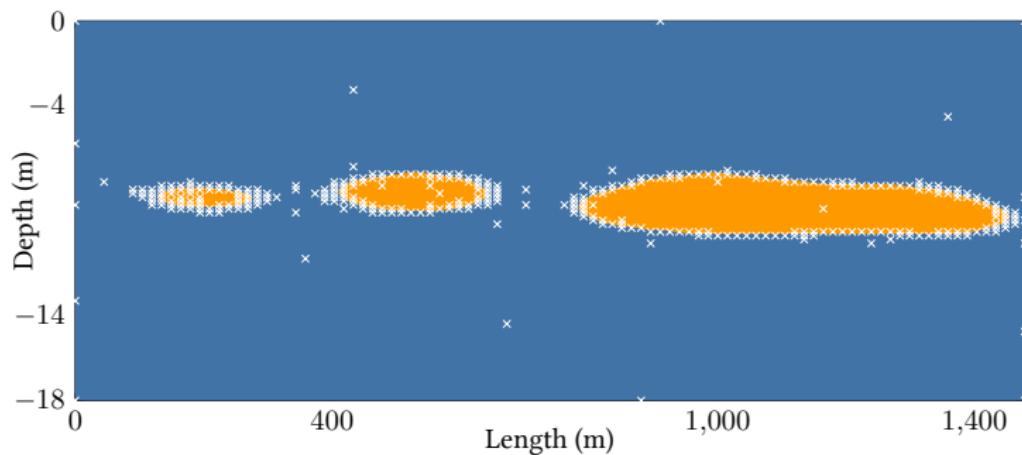
$t = 340$





$t = 486$





Batch sampling

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What about the traveling distance between measurements?

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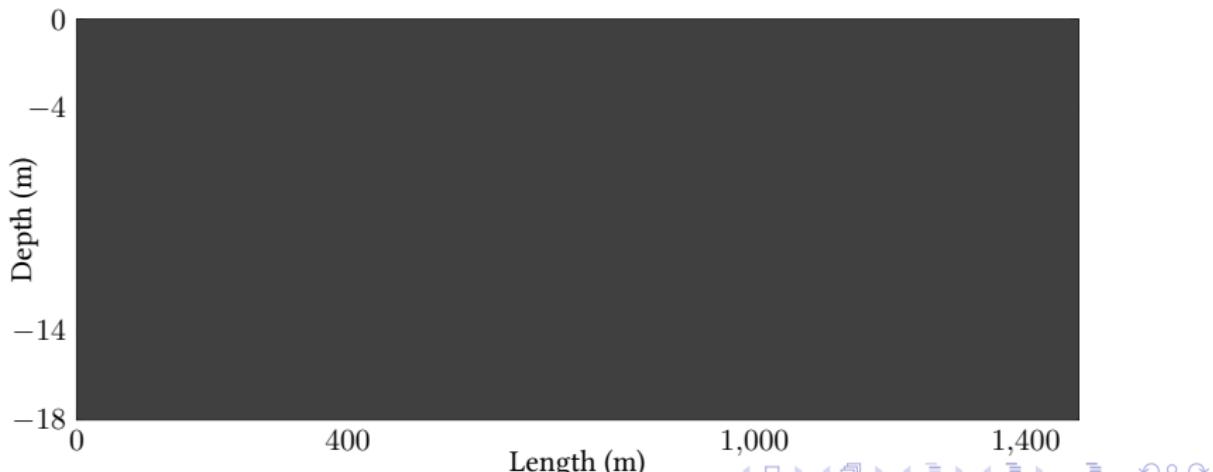
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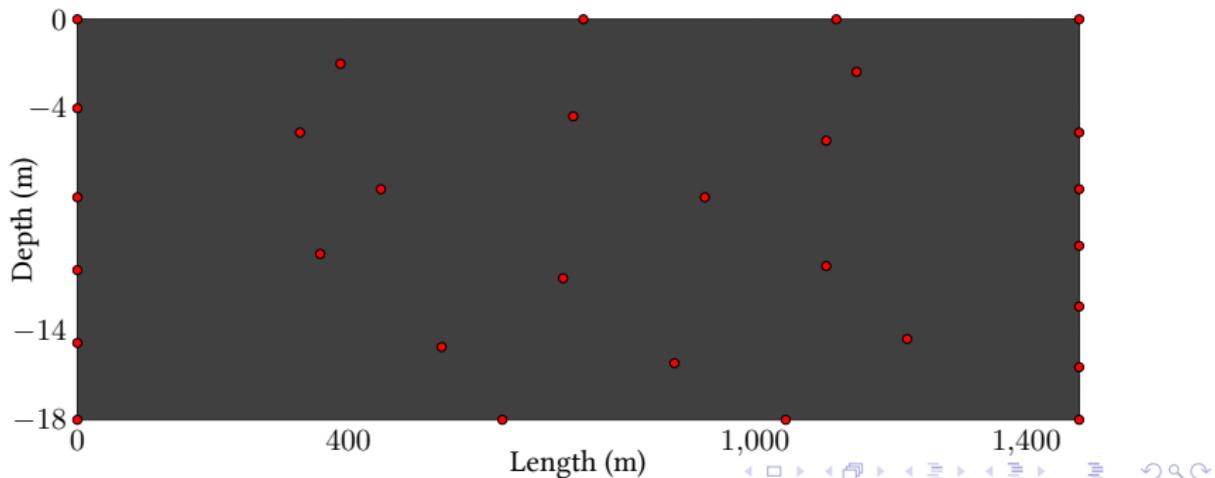
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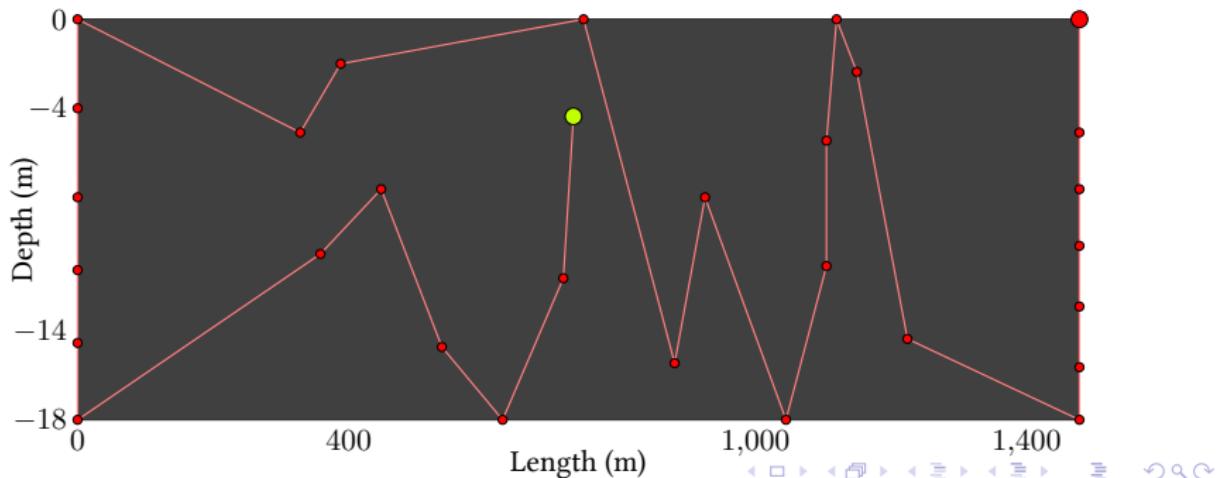
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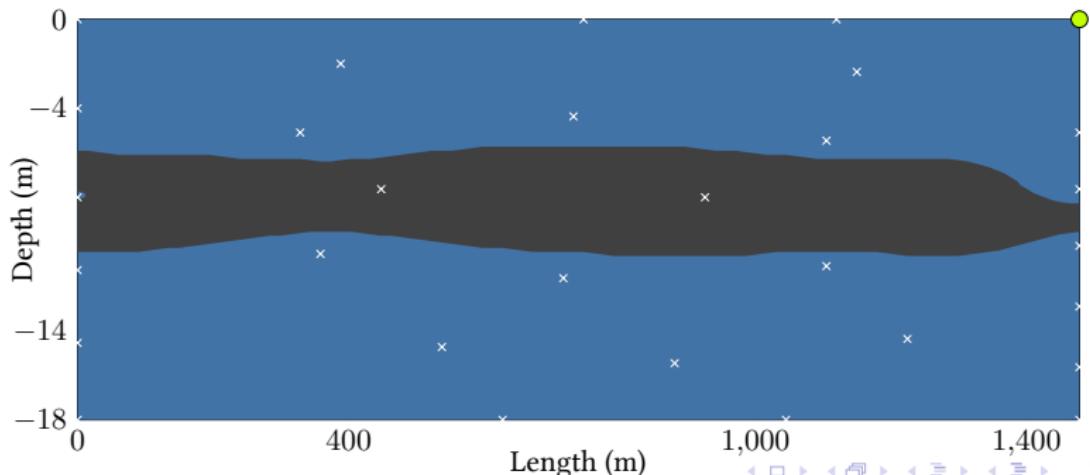
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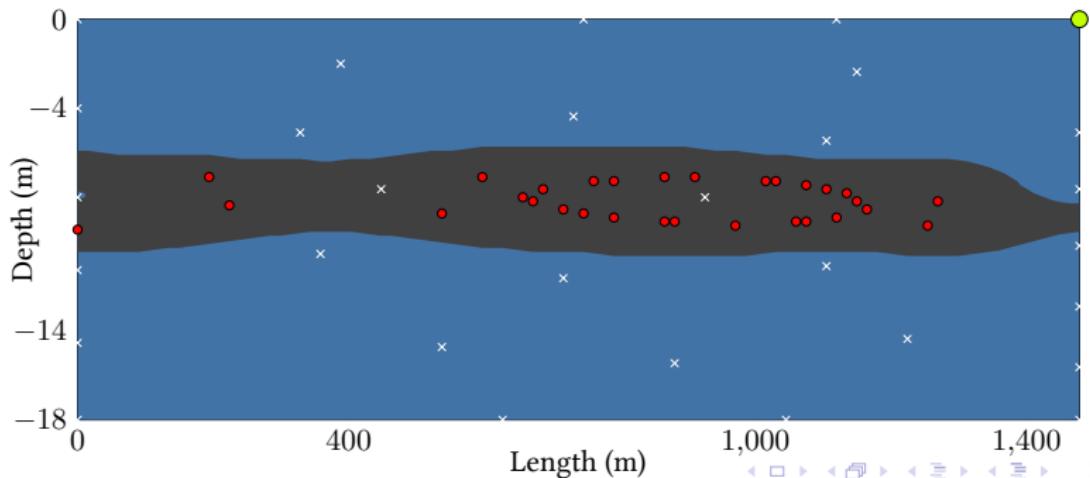
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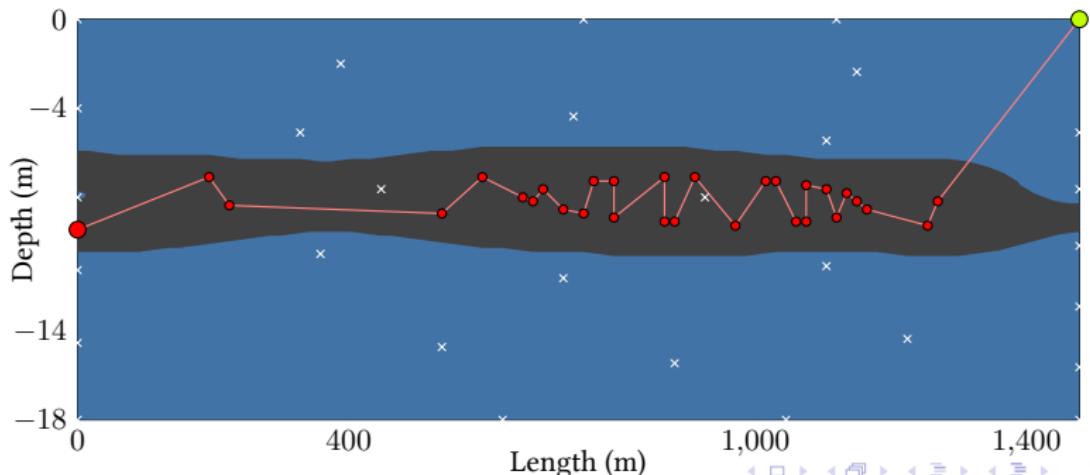
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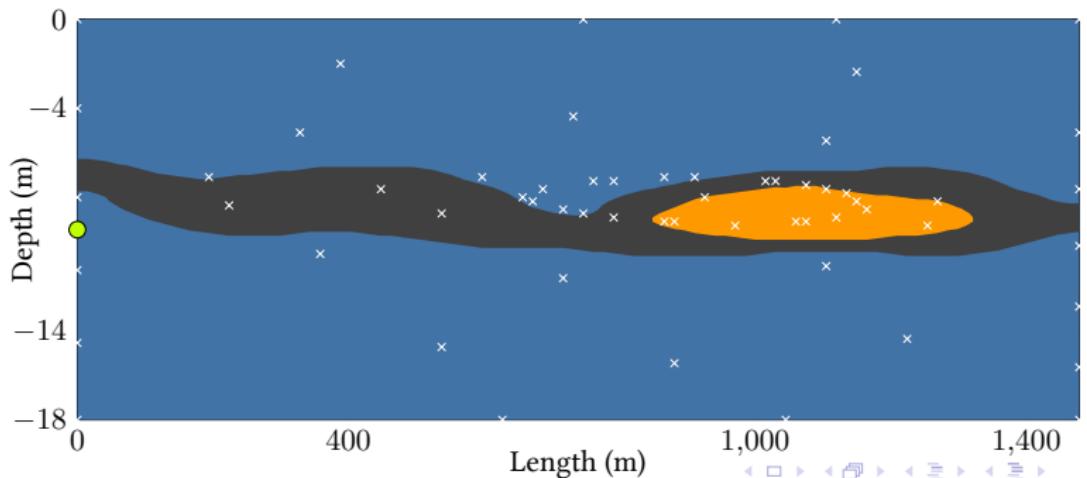
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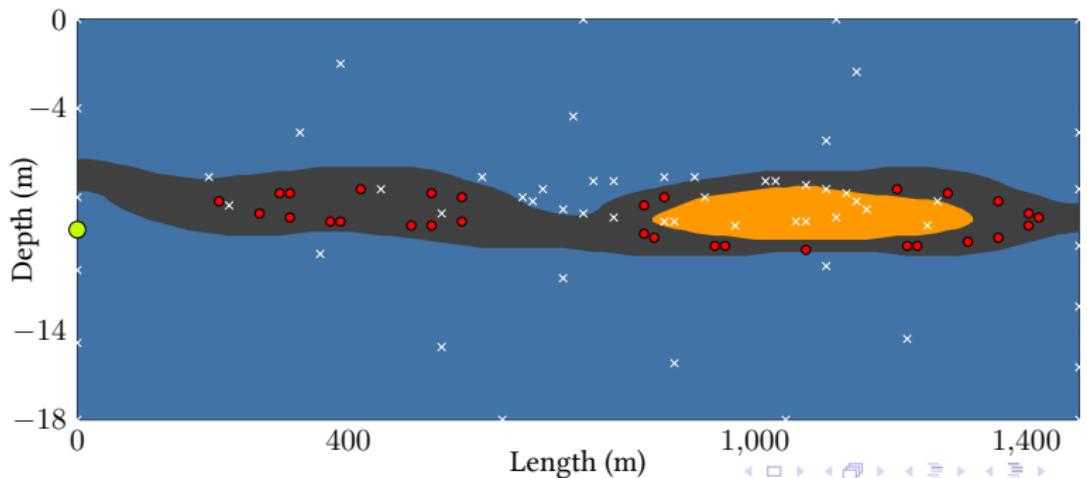
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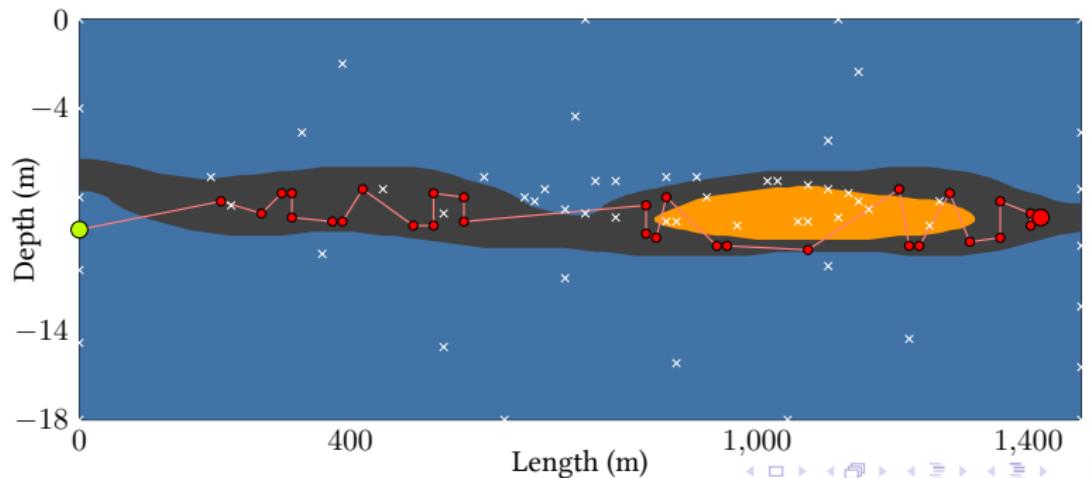
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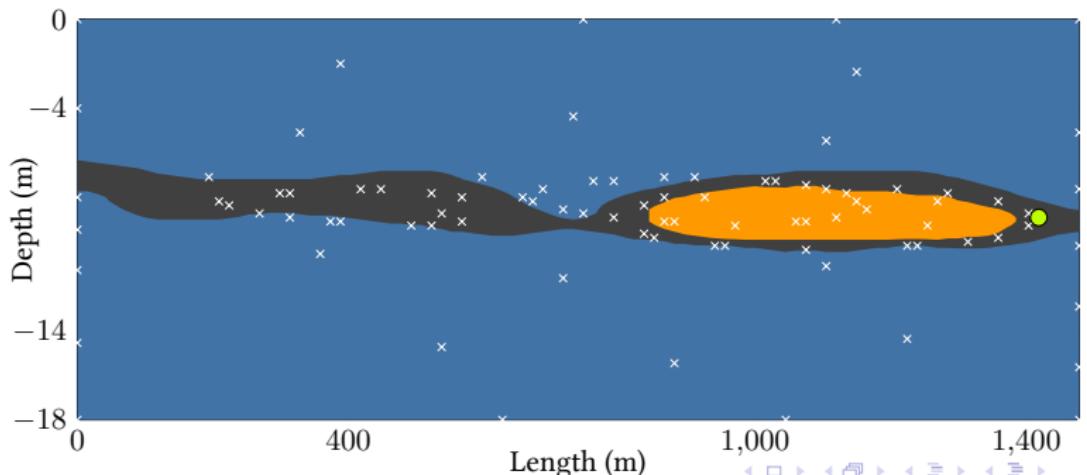
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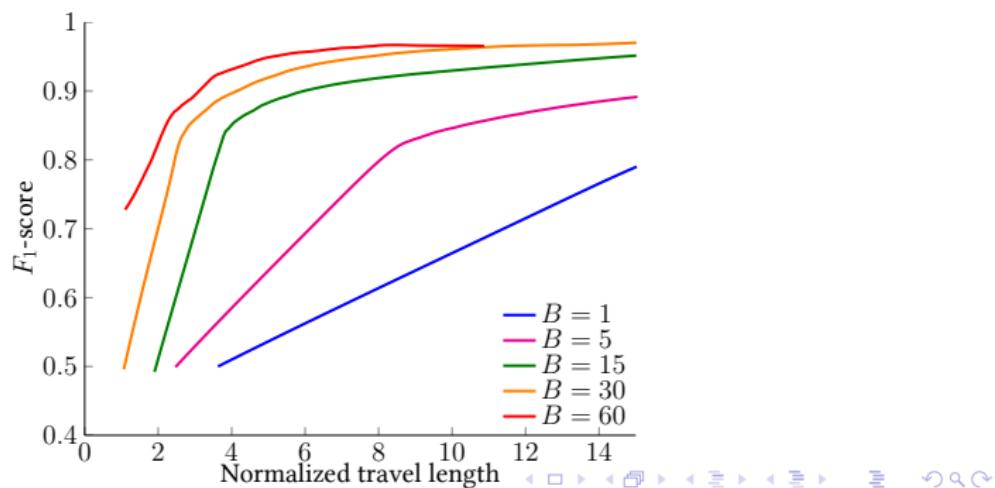
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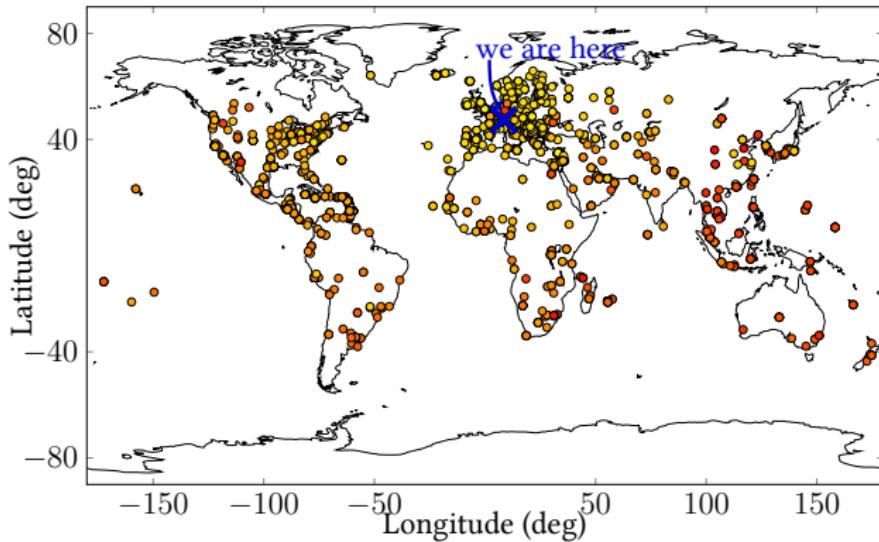
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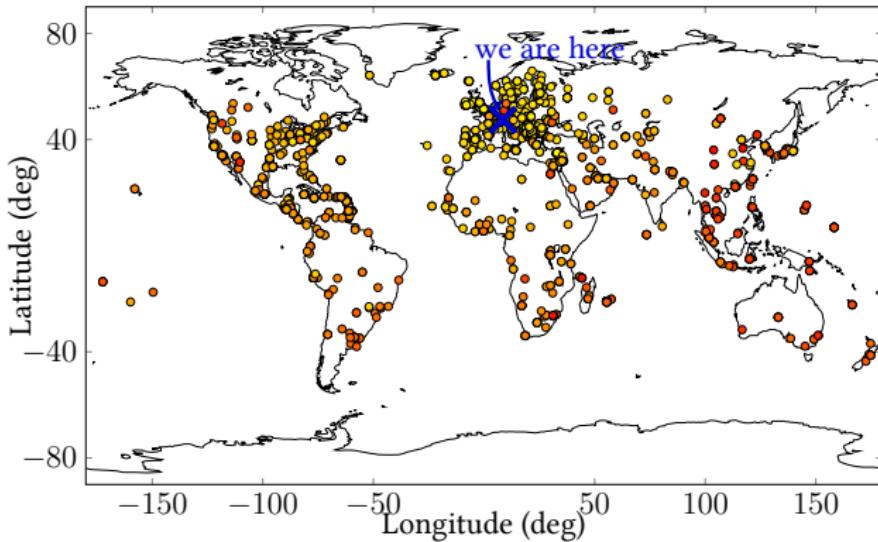
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- ▶ ...applications: estimate world regions of low internet latency



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- ▶ ...experimental results

Summary

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► LSE algorithm:

Theoretical guarantees

Theorem (Convergence of LSE)

For any $h \in \mathbb{R}$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$, and $\epsilon > 0$, if $\beta_t = 2 \log(|D| \pi^2 t^2 / (6\delta))$, LSE terminates after at most T iterations, where T is the smallest positive integer satisfying

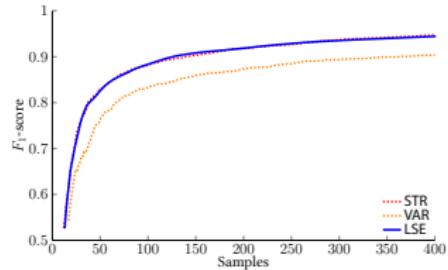
$$\frac{T}{\beta_T \gamma_T} \geq \frac{C_1}{4\epsilon^2},$$

where $C_1 = 8/\log(1 + \sigma^{-2})$.

Furthermore, with probability at least $1 - \delta$, the algorithm returns an ϵ -accurate solution, that is

$$\Pr \left\{ \max_{x \in D} \ell_h(x) \leq \epsilon \right\} \geq 1 - \delta.$$

Competitive with the state of the art



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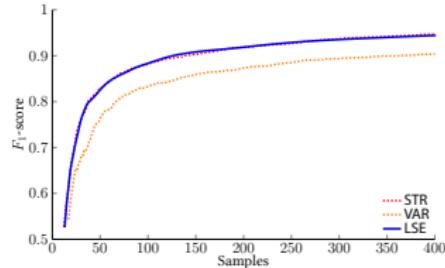
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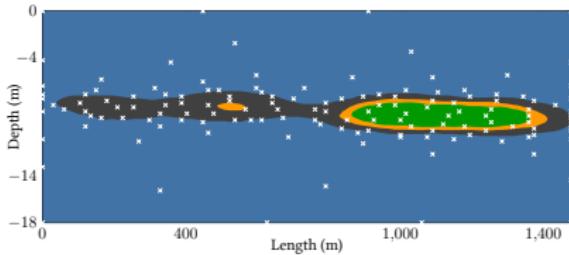
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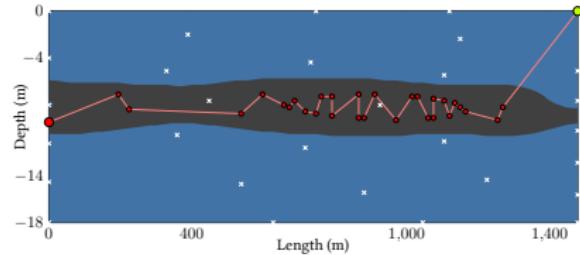


- ▶ Two useful extensions:

Implicit threshold level (LSE_{imp})



Batch sampling ($\text{LSE}_{\text{batch}}$)



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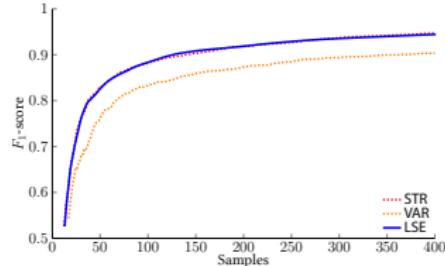
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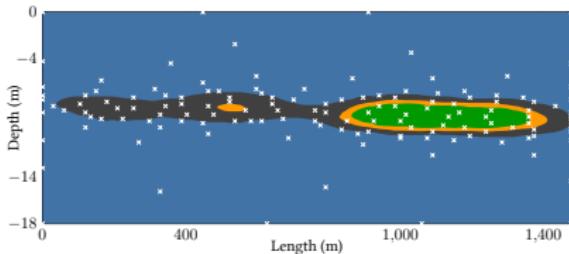
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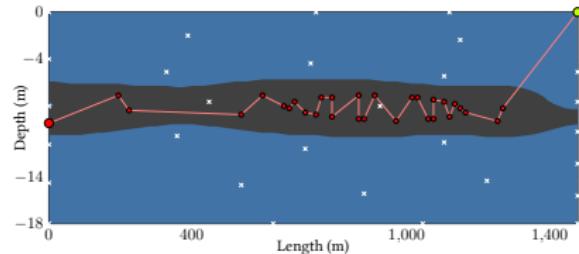


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- ▶ Look out for algae when swimming in Lake Zurich! 😊