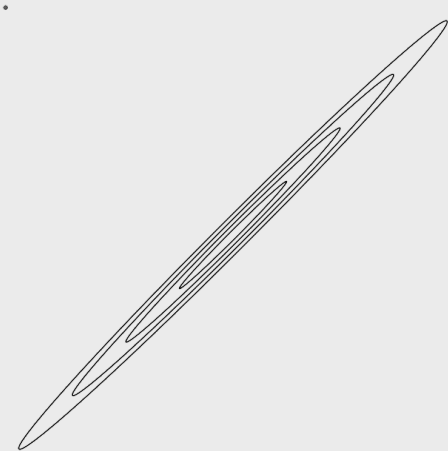**data analysis** with
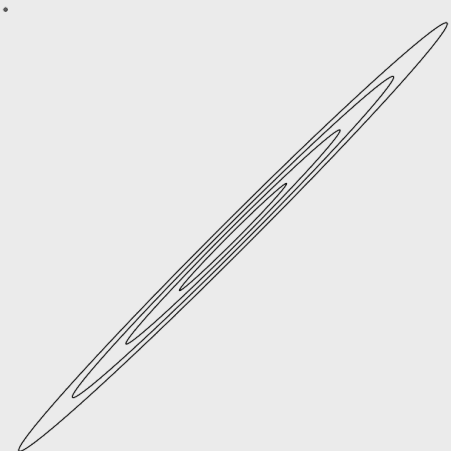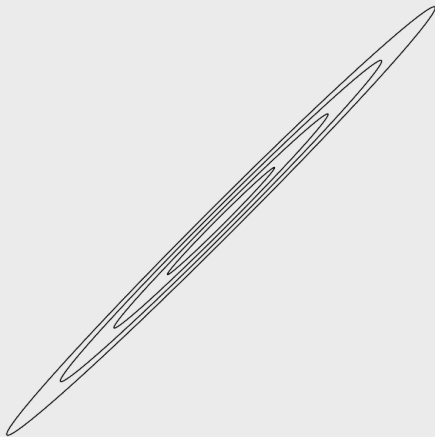# Markov chain Monte Carlo

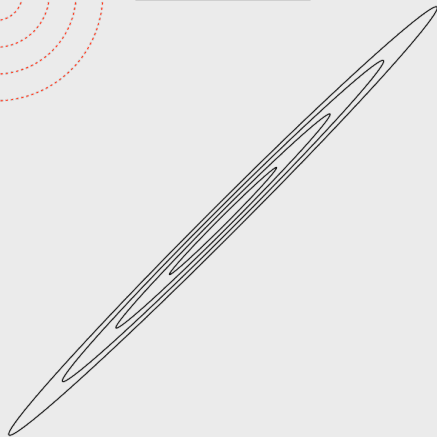**Dan Foreman-Mackey**
CCPP@NYU
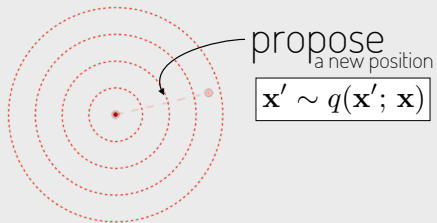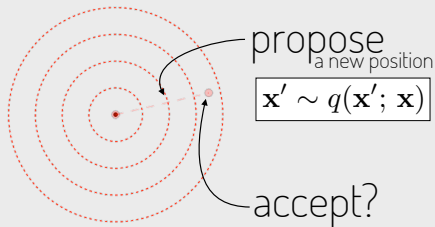
Metropolis–Hastings

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

start here
perhaps

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

propose
a new position

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}';\ \mathbf{x})$$

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

propose
a new position
$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

accept?

$$p(\text{accept}) = \min\left(1, \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}')} \frac{q(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}')}{q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})}\right)$$

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

propose
a new position

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

accept?
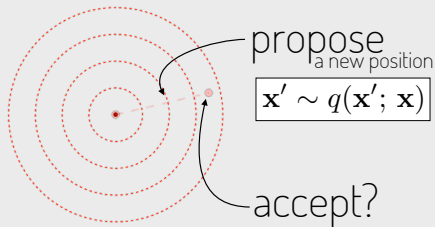
$$p(\text{accept}) = \min\left(1, \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}')} \frac{q(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}')}{q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})}\right)$$

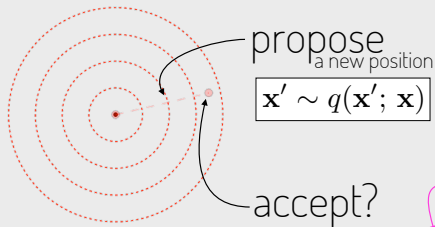definitely.

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

propose
a new position

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

only **relative** probabilities

accept?

$$p(\text{accept}) = \min\left(1, \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}')} \frac{q(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}')}{q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})}\right)$$
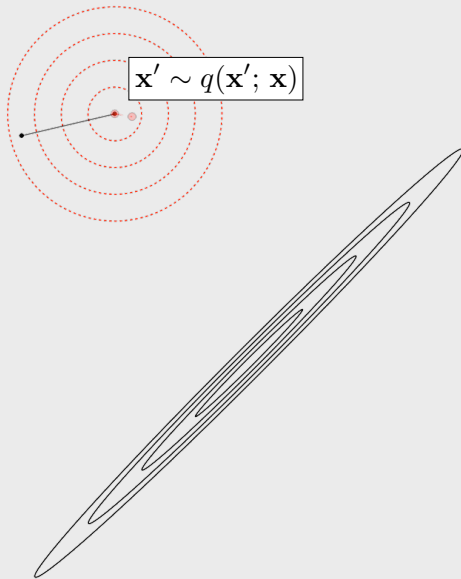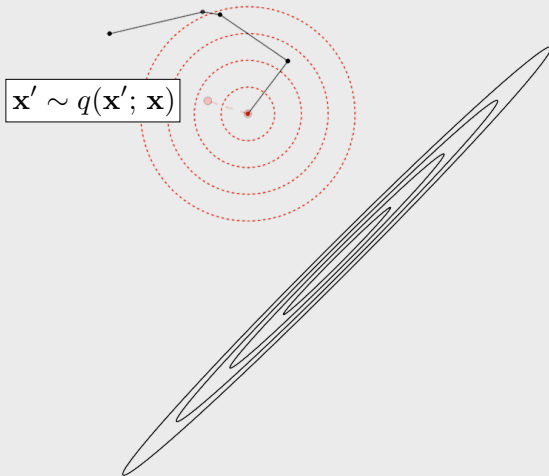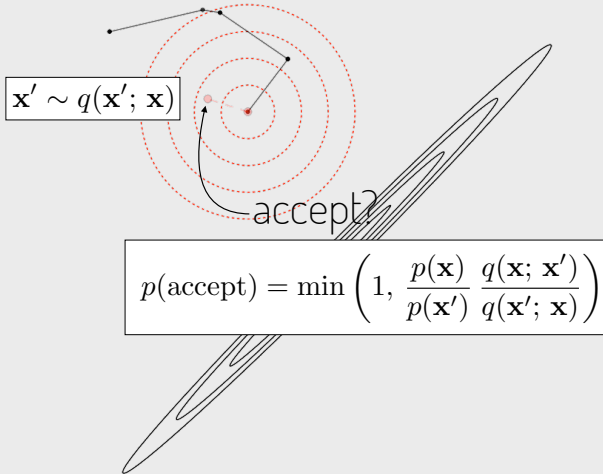
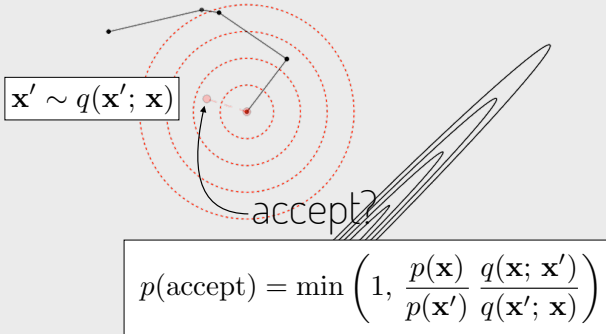definitely.

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

$$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$$

accept?

$$p(\text{accept}) = \min\left(1, \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}')} \frac{q(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}')}{q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})}\right)$$

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

$\mathbf{x}' \sim q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})$

accept?

$$p(\text{accept}) = \min\left(1, \ \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}')} \ \frac{q(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}')}{q(\mathbf{x}'; \mathbf{x})}\right)$$
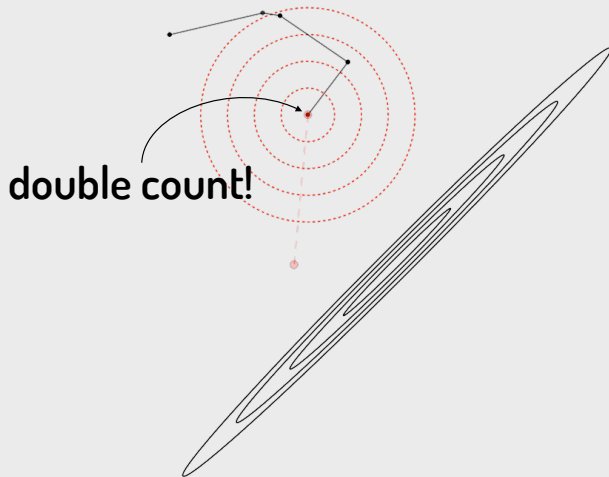
not this time.

Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world
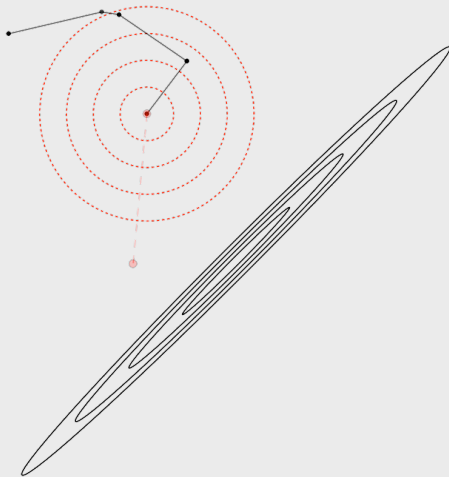
Metropolis–Hastings
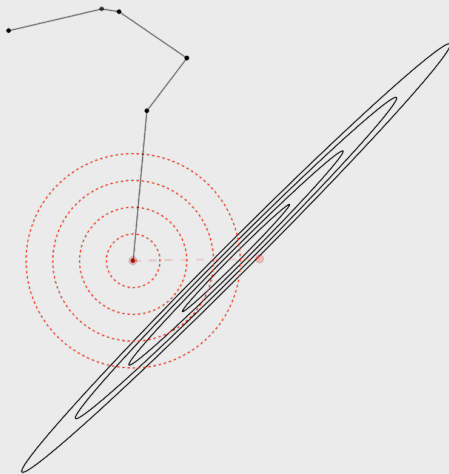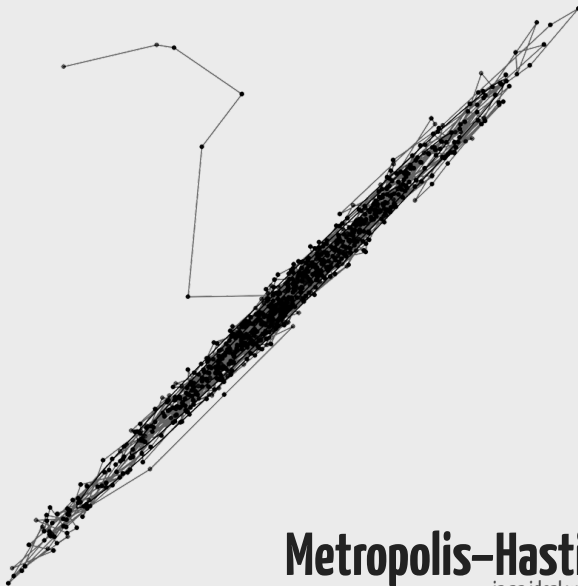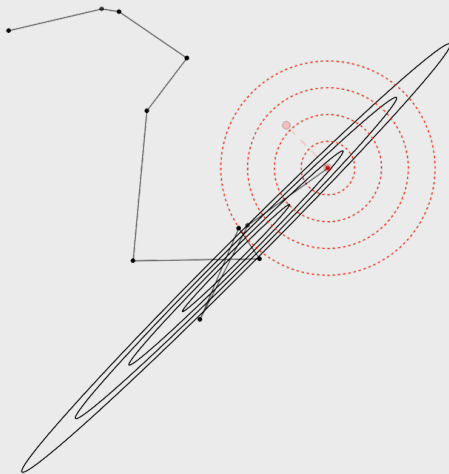in an ideal world

double count!

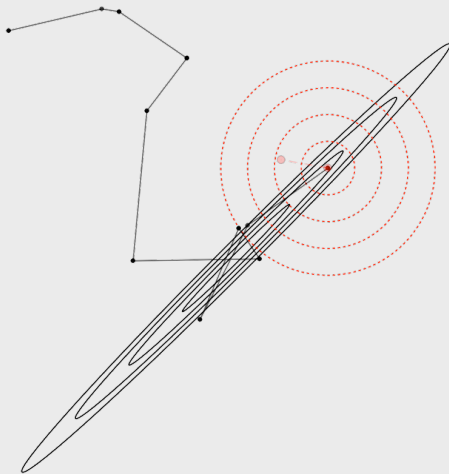Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world
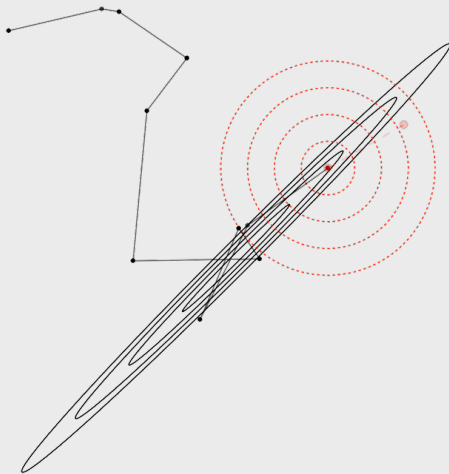
Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world
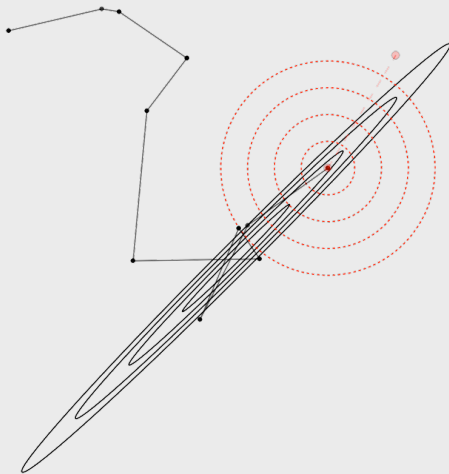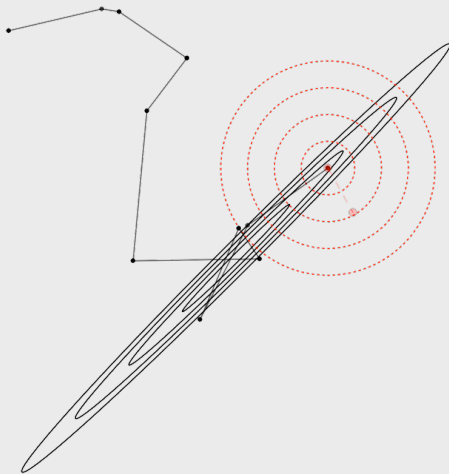
Metropolis–Hastings
in an ideal world

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world

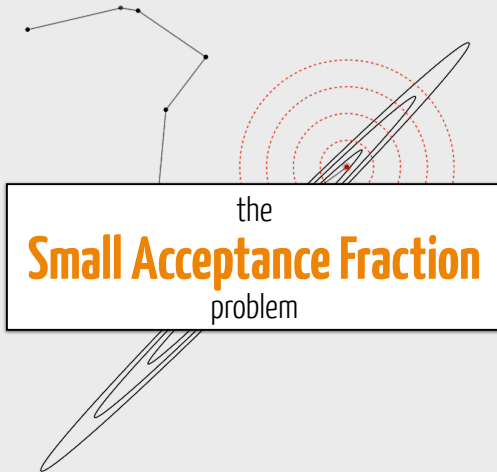**Metropolis–Hastings**
in the real world

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world
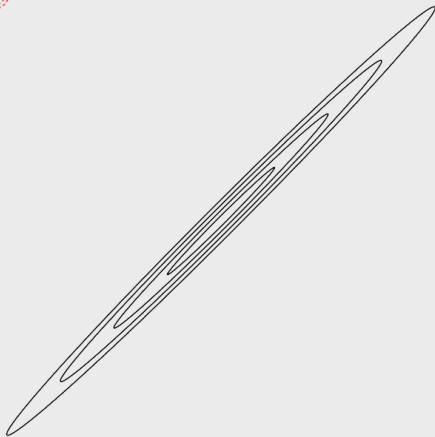
Metropolis–Hastings

in the real world

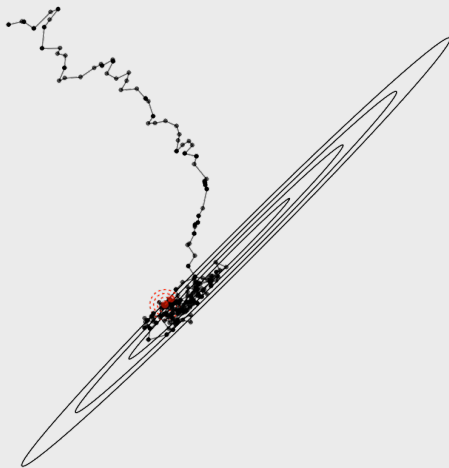**Metropolis–Hastings**

in the real world

the
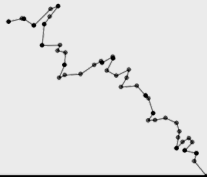**Small Acceptance Fraction**
problem

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world

the
Huge Acceptance Fraction
problem

Metropolis–Hastings
in the real world