Time-sequence modelling of von Mises distributions

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This notebook can be found on the public repo https://github.com/ezhang94/directional_processes (https://github.com/ezhang94/directional_processes)

Estimation of angular and other periodic quantities requires distinct techniques from those designed for Euclidean quantities. While standard estimation techniques can be modified to address the issues arising from circular quantities, these modifications can be tedious, error prone, and yield suboptimal results due to violation of certain assumptions. Estimation techniques based on directional statistics, on the other hand, can correctly perform circular operations and use the proper manifold.

Circular statistics are of relevance in fields such as of biology, meterology, geosciences, and robotics. In the project below, we will work specifically with circular distributions (\$\mathbb{S} \in \mathbb{R^2}\$) and use the motivating example of tracking a rotary joint of a robotic arm over time.

The formulations and equations in this project are based on the following paper:

```
G. Kurz, I. Gilitschenski, and U. D. Hanebeck, "Recursive Nonlinear Filter ing for Angular Data Based on Circular Distributions," in Proceedings of the 2013 American Control Conference (ACC 2013), Washington D. C., USA, Jun. 2013.
```

This paper develops a filter based on circular statistics for nonlinear systems with additive process noise, and identity measurement with additive measurement noise. \begin{align*} $x_{k+1} &= a_k(x_k) + w_k \text{ in } 2 \in \mathbb{S}, \text{ in } \mathbb{S}, \text{ in } \mathbb{S}, \text{ observation } 2 \in \mathbb{S}, \text{ in } \mathbb{S}, \text{ in } \mathbb{S}, \text{ observation noise } k \in \mathbb{S}, \text{ in } \mathbb{S}, \text{ in }$

As will be discussed later (in the section titled "Operations on circular distributions"), the authors of the paper chose to represent state and observation variables with a wrapped normal distribution, to facilitate the consideration of additive noise. This is because a wrapped normal distribution is closed under convolution and retains the additive noise properties of a (unwrapped) normal distribution. Von Mises distributions, however, are not closed under convolution, but approximations based on taking an intermediate wrapped normal distribution exists and are fairly satisfactory.

While there exists literature on how to implement functions and attributes for wrapped normal distributions (see [KGH 2014a] and [KGP 2017], no such Python packages are readily available to faciliate the visaulization and evaluation of these distributions. Von Mises distributions are also commonly used to approximate wrapped normal distributions, especially for small sample sizes. So, in the following implementation, I will assume that all model variables are distributed according to a von Mises distribution (\$p=2\$) unless otherwise noted. I will continue to make comments on wrapped normal distributions.

```
In [83]: import numpy as np

from scipy.stats import vonmises  # von Mises (M2) continue r
andom variable  # Note that this object use
s angular representation (-pi <= x <= pi), and not vector representatio
n (|x|=1, x \in S^{p-1} \subset R^p)
from scipy.special import iv as bessel_iv  # Modified Bessel function
of the first kind of real order.

import matplotlib as mpl
import matplotlib.lines import Line2D
from matplotlib.collections import PathCollection
import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec

from tqdm import tqdm</pre>
```

Circular distributions

I 0(\kappa)\\, \exp \big(\kappa cos(x-\mu) \big) \end{align*}

We will focus our discussion on circular distributions, \$\mathbb{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^2\$. Directional statistics in higher \$p\$-dimensional spaces, \$\mathbb{S}^{p-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^p\$ can easily be generalized from circular \$p=2\$ case. See [MJ 1998] for a systematic treatment. Many circular distributions arise from wrapping a distribution from the line onto a circle, or radially projecting distributions from a plane onto the circle, or conditioning distributions in Euclidean space \$\mathbb{R}^2\$ to conform with the topology of the spherical subset \$\mathbb{S}^p\$.

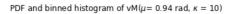
The wrapped Normal (WN) and von Mises (vM) distributions are among the key models in circular statistics. There relation to the normal distribution (univariate for WN and bivariate for VM) are described in the figure below (source: [KGH 2014]). With $x\in \mathbb{S}$, ∞ and non-negative variance/concentration parameters, their respective pdfs are given by: \begin{align*} \textrm{WN}(x;\, \mu, \sigma^2) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{k=-\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(-\frac{1}{2\pi} \right) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(-\frac{1}{2\pi}

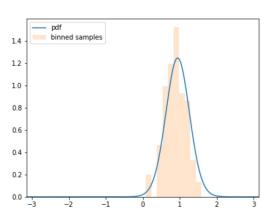
<\center>

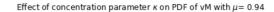
```
In [2]: mu = 0.3*np.pi # Mean direction [radians]
kappa = 10 # Concentration parameter, [0, inf)
X = vonmises(kappa, mu)
```

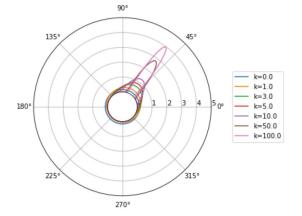
```
In [3]: angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
        fig = plt.figure(figsize=(14,5))
        # Plot analytical and sampled distribution on rectangular coordinates
        ax = fig.add subplot(121)
        ax.plot(angles, X.pdf(angles), label ='pdf')
        ax.hist(X.rvs(size=100), density=True, histtype = 'stepfilled', alpha=
        0.2, label = 'binned samples')
        ax.set xlim([-np.pi, np.pi])
        ax.set title('PDF and binned histogram of vM($\mu$= %.2f rad, $\kappa$
        = %d)' %(mu, kappa), y = 1.1)
        ax.legend()
        # Plot analytical distributions for different kappa values on polar coo
        rdinates
        ax = fig.add subplot(122, projection = 'polar')
        ksweep = [1e-3, 1, 3, 5, 10, 50, 100]
        for k in ksweep:
            ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, k, mu), label = 'k=%.1f'%k)
        ax.set rorigin(-1)
        ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+1))
        ax.set rlabel position(0)
        ax.set title('Effect of concentration parameter $\kappa$ on PDF of vM w
        ith $\mu$= %.2f' %(mu), y=1.1)
        ax.legend(loc='center left', bbox to anchor=[1.1,0.5])
```

Out[3]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7f9eb3c384e0>









Circular Moment Matching

The n-th circular (or trignometric) moment of a random variable x with pdf $f(\cdot)$ is given by $m_n = \mathbb{E}[e^{inx}] = \int_0^2\pi f(x),\mathrm{d}x$ Note that the circular moments are complex numbers, so they each hav two degrees of freedom.

Since these distributions are both uniquely defined by their first circular moment, moment matching of the first circular moment can be used to convert between the distributions. For a given first moment m_1 , \begin{align*} \WN(\mu,\;& \sigma^2 = -2 \log \rho) \\ VM(\mu,\;& \kappa = A_2^{-1}(\rho)) \end{align*} where $A_d(\kappa) = \frac{1}{d^2}(\kappa) \left(\frac{d^2-1}{\kappa}\right)$ is the ratio of Bessel functions of first kind used to link mean resultant lengths and concentration in a von Mises distribution.

Note that WN and VM distributions with equal first moments differ significantly in their higher order moments.

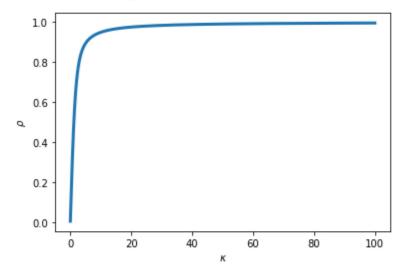
```
In [131]: | # Functions for vMF functions of dimension p (denoted as M p)
          # Common dimensions are M 2 (von MIses distribution, defined on a circ
          le) and M 3 (Fisher distribution, defined on a sphere)
          def Ap (kappa, p=3):
              11 11 11
              Calculates the ratio of Bessel functions of the first kind, for us
          e with a M p distribution
              Parameters
                  kappa: scalar or array like (N, ), [0, \setminus inf)
                       Concentration parameter(s) of the M p distribution
                  p: integer, >=2
                       Dimensionality of the hypersphere, S^{p-1} on which the M
          p distribution is defined
                  rho: scalar or array like (N, ), [0,1]
                      Mean resultant length (a measure of dispersion) of the M p
          distribution
              11 11 11
              A1 = bessel_iv(p/2., kappa)
              A0 = bessel iv(p/2.-1, kappa)
              return np.divide(A1, A0, out=np.zeros like(A1), where= (A0!=0))
          def Ap inv(rbar, p=3):
              Calculates inverse of Afunc, e.g. to estimate concentration parame
          ter kappa of M p distribution
              Parameters
                  rbar: scalar or array like (N, ), [0, \inf)
                      Sample mean resultant length of samples drawn from a M p d
          istribution
                  p: integer, >=2
                       Dimensionality of the hypersphere, S^{p-1} on which the M
          p distribution is defined
              Returns
                  khat: scalar or array like(N, ), [0,1]
                      Approximated concentration parameter of the M p distributi
          on
               # Create persistent variables Ksweep and Rho to store array of Ap
          values
               # This avoids re-calculating ratio for a given dimension at each c
          all
              if 'Rho' not in Ap_inv.__dict__:
                  print('Creating Ap inv.Rho for dimension %d' %p)
                  Ap inv.Ksweep = np.logspace(-2, 2, num=500) # [0.01, 100.0]
                  Ap inv.Rho = \{\}
                  Ap inv.Rho[p] = Ap(Ap inv.Ksweep, p)
              elif p not in Ap inv.Rho:
                  print('Creating Ap inv.Rho for dimension %d' %p)
                  Ap inv.Rho[p] = Ap(Ap inv.Ksweep, p)
              return np.interp(rbar, Ap inv.Rho[p], Ap inv.Ksweep)
          def vmf moment(params, n=1):
```

```
In [7]: p = 2
   ksweep = np.logspace(-2, 2, num=500) # [0.01, 100.0]
   rho = Ap(ksweep, p)

   plt.plot(ksweep, rho, lw =3)
   plt.xlabel(r'$\kappa$'); plt.ylabel(r'$\rho$')
   plt.title(r'Mean resultant length $\rho$ vs. concentration $\kappa$ for
   $p=2$ vM distribution', y=1.05)
```

Out[7]: Text(0.5, 1.05, 'Mean resultant length $\$ vs. concentration $\$ appa $\$ for $p=2\$ vM distribution')

Mean resultant length ρ vs. concentration κ for $\rho = 2$ vM distribution



Operations on circular densities

Convolution

Convolution of densities is important when considering additive noise. Given two independent circular random variables $x_1 \sin f_1(x_1)$ and $x_2 \sin f_2(x_2)$, then the $x = x_1 + x_2 \sin (f_1 \cot f_2)(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} f_1(t), f_2(x-t) \operatorname{densities} s$

Convolution of wrapped normal distributions

 $\label{lem:wnped} Wname of the convolution of the$

Convolution of von Mises distributions

von Mises distributions, on the other hand, are not closed under convolution. Several approximations have been made to address this, including the following given by Mardia and Jupp (Eqn. 3.5.44): \$\$\textrm{vM}\big(\mu_1, \kappa_1\big)\ast \textrm{vM}\big(\mu_2, \kappa_2)\big) \approx\textrm{vM}\big(\mu_1 + \mu_2)\textrm{ mod } 2\pi, \kappa=A_p^{-1}(A_p(\kappa_1)\cdot A_p(\kappa_2)\big)\$\$ In the context of moment matching between WN and vM distributions, this approximation can be understood as taking an intermediate WN distributions in order to perform the convolution.

Convolution of circular distributions

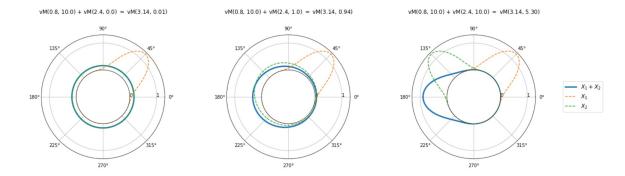
In fact, [KGH 2016a] prove that the moments of a convolved density can be calculated purely based on the products of the original moments. [KGH 2016a] Lemma 3 states: Assume independent random variables $x_1 \le f_1$, $x_2 \le f_2$ defined on the circle. For the sum $x=x_1 + x_2$, it holds f_1 holds f_2 hig[e^{\inx_1}\big] = \mathbb{E}\big[e^{\inx_1}\big]\cdot \mathbb{E}\big[e^{\inx_2}\big]\$ The results for the convolution of the WN distribution and the approximate result of the convolution of vM distributions can be seen as special cases of this generalization.

```
In [132]: def vmf convolve(params1, params2):
              Computes the sum of two independent VM densities. Equivalent to co
          mputing the approximate parameters
              by assuming an intermediate WN density found via moment matching:
                  mu = (mu1 + mu2) % (2*np.pi)
                  k = Ap \ inv(Ap(k1, p=2)*Ap(k2, p=2), p=2)
              Parameters
                  params1: (mu, kappa)
                     Parameters of first von Mises distribution
                  params2: (mu, kappa)
                      Parameters of second von Mises distribution
              Returns
                  params: (mu, kappa)
                     Returns parameters of the resulting approximating von Mise
          s distribution
              m1 = vmf moment(params1) * vmf moment(params2)
              return vmf params(m1)
```

```
In [133]: | # Visualize product distribution as function of varying concentration
          parameter of the second distribution, f 2 (e.g. noise distribution)
          params1 = (np.pi/4, 10)
          params2 list = [(3*np.pi/4, 1e-3), (3*np.pi/4, 1), (3*np.pi/4, 10),]
          def plot vmf convolution(params1, params2, ax):
              mu1, kappa1 = params1;
              mu2, kappa2 = params2
              (mu, kappa) = vmf convolve(params1, params2) # Calculate parameter
          s of convolved distribution
              angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa, mu), lw=3, label =r
          '$X 1 + X 2$'
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa1, mu1), '--', label =r
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa2, mu2), '--', label =r
          '$X 2$')
              ax.set rorigin(-1)
              ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+0.2))
              ax.set rlabel position(-np.pi/4)
              ax.set title(r'vM(%.1f, %.1f) + vM(%.1f, %.1f) $\approx$ vM(%.2f,
          %.2f) ' %(mu1, kappa1, mu2, kappa2, mu, kappa),y=1.15)
              return ax
          # Subplot parameters
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(15,5))
          r = 1; c = len(params2 list)
          for i, params2 in enumerate(params2 list):
              ax = fig.add subplot(r,c,i+1, projection='polar')
              ax = plot vmf convolution(params1, params2, ax)
          fig.subplots adjust(left=0, right=1, bottom=0, top=1, wspace=0.5)
          ax.legend(loc='center left', bbox to anchor=[1.2,0.5], fontsize=12)
```

Creating Ap inv.Rho for dimension 2

Out[133]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7f9eabe32898>



Multiplication

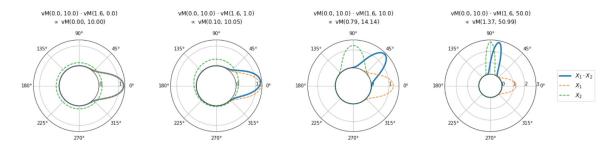
Multiplication of densities is required to perform Bayesian inference.

Von Mises distributions are closed under multiplication and produce a product that can be renormalized to a proper pdf. $\$ \textrm{vM}\big(\mu_1, \kappa_1\big)\cdot \textrm{vM}\big(\mu_2, \kappa_2\big) \propto \textrm{vM}\big(\mu = \textrm{arg} m_1, \kappa = |m_1|\big), \quad \textrm{with} m_1 = \kappa_1 e^{i\mu_1} + \kappa_2 e^{i\mu_2}

Multiplication of wrapped normal distributions are not closed under multiplications, but there are several methods to approximate this operation. These will not be explored here.

```
In [135]: | # Visualize product distribution as function of varying concentration
          parameter of the second distribution, f 2 (e.g. prior)
          # As concentration of f 2 increases, the mean direction of the resulti
          ng distribution approaches the mean of f 2
          params1 = (0, 10)
          params2 list = [(np.pi/2, 1e-3), (np.pi/2, 1), (np.pi/2, 10), (np.pi/2)]
          2, 50)]
          def plot vmf multiplication(params1, params2, ax):
              mu1, kappa1 = params1; mu2, kappa2 = params2
               (mu, kappa) = vmf multiply(params1, params2) # Calculate parameter
          s of product distribution
              angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa, mu),
                                                                 lw=3, label = r
           '$X 1\cdot X 2$')
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa1, mu1), '--', label =r
           '$X 1$')
              ax.plot(angles, vonmises.pdf(angles, kappa2, mu2), '--', label =r
           '$X 2$')
              ax.set rorigin(-1)
              ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+0.2))
              ax.set rlabel position(-np.pi/4)
              ax.set title(r'vM(%.1f, %.1f) $\cdot$ vM(%.1f, %.1f)'%(mu1, kappa
          1, mu2, kappa2) + \sqrt{n'} + r'propto vM(.2f, .2f) ' math{mu} (mu, kappa), y=1.
          15)
              return ax
           # Subplot parameters
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(15,5))
          r = 1; c = len(params2 list)
          for i, params2 in enumerate(params2 list):
              ax = fig.add subplot(r,c,i+1, projection='polar')
              ax = plot vmf multiplication(params1, params2, ax)
          fig.subplots adjust(left=0, right=1, bottom=0, top=1, wspace=0.5)
          ax.legend(loc='center left', bbox to anchor=[1.2,0.5], fontsize=12)
```

Out[135]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7f9eabcc1eb8>



Deterministic sampling

Application of nonlinear functions to complex continuous functions, such as pdfs, is typically a computationally intensive task. Instead, discrete sample-based approximations of these continuous functions can be used to over come this limitation, because the nonlinear function can be applied to each sample individually. While stochastic sampling methods such as Monte Carlo can often very accurately capture the characteristics of a nonlinear function, these approaches often need large number of samples to achieve said accuracy. Deterministic sampling methods, when carefully designed, can similarly capture aspects of the nonlinear function with far fewer samples. Determinstic sampling is used to progate continuous probability densities through nonlinear functions.

In the case of approximating pdfs, samples can be chosen to fit certain moments or otherwises optimally approximate the shape of the density. In the case of circular densities, a wrapped Dirac mixture distribution can be used.

Wrapped Dirac mixture distribution

The wrapped Dirac mixture (WD) is a discrete probability distribution on a continuous domain and can be used to approximate continuous distributions with a finite set of samples. It is obtained by wrapping a Dirac mixture in ∞ around the unit circle. A distribution with \$L\$ components is given by \$\$ p(x; \, \gamma_i, \beta_i\}_{i=1}^L) = \sum_{i=1}^L \gamma_i + \sum_i \frac{1}{L} \sum_i \frac{1}{L} \cdot \frac

Its circular moments are given by \$\$ m_n^{WD} = \sum_{i=1}^L \gamma_j\,\exp(in\beta_i) \$\$

WD approximation of symmetric circular distributions

A WD distribution of $L=3\$ components with parameters $\left(\frac{\gamma_3}{1/3,1/3}\right)$ (\mu-\alpha, \mu, \mu-\alpha)\big)\$ will be used to approximate the indicated circular distributions. Let f_{d3} (\alpha)\$ denote this specific WD distribution. The parameter α is chosen by matching the first circular moments of the distribution of interest.

 $$p_{D_3}(x;\\lambda) = \text{WD} (x; \ (1/3,1/3,1/3), \\mu, \mu, \mu) = \frac{1}{3}\\lambda(x-\mu) + \frac{1}{3}\\lambda(x-\mu)$

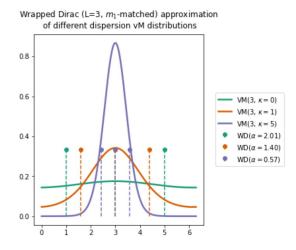
with first circular moment \begin{align*} m_1^{d_3} = \frac{1}{3} \left(e^{i (\mu_-\alpha)} + e^{i \mu_+ e^{i \mu_+\alpha}} \right) = \frac{1}{3}e^{i\mu_+\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{i\mu_+\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{i\mu_+\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{i\mu_+\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{i\mu_+\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{-i\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+e^{-i\alpha}+1 = \frac{1}{3}e^{-i\alpha}+e

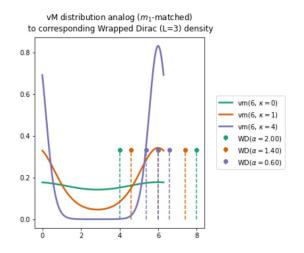
Then, for a given circular distribution $f(\cdot)$ with first circular moment m_1 , $f(x) \cdot p_{D_3}(x;\cdot, \alpha) \cdot p_{D_3}(x;\cdot,$

```
In [120]: def vmf to wd(params):
              11 11 11
              Approximates a M 2 distribution with a L=3 component Wrapped Dirac
          function by matching the first circular moment
              This discrete, determistically-sampled approximation is presented
          in KGH 2013
              Parameters
                  params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      Parameters of VM distribution to approximate
                  params: (gammas, betas) tuple
                       gammas: array like, (L,)
                          Mixture weights
                      betas: array like, (L,)
                          Dirac postions,
               11 11 11
              m1 = vmf moment(params, n=1)
              # Choose alpha by matching first circular moments
              alpha = np.arccos(1.5*np.abs(m1)-0.5)
              L = 3
              gammas = np.ones(L) / 3.
              betas = params[0] + np.array([-1, 0, 1])*alpha
              return (gammas, betas)
          def wd to vmf(params):
              Convert a wrapped Dirac mixture of L components to a VM distributi
          on by matching the first circular moment
              Parameters
                  params: (gammas, betas) tuple
                       gammas: array like, (L,)
                          Mixture weights
                      betas: array like, (L,)
                          Dirac postions,
              Returns
                  params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      Parameters of the continuous VM distribution with identica
          l first circular moment
               11 11 11
               (gammas, betas) = params
              gammas = np.array(gammas); betas = np.array(betas)
              # Mean direction is the circular mean of Dirac postions
              # Make sure to use np.arctan2 and not np.arctan in order to get an
          gle (unique) and not just inverse tangent (not unique)
               # Also, we define S : [0, 2pi], but numpy functions defined on [-p
          i, pi], so we need to shift the results the correct range
              mu = np.arctan2(np.sum(np.sin(betas)), np.sum(np.cos(betas))) %
           (2*np.pi)
               # Concentration parameter obtained by matching first moment
```

```
In [119]: fig = plt.figure(figsize=(10,4))
          # Approximate von Mises distributions with WD (L=3) m1-matched approxi
         mation
         vm mu = 3
         vm params list = [(vm mu, 1e-1), (vm mu, 1), (vm mu, 5)]
         angles = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, num=250)
         cmap = mpl.cm.get cmap('Dark2')
         ax = fig.add subplot(121)
         for i, vm params in enumerate(vm params list):
              (gammas, betas) = vmf to wd(vm params)
             alpha = betas[1]-betas[0]
             ax.plot(angles, vonmises(vm params[1], vm params[0]).pdf(angles),
                      lw = 2.5, c = cmap(i),
                      label = r'VM(%d, $\lambda = %d)'%(vm params[0], vm params
          [1]))
             # Draw Dirac approximations
             # NB: plt.stem does not allow all properties to be configurable vi
          a keyword arguments. Adapt the line objects returned by pyplot.
             markerline, stemlines, baseline = ax.stem(betas, gammas, label = r)
          'WD($\alpha=$%.2f)'%alpha, use line collection = True)
             markerline.set color(cmap(i))
             stemlines.set color(cmap(i))
             stemlines.set linestyles('--')
             baseline.set color("None")
         ax.legend(loc='center left', bbox to anchor=(1.05, 0.5))
         ax.set title(r'Wrapped Dirac (L=3, $m 1$-matched) approximation' + '\n
         of different dispersion vM distributions', y=1.01);
          ______
          _____
          # Convert WD mixture distribution to vM distribution with identical fi
          rst moment
          \# Specifically, we will simulate WD (L=3) moment matched approximaion
         of von Mises
         wd mu = 6
         alphas = [2.0, 1.4, 0.6]
         alphas = np.array(alphas)
         gammas = np.ones(3)/3.
         betas = wd mu + np.outer(alphas, np.array([-1,0,1]))
         wd params list = list(zip(gammas.repeat(alphas.size).reshape(-1,3), be
         tas))
```

```
wd_to_vmf: betas to mu [4. 6. 8.] 6.0
wd_to_vmf: betas to mu [4.6 6. 7.4] 6.0
wd_to_vmf: betas to mu [5.4 6. 6.6] 6.0
```





State update

Assume we have a system model that updates state x_k to state x_{k+1} with some additive noise $w_k \sim vM(\mu_{w_k}, \kappa_{k+1} = a_k(x_k) + w_k$

The transition density is given by \begin{align*} $f(x_{k+1} \le x_k) = \int_0^{2\pi} f(x_{k+1}, w_k \le x_k) \cdot (x_k) + \int_0^{2\pi} f(x_{k+1} \le x_k) \cdot (x_k) \cdot (x$

Then, the predicted density $f(x_{k+1})$ is given by the Chapman-Kolmogorov equation as follows: $f(x_{k+1}) = \int_0^{2\pi} f(x_{k+1}) dx$, $f(x_k) , f(x_k)$

In the special case when $a_k(\cdot s)$ is the identity function, i.e. $a_k(x_k) = x_k$, the predicted density is the convolution of the noise and prior estimated density evaluated at the new state, $\beta_k = \int_0^{2\pi} f_w(x_{k+1} - x_k), f_{x_k}(x_k), \\ h(x_k) = \int_0^{2\pi} f_w(x_{k+1} - x_k), f_{x_k}(x_k), \\ h(x_k) = \int_0^{2\pi} f_w(x_{k+1} - x_k), \\ h(x_k) = \int_0^{2\pi} f_w(x_k) \\ h(x_k) = \int_0^{2\pi} f_w($

When $a_k(\cdot s)$ is not the identity function, one could attempt to find a solution by rearranging the order of integration, \begin{align*} f_{x_{k+1}}(x_{k+1}) &= \int_0^{2\pi} f_w \left(x_{k+1} - a_k(x_k)\right), f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \left(x_{k+1} - a_k(x_k)\right), f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(x_k\right) \left(x_{k+1} - a_k(x_k) + a_k(x_k)\right), f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(x_k\right) \left(x_k\right) \left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(x_k\right) \left(x_k\right) \left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(x_k\right) \\ f_{x_k}\left(x_k\right) \\ f_{

However, it is still clear that the nonlinear operation on x_k can be a computationally intensive if directly computed. This motivates the use of a discrete approximation of the continuous density $f_{x_k}(x_k)$, in particular, a discrete approximation with a small number of samples. Since $f_{x_k}(x_k)$ is distributed according to a von Mises density, whose shape is strongly determined by its circular moments, a sampling approach that deterministically chooses samples that capture these circular moments can be taken. As described above, we will approximate the von Mises distribution with a wrapped Dirac (WD) mixture density with $f_{x_k}(x_k)$ components with identical first moment, $f_{x_k}(x_k)$ happrox $f_{x_k}(x_k)$ h

```
In [142]: def update prediction(A, x params, w params):
              Updates predicted distribution given additive angular noise
              Parameters
                  A:
                      Function handle for system update equation, must be able to
          take scalar and/or array like input
                  x params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                       Parameters of predicted distribution on state given system
          model
                  w params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      Parameters of process noise distribution
              Returns
                  x 1 params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      Parameters of estimated distribution of state x
               11 11 11
               # Approximate prior distribution on state with discrete approximat
          ion
               (gammas, betas) = vmf to wd(x params)
               # Apply system function to discrete approximations
              betas 1 = A(betas)
              gammas 1 = gammas
              \# Convert discrete p \{k+1\}() to parameters of continuous f \{k+1\}
              A_x_params = wd_to_vmf((gammas 1, betas 1))
              # Add in process noise
              return vmf convolve (A x params, w params)
```

When considering process noise, it may be more intuitive to think in terms of variance/dispersion rather than concentration. Recall that these two values of inversely related: low concentration indicates high variance, and high concentration indicates low variance.

Row 1: $w \sim VM(0, \kappa) = 2$

When the noise process is high variance/low concentration (for von Mises, a heuristic threshold between low/high concentration is around $\alpha = 5$, the noise ω_k has non-zero probability of taking on a value far away from its mean, $\omega_k = 0$. Thus, the system state at x_{k+1} can be greatly perturbed by process noise and the resulting predicted density. Therefore, the predicted density $f_{x_k} = 0$ also has a very dispersed. Its mean also remains close to the mean of the prior distribution $f_{x_k} = 0$, instead of evolving according to system function $\omega_k = 0$, since again, the noise process likely dominates the update.

Row 2: $w \sim VM(0, \kappa) = 10$

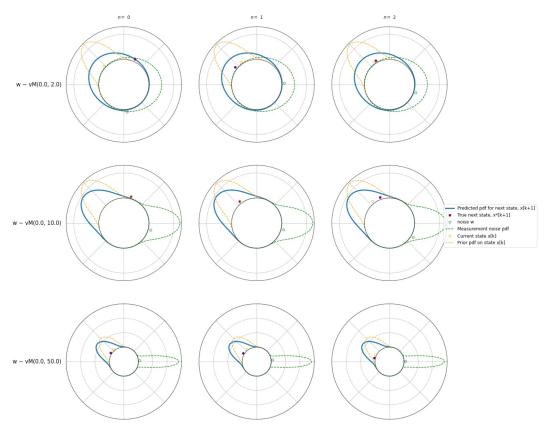
As the variance of the noise process decreases, the concentration of our predicted increases and updates according to the system function.

Row 3: $w \sim VM(0, \lambda = 20)$

When the variance of the noise process is very low, the noise perturbation will be near the known mean of its distribution, and our system evolution function dominates the update. The concentration of the predicted density is then limited by the concentration of the prior distribution, and the mean of the predicted density evolves according to the system function.

```
In [143]: np.set printoptions(precision=2)
          p params = (3*np.pi/4, 10)
          w params list = [(0, 2), (0, 10), (0, 50)] # Assume identity system wi
          th zero noise
          def plot prediction update(x params, w params, ax, kwargs list):
              X = vonmises(x params[1], x params[0]); W = vonmises(w params[1],
          w params[0])
              # KGH 2013 simulation example: Rotation system function for robot
          arm under gravity
              # Can take scalar or vector (d=1)
              A = lambda xs: xs + 0.1*np.sin(xs) + 0.15
              # True x_{k+1}: Update state and add noise
              x = X.rvs(1); w = W.rvs(1)
             x_1_{true} = A(x) + w
              # Predicted x {k+1}
              x 1 params = update prediction(A, x params, w params)
              X 1 = vonmises(x 1 params[1], x 1 params[0])
              ax.plot(angles, X 1.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[0]) # Plot predic
          ted distribution
              ax.plot(x 1 true, 1e-1, **kwargs list[1]) # Plot true n
          oisy updated state
              ax.plot(w, 1e-1, **kwargs list[2])
                                                                 # Plot noise
          distribution
              ax.plot(angles, W.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[3])
              ax.plot(x, 1e-1, **kwargs list[4])
                                                                  # Plot prior
          distribution and state
              ax.plot(angles, X.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[5])
              ax.set rorigin(-1); ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+0.
          2));
              ax.set xticklabels(''); ax.set yticklabels('')
              return ax
          angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
          r = len(w params list); c = 3
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(5*r, 5*c))
          # This order must match the order in which elements are plotted in plo
          t measurement pdate(...)
          kwargs_list = [{'color': 'C0', 'lw': 3,
          'label': 'Predicted pdf for next state, x[k+1]'},
                         {'color': 'purple', 'linestyle': 'None', 'marker': 'o',
          'mfc': 'purple', 'label': 'True next state, x*[k+1]'},
                         {'color': 'green', 'linestyle': 'None', 'marker': 'o',
```

Out[143]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7f9eabbc1978>



Measurement update

Assume we have an observation model that observes the state x_k with some additive noise $v_k \le v_k \le v_k$, v_k , v_k , v_k , v_k

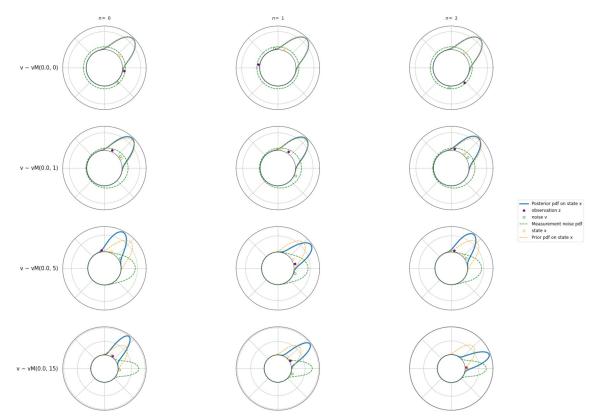
The measurement likelihood function $f(z_k \in x_k)$ is given by $\frac{1}{z_k \in x_k}$ int_0^{2\pi} $f(z_k, v_k \in x_k)$, \mathrm{d}v_k \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} $f(z_k, v_k \in x_k)$, \mathrm{d}v_k \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \delta(z_k - (x_k + v_k))\, f_v(v_k) \, \mathrm{d}v_k \\ &= f_v(z_k - x_k) \end{align*}

Thus, our posterior distribution on x_k given observation z_k is, $\beta_{a,k} f_{x_k^+}(x_k \in z_k) f_{x_k^-}(x_k) = f_v(z_k - x_k), f_{x_k^-}(x_k) end{align*} i.e. the prior/predicted distribution on <math>x_k$ multiplied by the distribution on 'expected' additive angular noise $z_k - x_k$.

```
In [79]: def update measurement(z, x params, v params):
             Updates predicted distribution given additive angular noise
             Parameters
                 z: scalar
                     Observation of angular state x
                 x params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                    Parameters of predicted distribution on state given system
         model
                 v params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                    Parameters of observation noise distribution
             Returns
                 e params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                   Parameters of estimated distribution of state x
             # "Pre-shift" noise parameters by measurement
             vshift params = ((z-v params[0])%(2*np.pi), v params[1])
             # Compute update: Multiply densities
             return vmf multiply(x params, vshift params)
```

```
In [96]: # Sketch three examples of updating prior distribution on state x \sim vM
         (p params) with additive noise v ~ vM(v params)
         p params = (np.pi/4, 10)
         v params list = [(0, 1e-3), (0, 1), (0, 5), (0,15)] # Assume identity s
         ystem with zero noise
         def plot measurement update(p_params, v_params, ax, kwargs_list):
             X = vonmises(p params[1], p params[0]); V = vonmises(v params[1], v
         params[0])
             # Make noisy observation: z = x + v
            x = X.rvs(1); v = V.rvs(1)
            z = x + v
             # Update distribution given observation
            e params = update measurement(z, p params, v params)
            E = vonmises(e params[1], e params[0])
            ax.plot(angles, E.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[0]) # Plot posterior
         distribution
            ax.plot(z, 1e-1, **kwargs list[1])
                                                              # Plot observati
         on
            ax.plot(z-x, 1e-1, **kwargs list[2])
                                                              # Plot noise dis
         tribution and sample
            ax.plot(angles, V.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[3])
            ax.plot(x, 1e-1, **kwargs list[4])
                                                          # Plot prior dis
         tribution and state
             ax.plot(angles, X.pdf(angles), **kwargs list[5])
            ax.set rorigin(-1); ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+0.
         2))
            ax.set xticklabels(''); ax.set yticklabels('')
            return ax
         angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
         r = len(v params list); c = 3
         fig = plt.figure(figsize=(5*r, 5*c))
         # This order must match the order in which elements are plotted in plot
         measurement pdate(...)
         'label': 'Posterior pdf on state x'},
                       {'color': 'purple', 'linestyle': 'None', 'marker': 'o',
         'mfc': 'purple', 'label': 'observation z'},
                       {'color': 'green', 'linestyle': 'None', 'marker': 'o',
         'mfc': 'None', 'label': 'noise v'},
                       {'color': 'green', 'linestyle': '--',
         'label': 'Measurement noise pdf'},
```

Out[96]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7f9eb100cfd0>



Simulation

[KGH 2013] presents simulation results on the following example: A robot arm is moved by a single rotary joint. Since the robot arm is affected by gravity, the torque acting on the rotary joint depends on the current angle. The robot arm is observed by some sensor that is capable of measuring the absolute orientation. Our goal is to estimate the angle of the rotary joint.

Their system model consists of $x_{k+1} = a_k(x_k) + w_k$ with system function $a_k(x_k) = x_k + c_1\$ or empirically determined constants c_1 and c_2 related to force of gravity and arm velocity, respectively.

The measurement model is given by $z_k = x_k + v_k$ where z_k is the arm orientation measurement given by the sensor. w_k and v_k are independent (WN-distributed) noise.

Parameters

 $\ensuremath{$\operatorname{dign}^*$ c_1 \&= 0.1; \quad c_2 = 0.15 \&\\ v_k \&= WN(0, \sigma = 0.1) \& \approx VM(0, \sigma = 10.52)\\ w_k \&= WN(0, \sigma = 0.1) \& \approx VM(0, \kappa = 10.52) \ensuremath{dign^*}$

Initial state

 $\left(x_0^*\right) = 0 \ x_0 = 0$

```
In [180]: | # Convert KGH 2013 simulation parameters (using WN distribution) to VM
          parameters
          # Moment matching functions to convert between WN and VM distributions
           (assume p = 2)
          def vm to wn(params):
               11 11 11
              Converts vM distribution with parameters param to wN distribution
          with identical first circular moments
                  params: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      mu: array like (..., p)
                      kappa: scalar or array like (...,)
              Returns
                  params wn : (mu, sigma2) tuple
                      mu: array like (..., p)
                          mu = arg m1
                       sigma2: scalar or array like (...,)
                           sigma^2 = -2 * log |m1|
               11 11 11
              m1 = vmf moment(params, n=1)
              return (np.angle (m1) % (2*np.pi), -2*np.log (np.abs (m1)))
          def wn moment(params, n=1):
              Calculates the nth circular moment of a vMF with parameters mu and
          kappa
              Input
                  params: (mu, sigma2) tuple
                      mu: array_like (..., p-1)
                          Mean angle, in radians
                       sigma2: scalar or array like (...,)
                           Variance
                  n: int
                      nth circular moment to evaluate
              Returns
                  m : complex number
                      nth circular moment of vMF distribution
               mu, sigma2 = params
              return np.exp(n*mu*1j - 0.5*(n**2)*sigma2)
          def wn to vm(params):
              Converts vM distribution with parameters param to wN distribution
          with identical first circular moments
              Input
                  params : (mu, sigma2) tuple
                      mu: array_like (..., p)
                      sigma2: scalar or array like (...,)
              Returns
                   params vm: (mu, kappa) tuple
                      mu: array_like (..., p)
                          mu = arg m1
                       kappa: scalar or array like (...,)
```

Process noise VM params: (0.0, 10.523195212731308)
Observation noise VM params: (0.0, 10.523195212731308)
Initial state VM params: (3.0, 0.7920033327771574)

```
In [273]: # KGH 2013 simulation example: Rotation system function for robot arm
          under gravity
          def simulate and run(K=150):
              A = lambda xs: xs + 0.1*np.sin(xs) + 0.15
              arr = {'X pred': np.empty(K, dtype=({'names': ['mu', 'kappa'], 'fo
          rmats': ['float', 'float'], })),
                     'X obsv': np.empty(K, dtype=({'names': ['mu', 'kappa'], 'fo
          rmats': ['float', 'float'],})), # Estimation stored as parameters
                     'x true': np.zeros(K),
                    'w': np.empty(K), 'v': np.empty(K), 'z': np.empty(K),
              arr['X pred'][0] = X 0 params
              for k in range(K):
                  # Run system
                  arr['w'][k] = vonmises.rvs(W params[1], W params[0], 1)
                  if k < K-1:
                      arr['x true'][k+1] = (A(arr['x true'][k]) + arr['w'][k]) %
          (2*np.pi)
                  # Make observation
                  arr['v'][k] = vonmises.rvs(V params[1], V params[0], 1)
                  arr['z'][k] = (arr['x true'][k] + arr['v'][k]) % (2*np.pi)
                  # -----
                  # Now, do your thing!
                  arr['X obsv'][k] = update measurement(arr['z'][k], arr['X pred
          '][k], V params)
                  if k < K-1:
                      arr['X pred'][k+1] = update prediction(A, arr['X obsv
          '][k], W params)
              return arr
          num runs = 100
          arr rmse = np.empty(num_runs)
          for i in range(num runs):
              arr = simulate and run()
              # Metrics -----
              # Circular standard deviation = sgrt(-2 log(rbar))
              stdv = np.sqrt(-2*np.log(Ap(arr['X obsv']['kappa'], p=2)))
              # Angular error
              angular error = np.minimum(np.abs(arr['x true']-arr['X obsv']['mu
          ']), 2*np.pi-np.abs(arr['x true']-arr['X obsv']['mu']))
              # Angular RMSE
              arr rmse[i] = np.sqrt(np.mean(angular error**2))
```

Simulation Results

[KGH13] performed angular filtering on the system described above and compared their filter (which we will refer to as the WN-VMF filter) with an unscented Kalman filter (UKF) and a modified UKF. The UKF assumes all probability distributions are Gaussian and does not consider the periodicity of angular states. The modified UKF accounts for the periodicity of the angular states and enforces a modulo \$2\pi\$ after each prediction and update step.

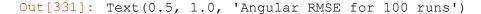
As expected, the standard UKF had the worst performance because it is unable to handle the discontinuity at \$2\pi\$. The modified UKF and the WN-VMF filters both had low angular error, but the WN-VMF has much lower RMSE standard deviation. Their results are reproduced below.

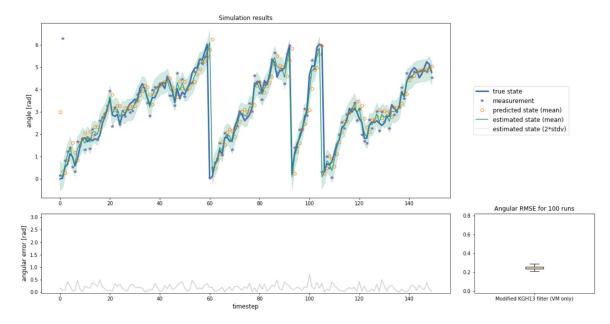
<\center>

<\center>

The simulation results based on the angular filter implemented in this Jupyter notebook are provided below ("VM filter"). The angular RMSE is slightly larger than the reported results for the modified UKF and the WN-VM filter. This may be due to my modification of only using the von Mises distribution to represent the state. This is significant because while the von Mises and wrapped normal distributions are considered close approximations of each other, and they have nearly indistinguishable densities in the limiting cases of \$\kappa\$, they are most dissimilar in the moderate values of \$\kappa \in [0.1, 10]\$ [Kent 1976, "Distributions, Porcesses and Statistics on Spheres"]. This is the range in which our simulation is running. So, the increased angular RMSE may be due to the use of a non-identical circular distribution.

```
In [331]: # Choosing qualitiatively distinct colors, from color brewer
          lfmt = {'true': {'color': [ 56/255, 108/255, 176/255, 1], 'lw': 3, 'la
          bel': 'true state'},
                  'z':
                          {'color': [117/255,112/255,179/255, 1], 'ls': 'None',
          'label': 'measurement',
                          'marker': '*', 'mfc': [117/255,112/255,179/255, 1],},
                  'pred': {'color': [255/255, 127/255, 0/255, 1], 'ls': 'None',
          'label': 'predicted state (mean)',
                           'marker': 'o', 'mfc': 'None'},
                  'obsv': {'color': [ 27/255, 158/255, 119/255, 1], 'ls': '-', '
          label': 'estimated state (mean)',},
                  'stdv': {'color': [ 27/255, 158/255, 119/255, 0.2], 'label': '
          estimated state (%d*stdv)'%nstdv,}
                 }
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(20,10))
          gridspec.GridSpec(3,3, hspace = 0.8)
          # Main results
          ax = plt.subplot2grid((3,4), (0,0), colspan=3, rowspan=2)
          ax.plot(arr['x true'], **lfmt['true'])
          ax.plot(arr['z'], **lfmt['z'])
          ax.plot(arr['X pred']['mu'], **lfmt['pred'])
          ax.fill between(np.arange(K), arr['X obsv']['mu']-nstdv*stdv, arr['X o
          bsv']['mu']+nstdv*stdv, **lfmt['stdv'])
          ax.plot(arr['X obsv']['mu'], **lfmt['obsv'])
          ax.set ylabel('angle [rad]', fontsize=12)
          ax.set title('Simulation results')
          ax.legend(handles = [Line2D([0],[0], **fmt) for fmt in lfmt.values()],
          loc ='center left', bbox to anchor=[1.05, 0.5], fontsize=12)
          # Angular error
          ax = plt.subplot2grid((3,4), (2,0), colspan=3, rowspan=1)
          ax.plot(angular error, color = [0.8, 0.8, 0.8])
          ax.set ylabel('angular error [rad]', fontsize=12)
          ax.set xlabel('timestep', fontsize=12)
          ax.set ylim([plt.ylim()[0], np.pi])
          # Angular RMSE
          ax = plt.subplot2grid((3,4), (2,3), colspan=3, rowspan=1)
          ax.boxplot(arr rmse)
          ax.set ylim([-0.02, 0.82])
          ax.set xticklabels(['Modified KGH13 filter (VM only)'])
          ax.set title('Angular RMSE for %d runs'%(num runs))
```





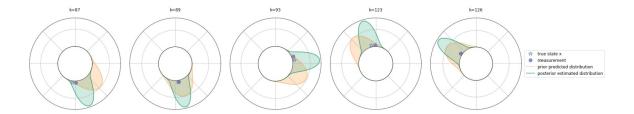
How observation \$z_k\$ updates predicted distribution

In the plots below, 5 timesteps are chosen at random. The pdf of the prior predited distribtuion $f_{x_k^-}$ is drawn in orange. The true state x_k is the unfilled star, and x_k is the noisy measurement of x_k .

When the mean of the prior distribution, $\sum_{x_k^-}$ is close to the observation z_k , we see that the pdf of posterior distribution $f_{x_k^-}$ also remains centered around that angle and the larger concentration reflects the algorithms higher confidence in its estimate of the true state.

On the otherhand, when the mean of the prior distribution, $\sum_{x_k^-} \sin f$ is far from the observation z_k^- , we see that the pdf of posterior distribution $f_{x_k^-}$ shifts towards the observation. The weighting of predicted distribution versus observation is determined by our prior concentration parameter on the measurement noise distribution $V(\cdot)$.

```
In [329]: # Visualize how measurment updates predicted distribution
          def plot simulation update(arr, k, ax, lmft):
              predicted params = arr['X pred'][k]
              estimated params = arr['X obsv'][k]
              x = arr['x true'][k]
              z = arr['z'][k]
              vmPred = vonmises(predicted params[1], predicted params[0])
              vmEstd = vonmises(estimated params[1], estimated_params[0])
              ax.plot(x, 1e-1, **lmft['x'])
              ax.plot(z, 1e-1, **lmft['z'])
              ax.plot(angles, vmPred.pdf(angles), **lmft['pred']) # Plot prior
          distribution
              ax.fill between (angles, np.zeros like(angles), vmPred.pdf(angles),
          **lfmt['pred'],alpha=0.2)
              ax.plot(angles, vmEstd.pdf(angles), **lmft['obsv']) # Plot poste
          rior distribution
              ax.fill between (angles, np.zeros like (angles), vmEstd.pdf (angles),
          **lfmt['obsv'],alpha=0.2)
              ax.set rorigin(-1); ax.set rgrids(np.arange(0,ax.get ylim()[-1]+0.
          2))
              ax.set xticklabels(''); ax.set yticklabels('')
              return ax
          lfmt = {'x': {'color': [56/255, 108/255, 176/255, 1], 'ls': 'None', 'l
          abel': 'true state x',
                       'marker': '*', 'mfc': 'None', 'markersize': 12},
                  'z': {'color': [117/255,112/255,179/255, 1], 'ls': 'None',
          'label': 'measurement',
                          'marker': 'o', 'mfc': [117/255,112/255,179/255, 1], 'm
          arkersize': 10, 'alpha': 0.8},
                  'pred': {'color': [255/255, 127/255, 0/255, 0.4], 'label': 'pr
          ior predicted distribution'},
                  'obsv': {'color': [ 27/255, 158/255, 119/255, 1], 'label': 'po
          sterior estimated distribution', },
                 }
          angles = np.linspace(-np.pi, np.pi, num=250)
          r = 1; c = 5
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(20*r,10*c))
          ks = np.sort(np.random.choice(np.arange(K), r*c, replace=False))
          for i, k in enumerate(ks):
              ax = fig.add subplot(r, c, i+1, projection='polar')
              ax.set title('k=%d'%k)
```



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