# 732A96: Advanced Machine Learning

Computer Lab 3: State Space Models

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**NOTATIONS:** The hidden states are denoted as  $z_t$  and the observations are denoted as  $x_t$ .

The purpose of the lab is to put in practice some of the concepts covered in the lectures. To do so, you are asked to implement the particle filter for robot localization. For the particle filter algorithm, please check Section 13.3.4 of Bishop's book and/or the slides for the last lecture on state space models (SSMs). The robot moves along the horizontal axis according to the following SSM:

#### Transition Model:

$$p(z_t|z_{t-1}) = \left(\mathcal{N}(z_t|z_{t-1}, 1) + \mathcal{N}(z_t|z_{t-1} + 1, 1) + \mathcal{N}(z_t|z_{t-1} + 2, 1)\right)/3$$

**Emission Model:** 

$$p(x_t|z_t) = (\mathcal{N}(x_t|z_t, 1) + \mathcal{N}(x_t|z_t - 1, 1) + \mathcal{N}(x_t|z_t + 1, 1))/3$$

**Initial Model:** 

$$p(z_1) = Uniform(0, 100)$$

# Question 1: SSM simulation and Particle filter implementation

Question: Implement the SSM above. Simulate it for T = 100 time steps to obtain  $z_{1:100}$  (i.e., states) and  $x_{1:100}$  (i.e., observations). Use the observations (i.e., sensor readings) to identify the state (i.e., robot location) via particle filtering. Use 100 particles. Show the particles, the expected location and the true location for the first and last time steps, as well as for two intermediate time steps of your choice.

#### Answer:

#### SSM Simulation

We create the function simSSM() which can be used to simulate from a SSM and it requires the following parameters:

- N: Number of time steps to simulate
- initial model: A function which generates the state for the first time step  $(z_1)$
- transition\_model: A function which generates the state,  $z_t$  given  $z_{t-1}$
- emission\_model: A function that generates the observation,  $x_t$  given the state,  $z_t$

The function returns a list containing the components - states and observations.

```
# Function to simulate states and observations for a State Space Model
# using the given initial model, transition model and emission model
simSSM = function(N, initial_model, transition_model, emission_model){
    z_t = vector(mode = "numeric", length = N)

# Simulate initial state
    z_t[1] = initial_model()

# Simulate remaining states
for(i in 2:N){
    z_t[i] = transition_model(z_t[i-1])
}

# Simulate observations from states
    x_t = sapply(z_t, emission_model)

res = list(states = z_t, observations = x_t)

return(res)
}
```

We create the initial, transition and emission models based on the given probability models. Then, we simulate 100 time steps using this SSM.

```
# Transition model - mixture of 3 gaussians
transition model = function(z t 1){
 mean_zt = sample(c(z_{t_1}, z_{t_1}+1, z_{t_1}+2), size = 1, prob = rep(1/3, 3))
 return(rnorm(1, mean z t, 1))
}
# Emission model - mixture of 3 gaussians (SD = 1)
emission model = function(z t, sd = 1){
 mean_x_t = sample(c(z_t, z_t+1, z_t-1), size = 1, prob = rep(1/3, 3))
 return(rnorm(1, mean x t, sd))
}
# Initial model - Unif(0, 100)
initial_model = function(){
 return(runif(1, min = 0, max = 100))
}
# Probability function for emission model
emission prob = function(x t, z t, sd = 1){
 return((dnorm(x t, mean = z t, sd = sd) +
            dnorm(x t, mean = z t-1, sd = sd) +
            dnorm(x_t, mean = z_t+1, sd = sd)) / 3)
}
# Simulate 100 time steps of SSM
set.seed(12345)
ssm sim = simSSM(100, initial model, transition model, emission model)
ssm obs = ssm sim$observations
ssm states = ssm sim$states
```

#### Particle Filter

To perform the particle filtering to identify the states, we create the function particle\_filter() which requires the following parameters:

- $num_particles : Number of particles to use (M)$
- observations : Observations from SSM  $(x_t)$
- initial\_model: A function which generates the state for the first time step  $(z_1 \sim p(z_1))$
- transition\_model : A function which generates the next state given a previous state  $(z_t \sim p(z_t|z_{t-1}))$
- emission\_model: A function that generates the observation corresponding to a state  $(x_t \sim p(x_t|z_t))$

- emission\_prob : A function that returns the probability of the observation given the state  $(p(x_t|z_t))$
- method: Method-1 samples from the belief set of particles  $(\bar{\chi_t})$  using weighted probabilities  $(w_t)$ . Method 2 samples particles from the mixture model where the transition model is weighted using the probabilities,  $z_t^m \sim \sum_{m=1}^M w_t^m p(z_{t+1}|z_t^m)$ . (default = 2)
- weight\_update: Boolean, whether to update the weights,  $w_t$  in each time step (default = TRUE)

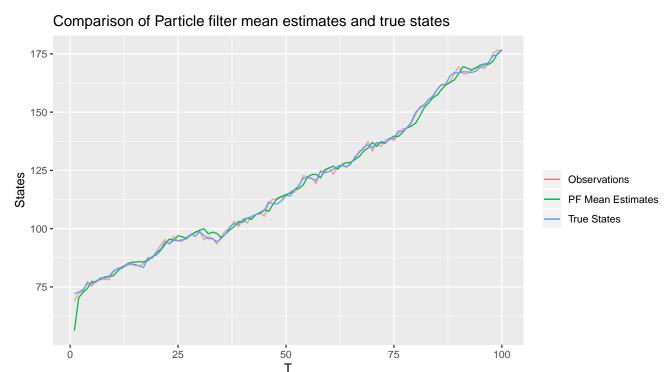
```
# Function to perform particle filtering
particle_filter = function(num_particles, observations, initial_model,
                           transition_model, emission_model, emission_prob,
                           method = 2, weight update = TRUE){
 # Number of time steps
 N = length(observations)
 # Matrix to store the particles at all time steps
 particle history = matrix(nrow = N, ncol = num particles)
 # Generate initial particles from initial model
 particles = sapply(1:num particles, function(i) initial_model())
 # Weights
 w t = rep(1, num_particles)
 for(t in 1:N){
    # Method 1
    if(method == 1){
      # Vector for belief set of particles
      bel particles = vector(mode = "numeric", length = num particles)
      # Generate belief particle using transition model
      \# z_t^m \text{ given } z_t^{-1}
      bel particles = sapply(particles, transition model)
      if(weight_update){
        # Calculate weight using emission model probability
        \# probability of x_t given z_t m
        w_t = sapply(bel_particles,
                     function(b p) emission_prob(observations[t], b p))
      }
      # Normalize weights
      w_t = w_t/sum(w_t)
      # Resample particles from belief set of particles
      # using weighted probabilities with replacement
      particles = sample(bel particles, size = num particles,
```

```
prob = w_t, replace = TRUE)
    }
    # Method 2
    else{
      # Sample particles from the mixture model of weighted transition models
      # z_t given x_(1:t-1)
      # Sample component mean from particles at time t-1
      # using weighted probabilities, w_t with replacement
      post sample = sample(particles, size = num particles,
                           prob = w t, replace = TRUE)
      # Resample particles based on transition model and sampled component mean
      # z_t given z_(t-1) \hat{m}
      particles = sapply(post_sample, transition_model)
      if(weight update){
        # Calculate weight using emission model probability
        # probability of x t given z t^m
        w_t = sapply(particles, function(p) emission_prob(observations[t], p))
      }
      # Normalize weights
      w_t = w_t/sum(w t)
    }
    # Add the set of particles to particle history
   particle_history[t, ] = particles
 }
 # Calculate mean estimates of particles for each time step
 mean estimates = rowMeans(particle history)
 res = list(pf_history = particle_history,
             pf_means = mean_estimates)
 return(res)
}
```

Now, we perform particle filtering using 100 particles based on the observations that we simulated earlier. We also calculate the residuals as the difference between the mean estimates obtained from the particles at each time step and the true states from the simulation.

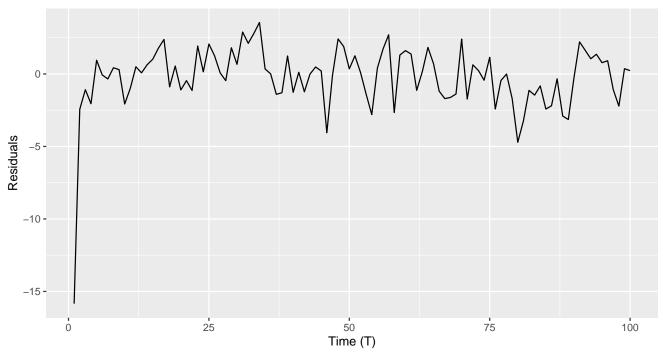
### Analysis of particle filter results

The following plot shows the mean estimates of the particles, the true states  $(z_t)$  and the observations  $(x_t)$  at each time step.

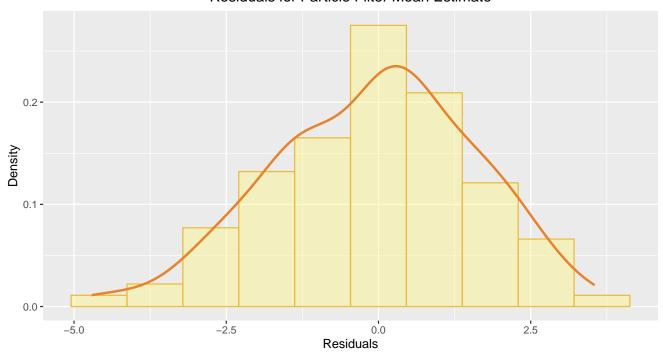


The residual plot and the distribution of the residuals based on the mean estimates of the particles are as follows.

#### Residuals Plot for Particle Filter Mean Estimate



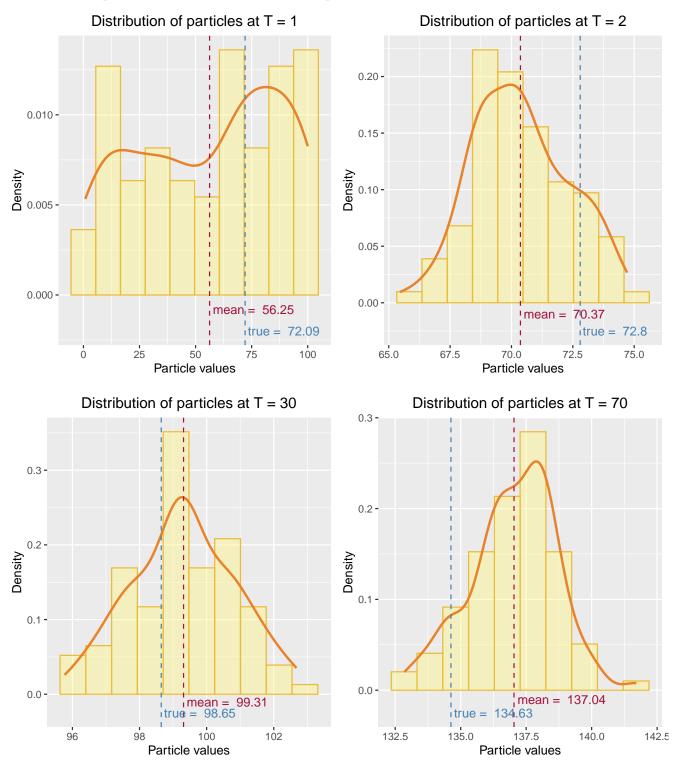
#### Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate

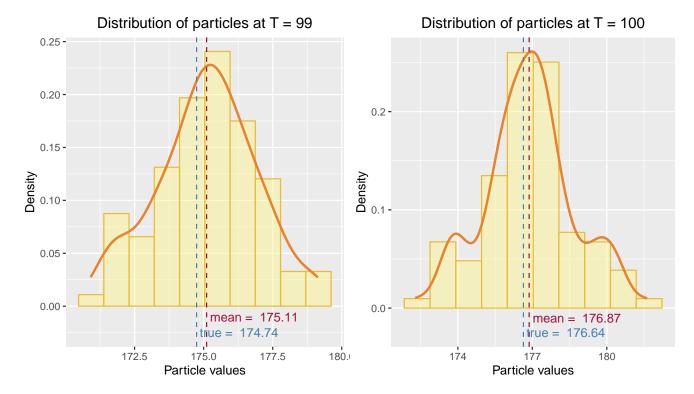


From the above plots, we see that the mean estimates of the particle filter are quite accurate when compared to the true states. From the residuals plot, we can see that the residuals are somewhat normally distributed and that most of the residuals are falling in the range of [-3, 3].

#### Particle values at different time steps

To visualize the particle values at certain time steps, we plot their histogram and density distributions along with their mean and the true state. We show these plots for the first 2 time steps, last 2 time steps and the intermediate time steps - 30 and 70.





At T=0, we sample the particles from the initial model which is Unif(0,100) with a mean estimate close to 50. But, after resampling at T=1, we see that the values closer to the observation get higher weights and hence, are sampled more often. So, the mean estimate has moved from 50 towards the observation value. At higher time steps, we see that the distribution is more concentrated in a smaller range of values and the mean estimate is very close to the true state (as seen in the residual plots).

# Question 2: Particle filters with varied emission model SD

**Question:** Repeat the exercise above replacing the standard deviation of the emission model with 5 and then with 50. Comment on how this affects the results.

#### Answer:

In this task, we want to try the particle filter by varying the emission model with SD = 5 and SD = 50 (earlier we used SD = 1). So, we create these new models and simulate states and observations from the SSMs. Then, we run the particle filter on these observations.

```
# Emission model with SD = 5
emission_model_sd5 = function(z_t) emission_model(z_t, sd = 5)
emission_prob_sd5 = function(x_t, z_t) emission_prob(x_t, z_t, sd = 5)
```

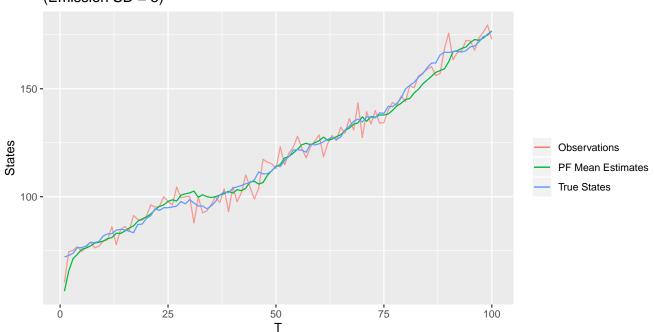
```
# Emission model with SD = 50
emission model sd50 = function(z t) emission_model(z t, sd = 50)
emission_prob_sd50 = function(x_t, z_t) emission_prob(x_t, z_t, sd = 50)
# Running SSM simulation and particle filter with emission model SD = 5
set.seed(12345)
ssm sd5 sim = simSSM(100, initial model, transition model, emission model sd5)
ssm sd5 obs = ssm sd5 sim$observations
ssm_sd5_states = ssm_sd5_sim$states
pf_sd5_res = particle_filter(100, ssm_sd5_obs, initial_model, transition_model,
                             emission model sd5, emission prob sd5, method = 2)
residuals_sd5 = pf_sd5_res$pf_means - ssm_sd5_states
# Running SSM simulation and particle filter with emission model SD = 50
set.seed(12345)
ssm_sd50_sim = simSSM(100, initial_model, transition_model, emission_model_sd50)
ssm sd50 obs = ssm sd50 sim$observations
ssm sd50 states = ssm sd50 sim$states
pf sd50 res = particle_filter(100, ssm sd50 obs, initial model, transition model,
```

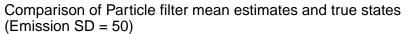
The following plots show the mean estimates of the particle filter, true states and the observations when we used SD = 5 and SD = 50.

emission model sd50, emission prob sd50, method = 2)

# Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states (Emission SD = 5)

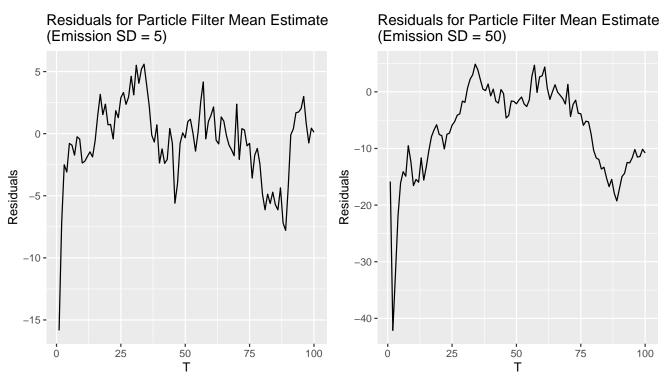
residuals sd50 = pf\_sd50\_res\$pf\_means - ssm\_sd50\_states

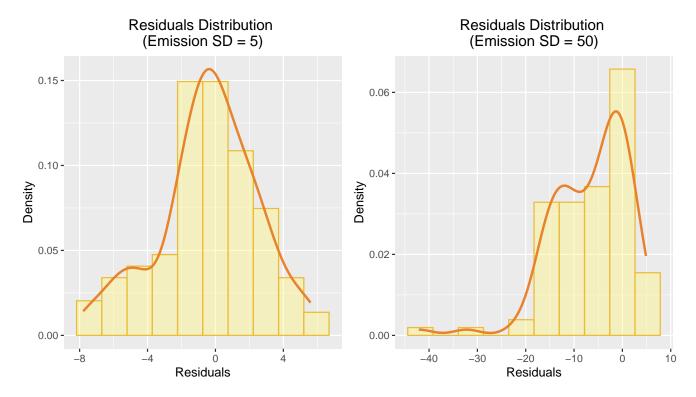






From the above plots, we see as expected that the variation in the observations is higher when we increase the SD of the emission model. The mean estimates of the particles are still very reasonable for SD = 5 but not as accurate as when we used SD = 1. But with SD = 50, the mean estimates do not look reasonable for many of the time steps.





When SD = 5, the residuals are mostly in the range [-8, 5] and when SD = 50, the residuals are mostly in the range [-20, 10]. Comparatively, the residuals were mostly in the range [-3, 3] when SD = 1. So, when we increase the SD of the emission model, the particle filter estimates become less accurate. We see that the observations themselves are very noisy and vary a lot compared to the true state when the emission model has higher SD. Since the noise in the emission model is high, it is difficult for the particle filter to estimate the hidden state and hence, it is not very accurate.

# Question 3: Particle filter without weight correction

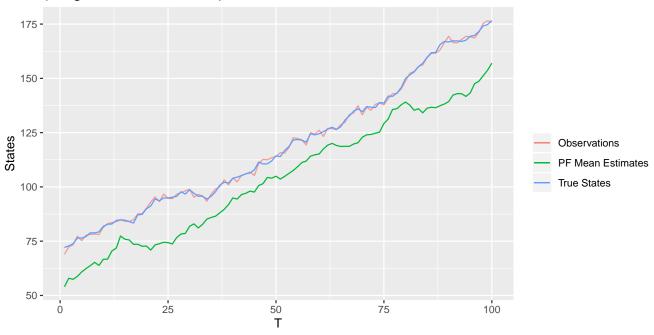
**Question:** Finally, show and explain what happens when the weights in the particle filter are always equal to 1, i.e. there is no correction.

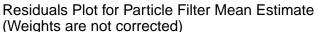
#### **Answer:**

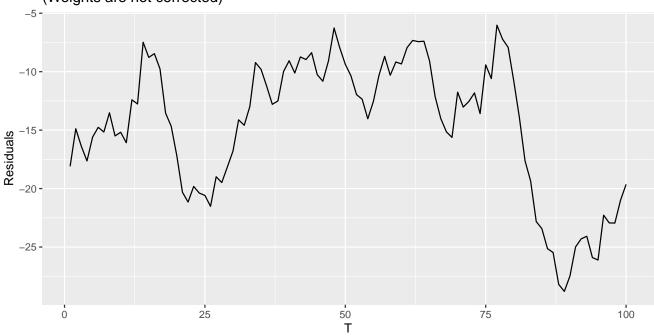
In this task, we run the particle filter using the same simulation of states and observations as in the 1st question but without updating/correcting the weights in the particle filter. So, the weights are all equal to 1 initially and after normalizing, they are equal to 1/(number of particles).

The following plot shows the mean estimates of the particles, the true states  $(z_t)$  and the observations  $(x_t)$  at each time step.

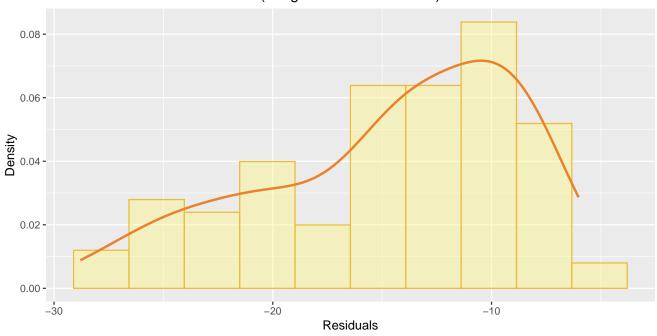
# Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states (Weights are not corrected)







Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate (Weights are not corrected)



From the comparison plot, it seems like there is a lag between the mean estimates of the particle filter and the true states/observations. We see that these residuals are in the range of [-30, -15].

Since the weights are all equal, all the particles have an equal probability of being propagated to the next time step. This means that the observations have no impact on the particles and the particle values change only based on the transition model. We initially sample the particles from the initial model which is Unif(0, 100) and it has a mean estimate close to 50. The first true state has a value around 70 and hence, the mean estimate varies by around -20. Since, we do not

correct/update the weights, even those particles which would be less likely given the observation at that time step get propagated further and leads to this error being propagated to successive time steps.

### **Appendix**

```
# Set up general options
knitr::opts chunk$set(echo = FALSE, warning = FALSE, message = FALSE, fig.width=8)
set.seed(123456)
library(ggplot2)
options(kableExtra.latex.load packages = FALSE)
library(kableExtra)
library(caret)
library(gridExtra)
options(scipen=999)
# Function to plot histogram and density of a sample
hist_plt = function(vals){
  n bins = ceiling(sqrt(length(vals)))
  plt = qplot(vals, geom = 'blank') +
    geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..), alpha = 0.4,
                   bins = n bins, color = "#EBBC36", fill = "#FFF57D") +
    geom_line(aes(y = ..density.., color = 'Empirical Density'),
              stat = 'density', size = 1, color = "#E8822B") +
    theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5),
          plot.subtitle = element_text(hjust = 0.5)) + ylab("Density")
  return(plt)
}
# Question 1
# Function to simulate states and observations for a State Space Model
# using the given initial model, transition model and emission model
simSSM = function(N, initial model, transition model, emission model){
```

```
z_t = vector(mode = "numeric", length = N)
  # Simulate initial state
  z t[1] = initial_model()
  # Simulate remaining states
  for(i in 2:N){
    z t[i] = transition_model(z t[i-1])
  }
  # Simulate observations from states
  x_t = sapply(z_t, emission_model)
  res = list(states = z t, observations = x t)
  return(res)
}
# Transition model - mixture of 3 gaussians
transition_model = function(z_t_1){
 mean z t = sample(c(z t 1, z t 1+1, z t 1+2), size = 1, prob = rep(1/3, 3))
  return(rnorm(1, mean z t, 1))
}
# Emission model - mixture of 3 gaussians (SD = 1)
emission model = function(z t, sd = 1){
  mean_x_t = sample(c(z_t, z_t+1, z_t-1), size = 1, prob = rep(1/3, 3))
  return(rnorm(1, mean x t, sd))
}
# Initial model - Unif(0, 100)
initial model = function(){
  return(runif(1, min = 0, max = 100))
}
# Probability function for emission model
emission_prob = function(x_t, z_t, sd = 1){
  return((dnorm(x t, mean = z t, sd = sd) +
            dnorm(x_t, mean = z_{t-1}, sd = sd) +
            dnorm(x t, mean = z t+1, sd = sd)) / 3)
}
# Simulate 100 time steps of SSM
set.seed(12345)
ssm sim = simSSM(100, initial model, transition model, emission model)
ssm obs = ssm sim$observations
```

```
ssm_states = ssm_sim$states
# Function to perform particle filtering
particle_filter = function(num_particles, observations, initial_model,
                           transition_model, emission_model, emission_prob,
                           method = 2, weight update = TRUE){
  # Number of time steps
 N = length(observations)
  # Matrix to store the particles at all time steps
 particle_history = matrix(nrow = N, ncol = num_particles)
  # Generate initial particles from initial model
 particles = sapply(1:num particles, function(i) initial_model())
 # Weights
 w t = rep(1, num particles)
 for(t in 1:N){
    # Method 1
    if(method == 1){
      # Vector for belief set of particles
      bel_particles = vector(mode = "numeric", length = num_particles)
      # Generate belief particle using transition model
      \# z_t^m \text{ given } z_t^{-1}
      bel_particles = sapply(particles, transition_model)
      if(weight update){
        # Calculate weight using emission model probability
        # probability of x_t given z_t m
        w t = sapply(bel particles,
                     function(b p) emission_prob(observations[t], b p))
      }
      # Normalize weights
      w_t = w_t/sum(w_t)
      # Resample particles from belief set of particles
      # using weighted probabilities with replacement
      particles = sample(bel particles, size = num particles,
                         prob = w_t, replace = TRUE)
    }
    # Method 2
    else{
      # Sample particles from the mixture model of weighted transition models
```

```
# z_t given x_(1:t-1)
      # Sample component mean from particles at time t-1
      # using weighted probabilities, w_t with replacement
      post sample = sample(particles, size = num particles,
                           prob = w t, replace = TRUE)
      # Resample particles based on transition model and sampled component mean
      # z_t given z_(t-1) m
      particles = sapply(post sample, transition model)
      if(weight_update){
        # Calculate weight using emission model probability
        # probability of x_t given z_t m
       w_t = sapply(particles, function(p) emission_prob(observations[t], p))
      # Normalize weights
      w_t = w_t/sum(w_t)
   }
    # Add the set of particles to particle history
   particle_history[t, ] = particles
 }
  # Calculate mean estimates of particles for each time step
 mean estimates = rowMeans(particle history)
 res = list(pf_history = particle_history,
             pf means = mean estimates)
 return(res)
# Running particle filter
pf_res = particle_filter(100, ssm_obs, initial model, transition model,
                         emission model, emission prob, method = 2)
residuals = pf_res$pf_means - ssm_states
ggplot() +
 geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm_obs, color = "Observations"), alpha = 0.7) +
 geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = pf_res$pf_means, color = "PF Mean Estimates")) +
 geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm_states, color = "True States")) +
 labs(x = "T", y = "States", color = "") +
 ggtitle("Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states")
```

```
ggplot() + geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = residuals)) +
  ggtitle("Residuals Plot for Particle Filter Mean Estimate") +
  labs(x = "Time (T)", y = "Residuals")
hist_plt(residuals[2:length(residuals)]) +
  ggtitle("Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate") +
  labs(x = "Residuals")
# Function to plot distribution of particles at a given time step
# Also, plots lines to show particles mean and true state
plot particle dist = function(t, pf history, pf means, true states,
                              annotation y = c(-0.01, -0.025))
  hist_plt(pf_history[t,]) +
    geom_vline(xintercept = pf means[t], color = "#A3133C", linetype = "dashed") +
    annotate("text", x = pf means[t], y = annotation y[1],
             label = paste("mean = ", round(pf_means[t], 2)),
             color = "#A3133C", hjust = -0.04) +
    geom_vline(xintercept = true states[t], color = "steelblue",
               linetype = "dashed") +
    annotate("text", x = true states[t], y = annotation y[2],
             label = paste("true = ", round(true_states[t], 2)),
             color = "steelblue", hjust = -0.04) +
    ggtitle(paste("Distribution of particles at T =", t)) +
    labs(x = "Particle values")
}
p1 = plot_particle_dist(1, pf_res$pf_history, pf_res$pf_means,
                        ssm states, annotation y = c(-0.0008, -0.002)
p2 = plot_particle_dist(2, pf res$pf history, pf res$pf means, ssm states)
grid.arrange(p1, p2, nrow = 1)
p3 = plot_particle_dist(30, pf_res$pf_history, pf_res$pf_means, ssm_states)
p4 = plot_particle_dist(70, pf res$pf history, pf res$pf means, ssm states)
grid.arrange(p3, p4, nrow = 1)
p5 = plot_particle_dist(99, pf_res$pf_history, pf_res$pf_means, ssm_states)
p6 = plot_particle_dist(100, pf_res$pf_history, pf_res$pf_means, ssm_states)
grid.arrange(p5, p6, nrow = 1)
# Question 2
# Emission model with SD = 5
emission model sd5 = function(z t) emission_model(z t, sd = 5)
emission_prob_sd5 = function(x_t, z_t) emission_prob(x_t, z_t, sd = 5)
```

```
# Emission model with SD = 50
emission_model_sd50 = function(z_t) emission_model(z_t, sd = 50)
emission prob sd50 = function(x t, z t) emission_prob(x t, z t, sd = 50)
# Running SSM simulation and particle filter with emission model SD = 5
set.seed(12345)
ssm sd5 sim = simSSM(100, initial model, transition model, emission model sd5)
ssm sd5 obs = ssm sd5 sim$observations
ssm_sd5_states = ssm_sd5_sim$states
pf_sd5_res = particle_filter(100, ssm_sd5_obs, initial model, transition model,
                             emission model sd5, emission prob sd5, method = 2)
residuals_sd5 = pf_sd5_res$pf_means - ssm_sd5_states
# Running SSM simulation and particle filter with emission model SD = 50
set.seed(12345)
ssm_sd50_sim = simSSM(100, initial_model, transition_model, emission_model_sd50)
ssm sd50 obs = ssm sd50 sim$observations
ssm sd50 states = ssm sd50 sim$states
pf_sd50_res = particle_filter(100, ssm_sd50_obs, initial_model, transition_model,
                              emission model sd50, emission prob sd50, method = 2)
residuals sd50 = pf sd50 res$pf means - ssm sd50 states
ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm sd5 obs, color = "Observations"), alpha = 0.7) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = pf sd5 res$pf means, color = "PF Mean Estimates")) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm_sd5_states, color = "True States")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "States", color = "") +
  ggtitle(paste("Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states",
                "\n(Emission SD = 5)"))
ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm sd50 obs, color = "Observations"), alpha = 0.7) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = pf sd50 res$pf means, color = "PF Mean Estimates")) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm_sd50_states, color = "True States")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "States", color = "") +
  ggtitle(paste("Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states",
                "\n(Emission SD = 50)"))
res_plt_sd5 = ggplot() + geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = residuals_sd5)) +
  ggtitle(paste("Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate",
               "\n(Emission SD = 5)")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "Residuals")
res_plt_sd50 = ggplot() + geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = residuals sd50)) +
```

```
ggtitle(paste("Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate",
                "\n(Emission SD = 50)")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "Residuals")
grid.arrange(res plt sd5, res plt sd50, nrow = 1)
res_dist_sd5 = hist_plt(residuals_sd5[2:100]) +
  ggtitle(paste("Residuals Distribution", "\n(Emission SD = 5)")) +
  labs(x = "Residuals")
res dist sd50 = hist_plt(residuals sd50[2:100]) +
  ggtitle(paste("Residuals Distribution", "\n(Emission SD = 50)")) +
  labs(x = "Residuals")
grid.arrange(res_dist_sd5, res_dist_sd50, nrow = 1)
# Question 3
# Running particle filter without weight correction
set.seed(123)
pf_uncorr_res = particle_filter(100, ssm_obs, initial_model, transition_model,
                                emission_model, emission_prob, method = 2,
                                weight update = FALSE)
residuals_uncorr = pf_uncorr_res$pf_means - ssm_states
ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm obs, color = "Observations"), alpha = 0.7) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = pf uncorr res$pf means, color = "PF Mean Estimates")) +
  geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = ssm_states, color = "True States")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "States", color = "") +
  ggtitle(paste("Comparison of Particle filter mean estimates and true states",
                "\n(Weights are not corrected)"))
ggplot() + geom_line(aes(x = 1:100, y = residuals uncorr)) +
  ggtitle(paste("Residuals Plot for Particle Filter Mean Estimate",
                "\n(Weights are not corrected)")) +
  labs(x = "T", y = "Residuals")
hist_plt(residuals uncorr[2:100]) + labs(x = "Residuals") +
  ggtitle(paste("Residuals for Particle Filter Mean Estimate",
                "\n(Weights are not corrected)"))
```