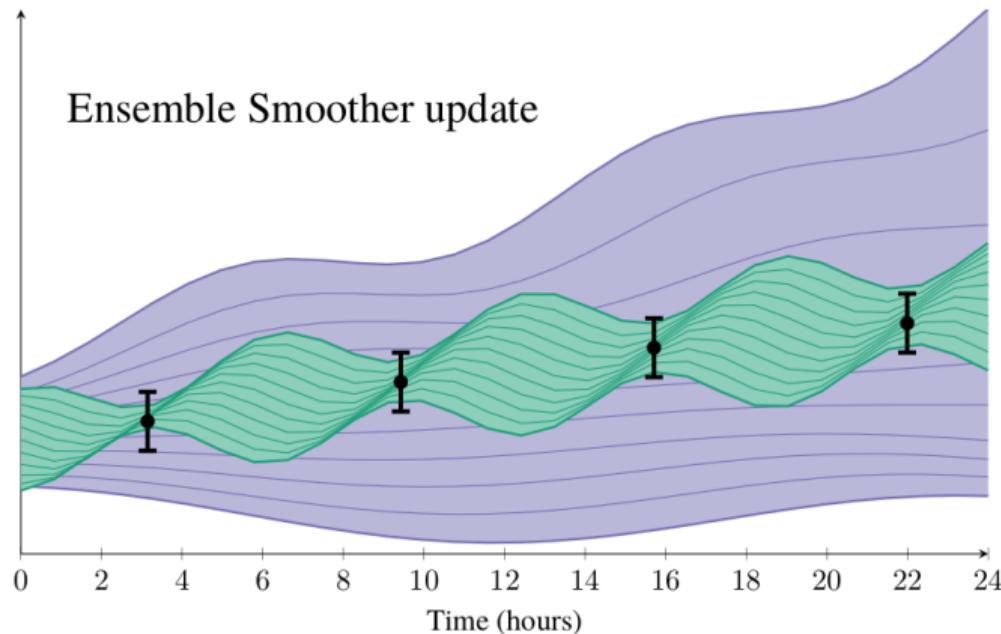


# Using ensemble methods to solve inverse problems

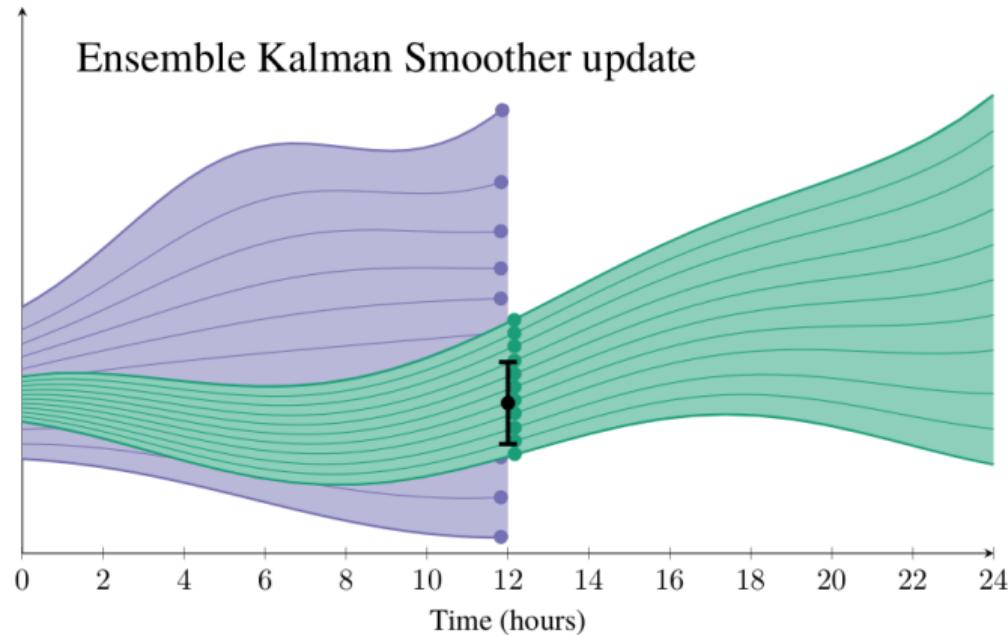
Geir Evensen



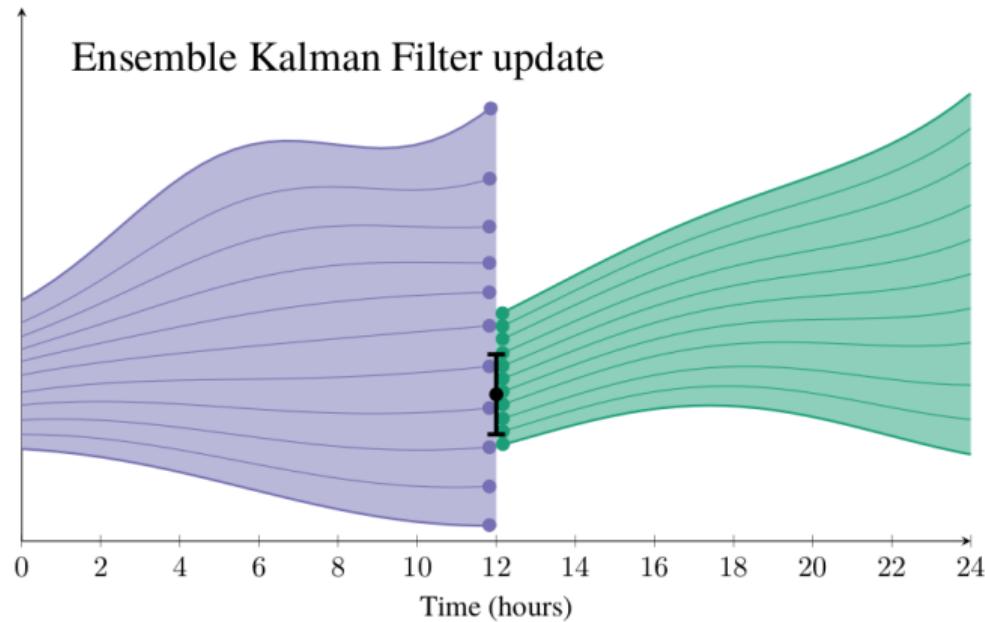
# Ensemble Smoother (ES)



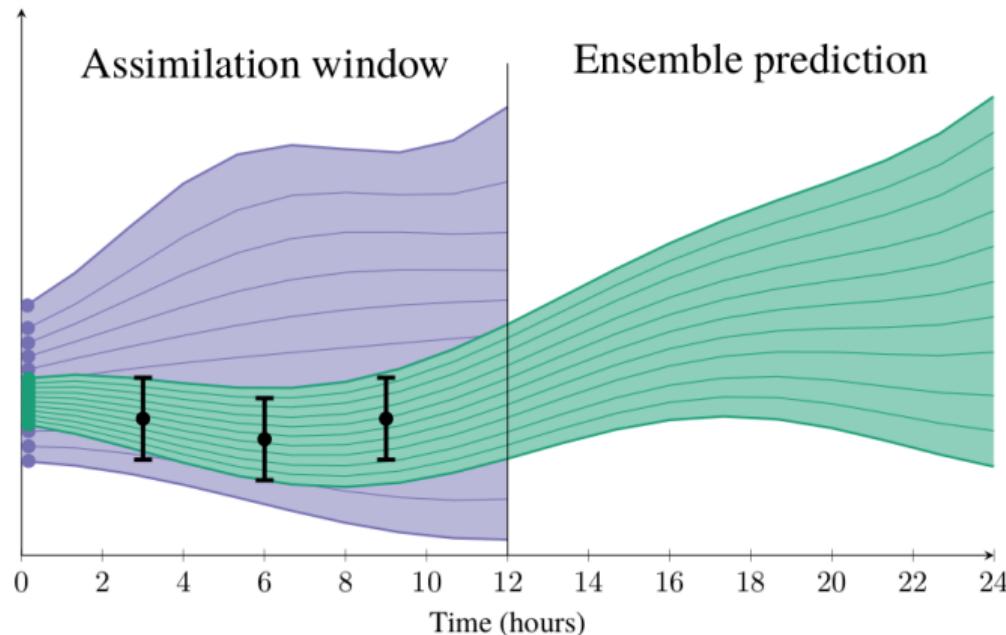
# Ensemble Kalman Smoother (EnKS)



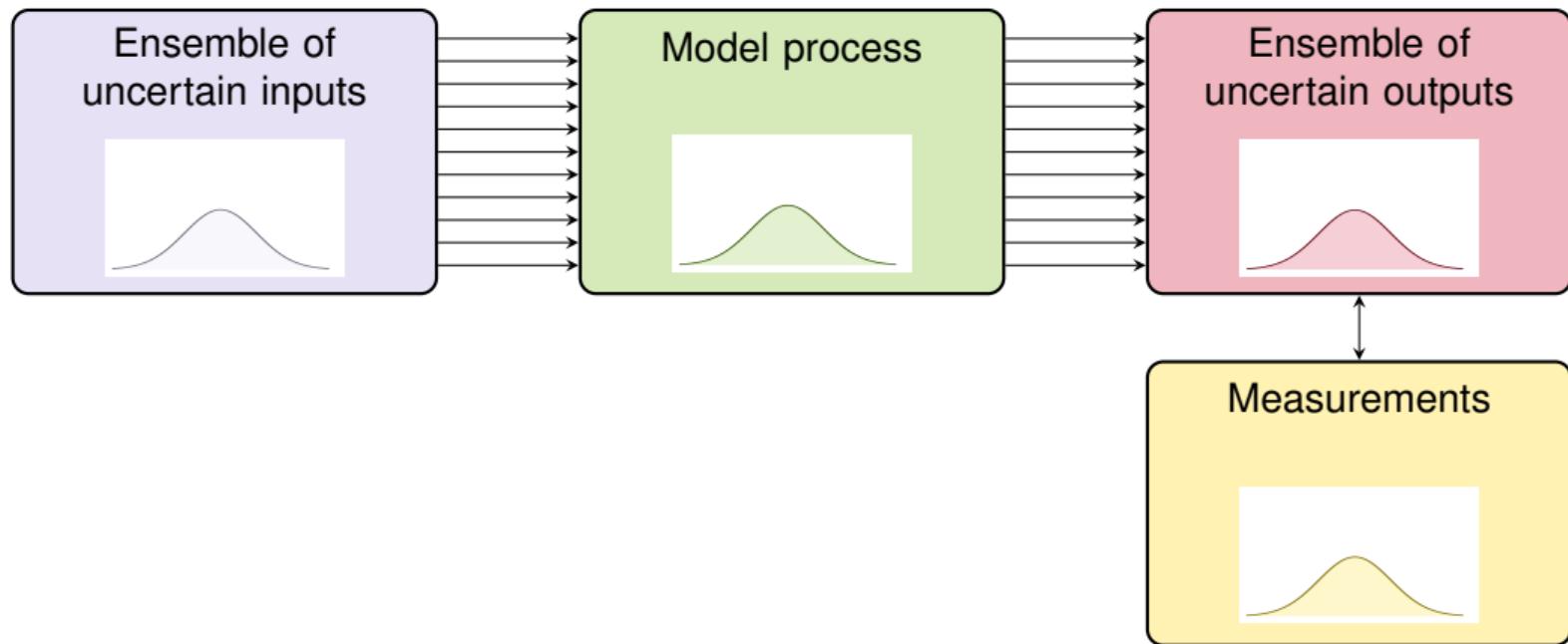
# Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF)



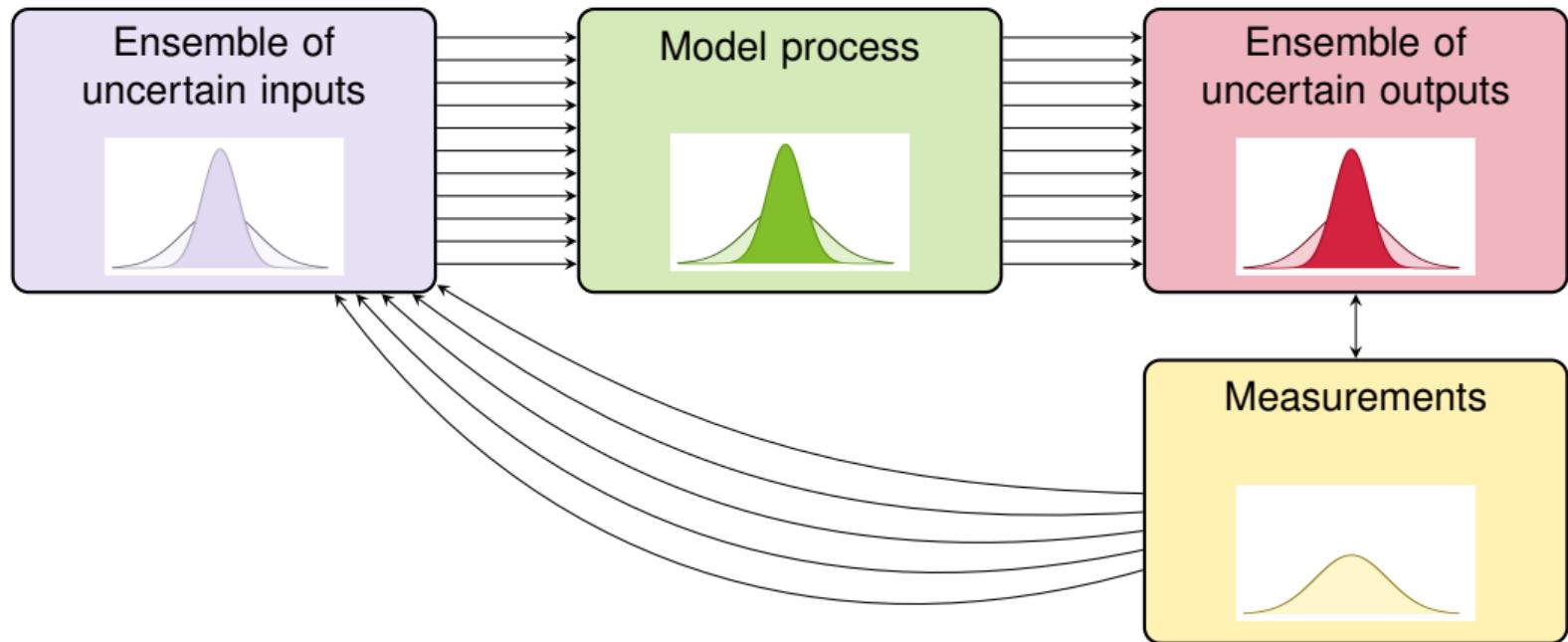
# Ensemble DA for weather prediction



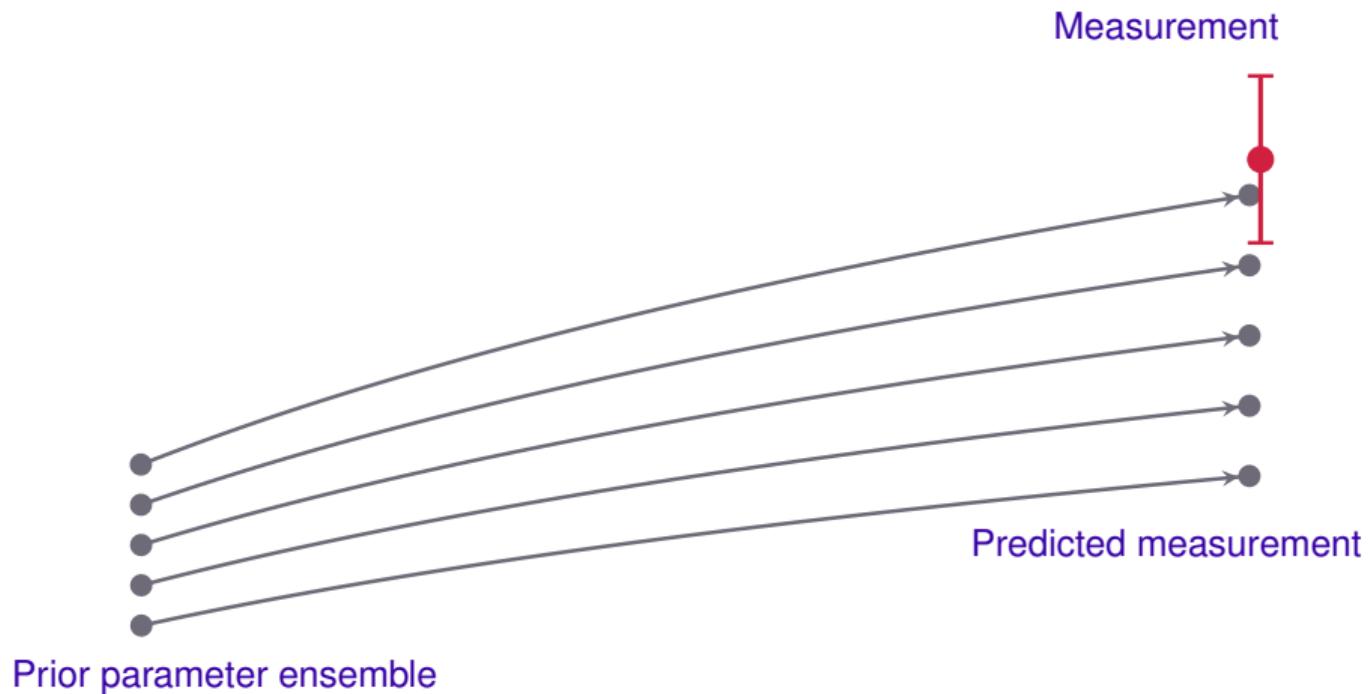
# Ensemble DA for parameter estimation



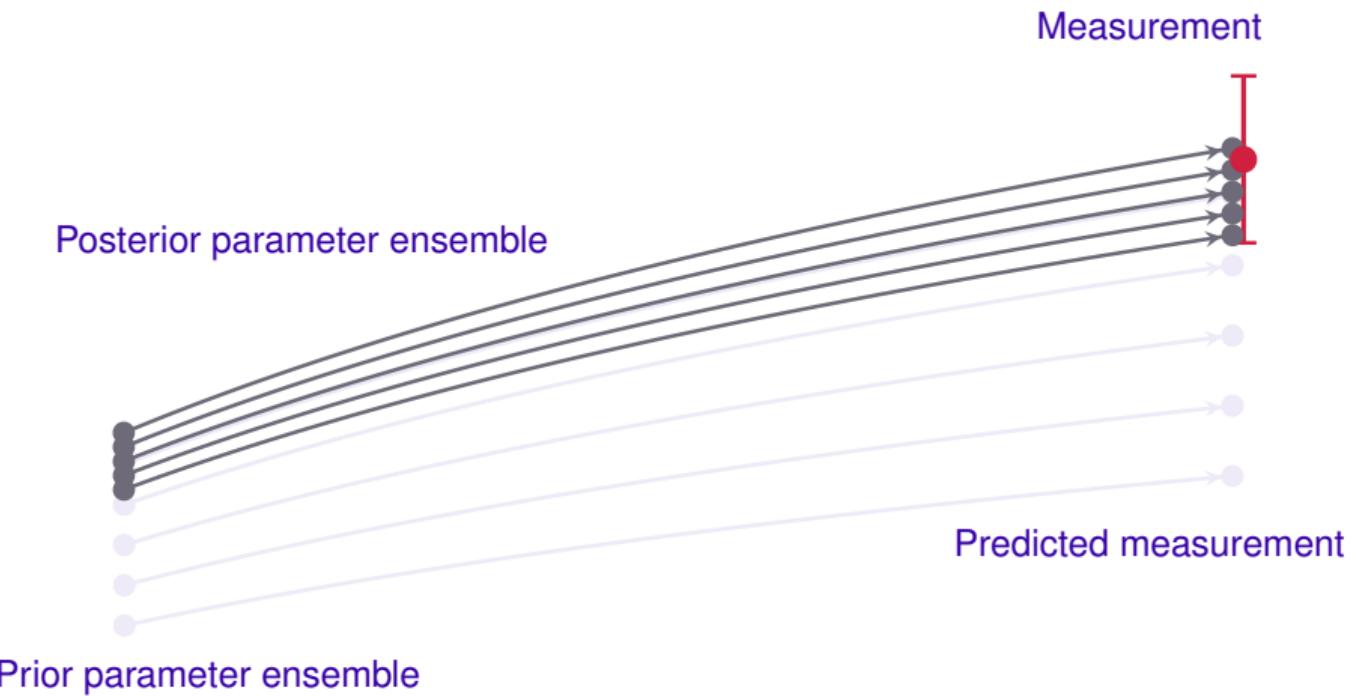
# Ensemble DA for parameter estimation



## Prior ensemble and measurement



# Regression update using ensemble correlations



## “Indirect” DA update

Nonlinear model

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{m}(\boldsymbol{x}_i)$$

Nonlinear measurement operator and measurements

$$\boldsymbol{y} = \boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}) = \boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{m}(\boldsymbol{x}_i)) = \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{x}_i), \quad \boldsymbol{d} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{y} + \boldsymbol{e}$$

Bayesian formulation

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{y} | \boldsymbol{d}) \propto f(\boldsymbol{d} | \boldsymbol{y}) f(\boldsymbol{y} | \boldsymbol{x}_i) f(\boldsymbol{x}_i)$$

- Smoother update step in sequential data assimilation

# Parameter-estimation problem

Nonlinear model and measurements

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \mathbf{d} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{e}$$

Bayesian formulation

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} | \mathbf{d}) \propto f(\mathbf{d} | \mathbf{y}) f(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$

- Standard Bayesian inverse problem

# Deriving the marginal posterior pdf

Nonlinear “perfect” model and measurements

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \mathbf{d} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{e}$$

Bayesian formulation

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} | \mathbf{d}) \propto f(\mathbf{d} | \mathbf{y}) f(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$

Model pdf

$$f(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) = \delta(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}))$$

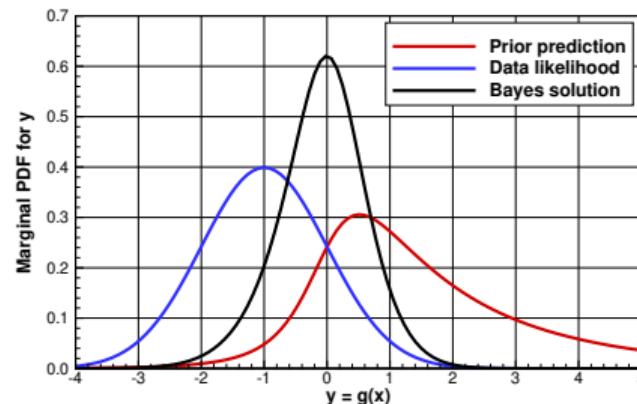
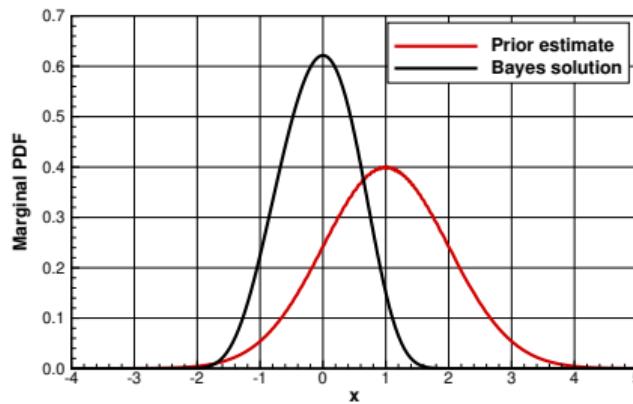
Marginal pdf

$$f(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{d}) \propto \int f(\mathbf{d} | \mathbf{y}) f(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{d} | \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})) f(\mathbf{x})$$

# Illustration of the parameter estimation problem

Bayes theorem gives posterior probability function for parameters  $x$

$$f(x|d) \propto f(d|g(x))f(x)$$



## Approximate sampling of the posterior pdf

Gaussian priors and randomized-maximum-likelihood sampling of

$$f(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{d}) \propto f(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}))f(\mathbf{x})$$

by minimizing an ensemble of cost functions

$$\mathcal{J}(\mathbf{x}_j) = (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}})^T \mathbf{C}_{xx}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}}) + (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j)^T \mathbf{C}_{dd}^{-1} (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j).$$

Prior misfit    data misfit

Solutions methods:

1. Ensemble Smoother (ES) ([van Leeuwen and Evensen, 1996](#)) and ([Evensen, 2009](#), Chap. 10).
2. Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES) ([Chen and Oliver, 2013](#)).
3. Ensemble Smoother with Multiple Data Assimilation (ESMDA) ([Emerick and Reynolds, 2013](#)).

# Ensemble Smoother

Approximately solves  $\nabla \mathcal{J}_j = 0$

$$\textcolor{red}{C}_{xx}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}}) + \mathbf{G}_j^T \mathbf{C}_{dd}^{-1}(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j) = 0.$$

- Apply the linearization  $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}}) + \mathbf{G}_j(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}})$ .
- Replace model sensitivities by least-squares fit  $\mathbf{C}_{yx} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{C}_{xx}$ .
- ES uses ensemble covariances  $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_{xy}$ ,  $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_{xx}$ , and  $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_{dd}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}} &\leftarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}^{\text{f}}, \mathbf{C}_{xx}^{\text{f}}), & \mathbf{d}_j &\leftarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{C}_{dd}), \\ \mathbf{y}_j^{\text{f}} &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}}), \\ \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{a}} &= \mathbf{x}_j^{\text{f}} + \overline{\mathbf{C}}_{xy} \left( \overline{\mathbf{C}}_{yy} + \overline{\mathbf{C}}_{dd} \right)^{-1} (\mathbf{d}_j - \mathbf{y}_j), \\ \mathbf{y}_j^{\text{a}} &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j^{\text{a}}).\end{aligned}$$

# Iterative Ensemble Smoothers

State-space formulation with Gauss-Newton iterations

$$\mathcal{J}(\mathbf{x}_j) = (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^f)^T \mathbf{C}_{xx}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^f) + (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j)^T \mathbf{C}_{dd}^{-1} (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j)$$

with gradient and Hessian

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{J} = \mathbf{C}_{xx}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^f) + \mathbf{G}_j^T \mathbf{C}_{dd}^{-1} (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{d}_j),$$

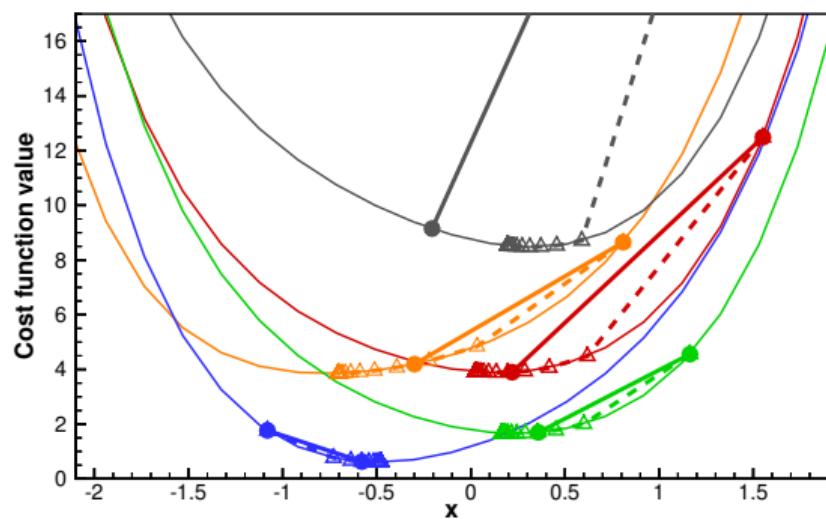
$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{J} \approx \mathbf{C}_{xx}^{-1} + \mathbf{G}_j^T \mathbf{C}_{dd}^{-1} \mathbf{G}_j$$

Iterate

$$\mathbf{x}_j^{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_j^i - \gamma (\nabla \nabla \mathcal{J}_i)^{-1} \nabla \mathcal{J}_j^i$$

$$\mathbf{y}_j^{i+1} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j^{i+1})$$

## ES and IES illustration: Non-linear model



- IES gets closer to minimum than ES
- Approximate sampling of posterior pdf.

## ESMDA uses tempering of likelihood

Approximate sampling of  $f(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{d})$  by gradually introducing the measurements (Neal, 1996)

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{d}) &= \textcolor{blue}{f}(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{y}) \textcolor{red}{f}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \textcolor{blue}{f}(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{y})^{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_i}\right)} f(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_i} = 1 \\ &= \textcolor{blue}{f}(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{y})^{\frac{1}{\alpha_N}} \cdots \textcolor{blue}{f}(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{y})^{\frac{1}{\alpha_2}} \textcolor{red}{f}(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{y})^{\frac{1}{\alpha_1}} f(\mathbf{x}) \end{aligned}$$

We compute  $N$  ES steps with “inflated” observation errors.

- Small updates reduce impact of the linear approximation.
- ESMDA is identical to ES in the linear case.
- Remember to resample measurement perturbations for each update step.

## Some publications:

- Ensemble Randomized Maximum Likelihood EnRML ([Chen and Oliver, 2013](#)).
- Ensemble DA with multiple updates ESMDA ([Emerick and Reynolds, 2013](#)).
- Analysis of iterative ensemble smoothers ([Evensen, 2018](#)).
- IES with model errors ([Evensen, 2019](#)).
- Ensemble subspace RML ([Evensen et al., 2019](#)).

## An international initiative of predicting the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic using ensemble data assimilation

<http://www.aimsceiences.org/article/doi/10.3934/fods.2021001>

Geir Evensen



*NORCE–Norwegian Research Center  
Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center*

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## An international initiative of predicting the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic using ensemble data assimilation

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7. Department of Geoscience and Engineering Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

8. FaCENA, UNNE and IMIT, CONICET Corrientes, Argentina

## Available observations

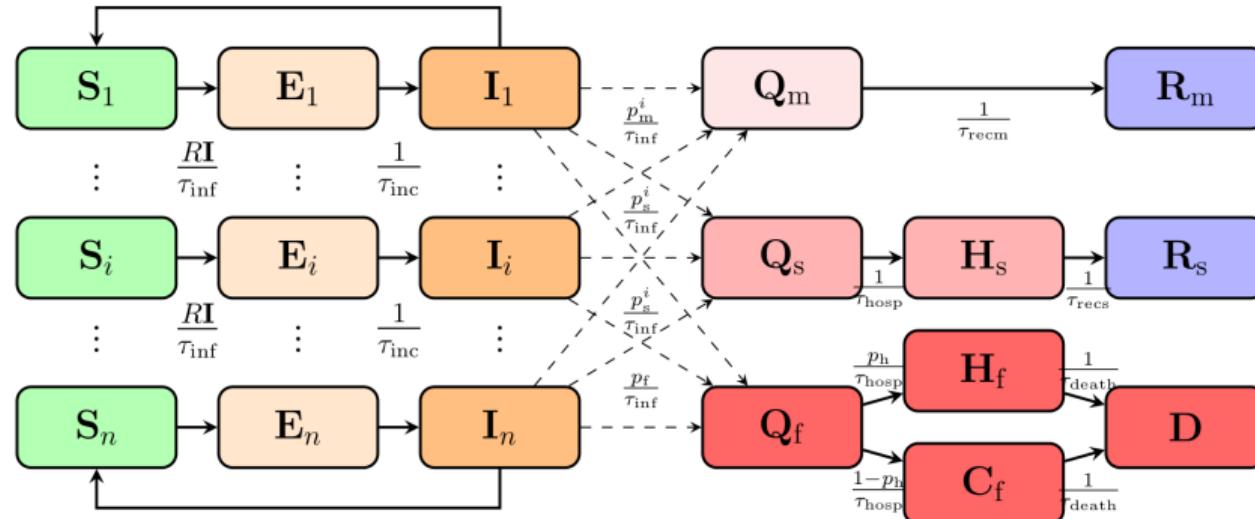
Hospitalized: Within different agegroups and gender.

Deaths: At hospitals or care homes.

Cases: Positive tests (highly underreported).

1. Data uncertainty and availability varies in different countries.
2. The SEIR model doesn't predict deaths and hospitalizations.

# Extended SEIR model



- We add age classes to model age-specific infection and death rates.
- We differentiate between mild, severe, and fatal symptoms.
- We model those with fatal symptoms who die in care homes.

## Extended SEIR model

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{S}_i}{\partial t} = - \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{R_{ij}(t) \mathbf{I}_j}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \right) \mathbf{S}_i \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{E}_i}{\partial t} = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{R_{ij}(t) \mathbf{I}_j}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \right) \mathbf{S}_i - \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{inc}}} \mathbf{E}_i \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{I}_i}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{inc}}} \mathbf{E}_i - \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \mathbf{I}_i \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}_{\text{m}}}{\partial t} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{p_{\text{m}}^i}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \mathbf{I}_i - (1/\tau_{\text{recm}}) \mathbf{Q}_{\text{m}} \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}_{\text{s}}}{\partial t} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{p_{\text{s}}^i}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \mathbf{I}_i - (1/\tau_{\text{hosp}}) \mathbf{Q}_{\text{s}} \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}_{\text{f}}}{\partial t} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{p_{\text{f}}^i}{\tau_{\text{inf}}} \mathbf{I}_i - (1/\tau_{\text{hosp}}) \mathbf{Q}_{\text{f}} \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}_{\text{s}}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{hosp}}} \mathbf{Q}_{\text{s}} - \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{recs}}} \mathbf{H}_{\text{s}} \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}_{\text{f}}}{\partial t} = \frac{p_{\text{h}}}{\tau_{\text{hosp}}} \mathbf{Q}_{\text{f}} - \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{death}}} \mathbf{H}_{\text{f}} \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{C}_{\text{f}}}{\partial t} = \frac{(1-p_{\text{h}})}{\tau_{\text{hosp}}} \mathbf{Q}_{\text{f}} - \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{death}}} \mathbf{C}_{\text{f}} \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{R}_{\text{m}}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{recm}}} \mathbf{Q}_{\text{m}} \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{R}_{\text{s}}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{recs}}} \mathbf{H}_{\text{s}} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{death}}} \mathbf{H}_{\text{f}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{death}}} \mathbf{C}_{\text{f}} \quad (12)$$

## Validity of the SEIR model

- Aggregated variables (statistical significance).
- Neglects import of cases (ok during lockdown).
- SEIR type models tend to successfully model epidemics.
- The simplicity is a huge advantage.

More complex models involve additional parameters.

## Constant model parameters

1. Relative fractions  $p_m^i$ ,  $p_s^i$ ,  $p_f^i$  per age group.
2. Fractions dying in a Hospital  $p_h$  versus in a Care home  $1 - p_h$ .

Age group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Age range	0–5	6–12	13–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60–69	70–79	80–89	90–105
p-mild	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.96	0.93	0.90	0.84	0.81	0.81
p-severe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.11
p-fatal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.06

## Model parameters estimated by DA

Parameter	First guess	Description
$\tau_{\text{inc}}$	5.5	Incubation period
$\tau_{\text{inf}}$	3.8	Infection time
$\tau_{\text{recm}}$	14.0	Recovery time mild cases
$\tau_{\text{recs}}$	5.0	Recovery time severe cases
$\tau_{\text{hosp}}$	6.0	Time until hospitalization
$\tau_{\text{death}}$	16.0	Time until death
$p_f$	0.009	Case fatality rate
$p_s$	0.039	Hospitalization rate (severe cases)
$I_0$		Initial number of infectious
$E_0$		Initial number of exposed
$R(t)$		Effective reproductive number

## Effective reproductive number

$$\mathbf{R}(t) = R(t)\hat{\mathbf{R}}$$

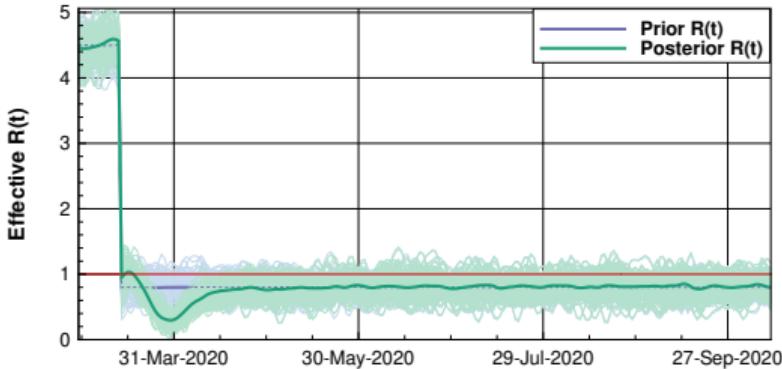
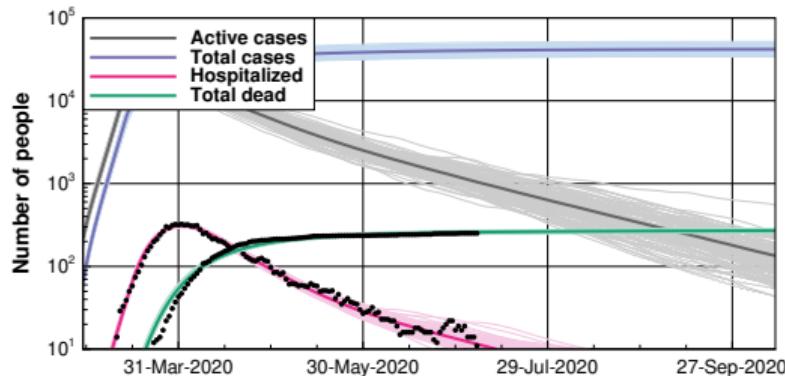
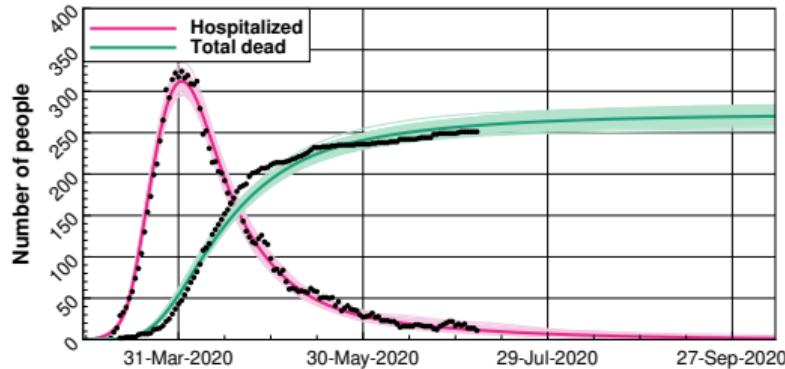
$\mathbf{R}(t)$  is a function of time (steered by how people isolate or interact).

- $R(t)$  is a scalar function of time.
- $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$  a constant matrix of transmissions between age classes..
- Behavior two weeks ago determines today's deaths and hospitalizations.
- We can estimate  $R(t)$  for the past.
- We assume the value  $R(t)$  for the future.

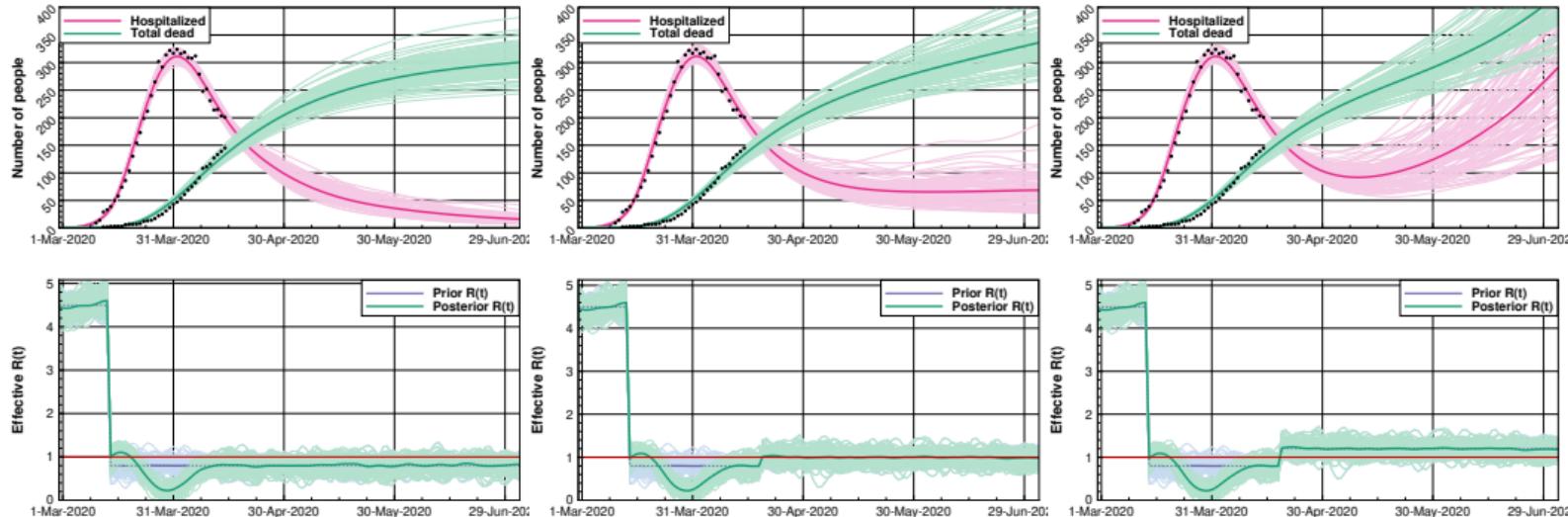
## We used ESMDA

- Simple implementation and use.
- Efficient for large ensemble sizes.
- 5000 realizations and 32 ESMDA steps.

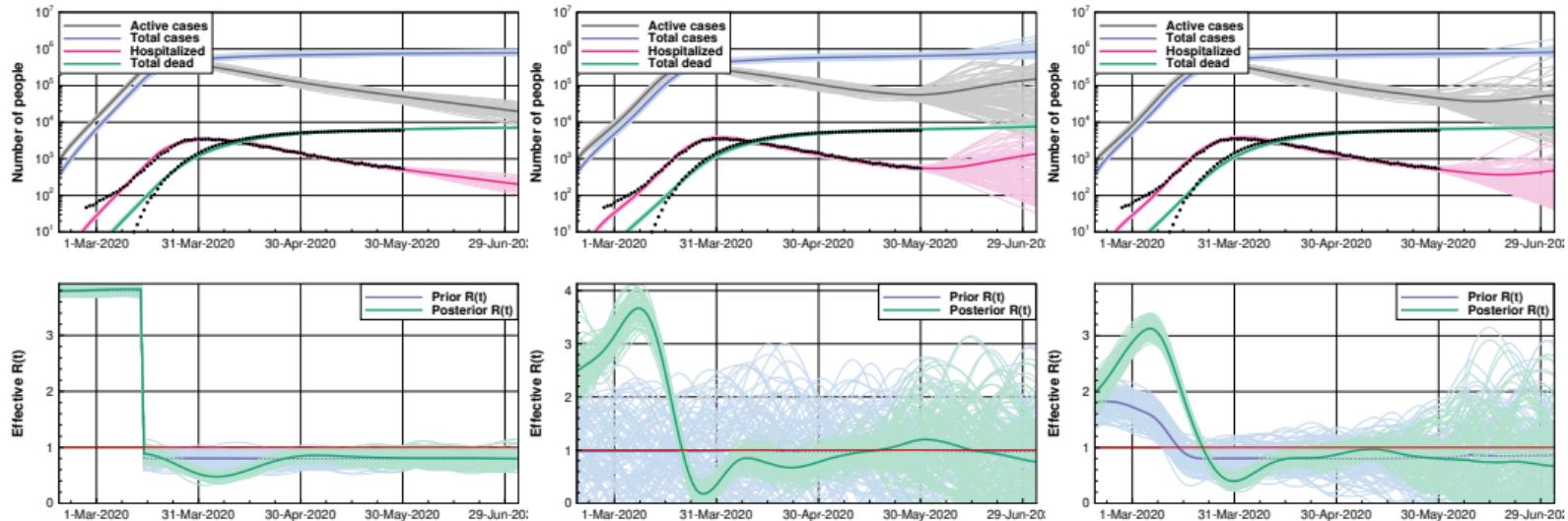
## Example from Norway



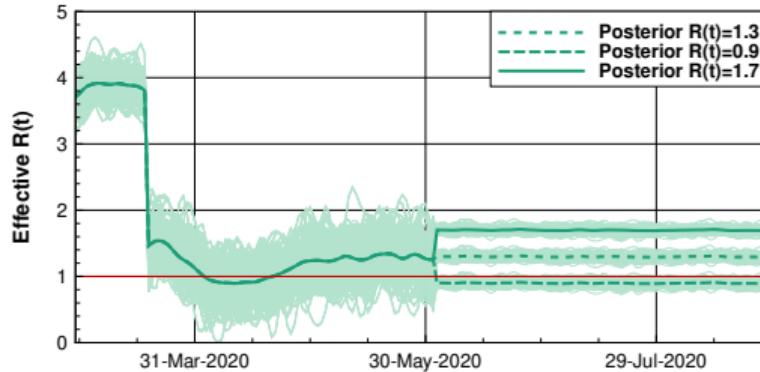
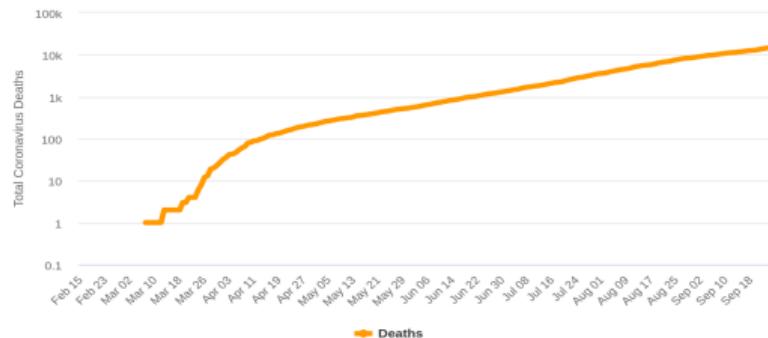
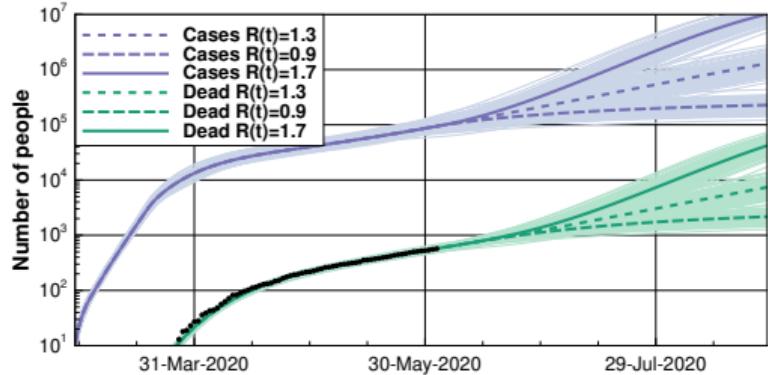
# Back-to-school scenarios for Norway



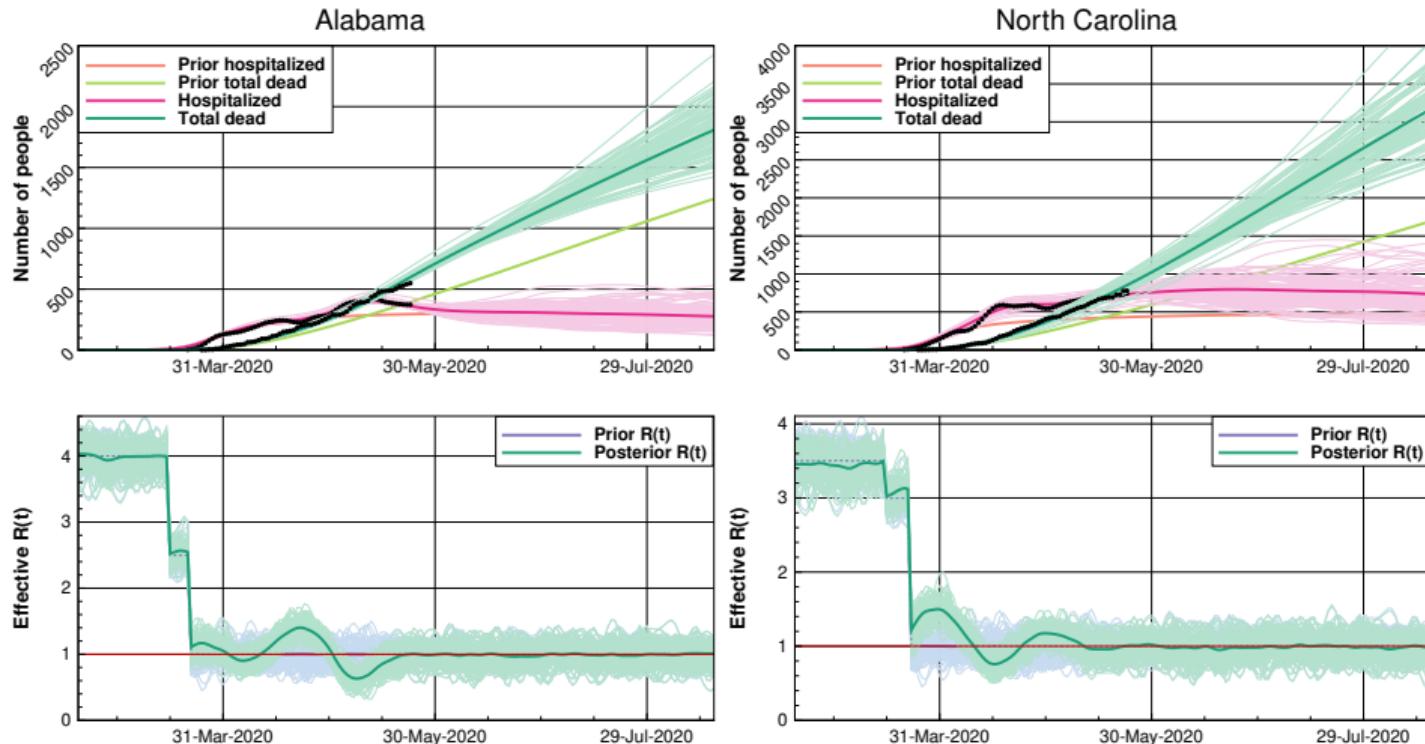
# $R(t)$ example: The Netherlands

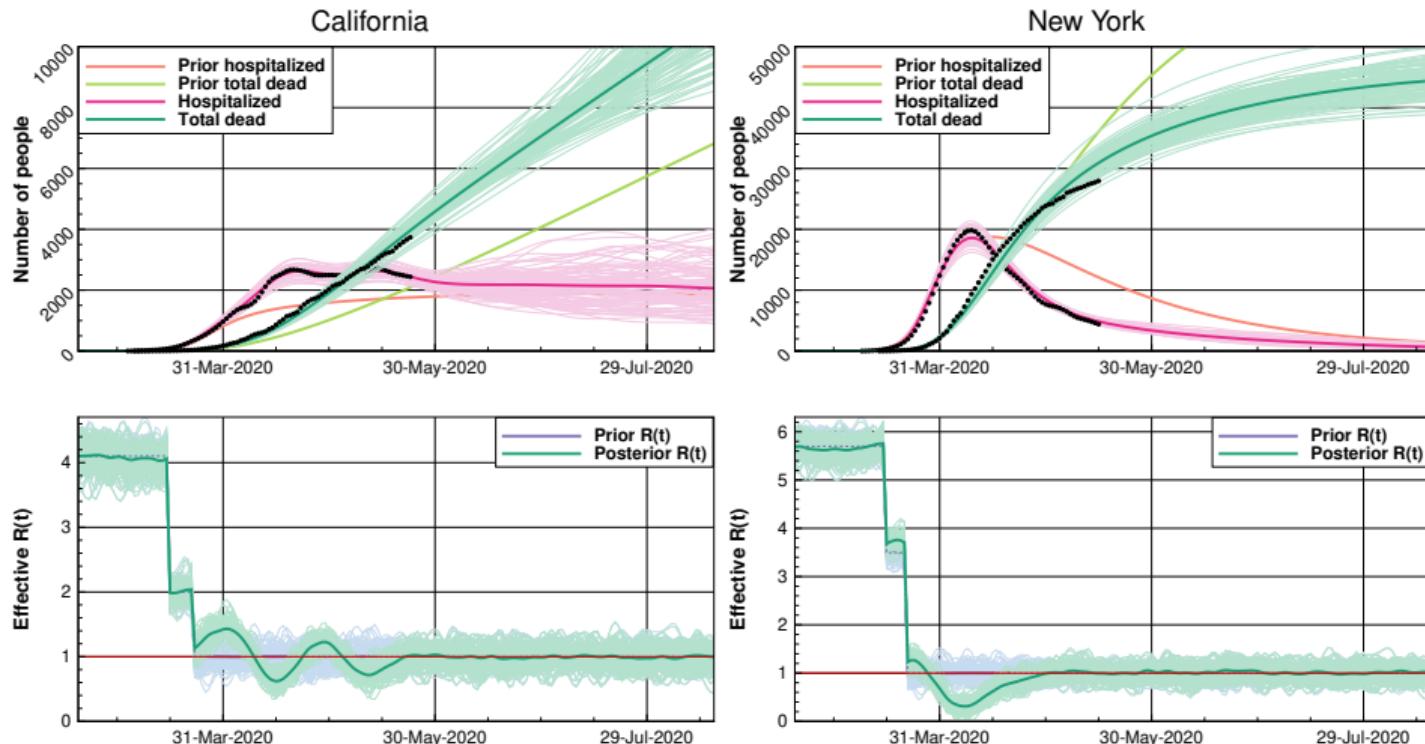


# Scenarios: Argentina

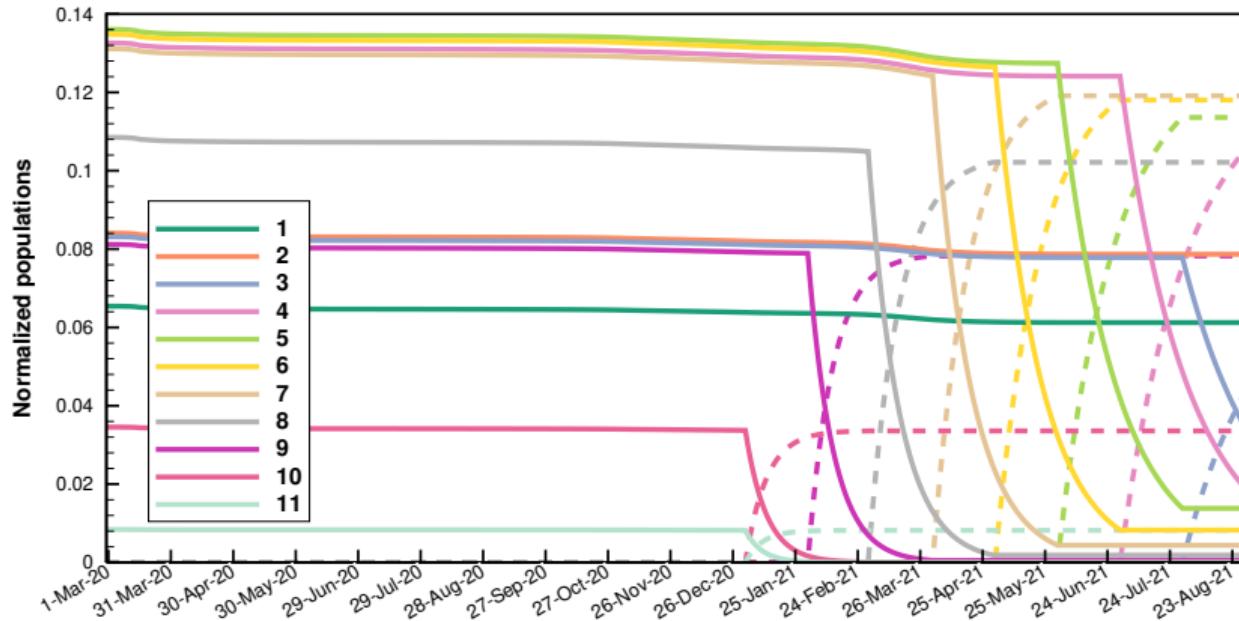


8660 deaths and 417000 cases at Aug 31.

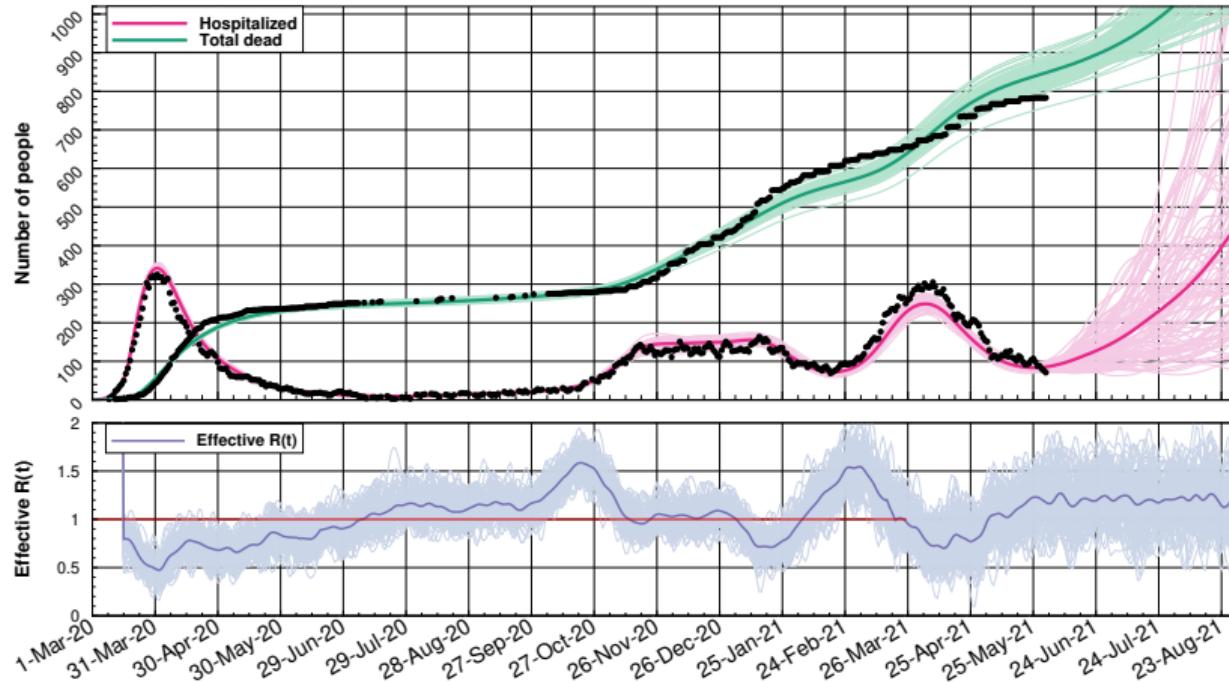
US: Modeling time variability in  $R(t)$ 

US: Modeling time variability in  $R(t)$ 

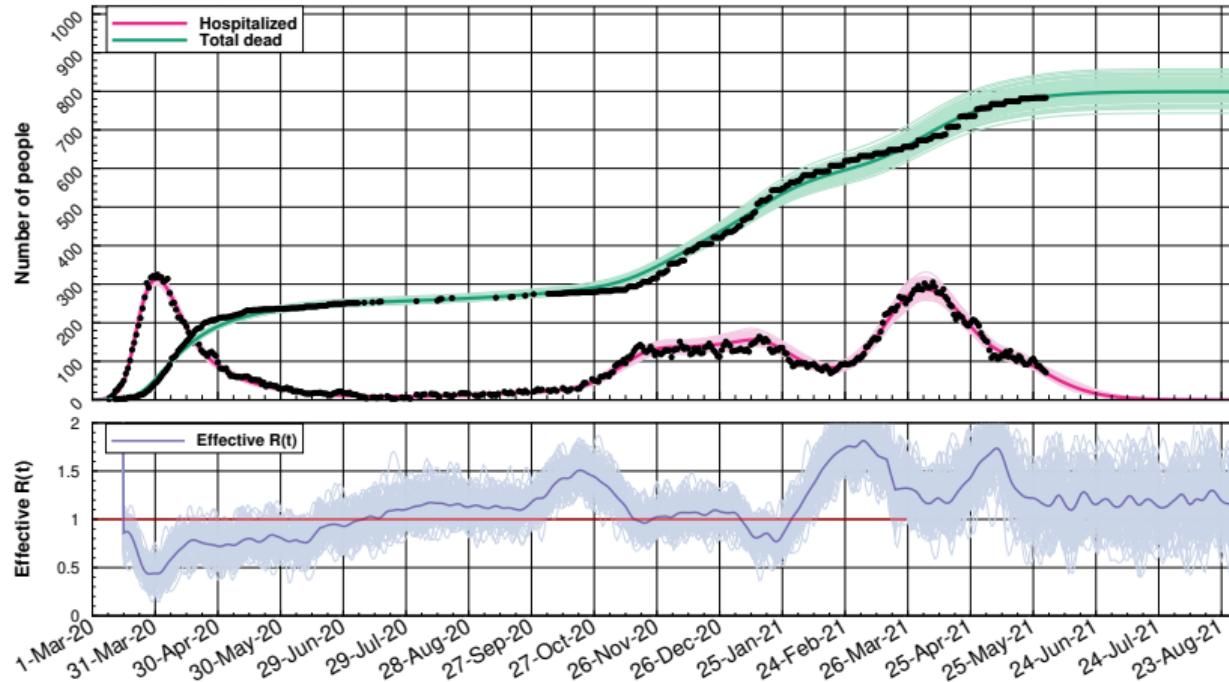
# Norway: Vaccination prediction



# Norway: prediction without vaccinations



# Norway: prediction with vaccinations



## Summary EnKF\_seir

- The DA system tracks the epidemic accurately.
- We can estimate past  $R(t)$ .
- It is possible to quantify the impact of interventions.
- Short-term forecasting using  $R$ -persistence works well.
- Long-term scenario forecasting with specified future  $R$ .
- Code: [https://github.com/geirev/EnKF\\_seir](https://github.com/geirev/EnKF_seir)
- Paper: (Evensen et al., 2020)  
<http://www.aimsceinces.org/article/doi/10.3934/fods.2021001>

## Outlook EnKF\_seir

- The code now supports multiple countries that interact.
- Study general dynamics of multi-populations under different intervention regimes.
- Inclusion of a term compensation for vaccination.
- Impact of new mutated viruses with different  $R(t)$ .
- Simulating reopening strategies accounting for mutations and vaccinations.

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