

Scalable Bayesian seismic wavelet estimation

Guillermina Senn¹

jointly with Matt Walker², Håkon Tjelmeland¹, and Andrew Holbrook³

¹Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

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Lofotseminaret i anvendt geofysikk
August 21, 2025

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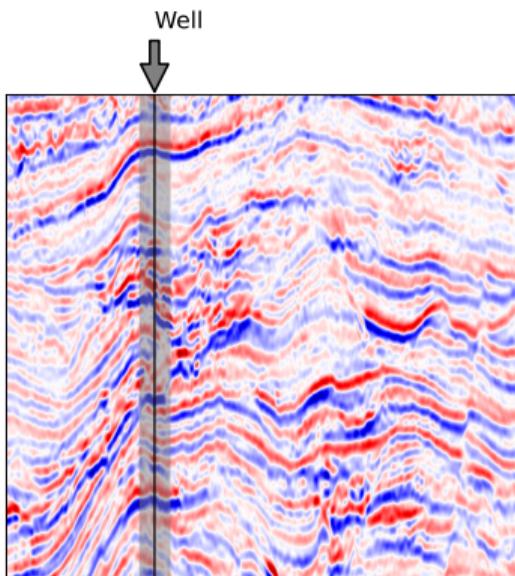
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Summary

1. Data



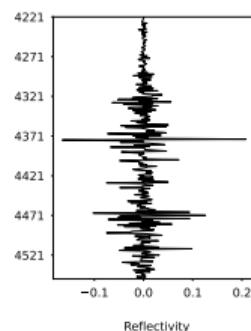
(a) Seismic data

2. Model

1D convolutional model

$$\mathbf{d}_j = \mathbf{c}_j * \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{e}_j \quad \text{for column } j.$$

+ Bayesian probabilistic model, on a cyclic lattice .



(b) Well-log

3. Scalable wavelet estimation

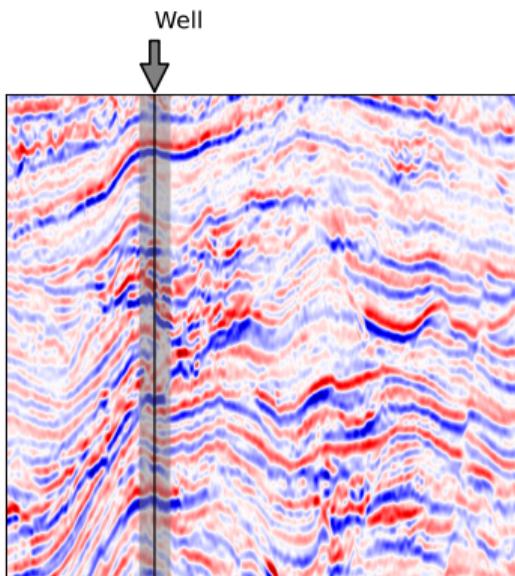
Sample posterior distribution

$$p(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma_c^2, \sigma_w^2, \sigma_d^2 | \mathbf{d})$$

with Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC).

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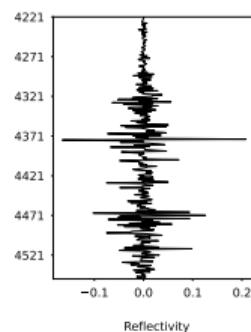
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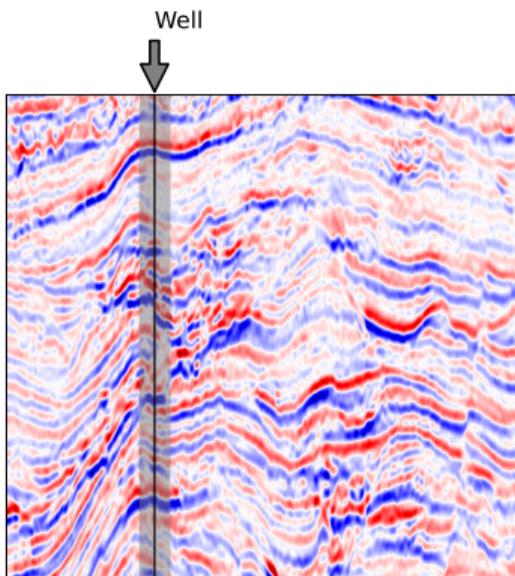
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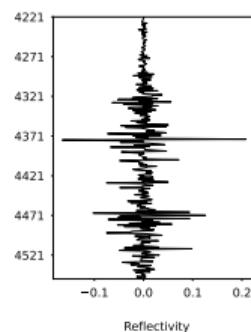
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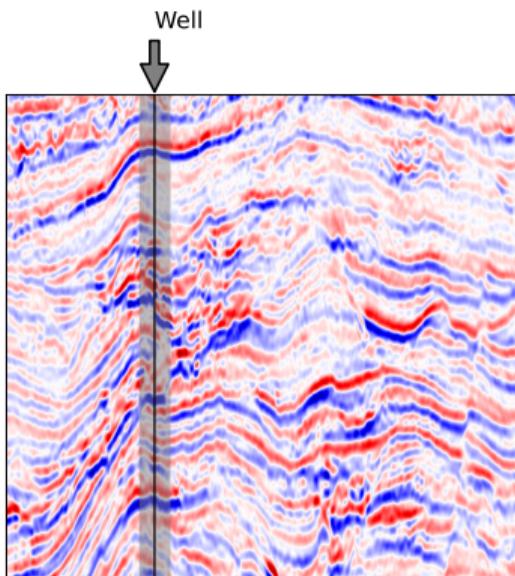
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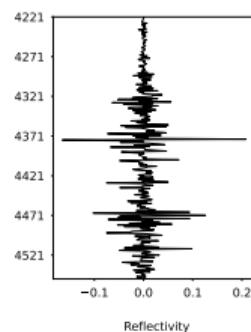
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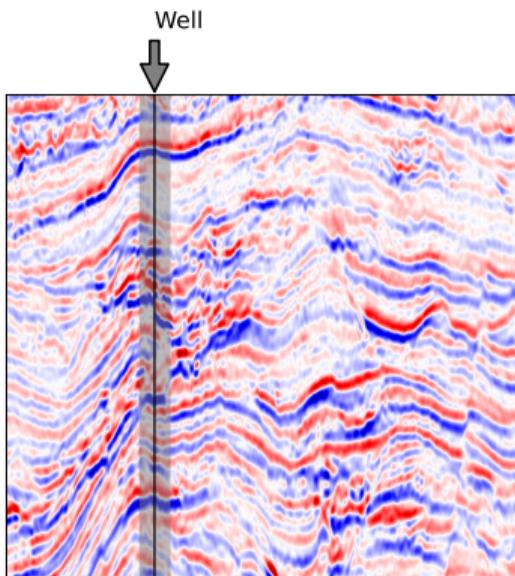
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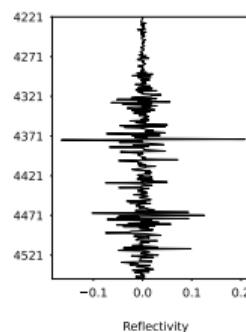
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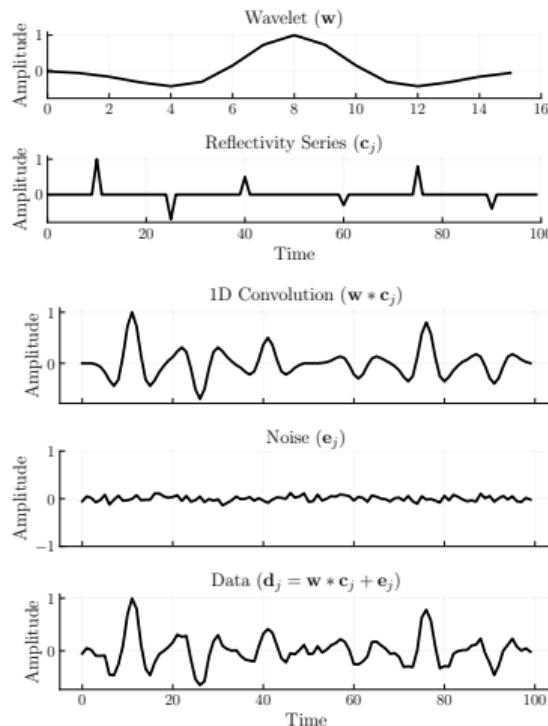
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The 1D convolutional model



Single trace j :

- $d_j, c_j, e_j \in \mathcal{R}^n$
- $w = \{w_0, \dots, w_{k-1}\} \in \mathcal{R}^k$
- 1D convolutional model is

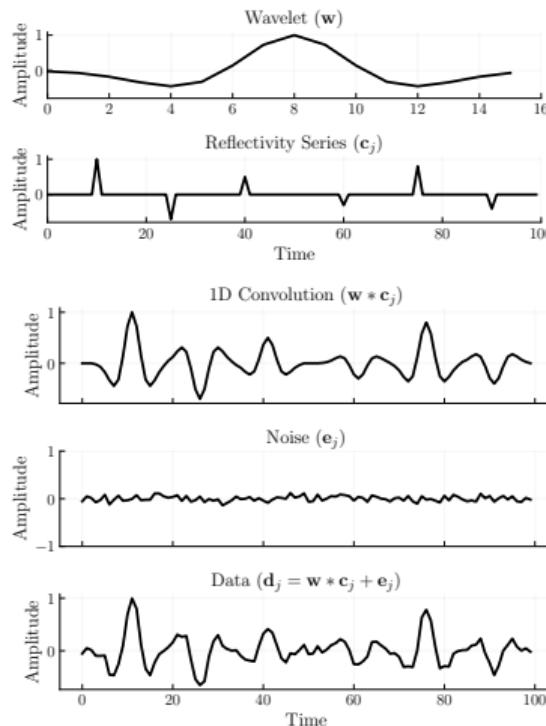
$$d_j = w \star c_j + e_j \quad (1)$$

Image with m traces:

- $d, c, e \in \mathcal{R}^{nm}$.
- W is the wavelet convolutional matrix for the image.
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$$d = Wc + e.$$

The 1D convolutional model



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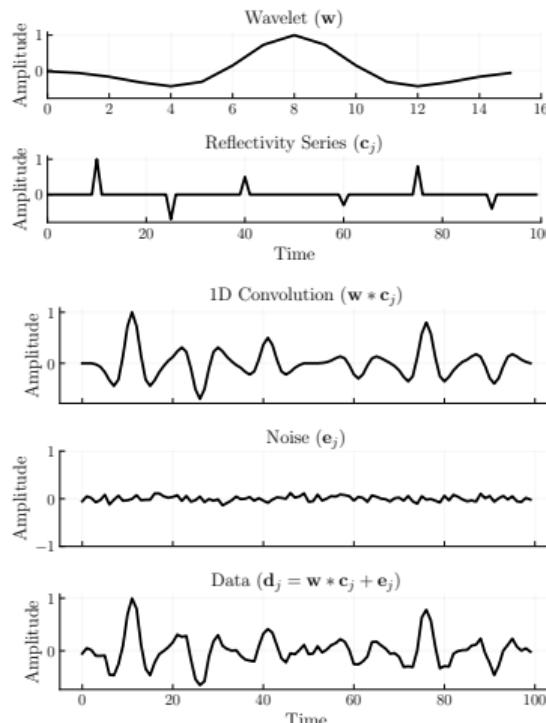
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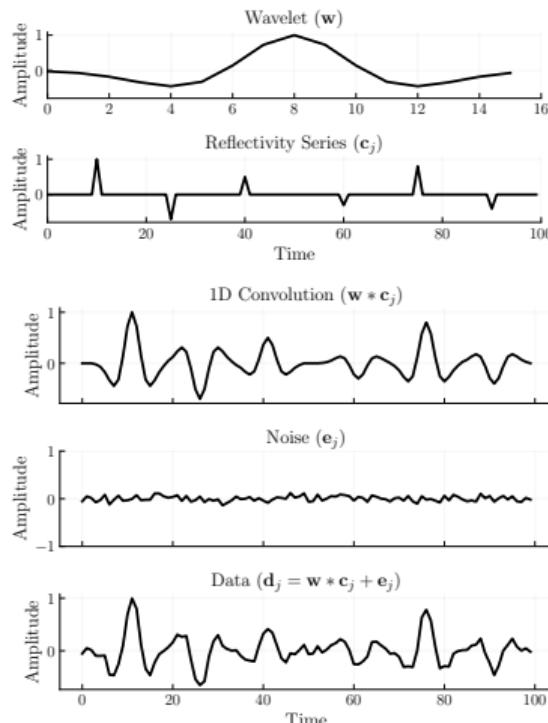
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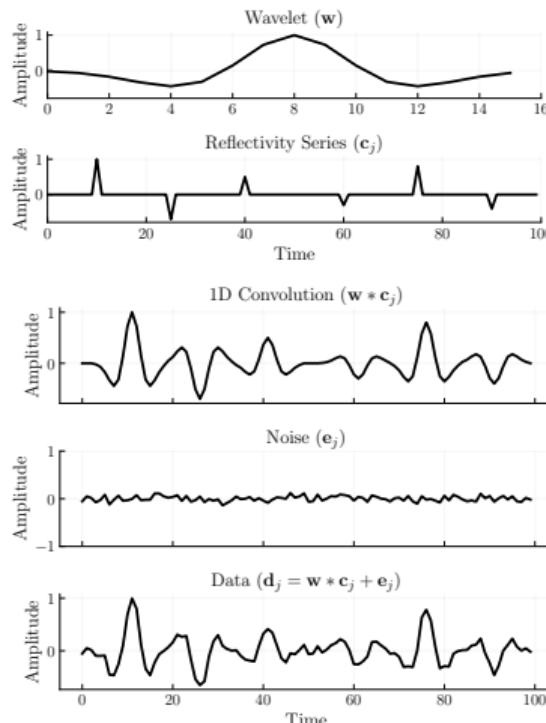
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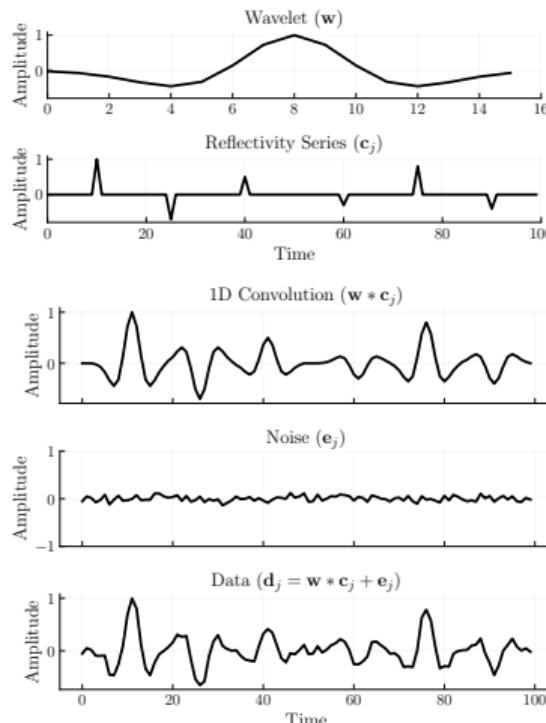
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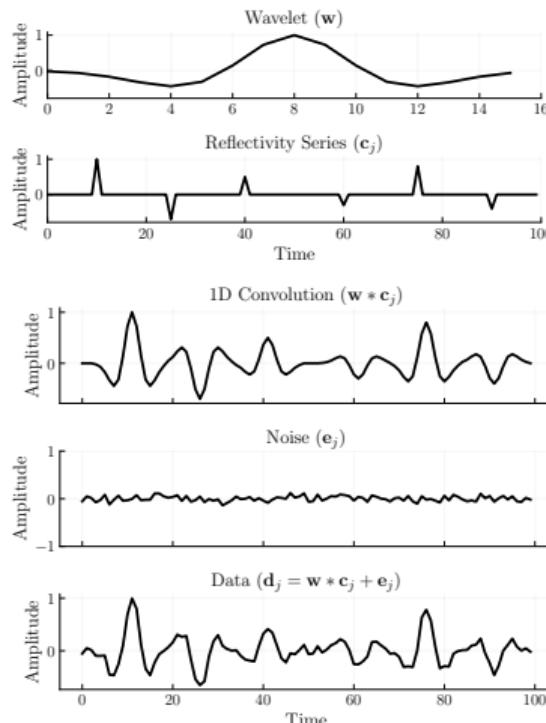
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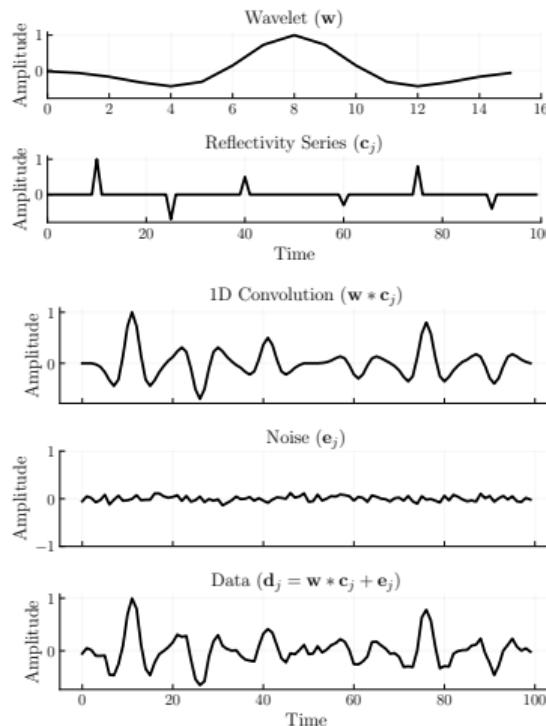
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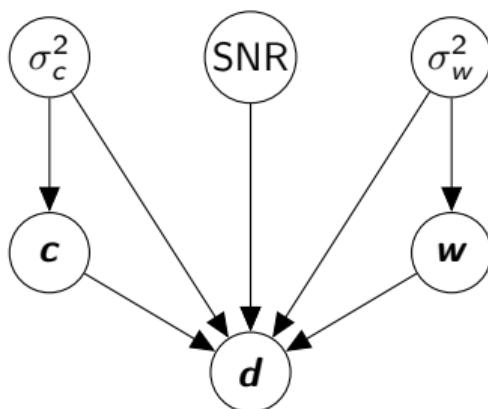
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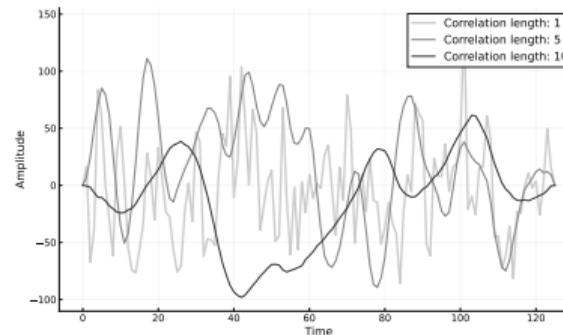
The Bayesian model



- Gaussian wavelet with inverse-gamma variance:

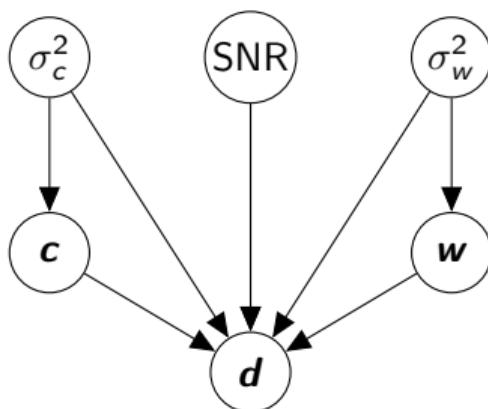
$$\mathbf{w} \sim N_k(\boldsymbol{\mu}_w, \sigma_w^2 \mathbf{R}_w), \quad \sigma_w^2 \sim IG(\alpha_w, \beta_w)$$

- Endpoints are constrained to zero.



Samples from the wavelet prior.

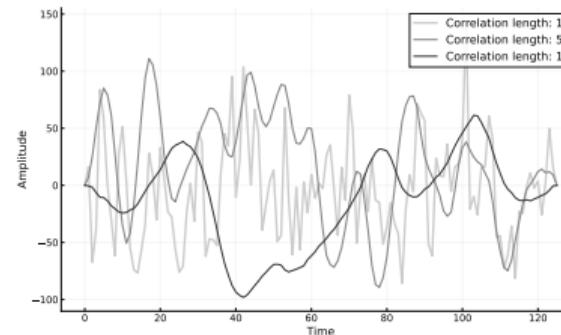
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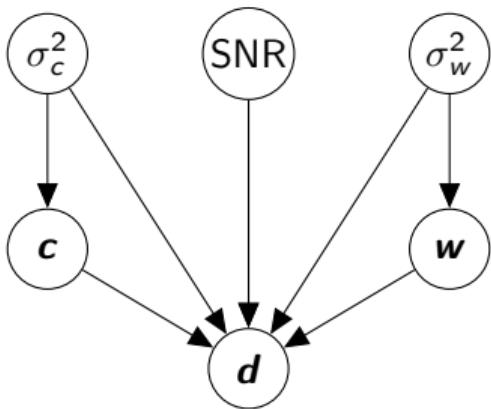
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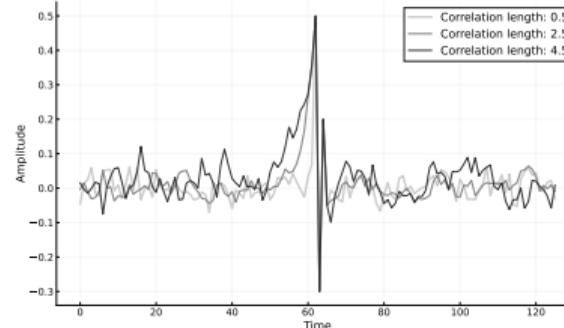
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- Gaussian reflectivity with inverse-gamma variance:

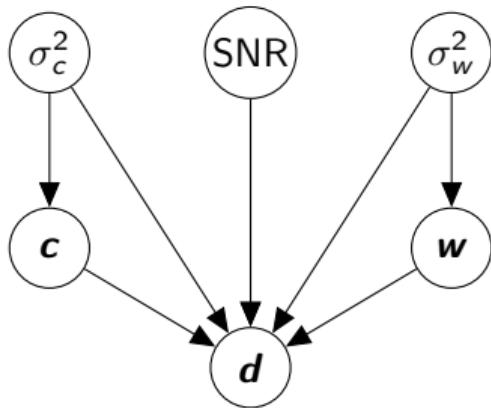
$$\mathbf{c} \sim N_{nm}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_c, \sigma_c^2 \mathbf{R}_c), \quad \sigma_c^2 \sim IG(\alpha_c, \beta_c).$$

- Hard-constrained with well values.



Samples from the reflectivity prior (one trace).

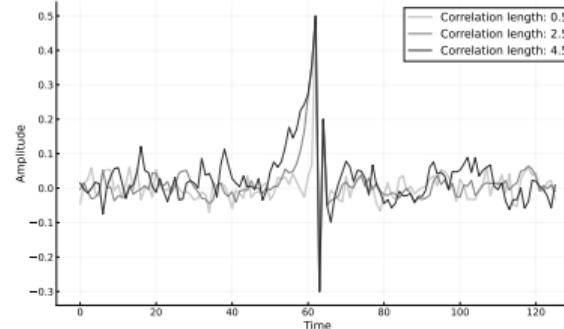
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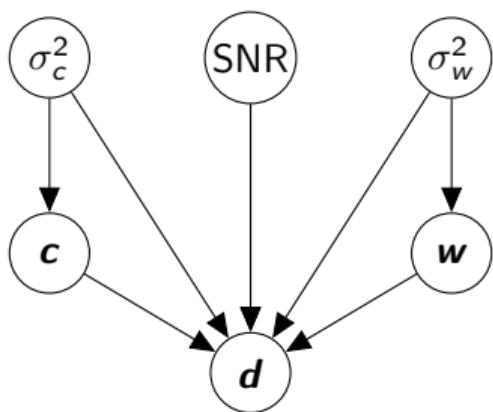
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DAG of the model.

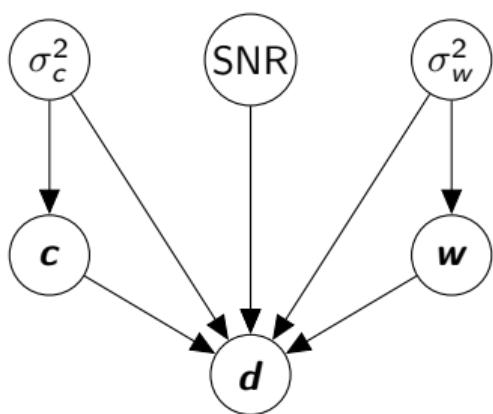
- Model the signal-to-noise ratio as stochastic

$$SNR = \frac{\text{Var}(w * c)}{\sigma_d^2} \iff \sigma_d^2 = \frac{\text{Var}(w * c)}{SNR}; \quad \text{Var}(w * c) = \psi \sigma_c^2 \sigma_w^2$$

- Gaussian observational noise with Gamma SNR:

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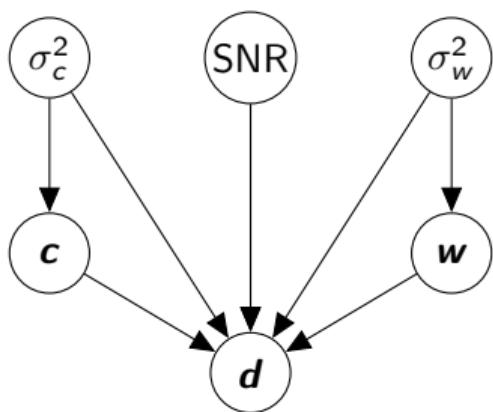
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Posterior distribution of the model

- Bayes' rule

$$p(\theta|\mathbf{d}) = \frac{p(\theta, \mathbf{d})}{p(\mathbf{d})} \propto p(\mathbf{d}, \theta)$$

gives

$$p(c, w, \sigma_c^2, \sigma_w^2, \zeta | \mathbf{d}) \propto p(\mathbf{d}|c, w, \sigma_c^2, \sigma_w^2, \zeta) p(c|\sigma_c^2) p(w|\sigma_w^2) p(\sigma_c^2) p(\sigma_w^2) p(\zeta).$$

- The model is proposed on an extended cyclic lattice for scalability ¹
- We sample this intractable density with MCMC.

¹Senn et al. (2025)

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MCMC on the cyclic lattice

Algorithm A general MCMC scheme

Initialize ...

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ **do**

Update wavelet

Update reflectivity

Update reflectivity variance

Update wavelet variance

Update SNR

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- A: **Update wavelet** from its full conditional: Gibbs sampler
 - Inefficient exploration due to high correlation in posterior samples.
 - B: **Update wavelet** with Hamiltonian Monte Carlo.

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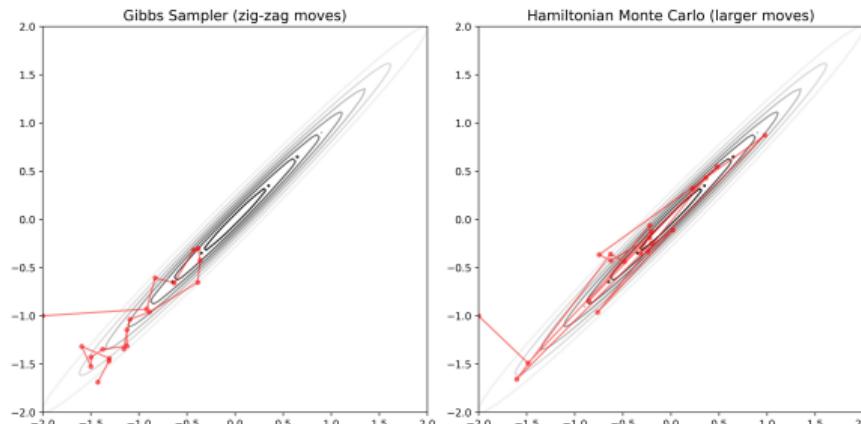
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Wavelet update with Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

- We want to avoid random walk behaviour in high dimensions.

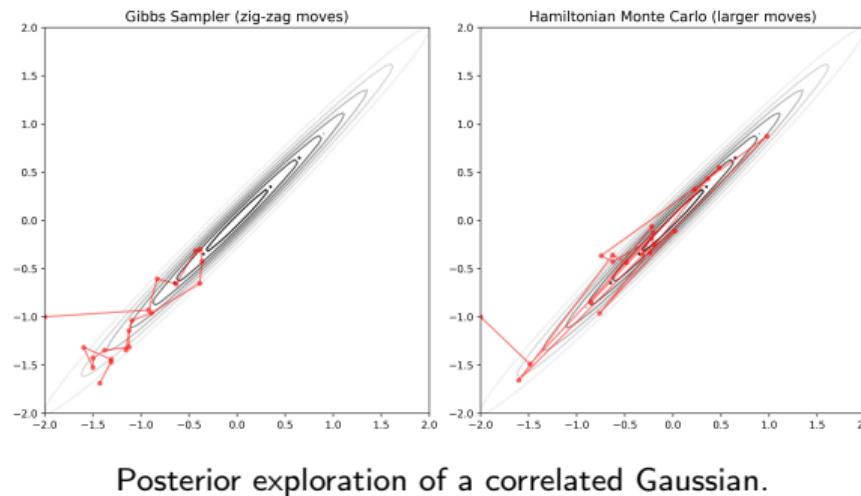


Posterior exploration of a correlated Gaussian.

- HMC explores regions with high mass (density \times volume).
- HMC moves between points following a trajectory of length ϵL , defined by a Hamiltonian system.
- Must tune step size ϵ and number of steps L in the numerical integrator.

Wavelet update with Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

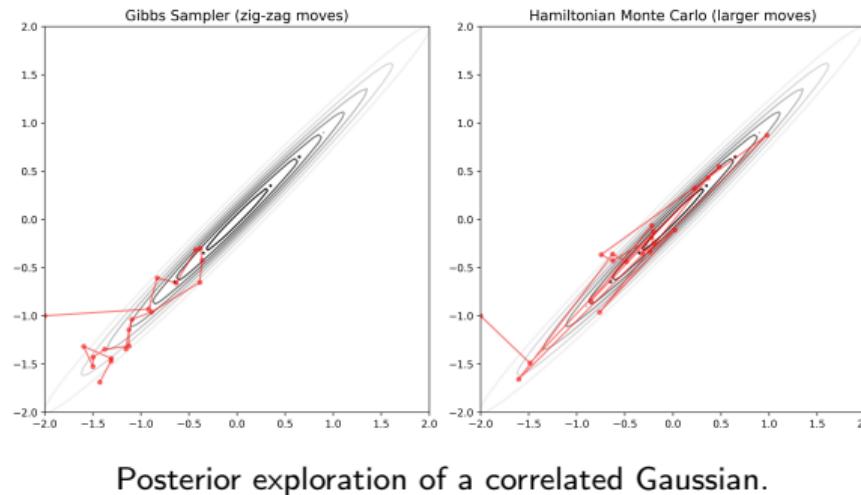
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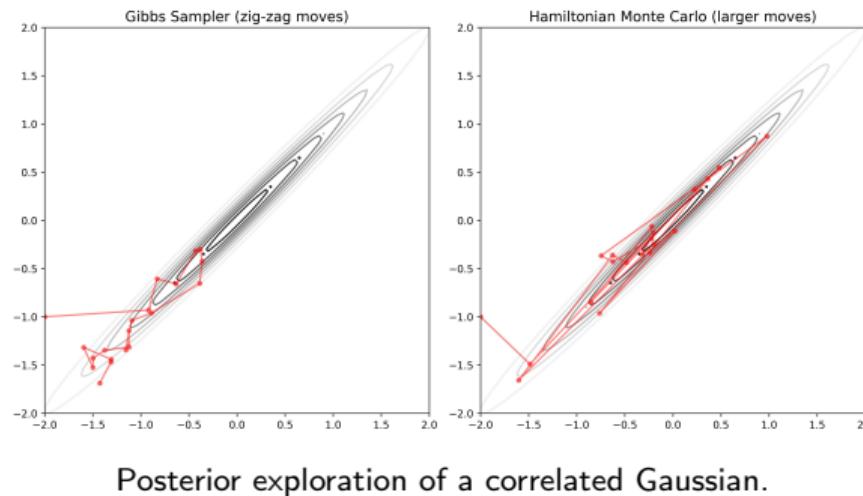
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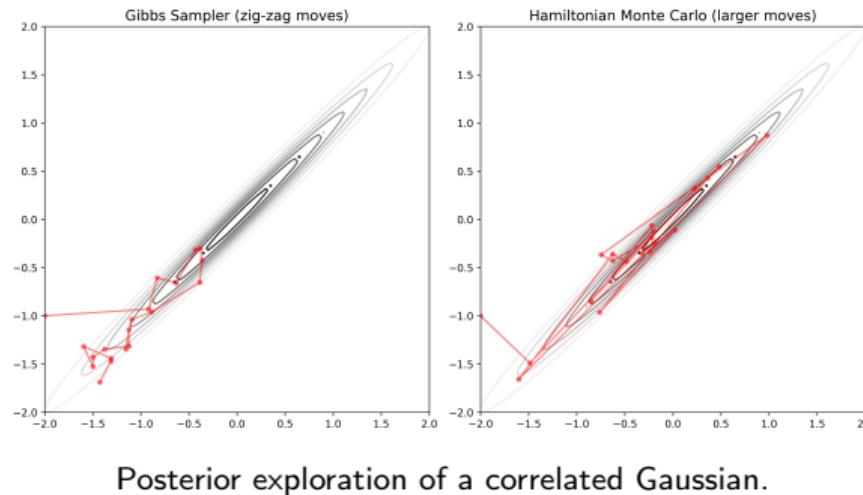
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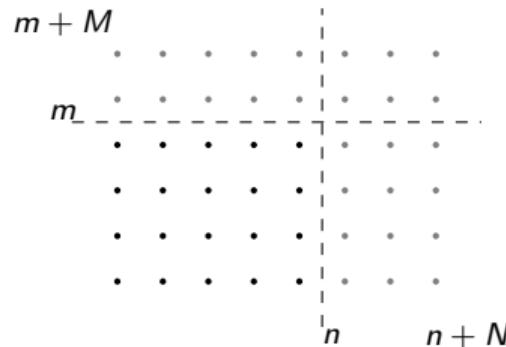
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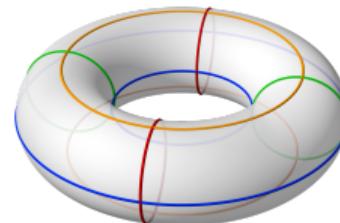


- HMC explores regions with high mass (density \times volume).
- HMC moves between points following a trajectory of length εL , defined by a Hamiltonian system.
- Must tune step size ε and number of steps L in the numerical integrator.

Scalability



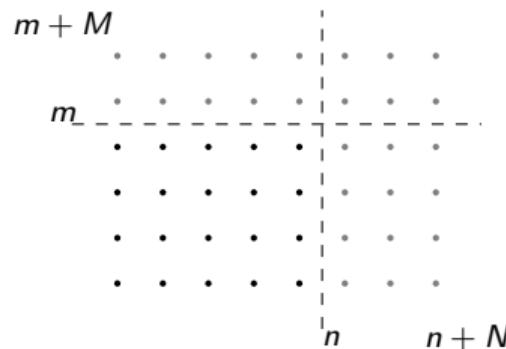
(a) The lattice is extended with M rows and N columns



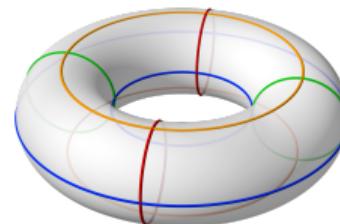
(b) The cyclic lattice.

- The covariance and convolutional matrices become circulant.
- We only need to store their first row.
- Circulant matrix algebra is done with the FFT on the first row.
- Fast evaluation of full conditional parameters in Gibbs and gradients in HMC.

Scalability



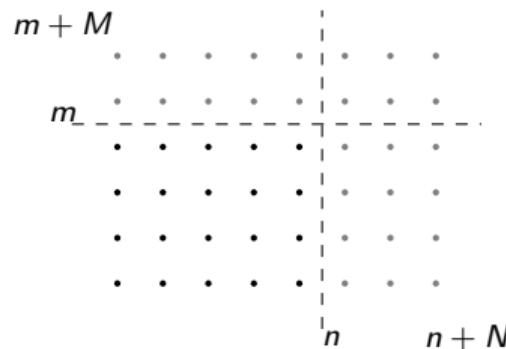
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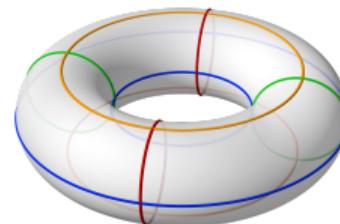
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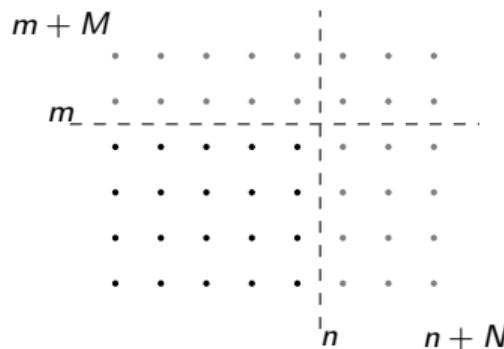
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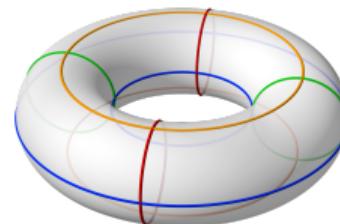
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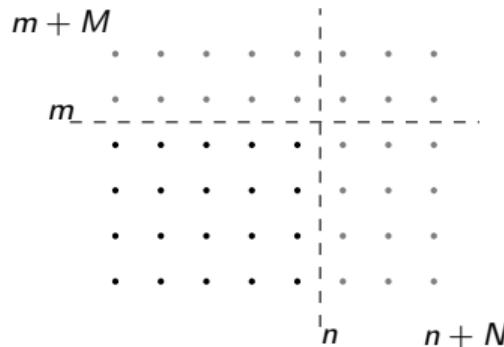
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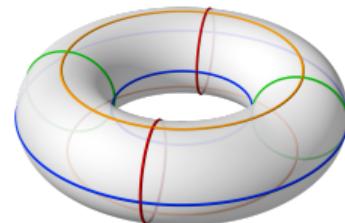
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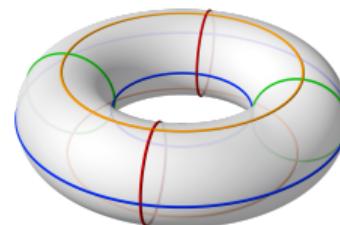
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Scalability

$$\begin{matrix} & & & & & & & \\ & \cdot \\ & m+M & & & & & & \\ & \cdot \\ & m & - & - & - & - & - & - \\ & \cdot \\ & \cdot \\ & \cdot \\ & \cdot \\ & n & & & & & & n+N \end{matrix}$$

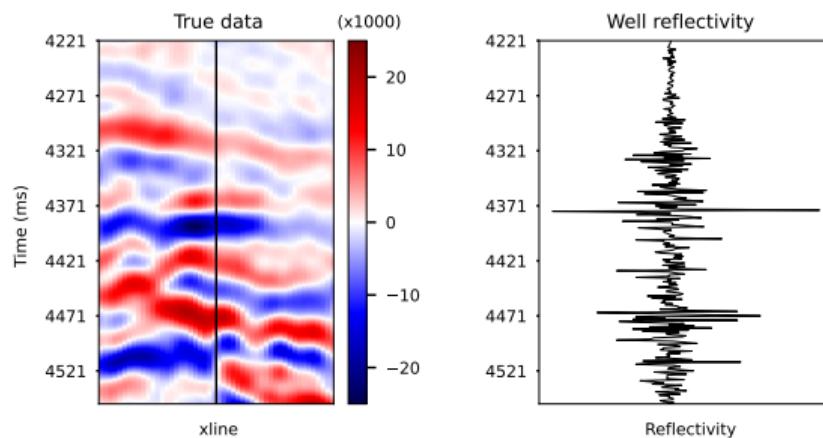
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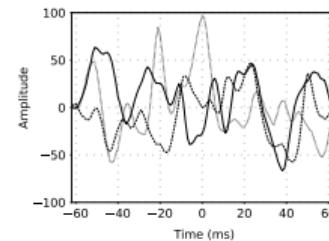
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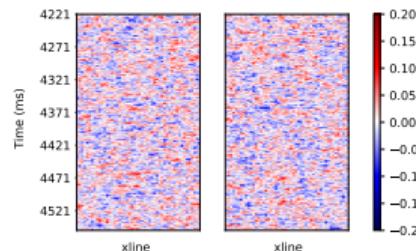
Real application: Gas reservoir in offshore Egypt



330x50ms AVO window and well reflectivity.

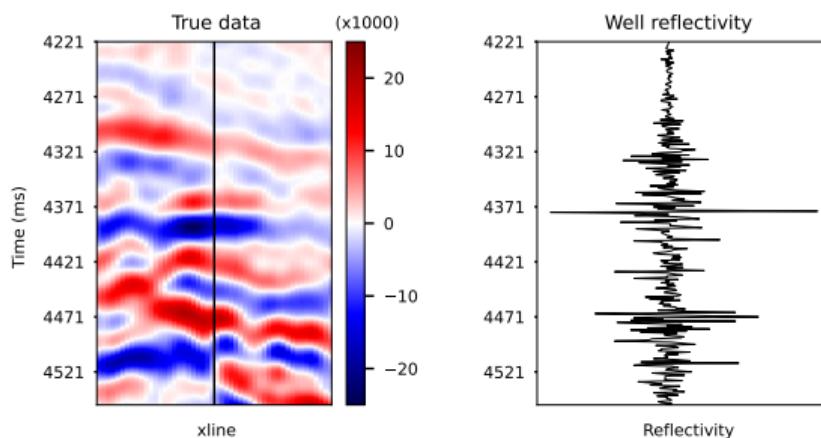


(a) Wavelet prior samples.

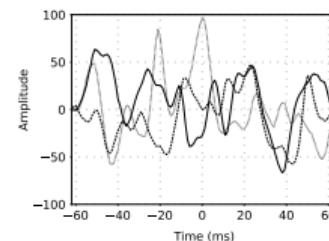


(b) Reflectivity prior samples.

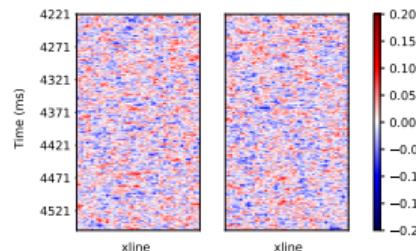
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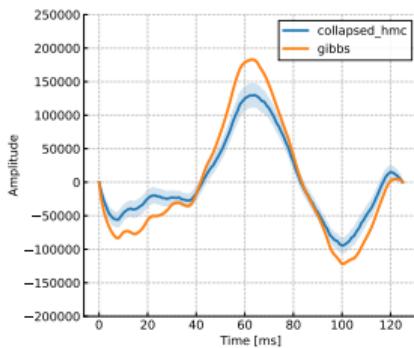
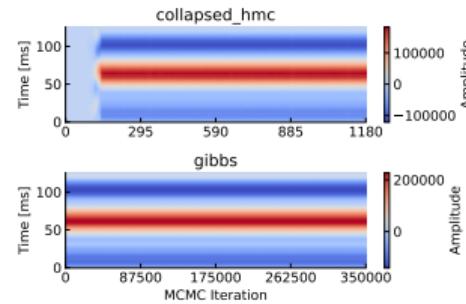
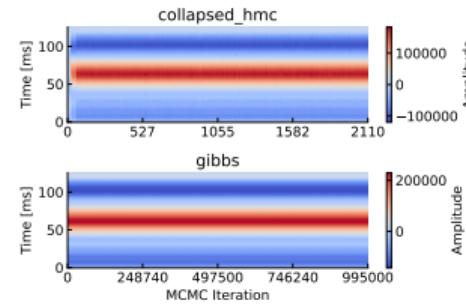
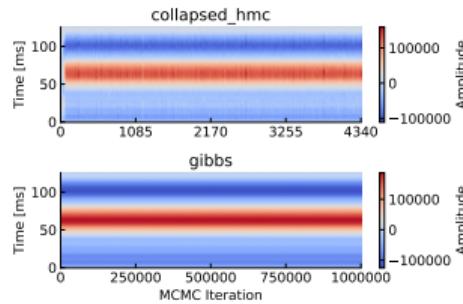


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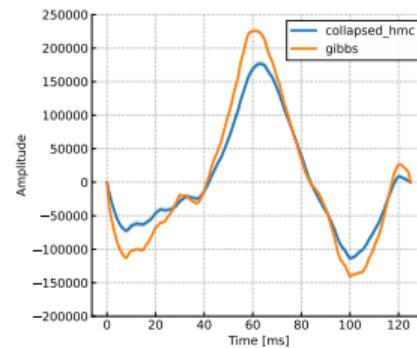


(b) Reflectivity prior samples.

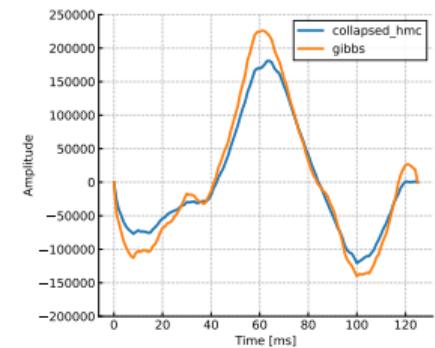
Preliminary wavelet estimation results



(a) Well trace.

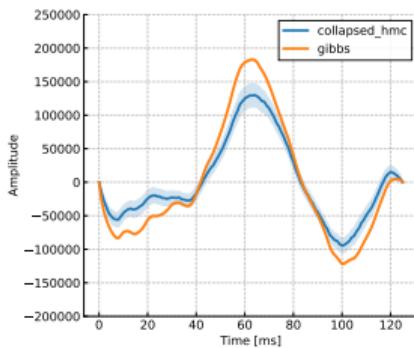
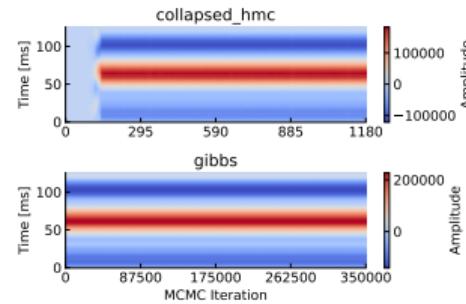
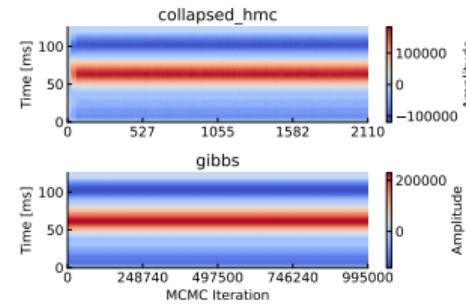
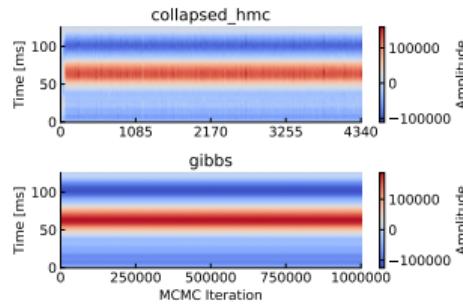


(a) 330x10ms.

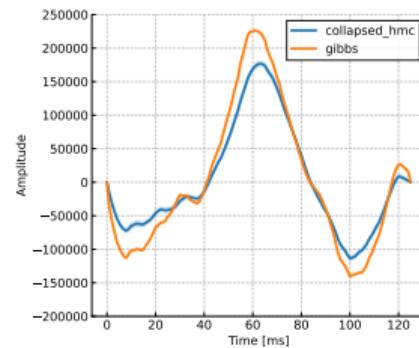


(a) 330x50ms.

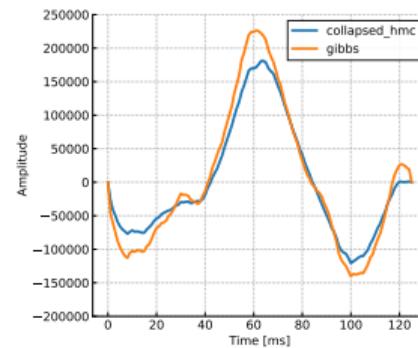
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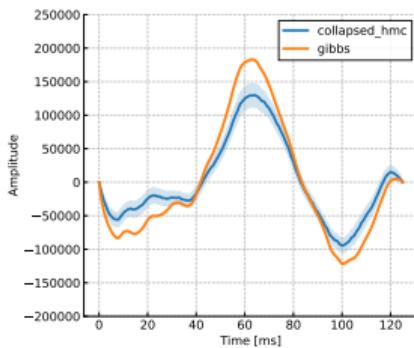
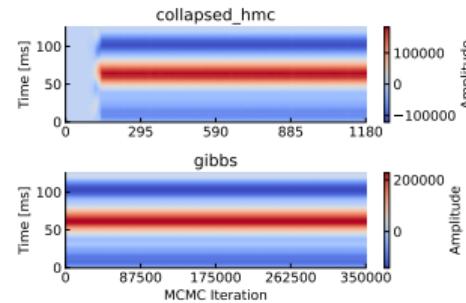
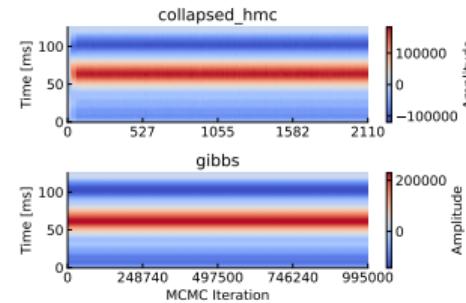
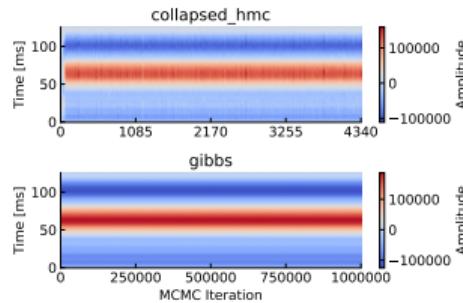


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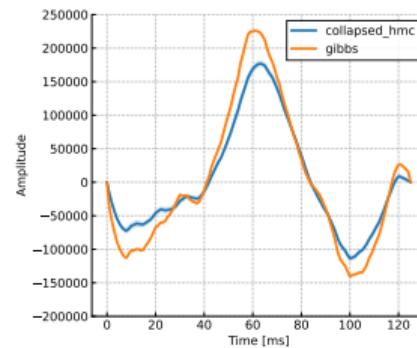


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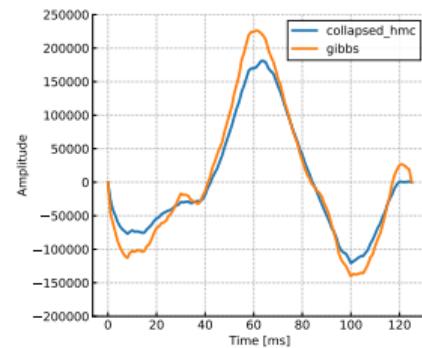
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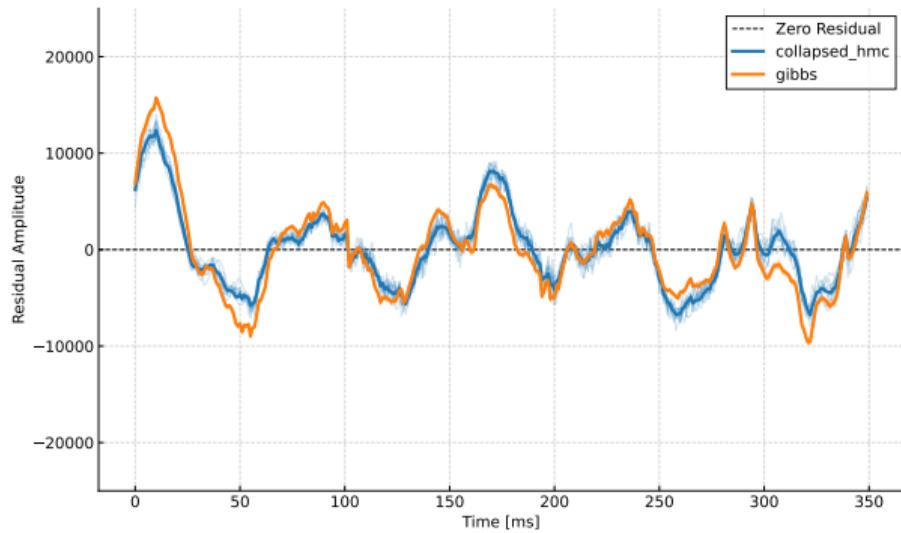


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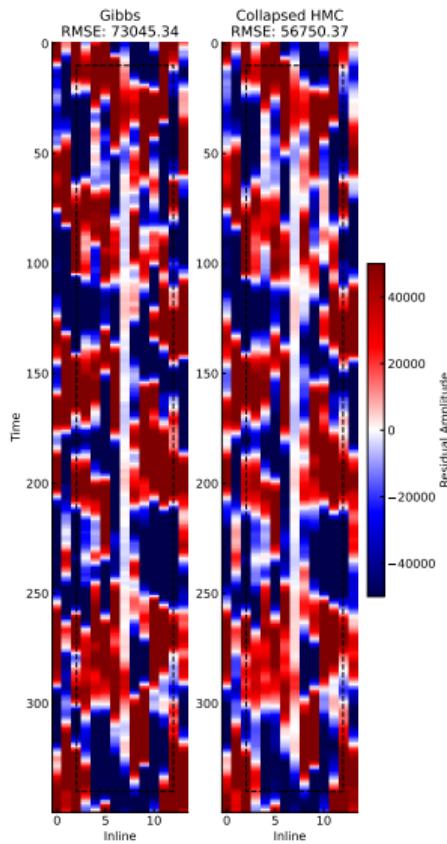


(a) 330x50ms.

Model fit



(a) Well trace. RMSE: 4340 (G) vs 3611 (HMC).



(a) 330x10ms. RMSE: 73000 (G) vs 57000 (HMC).

Conclusions

- Gibbs and HMC might be exploring different regions of the parameter space.
- Including data outside the well changes the wavelet estimation.

References

- Buland, A. and Omre, H. (2003). Bayesian wavelet estimation from seismic and well data. *Geophysics*, 68, 2000–2009.
- Buland, A. and Omre, H. (2003). Joint AVO inversion, wavelet estimation and noise-level estimation using a spatially coupled hierarchical Bayesian model. *Geophysical Prospecting*, 51(6).
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