

# Probabilistic Programming Languages

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# MCMC Metropolis-Hastings

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Probabilistic Programming Languages

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

## Main idea

- Create a Markov chain that converge to the posterior distribution
- Iterate the process until convergence
- Generate samples to approximate the distribution

## Pros

- Faster convergence
- Better results for high-dimensional models
- Advanced state-of-the-art optimizations (e.g., HMC, NUTS).

## Cons

- Convergences?
- Traps: multimodal, funnel
- Samples correlation

# Reminder: Rejection Sampling

*coin.ml*

```
let coin prob data =  
  let z = sample prob (uniform ~a:0. ~b:1.) in  
  List.iter (observe prob (bernoulli ~p:z)) data;  
  z  
  
let _ =  
  let d = infer coin [ 1; 1; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0 ] in  
  plot d
```

Executing the model generates one sample

- **sample**: draw from a distribution
- **assume/observe**: hard conditioning, reject invalid samples
- Terminates with *n* valid samples

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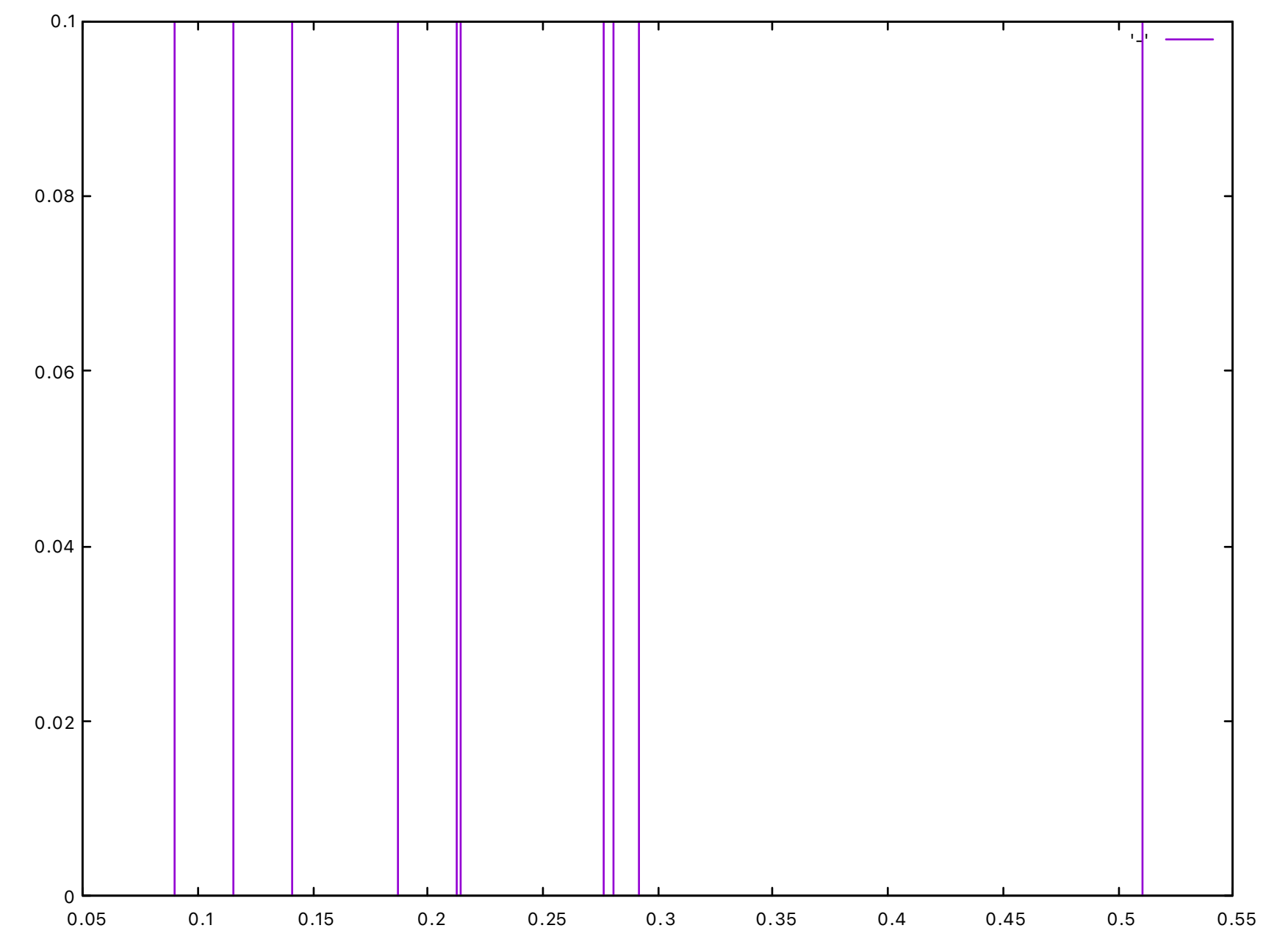
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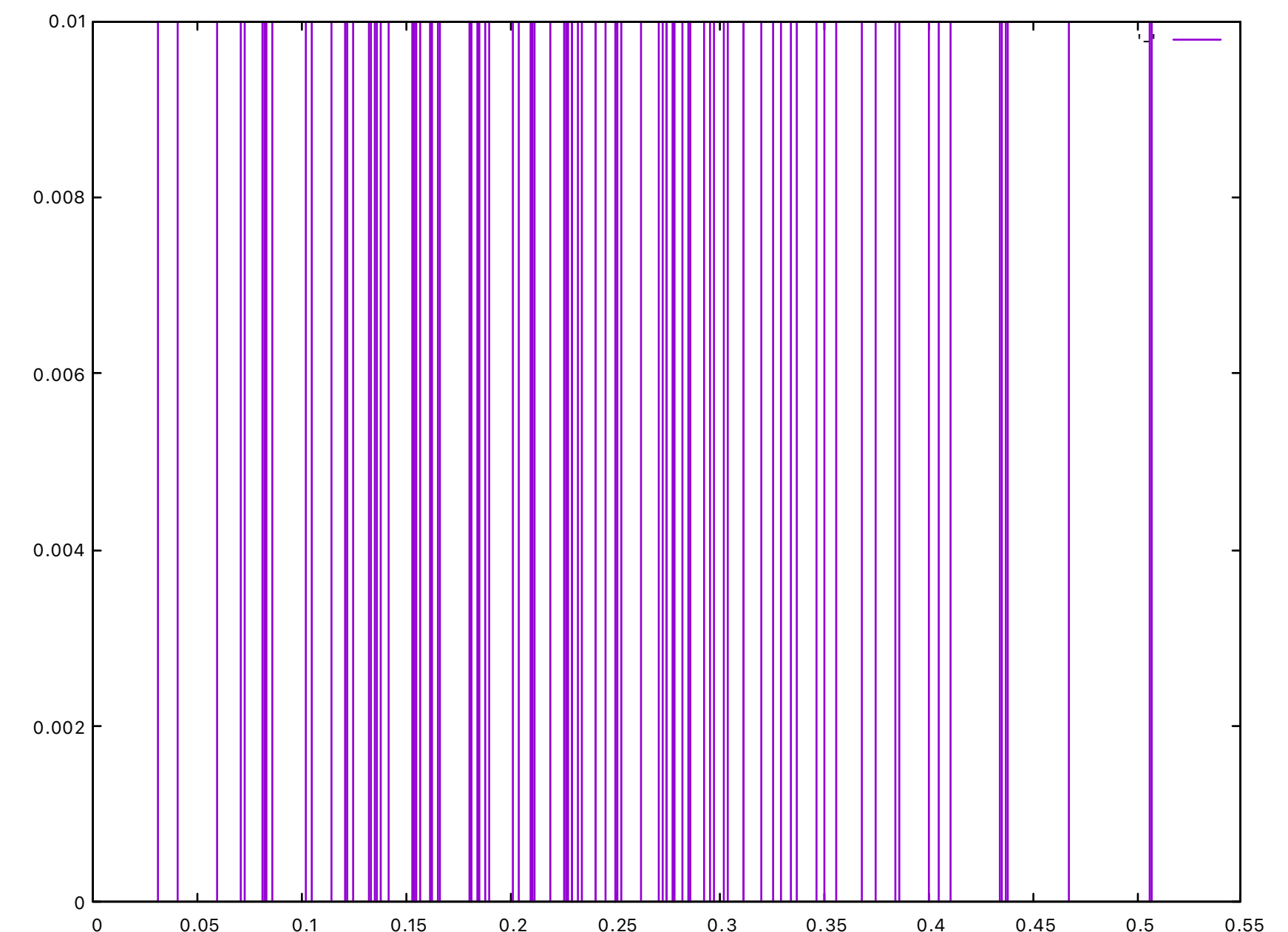
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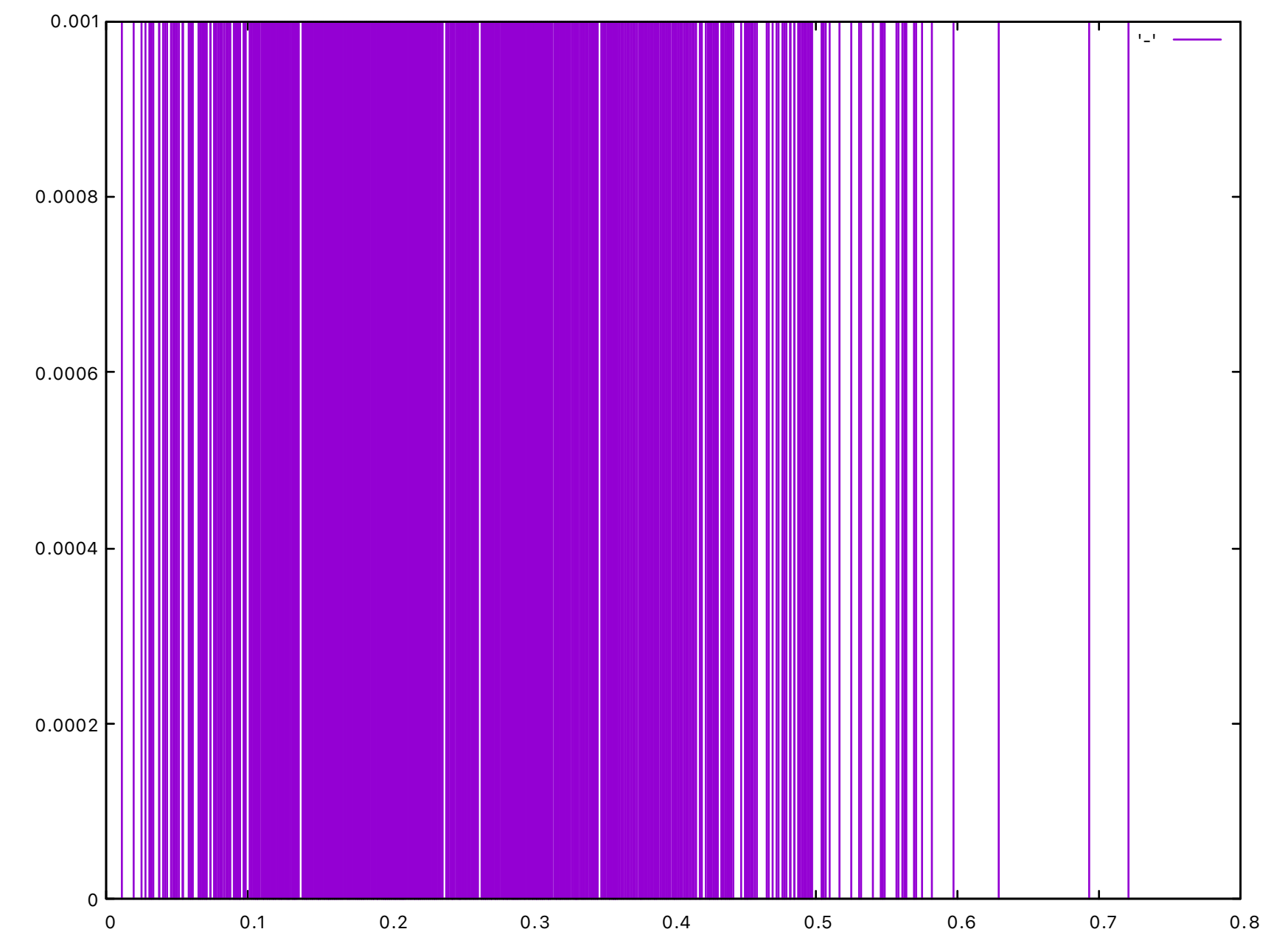
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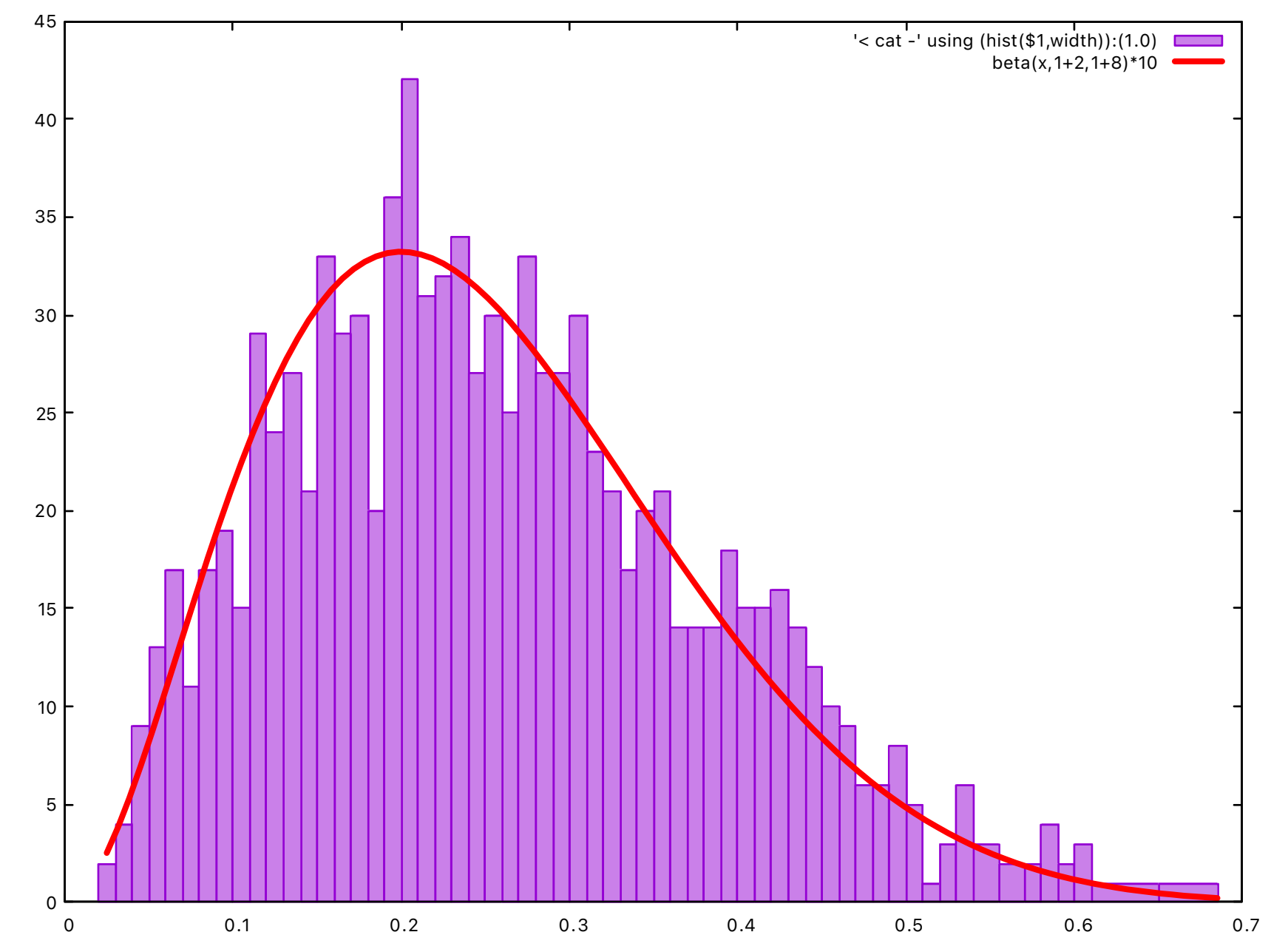
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# Weighted Rejection Sampling

Adapt rejection sampling to soft conditioning

- Execute the sampler to get a pair  $(v_i, w_i)$
- Suppose  $w_{\max}$  is known
- Accept the sample with probability  $w_i/w_{\max}$  or retry

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But  $w_{\max}$  is not known...

# Execution Trace

Consider a program execution with

- $X = x_0, \dots, x_n$ : set of random variables sampled at step  $i$  : the trace
- $Y = y_0, \dots, y_m$ : set of random variables observed at step  $i$ .

## Remarks

- Sets  $X$  and  $Y$  depend on the execution path
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let bimodal y =  
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# Multi-Sites Metropolis Hastings

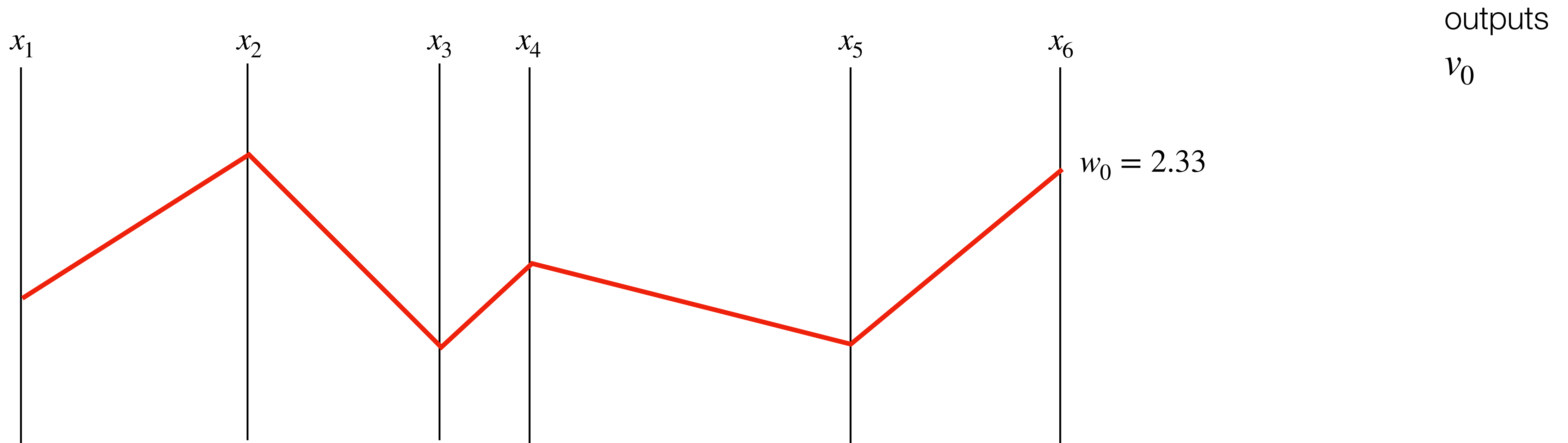
Markov chain on execution traces

- Execute the sampler to get a trace and associated score  $(X_i, w_i)$
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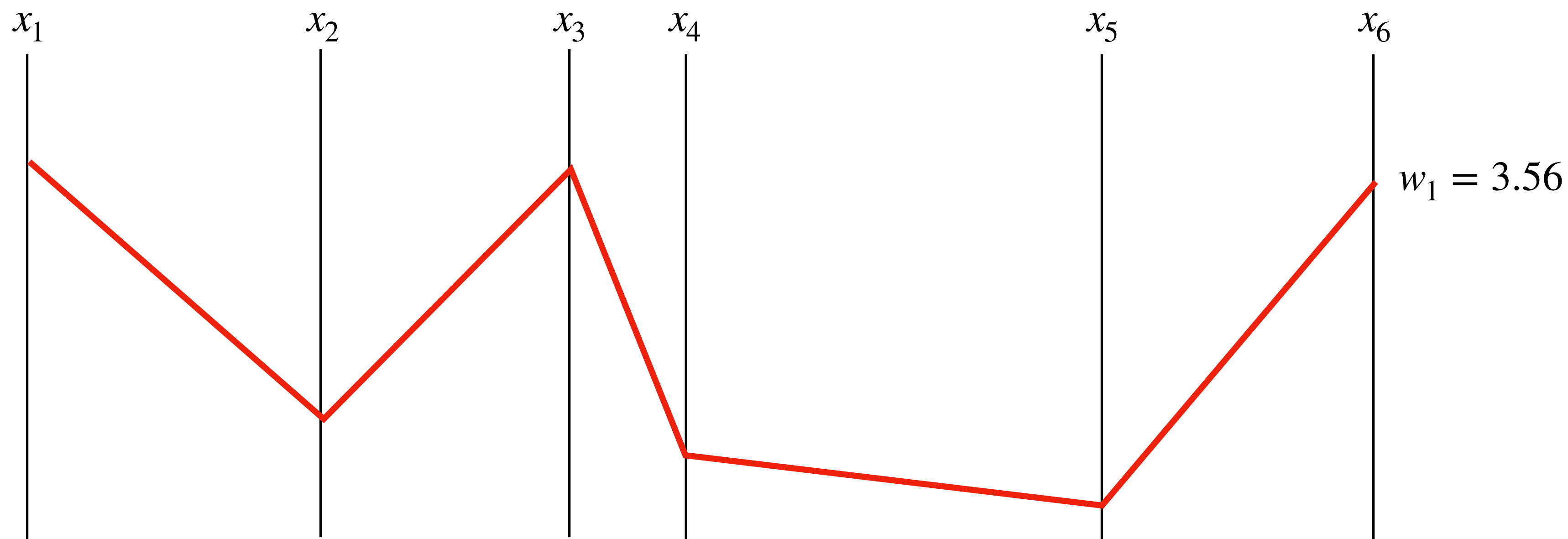
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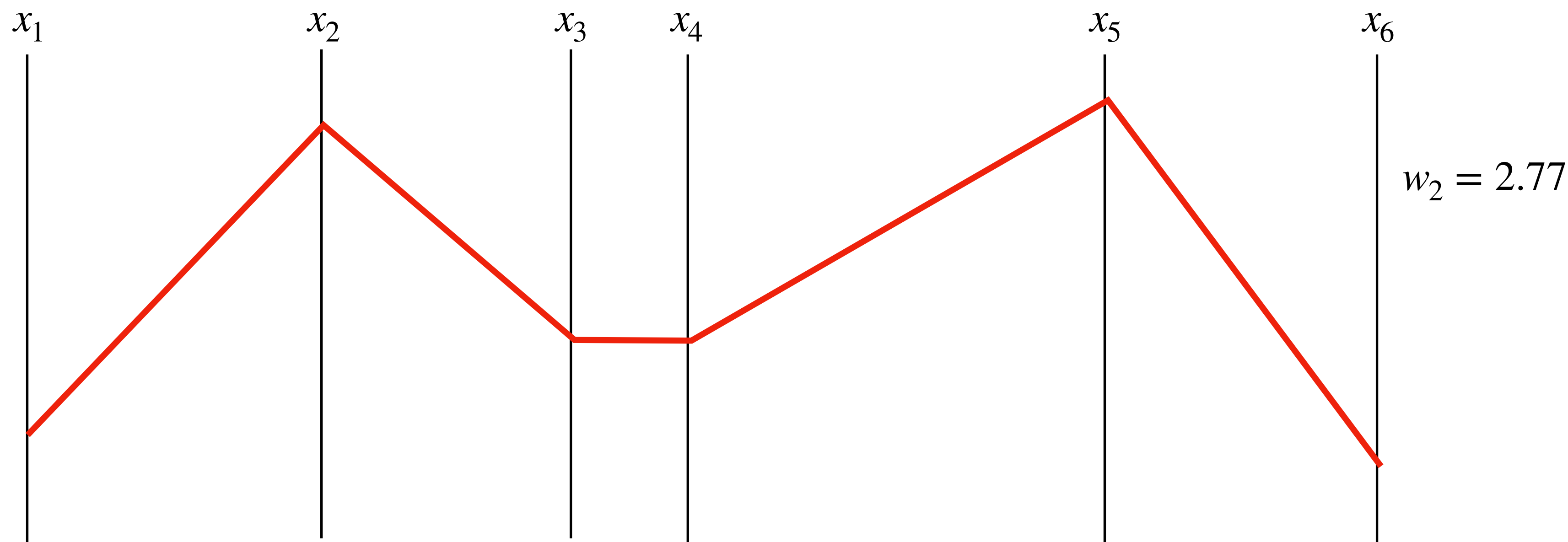
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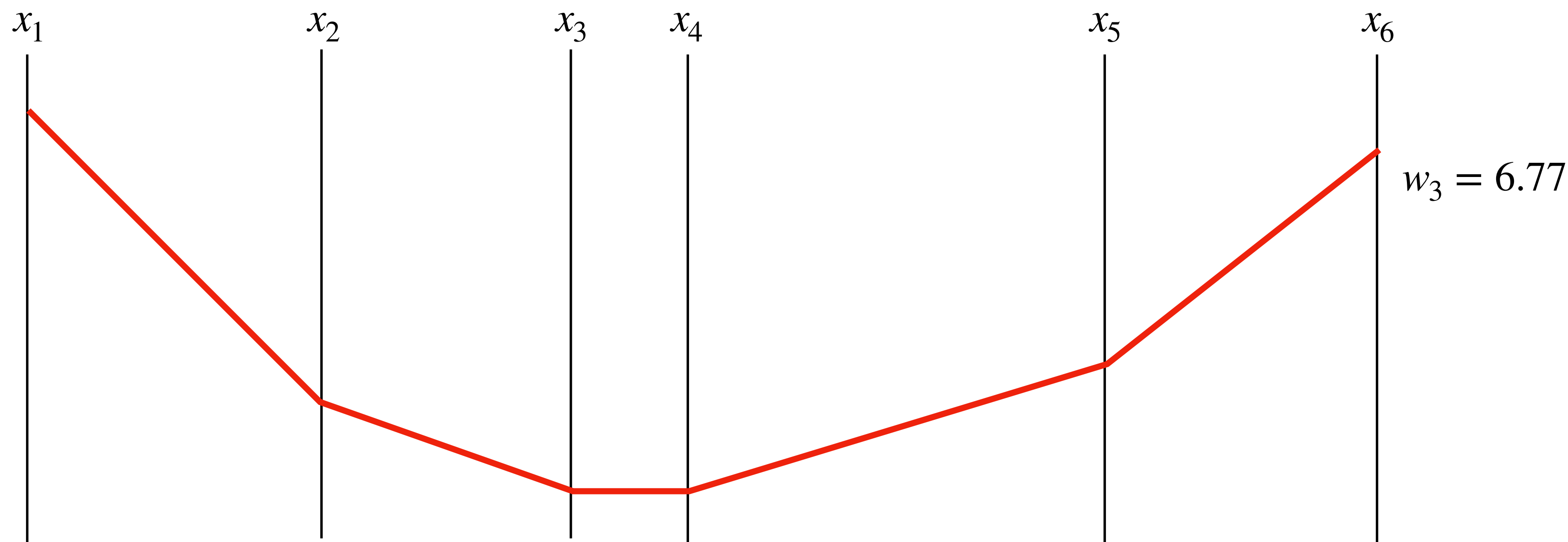
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...

# General Metropolis Hastings

More generally

- $X = x_0, \dots, x_n$ : set of random variables sampled at step  $i$ : the trace
- $Y = y_0, \dots, y_m$ : set of random variables observed at step  $i$ .
- Propose a new trace from a proposal distribution  $q(X_i | X_{i-1})$
- Accept the trace with probability  $\alpha$ , where

$$\alpha = \min \left( 1, \frac{p(X_i, Y_i)}{p(X_{i-1}, Y_{i-1})} \frac{q(X_{i-1} | X_i)}{q(X_i | X_{i-1})} \right)$$

- Otherwise return the previous trace  $X_{i-1}$

# Multi-Sites Metropolis Hastings: Acceptation

- Draw proposal from priors:  $q(X_i | X_{i-1}) = p(X_i)$
- Resample all variable in  $X_i$  at each step

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p(X_i, Y_i)}{p(X_{i-1}, Y_{i-1})} \frac{q(X_{i-1} | X_i)}{q(X_i | X_{i-1})} &= \frac{p(Y_i | X_i) p(X_i)}{p(Y_{i-1} | X_{i-1}) p(X_{i-1})} \frac{q(X_{i-1} | X_i)}{q(X_i | X_{i-1})} \\ &= \frac{p(Y_i | X_i) p(X_i)}{p(Y_{i-1} | X_{i-1}) p(X_{i-1})} \frac{p(X_{i-1})}{p(X_i)} \\ &= \frac{p(Y_i | X_i)}{p(Y_{i-1} | X_{i-1})} \\ &= \frac{w_i}{w_{i-1}} \end{aligned}$$

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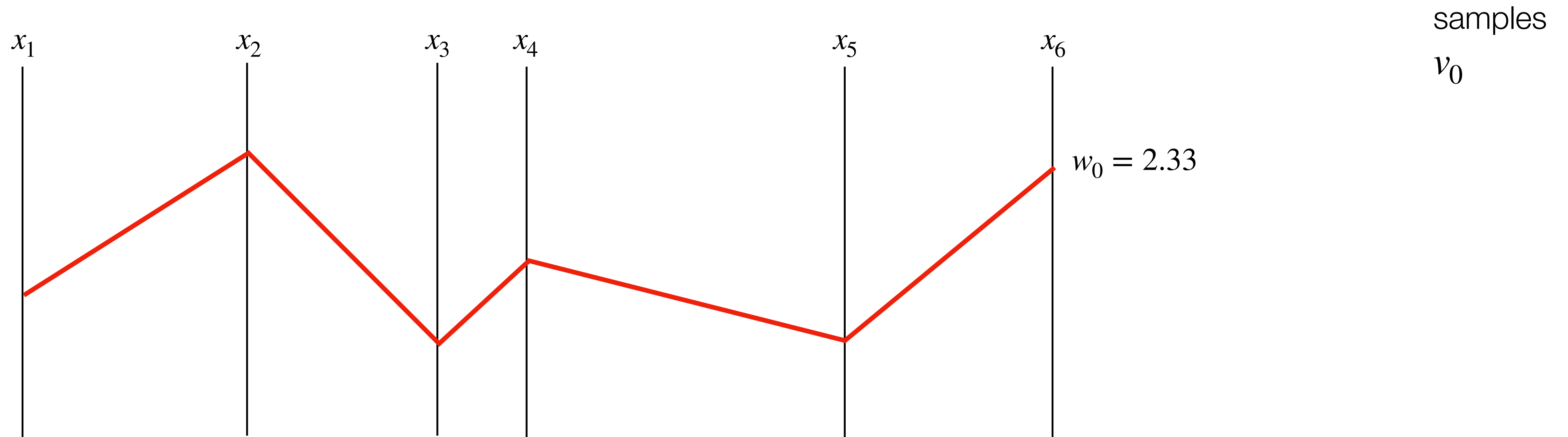
Reuse most of the previous trace (i.e., sampled values)

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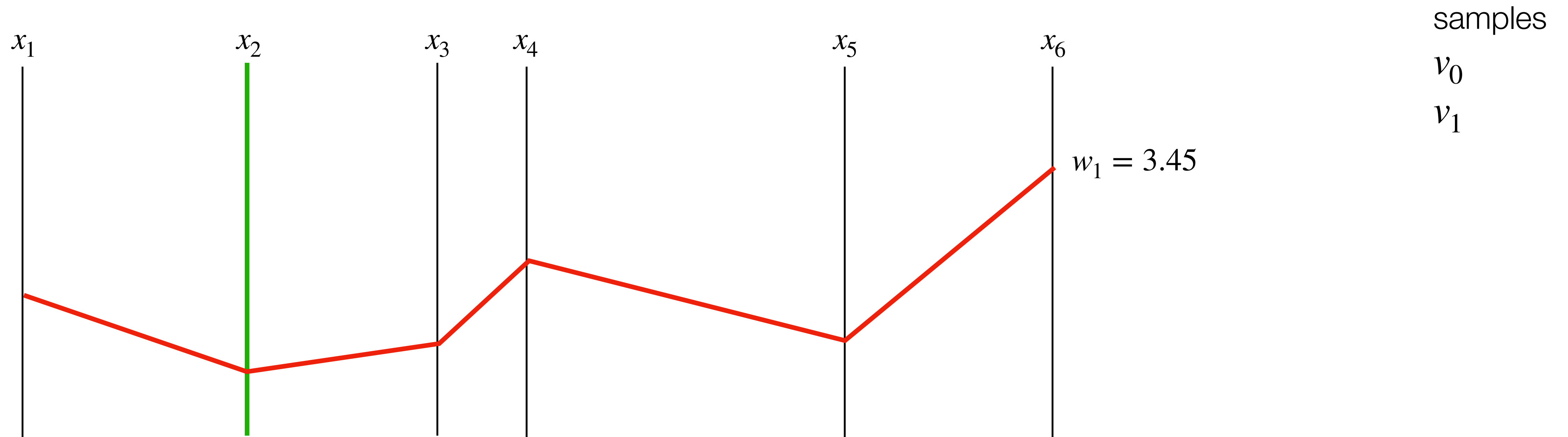
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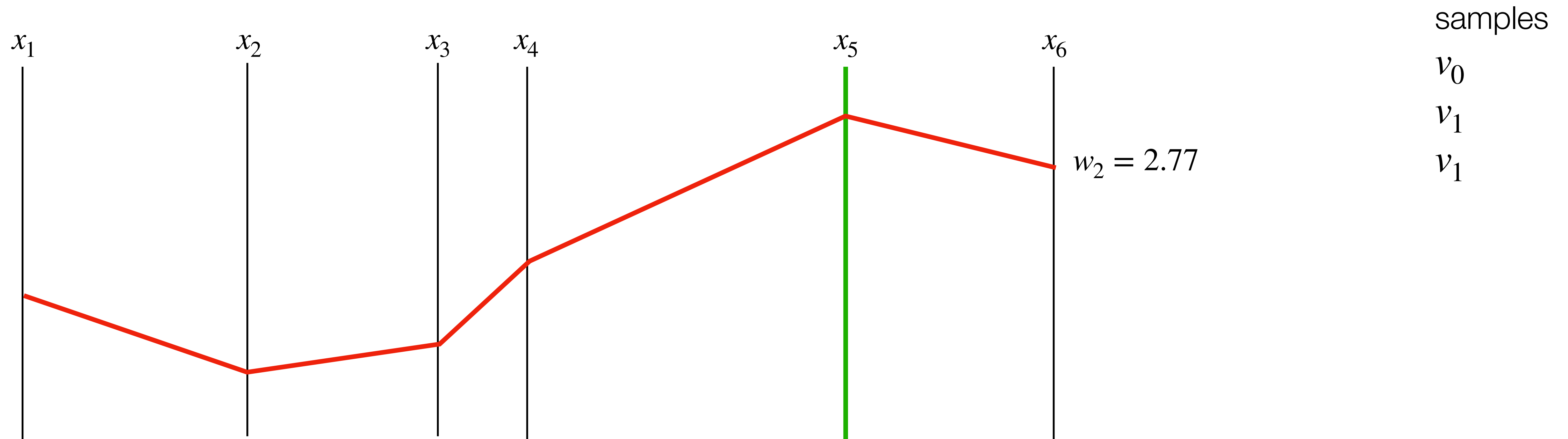
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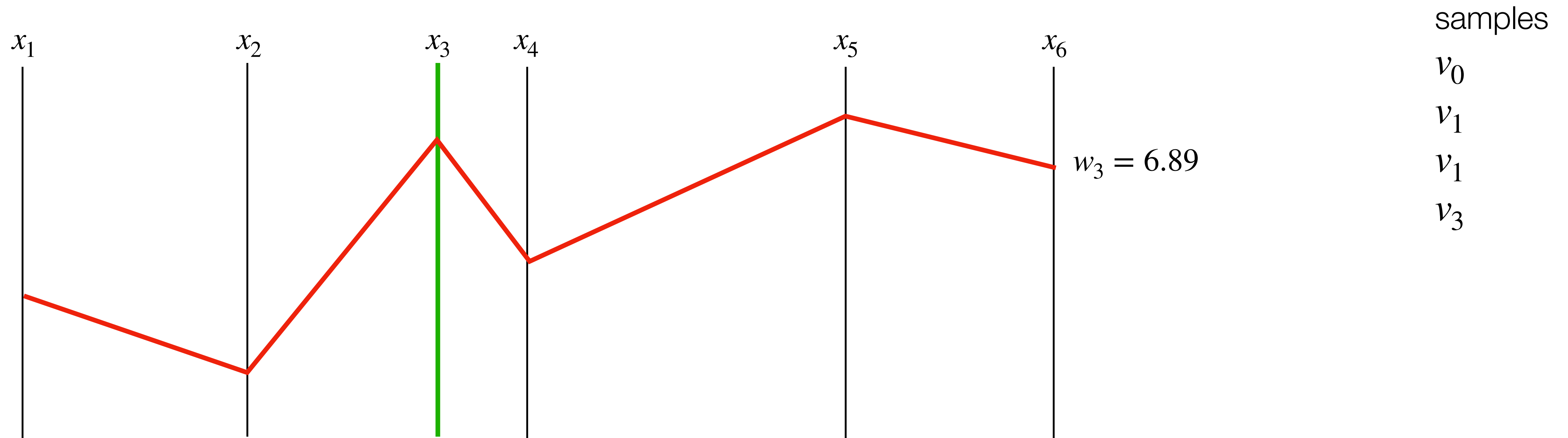




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# Single Site Metropolis Hastings: Acceptation

Track the likelihood of all random variable during execution

- $x = \text{sample } d \rightarrow w(x) = (x, \text{pdf } d \ x)$
- $\text{observe } d \ y \rightarrow w(y) = (y, \text{pdf } d \ y)$

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- `x = sample d`  $\rightarrow w(x) = (x, \text{pdf } d \ x)$
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- Pick one variable  $x_0$  at random in the trace
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 &\quad \begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \text{choice } x_0 & \text{reused} & \text{scores} \end{array}
 \end{aligned}$$

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Warning: Memoization naming scheme  
Different variable may have the same name...

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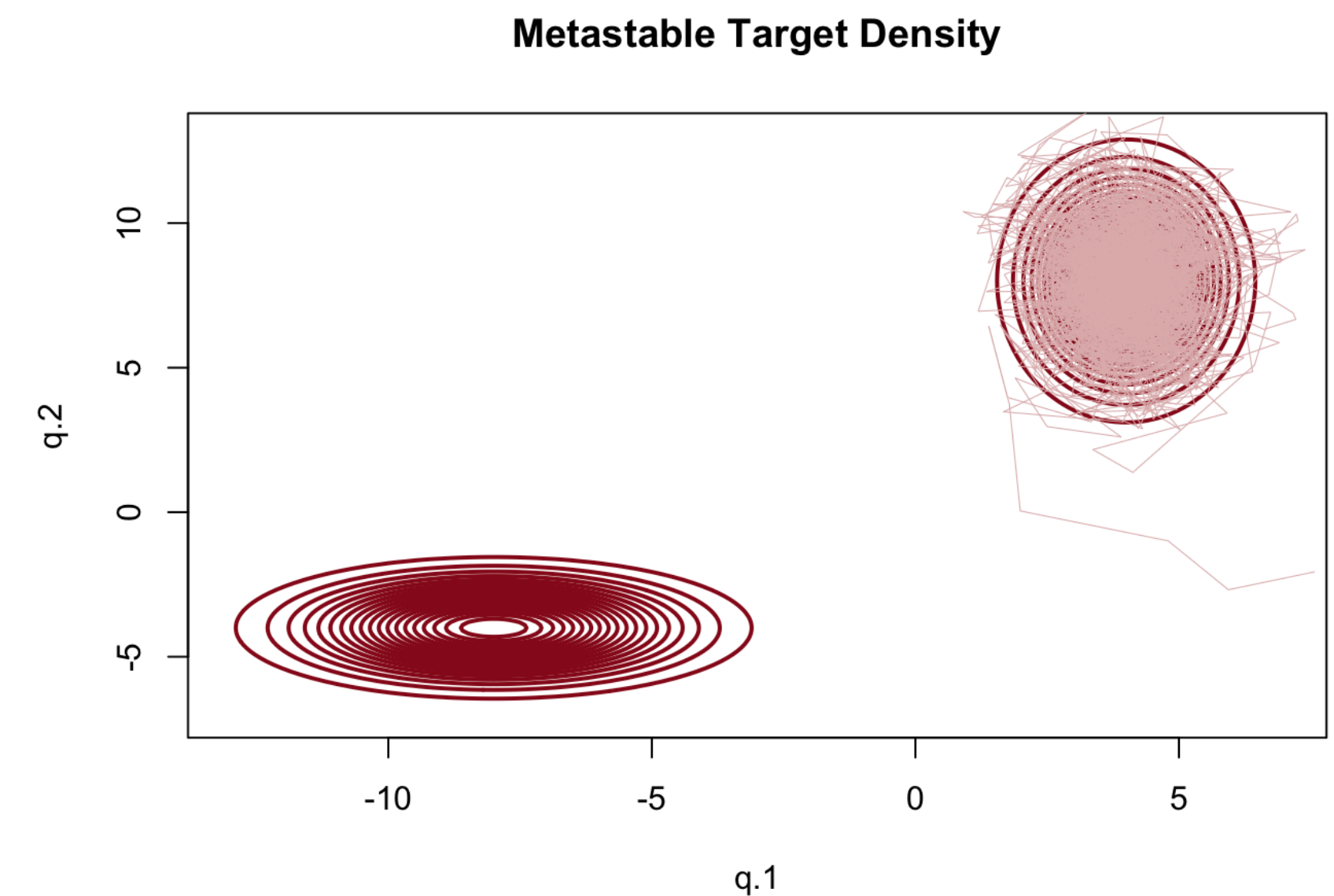
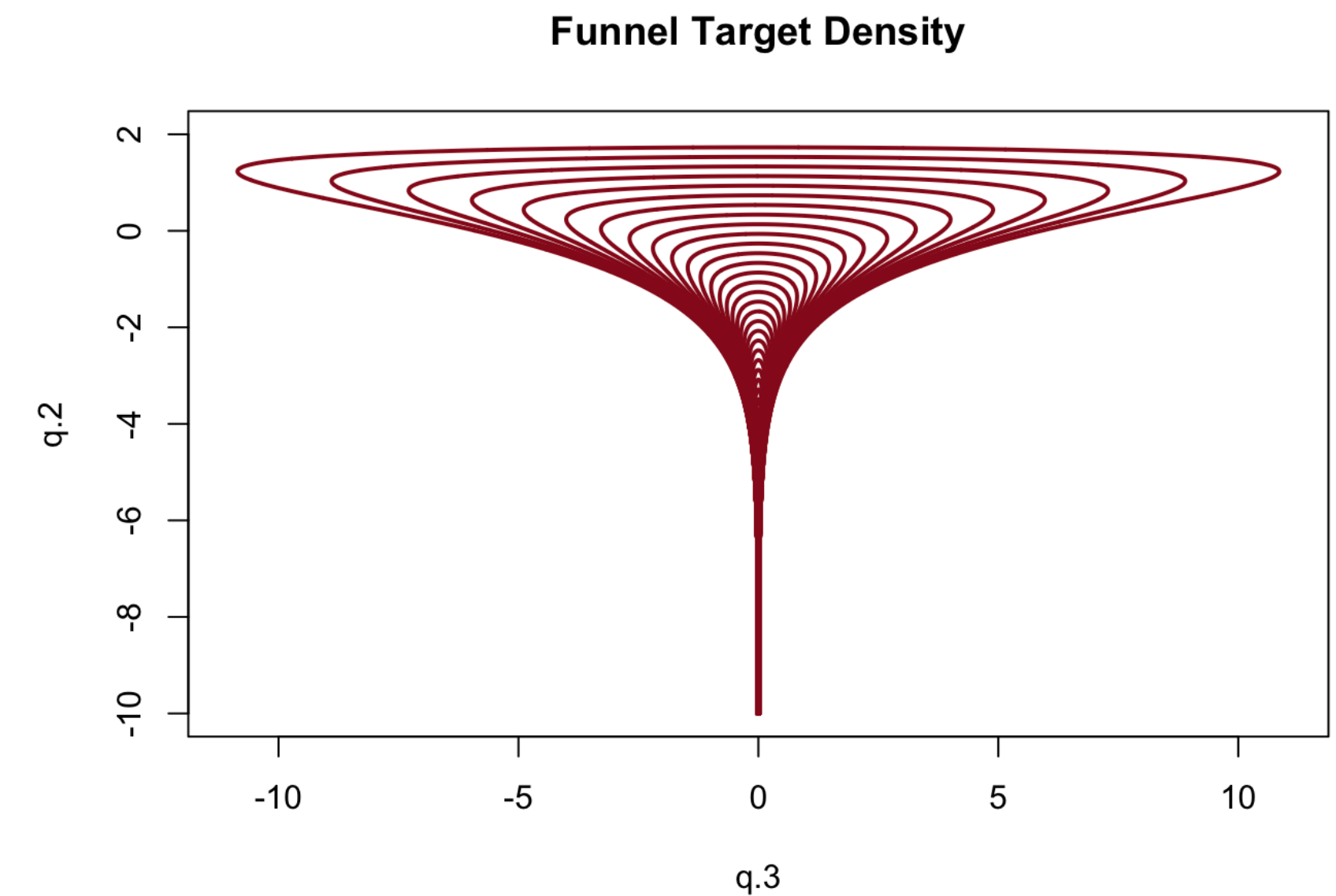
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## Pathological models

- Multimodal distribution
- Neal's Funnel



# Advanced Inference

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## Probabilistic Programming Languages

# Hamiltonian Monte-Carlo (HMC)

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Analogy: Particle in an energy field

- Program define a density of the form  $p(X) \propto \exp(-U(X))$
- On continuous spaces  $U$  can be interpreted as an energy
- Low energy wells correspond to high probability regions
- HMC simulate the trajectory of a particle in this energy field

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Hamiltonian dynamic

- $M$ : Mass matrix
- $P$ : Momentum
- $K(P) = \frac{1}{2}P^T M P$

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The diagram illustrates the components of the Hamiltonian. The central equation is  $H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$ . An upward arrow from  $H(X, P)$  points to the word "hamiltonian". Another upward arrow from  $U(X)$  points to the words "potential energy". A downward arrow from  $K(P)$  points to the words "kinetic energy".

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{hamiltonian} & & \text{potential energy} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X) \\ \downarrow & & \\ \text{kinetic energy} & & \end{array}$$



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hamiltonian

potential energy

$$H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$$

kinetic energy

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Energy conservation

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = (\nabla_P H)^T \frac{dP}{dt} + (\nabla_X H)^T \frac{dX}{dt} = 0$$

A diagram illustrating the components of the Hamiltonian. The central equation is  $H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$ . An upward arrow from  $K(P)$  points to the word "kinetic energy". An upward arrow from  $U(X)$  points to the word "potential energy". A downward arrow from the entire equation  $H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$  points to the word "hamiltonian".

$$H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$$

kinetic energy

hamiltonian

potential energy

# Hamiltonian Monte-Carlo (HMC)

Energy conservation

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = (\nabla_P H)^T \frac{dP}{dt} + (\nabla_X H)^T \frac{dX}{dt} = 0$$

Hamiltonian dynamics

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dX}{dt} = \nabla_P H(X, P) = M^{-1}P \\ \frac{dP}{dt} = -\nabla_X H(X, P) = -\nabla_X U(X) \end{cases}$$

The diagram illustrates the decomposition of the Hamiltonian function  $H(X, P)$  into its components. The equation  $H(X, P) = K(P) + U(X)$  is centered. An upward arrow from  $H(X, P)$  points to the word "hamiltonian". Another upward arrow from  $U(X)$  points to the words "potential energy". A downward arrow from  $K(P)$  points to the words "kinetic energy".

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Generate samples from  $p(X, P) \propto \exp(-H(X, P))$

- At each iteration
- Sample an initial momentum  $P_i(0) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, M)$
- Solve the Hamiltonian dynamic (discretized)
- Perform a Metropolis Hastings update with probability  $\alpha$

$$\alpha = \min \left( 1, \frac{\exp(-H(X_i, P_i))}{\exp(-H(X_{i-1}, P_{i-1}))} \right)$$

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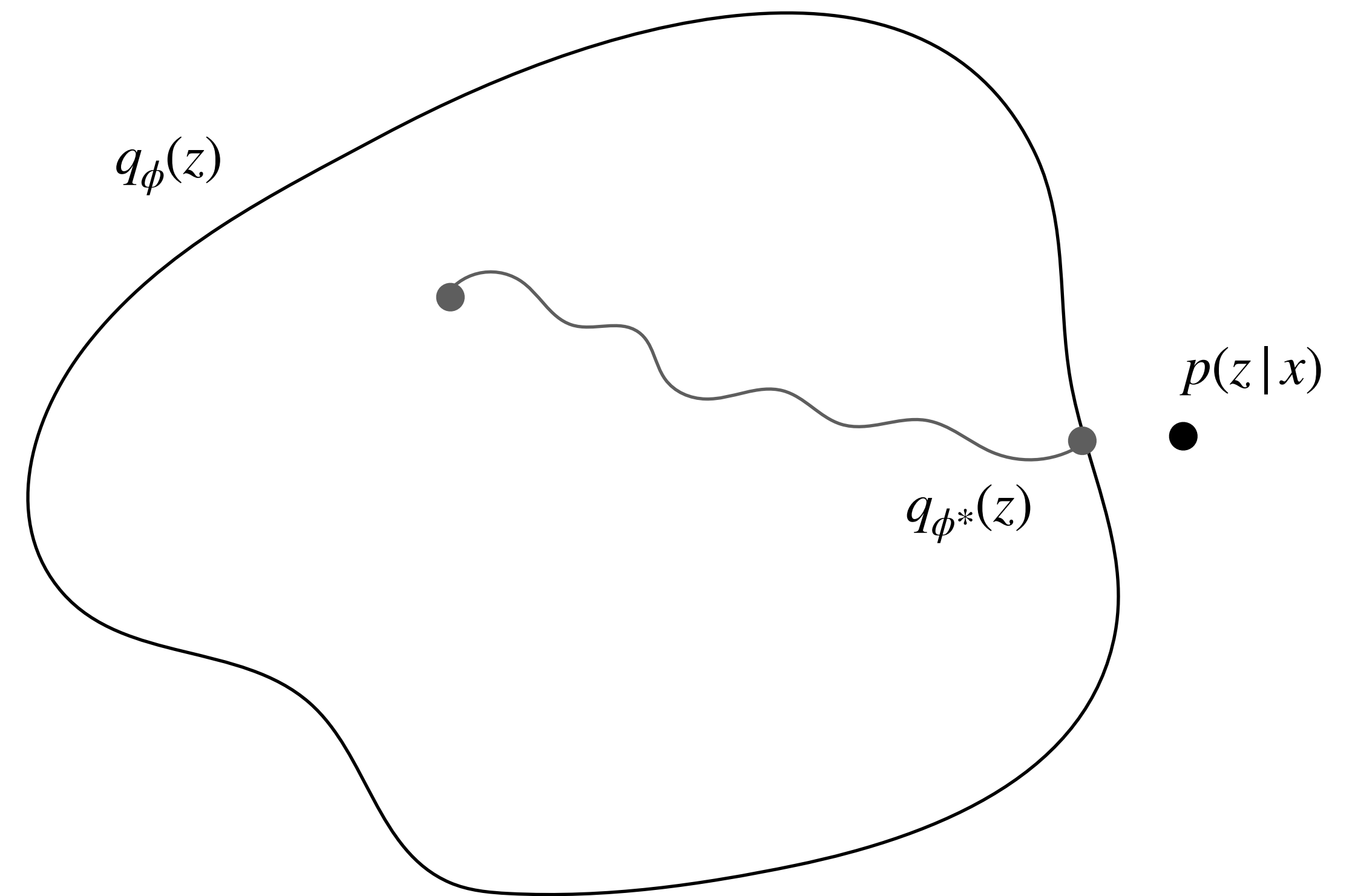
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Parameter  $P$  can be marginalized

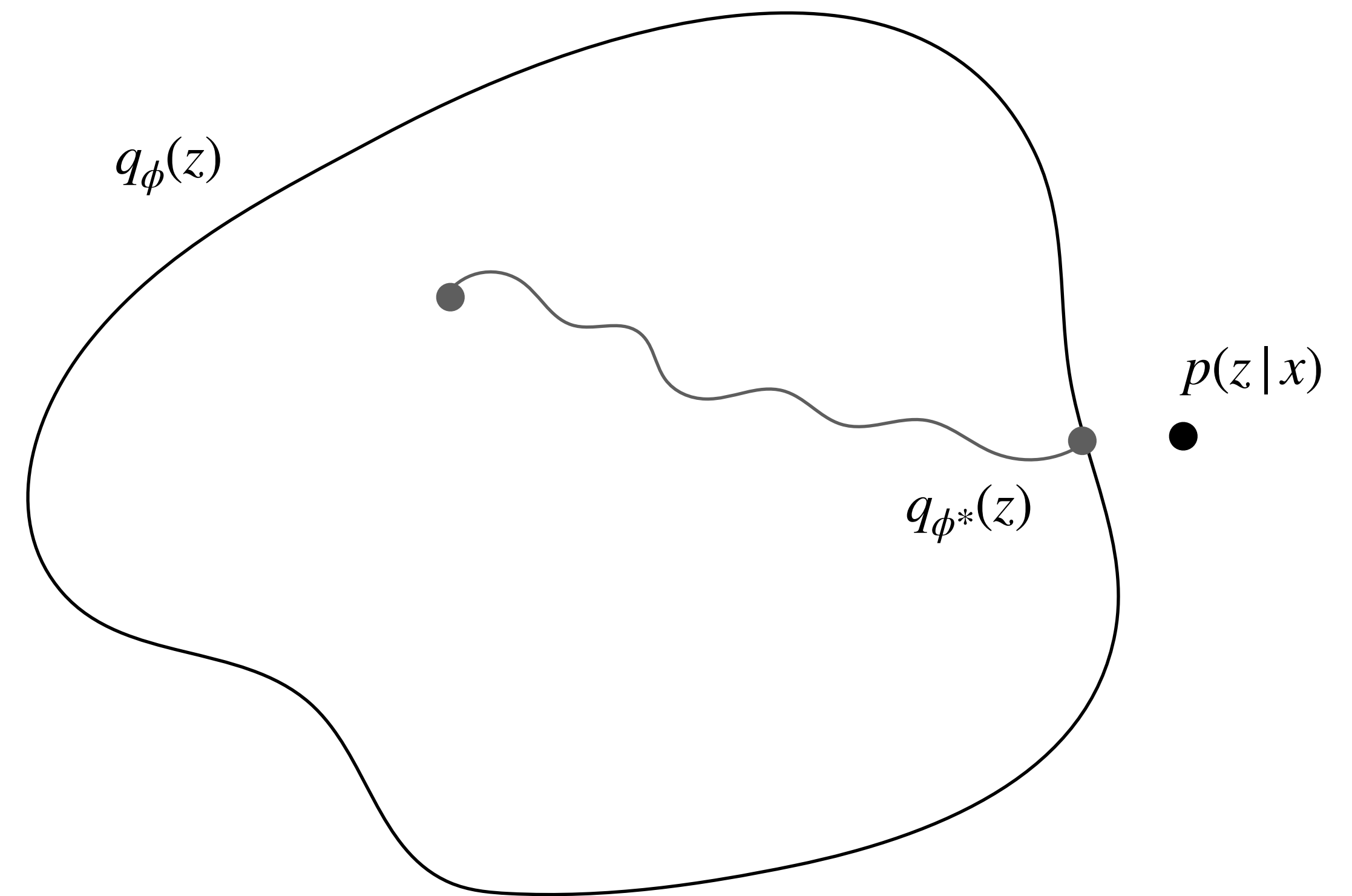
# Stochastic Variational Inference (SVI)





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$$p(z|x) = \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{p(x)} = \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{\int_z p(x|z)p(z)dz}$$

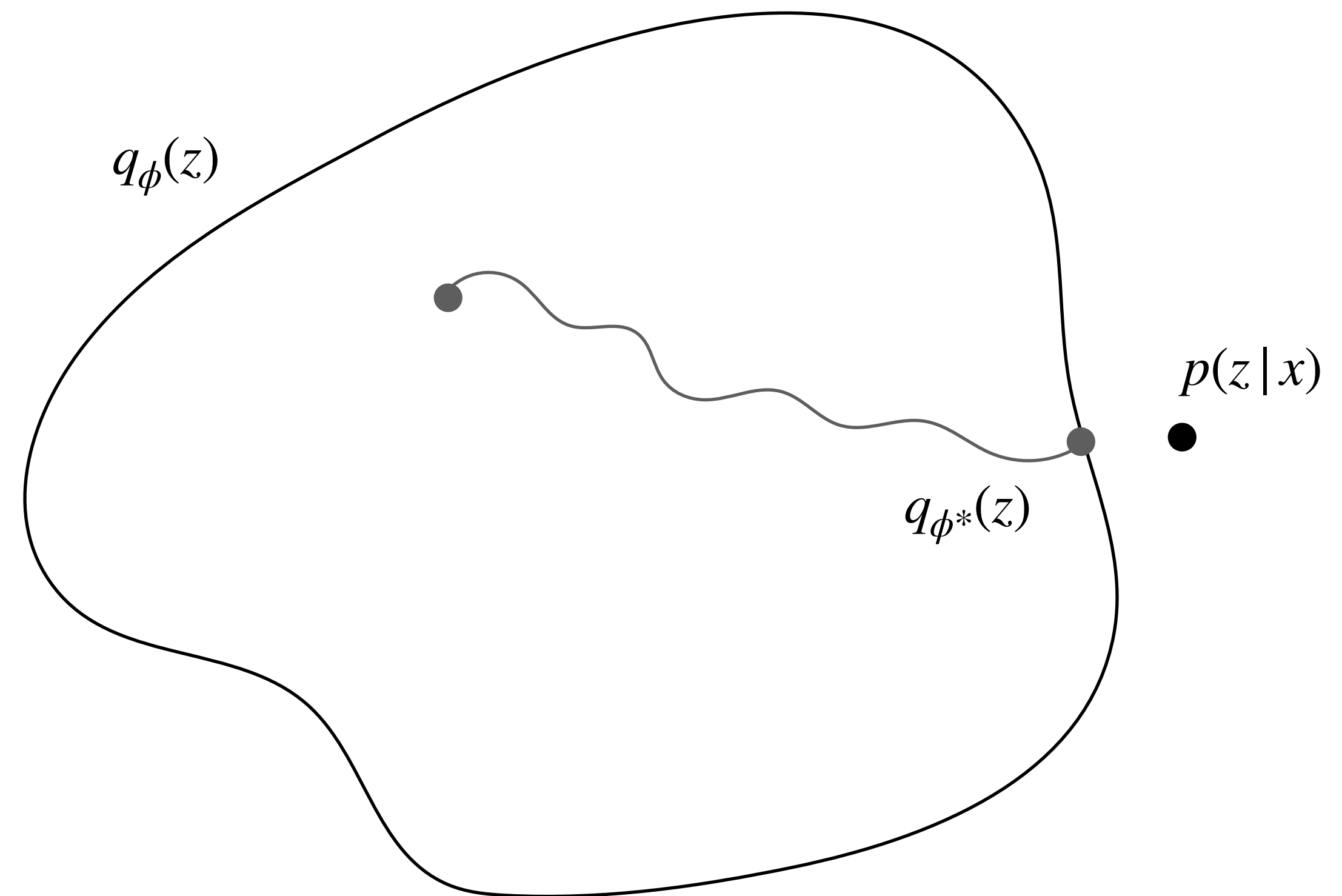


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## Variational family

- Parameterized by a parameter  $\phi$
- Find the closest member to the posterior  $q_{\phi^*}(z)$
- Optimization problem



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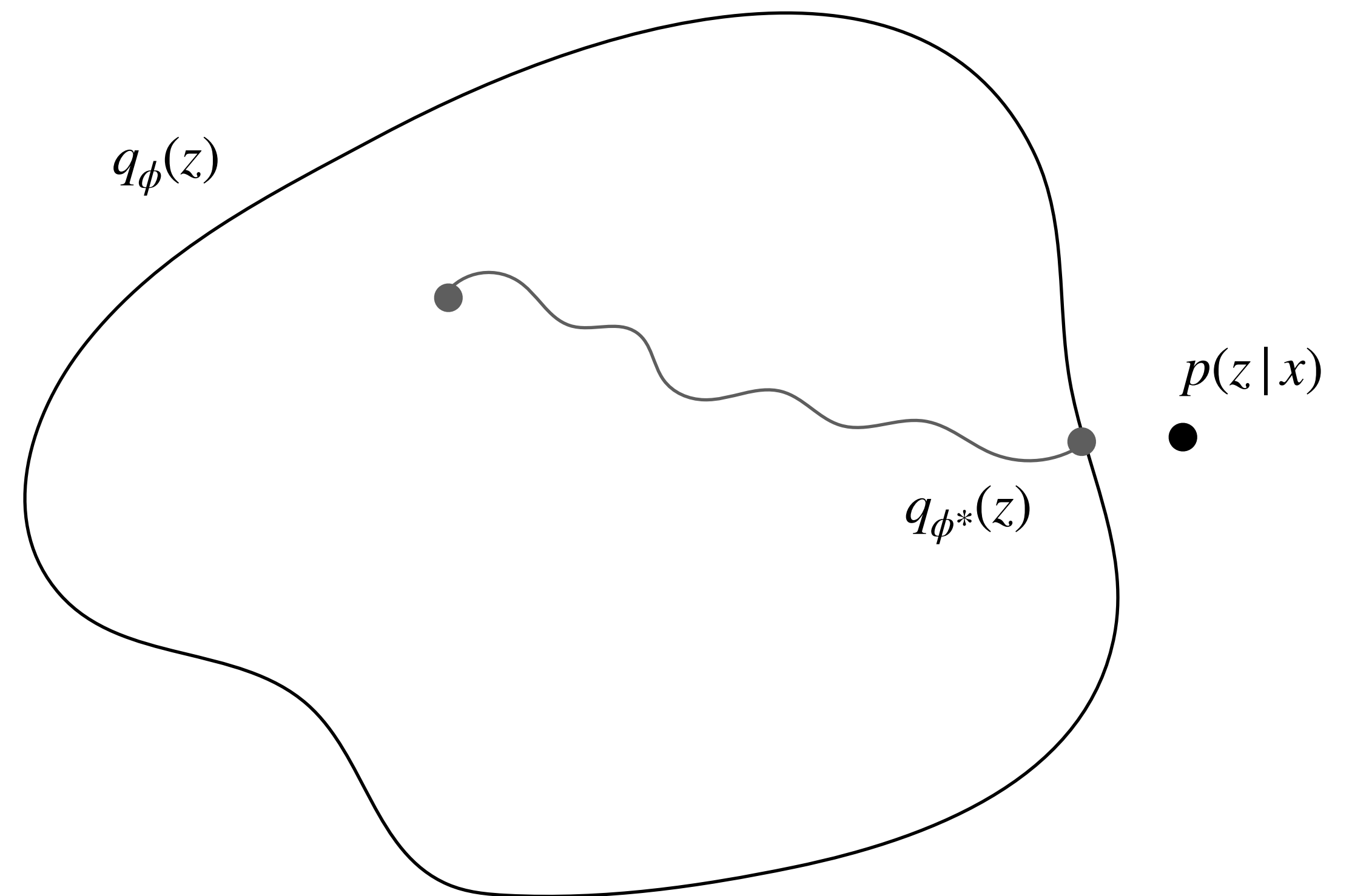
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## Metrics: Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$KL(q(x) || p(x)) = - \int q(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dz$$

- $KL(q || p) \geq 0$
- $KL(q || p) \neq KL(p || q)$



# Stochastic Variational Inference (SVI)

$$\begin{aligned} KL(q_\phi(z) || p(z|x)) &= - \int q_\phi(z) \log \frac{p(z|x)}{q_\phi(z)} dz \\ &= - \int q_\phi(z) \log \frac{p(x, z)}{p(x)q_\phi(z)} dz \\ &= - \int q_\phi(z) \log \frac{p(x, z)}{q_\phi(z)} dz + \int q_\phi(z) \log p(x) dz \\ &= - \int q_\phi(z) \log \frac{p(x, z)}{q_\phi(z)} dz + \log p(x) \end{aligned}$$

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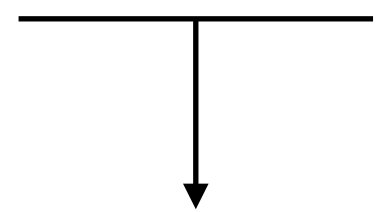
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—  
↓

constant

—  
↓

minimize

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# Variational Family

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Black-box variational inference

- Mean-field approximation  $q_{\phi}(z) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}(z_i | \mu_i, \sigma_i)$  where  $\phi = \{\mu_i, \sigma_i\}_{i \in [1, n]}$
- Full-rank approximation  $q_{\phi}(z) = \mathcal{N}(z | \mu, \Sigma)$  where  $\phi = (\mu, \Sigma)$
- Pyro autoguides

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## Program your own guide

- Pyro (first versions)
- Must sample the same variables in the guide and the model
- Static analysis?

```
def model():  
    pyro.sample("z_1", ... )  
  
def guide():  
    pyro.sample("z_1", ... )
```

# References

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PLDI 2021