



## Towards a unified view of uncertainty quantification methods for full waveform inversion

Session: FWI - Imaging-2 - Theory and multi-parameter

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## Outline

The Bayesian approach to full waveform inversion

A modern framework for Bayesian inference

Sampling methods in action

Conclusion

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An ill-posed inverse problem

The Bayesian approach

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# An ill-posed inverse problem

Standard problem :  $L^2$ -minimization ([Virieux et al. \(2017\)](#))

$$\min_m C(\mathbf{m}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{sources}} \|d_{\text{cal}}[\mathbf{m}] - d_{\text{obs}}\|_{L^2}^2$$

- $d_{\text{obs}}$  : observed traces at receivers
- $d_{\text{cal}}[\mathbf{m}] := \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{m})$  : simulated traces, wave equation

Numerical resolution : gradient-based descent

$$\mathbf{m}_{k+1} = \mathbf{m}_k + \tau_k \delta \mathbf{m}_k, \quad k \in \{1, \dots, N_{\text{iter}}\}$$

- Descent direction  $\delta \mathbf{m}_k$ , step size  $\tau_k$
- PDE-based method  
→ large computational cost,  $m(x) \in \mathbb{R}^d, d \gg 1$

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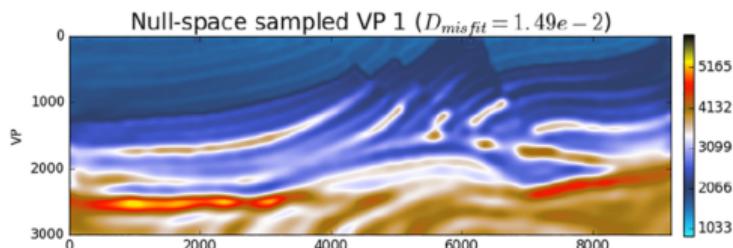
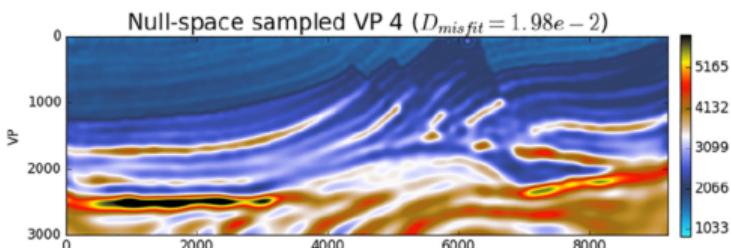
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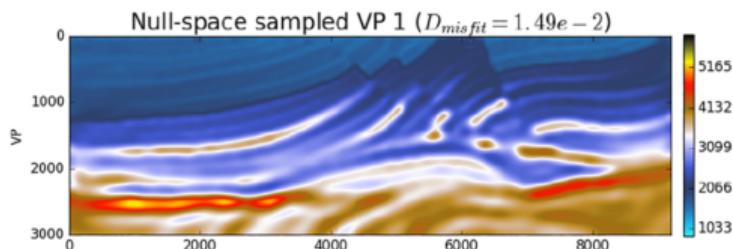
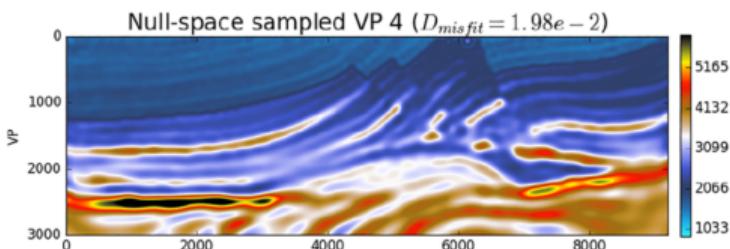
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Uncertainty quantification aims to quantify our confidence in the reconstructed model

## The Bayesian approach to full waveform inversion

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### The Bayesian approach

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## The Bayesian approach

Inverse problem formulation : we look for a model  $m(x) \in \mathbb{R}^d$  that satisfies, under Gaussian additive noise

$$d_{\text{obs}} = d_{\text{cal}}[m] + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$$

- $d_{\text{cal}}[m] := \mathcal{F}(m)$  linked through the parameter-to-observations map  $\mathcal{F}: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_{\text{obs}}}$

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## Bayes theorem for inverse problems

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(m) := \pi(m|d_{\text{obs}}) = \frac{\pi(d_{\text{obs}}|m)\pi_{\text{prior}}(m)}{\pi(d_{\text{obs}})}, \quad \pi(d_{\text{obs}}|m) \propto \exp(-C(m))$$

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Given a prior  $\pi_{\text{prior}}(m)$ , how to infer on  $\pi_{\text{post}}(m)$  ?

For a Gaussian prior  $\pi_{\text{prior}}(m) \sim \mathcal{N}(m_0, \Sigma_0)$ ,

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(m) \propto \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{sources}} \|d_{\text{cal}}[m] - d_{\text{obs}}\|_{\Sigma}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|m - m_0\|_{\Sigma_0}^2 \right)$$

If  $\mathcal{F}$  is linear, the posterior is also Gaussian with explicitly known mean and covariance

Problem : for FWI,  $\mathcal{F}$  is nonlinear, and the parameter space  $d \gg 1$  is very large

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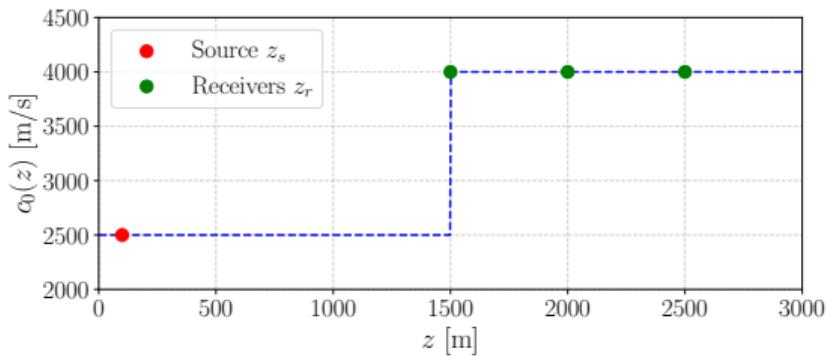
# A simple case study for FWI

## 1D wave equation in $\Omega = (0, D) \times (0, T]$

$$\frac{1}{c_0^2(z)} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = s(z_s, t) \text{ in } \Omega$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \pm c_0(z) \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 0, \text{ at } z = \{0, D\} \quad (\text{absorbing BC})$$

model  $c_0(z) = (c_1, c_2)$



## Setup

- Ricker wavelet source at  $f_0 = 5$  Hz
- explicit, 2nd order finite differences
- zero initial conditions
- $m(x) := c_0(z) \in \mathbb{R}^d$

## Bayesian inference with 2 parameters

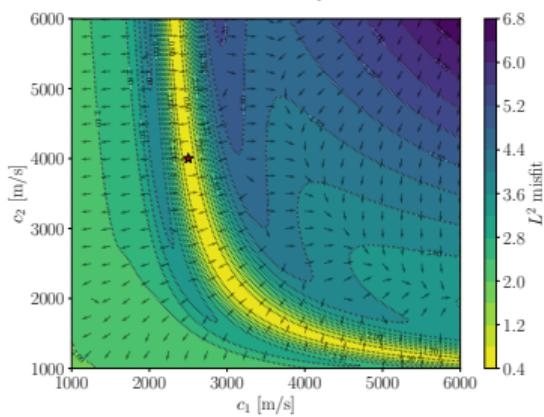
- artificial observations  $d_{\text{obs}}$  with SNR  $\approx 10$
- play on the number of receivers  $z_r$
- uniform prior  $\pi_{\text{prior}}(m) = 1$
- we want to characterize the posterior  

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(m) \propto \exp(-C(m))$$

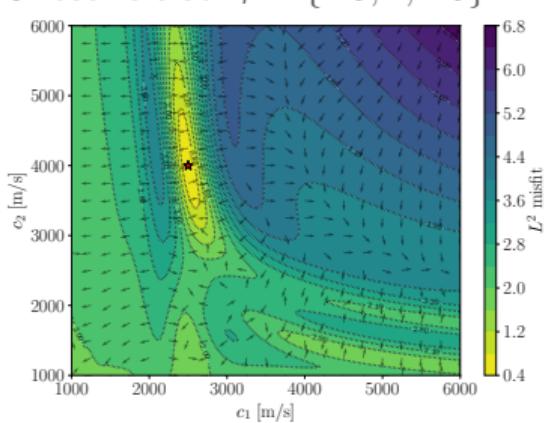
# The cost function and its gradient

We fix the reference model at  $c_0^*(z) = (2500, 4000)$  m/s

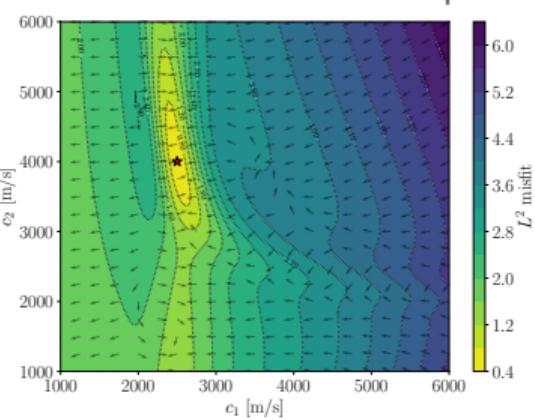
1 receiver at  $z_r = 2$  km



3 receivers at  $z_r = \{1.5, 2, 2.5\}$  km



receivers at all discretization points



Strong nonlinearity

- the gradient rarely points to  $c_0^*$
- receivers have a strong influence on the cost function

What do we want to infer ?

- the sensitivity around  $c_0^*$  ? (Hessian probing)
- identify local minima ?
- the entire shape of the nullspace ?

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The deterministic gradient descent  $m_{k+1} = m_k - \tau_k \nabla C(m_k)$  is an explicit Euler discretization

## Gradient flow - Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^d$

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = -\nabla C(m), \quad m(0) = m_0,$$

with time step  $\tau_k$ .

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## Gradient flow - Probability space $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$

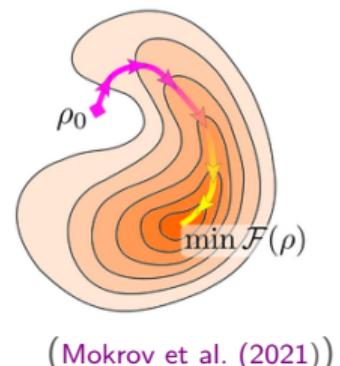
$$dM_t = -\nabla C(M_t)dt, \quad M_t \sim \mu_t$$

The density  $\mu_t$  satisfies a *mass conservation* equation  $\rightarrow$  continuous flow

$$\frac{\partial \mu_t}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_t \nabla C), \quad \mathbf{v}_t = -\nabla C$$

We get a gradient flow in probability space under the Wasserstein metric

$$\frac{\partial \mu_t}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_t \nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{E}(\mu_t)), \quad \mathcal{E}(\mu) = \int C(m) d\mu(m)$$



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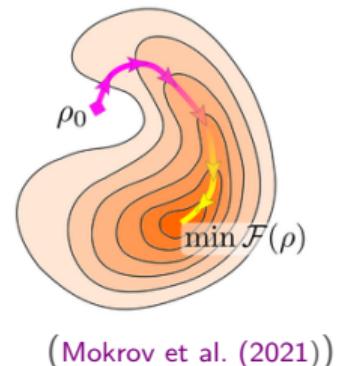
$$dM_t = -\nabla C(M_t)dt + \sqrt{2}dB_t, \quad M_t \sim \mu_t, \quad B_t : \text{Brownian motion}$$

The density  $\mu_t$  satisfies a **Fokker-Planck** equation  $\rightarrow$  **continuous flow**

$$\frac{\partial \mu_t}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_t \nabla C) + \Delta \mu_t \quad \nu_t = -\nabla C - \nabla \log \mu_t$$

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## Sampling from different perspectives

The evolution of the density  $\mu_t$  transports any prior  $\pi_{\text{prior}}$  to the posterior  $\pi_{\text{post}} \propto \exp(-C)$

$$\frac{\partial \mu_t}{\partial t} = \text{div}(\mu_t \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\mu_t || \pi_{\text{post}})), \quad \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\mu_t || \pi_{\text{post}}) = \nabla \log \left( \frac{\mu_t}{\pi_{\text{post}}} \right), \quad \mathcal{E}(\mu) := \text{KL}(\mu || \pi_{\text{post}}) + \text{const},$$

and is the Wasserstein gradient flow of the KL divergence ([Jordan et al. \(1998\)](#))

**Bayesian sampling** → follow the steepest-descent of  $\text{KL}(\cdot || \pi_{\text{post}})$  in  $W_2$

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## 1) Particle dynamics

evolve  $\{M_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  realizations from  $\mu_t$

- Stochastic particle dynamics (SDE)

$$dM_t = -\nabla C(M_t)dt + \sqrt{2}dB_t$$

Langevin diffusion, MCMC ([Ma et al. \(2015\)](#))

- Deterministic particle dynamics (ODE)

$$dM_t = -\nabla \log(\mu_t / \pi_{\text{post}})dt,$$

with an approximation of  $\mu_t$

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## 2) Variational inference (VI)

evolve a restricted distribution family  $\hat{\mu}_t \approx \mu_t$

- Perform a “Wasserstein” gradient descent

$$\hat{\mu}_{k+1} = (\text{Id} - \tau \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\hat{\mu}_k || \pi_{\text{post}}))_{\#} \hat{\mu}_k$$

A common choice is the Gaussian family.

- VI is an optimization over *transport maps* ([El Moselhy and Marzouk \(2012\)](#))

Further details : [Santambrogio \(2015\)](#); [Chewi et al. \(2024\)](#)

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Stochastic particle dynamics

Deterministic particle dynamics

Gaussian variational inference

Towards sampling in high-dimension : Ensemble Kalman filters (EnKF)

Conclusion

The Langevin diffusion can be discretized with an explicit Euler method (Euler-Maruyama)

## Unadjusted Langevin algorithm

$$M_{k+1} = M_k - \tau \nabla C(M_k) + \sqrt{2\tau} \xi_k, \quad \xi_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, Id),$$

which allows, in principle, to sample  $\pi_{\text{post}}$  from any prior, given the gradient of the cost  $\nabla C$

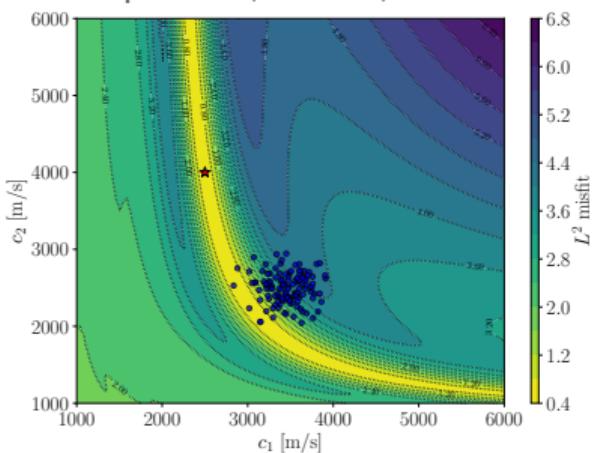
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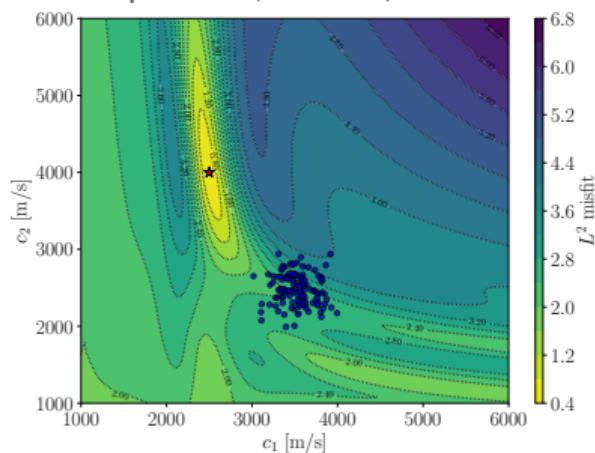
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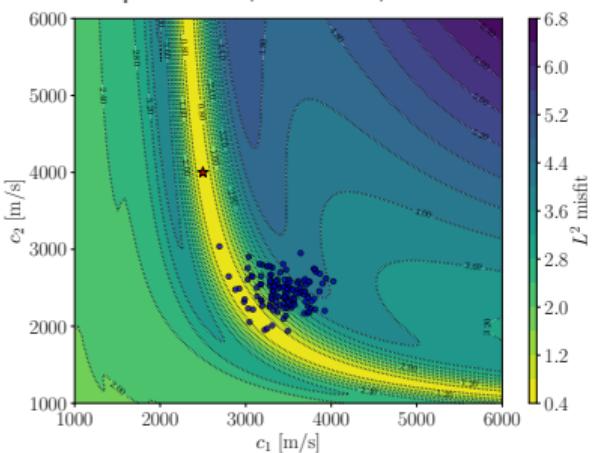
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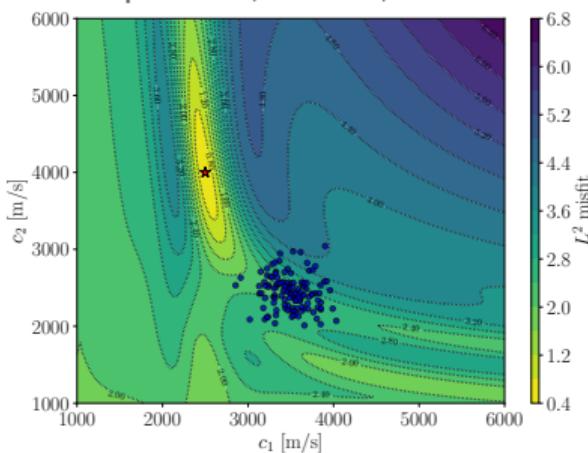
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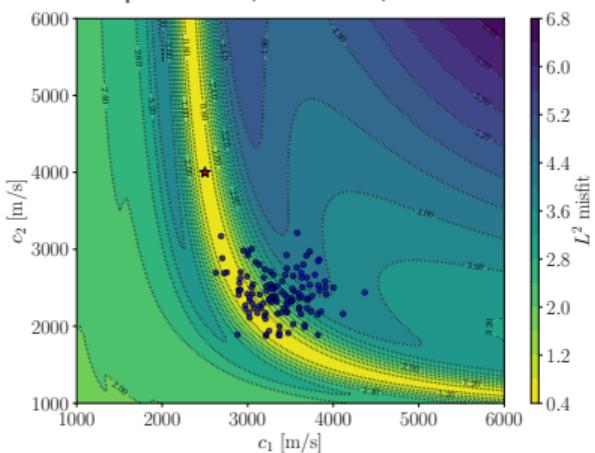
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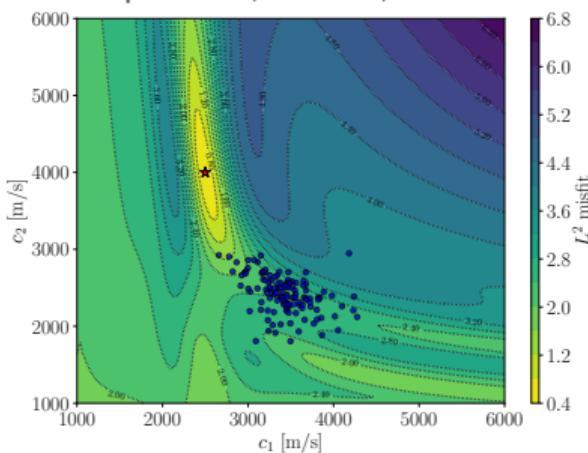
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128 particles,  $\tau = 60$ , Iteration 16



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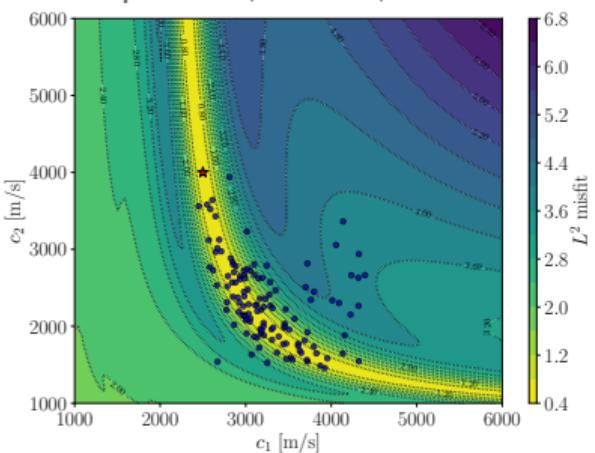
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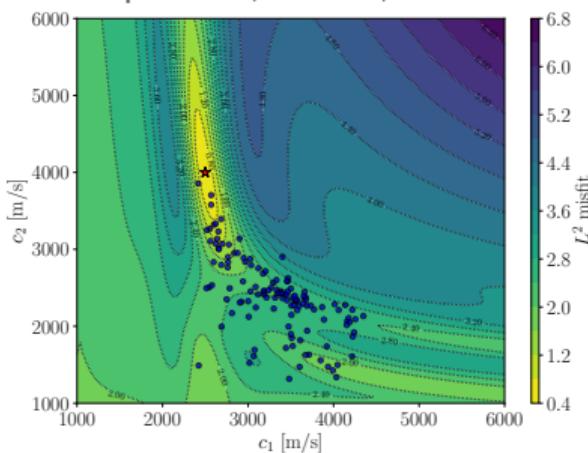
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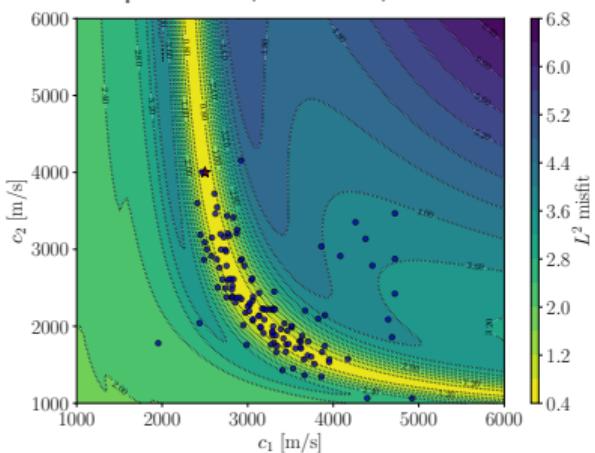
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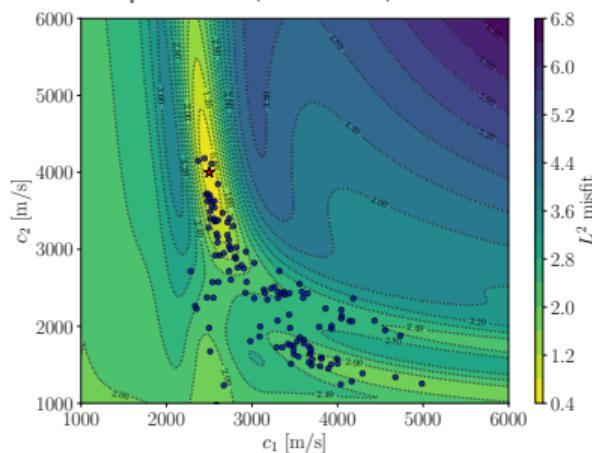
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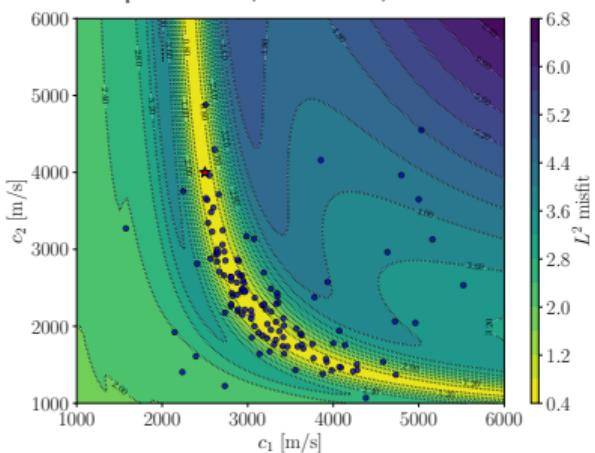
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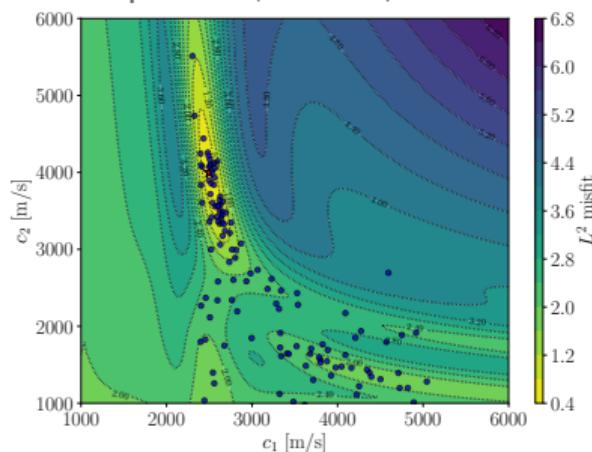
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In practice : finite step size  $\tau$ , finite time and finite number of particles  $\Rightarrow$  sampling bias

**Gradient descent in optimization  $\Leftrightarrow$  Langevin algorithm in sampling**

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## **Sampling methods in action**

Stochastic particle dynamics

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Gaussian variational inference

Towards sampling in high-dimension : Ensemble Kalman filters (EnKF)

Conclusion

Deterministic (ODE) at the particle level with explicit time-stepping :  $M_{k+1} = M_k - \tau_k \phi_k(M_k)$

SVGD first looks for a **kernel**- $W^2$  steepest descent

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_k &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \kappa(\mathbf{m}, \cdot) \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\mu_k \| \pi_{\text{post}}) \mu_k(\mathbf{m}) d\mathbf{m} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k} (\nabla \kappa + \kappa \nabla \log \pi_{\text{post}})\end{aligned}$$

and second, uses particles for  $\mathbb{E}_{\mu_k}(\cdot)$  ([Liu and Wang \(2016\)](#))

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WGD simply uses a **kernel density estimation** for  $\mu_t$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_k &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \kappa(m, \cdot) \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\mu_k \| \pi_{\text{post}}) \mu_k(m) dm \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k} (\nabla \kappa + \kappa \nabla \log \pi_{\text{post}})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_k &= \nabla_{W_2} \text{KL}(\hat{\mu}_k \| \pi_{\text{post}}), \\ \hat{\mu}_k(M) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \kappa(M, M_k^{(i)}),\end{aligned}$$

and second, uses particles for  $\mathbb{E}_{\mu_k}(\cdot)$  ([Liu and Wang \(2016\)](#))

for a set of particles  $\{M_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$  ([Wang et al. \(2022\)](#))

Deterministic (ODE) at the particle level with explicit time-stepping :  $M_{k+1} = M_k - \tau_k \phi_k(M_k)$

SVGD first looks for a **kernel**- $W^2$  steepest descent

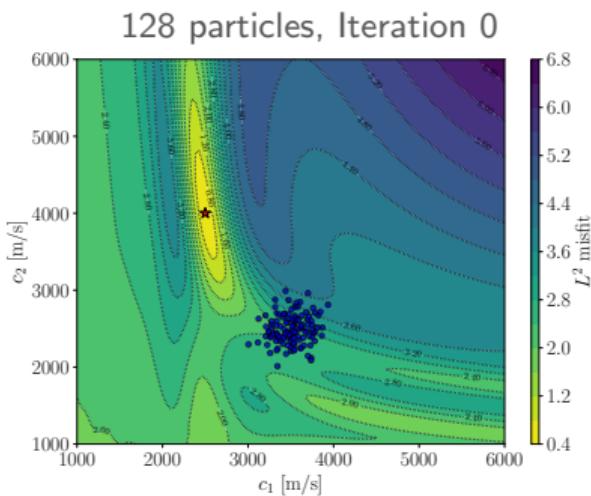
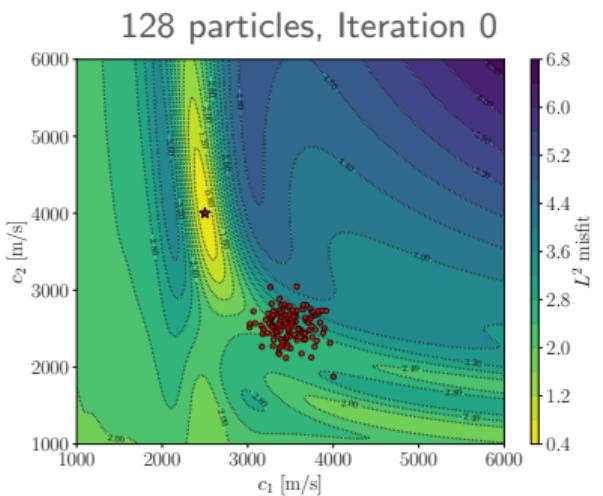
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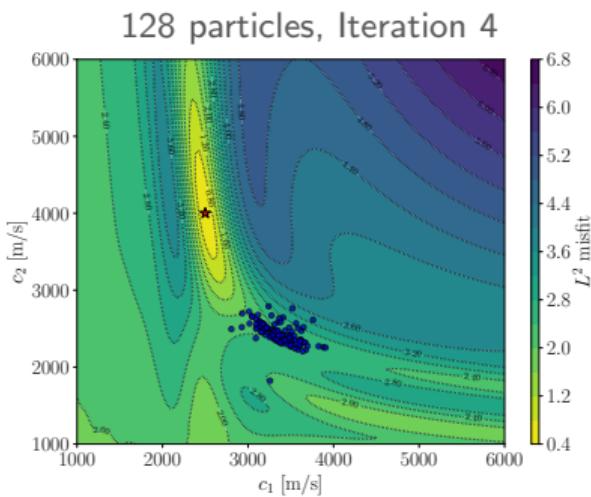
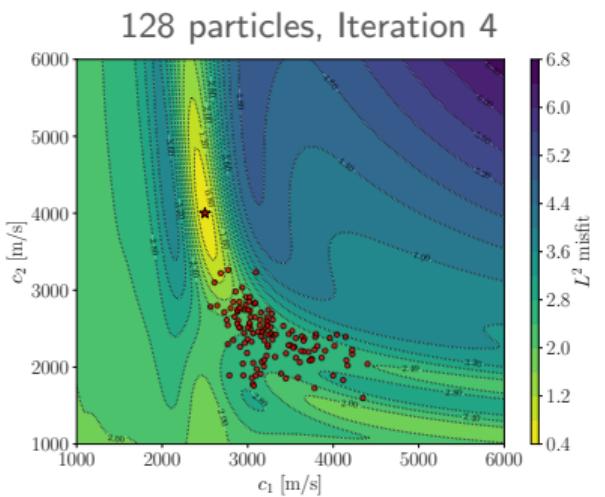
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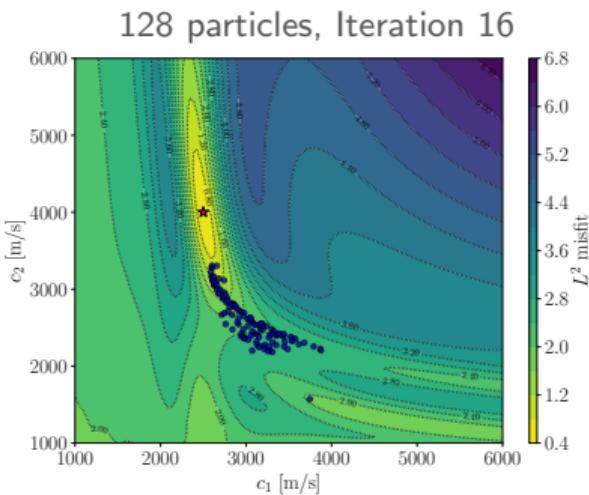
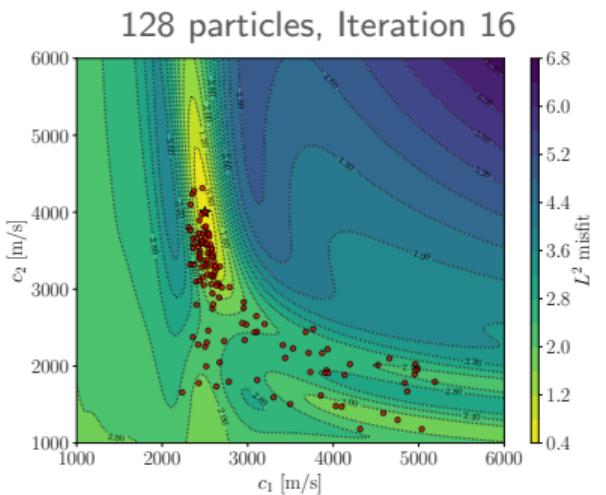
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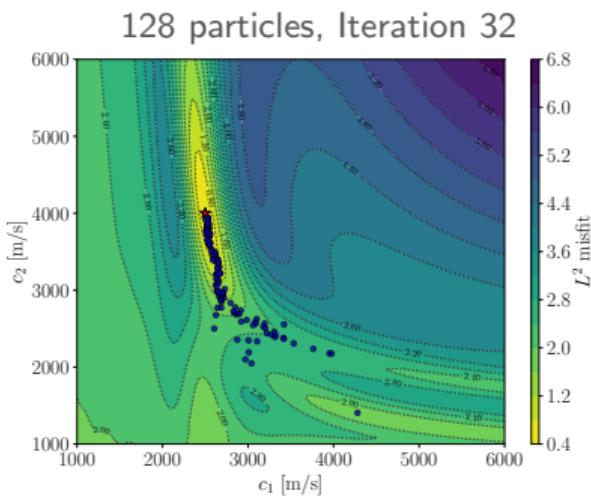
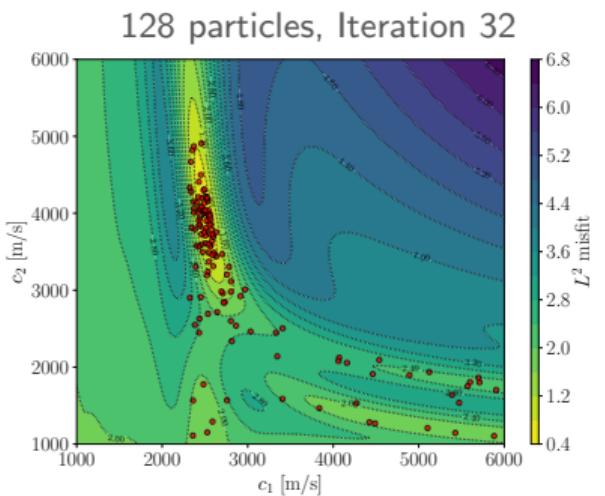
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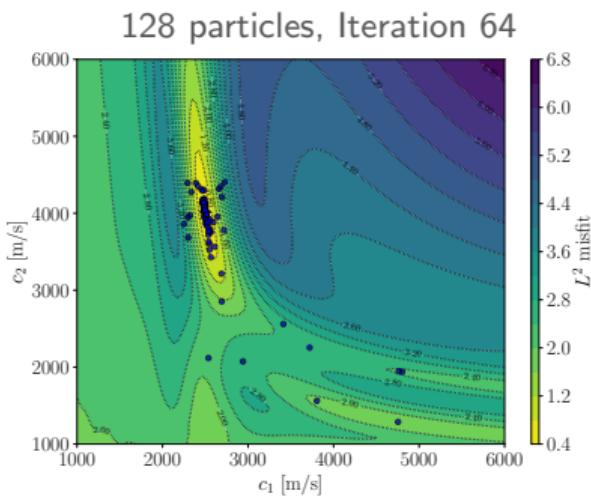
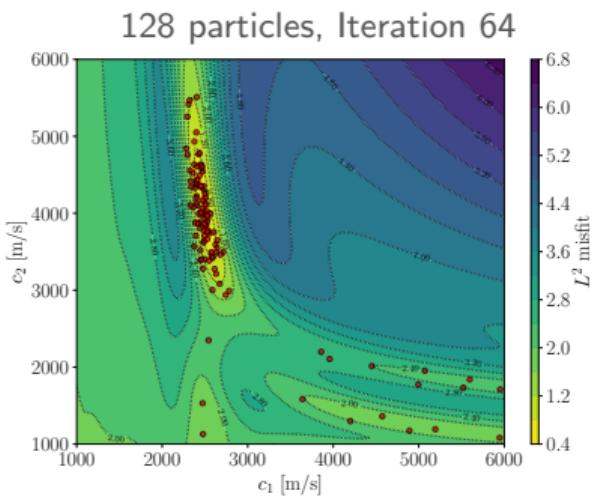
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The choice of the kernel  $\kappa(\cdot, \cdot)$  is crucial → suffers from the curse of dimensionality

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The Bayesian approach to full waveform inversion

A modern framework for Bayesian inference

## **Sampling methods in action**

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Deterministic particle dynamics

## **Gaussian variational inference**

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We choose  $\hat{\mu}_t(m) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\mu}_i(m|m^{(i)}, \Sigma^{(i)})$  as a mixture of *Gaussians particles* with equal weights

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$$dm^{(i)}/dt = -\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mu}_i} [\nabla \log(\hat{\mu}_t/\pi_{\text{post}})]$$

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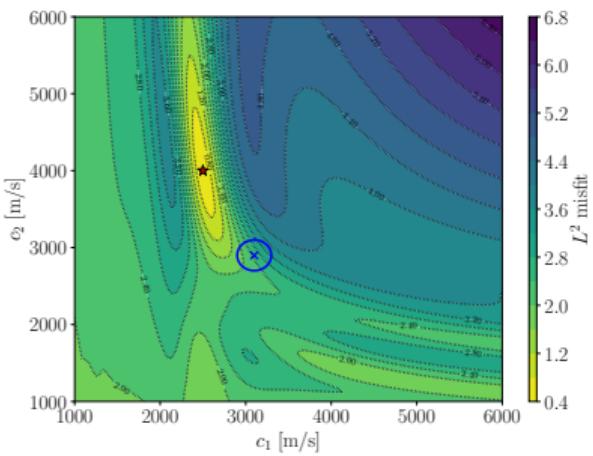
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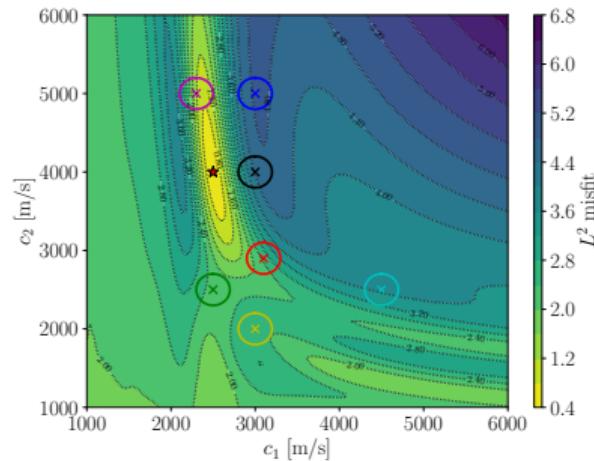
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Single Gaussian, Iteration 0



Gaussian mixture  $N = 7$ , Iteration 0



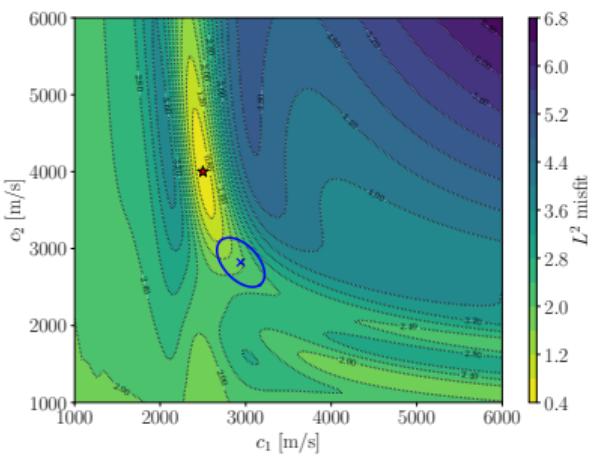
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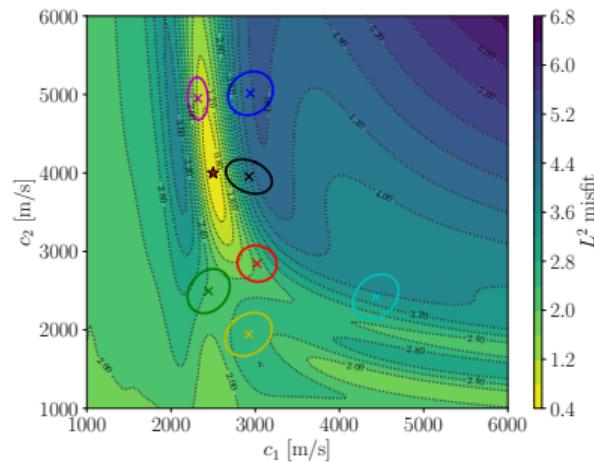
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Single Gaussian, Iteration 4



Gaussian mixture  $N = 7$ , Iteration 4



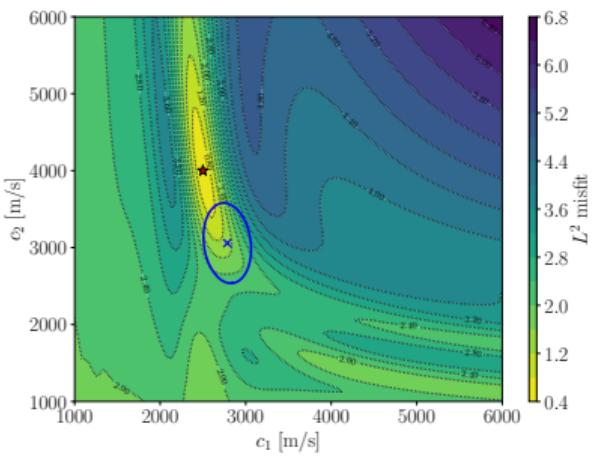
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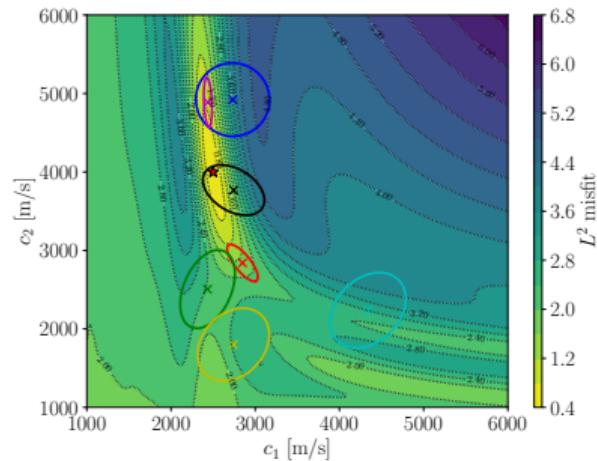
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Single Gaussian, Iteration 16



Gaussian mixture  $N = 7$ , Iteration 16



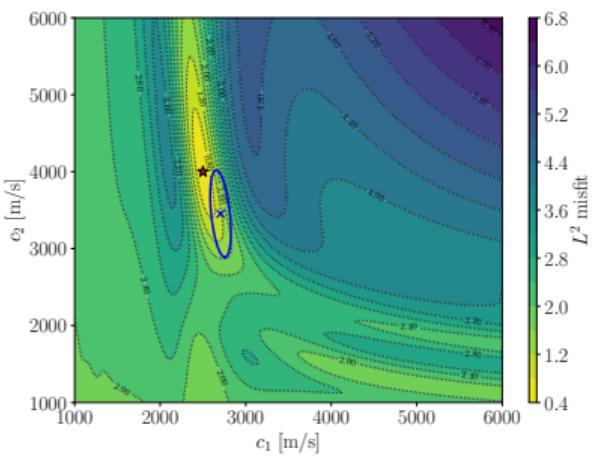
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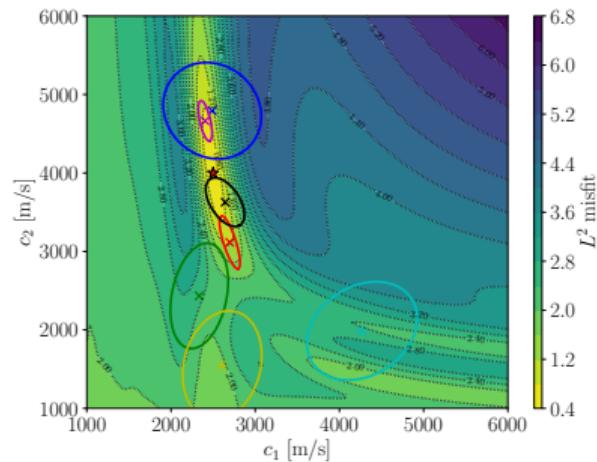
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Single Gaussian, Iteration 32



Gaussian mixture  $N = 7$ , Iteration 32



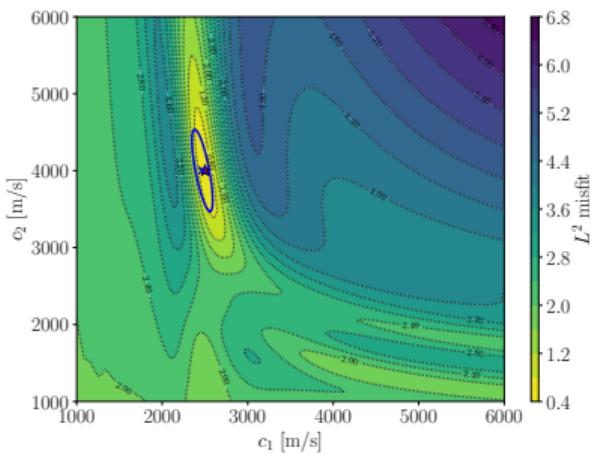
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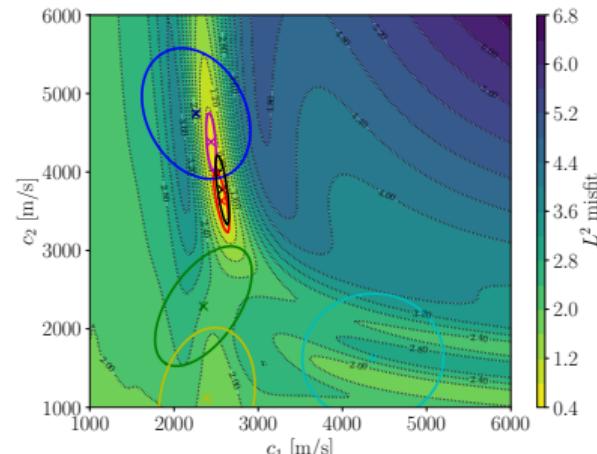
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Single Gaussian, Iteration 64



Gaussian mixture  $N = 7$ , Iteration 64



The quality of the method depends on a low-variance estimator for  $\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mu}}$

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Extended Kalman Filter : do a Bayes update for a **linearized** system  $\mathcal{F}(m) = \mathcal{F}(\bar{m}) + \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}}(\bar{m})(m - \bar{m})$

Given a Gaussian initial state  $\mathcal{N}(m_0, \Sigma_0)$ , the update is also Gaussian  $\mathcal{N}(m_1, \Sigma_1)$

## Extended Kalman Filter (mean update)

$$m_1 = m_0 + K(\mathcal{F}(m_0) - d_{\text{obs}}), \quad K = \Sigma_0 \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}}^T (\mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}} \Sigma_0 \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}}^T + \Sigma)^{-1}$$

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The EnKF relies on a **particle, Monte-Carlo approximation** for  $\Sigma_0 \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}}^T$  and  $\mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}} \Sigma_0 \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{F}}^T \rightarrow$  low-rank update

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$$dM_t = -P(M_t) \nabla C(M_t) dt$$

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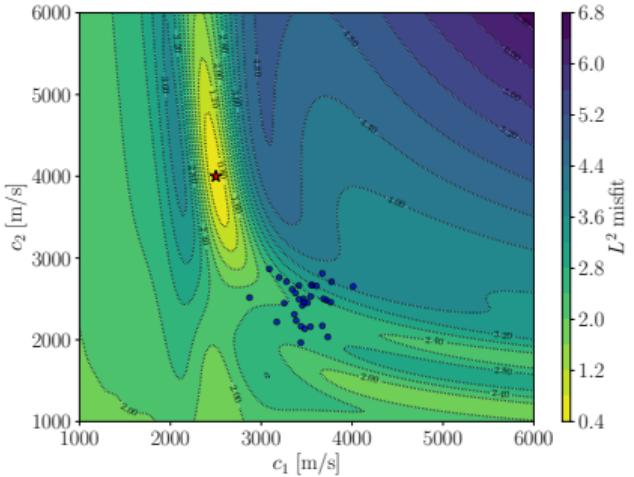
### EnKF as sampling (SDE) : continuous time-limit

$$dM_t = -P(M_t) \nabla C(M_t) dt + \sqrt{2} P^{1/2}(M_t) dB_t$$

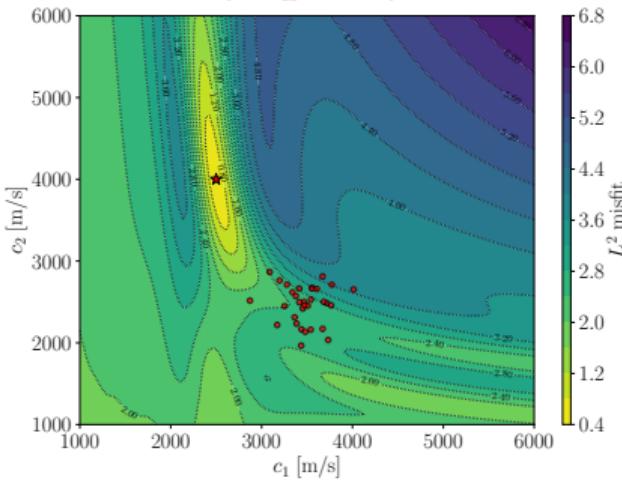
$P$ -preconditioned **Langevin diffusion** ([Chada et al. \(2021\)](#)),  $P^{1/2}$  is not computed explicitly

At each iteration, we may bias the prior  $\hat{m}_k = \text{BFGS}(m_k)$  towards  $m^*$  ([Thurin et al. \(2019\)](#); [Hoffmann et al. \(2024\)](#))

EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 0

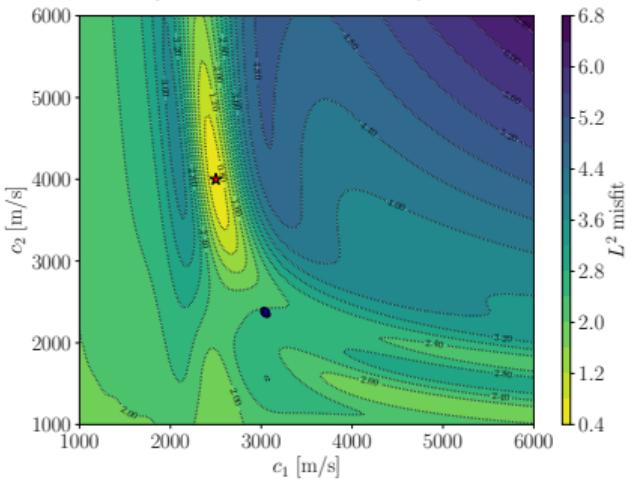


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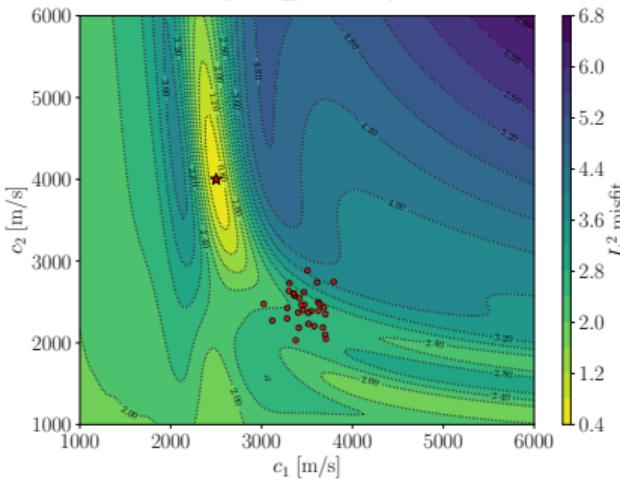


# Ensemble Kalman filters : optimization vs sampling

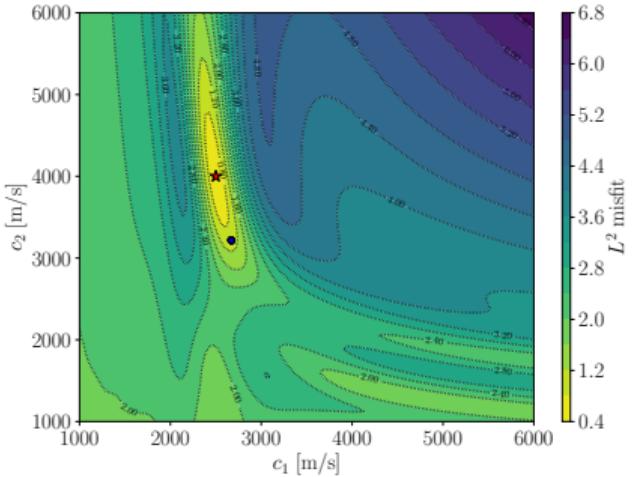
EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 1



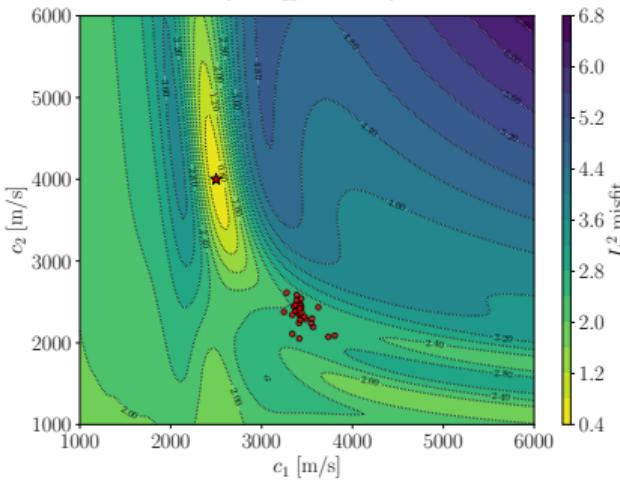
EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 1



EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 4

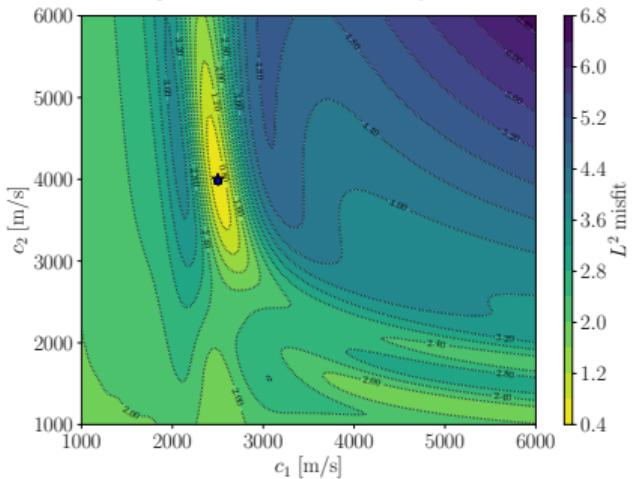


EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 4

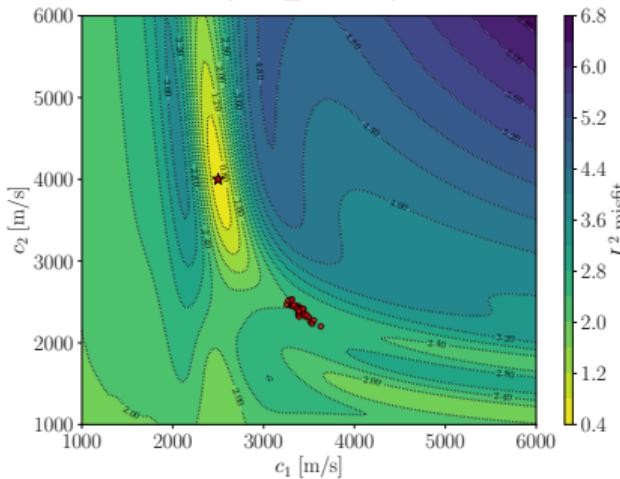


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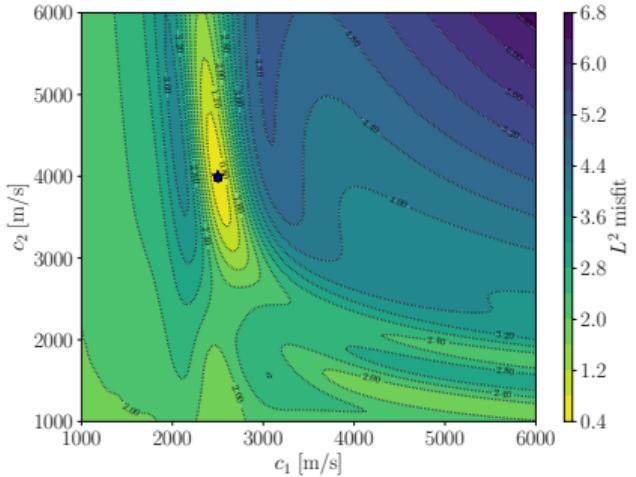
EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 16



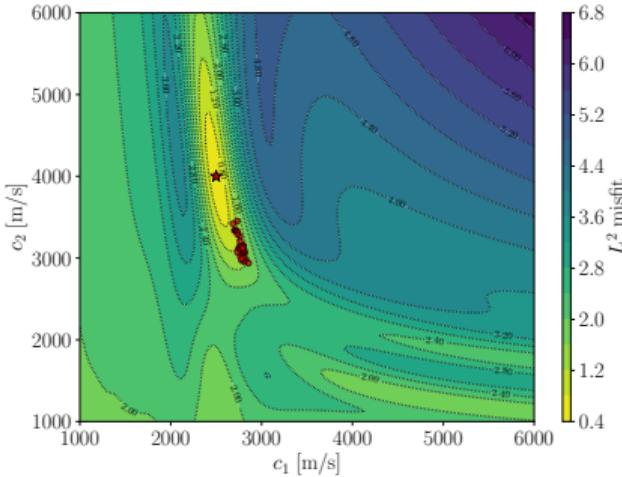
EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 16



EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 48

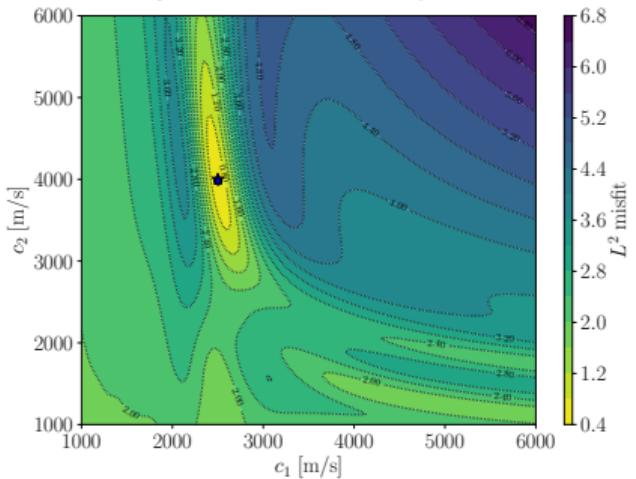


EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 48

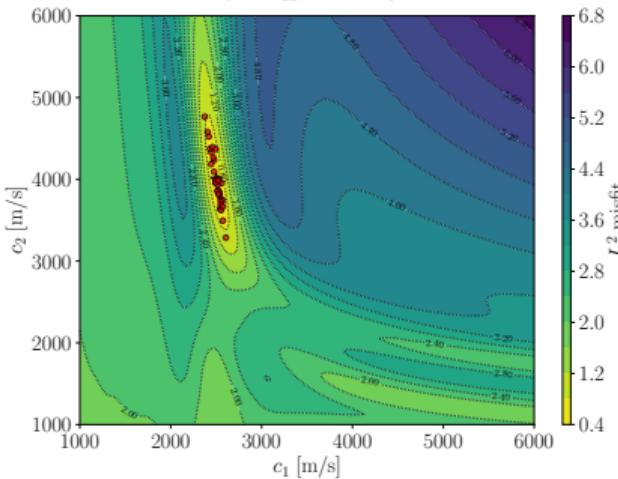


# Ensemble Kalman filters : optimization vs sampling

EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 64

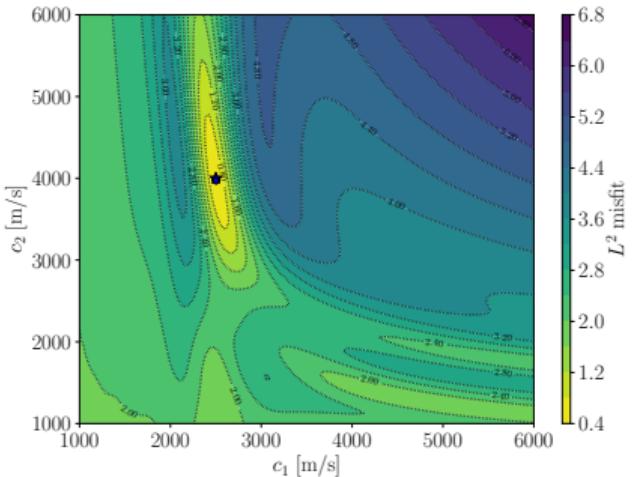


EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 64

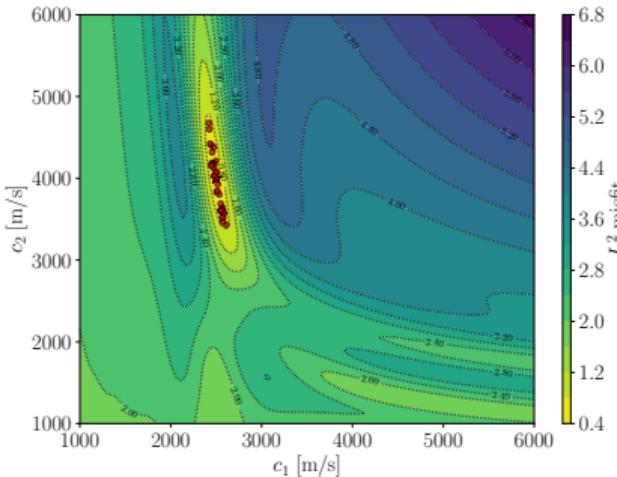


# Ensemble Kalman filters : optimization vs sampling

EnKF as optimization : 32 particles, Iteration 128



EnKF as sampling : 32 particles, Iteration 128



- EnKF is a (derivative-free) 2nd order method : less calls to the forward map  $\mathcal{F}$
- EnKF scales to high-dimension parameter space thanks to low-rank ensemble
- EnKF as sampling :
  - needs more iterations but avoids ensemble collapse
  - is limited to a Gaussian approximation of the posterior
  - does not need parameter tuning

# Conclusion

We scratched the surface of modern Bayesian methods

- Uncertainty quantification involves computing a representation of the posterior distribution
- Gradient flow in probability space unifies sampling methods and suggest well-grounded strategies

We scratched the surface of modern Bayesian methods

- Uncertainty quantification involves computing a representation of the posterior distribution
- Gradient flow in probability space unifies sampling methods and suggest well-grounded strategies
- Ingredients towards efficient UQ in FWI
  1. few function evaluations → 2nd order method + efficient time-integration
  2. high-dimensional scaling → low-rank reduction
  3. sampling accuracy

There is hope for UQ in FWI - we need to develop solvers

### **Thank you for your attention and thanks to**

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**Questions ?**

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