

# Astrostatistics: Monday 25 Feb 2019

<https://github.com/CambridgeAstroStat/PartIII-Astrostatistics-2019>

- Next example classes:
  - Tue, 5 Mar, 12-2pm, MR 9 (confirm)
  - Tue, 12 Mar, 2 - 4pm, MR14 (confirm)
- Today: continue with MCMC
- MacKay: Ch 29-30; Bishop: Ch 11; Gelman
- Givens & Hoeting “Computational Statistics”  
(Free download through Cambridge Library iDiscover)
- Hogg & DFM, 2017 “Data analysis recipes: Using Markov Chain Monte Carlo.” <https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.06068>

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) to Map the Posterior $P(\theta | D)$

- Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Metropolis-Hastings algorithm
  - Gibbs sampling
  - Metropolis-within-Gibbs
- Comparing performance of MCMC algorithms
  - Autocorrelation time
  - Effective Sample Size
- Gibbs Sampling as Metropolis-Hastings
- Detailed Balance & theoretical considerations

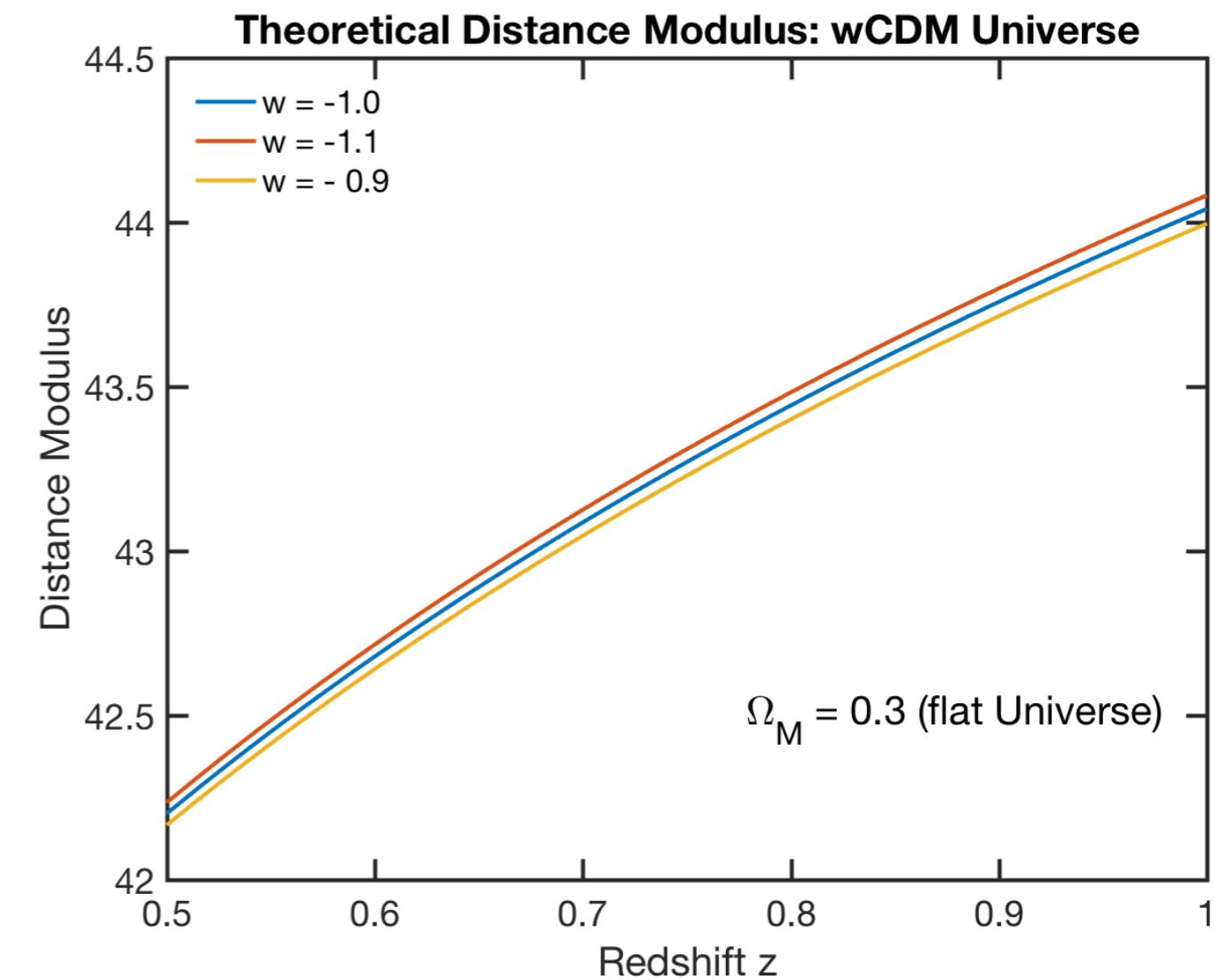
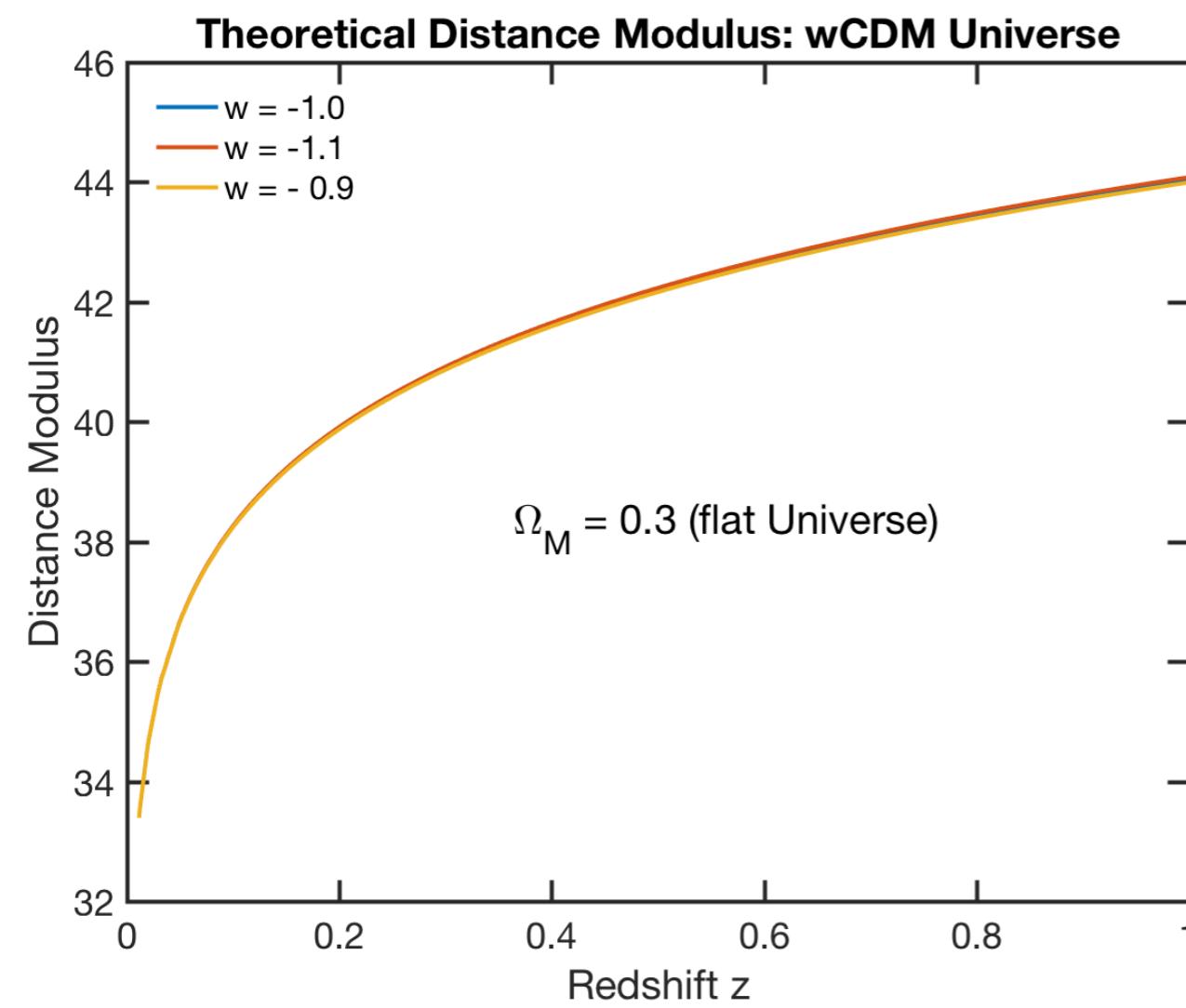
# Supernova Cosmology Case Study:

Assume flat Universe

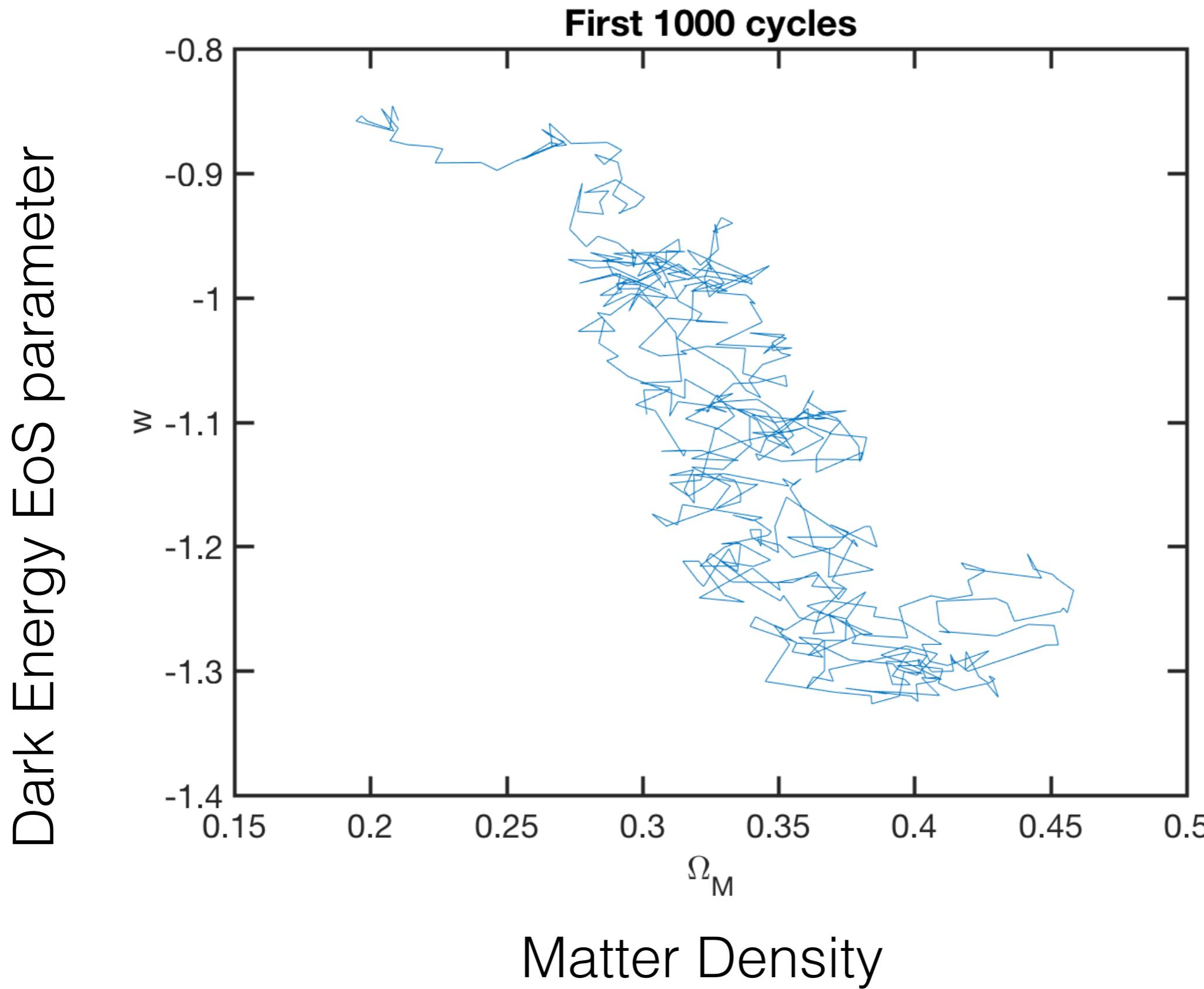
$$\Omega_L = 1 - \Omega_M$$

but unknown  $w$

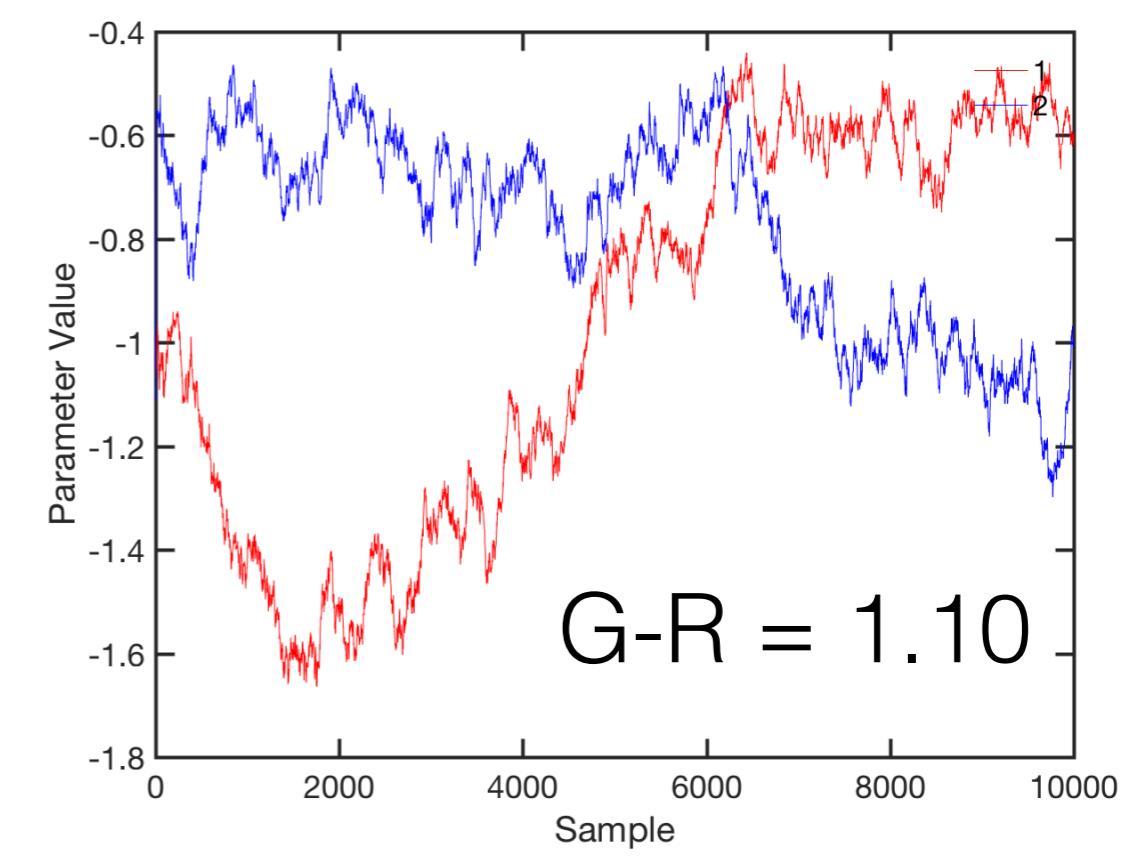
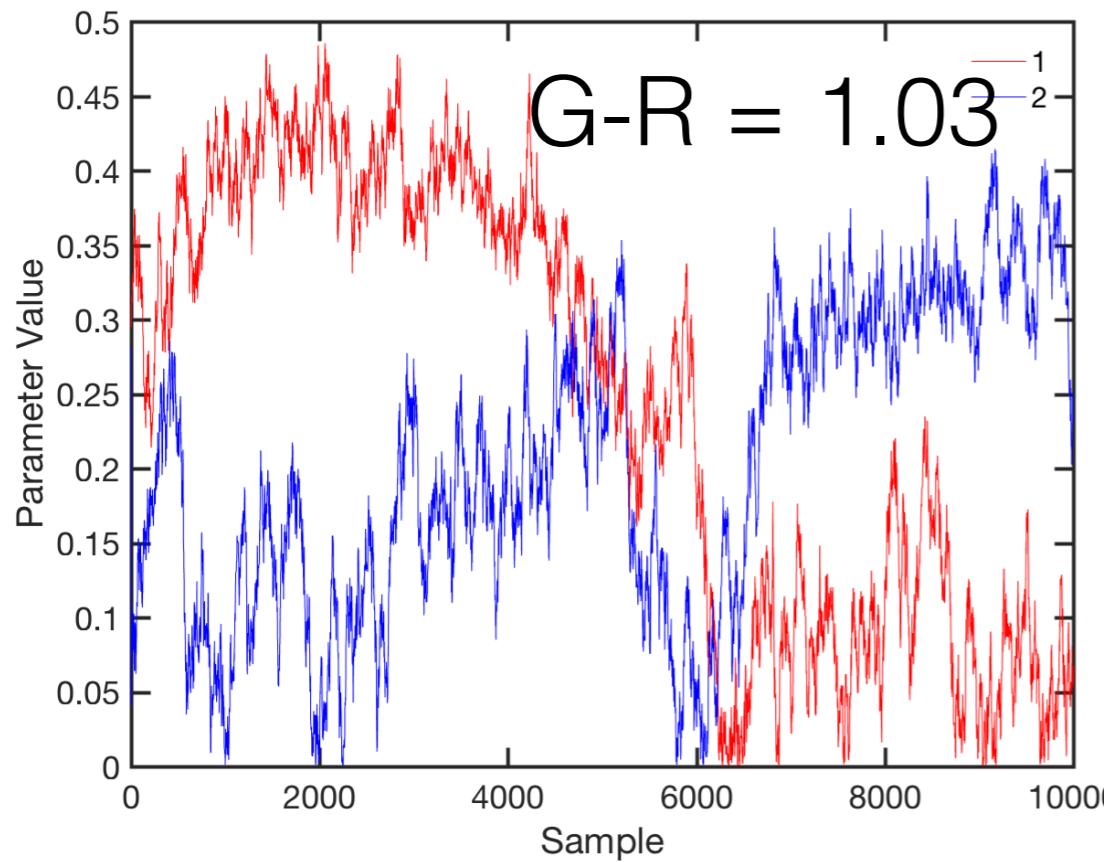
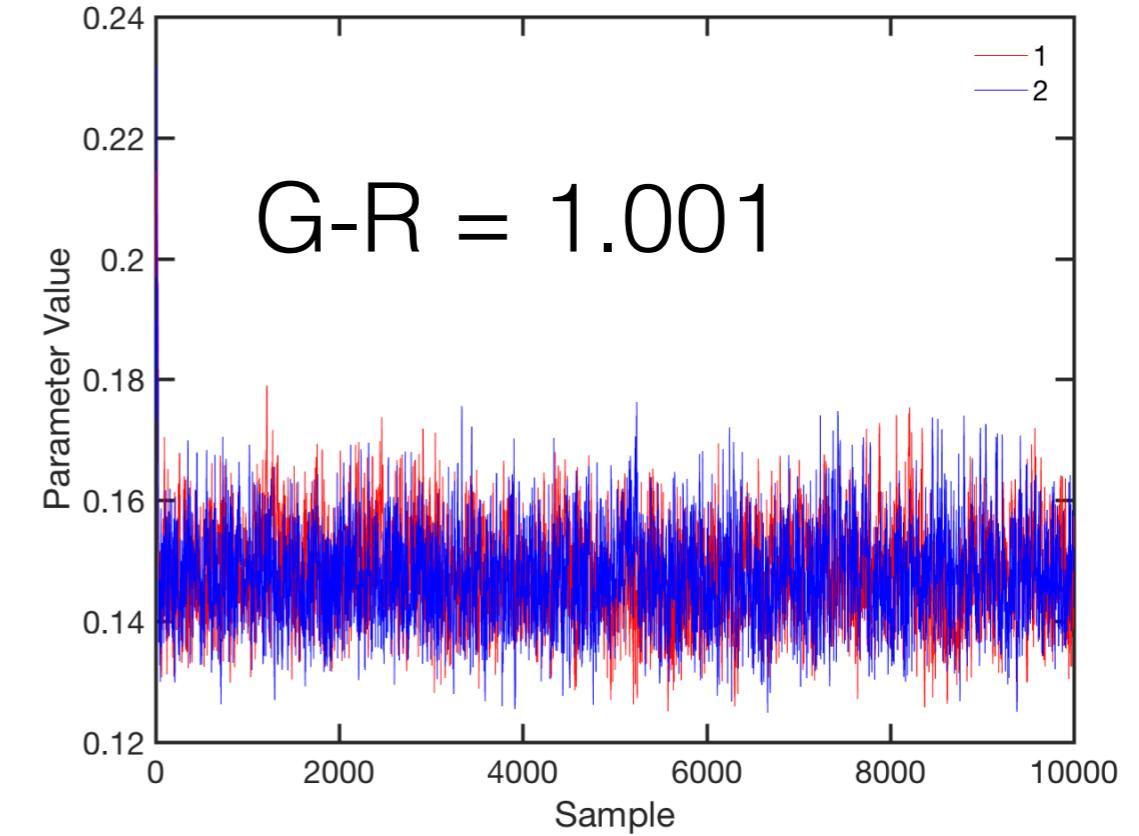
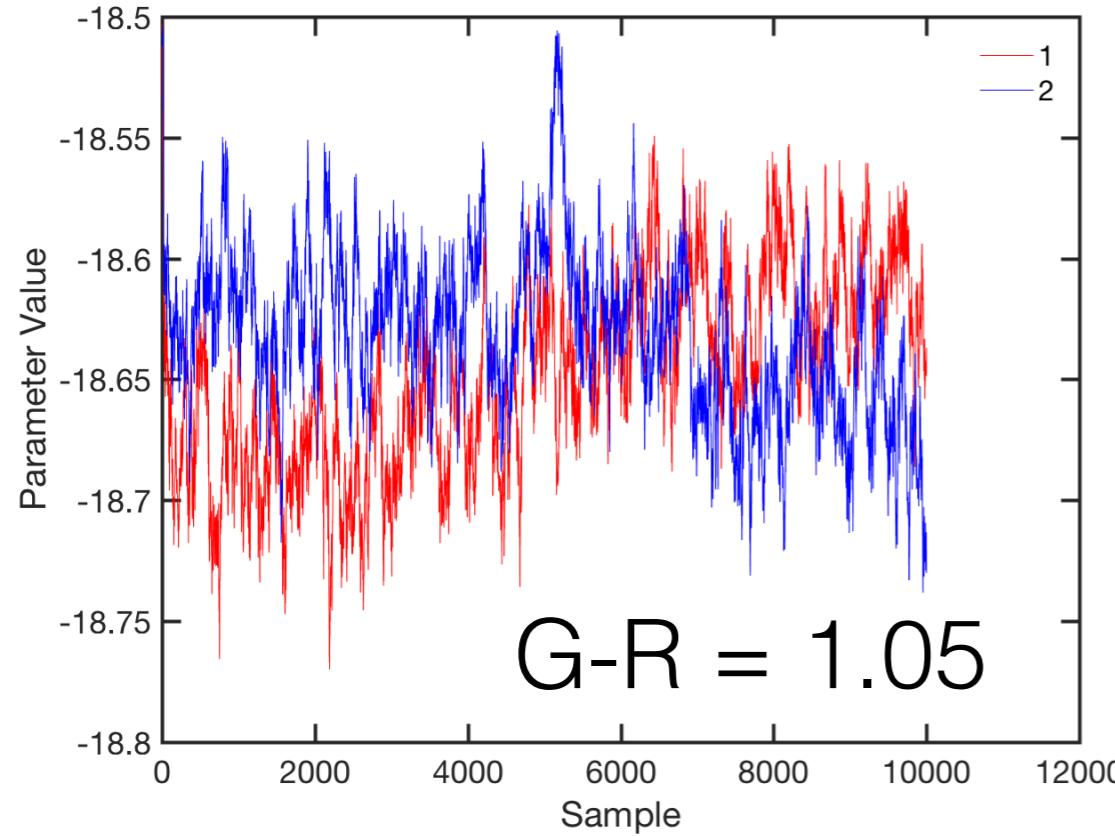
$$\theta = (\mathcal{M}_0, \sigma_{\text{int}}, \Omega_M, w)$$



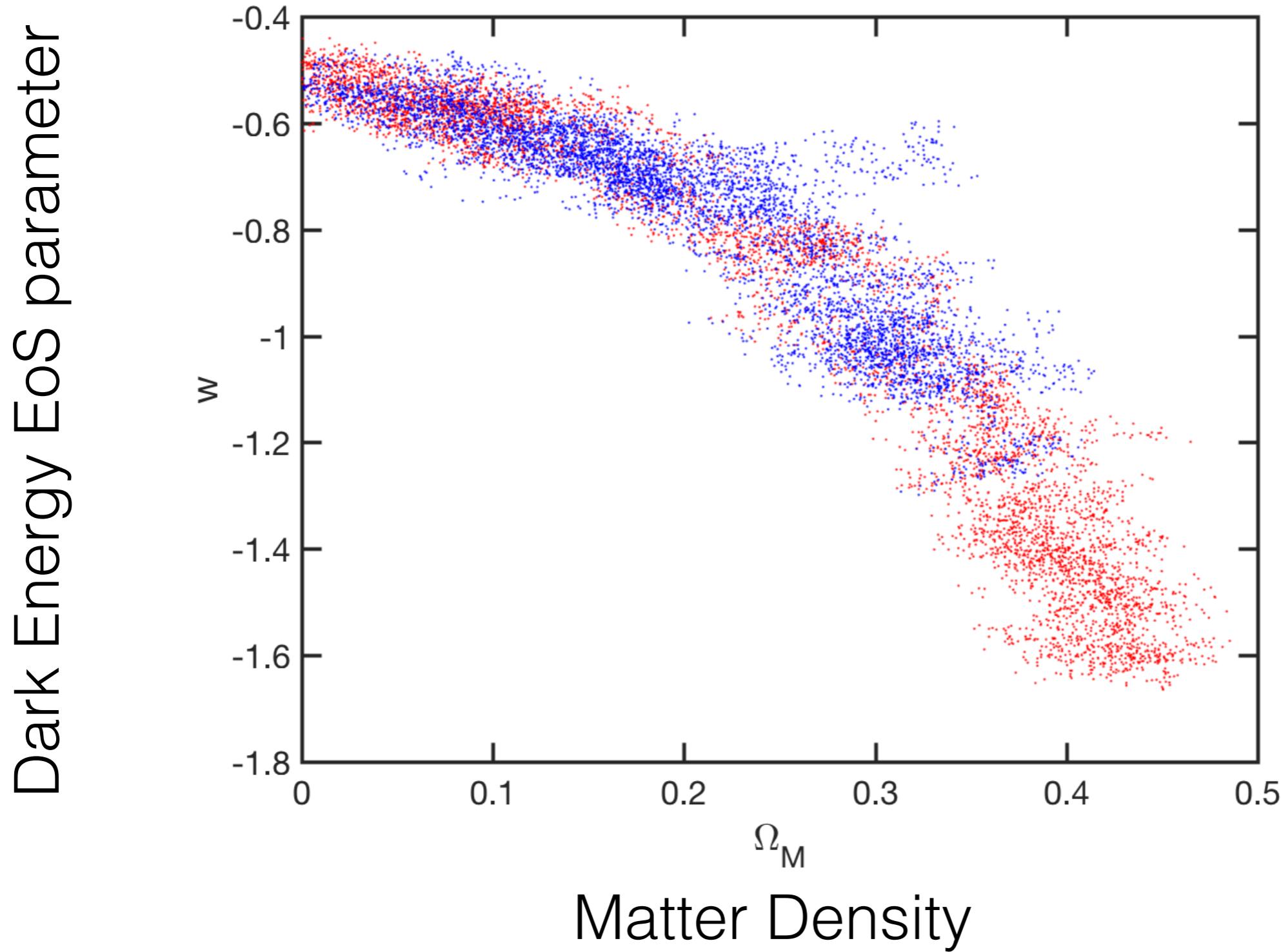
# Metropolis-within-Gibbs: 2D trace plot



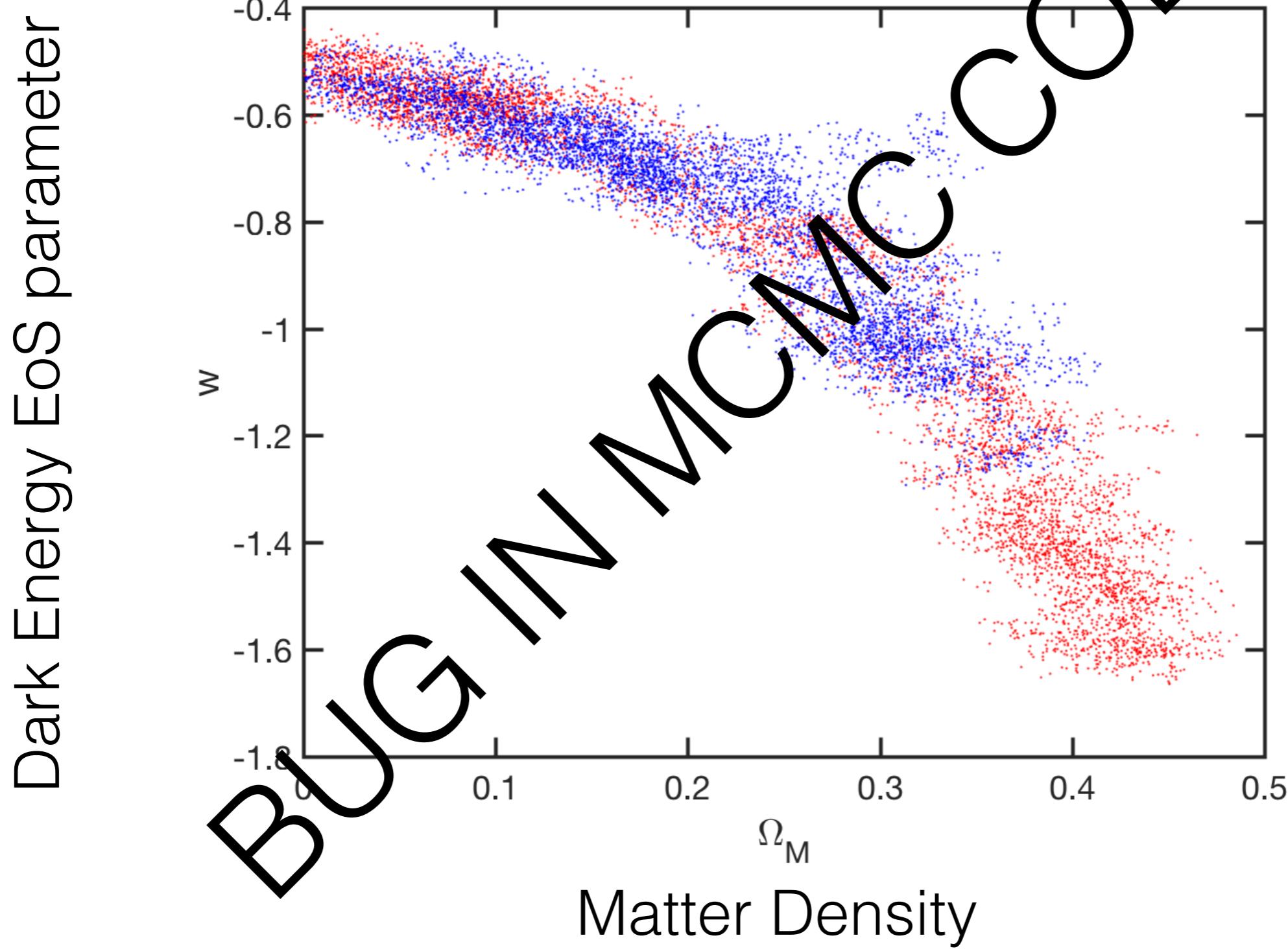
# Trace paths 10k cycles, 2 chains



# Metropolis-within-Gibbs: 2D trace plot 10,000 steps, 2 chain: Not well mixed!

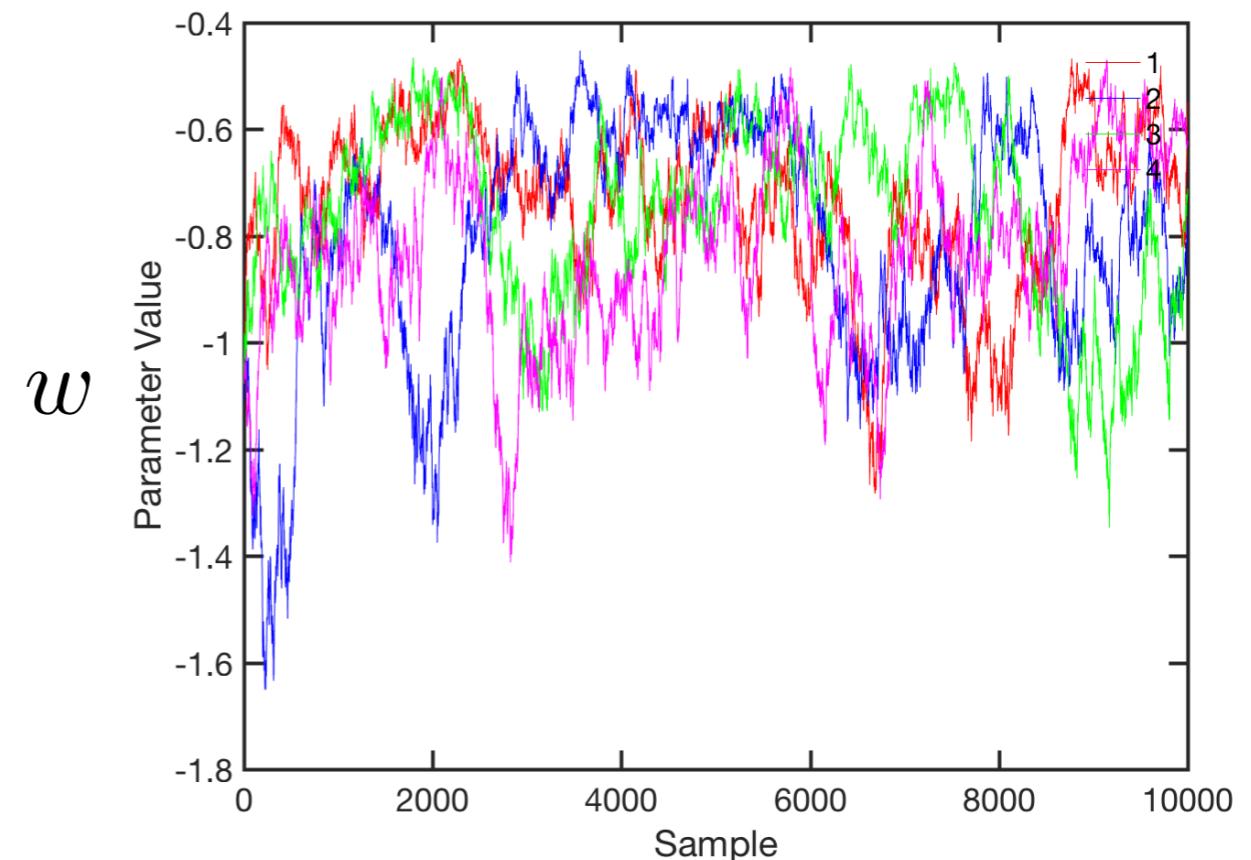
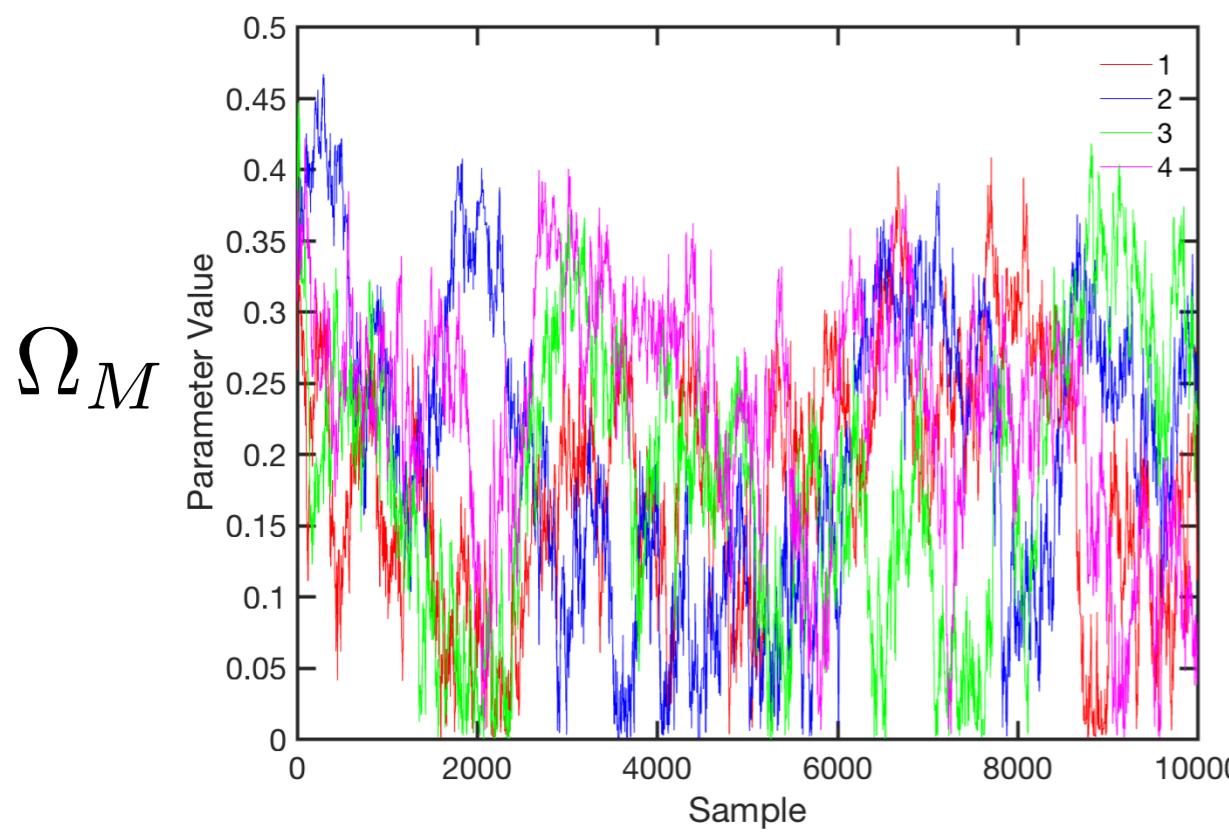
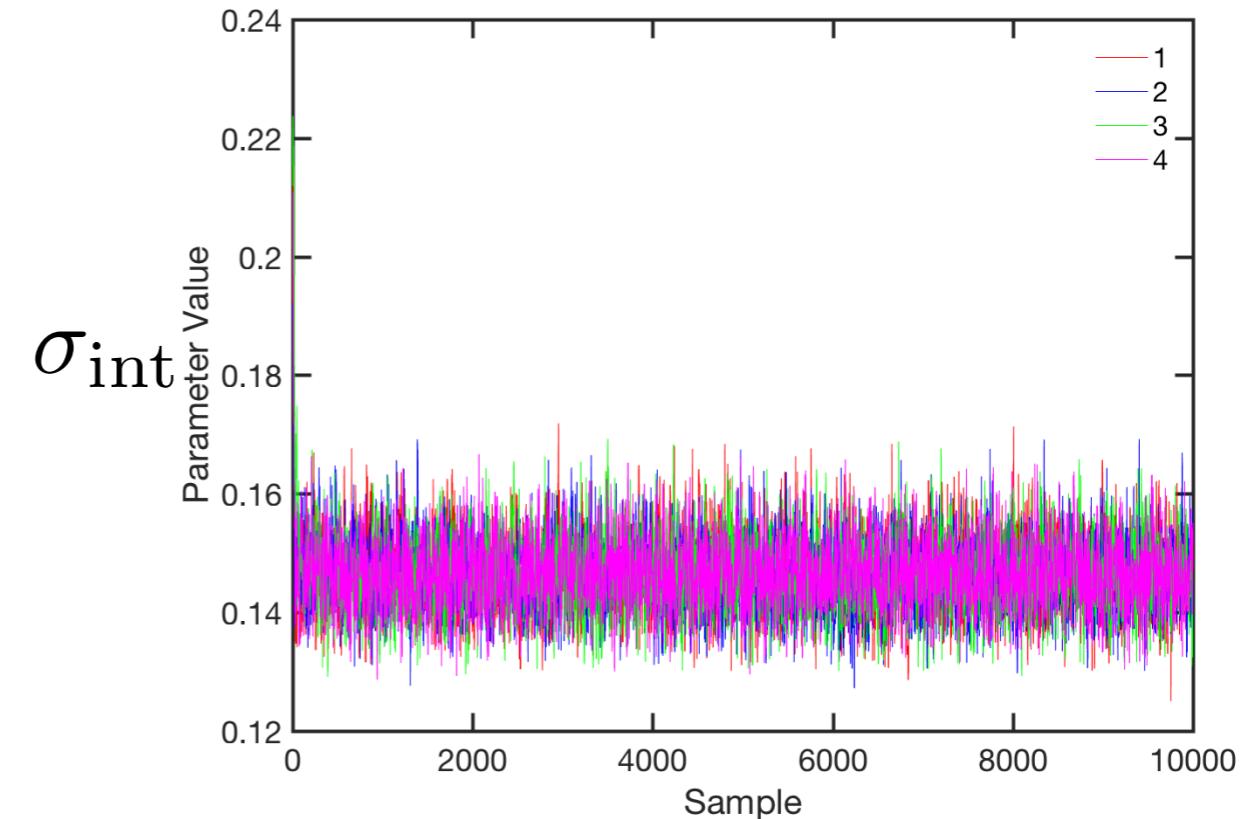
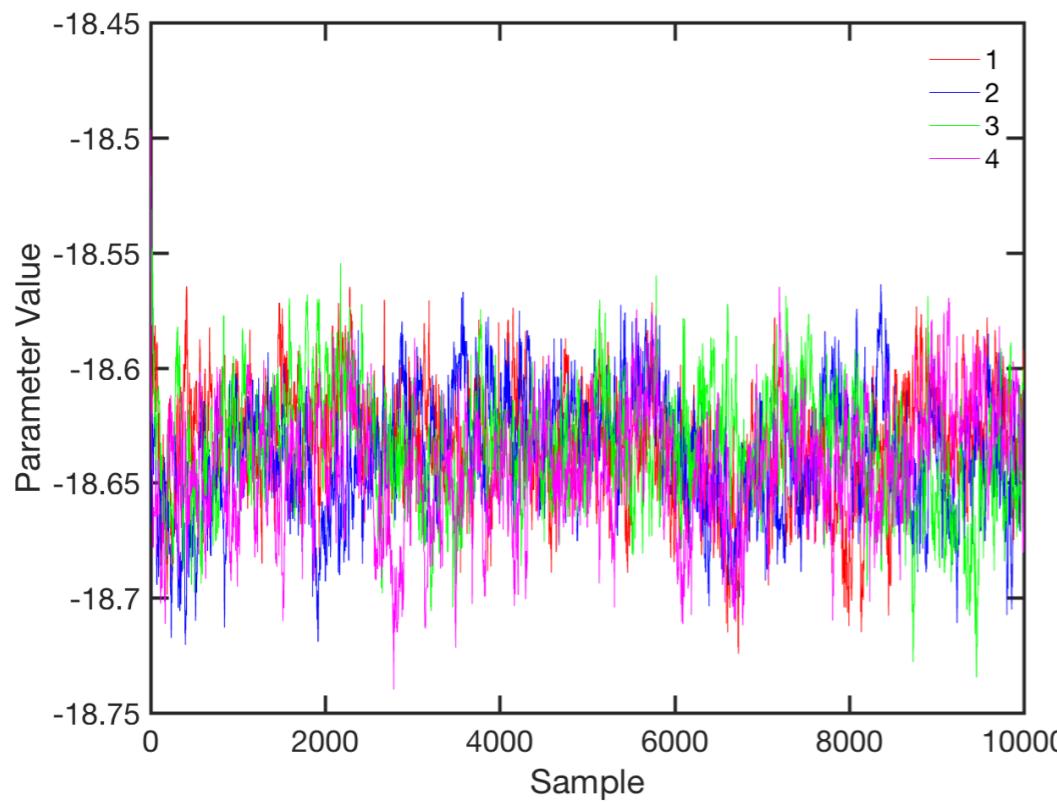


Metropolis-within-Gibbs: 2D trace plot  
10,000 steps, 2 chain: Not well mixed!



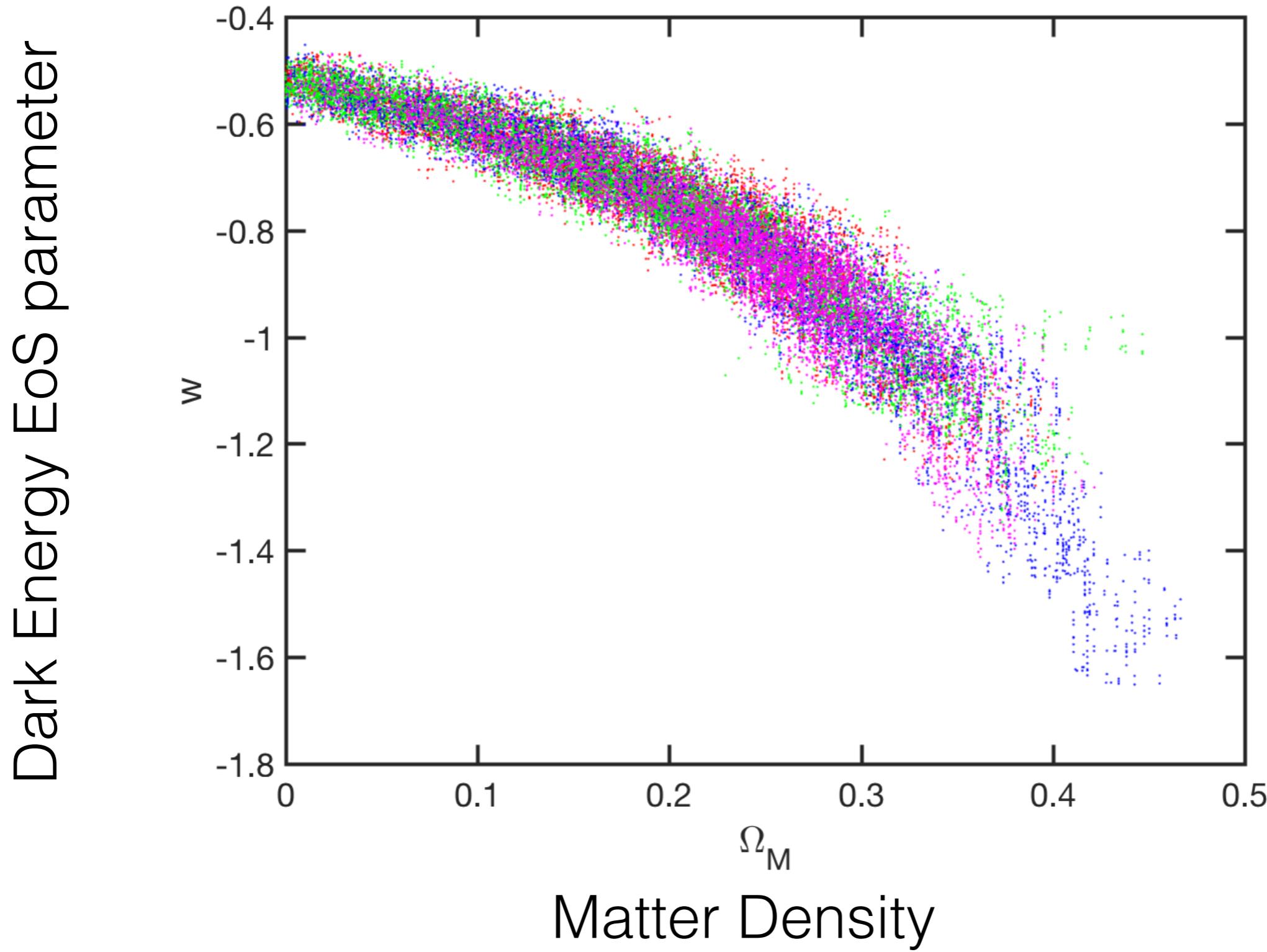
# Corrected MwG: Trace paths 10k cycles, 4 chains

## Still pretty bad (especially w)!



# Metropolis-within-Gibbs: 2D trace plot

## 10,000 steps, 4 chain



# Highly correlated parameters

```
>> std(mc)
```

```
ans =
```

```
0.0249    0.0061    0.0953    0.1742
```

```
>> corr(mc)
```

```
|
```

```
ans =
```

```
1.0000   -0.0132   -0.4534   0.6653
-0.0132   1.0000    0.0290  -0.0282
-0.4534    0.0290   1.0000  -0.9337
 0.6653   -0.0282  -0.9337   1.0000
```

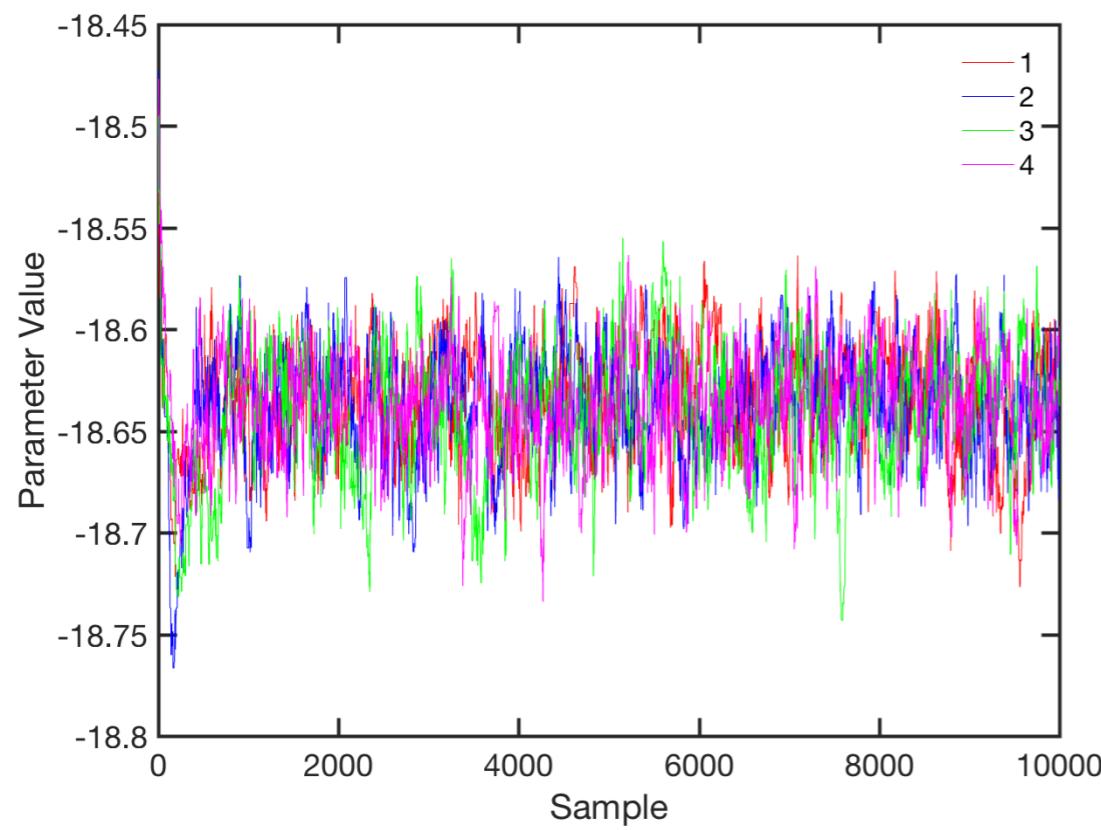


But can use as a correlated proposal distribution in  
4D Metropolis! (show code, why better?)

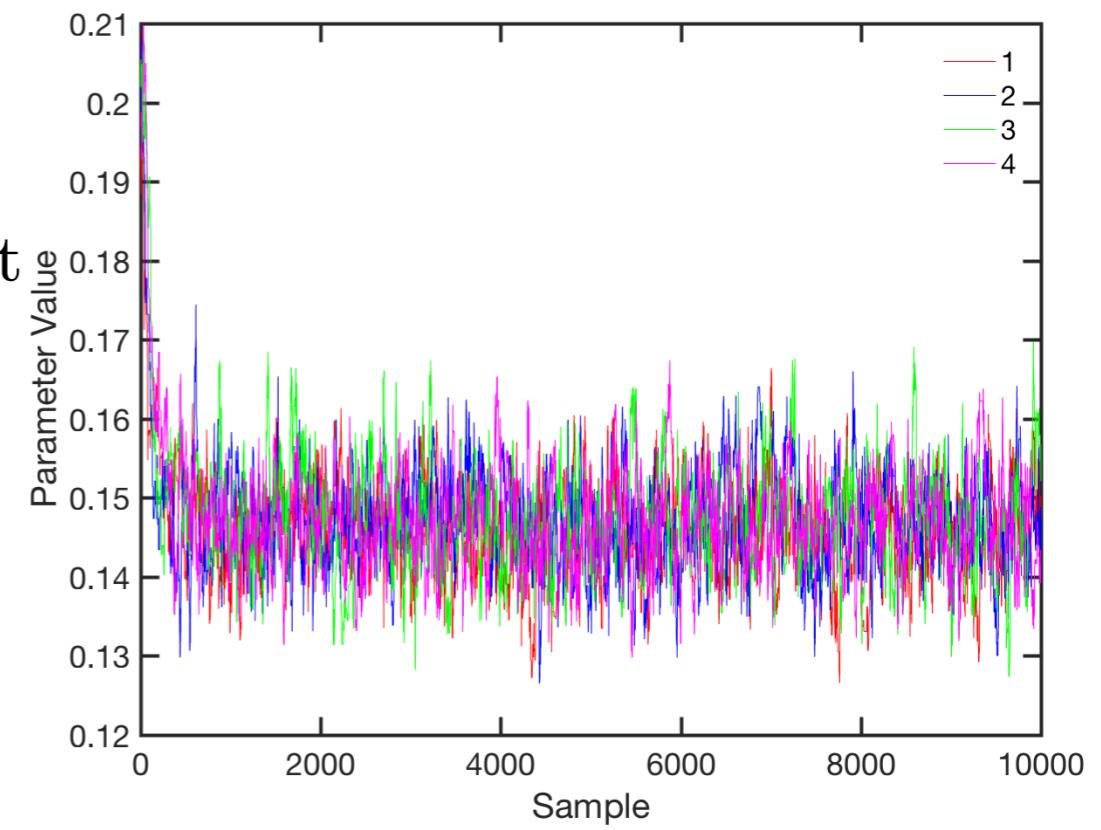
# 4D Metropolis: Trace paths 10k cycles, 4 chains

## Better!

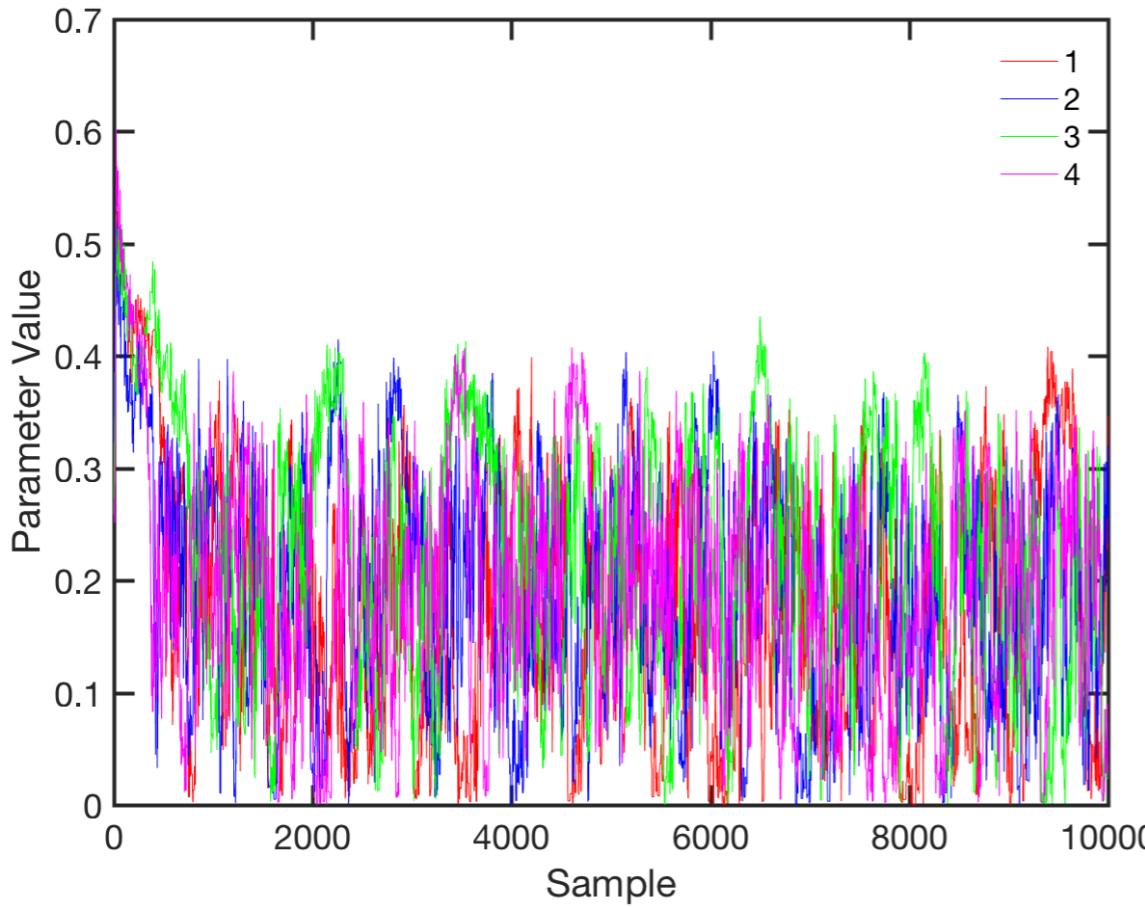
$\mathcal{M}_0$



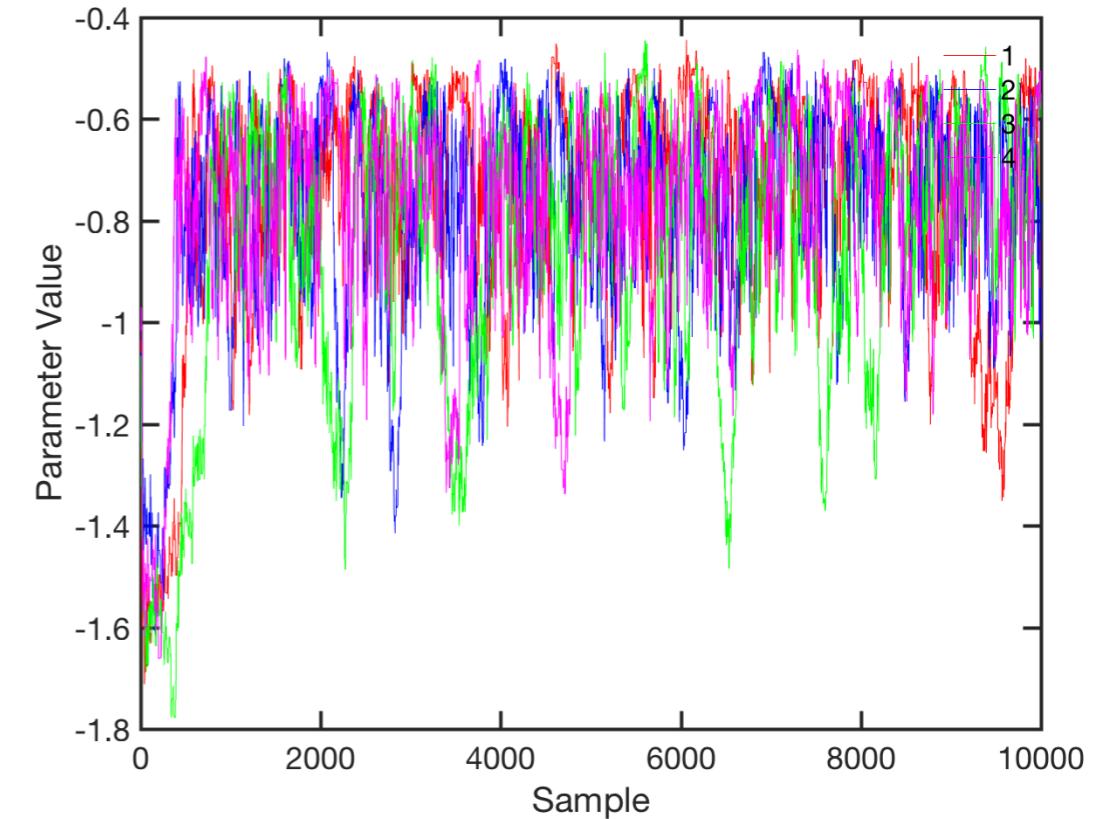
$\sigma_{\text{int}}$



$\Omega_M$



$w$



# Autocorrelation function

For each scalar parameter  $\theta$

$$\hat{\rho}_t = C_t / C_0 \quad \text{Sample Autocorrelation}$$

$$C_t = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-t} (\theta_i - \bar{\theta})(\theta_{i+t} - \bar{\theta})$$

$C_0$  = Sample Variance of  $\theta$

$$\tau = 1 + 2 \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \rho_t \quad \text{Autocorrelation time}$$

# Effective Sample Size

$$\hat{\tau} = 1 + 2 \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\rho}_t \quad \text{Estimated Autocorr time}$$

Truncate at  $T$  lags, so that  $\hat{\rho}_T \approx 0.1$

Effective number of independent samples

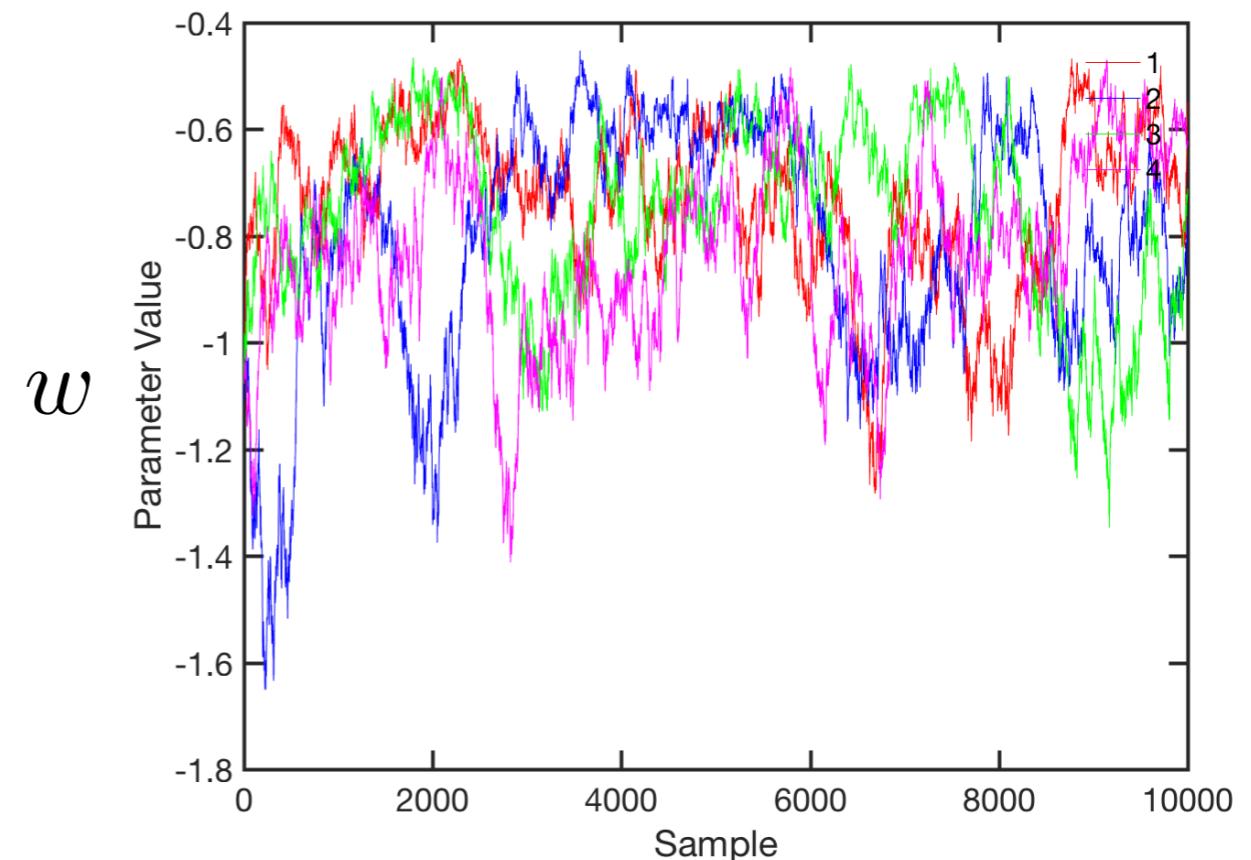
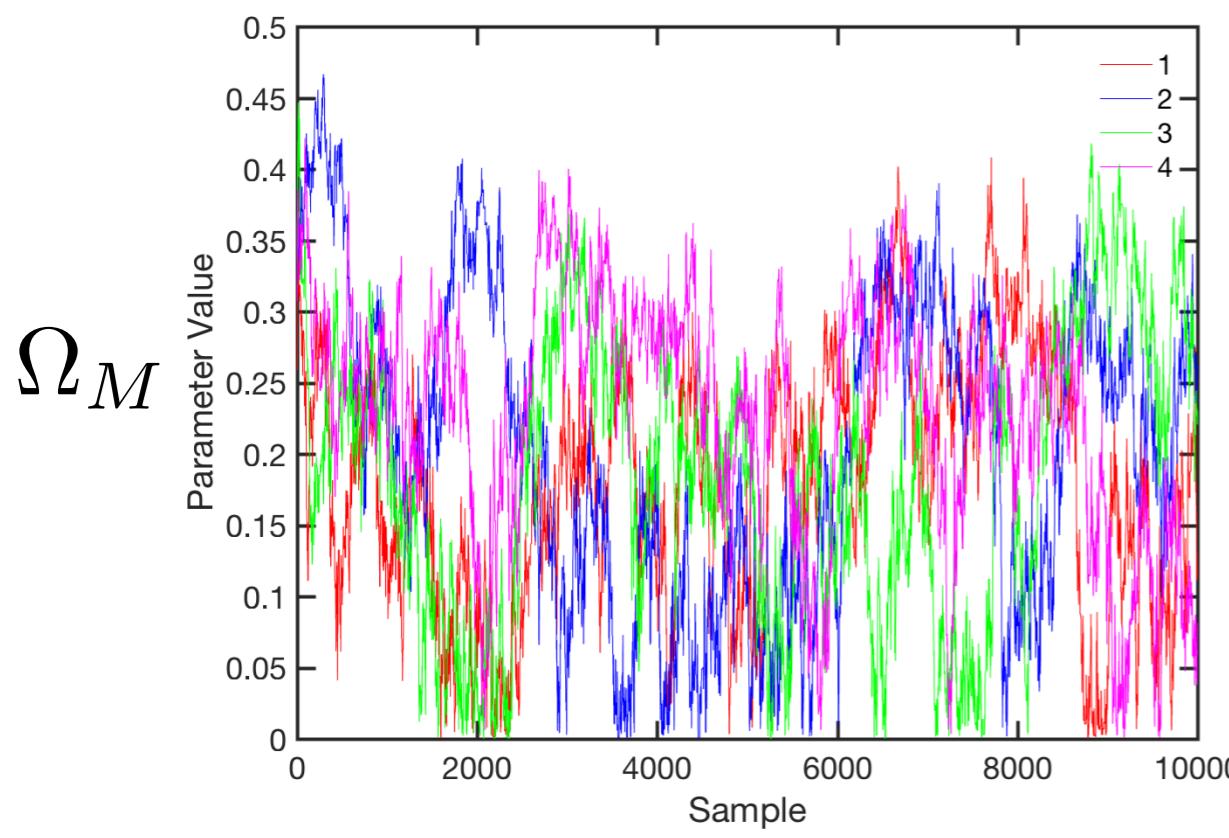
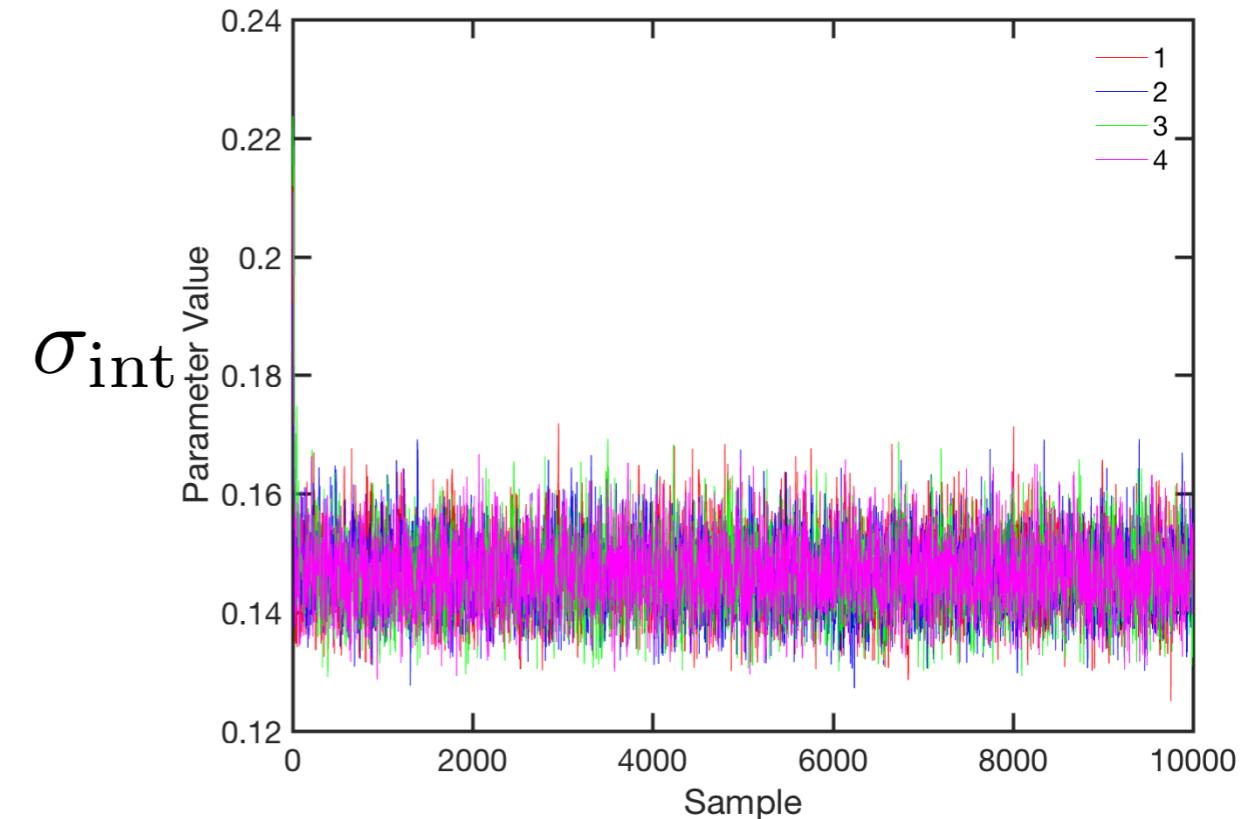
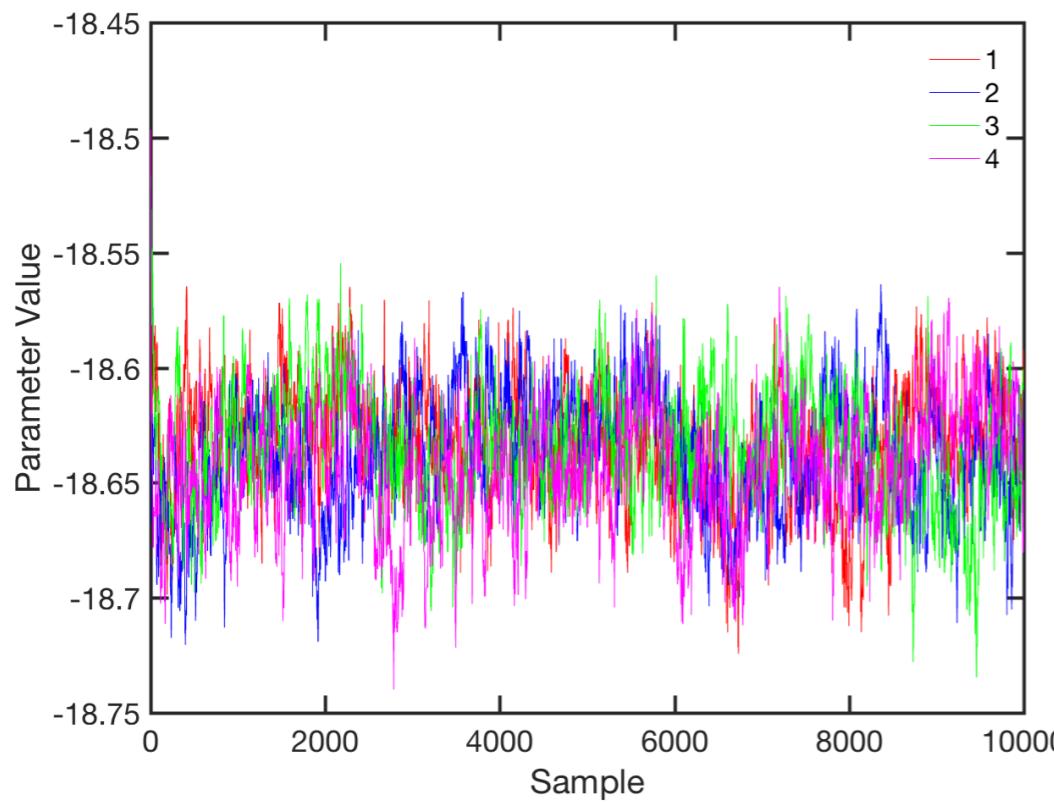
$$N_{\text{eff}} = N/\hat{\tau}$$

Can be computed for a single chain  
(see Gelman BDA 3rd for multi-chain generalisation)

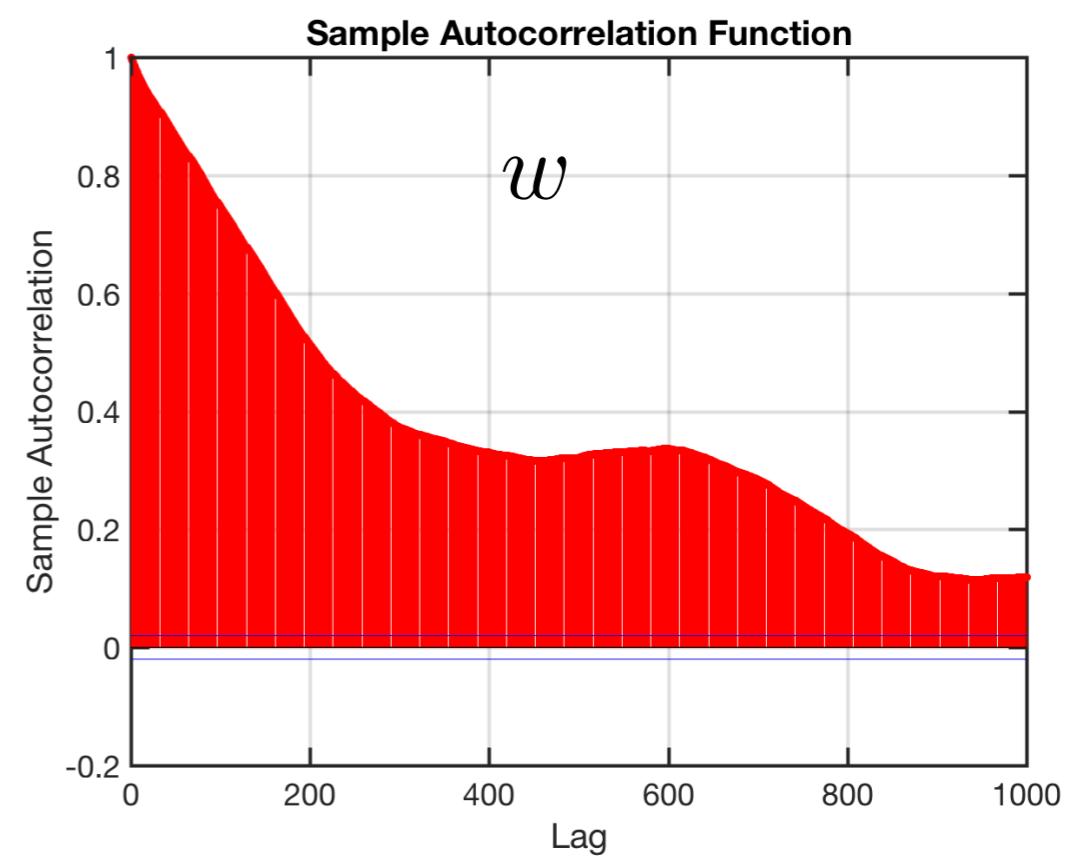
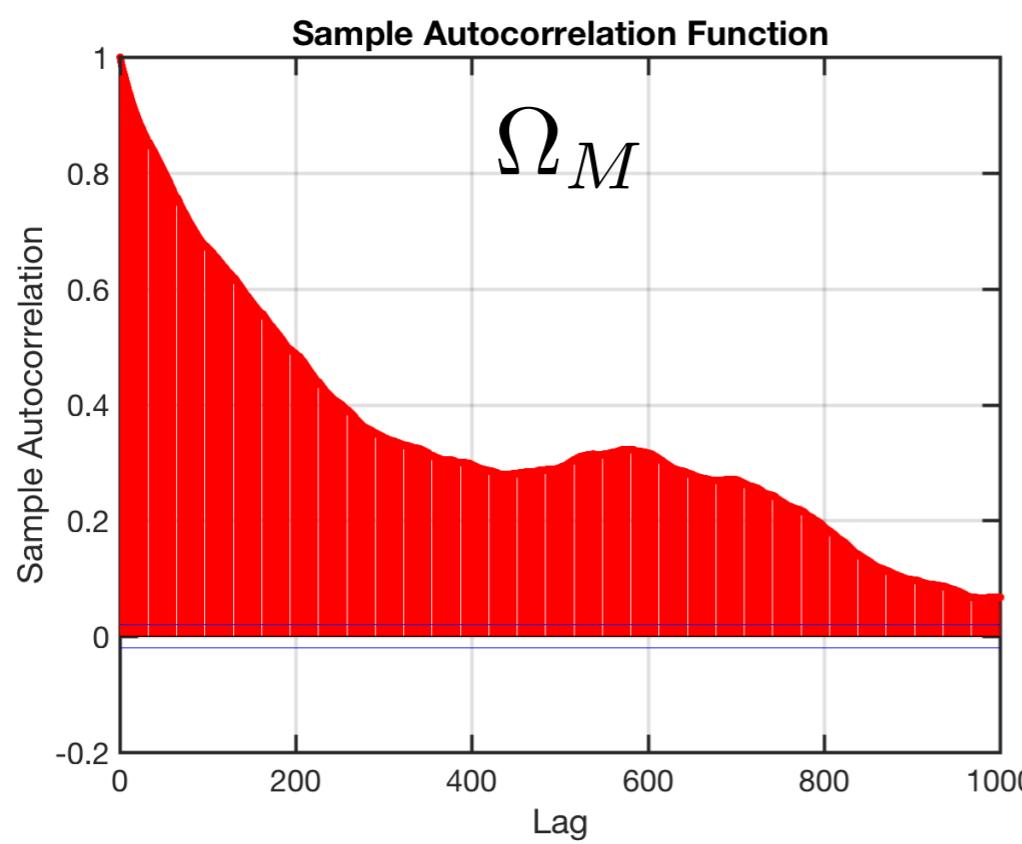
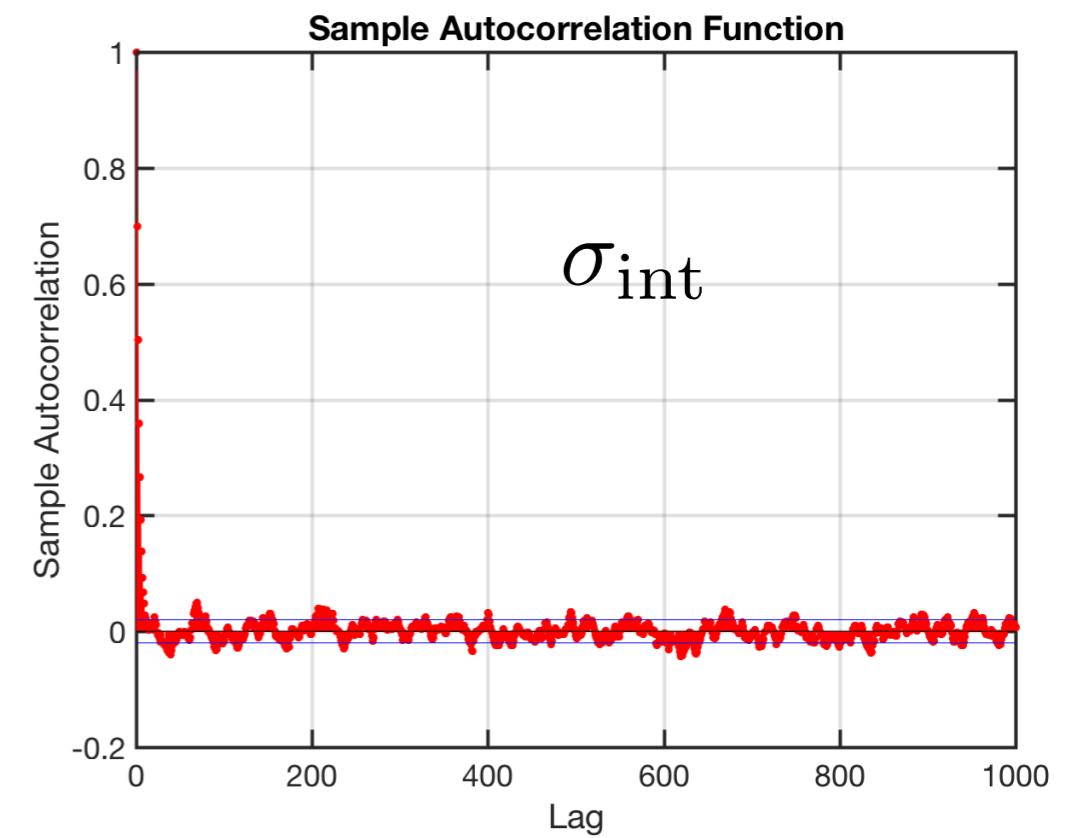
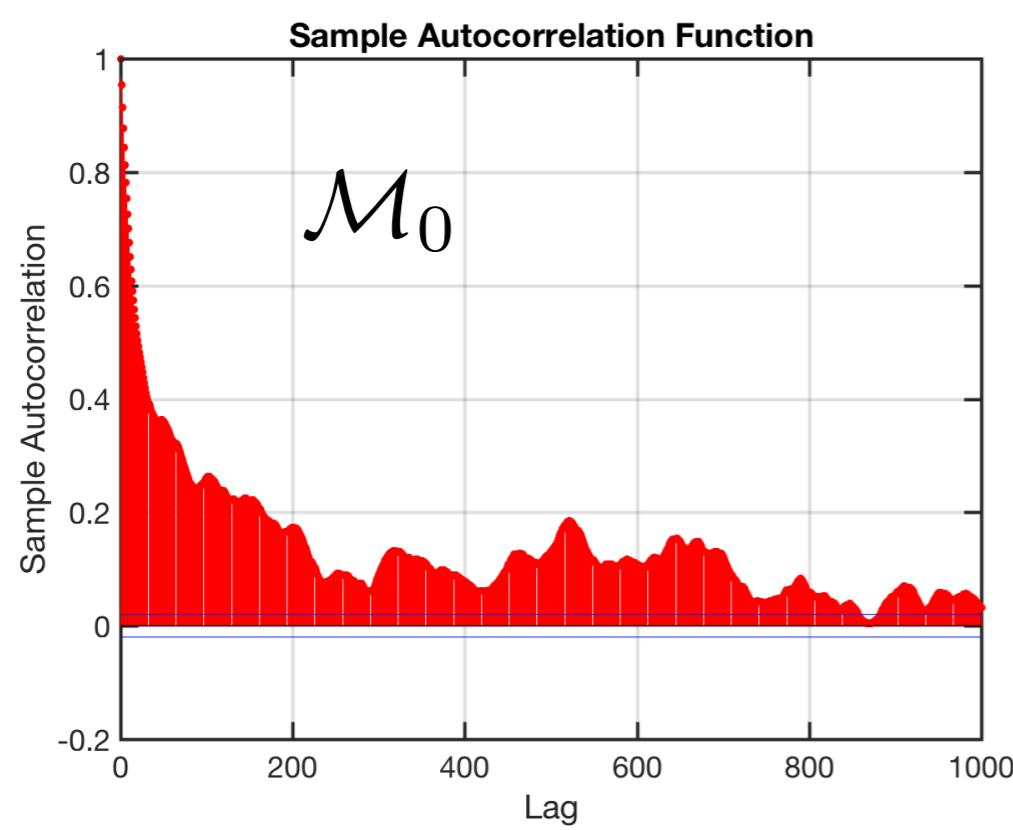
Slowest parameter is the limiting one!

# Corrected MwG: Trace paths 10k cycles, 4 chains

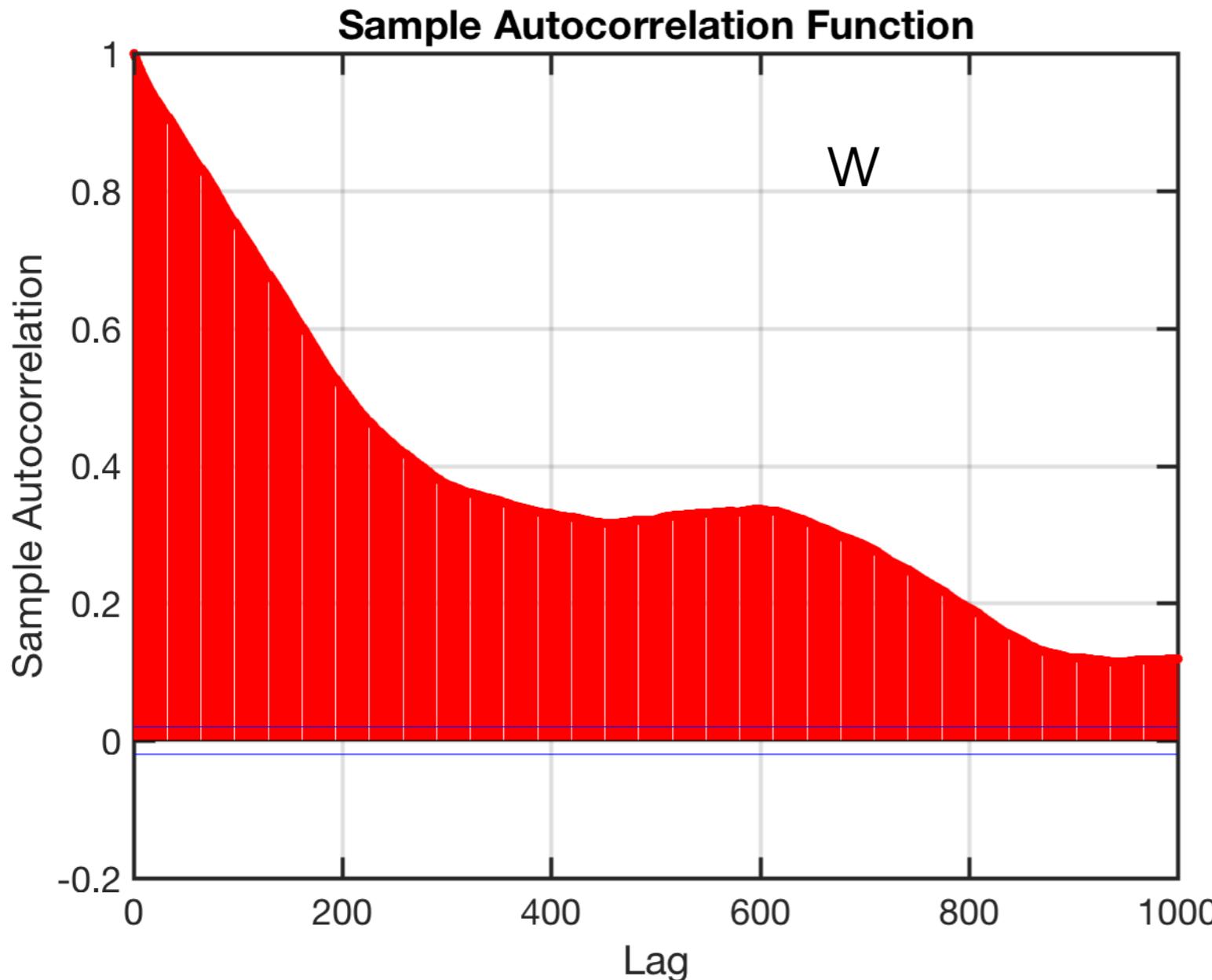
## Still pretty bad (especially w)!



# Corrected MwG: Autocorr over 1000 lags



# Metrop-w/in-Gibbs: autocorrelation fcn of w (slowest mixing parameter)



$$\hat{\tau} = 1 + 2 \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\rho}_t$$

$$\hat{\tau} = 751 \text{ cycles}$$

(single chain)

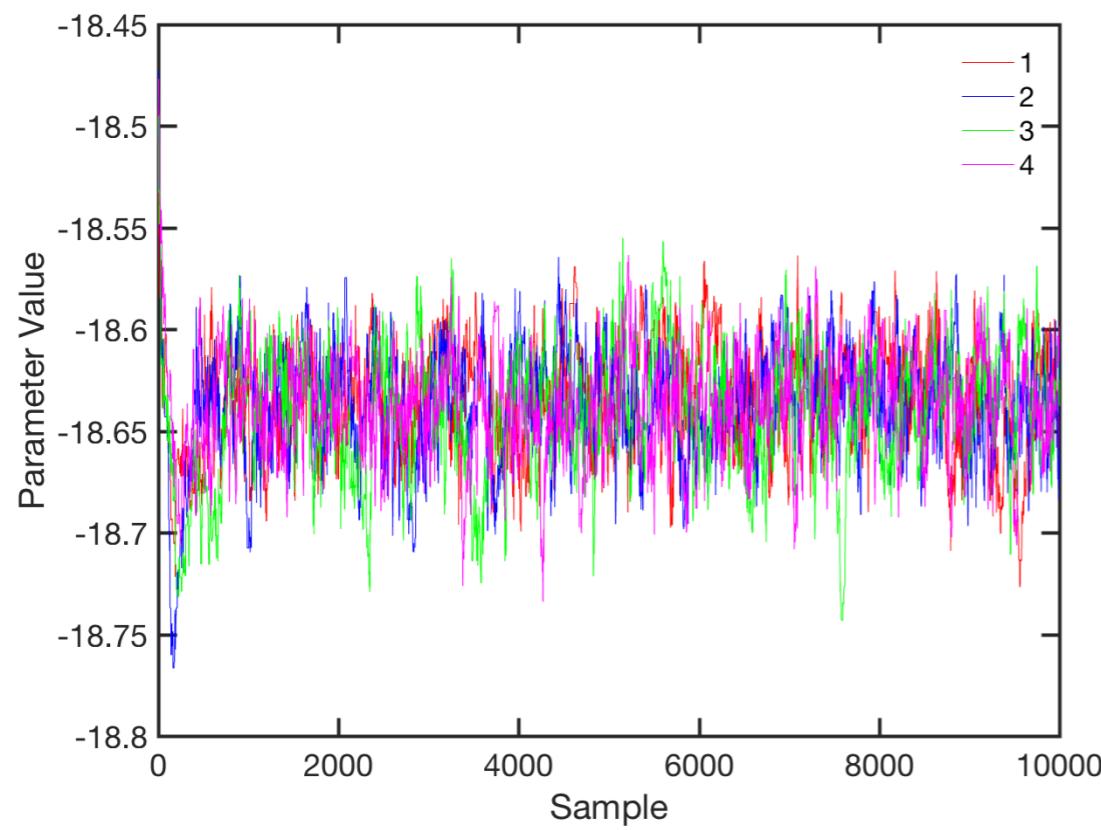
$$N_{\text{eff}} = 10,000 / 751 = 13 \text{ indep. samples}$$

$$\text{Rate} = 552 \text{ sec} / 13 = 42.5 \text{ sec per independent sample}$$

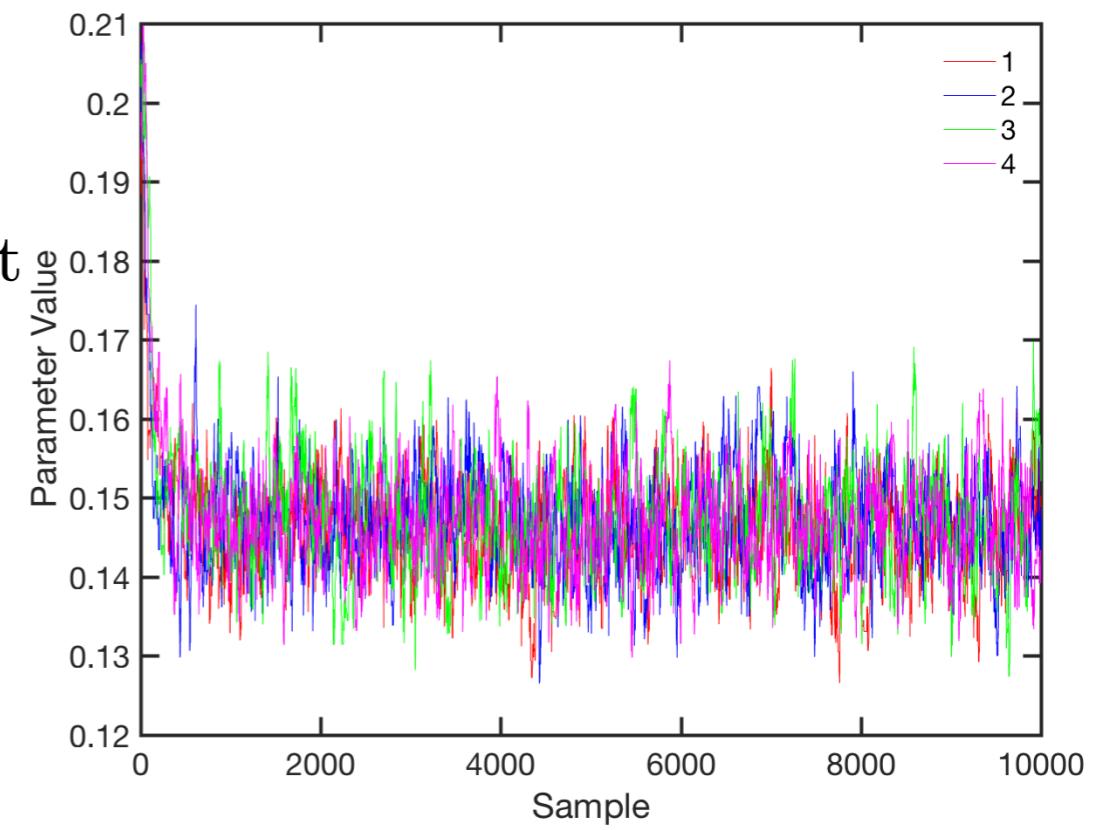
# 4D Metropolis: Trace paths 10k cycles, 4 chains

## Better!

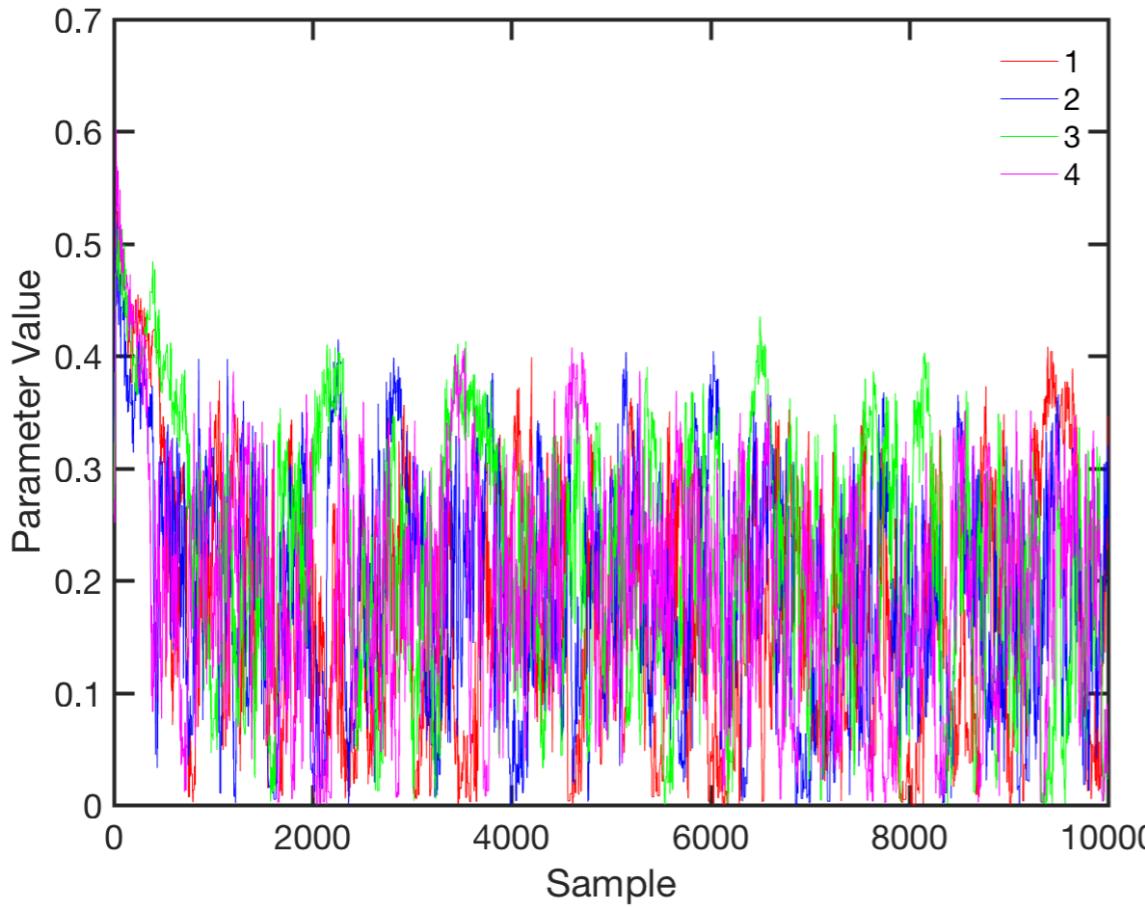
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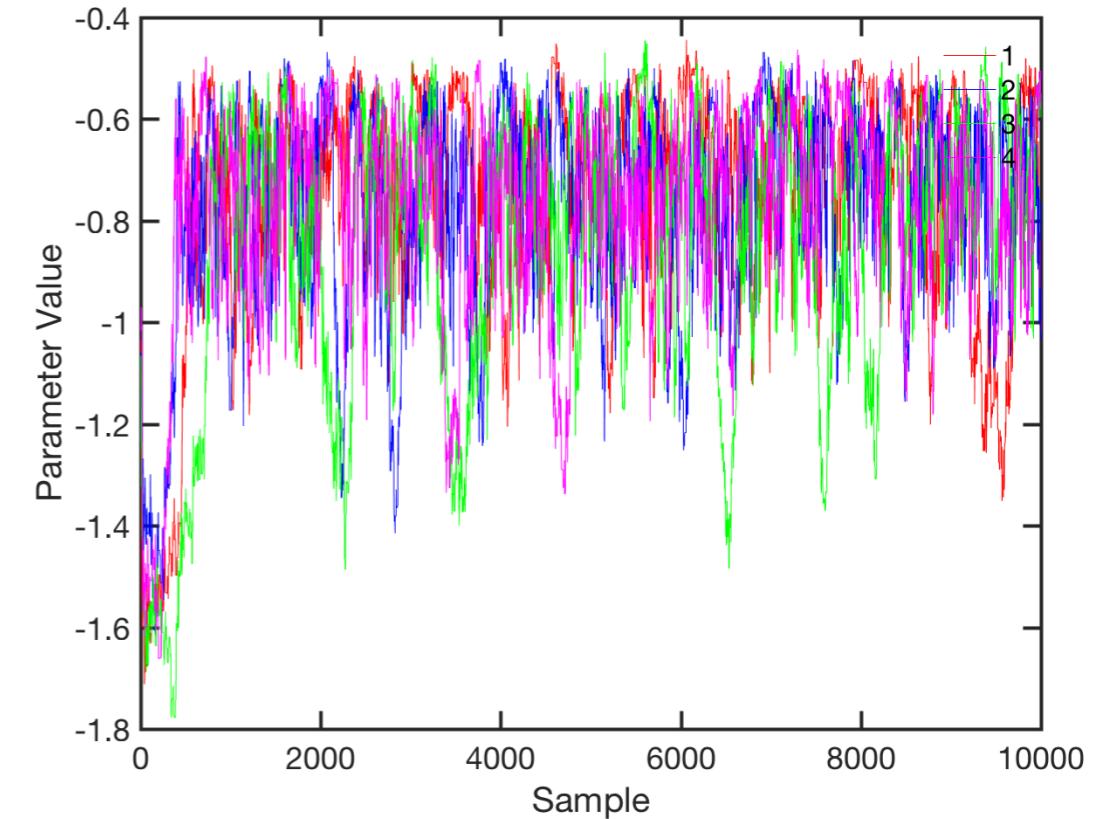
$\sigma_{\text{int}}$



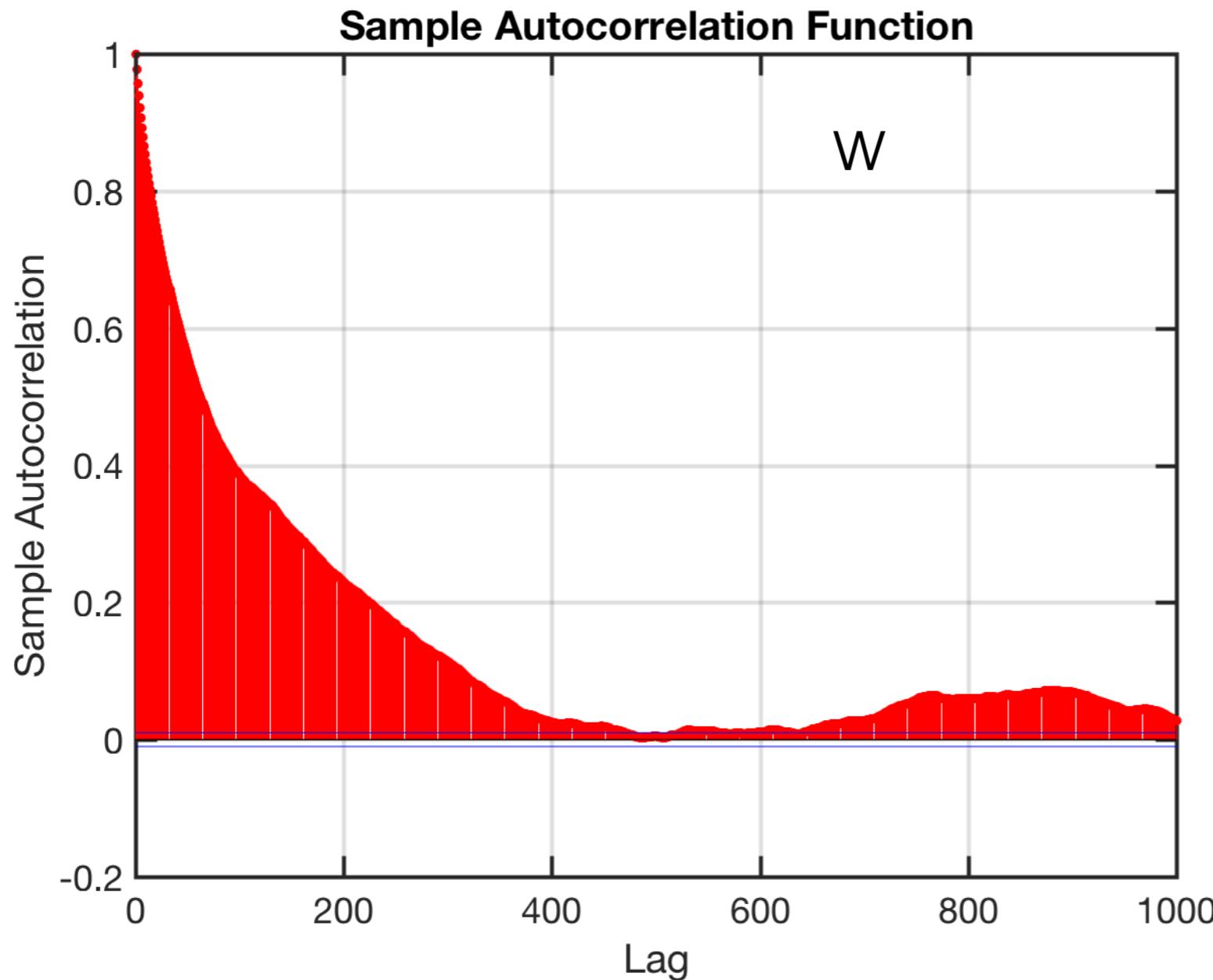
$\Omega_M$



$w$



# 4D Metropolis: autocorrelation fcn of w (slowest mixing parameter)



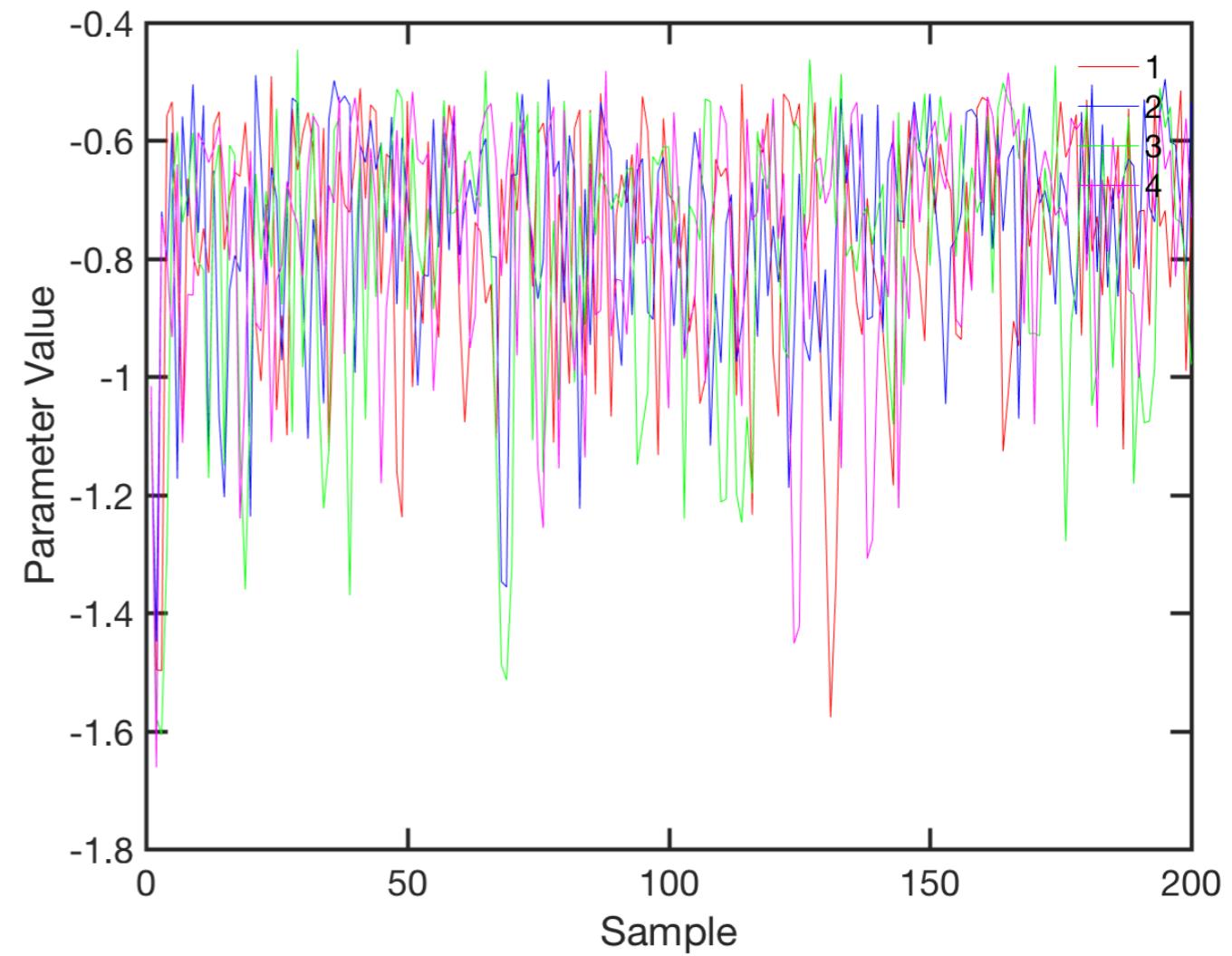
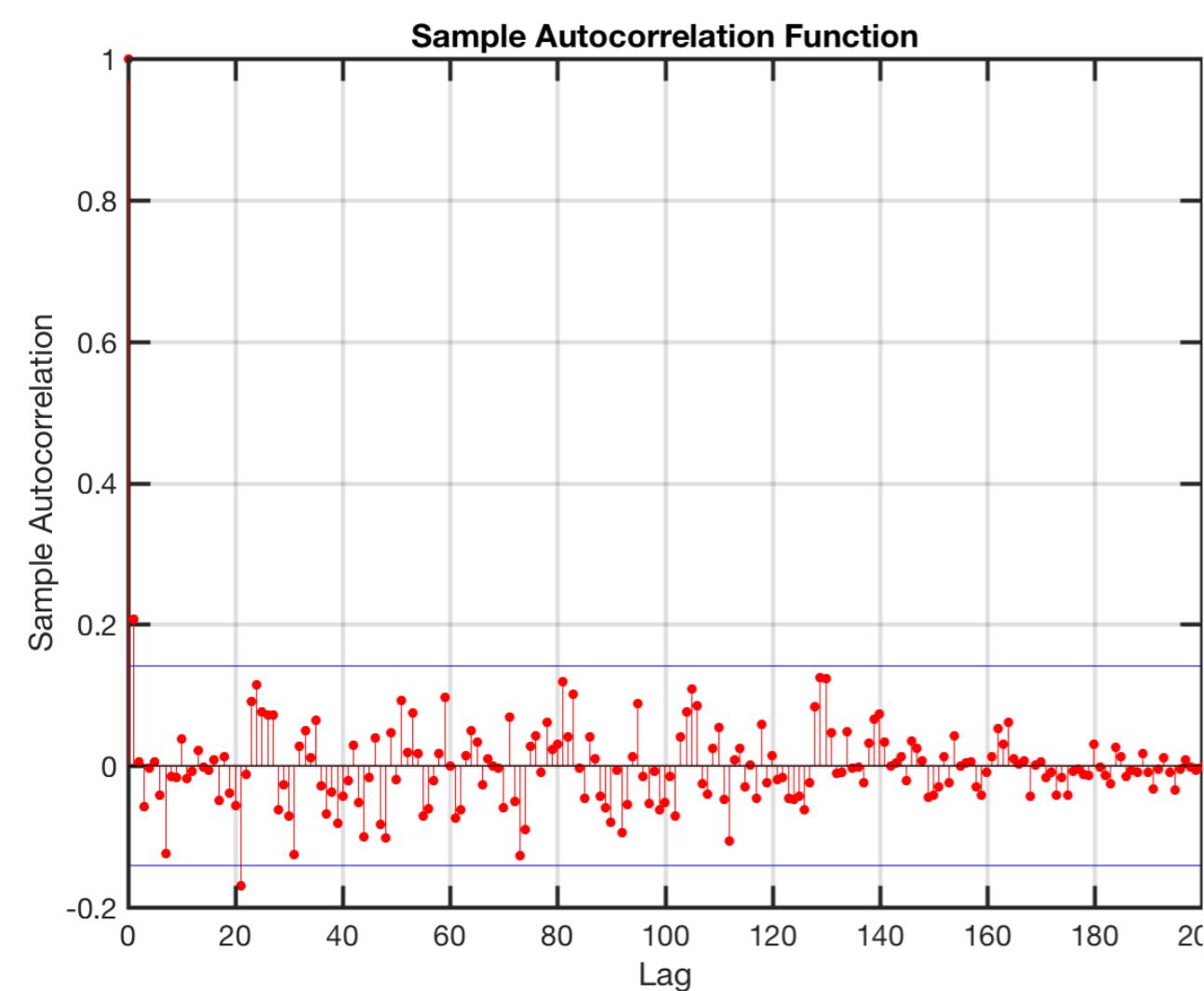
$$\hat{\tau} = 1 + 2 \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\rho}_t$$

$\hat{\tau} = 215$  iterations  
(single chain)

$N_{\text{eff}} = 10,000/215 = 46$  indep. samples

Rate = 140 sec / 46 = 3.0 sec per independent sample  
14x faster than MwG!

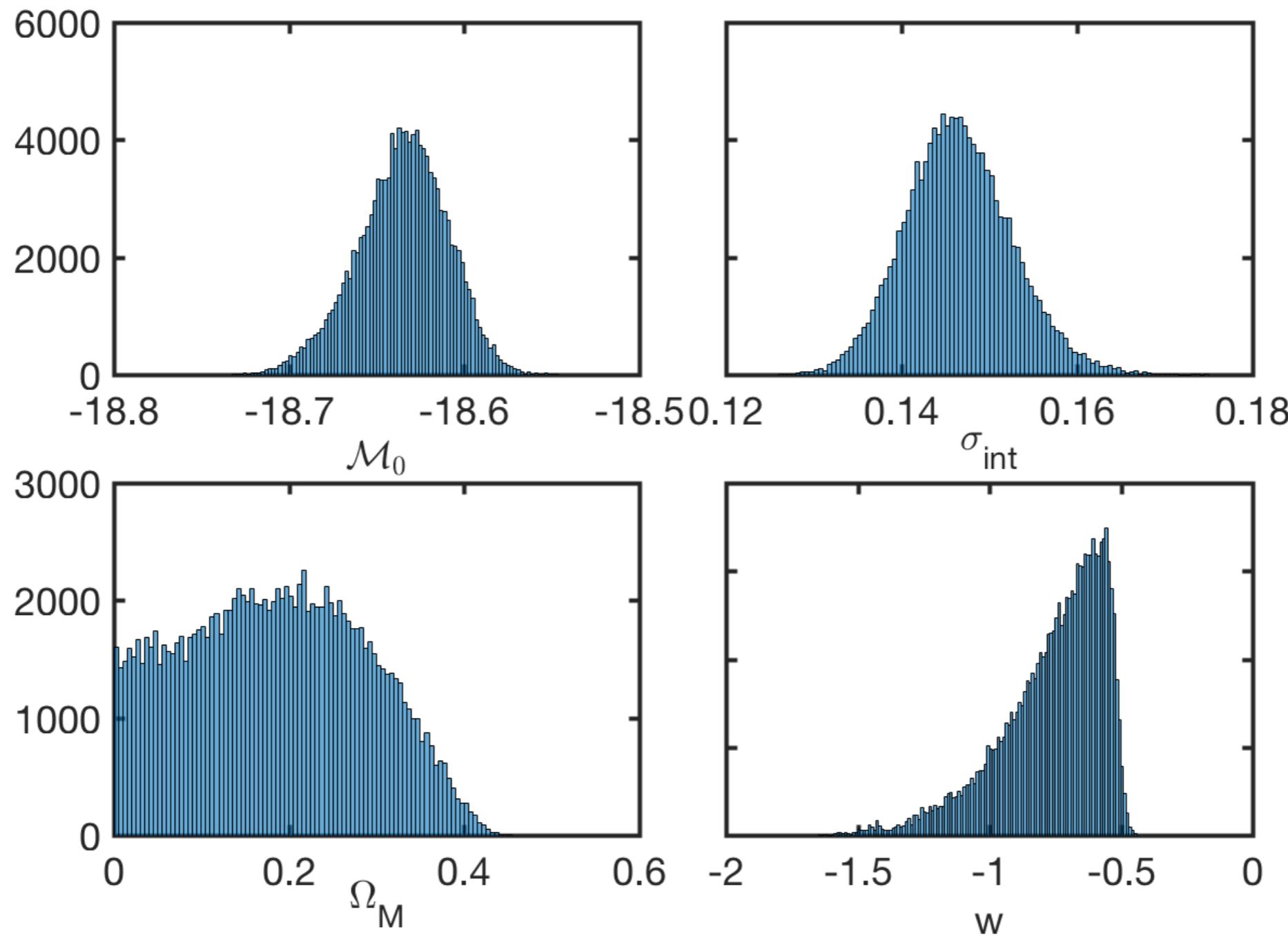
# 4D Metropolis: autocorrelation fcn of w after thinning by 200



W

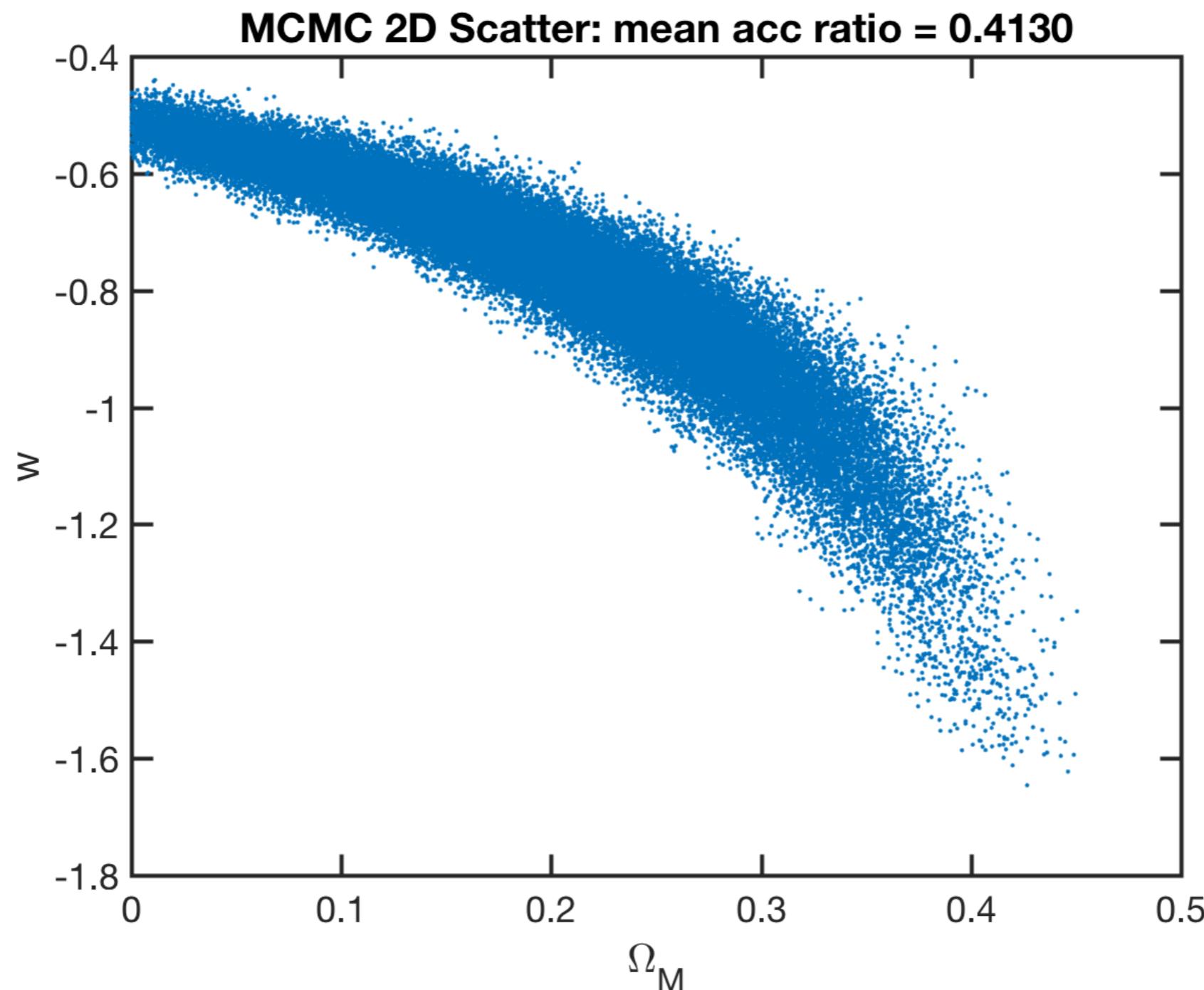
# 4D Metropolis run with 4x10k chains

## Marginal Posterior Histograms



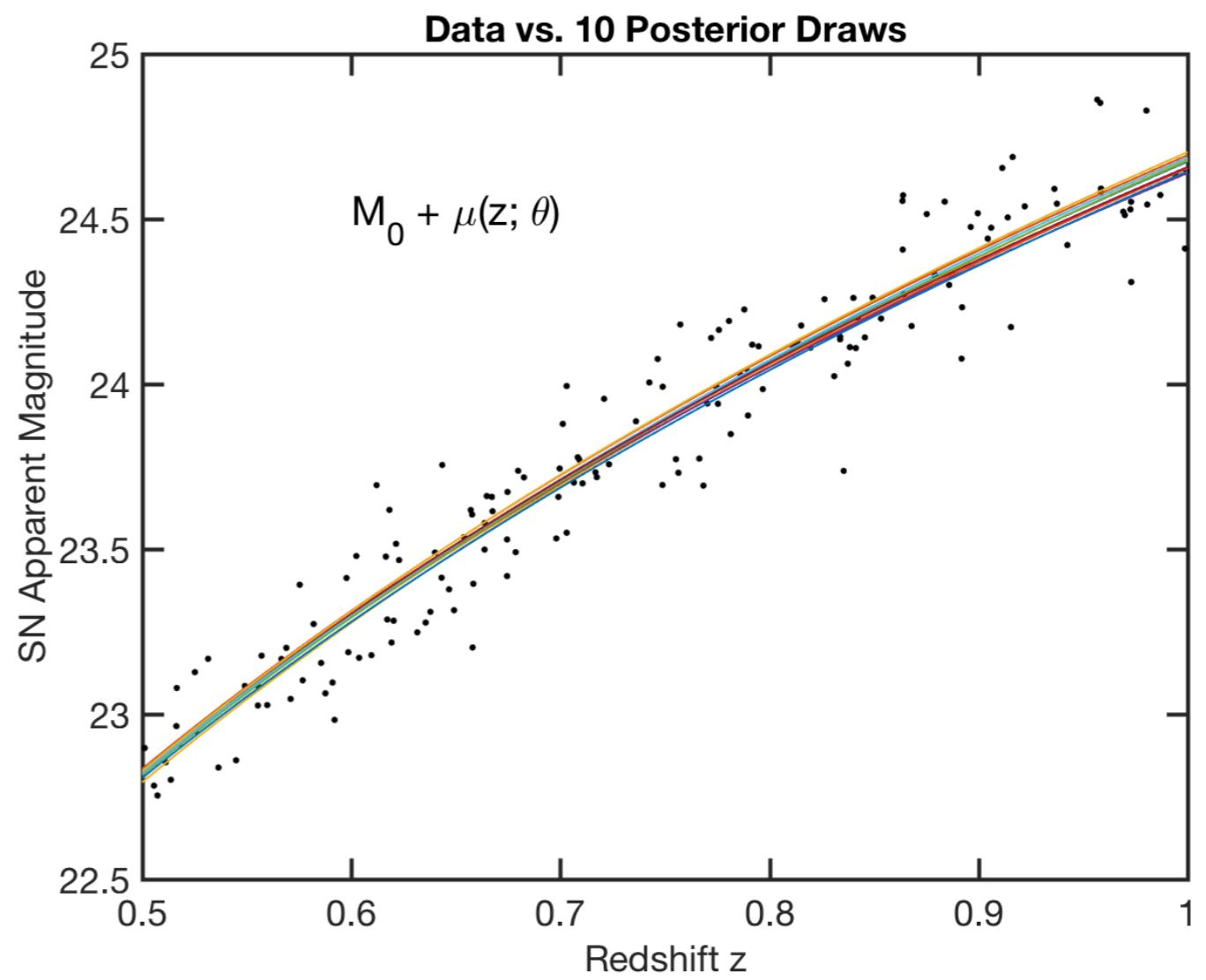
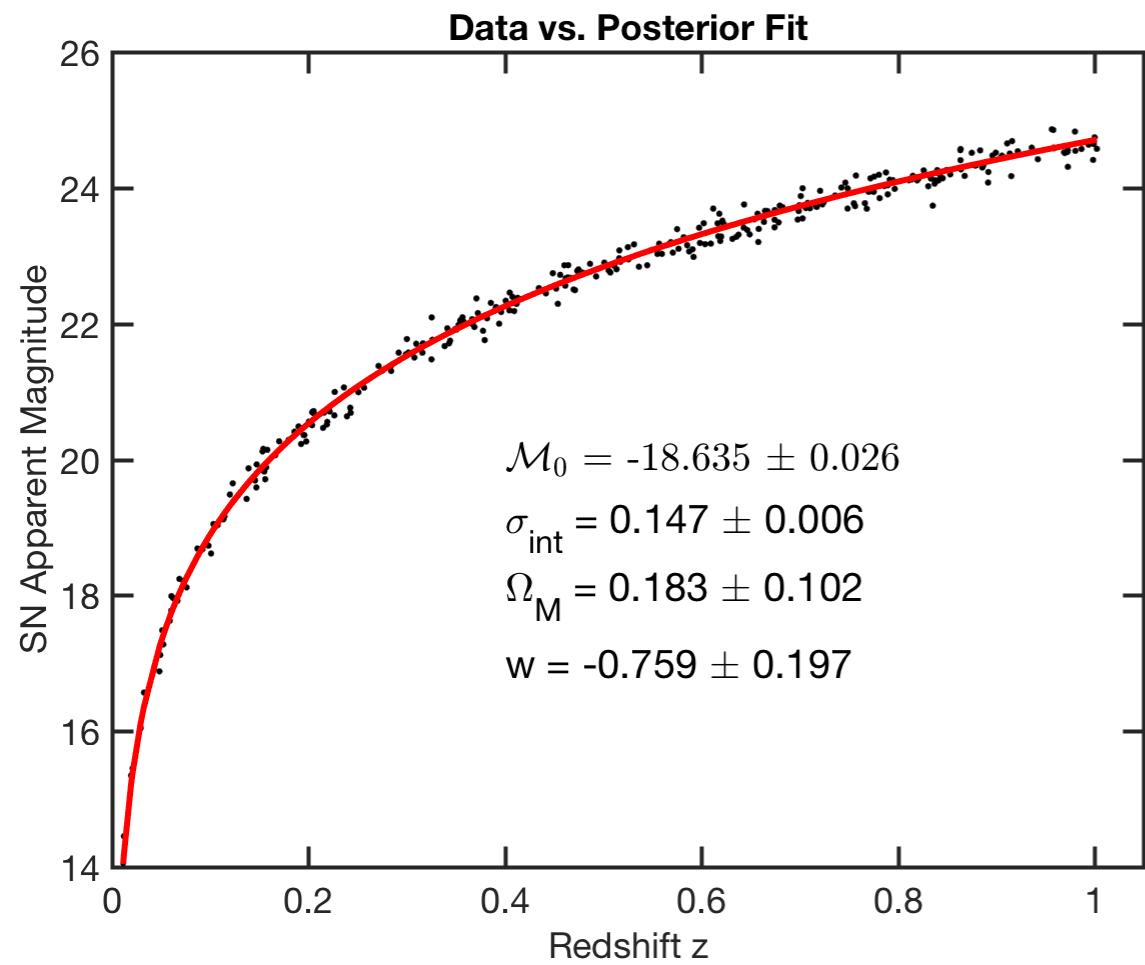
# 4D Metropolis run with 4x10k chains

Dark Energy EoS parameter



Matter Density

# 4D Metropolis run with 4x10k chains



# MCMC Animations

- The Markov-chain Monte Carlo Interactive Gallery
- <http://chi-feng.github.io/mcmc-demo/>

Review: Metropolis-Hastings Algorithm:

More General Jumping Rule:  $J(\theta^* | \theta_i)$

[Need not be symmetric:  $J(\theta_a | \theta_b) \neq J(\theta_b | \theta_a)$  ]

1. Choose a random starting point  $\theta_0$
2. At step  $i = 1 \dots N$ , propose a new parameter value:  $\theta^* \sim J(\theta^* | \theta_{i-1})$
3. Evaluate M-H ratio of posteriors at proposed vs current values.  
 $r = [P(\theta^* | \mathbf{y}) / J(\theta^* | \theta_{i-1})] / [P(\theta_{i-1} | \mathbf{y}) / J(\theta_{i-1} | \theta^*)]$
4. Accept  $\theta^*$  with probability  $\min(r, 1)$ :  $\theta_i = \theta^*$ . If not accept, stay at same value  $\theta_i = \theta_{i-1}$  & include in chain.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 until reach some measure of convergence and gather enough samples to compute your inference

Review: Metropolis-Hastings Algorithm:

More General Jumping Rule:  $J(\theta^* | \theta_i)$

[Need not be symmetric:  $J(\theta_a | \theta_b) \neq J(\theta_b | \theta_a)$  ]

- d-dim Metropolis is just a special case, where  
 $J(\theta^* | \theta_i) = N(\theta^* | \theta_i, \Sigma_p) = N(\theta_i | \theta^*, \Sigma_p) = J(\theta_i | \theta^*)$   
is a symmetric proposal distribution
- More general asymmetric proposals, allow “biased”  
proposals —> more probable to propose towards a  
certain direction
- With some knowledge of structure of the posterior, can  
sometimes engineer a clever proposal  $J(\theta^* | \theta_i)$

# Gibbs sampling as special case of Metropolis-Hastings

# Mix-n-Match Metropolis/Gibbs

# A sketch of MCMC theory