

# Multilevel Interacting Particle Methods for Bayesian Inversion

Toon Ingelaere, A. Bouillon, G. Samaey



# Single-Ensemble Multilevel Monte Carlo for Interacting-Particle Methods

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**In a Nutshell**

**Application** Bayesian inverse problems, optimization and filtering

**Goal** Increase computational efficiency of interacting-particle methods

**Method** Multilevel Monte Carlo parameter estimation at every timestep

**Result** Improved asymptotic cost-to-error rate

**Interacting-Particle Methods**

An IPM uses an ensemble of particles  $\mathbf{u}_n = \{u_n^j\}_{j=1}^N$

Artificial dynamics drive this ensemble to cluster around parameter values of interest, in parameter space.

**Three key ingredients**

1. Dynamics based on a forward model
2. Interaction via a sample statistic
3. Exploration through random noise

**IPM Example: Ensemble Kalman Inversion (EKI)**

**Goal** Recover  $u$  from noisy measurement of  $G(u)$

$y = G(u) + \eta$  where  $\eta \sim N(0, \Gamma)$

by identifying the maximum of the (often intractable) posterior distribution.

$p(u|y) \propto p(u)p(y|u)$

**Method**

This can be done using EKI dynamics.

$u_{n+1}^j = u_n^j + \tau C_n^{-1} (y - G(u_n^j) + \eta_n^j)$   
 $\eta_n^j \sim N(0, \tau^{-1} \Gamma)$

In general, the dynamics of a discrete-time interacting-particle method can be written as

$u_{n+1}^j = \Psi(u_n^j, G(u_n^j), \theta_j(\mathbf{u}_n), \eta_n^j)$   
 where  $\eta_n^j \sim N(0, I)$ .

**Applications of IPMs**

**Class 1** Discrete time, finite horizon

**Class 2** Discrete time, infinite horizon

**Class 3** Continuous time, finite horizon

	Filtering	Optimization	Sampling
<b>Class 1</b>	EnKF, DEnKF	-	-
<b>Class 2</b>	-	EKI, CBO	EKS, CBS
<b>Class 3</b>	EnKBF	-	EKI

**Intractable Forward Models**

Assume  $G(\cdot)$  cannot be evaluated exactly, but can be approximated by a hierarchy  $\{G^l\}_{l=0}^L$ .

For higher  $l$ , approximations get

1. more accurate
2. more expensive

**Example**

$G^0(\cdot)$  Evaluation of the analytic solution of an ODE

$G^L(\cdot)$  Evaluation of a numerical solution on a grid. Higher values of  $l$  correspond to finer grids.

**Single-level IPMs**

**Ideally**, people want to simulate  $\mathbf{u}_n = \{u_n^j\}_{j=1}^N$

$\hat{u}_{n+1}^j = \Psi(u_n^j, G^L(u_n^j), \theta_j(\mathbf{u}_n), \eta_n^j)$

**In practice**, they simulate  $\mathbf{u}_n = \{u_n^j\}_{j=1}^N$

$u_{n+1}^j = \Psi(u_n^j, G^L(u_n^j), \theta_j(\mathbf{u}_n), \eta_n^j)$

**Ideally**  $\infty$  particles  $\leftrightarrow$  Finite  $J$

**In practice** Exact  $G^L(\cdot)$   $\leftrightarrow$  Approximation  $G^L(\cdot)$

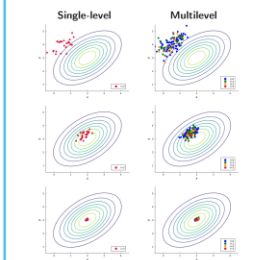
Knowledge of  $\theta(\mathbf{u}_n)$   $\leftrightarrow$  Estimate via  $\theta_j(\mathbf{u}_n)$

This is justified if  $J$  is large and if  $G^L(\cdot)$  is an accurate (expensive) approximation!

**High accuracy  $\Rightarrow$  High cost**

**Main Idea Visually**

Instead of using the same, expensive forward model for every particle, we can leverage the inherent trade-off between cost and accuracy in the approximation hierarchy  $\{G^l\}_{l=0}^L$  to achieve the same precision for a reduced total computational cost.



**Question** Can we still accurately estimate  $\theta(\mathbf{u}_n)$ ?

**Answer** Yes, by use of **multilevel Monte Carlo**

**Multilevel IPMs**

Particles are assigned a level  $l = 0, \dots, L$ . On every level, a number of correlated pairs of particles pairs are propagated using different forward model approximations.

$\mathbf{u}_n^{ML} = \{(u_n^{l,F}, u_n^{l,C})\}_{l=0}^L$

$\forall l \leq L \begin{cases} u_n^{l,F} = \Psi(u_n^{l-1,F}, G^l(u_n^{l-1,F}), \hat{\theta}^{ML}(\mathbf{u}_n^{ML}), \eta_n^{l,F}) \\ u_n^{l,C} = \Psi(u_n^{l-1,C}, G^{l-1}(u_n^{l-1,C}), \hat{\theta}^{ML}(\mathbf{u}_n^{ML}), \eta_n^{l,C}) \end{cases}$

where

$\hat{\theta}^{ML}(\mathbf{u}_n^{ML}) = \sum_{l=0}^L (\hat{\theta}_l(u_n^{l,F}) - \hat{\theta}_l(u_n^{l,C}))$

**Convergence Results**

**Darcy flow**

Darcy flow models fluid flow through a porous medium.

$q = -k \nabla p$

$q$  the volumetric flow rate

$k$  the permeability of the porous medium

$\nabla p$  the pressure gradient

**Goal**

Recover the permeability  $k$  over the domain, given measurements of the pressure field  $p$  (black dots).

**Comparison of methods**

We compare the cost-to-error rate of single-level and multilevel Ensemble Kalman Sampling (EKS) for characterization of the posterior distribution.

Asymptotically, the multilevel variant outperforms the single-level approach.

**Single-level**  $c \approx \epsilon^{-4}$   $\leftrightarrow$  **Multilevel**  $c \approx \epsilon^{-2} |\log \epsilon|^2$

**References**

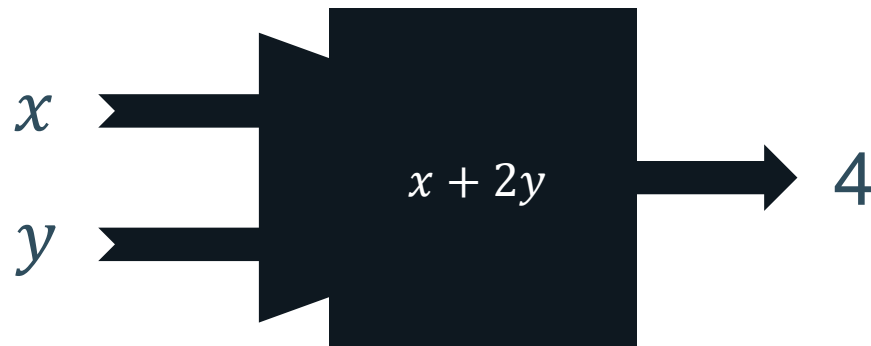
- [1] Bouillon, A., Ingelaere, T., & Samaey, G. (2023). Single-Ensemble Multilevel Monte Carlo for Interacting-Particle Methods. (In writing)
- [2] Hoel, H., Law, K. J., & Tempane, R. (2016). Multilevel ensemble Kalman filtering. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 54(3), 1813-1839.
- [3] Garbuno-Inigo, A., Hoffmann, F., Li, W., & Stuart, A. M. (2020). Interacting Langevin diffusions: Gradient structure and ensemble Kalman sampler. *SIAM Journal on Applied Dynamical Systems*, 19(1), 412-441.
- [4] Iglesias, M. A., Law, K. J., & Stuart, A. M. (2013). Ensemble Kalman methods for inverse problems. *Inverse Problems*, 29(4), 045001.



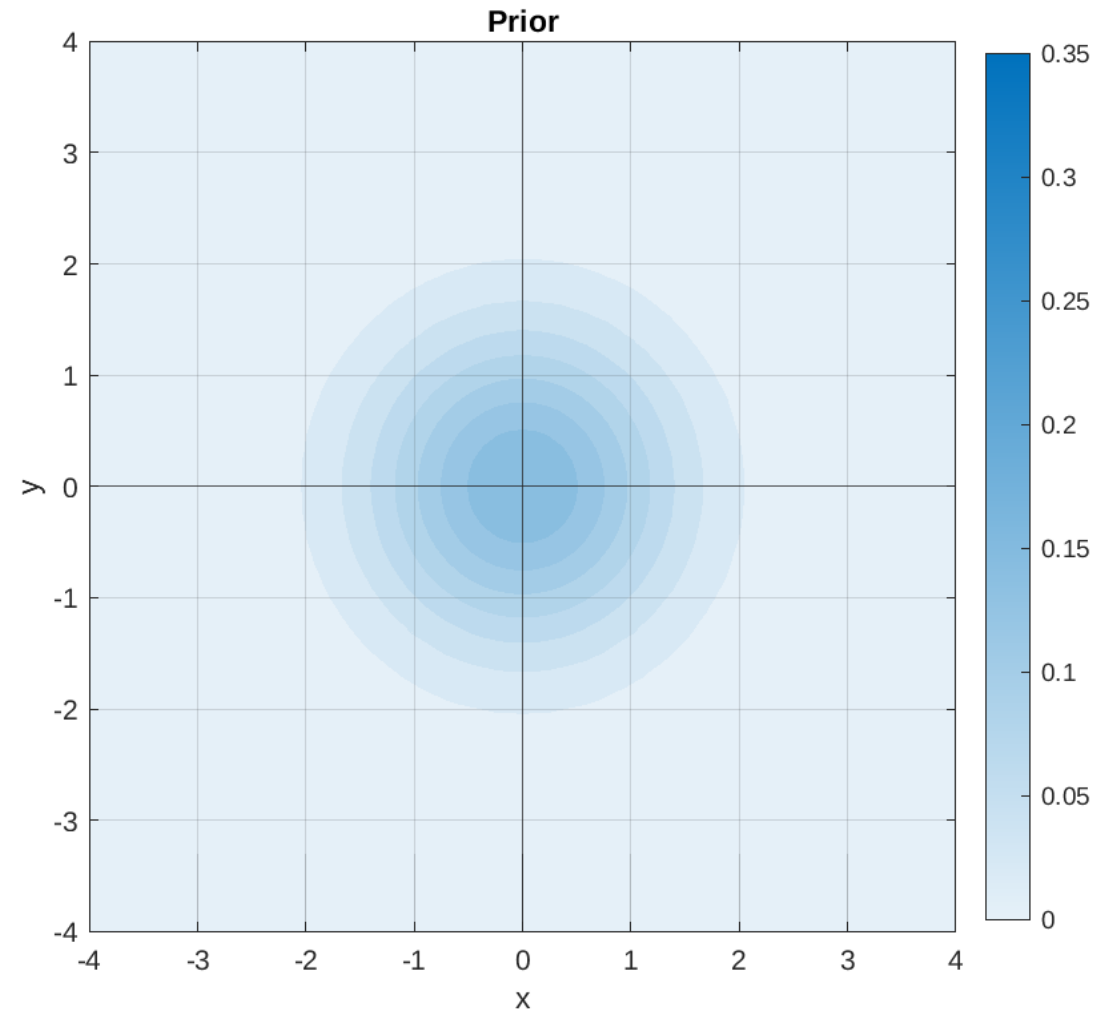
# Chapter 1: Inverse Problems

# Let's play a game

- I sample a point from a distribution.
- I feed it into *The Machine*.

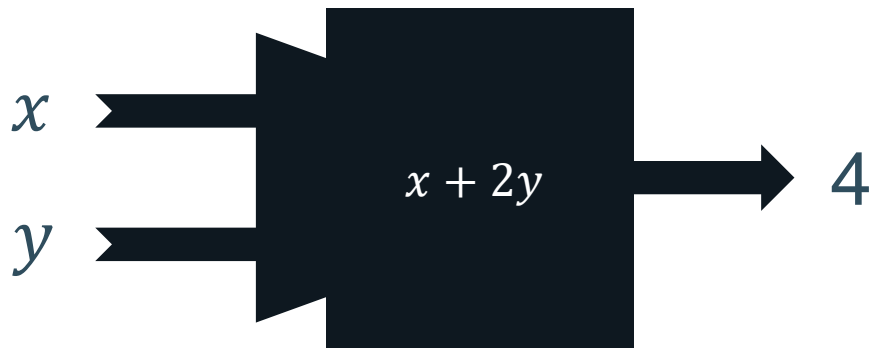


- The machine outputs\* 4.
- Which point did I start with?

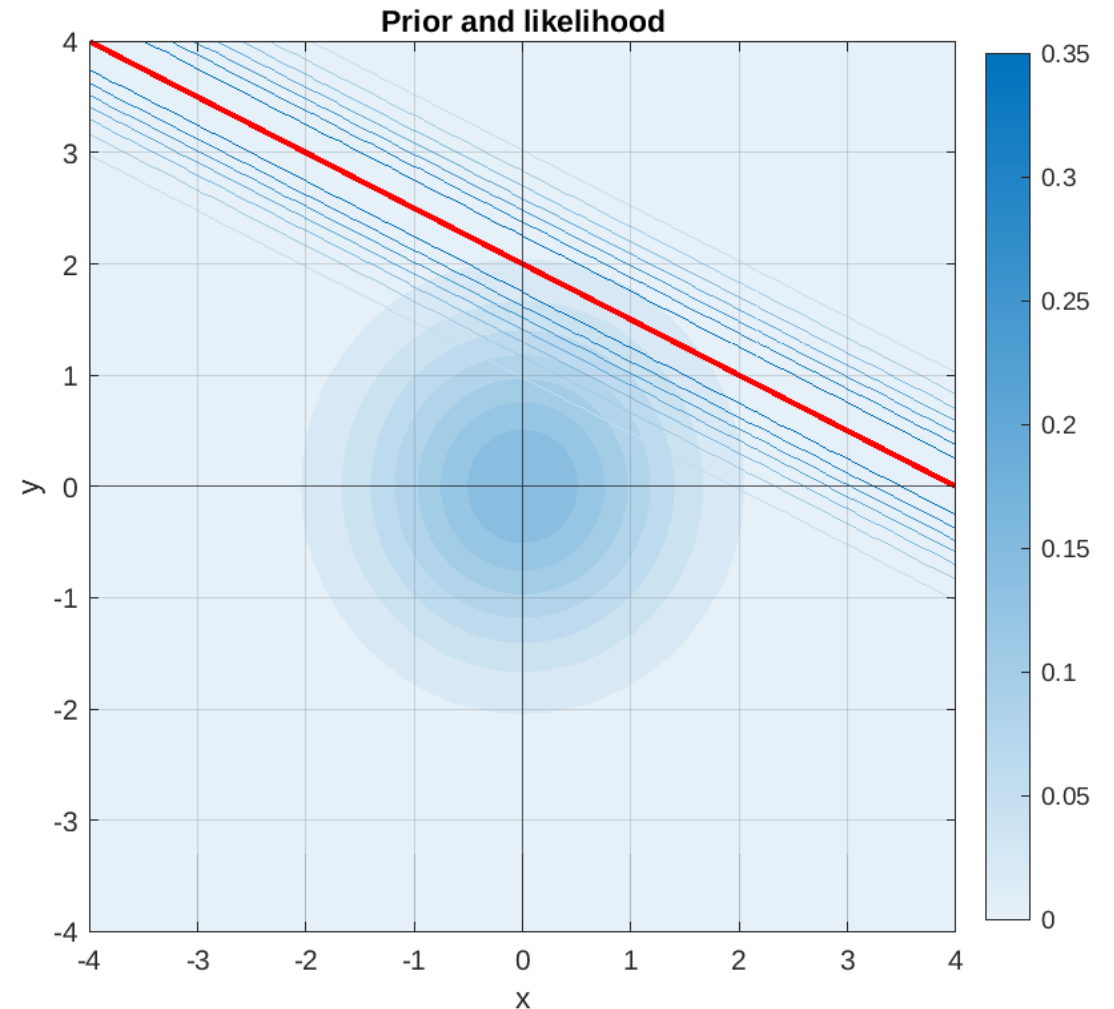


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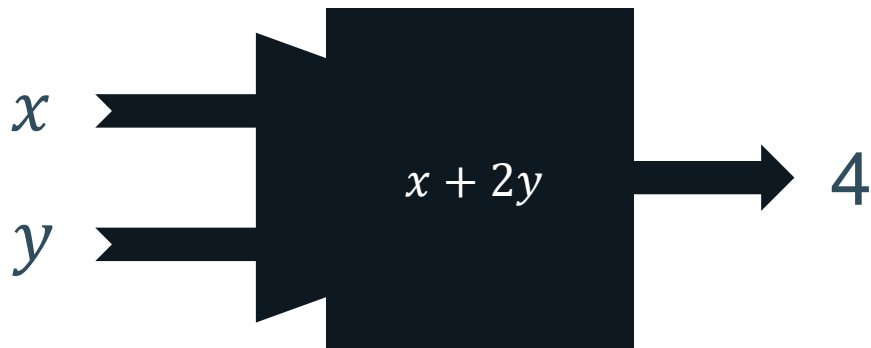


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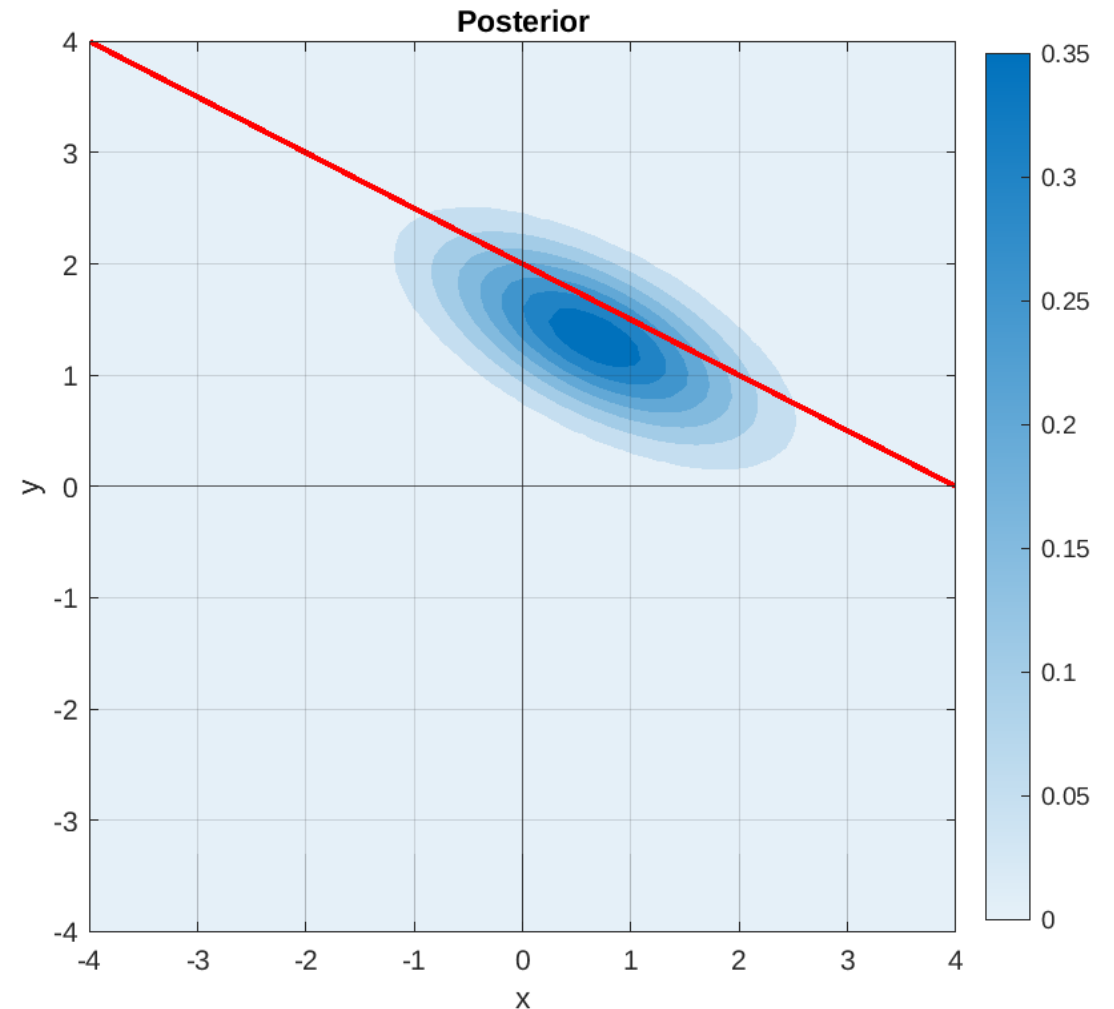


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- I sample a point from a distribution.
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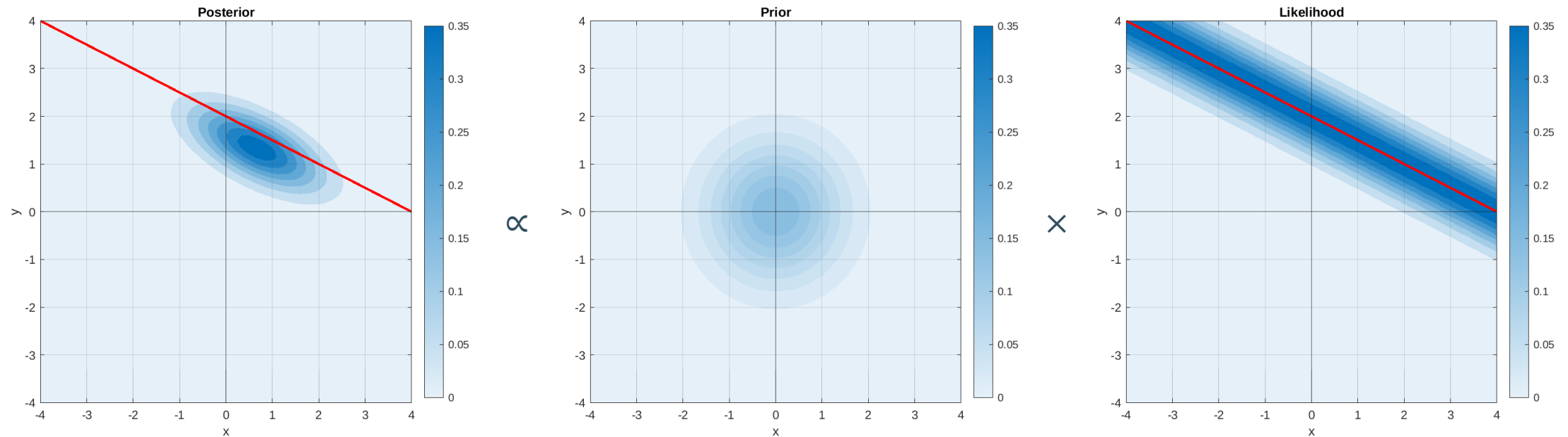


- The machine outputs\* 4.
- Which point did I start with?



# We can make this rigorous

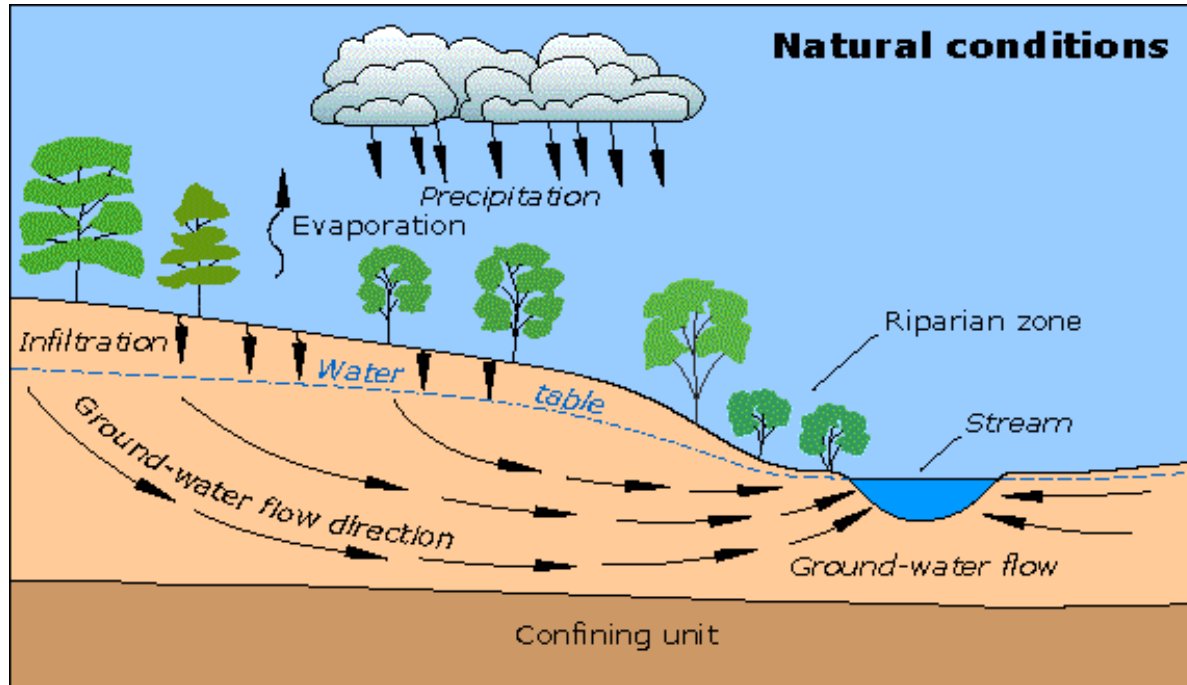
$$\text{Bayes' rule: } p(\theta|\mathbf{d}) \propto p(\theta) \cdot p(\mathbf{d}|\theta)$$



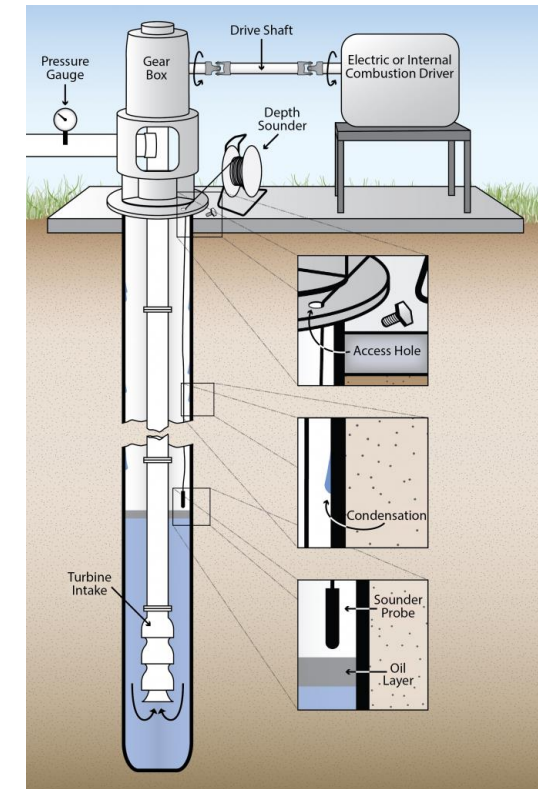
# Chapter 1.1: A more interesting Inverse Problem



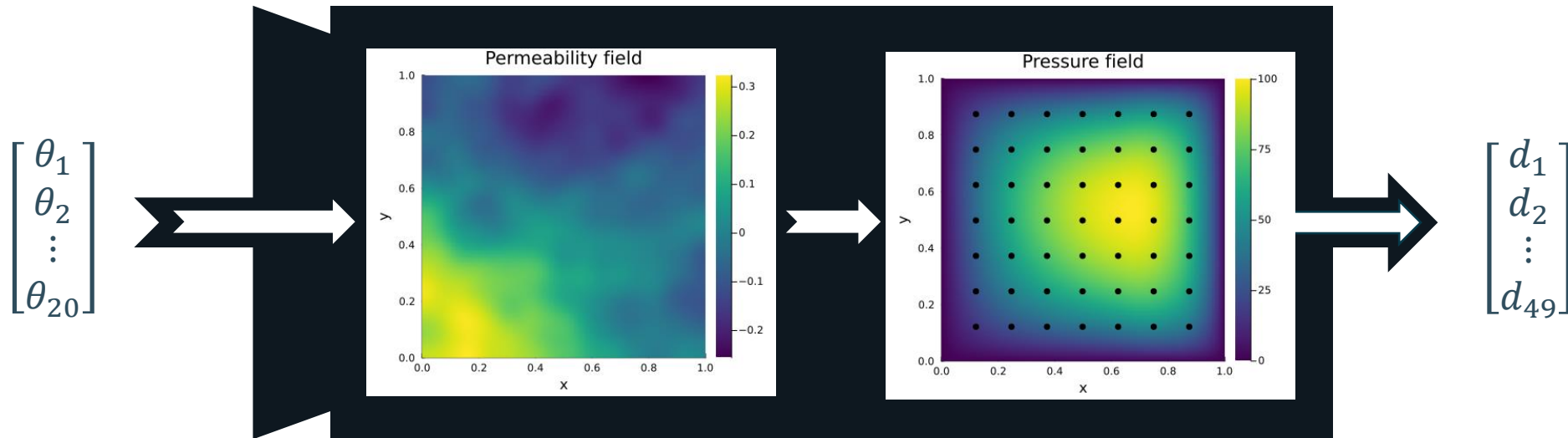
# Let's do something more interesting



To simulate ground-water flow, researchers require knowledge of the permeability field of the subsurface.

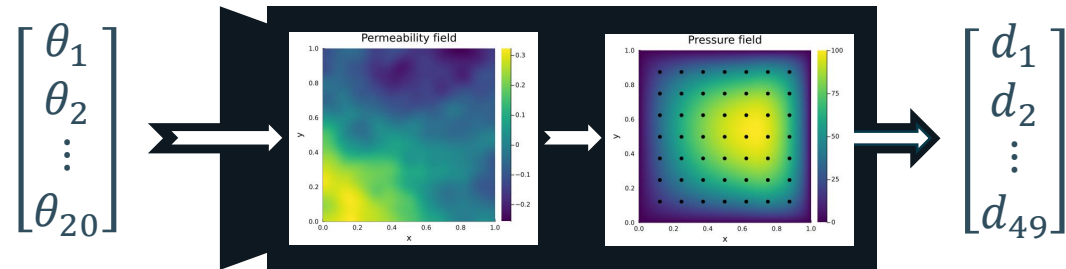


# Let's do something more interesting



# The game isn't always that simple...

- Take measurements  $d$ .
- Assume a prior  $p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ .



- We cannot simply 'evaluate' the posterior at every point in the **20-dimensional domain**

How can we characterize the posterior distribution?

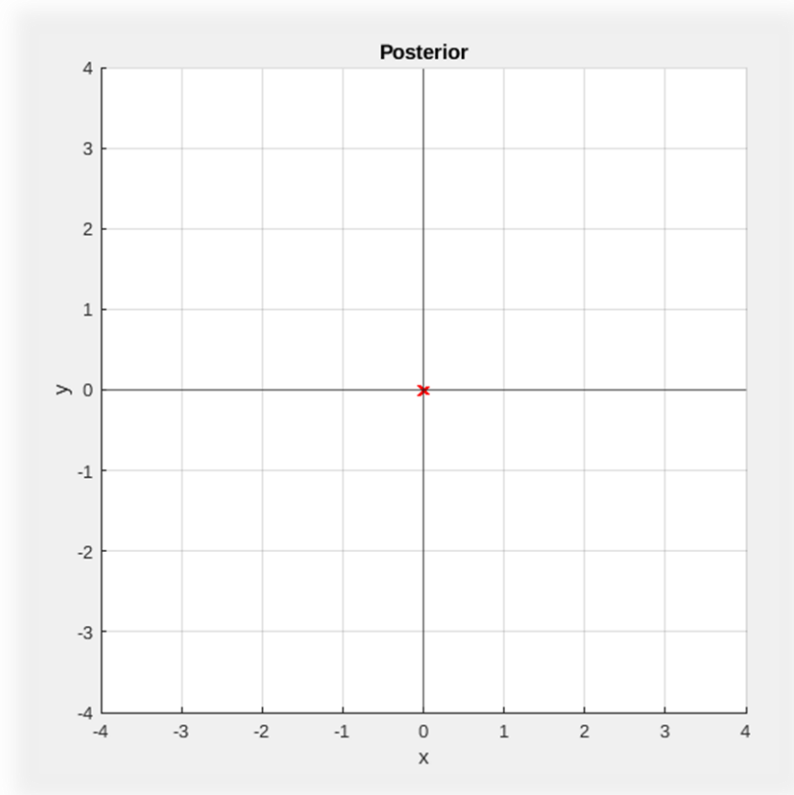
- What is the posterior  $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|d)$ ?

# Chapter 2:

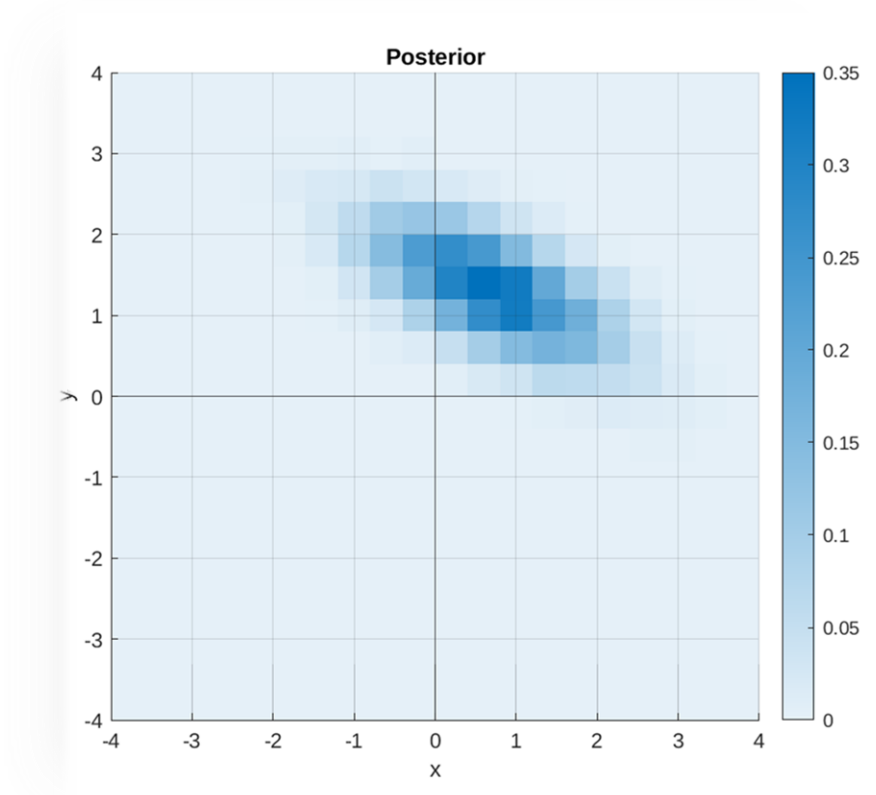
## How can we characterize the posterior distribution?

# Characterizing the posterior

## Optimization



## Sampling



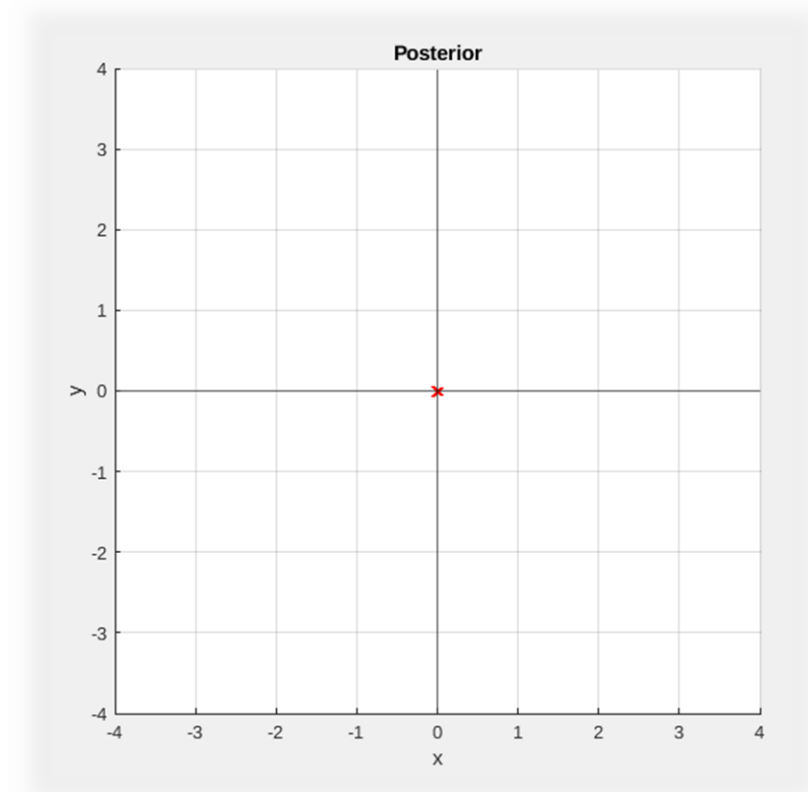
# Sampling via Markov chain Monte Carlo

More samples = 👍

**BUT**

1. Inherently sequential
  2. Evaluation of *The Machine* in every iteration
- => Expensive (if machine is expensive)

## Sampling



# Chapter 3: Interacting Particle Methods

# Sampling via interacting-particle methods

**Ensemble of particles** in parameter space, evolve according to artificial dynamics

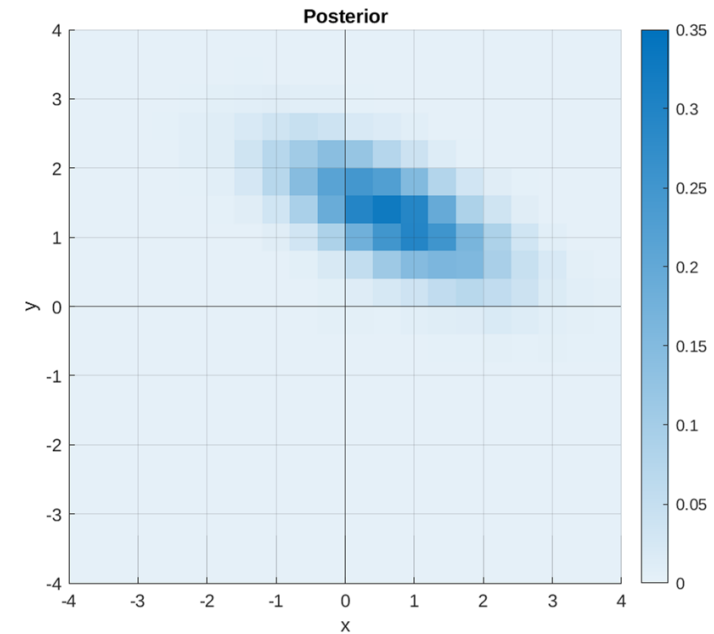
- **Forward model (*Machine*)**
- **Interaction**
- **Randomness**

Ensemble Kalman sampling [1]

$$u_{n+1}^j = u_n^j + \Delta t C_n^{ug} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G(u_n^j)) - \Delta t C_n^{uu} \Gamma_0^{-1} u_n^j + \sqrt{\Delta t} \eta_{n+1}^j, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, \infty\}$$

$$\eta_{n+1}^j \sim N(0, 2C_n^{uu})$$

[1] Garbuno-Inigo et al. *Interacting Langevin dynamics*. (2020)



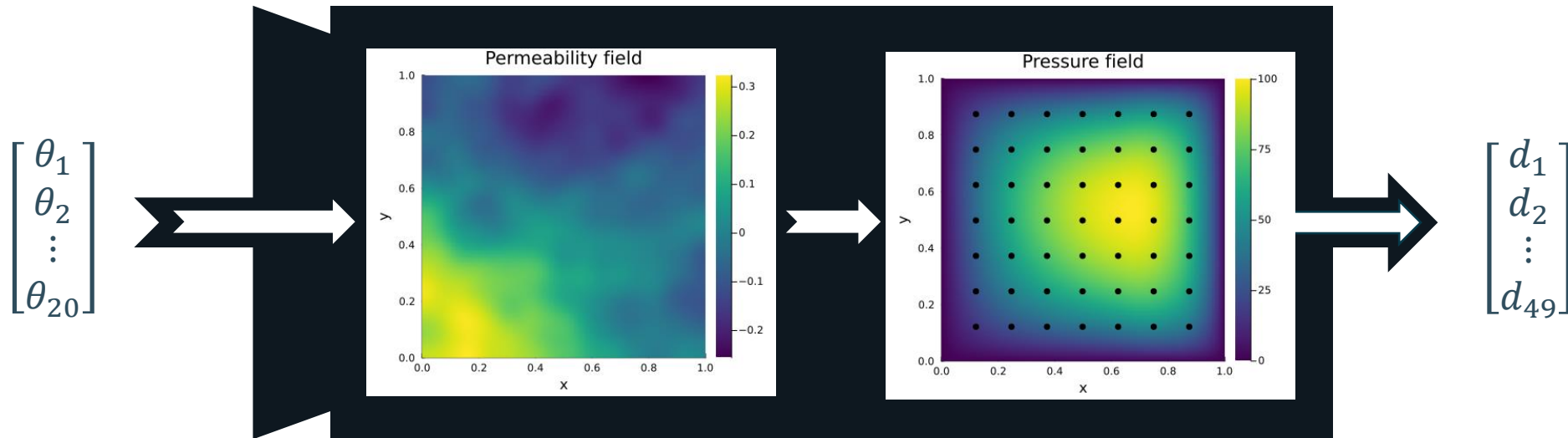
$$C_n^{uu} = \mathbb{E}[(u_n - \mathbb{E}[u_n]) \otimes (u_n - \mathbb{E}[u_n])]$$

$$C_n^{ug} = \mathbb{E}[(u_n - \mathbb{E}[u_n]) \otimes (G(u_n) - \mathbb{E}[G(u_n)])]$$

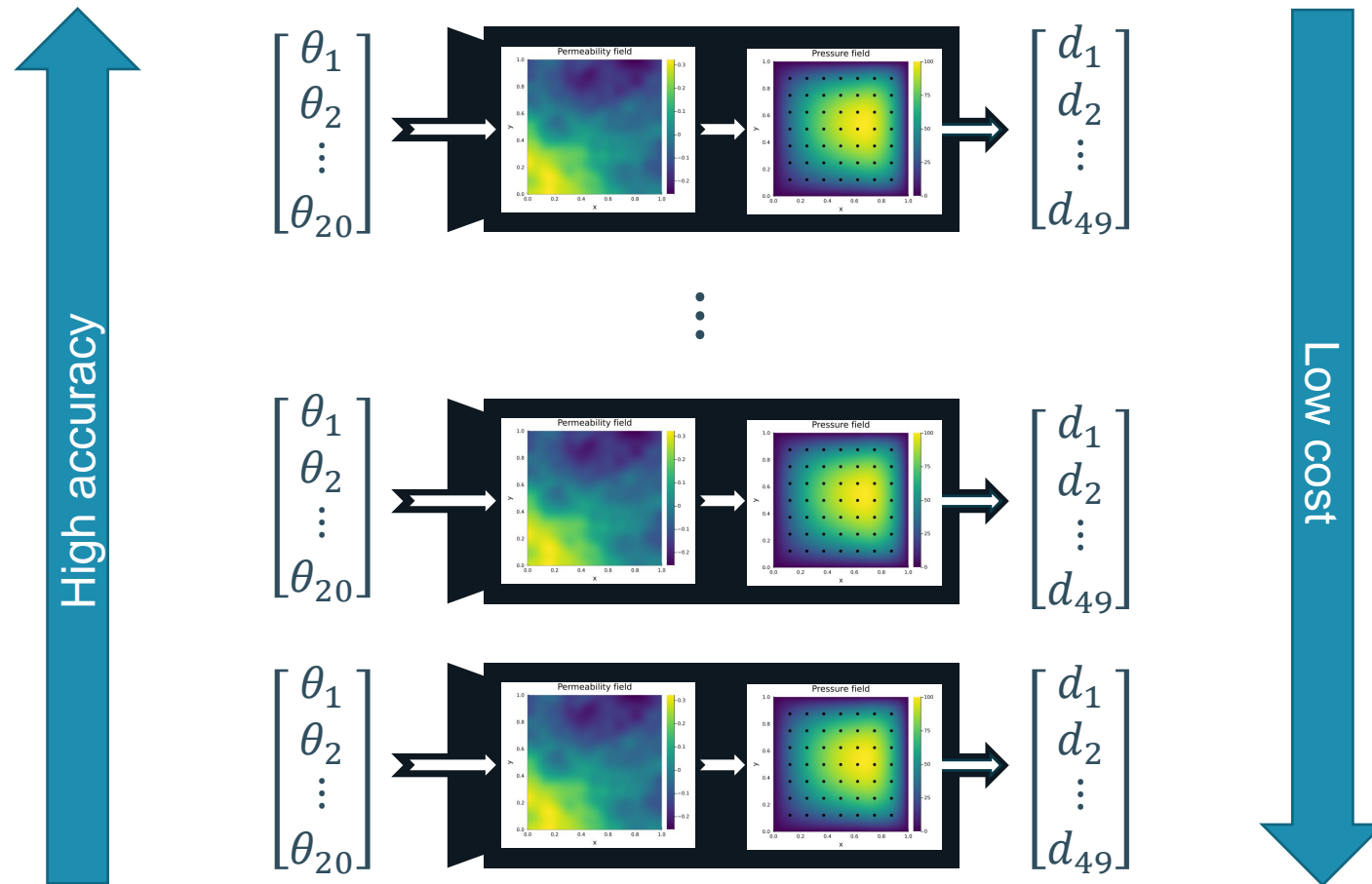


# Chapter 4: Multilevel algorithm

# From a single *Machine*...



# ... to a hierarchy of *Machines*



$$\begin{cases} u_{n+1}^{L,F,j} = u_n^{L,F,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^L(u_n^{L,F,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{L,j} \\ u_{n+1}^{L,C,j} = u_n^{L,C,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^{L-1}(u_n^{L,C,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{L,j} \end{cases} \quad j \in \{1, \dots, J_L\}$$

⋮

$$\begin{cases} u_{n+1}^{2,F,j} = u_n^{2,F,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^2(u_n^{2,F,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{2,j} \\ u_{n+1}^{2,C,j} = u_n^{2,C,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^1(u_n^{2,C,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{2,j} \end{cases} \quad j \in \{1, \dots, J_2\}$$

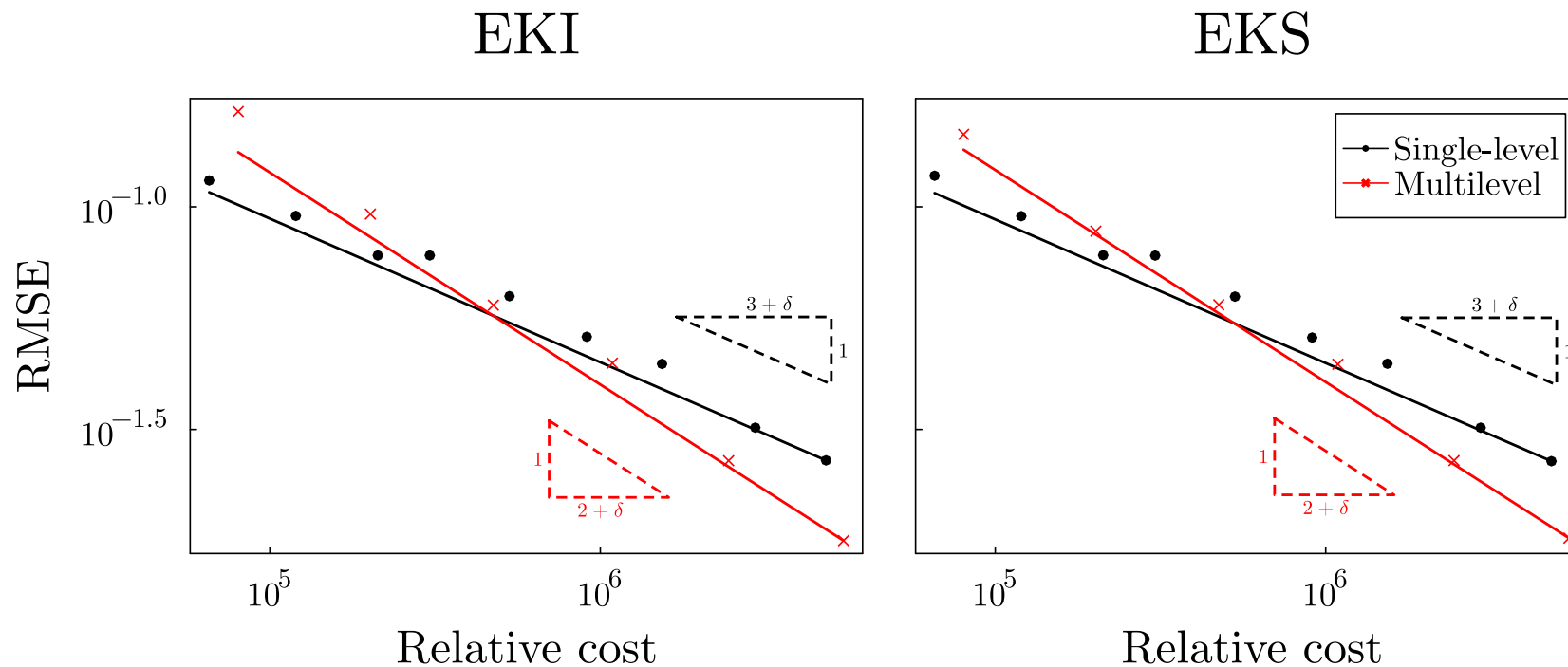
$$\begin{cases} u_{n+1}^{1,F,j} = u_n^{1,F,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^1(u_n^{1,F,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{1,j} \\ u_{n+1}^{1,C,j} = u_n^{1,C,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^0(u_n^{1,C,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{1,j} \end{cases} \quad j \in \{1, \dots, J_1\}$$

$$\begin{cases} u_{n+1}^{0,F,j} = u_n^{0,F,j} + \Delta t \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} (y - G^0(u_n^{0,F,j})) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} \Gamma^{-1} \eta_{n+1}^{0,j} \end{cases} \quad j \in \{1, \dots, J_0\}$$

$$\hat{C}_n^{ug,ML} = \hat{C}_n^{ug,0} + \sum_{l=1}^L [\hat{C}_n^{ug,l,F} - \hat{C}_n^{ug,l,C}]$$

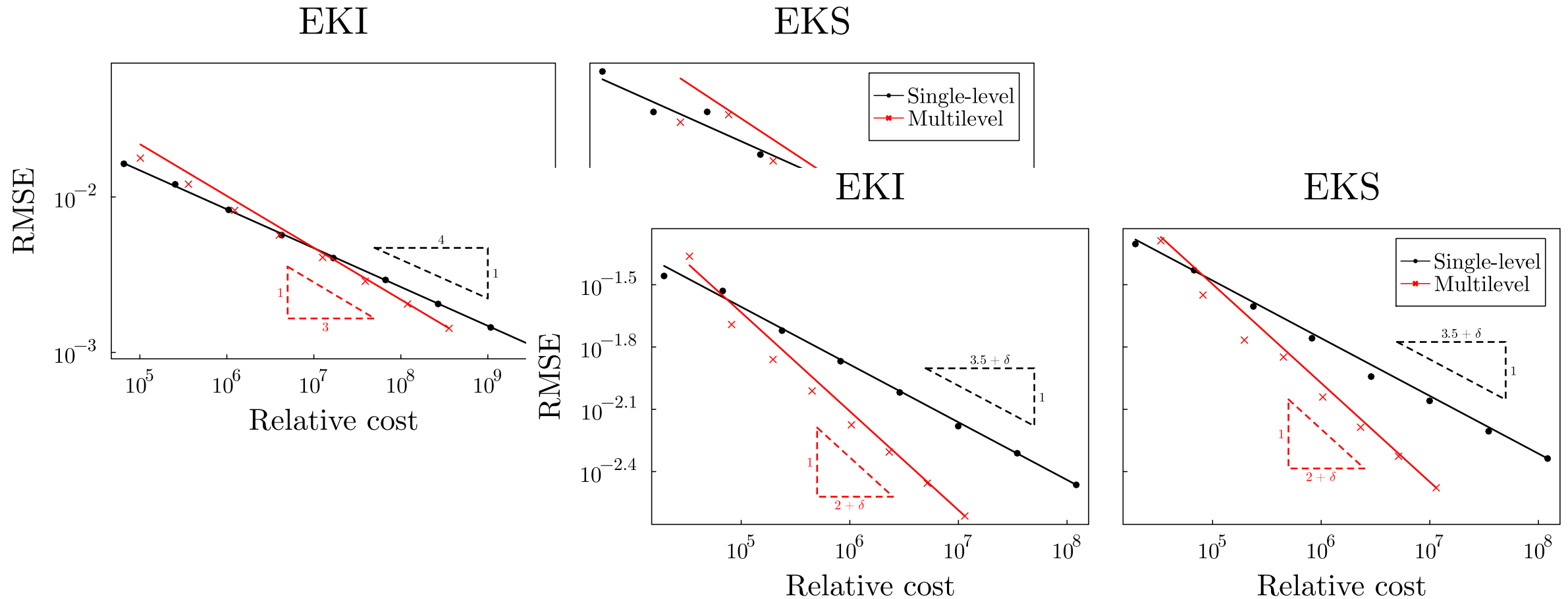
# Multilevel interacting-particle methods

For a 'clever' choice of  $L$  and  $\{J_l\}_0^L \dots$  [2]



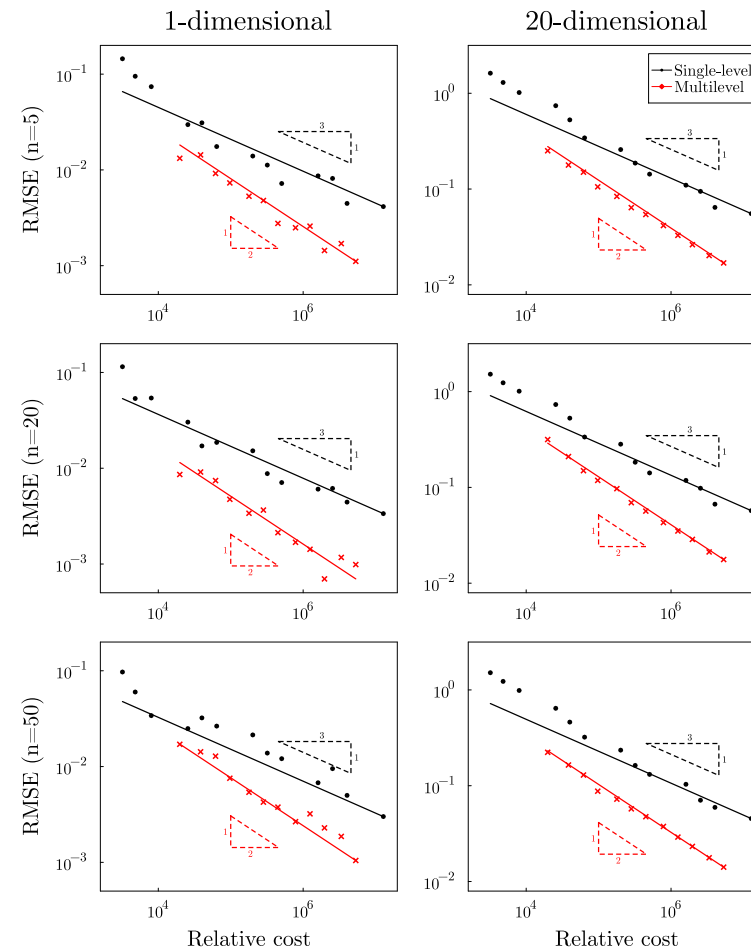
[2] A. Bouillon, T. Ingelaere, G. Samaey. *Single-ensemble multilevel Monte Carlo for discrete interacting-particle methods*. arXiv:2405.10146.

# Different 'machines'



[2] A. Bouillon, T. Ingelaere, G. Samaey. *Single-ensemble multilevel Monte Carlo for discrete interacting-particle methods*. arXiv:2405.10146.

# Different interacting-particle methods

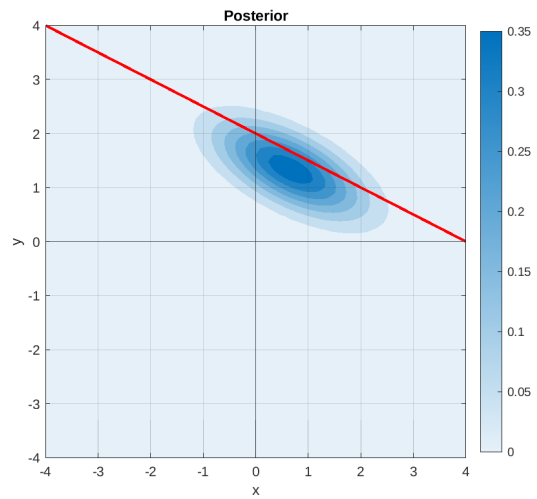


[2] A. Bouillon, T. Ingelaere, G. Samaey. *Single-ensemble multilevel Monte Carlo for discrete interacting-particle methods*. arXiv:2405.10146.

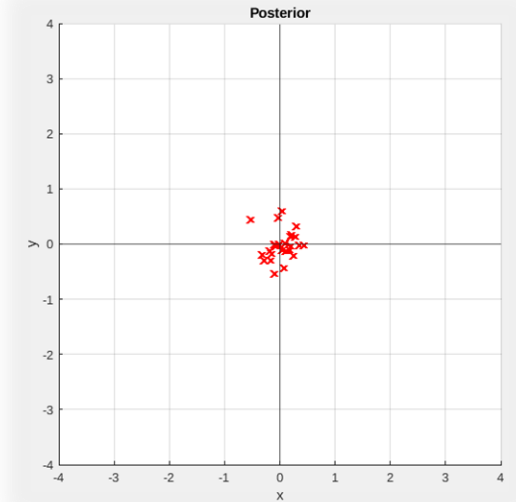
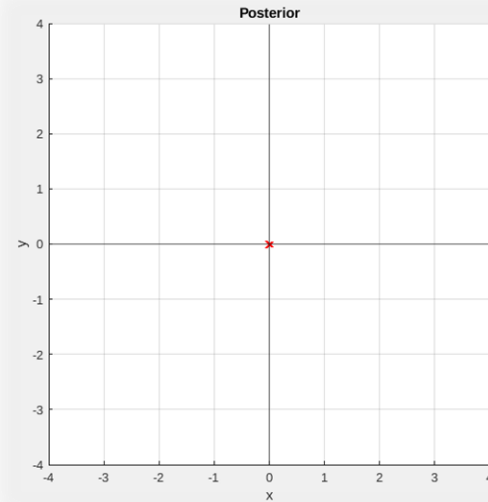
# Conclusion



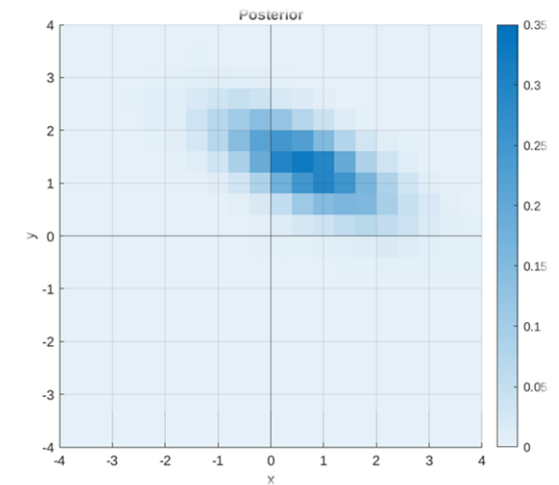
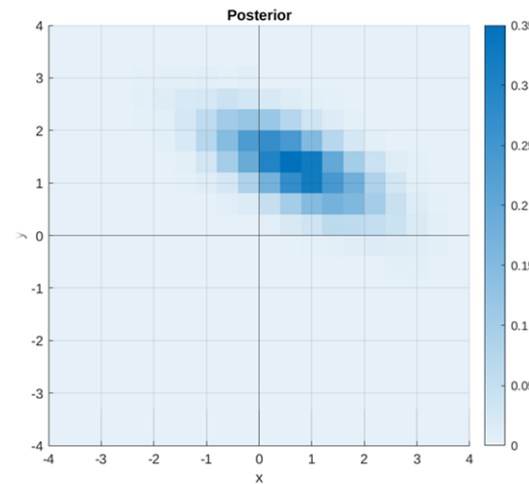
# In summary



Intractable

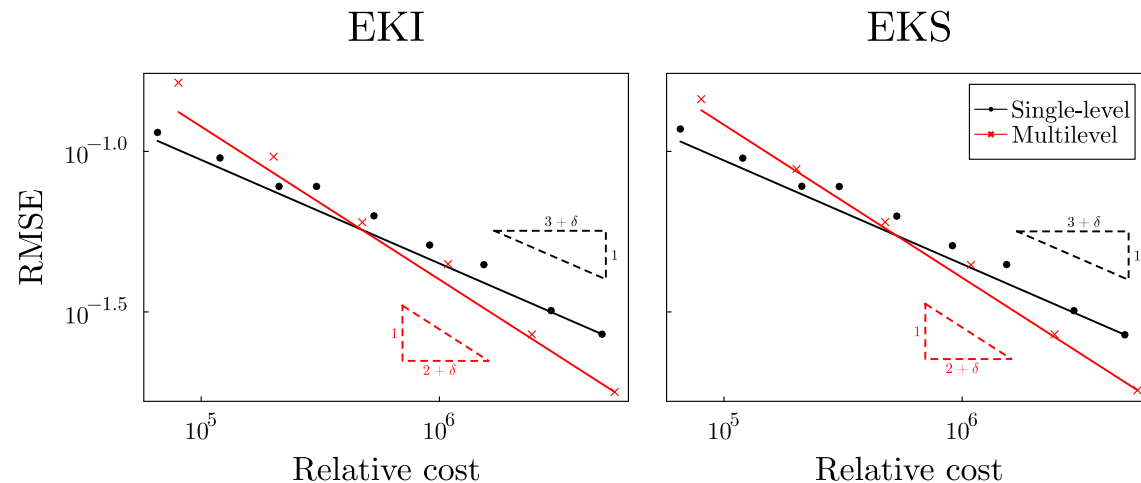


Sequential

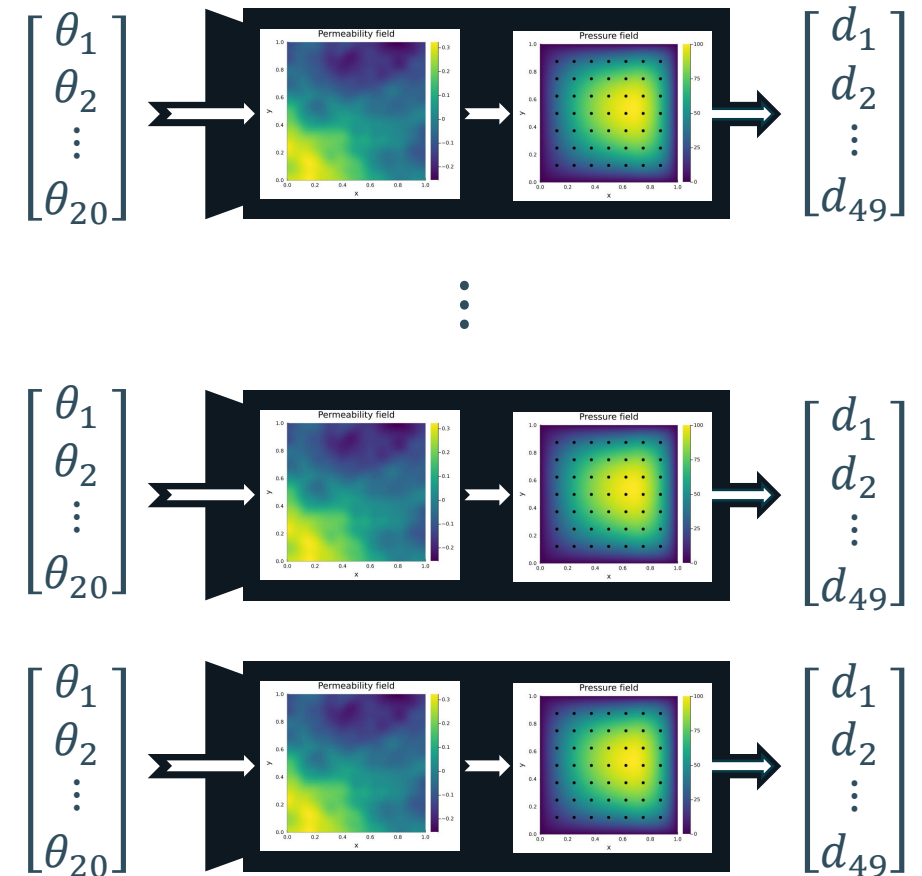


# Our contributions

- Generalized multilevel approach from [3]
- Expressions for  $L$  and  $\{J_l\}_0^L$ , based on hierarchy
- Analytic, asymptotic convergence rates



[3] Hoel et al. *Multilevel ensemble Kalman filtering*. (2016)



# Main sources

- [1] Garbuno-Inigo, A., Hoffmann, F., Li, W., & Stuart, A. M. (2020). *Interacting Langevin diffusions: Gradient structure and ensemble Kalman sampler*. *SIAM Journal on Applied Dynamical Systems*, 19(1), 412-441.
- [2] A. Bouillon, T. Ingelaere, G. Samaey. *Single-ensemble multilevel Monte Carlo for discrete interacting-particle methods*, arXiv:2405.10146.
- [3] Hoel, H., Law, K. J., & Tempone, R. (2016). *Multilevel ensemble Kalman filtering*. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 54(3), 1813-1839.

# Thanks! Questions?

A. Bouillon, T. Ingelaere, G. Samaey. *Single-ensemble multilevel Monte Carlo for discrete interacting-particle methods*. arXiv:2405.10146.

