

Title: Numerical Methods Lecture

Speakers: Dustin Lang

Collection: Numerical Methods 2023/24

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# emcee: An Affine-Invariant Sampler

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Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics

PSI Numerical Methods, 2024-01-25

Borrowing heavily from Dan Foreman-Mackey's slides  
<https://speakerdeck.com/dfm/data-analysis-with-mcmc1>

These slides are available at

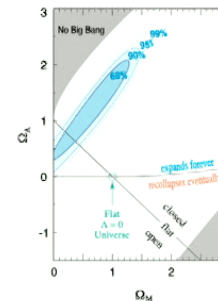
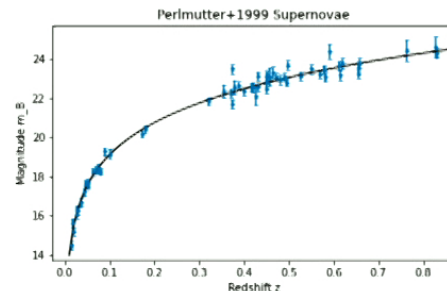
<https://github.com/dstndstn/MCMC-talk/emcee-slides>

1

## Recap from last lecture (1)

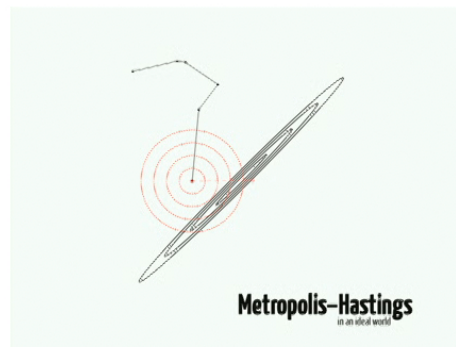
- ▶ Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) *draws samples from a probability distribution* when you can *numerically evaluate* the probability function (up to a constant)
- ▶ Used extensively in data analysis: *inferring* parameters of models, given observed data
- ▶ *Usually* in a Bayesian context; the probability function we run MCMC on is the *posterior* probability:

$$\text{posterior}(\text{params}|\text{data}) \propto \text{prior}(\text{params}) \times \text{likelihood}(\text{data}|\text{params})$$



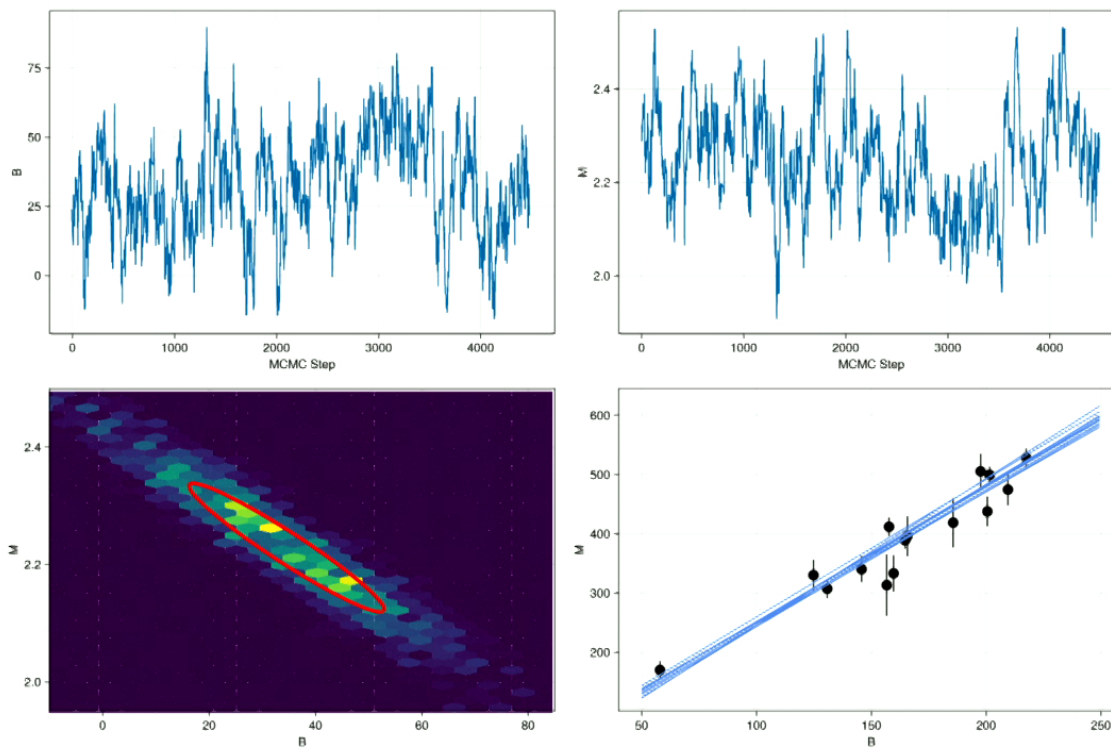
## Recap from last lecture (2)

- ▶ The “classic” Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithm is *Metropolis–Hastings*, which moves a *walker* or *particle* around the *state space* (*model parameter space*)
- ▶ A randomly-drawn *proposed* jump gets *evaluated* (by calling the probability function), and then *accepted*, or not
- ▶ A big difficulty is to *customize* the *proposal distribution* to get the algorithm to work efficiently



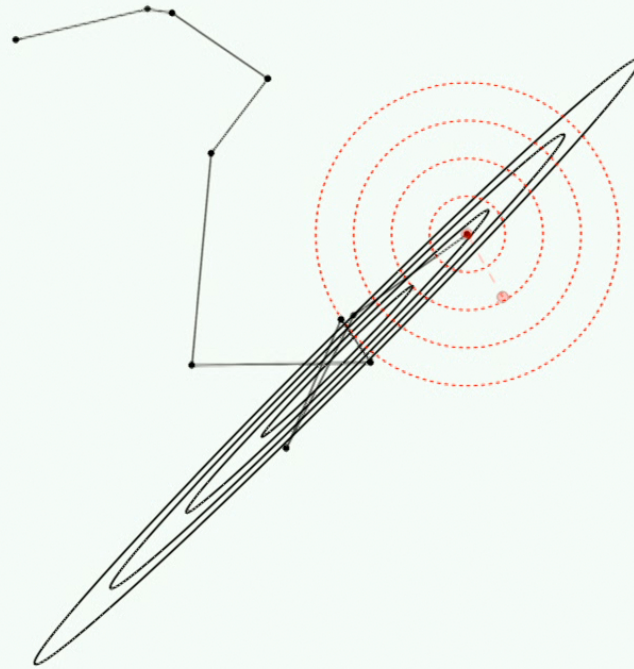


## MCMC for model parameter inference



4

4



**Metropolis-Hastings**  
in the real world

5





Jonathan Goodman



Jonathan Weare

# "Ensemble samplers with affine invariance"

([dfm.io/mcmc-gw10](https://dfm.io/mcmc-gw10))

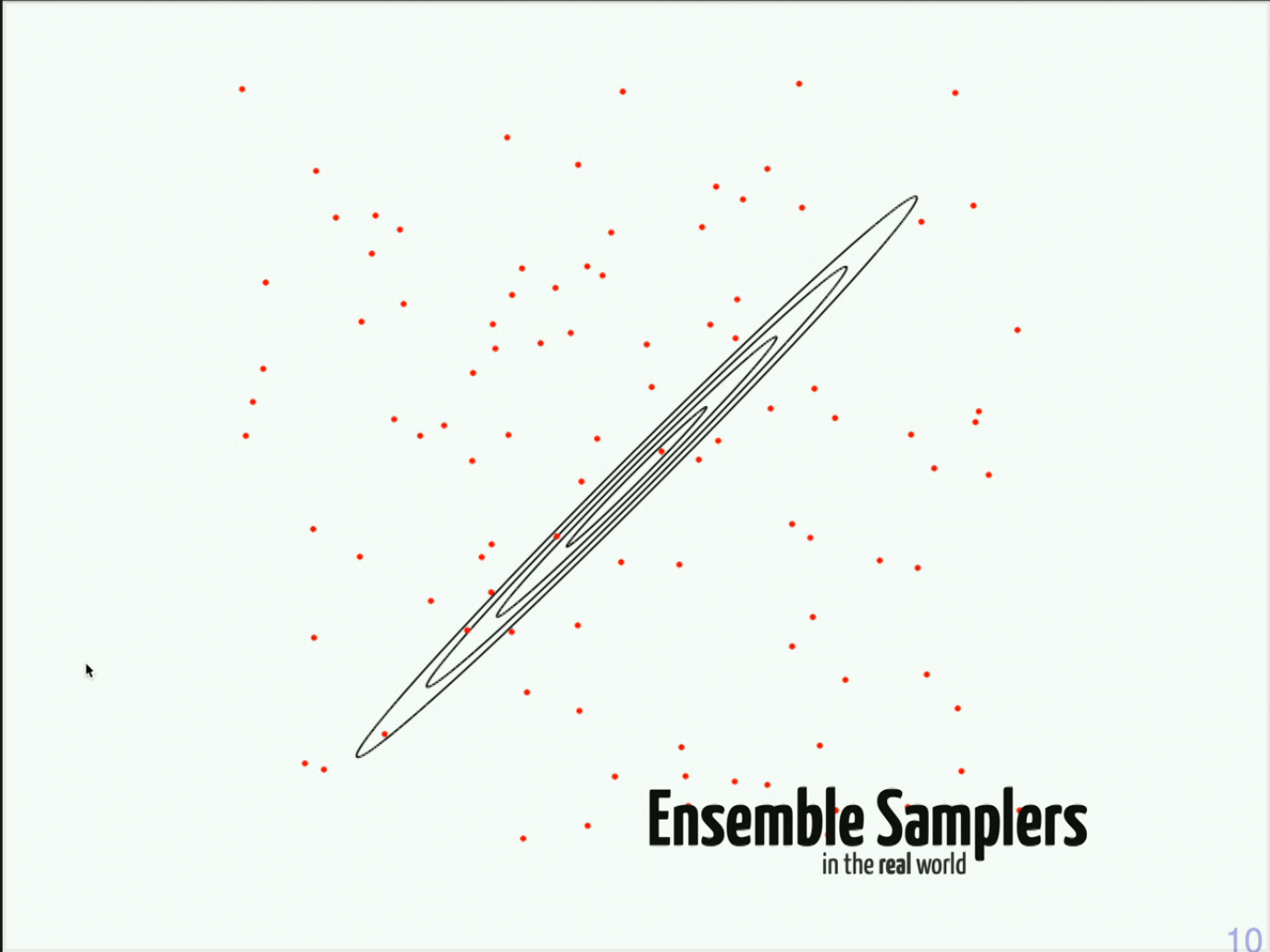
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introducing **emcee** the MCMC Hammer  
[arxiv.org/abs/1202.3665](http://arxiv.org/abs/1202.3665)  
[dan.iel.fm/emcee](http://dan.iel.fm/emcee)

9



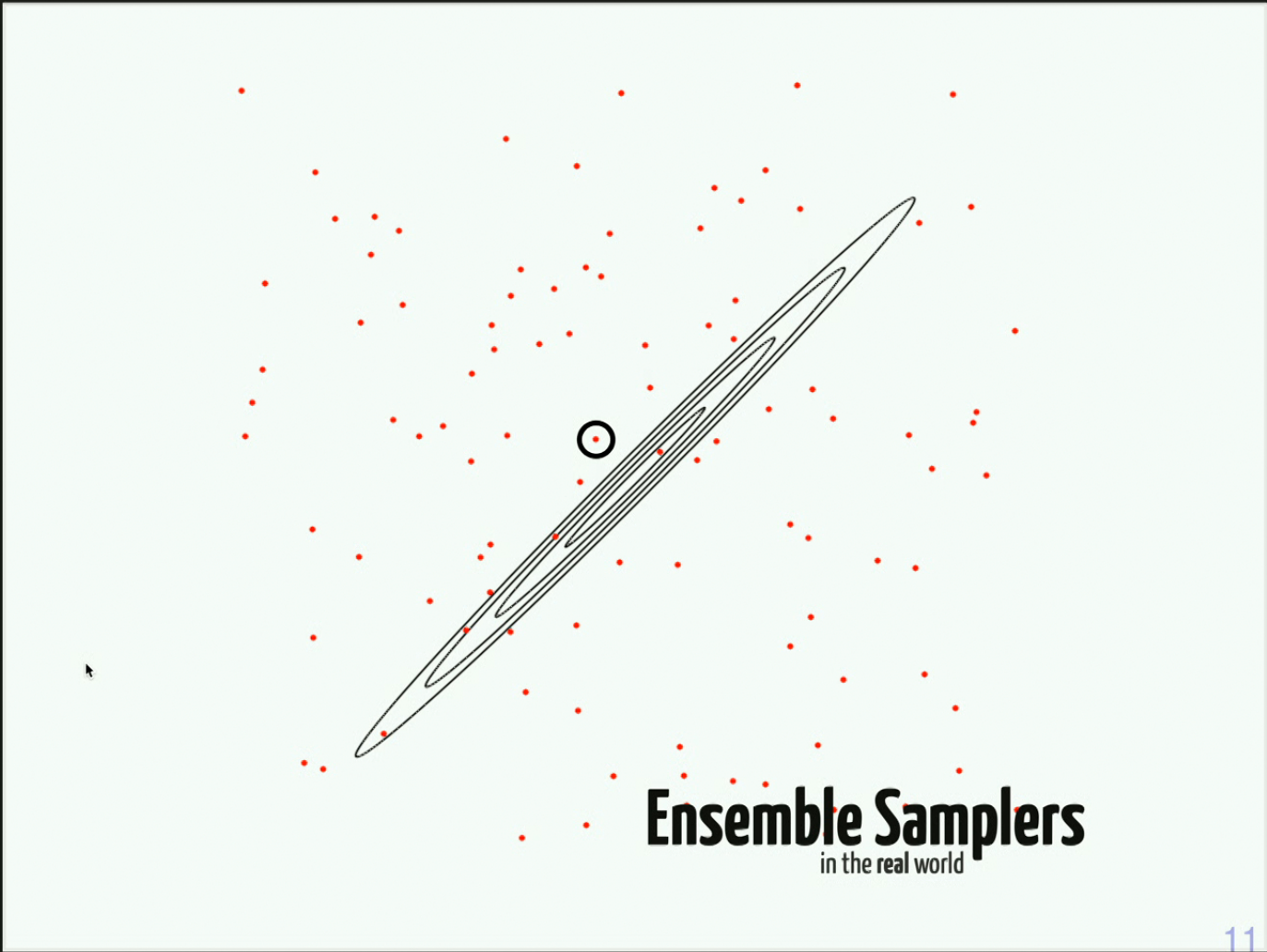


# Ensemble Samplers

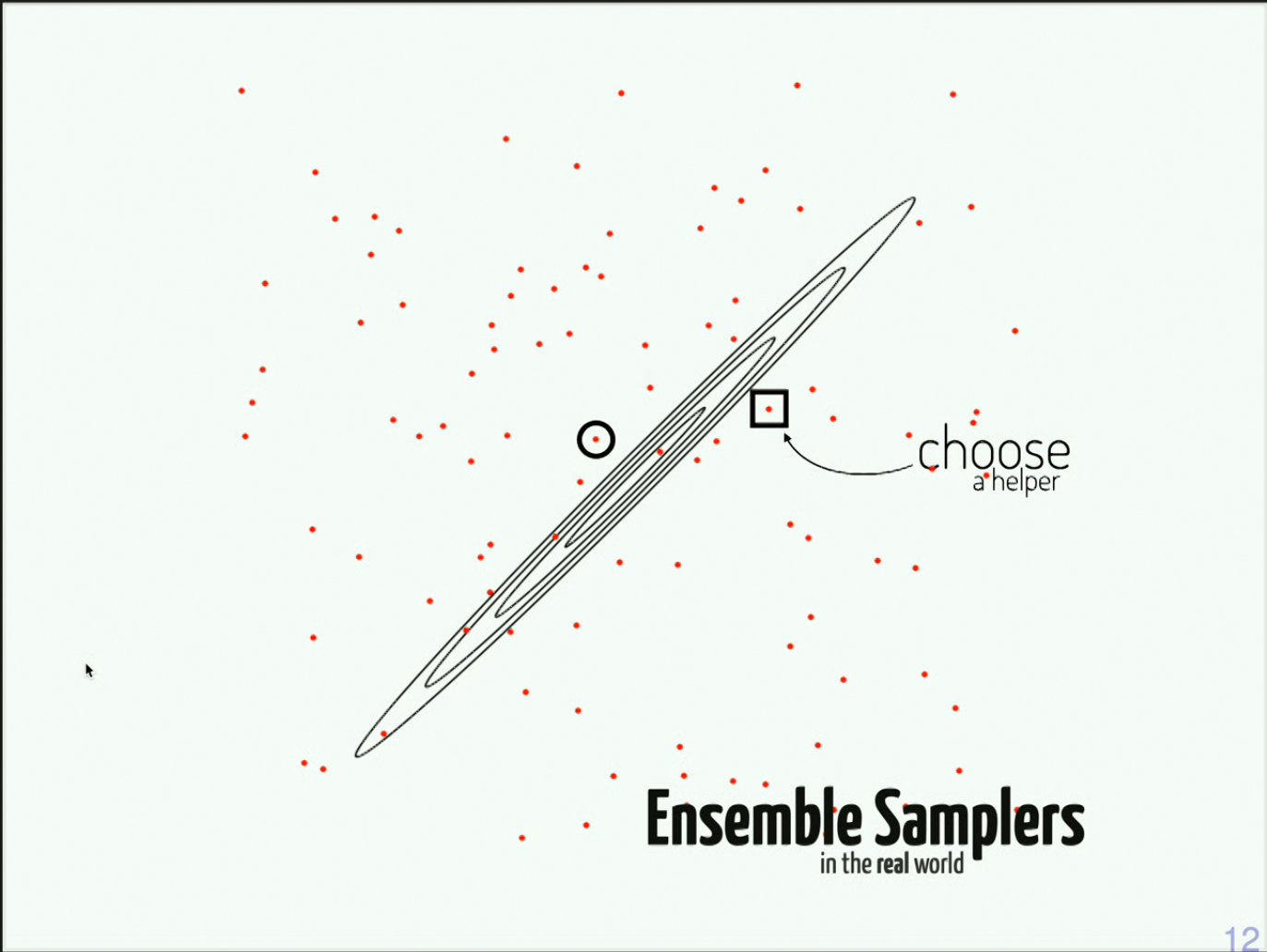
in the real world

10

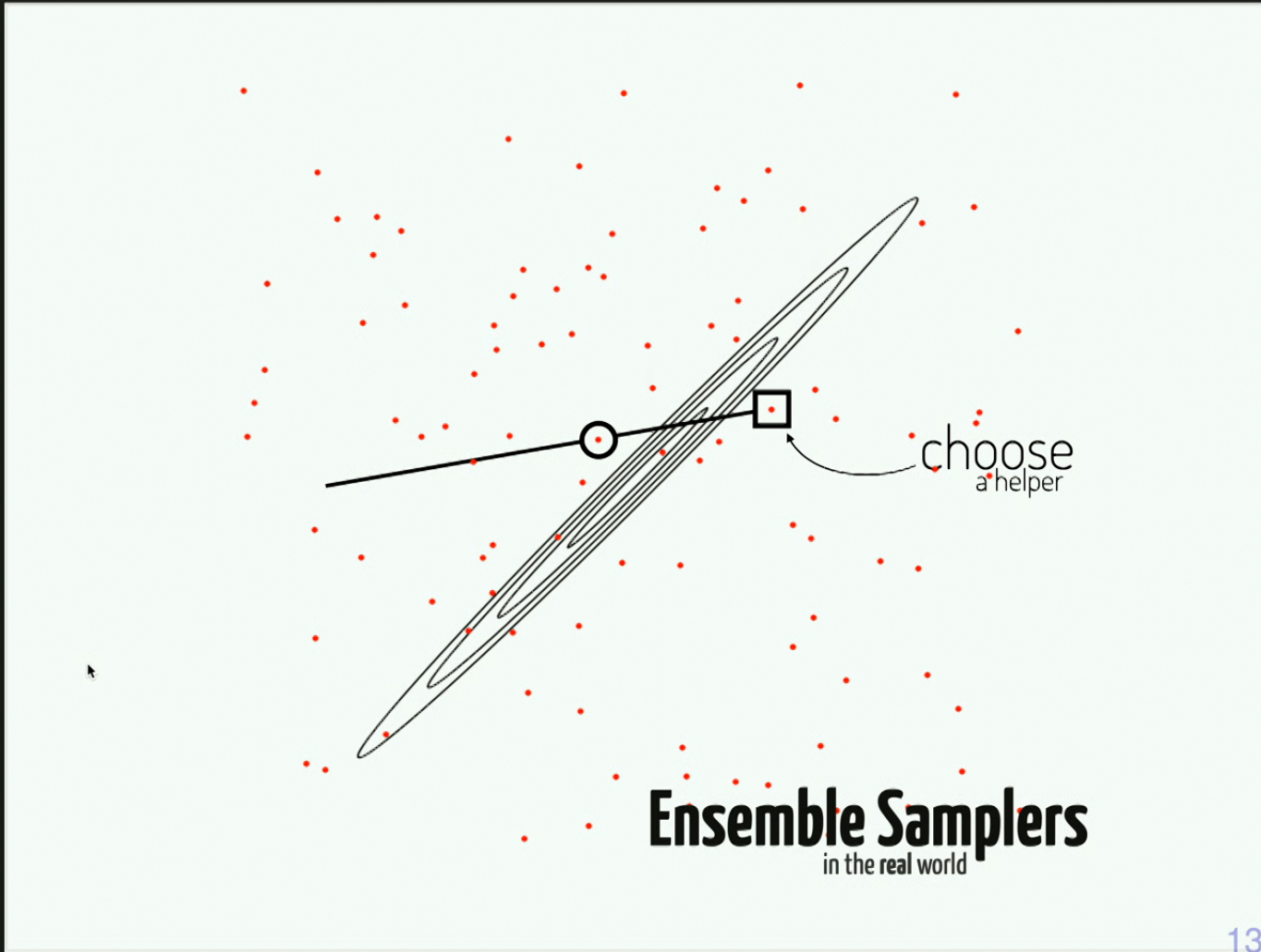


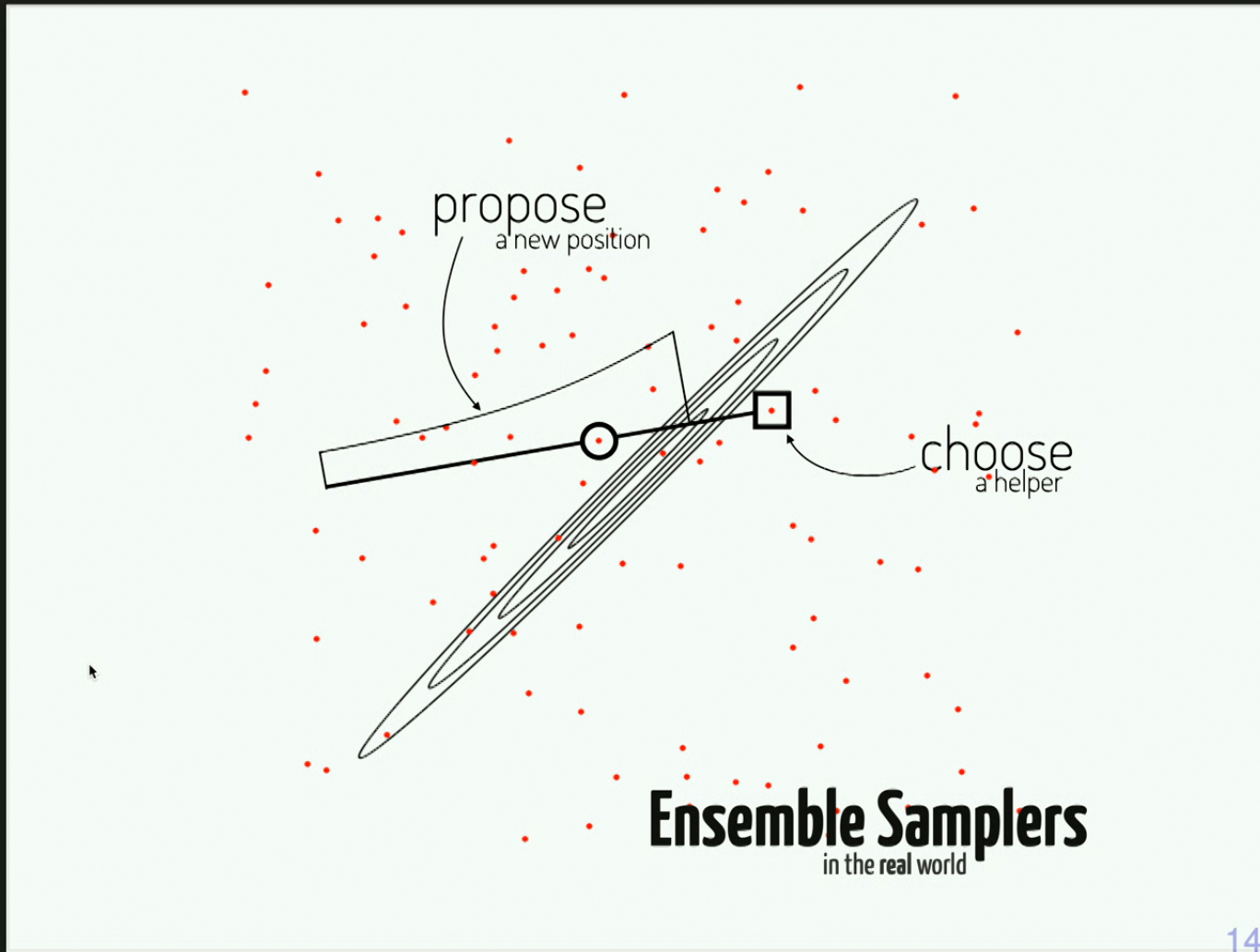


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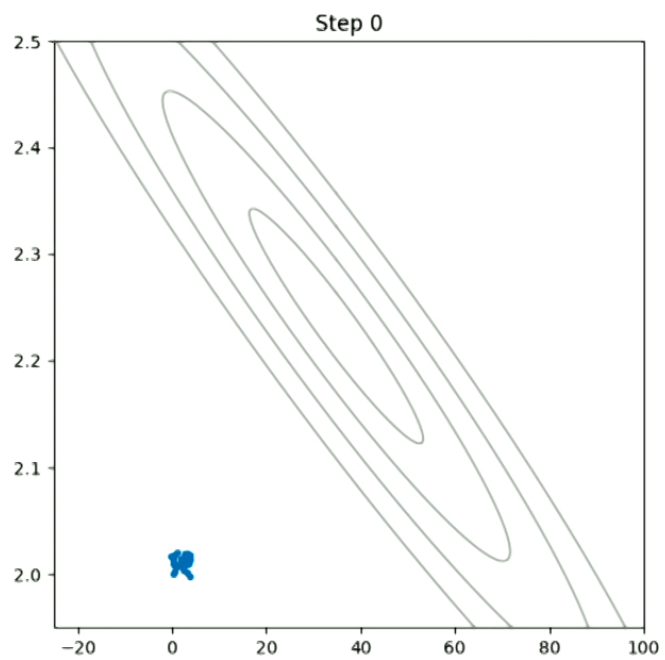








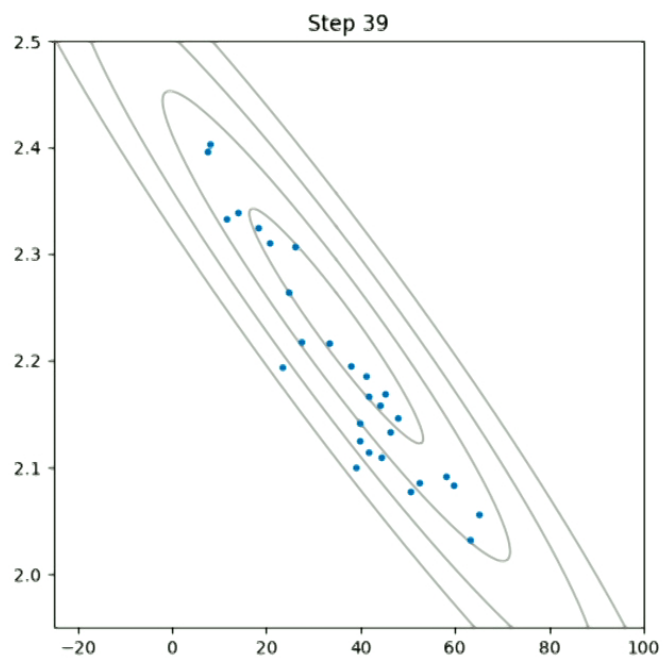
## Emcee demo



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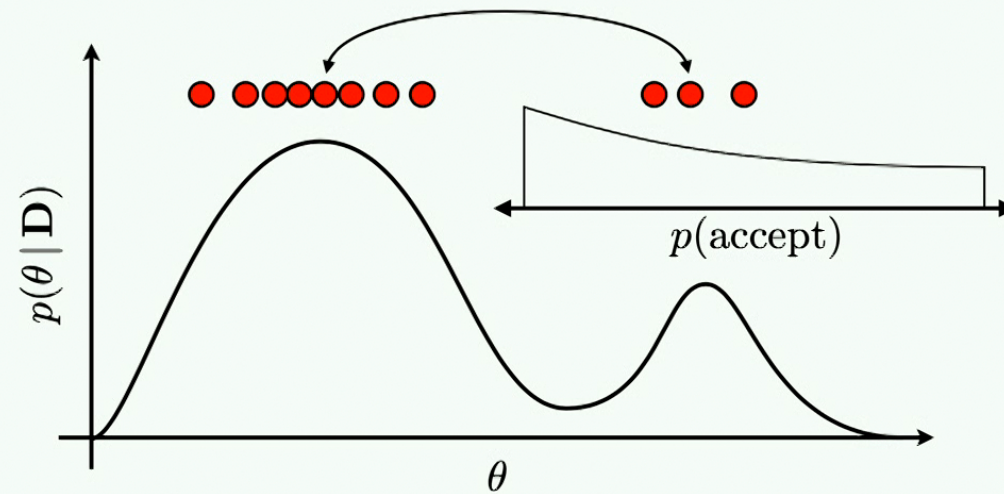


## Emcee demo



54

# what about multimodal densities?



68

## Differential Evolution move

- ▶ **emcee** allows us to use different *move* types (different *proposal* functions)
- ▶ The **Differential Evolution** (DE) move can improve the sampling for multi-modal distributions
- ▶ DE move: randomly select *two* “helpers”
- ▶ Propose moving by their **vector difference**
- ▶ (If they are from different modes, this proposes *jumping between modes*)
- ▶ Mixing in a fraction of DE moves with the regular “Stretch” move works well!

## Summary

- ▶ Traditional Metropolis–Hastings MCMC suffers from a *lack of affine invariance* – requires *tuning parameters* that change for each specific probability function
- ▶ *Ensemble samplers* like **emcee** use the *distribution of the walkers* to achieve *affine invariance*
- ▶ → much easier to use, and faster sampling
- ▶ (Huge side effect: parallelizable!)
- ▶ Multi-modal distributions still hard, but *DE Move* can help



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```
[19]: counts = bincounts(h);  
      xc,yc = bincenters(h);  
  
[20]: contour(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100])  
  
[20]: 
```

```
[21]: import Pkg; Pkg.add("AffineInvariantMCMC")  
  
Resolving package versions...  
Installed RobustPmap v1.0.2  
Installed JLD2 v0.4.45  
Installed AffineInvariantMCMC v1.2.2  
Updating ~/.julia/environments/v1.9/Project.toml`  
[a0f608ac] + AffineInvariantMCMC v1.2.2  
Updating ~/.julia/environments/v1.9/Manifest.toml`  
[a0f608ac] + AffineInvariantMCMC v1.2.2  
[033835bb] + JLD2 v0.4.45  
[27aeedcb] + RobustPmap v1.0.2  
Precompiling project...  
✓ JLD2  
✓ RobustPmap  
✓ AffineInvariantMCMC  
3 dependencies successfully precompiled in 26 seconds. 297 already precompiled. 1 skipped during auto due to previous errors.  
  
[25]: using AffineInvariantMCMC  
  
[10]: numdims = 3  
       numvars = 50
```



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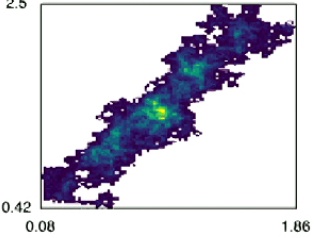
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```
[17]: using FHist
```

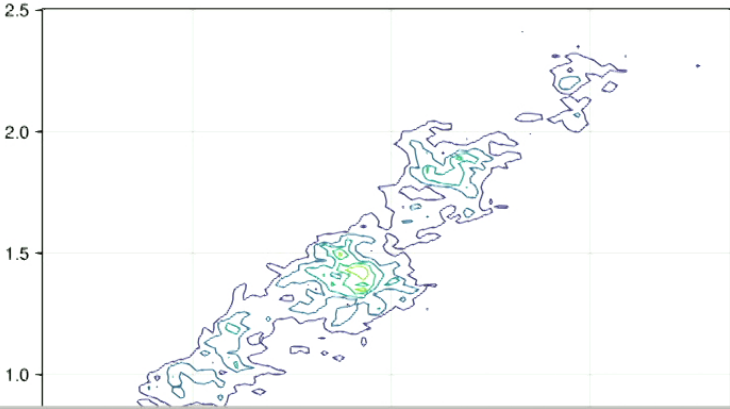
```
[18]: h = FHist.Hist2D((chain[:,2], chain[:,3]); nbins=(100,100))
```



- edges: (0.08:0.02:1.86, 0.42:0.02:2.5)
- bin counts: [0 0 ... 0 0; 0 0 ... 0 0; ...; 0 0 ... 0 0; 0 0 ... 0 0]
- maximum count: 135
- total count: 50000

```
[19]: counts = bincounts(h);
xc, yc = bincenters(h);
```

```
[20]: contour(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100]
```



Simple 0 3 Julia 1.9.3 | Idle Mode: Edit Ln 1, Col 60 MCMC-homework-hints.ipynb

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I haven't actually tried fine-tuning the step sizes myself, nor in fact have I tried making the histogram and contour plot!

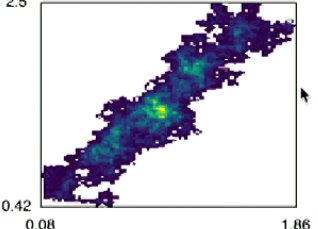
```
[16]: using Pkg
      Pkg.add("FHist")
```

Resolving package versions...  
 No Changes to `~/julia/environments/v1.9/Project.toml`  
 No Changes to `~/julia/environments/v1.9/Manifest.toml`

```
[17]: using FHist
```

```
[18]: h = FHist.Hist2D((chain[:,2], chain[:,3]); nbins=(100,100))
```

```
[18]: 2.5
```




- edges: (0.08:0.02:1.86, 0.42:0.02:2.5)
- bin counts: [0 0 ... 0 0; 0 0 ... 0 0; ...; 0 0 ... 0 0; 0 0 ... 0 0]
- maximum count: 135
- total count: 50000

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[19]: counts = bincounts(h);
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```

```
[20]: contour(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100])
```

```
[20]: 2.5
```



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Code v Julia 1.9.3

```
[21]: import Pkg; Pkg.add("AffineInvariantMCMC")

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Precompiling project...
✓ JLD2
✓ RobustPmap
✓ AffineInvariantMCMC
3 dependencies successfully precompiled in 26 seconds. 297 already precompiled. 1 skipped during auto due to previous errors.
```

```
[25]: using AffineInvariantMCMC
```

```
[101]: numdims = 3
numwalkers = 50
thinning = 10
numsamples_perwalker = 10000
burnin = 100

logprob_func = p -> begin
    (M,Om,Ode) = p
    if Om < 0 || Ode < 0
        return -Inf
    end
    try
        return supernova_log_likelihood(data.z, data.mag, data.sigma_mag, p[1], p[2], p[3])
    catch e
        return -Inf
    end
end
initial = [abs_mag, 0.5, 0.5] .+ randn(numdims, numwalkers)*0.01

chain, ll = AffineInvariantMCMC.sample(logprob_func, numwalkers, initial, burnin, 1)
```

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Code v Julia 1.9.3

```

[25]: using AffineInvariantMCMC

[104]: numdims = 3
        numwalkers = 50
        thinning = 10
        numsamples_perwalker = 10000
        burnin = 100

        logprob_func = p -> begin
            (M,Om,Ode) = p
            if Om < 0 || Ode < 0
                return -Inf
            end
            try
                return supernova_log_likelihood(data.z, data.mag, data.sigma_mag, p[1], p[2], p[3])
            catch e
                return -Inf
            end
        end
        initial = [abs_mag, 0.5, 0.5] .+ randn(numdims, numwalkers)*0.01

        chain, ll = AffineInvariantMCMC.sample(logprob_func, numwalkers, initial, burnin, 1)
        chain, ll = AffineInvariantMCMC.sample(logprob_func, numwalkers, chain[:,end], numsamples_perwalker, thinning)
        flatchain, flatllhoodvals = AffineInvariantMCMC.flattenmcmcarray(chain, ll)
        ;

Progress: 100% | Time: 0:00:08

[105]: size(chain)

[105]: (3, 50, 1000)

[106]: size(flatchain)

[106]: (3, 50000)

[103]: S = 10
        scatter(flatchain[2,1:S:end], flatchain[3,1:S:end])

[103]:

```

Simple 0 3 Julia 1.9.3 | Idle Mode: Command Ln 2, Col 46 MCMC-homework-hints.ipynb



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Untitled2.ipynb	10 months ago
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```
return supernova_log_likelihood(data.z, data.mag, data.sigma_mag, p[1], p[2], p[3])
catch e
return -Inf
end
end
initial = [abs_mag, 0.5, 0.5] .+ randn(numdims, numwalkers)*0.01
chain, ll = AffineInvariantMCMC.sample(logprob_func, numwalkers, initial, burnin, 1)
chain, ll = AffineInvariantMCMC.sample(logprob_func, numwalkers, chain[:,end], numsamples_perwalker, thinning)
flatchain, flatllhoodvals = AffineInvariantMCMC.flattenmcmcarray(chain, ll)
;
```

Progress: 100% | Time: 0:00:08

[105]: size(chain)

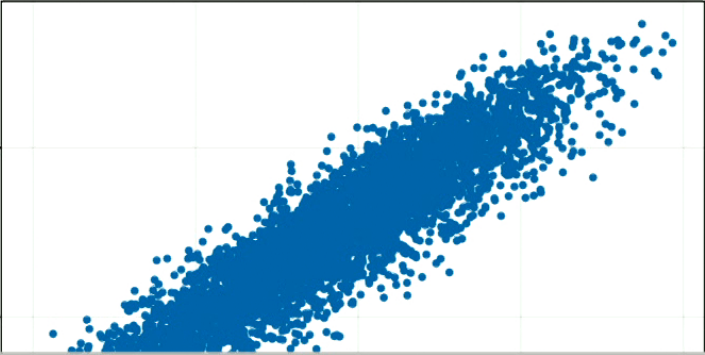
[105]: (3, 50, 1000)

[106]: size(flatchain)

[106]: (3, 50000)

[103]: S = 10

[103]: scatter(flatchain[2,1:S:end], flatchain[3,1:S:end])



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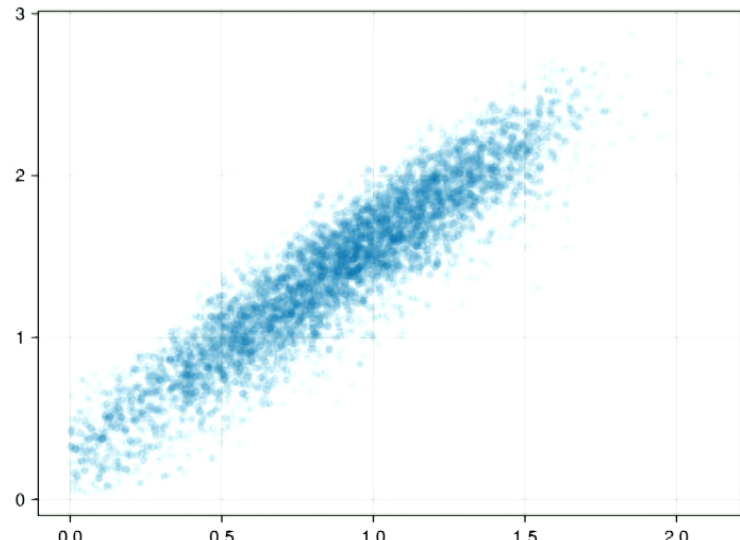
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MCMC-homework-hints.i...	a minute ago
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Untitled.ipynb	a year ago
Untitled1.ipynb	a year ago
Untitled2.ipynb	10 months ago
Untitled3.ipynb	a year ago

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Progress: 100% | Time: 0:00:08

```
[105]: size(chain)
[105]: (3, 50, 1000)
[106]: size(flatchain)
[106]: (3, 50000)
[107]: S = 10
scatter(flatchain[2,1:S:end], flatchain[3,1:S:end], alpha=0.1)
[107]:
```



```
[851]: chain = flatchain':
```

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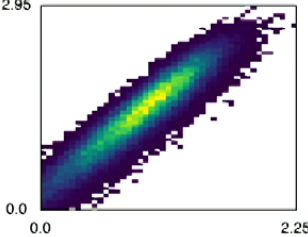
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Untitled2.ipynb	10 months ago
Untitled3.ipynb	a year ago

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```
[108]: chain = flatchain';
```

```
[109]: h = FHist.Hist2D((chain[:,2], chain[:,3]); nbins=(100,100))
```

```
[109]: 2.95
```

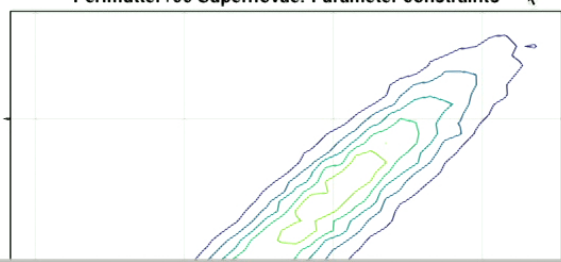


- edges: (0.0:0.05:2.25, 0.0:0.05:2.95)
- bin counts: [17 27 ... 0 0; 16 22 ... 0 0; ... ; 0 0 ... 0 0; 0 0 ... 0 0]
- maximum count: 262
- total count: 50000

```
[98]: counts = bincounts(h);
xc,yc = bincenters(h);

f = Figure(size=(500,500))
Axis(f[1,1], title="Perlmutter+99 Supernovae: Parameter constraints", xlabel=L"\Omega_M", ylabel=L"\Omega_{\Lambda}")
contour!(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100])
lines!([0,1], [1,0])
f
```

```
[98]:
```



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perlmutter-fig7.png	2 days ago
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Code

```
[110]: counts = bincounts(h);
xc,yc = bincenters(h);

f = Figure(size=(500,500))
Axis(f[1,1], title="Perlmutter+99 Supernovae: Parameter constraints", xlabel=L"\Omega_M", ylabel=L"\Omega_{\Lambda}")
contour!(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100])
lines!([0,1], [1,0])
f
```

[110]:

Perlmutter+99 Supernovae: Parameter constraints

$\Omega_{\Lambda}$

$\Omega_M$



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Code Julia 1.9.3

```
[110]: counts = bincounts(h);
xc,yc = bincenters(h);

f = Figure(size=(500,500))
Axis(f[1,1], title="Perlmutter+99 Supernovae: Parameter constraints", xlabel=L"\Omega_M", ylabel=L"\Omega_{\Lambda}")
contour!(xc, yc, counts) #, levels=[10,50,100])
lines!([0,1], [1,0])
f
```

[110]:

Simple 0 3 Julia 1.9.3 | Idle Mode: Command Ln 1, Col 1 MCMC-homework-hints.ipynb

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Untitled1.ipynb	a year ago
Untitled2.ipynb	10 months ago
Untitled3.ipynb	a year ago

Launcher x MCMC-homework-hints.ipynb

Code Julia 1.9.3

```
[111]: Om_lo,Om_hi = 0.0, 2.0
Ode_lo,Ode_hi = 0.0, 2.0
MM = range(Om_lo, stop=Om_hi, length=100)
DD = range(Ode_lo, stop=Ode_hi, length=100)
LL = zeros((length(MM), length(DD)))
for i in 1:length(MM)
    for j in 1:length(DD)
        #try
            LL[i, j] = supernova_log_likelihood(data.z, data.mag, data.sigma_mag, abs_mag, MM[i], DD[j])
        #catch e
            # LL[i, j] = -Inf
        #end
    end
end

maxlogprob = maximum(LL)
f = Figure()
Axis(f[1,1], title="Supernova constraints", xlabel="Omega matter", ylabel="Omega darkenergy")
hm = heatmap!(MM, DD, LL, colorrange=[maxlogprob-20, maxlogprob])
Colorbar(f[:, end+1], hm)
f
```

DomainError with -0.0006210338577678176:  
sqrt will only return a complex result if called with a complex argument. Try sqrt(Complex(x)).

Stacktrace:

```
[1] throw_complex_domainerror(f::Symbol, x::Float64)
 @ Base.Math ./math.jl:33
[2] sqrt
 @ ./math.jl:677 [inlined]
[3] a2E
 @ ~/.julia/packages/Cosmology/eZT7X/src/Cosmology.jl:65 [inlined]
[4] #3
 @ ~/.julia/packages/Cosmology/eZT7X/src/Cosmology.jl:181 [inlined]
[5] evalrule(f::Cosmology.var"#3#4"{Cosmology.ClosedLCDM{Float64}}, a::Float64, b::Float64, x::Vector{Float64}, w::Vector{Float64}, g
w::Vector{Float64}, nrm::typeof{LinearAlgebra.norm})
 @ QuadGK ~/.julia/packages/QuadGK/OtnWt/src/evalrule.jl:30
[6] #6
 @ ~/.julia/packages/QuadGK/OtnWt/src/adapt.jl:15 [inlined]
[7] ntuple
 @ ./ntuple.jl:48 [inlined]
```

Simple 0 3 Julia 1.9.3 | Idle Mode: Edit Ln 17, Col 1 MCMC-homework-hints.ipynb

