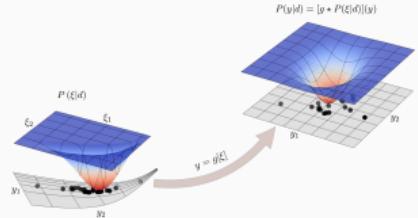


Recovering signals from astronomical data

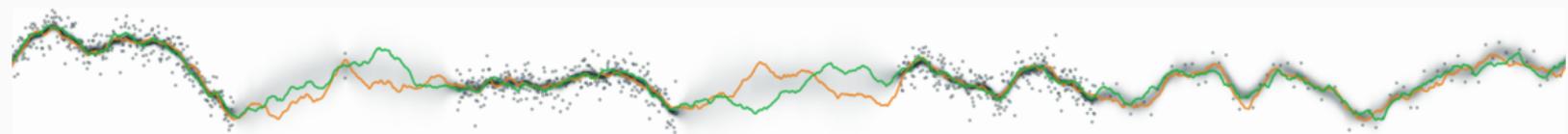
A PROBABILISTIC PERSPECTIVE



Philipp Frank¹

Institute seminar: Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics MPA, Garching, Germany,
October 2, 2023

(1) Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics MPA, Garching, Germany



Signal reconstruction for fields - Overview

- ❖ Why...
 - ❖ ... probabilistic estimators?
 - ❖ ... Bayes theorem?



Figure 1: SN1006 from Chandra data¹

¹Westerkamp, Eberle, Guardiani, et al. 2023.

Signal reconstruction for fields - Overview

- Why...
 - ... probabilistic estimators?
 - ... Bayes theorem?
- How do we...
 - ... model Priors & Likelihoods?
 - ... do (approximate) inference?

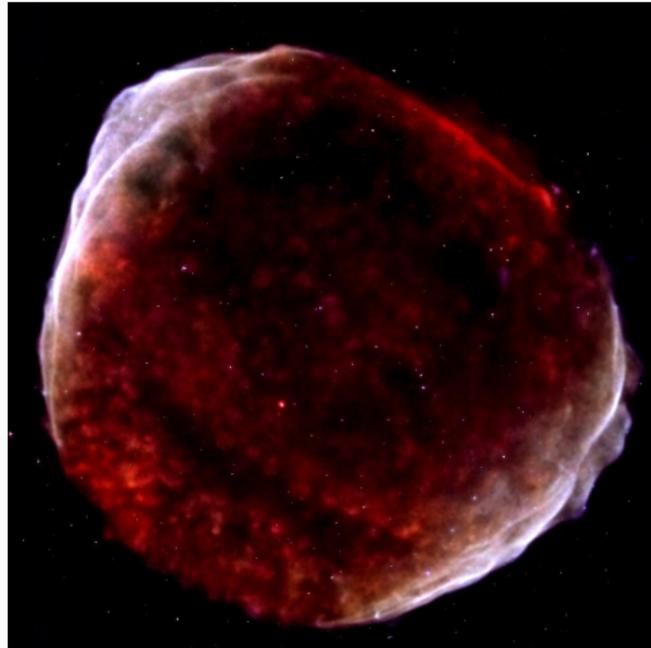


Figure 1: SN1006 from Chandra data¹

¹Westerkamp, Eberle, Guardiani, et al. 2023.

Signal reconstruction for fields - Overview

- Why...
 - ... probabilistic estimators?
 - ... Bayes theorem?
- How do we...
 - ... model Priors & Likelihoods?
 - ... do (approximate) inference?
- What?
 - Radio interferometry / VLBI
 - Faraday sky
 - GAIA 3D dust tomography
 - Chandra X-ray imaging
 - Fermi γ -ray sky

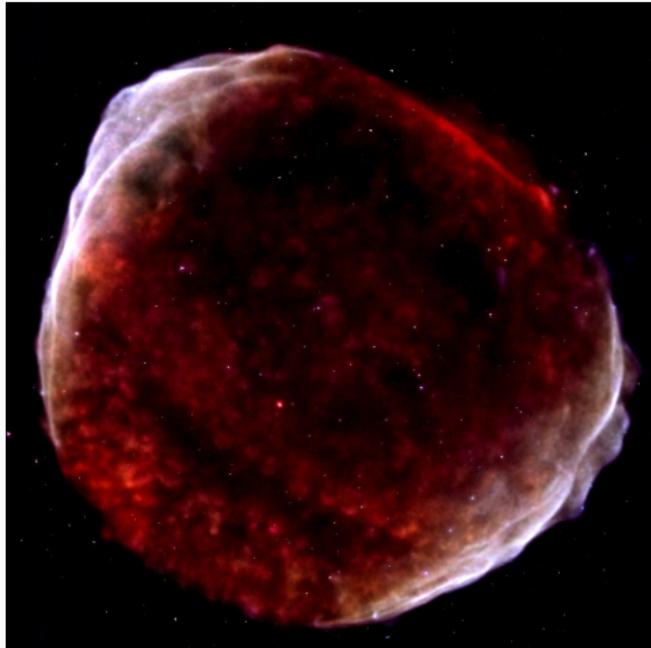
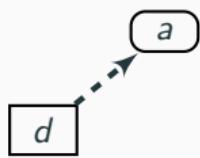


Figure 1: SN1006 from Chandra data¹

¹Westerkamp, Eberle, Guardiani, et al. 2023.

Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators

Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system



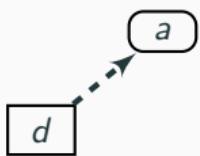
Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators

Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

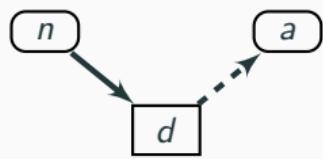
Probabilistic estimator

$$\hat{a} = E(d; M)$$

With: d = Data, M = Model.



Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators



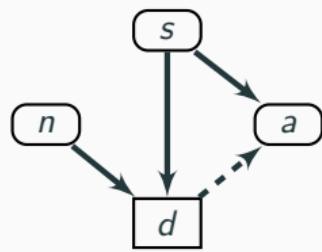
Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

Probabilistic estimator

$$\hat{a} = E(d; M) = \int a \mathcal{P}(a|d, M) da$$

With: $d = \text{Data}$, $M = \text{Model}$.

Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators



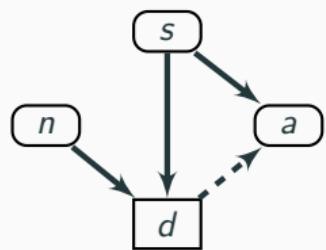
Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

Probabilistic estimator

$$\hat{a} = E(d; M) = \int a \mathcal{P}(a|d, M) da = \int a(s) \mathcal{P}(s|d, M) ds .$$

With: d = Data, s = Signal, M = Model.

Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators



Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

Probabilistic estimator

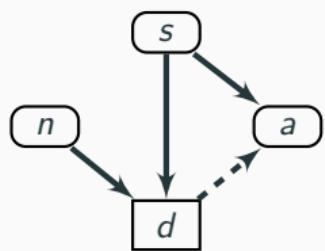
$$\hat{a} = E(d; M) = \int a \mathcal{P}(a|d, M) da = \int a(s) \mathcal{P}(s|d, M) ds .$$

With: d = Data, s = Signal, M = Model.

Product rule aka Bayes' Theorem

$$\mathcal{P}(s|d, M) = \frac{\mathcal{P}(s, d|M)}{\int \mathcal{P}(s, d|M) ds} .$$

Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators



Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

Probabilistic estimator

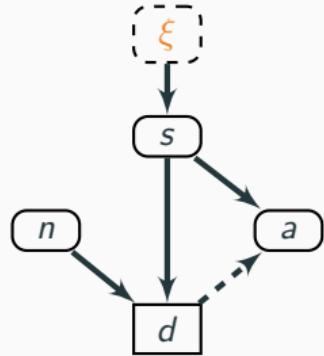
$$\hat{a} = E(d; M) = \int a \mathcal{P}(a|d, M) da = \int a(s) \mathcal{P}(s|d, M) ds .$$

With: d = Data, s = Signal, M = Model.

Product rule aka Bayes' Theorem

$$\mathcal{P}(s|d, M) = \frac{\mathcal{P}(s, d|M)}{\int \mathcal{P}(s, d|M) ds} = \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{P}(d|s, M)}{\int \mathcal{P}(s, d|M) ds}}_{\text{Likelihood}} \underbrace{\mathcal{P}(s|M)}_{\text{Prior}} .$$

Probabilistic (Bayesian) Estimators



Given data $d \rightarrow$ obtain answers a about a system

Probabilistic estimator

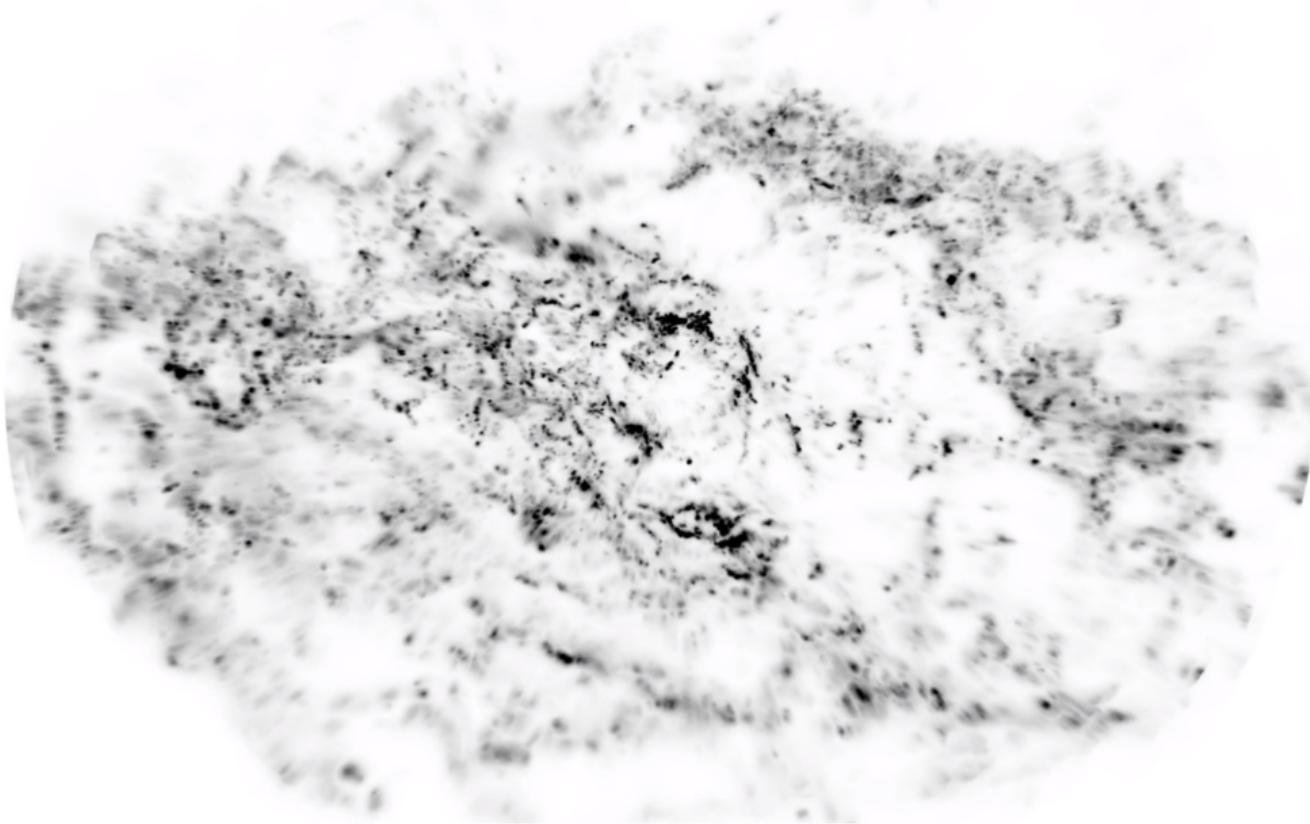
$$\hat{a} = E(d; M) = \int a \mathcal{P}(a|d, M) da = \int a(s) \mathcal{P}(s|d, M) ds .$$

With: d = Data, s = Signal, M = Model.

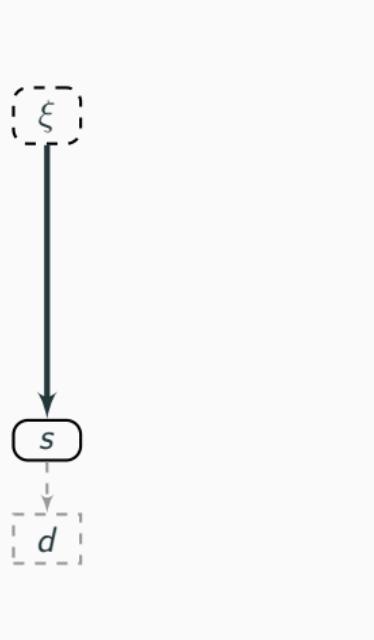
Product rule aka Bayes' Theorem

$$\mathcal{P}(\xi|d, M) = \frac{\mathcal{P}(\xi, d|M)}{\int \mathcal{P}(\xi, d|M) d\xi} = \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{P}(d|s(\xi), M)}{\int \mathcal{P}(d|s(\xi), M) d\xi}}_{\text{Likelihood}} \underbrace{\mathcal{N}(\xi; 0, 1)}_{\text{Prior}} .$$

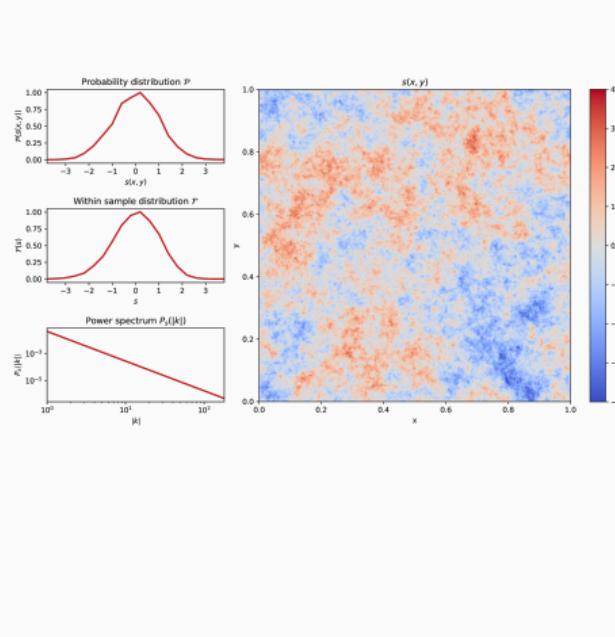
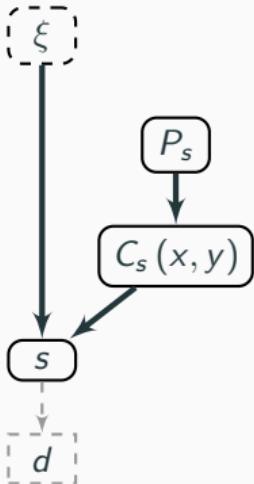
With: ξ = Parameters.



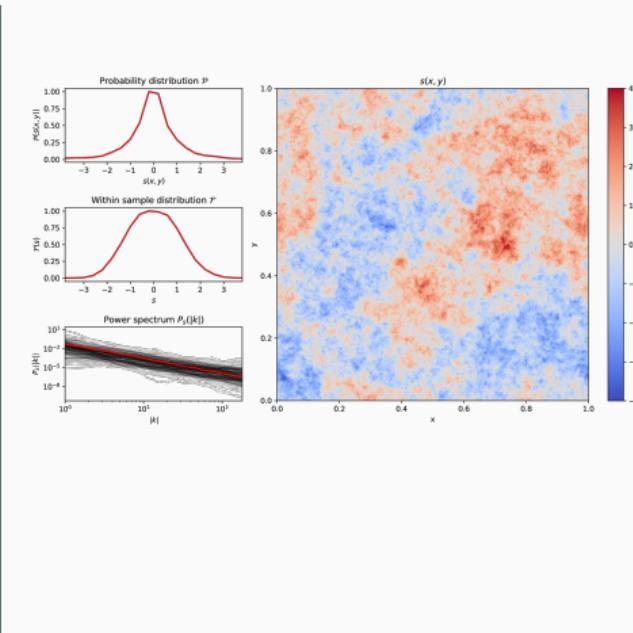
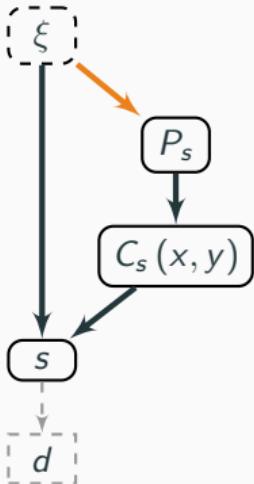
Priors - Gaussian & generative processes



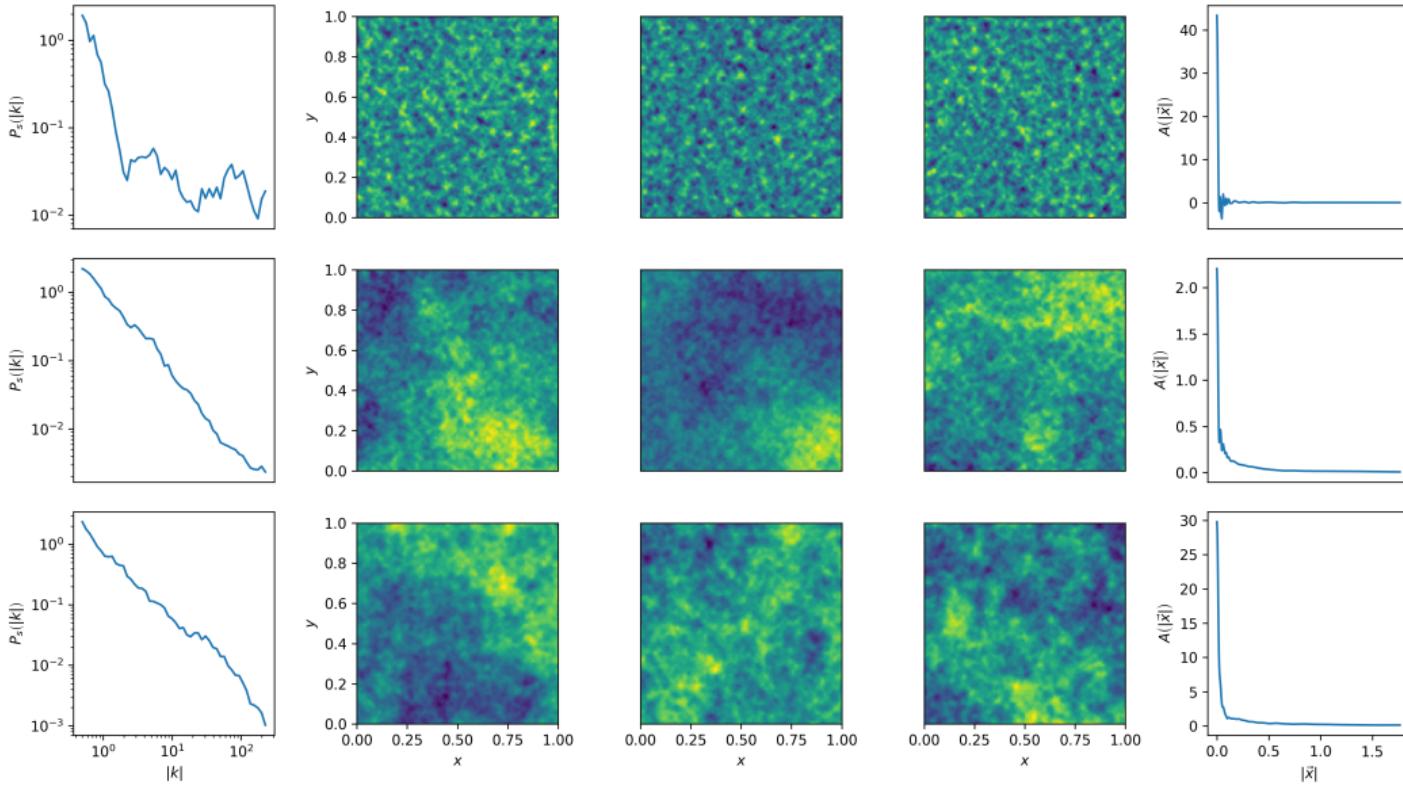
Priors - Gaussian & generative processes



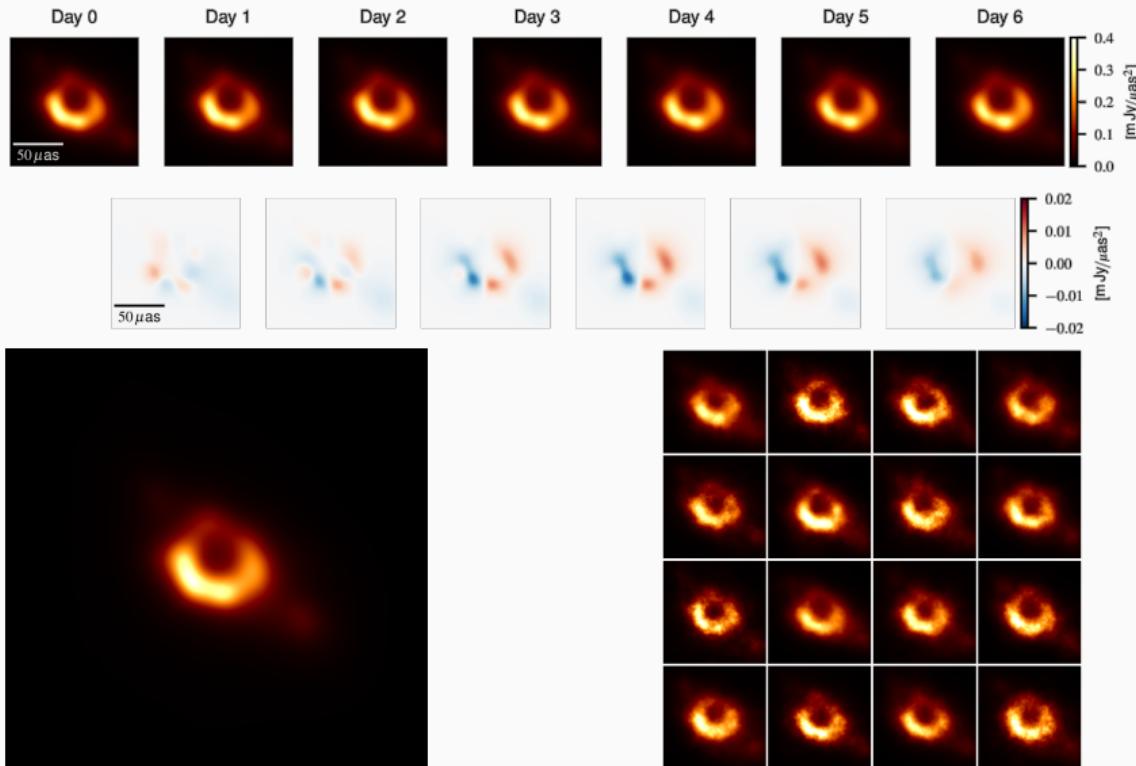
Priors - Gaussian & generative processes



Priors - Gaussian & generative processes

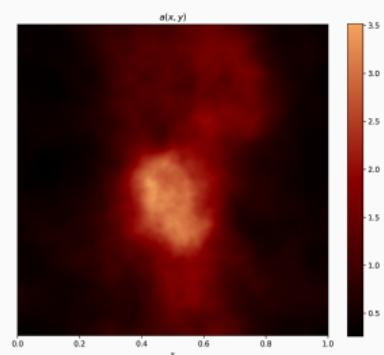
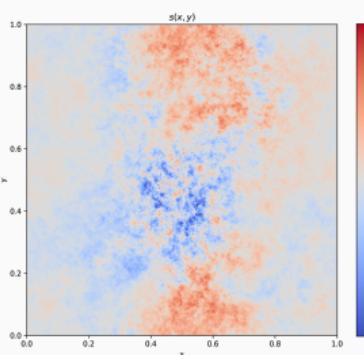
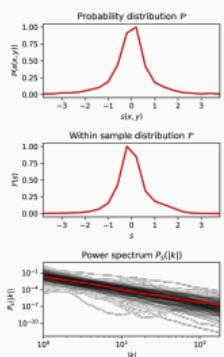
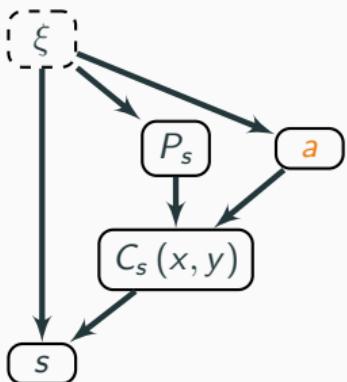


Priors - VLBI imaging of M87²

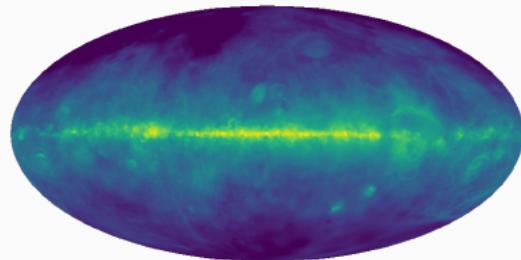
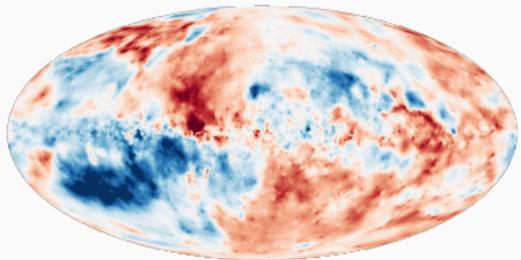
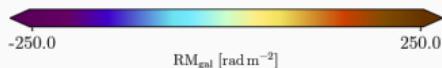
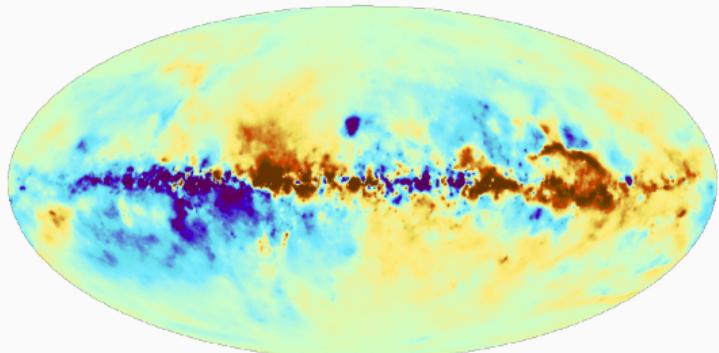


²Arras, Frank, Haim, et al. 2022.

Priors - Gaussian & generative processes

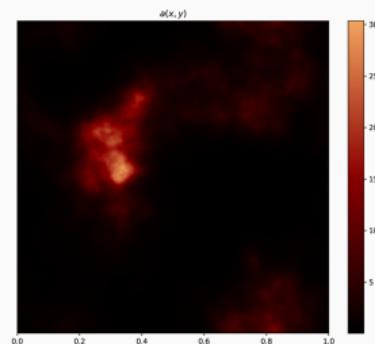
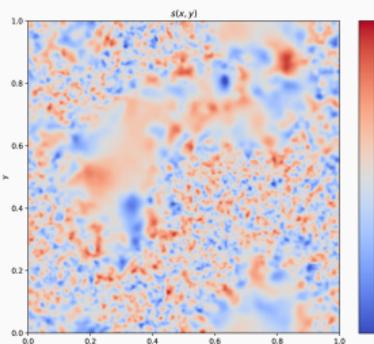
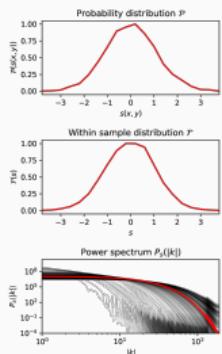
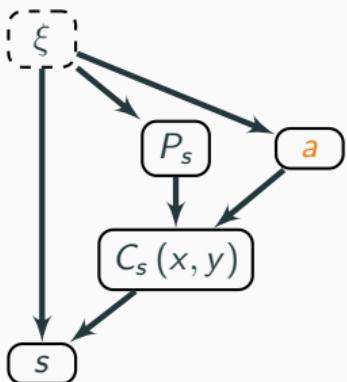


Priors - Faraday tomography³

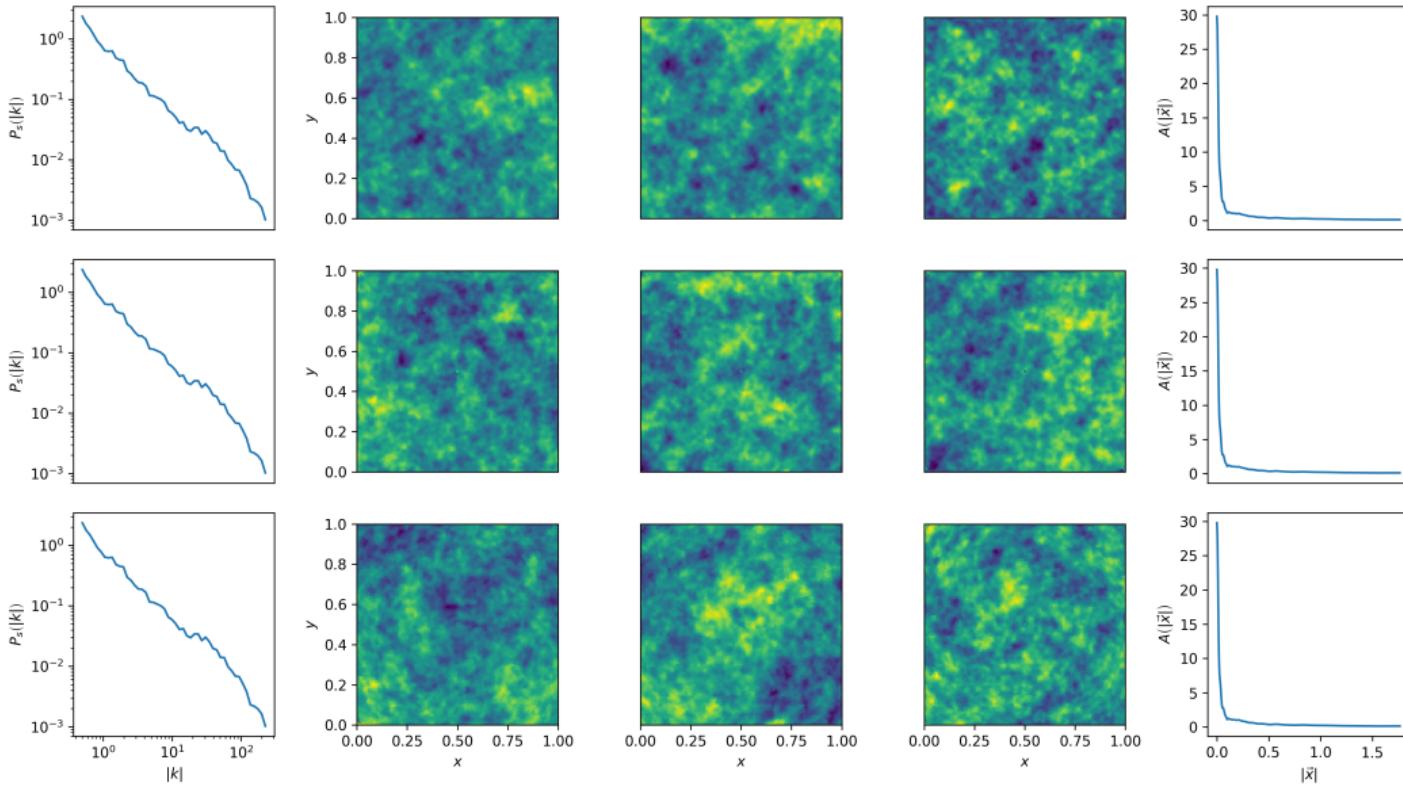


³Hutschenreuter, Haverkorn, Frank, et al. 2023.

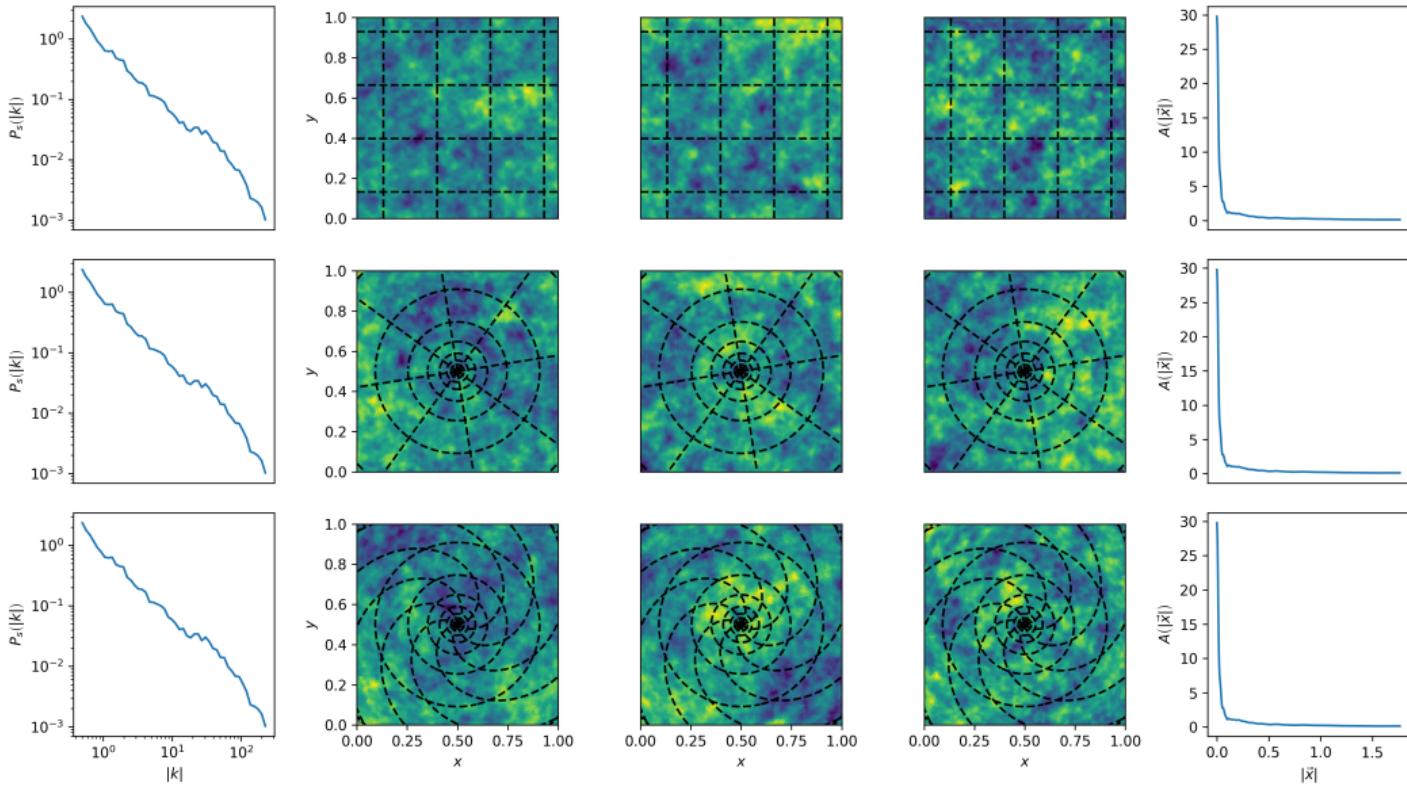
Priors - Gaussian & generative processes



Priors - Gaussian & generative processes

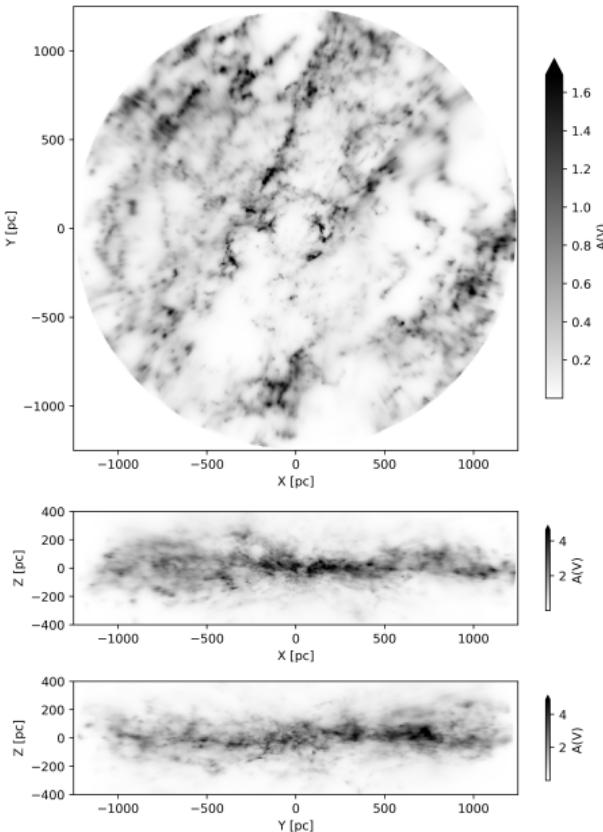


Priors - Gaussian & generative processes



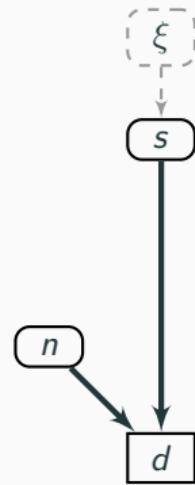
Priors - GAIA 3D dust tomography⁴

- HEALPix angular + Log-radial grid
- Log-Normal process on $\sim 0.66 \times 10^9$ voxels
- $\sim 80 \times 10^6$ measurements



⁴Edenhofer, Zucker, Frank, et al. 2023.

Likelihoods - Instrument response



Likelihoods - Instrument response

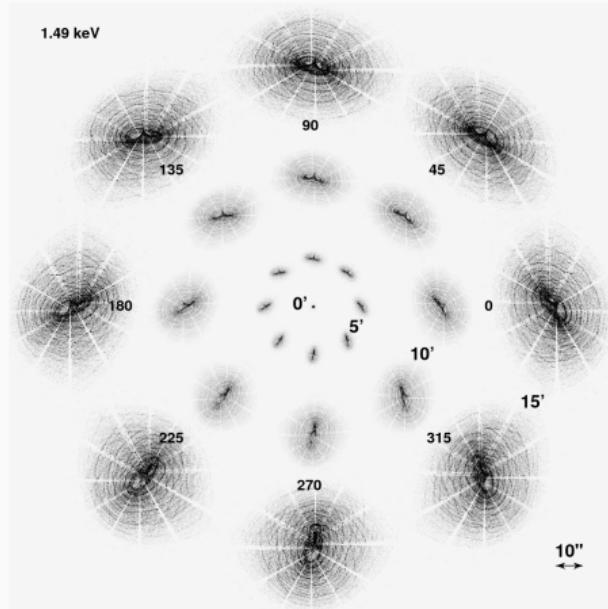
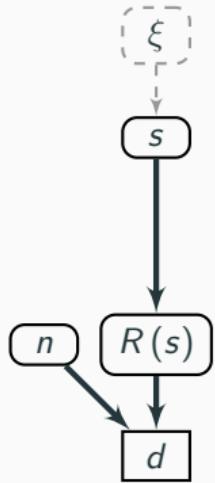


Figure 2: Simulated Chandra PSF⁵

⁵Credit: <https://cxc.harvard.edu/>

Likelihoods - Instrument response

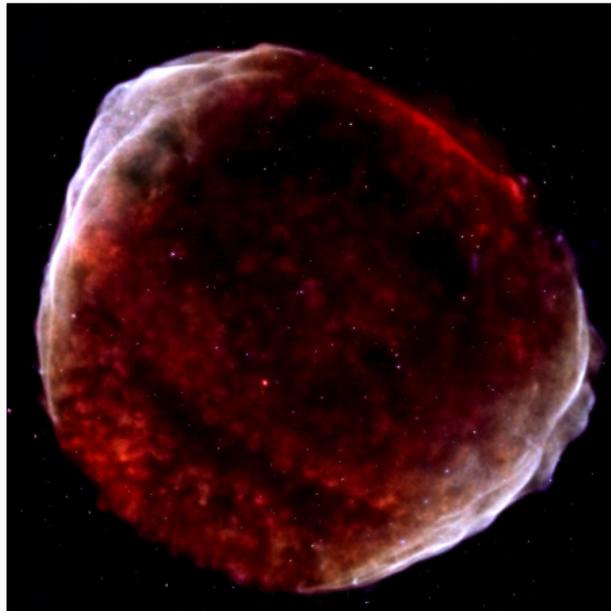
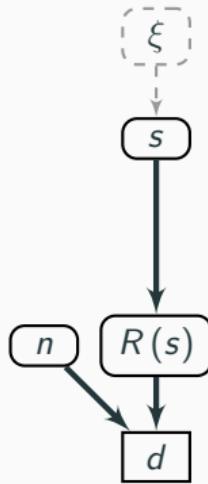


Figure 2: SN1006 from Chandra data⁵

⁵Westerkamp, Eberle, Guardiani, et al. 2023.

Likelihoods - Instrument response

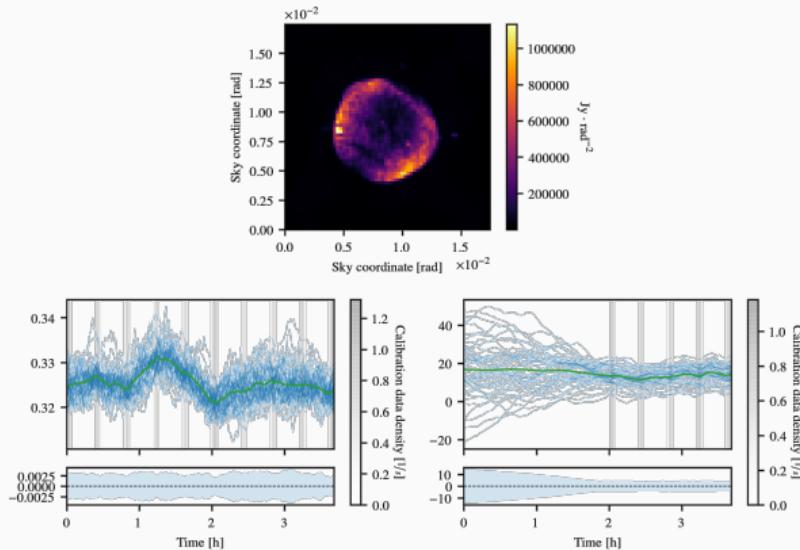
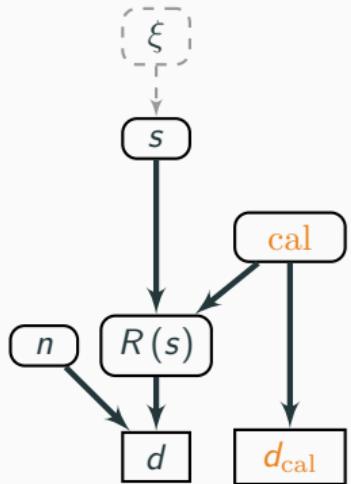


Figure 2: SN1006 from VLA data⁵

⁵Arras, Frank, Leike, et al. 2019.

Likelihoods - Instrument response

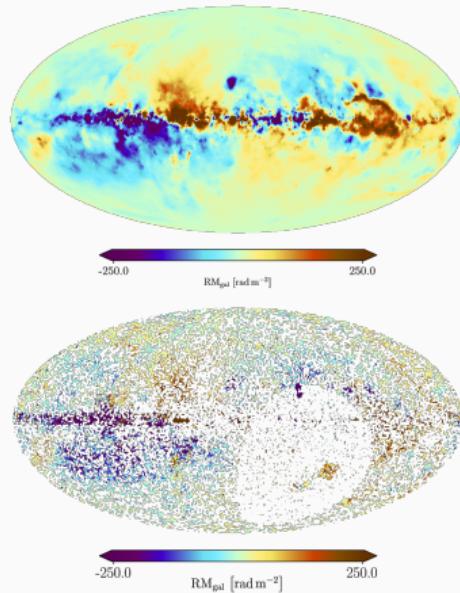
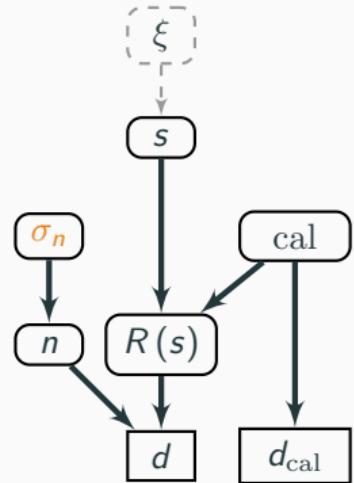
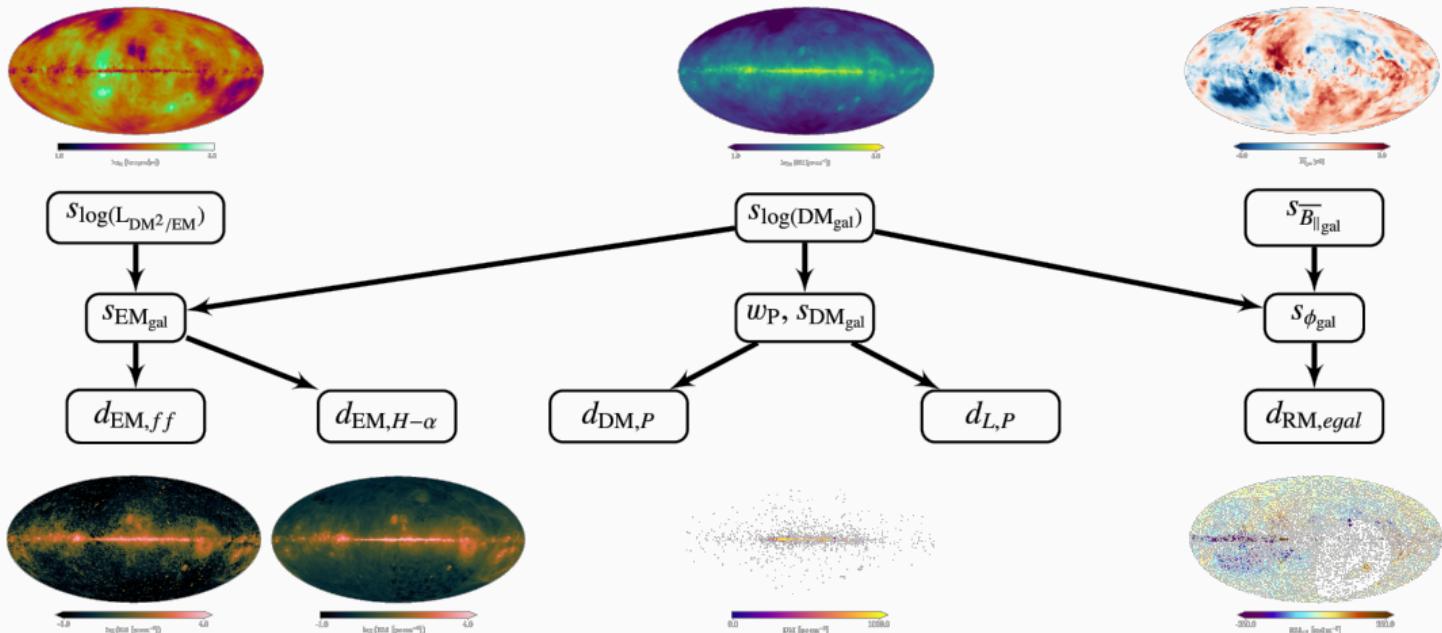


Figure 2: Faraday sky⁵

⁵Hutschenreuter, Havercorn, Frank, et al. 2023.

Likelihoods - Faraday tomography⁶



⁶Hutschenreuter, Havercorn, Frank, et al. 2023.

Approximate Inference

Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, d\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, d\xi$$

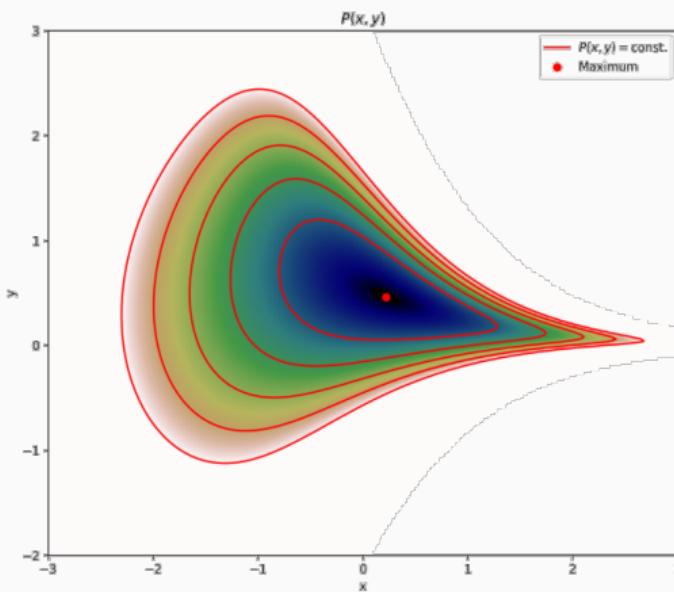
Function: $f(\xi)$; Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; parameters: ξ ; data: d .

Approximate Inference

Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, d\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, d\xi$$

Function: $f(\xi)$; Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; parameters: ξ ; data: d .

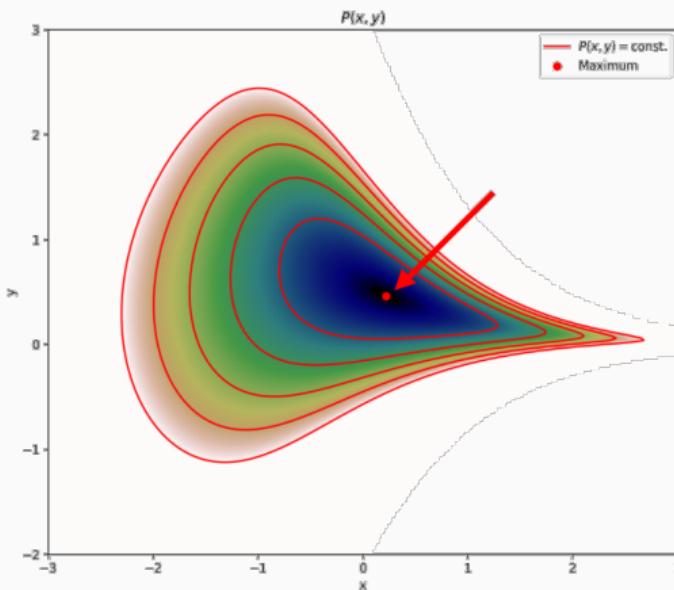


Approximate Inference

Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, d\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, d\xi \approx f(\xi_{\text{MAX}})$$

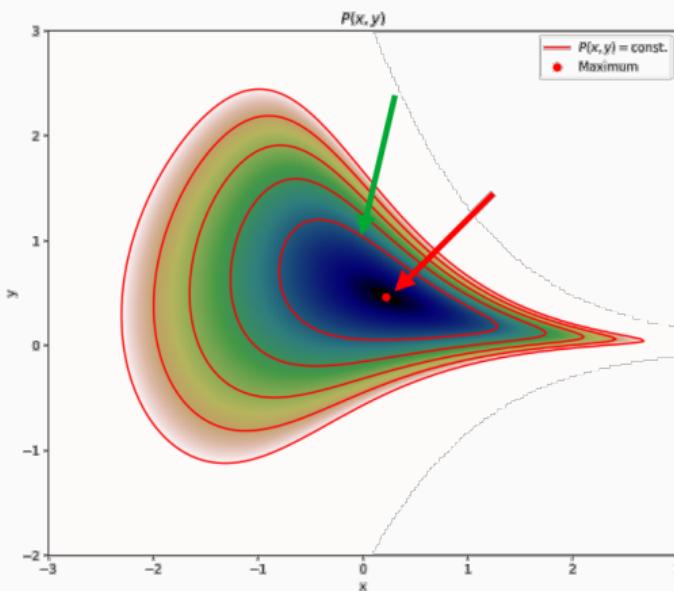
Function: $f(\xi)$; Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; parameters: ξ ; data: d .



Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, d\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, d\xi \approx f(\xi_{\text{MAX}})$$

Function: $f(\xi)$; Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; parameters: ξ ; data: d .

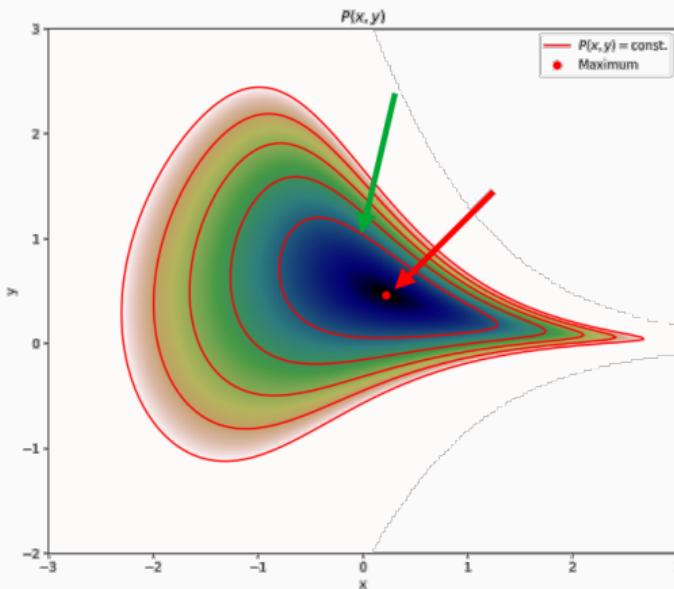


Approximate Inference

Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, d\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, d\xi \approx \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{Q}(\xi|d) \, d\xi$$

Function: $f(\xi)$; Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; parameters: ξ ; data: d .



Approximate Inference - Variational Inference (VI)

Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$\text{KL} [\mathcal{Q}_\sigma || \mathcal{P}] = - \int \log \left(\frac{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)}{\mathcal{Q}_\sigma(\xi)} \right) \mathcal{Q}_\sigma(\xi) \, d\xi$$

Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; Approximation: $\mathcal{Q}_\sigma(\xi)$; Variational parameters: σ .

⁷Knollmüller and Enßlin 2019.

⁸Frank, Leike, and Enßlin 2021.

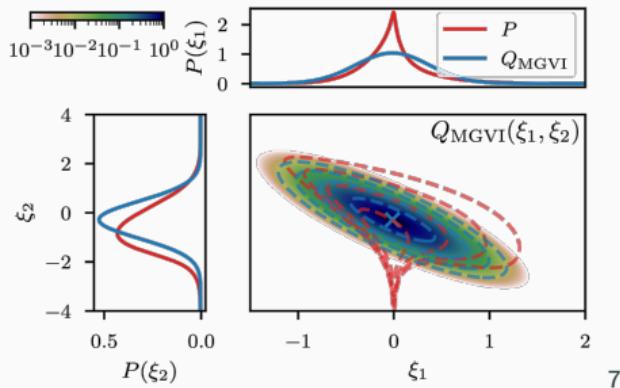
Approximate Inference - Variational Inference (VI)

Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$\text{KL} [Q_\sigma || \mathcal{P}] = - \int \log \left(\frac{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)}{Q_\sigma(\xi)} \right) Q_\sigma(\xi) \, d\xi$$

Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; Approximation: $Q_\sigma(\xi)$; Variational parameters: σ .

$$\text{KL}(P; Q_{\text{MGVI}}) = 1.3751 \quad \text{KL}(Q_{\text{MGVI}}; P) = 0.6150$$



⁷Knollmüller and Enßlin 2019.

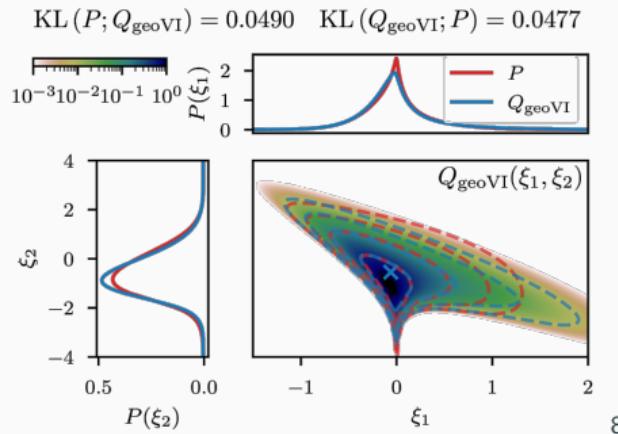
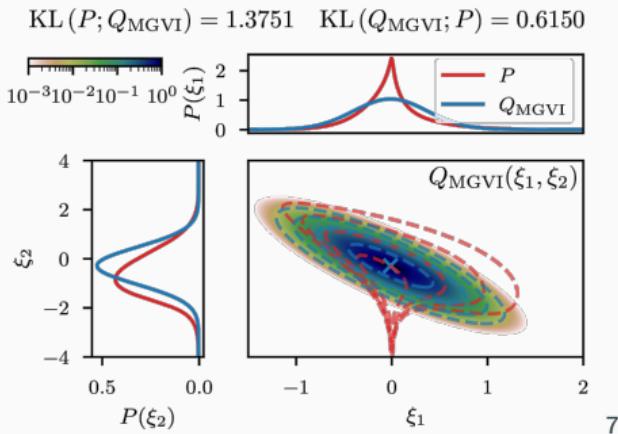
⁸Frank, Leike, and Enßlin 2021.

Approximate Inference - Variational Inference (VI)

Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$\text{KL} [Q_\sigma || P] = - \int \log \left(\frac{P(\xi|d)}{Q_\sigma(\xi)} \right) Q_\sigma(\xi) \, d\xi$$

Posterior: $P(\xi|d)$; Approximation: $Q_\sigma(\xi)$; Variational parameters: σ .



⁷Knollmüller and Enßlin 2019.

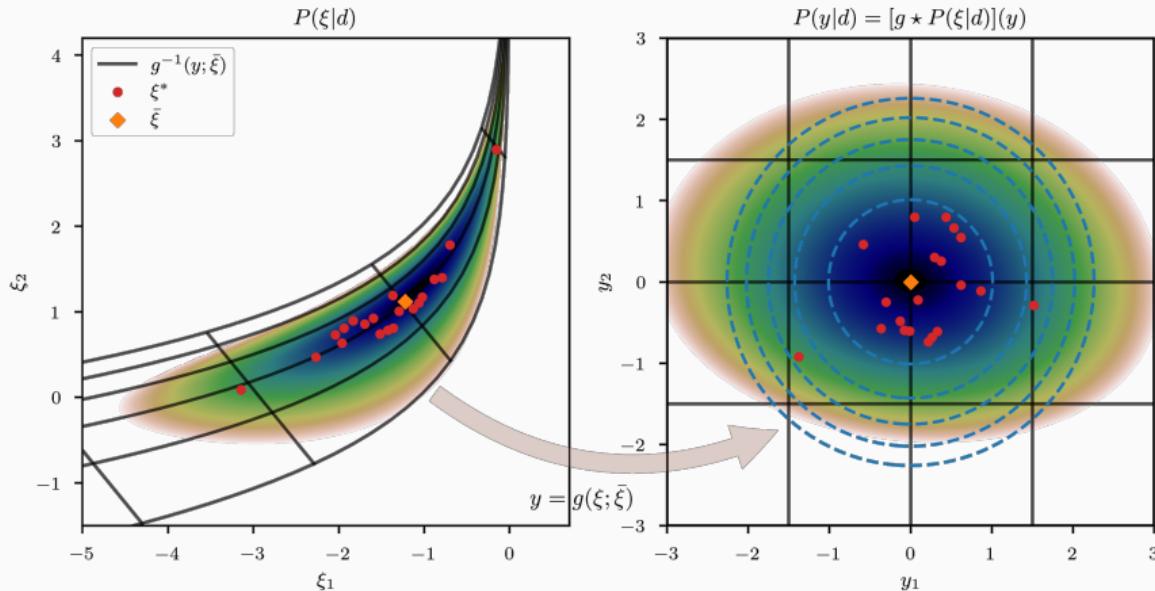
⁸Frank, Leike, and Enßlin 2021.

Approximate Inference - geoVI

Geometric Variational Inference

Normalizing coordinate transformation $y = g_\sigma(\xi)$ with $\sigma = \bar{\xi}$.

Approximate distribution $\mathcal{Q}(y) = \mathcal{N}(y; 0, 1)$



Conclusion - Remarks

- Estimators are model dependent
- Accurate instrument models crucial for inference

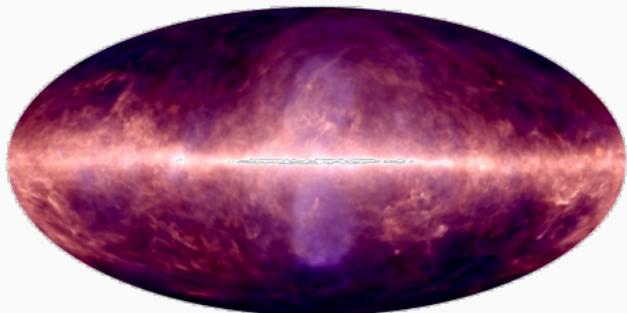


Figure 3: γ -ray sky from Fermi data⁹

⁹Platz, Knollmüller, Arras, et al. 2022.

Conclusion - Remarks

- ⊕ Estimators are model dependent
- ⊕ Accurate instrument models crucial for inference
- ⊕ For fields:
 - ⊕ GPs: Fast and flexible way to summarize prior knowledge...
 - ⊕ (geo)VI: Scalable approximate inference...

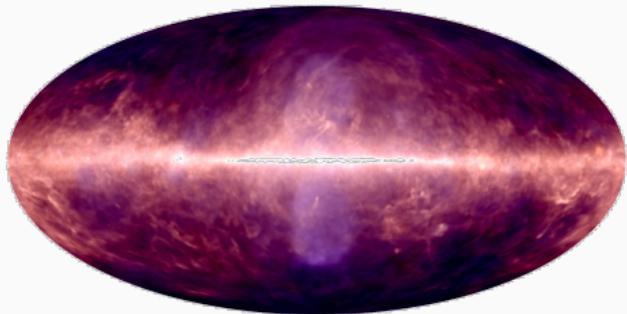


Figure 3: γ -ray sky from Fermi data⁹

⁹Platz, Knollmüller, Arras, et al. 2022.

Conclusion - Remarks

- ⊕ Estimators are model dependent
- ⊕ Accurate instrument models crucial for inference
- ⊕ For fields:
 - ⊕ GPs: Fast and flexible way to summarize prior knowledge...
 - ⊕ (geo)VI: Scalable approximate inference...
 - ⊕ ... IF estimators are reliable under model/approximation assumptions

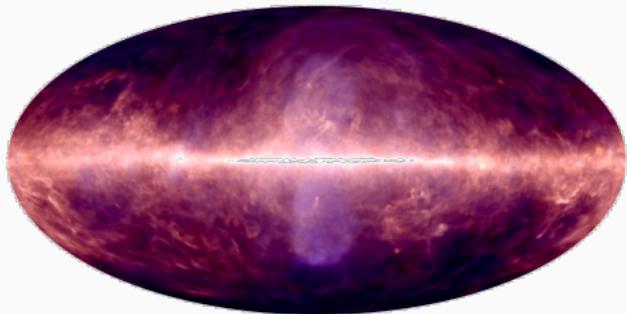


Figure 3: γ -ray sky from Fermi data⁹

⁹Platz, Knollmüller, Arras, et al. 2022.

Conclusion - Remarks

- ⊕ Estimators are model dependent
- ⊕ Accurate instrument models crucial for inference
- ⊕ For fields:
 - ⊕ GPs: Fast and flexible way to summarize prior knowledge...
 - ⊕ (geo)VI: Scalable approximate inference...
 - ⊕ ... IF estimators are reliable under model/approximation assumptions
- ⊕ Challenge: Quantify model → Estimator influence

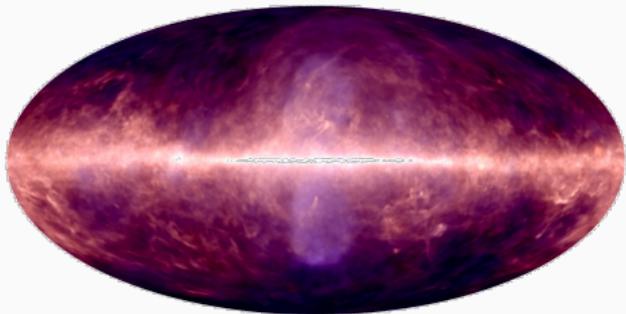


Figure 3: γ -ray sky from Fermi data⁹

⁹Platz, Knollmüller, Arras, et al. 2022.

Conclusion - Remarks

- ⊕ Estimators are model dependent
- ⊕ Accurate instrument models crucial for inference
- ⊕ For fields:
 - ⊕ GPs: Fast and flexible way to summarize prior knowledge...
 - ⊕ (geo)VI: Scalable approximate inference...
 - ⊕ ... IF estimators are reliable under model/approximation assumptions
- ⊕ Challenge: Quantify model → Estimator influence

Get your MPA mug!

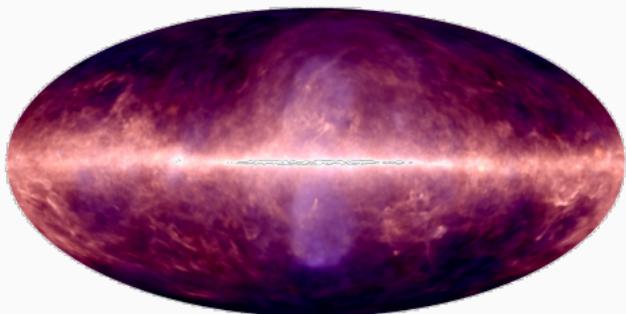


Figure 3: γ -ray sky from Fermi data⁹

⁹Platz, Knollmüller, Arras, et al. 2022.

References

-  Arras, Philipp et al. (July 2019). “Unified radio interferometric calibration and imaging with joint uncertainty quantification”. In: *A&A* 627, A134, A134. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201935555. arXiv: 1903.11169 [astro-ph.IM].
-  Arras, Philipp et al. (2022). “Variable structures in M87* from space, time and frequency resolved interferometry”. In: *Nature Astronomy* 6.2, pp. 259–269.
-  Edenhofer, Gordian et al. (Aug. 2023). “A Parsec-Scale Galactic 3D Dust Map out to 1.25 kpc from the Sun”. In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2308.01295, arXiv:2308.01295. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2308.01295. arXiv: 2308.01295 [astro-ph.GA].
-  Frank, Philipp, Reimar Leike, and Torsten A. Enßlin (2021). “Geometric Variational Inference”. In: *Entropy* 23.7. ISSN: 1099-4300. DOI: 10.3390/e23070853. URL: <https://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/23/7/853>.

References ii

-  Hutschenreuter, Sebastian et al. (Apr. 2023). "Disentangling the Faraday rotation sky". In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2304.12350, arXiv:2304.12350. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2304.12350. arXiv: 2304.12350 [astro-ph.GA].
-  Knollmüller, Jakob and Torsten A. Enßlin (Jan. 2019). "Metric Gaussian Variational Inference". In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:1901.11033, arXiv:1901.11033. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.1901.11033. arXiv: 1901.11033 [stat.ML].
-  Platz, Lukas I. et al. (Apr. 2022). "Multi-Component Imaging of the Fermi Gamma-ray Sky in the Spatio-spectral Domain". In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2204.09360, arXiv:2204.09360. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2204.09360. arXiv: 2204.09360 [astro-ph.HE].
-  Westerkamp, Margret et al. (Aug. 2023). "First spatio-spectral Bayesian imaging of SN1006 in X-ray". In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2308.09176, arXiv:2308.09176. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2308.09176. arXiv: 2308.09176 [astro-ph.HE].