

# Automated Design of Localization for Ensemble Kalman Filters

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# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

1. Use model to advance **ensemble** (3 members here) to time at which next observation becomes available.

Ensemble state  
estimate after using  
previous observation  
(analysis)

$t_k$



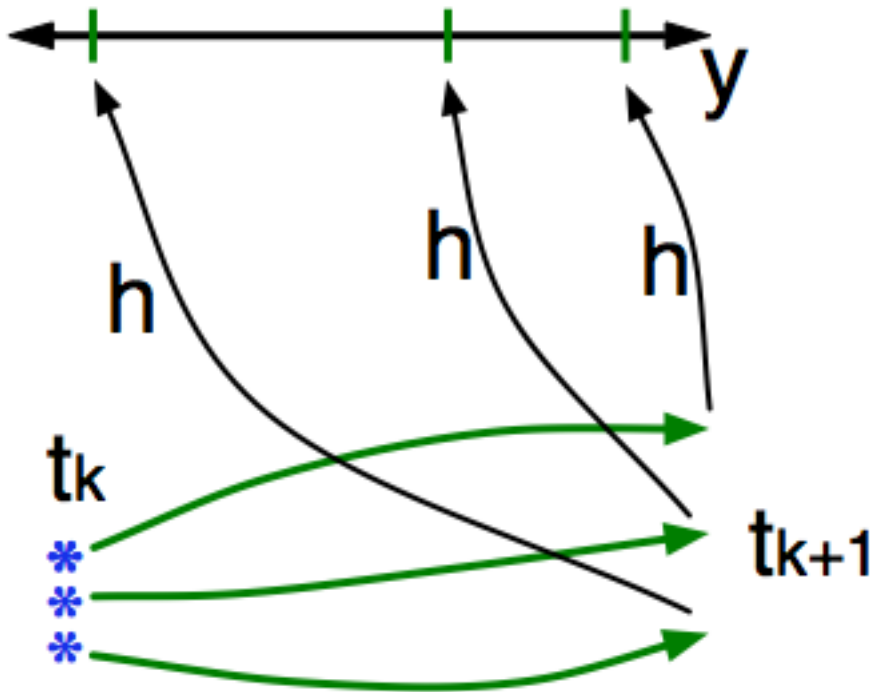
Ensemble state  
at time of next  
observation  
(prior)

$t_{k+1}$



# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

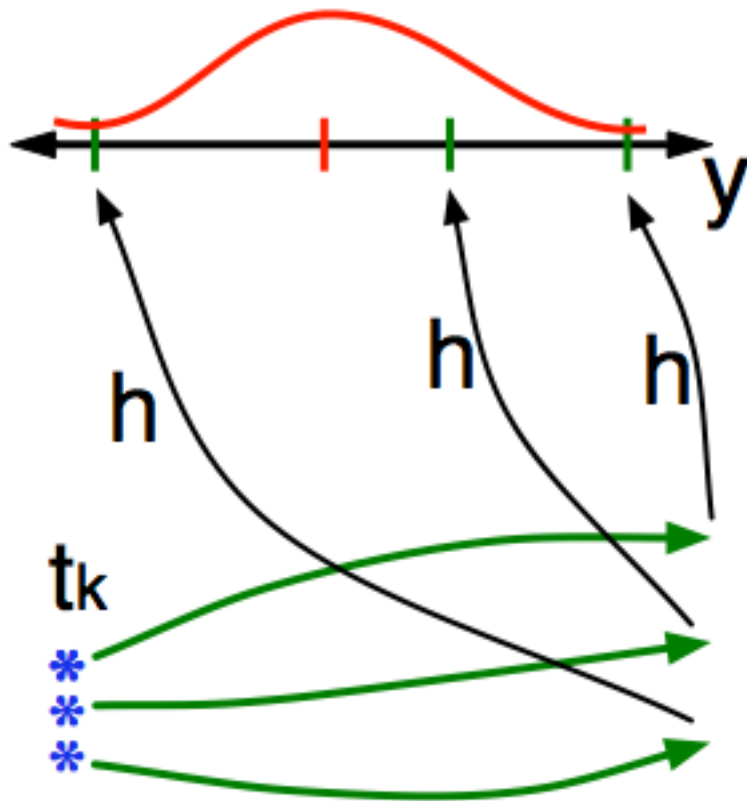
2. Get prior ensemble sample of observation,  $y = h(x)$ , by applying forward operator  $h$  to each ensemble member.



Theory: observations from instruments with uncorrelated errors can be done sequentially.

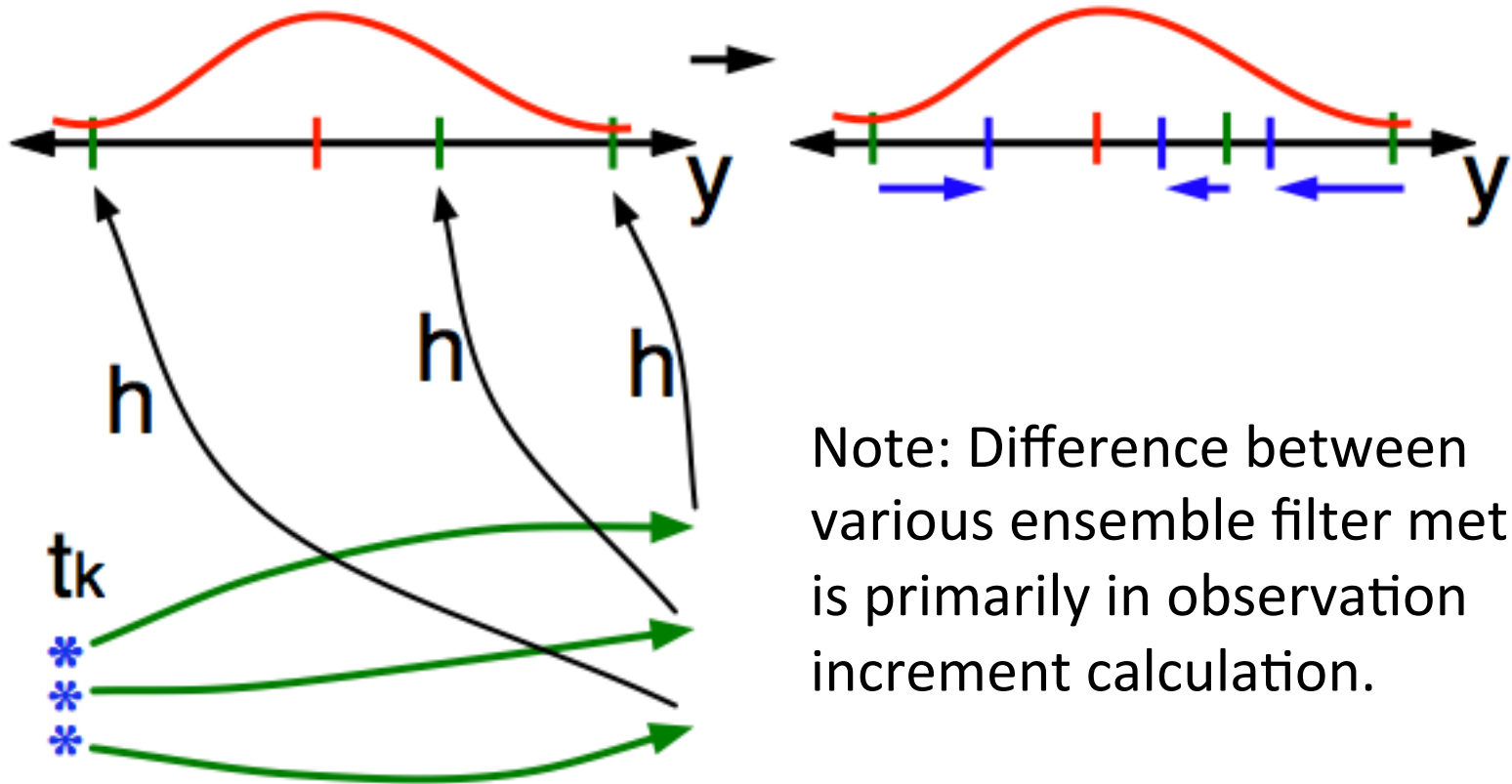
# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

3. Get **observed value** and **observational error distribution** from observing system.



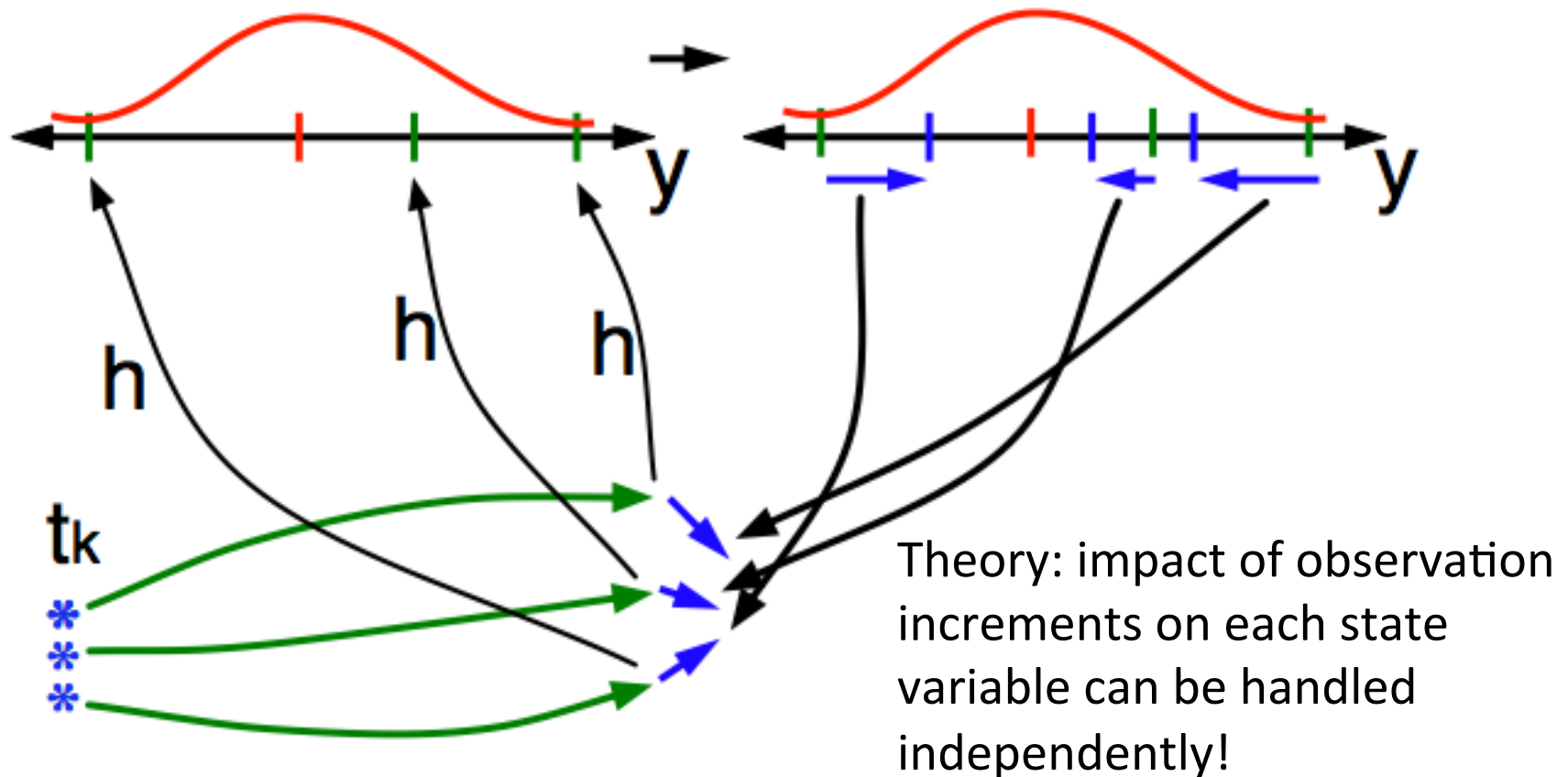
# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

4. Find the **increments** for the prior observation ensemble (this is a scalar problem for uncorrelated observation errors).



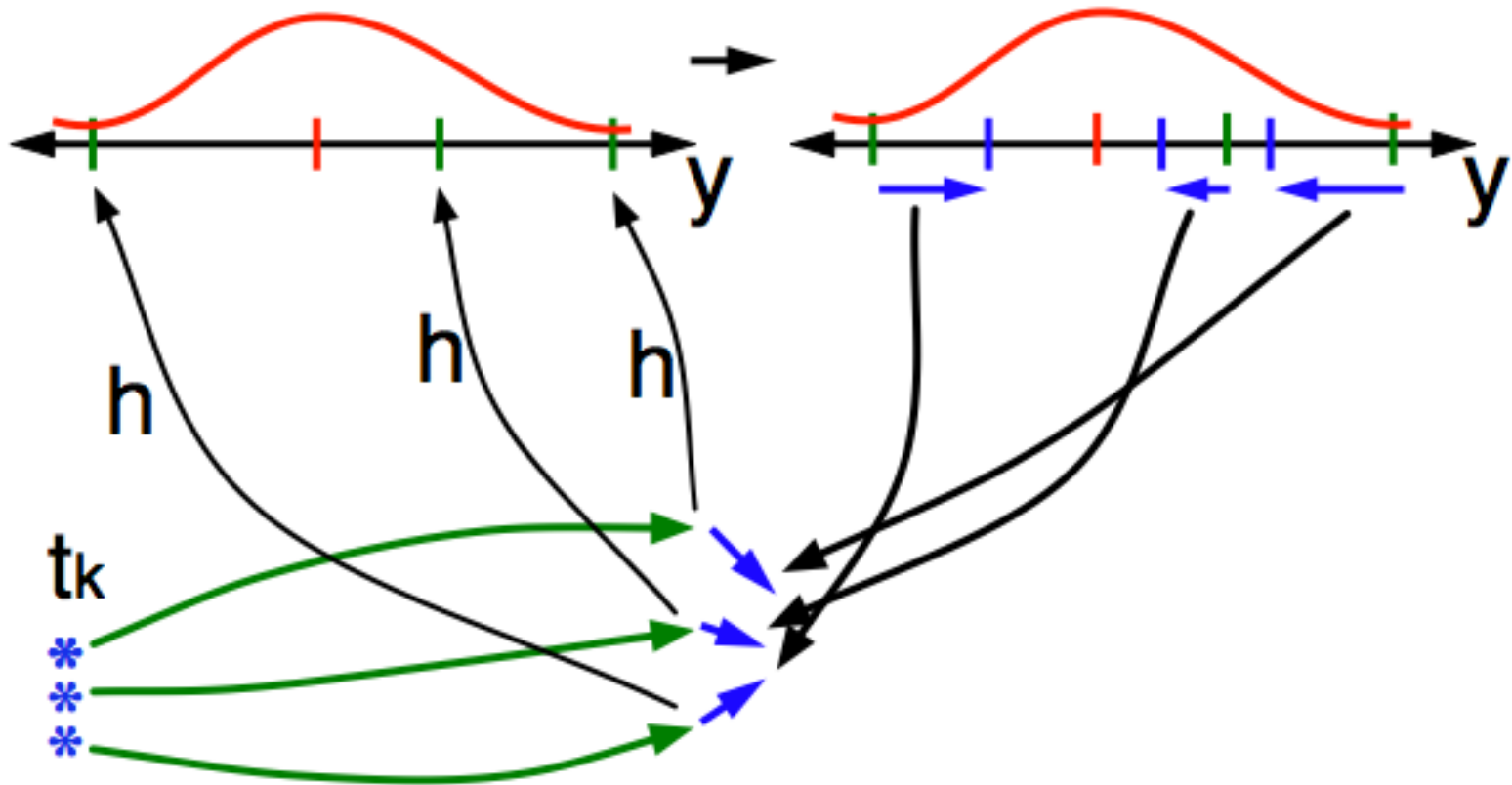
# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

5. Use ensemble samples of  $y$  and each state variable to linearly regress observation increments onto state variable increments.



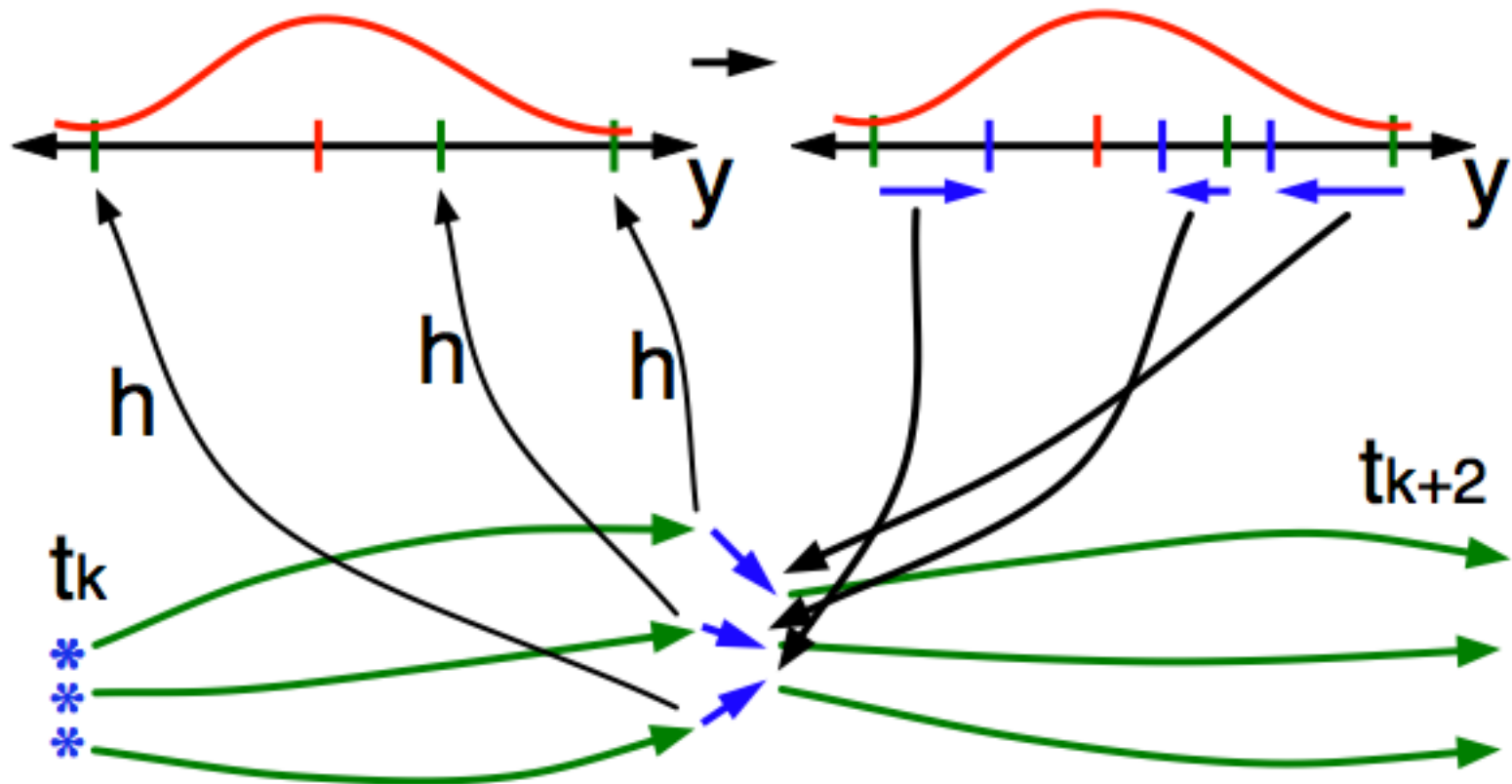
# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

5. Use ensemble samples of  $y$  and each state variable to linearly regress observation increments onto state variable increments.



# Schematic of an Ensemble Filter for Geophysical Data Assimilation

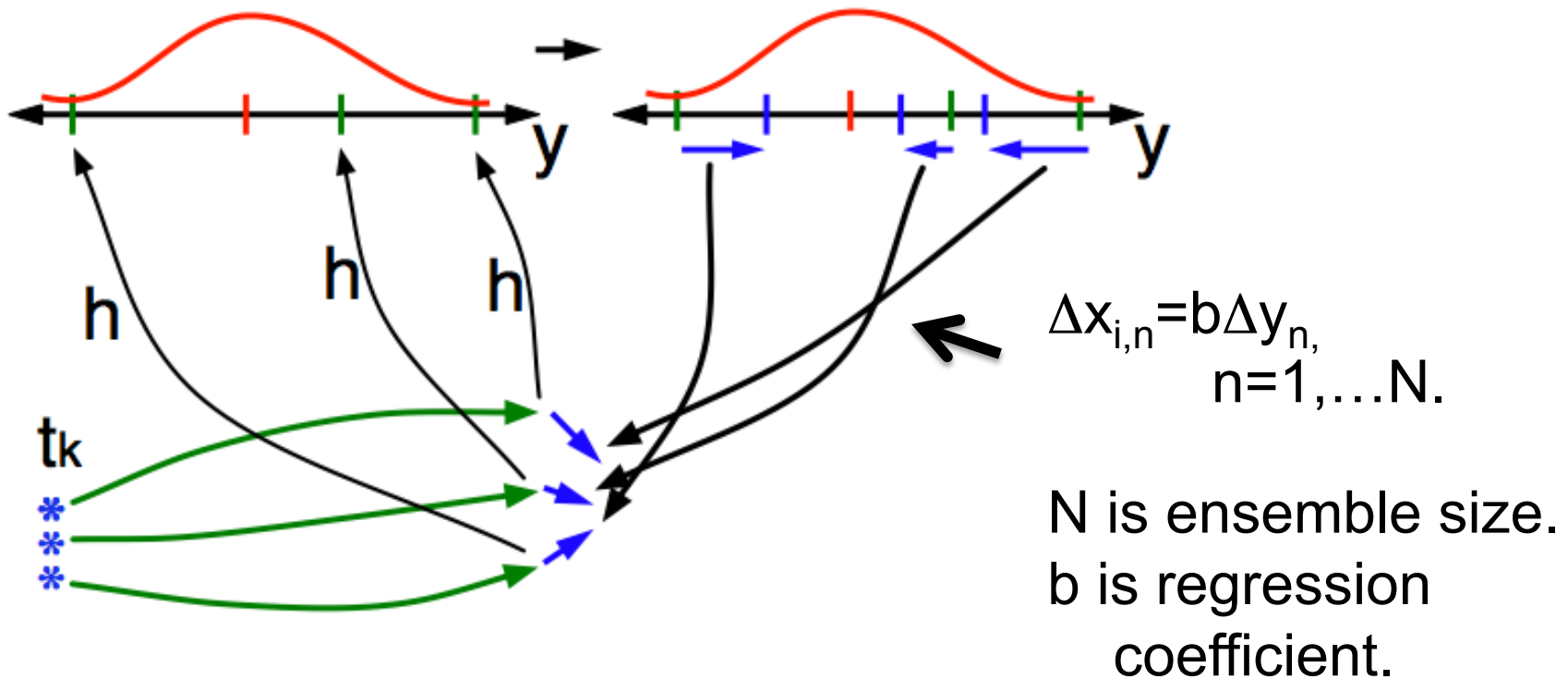
- When all ensemble members for each state variable are updated, there is a new analysis. Integrate to time of next observation ...





# Focus on the Regression Step

Regress  $y$  increments onto each state component  $x_i$ .



# Localization is Required for Most Applications

- Localization multiplies regression.
- Increments for N ensemble samples of x are:  
$$\Delta x_{i,n} = \alpha b \Delta y_n, \quad n=1, \dots, N.$$
- b is sample regression coefficient.
- $\alpha$  is a localization (normally between 0 and 1).

# Defining a Localization Function

Localization for a given  $(y, x)$  might be a function of:

1. Metadata for  $(y, x)$  such as:

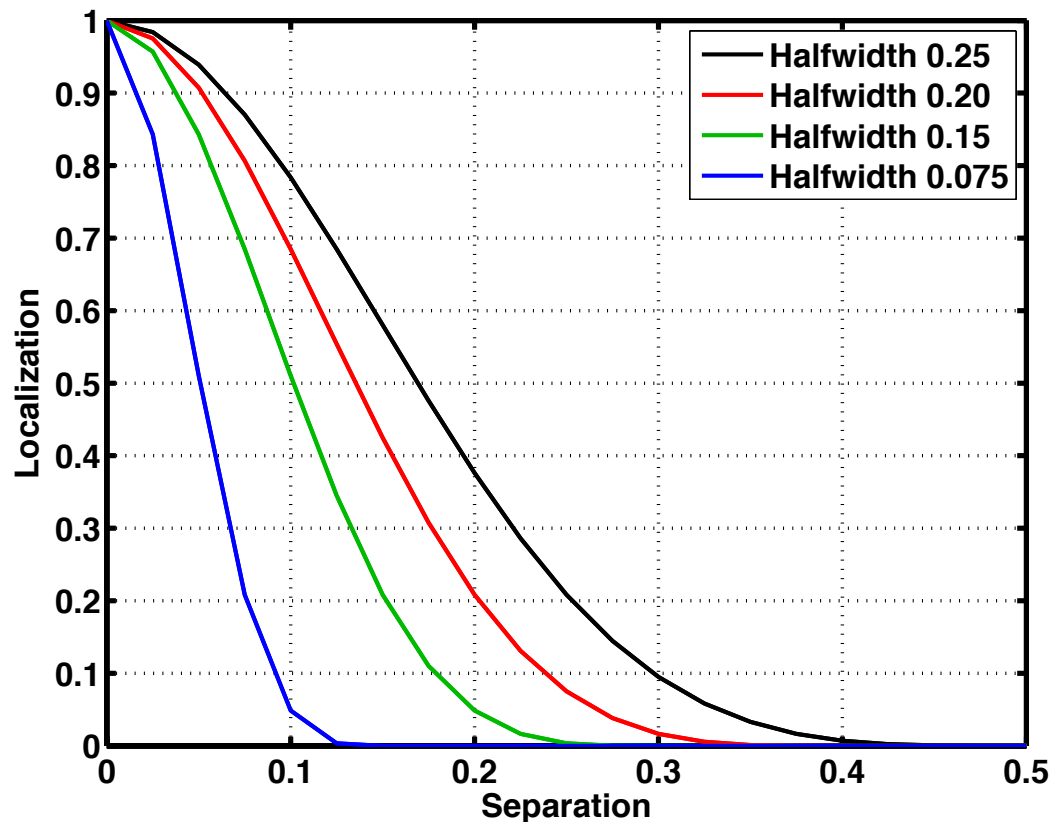
Separation between  $(y, x)$ ,

Kind of observation  $y$  (temperature, wind, ...),

Kind of state variable  $x$ .

# Benchmark Localization: Best Tuned Gaspari-Cohn

- Function of separation between observation  $y$  and state  $x$ .
- Length scale defined by halfwidth parameter.



# Defining a Localization Function

Localization for a given  $(y, x)$  might be a function of:

1. Metadata for  $(y, x)$  such as:
  - Separation between  $(y, x)$ ,
  - Kind of observation  $y$  (temperature, wind, ...),
  - Kind of state variable  $x$ .
2. Ensemble prior for  $(y, x)$  such as:
  - Sample Correlation from the Ensemble.

# Defining a Localization Function

Define localization function for subsets of  $(y, x)$  pairs.

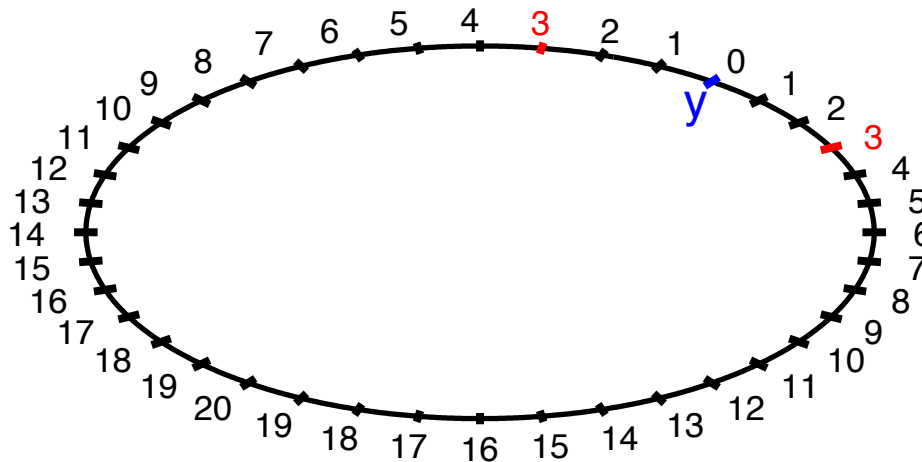
Examples:

- All pairs separated by a given distance range,
- All pairs where  $y$  is a temperature and  $x$  is a u-wind separated by a given distance range.

# Lorenz96 40-Variable Localization Subset Definition

Define subsets of  $(y, x)$  pairs by separation:

Example: state  $x$  is 3 grid intervals from observation  $y$ , ( $dx = 3$ ).



➤ Estimate localization distribution for each separation.

# New Localization Method: Correlation Error Reduction

- Assume all errors are due to ensemble sampling error.
- Focus on regression  $b=r(\sigma_x/\sigma_y)$ ,  
r is correlation,  
 $\sigma_x$  is standard deviation of state,  
 $\sigma_y$  is standard deviation of observation.

Estimates of standard deviation are unbiased  
(but estimates of ratio are biased, not discussed here).

- Only correct sampling error in the correlation.



## Overview of Algorithm:

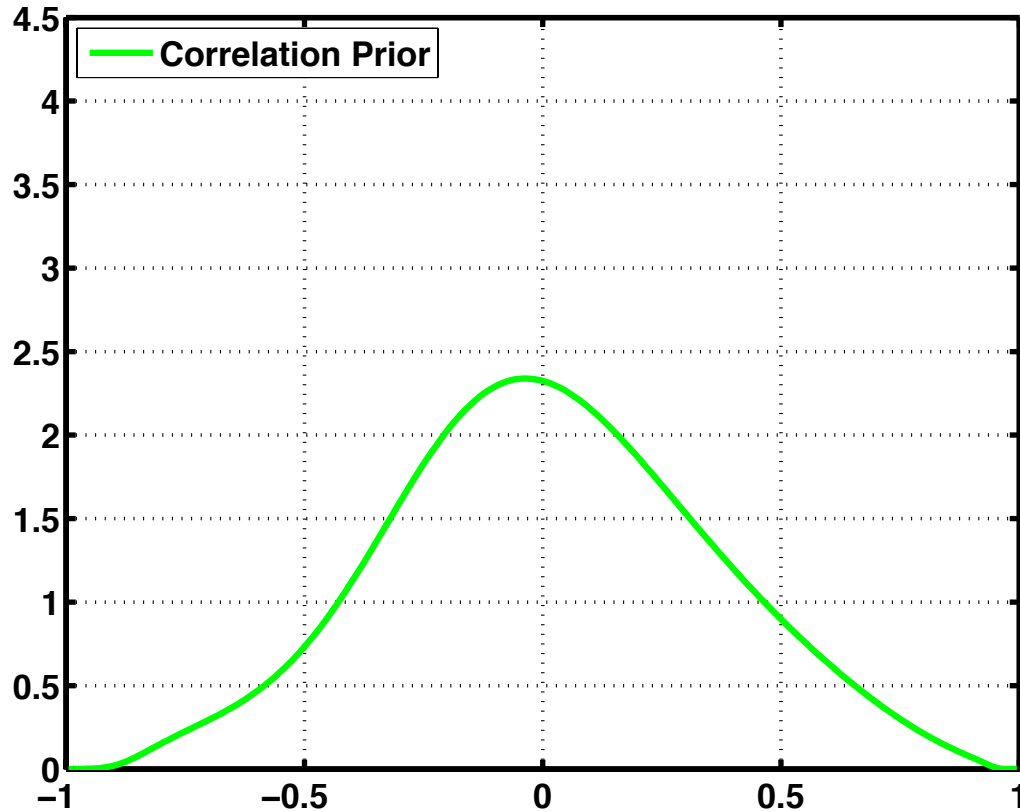
- Estimate 'background' correlation distribution for each separation subset.
- Use current sample correlation from assimilation and associated sampling error uncertainty.
- Combine current correlation with background.
- Get 'localized' correlation to update state  $x$ .

Identity observations, error variance 1.

Assimilate every 12<sup>th</sup> model timestep.

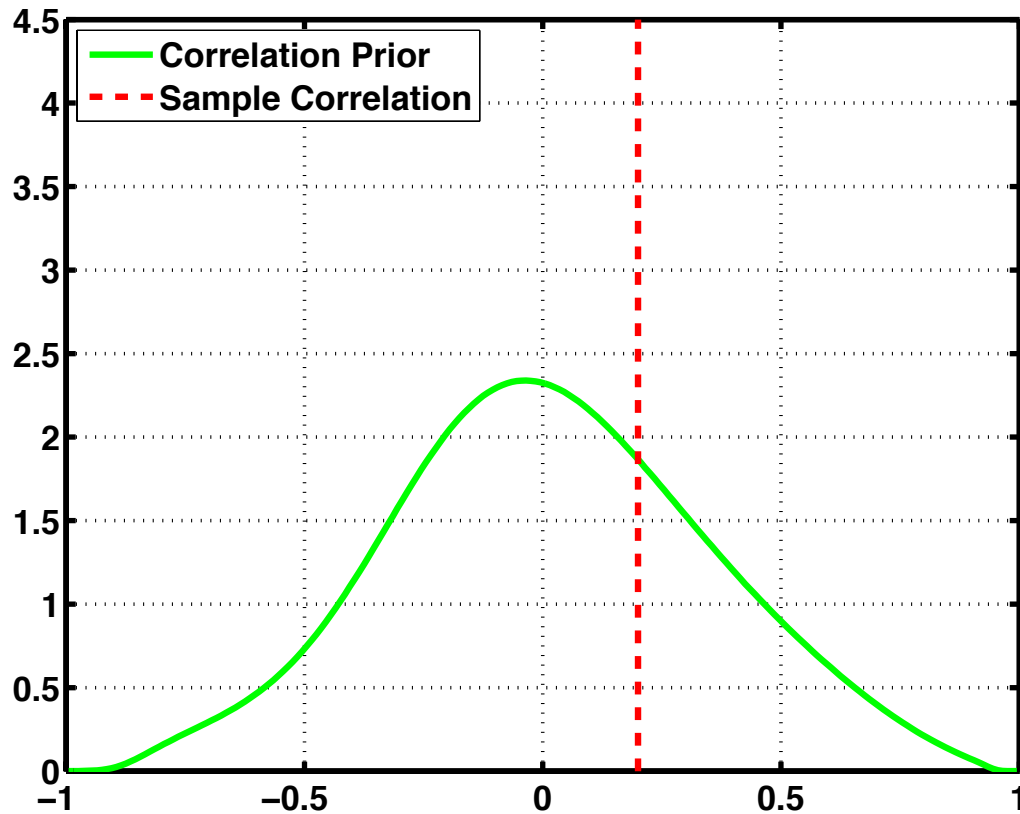
20-member ensemble.

# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm



Start with **prior estimate of correlation** for a separation ( $dx = 3$  here) between obs and state variable.

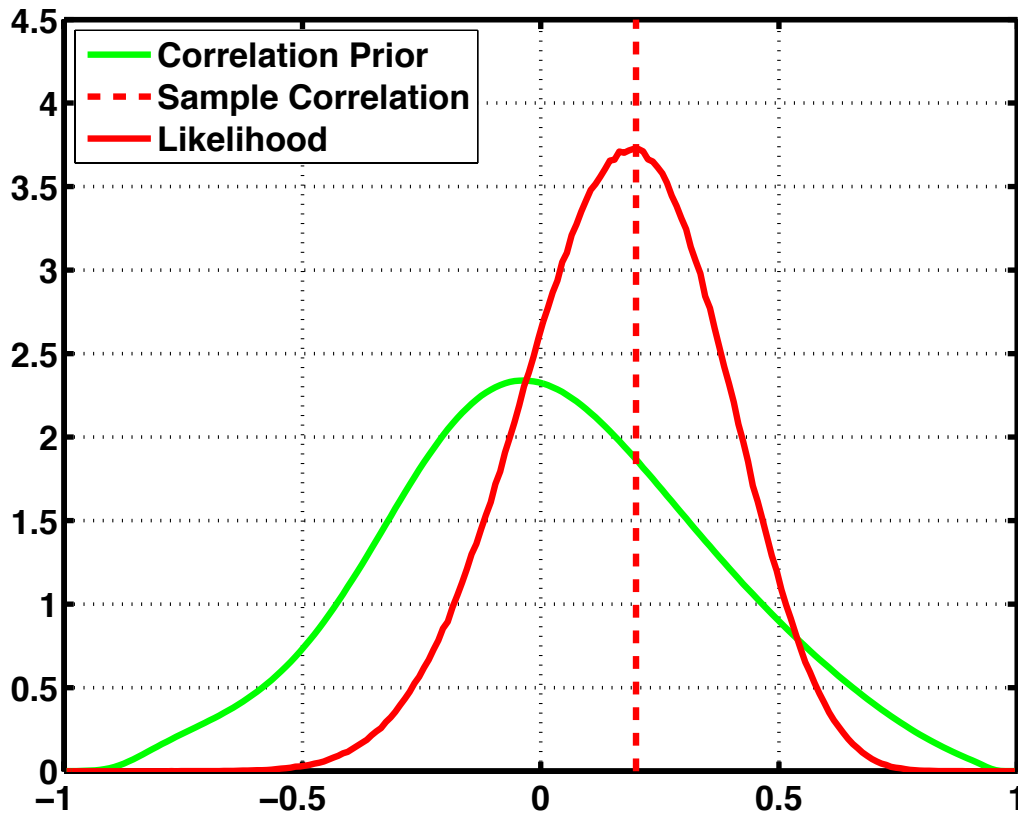
# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm



Ensemble sample correlation between observation and state prior is part of standard ensemble algorithm.

Sample correlation here is 0.2.

# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm

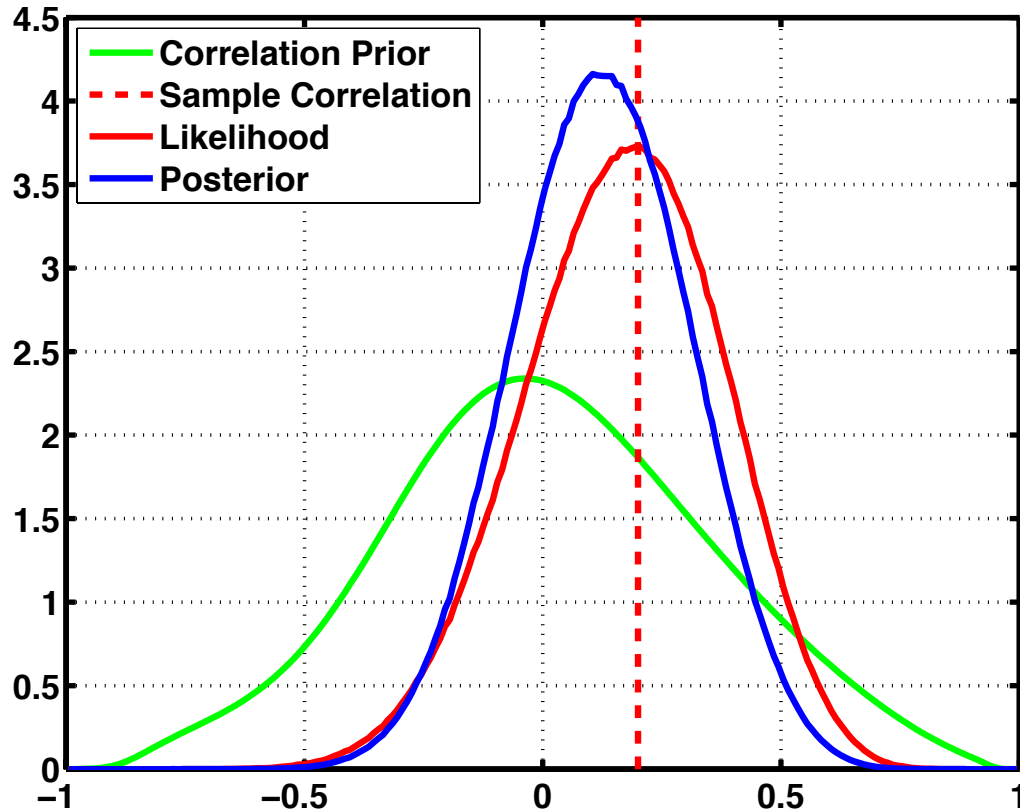


Likelihood for this sample correlation and ensemble size is computed off-line ahead of time.

It is probability of true correlation given the sample correlation.

Note skew to the left.

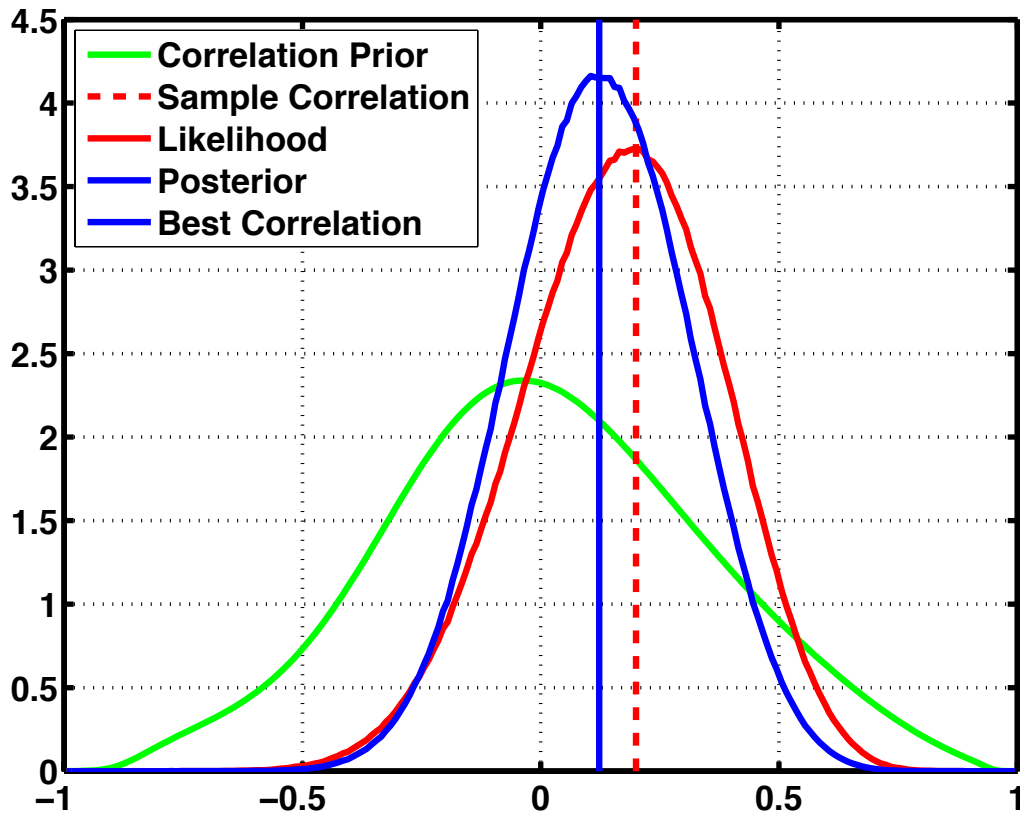
# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm



Posterior is normalized product of prior and likelihood.

This is Bayes rule.

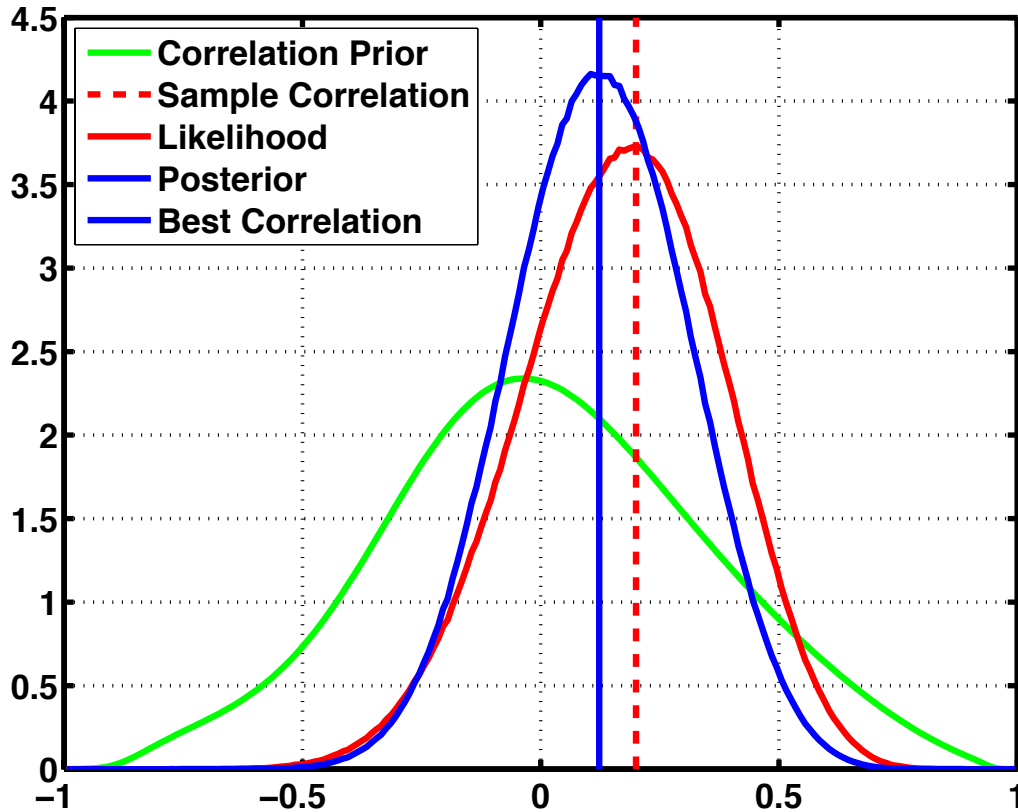
# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm



Use mean value of posterior correlation, (0.1228 here) in the regression to update state.

An equivalent localization is  $0.1228 / 0.2 = 0.614$ .

# Correlation Error Reduction Algorithm



Update **prior correlation distribution** by adding a small constant times the **posterior** and normalizing.

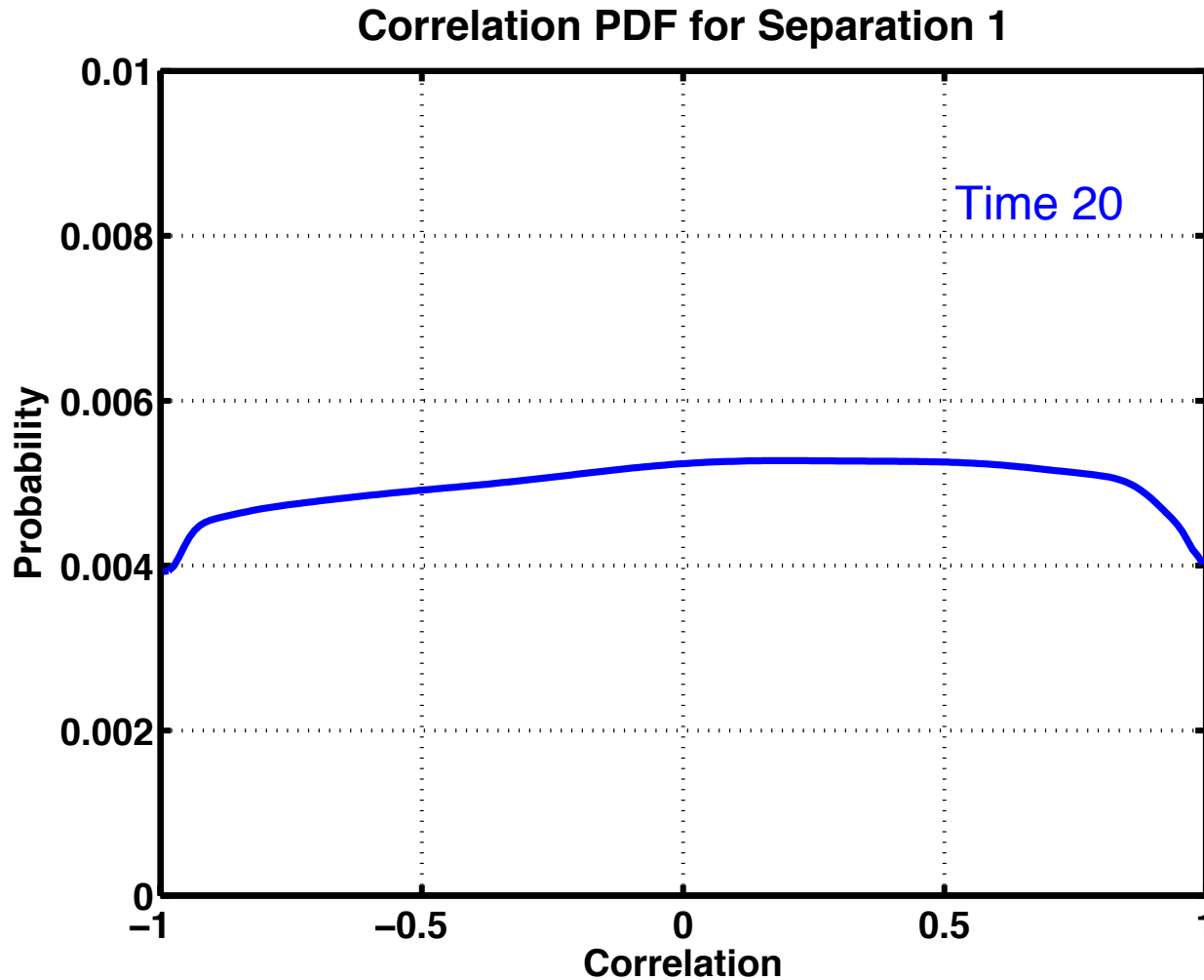
Results here use 0.001 for this constant.

This is the only free parameter in the algorithm.

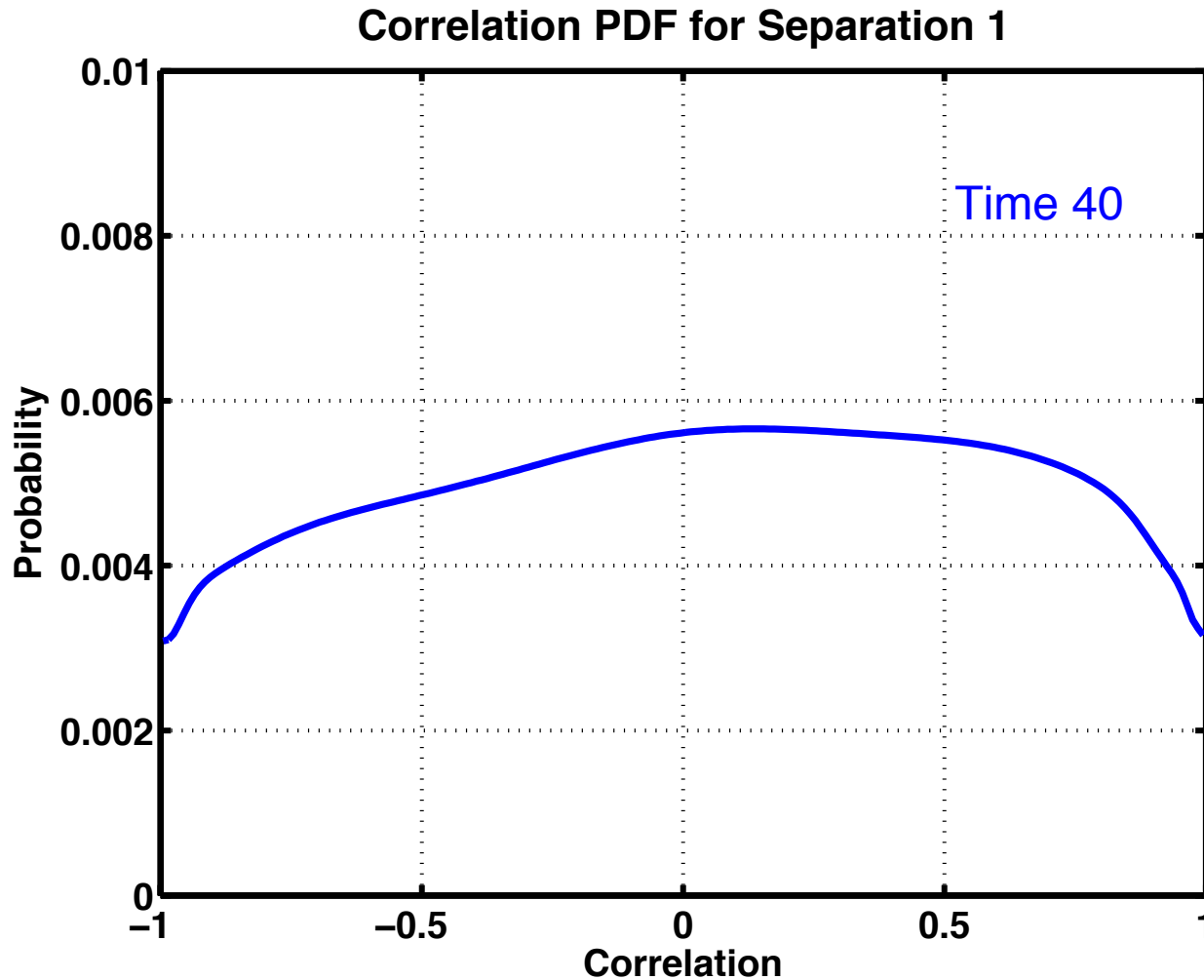
This is NOT Bayes rule.



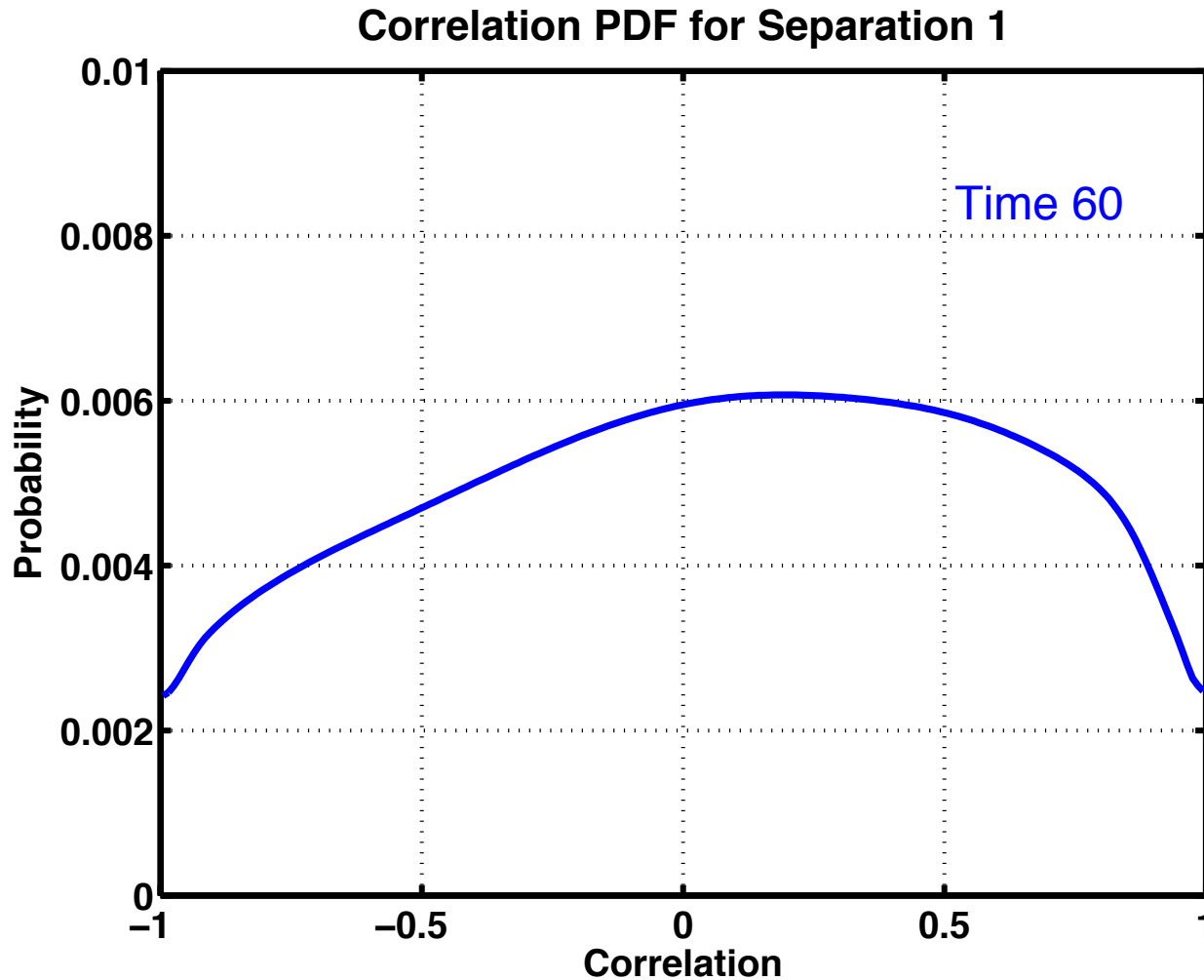
# Evolution of Correlation Distribution



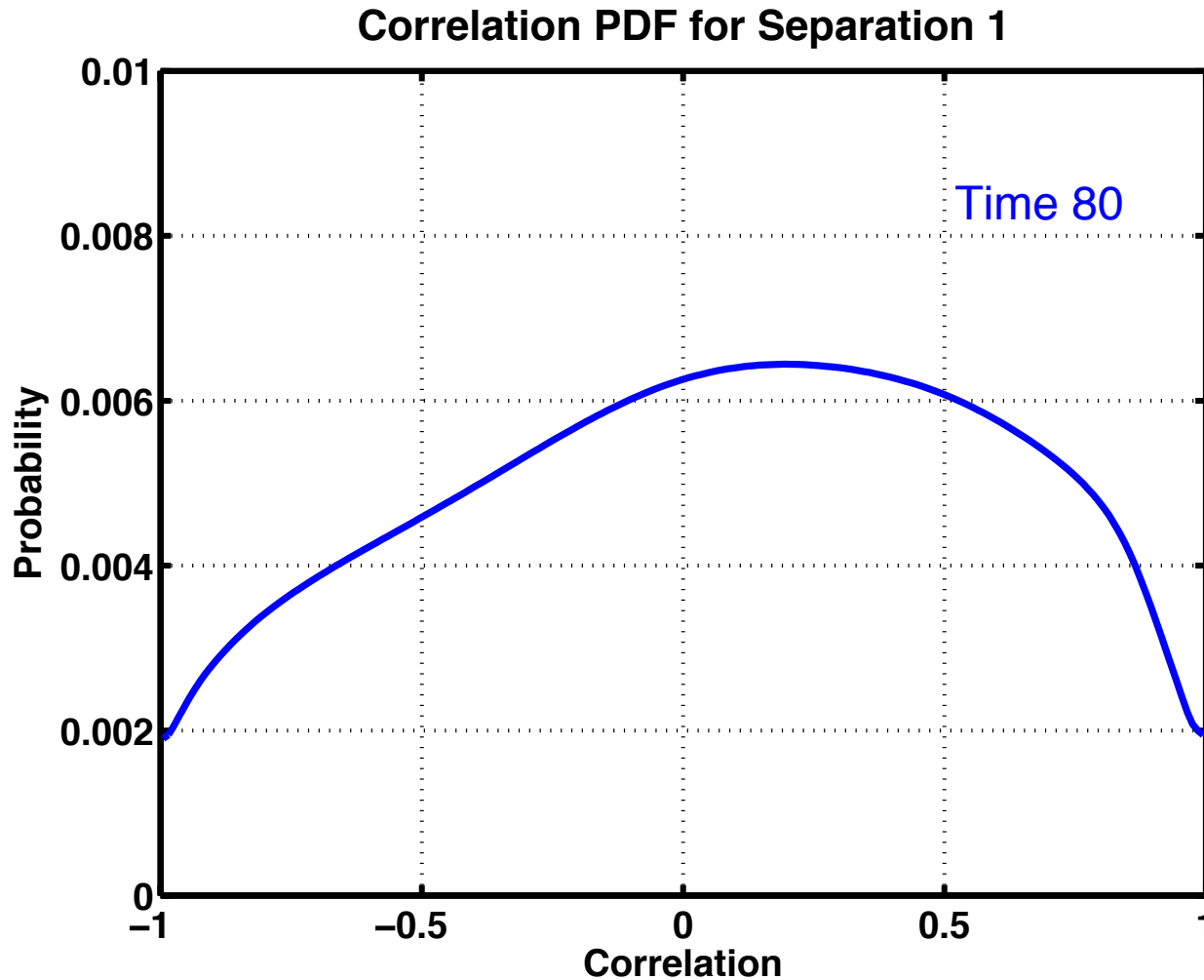
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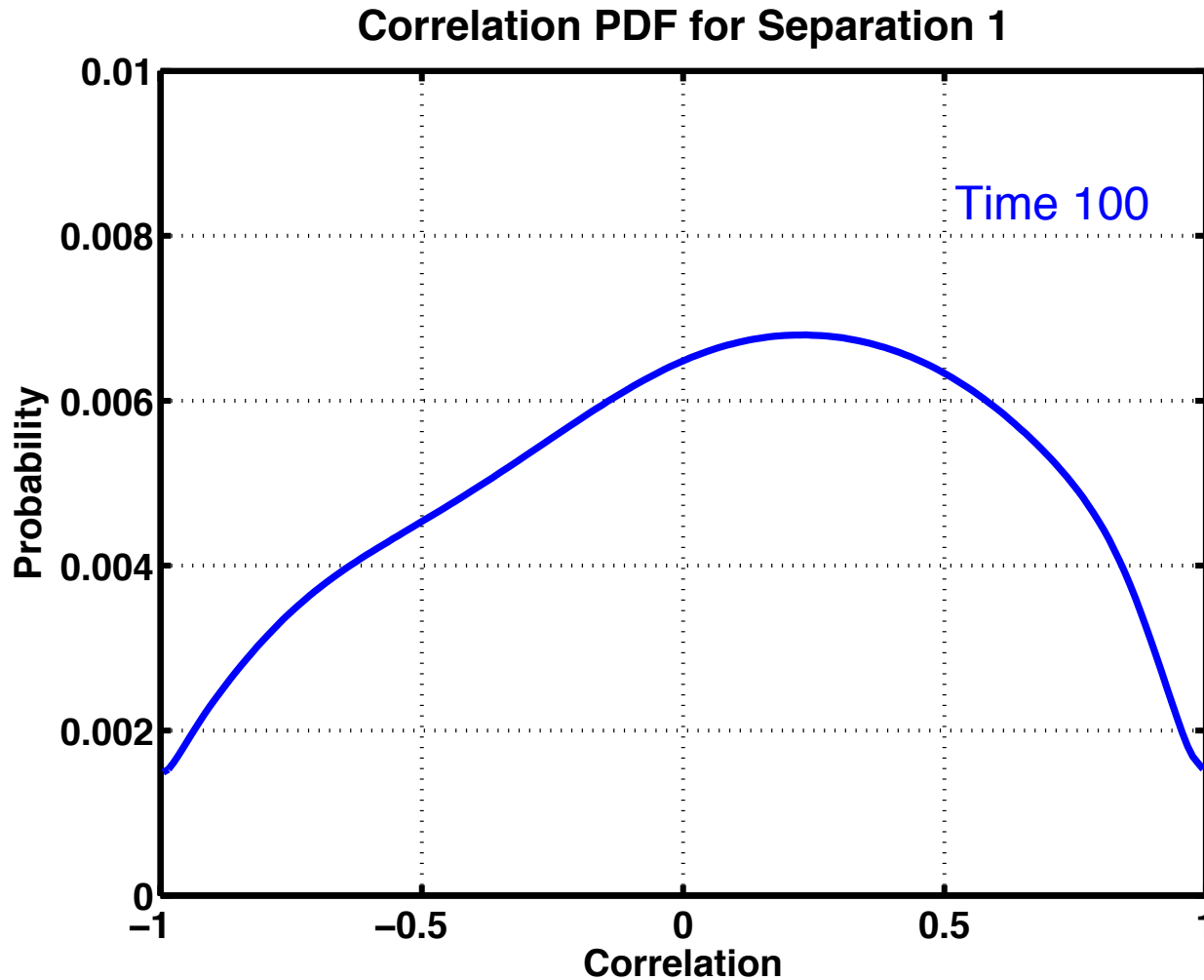
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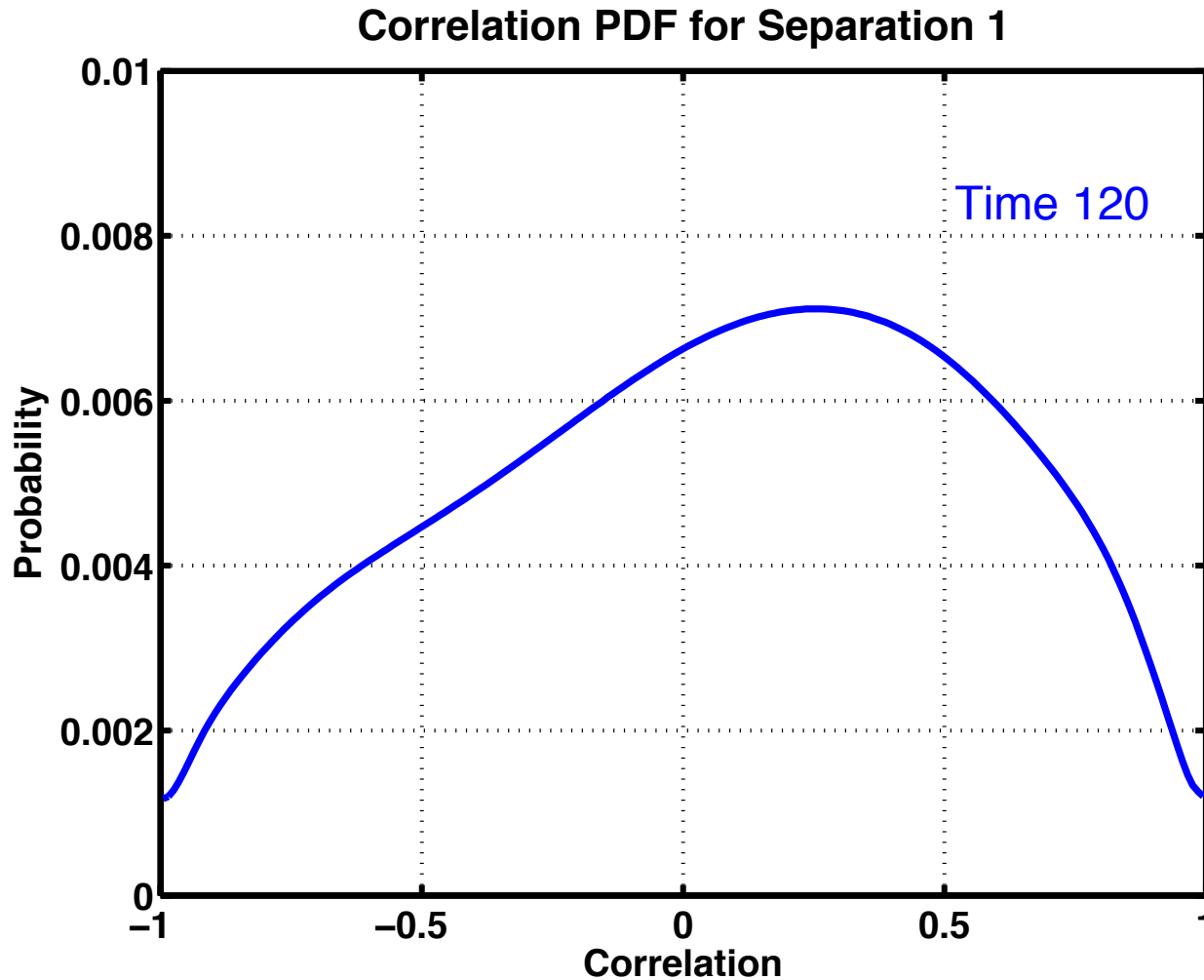
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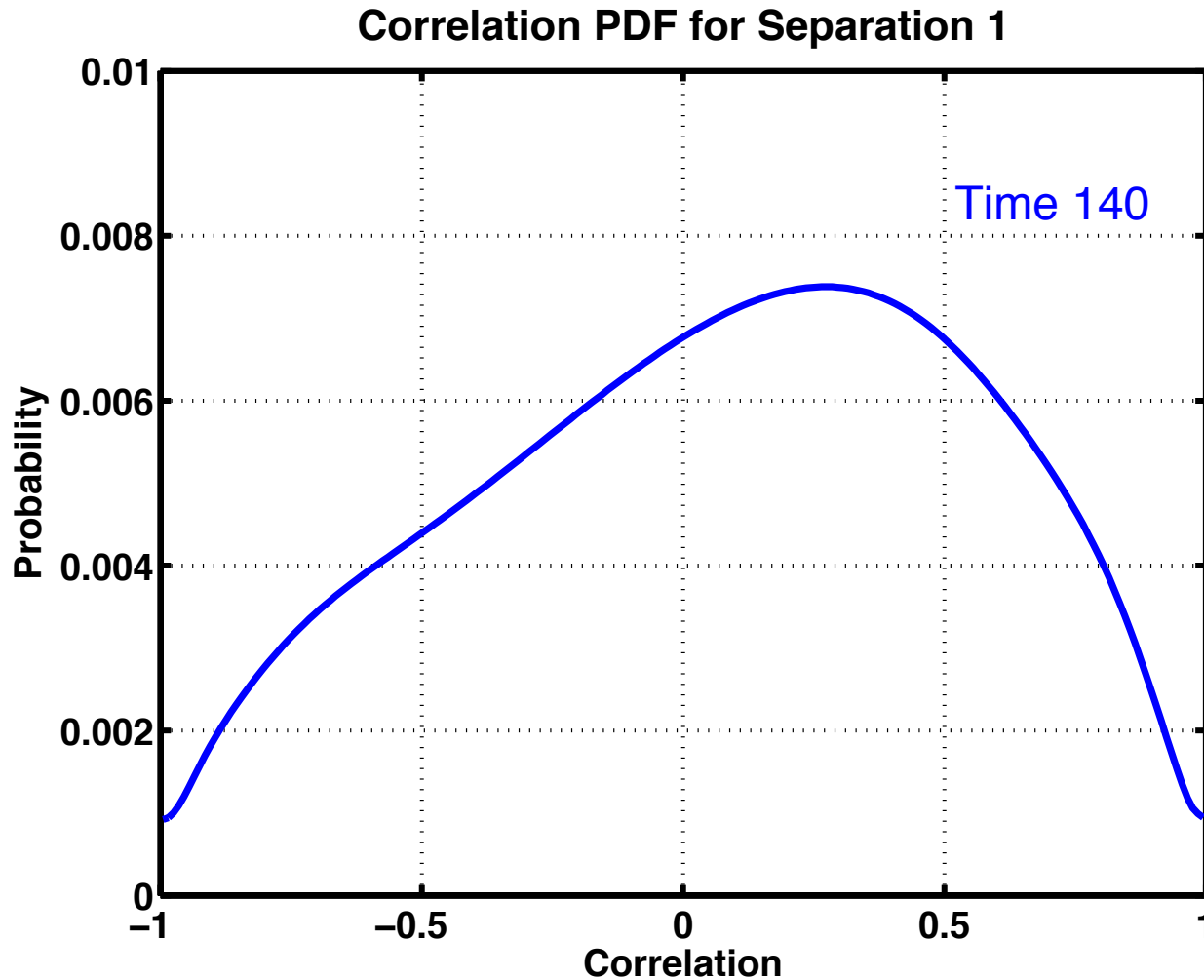
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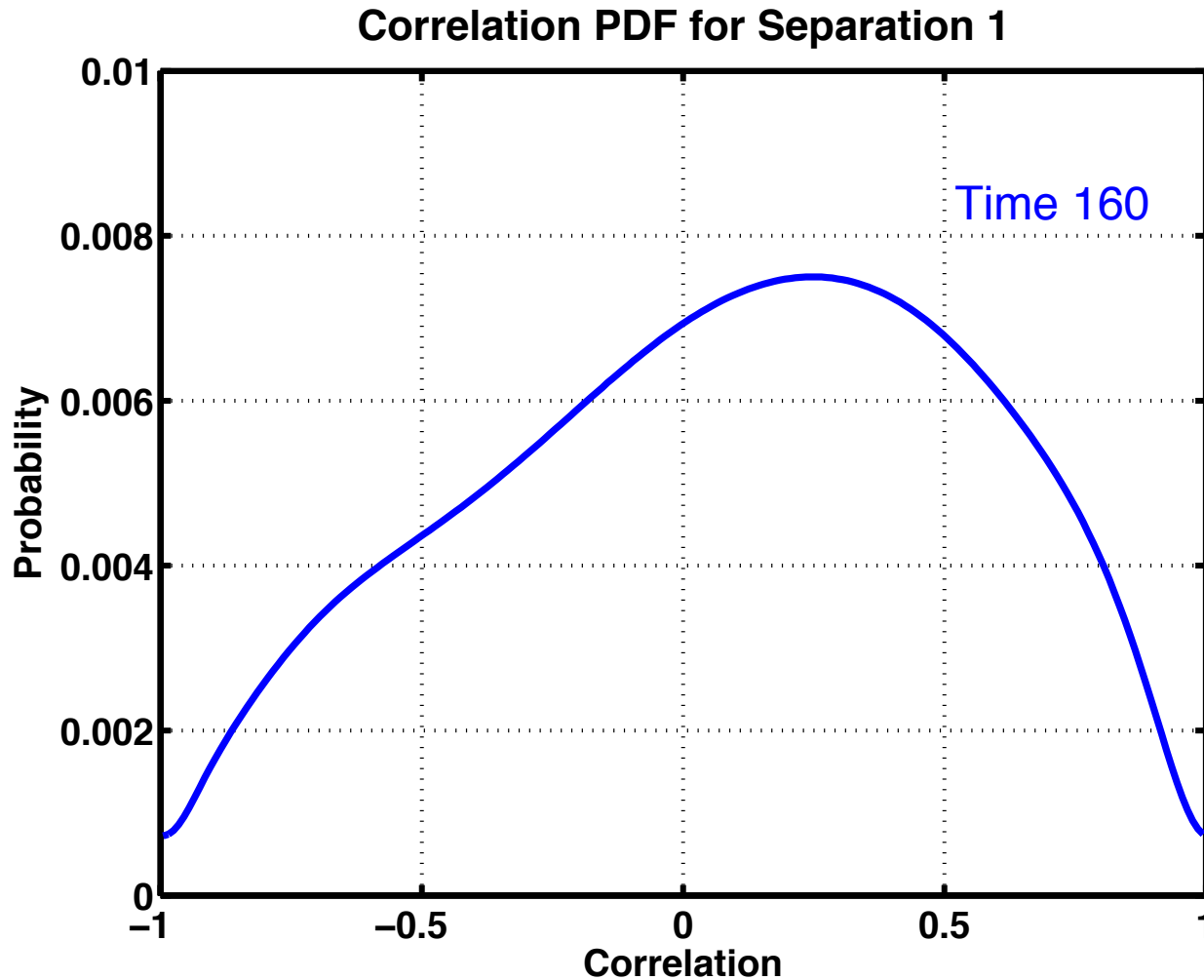
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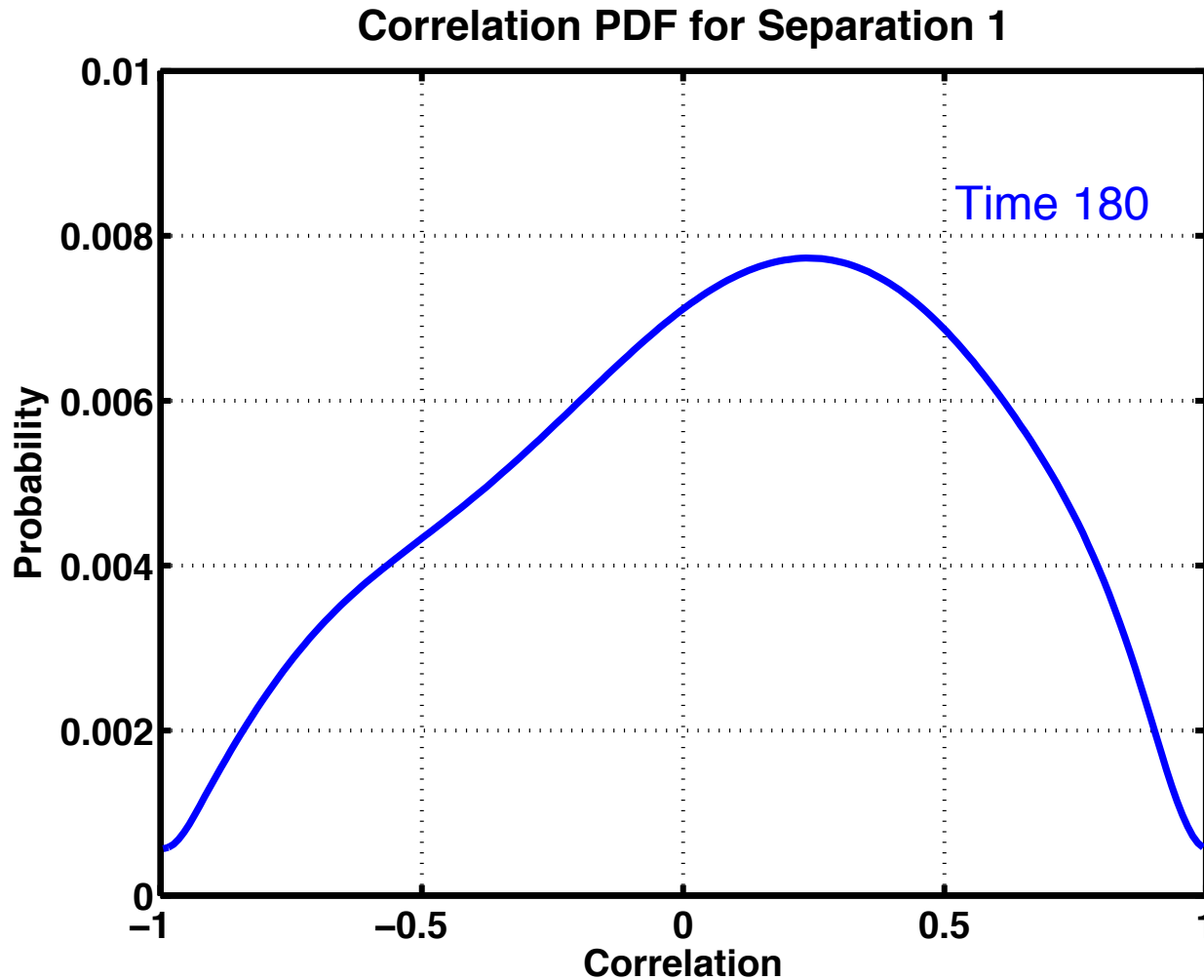


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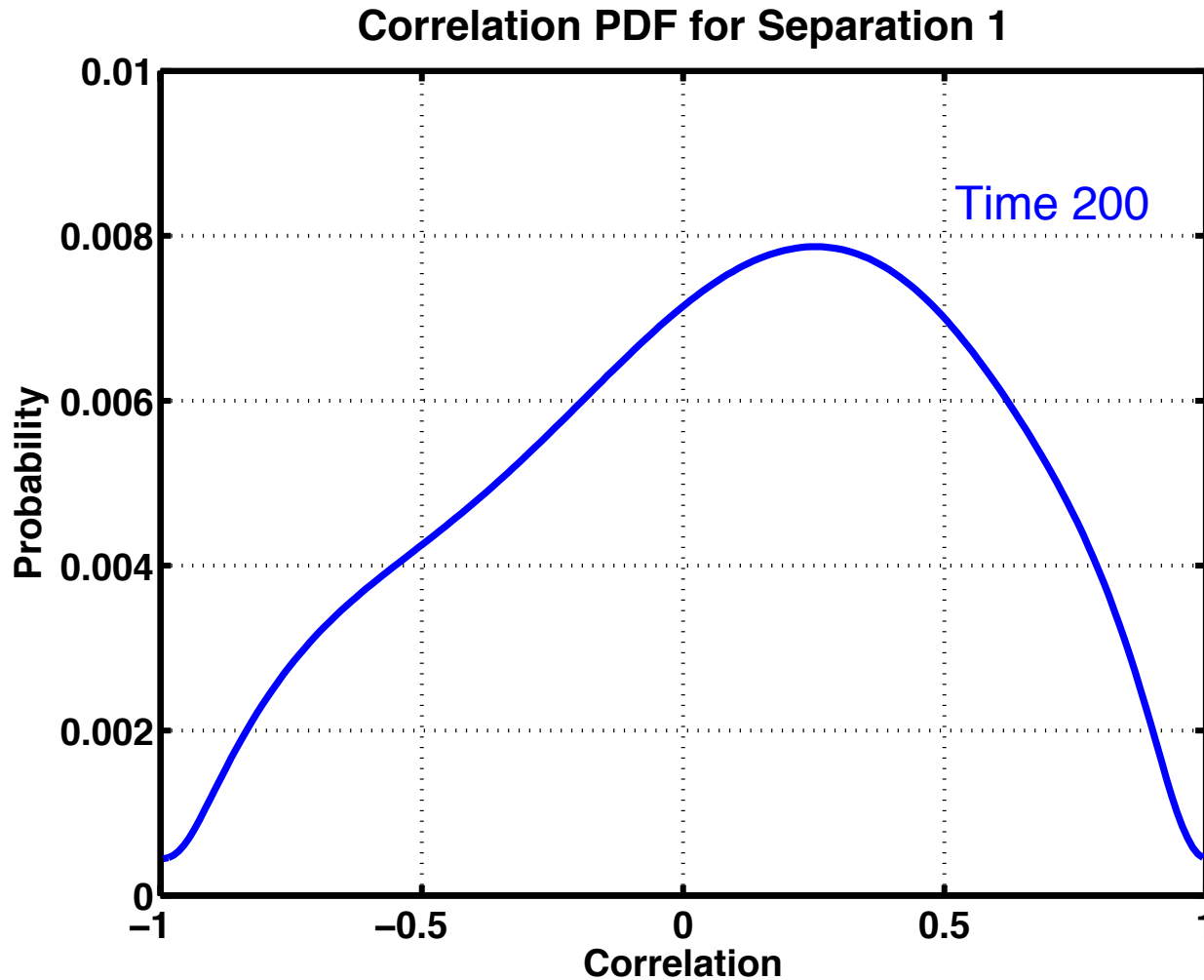




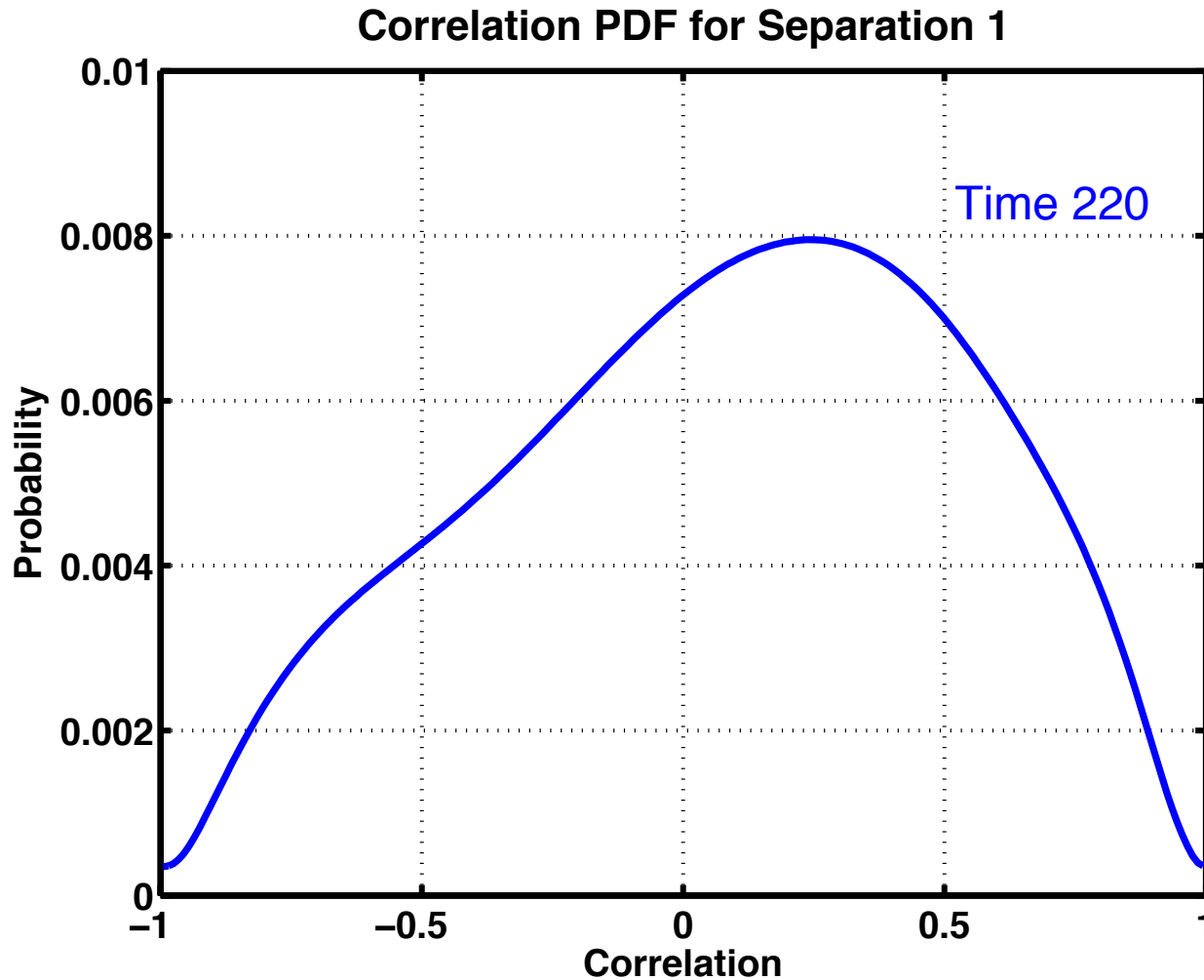
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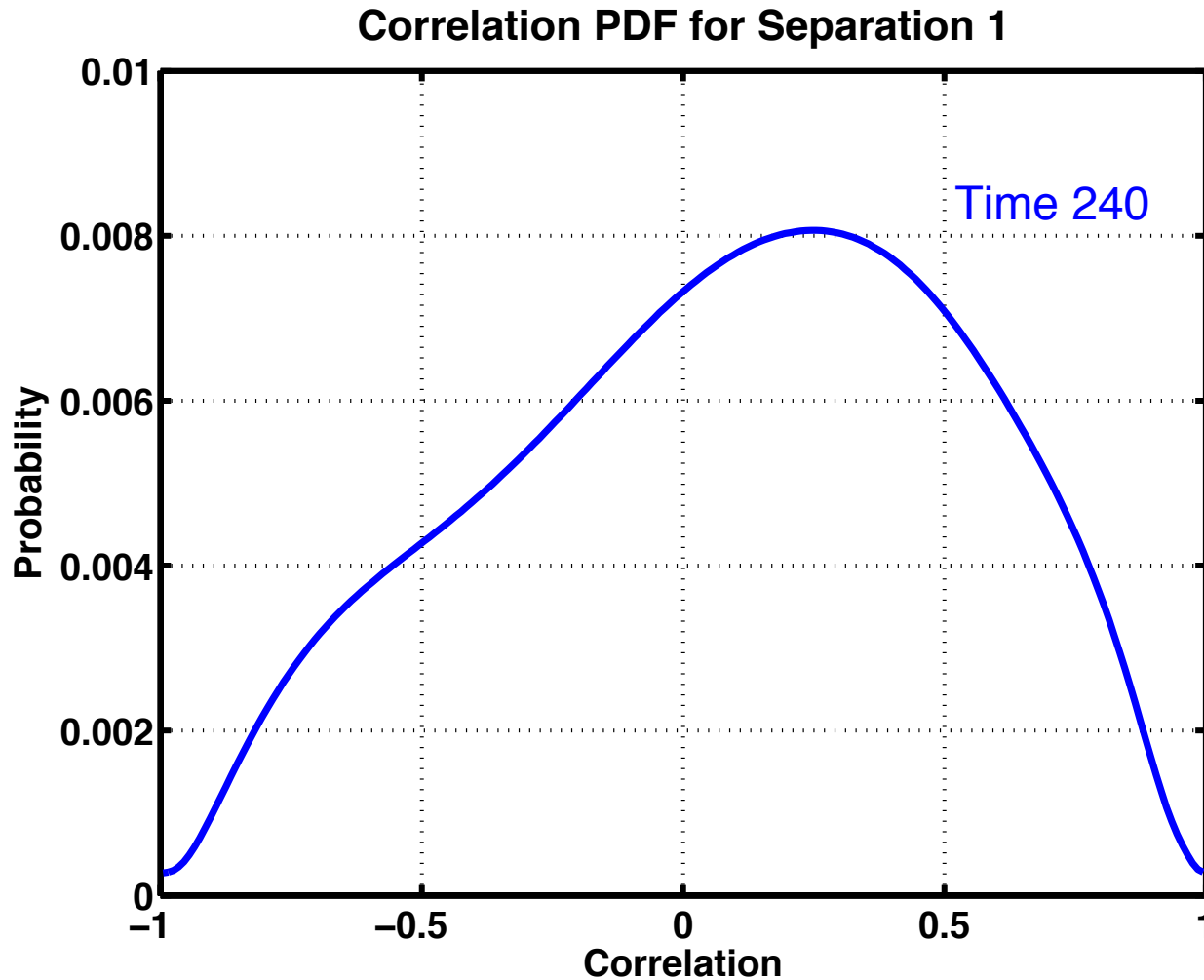
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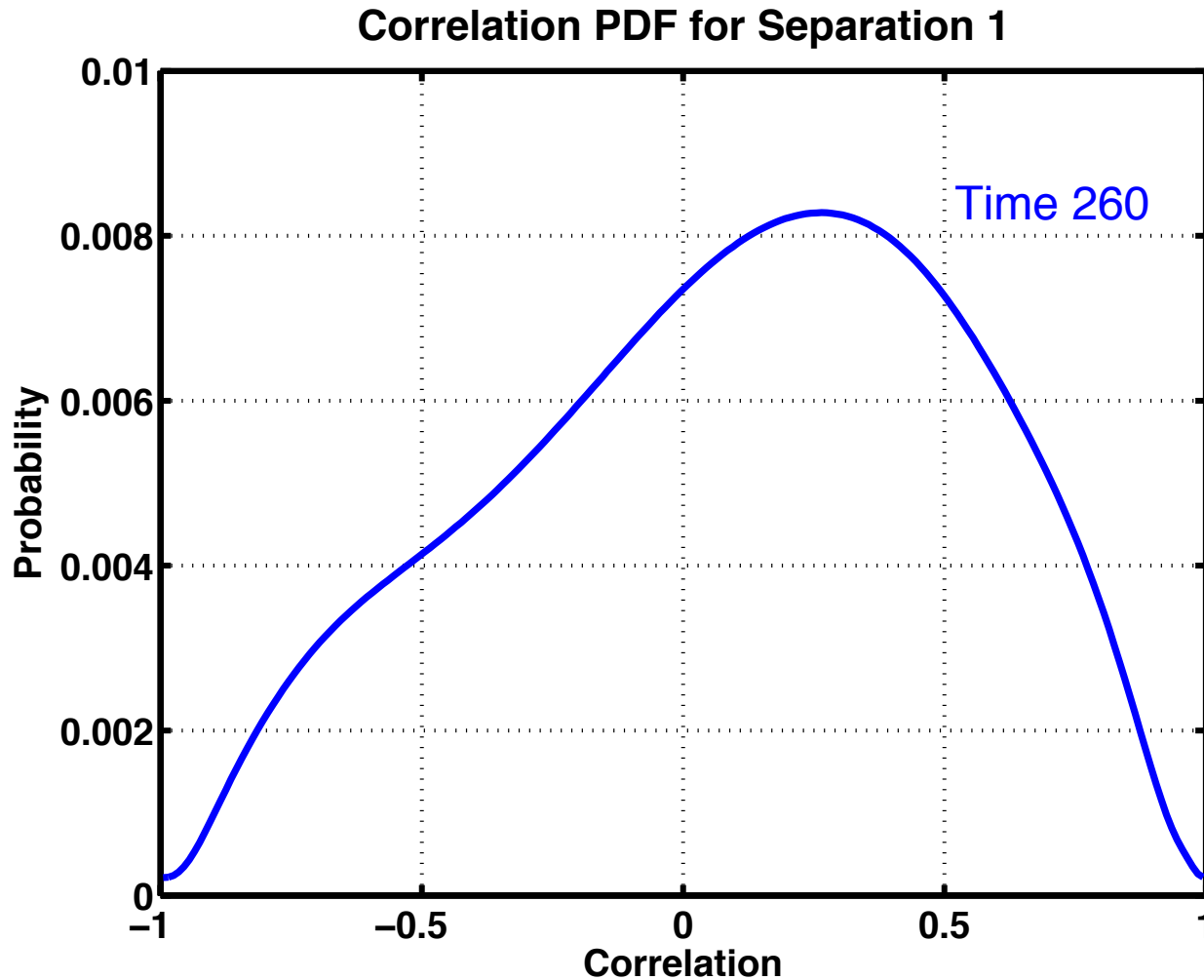
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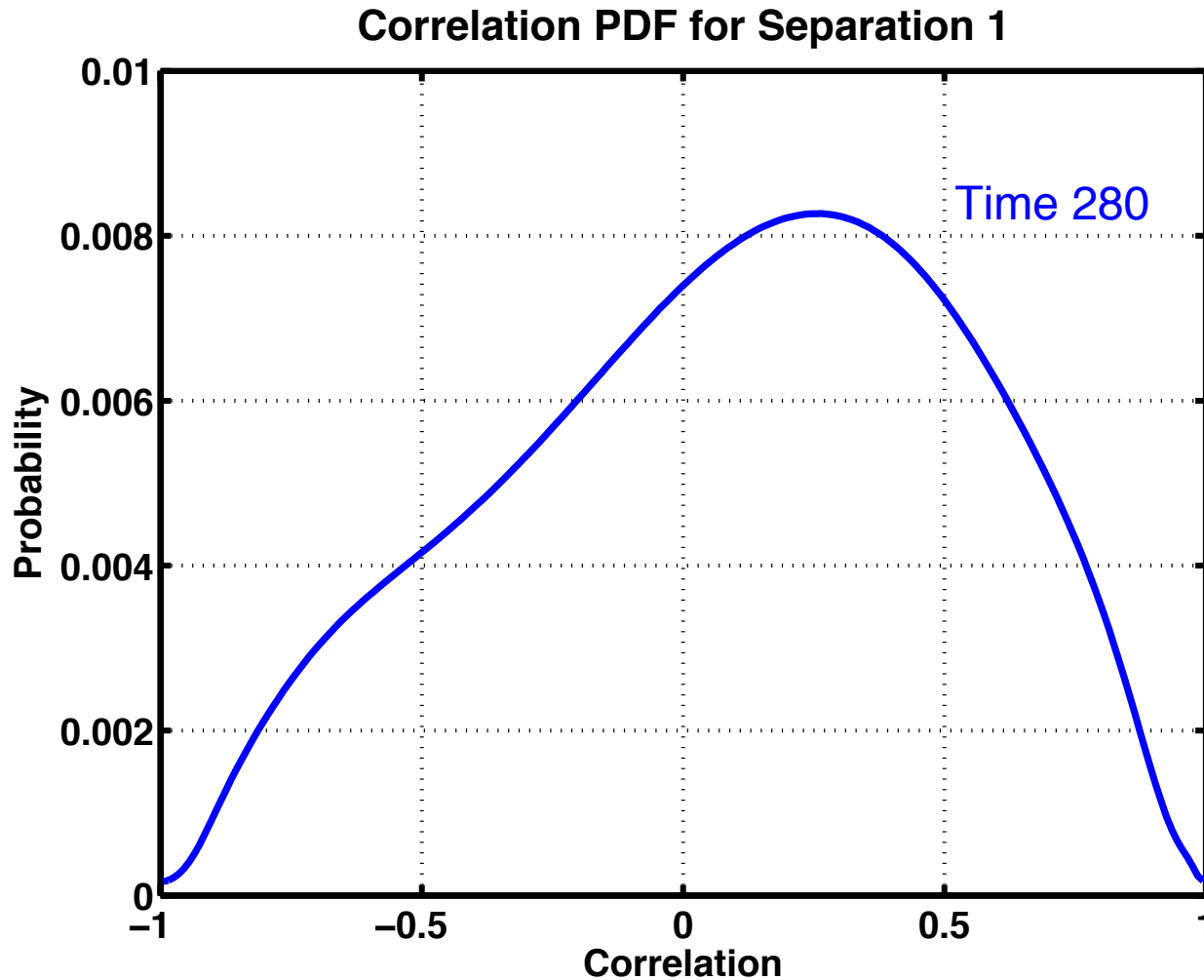
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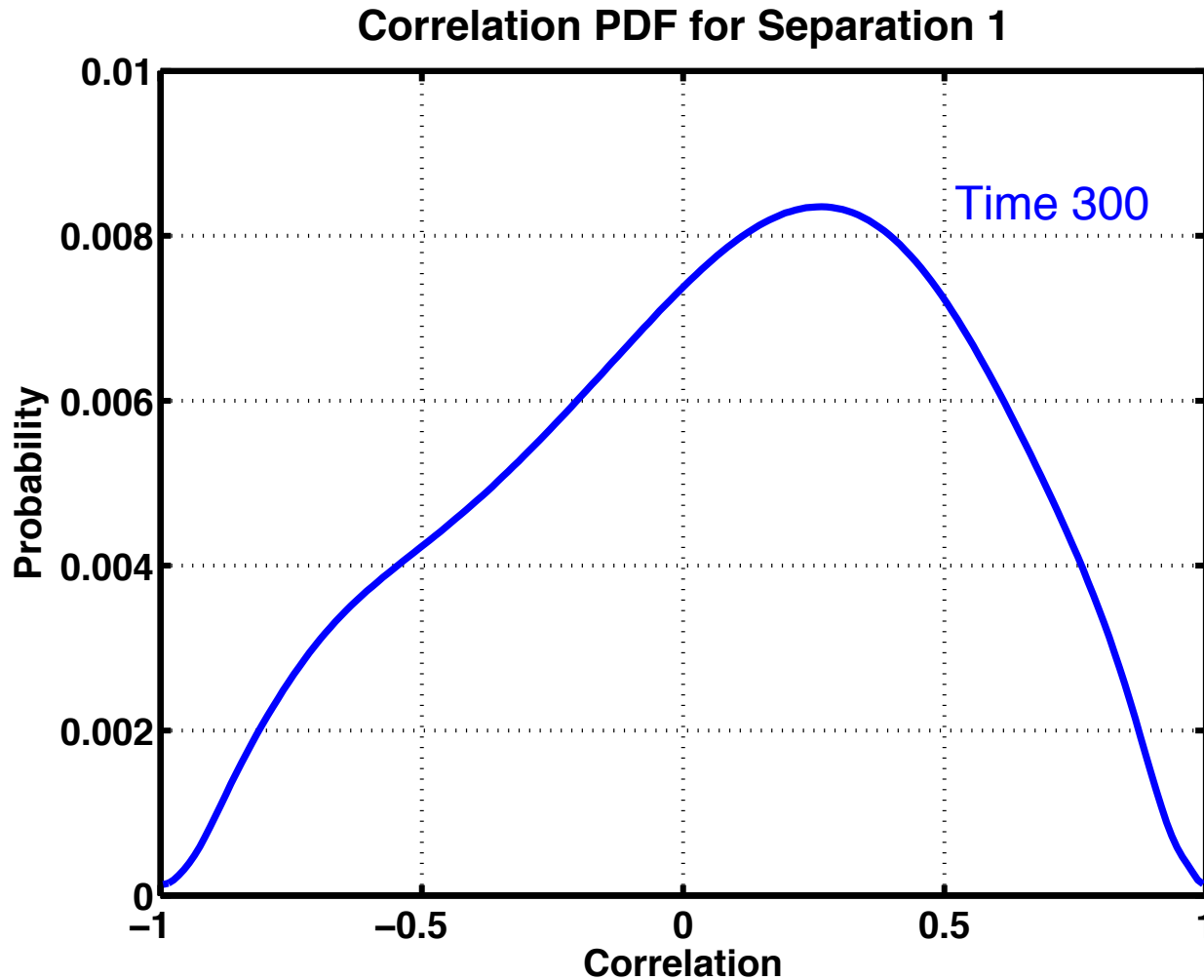
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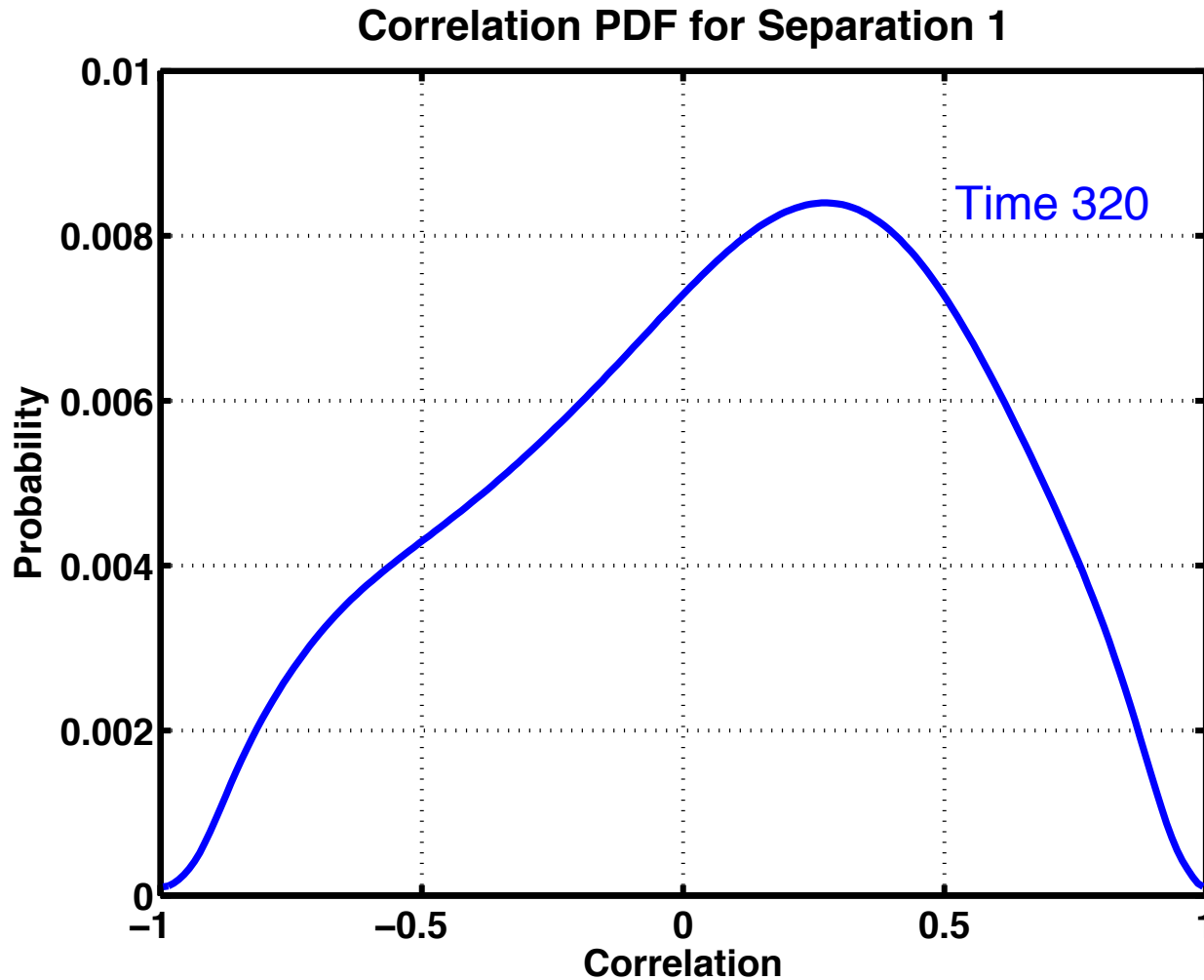
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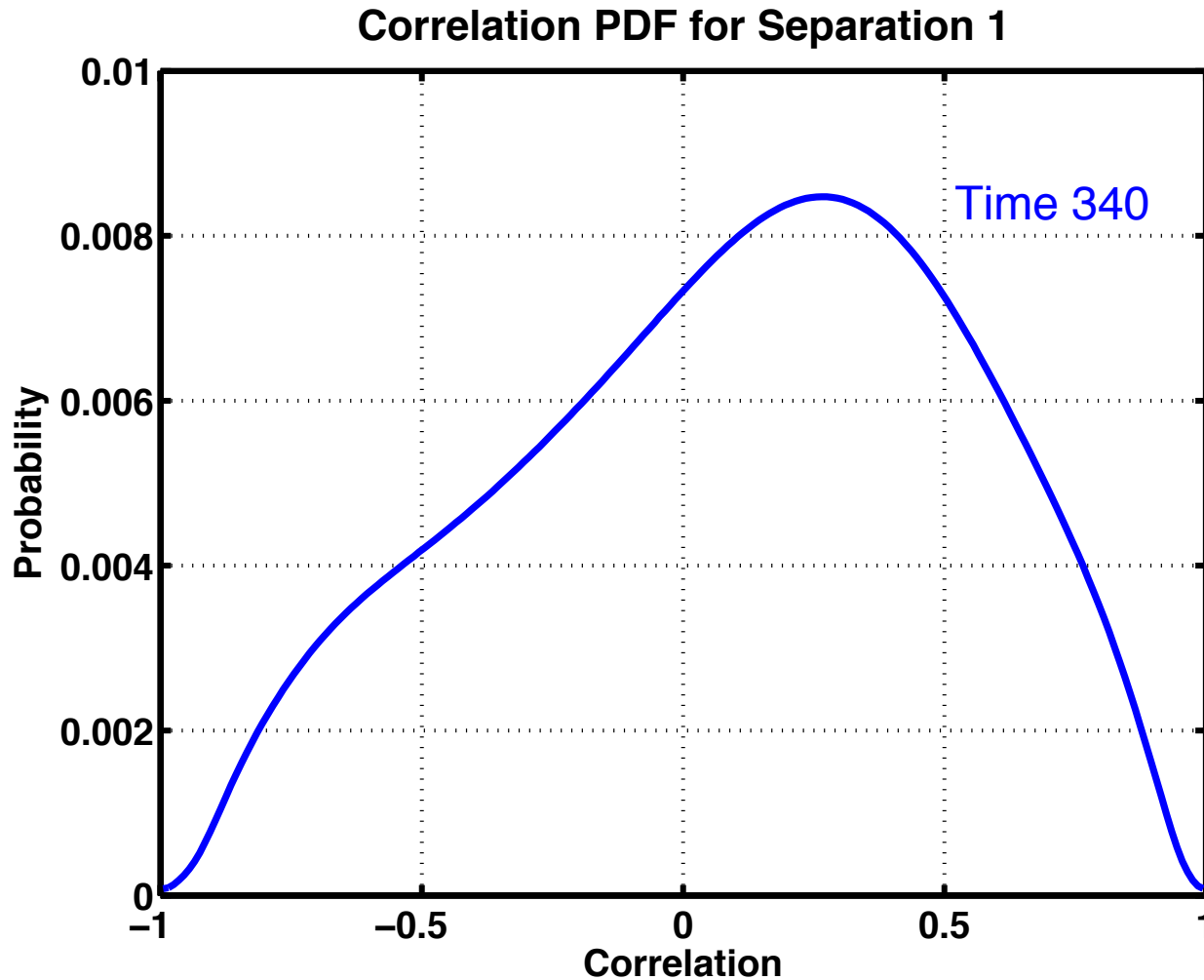


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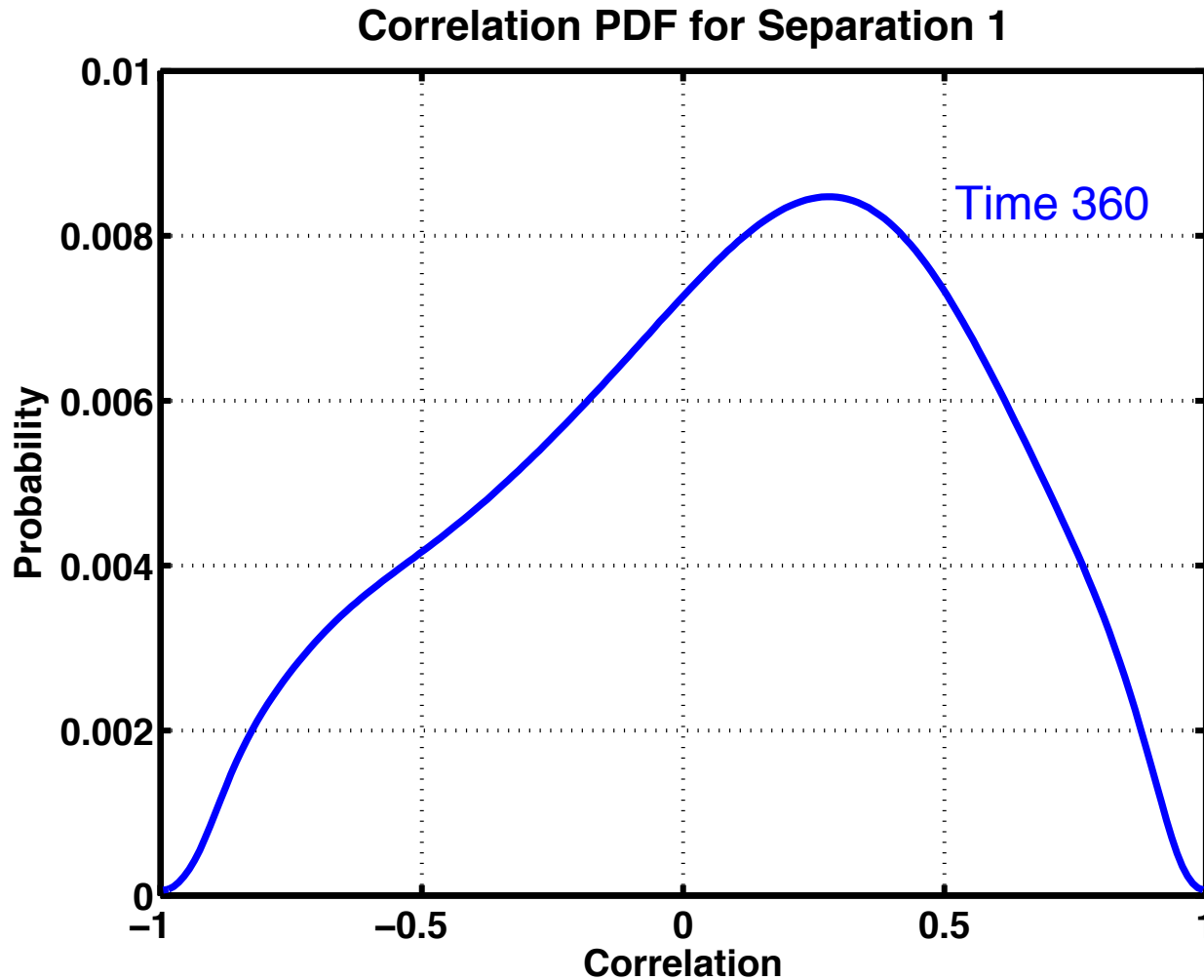




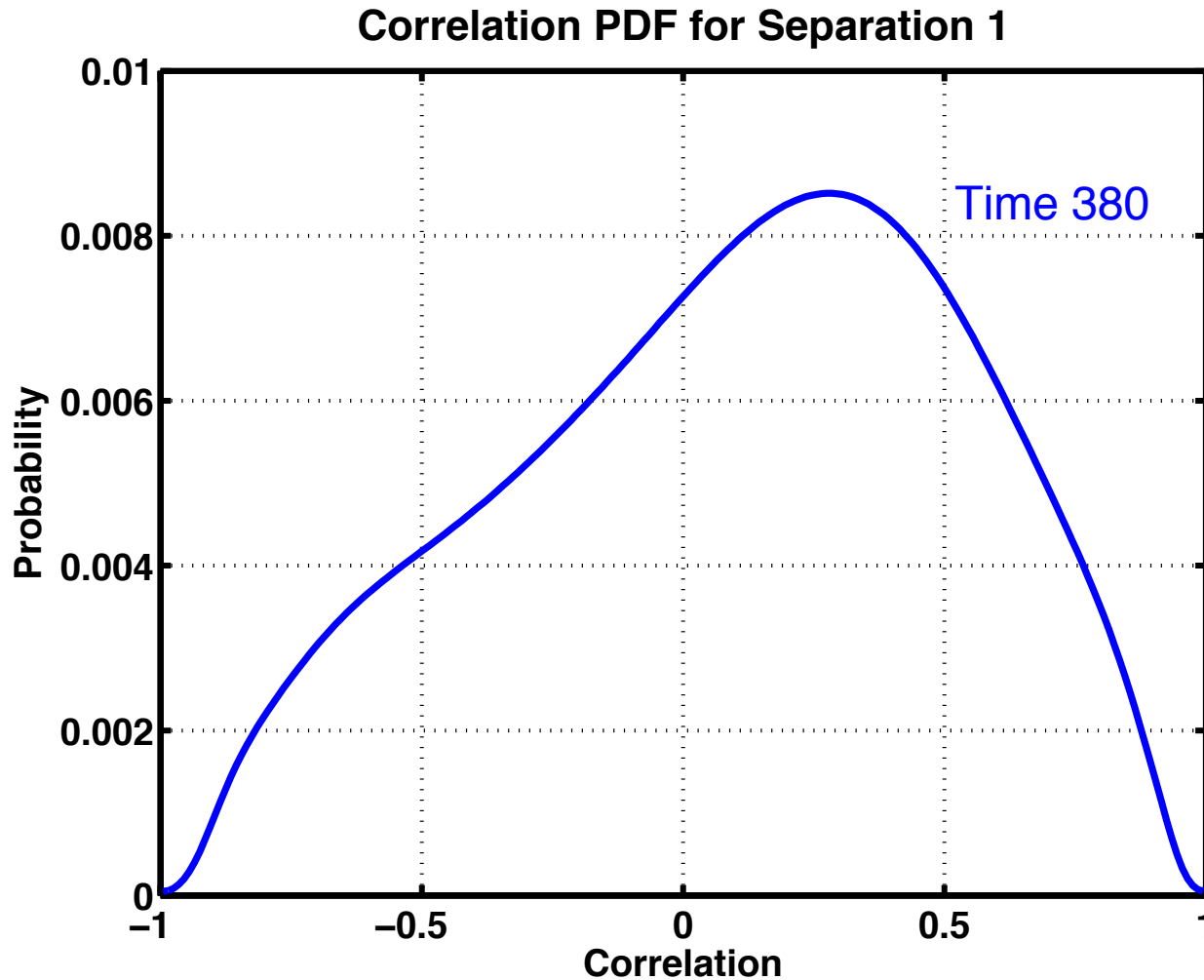
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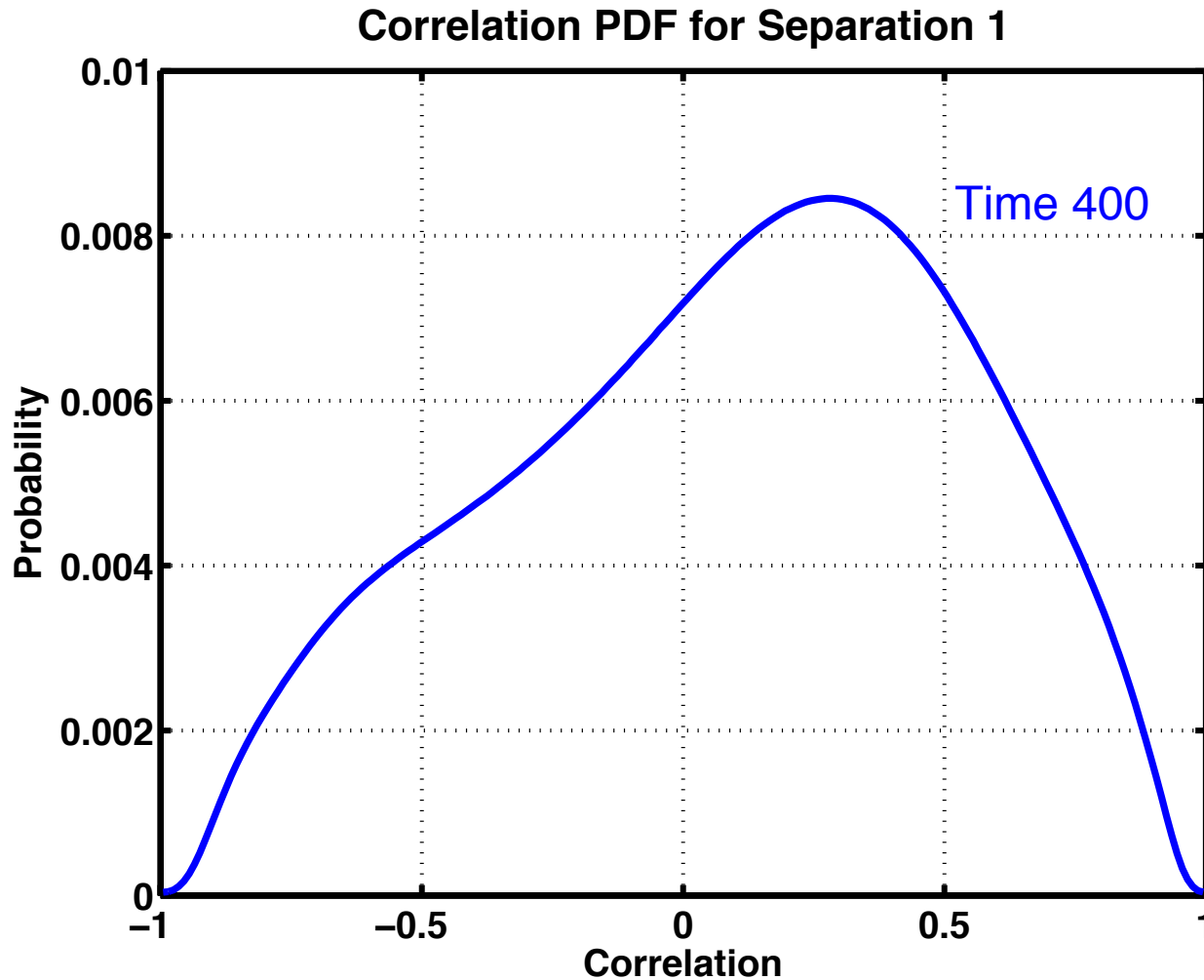
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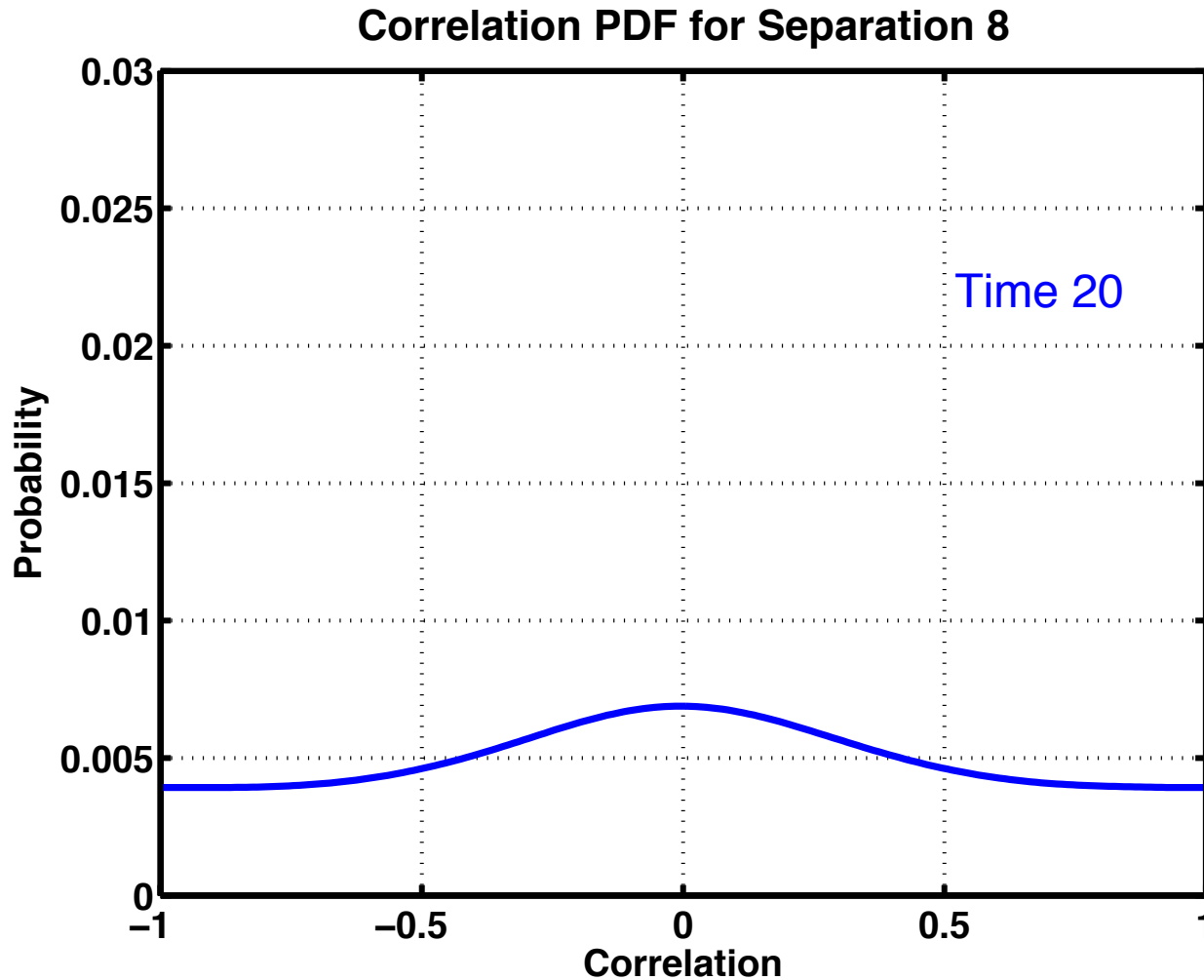
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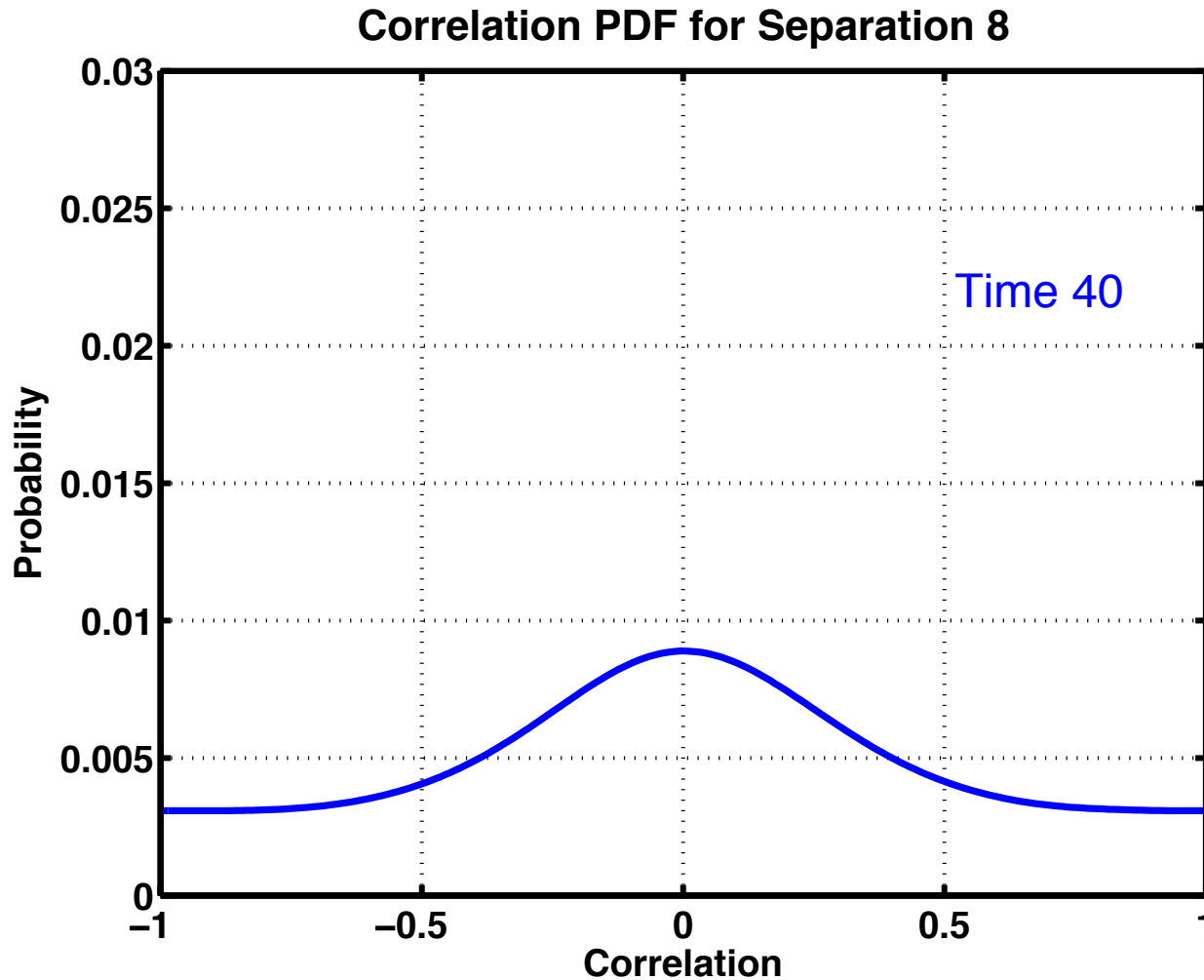
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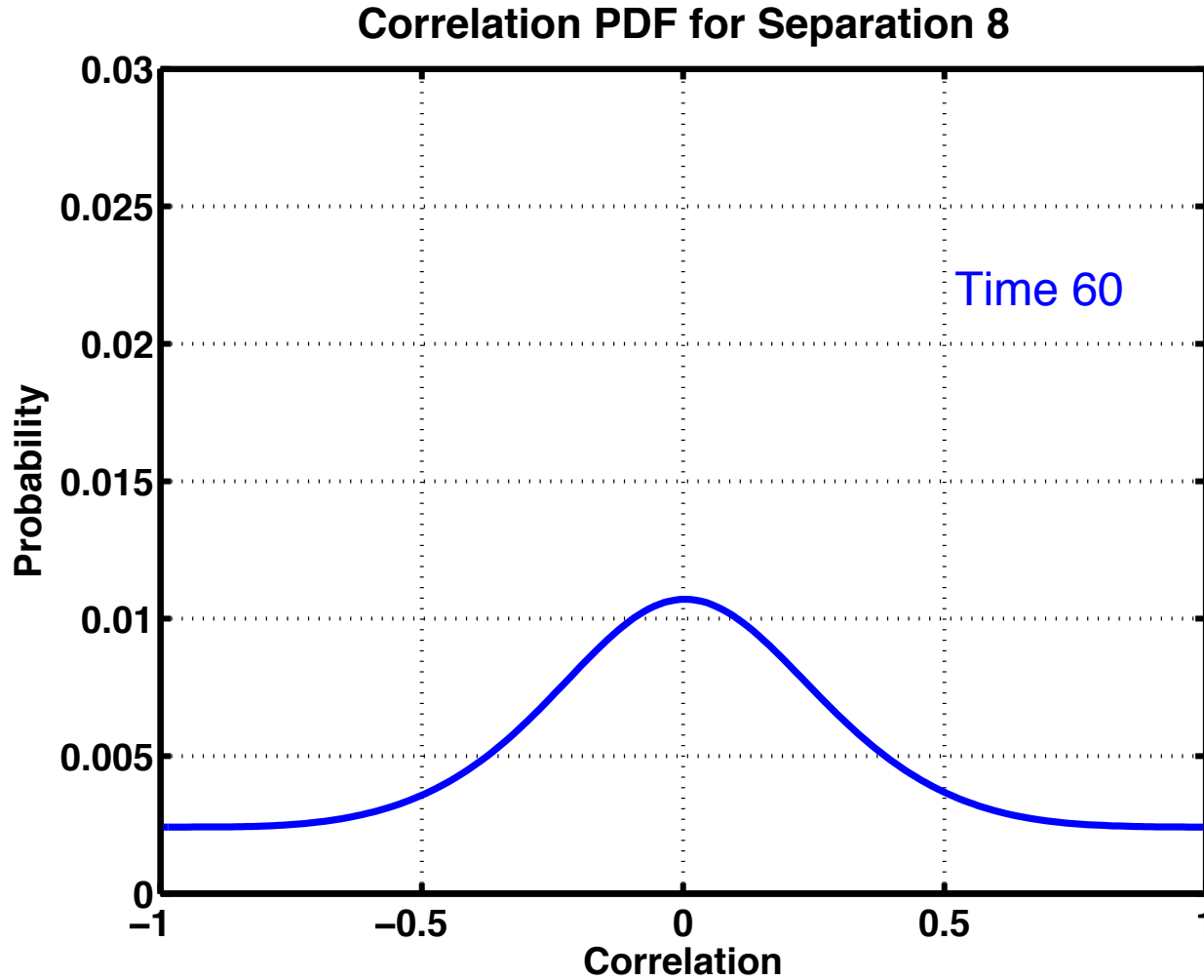
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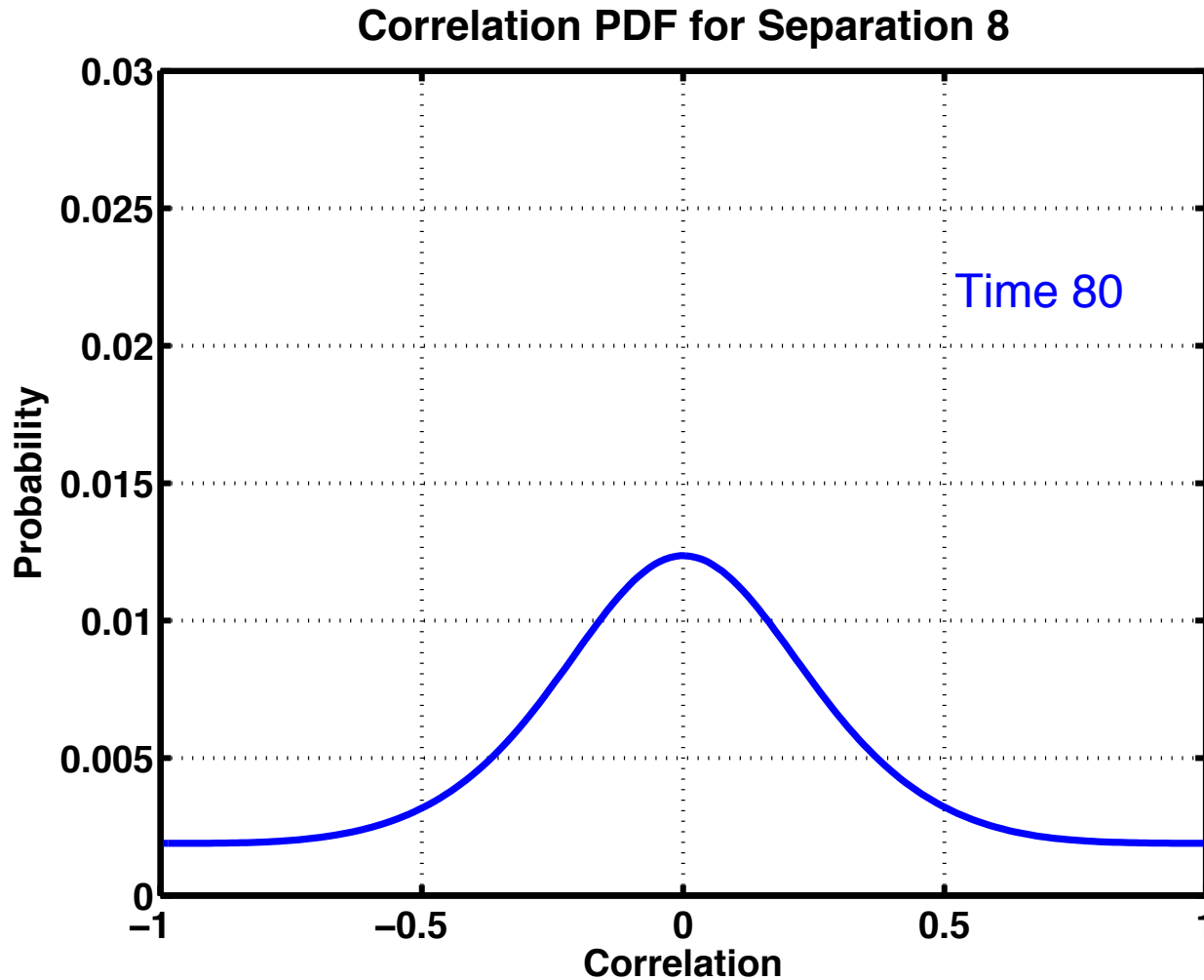
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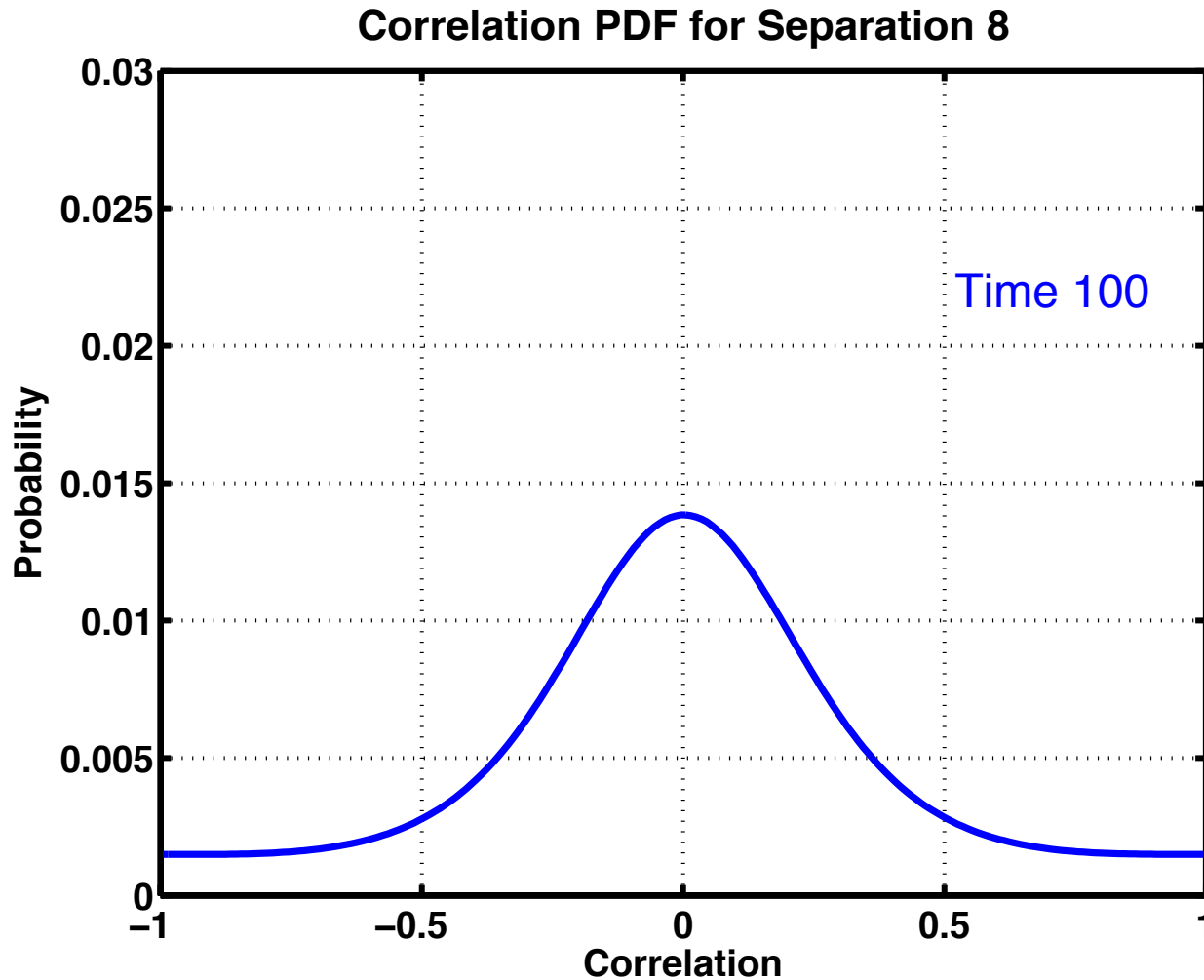


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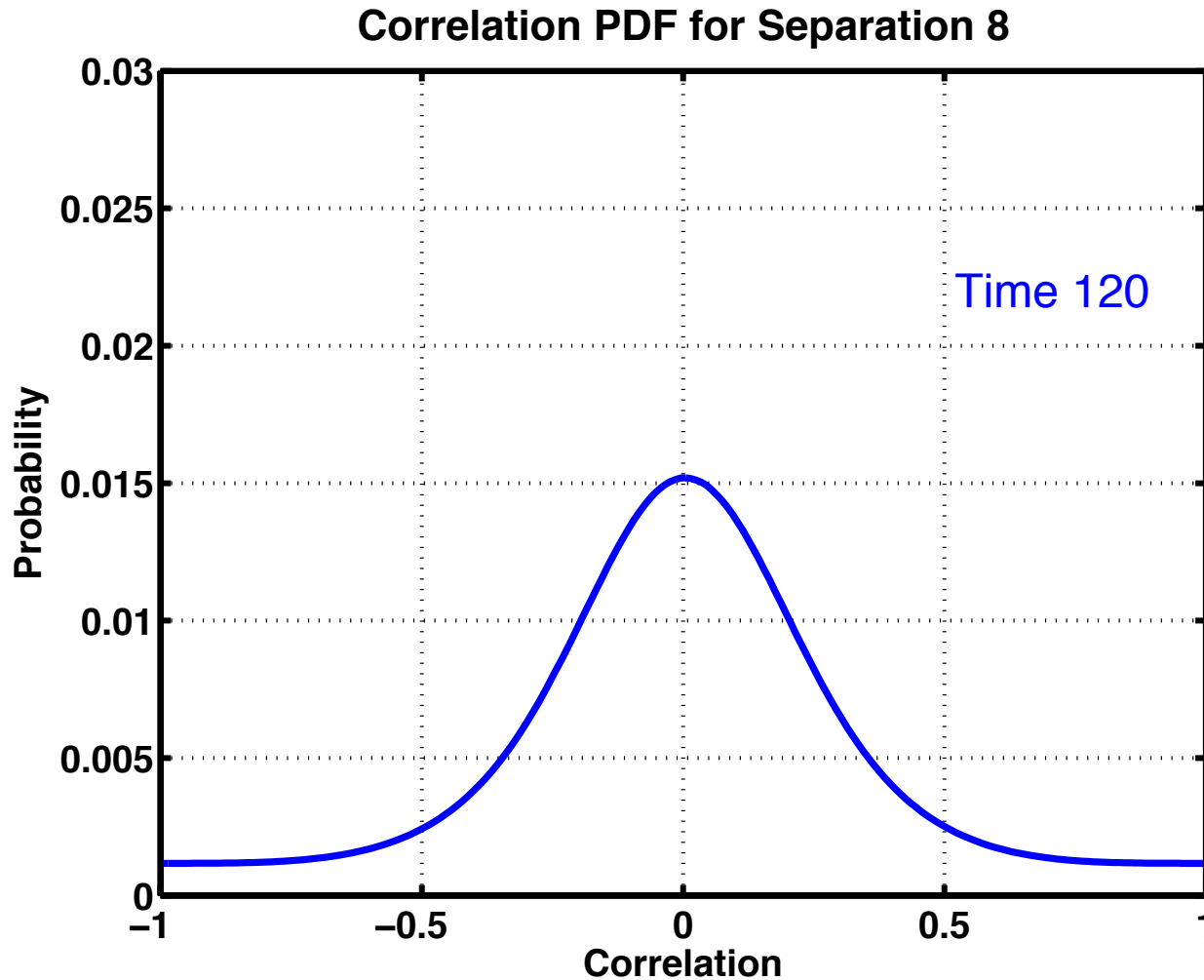




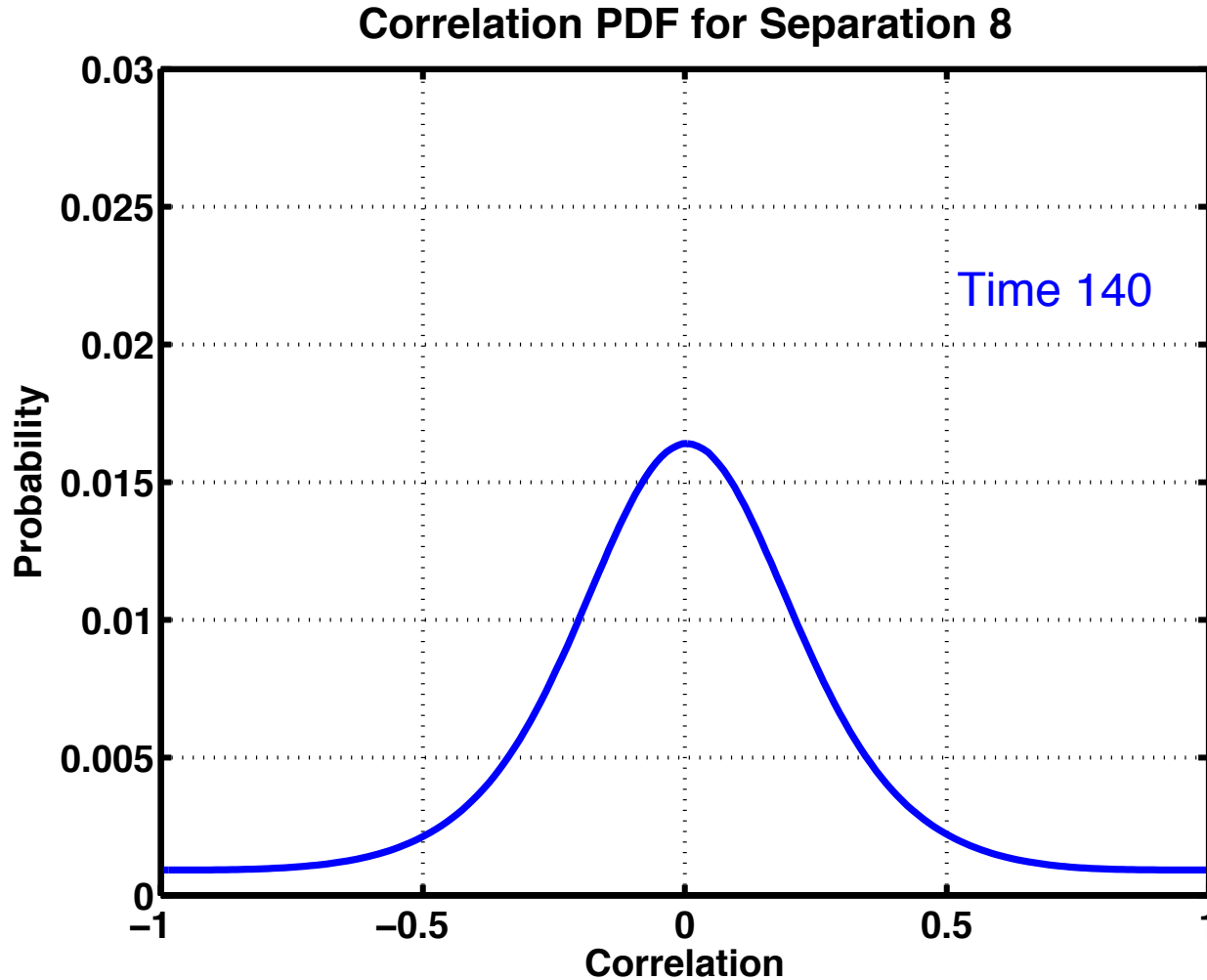
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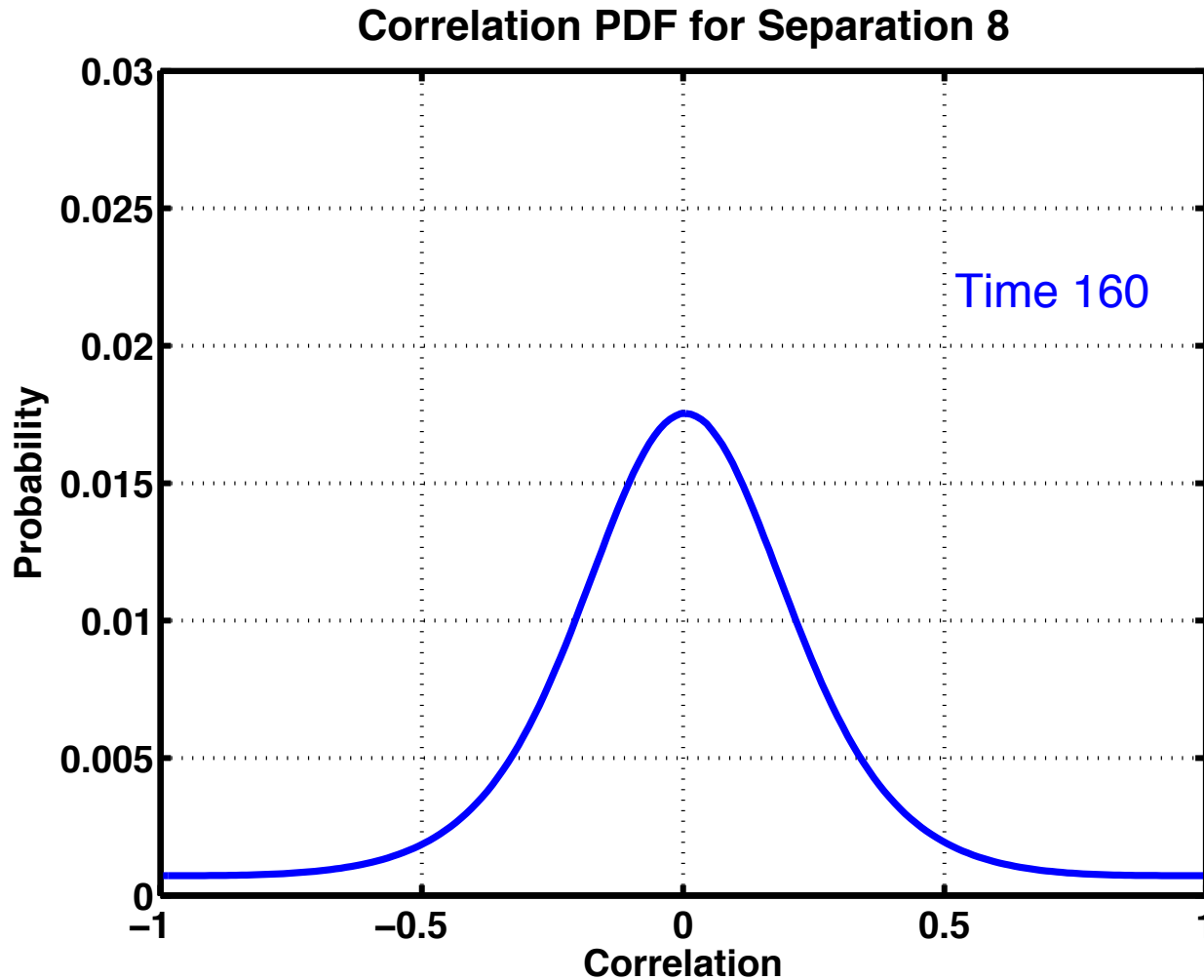
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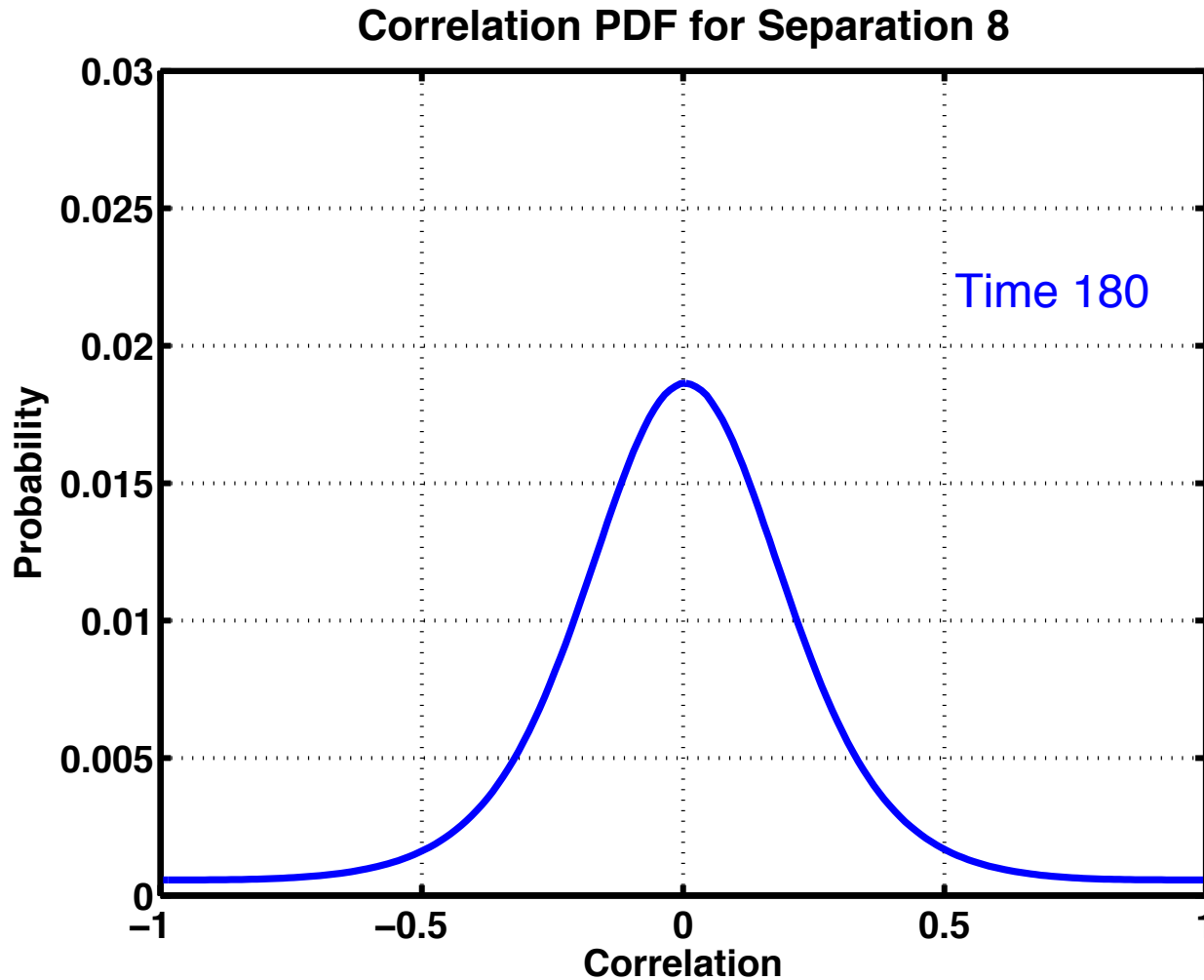
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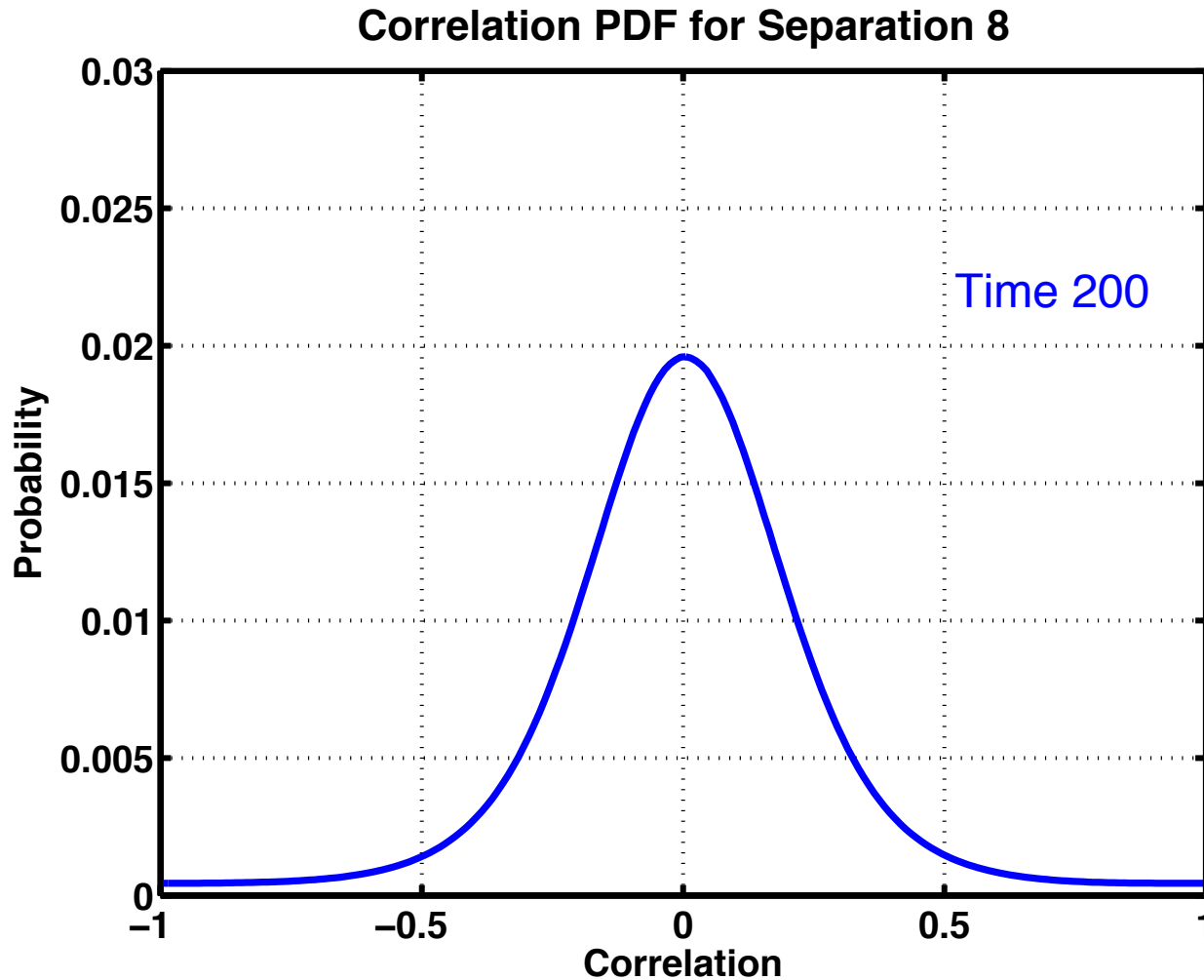
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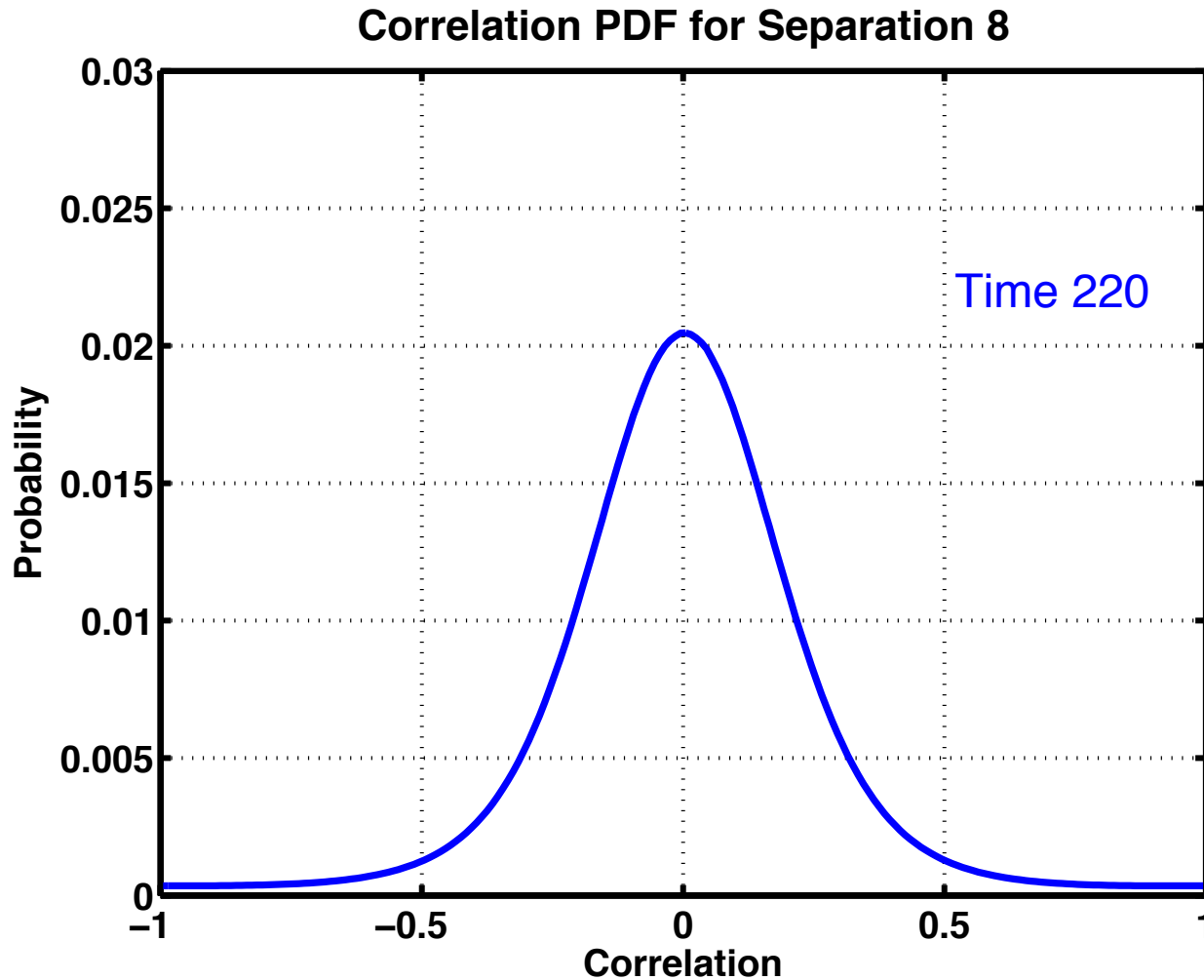
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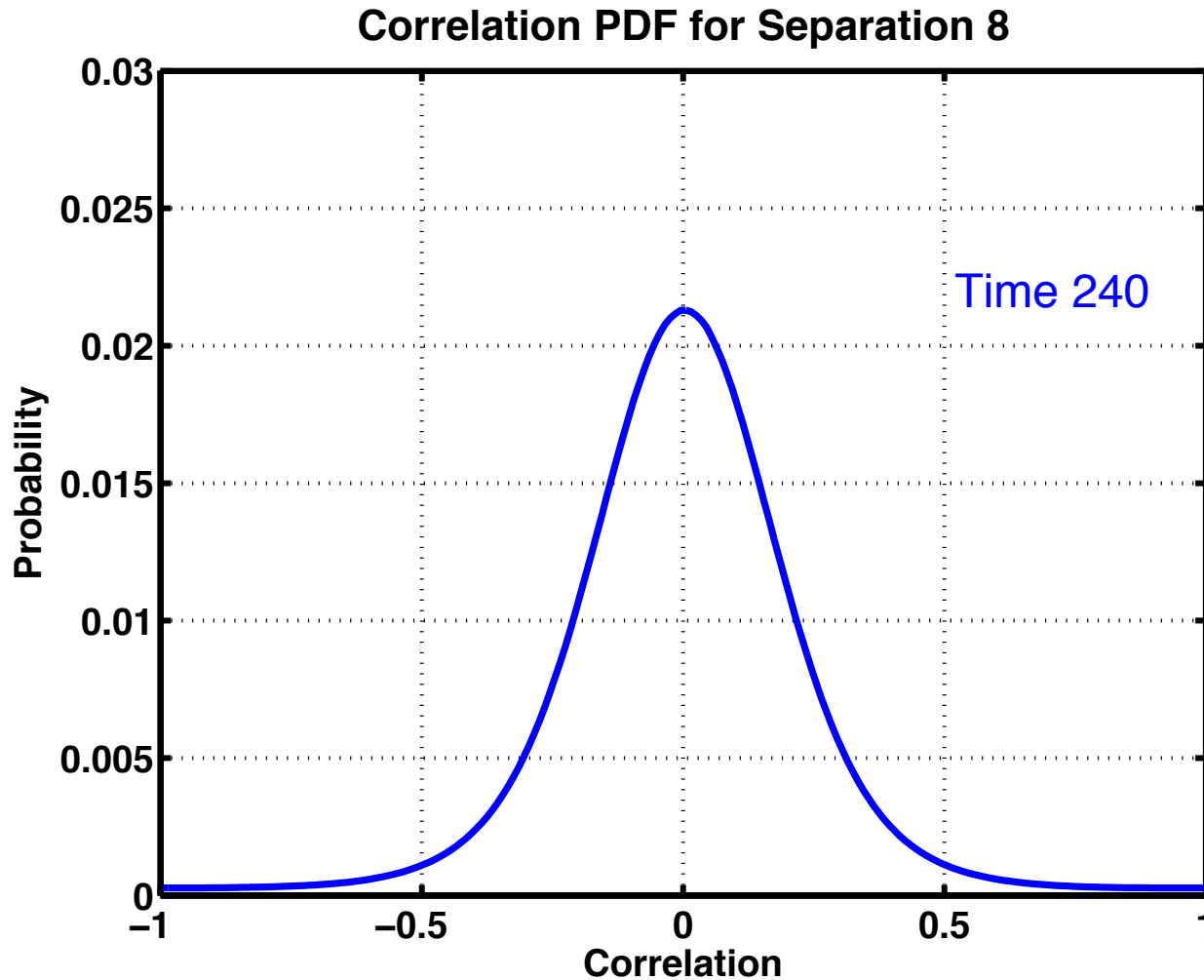
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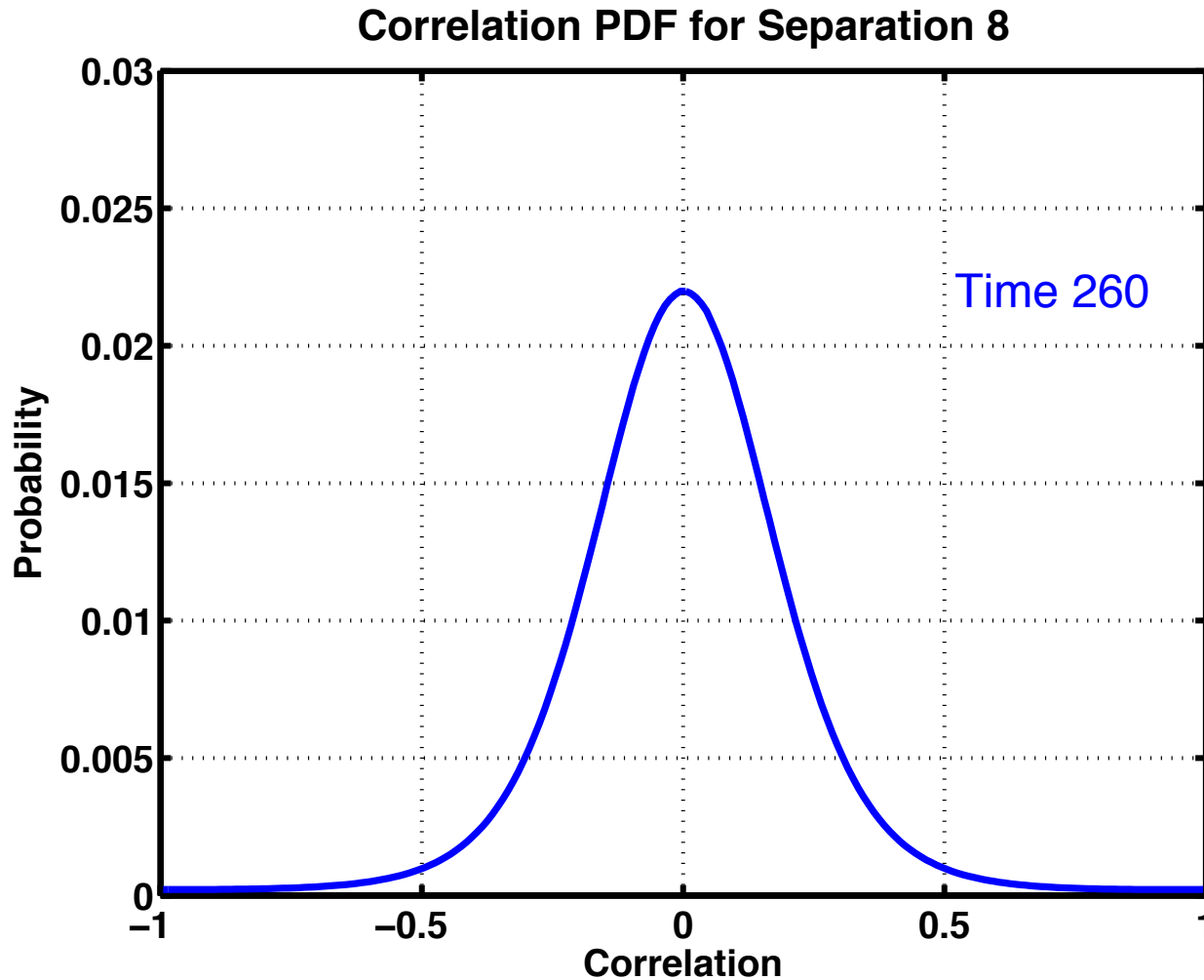


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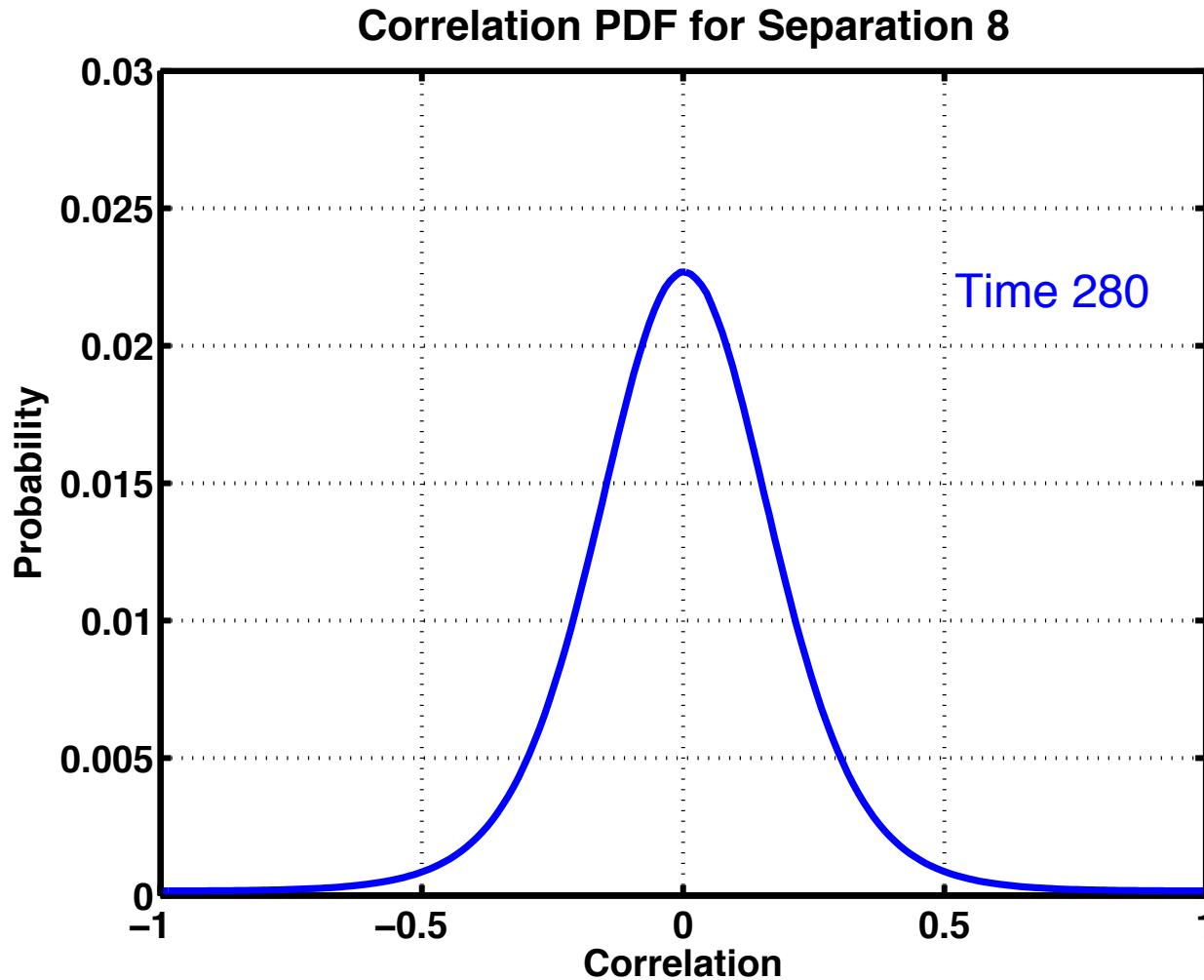




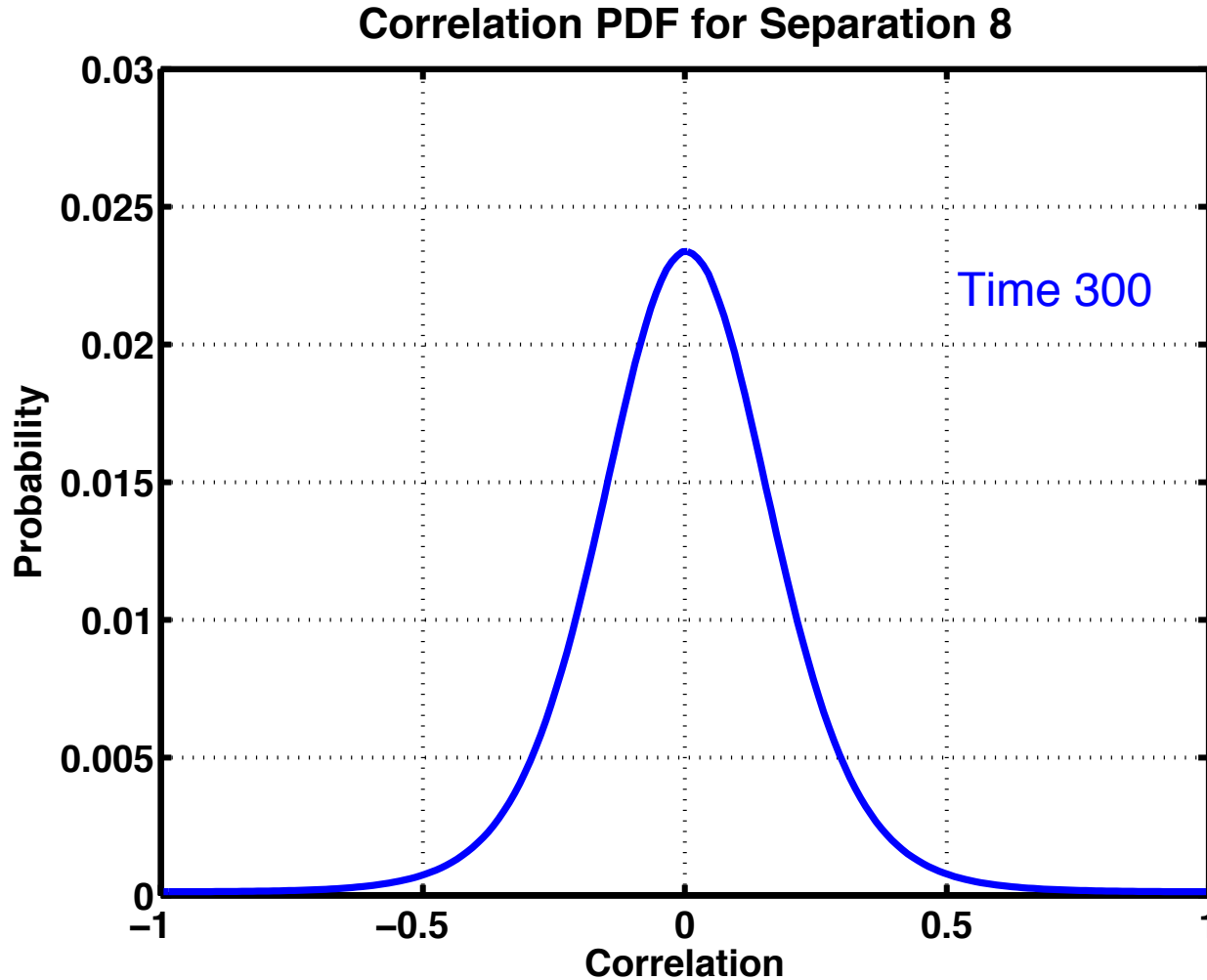
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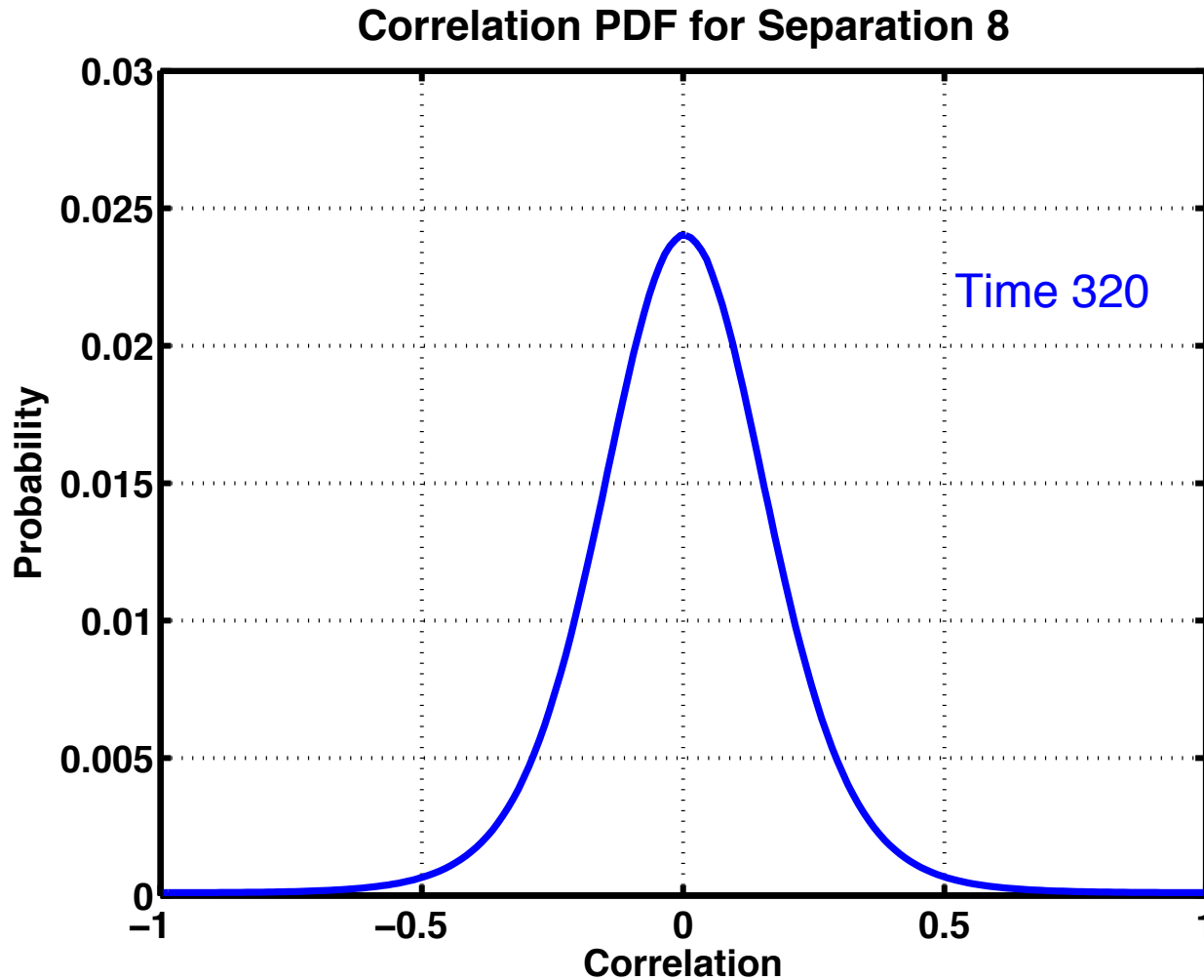
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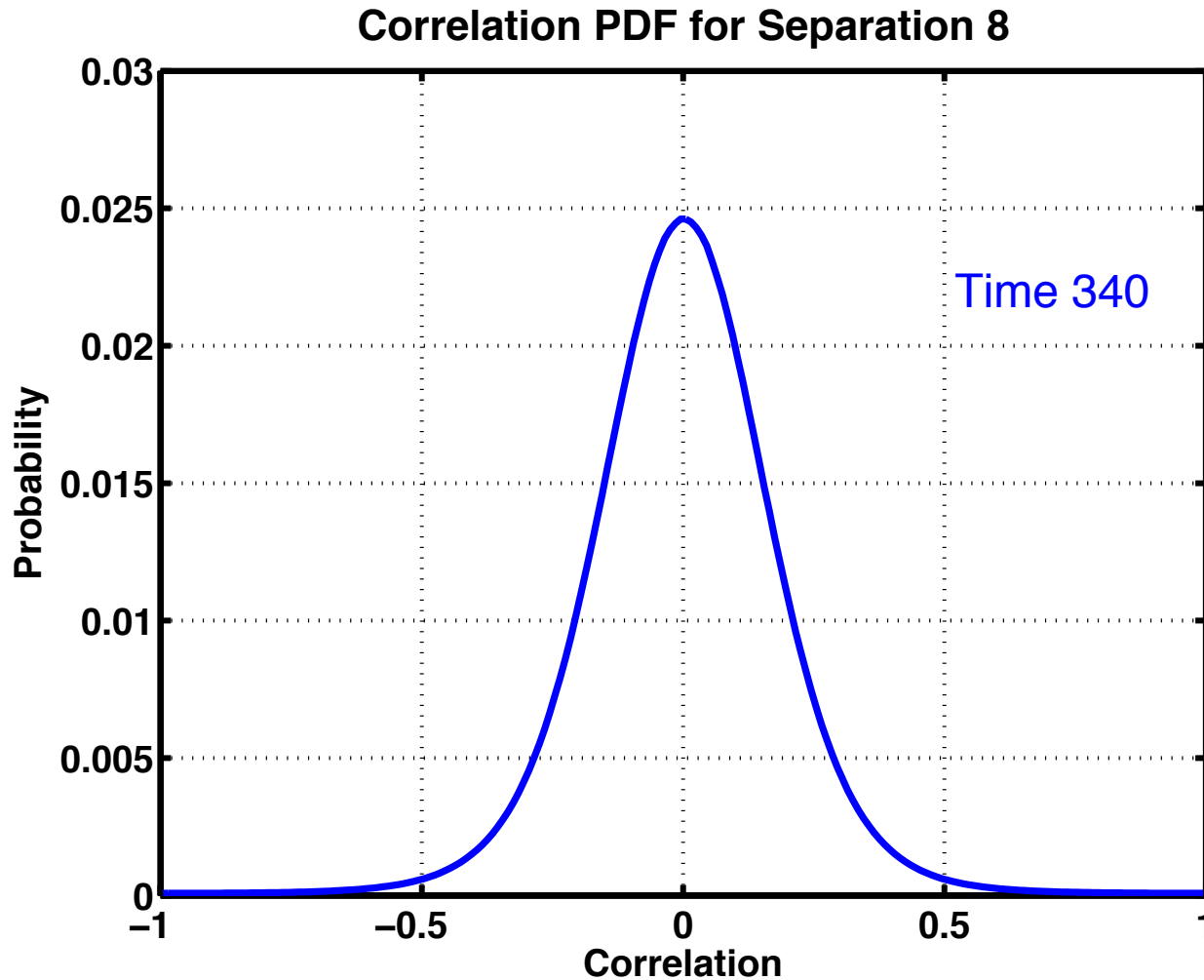
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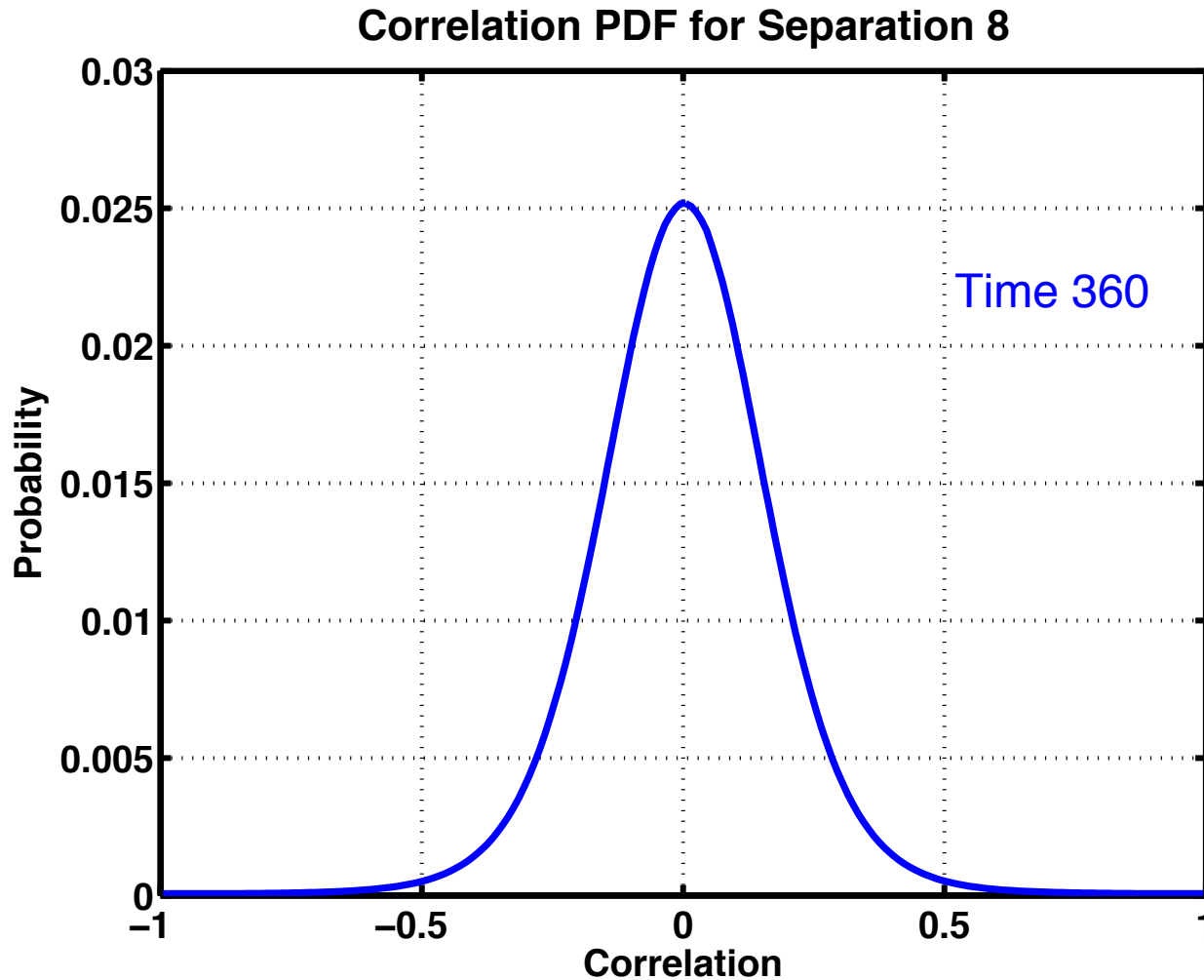
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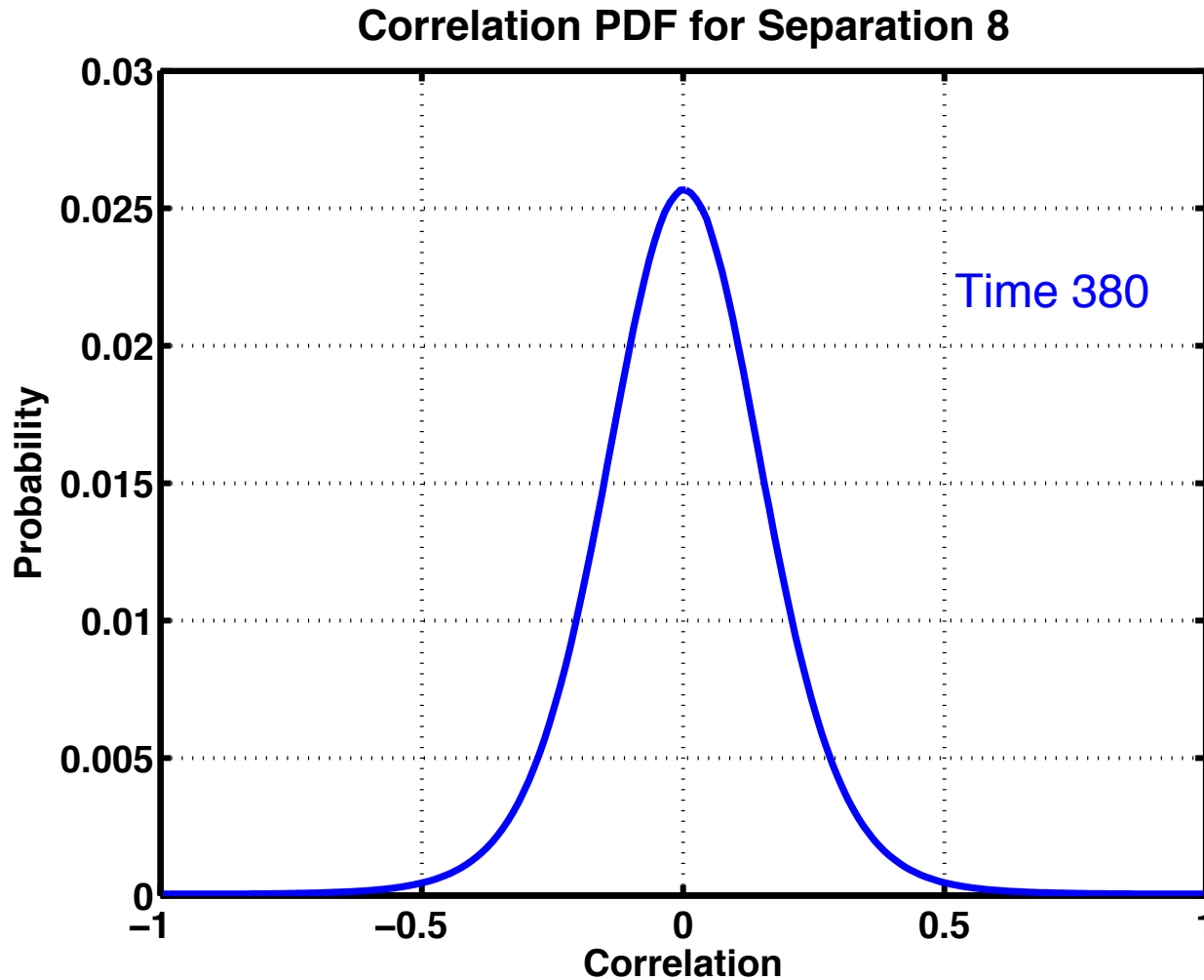
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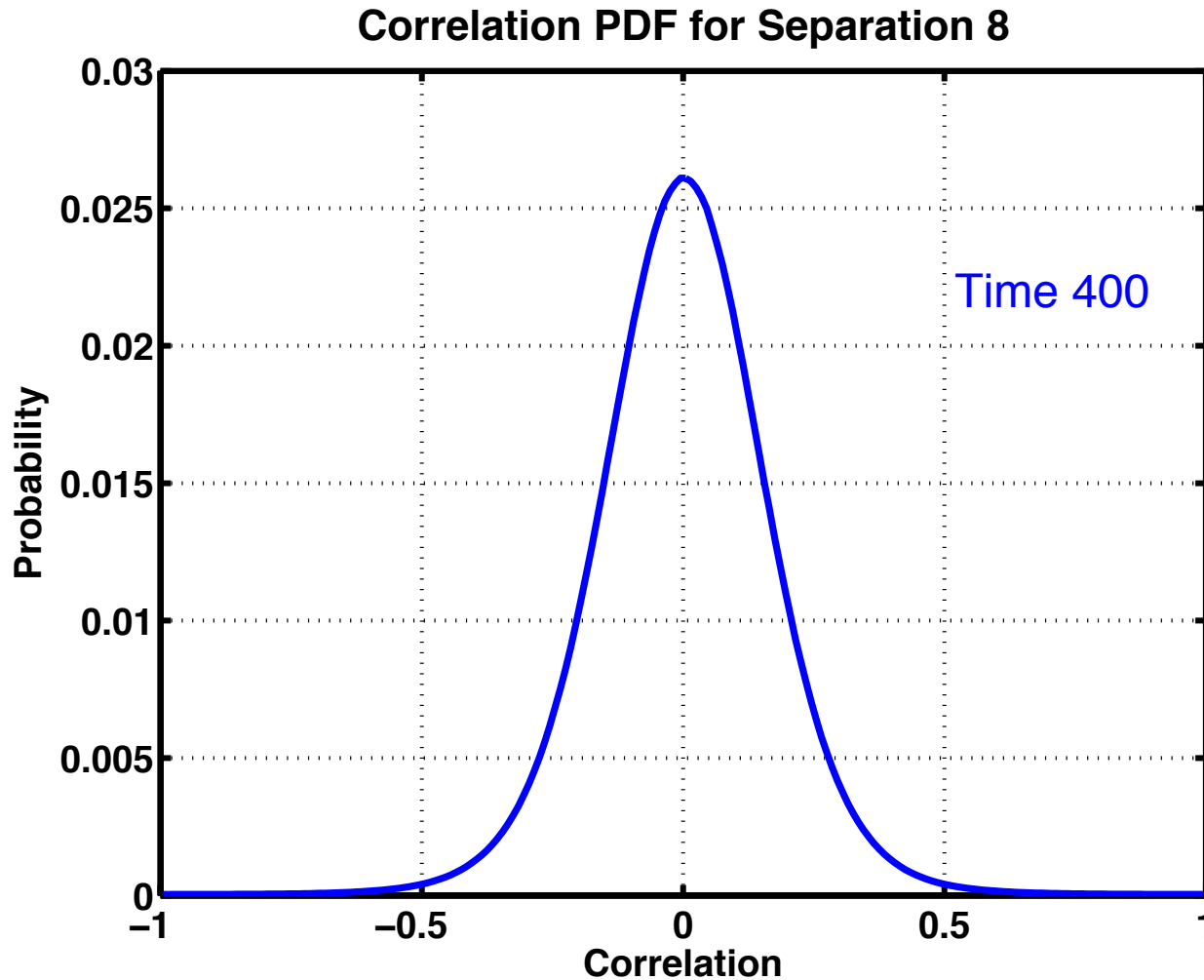
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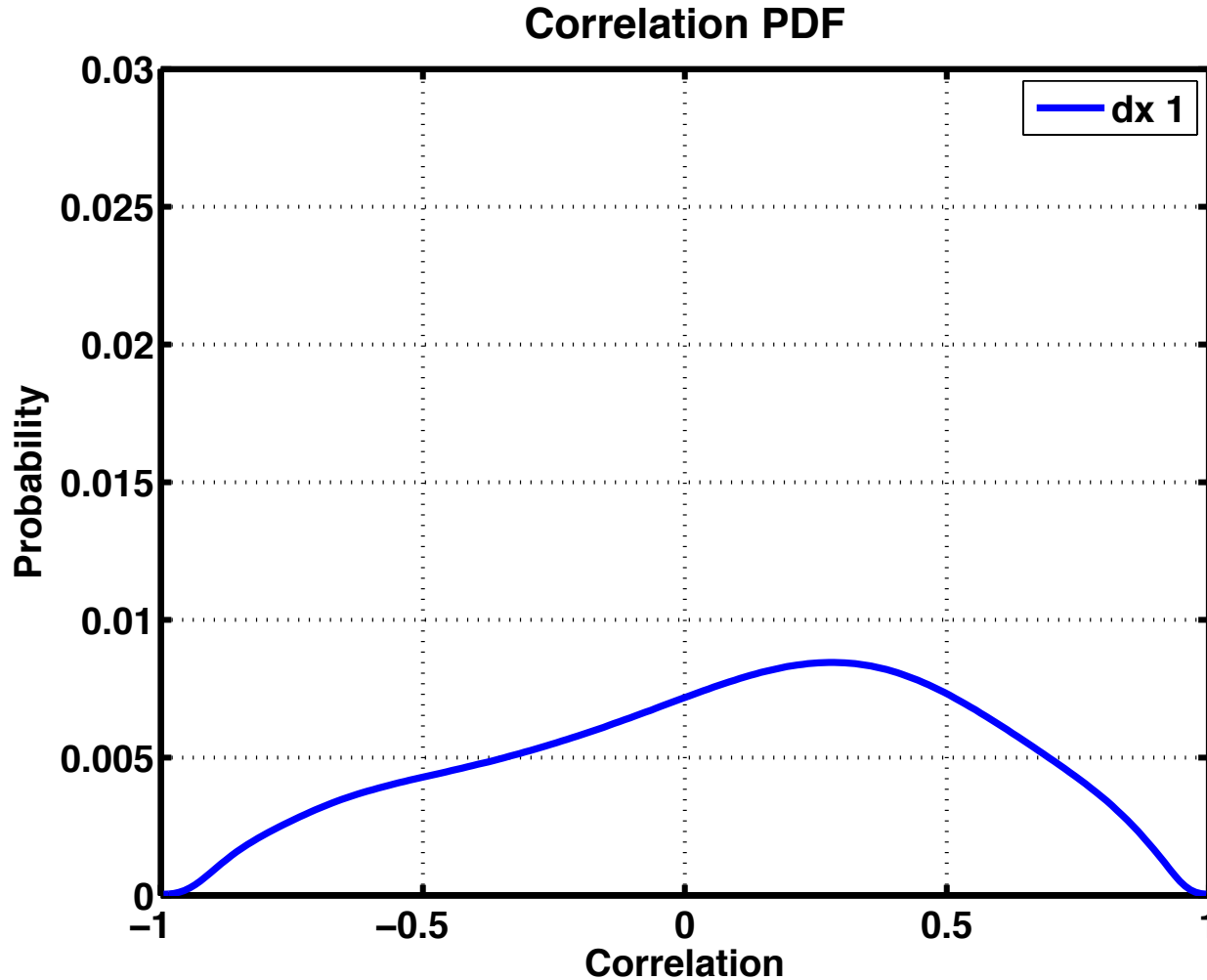
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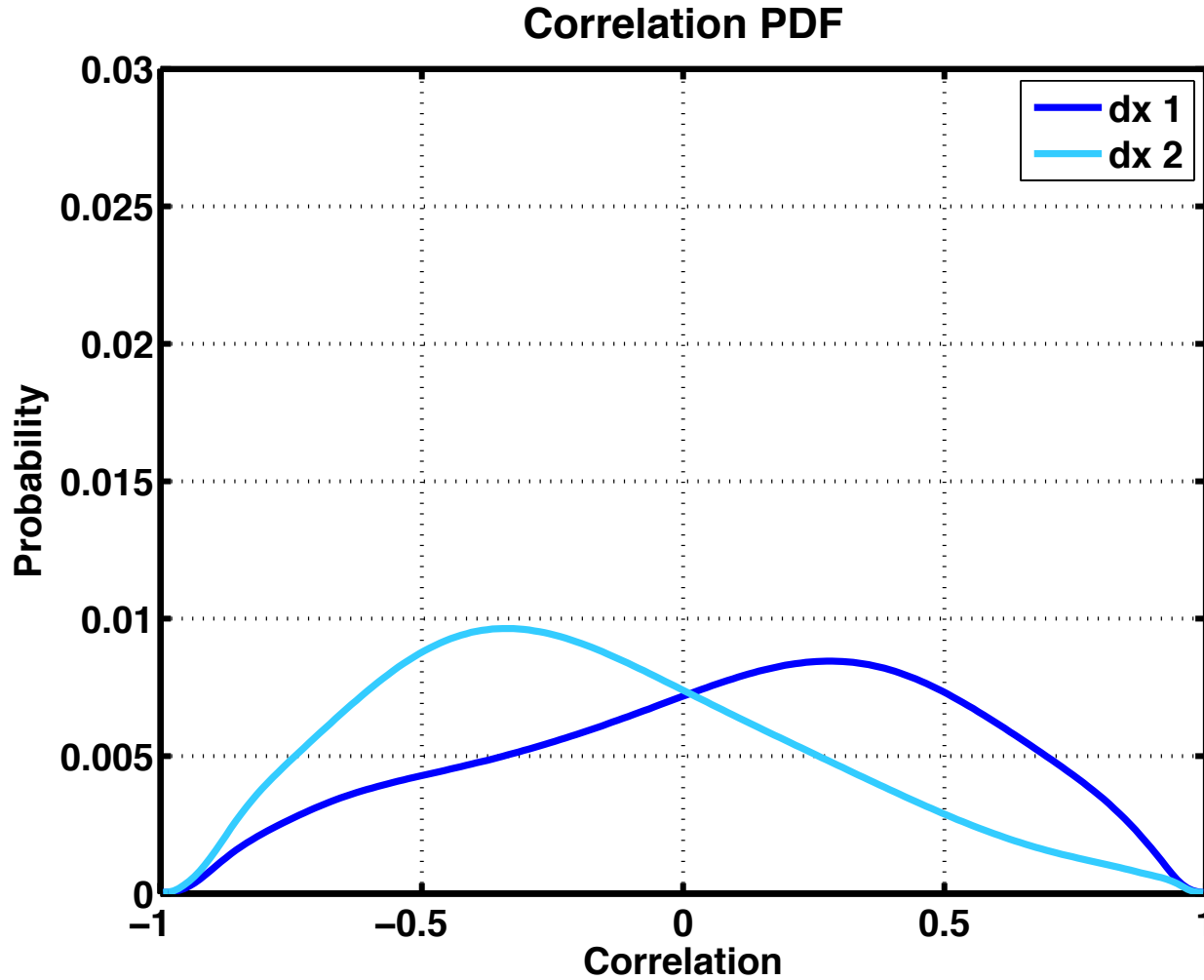


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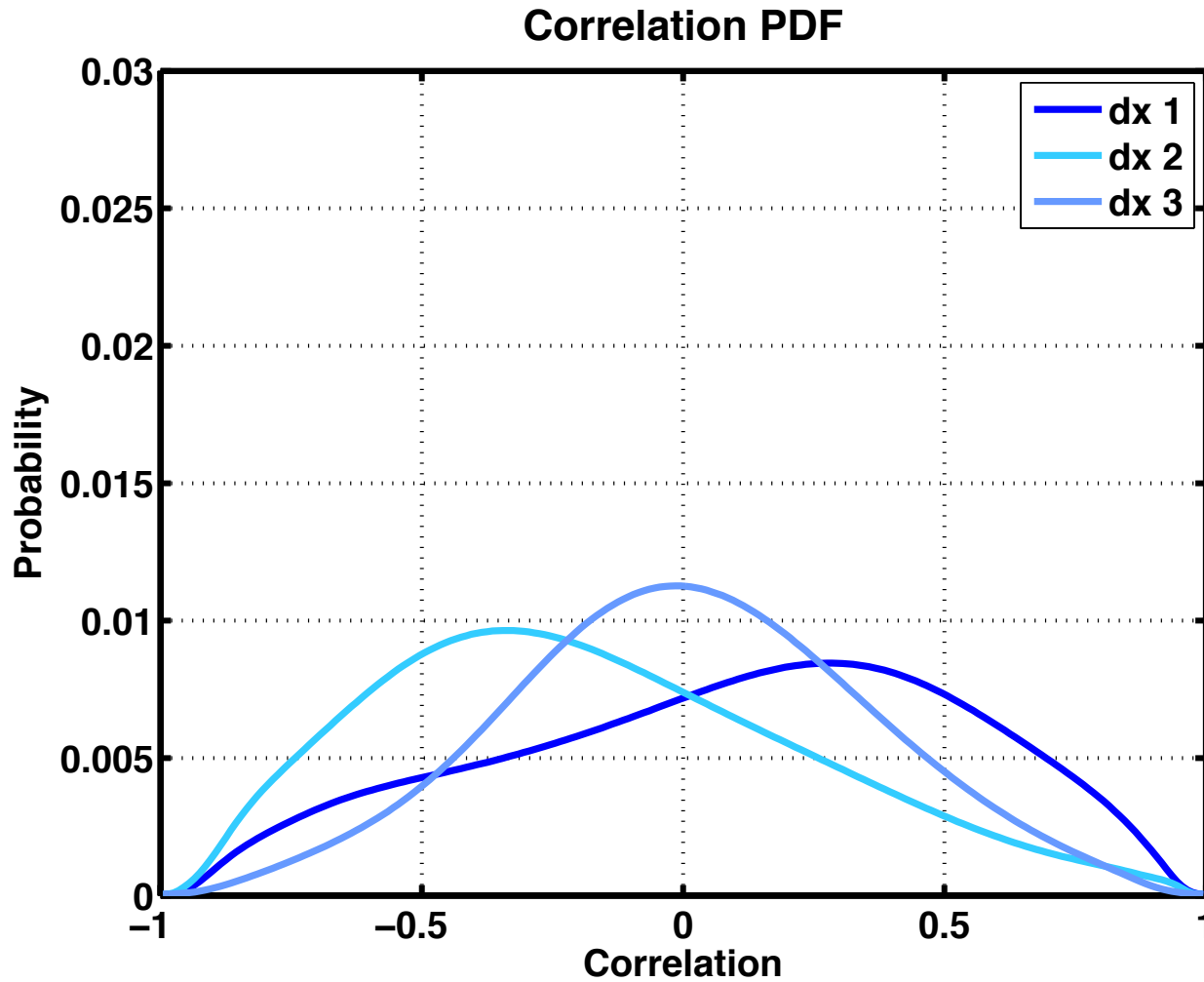


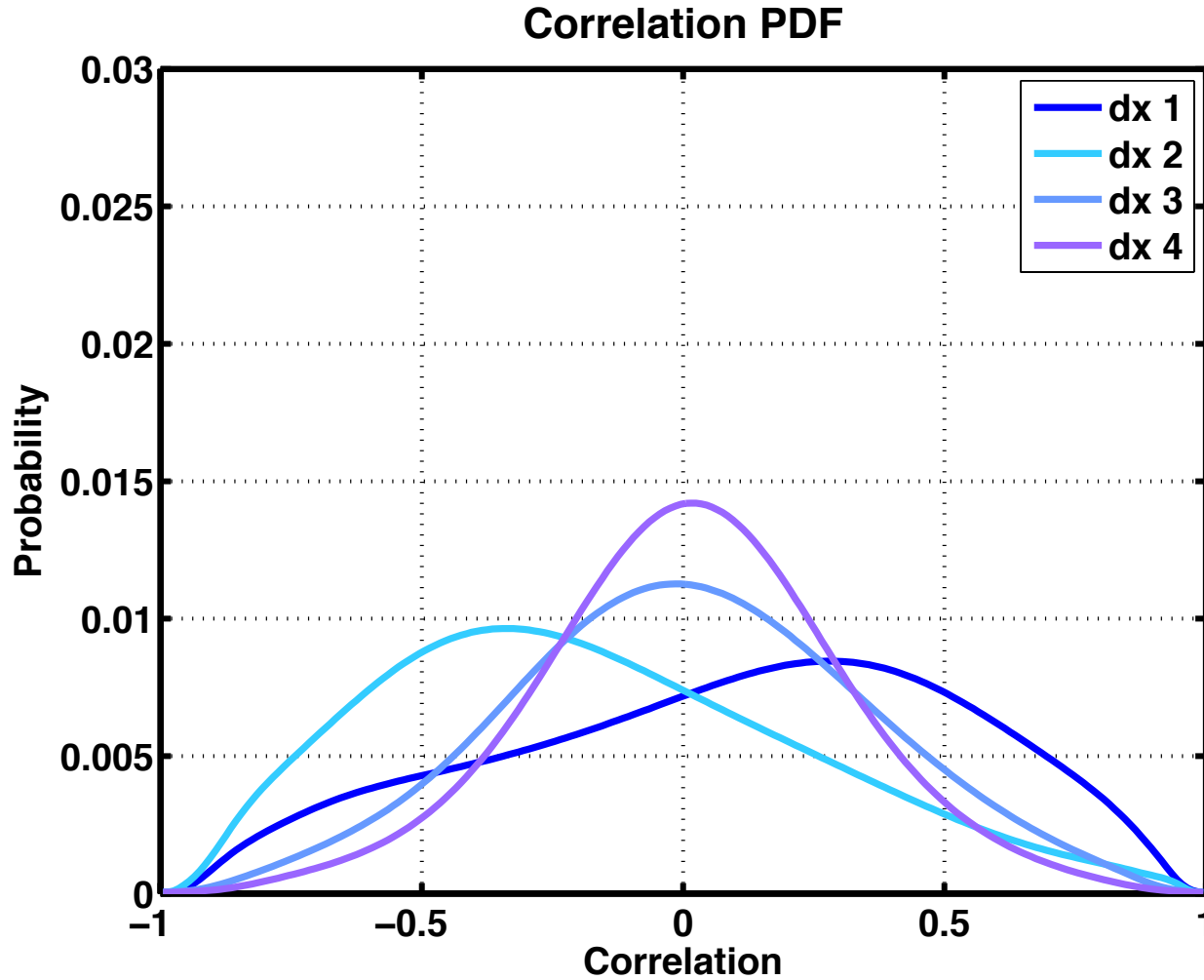




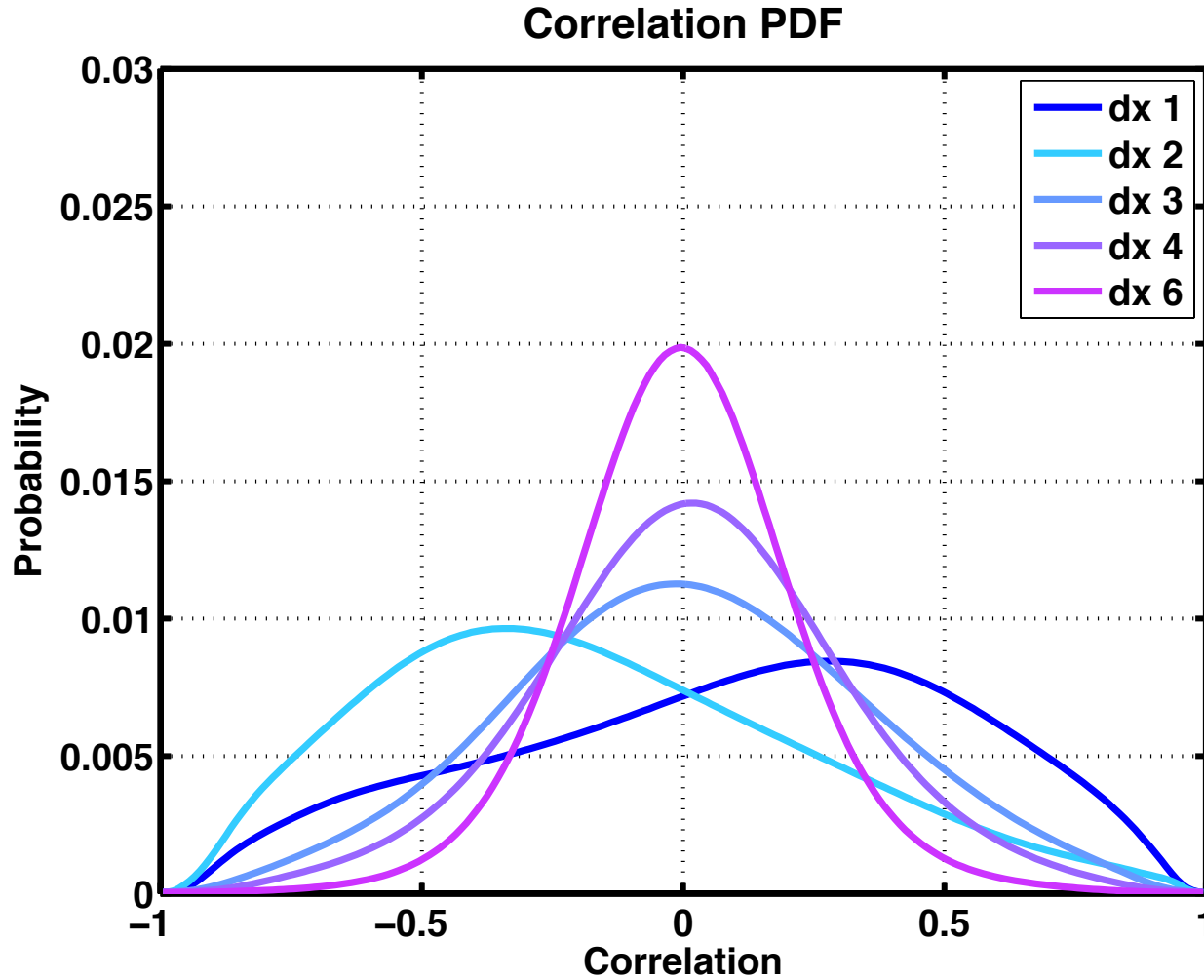


# Equilibrated Correlation Distribution as Function of Separation

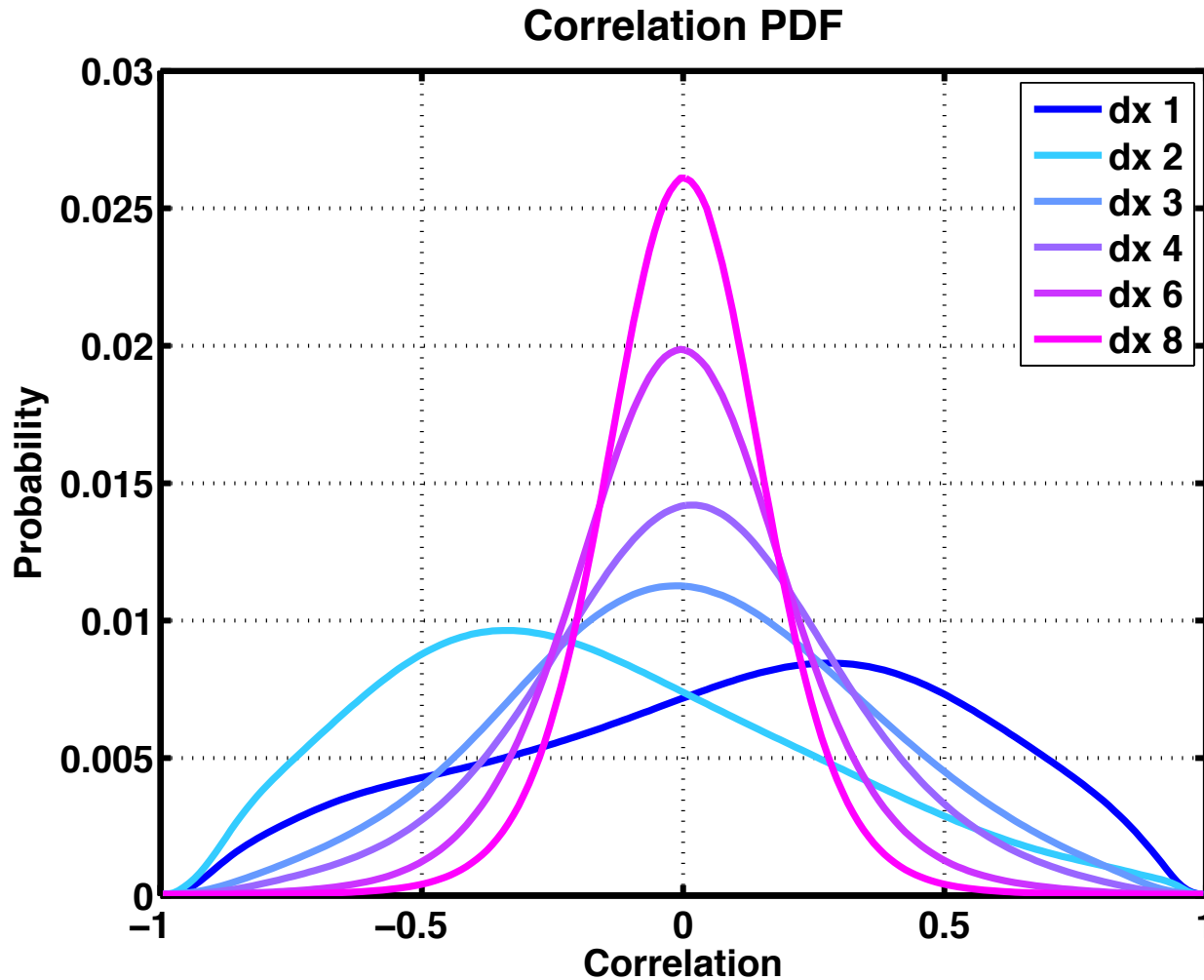




# Equilibrated Correlation Distribution as Function of Separation



# Equilibrated Correlation Distribution as Function of Separation



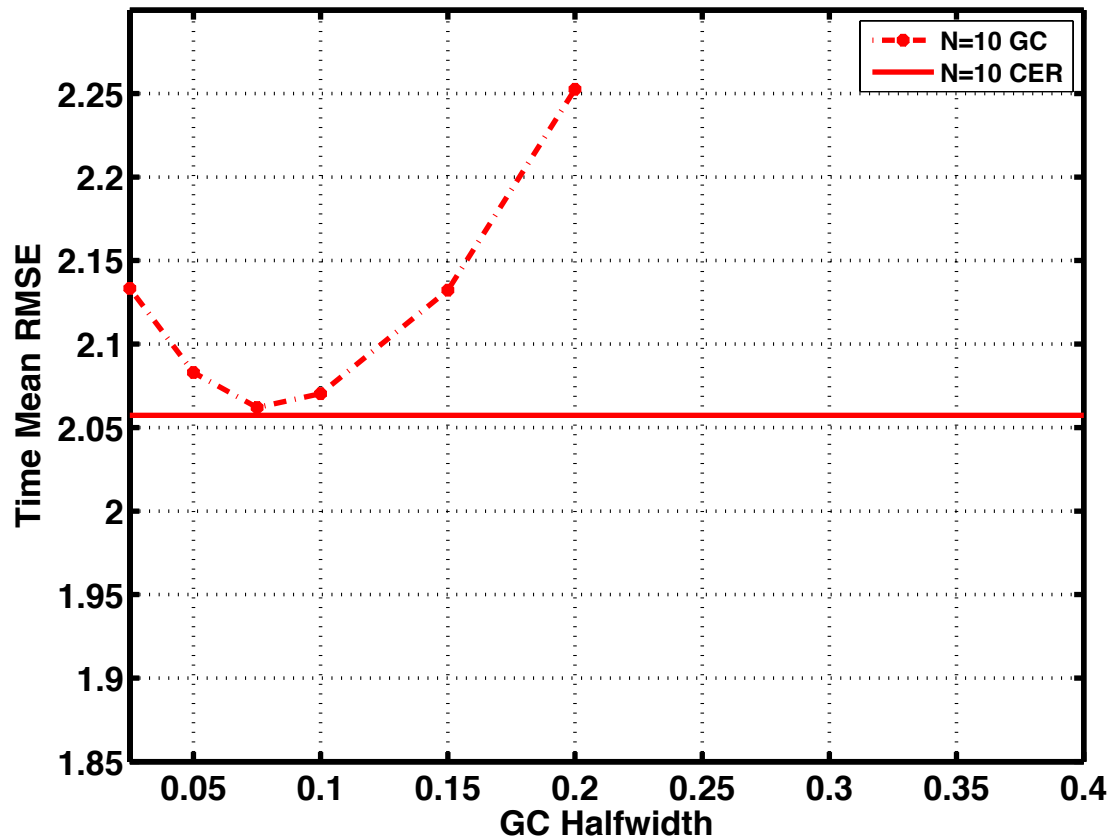
Identity observations, error variance 1.

Assimilate every 12<sup>th</sup> model timestep.

20-member ensembles.

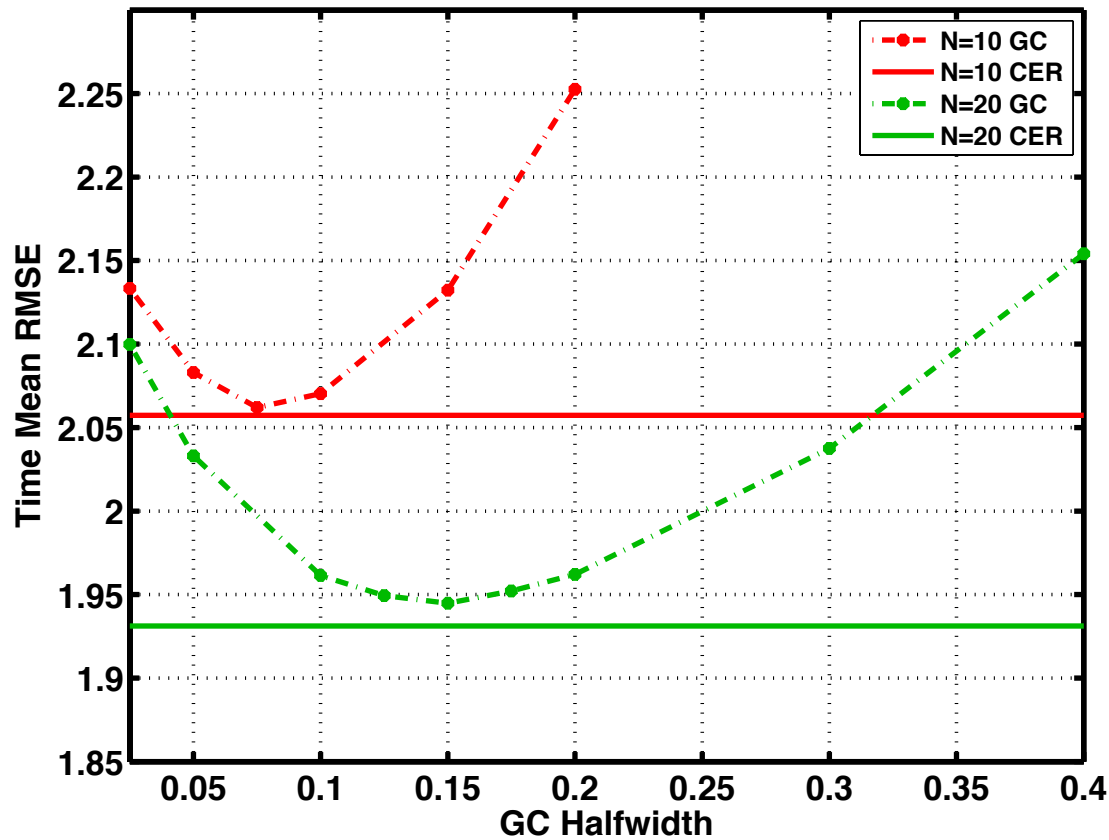
All cases use same adaptive inflation settings.

## Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases Ensemble Size 10

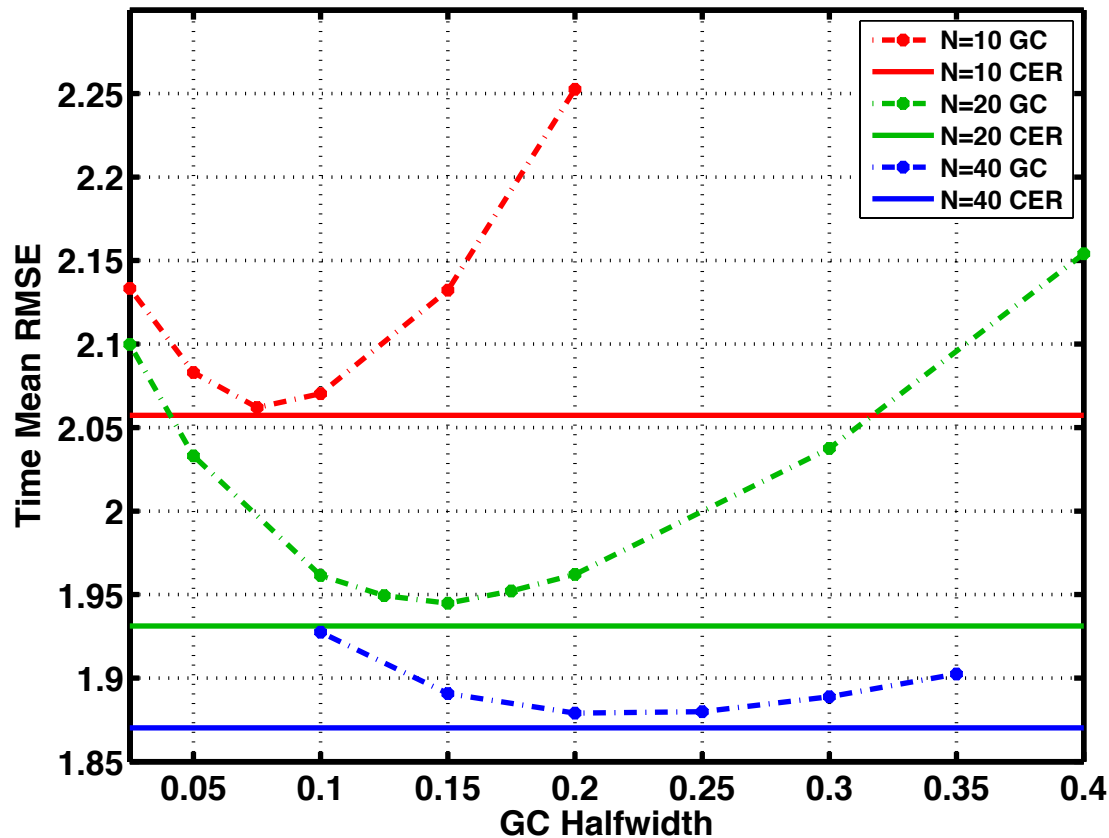




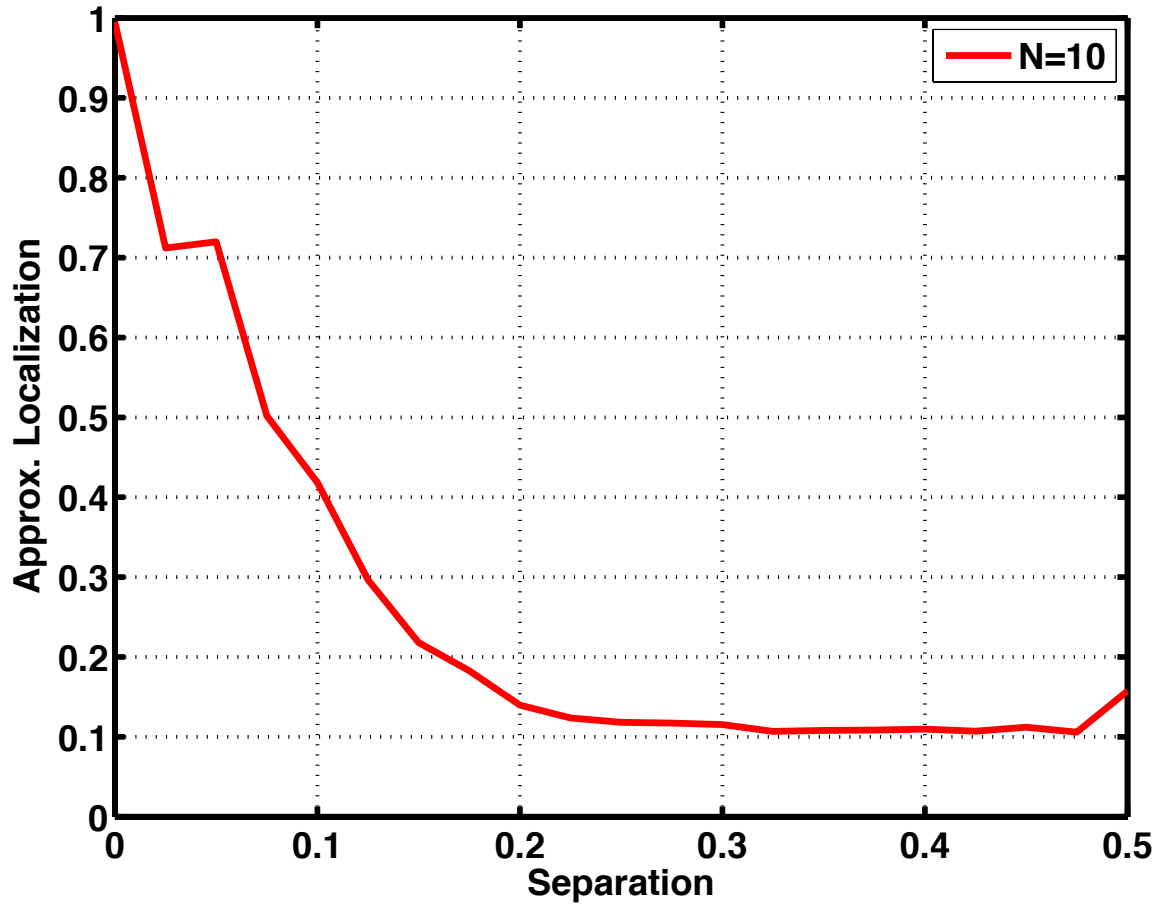
## Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases Ensemble Size 10, 20



## Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases Ensemble Size 10, 20, 40

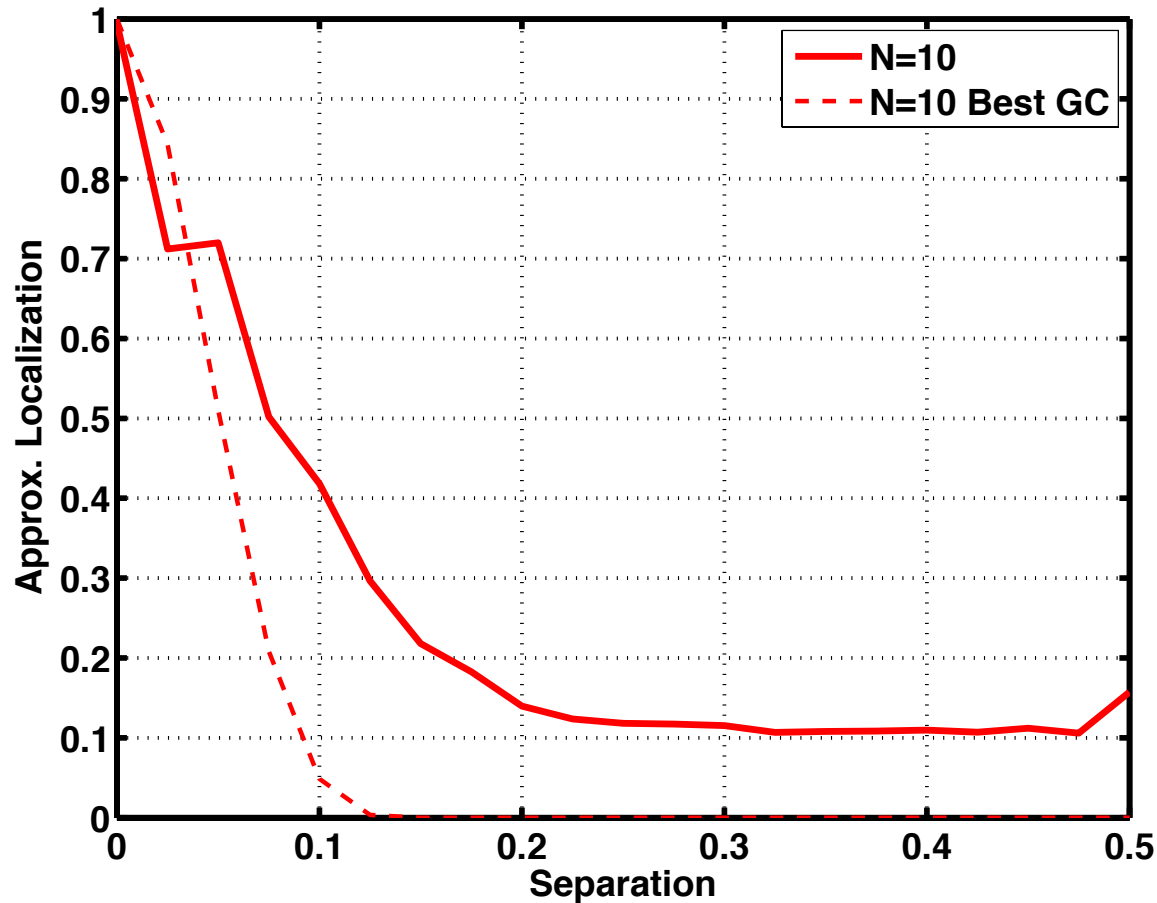


Ensemble Size 10



Ensemble Size 10

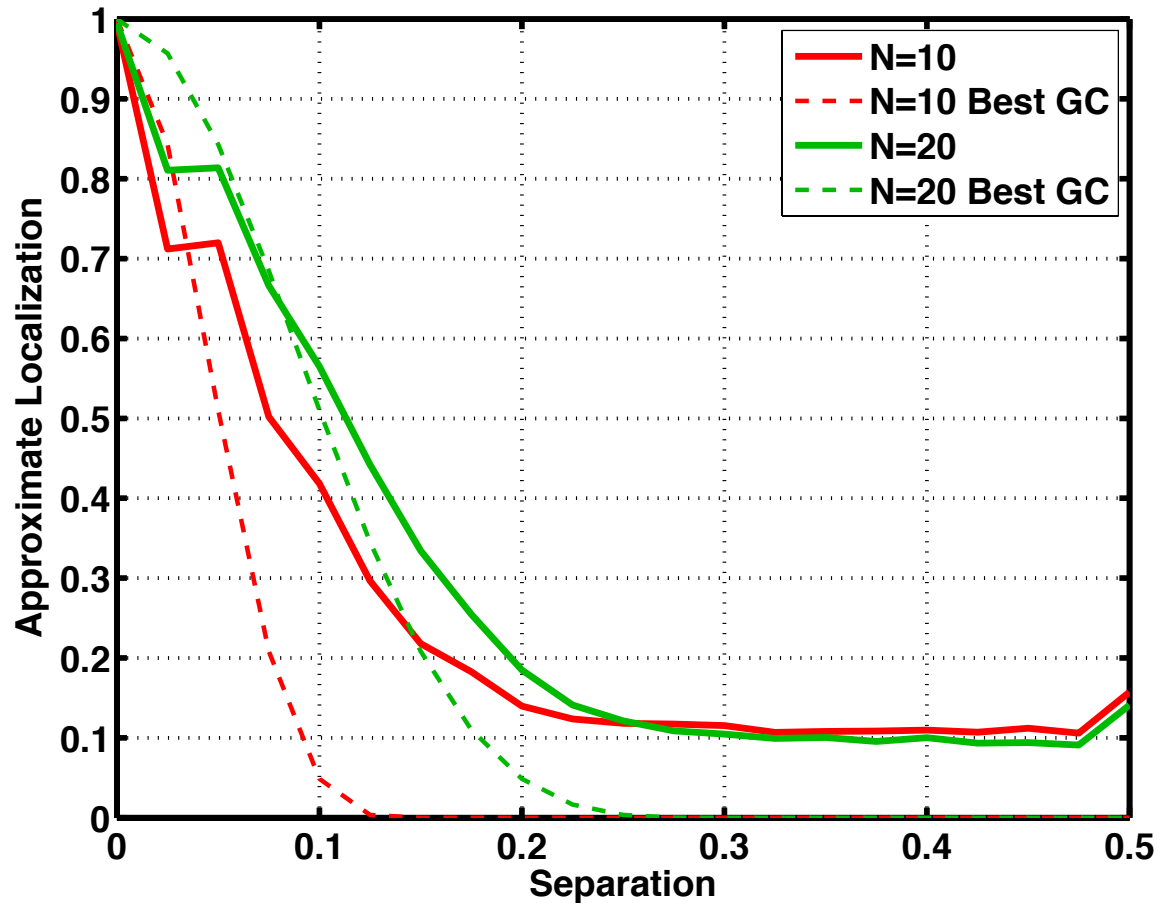
Plus Best Gaspari Cohn



# Equivalent Localization: Obs. every 12 Hours, Err. Var. 1

Ensemble Size 10, 20

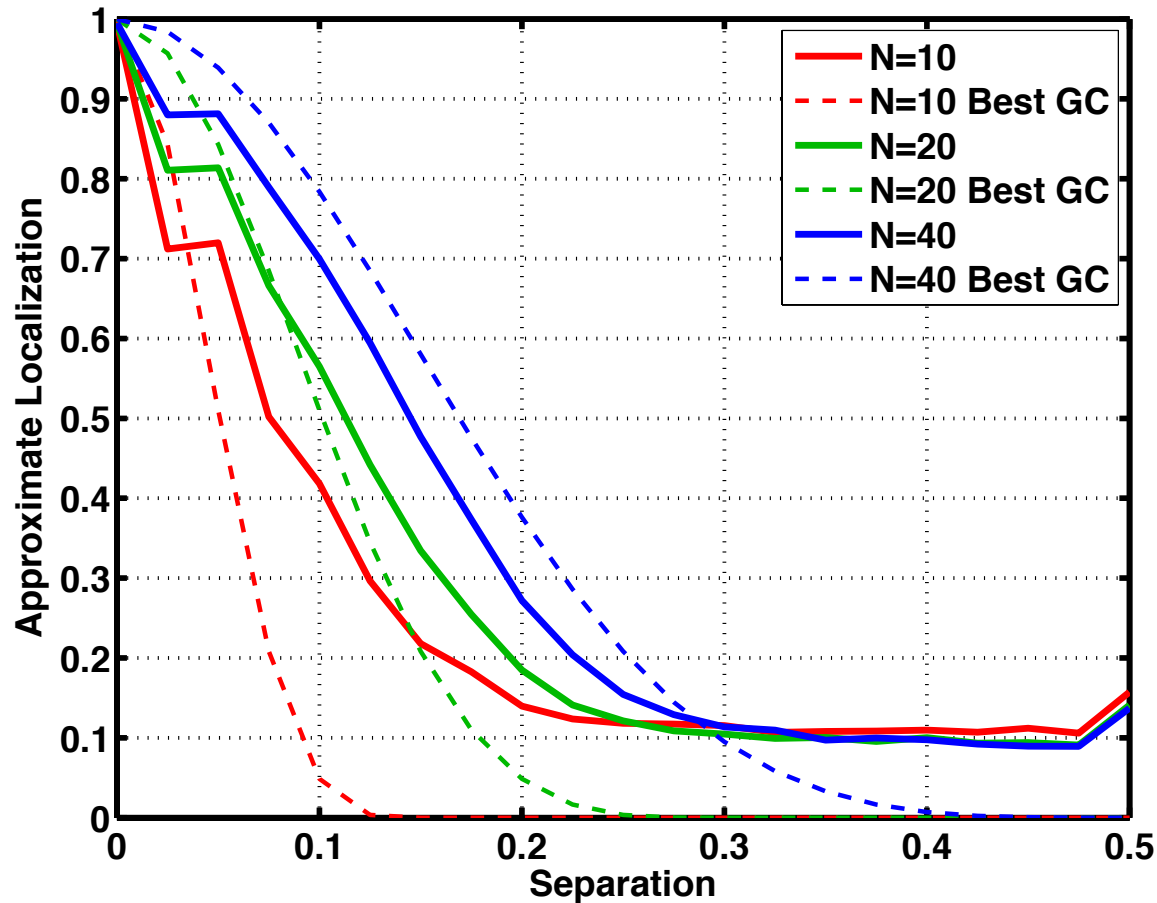
Plus Best Gaspari Cohn



# Equivalent Localization: Obs. every 12 Hours, Err. Var. 1

Ensemble Size 10, 20, 40

Plus Best Gaspari Cohn



# Case 2: Frequent low-quality obs

Identity observations, error variance 16.

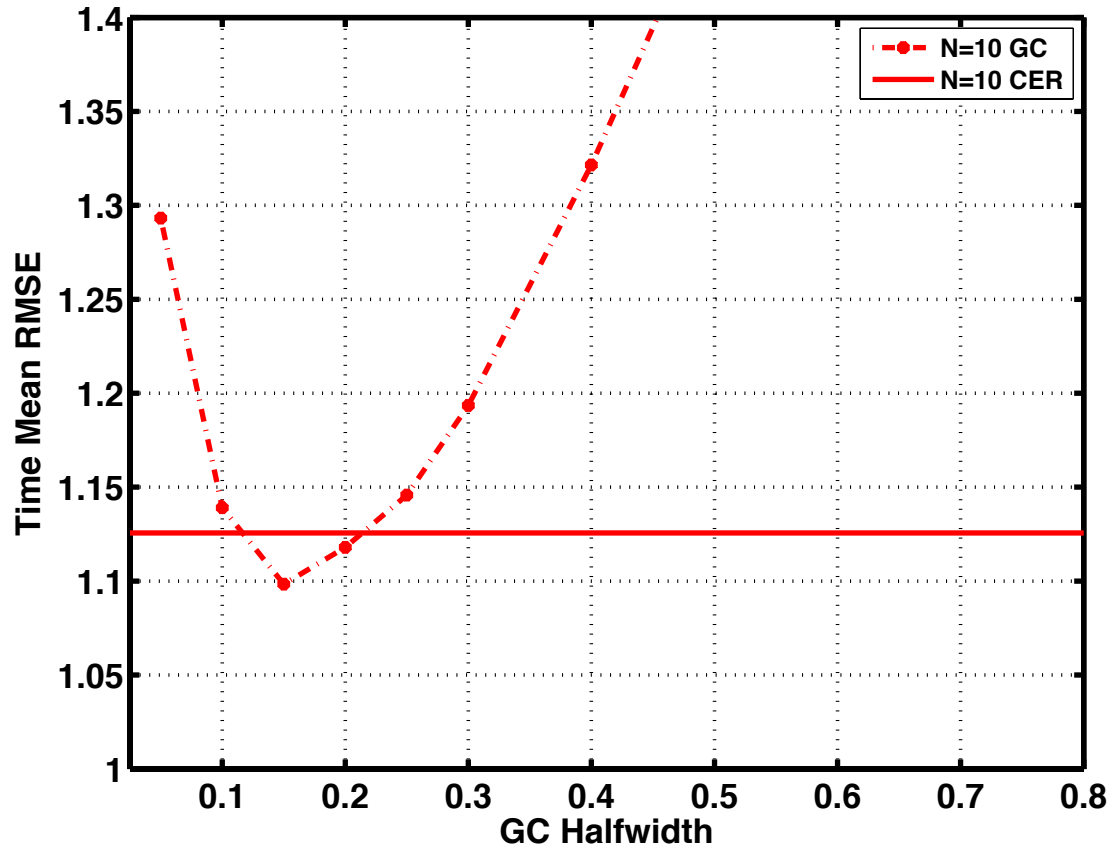
Assimilate every model timestep.

20-member ensembles.

All cases use same adaptive inflation settings.

# Prior RMSE: Obs. every Hour, Error Variance 16

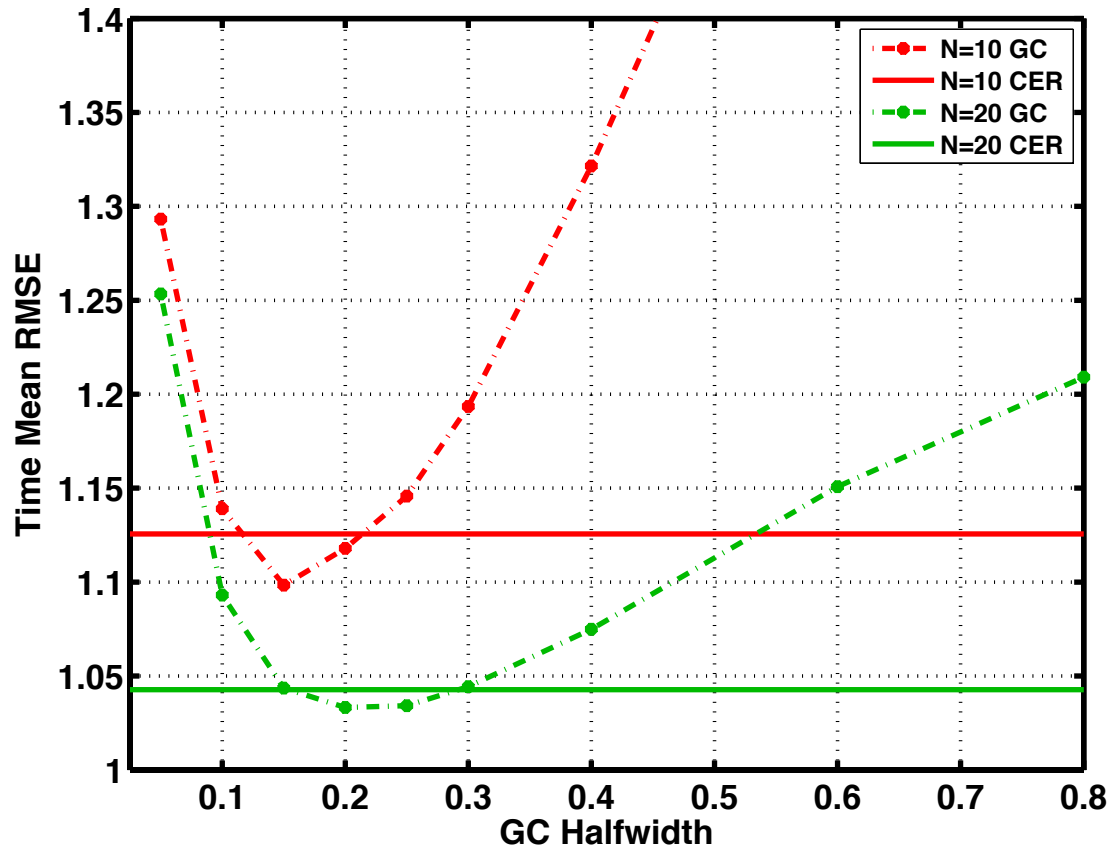
Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases  
Ensemble Size 10





# Prior RMSE: Obs. every Hour, Error Variance 16

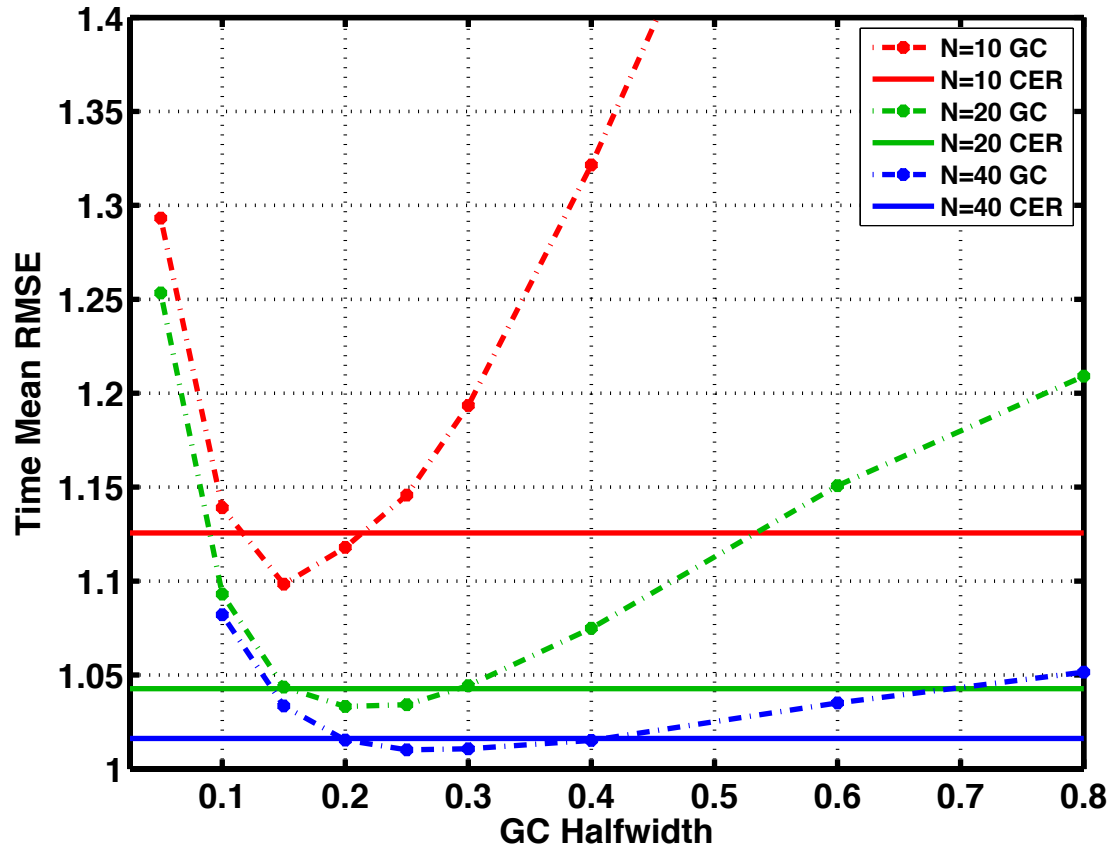
Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases  
Ensemble Size 10, 20



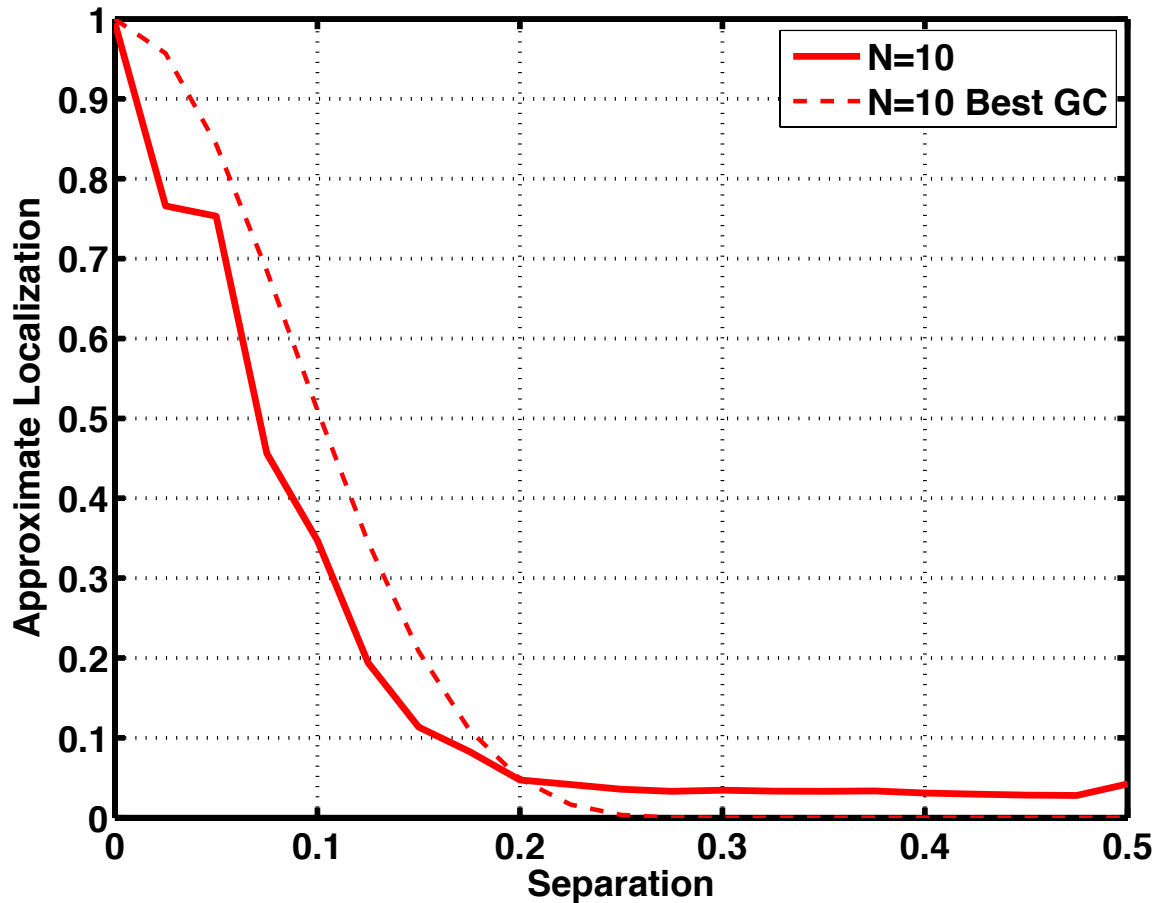
# Prior RMSE: Obs. every Hour, Error Variance 16

Comparison to Gaspari Cohn Localization Cases

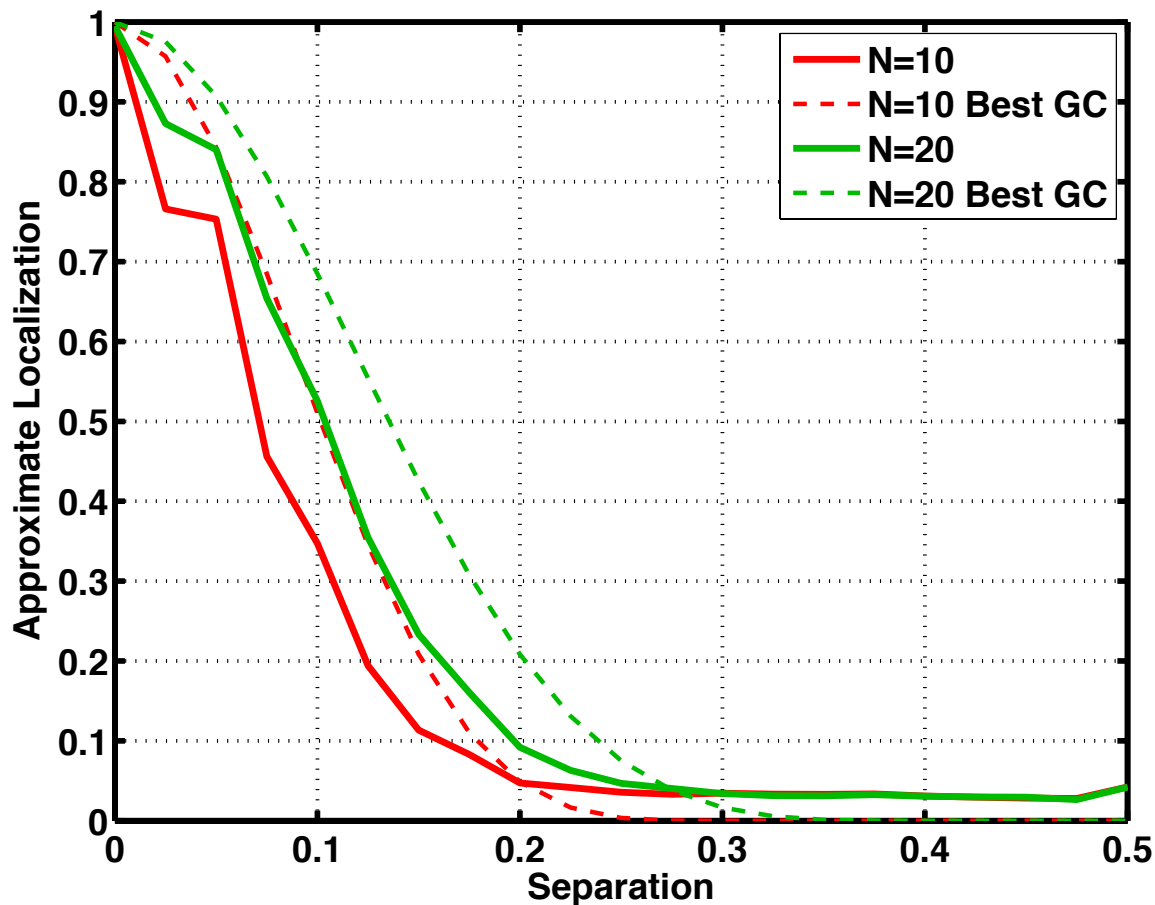
Ensemble Size 10, 20, 40



Ensemble Size 10

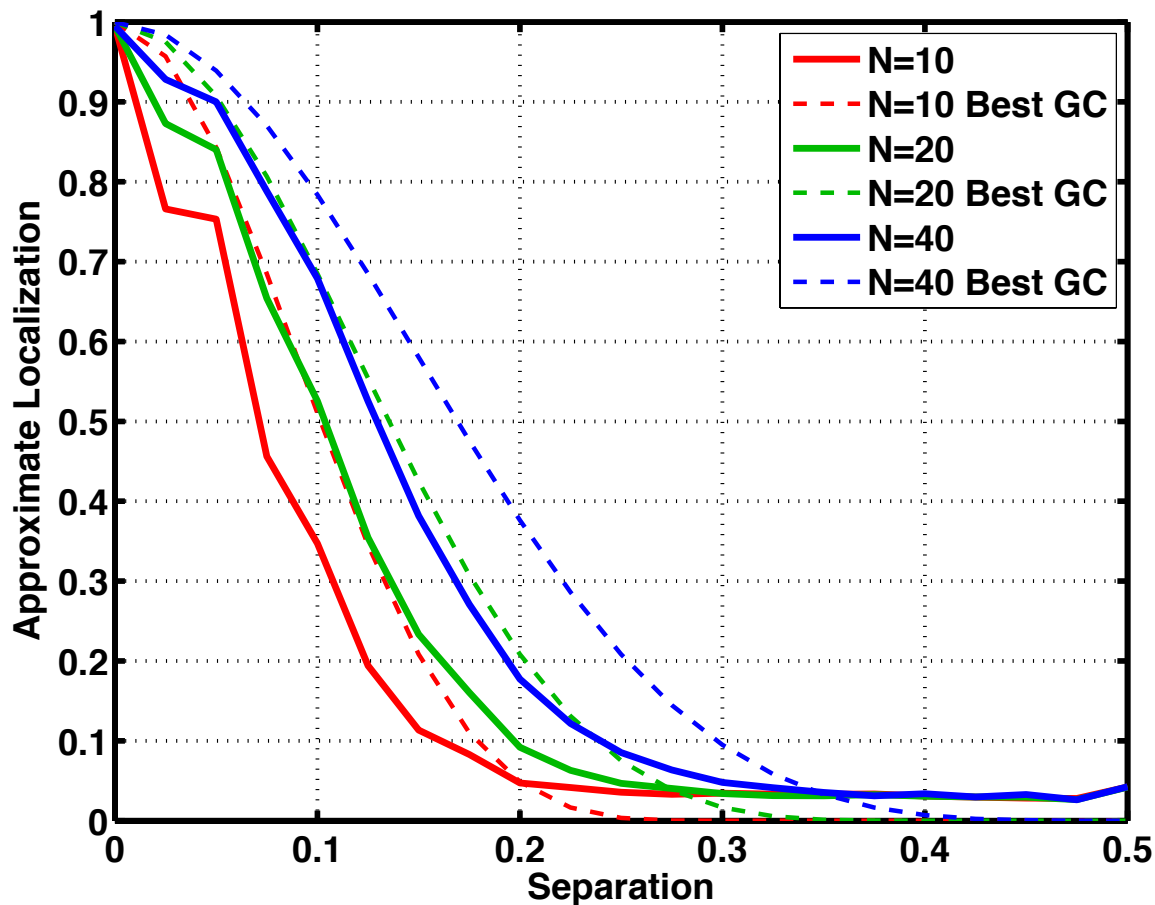


Ensemble Size 10, 20



# Equivalent Localization: Obs. Every Hour, Err. Var. 16

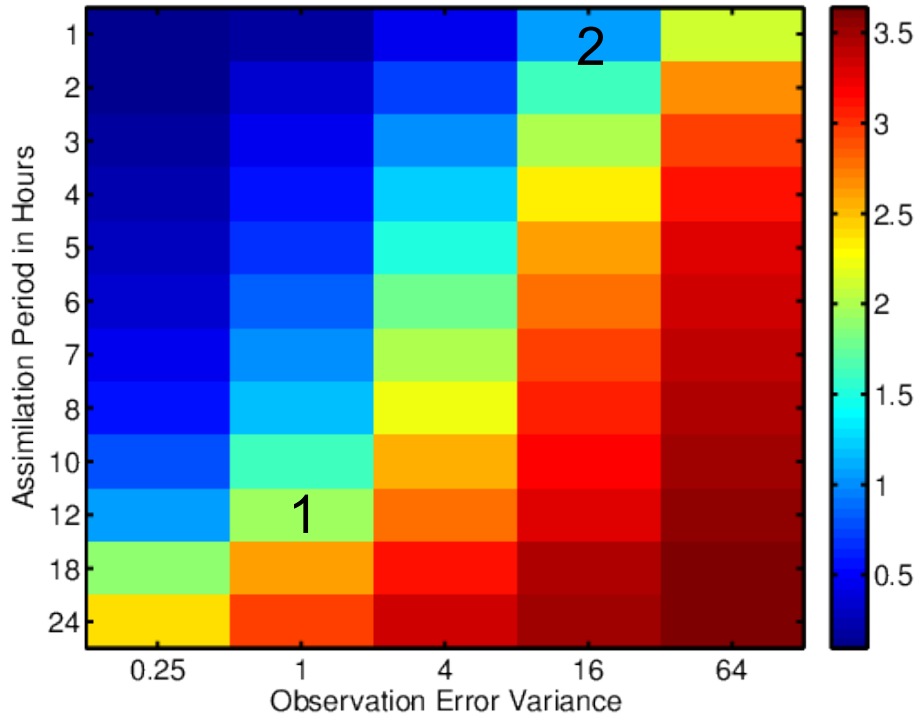
Ensemble Size 10, 20, 40



# Lorenz96 Identity Observations Summary (N=20)

## RMSE for Best GC

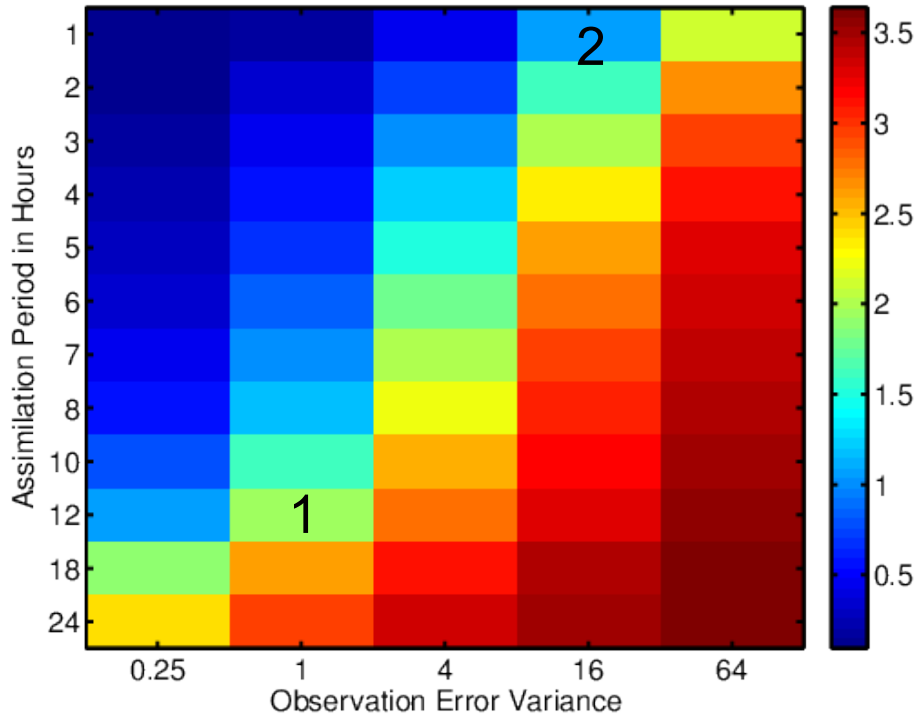
Ensemble Size 20



# Lorenz96 Identity Observations Summary (N=20)

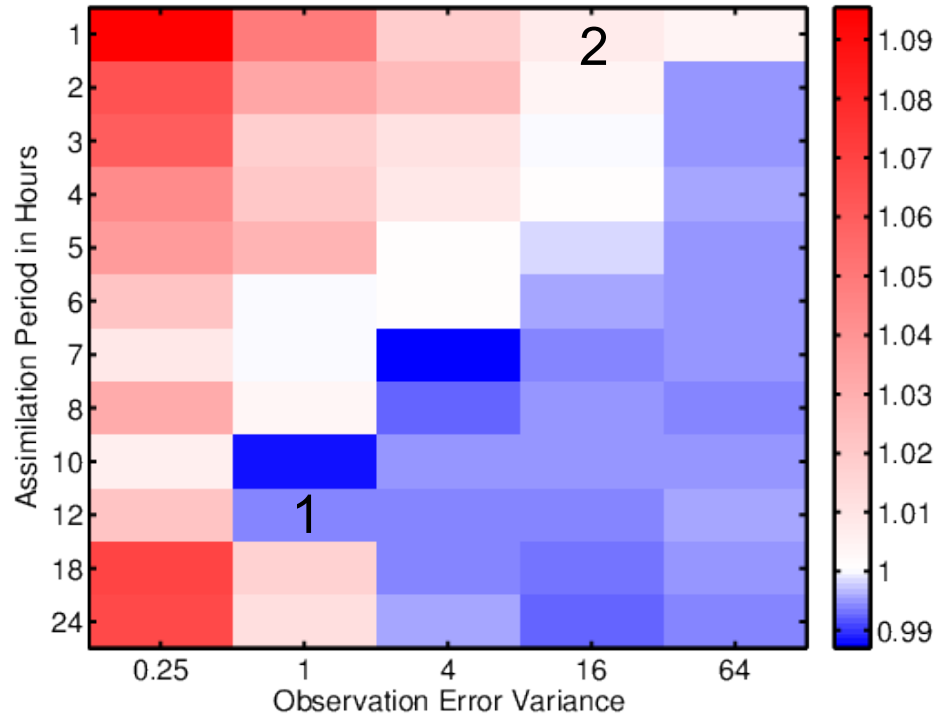
## RMSE for Best GC

Ensemble Size 20



## CER RMSE / Best GC RMSE: Post

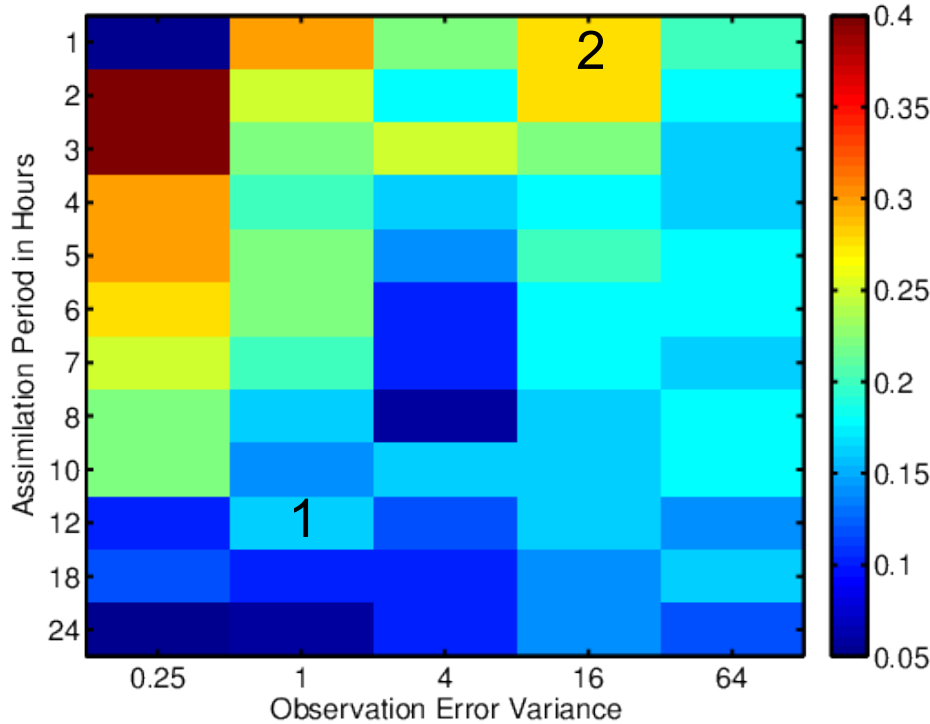
Ensemble Size 20



# Lorenz96 Identity Observations Summary (N=20)

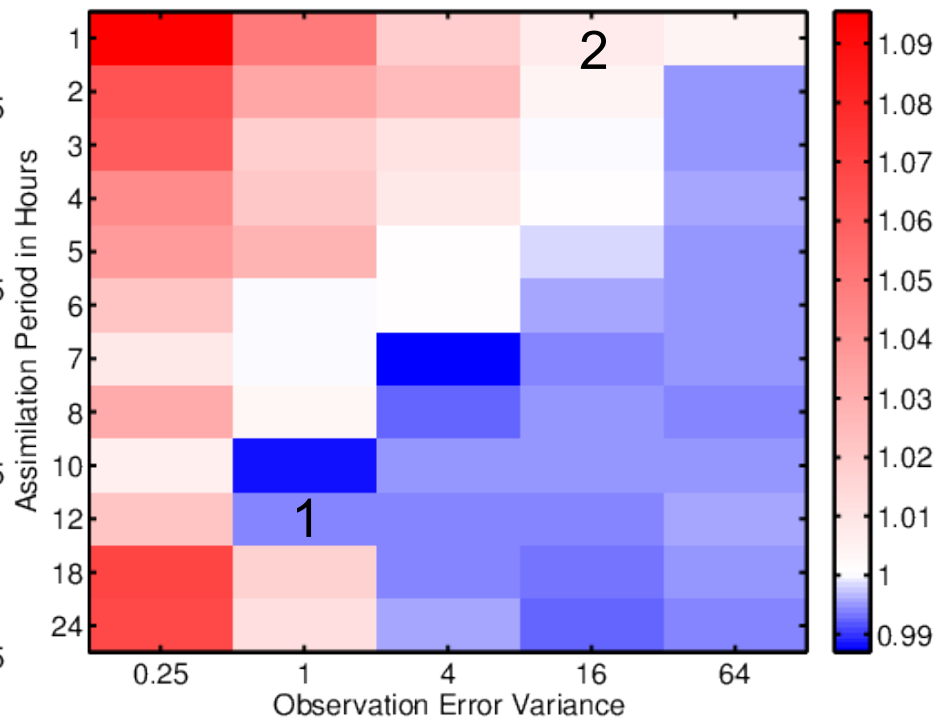
## GC Halfwidth for Best RMSE

Ensemble Size 20



## CER RMSE / Best GC RMSE: Post

Ensemble Size 20

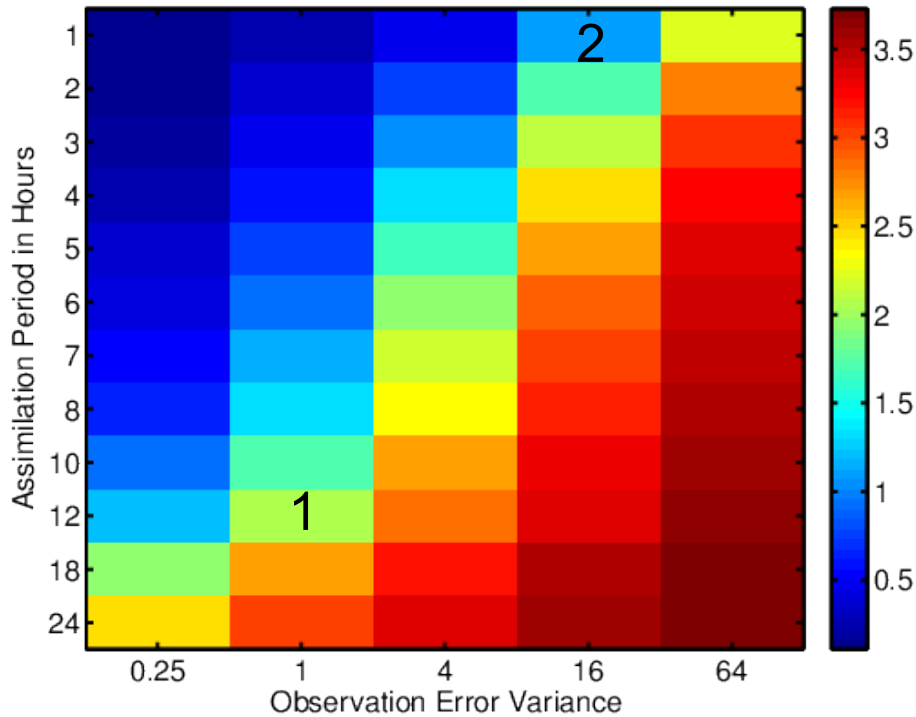




# Lorenz96 Identity Observations Summary (N=10)

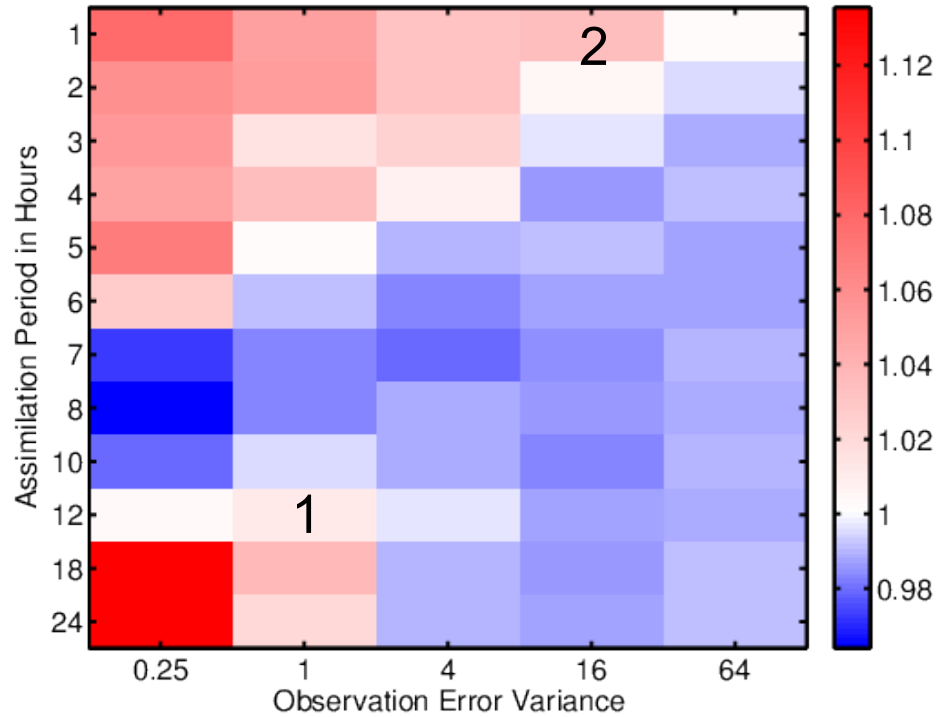
## RMSE for Best GC

Ensemble Size 10



## CER RMSE / Best GC RMSE: Post

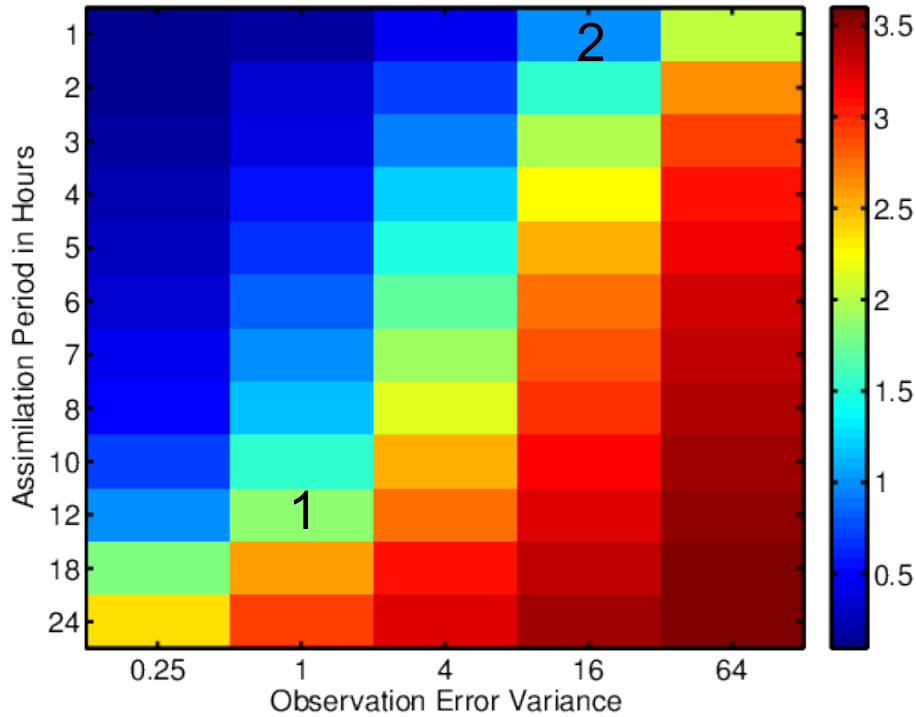
Ensemble Size 10



# Lorenz96 Identity Observations Summary (N=40)

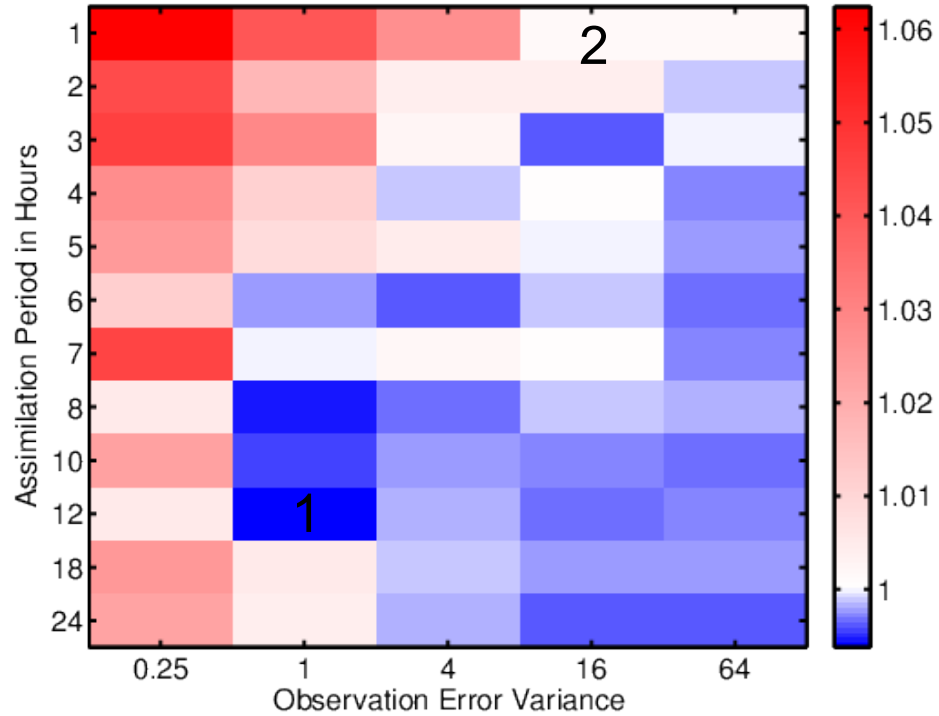
## RMSE for Best GC

Ensemble Size 40



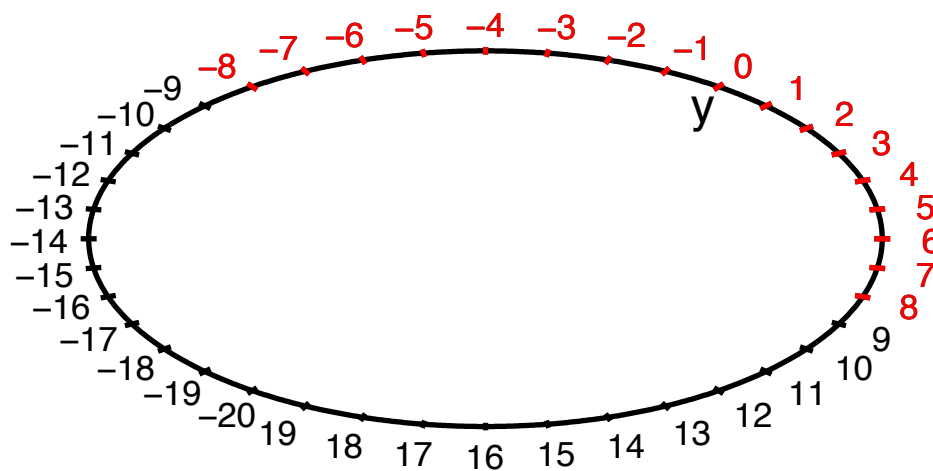
## CER RMSE / Best GC RMSE: Post

Ensemble Size 40



# L96 Case 3: Integral Observations

Each observation is average of grid point plus its nearest 8 neighbors on both side; total of 17 points.  
(Something like a radiance observation.)



# Case 3: Integral Observations

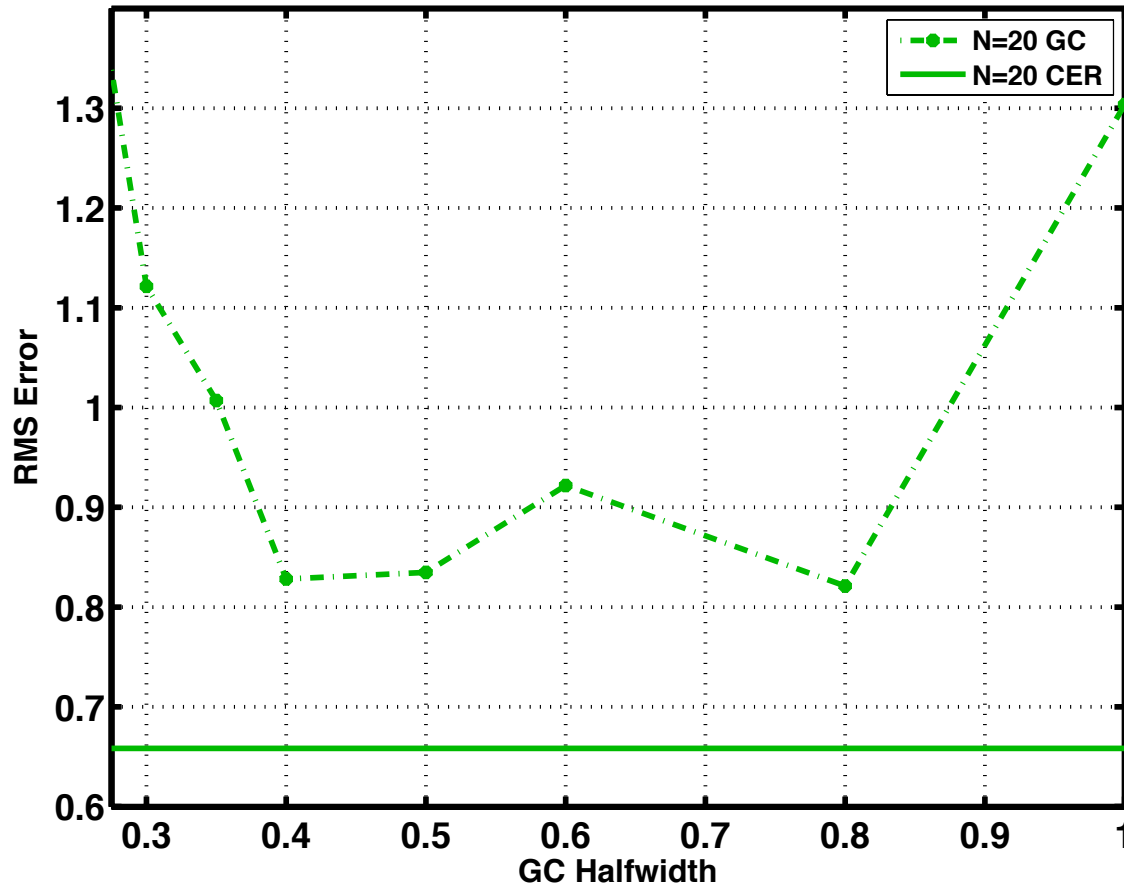
Each observation is average of grid point plus its nearest 8 neighbors on both side; total of 17 points.  
(Something like a radiance observation.)

Error variance 0.0625.

Assimilate every standard model timestep.

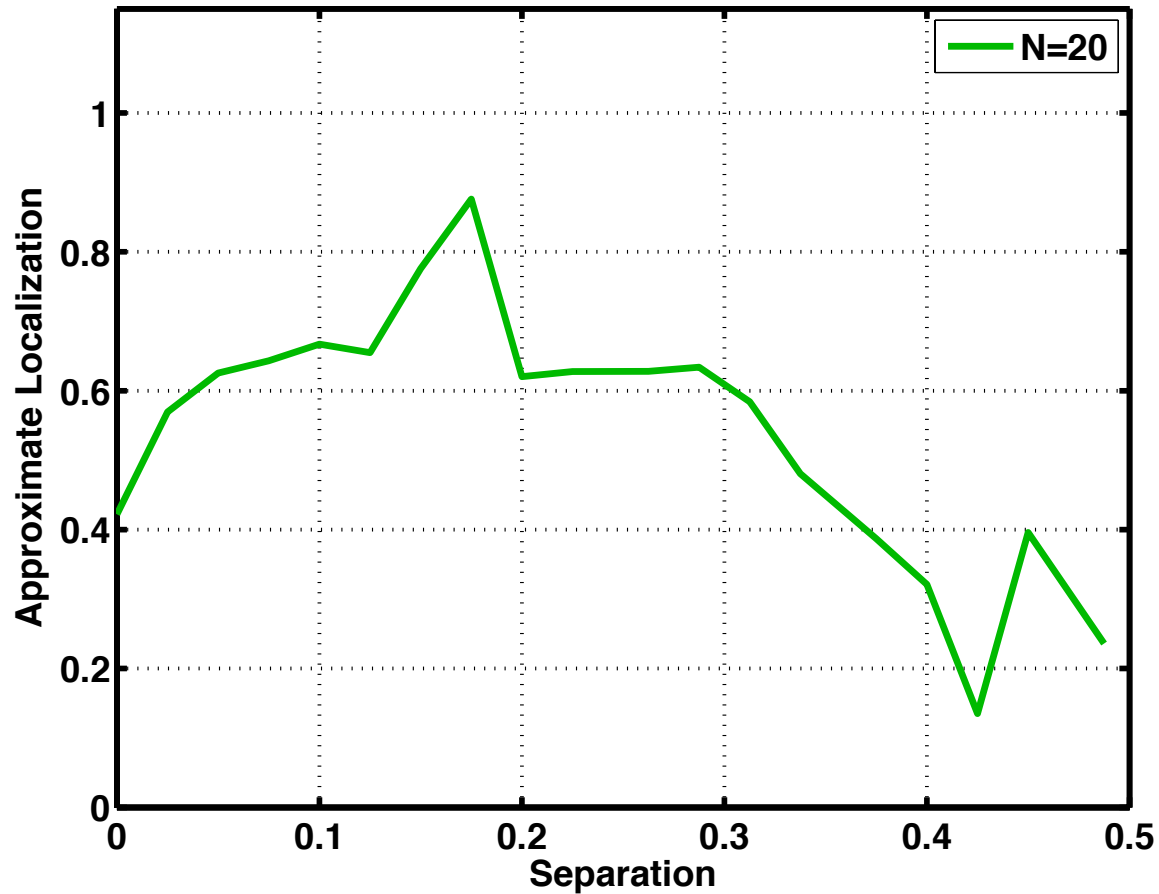
# Case 3: Integral Observations

Compare Correlation Error Reduction to Gaspari Cohn Localization  
Ensemble Size 20



# Approximate Localization: Observing Average of 17 States

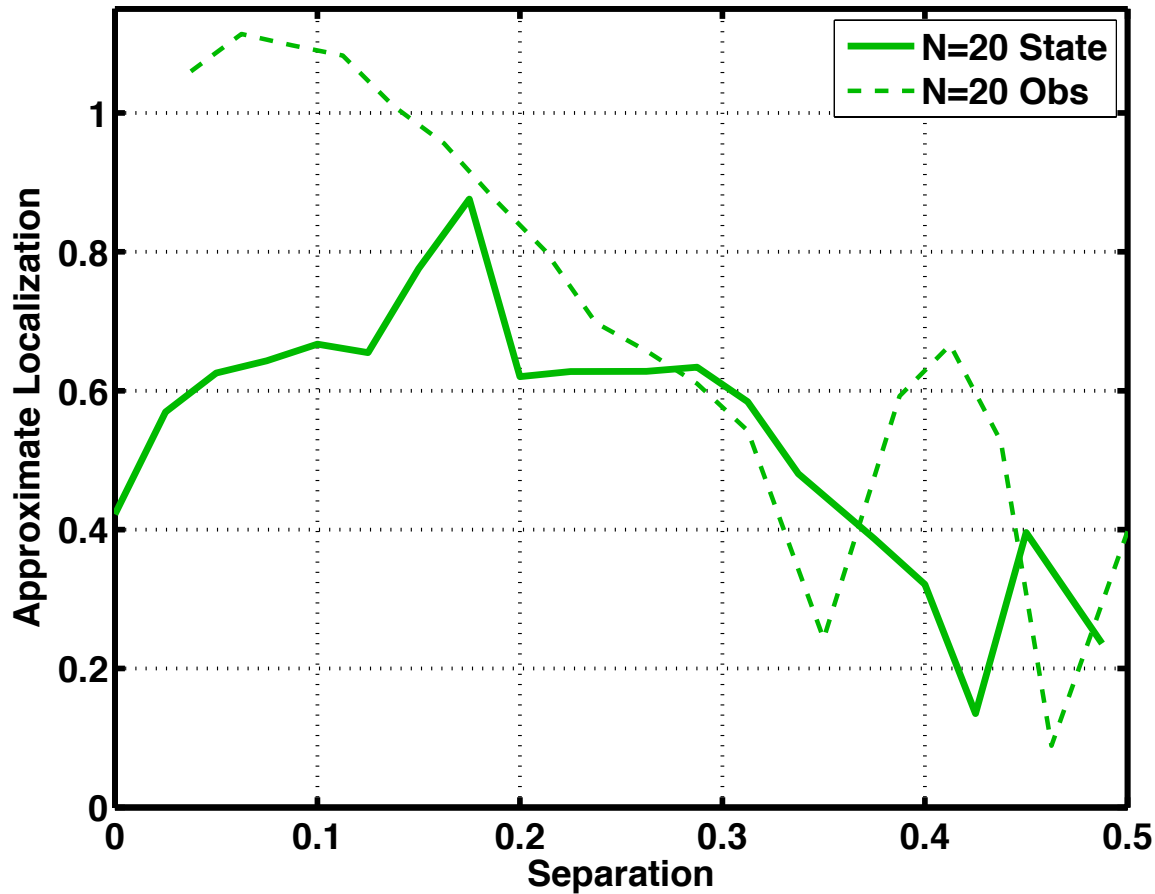
Ensemble Size 20



# Approximate Localization: Observing Average of 17 States

Ensemble Size 20

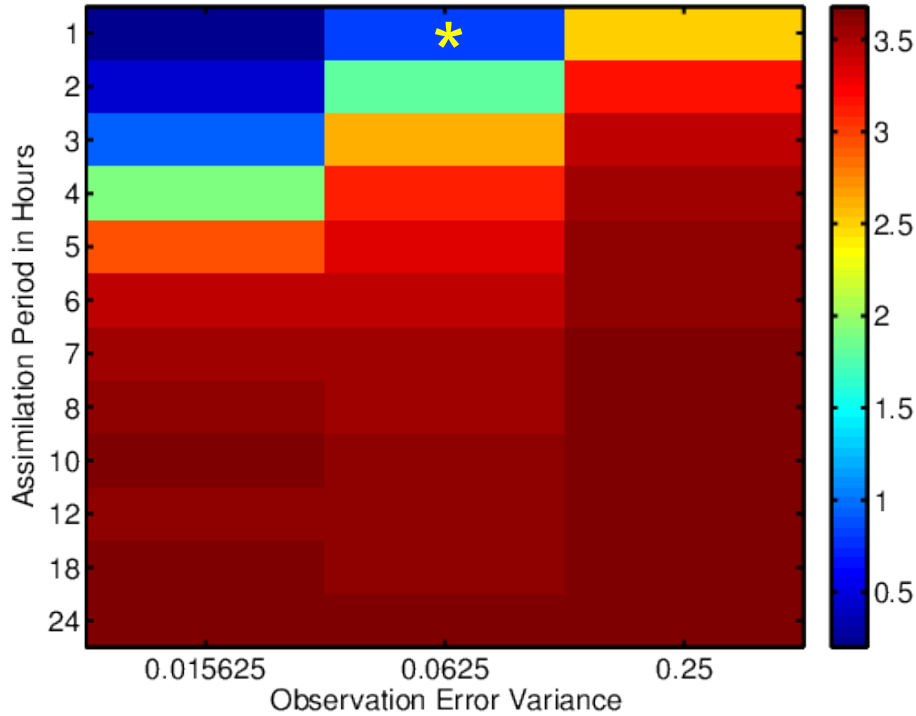
Plus localization for observations



# Lorenz96 Integral Observations Summary (N=20)

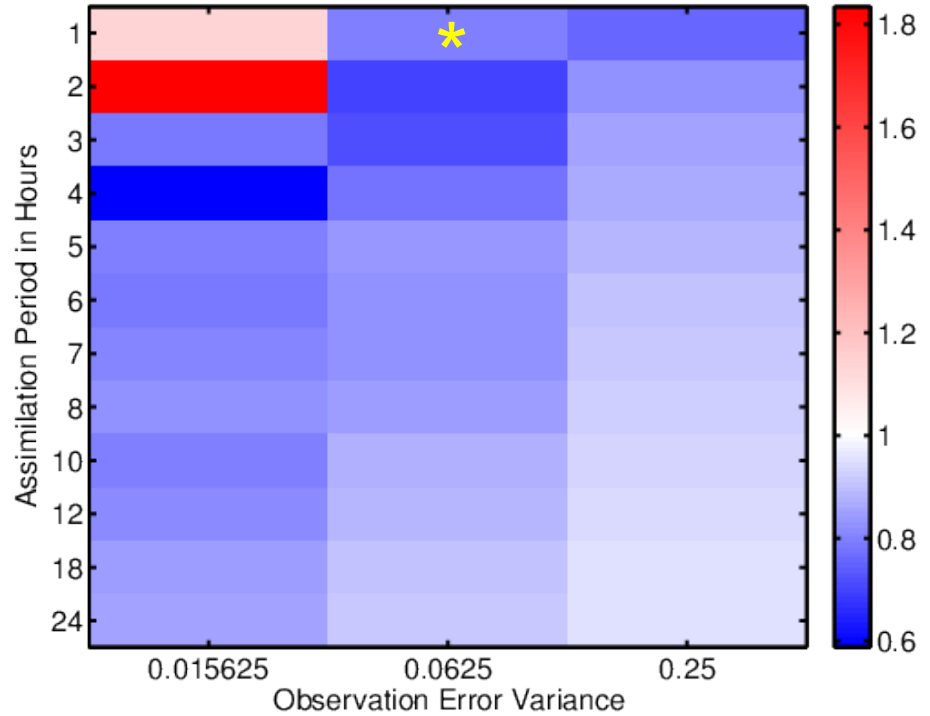
## RMSE for Best GC

Ensemble Size 20



## CER RMSE / Best GC RMSE: Post

Ensemble Size 20

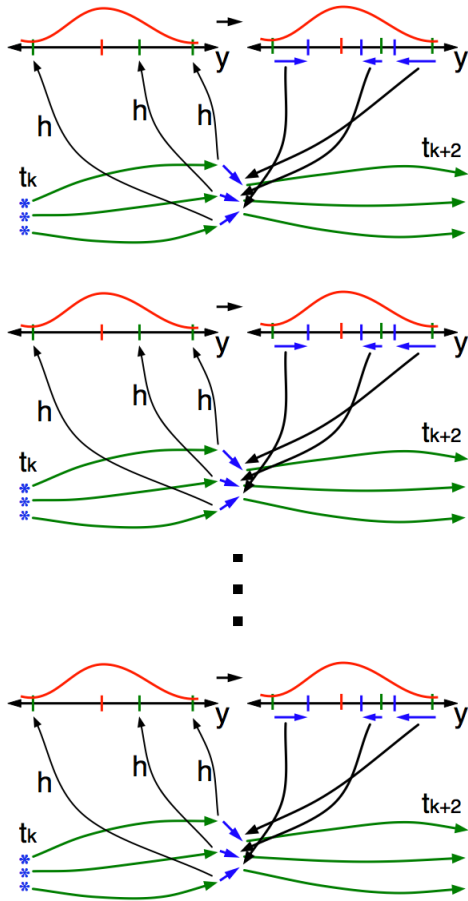




# Localization Method 3: Optimized

- Get optimal localization:
- Minimize RMSE in OSSE *a posteriori*.
- Initial guess is best Gaspari Cohn.
- Tricky optimization problem:
  - Expensive (many long OSSEs),
  - Noisy,
  - Possible multiple minima.

# Localization Method 4: Global Group Filter



$\hat{b}_1$

$\hat{b}_2$

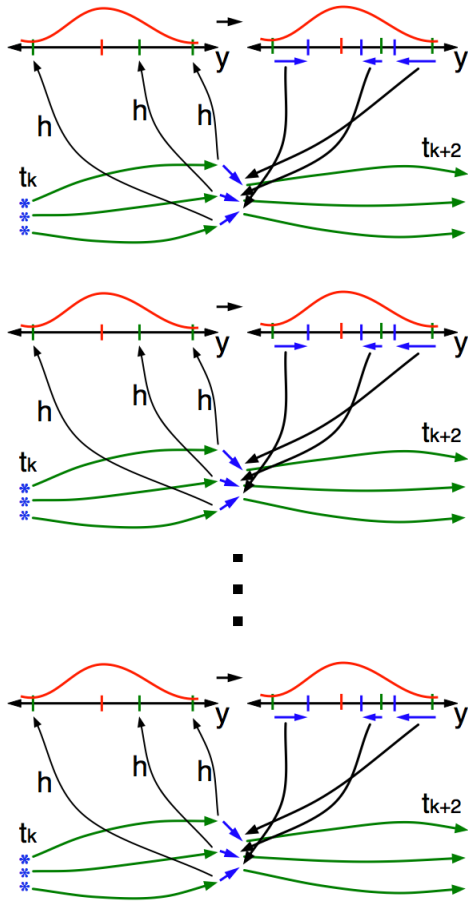
$\vdots$

$\hat{b}_M$

Compute  $\bar{b}$  and  $\sigma_b$ .

Compute optimal localization  $\alpha$  for this  $y$  and  $x_i$ .

# Localization Method 4: Global Group Filter



$\hat{b}_1$

Run 200 groups for 3000 steps.

Do least squares fit for localization for each separation subset.

$\hat{b}_2$

Resulting localization for each separation used with single ensemble.

⋮

$\hat{b}_M$

Expensive to initialize.

## 5. Empirical Localization Function (ELF):

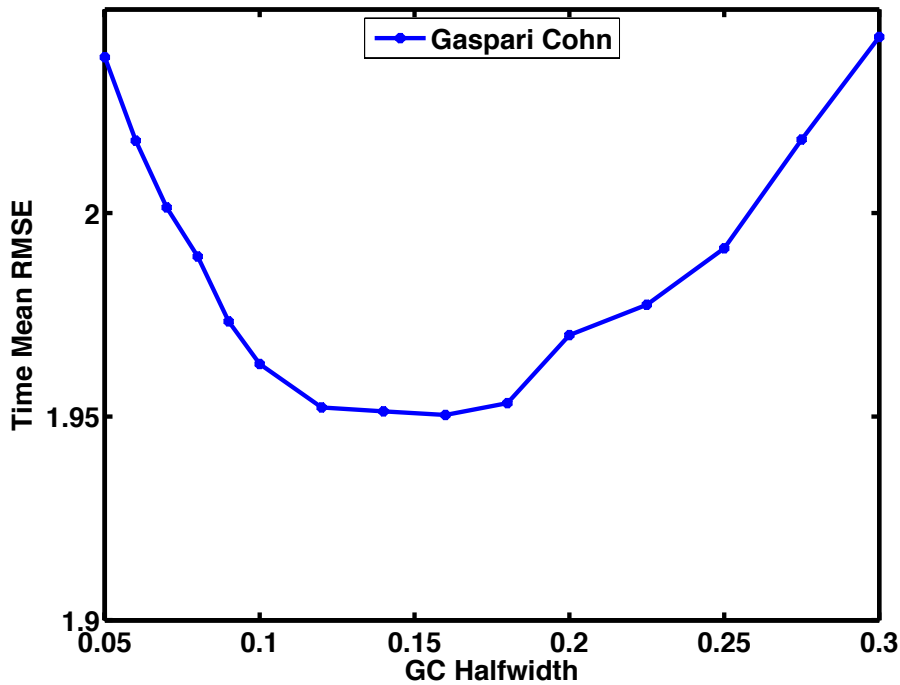
Work with Lili Lei now with Jeff Whitaker at NOAA,

Find localization that gives least error compared to known true state in OSSE.

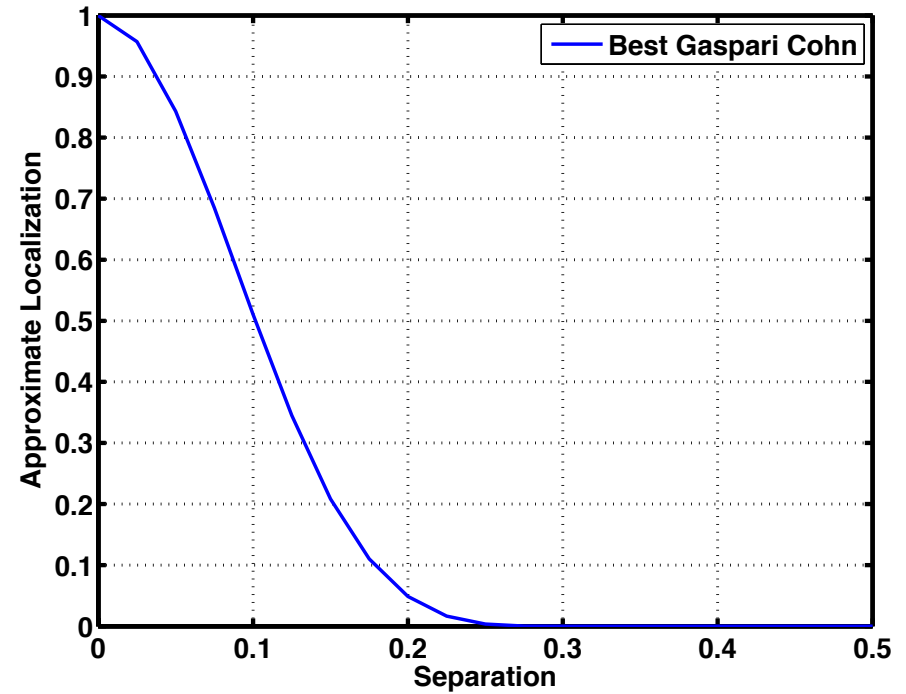
## 6. Sampling Error Correction:

Function of sample correlation only.

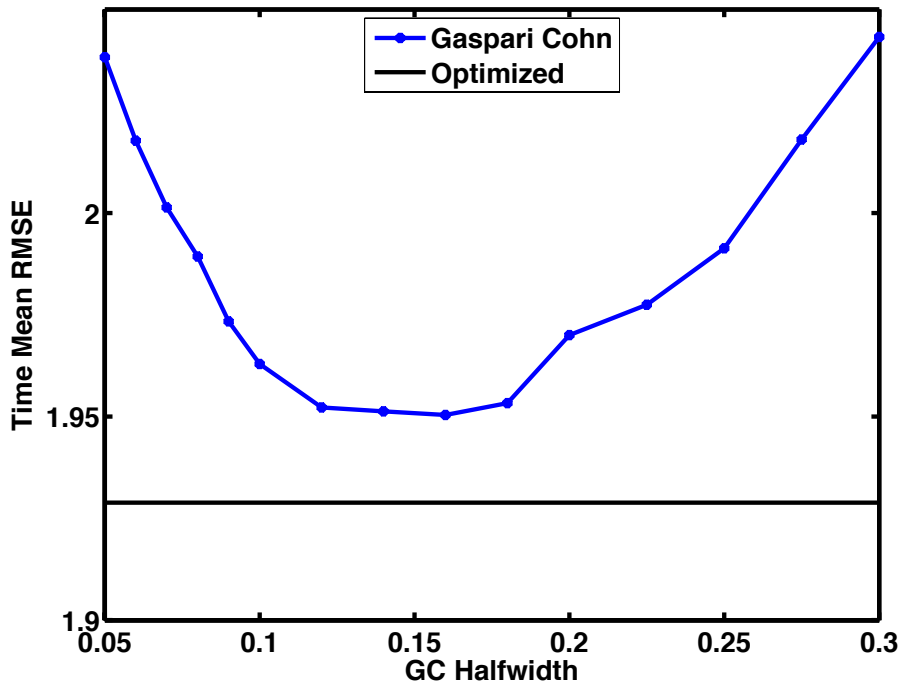
## RMS Error



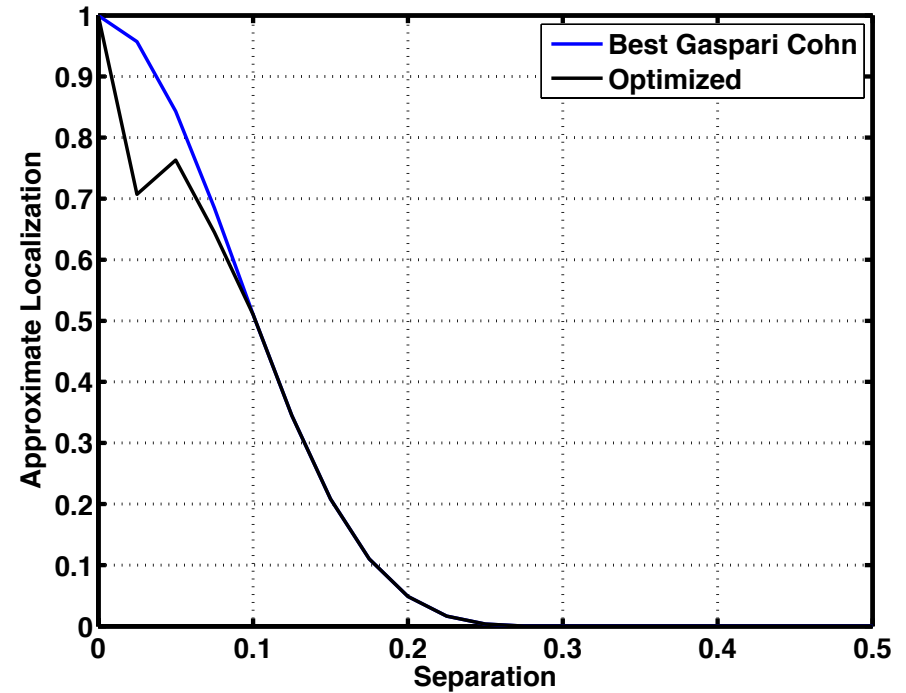
## Localization



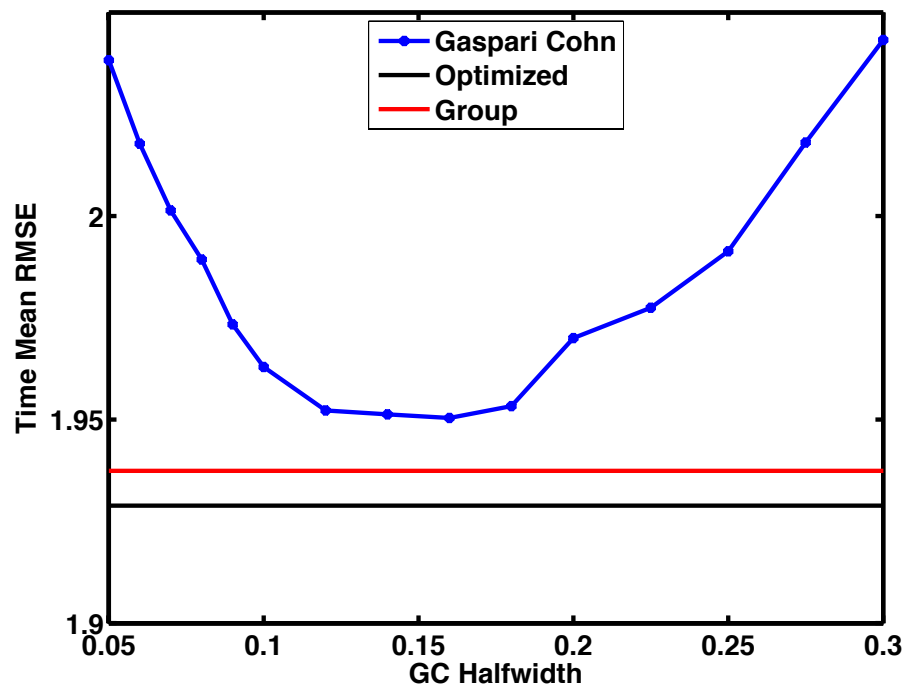
## RMS Error



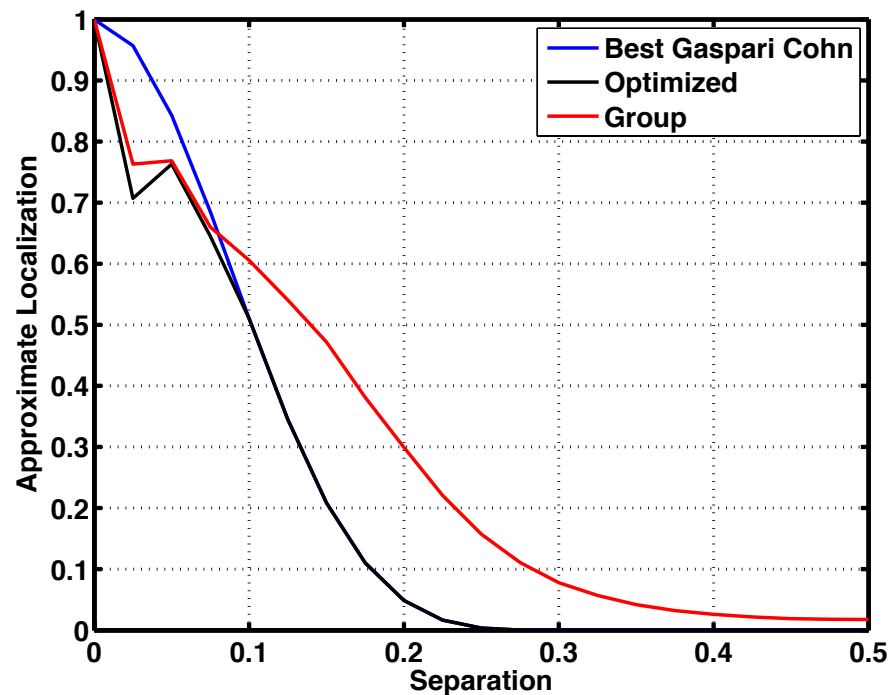
## Localization



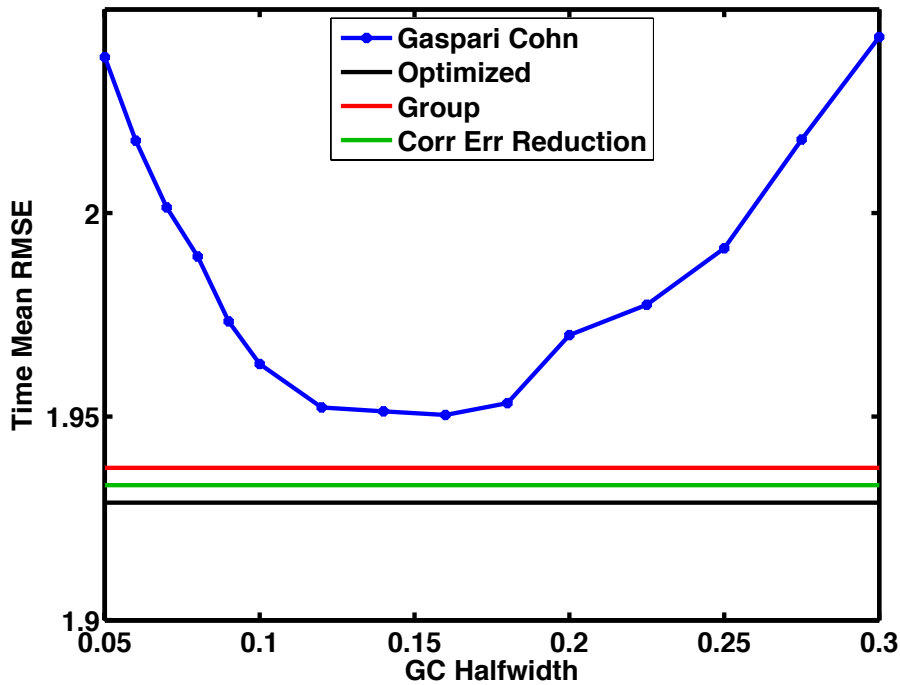
## RMS Error



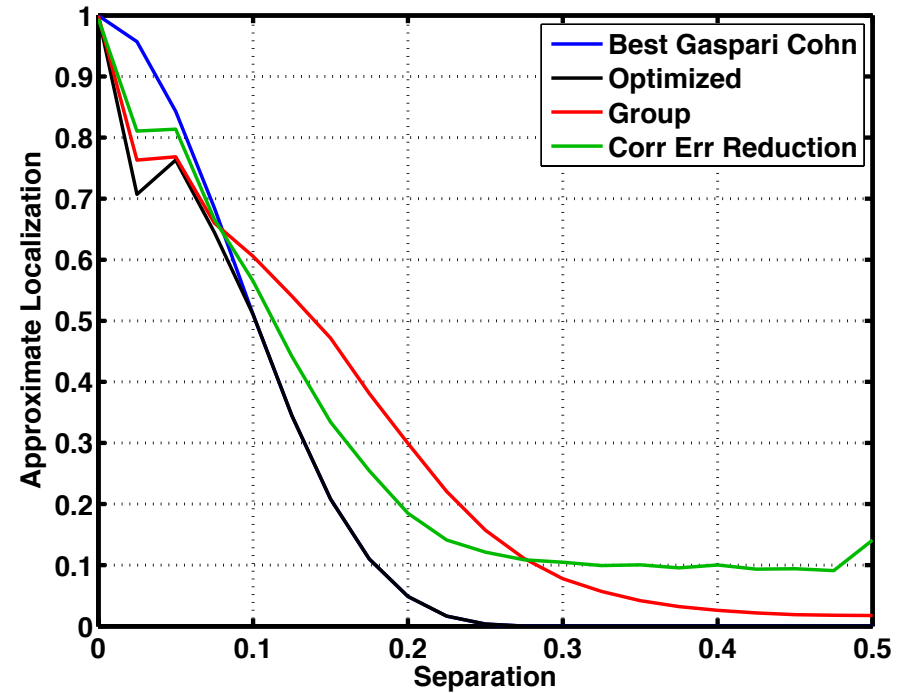
## Localization



## RMS Error

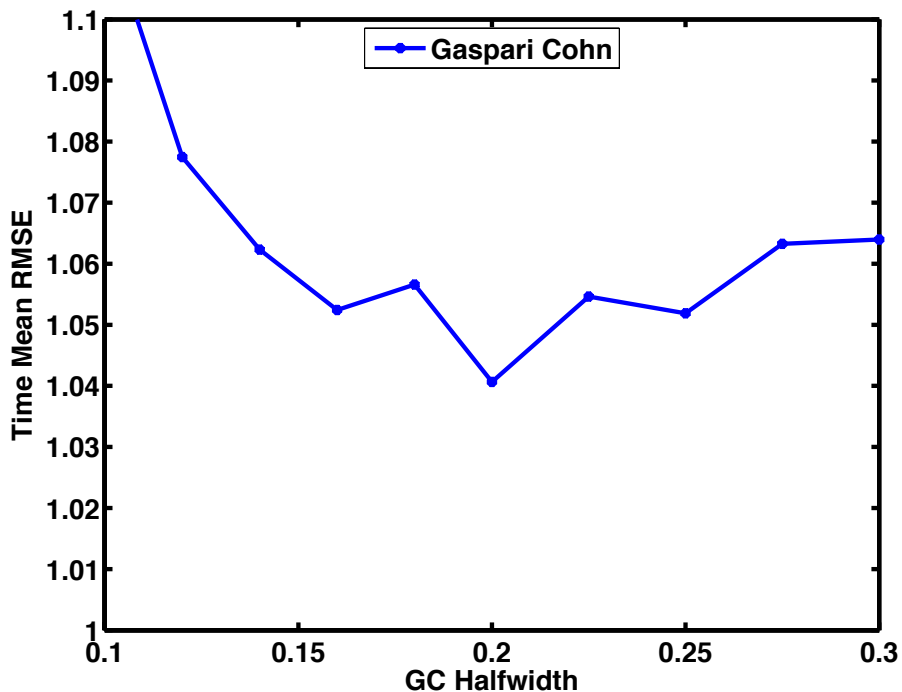


## Localization

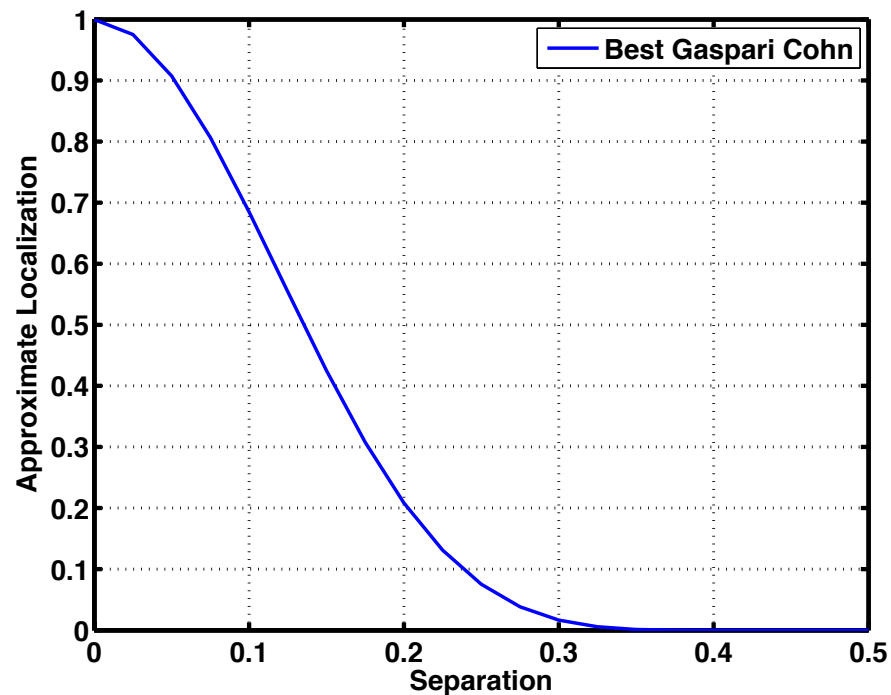




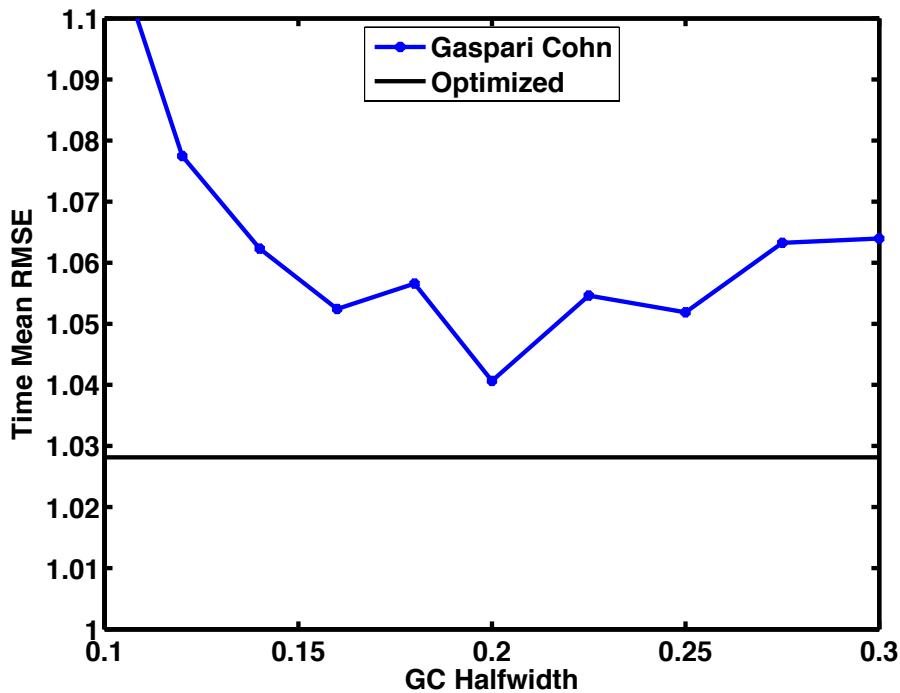
## RMS Error



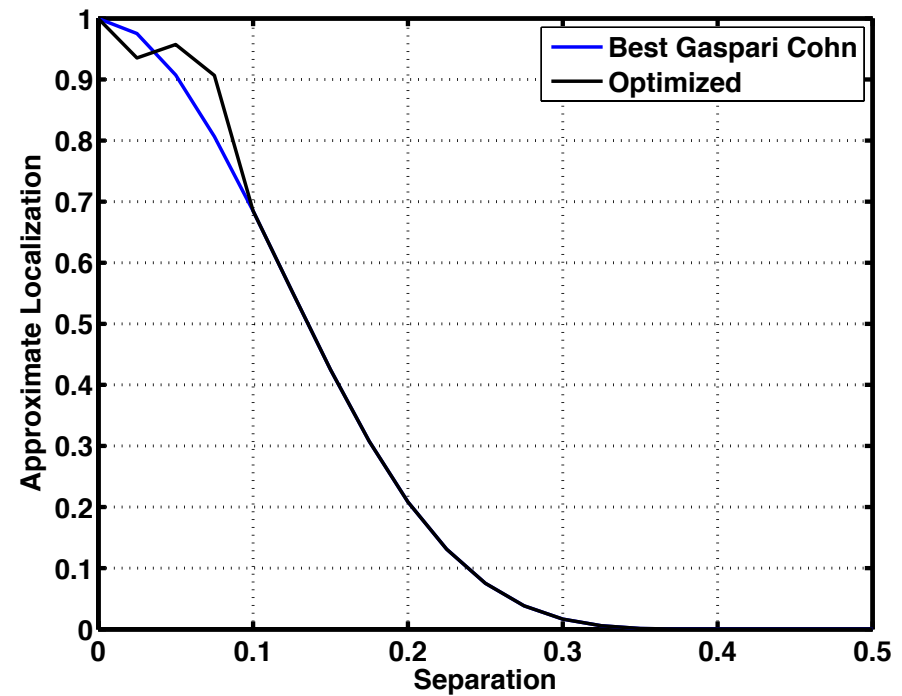
## Localization



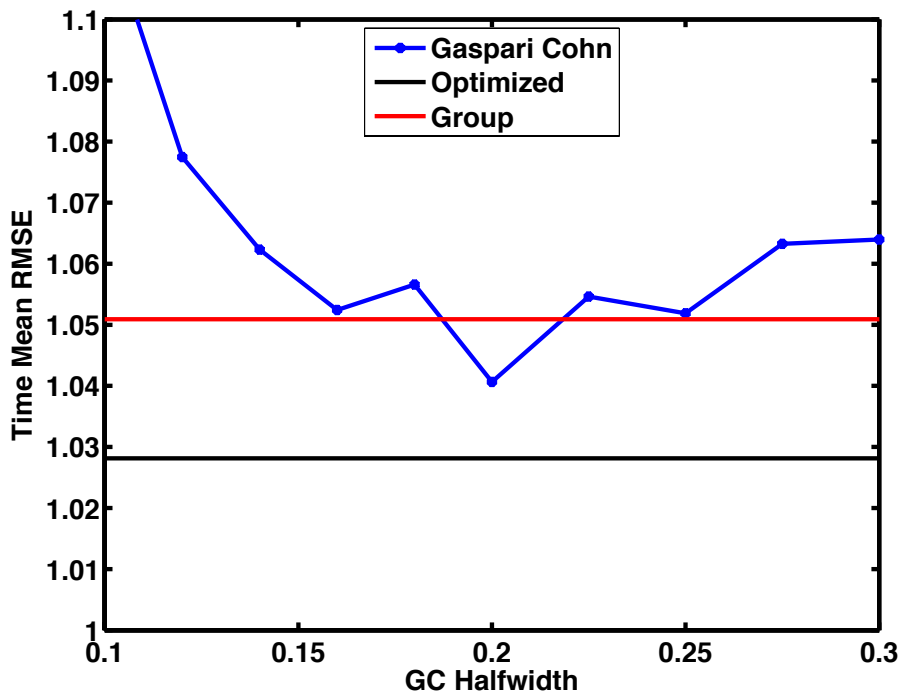
## RMS Error



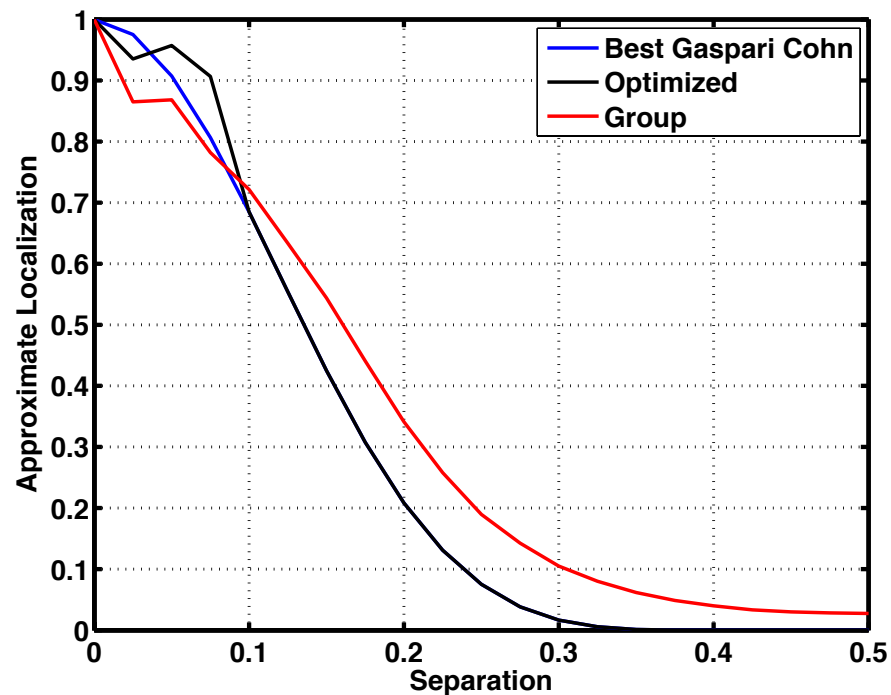
## Localization



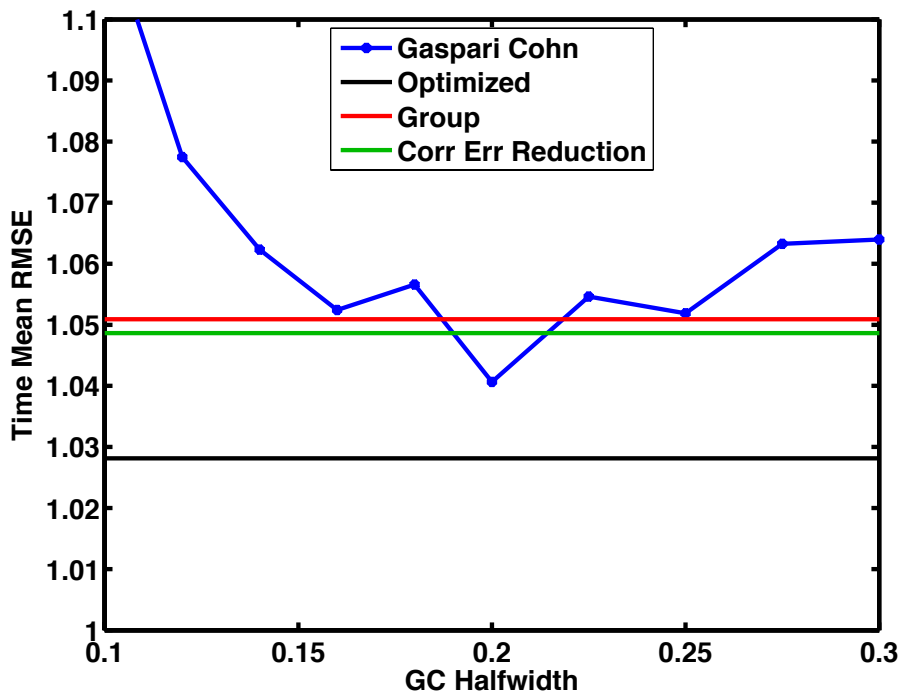
## RMS Error



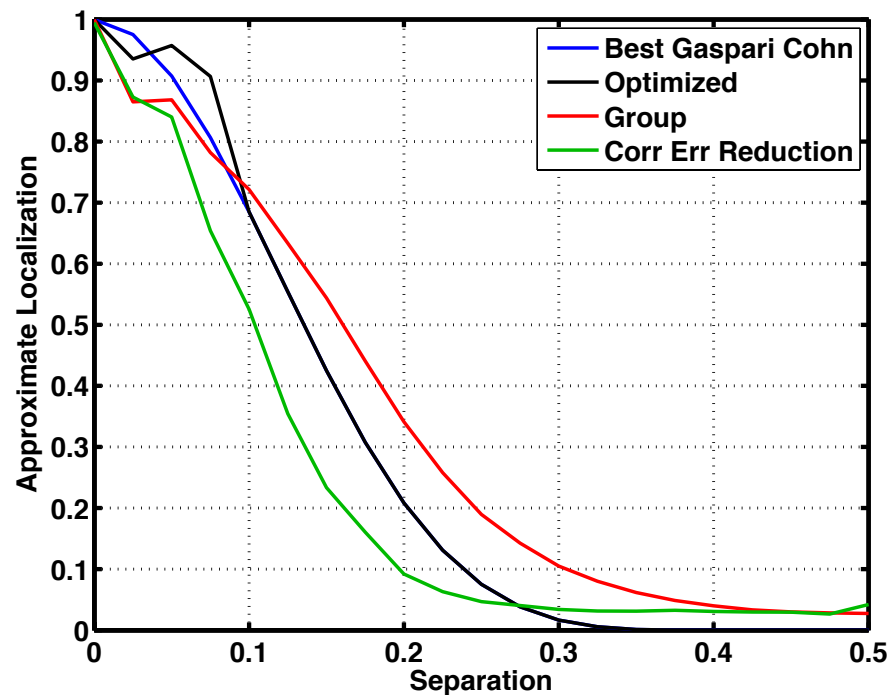
## Localization



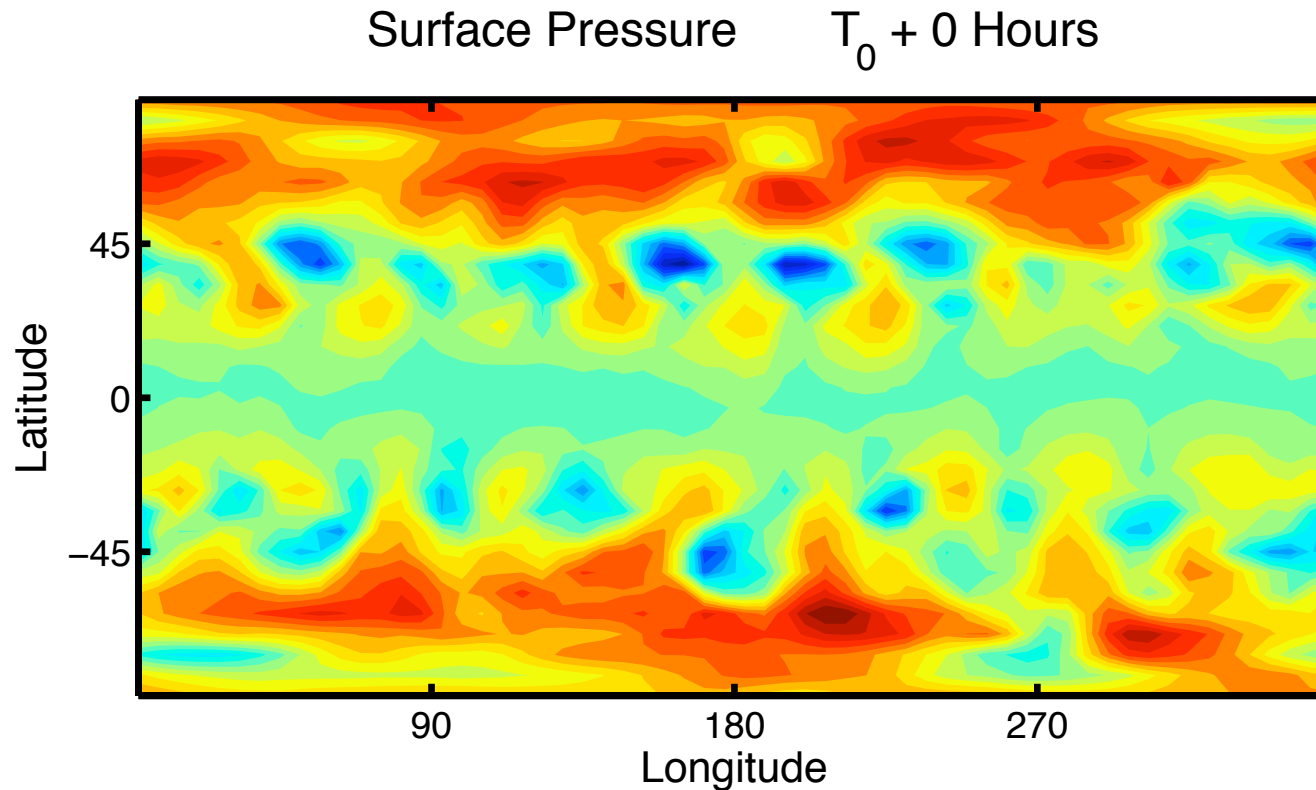
## RMS Error



## Localization

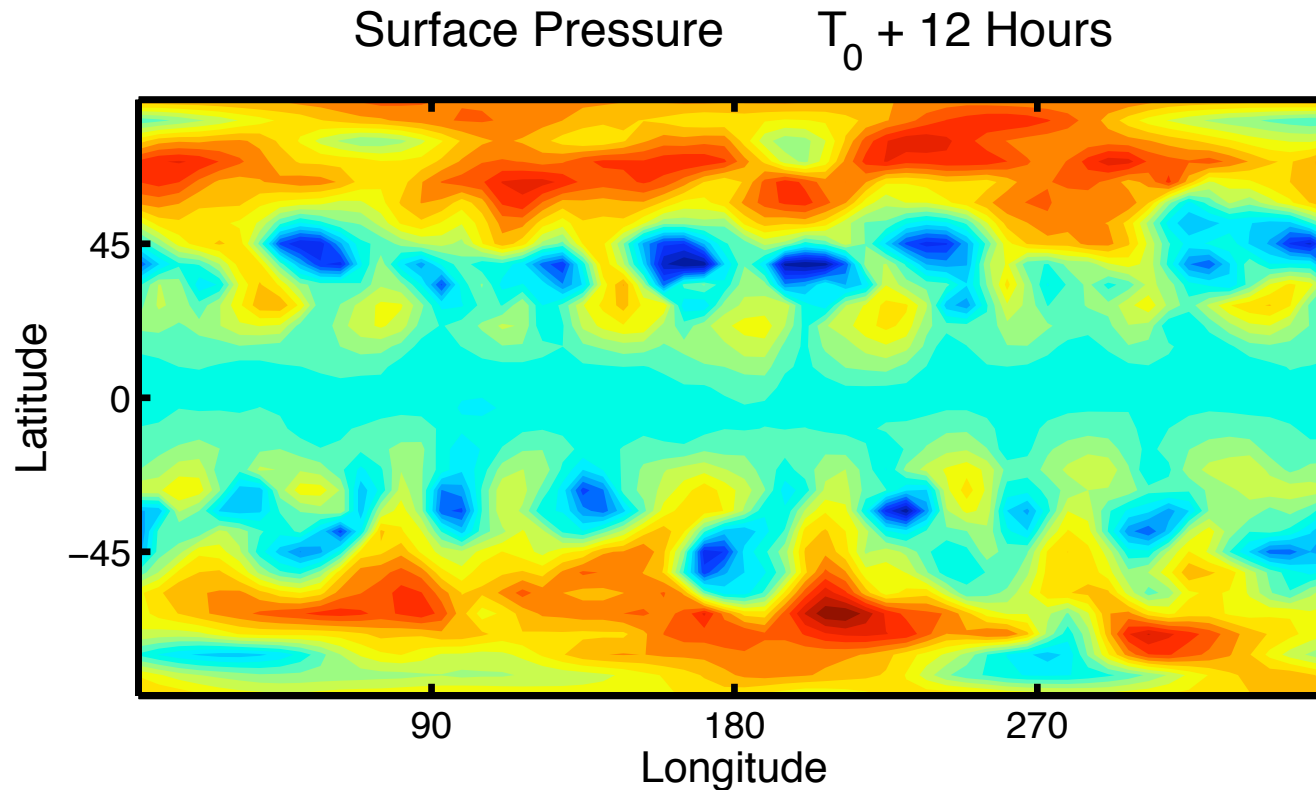


# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



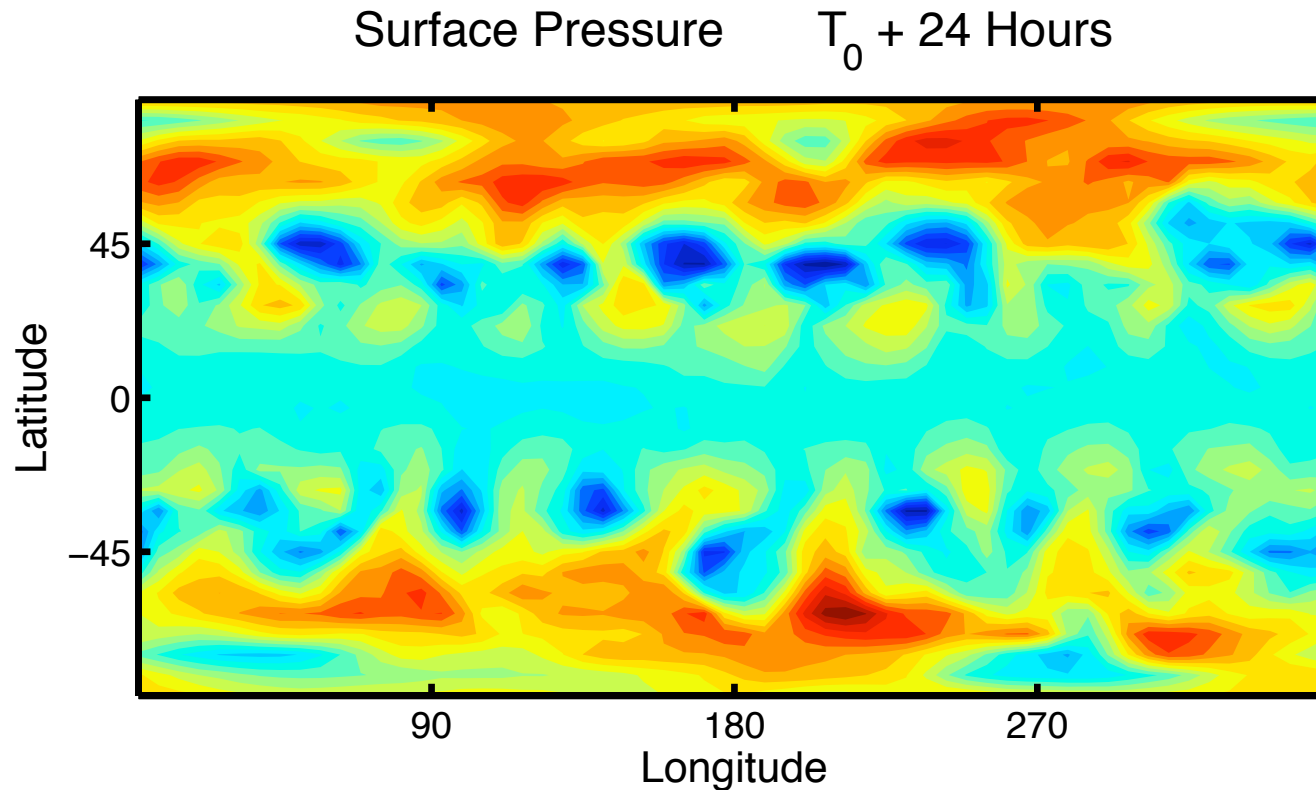
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



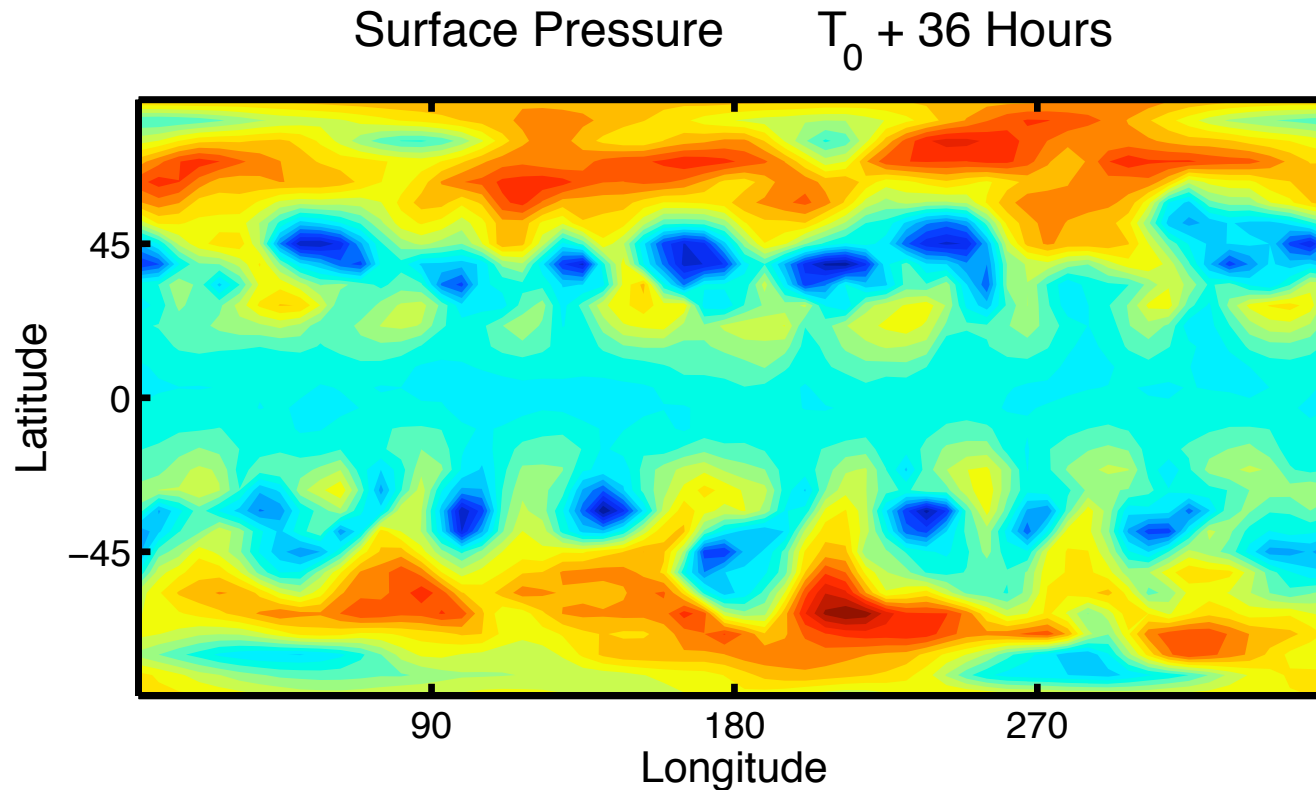
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

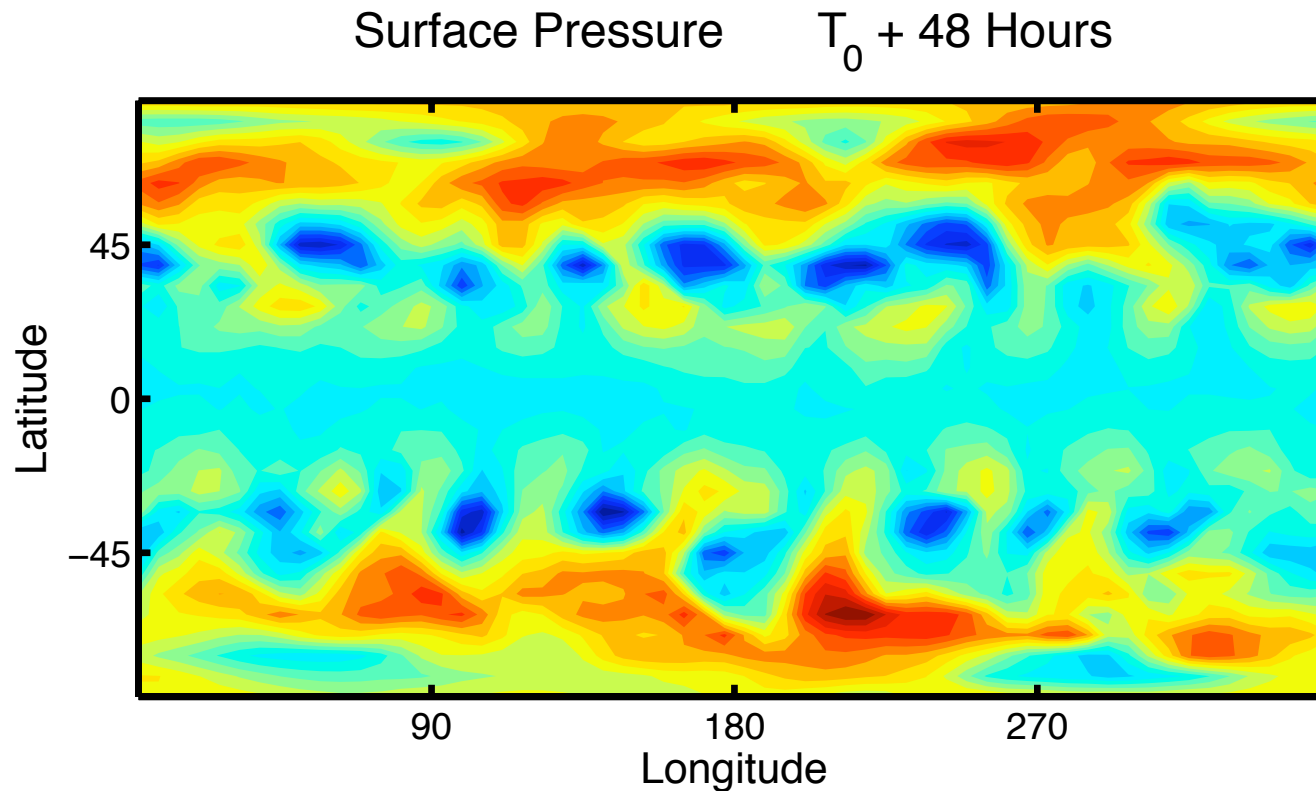
# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

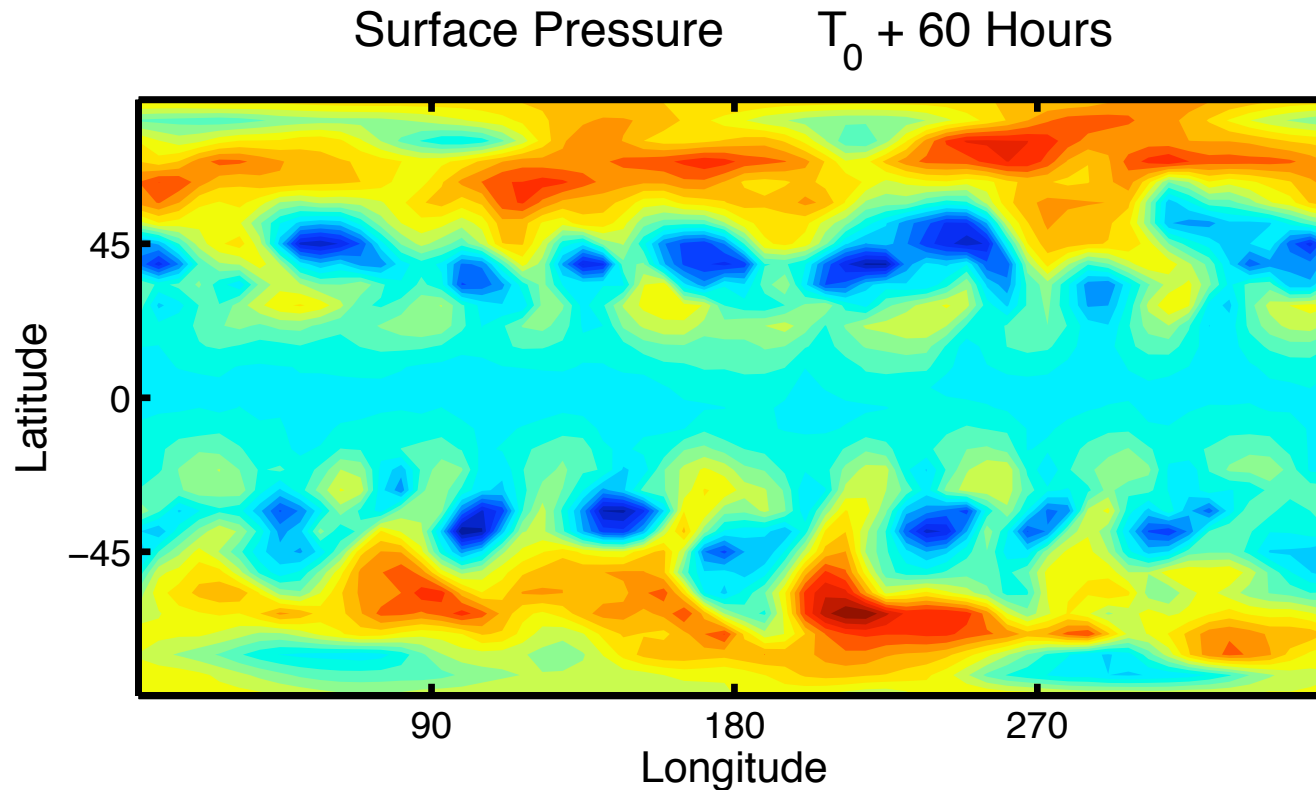


# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



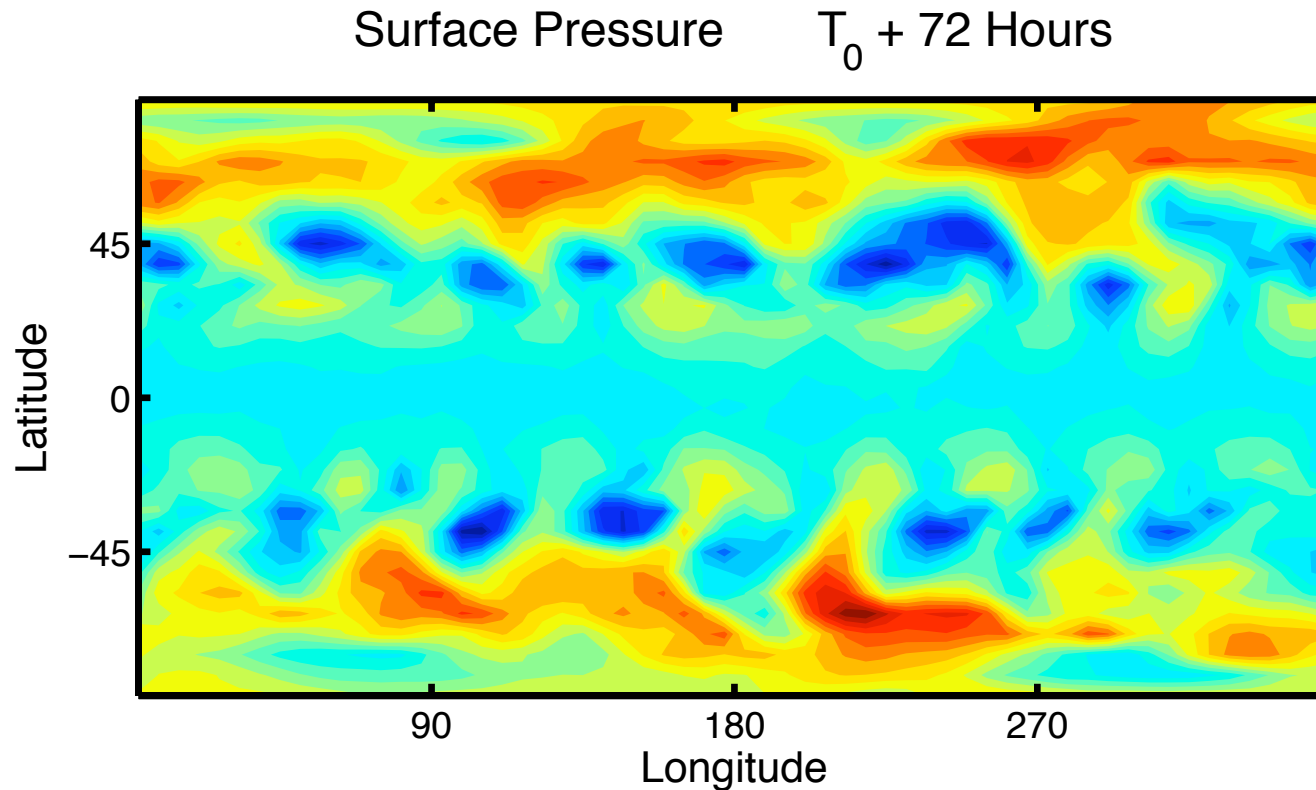
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



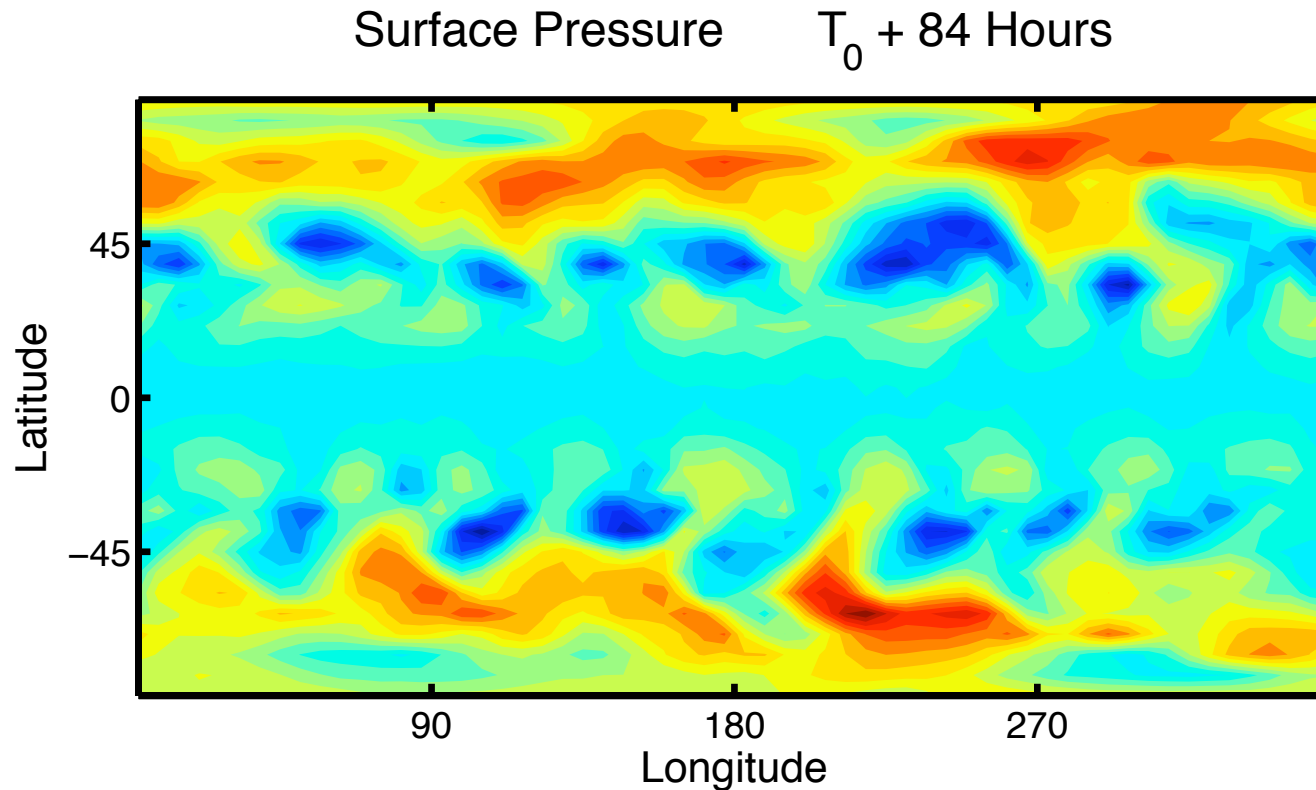
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



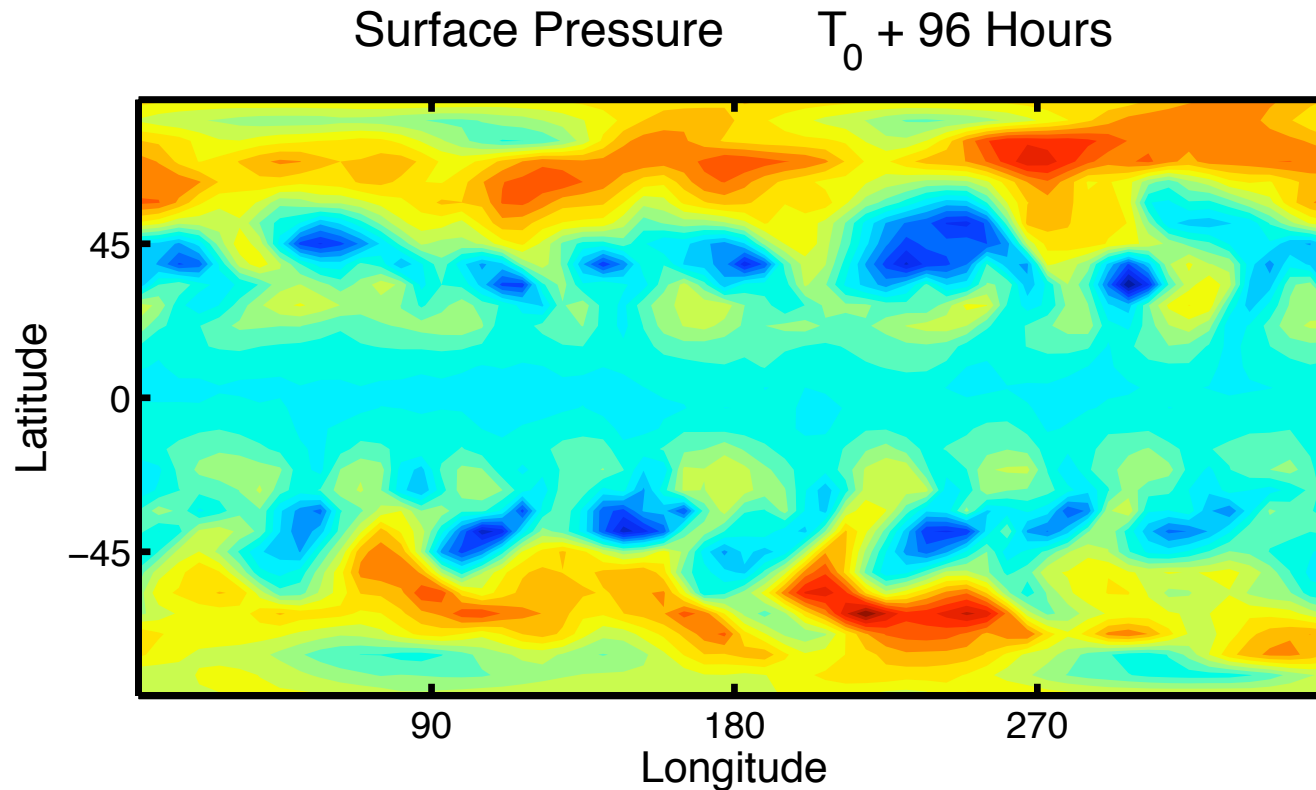
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



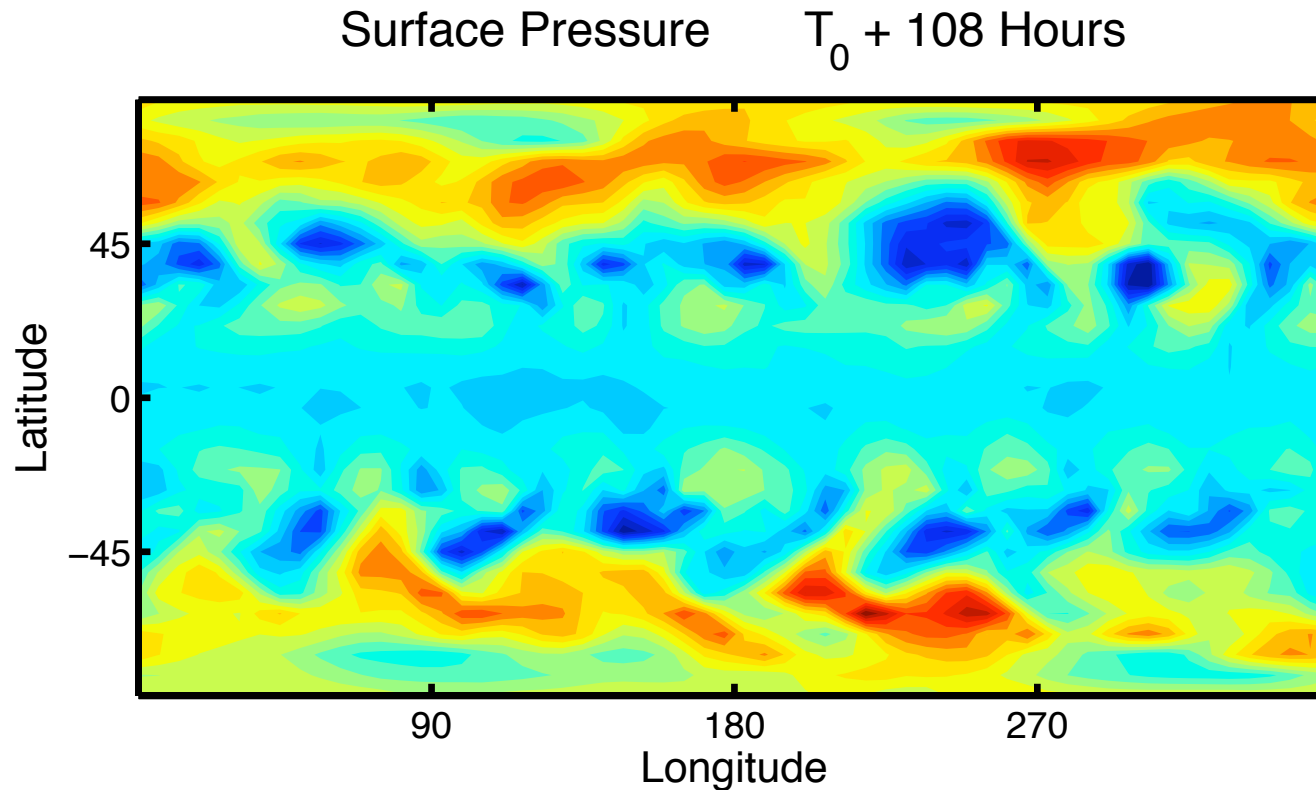
Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

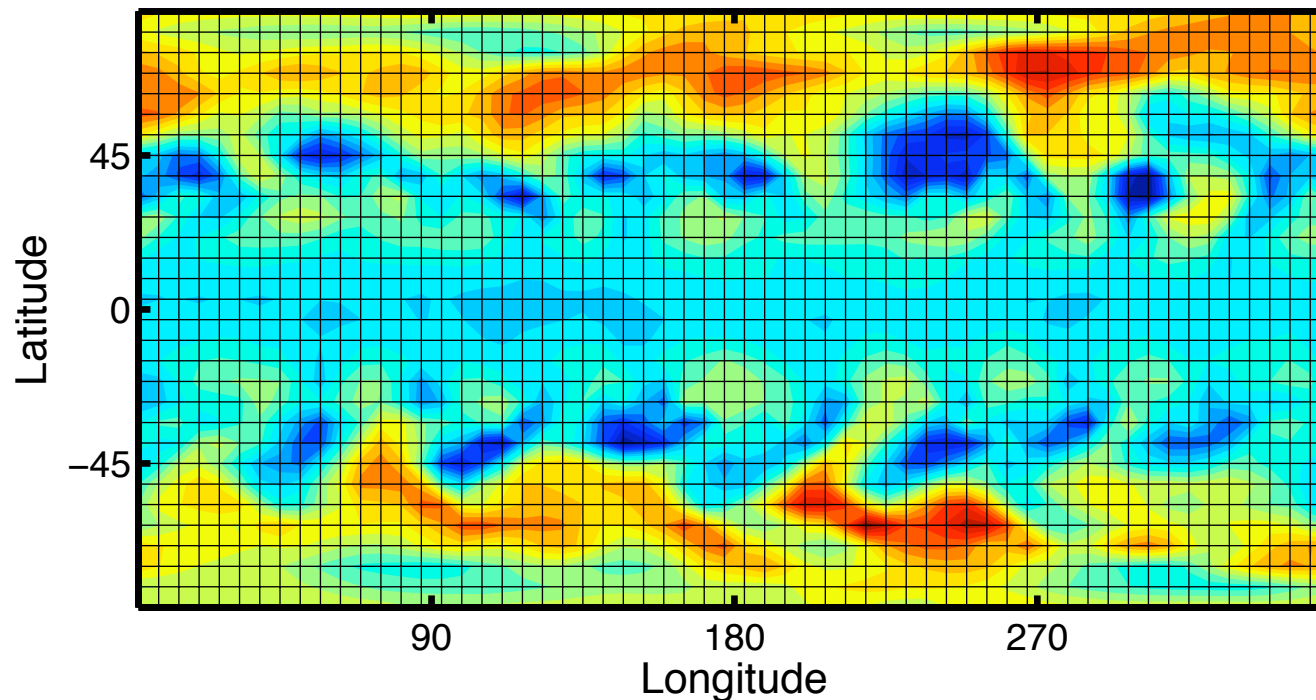
# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core



Evolution of surface pressure field every 12 hours.  
Has baroclinic instability: storms move east in midlatitudes.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core: Grid

Location of 30 x 60 Model Grid



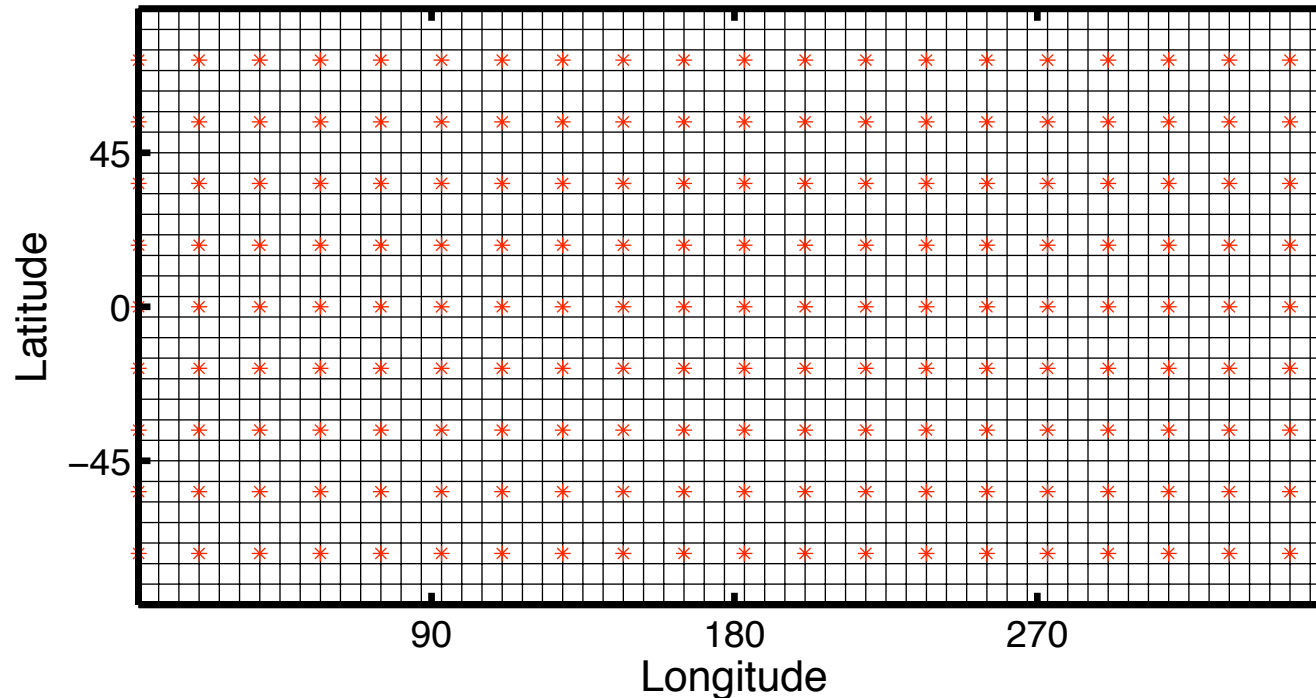
30x60 horizontal grid, 5 levels.

Surface pressure, temperature, wind components.

28,800 variables.

# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core: Observations

Location of 180 Radiosonde Observations



Observe every 12 hours for 200 days.

Observe all 16 variables in 180 columns shown.

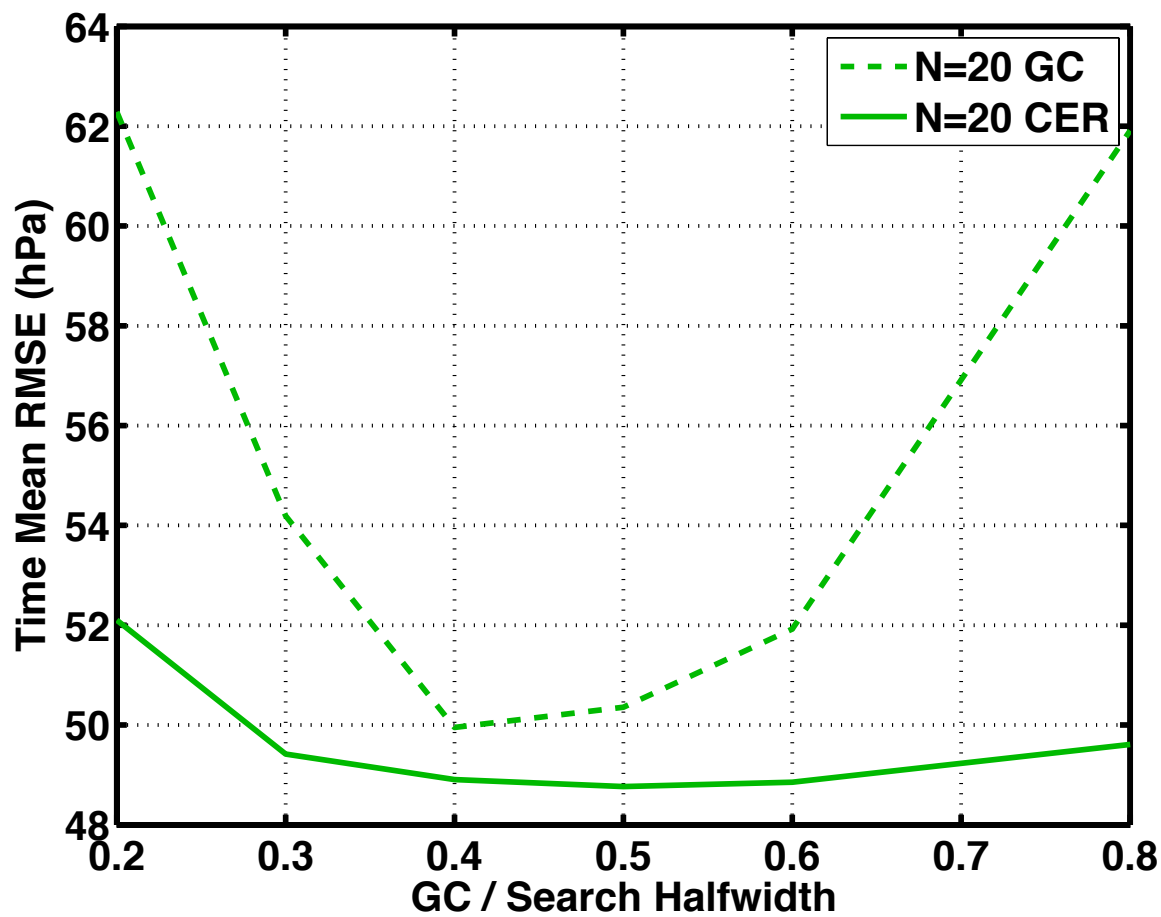
Error SD:  $P_s=2\text{hPa}$ ,  $T=3\text{K}$ ,  $\text{winds}=3\text{m/s}$ .



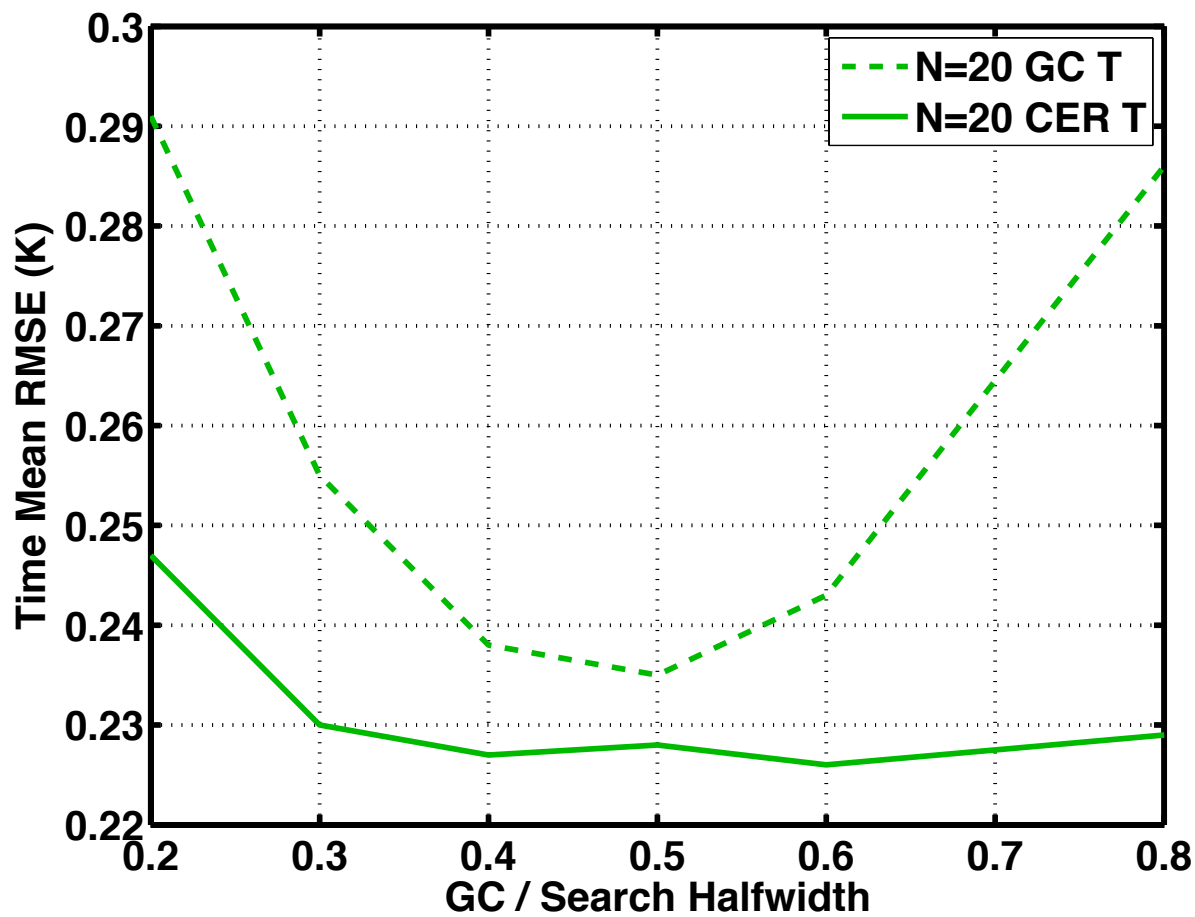
Limit observation impacts to a given halfwidth:

- Reduces computational costs.
- Limits number of very small correlation pairs.

## Prior RMSE for Surface Pressure, 20 Member Ensemble

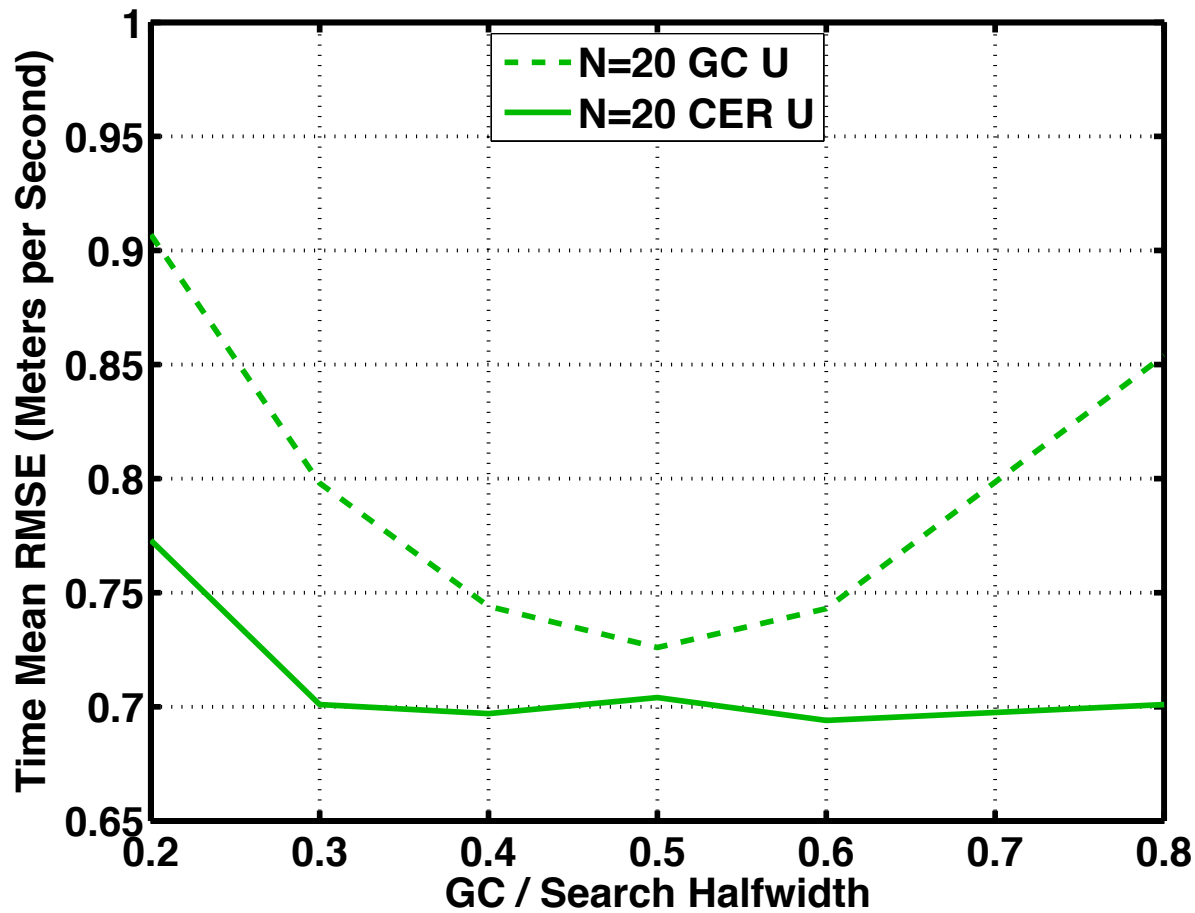


## Prior RMSE for Level 3 Temperature, 20 Member Ensemble



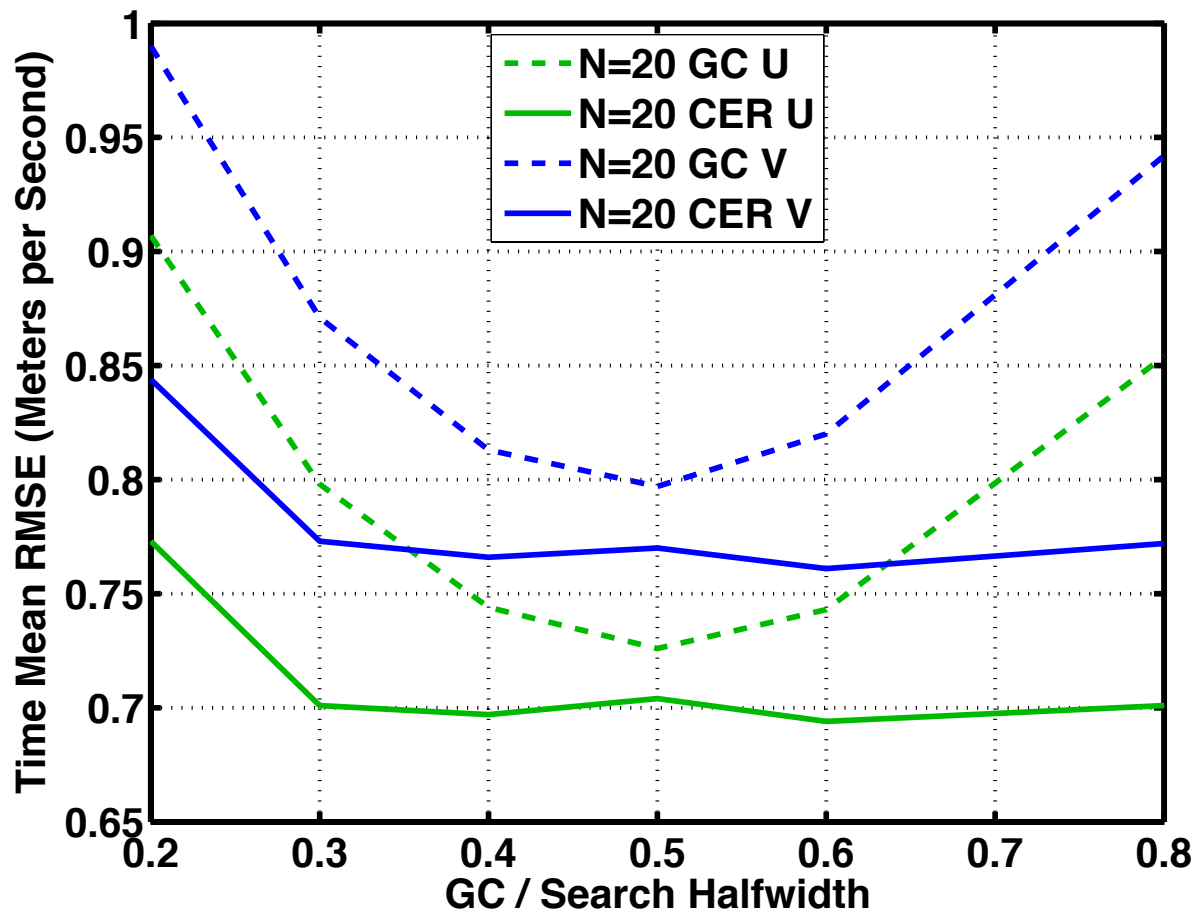
# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

## Prior RMSE for Level 3 Wind, 20 Member Ensemble

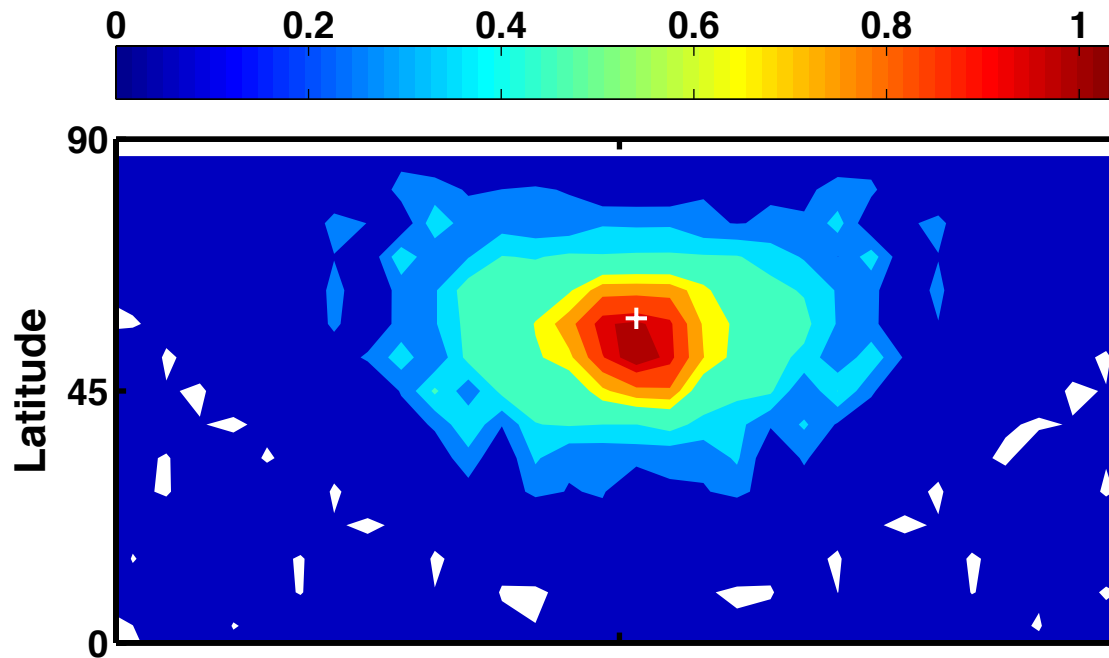


# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

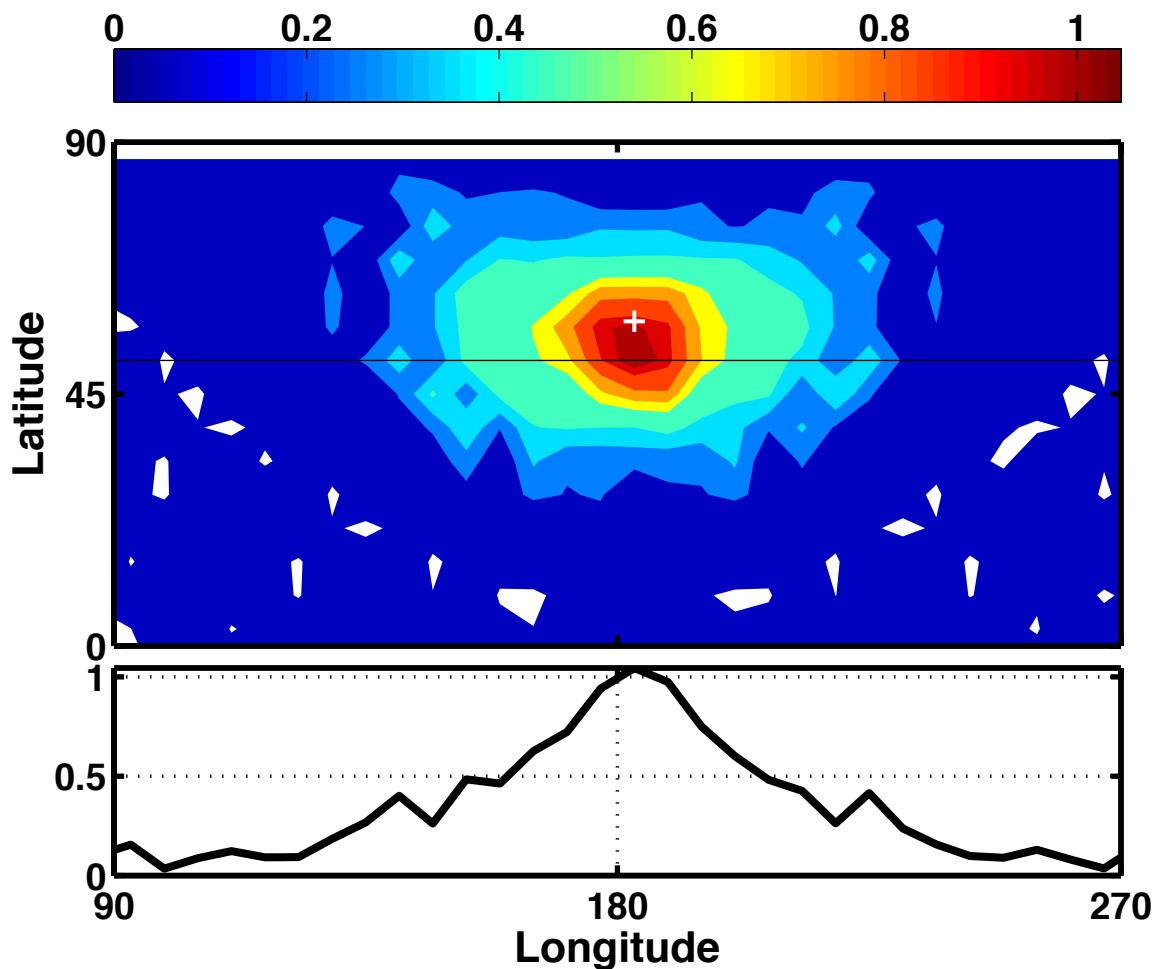
## Prior RMSE for Level 3 Wind, 20 Member Ensemble



## Localization of Level 3 T Observation on Level 3 T State

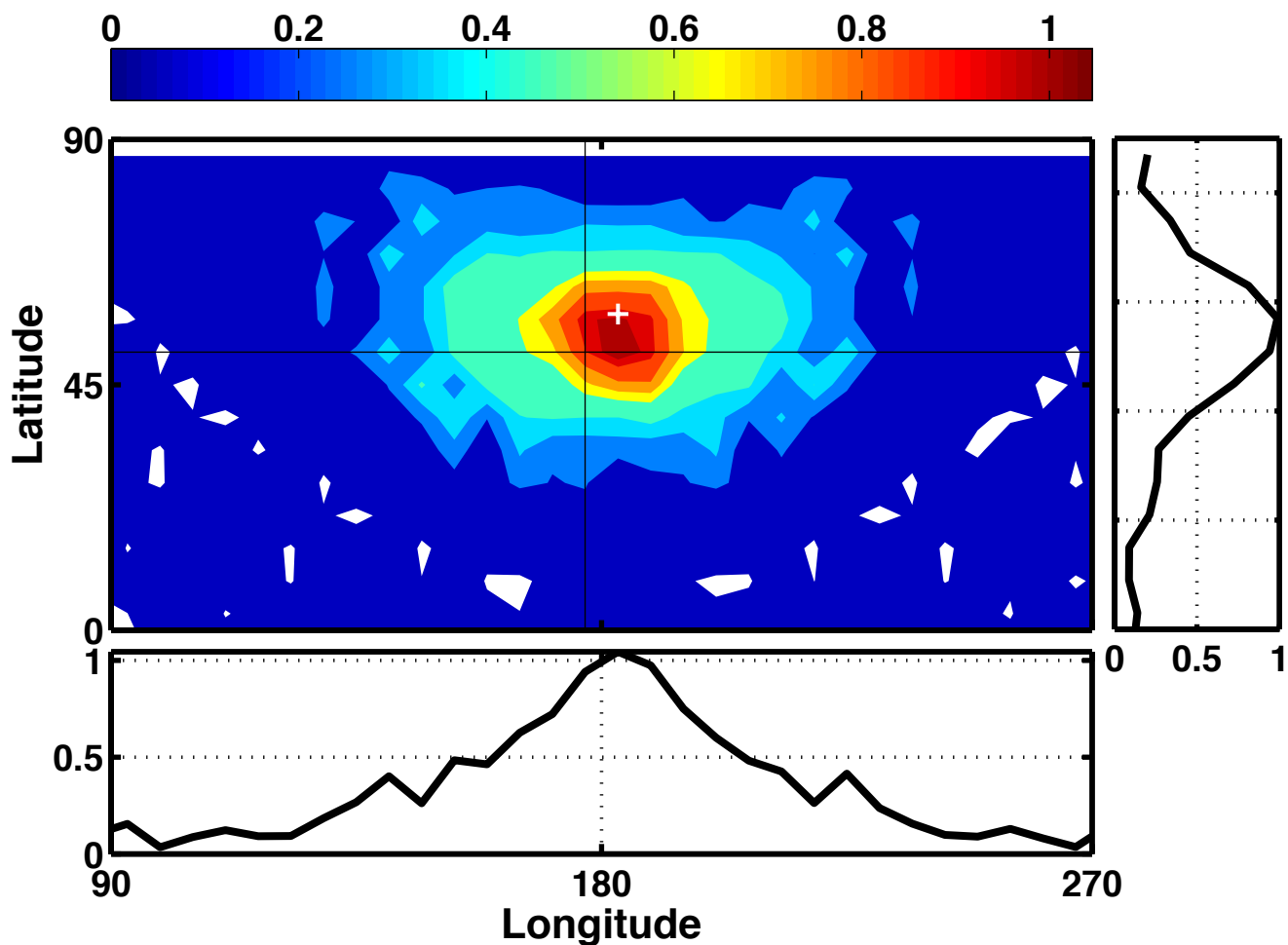


## Localization of Level 3 T Observation on Level 3 T State



# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

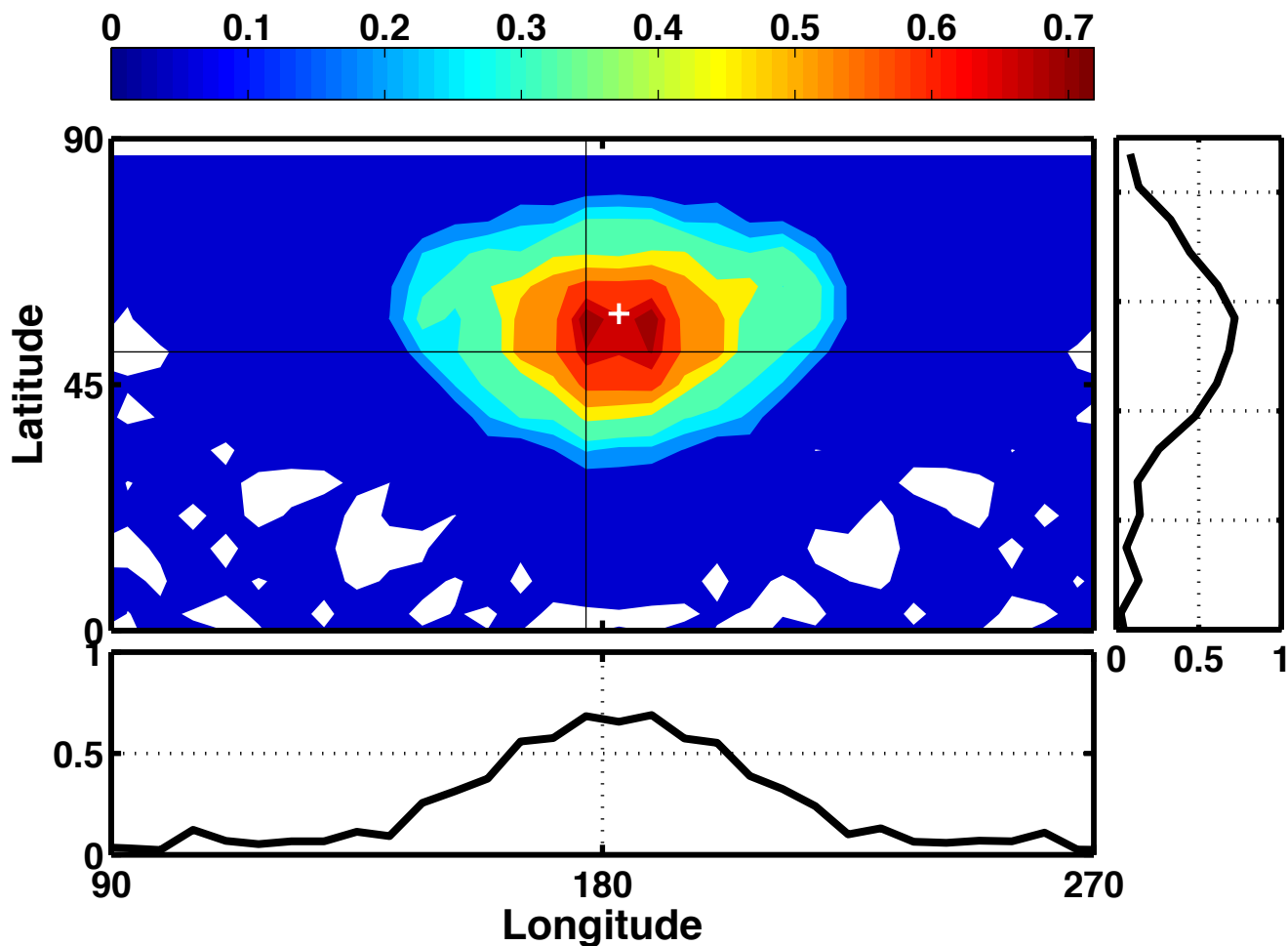
## Localization of Level 3 T Observation on Level 3 T State





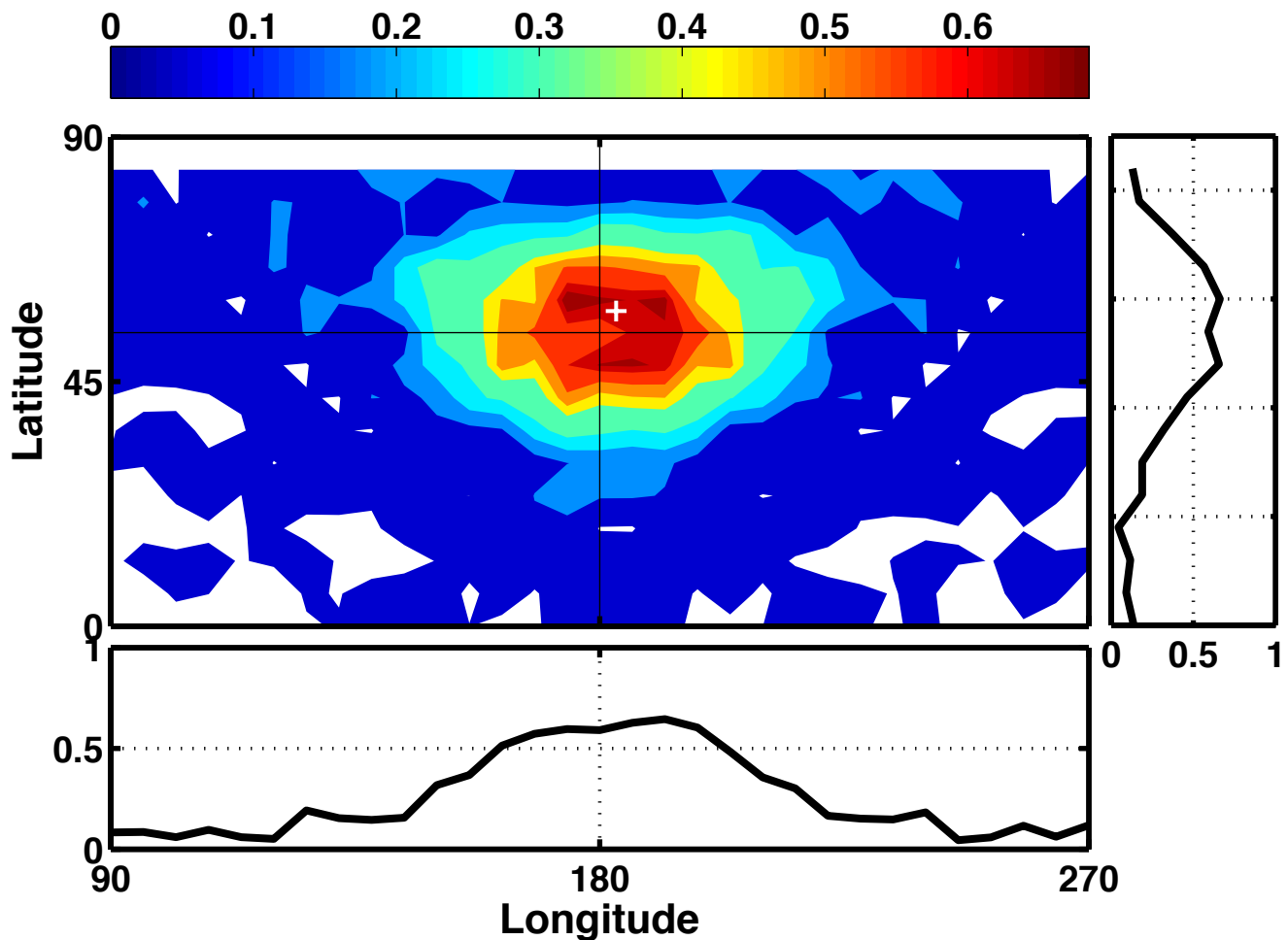
# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

## Localization of Level 3 U Observation on PS State



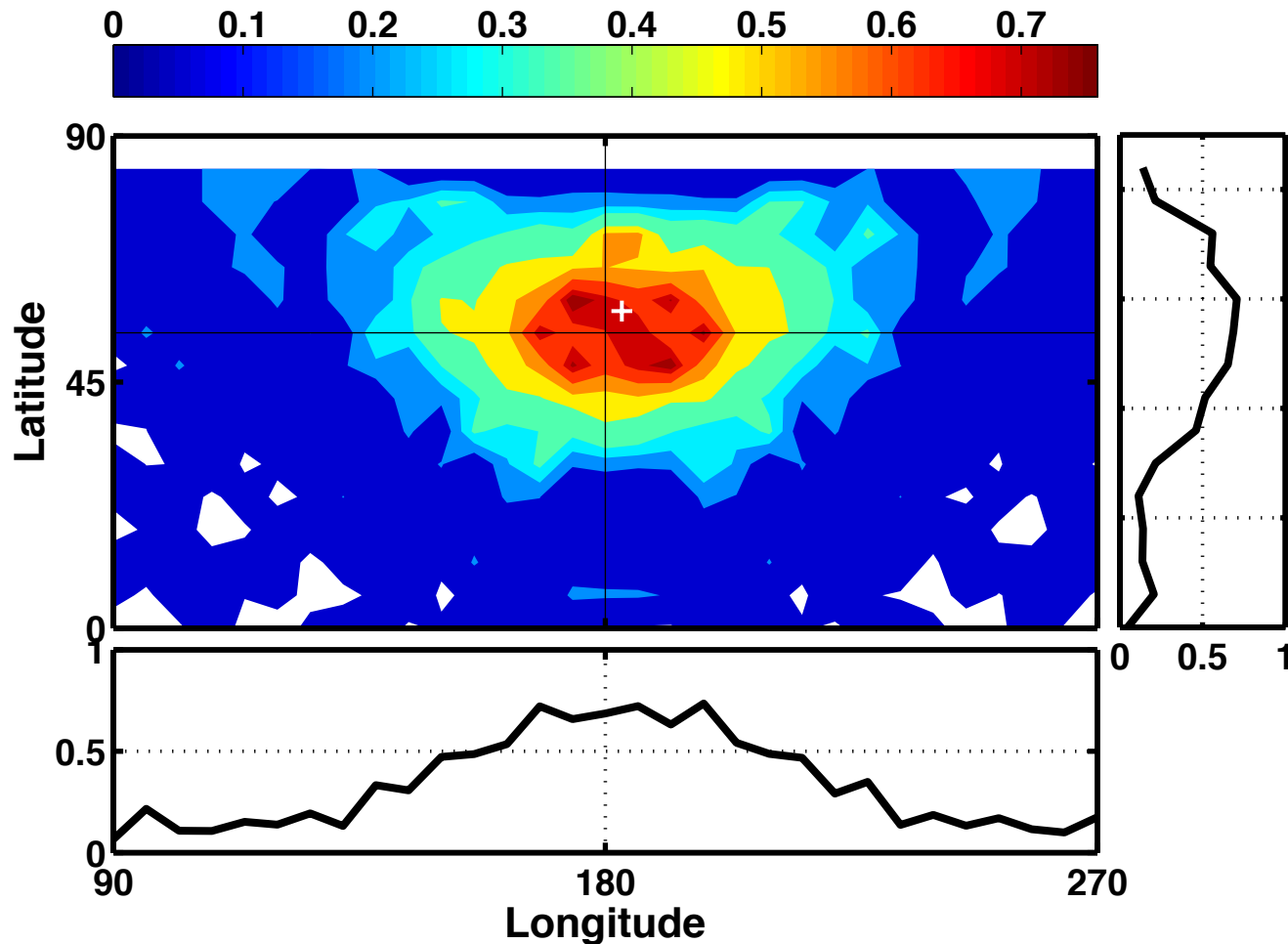
# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

## Localization of PS Observation on Level 3 U State



# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

## Localization of PS Observation on Level 3 V State



# Low-Order Dry Dynamical Core

- These equivalent localizations are similar to those from the global group filter.
- Can't do optimized for this problem, too costly.

# Conclusions

- Localization can greatly enhance small ensemble performance.
- Need affordable methods to find good localization.
- Assuming sampling error is dominant can lead to good estimates in some cases.
- Correlation Error Reduction described here is cheap.
- Need general method for picking subsets.
- Need better theory of need for localization.

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- Entry level tenure track.
- Focus on DA science with geophysics applications.
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Anderson, J., Hoar, T., Raeder, K., Liu, H., Collins, N., Torn, R., Arellano, A.,  
2009: *The Data Assimilation Research Testbed: A community facility*.  
BAMS, **90**, 1283—1296, doi: 10.1175/2009BAMS2618.1