ECE276A: Sensing & Estimation in Robotics Lecture 6: Bayesian and Particle Filtering

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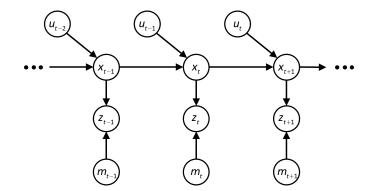
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JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING Electrical and Computer Engineering

Structure of Robotics Problems

- Time: t (discrete or continuous)
- Robot state: x_t (e.g., position, orientation, velocity, etc.)
- Control input: u_t (e.g., quadrotor thrust and moment of rotation)
- Observation: z_t (e.g., image, laser scan, inertial measurements)
- Environment state: m_t (e.g., map of the occupancy of space)



Structure of Robotics Problems

- The sequences of control inputs u_{0:t} and observations z_{0:t} are assumed known/observed
- The sequences of robot states x_{0:t} and environment states m_{0:t} are unknown/hidden

Markov Assumptions

- The state x_{t+1} only depends on the previous input u_t and state x_t
- The observation z_t only depends on the robot state x_t and the environment state m_t
- Motion Model: a function f (or equivalently a probability density function p_f) that describes the motion of the robot to a new state x_{t+1} after applying control input u_t at state x_t

$$x_{t+1} = f(x_t, u_t, w_t) \sim p_f(\cdot \mid x_t, u_t)$$
 $w_t =$ motion noise

Observation Model: a function h (or a probability density function p_h) that describes the observation z_t of the robot depending on x_t and m_t

$$z_t = h(x_t, m_t, v_t) \sim p_h(\cdot \mid x_t, m_t)$$
 $v_t = \text{observation noise}$

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- A Bayes filter is a probabilistic tool for estimating the state of dynamical systems (robot and/or environment) that combines evidence from control inputs and observations using Markov assumptions and Bayes rule:
 - Total probability: $p(x) = \int p(x, y) dy$
 - Conditioning: $p(x, y) = p(y \mid x)p(x)$

Bayes rule:
$$p(x \mid y, z) = \frac{p(y \mid x, z)p(x \mid z)}{\int p(y, s \mid z)ds} = \frac{p(y \mid x, z)p(z \mid x)p(x)}{p(y \mid z)p(z)}$$

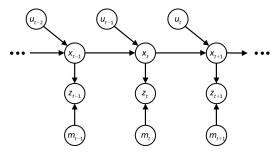
- Special cases of the Bayes filter:
 - Kalman filter
 - Particle filter
 - Forward algorithm for Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

Filtering Examples

- ▶ Track the center $c_t \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and radius $r_t \in \mathbb{R}$ of a ball in images: http://www.pyimagesearch.com/2015/09/14/ ball-tracking-with-opencv/
- ▶ Track the position $p_t \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and orientation $R_t \in SO(3)$ of a camera: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsJkci5lfco
- Estimate the probability of occupancy of the environment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhPlzIyTT58

Filtering Problem

The Markov assumptions are used to decompose the joint pdf of the states x_{0:T} (robot and map combined), observations z_{0:T}, and controls u_{0:T-1}



Joint distribution:

$$p(x_{0:T}, z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) = \underbrace{p_{0|0}(x_0)}_{\text{prior}} \prod_{t=0}^{T} \underbrace{p_h(z_t \mid x_t)}_{\text{observation model}} \prod_{t=1}^{T} \underbrace{p_f(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})}_{\text{motion model}}$$

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Filtering: keeps track of

$$p_{t|t}(x_t) := p(x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1})$$

 $p_{t+1|t}(x_{t+1}) := p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$

Smoothing: keeps track of

$$p_{t|t}(x_{0:t}) := p(x_{0:t} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1})$$

$$p_{t+1|t}(x_{0:t+1}) := p(x_{0:t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$$

Prediction step: given a prior density p_{t|t} over x_t and the control input u_t, uses the motion model p_f to compute the predicted density p_{t+1|t} over x_{t+1}:

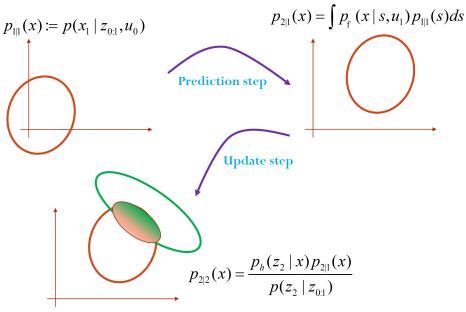
$$p_{t+1|t}(x) = \int p_f(x \mid s, u_t) p_{t|t}(s) ds$$

► Update step: given the predicted density p_{t+1|t} over x_{t+1} and the measurement z_{t+1}, uses the observation model p_h to incorporate the measurement information and obtain the posterior p_{t+1|t+1} over x_{t+1}:

$$p_{t+1|t+1}(x) = \frac{p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x)p_{t+1|t}(x)}{\int p_h(z_{t+1} \mid s)p_{t+1|t}(s)ds}$$

$$\begin{split} p_{t+1|t+1}(x_{t+1}) &= p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t+1}, u_{0:t}) \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{Bayes}} \frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}} p(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}, z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{Markov}} \frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{Total prob.}} \frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}) \int p(x_{t+1}, x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) dx_t \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{Cond. prob.}} \frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}) \int p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}, x_t) p(x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) dx_t \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{Markov}} \frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}) \int p(x_{t+1} \mid x_t, u_t) p(x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1}) dx_t \\ & = \boxed{\frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1}) \int p_f(x_{t+1} \mid x_t, u_t) p_{t|t}(x_t) dx_t \end{split}$$

• Normalization constant: $\eta_{t+1} := p(z_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$



Bayes Filter Summary

- Motion model: $x_{t+1} = f(x_t, u_t, w_t) \sim p_f(\cdot \mid x_t, u_t)$
- Observation model: $z_t = h(x_t, v_t) \sim p_h(\cdot \mid x_t)$
- Joint distribution:

$$p(x_{0:T}, z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) = \underbrace{p_{0|0}(x_0)}_{\text{prior}} \prod_{t=0}^{T} \underbrace{p_h(z_t \mid x_t)}_{\text{observation model}} \prod_{t=0}^{T} \underbrace{p_f(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})}_{\text{motion model}}$$

Filtering: recursive implementation that keeps track of

$$p_{t|t}(x_t) := p(x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1})$$
$$p_{t+1|t}(x_{t+1}) := p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$$

Bayes filter:

$$p_{t+1|t+1}(x_{t+1}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{p(z_{t+1}|z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})}^{\frac{1}{\eta_{t+1}}} p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x_{t+1})}_{\mathbf{Update}} \underbrace{\frac{p_{t+1|t}(x_{t+1})}{p_f(x_{t+1} \mid x_t, u_t) p_{t|t}(x_t) dx_t}}_{\mathbf{Update}}$$

Bayes Smoother

Smoothing: keeps track of

$$p_{t|t}(x_{0:t}) := p(x_{0:t} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1})$$
$$p_{t+1|t}(x_{0:t+1}) := p(x_{0:t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$$

- ► Forward pass (**Bayes filter**): compute $p(x_{t+1} | z_{0:t+1}, u_{0:t})$ and $p(x_{t+1} | z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})$ for t = 0, ..., T
- Backward pass (**Bayes smoother**): for t = T 1, ..., 0 compute:

$$p(x_{t} \mid z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) \xrightarrow{\text{Total}} \int p(x_{t} \mid x_{t+1}, z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) dx_{t+1}$$

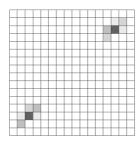
$$\xrightarrow{\text{Markov}} \int p(x_{t} \mid x_{t+1}, z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) dx_{t+1}$$

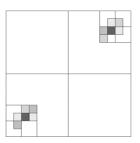
$$\xrightarrow{\text{Markov}}_{\text{Assumption}} \int p(x_{t} \mid x_{t+1}, z_{0:t}, u_{0:t}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1}) dx_{t+1}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{motion model}}_{\text{Rule}} \underbrace{p(x_{t} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1})}_{\text{forward pass}} \int \left[\underbrace{\frac{p(x_{t+1} \mid x_{t}, u_{t}) p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:T}, u_{0:T-1})}{p(x_{t+1} \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t})}}_{\text{forward pass}} \right] dx_{t+1}$$

Histogram Filter

- Represents the pdfs p_{t|t} and p_{t+1|t} via a histogram over a discrete set of possible values
- The accuracy is limited by the grid size
- A small grid becomes very computationally expensive in high dimensional state spaces because the number of cells is exponential in the number of dimensions
- Adaptive Histogram Filter: represents the pdf via adaptive discretization, e.g., octrees





Histogram Filter

Prediction step

- Assumes bounded Gaussian noise in the motion model
- Realizes the prediction step by shifting the data in the grid according to the control input and convolving the grid with a **separable** Gaussian kernel: ______



This reduces the prediction step cost from O(n²) to O(n) where n is the number of cells

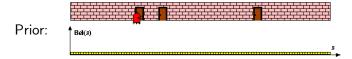
Update step

- To update and normalize the pdf upon sensory input, one has to iterate over all cells
- Is it possible to monitor which part of the state space is affected by the observations and only update that?

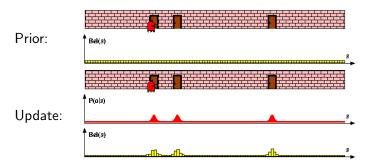
Markov Localization

- Robot Localization Problem: Given a map m, a sequence of control inputs u_{0:t-1}, and a sequence of measurements z_{0:t}, infer the state of the robot x_t
- Approach: use a Bayes filter with a multi-modal distribution in order to capture multiple hypotheses about the robot state, e.g.:
 - Histogram filter
 - Particle filter
 - Gaussian mixture filter
- Pruning: need to keep the number of hypotheses/components under control
- Important considerations: What are the motion and observation models and how is the map represented?

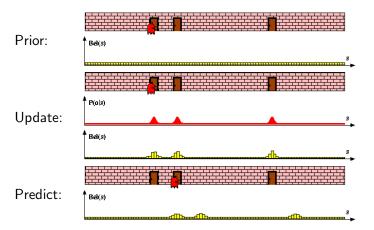
Histogram Filter Localization (1-D)

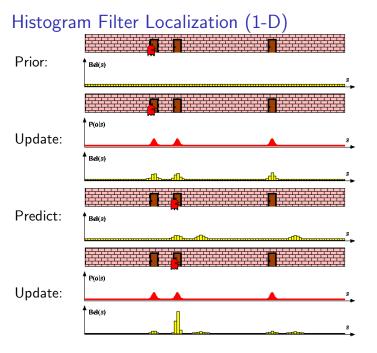


Histogram Filter Localization (1-D)



Histogram Filter Localization (1-D)





Particle Filter

Uses a mixture of delta functions (particles):

$$\delta(x;\mu^{(k)}) := egin{cases} 1 & x=\mu^{(k)} \ 0 & ext{else} \end{cases} ext{ for } k=1,\ldots,N$$

with weights $\alpha^{(k)}$ to represent the pdfs $p_{t|t}$ and $p_{t+1|t}$

To derive the filter, substitute the delta mixture pdf in the Bayes filter prediction and update steps

• Prior distribution: $x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1} \sim p_{t|t}(x_t) := \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x_t; \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}\right)$

Prediction:

$$p_{t+1|t}(x) = \int p_f(x \mid s, u_t) \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(s; \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}\right) ds \stackrel{??}{\approx} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

Update:

$$p_{t+1|t+1}(x) = \frac{p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x) \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)}{\int p_h(z_{t+1} \mid s) \sum_{j=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(j)} \delta\left(s; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}\right) ds} \approx \sum_{k=1}^{??} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t+1}} \alpha_{t+1|t+1}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t+1}^{(k)}\right) ds$$

Particle Filter Prediction

How do we approximate the prediction step as a delta-mixture pdf?

$$p_{t+1|t}(x) = \int p_f(x \mid s, u_t) \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(s; \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}\right) ds$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} p_f(x \mid \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}, u_t) \stackrel{??}{\approx} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

- Since p_{t+1|t}(x) is a mixture pdf, we can approximate it with particles by drawing samples directly from it
- ▶ Let $N_{t+1|t}$ be the number of particles in the approximation (usually, $N_{t+1|t} = N_{t|t}$)
- Bootstrap approximation: repeat N_{t+1|t} times and <u>normalize</u> the weights at the end:

• Draw
$$j \in \{1, \dots, N_{t|t}\}$$
 with probability $\alpha_{t|t}^{(j)}$

$$\blacktriangleright \text{ Draw } \mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)} \sim p_f\left(\cdot \mid \mu_{t|t}^{(j)}, u_t\right)$$

Add the weighted sample $\left(\mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}, p_{t+1|t}\left(\mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}\right)\right)$ to the new particle set

Particle Filter Update

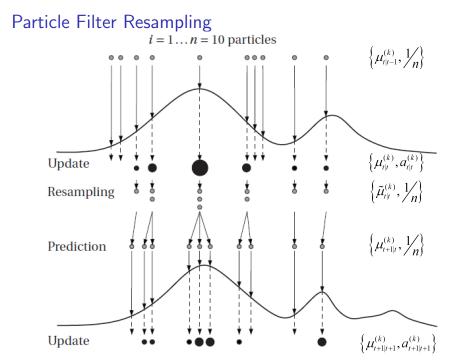
Update step: evaluates Bayes rule with the delta mixture pdf

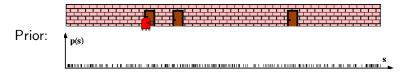
$$p_{t+1|t+1}(x) = \frac{p_h(z_{t+1} \mid x) \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)}{\int p_h(z_{t+1} \mid s) \sum_{j=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(j)} \delta\left(s; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}\right) ds}$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \left[\frac{\alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} p_h\left(z_{t+1} \mid \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(j)} p_h\left(z_{t+1} \mid \mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}\right)} \right] \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

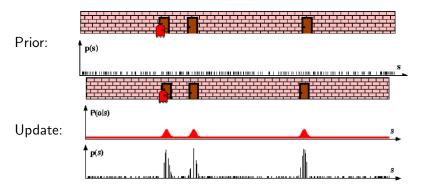
- The resulting pdf turns out to be a delta mixture so no approximation is necessary
- The update step does not update the particle positions but only their weights

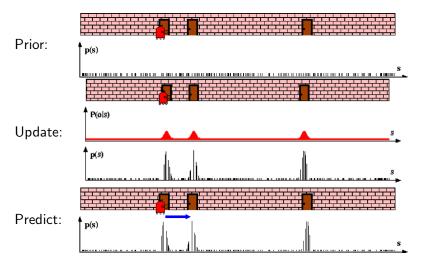
Particle Filter Resampling

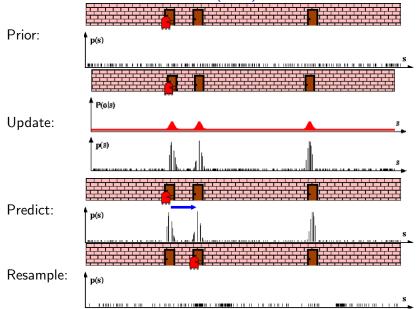
- ► How do we avoid **particle depletion** a situation in which most of the updated particle weights become close to zero because the finite set of particles are not accurate hypotheses, i.e., the observation likelihoods $p_h\left(z_{t+1} \mid \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$ are small at all $k = 1, \ldots, N_{t+1|t}$?
- The particle filter uses a procedure called resampling to avoid particle depletion during the update step
- Given a weighted set of particles, resampling creates a new particles set with equal weights by adding many particles to the locations that had high weight and few particles to the locations that had low weights
- Resampling focuses the representation power of the particles to likely regions, while leaving unlikely regions with only few particles
- Resampling is applied at time *t* if the **effective number of particles**: $\boxed{N_{eff} := \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} (\alpha_{t|t}^{(k)})^2}}$ is less than a threshold

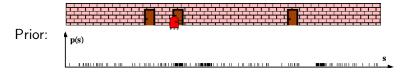


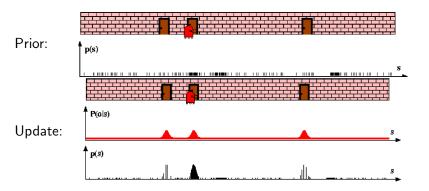


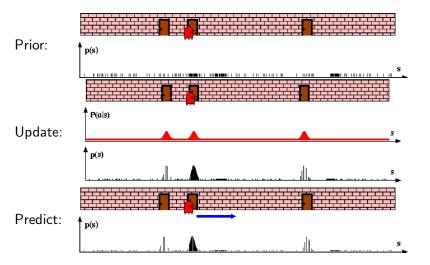


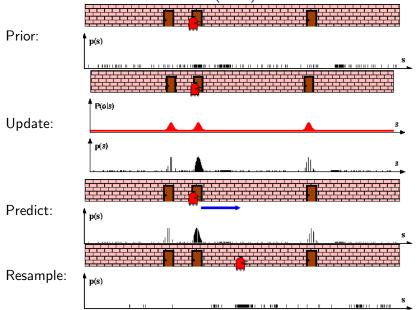






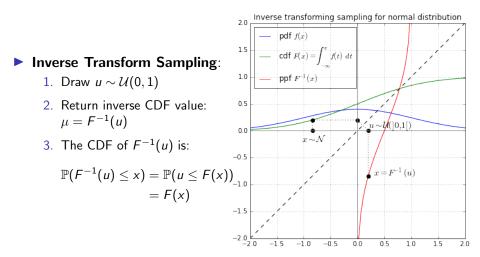






Inverse Transform Sampling

► **Target distribution**: How do we sample from a distribution with pdf p(x) and CDF $F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} p(s) ds$?



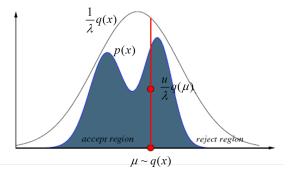
Rejection Sampling

- **Target distribution**: How do we sample from a complicated pdf p(x)?
- Proposal distribution: use another pdf q(x) that is easy to sample from (e.g., Uniform, Gaussian) and: λp(x) ≤ q(x) with λ ∈ (0,1)

Rejection Sampling:

- 1. Draw $u \sim \mathcal{U}(0,1)$ and $\mu \sim q(\cdot)$
- 2. Return μ only if $u \leq \frac{\lambda p(\mu)}{q(\mu)}$. If λ is small, many rejections are necessary

Good q(x) and λ are hard to choose in practice



Sample Importance Resampling (SIR)

- How about rejection sampling without λ ?
- Sample Importance Resampling for a target distribution $p(\cdot)$ with proposal distribution $q(\cdot)$
 - 1. Draw $\mu^{(1)}, \ldots, \mu^{(N)} \sim q(\cdot)$
 - 2. Compute importance weights $\alpha^{(k)} = \frac{p(\mu^{(k)})}{q(\mu^{(k)})}$ and normalize: $\alpha^{(k)} = \frac{\alpha^{(k)}}{\sum_{i} \alpha^{(j)}}$

3. Draw $\mu^{(k)}$ independently with replacement from $\{\mu^{(1)}, \ldots, \mu^{(N)}\}$ with probability $\alpha^{(k)}$ and add to the final sample set with weight $\frac{1}{N}$

If q(·) is a poor approximation of p(·), then the best samples from q are not necessarily good samples for resampling

SIR applied to the particle filter:

• draw $\mu^{(k)}$ independently with replacement from $\{\mu^{(1)}, \ldots, \mu^{(N)}\}$ with probability $\alpha^{(k)}$ and add to the final sample set with weight $\frac{1}{N}$

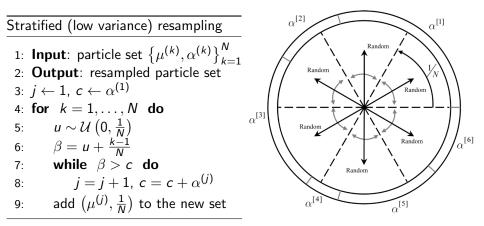
Markov Chain Monte Carlo Resampling

- The main drawback of rejection sampling and SIR is that choosing a good proposal distribution q(·) is hard
- Idea: let the proposed samples µ depend on the last accepted sample µ', i.e., obtain correlated samples from a conditional proposal distribution µ^(k) ∼ q (· | µ^(k-1))
- Under certain conditions, the samples generated from $q(\cdot | \mu')$ form an ergodic Markov chain with $p(\cdot)$ as its stationary distribution
- MCMC methods include Metropolis-Hastings and Gibbs sampling

Stratified Resampling

- ► In the last step of SIR, the weighted sample set {µ^(k), α^(k)} is resampled independently with replacement
- This might result in high variance resampling, i.e., sometimes some samples with large weights might not be selected or samples with very small weights may be selected multiple times
- Stratified resampling: guarantees that samples with large weights appear at least once and those with small weights – at most once. Stratified resampling is optimal in terms of variance (Thrun et al. 2005)
- Instead of selecting samples independently, use a sequential process:
 - Add the weights along the circumference of a circle
 - ▶ Divide the circle into N equal pieces and sample a uniform on each piece
 - Samples with large weights are chosen at least once and those with small weights – at most once

Stratified and Systematic Resampling



Systematic resampling: the same as stratified resampling except that the same uniform is used for each piece, i.e., $u \sim \mathcal{U}(0, \frac{1}{N})$ is sampled only once before the for loop above.

Particle Filter Summary

• Prior:
$$x_t \mid z_{0:t}, u_{0:t-1} \sim p_{t|t}(x_x) := \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x_t; \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

Prediction: approximate the mixture by sampling:

$$p_{t+1|t}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} \alpha_{t|t}^{(k)} p_f(x \mid \mu_{t|t}^{(k)}, u_t) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

Update: rescale the particles based on the observation likelihood:

$$p_{t+1|t+1}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \left[\frac{\alpha_{t+1|t}^{(k)} p_h\left(z_{t+1} \mid \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^{N_{t+1|t}} \alpha_{t+1|t}^{(j)} p_h\left(z_{t+1} \mid \mu_{t+1|t}^{(j)}\right)} \right] \delta\left(x; \mu_{t+1|t}^{(k)}\right)$$

• If $N_{eff} := \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{N_{t|t}} (\alpha_{t|t}^{(k)})^2} \leq N_{threshold}$, resample the particle set $\left\{\mu_{t+1|t+1}^{(k)}, \alpha_{t+1|t+1}^{(k)}\right\}$ via stratified or sample importance resampling