

# Data Assimilation

## - A03. A Toy Model -

**Shunji Kotsuki**

Environmental Prediction Science Laboratory  
Center for Environmental Remote Sensing (CEReS), Chiba University  
([shunji.kotsuki@chiba-u.jp](mailto:shunji.kotsuki@chiba-u.jp))



# DA Lectures A (Basic Course)



- ▶ (1) Introduction and NWP
- ▶ (2) Deterministic Chaos and Lorenz-96 model
- ▶ (3) A toy model and Bayesian estimation
- ▶ (4) Kalman Filter (KF)
- ▶ (5) 3D Variational Method (3DVAR)
- ▶ (6) Ensemble Kalman Filter (PO method)
- ▶ (7) Serial Ens. Square Root Filter (Serial EnSRF)
- ▶ (8) Local Ens. Transform Kalman Filter (LETKF)
- ▶ (9) Innovation Statistics & Adaptive Inflation

# Today's Goal

---

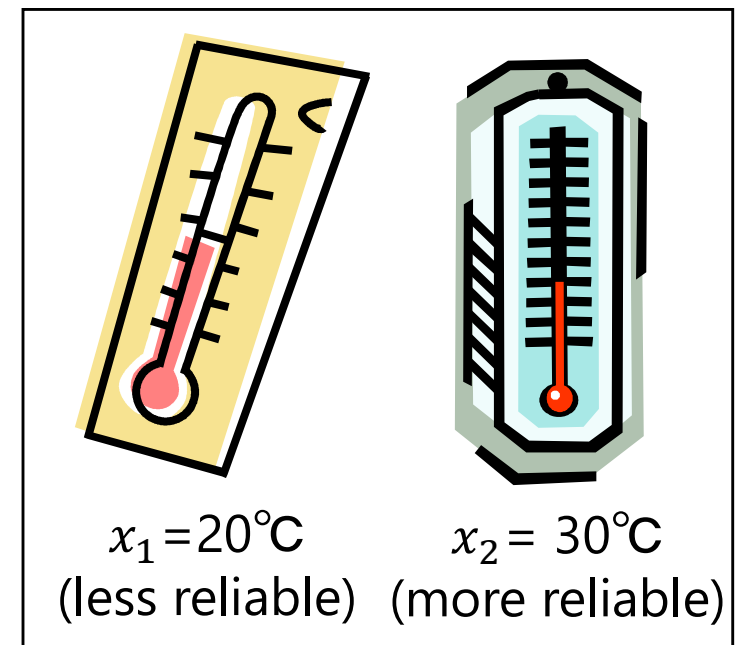


- ▶ To understand minimum variance estimation
- ▶ To understand maximum likelihood estimation
- ▶ To understand assumptions in these estimations
- ▶ To understand Bayesian estimation

# Data Assimilation - a toy model -

# Two Major Streams of DA

- ▶ **Minimum variance estimation**
  - ▶ Kalman filter (KF)
  - ▶ ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF)
- ▶ **Maximum likelihood estimation**
  - ▶ 3D variational (3DVAR)
  - ▶ 4D variational (4DVAR)
  - ▶ particle filter (PF)



A simple example: two thermometers

# Minimum Variance Estimation (最小分散推定)

# Minimum Variance Estimation



forecast  $x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$

$x^{tru}$ : truth

$\varepsilon$  : random error

observation  $x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$

$\langle \cdot \rangle$ : *expectation*

## Assumption (1) : unbiased error

$$\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \langle \varepsilon_1 \rangle = \langle \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$$

## Assumption (2) : uncorrelated error

$$\langle \varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$$

# Minimum Variance Estimation



Environmental  
Prediction  
Science  
Laboratory

forecast	$x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$	(1) unbiased	$\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$
observation	$x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$	(2) uncorr.	$\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

$$x^a = \alpha x_1 + (1 - \alpha)x_2 \quad \& \text{ minimize variance of analysis } (a)$$

$$\begin{aligned}(\sigma^a)^2 &= \langle (x^a - x^{tru})^2 \rangle = \langle (\alpha(x_1 - x^{tru}) + (1 - \alpha)(x_2 - x^{tru}))^2 \rangle \\ &= \alpha^2 \langle \varepsilon_1^2 \rangle + 2\alpha(1 - \alpha) \langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle + (1 - \alpha)^2 \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle \\ &= \alpha^2 \sigma_1^2 + (1 - \alpha)^2 \sigma_2^2\end{aligned}$$

definition of variance

$$V(x) = E \left( (x - E(x))^2 \right)$$

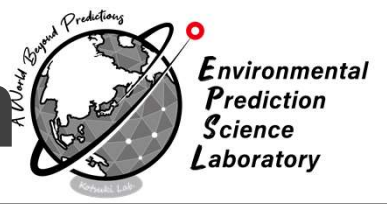
$$\sigma^2 = \langle \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \rangle$$

$\sigma$  : standard deviation

$\sigma^2$  : variance



# Minimum Variance Estimation



forecast  $x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$

(1) unbiased  $\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$

observation  $x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$

(2) uncorr.  $\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

$$x^a = \alpha x_1 + (1 - \alpha)x_2$$

$$(\sigma^a)^2 = \alpha^2 \sigma_1^2 + (1 - \alpha)^2 \sigma_2^2$$

$$\frac{\partial (\sigma^a)^2}{\partial \alpha} = 2\alpha \sigma_1^2 - 2(1 - \alpha)\sigma_2^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$$

weighted average by variance ( $\sigma^2$ ; =accuracy)

$$x^a = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_1 + \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_2$$

$$= \underbrace{x_1}_{\text{first guess}} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} (x_2 - x_1)}_{\text{increment}}$$

# Minimum Variance Estimation



## Kalman filter

Predicted state estimate	$\mathbf{x}_t^b = M(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}^a)$
Predicted estimate covariance	$\mathbf{P}_t^b = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}_{t-1}^a\mathbf{M}^T + \mathbf{Q}$
Optimal Kalman gain	$\mathbf{K}_t = \mathbf{P}_t^b\mathbf{H}^T[\mathbf{H}\mathbf{P}_t^b\mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R}]^{-1}$
Update estimate covariance	$\mathbf{P}_t^a = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_t\mathbf{H}]\mathbf{P}_t^b$
Update state estimate	$\mathbf{x}_t^a = \mathbf{x}_t^b + \mathbf{K}_t(\mathbf{y}_t^o - H(\mathbf{x}_t^b))$

$M(\cdot)$ : nonlinear model

$\mathbf{M}$ : Tangent Linear model

$H(\cdot)$ : nonlinear obs. operator

$\mathbf{H}$ : Jacobian of  $H(\cdot)$

$\mathbf{P}$ : error covariance

$\mathbf{Q}$ : model error covariance

$\mathbf{K}$ : Kalman gain

$\mathbf{R}$ : obs. error covariance

$b$ : background

$o$ : observation

$a$ : analysis

analysis equation

$$x^a = \underbrace{x_1}_{\text{first guess}} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} (x_2 - x_1)}_{\text{increment}}$$

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (最尤推定)

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation



forecast	$x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$	(1) unbiased	$\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$
observation	$x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$	(2) uncorr.	$\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

Likelihood    Prior (uniform, i.e., no prior info)

$$p(x|x_{1,2}) = \frac{p(x_{1,2}|x)p(x)}{p(x_{1,2})}$$

Posterior

constant (since they are given)

## Bayesian Estimates

$$\begin{aligned} \text{maximize } p(x|x_{1,2}) &\Leftrightarrow \text{maximize } p(x_{1,2}|x) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \text{maximize } p(x_1|x) \cdot p(x_2|x) \end{aligned}$$

to maximize likelihood

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation



forecast  $x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$  (1) unbiased  $\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$

observation  $x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$  (2) uncorr.  $\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

maximize  $p(x_1|x) \cdot p(x_2|x)$

Suppose  $x_1$  &  $x_2$  follow  
Gaussian PDF  $N(x, \sigma)$

$$p(x_i|x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_i^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(x_i - x)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right]$$

maximize  $p(x_1|x) \cdot p(x_2|x)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{maximize } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_2^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(x_1 - x)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} - \frac{(x_2 - x)^2}{2\sigma_2^2}\right]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{minimize } J(x) = \frac{(x_1 - x)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(x_2 - x)^2}{\sigma_2^2}$$

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation



forecast  $x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$  (1) unbiased  $\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$

observation  $x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$  (2) uncorr.  $\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

$$\text{minimize } J(x) = \frac{(x_1 - x)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(x_2 - x)^2}{\sigma_2^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial x} = -2 \frac{(x_1 - x)}{\sigma_1^2} - 2 \frac{(x_2 - x)}{\sigma_2^2} = 0$$

analysis of maximum likelihood estimates

$$x^a = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_1 + \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_2$$

# Summary

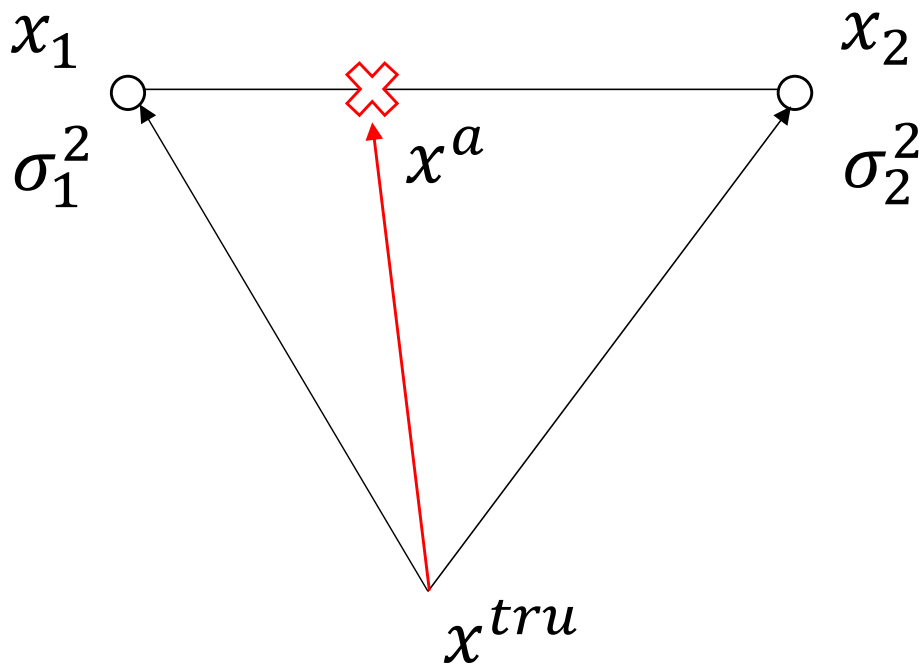
weighted average by variance ( $\sigma^2$ ; =accuracy)

$$x^a = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_1 + \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} x_2$$

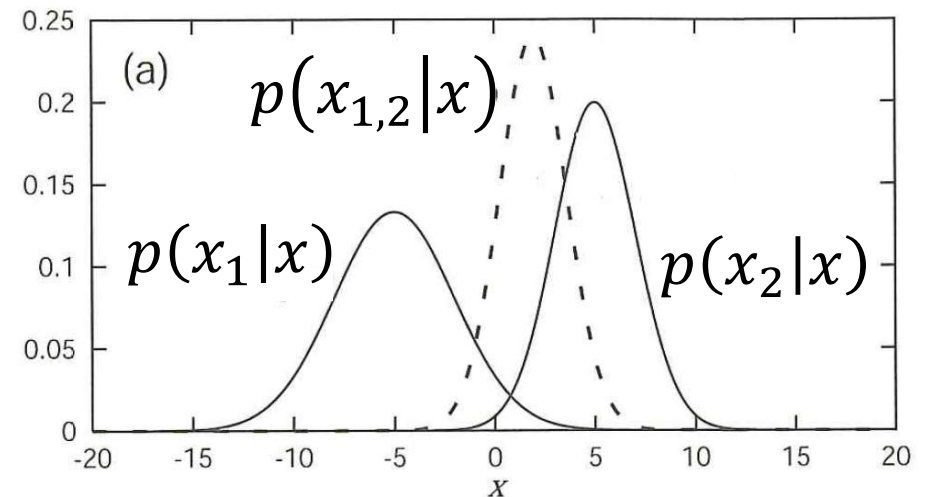
(1) unbiased  $\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$

(2) uncorr.  $\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

## minimum variance estimates



## maximum likelihood estimates



(3) Gaussian error PDF

# Summary

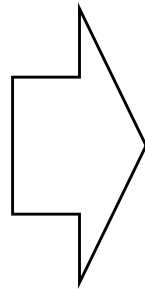


# Extension to multi-dims problems

The two thermometers' example

$$p_A(T) \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{(T - T_A)^2}{2\sigma_A^2} \right]$$

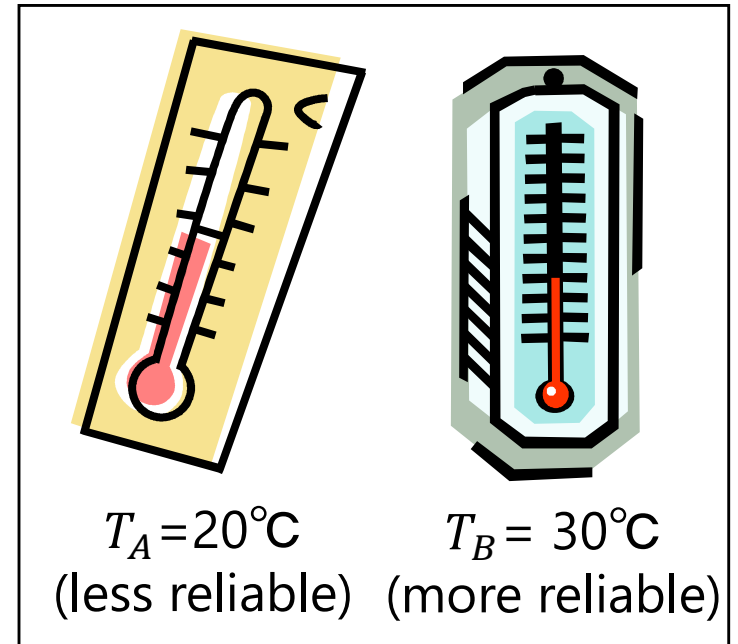
$$p_B(T) \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{(T - T_B)^2}{2\sigma_B^2} \right]$$



$$T^* = \frac{\sigma_B^2 T_A + \sigma_A^2 T_B}{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_B^2}$$

$$= T_A + \frac{\sigma_A^2 T_B}{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_B^2} (T_B - T_A)$$

*weighted average*



A simple example: two thermometers

# Extension to multi-dims problems

The two thermometers' example

$$p_A(T) \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{(T - T_A)^2}{2\sigma_A^2} \right]$$

$$p_B(T) \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{(T - T_B)^2}{2\sigma_B^2} \right]$$

→

$$T^* = \frac{\sigma_B^2 T_A + \sigma_A^2 T_B}{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_B^2}$$

$$= T_A + \frac{\sigma_A^2 T_B}{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_B^2} (T_B - T_A)$$

*weighted average*

**Uncertainty (reliability)  
of model forecasts**

**Uncertainty (reliability)  
of observations**

$$\mathbf{x}_t^a = \mathbf{x}_t^b + \mathbf{P}_t^b \mathbf{H}^T \left[ \mathbf{H} \mathbf{P}_t^b \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R} \right]^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t^o - H(\mathbf{x}_t^b))$$

**x**: state

**P**: state error covariance

*b*: background

**y**: observation

**R**: obs. error covariance

*a*: analysis

**H**: obs. operator

*o*: observation

# Kalman Filter

Prediction (state)

$$\mathbf{x}_t^b = M(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}^a)$$

Prediction (error covariance)

$$\mathbf{P}_t^b = M\mathbf{P}_{t-1}^a M^T + Q$$

Kalman gain

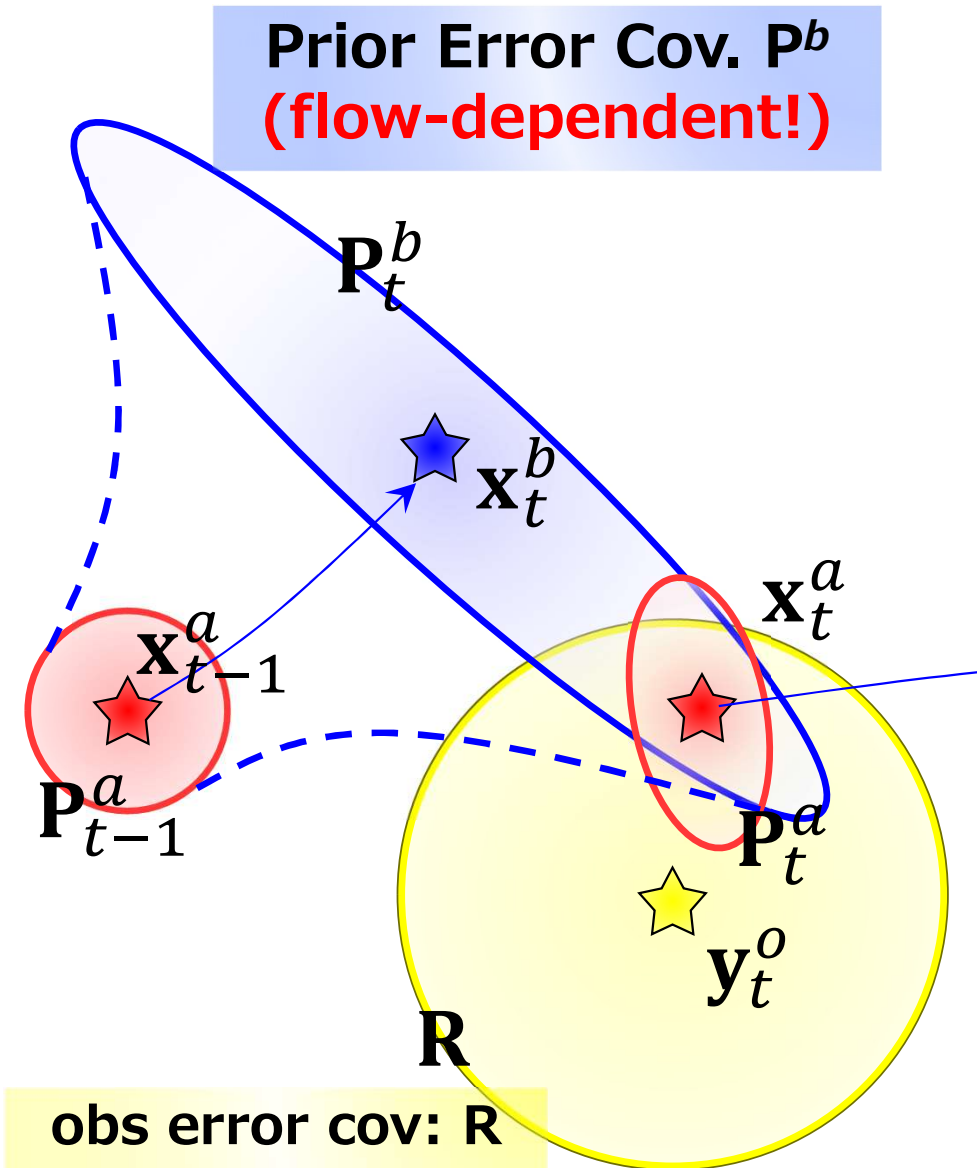
$$\mathbf{K}_t = \mathbf{P}_t^b \mathbf{H}^T [\mathbf{H}\mathbf{P}_t^b \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R}]^{-1}$$

Analysis (state)

$$\mathbf{x}_t^a = \mathbf{x}_t^b + \mathbf{K}_t(\mathbf{y}_t^o - H(\mathbf{x}_t^b))$$

Analysis (error covariance)

$$\mathbf{P}_t^a = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}]\mathbf{P}_t^b$$



# Summary



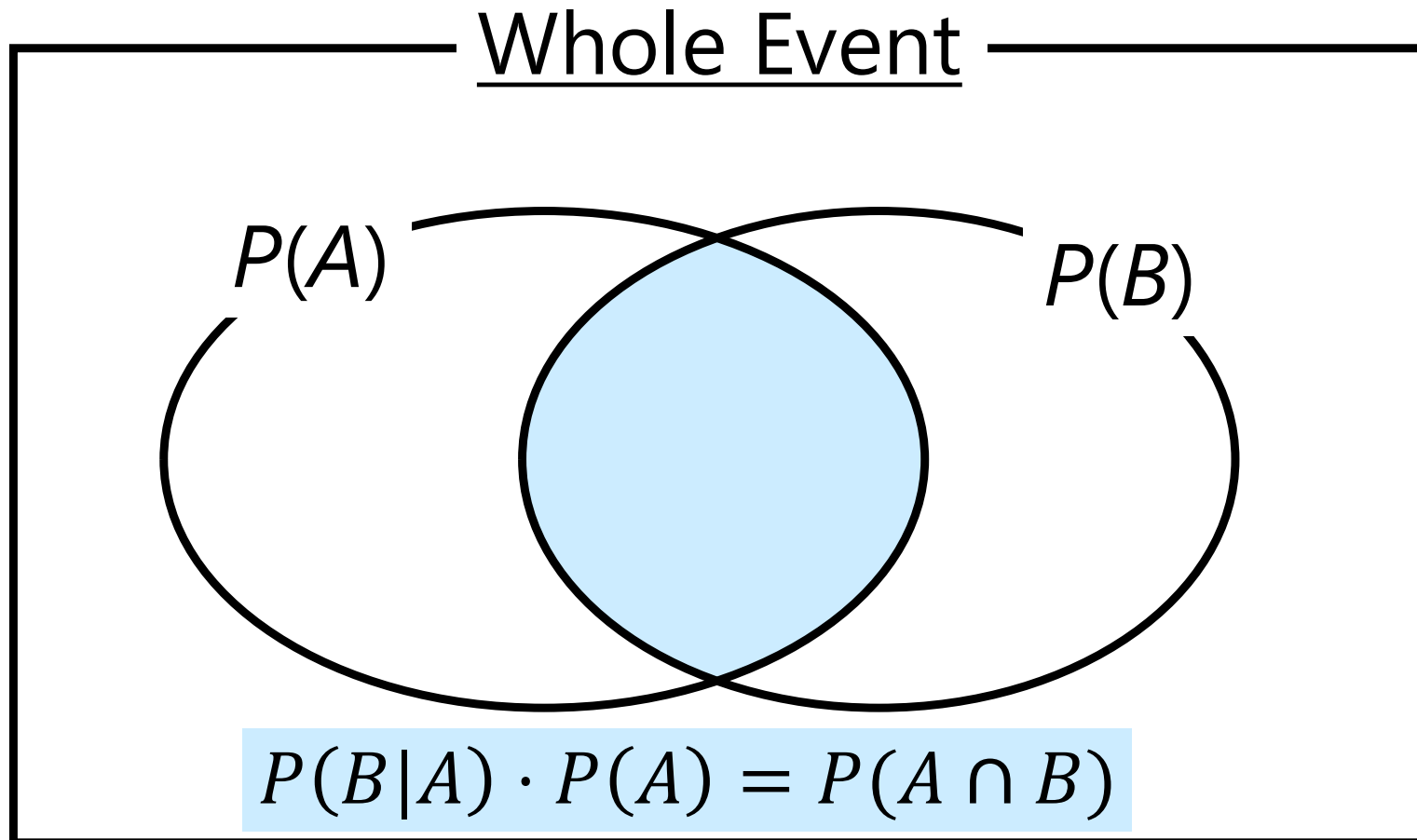
- ▶ **Minimum variance estimation suppose**
  - ▶ unbiased
  - ▶ uncorrelated error
- ▶ **Maximum likelihood estimation suppose**
  - ▶ unbiased
  - ▶ uncorrelated error
  - ▶ Gaussian error PDF
- ▶ **These solutions are identical**
  - ▶ when errors are Gaussian
  - ▶ Namely, minimum variance estimation gives optimal analysis following Bayesian theory w/ Gaussian errors
  - ▶ (細かいが大事) 最小分散推定 (KF & EnKF)は、誤差のガウス分布性を仮定しない。我々が信頼するのは最尤推定で、最小分散推定と最尤推定は、誤差がガウス分布の時に一致する。だから、誤差のガウス分布性はKF & EnKFにも望ましいのだ。

# Bayesian Estimation

# Bayesian Theorem

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A)}$$

Posterior =  $\frac{\text{Likelihood} \cdot \text{Prior}}{\text{Obs}}$



# Bayesian Theorem: an example

## An example: virus infection (e.g. COVID19) and inspection

- virus rate is 0.005 (0.5 %)
- inspection to people with virus → gives positive (+) w/ 80 %
- inspection to healthy people → gives negative (-) w/ 90 %

Now, you have a **positive** result by the inspection!!!

→ The percentage of having virus is only **about 3.9 %**.

Interpretation by cases  $\frac{40}{995 + 40} = 0.0386 \approx 3.9\%$

Total	Virus Rate	Joint	Inspection Result
10000	50 (virus)	x0.8 = 40	<b>Positive</b> (correct)
		x0.2 = 10	Negative (incorrect)
	9950 (healthy)	x0.9 = 8955	Negative (correct)
		x0.1 = 995	<b>Positive</b> (incorrect)

# Intuitive Interpretation

w/o virus  
(9950)

w/ virus  
(50)

$$\frac{40}{995 + 40} = 0.0386 \approx 3.9\%$$

incorrect positive (偽陽性) 10% → 995

correct positive (陽性) 80% → 40



# Bayesian Theorem: an example

## An example: virus infection (e.g. COVID19) and inspection

- virus rate is 0.005 (0.5 %)
- inspection to people with virus → gives positive (+) w/ 80 %
- inspection to healthy people → gives negative (-) w/ 90 %

Now, you have a **positive** result by the inspection!!!

→ The percentage of having virus is only **about 3.9 %**.

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A|B)P(B)}{P(A)}$$

Posterior

Likelihood

Prior

Obs

Prior: Prob. of virus

Obs: Prob. of positive

Likelihood: Prob. of positive given virus

Posterior: Prob. of virus given positive

$$P(B|A) = \frac{0.8 \times 0.005}{(0.005 \times 0.8 + 0.995 \times 0.1)} = 0.0386 \approx 3.9\%$$

# Then,,,, so what?

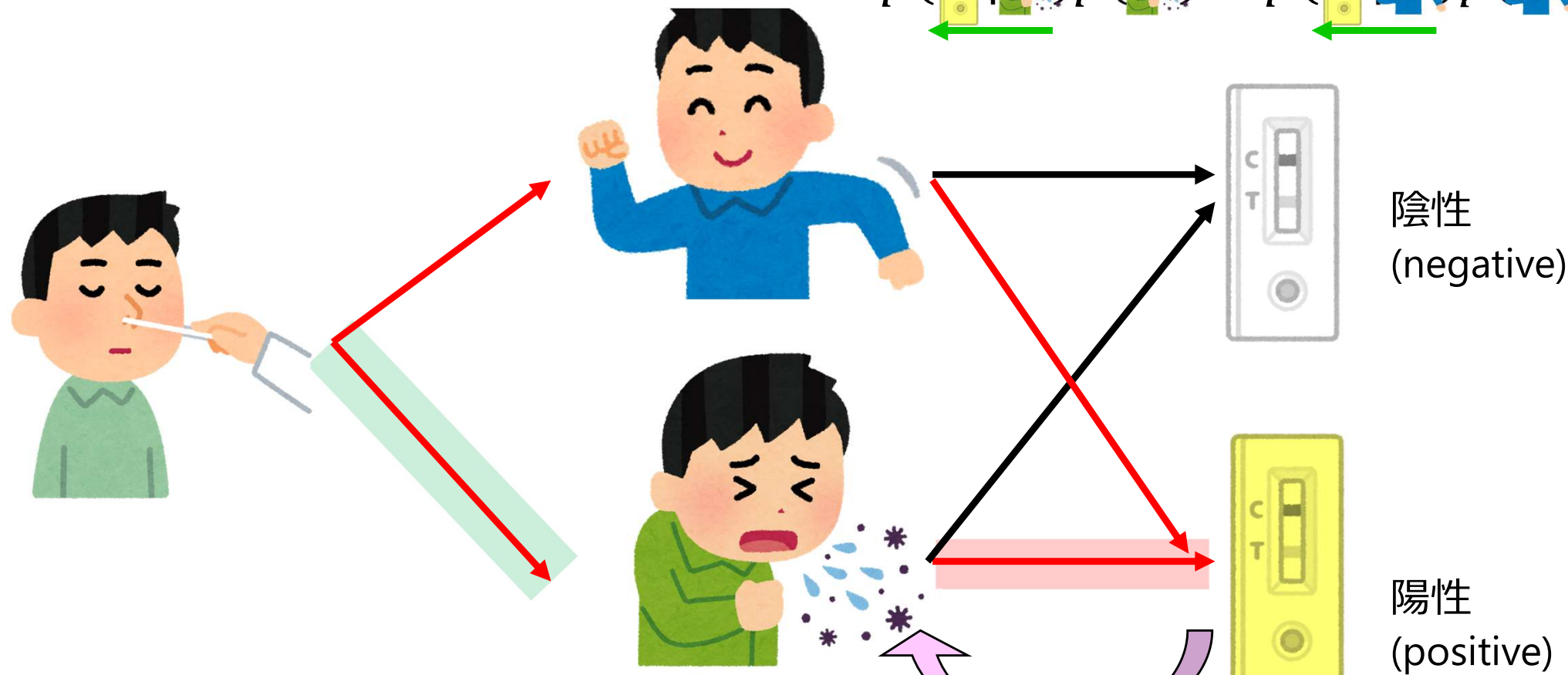
Bayesian Theorem

$$p(x|y) = \frac{p(y|x)p(x)}{p(y)}$$

← : forward  
← : backward (結果 → 原因)

$$p(x|y) = \frac{p(y|x)p(x)}{p(y)} = \frac{p(y|x)p(x)}{\int p(y|x)p(x)dx}$$

$$p(\text{crying} | \text{fever}) = \frac{p(\text{fever} | \text{crying})p(\text{crying})}{p(\text{fever} | \text{crying})p(\text{crying}) + p(\text{fever} | \text{not crying})p(\text{not crying})}$$

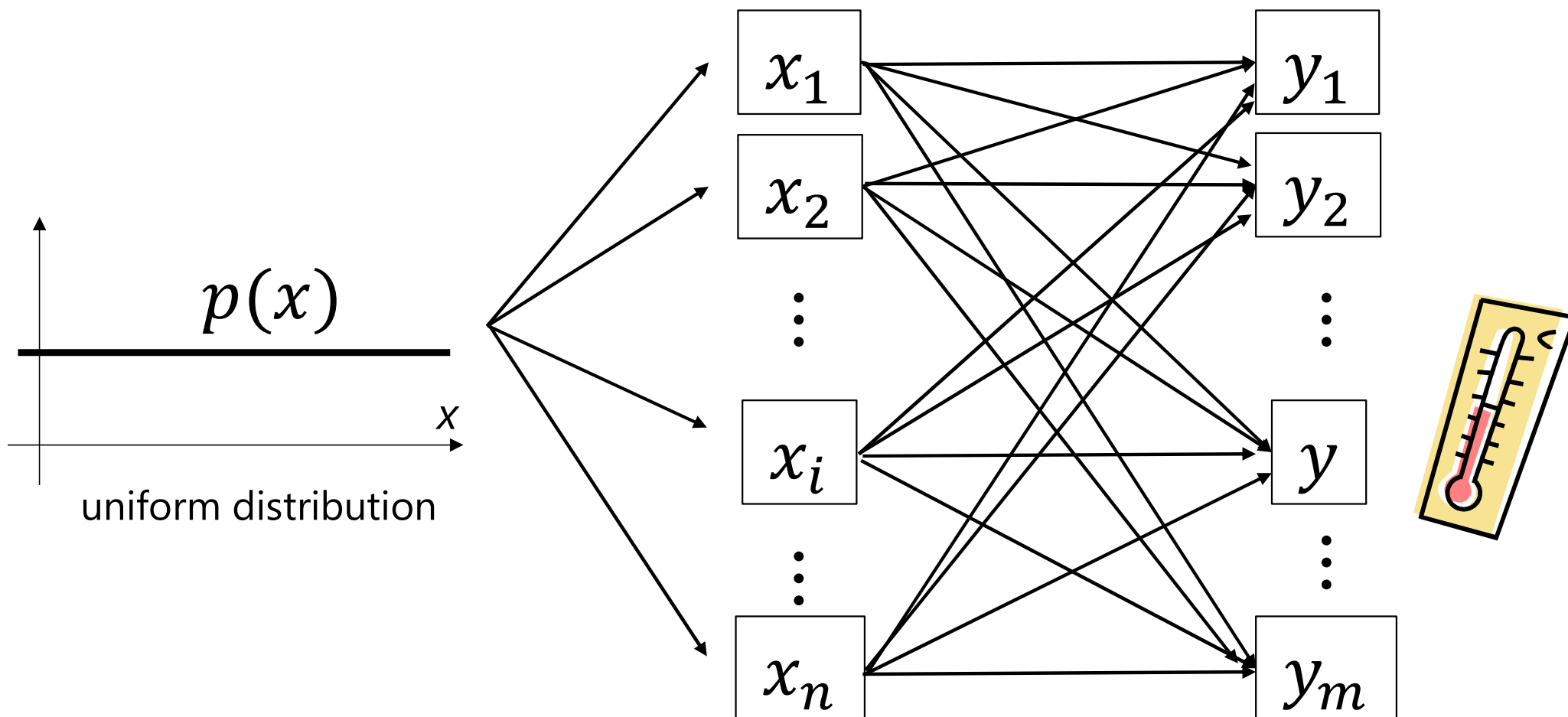


**backward causality !!!!**

# Bayesian Estimation

Bayesian Theorem (discrete)

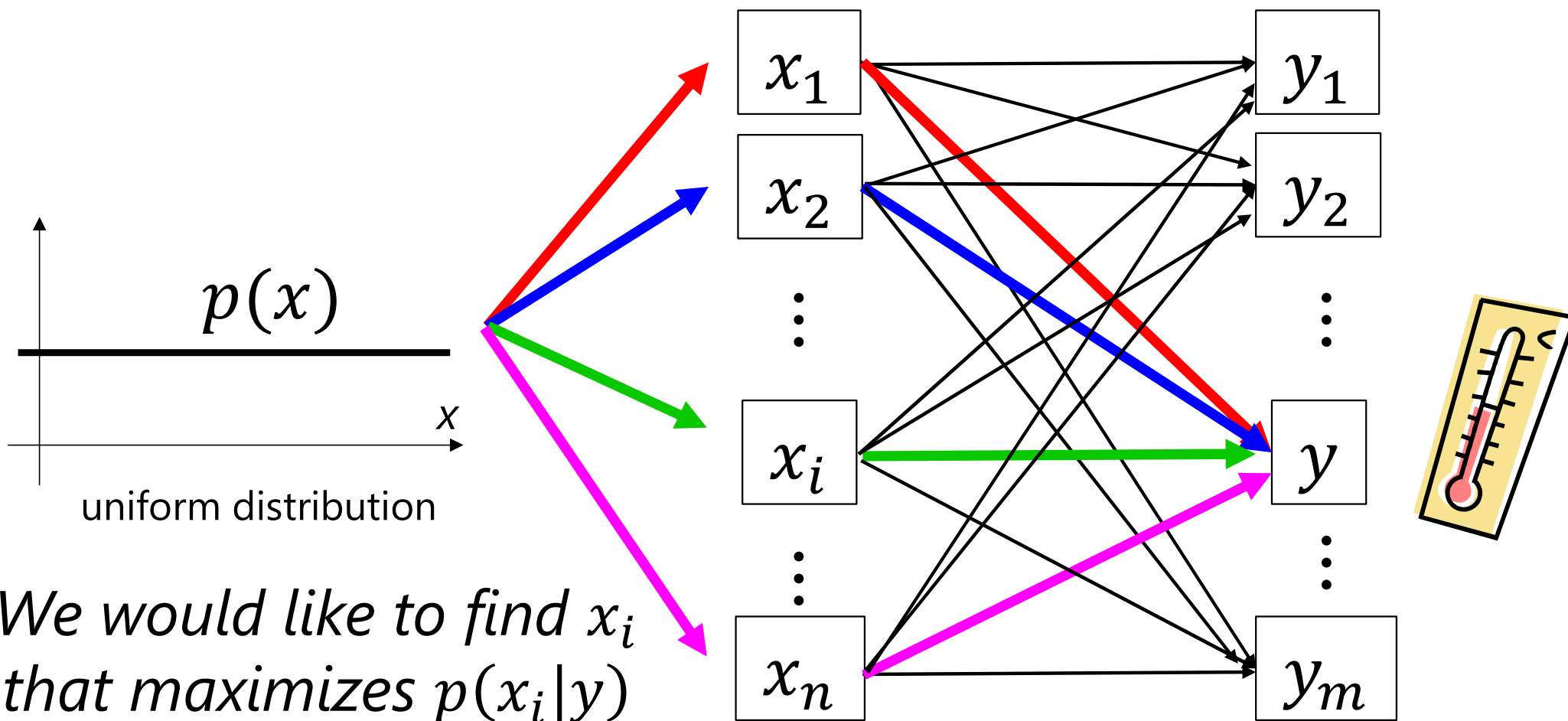
$$p(x_i|y) = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{p(y)} = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^n p(y|x_k)p(x_k)}$$



# Bayesian Estimation

Bayesian Theorem (discrete)

$$p(x_i|y) = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{p(y)} = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^n p(y|x_k)p(x_k)}$$



# Bayesian Estimation

Bayesian Theorem (discrete)

$$p(x_i|y) = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{p(y)} = \frac{p(y|x_i)p(x_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^n p(y|x_k)p(x_k)}$$



Bayesian Theorem (general)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Posterior } p(x|y) &= \frac{p(y|x)p(x)}{p(y)} = \frac{\overset{\text{Likelihood}}{p(y|x)} \overset{\text{Prior (uniform)}}{p(x)}}{\int p(y|x)p(x)dx} \quad \text{constant (i.e., not a func. of } x) \\ &= \left( \frac{p(y|x)p(x)}{\int p(y|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta} \right) \end{aligned}$$

*We would like to find  $x$  that maximizes  $p(x|y)$*

*maximize  $p(x|y)$   
 $\Leftrightarrow$  maximize  $p(y|x)$*

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation



forecast  $x_1 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_1$  (1) unbiased  $\langle x_1 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle = x^{tru}$

observation  $x_2 = x^{tru} + \varepsilon_2$  (2) uncorr.  $\langle \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \rangle = 0$

Likelihood Prior (uniform, i.e., no prior info)

$$p(x|x_{1,2}) = \frac{p(x_{1,2}|x)p(x)}{p(x_{1,2})}$$

Posterior

constant (since they are given)

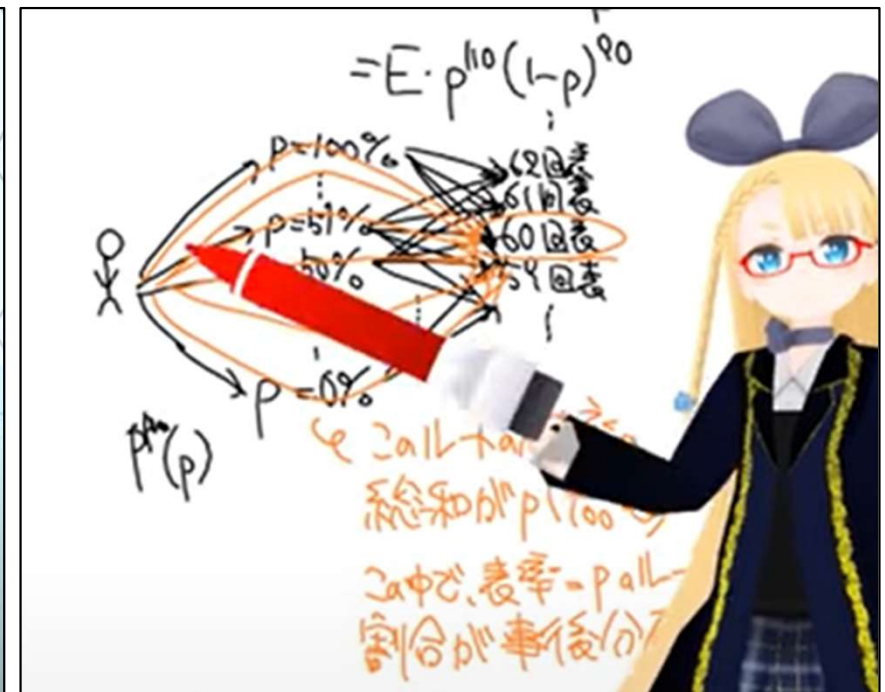
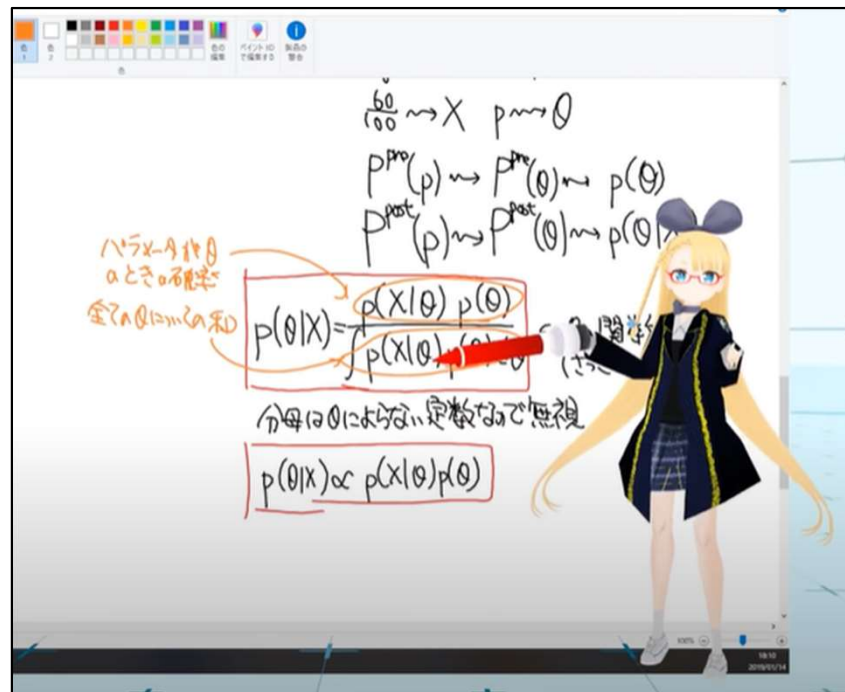
## Bayesian Estimates

$$\begin{aligned} \text{maximize } p(x|x_{1,2}) &\Leftrightarrow \text{maximize } p(x_{1,2}|x) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \text{maximize } p(x_1|x) \cdot p(x_2|x) \end{aligned}$$

to maximize likelihood



# Recommendations (Jpn)



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Presented by Shunji Kotsuki**  
([shunji.kotsuki@chiba-u.jp](mailto:shunji.kotsuki@chiba-u.jp))

**Further information is available at**  
<https://kotsuki-lab.com/>

