

# Wasserstein Distributionally Robust Kalman Filtering

Soroosh Shafieezadeh-Abadeh<sup>(1)</sup>, Viet Anh Nguyen<sup>(1)</sup>, Daniel Kuhn<sup>(1)</sup>  
and Peyman Mohajerin Esfahani<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Risk Analytics and Optimization Chair, EPFL

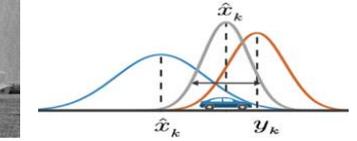
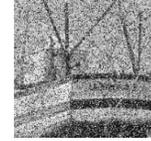
(2) Delft University of Technology

Poster: AB #14

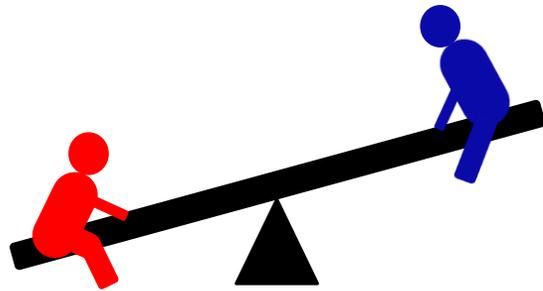


# Minimum mean square error estimation

$$\inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{P}) \text{ for } \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{P}) := \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} [\|x - \psi(y)\|^2]$$



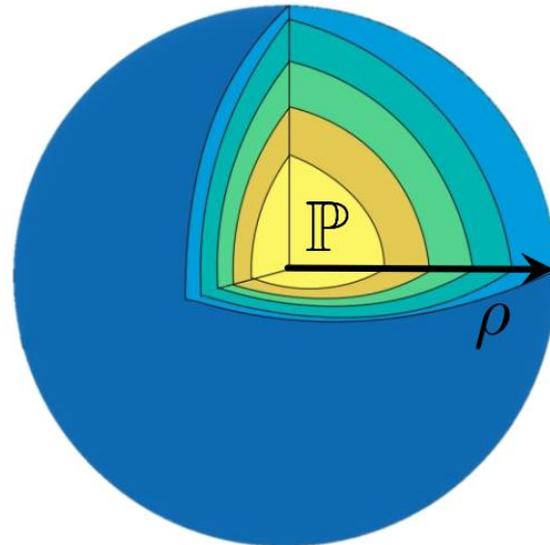
## Zero-sum game against nature



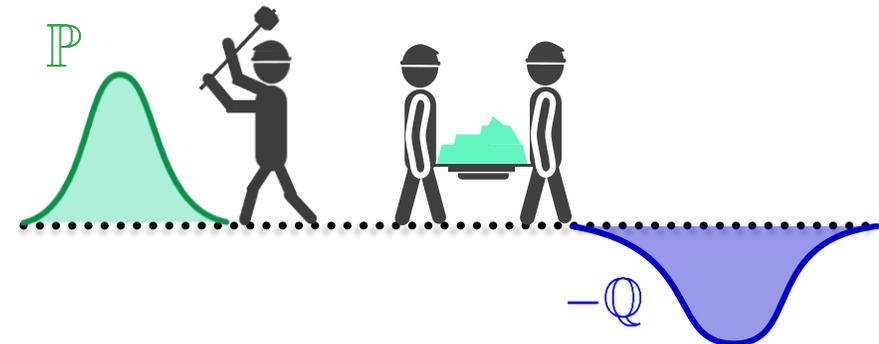
$$\inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \sup_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q})$$

$$\mathcal{P} := \{\mathbb{Q} \text{ is normal} : W(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{P}) \leq \rho\}$$

Wasserstein distance



$$W(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{P}) = \sqrt{\inf_{\substack{\xi_1 \sim \mathbb{Q} \\ \xi_2 \sim \mathbb{P}}} \mathbb{E} \|\xi_1 - \xi_2\|_2^2}$$



## Optimal estimator

$$\psi^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\psi(\cdot)} \sup_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q})$$

## Least favorable prior

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q})$$

## Structural results

**Result 1.**  $\inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \sup_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q}) = \sup_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q}) \implies (\psi^*, \mathbb{Q}^*) = \text{Nash equilibrium}$

**Result 2.**  $\sup_{\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}} \inf_{\psi(\cdot)} \mathcal{R}(\psi, \mathbb{Q}) \iff \text{SDP, } \psi^* \text{ is affine, } \mathbb{Q}^* = \mathcal{N}(\mu, S^*)$

## Frank-Wolfe algorithm

**Result 3.** Analytically solvable oracle subproblem

**Result 4.** Guaranteed convergence speed  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)$

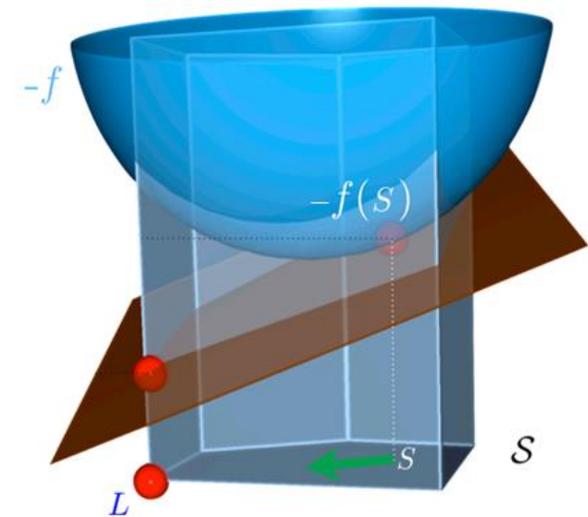
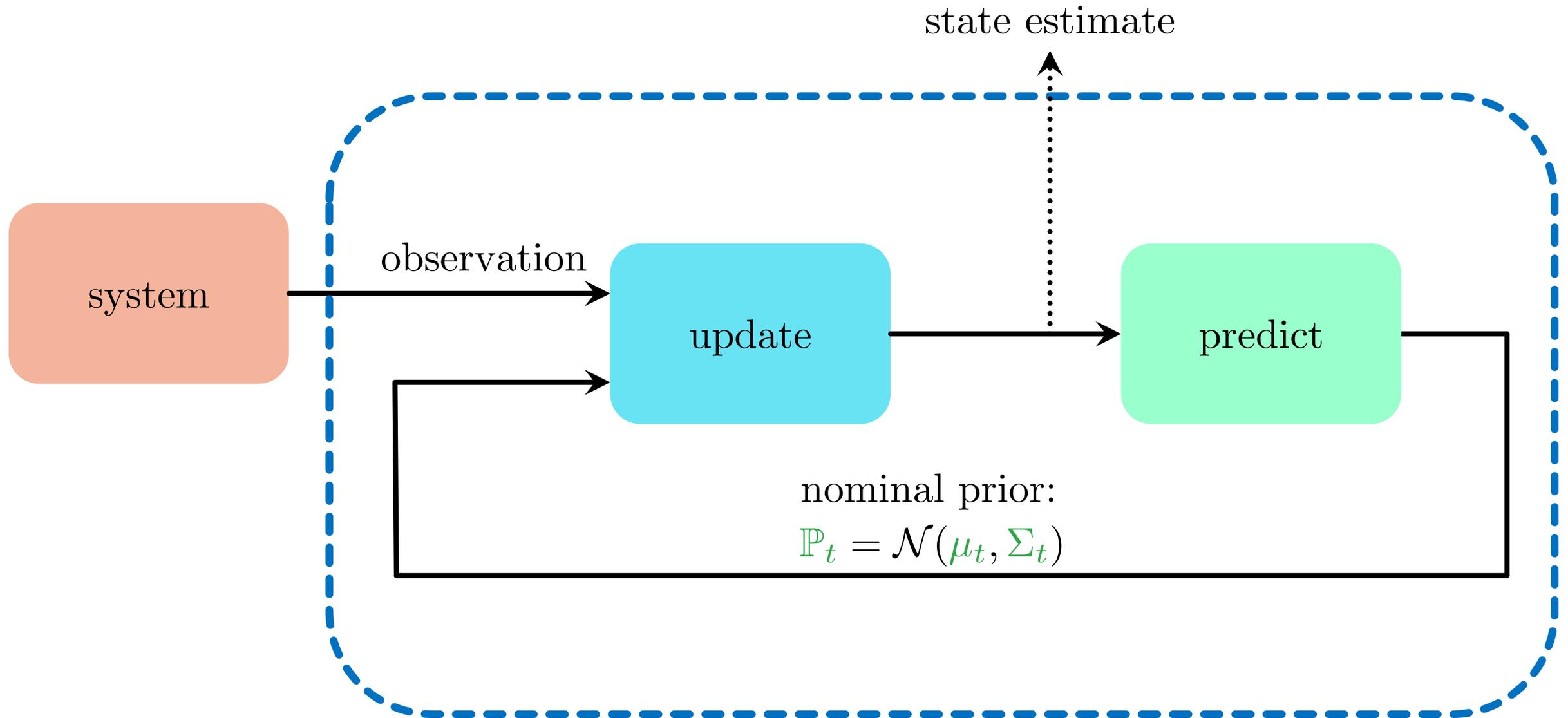
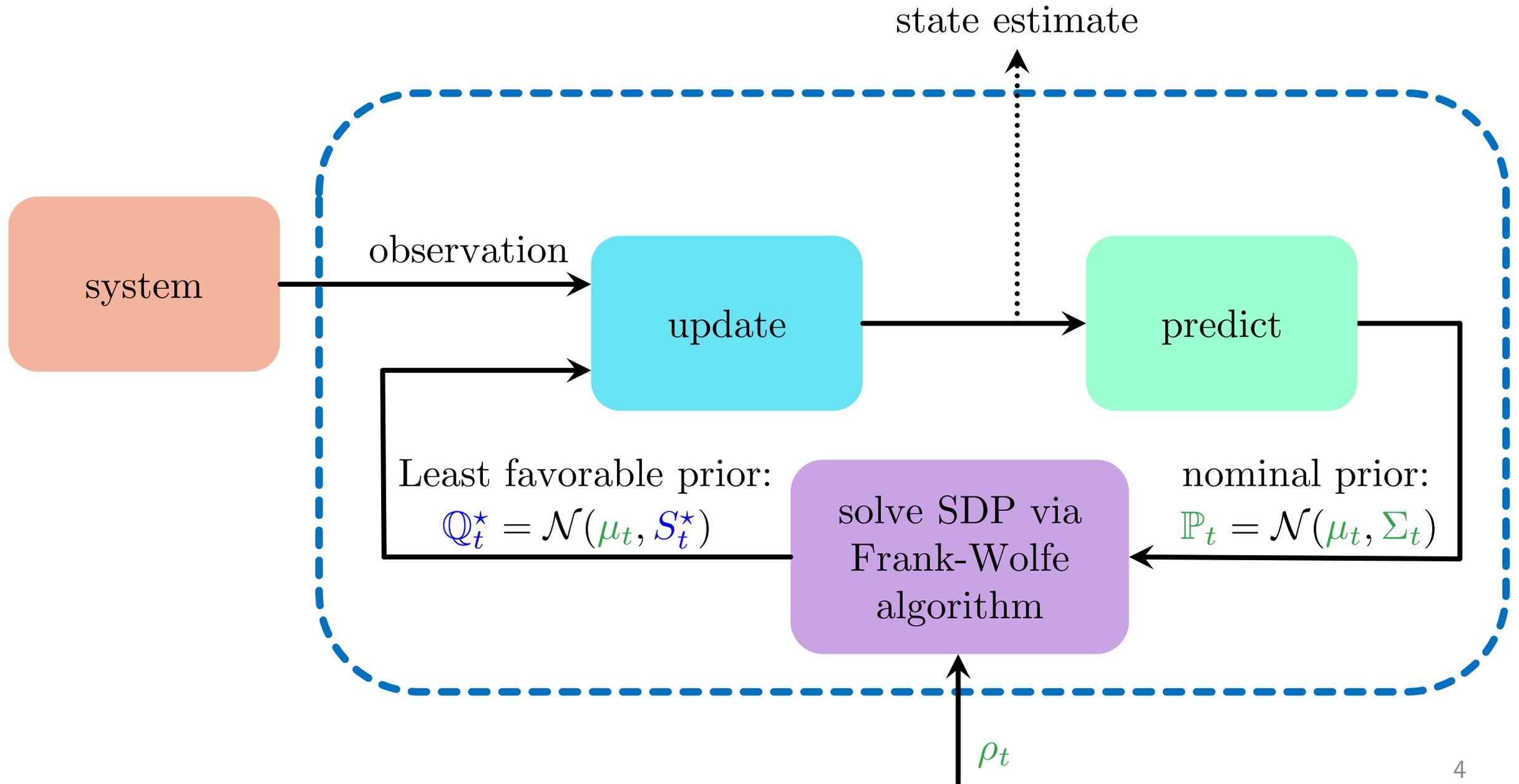


Image source: Jaggi, ICML (2013)

# Classical Kalman filter

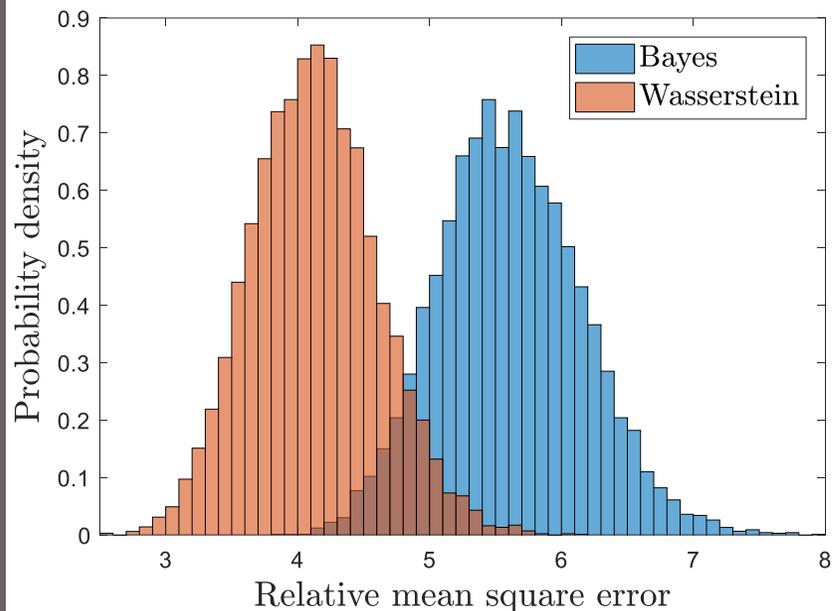


# Distributionally robust Kalman filter



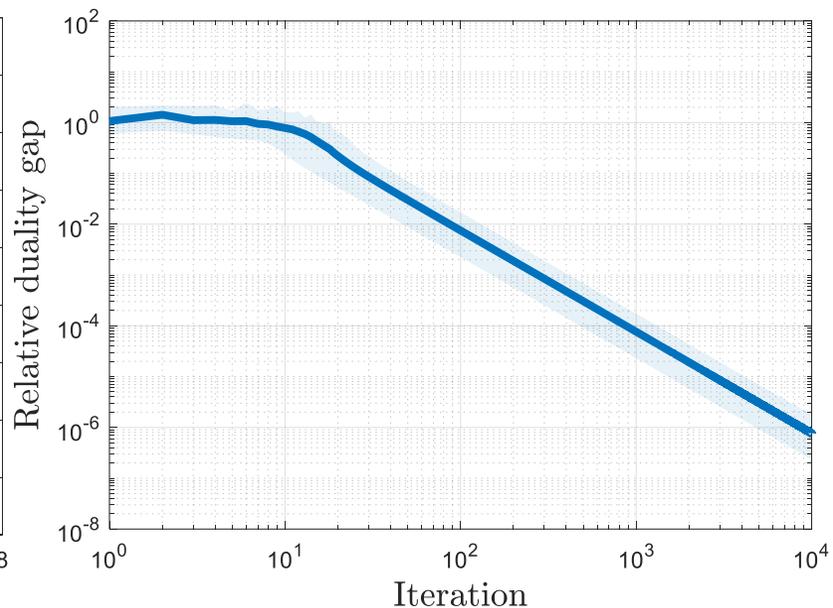
# Numerical results

## MMSE estimation



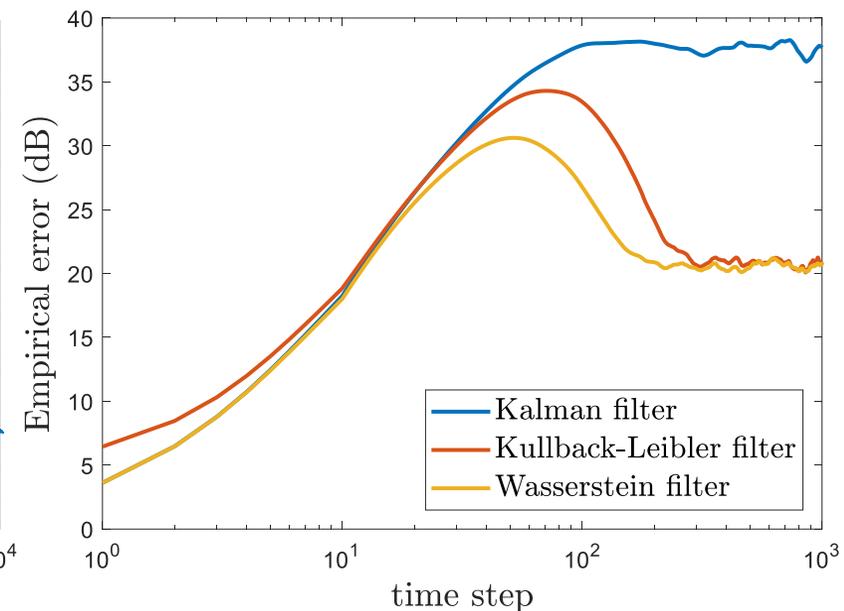
Robustness reduces regret

## Frank-Wolfe algorithm



Empirical convergence speed  $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{k})$

## Kalman filtering



Wasserstein filter displays:  
Lowest steady-state error  
Fastest convergence

**POSTER: AB #14**