

# Parallel Particle Filter in Julia

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# Introduction

# First a disclaimer

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- This project is not finished.

# The project in a sentence.

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- Implement a particle filter in Julia that takes advantage of distributed-memory parallelism.

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- An approximation to the general Bayes filter

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- An approximation to the general Bayes filter
- Track the state of a dynamical system

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- An approximation to the general Bayes filter
- Track the state of a dynamical system
  - but the state is not directly observable
  - but the dynamical system is noisy

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- An approximation to the general Bayes filter
- Track the state of a dynamical system
  - but the state is not directly observable
  - but the dynamical system is noisy
- Same concept as the Kalman filter, but fewer assumptions



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## Project

- An approximation to the general Bayes filter
- Track the state of a dynamical system
  - but the state is not directly observable
  - but the dynamical system is noisy
- Same concept as the Kalman filter, but fewer assumptions
  - but the system dynamics may be non-linear
  - the observation function may be non-linear
  - the process noise and and observation noise may be non-Gaussian
  - the hypothesis is not confined to be Gaussian – can have multimodal hypotheses

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1. Start with a set of  $n$  particles at step  $t_{n-1}$ . These particles represent the hypothesis at that time.

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1. Start with a set of  $n$  particles at step  $t_{n-1}$ . These particles represent the hypothesis at that time.
2. Propagate each particle independently according to system dynamics. This is the *a priori* hypothesis.

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  - (a) many different resampling techniques with different computation complexities and variances.

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  - (b) the part that is not embarrassingly parallel.

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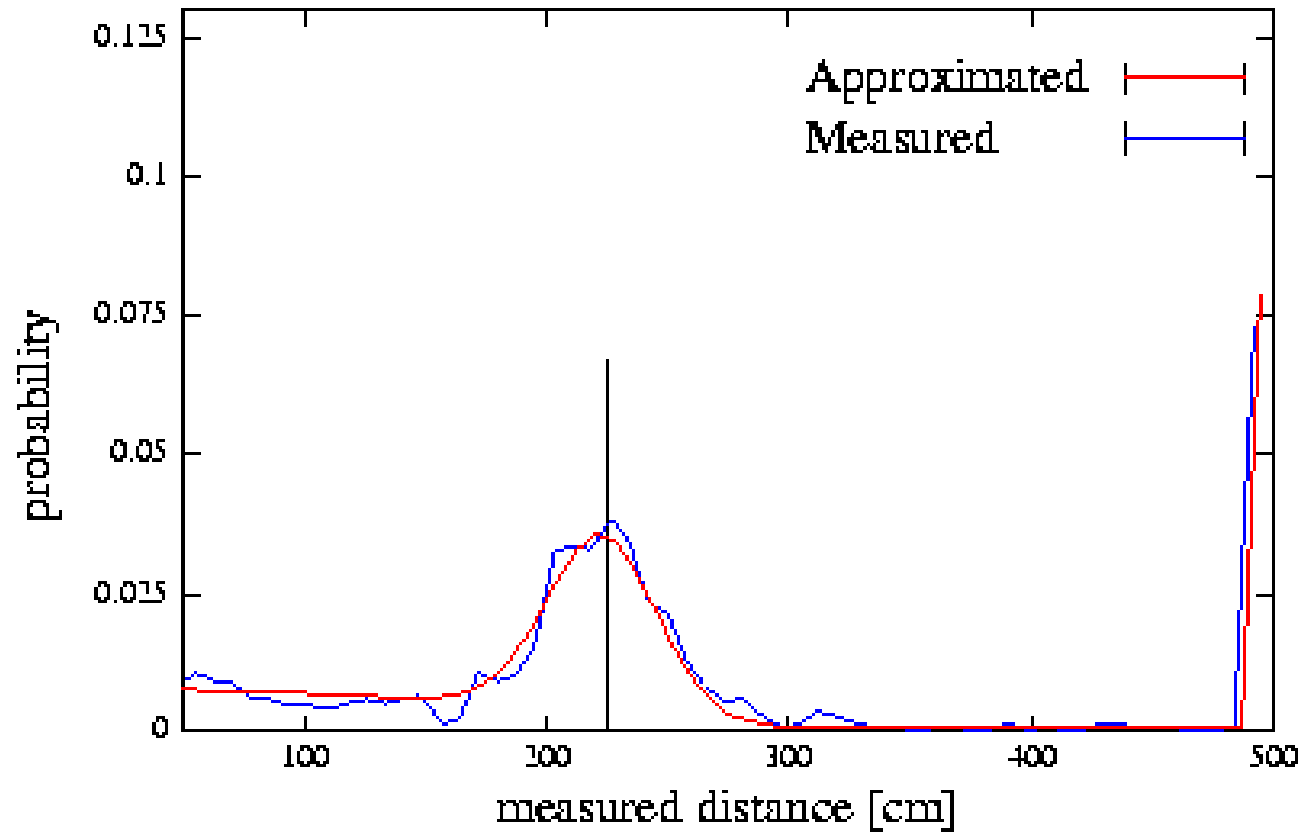
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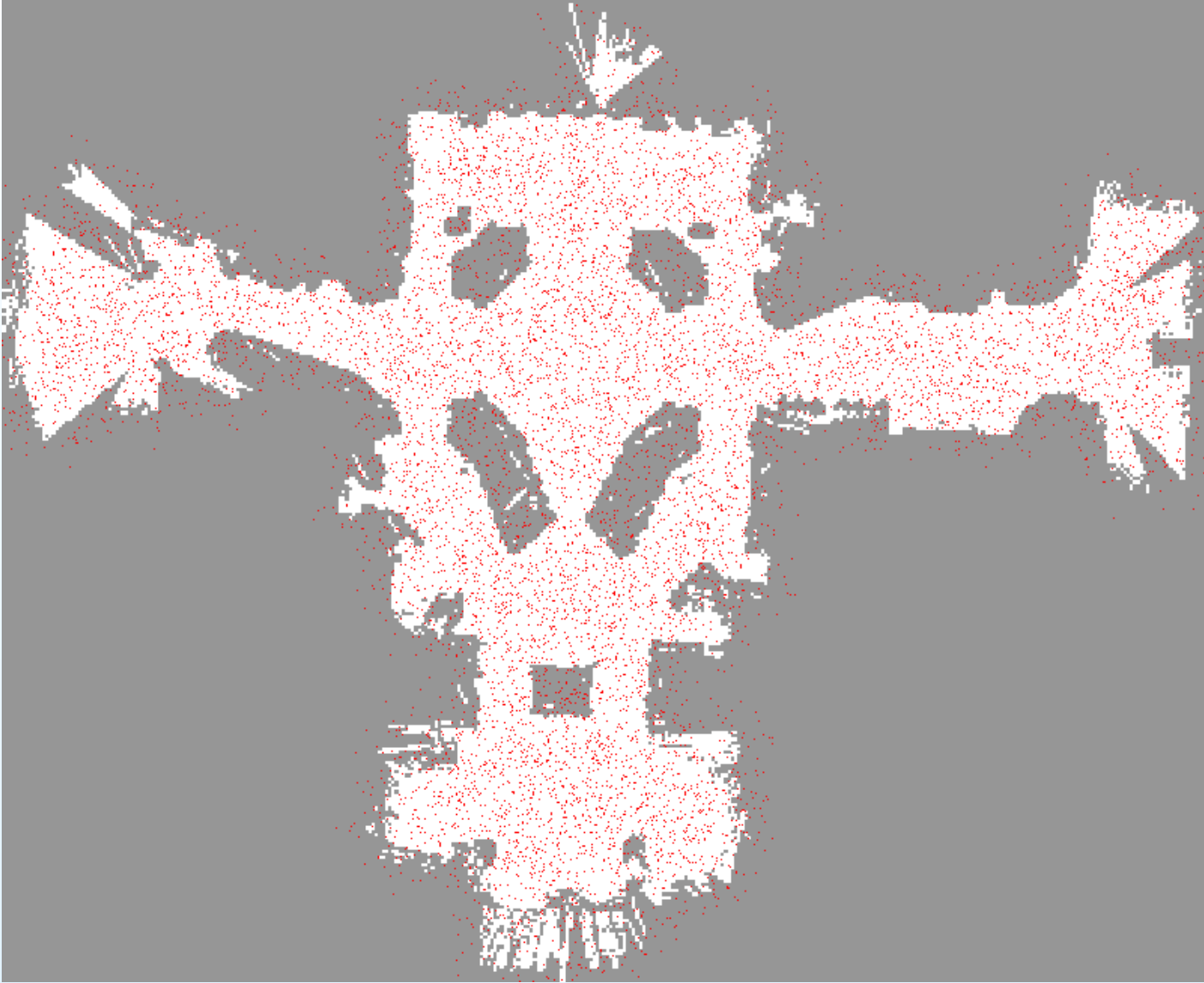
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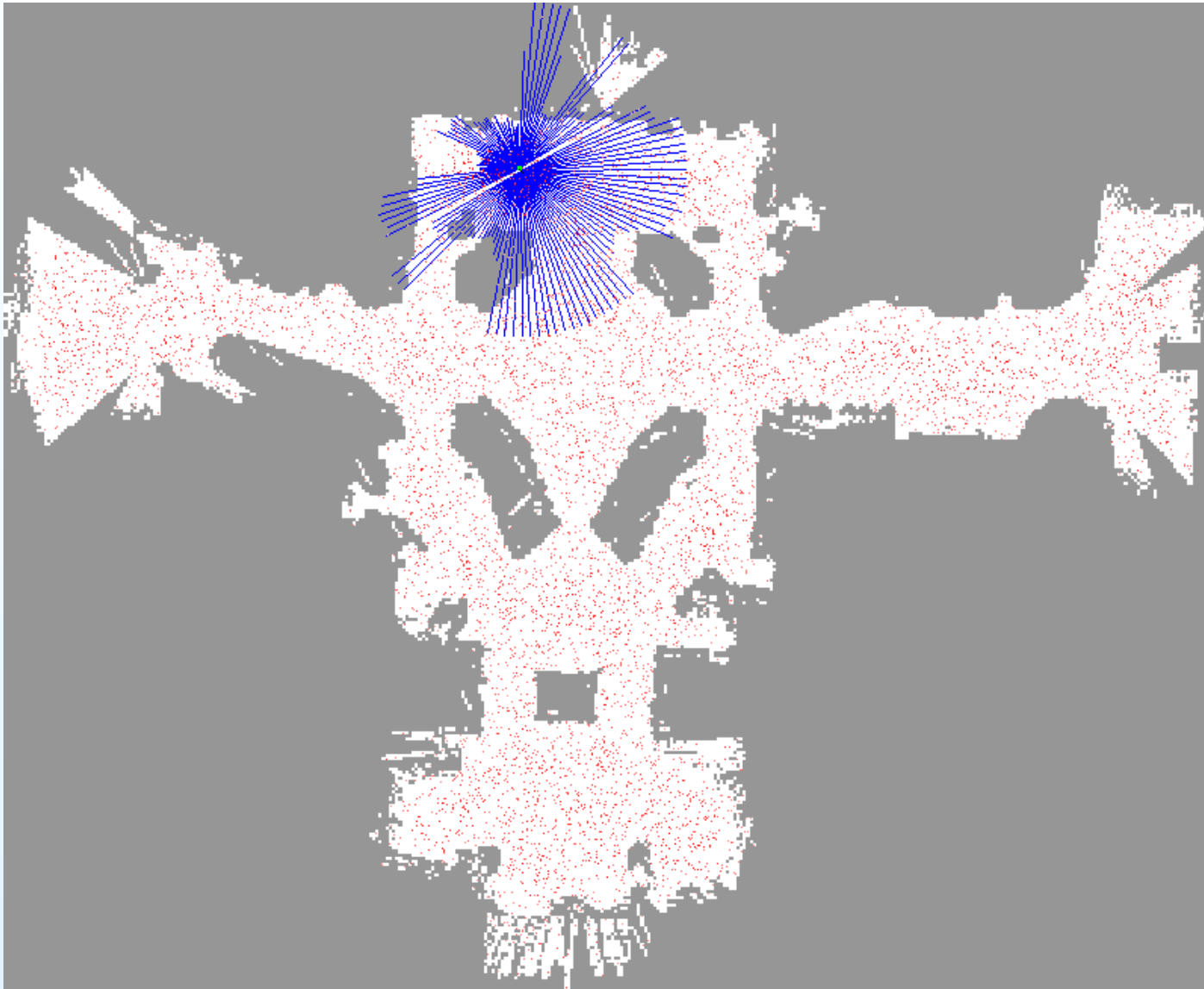
1

<sup>1</sup>Taken from Probabilistic Robotics 2005

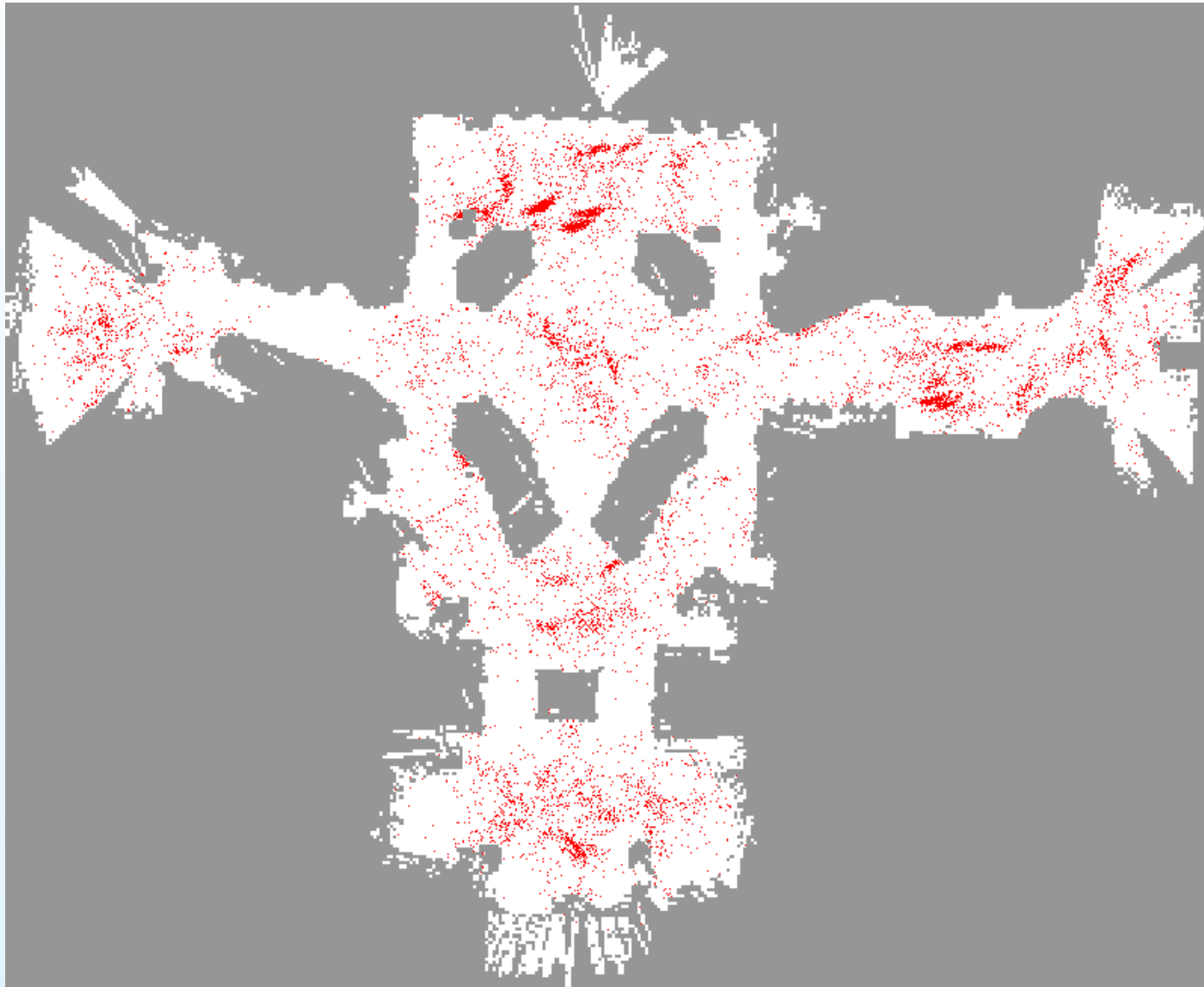
# Robot Localization Application



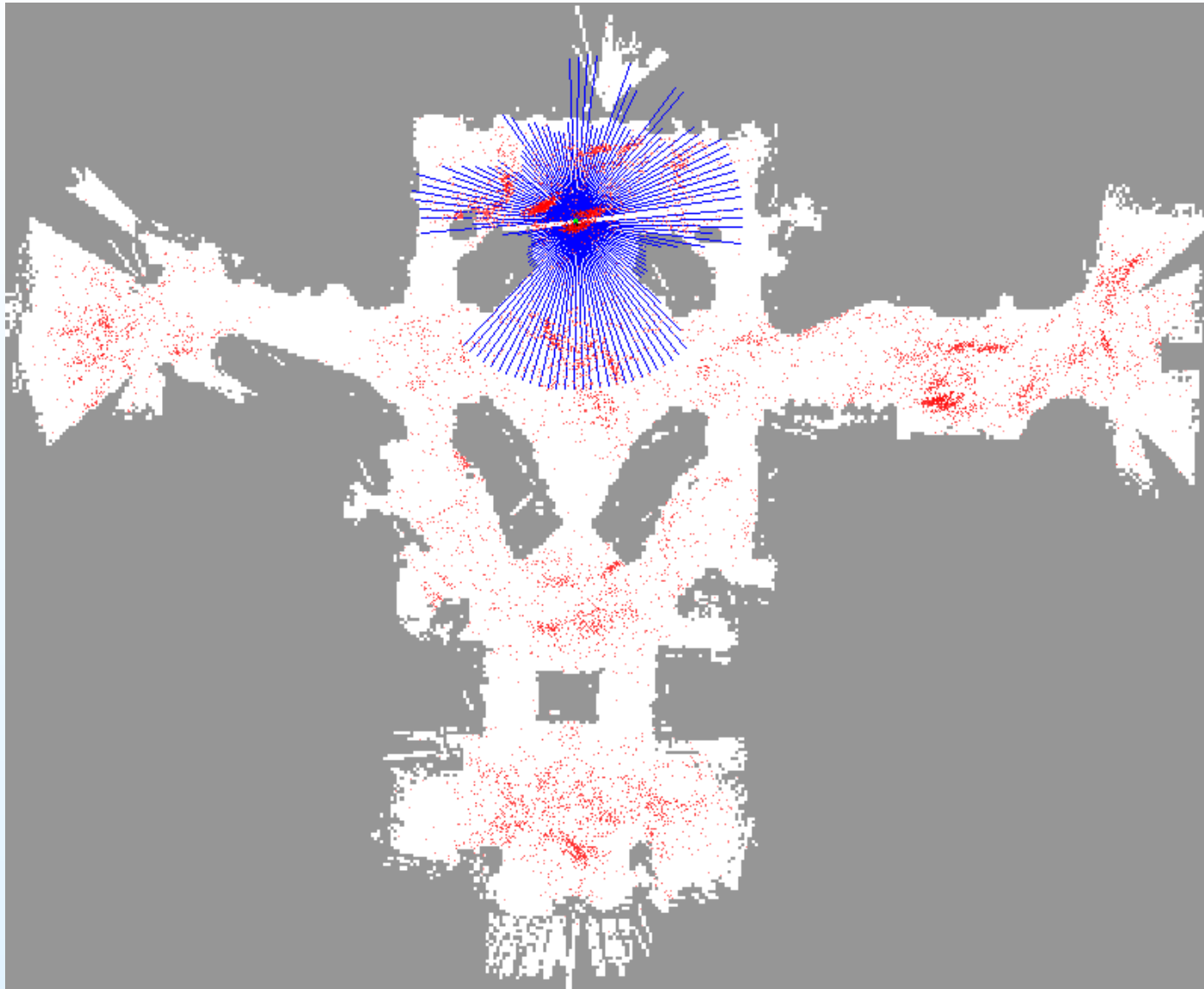
# Robot Localization Application



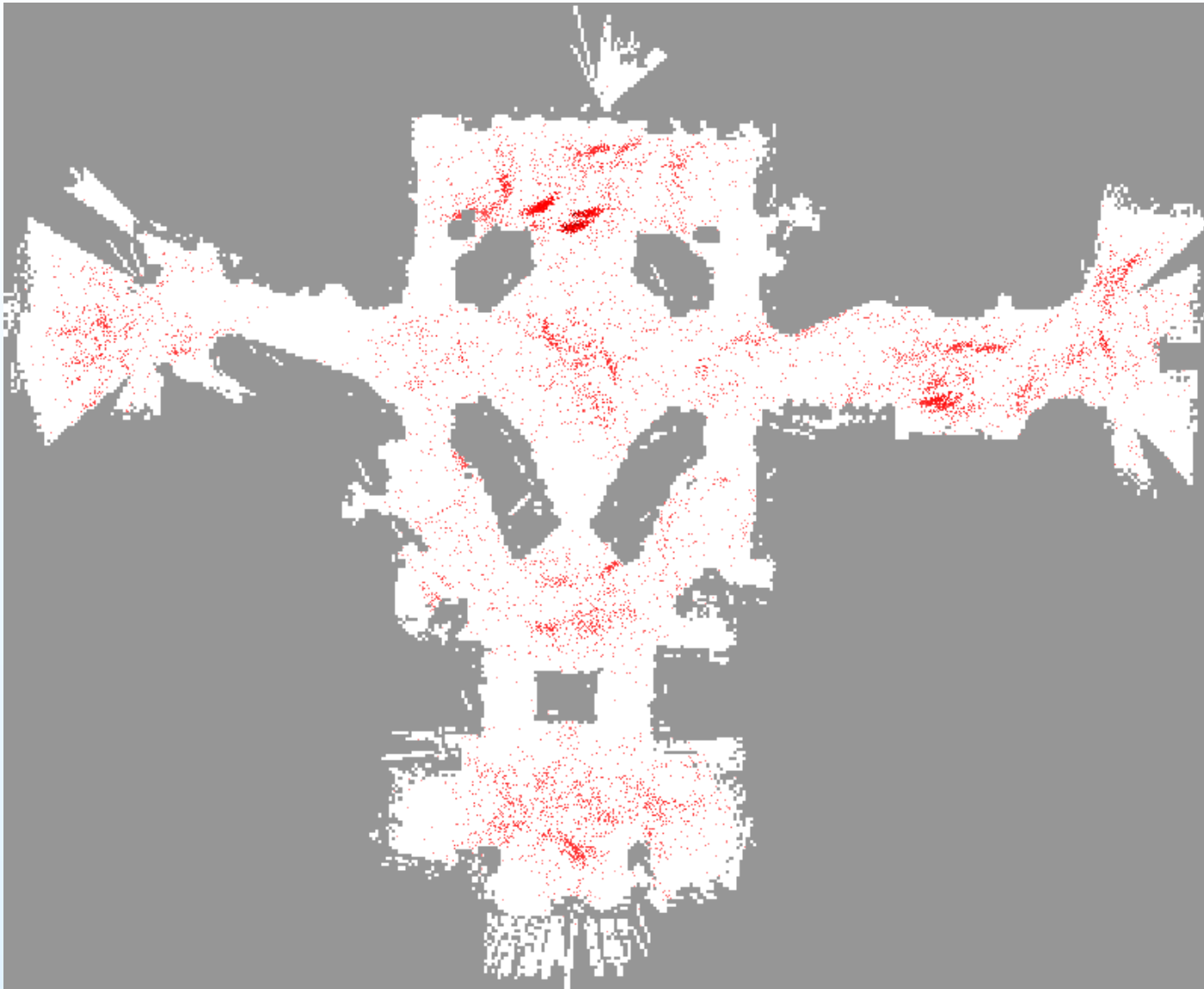
# Robot Localization Application



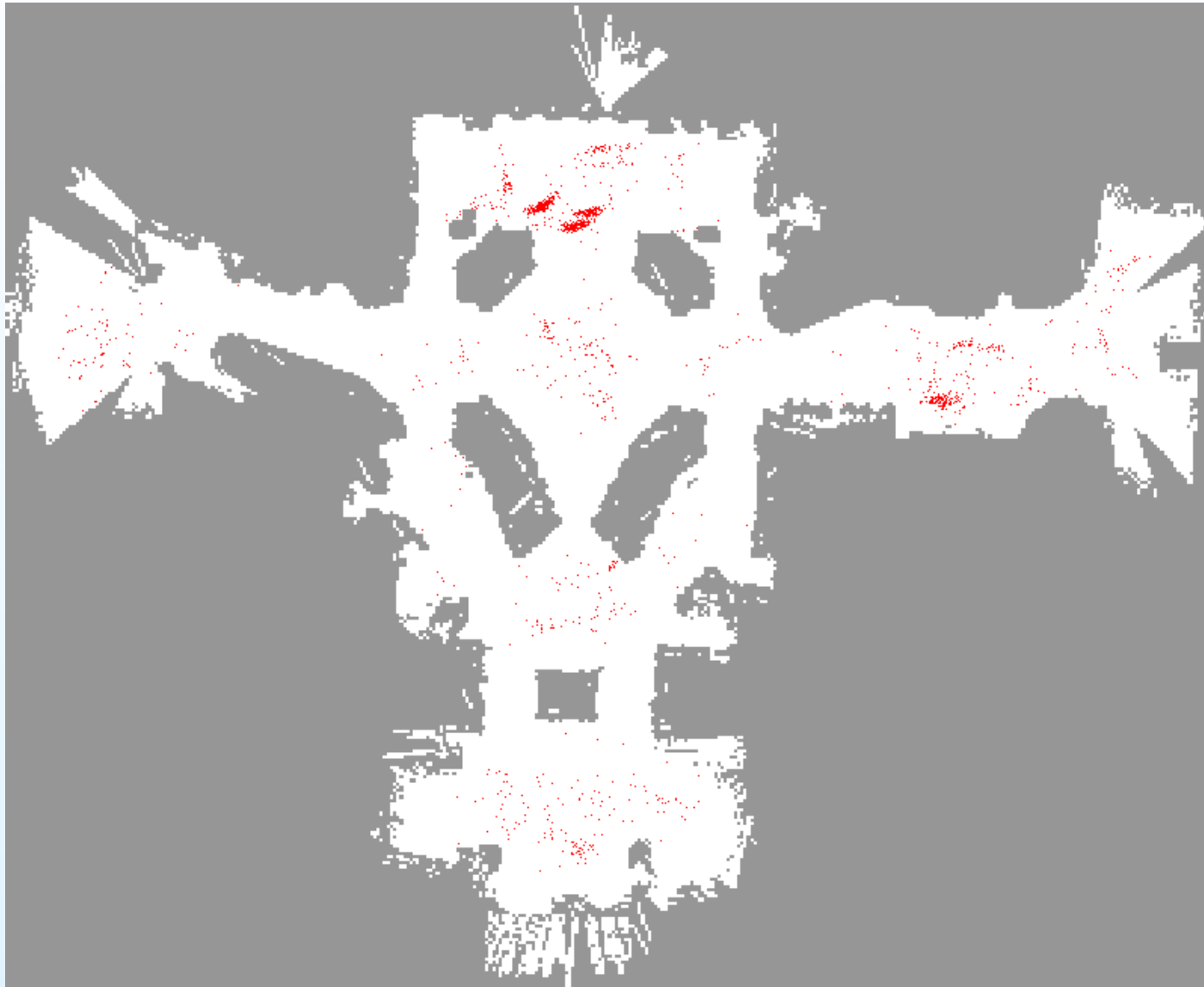
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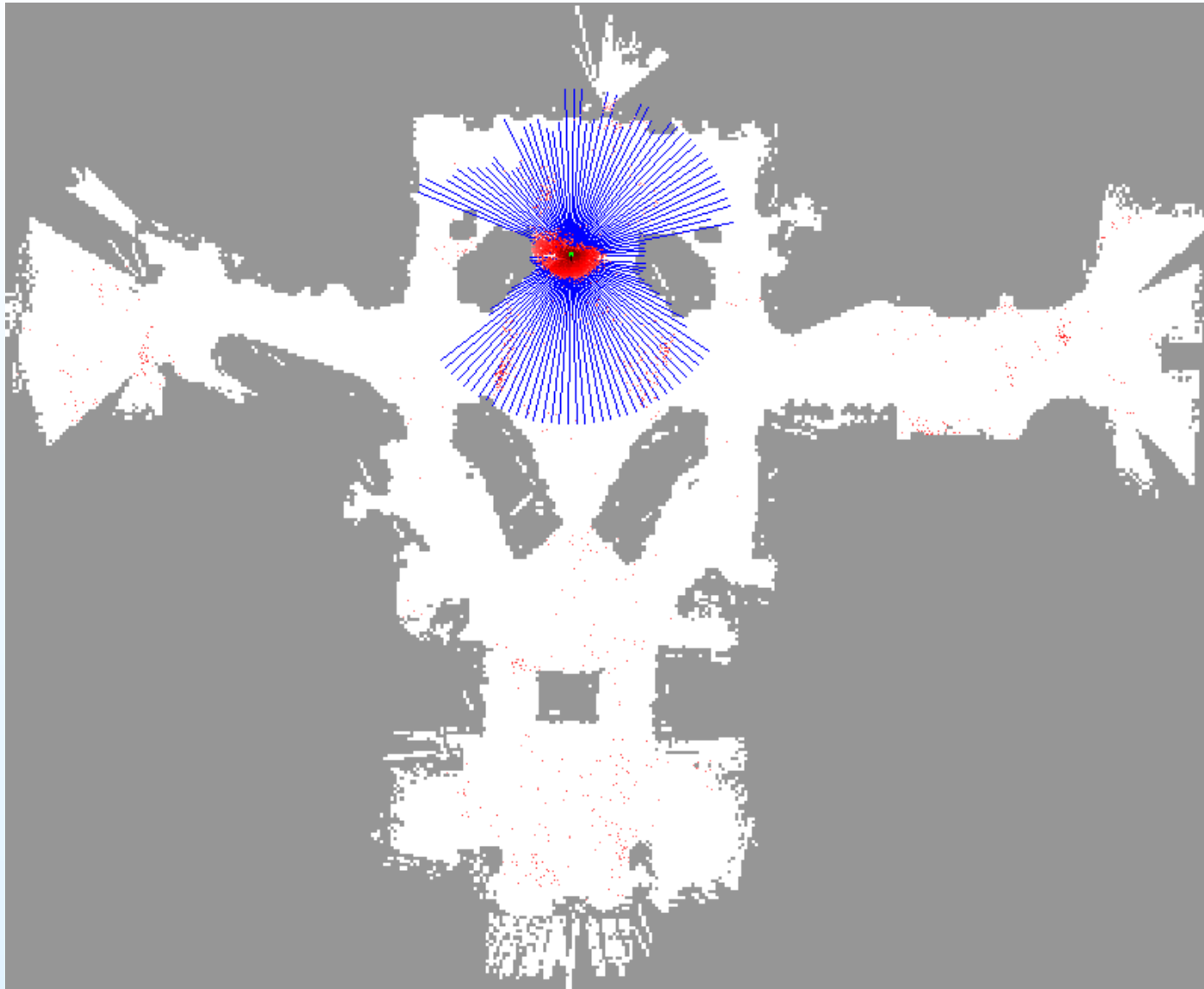




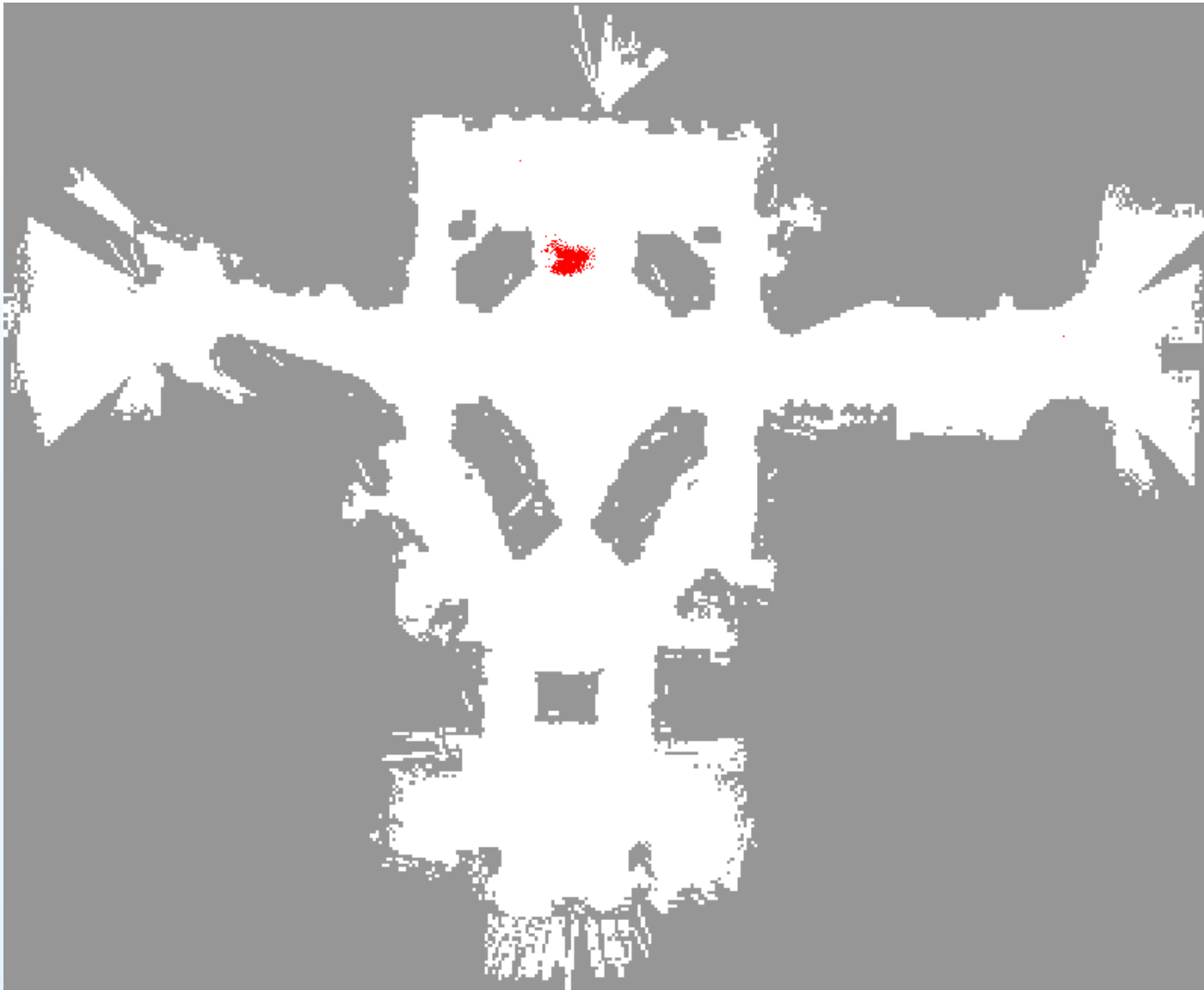
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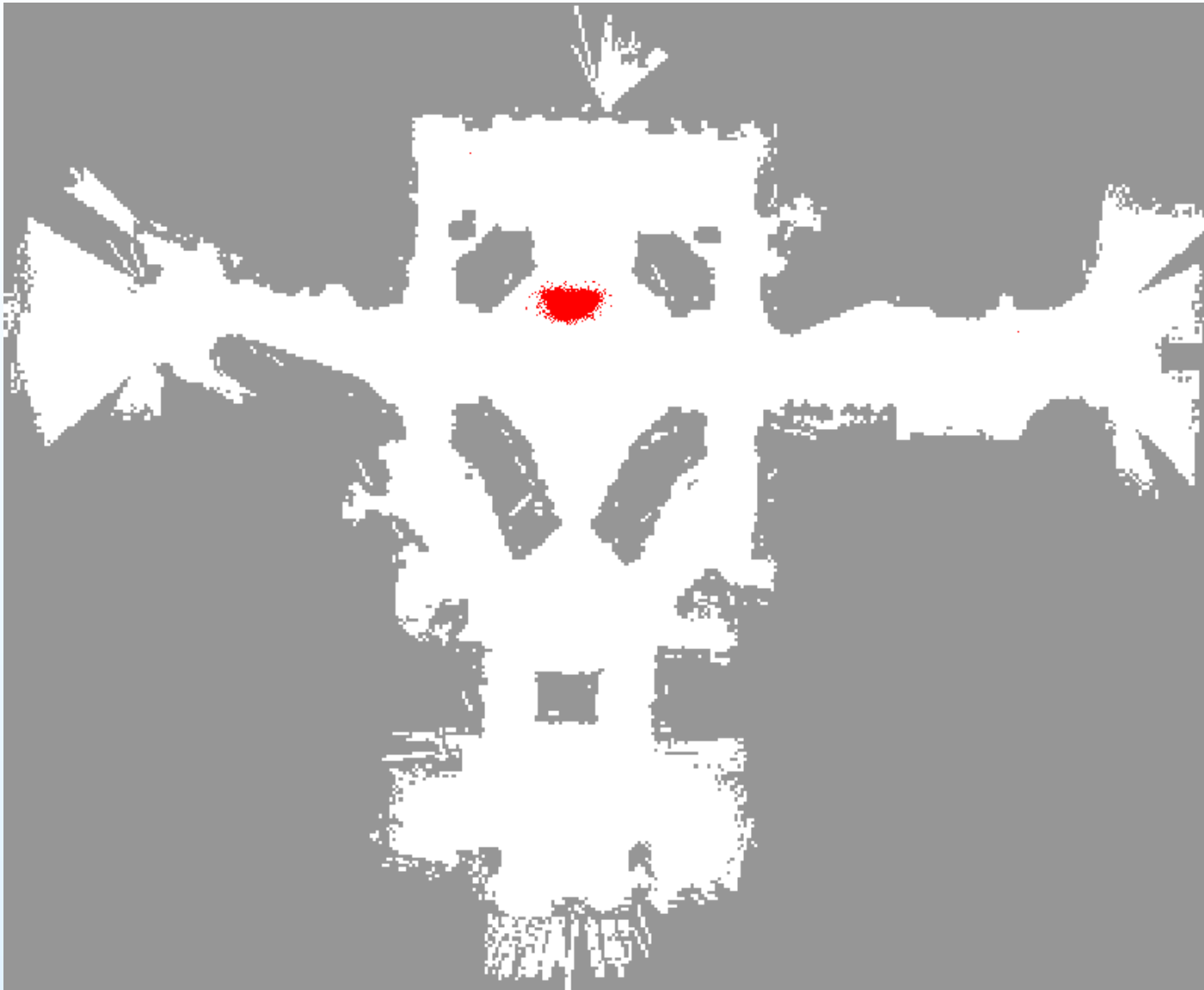
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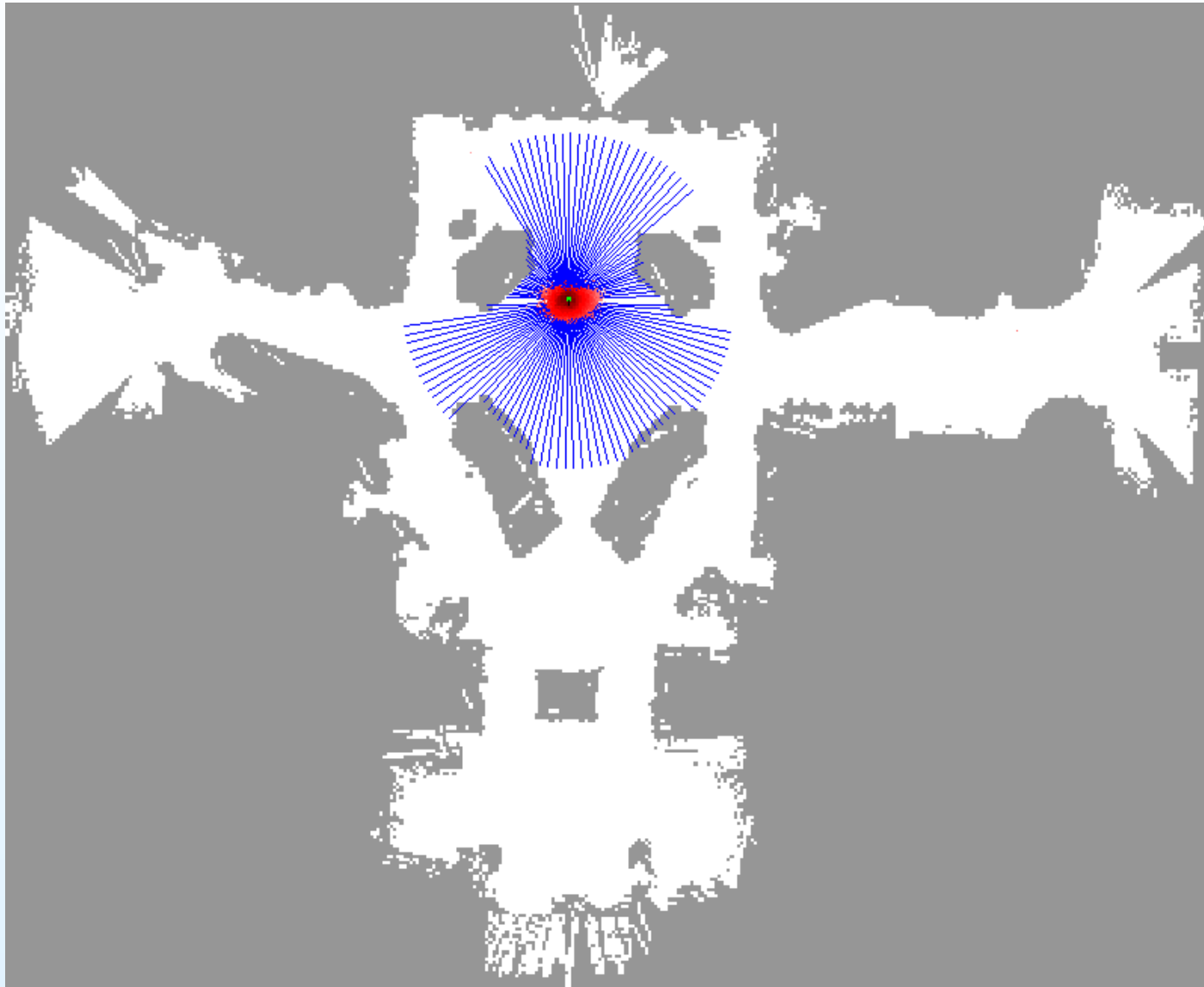
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# Robot Localization Application



# Robot Localization Application



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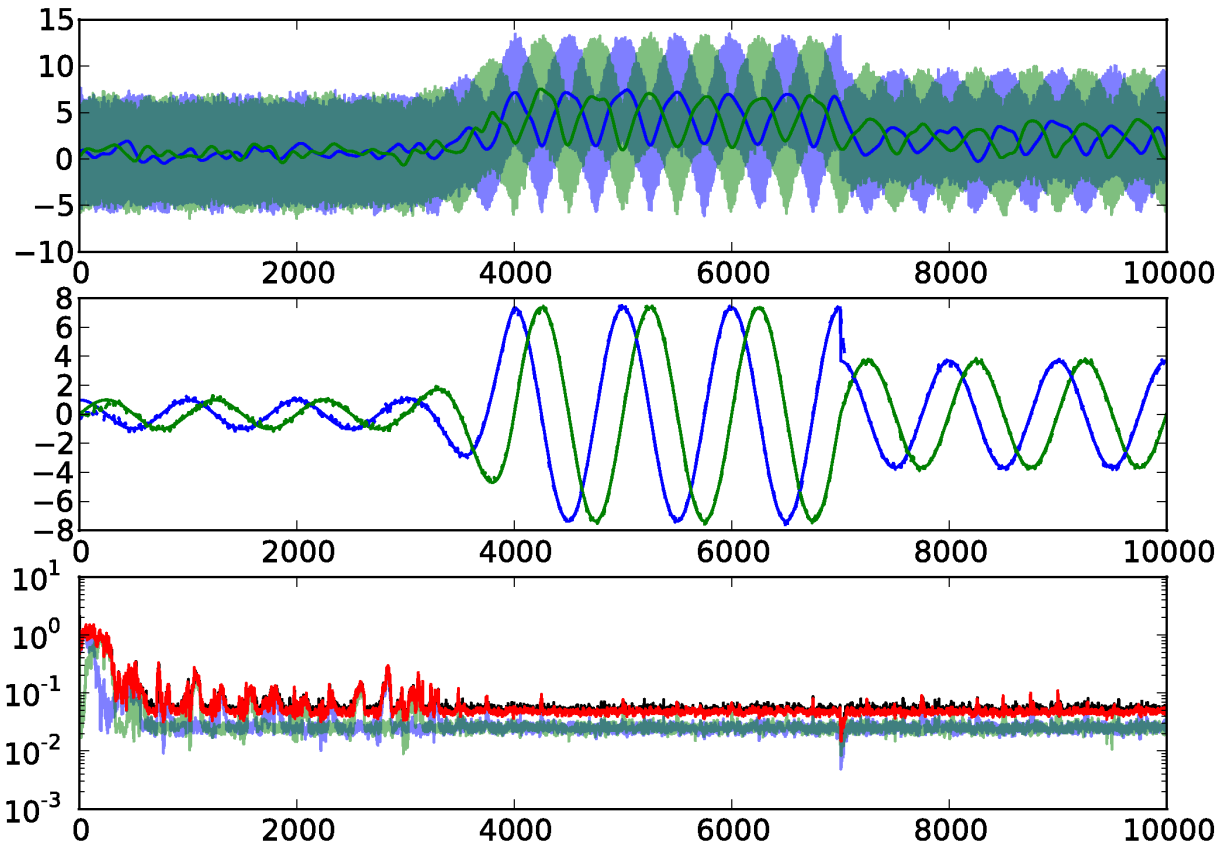
- Absolute Value  
observation  $n = 1000$
- Square Value  
observation  $n = 500$
- Square Value  
observation  $n = 500$

Project

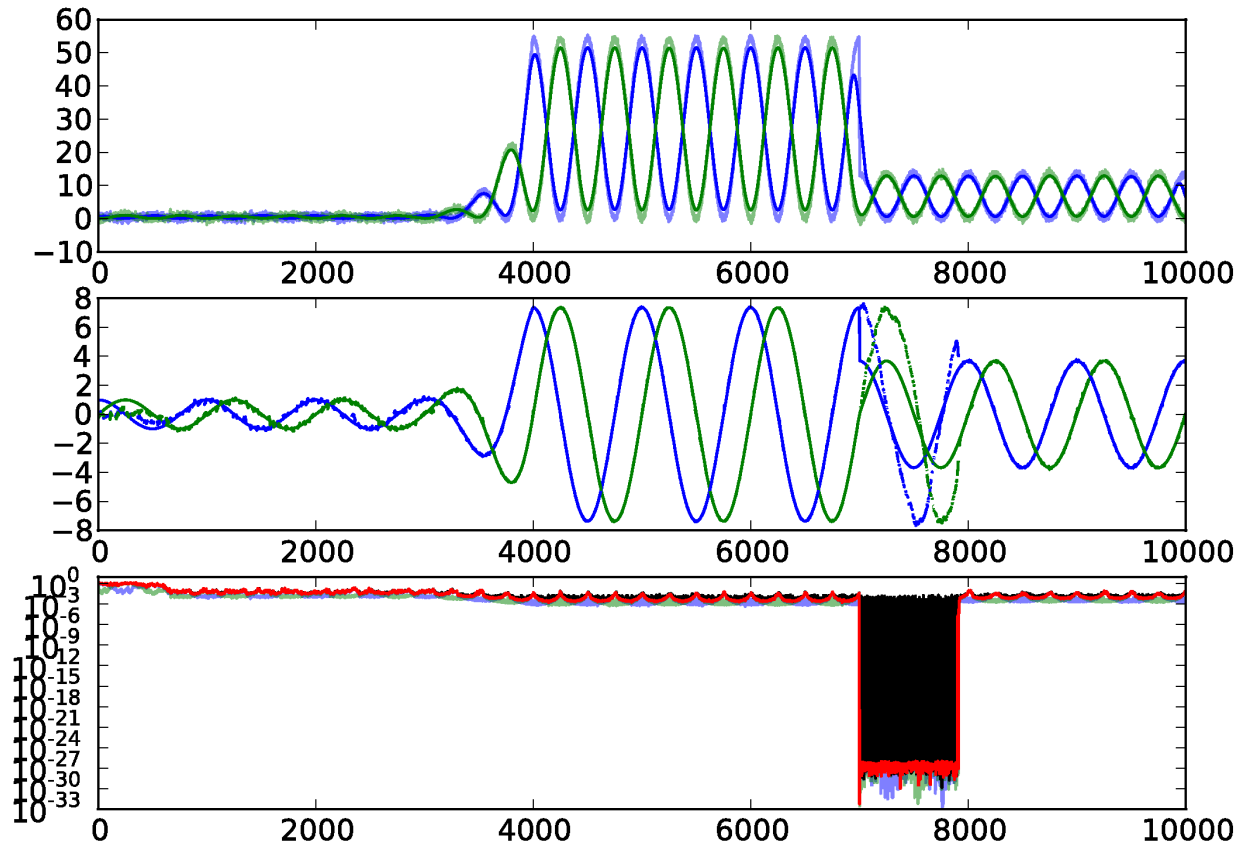
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# Simple Example

# Absolute Value observation $n = 1000$

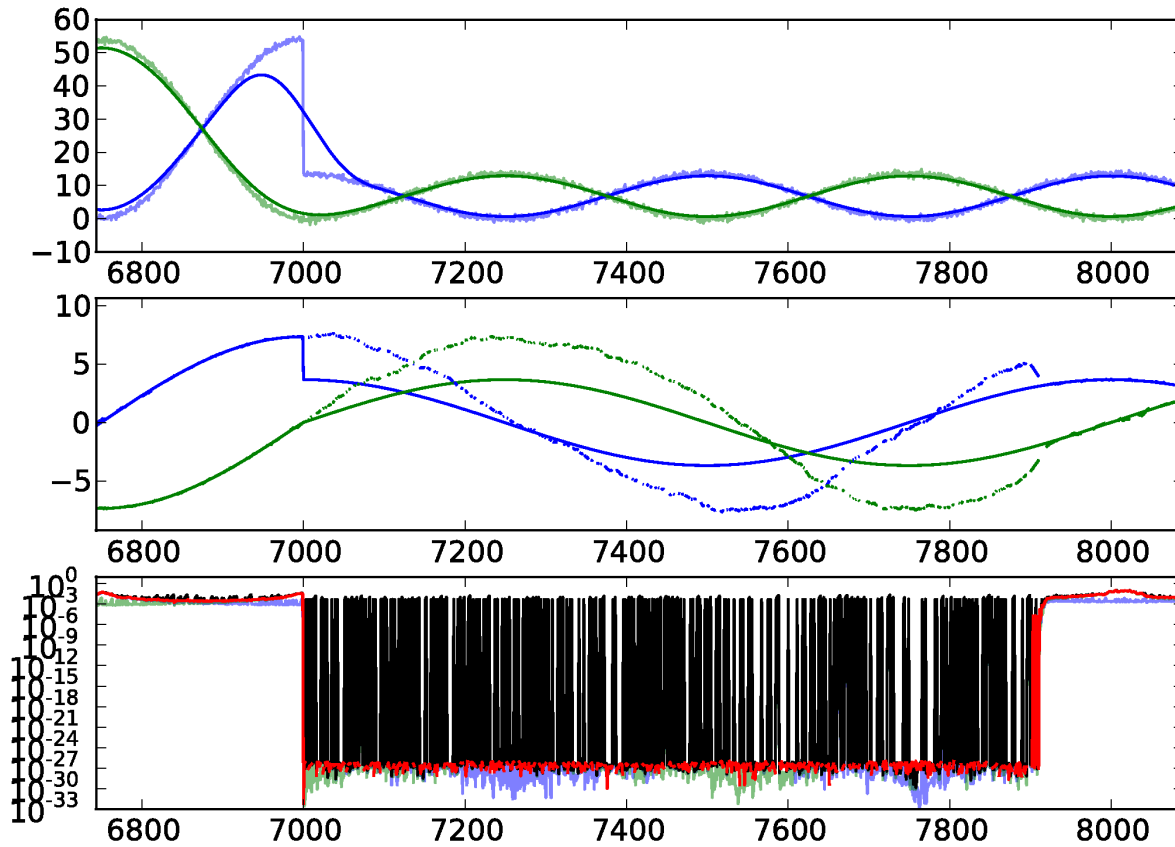


# Square Value observation $n = 500$





# Square Value observation $n = 500$



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## Goal of the project

- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems

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## Goal of the project

- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems
  - Bayesian Filtering libraries exist

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## Goal of the project

- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems
  - Bayesian Filtering libraries exist
  - I didn't find any for distributed memory systems.

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- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems
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    - Maybe for a good reason...

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## Goal of the project

- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems
  - Bayesian Filtering libraries exist
  - I didn't find any for distributed memory systems.
    - Maybe for a good reason...
- Create a framework general enough so that different parameters of the particle filter can be tested
  - plugging in different sampling techniques, noise parameters, etc.

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  - benchmark computational performance and estimation performance



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- Implement a practical parallel particle filter for distributed memory systems
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- Create a framework general enough so that different parameters of the particle filter can be tested
  - plugging in different sampling techniques, noise parameters, etc.
  - benchmark computational performance and estimation performance
- Provide a use case of Julia. Hopefully create an elegant implementation that might attract others to the platform

# Current State of the Project

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- Implementation still pending. I'm still learning Julia.

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- Implementation still pending. I'm still learning Julia.
- SIMD approach.
  - Each compute node starts with a balanced set of particles.
  - The state propagation and observation functions happen independently on each machine.
  - After an independent resampling step, particles will likely be unbalanced.

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    - Balancing between the two largest offenders

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    - Balancing between the two largest offenders
- DArray primitives implemented
  - argmin, argmax, cumsum

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- DArray primitives implemented
  - argmin, argmax, cumsum
- Other primitives
  - binary search, independent sampling, redistribution

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# Future Work

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- Consider other rebalancing approaches
  - solving a minimum-cost graph flow problem to rebalance particles



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## Future Work

- Consider other rebalancing approaches
  - solving a minimum-cost graph flow problem to rebalance particles
- Think about memory allocation – minimize memory allocation per iteration.

## Future Work

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- Consider other rebalancing approaches
  - solving a minimum-cost graph flow problem to rebalance particles
- Think about memory allocation – minimize memory allocation per iteration.
- Think differently about parallelism. I'm stuck in the MPI mentality – probably not exploiting DArrays enough.

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