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**Thomas Belsky\***, 326 Neville Hall, Orono, ME 04469. *Stalking methods for ensemble Kalman filter covariance inflation.*

The artificial inflation of ensembles is a common technique in ensemble data assimilation whereby the ensemble variance is increased in order to prevent deviation of the ensemble from the truth. Various techniques for inflating ensembles exist in the literature. This talk will discuss shadowing and stalking methods and our implementation of stalking techniques as a method of ensemble inflation. We will also offer results from a low order chaotic system supporting the use of stalking methods. (Received September 20, 2016)