

space $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 = [-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$ as

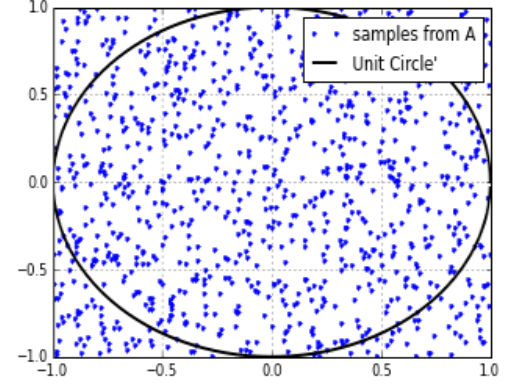
$$\begin{aligned} A &= |\Pi_{i=1}^n \arg \max_{x \in \Omega} (x[i]) - \arg \min_{x \in \Omega} (x[i])| \\ &= (1 - (-1)) \times (1 - (-1)) = 4 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the probabilistic problem we must solve is $4 \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(\vec{x}_i)$ for N samples of \vec{x} . With a pseudo-random number generator and a given N , this is no more than a problem of summing a map of N generated numbers.

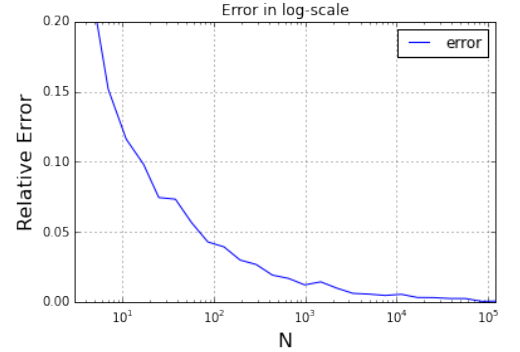
We calculate the error in our approximation using the Central Limit Theorem [4]. Let I denote the true integral I and $S_n = A \sum_{i=1}^N f(\vec{x}_i) = \sum_{i=1}^N A f(\vec{x}_i)$. Note that σ , the standard deviation of the integral, is a constant whose value won't vary. With respect to how many standard deviations it is from the true value [3, p.77], $\sigma \times \epsilon$, $\epsilon \in \mathbb{Q}$ and positive, the error for the approximation I_n can be calculated probabilistically:

$$\begin{aligned} P(|\frac{S_n - N\mu}{\sqrt{N\sigma^2}}| \leq \epsilon) \\ &= P(|\frac{(\frac{N}{A} \times I_n) - N(I)}{N}| \leq \frac{\epsilon \times \sigma}{\sqrt{N}}) \\ &= P(|I_n - I| \leq \frac{\epsilon \times \sigma}{\sqrt{N}}) \end{aligned}$$

We can thus say that, for a certain number of standard deviations from the true integral, the estimate I_n converges within it with a probability of $P(\chi \leq \epsilon)$. Typically, in applications, σ is taken to just be 1 [5, p.398], but should still be considered an important factor due to the probabilistic nature of the Monte Carlo Method. Similarly, for error-analysis, we say that the Monte Carlo Integration method converges to an error inversely-proportional to the square-root of N , such that the error $\approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$, which lacks the σ to signify how the error is assumed to scale with the variability of the problem.



(A) A graphical representation of the integration process for a sample of 100 points. The ratio of points inside the circle and points outside is approximately π



(B) How the error of the approximation decreases as N increases

FIGURE 1. Monte Carlo Integration for a pseudo-random number generator, integrating the unit circle