



Survey of Scientific Computing (SciComp 301)

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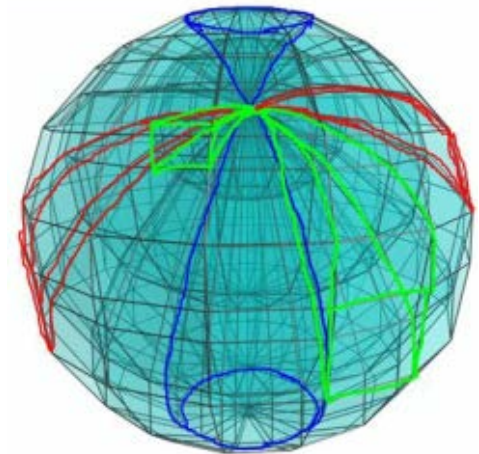
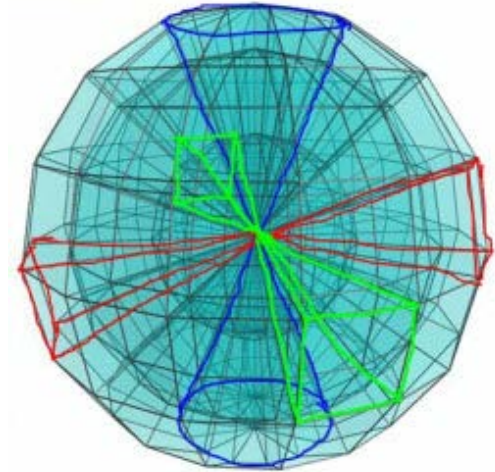


```
1 using System;
2 using System.Collections.Generic;
3 using System.ComponentModel;
4 using System.Data;
5 using System.Drawing;
6 using System.Linq;
7 using System.Text;
8 using System.Windows.Forms;
9
10 namespace SimpleEvents
11 {
12     public partial class Form1 : Form
13     {
14         Person person = new Person();
15
16         public Form1()
17         {
18             InitializeComponent();
19             person.FirstName = "Christian";
20             person.LastName = "Pano";
21         }
22
23         private void button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
24         {
25             person.MainColor = textBox1.Text;
26         }
27     }
28 }
```

Session 20
Monte Carlo Method

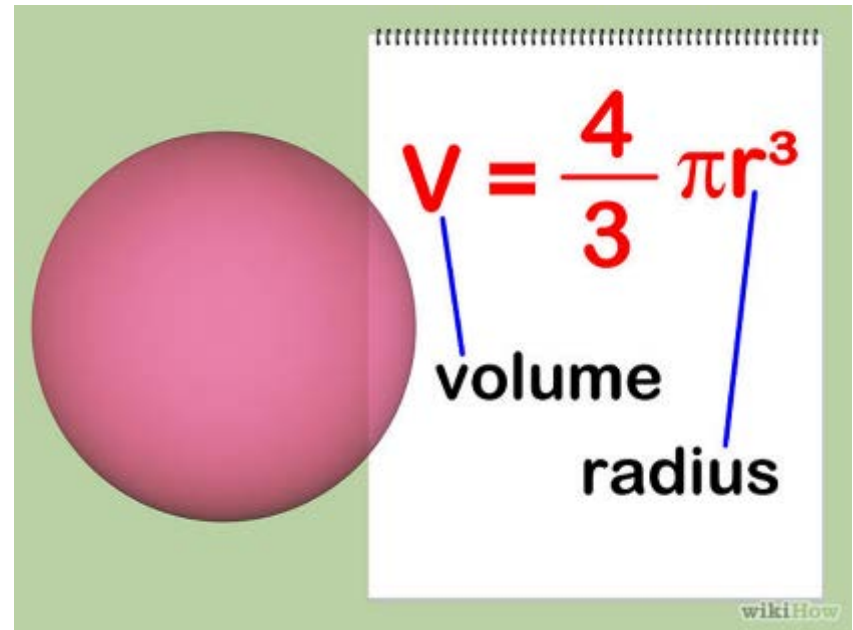
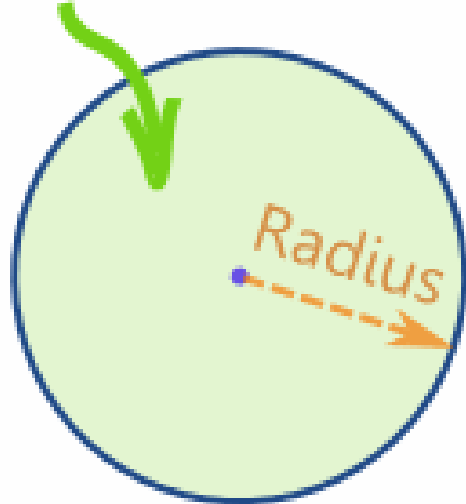
An *Interesting* Question

- What is the **volume** of a **four-dimensional unit** hypersphere?
 - What does a 4D sphere “look” like?
 - What is a “unit” sphere?
 - Where do I even start?
- Break down complex questions into simpler steps:
 - How can we calculate the area of a 2D circle?
 - How can we calculate the volume of a 3D sphere?
 - How do we move from 3D to 4D?

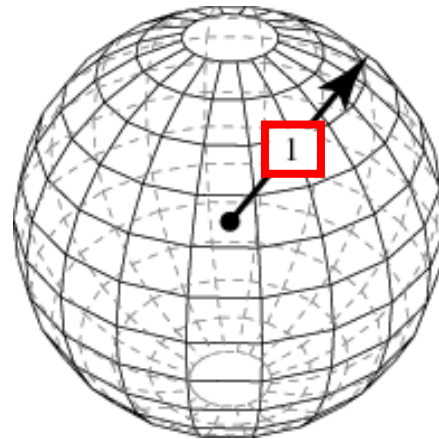
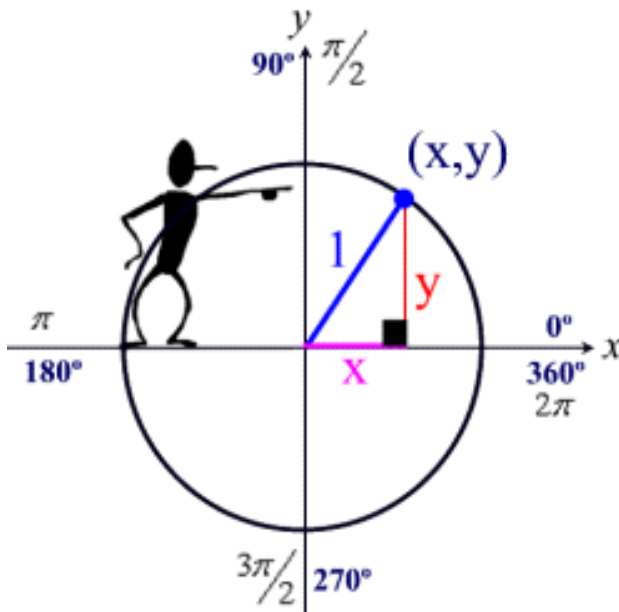


Area and Volume

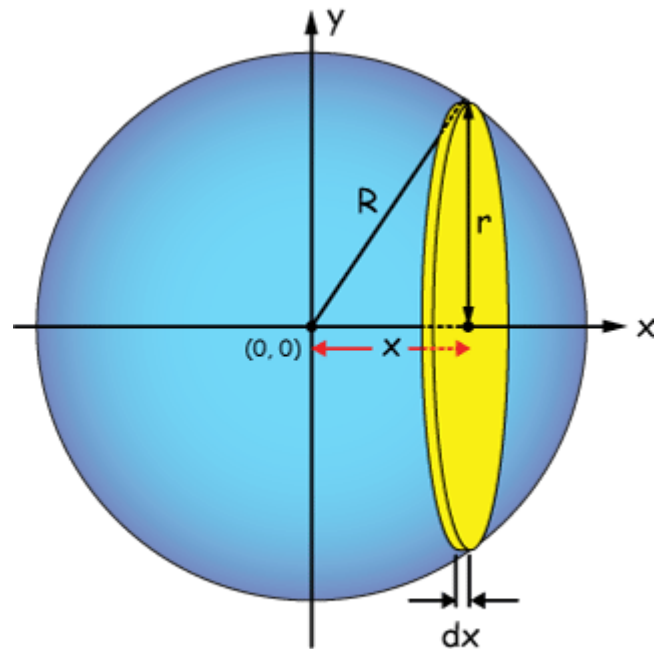
$$\text{Area} = \pi \times \text{radius}^2$$



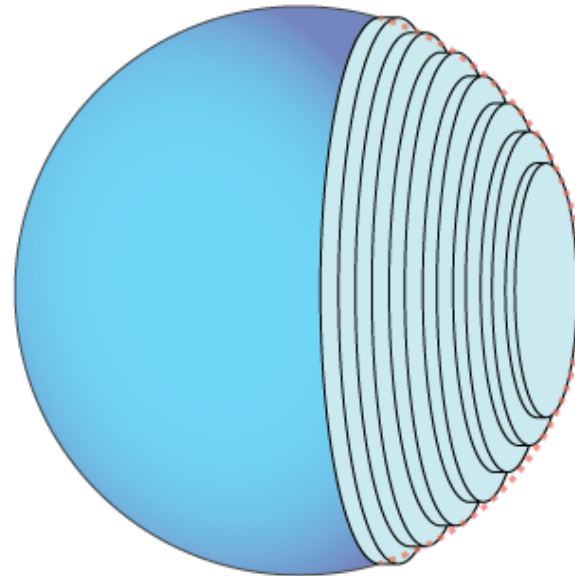
A **Unit** Circle and **Unit** Sphere



2-D Area \rightarrow 3-D Volume

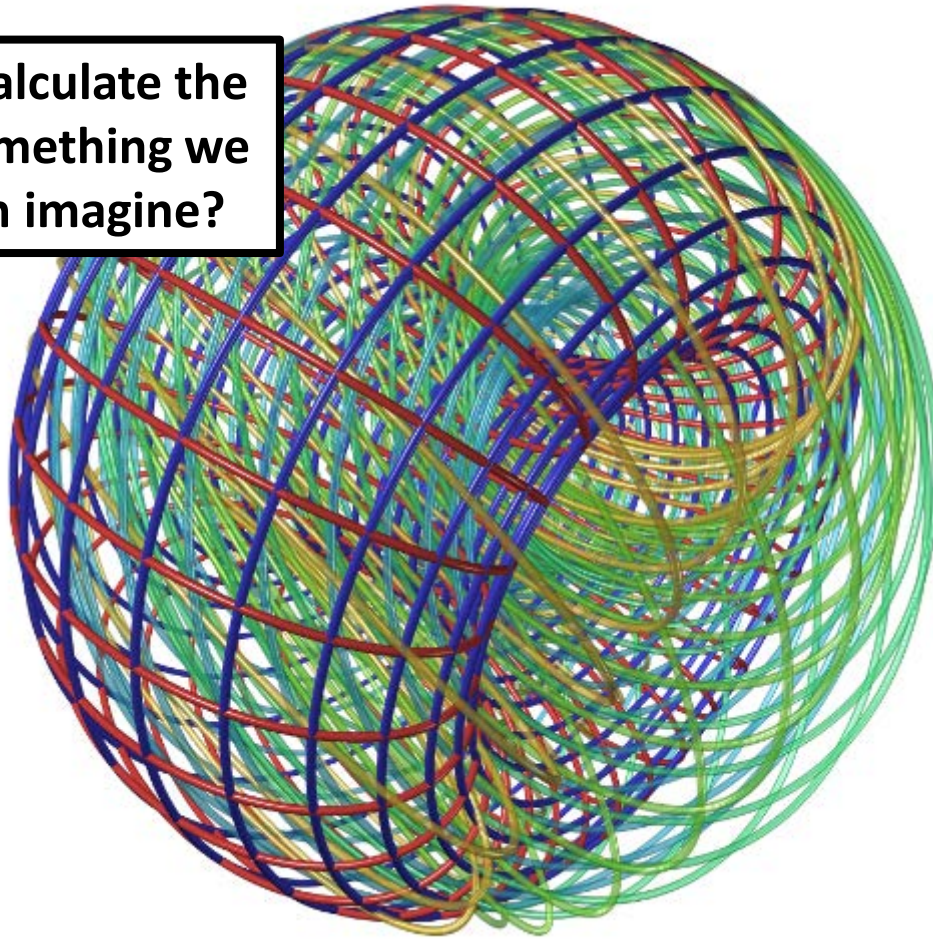


Volume of the disk:
 $\pi r^2 \cdot dx = \pi(R^2 - x^2) \cdot dx$

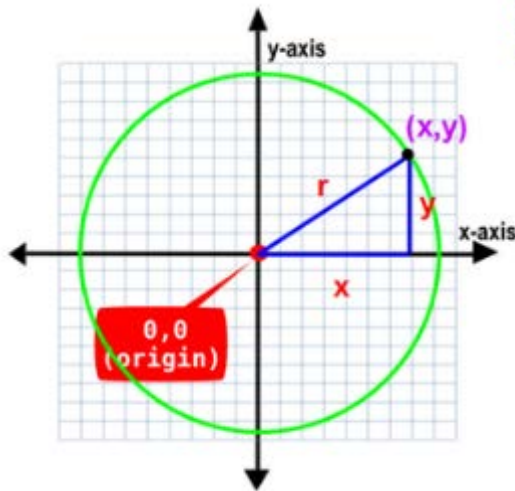
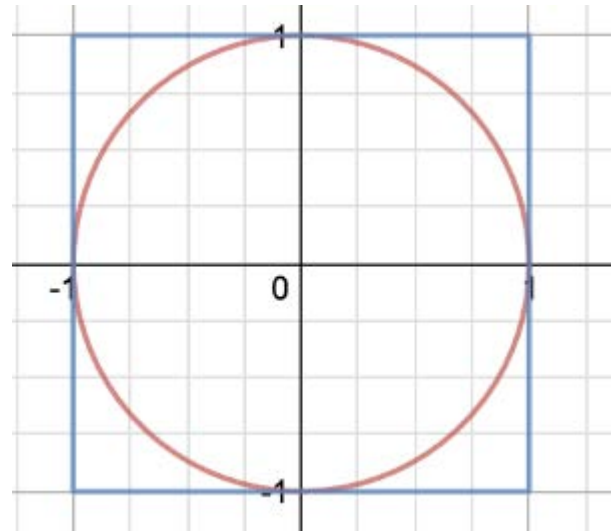
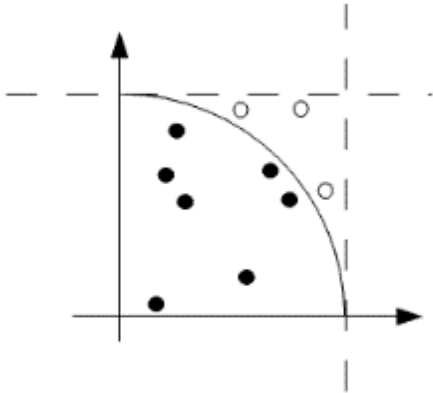


A 4-D Hypersphere

How do we calculate the volume of something we can not even imagine?



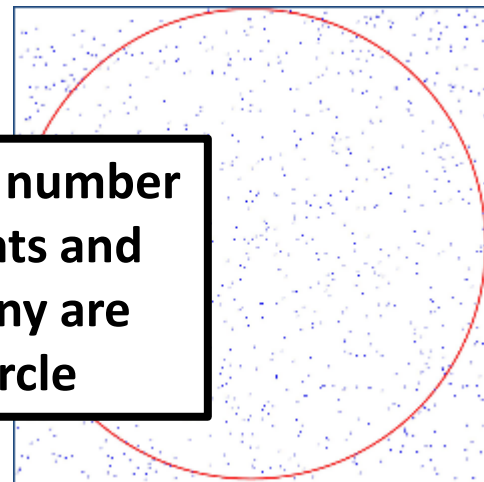
Area as a “Ratio” of **Inside** vs. **Total** Dots



The equation of a circle centered at the origin

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

Generate a large number of random points and count how many are inside the circle



The Monte Carlo Method

Monte Carlo approximation



Ulam

1940's
→ Los
Alamos



Fermi

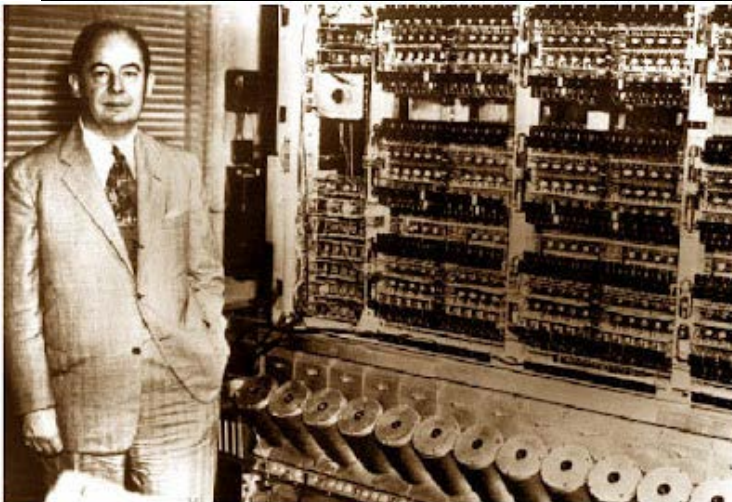


Von Neumann

1930's



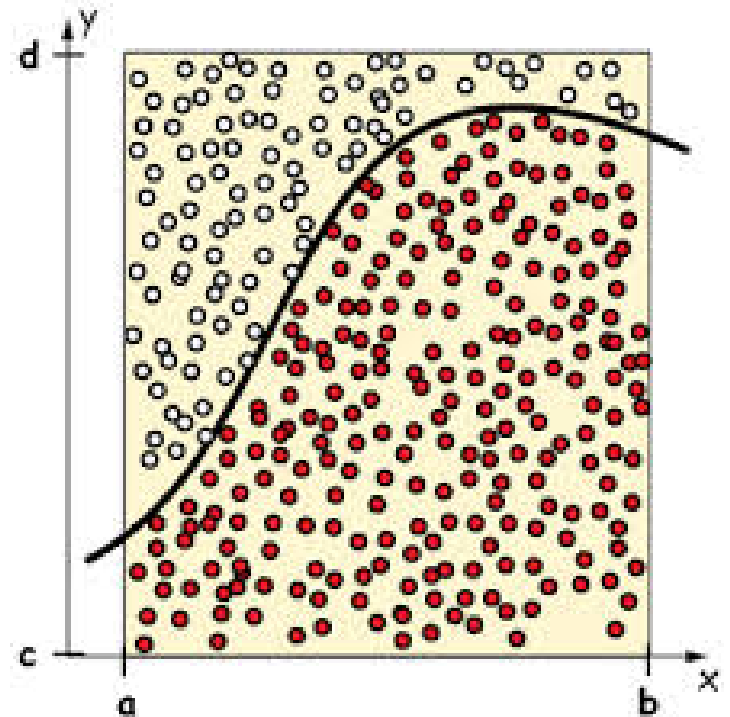
Monaco



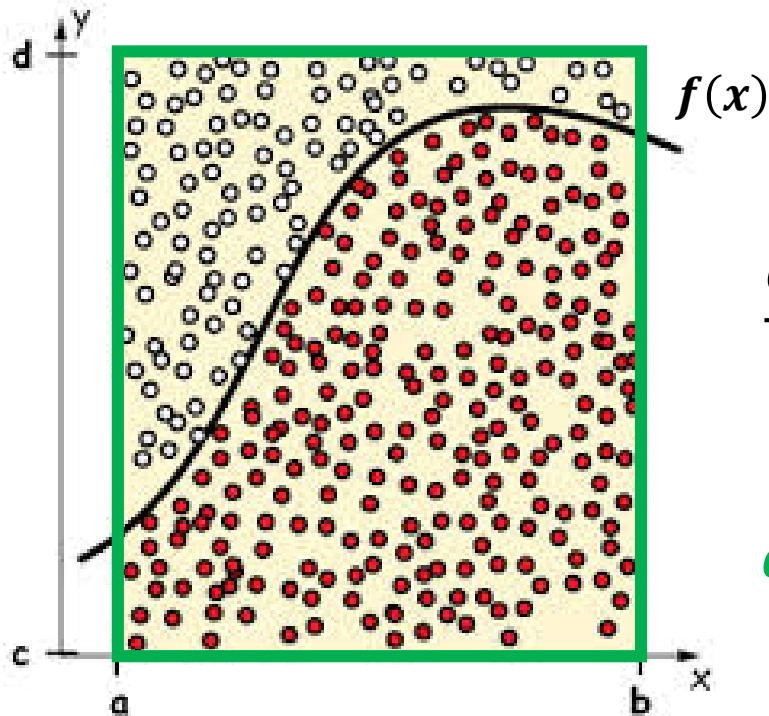
Johnny von Neumann [1903-1957] alongside the Maniac computer at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton.

The Monte Carlo Method

- With Monte Carlo, we **randomly sample** points within a bounded space and count how many are below the curve
- The ratio of **inside** dots (those under the curve) vs. **total** dots leads to an estimate of the *integral*
- Monte Carlo is **non-deterministic** when a random number generator is used to create the sample points



The Monte Carlo Method



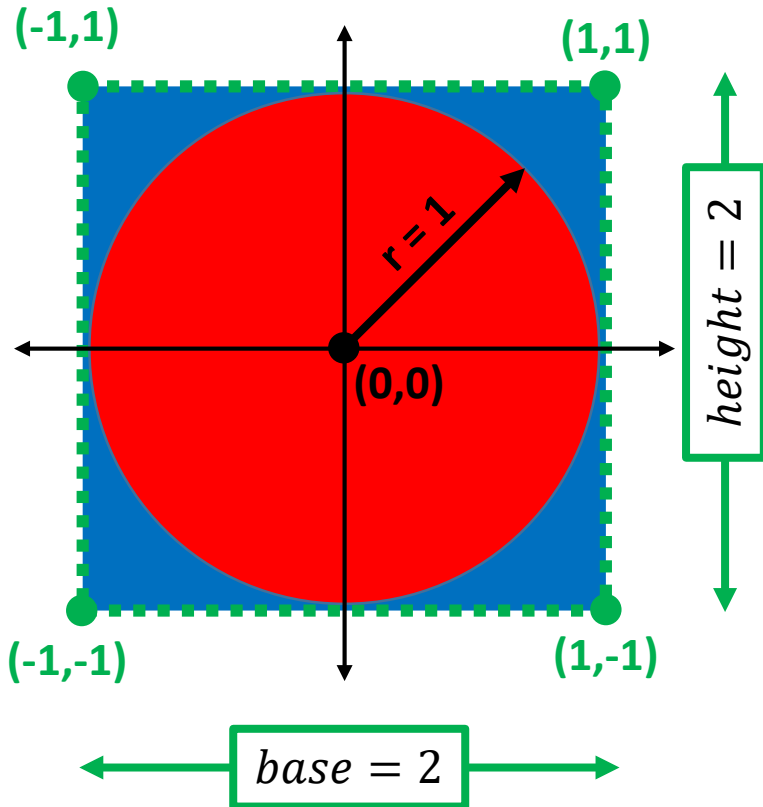
We don't know
this area

$$\frac{\text{dots}_{\text{inside}}}{\text{dots}_{\text{total}}} = \frac{\text{area}_{\text{curve}}}{\text{area}_{\text{sample}}}$$

$$\text{area}_{\text{sample}} = (b - a) \times f(b)$$

$$\text{area}_{\text{curve}} = \text{area}_{\text{sample}} \times \frac{\text{dots}_{\text{inside}}}{\text{dots}_{\text{total}}}$$

The Monte Carlo Method



We don't know
this area

$$\frac{dots_{inside}}{dots_{total}} = \frac{area_{circle}}{area_{sample}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} area_{sample} &= base \times height \\ &= 2 \times 2 \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$area_{circle} = 4 \times \frac{dots_{inside}}{dots_{total}}$$

2-D Area as a “Ratio” of Dots

Open Lab 1

```
void draw(SimpleScreen &ss)
{
    ss.DrawAxes();
    ss.DrawCircle(0, 0, 1, "green", 2);

    seed_seq seed{2017};
    default_random_engine generator{seed};
    uniform_real_distribution<double> distribution{-1, 1};

    const int iterations = 100000;
    int count{};

    ss.LockDisplay();

    for (int i{}; i < iterations; ++i)
    {
        double x = distribution(generator);
        double y = distribution(generator);

        if (x * x + y * y <= 1.0)
        {
            ss.DrawPoint(x, y, "red");
            count++;
        }
        else
            ss.DrawPoint(x, y, "blue");
    }

    ss.UnlockDisplay();

    double area = (double)count / iterations * 4.0;
    double err = (M_PI - area) / M_PI * 100;

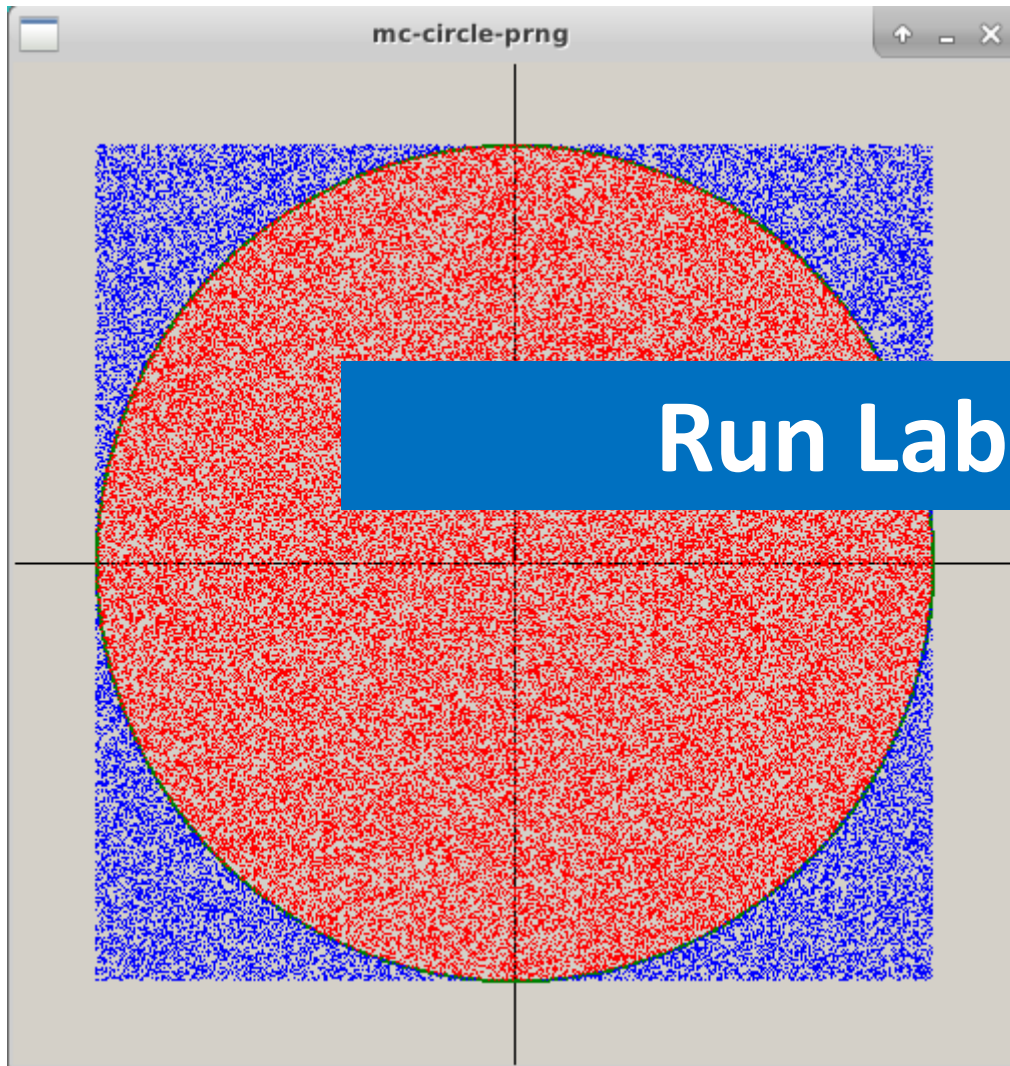
    cout << "2D Circle Area PRNG" << endl
         << "Iterations = " << iterations << endl
         << "Est. Area = " << area << endl
         << "Act. Area = " << M_PI << endl
         << "Abs. % Err = " << abs(err) << endl;
}
```

$$\frac{dots_{inside}}{dots_{total}} = \frac{area_{circle}}{area_{square}}$$

$$area_{square} = 2 \times 2 = 4$$

$$area_{circle} = \frac{count}{iterations} \times 4$$

2-D Area as a “Ratio” of Dots

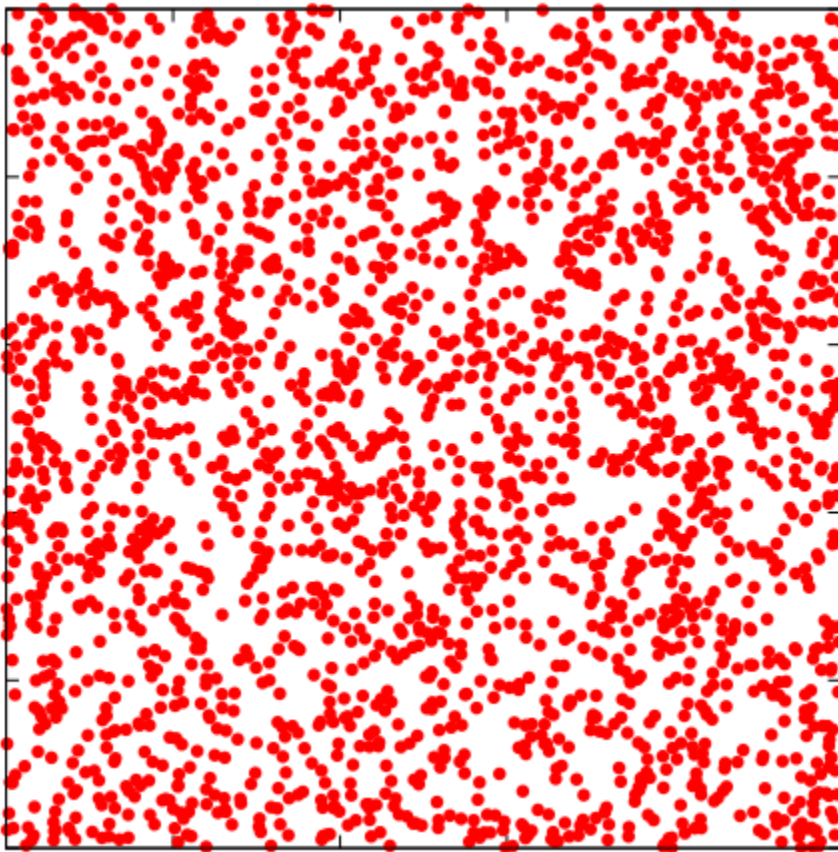


```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs He
2D Circle Area PRNG
Iterations = 100,000
Est. Area = 3.13528
Act. Area = 3.14159
Abs. % Err = 0.200938
```

Run Lab 1

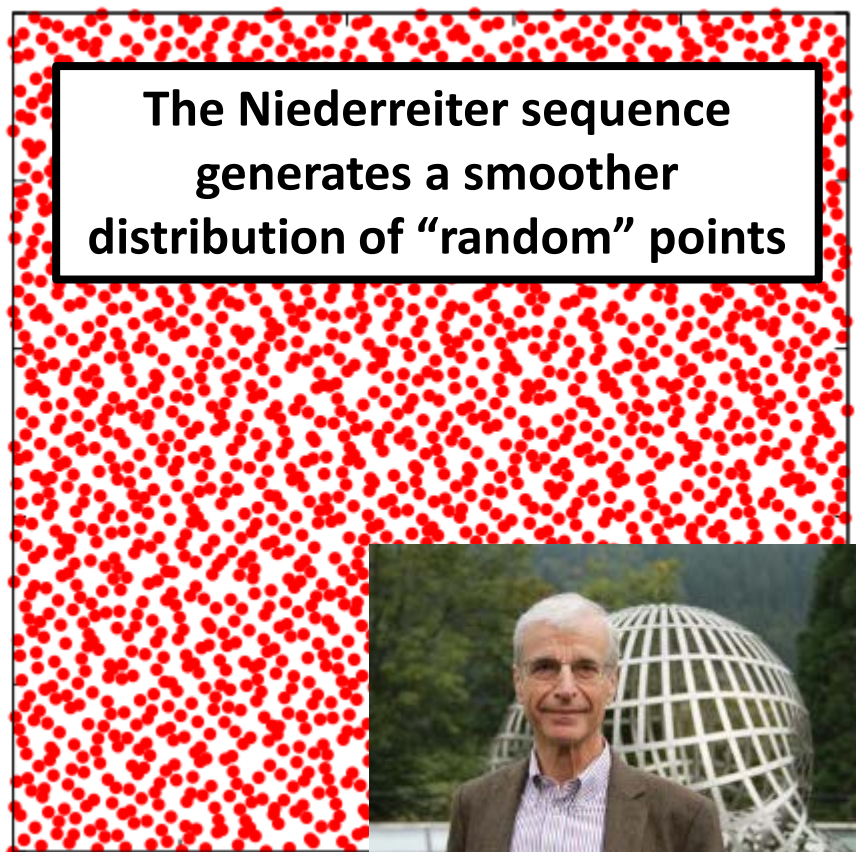
Comparing “Random” Number Generators

Standard PRNG

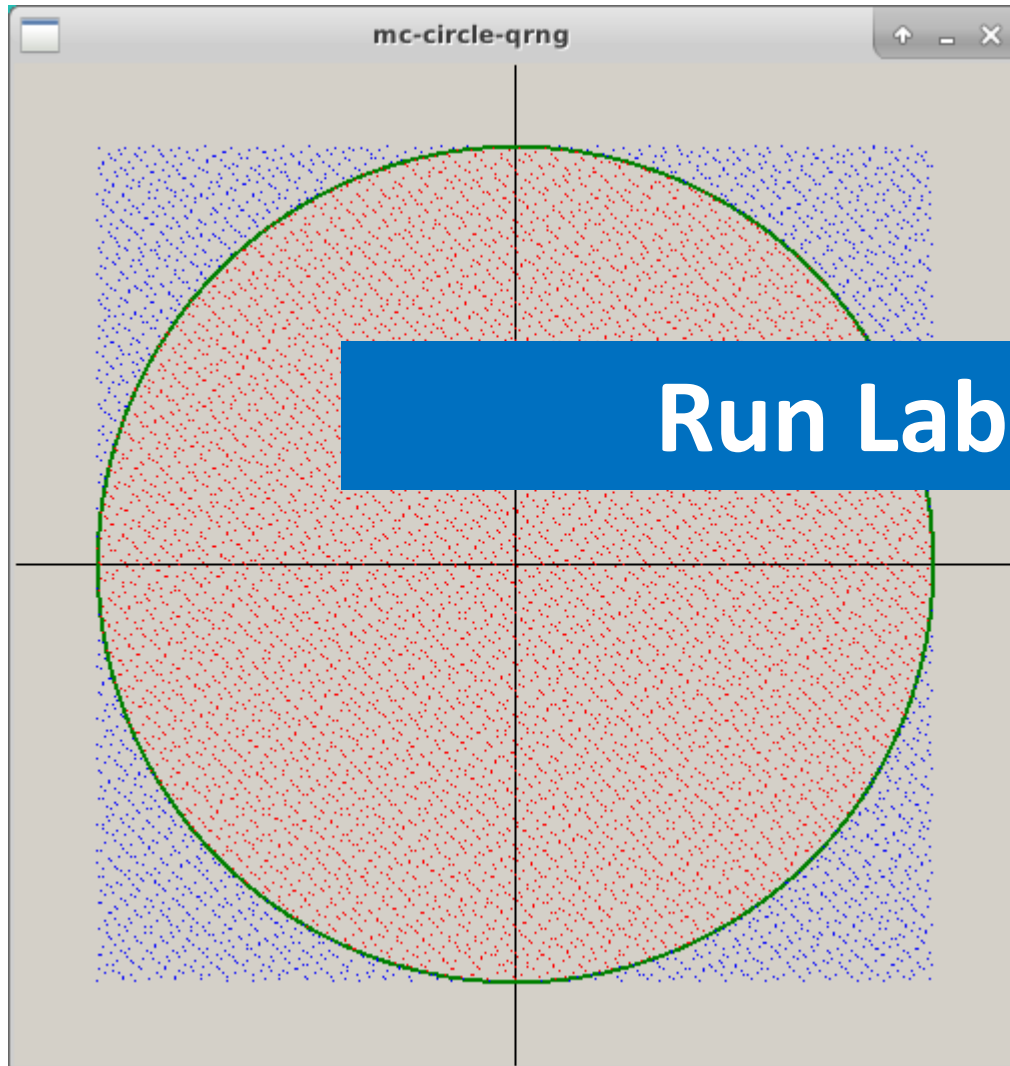


Niederreiter QRNG

The Niederreiter sequence
generates a smoother
distribution of “random” points



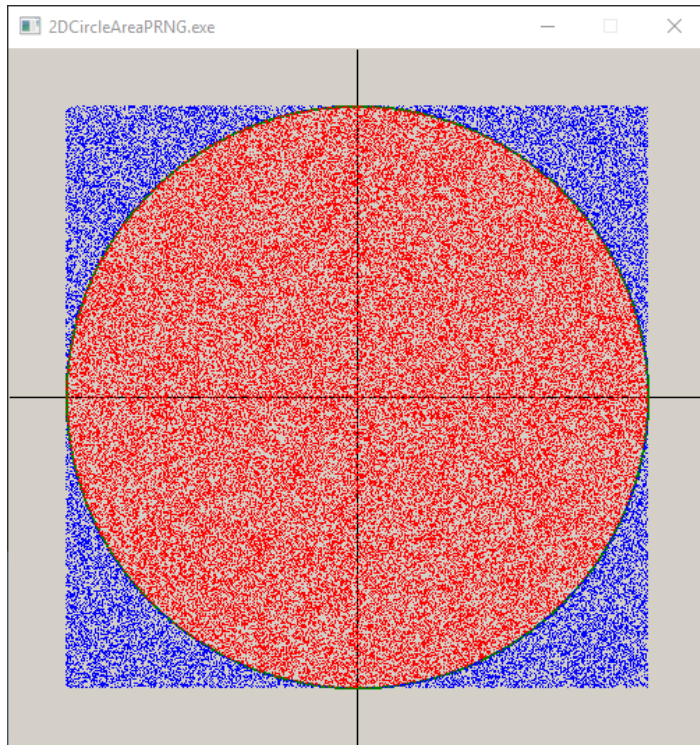
Improved 2-D Monte Carlo Estimator



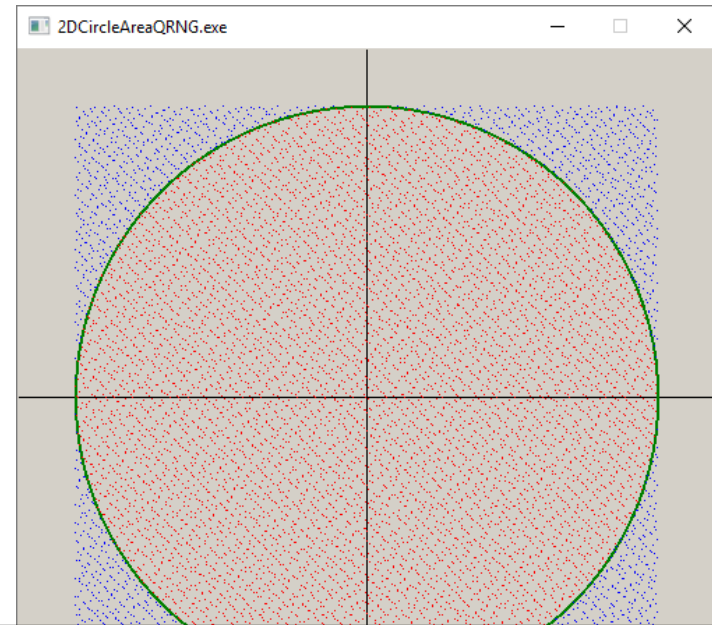
```
mc-circle-qrng
File Edit View Terminal Tabs He
2D Circle Area QRNG
Iterations = 10,000
Est. Area = 3.1428
Act. Area = 3.14159
Abs. % Err = 0.038431
```

Improved 2-D Monte Carlo Estimator

PRNG % Error = .2009



QRNG % Error = .0384



The Niederreiter sequence
provides a **6X** increase in
accuracy of the estimate using
10X fewer points!

Accuracy vs. Precision



✓ Precision
✗ Accuracy



✗ Precision
✓ Accuracy



✗ Precision
✗ Accuracy



✓ Precision
✓ Accuracy



Accuracy = Aim

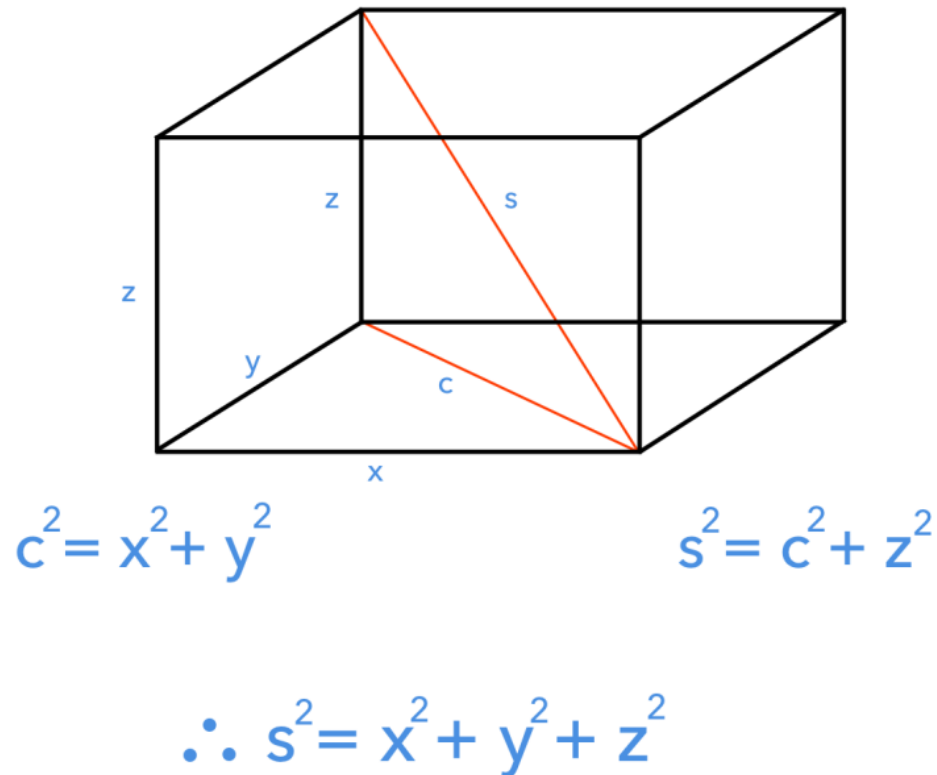
- Hitting what you are pointing at

Precision = **Consistency**

- Digits of Precision \neq Accuracy
- More digits \rightarrow less *variability*

Moving to Higher Dimensions

The Pythagorean Distance is a **metric** that is true in all **orthogonal** spaces of any dimension



3-D Unit Sphere Volume Estimator

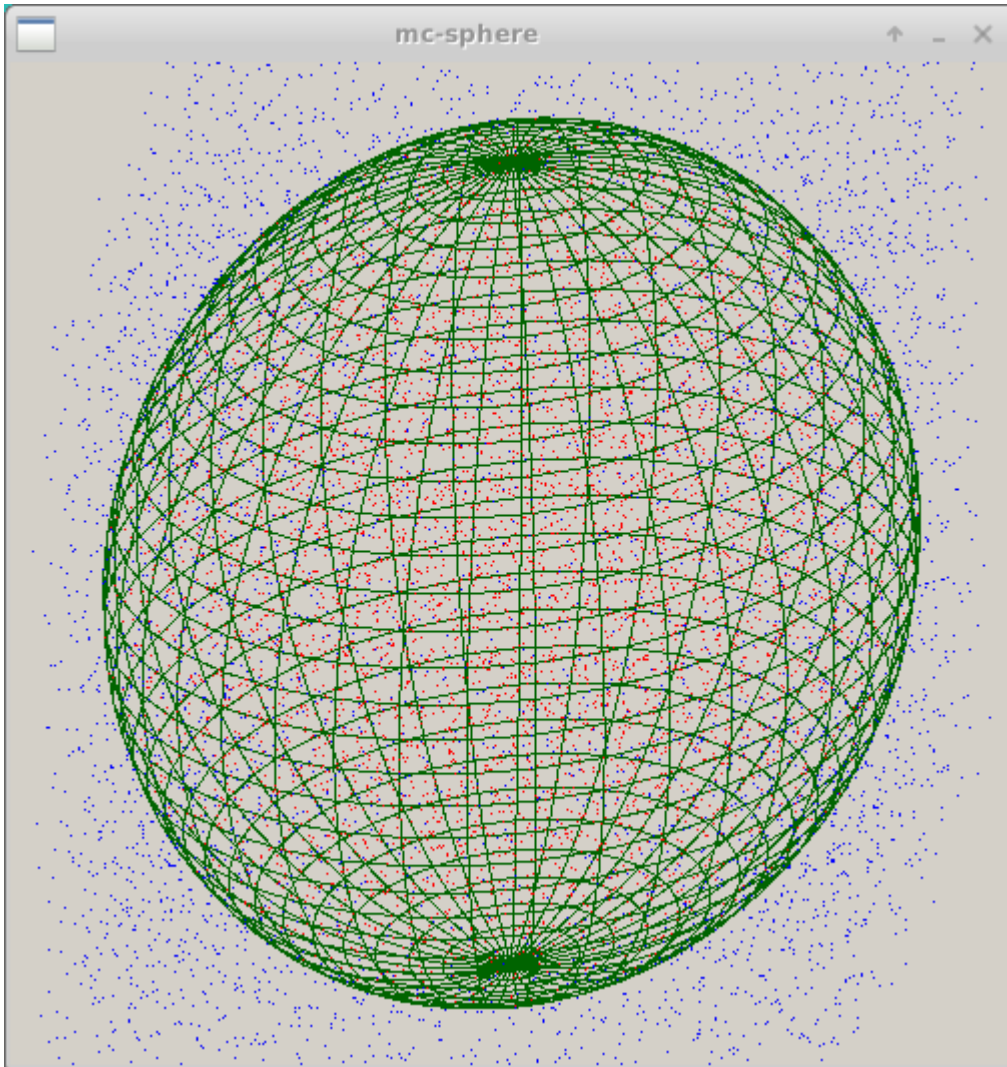
```
Niederreiter2 qrng;  
double r[3];  
int seed{};  
  
const int iterations = 10000;  
int count{};  
  
ss.LockDisplay();  
  
for (int i{}; i < iterations; ++i) {  
    qrng.Next(3, &seed, r);  
  
    double x = r[0] * -2.0 - 1.0;  
    double y = r[1] * -2.0 - 1.0;  
    double z = r[2] * -2.0 - 1.0;  
    if (x*x + y*y + z*z <= 1.0) {  
        ss.DrawPoint3D(x, y, z, "red");  
        count++;  
    }  
    else  
        ss.DrawPoint3D(x, y, z, "blue");  
}  
  
ss.UnlockDisplay();  
  
double estVol = (double)count / iterations * 8;  
double actVol = 4.0 / 3.0 * M_PI;  
double err = (actVol - estVol) / actVol * 100;  
  
cout << "3D Sphere Volume QRNG" << endl  
    << "Iterations = " << iterations << endl  
    << "Est. Volume = " << estVol << endl  
    << "Act. Volume = " << actVol << endl  
    << "Abs. % Error = " << abs(err) << endl << endl;
```

$$\frac{dots_{inside}}{dots_{total}} = \frac{volume_{sphere}}{volume_{cube}}$$

$$volume_{cube} = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$$

$$volume_{sphere} = \frac{count}{iterations} \times 8$$

3-D Unit Sphere Volume Estimator



```
mc-sphere
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
3D Sphere Volume QRNG
Iterations = 10,000
Est. Volume = 4.1888
Act. Volume = 4.18879
Abs. % Error = 0.000233843
```

3

$$= \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

The Halton Sequence

Mathematical Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society

Mathematical Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society
/ Issue 02 April 1965, pp 497-498
Copyright © Cambridge Philosophical Society 1965
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0305004100004059> (About online: 24 October 2008)

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Research Article

On the relative merits of correlated and importance sampling for Monte Carlo integration

John H. Halton^{a1}

^a Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York

```
double Halton(int n, int p)
{
    double h = 0;
    double f = 1;
    for (int i = n; i > 0; i /= p) {
        f = f / p;
        h += f * (i % p);
    }
    return h;
}
```

Accommodating the 4th Dimension

```
int main()
{
    int iterations = int(1e7);

    double count = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < iterations; i++)
    {
        double x = Halton(i, primes[0]);
        double y = Halton(i, primes[1]);
        double z = Halton(i, primes[2]);

        double distance = x * x + y * y + z * z;

        if (distance <= 1.0)
            count++;
    }

    double volume = count / iterations * 8;

    cout << fixed << setprecision(4)
          << volume << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

We need to
update this code
to include the 4th
dimension!

Open and **edit** Lab 4



Accommodating the 4th Dimension

```
int main()
{
    int iterations = int(1e7);

    double count = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < iterations; i++)
    {
        double x = Halton(i, primes[0]);
        double y = Halton(i, primes[1]);
        double z = Halton(i, primes[2]);
        double w = Halton(i, primes[3]);

        double distance = x * x + y * y + z * z + w * w;

        if (distance <= 1.0)
            count++;
    }

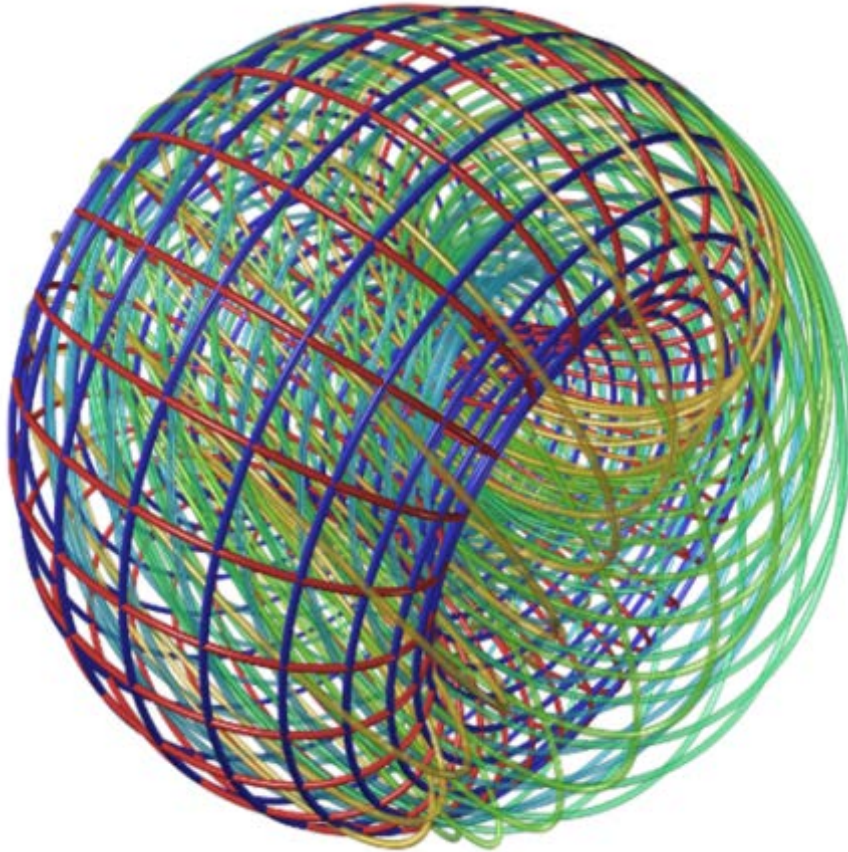
    double volume = count / iterations * 16;

    cout << volume << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

Add all the code in **red** then run the application

What is the content of a 4-D unit hypersphere?



```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs
4.93481
Process returned 0 (0x0)
Press ENTER to continue.
```

$$= \frac{\pi^2}{2}$$

We can calculate the volume of something we can not even *imagine*!

What lurks beyond the 4th dimension?

```
int main()
{
    int iterations = int(1e7);
    for (int dimension{2}; dimension < 13; ++dimension)
    {
        double count{};
        for (int i{}; i < iterations; ++i)
        {
            double distance = 0;
            for (int d{}; d < dimension; ++d)
            {
                double v = Halton(i, primes[d]);
                distance = distance + v * v;
                if (distance > 1.0)
                    break;
            }
            if (distance <= 1.0)
                count++;
        }
        double volume = count / iterations * pow(2, dimension);
        cout << fixed << right << setw(2) << dimension << ", "
              << setprecision(4) << volume
              << endl;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

This code will
estimate the
volume up to the
12th dimension!

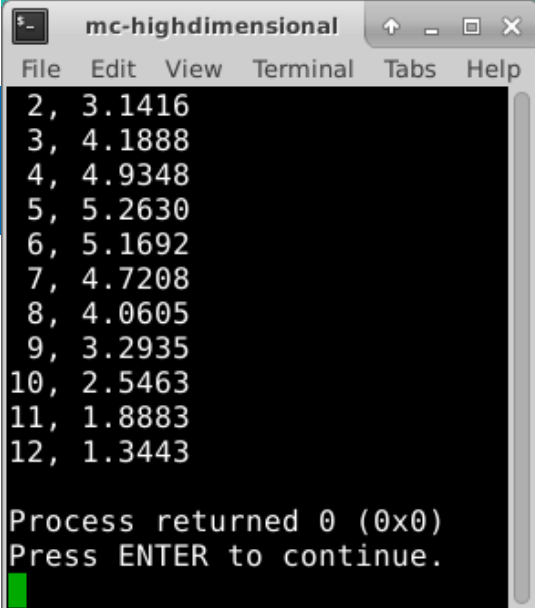
$$volume_{sphere} = \frac{count}{iterations} \times 2^{dimensions}$$

What lurks beyond the 4th dimension?

```
int main()
{
    int iterations = int(1e7);
    for (int dimension{ 2 }; dimension < 13; ++dimension) {
        double count{};
        for (int i{}; i < iterations; ++i) {
            double distance = 0;
            for (int d{}; d < dimension; ++d) {
                double v = Halton(i, primes[d]);
                distance = distance + v * v;
                if (distance > 1.0)
                    break;
            }
            if (distance <= 1.0)
                count++;
        }
        double volume =
        cout << fixed <<
        << setprecision(4) << volume
        << endl;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

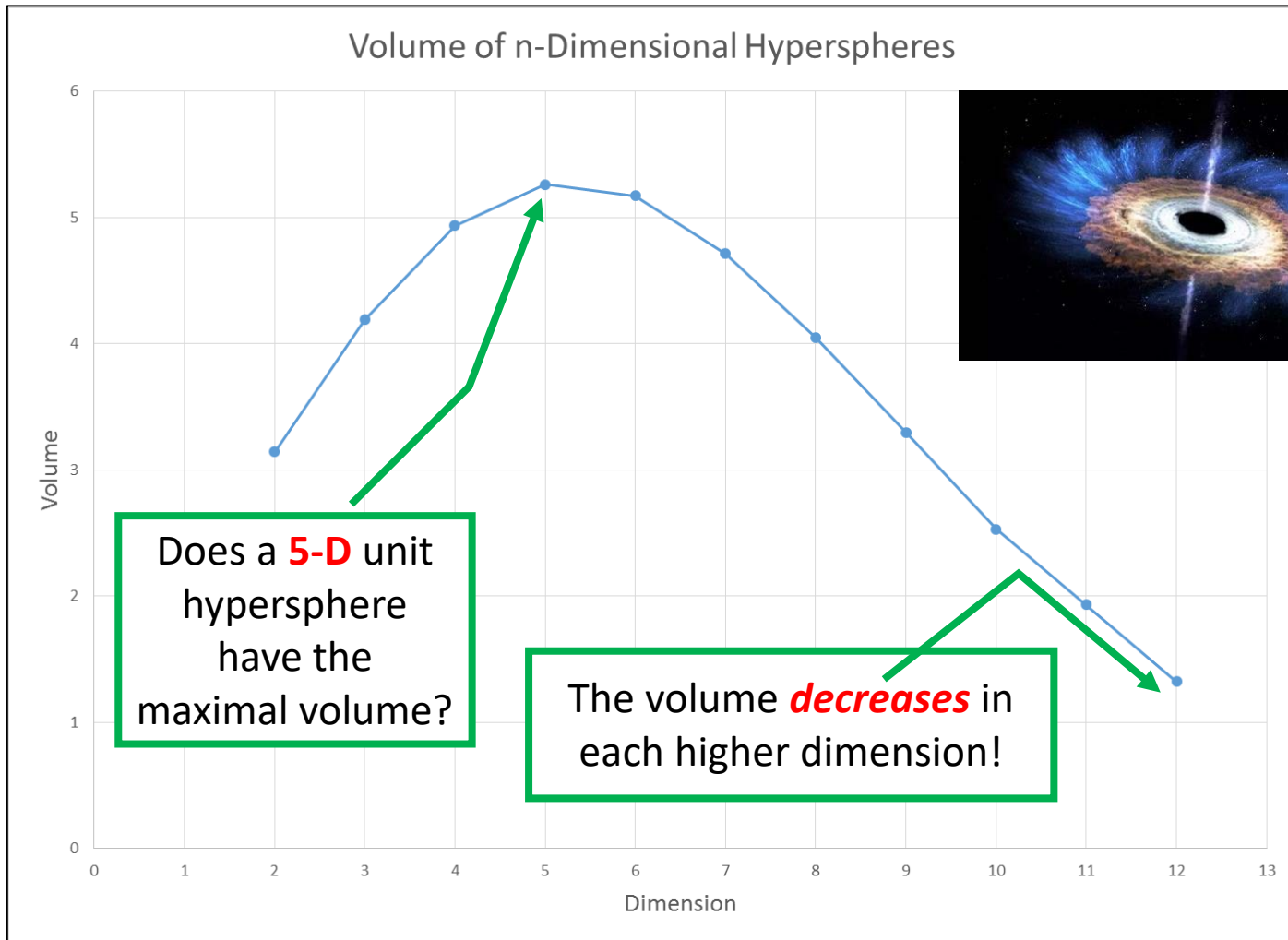
Run Lab 5



```
mc-highdimensional
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
2, 3.1416
3, 4.1888
4, 4.9348
5, 5.2630
6, 5.1692
7, 4.7208
8, 4.0605
9, 3.2935
10, 2.5463
11, 1.8883
12, 1.3443

Process returned 0 (0x0)
Press ENTER to continue.
```

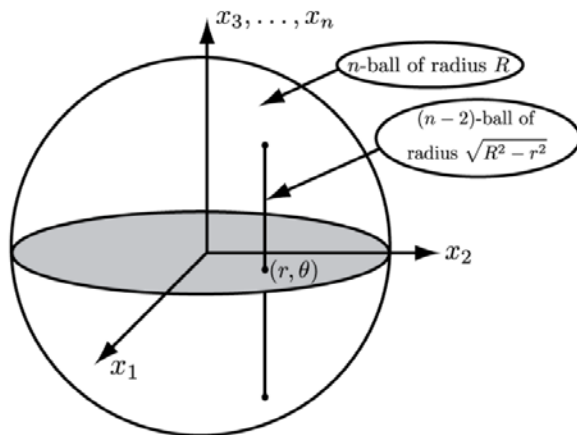
What lurks beyond the 4th dimension?



A Recurrence Relation

The **volume** of an **n -ball** is proportional to the unit ball for that dimension

$$V_n(R) = V_n(1)R^n$$



We can compute $V_n(1)$ by integrating the $n - 2$ ball over a unit disk using polar coordinates

$$V_n(1) = \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} V_{n-2}(1) \left(\sqrt{1 - r^2} \right)^{n-2} r d\theta dr$$

$$= V_{n-2}(1) \int_0^1 r(1 - r^2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \theta \Big|_0^{2\pi} dr$$

$$= 2\pi V_{n-2}(1) \int_0^1 r(1 - r^2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} dr$$

$$V_n(1) = \frac{2\pi}{n} V_{n-2}(1)$$

A Recurrence Relation

$$V_n(1) = \frac{2\pi}{n} V_{n-2}(1)$$

By definition

$$V_0(1) = 1$$

$$1 - (-1) = 2$$

$$V_1(1) = 2$$

Lab 2

$$V_2(1) = \frac{2\pi}{2} (1) = \pi$$

Lab 3

$$V_3(1) = \frac{2\pi}{3} (2) = \frac{4}{3}\pi$$

Lab 4

$$V_4(1) = \frac{2\pi}{4} (\pi) = \frac{\pi^2}{2}$$

$$V_n(R) = V_n(1)R^n$$

$$V_0(R) = 1$$

$$V_1(1) = 2R$$

$$V_2(1) = \pi R^2$$

$$V_3(1) = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$$

$$V_4(1) = \frac{\pi^2}{2} R^4$$

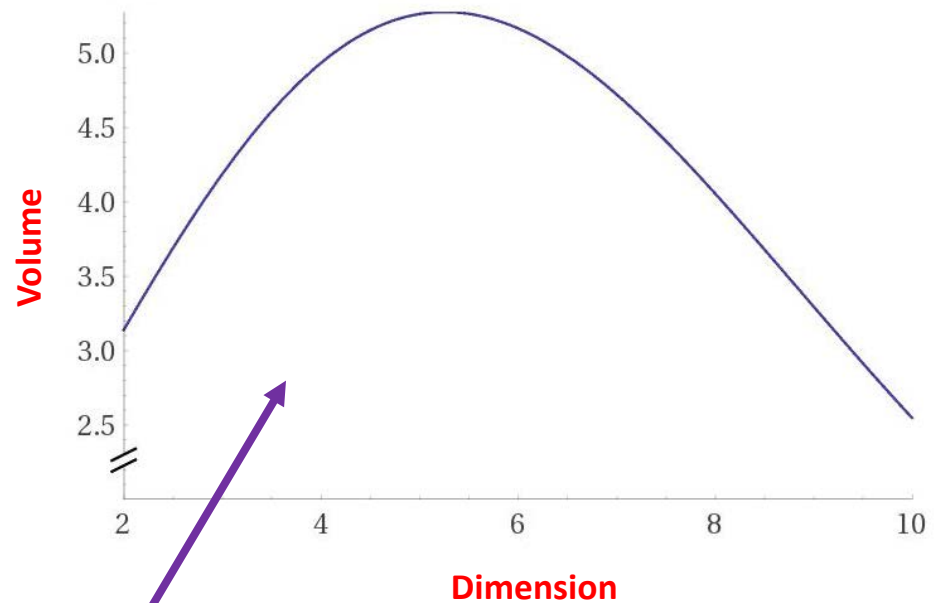
Volume via the Gamma Function

$$n_{\text{even}} \rightarrow V_n(R) = \frac{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \pi^{\frac{n}{2}} R^n}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdots n}$$

$$n_{\text{odd}} \rightarrow V_n(R) = \frac{2^{\frac{n+1}{2}} \pi^{\frac{n-1}{2}} R^n}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots n}$$

$$V_n(R) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{n}{2}} R^n}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right)}$$

Volume of Unit Hypersphere



Because we can evaluate $\Gamma(x)$ at every point in \mathbb{R} we can now determine the volume of a unit hypersphere in *any* dimension

Volume via the Gamma Function

$$V_n(R) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{n}{2}} R^n}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right)}$$

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$$

$$n! = \Gamma(n+1)$$

$$V_2(R) = \frac{\pi R^2}{\Gamma\left(\frac{2}{2} + 1\right)} = \frac{\pi R^2}{\Gamma(2)} = \frac{\pi R^2}{(2-1)!} = \boxed{\pi R^2}$$

$$V_3(R) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} R^3}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + 1\right)} = \frac{\pi R^3}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)} = \frac{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} R^3}{\left(\frac{3\sqrt{\pi}}{4}\right)} = \pi^{\frac{3}{2}} R^3 \left(\frac{4}{3\sqrt{\pi}}\right) = \boxed{\frac{4}{3} \pi R^3}$$

$$V_4(R) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{4}{2}} R^4}{\Gamma\left(\frac{4}{2} + 1\right)} = \frac{\pi^2 R^4}{\Gamma(3)} = \frac{\pi^2 R^4}{(3-1)!} = \boxed{\frac{\pi^2 R^4}{2}}$$

Challenges of Numerical Analysis

$$V_{12}(1) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{12}{2}} 1^{12}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{12}{2} + 1\right)} = 1.335262$$

Did we use
enough dots?

```
mc-highdimensional
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
2, 3.1416
3, 4.1888
4, 4.9348
5, 5.2630
6, 5.1692
7, 4.7208
8, 4.0605
9, 3.2935
10, 2.5463
11, 1.8883
12, 1.3443
Process returned 0 (0x0)
Press ENTER to continue.
```

From Lab 5

Curse of dimensionality

The curse of dimensionality refers to various phenomena that arise when analyzing and organizing data in [high-dimensional spaces](#) (often with hundreds or thousands of dimensions) that do not occur in low-dimensional settings such as the [three-dimensional physical space](#) of everyday experience. The expression was coined by [Richard E. Bellman](#) when considering problems in [dynamic optimization](#).^{[1][2]}

There are multiple phenomena referred to by this name in domains such as [numerical analysis](#), [sampling](#), [combinatorics](#), [machine learning](#), [data mining](#), and [databases](#). The common theme of these problems is that when the dimensionality increases, the volume of the space increases so fast that the available data become sparse. This sparsity is problematic for any method that requires statistical significance. In order to obtain a statistically sound and reliable result, the amount of data needed to support the result often grows exponentially with the dimensionality.

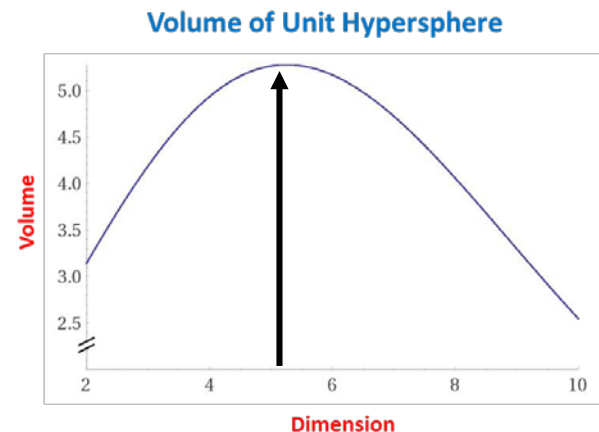
Volume via the Gamma Function

$$V_n(R) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{n}{2}} R^n}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right)}$$

As the Gamma function can extend its domain to include $n \in \mathbb{R}$, we can use this analytic solution to compute the volume of hyperspheres having **fractional** (non-integer) dimensions!

$$V_{7.89}(5.12) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{7.89}{2}} 5.12^{7.89}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{7.89}{2} + 1\right)} = 1,633,106.2809$$

It appears $V_n(1)$ has a maximum somewhere *between 4 and 6* dimensions.
Does a fractional dimension contain the largest unit hypersphere?



Open Lab 6 – nball-volume

```
// Euler's Gamma integrand
inline double f(double x, double s)
{
    return pow(x, s - 1) * exp(-x);
}

// Find Gamma using Simpson's integration
double gamma(double s)
{
    double a{0};
    double b{1e3};
    int intervals = 1e5;

    double dx{(b - a) / intervals};
    double sum{f(a, s) + f(b, s)};
    a += dx;
    for (int i{1}; i < intervals; ++i, a += dx)
        sum += f(a, s) * (2 * (i % 2 + 1));
    return (dx / 3) * sum;
}

// Find volume of unit ball
// See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N-sphere
double v(double x)
{
    double halfx = x / 2.0;
    return pow(M_PI, halfx) / gamma(halfx + 1);
}
```

- This code uses Simpson's Rule to calculate Euler's Gamma function:

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{s-1} e^{-x} dx$$

- The code uses Gamma to find the volume of **unit** hyperspheres with **fractional** dimensions

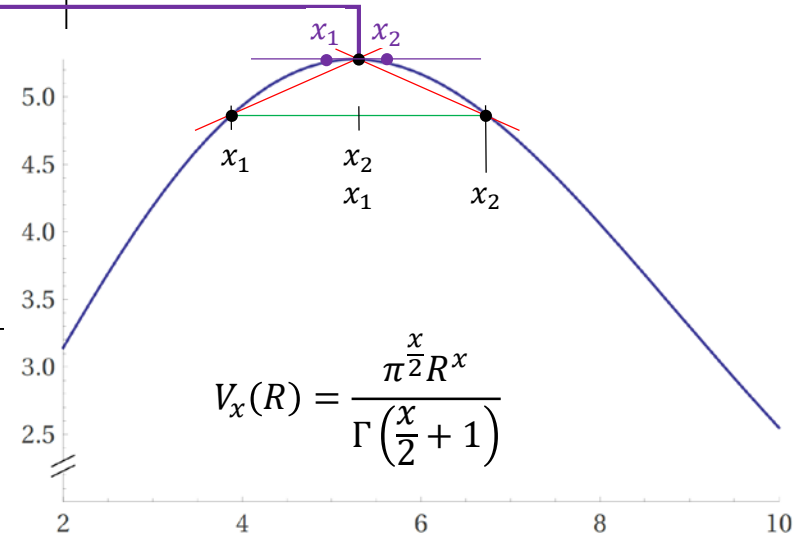
$$V_x(1) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{x}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{x}{2} + 1\right)}$$

View Lab 6 – nball-volume

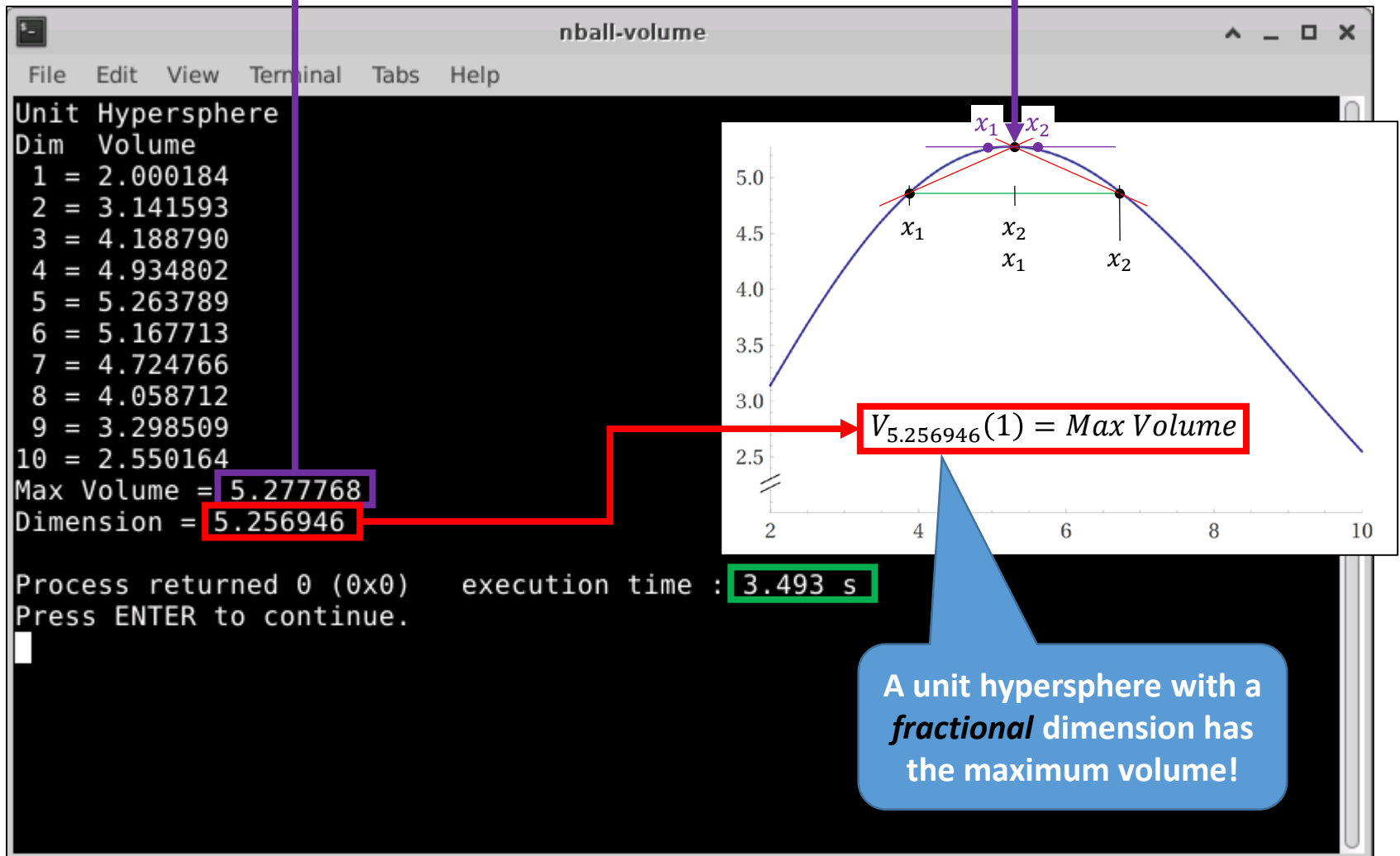
```
// This returns the x and y values for the maximum value of a function
// when both the analytic & numerical first derivative are unavailable.
// Note: This only works for concave down (negative second derivative) functions
tuple<double, double> find_max(double x1, double x2, double epsilon)
{
    double max = numeric_limits<double>::min();
    while (true)
    {
        double dx = (x2 - x1) / 97;
        double y1 = v(x1);
        double y2 = v(x1 + dx);
        while (y1 < y2)
        {
            x1 = x1 + dx;
            y1 = v(x1);
            y2 = v(x1 + dx);
        }
        if (abs(max - y1) < epsilon)
            break;
        x1 = x1 - dx;
        x2 = x1 + dx;
        max = v(x1);
    }
    return tuple<double, double>(x1, v((x1 + x2) / 2));
}
```

This *hill climbing* algorithm steps across the curve in **decreasing** brackets until the maximum point is located

A **tuple<>** is a compound type that can hold **two** data items
 $\langle x_{max} | y_{max} \rangle$



Run Lab 6 – nball-volume



Edit Lab 6 – nball-volume

```
26 // Find volume of unit ball
27 // See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N-sphere
28 double v(double x)
29 {
30     double halfx = x / 2.0;
31     return pow(M_PI, halfx) / tgamma(halfx + 1);
32 }
```

Edit line # 33 to call the C++ **tgamma()** function
“the **true** gamma”

Run Lab 6 – nball-volume

```
Unit Hypersphere
Dim Volume
1 = 2.000000
2 = 3.141593
3 = 4.188790
4 = 4.934802
5 = 5.263789
6 = 5.167713
7 = 4.724766
8 = 4.058712
9 = 3.298509
10 = 2.550164
Max Volume = 5.277768
Dimension = 5.256946

Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 0.030 s
Press ENTER to continue.
```

```
26 // Find volume of unit ball
27 // See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N-sphere
28 double v(double x)
29 {
30     double halfx = x / 2.0;
31     return pow(M_PI, halfx) / tgamma(halfx + 1);
32 }
```

Edit line # 33 to call the C++ **tgamma()** function "the **true** gamma"

The built-in **tgamma()** is 11,500% faster than our Simpson's integration!

Euler's Gamma Function

<https://dlmf.nist.gov/5>

Gamma gets its
own chapter!



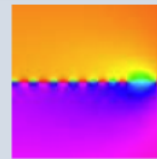
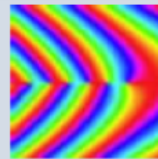
Chapter 5 Gamma Function

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Notation

5.1 Special Notation

Properties

5.2 Definitions

5.3 Graphics

5.4 Special Values and Extrema

5.5 Functional Relations

Applications

5.19 Mathematical Applications

5.20 Physical Applications

Computation

5.21 Methods of Computation

5.22 Tables

5.23 Approximations

5.24 Software

$$\Gamma(x)\Gamma(1-x) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi x}$$

In C++ use
tgamma()

5.12 Gamma Function

5.13 Integrals

5.14 Multidimensional Integrals

5.15 Polygamma Functions

5.16 Sums

5.17 Barnes' G -Function (Double Gamma Function)

5.18 q -Gamma and q -Beta Functions

The Power Of Monte Carlo Integration

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{F}^{(n)} = & \frac{\mu}{8\pi} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} \left(\frac{2}{R_a^3} + \frac{3a^2}{R_a^5} \right) \{ (\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{b}) (\mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + \mathbf{t} [(\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{n}] \} \\
 & \times \left(\frac{r - r_1}{r_2 - r_1} \frac{s - s_1}{s_2 - s_1} \right) ds dr dy \\
 & - \frac{\mu}{4\pi (1 - \nu)} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} \left(\frac{1}{R_a^3} + \frac{3a^2}{R_a^5} \right) [(\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{t}] \mathbf{n} \left(\frac{r - r_1}{r_2 - r_1} \frac{s - s_1}{s_2 - s_1} \right) ds dr dy \\
 & + \frac{\mu}{4\pi (1 - \nu)} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} \frac{1}{R_a^3} \{ (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{t}) (\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + \mathbf{R} [(\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{t}) \cdot \mathbf{n}] \} \left(\frac{r - r_1}{r_2 - r_1} \frac{s - s_1}{s_2 - s_1} \right) ds dr dy \\
 & - \frac{\mu}{4\pi (1 - \nu)} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} \frac{3}{R_a^5} [(\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{t}] (\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{R} \left(\frac{r - r_1}{r_2 - r_1} \frac{s - s_1}{s_2 - s_1} \right) ds dr dy.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now you know...

- Monte Carlo integration uses **random sampling**
 - The method calculates the ratio of the points below the curve to the total number of points – **the final ratio is the “area”**
 - It may require billions of samples to provide a reasonable estimate
 - It may be the *only way* to take the integral of a very complex function
- What you are taught cannot be the limit of your knowledge
 - The volume of a 4-D unit hypersphere = $\frac{\pi^2}{2}$
 - In infinite dimensions the volume of **all** hyperspheres is zero!
 - A fractional **5-dimensional** unit sphere has **maximum** volume
 - Mother Nature *never* said dimensions have to be integers!