MA3227 Numerical Analysis II

Tutorial 8: Monte Carlo methods

Computing π using Monte Carlo sampling

1. Write a function compute_pi(N) which uses Monte Carlo sampling and the fact that

$$U \sim \text{Uniform}[0,1]^2 \Longrightarrow P(||U||_2 \le 1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

to compute an approximation to π using only rand() and elementary algebra.

2. Write a function convergence() which verifies that the return value of compute_pi(N) involves an $O(N^{-1/2})$ error as predicted by the central limit theorem.

