

## Average Center Distance

### Problem:

A point is chosen uniformly from the unit disk. What is the expected value and variance of the distance between the point and the center of the disk?

### Solution:

Since we are concerned with the unit disk, we shall work in polar coordinates, i.e.,  $0 \leq r \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq \vartheta \leq 2\pi$ . Then, if  $\mathbf{X}$  is a vector of random variables corresponding to the random point, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(|\mathbf{X}|) &= \int_A |\mathbf{x}| \cdot f_{XY}(x, y) \, dA \\ &= \int_A \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\pi} \, dA \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 r \cdot r \, dr \, d\vartheta \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{r^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{2}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

In a similar fashion,

$$\mathbb{E}(|\mathbf{X}|^2) = 2 \cdot \frac{r^4}{4} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{2},$$

and so the variance is given by

$$\mathbb{V}\text{ar}(|\mathbf{X}|) = \mathbb{E}(|\mathbf{X}|^2) - \mathbb{E}(|\mathbf{X}|)^2 = \frac{1}{2} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{18}.$$