

volume of sphere

Denote by w_{n+1} or σ_n volume of n -dimensional sphere. (Notation w_{n+1} is sign of respect to old books) We know very well that

$$w_n = \sigma_{n-1} = \frac{2\pi^{\frac{n}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \quad (1)$$

The quickest way to show it is to use identity

$$\int e^{-\mathbf{x}^2} d^n x = \pi^{\frac{n}{2}} = w_n \int e^{-r^2} r^{n-1} dr.$$

Using this formula one can calculate the volume d_n of unit ball:

$$d_n = \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \omega_n dr = \frac{w_n}{n}.$$

Notice that inductive formula via B -function relates w_n, w_{n+1} :

$$w_{n+1} = \int_0^\pi \sin^{n-1} \theta d\theta = 2w_n \int_0^1 (1-u^2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} du = \int_0^1 (1-t)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} t^{\frac{1}{2}} dt = w_n B\left(\frac{n}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) =$$

$$\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} w_n = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} w_n.$$

This is in accordance with equation (1).

Note that it is reasonable to say that “volume” of “unit sphere” on the line, the set of two points ± 1 is equal to 2. This is in accordance with equation (1).