# Homework 1

Computer Science Theory for the Information Age

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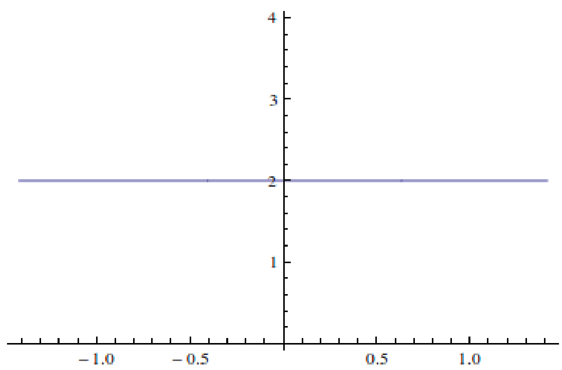
1. Project the surface area of a sphere of radius $\sqrt{d}$ in d-dimensions onto a line through the center. For $d$ equal 2 and 3, derive an explicit formula for how the projected surface area changes as we move along the line. For large $d$, argue(intuitively)that the projected surface area should behave like a Gaussian.

   **Solution:** For any $d$ greater than 1, the projected surface area of a d-dimensional along the line takes non-zero value for $x \in (-\sqrt{d}, \sqrt{d})$, has has the formula

   $$(d - x^2)^{\frac{d-2}{2}} A(d-1)$$

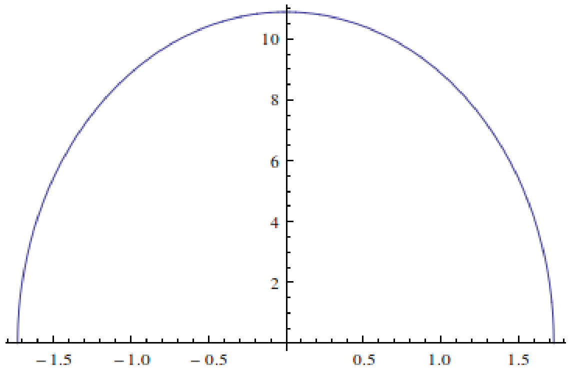
   for $d = 2$, the fomula is

   $$x = 2$$



for $d = 3$, the fomula is

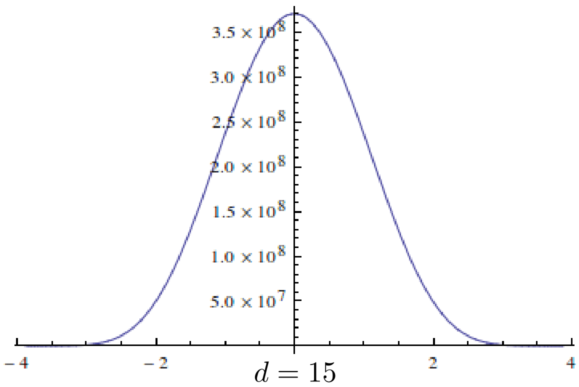
$$2\pi\sqrt{3 - x^2}$$




and for large $d$, we observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
(d - x^2)^{\frac{d-2}{2}} A(d-1) &= A(d-1)(d(1 - \frac{x^2}{d}))^{\frac{d-2}{2}} \\
&= A(d-1)d^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(1 - \frac{x^2}{d})^{\frac{d-2}{2}} \\
&\approx A(d-1)d^{\frac{d-2}{2}} e^{\frac{-x^2}{d}\frac{d-2}{2}} \\
&\approx A(d-1)d^{\frac{d-2}{2}} e^{\frac{-x^2}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

and it looks like a Gaussian.




$d = 15$

2. For what value of d is the volume, $V(d)$, of a d-dimensional unit sphere maximum? (Hint: Consider the ratio $\frac{V(d)}{V(d-1)}$).

**Solution:** First,

$$\frac{V(d)}{V(d-2)} = \frac{(d-2)\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2})}{d\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})}, \text{for } d \geq 1$$

for $d = 2k, k \geq 2$,

$$\frac{V(d)}{V(d-2)} = \frac{(k-1)\pi\Gamma(k-1)}{k\Gamma(k)} = \frac{\pi}{k}$$

then

$$\arg\max_k V(2k) = V(6) = \frac{\pi^3}{6}$$

for $d = 2k+1, k \geq 1$,

$$\frac{V(d)}{V(d-2)} = \frac{(2k-1)\pi\Gamma(\frac{2k-1}{2})}{(2k+1)\Gamma(\frac{2k+1}{2})} = \frac{2\pi}{2k+1}$$

then

$$\arg\max_k V(2k+1) = V(5) = \frac{8\pi^2}{15}$$

thus

$$\arg\max_d V(d) = \max(V(5), V(6)) = V(5)$$