

# Lecture 3

## More Stats:

Expectations, LLN, Monte Carlo, and the CLT

So far:

- Probability and Bayes Theorem
- Distributions
- Frequentist Statistics
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation
- Sampling Distribution

# Today

- Expectations and some notation
- The Law of large numbers
- Simulation and Monte Carlo for Integration
- Sampling and the CLT
- Errors in Monte Carlo

# Expectation $E_f[X]$

## Why calculate it?

- we'll see it corresponds to the frequentist notion of probability
- we often want point estimates

Expectations are always with respect to a pmf or density. Often just called the **mean** of the mass function or density. More weight to more probable values.

For the discrete random variable  $X$ :

$$E_f[X] = \sum_x x f(x).$$

Continuous case:

$$E_f[X] = \int x f(x) dx = \int x dF(x),$$

# Notation

The expected value, or mean, or first moment, of  $X$  is defined to be

$$E_f X = \int x dF(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_x x f(x) & \text{if } X \text{ is discrete} \\ \int x f(x) dx & \text{if } X \text{ is continuous} \end{cases}$$

assuming that the sum (or integral) is well defined.

The discrete sum can be said to be an integral with respect to a counting measure.

# LOTUS: Law of the unconscious statistician

Also known as **The rule of the lazy statistician.**

**Theorem:**

if  $Y = r(X)$ ,

$$E[Y] = \int r(x) dF(x)$$

# Application: Probability as Expectation

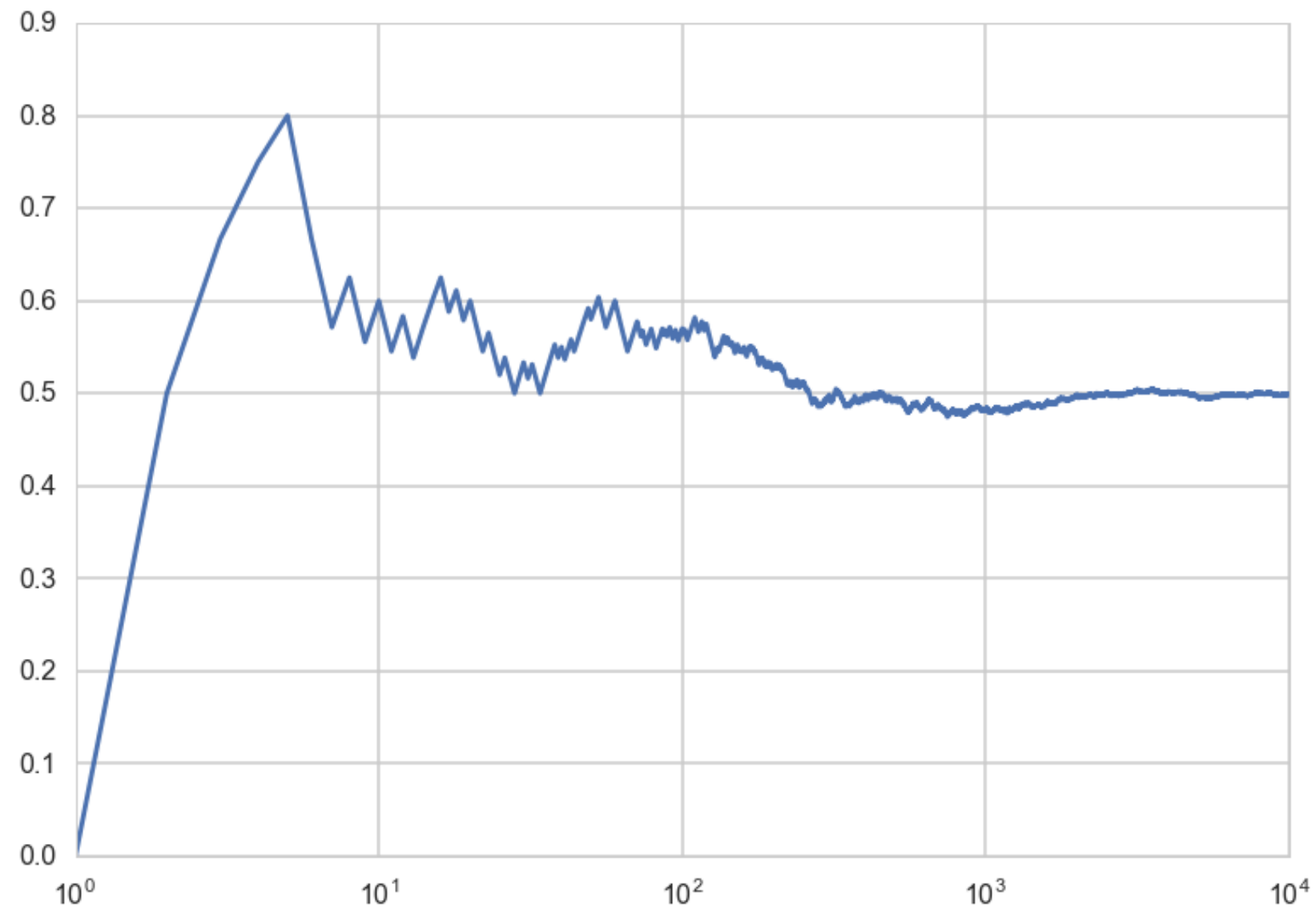
Let  $A$  be an event and let  $r(x) = I_A(x)$  (Indicator for event  $A$ )

Then:

$$E_f[I_A(X)] = \int I_A(x) dF(x) = \int_A f_X(x) dx = p(X \in A)$$



# Ever longer sequences for means



# Law of Large numbers

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be a sequence of IID values from random variable  $X$ , which has finite mean  $\mu$ . Let:

$$S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i,$$

Then:

$$S_n \rightarrow \mu \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

# Frequentist Interpretation of probability

$$E_F[I_A(X)] = p(X \in A)$$

Suppose  $Z = I_A(X) \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p = P(A))$ .

Now if we take a long sequence  $\text{seq} = 10010011100\dots$  from  $Z$ , then

$$P(A) = \text{mean}(\text{seq}) \text{ as } \text{length}(\text{seq}) \rightarrow \infty$$

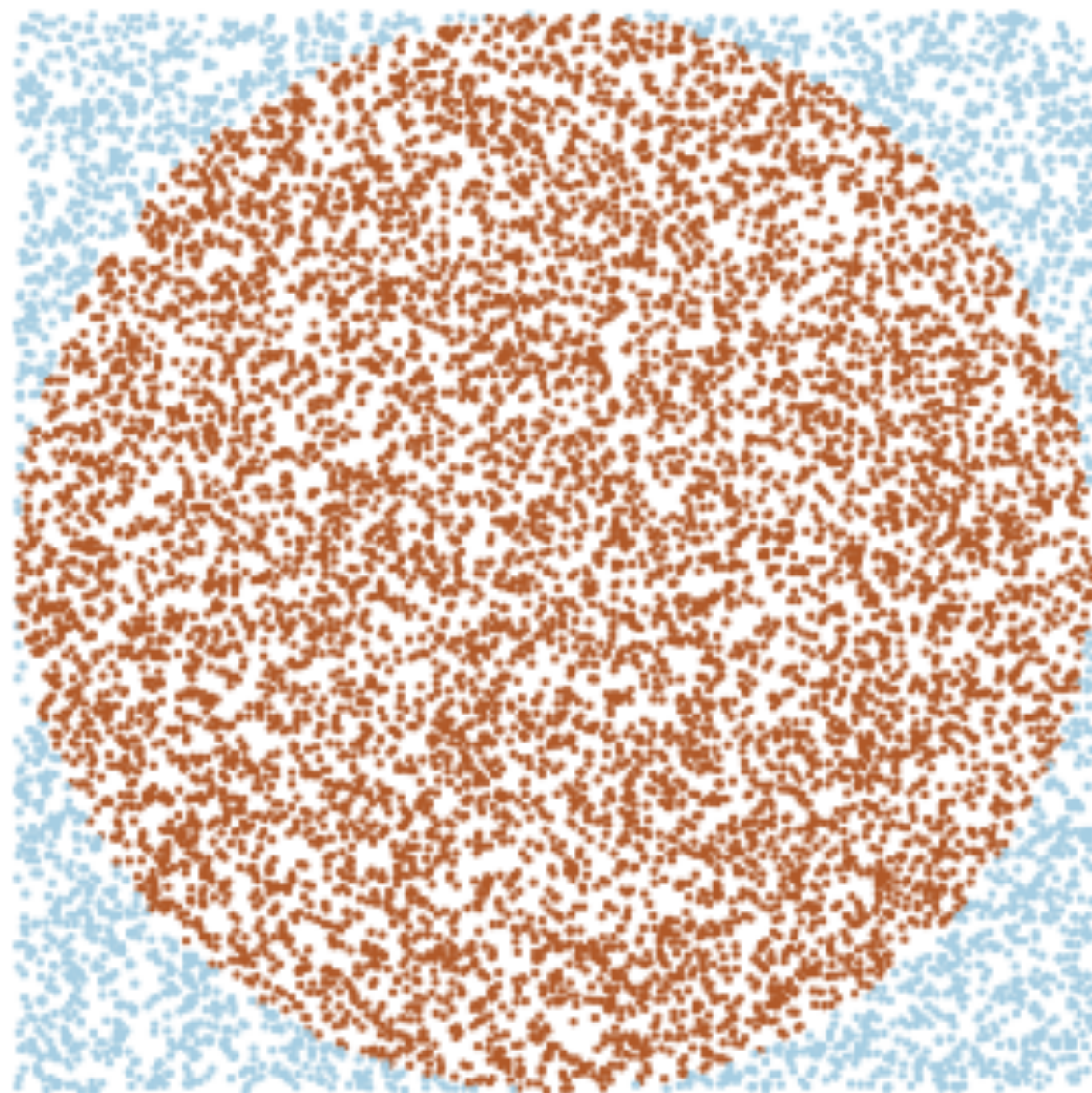
# Monte Carlo Algorithm

- use randomness to solve what is often a deterministic problem
- application of the law of large numbers
- integrals, expectations, marginalization
- we'll study optimization, integration, and obtaining draws from a probability distribution

*...I wondered whether a more practical method than “abstract thinking” might not be to lay it out say one hundred times and simply observe and count the number of successful plays*

*...and more generally how to change  
processes described by certain  
differential equations into an  
equivalent form interpretable as a  
succession of random operations*

— Stanislaw Ulam



estimating  $\pi$

$$A = \int_x \int_y I_{\in C}(x, y) dx dy = \int \int_{\in C} dx dy$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_f[I_{\in C}(X, Y)] &= \int I_{\in C}(X, Y) dF(X, Y) \\ &= \int \int_{\in C} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy = p(X, Y \in C) \end{aligned}$$

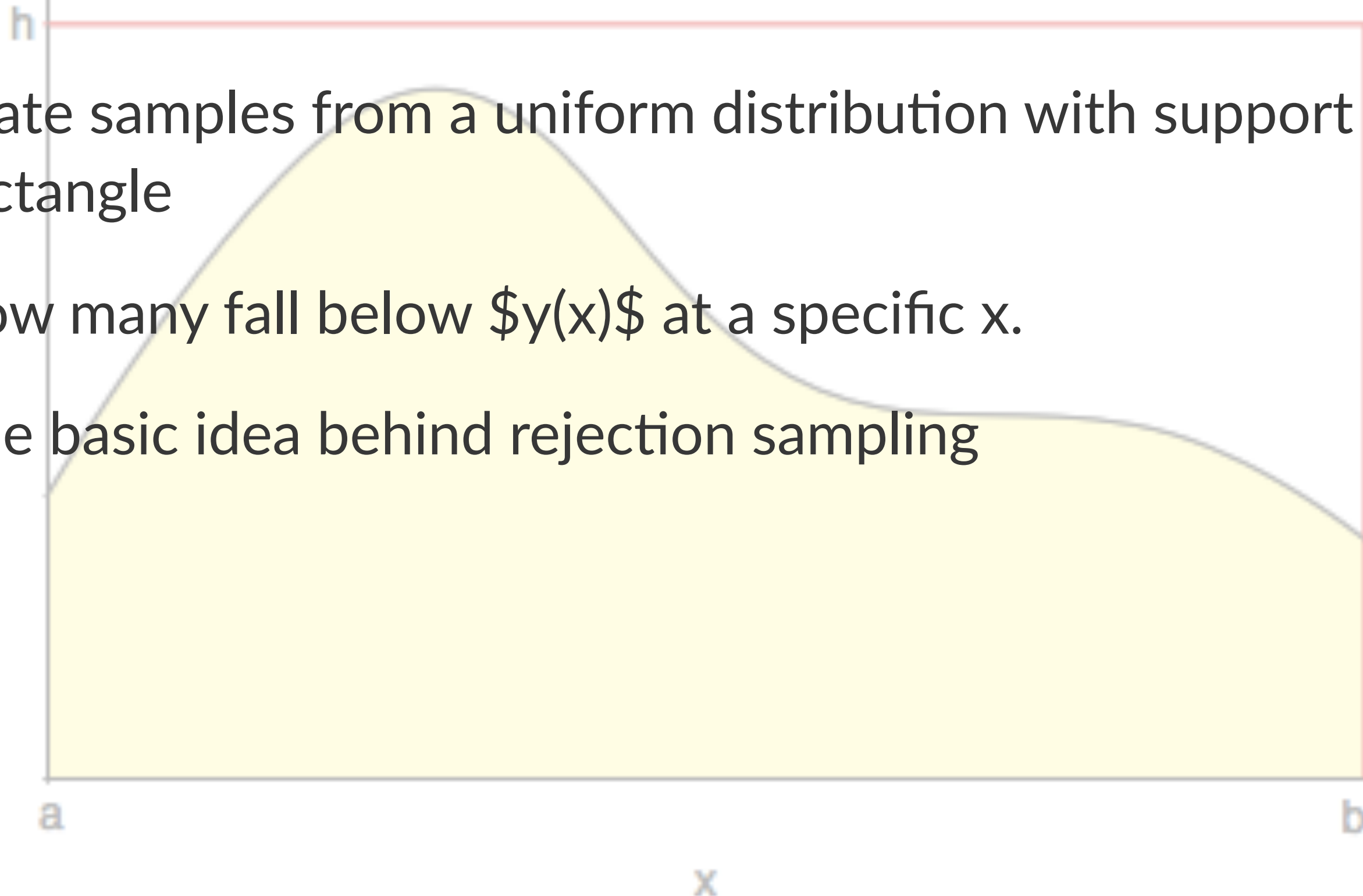
If  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) \sim Uniform(V)$ :

$$= \frac{1}{V} \int \int_{\in C} dx dy = \frac{A}{V}$$

# Hit or miss

- Generate samples from a uniform distribution with support on the rectangle
- See how many fall below  $y(x)$  at a specific  $x$ .

This is the basic idea behind rejection sampling





# Formalize Monte Carlo Integration idea

For Uniform pdf:  $U_{ab}(x) = 1/V = 1/(b - a)$

$$J = \int_a^b f(x)U_{ab}(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx / V = I/V$$

From LOTUS and the law of large numbers:

$$I = V \times J = V \times E_U[f] = V \times \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x_i \sim U} f(x_i)$$

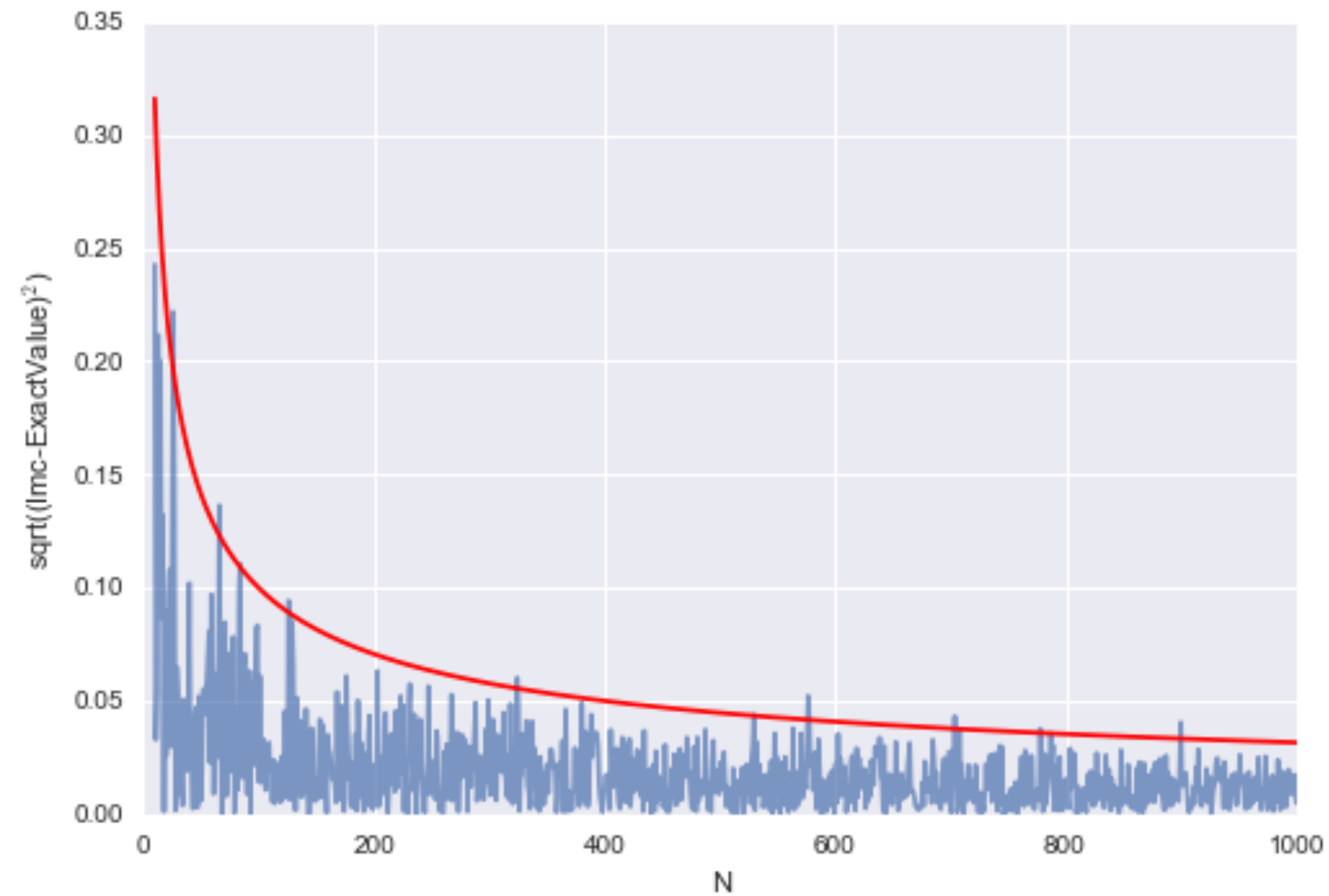
# Example

$$I = \int_2^3 [x^2 + 4x \sin(x)] dx.$$

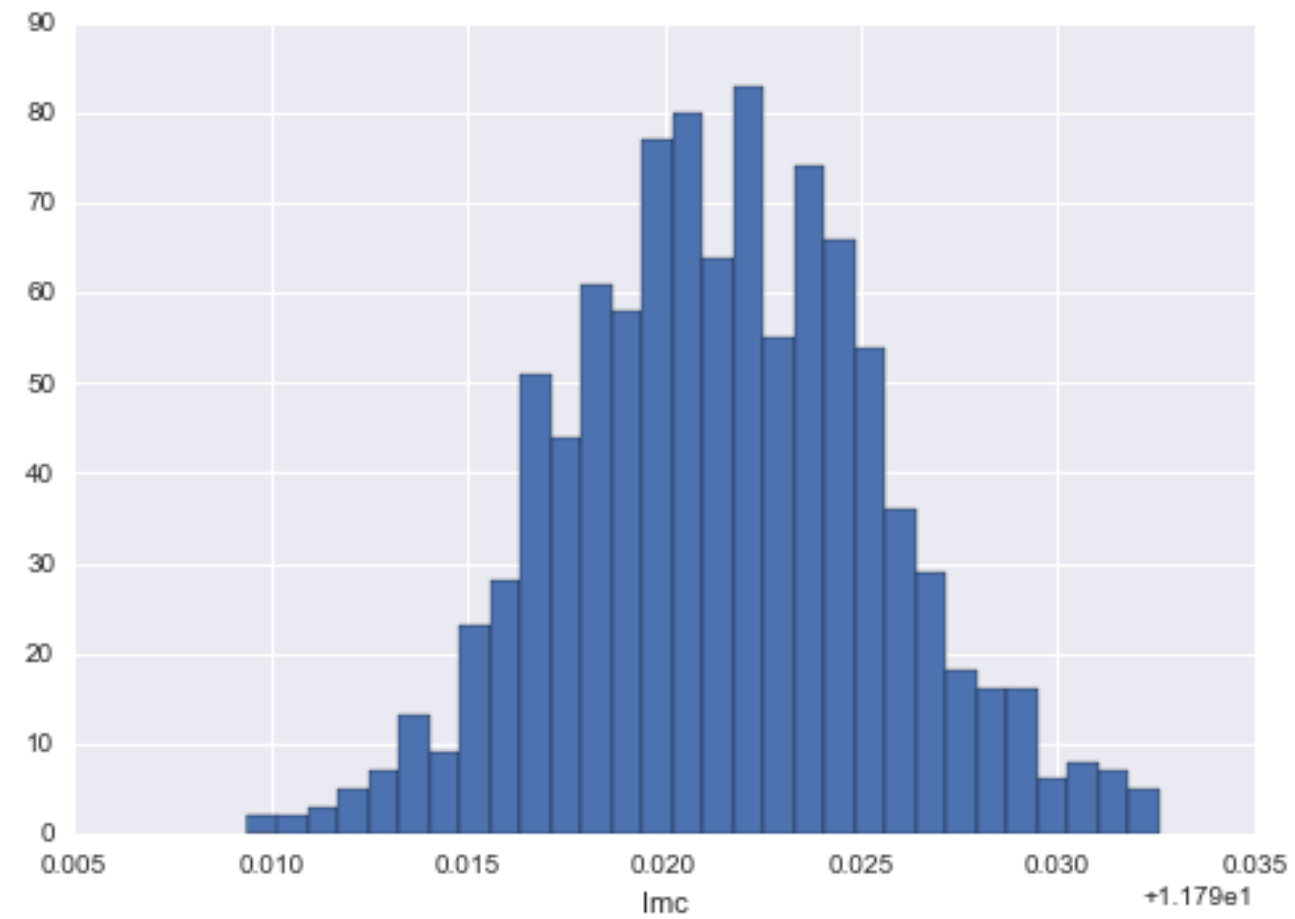
```
def f(x):  
    return x**2 + 4*x*np.sin(x)  
def intf(x):  
    return x**3/3.0+4.0*np.sin(x) - 4.0*x*np.cos(x)  
a = 2;  
b = 3;  
N= 10000  
X = np.random.uniform(low=a, high=b, size=N)  
Y =f(X)  
V = b-a  
Imc= V * np.sum(Y)/ N;  
exactval=intf(b)-intf(a)  
print("Monte Carlo estimation=",Imc, "Exact number=", intf(b)-intf(a))
```

Monte Carlo estimation= 11.8120823531 Exact number= 11.8113589251

# Accuracy as a function of the number of samples

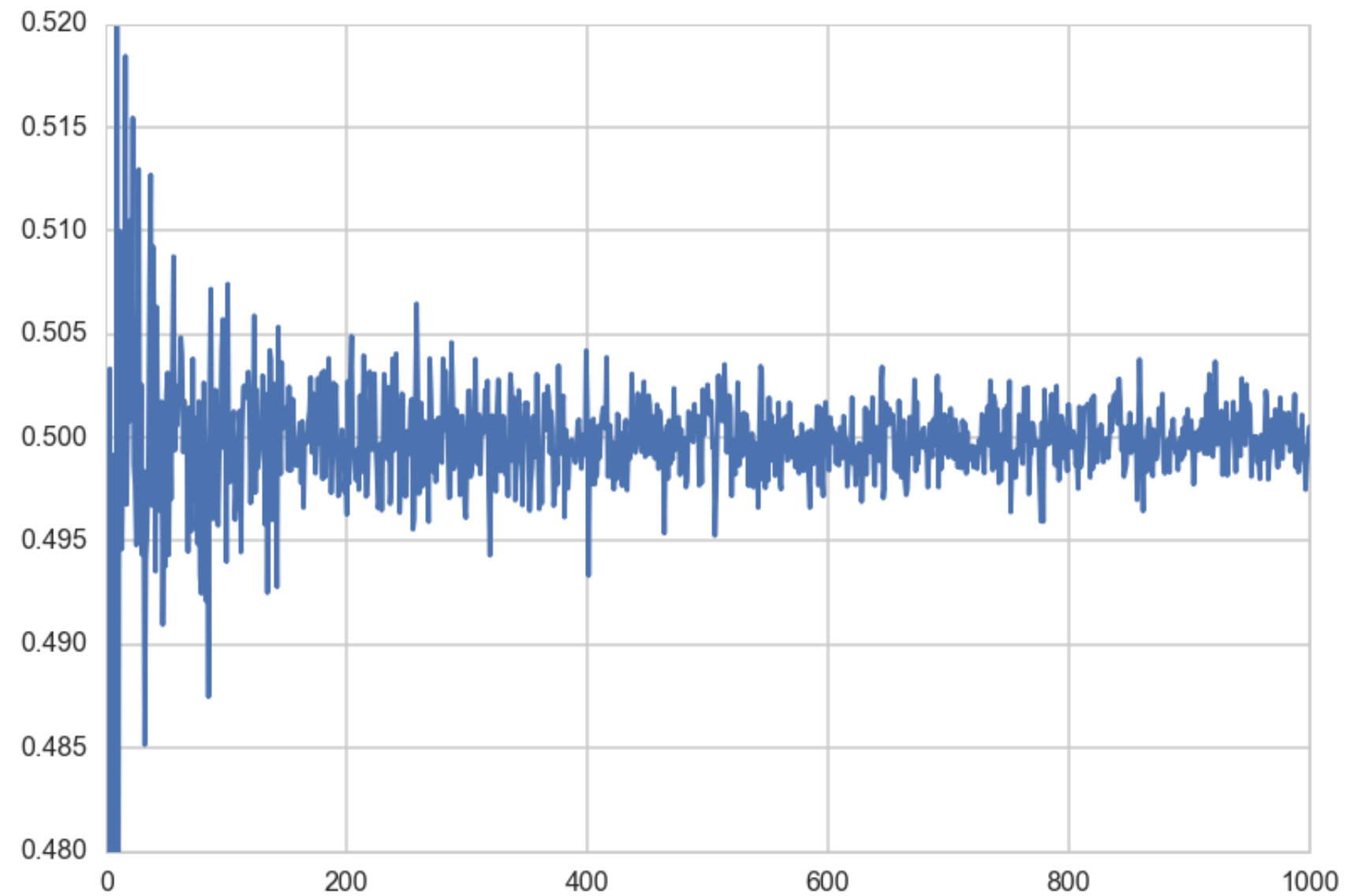


# Variance of the estimate



Looks familiar?

# M replications of N coin tosses



$$E_{\{R\}}(N \bar{x}) = E_{\{R\}}(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_N) = E_{\{R\}}(x_1) + E_{\{R\}}(x_2) + \dots + E_{\{R\}}(x_N)$$

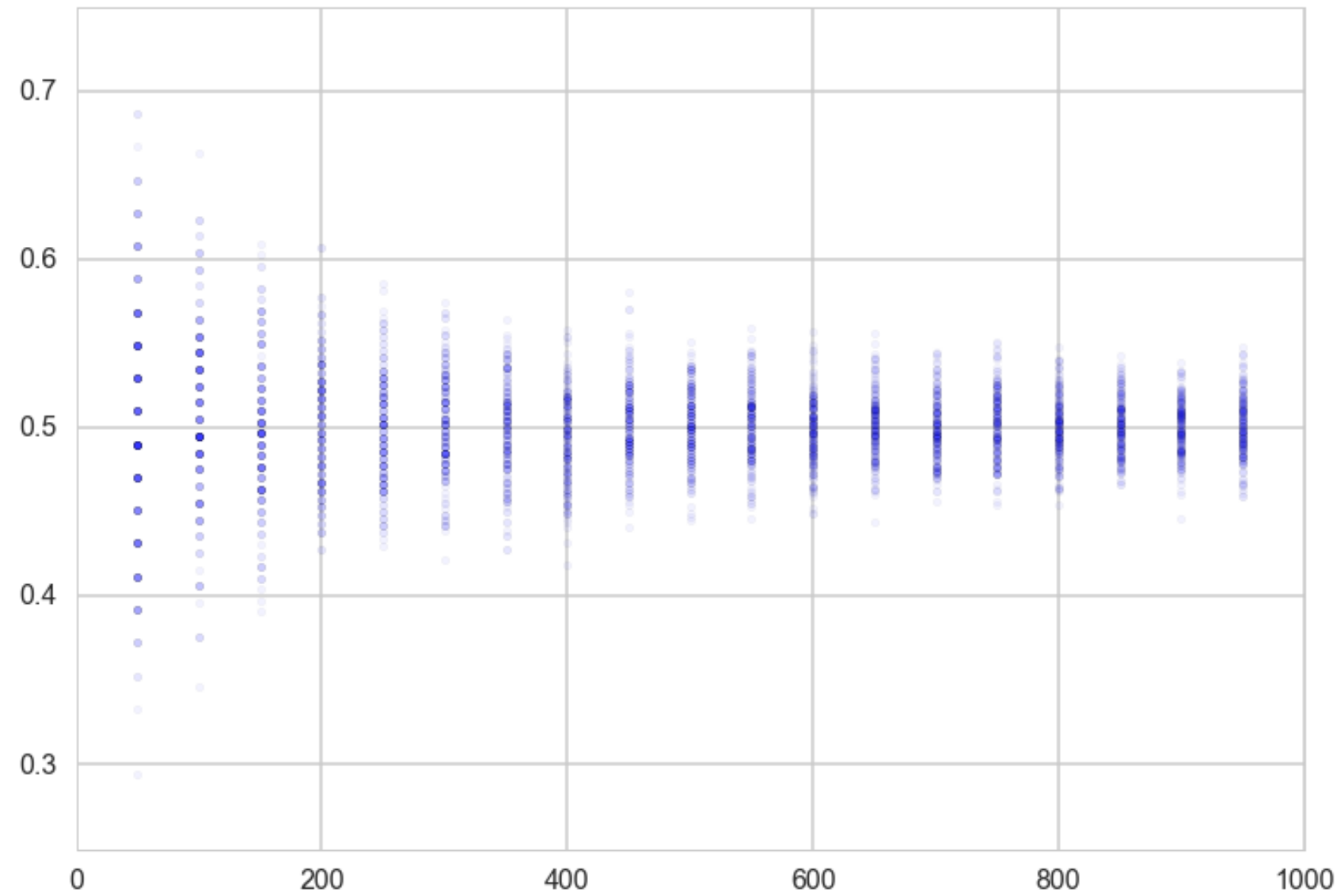
In limit  $M \rightarrow \infty$  of replications, each of the expectations in RHS can be replaced by the population mean  $\mu$  using the law of large numbers! Thus:

$$E_{\{R\}}(N \bar{x}) = N \mu$$

$$E_{\{R\}}(\bar{x}) = \mu$$

In limit  $M \rightarrow \infty$  of replications the expectation value of the sample means converges to the population mean.

# Distribution of Sample Means



Now let underlying distribution have well defined mean  $\mu$  AND a well defined variance  $\sigma^2$ .

$$V_{\{R\}}(N \bar{x}) = V_{\{R\}}(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_N) = V_{\{R\}}(x_1) + V_{\{R\}}(x_2) + \dots + V_{\{R\}}(x_N)$$

Now in limit  $M \rightarrow \infty$ , each of the variances in the RHS can be replaced by the population variance using the law of large numbers!

Thus:

$$V_{\{R\}}(N \bar{x}) = N \sigma^2$$

$$V(\bar{x}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{N}$$



# The Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be a sequence of IID values from a random variable  $X$ . Suppose that  $X$  has the finite mean  $\mu$  AND finite variance  $\sigma^2$ . Then:

$$S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i, \text{ converges to}$$

$$S_n \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

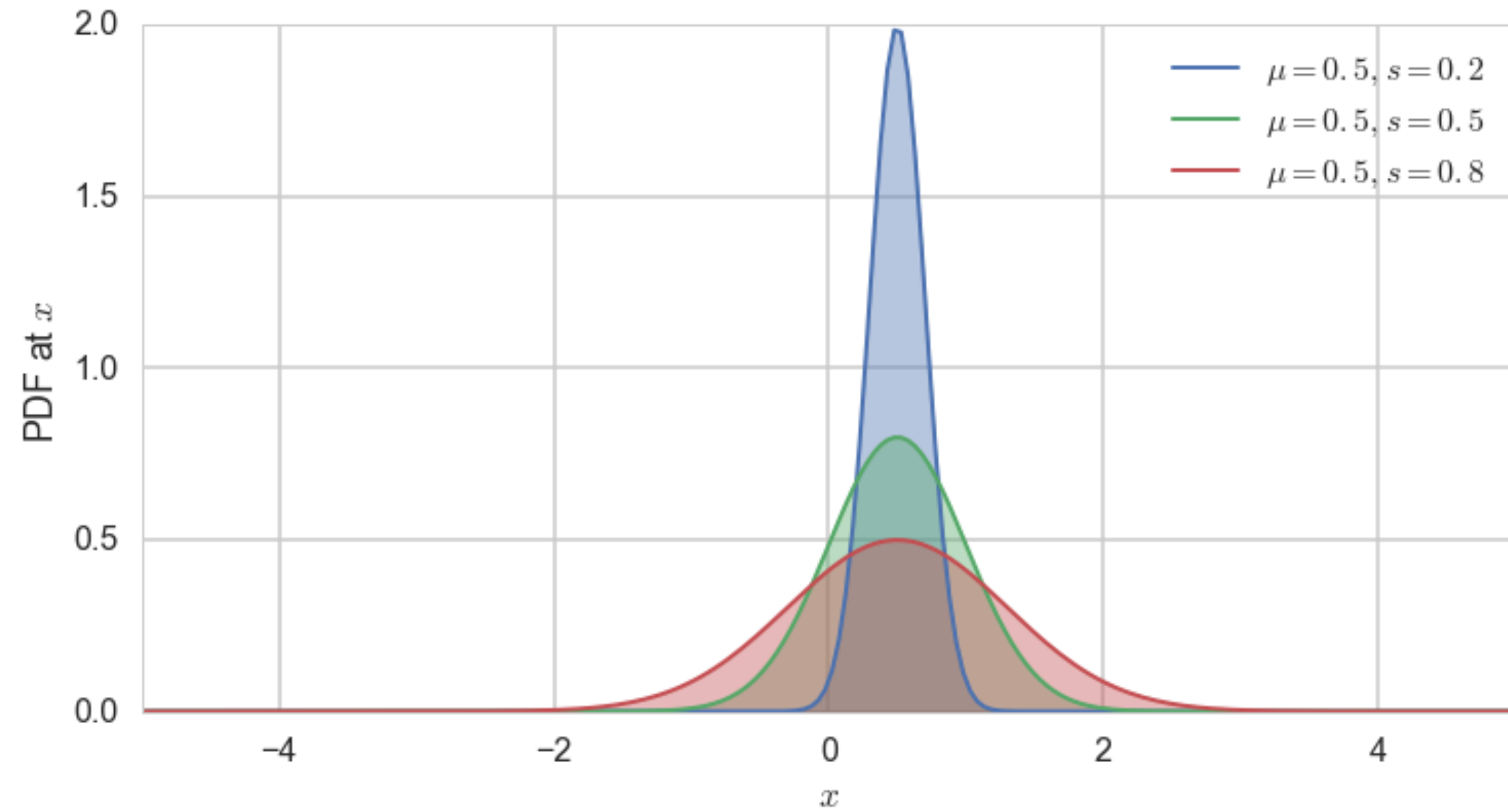
# Origin story of the Gaussian

Under Lyapunov conditions, the  $x_i$  don't have to be identically distributed, as long as  $\mu$  is the mean of the means and  $\sigma^2$  is the sum of the individual variances. This gives us the standard origin story of the gaussian.

$\sqrt{V}$  is called the **standard error**  $s$ .

$$s = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

# Gaussians



# Meaning

- weight-watchers' study of 1000 people, average weight is 150 lbs with  $\sigma$  of 30lbs.
- Randomly choose many samples of 100 people each, the mean weights of those samples would cluster around 150lbs with a standard error of 3lbs.
- a different sample of 100 people with an average weight of 170lbs would be more than 6 standard errors beyond the population mean.

# Back to Monte Carlo

We want to calculate:

$$S_n(f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$$

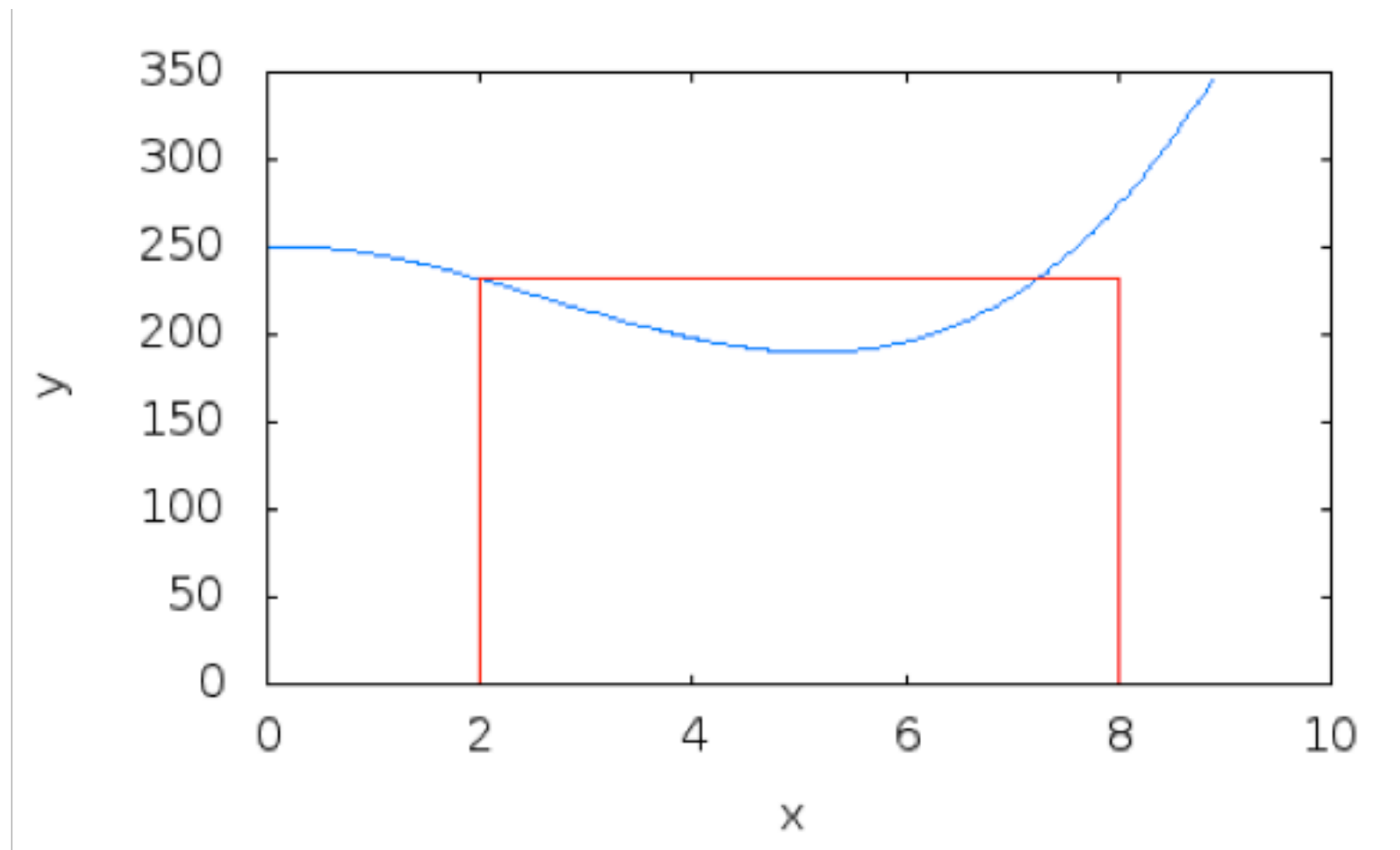
- Whatever  $V[f(X)]$  is, the variance of the sampling distribution of the mean goes down as  $1/n$
- Thus  $s$  goes down as  $1/\sqrt{n}$

# Why is this important?

- In higher dimensions  $d$ , the CLT still holds and the error still scales as  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ .
- How does this compete with numerical integration? For  $n = N^{1/d}$ :
  - left or right rule:  $\propto 1/n$ , Midpoint rule:  $\propto 1/n^2$
  - Trapezoid:  $\propto 1/n^2$ , Simpson:  $\propto 1/n^4$

# Basic Numerical Integration idea

(from wikipedia)



# Next time

In order to calculate expectations, do integrals, and do statistics,  
we must learn how to do

# SAMPLING