The random module

Python
Marquette University
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- Calculate the area of a circle of radius 1
  - Can be done analytically: \( A = r^2 \cdot \pi \)
  - Can be done with Monte Carlo Method
    - Use pseudo-random numbers in order to determine values probabilistically
  - Named after Stanislaw Ulam
    - Used for work on the thermo-nuclear device
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- Inscribe Circle with a square
- Circle: \( \{(x, y)|x^2 + y^2 < 1\} \)
- Square: \( \{(x, y)|-1 < x < 1, -1 < y < 1\} \)
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- **Method:**
  - Choose $n$ random points in the square
  - $m$ points inside circle

$$\frac{\text{Area of Circle}}{\text{Area of Square}} \approx \frac{m}{n}$$
Random Number Generation

- Computers are deterministic (one hopes) and using a deterministic device to generate randomness is not possible
  - Modern systems can use physical phenomena
    - Geiger counters for radioactive materials
    - Atmospheric radio noise
  - But for large sets of seemingly random numbers, use pseudo-random number generators
    - Create deterministically based on a seemingly random seed output that passes statistical tests for randomness
Random Number Generation in Python

- Sophisticated methods to generate seemingly random sequences of numbers
- Part of a module called random
Interlude: Python Modules

• Anyone can create a python module
  • Just a file with extension .py
  • In a directory in the Python path, which is set for the OS
  • Or just in the same directory as files that use the module
• A module contains definitions of variables and functions
  • Any python script that imports the module can use them
Interlude: Python Modules

• Predefined modules
  • Python defines many modules
    • We already have seen math and os
  • To use such a module, say
    • import random
      • in order to use the functions within random
Interlude: Python Modules

- If I just import the module random, then I can use its functions by prefixing “random.”

```python
import random

for _ in range(10):
    print(random.random())
```

Using the function random inside the code.
Interlude: Python Modules

• If I want to avoid writing the module name I can use an “as” clause that redefines the name of the module within the script

```python
import random as rd

for _ in range(10):
    print(rd.random())
```

Using the same function in the same module, but now after internally renaming the module.
Interlude: Python Modules

• By using the “from — import” clause, I can use variables and functions without repeating the module name.

```python
from random import uniform, randint

for _ in range(10):
    print(uniform(0, 2), randint(0, 10))
```

Importing the two functions uniform and randint from the random module.
Interlude: Python Modules

• I could even import everything from a module

• But this can create havoc if I defined a function with the same name as a function in the module

```
from random import *

for _ in range(10):
    print(uniform(0,2), randint(0,10))
```

**A dangerous practice:** Importing all functions from a module
Random Module

• Important functions in the random module
  
  • `random.randint(a, b)` Selects a random integer between `a` and `b` (boundaries included)
  
  • `random.uniform(a, b)` Selects a random float between `a` and `b`
  
  • `random.random()` Selects a random number between 0 and 1
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- Method:
  - Choose \( n \) random points in the square
  - \( m \) points inside circle

\[
\frac{\text{Area of Circle}}{\text{Area of Square}} \approx \frac{m}{n}
\]
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

• Use random module
  
  • `random.uniform(-1,1)` generates random number between -1 and 1
  
  • Generating 20 random numbers:

```python
import random

for i in range(20):
    x = random.uniform(-1,1)
    y = random.uniform(-1,1)
    print("({:6.3f},{:6.3f})".format(x,y))
```
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- We then only count those that are inside the circle

```python
import random

def approx(N):
    count = 0
    for i in range(N):
        x = random.uniform(-1,1)
        y = random.uniform(-1,1)
        if x*x+y*y<1:
            count += 1
    return (4*count/N)
```
A Monte Carlo Method for Area Calculations

• Since \( \frac{\text{count}}{N} \approx \frac{\text{Area Circle}}{\text{Area Box}} \) and the area of the box is 4
• we return \( \frac{4\text{count}}{N} \)

```python
import random

def approx(N):
    count = 0
    for i in range(N):
        x = random.uniform(-1,1)
        y = random.uniform(-1,1)
        if x*x+y*y<1:
            count += 1
    return (4*count/N)
```
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

- Need few random points to get a general idea
- Need lots to get any good accuracy
- Method of choice used to determine 6-dimensional integrals for simulation of quantum decay where accuracy is not as important as speed
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

• Your task:
  • Determine the area between the curves
    \[ y = x^2 \]
    \[ y = 1 - x^2 \]

• Hint: We draw points in the rectangle \([-1,1] \times [0,1]\)

• \((x,y)\) lies in the area if
  \[ x^2 < y < 1 - x^2 \]
A Monte Carlo Method for Area calculation

Select random points in the box $[-1,1] \times [0,1]$

Count the number of times that the point falls in the area

Multiply the ratio $\frac{\text{count}}{\#pts}$ by the area of the box, which is 2

```python
import random

N = int(input("Give the number of random points: "))
count = 0
for _ in range(N):
    x = random.uniform(-1,1)
y = random.uniform(0,1)
    if x*x < y < 1-x*x:
        count += 1
print("The area is approximately", count*2/N)
```
Monte-Carlo Volume Calculation

• Sometimes, Monte-Carlo is the method of choice
  • When there is no need for super-precision
  • When the volume is not easily evaluated using analytic methods.
Volume Calculation

• A partially eaten donut

\[
\left(1 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}\right)^2 + z^4 < 0.2 \text{ and } x - y < .9 \text{ and } x + z < 0.1 \text{ and } x + y < 1.8
\]
Volume Calculation

• Monte Carlo:
  • Select random points in the box $-1.5 < x < 1.5$, $-1.5 < y < 1.5$, $-1.5 < z < 1.5$.
  • Check whether they are inside the donut
  • Count over total number is approximately area of donut over area of box (which is 9).
Volume Calculation

- A partially eaten donut

```python
import random
import math

N = int(input("Give the number of random points: "))
count = 0
for _ in range(N):
    x = random.uniform(-1.5,1.5)
    y = random.uniform(-1.5,1.5)
    z = random.uniform(-1.5,1.5)
    if (1-math.sqrt(x**2+y**2))**2+z**4<0.2 and x-y<0.9 and x+z<0.1 and x+y<1.8:
        count += 1
print("The area is approximately", count*27/N)
```
Additional Exercises

• Find the area of

\[ \{(x, y)\mid (x - 2)^2 + 3 \cdot (y - 1)^2 < 1\}\]

• Hint: First determine maximum and minimum values for x and y