

# Computer Physics

in Particle Physics

Peter Skands

Theoretical Physics, CERN

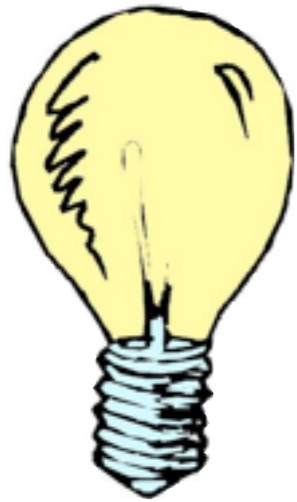
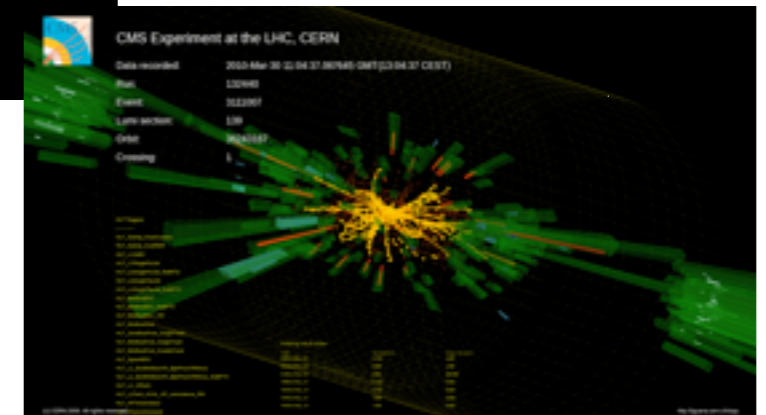
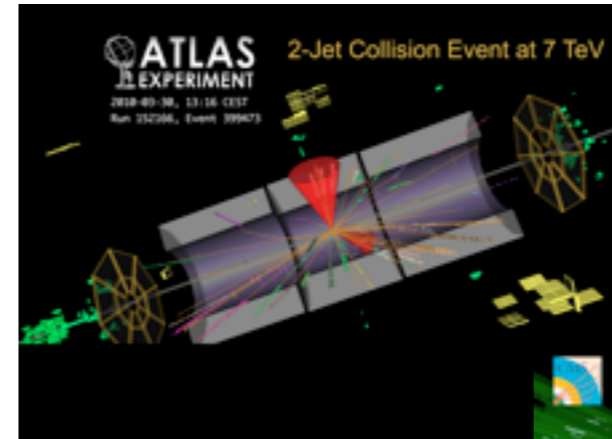
"Nothing"

Glue action density:  $2.4 \times 2.4 \times 3.6$  fm  
QCD Lattice simulation from  
D. B. Leinweber, hep-lat/0004025

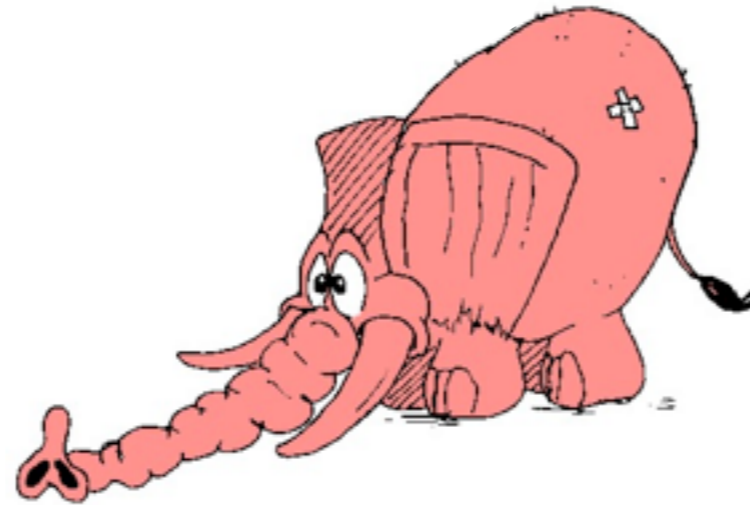


# Collider Physics

Comparisons  
to Collider  
observables

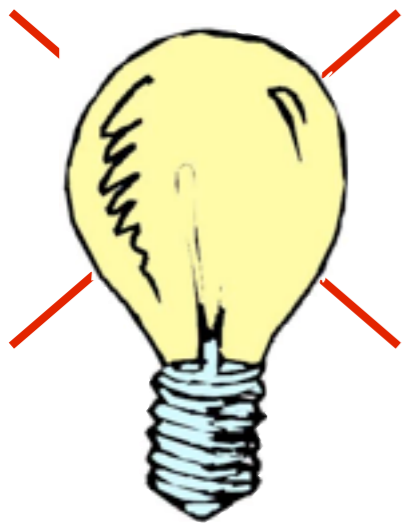
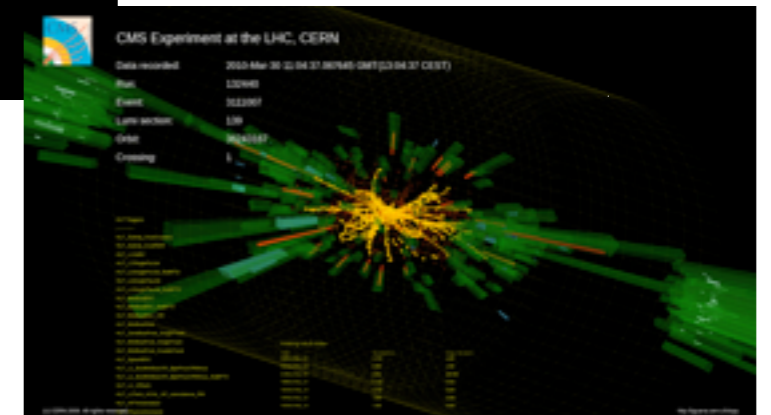
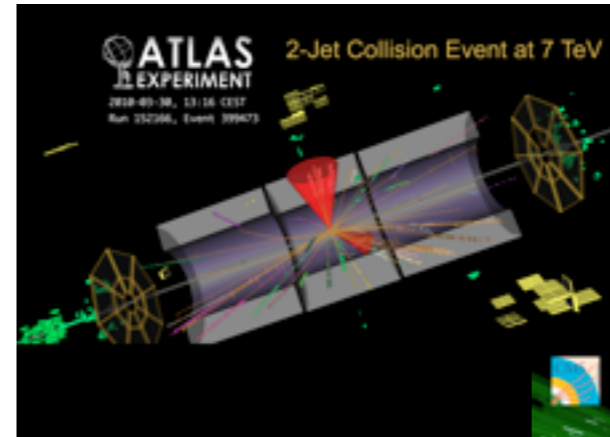


L=...

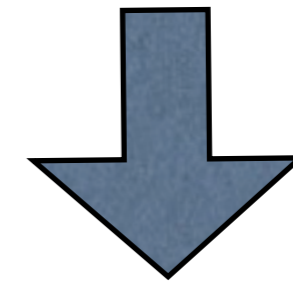
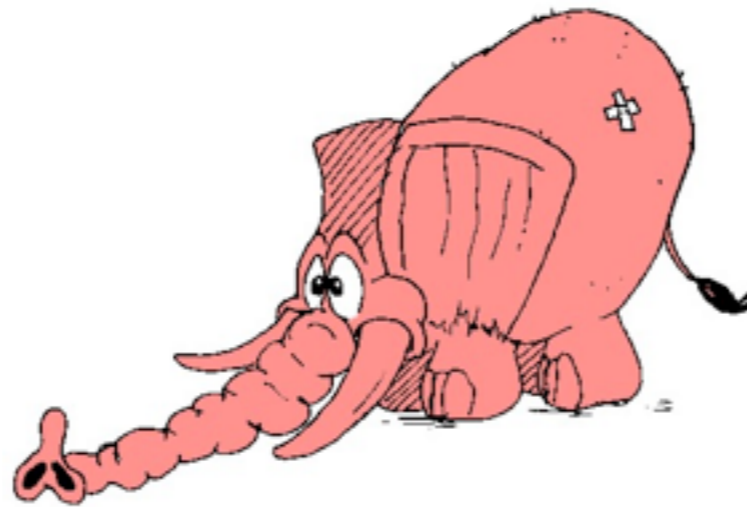


# Collider Physics

Comparisons  
to Collider  
observables



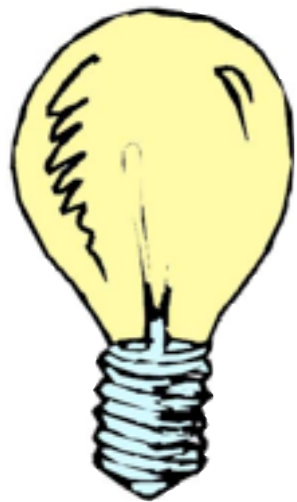
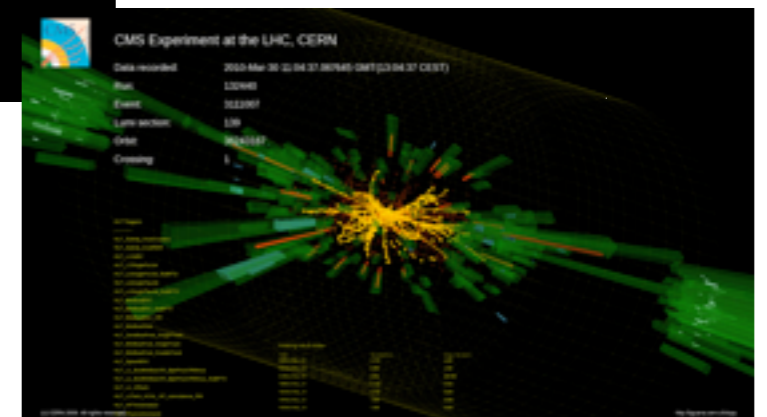
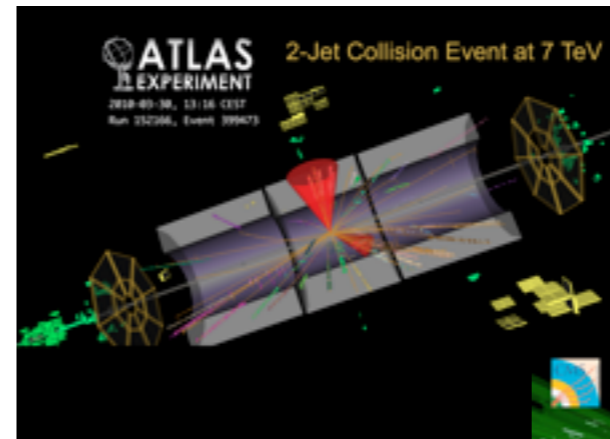
$L = \dots$



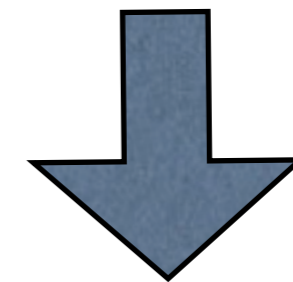
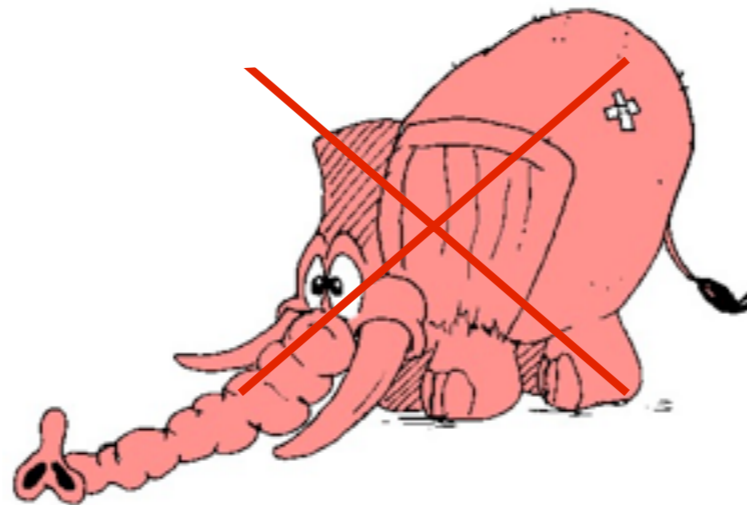
A) Theoretical Idea  
is wrong

# Collider Physics

Comparisons  
to Collider  
observables



$L = \dots$



A) Theoretical Idea

B) SM Physics Model  
is wrong

# Topics

## Lecture 1:

Numerical Integration  
Monte Carlo methods  
Importance Sampling  
The Veto Algorithm

+ on Friday

Practical Exercises:

PYTHIA 8 kickstart

([get the instructions](#))

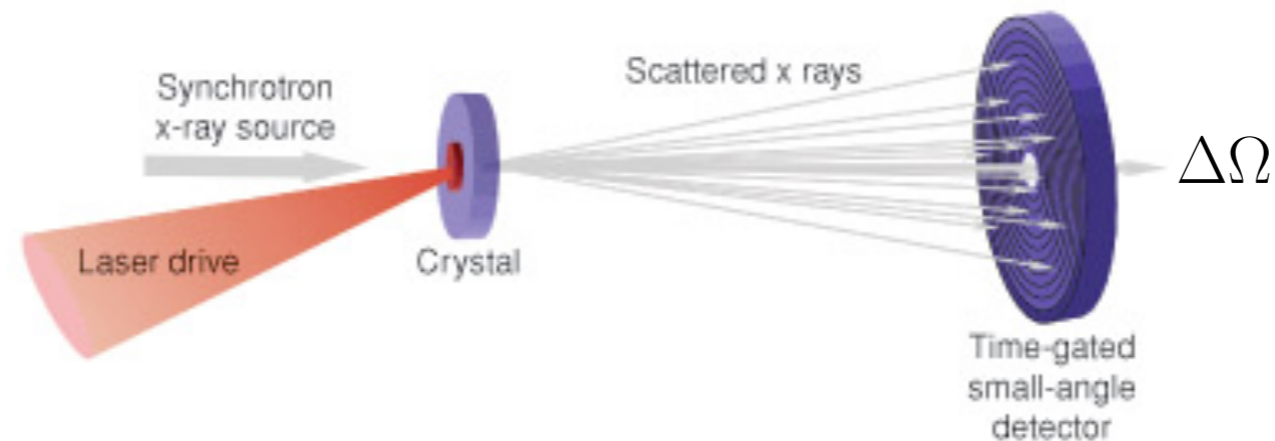
## Lecture 2:

Application of these methods to simulations  
of collider physics: Monte Carlo Event Generators

# Why Integrals?

Think: scattering experiments

→ Integrate differential cross sections over specific phase space regions



Predicted number of counts  
= integral over solid angle

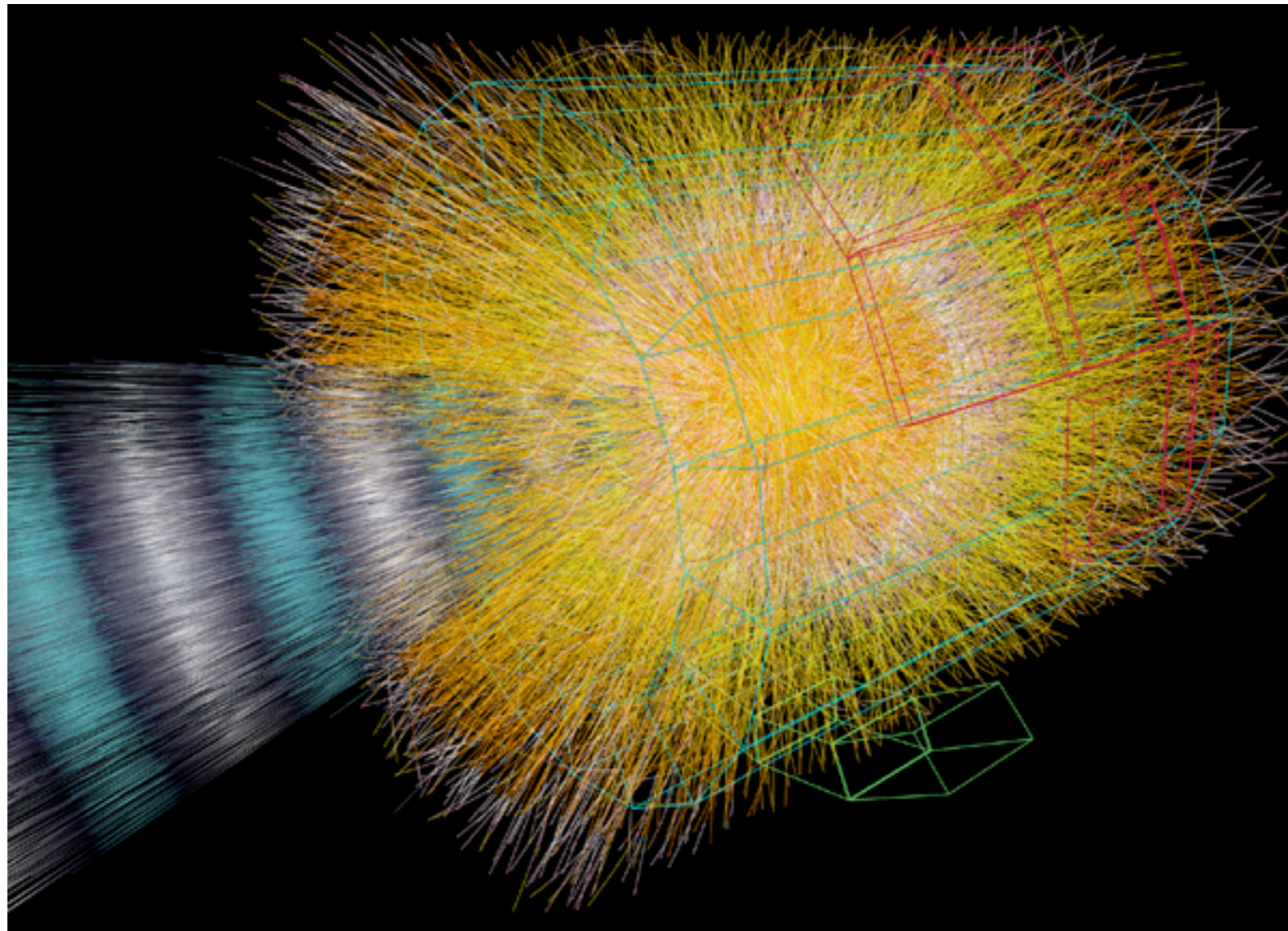
$$N_{\text{count}}(\Delta\Omega) \propto \int_{\Delta\Omega} d\Omega \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$$

**In particle physics:**  
sum (= integrate) over all quantum histories



# ALICE Collision

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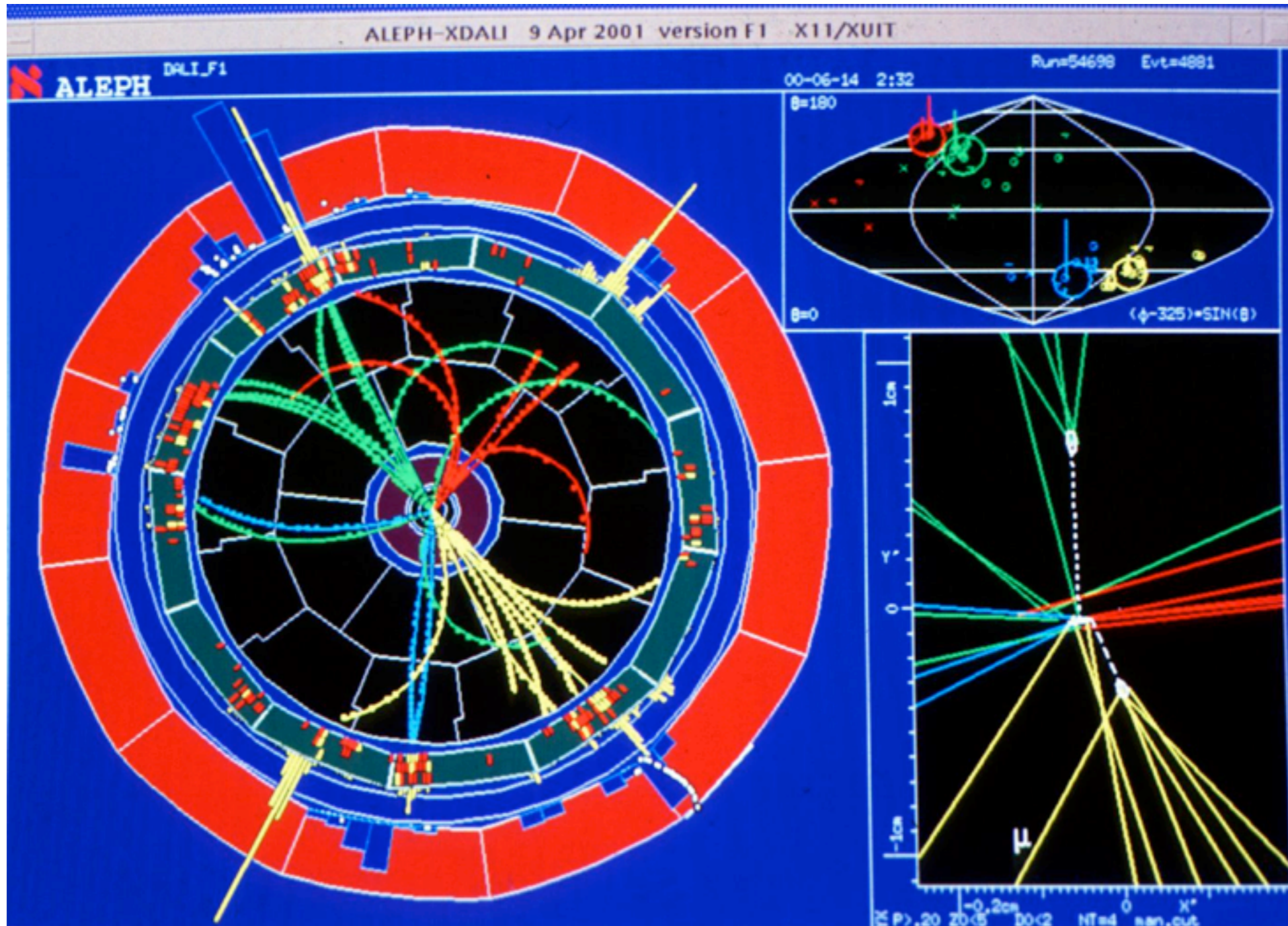


└─→ More complicated integrals ...



Why Integrals?

# Why Numerical?



4-jet event in ALEPH at LEP (a Higgs candidate)

Now compute the backgrounds ...



# Why Numerical?

Part of  $Z \rightarrow 4$  jets ...

## 5.3 Four-parton tree-level antenna functions

The tree-level four-parton quark-antiquark antenna contains three final states: quark-gluon-gluon-antiquark at leading and subleading colour,  $A_4^0$  and  $\tilde{A}_4^0$  and quark-antiquark-quark-antiquark for non-identical quark flavours  $B_4^0$  as well as the identical-flavour-only contribution  $C_4^0$ . The quark-antiquark-quark-antiquark final state with identical quark flavours is thus described by the sum of antennae for non-identical flavour and identical-flavour-only. The antennae for the  $q\bar{q}g\bar{g}$  final state are:

$$A_4^0(1_q, 3_g, 4_g, 2_{\bar{q}}) = a_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) + a_4^0(2, 4, 3, 1), \quad (5.27)$$

$$\tilde{A}_4^0(1_q, 3_g, 4_g, 2_{\bar{q}}) = \tilde{a}_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) + \tilde{a}_4^0(2, 4, 3, 1) + \tilde{a}_4^0(1, 4, 3, 2) + \tilde{a}_4^0(2, 3, 4, 1), \quad (5.28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) = & \frac{1}{s_{1234}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2s_{13}s_{24}s_{34}} [2s_{12}s_{14} + 2s_{12}s_{23} + 2s_{12}^2 + s_{14}^2 + s_{23}^2] \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{2s_{13}s_{24}s_{134}s_{234}} [3s_{12}s_{34}^2 - 4s_{12}^2s_{34} + 2s_{12}^3 - s_{34}^3] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}s_{134}} [3s_{12}s_{23} - 3s_{12}s_{34} + 4s_{12}^2 - s_{23}s_{34} + s_{23}^2 + s_{34}^2] \\ & + \frac{3}{2s_{13}s_{24}} [2s_{12} + s_{14} + s_{23}] + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{34}} [4s_{12} + 3s_{23} + 2s_{24}] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}^2} [s_{12}s_{34} + s_{23}s_{34} + s_{24}s_{34}] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}s_{234}} [3s_{12}s_{24} + 6s_{12}s_{34} - 4s_{12}^2 - 3s_{24}s_{34} - s_{24}^2 - 3s_{34}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}} [-6s_{12} - 3s_{23} - s_{24} + 2s_{34}] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{24}s_{34}s_{134}} [2s_{12}s_{14} + 2s_{12}s_{23} + 2s_{12}^2 + 2s_{14}s_{23} + s_{14}^2 + s_{23}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{24}s_{134}} [-4s_{12} - s_{14} - s_{23} + s_{34}] + \frac{1}{s_{34}^2} [s_{12} + 2s_{13} - 2s_{14} - s_{34}] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{34}^2s_{134}^2} [2s_{12}s_{14}^2 + 2s_{14}^2s_{23} + 2s_{14}^2s_{24}] - \frac{2s_{12}s_{14}s_{24}}{s_{34}^2s_{134}s_{234}} \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{34}^2s_{134}} [-2s_{12}s_{14} - 4s_{14}s_{24} + 2s_{14}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{34}s_{134}s_{234}} [-2s_{12}s_{14} - 4s_{12}^2 + 2s_{14}s_{24} - s_{14}^2 - s_{24}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{34}s_{134}} [-8s_{12} - 2s_{23} - 2s_{24}] + \frac{1}{s_{134}^2} [s_{12} + s_{23} + s_{24}] \\ & \left. + \frac{3}{2s_{134}s_{234}} [2s_{12} + s_{14} - s_{24} - s_{34}] + \frac{1}{2s_{134}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.29)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{a}_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) = & \frac{1}{s_{1234}} \left\{ \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}s_{134}s_{234}} \left[ \frac{3}{2}s_{12}s_{34}^2 - 2s_{12}^2s_{34} + s_{12}^3 - \frac{1}{2}s_{34}^3 \right] \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}s_{134}} [3s_{12}s_{23} - 3s_{12}s_{34} + 4s_{12}^2 - s_{23}s_{34} + s_{23}^2 + s_{34}^2] \\ & + \frac{s_{12}^3}{s_{13}s_{24}(s_{13} + s_{23})(s_{14} + s_{24})} + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}(s_{13} + s_{23})} \left[ \frac{1}{2}s_{12}s_{14} + s_{12}^2 \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}(s_{14} + s_{24})} \left[ \frac{1}{2}s_{12}s_{23} + s_{12}^2 \right] + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{24}} \left[ 3s_{12} + \frac{3}{2}s_{14} + \frac{3}{2}s_{23} \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}^2} [s_{12}s_{34} + s_{23}s_{34} + s_{24}s_{34}] + \frac{2s_{12}^3}{s_{13}s_{134}s_{234}(s_{13} + s_{23})} \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}s_{234}} [3s_{12}s_{34} - s_{24}s_{34} - 2s_{34}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}(s_{13} + s_{23})} [s_{12}s_{24} + s_{12}s_{34} + 2s_{12}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{134}} [-s_{23} - s_{24} + 2s_{34}] + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{234}(s_{13} + s_{23})} [s_{12}s_{14} + s_{12}s_{34} + 2s_{12}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}s_{234}} [-2s_{12} - 2s_{14} + s_{24} + 2s_{34}] \\ & + \frac{2s_{12}^3}{s_{13}(s_{13} + s_{23})(s_{14} + s_{24})(s_{13} + s_{14})} \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}(s_{13} + s_{23})(s_{13} + s_{14})} [s_{12}s_{24} + 2s_{12}^2] \\ & + \frac{1}{s_{13}(s_{14} + s_{24})(s_{13} + s_{14})} [s_{12}s_{23} + 2s_{12}^2] \\ & + \frac{2s_{12}}{s_{13}(s_{13} + s_{14})} - \frac{2}{s_{13}} + \frac{1}{s_{134}^2} [s_{12} + s_{23} + s_{24}] \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{s_{134}s_{234}} [s_{12} - s_{34}] + \frac{1}{s_{134}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.30)$$

First computed by K. Ellis, D. Ross, A. Terrano, Nucl.Phys.B178 (1981) 421  
This version from Gehrmann-de-Ridder, Gehrmann, Glover, JHEP 0509(2005)056

# Why Numerical?

The non-identical quark antenna is:

$$B_4^0(1_q, 3_{q'}, 4_{\bar{q}'}, 2_{\bar{q}}) = b_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) + b_4^0(2, 3, 4, 1) + b_4^0(1, 4, 3, 2) + b_4^0(2, 4, 3, 1), \quad (5.37)$$

with a sub-antenna function given by

$$b_4^0(1, 3, 4, 2) = \frac{1}{s_{1234}} \left\{ \frac{1}{s_{34}^2 s_{134}^2} [s_{12}s_{13}s_{14} + s_{13}s_{14}s_{23} - s_{13}^2 s_{24}] \right. \\ + \frac{1}{s_{34}^2 s_{134} s_{234}} [-s_{12}s_{13}s_{24} + s_{13}s_{14}s_{23} - s_{13}s_{24}^2] + \frac{1}{s_{34} s_{134}^2} [s_{12}s_{13} + s_{13}s_{23}] \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2s_{34} s_{134} s_{234}} [2s_{12}s_{13} + s_{12}^2] + \frac{s_{12}}{2s_{134} s_{234}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right\}. \quad (5.38)$$

The identical-flavour-only quark-antiquark-quark-antiquark antenna is:

$$C_4^0(1_q, 3_q, 4_{\bar{q}}, 2_{\bar{q}}) = c_4^0(1, 2, 3, 4) + c_4^0(1, 4, 3, 2), \quad (5.42)$$

$$c_4^0(1, 2, 3, 4) = \frac{1}{s_{1234}} \left\{ -\frac{s_{12}s_{13}s_{14}}{2s_{23}s_{34}s_{123}s_{134}} + \frac{1}{2s_{23}s_{34}s_{134}s_{234}} [-s_{12}s_{13}s_{24} + s_{13}s_{14}s_{24}] \right. \\ - \frac{s_{13}s_{24}^2}{2s_{23}s_{34}s_{234}^2} - \frac{s_{12}s_{13}}{s_{23}s_{123}s_{134}} \\ + \frac{1}{2s_{23}s_{123}s_{234}} [-s_{12}s_{14} - s_{12}s_{34} - s_{12}^2 + s_{13}s_{24}] \\ + \frac{1}{2s_{23}s_{134}s_{234}} [s_{12}s_{14} + s_{12}s_{34} + s_{12}^2 + s_{13}s_{24}] - \frac{s_{13}}{2s_{123}s_{134}} \\ \left. + \frac{1}{s_{23}s_{234}^2} [s_{12}s_{24} + s_{14}s_{24}] + \frac{1}{2s_{123}s_{234}} [-s_{12} + s_{14}] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right\}. \quad (5.43)$$

Integrate over 4-particle phase space ...

This is one of the simplest processes ... computed at lowest order in the theory.

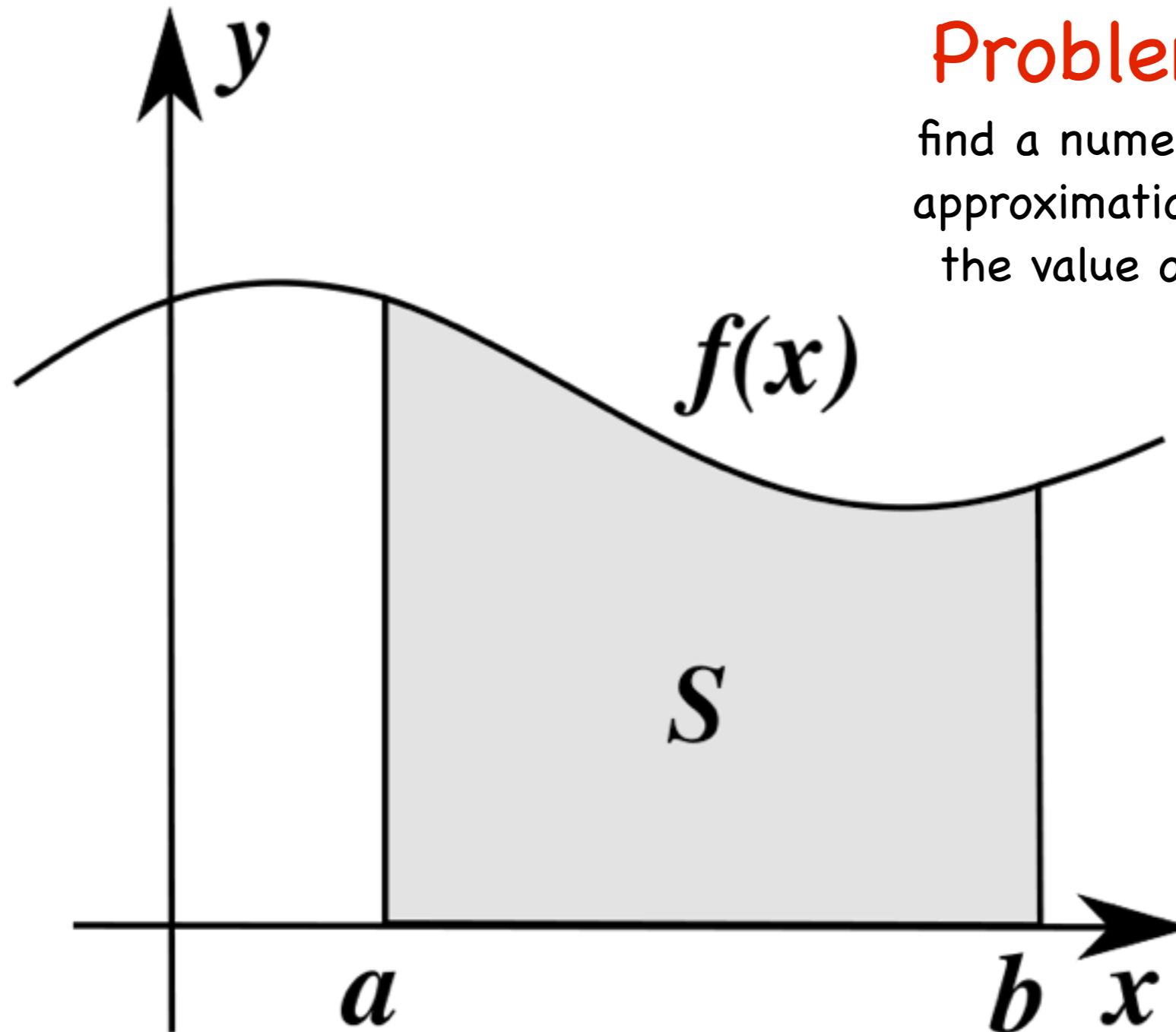
Now compute the quantum corrections:  $Z \rightarrow 5, 6, \dots$

And higher orders of quantum fluctuations (quantum loops) ...

And hadronization, hadron decays, detector response, ...



# Numerical Integration



**Problem:**

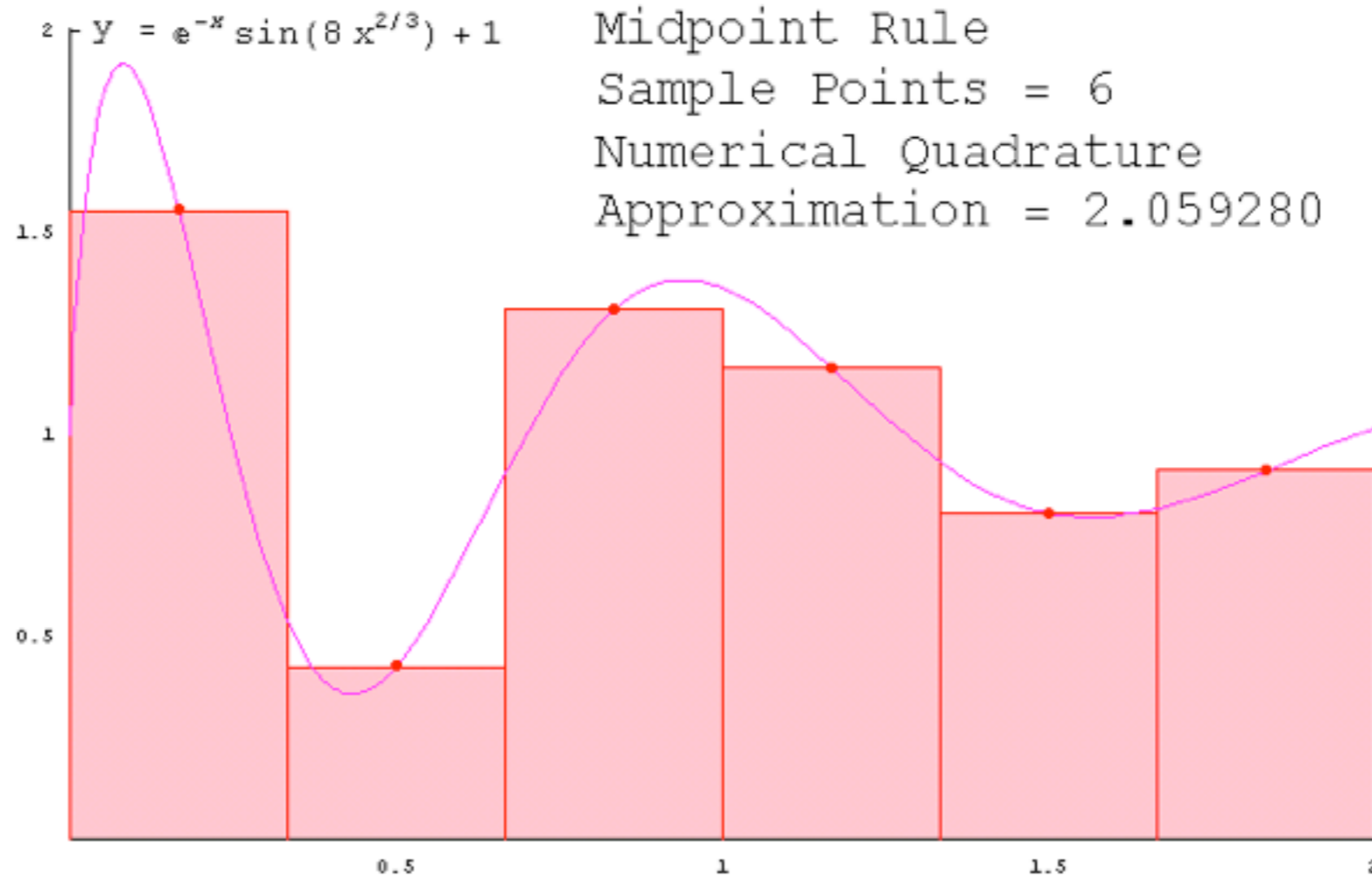
find a numerical approximation to the value of  $S$

# Riemann Sums

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(t_i)(x_{i+1} - x_i)$$



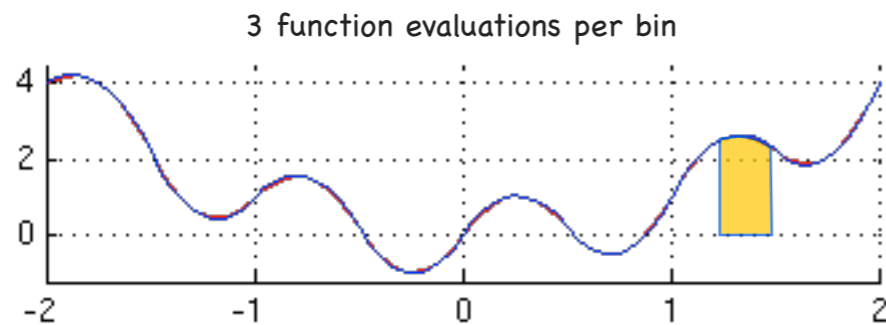
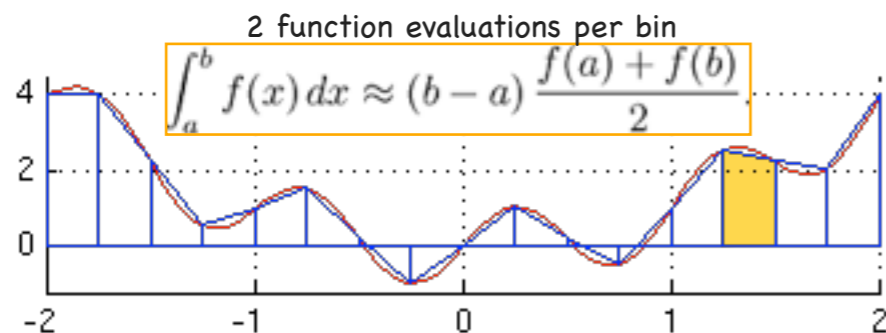
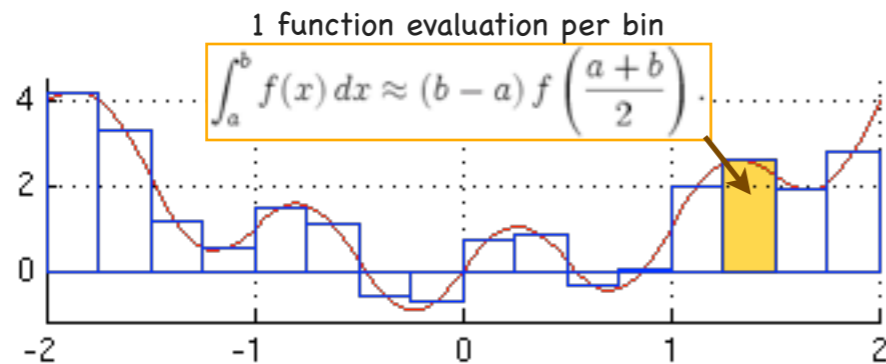
B. Riemann, (1826-1866)





# Numerical Integration in 1D

## Fixed-Grid n-point Quadrature Rules:



## Midpoint (rectangular) Rule:

Divide into N "bins" of size  $\Delta$

Approximate  $f(x) \approx \text{constant}$  in each bin

Sum over all **rectangles** inside your region

## Trapezoidal Rule:

Approximate  $f(x) \approx \text{linear}$  in each bin

Sum over all **trapeziums** inside your region

## Simpson's Rule:

Approximate  $f(x) \approx \text{quadratic}$  in each bin

Sum over all **simpsons** inside your region

etc ...

# Convergence Rate

The most important question:

How long do I have to wait?

(How many points do I need for a given precision)?

Uncertainty as a function of number of points	$n_{\text{eval}} / \text{bin}$	Approx Conv. Rate (in 1D)
Trapezoidal Rule (2-point)	2	$1/n^2$
Simpson's Rule (3-point)	3	$1/n^4$
... m-point (Gauss quadrature)	m	$1/n^{2m-1}$

See, e.g., Numerical Recipes

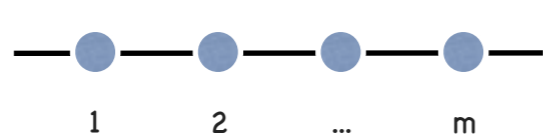
See, e.g., F. James, "Monte Carlo Theory and Practice"



# Higher Dimensions

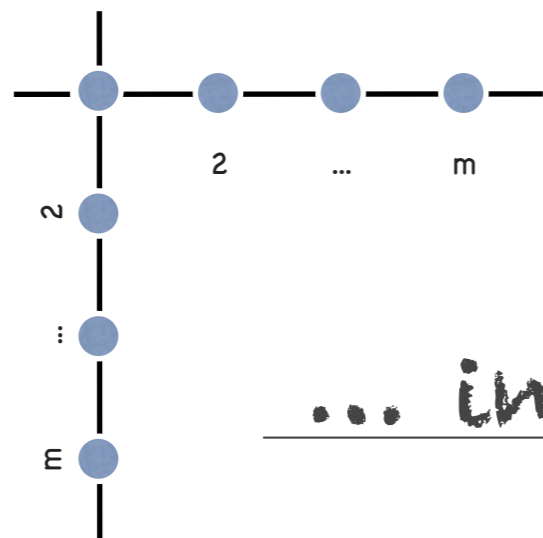
Fixed-Grid (Product) Rules scale exponentially with D

N-point rule in 1 dimension



→ m function evaluations per bin

... in 2 dimensions



→  $m^2$  evaluations per bin

... in D dimensions →  $N^D$  per bin

E.g., to evaluate a 12-point rule in 10 dimensions,  
need 1000 billion evaluations per bin

# Convergence Rate

+ Convergence is slower in higher Dimensions!

→ More points for less precision



Uncertainty as a function of number of points	$n_{\text{eval}} / \text{bin}$	Approx Conv. Rate (in D dim)
Trapezoidal Rule (2-point)	$2^D$	$1/n^{2/D}$
Simpson's Rule (3-point)	$3^D$	$1/n^{4/D}$
... m-point (Gauss rule)	$m^D$	$1/n^{(2m-1)/D}$

See, e.g., Numerical Recipes

See, e.g., F. James, Monte Carlo Theory and Practice



# Monte Carlo

A Monte Carlo technique: is any technique making use of random numbers to solve a problem

## Convergence:

**Calculus:**  $\{A\}$  converges to  $B$   
if an  $n$  exists for which  
 $|A_{i>n} - B| < \epsilon$ , for any  $\epsilon > 0$

**Monte Carlo:**  $\{A\}$  converges to  $B$   
if  $n$  exists for which  
the probability for  
 $|A_{i>n} - B| < \epsilon$ , for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  
is  $> P$ , for any  $P[0 < P < 1]$

“This risk, that **convergence is only given with a certain probability**, is inherent in Monte Carlo calculations and is the reason why this technique was named after the world’s most famous gambling casino. Indeed, the name is doubly appropriate because the **style of gambling** in the Monte Carlo casino, not to be confused with the noisy and tasteless gambling houses of Las Vegas and Reno, is serious and sophisticated.”

*F. James, “Monte Carlo theory and practice”,  
Rept. Prog. Phys. 43 (1980) 1145*



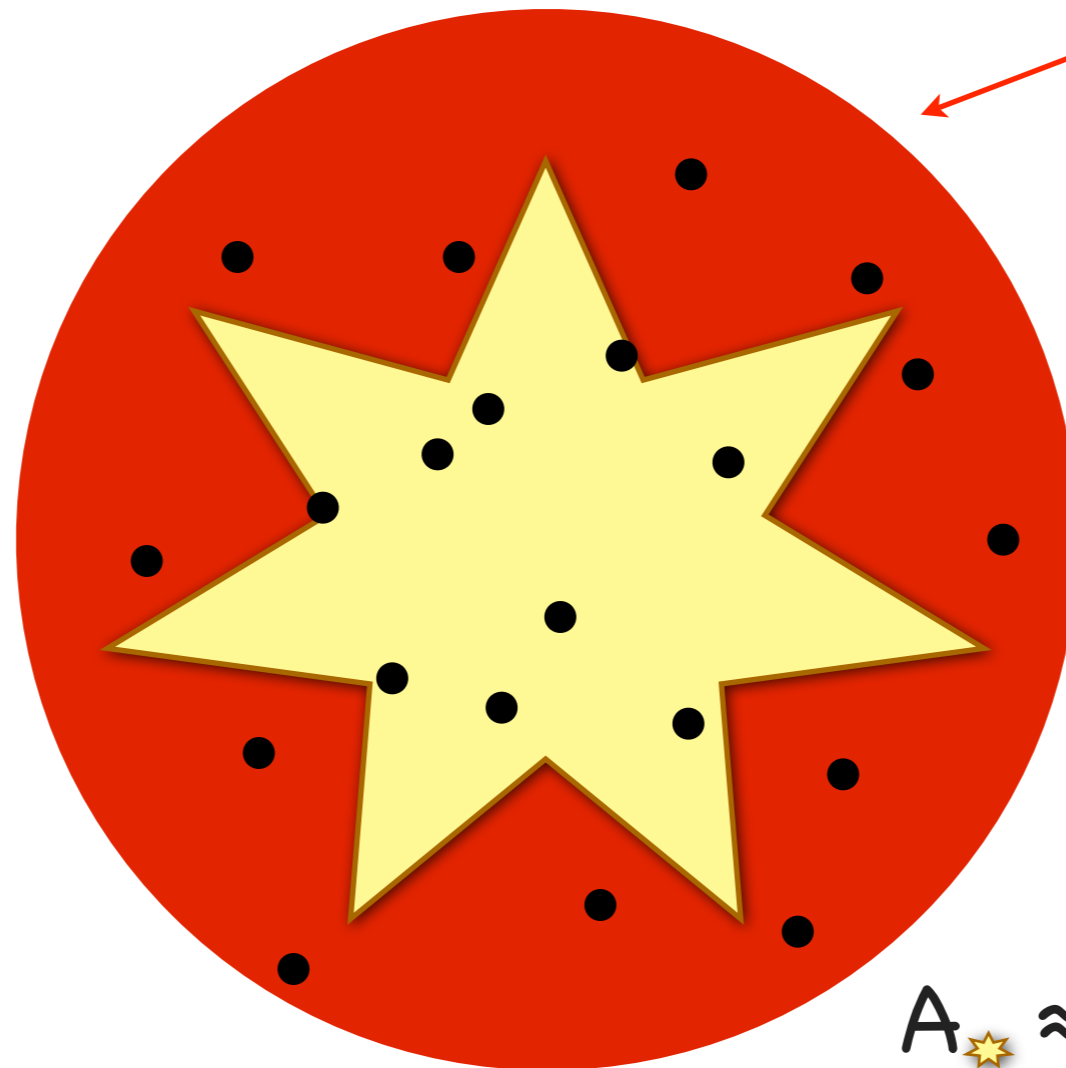
# Random Numbers and Monte Carlo

Example 1: simple function (=constant); complicated boundary

**Example:** you want to know the area of this shape:

Now get a few friends, some balls, and throw random shots inside the circle  
(PS: be careful to make your shots truly random)

Count how many shots hit the shape inside and how many miss



Assume you know the area of this shape:

$$\pi R^2$$

(an overestimate)



Earliest Example of MC calculation: Buffon's Needle (1777) to calculate  $\pi$

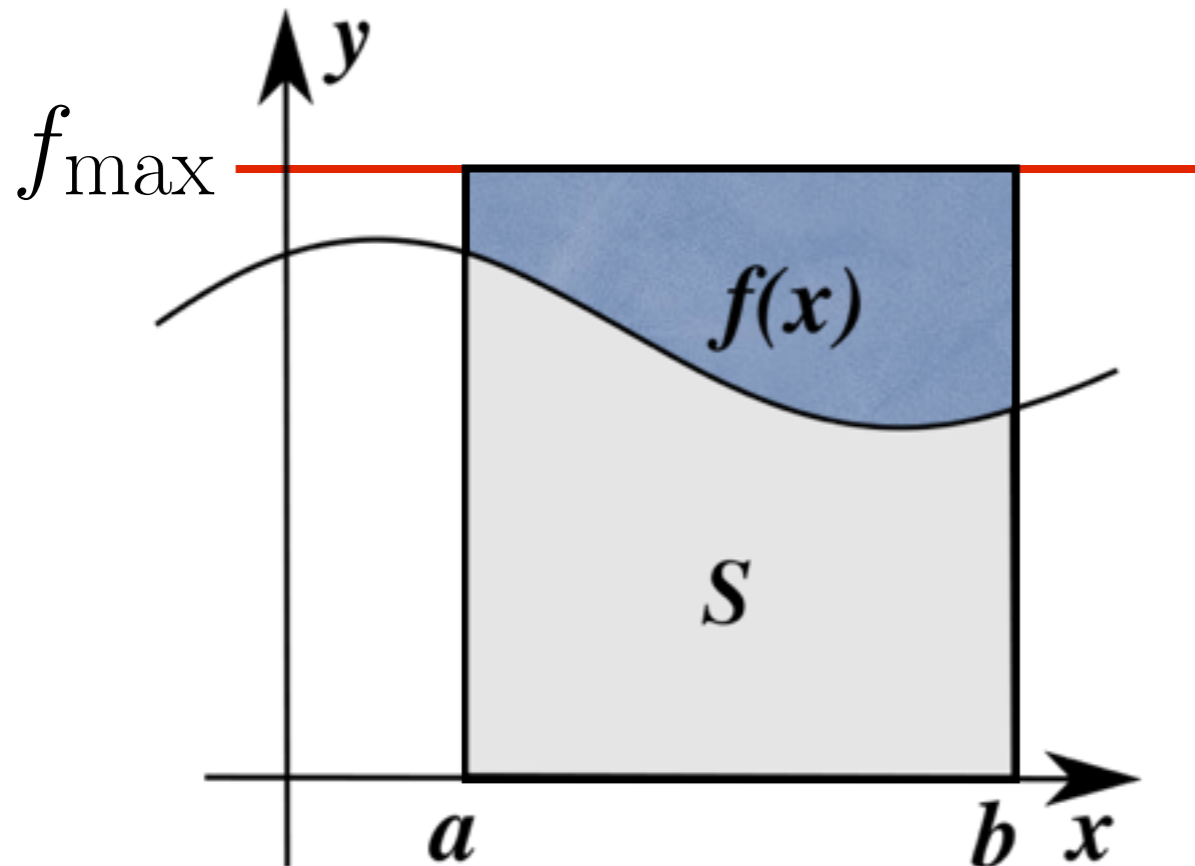
G. Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707-1788)

$$A_{\star} \approx N_{\text{hit}} / N_{\text{miss}} \times \pi R^2$$



# Random Numbers and Monte Carlo

Example 2: complicated function; simple boundary



Start from **overestimate**,

$$f_{\max}$$

Generate uniformly distributed random points between a and b

$$\frac{f(x_i)}{f_{\max}} = P_{\text{hit}}$$

The integral is then  $\approx$

$$(b - a) f_{\max} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f(x_i)}{f_{\max}}$$

area of rectangle
fraction that 'hit'

# Justification

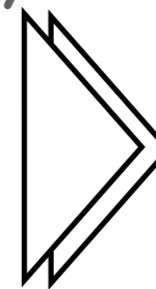
## 1. Law of large numbers

For a function,  $f$ , of random variables,  $x_i$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Monte Carlo Estimate

The Integral

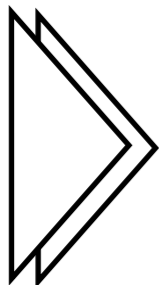


**For infinite  $n$ :**  
Monte Carlo is a  
consistent  
estimator

## 2. Central Limit theorem

The sum of  $n$  independent random variables (of finite expectations and variances) is asymptotically Gaussian

(no matter how the individual random variables are distributed)



**For finite  $n$ :**

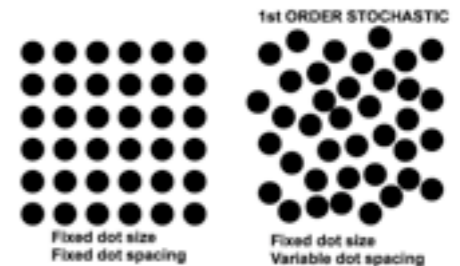
The Monte Carlo estimate is Gauss distributed around the true value

# Convergence

## MC convergence is Stochastic!

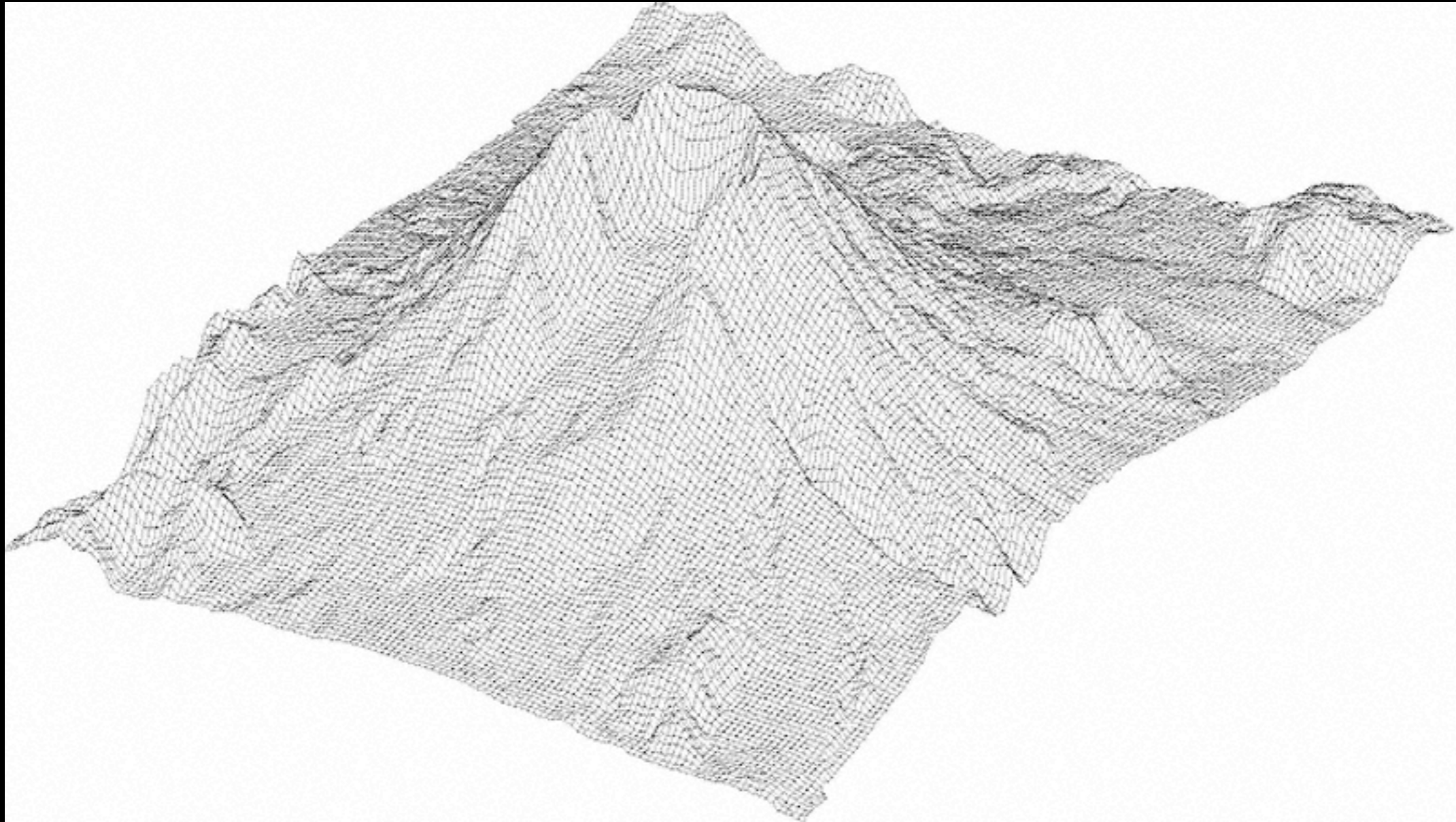
$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  in any dimension

+ can re-use previously generated points ( $\approx$  nesting)



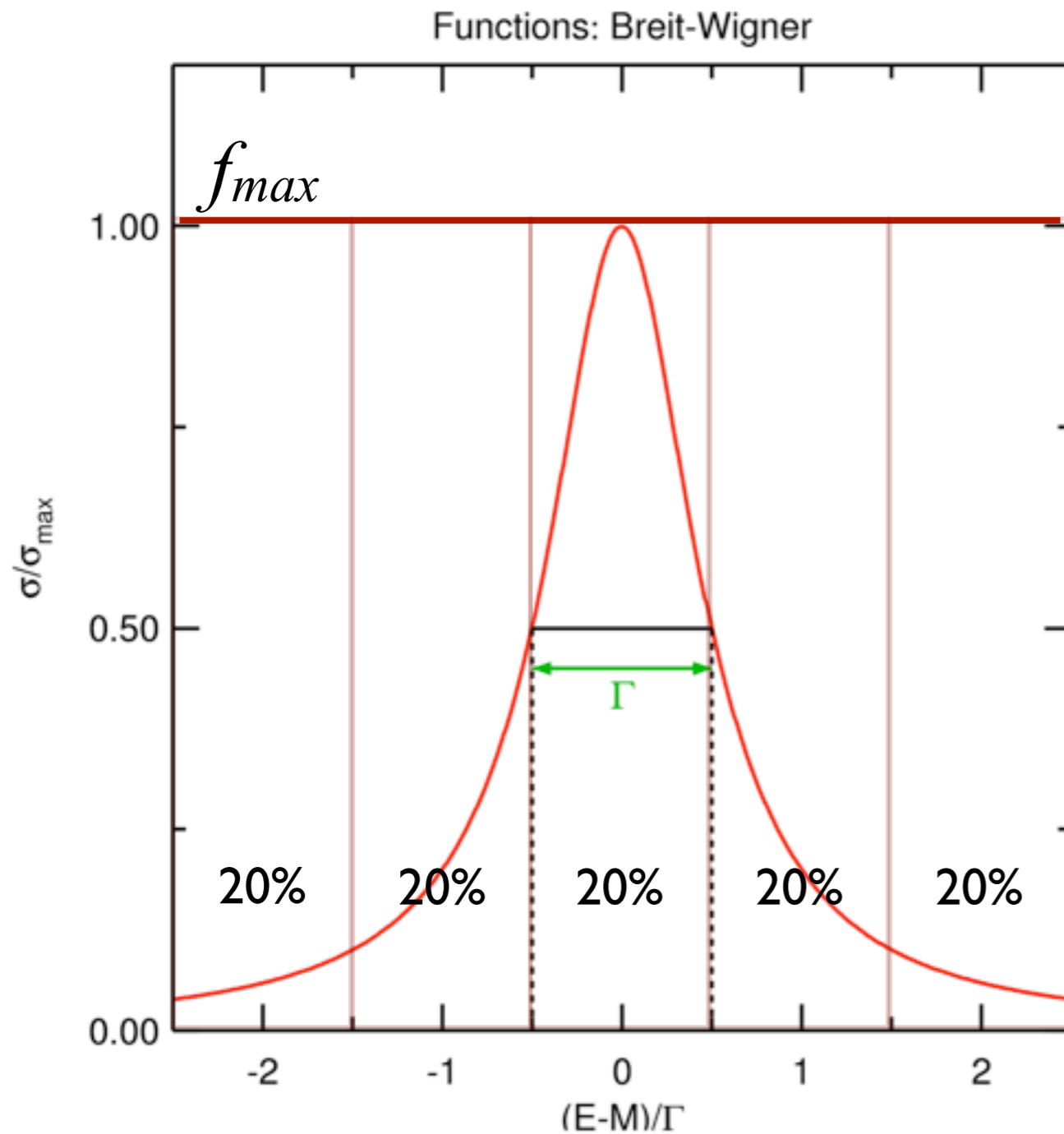
Uncertainty as a function of number of points	$n_{\text{eval}} / \text{bin}$	Approx Conv. Rate (in 1D)	Approx Conv. Rate (in D dim)
Trapezoidal Rule (2-point)	$2^D$	$1/n^2$	$1/n^{2/D}$
Simpson's Rule (3-point)	$3^D$	$1/n^4$	$1/n^{4/D}$
... m-point (Gauss rule)	$m^D$	$1/n^{2m-1}$	$1/n^{(2m-1)/D}$
Monte Carlo	1	$1/n^{1/2}$	$1/n^{1/2}$

# Importance Sampling





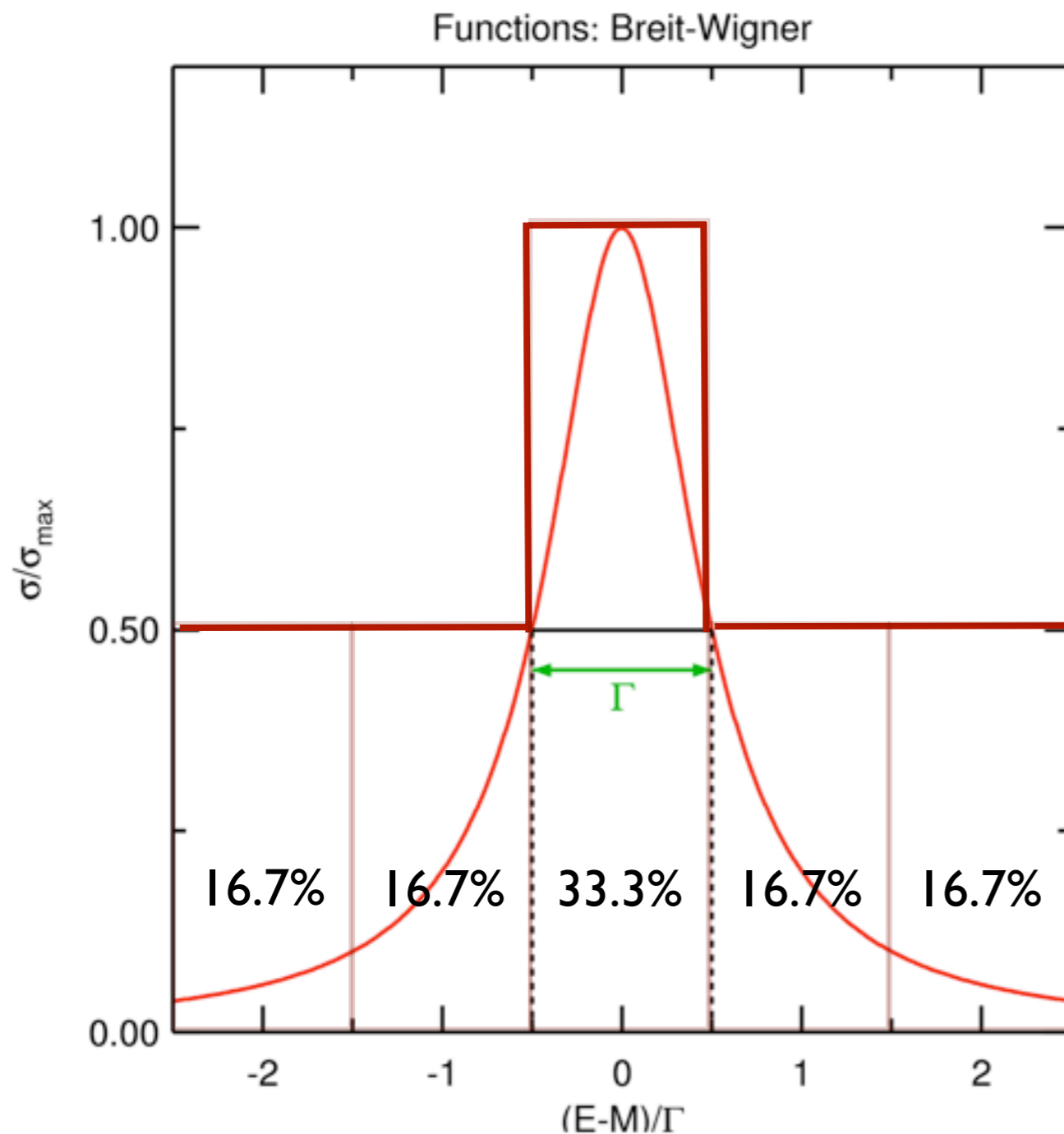
# Peaked Functions



Precision on integral dominated by the points with  $f \approx f_{max}$  (i.e., peak regions)

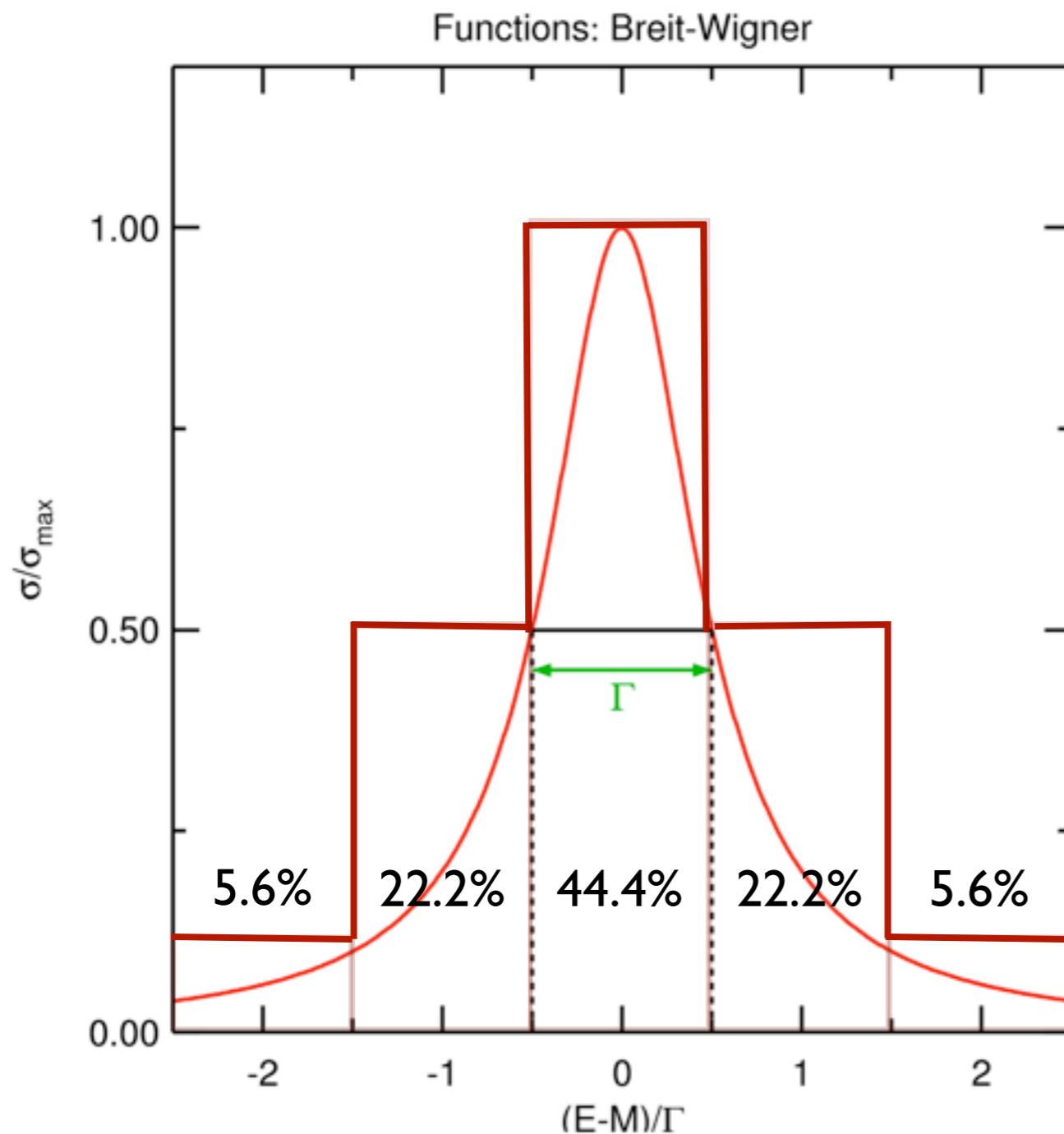
→ slow convergence if high, narrow peaks

# Stratified Sampling



- make it twice as likely to throw points in the peak
- faster convergence for same number of function evaluations

# Adaptive Sampling

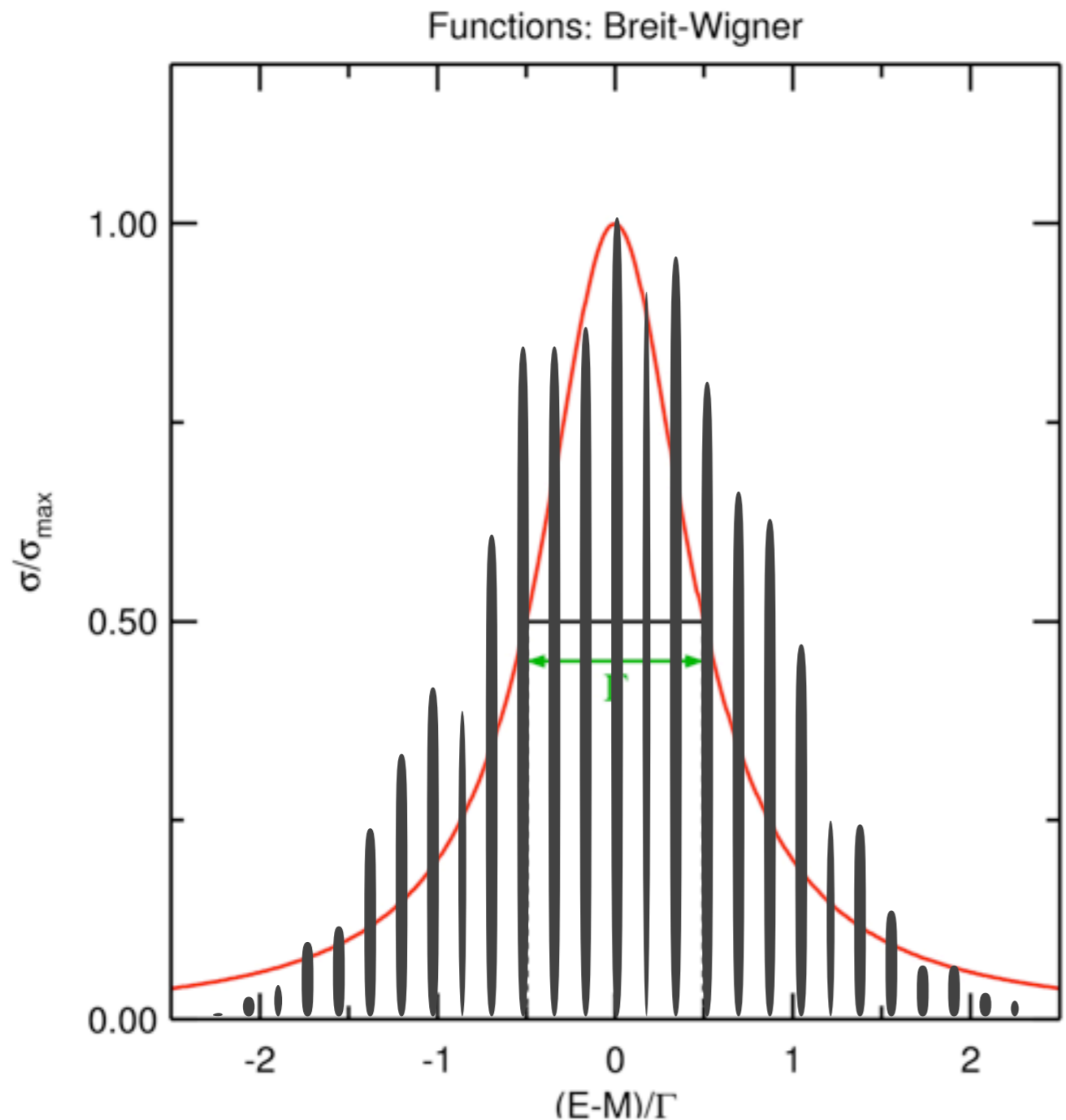


→ can even design algorithms that do this automatically as they run

→ Adaptive sampling

# Importance Sampling

E.g., VEGAS algorithm, by G. Lepage



→ or throw points according to some smooth peaked function for which you have, or can construct, a random number generator (here: Gauss)



# Why does this work?

- 1) You are inputting knowledge: obviously need to know where the peaks are to begin with ... (say you know, e.g., the location and width of a resonance)
- 2) Stratified sampling increases efficiency by combining n-point quadrature with the MC method, with further gains from adaptation
- 3) Importance sampling:

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \int_a^b \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}dG(x)$$

Effectively does flat MC with changed integration variables

Fast convergence if  $f(x)/g(x) \approx 1$

# The Veto Algorithm

Hit



Miss

# How we do Monte Carlo

- **Take your system**

- Set of radioactive nuclei
- Set of hard scattering processes
- Set of resonances that are going to decay
- Set of particles coming into your detector
- Set of cosmic photons traveling across the galaxy
- ...



# How we do Monte Carlo

- **Take your system**
- **Generate a “trial”** event/decay/interaction/...
- Not easy to generate random numbers distributed according to exactly the right distribution?
  - **May have complicated dynamics, interactions ...**
  - → use a simpler “trial” distribution

- Flat with some stratification
- Or importance sample with simple overestimating function (for which you can generate random #s)



# How we do Monte Carlo

- **Take your system**
- **Generate a “trial”** event/decay/interaction/...
- **Accept trial** with probability  $f(x)/g(x)$ 
  - $f(x)$  contains all the complicated dynamics
  - $g(x)$  is the simple trial function
- **If accept:** replace with new system state
- **If reject:** keep previous system state

no dependence on  $g$  in final result  
- only affects convergence rate

**And keep going:** generate next trial ...



# Summary

**Quantum Scattering Problems** are common to many areas of physics:  
To compute expectation value of observable: integrate over phase space

**Complicated functions** → Numerical Integration

**High Dimensions** → Monte Carlo (stochastic) convergence is fastest  
Additional power by stratification and/or importance sampling



**Additional Bonus** → Veto algorithm → direct simulation of  
arbitrarily complicated reaction chains → next lecture

# Recommended Reading

F. James

*Monte Carlo Theory and Practice*

**Rept.Prog.Phys.43 (1980) p.1145**

S. Weinzierl

Topical lectures given at the Research School Subatomic physics, Amsterdam, June 2000

*Introduction to Monte Carlo Methods*

**e-Print: hep-ph/0006269**

S. Teukolsky, B. Flannery, W. Press, T. Vetterling

*Numerical Recipes* (in FORTRAN, C, ...)

**<http://www.nr.com/>**