

Arc Length

In class we derived that the length of a smooth curve given by parametric equations

$$\begin{aligned}x &= x(t) \\ y &= y(t) \\ a &\leq t \leq b\end{aligned}$$

is

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

Alternatively, if we have a curve given by $y = f(x)$ with $a \leq x \leq b$ we'd get

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx$$

2) We'd get that by making the substitutions $x=x$ $y=f(x)$ into the 1st formula.

Like wise if C is given by $x=g(y)$, $c \leq y \leq d$

$$L = \int_c^d \sqrt{1 + [g'(y)]^2} dy$$

Many of the following examples come from Calculus by Sullivan & Miranda.

3) Ex 1: $x = t^3$ $y = \frac{2}{3}t^{3/2}$
 $t = 0$ to $t = 1$ find the
length of the curve.

★ Parametric eqns so we

use $L = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{(3t^2)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2} t^{1/2}\right)^2} dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{9t^4 + (3t^{1/2})^2} dt$$

↑
don't forget
to square the
3!

$$4) \int_0^1 \sqrt{9t^4 + 9t^7} dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{9t^4(1+t^3)} dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 \underbrace{3t^2}_{\text{pull out common factor}} \sqrt{1+t^3} dt$$

$$u = 1+t^3 \quad u\text{-substitution!}$$

$$du = \underline{3t^2 dt}$$

$$u(0) = 1+0^3 = 1$$

$$u(1) = 1+1^3 = 2$$

$$= \int_1^2 \sqrt{u} du$$

$$= \int_1^2 u^{1/2} du$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \Big|_1^2 = \frac{2}{3} \cdot 2^{3/2} - \frac{2}{3} \cdot 1^{3/2}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{2}{3} \cdot 2^{3/2} - \frac{2}{3}}$$

5) Ex 2:

$$y = \frac{2}{9} \sqrt{3} (3x^2 + 1)^{3/2} \text{ from } x = -1 \text{ to } x = 2$$

Because we have a $y =$ formula, we'll use

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx$$

$$= \int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{1 + \left[\frac{2}{9} \sqrt{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2} (3x^2 + 1)^{1/2} \cdot 6x \right]^2} dx$$

fun with
chain rule

$$= \int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{1 + [2\sqrt{3} (3x^2 + 1)^{1/2} x]^2} dx$$

$$= \int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{1 + 4 \cdot 3 (3x^2 + 1) x^2} dx$$

$$6) \int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{1 + (36x^2 + 12)x^2} \, dx$$

$$= \int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{1 + 36x^4 + 12x^2} \, dx$$

3 terms, try to factor

Recall: $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

We want to write

$$1 + 36x^4 + 12x^2 = (\quad)^2$$

if possible. So we need to look for what would be the a^2 & b^2 terms

$36x^4$ looks like a good

candidate for $a^2 \rightarrow a = 6x^2$

($-6x^2$ is a possibility but based on our signs we can rule that out)

$$7) \quad 1 + 36x^4 + 12x^2 = (6x^2 + 1)^2$$

I decided 1 was a better candidate for b^2 based on the numbers they gave us. Remember after we factor, we need to check to see if it works

$$(6x^2 + 1)^2 = 36x^4 + 2(6x^2)(1) + 1^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\int_{-1}^2 \sqrt{(6x^2 + 1)^2} dx$$

$$= \int_{-1}^2 6x^2 + 1 dx = 2x^3 + x \Big|_{-1}^2$$

$$= 16 + 2 - [2(-1)^3 - 1]$$

$$= 18 + 2 + 1 = \boxed{21}$$

8) Ex 3:

Find the length of the curve $9y^2 = 4x^3$ from $x=0$ to $x=1$; $y \geq 0$

★ This problem has us choosing to solve for x or y . Based on their stipulation that $y \geq 0$ & that they gave x bounds, I'd solve for y :

$$y^2 = \frac{4}{9}x^3$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{\frac{4}{9}x^3} = \pm \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}$$

$$y \geq 0 \text{ so } y = \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}$$

$$a) L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \left[\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2} x^{1/2}\right]^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + [x^{1/2}]^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x} dx$$

$$u = 1+x \quad u(0) = 1+0 = 1$$

$$du = dx \quad u(1) = 1+1 = 2$$

$$= \int_1^2 \sqrt{u} du = \int_1^2 u^{1/2} du$$

$$\frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \Big|_1^2 = \frac{2}{3} \cdot [2^{3/2} - 1]$$

★ This one wasn't that exciting ^{1/3/2}

10) Ex 4: $e^x = \cos y$
from $(\ln \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{\pi}{6})$ to $(\ln \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\pi}{3})$

Let's get this in terms of
 $x =$, since the y values
of our points look nicer

$$e^x = \cos y$$

$$\ln(e^x) = \ln(\cos y)$$

$$x = \ln(\cos y)$$

$$L = \int_c^d \sqrt{1 + [f'(y)]^2} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sqrt{1 + \left[\frac{1}{\cos y} (\sin y)\right]^2} dy$$

$$11) L = \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sqrt{1 + \frac{\sin^2 y}{\cos^2 y}} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sqrt{\underbrace{\frac{\cos^2 y}{\cos^2 y}}_1 + \frac{\sin^2 y}{\cos^2 y}} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sqrt{\frac{\cos^2 y + \sin^2 y}{\cos^2 y}} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sqrt{\frac{1}{\cos^2 y}} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \frac{1}{\cos y} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sec y dy$$

$$12) \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sec y \cdot 1 dy$$

tricky

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sec y \cdot \frac{\sec y + \tan y}{\sec y + \tan y} dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \frac{\sec^2 y + \sec y \tan y}{\sec y + \tan y} dy$$

$$u = \sec y + \tan y$$

$$du = (\sec y \tan y + \sec^2 y) dy$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$u(\pi/3) = \sec \frac{\pi}{3} + \tan \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{1/2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}/2}{1/2} = 2 + \sqrt{3}$$

$$u(\pi/6) = \sec \frac{\pi}{6} + \tan \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}/2} + \frac{1/2}{\sqrt{3}/2} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}}$$

13)

$$\int_{\sqrt{3}}^{2+\sqrt{3}} \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{3} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$= \ln|u| \Big|_{\sqrt{3}}^{2+\sqrt{3}}$$

$$= \boxed{\ln(2+\sqrt{3}) - \ln\sqrt{3}}$$