

ARC-LENGTH, SURFACE AREA, AND CENTROIDS

Arc-Length: $L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$

Surface Area: $S = \int_a^b r(x) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$

(where $r(x)$ is the radius (distance from curve to x -axis, if curve is revolved around x -axis.)

- Example (#7, 327)

Find arclength on $[1, 2]$ for $y = \frac{x^5}{10} + \frac{1}{6x^3}$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{1}{10}x^5 + \frac{1}{6}x^{-3} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}x^4 - \frac{1}{2}x^{-4} \\ \therefore \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} &= \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{1}{2}x^4 - \frac{1}{2}x^{-4}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4}x^8 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}x^{-8}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{4}x^8 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}x^{-8}} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{x^8 + 2 + x^{-8}} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(x^4 + x^{-4})^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(x^4 + x^{-4}) \\ \therefore L &= \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + (f'(x))^2} dx = \int_1^2 \frac{1}{2}(x^4 + x^{-4}) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 (x^4 + x^{-4}) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{5}x^5 - \frac{1}{3}x^{-3} \right) \Big|_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left[\frac{1}{5}2^5 - \frac{1}{3}2^{-3} \right] - \left[\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{3} \right] \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{10}(32 - 1) + \frac{1}{6} \left(1 - \frac{1}{8} \right) = \frac{31}{10} + \frac{7}{48} = \frac{779}{240} \end{aligned}$$

- Example (#21, 327)

From $(0,3)$ to $(2,\sqrt{5})$ on circle: $x^2 + y^2 = 3^2$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 = 9 &\Rightarrow y = (9 - x^2)^{1/2} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (9 - x^2)^{-1/2} (-2x) \\ &= -\frac{x}{\sqrt{9 - x^2}} \Rightarrow \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{x^2}{9 - x^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{9 - x^2 + x^2}{9 - x^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{9}{9 - x^2}} = 3(9 - x^2)^{-1/2} \end{aligned}$$

An integral like this: $3 \int_0^2 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9-x^2}}$ *cannot* be evaluated by exact methods, from the techniques we've learned *so far*.¹ However, one can adopt a numerical procedure like the **trapezoidal rule**:

Suppose we're interested in a 10^{-5} accuracy:

$$E = 10^{-5} \leq \frac{(b-a)^3}{12n^3} \max_{a \leq x \leq b} |f''(x)|$$

$$f(x) = 3(9-x^2)^{-1/2} \Rightarrow f'(x) = -3x(9-x^2)^{-3/2} = \frac{-3x}{(9-x^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow f''(x) = \frac{-3(9-x^2)^{3/2} - (-3x) \frac{3}{2}(9-x^2)^{1/2}(-2x)}{(9-x^2)^3}$$

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

$$= \frac{-27-9x^2}{(9-x^2)^{5/2}} = -9 \left[\frac{3+x^2}{(9-x^2)^{5/2}} \right]$$

The above function describes the *curvature* of the circular segment. It's obviously complicated and tedious to find its maximum in $[0,2]$ by the ordinary means we learned in chapter 4. We can by-pass the trouble by thinking geometrically: We've got a circle *centered* at the origin. Obviously, then, its curvature is at a minimum at $x=0$ but at a maximum at $x=2$.

$$\text{Hence: } \max_{0 \leq x \leq 2} |f''(x)| = 9 \frac{3+2^2}{(9-2^2)^{3/2}} = 9 \frac{7}{5\sqrt{5}} = \frac{63}{5\sqrt{5}} = \frac{63\sqrt{5}}{25} \approx 5.63$$

$$\text{So: } E = 10^{-5} \leq \frac{(b-a)^3}{12n^3} \max_{a \leq x \leq b} |f''(x)| \Rightarrow 10^{-5} \leq \frac{2^3}{12n^3} 5.63$$

$$\Rightarrow 10^{-5} \leq \frac{12}{12n^3} \Rightarrow n^3 \geq 10^5 \Rightarrow n \geq \lceil 46.4 \rceil = 47$$

So it will require a regular partition of at least 47 intervals to ensure accuracy to 10^{-5} . The results are summarized in the next page:

¹ There is a technique known as a *trigonometric substitution* which one typically encounters in Calculus II. However, an *even simpler* technique exists which involves a change of coordinates (to polar system)

n	x_n	f(x)	f(b) - f(a)/2n
	1	0.042553191	1.000100614
	2	0.085106383	1.000402637
	3	0.127659574	1.000906618
	4	0.170212766	1.001613474
	5	0.212765957	1.002524492
	6	0.255319149	1.003641341
	7	0.29787234	1.004966079
	8	0.340425532	1.00650116
	9	0.382978723	1.008249452
	10	0.425531915	1.010214248
	11	0.468085106	1.012399285
	12	0.510638298	1.014808765
	13	0.553191489	1.017447378
	14	0.595744681	1.020320326
	15	0.638297872	1.023433357
	16	0.680851064	1.026792794
	17	0.723404255	1.030405574
	18	0.765957447	1.034279293
	19	0.808510638	1.038422249
	20	0.85106383	1.042843499
	21	0.893617021	1.047552917
	22	0.936170213	1.052561259
	23	0.978723404	1.057880244
	24	1.021276596	1.063522632
	25	1.063829787	1.069502325
	26	1.106382979	1.075834469
	27	1.14893617	1.082535583
	28	1.191489362	1.08962369
	29	1.234042553	1.097118475
	30	1.276595745	1.105041465
	31	1.319148936	1.113416231
	32	1.361702128	1.12226862
	33	1.404255319	1.131627019
	34	1.446808511	1.141522667
	35	1.489361702	1.151990004
	36	1.531914894	1.163067086
	37	1.574468085	1.17479606
	38	1.617021277	1.187223727
	39	1.659574468	1.200402194
	40	1.70212766	1.214389653
	41	1.744680851	1.229251297
	42	1.787234043	1.245060416
	43	1.829787234	1.261899706
	44	1.872340426	1.27986286
	45	1.914893617	1.299056483
	46	1.957446809	1.319602447
	47	2	1.341640786
Sum			51.61852295
Sum*(b-a)/n			2.196532892
RESULT			2.200167368

We can however obtain an exact result if we calculate the surface area, by revolving the segment about the y-axis:

$$S = 2\pi \int_0^2 x \frac{3}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx = 6\pi \int_0^2 (9-x^2)^{-1/2} x dx$$

$$u = 9-x^2 \Rightarrow du = -2x dx \Rightarrow x dx = -\frac{1}{2} du$$

$$\therefore S = -3\pi \int_{u(0)}^{u(2)} u^{-1/2} du = -3\pi \cdot 2u^{1/2} \Big|_9^5 = -6\pi(\sqrt{5}-3) = 6\pi(3-\sqrt{5})$$

Note in the special case:

$$S = 2\pi \int_0^3 x \frac{3}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx = 6\pi \int_0^3 (9-x^2)^{-1/2} x dx$$

$$u = 9-x^2 \Rightarrow du = -2x dx \Rightarrow x dx = -\frac{1}{2} du$$

$$\therefore S = -3\pi \int_{u(0)}^{u(3)} u^{-1/2} du = -3\pi \cdot 2u^{1/2} \Big|_9^0 = -6\pi(0-3) = 6\pi(3) = 18\pi = 2\pi \cdot 3^2$$

I.e., what we'd expect, which is the surface area of a hemisphere (of radius $r = 3$)

(Recall surface area equation: $S = 4\pi r^2$ for an entire sphere, and obviously $S = 2\pi r^2$ for a hemisphere.