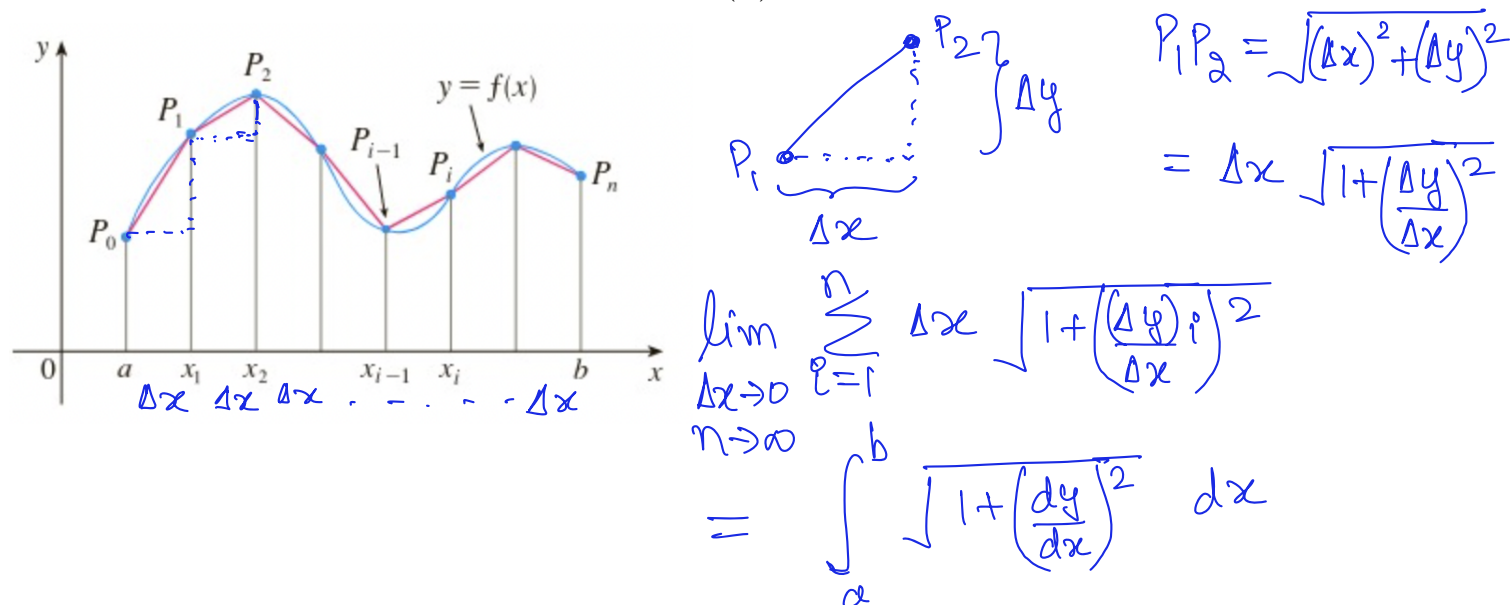


# M16600 Lecture Notes

## Section 8.1: Arc Length

■ Section 8.1 textbook exercises, page 589: # 3, 5, 14, 11, 21.

How do we find the length of a curve  $y = f(x)$ , where  $a \leq x \leq b$ ?



**The Arc Length Formula.** If  $f'(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ , then the length of the curve  $y = f(x)$ , where  $a \leq x \leq b$ , is

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

or we can use Leibniz notation for derivatives and write the arc length formula as

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

*Example 1:* Find the length of the curve  $y = \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}$  from the point  $(1, \frac{2}{3})$  to the point  $(2, \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{2})$ .

$(2, f(2))$        $f(2) = \frac{2}{3} 2^{3/2} = \frac{2}{3} 2\sqrt{2} = \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{2}$

$(1, f(1))$   
 $f(1) = \frac{2}{3} (1)^{3/2} = \frac{2}{3}$

from  $a=1$  to  $b=2$

$$L = \int_1^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$$

$$y = \frac{2}{3} x^{3/2}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2} x^{3/2-1} = x^{1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 L &= \int_1^2 \sqrt{1 + (x^{1/2})^2} \, dx = \int_1^2 \sqrt{1+x} \, dx \\
 &= \left. \frac{(x+1)^{\frac{1}{2}+1}}{\frac{1}{2}+1} \right|_1^2 = \left. \frac{(x+1)^{3/2}}{3/2} \right|_1^2 = \frac{2}{3} (x+1)^{3/2} \bigg|_1^2 \\
 &= \frac{2}{3} \left[ (2+1)^{3/2} - (1+1)^{3/2} \right] = \frac{2}{3} \left[ 3^{3/2} - 2^{3/2} \right] = \frac{2}{3} (3\sqrt{3} - 2\sqrt{2})
 \end{aligned}$$

*Example 2:* Find the exact length of the curve  $y = \ln(\sec x)$ , where  $0 \leq x \leq \pi/4$ .

$$L = \int_0^{\pi/4} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} \, dx$$

$$y = \ln(\sec x) \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sec x} (\sec x \tan x) = \tan x$$

$$L = \int_0^{\pi/4} \sqrt{1 + (\tan x)^2} \, dx = \int_0^{\pi/4} \sqrt{1 + \tan^2 x} \, dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/4} \sqrt{\sec^2 x} \, dx = \int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$$

$$= \ln|\sec x + \tan x| \bigg|_0^{\pi/4}$$

$$\boxed{\int \sec x \, dx = \ln|\sec x + \tan x| + C}$$

$$= \ln\left|\sec \frac{\pi}{4} + \tan \frac{\pi}{4}\right| - \ln|\sec 0 + \tan 0|$$

$$= \ln|\sqrt{2} + 1| - \ln|1 + 0| = \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) - \ln 1 \rightarrow 0$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \ln(\sqrt{2}+1)$$

$$\sec \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{1}{\cos \frac{\pi}{4}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}} = \sqrt{2}$$

$$\tan \frac{\pi}{4} = 1$$

$$\sec 0 = \frac{1}{\cos 0} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

$$\tan 0 = 0$$