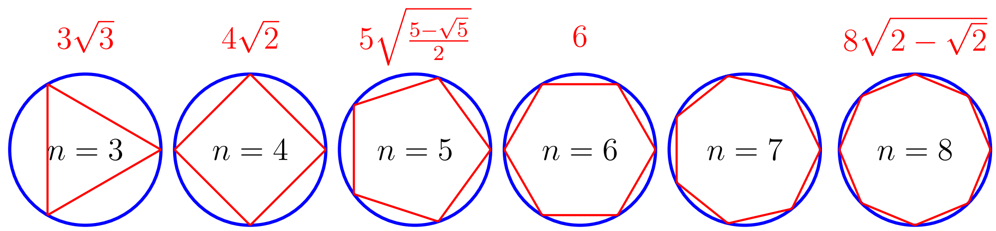
8.1 Arc length

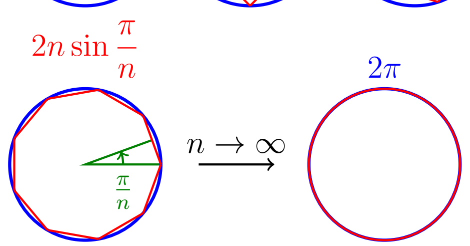
1. arc length formula 弧長公式 $L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1+[f'(x)]^2}\ dx (= \int ds)$
2. arc length function 弧長函數 $s(x) = \int_a^x \sqrt{1+[f'(t)]^2}\ dt$

Recall: 積分的應用:

- 面積: $A = \displaystyle\int_a^b |f(x)-g(x)|\ dx = \int_c^d |f(y)-g(y)|\ dy;$
- 體積: $V = \displaystyle\int_a^b A(x)\ dx = \int_c^d A(y)\ dy;$
- 旋轉體: (逆紋切) disk, washer, (順紋切) cylindrical shell.
  圓盤: $V \overset{x\text{-axis}}{=} \displaystyle\int_a^b \pi[r(x)]^2\ dx \overset{y\text{-axis}}{=} \int_c^d \pi[r(y)]^2\ dy;$
  墊圈: $V \overset{x\text{-axis}}{=} \displaystyle\int_a^b \pi\{[R(x)]^2-[r(x)]^2\}\ dx \overset{y\text{-axis}}{=} \int_c^d \pi\{[R(y)]^2-[r(y)]^2\}\ dy;$
  柱殼: $V \overset{x\text{-axis}}{=} \displaystyle\int_c^d 2\pi r(y)h(y)\ dy \overset{y\text{-axis}}{=} \int_a^b 2\pi r(x)h(x)\ dx.$

弧長怎麼算? 用直線去估計曲線. Ex: 單位圓周長 $= 2\pi$.

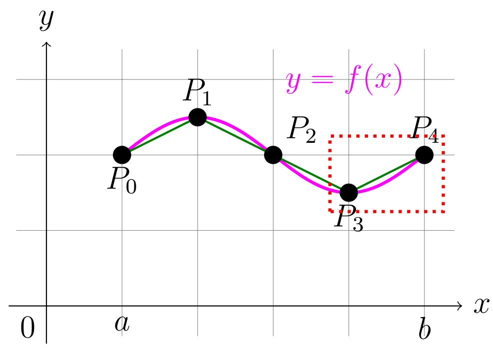


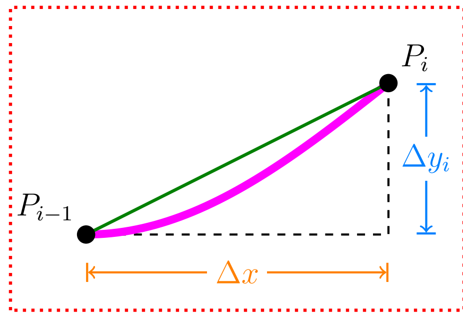


$$\lim_{n\to\infty} 2n\sin\frac{\pi}{n} = 2\pi \lim_{\frac{\pi}{n}\to 0^+} \frac{\sin\frac{\pi}{n}}{\frac{\pi}{n}} = 2\pi.$$

Idea: $\overbrace{n \text{ 等分} + \text{估計總和}}^{\text{黎曼和}} + \text{取極限} = \text{定積分}$。

0.1 Arc length formula





The curve of $y = f(x)$ from a to b.
把 $[a, b]$ 分成 n 等分, $\Delta x = \dfrac{b-a}{n}$, $x_i = a + i\Delta x$, $P_i(x_i, f(x_i))$.
Then the length L of the curve is

$$L \approx \sum_{i=1}^{n} |P_{i-1}P_i|,$$

where $|P_{i-1}P_i|$ is the length of segment $P_{i-1}P_i$.

Define: The ***length*** 弧長 L of the curve $y = f(x)$ from a to b is

$$L = \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |P_{i-1}P_i|.$$

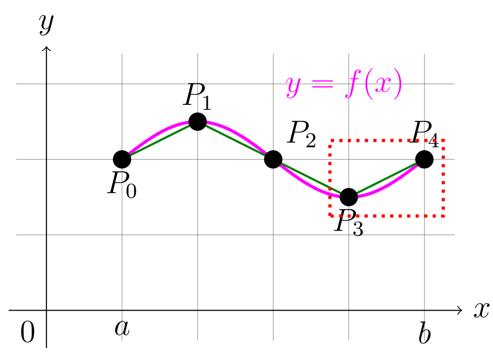
Define: A function f is ***smooth*** 平滑 if f' is continuous (at a point, on an interval, on its domain).

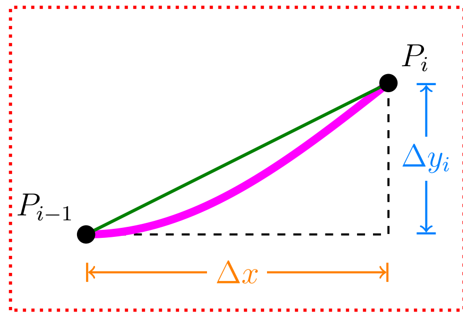
Theorem 1 *If f' is **continuous** on $[a, b]$ (f is smooth), then the length of the curve $y = f(x)$, $a \le x \le b$, is*

$$\boxed{L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}\, dx} \overset{a\to b}{\text{(從左往右)}}$$

(先微分, 再平方, 後加一, 開根號, 做積分.)

怨言嘆語: 課本定義了 “smooth” (沒斷沒折沒尖沒角), 可是它又很不喜歡用。





Proof. Let $\Delta y_i := f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})$, by Mean value theorem,
$\Delta y_i = f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}) = f'(x_i^*)(x_i - x_{i-1}) = f'(x_i^*)\Delta x$,

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |P_{i-1}P_i| \\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y_i)^2} \\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + [f'(x_i^*)\Delta x]^2} \\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{1 + [f'(x_i^*)]^2}\Delta x \\ &= \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}\, dx. \end{aligned}$$

($\because$ f' and hence $\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}$ is continuous, limit exists, integrable.) ■

Note: Leibniz notation: $f'(x) = \dfrac{dy}{dx}$,

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

Note: 以 y 的觀點版本 $g'(y)$ is continuous on $[c,d]$, $x = g(y)$, $c \le y \le d$,

$$\boxed{\boldsymbol{L = \int_c^d \sqrt{1 + [g'(y)]^2}\, dy}} = \int_c^d \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2}\, dy \ (\text{從}\overset{c\to d}{\text{下往上}})$$

Skill: 如果直的不好切 (dx), 可以切橫的 (dy).
對 x 積分: 切成寬度一樣的線段; 對 y 積分: 切成高度一樣的線段。

Example 0.1 *Find the length of the arc of the* ***semicubical*** 半三次 *parabola* $y^2 = x^3$ *between point* $(1,1)$ *and* $(4,8)$*.*

$y = \pm x^{3/2}$, $(1,1)$ 到 $(4,8)$ 是在 $x \geq 0$ 的部分, $y = x^{3/2}$ *and* $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{3}{2}x^{1/2}$.

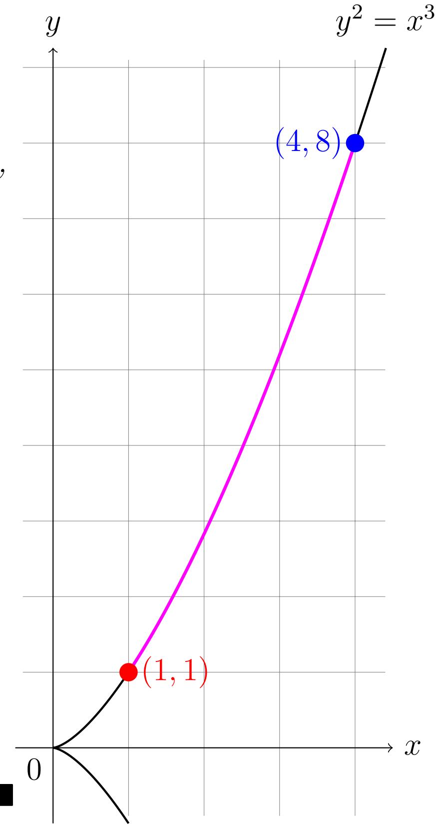
(先算算看函數好不好積)

$\sqrt{1+\left(\dfrac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1+(\frac{3}{2}\sqrt{x})^2} = \sqrt{1+\frac{9}{4}x}$.

Let $u = 1 + \frac{9}{4}x$, *then* $du = \frac{9}{4}\,dx$, $dx = \frac{4}{9}\,du$,

when $x = 1$, $u = \dfrac{13}{4}$, *when* $x = 4$, $u = 10$.

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_1^4 \sqrt{1+\frac{9}{4}x}\,dx \\ &= \int_{13/4}^{10} \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{u}\,du \\ &= \frac{4}{9}\left[\frac{2}{3}u^{3/2}\right]_{13/4}^{10} \\ &= \frac{8}{27}\left[10^{3/2} - \left(\frac{13}{4}\right)^{3/2}\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{27}(80\sqrt{10} - 13\sqrt{13}). \end{aligned}$$



■

Question: 如果不順怎麼辦? Ex: $y^2 = x^3$ from $(1,-1)$ to $(1,1)$.
Answer: 切成順的分段算。

閒言閒語: 一個長得簡單的函數在一個美麗的區間中, 經過微分平方加一根號積分, 弧長很醜陋很複雜是很自然很常見的; 反之, 弧長長得很簡單的, 就很可能函數長得很複雜, 或是區間長得很醜陋。

Example 0.2 *Find the length of the arc of the parabola* $y^2 = x$ *between point* $(0,0)$ *and* $(1,1)$.

用 $y = \sqrt{x}$ *(負不合)*, $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$,

$L = \displaystyle\int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4x}}\ dx$ ...瑕積分! 可以用變數變換算, 不過很複雜。*(try yourself.)*

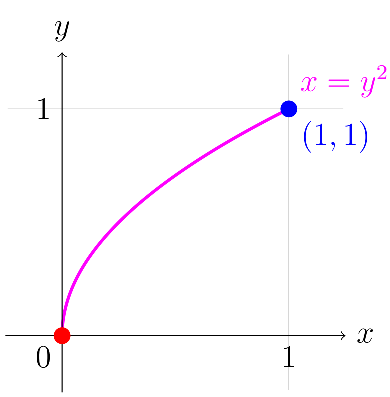
改用 $x = y^2$, $\dfrac{dx}{dy} = 2y$.

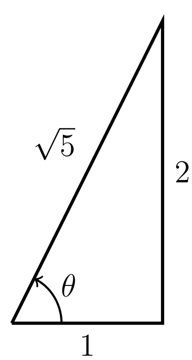
$L = \displaystyle\int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2}\ dy = \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+4y^2}\ dy$

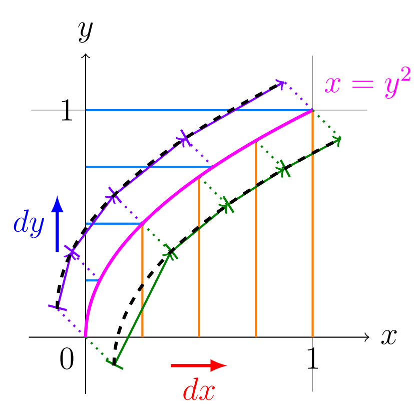
(用三角變換) Let $y = \dfrac{1}{2}\tan\theta$, $\theta \in (-\dfrac{\pi}{2}, \dfrac{\pi}{2})$, *then* $\sqrt{1+4y^2} = \sec\theta$, $dy = \dfrac{1}{2}\sec^2\theta\ d\theta$, *when* $y = 0$, $\theta = \tan^{-1} 0 = 0$, *when* $y = 1$, $\theta = \tan^{-1} 2$.

$$\begin{aligned}
L &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+4y^2}\ dy = \int_0^{\tan^{-1}2} \frac{1}{2}\sec^3\theta\ d\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{2}\Big[\sec\theta\tan\theta + \ln|\sec\theta + \tan\theta|\Big]_0^{\tan^{-1}2} \\
&= \frac{1}{4}(2\sec(\tan^{-1}2) + \ln|\sec(\tan^{-1}2) + 2|) \\
&= \frac{1}{4}(2\sqrt{5} + \ln(\sqrt{5}+2)) \qquad \text{(用看圖)} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{\ln(\sqrt{5}+2)}{4}.
\end{aligned}$$

(可以把 $\sec\theta$ *代回* $\sqrt{1+4y^2}$, $\tan\theta$ *代回* $2y$, *上下界* 0 *to* 1.*)* ■







Example 0.3 *(a) Set up an integral for the length of the arc of the hyperbola $xy = 1$ from the point $(1, 1)$ to the point $(2, \frac{1}{2})$.*
(b) Use Simpson's Rule with $n = 10$ to estimate the arc length.

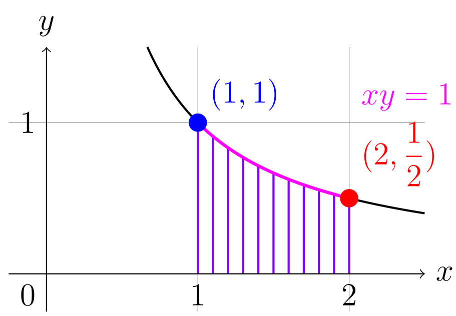
(a) $y = \dfrac{1}{x}$, $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = -\dfrac{1}{x^2}$.

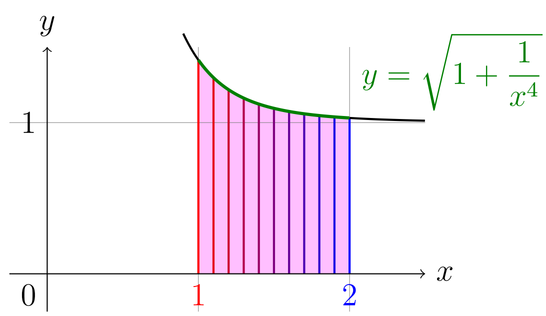
$$L = \int_1^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}\, dx = \int_1^2 \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}}\, dx \left(= \int_1^2 \frac{\sqrt{x^4+1}}{x^2}\, dx\right).$$

(b) $a = 1$, $b = 2$, $\Delta x = 0.1$, $x_i = 1{+}0.1i$, (Simpson: $\frac{\Delta x}{3}[1{+}4{+}(2{+}4){+}1]$.)

$$L \approx S_{10} = \frac{\Delta x}{3}[f(1) + 4f(1.1) + 2f(1.2) + 4f(1.3) + \cdots + 4f(1.9) + f(2)]$$

≈ 1.1321. (這個不好積, 只能用估計. 這裡的 $f(x)$ 是 $\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}}$.) ■





Skill: 先把要積的函數整理好。

對 x 積分: $\begin{cases} 1.\ y = f(x)(\text{把 } y \text{ 寫成 } x \text{ 的函數}), \\ 2.\ f'(x)(\text{微分}), \\ 3.\ [f'(x)]^2(\text{平方}), \\ 4.\ 1 + [f'(x)]^2(\text{加一}), \\ 5.\ \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}(\text{開根}). \end{cases}$

看看好不好積, 不好積改對 y 積分:
$x = g(y)$(把 x 寫成 y 的函數), $\sqrt{1 + [g'(y)]^2}$(微分, 平方, 加一, 開根).

0.2 Arc length function

The length of the smooth curve $y = f(x)$ from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$ is

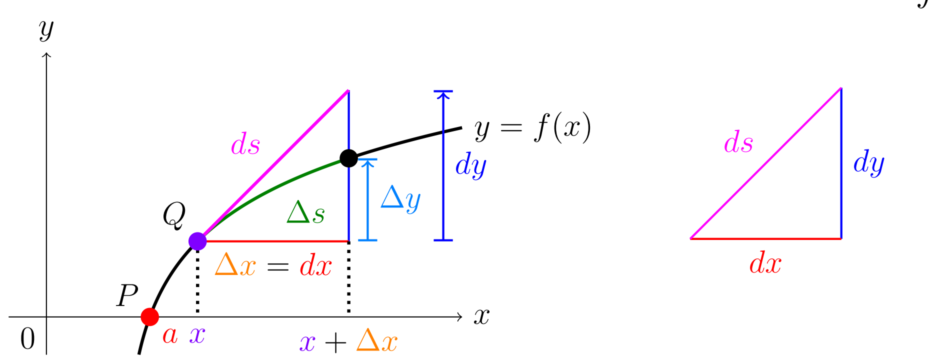
$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}\, dx = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}\, dx$$

Define: The ***arc length function*** 弧長函數

$$\boxed{\boldsymbol{s(x) = \int_a^x \sqrt{1 + [f'(t)]^2}\, dt}}$$

is the length from the initial point $P_0(a, f(a))$ to $Q(x, f(x))$ along the curve $y = f(x)$.

Note: As $y = f(x)$, let $s = s(x)$. Then differentials $dy = f'(x)\, dx$ and $ds = s'(x)\, dx \overset{TFTC}{=} \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}\, dx = \sqrt{(dx)^2 + (dy)^2}$, $\implies L = \int ds$.



When $dx = \Delta x$, $\Delta y \approx dy$ and $\Delta s \approx ds$. $\qquad (ds)^2 = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2$

Skill: 怎麼記? 畢氏定理 & 弧長=積斜邊。

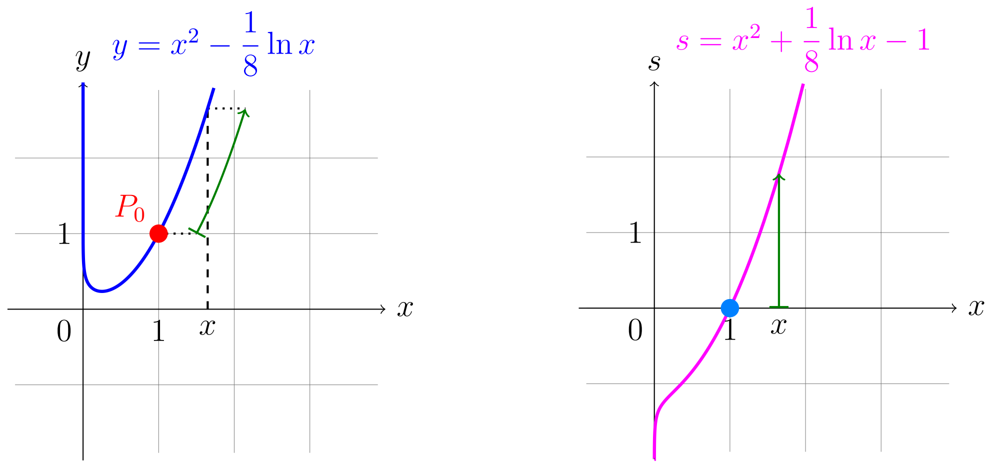
$$\boxed{\boldsymbol{(ds)^2 = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2}} \quad \& \quad \boxed{\boldsymbol{L = \int ds}}$$

If $y = f(x) \implies dy = f'(x)\, dx$, $ds = \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}\, dx$.
If $x = g(y) \implies dx = g'(y)\, dy$, $ds = \sqrt{1 + [g'(y)]^2}\, dy$.
(哪個好算用哪個。)

Example 0.4 *Find the length function for the curve* $y = x^2 - \dfrac{1}{8}\ln x$ *taking* $P_0(1,1)$ *as the starting point.*

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= y = x^2 - \frac{1}{8}\ln x, \\
f'(x) &= 2x - \frac{1}{8x}, \\
1 + [f'(t)]^2 &= 1 + \left(2t - \frac{1}{8t}\right)^2 = 1 + 4t^2 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{64t^2} \\
&= 4t^2 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{64t^2} = \left(2t + \frac{1}{8t}\right)^2, \quad \text{(能配方)} \\
s(x) &= \int_1^x \sqrt{1 + [f'(t)]^2}\, dt = \int_1^x \left(2t + \frac{1}{8t}\right) dt \\
&= \left[t^2 + \frac{1}{8}\ln t\right]_1^x = x^2 + \frac{1}{8}\ln x - 1.
\end{aligned}
$$

($\because x > 0,\ 2t + \dfrac{1}{8t} > 0$, 絕對值取正) ■



Note: 微分平方加一根號能積的不多, 都在 sample & exercise, 記得要練習。例如: 根號一次式: $\displaystyle\int \sqrt{ax+b}\,dx$ (變數變換); 根號二次式: $\displaystyle\int \sqrt{ax^2+bx+c}\,dx$ (三角變換), 根號平方: $\displaystyle\int \sqrt{[f(x)]^2}\,dx = \int |f(x)|\,dx$ (配平方), ...etc.