

6.5: Length of Curves

Definition. (Arc Length for $y = f(x)$)

Let f have a continuous first derivative on the interval $[a, b]$. The length of the curve from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$ is

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

Definition. (Arc Length for $x = g(y)$)

Let g have a continuous first derivative on the interval $[c, d]$. The length of the curve from $(g(c), c)$ to $(g(d), d)$ is

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