

Review 48. The (arc)length of a general curve $y = f(x)$, for $a \leq x \leq b$, is given by

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

Example 49. Our goal is to use our new technology to compute the circumference of a circle of radius r .

- Clearly, the final answer has to be $2\pi r$.
- First, in order to work with a function, we consider the (upper) half circle. That half-circle is described by $y = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$ and the arclength of that curve (from $x = -r$ to $x = r$) is half of the circumference of our circle.

- $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}}$

- Hence, the circumference of our circle is given by the integral

$$2 \int_{-r}^r \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{-x}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}}\right)^2} dx = 2 \int_{-r}^r \sqrt{1 + \frac{x^2}{r^2 - x^2}} dx = 2 \int_{-r}^r \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{r^2 - x^2}} dx.$$

- Now, we substitute $u = x/r$.

(The motivation is that by scaling things by $1/r$ our circle gets rescaled to a circle of radius 1.)

It is very common in applications that we need to change scales or coordinate systems. When dealing with integrals, we need to perform the corresponding substitution.

This is a second very important reason why we need to be able to substitute. (So far we substituted as a means to simplify an integral.)

$$\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{r}, \text{ and so } dx = r du$$

[Observe that r is just a number, we can treat it like we would treat 7.]

For the boundaries of the integral: if $x = -r$, then $u = -1$. If $x = r$, then $u = 1$.

Since $x = ru$, we therefore get

$$2 \int_{-r}^r \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{r^2 - x^2}} dx = 2 \int_{-1}^1 \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{r^2 - (ru)^2}} r du.$$

- Cleaning the integral up, we have $2r \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} du$.
- We can actually evaluate this final integral (more on such integrals later) if we recall that the derivative of $\arcsin(u)$ is $1/\sqrt{1 - u^2}$. Hence,

$$2r \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} du = 2r \left[\arcsin(u) \right]_{-1}^1 = 2r [\arcsin(1) - \arcsin(-1)] = 2\pi r.$$

Example 50. Work is force times distance: $W = Fd$. Think about the work necessary to lift an object to a certain height.

Calculus comes in when the force F is not constant...