

Unit #6: Parametric and Polar Derivatives

Topic: Arc Length

Objective: *SWBAT find the arc length of a parametric curve*

### Warm Up #3:

Write an integral that can be used to find the length of the curve  $y = \ln(\sin x)$  from  $x = 1$  to  $x = a$ , where  $1 < a < \pi$ .

## Arc Length of a Parametric Curve

If a smooth curve  $x = f(t)$ ,  $y = g(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , is transversed exactly once as  $t$  increases from  $a$  to  $b$ , the curve's length is

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

*Example #1:* Find the length of the curve described by the following parametric equations on the given interval.

$$x = 3\sin t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 3\cos t, \quad 0 \leq t \leq \pi$$

*Example #2:* Write an integral that can be used to find the length of the curve described by the following parametric equations on the given interval.

$$x = \sin(t^3) \quad \text{and} \quad y = e^{5t} \quad \text{from } t = 0 \text{ to } t = \pi$$

*Problem Set #3A: Find the length of the curve for each of the following **without** a calculator.*

1.  $x = 8\cos t + 8t\sin t$  ,  $y = 8\sin t - 8t\cos t$  ;  $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

2.  $x = \frac{(2t+3)^{3/2}}{3}$  ,  $y = t + \frac{t^2}{2}$  ;  $0 \leq t \leq 3$

3.  $x = 3t - t^3$  ,  $y = 3t^2$  ;  $0 \leq t \leq 2$

4.  $x = e^t - t$  ,  $y = 4e^{t/2}$  ;  $-8 \leq t \leq 3$

*Problem Set #3B: Find the length of the curve for each of the following **with** a calculator.*

5.  $x = 1 + e^t$  ,  $y = t^2$  ;  $-3 \leq t \leq 3$

6.  $x = \ln t$  ,  $y = \sqrt{t+1}$  ;  $1 \leq t \leq 5$

7.  $x = t^3$  ,  $y = t^2 + 1$  ;  $-1 \leq t \leq 1$

8.  $x = t^2 + 1$  ,  $y = \sqrt{t+2}$  ;  $-1 \leq t \leq 2$

9.  $x = t^2 + 3$  ,  $y = \cos t$  ; *from (3,1) to (7,cos2)*

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**Answers**

1.  $\pi^2$    2.  $21/2$    3. 14   4.  $e^3 + 11 - e^{-8}$    5. 30.528   6. 1.931   7. 2.879   8. 5.204   9. 4.254

