

1.8 Arc Length Multivariable

In Calculus 2, the length of a two-dimensional smooth curve that is only traversed once on an interval I was given by:

$$L = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} dt$$

This can be extended to a space curve. If $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$ on the interval $a \leq t \leq b$, then the length of the curve is given by:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{(f'(t))^2 + (g'(t))^2 + (h'(t))^2} dt \quad \text{or} \quad L(t) = \int_a^b |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt$$

A curve $\mathbf{r}(t)$ is called smooth on an interval if $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ is continuous and $\mathbf{r}'(t) \neq 0$ on the interval. A smooth curve has no sharp corners or cusps \rightarrow the tangent vector has continuous movement.

1. Find the length of the arc for $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 3t, 2 \sin(t), 2 \cos(t) \rangle$ from the point $(0, 0, 2)$ to $(6\pi, 0, 2)$.
- $t = 0$
- $t = 2\pi$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(3)^2 + (2 \cos t)^2 + (-2 \sin t)^2} dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{9 + 4 \cos^2 t + 4 \sin^2 t} dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{9 + 4(\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t)} dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{9 + 4} dt = \sqrt{13} t \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 2\pi \sqrt{13} \end{aligned}$$

Arc Length Function, s , is

$$s(t) = \int_a^t |\mathbf{r}'(u)| du$$

The arc length s is called the arc length parameter

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$$\frac{ds}{dt} = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$$

Speed at time t $= \frac{ds}{dt} = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(e^t \sin t) = e^t \sin t + e^t \cos t$$

$$= e^t (\sin t + \cos t)$$

1.8 Arc Length
Multivariable

2. Find the arc length function for $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle e^t, e^t \sin(t), e^t \cos(t) \rangle$ from the point $(1, 0, 1)$ in the direction of increasing t .
- $\underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_{t=0}$

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle e^t, e^t(\cos t + \sin t), e^t(\cos t - \sin t) \rangle$$

$$s(t) = \int_0^t \sqrt{(e^u)^2 + (e^u(\cos u + \sin u))^2 + (e^u(\cos u - \sin u))^2} dt$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{e^{2u} + e^{2u}(\cos^2 u + 2 \cos u \sin u + \sin^2 u) + e^{2u}(\cos^2 u - 2 \cos u \sin u + \sin^2 u)} dt$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{e^{2u} + 2e^{2u} \cos^2 u + 2e^{2u} \sin^2 u} dt$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{e^{2u} + 2e^{2u}(\cos^2 u + \sin^2 u)} dt = \int_0^t \sqrt{3e^{2u}} dt = \int_0^t \sqrt{3} e^u dt$$

3. Reparametrize the curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 1 + 2t, 3 + t, -5t \rangle$ with respect to arc length measured from the point where $t = 0$ in the direction of increasing t .

$$s(t) = \int_0^t \sqrt{(2)^2 + (1)^2 + (-5)^2} du$$

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle 2, 1, -5 \rangle$$

$$= \sqrt{3} e^u \Big|_0^t$$

$$= \sqrt{3} e^t - \sqrt{3}$$

$s(t) = e^t \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3}$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{30} du$$

$$= \sqrt{30} u \Big|_0^t$$

$$= \sqrt{30} t$$

redefine:

$$\mathbf{r}(s) = \langle 1 + 2\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{30}}\right), 3 + \frac{s}{\sqrt{30}}, -5\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{30}}\right) \rangle$$

$$= \left\langle 1 + \frac{2s}{\sqrt{30}}, 3 + \frac{s}{\sqrt{30}}, -\frac{5s}{\sqrt{30}} \right\rangle$$

$$s(t) = \sqrt{30} t$$

$$t = \frac{s(t)}{\sqrt{30}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{30}} \quad * s \text{ is arc length function}$$

1.8 Arc Length
Multivariable

4. Find the arc length parametrization of the helix $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle \cos(4t), \sin(4t), 3t \rangle$

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle -4\sin 4t, 4\cos 4t, 3 \rangle$$

$$s(t) = \int_0^t \sqrt{(-4\sin 4u)^2 + (4\cos 4u)^2 + 9} \, du$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{16\sin^2 4u + 16\cos^2 4u + 9} \, du$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{16(\sin^2 4u + \cos^2 4u) + 9} \, du$$

$$= \int_0^t \sqrt{16+9} \, du$$

$$= 5u \Big|_0^t$$

$$= 5t$$

$$s = 5t$$

$$t = \frac{s}{5}$$

$$\mathbf{r}(s) = \left\langle \cos\left(\frac{4s}{5}\right), \sin\left(\frac{4s}{5}\right), \frac{3s}{5} \right\rangle$$

