Arc Length:

The length of a curve is found by summing small segments using distance formula

$$d = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}$$
$$d = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2 \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x}\right)^2}$$
$$d = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}\right)^2 (\Delta x)^2}$$
$$d = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}\right)^2\right)^2}$$
$$d = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}\right)^2} (\Delta x)$$
$$d = \sqrt{1 + f'(x)^2} (\Delta x)$$
$$length = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + f'(x)^2} dx$$



Smoothness:

A function with a continuous first derivative is **smooth** and its graph is a **smooth curve**.

DEFINITION Arc Length: Length of a Smooth Curve If a smooth curve begins at (a, c) and ends at (b, d), a < b, c < d, then the **length** (arc length) of the curve is $L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^{2}} dx \quad \text{if } y \text{ is a smooth function of } x \text{ on } [a, b];$ $L = \int_{c}^{d} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^{2}} dy \quad \text{if } x \text{ is a smooth function of } y \text{ on } [c, d].$

BC Calculus 8.4 Length of Curves

- 1. Find the arc length of $f(x) = x^2$ on the interval of [-1, 1].
- 2. Find the arc length of $f(x) = \frac{3}{2}x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ on the interval of [1, 8].

Getting around a corner:

3. Find the length of the curve $y = x^2 - 4|x| - x$ from x = -4 to x = 4.

4. Find the length of the curve
$$x = \int_{0}^{y} \sqrt{\sec^2 t - 1} dt$$
, $-\frac{\pi}{3} \le y \le \frac{\pi}{4}$

5. Find the length of the curve $y = x^{\frac{1}{3}}$ on the interval of [-8, 8]