

Section 6.4 Length of a Plane Curve

Arc Length Formula If $y = f(x)$ is a smooth curve on the interval $[a, b]$, then the arc length L of this curve over $[a, b]$ is defined as

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx.$$