

Question

- (i) Calculate the arc length of the curve γ in Qn.1(iv) from $(0, 2)$ to $(2\pi, 2)$.
(ii) Calculate the arc length of the curve γ in Qn.1(v) from $(1, 0)$ to $(e^{2\pi k}, 0)$.
(iii) Calculate the path length of the curve $y^2 = x^3$ from $(1, 1)$ to $(-1, 1)$.

Answer

(i)

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(t) &= (t - \sin t, 1 + \cos t) \\ \|\gamma'(t)\| &= ((1 - \cos t)^2 + \sin^2 t)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= (2(1 - \cos t))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= 2 \sin \frac{t}{2}, \quad (\text{note } \sin \geq 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi) \\ \Rightarrow \text{length} &= \int_0^{2\pi} 2 \sin \frac{t}{2} dt \\ &= \left[-4 \cos \frac{t}{2} \right]_0^{2\pi} \\ &= 4 - (-4) = 8, \quad (\text{Check : } 2\pi < 8 < 2\pi + 4)\end{aligned}$$

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(t) &= (e^{kt} \cos t, e^{kt} \sin t) \\ \|\gamma'(t)\| &= e^{kt}((k \cos t - \sin t)^2 + (k \sin t + \cos t)^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= e^{kt} \cdot (k^2 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \Rightarrow \text{length} &= \int_0^{2\pi} e^{kt} (k^2 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{k} (k^2 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} (e^{2\pi k} - 1).\end{aligned}$$

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(t) &= (t^2, t^3), \quad : -1 \leq t \leq 1 \\ \text{length} &= \int_{-1}^1 \|(2t, 3t^2)\| dt \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 (4t^2 + 9t^4)^{\frac{1}{2}} dt \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 |t|(4 + 9t^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} dt \\ &= 2 \times \left[\frac{1}{27} (4 + 9t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{2}{27} (13^{\frac{3}{2}} - 4^{\frac{3}{2}}).\end{aligned}$$