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## Arc length

### Definition. Arc length

Given a parameterized curve  $\gamma$  the **arc length** between the points  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  is

$$\mathcal{L}[\gamma](t_1, t_2) := \int_{[t_1, t_2]} \|\gamma'\|$$

☰ Arc length remains invariant under space isometries.

☰ The arc length transforms like

$$\mathcal{L}[\gamma](t_1, t_2) = \mathcal{L}[\tilde{\gamma}](\theta(t_1), \theta(t_2))$$

where

$$\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma \circ \theta.$$

Now we take the arc length function as

$$\mathcal{L}[\gamma](t, t_0) := \int_{[t_0, t]} \|\gamma'\|$$

for some arbitrary  $t_0$ . Hence, from fundamental theorem of analysis on  $\mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{L}[\gamma](t, t_0) = \|\gamma'\|$$

☰ If  $\gamma$  is regular, arc length function  $\mathcal{L}[\gamma](t)$  is smooth.

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