

This problem comes from MATH 2414 Calculus II – David Katz

Compute the length of the curve $y = \sqrt{x - x^2} + \sin^{-1}(\sqrt{x})$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 1$.

The formula for length of a curve requires one to compute y' :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{2}(x - x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} * (1 - 2x) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}\sqrt{1 - (\sqrt{x})^2}} \quad (\text{use the chain rule}) \\ &= \frac{1 - 2x}{2\sqrt{x - x^2}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x - x^2}} = \frac{2 - 2x}{2\sqrt{x - x^2}} = \frac{2(1 - x)}{2\sqrt{x - x^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{(1 - x)^2}}{\sqrt{x - x^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{(1 - x)^2}}{\sqrt{x(1 - x)}} = \frac{\sqrt{1 - x}}{\sqrt{x}} = \sqrt{\frac{1 - x}{x}}\end{aligned}$$

Putting all the parts together:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Length} &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx = \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - x}{x}}\right)^2} dx = \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \frac{1 - x}{x}} dx = \int_0^1 \sqrt{\frac{x}{x} + \frac{1 - x}{x}} dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{\frac{1}{x}} dx = 2\sqrt{x} \Big|_0^1 = 2\end{aligned}$$