Note 7.3 - Arclength and Surface Area

1 Introduction

We use principle of integrations to study two other commonly known notions of sizes: arclength for 1-dimensional curve and surface are for 2-dimensional boundary of a solid formed by revolution.

2 Arclength

Infinitesimal elements of curves are line segments. Their lengths are quite easy to express:

The "total length" is then

3 Surface Area of Revolution

Infinitesimal elements of surfaces of revolution take a bit more work to describe. We start with the case y = f(x) = mx, whose surface of revolution over [a, b] is a cone:

For a surface in general, we cut them into infinitely many straight pieces and add them up:

4 Examples