Exercise 1

On a circle of radius 10 m, how long is an arc that subtends a central angle of (a) $4\pi/5$ radians? (b) 110°?

Solution

The formula relating arc length, central angle, and radius is

 $s = r\theta$,

where θ is in radians.

Part (a)

If r = 10 m and $\theta = 4\pi/5$, then

$$s = 10\left(\frac{4\pi}{5}\right) = 8\pi \text{ m} \approx 25.1 \text{ m}.$$

Part (b)

If r = 10 m and $\theta = 110^{\circ} = 110^{\circ} \times \frac{\pi}{180^{\circ}} = \frac{11}{18}\pi$, then

$$s = 10\left(\frac{11\pi}{18}\right) = \frac{55}{9}\pi$$
 m ≈ 19.2 m.