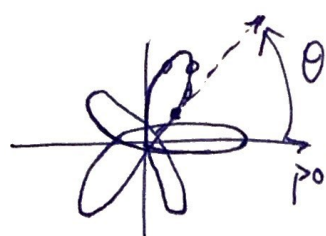


8.4 Polar Graphs

1

In calculus we need to calculate both the arc length and area enclosed by polar graphs.

EX



Q: Find the arc length?

Q: Find the area enclosed?

Q: Find the slope of the tangent line to the graph @ $\theta = \pi/8$

CALC II

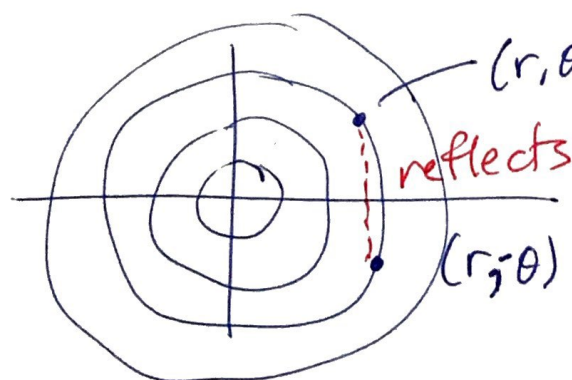
* Symmetry of polar graphs

I

Symmetry about the x-axis (aka the polar axis)

Test: replace (r, θ) with $(-r, -\theta)$ and check to see if you can recover the function

- if so we have symmetry
- if not we don't have symmetry



EX Q: is $r = 2\sin\theta$ sym about x-axis?

$$r = 2\sin\theta$$

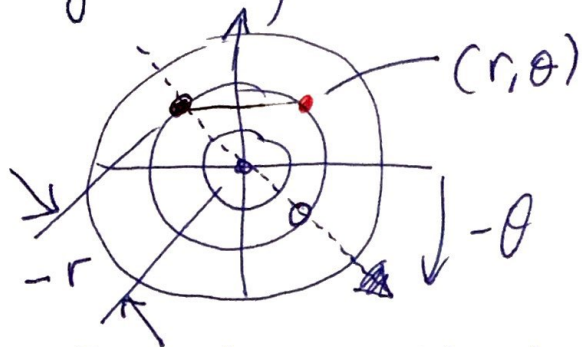
Test: $r \stackrel{?}{=} 2\sin(-\theta)$

$$r = -2\sin(\theta)$$

No sym about x-axis

II

Symmetry about the y -axis (aka the line $\theta = \pi/2$)



To check that there is a point on the opposite side of the $\theta = \pi/2$

replace θ with $-\theta$ and replace r with $-r$.

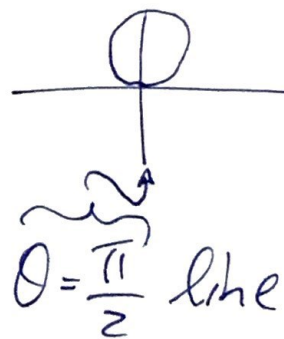
EX $r = 2 \sin \theta$ original

Test $-r \stackrel{?}{=} 2 \sin(-\theta)$ identity

$-r \stackrel{?}{=} -2 \sin(\theta)$

$r = 2 \sin(\theta)$ ✓

$r = 2 \sin \theta$



So $r = 2 \sin \theta$ has sym about the $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ line.

III

Symmetry about the origin

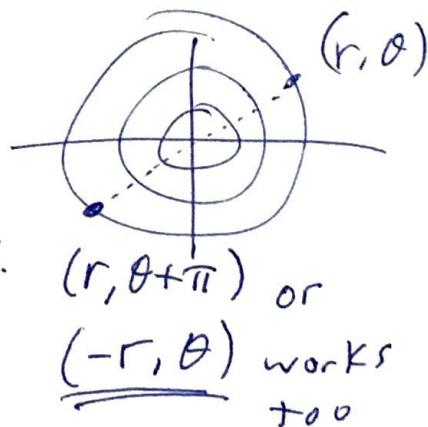
• replace r with $-r$ and check that the eqn works out ok.

EX $r^2 = a^2 \sin 2\theta$

Test: $(-r)^2 = a^2 \sin 2\theta$ perform $()^2$

$r^2 = a^2 \sin 2\theta$

We recover the original eqn



* Methods of plotting polar graphs

(3)

$$r(\theta) = f(\theta), \text{ [ex] } r(\theta) = 1 - \cos(\theta)$$

Table:

θ	$r = 1 - \cos \theta$	(r, θ)
0	$1 - \cos 0 = 0$	$(0, 0)$
$\pi/6$	$1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = 0.15$	$(0.15, \frac{\pi}{6})$
$\pi/4$	$1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = 0.3$	$(0.3, \pi/4)$
$\pi/2$	$1 - 0 = 1$	$(1, \pi/2)$
$\frac{3\pi}{4}$	$1 - (-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) = 1.7$	$(1.7, 3\pi/4)$
π	$1 - (-1) = 2$	$(2, \pi)$

Q: X-axis ($\theta=0$) symmetry?

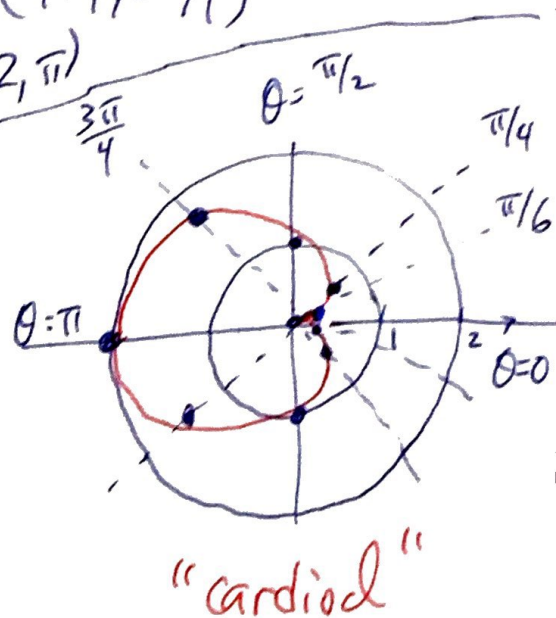
replace $r(\theta)$ w/ $r(-\theta)$

original: $r(\theta) = 1 - \cos(\theta)$

test: $r(-\theta) = 1 - \cos(-\theta)$

$$r(-\theta) = 1 - \cos \theta$$

$$r(-\theta) = r(\theta) \checkmark$$



* Test for zeros ($r=0$): $0 = 1 - \cos(\theta)$
 $\Rightarrow 1 = \cos(\theta)$
 $\Rightarrow \underline{\underline{\theta = 0, 2\pi}}$

* Test for extrema $\left(\begin{array}{l} \cos = 1 \text{ or } -1 \\ \sin = 1 \text{ or } -1 \end{array} \right)$

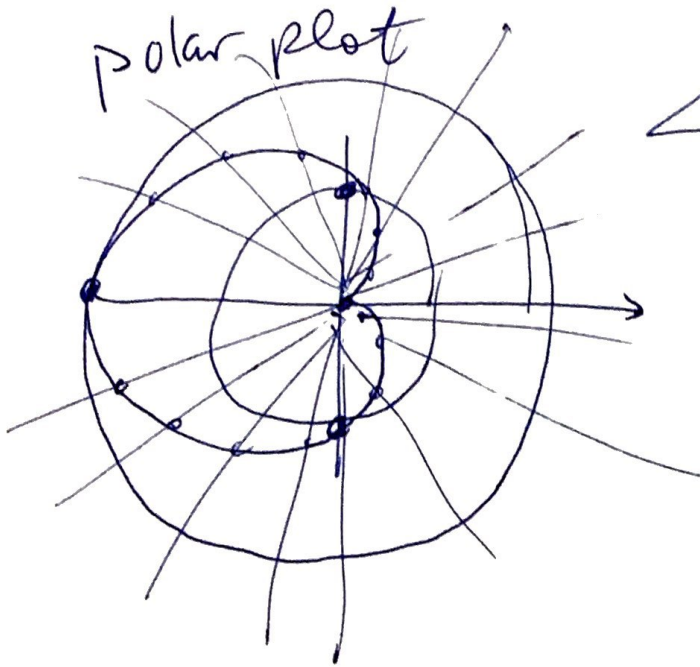
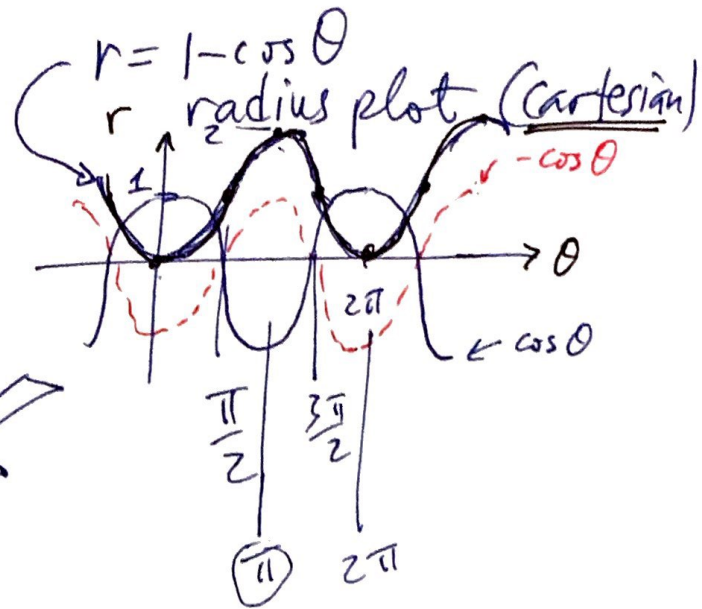
$\cos \theta = 1$ @ $\theta = 0, 2\pi$ so	$1 - \cos \theta$
$\cos \theta = -1$ @ $\theta = \pi$	$1 - (-1) = 2$

* methods (cont.)

4

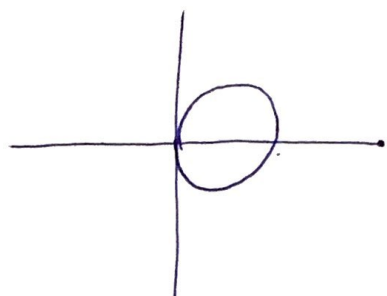
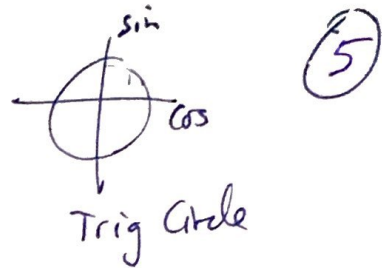
- radius plot

$$r(\theta) = 1 - \cos \theta$$

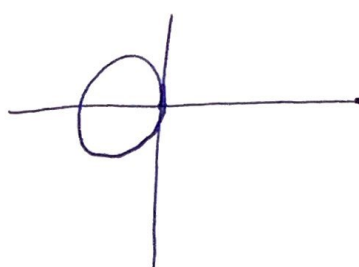


* Popular Polar Graphs

• Circles

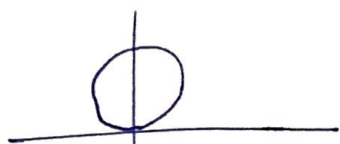


$$r = a \cos \theta$$

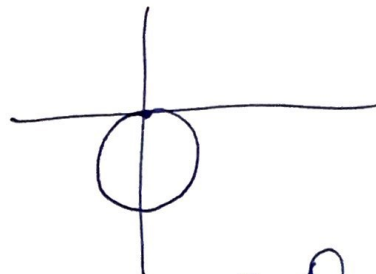


$$r = -a \cos \theta$$

• sym about
polar axis
(x-axis)



$$r = a \sin \theta$$



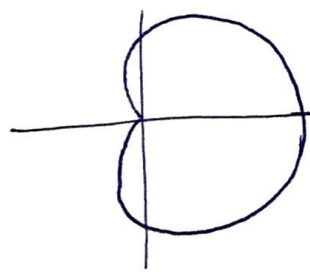
$$r = -a \sin \theta$$

• sym about
 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$
(y-axis)

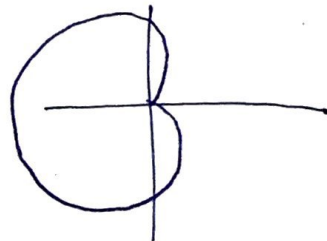
• Cardioids

$$r(\theta) = a + b \begin{cases} \sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \end{cases}$$

($a=b$ for
cardioids)

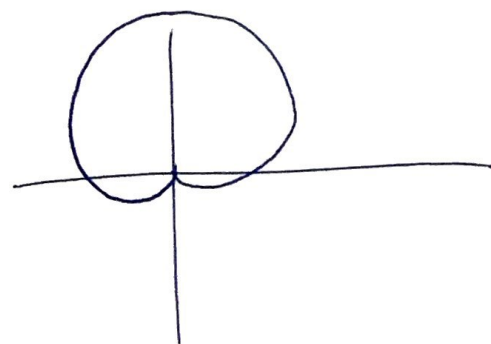


$$r = 1 + \cos \theta$$

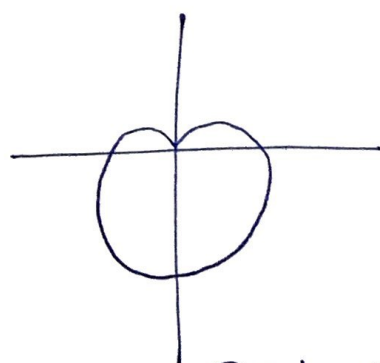


$$r = 1 - \cos \theta$$

• sym about
the polar
axis



$$r = 1 + \sin \theta$$



$$r = 1 - \sin \theta$$

• sym
about
 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$

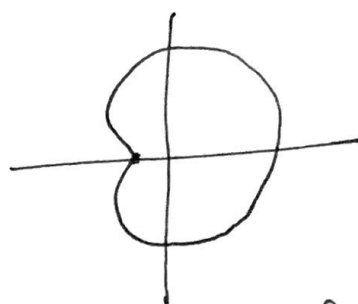
variations

$$r = 2 + 2 \sin \theta, 3 + 3 \sin \theta$$

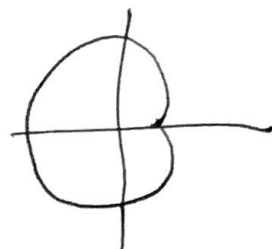
- Limaçon (snail) (Dimpled limaçon) ⑥

$$r(\theta) = a \pm b \begin{cases} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \end{cases}$$

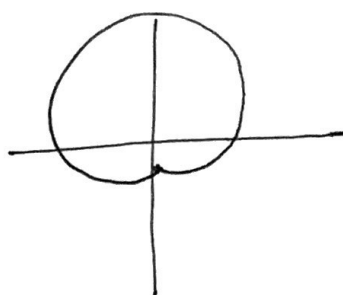
$$\boxed{a > b}$$



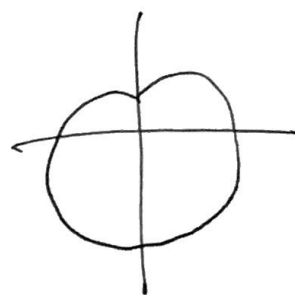
$$r = a + b \cos \theta$$



$$r = a - b \cos \theta$$



$$r = a + b \sin \theta$$

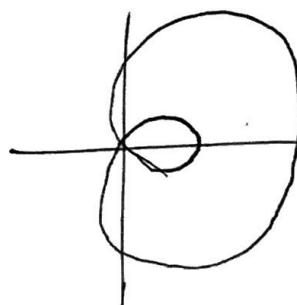


$$r = a - b \sin \theta$$

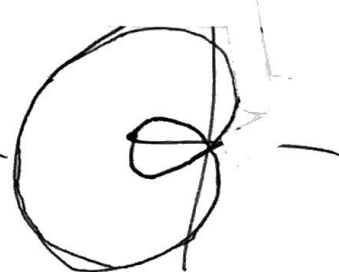
- Inner Loop Limaçon

$$r(\theta) = a \pm b \begin{cases} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \end{cases}$$

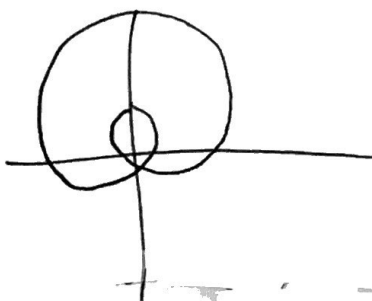
$$\boxed{a < b}$$



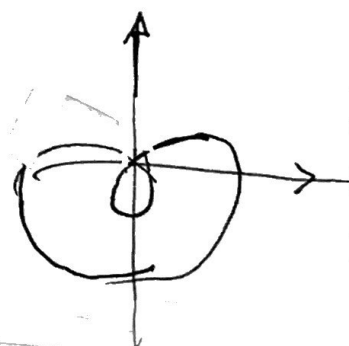
$$r = a + b \cos \theta$$



$$r = a - b \cos \theta$$



$$r = a + b \sin \theta$$

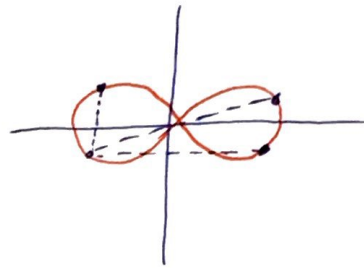


$$r = a - b \sin \theta$$

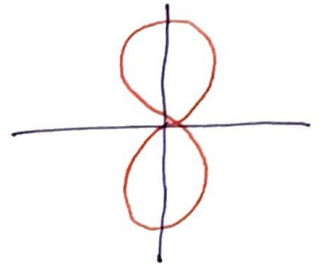
• Lemniscates

$$r^2 = a^2 \begin{cases} \cos 2\theta \\ \sin 2\theta \end{cases}$$

all three symmetries

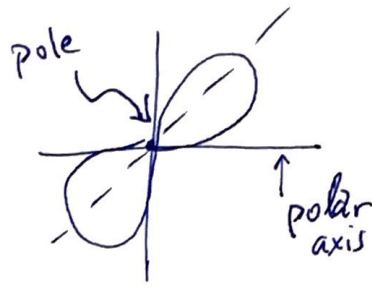


$$r^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$$

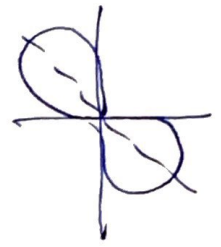


$$r^2 = -a^2 \cos 2\theta$$

only symmetry through the pole



$$r^2 = a^2 \sin 2\theta$$

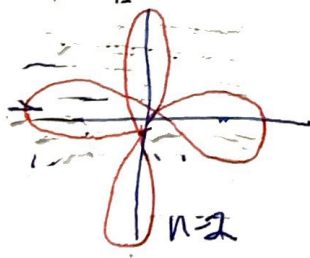


$$r^2 = -a^2 \sin 2\theta$$

• roses

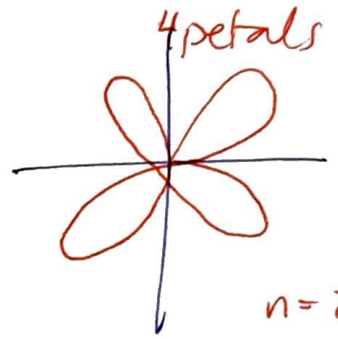
$$r = a \begin{cases} \cos(n\theta) \\ \sin(n\theta) \end{cases}$$

petals



n=2

$$r = a \cos(n\theta) \quad n = \text{even}$$

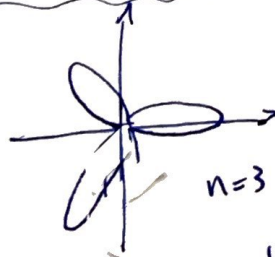


n=2

$$r = a \sin(n\theta) \quad n = \text{even}$$

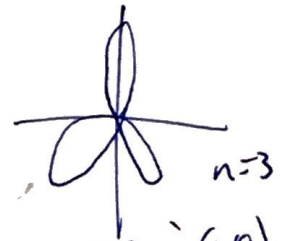
* n = odd
n petals

* n = even
2n petals



n=3

$$r = a \cos(n\theta) \quad n = \text{odd}$$



n=3

$$r = a \sin(n\theta) \quad n = \text{odd}$$

- Archimedes Spiral

$$r = \theta$$

