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## Section 10.4 Polar Coordinates and Polar Graphs

Now that we can graph parametric equations, we can study a special parametric system called the polar coordinate system. To form the polar coordinate system in the plane, we fix a point $O$, called the pole, or origin, and construct from $O$ an initial ray called the polar axis, as shown below. Then each point $P$ in the plane can be assigned polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, as follows.

$$
r=\text { directed distance from } O \text { to } P
$$

$\theta=$ directed angle, counterclockwise from polar axis to segment $\overline{O P}$



(a)

(b)

(c)

With rectangular coordinates, each point $(x, y)$ has a unique representation. This is not true with polar coordinates. For instance: $(r, \theta)=(r, \theta+2 n \pi)$, or $(r, \theta)=(-r, \theta+[2 n+1] \pi)$, where $n$ is any integer. In fact, the pole can be represented by $(0, \theta)$, where $\theta$ is any angle.


Three additional representations:
$\left(3, \frac{5 \pi}{6}-2 \pi\right)=\left(3,-\frac{7 \pi}{6}\right)$
$\left(-3, \frac{5 \pi}{6}+\pi\right)=\left(-3, \frac{11 \pi}{6}\right)$
$\left(-3, \frac{5 \pi}{6}-\pi\right)=\left(-3,-\frac{\pi}{6}\right)$


Three additional representations:

$$
\left(-1,-\frac{\pi}{3}+2 \pi\right)=\left(-1, \frac{5 \pi}{3}\right)
$$

$\left(1,-\frac{\pi}{3}+\pi\right)=\left(1, \frac{2 \pi}{3}\right)$

$$
\left(1,-\frac{\pi}{3}-\pi\right)=\left(1,-\frac{4 \pi}{3}\right)
$$



Three additional representations: $\left(\frac{3}{2},-\frac{3 \pi}{2}+2 \pi\right)=\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$
$\left(-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{-3 \pi}{2}+3 \pi\right)=\left(-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3 \pi}{2}\right)$
$\left(-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{-3 \pi}{2}+\pi\right)=\left(-\frac{3}{2},-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$

## THEOREM IO.10 Coordinate Conversion

The polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$ of a point are related to the rectangular coordinates $(x, y)$ of the point as follows.

1. $x=r \cos \theta$
2. $\tan \theta=\frac{y}{x}$
$y=r \sin \theta$

$$
r^{2}=x^{2}+y^{2}
$$

Ex. 1: Convert $\left(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{4}{3}\right)$ in rectangular coordinates to polar coordinates.

Ex. 2: Convert the equation $r=\frac{2}{\sin (\theta)}$ from polar coordinates to rectangular coordinates and sketch its graph.

Ex. 3: Convert the equation $\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)^{2}-9\left(x^{2}-y^{2}\right)=0$ from rectangular coordinates to polar coordinates and sketch its graph.

Ex. 4: Draw the graph of $r=2+3 \sin (\theta)$ and complete the table.

| $\theta$ | $\sin (\theta)$ | $3 \sin (\theta)$ | $2+3 \sin (\theta)$ |
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Ex. 5: Draw the graph of $r=2-\cos (\theta)$ and complete the table.

| $\theta$ | $\cos (\theta)$ | $-\cos (\theta)$ | $2-\cos (\theta)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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$\frac{a}{b}<1$
Limaçon with inner loop


$$
1<\frac{a}{b}<2
$$

Dimpled limaçon

$r=a \cos n \theta$
Rose curve

$r=a \sin n \theta$
Rose curve

$\frac{a}{b}=1$
Cardioid (heart-shaped)

$\frac{a}{b} \geq 2$
Convex limaçon

$r=a \cos n \theta$
Rose curve

$r=a \sin n \theta$
Rose curve

$r=a \cos \theta$
Circle

$r^{2}=a^{2} \sin 2 \theta$
Lemniscate
Circles and Lemniscates

$r=a \sin \theta$
Circle

$r^{2}=a^{2} \cos 2 \theta$
Lemniscate

We can use the parametric form of $\frac{d y}{d x}$ to establish the polar form of the derivative. This will allow us to find the slopes of tangent line at particular points on polar curves.

## THEOREM IO.II Slope in Polar Form

If $f$ is a differentiable function of $\theta$, then the slope of the tangent line to the graph of $r=f(\theta)$ at the point $(r, \theta)$ is

$$
\frac{d y}{d x}=\frac{d y / d \theta}{d x / d \theta}=\frac{f(\theta) \cos \theta+f^{\prime}(\theta) \sin \theta}{-f(\theta) \sin \theta+f^{\prime}(\theta) \cos \theta}
$$

provided that $d x / d \theta \neq 0$ at $(r, \theta)$. (See Figure 10.45.)

Ex. 6: Find $\frac{d y}{d x}$ and the slopes of the lines at the given points for the given curve:
$r=2[1-\sin (\theta)]$ at A. $(2,0)$, B. $\left(3, \frac{7 \pi}{6}\right)$, and C. $\left(4, \frac{3 \pi}{2}\right)$.

More Ex. 6:

Ex. 7: (a) Use a graphing utility to draw the graph of $r=3-2 \cos (\theta)$ and complete the table. (b) Use a graphing utility to draw the tangent line at $\theta=0$.
(c) Find $\left.\frac{d y}{d x}\right|_{\theta=0}$.

| $\theta$ | $\cos (\theta)$ | $-2 \cos (\theta)$ | $3-2 \cos (\theta)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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More Ex. 7:

## THEOREM 10.12 Tangent Lines at the Pole

If $f(\alpha)=0$ and $f^{\prime}(\alpha) \neq 0$, then the line $\theta=\alpha$ is tangent at the pole to the graph of $r=f(\theta)$.


Ex. 8: Sketch the graph of $r=3 \cos (2 \theta)$ and find the tangents at the pole.

## Polar System Grids:



