

Lecture 12

Section 9.3 Polar Coordinates

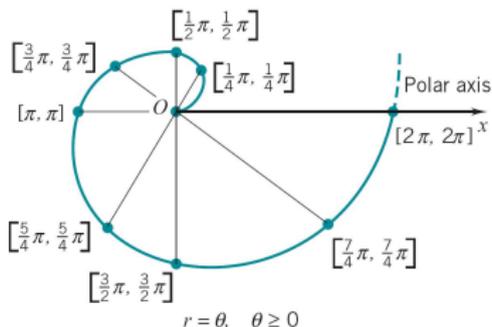
Section 9.4 Graphing in Polar Coordinates

Jiwen He

Department of Mathematics, University of Houston

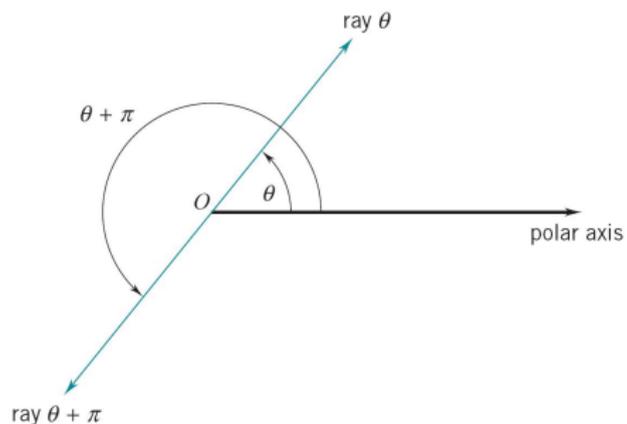
jiwenhe@math.uh.edu

<http://math.uh.edu/~jiwenhe/Math1432>



spiral of Archimedes

Polar Coordinate System



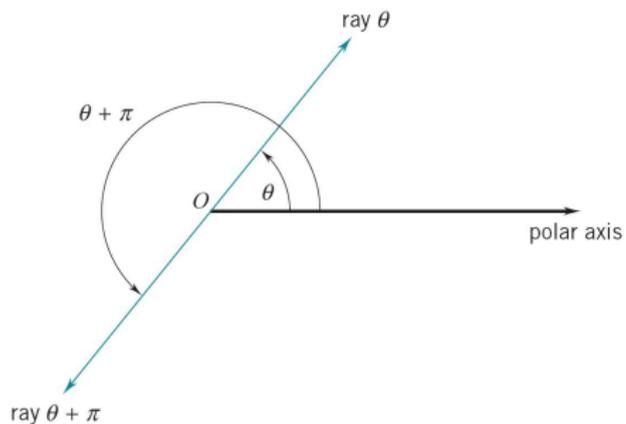
The purpose of the polar coordinates is to represent curves that have **symmetry** about a point or **spiral** about a point.

Frame of Reference

In the polar coordinate system, the frame of reference is a point O that we call the **pole** and a ray that emanates from it that we call the **polar axis**.



Polar Coordinate System



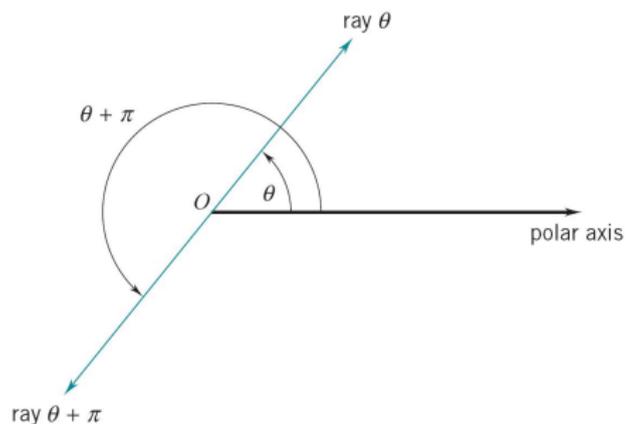
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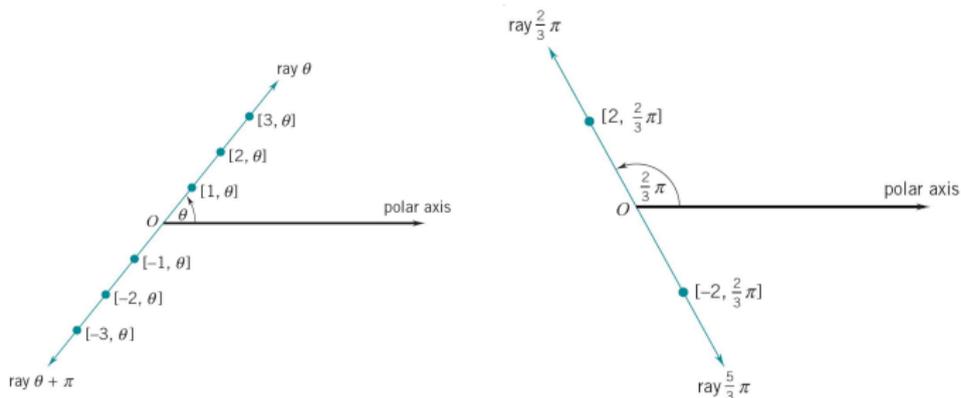
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Polar Coordinates

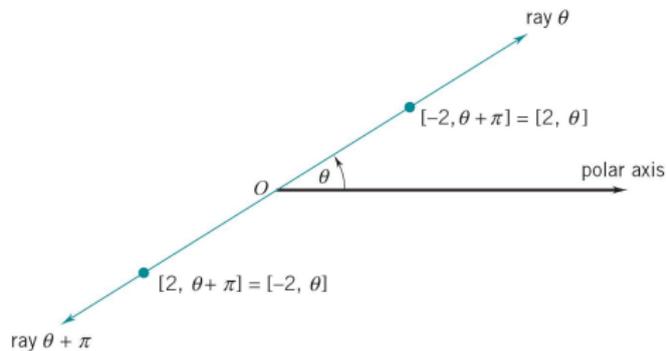
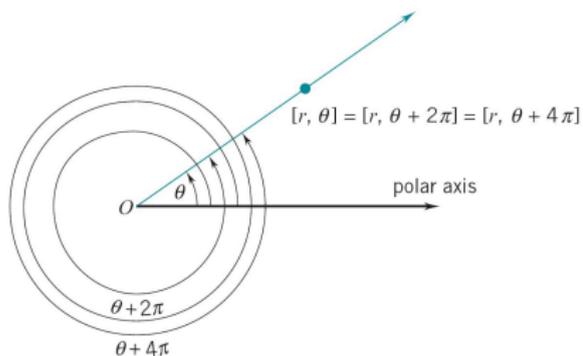


Definition

A point is given **polar coordinates** $[r, \theta]$ iff it lies at a distance $|r|$ from the pole
 a long the ray θ , if $r \geq 0$, and along the ray $\theta + \pi$, if $r < 0$.



Points in Polar Coordinates

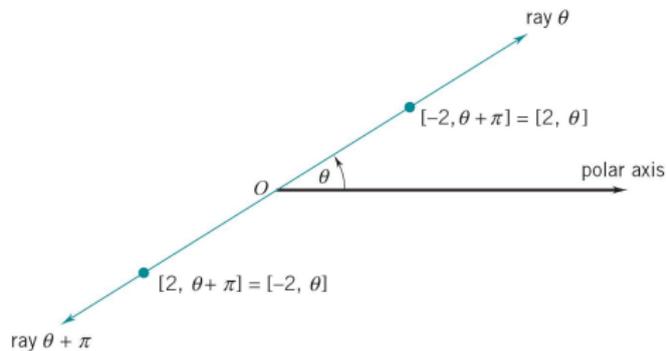
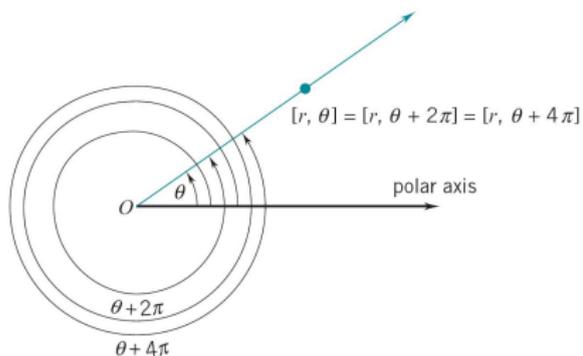


Points in Polar Coordinates

- $O = [0, \theta]$ for all θ .
- $[r, \theta] = [r, \theta + 2n\pi]$ for all integers n .
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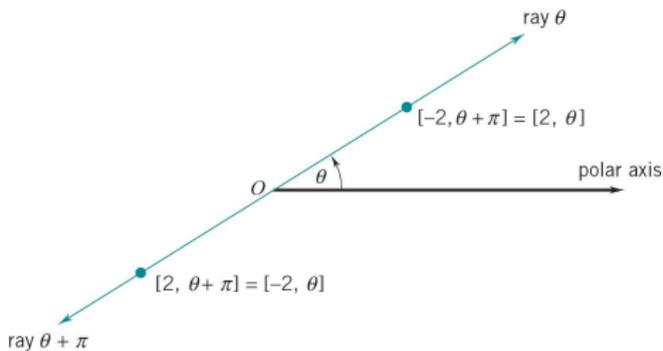
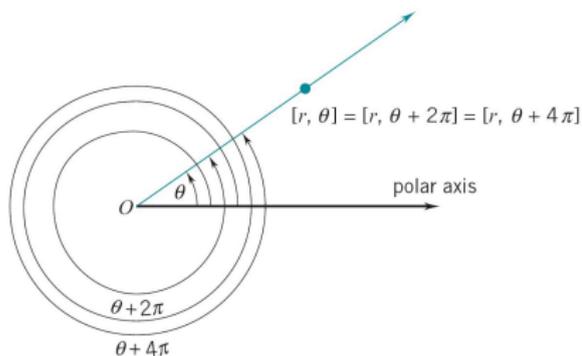


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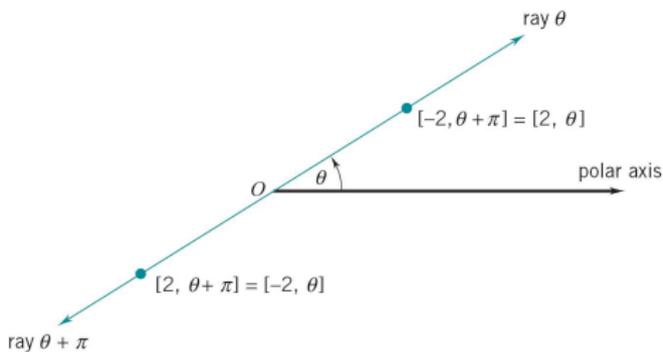
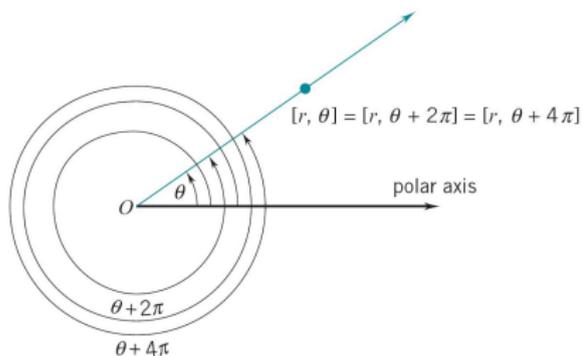


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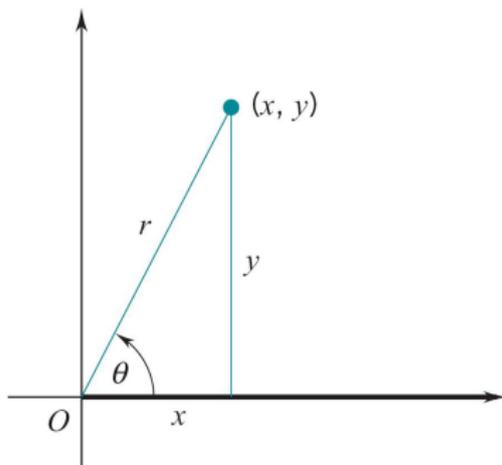
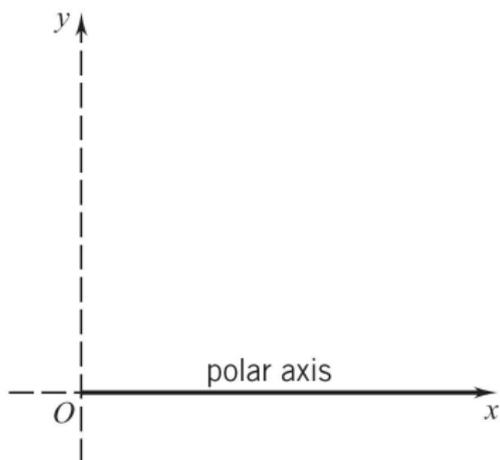


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Relation to Rectangular Coordinates

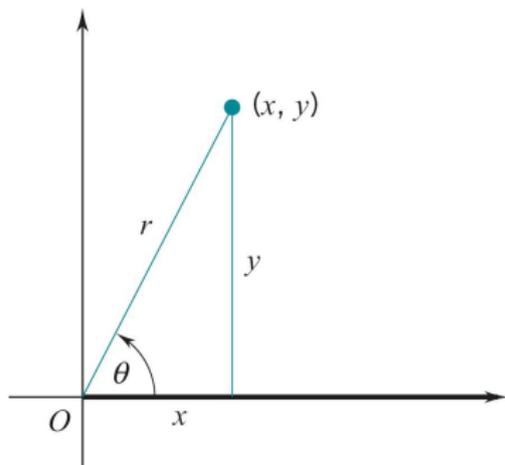
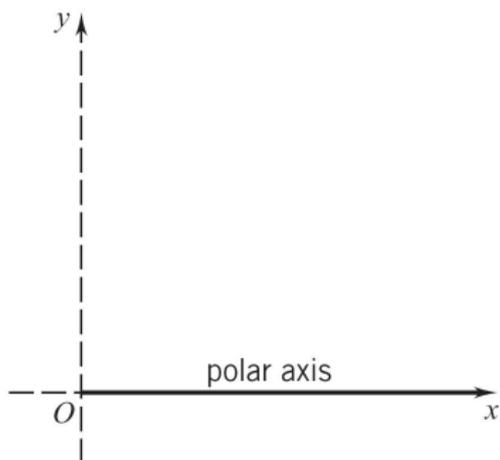


Relation to Rectangular Coordinates

- $x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta. \rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = r^2, \tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$
- $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}.$



Relation to Rectangular Coordinates



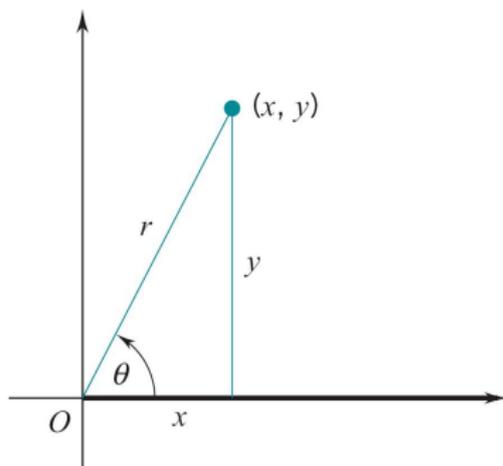
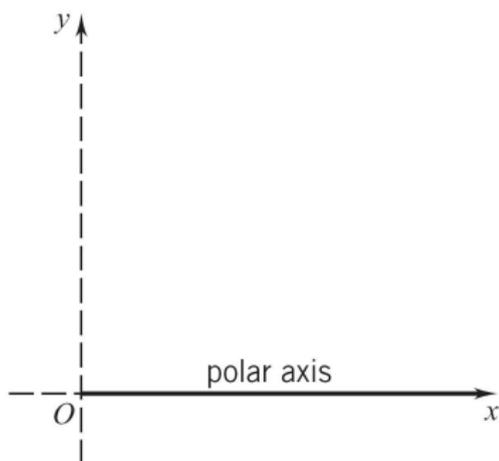
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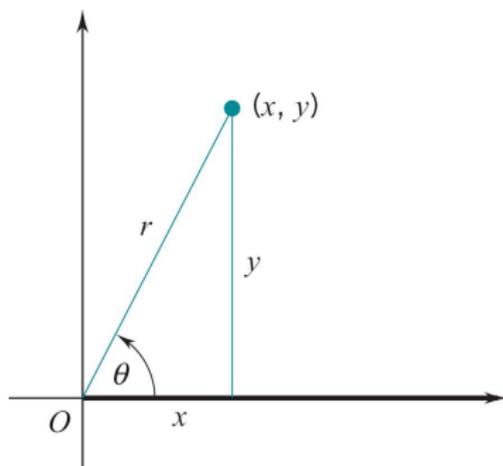
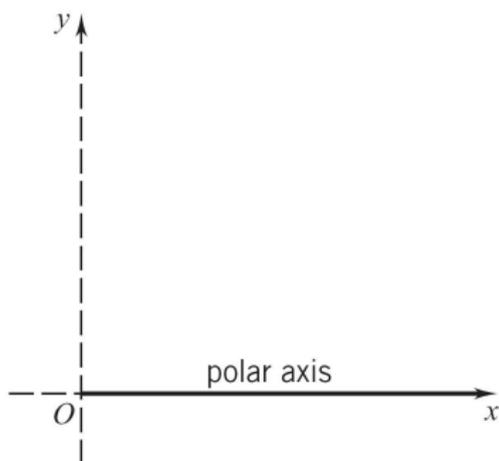
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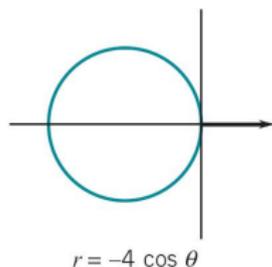
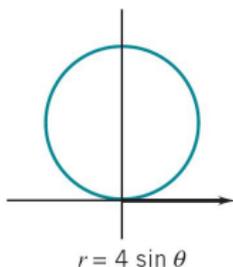
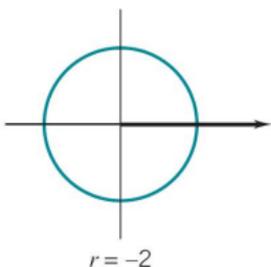
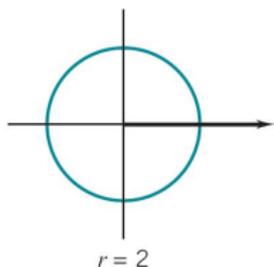


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Circles in Polar Coordinates



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In rectangular coordinates

$$x^2 + y^2 = a^2$$

$$x^2 + (y - a)^2 = a^2$$

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In polar coordinates

$$r = a$$

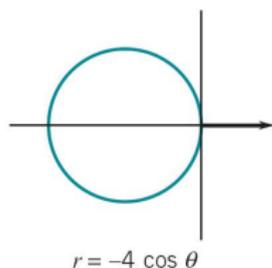
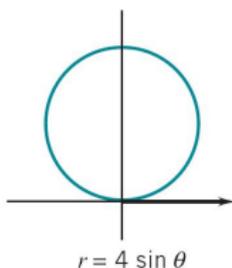
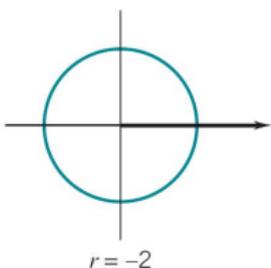
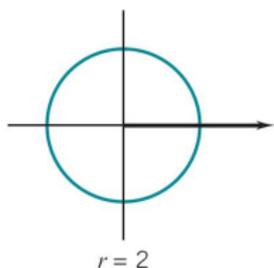
$$r = 2a \sin \theta$$

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$$x^2 + y^2 = a^2 \Rightarrow r^2 = a^2$$



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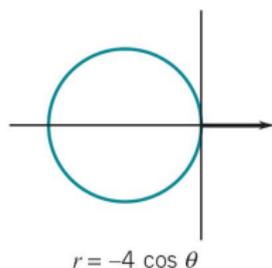
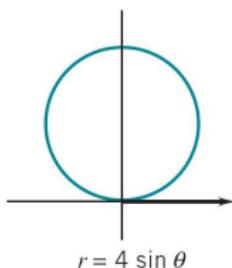
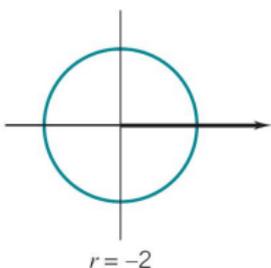
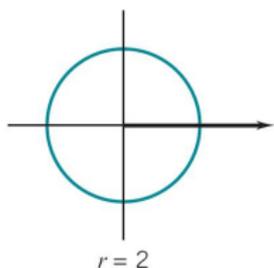
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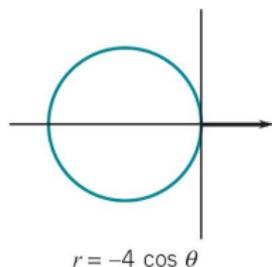
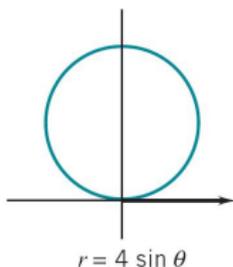
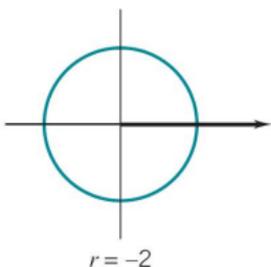
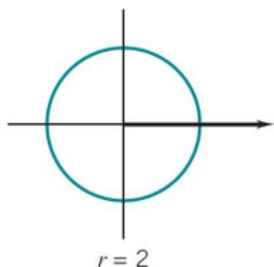
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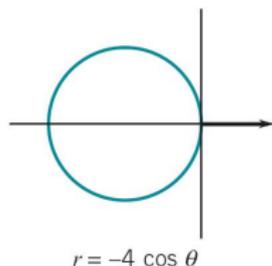
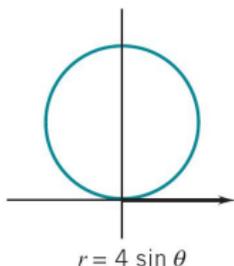
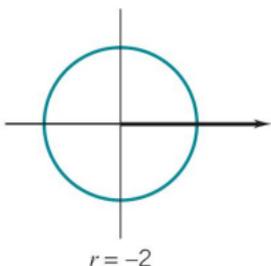
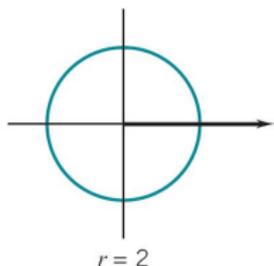
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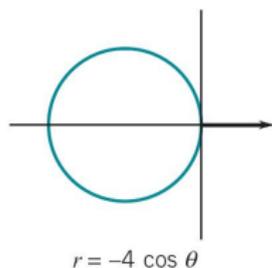
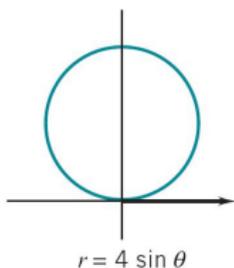
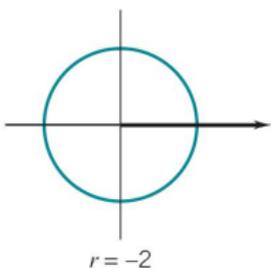
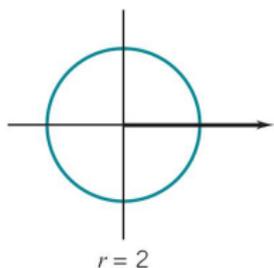
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$$x^2 + (y - a)^2 = a^2 \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = 2ay \Rightarrow r^2 = 2ar \sin \theta$$



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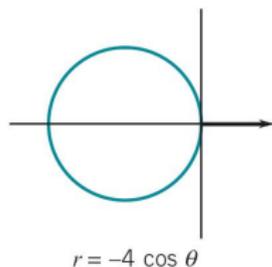
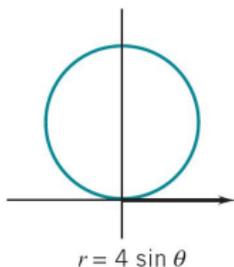
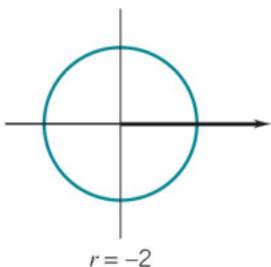
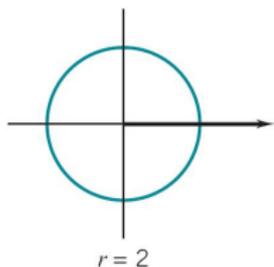
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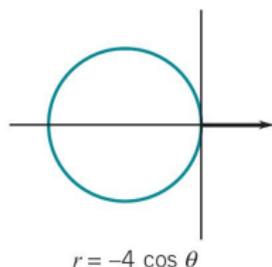
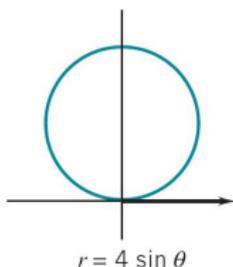
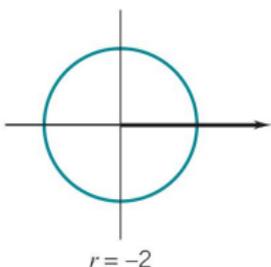
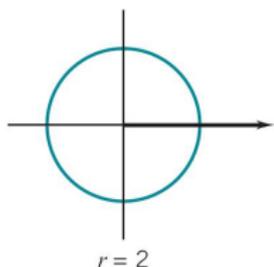
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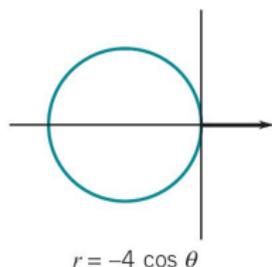
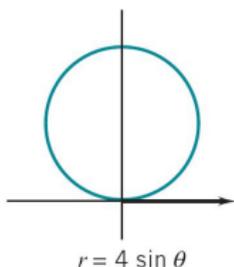
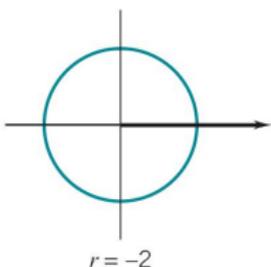
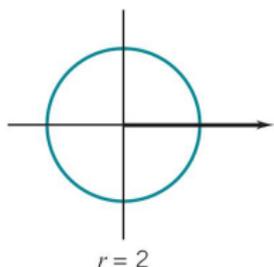
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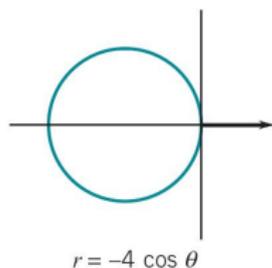
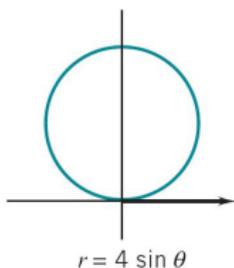
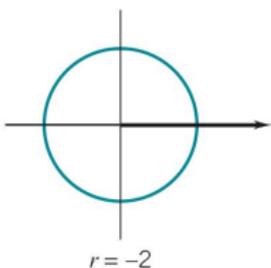
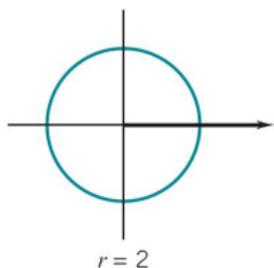
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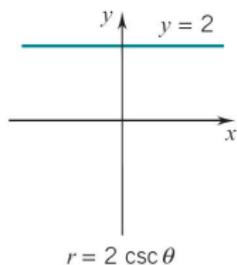
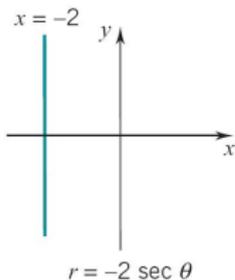
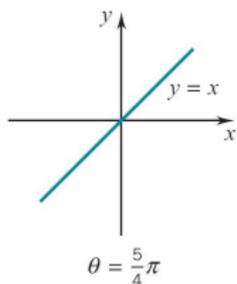
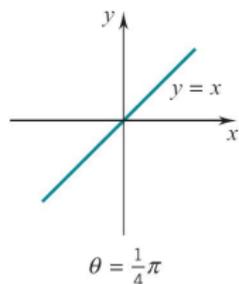
$$r = 2a \sin \theta$$

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

$$(x - a)^2 + y^2 = a^2 \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = 2ax \Rightarrow r^2 = 2ar \cos \theta$$



Lines in Polar Coordinates



Lines in Polar Coordinates

In rectangular coordinates

$$y = mx$$

$$x = a$$

$$y = a$$

In polar coordinates

$$\theta = \alpha \text{ with } \alpha = \tan^{-1} m$$

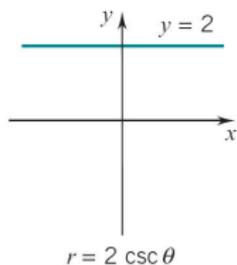
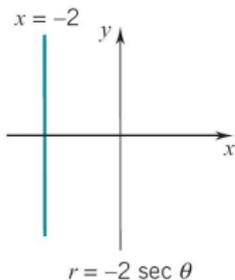
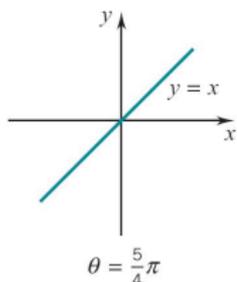
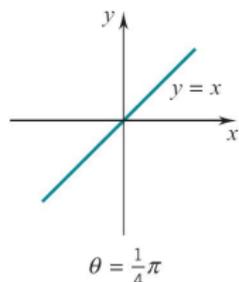
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

$$r = a \csc \theta$$

$$y = mx \Rightarrow \frac{y}{x} = m \Rightarrow \tan \theta = m$$



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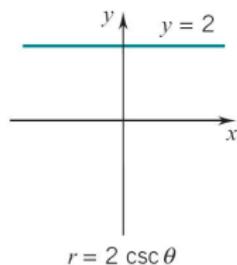
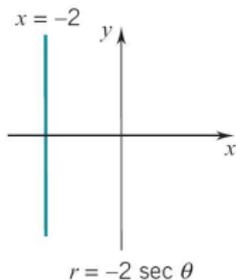
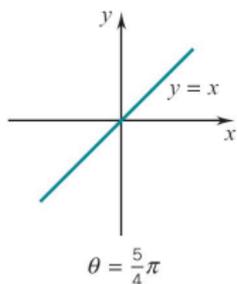
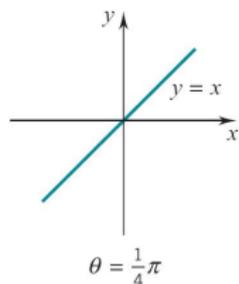
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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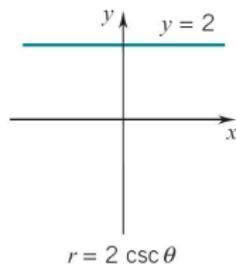
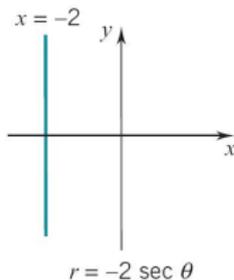
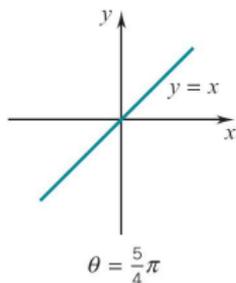
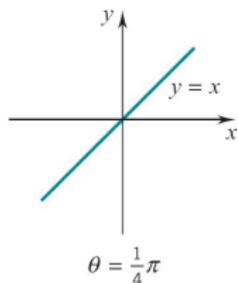
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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Lines in Polar Coordinates



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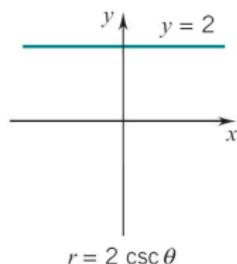
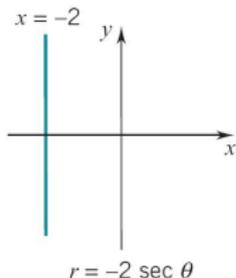
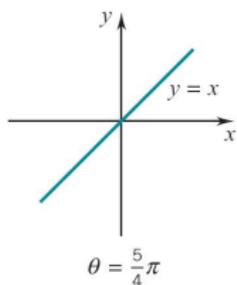
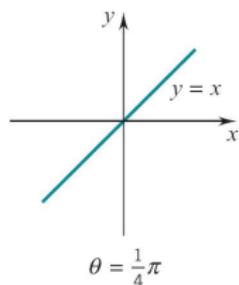
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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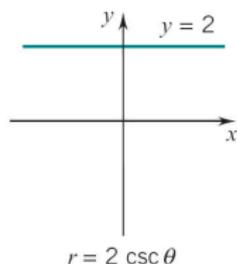
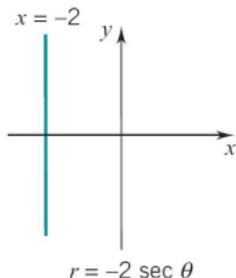
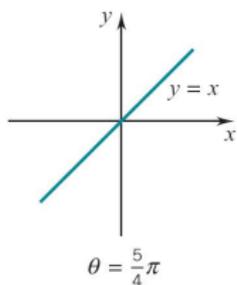
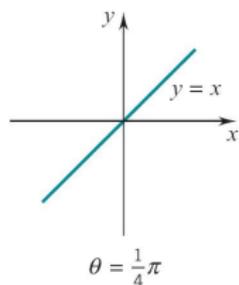
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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$$x = a \Rightarrow r \cos \theta = a \Rightarrow r = a \sec \theta$$



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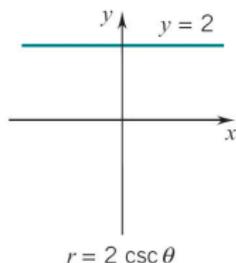
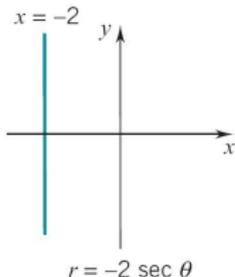
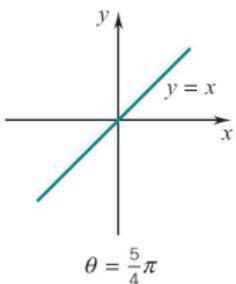
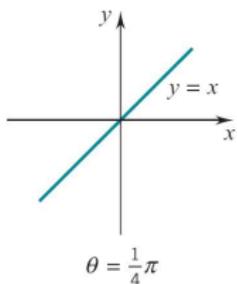
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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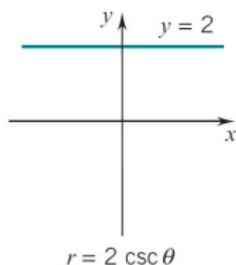
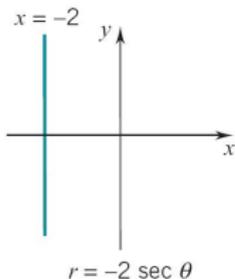
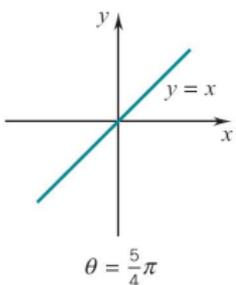
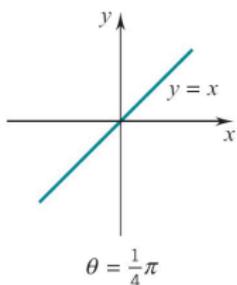
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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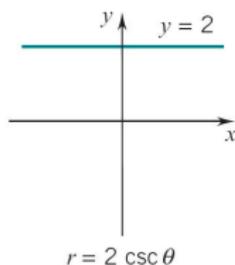
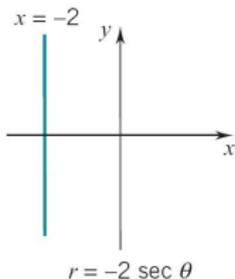
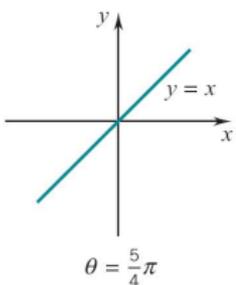
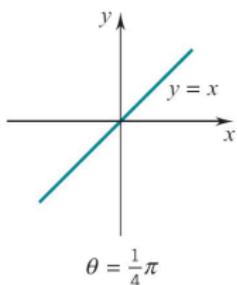
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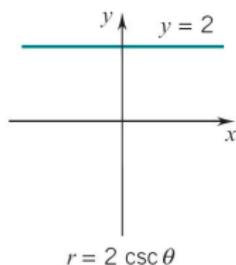
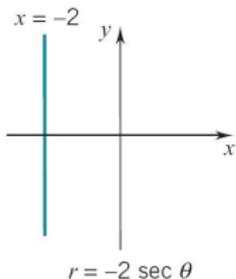
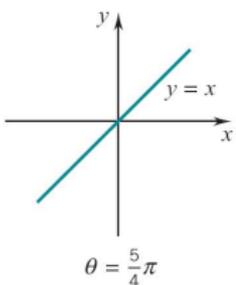
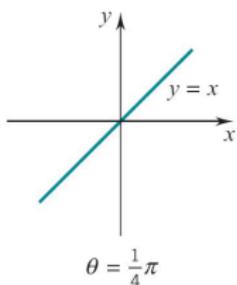
$$r = a \sec \theta$$

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Lines in Polar Coordinates



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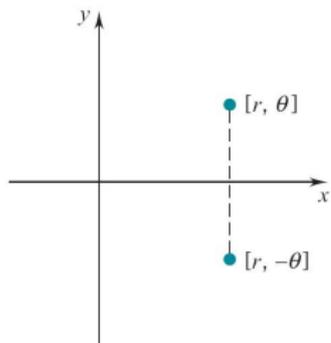
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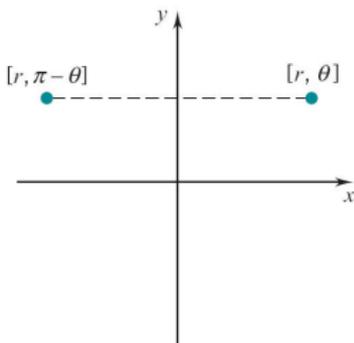
$$y = a \Rightarrow r \sin \theta = a \Rightarrow r = a \csc \theta$$



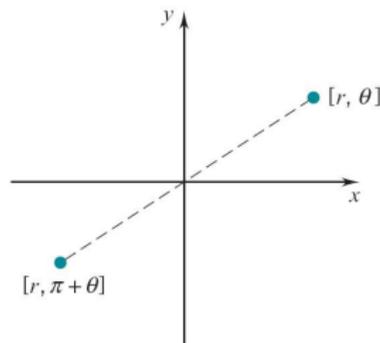
Symmetry



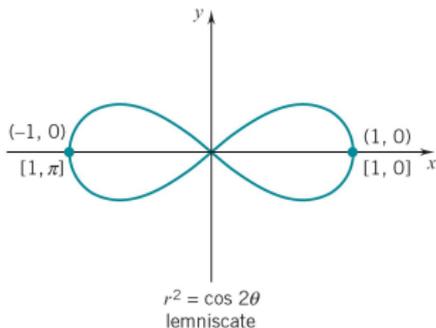
symmetry about the x -axis



symmetry about the y -axis



symmetry about the origin



Lemniscate (ribbon) $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$

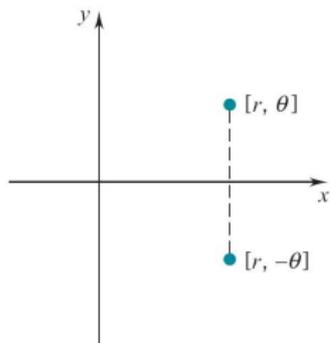
$$\cos[2(-\theta)] = \cos(-2\theta) = \cos 2\theta$$

\Rightarrow if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then $[r, -\theta] \in \text{graph}$

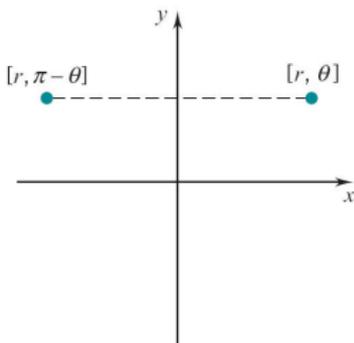
\Rightarrow symmetric about the x -axis.



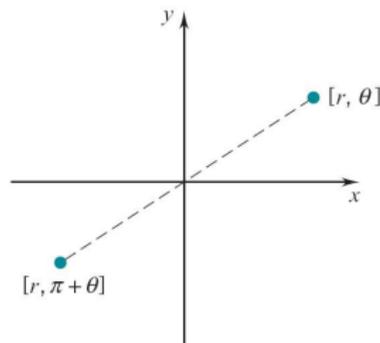
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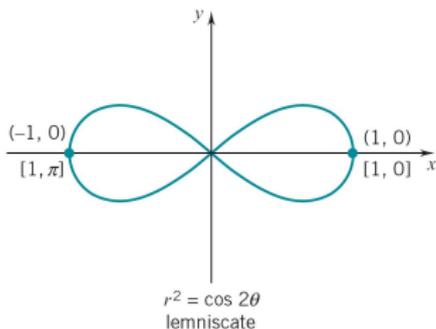
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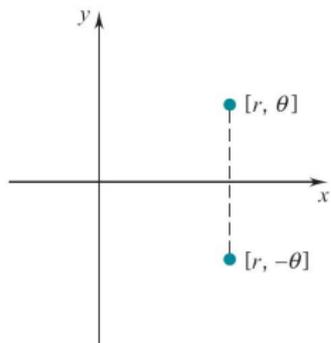
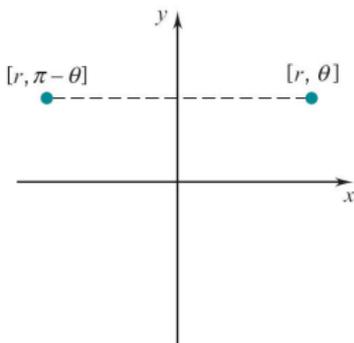
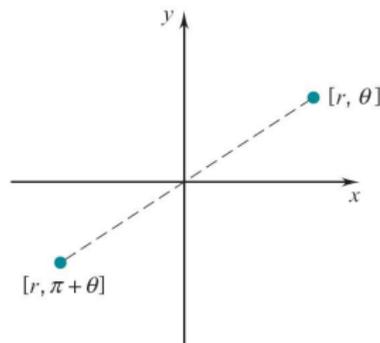
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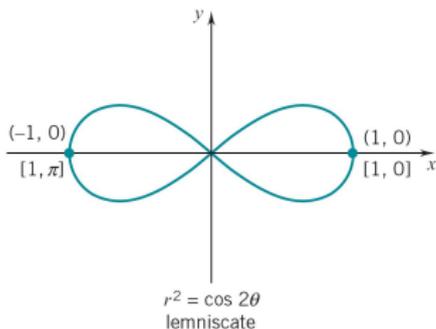
\Rightarrow if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then $[r, -\theta] \in \text{graph}$

\Rightarrow symmetric about the x -axis.

Symmetry

symmetry about the x -axissymmetry about the y -axis

symmetry about the origin



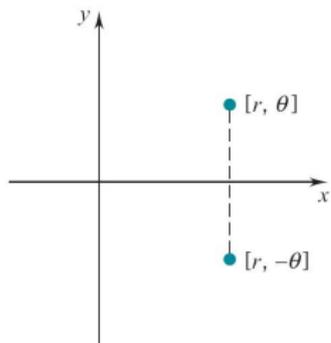
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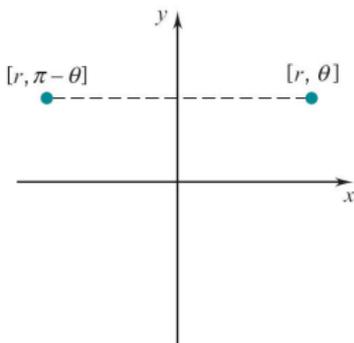
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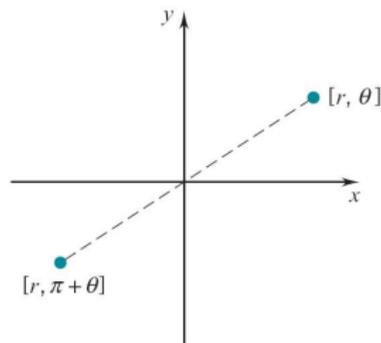
Symmetry



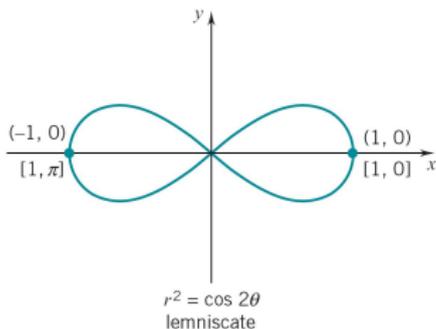
symmetry about the x -axis



symmetry about the y -axis



symmetry about the origin



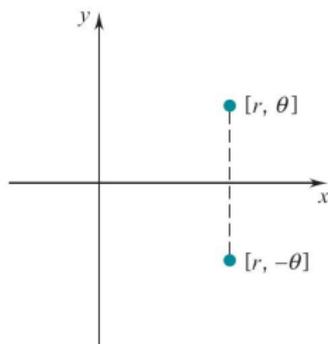
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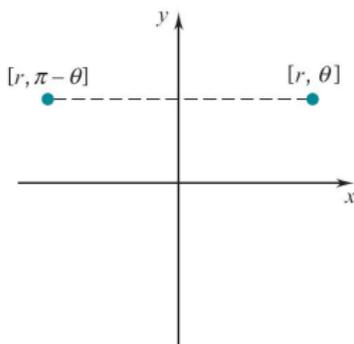
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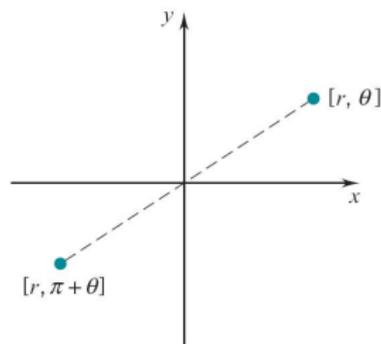
Symmetry



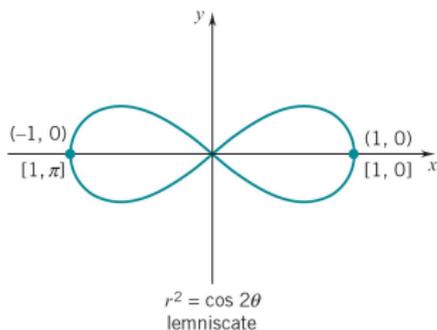
symmetry about the x-axis



symmetry about the y-axis



symmetry about the origin



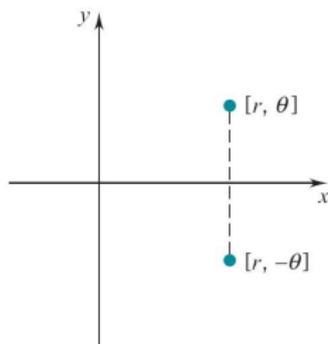
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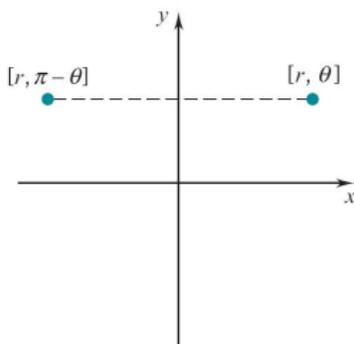
\Rightarrow if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then
 $[r, \pi - \theta] \in \text{graph}$

\Rightarrow symmetric about the y-axis.

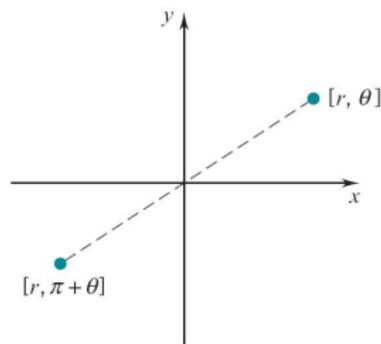
Symmetry



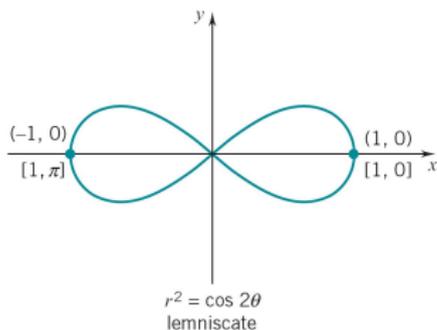
symmetry about the x-axis



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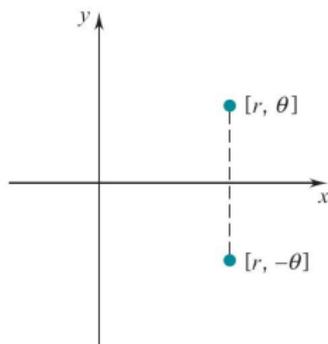
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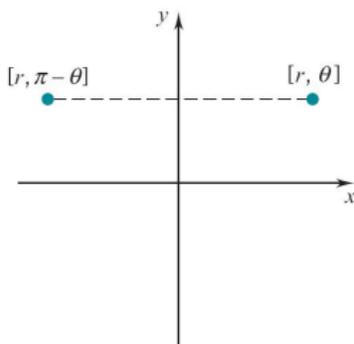
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\Rightarrow symmetric about the y-axis.

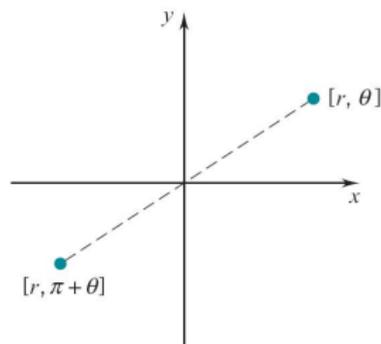
Symmetry



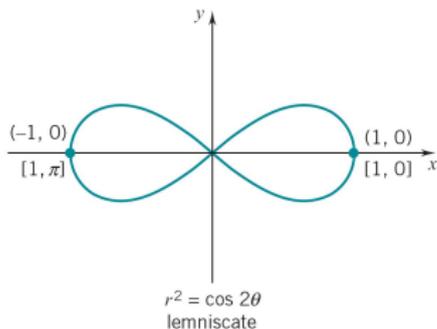
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symmetry about the origin



Lemniscate (ribbon) $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$

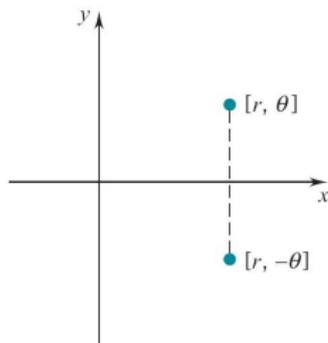
$$\cos[2(\pi - \theta)] = \cos(2\pi - 2\theta) = \cos 2\theta$$

\Rightarrow if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then

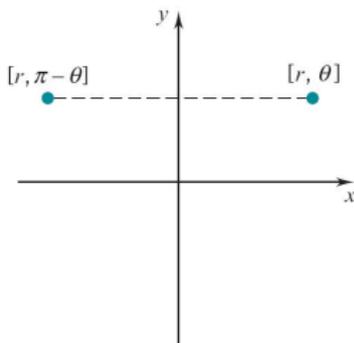
$[r, \pi - \theta] \in \text{graph}$

\Rightarrow symmetric about the y-axis.

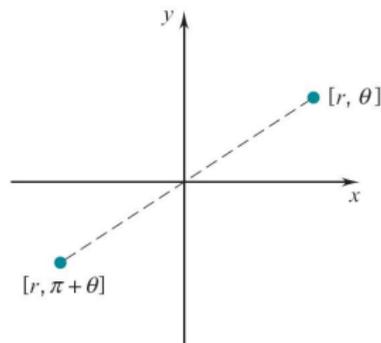
Symmetry



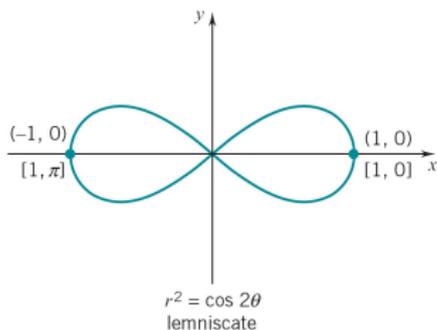
symmetry about the x-axis



symmetry about the y-axis



symmetry about the origin



Lemniscate (ribbon) $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$

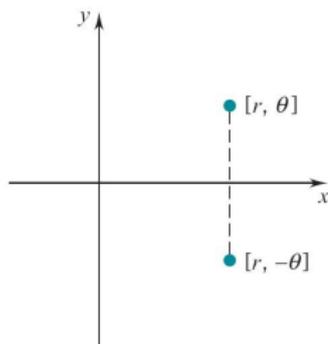
$$\cos[2(\pi + \theta)] = \cos(2\pi + 2\theta) = \cos 2\theta$$

\Rightarrow if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then

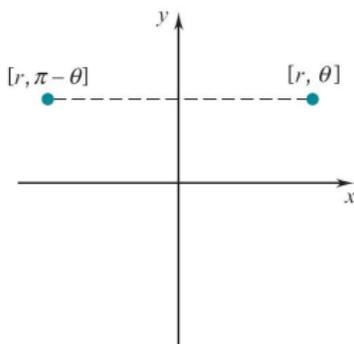
$[r, \pi + \theta] \in \text{graph}$

\Rightarrow symmetric about the origin.

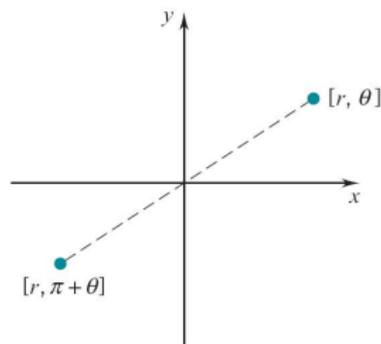
Symmetry



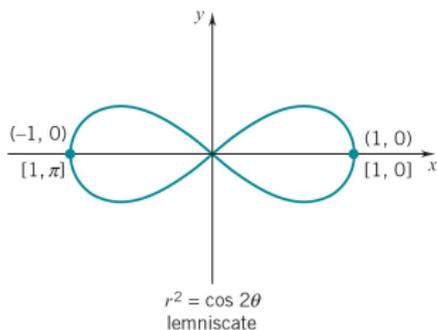
symmetry about the x-axis



symmetry about the y-axis



symmetry about the origin



Lemniscate (ribbon) $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$

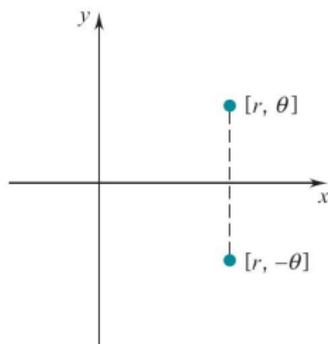
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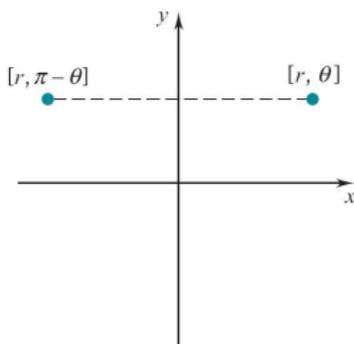
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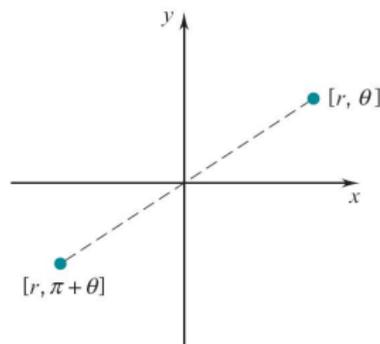
Symmetry



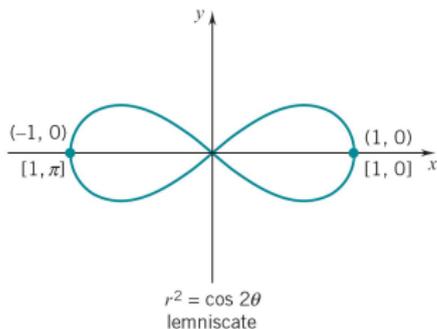
symmetry about the x-axis



symmetry about the y-axis



symmetry about the origin



Lemniscate (ribbon) $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$

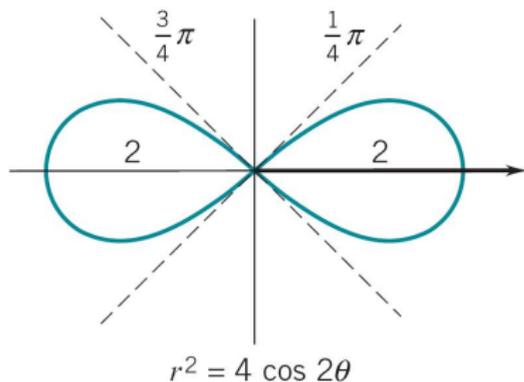
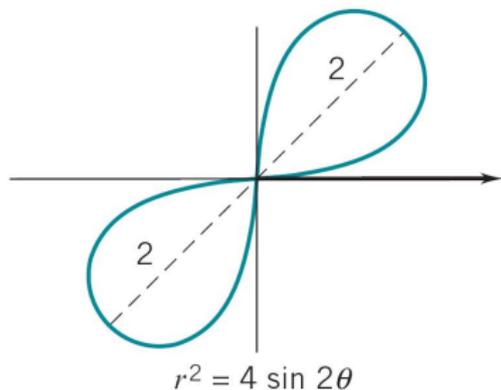
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\Rightarrow symmetric about the origin.

Lemniscates (Ribbons) $r^2 = a \sin 2\theta$, $r^2 = a \cos 2\theta$



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

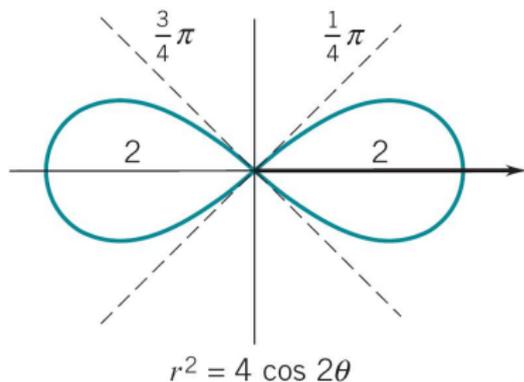
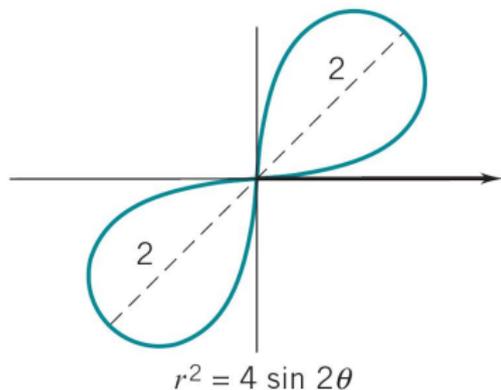
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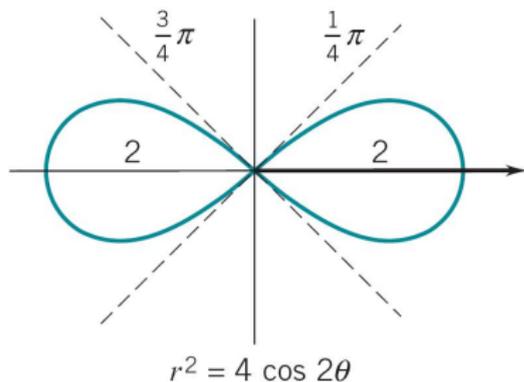
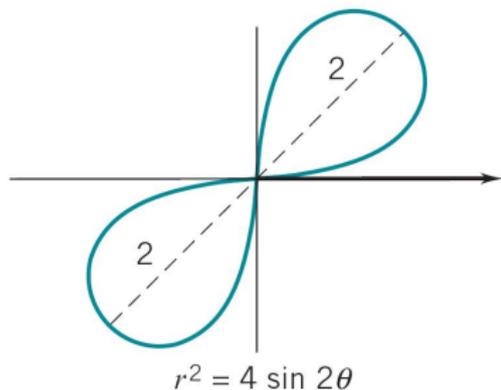
Lemniscate $r^2 = a \sin 2\theta$

$$\sin[2(\pi + \theta)] = \sin(2\pi + 2\theta) = \sin 2\theta$$

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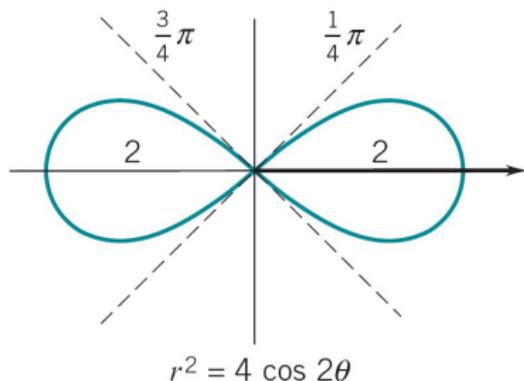
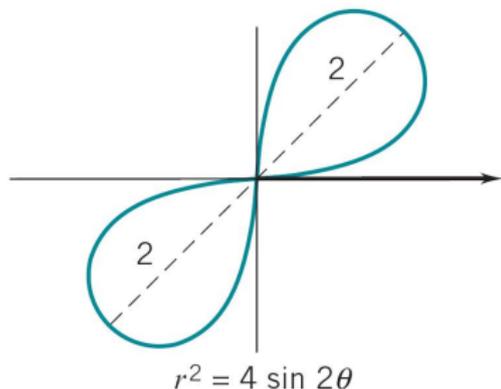
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Lemniscate $r^2 = a \sin 2\theta$

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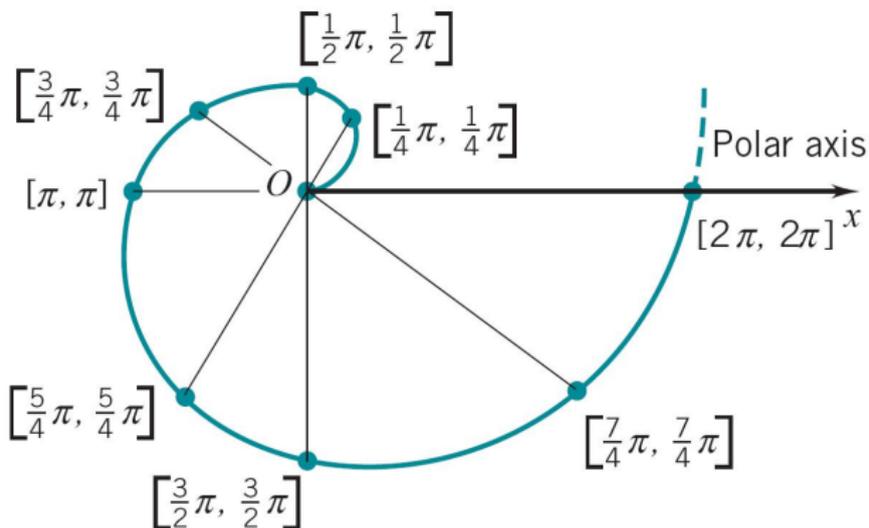
Quiz

Quiz

1. $r = \sec \theta$ is sym. about (a) x-axis, (b) y-axis, (c) origin.
2. $r = 2 \sin \theta$ is a (a) line, (b) circle, (c) lemniscate.



Spiral of Archimedes $r = \theta, \theta \geq 0$



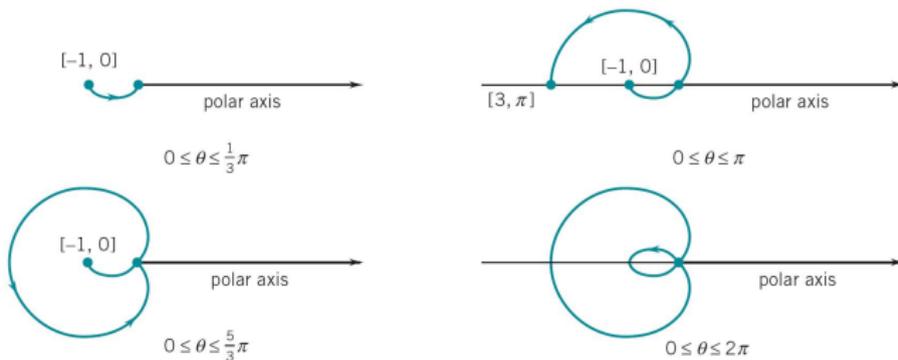
$$r = \theta, \quad \theta \geq 0$$

spiral of Archimedes

The curve is a nonending spiral. Here it is shown in detail from $\theta = 0$ to $\theta = 2\pi$.



Limaçon (Snail): $r = 1 - 2 \cos \theta$

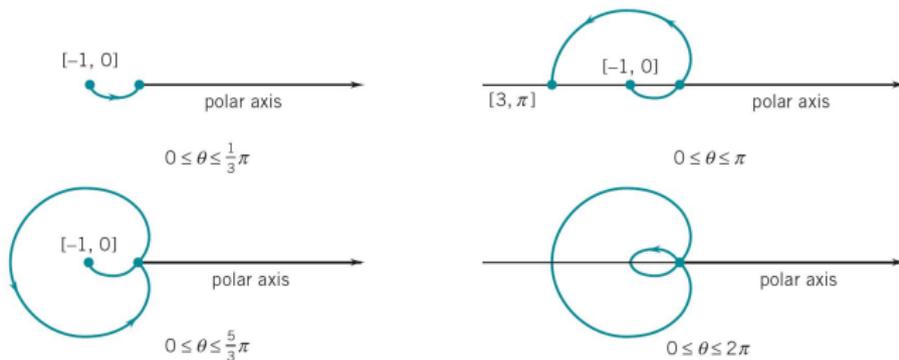


θ	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/3$	$\pi/2$	$2\pi/3$	$3\pi/4$	π	$5\pi/4$	$4\pi/3$	$3\pi/2$	$5\pi/3$	$7\pi/4$	2π
r	-1	-0.41	0	1	2	2.41	3	2.41	2	1	0	-0.41	-1

- $r = 0$ at $\theta = \frac{1}{3}\pi, \frac{5}{3}\pi$; $|r|$ is a local maximum at $\theta = 0, \pi, 2\pi$.
- Sketch in 4 stages: $[0, \frac{1}{3}\pi]$, $[\frac{1}{3}\pi, \pi]$, $[\pi, \frac{5}{3}\pi]$, $[\frac{5}{3}\pi, 2\pi]$.
- $\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta \Rightarrow$ if $[r, \theta] \in \text{graph}$, then $[r, -\theta] \in \text{graph} \Rightarrow$ symmetric about the x-axis.



Limaçon (Snail): $r = 1 - 2 \cos \theta$

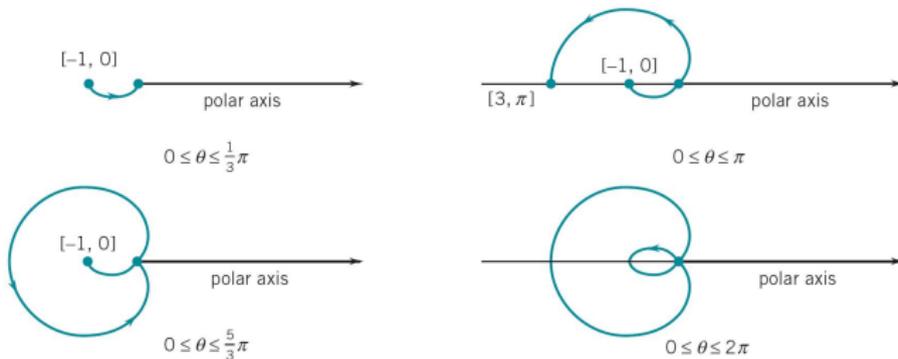


θ	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/3$	$\pi/2$	$2\pi/3$	$3\pi/4$	π	$5\pi/4$	$4\pi/3$	$3\pi/2$	$5\pi/3$	$7\pi/4$	2π
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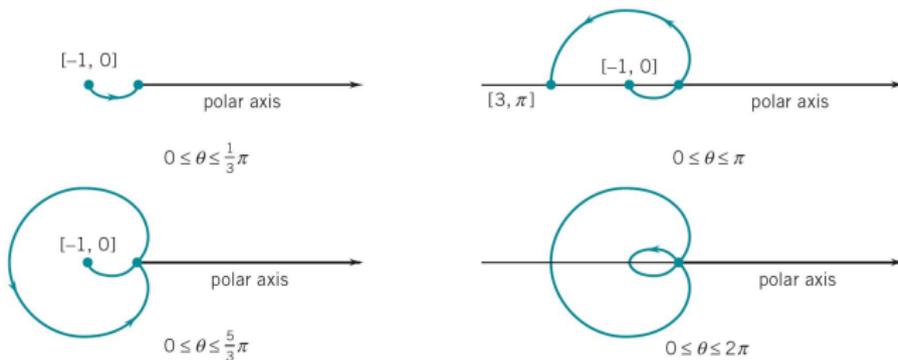


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Limaçon (Snail): $r = 1 - 2 \cos \theta$

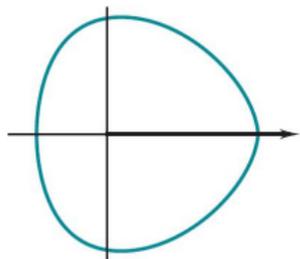


θ	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/3$	$\pi/2$	$2\pi/3$	$3\pi/4$	π	$5\pi/4$	$4\pi/3$	$3\pi/2$	$5\pi/3$	$7\pi/4$	2π
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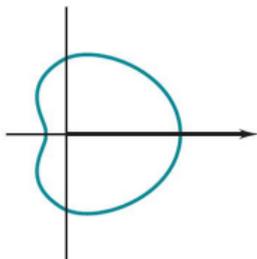
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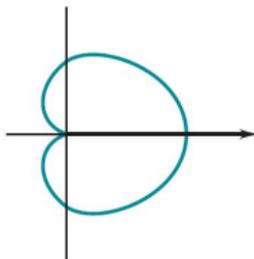
Limaçons (Snails): $r = a + b \cos \theta$



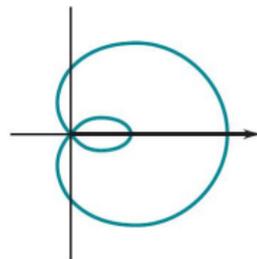
$r = 3 + \cos \theta$
convex
limaçon



$r = \frac{3}{2} + \cos \theta$
limaçon
with a dimple



$r = 1 + \cos \theta$
cardioid

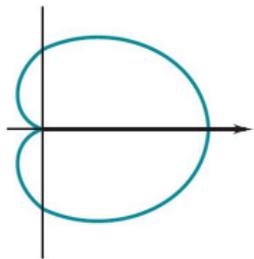


$r = \frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta$
limaçon with
an inner loop

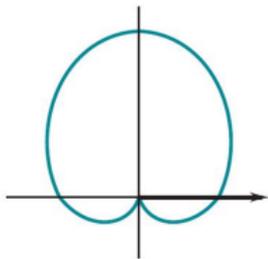
The general shape of the curve depends on the relative magnitudes of $|a|$ and $|b|$.



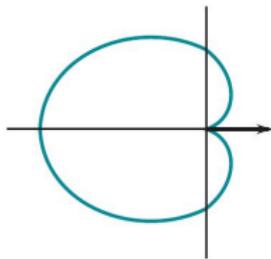
Cardioids (Heart-Shaped): $r = 1 \pm \cos \theta$, $r = 1 \pm \sin \theta$



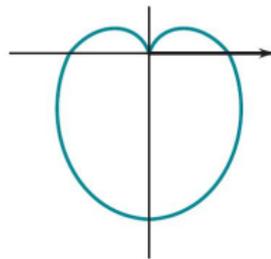
$$r = 1 + \cos \theta$$



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



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



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

Each change

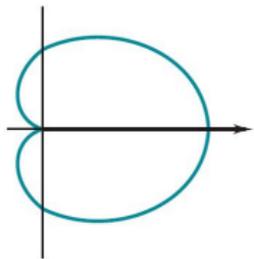
$$\cos \theta \rightarrow \sin \theta \rightarrow -\cos \theta \rightarrow -\sin \theta$$

represents a **counterclockwise rotation** by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$ radians.

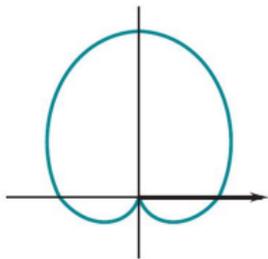
- Rotation by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$: $r = 1 + \cos(\theta - \frac{1}{2}\pi) = 1 + \sin \theta$.
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- Rotation by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$: $r = 1 - \cos(\theta - \frac{1}{2}\pi) = 1 - \sin \theta$.



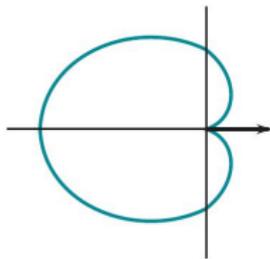
Cardioids (Heart-Shaped): $r = 1 \pm \cos \theta$, $r = 1 \pm \sin \theta$



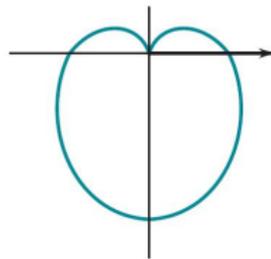
$$r = 1 + \cos \theta$$



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



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



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Each change

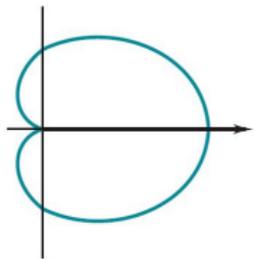
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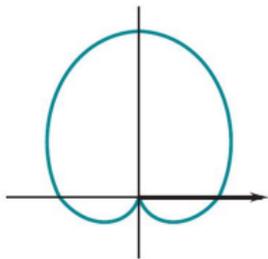
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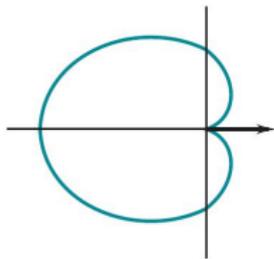
Cardioids (Heart-Shaped): $r = 1 \pm \cos \theta$, $r = 1 \pm \sin \theta$



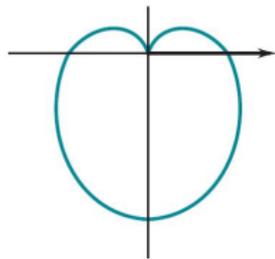
$$r = 1 + \cos \theta$$



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



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



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

Each change

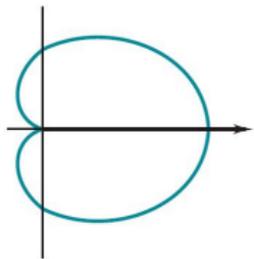
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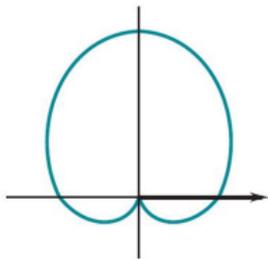
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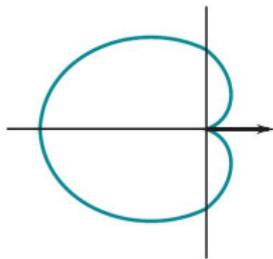
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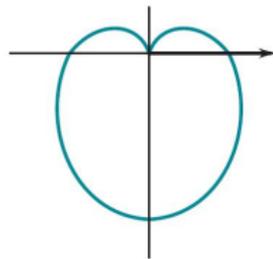
$$r = 1 + \cos \theta$$



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



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



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

Each change

$$\cos \theta \rightarrow \sin \theta \rightarrow -\cos \theta \rightarrow -\sin \theta$$

represents a **counterclockwise rotation** by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$ radians.

- Rotation by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$: $r = 1 + \cos(\theta - \frac{1}{2}\pi) = 1 + \sin \theta$.
- Rotation by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$: $r = 1 + \sin(\theta - \frac{1}{2}\pi) = 1 - \cos \theta$.
- Rotation by $\frac{1}{2}\pi$: $r = 1 - \cos(\theta - \frac{1}{2}\pi) = 1 - \sin \theta$.



Quiz

Quiz

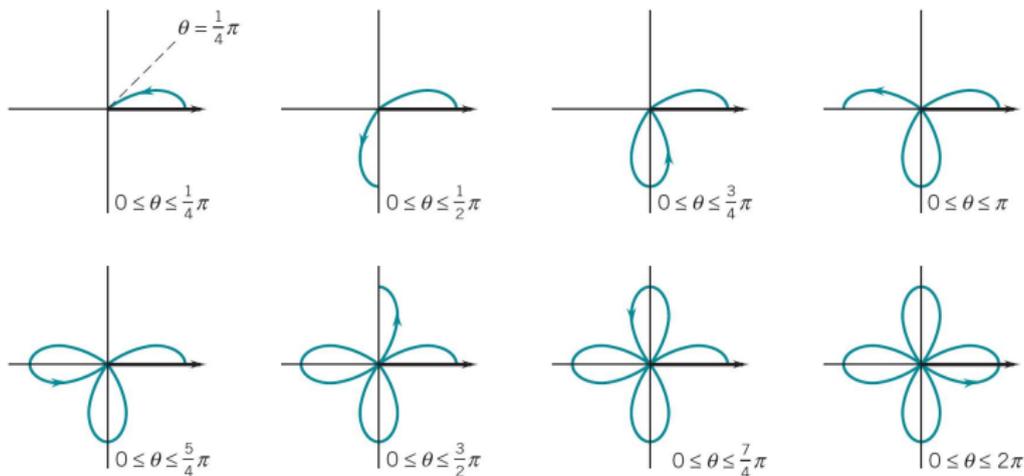
3. $r = \sin \theta$ is the rotation by $\frac{\pi}{2}$ of:

(a) $r = \cos \theta$, (b) $r = -\sin \theta$, (c) $r = -\cos \theta$.

4. *Today* is (a) Feb. 19, (b) Feb. 20, (c) Feb. 21.



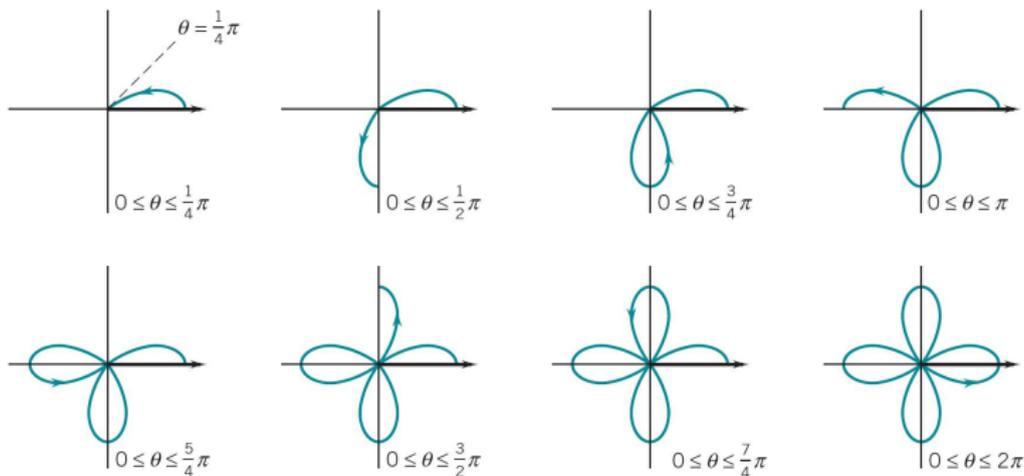
Petal Curve: $r = \cos 2\theta$



- $r = 0$ at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$;
 $|r|$ is a local maximum at $\theta = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}, 2\pi$.
- Sketch the curve in 8 stages.
- $\cos[2(-\theta)] = \cos 2\theta$, $\cos[2(\pi \pm \theta)] = \cos 2\theta$
 \Rightarrow symmetric about the x -axis, the y -axis, and the origin.



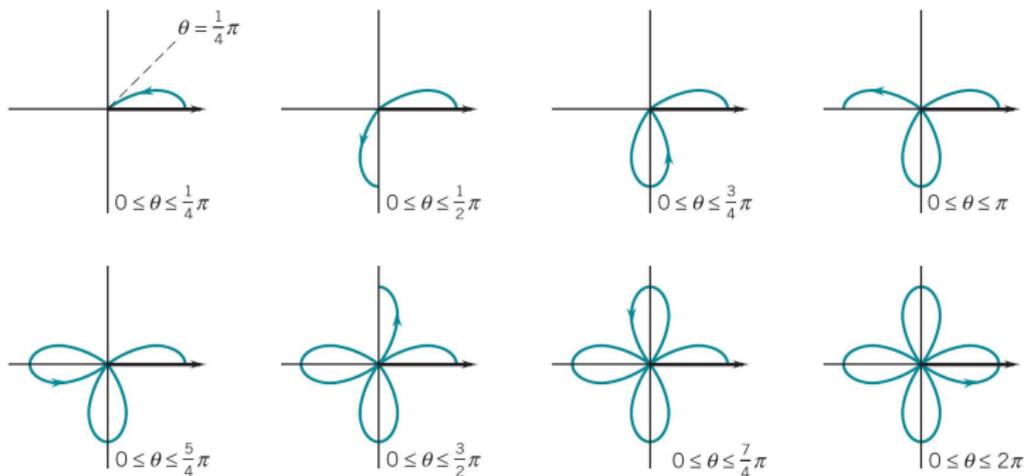
Petal Curve: $r = \cos 2\theta$



- $r = 0$ at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$;
 $|r|$ is a local maximum at $\theta = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}, 2\pi$.
- Sketch the curve in 8 stages.
- $\cos[2(-\theta)] = \cos 2\theta$, $\cos[2(\pi \pm \theta)] = \cos 2\theta$
 \Rightarrow symmetric about the x -axis, the y -axis, and the origin.



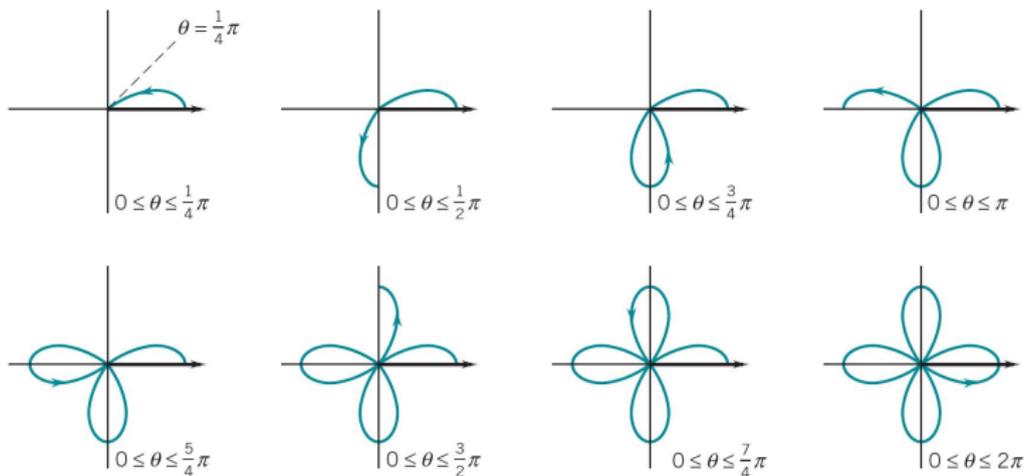
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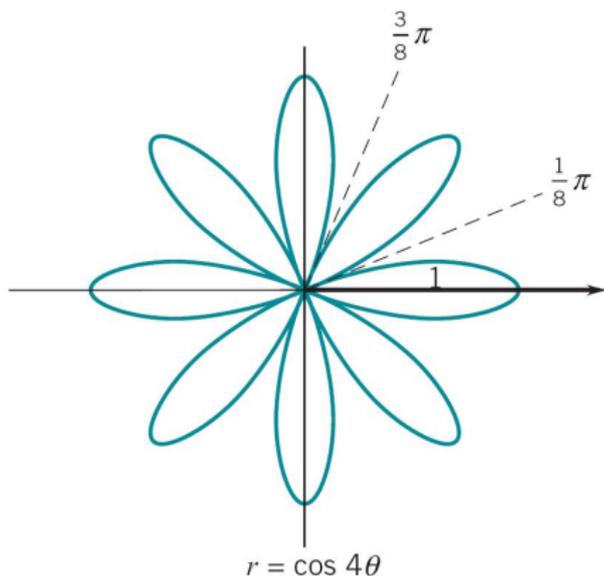
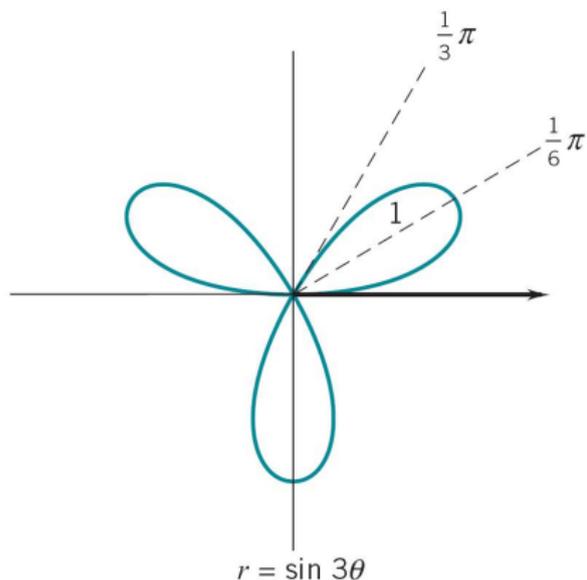
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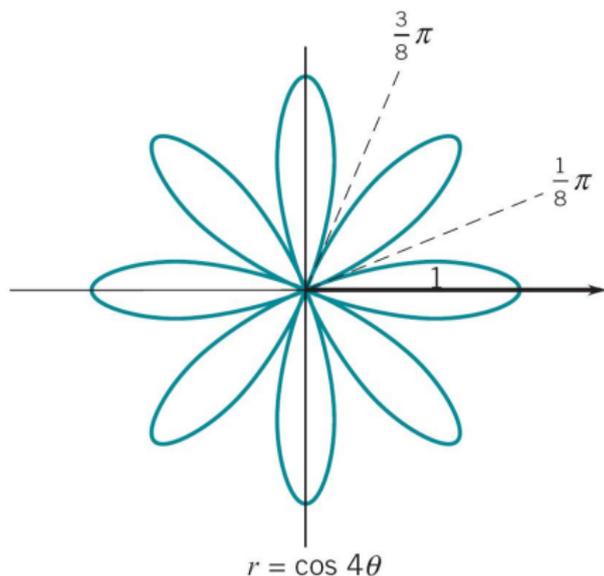
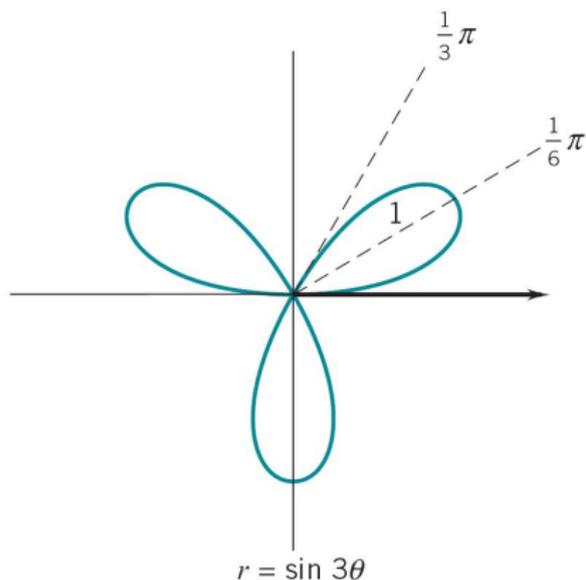
Petal Curves: $r = a \cos n\theta$, $r = a \sin n\theta$



- If n is **odd**, there are n petals.
- If n is **even**, there are $2n$ petals.



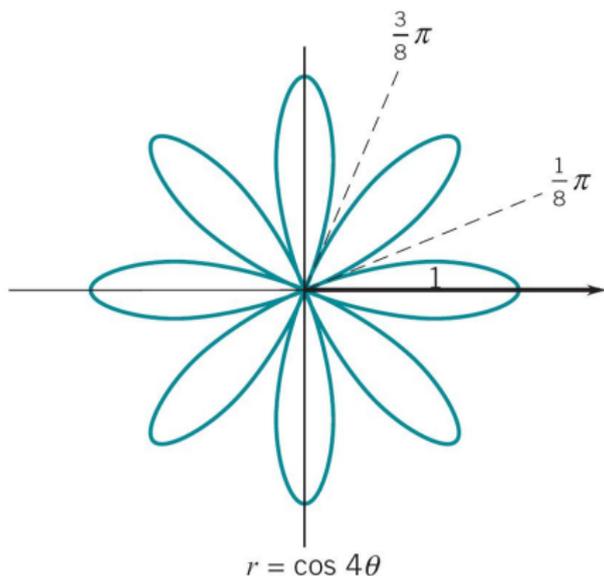
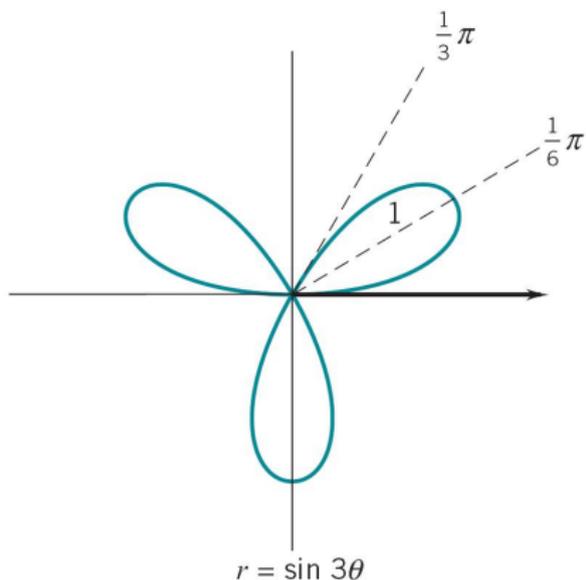
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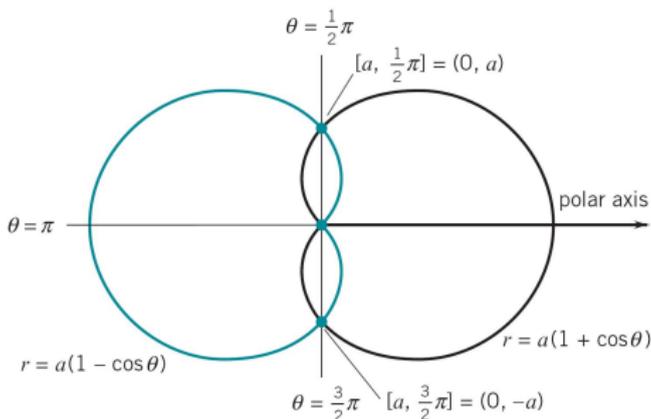
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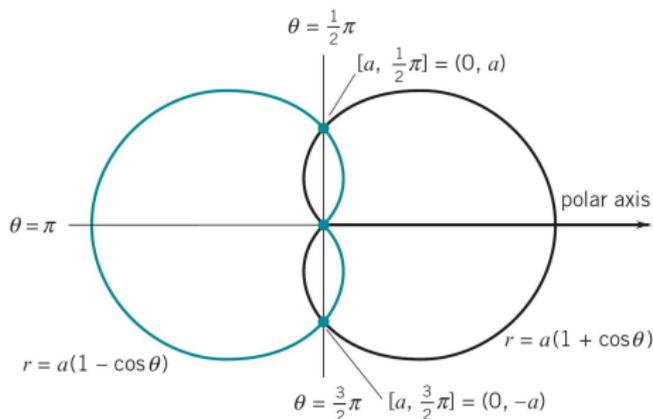


Intersections: $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$ and $r = a(1 + \cos \theta)$



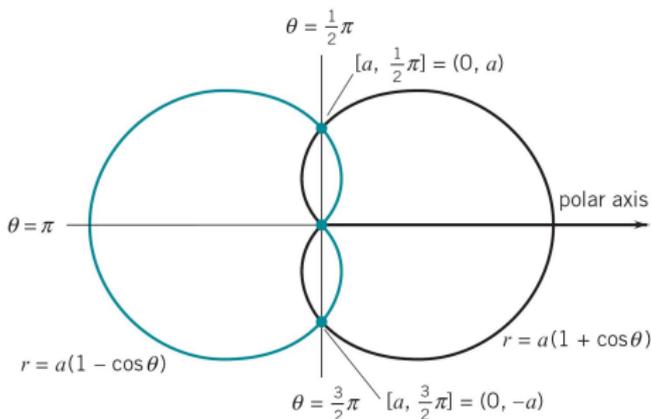
- $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$ and $r = a(1 + \cos \theta) \Rightarrow r = a$ and $\cos \theta = 0$
 $\Rightarrow r = a$ and $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi \Rightarrow [a, \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi] \in \text{intersection}$
 $\Rightarrow n$ even, $[a, \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi] = [a, \frac{\pi}{2}]$; n odd, $[a, \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi] = [a, \frac{3\pi}{2}]$
- Two intersection points: $[a, \frac{\pi}{2}] = (0, a)$ and $[a, \frac{3\pi}{2}] = (0, -a)$.
- The intersection third point: the origin; but the two cardioids pass through the origin at **different** times (θ).

Intersections: $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$ and $r = a(1 + \cos \theta)$



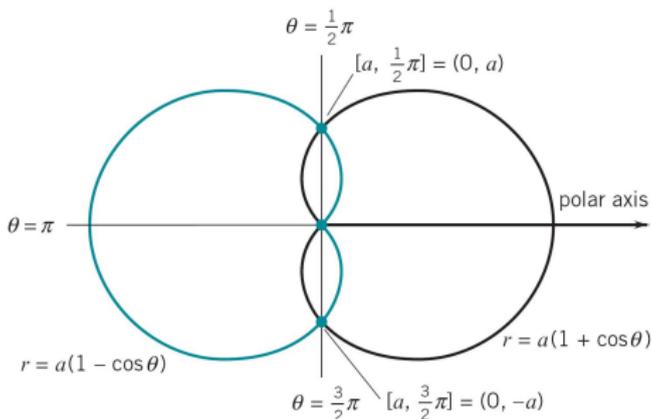
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Outline

- Polar Coordinates
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 - Relation to Rectangular Coordinates
 - Symmetry

- Graphing in Polar Coordinates
 - Spiral
 - Limaçons
 - Flowers
 - Intersections

