

Monday Night Calculus

Polar Equations

Exercises

1. Spiraling Under Control

Consider the curve C given by the polar equation $r = \frac{2\theta}{\pi}$ for $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$.

- Sketch the graph of the curve C and find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at the point where $\theta = \frac{3\pi}{4}$.
- Find the first value in the interval $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ for which the tangent line to the curve C is vertical.
- The region R is bounded by the curve C and the line segment that connects the origin to the point $(x, y) = (4, 0)$. Find the area of the region R .
- Find the length of the curve C .

2. Rabbit Ears (Bifolium)

Consider the curve C defined by the polar equation $r(\theta) = 12 \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta$ for $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$.

- Sketch the graph of the curve C . Find the polar coordinates (r, θ) of the point on the curve in the first quadrant that is farthest from the origin.
- Find an equation of the line tangent to the curve C at the point found in part (a).
- Find the total area enclosed by the curve C .

3. An Infinity Curve

Consider the curve C defined by the polar equation $r = 5\sqrt{\cos 2\theta}$.

- Sketch the graph of the curve C .
- There are two horizontal lines tangent to the curve. Find these lines and the values for θ , $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, at which they occur.
- Find $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow (\pi/4)^-} \frac{dr}{d\theta}$ or explain why it does not exist.
- Find $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow (\pi/4)^-} \frac{dy}{dx}$ or explain why it does not exist.
- Find the total area enclosed by the curve C .
Hint: Carefully consider the domain of r .