

W15 - Notes

Calculus with polar curves

05 Theory - Polar tangent lines, arclength

📐 Polar arclength formula

The arclength of the polar graph of $r(\theta)$, for $\theta \in [\alpha, \beta]$:

$$L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{r'(\theta)^2 + r(\theta)^2} d\theta$$

To derive this formula, *convert to Cartesian* with parameter θ :

$$r = r(\theta) \gg \gg (x, y) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$$

From here you can apply the familiar arclength formula with θ in the place of t .

🔍 Extra - Derivation of polar arclength formula

Let $r = r(\theta)$ and convert to parametric Cartesian, so:

$$\begin{aligned} x(\theta) &= r(\theta) \cos \theta \\ y(\theta) &= r(\theta) \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$ds = \sqrt{(x')^2 + (y')^2} d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= (r \cos \theta)' \gg \gg r' \cos \theta - r \sin \theta \\ y' &= (r \sin \theta)' \gg \gg r' \sin \theta + r \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} (x')^2 + (y')^2 &\gg \gg r'^2 \cos^2 \theta - 2rr' \cos \theta \sin \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta \\ &\quad + r'^2 \sin^2 \theta + 2rr' \sin \theta \cos \theta + r^2 \cos^2 \theta \\ &= r'^2 + r^2 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$ds = \sqrt{(x')^2 + (y')^2} d\theta \gg \gg \sqrt{r'^2 + r^2} d\theta$$

06 Illustration

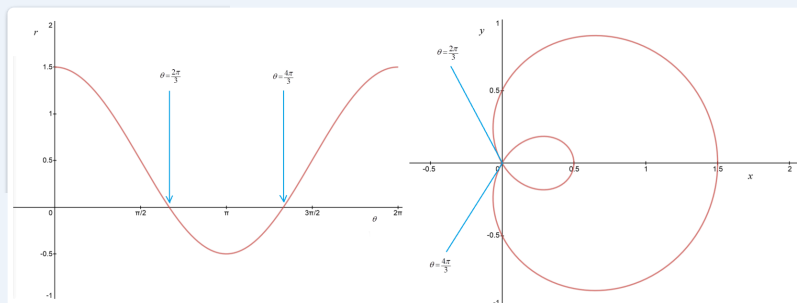
🔍 Example - Length of the inner loop

Consider the limaçon given by $r(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta$.

How long is the inner loop? Set up an integral for this quantity.

Solution

The inner loop is traced by the moving point when $\frac{2\pi}{3} \leq \theta \leq \frac{4\pi}{3}$. This can be seen from the graph:



Therefore the length of the inner loop is given by this integral:

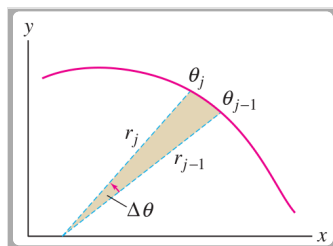
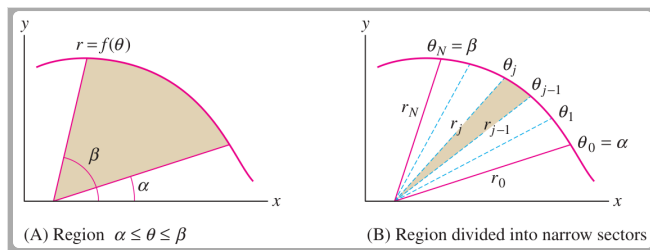
$$L = \int_{2\pi/3}^{4\pi/3} \sqrt{(-\sin \theta)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta\right)^2} d\theta \gg \gg \int_{2\pi/3}^{4\pi/3} \sqrt{5/4 + \cos \theta} d\theta$$

07 Theory - Polar area

▣ Sectorial area from polar curve

$$A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta$$

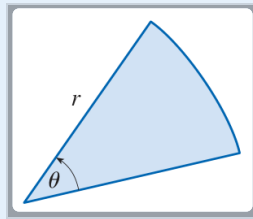
The “area under the curve” concept for graphs of functions in Cartesian coordinates translates to a “sectorial area” concept for polar graphs. To compute this area using an integral, we divide the region into Riemann sums of small sector slices.



To obtain a formula for the whole area, we need a formula for the area of each sector slice.

Area of sector slice

Let us verify that the area of a sector slice is $\frac{1}{2}r^2\theta$.



Take the angle θ in radians and divide by 2π to get the *fraction of the whole disk*.

Then multiply this fraction by πr^2 (whole disk area) to get the *area of the sector slice*.

$$\left(\frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)(\pi r^2) \gg \gg \frac{1}{2}r^2\theta$$

Now use $d\theta$ and $r(\theta)$ for an infinitesimal sector slice, and integrate these to get the total area formula:

$$A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta$$

One easily verifies this formula for a circle.

Let $r(\theta) = R$ be a constant. Then:

$$\text{Area of circle} = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} R^2 d\theta \gg \gg \left. \frac{1}{2} R^2 \theta \right|_0^{2\pi} \gg \gg R^2 \pi$$

The sectorial area *between curves*:

Sectorial area between polar curves

$$A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} (r_1(\theta)^2 - r_0(\theta)^2) d\theta$$

Subtract *after* squaring, not before!

This aspect is *not* similar to the Cartesian version: $\int f - g dx$

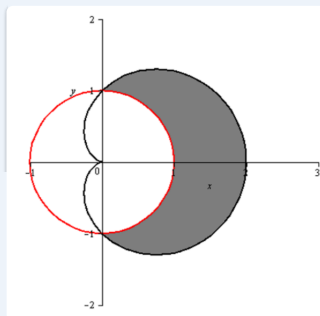
08 Illustration

≡ Area between circle and limaçon

Find the area of the region enclosed between the circle $r_0(\theta) = 1$ and the limaçon $r_1(\theta) = 1 + \cos \theta$.

Solution

First draw the region:

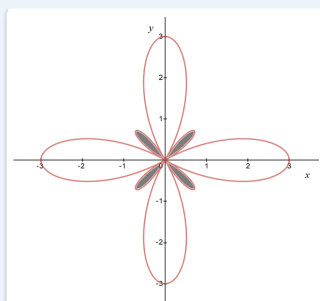


The two curves intersect at $\theta = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$. Therefore the area enclosed is given by integrating over $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq +\frac{\pi}{2}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \int_a^b \frac{1}{2} (r_1^2 - r_0^2) d\theta \gg \gg \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{2} ((1 + \cos \theta)^2 - 1^2) d\theta \\
 &\gg \gg \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} 2 \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta d\theta \gg \gg \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos \theta + \frac{1}{4} (1 + \cos(2\theta)) d\theta \\
 &\gg \gg \sin \theta + \frac{\theta}{4} + \frac{1}{8} \sin(2\theta) \Big|_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \gg \gg 2 + \frac{\pi}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

≡ Area of small loops

Consider the following polar graph of $r(\theta) = 1 + 2 \cos(4\theta)$:



Find the area of the shaded region.

Solution

Find bounds for one small loop. Lower left loop occurs first. This loop is when $1 + 2 \cos(4\theta) \leq 0$.

$$1 + 2 \cos(4\theta) \leq 0 \quad \gg \gg \quad \cos(4\theta) \leq -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\gg \gg \quad \frac{2\pi}{3} \leq 4\theta \leq \frac{4\pi}{3} \quad \gg \gg \quad \frac{\pi}{6} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{3}$$

Now set up area integral:

$$A = 4 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta \quad \gg \gg \quad 4 \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \frac{1}{2} (1 + 2 \cos(4\theta))^2 d\theta$$

$$\gg \gg \quad 2 \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} 1 + 4 \cos(4\theta) + 4 \cos^2(4\theta) d\theta$$

Power-to-frequency conversion: $\cos^2 A \rightsquigarrow \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos(2A))$ with $A = 4\theta$:

$$\gg \gg \quad 2 \int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} 1 + 4 \cos(4\theta) + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos(8\theta)) d\theta$$

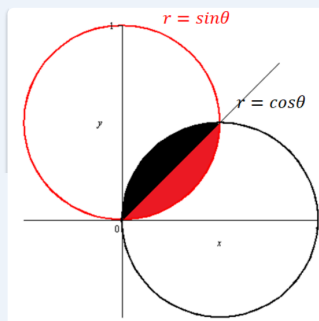
$$\gg \gg \quad 6\theta + 2 \sin(4\theta) + \frac{1}{4} \sin(8\theta) \Big|_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \gg \gg \quad \pi - \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

≡ Overlap area of circles

Compute the area of the overlap between crossing circles. For concreteness, suppose one of the circles is given by $r(\theta) = \sin \theta$ and the other is given by $r(\theta) = \cos \theta$.

Solution

Drawing of the overlap:



Notice: total overlap area = $2 \times$ area of red region. Bounds for red region: $0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$.

Area formula applied to $r(\theta) = \sin \theta$:

$$A = 2 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta \quad \gg \gg \quad 2 \int_0^{\pi/4} \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \theta d\theta$$

Power-to-frequency: $\sin^2 \theta \rightsquigarrow \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2\theta))$:

$$\ggg 2 \int_0^{\pi/4} \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos(2\theta)) d\theta$$

$$\ggg \frac{2}{4} \theta - \frac{2}{8} \sin(2\theta) \bigg|_0^{\pi/4} \ggg \frac{\pi}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$$

Complex algebra

Videos

Videos, Organic Chemistry Tutor

- [Complex numbers basics](#)

01 Theory - Complex arithmetic

The complex numbers \mathbb{C} are sums of real and imaginary numbers. Every complex number can be written uniquely in 'Cartesian' form:

$$z = a + bi, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

To add, subtract, scale, and multiply complex numbers, treat 'i' like a constant.

Simplify the result using $i^2 = -1$.

For example:

$$(1 + 3i)(2 - 2i) \ggg 2 - 2i + 6i - 6i^2$$

$$\ggg 2 + 4i - 6(-1) \ggg 8 + 4i$$

Complex conjugate

Every complex number has a **complex conjugate**:

$$z = a + bi \ggg \bar{z} = a - bi$$

For example:

$$\overline{2 + 5i} = 2 - 5i$$

$$\overline{2 - 5i} = 2 + 5i$$

In general, $\overline{\bar{z}} = z$.

Conjugates are useful mainly because they eliminate imaginary parts:

$$(2 + 5i)(2 - 5i) \ggg 4 + 25 \ggg 29$$

$$\begin{aligned} (1+i)^2 &= 2i \quad \text{by:} \\ (1+i)(1+i) &= 1+i+i+i^2 \\ &= 0+2i = 2i \\ \hline (1+2i)(1+2i) &= 1+2i+2i+4i^2 \\ &= 1-4+4i = -3+4i \\ \hline (1+i)(1-i) &= 1+i-i-i^2 \\ &= 1-(-1) = +2 \\ \hline \Rightarrow \frac{2}{1+i} = 1-i \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+i} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}i \\ \text{-OR- } (1+i) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}i\right) &= 1 \\ \text{so } \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}i &\text{ is inverse of } 1+i \\ &\text{reciprocal} \\ \hline (2+3i)(2-3i) &= 4+6i-6i-9i^2 \\ &= 13 \\ \text{so } \frac{1}{2+3i} &= \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i \\ \hline \text{Notice: } &\text{calc conjugate} \\ 1) (a+bi)(a-bi) &\text{ is pure real number} \\ 2) (a+bi)(a-bi) &= a^2+b^2 > 0 \\ &\text{(= 0 only when } a, b = 0) \\ \text{write } \overline{a+bi} &= a-bi \\ \text{so } \overline{2-3i} &= 2+3i \end{aligned}$$

In general:

$$(a + bi)(a - bi) \ggg a^2 - abi + bia - b^2i^2 \ggg a^2 + b^2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

🔥 Complex division

To divide complex numbers, use the conjugate to eliminate the imaginary part in the denominator.

For example, reciprocals:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{a + bi} &\ggg \frac{1}{a + bi} \cdot \frac{a - bi}{a - bi} \\ &\ggg \frac{a - bi}{a^2 + b^2} \ggg \left(\frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \right) + \left(\frac{-b}{a^2 + b^2} \right) i \end{aligned}$$

More general fractions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a + bi}{c + di} &\ggg \frac{a + bi}{c + di} \cdot \frac{c - di}{c - di} \\ &\ggg \frac{ac + bd + (bc - ad)i}{c^2 + d^2} \ggg \frac{ac + bd}{c^2 + d^2} + \frac{bc - ad}{c^2 + d^2} i \end{aligned}$$

📖 Multiplication preserves conjugation

For any $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$:

$$\overline{zw} = \bar{z}\bar{w}$$

Therefore, one can take products or conjugates in either order.

02 Illustration

≡ Example - Complex multiplication

Compute the products:

$$(a) (1 - i)(4 - 7i) \quad (b) (2 + 5i)(2 - 5i)$$

Solution

$$(a) (1 - i)(4 - 7i)$$

Expand:

$$(1 - i)(4 - 7i) \ggg 4 - 7i - 4i + 7i^2$$

Simplify i^2 :

$$\ggg 4 - 7i - 4i + 7(-1) \ggg -3 - 11i$$

(b) $(2 + 5i)(2 - 5i)$

Expand:

$$(2 + 5i)(2 - 5i) \ggg 4 - 10i + 10i - 25i^2$$

Simplify i^2 :

$$\ggg 4 - 10i + 10i - 25(-1) \ggg 29$$

$$\frac{1}{1+i} \left(\frac{1-i}{1-i} \right) = \frac{1-i}{1+1} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}i$$

$$a + bi$$

Example - Complex division

Compute the following divisions of complex numbers:

(a) $\frac{1}{-3+i}$ (b) $\frac{1}{i}$ (c) $\frac{1}{7i}$ (d) $\frac{2+5i}{2-5i}$

Solution

(a) $\frac{1}{-3+i}$

Conjugate is $-3 - i$:

$$\frac{1}{-3+i} \ggg \frac{1}{-3+i} \cdot \frac{-3-i}{-3-i}$$

Simplify:

$$\ggg \frac{-3-i}{9+1} \ggg \frac{-3}{10} + \frac{-1}{10}i$$

(b) $\frac{1}{i}$

Conjugate is $-i$:

$$\frac{1}{i} \ggg \frac{1}{i} \cdot \frac{-i}{-i} \ggg -i$$

(c) $\frac{1}{7i}$

Factor out the $1/7$:

$$\frac{1}{7i} \ggg \frac{1}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{i}$$

Use $\frac{1}{i} = -i$:

$\frac{1}{7i} = ?$ $\frac{2+5i}{2-5i} = ?$
 $7i = a + bi$
 $a = 0$
 $b = 7$
 So $\overline{7i} = a - bi$
 $= 0 - 7i = -7i$
 Then:
 $\frac{1}{7i} \left(\frac{-7i}{-7i} \right) = \frac{-7i}{49}$
 $= -\frac{1}{7}i$
 Can just use
 $\frac{1}{i} = -i$
 $\left(\frac{1}{7} \left(\frac{-i}{-i} \right) = \frac{-i}{7} \right)$
 (or: $i(-i) = 1$
 so $-i$ is
 reciprocal)

$$\ggg \frac{1}{7} \cdot (-i) \ggg \frac{-1}{7}i$$

(d) $\frac{2+5i}{2-5i}$

Denominator conjugate is $2+5i$:

$$\frac{2+5i}{2-5i} \ggg \frac{2+5i}{2-5i} \cdot \frac{2+5i}{2+5i}$$

Simplify:

$$\ggg \frac{4+20i+25i^2}{4+25} \ggg \frac{-21}{29} + \frac{20}{29}i$$

§ Polar Arc Length

$$L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{r'^2 + r^2} d\theta \quad \text{for } r(\theta), \theta \in [\alpha, \beta]$$

Pf: Convert to parametric:

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta, \quad r = r(\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = r(\theta) \cos \theta, \quad y = r(\theta) \sin \theta$$

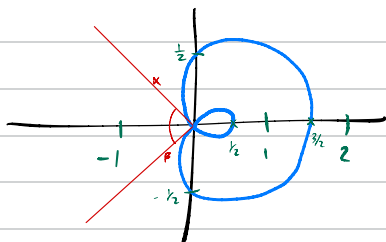
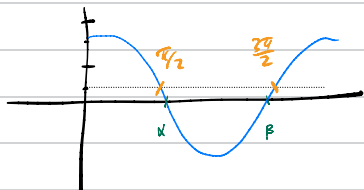
$$ds = \sqrt{x'^2 + y'^2} d\theta \quad \begin{aligned} x' &= r' \cos \theta - r \sin \theta \\ y' &= r' \sin \theta + r \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x'^2 + y'^2 &= r'^2 \cos^2 \theta - 2r r' \cos \theta \sin \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta \\ &\quad + r'^2 \sin^2 \theta + 2r r' \sin \theta \cos \theta + r^2 \cos^2 \theta \\ &= r'^2 + r^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus } ds = \sqrt{r'^2 + r^2} d\theta$$



Example: set up integral for length of inner loop of Limaçon: $r = \frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta$.



$$\frac{\sqrt{1}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{1}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

To find α, β , solve $\frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta = 0$

$$\leadsto \cos \theta = -\frac{1}{2} \leadsto \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{2\pi}{3} = \alpha$$

$$\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{8\pi}{6} = \frac{4\pi}{3} = \beta$$

$$\theta \in \left[\frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3} \right]$$

$$r(\theta)^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta \right)^2 = \frac{1}{4} + \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta$$

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

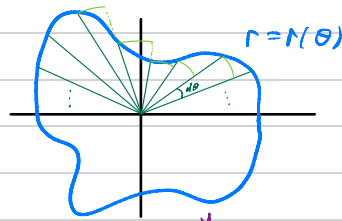
+

$$r^2 + r'^2 = \frac{5}{4} + \cos \theta$$

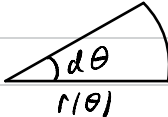
$$\text{ANS} = \int_{2\pi/3}^{4\pi/3} \sqrt{\frac{5}{4} + \cos \theta} d\theta$$

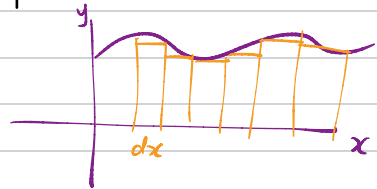
§ Polar Area

$$A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta$$



Pf:

Hence need: area of: 



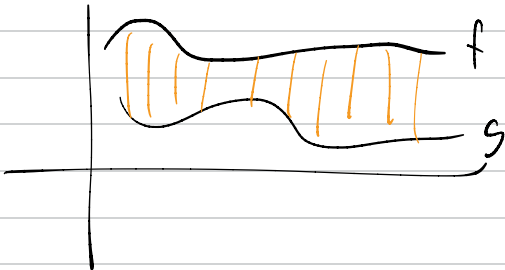
$$A = (\% \text{ of circle}) (\text{area of disk})$$

$$= \left(\frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \right) (\pi r(\theta)^2) = \frac{1}{2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta \quad \leftarrow \text{sum up these} \quad \square$$

Also: area between polar curves:

$$A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{1}{2} (r_1(\theta)^2 - r_2(\theta)^2) d\theta$$

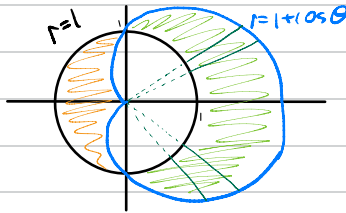
Like:



$$\int f - g dx$$

Example: Find area between circle $r_1(\theta) = 1$ and limacon $r_2(\theta) = 1 + \cos \theta$.

Solution:



$$\alpha = -\frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \beta = +\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$A = \int_{-\pi/2}^{+\pi/2} \frac{1}{2} ((1 + \cos \theta)^2 - 1^2) d\theta$$

"prior to freq. conv."

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2\theta)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \left(\cos \theta + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \theta \right) d\theta = \sin \theta + \frac{1}{4} \theta + \frac{1}{8} \sin(2\theta) \Big|_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \\ &= 2 + \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos \theta)^2 d\theta = \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \theta + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \theta \right) d\theta$$

$$= \left(\frac{\theta}{2} + \sin \theta + \frac{\theta}{4} + \frac{1}{8} \sin(2\theta) \right) \Big|_{\pi/2}^{\pi}$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} - \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + 1 + \frac{\pi}{8} + 0 \right) = \frac{\pi}{2} - 1 - \frac{\pi}{8} = \frac{3}{8}\pi - 1$$

$$\text{quarter disk} = \frac{\pi}{4} \rightsquigarrow \frac{\pi}{4} - \left(\frac{3}{8}\pi - 1 \right) = 1 - \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$\text{double} \rightsquigarrow 2 - \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\text{add to prev. result: } 2 - \frac{\pi}{4} + 2 + \frac{\pi}{4} = \boxed{4}$$