

## Calculus with Polar Coordinates

Slopes and tangents in polar coordinates

To find the slope of a polar curve given as  $r = f(\theta)$ 

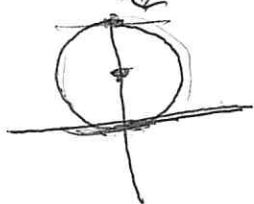
Use the parametric form

$$x = r \cos \theta = f(\theta) \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta = f(\theta) \sin \theta$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} = \frac{f(\theta) \cos \theta + f'(\theta) \sin \theta}{-f(\theta) \sin \theta + f'(\theta) \cos \theta}, \text{ provided } \frac{dx}{d\theta} \neq 0$$

Special Cases

We have horizontal tangents when  $\frac{dy}{d\theta} = 0$  and  $\frac{dx}{d\theta} \neq 0$ " " vertical tangents "  $\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 0$  and  $\frac{dy}{d\theta} \neq 0$ Ex Find the horizontal and vertical tangents of  
 $r = \sin \theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ 

Solution

$$x = r \cos \theta = \sin \theta \cos \theta$$

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

$$\text{So, } \frac{dx}{d\theta} = \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta = \cos(2\theta)$$

$$\text{and } \frac{dx}{d\theta} = 0 \text{ when } 2\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, 2\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \theta = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

$$\text{so vertical tangents at } \theta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \theta = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{dy}{d\theta} = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta = \sin(2\theta). \text{ want } \sin(2\theta) = 0$$

$$\text{This is when } 2\theta = 0, 2\theta = \pi$$

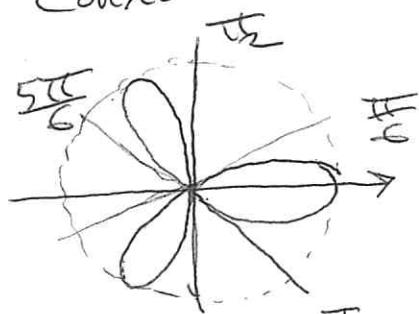
$$\theta = 0, \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\text{so horizontal tangents when } \theta = 0, \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\text{Also when } \theta = \pi$$

Ex of Tangents at a pole

Consider  $f(\theta) = 2\cos(3\theta)$



If  $f(d) = 0$  and  $f'(d) \neq 0$ ,  
then the line  $\theta = d$   
is tangent to the pole

In our example,

$$f(\theta) = 2\cos(3\theta)$$

$f(\theta)$  is 0 when  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{6}$

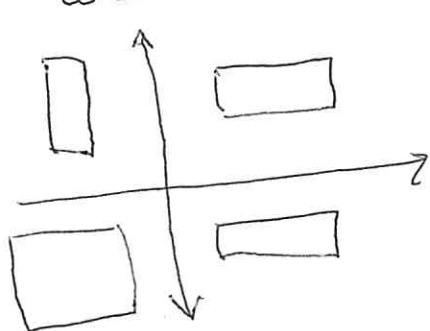
Moreover,  $f'(\theta) = -6\sin(3\theta)$

$f'(\theta) \neq 0$  at  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{6}$

So the lines  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}, \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$   
are all tangent to the graph at the pole

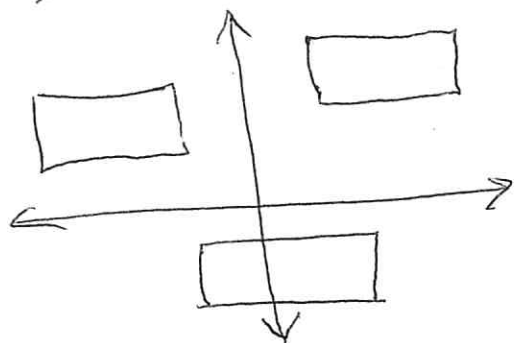
## Areas and integrals in polar coordinates

Background What is the area of rectangle whose sides are ~~perp~~ parallel to the x axis and the y-axis



$$A = (\Delta x)(\Delta y)$$

Let's have these rectangles all have the same  $l = \Delta x$  and the same  $\Delta y = h$



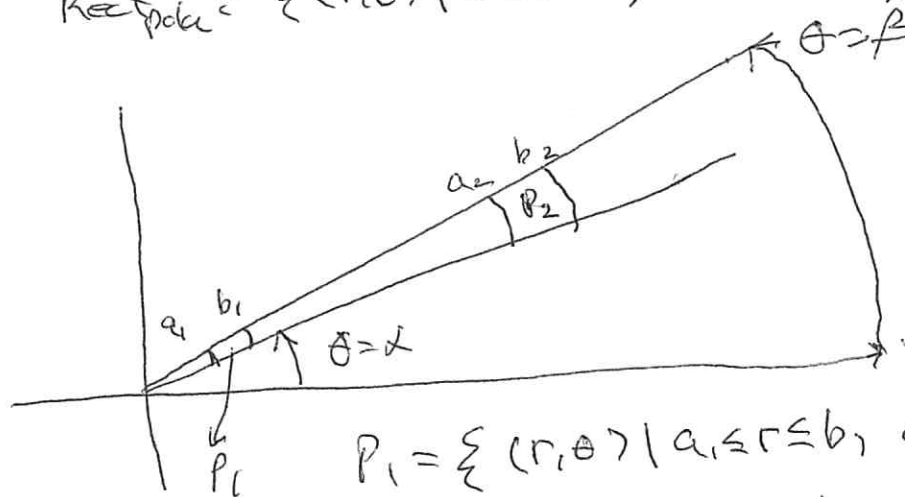
Note that all these rectangles have the same area.  
No matter where they are located.

$$R = \{(x, y) \mid a \leq x \leq b, c \leq y \leq d\}$$

$b-a$  stays the same for all rectangles  
 $d-c$  " " " " " "

A polar rectangle is where  $r$  is between a pair of constants  
 $\theta$  " " " " " "

$$\text{Rect}_{polar} = \{(r, \theta) \mid a \leq r \leq b, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta\}$$



$$P_1 = \{(r, \theta) \mid a_1 \leq r \leq b_1, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta\}$$

$$P_2 = \{(r, \theta) \mid a_2 \leq r \leq b_2, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta\}$$

$$\text{Note } b_1 - a_1 = b_2 - a_2$$

But  $\text{area } P_2 > \text{area } P_1$

The area of a polar rectangle depends on  
 $\Delta r$ ,  $\Delta \theta$ , and how far from the  
 center of the rectangle is from the origin

## Integrating in Polar Coordinates

Area of a polar region

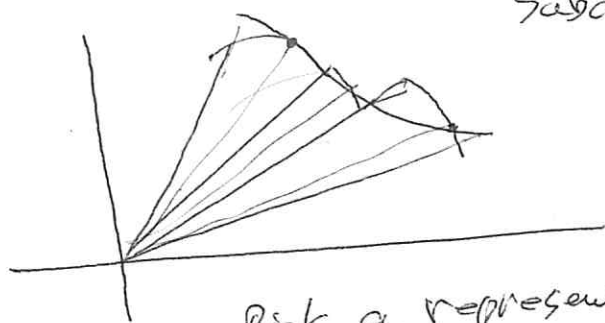
First consider the area of a sector of a circle



$$A = \frac{1}{2} \theta r^2$$

Subdivide the main arc into subarcs

We approx a subarea by a sector of a circle.



Pick a representative pt in each subarea

Form the Riemann Sum.

$$A \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{2} \Delta \theta \right) [f(\theta_i)]^2$$

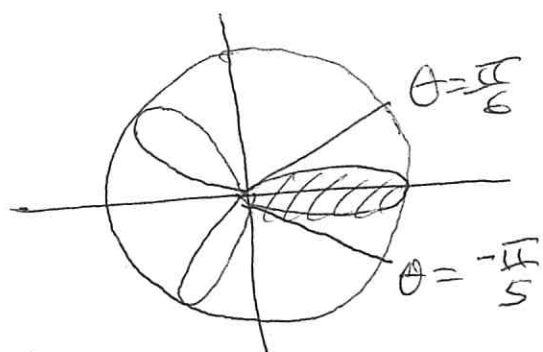
Take a limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and obtain

$$\text{Area} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n [f(\theta_i)]^2 \Delta \theta$$

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} [f(\theta)]^2 d\theta$$

with  $0 < \beta - \alpha \leq 2\pi$

Ex Find the area of one petal of the rose curve  
given by  $r = 3\cos(3\theta)$

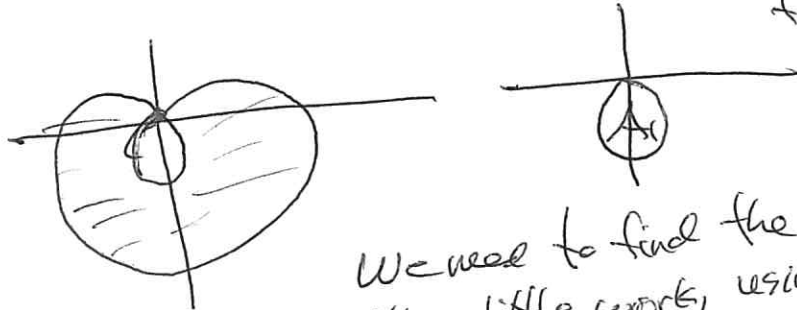


For our limits of integration  
we use our results on tangents.  
We have a tangent line to the pole  
at  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$ ,  $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{6}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{area} = A &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} r^2 d\theta \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} [3\cos(3\theta)]^2 d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{2} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \cos^2(3\theta) d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{2} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \frac{1 + \cos(6\theta)}{2} d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{2} \left[ \int_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \frac{1}{2} d\theta + \int_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \frac{\cos 6\theta}{2} d\theta \right] \\
 &\quad \begin{array}{l} u = 6\theta \\ du = 6d\theta \end{array} \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \left[ \theta + \sin \frac{6\theta}{6} \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \left( \frac{\pi}{6} + \frac{\pi}{6} \right) = \frac{3\pi}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex Find the area of the region lying between the inner and outer loops of the limaçon  $r = (1 - 2\sin\theta)$

first find this over



We need to find the limits of integration, with a little work, using the result on tangent line

at the pole. we have

$$A_1 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} r^2 d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} (1 - 2\sin\theta)^2 d\theta$$

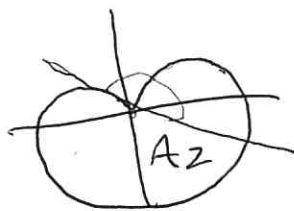
$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} (1 - 4\sin\theta + 4\sin^2\theta) d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} \left[ 1 - 4\sin\theta + 4 \left( \frac{1 - \cos 2\theta}{2} \right) \right] d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} [3 - 4\sin\theta - 2\cos 2\theta] d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ 3\theta - 4\cos\theta - 2\sin 2\theta \right]_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{5\pi}{6}} = \frac{1}{2} (2\pi - 3\sqrt{3}) = \frac{\pi - 3\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

The entire area



$$A_2 = \int_{\frac{5\pi}{6}}^{\frac{13\pi}{6}} (1 - 2\sin\theta)^2 d\theta = 2\pi + \left( \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

The area between the inner and outer loop is

$$A = A_2 - A_1 = \left( 2\pi + \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \right) - \left( \pi - \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

$$= \pi + 3\sqrt{3} \approx 8.34$$

## Points of Intersection of Polar Graphs

A pt can have different polar representations.  
We need to be careful

Ex Find the pts of intersection of

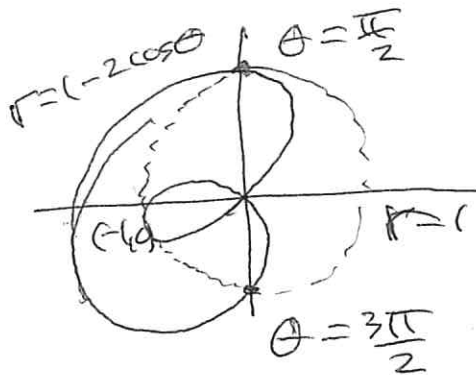
$$r = 1 - 2\cos\theta \text{ and } r = 1$$

Setting them equal

$$1 = 1 - 2\cos\theta$$

$$-2\cos\theta = 0, \cos\theta = 0$$

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}$$



But we missed that pt  
of intersection at  $(-1,0)$ ,  
Because this pt does not have  
the same polar coordinates  
for both graphs.