

**Student:** Arfaz Hossain  
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**Instructor:** Muhammad Awais  
**Course:** Math 101 A04 Spring 2022

**Assignment:** Practice Questions for  
 Sections 11.4 & 11.5 [Not f

Identify the symmetries of the curve  $r^2 = 49 \cos \theta$ . Then sketch the curve.

The curve is symmetric about the x-axis when the point  $(r, \theta)$  lies on the graph and the point  $(r, -\theta)$  or  $(-r, \pi - \theta)$  lies on the graph.

Test to see if the curve is symmetric about the x-axis. In the equation  $r^2 = 49 \cos \theta$  substitute  $(r, -\theta)$  or  $(-r, \pi - \theta)$  for  $(r, \theta)$  and see if the resulting equation is equivalent to the original one. It is helpful to make use of the identities  $\cos(-\theta) = \cos(\theta)$  and  $\cos(\pi - \theta) = -\cos(\theta)$ . The equation does not change, so the curve is symmetric about the x-axis.

The curve is symmetric about the y-axis when the point  $(r, \theta)$  lies on the graph and the point  $(r, \pi - \theta)$  or  $(-r, -\theta)$  lies on the graph.

Test to see if the curve is symmetric about the y-axis. In the equation  $r^2 = 49 \cos \theta$  substitute  $(r, \pi - \theta)$  or  $(-r, -\theta)$  for  $(r, \theta)$  and see if the resulting equation is equivalent to the original one. It is helpful to make use of the identities  $\cos(\pi - \theta) = -\cos(\theta)$  and  $\cos(-\theta) = \cos(\theta)$ . The equation does not change, so the curve is symmetric about the y-axis.

The curve is symmetric about the origin when the point  $(r, \theta)$  lies on the graph and the point  $(-r, \theta)$  or  $(r, \theta + \pi)$  lies on the graph.

Test to see if the curve is symmetric about the origin. In the equation  $r^2 = 49 \cos \theta$  substitute  $(-r, \theta)$  or  $(r, \theta + \pi)$  for  $(r, \theta)$  and see if the resulting equation is equivalent to the original one. It is helpful to make use of the identity  $\cos(\theta + \pi) = -\cos(\theta)$ . The equation does not change, so the curve is symmetric about the origin.

This sketch shows the curve  $r^2 = 49 \cos \theta$ .

