

Problem 21: Describe the graph of  $r = 1 - \sin 2\theta$ , and find the slope of the tangent line at the origin. (Source: AoPS Calculus)

The polar equation  $r = 1 - \sin 2\theta$  is the graph of a figure eight rotated forty five degrees counter-clockwise. We can find the polar coordinates of the origin by setting  $r = 0$  and solving for  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned} r &= 1 - \sin 2\theta \\ 0 &= 1 - \sin 2\theta \\ 1 &= \sin 2\theta \\ \arcsin 1 &= 2\theta \\ \frac{\pi}{2} &= 2\theta \\ \theta &= \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the polar coordinates of the origin are  $(0, \frac{\pi}{4})$ .

Now let's get an equation for the slope of the tangent line in terms of  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned} y &= r \sin \theta \\ &= (1 - \sin 2\theta) \sin \theta \\ &= \sin \theta - \sin \theta \sin 2\theta \\ \frac{dy}{d\theta} &= \cos \theta - \cos \theta \sin 2\theta - 2 \sin \theta \cos 2\theta \\ x &= r \cos \theta \\ &= (1 - \sin 2\theta) \cos \theta \\ &= \cos \theta - \cos \theta \sin 2\theta \\ \frac{dx}{d\theta} &= -\sin \theta + \sin \theta \sin 2\theta - 2 \cos \theta \cos 2\theta \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\frac{dy}{d\theta} = \frac{dx}{d\theta} = 0$  at  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , we have to take the limit of  $\frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta}$  as  $\theta$  approaches  $\frac{\pi}{4}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{-\sin \theta - (-\sin \theta \sin 2\theta + 2 \cos \theta \cos 2\theta) - (2 \cos \theta \cos 2\theta - 4 \sin \theta \sin 2\theta)}{-\cos \theta + (\cos \theta \sin 2\theta + 2 \sin \theta \cos 2\theta) - (-2 \sin \theta \cos 2\theta - 4 \cos \theta \sin 2\theta)} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{-\sin \theta - (-\sin \theta \sin 2\theta) - (-4 \sin \theta \sin 2\theta)}{-\cos \theta + (\cos \theta \sin 2\theta) - (-4 \cos \theta \sin 2\theta)} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{-\sin \theta + \sin \theta \sin 2\theta + 4 \sin \theta \sin 2\theta}{-\cos \theta + \cos \theta \sin 2\theta + 4 \cos \theta \sin 2\theta} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{-\sin \theta + \sin \theta + 4 \sin \theta}{-\cos \theta + \cos \theta + 4 \cos \theta} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \\ &= \boxed{1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the slope of the tangent line at the origin is  $\boxed{1}$ .