MA113 Notes

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Abstract

Notes for the MA 113 (Mutlivariable Calculus) taught by Dr. Holder.

Contents

1 Coordinate Systems and Polar Functions

1.1 Rectangular Coordinates

- (x, y)
- Every point has only one set of coordinates
- Unique representation!

1.2 Polar Coordinates

- (r, θ)
  - r is the distance from the origin
  - θ is the angle the radius faces
- Lacks unique representation
  - Can add 2π to any angle and get the same point
  - Can make radius negative and add $\frac{\pi}{2}$ to the angle and get the same point

These coordinates are helpful for setting up integrals later.

1.3 Transformations

Definition. $\tan\theta$ is the distance from the intersection of the extended radius and the vertical tangent to the tangent point.

- $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$
- $\tan\theta = \frac{y}{x}$
  - $x = 0 \implies \theta \in \{\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\}$

- $\theta = \tan^{-1}\frac{y}{x}$
  - $\tan\theta$ is the distance from the intersection of the extended radius and the vertical tangent to the tangent point
  - This is problematic! Range of arctan is $(\frac{-\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$, so we do not get all 360 degrees.
  - $\theta = \begin{cases} \tan^{-1}\frac{y}{x} & x \leq 0 \\ \frac{\pi}{2} & x = 0, y > 0 \\ \frac{3\pi}{2} & x = 0, y < 0 \\ \tan^{-1}\frac{y}{x} + \pi & x < 0 \end{cases}$
- $r\cos\theta = x$
- $r\sin\theta = y$

1.4 Polar Graphs

- Graphs are of the form $r(\theta)$, r is a function of θ.
- $r(\theta) = \cos\theta - 1$ is a cardioid.
- $r(\theta) = \cos(2\theta)$ is a $4-$flower.
  - $\cos(\mathrm{n}\theta)$ has $2n$ petals if n is even, n petals if n is odd.
  - $r = \theta$ is the Archimedes spiral.
    * This can be generalized by $r = a\theta$.

1.5 Differentiating Polar Functions

- We come to a problem, we wish to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ but our functions are in terms of r and θ!
- $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta}$ by the Chain Rule.
  - Not because we can cancel out the $d\theta$ terms!

1.5.1 Chain Rule

The default way the Chain Rule is portrayed is

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(g(x)) = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x).$$

Other notation is

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{df}{dg} \cdot \frac{dg}{dx}.$$

The Chain Rule allows us to change variables which we do not wish to differentiate by.

1.5.2 Polar Derivatives

Now we can substitute y and x with our earlier transformations to get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} r \sin\theta}{\frac{d}{d\theta} r \cos\theta}.$$

1.6 Arc Lengths

1.6.1 Review

In Calculus II, we learned the arclength of a function from a to b as

$$\int_a^b \sqrt{1 + (f'(x))^2} dx$$

This is somewhat related to

$$\frac{d}{dx} \langle x, f(x) \rangle = \langle 1, f'(x) \rangle$$

$$||\langle 1, f'(x) \rangle|| = \sqrt{1 + (f'(x))^2}.$$

Here we are essentially integrating the magnitude of the derivative of the vector, which gives us the arclength (think about this visually with the Pythagorean Theorem). We can also think of this as "vectorizing" the derivative.

1.6.2 Polar Arc Length

We want to find the arc length of a function in terms of $r(\theta)$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
s &= \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \|\frac{d}{d\theta}\langle r\cos(\theta), r\sin(\theta)\rangle\| d\theta \\
&= \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} ||\langle r'\cos(\theta) - r\sin(\theta), r'\sin(\theta) + r\cos(\theta)\rangle|| d\theta \\
&= \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \sqrt{(r'\cos(\theta) - r\sin(\theta))^2 + (r'\sin(\theta) + r\cos(\theta))^2} d\theta \\
&= \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \sqrt{r^2 + (r')^2} d\theta
\end{aligned}
$$

This is the same as the previous arc length formula, just with substitutions.

1.7 Polar Area

We integrate all the sectors of the function, each of which approximates the sector of a circle, each of which has angle $\Delta\theta$ and radius $r(\theta)$. The area of each sector is

$$(\pi r^2)(\frac{\Delta\theta}{2\pi}) = \frac{1}{2}r^2\Delta\theta.$$

Thus, the total area is

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} r(\theta)^2 d\theta.$$

We can subtract these integrals as needed to find areas between two curves:

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} r_2(\theta)^2 - r_1(\theta)^2 d\theta.$$