

KI_04_23_22

Trying out Inkdrop with in a session with KI

Polar and Rectangular Coordinates

Polar-Rectangular Conversions

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

More relationships

$$\begin{aligned}r^2 &= x^2 + y^2 \\ \tan(\theta) &= \frac{y}{x}\end{aligned}$$

Example 1

Convert this equation into polar form

$$x^2 + y^2 = 9$$

First substitute the polar-rectangular conversions into the equation. This gives us

$$(r\cos(\theta))^2 + (r\sin(\theta))^2 = 9$$

In a sense, you have successfully converted the equation into polar coordinates, but we can simplify further and find something interesting. Try factoring out the r .

$$r^2 [\cos^2(\theta) + \sin^2(\theta)] = 9$$

Recall the trig. identity $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$. So, we get

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 &= 9 \\ r &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Example 2

Convert this equation into polar coordinates

$$3y = x$$

Make the substitutes like we did in example 1.

$$3(r \sin(\theta)) = r \cos(\theta)$$

Note: the r 's cancel out when I divide both sides by r .

$$\begin{aligned} \tan(\theta) &= \frac{1}{3} \\ \theta &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \end{aligned}$$

This is the polar representation of the original equation. Interpret it like this. For any value of r , $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$

! Warning: The difference between our results and the work you've done for point conversion is that point conversions give you one θ and r value. For equations, you will either obtain a relationship between θ and r or have an equation with only θ or only r .

Think about the point $(3, 4)$ and the equation $x = 3$