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TOPIC: TRACING OF CURVE (CARTESIAN AND POLAR)

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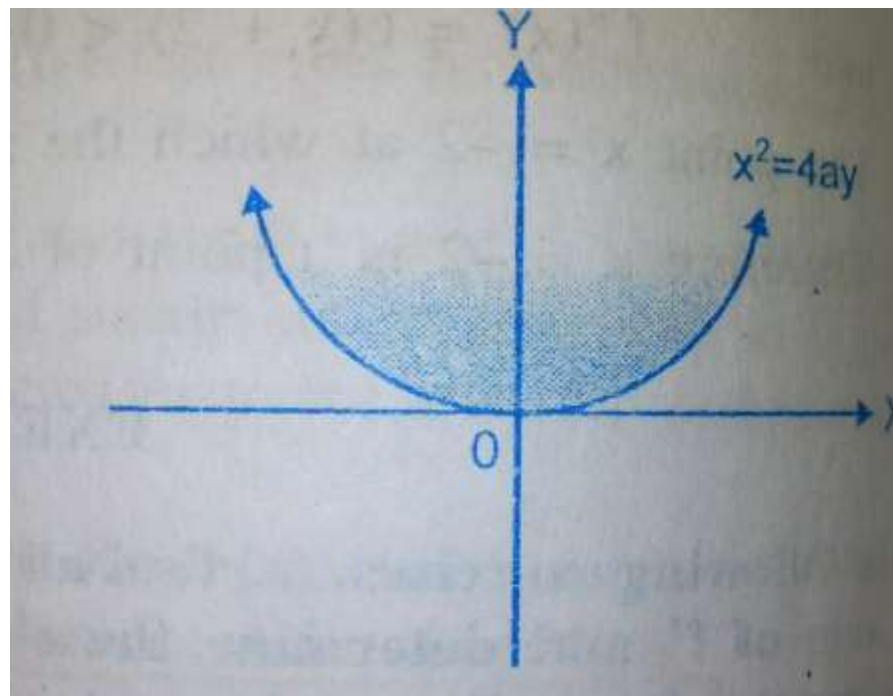
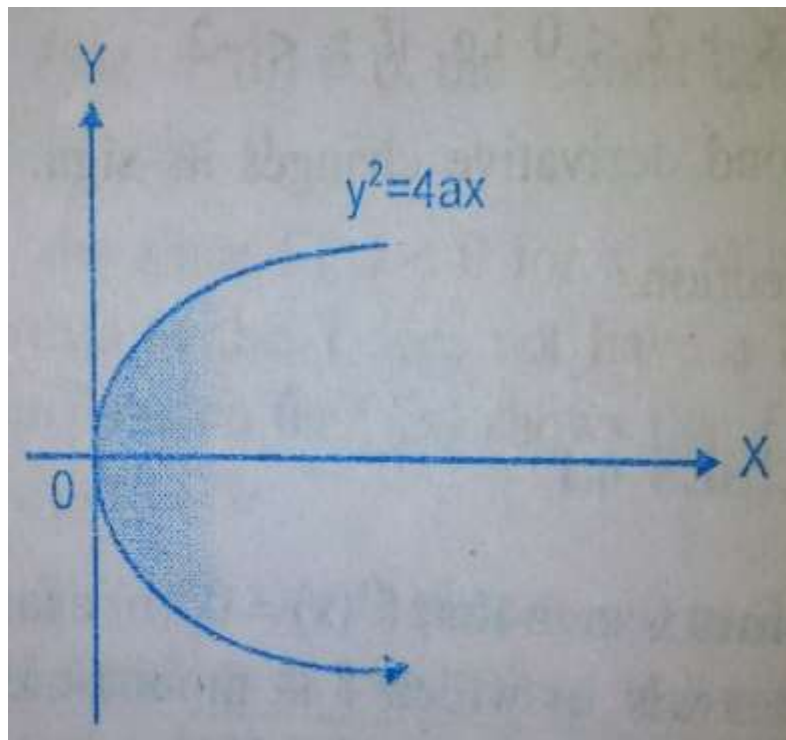
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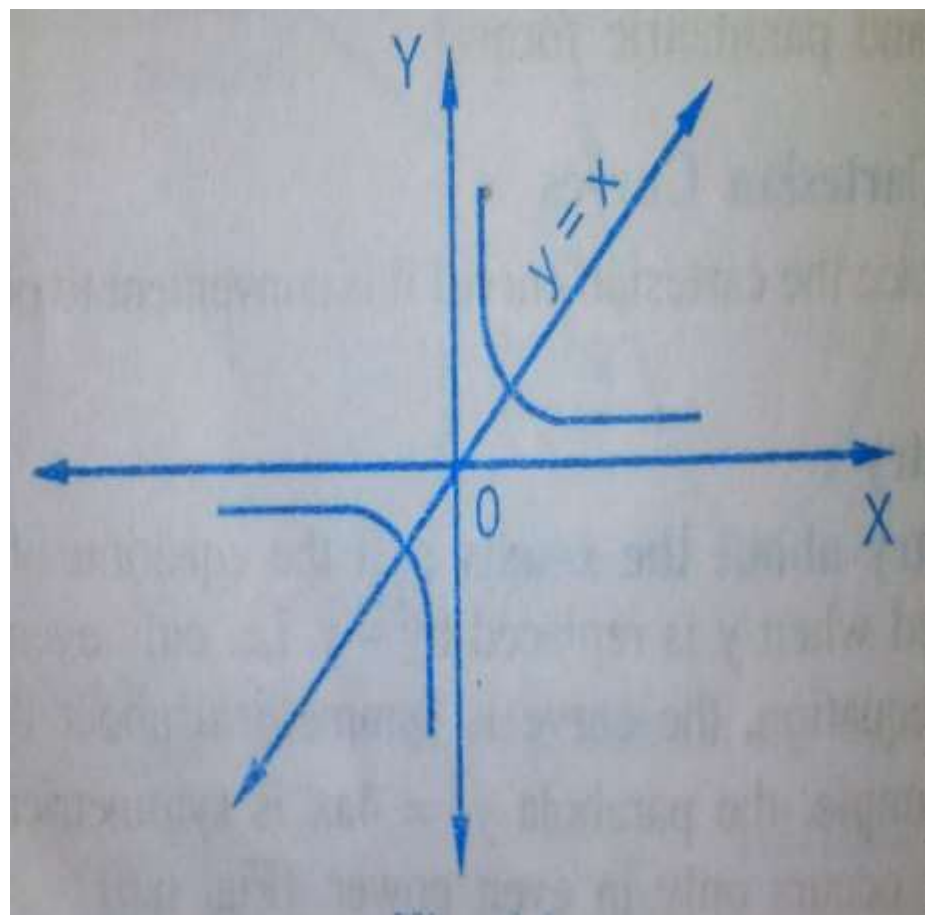
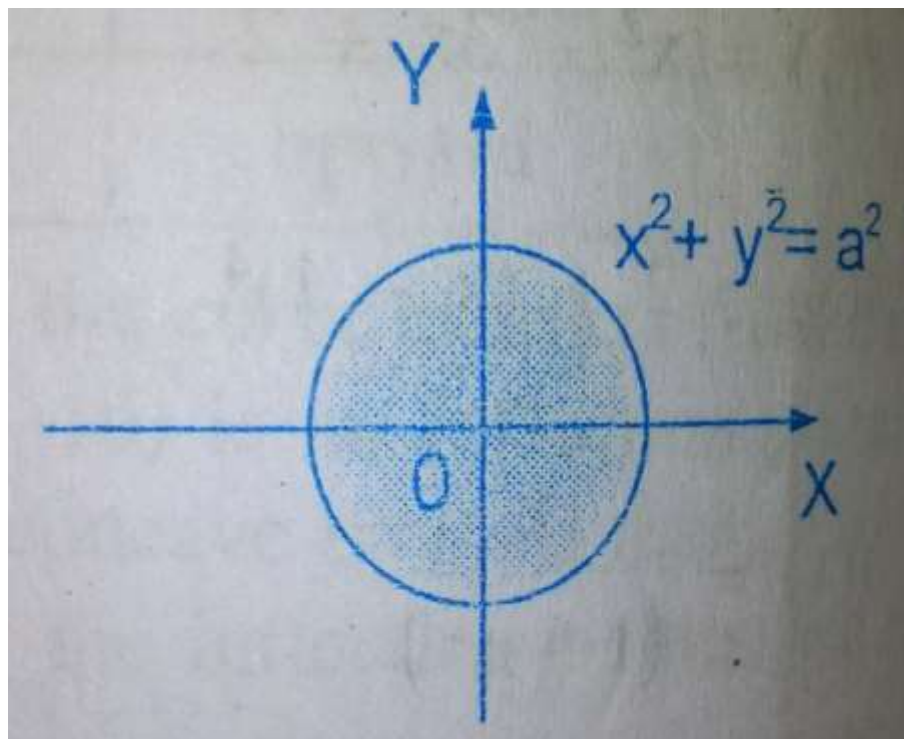


Step 1. Symmetry

- Find out whether the curve is symmetric about any line or a point. The various kinds of symmetry arising from the form of the equation are as follows:
- *i) symmetric about the y-axis*
- If the equation of the curve remain unaltered when x is replace by $-x$ and the curve is an even function of x .
- *ii) symmetric about x-axis*
- If the equation of the curve remains unaltered when y is replaced by $-y$ and the curve is an even function of y .



- *iii) symmetric about both x and y axes*
- If the equations of the curve is such that the powers of x and y both are even everywhere then the curve is symmetrical about both the axes. for example, the circle..
- *iv) symmetry in the opposite quadrants*
- If the equation of the curve remains unaltered when x is replaced by $-x$ and y is replaced by $-y$ simultaneously, the curve is symmetrical in opposite quadrant. for example, the hyperbola...
- *v) symmetrical about the line $y = x$*
- If the equation of the curve remains unaltered when x and y are interchanged, the curve is symmetrical about the line $y=x$



Step 2. Origin:

- *(A) Tangents at the origin*
- The equations of the tangents to the curve at the origin is obtained by equating the lowest degree terms in x and y in the given equation to zero, provided the curve passes through the origin.
- *(B) Curve through the origin*
- If the equations of the curve does not contain any constant term, the curve passes through the origin. it will pass through the origin if the equation is satisfied by $(0,0)$.

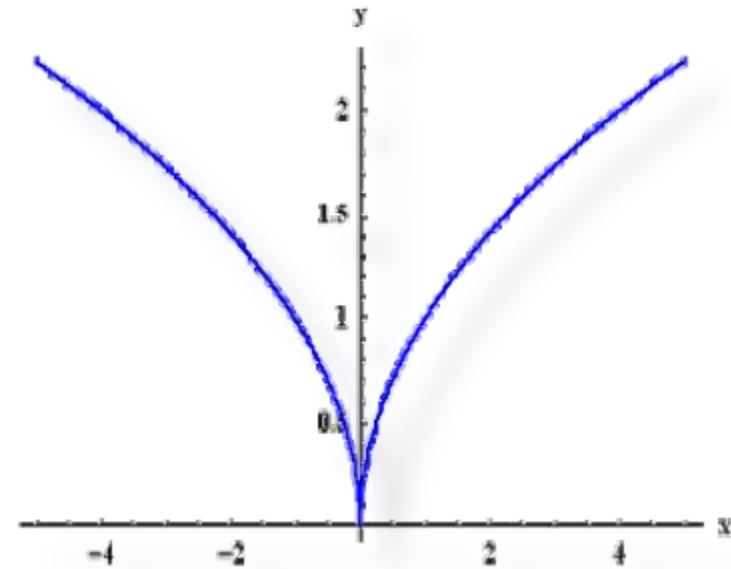
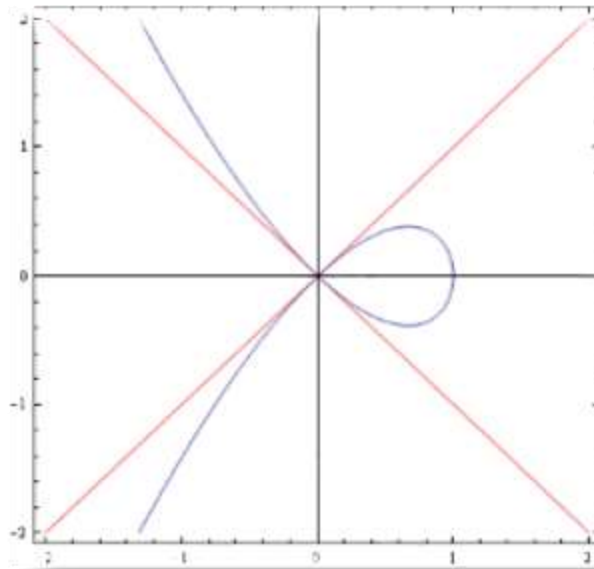
Step:3

Study of special points on the curve

(a) Cusp, Nodes and Conjugate points

A point is called a double point if two branches of the curve passes through it. The double point may be classified as (i) Node, (ii) Cusp, (iii) conjugate point. At such a point the curve has two tangents, one for each branch.

(i) If the tangents are real and distinct, the double point is called a **NODE**



(ii) If the tangents are real and coincident the double point is called a **Cusp**.

(iii) A double point is called a conjugate point or an isolated point if it is neither a node nor a cusp, i.e. the two tangents at the point are all imaginary.

Such a point cannot be shown in figure.

(b) The points of intersection with the co-ordinate axis

The points of intersection, if any with the x and y-axis can respectively obtained by putting $y=0$ and $x=0$.

For example, the circle $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ meets the x-axis, where $y=0$, i.e. $x^2 = a^2$ or $x = \pm a$. It meets the y-axis, where $x=0$, i.e. $y^2 = a^2$ or $y = \pm a$. Thus, the circle meets the x-axis at $(\pm a, 0)$ and the y-axis at $(0, \pm a)$.

(c) Points, where tangents are parallel to the co-ordinate axes

Points, where the tangents are parallel to the x-axis are given by $dy/dx=0$ and the points, where the tangents are parallel to the y-axis are given by $dy/dx= \pm \infty$

Asymptotes

Asymptotes are the tangents to the curve at infinity. We shall consider separately the cases which arises when an asymptote is (a) parallel to either co-ordinate axis or (b) an oblique asymptote.

(a) Asymptotes parallel to co-ordinate axis:

- (i) To find the asymptotes parallel to x-axis, equal to zero the coefficient of the highest degree terms in x.
- (ii) To find the asymptotes parallel to y-axis, equal to zero the coefficient of the highest degree terms in y.

(b) Oblique asymptotes :

- (1) Let $y = mx + c$ be the equation of the asymptote to the curve
- (2) Form an n th degree polynomial of m by putting $x = 1$, $y = m$ in the given equation to the curve
- (3) $\phi_n(m)$ and $\phi_{n-1}(m)$ be polynomials of terms of degree n and $(n - 1)$
- (4) Solve $\phi_n(m) = 0$ to determine m .
- (5) Find 'c' by the formula $c = -\phi_{n-1}(m)/\phi'_n(m)$
- (6) Substitute the values of m and c in $y = mx + c$ in turn.

EXAMPLE : find the asymptotes of the curve
 $y^3 - x^2(6 - a) = 0$

Solution : it has no asymptotes parallel to the axis. Let $y = mx + c$ be an oblique asymptote to the curve.

Putting $x=1$ and $y=m$ in the third degree terms,
We find $\phi_3(m) = m^3 + 1$

Also putting $x = 1$ and $y = m$ in the second degree term, we find $\phi_2(m) = -6$.

$$\text{Now } \phi_3(m) = 0 \rightarrow m^3 + 1$$

$$\text{or } (m + 1)(m^2 - m + 1) = 0$$

or $m = -1$ remaining roots are imaginary.

$$\phi'_3(m) = 3m^2$$

$$c = -\phi_2(m)/\phi'_3(m) = -(-6)/3m^2 = 2/m^2$$

$$c = 2 \text{ when } m = -1$$

Hence the asymptote is $y = -x + 2$

$$\text{i.e. } x + y = 2$$

Step 5 : Regions Where no Part of the Curve Lies :

- (a) If it is possible to express the equation as $y = f(x)$ and if y becomes imaginary for some value of $x > a$ (say), then no part of the curve exists beyond $x = a$.
- (b) Similarly, if it is possible to express the equation as $x = f(y)$ and if x becomes imaginary for some value of $y > b$ (say), then no part of the curve exists beyond $y = b$.

EXAMPLE 1 Cissoid of Diocle

Trace the curve $y^2 (2a - x) = x^3$.

SOLUTION The equation of the curve can be written as

$$y^2 = \frac{x^3}{2a - x} \quad \dots(1)$$

- (i) **Symmetry** : The equation contains only even powers of y , therefore it is symmetrical about x -axis.
- (ii) **Origin** : Equation does not contain any constant, therefore it passes through the origin.

From (1) we have

$$y^2 (2a - x) = x^3 \text{ i.e. } 2ay^2 - xy^2 - x^3 = 0$$

In order to find tangents at the origin, equating to zero the lowest degree terms, we have.

$$2ay^2 = 0 \Rightarrow y^2 = 0, y = 0, 0 \text{ is a double point}$$

\therefore x -axis is tangent at origin.

- (iii) **Special point :** Since the two tangents at the origin are coincident, therefore origin is a **Cusp**.
For intersection with x -axis, we put $y = 0$

$$\therefore \frac{x^3}{2a - x} = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$$

and for intersection with y -axis, we put $x = 0$

$$\therefore 2ay^2 = 0$$

$$\therefore y^2 = 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$$

Thus curve meets the coordinate axes only at $(0, 0)$.

- (iv) **Asymptotes :** $y^2 = \frac{x^3}{2a - x}$

As $x \rightarrow 2a$, $y \rightarrow \infty$, hence the only asymptote parallel to y -axis is $x = 2a$.

- (v) **Regions :** From the equation we observe that for $x < 0$ and $x > 2a$, y^2 becomes negative hence y becomes imaginary, therefore the curve does not exist for $x < 0$ and $x > 2a$.

A rough sketch of the curve is shown in Fig. 6.12.

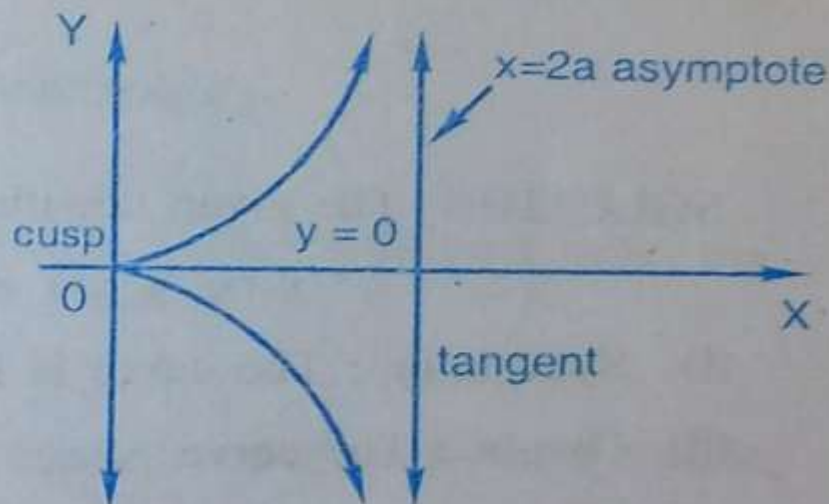


Fig. 6.12

II. Tracing of Polar Curves

To trace a polar curve $r = f(\theta)$ or $g(r, \theta) = c$, a constant, we use the following procedure.

1. Symmetry

- i) if the equation of the curve is an even function of θ , then the curve is symmetrical about the initial line.
- ii) If the equation is an even function of r , the curve is symmetric about the origin.

- iii) If the equation remains unaltered when θ is replaced by $-\theta$ and r is replaced by $-r$ then curve is symmetric about the line through the pole and perpendicular to the initial line...
- iv) If the equation remains unaltered when r is replaced by $-r$ then curve is symmetric about the pole. In such a case only even power of r will occur in the equation.

2. Region:

Determine the region for θ for which r is defined and real .

3. Tabulation:

For selected values of θ determine the values of r and tabulate them.

4. The angle ϕ :

Find the value of ϕ the angle between the radius vector and tangent to the curve defined by

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{r}{(dr/d\theta)} \right)$$

Then the angle ψ made by the tangent to the curve with the initial line is given by

$$\psi = \theta + \phi$$

The tangents to the curve at different points can be determined by the angle ψ .

5. Asymptotes: Find out the asymptotes of the curve, if any.

Examples :

1) Trace the curve $r = a(1+\cos\theta)$, $a > 0$.

- The equation is an even function of $\theta \Rightarrow$ the curve is symmetric about the initial line. It is also a periodic function of θ with period 2π .
- Therefore it is sufficient to trace the curve for $\theta \in (0, 2\pi)$. By symmetry it is sufficient to trace the curve for $\theta \in (0, \pi)$.
- Curve is defined (r is real) for $\theta \in (0, \pi)$.

Since $-1 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1$, we have $0 \leq r \leq 2a$.

Therefore the curve lies within the circle $r = 2a$.

The value of ϕ : Let ϕ be the angle made by the tangent at (r, θ) with the radius vector, then

$$\tan \phi = \frac{r}{(dr/d\theta)} = \frac{a(1 + \cos \theta)}{-a \sin \theta} = \frac{2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}{-2(\sin \theta / 2)(\cos \theta / 2)}$$

$$= -\cot \theta / 2 = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\phi = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\text{Therefore } \psi = \theta + \phi = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2} + \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{3\theta}{2}$$

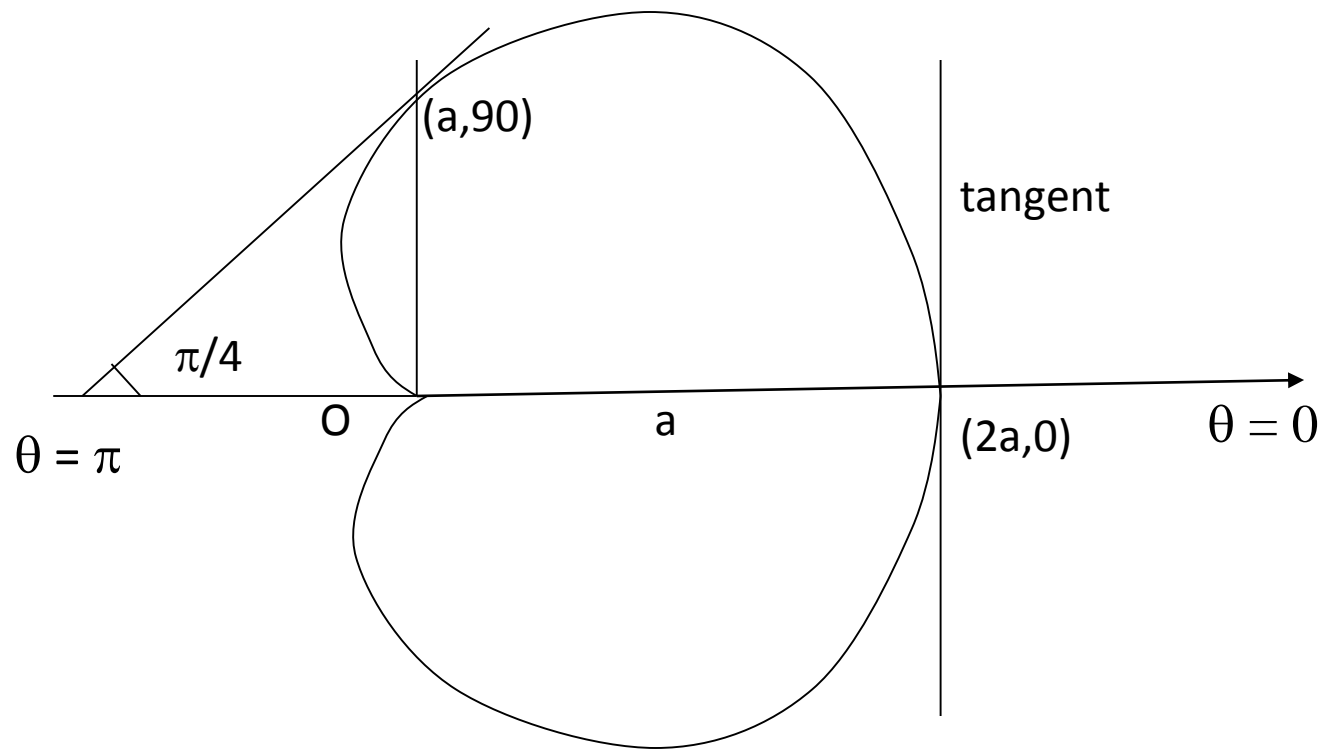
$$\text{Now } r = 0 \Leftrightarrow a(1 + \cos \theta) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \cos \theta = -1 \quad (0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi) .$$

Therefore $\theta = \pi$ and so the curve passes through the origin once and $\theta = \pi$ is the tangent to the curve at the pole.

Different Points on the curve:

θ	0	60	90	120	180
r	2a	$\frac{3a}{2}$	a	$\frac{a}{2}$	0



2. Example: Trace the curve $r^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$

- The equation is an even function of θ and r . Therefore the curve is symmetric about the initial line and the origin.
- The equation is periodic function of θ with period π . Therefore it is sufficient to trace the curve in $(0, \pi)$.
- Also if θ is replaced by $\pi - \theta$, the equation remains unaltered. Therefore the curve is symmetric about the ray $\theta = \pi/2$.

- Region: r is real if $\cos 2\theta \geq 0$
 $\Rightarrow 0 \leq \theta < \pi/2$ or $3\pi/2 < 2\theta < 2\pi$. Therefore
the curve exists for $0 < \theta < \pi/4$, $3\pi/4 < \theta < \pi$,
- For $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$, r is finite, the curve has no asymptotes.

θ	0	$\pi/4$	$3\pi/4$	π
r	a	0	0	a

•Taking log both sides

$$2 \log r = 2 \log a + \log \cos 2\theta$$

Differentiate with respect to θ

$$2 (1/r) (dr/d\theta) = 0 = 2 \sin 2\theta / \cos 2\theta$$

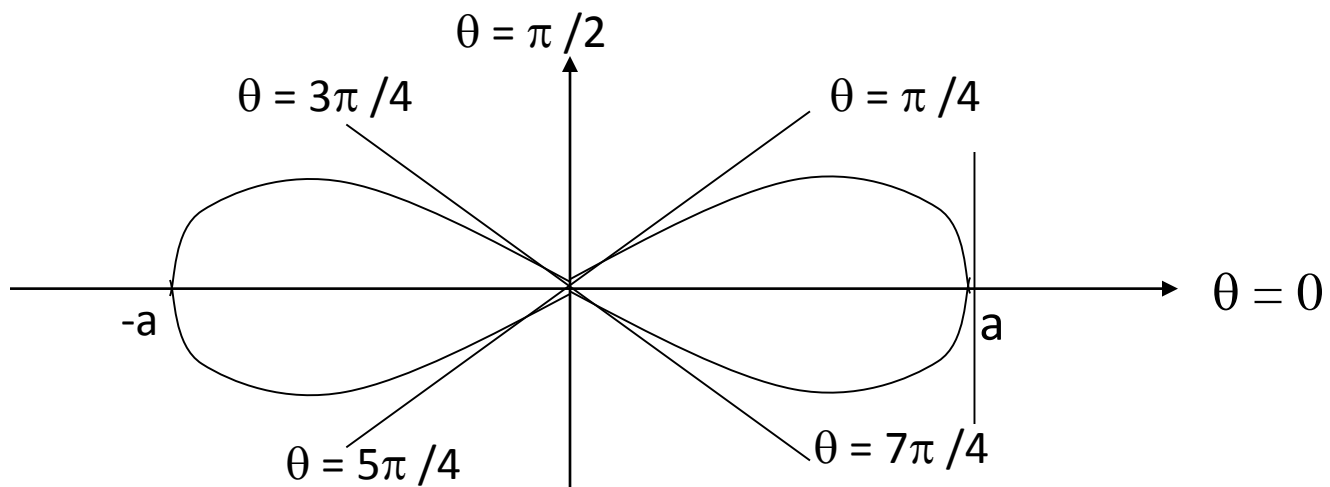
$$\text{Therefore } \tan \phi = - \cos 2\theta / \sin 2\theta = -\cot 2\theta = \tan(\pi/2 + 2\theta)$$

Therefore $\tan\phi = -\cos 2\theta/\sin 2\theta = -\cot 2\theta$
 $= \tan(\pi/2 + 2\theta)$ and so $\phi = \pi/2 + 2\theta$.

Thus $\psi = \theta + \phi = \pi/2 + 3\theta$

At $\theta = 0$, $\psi = \pi/2$. Therefore the tangent is perpendicular to the initial line.

At $\theta = \pi/4$, $\psi = \pi/2 + 3\pi/4 = \pi + \pi/4$



THANK YOU