

2015.3 Question 8

1. First, notice that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} = \frac{dr/d\theta \cdot \sin \theta + r \cdot \cos \theta}{dr/d\theta \cdot \cos \theta - r \cdot \sin \theta}.$$

Therefore, the original differential equation reduces to

$$(r \sin \theta + r \cos \theta) \frac{dr/d\theta \cdot \sin \theta + r \cdot \cos \theta}{dr/d\theta \cdot \cos \theta - r \cdot \sin \theta} = r \sin \theta - r \cos \theta$$

which further reduces to (since $r \neq 0$)

$$(\sin \theta + \cos \theta) \left[\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cdot \sin \theta + r \cos \theta \right] = (\sin \theta - \cos \theta) \left[\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cdot \cos \theta - r \sin \theta \right].$$

Expanding the brackets and cancelling the equivalent terms gives us

$$r \cos^2 \theta + \frac{dr}{d\theta} \sin^2 \theta = -\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cos^2 \theta - r \sin^2 \theta,$$

which reduces to (due to the Pythagoras Theorem $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$),

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} + r = 0,$$

as desired.

The rearrangement (since $r \neq 0$)

$$\frac{dr}{r} = -d\theta$$

shows that the solution to this differential equation must satisfy that (since $r > 0$)

$$\ln r = -\theta + C,$$

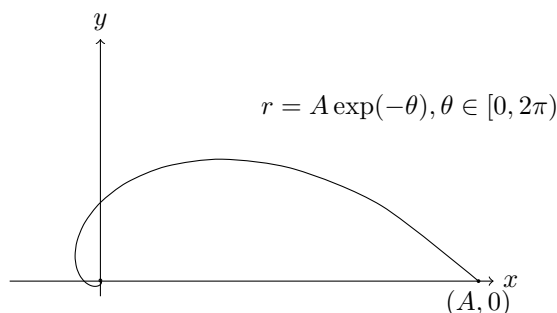
i.e.

$$r = A \exp(-\theta),$$

where $A > 0$.

For critical values, notice that when $\theta = 0$, $r = A$, and when $\theta = 2\pi$, $r = \frac{A}{\exp 2\pi}$, and that r is decreasing with θ . The graph will look like a spiral

A sketch is shown below, for $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$.



2. Similar to the previous part, the equation reduces to

$$(\sin \theta + \cos \theta - \cos \theta \cdot r^2) \left[\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cdot \sin \theta + r \cos \theta \right] = (\sin \theta - \cos \theta - \sin \theta \cdot r^2) \left[\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cdot \cos \theta - r \sin \theta \right],$$

and hence, by expanding brackets and eliminating terms,

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} \sin^2 \theta + r \cos^2 \theta - r^3 \cos^2 \theta = -r \sin^2 \theta - \frac{dr}{d\theta} \cos^2 \theta + r^3 \sin^2 \theta,$$

which then simplifies to

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} + r - r^3 = 0.$$

Notice that $r = 1$ is a solution to this differential equation. Therefore, rearranging terms, we have

$$\frac{dr}{r^3 - r} = d\theta.$$

By partial fractions

$$\frac{1}{r^3 - r} = -\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{2(r+1)} + \frac{1}{2(r-1)},$$

we therefore must have

$$\left[-\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{2(r+1)} + \frac{1}{2(r-1)} \right] \cdot dr = d\theta.$$

This therefore means that

$$\frac{1}{2} \ln|r+1| + \frac{1}{2} \ln|r-1| - \ln|r| = \theta + C,$$

for some constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$.

Combining logarithms and absolute values gives us

$$\ln \left| \frac{r^2 - 1}{r^2} \right| = 2\theta + C,$$

and therefore,

$$\frac{r^2 - 1}{r^2} = \pm \exp C \cdot \exp(2\theta),$$

and this can be simplified to

$$1 - \frac{1}{r^2} = \pm \exp C \cdot \exp(2\theta),$$

and therefore

$$r^2 = \frac{1}{1 \mp \exp C \cdot \exp(2\theta)}.$$

Let $A = \mp \exp C \neq 0$, and therefore

$$r^2 = \frac{1}{1 + A \exp(2\theta)}.$$

Notice when $r = 1$, r satisfies that

$$r^2 = 1,$$

so the general solution will be

$$r^2 = \frac{1}{1 + A \exp(2\theta)}$$

for $A \in \mathbb{R}$ which this equation makes sense.

We restrict ourselves to $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$.

Notice that, this equation makes sense for all $A \geq 0$, since the denominator is obviously non-negative.

For $A < 0$, the denominator is decreasing in θ , and we would like it to be greater than zero for some $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$. Therefore, we would like the maximum possible value of the denominator to be greater than, that is when $\theta = 0$:

$$1 + A \exp 0 > 0,$$

which gives $A > -1$.

We consider three cases where $r > 0$, i.e.,

$$r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + A \exp(2\theta)}}.$$

Notice this always passes through $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+A}}, 0 \right)$.

- When $-1 < A < 0$, the curve is not defined for

$$1 + A \exp(2\theta) \leq 0,$$

and this is precisely when

$$\exp 2\theta \geq -\frac{1}{A},$$

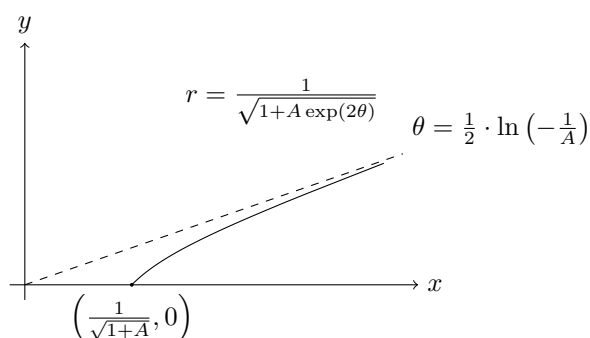
which is

$$\theta \geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \ln \left(-\frac{1}{A} \right).$$

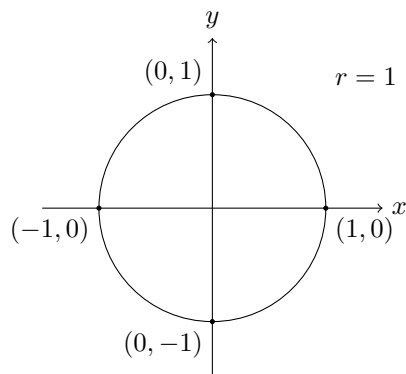
This means the curve will have an asymptote of line

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \ln \left(-\frac{1}{A} \right).$$

Also note that r is increasing in θ in this case, and $r \rightarrow \infty$ as $\theta \rightarrow$ the asymptote.



- When $A = 0$, notice this just gives $r = 1$, which is a circle with radius 1 centred at the origin.



- In the final case where $A > 0$, the following case arises.

