

# Polar Graphs Summary

## CIRCLE/CARDIOID SUMMARY

- $r = a$  is the graph of a CIRCLE centered at origin with a radius of length  $a$ .
- $\theta = n$  is the graph of a LINE passing through the origin.
- $r = a \cos \theta$   $r = a \sin \theta$  is the graph of a CIRCLE with one endpoint of its diameter located at the origin.
- $r = a \pm a \cos \theta$   $r = a \pm a \sin \theta$  is the graph of a CARDIOID and follows the same rules as those of a circle.

## LIMACON SUMMARY

- $r = a \pm b \cos \theta$   $r = a \pm b \sin \theta$  is the graph of:
  - A LIMACON with an inner loop if  $b > a$  stretch > shift
  - A LIMACON without an inner loop if  $b < a$  stretch < shift
  - What shape is it if  $\frac{|a|}{|b|} = 1$ ? Cardioid
- The limaçon lies along the x-axis if the equation is of the form  $r = a \pm b \cos \theta$  and lies along the y-axis if the equation is of the form  $r = a \pm b \sin \theta$ .
- The limaçon has intercepts on the axis it lies on of  $a + b$  and  $b - a$  and intercepts along the other axis of  $\pm a$ .
- Changing the sign of  $b$ , reflects the limaçon.

## ROSE SUMMARY

- $r = a \cos n\theta$   $r = a \sin n\theta$  is the graph of a ROSE with  $n$  leaves if  $n$  is odd, and  $2n$  leaves if  $n$  is even. (Note:  $n$  is a whole number greater than 1.)
- The leaves of the rose have a length of  $a$
- The spacing between the leaves, in degrees, is  $\frac{360^\circ}{\# \text{ of leaves}}$
- The "first leaf" for  $r = a \cos(n\theta)$  occurs at  $0^\circ$
- The "first leaf" for  $r = a \sin(n\theta)$  occurs at  $\frac{90}{n}$
- Multiplying by  $-1$  reflects the rose.

### CIRCLE/CARTIOID GRAPH SUMMARY

- $r = c$  is the graph of a circle centered at the origin with a radius of length "c".
- $\theta = \#$  is the graph of a line passing through the origin.
- $r = a\cos\theta$  or  $a\sin\theta$  is the graph of a circle with one endpoint of its diameter located at the origin.
- $r = a \pm a\cos\theta$  or  $a \pm a\sin\theta$  is the graph of a cardioid and follows the same rules as those of a circle.

### ROSE GRAPH SUMMARY

- $r = a\cos(n\theta)$  or  $r = a\sin(n\theta)$  is the graph of a rose with  $n$  leaves if  $n$  is odd, and  $2n$  leaves if  $n$  is even. (Note:  $n$  is a whole number greater than 1.)
- The leaves of the rose have a length of  $|a|$
- The spacing between the leaves, in degrees, is  $\frac{360^\circ}{\#leaves}$
- The "first leaf" for  $r = a\cos(n\theta)$  occurs at  $0^\circ$
- The "first leaf" for  $r = a\sin(n\theta)$  occurs at  $\frac{90^\circ}{n}$
- Multiplying by  $-1$ , reflects the rose over an axis.

### LIMACON GRAPH SUMMARY

- $r = a \pm b\cos\theta$  or  $r = a \pm b\sin\theta$  is the graph of:

○ A limaçon with an inner loop if  $\frac{|a|}{|b|} < 1$  (  $|a|$  is smaller than  $|b|$  )

○ A limaçon without an inner loop if  $\frac{|a|}{|b|} > 1$  (  $|a|$  is larger than  $|b|$  )

○ What shape is it if  $\frac{|a|}{|b|} = 1$  ? A \_\_\_\_\_

- The limaçon lies along the x axis if the equation is of the form  $r = a \pm b \cos \theta$  and lies along the y axis if the equation is of the form  $r = a \pm b \sin \theta$
- The limaçon has intercepts on the axis it lies on of  $|a| + |b|$  and  $|b| - |a|$  and intercepts along the other axis of  $\pm a$ .
- Changing the sign of b, reflects the limaçon over an axis.