

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°
- 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°
- 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.