Section 10.3: Polar Coordinates

Definition: The **polar coordinate system** is a way to reference the points in the xy-plane where each point is of the form (r, θ) . r is the distance from the point in the plane to the **pole** (or origin). θ is the angle from the **polar axis** (positive x-axis) to the line segment connecting the point and the origin. This angle is positive when measured in the counterclockwise direction and negative when measured in the clockwise direction.



Example: Give a polar coordinate of the Cartesian point (0,3).

Converting Between Polar and Cartesian Coordinates:

Example: Convert the point $\left(1.5, \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$ from polar to Cartesian coordinates.

Example: Convert the point $(1, -\sqrt{3})$ from Cartesian to polar coordinates.

Example: Sketch the region in the plane consisting of points whose polar coordinates satisfies these conditions: $1 \le r \le 2$, $\pi/3 \le \theta \le 3\pi/4$



Example: Find a Cartesian equations for the polar equation and sketch the graph.

 $r=10\cos\theta$



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Example: Sketch the graph of the limacon.

$$r = 3 + 5\sin\theta$$



Example: Sketch the graph of the rose.



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Note: Here is a link that gives some of the conditions for the number of loops in the polar graph.

 $https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_(mathematics)$

Example: Find a polar equation for the Cartesian equations.

 $y^2 = 5x$