9-2 Study Guide and Intervention

Graphs of Polar Equations

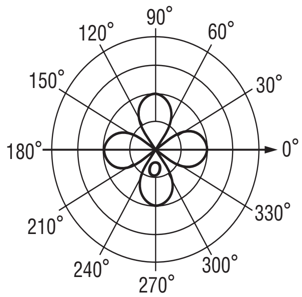
Graphs of Polar Equations A **polar graph** is the set of all points with coordinates (r, θ) that satisfy a given polar equation. The position and shape of polar graphs can be altered by multiplying or adding to either the function or θ.

Example 1 **Graph the polar equation $r = 2 \cos 2\theta$.**

Make a table of values on the interval $[0, 2\pi]$.

θ	0	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\frac{2\pi}{3}$	$\frac{3\pi}{4}$	$\frac{5\pi}{6}$	π	$\frac{7\pi}{6}$	$\frac{5\pi}{4}$	$\frac{4\pi}{3}$	$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	$\frac{5\pi}{3}$	$\frac{7\pi}{4}$	$\frac{11\pi}{6}$	2π
$r = 2 \cos 2\theta$	2	1	0	1	–2	–1	0	1	2	1	0	–1	–2	–1	0	1	2

Graph the ordered pairs (r, θ) and connect with a smooth curve.

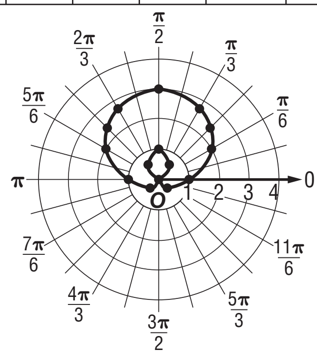


This type of curve is called a **rose**. Notice that the farthest points are 2 units from the pole and the rose has 4 petals.

Example 2 **Graph the polar equation $r = 1 + 2 \sin \theta$. Round each r-value to the nearest tenth.**

θ	0	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\frac{2\pi}{3}$	$\frac{3\pi}{4}$	$\frac{5\pi}{6}$	π	$\frac{7\pi}{6}$	$\frac{5\pi}{4}$	$\frac{4\pi}{3}$	$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	$\frac{5\pi}{3}$	$\frac{7\pi}{4}$	$\frac{11\pi}{6}$	2π
$r = 1 + 2 \sin \theta$	1	2	2.4	2.7	3	2.7	2.4	2	1	0	–0.4	–0.7	–1	–0.7	–0.4	0	1

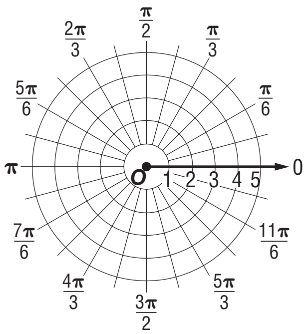
Graph the ordered pairs and connect them with a smooth curve. This type of curve is called a **limaçon**.



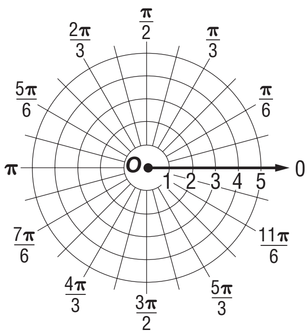
Exercises

Graph each equation by plotting points.

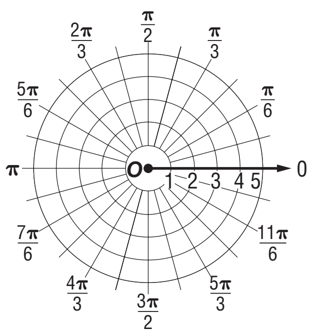
1. $r = 2 \sin \theta$



2. $r = 2 + 2 \sin \theta$



3. $r = 1 - 3 \cos \theta$



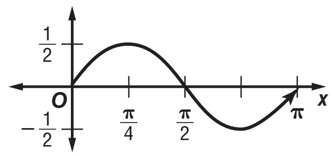
9-2 Study Guide and Intervention *(continued)*

Graphs of Polar Equations

Classic Polar Curves The graph of a polar equation is symmetric with respect to the polar axis if it is a function of $\cos \theta$, and to the line $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ if it is a function of $\sin \theta$. It is symmetric to the pole if replacing (r, θ) with $(-r, \theta)$ or $(r, \pi + \theta)$ produces an equivalent equation. Knowing whether a graph is symmetric can reduce the number of points needed to sketch it.

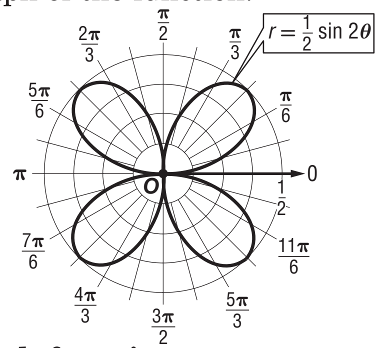
Example **Determine the symmetry, zeros, and maximum r-values of $r = \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta$. Then use this information to graph the function.**

The function is symmetric with respect to the line $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$, so you can find points on the interval $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$ and then use line symmetry to complete the graph. To find the zeros and the maximum r-value, sketch the graph of the rectangular function $y = \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x$.



From the graph, you can see that $|y| = \frac{1}{2}$ when $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$, and $\frac{3\pi}{4}$ and $y = 0$ when $x = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}$, and π. That means that $|r|$ has a maximum value of $\frac{1}{2}$ when $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$ or $\frac{3\pi}{4}$ and $r = 0$ when $\theta = 0$, $\frac{\pi}{2}$, or π. Use these and a few additional points to sketch the graph of the function.

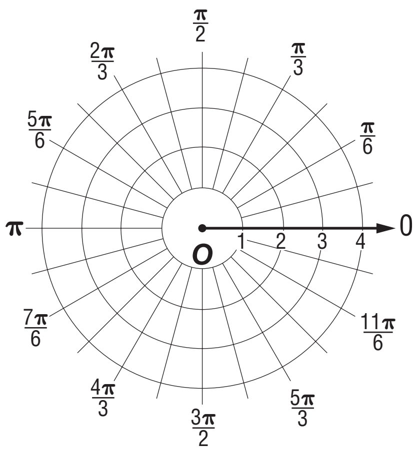
Use the axis of symmetry to complete the graph after plotting points on $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$.



Exercises

Use symmetry, zeros, and maximum r-values to graph each function.

1. $r = 4 \sin 3\theta$



2. $r = 3 \cos 2\theta$