

Name of Roll no. - 507 - Roll no. 507
Page 507

Topic - Pedal Equation of a Polar Curve
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Worked for finding the Pedal Equation
of a curve from its Polar Equation -
Step 1 - Write down the Polar Equation of
the Curve $r = f(\theta)$ ——— (i)
Find

Step 2 - p = length of the perpendicular
from the Pole on the tangent at
(r, θ)

Step 3 - $p = r \sin \phi$ ——— (ii)

Step 4 - $\tan \phi = r \frac{d\theta}{dr}$ ——— (iii)

Step 5 - Eliminate
 ϕ and ϕ between the

Equations (i) (ii) and (iii)

We will get the required
Pedal Equation

Find the Equation of the curve

Solution By the question
Equation of Curve

$$r^m = a^m \cos m\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow m \log r = m \log a + \log \cos m\theta \quad (\text{Taking log on both sides})$$

Diff. with respect to θ

$$\frac{m}{r} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = 0 + \frac{1}{\cos m\theta} (-\sin m\theta) \cdot m$$

$$\frac{m}{r} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = - \frac{m \sin m\theta}{\cos m\theta}$$

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = - \tan m\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow r \frac{d\theta}{dr} = - \cot m\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \phi = \tan(\pi/2 + m\theta)$$

$$\therefore \phi = \pi/2 + m\theta$$

$$\text{Now } p = r \sin \phi$$

$$= r \sin(\pi/2 + m\theta)$$

$$\text{Now } p = r \sin \phi = r \sin(\pi/2 + m\theta)$$

$$= r \cos m\theta = r \frac{r^m}{a^m}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \because r^m &= a^m \cos m\theta \\ \Rightarrow \frac{r^m}{a^m} &= \cos m\theta \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Hence the required pedal Equation is

$$p = \frac{r^{m+1}}{a^m}$$

Find the pedal equation of the curve

$$r a = r(1 + \cos \theta)$$

Solution: $\rightarrow$ By the question Equation of the curve

$$r a = r(1 + \cos \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{r} \cdot r a = 1 + \cos \theta$$

Diff. w.r.t θ respect to θ we get -

$$-\frac{1}{r^2} \cdot r a \frac{dr}{d\theta} = -\sin \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{r^2} \cdot r a \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \sin \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \frac{r^2 \sin \theta}{r a}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{r a}{r^2 \sin \theta}$$

But $\tan \phi = r \frac{d\theta}{dr}$

$$= r \cdot \frac{r a}{r^2 \sin \theta}$$

$$= \frac{r a}{r \sin \theta}$$

Since $r a = r(1 + \cos \theta)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r a}{r} = 1 + \cos \theta$$

$$\therefore \tan \phi = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = \frac{2 \cos^2 \theta/2}{2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2} = \frac{\cos \theta/2}{\sin \theta/2}$$

$$= \cot \theta/2 = \tan(\pi/2 - \theta/2)$$

therefore

$$\phi = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also } p &= r \sin \phi \\ &= r \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \\ &= r \cos \theta / 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore p^2 &= r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2 \\ &= r^2 \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} \text{Since } 2a &= r(1 + \cos \theta) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{2a}{r} &= 1 + \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right]$$

$$\therefore p^2 = \frac{r^2}{2} \times \frac{2a}{r} = ar$$

Required
Pedal Equation
 $p^2 = ar$

Problem 3 : For the Cardioid
 $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$, Prove the—

following results :—

$$\textcircled{i} \phi = \frac{\theta}{2} \quad \text{ii) } p = 2a \sin^3 \theta$$

$$\textcircled{iii} p^2 = \frac{r^3}{2a}$$

Solution : $\rightarrow$ Here By the question
Equation of curve is

$$r = a(1 - \cos \theta) \quad \textcircled{i} \Rightarrow \frac{r}{a} = 1 - \cos \theta$$

Diff. w.r.t θ respect to θ

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} = a \times \sin \theta \Rightarrow \frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{1}{a \sin \theta}$$

Now tang = $r \frac{d\theta}{dr}$

$$= r \times \frac{1}{a \sin \theta}$$

Putting $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$

$$\Rightarrow \text{tang} = \frac{a(1 - \cos \theta)}{a \sin \theta} = \frac{2 \sin^2 \theta/2}{2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2} = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\therefore \phi = \frac{\theta}{2}$$

(ii) Since $p = r \sin \phi$

$$= r \times \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$= a(1 - \cos \theta) \times \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$= a \times 2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \times \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$= 2a \sin^3 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

(iii) Since $p = r \sin \phi$

$$\Rightarrow p^2 = r^2 \sin^2 \phi$$

$$= r^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$= r^2 \cdot \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Since $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r}{a} = 1 - \cos \theta = 2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r}{2a} = \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\therefore p^2 = \frac{r^2 \times r}{2a} = \frac{r^3}{2a}$$

Problem: In a Parabola

Page 6
Date: / / 2020

$$\frac{2a}{r} = 1 - \cos \theta$$

Prove the following

results are

(i) $\phi = \pi - \frac{\theta}{2}$ (ii) $p = \frac{a}{\sin^2 \theta/2}$

(iii) $p^2 = ar$ (iv) Polar Subtangent = $2a \sec \theta$

Solution $\rightarrow$

Here By the question,
Equation of Parabola is

$$\frac{2a}{r} = 1 - \cos \theta$$

Diff. w.r.t respect to θ

$$-\frac{2a}{r^2} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \sin \theta = 2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{2a}{r^2} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = 2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{a}{r^2} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2 \Rightarrow \frac{dr}{d\theta} = -\frac{r^2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2}{a}$$

Since we know

$$p = r \sin \phi$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{dr}{dr} = -\frac{a}{r^2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2}$$

and

$$r \frac{d\theta}{dr} = \tan \phi$$

$$\therefore \tan \phi = r \frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{2a}{1 - \cos \theta}$$

$$= \frac{2a}{2 \sin^2 \theta/2} \times \frac{(-a)}{r^2 \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2}$$

Since $\frac{2a}{r} = 1 - \cos \theta$
 $= 2 \sin^2 \theta/2$

$$\Rightarrow r = \frac{2a}{2 \sin^2 \theta/2} = \frac{a}{\sin^2 \theta/2}$$

$$= -\frac{5a^2}{2 \sin^2 \theta/2} \times \frac{1}{\frac{a^2}{\sin^4 \theta/2} \times \sin \theta/2 \cos \theta/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 = \frac{a^2}{\sin^4 \theta/2}$$

$$= -\frac{\sin \theta/2}{\cos \theta/2} = -\tan \theta/2 = \tan(\pi - \theta/2)$$

$$\therefore \phi = \pi - \theta/2$$

Again $p = r \sin \phi = r \sin(\pi - \theta/2) = r \sin \theta/2$

$$= \frac{a}{\sin^2 \theta/2} \times \sin \theta/2 = \frac{a}{\sin \theta/2}$$

$$p^2 = \frac{a^2}{\sin^2 \theta/2} \quad p^2 = \frac{r^2}{\sin^2(\pi - \theta/2)} \quad p^2 = \frac{r^2}{\sin^2 \theta/2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{2a}{r} = 1 - \cos \theta = 2 \sin^2 \theta/2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{a}{r} = \sin^2 \theta/2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore p^2 &= r^2 \sin^2 \phi \\ &= r^2 - \left[\sin(\pi - \theta/2) \right]^2 \\ &= r^2 \sin^2 \theta/2 \\ &= r^2 - \frac{a}{r} = ar \end{aligned}$$

Now polar subtangent

$$= r^2 \frac{d\theta}{dr}$$

$$= \frac{2a}{\sin \theta} = \underline{2a \sec \theta}$$