

Answer on Question #79287 – Math – Calculus

Question

Find the area enclosed by the curve $r = a(1 - \cos \theta)$.

Solution

The area enclosed by the curve is calculated by the formula

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} r^2(\theta) d\theta$$

$$r \geq 0, \quad a(1 - \cos \theta) \geq 0$$

If $a \geq 0$, that $1 - \cos \theta \geq 0 \Rightarrow \cos \theta \leq 1 \Rightarrow 2\pi n \leq \theta \leq 2\pi + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

If $a < 0$, that $1 - \cos \theta < 0 \Rightarrow \cos \theta > 1$ no solution

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} a^2 (1 - \cos \theta)^2 d\theta = \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} (1 - 2\cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta) d\theta = \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} \left(1 - 2\cos \theta + \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2}\right) d\theta = \\ &= \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot \left(\theta - 2\sin \theta + \frac{1}{2}\theta + \frac{1}{4}\sin 2\theta\right) \Big|_0^{2\pi} = \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot (2\pi - 2\sin 2\pi + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2\pi + \frac{1}{4}\sin 4\pi) - 0 = \\ &= \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot (2\pi - 0 + \pi + 0) = \frac{3\pi \cdot a^2}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Answer: $\frac{3\pi \cdot a^2}{2}$