

# Two Dimensional Plots

## 1 Plotting Functions and Equations

- the graph of a function
- equations in two variables

## 2 Curves in Parameter Form

- rectangular coordinates
- polar coordinates

MCS 320 Lecture 26  
Introduction to Symbolic Computation  
Jan Verschelde, 10 July 2024

# Two Dimensional Plots

## 1 Plotting Functions and Equations

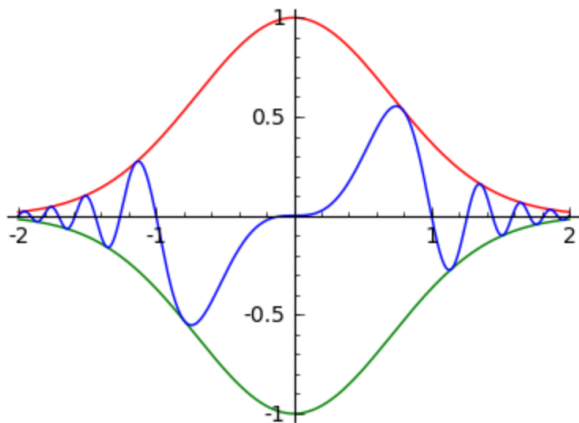
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## the Graph of a Function $y = f(x)$

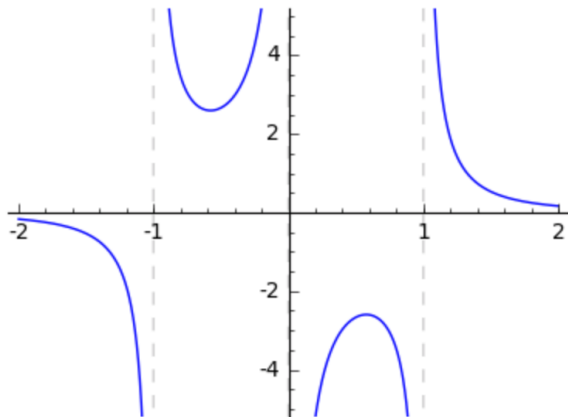
The function  $f(x) = \exp(-x^2) \sin(\pi x^3)$  appears in blue below:



The plots of  $\pm \exp(-x^2)$  show the decaying amplitude of  $f(x)$ .

# Poles and Vertical Asymptotes

Plotting  $f(x) = 1/(x^3 - x)$  requires some special care ...



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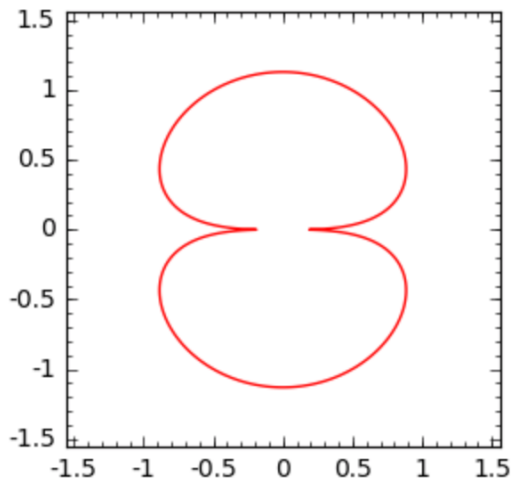
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# A Curve Invented by James Watt

$$f(x, y) = (x^2 + y^2)^3 + 5.12(x^2 + y^2)^2 - 5.15(x^4 - y^4) - 14.7456y^2 = 0$$



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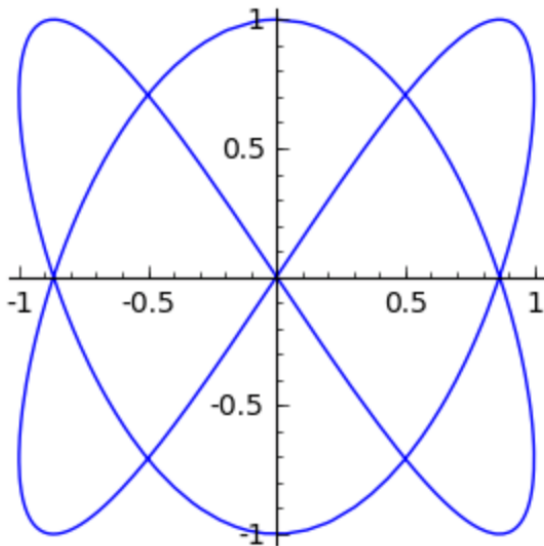
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# A Lissajous Curve ( $x(t) = \sin(2t)$ , $y(t) = \sin(3t)$ )





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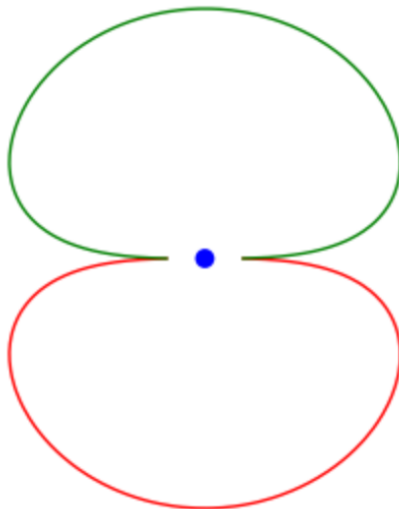
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# Polar Coordinates $r = f(t)$ , $t \in [0, 2\pi]$

The curve invented by James Watt in polar coordinates:



# from rectangular to polar coordinates

Given is an equation  $f(x, y) = 0$ .

A polar representation can be obtained as follows:

- 1 For radius  $r$  and angle  $t$ , compute

$$g(r, t) = f(x = r \cos(t), y = r \sin(t)).$$

- 2 Simplify  $g$  using trigonometric identities.

- 3 Solve  $g(r, t) = 0$  for  $r$ .

The solutions of  $g(r, t) = 0$  define the components of the curve.

If the curve passes several times through the origin, then the polar representation may greatly simplify the plotting.