STEP III, 2011 Q5

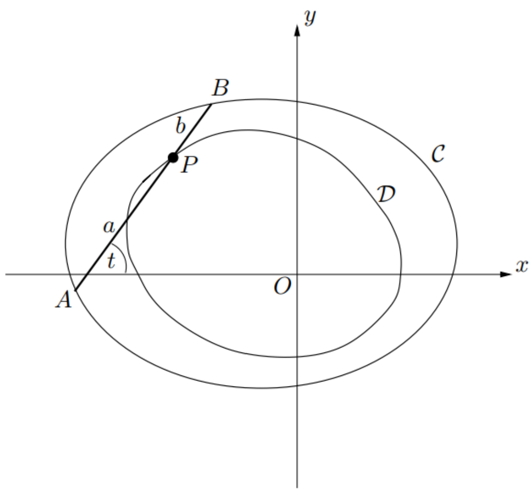
5 A movable point P has cartesian coordinates (x, y), where x and y are functions of t. The polar coordinates of P with respect to the origin O are r and θ. Starting with the expression

$$\tfrac{1}{2}\int r^2 \, \mathrm{d}\theta$$

for the area swept out by OP, obtain the equivalent expression

$$\tfrac{1}{2}\int \left(x\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}t} - y\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} \right) \mathrm{d}t \,. \qquad (*)$$

The ends of a thin straight rod AB lie on a closed convex curve $\mathcal{C}$. The point P on the rod is a fixed distance a from A and a fixed distance b from B. The angle between AB and the positive x direction is t. As A and B move anticlockwise round $\mathcal{C}$, the angle t increases from 0 to 2π and P traces a closed convex curve $\mathcal{D}$ inside $\mathcal{C}$, with the origin O lying inside $\mathcal{D}$, as shown in the diagram.



Let (x, y) be the coordinates of P. Write down the coordinates of A and B in terms of a, b, x, y and t.

The areas swept out by OA, OB and OP are denoted by $[A]$, $[B]$ and $[P]$, respectively. Show, using $(*)$, that

$$[A] = [P] + \pi a^2 - af$$

where

$$f = \tfrac{1}{2}\int_0^{2\pi} \left(\left(x + \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}t} \right)\cos t + \left(y - \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} \right)\sin t \right) \mathrm{d}t \,.$$

Obtain a corresponding expression for $[B]$ involving b. Hence show that the area between the curves $\mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{D}$ is πab.