

Curvilinear Coordinates continued

Some orthogonal coordinate system;

① Plane polar coordinates (r, θ)

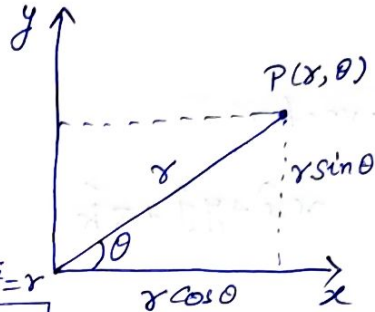
$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

Position vector $\vec{r} = r \cos \theta \hat{i} + r \sin \theta \hat{j}$

$$h_1 = h_r = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r} \right| = |\cos \theta \hat{i} + \sin \theta \hat{j}| = 1$$

$$h_2 = h_\theta = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} \right| = |-r \sin \theta \hat{i} + r \cos \theta \hat{j}| = \sqrt{r^2} = r$$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{h_r = 1, h_\theta = r}$



② Right cylindrical coordinates (ρ, ϕ, z)

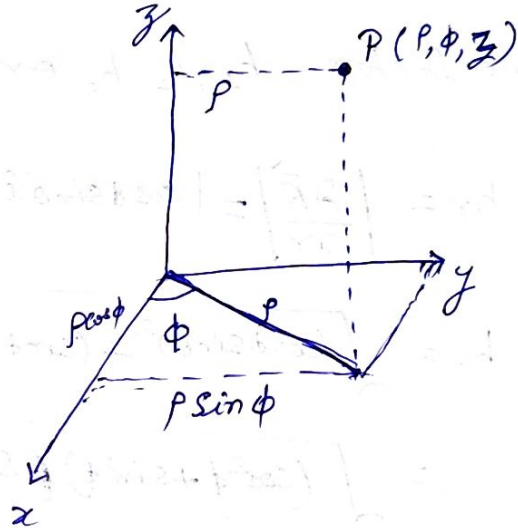
$$x = \rho \cos \phi$$

$$y = \rho \sin \phi$$

$$z = z$$

Here we can calculate scaling factors h_1, h_2, h_3

or h_ρ, h_ϕ, h_z



Position vector $\vec{R} = x \hat{i} + y \hat{j} + z \hat{k}$

$$\text{or } \vec{R} = \rho \cos \phi \hat{i} + \rho \sin \phi \hat{j} + z \hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now } h_1 = h_\rho = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial \rho} \right| = |\cos \phi \hat{i} + \sin \phi \hat{j} + 0 \hat{k}|$$

$$\text{or } h_\rho = |\cos \phi \hat{i} + \sin \phi \hat{j}| = \sqrt{\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi}$$

$$\boxed{h_\rho = 1}$$

$$h_3 = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial z} \right| = |0 \hat{i} + 0 \hat{j} + \hat{k}| = 1$$

$$\boxed{h_z = 1}$$

$$\text{Similarly } h_2 = h_\phi = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial \phi} \right| = |- \rho \sin \phi \hat{i} + \rho \cos \phi \hat{j} + 0 \hat{k}|$$

$$\boxed{h_\phi = \sqrt{\rho^2} = \rho}$$

$$\because \cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi = 1$$

③ Spherical coordinates,

$$x = r \cos \phi \sin \theta$$

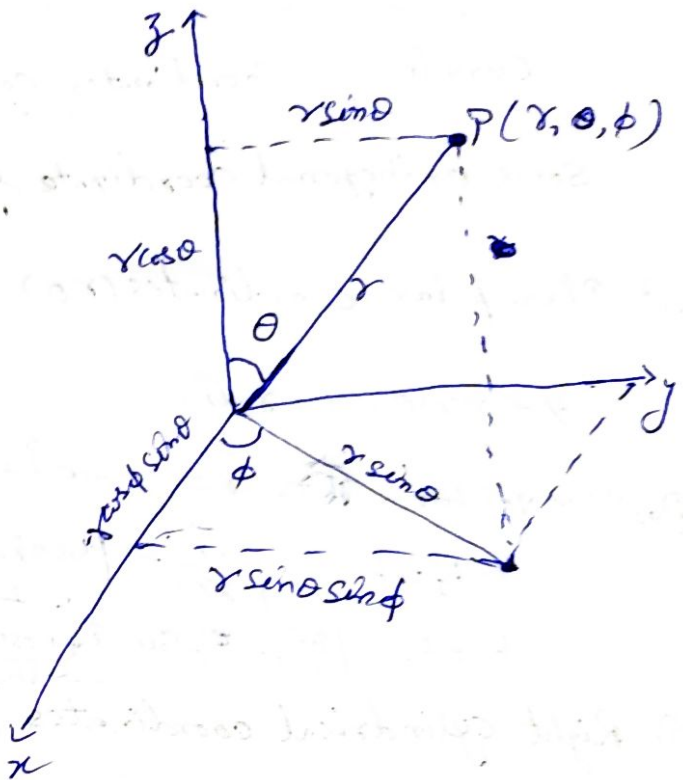
$$y = r \sin \phi \sin \theta$$

$$z = r \cos \theta$$

Position vector

$$\vec{R} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{R} = r \cos \phi \sin \theta \hat{i} + r \sin \phi \sin \theta \hat{j} + r \cos \theta \hat{k}$$



Scale factors h_1, h_2, h_3 or h_r, h_θ, h_ϕ

$$h_r = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial r} \right| = \left| \cos \phi \sin \theta \hat{i} + \sin \phi \sin \theta \hat{j} + \cos \theta \hat{k} \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} h_r &= \sqrt{(\cos \phi \sin \theta)^2 + (\sin \phi \sin \theta)^2 + \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{(\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi) \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{h_r = 1}$$

$$h_\theta = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial \theta} \right| = \left| -r \cos \phi \cos \theta \hat{i} - r \sin \phi \cos \theta \hat{j} - r \sin \theta \hat{k} \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} h_\theta &= \sqrt{r^2 [(\cos \phi \cos \theta)^2 + (\sin \phi \cos \theta)^2 + \sin^2 \theta]} \\ &= r \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta (\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi) + \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= r \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \end{aligned}$$

or $\boxed{h_\theta = r}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_\phi &= \left| \frac{\partial \vec{R}}{\partial \phi} \right| \\
 &= \left| -r \sin \theta \sin \phi \hat{i} + r \cos \phi \sin \theta \hat{j} + 0 \hat{k} \right| \\
 &= \sqrt{r^2 \sin^2 \theta (\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi)} \\
 &= r \sin \theta \sqrt{\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi}
 \end{aligned}$$

or $\boxed{h_\phi = r \sin \theta}$

Thus scale factors for spherical polar coordinates are

$$\boxed{h_r = 1, h_\theta = r, h_\phi = r \sin \theta}$$

And volume element is

$$\begin{aligned}
 dx dy dz &= h_r h_\theta h_\phi dr d\theta d\phi \\
 &= 1 \cdot r \cdot r \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi
 \end{aligned}$$

or $\boxed{dx dy dz = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi}$

Similarly Area element in Plane polar coordinates $\rightarrow dx dy = h_r h_\theta dr d\theta = 1 \cdot r dr d\theta$

$$\boxed{dx dy = r dr d\theta}$$

\rightarrow Volume element in Right cylindrical coordinates —

$$\begin{aligned}
 dx dy dz &= h_\rho h_\phi h_z d\rho d\phi dz \\
 &= 1 \cdot \rho \cdot 1 d\rho d\phi dz
 \end{aligned}$$

or $\boxed{dx dy dz = \rho d\rho d\phi dz}$