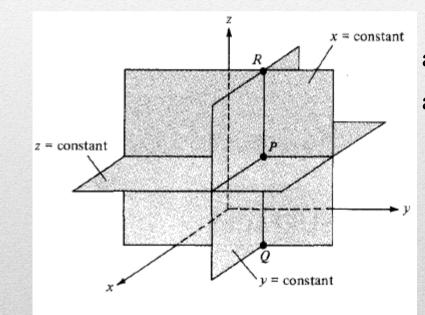


Dr.Ashraf Al-Rimawi Electromagnetic Theory I Second Semester, 2017/2018



Coordinate Systems and Transformation

Cartesian Coordinates



 $a_x \bullet a_y = 0, a_y \bullet a_z = 0, a_z \bullet a_x = 0$ $a_x \bullet a_x = 1, a_y \bullet a_y = 1, a_z \bullet a_z = 1$

We study right handed coordinates system xyz:

$$a_x \times a_y = a_z, a_y \times a_z = a_x, a_z \times a_x = a_y$$

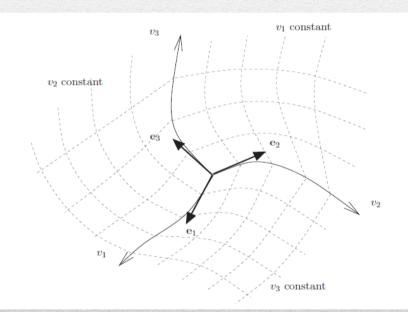
x = constant, y = constant, z = constant



• Orthogonal Curvilinear Coordinates: it is a coordinate system in which the points in space are specified as the intersection of three curved planes (curved lines), which are mutually perpendicular to each other. (3 orthogonal planes, basis vectors needed)

Goals:

- Define new coordinate systems for cylindrical and spherical symmetrical problems(plane equations and basis vectors for which only one coordinate changes when moving along)
- To get the differential length differential surface and differential volume in different coordinate systems, because we need them to perform line surface and volume integrals for problems with different symmetries
- To convert from one coordinate system to another





• Sometimes presenting space coordinates in a different coordinate system than Cartesian coordinates can be beneficial. Specifically, in problems where spherical or cylindrical symmetry can lead to simplified calculations and treatment of the problem in hand. That is why, the more general curvilinear coordinate system is presented here and the two most important curvilinear coordinates (spherical and cylindrical) are treated in details. To define a coordinate system, the planes need to be defined and basis vectors.

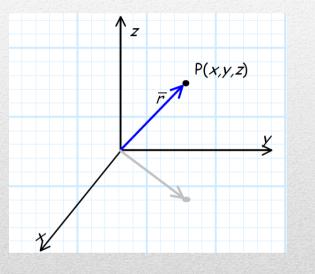
- Any curved plane can be presented as a function of the x, y, z coordinates.
- Suppose a new coordinate curvilinear coordinate system is to be defined by three curved planes ($u_1 = constant$, $u_2 = constant$, $u_3 = constant$)
- $u_1 = f_1(x, y, z), u_2 = f_2(x, y, z), u_3 = f_3(x, y, z)$
- Inversion of the functions: $x = g_1 (u_1, u_2, u_3)$, $y = g_1 (u_1, u_2, u_3)$, $z = g_1 (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

To represent any vector in the new coordinate system two steps are required: $A = A_x(x, y, z)a_{x+}A_z(x, y, z)a_{y+}A_z(x, y, z)a_z$

- 1. Substitute $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{g}_1 (\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3)$, $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}_1 (\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3)$, $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{g}_1 (\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3)$
- 2. Find the relation between the directions a_{u1} , a_{u2} , a_{u3} and a_x , a_y , a_z



• **Important:** the **position vector** is very helpful in determining the relation between the directions of the two coordinate systems.



 $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{x}^+} \mathbf{y}\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{y}^+} \mathbf{z}\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{z}}$

 $\mathbf{R} = g_1 (u_1, u_2, u_3) \mathbf{a_x} + g_2 (u_1, u_2, u_3) \mathbf{a_y} + g_3 (u_1, u_2, u_3) \mathbf{a_z}$

Note: The unit vectors can be only in the Cartesian coordinates for the position vector, because the directions in other coordinate system are dependent of space, whereas, they are independent from the position of the point in space.

The derivative of the position vector with respect to a coordinate (keeping the other two coordinates constant) is in the direction of that coordinate:

 $\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_1} = \dot{a}_{u_1}, \quad \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_2} = \dot{a}_{u_2}, \quad \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_3} = \dot{a}_{u_3}$ $d_{u_1} \text{ might not be a unit vector, we define a unit vector } a_{u_1} \text{ by dividing by the magnitude of } \dot{a}_{u_1}$



• The unit vectors are:

$$\mathbf{a}_{u_1} = \frac{\dot{d}_{u_1}}{\left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_1}\right|}, \mathbf{a}_{u_2} = \frac{\dot{d}_{u_2}}{\left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_2}\right|}, \mathbf{a}_{u_3} = \frac{\dot{d}_{u_3}}{\left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_3}\right|} \qquad h_1 = \left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_1}\right|, h_2 = \left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_2}\right|, h_3 = \left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial u_3}\right|$$

$$a_{u_1} = \frac{1}{h_1} \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_1}, \ a_{u_2} = \frac{1}{h_2} \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_2}, \ a_{u_3} = \frac{1}{h_3} \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_3}$$

 h_1, h_2, h_3 are called the conversion metric coefficients

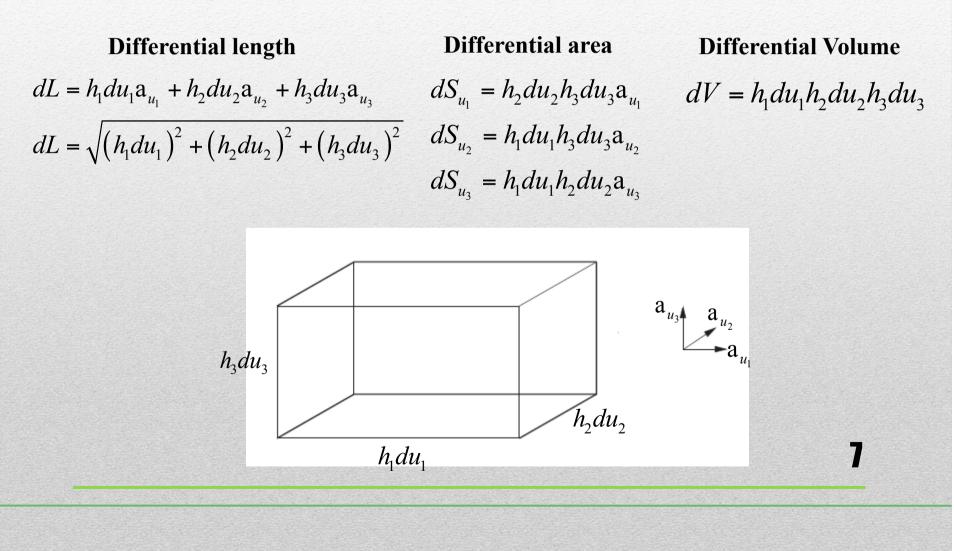
The differential length vector is important for finding integrals (such as work, and potential difference), It is also helpful in finding the differential area and volume which is also essential to perform integrals in electromagnetic theory. The conversion factors are necessary to convert a non-length coordinate like angle to a differential length in the direction of that coordinate.

$$dR = \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_1} du_1 + \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_2} du_2 + \frac{\partial R}{\partial u_3} du_3$$
$$dR = h_1 du_1 a_{\mu_1} + h_2 du_2 a_{\mu_2} + h_3 du_3 a_{\mu_3}$$

Can be found graphical or using this approach, for more complicated curvilinear coordinates this is easier **6**



• Differential length area and volume

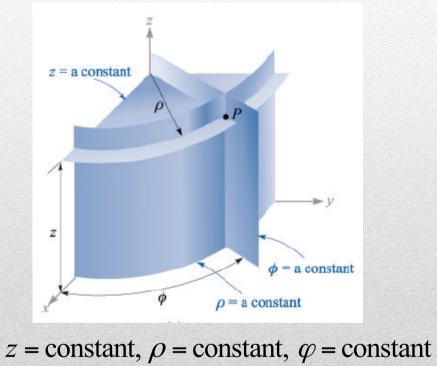




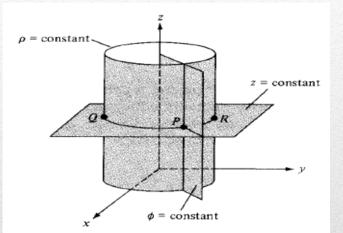
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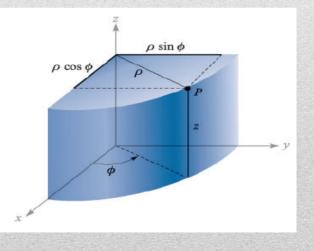
Coordinate Systems and Transformation

Circular cylindrical coordinate system



$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$	$(\rho \ge 0)$	х	; =	$\rho\cos\phi$	
$\phi = \tan^{-1}\frac{y}{x}$		J	' =	$\rho \sin \phi$	
z = z		Z	=	Z	







g

Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Circular cylindrical coordinate system $a_{\rho} \bullet a_{\varphi} = 0$, $a_{\varphi} \bullet a_{z} = 0$, $a_{z} \bullet a_{\rho} = 0$

$$R = xa_{x} + ya_{y} + za_{z}$$

$$a_{\rho} \bullet a_{\rho} = 1, a_{\varphi} \bullet a_{\varphi} = 1, a_{z} \bullet a_{z} = 1$$

$$R = \rho \cos \varphi a_{x} + \rho \sin \varphi a_{y} + za_{z}$$

$$(\rho, \varphi, z) \Longrightarrow a_{\rho} \times a_{\varphi} = a_{z}, a_{\varphi} \times a_{z} = a_{\rho}, a_{z} \times a_{\rho} = a_{\varphi}$$

Finding the directions and metric coefficients:

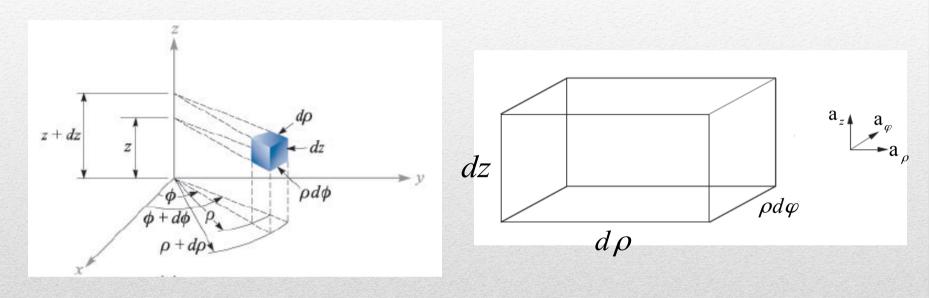
Solving the three equations:

$$a_x = \cos \varphi a_\rho - \sin \varphi a_\varphi$$
 $a_y = \sin \varphi a_\rho + \cos \varphi a_\varphi$ $a_z = a_z$



Coordinate Systems and Transformation

Circular cylindrical coordinate system



 $dL = d\rho a_{\rho} + \rho d\varphi a_{\varphi} + dz a_{z} \qquad dS_{\rho} = \rho d\varphi dz a_{\rho} \qquad dV = \rho d\rho d\varphi dz$ $|dL| = \sqrt{(d\rho)^{2} + \rho^{2} (d\varphi)^{2} + (dz)^{2}} \qquad dS_{\varphi} = d\rho dz a_{\varphi} \qquad dS_{z} = d\rho \rho d\varphi a_{z} = \rho d\rho d\varphi a_{z} \qquad 10$



• Conversion between Circular cylindrical coordinates and Cartesian coordinates

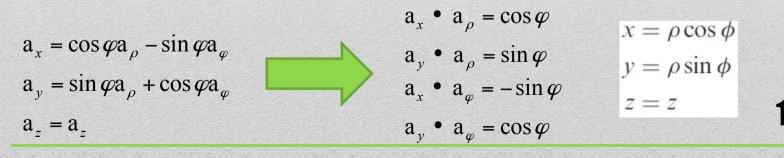
 $\mathbf{A} = A_x \mathbf{a}_x + A_y \mathbf{a}_y + A_z \mathbf{a}_z$ \leftarrow Conversion \rightarrow $\mathbf{A} = A_\rho \mathbf{a}_\rho + A_\phi \mathbf{a}_\phi + A_z \mathbf{a}_z$

To find any desired component of a vector, we recall from the discussion of the dot product that a component in a desired direction may be obtained by taking the dot product of the vector and a unit vector in the desired direction. Hence,

$$A_{\rho} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho}$$
 and $A_{\phi} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$

Expanding these dot products, we have

$$A_{\rho} = (A_{x}\mathbf{a}_{x} + A_{y}\mathbf{a}_{y} + A_{z}\mathbf{a}_{z}) \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho} = A_{x}\mathbf{a}_{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho} + A_{y}\mathbf{a}_{y} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho}$$
$$A_{\phi} = (A_{x}\mathbf{a}_{x} + A_{y}\mathbf{a}_{y} + A_{z}\mathbf{a}_{z}) \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi} = A_{x}\mathbf{a}_{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi} + A_{y}\mathbf{a}_{y} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$$
$$A_{z} = (A_{x}\mathbf{a}_{x} + A_{y}\mathbf{a}_{y} + A_{z}\mathbf{a}_{z}) \cdot \mathbf{a}_{z} = A_{z}\mathbf{a}_{z} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{z} = A_{z}$$





Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Conversion between Circular cylindrical coordinates and Cartesian coordinates in matrix form

In matrix form, we have the transformation of vector **A** from (A_x, A_y, A_z) to (A_ρ, A_ϕ, A_z) as

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{\rho} \\ A_{\phi} \\ A_{z} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{x} \\ A_{y} \\ A_{z} \end{bmatrix}$$

From cylindrical to cartesian

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi & 0 \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_\rho \\ A_\phi \\ A_z \end{bmatrix}$$



Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Conversion between Circular cylindrical coordinates and Cartesian coordinates

Dot products of unit vectors in cylindrical and cartesian coordinate systems

	$\mathbf{a}_{ ho}$	\mathbf{a}_{ϕ}	\mathbf{a}_{z}	
\mathbf{a}_{x} .	$\cos\phi$	$-\sin\phi$	0	
\mathbf{a}_{y} .	$\sin \phi$	$\cos\phi$	0	
\mathbf{a}_{z} .	0	0	1	

Example:

Transform the vector $\mathbf{B} = y\mathbf{a}_x - x\mathbf{a}_y + z\mathbf{a}_z$ into cylindrical coordinates.

Solution. The new components are

$$B_{\rho} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho} = y(\mathbf{a}_{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho}) - x(\mathbf{a}_{y} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\rho})$$

= $y \cos \phi - x \sin \phi = \rho \sin \phi \cos \phi - \rho \cos \phi \sin \phi = 0$
$$B_{\phi} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi} = y(\mathbf{a}_{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi}) - x(\mathbf{a}_{y} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\phi})$$

= $-y \sin \phi - x \cos \phi = -\rho \sin^{2} \phi - \rho \cos^{2} \phi = -\rho$

Thus,

 $\mathbf{B} = -\rho \mathbf{a}_{\phi} + z \mathbf{a}_z$

Electromagnetics I BIRZEIT UNIVERSI **Coordinate Systems and Transformation** • Spherical coordinate system θ = constant, r = constant, $\varphi = \text{constant}$ $\theta = constant$ r = constant $\phi = constant$ θ $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \qquad (r \ge 0) \qquad x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$ $\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \qquad (0^\circ \le \theta \le 180^\circ) \qquad y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$ $z = r \cos \theta$ $x = r\sin\theta\cos\phi$ $z = r \cos \theta$ $\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{2}$ 14



Spherical coordinate system

$$R = xa_x + ya_y + za_z$$

$$a_r \bullet a_{\theta} = 0, \ a_{\theta} \bullet a_{\varphi} = 0, \ a_{\varphi} \bullet a_r = 0$$
$$a_r \bullet a_r = 1, \ a_{\theta} \bullet a_{\theta} = 1, \ a_{\varphi} \bullet a_{\varphi} = 1$$

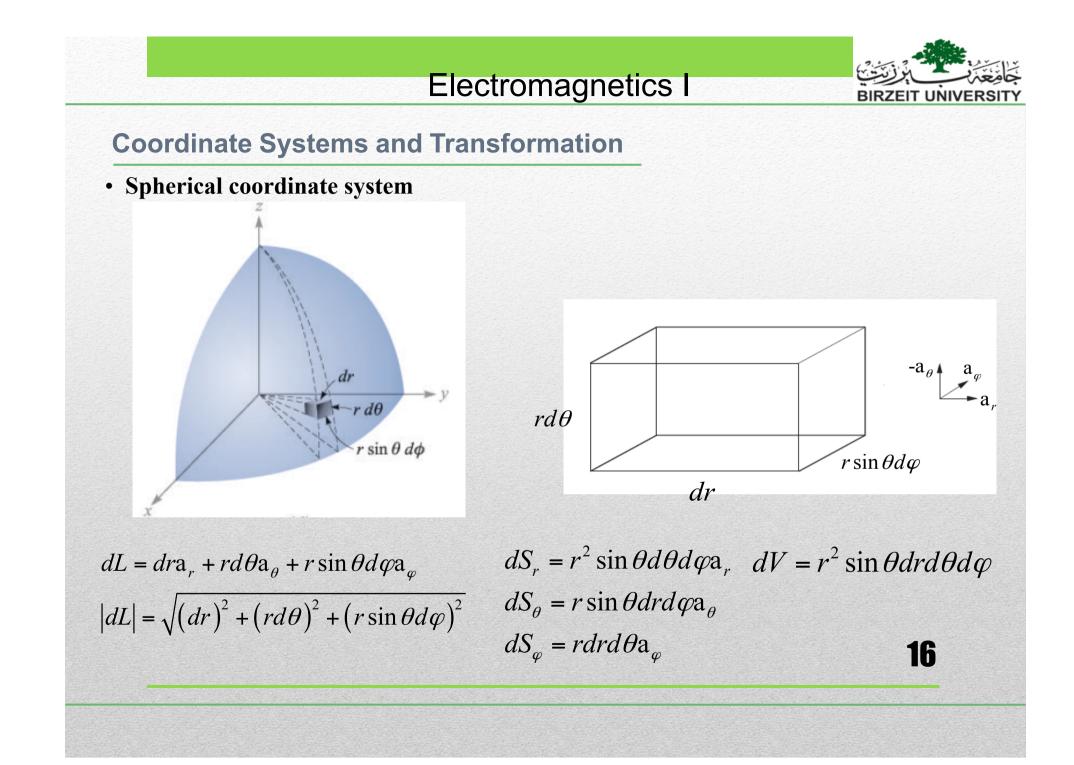
$$(\mathbf{r},\theta,\varphi) \Longrightarrow \mathbf{a}_r \times \mathbf{a}_{\theta} = \mathbf{a}_{\varphi}, \ \mathbf{a}_{\theta} \times \mathbf{a}_{\varphi} = \mathbf{a}_r, \ \mathbf{a}_{\varphi} \times \mathbf{a}_r = \mathbf{a}_{\theta}$$

Finding the directions and metric coefficients:

 $R = r\sin\theta\cos\varphi a_x + r\sin\theta\sin\varphi a_y + r\cos\theta a_z$

$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial r} = \sin\theta \cos\varphi a_x + \sin\theta \sin\varphi a_y + \cos\theta a_z = \hat{d}_r \qquad \frac{\partial R}{\partial \theta} = r\cos\theta \cos\varphi a_x + r\cos\theta \sin\varphi a_y - r\sin\theta a_z = \hat{d}_\theta$$
$$\left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial r}\right| = h_r = \sqrt{\sin^2\theta \left(\cos^2\varphi + \sin^2\varphi\right) + \cos^2\theta} = 1 \qquad \left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial \theta}\right| = h_\theta = \sqrt{r^2\cos^2\theta (\cos^2\varphi + \sin^2\varphi) + r^2\sin^2\theta} = r$$
$$a_r = \sin\theta\cos\varphi a_x + \sin\theta\sin\varphi a_y + \cos\theta a_z \qquad a_\theta = \cos\theta\cos\varphi a_x + \cos\theta\sin\varphi a_y - \sin\theta a_z$$
$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial \varphi} = -r\sin\theta\sin\varphi a_x + r\sin\theta\cos\varphi a_y = \hat{d}_\theta$$
$$\left|\frac{\partial R}{\partial \varphi}\right| = h_\varphi = \sqrt{r^2\sin^2\theta (\cos^2\varphi + \sin^2\varphi)} = r\sin\theta$$

 $a_{\varphi} = -\sin \varphi a_x + \cos \varphi a_y$





Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Spherical coordinate system

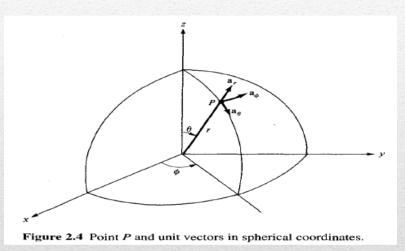


TABLE 1.2

Dot products of unit vectors in spherical and cartesian coordinate systems

	a _r	$\mathbf{a}_{ heta}$	\mathbf{a}_{ϕ}	
$a_x \cdot a_x \cdot$	$\sin\theta\cos\phi\\\sin\theta\sin\phi$	$\cos\theta\cos\phi\\\cos\theta\sin\phi$	$-\sin\phi$ $\cos\phi$	
$\mathbf{a}_y \cdot \mathbf{a}_z \cdot$	$\cos\theta$	$-\sin\theta$	0	



• Spherical coordinate system conversion to and from Cartesian

In matrix form, the $(A_x, A_y, A_z) \rightarrow (A_r, A_{\theta}, A_{\phi})$ vector transformation is performed according to

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_r \\ A_\theta \\ A_\phi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin\theta\cos\phi & \sin\theta\sin\phi & \cos\theta \\ \cos\theta\cos\phi & \cos\theta\sin\phi & -\sin\theta \\ -\sin\phi & \cos\phi & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{bmatrix}$$
(2.27)

The inverse transformation $(A_r, A_{\theta}, A_{\phi}) \rightarrow (A_x, A_y, A_z)$ is similarly obtained, or we obtain it from eq. (2.23). Thus,

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin\theta\cos\phi & \cos\theta\cos\phi & -\sin\phi \\ \sin\theta\sin\phi & \cos\theta\sin\phi & \cos\phi \\ \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_r \\ A_\theta \\ A_\phi \end{bmatrix}$$
(2.28)



Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Example Given point P(-2, 6, 3) and vector $\mathbf{A} = y\mathbf{a}_x + (x + z)\mathbf{a}_y$, express P and A in cylindrical coordinates. Evaluate A at P in the Cartesian, cylindrical, and spectrum systems.

Solution:

At point *P*: x = -2, y = 6, z = 3. Hence,

$$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{4 + 36} = 6.32$$
$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x} = \tan^{-1} \frac{6}{-2} = 108.43^{\circ}$$

$$z = 3$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = \sqrt{4 + 36 + 9} = 7$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{z} = \tan^{-1} \frac{\sqrt{40}}{3} = 64.62^{\circ}$$

Thus,

$$P(-2, 6, 3) = P(6.32, 108.43^{\circ}, 3) = P(7, 64.62^{\circ}, 108.43^{\circ})$$

In the Cartesian system, A at P is

 $\mathbf{A} = 6\mathbf{a}_x + \mathbf{a}_y$



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Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Cont...

For vector **A**, $A_x = y$, $A_y = x + z$, $A_z = 0$. Hence, in the cylindrical system

$\begin{bmatrix} A_{\rho} \\ A_{\phi} \end{bmatrix}$	=	$\cos \phi$ $-\sin \phi$	sin φ cos φ	0	$\begin{bmatrix} y \\ x+z \end{bmatrix}$
$\begin{bmatrix} A_z \end{bmatrix}$		0	0	1	

or

$$A_{\rho} = y \cos \phi + (x + z) \sin \phi$$
$$A_{\phi} = -y \sin \phi + (x + z) \cos \phi$$
$$A_{z} = 0$$

But $x = \rho \cos \phi$, $y = \rho \sin \phi$, and substituting these yields

 $\mathbf{A} = (A_{\rho}, A_{\phi}, A_{z}) = [\rho \cos \phi \sin \phi + (\rho \cos \phi + z) \sin \phi] \mathbf{a}_{\rho}$ $+ [-\rho \sin^{2} \phi + (\rho \cos \phi + z) \cos \phi] \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$

At P

$$\rho = \sqrt{40}, \quad \tan \phi = \frac{6}{-2}$$

$$\cos \phi = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}}, \quad \sin \phi = \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}}$$
$$\mathbf{A} = \left[\sqrt{40} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}} + \left(\sqrt{40} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + 3\right) \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}}\right] \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$$
$$+ \left[-\sqrt{40} \cdot \frac{36}{40} + \left(\sqrt{40} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + 3\right) \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}}\right] \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$$
$$= \frac{-6}{\sqrt{40}} \mathbf{a}_{\rho} - \frac{38}{\sqrt{40}} \mathbf{a}_{\phi} = -0.9487 \mathbf{a}_{\rho} - 6.008 \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$$



Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Cont...

But $x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$, $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$, and $z = r \cos \theta$. Substituting these yields

 $\mathbf{A} = (A_r, A_{\theta}, A_{\phi})$ = $r[\sin^2 \theta \cos \phi \sin \phi + (\sin \theta \cos \phi + \cos \theta) \sin \theta \sin \phi] \mathbf{a}_r$ + $r[\sin \theta \cos \theta \sin \phi \cos \phi + (\sin \theta \cos \phi + \cos \theta) \cos \theta \sin \phi] \mathbf{a}_{\theta}$ + $r[-\sin \theta \sin^2 \phi + (\sin \theta \cos \phi + \cos \theta) \cos \phi] \mathbf{a}_{\phi}$

At P

$$r = 7$$
, $\tan \phi = \frac{6}{-2}$, $\tan \theta = \frac{\sqrt{40}}{3}$

Hence,



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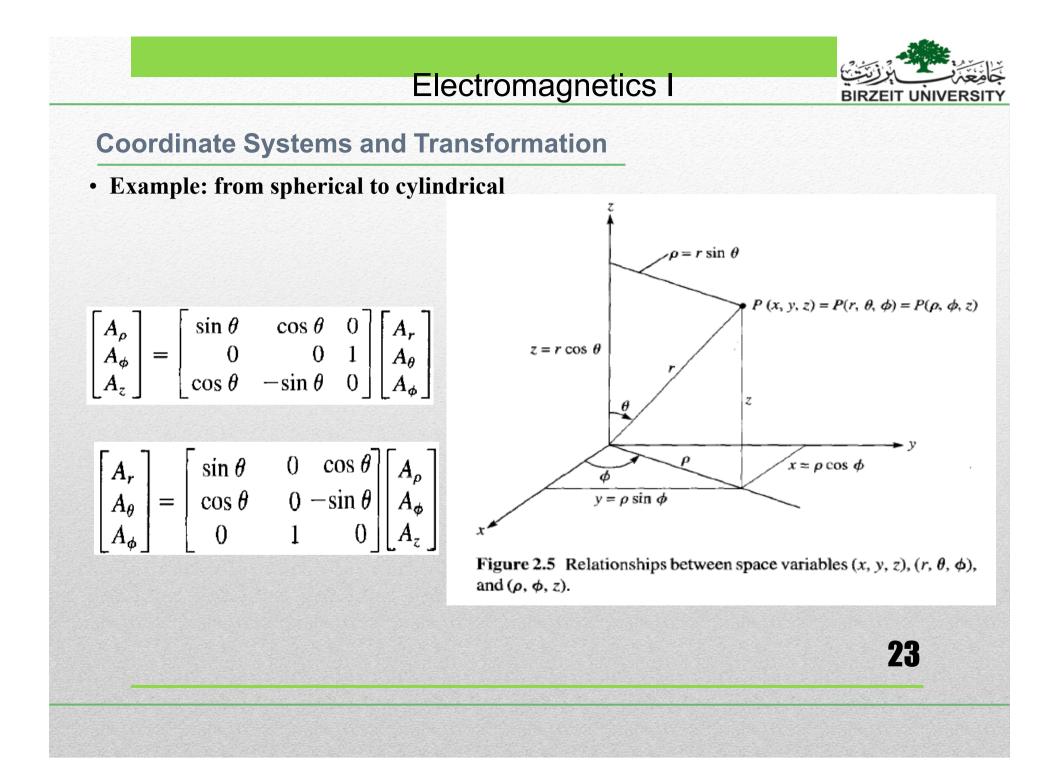
Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Cont...

$$\begin{aligned} \cos\phi &= \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}}, \quad \sin\phi = \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}}, \quad \cos\theta = \frac{3}{7}, \quad \sin\theta = \frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \\ \mathbf{A} &= 7 \cdot \left[\frac{40}{49} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}} + \left(\frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + \frac{3}{7} \right) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}} \right] \mathbf{a}_r \\ &+ 7 \cdot \left[\frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + \left(\frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + \frac{3}{7} \right) \cdot \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{6}{\sqrt{40}} \right] \mathbf{a}_\theta \\ &+ 7 \cdot \left[\frac{-\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{36}{40} + \left(\frac{\sqrt{40}}{7} \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} + \frac{3}{7} \right) \cdot \frac{-2}{\sqrt{40}} \right] \mathbf{a}_\phi \\ &= \frac{-6}{7} \mathbf{a}_r - \frac{18}{7\sqrt{40}} \mathbf{a}_\theta - \frac{38}{\sqrt{40}} \mathbf{a}_\phi \\ &= -0.8571 \mathbf{a}_r - 0.4066 \mathbf{a}_\theta - 6.008 \mathbf{a}_\phi \end{aligned}$$

Note that $|\mathbf{A}|$ is the same in the three systems; that is,

$$|\mathbf{A}(x, y, z)| = |\mathbf{A}(\rho, \phi, z)| = |\mathbf{A}(r, \theta, \phi)| = 6.083$$





Coordinate Systems and Transformation

• Distance and vector magnitude in coordinate systems

Important: the magnitude of the vector is the same in all coordinate systems. This can be used as a way to confirm the correctness of conversion.

$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}$$
$$|\mathbf{A}| = (A_{\rho}^2 + A_{\phi}^2 + A_{\phi}^2)^{1/2}$$
$$|\mathbf{A}| = (A_r^2 + A_{\theta}^2 + A_{\theta}^2)^{1/2}$$

The distance between two points is usually necessary in EM theory. The distance d between two points with position vectors \mathbf{r}_1 and \mathbf{r}_2 is generally given by

 $d = |\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1|$ $d^2 = (x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2 \text{ (Cartesian)}$ $d^2 = \rho_2^2 + \rho_1^2 - 2\rho_1\rho_2\cos(\phi_2 - \phi_1) + (z_2 - z_1)^2 \text{ (cylindrical)}$ $d^2 = r_2^2 + r_1^2 - 2r_1r_2\cos\theta_2\cos\theta_1$ $- 2r_1r_2\sin\theta_2\sin\theta_1\cos(\phi_2 - \phi_1) \text{ (spherical)}$