



# Chapter One

# Vector Analysis

**CS309 & PM309**

Third Year Class

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### **1.1 Scalars and Vectors:**

A scalar is a quantity that has only magnitude. Quantities such as time, mass, distance, temperature, entropy, electric potential and population are scalars. Symbolically, a scalar is represented by either lower or upper case letters.

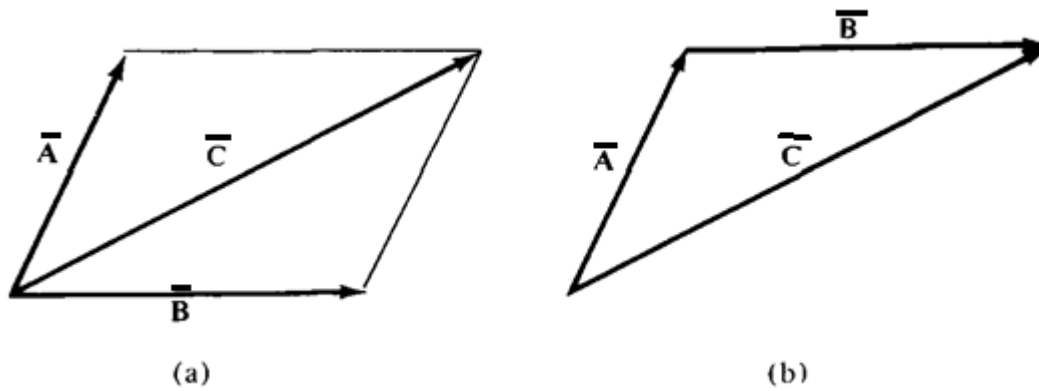
A vector is described by two quantities: a magnitude and a direction in space at any point and for any given time. Therefore, vectors may be space and time dependent. Vector quantities include velocity, force, displacement and electric field intensity.

Graphically, a vector is represented by directed line segment in the direction of the vector with its length proportional to its magnitude. Symbolically, a vector is represented by placing a bar over the letter symbol used for a given quantity, such as  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$ , or by a letter in boldface type such as  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ .

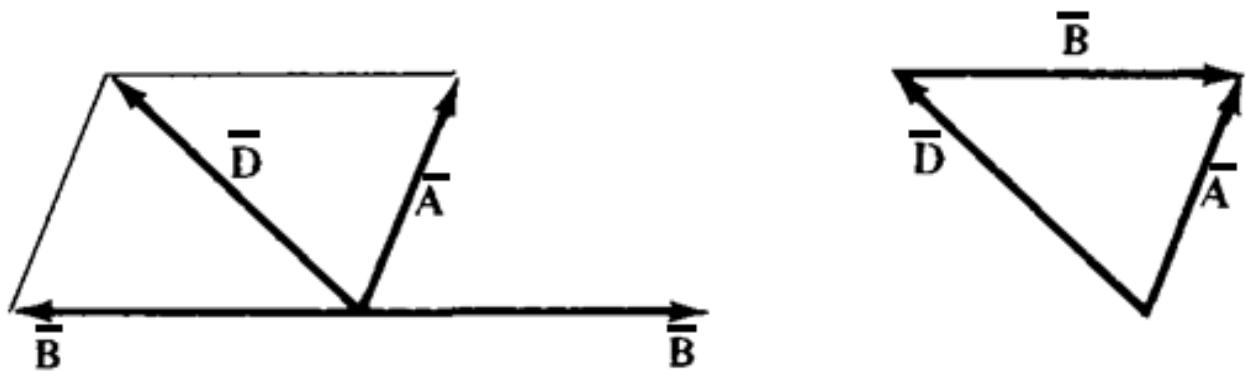
### **1.2 Vector Addition and Subtraction:**

Two vectors  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  can be added (subtracted) together to give another vector  $\bar{C}$  ( $\bar{D}$ ); i.e.,  $\bar{C} = \bar{A} + \bar{B}$ ;  $\bar{D} = \bar{A} - \bar{B} = \bar{A} + (-\bar{B})$ .

Graphically, vector addition and subtraction are obtained by either the parallelogram rule or the head to tail rule as portrayed in **Fig. 1.1** and **1.2**, respectively.



**Fig. 1.1** Vector addition  $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$  : (a) parallelogram rule, (b) head to tail rule



**Fig. 1.2** Vector subtraction  $\vec{D} = (\vec{A}) - \vec{B}$  : (a) parallelogram rule, (b) head-to-tail rule.

The three basic laws of algebra obeyed by any given vectors  $\vec{A}$ ,  $\vec{B}$  and  $\vec{C}$  are summarized as follows:

Law	Addition	Multiplication
<b>Commutative</b>	$\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$	$k\vec{A} = \vec{A}k$
<b>Associative</b>	$\vec{A} + (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) + \vec{C}$	$k(L\vec{A}) = (kL)\vec{A}$
<b>Distributive</b>	$k(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) = k\vec{A} + k\vec{B}$	

Where k and L are scalars.

### 1.3 Products of Vectors

The multiplication of two vectors is called a product. two types of products based on the result obtained from the product. The first type is the scalar product. This is a product of two vectors which results in a scalar. The second is a vector product of two vectors, which results in a vector.

#### 1.3.1 The Dot Product:

The dot product of two vectors  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$ , written as  $\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B}$ , is defined geometrically as the product of the magnitude of  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  and the cosine of the smaller angle between them.

Thus:

$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = |\bar{A}||\bar{B}| \cos \theta_{AB}$$

If  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{B} = B_x \bar{a}_x + B_y \bar{a}_y + B_z \bar{a}_z$ , then:

$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

#### Notes:

$$1- \bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{A} \quad (\text{Commutative Law})$$

$$2- \bar{A} \cdot (\bar{B} + \bar{C}) = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} + \bar{A} \cdot \bar{C} \quad (\text{Distributive Law})$$

$$3- \bar{A} \cdot \bar{A} = |\bar{A}|^2$$

$$4- \bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_y = \bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_z = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_x = \bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_y = \bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_z = 1$$

A direct application of dot product is its use in determining the projection (or Component) of a vector in a given direction. The projection can be scalar or vector. Given a vector  $\bar{A}$ , we define the scalar projection  $A_B$  of  $\bar{A}$  along  $\bar{B}$  as [see **Fig. 1.3a**]

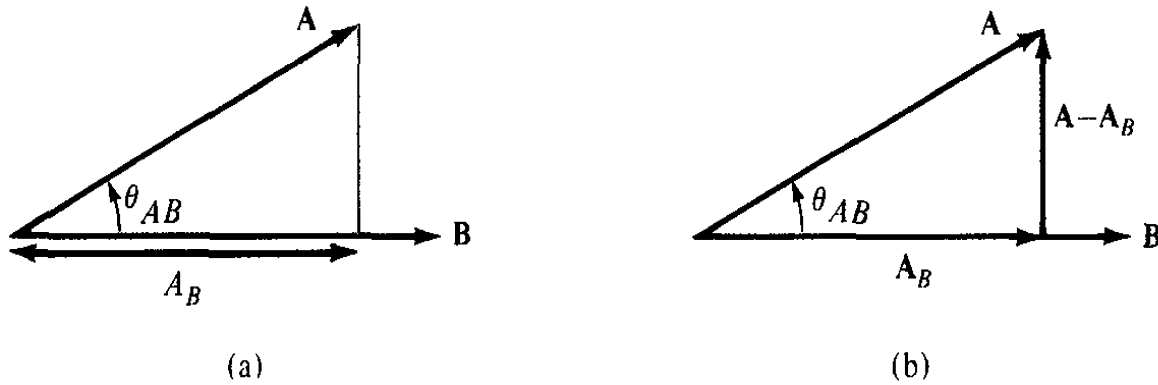
$$A_B = |\bar{A}| \cos \theta_{AB} = |\bar{A}||\bar{a}_B| \cos \theta_{AB}$$

$$\text{Or } A_B = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_B$$

The vector projection  $\bar{A}_B$  of  $\bar{A}$  along  $\bar{B}$  is simply the scalar projection  $A_B$  multiplied by a unit vector along  $\bar{B}$ ; is:

$$\bar{A}_B = A_B \bar{a}_B = (\bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_B) \bar{a}_B$$

Both the scalar and vector projections of  $\vec{A}$  are illustrated in **Fig. 1.3**.



**Fig. 1.3** Components of  $\vec{A}$  along  $\vec{B}$ : **(a)** scalar component  $A_B$  ; **(b)** vector component  $\vec{A}_B$ .

**Example 1: -**

Given vectors  $\vec{A} = 3\vec{a}_x + 4\vec{a}_y + \vec{a}_z$  and  $\vec{B} = 2\vec{a}_y - 5\vec{a}_z$  . Find: (a)  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$  ; (b)  $\theta_{AB}$  ; (c) The scalar component of  $\vec{A}$  along  $\vec{B}$  ; (d) The vector projection of  $\vec{A}$  along  $\vec{B}$  .

**Solution:**

$$(a) \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = (3\vec{a}_x + 4\vec{a}_y + \vec{a}_z) \cdot (2\vec{a}_y - 5\vec{a}_z) = 3(0) + 4(2) + 1(-5) = 3$$

$$(b) |\vec{A}| = \sqrt{9 + 16 + 1} = \sqrt{26} \quad \text{and} \quad |\vec{B}| = \sqrt{0 + 4 + 25} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}||\vec{B}| \cos \theta_{AB} \Rightarrow \cos \theta_{AB} = \frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{|\vec{A}||\vec{B}|} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{26}\sqrt{29}} = 0.1092$$

$$\therefore \theta_{AB} = \cos^{-1}(0.1092) = 83.73^\circ$$

$$(c) A_B = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{a}_B = \frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{|\vec{B}|} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{29}} = 0.557$$

$$(d) \vec{A}_B = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{a}_B) \vec{a}_B = 0.557 \vec{a}_B = 0.557 \frac{\vec{B}}{|\vec{B}|} = \frac{0.557 (2\vec{a}_y - 5\vec{a}_z)}{\sqrt{29}}$$

$$\vec{A}_B = 0.207\vec{a}_y - 0.517\vec{a}_z$$

**H.W 1:**

Decompose the vector  $\bar{A} = -2\bar{a}x + 3\bar{a}y + 5\bar{a}z$  on to vectors parallel and perpendicular to the vector  $\bar{B} = \bar{a}x - 2\bar{a}y - 2\bar{a}z$ .

**Ans.:**  $-2\bar{a}x + 4\bar{a}y + 4\bar{a}z$  ;  $-\bar{a}y + \bar{a}z$

**1.3.2 The Cross Product:**

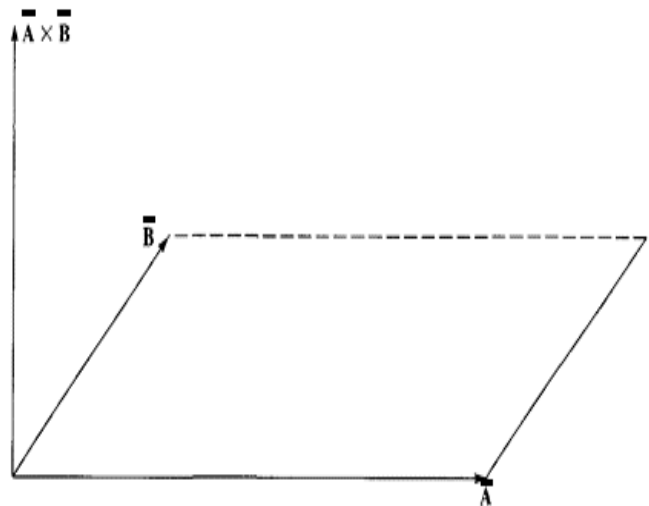
The cross product of two vectors  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$ , written as  $\bar{A} \times \bar{B}$ , is a vector quantity whose magnitude is the area of the parallelepiped formed by  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  (see **Fig. 1.4**) and is in the direction of advanced of right-handed screw as  $\bar{A}$  is turned in to  $\bar{B}$ .

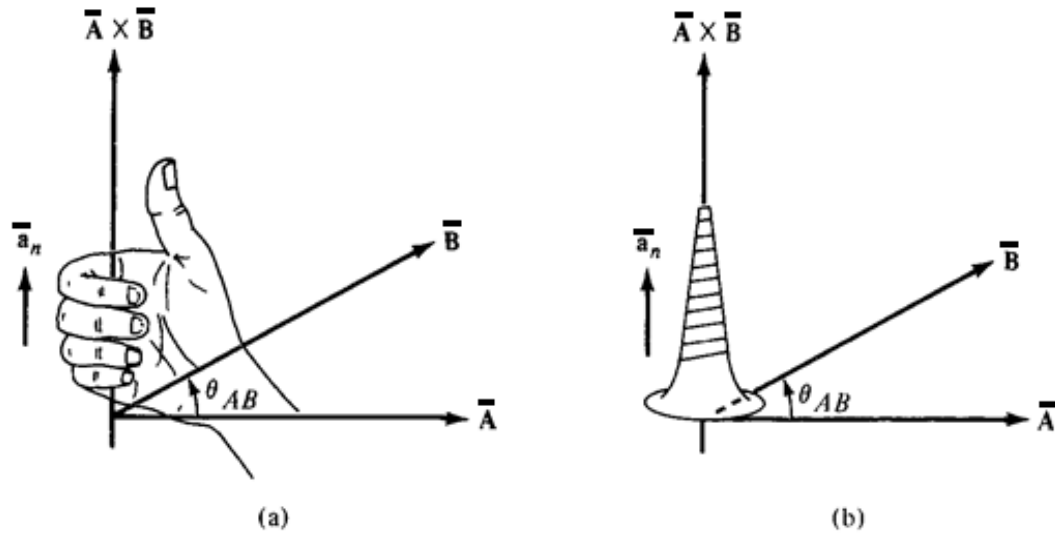
Thus:  $\bar{A} \times \bar{B} = |\bar{A}||\bar{B}| \sin \theta_{AB} \bar{a}n$

Where  $\bar{a}n$  is a unit vector normal to the plane containing  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$ . The direction of  $\bar{a}n$  is taken as the direction of the right thumb when the fingers of the right hand rotate from  $\bar{A}$  to  $\bar{B}$  as shown in **Fig. 1.5a**. Alternatively, the direction of  $\bar{a}n$  is taken as that of the advance of a right-handed screw as  $\bar{A}$  is turned into  $\bar{B}$  as shown in **Fig. 1.5b**. If  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}x + A_y \bar{a}y + A_z \bar{a}z$  and  $\bar{B} = B_x \bar{a}x + B_y \bar{a}y + B_z \bar{a}z$ , then:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{A} \times \bar{B} &= \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}x & \bar{a}y & \bar{a}z \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (A_y B_z - B_y A_z) \bar{a}x - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x) \bar{a}y + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \bar{a}z \end{aligned}$$

**Fig. 1.4** The cross product of  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  is a vector with magnitude equal to the area of the parallelogram and direction as indicated.

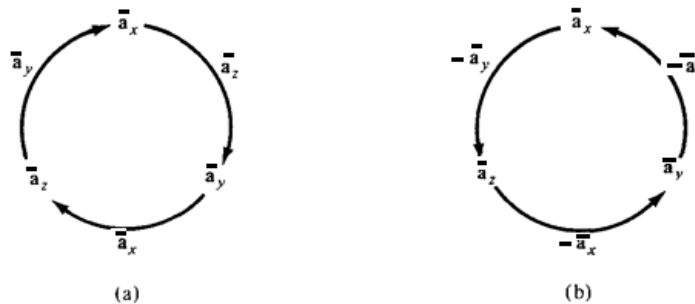




**Fig. 1.5:** Direction of  $\bar{A} \times \bar{B}$  and  $\bar{a}_n$  using: (a) right-hand rule, (b) right-handed screw rule.

**Notes:**

- 1-  $\bar{A} \times \bar{B} \neq \bar{B} \times \bar{A}$  (it is not commutative)
- $\bar{A} \times \bar{B} = -\bar{B} \times \bar{A}$  (it is anti-commutative)
- 2-  $\bar{A} \times (\bar{B} \times \bar{C}) \neq (\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \times \bar{C}$  (It is not associative)
- 3-  $\bar{A} \times (\bar{B} + \bar{C}) = \bar{A} \times \bar{B} + \bar{A} \times \bar{C}$  (It is distributive)
- 4-  $\bar{A} \times \bar{A} = 0$
- 5-  $\bar{a}_x \times \bar{a}_y = \bar{a}_z$  ;  $\bar{a}_y \times \bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_x$  ;  $\bar{a}_x \times \bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_y$
- 6-  $\bar{a}_x \times \bar{a}_x = \bar{a}_y \times \bar{a}_y = \bar{a}_z \times \bar{a}_z = 0$



**Fig. 1.6** Cross product using cyclic permutation: (a) moving clockwise leads to positive results: (b) moving counterclockwise leads to negative results.

**Example 2: -**

Points  $P_1(1,2,3)$ ,  $P_2(-5,2,0)$  and  $P_3(2,7,-3)$  form a triangle in space. Calculate (a) The area of the triangle; (b) The unit vector perpendicular to the plane containing the triangle.

**Solution:**

$$\bar{r}_{p1} = \bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y + 3\bar{a}z ; \bar{r}_{p2} = -5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y \text{ and } \bar{r}_{p3} = 2\bar{a}x + 7\bar{a}y - 3\bar{a}z$$

$$(a) \bar{r}_{p1p2} = \bar{r}_{p2} - \bar{r}_{p1} = -6\bar{a}x - 3\bar{a}z \text{ and } \bar{r}_{p1p3} = \bar{r}_{p3} - \bar{r}_{p1} = \bar{a}x + 5\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z$$

$$\bar{r}_{p1p2} \times \bar{r}_{p1p3} = \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}x & \bar{a}y & \bar{a}z \\ -6 & 0 & -3 \\ 1 & 5 & -6 \end{vmatrix} = (0 + 15)\bar{a}x - (36 + 3)\bar{a}y + (-30 - 0)\bar{a}z$$

$$\bar{r}_{p1p2} \times \bar{r}_{p1p3} = 15\bar{a}x - 39\bar{a}y - 30\bar{a}z$$

$$\text{Area of the triangle} = \frac{1}{2} |\bar{r}_{p1p2} \times \bar{r}_{p1p3}| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{15^2 + 39^2 + 30^2} = 25.72$$

$$(b) \bar{a}_n = \mp \frac{\bar{r}_{p1p2} \times \bar{r}_{p1p3}}{|\bar{r}_{p1p2} \times \bar{r}_{p1p3}|} = \mp \frac{15\bar{a}x - 39\bar{a}y - 30\bar{a}z}{51.44}$$

$$\therefore \bar{a}_n = \mp(0.291\bar{a}x - 0.758\bar{a}y - 0.583\bar{a}z)$$

**Example 3: -**

The vertices of triangle are located at  $P_1(4,1,-3)$ ,  $P_2(-2,5,4)$  and  $P_3(0,1,6)$ . Find the three angles of the triangle.

**Solution:**

$$\bar{r}_{p1} = 4\bar{a}x + \bar{a}y - 3\bar{a}z ; \bar{r}_{p2} = -2\bar{a}x + 5\bar{a}y + 4\bar{a}z \text{ and } \bar{r}_{p3} = \bar{a}y + 6\bar{a}z$$

$$\text{Let } \bar{A} = \bar{r}_{p1p2} = \bar{r}_{p2} - \bar{r}_{p1} = -6\bar{a}x + 4\bar{a}y + 7\bar{a}z$$

$$\bar{B} = \bar{r}_{p2p3} = \bar{r}_{p3} - \bar{r}_{p2} = 2\bar{a}x - 4\bar{a}y + 2\bar{a}z$$

$$\bar{C} = \bar{r}_{p3p1} = \bar{r}_{p1} - \bar{r}_{p3} = 4\bar{a}x - 9\bar{a}z$$

$$\text{Note that } \bar{A} + \bar{B} + \bar{C} = 0$$



$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = |\bar{A}||\bar{B}| \cos \alpha_1 \Rightarrow \cos \alpha_1 = \frac{\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B}}{|\bar{A}||\bar{B}|} = \frac{-12 - 16 - 14}{\sqrt{101}\sqrt{24}}$$

$$\therefore \alpha_1 = \cos^{-1} \frac{-14}{\sqrt{101}\sqrt{24}} = 106.52^\circ \Rightarrow \theta_1 = 180 - \alpha_1 = 73.48^\circ$$

$$\bar{B} \cdot \bar{C} = |\bar{B}||\bar{C}| \cos \alpha_2 \Rightarrow \cos \alpha_2 = \frac{\bar{B} \cdot \bar{C}}{|\bar{B}||\bar{C}|} = \frac{8 + 0 - 18}{\sqrt{24}\sqrt{97}}$$

$$\therefore \alpha_2 = \cos^{-1} \frac{-10}{\sqrt{24}\sqrt{97}} = 101.96^\circ \Rightarrow \theta_2 = 180 - \alpha_2 = 78.04^\circ$$

$$\bar{C} \cdot \bar{A} = |\bar{C}||\bar{A}| \cos \alpha_3 \Rightarrow \cos \alpha_3 = \frac{\bar{C} \cdot \bar{A}}{|\bar{C}||\bar{A}|} = \frac{-24 + 0 - 63}{\sqrt{97}\sqrt{101}}$$

$$\therefore \alpha_3 = \cos^{-1} \frac{-87}{\sqrt{97}\sqrt{101}} = 151.52^\circ \Rightarrow \theta_3 = 180 - \alpha_3 = 28.48^\circ$$

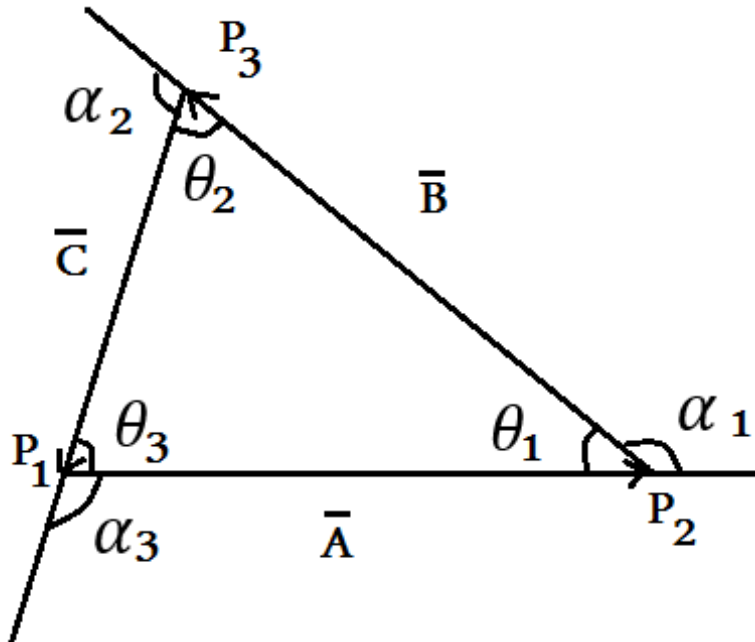


Fig. 1.7 for Example 3.

Note that  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = 180^\circ$

**H.W 2:** Show that vectors  $\bar{A} = -5\bar{a}_x - 3\bar{a}_y - 3\bar{a}_z$ ,  $\bar{B} = \bar{a}_x + 3\bar{a}_y + 4\bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{C} = 4\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_z$  form the sides of a triangle. Is this a right-angle triangle? Calculate the area of the triangle.

**Ans.:** Yes; 10.5

**H.W 3:** Show that points  $P_1(5,2,-4)$ ,  $P_2(1,1,2)$  and  $P_3(-3,0,8)$  all lie on a straight line. Determine the shortest distance between the line and point  $P_4(3,-1,0)$ .

**Ans.:** 2.426

#### 1.4 Scalar and Vector Fields:

A field is a function that specifies a particular quantity everywhere in a region. If the quantity is scalar (or vector), the field is said to be a scalar (or vector) field. Examples of scalar fields are temperature distribution in a building, sound intensity in a theater, and electric potential in a region. The gravitational force on a body in space, the velocity of raindrops in the atmosphere, and the electric field intensity are examples of vector fields.

#### Example 4: -

A vector field  $\vec{S}$  is expressed in Cartesian coordinates as:

$$\vec{S} = 125 \frac{(x-1)\vec{a}_x + (y-2)\vec{a}_y + (z+1)\vec{a}_z}{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2}$$

- (a) Evaluate  $\vec{S}$  at  $P(2,4,3)$ . (b) Determine a unit vector that gives the direction of  $\vec{S}$  at  $P$ .  
 (c) Specify the surface  $f(x,y,z)$  on which  $|\vec{S}| = 1$ .

#### **Solution:**

(a) at  $P(2,4,3)$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{S} = 125 \frac{\vec{a}_x + 2\vec{a}_y + 4\vec{a}_z}{1^2 + 2^2 + 4^2}$$

$$\therefore \vec{S} = 5.95\vec{a}_x + 11.9\vec{a}_y + 23.8\vec{a}_z$$

(b) at  $P(2,4,3)$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{a}_S = \frac{\vec{S}}{|\vec{S}|} = \frac{5.95\vec{a}_x + 11.9\vec{a}_y + 23.8\vec{a}_z}{27.277}$$

$$\therefore \vec{a}_S = 0.218\vec{a}_x + 0.436\vec{a}_y + 0.873\vec{a}_z$$

$$(c) \therefore \bar{S} = 125 \frac{(x-1)\bar{a}_x + (y-2)\bar{a}_y + (z+1)\bar{a}_z}{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2}$$

$$\therefore |\bar{S}| = \frac{125}{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2} \sqrt{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2} = 1$$

$$\therefore |\bar{S}| = \frac{125}{\sqrt{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2}} = 1$$

$$\therefore \sqrt{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+1)^2} = 125$$

**H.W 4:** Two vector field are:  $\bar{F} = -10\bar{a}_x + 20x(y-1)\bar{a}_y$  and  $\bar{G} = 2x^2y\bar{a}_x - 4\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z$ . For the point P(2,3,-4), find: (a)  $|\bar{F}|$ ; (b)  $|\bar{G}|$ ; (c) a unit vector in the direction of  $\bar{F} - \bar{G}$ ; (d) a unit vector in the direction of  $\bar{F} + \bar{G}$ .

**Ans.:** 80.6 ; 24.7 ;  $-0.37\bar{a}_x + 0.92\bar{a}_y + 0.04\bar{a}_z$  ;  $0.18\bar{a}_x + 0.98\bar{a}_y - 0.05\bar{a}_z$

## 1.5 Systems of Coordinates

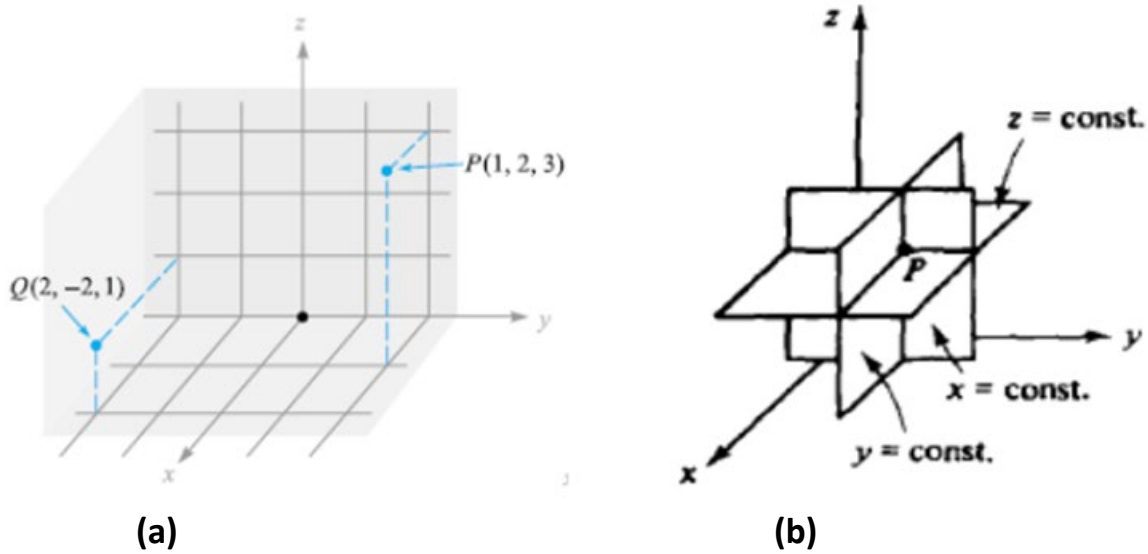
In this section, three orthogonal systems will be discussed which include: Cartesian, cylindrical, and the spherical system of coordinates.

### 1.5.1 Cartesian (Rectangular) Coordinates (x, y, z)

A point  $P(x, y, z)$  in Cartesian coordinates is located by giving its  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  coordinates. **Fig. 1.8a** shows the points P and Q whose coordinates are (1, 2, 3) and (2,-2, 1), respectively. Intersection of three mutually perpendicular planes defines a point in Cartesian coordinates, and as shown in **Fig. 1.8b**.

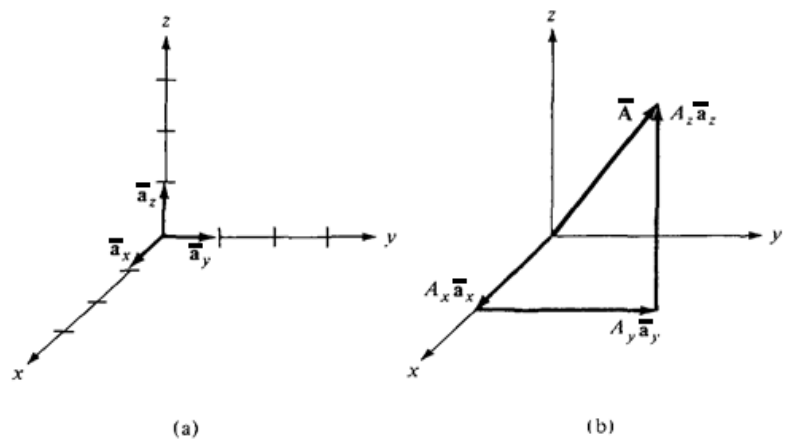
A vector  $\bar{A}$  in Cartesian coordinates may be represented as:  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z$ , and shown in **Fig. 1.9**

where  $A_x$ ,  $A_y$  and  $A_z$  are called the components of  $\bar{A}$  in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions respectively;  $\bar{a}_x$ ,  $\bar{a}_y$  and  $\bar{a}_z$  are unit vectors in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions, respectively.



**Fig. 1.8 (a)** The Location of point P and Q. **(b)** The three mutually perpendicular planes of the Cartesian coordinate system.

**Fig. 1.9 (a)** Unit vectors  $\bar{a}_x$ ,  $\bar{a}_y$ , and  $\bar{a}_z$ , **(b)** components of  $\bar{A}$  along  $\bar{a}_x$ ,  $\bar{a}_y$ , and  $\bar{a}_z$



Any vector can be written as:

$$\bar{A} = |\bar{A}| \bar{a}_A, \text{ where:}$$

$$|\bar{A}| = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2} \quad \text{The magnitude of the vector } \bar{A}$$

$$\bar{a}_A = \frac{\bar{A}}{|\bar{A}|} = \frac{A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z}{\sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}}$$

Unit vector along the vector  $\bar{A}$ .

$$|\bar{a}_A| = 1, \quad \bar{a}_A \text{ is a vector of unity magnitude.}$$

If  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{B} = B_x \bar{a}_x + B_y \bar{a}_y + B_z \bar{a}_z$ , then:

$$\blacksquare \bar{A} + \bar{B} = (A_x + B_x) \bar{a}_x + (A_y + B_y) \bar{a}_y + (A_z + B_z) \bar{a}_z$$

$$\blacksquare \bar{A} - \bar{B} = (A_x - B_x) \bar{a}_x + (A_y - B_y) \bar{a}_y + (A_z - B_z) \bar{a}_z$$

### **Position Vector:**

The position vector  $\bar{r}_p$  (or radius vector) of point P(x,y,z) is as the directed distance from the origin O to P; i. e.,

$$\bar{r}_p = \overline{OP} = x \bar{a}_x + y \bar{a}_y + z \bar{a}_z$$

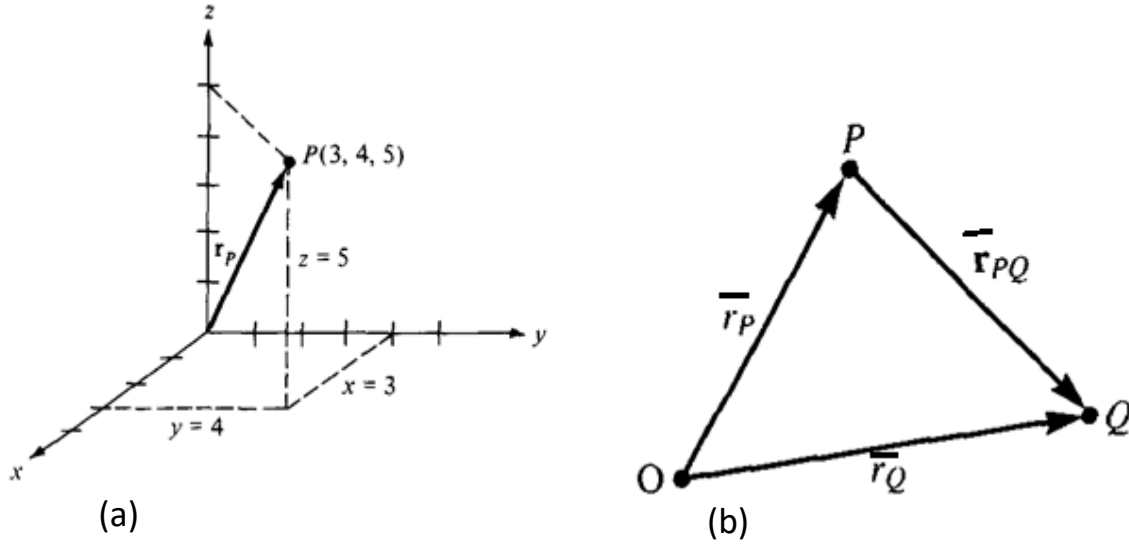
The position vector for point P is useful in defining its position in space. Point P(3,4,5), for example, and its position vector

$$\bar{r}_p = \overline{OP} = 3 \bar{a}_x + 4 \bar{a}_y + 5 \bar{a}_z, \text{ are shown in Fig. 1.10a.}$$

### **Distance Vector:**

The distance vector is the displacement from one point to another.

If two points P and Q are given by  $(x_P, y_P, z_P)$  and  $(x_Q, y_Q, z_Q)$ , the distance vector (or separation vector) is the displacement from P to Q as shown in Fig. 1.10b; that is



**Fig. 1.10** (a) Illustration of position vector  $\bar{r}_p = 3 \bar{a}_x + 4 \bar{a}_y + 5 \bar{a}_z$  (b) Distance vector  $\bar{r}_{PQ}$ .

$$\bar{r}_{PQ} = \bar{r}_Q - \bar{r}_P = (x_Q - x_P) \bar{a}_x + (y_Q - y_P) \bar{a}_y + (z_Q - z_P) \bar{a}_z$$

The distance between the points P and Q is given by:

$$d = |\bar{r}_{PQ}| = \sqrt{(x_Q - x_P)^2 + (y_Q - y_P)^2 + (z_Q - z_P)^2}$$

### **Differential Length, Area and Volume in Cartesian Coordinates:**

From **Fig. 1.11**, we notice that:

1. Differential length is given by:

$$d\bar{L} = dx \bar{a}_x + dy \bar{a}_y + dz \bar{a}_z, \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

$$dL = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2}, \quad \text{Scalar Quantity}$$

2. Differential normal area is given by:

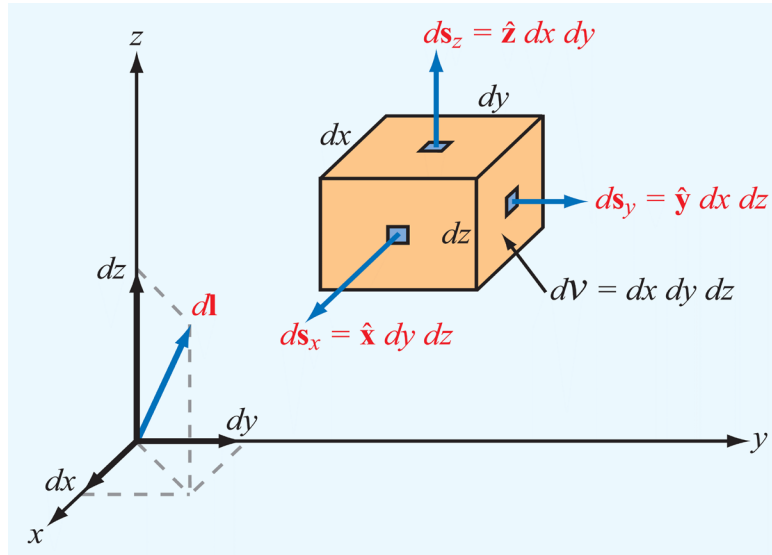
$$d\bar{s} = dy dz \bar{a}_x$$

$$= dx dz \bar{a}_y, \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

$$= dx dy \bar{a}_z$$

3. Differential volume is given by:

$$dV = dx dy dz, \quad \text{Scalar Quantity}$$



**Fig. 1.11** Differential length, area, and volume in Cartesian coordinates.

**Example 5:** - Given the points M(2, -1,1) and T(-4, -2,6). Find: (a) the position vector for point M and T; (b) a unit vector from M to T; (c) the distance from M to T.

**Solution:**

(a)  $\bar{r}_M = 2 \bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + \bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{r}_T = -4 \bar{a}_x - 2 \bar{a}_y + 6 \bar{a}_z$

(b) The vector from M to T is given by:

$$\bar{r}_{MT} = \bar{r}_T - \bar{r}_M = (-4 - 2)\bar{a}_x + (-2 - (-1))\bar{a}_y + (6 - 1)\bar{a}_z = -6 \bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5 \bar{a}_z$$

$$\therefore \bar{a}_{r_{MT}} = \frac{\bar{r}_{MT}}{|\bar{r}_{MT}|} = \frac{-6 \bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5 \bar{a}_z}{\sqrt{(-6)^2 + (-1)^2 + (5)^2}} = \frac{-6 \bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5 \bar{a}_z}{\sqrt{62}}$$

$$\therefore \bar{a}_{r_{MT}} = -0.762 \bar{a}_x - 0.127 \bar{a}_y + 0.635 \bar{a}_z$$

(c) The distance from M to T is given by:

$$d = |\bar{r}_{MT}| = \sqrt{62} = 7.874 \text{ [m]}$$

**Example 6:** - Given vectors  $\bar{A} = \bar{a}x + 3\bar{a}z$  and  $\bar{B} = 5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z$ , determine:

- (a)  $|\bar{A} + \bar{B}|$ ; (b)  $5\bar{A} - \bar{B}$ ; (c) The component of  $\bar{A}$  along  $\bar{a}y$ ; (d) A unit vector along  $3\bar{A} + \bar{B}$ .

**Solution:**

$$(a) \bar{A} + \bar{B} = (\bar{a}x + 3\bar{a}z) + (5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z) = 6\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 3\bar{a}z$$

$$\therefore |\bar{A} + \bar{B}| = \sqrt{6^2 + 2^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{36 + 4 + 9} = 7$$

$$(b) 5\bar{A} - \bar{B} = 5(\bar{a}x + 3\bar{a}z) - (5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z) \\ = (5\bar{a}x + 15\bar{a}z) - (5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z)$$

$$\therefore 5\bar{A} - \bar{B} = -2\bar{a}y + 21\bar{a}z$$

$$(c) \text{The component of } \bar{A} \text{ along } \bar{a}y \text{ is } A_y = 0$$

$$(d) \text{Let } \bar{C} = 3\bar{A} + \bar{B} = 3(\bar{a}x + 3\bar{a}z) + (5\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z) = 8\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y + 3\bar{a}z$$

$$\bar{a}_c = \frac{\bar{C}}{|\bar{C}|} = \frac{8\bar{a}x + 2\bar{a}y + 3\bar{a}z}{\sqrt{64 + 4 + 9}} = 0.9117\bar{a}x + 0.2279\bar{a}y + 0.3419\bar{a}z$$

**H.W 5:** Given points M(-1,2,1), N(3,-3,0) and P(-2,-3,-4), find:

$$(a) \bar{r}_{MN}; (b) \bar{r}_{MN} + \bar{r}_{MP}; (c) |\bar{r}_M|; (d) \bar{a}_{r_{MP}}; (e) |2\bar{r}_P - 3\bar{r}_N|.$$

$$\text{Ans.: } 4\bar{a}x - 5\bar{a}y - \bar{a}z; 3\bar{a}x - 10\bar{a}y - 6\bar{a}z; 2.45; -0.14\bar{a}x - 0.7\bar{a}y - 0.7\bar{a}z; 15.56$$

**H.W 6:** Express the unit vector directed toward the point P(1,-2,3) from an arbitrary point on the line described by  $x = -3, y = 1$ .

$$\text{Ans.: } \frac{4\bar{a}x - 3\bar{a}y + (3 - z)\bar{a}z}{\sqrt{25 + (3 - z)^2}}$$

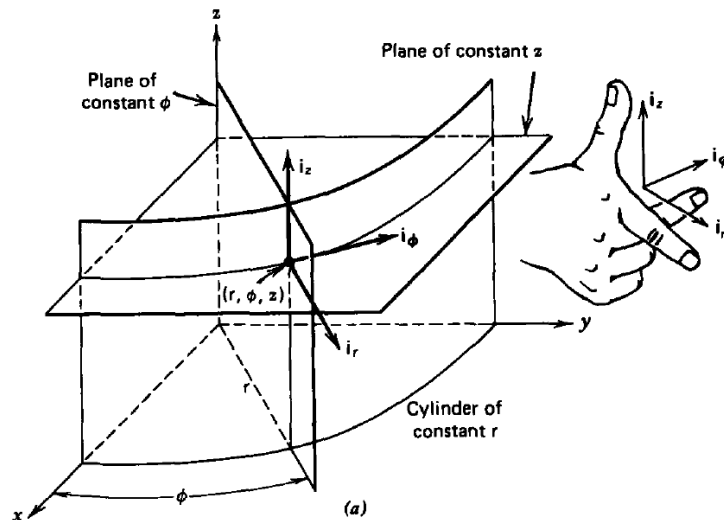


### 1.5.2 Circular Cylindrical Coordinates:

The circular cylindrical coordinates system is very convenient whenever we are dealing with problems having cylindrical symmetry. A point  $P$  in cylindrical coordinates is represented as  $(r, \phi, z)$  and is as shown in **Fig. 1.12**.  $r$  is the radius of the cylinder passing through  $P$  or the radial distance from the  $z$ -axis;  $\phi$  is the angle measured from the  $x$ -axis in the  $xy$ -plane; and  $z$  is the same as in the Cartesian system. The ranges of the variables are:

$$0 \leq r \leq \infty, 0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi, -\infty \leq z \leq \infty$$

Intersection of three surfaces defined by  $r = \text{constant}$ ,  $\phi = \text{constant}$  and  $z = \text{constant}$  is also a point in cylindrical coordinates, and is as shown in **Fig. 1.12**.



**Fig. 1.12** Cylindrical coordinate system.

A vector  $\bar{A}$  in cylindrical coordinates can be written as  $\bar{A} = A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z$

where  $\bar{a}_r$ ,  $\bar{a}_\phi$  and  $\bar{a}_z$  are unit vectors in the  $r$ -,  $\phi$ - and  $z$ -directions.

The magnitude of  $\bar{A}$  is:

$$|\bar{A}| = \sqrt{A_r^2 + A_\phi^2 + A_z^2}$$

Notice that the unit vectors  $\bar{a}_r$ ,  $\bar{a}_\phi$  and  $\bar{a}_z$  are mutually perpendicular because our coordinates system is orthogonal;  $\bar{a}_r$  points in the direction of increasing  $r$ ,  $\bar{a}_\phi$  points in the direction of increasing  $\phi$ , and  $\bar{a}_z$  in the positive  $z$ -direction. Thus,

$$\bar{a}_r \cdot \bar{a}_r = \bar{a}_\phi \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_z = 1$$

$$\bar{a}_r \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_\phi \cdot \bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_r = 0$$

$$\bar{a}_r \times \bar{a}_r = \bar{a}_\phi \times \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_z \times \bar{a}_z = 0$$

$\bar{a}_r \times \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_z$ ;  $\bar{a}_\phi \times \bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_r$ ;  $\bar{a}_z \times \bar{a}_r = \bar{a}_\phi$ , see **Fig. 1.6** with replacing  $(\bar{a}_x, \bar{a}_y, \bar{a}_z)$  with  $(\bar{a}_r, \bar{a}_\phi, \bar{a}_z)$

If  $\bar{A} = A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{B} = B_r \bar{a}_r + B_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + B_z \bar{a}_z$ , then:

$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = A_r B_r + A_\phi B_\phi + A_z B_z$$

And

$$\bar{A} \times \bar{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_r & \bar{a}_\phi & \bar{a}_z \\ A_r & A_\phi & A_z \\ B_r & B_\phi & B_z \end{vmatrix}$$

### **Differential Length, Area, and Volume in Cylindrical Coordinates:**

From **Fig. 1.13**, we notice that:

(1) Differential length is given by:

$$d\bar{L} = dr \bar{a}_r + r d\phi \bar{a}_\phi + dz \bar{a}_z, \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

$$dL = \sqrt{dr^2 + (rd\phi)^2 + dz^2}, \quad \text{Scalar Quantity}$$

(2) Differential normal area is given by:

$$d\bar{s} = r d\phi dz \bar{a}_r$$

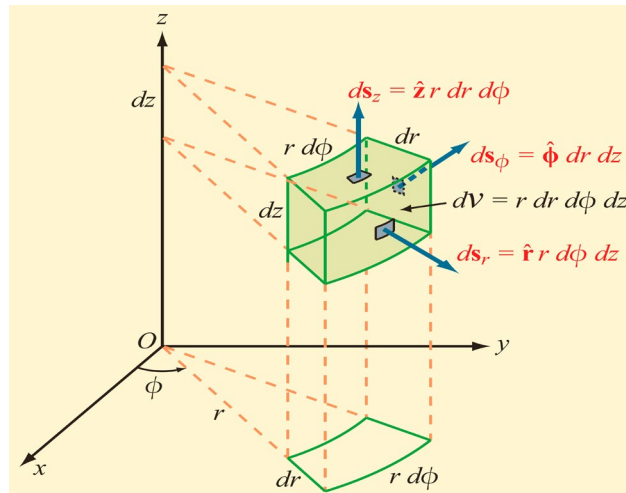
$$= dr dz \bar{a}_\phi,$$

$$= r dr d\phi \bar{a}_z \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

(3) Differential volume is given by:

$$dV = r dr d\phi dz ,$$

Scalar Quantity



**Fig. 1.13** Differential quantities in the cylindrical system.

The relationship between the variables  $(x, y, z)$  of the Cartesian coordinates and those of the cylindrical system  $(r, \phi, z)$  are illustrated in Fig. 1.14, and given by:

1- **From Cartesian To Cylindrical:**

$$x = r \cos \phi$$

$$y = r \sin \phi$$

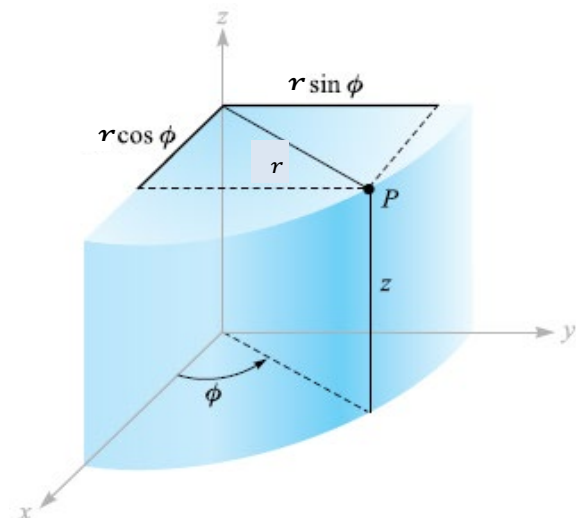
$$z = z$$

2- **From Cylindrical To Cartesian:**

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}$$

$$z = z$$



**Fig. 1.14** The relationship between  $(x, y, z)$  and  $(r, \phi, z)$ .

The dot product between  $(\bar{a}_x, \bar{a}_y, \bar{a}_z)$  and  $(\bar{a}_r, \bar{a}_\phi, \bar{a}_z)$  are obtained geometrically from **Fig. 1.15:**

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_r = \cos \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = -\cos(90^\circ - \phi) = -\sin \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_z = 0$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_r = \cos(90^\circ - \phi) = \sin \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = \cos \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_z = 0$$

Thus:

$$\bar{a}_x = \cos \phi \bar{a}_r - \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y = \sin \phi \bar{a}_r + \cos \phi \bar{a}_\phi$$

$$\bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_z$$

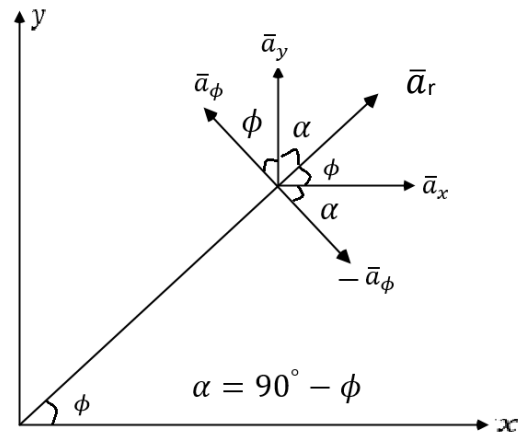
$$\alpha = 90^\circ - \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_r = \cos \phi \bar{a}_x + \sin \phi \bar{a}_y$$

$$\bar{a}_\phi = -\sin \phi \bar{a}_x + \cos \phi \bar{a}_y$$

$$\bar{a}_z = \bar{a}_z$$

**Fig. 1.15** Relationship between unit vectors of Cartesian and cylindrical coordinates.



The vector  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z$  can be transformed into cylindrical coordinates as:

$$A_r = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_r = (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_r = A_x \cos \phi + A_y \sin \phi$$

$$A_\phi = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = -A_x \sin \phi + A_y \cos \phi$$

$$A_z = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_z = (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_z = A_z$$

The vector  $\bar{A} = A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z$  can be transformed into Cartesian coordinates as:

$$A_x = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_x = (A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_x = A_r \cos \phi - A_\phi \sin \phi$$

$$A_y = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_y = (A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_y = A_r \sin \phi + A_\phi \cos \phi$$

$$A_z = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_z = (A_r \bar{a}_r + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_z = A_z$$

**Example 7: -**

- (a) Transform the vector  $\bar{B} = y\bar{a}_x - x\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z$  into cylindrical coordinates.  
 (b) Express the vector field  $\bar{S} = \cos \phi \bar{a}_r + \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi$  in Cartesian coordinates.  
 (c) Find at P(1, 2, -2) the vector projection of  $\bar{B}$  in the direction of  $\bar{S}$ .

**Solution:**

$$(a) B_r = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_r = (y\bar{a}_x - x\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_r = y \cos \phi - x \sin \phi$$

$$\therefore x = r \cos \phi \text{ and } y = r \sin \phi$$

$$B_r = r \sin \phi \cos \phi - r \cos \phi \sin \phi = 0$$

$$B_\phi = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = (y\bar{a}_x - x\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = -y \sin \phi - x \cos \phi$$

$$\therefore B_\phi = -r \sin^2 \phi - r \cos^2 \phi = -r$$

$$B_z = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_z = (y\bar{a}_x - x\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_z = z$$

$$\therefore \bar{B} = -r \bar{a}_\phi + z \bar{a}_z \text{ in cylindrical coordinates}$$

$$(b) S_x = \bar{S} \cdot \bar{a}_x = (\cos \phi \bar{a}_r + \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_x = \cos^2 \phi - \sin^2 \phi$$

$$\therefore \cos \phi = \frac{x}{r} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}, \quad \sin \phi = \frac{y}{r} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

$$\therefore S_x = \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{y^2}{x^2 + y^2} = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$S_y = \bar{S} \cdot \bar{a}_y = (\cos \phi \bar{a}_r + \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_y = \cos \phi \sin \phi + \sin \phi \cos \phi = 2 \cos \phi \sin \phi$$

$$\therefore S_y = 2 \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} = \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$S_z = \bar{S} \cdot \bar{a}_z = (\cos \phi \bar{a}_r + \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_z = 0$$

$$\bar{S} = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \bar{a}_x + \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2} \bar{a}_y \quad \text{in Cartesian Coordinates}$$

$$(c) \quad \therefore \bar{B} = y\bar{a}_x - x\bar{a}_y + z\bar{a}_z$$

$$\therefore \bar{B} = 2\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y - 2\bar{a}_z$$

$$\therefore \bar{S} = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \bar{a}_x + \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2} \bar{a}_y$$

$$\therefore \bar{S} = \frac{1 - 4}{1 + 4} \bar{a}_x + \frac{2(1)(2)}{1 + 4} \bar{a}_y = -0.6\bar{a}_x + 0.8\bar{a}_y$$

$$\therefore \bar{B}_s = (\bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_s) \bar{a}_s = \frac{\bar{B} \cdot \bar{S}}{|\bar{S}|^2} \bar{S}$$

$$\therefore \bar{B}_s = \frac{(2\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y - 2\bar{a}_z) \cdot (-0.6\bar{a}_x + 0.8\bar{a}_y)}{(0.6^2 + 0.8^2)} (-0.6\bar{a}_x + 0.8\bar{a}_y)$$

$$\therefore \bar{B}_s = \frac{-1.2 - 0.8}{1} (-0.6\bar{a}_x + 0.8\bar{a}_y) = 1.2\bar{a}_x + 1.6\bar{a}_y$$

**H.W 7:** Transform

$$\bar{A} = \frac{-xy\bar{a}_x + x^2\bar{a}_y + y^2\bar{a}_z}{x^2 + y^2} \quad \text{from Cartesian to cylindrical coordinates.}$$

$$\text{Ans.: } \bar{A} = \cos \phi \bar{a}_\phi + \sin^2 \phi \bar{a}_z$$

**H.W 8:** Express the field  $\bar{E} = \sin \phi \bar{a}_r + \cos^2 \phi \bar{a}_z$  In Cartesian coordinates.

$$\text{Ans.: } \bar{E} = \frac{xy\bar{a}_x + y^2\bar{a}_y + x^2\bar{a}_z}{x^2 + y^2}$$

**H.W 9:** Decompose the vector  $\bar{A} = 2\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5\bar{a}_z$  into vectors parallel and perpendicular to the cylinder  $r = 1$  at point P(1,30°, 0).

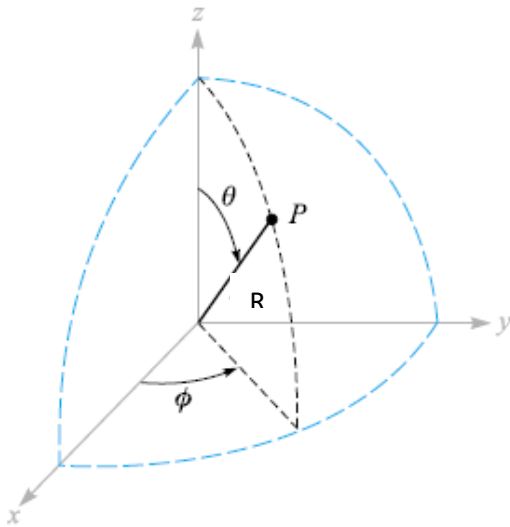
$$\text{Ans.: } \bar{A}_T = -1.866\bar{a}_\phi + 5\bar{a}_z \text{ and } \bar{A}_N = 1.232\bar{a}_r$$

### 1.5.3 Spherical Coordinates System:

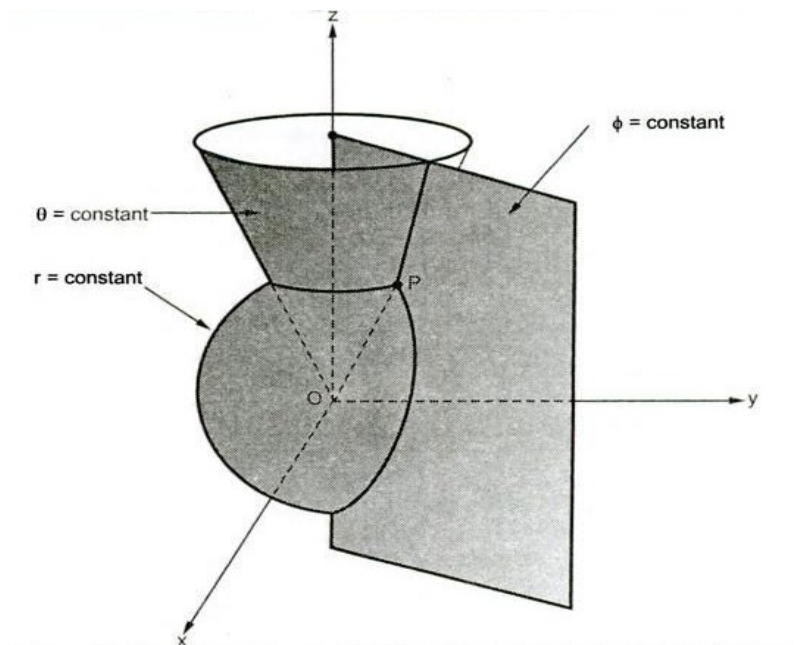
The spherical coordinates system is most appropriate when dealing with problems having of spherical symmetry. A point  $P$  can be represented as  $P(r, \theta, \phi)$  and illustrated in **Fig. 1.16a**,  $R$  is defined as the distance from the origin to point  $P$  or the radius of sphere centered at the origin and passing through  $P$ ;  $\theta$  is the angle between the  $z$ -axis and the position vector of  $P$ ;  $\phi$  is measured from the  $x$ -axis ( $\phi$  is the same as in the cylindrical coordinates). According to these definitions, the ranges of the variables are:

$$0 \leq R \leq \infty, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi, 0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$$

Intersection of three orthogonal surfaces defined by  $R = \text{constant}$ ,  $\theta = \text{constant}$  and  $\phi = \text{constant}$  is also a point in spherical coordinates, and is shown in **Fig. 1.16b**.



**Fig. 1.16 (a)** The three spherical coordinates.



**Fig. 1.16 (b)** Point  $P$  as intersection of three surfaces.

A vector  $\bar{A}$  in spherical coordinates can be written as:

$$\bar{A} = A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi$$

where  $\bar{a}_R$ ,  $\bar{a}_\theta$ ,  $\bar{a}_\phi$  are unit vectors along the  $R$ -,  $\theta$ -, and  $\phi$ - directions as illustrated in Fig. 1.17 the magnitude of  $\bar{A}$  is:

$$|\bar{A}| = \sqrt{A_R^2 + A_\theta^2 + A_\phi^2}$$

The unit vectors  $\bar{a}_R$ ,  $\bar{a}_\theta$  and  $\bar{a}_\phi$  are mutually orthogonal;  $\bar{a}_r$  being directed along the radius or points in the direction of increasing  $r$ ,  $\bar{a}_\theta$  points in the direction of increasing  $\theta$ , and  $\bar{a}_\phi$  in the direction of increasing  $\phi$ . Thus,

$$\bar{a}_R \cdot \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_\theta \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_\phi \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = 1$$

$$\bar{a}_R \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_\theta \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_\phi \cdot \bar{a}_R = 0$$

$$\bar{a}_R \times \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_\theta \times \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_\phi \times \bar{a}_\phi = 0$$

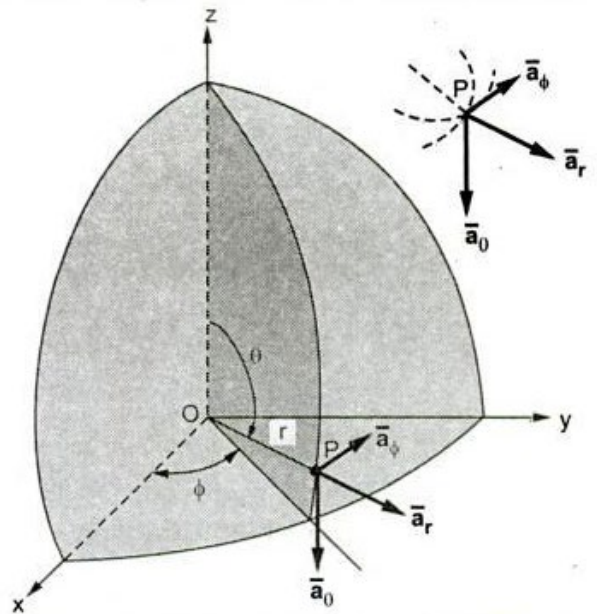
$\bar{a}_R \times \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_\phi$ ;  $\bar{a}_\theta \times \bar{a}_\phi = \bar{a}_R$ ;  $\bar{a}_\phi \times \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_\theta$ , see Fig. 1.12 with replacing  $(\bar{a}_x, \bar{a}_y, \bar{a}_z)$  with  $(\bar{a}_R, \bar{a}_\theta, \bar{a}_\phi)$ .

If  $\bar{A} = A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi$  and  $\bar{B} = B_R \bar{a}_R + B_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + B_\phi \bar{a}_\phi$ , then:

$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = A_R B_R + A_\theta B_\theta + A_\phi B_\phi$$

and

$$\bar{A} \times \bar{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_R & \bar{a}_\theta & \bar{a}_\phi \\ A_R & A_\theta & A_\phi \\ B_R & B_\theta & B_\phi \end{vmatrix}$$



**Fig. 1.17** The three unit vectors for spherical coordinates.



**Differential Length, Area, and Volume in Cylindrical Coordinates:**

From Fig. 1.18, we notice that:

(1) Differential length is given by:

$$d\bar{L} = dR \bar{a}_R + R d\theta \bar{a}_\theta + R \sin \theta d\phi \bar{a}_\phi, \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

$$dL = \sqrt{dR^2 + (Rd\theta)^2 + (R \sin \theta d\phi)^2}, \quad \text{Scalar Quantity}$$

(2) Differential normal area is given by (Fig.1.19):

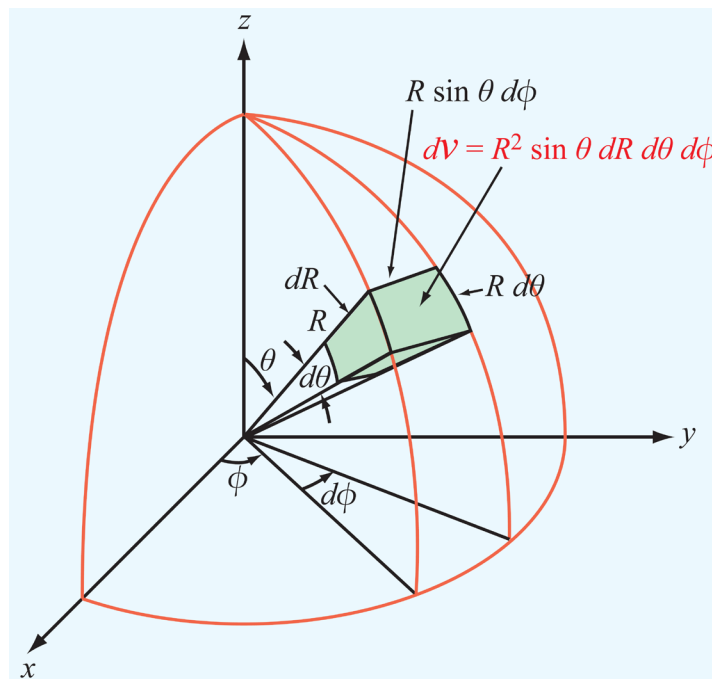
$$d\bar{s} = R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \bar{a}_r$$

$$= R \sin \theta dR d\phi \bar{a}_\theta, \quad \text{Vector Quantity}$$

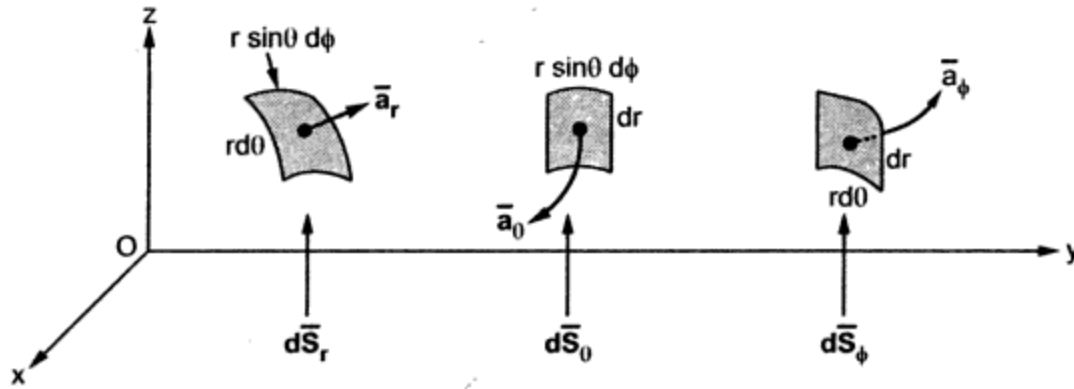
$$= R dR d\theta \bar{a}_\phi$$

(3) Differential volume is given by:

$$dV = R^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi, \quad \text{Scalar Quantity}$$



**Fig. 1.18** Differential elements in spherical coordinates.



**Fig. 1.19** Differential normal areas in spherical coordinates.

The space variables  $(x, y, z)$  of the Cartesian coordinates can be related to variables  $(R, \theta, \phi)$  of a spherical coordinates system. From Fig. 1.20, it is easy to notice that:

### 1- From Cartesian To Spherical:

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

$$y = R \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

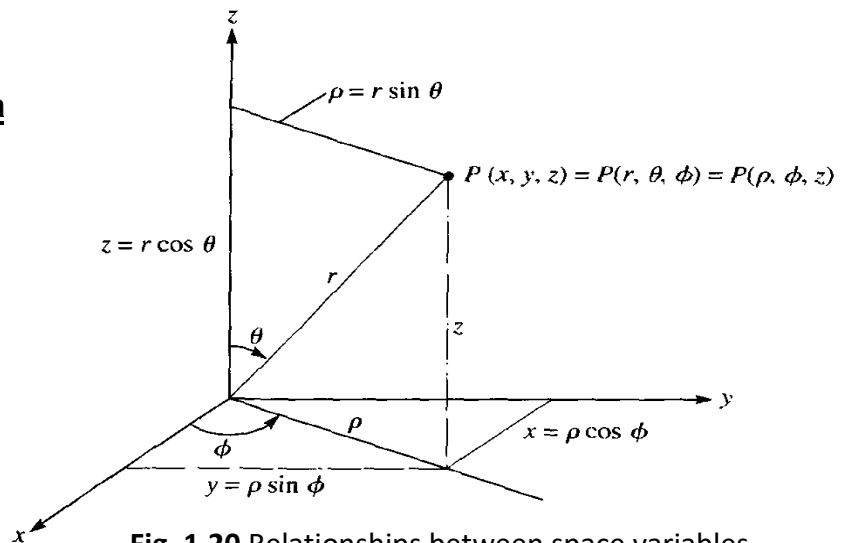
$$z = R \cos \theta$$

### 2- From Spherical To Cartesian

$$R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

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

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}$$



**Fig. 1.20** Relationships between space variables  $(x, y, z)$  and  $(r, \theta, \phi)$ .

The dot product between  $(\bar{a}_x, \bar{a}_y, \bar{a}_z)$  and  $(\bar{a}_R, \bar{a}_\theta, \bar{a}_\phi)$  are obtained geometrically from **Fig. 1.21**:

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_x \cdot (\cos(90 - \theta)\bar{a}_r + \cos \theta \bar{a}_z) = \bar{a}_x \cdot (\sin \theta \bar{a}_r + \cos \theta \bar{a}_z) = \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_x \cdot (\cos \theta \bar{a}_r - \cos(90 - \theta) \bar{a}_z) = \bar{a}_x \cdot (\cos \theta \bar{a}_r - \sin \theta \bar{a}_z) = \cos \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_x \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = -\sin \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_y \cdot (\sin \theta \bar{a}_r + \cos \theta \bar{a}_z) = \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_y \cdot (\cos \theta \bar{a}_r - \sin \theta \bar{a}_z) = \cos \theta \sin \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_y \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = \cos \phi$$

$$\bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_R = \bar{a}_z \cdot (\sin \theta \bar{a}_r + \cos \theta \bar{a}_z) = \cos \theta$$

$$\bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = \bar{a}_z \cdot (\cos \theta \bar{a}_r - \sin \theta \bar{a}_z) = -\sin \theta$$

$$\bar{a}_z \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = 0$$

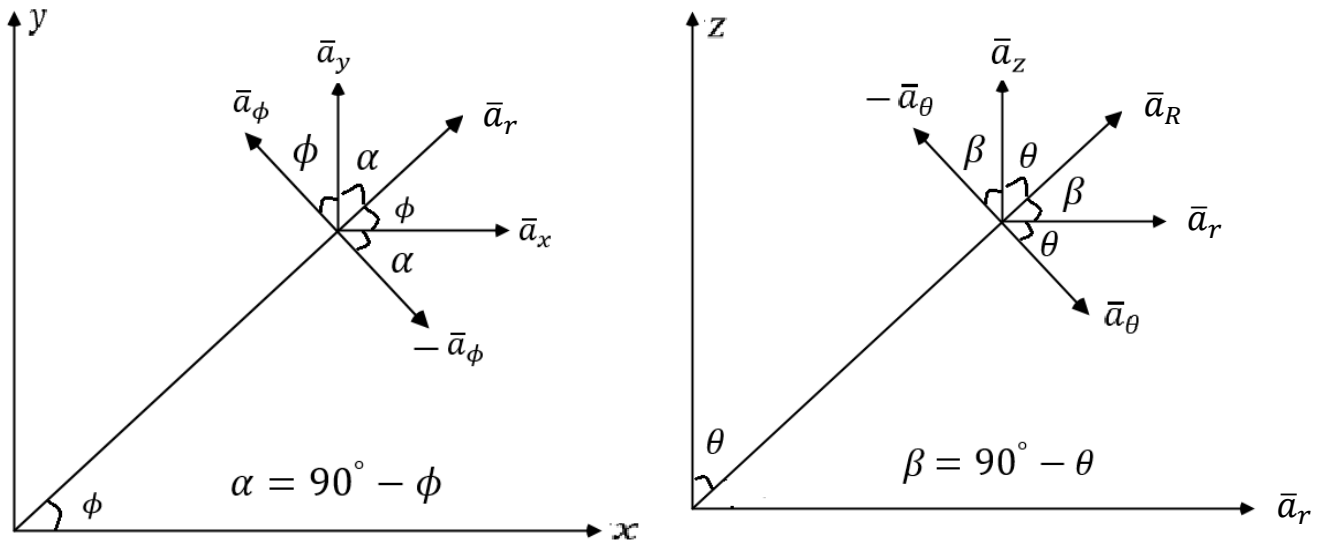


Fig. 1.21 Relationship between the unit vectors of three coordinate systems.

The vector  $\bar{A} = A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z$  can be transformed into spherical coordinates as:

$$\begin{aligned} A_R = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_R &= (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_R \\ &= A_x \sin \theta \cos \phi + A_y \sin \theta \sin \phi + A_z \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_\theta = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_\theta &= (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_\theta \\ &= A_x \cos \theta \cos \phi + A_y \cos \theta \sin \phi - A_z \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$A_\phi = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = (A_x \bar{a}_x + A_y \bar{a}_y + A_z \bar{a}_z) \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = -A_x \sin \phi + A_y \cos \phi$$

The vector  $\bar{A} = A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi$  can be transformed into Cartesian coordinates as:

$$\begin{aligned} A_x = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_x &= (A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_x \\ &= A_R \sin \theta \cos \phi + A_\theta \cos \theta \cos \phi - A_\phi \sin \phi \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_y = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_y &= (A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_y \\ &= A_R \sin \theta \sin \phi + A_\theta \cos \theta \sin \phi + A_\phi \cos \phi \end{aligned}$$

$$A_z = \bar{A} \cdot \bar{a}_z = (A_R \bar{a}_R + A_\theta \bar{a}_\theta + A_\phi \bar{a}_\phi) \cdot \bar{a}_z = A_R \cos \theta - A_\theta \sin \theta$$

**Example 8: -**

A vector field is given by:

$$\bar{D} = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} [(x - y)\bar{a}_x + (x + y)\bar{a}_y]$$

Express this field in spherical coordinates.

**Solution:**

$$R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \quad r = R \sin \theta = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$x = R \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad y = R \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \bar{D} &= \frac{R}{R \sin \theta} [(R \sin \theta \cos \phi - R \sin \theta \sin \phi)\bar{a}_x \\ &\quad + (R \sin \theta \cos \phi + R \sin \theta \sin \phi)\bar{a}_y] \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \bar{D} = R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi)\bar{a}_x + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi)\bar{a}_y]$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_r = \bar{D} \cdot \bar{a}_R &= R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi)\bar{a}_x + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi)\bar{a}_y] \cdot \bar{a}_R \\ &= R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi) \sin \theta \cos \phi + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi) \sin \theta \sin \phi] \\ &= R \sin \theta [\cos^2 \phi - \sin \phi \cos \phi + \cos \phi \sin \phi + \sin^2 \phi] = R \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore D_r = R \sin \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D_\theta &= \bar{D} \cdot \bar{a}_\theta = R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi)\bar{a}_x + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi)\bar{a}_y] \cdot \bar{a}_\theta \\
&= R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi) \cos \theta \cos \phi + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi) \cos \theta \sin \phi] \\
&= R \cos \theta [\cos^2 \phi - \sin \phi \cos \phi + \cos \phi \sin \phi + \sin^2 \phi] = R \cos \theta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore D_\theta = R \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D_\phi &= \bar{D} \cdot \bar{a}_\phi = R[(\cos \phi - \sin \phi)\bar{a}_x + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi)\bar{a}_y] \cdot \bar{a}_\phi \\
&= R[-(\cos \phi - \sin \phi) \sin \phi + (\cos \phi + \sin \phi) \cos \phi] \\
&= R[-\cos \phi \sin \phi + \sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi + \sin \phi \cos \phi] = R
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore D_\phi = R$$

$$\therefore \bar{D} = R \sin \theta \bar{a}_R + R \cos \theta \bar{a}_\theta + R \bar{a}_\phi$$

### **Example 9:** -

Given vectors  $\bar{A} = 2\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5\bar{a}_z$  and  $\bar{B} = 4\bar{a}_\theta$ , find the angle between  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  at  $P(1, 15^\circ, 50^\circ)$ .

### **Solution:**

$$B_x = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_x = 4\bar{a}_\theta \cdot \bar{a}_x = 4 \cos \theta \cos \phi$$

$$B_y = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_y = 4\bar{a}_\theta \cdot \bar{a}_y = 4 \cos \theta \sin \phi$$

$$B_z = \bar{B} \cdot \bar{a}_z = 4\bar{a}_\theta \cdot \bar{a}_z = -4 \sin \theta$$

$$\therefore \bar{B} = 4 \cos \theta \cos \phi \bar{a}_x + 4 \cos \theta \sin \phi \bar{a}_y - 4 \sin \theta \bar{a}_z$$

At  $P(1, 15^\circ, 50^\circ)$ ,

$$\bar{B} = 2.4835\bar{a}_x + 2.9597\bar{a}_y - 1.0352 \bar{a}_z$$

$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = (2\bar{a}_x - \bar{a}_y + 5\bar{a}_z) \cdot (2.4835\bar{a}_x + 2.9597\bar{a}_y - 1.0352 \bar{a}_z) = -3.1687$$

$$|\bar{A}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 5^2} = 5.4772 \text{ and } |\bar{B}| = 4$$

$$\therefore \bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} = |\bar{A}| |\bar{B}| \cos \theta_{AB}$$

$$\therefore \theta_{AB} = \cos^{-1} \left[ \frac{\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B}}{|\bar{A}| |\bar{B}|} \right] = \cos^{-1} \left[ \frac{-3.1687}{5.4772 * 4} \right] = \cos^{-1}[-0.1446]$$

$$\therefore \theta_{AB} = 98.31^\circ$$

**Example 10: -**

A spherical region is defined by:  $1 \leq R \leq 3$ ,  $15^\circ \leq \theta \leq 60^\circ$ , and  $10^\circ \leq \phi \leq 80^\circ$

Find the volume V.

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \iiint_v dv = \int_{\phi=10^\circ}^{80^\circ} \int_{\theta=15^\circ}^{60^\circ} \int_{r=1}^3 R^2 \sin \theta dR d\theta d\phi = \int_{\phi=10^\circ}^{80^\circ} \int_{\theta=15^\circ}^{60^\circ} \left( \frac{r^3}{3} \right)_1^3 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \\ &= \int_{\phi=10^\circ}^{80^\circ} \int_{\theta=15^\circ}^{60^\circ} \frac{26}{3} \sin \theta d\theta d\phi = \int_{\phi=10^\circ}^{80^\circ} \frac{26}{3} (-\cos \theta)_{15^\circ}^{60^\circ} d\phi = 4.038 \int_{\phi=10^\circ}^{80^\circ} d\phi \\ &= 4.038 (\phi)_{10^\circ}^{80^\circ} = 4.038 (80 - 10) * \frac{\pi}{180} = 4.9333 \text{ Unit}^3 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 11: -**

Find the area of the surface defined by:

$$\theta = 45^\circ, \quad 3 \leq R \leq 5, \quad \text{and} \quad 0.1\pi \leq \phi \leq \pi$$

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \iint_s ds = \int_{\phi=0.1\pi}^{\pi} \int_{r=3}^5 (dR)(R \sin \theta d\phi) = \int_{\phi=0.1\pi}^{\pi} \int_{r=3}^5 R \sin 45^\circ dr d\phi = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{R^2}{2} \right)_3^5 (\phi)_{0.1\pi}^{\pi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{25 - 9}{2} \right) (0.9\pi) = 15.9943 \text{ Unit}^2 \end{aligned}$$

**H.W 10:** Find the angle between vector  $\bar{A} = \bar{a}_x + 3\bar{a}_y + 2\bar{a}_z$  and the sphere  $R = 1$  at the point  $P(1, 20^\circ, 30^\circ)$ .

**Ans.:**  $45^\circ.93$

**H.W 11:** Prove that the field  $\bar{A} = \sin \theta \bar{a}_\theta$  in Cartesian coordinates is given by:

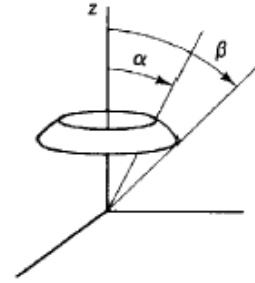
$$\bar{A} = \frac{xz\bar{a}_x + yz\bar{a}_y - (x^2 + y^2)\bar{a}_z}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

**H.W 12:** Obtain the expression for the volume of a sphere of radius  $a$  [m] from the differential volume.

**Ans.:**  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi a^3$

**H.W 13:** Use the spherical coordinates system to find the area of the strip  $\alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta$  on the spherical shell of radius  $a$  [m] (Figure below). What results when  $\alpha = 0$ , and  $\beta = \pi$ .

**Ans.:**  $2\pi a^2 (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)$  and  $4\pi a^2$



## 1.6 Integration of Vector Functions:

### 1.6.1 *Line Integral:*

Consider a vector field  $\bar{A}$  as shown in **Fig. 1.22** and an arbitrary path  $C$ . The line integral of the vector  $\bar{A}$  over the path  $C$  is written as:

$$Q = \int_c \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{l} = \int_c |\bar{A}| |d\bar{l}| \cos \theta_{\bar{A}, d\bar{l}}$$

$$\int_{p_1}^{p_2} \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{l} = \int_{p_1}^{p_2} |A| |d\bar{l}| \cos \theta_{\bar{A}, d\bar{l}}$$

*closed contour integral or a loop integral*

$$\int_c \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{l} = \int_c |\bar{A}| |d\bar{l}| \cos \theta_{\bar{A}, d\bar{l}}$$

$$\oint \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{l} = \oint |\bar{A}| |d\bar{l}| \cos \theta_{\bar{A}, d\bar{l}}$$

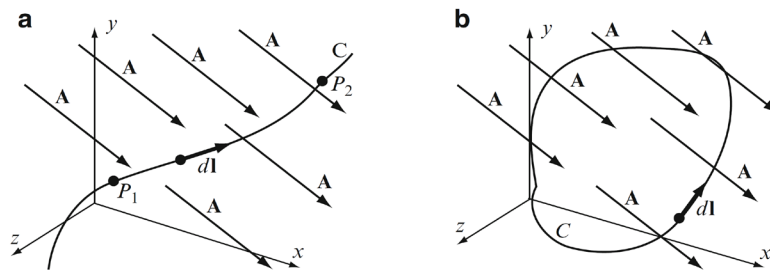


Fig. 1.22 The line integral. (a) Open contour integration. (b) Closed

### 1.6.2 Surface Integral

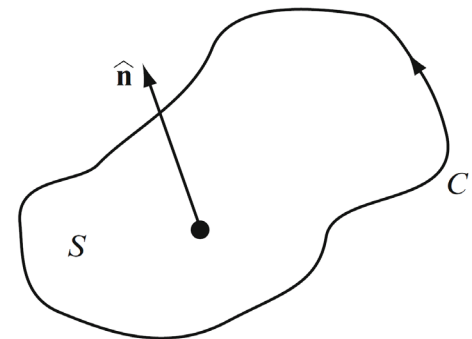
The surface integral of a vector is the flux (flow) of this vector through the surface. The surface integral is also written as:

$$Q = \int_S \bar{A} \cdot \bar{d}s$$

where  $\bar{d}s = ds\bar{a}_n$  and where  $\bar{a}_n$  is the unit vector normal to surface S.

If this surface is a closed surface, integration becomes as a *closed surface integration*:

$$Q = \oint_S \bar{A} \cdot \bar{d}s$$



Surface Integral

Closed surface integration gives the total or net flux through a closed surface.

### 1.6.3 Volume Integral

The volume integral of a vector field is a vector and is written as

$$\bar{P} = \int_v \bar{p} dv$$

In Cartesian coordinates,

$$\bar{P} = \int_v p_x dv \bar{a}_x + \int_v p_y dv \bar{a}_y + \int_v p_z dv \bar{a}_z$$

This type of vector integral is often called a regular or ordinary vector integral because it is essentially a scalar integral with the unit vectors added.



## 1.6 Del Operator and Gradient:

The del operator, written  $\nabla$ , is the vector differential operator. In Cartesian coordinates,

$$\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \bar{a}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \bar{a}_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \bar{a}_z$$

This vector differential operator, otherwise known as the *gradient operator*, when it operates on a scalar function. The operator is useful in defining:

1. The **gradient** of a scalar  $V$ , written. as  $\nabla V$
2. The **divergence** of a vector  $A$ , written as  $\nabla \cdot \bar{A}$
3. The **curl** of a vector  $A$ , written as  $\nabla \times \bar{A}$
4. The Laplacian of a scalar  $V$ , written as  $\nabla^2 V$

The gradient of a scalar function gives both the magnitude and direction of the maximum spatial rate of change of the scalar function.

In Cartesian coordinates, the gradient of a scalar function is written as

$$\text{grad } U = \nabla U = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \bar{a}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \bar{a}_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \bar{a}_z \right) U$$

and is read as *grad*  $U$  or *del*  $U$ .

The gradient has the following general properties:

- It operates on a scalar function and results in a vector function.
- The gradient is normal to a constant value surface.
- The gradient always points in the direction of maximum change in the scalar function.

for cylindrical coordinates,

$$\nabla V = \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \bar{a}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} \bar{a}_\phi + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \bar{a}_z$$

and for spherical coordinates,

$$\nabla V = \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} \bar{a}_R + \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \bar{a}_\theta + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} \bar{a}_\phi$$

**Example 12:** Find the gradient of the following scalar fields:

(a)  $V = e^{-z} \sin 2x \cosh y$

(b)  $U = r^2 z \cos 2\phi$

(c)  $W = 10R \sin^2 \theta \cos \phi$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \nabla V &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \bar{a}_x + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \bar{a}_y + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \bar{a}_z \\ &= 2e^{-z} \cos 2x \cosh y \bar{a}_x + e^{-z} \sin 2x \sinh y \bar{a}_y - e^{-z} \sin 2x \cosh y \bar{a}_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (b) \nabla U &= \frac{\partial U}{\partial r} \bar{a}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \phi} \bar{a}_\phi + \frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \bar{a}_z \\ &= 2rz \cos 2\phi \bar{a}_r - 2rz \sin 2\phi \bar{a}_\phi + r^2 \cos 2\phi \bar{a}_z \end{aligned}$$

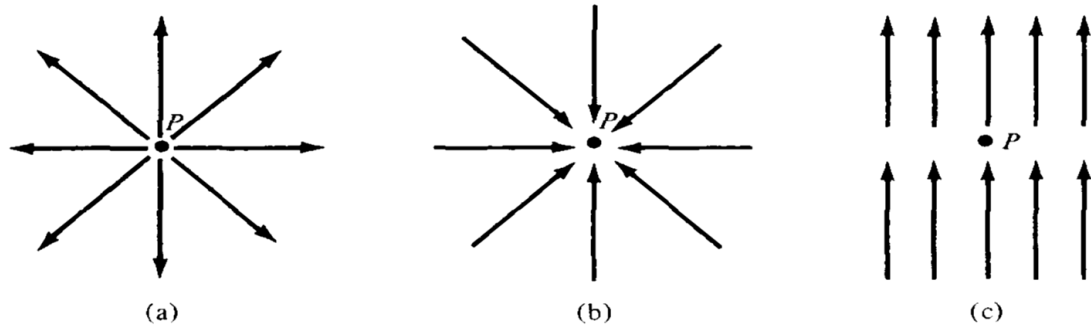
$$\begin{aligned} (c) \nabla W &= \frac{\partial W}{\partial R} \bar{a}_R + \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial W}{\partial \theta} \bar{a}_\theta + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial W}{\partial \phi} \bar{a}_\phi \\ &= 10 \sin^2 \theta \cos \phi \bar{a}_R + 10 \sin 2\theta \cos \phi \bar{a}_\theta - 10 \sin \theta \sin \phi \bar{a}_\phi \end{aligned}$$

### 1.7 Divergence and Divergence Theorem:

The divergence of  $\bar{A}$  at a given point  $P$  is the outward flux per unit volume as the volume shrinks about  $P$ .

$$\text{div} \bar{A} = \nabla \cdot \bar{A} = \lim_{\Delta v \rightarrow 0} \frac{\oint_S \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{S}}{\Delta v}$$

where  $\Delta v$  is the volume enclosed by the closed surface  $S$  in which  $P$  is located.



**Fig. 1.23.** Illustration of the divergence of a vector field at  $P$ ; (a) positive divergence, (b) negative divergence, (c) zero divergence.

The divergence in different coordinate systems can be written as:

$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	Cartesian
$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_r) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	Cylindrical
$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = \frac{1}{R^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R^2 A_R) + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$	Spherical

Note the following properties of the divergence of a vector field:

1. It produces a scalar field.
2. The divergence of a scalar  $V$ ,  $div V$ , makes no sense.
3.  $\nabla \cdot (\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = \nabla \cdot \bar{A} + \nabla \cdot \bar{B}$
4.  $\nabla \cdot (V\bar{A}) = V\nabla \cdot \bar{A} + \bar{A} \cdot \nabla V$

The divergence theorem follows from the definition of the divergence, stating that *the volume integral of  $\nabla \cdot \bar{A}$  over a volume is equal to the closed surface integral of  $\bar{A}$  over the surface bounding the volume*. The divergence theorem is expressed as

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \bar{A} \, dv = \oint_S \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds}$$

where  $S$  is the bounding surface of the volume  $\mathcal{V}$ , and  $ds$  is the differential area vector on  $S$ , which is always directed out of the enclosed volume.

Its most important use is the conversion of volume integrals of the divergence of a vector field into closed surface integrals.

**Example 13** :- Find the divergence of the position vector to an arbitrary point.

Solution :

We will find the solution in Cartesian as well as in spherical coordinates.

a) *Cartesian coordinates*. The expression for the position vector to an arbitrary point  $(x, y, z)$  is

$$\overline{OP} = x\overline{a}_x + y\overline{a}_y + z\overline{a}_z$$

Then

$$\nabla \cdot (\overline{OP}) = \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial z} = 3.$$

b) *Spherical coordinates*. Here the position vector is simply

$$\overline{OP} = r\overline{a}_r$$

Its divergence in spherical coordinates  $(r, \theta, \phi)$  can be obtained by

$$\nabla \cdot \overline{A} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 A_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

Hence,  $\nabla \cdot (\overline{OP}) = 3$ , as expected.

**Example 14**:- Given  $\overline{A} = x^2\overline{a}_x + xy\overline{a}_y + yz\overline{a}_z$ , verify the divergence theorem over a cube one unit on each side. The cube is situated in the first octant of the Cartesian coordinate system with one corner at the origin.

Solution: We first evaluate the surface integral over the six faces.

1. Front face:  $x = 1, \overline{ds} = dydz \overline{a}_x$ ;

$$\int_{\text{front face}} \overline{A} \cdot \overline{ds} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 dydz = 1.$$

2. Back face:  $x = 0, \bar{ds} = -dydz \bar{ax}$ ;

$$\int_{back\ face} \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = 0$$

3. Left face:  $y = 0, \bar{ds} = -aydx \bar{az}$ ;

$$\int_{left\ face} \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = 0.$$

4. Right face:  $y = 1, \bar{ds} = dx dz \bar{ay}$ ;

$$\int_{right\ face} \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 x \, dx dz = \frac{1}{2}.$$

5. Top face:  $z = 1, \bar{ds} = dx dy \bar{az}$ ;

$$\int_{top\ face} \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 y \, dx dy = \frac{1}{2}.$$

6. Bottom face:  $z = 0, \bar{ds} = -dx dy \bar{az}$ ;

$$\int_{bottom\ face} \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = 0$$

Adding the above six values, we have

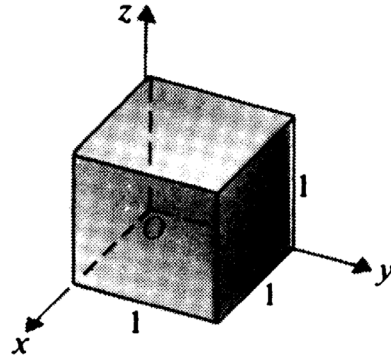
$$\oint_S \bar{A} \cdot \bar{ds} = 1 + 0 + 0 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 0 = 2$$

Now the divergence of  $\bar{A}$  is

$$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(xy) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(yz) = 3x + y.$$

Hence,

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \bar{A} \, dv = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (3x + y) \, dx dy dz = 2$$



### 1.8 Curl :

The curl of  $\bar{A}$  is *the circulation of the vector  $\bar{A}$  per unit area, as this area tends to zero and is in the direction normal to the area when the area is oriented such that the circulation is maximum.* The curl of a vector field is, therefore, a vector field, defined at any point in space.

More accurately, we define the curl using the following relation:

$$\text{curl } \bar{A} \equiv \nabla \times \bar{A} = \lim_{\Delta S \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta S} [\bar{a}_n \oint_C \bar{A} \cdot d\bar{\ell}]_{\max}$$

The common notation for the curl of a vector  $A$  is  $\nabla \times \bar{A}$  (read: del cross  $A$ ), and it can be written in Cartesian coordinates as:

$$\nabla \times \bar{A} = \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \bar{a}_x + \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \right) \bar{a}_y + \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right) \bar{a}_z$$

The properties of the curl are:

- (1) The curl of a vector field is a vector field.
- (2) The magnitude of the curl gives the maximum circulation of the vector per unit area at a point.
- (3) The direction of the curl is along the normal to the area of maximum circulation at a point.
- (4) The curl has the general properties of the vector product: it is distributive but not associative

$$\nabla \times (\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = \nabla \times \bar{A} + \nabla \times \bar{B} \text{ and } \nabla \times (\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \neq (\nabla \times \bar{A}) \times \bar{B}$$

- (5) The divergence of the curl of any vector function is identically zero:

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \bar{A}) \equiv 0$$

- (6) The curl of the gradient of a scalar function is also identically zero for any scalar:

$$\nabla \times (\nabla V) \equiv 0$$

For cylindrical coordinate,

$$\nabla \times \bar{A} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_r & \bar{a}_\phi r & \bar{a}_z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ A_r & rA_\phi & A_z \end{vmatrix},$$

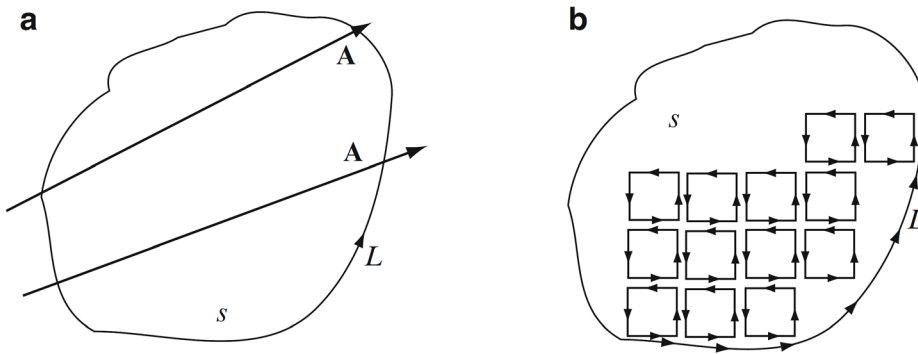
For spherical coordinate,

$$\nabla \times \bar{A} = \frac{1}{R^2 \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_R & \bar{a}_\theta R & \bar{a}_\phi R \sin \theta \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial R} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ A_R & R A_\theta & R \sin \theta A_\phi \end{vmatrix}$$

### 1.9 Stokes's theorem:

The Stokes's theorem follows from the definition of the curl, stating that the surface integral of  $\nabla \times \bar{A}$  over an open surface is equal to the closed line integral of  $\bar{A}$  around the loop bounding the surface. The Stokes's theorem is expressed as

$$\int_S (\nabla \times \bar{A}) \cdot \bar{ds} = \oint_L \bar{A} \cdot \bar{dl}$$



Stokes' theorem. (a) Vector field  $\bar{A}$  and an open surface  $s$ . (b) The only components of the contour integrals on the small loops that do not cancel are along the outer contour  $L$

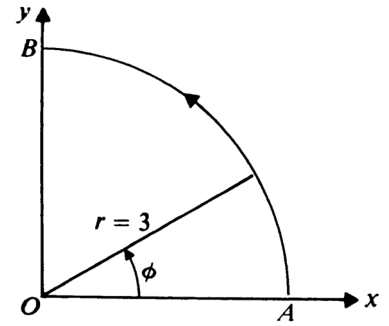
**Example 15:-** Given  $\bar{F} = \bar{a}_x xy - \bar{a}_y 2x$ , verify Stokes's theorem over a quarter-circular disk with a radius 3 in the first quadrant.

**Solution** Let us first find the surface integral of  $\nabla \times \bar{F}$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \bar{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_x & \bar{a}_y & \bar{a}_z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ xy & -2x & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -a_z(2+x).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_S (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \bar{F}) \cdot \bar{d}s &= \int_0^3 \int_0^{\sqrt{9-y^2}} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \bar{F}) \cdot (\bar{a}_z \, dx \, dy) \\ &= \int_0^3 \left[ \int_0^{\sqrt{9-y^2}} -(2+x) \, dx \right] dy \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= - \int_0^3 \left[ 2\sqrt{9-y^2} + \frac{1}{2}(9-y^2) \right] dy \\ &= - \left[ y\sqrt{9-y^2} + 9\sin^{-1} \frac{y}{3} + \frac{9}{2}y - \frac{y^3}{6} \right]_0^3 \\ &= -9 \left( 1 + \frac{\pi}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$



For the line integral around ABOA

$$\begin{aligned} \text{From A to B: } \int_A^B \bar{F} \cdot \bar{d}\ell &= \int_0^{\pi/2} -3(9\sin^2 \phi \cos \phi + 6\cos^2 \phi) d\phi \\ &= -9(\sin^3 \phi + \phi + \sin \phi \cos \phi) \Big|_0^{\pi/2} = -9 \left( 1 + \frac{\pi}{2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

From B to O:  $x = 0$ , and  $\bar{F} \cdot \bar{d}\ell = \bar{F} \cdot (-\bar{a}_y dy) = 2x dy = 0$ .

From O to A:  $y = 0$ , and  $\bar{F} \cdot \bar{d}\ell = \bar{F} \cdot (\bar{a}_x dx) = xy dx = 0$ . Hence,

$$\oint_{ABOA} \bar{F} \cdot \bar{d}\ell = \int_A^B \bar{F} \cdot \bar{d}\ell = -9 \left( 1 + \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

Stokes' theorem is verified.



### The Helmholtz Theorem

The Helmholtz theorem states: “A vector field is uniquely defined by specifying its divergence and its curl.” The Helmholtz theorem is normally written as

$$\bar{B} = -\nabla U + \nabla \times \bar{A}$$

where  $U$  is a scalar field and  $A$  is a vector field. That is, any vector field can be decomposed into two terms; one is the gradient of a scalar function and the other is the curl of a vector function.

*Divergenceless field* is called *solenoidal* and a *curl-free field* is called *irrotational*. We may classify vector fields in accordance with their being solenoidal and/or irrotational. A vector field  $\bar{A}$  is: -

1). Solenoidal and irrotational if

$$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = 0 \text{ and } \nabla \times \bar{A} = 0.$$

**Ex:** A static electric field in a charge-free region.

2). Solenoidal but not irrotational if

$$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} = 0 \text{ and } \nabla \times \bar{A} \neq 0.$$

**Ex:** A steady magnetic field in a current-carrying conductor.

3). Irrotational but not solenoidal if

$$\nabla \times \bar{A} = 0 \text{ and } \nabla \cdot \bar{A} \neq 0.$$

**Ex:** A static electric field in a charged region.

4). Neither solenoidal nor irrotational if

$$\nabla \cdot \bar{A} \neq 0 \text{ and } \nabla \times \bar{A} \neq 0.$$

**Ex:** An electric field in a charged medium with a time-varying magnetic field.

**Example16:** Given a vector function  $\bar{F} = \bar{a}_x(3y - c_1z) + \bar{a}_y(c_2x - 2z) - \bar{a}_z(c_3y + z)$ . Determine the constants  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$ , and  $c_3$  if  $\bar{F}$  is irrotational.

Solution

For  $\bar{F}$  to be irrotational,  $\nabla \times \bar{F} = 0$ ; that is,

$$\nabla \times \bar{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \bar{a}_x & \bar{a}_y & \bar{a}_z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ 3y - c_1z & -2zc_2x & -(c_3y + z) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= a_x(-c_3 + 2) - a_y c_1 + a_z(c_2 - 3) = 0.$$

Each component of  $\nabla \times \bar{F}$  must vanish. Hence  $c_1 = 0$ ,  $c_2 = 3$ , and  $c_3 = 2$ .

**H.W 14.** Determine the scalar potential function  $V$  whose negative gradient equals  $\bar{F}$ .