

## Solving system of linear equations

Consider the  $3 \times 3$  system of linear equations

$$\begin{cases} x + 2y + z = 4 & \text{--- (i)} \\ 3x + 8y + 7z = 20 & \text{--- (ii)} \\ 2x + 7y + 9z = 23 & \text{--- (iii)} \end{cases}$$

Each eqn. actually represents a plane in space.

Hence, the solution may consist of

- (i) one solution  $\longleftarrow$  planes intersect at 1 pt.  
 (ii) infinitely many solutions  $\longleftarrow$  planes intersect along a line  
 (iii) no solution at all  $\longleftarrow$  do not intersect at all.

To solve the system we construct the Augmented Matrix of the system as

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 8 & 7 & 20 \\ 2 & 7 & 9 & 23 \end{array} \right]$$

matrix of  
the coefficients  
on the left

the constant columns  
on the right.

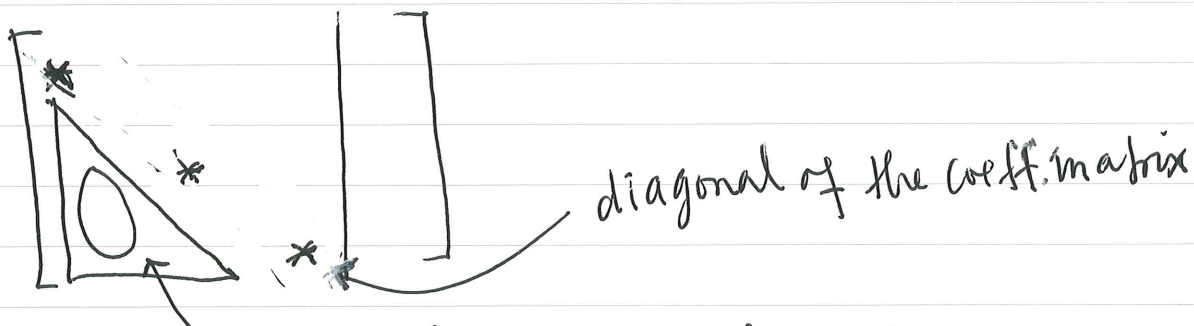
Then we employ row operations by

(i) switching between any 2 rows

(ii) multiply a row by a non-zero constant

(iii) add a non-zero constant multiple of a row to another row.

Final Goal: Through row operations we reduce the Augmented matrix into an upper triangular matrix



end up with a zero lower triangular block  
i.e. every entry under the diagonal of the coefficient matrix is zero. Back to

Eliminate using

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 8 & 7 & 20 \\ 2 & 7 & 9 & 23 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{-3R_1 + R_2 \\ -2R_1 + R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 3 & 7 & 15 \end{array} \right]$$

now eliminate 3 using  $R_2$  as the pivot row.

$R_1$  as the pivot row (the row that doesn't change during the operation)

$$\xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \\ 2}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & 7 & 15 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-3R_2 + R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

Now, Solve the system by backward substitution, the original system is transformed into an equivalent one

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y + z &= 4 \quad \text{--- (i)} \\ y + 2z &= 4 \quad \text{--- (ii)} \\ z &= 3 \quad \text{--- (iii)} \end{aligned}$$

$z = 3$ , substituting into (ii)  $y + 6 = 4 \Rightarrow y = -2$

substituting all these back to (i),  $x - 4 + 3 = 4$

Hence,  $x = 5, y = -2, z = 3$  is the solution //  $\Rightarrow x = 5$  Planes intersect at one pt.

Ex. Solving

$$\begin{cases} 3x - 8y + 10z = 22 \\ x - 3y + 2z = 5 \\ 2x - 9y - 8z = -11 \end{cases}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -8 & 10 & 22 \\ 1 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 2 & -9 & -8 & -11 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 3 & -8 & 10 & 22 \\ 2 & -9 & -8 & -11 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -3R_1 + R_2 \\ -2R_1 + R_3 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\quad} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & -3 & -12 & -21 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-3R_2 + R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{cases} x - 3y + 2z = 5 & \text{--- (i)} \\ y + 4z = 7 & \text{--- (ii)} \end{cases}$$

picking  $z$  to be our free variable i.e.

set  $z = t$ ,  $-\infty < t < \infty$

(ii)  $\Rightarrow y = 7 - 4t$

Substituting  $z = t$ ,  $y = 7 - 4t$  back to (i)

$$x - 3(7 - 4t) + 2t = 5$$

$$\Rightarrow x - 21 + 12t + 2t = 5$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 26 - 14t$$

Hence, we have  $x = 26 - 14t$ ,  $y = 7 - 4t$ ,  $z = t$ ,  $-\infty < t < \infty$

$\therefore$  The 3 planes intersect along a straight line //.

Revisit the example of finding the line of intersection between the lines

$$\begin{cases} 2x + 3y - 4z = -7 \\ 3x - 2y + 3z = 6 \end{cases}$$

we could simply solve the system by row reduction.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -4 & | & -7 \\ 3 & -2 & 3 & | & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\frac{R_1}{2} \rightarrow R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -2 & | & -\frac{7}{2} \\ 3 & -2 & 3 & | & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{-3R_1 + R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -2 & | & -\frac{7}{2} \\ 0 & -\frac{13}{2} & 9 & | & \frac{33}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus we have,

$$\begin{cases} x + \frac{3}{2}y - 2z = -\frac{7}{2} & \text{--- (i)} \\ -\frac{13}{2}y + 9z = \frac{33}{2} & \text{--- (ii)} \end{cases}$$

Set  $\boxed{z = s}$ ,  $-\infty < s < \infty$  taking  $z$  as a "free variable",  $s$  is known as a parameter which could take any values.

$$\text{(ii)} \Rightarrow \frac{13y}{2} = 9s - \frac{33}{2} \Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{18}{13}s - \frac{33}{13}}$$

Substituting all these into (i)  $\Rightarrow$

$$x + \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{18}{13}s - \frac{33}{13} \right) - 2s = -\frac{7}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x + \frac{27}{13}s - \frac{99}{26} - 2s = -\frac{7}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x + \frac{1}{13}s = \frac{99}{26} - \frac{7}{2} = \frac{8}{26} = \frac{4}{13}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x = -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{4}{13}}$$

$$\text{Thus } x = -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{4}{13}, \quad y = \frac{18s}{13} - \frac{33}{13}, \quad z = s \quad -\infty < s < \infty$$

is the line of intersection.

$$\text{Recall our old solution: } x = t + \frac{7}{13}, \quad y = -18t - \frac{15}{13}$$

(the example on page 27-28)

$$z = -13t + 1 \quad -\infty < t < \infty$$

To see they are equivalent, set  $x$  co-ordinates equal.

$$t + \frac{7}{13} = -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{4}{13} \Rightarrow t = -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{1}{13}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Substituting into } y &= -18t - \frac{15}{13} = -18 \left( -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{1}{13} \right) - \frac{15}{13} \\ &= \frac{18s}{13} - \frac{18}{13} - \frac{15}{13} \\ &= \frac{18s}{13} - \frac{33}{13} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In the same way, } z &= -13 \left( -\frac{s}{13} + \frac{1}{13} \right) + 1 \\ &= s \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the two parametric representations are equivalent to each other.

### IV. Motion in Space

#### Vector-valued functions

Consider a mapping  $\vec{r} : [a, b] \rightarrow V_3$  which takes the form  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle \quad t \in [a, b]$ .

Thus, corresponding to any  $t \in [a, b]$ , there is a vector

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle \in V_3$$

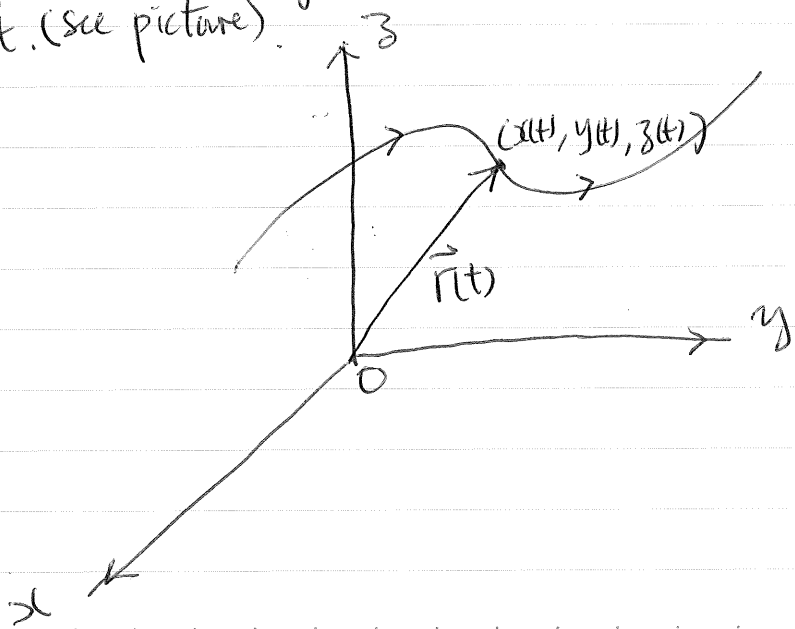
where  $x(t), y(t), z(t)$  are respectively functions of  $t$

Remark = We could have replaced  $[a, b]$  with any interval  $I$  such as  $I = (-\infty, \infty)$ .

#### Geometric Interpretation

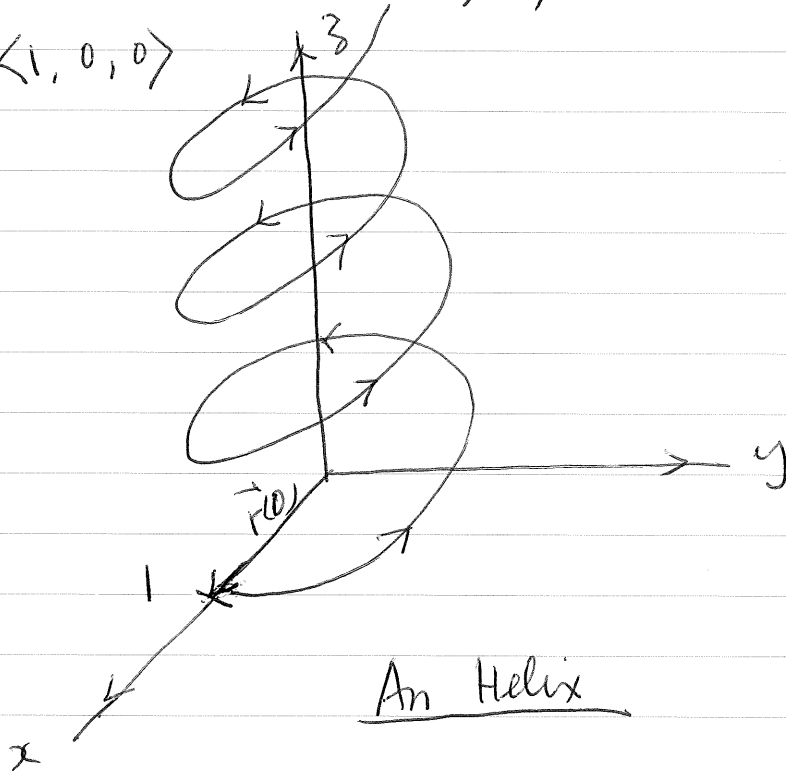
The most natural way is to take  $t$  to be the time variable, and  $x(t), y(t), z(t)$  to be the  $x, y, z$  co-ordinates of an moving object in space. As  $t$  changes, the position  $(x(t), y(t), z(t))$  of the object changes and trace out a trajectory or curve in space.

In this case,  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$  becomes the position vector pointing from the origin of the co-ordinate system to the object at time  $t$ . (see picture).



Ex.  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, t \rangle, t \in [0, \infty)$

$$\vec{r}(0) = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$$



## Differentiation of vector-valued functions

Definition:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle x(t+h), y(t+h), z(t+h) \rangle - \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \frac{x(t+h) - x(t)}{h}, \frac{y(t+h) - y(t)}{h}, \frac{z(t+h) - z(t)}{h} \right\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\langle \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(t+h) - x(t)}{h}, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{y(t+h) - y(t)}{h}, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{z(t+h) - z(t)}{h} \right\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle x'(t), y'(t), z'(t) \rangle \text{ i.e. Differentiate Component-wise}$$

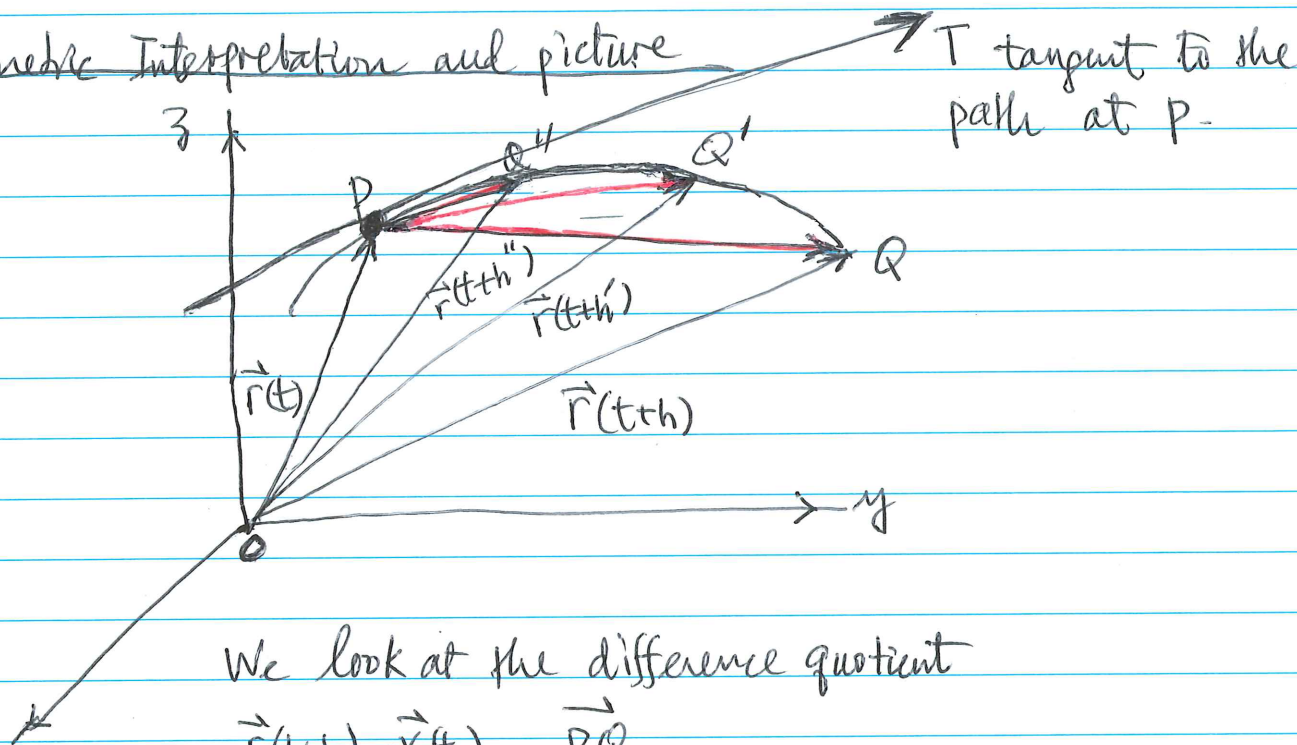
Ex. Back to  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, t \rangle, \frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt}$  or  $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin t, \cos t, 1 \rangle$   
 i.e. differentiating Componentwise //

Defn. Given  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$  to be the position vector of an moving object along a trajectory in space, we define the derivative

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h}$$

as the instantaneous velocity of the object at time  $t$ , we denote it by  $\vec{v}(t)$ .

### Geometric Interpretation and picture



We look at the difference quotient

$$\frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h} = \frac{\vec{PQ}}{h}$$

$$\left| \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h} \right| = \frac{|\vec{PQ}|}{h} \approx \frac{\text{arc } PQ}{h}$$

This is the average speed of the moving object from  $P$  to  $Q$  along the trajectory. It measures how fast along the path the object is moving regardless of its direction of motion.

As  $h \rightarrow h' \rightarrow h'' \rightarrow 0$ ,  $|\vec{PQ}|$ ,  $|\vec{PQ}'|$  and  $|\vec{PQ}''|$  are getting closer and closer to  $\text{arc } PQ$ ,  $\text{arc } PQ'$ ,  $\text{arc } PQ''$  respectively. In the limiting process, as  $h \rightarrow 0$   $\left| \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h} \right| \rightarrow$  instantaneous speed of the object

i.e. it measures how fast the object is moving at time  $t$  regardless of its direction of motion.



As far as the direction of  $\frac{\Delta \vec{r}(t)}{h}$  is concerned, its direction is determined by  $PQ$ . As  $h \rightarrow h' \rightarrow h'' \rightarrow 0$ , the directions of  $\vec{PQ}$ ,  $\vec{PQ}'$  and  $\vec{PQ}''$  would rotate into the direction of  $T$  (tangent to the path at  $P$ ).

Thus,  $|\vec{v}'(t)|$  is the instantaneous speed of the object while the direction of  $\vec{v}'(t)$  is the same as the direction of motion at time  $t$  which is tangential to the path of motion of the object.

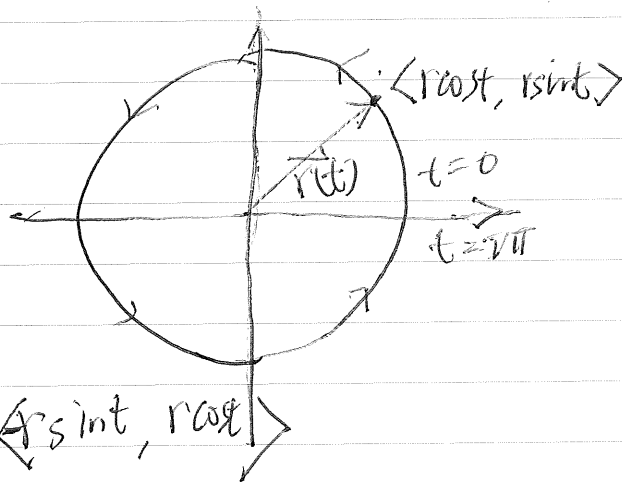
From now on, we set

$$\vec{v}(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h}$$

which is the instantaneous velocity of the moving object or simply the velocity of the moving object at time  $t$ ,  $s(t) = |\vec{v}(t)|$  is the speed function at time  $t$ .

Ex. Consider the circular motion in the plane which is given by

$$\vec{r}(t) = r \langle \cos t, \sin t \rangle \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$



$$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = \langle -r \sin t, r \cos t \rangle$$

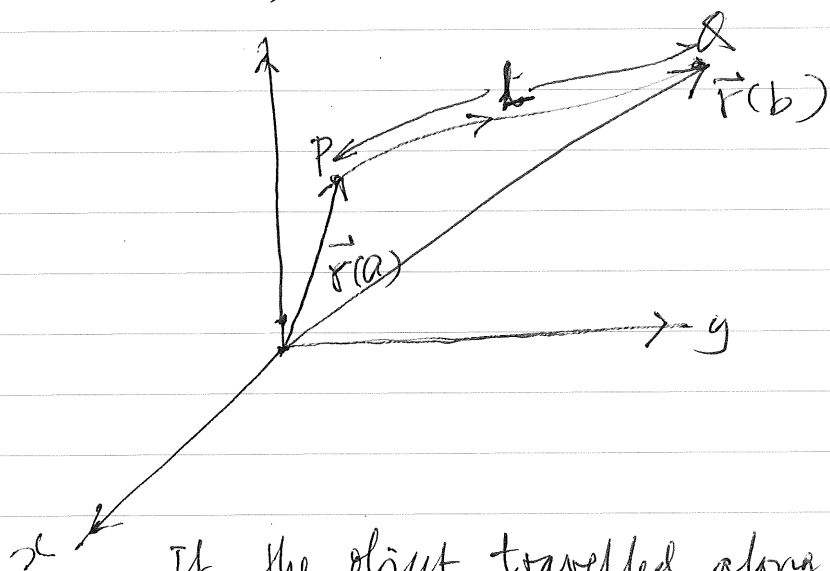
$$s(t) = |\vec{v}(t)| = \sqrt{r^2 \sin^2 t + r^2 \cos^2 t} = r$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Circumference of the circle} &= \text{distance travelled from } t=0 \text{ to } t=2\pi \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} s(t) dt = \int_0^{2\pi} r dt = [rt]_0^{2\pi} = 2\pi r \end{aligned}$$

Remarks=

(i) Consider an moving object travelling along a space curve whose vector equation is given by

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle \quad a \leq t \leq b$$



If the object travelled along the curve from P to Q strictly (i.e. there is no reverse of motion during the course). Then, the distance travelled by the object or the length of the curve from P to Q is given by

$$L = \int_a^b s(t) dt = \int_a^b |\vec{v}(t)| dt$$

(ii) Analogously, as  $\vec{v}(t) = \frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt}$  or  $\vec{s}'(t)$ , we have

$$\frac{d\vec{v}(t)}{dt} = \vec{v}'(t) = \vec{r}''(t) \text{ or } \frac{d^2\vec{r}(t)}{dt^2}$$

is the acceleration function of the moving object and we denote it by  $\vec{a}(t)$ .

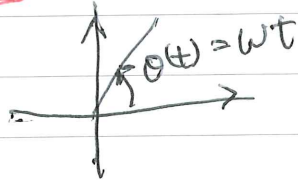
## Ex Uniform circular motion

An object undergoing circular motion in the plane with uniform angular velocity  $\omega$  has vector equation

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle r \cos \omega t, r \sin \omega t \rangle$$

(note that  $\omega > 0$  implies the direction of rotation is anti-clockwise and is clockwise otherwise)

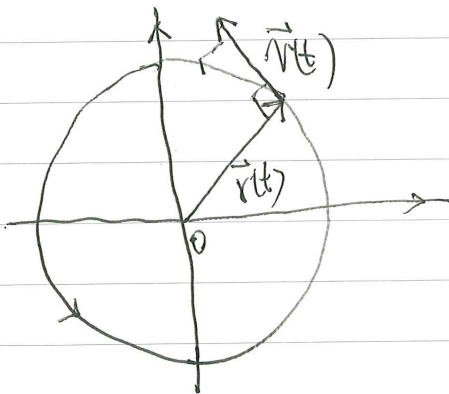
Now that



$$\vec{v}(t) = \langle -r\omega \sin \omega t, r\omega \cos \omega t \rangle$$

We observe that

(i)  $\vec{v}(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t) = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{v}(t) \perp \vec{r}(t)$  which is tangential to the trajectory or path of motion as expected



(ii) The speed of the object rotating around the circle is given

$$\text{by } s(t) = |\vec{v}(t)| = \sqrt{r^2 \omega^2 \sin^2 \omega t + r^2 \omega^2 \cos^2 \omega t} = r|\omega|$$

(iii) Finally, the acceleration function is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a}(t) &= \vec{v}'(t) = \langle -r\omega^2 \cos \omega t, -r\omega^2 \sin \omega t \rangle \\ &= -\omega^2 \langle r \cos \omega t, r \sin \omega t \rangle = -\omega^2 \vec{r}(t) \end{aligned}$$

The direction of the acceleration is towards the center of a circle with magnitude  $|\vec{a}(t)| = \omega^2 r$

This in physics is known as the centripetal acceleration of the circular motion.

## Integration of vector valued functions

Since differentiation of vector-valued function is being handled componentwise, integration being the reverse process of differentiation must be also handled component-wise.

$$\text{Given } \vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

$$\int \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int f(t) dt, \int g(t) dt, \int h(t) dt \right\rangle$$

$$\text{Ex } \vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, t \rangle$$

$$\int \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int \cos t dt, \int \sin t dt, \int t dt \right\rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \sin t + C_1, -\cos t + C_2, \frac{t^2}{2} + C_3 \right\rangle$$

or we could rewrite it as

$$\left\langle \sin t, -\cos t, \frac{t^2}{2} \right\rangle + \vec{C}$$

where  $\vec{C} = \langle C_1, C_2, C_3 \rangle$  is an arbitrary vector constant

Thus, in view of  $\vec{v}(t) = \frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt}$ ,  $\vec{a}(t) = \frac{d\vec{v}(t)}{dt}$

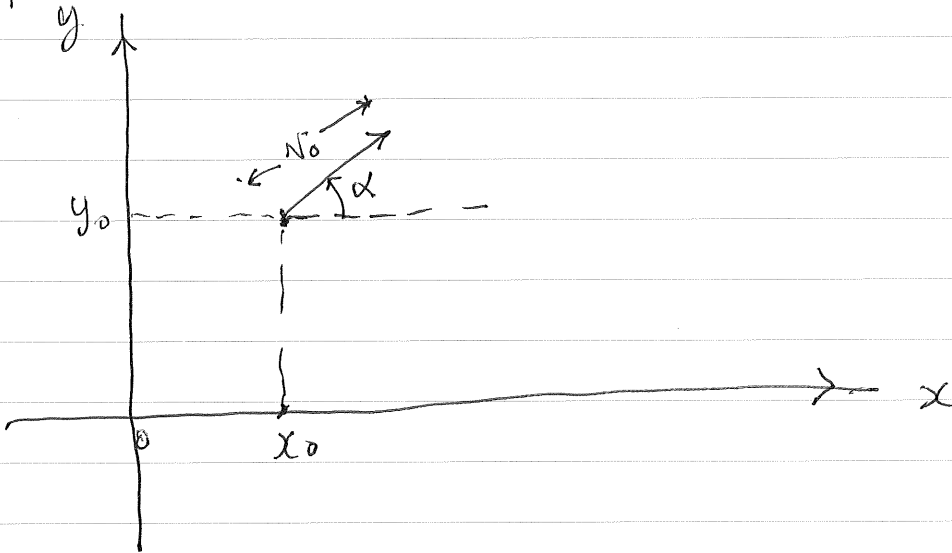
we could re-express them as,

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt + \vec{C}, \quad \vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt + \vec{C}$$

where  $\vec{C}$  denotes any arbitrary vector constant.

Ex. Projectile motion along a vertical plane.

We shall let the  $y$ -axis be the vertical axis and the  $x$ -axis be the horizontal axis. Suppose a projectile is being launched from its initial position at  $(x_0, y_0)$  with initial speed  $v_0$  making an angle  $\alpha$  with the positive  $x$  axis.



Predict the trajectory of the subsequent motion of the projectile.

Solution

Assuming the projectile is only under gravitational influence, we have

$$\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, -g \rangle \quad \text{when } g \text{ is the gravitational acceleration}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \vec{r}(t) &= \int \vec{a}(t) dt + \vec{C} \\ &= \left\langle \int 0 dt, \int -g dt \right\rangle + \langle C_1, C_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle C_1, -gt + C_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } \vec{r}(0) = \langle C_1, C_2 \rangle = \langle v_0 \cos \alpha, v_0 \sin \alpha \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 = v_0 \cos \alpha, \quad C_2 = v_0 \sin \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r}(t) = \langle v_0 \cos \alpha, -gt + v_0 \sin \alpha \rangle$$

Similarly,

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt + \vec{C}$$

$$= \left\langle \int v_0 \cos \alpha dt + C_1, \int -gt + v_0 \sin \alpha dt + C_2 \right\rangle$$

$$= \left\langle v_0 \cos \alpha t + C_1, -\frac{gt^2}{2} + v_0 \sin \alpha t + C_2 \right\rangle$$

Finally  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle x_0, y_0 \rangle$

$$\Rightarrow \langle C_1, C_2 \rangle = \langle x_0, y_0 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r}(t) = \left\langle v_0 \cos \alpha t + x_0, -\frac{gt^2}{2} + v_0 \sin \alpha t + y_0 \right\rangle //$$

Thm. (Differentiation of vector-valued functions)

$$(i) \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{u}(t) \pm \vec{v}(t)) = \frac{d\vec{u}(t)}{dt} \pm \frac{d\vec{v}(t)}{dt}$$

$$(ii) \frac{d}{dt} (c \vec{u}(t)) = c \frac{d\vec{u}(t)}{dt} \quad \text{for any } c \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$(iii) \frac{d}{dt} (h(t) \vec{u}(t)) = h'(t) \vec{u}(t) + h(t) \vec{u}'(t) \quad \text{where } h(t) \text{ is any scalar or real-valued function.}$$

$$(iv) \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{u}(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t)) = \vec{u}'(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t) + \vec{u}(t) \cdot \vec{v}'(t)$$

$$(v) \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{u}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)) = \vec{u}'(t) \times \vec{v}(t) + \vec{u}(t) \times \vec{v}'(t)$$

Pf.: Exercise, all could be proved component-wise.

## Parameterized Curve in Space

Given  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$  as the trajectory of a moving object in space. We could also visualize it as a space curve with the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  co-ordinates of the points on the curve being parameterized by

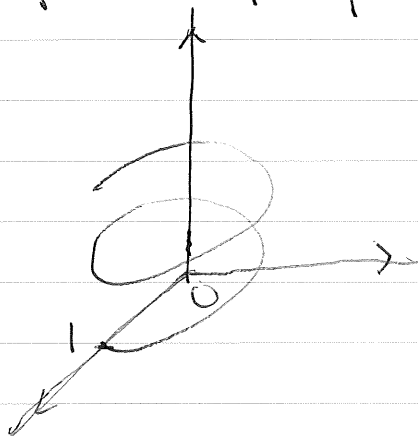
$$\begin{cases} x = f(t) \\ y = g(t) \\ z = h(t) \end{cases} \quad a \leq t \leq b$$

using  $t$  as a parameter. Then the length of the curve is given by

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2} dt \\ &= \int_a^b \sqrt{f'(t)^2 + g'(t)^2 + h'(t)^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

Ex Find the length of two loops of the helix

$$\begin{cases} x = \cos t \\ y = \sin t \\ z = t \end{cases}$$



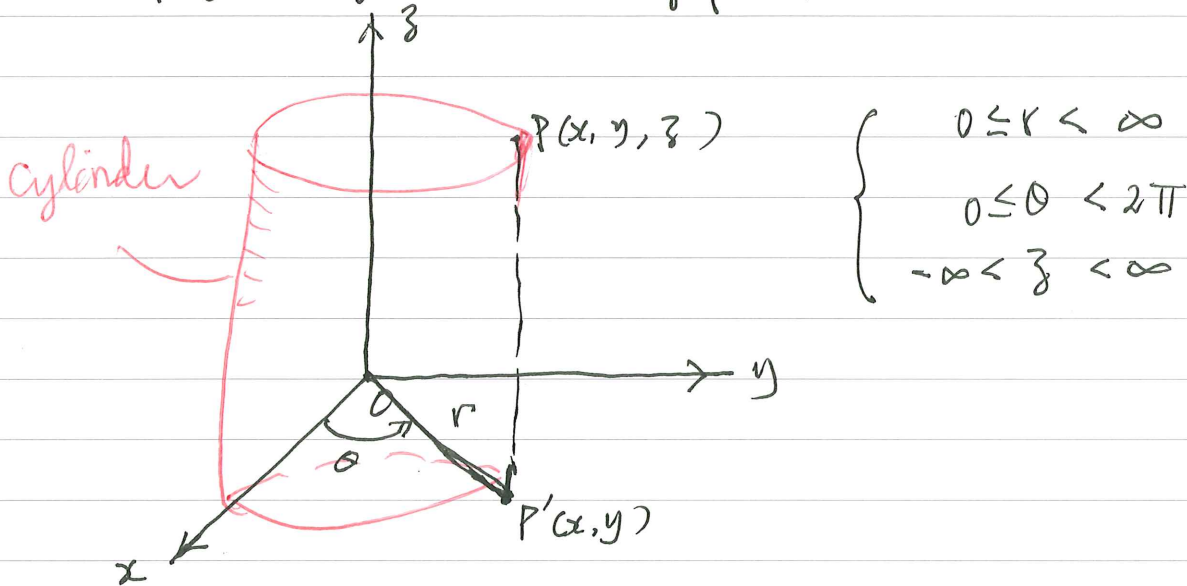
2 loops would correspond to  $0 \leq t \leq 4\pi$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore L &= \int_0^{4\pi} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + 1} dt = \int_0^{4\pi} \sqrt{\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t + 1} dt = \int_0^{4\pi} \sqrt{2} dt \\ &= \sqrt{2} [t]_0^{4\pi} = 4\pi\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

# Cylindrical and Spherical Co-ordinates

## Cylindrical Co-ordinates

It is a combination of the polar co-ordinates  $(r, \theta)$  in the  $x$ - $y$  plane and the  $z$ -co-ordinate. Indeed, consider any point  $P(x, y, z)$  in space, let  $P'$  be the projection of  $P$  onto the  $x$ - $y$  plane.



We use  $(r, \theta, z)$  to determine the position of  $P$  where we have replaced  $(x, y)$  by its polar co-ordinates of  $P'$  (its projection) while keeping the  $z$ -co-ordinates.

Remark: We call  $(r, \theta, z)$  cylindrical co-ordinate because we are essentially visualizing the point  $P$  as residing on a vertical circular cylinder with radius  $r$  and with the  $z$ -axis as its central axis.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x = r \cos \theta \\ y = r \sin \theta \\ z = z \end{array} \right. \quad \leftarrow \text{Conversion equations from } (r, \theta, z) \rightarrow (x, y, z)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \\ \cos \theta = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \\ z = z \end{array} \right. \quad \leftarrow \text{where } \theta \text{ is being determined uniquely by these formulas}$$

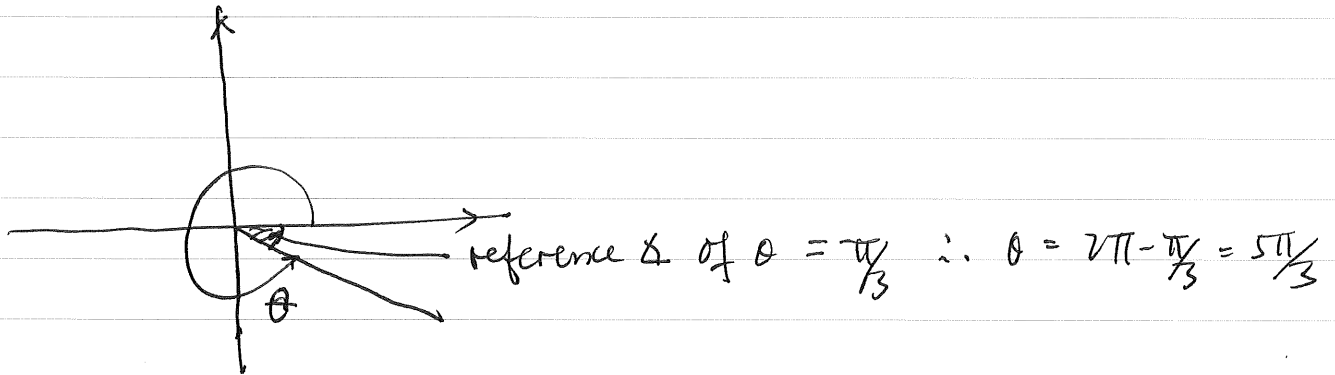
these are conversion equations from  $(x, y, z) \rightarrow (r, \theta, z)$ .



Ex Convert  $(2, -2\sqrt{3}, 7) \rightarrow (r, \theta, z)$

$$z = 7, \quad r = \sqrt{2^2 + (-2\sqrt{3})^2} = \sqrt{16} = 4$$

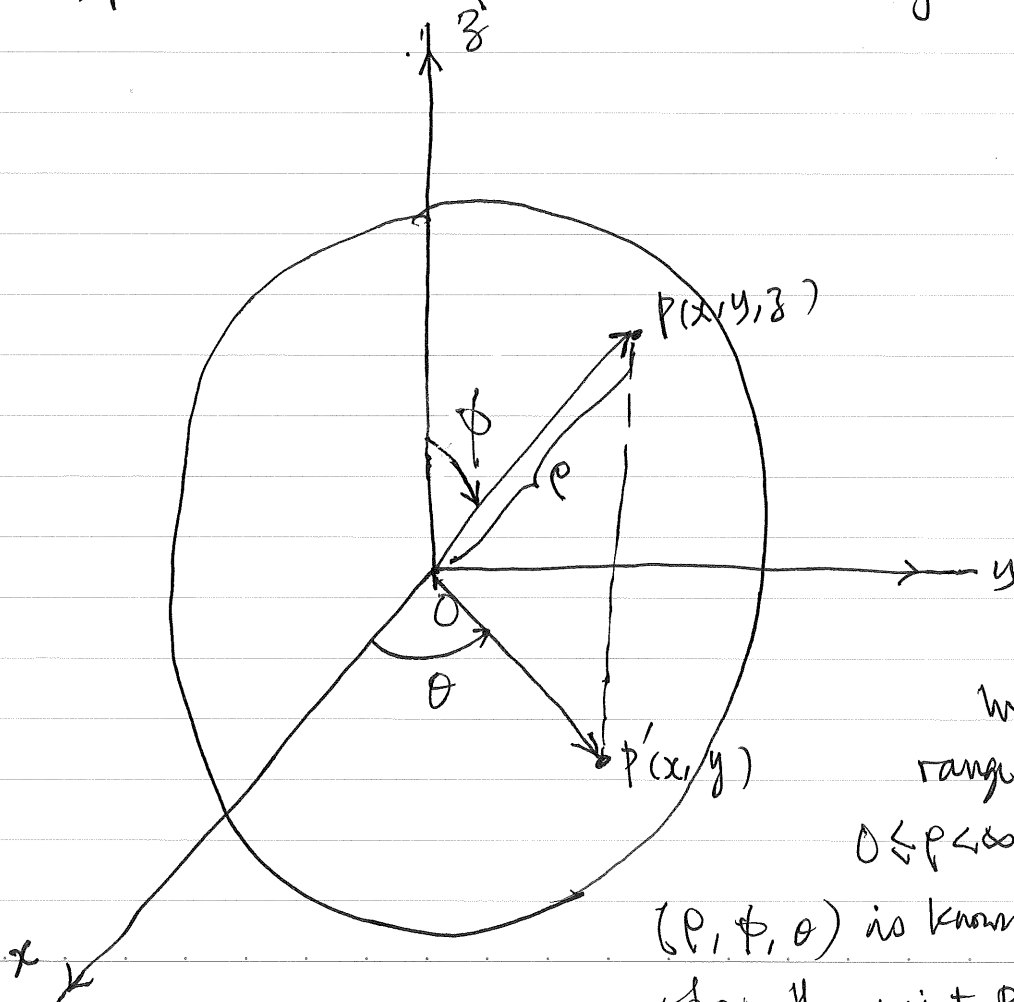
$$\theta \text{ is determined by } \cos\theta = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \sin\theta = \frac{-2\sqrt{3}}{4} = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$



$\therefore (4, \frac{5\pi}{3}, 7)$  is  $(2, -2\sqrt{3}, 7)$  in cylindrical co-ordinates.

### Spherical co-ordinates

In this case we visualize a point  $P(x, y, z)$  in space as residing on a sphere with radius  $\rho$  centered at the original of the co-ordinate system.



$\rho = |OP| = \text{distance of } P \text{ from the origin}$

$\phi = \text{angle that } OP \text{ makes with the positive } z \text{ axis}$

$\theta = \text{the angle that } OP' \text{ makes with the positive } x \text{ axis as before}$

We could impose the following ranges on  $\rho, \phi$  and  $\theta$

$$0 \leq \rho < \infty, \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi, \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$$

$(\rho, \phi, \theta)$  is known as the spherical coordinates for the point  $P$ .

$$\text{From } (p, \phi, \theta) \rightarrow (x, y, z) \begin{cases} x = p \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y = p \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ z = p \cos \phi \end{cases}$$

$$\text{From } (x, y, z) \rightarrow (p, \phi, \theta) \begin{cases} p = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \\ \phi = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{z}{p} \right) \\ \theta \text{ being specified by } (x, y) \text{ as usual} \end{cases}$$

Ex Convert  $P(-2, 4, -12)$  into its spherical co-ordinates  $(p, \phi, \theta)$

$$p = \sqrt{4 + 16 + 144} = \sqrt{164} = 2\sqrt{41}$$

$$\phi = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{-12}{2\sqrt{41}} \right)$$

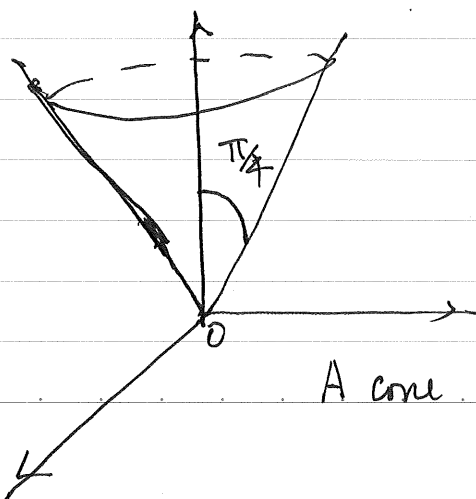
$$\text{As for } \theta, \text{ we have } \cos \theta = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{20}} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{4}{\sqrt{20}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$$

As  $(-2, 4)$  belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quadrant, we take  $\theta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5}} \right)$

Thus  $\left( 2\sqrt{41}, \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{-6}{\sqrt{41}} \right), \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5}} \right) \right)$  is its spherical co-ordinates.

Ex. Describe and sketch the following surfaces whose equations are given in either cylindrical or spherical coordinates.

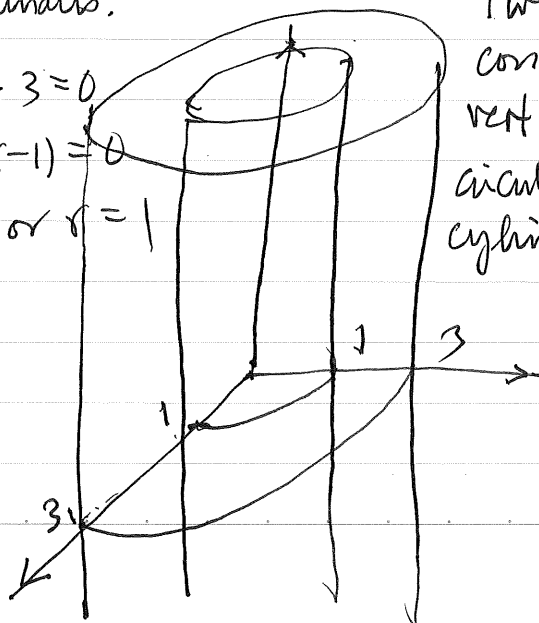
(i)  $\phi = \pi/4$



(ii)  $r^2 - 4r + 3 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (r-3)(r-1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r = 3 \text{ or } r = 1$$

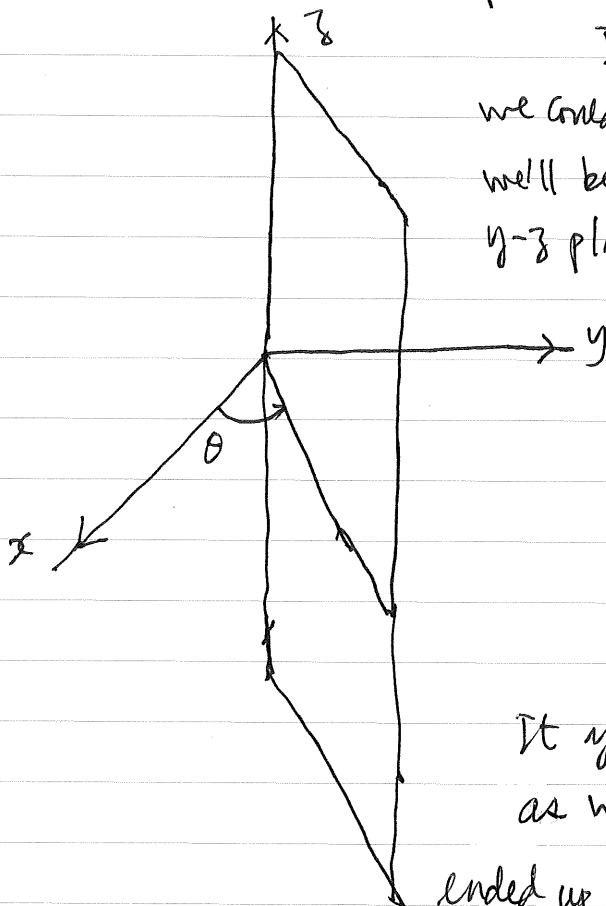


Two concentric vertical circular cylinders.

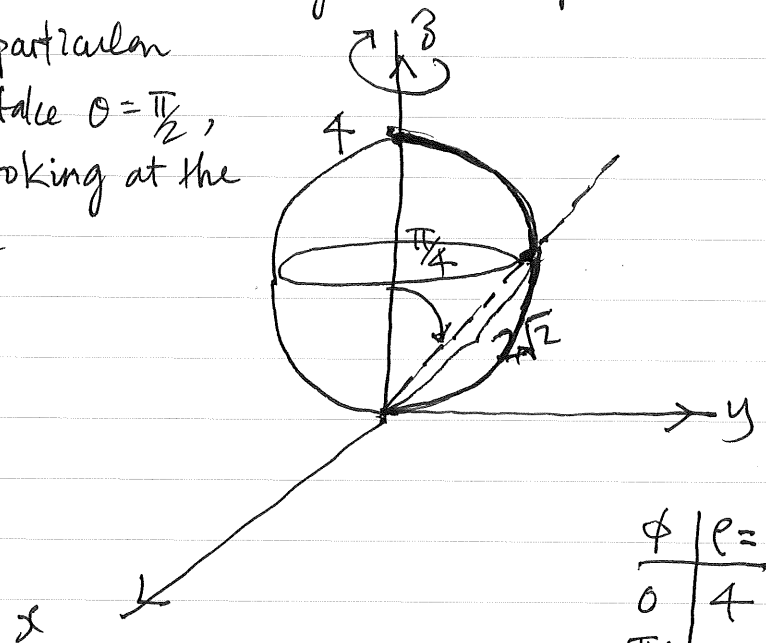
Note that in case (i)  $\phi = \pi/4$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\theta$  are not involved in the equation which means  $\rho$  and  $\theta$  could be anything belonging to the ranges  $0 \leq \rho < \infty$  and  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$ .

In case (ii)  $\rho^2 - 4\rho + 3 = 0$ ,  $\theta$  and  $z$  are not involved in the equation which means  $\theta$  and  $z$  could take any values in their ranges  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$  and  $-\infty < z < \infty$ .

As for case (iii)  $\rho = 4\cos\phi$ ,  $\theta$  is not involved in the equation, therefore could be anywhere in its range  $[0, 2\pi)$ , it suffices to consider any  $\theta$ -plane (a vertical plane which makes an angle  $\theta$  to the positive axis)



In particular we could take  $\theta = \pi/2$ , we'll be looking at the  $y$ - $z$  plane



| $\phi$  | $\rho = 4\cos\phi$ |
|---------|--------------------|
| 0       | 4                  |
| $\pi/4$ | $2\sqrt{2}$        |
| $\pi/2$ | 0                  |

It yields a semi-circle on the  $y$ - $z$  plane, as we let  $\theta$  rotate a full range on  $[0, 2\pi)$ , we

ended up getting a spherical surface centered at  $(0, 0, 2)$  with radius 2. We could actually double check by converting its original equation back to its cartesian or rectangular form. Indeed,

$$\rho = 4\cos\phi \Leftrightarrow \rho^2 = 4\rho\cos\phi \Leftrightarrow x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4z$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 + y^2 + (z-2)^2 = 4$$