

# PHY101: Introduction to Physics I

**Monsoon Semester 2024**

**Lecture 3**

Department of Physics, School of Natural Sciences,  
Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR

## Previous Lecture

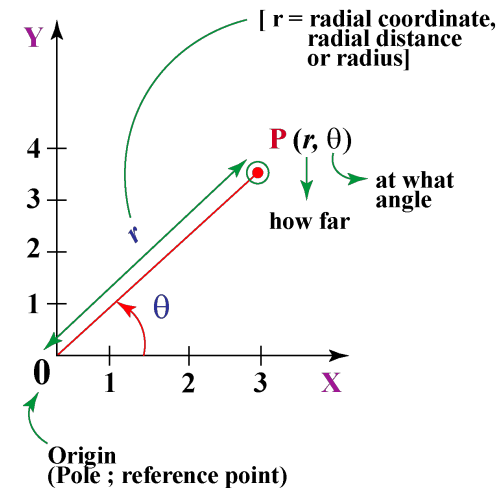
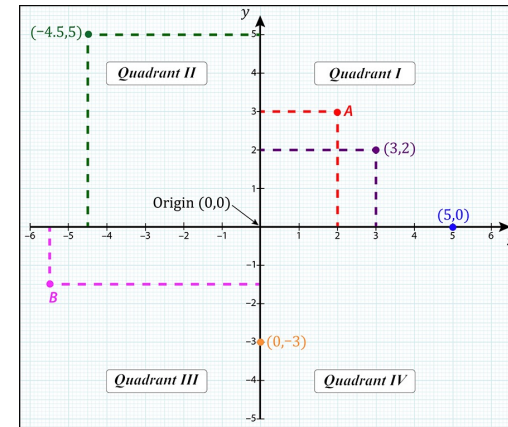
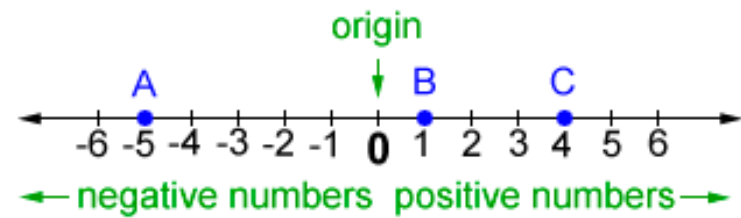
- Co-ordinate systems
- 1D-coordinate system
- 2D-coordinate system

## Cartesian Coordinate System

## Polar Coordinate System

## This Lecture

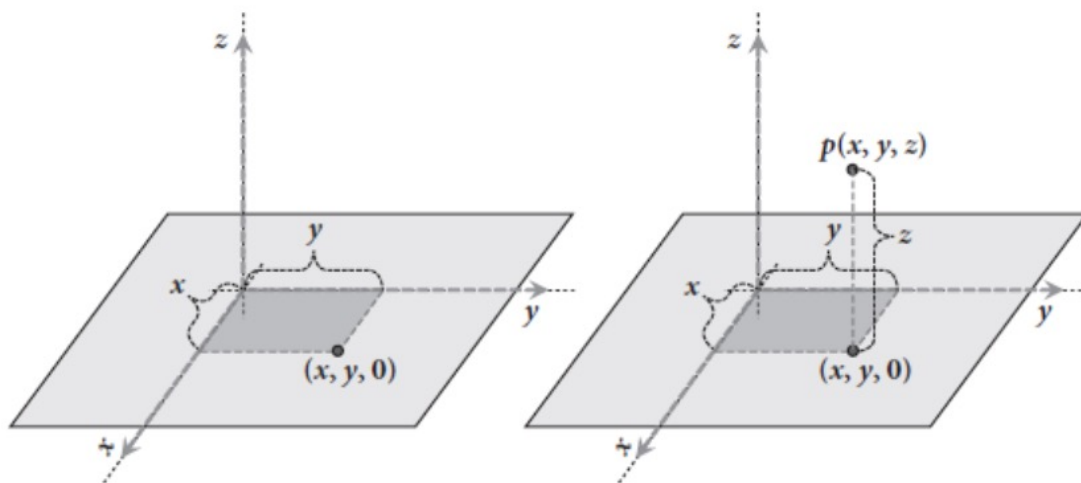
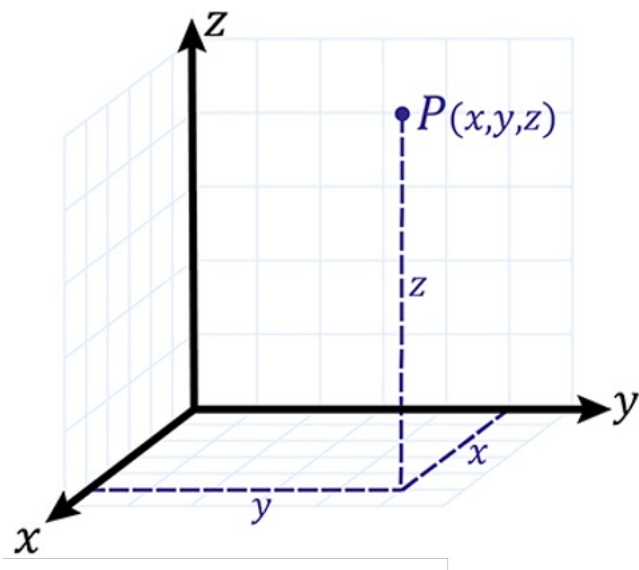
3D-coordinate system  
(Cartesian, cylindrical polar and spherical polar)



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cartesian coordinates system

In a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system, the position of the point in space needs to be described by three coordinates  $(x, y, z)$

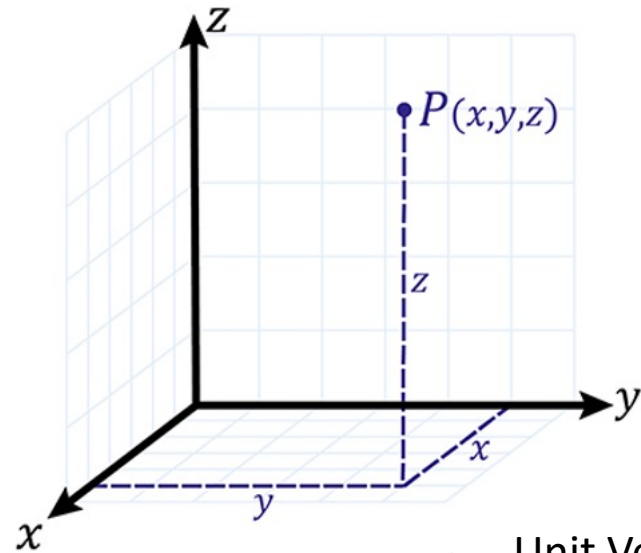


## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

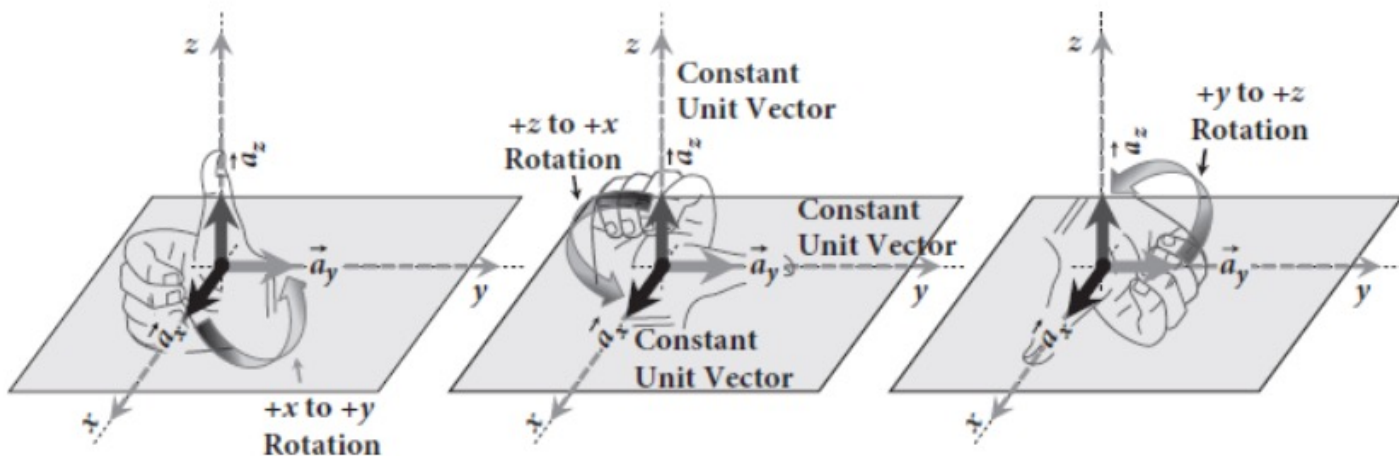
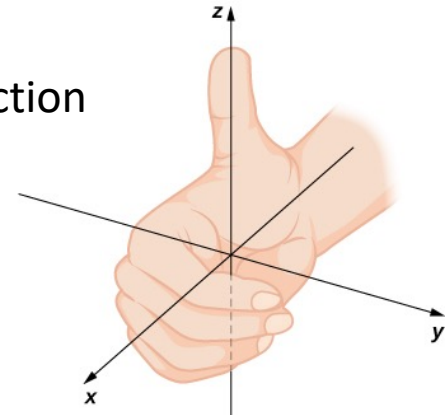
### Cartesian coordinates system

In a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system, the position of the point in space needs to be described by three coordinates (x,y,z)

Right-hand approach provides the direction



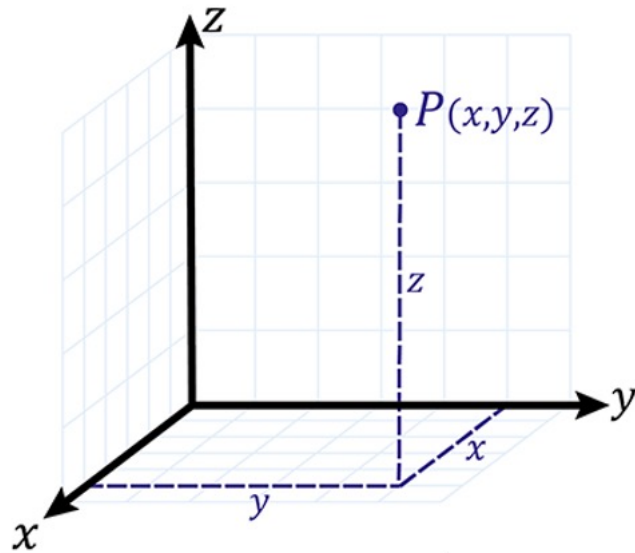
Unit Vectors  $\longrightarrow (\vec{a}_x, \vec{a}_y, \vec{a}_z)$  or  $(\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k})$



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

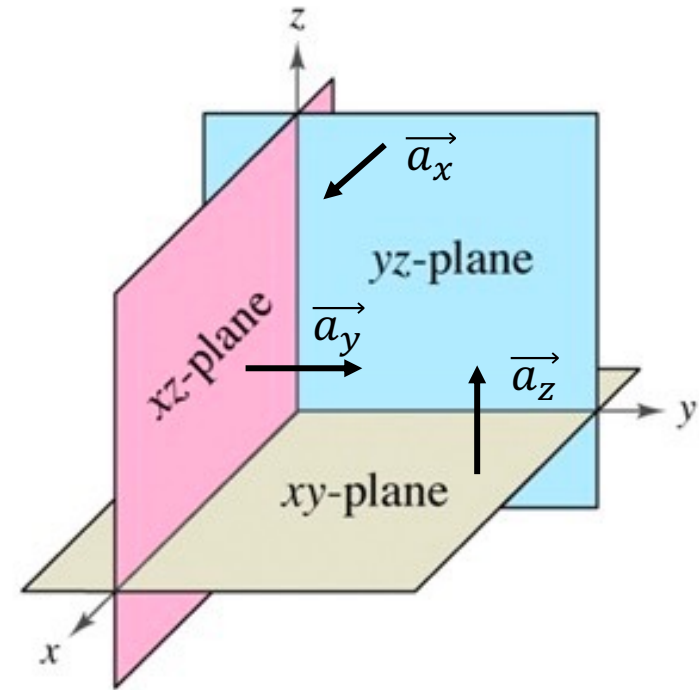
### Cartesian coordinates system

In a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system, the position of the point in space needs to be described by three coordinates  $(x,y,z)$



The three unit vectors are **orthonormal**

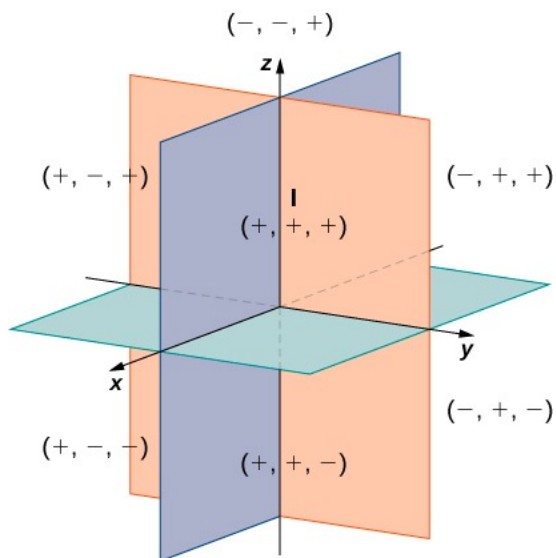
(A set of vectors is orthonormal if every vector in has magnitude 1 and the set of vectors are mutually orthogonal)



**Rectangular coordinates /  
Orthogonal coordinates**

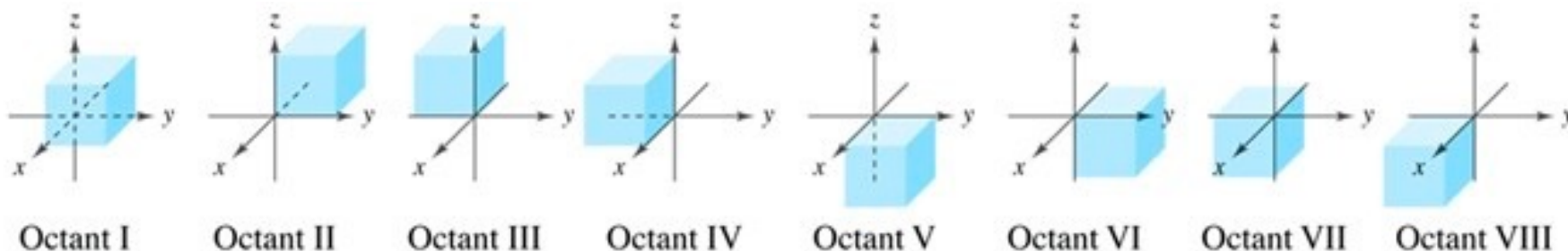
# Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

## Octants



## Cartesian coordinates system

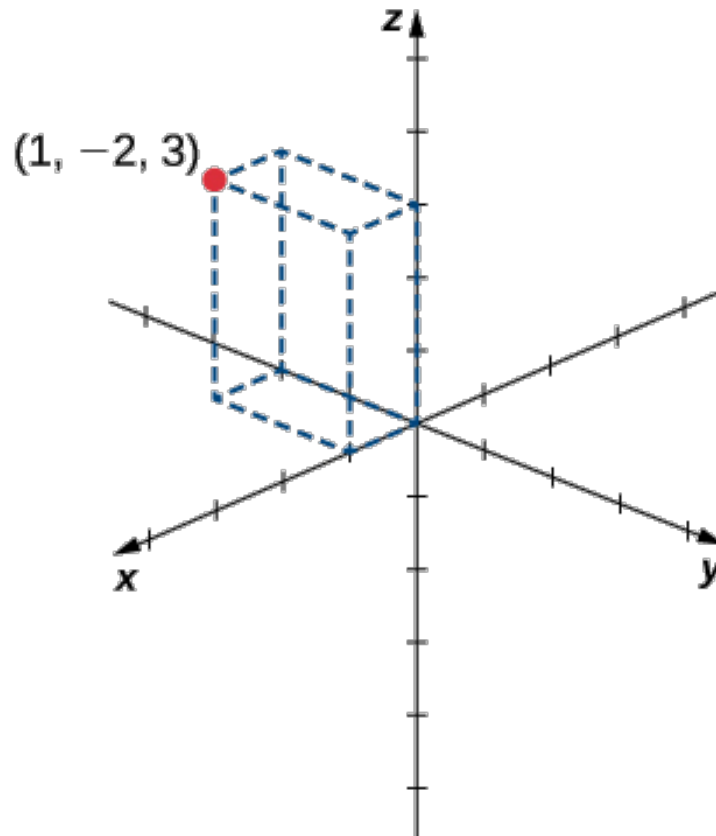
Octants	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Co-ordinates								
x	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+
y	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
z	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cartesian coordinates system

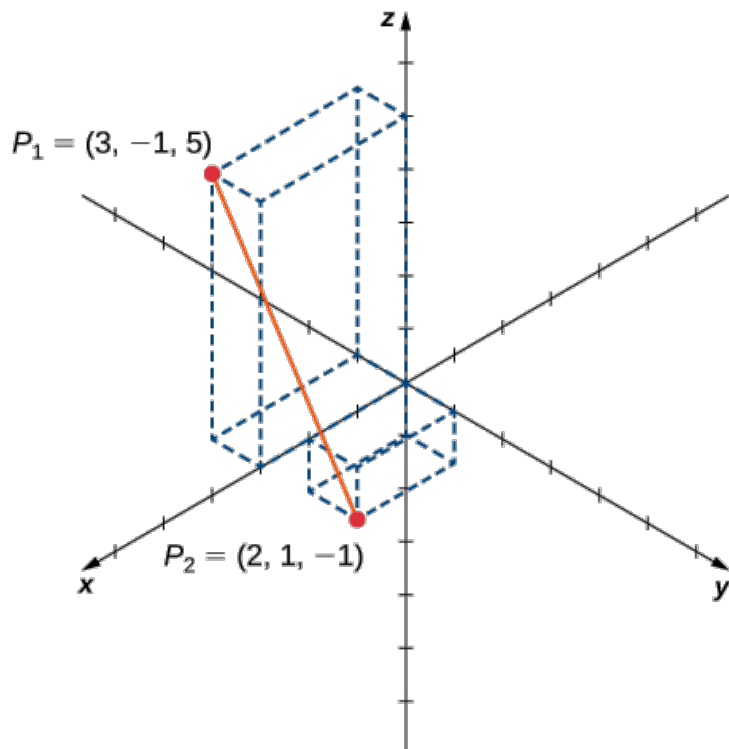
**Q1.** Sketch the point  $(1, -2, 3)$  in three-dimensional space.



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cartesian coordinates system

**Q2.** Find the distance between points  $P_1=(3,-1,5)$  and  $P_2=(2,1,-1)$ .



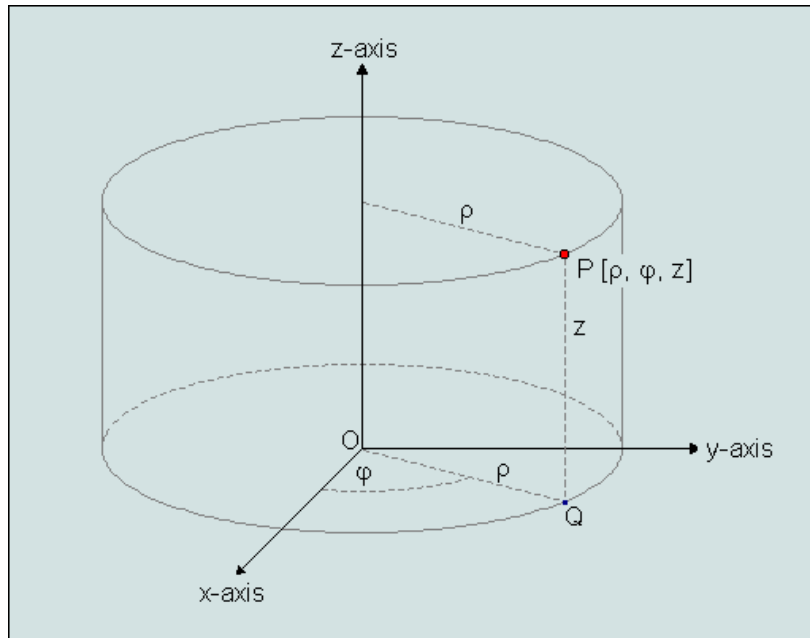
$$\begin{aligned}d(P_1, P_2) &= \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2} \\&= \sqrt{(2 - 3)^2 + (1 - (-1))^2 + (-1 - 5)^2} \\&= \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 2^2 + (-6)^2} \\&= \sqrt{41}.\end{aligned}$$



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cylindrical polar coordinates system

Cylindrical coordinates can be thought of as an extension of the polar coordinates.



A point  $P$  in the cylindrical coordinate system is represented by three numbers  $(\rho, \varphi, z)$ .

$\rho \rightarrow \text{radius},$   
 $\varphi \rightarrow \text{azimuthal angle}$

to describe the position  
of the projection of a  
point onto the **xy plane**

Cylindrical coordinates are useful for describing situations with azimuthal symmetry, such as the motion along the surface of a cylinder.

#### **Ranges**

$$0 \leq \rho \leq \infty$$

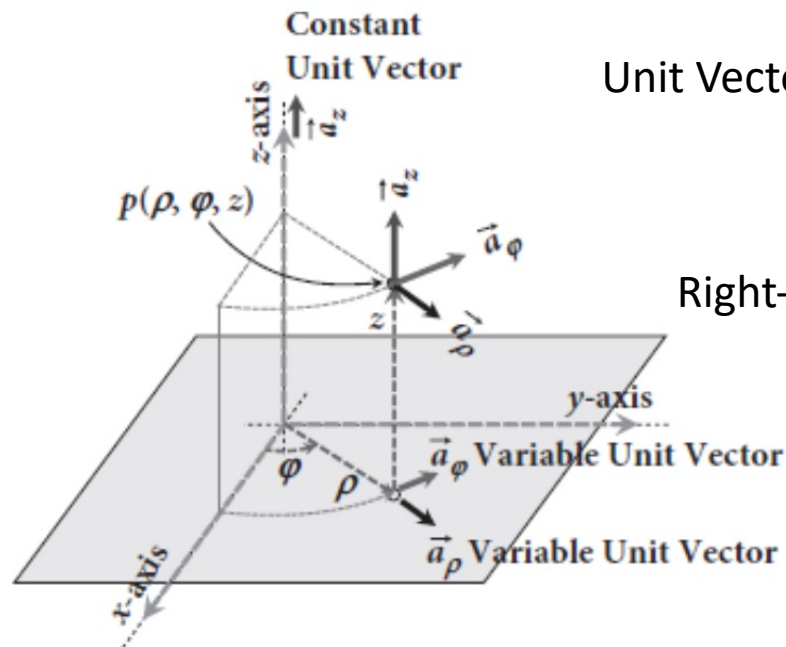
$$0 \leq \varphi \leq 2\pi$$

$$-\infty \leq z \leq \infty$$

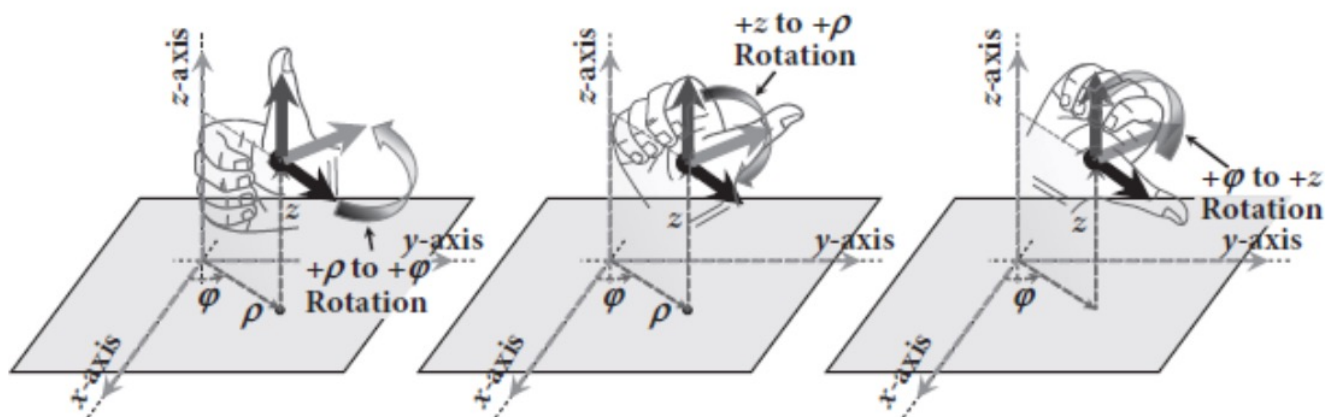
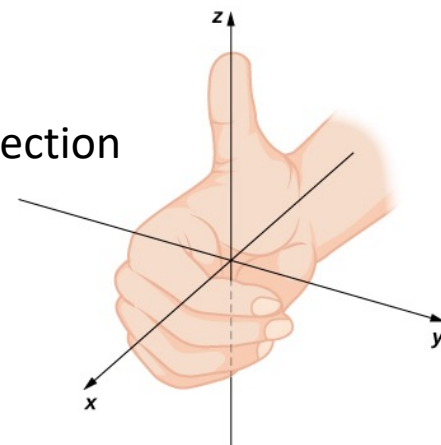
## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cylindrical polar coordinates system

Unit Vectors  $\longrightarrow (\vec{a}_\rho, \vec{a}_\varphi, \vec{a}_z)$  or  $(\hat{\rho}, \hat{\varphi}, \hat{z})$

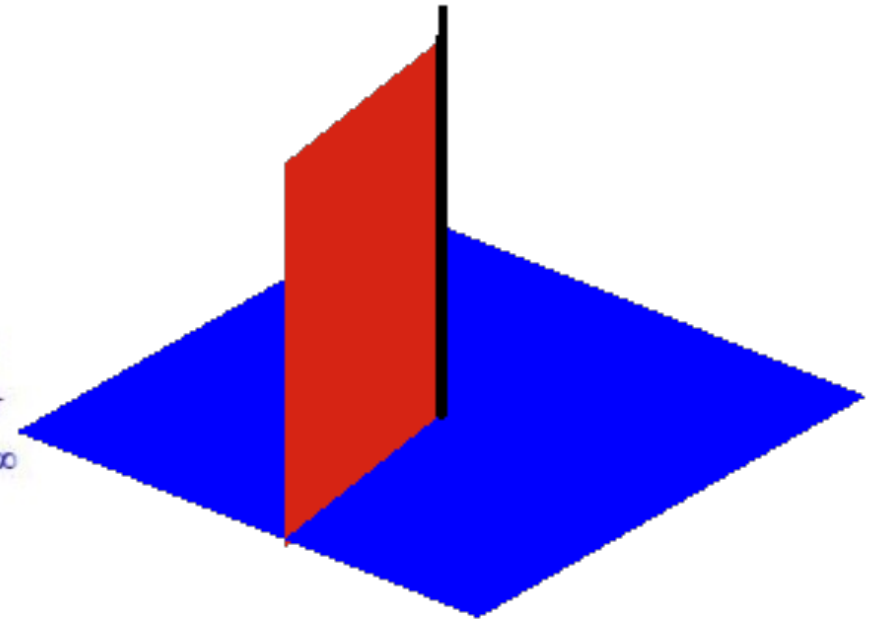
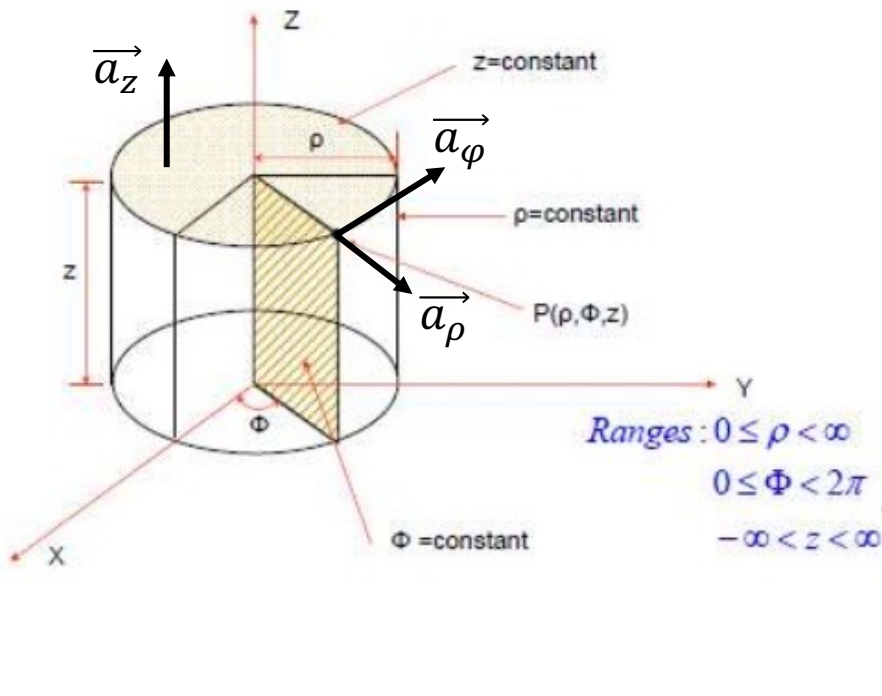


Right-hand approach provides the direction



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cylindrical polar coordinates system



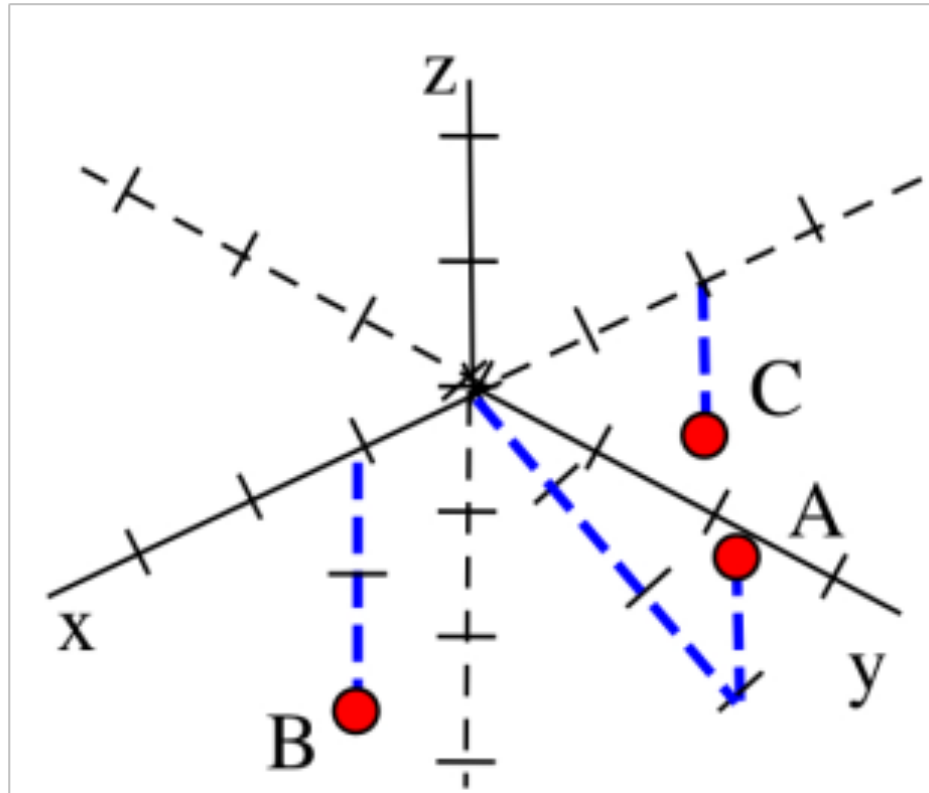
The three unit vectors are orthonormal

Rectangular coordinates /  
Orthogonal coordinates

## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

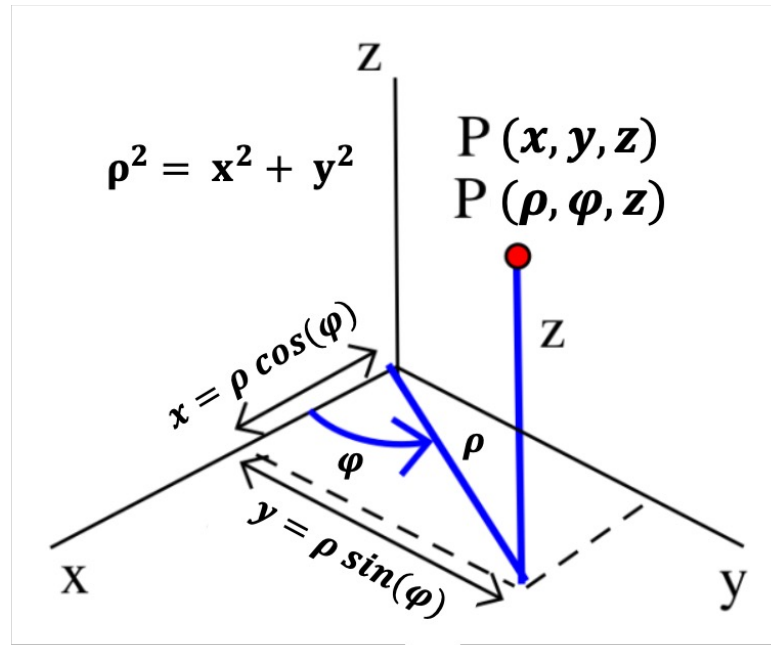
### Cylindrical polar coordinates system

**Q1.** Plot the points given by the cylindrical coordinates  $A(3, \pi/3, 1)$ ,  $B(1, 0^\circ, -2)$ , and  $C(2, 180^\circ, -1)$ .



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Conversion Between Cylindrical and Cartesian Coordinates



#### From Cylindrical to Cartesian

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

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

$$z = z$$

#### From Cartesian to Cylindrical

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

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

$$z = z$$

### Conversion Between Cylindrical and Cartesian Coordinates

**Q1.** Write the cylindrical coordinate location **A** ( $2, \pi/6, 3$ ) in the rectangular coordinate system

$$x = \rho \cos(\varphi) = 2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) = 2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \approx 1.73$$

$$y = \rho \sin(\varphi) = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) = 2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 1.00$$

Trigonometric Table



$\theta$	$0^\circ$	$30^\circ$	$45^\circ$	$60^\circ$	$90^\circ$	$180^\circ$	$270^\circ$	$360^\circ$
$\sin \theta$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	1	0	-1	0
$\cos \theta$	1	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1	0	1
$\tan \theta$	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$	Not Defined	0	Not Defined	0
$\operatorname{cosec} \theta$	Not Defined	2	$\sqrt{2}$	$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$	1	Not Defined	-1	Not Defined
$\sec \theta$	1	$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\sqrt{2}$	2	Not Defined	-1	Not Defined	1
$\cot \theta$	Not Defined	$\sqrt{3}$	1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$	0	Not Defined	0	Not Defined

The rectangular coordinates of **A** is approximately **(1.73, 1.00, 3.00)**

### Conversion Between Cylindrical and Cartesian Coordinates

**Q2.** Write the rectangular coordinate location **B** (3, 4, 2) in the cylindrical coordinate system.

$$\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 = 3^2 + 4^2 = 25$$

$$\rho = 5$$

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{y}{x} = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$\varphi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{4}{3} \right) = (53.13^\circ)$$

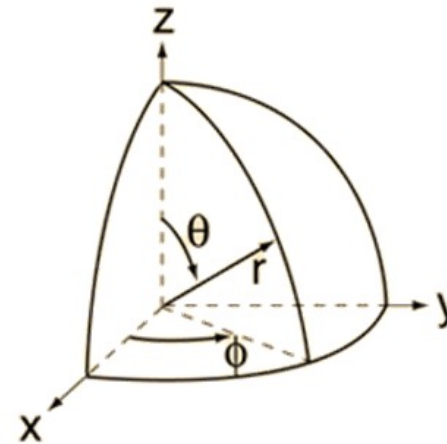
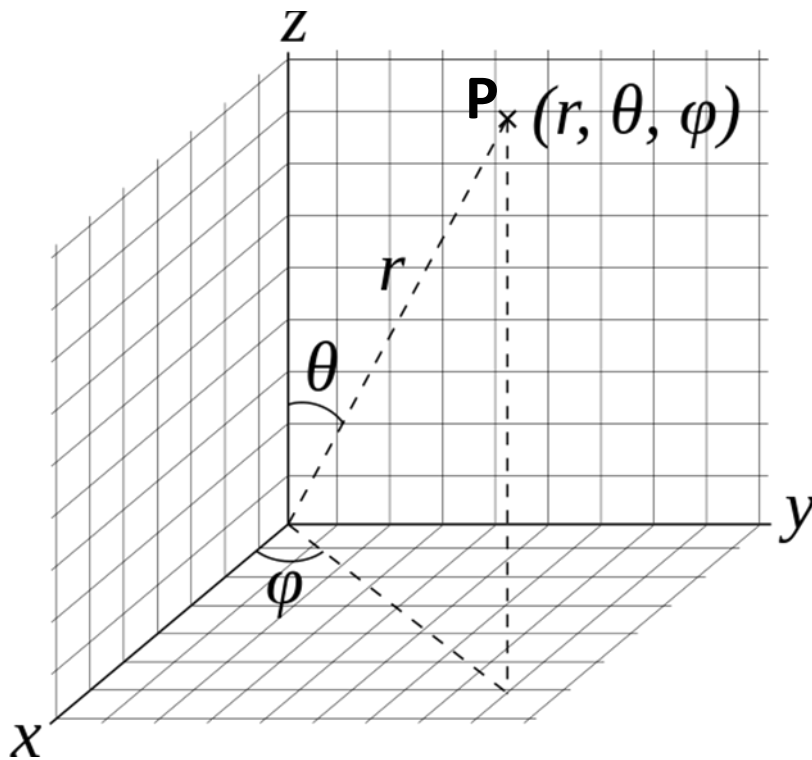
$$\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2$$

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{y}{x}$$

The cylindrical coordinates of **B** is approximately **(5, 53.13° , 2)**

## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Spherical coordinates system



In spherical coordinates, a point  $P$  is described by the radius  $r$ , the *polar angle*  $\theta$ , and the *azimuthal angle*  $\phi$ .

#### Ranges

$$0 \leq r \leq \infty$$

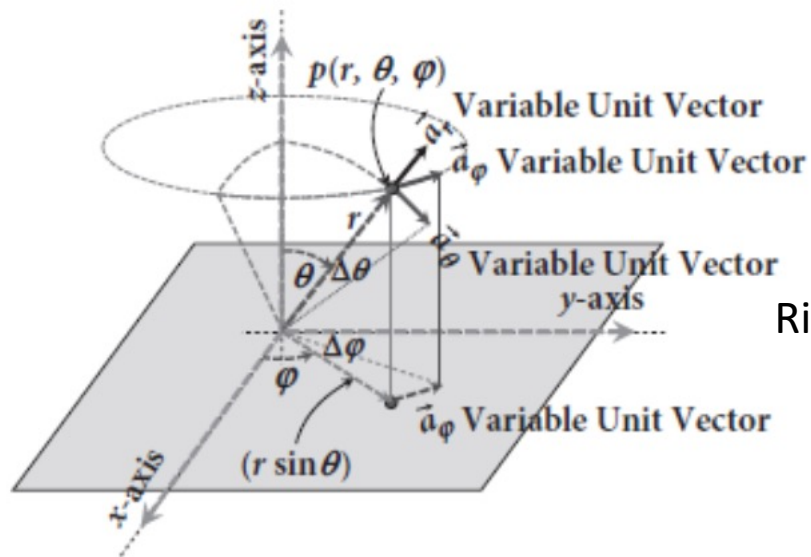
$$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

$$0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$$



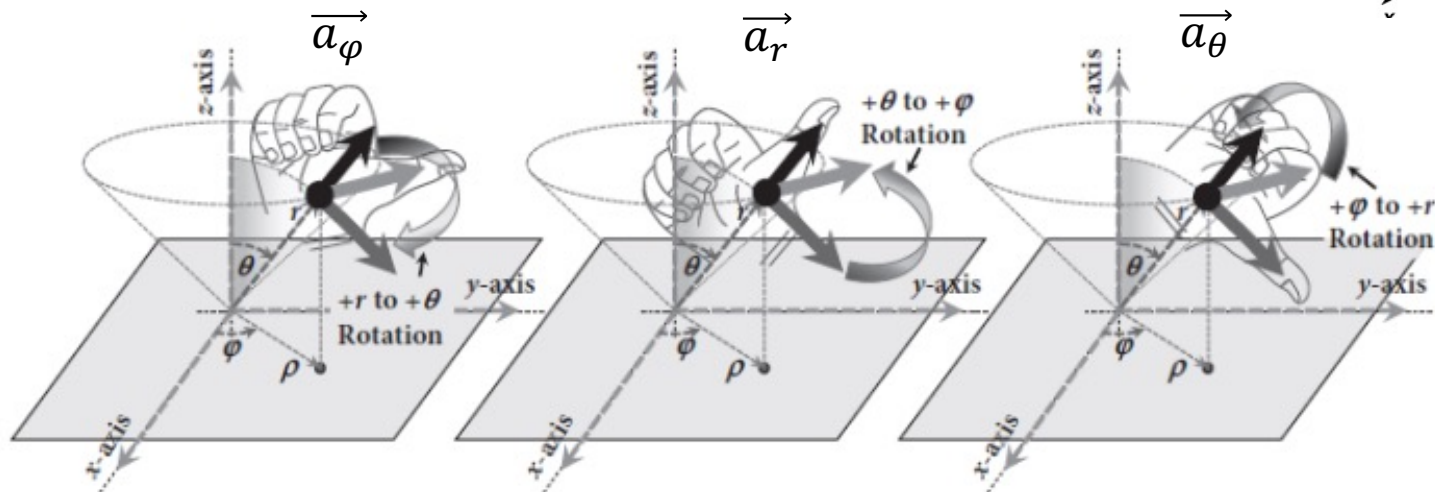
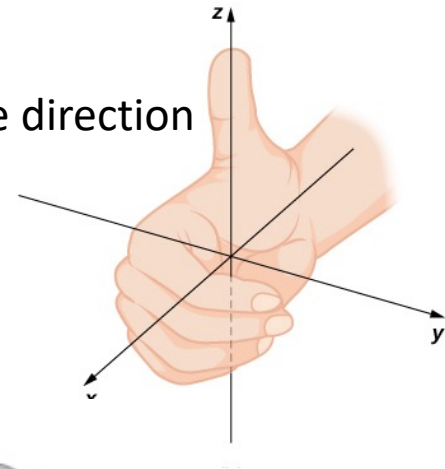
## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Spherical coordinates system



Unit Vectors  $\longrightarrow (\vec{a}_r, \vec{a}_\theta, \vec{a}_\phi)$  or  $(\hat{r}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi})$

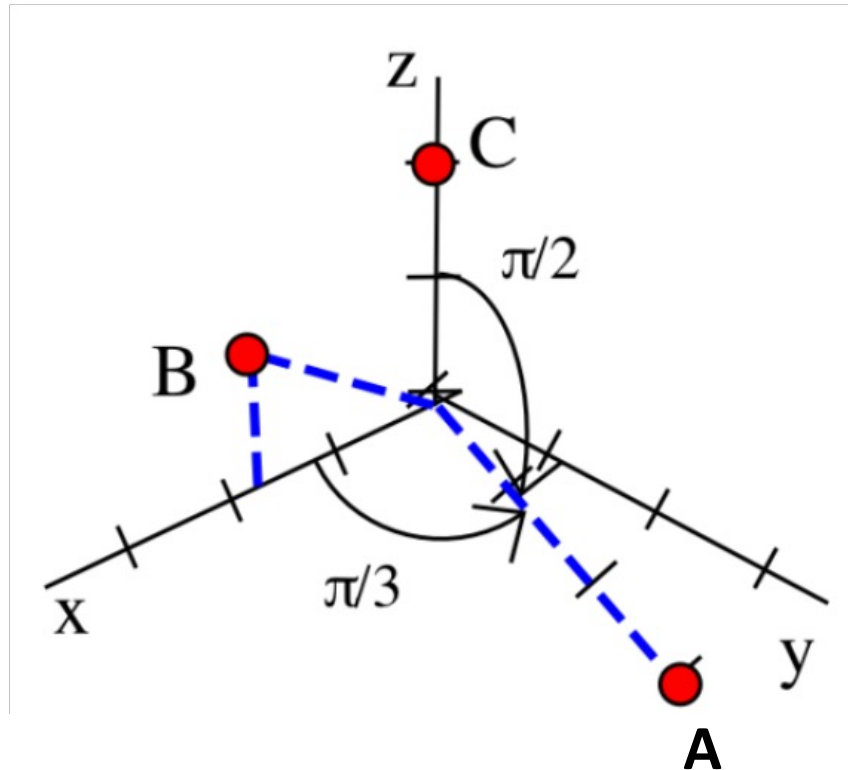
Right-hand approach provides the direction



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Cylindrical coordinates system

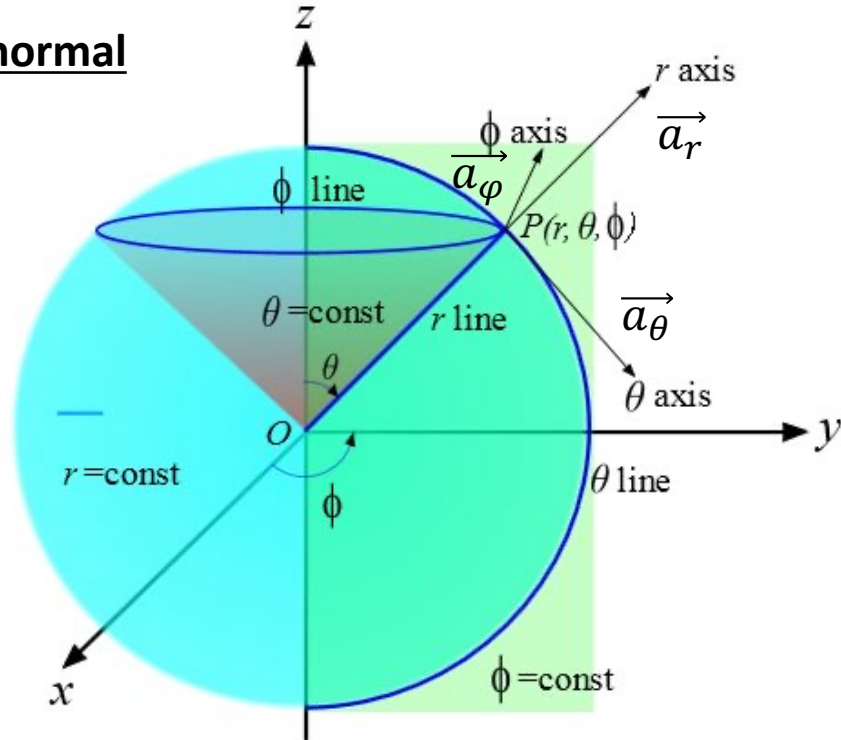
**Q1.** Plot the points given by the spherical coordinates **A**(3,  $\pi/2$ ,  $\pi/3$ ), **B**(2,  $\pi/3$ , 0), and **C**(2,  $0^\circ$ ,  $0^\circ$ ).



## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

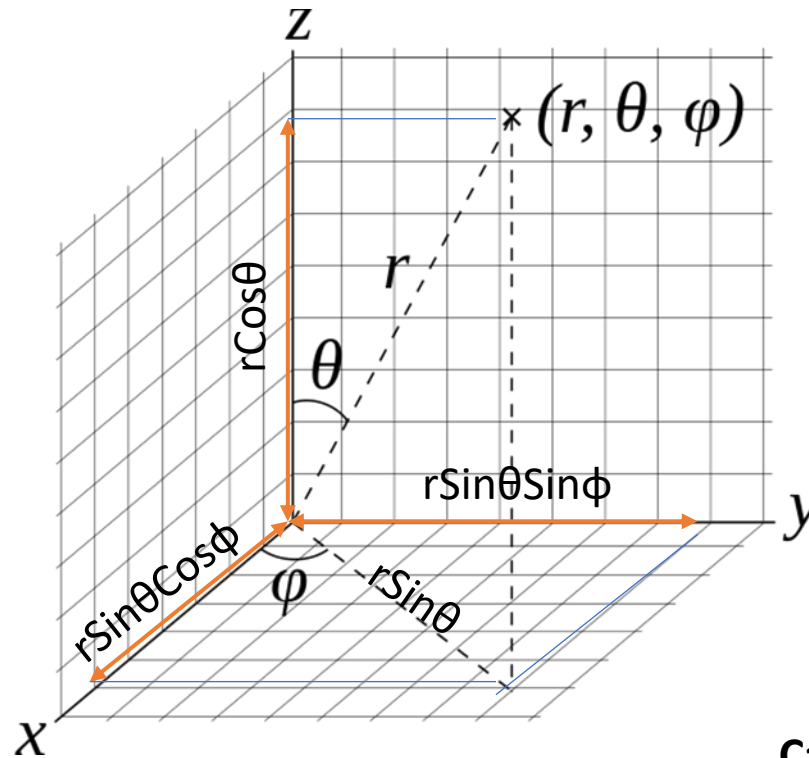
### Spherical coordinates system

The three unit vectors are orthonormal



Rectangular coordinates /  
Orthogonal coordinates

### Conversion Between Spherical and Cartesian Coordinates



#### Spherical to Cartesian

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

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

$$z = r \cos \theta$$

#### Cartesian to Spherical

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

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

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

### Conversion Between Spherical and Cartesian Coordinates

**Q1.** Write the rectangular coordinate location **A** (3, 6, 2) in the spherical coordinate system.

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3^2 + 6^2 + 2^2 = 49$$

$$r = 7$$

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{y}{x} = \frac{6}{3} = 2$$

$$\varphi = \tan^{-1}(2) \approx (63.4^\circ)$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{z}{r}\right) \approx (73.4^\circ)$$

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (r, \theta, \varphi)$$

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{y}{x}$$

$$z = r \cos(\theta)$$

The cylindrical coordinates of **A** is approximately **(5, 73.4°, 63.4°)**

### Conversion Between Spherical and Cartesian Coordinates

**Q2.** Write the spherical coordinate location  $\mathbf{B}(2, \pi/6, \pi/4)$  in the rectangular coordinate system.

$$x = 2 \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{6} \right) \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$y = 2 \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{6} \right) \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$z = 2 \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{6} \right) = 2 \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$(r, \theta, \varphi) \rightarrow (x, y, z)$$

$$x = r \sin(\theta) \cos(\varphi)$$

$$y = r \sin(\theta) \sin(\varphi)$$

$$z = r \cos(\theta)$$

Trigonometric Table



$\theta$	$0^\circ$	$30^\circ$	$45^\circ$	$60^\circ$	$90^\circ$	$180^\circ$	$270^\circ$	$360^\circ$
$\sin \theta$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	1	0	-1	0
$\cos \theta$	1	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1	0	1
$\tan \theta$	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$	Not Defined	0	Not Defined	0
$\operatorname{cosec} \theta$	Not Defined	2	$\sqrt{2}$	$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$	1	Not Defined	-1	Not Defined
$\sec \theta$	1	$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\sqrt{2}$	2	Not Defined	-1	Not Defined	1
$\cot \theta$	Not Defined	$\sqrt{3}$	1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$	0	Not Defined	0	Not Defined

The cylindrical coordinates of  $\mathbf{B}$  is approximately  $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sqrt{3})$

## Coordinate system in 3 Dimension (3D)

### Conversion Between Cartesian, Cylindrical, and Spherical Coordinates

Cylindrical–Cartesian	Spherical–Cartesian	Cylindrical–Spherical
$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ $\varphi = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$ $z = z$	$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ $\theta = \cos^{-1}(z/r)$ $\varphi = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$	$\rho = r \sin \theta$ $\varphi = \varphi$ $z = r \cos \theta$
$x = \rho \cos \varphi$ $y = \rho \sin \varphi$ $z = z$	$x = r \sin \theta \cos \varphi$ $y = r \sin \theta \sin \varphi$ $z = r \cos \theta$	$r = \sqrt{\rho^2 + z^2}$ $\theta = \cos^{-1}(z/r)$ $\varphi = \varphi$

## Next lecture

Incremental length, surface, and volume element  
Scalars and Vectors