

**Lecture 10: 12.7: Cylindrical and Spherical Coordinates.** Recall that in the plane it is sometimes useful to introduce polar coordinates. There are two possible natural and useful generalizations of this to space:

**Cylindrical coordinates**  $(r, \theta, z)$  of a point  $P(x, y, z)$  are obtained by using polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  of the projection in the  $x$ - $y$  plane and leaving  $z$  unchanged:

$$(12.7.1) \quad x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta, \quad z = z$$

To convert from rectangular to cylindrical coordinate we use:

$$(12.7.2) \quad r^2 = x^2 + y^2, \quad \tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}, \quad z = z.$$

Note that the surfaces  $r = c$  are cylinders of all points at distance  $c$  from the  $z$ -axis. The surfaces  $\theta = c$  are half planes from the  $z$ -axis at an angle  $c$  with the  $x$ - $z$  plane. The surface  $z = c$  are the planes parallel to and at a distance  $c$  from the  $x$ - $y$  plane.

**Spherical coordinates**  $(\rho, \theta, \phi)$  of a point  $P(x, y, z)$  are obtained by first using polar coordinates of the projection in the  $x$ - $y$  plane. We use the angle  $\theta$  in the  $x$ - $y$  plane but instead of the distance  $r$  to the  $z$  axis use the distance to the origin  $\rho$ :

$$(12.7.3) \quad \rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

Then  $\rho^2 = r^2 + z^2$  and we introduce another angle  $\phi$  to describe the height above the  $x$ - $y$  coordinate plane:  $z = \rho \cos \phi$  and  $r = \rho \sin \phi$ . We obtain the coordinates:

$$(12.7.4) \quad x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \quad y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \quad z = \rho \cos \phi$$

where we must have

$$(12.7.5) \quad \rho \geq 0, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$$

Note that the surfaces  $\rho = c$  are spheres of radius  $c$ .

The surfaces  $\theta = c$  are half planes from the  $z$ -axis at an angle  $c$  with the  $x$ - $z$  plane.

The surfaces  $\phi = c$  are half cones at an angle  $c$  with the positive  $z$ -axis.

**Ex.** Write down the equations in both cylindrical and spherical coordinates.

(a)  $z^2 = x^2 + y^2, z \geq 0$ , (b)  $z^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 1$ , (c)  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4$ .

**Sol.** (a)  $z^2 = r^2$  in cylindrical coordinates and  $\phi = \pi/4$  in spherical coordinates.

(b)  $z^2 = r^2 + 1$  in cylindrical coordinates and  $\rho^2 \cos^2 \phi = \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi + 1$  in spherical.

(c)  $z^2 + r^2 = 4$  in cylindrical coordinates and  $\rho^2 = 4$  in spherical coordinates.

**Ex.** Write down in in cylindrical and spherical coordinates the inequalities for the solid region  $\{(x, y, z); x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 1, x \geq 0, y \geq 0, z \geq 0\}$ .

**Sol.** In cylindrical coordinates:  $\{(r, \theta, z); 0 \leq r \leq 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2, 0 \leq z \leq \sqrt{1 - r^2}\}$  and in spherical coordinates it is  $\{(\rho, \theta, \phi); 0 \leq \rho \leq 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2, 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/2\}$ .

**Review for Midterm 1, Chapter 10.-10.5,12.1-12.6:**

**Parametric equations for a curve:**  $x = f(t)$ ,  $y = g(t)$ , where  $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$ .

**Slope of tangent line**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}$ . Eq. of tangent line  $y - y_0 = m(x - x_0)$ .

**Arc length:**  $L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{(dx/dt)^2 + (dy/dt)^2} dt$ .

**Area of surface of revolution around the  $x$ -axis:**  $A = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} 2\pi y \sqrt{(dx/dt)^2 + (dy/dt)^2} dt$ .

**Polar coordinates**  $x = r \cos \theta$ ,  $y = r \sin \theta$ ,  $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$ ,  $\tan \theta = y/x$ .

**Chap. 12: Vectors** If  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  are two points then the vector between them is  $\overrightarrow{P_0P_1} = \langle x_1 - x_0, y_1 - y_0, z_1 - z_0 \rangle$ .

Let  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$  be vectors and  $\theta$  the angle between them.

**Length:**  $|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$ .

**Dot product:**  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta$ .

$\mathbf{a}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{b}$  if  $\mathbf{a} = c\mathbf{b}$ , for some scalar  $c$ .  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are perpendicular if  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ .

**The vector projection** of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$  is the vector  $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b}) = \text{comp}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b})\mathbf{u}$ , where  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{a}/|\mathbf{a}|$  is a unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\text{comp}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{u}$  is the component of  $\mathbf{b}$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{a}$ .

**Cross product:**  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \langle a_2b_3 - a_3b_2, a_3b_1 - a_1b_3, a_1b_2 - a_2b_1 \rangle$ , if  $\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_2 & a_3 \\ b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k},$$

$|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \sin \theta$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is perpendicular to both  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .

The area of the triangle with  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  as two edges is  $A = |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|/2$ .

The volume of the parallelepiped with  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  as three edges is  $V = |\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})|$ .

$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = 0$  if  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are parallel.  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = 0$  if  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  lie in the same plane.

**Parametric equations of a line:**  $x = x_0 + at$ ,  $y = y_0 + bt$ ,  $z = z_0 + ct$  where  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is on the line and  $\langle a, b, c \rangle$  is parallel to it:  $\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t\langle a, b, c \rangle$ .

**Equations of planes**  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$ , where  $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  is a normal to the plane, i.e. it is perpendicular to it. If  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is a point in the plane this can also be written as  $\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$ .

**The distance** between a point  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and the plane is  $D = \frac{|ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$ .

**Examples of Quadratic surfaces:** An Ellipsoid  $x^2 + y^2 + 2z^2 = 1$ , an Elliptic Paraboloid  $z = x^2 + y^2$ , a Hyperbolic Paraboloid  $z = x^2 - y^2$ , a Cone  $z^2 = x^2 + y^2$  and a Hyperboloid  $z^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 1$ .