

L16: More on Polar Coordinates

October 19, 2016 11:26 AM



Announcement: Practice Midterm is up on course page.

Midterm: Oct. 25th 6-8 (next Tues).

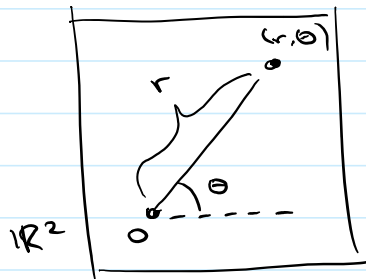
→ 6 questions

→ computation focused.

BRRR...

Today: More on Polar Coordinates:

Last time:



If ref. axis is the x-axis

↳ ref point is (0,0)

then (r, θ) is related to

Cartesian coordinates:

$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos \theta \\ y = r \sin \theta \end{cases}$$

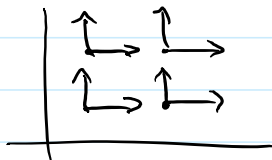
We saw how to compute:

$$\int_C f ds$$

$$\int_R f dA$$

Today, we'll see how to do computations w/ vectors.

In Cartesian coordinates,



at every point there are two direction vectors.

$$\vec{e}_x(x,y) = (1,0) \quad (\hat{i} \text{ or } \vec{i})$$

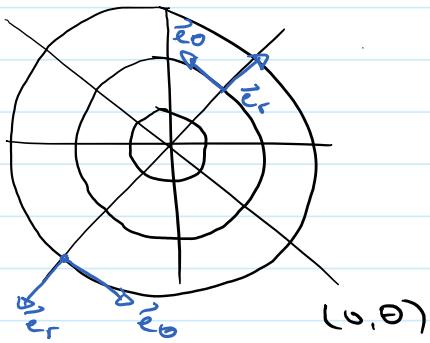
$$\vec{e}_y(x,y) = (0,1) \quad (\hat{j} \text{ or } \vec{j})$$

Can think of these as constant and mutually orthogonal vector fields.

$$\text{If } \vec{r}(t) = x(t)\vec{e}_x + y(t)\vec{e}_y$$

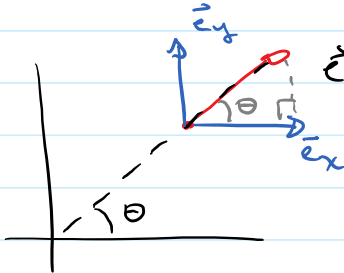
$$\frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt} = x'(t)\vec{e}_x + y'(t)\vec{e}_y$$

The analogous direction vector fields in polar coordinates are no longer constant.

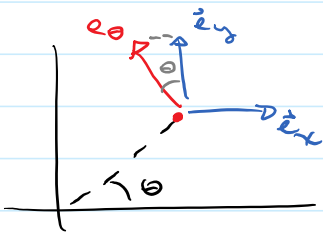


Other names:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{e}_r &= \hat{r} = \vec{r} \\ \vec{e}_\theta &= \hat{\theta} = \vec{\theta} \end{aligned} \right\}$$



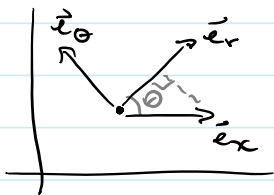
$$\vec{e}_r(x, y) = \cos\theta \vec{e}_x + \sin\theta \vec{e}_y$$



$$\vec{e}_\theta = -\sin\theta \vec{e}_x + \cos\theta \vec{e}_y$$

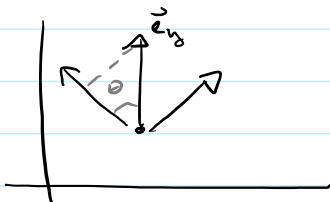
Warning:

$$\begin{aligned} (r, \theta) &\neq r\vec{e}_r + \theta\vec{e}_\theta \\ (x, y) &= x\vec{e}_x + y\vec{e}_y \\ (r, \theta) &= r\vec{e}_r(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

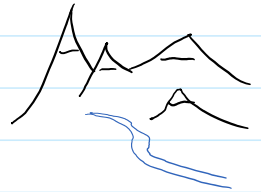


$$\begin{aligned} \vec{e}_r \cdot \vec{e}_\theta &= (\cos\theta \vec{e}_x + \sin\theta \vec{e}_y) \cdot (-\sin\theta \vec{e}_x + \cos\theta \vec{e}_y) \\ &= -\cos\theta \sin\theta + \sin\theta \cos\theta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

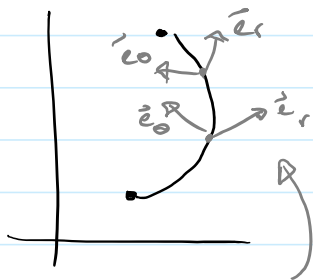
$$\vec{e}_x = \cos\theta \vec{e}_r - \sin\theta \vec{e}_\theta$$



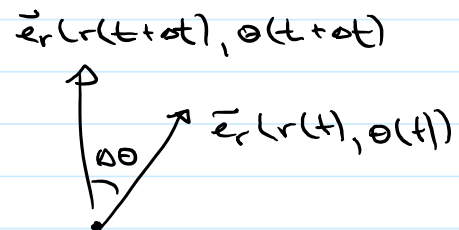
$$\vec{e}_y = \sin\theta \vec{e}_r + \cos\theta \vec{e}_\theta$$



Let $t \rightarrow \vec{r}(t)$, $t \in [a, b]$



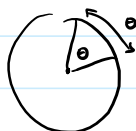
$$\frac{d\vec{e}_r}{dt}(r(t), \theta(t)) \parallel \frac{d\theta}{dt} \vec{e}_\theta$$



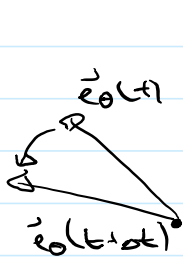
where $\Delta\theta = \theta(t + \Delta t) - \theta(t)$

$$\frac{\vec{e}_r(t + \Delta t) - \vec{e}_r(t)}{\Delta t} \approx \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} \vec{e}_\theta$$

* these vectors should probably be more parallel to each other ...

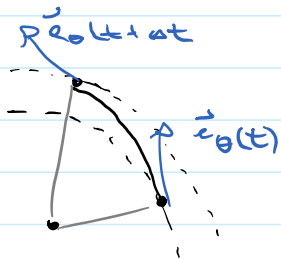


$\vec{e}_\theta(t)$



$$\frac{\vec{e}_0(t+dt) - \vec{e}_0(t)}{dt} \approx -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \vec{e}_r$$

* Check correctness next lecture notes.



$$\frac{d\vec{e}_0}{dt}(r(t), \theta(t)) = -\frac{dr}{dt} \vec{e}_r(r(t), \theta(t))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t) &= r(t) \vec{e}_r(\theta(t)) \\ \vec{v}(t) &= \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}(t) = \frac{dr}{dt} \vec{e}_r(r(t), \theta(t)) + r(t) \frac{d\vec{e}_r}{dt}(r(t), \theta(t)) \\ &= \frac{dr}{dt} \vec{e}_r + r \left(\frac{d\theta}{dt} \vec{e}_\theta \right) \\ &= \frac{dr}{dt} \vec{e}_r + r \frac{d\theta}{dt} \vec{e}_\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\|\vec{v}(t)\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 + r^2 \left(\frac{d\theta}{dt}\right)^2}$$

$$\vec{a}(t) = \left(\frac{d^2r}{dt^2} - r \left(\frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \right) \vec{e}_r + \left(r \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} - 2 \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right) \vec{e}_\theta$$

$$\vec{F}(r, \theta) = F_r(r, \theta) \vec{e}_r(r, \theta) + F_\theta(r, \theta) \vec{e}_\theta(r, \theta)$$

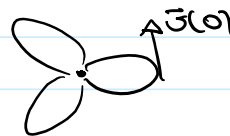
$$\int_c \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_a^b F_r(r(t), \theta(t)) \frac{dr}{dt} dt + F_\theta(r(t), \theta(t)) r \frac{d\theta}{dt} dt$$

Example:

$$(r(t), \theta(t)) = (1 + \cos(3t), t)$$

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = -3 \sin(3t)$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 1$$



$$\vec{r}(t) = (-3 \sin(3t)) \vec{e}_r + (1 + \cos(3t)) \cdot 1 \vec{e}_\theta$$

$$t=0 : 0 \vec{e}_r + 2 \vec{e}_\theta$$

$$t=\pi/3 : 0 \vec{e}_r + 0 \vec{e}_\theta$$

$$t=\pi/6 : -3 \vec{e}_r + 1 \vec{e}_\theta$$