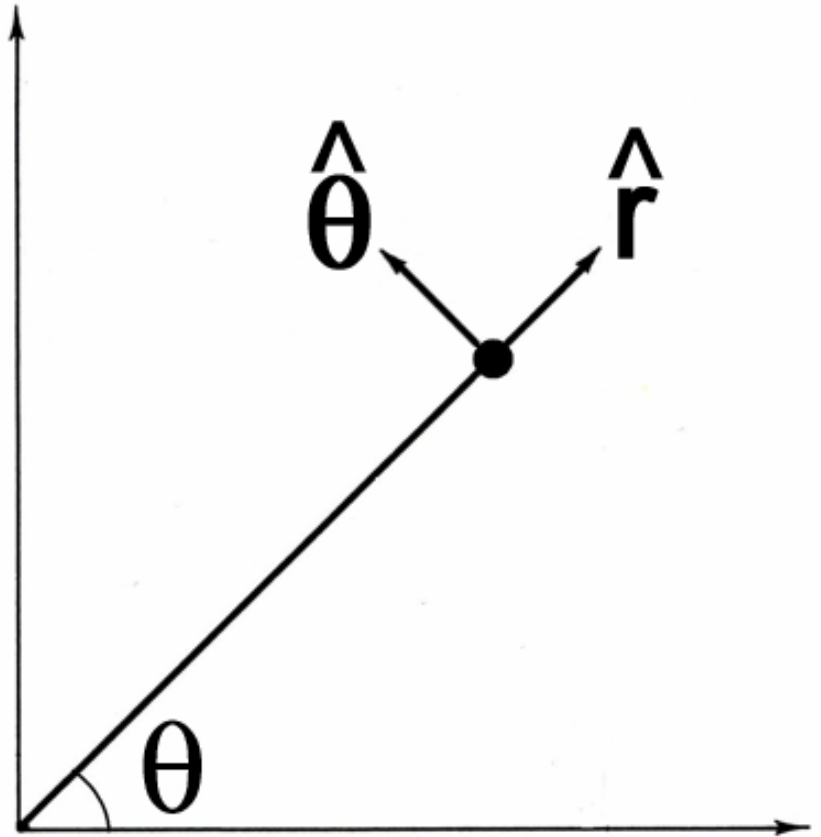


Handout 2

Supplement to Section 3.5.3

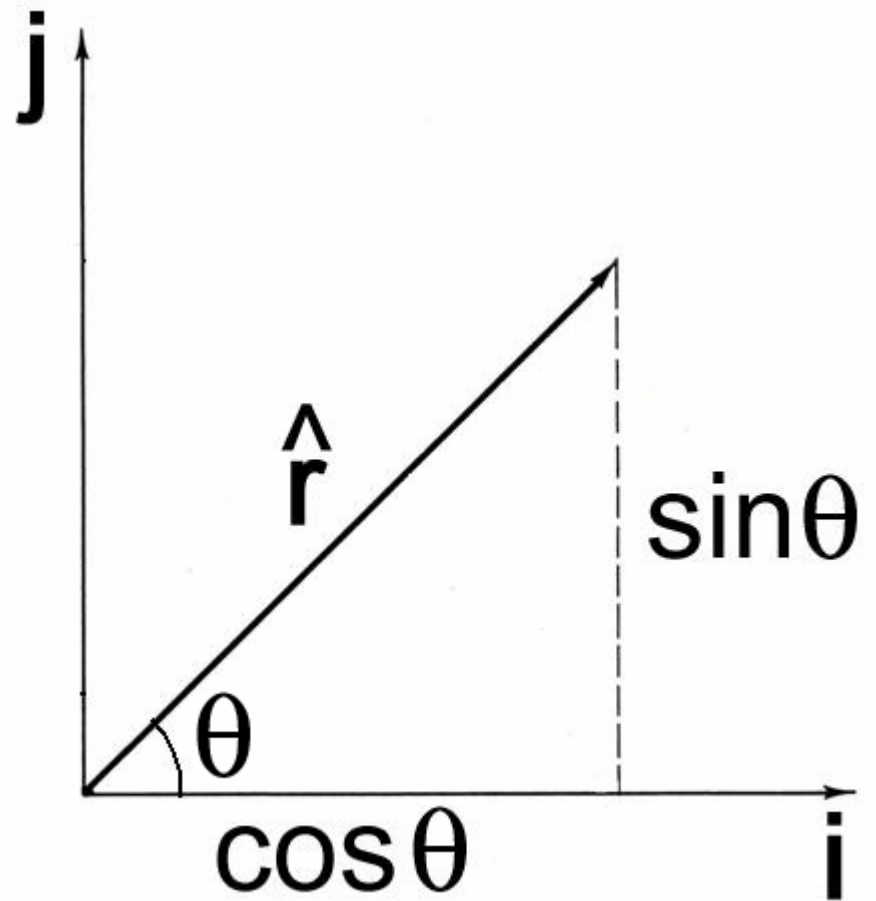
Unit vectors in polar coordinates

Unlike \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} (unit vectors in x and y direction), the directions of the unit vectors in polar coordinates depend on the position of the point under consideration.

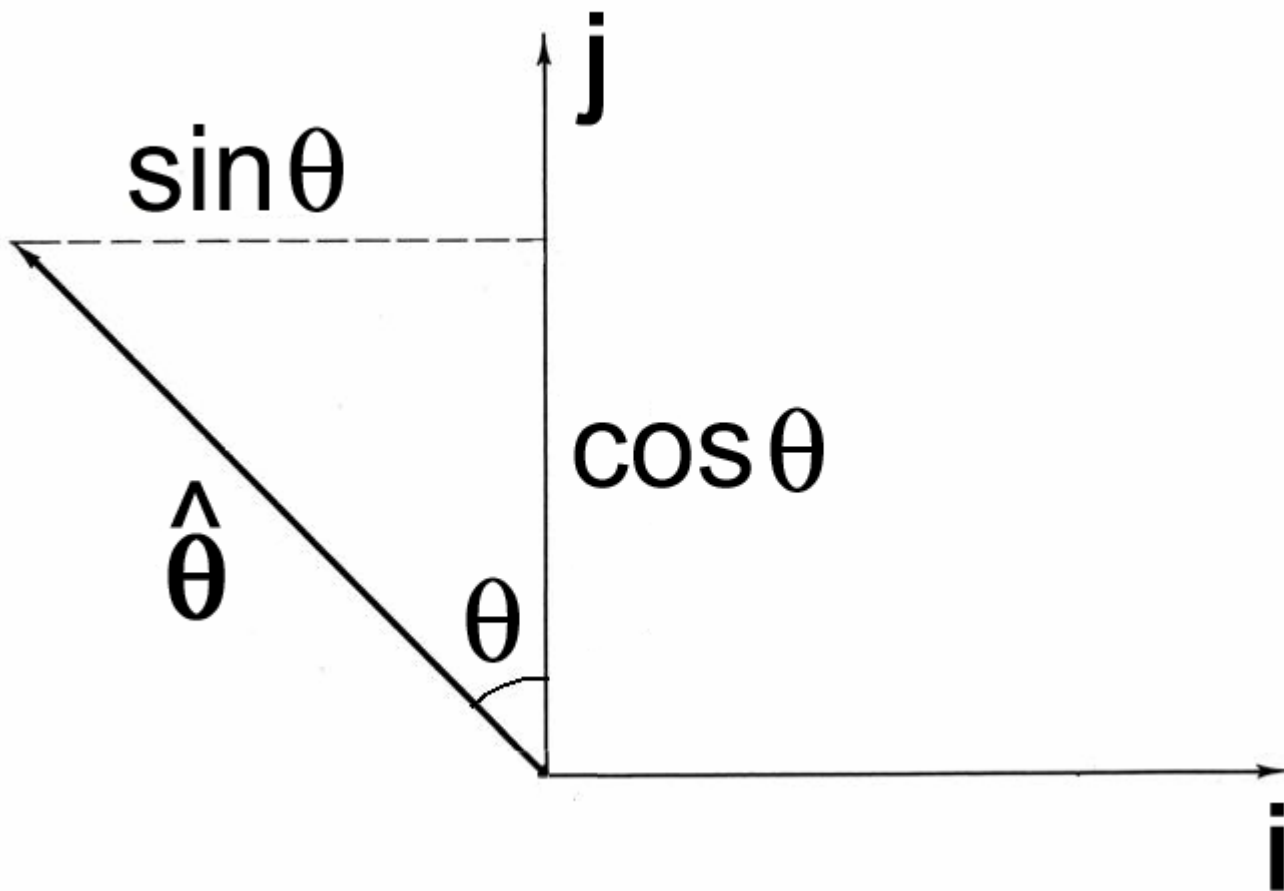


\hat{r} = unit vector in r direction

$\hat{\theta}$ = unit vector in θ direction



$$\hat{r} = i \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$



$$\hat{\theta} = -i \sin \theta + j \cos \theta$$