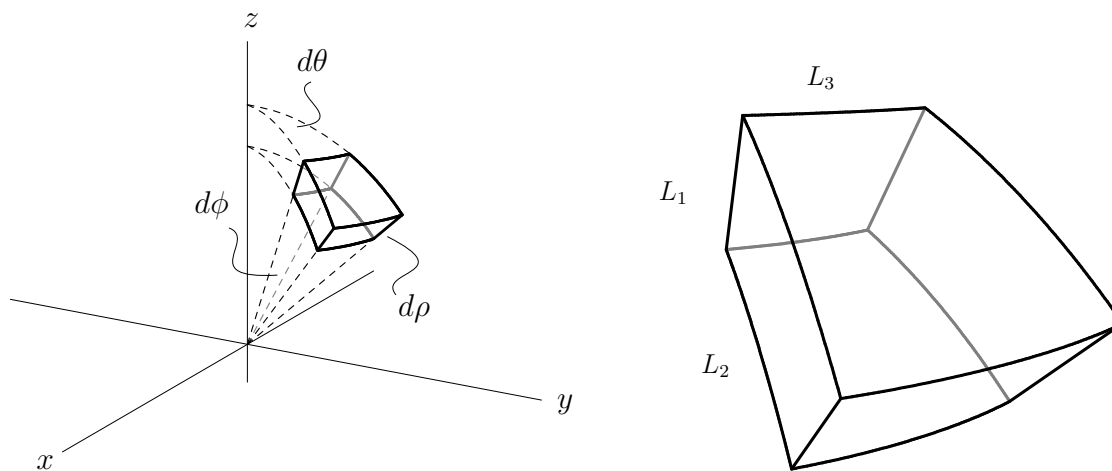


The volume element in spherical coordinates

The figure below on the left shows a generic spherical “box” defined as the points with spherical coordinates ranging in intervals of extent $d\rho$, $d\phi$, and $d\theta$. Let (ρ, ϕ, θ) be the spherical coordinates of some particular point in the box. The figure on the right shows a zoomed-in view of the box with the edge lengths labeled L_1 , L_2 , and L_3 .



1. What is L_1 in terms of ρ , ϕ , θ , $d\rho$, $d\phi$, and $d\theta$ (as needed)?
2. The length L_2 is the length of an arc of a circle.
 - (a) What is the radius of this circle?
 - (b) What is the angle subtended by the arc?
 - (c) What is L_2 in terms of ρ , ϕ , θ , $d\rho$, $d\phi$, and $d\theta$ (as needed)?
3. The length L_3 is also the length of an arc of a circle.
 - (a) What is the radius of this circle?
Hint: Draw a vertical cross-section of the sphere.
 - (b) What is the angle subtended by the arc?
 - (c) What is L_3 in terms of ρ , ϕ , θ , $d\rho$, $d\phi$, and $d\theta$ (as needed)?
4. Let dV be the volume of the box. What is dV in terms of ρ , ϕ , θ , $d\rho$, $d\phi$, and $d\theta$ (as needed)?