

Gradient, Divergence, Curl, and Laplacian Operations

Cartesian Coordinates (x, y, z)

$$\nabla V = \mathbf{a}_x \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} + \mathbf{a}_y \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} + \mathbf{a}_z \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{a}_x & \mathbf{a}_y & \mathbf{a}_z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \end{vmatrix} = \mathbf{a}_x \left(\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) + \mathbf{a}_y \left(\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \right) + \mathbf{a}_z \left(\frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2}$$

Cylindrical Coordinates (r, ϕ, z)

$$\nabla V = \mathbf{a}_r \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} + \mathbf{a}_\phi \frac{\partial V}{r \partial \phi} + \mathbf{a}_z \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_r) + \frac{\partial A_\phi}{r \partial \phi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{a}_r & \mathbf{a}_\phi r & \mathbf{a}_z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ A_r & r A_\phi & A_z \end{vmatrix} = \mathbf{a}_r \left(\frac{\partial A_z}{r \partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z} \right) + \mathbf{a}_\phi \left(\frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} \right) + \mathbf{a}_z \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\phi) - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2}$$

Spherical Coordinates (R, θ, ϕ)

$$\nabla V = \mathbf{a}_R \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} + \mathbf{a}_\theta \frac{\partial V}{R \partial \theta} + \mathbf{a}_\phi \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{R^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R^2 A_R) + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{R^2 \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{a}_R & \mathbf{a}_\theta R & \mathbf{a}_\phi R \sin \theta \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial R} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ A_R & R A_\theta & (R \sin \theta) A_\phi \end{vmatrix} = \mathbf{a}_R \frac{1}{R \sin \theta} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right] + \mathbf{a}_\theta \frac{1}{R} \left[\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_R}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R A_\phi) \right] + \mathbf{a}_\phi \frac{1}{R} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R A_\theta) - \frac{\partial A_R}{\partial \theta} \right]$$

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{1}{R^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(R^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} \right) + \frac{1}{R^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{R^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2}$$

Some Useful Vector Identities

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B})$$

$$\nabla(\psi V) = \psi \nabla V + V \nabla \psi$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\psi \mathbf{A}) = \psi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla \psi$$

$$\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{A}) = \psi \nabla \times \mathbf{A} + \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{A}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla V = \nabla^2 V$$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$$

$$\nabla \times \nabla V = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = 0$$

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} \, dv = \oint_S \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad (\text{Divergence theorem})$$

$$\int_S \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \oint_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell} \quad (\text{Stokes's theorem})$$