

Table with the del operator in cylindrical, spherical and parabolic cylindrical coordinates

Operation	<u>Cartesian coordinates</u> (x,y,z)	<u>Cylindrical coordinates</u> (ρ,φ,z)	<u>Spherical coordinates</u> (r,θ,φ)
Definition of coordinates	$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \\ \phi &= \arctan(y/x) \\ z &= z\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}x &= \rho \cos \phi \\ y &= \rho \sin \phi \\ z &= z\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}x &= r \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ y &= r \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ z &= r \cos \theta\end{aligned}$
	$\begin{aligned}r &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \\ \theta &= \arccos(z/r) \\ \phi &= \arctan(y/x)\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}r &= \sqrt{\rho^2 + z^2} \\ \theta &= \arctan(\rho/z) \\ \phi &= \phi\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}\rho &= r \sin(\theta) \\ \phi &= \phi \\ z &= r \cos(\theta)\end{aligned}$
Definition of unit vectors	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} &= \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{z}} &= \hat{\mathbf{z}}\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}} &= \cos \phi \hat{\rho} - \sin \phi \hat{\phi} \\ \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \sin \phi \hat{\rho} + \cos \phi \hat{\phi} \\ \hat{\mathbf{z}} &= \hat{\mathbf{z}}\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}} &= \sin \theta \cos \phi \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \cos \theta \cos \phi \hat{\theta} - \sin \phi \hat{\phi} \\ \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \sin \theta \sin \phi \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{\theta} + \cos \phi \hat{\phi} \\ \hat{\mathbf{z}} &= \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}\end{aligned}$
	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{x^3+y^2}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{x^2+y^3}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \hat{\theta} &= \frac{xz}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{yz}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \frac{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\hat{\mathbf{y}}\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{\rho}{\sqrt{\rho^2+z^2}}\hat{\rho} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{\rho^2+z^2}}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \hat{\theta} &= \frac{z}{\sqrt{\rho^2+z^2}}\hat{\rho} - \frac{\rho}{\sqrt{\rho^2+z^2}}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \hat{\phi} &= \hat{\phi}\end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} &= \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \cos \theta \hat{\theta} \\ \hat{\phi} &= \hat{\phi} \\ \hat{\mathbf{z}} &= \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}\end{aligned}$
A <u>vector field</u> A	$A_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + A_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + A_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$A_\rho \hat{\rho} + A_\phi \hat{\phi} + A_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$A_r \hat{\mathbf{r}} + A_\theta \hat{\theta} + A_\phi \hat{\phi}$
<u>Gradient</u> ∇f	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \hat{\rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi}$
<u>Divergence</u> $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}$	$\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial (\rho A_\rho)}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 A_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$

<u>Curl</u> $\nabla \times \mathbf{A}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho} \\ \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\phi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi} \right) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho} \\ \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho} \\ \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\phi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi} \right) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\phi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi} \right) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\phi) \right) \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\theta) - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \right) \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
<u>Laplace operator</u> $\Delta f = \nabla^2 f$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2}$
<u>Vector Laplacian</u> $\Delta \mathbf{A} = \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$	$\Delta A_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \Delta A_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \Delta A_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta A_\rho - \frac{A_\rho}{\rho^2} - \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \\ \Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi} \\ (\Delta A_z) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \begin{pmatrix} \Delta A_\rho - \frac{A_\rho}{\rho^2} - \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \\ \Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi} \\ (\Delta A_z) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + (\Delta A_z) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta A_r - \frac{2A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial(A_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \\ \left(\Delta A_\theta - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \right) \\ \left(\Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \begin{pmatrix} \Delta A_r - \frac{2A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial(A_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \\ \left(\Delta A_\theta - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \right) \\ \left(\Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \begin{pmatrix} \Delta A_r - \frac{2A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial(A_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \\ \left(\Delta A_\theta - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \right) \\ \left(\Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
<u>Material derivative</u> $\frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}$	$\begin{pmatrix} A_x \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_x \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_x \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} \\ A_x \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} + A_y \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\begin{pmatrix} A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial z} + \frac{A_\phi B_\rho}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial z} + \frac{A_\phi B_\rho}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial z} + \frac{A_\phi B_\rho}{\rho} \\ A_\rho \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\phi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\begin{pmatrix} A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_\theta + A_\phi B_\phi}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi \cot(\theta)}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} + \frac{A_\phi B_\theta \cot(\theta)}{r} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_\theta + A_\phi B_\phi}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi \cot(\theta)}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} + \frac{A_\phi B_\theta \cot(\theta)}{r} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \begin{pmatrix} A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_\theta + A_\phi B_\phi}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi \cot(\theta)}{r} \\ A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} + \frac{A_\phi B_\theta \cot(\theta)}{r} \end{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
Differential displacement	$d\mathbf{l} = dx \hat{\mathbf{x}} + dy \hat{\mathbf{y}} + dz \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$d\mathbf{l} = d\rho \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \rho d\phi \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + dz \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$d\mathbf{l} = dr \hat{\mathbf{r}} + r d\theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + r \sin \theta d\phi \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
Differential normal area	$d\mathbf{S} = dy dz \hat{\mathbf{x}} + dx dz \hat{\mathbf{y}} + dx dy \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$d\mathbf{S} = \rho d\phi dz \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + d\rho dz \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + \rho d\rho d\phi \hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$d\mathbf{S} = r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \hat{\mathbf{r}} + r \sin \theta dr d\phi \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + r dr d\theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
Differential volume	$dV = dx dy dz$	$dV = \rho d\rho d\phi dz$	$dV = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi$
<p>Non-trivial calculation rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $\text{div grad } f = \nabla \cdot (\nabla f) = \nabla^2 f = \Delta f$ (<u>Laplacian</u>) 2. $\text{curl grad } f = \nabla \times (\nabla f) = \mathbf{0}$ 3. $\text{div curl } \mathbf{A} = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = 0$ 4. $\text{curl curl } \mathbf{A} = \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$ (using Lagrange's formula for the <u>cross product</u>) 5. $\Delta f g = f \Delta g + 2 \nabla f \cdot \nabla g + g \Delta f$ 			