

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

Operation	Cartesian coordinates ( $x, y, z$ )	Cylindrical coordinates ( $\rho, \varphi, z$ )	Spherical coordinates ( $r, \theta, \varphi$ ), where $\theta$ is the polar and $\varphi$ is the azimuthal angle <sup>a</sup>
A vector field A	$A_x \hat{x} + A_y \hat{y} + A_z \hat{z}$	$A_\rho \hat{\rho} + A_\varphi \hat{\varphi} + A_z \hat{z}$	$A_r \hat{r} + A_\theta \hat{\theta} + A_\varphi \hat{\varphi}$
Gradient $\nabla f^{[1]}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{z}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \hat{\rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \varphi} \hat{\varphi} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{z}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \varphi} \hat{\varphi}$
Divergence $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}^{[1]}$	$\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial (\rho A_\rho)}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 A_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi}$
Curl $\nabla \times \mathbf{A}^{[1]}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial z} \right) \hat{\rho} \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho} \right) \hat{\varphi} \\ & + \frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial (\rho A_\varphi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{z} \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\varphi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{r} \\ & + \frac{1}{r} \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\varphi) \right) \hat{\theta} \\ & + \frac{1}{r} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\theta) - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \right) \hat{\varphi} \end{aligned}$
Laplace operator $\nabla^2 f \equiv \Delta f^{[1]}$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left( \rho \frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \varphi^2}$
Vector Laplacian $\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} \equiv \Delta \mathbf{A}$	$\nabla^2 A_x \hat{x} + \nabla^2 A_y \hat{y} + \nabla^2 A_z \hat{z}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( \nabla^2 A_\rho - \frac{A_\rho}{\rho^2} - \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{\rho} \\ & + \left( \nabla^2 A_\varphi - \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{\varphi} \\ & + \nabla^2 A_z \hat{z} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]	$\begin{aligned} & \left( \nabla^2 A_r - \frac{2 A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (A_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{r} \\ & + \left( \nabla^2 A_\theta - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{\theta} \\ & + \left( \nabla^2 A_\varphi - \frac{A_\varphi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \varphi} \right) \hat{\varphi} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]
Material derivative <sup>a[2]</sup> $(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}$	$\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla B_x \hat{x} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla B_y \hat{y} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla B_z \hat{z}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial \varphi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\varphi B_\varphi}{\rho} \right) \hat{\rho} \\ & + \left( A_\rho \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial z} + \frac{A_\varphi B_\rho}{\rho} \right) \hat{\varphi} \\ & + \left( A_\rho \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \varphi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \right) \hat{z} \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\varphi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{A_\theta B_\theta + A_\varphi B_\varphi}{r} \right) \hat{r} \\ & + \left( A_r \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\varphi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} - \frac{A_\varphi B_\varphi \cot \theta}{r} \right) \hat{\theta} \\ & + \left( A_r \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\varphi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{A_\varphi B_r}{r} + \frac{A_\varphi B_\theta \cot \theta}{r} \right) \hat{\varphi} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]
Tensor divergence $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}$	$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\partial T_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{yx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{zx}}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial T_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{zy}}{\partial z} \right) \hat{y} \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial T_{xz}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{yz}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z} \right) \hat{z} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]	$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \frac{\partial T_{\rho\rho}}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi\rho}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial T_{z\rho}}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{\rho} (T_{\rho\rho} - T_{\varphi\varphi}) \right] \hat{\rho} \\ & + \left[ \frac{\partial T_{\rho\rho}}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi\varphi}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial T_{z\rho}}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{\rho} (T_{\rho\rho} + T_{\varphi\varphi}) \right] \hat{\varphi} \\ & + \left[ \frac{\partial T_{\rho z}}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi z}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z} + \frac{T_{\rho z}}{\rho} \right] \hat{z} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]	$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \frac{\partial T_{rr}}{\partial r} + 2 \frac{T_{rr}}{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta r}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r} T_{\theta r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi r}}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{1}{r} (T_{\theta\theta} + T_{\varphi\varphi}) \right] \hat{r} \\ & + \left[ \frac{\partial T_{r\theta}}{\partial r} + 2 \frac{T_{r\theta}}{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r} T_{\theta\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi\theta}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{T_{\theta\theta}}{r} - \frac{\cot \theta}{r} T_{\varphi\theta} \right] \hat{\theta} \\ & + \left[ \frac{\partial T_{r\varphi}}{\partial r} + 2 \frac{T_{r\varphi}}{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\varphi}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\varphi\varphi}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{T_{\theta\varphi}}{r} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r} (T_{\theta\varphi} + T_{\varphi\theta}) \right] \hat{\varphi} \end{aligned}$ — View by clicking [show]