

Vector Formulas

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$$

$$(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{d}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d}) - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{d})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c})$$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \psi = 0$$

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

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

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

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

$$\nabla(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{b} + (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{b}) + \mathbf{b} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{a})$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{b} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{a} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{b})$$

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{b}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{a} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{b}$$

If \mathbf{x} is the coordinate of a point with respect to some origin, with magnitude $r = |\mathbf{x}|$, $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{x}/r$ is a unit radial vector, and $f(r)$ is a well-behaved function of r , then

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{x} = 3$$

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

$$\nabla \cdot [\mathbf{n}f(r)] = \frac{2}{r}f + \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \quad \nabla \times [\mathbf{n}f(r)] = 0$$

$$(\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{n}f(r) = \frac{f(r)}{r} [\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n})] + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$$

$$\nabla(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{x}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + i(\mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{a})$$

where $\mathbf{L} = \frac{1}{i} (\mathbf{x} \times \nabla)$ is the angular-momentum operator.

Theorems from Vector Calculus

In the following ϕ , ψ , and \mathbf{A} are well-behaved scalar or vector functions, V is a three-dimensional volume with volume element d^3x , S is a closed two-dimensional surface bounding V , with area element da and unit outward normal \mathbf{n} at da .

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} d^3x = \int_S \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{n} da \quad (\text{Divergence theorem})$$

$$\int_V \nabla \psi d^3x = \int_S \psi \mathbf{n} da$$

$$\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} d^3x = \int_S \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{A} da$$

$$\int_V (\phi \nabla^2 \psi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi) d^3x = \int_S \phi \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \psi da \quad (\text{Green's first identity})$$

$$\int_V (\phi \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \phi) d^3x = \int_S (\phi \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \phi) \cdot \mathbf{n} da \quad (\text{Green's theorem})$$

In the following S is an open surface and C is the contour bounding it, with line element $d\mathbf{l}$. The normal \mathbf{n} to S is defined by the right-hand-screw rule in relation to the sense of the line integral around C .

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

$$\int_S \mathbf{n} \times \nabla \psi da = \oint_C \psi d\mathbf{l}$$

Where to Find Key Material on Special Functions

SPHERICAL

Legendre polynomials $P_l(x)$	97–101
Associated Legendre functions $P_l^m(x)$	108
Spherical harmonics $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$	108–9

CYLINDRICAL

Bessel functions $J_\nu(x)$, $N_\nu(x)$	113–4
Modified Bessel functions $I_\nu(x)$, $K_\nu(x)$	116
Spherical Bessel functions $j_l(x)$, $n_l(x)$, $h_l^{(1,2)}(x)$	426–7
Roots of $J_m(x) = 0$	114
Roots of $J'_m(x) = 0$	370
Identities involving Bessel functions	126, 132, 140, 205
Airy integrals, connection to Bessel functions	678

ORTHOGONAL FUNCTION EXPANSIONS

Bessel function (finite interval in ρ)	114–5, 138–9
Bessel function (infinite interval in ρ)	118
Eigenfunction, of Green function	127–8
Fourier series	68
Fourier integral	69–70
Legendre polynomial	99
Spherical harmonic	109
Spherical Bessel function	119

Explicit Forms of Vector Operations

Let $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3$ be orthogonal unit vectors associated with the coordinate directions specified in the headings on the left, and A_1, A_2, A_3 be the corresponding components of \mathbf{A} . Then

Cartesian
($x_1, x_2, x_3 = x, y, z$)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\psi &= \mathbf{e}_1 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x_1} + \mathbf{e}_2 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x_2} + \mathbf{e}_3 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x_3} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} &= \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial x_3} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{A} &= \mathbf{e}_1 \left(\frac{\partial A_3}{\partial x_2} - \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial x_3} \right) + \mathbf{e}_2 \left(\frac{\partial A_1}{\partial x_3} - \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial x_1} \right) + \mathbf{e}_3 \left(\frac{\partial A_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial x_2} \right) \\ \nabla^2\psi &= \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x_2^2} + \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x_3^2}\end{aligned}$$

Cylindrical
(ρ, ϕ, z)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\psi &= \mathbf{e}_1 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\rho} + \mathbf{e}_2 \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\phi} + \mathbf{e}_3 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} &= \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial\rho} (\rho A_1) + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial\phi} + \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial z} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{A} &= \mathbf{e}_1 \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial\phi} - \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial z} \right) + \mathbf{e}_2 \left(\frac{\partial A_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial\rho} \right) + \mathbf{e}_3 \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\rho} (\rho A_2) - \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial\phi} \right) \\ \nabla^2\psi &= \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial\rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\rho} \right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial\phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial z^2}\end{aligned}$$

Spherical
(r, θ, ϕ)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\psi &= \mathbf{e}_1 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} + \mathbf{e}_2 \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\theta} + \mathbf{e}_3 \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\phi} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 A_1) + \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} (\sin\theta A_2) + \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial\phi} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{A} &= \mathbf{e}_1 \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} (\sin\theta A_3) - \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial\phi} \right] \\ &\quad + \mathbf{e}_2 \left[\frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial\phi} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_3) \right] + \mathbf{e}_3 \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_2) - \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial\theta} \right] \\ \nabla^2\psi &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2\theta} \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial\phi^2} \\ &\quad \left[\text{Note that } \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right) \equiv \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r\psi). \right]\end{aligned}$$