

DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS IN CURVILINEAR COORDINATES⁵

Cylindrical Coordinates

Divergence

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

Gradient

$$(\nabla f)_r = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}; \quad (\nabla f)_\phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}; \quad (\nabla f)_z = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$$

Curl

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_r = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_\phi = \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r}$$

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (rA_\phi) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi}$$

Laplacian

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

Laplacian of a vector

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_r = \nabla^2 A_r - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_r}{r^2}$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_\phi = \nabla^2 A_\phi + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2}$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_z = \nabla^2 A_z$$

Components of $(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}$

$$(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B})_r = A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\phi}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \phi} + A_z \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\phi B_\phi}{r}$$

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

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

Divergence of a tensor

$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_r = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r T_{rr}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\phi r}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial T_{zr}}{\partial z} - \frac{T_{\phi\phi}}{r}$$

$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_\phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r T_{r\phi}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\phi\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial T_{z\phi}}{\partial z} + \frac{T_{\phi r}}{r}$$

$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r T_{rz}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\phi z}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z}$$

Spherical Coordinates

Divergence

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

Gradient

$$(\nabla f)_r = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}; \quad (\nabla f)_\theta = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}; \quad (\nabla f)_\phi = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}$$

Curl

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_r = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta A_\phi) - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi}$$

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_\theta = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\phi)$$

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_\phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\theta) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta}$$

Laplacian

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

Laplacian of a vector

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_r = \nabla^2 A_r - \frac{2A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cot \theta A_\theta}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_\theta = \nabla^2 A_\theta + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{A})_\phi = \nabla^2 A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi}$$

Components of $(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}$

$$(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B})_r = A_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\theta B_\theta + A_\phi B_\phi}{r}$$

$$(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B})_\theta = A_r \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_\theta B_r}{r} - \frac{\cot \theta A_\phi B_\phi}{r}$$

$$(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B})_\phi = A_r \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{A_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_\phi B_r}{r} + \frac{\cot \theta A_\phi B_\theta}{r}$$

Divergence of a tensor

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_r &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{rr}) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta T_{\theta r}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\phi r}}{\partial \phi} - \frac{T_{\theta\theta} + T_{\phi\phi}}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_\theta &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{r\theta}) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta T_{\theta\theta}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\phi\theta}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{T_{\theta r}}{r} - \frac{\cot \theta T_{\phi\phi}}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_\phi &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{r\phi}) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta T_{\theta\phi}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\phi\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{T_{\phi r}}{r} + \frac{\cot \theta T_{\phi\theta}}{r} \end{aligned}$$