

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 $=|\mathbf{x}|$, and $\mathbf{n}=\mathbf{x}/r$ is a unit radial vector, then

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{x} = 3 \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{x} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{2}{r} \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{n} = 0$$

$$(\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{n} = \frac{1}{r} [\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n})] \equiv \frac{\mathbf{a}_\perp}{r}$$

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 side rule in relation to the sense of the line integral around C .

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

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