

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

Operation	Cartesian coordinates (x,y,z)	Cylindrical coordinates (ρ,φ,z)	Spherical coordinates (r,θ,φ)	Parabolic cylindrical coordinates (σ,τ,z)
Definition of coordinates	$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ $\phi = \arctan(y/x)$ $z = z$	$x = \rho \cos \phi$ $y = \rho \sin \phi$ $z = z$	$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$ $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$ $z = r \cos \theta$	$x = \sigma \tau$ $y = \frac{1}{2}(\tau^2 - \sigma^2)$ $z = z$
	$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ $\theta = \arccos(z/r)$ $\phi = \arctan(y/x)$	$r = \sqrt{\rho^2 + z^2}$ $\theta = \arctan(\rho/z)$ $\phi = \phi$	$\rho = r \sin(\theta)$ $\phi = \phi$ $z = r \cos(\theta)$	$\rho \cos \phi = \sigma \tau$ $\rho \sin \phi = \frac{1}{2}(\tau^2 - \sigma^2)$ $z = z$
Definition of unit vectors	$\hat{\rho} = \frac{x}{\rho}\hat{x} + \frac{y}{\rho}\hat{y}$ $\hat{\phi} = -\frac{y}{\rho}\hat{x} + \frac{x}{\rho}\hat{y}$ $\hat{z} = \hat{z}$	$\hat{x} = \cos \phi \hat{\rho} - \sin \phi \hat{\phi}$ $\hat{y} = \sin \phi \hat{\rho} + \cos \phi \hat{\phi}$ $\hat{z} = \hat{z}$	$\hat{x} = \sin \theta \cos \phi \hat{r} + \cos \theta \cos \phi \hat{\theta} - \sin \phi \hat{\phi}$ $\hat{y} = \sin \theta \sin \phi \hat{r} + \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{\theta} + \cos \phi \hat{\phi}$ $\hat{z} = \cos \theta \hat{r} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}$	$\hat{\sigma} = \frac{\tau}{\sqrt{\tau^2 + \sigma^2}}\hat{x} - \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{\tau^2 + \sigma^2}}\hat{y}$ $\hat{\tau} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{\tau^2 + \sigma^2}}\hat{x} + \frac{\tau}{\sqrt{\tau^2 + \sigma^2}}\hat{y}$ $\hat{z} = \hat{z}$
	$\hat{r} = \frac{x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}}{r}$ $\hat{\theta} = \frac{z\hat{x} + y\hat{y} - \rho^2\hat{z}}{r\rho}$ $\hat{\phi} = \frac{-y\hat{x} + x\hat{y}}{\rho}$	$\hat{r} = \frac{\rho}{r}\hat{\rho} + \frac{z}{r}\hat{z}$ $\hat{\theta} = \frac{z}{r}\hat{\rho} - \frac{\rho}{r}\hat{z}$ $\hat{\phi} = \hat{\phi}$	$\hat{\rho} = \sin \theta \hat{r} + \cos \theta \hat{\theta}$ $\hat{\phi} = \hat{\phi}$ $\hat{z} = \cos \theta \hat{r} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}$	
A vector field A	$A_x\hat{x} + A_y\hat{y} + A_z\hat{z}$	$A_\rho\hat{\rho} + A_\phi\hat{\phi} + A_z\hat{z}$	$A_r\hat{r} + A_\theta\hat{\theta} + A_\phi\hat{\phi}$	$A_\sigma\hat{\sigma} + A_\tau\hat{\tau} + A_\phi\hat{z}$
Gradient ∇f	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\hat{x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\hat{y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\hat{z}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho}\hat{\rho} + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}\hat{\phi} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\hat{z}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\hat{r} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}\hat{\phi}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma}\hat{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \tau}\hat{\tau} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\hat{z}$
Divergence $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}$	$\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial(\rho A_\rho)}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial(r^2 A_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta}\frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$	$\frac{1}{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}\frac{\partial A_\sigma}{\partial \sigma} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}\frac{\partial A_\tau}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$
Curl $\nabla \times \mathbf{A}$	$\left(\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z}\right)\hat{x} + \left(\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x}\right)\hat{y} + \left(\frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y}\right)\hat{z}$	$\left(\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\rho} + \left(\frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho}\right)\hat{\phi} + \frac{1}{\rho}\left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\phi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{z}$	$\frac{1}{r \sin \theta}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(A_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{r} + \frac{1}{r}\left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta}\frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_\phi)\right)\hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_\theta) - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta}\right)\hat{\phi}$	$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}}\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \tau} - \frac{\partial A_\tau}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\sigma} - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}}\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \sigma} - \frac{\partial A_\sigma}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\tau} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}}\left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\phi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{z}$
Laplace operator $\Delta f = \nabla^2 f$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial}{\partial \rho}\left(\rho\frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho}\right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}\left(\sin \theta\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2}$	$\frac{1}{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}\left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \sigma^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \tau^2}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$
Vector Laplacian $\Delta \mathbf{A} = \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$	$\Delta A_x\hat{x} + \Delta A_y\hat{y} + \Delta A_z\hat{z}$	$\left(\Delta A_\rho - \frac{A_\rho}{\rho^2} - \frac{2}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{\rho} + \left(\Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{\phi} + (\Delta A_z)\hat{z}$	$\left(\Delta A_r - \frac{2A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta}\frac{\partial(A_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta}\frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{r} + \left(\Delta A_\theta - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2}\frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}\frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{\theta} + \left(\Delta A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta}\frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}\frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi}\right)\hat{\phi}$	
Differential displacement	$d\mathbf{l} = dx\hat{x} + dy\hat{y} + dz\hat{z}$	$d\mathbf{l} = d\rho\hat{\rho} + \rho d\phi\hat{\phi} + dz\hat{z}$	$d\mathbf{l} = dr\hat{r} + r d\theta\hat{\theta} + r \sin \theta d\phi\hat{\phi}$	$d\mathbf{l} = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}d\sigma\hat{\sigma} + \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}d\tau\hat{\tau} + dz\hat{z}$
Differential normal area	$d\mathbf{S} = dy dz \hat{x} + dx dz \hat{y} + dx dy \hat{z}$	$d\mathbf{S} = \rho d\phi dz \hat{\rho} + d\rho dz \hat{\phi} + \rho d\rho d\phi \hat{z}$	$d\mathbf{S} = r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \hat{r} + r \sin \theta dr d\phi \hat{\theta} + r dr d\theta \hat{\phi}$	$d\mathbf{S} = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2} d\tau dz \hat{\sigma} + \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2} d\sigma dz \hat{\tau} + \sigma^2 + \tau^2 d\sigma d\tau \hat{z}$
Differential volume	$dV = dx dy dz$	$dV = \rho d\rho d\phi dz$	$dV = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi$	$dV = (\sigma^2 + \tau^2) d\sigma d\tau dz,$

Non-trivial calculation rules:

1. $\operatorname{div} \operatorname{grad} f = \nabla \cdot (\nabla f) = \nabla^2 f = \Delta f$ (Laplacian)
2. $\operatorname{curl} \operatorname{grad} f = \nabla \times (\nabla f) = \mathbf{0}$
3. $\operatorname{div} \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{A} = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = 0$
4. $\operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{A} = \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$ (using Lagrange's formula for the cross product)
5. $\Delta fg = f\Delta g + 2\nabla f \cdot \nabla g + g\Delta f$