

## Gradient and Curl in different coordinate systems

In each of the following,  $f$  is a scalar function of position,  $\mathbf{A}$  is a vector function of position. The subscripts denote the components of the vectors in the appropriate coordinate system.

(A) Rectilinear Coordinates ( $x, y, z$ )

$$\begin{aligned}(\nabla f)_x &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \quad ; \quad (\nabla f)_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \quad ; \quad (\nabla f)_z = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \\(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_x &= \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \quad ; \quad (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_y = \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \right) \quad ; \quad (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_z = \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right)\end{aligned}$$

(B) Cylindrical Coordinates ( $r, \phi, z$ )

$$\begin{aligned}(\nabla f)_r &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \quad ; \quad (\nabla f)_\phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \quad ; \quad (\nabla f)_z = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \\(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_r &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z} \quad ; \quad (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_\phi = \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} \quad ; \quad (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial(rA_\phi)}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi}\end{aligned}$$

(C) Spherical Coordinates ( $r, \theta, \phi$ )

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

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

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

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