Multiple Operations involving the **del Operator** (∇)
in Cartesian, Cylindrical Coordinates

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Del_in_cylindrical_and_spherical_coordinates

Del formula [edit]

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

Operation	Cartesian coordinates (x, y, z)	Cylindrical coordinates (ρ, φ, z)	Spherical coordinates (r, θ, φ), where θ is the polar and φ is the azimuthal angle[α]
A vector field $\mathbf{A}$	$A_x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + A_y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + A_z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$A_\rho\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + A_\varphi\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + A_z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$A_r\hat{\mathbf{r}} + A_\theta\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + A_\varphi\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$
Gradient ∇f	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho}\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \varphi}\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \varphi}\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$
Divergence $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}$	$\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial(\rho A_\rho)}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial(r^2 A_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}(A_\theta\sin\theta) + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial\varphi}$
Curl $\nabla \times \mathbf{A}$	$\left(\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \left(\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x}\right)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \left(\frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y}\right)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\left(\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{\partial A_\varphi}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \left(\frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \rho}\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + \frac{1}{\rho}\left(\frac{\partial(\rho A_\varphi)}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial A_\rho}{\partial \varphi}\right)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}(A_\varphi\sin\theta) - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial\varphi}\right)\hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r}\left(\frac{1}{\sin\theta}\frac{\partial A_r}{\partial\varphi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(rA_\varphi)\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \frac{1}{r}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(rA_\theta) - \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial\theta}\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$
Laplace operator $\nabla^2 f \equiv \Delta f$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial}{\partial\rho}\left(\rho\frac{\partial f}{\partial\rho}\right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial\varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin\theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{\partial f}{\partial\theta}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin^2\theta}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial\varphi^2}$
Vector Laplacian $\nabla^2\mathbf{A} \equiv \Delta\mathbf{A}$	$\nabla^2 A_x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \nabla^2 A_y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \nabla^2 A_z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	— View by clicking [show] — [show]	— View by clicking [show] — [show]
Material derivative[α][1] $(\mathbf{A}\cdot\nabla)\mathbf{B}$	$\mathbf{A}\cdot\nabla B_x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{A}\cdot\nabla B_y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{A}\cdot\nabla B_z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\left(A_\rho\frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial\rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho}\frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial\varphi} + A_z\frac{\partial B_\rho}{\partial z} - \frac{A_\varphi B_\varphi}{\rho}\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \left(A_\rho\frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial\rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho}\frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial\varphi} + A_z\frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial z} + \frac{A_\varphi B_\rho}{\rho}\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + \left(A_\rho\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial\rho} + \frac{A_\varphi}{\rho}\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial\varphi} + A_z\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z}\right)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	— View by clicking [show] — [show]
Tensor divergence $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{T}$	— View by clicking [show] — [show]	— View by clicking [show] — [show]	— View by clicking [show] — [show]
Differential displacement $d\boldsymbol{\ell}$	$dx\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + dy\,\hat{\mathbf{y}} + dz\,\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$d\rho\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + \rho\,d\varphi\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + dz\,\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$dr\,\hat{\mathbf{r}} + r\,d\theta\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + r\,\sin\theta\,d\varphi\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$
Differential normal area $d\mathbf{S}$	$dy\,dz\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + dx\,dz\,\hat{\mathbf{y}} + dx\,dy\,\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$\rho\,d\varphi\,dz\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + d\rho\,dz\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} + \rho\,d\rho\,d\varphi\,\hat{\mathbf{z}}$	$r^2\sin\theta\,d\theta\,d\varphi\,\hat{\mathbf{r}} + r\sin\theta\,dr\,d\varphi\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + r\,dr\,d\theta\,\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$
Differential volume dV	$dx\,dy\,dz$	$\rho\,d\rho\,d\varphi\,dz$	$r^2\sin\theta\,dr\,d\theta\,d\varphi$

^α This page uses θ for the polar angle and φ for the azimuthal angle, which is common notation in physics. The source that is used for these formulae uses θ for the azimuthal angle and φ for the polar angle, which is common mathematical notation. In order to get the mathematics formulae, switch θ and φ in the formulae shown in the table above.