

Let $f: \mathbf{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $\mathbf{F}: \mathbf{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^3$. Write $\mathbf{F} = (f_1, f_2, f_3)$.

Similarly for g and \mathbf{G} .

Define:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{grad}(f) &\equiv \nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) \\ \text{div}(\mathbf{F}) &\equiv \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z} \\ \text{curl}(\mathbf{F}) &\equiv \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \left(\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \right) \\ \text{laplace}(f) &\equiv \nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \\ \text{laplace}(\mathbf{F}) &\equiv \nabla^2 \mathbf{F} = (\nabla^2 f_1, \nabla^2 f_2, \nabla^2 f_3)\end{aligned}$$

The following properties hold:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{grad}(f+g) &\equiv \nabla(f+g) = \nabla f + \nabla g \\ \text{div}(\mathbf{F}+\mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{F}+\mathbf{G}) = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{G} \\ \text{curl}(\mathbf{F}+\mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \times (\mathbf{F}+\mathbf{G}) = \nabla \times \mathbf{F} + \nabla \times \mathbf{G} \\ \text{grad}(fg) &\equiv \nabla(fg) = f\nabla g + g\nabla f \\ \text{div}(f\mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \cdot (f\mathbf{G}) = \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{G} + f\nabla \cdot \mathbf{G} \\ \text{curl}(f\mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \times (f\mathbf{G}) = \nabla f \times \mathbf{G} + f\nabla \times \mathbf{G} \\ \text{grad}(\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla(\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{G}) = (\mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{G} + (\mathbf{G} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{F} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{G}) + \mathbf{G} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) \\ \text{div}(\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{G} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{G} \\ \text{curl}(\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) &\equiv \nabla \times (\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{F}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{G}) - \mathbf{G}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) + (\mathbf{G} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{F} - (\mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{G} \\ \text{div grad } f &\equiv \nabla \cdot \nabla f = \nabla^2 f = \text{laplace } f \\ \text{curl grad } f &\equiv \nabla \times \nabla f = 0 \\ \text{div curl } \mathbf{F} &\equiv \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = 0 \\ \text{curl}^2 \mathbf{F} &\equiv \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = \nabla \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} - \nabla^2 \mathbf{F} = \text{grad div } \mathbf{F} - \text{laplace } \mathbf{F} \\ \text{grad div } \mathbf{F} &\equiv \nabla \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) + \nabla^2 \mathbf{F} = \text{curl}^2 \mathbf{F} + \text{laplace } \mathbf{F}\end{aligned}$$

The other combinations, grad^2 , div^2 and grad curl are meaningless.