

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

6.641 Electromagnetic Fields, Forces, and Motion  
Spring 2009

For more information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

## Formula Sheet

Prof. Markus Zahn

MIT OpenCourseWare

## Differential Operators in Cartesian, Cylindrical, and Spherical Coordinates

Operator	Cartesian Coordinates	Cylindrical Coordinates	Spherical Coordinates
$(\nabla \cdot \vec{A})$	$\frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_r) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^2 A_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$
$\nabla \Phi$	$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \vec{i}_x + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \vec{i}_y + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial z} \vec{i}_z$	$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial r} \vec{i}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \vec{i}_\theta + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial z} \vec{i}_z$	$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial r} \vec{i}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \vec{i}_\theta + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \vec{i}_\phi$
$(\nabla^2 \Phi)$	$\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial r}) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial z^2}$	$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^2 \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial r}) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(\sin \theta \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2}$
$(\nabla \times \vec{A})$	$\left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_x$ $+ \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} \right) \vec{i}_y$ $+ \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \theta} - \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_\theta) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(A_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_\phi) \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r A_\theta) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \right) \vec{i}_\phi$

$\nabla^2 \vec{A}$	$\left[ \frac{\partial^2 A_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_x}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_x}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_x$ $+ \left[ \frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_y$ $+ \left[ \frac{\partial^2 A_z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_z}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_z}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_z$	$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_r) \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 A_r}{\partial \theta^2} - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 A_r}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\theta) \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 A_\theta}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 A_\theta}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left[ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 A_z}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_z}{\partial z^2} \right] \vec{i}_z$	$\left[ \nabla^2 A_r - \frac{2 A_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2 A_\theta \cot \theta}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \right] \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left[ \nabla^2 A_\theta + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{A_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} \right] \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left[ \nabla^2 A_\phi - \frac{A_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right] \vec{i}_\phi$
$\vec{C} \cdot \nabla \vec{A}$	$\left( C_x \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + C_y \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} + C_z \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_x$ $+ \left( C_x \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} + C_y \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + C_z \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_y$ $+ \left( C_x \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} + C_y \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} + C_z \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( C_r \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} + C_z \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} - \frac{C_\theta A_\theta}{r} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( C_r \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + C_z \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial z} + \frac{C_\theta A_r}{r} \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( C_r \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \theta} + C_z \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( C_r \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{C_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{C_\theta A_\theta}{r} - \frac{C_\phi A_\phi}{r} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( C_r \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{C_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} + \frac{C_\theta A_r}{r} - \frac{C_\phi A_\phi \cot \theta}{r} \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( C_r \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{C_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{C_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{C_\phi A_r}{r} + \frac{C_\phi A_\theta \cot \theta}{r} \right) \vec{i}_\phi$
$(\vec{T} : \nabla \vec{A})$	$T_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} \right) + T_{yy} \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} \right) + T_{zz} \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \right)$ $+ T_{xy} \left( \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} \right)$ $+ T_{yz} \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} \right) + T_{zx} \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} \right)$	$T_{rr} \left( \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial r} \right) + T_{\theta\theta} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_r}{r} \right) + T_{zz} \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \right)$ $+ T_{r\theta} \left( r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{A_\theta}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \right) + T_{\theta z} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial z} \right)$ $+ T_{rz} \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial z} \right)$	$T_{rr} \left( \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial r} \right) + T_{\theta\theta} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{A_r}{r} \right) + T_{\phi\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{A_r}{r} + \frac{A_\theta \cot \theta}{r} \right)$ $+ T_{r\theta} \left( \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{A_\theta}{r} \right) + T_{r\phi} \left( \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{A_\phi}{r} \right)$ $+ T_{\theta\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\theta}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\cot \theta}{r} A_\phi \right)$
$\nabla \cdot \vec{T}$	$\left( \frac{\partial T_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{xy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{xz}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_x$ $+ \left( \frac{\partial T_{yx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{yz}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_y$ $+ \left( \frac{\partial T_{zx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial T_{zy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r T_{rr}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} T_{r\theta} - \frac{1}{r} T_{\theta\theta} + \frac{\partial T_{rz}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial T_{r\theta}}{\partial r} + \frac{2}{r} T_{r\theta} + \frac{\partial T_{\theta z}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r T_{zr}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{z\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z} \right) \vec{i}_z$	$\left( \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{rr}) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (T_{r\theta} \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{r\phi}}{\partial \phi} - \frac{T_{\theta\theta} + T_{\phi\phi}}{r} \right) \vec{i}_r$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{r\theta}) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (T_{\theta\theta} \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{T_{r\theta}}{r} - \frac{\cot \theta}{r} T_{\phi\phi} \right) \vec{i}_\theta$ $+ \left( \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 T_{r\phi}) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\phi}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T_{\phi\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{T_{r\phi}}{r} + \frac{2 \cot \theta}{r} T_{\theta\phi} \right) \vec{i}_\phi$

Courtesy of James R. Melcher and MIT Press. Used with permission. Appendix A in Melcher, James R. Continuum Electromechanics. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1981.  
ISBN: 9780262131650.