

Vector operators in Cartesian coordinates

Notation: velocity components (u, v, w) and unit vectors ($\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$) are in the (x, y, z) directions.

Gradient of a scalar p

$$\nabla p = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

Divergence of a vector \underline{u}

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}$$

Curl of a vector \underline{u}

$$\nabla \times \underline{u} = \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \hat{j} + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \hat{k}$$

Advective operator on a vector \underline{u}

$$(\underline{u} \cdot \nabla) \underline{u} = \left(u \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \underline{u}$$

Laplacian operator on a vector \underline{u}

$$\nabla^2 \underline{u} = \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} \right) \hat{j} + \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right) \hat{k}$$

Reference: Vector Analysis by M R Spiegel, Schaum Pub. Co.

