

## Vector Identity 19

$$\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} d^3x = \int_S \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{A} da$$

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### Proof

Note the following vector identity.

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{C} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Take the dot product of a constant vector  $\mathbf{M}$  with the volume integral in question.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} \cdot \int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} d^3x &= \int_V \mathbf{M} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) d^3x \\ &= \int_V \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{M}) d^3x \\ &= \int_S (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{M}) \cdot \mathbf{n} da \\ &= \int_S \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{M}) da \\ &= \int_S \mathbf{M} \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{A}) da \\ &= \mathbf{M} \cdot \int_S (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{A}) da \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} d^3x = \int_S \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{A} da.$$