

Vector Identity 20

$$\int_S \mathbf{n} \times \nabla \psi \, da = \oint_C \psi \, d\mathbf{l}$$

Proof

Start with the following vector identity.

$$\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{n}) = \psi \nabla \times \mathbf{n} + \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n}$$

Integrate both sides over the open surface S .

$$\int_S \nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{n}) \, da = \int_S \psi \nabla \times \mathbf{n} \, da + \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da$$

Take the dot product of \mathbf{n} with both sides. [Note: $\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{G} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) - \mathbf{F} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{G})$]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{n}) \, da &= \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \psi \nabla \times \mathbf{n} \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ \int_S \mathbf{n} \cdot [\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{n})] \, da &= \int_S \mathbf{n} \cdot (\psi \nabla \times \mathbf{n}) \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ \int_S [\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{n})] \cdot \mathbf{n} \, da &= \int_S \psi \mathbf{n} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{n}) \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ \oint_C \psi \mathbf{n} \cdot d\mathbf{l} &= \int_S [\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \psi \mathbf{n}) + \mathbf{n} \cdot (\nabla \times \psi \mathbf{n})] \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ 0 &= \int_S [\nabla \cdot \psi (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n}) + (\nabla \times \psi \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{n}] \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ 0 &= \int_S (\nabla \times \psi \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, da + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ 0 &= \oint_C \psi \mathbf{n} \cdot d\mathbf{l} + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \\ 0 &= \mathbf{n} \cdot \oint_C \psi \, d\mathbf{l} + \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da \end{aligned}$$

Bring this second term to the left side.

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{n} \, da &= \mathbf{n} \cdot \oint_C \psi \, d\mathbf{l} \\ \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_S \mathbf{n} \times \nabla \psi \, da &= \mathbf{n} \cdot \oint_C \psi \, d\mathbf{l} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\int_S \mathbf{n} \times \nabla \psi \, da = \oint_C \psi \, d\mathbf{l}.$$