

## Vector Identity 7

$$\nabla \cdot (\psi \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla \psi + \psi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}$$

## Proof

Let  $f = \psi$  and let  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{a}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot (f \mathbf{A}) &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \delta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right) \cdot \left[ f \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 \delta_j A_j \right) \right] \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \delta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 \delta_j A_j f \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} A_j f \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) \left( A_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} f \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) A_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} f \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) A_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} + f \left[ \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \cdot \delta_j) \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} \right] \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \delta_i A_i \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 \delta_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \right) + f \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \delta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 \delta_j A_j \right) \right] \\ &= \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla f + f(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \end{aligned}$$