

## Vector Identity 8

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

**Proof**

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

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