

Vector Calculus
Grad, Div and Curl Identities

Question

It is given that ϕ and ψ are scalar fields and \underline{F} and \underline{G} are vector fields. They are all assumed to be smooth functions. Prove the following identity

$$\nabla(\phi\psi) = \phi\nabla\psi + \psi\nabla\phi$$

Answer

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla(\phi\psi) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\phi\psi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\phi\psi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\phi\psi) \\ &= \left(\phi\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x}\psi\right)\underline{i} + \cdots + \left(\phi\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}\psi\right)\underline{k} \\ &= \phi\nabla\psi + \psi\nabla\phi\end{aligned}$$