

Some useful Vector Identities

Professor Papageorgiou. Course M2AA2.

January 14, 2009

$$\nabla(\phi\psi) = \phi\nabla\psi + \psi\nabla(\phi) \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\phi\mathbf{u}) = \nabla\phi \cdot \mathbf{u} + \phi(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \quad (2)$$

$$\nabla \times (\phi\mathbf{u}) = \nabla\phi \times \mathbf{u} + \phi(\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \quad (3)$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla\phi) = \mathbf{0} \quad (4)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \quad (6)$$

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \quad (7)$$

$$\nabla(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{u} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \quad (8)$$

Note that the *divergence* and *curl* of a vector are also written as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \equiv \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u})$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u} \equiv \operatorname{curl}(\mathbf{u})$$