

Define $V(\underline{r}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{R}$

$$\nabla \left(\frac{1}{R} \right) = \left[\hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \frac{1}{R}$$

Exercise for you: Insert explicit expression for R in cartesian coordinates and derive the given result.

$$= -\frac{\hat{r}}{R^2}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NB. } x \text{ and } x' \text{ are independent!} \\ \therefore \frac{\partial x'}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial y'}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial z'}{\partial z} = 0. \end{array} \right]$$