

Spherical waves

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Solution: We proceed in Cartesian coordinates. On one hand, we have,

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \frac{\sin(kr - \omega t)}{kr} = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \frac{\sin}{kr}.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{\sin(kr - \omega t)}{kr} &= \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{\sin(k\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} - \omega t)}{k\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \\ &= \frac{k^2 r^2 x^2 \sin - 3x^2 \sin + r^2 \sin - 3kx^2 r \cos + kr^3 \cos}{kr^5}, \end{aligned}$$

such that,

$$\nabla^2 \frac{\sin(kr - \omega t)}{kr} = \frac{k^2 r^4 \sin - 3r^2 \sin + 3r^2 \sin - 3kr^3 \cos + 3kr^3 \cos}{kr^5} = \frac{k^2 \sin}{kr}.$$

In spherical coordinates the task is trivial.