

[lex84] Vector and scalar potentials of spherical wave

The scalar potential $\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ and the vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ in a region of space without sources (no charges and no currents) must satisfy the wave equation,

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial t^2}, \quad \nabla^2 \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{A}}{\partial t^2}, \quad (1)$$

if the Lorenz gauge is chosen.

(a) Show that the ansatz,

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \psi(r, t) \hat{\mathbf{k}}, \quad \psi(r, t) = \frac{C}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)}, \quad (2)$$

invoked in [ln15] for a spherical wave, where C is an arbitrary amplitude, does indeed satisfy the wave equation.

(b) Use the Lorenz gauge condition,

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = -\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t},$$

to infer the scalar potential $\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ from the vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)$.

Solution: