

Notes 63(6) : Mathematical Proofs

To Prove

$$-\nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|} \right) = \frac{\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i}{|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|^3} \quad (1)$$

Write eq. (1) as:

$$-\nabla \left(|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^{-1} \right) = \frac{\underline{r} - \underline{a}}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^3} \quad (2)$$

where:

$$|\underline{r} - \underline{a}| = \left((x - a_x)^2 + (y - a_y)^2 + (z - a_z)^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

and:

$$-\nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|} \right) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|} \right) \underline{i} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|} \right) \underline{j} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|} \right) \underline{k} \quad (4)$$

Consider terms such as:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left((x - a_x)^2 + (y - a_y)^2 + (z - a_z)^2 \right)^{-1/2} = -\frac{(x - a_x)}{\left((x - a_x)^2 + (y - a_y)^2 + (z - a_z)^2 \right)^{3/2}} \quad (5)$$

to find eqs (2) and (1), Q.E.D.

I₂ & reference equation (21) of

notes 63(4) also occurs:

$$\underline{\nabla} \cdot \frac{(\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i)}{(|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|)^2} = f(\underline{r}) - (6)$$

and this is worked out in the same way.

Write:

$$f(\underline{r}) = \underline{\nabla} \cdot \frac{(\underline{r} - \underline{a})}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^2} \quad - (7)$$

where:

$$|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^2 = (x - a_x)^2 + (y - a_y)^2 + (z - a_z)^2 \quad - (8)$$

and:

$$\underline{r} - \underline{a} = (x - a_x)\underline{i} + (y - a_y)\underline{j} + (z - a_z)\underline{k} \quad - (9)$$

so:

$$f(\underline{r}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{(x - a_x)}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{(y - a_y)}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{(z - a_z)}{|\underline{r} - \underline{a}|^2} \quad - (10)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{(x - a_x)}{(x - a_x)^2 + (y - a_y)^2 + (z - a_z)^2} + \dots$$

using the rules of differentiation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 3) \quad f(\underline{r}) &= \left((x-a_x)^2 + (y-a_y)^2 + (z-a_z)^2 \right)^{-1} \\
 &\quad - \frac{2(x-a_x)^2}{\left((x-a_x)^2 + (y-a_y)^2 + (z-a_z)^2 \right)^2} \\
 &\quad + \dots \\
 &= \frac{1}{|\underline{r}-\underline{a}|^2} - \frac{2}{|\underline{r}-\underline{a}|^3} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{|\underline{r}-\underline{a}|^3} \quad - (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\nabla \cdot \frac{(\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i)}{|\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i|^3} = -\frac{1}{|\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i|^3}}$$

So the wave equation is: - (12)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla^2 \phi - \frac{(\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i)}{|\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i|^3} \cdot \nabla \phi + \frac{1}{|\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i|^3} \phi \\
 = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n q_i \delta(\underline{r}-\underline{r}_i) \right) \quad - (13)
 \end{aligned}$$

4) which can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|^2 \nabla^2 \phi - (\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i) \cdot \nabla \phi + \phi \\
 & = - \frac{|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|^2}{\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i \delta(\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{14}$$

In one dimension:

$$\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i = (z - z_i) \underline{e} \tag{15}$$

$$|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i| = z - z_i \tag{16}$$

so eq. (14) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (z - z_i)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} - (z - z_i) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} + \phi \\
 & = - \frac{(z - z_i)^2}{\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i \delta(z - z_i)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{17}$$

Finally reduce eqn. (17) w/ $\phi = e^{ikx}$:

$$z - z_i = (z - z_i) \cdot e^{ikx}
 \tag{18}$$

to a driven undamped oscillator.