

How to derive a wave equation

There is a time-dependent first order differential equation:

$$\frac{dv_x(t)}{dt} = \omega v_y(t) \quad (1)$$

Note that the time-derivative of v_x is proportional to v_y . Take another derivative of equation (1).

$$\frac{d^2v_x(t)}{dt^2} = \omega \frac{dv_y(t)}{dt} \quad (1)'$$

Here is another equation that is the pair of equation (1).

$$\frac{dv_y(t)}{dt} = -\omega v_x(t) \quad (2)$$

Solve for dv_y/dt in equation (1)'.

$$\frac{dv_y(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{d^2v_x(t)}{dt^2} \quad (1)''$$

Plug (1)'' into (2).

$$\frac{1}{\omega} \frac{d^2v_x(t)}{dt^2} = -\omega v_x(t) \quad (2)'$$

Therefore, we have the wave equation on x -axis:

$$\frac{d^2v_x(t)}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 v_x(t) \quad (3)$$

Try this: Derive the wave equation on y -axis by using (1) and (2).