

# Package ‘kelvin’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Calculate Solutions to the Kelvin Differential Equation using  
Bessel Functions

**Version** 2.0-3

**Date** 2025-04-13

**Description** Uses Bessel functions to calculate the  
fundamental and complementary analytic solutions to the  
Kelvin differential equation.

**Depends** R (>= 2.10.1)

**Imports** Bessel (>= 0.5-4)

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**URL** <https://github.com/abarbour/kelvin>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/abarbour/kelvin/issues>

**LazyLoad** TRUE

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-US

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Andrew J. Barbour [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6890-2452>>)

**Maintainer** Andrew J. Barbour <[andy.barbour@gmail.com](mailto:andy.barbour@gmail.com)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-04-14 08:00:02 UTC

## Contents

kelvin-package	2
Beir	3
Keir	5
<b>Index</b>	<b>7</b>

---

kelvin-package	<i>Fundamental and equivalent solutions to the Kelvin differential equation using Bessel functions</i>
----------------	--

---

### Description

The functions here use Bessel functions to calculate the analytic solutions to the Kelvin differential equation, namely the fundamental (Be) and equivalent (Ke) complex functions.

### Details

The complex second-order ordinary differential equation, known as the Kelvin differential equation, is defined as

$$x^2 \ddot{y} + x \dot{y} - (ix^2 + \nu^2) y = 0$$

and has a suite of complex solutions. One set of solutions,  $\mathcal{B}_\nu$ , is defined in the following manner:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}_\nu &\equiv \text{Ber}_\nu(x) + i\text{Bei}_\nu(x) \\ &= J_\nu(x \cdot \exp(3\pi i/4)) \\ &= \exp(\nu\pi i) \cdot J_\nu(x \cdot \exp(-\pi i/4)) \\ &= \exp(\nu\pi i/2) \cdot I_\nu(x \cdot \exp(\pi i/4)) \\ &= \exp(3\nu\pi i/2) \cdot I_\nu(x \cdot \exp(-3\pi i/4)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $J_\nu$  is a Bessel function of the first kind, and  $I_\nu$  is a *modified* Bessel function of the first kind. Similarly, the complementary solutions,  $\mathcal{K}_\nu$ , are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_\nu &\equiv \text{Ker}_\nu(x) + i\text{Kei}_\nu(x) \\ &= \exp(-\nu\pi i/2) \cdot K_\nu(x \cdot \exp(\pi i/4)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $K_\nu$  is a *modified* Bessel function of the second kind.

The relationships between  $y$  in the differential equation, and the solutions  $\mathcal{B}_\nu$  and  $\mathcal{K}_\nu$  are as follows

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \text{Ber}_\nu(x) + i\text{Bei}_\nu(x) \\ &= \text{Ber}_{-\nu}(x) + i\text{Bei}_{-\nu}(x) \\ &= \text{Ker}_\nu(x) + i\text{Kei}_\nu(x) \\ &= \text{Ker}_{-\nu}(x) + i\text{Kei}_{-\nu}(x) \end{aligned}$$

In the case where  $\nu = 0$ , the differential equation reduces to

$$x^2\ddot{y} + xy - ix^2y = 0$$

which has the set of solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} & J_0\left(i\sqrt{i} \cdot x\right) \\ &= J_0\left(\sqrt{2} \cdot (i-1) \cdot x/2\right) \\ &= \text{Ber}_0(x) + i\text{Bei}_0(x) \equiv \mathcal{B}_0 \end{aligned}$$

This package has functions to calculate  $\mathcal{B}_\nu$  and  $\mathcal{K}_\nu$ .

### Author(s)

Andrew Barbour <andy.barbour@gmail.com>

### References

Abramowitz, M. and Stegun, I. A. (Eds.). "Kelvin Functions." §9.9 in Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs, and Mathematical Tables, 9th printing. New York: Dover, pp. 379-381, 1972.

Kelvin functions: <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/KelvinFunctions.html>

Bessel functions: <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/BesselFunction.html>

### See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/abarbour/kelvin>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/abarbour/kelvin/issues>

Fundamental solution: [Beir](#)

Equivalent solution: [Keir](#)

---

Beir

*Fundamental solution to the Kelvin differential equation (J)*

---

### Description

This function calculates the complex solution to the Kelvin differential equation using modified Bessel functions of the *first kind*, specifically those produced by [BesselJ](#).

**Usage**

```
Beir(x, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
Beir(x, nu. = 0, nSeq. = 1, return.list = FALSE, ...)  
  
Bei(...)  
  
Ber(...)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric; values to evaluate the complex solution at
...	additional arguments passed to <a href="#">BesselK</a> or <a href="#">Beir</a>
nu.	numeric; value of $\nu$ in $\mathcal{B}_\nu$ solutions
nSeq.	positive integer; equivalent to nSeq in <a href="#">BesselJ</a>
return.list	logical; Should the result be a list instead of matrix?

**Details**

[Ber](#) and [Bei](#) are wrapper functions which return the real and imaginary components of [Beir](#), respectively.

**Value**

If `return.list==FALSE` (the default), a complex matrix with as many columns as using `nSeq.` creates. Otherwise the result is a list with matrices for Real and Imaginary components.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Barbour

**References**

<https://mathworld.wolfram.com/KelvinFunctions.html>

Imaginary: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/Bei.html>

Real: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/Ber.html>

**See Also**

[kelvin-package](#), [Keir](#), [BesselJ](#)

**Examples**

```

Beir(1:10)    # defaults to nu.=0
Beir(1:10, nu.=2)
Beir(1:10, nSeq.=2)
Beir(1:10, nSeq.=2, return.list=TRUE)

# Imaginary component only
Bei(1:10)

# Real component only
Ber(1:10)

```

---

Keir

*Complementary solution to the Kelvin differential equation (K)*


---

**Description**

This function calculates the complex solution to the Kelvin differential equation using modified Bessel functions of the *second kind*, specifically those produced by [BesselK](#).

**Usage**

```

Keir(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
Keir(
  x,
  nu. = 0,
  nSeq. = 1,
  add.tol = TRUE,
  return.list = FALSE,
  show.scaling = FALSE,
  ...
)

Kei(...)

Ker(...)

```

**Arguments**

x	numeric; values to evaluate the complex solution at
...	additional arguments passed to <a href="#">BesselK</a> or <a href="#">Keir</a>
nu.	numeric; value of $\nu$ in $\mathcal{K}_\nu$ solutions
nSeq.	positive integer; equivalent to nSeq in <a href="#">BesselK</a>

<code>add.tol</code>	logical; Should a fudge factor be added to prevent an error for zero-values?
<code>return.list</code>	logical; Should the result be a list instead of matrix?
<code>show.scaling</code>	logical; Should the normalization values be given as a message?

### Details

`Ker` and `Kei` are wrapper functions which return the real and imaginary components of `Keir`., respectively.

### Value

If `return.list==FALSE` (the default), a complex matrix with as many columns as using `nSeq`. creates. Otherwise the result is a list with matrices for Real and Imaginary components.

### Author(s)

Andrew Barbour

### References

<https://mathworld.wolfram.com/KelvinFunctions.html>

Imaginary: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/Kei.html>

Real: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/Ker.html>

### See Also

[kelvin-package](#), [Beir](#), [BesselK](#)

### Examples

```
Keir(1:10)      # defaults to nu.=0, nSeq=1
Keir(1:10, nu.=2)
Keir(1:10, nSeq=2)
Keir(1:10, nSeq=2, return.list=TRUE)
```

```
# Imaginary component only
Kei(1:10)
```

```
# Real component only
Ker(1:10)
```

# Index

Bei, [4](#)

Bei (Beir), [3](#)

Beir, [3](#), [3](#), [4](#), [6](#)

Ber, [4](#)

Ber (Beir), [3](#)

BesselJ, [3](#), [4](#)

BesselK, [4](#)–[6](#)

Kei, [6](#)

Kei (Keir), [5](#)

Keir, [3](#)–[5](#), [5](#), [6](#)

kelvin (kelvin-package), [2](#)

kelvin-package, [2](#)

Ker, [6](#)

Ker (Keir), [5](#)