

We should verify that the longitudinal and transverse current density

$$\mathbf{J}_l(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \nabla \int \frac{\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{J}_t(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \nabla \times \nabla \times \int \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' \quad (2)$$

satisfy

$$\mathbf{J}_l + \mathbf{J}_t = \mathbf{J} \quad (3)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_t = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{J}_l = 0 \quad (5)$$

(4) and (5) are obvious since \mathbf{J}_t is a curl and \mathbf{J}_l is a gradient.

Moving the first curl into the integral in (2) and using the vector identity

$$\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{a}) = \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{a} + \psi \nabla \times \mathbf{a} \quad (6)$$

we have

$$\nabla \times \int \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' = \int \nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) d^3x' \quad (7)$$

Applying curl to (7) while using the vector identity

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{b}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{a} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{b} \quad (8)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \nabla \times \int \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' &= \int \left\{ -\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) + [\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) \right\} d^3x' \\ &= \int -\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) (-4\pi) \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') d^3x' + \int [\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) d^3x' \\ &= 4\pi \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \int [\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) d^3x' \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Denote

$$\frac{1}{r} \equiv \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \quad (10)$$

Thus to prove (3), it's equivalent to prove

$$0 = \int \left\{ -[\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) + [\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right\} d^3x \quad (11)$$

Firstly, it's easy to see

$$[\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \nabla \left[\frac{\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{r} \right] \quad (12)$$

Then, using the vector identity

$$\nabla (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{b} + (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{b}) + \mathbf{b} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{a}) \quad (13)$$

and identifying

$$\mathbf{a} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \quad \mathbf{b} \leftrightarrow \nabla' \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \quad (14)$$

we know

$$[\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = [\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla] \left[-\nabla' \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right] = -\nabla \left[\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla' \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right] \quad (15)$$

Now with (12) and (15) plugged back into (11), we finally get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{RHS}_{(11)} &= - \int \nabla \left[\frac{\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{r} + \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t) \cdot \nabla' \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right] d^3 x' \\
 &= - \nabla \int \nabla' \cdot \left[\frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{r} \right] d^3 x' \\
 &= - \nabla \oint_{\infty} \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)}{r} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

provided $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t)/r \rightarrow 0$ as $\mathbf{x}' \rightarrow \infty$.