

1. Let the space Fourier transform and inverse transform for $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ be

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int d^3x \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int d^3k \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \quad (2)$$

Applying the diffusion equation

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \mu\sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (3)$$

to (2) gives

$$\int d^3k \left(k^2 + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Integrating (4) with $e^{-i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{x}} d^3x$ yields

$$\int d^3k \left(k^2 + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) \underbrace{\int d^3x e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')\cdot\mathbf{x}}}_{\propto \delta(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')} = 0 \quad (5)$$

From which we see for any \mathbf{k} ,

$$\left(k^2 + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, t) = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, 0) e^{-k^2 t / \mu\sigma} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}, 0) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int d^3x' \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}', 0) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}'} \quad (7)$$

With (6) and (7) plugged back into (2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3k e^{-k^2 t / \mu\sigma} \left[\int d^3x' \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}', 0) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}'} \right] e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \\ &= \int d^3x' \left[\frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3k e^{-k^2 t / \mu\sigma} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \right] \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}', 0) \\ &= \int d^3x' G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t) \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}', 0) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where we have identified the content in the bracket as the Green function

$$G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3k e^{-k^2 t / \mu\sigma} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \quad \text{for } t > 0 \quad (9)$$

2. Let $\tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ be the Fourier transform in both space and time for $G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t)$, i.e.,

$$G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \int d^3k \tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} e^{i\omega t} \quad (10)$$

Equating (10) with (9) gives

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) e^{i\omega t} = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-k^2 t / \mu\sigma} \cdot \Theta(t) \quad (11)$$

Integrating both sides of (11) with $e^{-i\omega't} dt$, we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \overbrace{e^{i(\omega-\omega')t} dt}^{2\pi\delta(\omega-\omega')} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-k^2 t/\mu\sigma} e^{-i\omega't} dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega') = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{\frac{k^2}{\mu\sigma} + i\omega'} \quad (12)$$

Then applying $\partial/\partial t - (1/\mu\sigma)\nabla^2$ to (10) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{\mu\sigma} \nabla^2 G &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \int d^3k \left(i\omega + \frac{k^2}{\mu\sigma} \right) \tilde{G}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) e^{ik \cdot (\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} e^{i\omega t} \quad \text{use (12)} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\omega t} d\omega \right) \left[\frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3k e^{ik \cdot (\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \right] \\ &= \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}') \delta(t) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

3. Let's write the d^3k integral of (9) in spherical coordinates. For $t > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3k e^{-k^2 t/\mu\sigma} e^{ik \cdot (\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\infty} dk \cdot k^2 e^{-k^2 t/\mu\sigma} \int_0^{\pi} \sin\theta d\theta e^{ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|\cos\theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_0^{\infty} dk \cdot k^2 e^{-k^2 t/\mu\sigma} \left(\frac{e^{ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} - e^{-ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|}}{ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} (I_+ - I_-) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where if we denote $r \equiv |\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|$,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\pm} &= \frac{1}{ir} \int_0^{\infty} dk \cdot k \exp\left(-\frac{k^2 t}{\mu\sigma} \pm ikr\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{ir} \int_0^{\infty} dk \cdot k \exp\left[-\frac{t}{\mu\sigma} \left(k \mp \frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right)^2\right] \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma r^2}{4t}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{ir} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma r^2}{4t}\right) \left\{ \int_0^{\infty} dk \cdot \left(k \mp \frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right) \exp\left[-\frac{t}{\mu\sigma} \left(k \mp \frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right)^2\right] \pm \right. \\ &\quad \left. \int_0^{\infty} dk \left(\frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right) \exp\left[-\frac{t}{\mu\sigma} \left(k \mp \frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right)^2\right] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The first integral in (15) is elementary and is the same for I_+ and I_- hence they cancel in (14), and the second integral can be found via the standard form Gaussian integral

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-p(x+c)^2} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{p}} \quad \text{for } p, c \in \mathbb{C}, \text{Re } p > 0 \quad (16)$$

Putting everything together, including the $\Theta(t)$ factor to accommodate the $t < 0$ case, we have

$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}', t) &= \Theta(t) \cdot \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} 2 \cdot \frac{1}{ir} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma r^2}{4t}\right) \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{i\mu\sigma r}{2t}\right) \sqrt{\frac{\pi\mu\sigma}{t}} \\ &= \Theta(t) \cdot \left(\frac{\mu\sigma}{4\pi t}\right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma |\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|^2}{4t}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

4. Let's analyze this part with an extremely localized initial vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}', 0) = \mathbf{A}_0 \delta(\mathbf{x}')$. Then by (17) and (8), the vector potential of the remote observation point is

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int d^3x' \left(\frac{\mu\sigma}{4\pi t}\right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma |\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|^2}{4t}\right) \mathbf{A}_0 \delta(\mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{A}_0 \left(\frac{\mu\sigma}{4\pi t}\right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu\sigma |\mathbf{x}|^2}{4t}\right) \quad (18)$$

When t is close to zero, $A(\mathbf{x})$ is close to zero because exponential drop is faster than any power of t . This corresponds to the phase where the initial potential has not propagated to the remote observation point.

Define $\alpha = 4t/\mu\sigma$, then it is an easy calculation that when

$$\alpha = \frac{2|\mathbf{x}|^2}{3} \quad (19)$$

the magnitude of $A(\mathbf{x})$ reaches maximum. This corresponds to the phase where the "peak" of the initial local potential is propagating through \mathbf{x} .

When $t \rightarrow \infty$, the magnitude of the potential $A(\mathbf{x})$ drops as $t^{-3/2}$.

The plot of (18) is shown below.

