

11.16 (a) In the rest frame of the medium, we have $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$. Using the field strength tensor, we can write it as $J^i = \sigma F^{i0} = \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{i\beta} U_\beta$, where $U^\beta = (c, 0)$ in the rest frame. It is natural to extend this result to the covariant form, $J^\alpha = \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{\alpha\beta} U_\beta$. However, due to the antisymmetry of $F^{\alpha\beta}$, $U_\alpha J^\alpha = \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{\alpha\beta} U_\alpha U_\beta = 0$, which is generally not true. Consider a medium with charge density at rest, where the left hand side will be $c\rho$. Therefore there should be a term cancelling it. It is a clear that $\frac{1}{c^2} (U_\beta J^\beta) U^\alpha$ will do. Thus, we will arrive at $J^\alpha = \frac{1}{c^2} (U_\beta J^\beta) U^\alpha + \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{\alpha\beta} U_\beta$.

(b) Since $(c\rho, \vec{J})$ is a 4-vector, we know its transform property is

$$\vec{J} = \vec{J}' + \frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}') + \gamma c\rho' \vec{\beta}, \quad c\rho = \gamma(c\rho' + \vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}'), \text{ which is equivalent to } \gamma c\rho' = c\rho - \gamma \vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}'$$

$$\text{Therefore } \vec{J} = \vec{J}' + \frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}') + c\rho \vec{\beta} - \gamma \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}') = \vec{J}' + \left[\frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} - \gamma \right] \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{J}') + \rho \vec{v}$$

Now, in the rest frame of the medium, $\vec{J}' = \sigma \vec{E}'$, and \vec{E}' is related to its strength in the laboratory frame

$$\text{as } \vec{E}' = \gamma(\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B}) - \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}), \text{ we have}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J} &= \sigma \left[\gamma(\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B}) - \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) + \left(\frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} - \gamma \right) \vec{\beta} \vec{\beta} \cdot \left\{ \gamma(\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B}) - \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) \right\} \right] + \rho \vec{v} \\ &= \sigma \left[\gamma(\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B}) - \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1} \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) + \left(\frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} - \gamma \right) \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) \left(\gamma - \frac{\gamma^2 \beta^2}{\gamma+1} \right) \right] + \rho \vec{v}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\beta^2 = 1 - 1/\gamma^2$, then $\gamma - \frac{\gamma^2 \beta^2}{\gamma+1} = \gamma - \frac{\gamma^2 - 1}{\gamma+1} = 1$, and

$$\vec{J} = \sigma \left[\gamma(\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B}) + \left(\frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} - \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1} - \gamma \right) \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) \right] + \rho \vec{v}.$$

Then, $\frac{\gamma-1}{\beta^2} = \frac{\gamma-1}{\frac{\gamma^2-1}{\gamma^2}} = \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma+1}$, we finally arrive at

$$\vec{J} = \gamma \sigma \left[\vec{E} + \vec{\beta} \times \vec{B} - \vec{\beta} (\vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{E}) \right] + \rho \vec{v}$$

(c) If the medium is initially uncharged, then $U_\alpha J^\alpha = 0$, and the equation becomes

$$J^\alpha = \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{\alpha\beta} U_\beta$$

For the spatial component, we have

$$J^i = \frac{\sigma}{c} (F^{i0} U^0 - F^{ij} U^j) = \frac{\sigma}{c} (E_i \gamma c - (-\epsilon_{ijk} B_k) \gamma v_j) = \gamma \sigma (E_i + (\vec{\beta} \times \vec{B})_i),$$

which leads to $\vec{J} = \gamma \sigma (\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$. In the classical limit, $\gamma \rightarrow 1$, which reduces to the known result.