

Take Fourier transform of  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} e^{-2\pi i \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} dx dy dz &= \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{-2\pi i k r \cos(\theta)}}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \\
&= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{e^{-2\pi i k r \cos(\theta)}}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} r^2 \sin(\theta) d\theta dr \\
&= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r^2}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-2\pi i k r \cos(\theta)} \sin(\theta) d\theta dr \\
&= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r^2}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \left( \frac{\sin(2\pi k r)}{\pi k r} \right) dr \\
&= \frac{2}{k} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \sin(2\pi k r) dr
\end{aligned}$$

We now find that the integral fails to converge, since  $\frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \rightarrow 1$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , and so  $\frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \sin(2\pi k r)$  is undamped. However, we expect that a value for the integral exists since one exists for  $\int_0^{\infty} \sin(2\pi k r) dr = 1/2\pi k$ , the “physicist’s point charge” example. For this example they introduce a screening term  $e^{-br}$ ,  $b > 0$  in the integral which artificially damps the integrand and forces it to converge, then they take the limit as  $b \rightarrow 0$ . Apply same principle here:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{2}{k} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \sin(2\pi k r) dr &= \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} \frac{2}{k} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} e^{-br} \sin(2\pi k r) dr \\
&= \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} \frac{2}{k} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{r}{\sqrt{r^2+a^2}} \frac{(e^{(b-2\pi k i)r} - e^{-(b+2\pi k i)r})}{2i} dr \\
&= \frac{2}{\pi k^2} - \frac{\pi a}{k} \operatorname{Im} Y_1(i2\pi a k)
\end{aligned}$$

If we realize that  $\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} a Y_1(i2\pi a k) = i/\pi^2 k$ , we see that the limit of the Fourier transform for  $a \rightarrow 0$  is simply  $1/\pi k^2$ , and we recover the Fourier transform of  $1/r$  (i.e  $1/\sqrt{r^2+a^2}$  for  $a = 0$ ).

### An alternate form:

While the previous solution seems to reduce to the expected case for  $a = 0$ , Mathematica/Fourier transform tables are unable to verify that the inverse Fourier transform recovers  $1/\sqrt{r^2+a^2}$ . I managed to find another solution form of the Fourier transform that is readily verifiable, however it requires a leap of faith at one step that could do with some additional rigor.