

Official Solutions

HW 4

II Current in an infinite wire

$$I(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ I_0 & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

a) $A^{\mu}(x) = \int d^4y \frac{\Theta(x^0 - y^0) \delta((x^0 - y^0)^2 - (\vec{x} - \vec{y})^2)}{2\pi} J^{\mu}(y)$

$$J^{\mu}(y) = (0, 0, 0, I_0 \Theta(y^0) \delta(y^1) \delta(y^2))$$

$$A^{\mu}(x) = \int d^4y \frac{\Theta(x^0 - y^0) \delta((x^0 - y^0) - |\vec{x} - \vec{y}|)}{4\pi |\vec{x} - \vec{y}|} I_0 \Theta(y^0) \delta(y^1) \delta(y^2) \delta^{\mu}_3$$

$$= \delta^{\mu}_3 \int d^3y \frac{\Theta(x^0 - y^0) \delta((x^0 - y^0) - \sqrt{(x^3 - y^3)^2 + \vec{x}_{\perp}^2})}{4\pi \sqrt{(x^3 - y^3)^2 + \vec{x}_{\perp}^2}} I_0 \Theta(y^0)$$

where $\vec{x}_{\perp}^2 = (x^1)^2 + (x^2)^2$

$$= \delta^{\mu}_3 \int d^3y \frac{I_0 \Theta(x^0 - \sqrt{(x^3 - y^3)^2 + \vec{x}_{\perp}^2})}{4\pi \sqrt{(x^3 - y^3)^2 + \vec{x}_{\perp}^2}}$$

This integral receives contribution only from

$$x^3 - \sqrt{(x^0)^2 - (\vec{x}_{\perp})^2} < y^3 < x^3 + \sqrt{(x^0)^2 - (\vec{x}_{\perp})^2}$$

due to the Θ function

$$\int \frac{dy^3}{\sqrt{(x^3 - y^3)^2 + \vec{x}_{\perp}^2}} = -\ln \left[(x^3 - y^3) + \sqrt{\vec{x}_{\perp}^2 + (x^3 - y^3)^2} \right] + C$$

$$\therefore A^{\mu}(x) = \delta^{\mu}_3 \frac{2 I_0}{4\pi} \ln \left[\frac{t + \sqrt{t^2 - (\vec{x}_{\perp})^2}}{|\vec{x}_{\perp}|} \right] \Theta(t - |\vec{x}_{\perp}|)$$