

We want to integrate

$$\iiint_{\text{sphere of radius } a} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{e^{ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) dV \quad (1)$$

Since equation (1) contains derivatives that blow up at $R = 0$, the volume integral must be evaluated as the sum of two indefinite integrals:

$$\begin{aligned} \iiint_{\text{sphere of radius } a} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{e^{ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) dV &= \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\eta}^a \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{e^{ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) R^2 \sin \theta \, d\phi \, d\theta \, dR \\ &\quad + \int_0^{\eta} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{e^{ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) R^2 \sin \theta \, d\phi \, d\theta \, dR \end{aligned}$$

The first integral on the right-hand-side is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\eta}^a \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{e^{ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) R^2 \sin \theta \, d\phi \, d\theta \, dR &= \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0^+} (ikr - 1)e^{ikr} \Big|_{\eta}^a \\ &= (ika - 1)e^{ika} + 1 \quad (\text{first integral}) \end{aligned}$$

The second integral on the right-hand-side evaluated from $R = 0$ to $R = 0^+$, so the small-argument expansion of the integrand is taken.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{0^+} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1 + ikR - k^2 R^2/2! - \dots}{4\pi R} \right) R^2 \sin \theta \, d\phi \, d\theta \, dR \\ \simeq \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{0^+} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{R} \right) \sin \theta \, d\phi \, d\theta \, dR \quad (\text{for } R \rightarrow 0) \end{aligned}$$

In this simplification, the Laplacian of the quantity in parentheses goes as R^{-3} , which dominates the R^2 from the Jacobian, so the R^2 vanishes when taking the small-argument.

Now employing Griffiths equation 102 (towards the end of the relevant pages I sent you)

$$\nabla^2 \frac{1}{R} = -4\pi\delta^3(\mathbf{R}), \quad (\text{Griffiths 102})$$

The R integral in the equation (for $R \rightarrow 0$) can be changed from $\int_0^{0^+}$ to \int_0^{∞} because the integrand is now non-zero from 0 to 0^+ , and 0 everywhere else. The second integral on the right-hand-side becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4\pi} \iiint_{\text{all space}} -4\pi\delta^3(\mathbf{R}) \, dV &= - \iiint_{\text{all space}} \delta^3(\mathbf{R}) \, dV \\ &= -1 \qquad \text{(second integral)} \end{aligned}$$

Adding the (first integral) and (second integral) gives the integral of equation (1):

$$(ika - 1)e^{ika} + 1 - 1 = (ika - 1)e^{ika}$$

This matches the result of applying the divergence theorem to equation (1).