**Chirality-Assisted Electronic Cloaking of Confined States in Bilayer Graphene**

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. **Please share** how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As Published</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.107.156603">http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.107.156603</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>American Physical Society (APS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>Final published version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessed</td>
<td>Fri Dec 14 10:53:13 EST 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citable Link</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/68680">http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/68680</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms of Use</td>
<td>Article is made available in accordance with the publisher’s policy and may be subject to US copyright law. Please refer to the publisher’s site for terms of use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Terms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. **Please share** how this access benefits you. Your story matters.
Charge carriers in graphene behave like relativistic particles [1]. Some of the most intriguing aspects of carrier dynamics in this material arise due to chirality, i.e., the strong coupling of pseudospin and orbital degrees of freedom [2]. Analogs of relativistic electron effects such as Klein tunneling [3–5], and optical phenomena such as negative refraction [6], Fabry-Pérot resonances [7–9] and the Goos-Hänchen effect [10,11], provide a platform for understanding transport in graphene nanostructures [12–14]. Chirality was also proposed as a vehicle for coupling the orbital motion of carriers to the internal valley degrees of freedom of graphene [15,16].

Here we describe new effects in bilayer graphene (BLG) that have no direct analogs in optics or in single-layer graphene. These effects, which arise due to the chiral nature of carriers, have dramatic consequences for transport through potential barriers. At normal incidence, chirality mismatch leads to complete decoupling of states in regions of opposite polarity [see Figs. 1(a) and 1(b)]. Electrons of one chirality are confined within the barrier, despite the presence of a continuum of available states outside the barrier. Conversely, electrons in the outer region scatter and tunnel through the barrier as if no localized states were available on their way. Thus the barrier acts as a cloak for confined states, rendering them invisible via both transmission and reflection. For oblique incidence, pseudospin decoupling is imperfect, producing transmission resonances associated with confined states. However, these resonances are very narrow at near-normal incidence angles, making the outer states “blind” to the confined states at almost all energies [see Figs. 1(c) and 2]. This yields a high-fidelity cloak effect for all near-normal incidence angles.

We show that the narrowing of transmission resonances at normal incidence is manifested in sharp non-Lorentzian peaks in the two-terminal conductance with square-root singularities at the tips (see Figs. 2 and 3). The effect is sensitive to external magnetic field applied perpendicular to the BLG plane: the Lorentz force curves particle trajectories, making the orbits normally incident on the barrier exit at oblique angles. The singular behavior, along with its suppression by magnetic field, can serve as an experimental signature of the cloak effect.

Electronic transport in BLG in the presence of a potential barrier $U(x)$ is governed by the Hamiltonian [17]

$$H_K = H^T_K = \left( \begin{array}{cc} \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{d}{dx} + q \right)^2 & U(x) \\ -U(x) & \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{d}{dx} - q \right)^2 \end{array} \right),$$

(1)

FIG. 1 (color online). Cloaking of transmission resonances in ballistic $p-n-p$ junctions due to decoupling of states with orthogonal pseudospins. For a potential step (a), the pseudospin-reversing coupling (wavy line) vanishes at normal incidence. This leads to formation of confined states under a barrier (b), seen as narrow resonances in transmission. The cloak effect is illustrated in (c) for a delta function barrier, having one confined state which produces a transmission resonance $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$ (see Eq. (5) and accompanying text). The resonance is narrowed and dimmed at near-normal incidence angles (small $q$). As seen in the inset, showing a trace along the dashed line, transmission at all $\epsilon \neq \epsilon_0$ is uninfluenced by the confined state (the cloak effect).
where the barrier is spatially uniform in the $y$ direction, and $q$ is the conserved wave vector component parallel to it ($m = 0.04m_e$ is the BLG band mass, and $K, K'$ are valleys). As we now show, the cloak effect is complete for normally incident electronic states, for which $q = 0$. The problem can be conveniently analyzed in the eigenbasis of $\sigma_+$, $\sigma_\parallel( \pm ) = \pm |\pm \rangle$. In this basis the pseudospin Schrödinger equation decouples into two scalar Schrödinger equations:

$$\begin{align*}
- \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \pm \frac{1}{2} U(x) \sigma_\parallel \psi_{\pm}(x) = 0.
\end{align*}$$

For the special case of a potential step [see Fig. 1(a)], and for energies between the values $U_{L,R}$ of $U(x)$ far to the left and far to the right, $U_L < e < U_R$, plane wave states on one side are coupled to evanescent states on the opposite side. Thus, despite the availability of free carrier states with energy $e$ on either side of the step, the transmission is completely blocked due to chirality mismatch.

Extending this argument, we show that chirality leads to the confinement of electronic states under potential barriers in BLG. For a general form of potential barrier $U(x)$, as shown in Fig. 1(b), the two sign choices in Eq. (2) lead to two qualitatively distinct types of states with zero momentum parallel to the barrier ($q = 0$). The solutions for $\psi_+(x)$ describe continuum states that live outside the barrier region, while the solutions for $\psi_-(x)$ describe bound states confined in the inverted potential $-U(x)$. Because these confined states completely decouple from the continuum states at $q = 0$, they do not show up in the normal incidence transmission (cf. Ref. [3]).

Crucially, transmission through the barrier in BLG is controlled by different mechanisms at normal incidence and at oblique incidence. At normal incidence, since pseudospin is conserved, the only available mode of transmission is direct tunneling via the evanescent wave that extends through the barrier. The character of transmission changes completely for oblique incidence. Extending Eq. (2) to nonzero $q$, we obtain two coupled equations:

$$\begin{align*}
\left[- \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - q^2 \pm \frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(U(x) - e)\right] \psi_{\pm}(x) = 2q \frac{d\psi_{\pm}(x)}{dx}.
\end{align*}$$

Because of the $\psi_+/\psi_-$ mixing, the confined states acquire finite coupling to the continuum, turning into transmission resonances. However, since the width of these resonances vanishes as $q^2$ at near-normal incidence, the cloak effect persists in a finite range of incidence angles with small $q$.

It is instructive to compare the electron cloak realized in BLG with optical cloaks of invisibility [18,19], which employ refractive metamaterial shells to guide plane waves around an object. In contrast, in our approach, the probing wave is transmitted directly through the region containing the cloaked states, made invisible by decoupling of opposite chiralities. Crucially, cloaked states can either hold particles or be empty. Since electron interactions in BLG are nearly pseudospin blind [2], filling of confined states does not affect the decoupling of opposite chiralities which is responsible for the cloak effect. For similar reasons, states with different spin and valley polarization can be cloaked simultaneously.

We also note that scattering on barriers in BLG was studied in Refs. [3,8], where Fabry-Pérot resonances at oblique incidence were found. Analytic results for transmission through a square barrier at normal incidence were obtained [3]; however, the cloak effect and its relation to confined states were not elucidated.

In experiments, several factors may modify the picture of chirality-induced cloaking of confined states. First, disorder in the barrier region, which breaks conservation of the parallel momentum $q$, contributes additional broadening of the resonances, in particular, near $q = 0$. However, recent advances in experimental techniques, such as using suspended graphene samples [20], and deposition on hexagonal boron nitride [21], help to dramatically enhance the mobility of BLG samples and minimize the influence of disorder. Second, the top and back gates used to create $p-n-p$ junctions in graphene devices naturally create a potential difference between the two layers, thus opening a gap in the BLG spectrum [17,22]. The effect of gap opening will be discussed below.

We highlight various aspects of the cloak behavior by analyzing two models, a narrow barrier and a wide barrier,
modeled by delta function and inverted parabolic potentials (also, see [23]). In the first case, $U(x) = \lambda \delta(x)$, $\lambda > 0$, at zero $q$ we get a confined state $\psi_+(x) \propto e^{-i\kappa x}$, with $\kappa = \lambda \sqrt{2 \hbar^2 q^2}$ and energy $E_0 = \lambda^2 m/2\hbar^2$. Scattering states for a delta function can be found exactly, by extending the standard approach to account for evanescent states which appear in the free particle BLG problem.

We nondimensionalize Eq. (2) via $\epsilon \rightarrow (h^2/2m)\epsilon$, $\lambda \rightarrow (h^2/2m)\lambda$, and write the free particle wave function as

$$\psi_\pm(x > 0) = a_\pm e^{-i\kappa x} + b_\pm e^{i\kappa x} + c_\pm e^{-i\kappa x},$$

with $k = \sqrt{\epsilon + q^2}$, $\kappa = \sqrt{\epsilon - q^2}$, $\epsilon > q^2$. For a potential with inversion symmetry, $U(x) = U(-x)$, there are two types of symmetric solutions of Eq. (2): those corresponding to $\psi_+(x)$ even and $\psi_-(x)$ odd, and vice versa. Taking $\psi_+(x) = \pm \psi_+(x)$, $\psi_-(x) = \mp \psi_-(x)$ in each case, and performing standard matching for the values and derivatives at $x = 0$, we find a relation between in and out states of the form $\psi_+(x) = z(\pm) e^{i\kappa x}$, where the label 1 (2) indicates that $\psi_+(x)$ is even (odd). The transmission amplitude for a plane wave incident from one side is found by taking a suitable superposition of these even or odd parity states, giving $t(\epsilon, q) = \frac{1}{2}(z_1 - z_2)$. In this way we find

$$t(\epsilon, q) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\lambda_+ + i r \lambda_-}{\lambda_+ - i r \lambda_-} - \frac{\lambda_+ + i r \lambda_-}{\lambda_+ - i r \lambda_-} \right),$$

where $\lambda_\pm = \lambda \pm 2\kappa$, $\lambda_\pm = \lambda \pm 2ik$, $r = q^2/k\kappa$. At small $q$, the first term exhibits a resonance associated with the confined state, with the energy $E_0$, whereas the second term is nonresonant. As shown in Fig. 1(b), the cloak effect suppresses the transmission resonance $\epsilon = E_0$ at near-normal incidence angles. Away from resonance, transmission as a function of $\epsilon$ and $q$ closely mimics that for the Schrödinger problem, Eq. (2). This is illustrated in the inset of Fig. 1(c).

A similar behavior was found for a wide barrier, taken to be $U(x) = -\frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$. The transmission probability, obtained numerically, is shown in Fig. 2(a). For normal incidence, this potential supports a family of chirality-induced bound states with evenly spaced energies $E_n = -\hbar \omega(n + 1/2)$. Accordingly, our simulation yields resonances in transmission and conductance peaked near these values (Figs. 2 and 3). The cloak effect is manifested in resonance widths vanishing at normal incidence.

Since the BLG Hamiltonian supports coexisting evanescent and plane wave states, the procedure for its solution is notably more complicated than that of the nonrelativistic Schrödinger equation. In particular, Eq. (3) must be solved twice for each $q$, once with an outgoing plane wave as the initial condition, and once with a decaying evanescent wave. The physical solution is the linear combination of these two solutions in which the coefficients of the growing evanescent waves on both sides are zero. We evaluate the conductance using the relation

$$G(\epsilon) = G_0 W \int dq |t(\epsilon, q)|^2,$$

$$G_0 = \frac{N e^2}{(2\pi)^2 h}$$

where $W$ is the width of the sample in the $y$ direction, and $N = 4$ is the spin-valley degeneracy of BLG. The integral in Eq. (6) runs over the interval $-k_F < q < k_F$, where $k_F$ is the Fermi wave vector in the leads.

Unlike the case of a delta function barrier, where the resonance appeared as a weak feature on top of a large background transmission, transmission at zero $q$ is fairly low for the parabolic barrier. This is so because in the cloaking regime transmission is dominated by direct tunneling without coupling to confined states. Since tunneling is exponentially small for a wide barrier, transmission is dominated by resonances. The reduction of direct tunneling compared to resonant transmission is clearly seen in simulation [see Fig. 2(b) inset]. The nearly flat thin black line is the background transmission, calculated for $q = 0$, which is due to direct tunneling under the barrier. The asymmetric line shape for nonzero $q$, which arises due to interference of the direct and resonant transmission pathways, can be described by the Fano model [24],

$$T_{Fano}(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{1 + a^2 (\epsilon - \epsilon_0 + \gamma)^2 + \gamma^2}$$

where $\gamma$ and $a$ are the energy width and “asymmetry parameter” that depend on the specifics of the system.

Higher order resonances display more symmetric (approximately Lorentzian) profiles which can be explained by large values of the parameter $a$ in Eq. (7). Large $a$ values indeed follow from an estimate based on the general relation derived in Ref. [25], $a = |r_0|/t_0$, where $r_0$ and $t_0$ are the background reflection and transmission amplitudes in the absence of the resonance. For a wide barrier, the problem can be described by the WKB approach, giving transmission which is exponentially small, and thus a large $a$ value. In particular, for a parabolic barrier we have $|r_0/t_0| = \exp(\pi \epsilon/\hbar \omega)$. Hence for values of $\epsilon$ above a few times $\hbar \omega$, the transmission amplitude near resonance is well approximated by the Breit-Wigner model,

$$t(\epsilon, q) = \frac{\gamma(q)}{\gamma(q) + i[\epsilon - \epsilon_0(q)]^2},$$

where the parameters $\epsilon_0(q)$ and $\gamma(q)$ describe the resonance energy and width as a function of wave vector $q$. What is the origin of the peculiar peak shapes seen in conductance? To elucidate their relation with Lorentzian peaks in transmission, Eq. (8), we examine the quantity $\delta G(\epsilon) = G(\epsilon) - G(\epsilon_0(0))$. Using Eq. (6), we write

$$\delta G(\epsilon) = G_0 W \int dq |t(\epsilon, q)|^2 - |t(\epsilon_0(0), q)|^2 dq.$$
Using quadratic model dependencies $\epsilon_s(q) = \epsilon_s(0) + \alpha q^2$, $\gamma(q) = \beta q^2$ which are valid at small $q$, we can simplify the expression for $\delta G$ as follows

$$
\delta G(\epsilon) = \frac{G_0 W \beta^{3/2}}{\beta^2 + \alpha^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du \frac{2\tilde{a} \delta \epsilon u^2 - \delta \epsilon^2}{u^2 + (\delta \epsilon - \tilde{a} u^2)^2},
$$

where $\delta \epsilon = \epsilon - \epsilon_s(0), u = \sqrt{\beta} q, \tilde{a} = \alpha/\beta$. The parameter $\tilde{a}$ provides a relative measure of the rate at which the resonance moves and widens as a function of $q$. Integration can be done using the partial fraction decomposition,

$$
\frac{2\tilde{a} u^2 \delta \epsilon - \delta \epsilon^2}{u^2 + (\delta \epsilon - \tilde{a} u^2)^2} = \frac{(\tilde{a} + i) \delta \epsilon}{u^2 + i(\tilde{a} u^2 - \delta \epsilon)} + \text{c.c.},
$$

and the identity $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du}{u^2 + \gamma} = \pi (ab)^{-1/2}$, where for complex $a$ and $b$ the branch of the square root corresponding to $\text{Re} \sqrt{b/a} > 0$ should be used. This gives

$$
\delta G(\epsilon) = -G_0 W \frac{\cos[\frac{3\delta \epsilon}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} \text{sgn}(\delta \epsilon)]}{(1 + \tilde{a}^2)^{3/4}} \sqrt{|\delta \epsilon|}. \tag{12}
$$

$\phi = \arctan(\tilde{a})$. This analysis predicts square-root singularities near the tips, $\delta G(\epsilon) \sim \sqrt{\delta \epsilon}$. The values of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are determined by the details of the barrier potential, and approximately Lorentzian (see Fig. 2 inset), whereas the conductance peaks feature sharp cusps approximately described by $\delta G(\epsilon) \sim \sqrt{\delta \epsilon}$, see Figs. 2 and 3.

As discussed above, the cloaking of confined states becomes imperfect in the presence of magnetic field, since the cloaking condition $q = 0$ is violated by trajectory bending. This effect can be incorporated in our analysis via a momentum shift $q \rightarrow q + (eB/\hbar)\chi$, giving a change in momentum $\delta q = (eB/\hbar)L$ for a particle moving across the barrier, where $L$ is the barrier width. The effect of a weak magnetic field can be mimicked by introducing a cutoff $\delta q$ in the integral (9), leading to rounding of the square-root cusps on the scale $\delta \epsilon \sim B^2L^2$. Thus, the uncloaking of confined states will be manifested through the washing out of the cusps in weak fields.

It is straightforward to incorporate the effect of interlayer gap opening in the analysis [23]. As shown in Fig. 3, the opening of a gap weakly modifies the positions and shapes of the resonances, but does not destroy them. In particular, the fringe contrast, as assessed by the max/min ratio, is relatively unaffected by the gap (see Fig. 3 inset). Therefore the resonances in conductance provide a robust signature of confined states. The peak shapes are singular when these states are cloaked, and smeared when they are uncloaked by applying a magnetic field or an interlayer gap. These features provide a characteristic signature of cloaking and uncloaking, which we expect to be readily observable in experiments.

The phenomena described above originate from decoupling of chiralities for normally incident waves and confinement of states within the barrier. Because such behavior is diametrically opposite to that studied in single-layer graphene, it might be called “anti-Klein tunneling.” However, since the term “Klein tunneling” is in a sense a misnomer describing a nontunneling behavior, we prefer not to use distinctions based on the degree of Kleinness.

To summarize, the chirality mismatch of states inside and outside the ballistic $p-n-p$ junction results in cloaking of states confined inside the junction. The cloak effect is perfect at normal incidence angle, and close to perfect at near-normal incidence. The confined states manifest themselves as resonances in the ballistic conductance with characteristic non-Lorentzian line shapes with square-root singularities due to cloaking. These singular resonances, which are smeared by weak magnetic fields, can serve as a hallmark of the cloak effects in transport measurements.

This work was supported by Office of Naval Research Grant No. N00014-09-1-0724.