Ballistic transport in graphene p-n junctions

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P-N junctions in graphene promise to be a platform for investigating peculiar transport phenomena of Dirac fermions such as Klein tunneling and negative refraction. In order to observe these phenomena, we need graphene p-n junctions in which the charge carrier travels ballistically. However, in the conventional graphene p-n junctions, the interaction between graphene and substrate material degraded the charge carrier mobility. In this work, we fabricated high-mobility graphene p-n junctions by sandwiching graphene between two hexagonal boron-nitride (h-BN) crystals. The resistivity peak as a function of back-gate bias voltage was narrow ($\delta V_{\rm BG}^{\rm FWHM} \sim 1 \text{ V}$), demonstrating high quality of our device. By tuning the global back gate (V_{BG}) and local top gate (V_{TG}) , we formed p-p and p-n junctions [Fig. 1]. When p-p junction was formed $(V_{TG} = 0 \text{ V})$, characteristic peak structures were emerged in bend resistance $R_{\text{CD,AB}}$ plot [Fig. 2]. The positions of the peaks were well fitted by the curves with constant cyclotron radius R_c . This result indicates that the peak structures were caused by the charge carriers focused onto the voltage probe C from A by the ballistic carrier trajectory shown in Fig. 1. When the top gate voltage V_{TG} was varied, we observed the shift of the positions of focusing signals. We will discuss this result in terms of the change of the electron wave's refractive index at the p-n junctions.

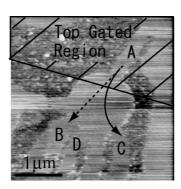


Fig. 1: AFM image of the representative device before transferring the top BN. The top gated region subsequently deposited is also depicted. The solid and dotted arrows indicate a ballistic carrier trajectory and a current direction, respectively.

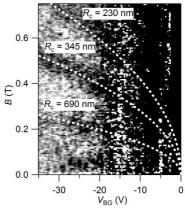


Fig. 2: Gray scale plot of bend resistance $R_{\rm CD,AB}$ as a function of $V_{\rm BG}$ and B with $V_{\rm TG} = 0$ V. The white dotted curves correspond to cyclotron radius $R_{\rm c} = 230, 345, 690$ nm (top to bottom), suggesting the focusing of carriers onto the voltage probe C shown in Fig. 1.