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## Mesoscopic Klein-Schwinger effect in graphene

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Vacuum breakdown by particle-antiparticle pair creation under intense electric field, introduced by Sauter and Schwinger, is a basic non-perturbative prediction of quantum electrodynamics. Its high-energy physics experimental demonstration remains elusive as the threshold electric fields are extremely strong and beyond current reach, even for the light electron-positron pairs.

Here we put forward a mesoscopic variant of the Schwinger effect in graphene, which hosts Dirac fermions with an approximate electron-hole symmetry. Using DC transport and radiofrequency noise measurements, we report on universal one-dimensional Schwinger conductance at the pinchoff of ballistic graphene transistors. Strong pinchoff electric fields are concentrated within approximately  $1\mu\text{m}$  of the transistor's drain; they generate a giant Klein collimation that acts as a seed for 1D Schwinger electron-hole pair creation at saturation. The theoretical prediction for 1D Schwinger effect is quantitatively verified in its full non-perturbative development. These observations give clues to current saturation limits in ballistic graphene, and pave the way for further quantum electrodynamics experiments in the laboratory.

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