## Cooling of chiral heat transport in the quantum Hall effect regime of graphene

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In the quantum Hall effect (QHE) regime, heat is carried by electrons in the edge states of Landau levels. Here, we study cooling of hot electrons propagating along the edge of graphene at the filling factor  $v = \pm 2$ , mediated by acoustic phonons. We determine the temperature profile extended from a hot spot, where the Hall current is injected into graphene from a metallic contact, taking into account specifics of boundary conditions for lattice displacements in graphene in a van der Waals heterostructure with an insulating substrate. Our calculations, performed using generic boundary conditions for Dirac electrons, show that emission of phonons can explain a short cooling length observed in graphene-based QHE devices by Nahm, Hwang, and Lee [Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 226801 (2013)].

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Graphene offers a promising material platform for the realization of a metrological resistance standard based on the phenomenon of quantum Hall effect (QHE) [1–11]. Precision metrology requires wide QHE plateaus, such as observed at filling factor  $v = \pm 2$  in epitaxial graphene on SiC [7,10], and the largest possible breakdown current. The breakdown of QHE is triggered by the unavoidable hot spots [3,12,13] formed at the points where current is injected into the two-dimensional (2D) electron gas from a normal metal contact. Hot electrons propagating from the hot spot to the potential contacts used in the QHE measurements spoil the precision of QHE resistance quantization [14]. In the QHE regime, the electron energy spectrum is gapped inside the 2D structure, while the edge states [15-18] carry nonequilibrium electrons. The chiral nature [15,16] of edge states means that electrons propagate in only one direction, making the heat transport unidirectional, Fig. 1, with the direction of the drift reversed upon reversal of magnetic field,  $\mathbf{B} = -B\hat{\mathbf{n}}_{\tau}$ . Chiral heat transport was experimentally observed both in semiconductor heterostructures [19] and in graphene [20]. Here, we propose a theory describing the temperature profile formed by the competition of chiral heat transport and acoustic-phonon-mediated cooling of electrons in the QHE edge states in graphene with filling factor  $v = \pm 2$ , for which the gap between LLs is the widest.

To model edge states in graphene, we use the Dirac equation for electrons with generic boundary conditions [21–23] that provide zero value for the current across the edges and satisfy the time-inversion symmetry requirement at  $\mathbf{B} = 0$ ,

$$v\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (-i\hbar\nabla + e\mathbf{A})\Psi = E\Psi ; [1 - (\boldsymbol{m} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) \otimes (\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})]\Psi|_{y=0} = 0; \boldsymbol{n} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}_z \cos\phi + [\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z \times \mathbf{n}_\perp] \sin\phi.$$
 (1)

Here,  $\sigma_i$  and  $\tau_i$  are Pauli matrices acting separately on sublattice (A, B) and valley  $(\pm K)$  components of a 4-spinor,  $\Psi^T = (\Psi_{KA}, \Psi_{KB}, \Psi_{-KB}, -\Psi_{-KA})$ , describing the electron amplitudes on sublattices *A* and *B* in the valleys  $\pm K$ . Generic boundary conditions in Eq. (1) are parameterized by two unit vectors,  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{n} \perp \mathbf{n}_{\perp}$ , where  $\mathbf{n}_{\perp}$  is normal to the edge in the 2D plane of graphene, Fig. 1. Both  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  depend on the microscopic features of the edge in a particular sample. In particular, deviations of  $\mathbf{m}$  from  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z$  reflect the probability of intervalley scattering upon specular reflection of an electron arriving at the incidence angle  $\theta$  to the edge,

$$P_{K\to -K} = \frac{(\tan\theta)^2}{(\cos\phi)^2 + (\tan\theta)^2} |\boldsymbol{m} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}}_z|^2.$$

Vector m also accounts for the crystallographic orientation,  $\eta$ , of the edge: for zigzag edge  $(\eta = \frac{\pi}{2}) \mathbf{m} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}_z$ , for the armchair edge  $(\eta = 0)$   $\boldsymbol{m} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}_x$  with  $\phi = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$ . For straight edges, by exploiting valley degeneracy in Eq. (1) boundary conditions with different m's can be reduced by a unitary transformation in valley space to the ones with  $m = \hat{\mathbf{n}}_z$ , thus, leaving all the sample-specific microscopic features of the edge incorporated in a single parameter  $\phi$ . For example,  $\phi = 0$ corresponds to an idealized nearest-neighbor-hopping model of zigzag edge with equal on-site energies on carbons, which imposes an artificial electron-hole symmetry on the electronic spectrum [24–28]. To compare,  $\phi = \pm \pi/2$  correspond to the infinite-mass boundary condition for Dirac fermions [29], due to the sublattice symmetry breaking by a staggered potential,  $\Delta \sigma_z \otimes \tau_z$ , with  $|\Delta| \to \infty$  at the edge. According to Ref. [22], boundary parameter  $\phi$  can be related to staggered potential  $-\Delta \sigma_z \otimes \tau_z$  on 2N rows at a zigzag edge, as  $\cos \phi =$  $\frac{1+\sinh(\kappa)\sinh(\kappa+2N\Delta/t)}{\cosh(\kappa)\cosh(\kappa+2N\Delta/t)}$ , with  $\sinh\kappa = \Delta/(2t)$  and t being the nearest-neighbor hopping in the tight-binding model. The boundary parameter  $\phi$  also determines a phase shift,  $\gamma_{\xi} =$  $\pi + 2 \arctan \frac{\sin \theta \left( \cot(\phi/2) \right)^{\xi}}{\xi - \cos \theta \left( \cot(\phi/2) \right)^{\xi}}$ , of a plane wave upon specular reflection of an electron arriving at the incidence angle  $\theta$  to the edge at  $\mathbf{B} = 0$ . Note that the armchair edge boundary condition is reduced to  $\phi = \pm \pi/2$  (after the above-mentioned unitary transformation in the valley space). In general, a nonzero  $\phi$ determines the dispersion of the edge states characteristic for graphene edge at B = 0,

$$E(p) = \xi \hbar v p \sin \phi, \qquad (2)$$

where a valley-specific requirement  $\xi p \cos \phi > 0$  ( $\xi = \pm 1$  for  $\pm K$  valleys) guarantees confinement of evanescent states near the edge,  $\Psi_{\xi} = \begin{bmatrix} \xi \\ (\tan \frac{\phi}{2})^{\xi} \end{bmatrix} e^{-\xi py \cos \phi + ipx}$ .

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FIG. 1. Heat injection by a hot spot near metallic contact to graphene in the QHE regime. Edge is oriented at angle  $\eta$  from the armchair direction.

To analyze the edge-state problem (1) for the geometry of the edge shown in Fig. 1 (x/y axes chosen along/perpendicular to graphene edge) and an arbitrary choice of  $\phi$  and m, we employ a unitary transformation,

$$\Psi = e^{i\frac{m\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z}{2}\boldsymbol{\tau}\cdot\frac{\boldsymbol{m}\times\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z}{|\boldsymbol{m}\times\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z|}} \otimes e^{-i\eta\frac{\sigma_z}{2}}\Psi',$$

which adjusts the sublattice composition of spinors in Eq. (1) to the choice of the coordinate system, simplifying the form of boundary condition by rotating  $\boldsymbol{m}$  (to the angle  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{mn}}_z$ ) to  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z$  axis. Then, we use Landau gauge  $\mathbf{A} = (By,0)$  for magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = -B\hat{\mathbf{n}}_z$ , seeking solutions in the form of  $\Psi'(x,y) = e^{ipx}\psi(y)$ , where  $\psi^T = (\psi_{+A},\psi_{+B},\psi_{-B},-\psi_{-A})$ . Now, it is convenient to rewrite the Dirac equation and its boundary conditions in a Schrödinger-like form using amplitudes  $\chi_{+1} \equiv \psi_{+A}$  and  $\chi_{-1} \equiv \psi_{-B}$  on one sublattice only,

$$\begin{bmatrix} -l^2 \partial_y^2 + \left(\frac{y}{l} + lp\right)^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix} \chi_{\xi}(y) = \left(\frac{El}{\hbar v}\right)^2 \chi_{\xi}(y),$$
$$\partial_y \chi_{\xi}|_{y=0} = \begin{bmatrix} -lp + \xi \frac{lE}{\hbar v} \left(\tan\frac{\phi}{2}\right)^{\xi} \end{bmatrix} \chi_{\xi}\Big|_{y=0}, \tag{3}$$

where  $\xi = \pm 1$ , and  $l = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{eB}}$  is a magnetic length.

Numerical solution of Eq. (3) produces spectra E(p) for electrons near the edge shown in Fig. 2 for various values of  $\phi \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ . Spectra for inverted,  $\phi \to -\phi$ , values of the boundary condition parameter can be obtained from those shown in Fig. 2 by changing  $E(p) \to -E(p)$ , and spectra for  $\phi \to \pi + \phi$  by swapping  $\chi_+$  and  $\chi_-$ . In Fig. 2, one can recognize the 2D bulk Landau levels (LLs) at p < 0, transforming into the edge states near p = 0 The sublattice composition of the corresponding wave functions is shown in Supplemental Material, Sec. S1 [30]. Near the edge, the LLs resonantly mix with the edge states of Dirac electrons in graphene, Eq. (2), whose spectrum and valley composition depend on  $\phi$ . This mixing determines three parametric intervals for the edge states at  $E_F = \frac{\hbar v}{\sqrt{2l}}$ , which is the optimum choice of Fermi energy for developing QHE devices:<sup>1</sup>

(i)  $\frac{\pi}{6} < \phi < \pi$  (and  $\frac{7\pi}{6} < \phi < 2\pi$ ), where there is one chiral edge state at the Fermi level, whose wave function is a

mixture of LLs and the evanescent mode present for B = 0 for either  $\chi_+$  or  $\chi_-$  (in only one valley).

(ii)  $0 < \phi \lesssim \frac{\pi}{8}$  (and  $\pi < \phi \lesssim \frac{9\pi}{8}$ ), where there are three edge modes. Two of these modes (one for  $\chi_+$  and the other for  $\chi_-$ ) are the counterpropagating evanescent modes with  $\psi \propto e^{-\frac{y}{\sqrt{2}l}|\cot\phi|}$  confined at a short distance,  $\lambda_{\phi} \sim \sqrt{2}l \tan\phi$ , near the edge. Due to a strong confinement,  $\lambda_{\phi} \xrightarrow[\phi \to 0]{} 0$ , these modes have suppressed scattering into the LL edge state. Note that, for  $\phi \to 0$ , a stronger confinement of evanescent modes would suggest a stronger intervalley scattering on atomically sharp edge disorder, localizing the counterpropagating evanescent modes.

(iii)  $\frac{\pi}{8} \leq \phi \leq \frac{\pi}{6}$  (and  $\frac{9\pi}{8} \leq \phi \leq \frac{7\pi}{6}$ ), characterized by two additional counterpropagating modes  $\chi_{-}(\chi_{+})$  with strongly overlapping wave functions and one chiral mode  $\chi_{+}(\chi_{-})$ . In this case, intravalley scattering would lead to localization of pairs of  $\chi_{-}(\chi_{+})$  edge states.

As to the phonons, the feature of graphene coupled by van der Waals forces to the underlying substrate with a noncommensurate lattice is that vibrational properties in graphene lattice are only weakly perturbed by the substrate [31]. Hence, a graphene flake can be described as a membrane with free edges, where vanishing of stress tensor components in the direction  $\mathbf{n}_{\perp}$  results in a zero deformation potential at the edge. This should be contrasted to graphene with clamped edges, where the displacement vector field of graphene is set to zero at the edge. In principle, both the longitudinal [(LA) with displacement field  $\mathbf{u} \parallel \mathbf{q}$ ] and the transverse [(TA) with  $\mathbf{u} \perp \mathbf{q}$ ] acoustic phonons in graphene could be emitted by hot electrons in the edge states. Those are coupled to electrons via a potential,

$$V = g \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} + g' \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{w}, \ \mathbf{w} = (\partial_x u_x - \partial_y u_y, -2\partial_y u_x),$$

with [32–37]  $g \approx 20 \,\text{eV}$  and  $g' \approx 2 \,\text{eV}$  (since graphene is in the incompressible QHE plateau state, we use the unscreened value of the deformation potential coupling). As  $g' \ll g$ , we base our analysis on emission of LA phonons provided by deformation potential with the constant g. Note that flexural phonons couple quadratically to electrons, allowing only for two-phonon processes that are negligible at low lattice temperatures [38]. Also, we find (Table I in Supplemental Material) that the edge-state velocities,  $v_e = \frac{\partial E(p)}{\partial p}\Big|_{E=E_F}$ , are much higher than the speed of longitudinal sound in graphene [39],  $s \approx 2.2 \times 10^4$  m/s; therefore, phonons are emitted with the wave vectors almost perpendicular to the edge,  $\mathbf{q} = -q\mathbf{n}_{\perp}$ . This feature of electron-phonon (E-PH) interaction in the edge states simplifies the description of their cooling kinetics. In particular, for the samples where parameter  $\phi$  belongs to Interval I, where there is only one edge mode at  $E_F = \frac{\hbar v}{\sqrt{2}t}$ for v = 2, the E-PH interaction has the form,

$$H_{\text{E-PH}} = -g \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{q} \, dp}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar |q|}{2\rho s}} (b_{\mathbf{q}} + b_{-\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger}) A(q_y) a_{p+q_x}^{\dagger} a_p,$$
(4)

where  $b_{\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger}(b_{\mathbf{q}})$  and  $a_{p}^{\dagger}(a_{p})$  are the creation (annihilation) operators of LA phonons and of edge-state electrons;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Moving  $E_F$  within the gap introduces no qualitative changes.



FIG. 2. Bands E(p) of QHE edge states for various boundary conditions, in units of  $\epsilon_B = \hbar v/l$ ,  $l = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{eB}}$ . Solid/dashed lines correspond to solutions for  $\chi_+$  and  $\chi_-$ , respectively. v = 2 edge states at energy in the middle between the zeroth and the first LL  $(E_F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\epsilon_B)$  are indicated by blue circles and square markers, the latter indicating the additional edge states present in intervals II and III and expected to get localized if impurities are considered. Edge states for  $\phi \to -\phi$  can be found by reflection  $E(p) \to -E(p)$ , and for  $\phi \to \pi + \phi$  by swapping the valleys  $\chi_+ \leftrightarrow \chi_-$ .

 $\rho\approx 7.6\times 10^{-7}\,{\rm kg/m^2}$  is graphene mass density. Here, the form factor,

$$A(q) = \int_0^\infty dy \sqrt{2} \sin(qy) |\psi(y)|^2,$$

takes into account the form of the edge-state wave function and the phonon displacement field near the edge: for the free edge the phonon displacement mode behaves as  $u_y \sim \cos(qy)$ , leading to a deformation potential  $V \sim q \sin(qy)$ . For the states marked by dots in Fig. 2, the form factor A(q) has the following characteristic asymptotics,

$$A(q) \approx \begin{cases} \sqrt{2}r_0(ql)^{-1}, & q \gg l^{-1}, & r_0 = l|\psi(0)|^2, \\ \sqrt{2}\alpha_0 ql, & q \ll l^{-1}, & \alpha_0 = \int_0^\infty \frac{y}{l} |\psi(y)|^2 dy, \end{cases}$$

values of parameters  $r_0$  and  $\alpha_0$  are listed in Table I of the Supplemental Material.

Edge-state electrons cool down while drifting along the edge. Assuming that, locally, their equilibration due to Coulomb interaction is fast, electrons' distribution can be described using a Fermi function with a local temperature  $T_e(x)$ . We note that equilibration of edge channels has been shown to be nonthermal at longer time scales [40] due to integrability, but at the comparable time scales the phonon emission becomes important, breaking the integrability. We also find that for a slow thermalization of edge-state electrons, their distribution formed in the course of cooling by phonon emission is almost indistinguishable from thermal, see Supplemental Material, Sec. S 2. The cooling power (per unit length) provided by the phonon emission by the edge-state electrons is

$$W_{I} = \frac{g^{2}T_{*}^{4}}{\hbar^{4}\rho v_{e}^{2}s^{3}}f_{A}\left(\frac{T_{e}}{T_{*}}, \frac{T}{T_{*}}\right).$$
(5)

Here, T is graphene lattice temperature,  $T_e$  is the temperature of electrons in the edge state, and a factor,

$$\begin{split} f_A\left(\tau, \frac{T}{T_*}\right) \\ &= \frac{\tau^4}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\epsilon \ \epsilon^3 \bigg[ A\left(\frac{\epsilon\tau}{l}\right) \bigg]^2 \bigg\{ n_B(\epsilon) \bigg[ 1 + n_B\left(\epsilon\tau \frac{T_*}{T}\right) \bigg] \\ &- [n_B(\epsilon) + 1] n_B\left(\epsilon\tau \frac{T_*}{T}\right) \bigg\} \\ &\xrightarrow[T \to 0]{} \frac{\tau^4}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\epsilon \ \epsilon^3 \bigg| A\left(\frac{\epsilon\tau}{l}\right) \bigg|^2 n_B(\epsilon), \end{split}$$

accounts for all phonons emitted at various energies  $\hbar \omega = \epsilon T_e$ , with  $n_B(\epsilon) = [e^{\epsilon} - 1]^{-1}$ . The temperature scale,

$$T_* = s\sqrt{\hbar eB} \approx 6.5\sqrt{B}$$
[Tesla] K, (6)

is determined by the energy of phonons with  $q \sim 1/l$ . It marks a crossover between the two regimes: the high-temperature regime,  $T_e \gg T_*$ , where wavelengths of typical emitted phonons are smaller than l, ql > 1, and a low-temperature regime,  $T_e \ll T_*$ , where ql < 1. Then, for  $T \ll T_e$ , we find

$$f_A\left(\frac{T_e}{T_*}, \frac{T}{T_*} = 0\right) \approx \begin{cases} rac{r_0^2}{12} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_*}\right)^2, & T_e \gg T_*, \\ rac{4\pi^4 a_0^2}{63} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_*}\right)^6, & T_e \ll T_*. \end{cases}$$

For Interval II, the slow counterpropagating modes (seen in Fig. 2) provide additional cooling power. Since the spatial scale of their wave functions is reduced to  $l \tan \phi$ , and their velocity is reduced to  $v | \sin \phi |$ , their cooling power is described by the same Eq. (5), but with increased  $T_* \rightarrow T_* | \cot \phi |$ . This leads to the extended range of low-temperature asymptotics, giving a small correction to cooling power

$$W = W_I + \frac{0.62g^2 T_e^6}{\hbar^4 \rho v^2 s^3 T_*^2}, \quad T_e < T_* \cot \phi, \tag{7}$$

which rapidly grows to a dominant term at  $T_e > T_* \cot \phi$ . In the latter case, the equilibration between the edge channels shortens the cooling length. For Interval III, Eq. (7) can only give the lowest bound for the cooling efficiency, as phonons can be emitted by both intra- and inter-edge-state transitions.

All this leads to the equation for the temperature profile  $T_e(x)$  along the edge,

$$C\frac{\partial T_e}{\partial t} + C_e v_e \frac{\partial T_e}{\partial x} = -W,$$

where  $C_e = \frac{\pi T_e}{6\hbar v_e}$  is specific heat of a 1D Fermi gas,  $v_e$  is velocity of the fastest propagating edge channel, and  $C \ge C_e$  is a full specific heat including the contributions from localized states at the edges. The validity of this equation for Intervals II and III is provided by cancellation of  $C_e v_e$  contributions from the counterpropagating edge states and assuming that temperature equilibration between the edge channels is fast. If interchannel equilibration is slow, then the effect of additional edge channels can be neglected. In the steady state,  $\partial_t T = 0$ , this reduces to

$$\frac{\partial T_e}{\partial x} = \frac{-W}{C_e v_e}.$$
(8)

Also, for comparing our results to the experimental data from Ref. [20], it is convenient to characterize cooling by a differential cooling length,  $\mathcal{L}(T_e)$ , defined as,

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \equiv \left| \frac{\partial \log T_e}{\partial x} \right| = \frac{W}{C_e v_e T_e}.$$
(9)



FIG. 3. (a) Differential cooling length (black lines) computed for graphene with  $\phi = 0$ ,  $\pm \pi/4$ ,  $\nu = 2$  QHE, and B = 16 Tesla. Blue blob shows the experimental value  $\mathcal{L}_{exp} \approx 22 \,\mu m$  measured by Nahm, Hwang, and Lee [20]. For comparison, green lines show  $\mathcal{L}(T_e)$ for a flake with clamped edges (see Supplemental Material, Sec. S 3). Inset: Electron temperature profile,  $T_e(x)$ , along the edge. (b) High-temperature cooling length,  $\mathcal{L}(T_e \gg T)$ , for  $\nu = 2$  QHE edge state at B = 16 T, plotted as a function of boundary parameter  $\phi$ . Triangle-shaped areas indicate the drop in  $\mathcal{L}(T_e)$  when  $T_e$  is above  $T_* \cot \phi$ , caused by the increasing phonon emission from the pairs of additional counter-propagating edge states indicated in Fig. 2. Results for  $\nu = -2$  are obtained by the reversal  $\phi \to -\phi$ .

Solving Eq. (8), we find exponentially fast temperature decay at high temperatures, with  $\gamma = \frac{g^2 r_0^2 eB}{2\pi \hbar^2 \rho v_e^2 s}$ , and a slow power-law low-temperature tail:

$$T_{e}(x) \approx \begin{cases} T_{0} e^{-\gamma x}, & T_{e} > T_{*}, \\ \frac{0.24\sqrt{r_{0}/\alpha_{0}} T_{*}}{\sqrt[4]{\gamma x - \ln \max\left[1, \frac{T_{0}}{T_{*}}\right] + 0.003 \frac{r_{0}^{2}}{a_{0}^{2}} \max\left[1, \frac{T_{*}^{4}}{r_{0}^{4}}\right]}, & T_{e} < T_{*}. \end{cases}$$

The crossover between the two asymptotical regimes, from the fast decay at  $T > T_*$  to the long tail at  $T < T_*$ , is illustrated in the inset of Fig. 3(a), and the values of high-temperature cooling length,

$$\mathcal{L}(T_e \gg T_*) \approx \frac{2\pi\hbar^2 \rho v_e^2 s}{g^2 r_0^2 eB},\tag{10}$$

are plotted in Fig. 3(b). It is interesting to note that reversing magnetic field does not change the values of the cooling length  $\mathcal{L}$ , which should be, now, applied to the hot electrons drifting in the opposite direction. However, changing  $\nu = 2$  to  $\nu = -2$  by changing polarity of doping, would be equivalent to swapping  $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$  in Fig. 3(b), resulting in a different cooling length  $\mathcal{L}$  for *n*- and *p*-doping of the same sample when  $\phi \neq 0, \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

In the recent experiments on the chiral heat transport along the QHE edges in graphene [20], the temperature decay length  $\mathcal{L}$  has been measured for the filling factor  $\nu = -2$  at B = 16 T, resulting in  $\mathcal{L}_{exp} \approx 22 \ \mu m$ . Estimates, based on the theory of phonon-assisted scattering in semiconducting heterostructures [41] have led the authors of Ref. [20] to refute the acoustic

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phonon cooling mechanism, leaving their results unexplained.<sup>2</sup> Here we rebuff that conclusion. The values of  $\mathcal{L}(T_e)$ , computed using Eq. (9) and plotted in Fig. 3, show that energy relaxation due to emission of LA phonons in graphene with free boundary conditions for lattice vibrations does deliver sufficiently short cooling lengths in QHE edge-state electrons to explain the value measured by Nam, Hwang, and Lee [20].

To summarize, the theory of cooling of hot electrons in the  $\nu = \pm 2$  QHE edge states in graphene presented in this letter shows that for a mechanically free edge of graphene in devices where a flake is bound to the substrate by van der Waals forces, the temperature profile extended from a hot spot near a current contact decays at the length scale  $\mathcal{L} \approx \frac{2\pi\hbar^2 \rho v_e^2 s}{g^2 r_0^2 eB}$  up to where  $T_e(x)$  drops to the value  $T_* = s\sqrt{\hbar eB} \approx 6.5\sqrt{B}$ [Tesla]. After that (at longer distances),  $T_e(x)$  has a long power-law tail  $T_e(x) \sim (x + x_0)^{-1/4}$ . The proposed theory explains the earlier measured values of temperature decay length. It also shows that the cooling length  $\mathcal{L}$  would be strongly modified by clamping graphene edge, and it predicts an electron-hole asymmetry of the cooling length, which can be tested by changing the polarity of doping, from  $\nu = +2$  to  $\nu = -2$ , in the same sample.

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<sup>2</sup>Here, we neglect the evaporational cooling by emission of hot electrons into the bulk Landau levels, as it is suppressed by the Boltzmann factor  $e^{-\hbar v/(2lk_B T_e)}$ . For B = 16 T  $\hbar v/(2lk_B) = 840$  K, making this mechanism redundant for  $T \lesssim 150$  K.

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