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Real space imaging of quantum hall edge states in graphene
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Stanford University — At integer quantum hall filling factors in a two-dimensional
electron gas, electrons in the bulk are localized, while near the edge it remains con-
ductive as energy bands bend and cross the Fermi level. These conductive channels,
known as the “edge states,” are immune to back scattering, giving rise to quantized
resistance values – the hallmark of the quantum hall effect. Here we use microwave
impedance microscope to study the quantum hall edge states in graphene devices.
Scanning images clearly show dividing regions of insulating bulk and conductive
edges. We study the evolution of the edge patterns as the carrier density is tuned
through multiple filling factors. Correlation between real space images and trans-
port measurement demonstrates the robustness of the quantum hall effect – even
though the real space patterns are strongly affected by disorder, the quantization of
resistance is retained due to the topological nature of the edge states.

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