Nonequilibrium phenomena in correlated and topological systems

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Nonequilibrium physics is now becoming one of the central interests in condensed-matter physics. This talk will give an overview, covering the following: (i) Correlated electron systems out of equilibrium: intense dc electric fields can make a Mott's insulator metallic, where the dielectric breakdown may be regarded as a solid-state analogue of Schwinger's QED vacuum decay. [1] (ii) Nonequilibrium-induced interaction conversion: if we illuminate a correlated system with either a continuous laser light or a mono-cycle pulse, we can show that the particle-particle interaction can be changed from repulsive to attractive, which comes from a population inversion (or negative T) and has an obvious implication for nonequilibrium-induced superconductivity. [2] (iii) Photovoltaic Hall effect: if we illuminate graphene with a circularly-polarised light, a dc Hall effect can be induced in zero magnetic fields. This comes from a combination of a kind of Berry's phase pumping and a topological property of graphene. [3] So a message here is that nonequilibrium can realise novel phenomena in both correlated and topological systems.

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