

Generalized Gelfand-Dikii Equation for Fermionic Schwinger Pair Production

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Schwinger pair creation in a purely time-dependent electric field can be reduced to an effective quantum mechanical problem using a variety of formalisms. Here we develop an approach based on the Gelfand-Dikii equation for scalar QED and a generalization of that equation for spinor QED. We discuss a number of solvable special cases from this point of view. In previous work, two authors had shown for the scalar case how to use the well-known solitonic solutions of the KdV equation to construct Pöschl-Teller like electric fields that do not pair create at some fixed but arbitrary momentum. Here, we find that this construction can be adapted to the fermionic case by a mere change of parameters.