#### LETTERS

# Impurity effects on electron-mode coupling in high-temperature superconductors

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#### Group 12

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## Outline

- Background Information
- Experimental Method
- Results
- Implications/Citation Report
- Critiques
- Summary

## Superconducting transition temperatures have progressed over the years



#### Structure of high T<sub>c</sub> superconductors



What is the common structural unit of all cuprates?

• The CuO<sub>2</sub> plane!

• The cuprates are complex quasi-2D copper oxides with the  $CuO_2$  plane as the common structural unit.

### High T<sub>c</sub> compounds are doped Mott insulators

La<sub>2-x</sub>Sr<sub>x</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>



When sufficient carriers are added, the charge carriers will become mobile The system will become a metal first, then a superconductor

#### s-wave vs. d-wave pairing

It was known quite early on that Cooper pairs in cuprates form spin singlet, so the spatial symmetry of Cooper pairs can only be s wave or d wave.

Wave function name	s-wave	d <sub>x</sub> 2_y2
Schematic representation of $\Delta(k)$ in B.Z.	A Ky	

*s* wave: ∆(*k*) = constant.
 The gap function is isotropic.

• 
$$d_{x^2-y^2}$$
 wave:  
 $\Delta d_{x^2-y^2} = \Delta_0 (\cos k_x - \cos k_y)$ 

- $\Delta(k)$  is anisotropic.
- There are directions with zero gap (line nodes).
- The phase of  $\Delta(k)$  changes.

# There are many questions about the superconducting energy gap in high T<sub>c</sub> superconductors

- Does the superconducting state have an energy gap? How big is it? What is its relation to the transition temperature  $T_c$ ?
- How to measure this experimentally?
- Scanning tunneling spectroscopy at 4.2K on cleaved Bi-2212 crystals with different dopings



### Kink in high T<sub>c</sub> superconductor



What is a kink?

•Different velocity near the fermi surface

The origin of the kink?

- •Electron-mode coupling?
- •Electron-phonon interaction?

### **Experimental Methods**

- Measurements: High-resolution Angleresolved Photoemission Spectroscopy (ARPES)
- Angle resolution



# ARPES conveys information about electron dispersion (*E* vs. *k*) and bandstructure



Courtesy: Ex7, IOP, CAS

#### **ARPES** outcome

Band structure & kink



## **Experimental details of ARPES**

- Photon Source: *He I* α *Resonance Line* 21.218eV
- Energy resolution: 7-12 meV
- Angular resolution: 0.2 ° High resolution!
- Clean sample surface: *in situ cleaving of crystals in ultrahigh vacuum*

## **Primary Results**

- Electron-mode coupling is distinguished from phonons as electron coupling method in high-T<sub>c</sub> superconductors
  - Heavily dependent on the impurity element characteristics (Ni vs. Zn)
- Electron-mode coupling persists above T<sub>c</sub> for Zn-substituted Bi-2122

### **ARPES intensity plots for Bi-2122**



#### Comparative summary of MDCs for ARPES nodal and off-nodal intensity plots



(black lines on previous slide)

Notice the reduction of the kink in the off-nodal cut [g]. This indicates the strength of the effect of the Zn and Ni substitutions in the cuprate.

- Compare off-nodal cuts at T = 40K (left) and T = 120K (right).
  - Only Zn-substituted cuprate maintains kink above T<sub>c</sub>
  - Indicates
    - (1) the importance of non-magnetic (Zn) vs. magnetic (Ni) substitution
    - (2) Strength of electron-mode coupling



## **Citation Report**

- Number of citing articles: 36
- Journals: PRL, PRA, PRB, Nature
- Most discuss whether Cooper pairs bind from electron-phonon or magnetic excitations
- Debate still unresolved



Courtesy: Web of Knowledge

#### Article supporting electron-phonon coupling

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 10 OCTOBER 2008

#### Isotopic Fingerprint of Electron-Phonon Coupling in High-T<sub>c</sub> Cuprates

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Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy with low-energy tunable photons along the nodal direction of oxygen isotope substituted  $Bi_2Sr_2CaCu_2O_{8+\delta}$  reveals a distinct oxygen isotope shift near the electronboson coupling "kink" in the electronic dispersion. The magnitude (a few meV) and direction of the kink shift are as expected due to the measured isotopic shift of phonon frequency, and are also in agreement with theoretical expectations. This demonstrates the participation of the phonons as dominant players, as well as pinpointing the most relevant of the phonon branches.

## Summary

- Performed ARPES measurements to determine the mechanism of superconductivity in high T<sub>c</sub> cuprates
- CuO<sub>2</sub> superconductors were doped with Zn and Ni to determine the nature of the kink in ARPES data
- Kink remains for Zn cuprates, indicating the most probable cause is the electron-mode coupling
- Highly disputed: e-p or e-mode

## Thanks for listening

## Questions??

