

Anomalous Enhancement of the Coupling to the Magnetic Resonance Mode in Underdoped Pb-Bi2212

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(Received 18 September 2002; published 19 May 2003)

High-resolution angle-resolved photoemission with variable excitation energies is used to disentangle bilayer splitting effects and intrinsic (self-energy) effects in the electronic spectral function near the $(\pi, 0)$ point of differently doped $(\text{Pb, Bi})_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$. In contrast to overdoped samples, where intrinsic effects at the $(\pi, 0)$ point are virtually absent, we find in underdoped samples *intrinsic* effects in the superconducting-state $(\pi, 0)$ spectra of the antibonding band. This intrinsic effect is present only below the critical temperature and weakens considerably with doping. Our results give strong support for models which involve a strong coupling of electronic excitations with the resonance mode seen in inelastic neutron scattering experiments.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.90.207001

PACS numbers: 74.25.Jb, 71.18.+y, 74.72.Hs

The sharp magnetic resonance peak observed in inelastic neutron scattering (INS) experiments [1–4] is unanimously considered to be one of the most striking features of the superconducting cuprates, which suggests an important role of magnetism in the mechanism of the high temperature superconductivity (HTSC) [5,6]. It has been argued [6,7] that the emergence of the resonance below the critical temperatures (T_c) has a strong feedback effect on the electronic properties of the cuprates, leading to the appearance of the peak-dip-hump (PDH) features in the angle-resolved photoemission (ARPES) spectra near $(\pi, 0)$ points [8], kinks in the dispersion along the nodal direction [9,10], and a dip at characteristic energies in the superconductor-insulator-superconductor tunneling conductance [11] or in the optical conductivity [12]. Previous ARPES studies revealed a close connection between features in the spectral function and characteristics of the resonance mode [10,13], assuming that bilayer splitting effects were not relevant. Such spectroscopic evidence for the sensitivity of the charge dynamics to the spin excitations below T_c strongly supports a model of magnetically mediated superconductivity based on spin-fluctuation exchange [14]. Indeed, there are even proposals which consider the resonance mode as a boson which mediates the pairing itself [15].

From another point of view, however, the resonance is only a measure of pairing and phase coherence [4] and due to its small spectral weight is not able to be the “glue” in any conventional pairing theory [6]. In the extreme, the resonance is argued not even to be able to account for the anomalies observed in ARPES and optical absorption data [5]. To complicate matters further, recent ARPES

data appear to weigh in on both sides of the debate. On the one hand, it has been shown that for overdoped HTSC the famous PDH line shape of the superconducting-state $(\pi, 0)$ ARPES spectrum cannot be taken as a signature of the coupling to the resonant mode but is rather due to the superposition of two bilayer-split bonding and antibonding bands [16]. On the other hand, the renormalization of the electronic dispersion near the bonding “antinodal” points of the normal state Fermi surface [located some 18% of the $(\pi, 0)$ - (π, π) distance away from the $(\pi, 0)$ point] in the superconducting state in overdoped samples has been suggested to be a sign of strong coupling of the electronic system to the magnetic resonance mode [17,18]. All this naturally focuses one’s attention on the $(\pi, 0)$ region of the underdoped compounds where the effects related to the magnetic interactions are expected to be stronger.

In this Letter we show that the situation in the underdoped regime is indeed different. While spectra using low (19–22.4 eV) photon energies are complicated by a superposition of bilayer splitting effects and possible intrinsic effects, the spectra with virtually no contribution from the bonding band (e.g., $h\nu = 29$ or 50 eV), i.e., representing a purely antibonding component, demonstrate a clear evidence for an *intrinsic* anomaly which cannot be accounted for by a simple spectral function but could be well explained by taking into account self-energy effects originating from the coupling of electrons to a sharp collective mode. Furthermore, extracted from our experimental data characteristics of the mode, such as its momentum, temperature, and doping dependencies as well

as energy, match the characteristics of the resonance peak observed in INS.

The ARPES experiments were carried out using radiation from the U125/1-PGM beam line and angle-multiplexing photoemission spectrometer (SCIENTA SES100) at Berliner Elektronenspeicherring-Gesellschaft für Synchrotronstrahlung GmbH synchrotron radiation facility. The total energy resolution ranged from 8 meV (FWHM) at $h\nu = 17\text{--}25$ eV to 22.5 meV at $h\nu = 65$ eV. Data were collected on underdoped ($T_c = 77$ K) and overdoped ($T_c = 69$ K) single crystals of Pb-Bi2212 [19]. All $(\pi, 0)$ energy distribution curves (EDCs), unless specified otherwise in the text, were measured at a temperature of 30 K—deep in the superconducting state.

We begin with presenting $(\pi, 0)$ spectra measured using different excitation energies in Fig. 1(a). At first glance, a comparison of these experimental data with analogous data from overdoped Pb-Bi2212 in Ref. [16] immediately suggests a similar scenario—the PDH line shape is strongly excitation energy dependent and therefore cannot be considered as originating from a single spectral function. One easily notes the varying relative intensity of the

low-energy (peak) and the high-energy (hump) features which could be naturally assumed to be the consequence of the different emission probability (matrix elements) from the separate bands. Moreover, the excitation energy dependence of the relative intensity qualitatively agrees with the one observed in the overdoped regime, as one can intuitively expect for the split pair of bands of the same atomic character.

However, a closer inspection of Fig. 1(a) reveals that there is an important and noticeable difference with respect to the data from overdoped crystals [16]. While the overdoped data sets were characterized by the fact that a significant number of spectra exhibited no dip in the line shape at all, such smooth, “dipless” spectra are remarkable by their absence in the underdoped data. Every spectrum in Fig. 1(a) possesses either a dip or a plateau feature (e.g., $h\nu = 29$ eV and $h\nu = 50$ eV spectra) which separates the high- and low-energy parts of the spectral profile. We now move beyond this qualitative description by fitting the $(\pi, 0)$ spectra with three features (plus a background), as was done for the overdoped case [16,20]. Two typical examples shown in Fig. 1(b) demonstrate the quality of the fit. In Fig. 1(d) we plot the photon energy dependence of the intensity prefactors of each of the three components of the fit, M_a , M_b , and M_c , together with data from overdoped Pb-Bi2212 [16] in Fig. 1(c).

There is global agreement between the behavior of the matrix elements of the “hump” and “peak” in the underdoped and overdoped samples. This immediately indicates that all arguments issued in Ref. [16] regarding the assignment of these features to the bonding and antibonding bands in the overdoped regime are fully applicable here: on the “large scale” the PDH line shape is due to the superposition of these two components. What is really different between Figs. 1(c) and 1(d) is the behavior of the third feature of the fit (M_c). While in the upper panel M_c is relatively small and its energy dependence barely tracks that of either of the other two features, in the lower panel we see the striking similarity between M_a and M_c , i.e., between the peak and the third feature. Such a close similarity implies that these two features are components of the same, single spectral feature which possesses a more complex line shape. Moreover, it is easy to see from Fig. 1(d) that considering the third feature and the peak as constituents of the antibonding spectral function one gains better quantitative agreement between their total spectral weight and the spectral weight of the antibonding band in the overdoped case [see Fig. 1(c)].

Given such detailed photon energy dependent data, an attractive possibility now is to try and identify conditions for which the emission from one of the bilayer-split bands is negligibly weak, thus offering access to the intrinsic line shape of the other band (plus background). As can be seen from Fig. 1, the matrix element from the bonding band has a local minimum for both doping levels at $h\nu = 29$ and 50 eV. Keeping in mind that the bonding band lies

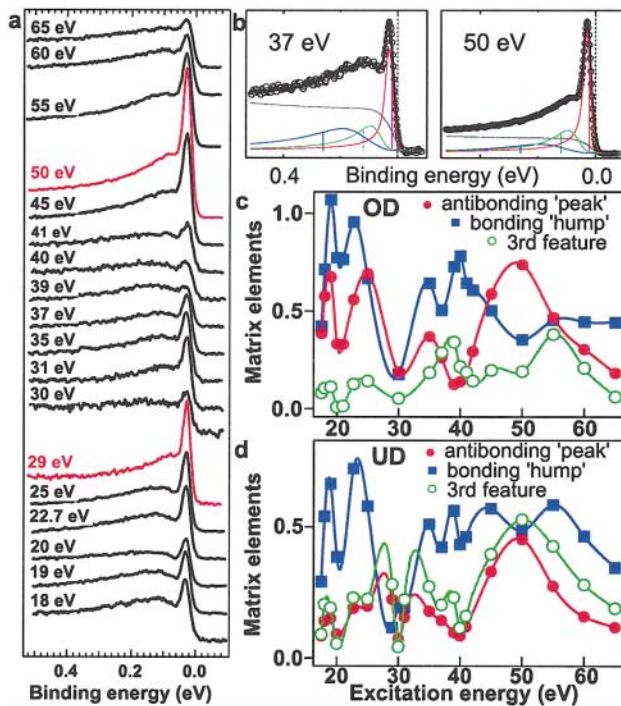


FIG. 1 (color). (a) The $(\pi, 0)$ photoemission spectra from the superconducting state of an underdoped ($T_c = 77$ K) sample for different excitation energies. (b) Two typical examples of the fit. Grey lines represent the background. Blue, green, and red lines represent the “bonding,” “third feature,” and “antibonding” components, respectively. Black solid curves represent the result of the fit. Panels (c) and (d) show the results of such fitting procedure, giving the intensity prefactors M_a , M_b , and M_c as functions of the excitation energy for overdoped [16] and underdoped Pb-Bi2212, respectively.

much deeper in energy (260 meV) than the antibonding band, this effect is further multiplied by the strong broadening induced by the (frequency-dependent) self-energy. Thus, for 29 and 50 eV photon energies, the contribution of the bonding band to the $(\pi, 0)$ spectral line shape is vanishingly small. We replot the relevant spectra from the UD77K sample in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) and compare them with the $h\nu = 50$ eV OD76K spectrum in Fig. 2(c). The difference between the spectra from the two doping regimes is subtle yet very clear: both EDCs from the underdoped system possess plateau or diplike features, whereas the overdoped sample evidently exhibits a single component line shape. We stress that as the effects of the bilayer splitting have been effectively excluded for these conditions, the line shape seen in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) is an intrinsic property of the spectral function of the antibonding CuO band. Single spectral function peak-dip-hump line shapes are generally discussed in terms of coupling between the electrons and a collective mode [6,7,21,22], whereby anomalies are expected in the electronic spectrum at energies where the probability for boson-mediated scattering of the electrons is maximal.

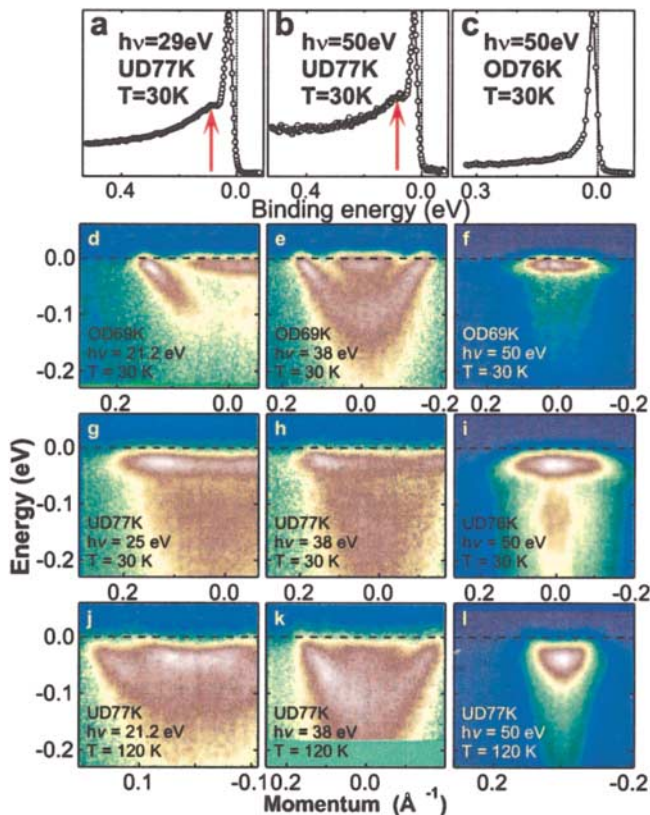


FIG. 2 (color). (a)–(c) EDCs taken at $(\pi, 0)$ using 29 and 50 eV excitation energies at which the contribution of the bonding states to the line shape is negligible, thus unmasking the “intrinsic” line shape of the antibonding component. (d)–(l) Energy distribution maps taken straddling the $(0, 0)$ – $(\pi, 0)$ along cuts parallel to (π, π) – $(\pi, 0)$ – $(\pi, -\pi)$.

In general, the mode energy can be read off from the energetic separation between the peak and “dip” (or plateau) in the ARPES line shape [13]. In this case the mode energy is between 38–40 meV and thus, bearing in mind the \mathbf{k} -space location involved $(\pi, 0)$, one naturally begins to suspect the sharp resonance observed in INS as the role of the mediator of the scattering [7].

Returning to Figs. 2(a)–2(c), it would, of course, be tempting to conclude that the EDCs imply a strong doping dependence of the mode or of the coupling strength. However, energetic locations of the bonding and antibonding bands change with doping [23]. This brings with it the consequence that the antibonding band is simply too close to the Fermi level to be strongly influenced [18,24], implying in turn that the mode itself is sharply localized in energy. In order to be able to analyze the feedback effects as a function of doping we include into the consideration the bonding band. We show in Figs. 2(d)–2(l) energy distribution maps (EDMs) taken along (π, π) – $(\pi, 0)$ – $(\pi, -\pi)$ cuts in the Brillouin zone. It is convenient to refer to Figs. 1(c) and 1(d) when trying to identify the spectral features on the presented EDMs. As discussed above [see Figs. 1(c) and 1(d)], for $h\nu = 50$ eV (right-hand column in Fig. 2) the data reflect predominantly the behavior of the antibonding band. For the other photon energies, the relative contribution from the bonding band can be much larger, which is particularly the case for $h\nu = 38$ eV photons (center column of Fig. 2).

The collection of EDMs shown in Fig. 2 is an important and completely new set of ARPES data as they cover the $(\pi, 0)$ region of both the overdoped *and* underdoped regimes for photon energies which differinglly select the two bilayer-split bands. First, we mention that for the overdoped regime, the bilayer-split bands are clearly visible in panels (d) and (e) giving rise to the $(\pi, 0)$ PDH. On going to the underdoped crystals, a qualitatively different picture emerges. The data from the superconducting state (middle row) appear to look very puzzling, with hardly any sign of the individual bilayer-split bands, but rather a weakly dispersing, sharp feature located at ~ 20 –30 meV followed by an interval between 60 and 70 meV in which the spectral weight is strongly suppressed. Data collected above T_c (bottom row) substantially clarify the situation: the picture is now remarkably similar to that of the overdoped case, with the two bilayer-split components being clearly seen to vary in relative intensity as the excitation energy changes, with the bonding band decreasing in strength on going from panel (k) to (j) to (l).

So now we return to the question: What happens to the electronic bands in the underdoped sample below T_c ? Closer inspection of the low temperature EDMs reveals that considerable depletion of the spectral weight occurs for both the bonding and antibonding bands. What is also different from the overdoped case is that the two bands

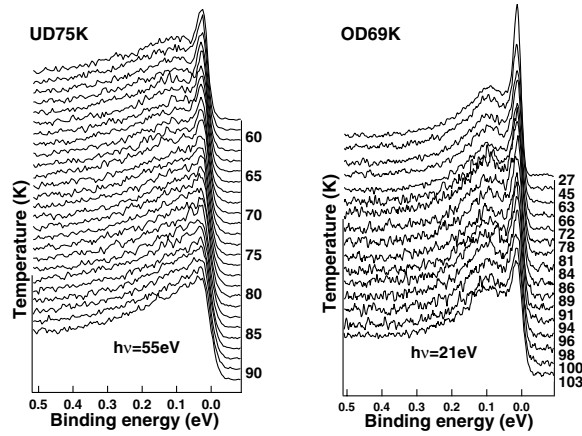


FIG. 3. Temperature dependence of the peak-dip-hump structure in underdoped and overdoped cases.

merge into one sharp and dispersionless feature above the energy of the dip and are no longer distinguishable. We attribute such a difference in behavior to the larger value of the gap and apparent stronger renormalization of the bonding band in the underdoped regime, both of which hamper the visual resolution of the bilayer splitting in this region of \mathbf{k} space. Changes in the dispersion of the bonding band have been observed before in overdoped samples [17], but this is the first time the wholesale “wipeout” of spectral weight at energies some 30–40 meV below the peak feature near $(\pi, 0)$ has been shown in underdoped HTSC. Essentially this dramatic difference in the spectra corresponding to the bonding band argues for a strong doping dependence of the feedback effects caused by the bosonic mode and thus for the anomalous enhancement of the coupling strength upon underdoping.

The next step, then, is to determine whether the observed anomaly is linked to being in the superconducting state. To this end, we consider two cases in detail. First, we show in the left panel of Fig. 3 the temperature dependence of the $(\pi, 0)$ spectrum from an underdoped sample recorded using the photon energy at which the intrinsic feature is seen. The dip (plateau) disappears approximately at T_c , which confirms its intimate relation with superconductivity. The right panel of the same figure shows the temperature dependence of the “classic” PDH from the overdoped sample recorded using traditional $h\nu = 21$ eV. Upon overdoping, the PDH line shape persists well above the T_c , which is fully consistent with both other experiments [18,25] and our interpretative framework in which the overdoped PDH is caused by a superposition of the bonding and antibonding bands [16].

Taking the ARPES data presented here in its entirety, we can now make a detailed inventory of the properties of the bosonic mode causing feedback effects in the electronic states. The “fingerprints” of the mode follow: its

energy is about 38–40 meV; it causes only strong self-energy effects in the superconducting state; the mode coupling is maximal around $(\pi, 0)$ in momentum space; and, finally, its influence is strongly doping dependent, being greatly enhanced in the underdoped regime. Considering the profile of the bosonic mode summarized in the preceding, it is clear that it has to be identified with the sharp magnetic resonance mode observed in inelastic neutron scattering experiments, thus reestablishing the earlier arguments [6,7,10,13,14] in this regard.

We acknowledge stimulating discussions with I. Eremin and D. Manske and technical support from R. Hübel. H.B. is grateful to the Fonds National Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique and MSG to FOM for support.

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