Electronic excitations near the Brillouin zone boundary of Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$


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Based on angle resolved photoemission spectra measured on different systems at different dopings, momenta, and photon energies, we show that the anomalously large spectral linewidth in the (\pi,0) region of optimal doped and underdoped Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$ has significant contributions from the bilayer band splitting, and that the scattering rate in this region is considerably smaller than previously estimated. This picture of the electronic excitation near (\pi,0) puts additional experimental constraints on various microscopic theories and data analyses.

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Angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) data from the (\pi,0) region of Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$ (Bi2212) have been one of the most important sources of information about the electronic structure of the high temperature superconductors (HTSC’s). The normal state spectra are very broad, with widths much larger than those from the nodal region [\pi/2,\pi/2], indicating a large anisotropy in the scattering rate along the Fermi surface. This anisotropy has been considered in various theories that describe the anomalous transport and optical properties in the cuprates. In addition, the information gathered from these spectra have helped to put additional important parameters into microscopic models. On the other hand, the superconducting state spectra contain the well known peak-dip-hump structure. The position of the dip was suggested to be related to the neutron (\pi,\pi) resonance mode, resulting in modeling of the tunneling and ARPES data. The peak intensity in the peak-dip-hump structure has been interpreted as being related to the condensate fraction, as discussed by various theories. These studies constitute a significant part of the HTSC literature.

Bi2212 has two coupled CuO$_2$ planes in the unit cell and therefore bilayer band splitting (BBS) is naturally expected. However, it has been largely ignored in the studies mentioned above, partly because of earlier reports of its absence in the ARPES spectra. Recently, this long-sought BBS was finally observed in overdoped Bi2212. The two originally degenerate bands (one for each CuO$_2$ layer) are split into bonding band (BB) and antibonding band (AB) due to the intrabilayer coupling. In the (\pi,0) region, the amplitude of the BBS is found to be about 100 meV, comparable to the size of the superconducting gap and the normal state band dispersion. As a result, the BBS causes a peak-dip-hump structure even in the normal state of heavily overdoped Bi2212, demonstrating that the intrabilayer coupling plays an important role in the electronic structure of the overdoped regime and should be seriously considered in relevant theories. These results naturally raise the question of whether BBS exists in the optimal and underdoped regimes where most experiments and analyses were conducted, and if it does, how it affects our understanding of the nature of the electronic excitations near (\pi,0).

In this Communication, we report ARPES spectra from Bi2212 and Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CuO$_{4+\delta}$ (Bi2201) for various dopings and photon energies (\hbar\nu). The line shapes of Bi2201 and Bi2212 are similar in the nodal region, but very different near (\pi,0). In addition, Bi2212 spectra from the (\pi,0) region are strongly modified by \hbar\nu, in contrast to the weak photon energy dependence of the Bi2201 spectra. We show that these results can be well explained by the underlying BBS effects in under and optimally doped Bi2212 and that the broad linewidth near (\pi,0) is, in large part, due to the BBS. These results are very different from the current, commonly accepted picture of the electronic excitations near (\pi,0), and therefore requires the reexamination of many existing theories, and puts strong constraints on future theoretical models and data analysis.

High quality Bi2212 and Bi2201 single crystals were grown by the floating zone technique. Bi2212 samples are labeled by the superconducting phase transition temperature $T_c$ of the sample with the prefix UD for underdoped, OP for optimally doped, and OD for overdoped. Bi2201 samples are labeled in the same way but in lowercase. For example, UD83 represents a $T_c = 83$ K underdoped Bi2212 sample, while od17 represents a $T_c = 17$ K overdoped Bi2201 sample. Samples with Pb doping are labeled with the prefix “Pb,” except op33, which is doped with both Pb and La. The superconducting transition widths, $\Delta T_c$, were less than 3 K for all the samples used. Angle resolved photoemission experiments were performed at a normal incidence monochromator (NIM) beamline of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory. Data were taken with a Scienta SES200 electron analyzer with the angular resolution of 0.3 x 0.5 deg unless specified otherwise. The overall energy resolution varied from 10 meV to 18 meV at different $\hbar\nu$’s. This variation of the energy resolution does not affect any of our conclusions since the energy scales of the discussed features are much larger. The measurements were performed within 6 h after cleaving samples in $\sim 5 \times 10^{-11}$ torr vacuum, and sample aging effects were negligible, particu-
FIG. 1. (a) Bilayer-split Fermi surfaces of heavily overdoped OD65; the two weaker features are their superstructure counter parts. Solid and dashed lines represent the bonding and antibonding Fermi surfaces, respectively. (b) Normal state photoemission spectra of Bi2212 taken at (\(\pi,0\)) for three different doping levels. Data were taken with \(h\nu = 22.7\) eV photon. Bars indicate identified feature positions, and triangles indicate possible feature positions.

clearly shows two features that exhibit a normal state peak-dip-hump structure, and are assigned to the two bilayer split bands.\(^{14-16}\) This was not observed in previous measurements on overdoped samples, mainly due to extrinsic factors such as energy and angular resolution. With a slight decrease of the doping (Pb-OD72), the two components of the (\(\pi,0\)) spectrum are barely distinguishable. Compared with Pb-OD65, the two features become broader and their intensities smaller. For OP90, the spectrum is intrinsically too broad to distinguish the two split features, which makes the identification of the BBS very difficult in this manner.

To clarify this further, we looked for other signs of BBS by comparing the spectra of Bi2212 with those of single layer Bi2201 at similar doping levels. We chose two pairs of samples: OP90 and op33, and OD63 and od17. Based on the empirical \(T_c\) vs doping formula,\(^{20}\) they have doping levels of 0.16, 0.16, 0.22, and 0.24, respectively. For the spectra taken in the nodal region shown in Fig. 2(a), Bi2201 and Bi2212 have similar line shapes, and the linewidth varies only slightly for different systems and experimental conditions. This holds true even for the heavily overdoped Bi2201 sample with a \(T_c<1.7\) K (doping level \~0.28). The situation is very different for the spectra taken in the (\(\pi,0\)) region [Fig. 2(b)]. For OD63, the spectrum consists of both the BB and AB, while the spectrum at (\(\pi,0.2\pi\)) mostly consists of the BB, because the AB is above \(E_F\).\(^{14}\) We find that the Bi2212 and Bi2201 spectra match at (\(\pi,0.2\pi\)) almost perfectly, while those at (\(\pi,0\)) do not because of the presence of the BB at higher energies. As far as the near-\(E_F\) features are concerned, the spectra from both od17 and OD63 have very similar linewidths at similar binding energies and momenta. This similarity between the OD63/od17 low energy spectra can be attributed to their similar binding levels in each CuO2 plane. The OP90/op33 (\(\pi,0\)) spectra show a large mismatch similar to the OD63/od17 case, which can be naturally attributed to the additional spectral weight from the BB of OP90. On the other hand, without BBS (or intrabilayer coupling) in OP90, properties of the CuO2 planes of OP90 and op33 should be similar. It is then difficult to explain why the linewidths of OP90 and op33 are so dramatically different in the (\(\pi,0\)) region, considering that Bi2201 and Bi2212 are very similar in many other aspects such as the phase diagram, Fermi surface shapes, dispersion energy scales,\(^{21,22}\) and particularly, residual resistivity, which indicates the scattering caused by defects and impurities. The larger linewidth of op33, compared to od17, may be attributed to enhanced correlation effects with decreased doping, presumably (\(\pi,\pi\)) scattering due to increased antiferromagnetic fluctuations.\(^{2,4}\)

The above comparison between spectra from Bi2201 and Bi2212 suggests the possible presence of BBS in optimally doped samples. This is further supported by photon energy dependence studies. As depicted in Fig. 3(a), the antibonding and bonding states have opposite symmetry along the c axis.

FIG. 2. Normal state spectra taken at (a) the \(d\)-wave node region, and (b) the (\(\pi,0\)) region for both Bi2212 and Bi2201 at various dopings. The solid and dashed lines in the inset of panel (a) indicate the bonding and antibonding Fermi surfaces of OD63, respectively, and the black dots indicate the momentum locations of the spectra. Data were taken with \(h\nu = 22.7\) eV. Angular resolution was 0.3° for OP90 and 0.12° for others in panel (a).
with respect to the midpoint between the two CuO$_2$ planes. As a consequence, their photoemission matrix elements respond differently to various experimental parameters, including the photon energy. Upon tuning $h\nu$, the spectral weight from the bonding and antibonding states will vary differently, thus changing the overall spectral lineshapes. This can be further illustrated by an analysis of the photoemission matrix elements. Although the photoemission matrix element still could not be calculated quantitatively so far due to various complications, with reasonable assumptions and simplifications, it can be studied on a qualitative level, which turns out to be very helpful for the data interpretation on various occasions.

We consider two two-dimensional (2D) systems coupled via a certain bilayer interaction. The photoemission intensity for such a system with noninteracting electrons is $I \approx \Sigma_{\alpha=b} M^2_{\alpha\alpha}(k,\omega)$, where $k$, $\omega$, and $A_{\alpha}$ are the momentum, energy for the final state, and the spectral function, respectively, while $a$ and $b$ represent AB and BB. In the one-electron matrix element $M_{\alpha} = \langle \psi_f | A_{\alpha} | \psi_{i\alpha} \rangle$, $\psi_{i\alpha}$ and $\psi_{f\alpha}$ are the initial and final state single electron wave functions, $A_{\alpha}$ is the vector potential of the photon field, and $p = -i\hbar \nabla$. Assuming $\psi_{i\alpha}(x, y, z) = \phi_i(x, y, z) \chi_{\alpha}(z)$ and a free electron final state $\phi_f(x, y, z) = e^{ik_x x + ik_y y + ik_z z}$, the matrix element can be separated into the in-plane contribution $M^\parallel_{\alpha\alpha}$ and the out-of-plane contribution $M^\perp_{\alpha\alpha}$. Under the dipole approximation,

$$M_{\alpha} \approx M^\parallel_{\alpha\alpha} + M^\perp_{\alpha\alpha} = A_{\alpha} \langle e^{i(k_x x + i k_y y)} | r_{\alpha} | \phi_i(x, y) \rangle,$$

where $k_x$ and $k_y$ are fixed to be $(\pi, 0)$ for both the initial and final states. The first term contributes equally to both bonding and antibonding states, and the ratio of polarization, $A^\parallel_{\alpha}/A^\perp_{\alpha}$, is approximately constant in the experiment. Therefore, we can focus on $M_{\alpha\alpha}$ as a function of $h\nu$. To further simplify, we assume

$$\chi_{\alpha}(z) = e^{-\left(\frac{x-\ell_0}{2}\right)^2} \left(\frac{\beta_i}{\ell_0}\right)^2 e^{-\frac{(x+\ell_0)^2}{\beta_i}},$$

where "-" and "+" signs are for $\alpha=a$ and $b$, respectively. $\ell_0$ is the intrabilayer distance, and $\beta$ is an adjustable parameter reflecting how the electron wave function is localized within a CuO$_2$ layer and is assumed to be $\beta=1/6$ in the calculation. For the final state, the free electron approximation gives $k_z = \left(2m^*h^2/(h\nu + \Phi + \nu_0) - (k_x^2 + k_y^2)\right)^{-1/2}$, where we choose the photoelectron effective mass $m^*$ to be the free electron mass, the work function $\Phi = 4.3$ eV, and inner potential $\nu_0 = 7$ eV in the calculation. For both antibonding and bonding states in Fig. 3(b), the $M_{\alpha\alpha}$'s for the bonding and antibonding state have almost opposite behaviors with $h\nu$, and change quite dramatically in the studied $h\nu$ range. This causes the overall line shape of the Bi2212 ($\pi,0$) spectrum to alter significantly with $h\nu$ as the relative weight of bonding/antibonding states oscillates. In the case of optimally doped and underdoped systems, the centroid of the broad feature will shift.

This is indeed observed in OD65, where the BBS has been clearly identified. Figure 4(a–c) show ARPES intensity taken in the $(\pi,0)$ region at different $h\nu$'s as a function of momentum and binding energy. Because the NIM gives extremely weak second-order light, it is possible to directly compare spectra taken at different $h\nu$'s. One can see that the relative intensities of the AB and BB change with $h\nu$. At some photon energies, only one feature is prominent, while in others, both features are clearly visible. EDC's of OD65 at $(\pi,0)$ are plotted in Fig. 4(d). While some $k_z$ dispersion may exist, the data show strong bilayer matrix element effects. One clearly sees that the relative intensities of the bonding and antibonding features vary drastically with $h\nu$. For opti-
momentum distribution curves in this region were usually and hence contributes to the c-axis optical response. Our band transition between the BB and AB is dipole allowed, and calculations assumed its absence. For example, the inter-

Bi$_{2212}$ ($n$ bond features are weighted by unknown factors at certain involved in fitting the spectra, because the bonding and anti-

bonds appear to be one peak/hump due to large linewidths and/or small splitting. As a result, the dip position will be affected by the overlapping of the humps and peaks. In addition, because the hump line shape is a function of photon energy, any semiquantitative analysis should be based on data taken in the same experimental geometry with the same photon energy.  

Intrabilayer coupling has been assumed in some theories to explain the different temperature dependence behaviors of c-axis and in-plane transport and optical properties of bilayer systems. 27 Our results reinforce the assumptions of these theories. In addition, we find that the quasiparticle in the ($\pi,0$) region of optimally doped Bi$_{2212}$ should be similar to that of Bi$_{2201}$, and thus much better defined than previously believed from earlier Bi$_{2212}$ data. The quasiparticle lifetime is more than 100% longer than obtained from previous EDC analyses, i.e., the scattering rate in this ($\pi,0$) “hot spot” is not as large as previously believed, although an anisotropy of the scattering rate still exists in the optimally doped and underdoped regime, as is observed in Bi$_{2201}$.  

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