Coupling of the $B_{1g}$ Phonon to the Antinodal Electronic States of Bi$_2$Sr$_2$Ca$_{0.92}$Y$_{0.08}$Cu$_2$O$_8$+$\delta$

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Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy on optimally doped Bi$_2$Sr$_2$Ca$_{0.92}$Y$_{0.08}$Cu$_2$O$_8$+$\delta$ uncovers a coupling of the electronic bands to a 40 meV mode in an extended $k$-space region away from the nodal direction, leading to a new interpretation of the strong renormalization of the electronic structure seen in Bi2212. Phenomenological agreements with neutron and Raman experiments suggest that this mode is the $B_{1g}$ oxygen bond-buckling phonon. A theoretical calculation based on this assignment reproduces the electronic renormalization seen in the data.

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The discovery of bosonic renormalization effects in cuprate superconductors in the form of a dispersion "kink" near 50–70 meV for the nodal state has attracted considerable interest [1–5]. While a consensus has been reached that the renormalization is due to electronic coupling to a bosonic mode, disagreement remains as to whether the assignment to a phononic or an electronic mode is more appropriate. More recently, another kink phenomenon has been reported for the antinodal electronic state near $(\pi, 0)$ [5–8]. In contrast to the nodal renormalization, which shows little change across $T_c$, the antinodal renormalization has been observed so far only below $T_c$. The strong temperature dependence and the dominance of the coupling strength near $(\pi, 0)$ have been taken as evidence to identify the bosonic mode with the 41 meV spin resonance [5–8].

At first glance, the spin mode appears to provide a natural interpretation for the antinodal kink. The spin mode turns on at $T_c$ and has a well-defined momentum of $(\pi, \pi)$, which preferentially connects the antinodal states. However, serious issues remain. The prominent kink in angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) is observed in deeply overdoped samples where no evidence of a spin resonance exists [6,7]. Further, there is a serious debate as to whether the spin resonance has sufficient spectral weight to cause the observed bosonic renormalization effect [9–11].

In this Letter, we present extensive temperature, momentum, and doping dependent ARPES data from Bi$_2$Sr$_2$Ca$_{0.92}$Y$_{0.08}$Cu$_2$O$_8$+$\delta$ that demonstrate the persistence of a dispersion break near 40 meV in the normal state close to $(\pi, 0)$, invalidating the spin resonance interpretation. In the superconducting state, the energy scale of this mode shifts to ~65–70 meV and the signatures of coupling increase considerably. We show that the ~40 meV $B_{1g}$ oxygen "bond-buckling" phonon has the correct energy and coupling anisotropy from its $d_{\pi-\gamma}$ symmetry [12,13] that, in conjunction with the underlying band-structure anisotropy, naturally explains the momentum dependence of the $(\pi, 0)$ kink. We attribute the temperature dependence to the density of states enhancement due to the superconducting gap opening and to the thermal broadening of the phonon self-energy in the normal state. Calculations using an electron-phonon coupling vertex of $B_{1g}$ symmetry reproduce the experimental data.

ARPES experiments have been performed at beam line V-4 of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory with a photon energy of 22.7 eV. The energy and angular resolutions are 14 meV and $\pm 0.15^\circ$, respectively. Optimally doped Bi$_2$Sr$_2$Ca$_{0.92}$Y$_{0.08}$Cu$_2$O$_8$+$\delta$ ($T_c = 94$ K) samples were cleaved in situ with a base pressure of $4 \times 10^{-11}$ torr. Key data have been reproduced in two other experimental chambers.

In Fig. 1, data in the antinodal region reveal a dramatic change in the effective coupling through $T_c$. In the superconducting state, classical Engelsberg-Schrieffer signatures of electronic coupling to a bosonic mode are seen in the energy distribution curves (EDCs) [Fig. 1(b1)] and the image plot [Fig. 1(b2)]: (1) A breakup into two branches—a peak that decays as it asymptotically approaches a characteristic energy at 70 meV and a hump that traces out a roughly parabolic band. The peak that asymptotically approaches the mode energy derives from strong mixing of the electronic band with the mode, while the hump traces out the bare band dis-
In the normal state [Figs. 1(a1) and 1(a2)] little of these effects can be seen without further analysis. In Fig. 2, we have extracted dispersions for three k-space cuts in a momentum space region between the nodal direction and the van Hove singularity at (π, 0). Since we are concerned with only the energy scale, we fit the EDCs phenomenologically. The usual method to extract dispersions—fitting momentum distribution curves (MDCs) with Lorentzians—is not appropriate since the assumed linear approximation of the bare band fails towards the Fermi energy [15]. EDC-derived dispersions of three independent data sets shown in Figs. 2(a1), 2(b1), and 2(c) consistently reveal a ~40 meV energy scale that has eluded detection before [5–8].

One may be concerned about a distortion to the dispersion due to bilayer splitting. However, the 40 meV mode has been clearly observed in two other cases that are independent of bilayer effects—in deeply overdoped samples below Tc where the gap is small, for which the bilayer splitting is well resolved [7], and in normal state optics data near optimal doping for which spectra are averaged over the Brillouin zone (BZ), thereby washing out any sharp structure due to the dispersion of bilayer splitting [16]. Further, while the bilayer splitting is different under the three circumstances shown in Figs. 2(a1), 2(b1), and 2(c), the kink energy remains the same. Finally, while certain peak-dip-hump features have been attributed to bilayer splitting when well resolved, kink features in the dispersions cannot be accounted for in this way (two nearly parallel bands alone do not reproduce the effect).

In Fig. 2, we also show the temperature dependence of this 40 meV kink through a comparison of the dispersions. In the superconducting state, the EDC peak position asymptotically approaches the characteristic energy defined by the bosonic mode [Figs. 2(a2) and 2(b2)]. Because the effect is much stronger below Tc, it is clearly revealed in the MDC dispersion also; the kink position indicates the characteristic energy, and the kink sharpness monotonically increases with the coupling strength. In addition to the increase in effective coupling strength, the data show that the kink energy shifts from ~40 meV to ~65–70 meV. This is an important observation since the opening of a superconducting gap is expected to shift the energy at which the electronic states couple to the bosonic mode and has thus far not been detected by ARPES. Here, we observe a kink shift of ~25–30 meV, close to the maximum gap energy, Δ0. We summarize the temperature dependence of the energy at which we see a bosonic mode couple to the electronic states in the antinodal region in Fig. 2(d): the kink energies are at ~40 meV above Tc near the antinodal region and increase to ~70 meV below Tc. Because the band minimum is too close to EF, the normal state ~40 meV kink cannot easily be seen below φ ~ 20°.

Now we turn to the momentum dependence shown in Fig. 3 that reveals two features defining the anisotropy of bosonic mode self-energy [14].

![Figure 1](image1.png)  
**FIG. 1 (color).** (a1),(bl) EDCs taken at 110 and 10 K, respectively, at the k-space location indicated in the inset of (bl). The corresponding image plots are shown in (a2) and (b1). Image plots of the calculations are shown in (a3) and (b3) at 110 and 10 K, respectively. Color scales are independent for each image plot.

![Figure 2](image2.png)  
**FIG. 2 (color).** EDC (a1),(bl),(c) derived dispersions in the normal state (107 and 115 K). φ and the cut direction are noted in the insets. The red dots are the data; the fit to the curve (dashed line, black) below the 40 meV line is a guide to the eye. (a2),(b2) MDC derived dispersions at the same location and direction as in (a1) and (bl), but in the superconducting state (10 K). In (a2) and (b2) we also plot the peak (I) and hump (II) positions of the EDCs for comparison. The inset of (a2) shows the expected behavior of a Bogoliubov type gap opening. The s-like shape below the gap energy is an artifact of how the MDC handles the backbend of the Bogoliubov quasiparticle. (d) Kink positions as a function of φ in the antinodal region.
the bosonic mode coupling. First, the coupling is extended in the Brillouin zone and has a similar energy scale throughout, near ~65–70 meV. Second, the signatures of coupling increase significantly toward (π, 0) or smaller φ. The clear minimum in spectral weight seen near 70 meV in Figs. 3(a1) and 3(a2) indicates strong mixing of the electronic states with the bosonic mode where the two bare dispersions coincide in energy. In the same figure, we show how these distinctive features change as a function of doping. In the deeply overdoped sample (Tc ~ 65 K or δ ~ 22%), Fig. 3(b), the kink energy moves to roughly 40 meV since $\Delta_0$ (~ 10–15 meV) becomes much smaller. In the underdoped sample (Tc ~ 85 K), the kink energy remains around 70 meV since it has a similar size as the optimally doped sample ($\Delta_0$ ~ 35–40 meV). The signatures of coupling remain strong throughout, although they do noticeably increase from the overdoped to the underdoped sample when comparing data taken at the same φ.

The above described experimental observations severely constrain the applicability of the spin resonance mode: (1) We observe the 40 meV boson in the normal state at optimal doping while the 41 meV spin resonance mode exists only below $T_c$ [17,18]. (2) The kink is sharp in the superconducting state of a deeply overdoped Bi2212 sample [Fig. 3(b)], consistent with data of [7] where no spin resonance mode has been reported, or is expected to exist since the spin fluctuation decreases strongly with doping. (3) The kink seen in underdoped Bi2212 [Fig. 3(c)] is just as sharp as in the optimally doped case, while the neutron resonance peak is much broader [17,18]. (4) Since the mode’s spectral weight is only 2% [9], it may cause only a strong enough kink effect by highly concentrating in k space [10]. Our data argue against this point as the bosonic renormalization effects exist in an extended k-space range.

We now propose an alternative interpretation for the antinodal renormalization effect as due to a coupling of the electronic states with the near 40 meV $B_{1g}$ phonon involving the out-of-plane motion of the in-plane oxygens [12]. Neutron scattering experiments show that this mode exhibits a clear softening across $T_c$ only for $q < 0.5\pi/a$ [12]. As depicted by the red arrows in Fig. 4(a), this is consistent with a phonon coupling primarily states near the antinode that can be connected with small q. A more complete picture, which we reserve for future discussion, would need to consider the 70 meV half-breathing phonon shown to couple to the nodal states [2] and known to soften with doping by large q [19].

The question now is whether the assignment to the $B_{1g}$ phonon can explain the coupling anisotropy and temperature dependence. We address the momentum dependence with a reformulation of a previous theory [20]. The $B_{1g}$ phonon preferentially couples to k points in the antinodal region of the BZ [13,21]. Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the magnitude squared of the electron-phonon coupling vertex, $g^2(k, k')$, as a function of both the initial momentum of the electron, k, and the phonon momentum, q, connecting k to k' = k + q along the Fermi surface. An electron initially at the antinode $k_{AN}$, Fig. 4(a), couples preferentially to other states in the antinodal region and especially favors $q \sim 2k_f$ scattering. An electron initially at the node $k_N$, Fig. 4(b), couples preferentially to states midway between the node and the antinode. A comparison of Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) further reveals that $g^2(k, k')$ decreases substantially for an electron initially at the node. This momentum dependence in the electron-phonon

![Image](https://example.com/image1.png)

**FIG. 3** (color). The image plots in (a1)–(a5) are cuts taken parallel to (0, π)-(π, π) at the locations indicated in the zone at 15 K for an optimally doped sample (94 K). (b),(c) Spectra taken parallel to (0, π)-(π, π) at the k-space locations indicated for overdoped (65 K) and underdoped (85 K) samples, respectively.

![Image](https://example.com/image2.png)

**FIG. 4** (color). (a),(b) Image plots of $g^2(k, k')$ for the $B_{1g}$ bond-buckling phonon on the Fermi surface of Bi2212. $k' = k + q$, where k is the initial momentum of the electron and q is the momentum of the phonon. (a) represents $g^2(k_{AN}, k')$ for an electron initially at the antinode. We draw red arrows indicating the dominant $q \sim 2k_f \sim 0.5\pi/a$ scattering; (b) represents $g^2(k_N, k')$ for an electron initially at the node.
coupling suggests that the signatures of strongest coupling should occur in cuts towards the antinode, and parallel to the \((\pi,0)-(\pi,\pi)\) line, as observed in the data. The strong momentum dependence also explains why the coupling constant inferred by ARPES measurements can be so different from the local-density approximation value \((\lambda \sim 0.3\) for which the buckling mode dominates [22]), which represents an average of both \(k\) over the Brillouin zone and \(q\) over the momentum transfer. ARPES measurements correspond to a \(\lambda \sim 2.8\) at the zone axes, but to an averaged \(\lambda \sim 0.2\) and an even smaller value of the Raman \(\lambda\) that represents \(q = 0\). Within the context of this calculation, which relies on the framework of band theory, a quantitative comparison with the electron-phonon vertex derived from fitting Raman experiments [21] cannot be made. In order to do so, one has to consider vertex corrections that will affect the Raman and ARPES-derived coupling differently [23]. We leave these many body effects for future work.

Finally, we turn to the temperature dependence. Similar to ARPES data on Bi2212 reported here, tunneling data from a classical superconductor such as Pb shows wiggles due to electron-phonon coupling in the superconducting state, while they are hardly detectable in the normal state [24]. Motivated by the case of Pb, and other strongly coupled conventional superconductors, we have solved the Eliashberg equations using a one-step iteration procedure as described in Sandvik et al. [11]. The self-energy includes an electron-phonon coupling of the Bi2212 electronic structure described by a tight binding model fit to the measured dispersion and a \(d\)-wave gap in the superconducting state to the 40 meV \(B_{1g}\) phonon with the \(g^2(k,k')\) vertex shown in Fig. 4. Line cuts of the calculation close to the antinode are compared with image plots of the data in Fig. 1. The calculations show that the dramatic increase of the effective coupling in the superconducting state can be attributed to the density of states enhancement due to the opening of the superconducting gap. The substantially higher temperature \((\sim 100\) K) in the normal state also serves to broaden the phonon feature so that the dispersion exhibits, at most, a kink effect rather than a breakup into two bands. The complete analysis of this calculation will be presented in a subsequent paper [20].

In summary, based on extensive temperature, momentum, and doping dependent data and a theoretical calculation, we propose a new interpretation of the bosonic mode renormalization seen in ARPES as electronic coupling to the \(B_{1g}\) bond-buckling phonon. The dominance of the renormalization near the antinode indicates its potential importance to the pairing mechanism, which is consistent with some theory [22,25–27] but remains to be investigated.

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