Study of the planar anisotropy of spin excitations In superconducting YBa₂Cu₃O_{6+x}

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Outline

- Motivation: Quantum oscillations and FS reconstruction
- Low-energy excitations and the spontaneous onset of incommensurability
- Incommensurate, quasi-elastic spin correlations
- Effects of the application of a magnetic field
- Effects of non magnetic impurities
- Conclusions

Motivation: Quantum oscillations



Motivation: Fermi-surface reconstruction

Fermi pockets?

BUT: from the Hall resistivity the pockets should contain electrons, not holes!
IDEA: Fermi surface reconstruction
E.G.: due to commensurate antiferromagnetic order, d-density waves, commensurate or incommensurate spin modulations



Commensurate 1/8 stripe order







Samples and phase diagram



$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6.6} - T_c = 61 \text{ K}$



$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6.6} - T_c = 61 K$



Hinkov et al.,

Nature Physics 3, 780

Spectrum above *T_c* qualitatively different:

- No hour-glass dispersion
- No resonance anomaly
 - "Y"-shaped dispersion

$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6.45} - T_c = 35 K$



YBa₂Cu₃O_{6.45}

- Hardly any hour-glass dispersion
- Very weak resonance anomaly at best
- "Y"-shaped dispersion even below T_c pure symmetry-broken phase showing up when superconductivity is weakened?



Spontaneous onset of incommensurability



Hinkov et al., *Science* **319**, 597 (2008).

• Spontaneous onset of incommensurability at ~150 K



⇒Suggests underlying nematic phase transition, orthorhombic lattice distortion serves as weak orientational field

cf. Kivelson et al., Nature 393, 550 (1998)

Spirals? (Sushkov et al.), FS deformation? (Yamase et al.), Stripes? (Tranquada and several others)

Quasi-elastic intensity



Effect of an external magnetic field



J. Chang et al., arXiv:0712.2181, cf. also B. Lake et al., Nature

Severely underdoped YBCO, $T_{\rm c} = 10$ K





Zn substitution effect



Zn substitution effect



$YBa_{2}(Cu_{1-y}Zn_{y})_{3}O_{6.6}$

* High energy: Y-shaped dispersion as in the normal state of the Zn free compound YBCO6.6

*Low E : quasi-1D incommensurate spin fluctuations as in YBCO6.45



Zn substitution effect

$YBa_{2}(Cu_{1-y}Zn_{y})_{3}O_{6.45}$

No superconducting sample !



THE GREAT TABLE



Summary

- With underdoping, a state with strong in-plane anisotropy emerges, which appears to compete with superconductivity.
- Anisotropy of the excitation spectrum sets in spontaneously at 150K
- Quasielastic signal with the same in-plane anisotropy, which sets in at lower temperature, is enhanced by magnetic field
- The inelastic signal is suppressed by magnetic field around 2.5-4.0 meV
- Enhancement of the magnetic order at high fields might lead to stronger Fermi surface reconstruction, thereby explaining the seeming contradiction between ARPES and dHvA measurements.
- The underlying instability carrying the in-plane anisotropy is likely to be stabilized by disorder

Thank you for your attention and patience!