Momentum anisotropy of the scattering rate in cuprate superconductors

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Momentum anisotropy of the scattering rate in cuprate superconductors

A. Kaminski,1,2,3,4 H. M. Fretwell,3,4 M. R. Norman,2 M. Randeria,5,6 S. Rosenkranz,7 U. Chatterjee,1,2 J. C. Campuzano,1,2 J. Mesot,6 T. Sato,7 T. Takahashi,7 T. Terashima,8 M. Takano,8 K. Kadowaki,9 Z. Z. Li,10 and H. Raffy10

1Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60607, USA
2Materials Sciences Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA
3Ames Laboratory and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA
4Department of Physics, University of Wales Swansea, Swansea SA2 8PP, United Kingdom
5Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai 400005, India
6Laboratory for Neutron Scattering, ETH Zurich and PSI Villigen, CH-5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland
7Department of Physics, Tohoku University, 980-8578 Sendai, Japan
8Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji 611-0011, Japan
9Institute of Materials Science, University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-3573, Japan
10Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, Universite Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay Cedex, France

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We examine the momentum and energy dependence of the scattering rate of the high-temperature cuprate superconductors using angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy. The scattering rate is of the form $a + b\omega$ around the Fermi surface for under- and optimal doping. The inelastic coefficient $b$ is found to be isotropic. The elastic term $a$, however, is found to be highly anisotropic for under- and optimally doped samples, with an anisotropy which correlates with that of the pseudogap. This is contrasted with heavily overdoped samples, which show an isotropic scattering rate and an absence of the pseudogap above $T_c$. We find this to be a generic property for both single- and double-layer compounds.

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I. INTRODUCTION

There is a general consensus that understanding the normal state excitation spectrum is a prerequisite to solving the high temperature superconductivity problem. Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) has played an important role in these studies because of the unique momentum and energy resolved information it provides. This includes the observation of a dramatic spectral line shape change caused by the superconducting transition, the large momentum anisotropy of the superconducting gap consistent with $d$-wave symmetry, an anisotropic pseudogap above $T_c$, the existence of nodal quasiparticles in the superconducting state, and “strange metal” behavior above $T_c$ (Refs. 7 and 8) in the so-called “normal state.” This state is well described by a phenomenological model called the marginal Fermi liquid (MFL), however there is as yet no consensus about its microscopic origin.

A number of studies have been conducted in order to better understand the normal state. Of particular interest is the determination of the scattering rate, which governs the transport properties. Earlier on, Valla et al. showed for optimally doped Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$ (Bi2212) samples that the scattering rate measured at the chemical potential is highly anisotropic around the Fermi surface and it varies linearly with temperature. This anisotropy was attributed to scattering by out-of-plane impurities. In contrast, studies by Bogdanov et al. and Yusof et al. concluded that for overdoped Bi2212 samples, the width of the energy distribution curves (EDCs) (related to the scattering rate) at the chemical potential is isotropic around the Fermi surface. Although these studies of the scattering rate around the Fermi surface provide useful information, they are limited in their scope. They measure or infer the scattering rate ($\text{Im} \Sigma$) at a single energy ($\omega$) and do not extract its functional form. Other studies that investigate the scattering rate as a function of energy are limited to the nodal direction alone.

The data presented in this paper provide a comprehensive measurement of the functional form of the scattering rate as a function of energy and momenta around the Fermi surface. Consequently, we are able to shed light on the nature of the excitations. We have conducted measurements of the scattering rate in under-, optimally, and overdoped samples and examine how these relate to the anisotropy. The key findings are as follows. (1) In under- and optimally doped samples, which show an anisotropic scattering rate around the Fermi surface, there is a linear dependence of the scattering rate as a function of energy (for all points around the Fermi surface). (2) In contrast, for overdoped samples there is no anisotropy around the Fermi surface and the scattering rate is more consistent with a superlinear behavior with energy. (3) We also find that the presence of the scattering rate anisotropy in under- and optimally doped samples and its absence in overdoped samples applies equally well to both single and double layered compounds, which suggests that bilayer splitting is not responsible for the anisotropy. (4) For under- and optimally doped samples, the momentum dependence of the pseudogap mirrors the momentum dependence of the scattering rate, which implies that both may be caused by the same interaction. (5) The functional form of the scattering rate for under- and optimally doped samples is $a + b\omega$, where the inelastic parameter, $b$, is isotropic around the Fermi surface. Finally (6) we show that the bare Fermi velocity can be directly obtained from ARPES.
FIG. 1. (Color online) Energy distribution curves (EDCs) along the Fermi surface: (a) EDC data from optimally doped Bi2212 ($T_c=90$ K) at $T=140$ K. (b) The same for overdoped Bi2201 ($T_c \sim 0$) at $T=40$ K. The inset shows the color coded points on the Fermi surface where the EDCs shown in (a) and (b) were measured ($N$ is the node and $A$ is the antinode of the $d$-wave gap). (c) Comparison of the EDCs at the antinode for optimally and overdoped Bi2201 at $T=40$ K. (d) The same (at the bonding Fermi surface) for optimally and overdoped Bi2212 at $T=100$ K.

FIG. 2. (Color online) Quality of the fitting to the momentum distribution curves (MDCs). Data for an optimally doped Bi2212 sample, same as in Fig. 1(a). Each curve corresponds to a different energy ($\omega$) and is measured along the $k_y$ direction at $k_x=0.59$: (a) Lorentzian fits to the data and (b) Gaussian fits to the data.
II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Most samples employed for this work are single crystals grown using the floating zone method. They include optimally doped Bi2212 samples \( T_c = 90 \text{ K} \) used in an earlier study \(^{15}\), as well as heavily overdoped \( T_c \), \(^{0}d\) Bi\(_{1.80}\)Pb\(_{0.38}\)Sr\(_{2.01}\)CuO\(_{6-d}\) (Bi2201).\(^{16}\) The overdoped Bi2212 and optimally doped Bi\(_{1.60}\)La\(_{0.40}\)CuO\(_{y}\) thin film samples (the latter referred to as optimally doped Bi2201) were grown using an rf sputtering technique. The samples were mounted with \( \Gamma-M \) parallel to the photon polarization\(^{17}\) and cleaved \textit{in situ} at pressures less than \( 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Torr} \). Measurements were performed at the Synchrotron Radiation Center in Madison, WI, on the U1 undulator beamline supplying \( 10^{12} \text{ photons/s} \), using a Scienta SES 200 electron analyzer with an energy resolution of 16 meV and momentum resolution of 0.01Å\(^{-1}\) for a photon energy of 22 eV.

III. SCATTERING RATES AND RENORMALIZED FERMI VELOCITY

In Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), we plot energy distribution curves (EDCs) along the Fermi surface in the pseudogap state of optimally doped Bi2212 and the normal state of highly overdoped Bi2201, respectively. These data reveal that in the optimally doped case, there is a strongly anisotropic pseudogap which is zero in an arc centered at the node of the \( d \)-wave superconducting gap (\( \Gamma-Y \) Fermi crossing), and takes its maximal value at the antinode (\( M-Y \) Fermi crossing). Moreover, there appears to be a strong anisotropy of the scattering rate, since the spectral peaks at the antinode are much broader than at the node. Although this has been suggested to be due to an unresolved energy splitting caused by bilayer mixing,\(^{18}\) in Fig. 1(c), we show data at the antinode for optimally doped single layer Bi2201, which has similar spectral characteristics to that of Bi2212 [shown in panel (d)], arguing against a bilayer effect as the origin of the anisotropy. We can contrast the behavior shown in Fig. 1(a) with that of heavily overdoped Bi2201 in the normal state, where no energy gap is present [Fig. 1(b)]. In this case, the spectral peak is isotropic around the Fermi surface, indicating that the scattering rate is also isotropic. A similar conclusion was reached in recent studies of heavily overdoped Bi2212 samples where strong bilayer splitting is present.\(^{14,19}\)
To obtain more quantitative information, we analyze momentum distribution curves (MDCs). As we pointed out earlier, the MDC halfwidth (in the absence of an energy gap) is equal to the imaginary part of the self-energy at that energy, \( \text{Im} \Sigma(\omega) \), divided by the bare Fermi velocity, \( v_F(0) \) (not the renormalized one, \( v_F \)). Also, the peak position of the MDC as a function of binding energy gives the band dispersion.

First we examine the quality of the fits to the MDCs. Figure 2 shows sample data from Bi2212 with Lorentzian [panel (a)] and Gaussian [panel (b)] fits. The Lorentzian fits are a much better representation of the data at all energies, with a chi-squared statistic several times lower than for the Gaussian fits.

In Fig. 3, we plot the dispersion, Fermi velocity, and peak widths obtained from the MDCs along selected cuts in momentum space, parallel to the \( M-Y \) direction. The first interesting point to note is that the slopes of the MDC dispersion curves are fairly similar in optimally doped Bi2212 [panel (a)] and vary much more in overdoped Bi2201 [panel (b)]. The slope of the MDC dispersion at the chemical potential is equal to the renormalized Fermi velocity. We extract this from the MDC dispersion and plot it in panels (c) and (d). The Fermi velocity for optimally doped Bi2212 [panel (c)] is roughly isotropic, a conclusion also reached in an earlier ARPES study. Since in the nodal region the cuts along which the data were obtained are not perpendicular to the Fermi surface, we also show the velocities that were corrected by taking into account the angle of the cut versus the Fermi surface normal (solid circles). We now examine the renormalized Fermi velocity in heavily overdoped Bi2201 [panel (d)]. In contrast to optimally doped Bi2212, this is highly anisotropic and is much smaller at the antinode, a result consistent with a previous tight binding fit to normal state ARPES dispersions in overdoped Bi2212. The strong anisotropy observed in Bi2201 arises from the close proximity of the saddlepoint of the band dispersion at \((\pi, 0)\) (where the velocity is zero) to the Fermi energy for this heavily overdoped sample. Stated another way, the small anisotropy in the optimally doped case implies that the saddlepoint in the band structure at \((\pi, 0)\) is significantly far away from the Fermi energy.

This effect is illustrated in Fig. 4(a). Here we plot the band dispersion obtained from a tight binding fit where the saddlepoint has been assumed to lie far below 150 meV the chemical potential—the same energy as at \((\pi, 0)\) in optimally doped Bi2212. The band dispersion from the tight binding fit is plotted along cuts taken in the same geometry as the experimental data (Fig. 3). In panel (b) we show the Fermi velocity calculated from the slope of the band dispersion. This velocity bears a close resemblance to the real data for optimally doped Bi2212 in the sense that is roughly isotropic [Fig. 3(c)]. We now address panels (c) and (d), which show the tight binding dispersion and Fermi velocity, respectively, in the case where the saddlepoint at \((\pi, 0)\) lies near (10 meV below) the chemical potential—similar to the situation in overdoped Bi2201. The effect of the saddlepoint is readily apparent as the velocity decreases quite rapidly near the \((\pi, 0)\) point—exactly the same as in the experimental data [Fig. 3(d)]. In summary, our results for the Fermi velocity are consistent with tight binding calculations and suggest that renormalization effects in the normal state are momentum independent. This strongly supports our conclusion (see later) that the \( b \) term of the self-energy in under and optimally doped Bi2212 is also momentum independent (isotropic).

**IV. FUNCTIONAL FORM OF THE SELF-ENERGY**

The energy dependence of the MDC peak widths for the various momentum cuts is shown in Figs. 3(e) and 3(f). Consider first the optimally doped Bi2212 data [Fig. 3(e)]. To a good approximation, the result for any particular cut can be fit to the form \( a_M + b_M \omega \). This is analogous to the \( a_M + b_M T \) form indicated for the temperature dependence of MDC widths previously reported by Valla et al.

In Fig. 5(a), we show the momentum dependence of the \( a_M \) and \( b_M \) terms extracted from the MDC half width at half maximum (HWHM) for optimally doped Bi2212 in Fig. 3(e). To complement these results, we have also fit the EDCs along the Fermi surface for this sample using a model self-energy, \( \Sigma \). We have tested both quadratic and linear energy dependences for \( \text{Im} \Sigma \) and found that only the latter gives an adequate description of the data. \( \text{Re} \Sigma \) is determined by...
Kramers-Kronig transformation of $\text{Im} \Sigma = a + b \omega_0$, assuming the latter saturates at a constant value beyond a cutoff energy of 0.5 eV. The background signal was determined using methods described previously\textsuperscript{22} and added to the calculated curves. The experimental energy resolution was taken into account by convoluting the calculated curves with the appropriate Gaussian function. The experimental momentum resolution was taken into account by summation of the spectra.

Returning to Figs. 5(a) and 5(b), the first conclusion to draw from the data is that the $b$ ($b_M$) term is isotropic in both plots. At first sight, it would appear that the Bi2201 case is different, since the $b_M$ term in that case [slope of the curves in Fig. 3(f)] appears to increase as the anisotropy is approached. But once the velocity is divided out [Fig. 3(d)],\textsuperscript{27} we find in this case as well that the $b$ term for $\text{Im} \Sigma$ is isotropic, which is consistent with the isotropy of the EDC line shapes shown in Fig. 1(b). The isotropy of $b$ provides strong support of the original marginal Fermi liquid conjecture,\textsuperscript{9} where isotropic (i.e., local) behavior is required to guarantee $\omega/T$ scaling.

The $a_M$ term [obtained from the zero intercept in Fig. 3(e)] is highly anisotropic. This is consistent with the strong anisotropy of the EDC line shapes shown in Fig. 1(a). The anisotropy of the $a$ term in optimally doped samples has been attributed to off planar impurities.\textsuperscript{11,12} On the other hand, we note the remarkable similarity between the anisotropy of this term and that of the pseudogap\textsuperscript{28} [Fig. 5(d)]. This indicates to us that the anisotropy is probably not due to impurity scattering, but rather is related to the same interaction that gives rise to the pseudogap. This is consistent with the observation of isotropic line shapes for more heavily overdoped samples of Bi2212 where no pseudogap is present. However, other possibilities could also be considered, such as the cold spots model of Ioffe andMillis, where...
a highly anisotropic scattering rate is conjectured due to scattering from $d$-wave pairing fluctuations.\textsuperscript{29,30}

Finally, we note that an anisotropy in the “zero intercept” of the MDC width is also evident in the heavily overdoped Bi2201 sample (Fig. 3 of this paper). But, in this case, it can be accounted for by the anisotropy in the bare Fermi velocity, which decreases towards the antinode. Thus the $a$ term in $\text{Im} \Sigma$ is isotropic [again, this is consistent with the isotropy of the EDC line shapes shown in Fig. 1(b)].

In conclusion, we find that the normal state scattering rate in under- and optimally doped cuprates can be approximated by the form $a + b \nu$. The inelastic $b$ term is found to be isotropic, which is a necessary ingredient in the marginal Fermi liquid conjecture.\textsuperscript{9} In contrast, the $a$ term is found to be anisotropic for under- and optimally doped samples, with the anisotropy linked to that of the pseudogap.

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\textsuperscript{*}Present address: Dept. of Physics, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.


\textsuperscript{6}A. Kaminski, J. Mesot, H. Fretwell, J. C. Campuzano, M. R.
MOMENTUM ANISOTROPY OF THE SCATTERING RATE...


In the heavily overdoped case, where the renormalizations are weak and isotropic, we can make the approximation of using the
true Fermi velocity rather than the bare one.

One may here consider the MDCs obtained from a broadened version of BCS theory. 31 In this case, the self-energy is of the form \( \epsilon^* \Delta^2(\omega+\epsilon-\Delta^2) \) where \( \Gamma \) is the lifetime broadening, \( \Delta \) is the energy gap, and \( \epsilon_0 \) is the normal state dispersion. At the Fermi energy (\( \epsilon=0 \)), the resulting MDC HWHM is found to be equal to \( \sqrt{\Gamma^2+\Delta^2}/\epsilon_0 \). In the limit of small \( \Gamma \), the anisotropy of the MDC HWHM would follow that of \( \Delta \). This argument, though, would not explain the anisotropy of the EDC lineshapes at high binding energies observed in Fig. 1(a).


