# Cuprate Superconductors: Towards materials specific calculations

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# Acknowledgements

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## Outline

- I. Superconductivity Background
- 2. Model theories (?)
- 3. Materials specific simulation (?)
- 4. Next Steps and Summary

# Superconductivity



# Conventional Superconductors



- Pairing due to phonon-mediated pairing potential
- Fermi-liquid Normal State
- Moderately Correlated Systems
- s-wave

#### The Isotope Effect (the smoking gun)





#### Pairing is due to potential energy recovery



System recovers substantial potential energy by forming pairs. However, paired electrons must occupy states outside the Fermi sea, i.e. states with an increased kinetic energy.

# New superconductors ('86)







YBa2Cu3O6

#### Cuprates: Unusual Superconductors



#### Ceramic material



S. Pan, dI/dV at resonance

- No BCS-like phonon/isotope "smoking gun"
- Mechanism?
- Non-Fermi liquid underdoped normal state (pseudogap)
- Doped Mott insulator
- d-wave
- Kinetically Driven Pairing



Alex Müller and Georg Bednorz 1987 Nobel Prize

#### Complex phase diagram

Unlike BCS, must dope to ~15% holes for highest Tc



#### Kinetic Energy Reduction (opposite of BCS)

From spectroscopic ellipsometry. Bi2Sr2CaCu2O8 samples. Molegraaf Science 295 2239 (2002)



Kinetic Energy reduction is roughly 1meV > condensation energy!

#### Meanwhile...

(Back in the real world)

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#### WHICH PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

- ▶ HTS ▷ Motors, Generators ▷ Industrial Power Wire & Synchronous Condensers Quality Solutions
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Industrial manufacture of HTSC wires, power machinery (motors, generators) exploiting high current densities achievable

: Power

Search

Conversion

#### Outstanding questions (19 years later)

- What is the principal mechanism?
  - Electrons? Phonons? Both? Other?
- Does material A,B, or C have higher Tc?
- Influence of pressure, magnetic fields?
- Other materials with same mechanism?

c.f. new BCS-like MgB2 in 2001, 39K

...many others

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- I. Superconductivity Background
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  - a. Hubbard model
  - b. DCA simulations
- 3. Materials specific simulation
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#### The Hubbard Model of the Cuprates



Note: A few model parameters (t,U) fit to experiment

#### The Energy Scales in the Hubbard Model







Note: A few model parameters (t,U) fit to experiment

#### Pairing Mechanism: Holes in AF background

One hole motion breaks AF bonds

A bound second hole restores the AF bonds



Brinkman 1970, Bonca 1989, Hirsch Science 2002

Pseudogap due to SRO or pre-formed pairs, Pairing due to kinetic energy gain

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Periodic Lattice



Difficult to solve accurately directly

#### Cluster Approximations





DCA papers http://www.physics.uc.edu/~jarrell

#### We Solve The Cluster Problem with Quantum Monte Carlo (QMC)



Expensive! I-1000+ cpu hours per temperature and doping Many temperatures and dopings per phase diagram

#### Small cluster results

#### Phase Diagram N<sub>C</sub>=4



Energies for  $T < T_{c}$ 



Kinetic energy reduction entering SC phase

Small cluster DCA Hubbard calculations display key features of cuprate phase diagram

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#### Outstanding questions (19 years later)

- What is the principal mechanism?
  - Electrons? Phonons? Both? Other?
    Mostly electronic
- Does material A,B, or C have higher Tc?
- Influence of pressure, magnetic fields?
- Other materials with same mechanism?
  - c.f. new BCS-like MgB2 in 2001, 39K



# First-principles calculations

Use zero-temperature LDA density functional calculations for structure and bonding

Although these band-structure methods "fail", structure and bonding are close to experiment: hope/look for trends.



#### Method

n(**r**) I. DFT LDA ground state





2. Multi-band Hubbard Hamiltonian



3. Phase Diagram

### Can this work?

## LDA+DMFT

Similar method recovers structural phase transition in Pu





r ~ t'/t



# DFT Orbitals

Well-localized Cu d orbital obtained: small materials differences.

O px, py: strong hybridization.





## DFT Orbitals

#### Some far from atomic picture





## **DFT Results**

- ~6 terms appear significant, in this basis
  Parametric studies are possible
- Parameters are close to empirical parameters used in model calculations
- Some trends apparent e.g. txyl (=tpp) increases with increasing Tc. Similar to single band observations, but inconclusive.



#### LDA+DCA results

### Calculated U



Few % variation in U; similar in all materials

Any Tc dependence must reside in orbitals or additional interactions (e.g. phonons)









#### 2nd NN Cu-O hybridization strongly governs Tc

Toy model: +ve sign, Tc increased ~60% from reference

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# Next Steps

Investigating influence of DFT ground state

More accurate calculations underway

If we fail, we will have shown "something extra" is needed to describe HTSC in real materials.

If we succeed, we expect to obtain "materials trends" in real HTSC materials.

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#### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 8 OCTOBER 2004

#### Oxygen Superstructures Throughout the Phase Diagram of (Y, Ca)Ba<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6+x</sub>

J. Strempfer,<sup>1</sup> I. Zegkinoglou,<sup>1</sup> U. Rütt,<sup>1</sup> M. v. Zimmermann,<sup>2</sup> C. Bernhard,<sup>1</sup> C. T. Lin,<sup>1</sup> Th. Wolf,<sup>3</sup> and B. Keimer<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstr. 1, D-70569 Stuttgart, Germany <sup>2</sup>Hamburger Synchrotronstrahlungslabor HASYLAB at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notkestr. 85, D-22603 Hamburg, Germany <sup>3</sup>Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, ITP, D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany (Received 12 November 2003; published 7 October 2004)

The doping dependence of short-range lattice superstructures in  $(Y, Ca)Ba_2Cu_3O_{6+x}$  has been studied with high-energy x-ray scattering. We observe diffuse features with a well defined periodicity which depend on the oxygen concentration but not on the charge carrier concentration. In addition, we find that diffuse scattering is absent in underdoped  $YBa_2Cu_4O_8$ , which does not sustain oxygen defects. Our combined data highlight that the diffuse scattering arises from short-range oxygen ordering and associated lattice distortions. Signatures of stripe ordering or fluctuations are not seen and therefore must be much weaker.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.93.157007

PACS numbers: 74.72.Bk, 61.10.Eq, 74.25.-q

#### Four-Unit-Cell Superstructure in the Optimally Doped YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6.92</sub> Superconductor

Zahirul Islam,<sup>1,\*</sup> X. Liu,<sup>2</sup> S. K. Sinha,<sup>2</sup> J. C. Lang,<sup>1</sup> S. C. Moss,<sup>3</sup> D. Haskel,<sup>1</sup> G. Srajer,<sup>1</sup> P. Wochner,<sup>4</sup> D. R. Lee,<sup>1</sup> D. R. Haeffner,<sup>1</sup> and U. Welp<sup>5</sup>

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 <sup>4</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany
 <sup>5</sup>Materials Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA (Received 23 December 2003; published 7 October 2004)

Diffuse x-ray scattering measurements reveal that the optimally doped YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6.92</sub> superconductor is intrinsically modulated due to the formation of a kinetically limited 4-unit-cell superlattice,  $\mathbf{q}_0 = (\frac{1}{4}, 0, 0)$ , along the shorter Cu-Cu bonds. The superlattice consists of large anisotropic displacements of Cu, Ba, and O atoms, respectively, which are correlated over ~3–6 unit cells in the *ab* plane, and appears to be consistent with the presence of an O-ordered "ortho-IV" phase. Long-range strains emanating from these modulated regions generate an inhomogeneous lattice which may play a fundamentally important role in the electronic properties of yttrium-barium-copper-oxides.



4a supercell

# Summary

Small cluster DCA Hubbard calculations display key features of cuprate phase diagram.

LDA+DCA calculations are feasible. We are testing fundamental assumptions of many cuprate theories.

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