

Symmetry dependence of phonon line shapes in superconductors with anisotropic gaps

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The temperature dependence below T_c of the line shape of optical phonons of different symmetry as seen in Raman scattering is investigated for superconductors with anisotropic energy gaps. It is shown that the symmetry of the electron-phonon vertex produces nontrivial couplings to an anisotropic energy gap which leads to unique changes in the phonon line shape for phonons of different symmetry. The phonon line shape is calculated in detail for B_{1g} and A_{1g} phonons in a superconductor with $d_{x^2-y^2}$ pairing symmetry. The role of satellites peaks generated by the electron-phonon coupling are also addressed. The theory accounts for the substantial phonon narrowing of the B_{1g} phonon, while narrowing of the A_{1g} phonon which is indistinguishable from the normal state is shown, in agreement with recent measurements on $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$ and $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$.

I. INTRODUCTION

Optical phonons observed via Raman scattering have provided a large amount of information concerning the energy gap in high- T_c superconductors,¹ and there have been attempts to describe the changes in the phonon line shapes below T_c in s -wave² and d -wave superconductors.³ It is believed that the changes in the phonon line shape below T_c are due in part to changes in the phonon self-energy resulting from coupling between phonons and quasiparticles. It has been argued that if the optical phonon has a frequency below the pair threshold energy 2Δ , then the phonon's linewidth decreases (narrows) and its frequency renormalizes to lower frequencies (softens) as the quasiparticles become frozen out. However, for a phonon near 2Δ , the linewidth is predicted to grow due to the enhancement of the density of states at the gap edge and there can be either pronounced phonon softening or hardening depending on which side of the threshold the phonon is located. This simple picture has been employed to determine the position of 2Δ in the cuprate superconductors.

However, this simple analysis applied to the cuprate systems has revealed that the above picture is a bit misleading. The above scenario has yielded a value for the energy gap that is different for different types of optical phonons and is thus symmetry dependent. For the case of the Bi 2:2:1:2 system, where very clean surfaces can be obtained, a low frequency phonon which transforms according to A_{1g} symmetry (located at 464 cm^{-1} , connected with the bridging oxygen vibrations) shows a downward frequency shift (softening) while no substantial linewidth change from the normal state can be resolved from the data.⁴ However, the B_{1g} phonon [285 cm^{-1} , connected with the antisymmetric out of plane $O(2)$ and $O(3)$ vibrations in the Cu-O plane] on the contrary shows a small frequency softening but a substantial linewidth narrowing below T_c .⁵ Similar behavior is seen in the $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ (YBCO) systems (but the A_{1g} phonon hardens),⁶ where such a large difference in behavior between the A_{1g} and B_{1g} phonons in part led the authors

of Ref. 6 to suggest that these two phonons interact with different electronic systems.

There has been no satisfactory theoretical explanation for the behavior of the different phonons. The main problem in addressing these experiments with the existing theories concerns the lack of attention paid to the symmetry dependence of the optical phonons. However, this symmetry dependence can be an important tool to uniquely determine the $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ dependence of the energy gap around the Fermi surface. It has been shown that the electronic contribution to Raman scattering can provide a large amount of polarization- (symmetry-) dependent information that allows for a stringent test to made to determine the actual symmetry of the energy gap in superconductors.⁷ It was shown that the coupling between the Raman vertex and an anisotropic gap leads to symmetry-dependent spectra, with peak positions and low frequency and temperature behavior dependent on polarization orientations. These changes in the spectra allow for a direct determination of $|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|$. Good agreement with the electronic Raman spectra taken on very clean $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$ (BSCCO) surfaces was obtained using a gap which was predominantly or entirely of $d_{x^2-y^2}$ symmetry, where the peak position and the low frequency behavior of the spectra could be straightforwardly accounted for. The symmetry dependence of the data led to the conclusion that the gap must be predominantly of B_{1g} character. Since the phonon self-energy is very similar to the electronic Raman density response, the same type of analysis for the electronic contribution to Raman scattering can be made to the phonons as well, leading to a further check on the predictions recently made concerning the energy gap in the cuprate materials.

We propose an alternative explanation for the symmetry dependence of the Raman shifts based upon nontrivial couplings of phonons of different symmetry with an anisotropic energy gap. Close attention will be paid to the role of the electron-phonon vertex, and consequences of its \mathbf{k} dependence will be addressed. Most importantly, it is shown that the line shape is polarization dependent for anisotropic superconductors and different

dependences on temperature can be used to determine not only the magnitude but the symmetry dependence of the energy gap. Moreover, it is shown that the peak of the self-energy can be located at frequencies *below* $2\Delta_{\max}$ for certain polarizations which have a symmetry orthogonal to that of the energy gap. Thus if the symmetry of the phonon is neglected, values of the energy gap inferred from changes in the phonon line shape using an isotropic *s*-wave theory will be underestimated (see, e.g., Ref. 1). In particular, the phonon spectral function for a superconductor with $d_{x^2-y^2}$ symmetry is examined and a comparison is made with experimental data on both the B_{1g} and the A_{1g} phonons in BSCCO and YBCO. It is shown that satisfactory agreement can be obtained which reconciles the differences between the A_{1g} and B_{1g} phonon line shapes.

II. PHONON SPECTRAL FUNCTION

The phonon spectral function is given by

$$\text{Im}D(\omega) = \frac{4\omega_0^2 \Sigma''(\omega)}{[\omega^2 - \omega_0^2 - 2\omega_0 \Sigma'(\omega)]^2 + 4\omega_0^2 \Sigma''^2}, \quad (1)$$

where ω_0 is the optical phonon frequency and Σ', Σ'' are the real and imaginary parts of the phonon self-energy, respectively. The real part of the self-energy renormalizes the position of the phonon, while the imaginary part governs the linewidth. The interaction of optical phonons and electrons can be simply written as

$$H_{e\text{-ph}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, \gamma, \sigma} g_{\mathbf{k}}^{\gamma}(\mathbf{q}) c_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}, \sigma}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}, \sigma} (b_{\mathbf{q}, \gamma}^{\dagger} + b_{\mathbf{q}, \gamma}), \quad (2)$$

where $g_{\mathbf{k}}^{\gamma}(\mathbf{q})$ is the matrix element for scattering an electron from $\mathbf{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}$, and $b_{\mathbf{q}, \gamma}, b_{\mathbf{q}, \gamma}^{\dagger}$ are the field operators for phonons of branch γ . The details of the scattering matrix elements depend on the nature of the mechanism of the electron-phonon coupling and the symmetry of the lattice vibration. In this paper we only consider the symmetry of the matrix element and leave a treatment of the mechanism and magnitude of the coupling for future consideration.⁸

We take the \mathbf{k} dependence along the Fermi surface of the vertex into account by expanding in terms of Fermi surface harmonics Φ for small \mathbf{q} ,

$$g_{\mathbf{k}}^{\gamma} = \sum_L g_L^{\gamma} \Phi_L^{\gamma}(\hat{\mathbf{k}}), \quad (3)$$

where the index L indicates the order of polynomial that transforms according to the γ th representation of the point group of the crystal. For cylindrical Fermi surfaces, L can be replaced by azimuthal quantum numbers. The symmetry of the optical phonon enters into the matrix elements $g_{\mathbf{k}}^{\gamma}$. The matrix elements for the phonons accessible to in-plane polarizations are given for a cylindrical [two-dimensional (2D)] Fermi surface in terms of azimuthal angle ϕ as

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mathbf{k}}^{A_{1g}} &= g_{L=0}^{A_{1g}} + g_{L=4}^{A_{1g}} \sqrt{2} \cos(4\phi) + \dots \\ g_{\mathbf{k}}^{B_{1g}} &= g_{L=2}^{B_{1g}} \sqrt{2} \cos(2\phi) + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where we have dropped higher order terms, arguing that they are more anisotropic than the terms considering here and will hence be of minor importance. The $L = 2$ term for the A_{1g} channel which is present for z dispersion is absent here and the $L = 4$ term is the first anisotropic term in the series in this case.⁷ Also, since there is no dispersion in the z direction in this case, there are no contributions to the E_g channels. Consequences of the Fermi surface and the resulting response functions are considered in a forthcoming publication,⁹ and thus for our purposes we will confine our attention to only cylindrical Fermi surfaces.

The form of the *e*-ph interaction Eq. (2) is similar to the electronic contribution to Raman scattering in the case of nonresonant scattering with the replacement of the effective Raman vertex by the *e*-ph coupling vertex. Thus we can proceed along the lines recently taken for the case of the electronic Raman scattering,⁷ where it was shown that the Raman response is extremely polarization dependent for superconductors with an anisotropic energy gap. Moreover, it was shown that the collective modes which appear in the case of *d*-wave superconductors are of little importance to the Raman response.^{7,9} We can then separate the self-energy into two parts

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \Sigma(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega) + \delta\Sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega). \quad (5)$$

Delaying a discussion of $\delta\Sigma$ until Sec. III, we can write down the spectrum of the self-energy at $q = 0$ in the pair approximation, e.g., neglecting collective modes as

$$\Sigma''_{g,g}(\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{0}, \omega) = -\frac{4N_F}{\omega} \left\langle \frac{|g_{\mathbf{k}}^{\gamma}|^2 |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2 \Theta(\omega^2 - 4|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2)}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - 4|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2}} \right\rangle \tanh(\omega/4T). \quad (6)$$

The subscript g, g denotes the pair susceptibility calculated with vertices g . The real part can be obtained via a Kramers-Kronig transformation. Here $\langle \dots \rangle$ denotes an average over the Fermi surface, N_F is the density of states per spin at the Fermi level, Θ is a theta function, and $\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})$ is the generalized \mathbf{k} -dependent energy gap. We see that if the gap is isotropic [$\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}}) = \Delta$], the average

around the Fermi surface is frequency independent and thus the symmetry of the vertex only determines an overall prefactor of the self-energy. Also, since the imaginary part of the self-energy has a divergence at the pair threshold energy 2Δ , a phonon with a frequency below the threshold should be infinitely sharp (neglecting strong-coupling effects). However, if the gap is anisotropic, the

vertex and gap couple when averaging over the Fermi surface to produce nontrivial changes in the self-energy of phonons of different symmetries. Further, if the gap vanishes on the Fermi surface, the presence of the nodes can provide decay channels for the phonon leading to a finite linewidth for all nonzero frequencies.³

The isotropic ($L = 0$) densitylike terms will be coupled to the long-range Coulomb forces and thus we must take screening of the vertex into account. Summing random-phase approximation (RPA) diagrams we recover the known result at $q = 0$,

$$\Sigma^{sc} = \Sigma_{g,g} - \Sigma_{g,1}^2 / \Sigma_{1,1}, \quad (7)$$

$$\Sigma''_{B_{1g}}{}^{sc} = \Sigma''_{B_{1g}}(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega) = \frac{-4N_F g_{B_{1g}}^2}{3\pi x} \begin{cases} [(2+x^2)K(x) - 2(1+x^2)E(x)], & x \leq 1, \\ x[(1+2x^2)K(1/x) - 2(1+x^2)E(1/x)], & x > 1; \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

i.e., the B_{1g} channel is not affected by Coulomb screening, while

$$\Sigma''_{A_{1g}}{}^{sc} = \Sigma_{A_{1g},A_{1g}} - \Sigma_{A_{1g},1}^2 / \Sigma_{1,1}, \quad (9)$$

with the spectral functions

$$\Sigma''_{A_{1g},A_{1g}}(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega) = \frac{-4N_F g_{A_{1g}}^2}{15\pi x} \begin{cases} [(7-8x^2+16x^4)K(x) - (7-12x^2+32x^4)E(x)], & x \leq 1, \\ x^4[(32-28/x^2+11/x^4)K(1/x) - (32-12/x^2+7/x^4)E(1/x)], & x > 1, \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$\Sigma''_{A_{1g},1}(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega) = \frac{-2\sqrt{2}N_F g_{A_{1g}}}{3\pi x} \begin{cases} [(1+2x^2)K(x) - (1+4x^2)E(x)], & x \leq 1, \\ (1/x)[(4-1/x^2)K(1/x) - (4+1/x^2)E(1/x)], & x > 1, \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\Sigma''_{1,1}(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega) = \frac{-2N_F}{\pi x} \begin{cases} [K(x) - E(x)], & x \leq 1, \\ x[K(1/x) - E(1/x)], & x > 1. \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

The response functions for finite T are obtained simply by multiplying Eqs. (8) and (10)–(12) by the factor $\tanh(\omega/4T)$. The partial screening of the A_{1g} channel by long-range Coulomb forces comes from the observation that the square of the energy gap enters into the response function in Eq. (6). For the case of $d_{x^2-y^2}$ pairing symmetry, the energy gap squared contains a term which transforms according to A_{1g} symmetry which leads to a mixing of the $L = 0$ and $L = 4$ A_{1g} basis functions. This corresponds to partial “transverse screening” of the A_{1g} vertex.⁷

The corresponding real parts were obtained via Kramers-Kronig analysis and are plotted together with the imaginary parts in Fig. 1 for the B_{1g} and screened A_{1g} channels. We see that the peak in the imaginary part of the self-energy (which determines the linewidth of the phonon) lies at different frequencies $\omega_{\text{peak}} \sim 2\Delta_0(T)$ and $1.2\Delta_0(T)$ for the B_{1g} and A_{1g} channels, respectively. This is a consequence of the angular averaging which couples the gap and e-ph vertex, and leads to constructive (destructive) interference under averaging if the vertex

where 1 denotes the $L = 0$ contribution of the vertex g .^{10,11} Therefore we see that the $L = 0$ terms are completely screened for $\mathbf{q} = 0$ as a consequence of the long-range Coulomb interactions and do not contribute to the Raman response.

Carrying out the integrations in Eq. (6) using a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ gap $\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, T) = \Delta_0(T) \cos(2\phi)$ for a cylindrical Fermi surface, the spectrum of the phonon self-energies can be written down in terms of complete elliptical integrals K and E of the first and second kinds, respectively. Taking screening into account and defining $x = \omega/2\Delta_0$, we obtain for $T = 0$,

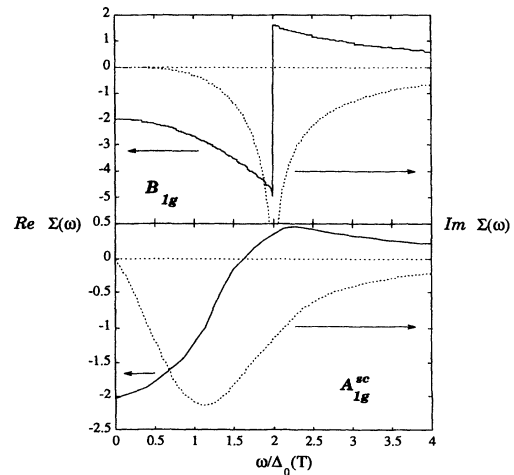


FIG. 1. Real and imaginary parts of the phonon self-energy for the B_{1g} and A_{1g} channels for a cylindrical Fermi surface. Magnitudes of the vertices are set equal to 1.

and the gap have the same (different) symmetry. Similar behavior for the electronic contribution to Raman scattering led to the reasoning that the symmetry which shows the highest peak position gives an unique indication of the predominant symmetry of the gap.⁷ The symmetry dependence is also manifest in the low frequency behavior, which can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma''_{B_{1g}}(\omega \rightarrow 0) &= 3N_F g_{B_{1g}}^2 x^3/4 + O(x^5), \\ \Sigma''_{A_{1g}}(\omega \rightarrow 0) &= N_F g_{A_{1g}}^2 x/2 + O(x^3); \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

i.e., the spectrum of the self-energy rises slower in the B_{1g} channel than the A_{1g} channel.¹² The power laws are a signature of an energy gap which vanishes on lines on the Fermi surface, but the channel dependence of the exponents is unique to a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ pair state. These channel-dependent power laws have been observed in the electronic contribution to Raman scattering in BSCCO, YBCO, and double and triple layer thallium cuprates which constitute strong evidence for a d -wave gap of this symmetry as opposed to d_{xy} , d_{xz} , or d_{yz} symmetry, which also have nodes on lines on the Fermi surface.⁷

The real parts of the self-energies (which determines the frequency renormalization) show a change of sign near the peak in the imaginary part. While the B_{1g} channel shows a mild frequency dependence away from the peak maximum and then a rapid change of sign at the peak, the A_{1g} channel shows a smooth crossover from negative to positive values, with a change of sign that

occurs at a frequency which is slightly greater than the peak maximum in the imaginary part. Thus a phonon of A_{1g} symmetry which lies at energies below $2\Delta_0(T)$ can become hardened as opposed to softened. We immediately can draw the conclusion that phonons of the same frequency will show qualitatively different behavior in different channels as a consequence of their symmetry. Therefore, careful attention must be paid to symmetry before an analysis of the gap can be made by locating the point where phonon softening or hardening occurs.

III. TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE

We now investigate the temperature dependence of the phonon line shape. The $\mathbf{q} = 0$ spectral function, Eq. (6), vanishes at T_c due to the lack of particle-hole continuum for pair creation. This term thus always predicts phonon broadening compared to the normal state below T_c for a gap with nodes. However, the term responsible for the normal metal self-energy (due to, e.g., finite momentum transfer or anharmonic decay) will be affected by superconductivity due to the reorganization of the density of states as the gap opens up. In order to recover the normal metal line shape at T_c , one must use finite q (or impurity scattering^{10,13}) to generate the additional term $\delta\Sigma$ which does not vanish at T_c . We now generalize the result to finite q for anisotropic gaps. For finite q , the spectrum of $\delta\Sigma$ at finite temperatures is given by $\delta\Sigma''(q, T, \omega) = \Theta(v_F q - \omega) \langle |g_{\mathbf{k}}^\gamma|^2 F(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, \omega) \rangle$ with

$$\begin{aligned} F(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, \omega) &= \frac{N_F \pi^2}{2v_F q} \int_{|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|}^{\infty} dE \left\{ [f(E) - f(E + \omega)] \frac{E(E + \omega) - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2}{\sqrt{E^2 - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2} \sqrt{(E + \omega)^2 - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \Theta(E - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})| - \omega) [f(E - \omega) - f(E)] \frac{E(E - \omega) - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2}{\sqrt{E^2 - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2} \sqrt{(E - \omega)^2 - |\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|^2}} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where f is a Fermi function. The theta function $\Theta(v_F q - \omega)$ restricts the frequency shift due to phase-space considerations, reflecting that the region of the particle-hole continuum vanishes for small wave numbers as a consequence of momentum conservation. Since $v_F q \ll \Delta$ in the cuprate materials and also in $A15$ materials, this term will only contribute to the self-energy for phonons of very small energy. However, it has been shown for s -wave superconductors¹⁰ that the incorporation of impurity scattering removes the phase-space restriction due to the lifting of momentum conservation and $\delta\Sigma$ contributes for all frequencies. While incorporating impurity scattering remains beyond the scope of the present treatment, we remark that it is expected that a similar consideration for the case of d -wave superconductors would also lead to the contribution of $\delta\Sigma$ for all frequencies. This remains to be explored.¹⁴

In the limit of small frequencies ($\omega \ll T$), we obtain the simple result

$$\delta\Sigma''(q, \omega \ll T) = \omega \frac{2N_F \pi^2}{v_F q} \left\langle \frac{|g_{\mathbf{k}}^\gamma|^2}{e^{|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|/T} + 1} \right\rangle \Theta(v_F q - \omega). \quad (15)$$

Similarly, at T_c , Eq. (14) recovers $\delta\Sigma''(q, \omega \ll T_c) = \Theta(v_F q - \omega) \omega \frac{N_F \pi^2}{v_F q} \langle |g_{\mathbf{k}}^\gamma|^2 \rangle$ and thus the ratio of the low frequency response in the superconducting state to that of a normal metal at T_c is given by

$$\frac{\delta\Sigma''(q, \omega \ll T)}{\delta\Sigma''(q, \omega \ll T_c)} = 2 \frac{\langle |g_{\mathbf{k}}^\gamma|^2 f(|\Delta(\hat{\mathbf{k}})|) \rangle}{\langle |g_{\mathbf{k}}^\gamma|^2 \rangle}. \quad (16)$$

This shows how the redistribution of the density of states below T_c to higher energies as the gap opens up leads to a reduction of the decay channels available to particle-hole creation and a net decrease in the phonon linewidth. In isotropic superconductors, the Fermi function can be pulled out of the average and the resulting expression is

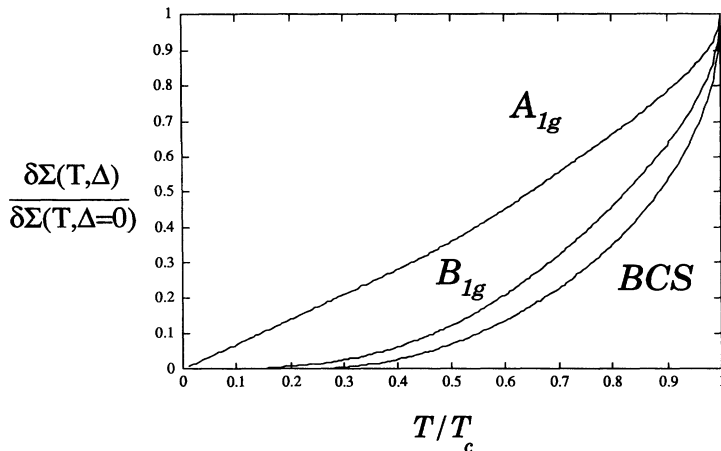


FIG. 2. Temperature dependence of the $\omega \rightarrow 0$ imaginary part of the self-energy in a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ and isotropic BCS superconductor compared to the normal state.

independent of phonon symmetry. However, once the gap is anisotropic, there exists coupling between the vertex and the the gap which leads to a symmetry-dependent result.

Using a weak-coupling expression for the temperature dependence of the energy gap ($2\Delta_0/k_B T_c = 4.2794$), we numerically evaluate Eq. (16) while taking screening into account. The results are plotted in Fig. 2 as a function of T/T_c for a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ energy gap compared to a BCS isotropic gap. The low temperature behavior is given by a power law in T for all channels for the d -wave case while the ubiquitous exponential dependence in T is seen for all channels in the s -wave case. The power-law behavior for the d -wave case is channel dependent, with exponents identical to those of Eq. (13), in the sense that ω can be replaced by T . What is remarkable is that the falloff of the Fermi function at low temperatures is quite slow in those channels which are orthogonal to the symmetry of the gap, with the notable example of the A_{1g} channel, which shows a residual broadening at $T/T_c = 0.3$ of roughly 20% of that of the normal state. This was argued in the case of electronic Raman scattering to be further evidence for an energy gap in the cuprate materials which has predominantly B_{1g} character, due to the observation that a gap opens up quickly in the B_{1g} channel compared to A_{1g} and others which have been probed via Raman scattering.⁷

For higher frequencies $\omega > T$, we have evaluated Eq. (14) directly. The results are quite similar to those of Fig. 2 for all frequencies ω up to roughly 4Δ , but then at higher frequencies all channels eventually display a linear T dependence (i.e., the behavior of the normal state) for energy scales much greater than the gap energy.

IV. ENTIRE SPECTRAL FUNCTION AND ROLE OF SATELLITES

In this section we consider the entire phonon spectral function Eq. (1), paying particular attention to the role of satellites which arise due to e -ph coupling. The role of satellites has not been explored in anisotropic superconductors. As is well known for BCS superconductors, satellites appear in the phonon spectral function for all frequencies of the optical phonon, but have the greatest

residue for phonons near twice the gap edge. In the BCS case, impurities wipe out the satellite peak,¹⁰ explaining why they have yet to be definitively observed in conventional A15 superconductors. In the absence of impurities, however, vastly different line shapes can be obtained due to the interference of the satellites.

Using a gap of $d_{x^2-y^2}$ symmetry and working specifically at $q = 0$, Eq. (6), we find that the satellites are present in anisotropic superconductors as well due to the fact that the real part of the denominator of Eq. (1) has two zeros for any value of ω_0 —one at the renormalized phonon frequency and the other at the satellite position. The satellite becomes more pronounced the closer the optical phonon is to the peak position of the self-energy spectrum as in the BCS case and interferes with the phonon. Therefore, for the case of a phonon located below the spectral maximum, where the satellite peak is observable only at $T=0$ for large e -ph coupling, as the gap decreases on approaching T_c the satellite will be made to pass through the phonon position and will be subsequently distorted. This is shown in Fig. 3 for a B_{1g} phonon [$\omega_0/\Delta_0(T=0) = 1.0$, $g_{B_{1g}}^2 N_F/\Delta_0(T=0) = 0.1$] for the temperatures indicated. The phonon line shape is

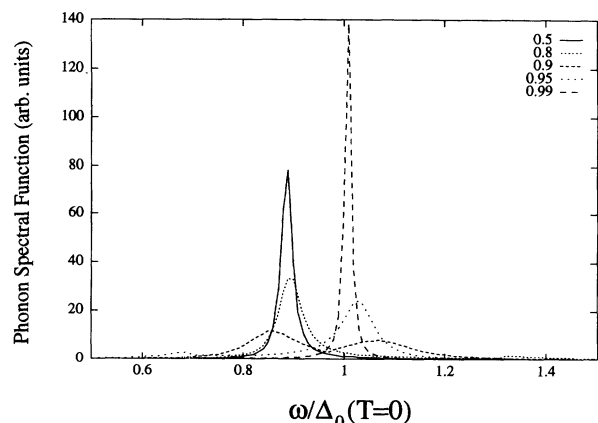


FIG. 3. Phonon spectral function for a B_{1g} [$\omega_0 = \Delta_0(T=0)$, $g_{B_{1g}}^2 N_F/\Delta_0(T=0) = 0.1$] phonon in a superconductor with $d_{x^2-y^2}$ pairing symmetry for various values of T/T_c as indicated in upper part of figure.

drastically affected by the satellite which takes spectral weight away from the phonon when the peak of the spectral function is close to the phonon position. The phonon linewidth grows as the peak of the spectrum moves up in energy with decreasing T and is hardened. The linewidth and frequency shifts reach a maximum when the peak and phonon positions coincide and then the linewidth decreases and the phonon softens as $T \rightarrow T_c$.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENT

In this section we combine the previous results and examine the phonon linewidth as a function of temperature for the case of two phonons which lie at approximately $285, 340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for the B_{1g} channel and $464, 500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for the A_{1g} channel in BSCCO and YBCO, respectively. Using our previous fits to the electronic Raman scattering in BSCCO, we obtained a value of the energy gap at $T = 0$ to be $\Delta_0(T = 0) = 287 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.⁷ Therefore the normalized optical phonon frequency is given by $\omega_0/\Delta_0(T = 0) \sim 0.99, 1.62$ for the B_{1g}, A_{1g} phonons, respectively in BSCCO, while for YBCO the ratio is expected to be slightly higher. We can immediately make the following statement. Since the interference effects of the phonon with the satellite peak can only occur for a phonon which is located at $T = 0$ below the peak in the imaginary part of the self-energy, there should be no interference effects on the A_{1g} phonon since it lies above the peak in the spectrum at $T = 0$. Thus its renormalization should be a monotonic function of temperature. However, that is not the case for the B_{1g} phonon. Anomalous behavior of the B_{1g} renormalization as seen in Fig. 3 arises due to the interference between the phonon and the rapid rise of the self-energy near $2\Delta_0(T)$, which passes through the phonon frequency at $T/T_c \sim 0.9$. Another remark is in order. In order to make an accurate fit to the data, the magnitude of the coupling constant needs to be addressed. As we have seen in Sec. IV, it controls the strength of the satellite and its subsequent effect on the phonon line shape. Little is known about the coupling constant⁸ and thus we can only make general statements on the behavior of the phonons. The magnitude of the effect cannot be predicted.

Inspecting Fig. 1, the $\mathbf{q} = 0$ part of the self-energy, at each phonon frequency, we see that the B_{1g} phonon is broadened and softened at $T = 0$ compared to T_c while the A_{1g} phonon is broadened but lies right at the point where the real part is changing sign. This term most accurately describes what is seen in the phonons in YBCO. A rapid rise of the B_{1g} phonon linewidth below T_c has been seen,^{6,15} reflecting the interference of the peak in the self-energy and the phonon [see Eq. (6) and Fig. 3]. The B_{1g} phonon additionally is mostly softened to lower frequencies. For the A_{1g} phonon, the frequency shift is seen only to slightly higher frequencies.¹⁶ This is due to the real part of the self-energy crossing zero at the phonon position. It also demonstrates that a phonon can harden even if it is located below $2\Delta_0$, which is in agreement with experiment. However, the A_{1g} phonon

narrows just below T_c , reaches a minimum width, and then broadens at lower temperatures. This could be a result of a competition between the effects of Σ and $\delta\Sigma$, but without information concerning the magnitude of the coupling constant, finite momentum transfer, or impurity scattering this remains an open question.

In addition, we have the contribution arising from nonzero q , Eq. (14), which indicates that this contribution to the self-energy is reduced compared to its value at T_c and decreases as T^3 and T for low temperatures in the B_{1g} and A_{1g} channels, respectively (see Fig. 2). This term most accurately describes the experiments in BSCCO. The linewidth of both the B_{1g} and A_{1g} phonons decreases monotonically with temperature, which points to the lack of contribution coming from satellite effects. This is in agreement with a smaller electron-phonon coupling seen in BSCCO as in YBCO as derived from the asymmetry of the Fano line shape (see Ref. 8). The linewidth decrease in the B_{1g} channel can be fit with a T^3 dependence while a term linear in T can be fit to the A_{1g} phonon which is the same dependence as in the normal state. Both behaviors are consistent with Eq. (16). This is to be compared with the predictions of an isotropic s -wave theory lines, which are identical for each channel ($\sim e^{-\Delta/T}$). The theory for a gap of B_{1g} character shows a marked symmetry dependence resulting from the interplay of gap and vertex symmetry. While it is arguable whether an exponential temperature dependence can also fit the B_{1g} data,⁵ the lack of change of the exponent of the A_{1g} phonon linewidth is a direct consequence of the energy gap anisotropy. Therefore it will appear that the A_{1g} phonon will be unaffected by superconductivity. Since the B_{1g} phonon has the same symmetry of a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ gap, its linewidth will show the greatest change due to the onset of superconductivity.

In conclusion, within the accuracy of the experiments, we have seen that the changes in the phonon line shape as a function of symmetry can be explained with a choice of the gap which has (at least predominantly) B_{1g} character, supporting recent comparisons made on electronic Raman scattering on BSCCO. However, without knowledge of the magnitude of the coupling constant, the importance of finite q and satellite effects remains an open question. Of course other choices of gaps which have a small but finite minimum value, e.g., anisotropic s -wave or $s + id$, would give similar results to the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ choice for the gap. Both the electronic and phonon contributions to Raman scattering below T_c can be explained by simply invoking the symmetry of the vertex which couples to the symmetry of the gap. More detailed experiments would be extremely useful to pin down the magnitude of the e -ph vertex and subsequently the role of the satellites, and the role of impurities and the mechanism and magnitude of the coupling remain to be explored.^{8,14}

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