



# Effect of Orthorhombicity on the Electronic Structure and Superconducting Properties of High- $T_c$ Cuprate Family

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## Abstract

Electronic structure in the normal state and properties in the superconducting state of the orthorhombic phase in HTSC cuprates are studied within the multielectron generalized tight-binding (GTB) approach. The joint effect of variation of average Cu-O distance and orthorhombic distortion on the Fermi contour, band structure, and concentration dependence of  $T_c$  is studied. Quasiparticle excitations were constructed within the framework of the five-band p-d model for the layer of the  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedra. The electronic structure of quasiparticle excitations in the effective Hubbard model is calculated using the equation of motion for Green's functions in the generalized mean-field approximation. Orthorhombic distortion leads to asymmetric with respect to the nodal direction of the Brillouin zone dispersion surface of quasiparticle excitations and to splitting of each van Hove singularity into two peaks. Transformation of the Fermi contour from hole pockets to the large hole and electron pockets occurs as a result of two quantum-phase transitions at dopings  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$ . Simultaneous average Cu-O distance elongation and orthorhombic distortion decreasing result in  $T_c$  decrease.  $T_c$  dependence on average Cu-O distance in the orthorhombic phase is in agreement with the behavior of experimental  $T_{c\text{max}}$  values when the DOS effect on  $T_c$  prevails over the effect of the exchange parameter. There are two  $T_c$  maxima in the orthorhombic system with the suppressed exchange parameter, and these maxima appear at concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$ .

**Keywords** Cuprate superconductors · Orthorhombic distortion · Strong electronic correlations · Hubbard model · Electronic structure · Concentration dependence of  $T_c$

## 1 Introduction

As is known, the important control parameter in HTSC cuprates is the concentration of doped carriers in  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers. The  $T_c$  difference in various representatives of cuprates indicates that there are other factors influencing  $T_c$  in addition to doping. The most obvious parameter associated with the main structural element of cuprates, the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer, is the value of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter. A strong influence of pressure on  $T_c$  also hints at the importance of this parameter since the distance between atoms changes significantly under pressure. Unfortunately, the results of pressure experiments are rather difficult to interpret, and the mechanism of

its influence on  $T_c$  is ambiguous since pressure  $P$  changes several parameters and structural features.

A convenient object for studying the  $T_c(P)$  dependence is the mercury family of cuprates due to their simple crystal structure and their stability in a wide range of charge carrier concentrations. The effect of pressure on  $T_c$  was studied in cuprates with tetragonal structure  $\text{HgBa}_2\text{Ca}_{n-1}\text{Cu}_n\text{O}_{2n+2+x}$  in the region of weak, optimal, and strong doping  $x$  in [1–13]. A significant effect of pressure is a change in the number of charge carriers in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers that is the  $T_c(P)$  dependence will have a different character at different doping levels. Therefore, it is usually necessary to distinguish between the intrinsic pressure effect associated with a change in the crystal and electronic structure and the effect associated with a change of doped charge carriers quantity [14]. Growth of the number of carriers in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers occurs when the distance between them and the buffer layer decreases, i.e., when the uniaxial pressure is applied along the  $c$  axis. The derivative of  $T_c$  with respect to the uniaxial pressure along the  $c$  axis changes non-monotonically, reflecting the behavior

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of  $T_c$  with doping: in underdoped compounds  $dT_c/dP_c > 0$  since the pressure along the  $c$  axis increases the effective number of doped holes, in the region of strong doping an additional growth of the number of the carriers decreases  $T_c$  and  $dT_c/dP_c < 0$ .  $dT_c/dP_c$  reacts weakly to a change of hole concentration in the region of optimal doping [15, 16]. At the same time, the derivatives  $dT_c/dP_a$  and  $dT_c/dP_b$  are almost independent of doping and have a significant value at optimal doping [15]. Therefore, it is believed that the intrinsic mechanism of  $T_c$  variation is characterized by the effect of uniaxial pressure in the  $(a, b)$  plane in the region of optimal doping.

The study of the  $T_c$  dependence on uniaxial pressure along the  $a$  and  $c$  axes at optimal doping in single-layer mercury cuprate  $\text{HgBa}_2\text{CuO}_{4+\delta}$  (Hg1201) showed that  $dT_c/dP_a > 0$  and  $dT_c/dP_c < 0$  [17].  $T_{c\text{max}}$  increase with optimal doping results from a decrease of the Cu-O distance in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane and an increase in the distance between the copper atom and the apical oxygen. The conclusions that the area of  $\text{CuO}_2$  planes reducing and the distance between them increasing are favorable for superconductivity were confirmed in experiments on uniaxial pressure in  $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$  (LSCO) [18],  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_{8+y}$  (Bi2212) [19] and for hydrostatic pressure in [17] and other experiments on mercury cuprates with  $n = 1, 2, 3$  [3, 7, 11]. The effect of hydrostatic pressure is weaker [20] than uniaxial since the derivatives of  $T_c$  with respect to pressure along the  $a$  and  $c$  axes have different signs and their influence is partially compensated.

$T_c$  of each representative of the mercury family grows to saturation at a certain pressure which is different for each specific compound [2, 12, 13]. It was shown [13] that there is a correlation between the growth of  $T_{c\text{max}}$  when the number of  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers  $n$  increases up to 3, and the decrease in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter. Possibly the obtained correlation shows a direct influence of the Cu-O bond length on  $T_c$ . At  $n > 3$   $T_{c\text{max}}$  decreases although the lattice parameter of  $\text{CuO}_2$  continues to decrease [13]. Apparently, the latter feature is associated with a change of the carriers number in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers since an increase of the number of  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers leads to an inhomogeneous distribution of charges among the outer and inner layers. Since pressure results in a redistribution of charges the effect of pressure on  $T_c$  through doping will be significant in multilayer cuprates with  $n \geq 3$ .

The results of experiments on chemical pressure using anion substitution of oxygen with fluorine atoms in  $\text{HgBa}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{8+\delta}$  (Hg1223) agree with the results of experiments on uniaxial pressure regarding the relationship between the Cu-O distance in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane and  $T_c$  [12]. The smaller ionic radius of fluorine leads to compression of the bond between planar copper atom and apical oxygen and decreases the planar Cu-O distance in Hg1223 [1, 7]. Chemical pressure results in an increase in  $T_c$  in Hg1223

[12]. Fluorination of Hg1201 also leads to a decrease in the distance between planar copper and apical oxygen but almost does not change the planar Cu-O distance. The fact that  $T_c$  in Hg1201 is almost independent of fluorination suggests that the increase of  $T_c$  is due to the compression of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  planes and the distance to the apical oxygen has a small effect on  $T_c$ . A similar change of  $dT_c/dP_a$  was obtained using epitaxial deformation of the  $\text{La}_{1.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{CuO}_4$  compound [21].

The cation substitution of Hg atoms in mercury cuprates by Tl atoms with a smaller ionic radius also increases  $T_c$  due to  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane compression and increased oxygen content in the buffer layers [22–24]. However, the substitution of atoms in the buffer layers does not always have a positive effect on  $T_c$  since it affects a large number of mechanisms of influence on  $T_c$ . From one side, the in-plane Cu-O bond stretching makes the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer flatter which favors superconductivity. From another side, the replacement of cations with atoms having a large ionic radius stretches the Cu-O bonds in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane and thus decreases  $T_c$ . Since the substitution occurs in random places of buffer layers, out-of-plane disorder [25–28] appears in them. Out-of-plane disorder brings to local lattice distortions and random Coulomb potential which also can reduce  $T_c$ .

The behavior of  $T_c$  with pressure along the  $a$  and  $b$  axes is qualitatively different in various representatives of orthorhombic cuprates.  $dT_c/dP_a$  and  $dT_c/dP_b$  derivatives in  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$  (YBCO) have different values and opposite signs [15, 29].  $dT_c/dP_a$  and  $dT_c/dP_b$  in Bi2212 have the same signs but the absolute values can either coincide [30] or to be different [19]. The difference in the values of the derivatives  $dT_c/dP_a$  and  $dT_c/dP_b$  suggests the presence of dependence of  $T_c$  on the orthorhombic distortion  $(b - a)$ . Experimental manifestations of the nonzero derivative  $dT_c/d(b - a)$  were obtained in YBCO in works [16, 31]. In these works, decrease in the orthorhombic distortion  $(b - a)$  leads to  $T_c$  increasing. The same result of  $T_c$  decreasing due to orthorhombic distortion was obtained in the LSCO study [32, 33].

Correlation between  $T_c$  and  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters is obvious on the basis of the above experimental data and many other works. This correlation is expressed in two tendencies:  $T_c$  decreases with planar Cu-O distance increasing and  $T_c$  grows with orthorhombic distortion decreasing. These two tendencies are combined in the dependence of the  $T_c$  maxima on the value of the planar Cu-O distance in various cuprates [34] which has the form of a nonmonotonic dome-like curve with a maximum for the Hg1223 compound. It was also noted in [34] that there are characteristic values of the Cu-O distance that separate the regions of the system located in the high temperature tetragonal (HTT) and the low-temperature orthorhombic (LTO) phases. The threshold value of the Cu-O distance separating HTT and LTO also

divides regions with different dependences of the maximum  $T_c$ . The maximum of  $T_c$  in the HTT phase decreases with the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter increasing. In the orthorhombic phase, the dependence of  $T_c$  on the average Cu-O distance is different: the maximum  $T_c$  increases with distance increasing. In the orthorhombic phase, variation of average Cu-O distance is accompanied by a variation of the orthorhombicity factor which is defined by the ratio between lattice parameters  $a$  and  $b$ . Compounds having higher  $T_c$  as the distance grows are characterized by less orthorhombic distortions. The unsolved questions are whether the observed behavior of experimental  $T_c$  maxima in different cuprates as a function of various average Cu-O distances can be explained only by the influence of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters and their ratio on  $T_c$  and what is the mechanism of this influence.

The influence of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter on  $T_c$  in the HTT phase of cuprates was described in theoretical studies [35, 36] within the t-J model based on the theory of superconducting pairing caused by antiferromagnetic exchange interaction. Effect of the hydrostatic and uniaxial pressure along the  $c$ -axis and in the  $(a, b)$  plane on the superexchange interaction  $J$  was obtained in work [36].  $J$  renormalization under deformations along the  $c$ -axis and in the  $(a, b)$  plane has different signs, it brings to  $T_c$  decreasing in the first case and  $T_c$  increasing in the second case according to experimental data. In work [35] estimation of the  $T_c$  change with variation of the lattice parameter  $a$  was made and the obtained value  $dT_c/dP_a$  is close to the experimental data [13]. It was also concluded that the  $T_c(a)$  dependence is strong due to the renormalization of the hybridization parameter  $t_{pd}$  which determines the magnitude of the indirect exchange interaction.

Besides pairing interaction, there is one more mechanism of influence of Cu-O distance on the  $T_c$ , it is the density of states (DOS) mechanism: Crystal structure transformation under pressure induces transformation of electronic structure and DOS that changes  $T_c$ . Therefore, it is necessary to solve certain sub-tasks to find out whether the observed behavior of  $T_c$  [34] resulted from a change of the Cu-O distance for both the HTT and LTO phases within the unified theory of superconductivity and what role is played by the transformation of the electronic structure which manifests itself in the DOS. These sub-tasks are the study of the properties of the tetragonal phase in (i) normal and (ii) superconducting states and the study of the orthorhombic phase properties in (iii) normal and (iv) superconducting states. Sub-task (i) was solved in work [37] devoted to the theoretical consideration of the normal HTT phase properties within the Hubbard model. Since spectral weight distribution is correctly reproduced within the Hubbard model proper description of the DOS effects should be performed using this model. It was shown in [37] that the behavior of the exchange interaction

parameter and DOS with the same change in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  and  $b$  (the lattice strain in the tetragonal phase) has a different character. The exchange interaction parameter decreases with the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter increasing due to the decrease of intercell hopping integrals which determine the effective superexchange interaction. DOS increases with the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter increasing since the conductivity and valence bandwidths decrease when the Cu-O distance grows, while the number of states remains constant. Thus it is unclear how  $T_c$  will behave eventually with the Cu-O distance changing in the tetragonal phase. One of the goals of our present work which is a continuation of [37] is to answer this question by studying the effect of the same change in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  and  $b$  on the concentration  $T_c$  dependence in the superconducting HTT phase (sub-task (ii)).

A separate issue to be clarified is the role of DOS in the formation of the observed concentration and the Cu-O distance dependences of  $T_c$ , whether the optimal doping is determined by the hole concentration at which the chemical potential falls on the van Hove singularity in the density of states.  $T_c$  in cuprates has a concentration dependence with the form of a dome with one maximum at a hole concentration of  $x = 0.16$ . In the same concentration range, a flat band was observed in the dispersion obtained by ARPES [38, 39] at the point  $(\pi, 0)$ , the presence of this flat band leads to a peak in DOS. The peaks in the DOS at a hole concentration coinciding with the optimal doping were obtained in frameworks of theoretical calculations within the t-t'-t''-J\* model taking into account the exchange pairing mechanism in [40]. Although saddle points that bring to crucial van Hove singularity are located at points of the Brillouin zone boundaries apart from  $(\pi, 0)$ , the same type of saddle point at  $k = (\pi, 0)$  as in ARPES is located much deeper in the valence band and chemical potential coincides with corresponding van Hove singularity at heavily overdoped compounds. It is clear from the work [40] that the topology of the dispersion surface significantly affects the concentration dependence of  $T_c$  of cuprates. Inhomogeneous distribution of the spectral weight over the Fermi surface was found by ARPES [41–47] to form arcs instead of closed pockets and was reproduced within the framework of the Hubbard model by different approaches in the regime of strong electron correlations [37, 48–52]. The inhomogeneous spectral weight corrects the DOS, and it is necessary to calculate the concentration dependence of  $T_c$  precisely taking into account the pseudogap states for the Hubbard model. Significant change of the dispersion topology is assumed in the orthorhombic phase due to the presence of two different hopping integrals along with two directions of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane. The LTO phase of cuprates has hardly been studied theoretically. The mechanism of the influence of orthorhombic distortion on  $T_c$  is not clear.

The present paper is aimed at solving sub-tasks (ii), (iii), and (iv). The main part of this work is devoted to the theoretical investigation of the influence of orthorhombic distortion accompanied by the average Cu-O distance variation on the electronic structure in the normal state and the concentration  $T_c$  dependence in the superconducting state of cuprates in the LTO phase. In the orthorhombic phase, the  $z$ -axis of  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedra is rotated at some angle, the angle between  $x$  and  $y$  axes in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane deviates from 90 degrees,  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters  $b > a$ . The main effect of orthorhombic distortion is from the difference of the lattice parameters  $a$  and  $b$  which is expressed by orthorhombicity factor  $\delta b/a = (b - a)/a$  since it significantly influences the electronic structure in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane and the value of exchange interaction. Also, we will compare the effects of average Cu-O distance influence on properties of cuprates in the orthorhombic phase and previously considered tetragonal phase [37]. We model different cuprate compounds by a layer of the  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedra with corresponding Cu-O distances. Variation of  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters in tetragonal and orthorhombic phases is simulated by the isotropic and uniaxial stress of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer, respectively. Joint variation of average Cu-O distance and orthorhombic distortion among different cuprates is modeled by elongation (shortening) of lattice parameter  $a$  with fixed elongated parameter  $b$ . Adequate strong electronic correlations (SEC) treatment is reached by applying the generalized tight-binding method (GTB method) [53, 54] which is a cluster perturbation theory in terms of Hubbard operators.

The paper includes six sections. Section 2 describes the system to be studied, the Hamiltonian of charge carriers in this system that is obtained from the LDA calculations and briefly reports the method for calculating the electronic structure and superconducting properties. In Section 3 we will discuss the effects of orthorhombic distortion on the band structure, Fermi contour, and DOS of quasiparticle excitations. Section 4 contains the effects of joint variation of orthorhombicity factor and average Cu-O distance on superconducting properties in the orthorhombic phase. Section 5 contains effects of  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter variation on concentration dependence of  $T_c$  in the tetragonal phase. In section 6 the main results are summarized.

## 2 Hamiltonian of Five-band p-d Model and Method for Calculating Electronic Structure and Superconducting Properties

The electronic system of the layer of  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedra is described within the multiband p-d model in the basis of copper  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ ,  $d_{3z^2-r^2}$ -orbitals, oxygen planar  $p_x$ ,  $p_y$ -orbitals, and apical  $p_z$ -orbitals. Further orbital  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  will be denoted by  $d_x$  and  $d_{3z^2-r^2}$  by  $d_z$ . Hamiltonian of the p-d

model with taking into account only nearest neighbor hoppings takes the form:

$$H = \sum_{\lambda f \sigma} \epsilon_{d\lambda} (\delta b/a) n_{df\sigma}^\lambda + \sum_{\lambda g \sigma} \epsilon_{p\lambda} (\delta b/a) n_{pg\sigma}^\lambda + \sum_{\langle fg \rangle \sigma} \left[ t_{dp}^{\lambda\lambda'} d_{\lambda f \sigma}^\dagger p_{\lambda' g \sigma} + t_{pp}^{\lambda\lambda'} p_{\lambda f \sigma}^\dagger p_{\lambda' g \sigma} + h.c. \right] + \sum_{\lambda f} U_d n_{df\uparrow}^\lambda n_{df\downarrow}^\lambda + \sum_{\lambda g} U_p n_{pg\uparrow}^\lambda n_{pg\downarrow}^\lambda + \sum_{\langle fg \rangle} \sum_{\lambda \lambda' \sigma \sigma'} V_{pd} n_{df\sigma}^\lambda n_{pg\sigma'}^{\lambda'} + \sum_{\langle fg \rangle} \sum_{\lambda \lambda' \sigma \sigma'} V_{pp} n_{pf\sigma}^\lambda n_{pg\sigma'}^{\lambda'} + \sum_{f \sigma \sigma'} J_d n_{df\sigma}^x n_{df\sigma'}^z \quad (1)$$

Here  $n_{\lambda f \sigma}^d = d_{\lambda f \sigma}^\dagger d_{\lambda f \sigma}$ ,  $n_{\lambda g \sigma}^p = p_{\lambda g \sigma}^\dagger p_{\lambda g \sigma}$  are particle number operators. Indexes  $f, g$  indicate the position of atom on which given orbital is located, indexes  $\sigma, \sigma'$  are the spin projection of hole on this orbital, indexes  $\lambda, \lambda'$  denote the type of orbital,  $\lambda = x, z$  is for  $d$ -orbitals and  $\lambda, \lambda' = x, y, z$  for  $p$ -orbitals. Angle bracket  $\langle fg \rangle$  denotes nearest-neighbor hoppings. Here  $\epsilon_{d\lambda} = \epsilon_{dx}, \epsilon_{dz}$  are onsite energies of the hole on  $d_x, d_z$ -orbitals of the copper atom and  $\epsilon_{p\lambda} = \epsilon_{px}, \epsilon_{py}, \epsilon_{pz}$  are onsite energies on  $p_x, p_y$ -orbitals of the planar oxygen atom,  $p_z$ -orbital of the apical oxygen atom, respectively,  $t_{dp}^{\lambda\lambda'}$  is hopping parameter between atomic orbital  $d_\lambda$  of copper and orbital  $p_{\lambda'}$  of oxygen,  $t_{pp}^{\lambda\lambda'}$  is oxygen–oxygen hopping between oxygen orbitals  $p_\lambda$  and  $p_{\lambda'}$ . Hamiltonian (1) describes both tetragonal and orthorhombic phases. All Hamiltonian parameters for the tetragonal phase have been calculated within the LDA+GTB approach [55].

Hopping integrals along the  $x$ -axis  $t_{dp}^{\lambda x}, t_{pp}^{\lambda x \lambda'}$  and along the  $y$ -axis  $t_{dp}^{\lambda y}, t_{pp}^{\lambda y \lambda'}$  are equal in the tetragonal phase and differ in the orthorhombic phase. Variation of average Cu-O distance in different compounds in the orthorhombic phase is accompanied by a variation of orthorhombic distortion. Variation of lattice parameter  $a$  with fixed  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $b$  at distorted value for which  $\delta b/b_0 = (b - b_0)/b_0 = 4.15\%$  regulates joint variation of average Cu-O distance and orthorhombicity factor  $\delta b/a = (b - a)/a$ . It is assumed that a variation of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  in the orthorhombic phase changes only those parameters of Hamiltonian that react most strongly to a change of Cu-O distance along the  $x$ -axis. We consider the dependence of hopping parameters  $t_{dp}^{xx}, t_{dp}^{zx}$  and  $t_{pp}^{zx}$  on  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  (Table 1). The dependence of these parameters on Cu-O distance along the  $x$ -axis is taken the same as the dependence of analogous parameters on the isotropic strain of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice in the tetragonal phase [37]. We consider that onsite energies  $\epsilon_{dx}, \epsilon_{dz}, \epsilon_{px}, \epsilon_{py}, \epsilon_{pz}$  and hopping parameters  $t_{dp}^{zz}, t_{pp}^{xy}, t_{dp}^{zy}, t_{pp}^{yz}$  do not depend on the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  and their magnitudes are fixed at values for isotropic 4.15 % strain

**Table 1** Values of hopping parameters (in eV)  $t_{dp}^{xx}$ ,  $t_{dp}^{zx}$  and  $t_{pp}^{xz}$  at different orthorhombicity factor  $\delta b/a$  which is changed by shortening of  $a$  parameter (along the  $x$ -axis) in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  plane,  $b$  parameter (along the  $y$ -axis) is fixed. Variation of these hopping parameters with the change of  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  is taken the same as variation of these parameters with the identical change of  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters  $a$  and  $b$  in the tetragonal phase [37]

$\delta b/a$	$t_{dp}^{xx}$	$t_{dp}^{zx}$	$t_{dp}^{xz}$
0 %	1.201	0.570	0.462
1.65 %	1.280	0.549	0.443
3.65 %	1.379	0.526	0.415
4.15 %	1.403	0.523	0.403

in tetragonal phase [37]. Relations between hopping parameters along  $x$  and  $y$  axis in the orthorhombic phase are:

$$t_{dp}^{xy} = \kappa t_{dp}^{xx}, t_{dp}^{zy} = \kappa' t_{dp}^{zx}, t_{pp}^{yz} = \beta t_{pp}^{xz} \quad (2)$$

In the tetragonal phase, coefficients  $\kappa$ ,  $\kappa'$ ,  $\beta$  are equal to one.

$U_d$ ,  $U_p$  are parameters of intraatomic Coulomb interaction of holes on copper and oxygen atoms, respectively.  $V_{pd}$  and  $V_{pp}$  are the interatomic Coulomb interaction of holes on copper and oxygen atoms and on neighbor oxygen atoms, respectively.  $J_d$  is the parameter of exchange interaction of holes on  $d_x$ - and  $d_z$ -orbitals. The values of Coulomb parameters (in eV) are:

$$U_d = 9, U_p = 4, V_{pd} = 1.5, V_{pp} = 1, J_d = 1 \quad (3)$$

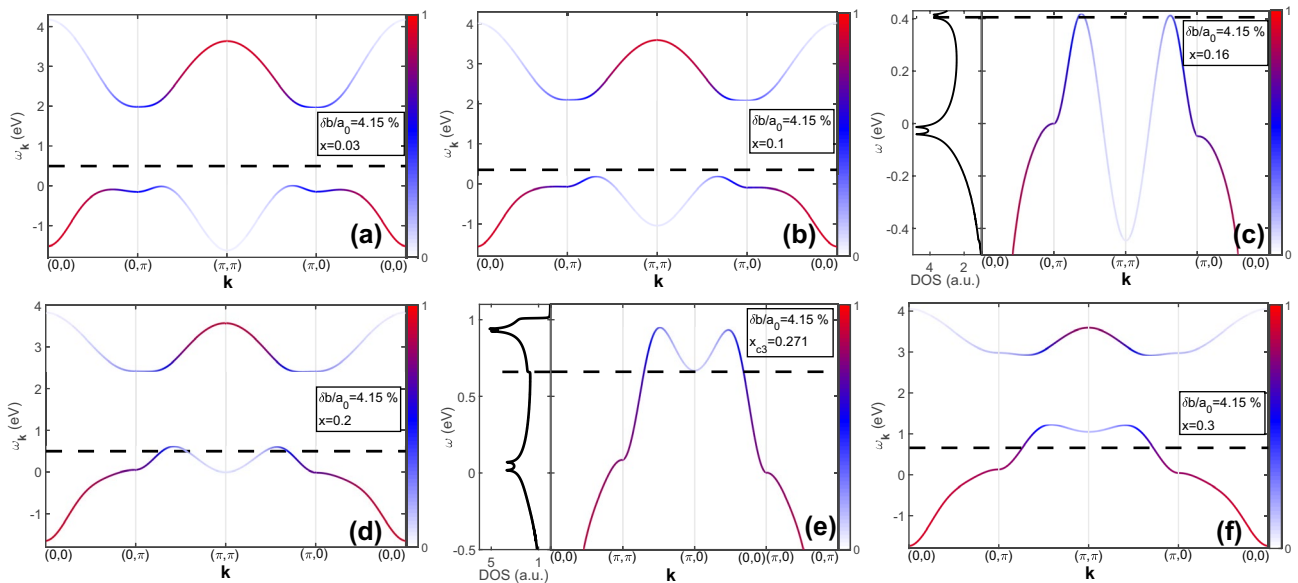
In the tetragonal phase, onsite energies and hopping parameters at different  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice strains  $\delta a/a_0 = (a - a_0)/a_0$ , where  $a_0 = b_0$  and  $a = b$  are lattice parameters of undistorted and distorted  $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_4$ , respectively, are taken from the work [37].

The electronic structure of cuprates as systems with strong electronic correlations can be correctly described in the terms of the Hubbard fermions [57] using the GTB method [53]. The scheme of the GTB method has been described in detail in many works as applied to cuprates [53–56]. In this paper, we have generalized the GTB method to describe cuprates with orthorhombic distortion. The peculiarities of the GTB method implementation associated with different values of the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are given in Appendices 2, 3, and 4. Appendix 2 describes the orthogonalization procedure for oxygen atomic orbitals with the formation of a basis of molecular orbitals localized within one cluster in the form of the  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedron. Also, Appendix 2 contains the five-band p-d model Hamiltonian on the basis of the original copper orbitals and the new molecular oxygen orbitals. The structure of the orthorhombic cluster eigenstates on which Hubbard fermions are constructed is given in Appendix 3. Hubbard fermion ( $pq$ ) is the

quasiparticle excitation between cluster eigenstates  $|q\rangle$  and  $|p\rangle$  which is described by Hubbard operators  $X_f^{pq} = |p\rangle\langle q|$ . We will use the same basis of quasiparticle excitations, Hamiltonian of two-band Hubbard model for quasiparticle excitations as in [58] but in the orthorhombic phase, the intercluster quasiparticle hopping parameters in the Hubbard model have different values along the  $x$  and  $y$  crystallographic axis (Appendix 4). The electronic structure of Hubbard fermions is obtained using the equation of motion method for matrix two times retarded Green's function within generalized mean-field approximation also as in [37, 58]. Dependences of superconducting transition temperature  $T_c$  on  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice strain and orthorhombic distortion at different doping are calculated within the exchange mechanism of pairing inside the valence band in the spirit of Plakida's work [58]. In the tetragonal phase, we consider the only superconducting pairing of d-symmetry with the gap  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = \Delta_d(\cos(k_x) - \cos(k_y))$ . In the orthorhombic phase, the superconducting gap may have an additional s-symmetry contribution by symmetry reasons [59–61] and as follows from experimental data [62, 63]. Therefore, we will look for the superconducting gap in the form of the sum of d-symmetry and extended s\*-symmetry:  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = \Delta_d(\cos(k_x) - \cos(k_y)) + \Delta_{s^*}(\cos(k_x) + \cos(k_y))$ . To obtain  $T_c$ , we consider the system of equations for d- and s\*-components of the superconducting gap as the eigenvalue task in the basis of states  $\{\Delta_d + \Delta_{s^*}, \Delta_{s^*} - \Delta_d\}$  with fixed eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  according to Val'kov's and Dzebisashvili's works [64, 65].

### 3 Electronic Structure of Quasiparticle Excitations in the System with Orthorhombic Distortion

The band structure of quasiparticle excitations within the effective Hubbard model is two bands with inhomogeneous distribution of spectral weight divided by the gap of 2 eV. The valence band maxima are at  $k$ -points  $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$ ,  $(3\pi/2, \pi/2)$ ,  $(\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$ ,  $(3\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$ . The bottom of the conductivity band is at  $k$ -points  $(\pi, 0)$  and  $(0, \pi)$  in the tetragonal phase and there is only one minimum at the point  $(\pi, 0)$  in the orthorhombic phase. In the orthorhombic phase, the dispersion surface is non-symmetrical relative to nodal direction due to the difference of intercluster hopping parameters along the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axis. Band structure along boundaries of a quarter of Brillouin zone is shown in Fig. 1. The asymmetry can be seen in the band structure along boundaries  $(\pi, 0)$ - $(\pi, \pi)$  and  $(0, \pi)$ - $(\pi, \pi)$  (Fig. 1a-f). An increase in the number of doped holes lowers the chemical potential level inside the valence band. At low doping, the Fermi contour consists of the four small hole pockets around



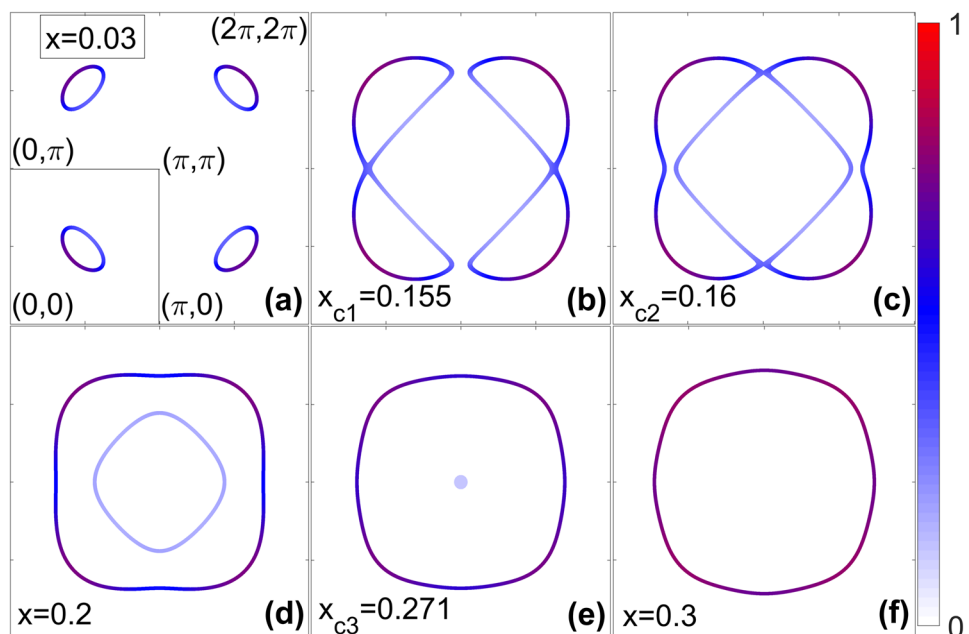
**Fig. 1** (Color online) The reconstruction of band structure with doping at orthorhombicity factor  $\delta b/a = 4.15\%$ . The band structure is built in directions of boundaries of the quarter Brillouin zone. It is seen that dispersion is non-symmetrical relative to nodal direction. In the left panels of subfigures (e) and (e), density of states of qua-

si-particle excitations at second and third critical doping  $x_{c2} = 0.161$  and  $x_{c3} = 0.271$  are depicted. The color of each point of dispersion characterizes the spectral weight of electrons. Dashed line indicates the Fermi level

$k$ -points  $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$ ,  $(3\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$ ,  $(3\pi/2, \pi/2)$ ,  $(\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$  (Fig. 2a). These pockets are asymmetric with respect to the directions  $(0,0)-(2\pi, 2\pi)$  and  $(2\pi, 0)-(0, 2\pi)$ . These pockets grow with hole concentration increasing. Because of dispersion, surface asymmetry relative to nodal directions chemical potential reaches a local maximum of the quasiparticle energy in the direction  $(0, \pi)-(2\pi, \pi)$  at smaller doping

than in the direction  $(\pi, 0)-(\pi, 2\pi)$  (Fig. 1c). Hole pockets touch each other at  $k$ -point of direction  $(0, \pi)-(2\pi, \pi)$  at first critical concentration  $x_{c1}$ , where four pockets transform into two hole pockets of complex form by the Lifshitz transition (Fig. 2b). At the concentration  $x_{c1} = 0.155$ , chemical potential falls on one of the two van Hove singularities in the density of states (DOS). At the second critical doping

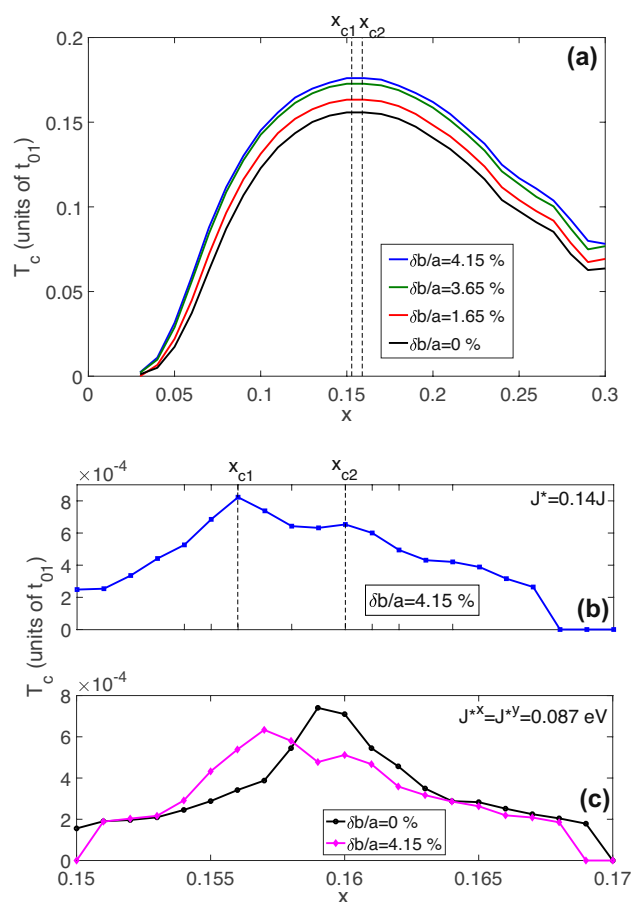
**Fig. 2** (Color online) The reconstruction of Fermi contour with doping at orthorhombic distortion  $\delta b/a = 4.15\%$ . Change of Fermi contour topology occurs at three dopings  $x_{c1}$ ,  $x_{c2}$  and  $x_{c3}$ . The color of each point of dispersion characterizes the spectral intensity of electrons



$x_{c2} = 0.16$  these two pockets touch each other at  $k$ -point of direction  $(\pi, 0)$ - $(\pi, 2\pi)$  (Fig. 2c), Fermi contour takes the form of one large hole contour and large electron contour, chemical potential falls on the second of the two van Hove singularities in DOS (Fig. 1c, left panel). Further growth of hole concentration leads to electron contour decreasing (Fig. 2d). At the third critical concentration  $x_{c3} = 0.271$ , chemical potential falls into a step-like singularity in DOS (Fig. 1e, left panel) which results from the local minimum at point  $(\pi, \pi)$  (Fig. 1e, right panel). As the chemical potential drops below the local minimum at point  $(\pi, \pi)$  (Fig. 1f), the electron contour vanishes (Fig. 2e). Above hole concentrations  $x_{c2}$  in the tetragonal phase and  $x_{c3}$  in the orthorhombic phase the normal Fermi liquid state with the uniform distribution of the spectral weight over the Fermi contour is restored (Fig. 2f).

#### 4 Superconducting Properties of the System with Orthorhombic Distortion

The dependence of  $T_c$  on the orthorhombic distortion is calculated in the doping interval  $x$  from 0.03 to 0.3. The concentration dependence of  $T_c$  is calculated at orthorhombicity factors  $\delta b/a = 0, 1.65, 3.65, 4.15\%$ . Growth of  $\delta b/a$  from 0 to 4.15% is modeled by the decrease of  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  from elongated value  $a = b$  ( $\delta b/b_0 = \delta a/a_0 = 4.15\%$ ) to undistorted lattice parameter  $a = a_0$  ( $\delta b/b_0 = 4.15\%$ ,  $\delta a/a_0 = 0\%$ ) with fixed elongated lattice parameter  $b$ . Such variation allows to jointly change the orthorhombicity factor and the average Cu-O distance for theoretical calculations in the same manner as these parameters change in behavior of experimental  $T_c$  maxima in different cuprates as a function of various average Cu-O distances in the LTO region [34]: the shorter average Cu-O distance the stronger orthorhombic distortion. The exchange interaction between nearest neighbors differs along the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes, for example,  $J_{01}^x = 0.673$  eV and  $J_{01}^y = 0.655$  eV at the orthorhombic distortion  $\delta b/a = 4.15\%$ . Exchange parameters  $J_{01}^x$  and  $J_{01}^y$  grow with  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  decrease (orthorhombic distortion increasing). The concentration dependence of  $T_c$  is a dome with one maximum (Fig. 3a) which is in the region of the two-hole critical concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$  at which the chemical potential falls on the van Hove singularities. The  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  increase (orthorhombic distortion decreasing) leads to  $T_c$  decreasing at all hole concentrations and also shifts the value of the optimal doping to larger values (Fig. 3a). The most significant  $T_c$  decrease is found in the region of optimal doping, in the underdoped and overdoped compounds the difference of  $T_c$  for various orthorhombic distortions is smaller. We varied the exchange interaction value to clarify its role on the concentration dependence of  $T_c$ . The artificial  $J$



**Fig. 3** (Color online) The dependence of superconducting dome on orthorhombic distortion. Dotted lines denote two critical concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$ . **(b)** Two  $T_c$  maxima resulted from two van Hove singularities in the system with orthorhombic distortion and partially suppressed exchange parameter  $J$ . **(c)** Regions of the concentration dependence of  $T_c$  near optimal doping with and without orthorhombic distortion at strongly suppressed exchange parameter  $J$ . The  $T_c$  maximum grows with average Cu-O distance increasing (orthorhombic distortion decreasing) if the effect of DOS on  $T_c$  prevails over the effect of exchange parameter

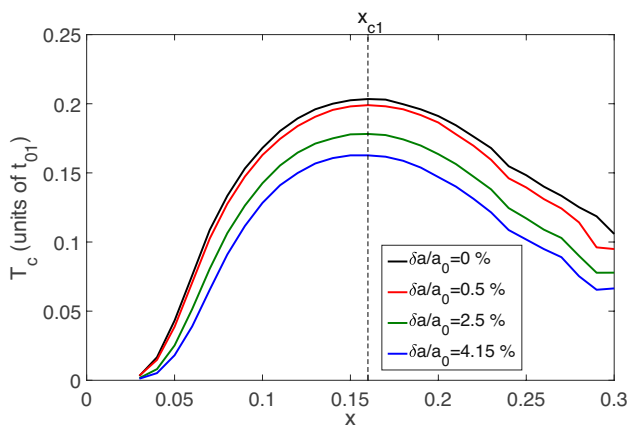
decrease results in  $T_c$  decreasing at all concentrations. There is only one maximum of the superconducting dome up to the value of variable exchange interaction constant  $J^* = 0.2J$  ( $J_{01}^{*x} = 0.135$  eV and  $J_{01}^{*y} = 0.131$  eV). Two maxima begin to appear only at  $J^* = 0.15J$  ( $J_{01}^{*x} = 0.101$  eV and  $J_{01}^{*y} = 0.098$  eV). These maxima appear at critical concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$  (Fig. 3b).

To find out the pure effect of the DOS on superconducting temperature we make some artificial speculations. We make constants  $J_{01}^x$  and  $J_{01}^y$  equal to each other in the orthorhombic phase. We fix  $J_{01}^x$  and  $J_{01}^y$  on the value of exchange interaction for elongated Cu-O bonds  $\delta b/b_0 = \delta a/a_0 = 4.15\%$ ,  $\delta b/a = 0\%$ . Also, we reduce the value of  $J_{01}^x(J_{01}^y)$  by 14% of the original constant so  $J_{01}^{*x} = J_{01}^{*y} = 0.14J_{01}(\delta a/a_0 = 4.15\%) = 0.087$  eV. Due to

these assumptions, influence of orthorhombic distortion on  $T_c$  through the exchange interaction constant is suppressed and only influence through the DOS remains. In this case, the  $T_c$  maximum for uniformly distorted  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice ( $\delta b/b_0 = \delta a/a_0 = 4.15\%$ ,  $\delta b/a = 0\%$ ) is higher than for orthorhombically distorted  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice ( $\delta b/a = 4.15\%$ ) (Fig. 3c). Under these assumptions, the average Cu-O distance increase results in the growth of  $T_c$ . However such behavior disappears at  $J_{01}^x(J_{01}^y)$  increasing and the effect of DOS becomes invisible. Since the dependence of  $T_c$  on the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  is determined by dependence of  $J_{01}^x$  and  $J_{01}^y$  on  $a$ , the effect of the exchange parameter on  $T_c$  is predominant in comparison with the influence of the density of states.

## 5 Influence of $\text{CuO}_2$ Lattice Parameter Change on the Concentration Dependence of $T_c$ in the Tetragonal Phase

The previous section was devoted to the influence of the orthorhombic distortion change accompanied by the average Cu-O distance variation on the dependence of  $T_c$  for compounds in the LTO phase. In this section, we consider the dependence of  $T_c$  on the average Cu-O distance caused by the same change in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameters  $a$  and  $b$  for compounds in the HTT phase. Electronic structure, superconducting gap, and  $T_c$  are calculated using formulas for the orthorhombic phase under the condition that the coefficients  $\kappa$ ,  $\kappa'$ ,  $\beta$  are equal to one. The concentration dependence of  $T_c$  in the doping interval  $x$  from 0.03 to 0.3 is a dome (Fig. 4) with a maximum at doping  $x = 0.16$  (Fig. 4, dotted line) that coincides with the hole concentration at which the chemical potential falls on the van Hove singularity. The  $\text{CuO}_2$



**Fig. 4** (Color online) The dependence of superconducting dome on  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a = b$  in the tetragonal phase of cuprates. The dotted line denotes the critical concentration of the first quantum phase transition  $x_{c1}$  at  $\delta a/a_0 = 0$

lattice parameter increase ( $\delta a/a_0$  increasing) results in the  $T_c$  decreasing at all hole concentrations. Also, there is a slight shift of the optimal doping value to a smaller value with the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter increasing since  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice elongation leads to the weak decrease of  $x_{c1}$  according to work [37]. It is clear that the dependence of  $T_c$  on  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter value is caused by the behavior of the exchange constant  $J$  on parameter  $a$  but not DOS which decreases with  $a$  increasing [37].

## 6 Conclusions

In the tetragonal phase  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter increasing leads to  $T_c$  decreasing at all doped hole concentrations in the range from 0.03 to 0.3. This calculated dependence of the maximum  $T_c$  on the  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter reproduces the behavior of the maximum  $T_c$  values in various cuprates as a function of the Cu-O distance. This may indicate that the Cu-O distance in the  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer, a common structural element of cuprates, is the parameter that controls  $T_c$  in these compounds. Mechanism of Cu-O distance influence on  $T_c$  is a variation of the exchange interaction constant with Cu-O bonds shortening (elongation). The optimal doping is determined by the hole concentration  $x_{c1}$  at which the chemical potential falls on the van Hove singularity.

The main effect of orthorhombic distortion on electronic structure is asymmetry of dispersion surface and Fermi contour of quasiparticle excitations relative to nodal direction. Saddle points of dispersion surface on the two boundaries of Brillouin zone have different energy and therefore each van Hove singularity that DOS had in the tetragonal phase splits into two peaks in the orthorhombic phase. Transformation of the Fermi contour from four small hole pockets into a large hole and large electron contours with doping goes through two stages at concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$ . Chemical potential at  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$  falls on each of the two van Hove singularities. Elongation of average Cu-O distance and orthorhombicity factor decreasing which are modeled by  $\text{CuO}_2$  lattice parameter  $a$  increasing with fixed elongated parameter  $b$  result in maximum  $T_c$  decreasing in the orthorhombic phase. The presence of two van Hove singularities in DOS is manifested at small  $J$  in the form of two peaks in concentration dependence of  $T_c$  at those concentrations  $x_{c1}$  and  $x_{c2}$  when chemical potential falls on these singularities.

Calculated dependence of  $T_c$  maximum on average Cu-O distance in orthorhombic phase doesn't reproduce the behavior of the experimental  $T_c$  maximum with the growth of average Cu-O distance in different cuprates. Mechanism of  $J$  decreasing with Cu-O bonds elongation that allows describing the dependence of experimental  $T_c$  maxima on Cu-O distance in the tetragonal phase works against such dependence in the orthorhombic phase. To separate the effect of



DOS changes on  $T_c$  with joint average Cu-O bond elongation and orthorhombicity factor decreasing one may consider the exchange interaction  $J$  to have the suppressed value for all considered systems and to be independent on lattice distortions. It looks like that such a simplified approach is in agreement with the behavior of experimental values of  $T_c$  maximum on average Cu-O distance in the orthorhombic phase. However, this DOS mechanism works only when the mechanism of  $J$  renormalization with Cu-O bond variation is suppressed. Apparently, to describe the observed dependence in the LTO region, it is necessary to take into account more complex effects of orthorhombic distortion. Charge and orbital ordering formed from polaronic stripes were found in Bi2212 [66, 67] and LSCO [68–70] compounds. The presence of polaronic lattice distortions indicates strong electron-phonon coupling in cuprates. Variation of the Cu-O bond lengths and O-Cu-O angles in the orthorhombically distorted system induces elastic strain field which changes electron-lattice coupling constant. As a result of the strong electron-phonon coupling, electronic structure and DOS will also change. DOS renormalization, a renormalization of the magnitude of the electron-phonon mechanism of pairing or both can cause variation of  $T_c$ . Besides charge ordering itself which is observed in the orthorhombic phase (for example in underdoped LSCO [71]) also can significantly change electronic structure and influence on superconducting state through the DOS.

## Appendix

### Orthogonalization Procedure of Atomic Oxygen Orbitals in CuO<sub>6</sub> Octahedron

We choose the CuO<sub>6</sub> octahedron as a cluster. Since each in-plane oxygen atom simultaneously belongs to two clusters it is necessary to produce orthogonalization of oxygen orbitals. Orthogonalization procedure for tetragonal lattice is described in work [72], the molecular orbitals  $b_f$  and  $a_f$  in the cluster  $f$  are introduced instead of the atomic oxygen orbitals  $p_{xh}$  and  $p_{yh}$  at sites  $h$  using transformation in the  $k$ -space:

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_{\mathbf{k}} &= -\frac{i}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}} (s_{x\mathbf{k}} p_{x,\mathbf{k}} - s_{y\mathbf{k}} p_{y,\mathbf{k}}) \\
 a_{\mathbf{k}} &= -\frac{i}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}} (s_{y\mathbf{k}} p_{x,\mathbf{k}} + s_{x\mathbf{k}} p_{y,\mathbf{k}})
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4}$$

where  $s_{k_x} = \sin(k_x a/2)$ ,  $s_{k_y} = \sin(k_y b/2)$ ,  $\mu_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{s_{k_x}^2 + s_{k_y}^2}$ . Molecular orbitals in the different unit cells are orthogonal

to each other. Also, bonding and antibonding orbitals of apical oxygens were introduced

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{zf\sigma}^b &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (p_{z(f+c')\sigma} - p_{z(f-c')\sigma}) \\
 p_{zf\sigma}^a &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (p_{z(f+c')\sigma} + p_{z(f-c')\sigma})
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{5}$$

Remain basis orbitals hybridize with only bonding orbital of apical oxygen. Antibonding orbital doesn't hybridize with nearest orbitals, lies higher in energy, and doesn't participate in the formation of low-energy excitations. Therefore further we will consider only bonding orbital  $p_{zf} = p_{zf}^b$ . When we take into account transformations (2),(4),(5) Hamiltonian of five-band p-d model for tetragonal and orthorhombic phases takes the general form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H &= \sum_{f\sigma} \left( \varepsilon_{d\lambda} n_{df\sigma}^\lambda + \varepsilon_b n_{bf\sigma}^b + \varepsilon_a n_{af\sigma}^a + \varepsilon_{pz} n_{zf\sigma}^{pz} \right) + \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} 2t_{dp}^{xx} \left[ -(\mu_{fg} + \rho_{fg}(\kappa - 1)) d_{xf\sigma}^\dagger b_{g\sigma} + \lambda_{fg}(1 - \kappa) d_{xf\sigma}^\dagger a_{g\sigma} + h.c. \right] + \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} 2t_{dp}^{xx} \left[ -(\mu_{fg} + \rho_{fg}(\kappa - 1)) d_{xf\sigma}^\dagger b_{g\sigma} + \lambda_{fg}(1 - \kappa) d_{xf\sigma}^\dagger a_{g\sigma} + h.c. \right] + \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} 2t_{dp}^{zx} \left[ (\mu_{fg} - \rho_{fg}(1 + \kappa')) d_{zf\sigma}^\dagger b_{g\sigma} - \lambda_{fg}(1 + \kappa') d_{zf\sigma}^\dagger a_{g\sigma} + h.c. \right] - \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} 2t_{pp}^{xy} \left[ v_{fg} b_{f\sigma}^\dagger b_{g\sigma} - v_{fg} a_{f\sigma}^\dagger a_{g\sigma} + (x_{fg} b_{f\sigma}^\dagger a_{g\sigma} + h.c.) \right] - \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} \sqrt{2} t_{dp}^{zz} \left[ d_{zf\sigma}^\dagger p_{zf\sigma}^b + h.c. \right] + \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma} 2\sqrt{2} t_{pp}^{xz} \left[ (\mu_{fg} - \rho_{fg}(\beta + 1)) b_{f\sigma}^\dagger p_{zg\sigma} - \lambda_{fg}(1 + \beta) a_{f\sigma}^\dagger p_{zg\sigma} + h.c. \right] + \\
 &\sum_{\lambda\lambda'} \left( U_d n_{df\uparrow}^\lambda n_{df\downarrow}^{\lambda'} + U_p n_{pf\uparrow}^z n_{pf\downarrow}^z \right) + \\
 &\sum_{f\sigma\sigma'} J_d n_{df\sigma}^x n_{df\sigma'}^z + \sum_{fg\lambda\sigma\sigma'} V_{pd} n_{df\sigma}^\lambda n_{p\sigma'}^z + \\
 &\sum_{fghl} \sum_{\lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3\lambda_4} U_p \Psi_{fghl} P_{\lambda_1 f\uparrow}^\dagger P_{\lambda_2 g\uparrow} P_{\lambda_3 h\downarrow}^\dagger P_{\lambda_4 l\downarrow} + \\
 &\sum_{fh\sigma\sigma'} \sum_{\lambda_1\lambda_2=b,a} V_{pd} \Phi_{fgh} n_{\lambda f\sigma}^d P_{\lambda_1 g\sigma'}^\dagger P_{\lambda_2 h\sigma'}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{6}$$

Here  $n_{f\sigma}^b = b_{f\sigma}^\dagger b_{f\sigma}$ ,  $n_{f\sigma}^a = a_{f\sigma}^\dagger a_{f\sigma}$ . The operator  $P_{\lambda g\sigma}$  annihilates the hole on one of the molecular oxygen orbitals  $b_{g\sigma}$  and  $a_{g\sigma}$ :  $P_{\lambda g\sigma} = \{P_{bg\sigma}, P_{ag\sigma}\} = \{b_{g\sigma}, a_{g\sigma}\}$ . Definitions of the structural factors  $v_{fg}$ ,  $\chi_{fg}$  [54, 73],  $\lambda_{fg}$ ,  $\rho_{fg}$  in momentum space are:

$$v_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{4s_{kx}^2 s_{ky}^2}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}^2}, \chi_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{2s_{kx}s_{ky}(s_{kx}^2 - s_{ky}^2)}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}^2}, \quad (7)$$

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{s_{kx}s_{ky}}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}}, \rho_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{s_{kx}}{\mu_{\mathbf{k}}}$$

Dependences of these structural factors for a couple of sites  $f$  and  $g$  from the distance between them and their orientation are given in Table 2.

The magnitude of coefficients  $\Phi_{fgh}$  and  $\Psi_{fghl}$  rapidly decreases with distance therefore we will take into account only Coulomb interactions within each cluster  $\Phi_{000} = 0.918$  and  $\Psi_{0000} = 0.2109$  [54].

### Cluster Eigenstates

The exact diagonalization of the  $\text{CuO}_6$  octahedron gives its eigenstates in the 0-, 1- 2-hole sectors of Hilbert space. Single-hole eigenstates of the  $\text{CuO}_4$  cluster without orthorhombic distortion are classified into states of  $b_{1g}$  and  $a_{1g}$ . The ground state in the tetragonal phase is the state of  $b_{1g}$  symmetry  $|\sigma\rangle = c_0^{dx}|d_{x\sigma}\rangle + c_0^b|b_{\sigma}\rangle$ . States of  $a_{1g}$  symmetry

$c_i^{dz}|d_{z\sigma}\rangle + c_i^a|a_{\sigma}\rangle + c_i^{pz}|p_{z\sigma}\rangle$  are higher in energy. States of  $a_{1g}$  symmetry mix in states of  $b_{1g}$  symmetry in the  $\text{CuO}_4$  cluster with orthorhombic distortion, the ground state is  $|\sigma\rangle = c_0^{dx}|d_{x\sigma}\rangle + c_0^b|b_{\sigma}\rangle + c_0^{dz}|d_{z\sigma}\rangle + c_0^a|a_{\sigma}\rangle + c_0^{pz}|p_{z\sigma}\rangle$ . Probability amplitudes of basis orbitals in the ground state for orthorhombic distortion  $\delta b/a = 4.15\%$  are

$c_0^{dx}$	$c_0^b$	$c_0^{dz}$	$c_0^a$	$c_0^{pz}$
0.6946	0.7176	0.0287	-0.0099	0.0402

Two-hole ground eigenstate in the tetragonal phase is the  $A_1$  singlet formed by productions of the states of  $b_{1g}$  symmetry  $|S\rangle = L_0^{dd}(d_{x\downarrow}b_{\uparrow} - d_{x\uparrow}b_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{dd}|d_{x\downarrow}d_{x\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{bb}|b_{\downarrow}b_{\uparrow}\rangle$ . In the orthorhombic phase the ground state is singlet that includes productions of the single hole states of  $b_{1g}$  symmetry, productions of orbitals of  $a_{1g}$  symmetry, and production of  $b_{1g}$  and  $a_{1g}$  orbitals:

$$|S\rangle = L_0^{dxdx}(d_{x\downarrow}b_{\uparrow} - d_{x\uparrow}b_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{dxdx}|d_{x\downarrow}d_{x\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{bb}|b_{\downarrow}b_{\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{dza}(d_{z\downarrow}a_{\uparrow} - d_{z\uparrow}a_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{dzdz}|d_{z\downarrow}d_{z\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{aa}|a_{\downarrow}a_{\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{dmpz}(d_{z\downarrow}p_{z\uparrow} - d_{z\uparrow}p_{z\downarrow}) + L_0^{pzpz}|p_{z\downarrow}p_{z\uparrow}\rangle + L_0^{apz}(a_{\downarrow}p_{z\uparrow} - a_{\uparrow}p_{z\downarrow}) + L_0^{dxdz}(d_{x\downarrow}d_{z\uparrow} - d_{x\uparrow}d_{z\downarrow}) + L_0^{dxa}(d_{x\downarrow}a_{\uparrow} - d_{x\uparrow}a_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{dmpz}(d_{x\downarrow}p_{z\uparrow} - d_{x\uparrow}p_{z\downarrow}) + L_0^{dzb}(d_{z\downarrow}b_{\uparrow} - d_{z\uparrow}b_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{ba}(b_{\downarrow}a_{\uparrow} - b_{\uparrow}a_{\downarrow}) + L_0^{bpbz}(b_{\downarrow}p_{z\uparrow} - b_{\uparrow}p_{z\downarrow}) \quad (8)$$

**Table 2** Dependence of structural factors  $\mu_{fg}$ ,  $v_{fg}$ ,  $\chi_{fg}$  [54, 73],  $\lambda_{fg}$ ,  $\rho_{fg}$  from vector  $\mathbf{R} = (R_x, R_y) = (f_x - g_x, f_y - g_y)$  connecting couple of sites  $f$  and  $g$

$\mathbf{R}$	$\mu_{fg}$	$v_{fg}$	$\lambda_{fg}$	$\rho_{fg}$	$\chi_{fg}$
(0,0)	0.9580	0.72676	0.3729	0.4790	0
(1,0)	-0.1401	-0.2732	-0.0879	0.0588	-0.1339
(0,1)	-0.1401	-0.2732	-0.0879	-0.1989	0.1339
(1,1)	-0.0235	0.1221	0.0309	-0.0118	0
(2,0)	-0.0137	-0.0639	-0.0357	0.0127	0.0406
(0,2)	-0.0137	-0.0639	-0.0357	-0.0264	-0.0406
(2,1)	-0.0069	0.0174	0.0085	0.001	-0.0304
(1,2)	-0.0069	0.0174	0.0085	-0.0079	0.0304
(2,2)	-0.0033	0.0105	0.0046	-0.0016	0
(3,0)	-0.0035	-0.0169	-0.0175	0.0038	0.0277
(0,3)	-0.0035	-0.0169	-0.0175	-0.0073	-0.0277
(3,1)	-0.0026	0.0007	0.0027	0.0014	-0.0141
(1,3)	-0.0026	0.0007	0.0027	-0.0040	0.0141
(3,2)	-0.0016	0.0037	0.0022	-0.0000	-0.0031
(2,3)	-0.0016	0.0037	0.0022	-0.0016	0.0031
(3,3)	-0.0010	0.0024	0.0015	-0.0001	0

### Hubbard Fermion Hoppings in the Orthorhombic Phase

Hamiltonian of the two-subband Hubbard model in the basis of quasiparticle excitations built on the four local cluster eigenstates (vacuum state  $|0\rangle$ , single hole states  $|\sigma\rangle$  and  $|\bar{\sigma}\rangle$ , two-hole singlet state  $|S\rangle$ ) has a form:

$$H = \sum_f \epsilon_0 X_f^{00} + \sum_{f\sigma} (\epsilon_{1\sigma} - \mu) X_f^{\sigma\sigma} + \sum_f (\epsilon_2 - 2\mu) X_f^{SS} + \sum_{fg\sigma} \sum_{pqmn} t_{fg\sigma}^{pq, mn} X_f^{pq} X_g^{mn} \quad (9)$$

where  $\epsilon_0$ ,  $\epsilon_1$ ,  $\epsilon_2$  are energies of cluster eigenstates with  $n_h = 0, 1, 2$  holes respectively,  $\mu$  is chemical potential.  $t_{fg\sigma}^{pq, mn} = \sum_{\lambda\lambda'} \sum_{pqmn} t_{\lambda\lambda'}(f, g) \gamma_{\lambda\sigma}^*(pq) \gamma_{\lambda'\sigma}(mn)$  is the inter-cluster quasiparticle hopping parameter. Hopping parameter  $t_{fg\sigma}^{pq, mn}$  characterizes process when cluster  $f$  goes from state  $q$  to state  $p$  acquiring hole which comes from cluster  $g$  transitioned from state  $n$  to state  $m$ . The matrix elements

$\gamma(pq)$  are the expansion coefficients of the electron annihilation operator in terms of Hubbard operators:

$$a_f = \sum_{pq} \langle p|a_f|q\rangle X_f^{pq} = \sum_{pq} \gamma(pq) X_f^{pq} \quad (10)$$

In the orthorhombic phase the expanded form of expression for  $t_{fg\sigma}(pq, mn)$  looks like:

$$\begin{aligned} t_{fg\sigma}(pq, mn) = & -2[t_{pd}\mu_{fg} + t_{pd}\rho_{fg}(\kappa - 1)] \times \\ & (\gamma_{dx\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{b\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{b\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{dx\sigma}(mn)) + \\ & 2t_{pd}\lambda_{fg}(1 - \kappa) \times \\ & (\gamma_{dx\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{a\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{a\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{dx\sigma}(mn)) + \\ & 2[t_{pdz}\mu_{fg} - (1 + \kappa')\rho_{fg}t_{pdz}] \times \\ & (\gamma_{dz\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{b\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{b\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{dz\sigma}(mn)) + \\ & 2(1 + \kappa')\lambda_{fg}t_{pdz} \times \\ & (\gamma_{dz\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{a\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{a\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{dz\sigma}(mn)) + \\ & 2t_{pp}v_{fg}(-\gamma_{b\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{b\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{a\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{a\sigma}(mn)) - \\ & 2t_{pp}\chi_{fg}(\gamma_{b\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{a\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{a\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{b\sigma}(mn)) + \\ & 2[t_{ppz}\mu_{fg} - (1 + \beta)\rho_{fg}t_{ppz}] \times \\ & (\gamma_{b\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{pz\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{pz\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{b\sigma}(mn)) - \\ & 2t_{ppz}\lambda_{fg}(1 + \beta) \times \\ & (\gamma_{a\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{pz\sigma}(mn) + \gamma_{pz\sigma}^*(pq)\gamma_{a\sigma}(mn)) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Presence of the terms with structural factors  $\rho_{fg}$  and  $\chi_{fg}$  which have different values along the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axis in formula (11) results in dependence of  $t_{fg\sigma}(pq, mn)$  on the direction of hopping. It is seen that  $t_{fg\sigma}(pq, mn)$  in the orthorhombic phase contains plenty of terms. The reason for the appearance of these terms is that cluster eigenstates are a mix of orbitals of  $b_{1g}$  and  $a_{1g}$  symmetry in the orthorhombic phase and quasiparticle excitations ( $0\bar{\sigma}$ ) and ( $\sigma S$ ) of Hubbard model with the origin of  $d_{z\bar{\sigma}}$ ,  $a_{\bar{\sigma}}$ ,  $p_{z\bar{\sigma}}$  orbitals acquire nonzero probability.

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