

Fano interference of the Higgs mode in cuprate high- T_c superconductors

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Despite decades of search for the pairing boson in cuprate high- T_c superconductors, its identity still remains debated to date. For this reason, spectroscopic signatures of electron-boson interactions in cuprates have always attracted significant attention. For example, the kinks in the quasiparticle dispersion observed by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) studies have motivated a decade-long investigation of electron-phonon as well as electron-paramagnon interactions in cuprates. On the other hand, the overlap between the charge-order correlations and the pseudogap in the cuprate phase diagram has also generated discussions about the potential link between them. In the present study, we provide a fresh perspective on these intertwined interactions using the novel approach of Higgs spectroscopy (Fig. 1(a)), i.e. an investigation of the amplitude oscillations of the superconducting order parameter driven by a terahertz radiation. Uniquely for cuprates, we observe a Fano interference of its dynamically driven Higgs mode with another collective mode (Fig. 1(b)), which we reveal to be charge density wave fluctuations based on an extensive doping- and magnetic field-dependent study. This finding is further corroborated by a mean field model in which we describe the microscopic mechanism underlying the interaction between the two orders. Our work demonstrates Higgs spectroscopy as a novel and powerful technique for investigating intertwined orders and microscopic processes in unconventional superconductors.

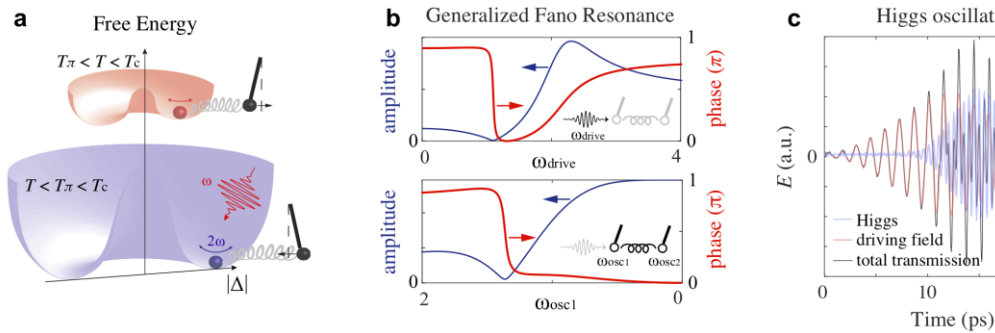


Figure 1. **a**, Amplitude oscillations of the superconducting order parameter (2ω), i.e. Higgs mode, driven by terahertz radiation (ω) and its coupling to an additional collective mode (black pendulum). **b**, Generalized Fano Resonance describes the interference of a heavily damped (continuum) mode and an underdamped (discrete) mode, here represented as oscillator 1 and 2 respectively. As we sweep the drive frequency (upper) or the resonance frequency of oscillator 1 while keeping the driving frequency constant (lower), the Fano resonance/interference manifests as an asymmetrical lineshape in the amplitude response (blue), and also the negative phase jump in phase response (red). **c**, Terahertz-driven Higgs mode (2ω) undergoes sum frequency generation with driving pulse (ω) and leads to third harmonic generation (3ω) in transmission. Here shown is experimental data from a superconducting $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ film.