## ANOMALIES IN THE ISOTOPE EFFECT AS A POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A PLASMON MECHANISM FOR THE HIGH- $T_{\rm c}$ SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

## E. A. Pashitskii

Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 252650 Kiev, Ukraine

Previous research has revealed that the exponent of the oxygen isotope shift  $\alpha_0$  decreases with increasing superconducting transition temperature  $T_c$  in the cuprate metal oxides [1,2]. This decrease in  $\alpha_0$  and increase in  $T_c$  can be explained by a plasmon mechanism for high- $T_c$  superconductivity [3,4]. This mechanism involves a Cooper pairing of light current carriers in a wide 2D band in the cuprate layers due to the exchange of virtual quanta of low-frequency collective excitations of the change density of heavy carriers in a narrow 2D band near the Fermi level. These virtual quanta are acoustic plasmons [5], which hybridize with oxygen vibrational modes.

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