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**A dichotomy between nodal and antinodal excitations and competing order in high temperature  
superconductors**

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ARPES and STM reveal that the electronic excitations near the nodes and antinodes have very different characteristics. The nodal excitations are quasiparticle-like and the nature of antinodal excitations depends on temperature, doping, and other material details. This nodal-antinodal dichotomy is manifested most dramatically in the recent STM experiment that reveal a checkerboard order in the Na doped  $\text{Ca}_2\text{CuO}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The constraint of this dichotomy on theories will be discussed.