Abstract Submitted for the MAR06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Evolution of Mid-gap States and Residual 3-Dimensionality in Cuprates<sup>1</sup> S. SAHRAKORPI, Northeastern University, M. LINDROOS, Tampere University of Technology, R. MARKIEWICZ, Northeastern University, A. BANSIL, Northeastern University — We have carried out extensive first principles doping-dependent computations of angle-resolved photoemission (ARPES) intensities in  $Bi_2Sr_2CaCu_2O_8$  (Bi2212) and  $La_{2-x}Sr_xCuO_4$  (LSCO) over a wide range of binding energies.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Intercell hopping and the associated 3-dimensionality, which is usually neglected in discussing cuprate physics, is shown to play a key role in shaping the ARPES spectra. Despite the obvious importance of strong coupling effects (e.g. the presence of a lower Hubbard band coexisting with mid-gap states in the doped insulator), a number of salient features of the experimental ARPES spectra of LSCO are captured to a surprising extent when  $k_z$ -dispersion is properly included in the analysis.

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<sup>1</sup>Work supported by U.S. D.O.E.

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Date submitted: 29 Nov 2005

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