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Repulsive interaction helps superconductivity in fullerenes

SATOSHI YAMAZAKI, YOSHIO KURAMOTO, Tohoku University — Alkali metal (A) doped fullerenes (A_3C_{60}) show not only superconductivity (SC) with high transition temperature T_c up to about 40K, but also antiferromagnetism (AF) with $A=Cs$. In view of nearby presence of the AF state, the Coulomb repulsion should play a significant role in the SC state. However, various experimental evidences point to a fully symmetric s-wave SC state being realized. In the conventional theory, the s-wave state is unfavorable in the presence of Coulomb repulsion. Then the fundamental question remains why the T_c in fullerenes is so high. As a step toward the complete understanding, we study a purely repulsive interaction model with the characteristic band structure derived by degenerate molecular orbitals in fullerenes. We calculate SC coupling constants for various symmetries of SC pairs by using the second order perturbation theory. We find that even with the repulsive interaction model, the s-wave pair can be formed. With the electron-phonon interaction combined, it is likely that the s-wave pair becomes the most stable. According to our result, we propose that the cooperation between Coulomb repulsion and electron-phonon interaction is responsible for the high T_c .

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