# Measurement of the longitudinal spin asymmetries for weak boson production in polarized proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV at RHIC



(On behalf of the STAR Collaboration)



DNP 2019 - Fall Meeting of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics Arlington, VA, October 14-17, 2019





DOE NP contract: DE-SC0013405

## Outline



Measurement of:
 W<sup>±</sup> single / double spin asymmetry A<sub>L</sub> / A<sub>LL</sub>
 Z<sup>0</sup> single asymmetry A<sub>L</sub>

- Analysis details
- Results



How do we probe the structure and dynamics of matter in ep vs. pp scattering?



- Proton spin structure using high-energy polarized p+p collisions W production
  - Observable: Quark/Anti-quark polarization (W production)
    - Longitudinal single-spin
      asymmetry A<sub>L</sub>

 $A_L = \frac{\sigma_+ - \sigma_-}{\sigma_+ + \sigma_-}$ 

- Parity (Spatial inversion) violating for W production!
- Features of W boson production probing parton distributions:
  - Direct sensitivity to quark (u/d) / antiquark (ubar/dbar) distributions
  - □ Large scale defined by W mass (~80GeV)
  - $\hfill\square$  Simple final state of charged leptons: No

#### dependency on fragmentation functions

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 Polarized and unpolarized partonic cross-sections known at NLO - W A<sub>L</sub> asymmetry results powerful input for global analyses such as DSSV and NNPDF at NLO level! The world's first polarized proton-proton collider



### Experimental aspects - RHIC

#### Polarized p-p collisions

 Production runs at \$\subset s=500/510GeV\$ (long. polarization) in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013: W production (Quark polarization) / Jet and Hadron production (Gluon polarization)

Run	L (pb-1)	P (%)	FOM (P <sup>2</sup> L) (pb <sup>-1</sup> )
Run 9	12	0.38	1.7
Run 11	9	0.49	2.2
Run 12	77	0.56	24
Run 13	250	0.56	78



### Experimental aspects - STAR

#### Overview

- Calorimetry system with
  2π coverage: BEMC
  (-1<η<1) and EEMC (1<η<2)</li>
- TPC: Tracking and particle ID

- ZDC: Relative luminosity and local polarimetry (500GeV)
- BBC: Relative
  luminosity and
  Minimum bias trigger





 $\eta = -\ln\left(\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\right)$ 

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### **Results / Status - W reconstruction**



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## Results / Status - W reconstruction

#### □ Mid-rapidity W<sup>+</sup> / W<sup>-</sup> signal distributions / Background determination



STAR E<sub>T</sub> distributions for W-/W<sup>+</sup> candidate events well described by  $W \rightarrow e + v$  (W-e decay) signal events and datadriven QCD background estimation plus electroweak background events in four mid-rapidity n bins

• QCD background:

J. Adam et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 99 (2019) 51102.

- Data-driven QCD background estimate: Background which satisfy e<sup>±</sup> candidate isolation cuts
- Second EEMC QCD background estimate: Background ("Jet") at non-existing calorimetric coverage for -2 < η < 1.1 based on instrumented calorimetric coverage with STAR EEMC for 1.1 < η < 2</p>
- Electro-Weak background:  $Z \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$  (Z decay) and  $W \rightarrow \tau + v$  (W-Tau decay) / PYTHIA-MC estimation!

#### RHIC Probing the quark flavor structure using W boson production



#### W A<sub>L</sub> measurements at STAR 2013 and 2011+2012 and PHENIX

• STAR 2013 W AL results is the most precise

measurement of  $W A_L$  up to date.

- STAR 2013 W A<sub>L</sub> results consistent with published
  2011+2012 results
- Statistical uncertainties (Dominant uncertainties) were reduced by 40-50% compared to published

2011+2012 results / Similar systematic uncertainties.

• Results consistent with published PHENIX mid-

rapidity measurements.



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### W A<sub>L</sub> measurements: Combination of 2011+2012+2013

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<sup>I</sup> Impact of STAR W  $A_L$  measurements on  $\Delta \bar{u}$  and  $\Delta \bar{d}$ :



Significant constraint for  $\Delta \bar{u}$  and  $\Delta \bar{d} : \Delta \bar{u} > \Delta \bar{d}$  at intermediate Bjorken-x  $(M_W/\sqrt{s} \simeq 0.16)$ 

• Polarized flavor asymmetry  $\Delta \bar{u} - \Delta \bar{d}$  of similar size, but opposite sign compared to unpolarized asymmetry  $\bar{u} - \bar{d}$ 

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#### W A<sub>LL</sub> measurements

- New published measurement of longitudinal double-spin asymmetry A<sub>LL</sub> based on STAR
   2013 results compared to 2011+2012 results
- Results are consistent within uncertainties as a function of leptonic rapidity

 Probe W<sup>+</sup>/W<sup>-</sup> initial light quark polarized flavor combinations:

$$A_{LL}^{W^+} \propto rac{\Delta u}{u} rac{\Delta d}{\bar{d}}$$
 and  $A_{LL}^{W^-} \propto rac{\Delta d}{d} rac{\Delta \bar{u}}{\bar{u}}$ 

J. Adam et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 99 (2019) 51102.



Positivity constraints involving A<sub>L</sub> and A<sub>LL</sub>:

$$\pm A_{LL}^{W^{\pm}}(y_W) > A_L^{W^{\pm}}(y_W) \pm A_L^{W^{\pm}}(-y_W)$$

Z.Kang and J.Soffer, Phys. Rev. D83 (2011) 114020.

### Results / Status - Z<sup>0</sup> reconstruction

Z boson 





 ${\rm A_L}$  is sensitive to the combination of light quark flavor  $Z/\gamma^*\,A_L$  – 0 polarizations:  $u, \bar{u}, \bar{d}, \text{ and } \bar{d}$ d u ū d

J. Adam et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 99 (2019) 51102.

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60

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80

100

m<sub>e\*e</sub> (GeV/c<sup>2</sup>)

120

15

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16

## Summary / Outlook

- Summary
  - Mid-rapidity: Published W asymmetry (results suggest large anti-u quark polarization along with broken QCD sea.
  - New published result of STAR 2013 W AL is the most precise measurement to date: Further constrain anti-quark helicity distributions
  - New STAR 2013 W A<sub>L</sub> results consistent with published STAR 2011+2012 results and published
    PHENIX mid-rapidity results
- Outlook
  - Long 510GeV run in 2017 (Run 17) at transverse spin polarization of about 350pb<sup>-1</sup>: W A<sub>N</sub> / Unpol.
    QCD sea
  - Unpolarized program for Run 17: Cross-section ratio measurements of W<sup>+</sup>/W<sup>-</sup> Unpolarized dbar / ubar probe
  - Exciting long-term polarized pp/pA program beyond 2020 requiring forward detector upgrade

(NSF grant)

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J. Adam et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys.

Rev. D 99 (2019)