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Office of

Science

STAR Spin Physics Highlight

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Outline

- Motivation
- RHIC Facility and STAR Detector
- Longitudinal Spin Structure
- Transverse Spin Structure
- Summary

Fundamental Questions Regarding Proton Spin





• How do quarks and gluons conspire to provide the proton's spin ¹/₂ ?

- What is the role of gluons and sea quarks?
- What is the size of the orbital angular momentum?
- What is the dynamic structure of the proton?
 - How do we go beyond longitudinal parton distribution functions to map out the 3D structure?
 - Can we visualize color interactions in QCD?



Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)



- Spin pattern changes from fill to fill with little depolarization;
- Siberian snakes preserve the polarization;
- Spin rotators select spin orientation;
- proton-Carbon (pC) polarimeters and hydrogen gas jet (H-Jet) measure the polarization.

Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC (STAR)





Longitudinal Spin Structure



Spin of the Proton



 $f_g(x,Q^2)$ $f_q(x,Q^2)$ $f_q(x,Q^2)$

• For helicity distributions (collinear terms) in 'canonical' approach, the proton's spin can be decomposed into:

$$\left\langle S_{z}^{p}\right\rangle =\frac{1}{2}=\frac{1}{2}\Delta\Sigma+\Delta G+\left\langle L_{z}^{q}\right\rangle +\left\langle L_{z}^{g}\right\rangle$$

R. L. Jaffe and A. Manohar, NPB 337, 509 (1990)

•
$$\Delta \Sigma = \int (\Delta u + \Delta d + \Delta s + \Delta \bar{u} + \Delta \bar{d} + \Delta \bar{s}) dx$$

• $\Delta G = \int \Delta g(x) dx$

 $d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow jet+X} = \sum_{ab} \int f_a(x_1, Q^2) f_b(x_2, Q^2) d\hat{\sigma}_{a+b \rightarrow jet+X}(x_1, x_2, Q^2) dx_1 dx_2$

• Helicity PDF, $\Delta f(x) =$



• Unpolarized PDF, f(x) =



Probing the Gluon Helicity at RHIC



- Consistent with 2009 data, which provided first evidence for positive ΔG for x > 0.05;
- Improved statistical and systematics uncertainties;
- Will significantly reduce uncertainty on gluon polarization once included in global fits.



• For most RHIC kinematics, gg and qg dominate, making A_{LL}

for jets sensitive to gluon polarization.





 Dijet captures more information from the hard scattering and provide a more direct link to the initial kinematics than inclusive probes.
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Impact of the New STAR Results







3D Tomography of the Nucleon:

TMD



TMD Parton Distribution Functions





- Image the transverse and longitudinal (2+1d) structure of the nucleon and nuclei;
 - Tomography of the nucleon;
- Access to transverse momenta at non-perturbative scales;
 - Probe at the confinement scale;
- Exhibit correlations arising from spin-orbit effects.

Transverse Single-Spin Asymmetry

$$p^{\uparrow} + p \rightarrow \text{Jet} + \pi^{\pm} + X$$



• Each TMD PDF is convoluted with a fragmentation function and appears with a independent harmonic modulations (azimuthal asymmetry amplitudes).

 A_N for Z^0 and W^{\pm} Boson Production



• Test the nonuniversality nature of Sivers function:

Sivers_{SIDIS} = -Sivers(Drell - Yan or W/Z)

• A fundamental prediction from the gauge invariance of QCD.





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Comparison with pp 510 GeV



- The asymmetries agree at $0.06 < x_T < 0.2$, Q^2 differ by a factor of 6;
- Collins asymmetry has a weak energy dependence in hadronic collisions;
- z and j_T dependences of the Collins FF are closely related.



 A_N for K^{\pm} and Proton in Jets

STAR, PRD 106, 072010 (2022)



- K^+ , with contribution from favored fragmentation of u quarks, has similar magnitude of asymmetries to π^+ ;
- K^- , which is produced by unfavored fragmentation, has asymmetries that are consistent with zero;
- Proton and anti-proton's asymmetries are all consistent with zero at one sigma level.

A_N for Di-hadron Measurement



• Spin dependent di-hadron correlations probe collinear quark transversity coupled to the interference

fragmentation function;

• Theoretical expectations from fits to existing SIDIS and e^+e^- data, assuming the universality hold.

Outlook

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- Large p+p 508 GeV sample from 2022 under analyses;
- Large p+p 200 GeV data taking ongoing now.

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- Significant progress towards understanding the internal spin structure of nucleon at STAR:
 - Confirm the previous finding of positive gluon polarization inside proton;
 - New insights into the transversity, Sivers and Collins effect in pp collisions;
- RHIC will conclude the polarized pp collisions this year:
 - Longitudinal spin program has few remaining results to be published soon;
 - Unique transverse spin physics program with recent upgrades is ongoing.