Low-x and diffraction measurements at RHIC

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Outline

- Gluon saturation observables and measurements at RHIC
 - Di-hadron/jet correlations
 - R_{pA}
 - Ridge and v₂-like behaviors in p-A : link to pre-thermalization glasma, or thermalized hydrodynamics in small system?
 - A_N in polarized proton-Au collisions
- Diffraction measurements in STAR using forward tagged proton
- Summary and outlook

Gluon Saturation



- Densities of gluons and sea quarks are high at low x
- Leading to Saturation of parton density, called Color Glass Condensate (CGC).

What do we expect at RHIC?



Nuclei may allow access to the saturation region at moderate p_T

 η = 2.5-4.0 in RHIC is a promising region!

Observables : Azimuthal Correlations



STAR and PHENIX at forward rapidity



Both STAR and PHENIX capable of doing low x physics with neutral particles

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Back-to-back angular correlations



CGC predicts suppression of the away-side peak.

PHENIX observed suppression of the away-side peak in 0-20% d+Au collisions

STAR 2015 data are being analyzed for π^0 - π^0 and EM jet – EM jet azimuthal correlations in p+p, p+Al, p+Au (and d+Au in 2016) Working on FMS gain uniformity and stability

Back-to-back angular correlations

$$J_{dA} = I_{dA} \times R_{dA}^{t} = \frac{1}{\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle} \frac{\sigma_{dA}^{\text{pair}} / \sigma_{dA}}{\sigma_{pp}^{\text{pair}} / \sigma_{pp}}$$

PHENIX : PRL 107, 172301



- Large suppression of J_{dA} at low x

- Need to understand nuclear effect and multiparticle interaction for produced final state particles.

- Might not probe gluon saturation

Measurement with direct photons is very important :

• STAR 2015 pA data is being analyzed for direct photons



With 2015 data STAR can study evolution of Q_s^2 (x) with A

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π^0 in Polarized p+A as a tool to study Gluon saturation



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First π^0 results from polarized p+Au



Shaded bands show systematic uncertainty, dominated by dependence of A_N on observed BBC multiplicity \rightarrow central vs. peripheral collisions

Preliminary results from STAR find little suppression in ${\rm A}_{\rm N}$ as suggested by some CGC calculations

Small system : p+Pb, d+Au

Glasma? Long range rapidity Correlations Initial state fluctuations "inflated" to long range correlations? Flow? sQGP in small systems?





Mid-Forward Particle/Energy Correlations



Need better understanding : Initial state – Glasma? Final state effect - Flow (Hydro) in a thermalized sQGP?

Diffraction measurements

Roman pots in STAR



- Roman pots installed prior to 2009 RHIC run Phase-I
- In phase-II roman pots were moved much closer prior to 2015 RHIC run (operate with normal beam optics)

Recorded a large fraction of the total delivered luminosity in the 2015 (Vs = 200 GeV) and 2017 (Vs = 500 GeV)



Identifying CEP : the $\pi^+\pi^-$ case



Identification and momentum reconstruction of all final state particles provide the ability to ensure exclusively of the system via momentum balance check Very small background!

$\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distributions at $\sqrt{s}=200 \text{ GeV}$

Invariant mass of $\pi\pi$, $p_{\tau}^{\text{miss}} < 0.1$ GeV/c, not acceptance-corrected, statistical errors only



- Broad structure extending from $\pi^+\pi^-$ threshold to ~1GeV/c²
- Sharp drop at about 1 GeV/c²
- Resonance-like structure between 1-1.5 GeV/c²
 (Expect ~70k events with M(π⁺π⁻) > 1 GeV/c² from full 2015 data set
- Essential features are similar to measurements in p+p collisions at Vs=63 GeV (AFS at ISR) and p+p-bar at Vs=1.96 TeV (CDF)

K⁺K⁻ invariant mass distributions at √s=200 GeV Invariant mass of KK, p^{miss} < 0.1 GeV/c, not acceptance-corrected, statistical errors only Events / 100 MeV/c² WA102 [11] > 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 $\sqrt{s} = 29.1 \text{ GeV}$ 30 AR PRELIMINARY / 0.02 800 $p + p \rightarrow p + K + K + p$ √s = 200 GeV 20 600 $0.03 < -t < 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$ vents 15 400 opposite-sign same-sign 10 200 5 0 1.5 2.5 8.5 $M(K^{+}K^{-})$ GeV Inv. mass m_{KK} [GeV/c²]

- Prominent peak around 1.4-16 GeV/c²
- Some enhancement in the f2(1270)/f0(1370) region
- In spectrum measured by WA102 (fixed target), there is significant contribution from f0(980) not seen by STAR (K acceptance is very small at such low p_T)
- Expect ~10⁴ exclusive K⁺K⁻ events in the full 2015 data set (Will permit cross section and partial wave analysis)

Summary

- RHIC probes at low x region of nuclei with forward detectors where gluon saturation effects may manifest themselves.
- Previous RHIC measurements showed a hint of saturation in 0-20% d+Au collisions. STAR 2015 p+A data is being analyzed for π^{0} π^{0} and EM jet EM jet azimuthal correlations.
- PHENIX data show long range correlations in ridge like structure for small systems : Glasma or Flow effects?
- Preliminary measurement of A_N for polarized p+A collisions shows little suppression.
- $\pi^+\pi^-$ and K⁺K⁻ mass distribution for Central Exclusive Production (CEP) extracted from a fraction of the available data. Results from the full statistics are under-way.
- For 2021+ both STAR and sPHENIX planning for forward detector upgrades to measure fully reconstructed jets at forward rapidities a step forward for future EIC collider.

backup

Spin Dependent Cross section

Kang, Yuan: PRD 84, 034019 (2011)



The Ridge at RHIC



A clear ridge on the Au-going side in central d+Au, ³He+Au; a more subtle effect in p+Au