

# Spin experiments at RHIC

-- nucleon spin structures and polarized fragmentation functions

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### Motivation of RHIC spin



#### To understand proton spin structure

If gluons really carry the bulk of nucleon's spin, why not use polarized proton? (*known by then to be predominantly made of gluons!*)

Why  $\Delta\Sigma$  (quark + anti-quark's spin) small? Are quark and antiquark spins antialigned? Polarized p+p at high energy, through W+/- production could address this

A severe need for investigations of the surprising transverse spin effects was naturally possible and needed with the proposed polarized p+p collider...

#### Prospects for RHIC Spin Physics in 2000

#### PROSPECTS FOR SPIN PHYSICS AT RHIC

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**Key Words** proton spin structure, spin asymmetries, quantum chromodynamics, beyond the standard model

■ Abstract Colliding beams of 70% polarized protons at up to  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV, with high luminosity,  $L = 2 \times 10^{32}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>, will represent a new and unique laboratory for studying the proton. RHIC-Spin will be the first polarized-proton collider and will be capable of copious production of jets, directly produced photons, and W and Z bosons. Features will include direct and precise measurements of the polarization of the gluons and of  $\overline{u}$ ,  $\overline{d}$ , u, and d quarks in a polarized proton. Parity violation searches for physics beyond the standard model will be competitive with unpolarized searches at the Fermilab Tevatron. Transverse spin will explore transversity for the first time, as well as quark-gluon correlations in the proton. Spin dependence of the total cross section and in the Coulomb nuclear interference region will be measured at collider energies for the first time. These qualitatively new measurements can be expected to deepen our understanding of the structure of matter and of the strong interaction.

#### Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2000. 50:525

#### Jet production



#### $W^{\pm}$ production



Transverse SSA



#### Lambda spin transfer



# Polarized RHIC



# STAR detector overview



#### **Time Projection Chamber**

- charged track momentum msmt
- particle identification dE/dx,
- vertex reconstruction
- coverage  $|\eta| < 1$

#### **Time of Flight detector**

- particle identification
- coverage  $|\eta| < 1$

#### Barrel and Endcap E.M. Cal.

- towers and Shower Maximum Det.
- neutral EM energy measurement,
- trigger (towers, patches of towers)
- coverage  $|\eta| < 1$  and  $1 < \eta < 2$

Only running detector at RHIC in 2017-2022

### PHENIX and sPHENIX Detector Overview



# **RHIC** spin data accumulation



by STAR

# Probe gluon polarization



QCD ComptonQuark-gluon, gluon-scatteringgluon elastic scattering

- Abundant yields of  $\pi$  and jets at RHIC
- Sub-processes directly sensitive to gluon
- $\mathbf{x}_{g,q} \sim p_T^{\pi^{0},jets} / \sqrt{s} \cdot e^{-\eta}$
- Constrain gluon helicity-dependent PDFs



#### Measured double-spin asymmetry:

$$A_{LL} = \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow} - \sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow}}{\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow} + \sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow}} \propto \frac{\Delta f_1}{f_1} \otimes \frac{\Delta f_2}{f_2} \otimes \hat{a}_{LL} \otimes D_f^h$$

Yes, gluon spin does contribute!



### A big wave of precision results



Longitudinal data taking concluded at RHIC, PHENIX and STAR released the full statistics results.

### Gluon polarization from RHIC spin

DSSV, PRL113 (2014) 012001



#### The RHIC Cold QCD Program, White Paper, arXiv:2302.00605

DSSV14 **+** RHIC (≤2022):

• 
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.05}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.22 \substack{+0.03 \\ -0.06}$$

• 
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.001}^{0.05} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.17 + 0.33 - 0.17$$

Gluon spin contribute ~40% of proton spin

### Flavor separation with W boson

Elegant way to study proton spin-flavor structure:

- W boson selects quarks/antiquarks with specific helicity.
- W bosons are measured via leptonic decay.



Parity violating single-spin asymmetry:



### Impact of W results



- Now we know:  $\Delta \bar{u} > 0$  and  $\Delta \bar{d} < 0$
- The flavor asymmetry  $\Delta \bar{u} \Delta \bar{d}$  similar size but opposite sign to the unpolarized case.
- TMD  $W A_L$  is ongoing.

### Another longstanding spin puzzle



Transverse single spin asymmetry:

$$A_N = \frac{N_L - N_R}{N_L + N_R}$$

Transverse spin effect expected to be small at high energies...

--- but FNAL came with a big surprise: it is very large!

#### Remains mystery after 40+ years

RHIC Cold QCD plan, arXiv: 1602.03922



Large asymmetry over a very wide range ( $\sqrt{s}$ : 4.9 GeV to 500 GeV)

# **Possible origins**

Sivers effect

Collins effect





Due to transverse motion of quarks in the nucleon: *initial state effect* 

Asymmetry in the fragmentation hadrons: final state effect

### Weak bosons A<sub>N</sub> – Sivers

Universality test of Sivers function: sign-change from DIS to DY/W/Z



- Theoretical (PRL126,112002): extraction includes SIDIS, DY and 2011 STAR data with N3LO and NNLO accuracy of the TMD evolution *assuming sign-change*
- STAR preliminary with 2017 data with much improved precision, expect big impact in Sivers function at high-x in next global TMD fit

Forward  $A_N \pi^0$ , EM-jet

#### STAR, PRD 103, 092009 (2021)



- $A_N$  with forward EM-jets and  $\pi^0$  in 200/500 GeV pp collisions
- Decreasing A<sub>N</sub> as "jet-ness" increasing (high multiplicity)
- Run2022 and 2024: improved statistic for various objects using Forward Upgrades

### Hadron in Jet A<sub>N</sub> – Transversity + Collins



- Significant Collins asymmetries have been observed in 200 and 500 GeV
- New results show weak energy dependence and provide important constraints on the scale evolution for Collins asymmetry

#### Di-hadron correlations – Transversity + IFF



- Spin dependent di-hadron correlations from *p+p* probe collinear quark transversity couple to the interference fragmentation function
- $A_{UT}$  is enhanced around  $M_{inv}^{\pi^+\pi^-} \sim 0.8$  GeV, consistent with the previous measurement
- Significant  $A_{UT}$  in the forward region, where is  $h_1$  expected to be sizable.

### One more longstanding spin puzzle ...



Polarization of particles produced in unpolarized hadron scattering was expected to be small

--- but a big surprise from experiment: it is very large!

# The measurement in 1976

G. Bunce et al. PRL36, 1113 (1976)



- Scattering angles determined by incoming beam angle
- Recorded Lambda decay after 5.3m collimator inside sweeping magnet M2
- <u>10%</u> level polarization observed; increasing vs. p<sub>T</sub>





### Follow-up measurements

#### incomplete list

Heller et al., Phys. Lett. B68 480 (1977) Heller et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 41, 607 (1978) Erhan et al., Phys. Lett B82, 301 (1979) Lomanno et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 43, 1905 (1979) Heller et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 51, 2025 (1983) Abe et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 50, 1102 (1983) Aleev et al., Z. Phys. C 36, 27 (1987) Lundberg et al., Phys. Rev. D 40, 3557 (1989) Ramberg et al., Phys. Lett. B 338, 403 (1994) Fanti et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 6 265 (1999) Abt et al., Phys. Lett. B 638, 415 (2006) Aad et al., Phys. Rev. D 91, 032004 (2015) Abt et al., JHEP09, 082 (2024)

24 GeV proton + Platinum at CERN 400 GeV proton + Beryllium at Fermilab (different hyperon)  $\sqrt{s}$  = 53, 62 GeV proton + proton at CERN (ISR) 28.5 GeV proton + Iridium at BNL (AGS) 400 GeV proton + Beryllium/Copper/Lead at Fermilab 12 GeV proton + Tungsten at KEK ~40 GeV neutron + Carbon/Aluminum/Copper 400 GeV proton + Beryllium at Fermilab (higher pT) 800 GeV proton + Beryllium at Fermilab 450 GeV proton + Beryllium at CERN (SPS-NA48) 920 GeV proton + Carbon/Tungsten at DESY (HERA-B)  $\sqrt{s}$  = 7 TeV proton + proton at CERN (ATLAS) 2.5 TeV proton + Neon at CERN (LHCb-SMOG)

### Features of lambda "spontaneous(?)" polarization

- Lambda transverse polarization is significant.
- Anti-lambda is not polarized.
- Polarization is (almost) independent of beam energy.
- Feynman-x and transverse momentum dependence scales with energy.
- Weak target-mass dependence:  $pA \approx pp$ , parton level reaction.

### Non-perturbative effects at Initial and Final States

Partonic scattering (pQCD) cannot explain the large polarization. Then, must be non-pQCD effects from *initial state and/or final state*.



Can not distinguish in pp; ep and  $e^+e^-$  can separate.

Spin transfer from initial state: parton is polarized in <u>polarized proton</u> Helicity/Transversity parton is polarized in unpolarized proton Boer-Mulders

- Polarization arising at final state: parton is <u>unpolarized</u> but fragmenting Polarizing FFs into polarized hadron.

#### Lambda transverse spin transfer – Transversity + pFFs

STAR, PRD109, 012004 (2024)



The results are consistent with model calculations within uncertainties.

Transverse spin transfer:

$$D_{TT}^{\Lambda} \equiv \frac{\sigma^{(p^{\uparrow}p \to \Lambda^{\uparrow}X)} - \sigma^{(p^{\uparrow}p \to \Lambda^{\downarrow}X)}}{\sigma^{(p^{\uparrow}p \to \Lambda^{\uparrow}X)} + \sigma^{(p^{\uparrow}p \to \Lambda^{\downarrow}X)}} = \frac{d\delta\sigma^{\Lambda}}{d\sigma^{\Lambda}}$$
$$d\delta\sigma^{\Lambda} = \sum_{abcd} \int dx_a \, dx_b dz \underbrace{\delta f_a(x_a)}_{\text{Transversity PDF}} f_b(x_b) \underbrace{\delta\sigma^{(a^{\uparrow}b \to c^{\uparrow}d)}}_{\text{Transversity FF}} \delta D_c^{\Lambda}(z)$$

Access transversity fragmentation functions (FF) and transversity distributions (PDF) of strange quarks

- Final state polarization accessible via weak decay
- Lambda's spin is expected to be carried mostly by its constituent strange quark

#### Strange quarks polarization via Lambda spin transfer



Spin transfer:

$$D_{LL}^{\Lambda} \equiv \frac{d\sigma(p^+p \to \Lambda^+X) - d\sigma(p^+p \to \Lambda^-X)}{d\sigma(p^+p \to \Lambda^+X) + d\sigma(p^+p \to \Lambda^-X)} = \frac{d\Delta\sigma^{\Lambda}}{d\sigma^{\Lambda}}$$
$$d\Delta\sigma^{\Lambda} = \sum \int dx_a dx_b dz \Delta f_a(x_a) f_b(x_b) \Delta\sigma(ab \to cd) \Delta D^{\Lambda}(z)$$
$$Polarized PDFs \qquad Polarized FFs$$

Access polarized FFs and PDFs of strange quarks

- Final state polarization accessible via weak decay
- Lambda's spin is expected to be carried mostly by its constituent strange quark

### Polarizing fragmentation function



Access polarizing fragmentation functions (FF) via polarization of Lambda-in-jet

• Indication of negative transverse polarization at large z and low jet  $p_T$ 

# Summary

RHIC spin operation concluded last year.

RHIC has been making significant contributions to three poorly constrained pieces of the spin puzzle

- Gluon polarization  $\Delta G > 0$
- Flavor-separated quark and anti-quark polarizations  $\Delta \bar{u} > \Delta \bar{d}$
- Transverse program in progress: existing data being published/analyzed, stay tuned

\* Rich physics of spin in heavy ion at RHIC not covered.

### Outlook

- Successful RHIC spin operation in 2022 and 2024 with STAR forward upgrade and new sPHENIX (2024).
- Studies of final state spin effects, intersecting with heavy-ion physics, are being extended to the LHC.
- Next generation spin experiments: polarized Electron Ion Collider (EicC/US-EIC), polarized HIAF, LHC, NICA, etc.

#### Thank you for your attention!