



Constraining the Gluon Helicity at STAR

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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.



STAR Longitudinal Polarization Data

Year	2009	2009	2011	2012	2013	2015	
\sqrt{s} (GeV)	200	500	500	510	510	200	[pb ⁻¹
$L_{int} (pb^{-1})$	25	10	12	82	300	52	sity L
Polarization	55%	39%	48%	53%	55%	58%	minos

- RHIC has concluded the longitudinal polarized data taking in 2015;
- Most STAR key measurements using the longitudinal polarized data have been published in the last few years, with few to be published soon.



Spin of the Proton



 $f_g(x,Q^2)$

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

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

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

• $\Delta G = \int \Delta g(x) dx$

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

- Helicity PDF, $\Delta f(x) =$
- $f^+(x)$ $f^-(x)$

• Unpolarized PDF, f(x) =



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Probing the Gluon Helicity at RHIC





0.05

0.1

0.15

Dotted: √s=500 GeV

0.2

0.25

Jet x_{T} (= $2p_{I}/\sqrt{s}$)

0.3

0.35

- At the parton level, helicity correlations are very large in leading-order QCD;
- For most RHIC kinematics, gg and qg dominate, making A_{LL} sensitive to gluon polarization.

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0.4

0.45

0.5



Jet Reconstruction at STAR

Anti- k_T Algorithm:

- Radius = 0.6 for pp 200 GeV
- Radius = 0.5 for pp 510 GeV

Jet Levels MC Jets Detector GEANT Particle ΡΥΤΗΙΑ Parton

Simulation:

- PYTHIA 6.4 Perugia0
- PYTHIA 6.4 Perugia2012, PARP(90) = 0.213





Evidence of Positive ΔG







- Both DSSV and NNPDF have performed new polarized PDF fits;
- Both find the 2009 RHIC results provide significantly tighter constraints on gluon polarization;
- Both find **evidence for positive gluon polarization** in the region *x* > 0.05:

• NNPDF:
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.05}^{0.5} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.23 \pm 0.06$$

• DSSV:
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.05}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.20 \pm 0.06$$

Gluon Polarization with RHIC Data



 The low x behavior and shape of Δg(x) are still poorly constrained:

•
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.05}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.20 \pm 0.06$$

•
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.001}^{0.05} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.15 \pm 0.50$$

- STAR's strategies to explore low-x regime:
 - 1. Extend to dijet measurement;
 - 2. Reconstruct jet at higher η ;
 - 3. Increase the integrated luminosity of data;
 - 4. Take data with higher collision energy.

Mid-Rapidity Dijet A_{LL}



- Dijet measurements capture more information from the hard scattering and provide a more direct link to the initial parton level kinematics than inclusive measurements;
- Mid-rapidity di-jet A_{LL} presented for two topologies as a function of di-jet invariant mass corrected to parton level;
- Data compared to expectations from DSSV14 and NNPDFpol1.1 polarized PDFs, both contain 2009 inclusive jet results.
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Intermediate Rapidity Dijet A_{LL}



- Adding the Endcap opens up several new dijet topologies;
- Forward jets probe lower values of gluon momentum fraction while selecting more asymmetric collisions.
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Impact of the Dijet Results:



- Gluon polarization in the region **x** > **0.1**:
 - before: $\Delta G = \int_{0.1}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.133 \pm 0.035$

• after:
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.1}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.126 \pm 0.023$$

• In the region **x > 0.01**:

- before: $\Delta G = \int_{0.01}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.309 \pm 0.109$
- after: $\Delta G = \int_{0.01}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.296 \pm 0.108$

Х

New A_{LL} Results at 200 GeV





STAR, $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$

-70.10

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



- Plotted vs x_T, overall consistency seen among STAR data sets;
- Well described by global fits that previously gave a good description of the 200 GeV results.

100

60 80 Parton Dijet M_{inv} (GeV/c²) 120

-0.02

Impact of the RHIC Results



 New results from RHIC shows significant impact when constraining the gluon helicity distribution;



DSSV14 + RHIC (≤2022):

•
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.05}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.22 \pm 0.03$$

•
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.001}^{0.05} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.17 \pm 0.20$$

Proton Spin Puzzle Solved?

Enormous recent progress on helicity PDFs

•
$$\Delta \Sigma = \int_{0.01}^{1} \Delta q(x) dx = 0.43 \pm 0.08$$

•
$$\Delta G = \int_{0.01}^{1} \Delta g(x) dx = 0.3 \pm 0.1$$

Werner Vogelsang, Spin2023





$$\left\langle S_z^p \right\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \Sigma + \Delta G = 0.515 \pm 0.108$$

Negative Gluon Polarization?





- Negative gluon polarization can also
- describe the STAR inclusive jet results well.

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The Positivity Constraint

$|\Delta f_i(x,Q^2)| < f_i(x,Q^2)$



• The positivity bound naturally come from definitions in terms of the probabilistic interpretation;

G. Altarelli, S. Forte, and G. Ridolfi, Nucl. Phys. B 534, 277 (1998)

• At leading order:

•
$$f_1^{(0)}(\xi) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int dy^- e^{-i\xi P^+ y^-} \langle P | \bar{\psi}_i(0, y^-, 0) \gamma^+ \psi_i(0) | P \rangle$$

• $g_{1L}^{(0)}(\xi) = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int dy^- e^{-i\xi P^+ y^-} \langle P, + |\bar{\psi}_i(0, y^-, 0)\gamma^+ \gamma_5 \psi_i(0)|P, + \rangle - \langle P, -|\bar{\psi}_i(0, y^-, 0)\gamma^+ \gamma_5 \psi_i(0)|P, - \rangle$

How does it work?



• The positive asymmetry from the gluon-gluon process offsets the negative asymmetry from quark-gluon scattering, ensuring a final asymmetry above zero;

Not Favor by Several Analysis



Figure 2: Double-helicity asymmetry for Higgs production at RHIC ($\sqrt{s} = 510 \text{ GeV}$) plotted as a function of the Higgs mass, with a linear (left) or logarithmic (right) scale on the vertical axis. The upper bands show A_{LL} as obtained for the gluon distribution shown in Fig. 1, while the lower bands provide the corresponding result for the sets of [7] with $\Delta g \geq 0$. In both plots, the dashed lines show the physical limit given by $|A_{\text{LL}}| = 1$.



- Violation of the positivity bounds could exhibit hard processes with unacceptable negative cross-sections, for example, the Higgs boson production;
- Negative gluon polarization solution cannot simultaneously account for high-x polarized DIS data along with lattice and polarized jet data.

Dijet Measurement at Intermediate Pseudorapidity







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Dijet Measurement at Intermediate Pseudorapidity







Challenge at Endcap Region



- TPC efficiency decreases in forward region;
- Fewer tracks means reconstructed jets will have lower p_T and jet mass on average;
- Inaccurate p_T reconstruction skews extraction of partonic momenta.

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Data and Simulation Comparisons



- Simulation with PYTHIA 6.4 Perugia2012, PARP(90) = 0.213, then going through a STAR detector response model based on GEANT 3, and then embedded into Zero-Bias data;
- Good agreement between data and simulation for single jet and dijet kinematic quantities.

Machine Learning Method



- Machine Learning: Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)
- Variables: Endcap jet detector level p_T , detector eta, neutral energy fraction, Barrel jet p_T
- Target: particle level jet p_T

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Apply the Correction to Data



- Barrel and Endcap jets are separately corrected in p_T and mass using similar methods;
- Dijet invariant masses are calculated using the corrected jet transverse momentum and mass from machine learning.

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New Results





- Different dijet topologies provide sensitivity to different kinematics: different sub-process fractions and sample x₁ and x₂ simultaneously in different ranges;
- Preliminary results for show good agreement with theoretical predictions with positive gluon polarization;
- Intermediate pseudorapidity results disfavor the negative gluon polarization from JAM group.





- RHIC has concluded the longitudinal polarized data taking;
- For almost two decades, the longitudinal polarization measurements contribute significantly to our understanding of the proton's spin structure;
- Several new results will soon to be published, which will provide new insight into the gluon helicity distributions.