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Measurement of $\Lambda \bar{\Lambda}$ spin correlation in proton-proton collisions at STAR

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Approximately fifty years ago, the polarization of Λ hyperons produced in unpolarized proton-beryllium collisions was discovered, though the origin of this phenomenon remains elusive. Many studies indicate that final-state effects, particularly from hadronization, play a significant role. Recently, it has been proposed that spin correlations of Λ hyperons could provide insight into the underlying mechanisms of Λ polarization. In this talk, we report the first experimental measurements of $\Lambda \bar{\Lambda}$, $\Lambda \Lambda$, and $\bar{\Lambda} \bar{\Lambda}$ spin-spin correlations in $p+p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV, as recorded by the STAR experiment in 2012. Both short-range ($|\Delta y| < 0.5$ and $|\Delta \phi| < \pi/3$) and long-range ($0.5 < |\Delta y| < 2.0$, or $\pi/3 < |\Delta \phi| < \pi$) Λ hyperon pairs were measured. We will discuss the implications of the measured spin-spin correlations in relation to the longstanding puzzle of Λ hyperon polarization, offering new insights into the hadronization of strange quarks.

Category

Experiment

Collaboration (if applicable)

STAR

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