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## Future prospects of di-jet production at forward rapidity constraining $\Delta g(x)$ at low $x$ in polarized $p + p$ collisions at RHIC

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One of the main objectives of the high-energy spin physics program at RHIC at BNL is the precise determination of

the polarized gluon distribution function,  $\Delta g(x)$ .

Polarized  $p + p$  collisions at

$\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV and at  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV at RHIC provide a unique way to probe the proton spin

structure using very well established processes in high-energy

physics, both experimentally and theoretically. Inclusive measurements, such as inclusive jet production and hadron production, have so far been the prime focus of various released

results at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV constraining  $\Delta g(x)$  for  $0.05 < x < 0.2$ .

A recent global analysis provides

for the first time evidence

of a non-zero value of the gluon polarization

$$\int_{0.05}^{0.2} \Delta g(x) dx (Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2) = 0.1^{+0.06}_{-0.07}.$$

First results of di-jet production at

$\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV by the STAR collaboration will allow a

better constraint of the underlying event kinematics.

Extending the current program to smaller values of  $x$  is a key goal

for the future high-energy spin physics program at RHIC. Forward di-jet production at the

STAR experiment beyond the current acceptance of  $-1 < \eta < +2$ , in

particular those carried out at  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV, provides access to low  $x$  values at the level of  $10^{-3}$  where current uncertainties of  $\Delta g(x)$  remain very large.

Recent STAR jet results constraining  $\Delta g(x)$  will be briefly summarized followed by

a detailed presentation of the physics case of forward di-jet production at  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV

for  $+2.5 < \eta < +4$  requiring an upgrade

of the STAR forward detection system. This includes a discussion of the kinematic coverage and

projected uncertainties for different di-jet topological configurations allowing

to optimize the underlying partonic asymmetries to probe  $\Delta g(x)$  below the

currently accessible  $x$  range as low as  $10^{-3}$  in  $x$ . Those measurements will eventually be complemented by a future Electron-Ion

Collider facility probing  $\Delta g(x)$  in polarized  $e + p$  collisions.

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