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Parton Dynamics at PHENIX

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Investigating partonic interactions is one of the primary goals of the PHENIX experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). RHIC is specially tailored for studying intrinsic partonic spin-momentum correlations due to its unique ability to collide polarized proton beams. Transverse single-spin asymmetries of order 10% have been measured in PHENIX at center of mass energies from 62.4 GeV to 200 GeV, similar to previous measurements. These results indicate that there exist partonic transverse momentum effects within the proton and/or within the process of hadronization. The MPC-EX, a new silicon-tungsten preshower detector at PHENIX, has taken data for the first time this year with the intent of shedding further light on the origins of these asymmetries. A review of the status of the detector and of future planned measurements will be presented. An overview of ongoing work by PHENIX aimed at measuring intrinsic partonic transverse momentum will be discussed.

Oral or Poster Presentation

Oral

Author: OSBORN, Joseph (University of Michigan)**Presenter:** OSBORN, Joseph (University of Michigan)**Session Classification:** QCD and Heavy Ions**Track Classification:** Heavy Ions