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The spin structure function of the proton at low x and low Q^2 from COMPASS

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We present COMPASS results on the longitudinal double-spin asymmetry, A_{11} , and the spin dependent structure function of the proton, g_{1p} , in the quasi-real photoproduction regime. Data were collected by scattering a longitudinally polarised

muon beam off a longitudinally polarised proton target. Two data sets with a beam energy of respectively 160 and 200 GeV were taken, which improve, once combined, the statistical precision on A_{11} and g_{1p} by a factor of 12 compared to the previous SMC experiment covering a similar kinematic region.

The high statistical precision allows A_{11} and g_{1p} to be measured in several 2-D grids, (x, Q^2) , (v, Q^2) , (x, v) and (Q^2, x) within the following kinematic domain: $4.0 \times 10^{-5} \leq x \leq 4.0 \times 10^{-2}$, $0.001 \leq Q^2 \leq 1 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ and $14 \leq v \leq 194 \text{ GeV}$. The presented measurements provide inputs to better constrain non-perturbative models of electroproduction.

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