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Recent PHENIX measurements sensitive to the gluon polarization in the proton

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Understanding the proton spin structure in terms of quark and gluon degrees of freedom is one of the key open questions in the field of hadron physics. Gluon helicity, $\Delta g(x)$, related measurements play an important role in solving this "Spin Puzzle". The polarized proton+proton collisions at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider provide unique opportunities for studying $\Delta g(x)$ by accessing it via a variety of probes through gluon-gluon or quark-gluon interactions at leading order. The double-helicity spin asymmetries (ALL) for $\pi 0$ and jet production were measured at PHENIX and STAR, respectively, in 2009 using polarized p + p collisions at 200 GeV center-of-mass energy, revealing for the first time evidence of nonzero $\Delta g(x)$ for Bjorken-x in the range 0.05 < x < 0.2. Yet $\Delta g(x)$ for x < 0.05 is still poorly constrained. In this talk, we will report recent PHENIX measurements sensitive to the gluon polarization. The $\pi 0$ ALL measurements at central rapidity ($|\eta| < 0.35$) at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV can provide constraints on gluon polarization down to x near 10–2. At forward rapidity (1.2 < |y| < 2.2), also at 510 GeV, the measurement of ALL for J/ ψ production has sensitivity to $\Delta g(x)$ for $x \approx 2 \times 10-3$.

Presenter: YU, Haiwang (New Mexico State University) **Session Classification:** Helicity

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