

Measurement of Double Helicity Asymmetry in Multi-Particle Production with Polarized Proton-Proton Collision at PHENIX

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Abstract. A goal of the PHENIX experiment is to obtain the polarized gluon distribution function in the proton. Double helicity asymmetry in multi-particle production at midrapidity region with polarized proton-proton collision is measured at midrapidity with RHIC Run 2005 data. This result excludes the maximum positive gluon polarization (“GRSV-max”).

Keywords: Proton Spin Structure, Polarized Gluon Distribution Function

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INTRODUCTION

Polarized deep inelastic lepton-hadron scattering experiments revealed that the contribution of the quark spin to the proton spin is only 20-30% [1][2]. The remaining component can be carried by the gluon spin and the angular momenta of quarks and gluons. One of the goals of the PHENIX experiment is to obtain the contribution of the gluon spin, namely the polarized gluon distribution function in the proton, $\Delta g(x)$. $\Delta g(x)$ is evaluated by measuring double helicity asymmetry, A_{LL} , of reactions in longitudinally-polarized proton-proton collisions, for example, jet, π^0 or direct photon productions. A jet is measured as a cluster of multiple particles. The particle cluster measurement gives higher statistics at high transverse momentum (p_T) than single particle measurements such as π^0 . A_{LL} is defined as

$$A_{LL} = \frac{1}{|P_B||P_Y|} \frac{N_{++} - RN_{+-}}{N_{++} + RN_{+-}}. \quad (1)$$

Here, N_{++} and N_{+-} are the number of measured particle clusters with same and opposite beam helicities, respectively; $R \equiv L_{++}/L_{+-}$ is relative luminosity; and P_B and P_Y are beam polarizations.

EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We used proton-proton collision data taken in 2005 at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV with an average beam polarization of $\sim 46\%$. The integrated luminosity of analyzed data is 2.2 pb^{-1} . The PHENIX Central Arm detectors were used. Two arms are positioned almost back to back, and each arm covers the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 0.35$ and the 90-degree azimuthal angle. Photons with $p_T > 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$ were measured with electromagnetic calorimeters, and an electromagnetic-shower-shape cut and an charged-track-matching

veto were applied to eliminate clusters made by charged particles. Charged particles with $0.4 < p_T < 4$ GeV/c were measured with drift chambers and pad chambers. For each event a high- p_T (> 2 GeV/c) photon was required to exist so that the efficiency of high- p_T -photon trigger becomes p_T independent.

METHODS OF PARTICLE CLUSTER MEASUREMENT

Particles that satisfied the experimental selections were clustered by a cone method. Starting from each particle in an event as a seed, an iterative procedure was used to define a cone around a cluster of particles. The cone radius R ($= \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2}$) was set to 0.3. The transverse momentum of the cone, p_T^{cone} , was defined as the vector sum of the transverse momenta of the particles in the cone;

$$p_T^{\text{cone}} \equiv \left| \sum_{i \in \text{cone}} \vec{p}_{Ti} \right| \quad (2)$$

The cone that gives the largest p_T^{cone} in an event was used in the event.

The relationship between p_T^{cone} and p_T^{jet} was evaluated with PYTHIA and GEANT simulations [3]. From two hard-scattered partons in PYTHIA jet event we selected one parton closer in R to cone axis, and adopted p_T of the parton as p_T of jet. We used PYTHIA version 6.220 with the ‘‘Rick Field MPI tune A’’ setting [4]. We have confirmed that the simulation reproduced the event shape, such as particle multiplicity, one-sided thrust in the PHENIX Central Arm acceptance and particle p_T density, reasonably well [3].

The largest systematic uncertainty in this measurement is an uncertainty on the p_T scale difference between measurement and theory. It originates in the fact that a jet is defined with cone at hadron level in measurement and at parton level in theory. In ALL measurement we assigned the p_T scale uncertainty 10%, by which the p_T scale in theory varies when a theory cone size is changed in a typical range. We could checked the p_T scale uncertainty by measuring cross section or a similar quantity because the difference in p_T scale appears as a shift of cross section curve.

The requirement of a high- p_T photon causes a bias on the fractions of jet production subprocesses (quark-quark, quark-gluon and gluon-gluon reactions). This effect was estimated using PYTHIA. In general, the gluon-gluon reaction is suppressed particularly at low p_T . No systematic uncertainty on it has been assigned because this effect is much smaller than other systematic uncertainties.

RESULT

Figure 1 shows yield per luminosity of particle cluster with high- p_T photon trigger in the PHENIX Central Arm acceptance as a function of p_T^{cone} . The real data is drawn as red points with systematic errors as a gray band. The main systematic errors on real data are luminosity uncertainty (10%) and EMCAL energy scale uncertainty (5%). The predicted ones are drawn as three black lines, which are based on the NLO jet cross

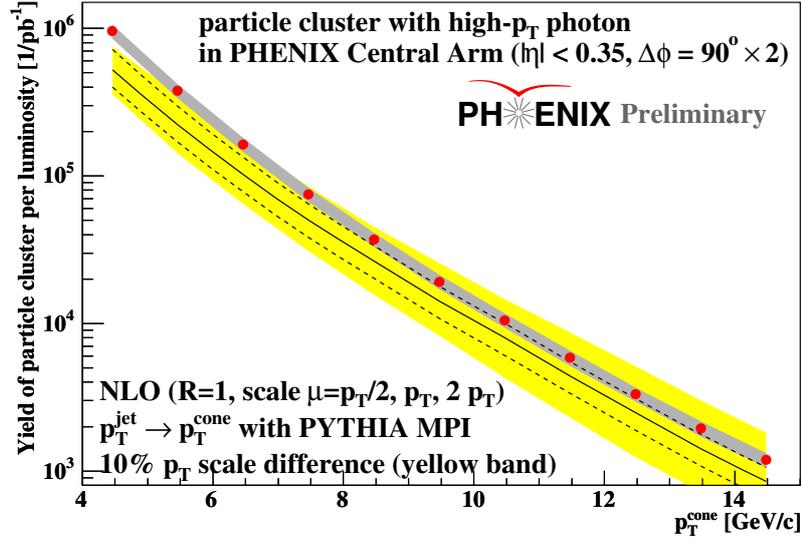


FIGURE 1. Yield per luminosity of particle clusters. **Red points:** real data with systematic error as gray band. **Black lines:** predicted ones evaluated with the NLO jet cross section [5] and the $p_T^{\text{jet}}-p_T^{\text{cone}}$ relationship. **Yellow band:** deviation of solid line by $\pm 10\%$ p_T scale variation.

section with $R = 1$ at $|\eta| < 0.35$ [5] and the $p_T^{\text{jet}}-p_T^{\text{cone}}$ relationship. The yellow band shows the deviation of the black solid line caused by a $\pm 10\%$ p_T scale variation. The difference in the yield per luminosity between the real data and the predicted one doesn't exceed the deviation.

Figure 2 shows the A_{LL} of particle cluster production as a function of p_T^{cone} . The predicted A_{LL} 's are drawn as black lines, which are based on the NLO jet A_{LL} with $R = 1$ at $|\eta| < 0.35$ [5], the three $\Delta g(x)$ models [6] and the $p_T^{\text{jet}}-p_T^{\text{cone}}$ relationship. The yellow band shows the 10% p_T scale uncertainty. This result excluded the “GRSV-max” case and indicated a similar probability for the “GRSV-std” and “ $\Delta g = 0$ input” cases.

CONCLUSIONS

Double helicity asymmetry in multi-particle production was measured at midrapidity region ($\eta < 0.35$) at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV. The analyzed data were taken in 2005 with $L = 2.2 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ and $\bar{P} \sim 46\%$. The relationship between p_T^{jet} and p_T^{cone} was evaluated with the PYTHIA and GEANT simulations. The systematic uncertainty on A_{LL} was assigned 10% due to the p_T scale difference between measurement and theory. This result excluded the “GRSV-max” case and indicated a similar probability for the “GRSV-std” and “ $\Delta g = 0$ input” cases. It will make stronger constraint on $\Delta g(x)$ with further statistics.

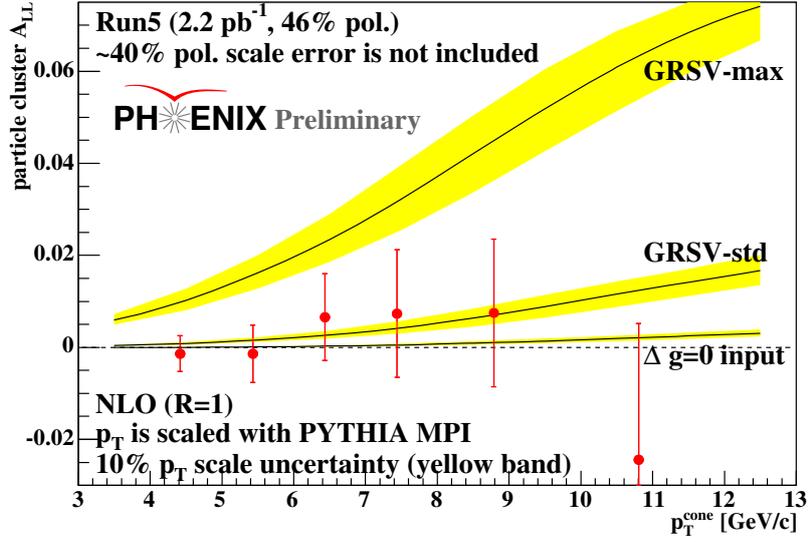


FIGURE 2. Particle cluster A_{LL} . **Red points:** real data. **Black lines:** predicted ones evaluated with the NLO jet A_{LL} [5], the three $\Delta g(x)$ models [6] and the $p_T^{\text{jet}}-p_T^{\text{cone}}$ relationship. **Yellow band:** systematic uncertainty on p_T scale difference between measurement and theory.

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