

# QCD spin physics: Status and prospects for relativistic heavy-ion collider

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**Abstract.** We review some of the recent developments in QCD spin physics and highlight the spin physics program now underway at RHIC.

**Keywords.** Spin structure of the nucleon; polarized proton–proton scattering; perturbative QCD.

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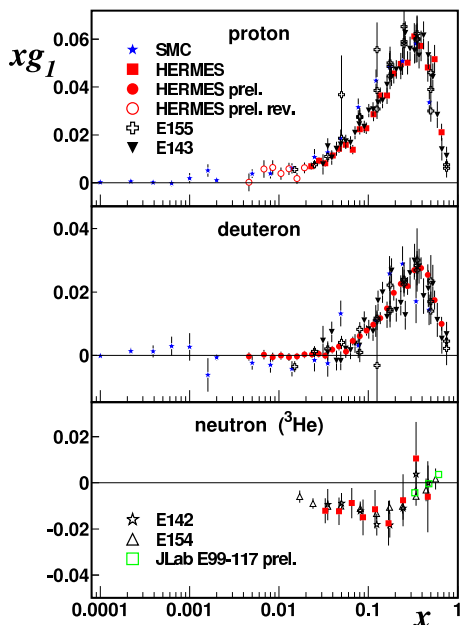
## 1. Introduction

For many years now, spin has played a very prominent role in QCD. The field of QCD spin physics has been carried by the hugely successful experimental program of polarized deeply inelastic lepton–nucleon scattering (DIS), and by a simultaneous tremendous progress in theory. This talk summarizes some of the interesting new developments in the past two years. As we will see, there have yet again been exciting new data from polarized lepton–nucleon scattering, but also from the world’s first polarized  $pp$  collider, RHIC. There have been very significant advances in theory as well. It will not be possible to cover all developments. I will select those topics that may be of great interest to the attendees of a high-energy physics phenomenology conference.

## 2. Nucleon helicity structure

### 2.1 *What we have learned so far*

Until a few years ago, polarized inclusive DIS played the dominant role in QCD spin physics [1]. At the center of attention was the nucleon’s spin structure function  $g_1(x, Q^2)$ . Figure 1 shows a recent compilation [2] of the world data on  $g_1(x, Q^2)$ . These data have provided much interesting information about the nucleon and



**Figure 1.** Data on the spin structure function  $g_1$ , as compiled and shown in [2].

QCD. For example, they have given direct access to the helicity-dependent parton distribution functions of the nucleon,

$$\Delta f(x, Q^2) = f^+ - f^- \quad (f = q, \bar{q}, g), \tag{1}$$

which count the numbers of partons with same helicity as the nucleon, minus opposite. Polarized DIS actually measures the combinations  $\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}$ . From  $x \rightarrow 0$  extrapolation of the structure functions for proton and neutron targets it has been possible to test and confirm the Bjorken sum rule [3]. Polarized DIS data, when combined with input from hadronic  $\beta$  decays, have allowed to extract the – unexpectedly small – nucleon’s axial charge  $\sim \langle P | \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi | P \rangle$ , which is identified with the quark spin contribution to the nucleon spin [1].

## 2.2 Things we would like to know

The results from polarized inclusive DIS have also led us to identify the next important goals in our quest for understanding the spin structure of the nucleon. The measurement of gluon polarization  $\Delta g = g^+ - g^-$  rightly is the main emphasis at several experiments in spin physics today, since  $\Delta g$  could be a major contributor to the nucleon spin. Also, more detailed understanding of polarized quark distributions is clearly needed; for example, we would like to know about flavor symmetry breakings in the polarized nucleon sea, details about strange quark polarization, the relations to the  $F, D$  values extracted from baryon  $\beta$  decays, and also about

the small- $x$  and large- $x$  behavior of the densities. Again, these questions are being addressed by current experiments. Finally, we would like to find out how much orbital angular momentum quarks and gluons contribute to the nucleon spin. Ji showed [4] that their total angular momenta may be extracted from deeply-virtual Compton scattering, which has sparked much experimental activity also in this area.

### 2.3 Current experiments in high-energy spin physics

There are several fixed-target lepton–nucleon scattering experiments around the world with dedicated spin physics programs. I will mention those that play a role in this talk: HERMES at DESY uses HERA’s 27.5 GeV polarized electron beam on polarized targets. They have recently completed a run with a transversely polarized target. Semi-inclusive DIS (SIDIS) measurements are one particular strength of HERMES. COMPASS at CERN uses a 160 GeV polarized muon beam. A major emphasis is measuring gluon polarization. There is also a very large spin program at Jefferson Lab, involving several experiments. Large- $x$  structure functions and the DVCS reaction are just two of the many objectives there. For the more distant future, there are plans to develop a polarized electron–proton *collider* at BNL, eRHIC [5].

A new milestone has been reached in spin physics by the advent of the first polarized proton–proton collider, RHIC at BNL. By now, two physics runs with polarized protons colliding at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV have been completed, and exciting first results are emerging. We will see examples in this talk. All components crucial for the initial phase of the spin program with beam polarization up to 50% are in place [6]. This is true for the accelerator (polarized source, Siberian snakes, polarimetry by proton-carbon and by  $pp$  elastic scattering off a jet target) as well as for the detectors. RHIC presently brings to collision 55 bunches with a polarization pattern  $\cdots + + - - + + \cdots$  in one ring and  $\cdots + - + - + - \cdots$  in the other, which amounts to collisions with different spin combinations every 212 ns. It has been possible to maintain polarization with a life-time of about 10 h. There is still need for improvements in polarization and luminosity for future runs. The two larger RHIC experiments, PHENIX and STAR, have dedicated spin programs focusing on precise measurements of  $\Delta g$ , quark polarizations by flavor, phenomena with transverse spin, and others. A smaller experiment, BRAHMS, investigates single-spin asymmetries. The pp2pp experiment studies elastic  $pp$  scattering.

### 2.4 Accessing gluon polarization $\Delta g$

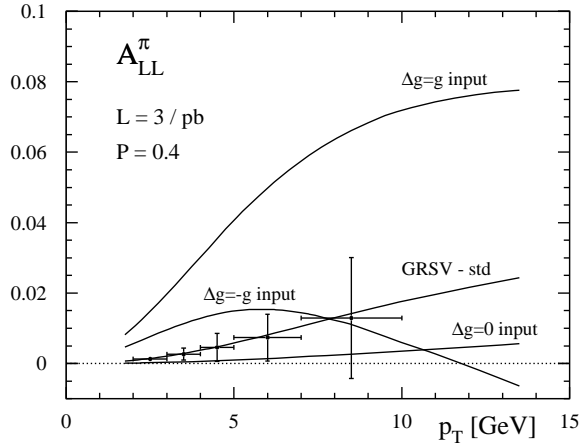
As mentioned above, the measurement of  $\Delta g$  is the main goal of several experiments. The gluon density affects the  $Q^2$ -evolution of the structure function  $g_1(x, Q^2)$ , but the limited lever arm in  $Q^2$  available so far has left  $\Delta g$  virtually unconstrained [7–9]. One way to access  $\Delta g$  in lepton–nucleon scattering is therefore to look at a less inclusive final state that is particularly sensitive to gluons in the initial

state. One channel, to be investigated by COMPASS in particular [10], is heavy-flavor production via the photon–gluon fusion process. An alternative reaction is  $ep \rightarrow h^+h^-X$ , where the two hadrons in the final state have large transverse momentum [10,11].

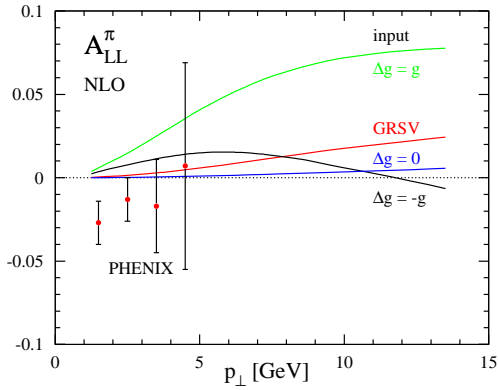
RHIC will likely dominate the measurements of  $\Delta g$ . Several different processes will be investigated [12] that are sensitive to gluon polarization: high- $p_\perp$  prompt photons  $pp \rightarrow \gamma X$ , jet or hadron production  $pp \rightarrow \text{jet}X$ ,  $pp \rightarrow hX$ , and heavy-flavor production  $pp \rightarrow (Q\bar{Q})X$ . In addition, besides the current  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV, also  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV will be available at a later stage. All this will allow us to determine  $\Delta g(x, Q^2)$  in various regions of  $x$ , and at different scales. One can compare the  $\Delta g$  extracted in the various channels, and hence check its universality implied by factorization theorems. The latter state that cross-sections at high  $p_\perp$  (which implies large momentum transfer) may be factorized into universal (process-independent) long-distance pieces that contain the desired information on the (spin) structure of the nucleon, and short-distance parts that describe the hard interactions of the partons and are amenable to QCD perturbation theory (pQCD). For example, for the reaction  $pp \rightarrow \pi X$  one has:

$$d\Delta\sigma^\pi = \sum_{a,b,c} \Delta a \otimes \Delta b \otimes d\Delta\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^c \otimes D_c^\pi, \quad (2)$$

where  $\otimes$  denotes a convolution and where the sum is over all contributing partonic channels  $a + b \rightarrow c + X$ , with  $d\Delta\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^c$  the associated spin-dependent partonic cross-section. The  $\Delta a, \Delta b$  ( $a, b = q, \bar{q}, g$ ) are the polarized parton densities, and the transition of parton  $c$  into the observed  $\pi^0$  is described by the (spin-independent) fragmentation function  $D_c^\pi$ . We emphasize that all tools are in place now for treating the spin reactions relevant at RHIC to next-to-leading order (NLO) pQCD [13–16]. NLO corrections significantly improve the theoretical framework; it is known from experience with the unpolarized case that the corrections are indispensable in order to arrive at quantitative predictions for hadronic cross-sections. For instance, the dependence on factorization and renormalization scales in the calculation is much reduced when going to NLO. Therefore, only with knowledge of the NLO corrections will one be able to extract  $\Delta g$  reliably. Figure 2 shows NLO predictions [13] for the double-longitudinal spin asymmetry  $A_{LL} = d\Delta\sigma/d\sigma$  for the reaction  $pp \rightarrow \pi X$  at RHIC, using various currently allowed parametrizations [7] of  $\Delta g(x, Q^2)$ . It also shows the statistical error bars expected for a measurement by PHENIX under the rather conservative assumptions of 40% beam polarizations and 3/pb integrated luminosity. Such numbers are targeted for the early RHIC runs. Recently, first results for  $A_{LL}$  in  $pp \rightarrow \pi X$  have indeed been reported by PHENIX [17], albeit obtained with lower polarization and luminosity. The results are shown in figure 3, along with the theoretical predictions that were already displayed in figure 2. Interestingly, the data are consistent with a significant (up to a few per cent) negative asymmetry in the region  $p_\perp \sim 1 \div 4$  GeV, contrary to all predictions shown in the figure. Even though the experimental uncertainties are still large and leave room for a different behavior of  $A_{LL}^\pi$ , the new data give motivation to entertain the unexpected possibility of  $A_{LL}^\pi$  being negative. As it turns out [18], within pQCD at leading power, there is a lower bound on the asymmetry of about  $-10^{-3}$ .



**Figure 2.** NLO predictions [13] for the spin asymmetry in  $pp \rightarrow \pi X$  at RHIC, for various  $\Delta g$ . The ‘error bars’ are projections of the uncertainties that can be reached with 40% beam polarizations and 3/pb integrated luminosity.



**Figure 3.** PHENIX data [17] for the spin asymmetry  $A_{LL}^\pi$ , along with the NLO predictions from the previous figure.

To demonstrate this, we consider the LO cross-section integrated over all pion rapidities  $\eta$  and take Mellin moments in  $x_T^2 = 4p_\perp^2/S$  of the cross-section (eq. (2)):

$$\Delta\sigma^\pi(N) \equiv \int_0^1 dx_T^2 (x_T^2)^{N-1} \frac{p_\perp^3 d\Delta\sigma^\pi}{dp_\perp}. \quad (3)$$

One finds

$$\Delta\sigma^\pi(N) = \sum_{a,b,c} \Delta a^{N+1} \Delta b^{N+1} \Delta \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{c,N} D_c^{\pi,2N+3}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\Delta \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{c,N}$  are the  $\hat{x}_T^2$ -moments of the partonic cross-sections and, as usual,

$f^N \equiv \int_0^1 dx x^{N-1} f(x)$  for the parton distribution and fragmentation functions. Explicitly, the dependence on the moments  $\Delta g^N$  of the polarized gluon density is

$$\Delta\sigma^\pi(N) = (\Delta g^{N+1})^2 \mathcal{A}^N + 2\Delta g^{N+1} \mathcal{B}^N + \mathcal{C}^N . \quad (5)$$

Here,  $\mathcal{A}^N$  represents the contributions from  $gg \rightarrow gg$  and  $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}^N$  the ones from  $qg \rightarrow qg$ , and  $\mathcal{C}^N$  those from the (anti)quark scatterings.

Being a quadratic form in  $\Delta g^{N+1}$ ,  $\Delta\sigma^\pi(N)$  possesses an extremum, given by the condition [18]

$$\mathcal{A}^N \Delta g^{N+1} = -\mathcal{B}^N . \quad (6)$$

The coefficient  $\mathcal{A}^N$  is positive, and eq. (6) describes a minimum of  $\Delta\sigma^\pi(N)$ , with value

$$\Delta\sigma^\pi(N) \Big|_{\min} = -(\mathcal{B}^N)^2 / \mathcal{A}^N + \mathcal{C}^N . \quad (7)$$

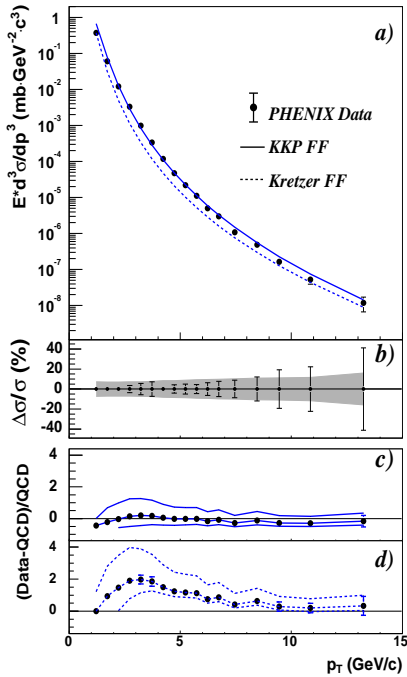
It is then straightforward to perform a numerical Mellin inversion of this minimal cross-section. The minimal asymmetry resulting from this exercise is negative indeed, but very small: in the range  $p_\perp \sim 1 \div 4$  GeV its absolute value does not exceed  $10^{-3}$ . The  $\Delta g$  in eq. (6) that minimizes the asymmetry has a node and is small, except at large  $x$  [18].

Even though some approximations have been made in deriving the bound in eq. (7), it does exhibit the basic difficulty with a sizable negative  $A_{LL}^\pi$  at moderate  $p_\perp$ : the fact that the cross-section is a quadratic form in  $\Delta g$  effectively means that it is bounded from below. Effects like NLO corrections, choice of scales, and realistic range of rapidity may be thoroughly addressed in a ‘global’ NLO analysis of the data, taking into account the results from polarized DIS as well. Such an analysis has been performed in [18], and it confirms the findings of the simple example above.

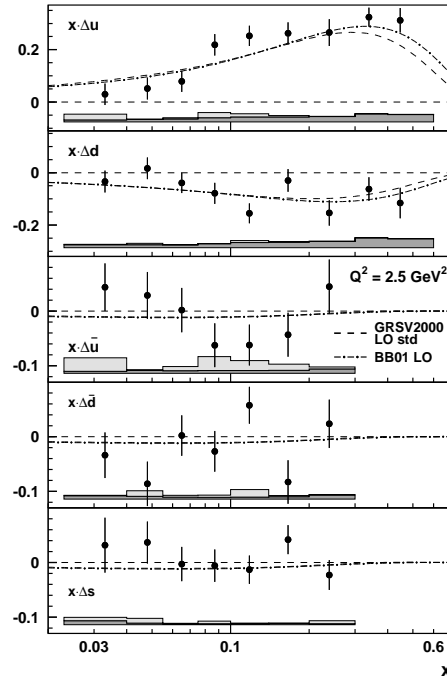
What should one conclude if future, more precise, data will indeed confirm a sizable negative  $A_{LL}^\pi$ ? Corrections to eq. (2) as such are down by inverse powers of  $1/p_\perp$ . Since  $p_\perp$  is not too large, such power-suppressed contributions might well be significant. On the other hand, comparisons of unpolarized  $\pi^0$  spectra measured at RHIC with NLO QCD calculations do not exhibit any compelling trace of non-leading power effects even down to fairly low  $p_\perp \gtrsim 1$  GeV, within the uncertainties of the calculation. This is shown in figure 4. Clearly, such results provide confidence that the theoretical hard scattering framework used for figures 2, 3 is indeed adequate. It is conceivable that the spin-dependent cross-section with its fairly tedious cancellations has larger power-suppressed contributions than the unpolarized one.

## 2.5 Further information on quark polarizations

As mentioned earlier, inclusive DIS via photon exchange only gives access to the combinations  $\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}$ . There are at least two ways to distinguish between quark and antiquark polarizations, and also to achieve a flavor separation. Semi-inclusive

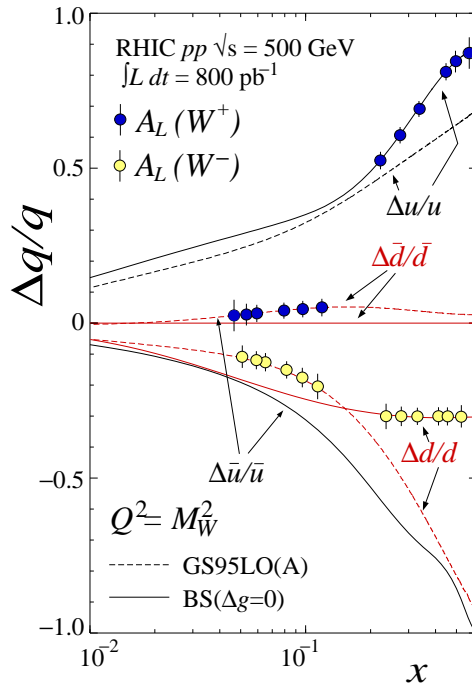


**Figure 4.** PHENIX data [19] for the unpolarized  $pp \rightarrow \pi^0 X$  cross-section at RHIC, compared to NLO calculations [13]. The plot has been taken from [19].



**Figure 5.** Recent HERMES results [21] for the quark and antiquark polarizations extracted from semi-inclusive DIS.

measurements in DIS are one possibility, explored by SMC [20] and, more recently and with higher precision, by HERMES [21]. One detects a hadron in the final state, so that instead of  $\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}$  the polarized DIS cross-section becomes sensitive to  $\Delta q(x)D_q^h(z) + \Delta \bar{q}(x)D_{\bar{q}}^h(z)$ , for a given quark flavor. Here, the  $D_i^h(z)$  are fragmentation functions, with  $z = E^h/\nu$ . Figure 5 shows the latest results on the flavor separation by HERMES [21], obtained from their LO Monte-Carlo based ‘purity’ analysis. Within the still fairly large uncertainties, they are not inconsistent with the large negative polarization of  $\Delta \bar{u} = \Delta \bar{d} = \Delta \bar{s}$  in the sea that has been implemented in many determinations of polarized parton distributions from inclusive DIS data [7,8] (see curves in figure 5). On the other hand, there is no evidence either for a large negative strange quark polarization. For the region  $0.023 < x < 0.3$ , the extracted  $\Delta s$  integrates [21] to the value  $+0.03 \pm 0.03$  (stat.)  $\pm 0.01$  (sys.), while analyses of inclusive DIS typically prefer an integral of about  $-0.025$ . There is much theory activity currently on SIDIS, focusing also on possible systematic improvements to the analysis method employed in [21], among them NLO corrections, target fragmentation, and higher twist contributions [22]. At RHIC [23] one will use  $W^\pm$  production to determine  $\Delta q, \Delta \bar{q}$ , making use of parity-violation. Figure 6 shows the expected precision with which it will be possible to determine the light quark and antiquark polarizations. Comparisons of such data taken at much higher



**Figure 6.** Expected sensitivity [12,23] for the flavor decomposition of quark and antiquark polarizations at RHIC.

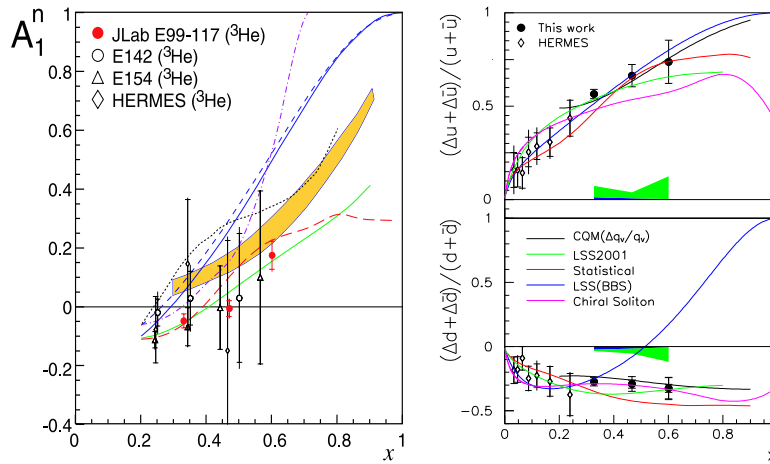
scales with those from SIDIS will be extremely interesting.

New interesting information on the polarized quark densities has also recently been obtained at high  $x$ . The Hall A collaboration at JLab has published their data for the neutron asymmetry  $A_1^n$  [24], which is shown in figure 7. The new data points show a clear trend for  $A_1^n$  to turn positive at large  $x$ . Such data are valuable because the valence region is a particularly useful testing ground for models of nucleon structure. Figure 7 also shows the extracted valence polarization asymmetries. The data are consistent with constituent quark models [25] predicting  $\Delta d/d \rightarrow -1/3$  at large  $x$ , while ‘hadron helicity conservation’ predictions based on perturbative QCD and the neglect of quark orbital angular momentum [26] give  $\Delta d/d \rightarrow 1$  and tend to deviate from the data, unless the convergence to 1 sets in very late.

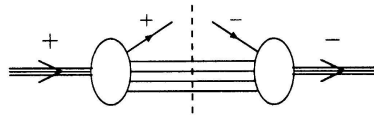
### 3. Transverse-spin phenomena

#### 3.1 *Transversity*

Besides the unpolarized and the helicity-dependent densities, there is a third set of twist-2 parton distributions, called transversity [27]. In analogy with eq. (1) they



**Figure 7.** Left: Recent data on  $A_1^n$  from the E99-117 experiment [24]. Right: extracted polarization asymmetries for  $u + \bar{u}$  and  $d + \bar{d}$ . For more details and references on the various model predictions, see [24].



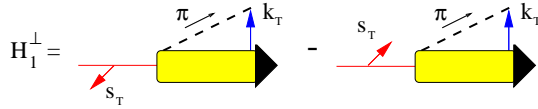
**Figure 8.** Transversity in helicity basis.

measure the net number (parallel minus anti-parallel) of partons with transverse polarization in a transversely polarized nucleon:

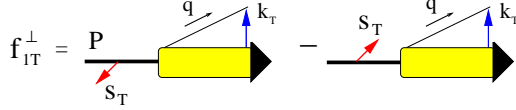
$$\delta f(x, Q^2) = f^\uparrow - f^\downarrow. \quad (8)$$

In a helicity basis, one finds [27] that transversity corresponds to a helicity-flip structure, as shown in figure 8. This precludes a gluon transversity distribution at leading twist. It also makes transversity a probe of chiral symmetry breaking in QCD [28]: perturbative-QCD interactions preserve chirality, and so the helicity flip required to make transversity non-zero must primarily come from soft non-perturbative interactions for which chiral symmetry is broken [28].

Measurements of transversity are not straightforward. Again the fact that perturbative interactions in the standard model do not change chirality (or, for massless quarks, helicity) means that inclusive DIS is not useful. Collins [29], however, showed that properties of fragmentation might be exploited to obtain a ‘transversity polarimeter’: a pion produced in fragmentation will have some transverse momentum with respect to the momentum of the transversely polarized fragmenting parent quark. There may then be a correlation of the form  $i\vec{S}_T \cdot (\vec{P}_\pi \times \vec{k}_\perp)$ . The fragmentation function associated with this correlation is the Collins function. The phase is required by time-reversal invariance. The situation is depicted in figure 9. The Collins function would make a *leading-power* [29] contribution to the single-spin asymmetry  $A_\perp$  in the reaction  $ep^\uparrow \rightarrow e\pi X$ :



**Figure 9.** The Collins function.



**Figure 10.** The Sivers function.

$$A_{\perp} \propto |\vec{S}_T| \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \sum_q e_q^2 \delta q(x) H_1^{\perp, q}(z), \quad (9)$$

where  $\phi$  ( $\phi_S$ ) is the angle between the lepton plane and the  $(\gamma^*\pi)$  plane (and the transverse target spin). We note that very recently a proof for the factorization formula for SIDIS at small transverse momentum was presented [30]. As is evident from eq. (9), the asymmetry would allow access to transversity if the Collins functions are non-vanishing. A few years ago, HERMES measured the asymmetry for a longitudinally polarized target [31]. For finite  $Q$ , the target spin then has a transverse component  $\propto M/Q$  relative to the direction of the virtual photon, and the effect may still be there, even though it is now only one of the several ‘higher twist’ contributions [32].

### 3.2 The Sivers function

If ‘intrinsic’ transverse momentum in the fragmentation process plays a crucial role in the asymmetry for  $ep^{\uparrow} \rightarrow e\pi X$ , a natural question is whether  $k_{\perp}$  in the initial state can be relevant as well. Sivers [33] suggested that the  $k_{\perp}$  distribution of a quark in a transversely polarized hadron could have an azimuthal asymmetry,  $\vec{S}_T \cdot (\vec{P} \times \vec{k}_{\perp})$ , as shown in figure 10. There is a qualitative difference between the Collins and Sivers functions, however. While phases will always arise in strong interaction final-state fragmentation, one does not expect them from initial (stable) hadrons, and the Sivers function appears to be ruled out by time-reversal invariance of QCD [29]. Until recently, it was therefore widely believed that origins of single-spin asymmetries as in  $ep^{\uparrow} \rightarrow e\pi X$  and other reactions were more likely to be found in final-state fragmentation effects than in initial-state parton distributions. However, then came a model calculation [34] that found a leading-power asymmetry in  $ep^{\uparrow} \rightarrow e\pi X$  not associated with the Collins effect. It was subsequently realized [35–37] that the calculation of [34] could also be regarded as a model for the Sivers effect. It turned out that the original time-reversal argument against the Sivers function is invalidated by the presence of the Wilson lines in the operators defining the parton density. These are required by gauge invariance and had been neglected in [29]. Under time reversal, however, future-pointing Wilson lines turn into past-

pointing ones, which changes the time reversal properties of the Sivers function and allows it to be non-vanishing. Now, for a ‘standard’,  $k_{\perp}$ -integrated, parton density the gauge link contribution is unity in the  $A^+ = 0$  gauge, so one may wonder how it can be relevant for the Sivers function. The point, however, is that for the case of  $k_{\perp}$ -dependent parton densities, a gauge link survives even in the light-cone gauge, in a transverse direction at light-cone component  $\xi^- = \infty$  [36,37]. Thus, time reversal indeed does not imply that the Sivers function vanishes. The same is true for a function describing transversity in an unpolarized hadron [38]. It is intriguing that these new results are based entirely on the Wilson lines in QCD. Another aspect to the physics importance of the Sivers function is the fact that it arises as an interference of wave functions with angular momenta  $J_z = \pm 1/2$  and hence contains information on parton orbital angular momentum [34,39].

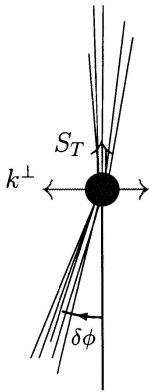
### 3.3 Implications for phenomenology

If the Sivers function is non-vanishing, it will for example make a leading-power contribution to  $ep^{\uparrow} \rightarrow e\pi X$ , of the form

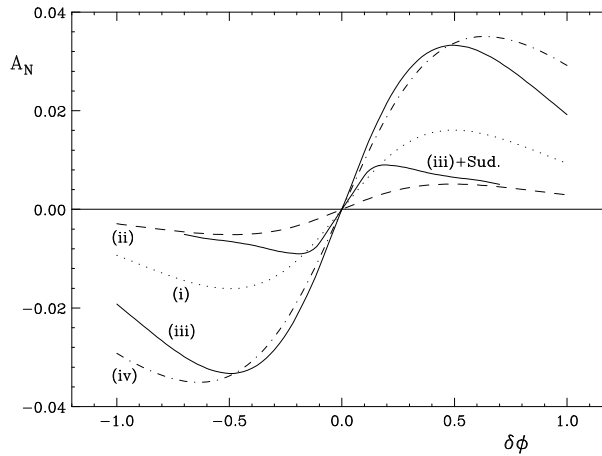
$$A_{\perp} \propto |\vec{S}_T| \sin(\phi - \phi_S) \sum_q e_q^2 f_{1T}^{\perp,q}(x) D_q^{\pi}(z). \quad (10)$$

This is in competition with the Collins function contribution, eq. (9); however, the azimuthal angular dependence is discernibly different. HERMES has recently completed an analysis of their data obtained in a run with transverse target polarization, and preliminary results have been presented, indicating contributions from both the Collins and the Sivers effects [40]. A detailed study [41] suggests the surprising feature that the flavor-non-favored Collins functions appear to be equally important as the favored ones. COMPASS, on the other hand, recently reported results for the Collins asymmetries from a deuteron target, that are consistent with zero, within statistics [42]. We note that the Collins function may also be determined separately from an azimuthal asymmetry in  $e^+e^-$  annihilation [43]. It was pointed out [35–37] that comparisons of DIS and the Drell–Yan process will be particularly interesting: from the properties of the Wilson lines it follows that the Sivers functions relevant in DIS and in the Drell–Yan process have opposite sign, violating universality of the distribution functions. This process dependence is a unique prediction of QCD. It is entirely calculable and awaits experimental testing. For work on the process (in)dependence of the Collins function, see [37,44]; recent model calculations of the function in the context of the gauge links may be found in [41,45].

A single-spin asymmetry in  $pp$  scattering was identified recently [46] that also belongs to the class of ‘leading-power’ observables and may give access to Sivers functions. The reaction considered was the inclusive production of jet pairs,  $pp^{\uparrow} \rightarrow \text{jet}_1 \text{jet}_2 X$ , for which the two jets are nearly back-to-back when projected into the plane perpendicular to the direction of the beams, which is equivalent to the jets being separated by nearly  $\Delta\phi \equiv \phi_{j_2} - \phi_{j_1} = \pi$  in azimuth. This requirement makes the jet pairs sensitive to a small measured transverse momentum, and hence allows the single-spin asymmetry for the process to be of leading power. The



**Figure 11.** Asymmetric jet correlation. The proton beams run perpendicular to the drawing.



**Figure 12.** Predictions [46] for the spin asymmetry  $A_N$  for back-to-back dijet production at RHIC, for various different models for the gluon Sivers function. Note that  $\delta\phi = \Delta\phi - \pi = 0$ , where  $\Delta\phi$  is the azimuthal separation of the jets. The solid line marked as ‘(iii)+Sud.’ shows the impact of leading logarithmic Sudakov effects on the asymmetry curve (iii).

basic idea is very simple. The Sivers function represents a correlation of the form  $\mathbf{S}_T \cdot (\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{k}^\perp)$  between the transverse proton polarization vector, its momentum, and the transverse momentum of the parton relative to the proton direction. In other words, if there is a Sivers-type correlation then there will be a preference for partons to have a component of intrinsic transverse momentum to one side, perpendicular to both  $\mathbf{S}_T$  and  $\mathbf{P}$ . Suppose now for simplicity that one observes a jet in the direction of the proton polarization vector, as shown in figure 11. A ‘left–right’ imbalance in  $\mathbf{k}^\perp$  of the parton will then affect the  $\Delta\phi$  distribution of jets nearly opposite to the first jet and give the cross-section an asymmetric piece around  $\Delta\phi = \pi$ . The spin asymmetry  $A_N$  for this process will extract this piece and give direct access to the Sivers function. In contrast to SIDIS, it is rather sensitive to the non-valence contributions to the Sivers effect, in particular the *gluon* Sivers function [46].

Figure 12 shows some predictions for the spin asymmetry in this reaction. Since nothing is known about the size of the gluon Sivers function, some simple models were made for it [46], based on earlier studies of [47] for the valence quark Sivers distributions. For details, see [46]. One can see that sizable asymmetries are by all means possible. Near  $\delta\phi = \Delta\phi - \pi = 0$ , however, gluon radiation is kinematically inhibited, and the standard cancellations of infrared singularities between virtual and real diagrams lead to large logarithmic remainders in the partonic hard-scattering cross-sections. It is possible to resum these Sudakov logarithms to all orders in  $\alpha_s$ . This was done at the level of leading logarithms in [46], for both the numerator and

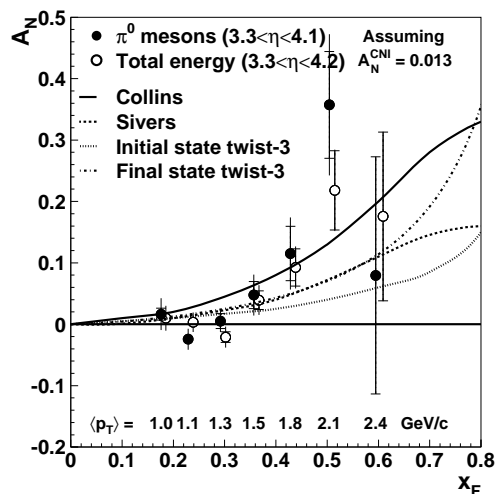
the denominator of the asymmetry. As the analysis revealed, Sudakov effects lead to a significant suppression of the asymmetry, as is also visible from the solid lines in figure 12. This finding does not necessarily mean, however, that the asymmetry must be small, since as we pointed out before, the gluon Sivers function is entirely unknown and could well be larger than in the models assumed for figure 12. In any case, any sign in experiment of a back-to-back asymmetry will be definitive evidence for the Sivers effect. We note that for the back-to-back dijet distribution, the issue of whether or not factorization occurs still remains to be investigated.

Originally, the Sivers function was proposed [33] as a means to understand and describe the significant single-spin asymmetries  $A_N$  observed [48] in  $p^\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi X$ , with the pion at high  $p_\perp$ . These are *inclusive* ‘left–right’ asymmetries and may be generated by the Sivers function from the effects of the quark intrinsic transverse momentum  $k_\perp$  on the partonic hard-scattering which has a steep  $p_\perp$  dependence. The resulting asymmetry  $A_N$  is then power-suppressed as  $\sim \langle k_\perp \rangle / p_\perp$  in QCD, where  $\langle k_\perp \rangle$  is an average intrinsic transverse momentum. Similar effects may arise also from the Collins function. Fits to the available  $A_N$  data have been performed [49], assuming variously dominance of the Collins or the Sivers mechanisms. An exciting new development in the field is that the STAR Collaboration has presented the first data on  $p^\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi X$  from RHIC [50]. The results are shown in figure 13. As one can see, a large  $A_N$  persists to these much higher energies. Figure 13 also shows predictions based on the Collins and the Sivers effects [49], and on a formalism [51,52] that systematically treats the power suppression of  $A_N$  in terms of higher-twist parton correlation functions (for a connection of the latter with the Sivers effect, see [37]). The STAR data clearly give valuable information already. For the future, it will be important to extend the measurements to higher  $p_\perp$  where the perturbative-QCD framework underlying all calculations will become more reliable. We note that STAR has also measured the unpolarized  $pp \rightarrow \pi^0 X$  cross-section in the same kinematic regime, which shows very good agreement with NLO pQCD calculations [50]. We note that the general consistency of RHIC  $pp \rightarrow \pi^0 X$  data with NLO pQCD results, already seen in figure 4, is in contrast with what was observed at lower energies in the fixed-target regime [53].

### 3.4 Two other developments

It was recognized some time ago that certain Fourier transforms of generalized parton densities with respect to transverse momentum transfer give information on the position space distributions of partons in the nucleon [54]. For a transversely polarized nucleon, one then expects [55] a distortion of the parton distributions in the transverse plane, which could provide an intuitive physical picture for the origins of single-spin asymmetries.

Finally, *double*-transverse spin asymmetries  $A_{TT}$  in  $pp$  scattering offer another possibility to access transversity. Candidate processes are Drell–Yan, prompt photon, and jet production. Recently, the NLO corrections to  $p^\uparrow p^\uparrow \rightarrow \gamma X$  have been calculated [56]. The results show that  $A_{TT}$  is expected rather small at RHIC. It has also been proposed [57] to obtain transversity from the double-spin asymmetries  $A_{TT}$  in Drell–Yan and  $J/\psi$  production in possibly forthcoming polarized  $\bar{p}p$  collisions at the GSI. An advantage here would be the fact that valence–valence



**Figure 13.** Recent STAR results for the asymmetry  $A_N$  in  $pp \rightarrow \pi^0 X$  in the forward Feynman- $x_F$  region [50].

scattering is expected to dominate. On the other hand, the attainable energies may be too low for leading-power hard-scattering to clearly dominate.

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