# RHIC sPHENIX experiment

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# Nucleon spin physics

- Spin puzzle
  - Origin of the nucleon spin in the quark-gluon picture

 $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}\Delta\Sigma + \Delta g + L$  Orbital angular momentum

Gluon spin



Quark spin

- Quark-spin contribution is only about 30% of the nucleon spin
- Longitudinal-spin (beam axis direction) asymmetry measurement
  - Gluon polarization measurement
  - Anti-quark polarization measurement using W boson
- Transverse-spin asymmetry measurement
  - Understanding of orbital motion inside the nucleon and orbital angular momenta of quarks and gluons

# Polarized proton acceleration at RHIC

 Keeping and monitoring polarization from the polarized proton source



# Polarized proton collision experiments



# Gluon polarization $\Delta g$



### PHENIX direct photon

- $A_{LL}$  measurement
  - Golden channel to access gluon polarization as hard interaction mostly quark-gluon reaction



 $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ 

Preliminary result (unpublished)



 $\sqrt{s} = 510 \text{ GeV}$ 

Phys. Rev. Lett. 130 (2023) 251901



### Transverse asymmetry measurement

- A<sub>N</sub> (transverse single-spin asymmetry) measurement
  - $_{N} = \frac{d\sigma_{Left} d\sigma_{Right}}{d\sigma_{Left} + d\sigma_{Right}}$
  - Azimuthal angle modulation
- Large  $A_N$  for forward hadron production
  - similar results in wide  $\sqrt{s}$
- TMD (Transverse Momentum Dependent) function and higher-twist function in pQCD regime
  - Initial-state effect or "Sivers" effect
  - Final-state effect or "Collins" effect
- Hard scattering and/or nonperturbative effect?



XF

# PHENIX direct photon

- Study of orbital motion of quarks and gluons inside the nucleon
- PHENIX experiment
  - $\pi$  meson,  $\eta$  meson,  $J/\psi$ , charged hadron, muon & electron (heavy flavor), direct photon
- Direct photon
  - Phys.Rev.Lett. 127 (2021) 162001
  - Sensitive to initial gluon dynamics at midrapidity
  - Successful measurement of gluon motion inside proton beam the proton
  - Restriction to the tri-gluon correlation function





### PHENIX heavy flavor

- PHENIX open heavy flavor at midrapidity
  - Phys. Rev. Ď 107 (2023) 052012.
  - Gluon fusion process
    - Sensitive to initial-state gluon
  - e<sup>±</sup> asymmetry measurement
    - Lepton-decay channel
  - Restriction to the tri-gluon correlation function





### Polarized p+A collisions PRL 123, 122001 (2019)

**V**0.04

0.03

0.02

0.01

-0.01

-0.02

20

15

10

5

 $\aleph^2$ 

٢

🖕 p+p

p+AI

2

З

A<sup>1/3</sup>

α = 1.21 <sup>+1.00(stat)</sup> +0.09(sys) -0.42(stat) -0.07(sys) (a)

**PHENIX** √s<sub>NN</sub>= 200 GeV

h<sup>+</sup>, 0.1<x<sub>2</sub><0.2

**1.4**<η **<2.4** 

p+Au

5

6

(b)

3

- Prediction of reduced  $A_N$  in polarized p+A collisions due to the gluon saturation
  - Color Glass Condensate (CGC) calculation
- PHENIX charged hadron  $A_N$ : 1.4 <  $\eta$  < 2.4
  - $0.1 < x_F < 0.2, 1.8 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - Asymmetries consistent with A<sup>1/3</sup> dependence as initially predicted by CGC related nuclear effects
  - However, probed x and scale too large for expected CGC effects
    - S. Benic and Y. Hatta, PRD99, 094012 (2019)
    - Twist-3 fragmentation + gluon saturation
- STAR  $\pi^0 A_N$ : 2.6 <  $\eta$  < 4.0
  - $0.2 < x_F < 0.7, 1.5 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - No strong A dependence



- Completion of the RHIC spin program
  - Data collection for the PHENIX experiment completed in 2016
  - Physics from longitudinally polarized proton collisions almost completed
  - Physics from transversely polarized proton collisions still remains



Not shown: sEPD and MBD



## sPHENIX detector

- Large, uniform acceptance
  - $2\pi$  coverage in azimuth
  - -1.1 <  $\eta$  < 1.1 geometric coverage
- Full EM & hadronic calorimetry
- High precision tracking
- High precision vertexing, DCA
- Huge Au+Au samples w/ unbiased trigger



## *Physics at sPHENIX*

- Study QCD phenomena discovered at RHIC with unprecedented precision
  - Jet correlation and jet substructure
  - Parton energy loss
  - Upsilon spectroscopy
  - Cold QCD & spin physics



# Hadron and EM calorimeters sPHENIX have kinematic reach out to ~70

GeV for jets, kinematic overlap with LHC



### Central Au+Au collisions in calorimeters



January 29, 2024

### Hadron and EM calorimeters

 Energy correlation of Outer HCal and Inner HCal

• EMCal  $\pi^0$  mass peak from  $\gamma\gamma$ 







## Tracking detectors

• All trackers installed in position (March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023)











January 29, 2024

### Tracking detector commissioning



sPHENIX Time Projection Chamber 100 Hz ZDC, MBD Prescale: 2, HV: 4.45 kV GEM, 45 kV CM, X-ing Angle: 2 mrad 2023-06-23, Run 10931 - EBDC03 reference frame 43 Au+Au sqrt(s)=200 GeV



### TPC event display in Au+Au at 200 GeV



10<sup>3</sup>

### Multiplicity correlations between MBD-INTT-TPOT

10

Direct photon





- Open heavy flavor
  - Gluon fusion process
    - Sensitive to initial-state gluon
    - Restriction to the tri-gluon correlation function
  - e<sup>±</sup> asymmetry measurement
    - Lepton-decay channel
  - D-meson asymmetry measurement

![](_page_18_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_9.jpeg)

January 29, 2024

sPHENIX BUP 2022

- Polarized-p + A collisions
- PHENIX charged hadron  $A_N$ : 1.4 <  $\eta$  < 2.4  $\mathbf{z}_{0.04}$ 
  - $0.1 < x_F < 0.2, 1.8 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - Asymmetry consistent with the A<sup>1/3</sup> dependence first predicted by the nuclear effect associated with CGC
- STAR  $\pi^0 A_N$ : 2.6 <  $\eta$  < 4.0
  - $0.2 < x_F < 0.7, 1.5 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - No significant A-dependence

![](_page_19_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_9.jpeg)

# Summary

- Completion of the RHIC spin program
  - Data collection for the PHENIX experiment completed in 2016
  - Physics from longitudinally polarized proton collisions almost completed
  - Physics from transversely polarized proton collisions still remaining
- sPHENIX experiment
  - Study of orbital motion of quarks and gluons inside the nucleon
    - Direct photon
    - Open heavy flavor
    - TMD Sivers effect
    - Transversity
- sPHENIX fully installed and operational in RHIC Run 2023
  - Detector subsystem performance consistent with expectations, though some debugging and commissioning work remaining