Experiment to Measure Total Cross Sections, Differential Cross Sections and Polarization Effects in $pp$ Elastic Scattering at RHIC

Wlodek Guryn *
Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton NY 11973, USA

Abstract

We are describing an experiment to study proton-proton ($pp$) elastic scattering experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC.) Using both polarized and unpolarized beams, the experiment will study $pp$ elastic scattering from $\sqrt{s} = 50$ GeV to $\sqrt{s} = 500$ GeV in two kinematical regions. In the Coulomb Nuclear Interference (CNI) region, $0.0005 < |t| < 0.12$ (GeV/c)$^2$, we will measure and study the $s$ dependence of the total and elastic cross sections, $\sigma_{tot}$ and $\sigma_{el}$; the ratio of the real to the imaginary part of the forward elastic scattering amplitude, $\rho$; and the nuclear slope parameter of the $pp$ elastic scattering, $b$. In the medium $|t|$-region, $|t| \leq 1.5$ (GeV/c)$^2$, we plan to study the evolution of the dip structure with $s$, as observed at ISR in the differential elastic cross section, $d\sigma_{el}/dt$, and the $s$ and $|t|$ dependence of $b$. With the polarized beams the following can be measured: the difference in the total cross sections as function of initial transverse spin states $\Delta \sigma_T$, the analyzing power, $A_N$, and the transverse spin correlation parameter $A_{NN}$. The behavior of the analyzing power $A_N$ at RHIC energies in the dip region of $d\sigma_{el}/dt$, where a pronounced structure was found at fixed-target experiments will be studied. The relation of $pp$ elastic scattering to the beam polarization measurement at RHIC is also discussed.

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1 Introduction

While the elastic scattering has been measured in $pp$ collisions up to $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV, the $pp$ data at higher energies come from the ISR and reach $\sqrt{s}$ up to 62 GeV. The history of this field repeatedly shows that it is important to measure $pp$ elastic scattering parameters and to compare them with the $p\bar{p}$ results. The summary of elastic scattering measurements and phenomenological models is given in [2].

The special role of the elastic channel at high energies is evident by the fact that it contributes as much as 20% of the total cross section. This, coupled with the importance of understanding the diffraction process, not only as the shadow of the many inelastic channels present at high energies, but also in terms of basic concepts related to QCD, has made nucleon-nucleon elastic scattering one of the most studied reactions in high energy physics.

The information gained in elastic scattering tests two areas of particle interactions: In the small momentum transferred $|t|$ region, one tests in a model independent way, general analytical properties of scattering amplitudes: analyticity, unitarity and crossing symmetry, stot, r. In the diffractive region, with four momenta transfer $|t| < 1.5(\text{GeV}/c)^2$, one studies the dynamics of long range strong interactions. There are many models, but the real theory is still missing.

The following main features of the elastic scattering cross section, $d\sigma/dt$, need to be explained by models and theory:

1. There is a change in slope at $|t| \approx 0.15(\text{GeV}/c)^2$.

2. A secondary maximum is present beyond the dip, followed by a $-t$ regime described by the exponentials with smaller slopes.

3. There is no evidence for a second diffractive minimum, even-though some models predict it.

4. There is a shrinkage of the diffractive peak, i.e. increase of the slope, as $s$ increases.

5. The position of the dip, $|t|_{\text{dip}}$, is getting smaller as $s$ increases.

6. At very large $|t|$, $d\sigma/dt$ does not depend on $s$. This behavior sets in at $|t| \approx 2(\text{GeV}/c)^2$.

In order to explain the observed features of pp elastic scattering at high energies, in addition to Reggeon exchange, exchanges of the Pomeron (gg), a double Pomeron and an Odderon $O$, (ggg) are needed. Odderon is the Pomeron's partner with negative C-parity. The properties of the Pomeron, vacuum quantum numbers, are quite well known but more studies are needed to determine it's structure, especially it's unknown spin properties. The existence of the Odderon has not been established experimentally, even-though there are very strong theoretical reasons for it.

In many experiments one sees strong effects of Pomeron contribution. Experiments at HERA observed large rapidity gap events and a steep rise of the proton structure function $F2$ at low $x$. At the CERN's, SppS collider, at Fermilab's CDF and DO one sees rapidity gap events.
The possibility of having polarized proton beams at RHIC would allow measurements of spin dependent effects, both in the small and large $|t|$-ranges of the elastic scattering. Polarization measurements in elastic scattering until now have been performed in fixed-target experiments, and the highest energy data are at $p_{lab} = 300 GeV/c$ ($\sqrt{s} = 24$ GeV). This interest also extends to $A_{NN}$ in large $|t|$-region, where large values were measured at lower energies.

These measurements challenge strong interaction theory, since their interpretation involves the application of QCD in a kinematical region where non-perturbative effects are important. The high $p_T$ RHIC spin program, which will test many elements of perturbative QCD at a new level of accuracy and detail, relies heavily upon an accurate knowledge of the beam polarization. We believe that this experiment will contribute to the understanding and measuring of polariztion measurement at RHIC.

Also, with no modification to the setup, single diffraction dissociation can be studied by appropriate design of the veto system and an additional trigger condition, and $p\bar{d}$, $d\bar{d}$ elastic scattering of can be measured. Some of those measurements have been done at the ISR, with very nice results confirming extended Glauber model. Understanding of those reactions might be very important to the relativistic heavy ion collision program at RHIC.

Previously outlined aspects of elastic and diffractive scattering will be measured in two experimental setups.

In the small $|t|$ region, $0.0005 < |t| < 0.12 (GeV/c)^2$, where a special accelerator tune is required, we have found a solution to the accelerator lattice setup that allows reaching small $|t|$ values needed to measure $\rho$, $\sigma_{tot}$, and $b$ with small errors. The angular coverage of the detector will allow the simultaneous determination of these three parameters. The goal of the experiment is to acquire $4 \times 10^6$. With the same setup, running with polarized protons in RHIC would allow the simultaneous measurements of $\Delta\sigma_T$, $A_N$, and $A_{NN}$ and the spin related effects on $\rho$, $\sigma_{tot}$, and $b$.

In the medium $|t|$ region, $|t| \leq 1.5 (GeV/c)^2$, no modifications to the accelerator setup are required and we will use the DX dipole magnet of the RHIC lattice for the momentum analysis of the scattered protons.

# 2 Scattering at Small $|t|$ 

The elastic scattering of protons is described by a scattering amplitude which has two components: Coulomb amplitude $f_c$, and the hadronic amplitude $f_h$. The amplitudes are a function of cms energy $\sqrt{s}$ and four-momentum-transfer squared $|t|$. The differential elastic $pp$ cross section can be expressed as a square of the scattering amplitude:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{el}}{dt} = \pi |f_c + f_h|^2.$$  \hfill (1)

The spin independent hadronic amplitude $f_h$ is usually parameterized as:

$$f_h = \left( \frac{\sigma_{tot}}{4\pi} \right) (\rho + i) \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \delta |t| \right).$$  \hfill (2)

The dependence of the differential elastic cross section $d\sigma/dt$ on $|t|$ can be divided into three regions: the Coulomb region, the CNI region, and the hadronic region. At small $|t|$, the
Coulomb term dominates, and $d\sigma/dt$ has a $1/t^2$ dependence. As $|t|$ increases, the interference between the Coulomb and hadronic contributions becomes maximal. Finally, the hadronic contribution dominates, and $d\sigma/dt$ falls off exponentially.

In order to determine $\rho$, one needs to be able to measure scattered protons at very small angles. The scale is set by the $|t|$-value where Coulomb and hadronic scattering amplitudes are equal. At $\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV}$, this occurs at $t \simeq 1.1 \times 10^{-3} (\text{GeV}/c)^2$, and corresponds to a scattering angle of $0.13 \text{ mrad}$.

Since the Coulomb amplitude is absolutely known, the measurement at very small $|t|$ gives direct determination of the machine's luminosity and, consequently, the absolute normalization of the hadronic amplitude. As a result, the parameters of the elastic cross section can be determined without requiring an independent measurement of the luminosity or the total cross section.

### 2.1 Experimental Technique

The two protons collide at the interaction region (IR) in a local coordinate system at a vertical distance $y^*$ from the reference orbit and scatter with an angle $\theta_y^*$. Since the scattering angles are small, protons follow trajectories determined by the lattice of the accelerator until they reach the detector, which measures the positions of the scattered particles with respect to the reference orbit. Hence, the known parameters of the accelerator lattice can be used to calculate the deflection $y^*$ and the scattering angle $\theta_y^*$ at the interaction point, knowing the deflection $y$ and the angle $\theta_y$ at the detector. At a point where the phase advance from the interaction point is $\Psi$ and the betatron function is $\beta$, $y$ is given by:

$$y = \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{\beta^*}}[\cos \Psi + \alpha^* \sin \Psi]y^* + \sqrt{\left(\frac{\beta^*}{\beta}\right)}\sin \Psi \theta_y^*$$

(3)

where $\alpha^*$ is the derivative of the betatron function $\beta^*$ at the interaction point. We have considered a lattice configuration such that $\alpha^*$ is very close to zero.

Equation 3 can be rewritten as:

$$y = a_{11}y^* + L_{\text{eff}}\theta_y^*$$

(4)

where

$$a_{11} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\beta}{\beta^*}\right)}[\cos \Psi + \alpha^* \sin \Psi]$$

(5)

and

$$L_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{\beta^*\beta \sin \Psi}.$$  

(6)

The optimum condition for the experiment is to have $a_{11} = 0$ and $L_{\text{eff}}$ as large as possible, since the answer is then independent of the coordinate at the IR in the transverse plane of the accelerator and "large displacements" at the detection point are obtained for small scattering angles. This is achieved when $\Psi$ is an odd multiple of $\pi/2$. The expression for the $y$ coordinate at the detection point then simplifies to: 
\[ y = L_{\text{eff}} \theta_y^*; \]  
and the scattering angle is determined just from the measurement of the displacement alone. With the above condition satisfied, rays that are parallel to each other at the interaction point are focused onto a single point at the detector, commonly called "parallel to point focusing."

Another question, related to the optimization of the accelerator setup, is the smallest measurable four-momentum-transfer squared \( t_{\text{min}} \). The goal is to achieve \( t_{\text{min}} \) as small as possible. The \( t_{\text{min}} \) is determined by the smallest scattering angle measured \( \theta_{\text{min}} \), which, using Eqn. 7, is given by:

\[ \theta_{\text{min}}^* = \frac{d_{\text{min}}}{L_{\text{eff}}}, \]

where \( L_{\text{eff}} \) is given by 6. The minimum distance of the approach to the beam, \( d_{\text{min}} \), can be expressed in terms of the beam size at the detector position and the "dead space of the detector" \( d_0 \) [3]:

\[ d_{\text{min}} = k \sigma_y + d_0, \]

where \( k \) is a machine dependent constant, which is optimized by beam scraping, and \( \sigma_y \) is the beam size at the detection point. Assuming \( d_0 \) is small, the \( t_{\text{min}} \) is then:

\[ t_{\text{min}} \propto \frac{k^2 \epsilon p^2}{\beta^*}. \]

We can see that the smallest \( t_{\text{min}} \) is reached by having \( \beta^* \) as large as possible and by reducing the \( k \)-factor and the emittance, in other words by optimizing the beam scraping.

Table 1: Transport matrix elements in x and y coordinates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transport matrix element</th>
<th>Value at 72 m</th>
<th>Value at 144 m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \sigma_{11} ) in y</td>
<td>-0.000008</td>
<td>-0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( L_{\text{eff}} ) in y</td>
<td>36.465 m</td>
<td>87.486 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \sigma_{11} ) in x</td>
<td>-0.7861</td>
<td>-0.05257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( L_{\text{eff}} ) in x</td>
<td>23.031 m</td>
<td>49.464 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Simulations

In order to evaluate the performance of the experiment, we performed simulations of small angle scattering. The errors of the elastic scattering parameters \( \sigma_{\text{tot}}, \rho, \beta \) due to uncertainties in the parameters describing the experimental setup were determined.
The angular distribution of scattered protons was generated with the known cross section formula, Eqn 1, and known parameters: \( p, \sigma_{\text{tot}}, \) and \( b. \) Knowing scattering angles and vertex position, one can use the transport equation 3 to determine the position at the detection point of the scattered portions in both the horizontal and vertical coordinate. Uncertainties in the beam parameters and detectors result in errors in the reconstructed \(|t|\).

The accelerator tune used is shown in Table 2.1 for two detector positions needed. The first allows to reach the upper range of small \(|t|\) to about 0.12 \((\text{GeV/c})^2\). The second allows to reach the smallest \(t_{\text{min}}\) possible since it has larger \(L_{\text{eff}}\) and the beam size is smaller there. The major uncertainties, introduced at the appropriate steps of the simulation, are listed in Table 2.2. The geometrical acceptance is determined by the beam pipe size for large \(|t|\) and the \(t_{\text{min}}\) cutoff for small \(|t|\).

| Table 2: Parameters used in the Monte Carlo simulation |
|---------|---------|
| Run parameters | Value |
| Beam momentum | 250 GeV/c |
| Number of events | \(3.2 \times 10^6\) |
| Angle between the beams \(\theta^0_{x,y}\) | 5\(\mu\)rad, 5\(\mu\)rad |
| Error of angle between the beams \(\Delta\theta^0_{x,y}\) | 6\(\mu\)rad |
| Detector offsets | 20 \(\mu\)m |
| Detector resolution | 100 \(\mu\)m |
| Beam momentum spread | 250 MeV/c |
| Vertex size in \(z, \sigma_z\) | 15 cm |
| Beam emittance | \(5\pi \text{ mm mrad}\) |

The errors on fitted parameters are plotted as a function of \(t_{\text{min}}\) in Fig. 1. Two runs of different statistics, one with 0.8 million events and with 3.2 million events, are compared.

We see the major sources of error are from the \(t_{\text{min}}\) cutoff and the statistics of the experiment. It has been shown by UA4 [3] that, if one of the parameters is known, then the errors on the other two are are smaller if one performs a two parameter fit.

3 Scattering at Medium \(|t|\)

The RHIC machine operating in the proton-proton mode offers unique possibilities to investigate elastic scattering further in the region of the diffractive structure and at larger momentum-transfer for \(\sqrt{s}\) range 60 to 500 GeV.

Accurate data on the region of the structure provide the opportunity for a direct comparison with the existing \(p\bar{p}\) data from the \(SpS\) collider, which are at essentially the same energy, thus probing the theory of the interference of the three-gluon diagram.

The large luminosity of RHIC will make possible a detailed study of scattering at large momentum transfer, up to the kinematical limit, \(|t| \approx 1.5(\text{GeV/c})^2\), set by the apperture of the DX magnet. The basic question to be addressed is if a new diffraction-like structure will
Figure 1: Errors on $\rho$, $\sigma_{\text{tot}}$, $b$ as a function of $t_{\text{min}}$ for runs with $0.8 \times 10^6$ (circles) and $3.2 \times 10^6$ (squares) events.

emerge in this large $|t|$-region, or will the $|t|$-distribution be smooth and energy independent, controlled by a single QCD diagram?

3.1 The Experimental Method

In the design of an apparatus to measure large-$|t|$ elastic scattering at RHIC, one can be guided by previous experience gained at other hadron colliders.

The basic identification of elastic scattering events is by the colinearity of the two outgoing particles. At large momentum transfer, however, the elastic cross section is several orders of magnitude smaller than that in the forward direction, so these elastic events represent only a small fraction of the large background of the inelastic interactions. Momentum analysis provides an important additional constraint, not only in the reconstruction of the events, but also at the trigger level.

We list in Table 3.1 the parameters of two typical experiments[4, 5, 6] and of the proposed RHIC experiment. In the proton-proton mode at RHIC, the expected normalized emittance, defined at the 95% level, is $\epsilon = 20\pi$ mm mrad. At $\sqrt{s} = 500$ GeV and for the betatron function at the crossing point $\beta_x^* = \beta_y^* = 10$ m, the size and angular spread of the beam at the crossing are $\sigma_y = 0.45$ mm and $\sigma_{\theta_y} = 45 \mu$rad respectively.

The scattered protons will be detected by telescopes of detectors placed inside Roman pots downstream of the interaction point using the magnet DX to make momentum analysis. The detectors will be located in the vertical plane, symmetrically above and below the machine plane. The horizontal bending of DX allows an almost complete decoupling between the measurement of the scattering angle, essentially given by the vertical coordinate and the measurement of the momentum, obtained from the horizontal coordinate.

A Monte Carlo program was used to study the basic features of the system, such as the acceptance and the resolution in the measurement of the momentum and of the momentum-transfer. Size and angular divergence of the beam at the collision region, as derived from the nominal machine parameters, were taken into account. The expected minimum distance
Table 3: Parameters of ISR, UA4, and This Experiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ISR</th>
<th>UA4</th>
<th>This Experiment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy $\sqrt{s}$ (GeV)</td>
<td>23 - 62</td>
<td>546 - 630</td>
<td>60 - 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luminosity cm$^{-2}$s$^{-1}$</td>
<td>few $10^{30}$</td>
<td>few $10^{28}$</td>
<td>few $10^{31}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum $</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>$ (GeV/c)$^2$</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Momentum resolution $\Delta p/p$</td>
<td>$\simeq 5%$</td>
<td>$\simeq 0.6%$</td>
<td>$\simeq 1.5%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Momentum-transfer resolution $\Delta t$</td>
<td>$\simeq 0.015\sqrt{</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of approach of the detector to the beam was calculated according to Eqn. 9, with $k$-factor of 20 and $d_0 = 1$ mm and is estimated to be 14 mm.

The transverse coordinates of the collision point were calculated in the Monte Carlo by extrapolating the simulated tracks to the transverse plane at the crossing point and averaging the results from the two arms. The ultimate momentum-transfer resolution is determined by the actual angular spread of the circulating beams, as given by the machine emittance and by the $\beta^*$.

The useful momentum-transfer interval is $0.12 < -t < 1.5$(GeV/c)$^2$. At large $|t|$, the limitation is due to the aperture of the magnet DX, which cuts at $\theta = 5.4$ mrad.

- At $|t| = 1$ (GeV/c)$^2$, the expected cross section is around $10^{-3}$ mb/(GeV/c)$^2$, and the acceptance of the system is about 0.25. With a luminosity of $10^{31}$ cm$^{-2}$s$^{-1}$, the expected rate is about $10^4$ elastic events per day in $|t|$-bin of 0.05 (GeV/c)$^2$.

- Reconstruction of the interaction vertex possible only in the vertical plane with accuracy $\Delta y_{IP} = 1.0$ mm;

- Momentum resolution is $\Delta p/p \simeq 1.5 \times 10^{-2}$, assuming that the horizontal position of the interaction point is known within $\pm 3$ mm;

- Momentum transfer resolution is $\Delta t = 2.9 \times 10^{-2}$(GeV/c)$^2$ at $|t| = 1$ (GeV/c)$^2$;

- With a trigger subdivision in four contiguous “coincidence roads,” particles with $p/p_{beam} < 0.8$ are rejected, at the 90% or better.

4 Spin Physics Program

RHIC will have the unique capability of accelerating polarized protons with a high average polarization, $\sim 70\%$ for each beam, and a high luminosity reaching $2 \times 10^{32}$ cm$^{-2}$sec$^{-1}$. This will enable us to measure the spin dependent parameters of elastic $pp$ scattering at much higher $cms$ energies compared to the highest energy data to date at $\sqrt{s} = 24$ GeV, those measurements performed using a polarized target with unpolarized incident protons. There has been a recent revival of interest in the elastic $pp$ scattering with polarized protons which
covers a large spectrum of interesting physics. For instance, the intimate relationship between a sharp zero-crossing of the analyzing power and the dip region in the elastic differential cross-section has continued to be the focus of a number of studies.

For the unpolarized beams, it is assumed real and imaginary parts have the same $|t|$ dependence and that spin effects are negligible. However, it has been observed experimentally that there is a correlation between the position of the dip and the single spin asymmetry $A_N$ crossing zero at the same $|t|$ value. The spin-flip amplitude contributes to filling of the dip. This experiment will test the Odderon hypothesis by measuring the region of the first diffractive minimum and comparison with data from SpPD collider, UA4 experiment and by measuring single spin asymmetries $A_N$ at moderate values of $|t|$.

In discussing the polarization data, the s-channel helicity amplitudes [7] for $NN$ elastic scattering $\phi_i (i = 1 - 5)$ are used. It is somewhat more convenient to express these in combinations that explicitly exhibit the $t$-channel exchange characteristics at high energy: $N_0 = 1/2(\phi_1 + \phi_3)$, $N_1 = \phi_5$, $N_2 = 1/2(\phi_4 - \phi_2)$, $U_0 = 1/2(\phi_1 - \phi_3)$, $U_2 = 1/2(\phi_4 + \phi_2)$. The $N$ and $U$ amplitudes correspond respectively to natural and unnatural-parity exchanges; the subscripts 0, 1 and 2 correspond to the total s-channel helicity flip involved.

The previously mentioned variables describing spin related asymmetries can be expressed in terms of these amplitudes. The analyzing power $A_N$:

$$A_N \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = -2\frac{(hc)^2}{16\pi K^2} \text{Im}[(N_0 - N_2)N_1^*], \quad (11)$$

where the spin-averaged differential cross section is

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{(hc)^2}{16\pi K^2} [2|N_0|^2 + 2|N_1|^2 + |N_2|^2 + |U_0|^2 + |U_2|^2], \quad (12)$$

where $K = \sqrt{s(s - 4m^2)}$.

In the CNI region the electromagnetic and hadronic amplitudes are of comparable magnitude in the very forward direction, and this results in a small but significant asymmetry $A_N$ in $pp$ scattering near the point of maximum interference [8, 9]. The interference between the hadronic non-flip and the electromagnetic spin-flip amplitudes gives rise to this asymmetry expected to be about 3.7%.

The double-spin asymmetry parameter is expressed as:

$$A_{NN} \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = 2\frac{(hc)^2}{16\pi K} \text{Re}[U_0U_2^* - N_0N_2^* + |N_1|^2]. \quad (13)$$

The difference in the total cross-sections as a function of the initial transverse polarization states is:

$$\Delta\sigma_T = \sigma_{tot}(\uparrow, \downarrow) - \sigma_{tot}(\uparrow, \uparrow) = \frac{(hc)^2}{K} \text{Im}(N_2 - U_2). \quad (14)$$

The features outlined above have stimulated a number of discussions on a possible hadronic spin-flip contribution $N_1^{(h)}$ that does not necessarily decrease as $1/\sqrt{s}$. It was suggested that diffractive scattering with exchange of two pions could become important at large $s$; this mechanism can cause a non-vanishing $N_1^{(h)}$ because one of the two pions can couple with spin-flip, while the other does not [10]. It was also pointed out that $N_1^{(h)}$ might
remain non-zero at high energies if the nucleon contains a dynamically enhanced compact

Polarization studies in the new energy domain of RHIC will probe, at the level of helicity
amplitudes, the complex structure of Pomeron at the constituent scale [12]. An additional
$O$-exchange might provide the necessary phase difference with $P$ to obtain an essentially
energy independent spin asymmetry [13].

In general, within the emerging QCD-inspired picture of elastic scattering, new polar-
ization results at large $|t|$-region can be discriminating between models that invoke hard
(perturbative) and soft (non-perturbative) processes where these models overlap [14].

In order to clarify the issue of diffractive (Pomeron) spin-flip, it would be important to
have more and more precise polarization asymmetry data in the low $|t|$-region [15]. There is
no measurement to this day in the range of $0.05 \leq |t| \leq 0.15$ (GeV/c)$^2$. This deficiency has
also been pointed out in a recent paper [16] where small-angle polarization is discussed in
terms of non-perturbative instanton-like contributions of the gluonic field. In more general
terms, it has also been suggested that, with the injection of QCD concepts in the picture
of elastic scattering, the kinematic region $|t| \approx \Lambda_{QCD}^2$ ($\Lambda_{QCD} = 0.15$ GeV/c) might be of
special interest [17].

With both RHIC colliding beams polarized, the double-spin correlation parameter $A_{NN}$
could also be measured up to rather large $|t|$-values. In this case, it will also be possible
to investigate the puzzling observations of large differences between parallel and antiparallel
spin cross-sections observed at ZGS around 12 GeV/c. From these measurements it appears
that two protons interact harder when their spins are parallel. However it is not clear if this
effect would persist at high energies.

In addition, this experiment might provide a service to the RHIC Spin Physics program
by performing an absolute polarization measurement, for use in conjunction with (relative)
polarization monitors. In the CNI region its accuracy, at present, is sensitive to a knowledge
of the strong interaction helicity-flip amplitude $\phi_s$. It should be possible to approach the
helicity-flip amplitude using dispersion relations. This will require a detailed numerical study
using data from experiments at all energies. A very careful study should be made of different
kinds of Coulomb interference type measurements to see if data from a set of measurements
at given energy and momentum transfer could be used to constrain the single helicity-flip
amplitude. There exist theorems on the asymptotic growth of helicity amplitudes. One
should investigate their validity at RHIC energies.

With the proper orientation of spin rotators and snakes at RHIC, there exists a scheme
to produce longitudinally polarized protons at the intersection region forseen for this exper-
iment. Hence, one could similarly measure $A_L$, $\Delta \sigma_L$, and $A_{LL}$.

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CNRS, Palaiseau, France; M. Bozzo, M. Conte, G. Sette, Universita di Genova and
Sezione INFN, Italy; M. Buenerd, Institut des Sciences Nucleaires, Grenoble, France;
N. Akchurin, C. Newsom, Y. Onel, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA; M. Pusterla,
Universita di Padova, Italy; S. B. Nurushev, A. M. Konopliov, M. F. Runstso, Moscow Engineering Physics Institute (MEPHI), Moscow, Russia; M. Rijssenbeek, SUNY Stony Brook, USA; K. De, P. Draper, L. Sawyer, University of Texas at Arlington, USA; G. N. Dudkin, I. V. Glavanakov, Yu. F. Krechetov, G. A. Naumienko, A. P. Potylitsyn, Tomsk Nuclear Physics Institute, Tomsk, Russia; R. Giacomich, A. Penzo, P. Schiavon, Universita di Trieste and Sezione INFN, Italy.


