Meeting Summary

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The second part of the sixth RHIC Spin Collaboration (RSC) meeting was held on November 15, 2001 at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Previous meetings have elaborated on the new generation of proton spin-structure studies (*e.g.* gluon polarization and flavor separation of q and $\bar{q}$ polarizations via real $W^{\pm}$ production) enabled by studying polarized proton collisions at energies and momentum transfers where perturbative QCD models are expected to be applicable. The focus of this meeting was on many of the experimental issues that must be resolved to achieve these physics goals. This summary is written with the benefit of hindsight following the completion of the first-ever run of a polarized proton collider. This first run can be considered as a successfully completed milestone of the RHIC Spin Collaboration. Other milestones remain important.

Long term machine items were identified in Waldo Mackay's talk, the most important being the completion of the spin rotator magnets that will be installed in 2002 to allow the flexible orientation of the proton beam polarization at the PHENIX and STAR experiments. At the meeting Waldo discussed a stronger partial snake magnet for the AGS as a means of producing highly polarized proton beams to inject into RHIC. Developments subsequent to this meeting suggest that a superconducting helical dipole magnet may be feasible for the AGS, and is likely to be needed to achieve the 70% beam polarization in RHIC. Longer term items were also presented, including potential increases in luminosity by the addition of electron cooling to RHIC and the possibility of increasing the collision energy by ~20% by replacement of the DX magnets. These items could be considered for a second generation of RHIC spin experiments.

The other topics covered at the meeting were related to polarimetry and to the absolute calibration of the proton beam polarization in RHIC. These topics were divided into short- and long-term solutions to polarimetry issues. George Igo led a discussion about the addition of a Coulomb-Nuclear Interference (CNI) polarimeter to the AGS prior to FY2003 RHIC operations. The experience from the first RHIC spin run reinforces the need for reducing the time needed to complete polarization measurements in the AGS, and illustrated the importance of polarization measurements at different energies in the RHIC injectors. Progress continues to be made on the completion of a CNI polarimeter for the AGS prior to the FY2003 run.

Doug Fields discussed the possibility of improving the calibration of the RHIC CNI polarimeter at the RHIC injection energy by studying the elastic scattering of polarized proton beams extracted from the AGS from an existing polarized proton target. The effective analyzing power of the RHIC CNI polarimeter at high energies can be determined by measuring the beam polarization at the RHIC injection energy before and after an acceleration/deceleration cycle. In the short term, once deceleration ramps are commissioned, and polarization loss through up- and down-ramps is minimized, knowledge of the absolute proton beam polarization at flat top in RHIC will be limited by the uncertainties in the analyzing power for $\vec{p}p$ elastic scattering. Until the completion of a polarized gas jet target to study $\vec{p}p$ elastic scattering from beams accelerated and stored in RHIC, polarization measurements at RHIC injection energies before and after an acceleration/decelertion cycle remain

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the sole means of measuring the beam polarization magnitude. There is a window of opportunity to employ a polarized target made by the group at the University of Virginia for such measurements.

It is generally agreed that the long-term solution to an absolute measurement of the proton beam polarization after acceleration in RHIC requires the measurement of the analyzing power for $\vec{p}p$ elastic scattering from a polarized gas jet target. These measurements will calibrate the effective analyzing power of the CNI polarimeters. Tom Wise gave a detailed status report about adapting a polarized atomic beam source and Breit-Rabi polarimeter design, presently in use in the HERMES experiment at DESY, for use at RHIC. Substantial design work on the polarized target has been completed, but detailed engineering is still required. To enable the completion of this target for commissioning in the FY2004 run, it is critical that the design phase of the polarized gas jet gets completed soon, so that construction work can begin. The calibration measurement itself was described in talks by Ed Stephenson and Alessandro Bravar. The experience of the UA6 collaboration in cleanly detecting pp elastic scattering events at small $|t|$ by observing only the low-energy recoil proton suggests that recoil detectors alone, without forward proton tagging detectors, should be sufficient for the polarization calibration measurement. One significant complication is the effect of the target magnetic field on the low energy recoil protons. A moderate magnetic field is required to eliminate depolarization associated with the fields produced by the circulating beams. More complete simulations of the recoil proton detection, accounting for the target magnetic field and a realistic density profile of the gas jet are needed to assess whether the systematic errors can be controlled at the needed level.

These are exciting times for the RHIC spin collaboration. Substantial work remains to be done to obtain precise measurements of the proton beam polarization.

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