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Single spin asymmetries of forward neutron production in polarized p+p and p+A collisions at $\sqrt{s}=200$ GeV

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In high-energy hadron collisions, most energy goes into the forward region. However, particle production mechanisms in the forward region are not well understood as perturbative QCD is not applicable at small momentum transfers. We study single spin asymmetries (A_N) of forward neutron production in the PHENIX experiment using a transversely polarized proton beam. In 2015, we took data for p + A collisions for the first time with Au and Al beams at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV and observed a surprising A dependence. The results will be presented in the conference together with discussions on possible mechanisms that could explain the A_N results of forward neutron production.

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