



The spin structure function g_1^p of the proton and a test of the Bjorken sum rule



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ABSTRACT

New results for the double spin asymmetry A_1^P and the proton longitudinal spin structure function g_1^P are presented. They were obtained by the COMPASS Collaboration using polarised 200 GeV muons scattered off a longitudinally polarised NH_3 target. The data were collected in 2011 and complement those recorded in 2007 at 160 GeV, in particular at lower values of x . They improve the statistical precision of $g_1^P(x)$ by about a factor of two in the region $x \lesssim 0.02$. A next-to-leading order QCD fit to the g_1 world data is performed. It leads to a new determination of the quark spin contribution to the nucleon spin, $\Delta\Sigma$, ranging from 0.26 to 0.36, and to a re-evaluation of the first moment of g_1^P . The uncertainty of $\Delta\Sigma$ is mostly due to the large uncertainty in the present determinations of the gluon helicity distribution. A new evaluation of the Bjorken sum rule based on the COMPASS results for

the non-singlet structure function $g_1^{\text{NS}}(x, Q^2)$ yields as ratio of the axial and vector coupling constants $|g_A/g_V| = 1.22 \pm 0.05$ (stat.) ± 0.10 (syst.), which validates the sum rule to an accuracy of about 9%.

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1. Introduction

The determination of the longitudinal spin structure of the nucleon became one of the important issues in particle physics after the surprising EMC result that the quark contribution to the nucleon spin is very small or even vanishing [1]. The present knowledge on the longitudinal spin structure function of the proton, g_1^p , originates from measurements of the asymmetry A_1^p in polarised lepton nucleon scattering. In all these experiments, longitudinally polarised high-energy leptons were scattered off longitudinally polarised nucleon or nuclear targets. At SLAC and JLab electron beams were used, electron and positron beams at DESY and muon beams at CERN. Details on the performance of these experiments and a collection of their results can be found e.g. in Ref. [2].

In this Letter, we report on new results from the COMPASS experiment at CERN. By measuring A_1^p , we obtain results on g_1^p in the deep inelastic scattering (DIS) region. They cover the range from 1 (GeV/c)^2 to 190 (GeV/c)^2 in the photon virtuality Q^2 and from 0.0025 to 0.7 in the Bjorken scaling variable x . The new data, which were collected in 2011 at a beam energy of 200 GeV, complement earlier data taken in 2007 at 160 GeV that covered the range $0.004 < x < 0.7$ [3]. In the newly explored low- x region, our results significantly improve the statistical precision of g_1^p and thereby allow us to decrease the low- x extrapolation uncertainty in the determination of first moments.

In the following section, the COMPASS experiment is briefly described. The data selection procedure is presented in Section 3 and the method of asymmetry calculation in Section 4. The results on $A_1^p(x, Q^2)$ and $g_1^p(x, Q^2)$ are given in Section 5. A new next-to-leading order (NLO) QCD fit to the existing nucleon g_1 data in the region $Q^2 > 1 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ is described in Section 6. Section 7 deals with the determination of first moments of g_1^p and the evaluation of the Bjorken sum rule using COMPASS data only. Conclusions are given in Section 8.

2. Experimental setup

The measurements were performed with the COMPASS setup at the M2 beam line of the CERN SPS. The data presented in this Letter correspond to an integrated luminosity of 0.52 fb^{-1} . A beam of positive muons was used with an intensity of 10^7 s^{-1} in a 10 s long spill every 40 s. The nominal beam momentum was 200 GeV/c with a spread of 5%. The beam was naturally polarised with a polarisation $P_B \approx 0.8$, which is known with a precision of 0.04. Momentum and trajectory of each incoming particle were measured in a set of scintillator hodoscopes, scintillating fibre and silicon detectors. The beam was impinging on a solid-state ammonia (NH_3) target that provides longitudinally polarised protons. The three protons in ammonia were polarised up to $|P_T| \approx 0.9$ by dynamic nuclear polarisation with microwaves. For this purpose, the target was placed inside a large-aperture superconducting solenoid with a field of 2.5 T and cooled to 60 mK by a mixture of liquid ^3He and ^4He . The target material was contained in three cylindrical cells with a diameter of 4 cm, which had their axes along the beam line and were separated by a distance of 5 cm. The outer cells with a length of 30 cm were oppositely polarised to the central one, which was 60 cm long. In order to compensate for acceptance differences between the cells, the polarisation was regularly reversed by rotation of the magnetic field

direction. In order to guard against unknown systematic effects, the direction of the polarisation relative to the magnetic field was reversed once during the data taking period by exchanging the microwave frequencies applied to the cells. Ten NMR coils surrounding the target material allowed for a measurement of P_T with a precision of 0.032 for both signs of the polarisation. The typical dilution due to unpolarisable material in the target amounts to about 0.15.

The experimental setup allowed for the measurement of scattered muons and produced hadrons. These particles were detected in a two-stage, open forward spectrometer with large acceptance in momentum and angle. Each spectrometer stage consisted of a dipole magnet surrounded by tracking detectors. Scintillating fibre detectors and micropattern gaseous detectors were used in the beam region and close to the beam, while multiwire proportional chambers, drift chambers and straw detectors covered the large outer areas. Scattered muons were identified in sets of drift-tube planes located behind iron and concrete absorbers in the first and second stages. Particle identification with the ring imaging Cerenkov detector or calorimeters is not used in this measurement. The ‘inclusive triggers’ were based on a combination of hodoscope signals for the scattered muons, while for ‘semi-inclusive triggers’ an energy deposit of hadron tracks in one of the calorimeters was required, optionally in coincidence with an inclusive trigger. A detailed description of the experimental setup can be found in Ref. [4].

3. Data selection

The selected events are required to contain a reconstructed incoming muon, a scattered muon and an interaction vertex. The measured incident muon momentum has to be in the range $185 \text{ GeV/c} < p_B < 215 \text{ GeV/c}$. In order to equalise the beam flux through all target cells, the extrapolated beam track is required to pass all of them. The measured longitudinal position of the vertex allows us to identify the target cell in which the scattering occurred. The radial distance of the vertex from the beam axis is required to be less than 1.9 cm, by which the contribution of unpolarised material is minimised. All physics triggers, inclusive and semi-inclusive ones, are included in this analysis. In order to be attributed to the scattered muon, a track is required to pass more than 30 radiation lengths of material and it has to point to the hodoscopes that have triggered the event. In order to select the DIS region, only events with photon virtuality $Q^2 > 1 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ are selected. In addition, the relative muon energy transfer, y , is required to be between 0.1 and 0.9. Here, the lower limit removes events that are difficult to reconstruct, while the upper limit removes the region that is dominated by radiative events. These kinematic constraints lead to the range $0.0025 < x < 0.7$ and to a minimum mass squared of the hadronic final state, W^2 , of 12 (GeV/c)^2 . After all selections, the final sample consists of 77 million events. The selected sample is dominated by inclusive triggers that contribute 84% to the total number of triggers. The semi-inclusive triggers mainly contribute to the high- x region, where they amount to about half of the triggers. In the high- Q^2 region the semi-inclusive triggers dominate.

4. Asymmetry calculation

The asymmetry between the cross sections for antiparallel ($\uparrow\downarrow$) and parallel ($\uparrow\uparrow$) orientations of the longitudinal spins of incoming muon and target proton is written as

$$A_{LL}^p = \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow} - \sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow}}{\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow} + \sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow}}. \quad (1)$$

This asymmetry is related to the longitudinal and transverse spin asymmetries A_1^p and A_2^p , respectively, for virtual-photon absorption by the proton:

$$A_{LL}^p = D(A_1^p + \eta A_2^p). \quad (2)$$

The factors

$$\eta = \frac{\gamma(1 - y - \gamma^2 y^2/4 - y^2 m^2/Q^2)}{(1 + \gamma^2 y/2)(1 - y/2) - y^2 m^2/Q^2} \quad (3)$$

and

$$D = \frac{y((1 + \gamma^2 y/2)(2 - y) - 2y^2 m^2/Q^2)}{y^2(1 - 2m^2/Q^2)(1 + \gamma^2) + 2(1 + R)(1 - y - \gamma^2 y^2/4)} \quad (4)$$

depend on the event kinematics, with $\gamma = 2Mx/\sqrt{Q^2}$, m the muon and M the proton mass. The virtual-photon depolarisation factor D depends also on the ratio $R = \sigma_L/\sigma_T$, where σ_L (σ_T) is the cross section for the absorption of a longitudinally (transversely) polarised virtual photon by a proton. The asymmetry A_1^p is defined as

$$A_1^p = \frac{\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2}}{\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}}, \quad (5)$$

where $\sigma_{1/2}$ ($\sigma_{3/2}$) is the absorption cross section of a transversely polarised virtual photon by a proton with total spin projection $\frac{1}{2}$ ($\frac{3}{2}$) in the photon direction. Since both η and A_2^p [5] are small in the COMPASS kinematic region, $A_1^p \simeq A_{LL}^p/D$ and the longitudinal spin structure function [6] is given by

$$g_1^p = \frac{F_2^p}{2x(1+R)} A_1^p, \quad (6)$$

where F_2^p denotes the spin-independent structure function of the proton.

The number of events, N_i , collected from each target cell before and after reversal of the target polarisation is related to the spin-independent cross section $\bar{\sigma} = \sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}$ and to the asymmetry A_1^p as

$$N_i = a_i \phi_i n_i \bar{\sigma} (1 + P_B P_T f D A_1^p), \quad i = o1, c1, o2, c2. \quad (7)$$

Here, a_i is the acceptance, ϕ_i the incoming muon flux, n_i the number of target nucleons and f the dilution factor, while P_B and P_T were already introduced in Section 2. Events from the outer target cell are summed, thus the four relations of Eq. (7) corresponding to the two sets of target cells (outer, o and central, c) and the two spin orientations (1 and 2) result in a second-order equation in A_1^p for the ratio $(N_{o1} N_{c2}) / (N_{c1} N_{o2})$. Fluxes and acceptances cancel in this equation, if the ratio of acceptances for the two sets of cells is the same before and after the magnetic field rotation [7]. The asymmetries are calculated separately for each of those sub-samples. Each period before and after such rotation of the magnetic field is considered as one sub-sample and the asymmetries are calculated separately for each of these sub-samples. In order to minimise the statistical uncertainty, all quantities used in

Table 1

Contributions to the systematic uncertainty on A_1^p with multiplicative (top) and additive (bottom) components.

Beam polarisation	$\Delta P_B/P_B$	5%
Target polarisation	$\Delta P_T/P_T$	3.5%
Depolarisation factor	$\Delta D(R)/D(R)$	2.0–3.0%
Dilution factor	$\Delta f/f$	2%
Total	ΔA_1^{mult}	$\simeq 0.07 A_1^p$
False asymmetry	A_1^{false}	$< 0.84 \cdot \sigma_{\text{stat}}$
Transverse asymmetry	$\eta \cdot A_2^p$	$< 10^{-2}$
Radiative corrections	A_1^{RC}	$10^{-4} - 10^{-3}$

the asymmetry calculation are evaluated event by event with the weight factor [7,8]

$$w = P_B f D. \quad (8)$$

The polarisation of the incoming muons as a function of the beam momentum is obtained from a parametrisation based on a Monte Carlo simulation of the beam line. The effective dilution factor f is given by the ratio of the total cross section for muons on polarisable protons to the one on all nuclei in the target, whereby their measured composition is taken into account. It is modified by a correction factor that accounts for the dilution due to radiative events on unpolarised protons [9]. The target polarisation is not included in the event weight, because it may change in time and generate false asymmetries. The obtained asymmetries are corrected for spin-dependent radiative effects according to Ref. [10] and for the ^{14}N polarisation as described in Refs. [3,11]. It has been checked in the same binning as for the asymmetry determination that the use of semi-inclusive triggers does not bias the determination of A_1^p . The final value of A_1^p is obtained as the weighted average of the results from the sub-samples.

Systematic uncertainties are calculated taking into account multiplicative and additive contributions to A_1^p . Multiplicative contributions originate from the uncertainties of the target polarisation, the beam polarisation, the depolarisation factor (mainly due to the uncertainty of R) and the dilution factor. When added in quadrature, these uncertainties result in a total uncertainty ΔA_1^{mult} of $0.07 A_1^p$. They are shown in Table 1, which also shows the additive contributions. The largest additive contribution to the systematic uncertainty is the one from possible false asymmetries. Their size is estimated with two different approaches. In the first approach, the central target cell is artificially divided into two consecutive 30 cm long parts. Calculating the asymmetry using the two outer cells or the two central parts, the physics asymmetry cancels and thus two independent false asymmetries are formed. Both are found to be consistent with zero. This test was done using the same sub-samples as for the physics asymmetries determination. In order to check for a false asymmetry due to time-dependent effects, the asymmetries A_1^p obtained from these sub-samples are compared by using the method of ‘‘pulls’’ [12]. No significant broadening of pull distributions is observed. These pulls are used to set an upper limit on the systematic uncertainty due to false asymmetries A_1^{false} . Depending on the x -bin, values between $0.4 \cdot \sigma_{\text{stat}}$ and $0.84 \cdot \sigma_{\text{stat}}$ are obtained. Further additive corrections originate from neglecting A_2^p and from the uncertainty in the correction A_1^{RC} to the asymmetry A_1^p , which is due to spin-dependent radiative effects. The total systematic uncertainty is given by the quadratic sum of the contributions in Table 1.

5. Results on A_1^p and g_1^p

The data are analysed in terms of A_1^p and g_1^p as a function of x and Q^2 . The x dependence of A_1^p averaged over Q^2 in each x

bin is shown in Fig. 1 together with the previous COMPASS results obtained at 160 GeV [3] and with results from other experiments [1,13–16] including those by SMC at 190 GeV [17], while the latest results from JLab [18] were not included because of the $W^2 > 12$ (GeV/c²)² cut. The bands at the bottom represent the systematic uncertainties of the COMPASS results as discussed in

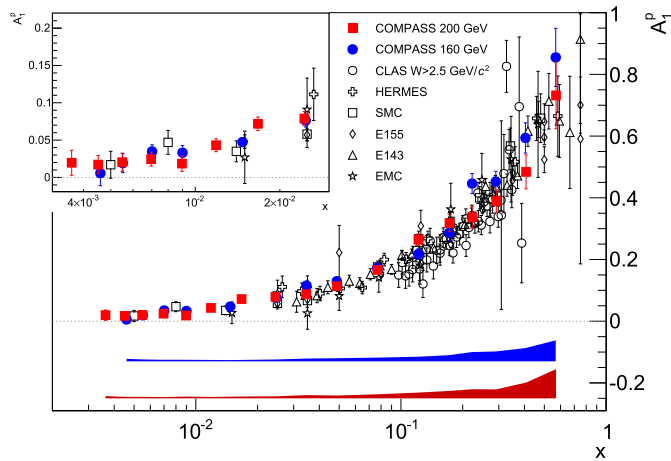


Fig. 1. The asymmetry A_1^p as a function of x at the measured values of Q^2 as obtained from the COMPASS data at 200 GeV. The new data are compared to the COMPASS results obtained at 160 GeV [3] and to the other world data (EMC [1], CLAS [13], HERMES [14], E143 [15], E155 [16], SMC [17]). The bands at the bottom indicate the systematic uncertainties of the COMPASS data at 160 GeV (upper band) and 200 GeV (lower band). (Coloured version online.)

Section 4. The new data improve the statistical precision at least by a factor of two in the low- x region, which is covered by the SMC and COMPASS measurements only. The good agreement between all experimental results reflects the weak Q^2 dependence of A_1^p . This is also illustrated in Fig. 2, which shows A_1^p as a function of Q^2 in sixteen intervals of x for the COMPASS data sets at 160 GeV and 200 GeV. In none of the x bins, a significant Q^2 dependence is observed. The numerical values of $A_1^p(x)$ and $A_1^p(x, Q^2)$ obtained at 200 GeV are given in Appendix A in Tables 8 and 9.

The longitudinal spin structure function g_1^p is calculated from A_1^p using Eq. (6), the F_2^p parametrisation from Ref. [17] and the ratio R from Ref. [19]. The new results are shown in Fig. 3 at the measured values of Q^2 in comparison with the previous COMPASS results obtained at 160 GeV and with SMC results at 190 GeV. The systematic uncertainty of g_1^p is calculated using the contributions from Table 1 including in addition an uncertainty for F_2^p of 2–3% [17]. Compared to the SMC experiment, the present systematic uncertainties are larger due to a more realistic estimate of false asymmetries, which is based on real events.

The world data on g_1^p as a function of Q^2 for various x are shown in Fig. 4. The data cover about two decades in x and in Q^2 for most of the x range, except for $x < 0.02$, where the Q^2 range is much more limited. The new data improve the kinematic coverage in the region of high Q^2 and low x values, which gives a better lever arm for the determination of quark and gluon polarisations from the DGLAP evolution equations. In addition, the extension of measurements to lower values of x is important to better constrain the value of the first moment of g_1^p .

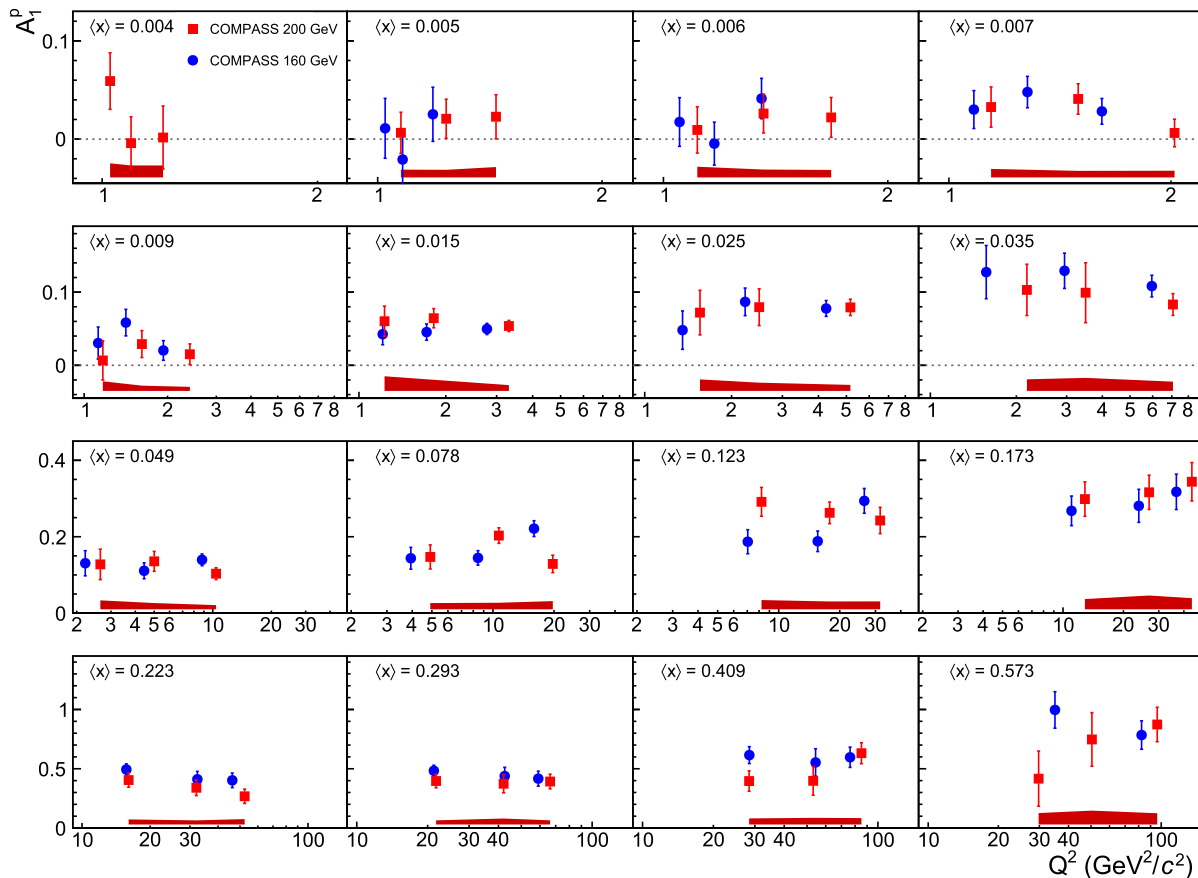


Fig. 2. The asymmetry A_1^p as a function of Q^2 in bins of x obtained from the 200 GeV (red squares) and 160 GeV (blue circles) COMPASS data. The band at the bottom indicates the systematic uncertainty for the 200 GeV data. (Coloured version online.)

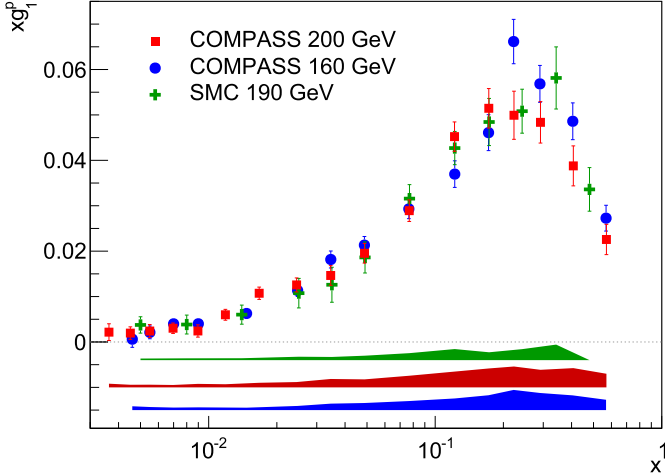


Fig. 3. The spin-dependent structure function xg_1^p at the measured values of Q^2 as a function of x . The COMPASS data at 200 GeV (red squares) are compared to the results at 160 GeV (blue circles) and to the SMC results at 190 GeV (green crosses) for $Q^2 > 1$ (GeV/c^2). The bands from top to bottom indicate the systematic uncertainties for SMC 190 GeV, COMPASS 200 GeV and COMPASS 160 GeV. (Coloured version online.)

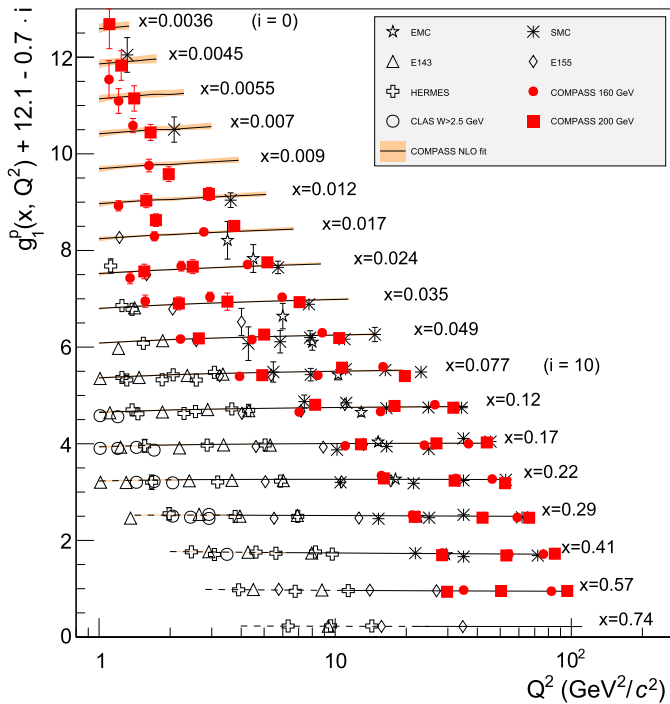


Fig. 4. World data on the spin-dependent structure function g_1^p as a function of Q^2 for various values of x with all COMPASS data in red (full circles: 160 GeV, full squares: 200 GeV). The lines represent the Q^2 dependence for each value of x , as determined from a NLO QCD fit (see Section 6). The dashed ranges represent the region with $W^2 < 10$ (GeV/c^2). Note that the data of the individual x bins are staggered for clarity by adding $12.1 - 0.7i$, $i = 0 \dots 17$. (Coloured version online.)

6. NLO QCD fit of g_1 world data

We performed a new NLO QCD fit of the spin-dependent structure function g_1 in the DIS region, $Q^2 > 1$ (GeV/c^2), considering all available proton, deuteron and ^3He data. The fit is performed in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ renormalisation and factorisation scheme. For the fit, the same program is used as in Ref. [20], which was derived from program 2 in Ref. [17]. The region $W^2 < 10$ (GeV/c^2) is excluded as it was in recent analyses [21]. Note that the impact of higher-twist

effects when using a smaller W^2 cut is considered in Ref. [22]. The total number of data points used in the fit is 495 (see Table 2), the number of COMPASS data points is 138.

The neutron structure function g_1^n is extracted from the ^3He data, while the nucleon structure function g_1^N is obtained as

$$g_1^N(x, Q^2) = \frac{1}{1 - 1.5 \omega_D} g_1^d(x, Q^2), \quad (9)$$

where ω_D is a correction for the D-wave state in the deuteron, $\omega_D = 0.05 \pm 0.01$ [27], and the deuteron structure function g_1^d is given per nucleon. The quark singlet distribution $\Delta q^S(x)$, the quark non-singlet distributions $\Delta q_3(x)$ and $\Delta q_8(x)$, as well as the gluon helicity distribution $\Delta g(x)$, which appear in the NLO expressions for g_1^p , g_1^n and g_1^N (see e.g. Ref. [17]), are parametrised at a reference scale Q_0^2 as follows:

$$\Delta f_k(x) = \eta_k \frac{x^{\alpha_k} (1-x)^{\beta_k} (1 + \gamma_k x)}{\int_0^1 x^{\alpha_k} (1-x)^{\beta_k} (1 + \gamma_k x) dx}. \quad (10)$$

Here, $\Delta f_k(x)$ ($k = S, 3, 8, g$) represents $\Delta q^S(x)$, $\Delta q_3(x)$, $\Delta q_8(x)$ and $\Delta g(x)$ and η_k is the first moment of $\Delta f_k(x)$ at the reference scale. The moments of Δq_3 and Δq_8 are fixed at any scale by the baryon decay constants $(F + D)$ and $(3F - D)$, respectively, assuming $\text{SU}(2)_f$ and $\text{SU}(3)_f$ flavour symmetries. The impact of releasing these conditions is investigated and included in the systematic uncertainty. The coefficients γ_k are fixed to zero for the two non-singlet distributions as they are poorly constrained and not needed to describe the data. The exponent β_g , which is not well determined from the data, is fixed to 3.0225 [28] and the uncertainty from the introduced bias is included in the final uncertainty. This leaves 11 free parameters in the fitted parton distributions. The expression for χ^2 of the fit consists of three terms,

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{exp}}} \left[\sum_{i=1}^{N_n^{\text{data}}} \left(\frac{g_1^{\text{fit}} - \mathcal{N}_n g_{1,i}^{\text{data}}}{\mathcal{N}_n \sigma_i} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1 - \mathcal{N}_n}{\delta \mathcal{N}_n} \right)^2 \right] + \chi_{\text{positivity}}^2. \quad (11)$$

Only statistical uncertainties of the data are taken into account in σ_i . The normalisation factors \mathcal{N}_n of each data set n are allowed to vary taking into account the normalisation uncertainties $\delta \mathcal{N}_n$. If the latter are unavailable, they are estimated as quadratic sums of the uncertainties of the beam and target polarisations. The fitted normalisations are found to be consistent with unity, except for the E155 proton data where the normalisation is higher, albeit compatible with the value quoted in Ref. [16].

In order to keep the parameters within their physical ranges, the polarised PDFs are calculated at every iteration of the fit and required to satisfy the positivity conditions $|\Delta q(x) + \Delta \bar{q}(x)| \leq q(x) + \bar{q}(x)$ and $|\Delta g(x)| \leq g(x)$ at $Q^2 = 1$ (GeV/c^2) [29,30], which is accomplished by the $\chi_{\text{positivity}}^2$ term in Eq. (11). This procedure leads to asymmetric values of the parameter uncertainties when the fitted value is close to the allowed limit. The unpolarised PDFs and the corresponding value of the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s(Q^2)$ are taken from the MSTW parametrisation [28]. The impact of the choice of PDFs is evaluated by using the MRST distributions [31] for comparison.

In order to investigate the sensitivity of the parametrisation of the polarised PDFs to the functional forms, the fit is performed for several sets of functional shapes. These shapes do or do not include the γ_S and γ_g parameters of Eq. (10) and are defined at reference scales ranging from 1 (GeV/c^2) to 63 (GeV/c^2). It is observed [8]

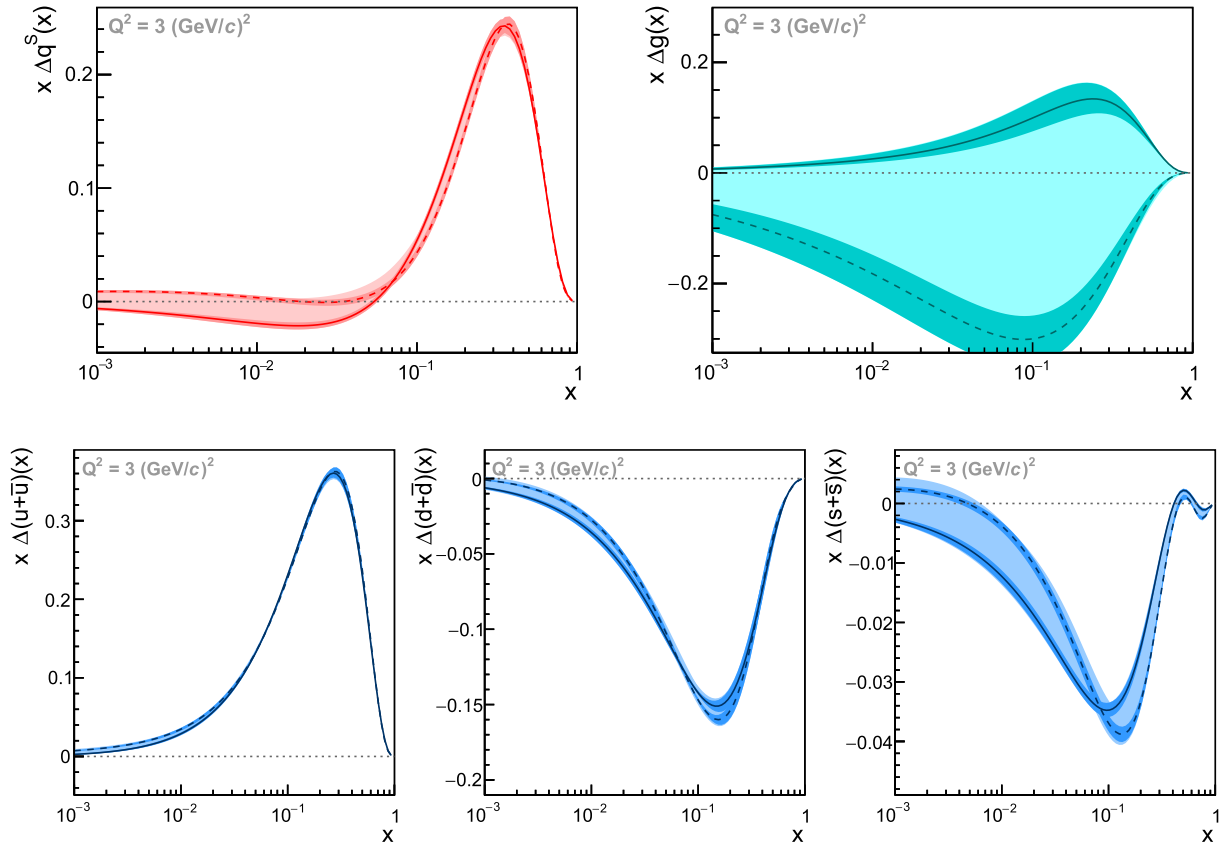


Fig. 5. Results of the QCD fits to g_1 world data at $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ for the two sets of functional shapes as discussed in the text. Top: singlet $x\Delta q^S(x)$ and gluon distribution $x\Delta g(x)$. Bottom: distributions of $x[\Delta q(x) + \Delta \bar{q}(x)]$ for different flavours (u , d and s). Continuous lines correspond to the fit with $\gamma_S = 0$, long dashed lines to the one with $\gamma_S \neq 0$. The dark bands represent the statistical uncertainties, only. The light bands, which overlay the dark ones, represent the total systematic and statistical uncertainties added in quadrature. (Coloured version online.)

that mainly two sets of functional shapes are needed to span almost entirely the range of the possible $\Delta q^S(x)$ and $\Delta g(x)$ distributions allowed by the data. These two sets of functional forms yield two extreme solutions for $\Delta g(x)$. For $\gamma_g = \gamma_S = 0$ ($\gamma_g = 0$ and $\gamma_S \neq 0$) a negative (positive) solution for $\Delta g(x)$ is obtained. Both solutions are parametrised at $Q_0^2 = 1 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ and lead to similar values of the reduced χ^2 of the fits of about 1.05/d.o.f. Changes in the fit result that originate from using other (converging) functional forms are included in the systematic uncertainty.

The obtained distributions are presented in Fig. 5. The dark error bands seen in this figure stem from generating several sets of g_1 pseudo-data, which are obtained by randomising the measured g_1 values using their statistical uncertainties according to a normal distribution. This corresponds to a one-standard-deviation accuracy of the extracted parton distributions. A thorough analysis of systematic uncertainties of the fitting procedure is performed. The most important source is the freedom in the choice of the functional forms for $\Delta q^S(x)$ and $\Delta g(x)$. Further uncertainties arise from the uncertainty in the value of $\alpha_s(Q^2)$ and from effects of $SU(2)_f$ and $SU(3)_f$ symmetry breaking. The total systematic and statistical uncertainties are represented by the light bands overlaying the dark ones in Fig. 5. For both sets of functional forms discussed above, $\Delta s(x) + \Delta \bar{s}(x)$ stays negative. It is different from zero for $x \gtrsim 0.001$ as are $\Delta d(x) + \Delta \bar{d}(x)$ and $\Delta u(x) + \Delta \bar{u}(x)$. The singlet distribution $\Delta q^S(x)$ is compatible with zero for $x \lesssim 0.07$.

The inclusion of systematic uncertainties in the fit leads to much larger spreads in the first moments as compared to those obtained by only propagating statistical uncertainties. The results

for the first moments are given in Table 3. In this table, $\Delta\Sigma$ denotes the first moment of the singlet distribution. Note that the first moments of $\Delta u + \Delta \bar{u}$, $\Delta d + \Delta \bar{d}$ and $\Delta s + \Delta \bar{s}$ are not independent, since the first moments of the non-singlet distributions are fixed by the decay constants F and D at every value of Q^2 . The large uncertainty in $\Delta g(x)$, which is mainly due to the freedom in the choice of its functional form, does however not allow to determine the first moment of $\Delta g(x)$ from the available inclusive data only.

The fitted g_1^p and g_1^d distributions at $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ are shown in Fig. 6 together with the data evolved to the same scale. The two curves correspond to the two extreme functional forms discussed above, which lead to either a positive or a negative $\Delta g(x)$. The dark bands represent the statistical uncertainties associated with each curve and the light bands represent the total systematic and statistical uncertainties added in quadrature. The values for g_1^p are positive in the whole measured region down to $x = 0.0025$, while g_1^d is consistent with zero at low x .

7. First moments of g_1 and Bjorken sum rule from COMPASS data

The new data on g_1^p together with the new QCD fit allow a more precise determination of the first moments $\Gamma_1(Q^2) = \int_0^1 g_1(x, Q^2) dx$ of the proton, neutron and non-singlet spin structure functions using COMPASS data only. The latter one is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g_1^{\text{NS}}(x, Q^2) &= g_1^p(x, Q^2) - g_1^n(x, Q^2) \\ &= 2[g_1^p(x, Q^2) - g_1^N(x, Q^2)]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Table 2

List of experimental data sets used in this analysis. For each set the number of points, the χ^2 contribution and the fitted normalisation factor is given for the two functional shapes discussed in the text, which lead to either a positive or a negative function $\Delta g(x)$.

Experiment	Function extracted	Number of points	χ^2		Normalisation	
			$\Delta g(x) > 0$	$\Delta g(x) < 0$	$\Delta g(x) > 0$	$\Delta g(x) < 0$
EMC [1]	A_1^p	10	5.2	4.7	1.03 ± 0.07	1.02 ± 0.07
E142 [23]	A_1^n	6	1.1	1.1	1.01 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.07
E143 [15]	g_1^d/F_1^d	54	61.4	59.0	0.99 ± 0.04	1.01 ± 0.04
E143 [15]	g_1^p/F_1^p	54	47.4	49.1	1.05 ± 0.02	1.08 ± 0.02
E154 [24]	A_1^n	11	5.9	7.4	1.06 ± 0.04	1.07 ± 0.04
E155 [25]	g_1^d/F_1^d	22	18.8	18.0	1.00 ± 0.04	1.00 ± 0.04
E155 [16]	g_1^p/F_1^p	21	50.0	49.7	1.16 ± 0.02	1.16 ± 0.02
SMC [17]	A_1^p	59	55.4	55.4	1.02 ± 0.03	1.01 ± 0.03
SMC [17]	A_1^d	65	59.3	61.5	1.00 ± 0.04	1.00 ± 0.04
HERMES [14]	A_1^d	24	28.1	27.0	0.98 ± 0.04	1.01 ± 0.04
HERMES [14]	A_1^p	24	14.0	16.2	1.08 ± 0.03	1.10 ± 0.03
HERMES [26]	A_1^n	7	1.6	1.2	1.01 ± 0.07	1.00 ± 0.07
COMPASS 160 GeV [20]	g_1^d	43	33.1	37.7	0.97 ± 0.05	0.95 ± 0.05
COMPASS 160 GeV [3]	A_1^p	44	50.8	49.1	1.00 ± 0.03	0.99 ± 0.03
COMPASS 200 GeV (this work)	A_1^p	51	43.6	43.2	1.03 ± 0.03	1.02 ± 0.03

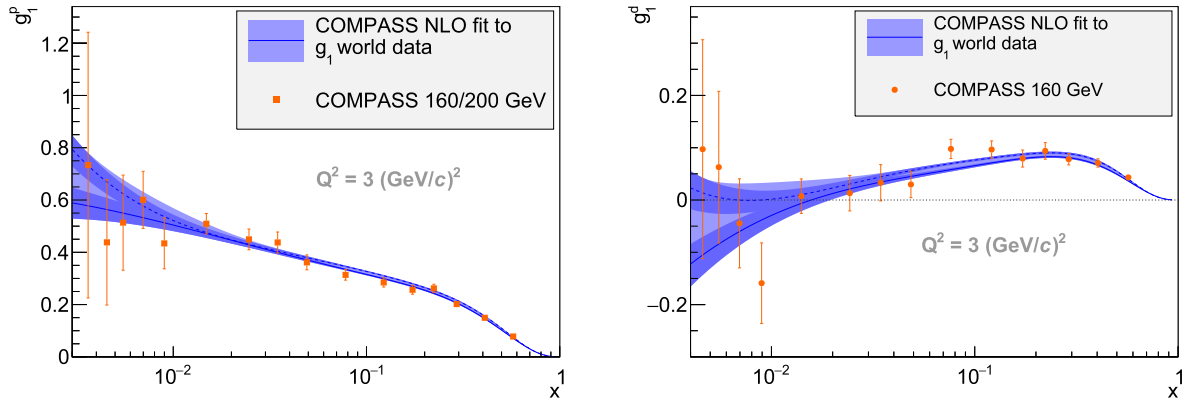


Fig. 6. Results of the QCD fits to g_1^p (left) and g_1^d (right) world data at $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ as functions of x . The curves correspond to the two sets of functional shapes as discussed in the text. The dark bands represent the statistical uncertainties associated with each curve and the light bands, which overlay the dark ones, represent the total systematic and statistical uncertainties added in quadrature. (Coloured version online.)

The integral $\Gamma_1^{NS}(Q^2)$ at a given value of Q^2 is connected to the ratio g_A/g_V of the axial and vector coupling constants via the fundamental Bjorken sum rule [32]

$$\Gamma_1^{NS}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 g_1^{NS}(x, Q^2) dx = \frac{1}{6} \left| \frac{g_A}{g_V} \right| C_1^{NS}(Q^2), \quad (13)$$

where $C_1^{NS}(Q^2)$ is the non-singlet coefficient function that is given up to third order in $\alpha_s(Q^2)$ in perturbative QCD in Ref. [33]. The calculation up to the fourth order is available in Ref. [34].

Due to small differences in the kinematics of the data sets, all points of the three COMPASS g_1 data sets (Table 2) are evolved to the Q^2 value of the 160 GeV proton data. A weighted average of the 160 GeV and 200 GeV proton data is performed and the points at different values of Q^2 and the same value of x are merged.

For the determination of Γ_1^p and Γ_1^d , the values of g_1^p and g_1^d are evolved to $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$ and the integrals are calculated in the measured ranges of x . In order to obtain the full moments, the QCD fit is used to evaluate the extrapolation to $x = 1$ and $x = 0$ (see Table 4). The moment Γ_1^n is calculated using $g_1^n = 2g_1^N - g_1^p$. The

Table 3

Value ranges of first moments of quark distributions, as obtained from the QCD fit when taking into account both statistical and systematic uncertainties, as detailed in the text.

First moment	Value range at $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$
$\Delta\Sigma$	[0.26, 0.36]
$\Delta u + \Delta\bar{u}$	[0.82, 0.85]
$\Delta d + \Delta\bar{d}$	[-0.45, -0.42]
$\Delta s + \Delta\bar{s}$	[-0.11, -0.08]

systematic uncertainties of the moments include the uncertainties of P_B , P_T , f , D and F_2 . The uncertainties due to the dominant additive systematic uncertainties for the spin structure functions cancel to a large extent in the calculation of the first moments and are thus not taken into account. In addition, the uncertainties from the QCD evolution and those from the extrapolation are obtained using the uncertainties given in Section 6. The full moments are given in Table 5. Note that also Γ_1^N is updated compared to Ref. [20] using the new QCD fit.

For the evaluation of the Bjorken sum rule, the procedure is slightly modified. Before evolving from the measured Q^2 to $Q^2 = 3 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$, g_1^{NS} and its statistical and systematic uncertainty

Table 4

Contribution to the first moments of g_1 at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)². Limits in parentheses are applied for the calculation of Γ_1^N . The uncertainties of the extrapolations are negligible.

x range	Γ_1^P	Γ_1^N
0–0.0025 (0.004)	0.002	0.000
0.0025 (0.004)–0.7	0.134 ± 0.003	0.047 ± 0.003
0.7–1.0	0.003	0.001

Table 5

First moments of g_1 at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)² using COMPASS data only.

	Γ_1	$\delta\Gamma_1^{\text{stat}}$	$\delta\Gamma_1^{\text{syst}}$	$\delta\Gamma_1^{\text{evol}}$
Proton	0.139	± 0.003	± 0.009	± 0.005
Nucleon	0.049	± 0.003	± 0.004	± 0.004
Neutron	–0.041	± 0.006	± 0.011	± 0.005

Table 6

Results of the fit of $\Delta q_3(x)$ at $Q_0^2 = 1$ (GeV/c)².

Param.	Value
η_3	1.24 ± 0.06
α_3	-0.11 ± 0.08
β_3	$2.2_{-0.4}^{+0.5}$
χ^2/NDF	7.9/13

Table 7

First moment Γ_1^{NS} at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)² from the COMPASS data with statistical uncertainties. Contributions from the unmeasured regions are estimated from the NLO fit to g_1^{NS} . The statistical uncertainty is determined using the error band shown in Fig. 7.

x range	Γ_1^{NS}
0–0.0025	0.006 ± 0.001
0.0025–0.7	0.170 ± 0.008
0.7–1.0	0.005 ± 0.002
0–1	0.181 ± 0.008

is calculated from the proton and deuteron g_1 data.²³ Since there is no measured COMPASS value of g_1^d corresponding to the new g_1^p point at $x = 0.0036$, the value of g_1^d from the NLO QCD fit is used in this case. The fit of g_1^{NS} is performed with the same program as discussed in the previous section but fitting only the non-singlet distribution $\Delta q_3(x, Q^2)$. The parameters of this fit are given in Table 6 and a comparison of the fitted distribution with the data points is shown in Fig. 7. The statistical error band is obtained with the same method as described in the previous section. The systematic uncertainties of the fit are much smaller than the statistical ones. The additional normalisation uncertainty is about 8%.

The integral of g_1^{NS} in the measured range of $0.0025 < x < 0.7$ is calculated using the data points. The contribution from the unmeasured region is extracted again from the fit. The various contributions are listed in Table 7 and the dependence of Γ_1^{NS} on the lower limit of the integral is shown in Fig. 8. The contribution of the measured x range to the integral corresponds to 93.8% of the full first moment, while the extrapolation to 0 and 1 amounts to 3.6% and 2.6%, respectively. Compared to the previous result [3], the contribution of the extrapolation to $x = 0$ is now by about one third smaller than before due to the larger x range of the present data. The value of the integral for the full x range is

$$\Gamma_1^{\text{NS}} = 0.181 \pm 0.008 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.014 \text{ (syst.)}. \quad (14)$$

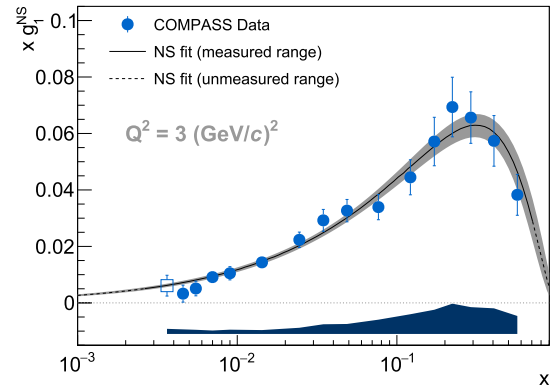


Fig. 7. Values of $x g_1^{\text{NS}}(x)$ at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)² compared to the non-singlet NLO QCD fit using COMPASS data only. The error bars are statistical. The open square at lowest x is obtained with g_1^d taken from the NLO QCD fit. The band around the curve represents the statistical uncertainty of the NS fit, the band at the bottom the systematic uncertainty of the data points. (Coloured version online.)

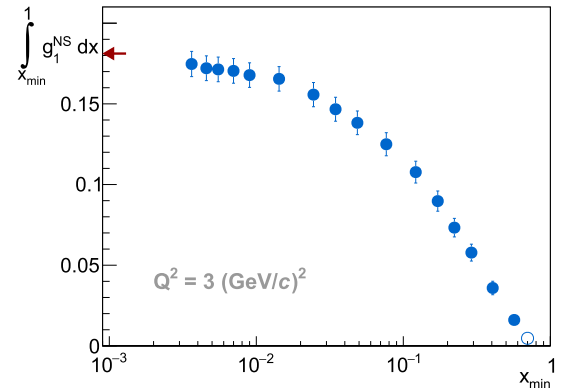


Fig. 8. Values of $\int_{x_{\text{min}}}^1 g_1^{\text{NS}} dx$ as a function of x_{min} . The open circle at $x = 0.7$ is obtained from the fit. The arrow on the left side shows the value for the full range, $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

The total uncertainty of Γ_1^{NS} is dominated by the systematic uncertainty, which is calculated using the same contributions as used for the values in Table 5. The largest contribution stems from the uncertainty of the beam polarisation (5%); other contributions originate from uncertainties in the combined proton data, i.e. those of target polarisation, dilution factor and depolarisation factor. The uncertainties in the deuteron data have a smaller impact as the first moment of g_1^d is smaller than that of the proton. The uncertainty due to the evolution to a common Q^2 is found to be negligible when varying Q_0^2 between 1 (GeV/c)² and 10 (GeV/c)². The overall result agrees well with our earlier result $\Gamma_1^{\text{NS}} = 0.190 \pm 0.009 \pm 0.015$ in Ref. [3].

The result for Γ_1^{NS} is used to evaluate the Bjorken sum rule with Eq. (13). Using the coefficient function $C_1^{\text{NS}}(Q^2)$ at NLO and $\alpha_s = 0.337$ at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)², one obtains

$$|g_A/g_V| = 1.22 \pm 0.05 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.10 \text{ (syst.)}. \quad (15)$$

The comparison of the value of $|g_A/g_V|$ from the present analysis and the one obtained from neutron β decay, $|g_A/g_V| = 1.2701 \pm 0.002$ [36], provides a validation of the Bjorken sum rule with an accuracy of 9%. Note that the contribution of Δg cancels in Eq. (12) and hence does not enter the Bjorken sum. Higher-order perturbative corrections are expected to increase slightly the result. By using the coefficient function C_1^{NS} at NNLO instead of NLO, $|g_A/g_V|$ is found to be 1.25, closer to values stemming from the neutron weak decay.

²³ The results for g_1^{NS} as well as for A_1^p and g_1^p are available at HEPDATA [35].

8. Conclusions

The COMPASS Collaboration performed new measurements of the longitudinal double spin asymmetry $A_1^p(x, Q^2)$ and the longitudinal spin structure function $g_1^p(x, Q^2)$ of the proton in the range $0.0025 < x < 0.7$ and in the DIS region, $1 < Q^2 < 190$ (GeV/c)², thus extending the previously covered kinematic range [3] towards large values of Q^2 and small values of x . The new data improve the statistical precision of $g_1^p(x)$ by about a factor of two for $x \lesssim 0.02$.

The world data for g_1^p , g_1^d and g_1^n were used to perform a NLO QCD analysis, including a detailed investigation of systematic effects. This analysis thus updates and supersedes the previous COMPASS QCD analysis [20]. It was found that the contribution of quarks to the nucleon spin, $\Delta\Sigma$, lies in the interval 0.26 and 0.36 at $Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)², where the interval limits reflect mainly the large uncertainty in the determination of the gluon contribution.

When combined with the previously published results on the deuteron [20], the new g_1^p data provide a new determination of the non-singlet spin structure function g_1^{NS} and a new evaluation of the Bjorken sum rule, which is validated to an accuracy of about 9%.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A. Asymmetry results

Asymmetry results are given in Tables 8 and 9.

Table 8

Values of A_1^p and g_1^p as a function of x at the measured values of Q^2 . The first uncertainty is statistical, the second one is systematic.

x range	x	y	Q^2 ((GeV/c) ²)	A_1^p	g_1^p
0.003–0.004	0.0036	0.800	1.10	$0.020 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.007$	$0.60 \pm 0.51 \pm 0.22$
0.004–0.005	0.0045	0.726	1.23	$0.017 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.005$	$0.43 \pm 0.31 \pm 0.13$
0.005–0.006	0.0055	0.677	1.39	$0.020 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.005$	$0.44 \pm 0.26 \pm 0.11$
0.006–0.008	0.0070	0.629	1.61	$0.0244 \pm 0.0093 \pm 0.0041$	$0.43 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.08$
0.008–0.010	0.0090	0.584	1.91	$0.019 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.006$	$0.27 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.09$
0.010–0.014	0.0119	0.550	2.33	$0.0431 \pm 0.0086 \pm 0.0045$	$0.51 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.06$
0.014–0.020	0.0167	0.518	3.03	$0.0719 \pm 0.0091 \pm 0.0060$	$0.642 \pm 0.081 \pm 0.061$
0.020–0.030	0.0244	0.492	4.11	$0.0788 \pm 0.0097 \pm 0.0065$	$0.514 \pm 0.063 \pm 0.048$
0.030–0.040	0.0346	0.477	5.60	$0.088 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.010$	$0.424 \pm 0.063 \pm 0.054$
0.040–0.060	0.0488	0.464	7.64	$0.114 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.009$	$0.401 \pm 0.044 \pm 0.036$
0.060–0.100	0.0768	0.450	11.7	$0.166 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.013$	$0.376 \pm 0.031 \pm 0.033$
0.100–0.150	0.122	0.432	18.0	$0.264 \pm 0.019 \pm 0.019$	$0.372 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.029$
0.150–0.200	0.172	0.416	24.8	$0.318 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.024$	$0.298 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.024$
0.200–0.250	0.223	0.404	31.3	$0.337 \pm 0.036 \pm 0.030$	$0.224 \pm 0.024 \pm 0.021$
0.250–0.350	0.292	0.389	39.5	$0.389 \pm 0.037 \pm 0.029$	$0.166 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.013$
0.350–0.500	0.407	0.366	52.0	$0.484 \pm 0.055 \pm 0.051$	$0.095 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.010$
0.500–0.700	0.570	0.339	67.4	$0.73 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.09$	$0.0396 \pm 0.0058 \pm 0.0053$

Table 9

Values of A_1^p and g_1^p as a function of x at the measured values of Q^2 . The first uncertainty is statistical, the second one is systematic.

x range	x	y	Q^2 ((GeV/c) ²)	A_1^p	g_1^p
0.003–0.004	0.0035	0.771	1.03	$0.059 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.014$	$1.79 \pm 0.87 \pm 0.45$
	0.0036	0.798	1.10	$-0.004 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.012$	$-0.12 \pm 0.81 \pm 0.37$
	0.0038	0.840	1.22	$0.002 \pm 0.032 \pm 0.012$	$0.05 \pm 0.98 \pm 0.37$
0.004–0.005	0.0044	0.641	1.07	$0.006 \pm 0.021 \pm 0.008$	$0.15 \pm 0.50 \pm 0.19$
	0.0045	0.730	1.24	$0.021 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.008$	$0.53 \pm 0.51 \pm 0.20$
	0.0046	0.817	1.44	$0.023 \pm 0.022 \pm 0.011$	$0.60 \pm 0.59 \pm 0.28$
0.005–0.006	0.0055	0.540	1.11	$0.009 \pm 0.024 \pm 0.011$	$0.18 \pm 0.46 \pm 0.21$
	0.0055	0.661	1.36	$0.026 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.008$	$0.56 \pm 0.42 \pm 0.17$
	0.0056	0.795	1.68	$0.022 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.008$	$0.51 \pm 0.47 \pm 0.18$
0.006–0.008	0.0069	0.442	1.14	$0.033 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.009$	$0.50 \pm 0.32 \pm 0.14$
	0.0069	0.580	1.50	$0.041 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.007$	$0.71 \pm 0.27 \pm 0.12$
	0.0071	0.757	2.02	$0.006 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.007$	$0.12 \pm 0.27 \pm 0.13$
0.008–0.010	0.0089	0.349	1.17	$0.007 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.013$	$0.08 \pm 0.32 \pm 0.16$
	0.0089	0.483	1.62	$0.029 \pm 0.018 \pm 0.007$	$0.40 \pm 0.25 \pm 0.10$
	0.0090	0.710	2.41	$0.015 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.006$	$0.24 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.09$
0.010–0.014	0.0116	0.278	1.21	$0.044 \pm 0.026 \pm 0.013$	$0.41 \pm 0.24 \pm 0.12$
	0.0117	0.401	1.75	$0.040 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.011$	$0.42 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.11$
	0.0120	0.656	2.92	$0.044 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.005$	$0.56 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.07$
0.014–0.020	0.0164	0.206	1.26	$0.087 \pm 0.034 \pm 0.015$	$0.58 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.11$
	0.0165	0.313	1.92	$0.100 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.011$	$0.77 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.09$
	0.0168	0.605	3.74	$0.063 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.006$	$0.60 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.06$
0.020–0.030	0.0239	0.177	1.55	$0.072 \pm 0.030 \pm 0.016$	$0.36 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.08$
	0.0240	0.280	2.49	$0.079 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.011$	$0.45 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.07$
	0.0246	0.575	5.16	$0.079 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.008$	$0.545 \pm 0.077 \pm 0.061$
0.030–0.040	0.0341	0.173	2.18	$0.103 \pm 0.035 \pm 0.016$	$0.39 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.06$
	0.0343	0.272	3.50	$0.099 \pm 0.041 \pm 0.018$	$0.43 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.08$
	0.0347	0.559	7.07	$0.083 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.013$	$0.421 \pm 0.075 \pm 0.066$

Table 9 (continued)

x range	x	y	Q^2 ((GeV/c) ²)	A_1^p	g_1^p
0.040–0.060	0.0473	0.151	2.65	$0.128 \pm 0.040 \pm 0.023$	$0.37 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.07$
	0.0480	0.283	5.00	$0.136 \pm 0.026 \pm 0.016$	$0.449 \pm 0.086 \pm 0.057$
	0.0492	0.575	10.4	$0.103 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.011$	$0.378 \pm 0.056 \pm 0.043$
0.060–0.100	0.0740	0.184	4.91	$0.147 \pm 0.031 \pm 0.016$	$0.308 \pm 0.066 \pm 0.036$
	0.0754	0.390	10.7	$0.203 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.017$	$0.465 \pm 0.047 \pm 0.043$
	0.0800	0.664	19.7	$0.129 \pm 0.023 \pm 0.021$	$0.292 \pm 0.052 \pm 0.050$
0.100–0.150	0.119	0.190	8.23	$0.291 \pm 0.038 \pm 0.024$	$0.397 \pm 0.051 \pm 0.035$
	0.121	0.402	17.8	$0.263 \pm 0.028 \pm 0.021$	$0.372 \pm 0.040 \pm 0.031$
	0.125	0.676	31.7	$0.243 \pm 0.034 \pm 0.021$	$0.337 \pm 0.048 \pm 0.030$
0.150–0.200	0.171	0.209	12.9	$0.299 \pm 0.045 \pm 0.027$	$0.279 \pm 0.042 \pm 0.026$
	0.172	0.419	26.9	$0.316 \pm 0.045 \pm 0.036$	$0.298 \pm 0.042 \pm 0.035$
	0.175	0.668	43.8	$0.344 \pm 0.050 \pm 0.029$	$0.318 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.028$
0.200–0.250	0.222	0.200	16.1	$0.405 \pm 0.060 \pm 0.043$	$0.273 \pm 0.040 \pm 0.030$
	0.222	0.385	32.1	$0.340 \pm 0.066 \pm 0.035$	$0.227 \pm 0.044 \pm 0.024$
	0.224	0.624	52.4	$0.268 \pm 0.060 \pm 0.045$	$0.174 \pm 0.039 \pm 0.030$
0.250–0.350	0.289	0.209	21.7	$0.397 \pm 0.057 \pm 0.035$	$0.176 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.016$
	0.290	0.387	42.1	$0.374 \pm 0.077 \pm 0.050$	$0.160 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.022$
	0.296	0.602	66.3	$0.392 \pm 0.062 \pm 0.035$	$0.159 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.015$
0.350–0.500	0.403	0.195	28.4	$0.396 \pm 0.086 \pm 0.051$	$0.085 \pm 0.018 \pm 0.011$
	0.405	0.350	53.1	$0.40 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.06$	$0.079 \pm 0.024 \pm 0.011$
	0.413	0.556	85.1	$0.631 \pm 0.088 \pm 0.054$	$0.114 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.010$
0.500–0.700	0.561	0.143	29.8	$0.42 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.10$	$0.028 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.006$
	0.567	0.238	50.4	$0.75 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.12$	$0.044 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.007$
	0.575	0.457	96.1	$0.87 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.09$	$0.0429 \pm 0.0071 \pm 0.0048$

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