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Vector Meson Production and DVCS at CLAS and CLAS12

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Generalised Parton Distributions (GPDs) offer an insight into the three-dimensional structure of the nucleon and its internal dynamics, relating the transverse position of quarks to their longitudinal momentum. Two effective means of accessing GPDs are Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering (DVCS) and Meson Production (DVMP), in which a high energy electron scatters from a single quark in the nucleon and, respectively, a real photon or meson is produced as a result. Jefferson Laboratory (JLab), USA, is ideally suited for measuring these processes and a very active experimental programme has been underway in the recent years, making use of the lab's continuous electron beam up to 6 GeV in energy and its large angle spectrometer CLAS. In the future, a vast, new, as-yet unprobed kinematic region will become experimentally accessible when the current upgrade of the JLab accelerator to operate at a maximum energy of 12 GeV is completed in a few years. It is being complemented by the construction of a new suite of detectors, CLAS12, a number of them optimised specifically for exclusive reconstruction of DVCS and DVMP in the new kinematic region. We present a selection of recent results of DVCS and DVMP measurements using CLAS and introduce the exciting experimental programme planned for the future with CLAS12.

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