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Diffractive electroproduction of ρ -meson as discriminating testfield for the unintegrated gluon distribution in the proton

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The unintegrated gluon distribution (UGD) encodes the gluon content in the proton in the high-energy domain and gives the probability that a gluon can be emitted by a colliding proton, with given longitudinal momentum fraction and transverse momentum. The UGD, being a nonperturbative quantity, it is not well known and several models for it have been introduced so far.

The diffractive electroproduction of ρ -meson can get access to the UGDs and distinguish among the existing models, exploiting the discriminating power of helicity amplitude ratios.

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