LXX International conference "NUCLEUS –2020. Nuclear physics and elementary particle physics. Nuclear physics technologies"

Contribution ID: 257

Type: Oral report

Photoproduction of rho-mesons on nuclei in ultraperipheral nuclear collisions at the LHC

Monday 12 October 2020 18:15 (25 minutes)

Using the Gribov–Glauber model for photon–nucleus scattering and a generalization of the vector meson dominance (VMD) model for the hadronic structure of the photon, we make predictions for the cross sections of coherent and incoherent photoproduction of rho-mesons in Pb-Pb ultraperipheral collisions (UPCs) at the LHC. We find that the effect of inelastic nuclear shadowing is significant and leads to an additional 40% (25%) suppression of the coherent (incoherent) cross section. Our approach provides a very good description of the ALICE data on coherent rho photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs at 2.76 and 5.02 TeV. Comparing our predictions to those of the STARlight Monte-Carlo framework, we observe very significant differences.

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Session Classification: Section 4. Relativistic nuclear physics, elementary particle physics and highenergy physics

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