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Beam Asymmetry in  $\gamma \mathbf{p} \to \eta \Delta^+$  at GlueX<sup>1</sup> VARUN NEELAMANA, JONATHAN ZARLING, ZISIS PAPANDREOU, Univ of Regina, GLUEX COL-LABORATION — The photo-production mechanism used in the GLUEX experiment by impinging an 8.2-8.8 GeV linearly polarized photon beam on a liquid hydrogen target allows the mapping of light mesons in unprecedented detail with particular interest in exotic meson candidates. Polarization observables such as beam asymmetry  $\Sigma$ , extracted from azimuthal ( $\phi$ ) angular distributions between the meson production plane and the polarized photon beam, help in understanding production mechanisms and quasi-particle exchange processes using Regge theory. We report preliminary results on the beam asymmetry measurements for  $\eta$  in  $\gamma \mathbf{p} \to \eta \Delta^+$ . The reaction  $\gamma \mathbf{p} \to \eta \Delta^+$  provides an opportunity for validation of previous  $\eta$  asymmetry measurements and theoretical calculations.

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Varun Neelamana Univ of Regina

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