

Abstract Submitted
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Exclusive ϕ Meson Electroproduction with CLAS12 BRANDON CLARY, University of Connecticut, CLAS12 COLLABORATION — The Continuous Electron Accelerator Facility Large Angle Spectrometer detector (CLAS12) at Jefferson Lab in Virginia has completed a successful period of data acquisition starting in early 2018 of a longitudinally polarized 10.6 GeV electron beam on a 5 cm unpolarized liquid hydrogen target. A program to study exclusive ϕ meson electroproduction is now underway as this is an ideal channel for quantifying the gluonic properties of the nucleon. This analysis focuses on the exclusive reaction $ep \rightarrow epK^+K^-$. The analysis strategy consists of two steps: first to establish the approach to the small-size regime by testing model-independent features of the reaction mechanism, such as the Q^2 -independence of the t-slopes; then in a second step, extracting the gluonic size in the valence region as a function of x_B . This talk will focus on reviewing the current state of the analysis and future plans for the exclusive ϕ meson channel with CLAS12.

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