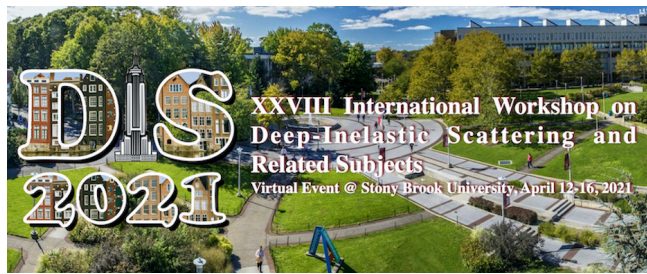


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Exclusive emissions of rho-mesons and the unintegrated gluon distribution

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Exclusive emissions of vector mesons in forward directions of rapidity offer us a faultless chance to probe the proton structure at small- x . Here, a high-energy factorization formula is established within the Balitsky-Fadin-Kuraev-Lipatov (BKFL), given as the convolution of an impact factor depicting the forward-meson emission and of an unintegrated gluon distribution (UGD) driving the gluon evolution at small- x . Being a nonperturbative quantity, the UGD is not well known and several models for it have been proposed so far. We present recent progresses on the study of exclusive emissions of forward ρ -mesons in lepto-hadronic collisions, showing how observables sensitive to different polarization states of the ρ -particle act as discriminators for the existing UGD models.

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