

Scaling properties of elastic proton-proton scattering at LHC energies

The differential cross section of proton-proton elastic scattering, as a function of the magnitude of the four-momentum transfer squared $|t|$, evolves in a consistent manner with \sqrt{s} at LHC energies. The “dip” and “bump” structures change their positions in $|t|$ as a function of \sqrt{s} and the slope at low values of $|t|$ and integrated elastic cross section grow with \sqrt{s} . These features suggest there might be hidden universal properties of elastic scattering. Based on these empirical observations, and taking inspiration from saturation models, we propose a simple scaling law for proton-proton elastic scattering. We find that the differential cross sections measured by TOTEM at $\sqrt{s} = 2.76, 7, 8$, and 13 TeV fall in a universal curve when they are mapped to the scaling variables $d\sigma/d|t| \cdot (s/\text{TeV}^2)^{-0.305}$ versus $(s/\text{TeV}^2)^{0.065} (|t|/\text{GeV}^2)^{0.72}$. We explore the implications of this scaling law in the impact parameter picture of the scattering amplitudes.

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No

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