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Universal scaling properties of proton-proton elastic scattering

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The differential cross section of proton-proton elastic scattering $d\sigma/dt$, as a function of the magnitude of the four-momentum transfer squared $|t|$, evolves in a consistent way with \sqrt{s} at LHC energies, all the curves being translated in the $(|t|, d\sigma/dt)$ plane for different center-of-mass energies. This means that the cross sections vary according to a scaling law in center-of-mass energy \sqrt{s} and on $|t|$.

These features suggest there are 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. 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 $|t|(\sqrt{s}/\text{TeV})^{-0.305}$ versus $(\sqrt{s}/\text{TeV})^{0.065}(|t|/\text{GeV}^2)^{0.72}$. In addition, we explore the implications of this scaling law in the impact parameter picture of the scattering amplitudes.

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