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Diffraction production of open charm and bottom at the LHC

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We discuss diffractive production of open charm and bottom mesons at the LHC [1]. The differential cross sections for single- and central-diffractive mechanisms for $c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$ pairs are calculated in the framework of the Ingelman-Schlein model corrected for absorption effects to include Regge factorization breaking observed at the Tevatron. In this approach one assumes that the pomeron has a well defined partonic structure, and that the hard process takes place in a pomeron-proton or proton-pomeron (single diffraction) or pomeron-pomeron (central diffraction) processes. Here, only the LO gluon-gluon fusion partonic subprocess is taken into consideration, which is calculated within simple collinear approximation. Both pomeron flux factors as well as parton distributions in the pomeron are taken from the H1 Collaboration analysis of diffractive structure function and diffractive dijets at HERA. The sub-leading corrections from reggeon type exchanges are explicitly calculated and also taken into consideration. Several quarks-level differential distributions are shown. The results are compared to the results of gluon dissociation mechanism in the k_t -factorization approach [2]. The hadronization of charm and bottom quarks is taken into account by means of fragmentation function technique. Predictions for single- and central-diffractive production in the case of inclusive D and B mesons, as well as $D\bar{D}$ correlations are presented, including detector acceptance of the ATLAS, CMS and LHCb Collaborations. The experimental aspects of possible standard and dedicated measurements are carefully discussed.

[1] M. Luszczak, R. Maciula and A. Szczurek, a paper in preparation.

[2] M. Luszczak, W. Schafer and A. Szczurek, Phys. Lett. B729 (2014)15.

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