



Contribution ID: 22

Type: **not specified**

Recent Elastic and Total Cross-Section Measurements by TOTEM

Tuesday, 25 June 2019 12:00 (30 minutes)

The TOTEM experiment at the interaction point 5 of the LHC has measured the total, elastic and inelastic proton-proton cross sections in a centre-of-mass energy range from 2.76 to 13 TeV, mostly in dedicated fills with special beam optics.

Most recently, TOTEM has performed a series of detailed measurements at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. The total, elastic and inelastic proton-proton cross-sections were determined using the luminosity-independent method based on the optical theorem.

Elastic scattering data in the Coulomb-nuclear interference region, at squared four-momentum transfers down to $|t| \sim 8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ GeV}^2$ allowed the first measurement of the rho parameter at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, where rho is the ratio between the real and the imaginary part of the nuclear elastic scattering amplitude at $t = 0$. This measurement, combined with the TOTEM total cross-section results, led to the exclusion of all the models classified and published by COMPETE. The rho and sigma_tot results obtained by TOTEM are compatible with

predictions of a colourless 3-gluon bound state exchange in the t-channel of proton-proton elastic scattering, as postulated by alternative theoretical models both in the Regge-like framework and in the modern QCD framework.

On the large $|t|$ side the elastic differential cross-section measurement was pushed to 4 GeV^2 . Thanks to very high statistics, the dip-bump structure between 0.4 and 0.8 GeV^2 was surveyed with unprecedented precision. At higher $|t|$ -values up to the end of the observed range no further structure is present.

The presentation will conclude with an outlook on measurements planned for LHC Run 3.

Additional comments

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Session Classification: Session 3

Track Classification: Elastic Scattering and Total Cross Section