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Diffraction at the LHC: Results and Problems

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Quickie history of the LHC: 2009 - 2018

“Old Physics”:

- - Completion of the SM with Higgs

DONE !

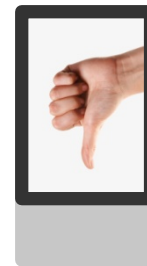


- - “Routine” measurements of cross-sections, life-times, masses, correlations...

“New Physics”:

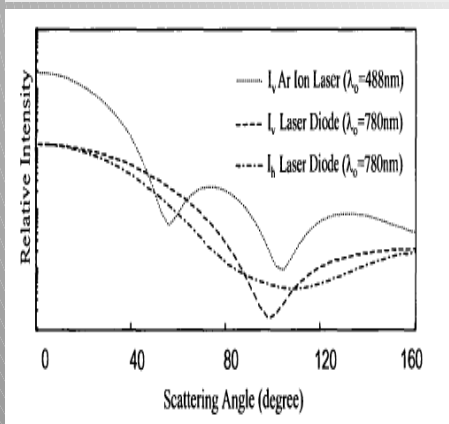
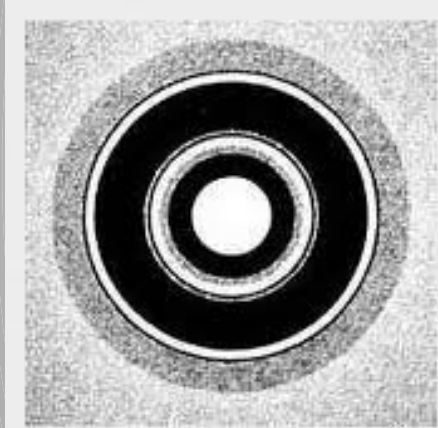
- - Supersymmetry:
- “Stringy effects”
- Dark matter (“dark photons”)
- Lepto-quarks
- Compositeness
- Extra dimensions
- Micro Black holes

NONE !



What Is Diffraction Scattering ?

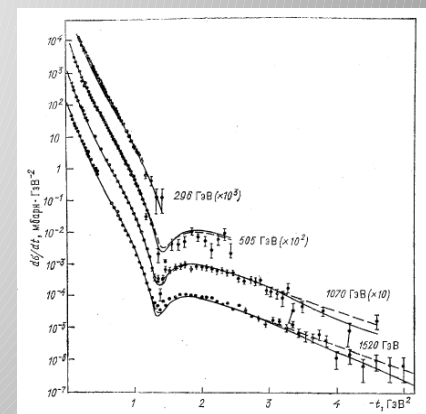
Light scattering off a polystyrene latex particle



$$E = 1.6 \div 2.5 \text{ eV}$$

$$R = 0.5 \mu\text{m} = 5 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{m} = 5 \cdot 10^8 \text{fm}$$

Proton-proton scattering



$$E = 2.96 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ eV} \div 1.52 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ eV}$$

$$R = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ m} = 1.6 \text{ fm}$$

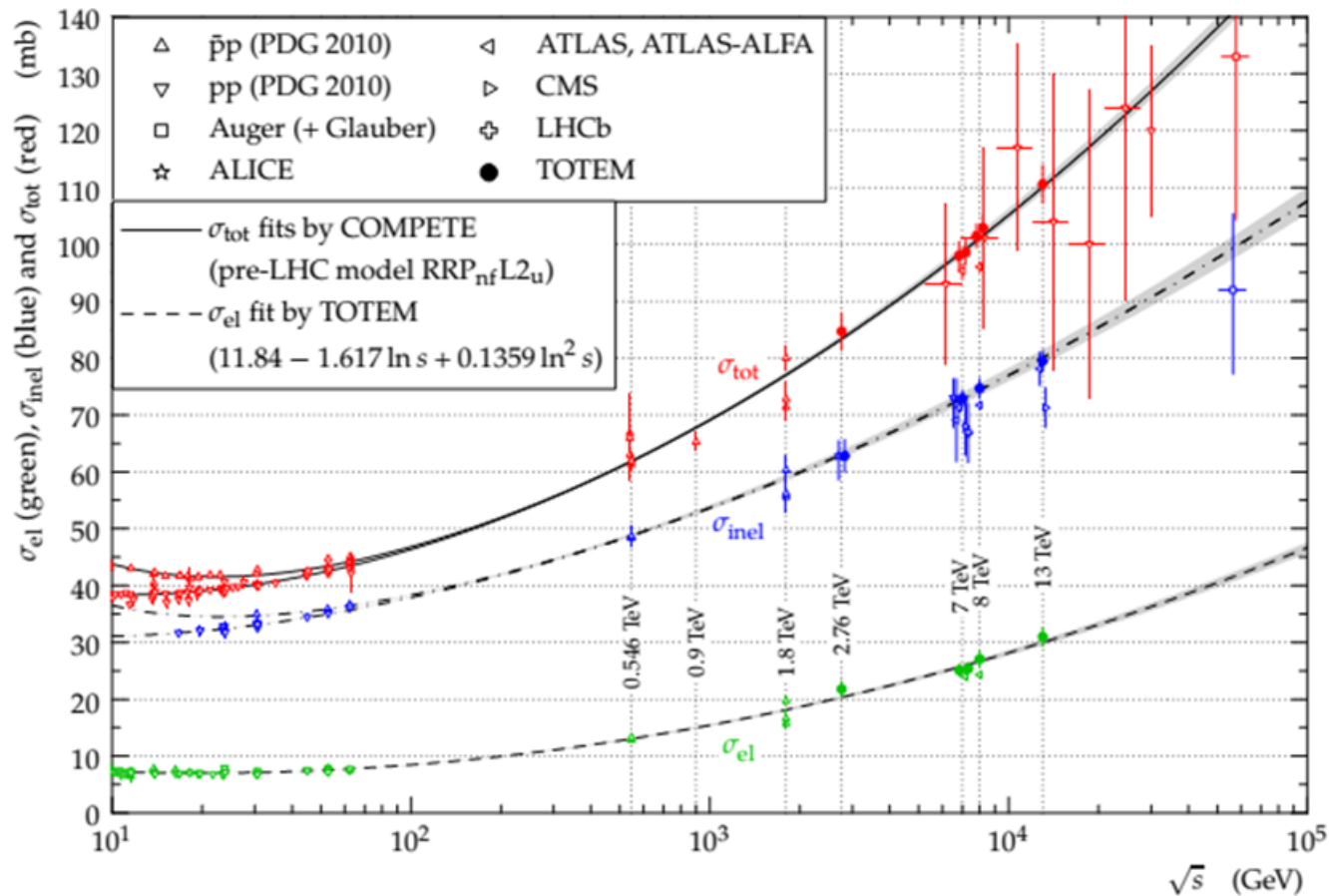
What to be measured

- “Global” Characteristics:
 - cross-sections: total, elastic, single diffractive, doubly diffractive (integrated)
- Local Characteristics:
 - Differential cross-sections (elastic & inelastic)
 - The slope
 - Real/Imaginary

Why?

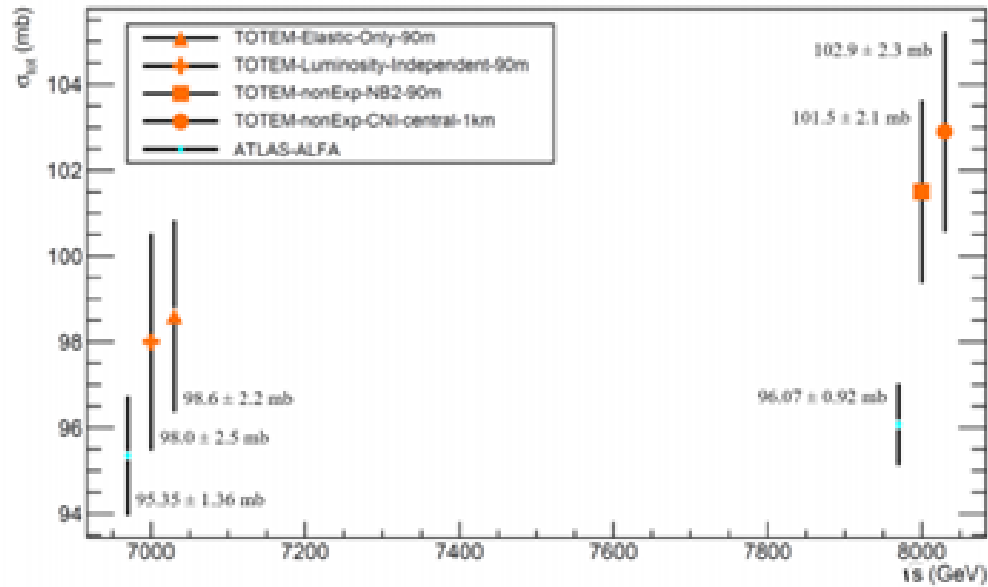
- To test general principles
- To test models
- To see spatial features of strong interactions

They Still Keep on Rising...



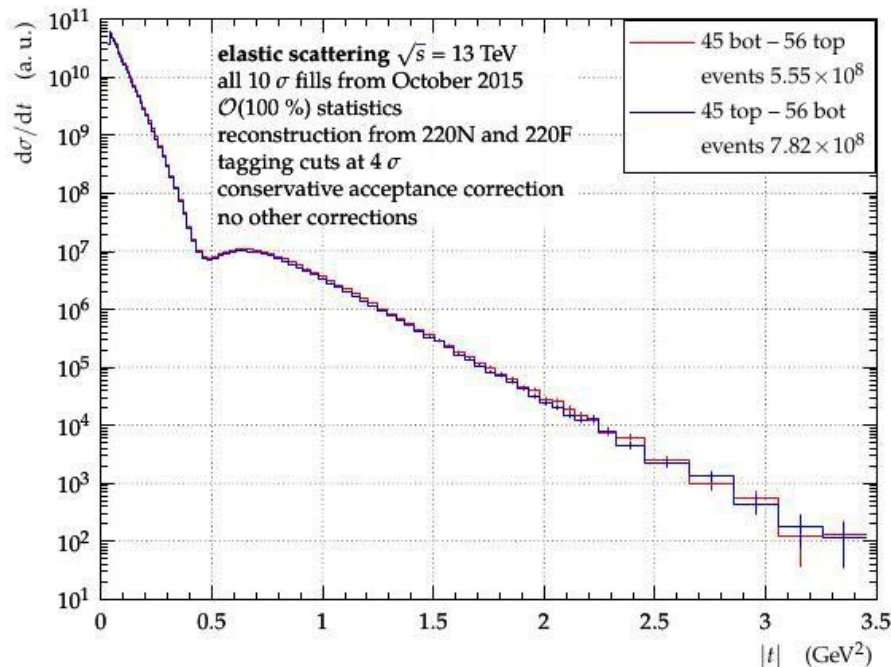
TOTEM vs ALFA/ATLAS

Startling gap

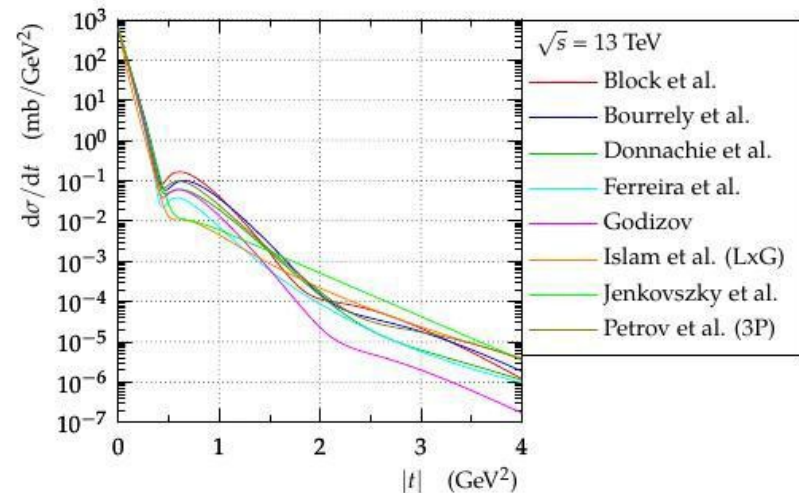


Elastic scattering : Structures at high $|t|$?

- $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV: very preliminary, but already very strong results



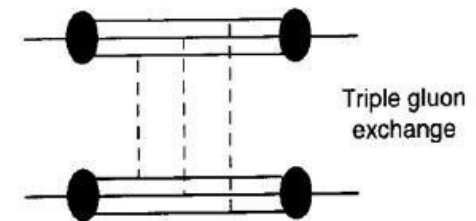
model predictions:



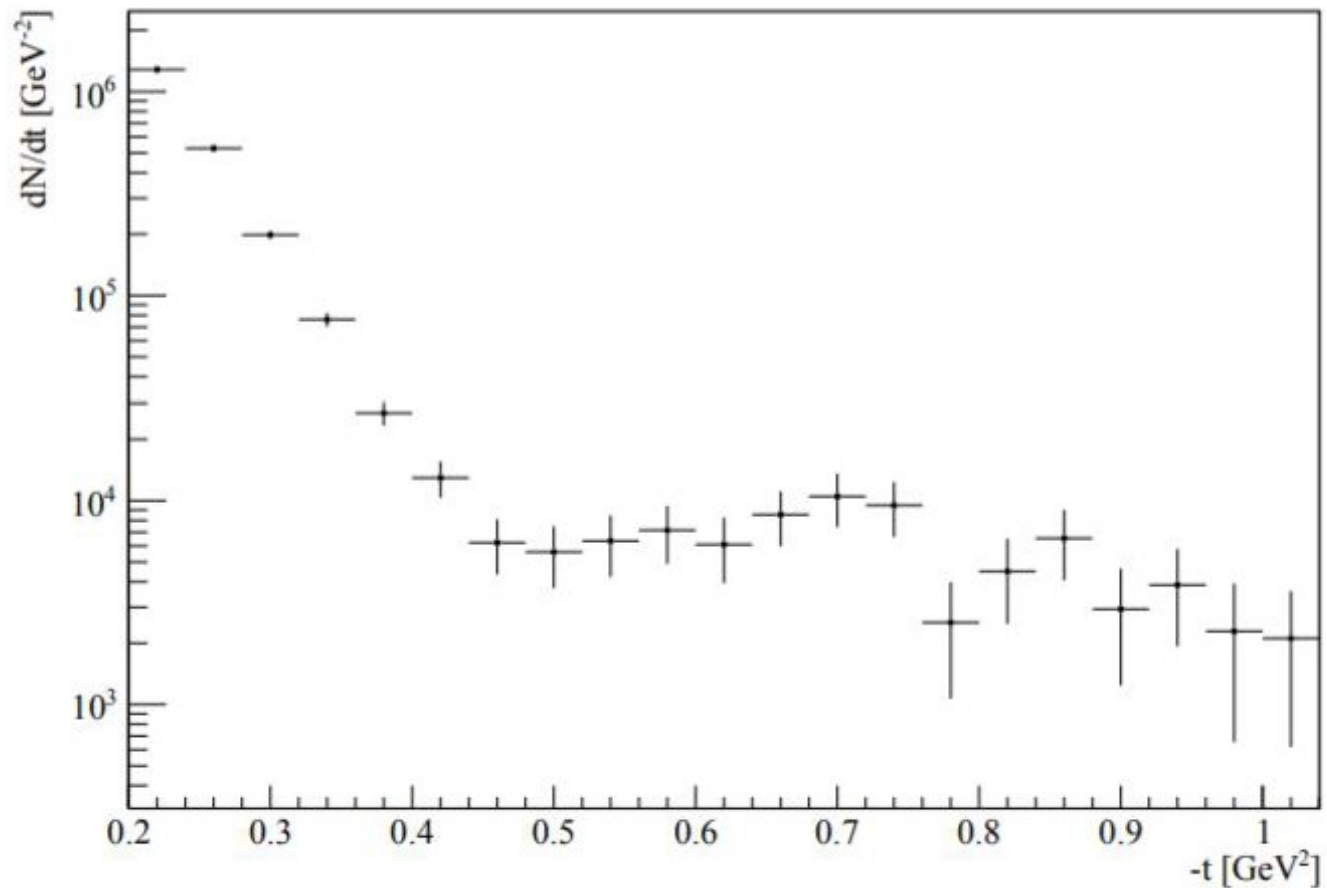
oscillations in almost each model

- *high- $|t|$: no structures!*

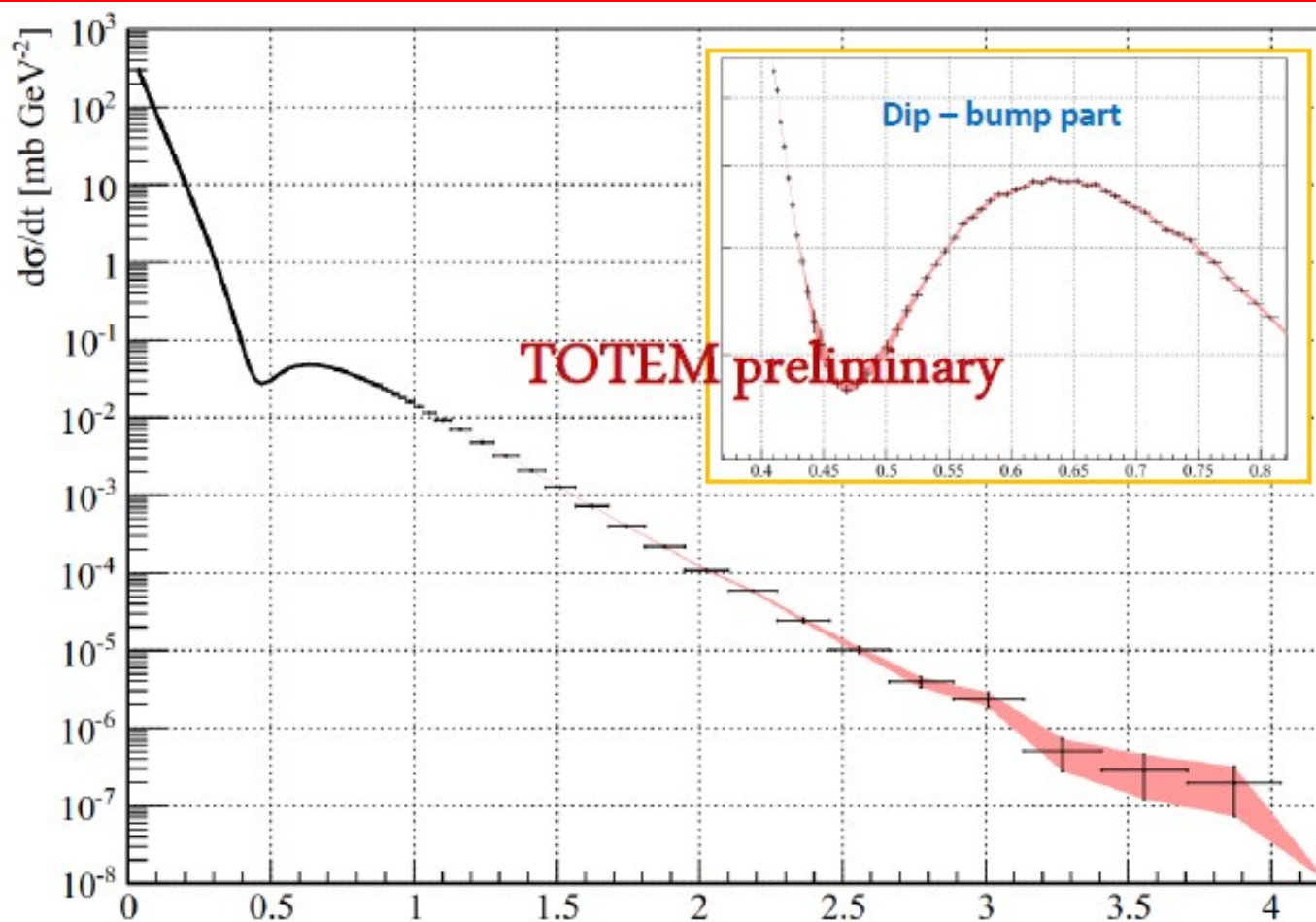
- rules out many models
- rules out physics mechanism: “optical” models
- physics interpretation: transition between diffraction and pQCD? ⇒ e.g. Donnachie-Landshoff ⇒



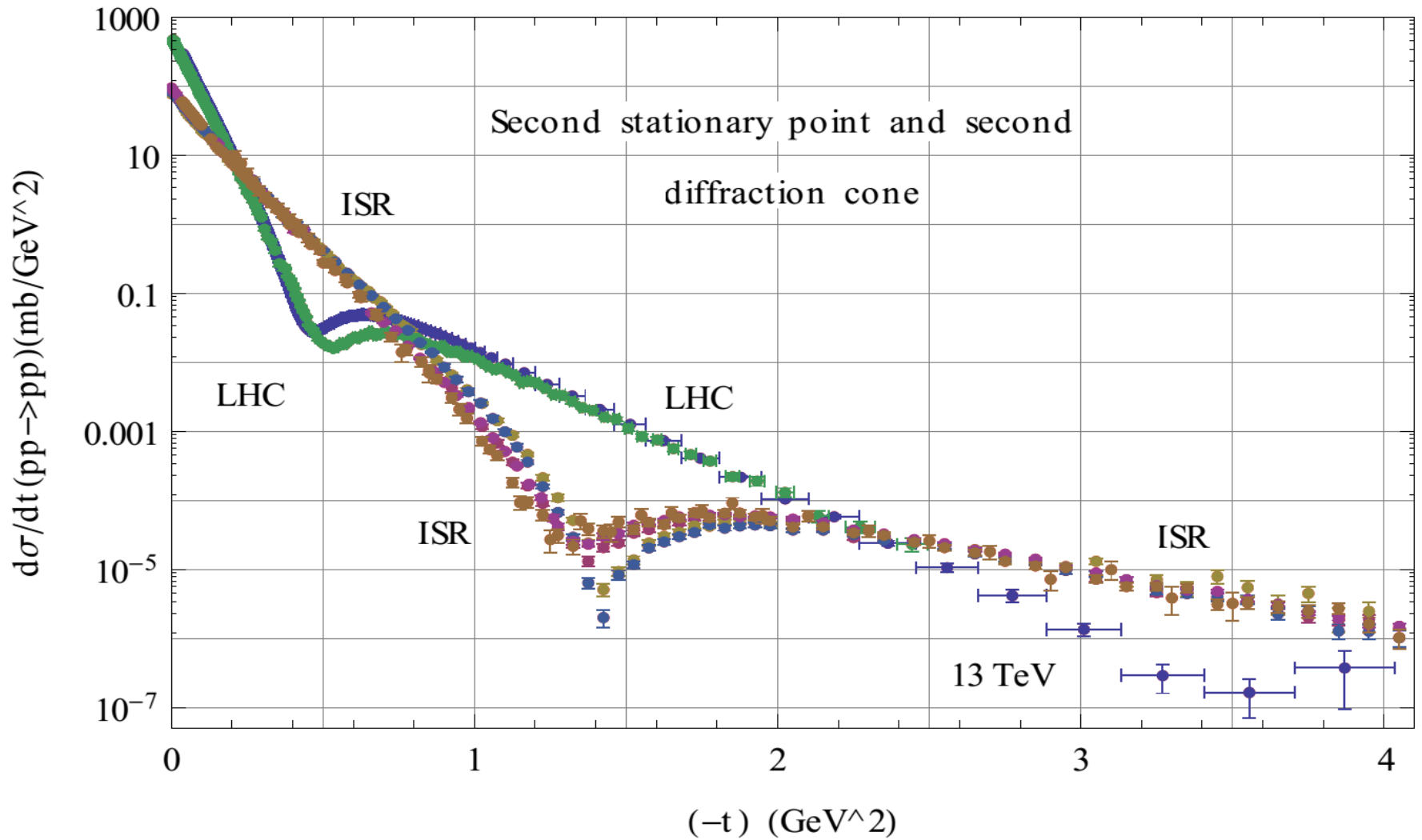
Large-t Focus



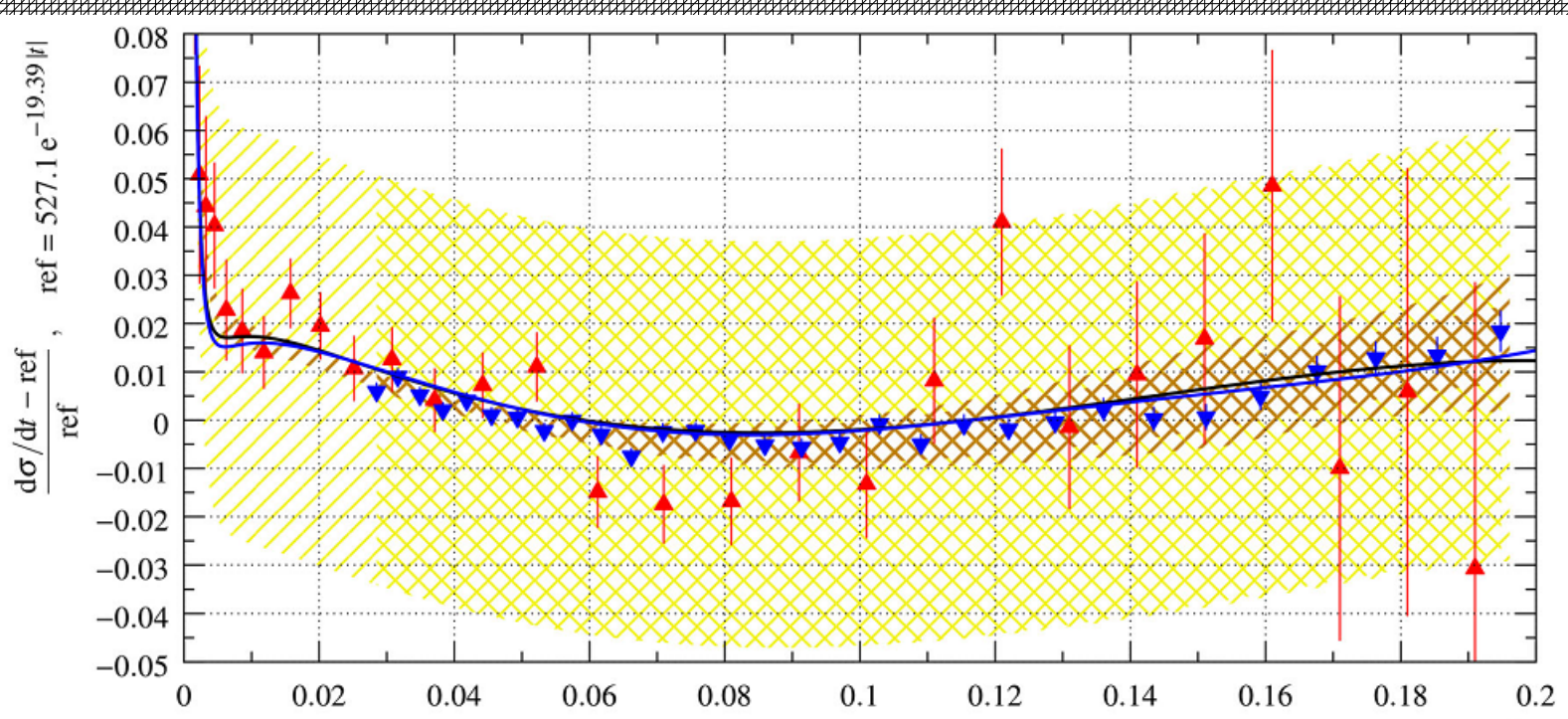
No Second Dip (?)



Stationary points



Is the angular distribution Gaussian?



$$\text{ref} = 527.1 e^{19.9 t}$$

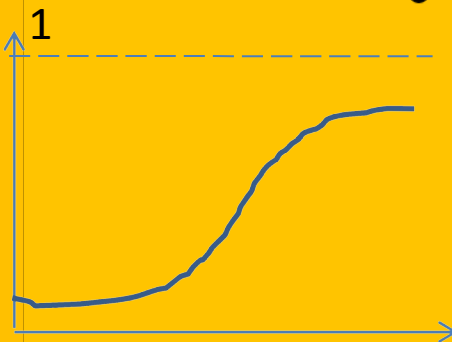
Central or Peripheral?

- $S(b) = e^{2i\delta(b)}$

$$P(b) = |S(b)|^2 = e^{-2\Omega(b)}$$

Survival probability of the initial state

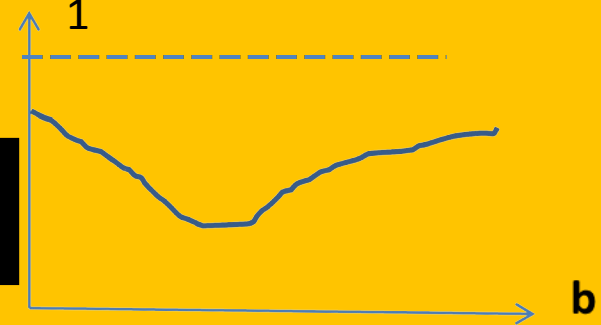
Normal



- $P(b) = |S(b)|^2$

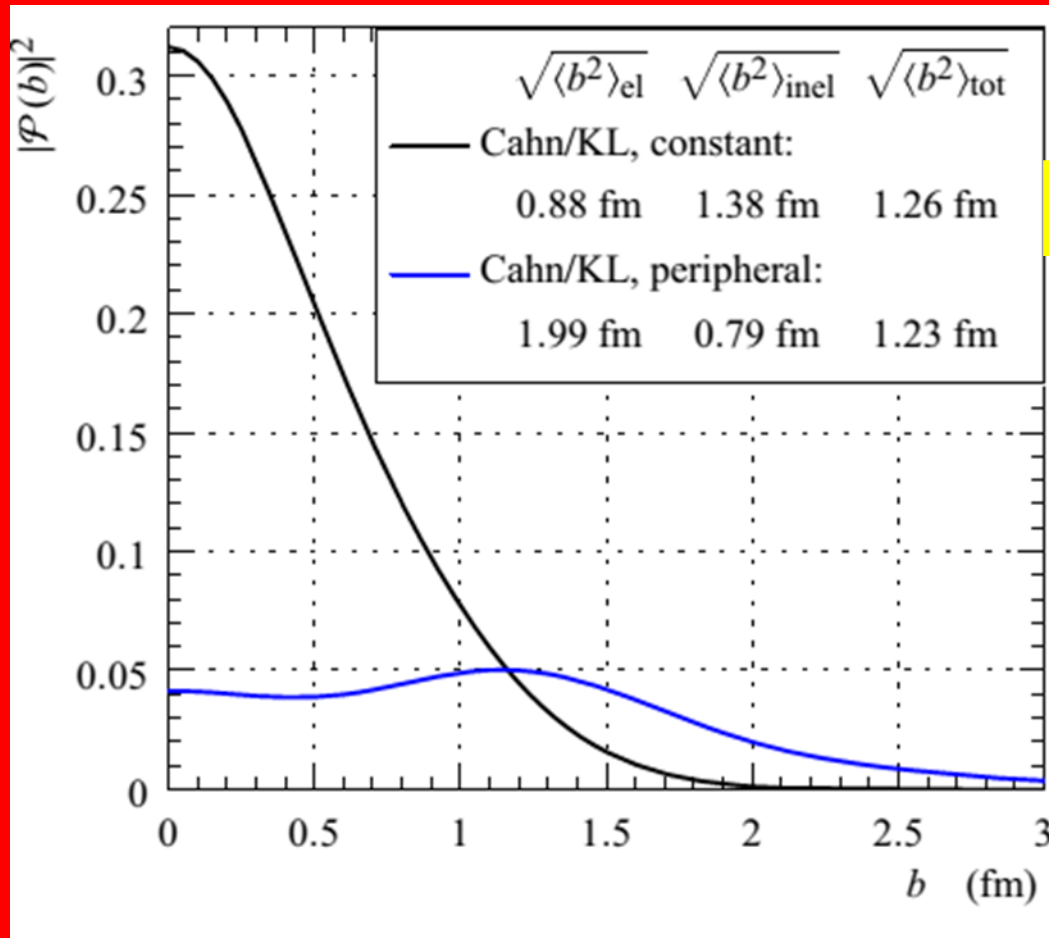


Abnormal



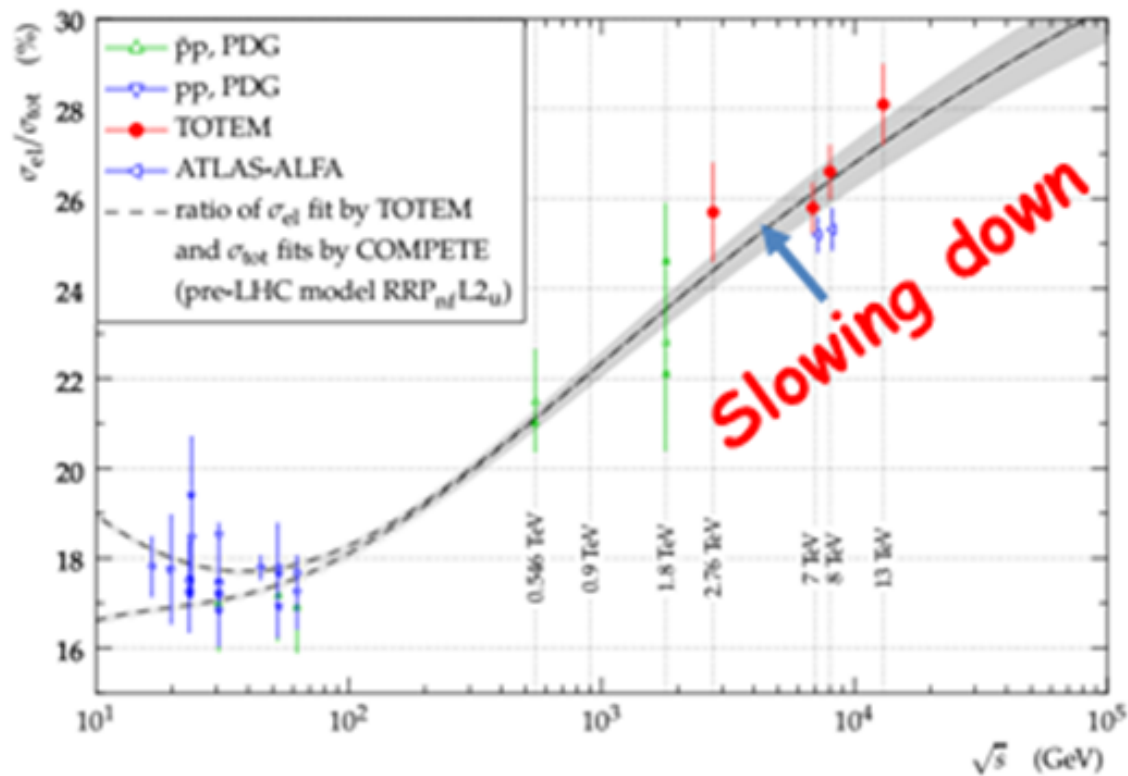
Hollowness ?

Central vs Peripheral: TOTEM is uncertain

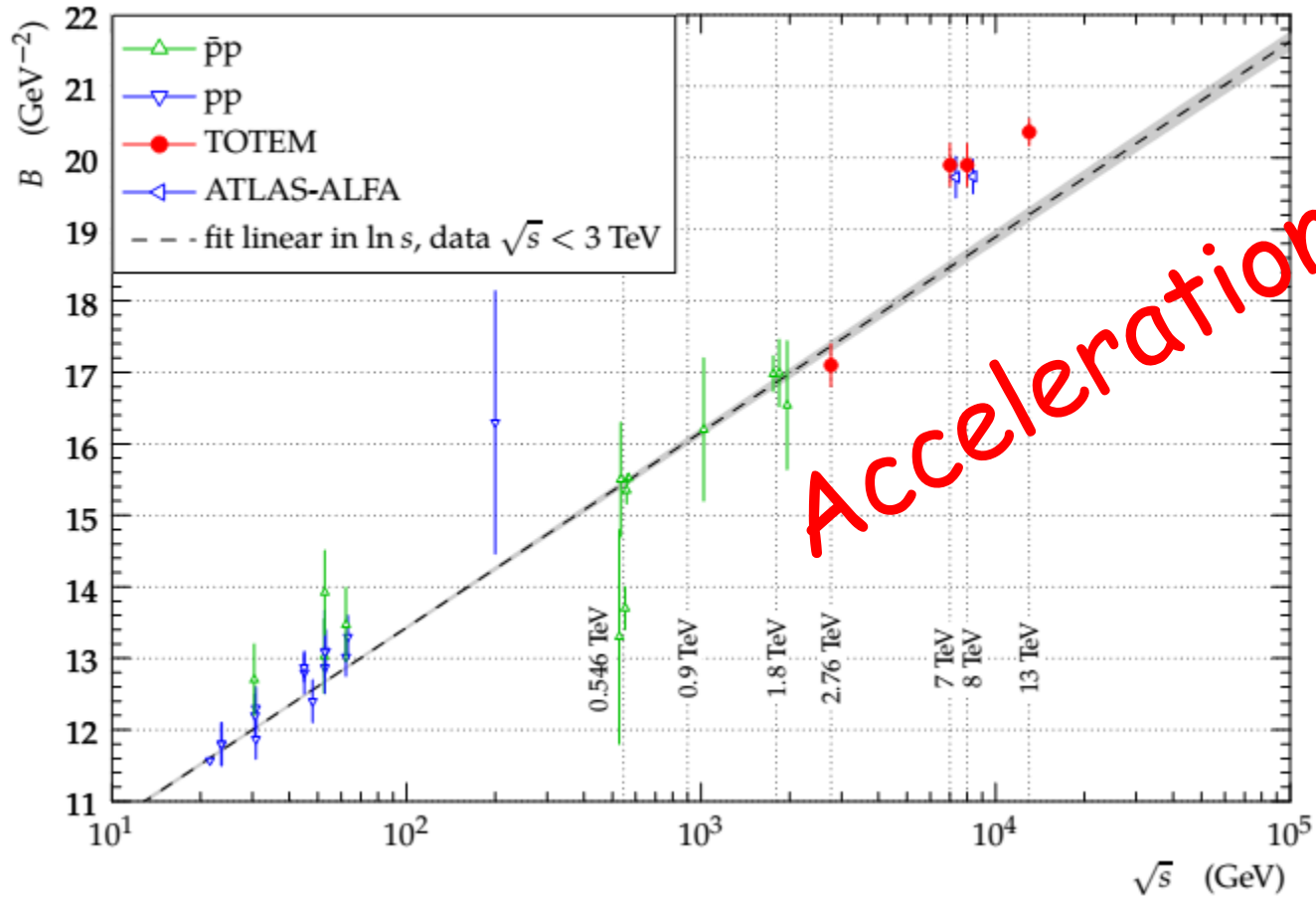


“Anti-ontological”

To be scattered or absorbed?

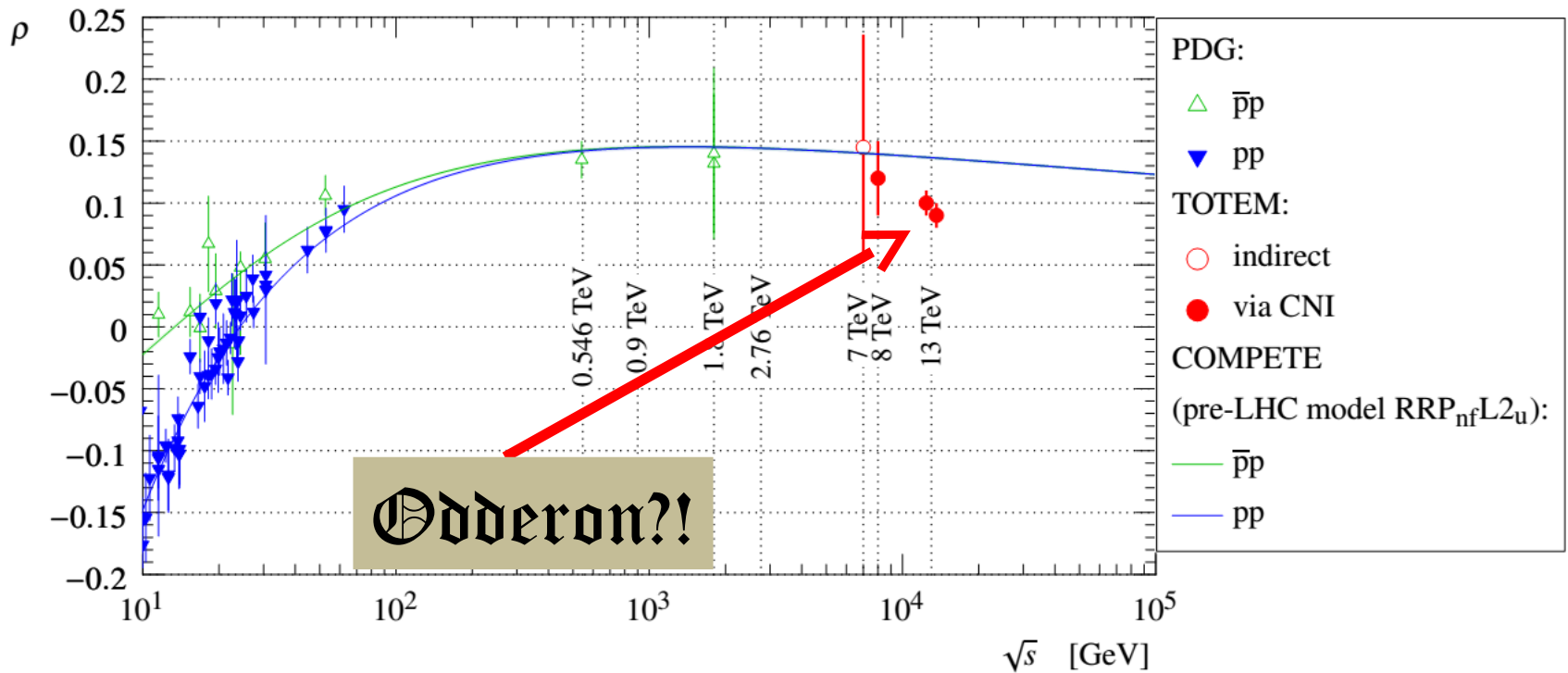


Transverse extent of the interaction radius: peculiar energy dependence.



$$T(s, t) = |T(s, t)| e^{i\Phi(s, t)}$$

$$\rho = \Re T(s, 0) / \Im T(s, 0) = \cot \Phi(s, 0)$$



Longitudinal size: $\langle z \rangle = \rho \langle d\Phi/dt \rangle$

Conclusions

- Diffractive studies at the LHC:
- Confirmed the growth of the total, elastic and inelastic pp cross-sections in 2-13 TeV region;
- Confirmed the growth of $\sigma_{el}/\sigma_{inel}$;
- Established a non Gaussian character of $d\sigma_{el}/dt$ at $-0.2 GeV^2 \leq t \leq -0.02 GeV^2$
- Revealed a quasi-stationarity of $\frac{d\sigma_{el}}{dt}$ at $t = -0.21 GeV^2$ and $t = -2.30 GeV^2$
- Ruled out stationarity of $\frac{d\sigma_{el}}{dt}$ at $-t > 2,5 GeV^2$.
- *Posed a bunch of problems to resolve*

Physics quantity	Value		Total uncertainty
	$\rho = 0.14$	$\rho = 0.1$	
B [GeV ⁻²]	20.36		$5.3 \cdot 10^{-2} \oplus 0.18 = 0.19$
σ_{tot} [mb]	109.5	110.6	3.4
σ_{el} [mb]	30.7	31.0	1.7
σ_{inel} [mb]	78.8	79.5	1.8
$\sigma_{\text{el}}/\sigma_{\text{inel}}$	0.390		0.017
$\sigma_{\text{el}}/\sigma_{\text{tot}}$	0.281		0.009