The discovery of the Odderon

(with updates)

Frigyes NEMES on behalf of the TOTEM and D0 experiments
CERN*

22nd Lomonosov conference on elementary particle physics

Moscow, Russia

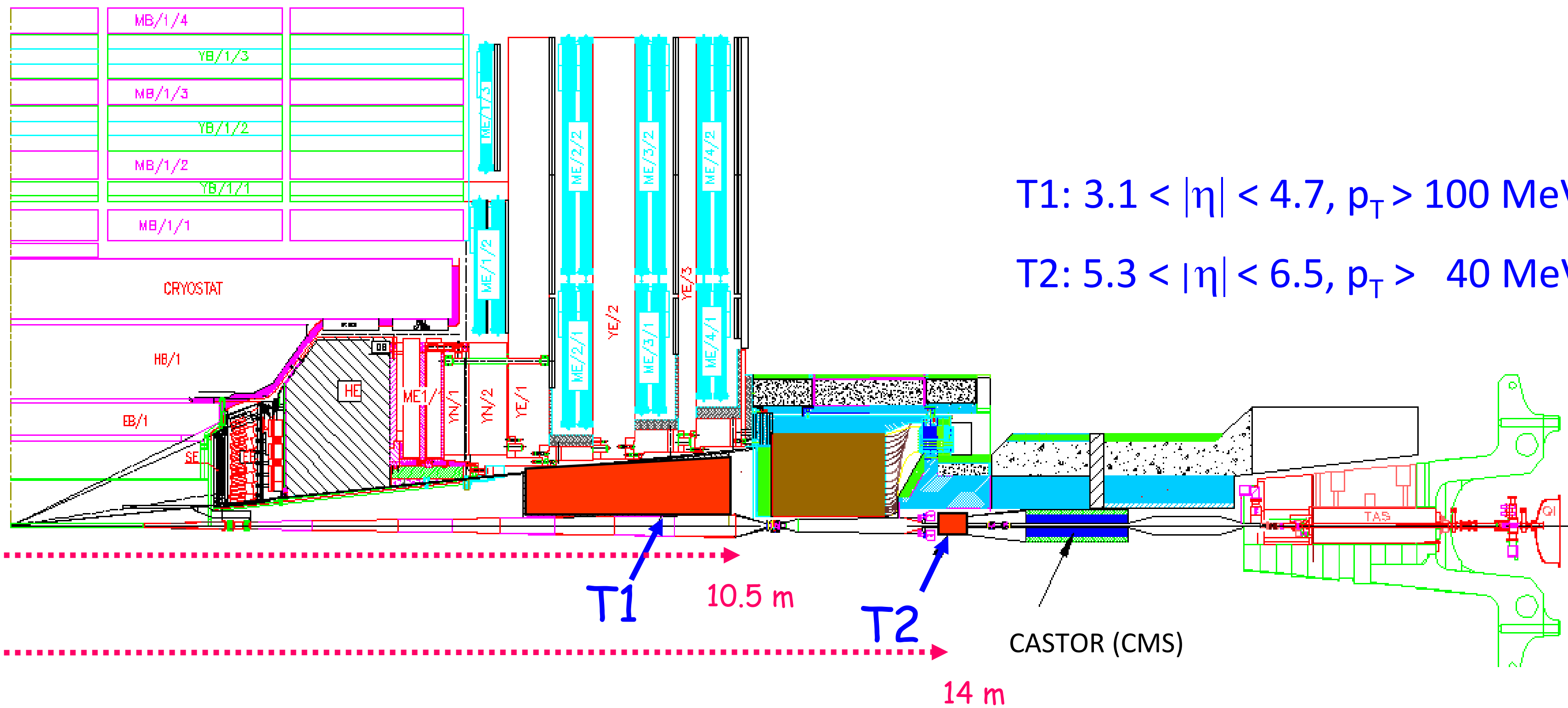
Aug 21 – 27 2025

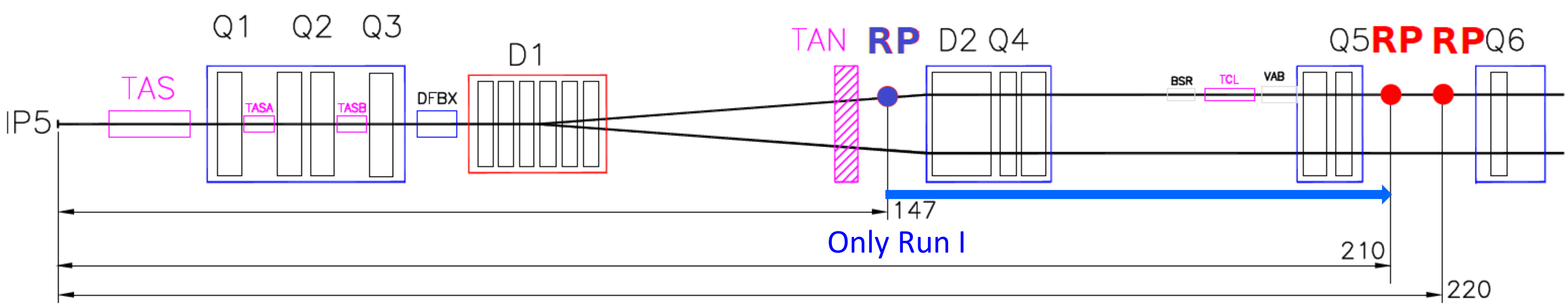
***Also at MATE, Gödöllő**
Wigner RCP, Budapest, Hungary

Experimental layout of the TOTEM experiment (LHC Run II)

T1: $3.1 < |\eta| < 4.7$, $p_T > 100$ MeV

T2: $5.3 < |\eta| < 6.5$, $p_T > 40$ MeV

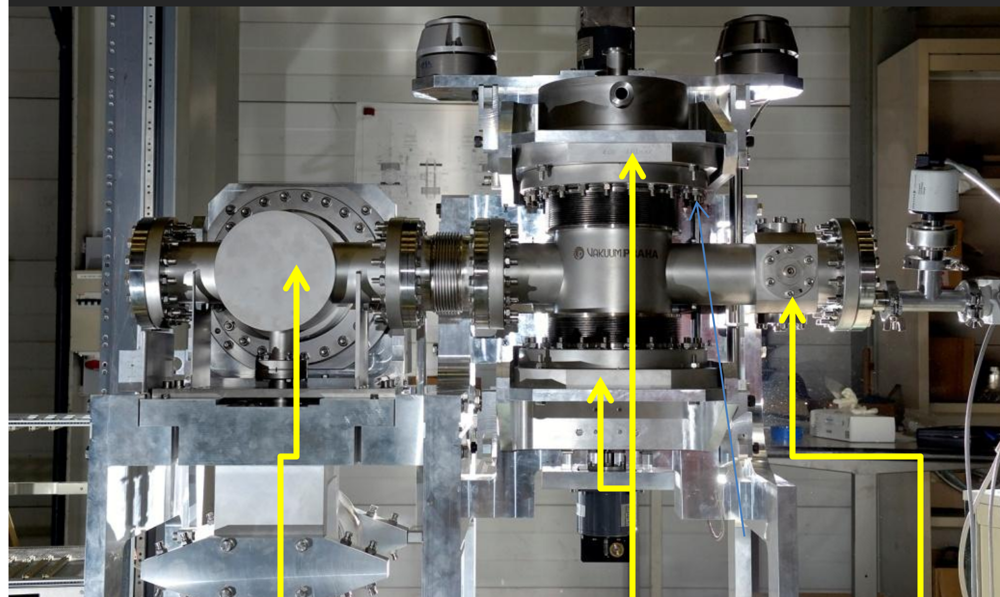




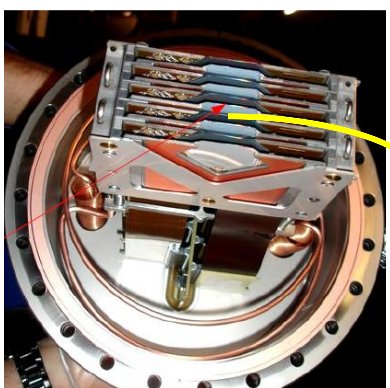
The Roman Pot (RP) stations of the TOTEM experiment

- Two RP stations at 210 and 220 m from the IP contain measuring planes separated by 10 and 5 m respectively
- Unit: 3 moveable RP to approach the beam and detect very small proton scattering angles (few μrad)
- BPM: precise position rel. to beam
- Overlapping detectors: relative alignment (10 μm inside unit among 3 RPs)

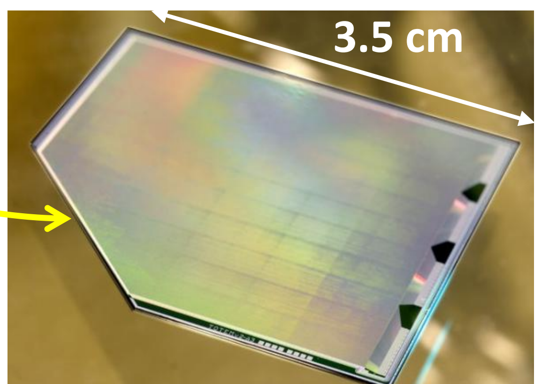
RP unit: 2 vertical, 1 horizontal pot + BPM



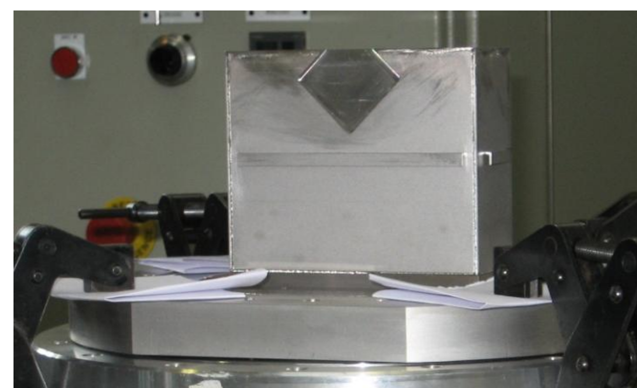
Horizontal RP Vertical RPs BPM



10 planes of edgeless detectors

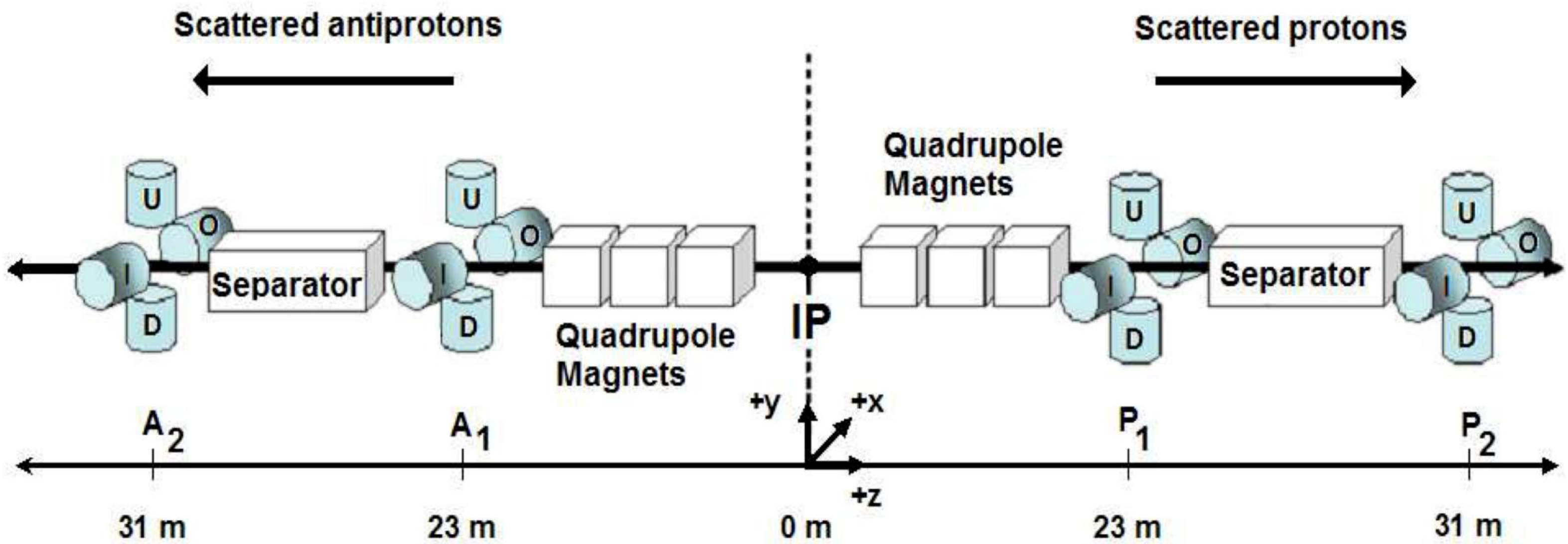


Si edgeless detector



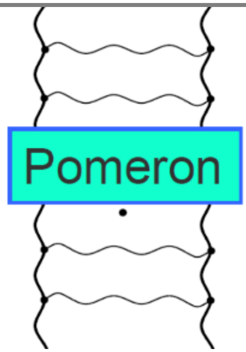
1 Roman Pot

Experimental layout of the D0 experiment (Tevatron, Fermilab)

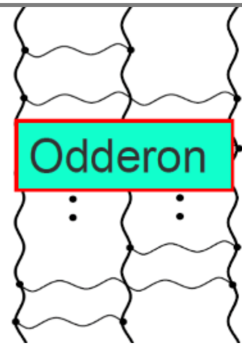


- Elastic $\bar{p}p\ d\sigma/dt$ measurements: measure both the intact $\bar{p}$ & p in D0 Roman Pots at 23 - 31 m from IP with scintillating fibre detectors
- Measurement at $\sqrt{s}$= 1.96 TeV: PRD 86 (2012) 012009.

Elastic scattering: multi-gluon exchanges



dominates at low-|t|
$\approx Im\,(A_{el}^{had})$
identical for pp & p$\bar{\text{p}}$



suppressed
mainly $Re(A_{el}^{had})$
different **sign** for pp & p$\bar{\text{p}}$

Elastic hadron-hadron scattering at very high-energies: **colourless** multi-gluon t-channel exchanges

- @ TeV-scale: gluon exchanges dominate ⇒ pp and p$\bar{\text{p}}$ difference due to C-odd exchange
- gluonic compounds: colourless gluon combinations bound sufficiently strongly not to interact with individual p/$\bar{\text{p}}$ partons

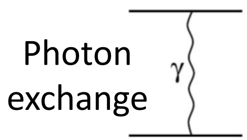
Odderon / C-odd gluon compound:

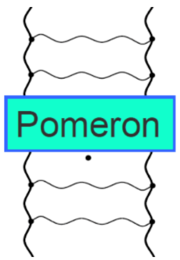
- C-odd exchange contribution predicted in Regge-theory *L. Lukaszuk & B. Nicolescu, Lett. Nuovo Cim. 8 (1973) 405*
- Confirmed in QCD as C-odd exchange of 3 (or odd #) gluons at leading order *J. Bartels, Nucl. Phys. B 175 (1980) 365; J. Kwiecinski & M. Praszlowics Phys. Lett. B 94 (1980) 413.*
- Searched for last 50 years, experimental evidence so far missing

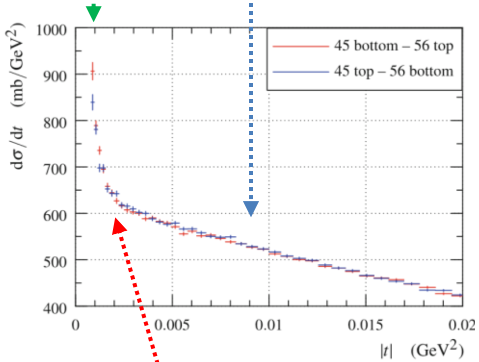
Elastic pp differential cross-section & C-odd exchange

Sensitive to C-odd exchange:

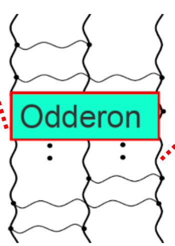
- "Coulomb-nuclear interference" (CNI) region ρ
- Diffractive minimum ("dip"): $Im\ (A_{el}^{had})$ suppressed w.r.t. $Re(A_{el}^{had})$!

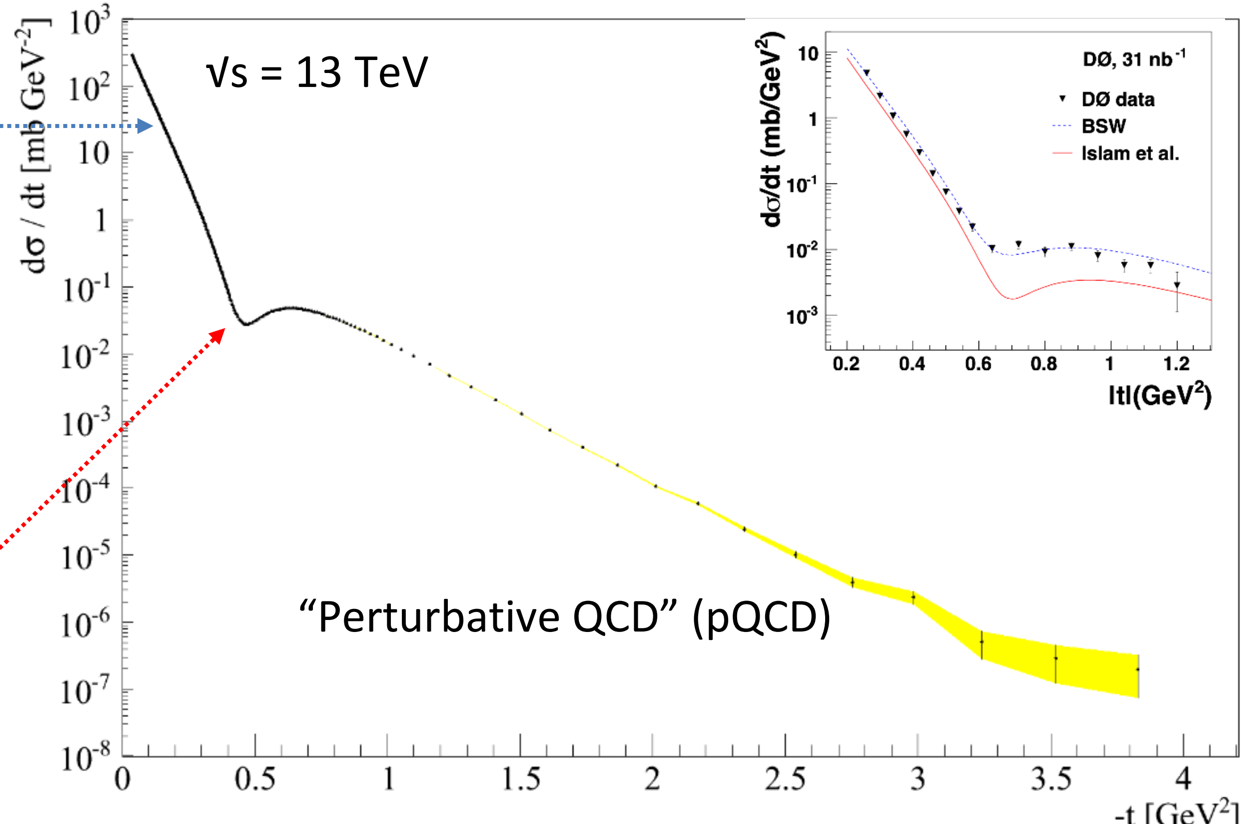






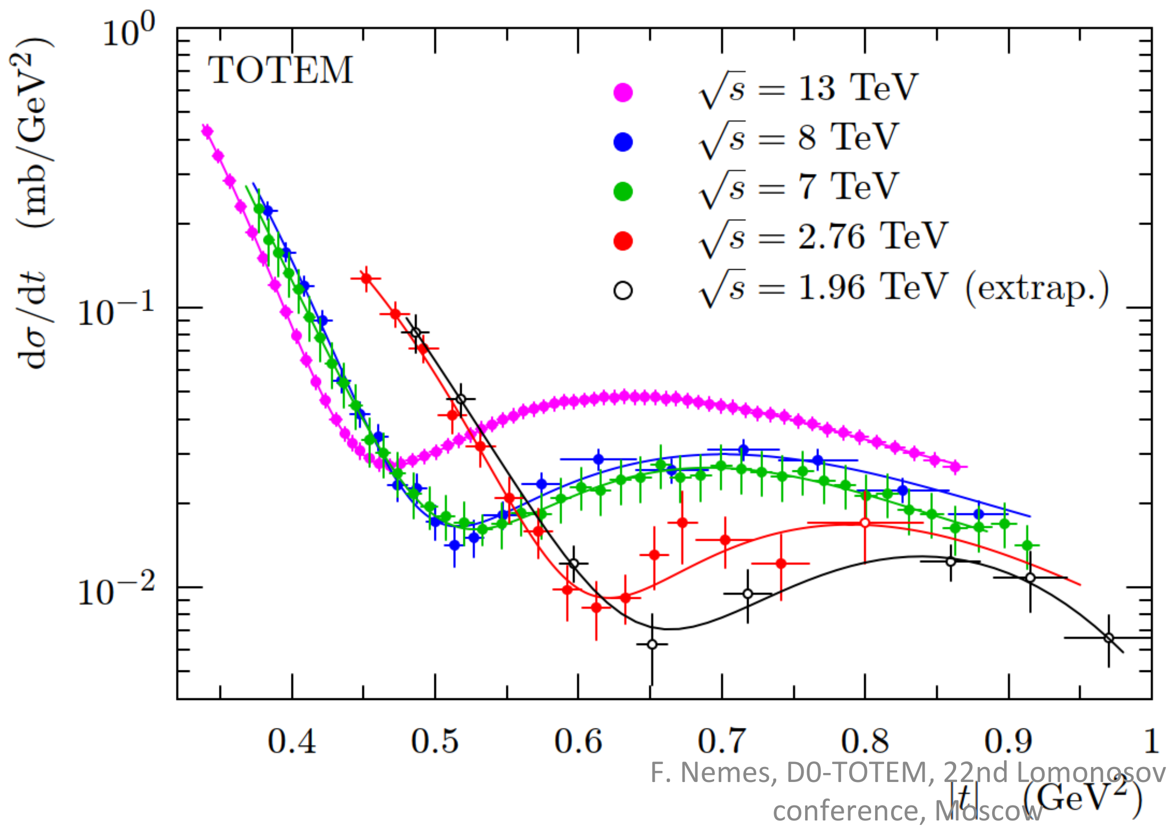
$$\rho = \left.\frac{\text{Re}\, A_{el}^{had}}{\text{Im}\, A_{el}^{had}}\right|_{t=0}$$

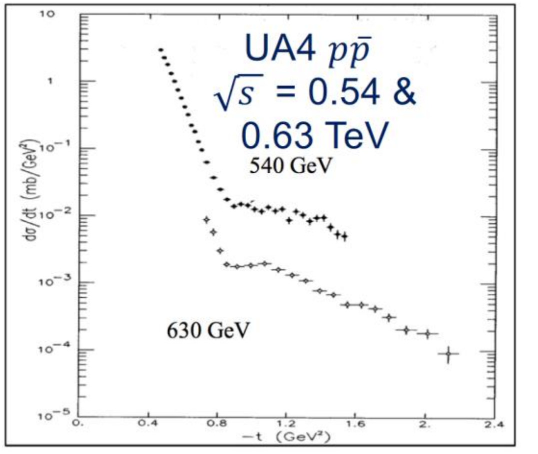


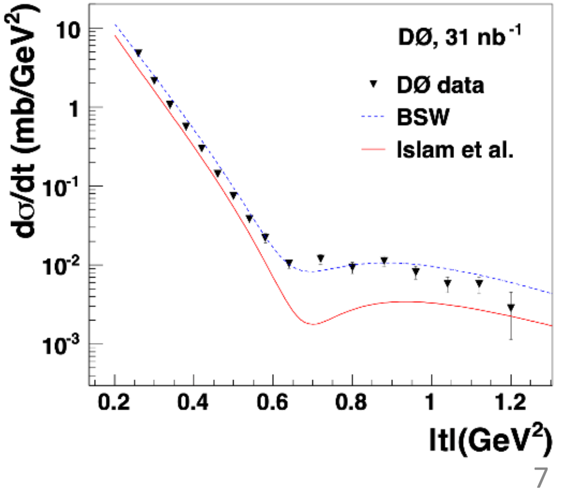


Strategy to compare pp and $\bar{p}p$ data sets

- At TeV-scale $pp\ d\sigma/dt$ characterized by a diffractive minimum ("dip") & a secondary maximum ("bump")
- @TeV scale: persistency of dip & bump for pp, absence of dip & bump for $\bar{p}p$
- $p\bar{p}\ d\sigma/dt$ characterized only by a "kink"

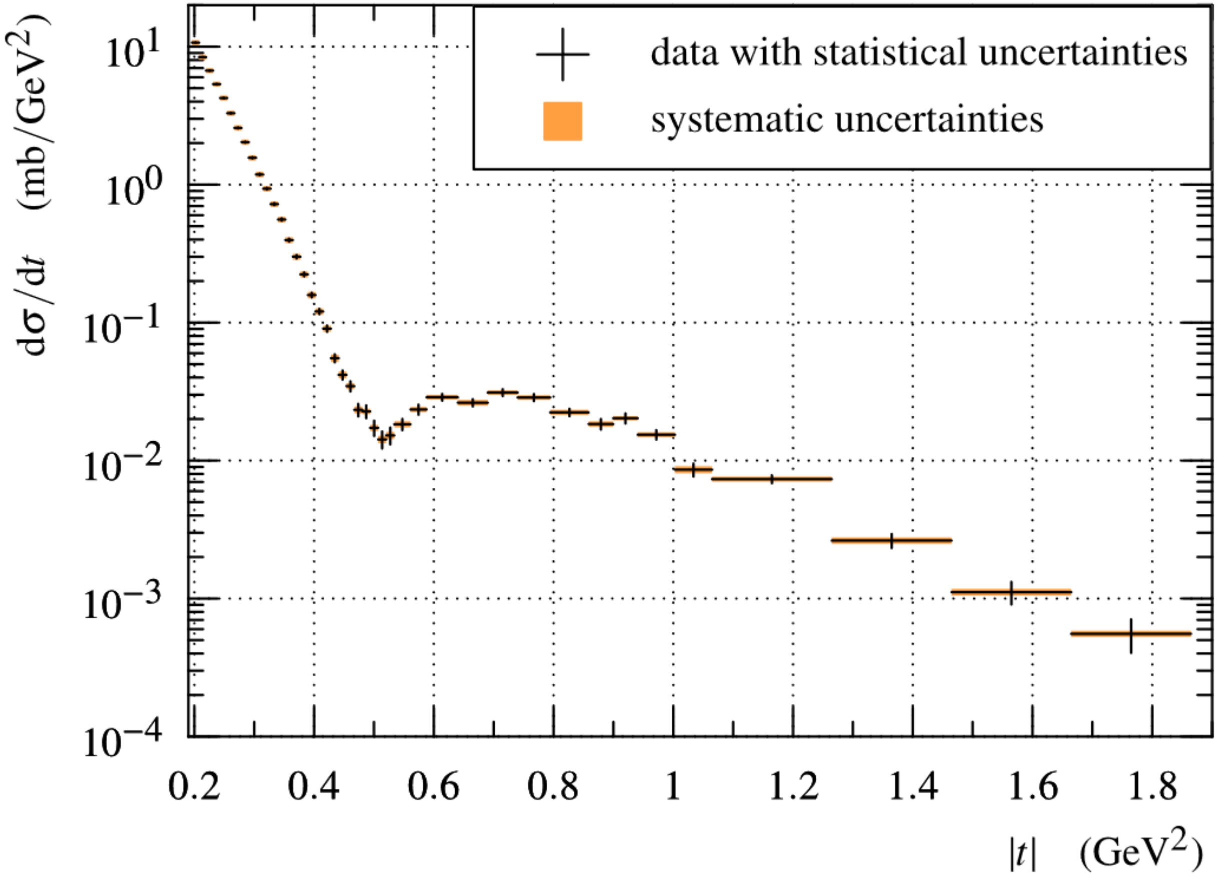






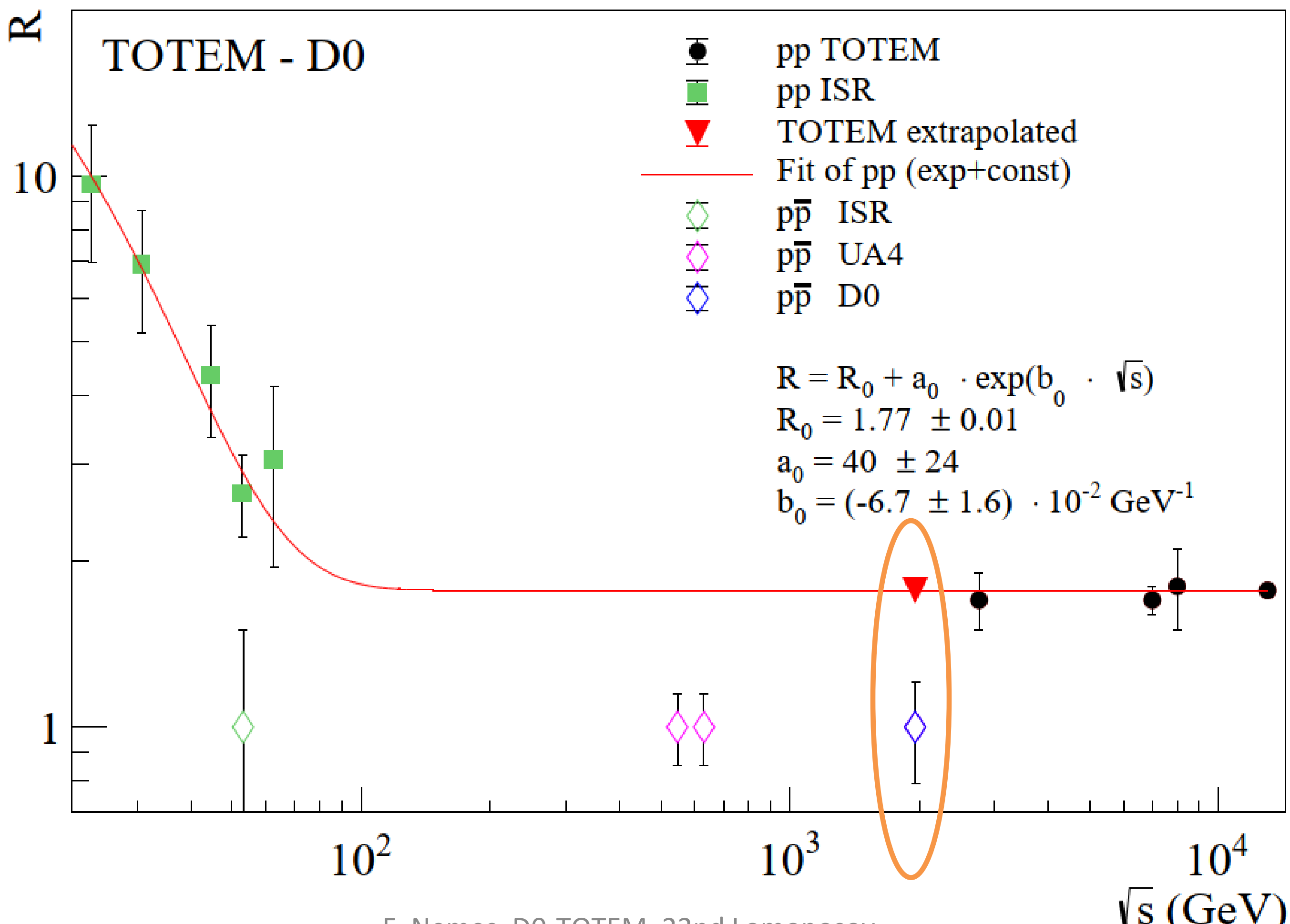
8 TeV publication and results (update)

- Published in Eur. Phys. J. C (2022) 82: 263
- Precise measurement of the diffractive minimum and bump



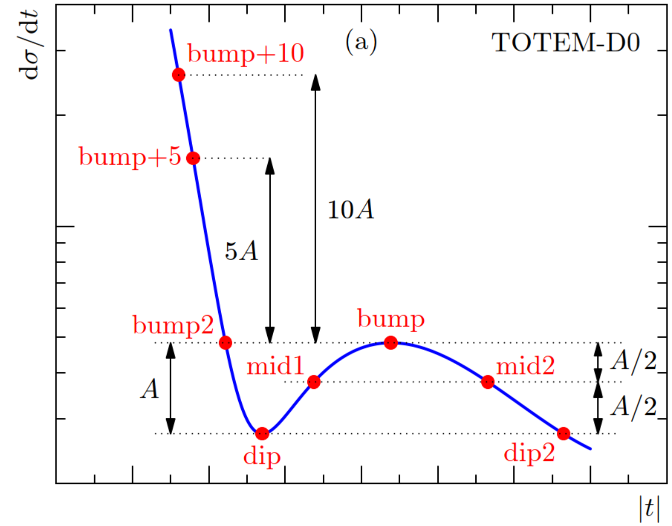
The bump over dip ratio R

- > 3σ difference between pp & $\bar{p}p$ @ s= 1.96 TeV (assuming flat behaviour above √s ~ 100 GeV)
- For $\bar{p}p$ R estimate, use $d\sigma/dt$ of t-bins close to expected pp bump & dip position

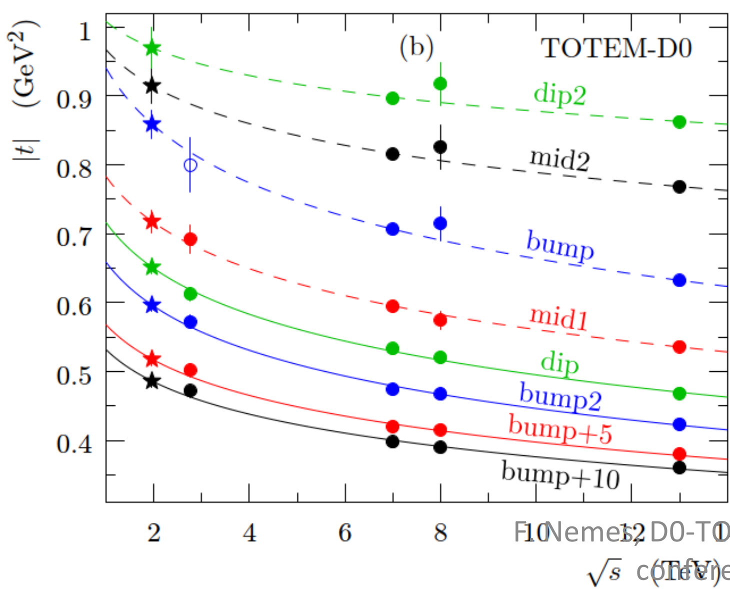


Extrapolation of pp cross-sections

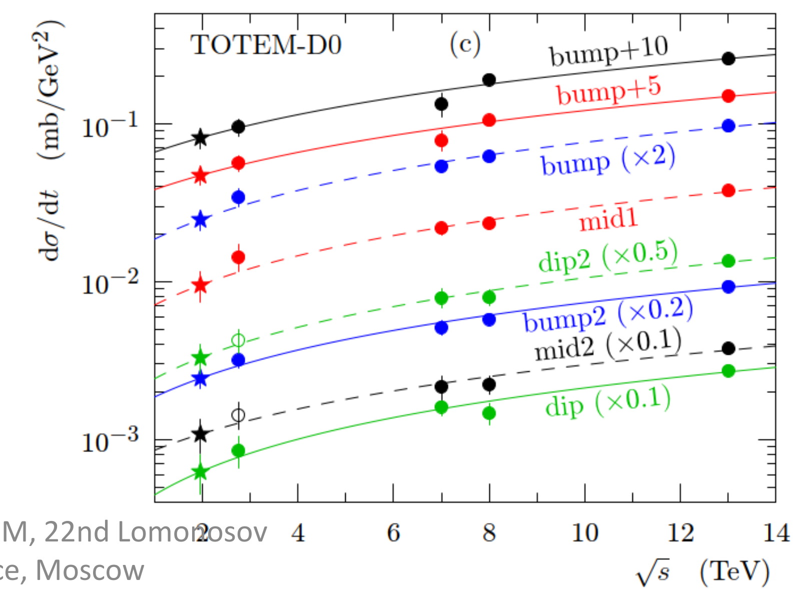
- Extrapolate 8 characteristic points (both their $d\sigma/dt$ & t) in dip-bump region of the pp elastic $d\sigma/dt$@ 2.76, 7, 8 & 13 TeV to 1.96 TeV $\Longrightarrow$ pp elastic $d\sigma/dt$ points @ 1.96 TeV
- Alternative functional forms tested: adequate fits provide consistent values within uncertainties



$$|t| = a\log(\sqrt{s}[\text{TeV}]) + b$$



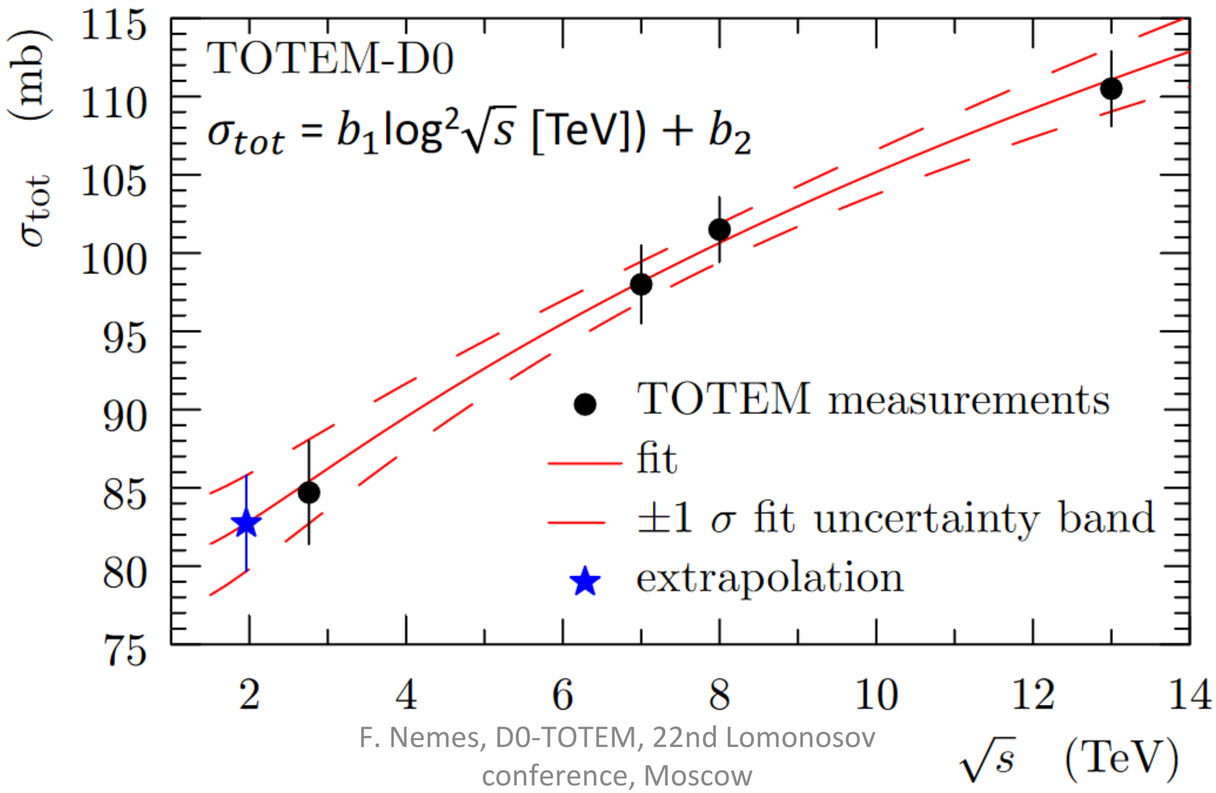
$$(d\sigma/dt) = c\sqrt{s}\,[\text{TeV}] + d$$



Normalization of pp cross-sections

- pp σ_{tot} @ 1.96 TeV estimated from pp σ_{tot} @ 2.76, 7, 8 & 13 TeV
- OP ($d\sigma/dt|_{t=0}$) of pp consistent with OP of $\bar{p}p$ data
- Normalize pp $d\sigma/dt$ to a common OP with $\bar{p}p$ (same σ_{tot} within experimental & theoretical uncertainties)
- Normalization factor of TOTEM OP: 0.954 ± 0.076
- Elastic slopes B preserved during scaling

$$\sigma_{tot}^2 = \frac{16\pi(\hbar c)^2}{1+\rho^2}\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dt}(t=0)\right)$$

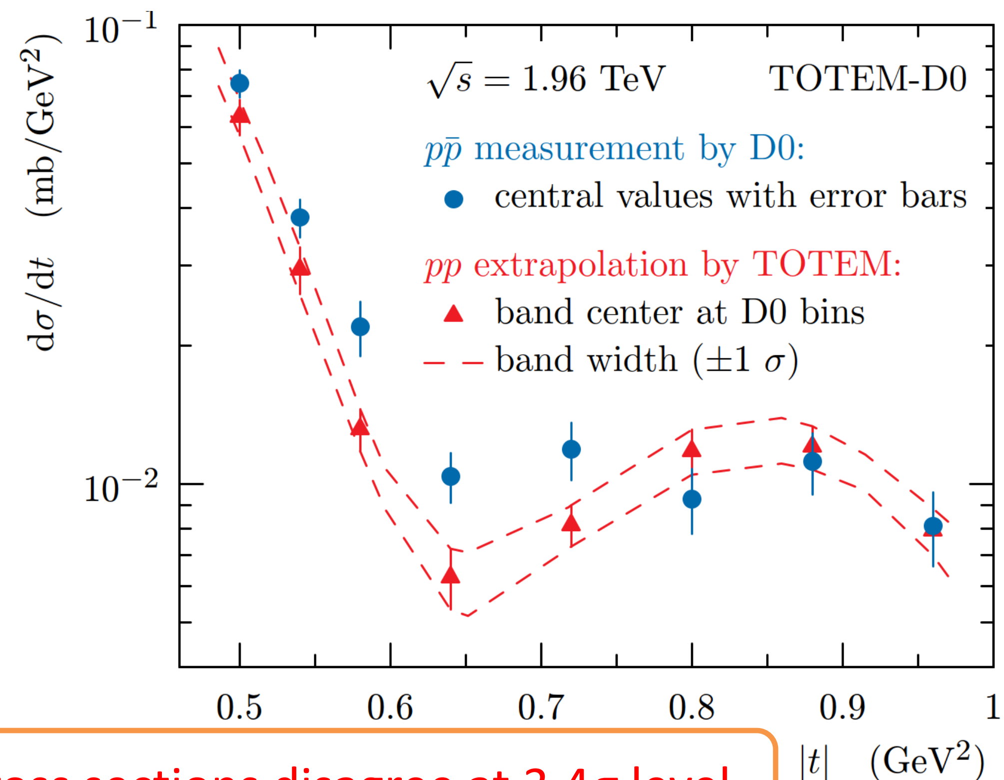


Comparison pp & $\bar{p}p$ at $\sqrt{s}$ = 1.96 TeV

- The extrapolated pp cross-section is normalized to the measured $\bar{p}p$ cross-section by requiring the optical points (dsigma/dt @ t = 0) to be equal
- Extrapolated pp points fitted using a double-exponential to provide $pp\ d\sigma/dt$ values @D0 measured|t|-values. Excellent fits @ 2.76, 7, 8,13 TeV (backup sl.)
- MC used to determine $pp\ d\sigma/dt$ uncertainties @ D0 measured |t|-values

Uncertainties of pp data points @ D0 measured |t|-values strongly correlated; full covariance matrix used

Significance confirmed by a combined Kolmogorov-Smirnov & normalization test



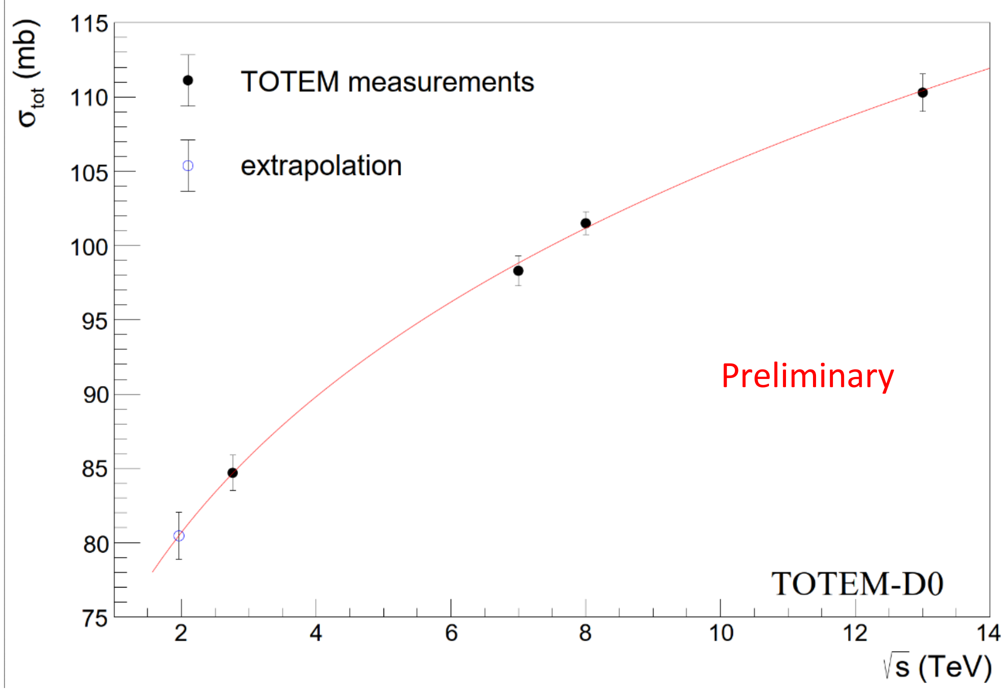
χ^2 test: pp & p$\bar{p}$ cross sections disagree at 3.4σ level

Update: extrapolation of TOTEM σ_{tot} measurements

TOTEM-D0 preparing a longer paper with several updates:

- Review of uncertainties, constraints from low energy √*s* ~ 10 GeV, …
- Extrapolation of uncorrelated TOTEM σ_{tot} measurements to 1.96 TeV
- Scale-independent formula

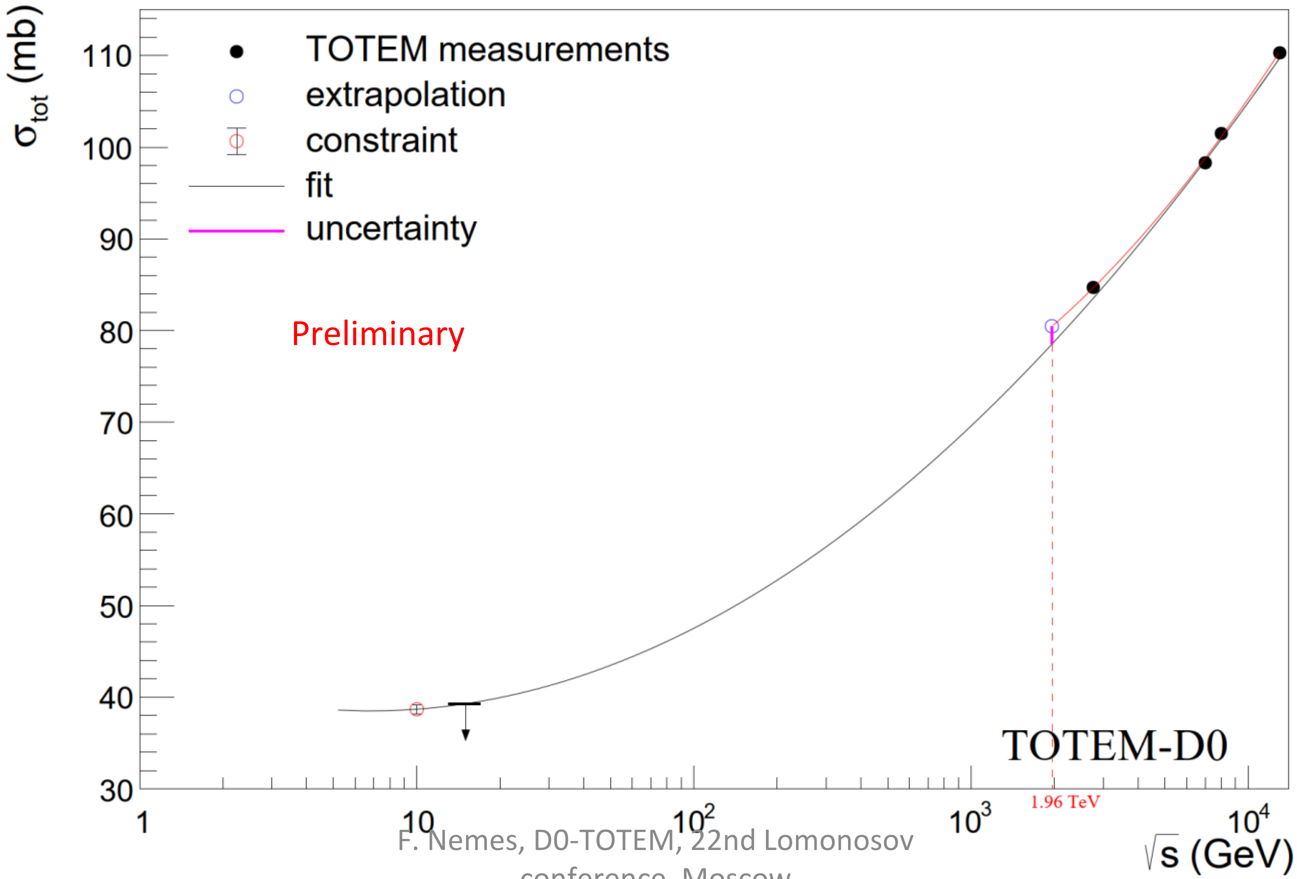
$$\sigma_{\rm tot} = a\,\log^2\sqrt{s/s_0} + b\,\log\sqrt{s/s_0} + c$$



Update: constraints from low energy σ_{tot} measurements

- Enforcing p-value of fit to 0.5
- Constraint using ISR σ_{tot} measurements in s ~10 GeV region (where cross section is almost constant)

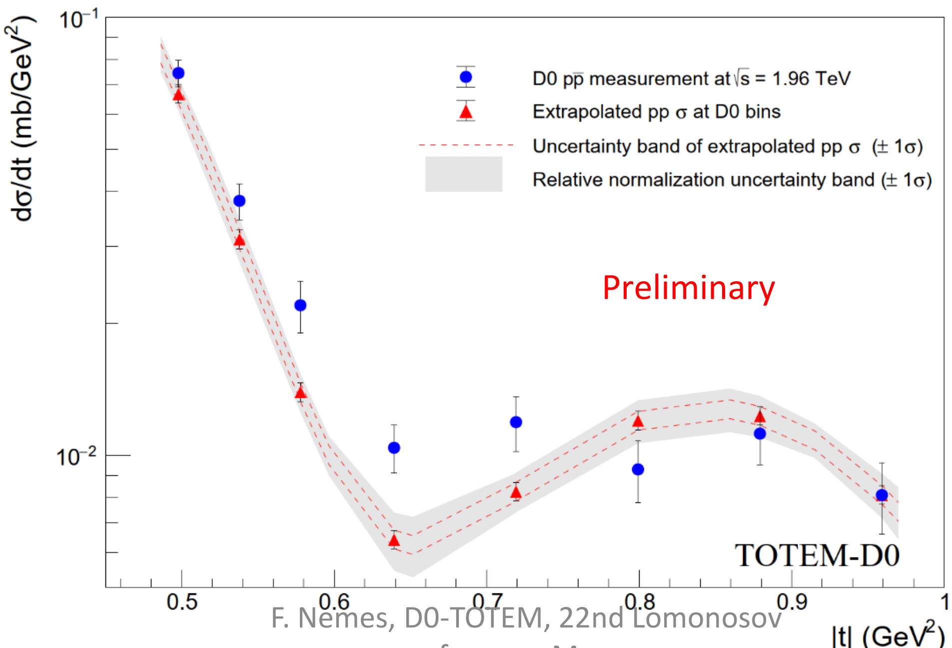
$$\sigma_{\rm tot} = a \log^2 \sqrt{s/s_0} + b \log \sqrt{s/s_0} + c$$



Update: comparison of pp & $p\bar{p}$

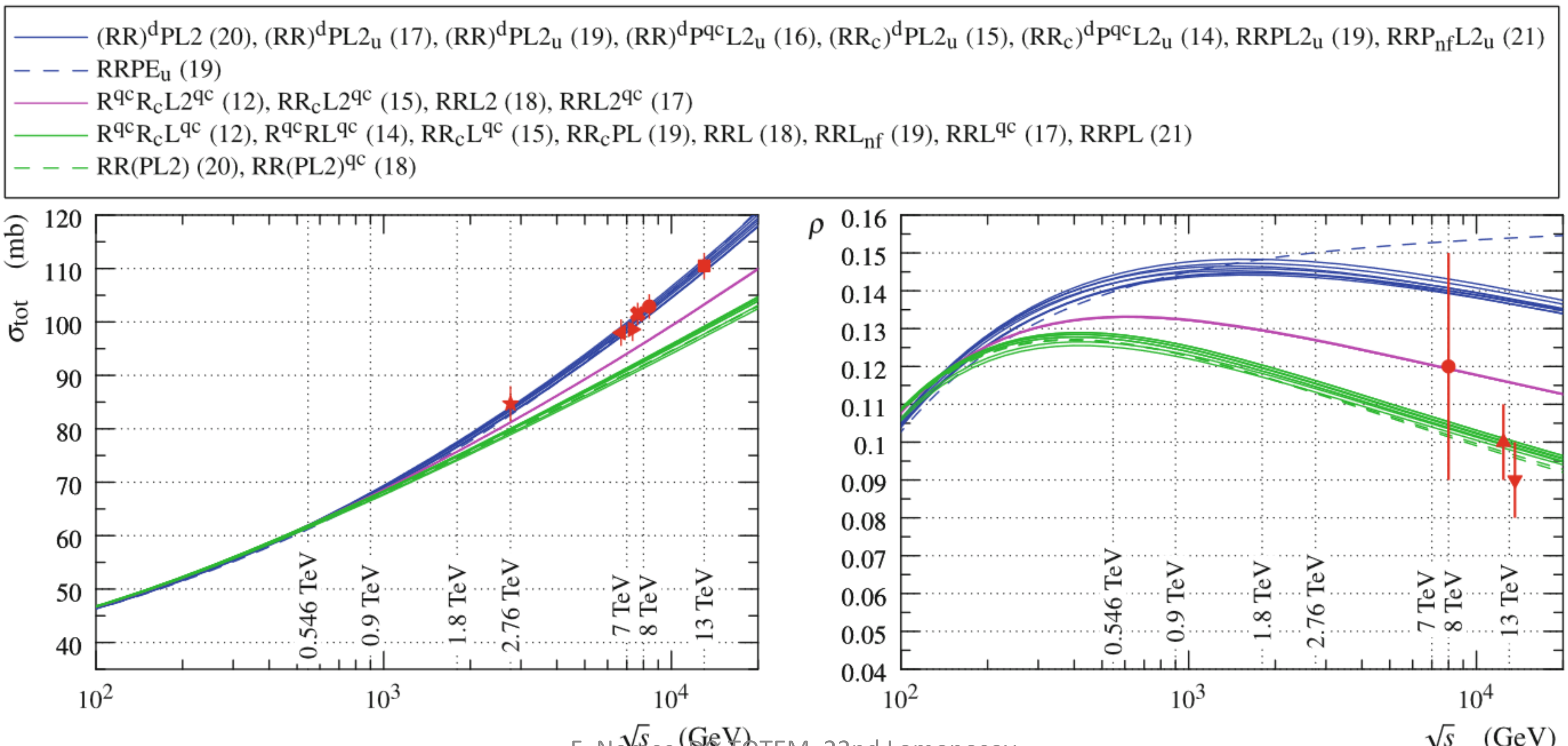
- Improved TOTEM pp covariance matrix (with refined diagonal protection)
- MC to combine the diagonal D0 $p\bar{p}$ cov. matrix (Gaussian) with the non-diagonal TOTEM pp cov matrix (Cholesky)
- Transformation for pp & $p\bar{p}$ equality of slope B & integrated cross section A
- D0 measurements placed at the average value of fit within bin
- Small increase in significance

$$\chi^2 = \Sigma_{data\ points\ i\ j}(Tot_i - D0_i)C_{ij}^{-1}(Tot_j - D0_j) + \frac{(A - A_0)^2}{\sigma_A^2} + \frac{(B - B_0)^2}{\sigma_B^2}$$



Previous evidence from pp ρ and σ_{tot}

- Using very low|t| TOTEM data @ $\sqrt{s}$= 13 TeV: ρ= 0.09 ± 0.01 (TOTEM, EPJC (2019) 785)
- Unable to describe TOTEM ρ & σ_{tot} measurements without adding colourless C-odd exchange (comparison to COMPETE predictions shown below)



Combining with pp ρ and σ_{tot} evidence

- Combine independent evidence of colourless C-odd exchange from TOTEM ρ & σ_{tot} measurements in a completely different $|t|$-domain with evidence from the pp & $\bar{p}p$ comparison

- Compared to all the COMPETE models, the TOTEM ρ & σ_{tot} measurement provide an odderon evidence between 3.4 and 4.6 σ, giving a total significance between 5.2 and 5.7 σ for t-channel exchange of a colourless C-odd gluonic compound (odderon) when combined with the TOTEM-D0 result

- Combination excludes models (*) without C-odd exchange@ 5.2 - 5.7$\sigma \Rightarrow$ observation of colourless C-odd gluonic compound(”odderon”)

* 1. COMPETE Coll., PRL 89 (2002) 201801; Durham group, PLB 748 (2018) 192.
  2. Block-Halzen model, PRD 92 (2015) 114021: excluded at 5.2σ

Conclusions

- Data-driven comparison between $\bar{p}p$ (D0 @ √s= 1.96 TeV) & pp (TOTEM @ √s= 2.76, 7, 8, 13 TeV) elastic $d\sigma/dt$ **PRL 127 (2021) 062003**

- Extrapolate "characteristic" points of elastic pp $d\sigma/dt$ to predict elastic pp $d\sigma/dt$@ √s= 1.96 TeV

- Elastic pp and $\bar{p}p$ cross sections differ @ 3.4 σ at √s= 1.96 TeV ⟹ evidence of t-channel exchange of colourless C-odd gluonic compound i.e. odderon (small increase due to updates in long paper)

- Combined with TOTEM ρ & total cross section results ⟹ 5.2 - 5.7σ & thus first experimental observation of a colourless C-odd gluonic compound i.e. odderon

- Major discovery @ LHC & Tevatron Nature (2021)

Backup slides

Double exponential fits of TOTEM data sets

- Excellent fits for all *pp* data sets @ 2.76, 7, 8 & 13 TeV

$$h_1(t) = a_1 e^{-a_2|t|^2 - a_3|t|}$$

$$h_2(t) = a_4 e^{-a_5|t|^3 - a_6|t|^2 - a_7|t|}$$

$$h(t) = a_1 e^{-a_2|t|^2 - a_3|t|} + a_4 e^{-a_5|t|^3 - a_6|t|^2 - a_7|t|}$$