

State of the art of heavy-ion measurements

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Experiments with ultrarelativistic heavy ions started thirty years ago, first at fixed target facilities (AGS, SPS) and then at colliders (RHIC, LHC). With the advent of the LHC, the range of observables and the quality of the results have significantly increased, leading to an accurate characterization of the properties of the Quark-Gluon Plasma.

In this talk, after a general introduction I will review recent experimental results obtained at the LHC and discuss their implications also in relation to previous achievements at lower energy experiments.

Finally I will discuss the future prospects for experimental work at existing and forthcoming accelerators.

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