

Recent results from heavy-ion collisions at RHIC

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In this talk I will describe the current status of the heavy ion research program at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). After the discovery of the strongly coupled quark-gluon plasma (sQGP) the RHIC program is focusing on the quantitative exploration of this new state of matter, i.e., to quantify its properties and to understand precisely how they emerge from the fundamental properties of QCD. This includes the search for the critical endpoint in the QCD phase diagram, a program that consists of a series of low energy runs exploiting the large range of energies accessible at RHIC.

I will report on recent measurements at all energies and their implications for our current understanding of the sQGP, as well as opportunities for future studies with the upgrades to the large experiments, PHENIX and STAR.