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## The initial gluon profile, lessons from exclusive diffraction

In Heavy Ion collisions, our understanding of most late time observables is strongly dependent on our understanding of the initial state of the nuclear targets. This talk aims at giving an overview on the last years' effort to model and understand the transverse gluon profile of nucleons and nuclei at small- $x$ , with the help of exclusive diffraction data from HERA, the LHC, and RHIC. I will present two pictures that emerge from this effort: The IP-Glasma picture which complements the Color Glass Condensate with gluon hotspots, and the Hotspot evolution picture. I will also mention the energy dependence of this structure.

### Session

Heavy Ions and QCD

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