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## The initial state in heavy ion collisions

I shall present a brief review of recent theoretical developments and related phenomenological approaches for understanding the initial state of heavy ion collisions, with emphasis on the Color Glass Condensate effective theory formalism and the phenomenon of gluon saturation. I shall also discuss how the data on p+Pb collisions at the LHC can be used to constrain the quantitative characterisation of the initial state of HIC

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