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## Initial conditions in AA and pA collisions

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A full understanding of the spacetime evolution of the QCD matter created in a heavy ion collision requires understanding the properties of the initial stages. In the weak coupling picture these are dominated by classical gluon fields, whose properties can also be studied via the scattering of dilute probes off a high energy hadron or nucleus. A particular challenge is understanding small systems, where LHC data is also showing signs of collective behavior. We discuss some recent results of on the initial matter production and thermalization in heavy ion collisions, in particular in the gluon saturation framework.

### Summary

**Primary author:** LAPPI, Tuomas (University of Jyvaskyla)

**Presenter:** LAPPI, Tuomas (University of Jyvaskyla)

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