

## **Characterising the QCD plasma with the ALICE experiment**

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Collisions of heavy nuclei accelerated at the unprecedented energies of the CERN Large Hadron Collider allow to reach values of density and pressure comparable to those thought to be prevalent in the first few microseconds after the Big Bang. Under such conditions, an extreme state of matter is formed: a QCD plasma of colour-charged quarks and gluons. Understanding the properties of this primordial state is the main goal of the ALICE experiment. I will review the main results obtained so far and discuss the perspective for the coming years.