Recent experimental results and theoretical developments in Heavy Ion physics

Jean-Paul Blaizot*
Institut de Physique Théorique Saclay
E-mail: jean-paul.blaizot@cea.fr

Ultra-relativistic heavy ion collisions allow us to study the densest and hottest forms of matter that can be created in the laboratory, states of matter that have existed in the early universe for only a brief instant, a few microseconds after the big bang.
In this talk, I shall present a short overview of the latest developments in the field, by choosing a few highlights from the results obtained at the LHC. I shall also discuss the evolution of ideas and concepts that have been triggered by these experiments.