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A Fluid Dynamic Perspective on High Energy Nucleus Collisions

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The soft or low transverse momentum physics of relativistic heavy ion collisions can be well described by relativistic fluid dynamics. This is a universal theoretical description which employs from QCD as the underlying quantum field theory the thermodynamic equation of state and transport properties like viscosities and conductivities, as well as relaxation times. I will review the overall picture and comment on contemporary conceptual questions like the limits of a fluid description for small systems, the description of heavy-quark related observables, and a possibility to extend the fluid description to the entire collision event, so to start it even before the collision.

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