

For each of these topics, general survey lectures introduced the main ideas, presented the current state of the theoretical understanding, and summarized the basic experimental results obtained so far.

The planning of the school met with excellent resonance among young physicists worldwide. Almost 100 students from many countries attended, listened, and, as these lecture notes bear witness of, participated. We had decided the written version of the lectures would be prepared by each lecturer together with two to three students, who volunteered for this task. Furthermore, this idea fell on fruitful ground, and both students and lecturers profited from the collaboration in preparing the different chapters.

It is a particular pleasure to one of us (B.S.) that these lectures are published by Springer Verlag, who had already published the lectures at the first school on the QGP in India. That was held many years ago, 1989 in Puri, and it was to a large extent responsible for creating the great and active present community of research workers in India.

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Contents

The Thermodynamics of Quarks and Gluons	1
Helmut Satz	
1 Prelude	1
2 States of Strongly Interacting Matter	2
3 From Hadrons to Quarks and Gluons	3
4 Finite-Temperature Lattice QCD	5
5 The Nature of the Transition	10
6 Probing the Quark–Gluon Plasma	15
7 Summary	19
References	19
Global Properties of Nucleus–Nucleus Collisions	23
Michael Kliemant, Raghunath Sahoo, Tim Schuster, and Reinhard Stock	
1 Introduction	23
2 Relativistic Kinematics	29
3 Bulk Hadron Production in A+A Collisions	48
4 Hadronization and Hadronic Freeze-Out in A+A Collisions	81
References	99
Two Introductory Lectures on High-Energy QCD and Heavy-Ion Collisions	105
Debasish Banerjee, Jajati K. Nayak, and Raju Venugopalan	
1 Introduction	105
2 Deep Inelastic Scattering	107
3 Heavy-Ion Collisions	124
4 From CGC to Glasma	125
References	133
Hydrodynamics and Flow	139
Tetsufumi Hirano, Naomi van der Kolk, and Ante Bilandzic	
1 Introduction and Disclaimer	139
2 Introduction to Hydrodynamics in Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions	140

3	Formalism of the Relativistic Ideal/Viscous Hydrodynamics	142
4	Applications	154
	References	176
	An Introduction to the Spectral Analysis of the QGP	179
	P. P. Bhaduri, P. Hegde, H. Satz, and P. Tribedy	
1	What Are Quarkonia?	179
2	Studying Charmonium Dissociation	184
3	Dynamics of Quarkonium Dissociation	186
4	Quarkonium Production in Nuclear Collisions	189
5	Conclusion	196
	References	196
	Quarkonium Production and Absorption in Proton–Nucleus Collisions	199
	Carlos Lourenço, Pietro Faccioli and Hermine K. Wöhri	
1	Introduction	199
2	J/ψ Feed-Down Fractions	201
3	J/ψ Polarization Revisited	205
4	Energy Dependence of the J/ψ Break-Up Cross Section	212
5	Summary	217
	References	217
	Electromagnetic Probes	219
	Rupa Chatterjee, Lusaka Bhattacharya, and Dinesh K. Srivastava	
1	Introduction	219
2	Sources of Photons	220
3	Photons from Pb+Pb@SPS to Au+Au@RHIC	237
4	Dileptons	243
5	Elliptic Flow	249
6	Photon-Tagged Jets	256
7	Intensity Interferometry of Thermal Photons	258
8	Epilogue	262
	References	262
	Measuring Dimuons Produced in Proton–Nucleus Collisions with the NA60 Experiment at the SPS	265
	Carlos Lourenço and Hermine K. Wöhri	
1	Introduction	265
2	Detector Design and Operation	266
3	Data Reconstruction	270
4	Simulation of the Expected Dimuon Sources	275
5	Acceptances, Phase Space Window and Efficiencies	276
6	Target Identification	280
7	Summary and Final Remarks	281
	References	284

High-p_T Hadron Suppression and Jet Quenching	285	
David d’Enterria and Barbara Betz		
1	Introduction	285
2	Jet Quenching and Parton Energy Loss in QCD Matter	286
3	Parton Energy Loss Phenomenology	296
4	High- p_T Leading Hadron Suppression: Data vs. Theory	307
5	High- p_T Di-hadron ϕ, η Correlations: Data vs. Theory	320
6	Jet Observables in AA Collisions	325
7	Summary	333
	References	334
	In Search of the QCD–Gravity Correspondence	341
	Theodor Braşoveanu, Dmitri Kharzeev, and Mauricio Martinez	
1	Introduction	341
2	QCD and Its Properties	342
3	Black Holes	349
4	Using Black Holes to Understand Gauge Theories	351
5	Applications: Shear and Bulk Viscosities	358
6	Limitations of the Present Approaches and Outlook	366
	References	367