# Making Some Sense of the Quark-Gluon Quagmire at RHIC

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In collisions of ultra-relativistic heavy nuclei at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) nuclear matter reaches energy densities where it is expected to melt into a plasma of deconfined quarks and gluons. Initial results from the four RHIC experiments have already established the dynamics of these collisions, the presence of large pressure gradients early in the collision, systematics of particle and anti-particle production, the degree of equilibration, aspects of the expansion dynamics and possible freeze-out scenarios. Recently, the suppression of hadrons at large transverse momentum and quenching of di-jets have been observed at RHIC. I will present briefly an overview of the ultra-relativistic heavy ion program at RHIC and a summary of the soft physics results and their interpretation. I will then focus on new evidence for hard scattering, hadron suppression, and jet quenching, all in an attempt to elucidate properties of the high density QCD matter created in ultra-relativistic nuclear collisions at RHIC.