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Strangeness production in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.7, 14.6 and 19.6 GeV with the STAR experiment

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One main motivation of the Beam Energy Scan (BES) program at RHIC is to search for the QCD critical point and the onset of deconfinement. Strangeness production has been suggested as a sensitive probe to the early dynamics of the deconfined matter created in heavy-ion collisions. Ratios of particle yields involving strange particles are often utilized to study various properties of the nuclear matter, such as the strangeness and baryon chemical potentials at the chemical freeze-out temperature ($\mu_S/T_{\rm ch}$ and $\mu_B/T_{\rm ch}$).

Measurements from the first phase of the BES program (BES-I) have indicated potential changes in the medium properties with decreasing collision energy. However, the precision of those measurements is not sufficient to draw definitive conclusions. During BES-II, STAR has accumulated high statistics data in Au+Au collisions, which can help reduce the uncertainties in the strange hadron measurements, in particular for the multi-strange hadrons. Benefiting from the iTPC upgrade, the strangeness measurements are now extended from previous rapidity window of |y|<0.5 to |y|<1.5. We also apply the Boosted Decision Trees (BDT) machine learning algorithm to optimize the signal extraction. In this poster, we will present new STAR measurements of strange hadron (K^0_s, Λ, $\bar{\Lambda}$, Ξ, $\bar{\Xi}$, Ω, $\bar{\Omega}$) production in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.7, 14.6, 19.6 GeV from BES-II, including transverse-momentum and rapidity spectra, nuclear modification factors and antibaryon-to-baryon ratios. New insights on the collision dynamics will be discussed.

Auteur principal: FANG, Yi (Tsinghua University)

Orateur: FANG, Yi (Tsinghua University)

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