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## $\Lambda_c^+$ baryon production in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

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Baryon/meson ratios ( $p/\pi$ ,  $\Lambda/K_s^0$ ) are observed to be significantly enhanced in central heavy-ion collisions compared with peripheral heavy-ion collisions and p+p collisions at RHIC and LHC. Several model calculations suggest that coalescence hadronization between charm quarks and light quarks will also lead to an enhancement in the  $\Lambda_c/D^0$  ratio. Therefore, it is of great interest to study the  $\Lambda_c$  baryon production to further understand the hadronization scheme in the charm sector and constrain total charm yield in heavy-ion collisions. The possible  $\Lambda_c/D^0$  enhancement in heavy-ion collisions will introduce additional suppression for charm decay electrons due to smaller semi-leptonic decay branching ratios of  $\Lambda_c$ , which could lead to a different interpretation of the heavy flavor decay electron results.

$\Lambda_c$  baryons have an extremely small lifetime ( $c\tau \sim 60 \mu\text{m}$ ) and have not been measured in heavy-ion collisions yet. The newly installed STAR Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT) has shown high efficiency and a superior pointing resolution that facilitate the reconstruction of hadronic decays in heavy-ion collisions. In 2014 run, STAR has collected 1.2 B events of minimum bias Au+Au collisions  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV.

In this poster, we will discuss the feasibility of  $\Lambda_c$  measurement with the HFT in Au+Au collisions. We will report reconstruction of  $\Lambda_c$  baryons via hadronic decays, including decay channels through the involvement of various intermediate resonance states using 2014 Au+Au data at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV. In addition, we will discuss the improvement on  $\Lambda_c$  reconstruction using the HFT with reduced material that is taking data in 2015 (p+p, p+A) and is planned for future 2016 (Au+Au) collisions.

### **On behalf of collaboration:**

STAR

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