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Transport model study of transverse momentum distributions of (anti-)deuterons production in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=14.5, 62.4,$ and 200 GeV

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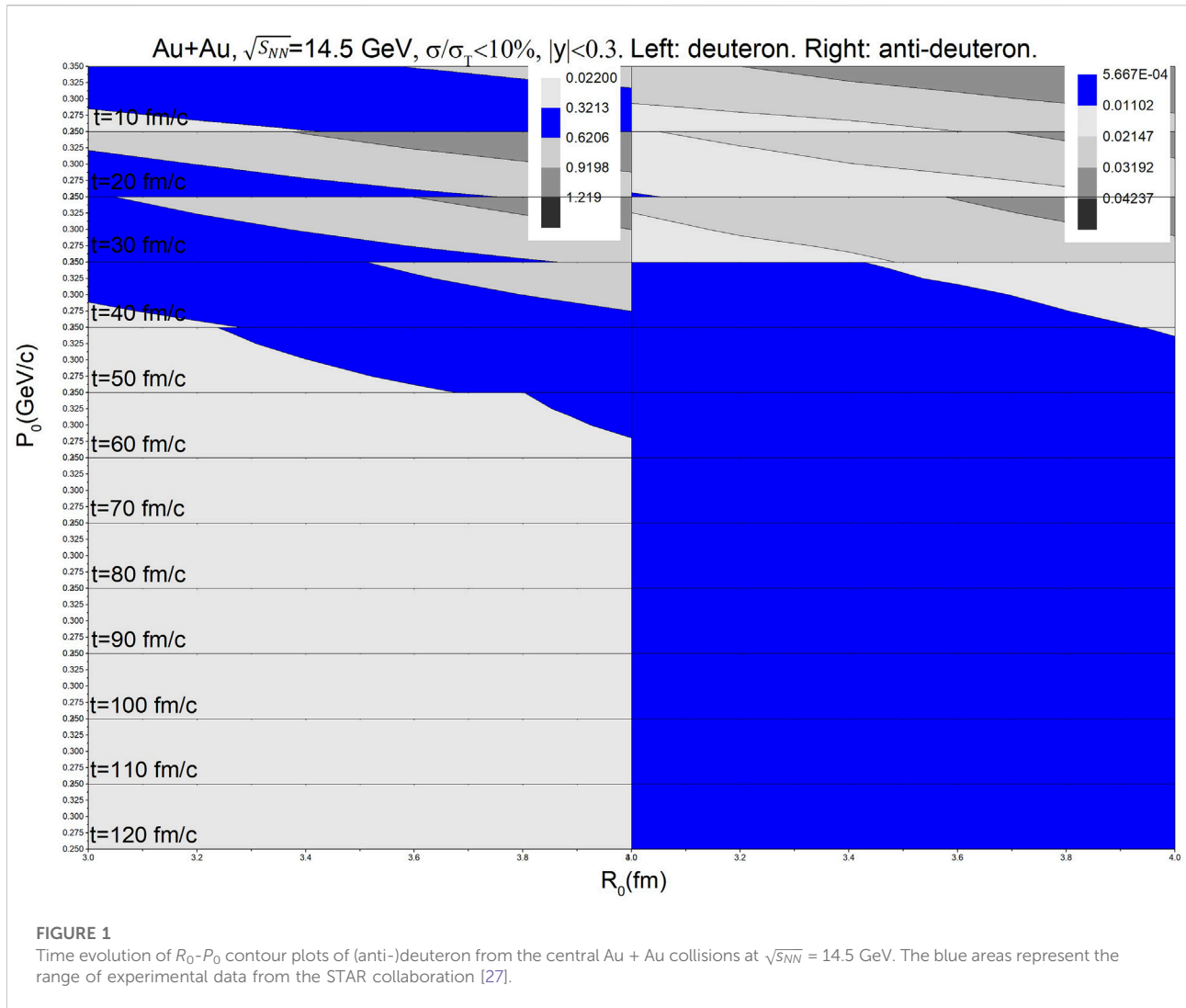
The transverse momentum distributions of deuterons and anti-deuterons in Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV with different centralities are studied within the framework of the UrQMD model combined with the conventional phase-space coalescence model. A strong reversed correlation between R_0 (the maximal relative distances between hadrons) and P_0 (the maximal relative momentum between hadrons) can be seen. It is also time-dependent. The number of particles generated are inconsistent with experimental data for 40, -60% and 60, -80% centralities because deuterons have plenty of time to react with other particles, this effect becomes more obvious with the decrease of beam energy. Our results can quantitatively describe the STAR data for 0, -10%, 10, -20% and 20, -40% centralities.

KEYWORDS

transverse momentum distributions, UrQMD model, coalescence, heavy-ion collisions, Au+Au collisions

1 Introduction

A great opportunity to explore the properties of strongly interacting substances at extreme densities and temperatures was provided by heavy-ion collisions (HICs) at ultra-relativistic energies [1–5]. More investigation is warranted about the generation mechanism of the particles and fragments in the ultra-relativistic HICs, as it may provide important information on the quantum chromodynamics (QCD) phase transition from quark-gluon plasma (QGP) to hadron gas (HG) [6, 7]. In the past 2 decades, many experiments have been carried out at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) near the critical energy for the transition from hadronic matter to QGP [8]. The theoretical studies on the production of particles and anti-particles are been going on for years, for example, the coalescence model, thermal model and transport models [9–21]. In particular, the study of transport phenomena is very important for understanding many

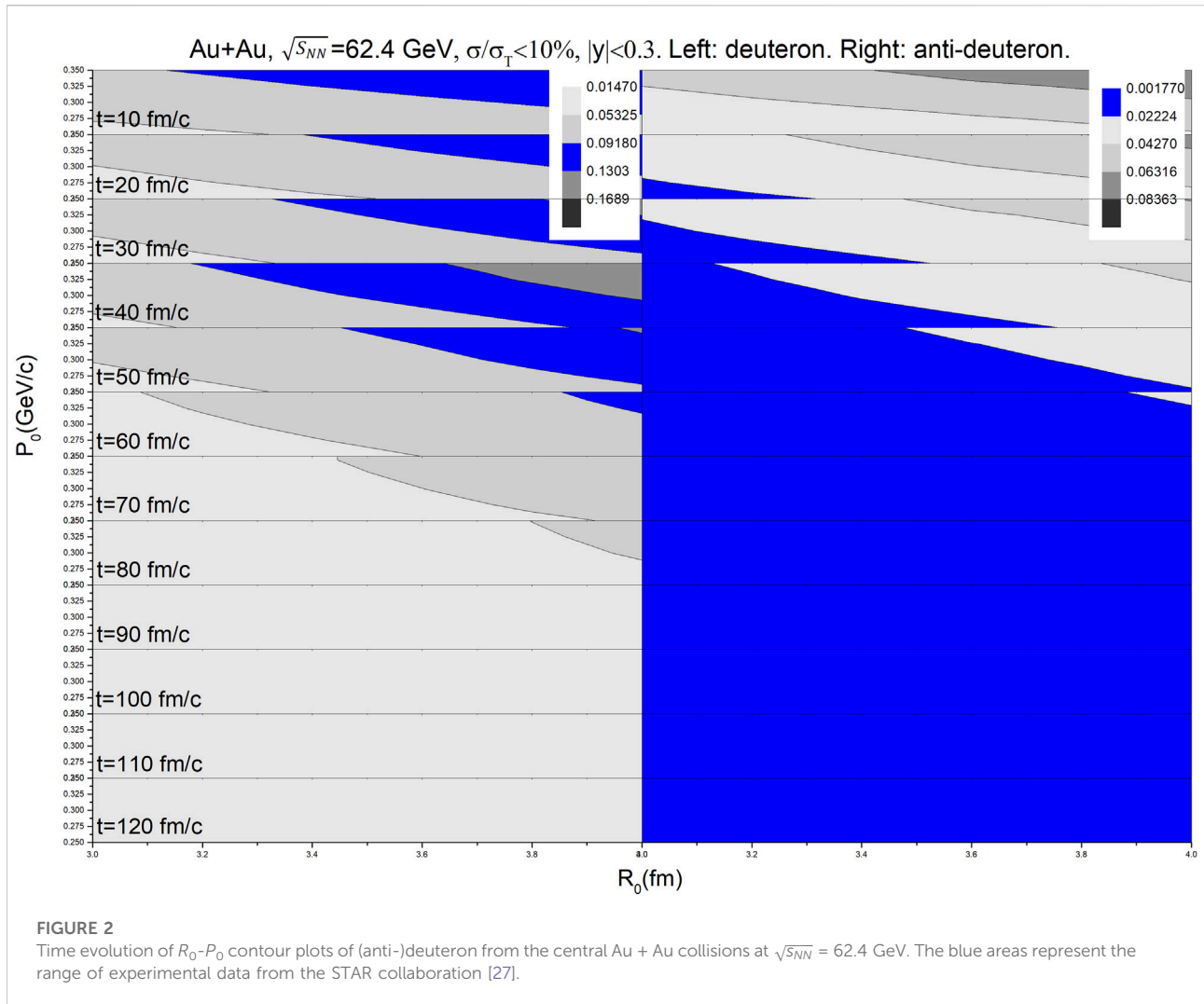


fundamental properties [22, 23]. The transverse momentum spectrum of particles produced in high-energy collisions is of great research value because it can provide us with key information about the dynamic freezing state of the interacting system [24]. In the dynamic freezing stage, the effective temperature is not the actual temperature, which describes the sum of the excitation degree of the interacting system and the influence of the lateral flow [25].

The underlying mechanism for the generation of light (anti-) nuclei in relativistic heavy ion collisions is still under investigation. The traditional phase space polymerization method can be widely applied to HICs in large beam energy range [26]. It is of great significance to study deuteron generation at RHIC energy using the traditional coalescence model. In addition, there is a strong correlation between the particle's coordinates and momentum, and this correlation varies over time. Therefore, the time evolution of the parameter set (R_0 , P_0)

needs to be scanned within a reasonable range so that the coalescence process produces the same yield [26]. From these experiments, the effect of coalescent parameters on the (anti-) deuteron and its transverse momentum distribution can be observed. The inverse law correlation between R_0 and P_0 should be described in detail in the third section.

In this paper, the Ultra-relativistic Quantum Molecular Dynamics (UrQMD) transport model is adopted to produce the transverse momentum distributions of (anti-)deuterons in Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$, 62.4 and 200 GeV, and comparisons were made with experimental data from the STAR collaboration [27]. The main purpose of this work is to study different reaction mechanisms of Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$, 62.4 and 200 GeV, such as the effect of coordinate space and momentum space correlation on deuteron and anti-deuteron yields. In the calculation, hadrons with relative distances less than R_0 and relative momentum less than P_0 are considered to belong to a cluster.



2 Ultra-relativistic quantum molecular dynamics transport model and the coalescence model

2.1 The UrQMD model

The UrQMD model is a microscopic multi-body transport method that can be used to study proton-proton (pp), proton-nucleus (pA) and nucleon-nucleus (AA) interactions in the energy range from SIS to LHC. The transport model is based on covariant propagation of color strings, constituent quarks, and double quarks (as string ends) with meson and baryon degrees of freedom [28]. It can combine different reaction mechanisms and give theoretical simulation results of various experimental observations. In this model, by introducing the formation time of hadrons produced by string fragments, the degree of freedom of subhadrons is entered [29–31]. They predominate in the early stages of heavy ion collisions (HICs) with high SPS and RHIC energies.

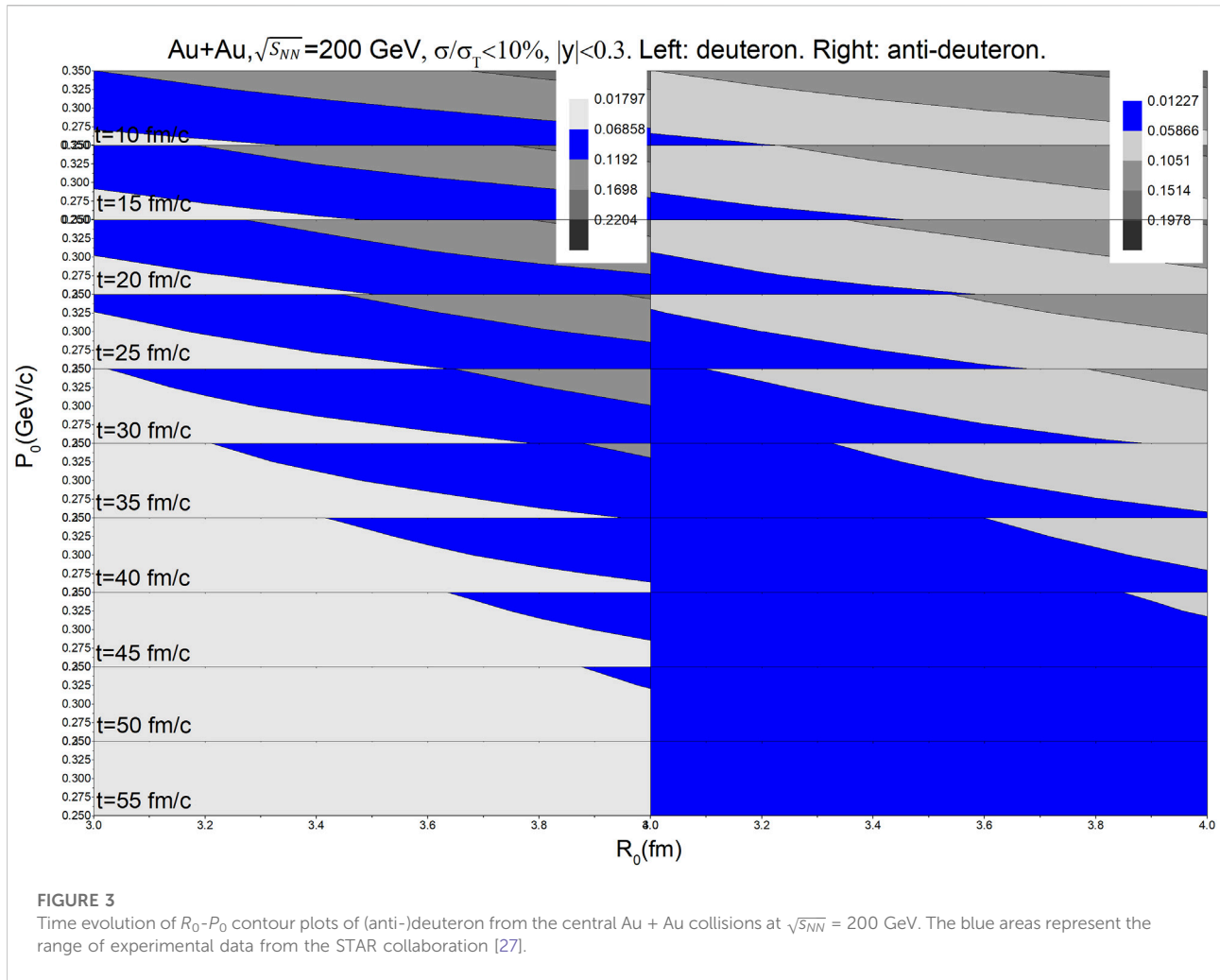
The UrQMD model and quantum molecular dynamics (QMD) model are based on the parallel principle: hadrons are represented by Gaussian wave packets in phase space, and the phase space of hadrons propagates according to Hamiltonian equations of motion [32],

$$\dot{\vec{r}}_i = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{p}_i}, \quad \dot{\vec{p}}_i = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{r}_i}. \quad (1)$$

Here, \vec{r}_i and \vec{p}_i are the coordinate and momentum of the hadron i , respectively. The Hamiltonian H consists of the kinetic energy T and the effective interaction potential energy U ,

$$H = T + U. \quad (2)$$

This microscopic transport approach simulates multiple interactions of in-going and newly produced particles, the excitation and fragmentation of color strings and the formation and decay of hadronic resonances. For higher energies, the treatment



of subhadronic degrees of freedom is very important. In the current model, these degrees of freedom enter by introducing the formation time of hadrons produced by string fragments. The phase transition to the quark-gluon state is not explicitly incorporated into the model dynamics. However, a detailed analysis of the model in equilibrium state gives an effective Hagedorn type equation of state [33].

In this paper, we mainly study the effect of the correlations between coordinate and momentum spaces on the yields and the transverse momentum distribution of deuteron and anti-deuteron with the cascade mode in the RHIC energy region. In the next work, we will focus on the influence of potential on production of light particles in this energy region.

2.2 The coalescence model

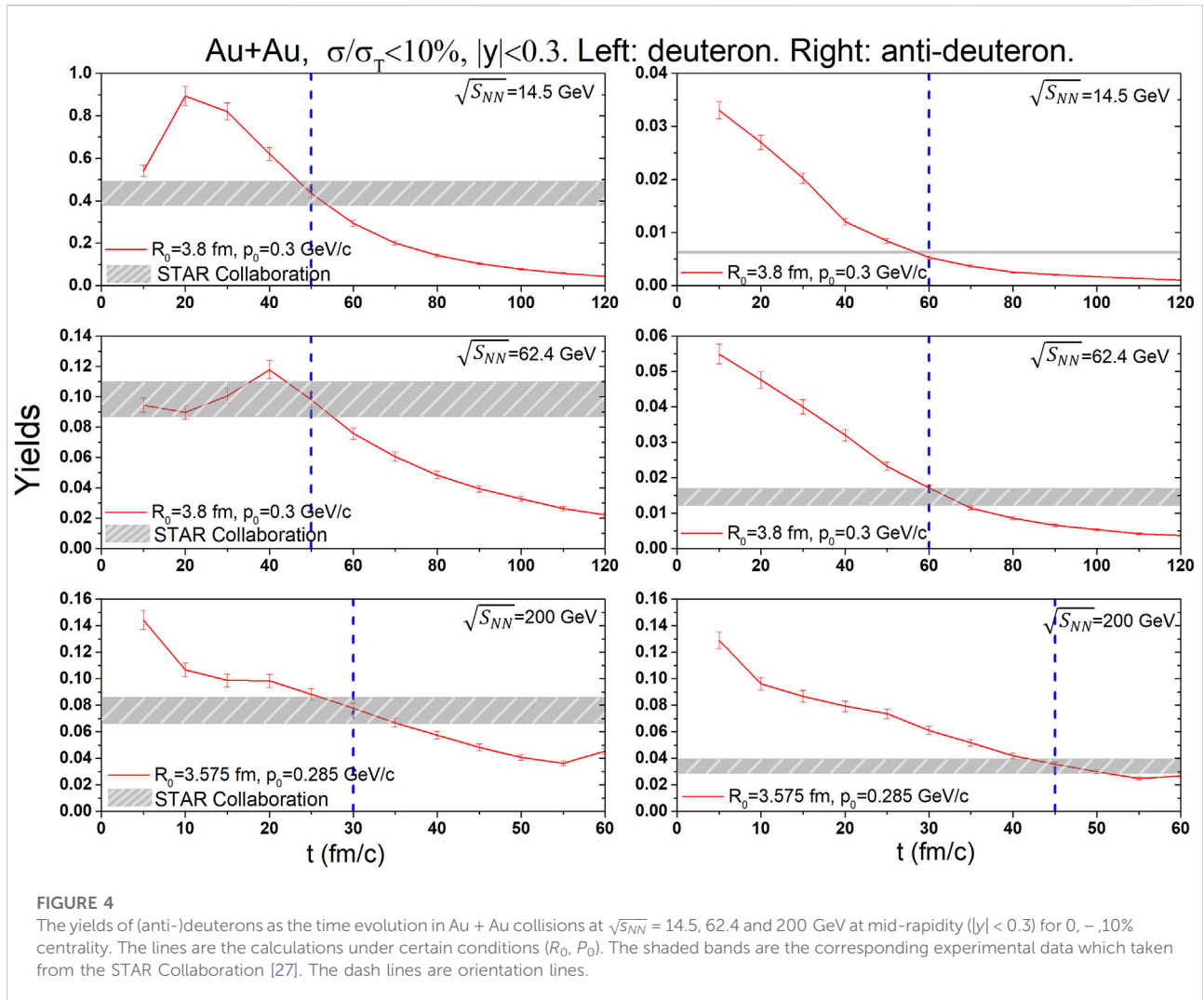
The coalescence model describes the formation of hadronic clusters in the kinetic freeze-out stage of a heavy-ion collision. A pair of final (anti-) nucleons with similar momentum can merge

to form a deuteron or anti-deuteron with total momentum P [34]. In the calculation, we use a conventional phase space clustering model [35] to construct clusters, in which hadrons with relative distances less than R_0 and relative momentum less than P_0 are considered to belong to a cluster. As a rule of thumb, the parameter set (R_0, P_0) can be selected in the range of (3-4 fm, 0.25-0.35 GeV/c) to describe the experimental data of HICs [26]. In this article, we will investigate the effects of different set of R_0 and P_0 on the yield of (anti-)deuteron over the evolutionary time.

3 Time evolution and transverse momentum distributions of the production of (Anti-)deuterons

3.1 The time evolution of (anti-)deuterons

The time dependence of the production of (anti-)deuterons in the mid-rapidity ($|y| < 0.3$) for 0-, 10% centrality should be

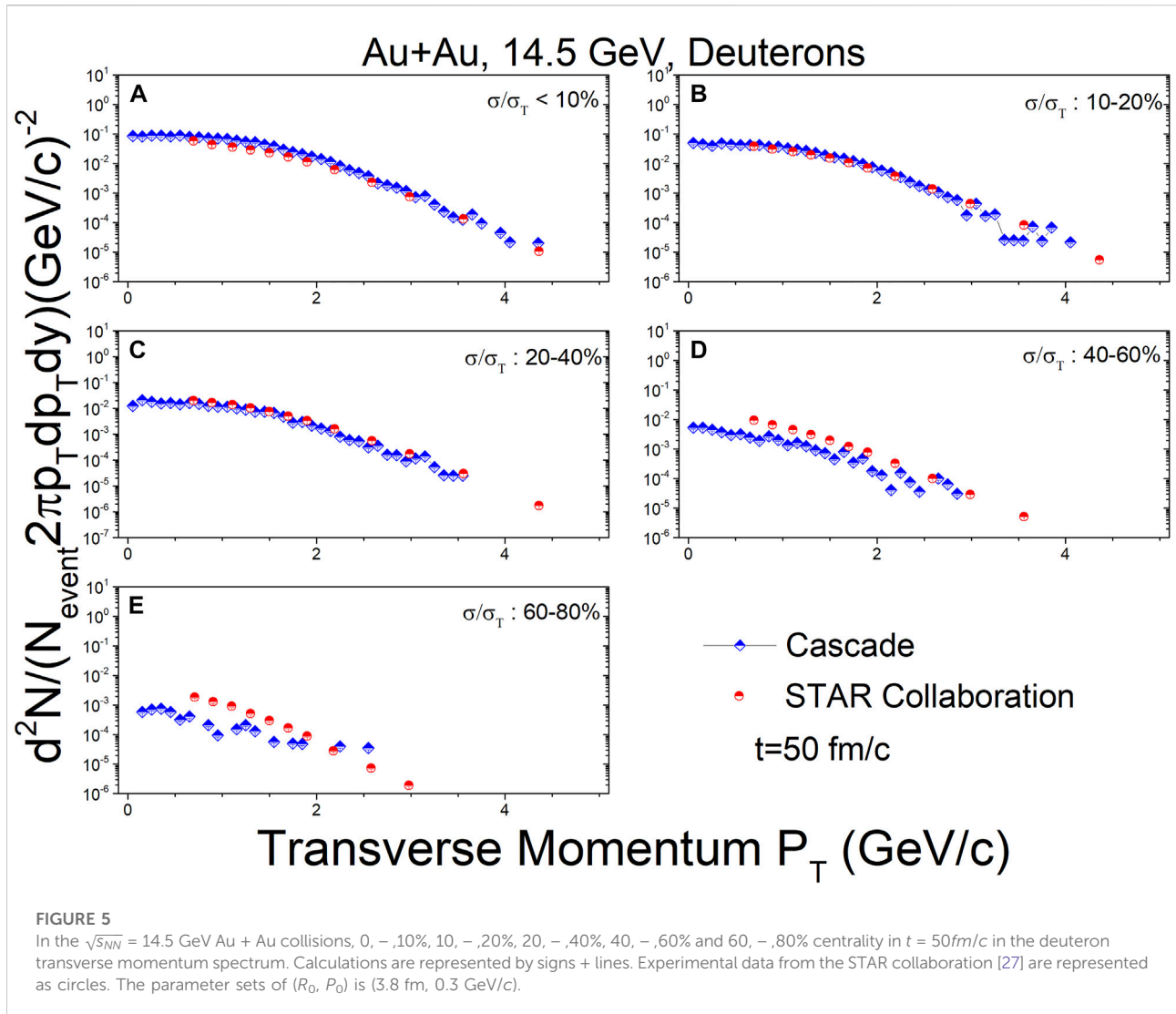


considered since they might be produced by different mechanisms. The time evolution of the yield of (anti-)deuterons at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. The blue area represents the range of experimental data. In the view ranges of R_0 and P_0 , it is clear that too many deuterons are produced before 40 fm/c at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ and at 62.4 GeV, which are unstable and will subsequently fission. In the meantime, too many anti-deuterons are produced before 50 fm/c. If we select parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) (3.8 fm, 0.3 GeV/c), the data can be well described. For $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV, the parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) (3.575 fm, 0.285 GeV/c) can be selected. These parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) are commonly used by researchers and are appropriate for this study [7, 26].

Figure 4 show the yields of (anti-)deuterons as the time evolution in the $0, -10\%$ centrality Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV at mid-rapidity ($|y| < 0.3$). The red lines are the results calculated from the cascade mode

of UrQMD model. The shaded bands are the experimental data. It can be found that the stopping times should be 50 fm/c for deuterons and 60 fm/c for anti-deuterons for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ and 62.4 GeV, and the corresponds stopping times for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV should be 30 fm/c for deuterons and 45 fm/c for anti-deuterons. Therefore, these stopping times are adopted in the following calculations. From Figure 4, one can also find that the deuterons produced at the lower energies need a longer time to be spatially separated [36].

The scanning of R_0 and P_0 located in the colored regions of Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 is useful because they are reliable in the (anti-)deuteron data description of the mid-rapidity region. It is clear that the (anti-)deuteron production rate of RHIC can be well described by the cooperative method of UrQMD + coalescence if the UrQMD stop times are properly combined and the parameter set of (R_0, P_0) in the coalescence is chosen.

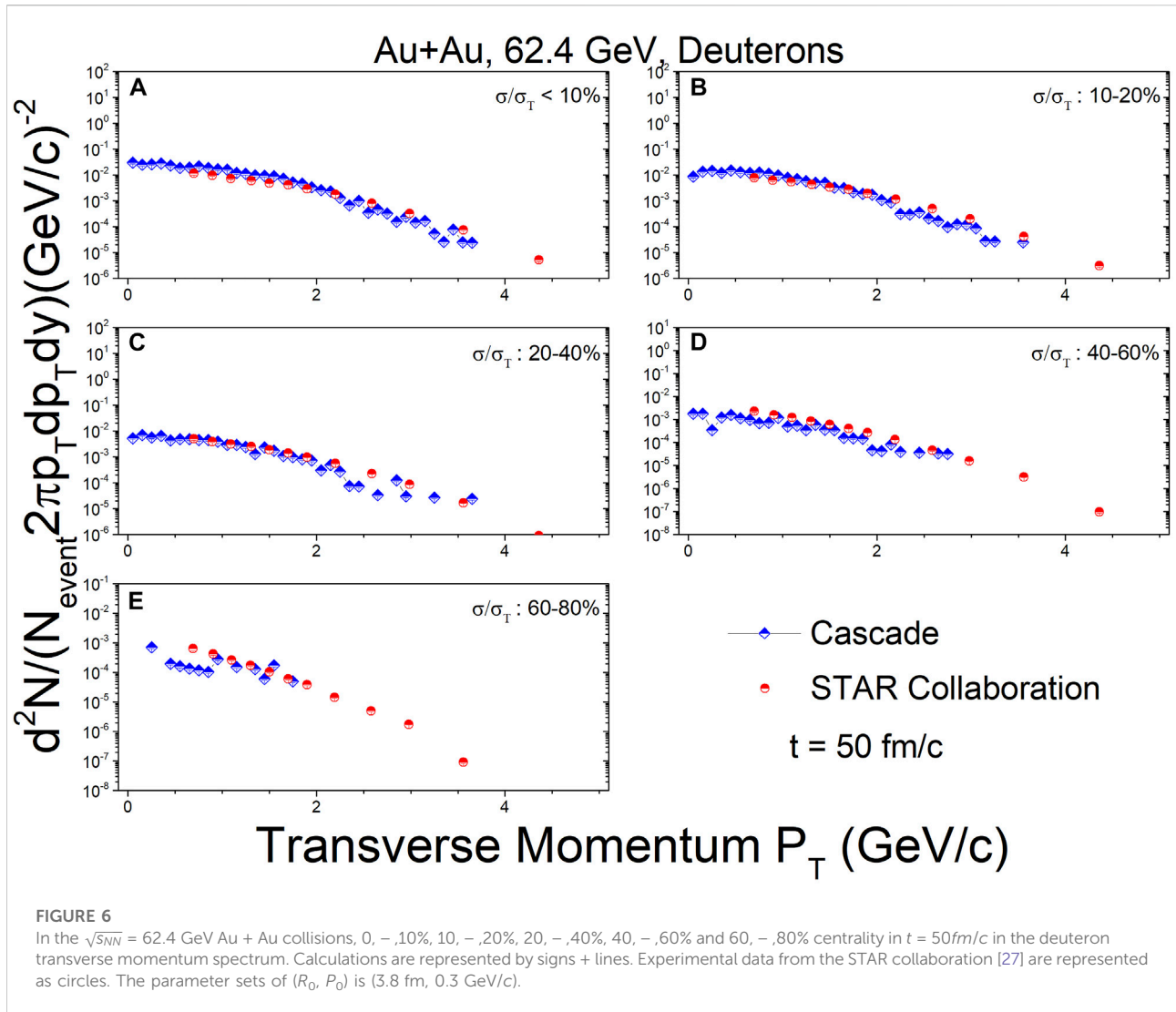


3.2 Transverse momentum distributions of (anti-)deuterons

Figures 5–7 show the transverse momentum spectra for deuterons at mid-rapidity ($|y| < 0.3$) in Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV with 0-, 10-, 20-, 40-, 60- and 80% centralities. The signs + lines are the results calculated from the cascade mode of the UrQMD model, and the circles are the experimental data. It is found that the calculated results of UrQMD model agree well with the experimental data except for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV at the 40-, 60% and 60-, 80% centralities. At $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV for the 40-, 60% and 60-, 80% centralities, most of our calculations are lower than the experimental data. We know that the deuterons produced at large impact parameter have plenty of time to react with other particles [36], and some of observed deuterons come from the nuclear

fragments [27]. The impact of this effect will be further studied.

Figures 8–10 show the transverse momentum spectra for anti-deuterons at mid-rapidity ($|y| < 0.3$) in Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV for 0-, 10-, 20-, 40-, 60- and 80% centralities. The signs + lines are our calculated results using the UrQMD model with cascade mode shown in the every panel. The circles are the experimental data. It is found that the calculations of the UrQMD model are in keeping with the experimental data well at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV. At $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV, due to anti-deuterons are mainly produced in fireball shells, and the antideuterons produced have a low probability of interacting with other particles, the transverse momentum spectra of anti-deuterons is more. Since the relative suppression of anti-nucleons recedes with increasing energy, anti-deuterons can form much closer to the fireball center. Deuteron and antideuteron formation have the same



geometry at energies around $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV [34]. Therefore, the theoretical calculation results can describe the experimental data well at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV.

4 Summary and outlook

In conclusion, we give the time evolution of the (anti-)deuteron in 0, –10% center Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV with the UrQMD model combined with the coalescence. In the coalescence process, the values of the (R_0, P_0) parameter set are surveyed in the ranges (3–4 fm, 0.25–0.35 GeV/c) to describe the experimental data. It is found that there exists a strong reversed correlation between R_0 and P_0 and it is time-dependent. For deuterons, the accepted (R_0, P_0) band in the time period 20–50 fm/c, while for anti-deuterons, the time evolution of the need is greater than

50 fm/c for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV, 60 fm/c for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV and 35 fm/c for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV. Otherwise, smaller R_0 and P_0 values should be selected. In addition, we also have presented the transverse momentum distributions of (anti-)deuterons for 0, –10%, 10, –20%, 20, –40%, 40, –60% and 60, –80% centralities collisions. The results show that the UrQMD + coalescence method can describe the variation experimental data of STAR Collaboration well at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5, 62.4$ and 200 GeV. The transverse momentum spectra of (anti-)deuterons at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV are inconsistent with experimental data for 40, –60% and 60, –80% centralities, since deuterons have plenty of time to react with other particles, and this phenomenon will become more obvious with the collision energy decreasing. At low collision energies, the emission source size of anti-deuteron is larger than that of deuteron. But the influence mechanism of the spatial separation have yet to be studied in depth, and related work is in progress.

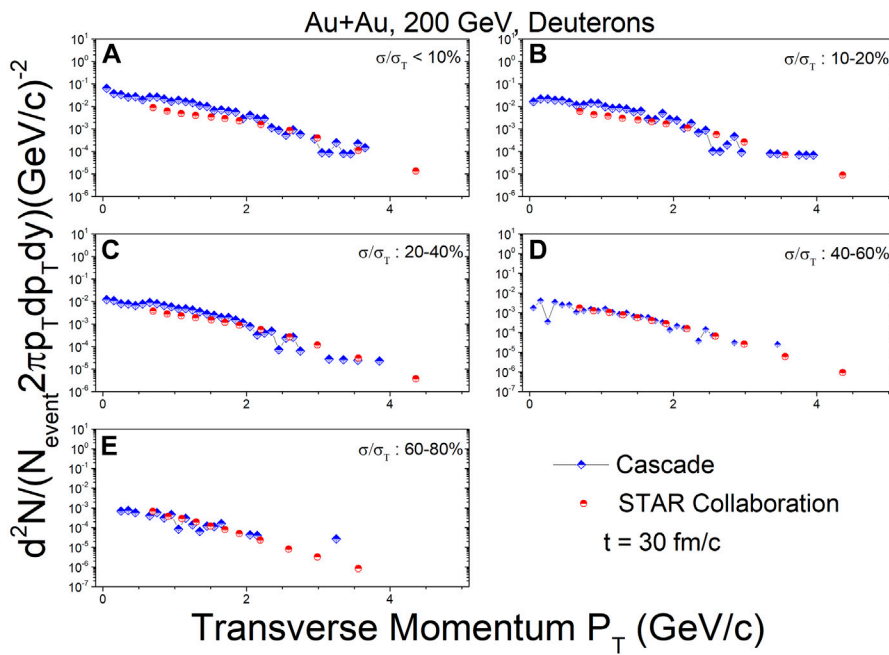


FIGURE 7

In the $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV Au + Au collisions, 0-, 10%, 10-, 20%, 20-, 40%, 40-, 60%, 60-, 80% centrality in $t = 30 \text{ fm}/c$ in the deuteron transverse momentum spectrum. Calculations are represented by signs + lines. Experimental data from the STAR collaboration [27] are represented as circles. The parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) is (3.575 fm, 0.285 GeV/c).

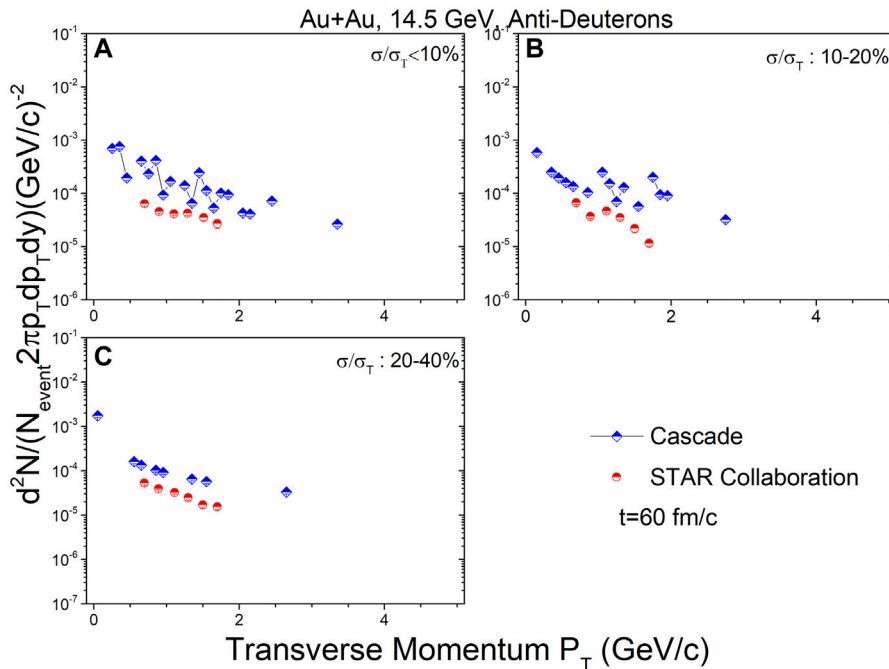


FIGURE 8

In the $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.5$ GeV Au + Au collisions, 0-, 10%, 10-, 20%, 20-, 40%, 40-, 60%, 60-, 80% centrality in $t = 60 \text{ fm}/c$ in the anti-deuteron transverse momentum spectrum. Calculations are represented by signs + lines. Experimental data from the STAR collaboration [27] are represented as circles. The parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) is (3.8 fm, 0.3 GeV/c).

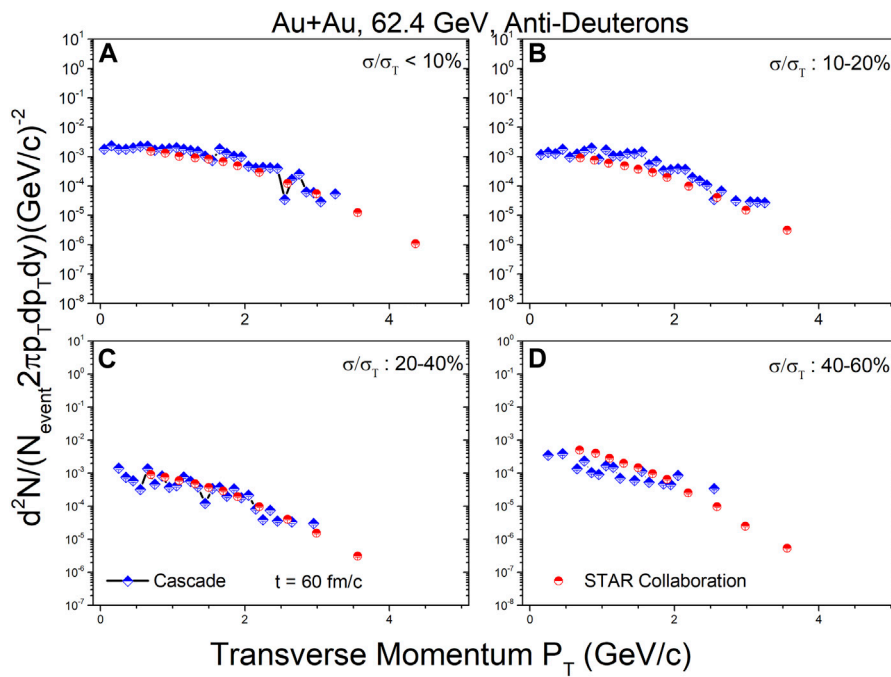


FIGURE 9

In the $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV Au + Au collisions, 0-, 10%, 10-, 20%, 20-, 40%, 40-, 60% and 60-, 80% centrality in $t = 60 \text{ fm}/c$ in the anti-deuteron transverse momentum spectrum. Calculations are represented by signs + lines. Experimental data from the STAR collaboration [27] are represented as circles. The parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) is (3.8 fm, 0.3 GeV/c).

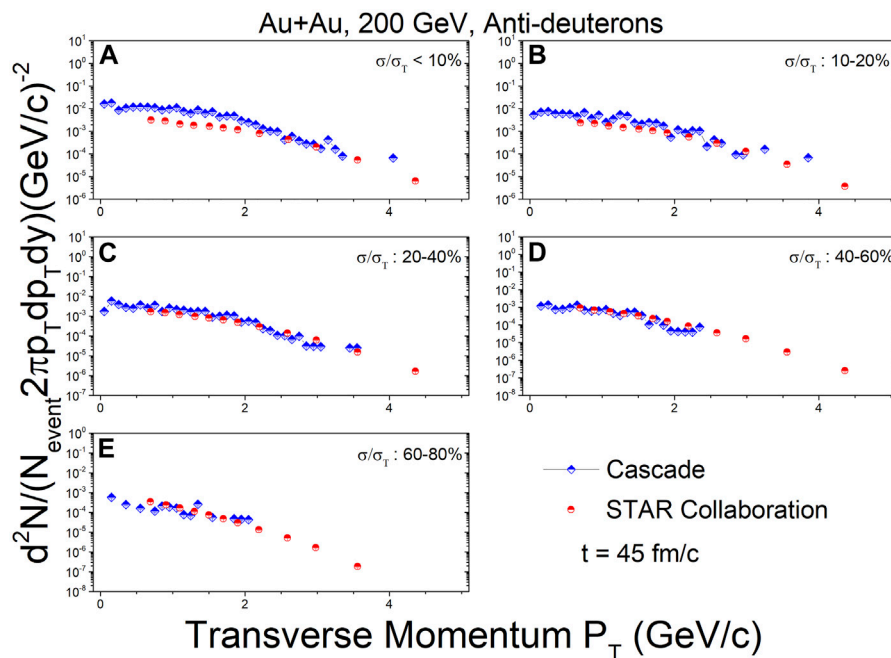


FIGURE 10

In the $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV Au + Au collisions, 0-, 10%, 10-, 20%, 20-, 40%, 40-, 60% and 60-, 80% centrality in $t = 45 \text{ fm}/c$ in the anti-deuteron transverse momentum spectrum. Calculations are represented by signs + lines. Experimental data from the STAR collaboration [27] are represented as circles. The parameter sets of (R_0, P_0) is (3.575 fm, 0.285 GeV/c).

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

Author contributions

Conceptualization, XZ; formal analysis, ZH; writing—original draft, YY; writing—review editing, XW.

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