

Search for neutrinoless double beta decay with the KamLAND-Zen experiment

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Double beta decay



S.Dell'Oro et al., Adv. in High En. Phys. (2016) 2162659

Two-neutrino double beta decay ($2v2\beta$) $(A, Z) \to (A, Z + 2) + 2e^{-} + 2\bar{\nu}_{e}$ 2**β**⁻: ΔL=0 Allowed by the Standard Model, was observed for 11 isotopes Neutrinoless double beta decay $(0v2\beta)$ $2\beta^{-}: (A, Z) \to (A, Z + 2) + 2e^{-}$ $\Lambda I = 2$ Process without emission of neutrino or antineutrino Forbidden by the Standard Model, is not observed

Observation of $0v2\beta$:

- prove the lepton number violation
- establish the Majorana nature of the neutrino
- help to determine neutrino mass hierarchy and estimate the effective Majorana mass of neutrino
- help to test leptogenesis

KamLAND-Zen Collaboration



~ 50 collaborators, 12 institutes, 3 countries



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KamLAND-Zen 400 detector

Detector is located in Kamioka underground laboratory at the depth of 2700 m.w.e., and exploits the KamLAND radio-purity, light sensors (PMTs) and data acquisition system.



- Enriched Xe (≈91% of ¹³⁶Xe):
 - Phase I (2011–2012): 320kg
 - Phase II (2013-2015): 383kg
- Nylon mini-balloon: 25µm-thick, R=1.54m, V=16.5m³, ²³⁸U, ²³²Th ~ a few × 10⁻¹¹ g/g
- Liquid scintillator: C₁₀H₂₂(81.8%) + PC(18%) + PPO(2.7g/l) + Xe(≈2.5wt%)
- FWHM @ Q_{2β}:
 - Phase I: ≈9.9%
 - Phase II: ≈11%
- Target $\langle m_{2\beta} \rangle$: 60 meV/2 years

KamLAND-Zen 400: 2v2β result



[2] A. Gando et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 117 (2016) 082503

KamLAND-Zen 400: 0v2β search



A. Gando et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 117 (2016) 082503

Preparation of KamLAND-Zen 800



Toward cleaner mini-balloon

Clean wear control





- Check particle generation by our hands, suits, etc.
- Particle flow on/near desks





Zen 400: Hand-welding by a professional from a company Zen 800: Semi-automatic welding by scientists with speed up & less particle drop

Mini-balloon production



Washing nylon film







Packing

Folding

Mini-balloon installation



Delivery to Kamioka



Mini-balloon parts assembling



Mini-balloon installation into KamLAND

 \leftarrow Inner view of KamLAND detector



Current status of KamLAND-Zen 800

- Mini-balloon was successfully installed this May
- Filled with Dummy LS
- LS purification is currently in progress
- We will start the preparation of Xe-LS in November
- KamLAND-Zen 800 will start this winter





KamLAND2-Zen: Future prospects

Enriched xenon mass ≥ 1000kg



KamLAND-Zen weak point: Energy resolution

We need to detect **more light** to improve energy resolution \rightarrow reduce the 2v2 β tail background Target sensitivity: $\langle m_v \rangle \sim 20$ meV

Gain in number of detected photons

(after upgrade to KamLAND2-Zen) Lab scintillator: 1.4 times High QE PMTs: 1.9 times Light collecting cones: 1.8 times

Winston cone

Dead layer free scintillation film balloon









Conclusions

- KamLAND-Zen 400 was successfully completed. We obtained the world's best limit for 0v2 β decay of ¹³⁶Xe: $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.07 \times 10^{26}$ yr at 90% C.L. which corresponds to $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle < (61-165)$ meV depending on NME. We also measured 2v2 β decay of ¹³⁶Xe: $T_{1/2}^{2\nu} = (2.21 \pm 0.02(\text{stat}) \pm 0.07(\text{syst})) \times 10^{21}$ yr which is in accordance with EXO-200 results
- KamLAND-Zen 800 is expected to enter the IH mass region with the sensitivity of $\langle m_{v} \rangle \sim 40$ meV. New mini-balloon (twice larger in volume) was successfully installed this spring. LS purification is almost finished and preparation of the Xe-LS will start in few weeks. KamLAND-Zen 800 will start this winter
- KamLAND2-Zen is a next-generation project to cover most of the IH mass region. Several R&D are in progress to reach the sensitivity of $\langle m_{v} \rangle \sim 20$ meV

Choice of 2β decay isotope



¹³⁶Xe was chosen for KamLAND-Zen thanks to:

- Large Q_{2B} > 2 MeV
- Slow 2v2β decay
- Isotopic enrichment and commercial availability
- Solubility in liquid scintillator, established purification, easy extraction

lsotope	Q _{2β} (MeV)	Natural abund. (%)	Enrichable by centrifugation
⁴⁸ Ca	4.272	0.187	No
⁷⁶ Ge	2.039	7.8	Yes
⁸² Se	2.995	9.2	Yes
⁹⁶ Zr	3.350	2.8	No
¹⁰⁰ Mo	3.034	9.6	Yes
¹¹⁶ Cd	2.814	7.5	Yes
¹³⁰ Te	2.527	33.8	Yes
¹³⁶ Xe	2.458	8.9	Yes
¹⁵⁰ Nd	3.371	5.6	No (?)

