

XMASS Experiment

Yoichiro Suzuki¹

*Kamioka Observatory, Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, the University of Tokyo and,
Kamioka Satellite, Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, the University of Tokyo
456 Higashi-Mozumi, Kamioka, Hida-city, Gifu, 506-1205 Japan
E-mail: suzuki@suketto.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp*

(for the XMASS Collaboration)

Abstract

The liquid Xenon dark matter experiment called XMASS is described. The construction of XMASS has started in 2007. It is a single phase liquid Xenon detector and its effective mass is 100~200kg depending on how well the backgrounds will have been reduced. Basic studies have finished by using a proto-type detector and the energy and vertex reconstruction algorithm has been developed. Internal and external backgrounds are estimated, and the effect of the self-shield was evaluated. New low background photomultiplier tubes have been developed. The reduction of Kr contamination in Xenon was also demonstrated by using a distillation device. The background level of 10^{-4} events /kg/keV/day (dru) will be expected to be achieved and a search for spin independent (SI) and spin dependent (SD) interactions of weakly interaction massive particles (WIMPs) will be made at the level down to 10^{-45} cm² (SI) and 10^{-39} cm² (SD), respectively.

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1.Introduction

The original idea of XMASS was proposed in 2000 [1] as a multi-purpose astroparticle and neutrino experiment. A liquid Xenon detector with a 10 ton effective mass can look for dark matter and double beta decay and can also measure solar pp-neutrinos through neutrino electron scatterings. As a phase-I experiment, a small scale detector dedicated to look for dark matter where the mass of the inner volume surrounded by PMTs is 857kg and the fiducial mass is 100~200kg, is prepared.

The phase-I detector employs a single phase technology and measures only scintillation lights emitted by the interaction of dark matter. The 642 hexagonal photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) are arranged in an approximately spherical shape with an average radius of 40 cm to the surface of PMTs, giving about 64% photo-cathode coverage of the inner surface of the detector. The actual shape of the structure holding PMTs is called Pentakis-dodecahedron which consists of 12 pentagonal pyramids and each pyramid is made by 5 triangles as shown in figure 1.

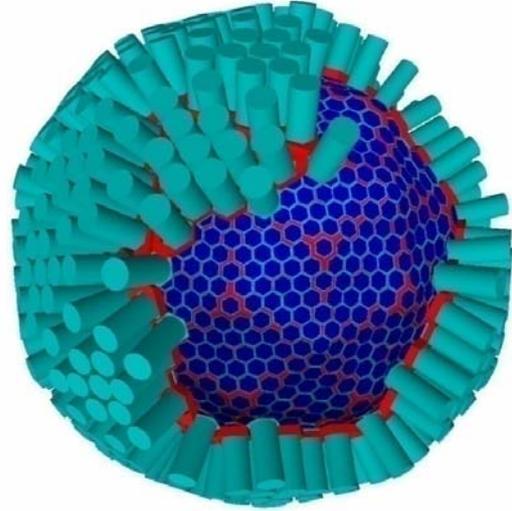


Figure 1. The XMASS detector. The 652 PMTs are arranged approximately in a spherical shape and view 857kg of liquid xenon.

The density of liquid Xenon is approximately 3g/cm^3 and the atomic number is 54, which provides good self-shielding effects against γ 's and neutrons entering outside of the inner volume of the detector. The wave length of the light is approximately 175 nm and a PMT can be

used. However, the loss of the vacuum ultraviolet lights through the PMT windows, and the scattering and the absorption loss within the liquid Xenon should carefully be considered.

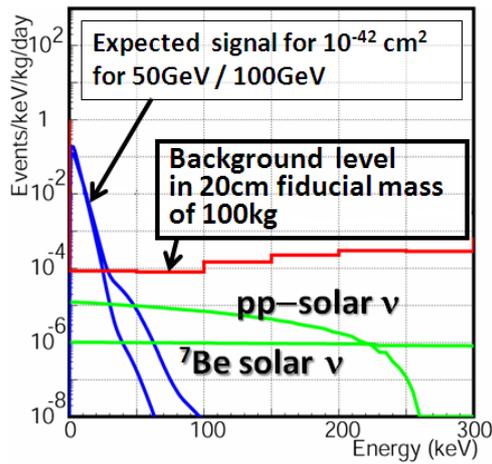


Figure 2. The expected dark matter signals and the background level. The target background level around 10 keV is about 10^{-4} events/keV/kg/day (dru). The signal of pp-neutrinos lays only one order of magnitude below that level.

2.Signal and Backgrounds

The background level required for the experiment is challenging. It should be less than 10^{-4} events/kg/keV/day (dru) in the fiducial volume of the detector before any pulse shape discriminations (PSD) are applied, for the energy region below 100 keV. In figure 2, the target background level and the expected dark matter signals for 10^{-42}cm^2 are shown. The signal level of the pp-solar neutrinos is also shown in figure 2 though the pp-solar neutrinos cannot be easily

seen by this small-size phase-I detector. If the experiment reaches to this background level, the sensitivity for spin independent interactions for a few hundred GeV Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) becomes $\sim 10^{-45} \text{cm}^2$. Since we are able to measure ~ 8 photo electrons per keV for the scintillation light due to the large 64% photo-cathode coverage, a threshold of 5 keV or less is achieved. The fiducial volume to be used for the experiment can be determined by the background level actually obtained and also depend on the required depth of the self-shield. If the 20cm depth of the self-shield is needed, the fiducial volume of 100kg can be used and if only the 15cm self-shield layer is sufficient, then the 200kg fiducial volume can be available.

There need large efforts to reduce background down to 10^{-4} dru. In order to achieve this, the Uranium and Thorium contaminations in Xenon should be reduced to be less than 10^{-14}g/g and Krypton should be removed to 1ppt. The external backgrounds of gammas and neutrinos from PMTs, shields and surrounding rocks are greatly reduced by the xenon self-shields and the water shields surrounding the xenon detector. The water tank also works as an active muon veto to identify cosmogenics which is also reduced by circulating xenon during the experiment through filter columns.

3. Proto-type detector

Basic detector performance and various qualities were tested using a proto-type liquid xenon detector of a 30cm cube. Methods to reconstruct vertex and energy was established. The real reduction power of the self-shield for the external origin γ 's and neutrons was demonstrated and the various backgrounds were actually measured. The parameters for the Monte Carlo detector simulator were determined through those basic measurements.

The vertex was reconstructed by the hit pattern and the number of the photon distributions. The real data and MC simulation was compared and they agree each other very well. For 10 keV events the vertex resolution is 6.5 cm and the energy resolution is 1.5 keV.

4. Internal Backgrounds

By using the Bi-Po method, the contamination in the proto-type detector of U/Th in liquid xenon was determined. The contaminations were $(9 \pm 6) \times 10^{-14} \text{g/g}$ and less than $23 \times 10^{-14} \text{g/g}$ for uranium and thorium, respectively. The target values are $< 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{g/g}$ and $< 2 \times 10^{-14} \text{g/g}$ for U and Th, respectively. Further reduction will be made by passing the xenon through getters and filters. A new hand-made molecular sheave is being developed.

In order to remove krypton in xenon, a distillation device was developed. By making use of the different boiling temperature, the contamination of Kr in Xe can be reduced by distillation. Actually we have injected xenon gas contaminated by 3ppb of Kr in the distillation system with a flow rate of 0.6kg/h and then a purified xenon gas with 3.3 ± 1.1 ppt Kr contamination was obtained. The reduction of the Kr contamination to 1/1000 was achieved by a single pass.

5.External Backgrounds

The most serious external backgrounds come from the U/Th contamination in the PMTs. We have already succeeded to develop low background photomultiplier tubes, R8778 (Hamamatsu Photonics), the contamination level of which was approximately one order of magnitude lower than standard PMTs. The efforts had been continued and another order of magnitude of improvements was done. The contamination of U/Th, ^{40}K and ^{60}Co per one PMT obtained were about 1mBq, 14mBq and 5.5mBq, respectively. By putting these values as initial parameters into the MC simulation codes, the backgrounds in the fiducial volume of 100kg with the 20cm of the self-shield layer were evaluated. It is easily seen that for the energy region less than 300 keV, 10^{-5} dru was obtained as shown in figure 3.

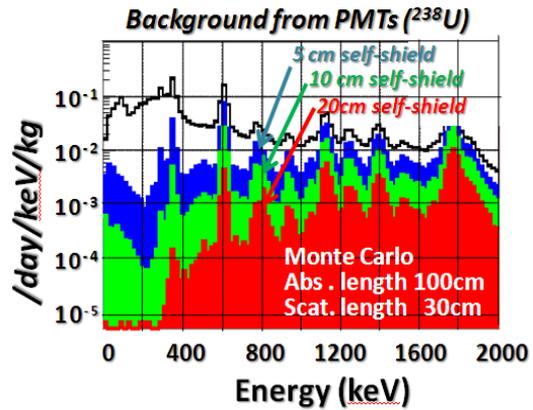


Figure 3. Background in the 100kg fiducial volume from Uranium contamination in PMTs. It is seen that 10^{-5} dru is achieved.

The power of the shelf-shield was demonstrated by the proto-type detector. The gamma rays from ^{137}Cs were injected to the detector and it is confirmed that the more than two orders of magnitude reduction of the gamma rays was obtained which agrees with the prediction from MC simulation shown in Figure 4.

The external backgrounds of gammas and neutrinos are quite effectively reduced by a water shield. For the XMASS experiment, the water tank with 10 m in diameter and 10 m in height was used for this purpose. The measured fast neutron flux in the Kamioka underground from rocks were measured to be $(1.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-6} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}$. In figure 5 the 10^7 neutron events were generated to evaluate the effect of the water shield. Those neutron events reached to liquid xenon after the 200cm water layer was less than 10^{-4} counts /day/kg. The simulation traced down to the 2.2 MeV gamma rays emitted by the capture of the thermal neutrons. In the real

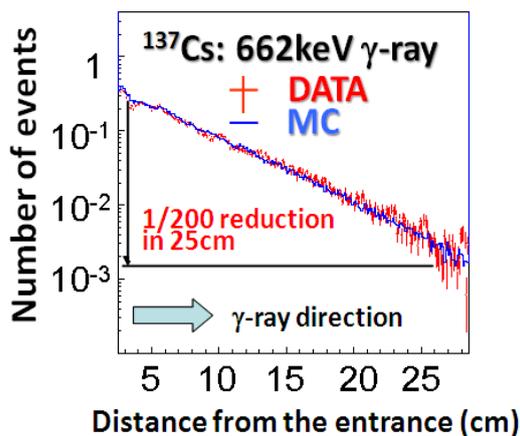


Figure 4. The effect of the self-shield measured in the proto-type detector. The data and MC agree very well.

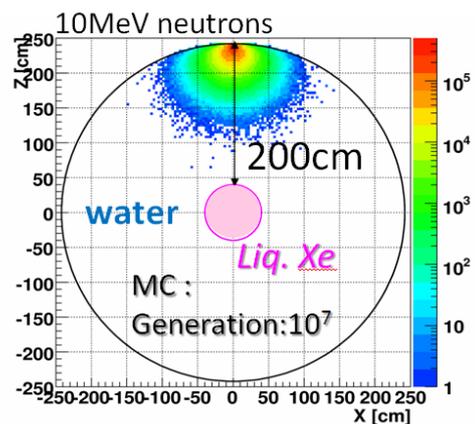


Figure 5. The distribution of the interaction vertex of the 10 MeV neutrons produced at the edge of the water tank. Total 10^7 neutron was produced and none of them has reached to the detector.

configuration, the thickness of the layer of water is at least 4 m and therefore those neutrino backgrounds are negligible.

Neutrons are also produced in PMTs through (α, n) reactions or spontaneous fissions of ^{238}U . We have followed ref [2], and used the measured U/Th value for new PMTs described above. By scaling the evaluation, the neutrons originated from U and Th contaminated in the 642 new hexagonal PMTs were estimated to be less than 0.005 events /kg/year and 0.0028 events /kg/year, respectively. Therefore the total background from this origin is less than 2.2×10^{-5} /kg/day.

6. New Experimental Hall

The new experimental hall, 15 m wide and 21m deep and 15m high, was completed in February, 2008 and the installation of the water tank, 10m in diameter and 10m in height, will begin in November and be completed in February, 2009. The spherical liquid xenon detector will be installed in the water tank in summer, 2009.

7. Conclusions and Summary

The 3σ discovery line for XMASS with 100kg fiducial mass and 5 years operation is shown in figure 6. The sensitivity is approximately 100 times better than the current on-going experiments. For spin independent and dependent interaction, the sensitivity of about 10^{-45} cm^2 and 10^{-39} cm^2 were expected, respectively.

XMASS was now fully funded and experimental hall was completed in the last February. Most of the R&D works have finished. Studies to produce new low background PMTs have completed and test of the distillation system was successful and many other devices such as filters are being developed. About 1 tons of xenon is already in Kamioka mine. XMASS will be ready by the next summer, 2009. We expect to achieve the background level in 100~200kg fiducial volume to be less than 10^{-4} dru to detect WIMPS soon.

References

- [1] Y. Suzuki et al., [hep-ph/0008296]
- [2] M.J. Carson et al. [hep-ex/0404042]

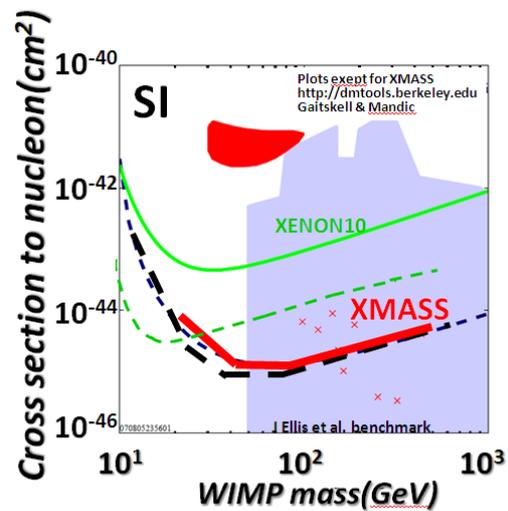


Figure 6. The sensitivity of XMASS. For spin independent interaction, the cross section around 10^{-45} will be explored.