

# CANDLES

Project for the study of neutrino-less  
double beta decay of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$

Sei Yoshida

Department of Physics, Osaka Univ.

Revealing the history of the universe with underground particle and nuclear research

the University of Tokyo

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# $^{48}\text{Ca}$ for $\beta\beta$ Isotope

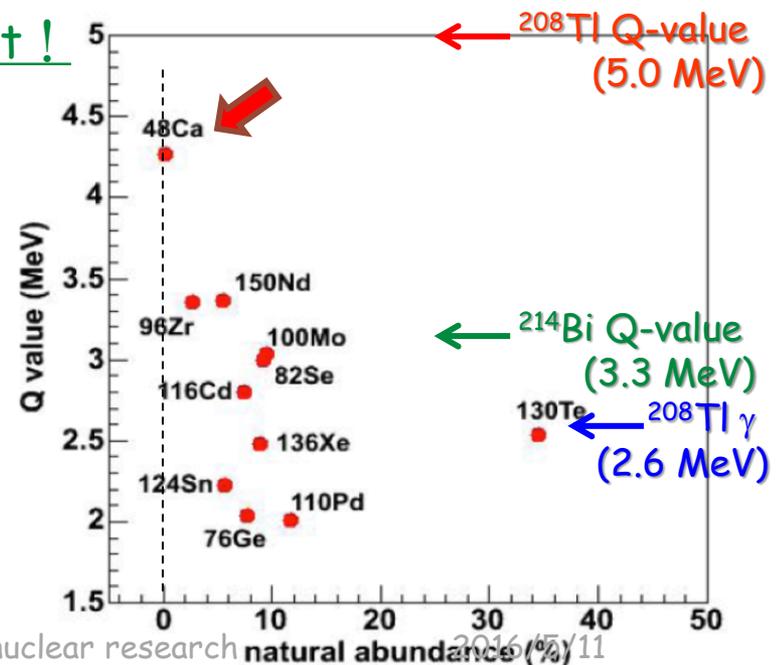
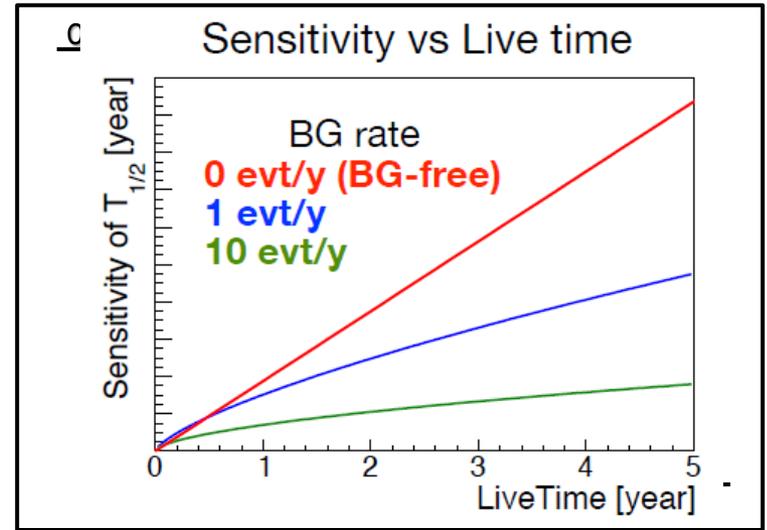
## $^{48}\text{Ca}$ isotope

- Highest Q-value (4.27 MeV)
  - Large phase space factor
  - Low background
    - $\gamma$ -ray ; 2.6 MeV ( $^{208}\text{Tl}$ )
    - $\beta$ -ray ; 3.3 MeV ( $^{214}\text{Bi}$ )

- Chance to realize the Background Free Measurement !

$$\langle m_\nu \rangle \propto T_{0\nu}^{-1/2} \propto (1 / M \cdot T_{\text{live}})^{1/2}$$

- Small natural abundance ( 0.187 % )
- However,
- Chance to improve the sensitivity by the enrichment without scale-up.
  - Low risk to increase BG origins



# CANDLES Project

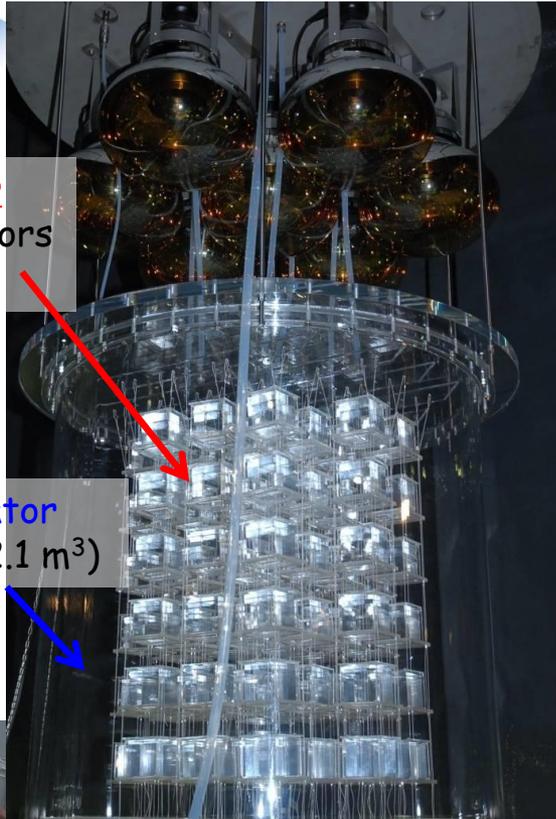
The Project to search for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ,



# CANDLES III Detector

Main detector  
CaF<sub>2</sub> scintillators  
(305kg)

Liquid scintillator  
acrylic tank (2.1 m<sup>3</sup>)



PMTs  
13 inch (side) ; x 48  
20 inch (top & bottom) ; x 14  
Light pipe  
Photoelectron yield x ~1.75

## • CaF<sub>2</sub> Module

- CaF<sub>2</sub>(Pure) ; 96 Crystal → 305 kg
- WLS Phase ; 280 nm → 420 nm
  - Thickness ; 5 mm
  - Composition ; Mineral Oil + bis-MSB (0.1 g/L)

## • Liquid Scintillator (LS)

**4π Active shield**

- 1.37 m φ x 1.4 m height
- Volume ; 2.1 m<sup>3</sup> (1.65 ton)
- Composition
  - Solvent ; Mineral Oil(80%)+PC(20%)
  - Solutes (WLS's) ; PPO (1.0g/L) + bis-MSB (0.1g/L)

## • Acrylic Tank

- Container for LS

## • Water Buffer

- Pure Water → Passive Shield  
(Pre,Final-filter, Chacoal-filter, UV-lamp, Ion-Exchanger)
- Distance PMT - LS ; 50 cm

## • PMTs + Light pipe

- 13 inch (Side) ; x 48
- 20 inch (Top and Bottom) ; x 14
- Reflector Film : reflectivity ~93% @ 420nm

# Pulse Shape Discrimination

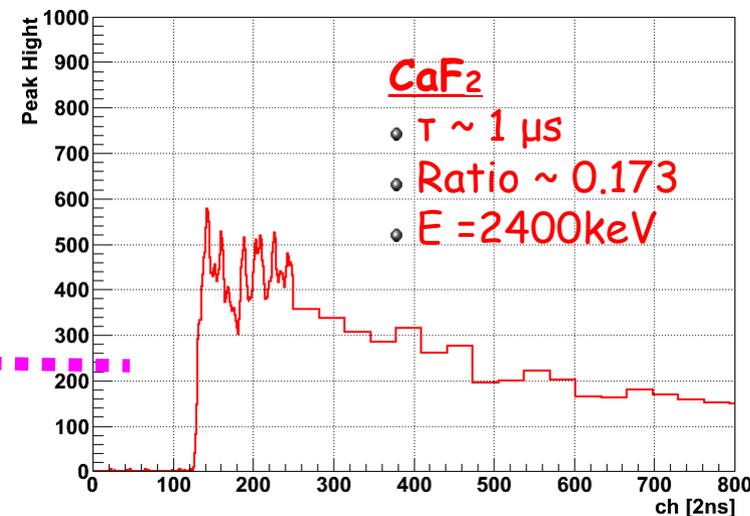
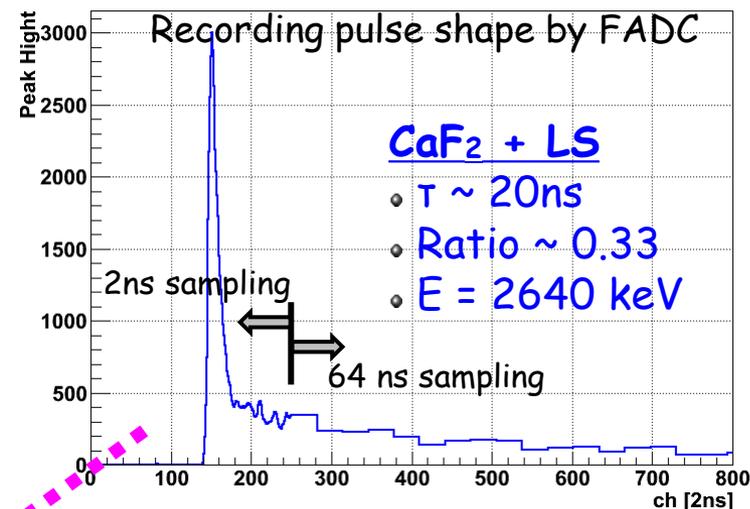
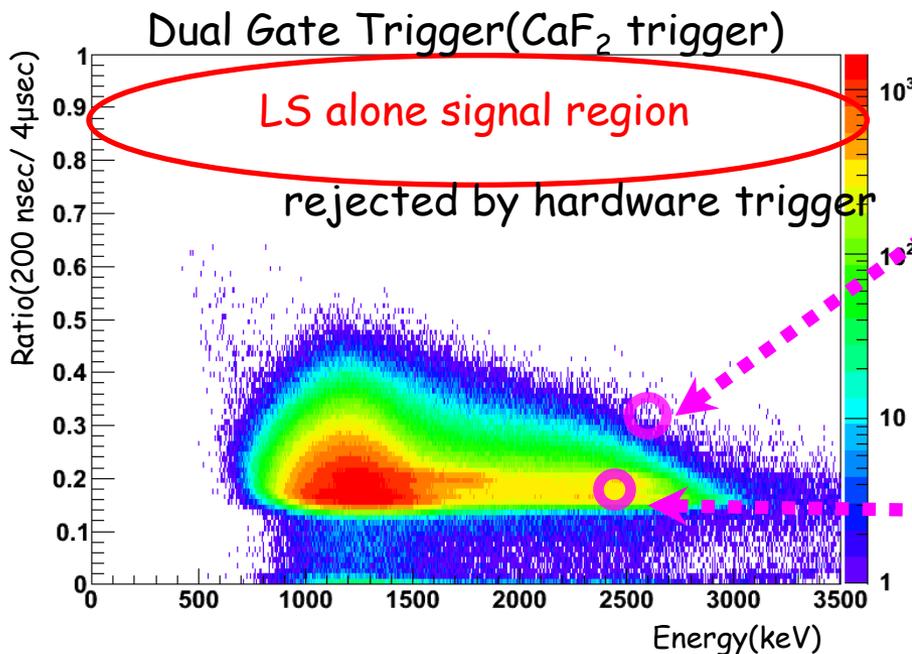
- Scintillator ID (CaF<sub>2</sub> and LS signals)

**4π Active shield**

Difference of scintillation time constant

- CaF<sub>2</sub> ; ~ 1000 nsec
- LS ; a few 10 nsec

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\text{Prompt pulse (0:200nsec)}}{\text{Total Pulse}}$$



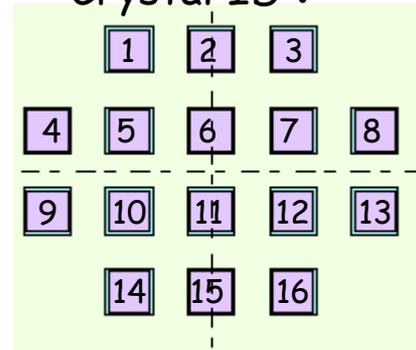


# Event Reconstruction

- **CaF<sub>2</sub> Module Configuration**

- 16 x 6 layers = 96 crystals
- **Calibration Crystal (C11)** ; Top layer  
Contaminated Crystal (U, Th amounts ~ x 1000) to investigate detector performance.

Crystal ID :



- **PMTs**

- 13 inch : 12 x 4 layers
- 20 inch : Top & Bottom 7 each  
62 PMTs in total

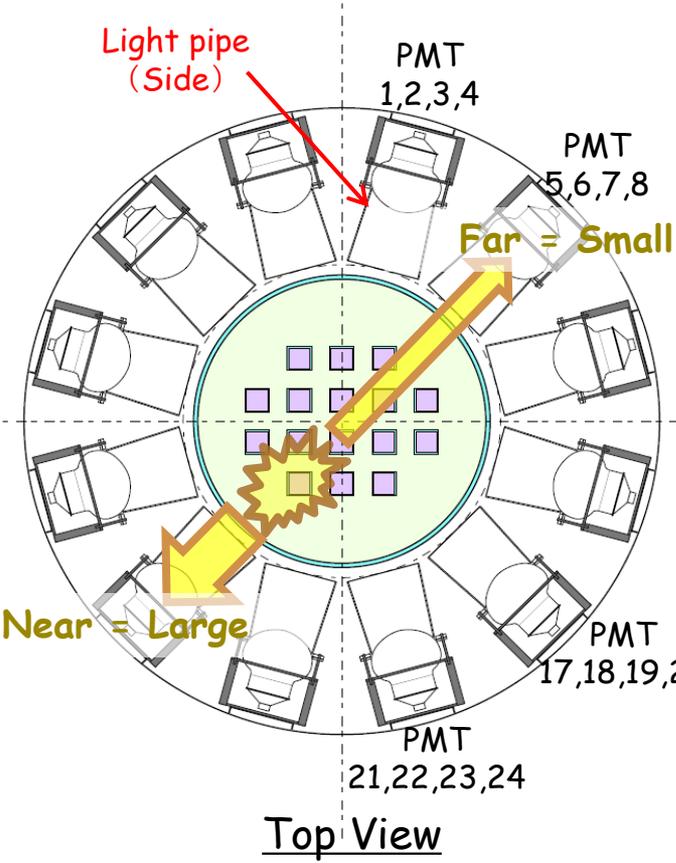
- **Energy**

- Number of Photoelectrons
- Regular calibration using <sup>88</sup>Y

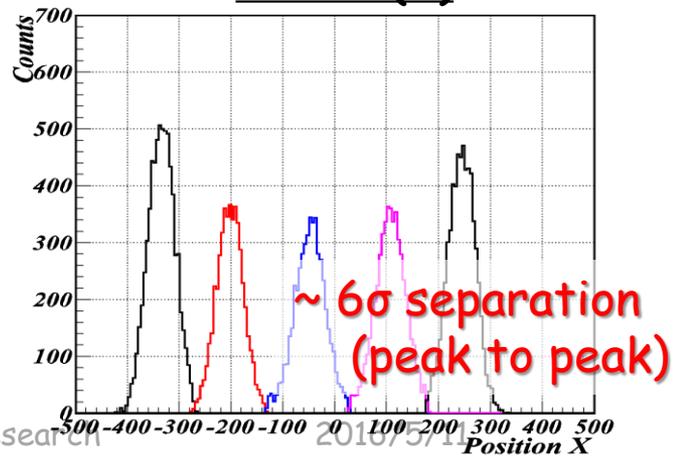
- **Position**

Weighted Mean =

$$\frac{\sum \text{PMT}(i) \cdot \text{NPE} \times \text{PMT}(i)}{\text{NPE Total}}$$



**Position(X)**





# Background Candidates

- $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay event (unavoidable background)

- → Improve E-resolution

- Natural radioactivities in  $\text{CaF}_2$  crystal

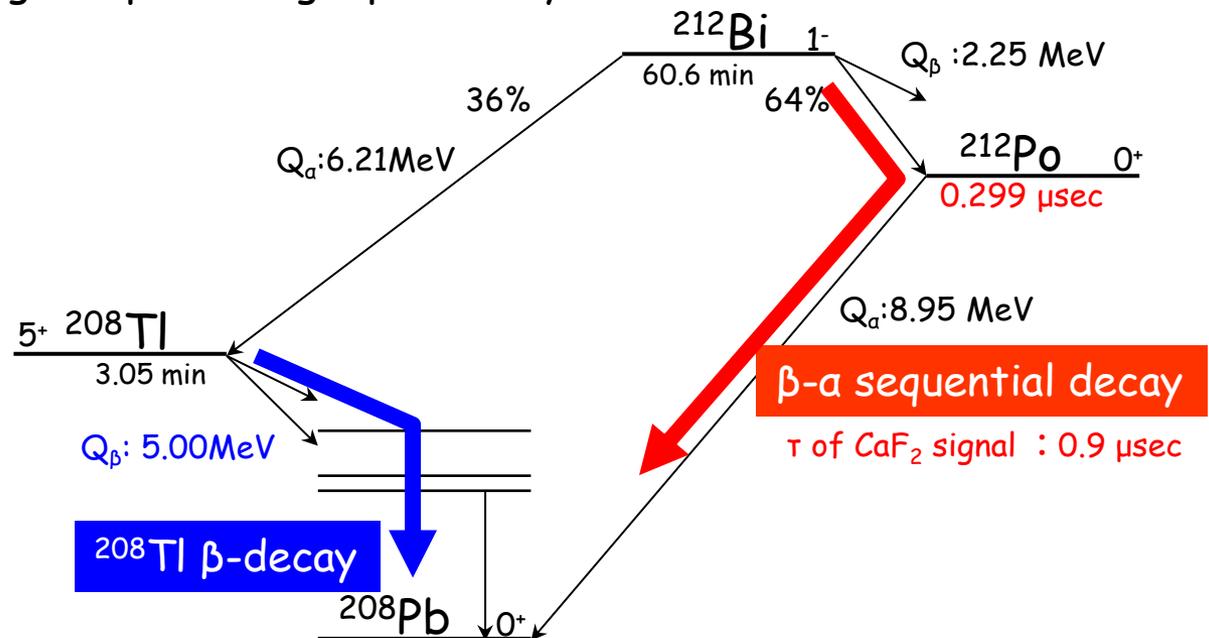
- $\beta$ - $\alpha$  Sequential Pulse

- Reduction by pulse shape analysis

- $^{208}\text{Tl}$  Decay

- Reduction by tagging the preceding alpha decay

- Neutron induced BG





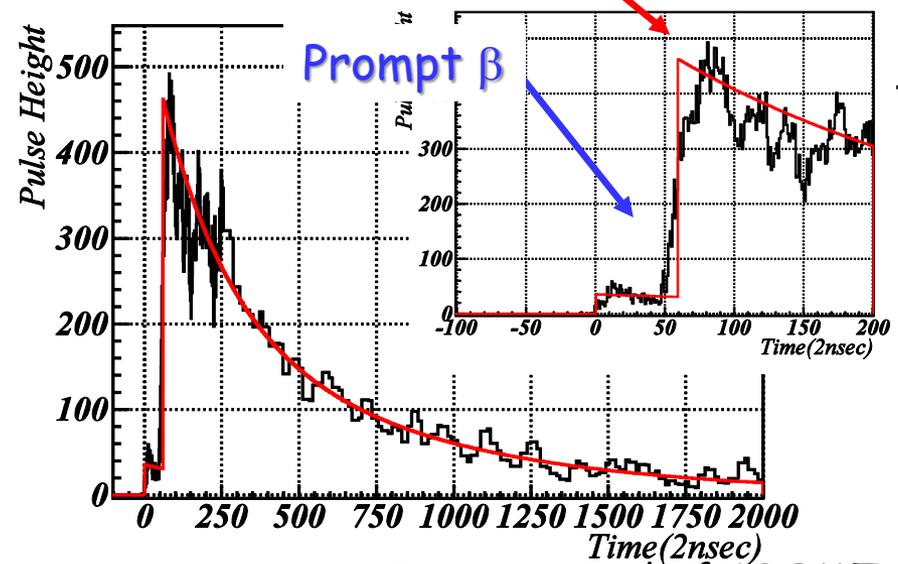
# Background Rejection (1)

- Sequential Event Rejection
  - We can identify the sequential events using pulse shape.
  - Rejection efficiency > 95% (currently)

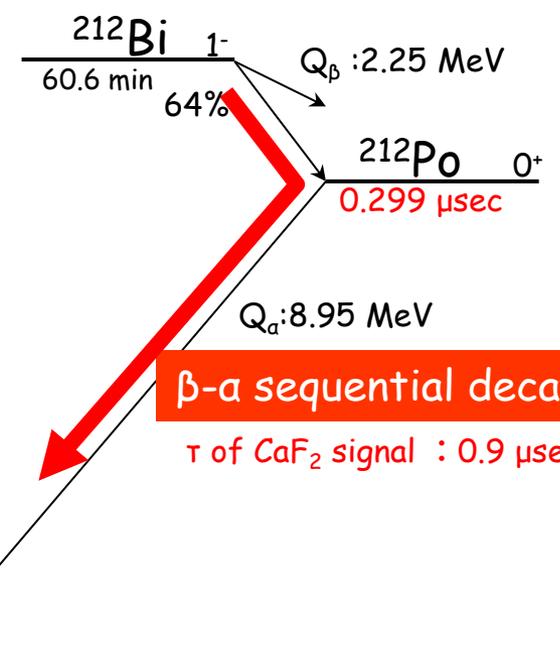
## Typical pulse shape of sequential events

with small  $\Delta T$

Delayed  $\alpha$



Sum-up signal of 62 PMT



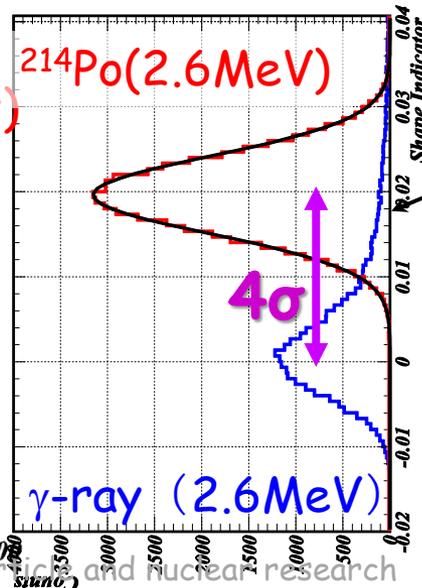
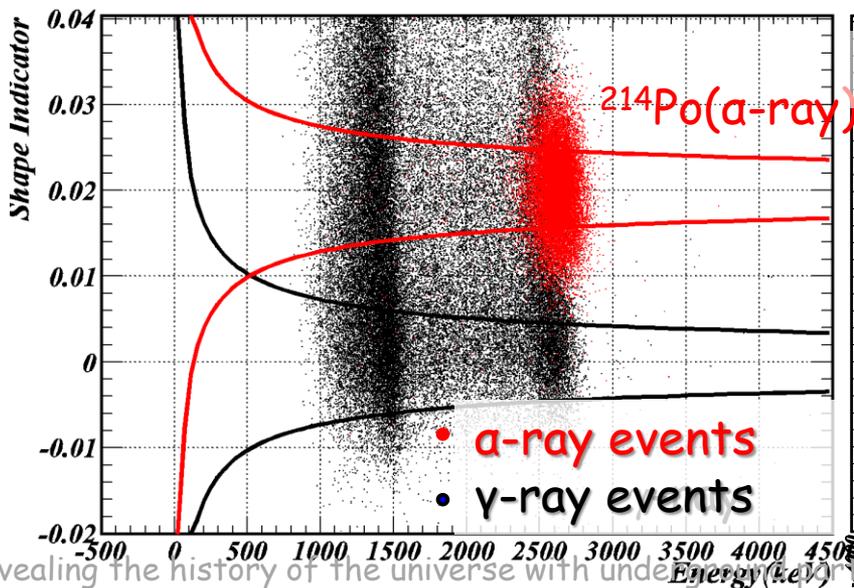
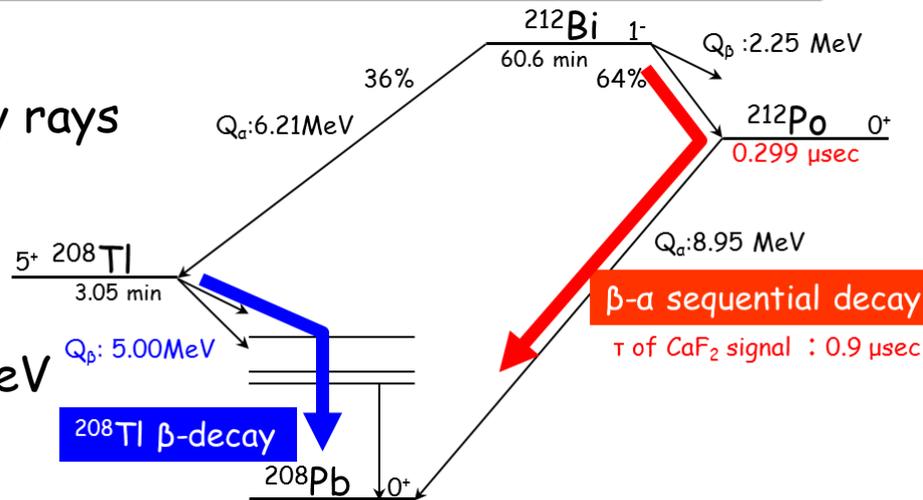
**$\beta$ - $\alpha$  sequential decay**  
 $\tau$  of  $\text{CaF}_2$  signal : 0.9  $\mu\text{sec}$



# Background Rejection (2)

## ● Pile-up event & $^{208}\text{Tl}$ Rejection

- Particle identification between  $\alpha/\gamma$  rays
  - rejection of  $\beta$ - $\alpha$  pile-up events
  - identification of prompt  $^{212}\text{Bi}$  event
- 
- 97 % rejection efficiency at 2.6MeV  
( $\gamma$  ray:3%)  
→ 97% ( $\beta$ + $\alpha$ ) at 4.27MeV



CaF<sub>2</sub>  $\gamma$   
+small LS signal

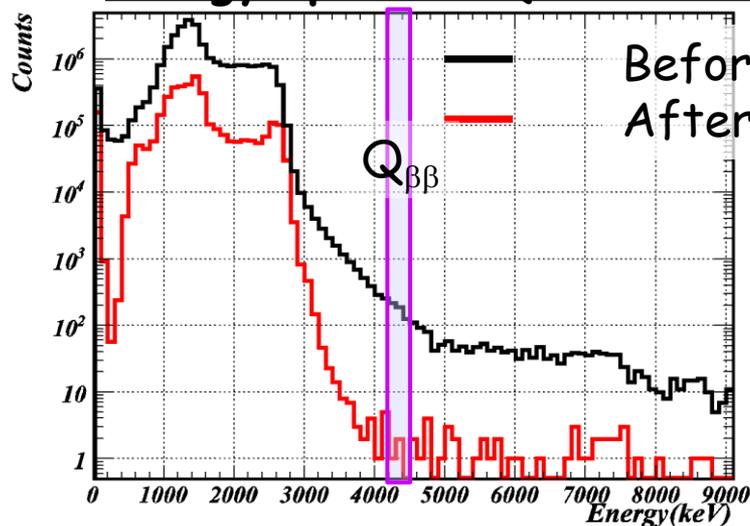
ref : Shape Indicator  
(PRC67(2003) 014310)



# Energy Spectrum

- Measurement : Physics run in CANDLES-III (2014)

## Energy spectrum (~8 weeks)



Before event selection  
After event selection (BG rejection)

	Pilot run data
Measurement time	4987 kg · days
Number of events	6
Expected BG	~1 (CaF <sub>2</sub> crystal) 3.4(γ-rays)
Sensitivity	$0.8 \times 10^{22}$ year

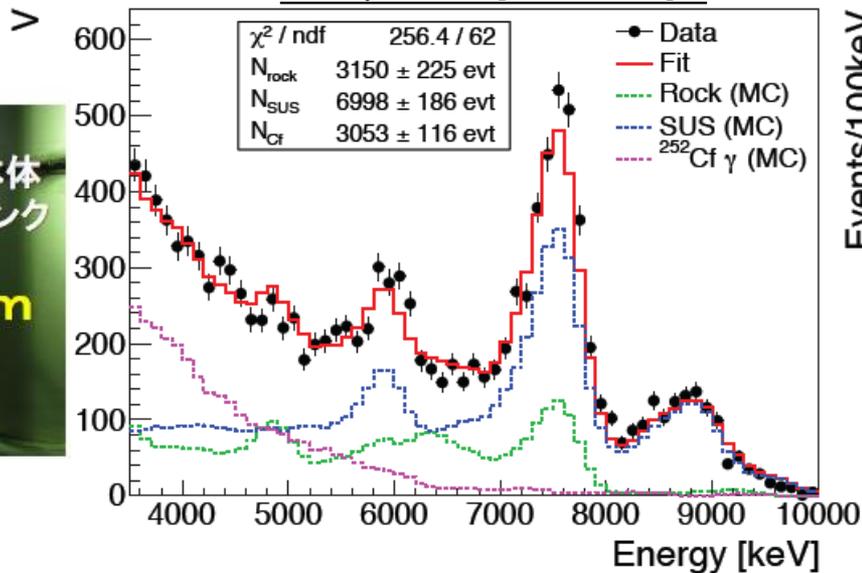
- Current detector sensitivity (8 weeks) :  $0.8 \times 10^{22}$  year
- We will install shield system for γ-rays(neutron origin) and continue the measurement.  
→ Detector sensitivity:0.5eV



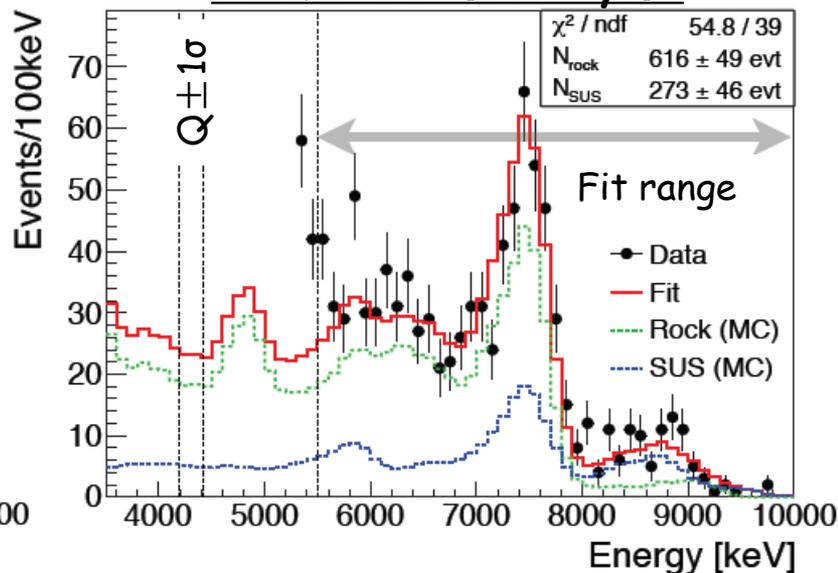
# Background @ High energy region

- Neutron source run ( $^{252}\text{Cf}$ )
  - 1 hour of source run = 1 year of physics run
  - Energy spectrum obtained is well reproduced by MC of neutron capture  $\gamma$ -ray.
- $(n,\gamma)$  BG in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  window is evaluated from MC spectrum.
  - Rock/SUS =  $3.6 \pm 0.7$  in  $Q_{\beta\beta} \pm 1\sigma$
  - $(n,\gamma)$  BG:  $3.4 \pm 0.4(\text{stat.})$  evt/26crystals/60days (Run data,  $3 \pm 1$  evt)
  - Currently, most serious background component in CANDLES

$^{252}\text{Cf}$  run (3 hours)



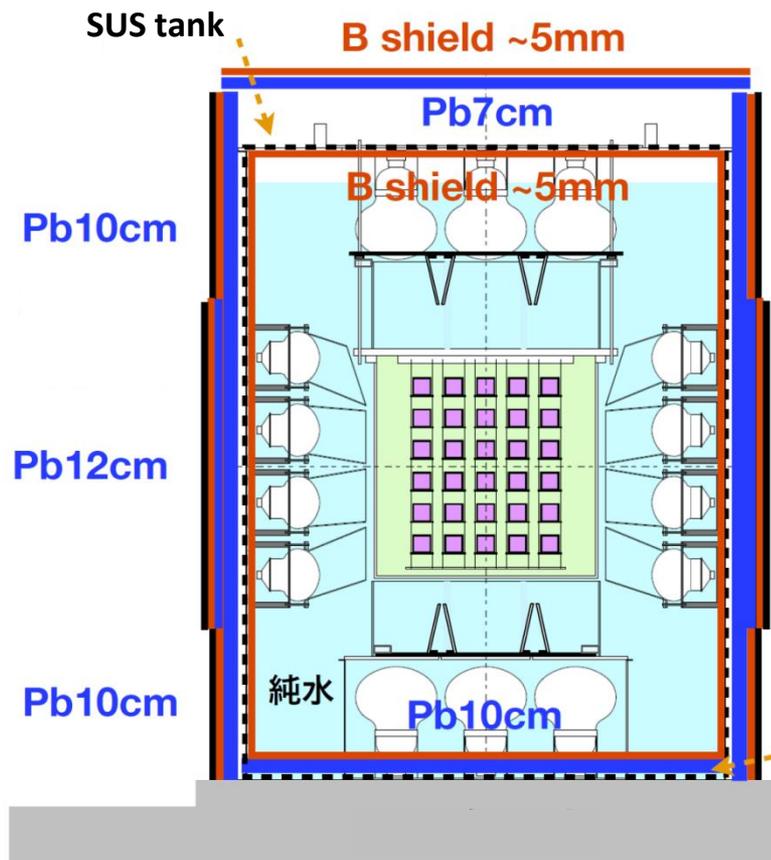
Loose event selection cut !  
Normal BG (88 days)





# Shield for neutron induced $\gamma$ -rays

- Toward "Background Free Measurement"
  - We designed the shield by MC simulation, and had finished the construction.



- **Pb bricks**
  - 7 ~ 12cm in thickness
  - Reduce (n, $\gamma$ ) BG from rock.
  - Pb(n, $\gamma$ ) event rate is an order of magnitude smaller than that of stainless steel tank.
  - $\gamma$ -ray from rock decrease by factor of **1/180**
- **Boron sheet**
  - B<sub>4</sub>C loaded silicone rubber sheet: ~ 5 mm in thickness
  - Reduce thermal neutron to avoid (n, $\gamma$ ) reaction in water tank.
  - N-capture events decrease by factor of **1/40**
- Number of BG after shield installation estimated by MC
  - Rock :  $0.34 \pm 0.14$  event/year
  - Tank :  $0.4 \pm 0.2$  event/year

**$T_{1/2} > 10^{23}$  year is expected with one year data !**



# CANDLES shield system

- Construction was finished till February 2016

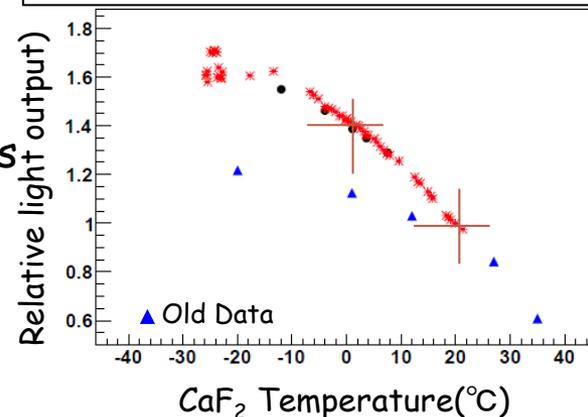




# Detector Improvement cooling system

- Installation of the Cooling system
  - $\text{CaF}_2$  light output depends on its temperature.
  - Gain  $\sim +2\% / ^\circ\text{C}$  (down to  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ )
  - **To increase the light yield**, the experimental room is cooled down to  $2^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\sim 4^\circ\text{C}$  at detector center)
  - **To stabilize** the temperature at the detector center within  $0.1^\circ\text{C}$  (0.2% of gain).
    - Check gain stability using  $^{208}\text{Tl}$   $\gamma$ -ray peak

Temp. Dependence of Light Output



## CANDLES cooling system

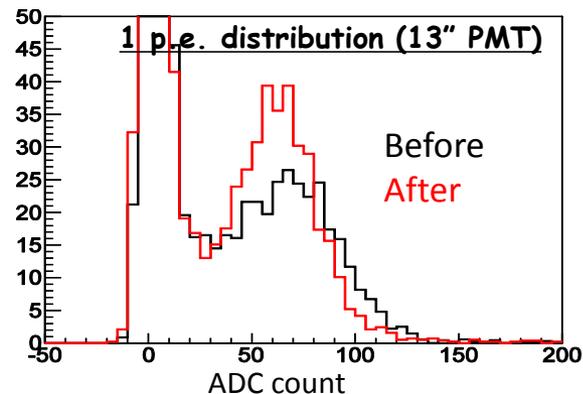
(Laboratory Room is cooled down by chiller)





# Detector Improvement Cancellation Coil

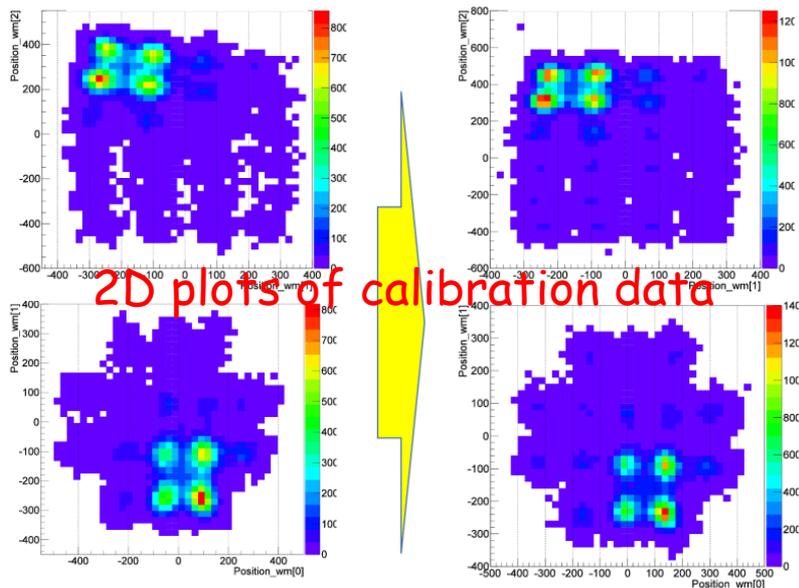
- Installation Magnetic cancellation coil
  - We are using large diameter PMTs (13 and 20 inch's) . It is well-known to deteriorate the performance.
  - Winded coil surrounding the water tank
    - ~1.5A current to cancel geomagnetic field.
  - Better p.e. collection efficiency of PMT dynode.



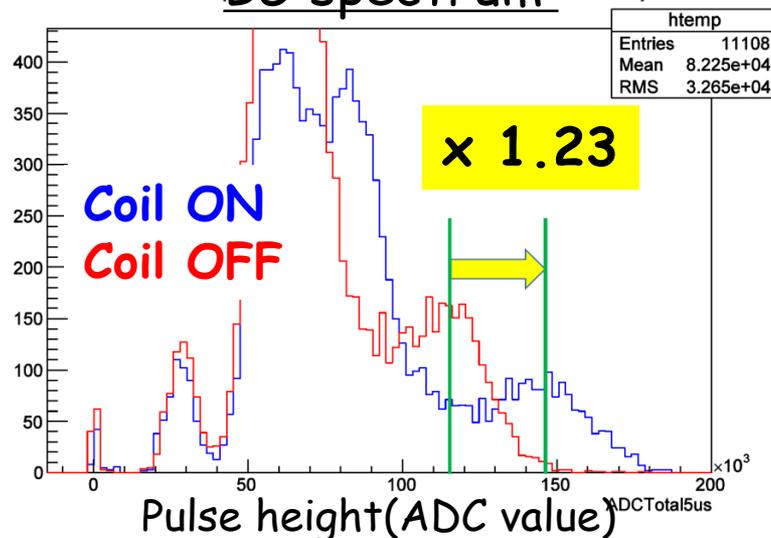
## Position Reconstruction

Coil OFF

Coil ON



## BG spectrum

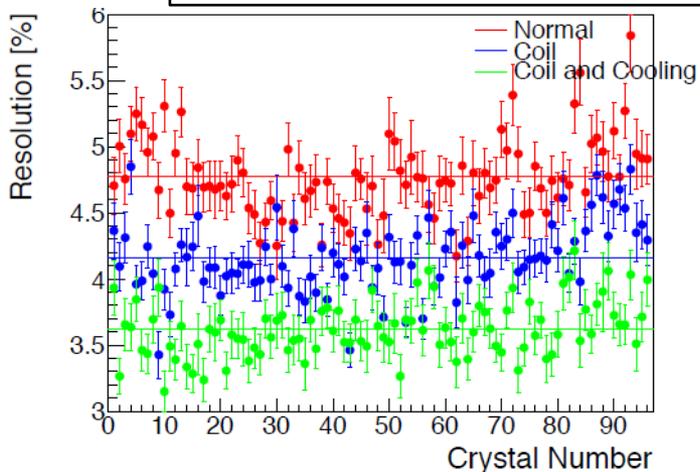




# Detector Improvement

- Light yield has been increased by the detector upgrades

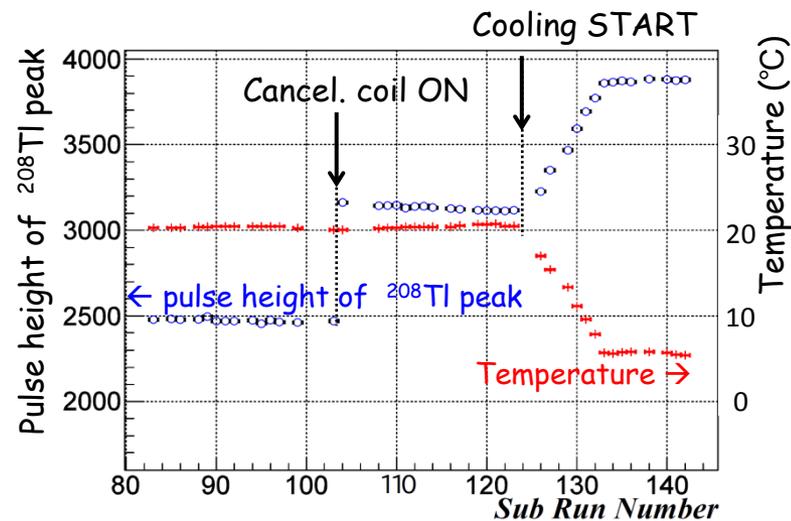
Obtained from  $^{88}\text{Y}$  source calibration



Average on 96  $\text{CaF}_2$  crystals

	Relative light yield	Resolution ( $\sigma$ ) at 1.8MeV
Before	1	4.8%
Coil ON	1.23	4.2%
Cooling	1.58	3.6%

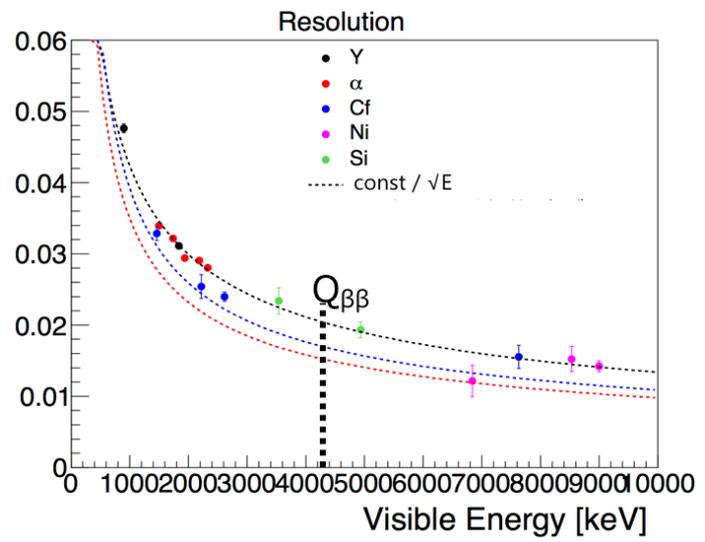
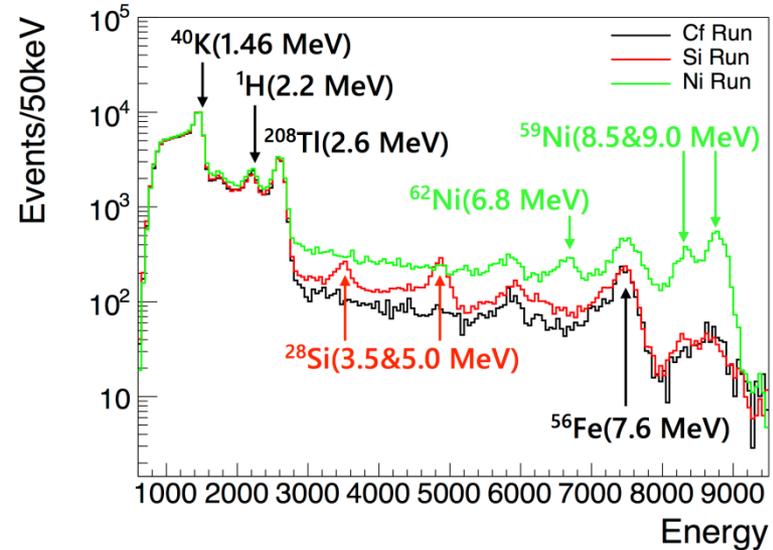
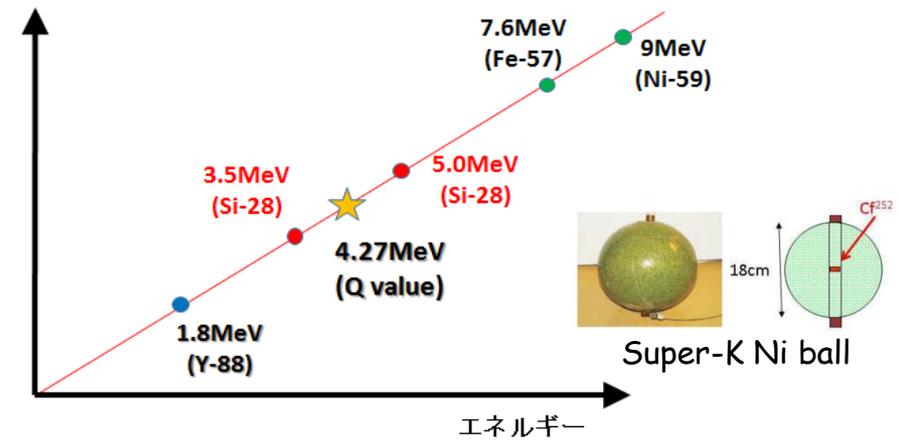
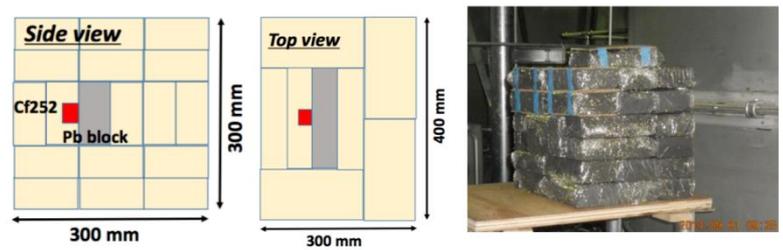
- Cooling system works for **stable temperature control**.
- Gain increase and energy scale stability is also checked using **2.6MeV  $\gamma$ -ray peak** of  $^{208}\text{Tl}$ .





# Energy calibration (n, $\gamma$ ) reaction

- New tool development for energy calibration near Q-value.
  - $^{28}\text{Si}(n,\gamma)$  reaction emits 3.5 MeV and 5.0 MeV  $\gamma$ -rays.
  - Si loaded polyethylene bricks are made and  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  neutron source is placed at the center of the bricks.



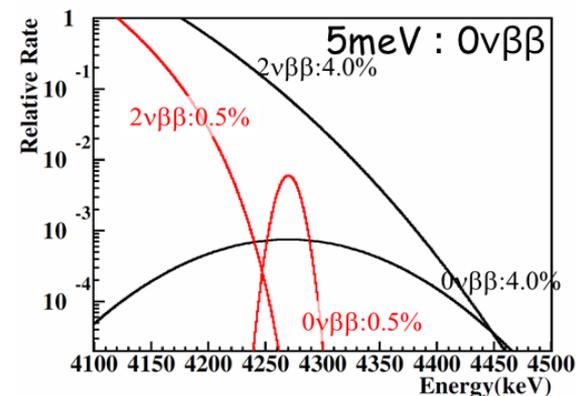
R&D for Future



# Development in Future

## • Sensitivity of CANDLES

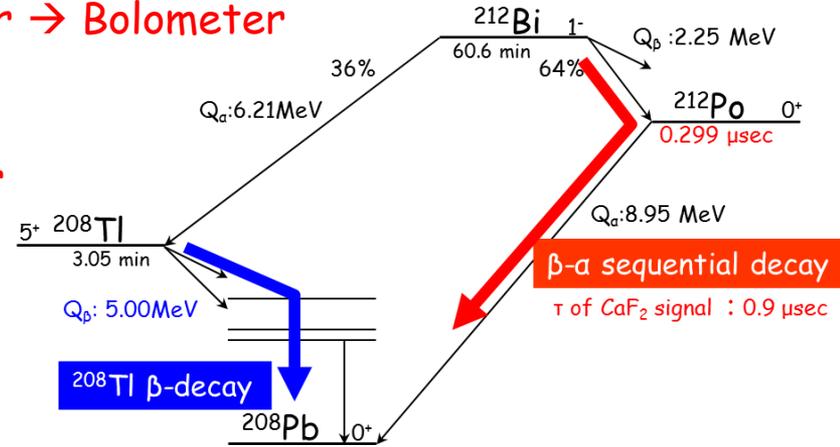
	CANDLES III	Next CANDLES	
Crystal	3.2kg × 96 crystals	2% <sup>48</sup> Ca	50% <sup>48</sup> Ca
Total Mass	305kg (350g)	2 ton (25kg)	2 ton(610kg)
Energy Resolution	(4.0%)	2.8%(Req.)	0.5%(Req.)
2νββ	0.01	0.1	0.01
<sup>212</sup> Bi, <sup>208</sup> Tl	0.26	~0.1	~0.01
Expected BG	0.27/year	< 0.7/3year	< 0.2/9year
<m <sub>ν</sub> >	0.5 eV	0.08	0.009
	Current system	~2% enriched <sup>48</sup> Ca and cooling system	



- Exploring Inverted hierarchy → Normal hierarchy region
  - Required two improvements
    - Realizing highly enriched <sup>48</sup>CaF, and ton-scale detector . The enrichment technique is being developed, and is established for the small amount of Calcium. The technique is promising, we are on the stage of stable driving.
    - Much better energy resolution ( to avoid 2νββ background events)
- Impossible to further improve the energy resolution of CaF<sub>2</sub> scintillator
  - Development of <sup>48</sup>CaXX bolometer

# Background Candidates in Bolometer

- Tail of  $2\nu\beta\beta$  spectrum
  - Improving energy resolution ; scintillator  $\rightarrow$  Bolometer
- $^{48}\text{CaXX}$  internal radioactivities
  - Th-chain ( $\beta$ - $\alpha$  sequential decays)  $\rightarrow$  Bolometer
  - Th-chain ( $^{208}\text{Tl}$ )
    - $\rightarrow$  Segmentation, Multi-crystal
  - Environmental neutrons
    - Improving resolution + Multi-crystal

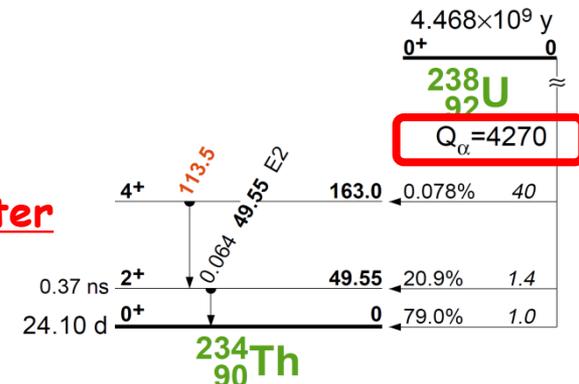


Possible to further reduce the BG by developing Bolometer

- But... new BG candidate
  - Q value of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  : 4267.98(32) keV @ arXiv:1308.3815
  - Q-value of  $^{238}\text{U}$  ( $\alpha$ -decay) : 4270 keV

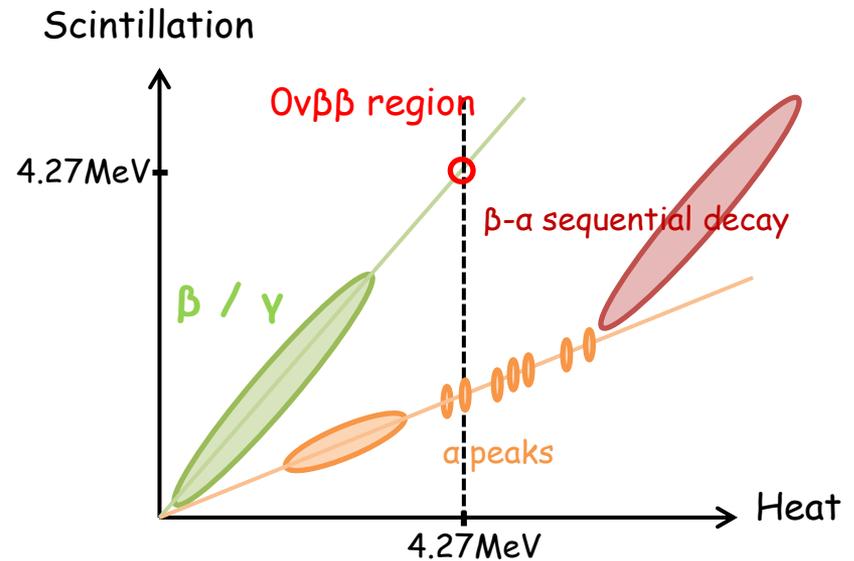
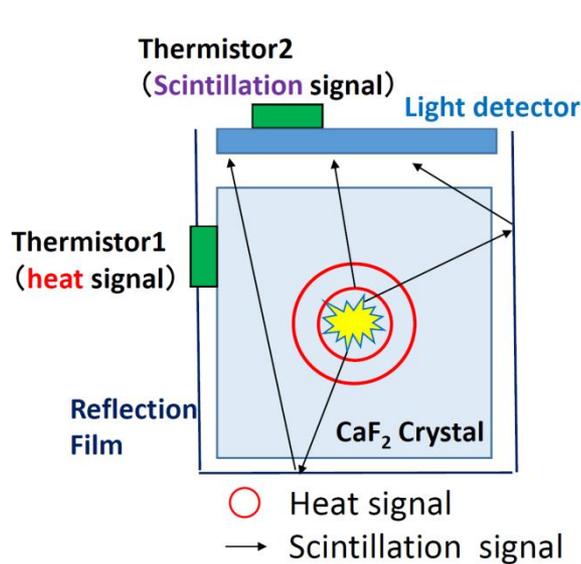
Impossible to avoid

- $\rightarrow$  required particle ID
- $\rightarrow$  Developing  $\text{CaF}_2$  Scintillating Bolometer



# Scintillating Bolometer

- The technique (scintillating bolometer) was already established,
  - CRESST-II ( $\text{CaWO}_4$ ), Lucifer, AMoRE
  - $\text{CaF}_2(\text{Eu})$  scintillating bolometer was also demonstrated by Milano group.  
Ref; NIMA386 (1997) 453, small size ( $\sim 0.3$  g) of  $\text{CaF}_2(\text{Eu})$



- Simultaneous measurement both heat and scintillation enables to identify the particle types ( $\alpha/\beta$  particle ID)
- It is possible to reject alpha decay events of  $^{238}\text{U}$ 
  - Q-value;  $4.27\text{MeV} = \text{Q-value of } ^{48}\text{Ca } 0\nu\beta\beta$   
→ Chance to achieve "BG free measurement"



# Current status of Development

- Dilution refrigerator

- We will use the dilution refrigerator which was developed for the dark matter search by LiF by the Univ. of Tokyo group, and was customized to low BG measurement.
- Preparing the operation.

Under leak hunting in the  $^3\text{He}$ - $^4\text{He}$  circulation line.

- Target

- 2cm cube of  $\text{CaF}_2$  crystal (25 g) in the initial stage.
- Temperature rise at Q-value is  $1.43 \times 10^{-1}$  K at 10 mK.
- Neutron Transmutation Doped Germanium (NTD-Ge) thermistors ← borrowed from the Univ. of Tokyo.

- Schedule (Challenging)

## Schedule

2017

Jun. Achieve low temperature (~few K)

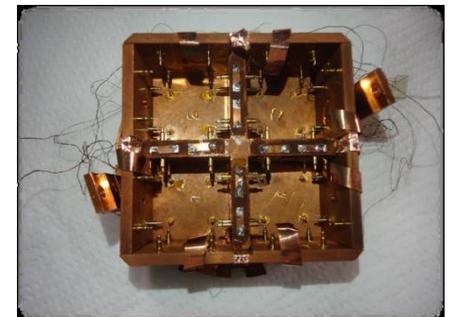
Jul. Achieve ultra low temperature (~10 mK)

Sep. Detect the heat signal

Dec. Add a light detector to bolometer and achieve the simultaneous detection of heat and light signals

2018

Mar. Increasing crystal's size and number





# Enrichment of $^{48}\text{Ca}$ : MCCCE

- Electrophoresis

- Migration speed is different between  $^{40}\text{Ca}/^{48}\text{Ca}$  → Isotope separation

- Capillary Electrophoresis

- Small diameter → High power density

- Small amount , Good separation in short time

- Counter Current Electrophoresis (CCE)

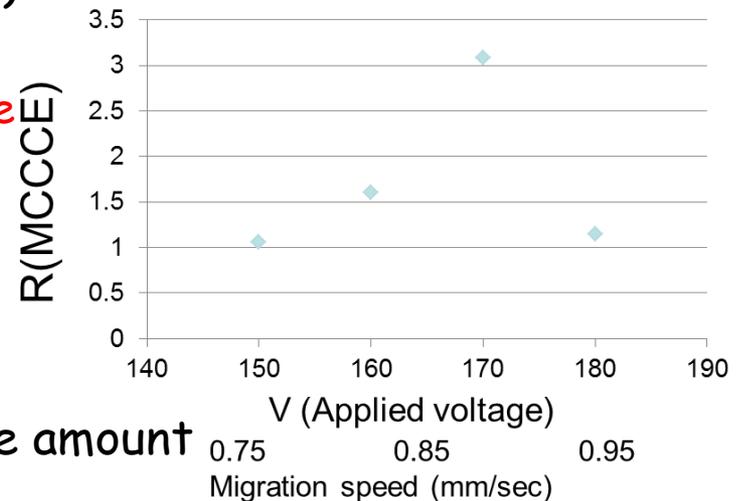
- Large diameter → Low power density

- Large amount , Low separation in long time

- In order to overcome,  
→ Multi-channel CCE

- Principle was demonstrated,  
currently stable driving and toward large amount

$$R(\text{MCCCE}) = \frac{^{43}\text{Ca} / ^{48}\text{Ca}(\text{MCCCE})}{^{43}\text{Ca} / ^{48}\text{Ca}(\text{natural})}$$



**Enrichment**

(43/40): 3.08 → (48/40): ~ 6

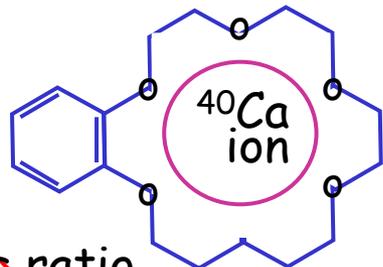


# R&D ; Enrichment of $^{48}\text{Ca}$

## Enrichment by crown-ether

- Crown-ether rings adsorb Calcium ions
- For calcium,  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  adsorption in crown-ether is slightly prior

Crown-Ether



Natural Ca

$^{40}\text{Ca}$  : captured

Enriched  $^{48}\text{Ca}$

1. Crown-ether resin packed in column of 8mmf × 100cm

2. Ca solution  $\text{CaCl}_2$

fixed flow rate by pump

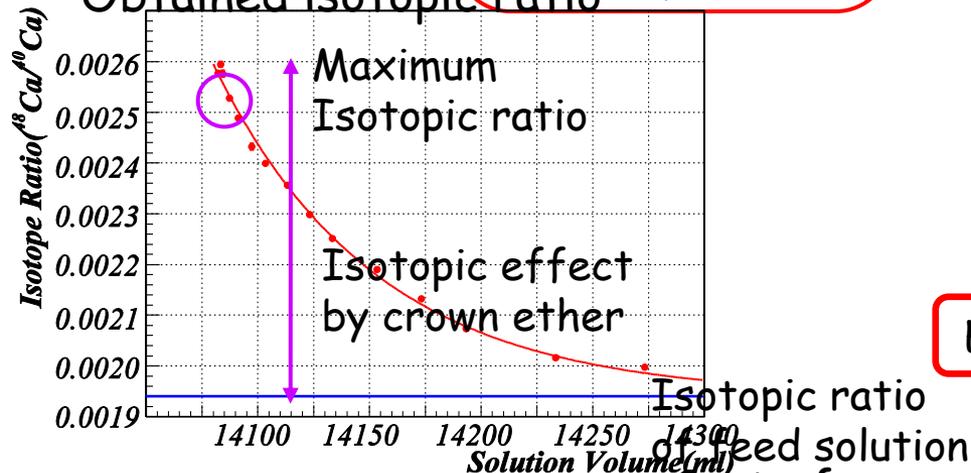
1m glass column

Migration length = 1m  
20m  
200m

3. Sampling

## Result

Obtained isotopic ratio



Isotopic ratio of feed solution

Revealing the history of the universe with calcium isotopes. **Cost of crown-ether resin is much improved recently.**



# Summary

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- CANDLES is the project to search for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ .
- Measurement of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  has a great chance to achieve "Background Free Measurement", the key characteristic to perform sensitive  $0\nu\beta\beta$  search .
- CANDLES-III detector is currently operated in the underground lab. at Kamioka mine.
  - The basic performance is now under investigation, especially about background profile, and its rejection capability.
  - We are continuously upgrading the detector to achieve the BG free condition.
- $^{48}\text{Ca}$  has a large potential sensitivity when we established the enrichment technique of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  (not mentioned in detail).
- For further improvement of the sensitivity, we are starting to develop the scintillating bolometer of  $\text{CaF}_2$ . This R&D will be a key technique to explore the normal hierarchy region.

# CANDLES Collaboration

- ***Department of Physics, Osaka University***

T. Kishimoto, S. Yoshida, H. Kakubata, Wang Wei, V. T. T. Trang, C. Wei Min, T. Maeda, T. Ohata, K. Tetsuno, T. Uehara, X. Lee, B.T. Khai, M. Shokati, T. Batpurev, K. Akutagawa, S. Katagiri, N. Yotsunaga, K. Kanagawa, M. Tsuzuki

- ***Research Center for Nuclear Physics, Osaka University***

M. Nomachi, S. Ajimura, S. Umehara, T. Iida, Y. Takemoto, K. Matsuoka, Y. Takihiro

- ***Graduate School of Engineering, University of Fukui***

Y. Tamagawa, I. Ogawa, K. Nakajima, S. Noshiro, A. Masuda, K. Morishita, M. Washino, F. Doukaku, T. Hiyama, K. Teranishi, N. Takahashi

- ***Faculty of Integrated Arts and Science, University of Tokushima***

K. Fushimi, K. Mori

- ***Osaka Sangyo University***

R. Hazama, N. Nakatani

- ***Saga University***

H. Ohsimi



# Candle

Thank you.