Status and future prospect of the Kamioka ultra-low BG facility





Contents:

- Super-clean room and its application
- Experimental hall and its planned application
- Rn-free air and Ultra-pure water generation system

Low Radioactivity Techniques (LRT2024), 1-4 Oct. 2024 Krakow, Poland K.Ichimura (RCNS, Tohoku Univ. <u>ichimura@awa.tohoku.ac.jp</u>)



Introduction of the KamLAND and Kamioka Ultra-low BG facility



1000 m under the top of Mt. Ikenoyama

ultra-low BG HPGe at Lab. C



low BG HPGe at Lab. D





low BG HPGe at KamLAND



Lab. C (former XMASS) Lab. D (CANDLES)

low BG HPGe at IPMU-Lab1



ICP-MS, Ultralo-1800 surface α det. at IPMU-Lab1 clean room



Kamioka Underground laboratory

 α imaging chamber

Status of the KamLAND (-Zen) experiment



- The inner balloon was pulled out on May 31, 2024
 - Xe-LS was extracted from the inner balloon, and Xe gas is now stored in bottles.
- Finished KamLAND data taking on Aug. 27, 2024
 - We will start Outer LS extraction on Oct. 3 (just day after tomorrow)
- Upgrade to KamLAND2 (-Zen)





→We need a super-clean facility : <u>KERNEL</u>







Clean facility Kamioka CryoLab

Low BG Pb shield Low BG cryostat \rightarrow Low mass DM search $(1 - 100 \text{ MeV/c}^2)$

LS purification area by distillation



Super-clean facility named **KERNEL KERNEL**: Kamioka Extremely Rare phenomena and <u>NEutrino</u> research Lab.

KamLAND



lowBG test bench PMT and light guide performance test

KamLAND and related facilities



This area (past LS purification area by water extraction) will become a super clean-facility in this FY

Purpose of KERNEL :

KERNEL is not only a facility for the success of KamLAND2, but also for the growth of the entire LowBG community (innovation, development of new technologies, development of young talent)







Photos of KERNEL site (Sep. 2024)



Current Status : Mine-guard painting work has been completed

Cable-tray installation work has been completed

→ Start of construction of Class 1 Super Clean Room







We began to organize an inter-university laboratory to search for extremely rare phenomena "KERNEL" in the Kamioka underground in this year

Class-1 Super-clean room and application





Capability of the super-clean room





- Floor space : $9.6 \text{ m} \times 4.3 \text{ m}$, 2.4 m height
- <u>54</u> Ultra Low Penetration Air (ULPA) fan filter units to keep <u>ISO</u> <u>14644-1 class1 cleanness</u>
 - < 10 particles (size : 0.1 μ m) / m³
 - Same specification as Micro System Integration Center (μSIC) at Tohoku University in Sendai
 - <u>http://www.mu-sic.tohoku.ac.jp/index_e.html</u>
- Air flow : $\sim 2m/s$ down-flow (360,000 m³/hr)
 - Internal circulation
- <u>Air conditioner : control temperature & humidity</u>
 - For example, humidity should keep > 50% to make KamLAND-Zen balloon







Super-clean room application(1) inner-balloon fabrication

①Film washing







More details can be found : <u>JINST 16, P08023 (2021)</u>

- All fabrication work were done in class 1 clean room at μ SIC in Sendai, Japan for KamLAND-Zen 800
 - ^{238}U : $(3 \pm 1) \times 10^{-12} \text{ g/g_{Film}}$
 - 232 Th :(3.8 ± 0.2)×10⁻¹¹ g/g_{Film}
- Such things could be done in new class1 clean room in the mine for KamLAND2-Zen





Super-clean room application(2) crystallization, detector construction etc.





NaI purification https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptab020



- Sample preparation for HPGe, ICP-MS measurement (details are in the later slides)
- Crystallization (NaI, SrI₂, ZnWO₄ etc. for DM and rare decay searches)
 - Purification of crystal materials
- Large detector assembly
- Collaborative researches are very welcome

Large detector can be assembled in the large super-clean room, not in the glove box





Production of <u>PEN component from raw materials like LEGEND</u>, <u>Ultra-pure Cu electroforming like Sanford</u> etc.





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Photos of Super-clean room construction(Sep. 2024)





The framework of the Super-clean room is in place

Construction of the Super-clean room will be finished in Mar. 2025









Idea to use the expe

Ge01 (ICRR, Univ. of Tokyo)

Ge02(RCNS, Tohoku Univ.) same specification as Ge01



Lab BUG BUG LSC LSC LSC Kami

Careful shield surface cleaning, noise reduction \rightarrow lower ²¹⁰Pb, ¹³⁷Cs, continuum BG

Detector	Ge01		Ge02	
Date Measurement time (d)	Dec. 2019 23.0	Dec. 2021 19.0	Jul. 2022 47.2	Apr. 2023 86.2
	Cour	t rate (kg ⁻¹ _{Ge} d ⁻¹)		
Integral 40–2700 keV ²⁰⁸ Tl, 2614 keV ²¹⁴ Bi, 609 keV ⁶⁰ Co, 1333 keV ⁴⁰ K, 1461 keV ¹³⁷ Cs, 662 keV ²¹⁰ Pb, 46.5 keV	$112.6 \\ 0.08 \pm 0.04 \\ 0.39 \pm 0.10 \\ 0.41 \pm 0.10 \\ 0.44 \pm 0.11 \\ 1.29 \pm 0.18 \\ 3.24 \pm 0.29$	$\begin{array}{c} 140.2\\ 0.25{\pm}0.09\\ 0.25{\pm}0.09\\ 0.66{\pm}0.14\\ 0.31{\pm}0.10\\ 0.53{\pm}0.13\\ 0.69{\pm}0.14\end{array}$	$100.0 \\ 0.16 \pm 0.05 \\ 0.38 \pm 0.07 \\ 0.48 \pm 0.08 \\ 0.44 \pm 0.07 \\ 0.38 \pm 0.07 \\ 0.64 \pm 0.09$	84.3 0.13 ± 0.03 0.23 ± 0.04 0.68 ± 0.07 0.42 ± 0.05 0.32 ± 0.05 0.59 ± 0.06

er	ime	en	tal	ha	ll (1)	┣	IP	Ge	2
			ult	ra-low	BG HI	PGe				
	COa	axial	p-type	relati	ve ef	ficier	ncy =	= 80)%	
	used ⁻	to as	ssay RI	in Gd ₂	(SO_4)	з •8 Н	20 f	or S	K-Gd	
			with	n LSC a	nd Bc	oulby	,			
	(<u>ht</u>	tps:	<u>//doi.o</u> i	<u>rg/10.1</u>	093/	ptep	<u>/pta</u>	c17	<u>()</u>)	
					Counts	(/kg/day))			
			FWHM@	Integral	²⁰⁸ Tl,	²¹⁴ Bi,	⁶⁰ Co,	⁴⁰ K,	SK-Gd	
		Mass	1332 keV	60–2700	2614	609	1332	1461	total	
	Detector	(kg)	(keV)	keV	keV	keV	keV	keV	samples	_
3S	Belmont	3.2	1.92	90.0	0.12	0.67	0.47	0.58	8	
3S	Merrybent	2.0	1.87	145.0	0.23	2.15	0.47	1.16	5	
	GeOroel	2.31	2.22	128.7	0.53	0.89	0.06	0.46	3	
	Asterix	2.13	1.92	171.3	0.11	1.10	0.28	0.61	13	
	GeAnayet	2.26	1.99	461.2	3.68	0.71	0.16	0.74	2	
ioka	Lab-C Ge	1.68	2.39	104.5	0.08	0.39	0.41	0.44	23	

- In the Kamioka mine, there are :
 - 2 ultra-low BG HPGe det.
 - manufactured by Mirion France
 - both co-axial p-type, 80% relative eff.
 - Details can be found in : <u>PTEP 123H01 (2023)</u>
 - 5 low BG HPGe det.
 - manufactured by Mirion US
 - 4 co-axial p-type (120%, 100%, 74%, 50% rel. eff.)
 - 1 co-axial n-type (100% rel. eff.)
- Published many screening results : <u>KamLAND PEN</u>, SK-Gd Gd₂(SO₄)₃, <u>NEWAGE μ -PIC</u>, <u>XMASS PMT</u> etc.





Idea to use the experimental hall (1) HPGe

example of material screenings



polyethylene naphthalate (PEN) pellet on the acryl stage



 ${\color{black}\bullet}$





Empore disk on the HPGe Endcap



We can measure large sample

 $(23 \times 23 \times 19 \text{ cm}^{3})$ on the acryl stage

 $(23 \times 23 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3)$ - Ge detector volume) for side region High sensitive ²²⁶Ra measurement with molecular recognition resin https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptaa105

O(0.1 mBq/kg) ²²⁶Ra measurement can be done within 10 days https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptac170























Idea to use the experimental hall (2) ICP-MS PEN film before ashing







PEN film after ashing



PEN film sample measurement





solution (ultrapure HNO₃)

- Collaborative research with Univ. of Tsukuba
- Microwave ashing machine (PYRO)
 - O(a few g) organic materials can be ashed
- Agilent 8800 with Aridus3 desolvating nebulizer system • special tune (s-lens etc.) for ²³⁸U, ²³²Th measurement
- O(ppt) level ²³⁸U, ²³²Th measurement is achieved so far
 - <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptae071</u>
- This ICP-MS was also used for rapid ²²⁶Ra analysis in $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$ for SK-Gd (K.Hosokawa's poster)
 - <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptad117</u>





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Idea to use the experimental hall (3) Cryostat, Alpha Imaging Chamber

Low-BG cryostat (Sendai, Tohoku Univ.)



Low-BG cryostat for development of superconducting sensors (KID, TES, etc.) and absorbers for future DM and rare decay search

For example : KID + CaF₂ : <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptad124</u> TES + Sn : <u>https://pos.sissa.it/441/267/pdf</u>



AICHAM : Alpha Imaging Chamber



Fig. 1: Graphical top view of AICHAM (b) and focusing PMT between the vessel and TPC (a). Alpha emissivity imaging for alpha sources (c).

can measure surface contamination like <u> Jltralo-1800 https://xia.com/products/ultralo-1800/</u>

PEN Film measurement : $< 3.7 \times 10^{-3} \alpha/cm^2/hr$ (90% C.L.) To improve the sensitivity, install small-size PMT to detect S1/S2 photons (H. Ito, ICRC 2023 poster presentation) https://pos.sissa.it/444/1374/pdf





Schematic view of the ultra-low background super-clean facility



Performance of machine room

Experimental apparatus Utility for mine safety Utility for experiments

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Rn-free air generation system

Image of the Chilled activated charcoal system (Ref : <u>R. Hodak et al</u>)



Similar to LSC :

- Chilled charcoal tower (~250 kg)
- input air : outside air, $O(30 \text{ Bq/m}^3)$
 - 200 m³/hr
 - humidity and CO₂ are removed
 - Cooled to $\sim -65^{\circ}$ C
- Supply to :

machine

room

- Super-clean room
- Experimental hall
- KamLAND2-Zen detector(installation work)
- Rn activity will be measured by 80L Rn det.



Air flow

outside air from outside of the mine O(30 Bq/m³)



Rn free air generation system will be installed in Mar. 2025



Ultra-pure water generation system



Ultra-pure water generation system will also be installed in Mar. 2025







- We began to organize the ultra-low BG facility for extremely rare events in the Kamioka underground
- Experimental hall : high sensitive material screening, R&D for further experiments
- Environment : Rn-free air, ultra-pure water generation system : <u>available in Mar. 2025</u>

Summary

Super-clean room : ultra-low BG balloon fabrication, crystallization, etc. : <u>available in Mar. 2025</u> <u>Collaborative researches are very welcome</u>





Backup



Activity of material screening (1): HPGe Ge01 (ICRR, Univ. of Tokyo)

Ge02(RCNS, Tohoku Univ.) same specification as Ge01

low BG HPGe coaxial p-type – relative eff. 74%



Lab BUG BUG LSC LSC LSC Kam

ultra-low BG HPGe coaxial p-type relative efficiency = 80% used to assay RI in Gd₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O for SK-Gd with LSC and Boulby

(https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptac170)

			Counts (/kg/day)						
	Detector	Mass (kg)	FWHM@ 1332 keV (keV)	Integral 60–2700 keV	²⁰⁸ Tl, 2614 keV	²¹⁴ Bi, 609 keV	⁶⁰ Co, 1332 keV	⁴⁰ K, 1461 keV	SK-Gd total samples
BS	Belmont	3.2	1.92	90.0	0.12	0.67	0.47	0.58	8
S S	Merrybent	2.0	1.87	145.0	0.23	2.15	0.47	1.16	5
	GeOroel	2.31	2.22	128.7	0.53	0.89	0.06	0.46	3
	Asterix	2.13	1.92	171.3	0.11	1.10	0.28	0.61	13
	GeAnayet	2.26	1.99	461.2	3.68	0.71	0.16	0.74	2
ioka	Lab-C Ge	1.68	2.39	104.5	0.08	0.39	0.41	0.44	23

Used to assay radioisotopes (²²⁶Ra, ⁴⁰K etc.)

In the Kamioka mine, there are 2 ultra-low BG HPGe detectors manufactured by Mirion France

• + 5 low BG HPGe detectors manufactured by Mirion US RCNS has 1 ultra-low BG HPGe and 1 low BG HPGe detectors





Activity of material screening (2): HPGe Counts ($/k\sigma/dav$)



a) Ge detector (Al endcap)

- b) 1 cm 6N purity (99.9999%) Cu (Mitsubishi Material Compa c) 5 cm OFHC Cu
- d) 2.5 cm (5±3) Bq/kg ²¹⁰Pb Lead brick : Kolga
- e) 10 cm (for side) (35 ± 4) Bq/kg ²¹⁰Pb Lead brick
- f) 10 cm O(100) Bq/kg ²¹⁰Pb Lead brick
- g) 17.5 cm O(500) Bq/kg 210 Pb Lead brick

Careful shield surface cleaning, noise reduction \rightarrow low ²¹⁰Pb, ¹³⁷Cs, continuum BG, 10 keV energy threshold More details can be found in <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptad136</u>

				Counts (/kg/ddy)				
Lab	Detector	Mass (kg)	FWHM@ 1332 keV (keV)	Integral 60–2700 keV	²⁰⁸ Tl, 2614 keV	²¹⁴ Bi, 609 keV	⁶⁰ Co, 1332 keV	⁴⁰ K, 1461 keV
BUGS	Belmont	3.2	1.92	90.0	0.12	0.67	0.47	0.58
BUGS	Merrybent	2.0	1.87	145.0	0.23	2.15	0.47	1.16
LSC	GeOroel	2.31	2.22	128.7	0.53	0.89	0.06	0.46
LSC	Asterix	2.13	1.92	171.3	0.11	1.10	0.28	0.61
LSC	GeAnayet	2.26	1.99	461.2	3.68	0.71	0.16	0.74
Kamioka	Ge01	1.68	2.39	104.5	0.08	0.39	0.41	0.44
	<u>Ge02</u>	1.68	1.82	81.3	0.13	0.23	0.68	0.42

	Detector	Ge01		Ge02					
	Date Massurement time (d)	Dec. 2019	Dec. 2021	Jul. 2022	Ар				
	Count rate $(kg_{Ge}^{-1} d^{-1})$								
	Integral 40–2700 keV	112.6	140.2	100.0					
	²⁰⁸ Tl, 2614 keV	$0.08 {\pm} 0.04$	0.25 ± 0.09	$0.16 {\pm} 0.05$	0.1				
nv)	²¹⁴ Bi, 609 keV	$0.39{\pm}0.10$	0.25 ± 0.09	$0.38 {\pm} 0.07$	0.2				
•••	⁶⁰ Co, 1333 keV	$0.41{\pm}0.10$	$0.66 {\pm} 0.14$	$0.48 {\pm} 0.08$	0.6				
	⁴⁰ K, 1461 keV	$0.44{\pm}0.11$	0.31 ± 0.10	$0.44{\pm}0.07$	0.4				
	¹³⁷ Cs, 662 keV	1.29 ± 0.18	0.53 ± 0.13	$0.38 {\pm} 0.07$	0.3				
	²¹⁰ Pb, 46.5 keV	$3.24{\pm}0.29$	0.69 ± 0.14	$0.64{\pm}0.09$	0.5				









example of material screenings



polyethylene naphthalate (PEN) pellet on the acryl stage

47 mm

- \bullet
- - \bullet
- \bullet

Activity of material screening (3): HPGe





Empore disk on the HPGe Endcap



We can measure large sample

 $(23 \times 23 \times 19 \text{ cm}^{3})$ on the acryl stage

 $(23 \times 23 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3)$ - Ge detector volume) for side region High sensitive ²²⁶Ra measurement with molecular recognition resin https://doi.org/10.1093/ptep/ptaa105

O(0.1 mBq/kg) ²²⁶Ra measurement can be done within 10 days





















Agilent 8800 (Univ. of Tsukuba)



- •
- Not in the mine, but for KamLAND material screening with ICP-MS : \bullet
 - collaborative research with Univ. of Tsukuba
 - Agilent 8800 ICP-MS & Aridus3 desolvating nebulizer system \bullet
 - Sensitive to ²³⁸U and ²³²Th in organic materials (ppt to sub-ppt range) \bullet
 - (PEN film : Scintillation film, Bis-MSB : Wavelength shifter etc.) \bullet

ICP-MS (1) Agilent 7900 (ICRR, Univ. of Tokyo, in the mine)



2 ICP-MS in the mine (Both ICRR, Univ. of Tokyo) to measure ²³⁸U, ²³²Th, ¹⁴⁴Ce in Gd₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O and Gd in the water





ICP-MS(2)②Ashing (Univ. of Tsukuba)







PEN Film ultrasonic cleaning with ultra pure water





Bis-MSB after ashing





O (1~10 g) organic materials can be ashed.





Bis-MSB after ashing



PEN film after ashing



③ Dissolving with Ultrapure HNO₃ (inside of the clean booth)

PEN film sample measurement



Can be measure O(1 ppt) ²³⁸U, ²³²Th by ashing O(1 g) sample with almost 100% recovery rate By increasing the amount of sample, sensitivity is getting better



recovery rate measurement (PEN film sample)







Evaluation of radon adsorption efficiency values in xenon with activated carbon fibers

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The radioactive noble gas radon-222 (²²²Rn) produced in the uranium series is a crucial background source in many underground experiments. We have estimated the adsorption property of Rn with activated carbon fibers (ACFs) in air, argon, and xenon gas. We evaluated six ACFs, named A-7, A-10, A-15, A-20, A-25, and S-25, provided by Unitika Ltd. We measured the intrinsic radioactivity of these ACF samples, and found A-20's radioactivity of the uranium series to be < 5.5 mBq/kg with 90% confidence level. In air and Ar gas, we found that ACF A-15 has an adsorption efficiency of 1/10000 reduction at maximum before saturation of Rn adsorption, and more than 97% adsorption efficiency after the saturation. In Xe gas, we found that ACF A-20 has the best Rn adsorption ability among the tested ACFs. We also found that S-25, A-25, and A-15 have similar Rn adsorption performance.

Subject Index H20



Fig. 3. Experimental setup of the full test bench. The Rn detector was upgraded to an 80-L detector from the system in Ref. [27]. Then, a new refrigerator and a new larger cold trap (main trap) were newly added for the measurements with Xe gas. The arrows show the direction of the circulation gas flow.



Fig. 5. An example of the measurements with Xe gas with ACFA-25. The Xe gas pressure before the adsorption phase, Xe gas pressure before the release phase, and flow rate in left (right) are -0.071 MPa (-0.071 MPa), -0.076 MPa (-0.075 MPa), and 0.41 SLM (0.14 SLM), respectively. The plot and color definitions are the same as Fig. 2. The black open circles in the upper right plot are the Rn concentration obtained from ²¹⁸Po counts.











Rn detector



https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2017.04.037



Fig. 2. Typical energy spectrum from ²²²Rn and ²²⁰Rn daughters. The region between ADC channels 158–178 and shown by the red dashed lines defines the ²¹⁴Po signal region used to calculate the ²²²Rn concentrations for this particular detector. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)





Rn emanation Setup



Rn detector



Rn detector

Design of high sensitivity Rn detector



18×18 mm² PIN photodiode.



For vacuum: ICF copper gasket **For low BG: Electropolished.**

Connected with feed through.

Amplifier circuit on the detector.







How to measure

Electrostatic collection



Rn detector







Rn detector

