Development of Liquid Scintillator containing Zirconium Complex for Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Experiment

XXXVI International Conference on Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics (Neutrino2014)

Boston, USA, 2nd – 7th June, 2014

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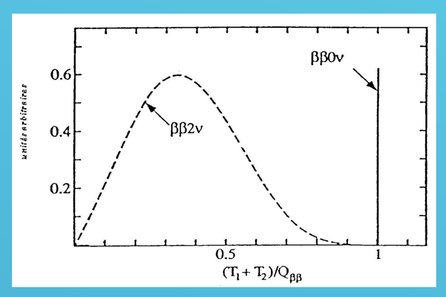
1. Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

◆ **Neutrinoless double beta decay**

- Lifetime and neutrino mass
  $[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}(0^+ \to 0^+)]^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(E_0,Z)|M_{0\nu}|^2\langle m_\nu\rangle^2$
- Energy spectrum and lifetime measurement
  - monochromatic energy = Q-value
  - $T_{1/2}$~a(Mt/ΔEB) a: abundance M: mass t: meas.time ΔE: energy res. B: BG rate



Requirements : Low background rate, Large target mass and High energy resolution

◆ **Double beta decay candidates**

$\beta\beta$ emitters with $Q_{\beta\beta}$ >2 Mev

Transition	$Q_{\beta\beta}$ (keV)	Abundance (%) (^{232}Th = 100)
$^{110}Pd \to ^{110}Cd$	2013	12
$^{76}Ge \to ^{76}Se$	2040	8
$^{124}Sn \to ^{124}Te$	2288	6
$^{136}Xe \to ^{136}Ba$	2479	9
$^{130}Te \to ^{130}Xe$	2533	34
$^{116}Cd \to ^{116}Sn$	2802	7
$^{82}Se \to ^{82}Kr$	2995	9
$^{100}Mo \to ^{100}Ru$	3034	10
$^{96}Zr \to ^{96}Mo$	3350	3
$^{150}Nd \to ^{150}Sm$	3667	6
$^{48}Ca \to ^{48}Ti$	4271	0.2

- above ^{208}Tl γ line (2.614MeV) : ^{48}Ca, ^{150}Nd, ^{96}Zr, ^{100}Mo,^{82}Se…
- large abundance : ^{100}Mo,^{82}Se, ^{150}Nd, ^{96}Zr
- solved in liquid scintillator formed as metal complex

Zirconium (^{96}Zr) is possible candidate

◆ **Detector design for Zr loaded liquid scintillator**

Assuming 10w.t.% solubility

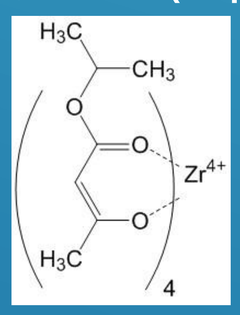
Goal: $\langle m_\nu\rangle$~10meV

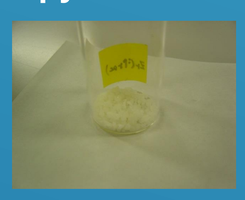
- light yield : **60% for BC505**
- high energy resolution : **4%@2.5MeV = 100keV**
- low background rate : **0.01count kg^{-1} y^{-1}**
- target volume : **~ton scale**

Zirconium Complex in Organic liquid Scintillator (ZICOS) experiment for neutrinoless double beta decay

2. Zirconium β-keto ester complex

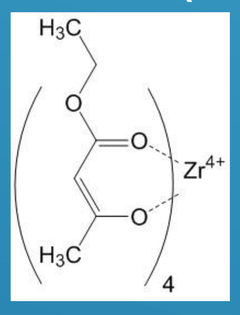
◆**tetrakis (isopropyl acetoacetate) Zr**

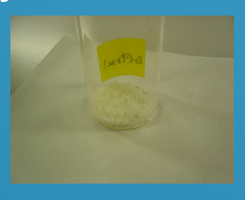




$Zr(CH_3COCHCOOCH(CH_3))_4$
$= Zr(iprac)_4$
M.W. : 663.87

◆ **tetrakis (ethyl acetoacetate) Zr**

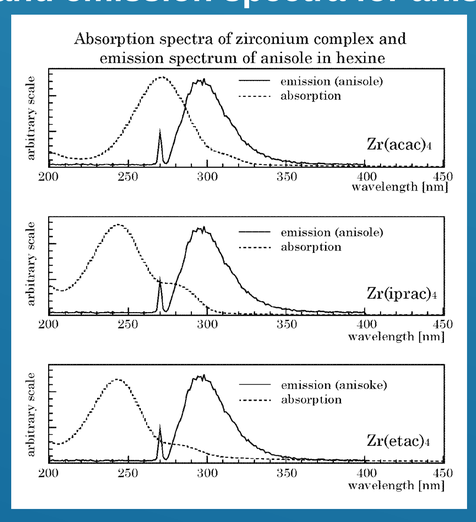




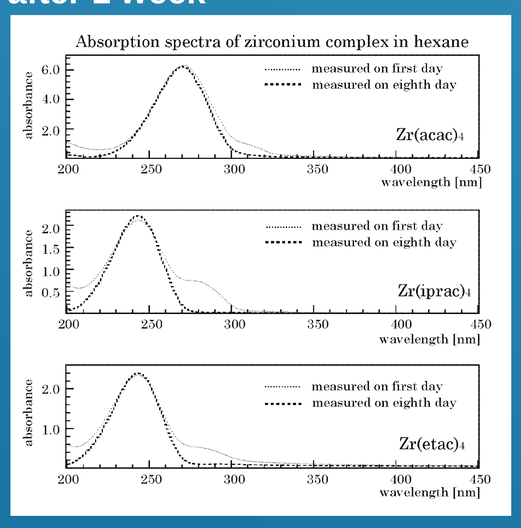
$Zr(CH_3COCHCOOH_2CH_3)_4$
$= Zr(etac)_4$
M.W. : 607.76

Solubility > 10w.t.% for anisole

◆ **Absorbance spectra for complex and emission spectra for anisole**

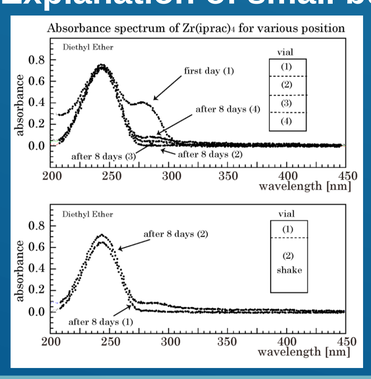


◆ **Absorbance spectra for complex after 1 week**



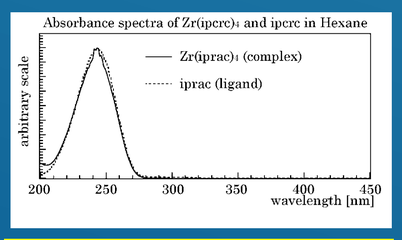
- Absorption peaks of Zirconium β-keto ester complex : 245nm
- Small bump : ~280nm

◆ **Explanation of small bump**



Small bump was disappeared for top region, but still remained for bottom region of the vial. These could be explained by the precipitation.

- Small bump was disappeared after ~ 1 week.
- Impurities contained in the complex could be precipitated.

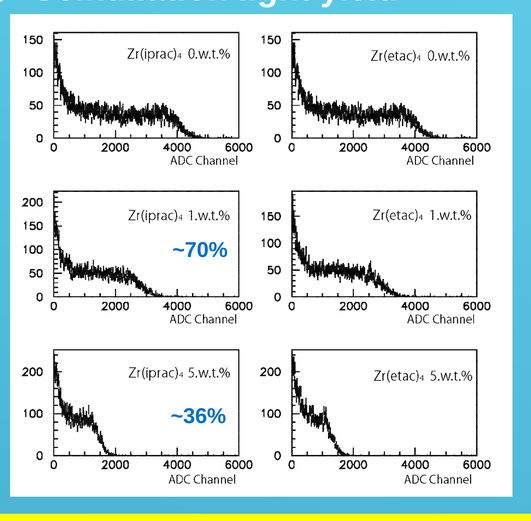


Absorption shapes are completely same between complex and ligand.

3. Scintillation yield with β-keto ester

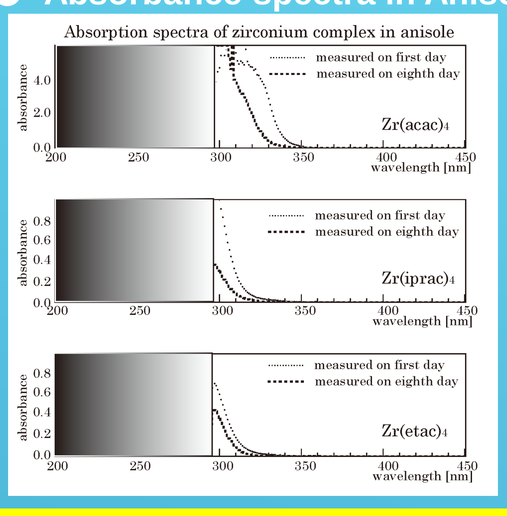
◆ **Liquid scintillator containing Zr β-keto-ester complex**

● **Scintillation light yield**



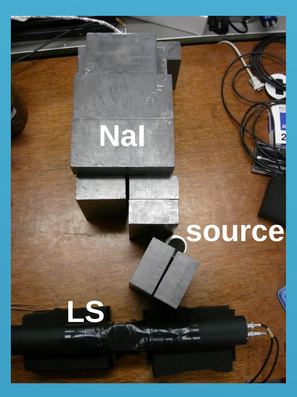
Observed scintillation light yield decreased (but improved). Still exist absorption peak around 280nm in anisole ?

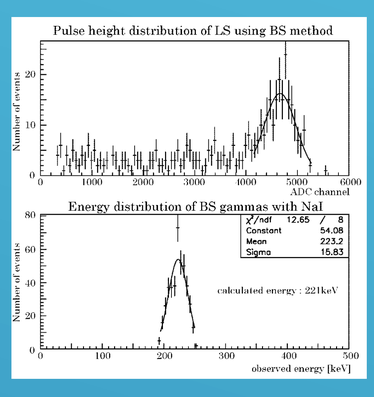
● **Absorbance spectra in Anisole**



Small bump around 280nm was found even after ~ 1 week. Impurities might be dissolved in Anisole, so we have to purify complex by using sublimation.

◆ **Backscattering method for measurement of light yield and energy resolution**



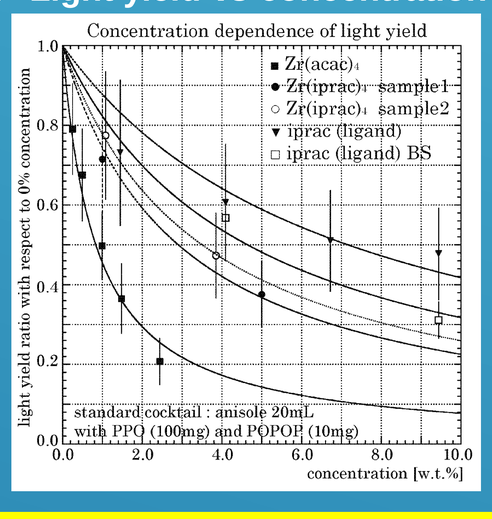


Monochromatic energy electrons were selected by tagging back scattered gammas with NaI scintillator.

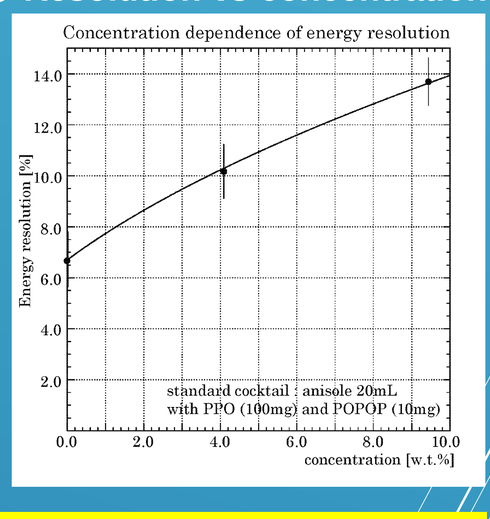
Single peak could be used even though liquid scintillator in small vial.

◆ **Performance of liquid scintillator (assuming purified)**

● **Light yield vs concentration**



● **Resolution vs concentration**



Light yield was ~40% to that of BC505 (almost same as our cocktail) , and energy resolution was 4.1% @2.5MeV for 10 w.t.% concentration assuming 40% photo coverage. They almost achieved to our goal!.

4. Zirconium (diethyl malonato) complex

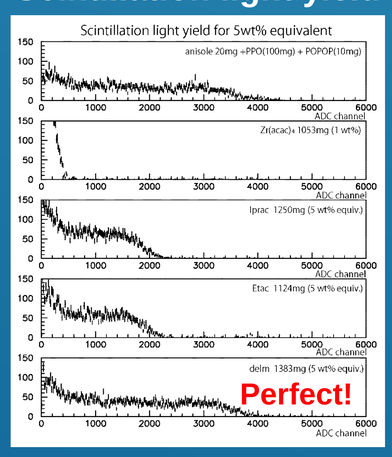
◆ **Tetrakis (diethyl malonato) Zr**

$Zr(CH_3CH_2OCOCHCOOCH_2CH_3)_4$
$= Zr(deml)_4$
M.W. : 727.86

◆ **Absorbance of ligand**

shorter wavelength (~210nm)

◆ **Scintillation light yield**



No quenching due to overlap between the absorption of ligand and the emission of anisole should be occurred even though high concentration.

Light yield will be almost same as that of BC505 and energy resolution will be ~2%@2.5MeV for 10w.t.% concentration.

This work was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (No.24104501 and No.26105502) and a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) (No.24540295) from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).