Status of direct neutrino mass measurements and the KATRIN Project

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HEP2005 International Europhysics Conference on High Energy Physics July 21st-27th 2005 in Lisboa, Portugal

- Introduction
- Direct v mass measurements:
 - Bolometer experiments using ¹⁸⁷Re β -decay
 - Spectrometer experiments using ³H β -decay
 - The KATRIN experiment
- Outlook

How can we fix the absolute neutrino mass scale?



β-decay kinematics

 $(\mathsf{A},\,\mathsf{Z})\to(\mathsf{A},\,\mathsf{Z}\text{+}1)^{\scriptscriptstyle +}+e^{\scriptscriptstyle -}+\overline{\nu}_e$

transition energy
$$E_0 = E_e + E_v$$

measure energy spectrum of charged lepton (electron):

$$dN/dE = K \cdot F(E,Z) \cdot p \cdot E_{tot} \cdot (E_0 - E_e) \cdot \Sigma |U_{ei}|^2 \left[(E_0 - E_e)^2 - \mathbf{m}(v_i)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

(modified by electronic final states, recoil corrections, radiative corrections)

experimental observable:

average $m(v_e)^2 := \sum |U_{ei}|^2 m(v_i)^2$



requirements:

- strong source (high count rate near E₀)
- small endpoint energy $E_0 \rightarrow {}^{187}\text{Re}, {}^{3}\text{H}$
- excellent energy resolution
- long term stability
- low background rate

MAC-E type spectrometer or cryo-bolometer

Investigating ¹⁸⁷Re β -decay with cryo-bolometers

Multi-purpose, scalable new detector technology

- basic idea: β *emitting crystal* = *cryo-detector* (absorber)
- advantage: detection of all released energy (including excited final states) except v part

disadvantages:

- record full spectrum, while most sensitive region is small: $\propto (m_v/E_0)^3$
- thermal integration time ${\sim}10^{\text{-4}} \text{ s} \rightarrow$ limited count rate
- choice of β emitter: ¹⁸⁷Re: **E**₀ = **2.46 keV**

(lowest transition energy in nature),

 $t_{1/2} \approx 5 \cdot 10^{10}$ y, high natural abundance (≈ 63 %)

$$^{187}\text{Re} \rightarrow ^{187}\text{Os} + e^- + \overline{\nu}_e$$



very low heat capacity at operating temperature < 100 mK

Investigating ¹⁸⁷Re β -decay with cryo-bolometers

- a) MANU2 (F. Gatti et al., Genoa)
- first test experiment: metallic Re single crystal (1.5 mg)
 m(v) < 26 eV (95% CL)
 F. Gatti et al., Nucl. Phys. B 143 (2005) 541
- under construction (MANU2): → 1 eV sensitivity with superconducting metallic Re crystal & Ir transition edge sensors (TES)
- aim: array of 300 detectors (total 0.5 g)

b) MiBeta (E. Fiorini et al., Milan, Como, Trento)

- AgReO₄ (array: 10 * 250 350 μg)
- Final result after 1 year data taking: $m^2(v) = -112 \pm 207 \pm 90 \text{ eV}^2$
- \Rightarrow m(v) < 15 eV (90%CL)
- 2nd phase: aim for m(v) < 2.5 eV (90% CL) after 3 years running with 200 detectors, ΔE=10-15 eV

A. Nucciotti et al., NIM A520 (2004) 148



Results from the Mainz and Troitsk ³H β -decay experiments

both MAC-E type spectrometers, energy res. $\Delta E = 4.8 \text{ eV} (3.7 \text{ eV})$ molecular tritium (T₂) β sources: $t_{1/2} = 12.3 \text{ y}$, $E_0=18.6 \text{ keV}$ quench-condensed solid T₂ film (M) vs. windowless gaseous tritium source (T)



 Troitsk 1994-1999,2001 data:
 m²(v) = -2.3 ± 2.5 ± 2.0 eV² m(v)< 2.05 eV (95% C.L.)

V.M. Lobashev, Nucl. Phys. A719 (2003) 153c "anomaly": step in integrated spectrum, can be described as additional line \rightarrow fit line run by run

Mainz 1998-2001 data: systematic uncertainties now well understood:

- surface roughening
- self-charging of T₂ film
- inelastic scattering
- T₂ condensate: neighbour excitation effects

final publication: C. Kraus et al., Eur. Phys. J. C40 (2005) 447, hep-ex/0412056: $m^{2}(v) = -0.6 \pm 2.2 \pm 2.1 \text{ eV}^{2}$ m(v) < 2.3 eV (95% C.L.)

The Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino experiment

Design Report 2005: FZKA Scientific Report 7090 Kantanike Thisium Neutrino Expo

Physics Aim:

Improvement of sensitivity by 1 order of magnitude: ~2 eV \rightarrow 0.2 eV



KATRIN main components I: molecular tritium sources

two sources : independent measurements with different systematic effects



WGTS characteristics:

- Ø 9 cm, length: 10 m, T = 27 K
- column density ρd = 5 · 10¹⁷/cm² optimized for large count rate and small systematics
- p_{inj} = 0.003 mbar, q_{inj} = 4.7 Ci/s
 ~ 40 g T₂ throughput per day: need closed T₂ loop!
- high isotopic purity > 95% T_2
- magn. guiding field B_{source} = 3.6 T

QCTS characteristics:

- Ø 8 cm, T= 1.6 K, d = 35 nm
- presently limited by self-charging

Windowless Gaseous Tritium Source and front diff. pumping section under construction !

KATRIN main components II: electrostatic spectrometers

Pre-spectrometer:

- pre-filter transmitting highest electron energies only
- moderate energy res. ∆E ≈ 80 eV
- on site since end of 2003, test measurements
- testbed for main spectrometer (vacuum, electrode design, background, ...)

Main spectrometer

- 23 m length, 10 m diameter:
 ⇒ energy resolution ∆E = 0.93 eV at 18.6 keV
 ⇒ high luminosity
- XHV of $p < 10^{-11}$ mbar required (low background), volume to pump ≈ 1500 m³!

1010

• vessel electrode + inner screening electrode (made of thin wires)

ongoing design works, > 200 modules covering surface of 650 m² !

Main spectrometer vessel now under construction !

two spectrometers

of MAC-E type: "tandem" design

KATRIN main components III: detector design, calibration

the prespectrometer detector: prototype of KATRIN main detector



multipixel PIN diode from Canberra SemiConductors



board for 64 pre-amps on UHV flange

- 64 segments 5x5 mm²
- KATRIN main detector: need larger number of pixels

 need high precision calibration of energy filter (main spectr.): reproducible/stable over 3 y!

• concept 1:

small monitor spectrometer sharing same HV

- electron sources @ monitor spectr.:
 - ²⁴¹Am /Co photoelectron source
 - ^{83m}Kr source: K shell conversion electron

concept 2:

direct measurement of retarding voltage using new precision high voltage divider and digital voltmeter

KATRIN sensitivity & discovery potential



Systematic uncertainties:

any variance $\sigma^2(E)$ not accounted for leads to negative shift of m_v^2 : $\Delta m_v^2 = -2 \sigma^2$

6 contributions of about $\Delta m_v^2 \le 0.007 \text{ eV}^2$ each:

- **1.** inelastic scattering of β inside WGTS,
- **3.** spectrometer transmission function,
- **5.** WGTS charging due to remaining ions,
- **2.** fluctuations of WGTS column density
- 4. HV stability of retarding potential,
- **6.** final state distribution

Status of KATRIN (I)



Status of KATRIN (II)



Summary and Outlook

- absolute scale of v masses important input for particle physics & astrophysics/cosmology
- direct v mass searches: present limits from β decay
 - 187 Re (MiBeta): m(v) < 15 eV (90% CL) heading for 1-2 eV sensitivity
 - ³H (Mainz): m(v) < 2.3 eV (95% CL)next-generation: KATRIN \rightarrow sensitivity 0.2 eV

• KATRIN status:

- first components already on site
- successful tests of vacuum concept, background suppression
- major components under construction (WGTS, main spectrometer)
- new KATRIN buildings, groundbreaking: Sept. 2005
- commissioning & start of data taking: 2008

Principle of the MAC-E-Filter



differential pumping section - DPS

active pumping of T₂ molecules by TMP's (8 pumping ports) suppression factor of T₂ flow ~ 2×10⁸, closed tritium loop
 electron transport (7 s.c. solenoids, each l=1m)





Cryo-pumping section

trap remaining molecular T₂ flow onto IHe cold surfaces to keep spectrometer T₂ partial pressure at ~ 10⁻²⁰ mbar
 6 s.c. magnets (5 solenoids, 1 split coil for QCTS or other β-sources)



Systematic error contributions



Systematic uncertainties

For smaller m(v): \Rightarrow smaller region of interest below endpoint E_0



Only true because MAC-E-Filter response function has **no tails!**