

Proposal for an experiment at the J-PARC 50 GeV PS

**Measurement of X rays from Ξ^- C atom
with an active fiber target system**

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Summary of the proposed experiment

Beamline:	K1.8
Beam:	1.8 GeV/ c K^-
Intensity:	0.8×10^6 /spill
Flat-top:	2.0 sec (4.2 sec/spill)
Beam time:	20 days @80 kW MR operation (common with J-PARC E70) + additional 1 day for dedicated calibration
Total number of K^- beam:	3.3×10^{11}
Reaction:	$p(K^-, K^+)\Xi^-$ reaction
Detectors:	S-2S spectrometer, modified Hyperball-X
Target:	Scintillating fibers ~ 10 cm (9 g/cm ²)
Estimated yield:	
Number of detected X rays	22 for $(4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ transition (~ 55 keV) 11 for $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ transition (~ 154 keV)

Abstract

We propose to perform a measurement of Ξ^- -atomic X rays from a carbon target at the K1.8 beam line to study Baryon-Baryon interaction in the $S = -2$ sector. We have limited data for this sector so far. X-ray spectroscopy of hadronic atoms give us various information on the strong interaction between hadrons and nuclei. X-ray energy shift and width give information on the real and imaginary parts of the optical potential in nuclei. This method had been successfully applied in cases of negatively charged hadrons. Now, the same method will be applied to Ξ^- atoms for a wide mass range of target nuclei in J-PARC experiments.

In this proposed experiment, a carbon target was selected because of a technical reason and an additional motivation related to the emulsion data for $S = -2$ bound systems. We have a chance to obtain a part of data for Ξ^- -atomic X rays in an approved experiment, J-PARC E70, expected to be run in 2023. X-ray data can be taken in parallel with the E70 data-taking by installing a high-resolution X-ray detector system (modified Hyperball-X) near the E70 target, an active fiber target (AFT). Other apparatus are common with J-PARC E70. Hyperball-X is a Germanium(Ge) detector array of which performance was well established in the previous X-ray measurements in J-PARC E03 and E07. Track information of AFT will be used for tagging Ξ^- stop to obtain a good signal to noise ratio in the X-ray spectrum.

We are aiming at the first data taking (phase-1) of this proposed experiment in parallel with J-PARC E70 to confirm yields of X rays from Ξ^- C atoms. We have a chance to observe the X-ray transitions assuming the X-ray yields and the natural width of the Ξ^- -atomic state suggested by a theoretical calculation. However, there are large uncertainties on the yields and the width due to unknown absorption strength. We will reconsider about additional beam time (phase-2) to obtain finite energy shifts and widths after the phase-1 data taking.

1 Physics motivation

Strangeness nuclear physics in the $S = -2$ sector is one of the biggest motivation for the J-PARC 50 GeV proton synchrotron. This is a significant step forward from $S = -1$ system towards the multi-strangeness hadronic systems, where interactions between hyperons may play an important role. The interactions between two hyperons with strangeness first appear in the $S = -2$ systems. In addition, in the $S = -2$ sector, strong mixing between ΞN and $\Lambda\Lambda$ is expected because the mass difference is as small as 28 MeV, which is much smaller than the case of the $S = 0$ and 1 sectors. Thus, the $S = -2$ system may be the first system where the baryon mixing effects may plays a dominant role.

Furthermore, understanding of the ΞN interaction is essential to clarify a role of Ξ^- in neutron stars, where high-density condition, the density of 2–3 times the nuclear saturation density (ρ_0), is believed to be realized in the core. In this condition, the strangeness degrees of freedom should play an essential role because the neutron Fermi energy would become larger than the mass difference between hyperons and a nucleon. Especially, there are negatively charged hyperons (Σ^- and Ξ^-), with s quarks having negative charge of $-1/3e$, which can reduce the electron Fermi energy by considering the charge neutrality. Σ^- s would not appear in neutron stars due to the strongly repulsive potential, $U_\Sigma \sim +30$ MeV. The next candidate is Ξ^- which is interested in the proposed experiment. It is awaited to have a good estimate of the $\Xi^- N$ potential from experimental results.

However, little is known experimentally on $S = -2$ systems, especially ΞN system. While some emulsion events of Ξ^- nuclear system have been reported [1], they are not sufficient for understanding of the ΞN interaction. Some upper limits on the Ξ -nucleus potential have been obtained from the production rate and spectrum shape in the bound region of Ξ -hypernucleus via the $^{12}\text{C}(K^-, K^+)$ reaction in the BNL E885 experiment [2]. In this experiment, Ξ -hypernuclear states were not clearly observed because of the limited statistics and detector resolution. The experimental group suggested an attractive Ξ potential with a depth of about 14 MeV for $A = 12$ assuming a Woods-Saxon type potential shape, but the derivation of the potential was model dependent and was not conclusive. In this situation, clear observation of Ξ -hypernuclear states will play an important role for the $S = -2$ system. Ξ -hypernuclei give valuable information on the $S = -2$ baryon-baryon effective interactions such as ΞN , and $\Xi N \rightarrow \Lambda\Lambda$. In near future, an Ξ^- hypernuclear spectroscopic experiment via the $^{12}\text{C}(K^-, K^+)$ reaction will be performed in J-PARC E70 with an improved energy resolution [3].

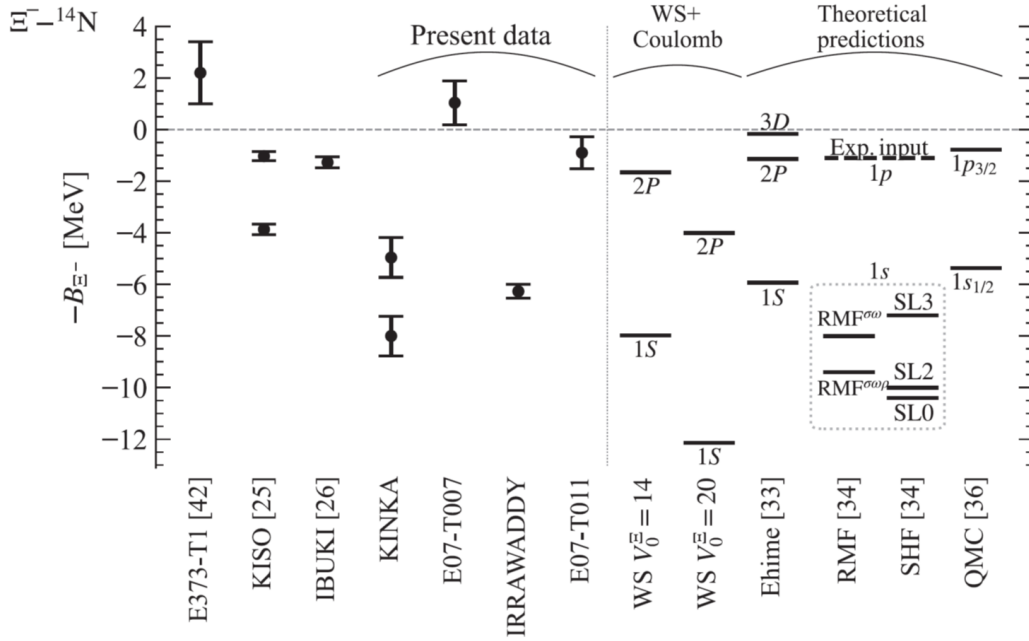


Figure 1: B_{Ξ^-} for the $\Xi^- - ^{14}\text{N}$ system of the emulsion events found in KEK E373 and J-PARC E07 and theoretical calculations [1].

Recent progress in study of the ΞN interaction

Recently, some experimental results have been reported on the ΞN interaction. From the emulsion experiments, KEK E373 and J-PARC E07, observations of some special events were reported such as double Λ hypernucleus [4] and Ξ hypernuclei [1, 5]. The measured binding energies (B_{Ξ^-}) for $\Xi^- - ^{14}\text{N}$ systems are summarized in Fig. 1. In the case of “KINKA” and “IRRAWADDY” events, decay of $\Xi^- - ^{14}\text{N}$ systems were observed with derived B_{Ξ^-} of 8.00 ± 0.77 MeV or 4.96 ± 0.77 MeV and 6.27 ± 0.27 MeV, respectively. These B_{Ξ^-} values are significantly larger than that of the $1p$ state. Therefore, these events are attributed to the $1s$ state, namely the ground-state spin-doublet ($3/2^+$, $1/2^+$) of the $^{15}_{\Xi}\text{C}$ hypernucleus. The observation of the $1s$ state may indicate a weak absorption strength. The emulsion analysis is now on-going and it is expected to find more events like the “IRRAWADDY” event which may clarify the energy and the width of the $1s$ and the $1p$ states.

The ALICE experimental group reported their result related to the $p - \Xi^-$ strong interaction by using two-particle $p - \Xi^-$ correlation from p -Pb collisions with $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV, this method is called “femtoscopy” [6]. Since the measured $p - \Xi^-$ correlation is significantly enhanced with respect to the only Coulomb prediction, the presence of an additional $p - \Xi^-$ attractive interaction is suggested. The data are compatible with recent lattice calculations by the HAL-QCD Collaboration.

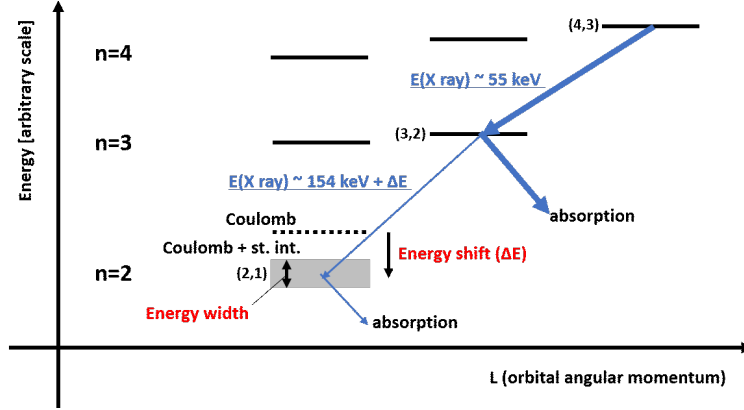


Figure 2: Level scheme of Ξ^- C atom.

For theoretical studies, the Nijmegen group has constructed various baryon-baryon interaction models based on one boson exchange picture. Most of the models predict a repulsive ΞN interaction, while a recent model called ESC16 presented an attractive ΞN interaction [7]. HAL QCD group has started to provide baryon-baryon interactions with lattice QCD method. Recently, a lattice QCD calculation near the physical point presented a ΞN potential [8] which shows much weaker $\Xi N - \Lambda\Lambda$ term. Chiral effective field theory is also a powerful new tool for understanding hadronic interactions. The recent study presented properties of the Ξ^- in the nuclear medium at the next-to-leading-order level [9].

X-ray spectroscopy of Ξ^- C atom

Because of limited knowledge obtained from experimental results, there is no established interaction model in $S = -2$ channels. Various models [10, 11, 12] estimated the depth of the ΞA optical potential. However, the derived potential are different among interaction models which demonstrates that the experimental information on U_{Ξ} is crucially important in order to discriminate reasonable interaction models.

Here, we propose the measurement of X rays from a Ξ atom to obtain information on the ΞN interaction. X-ray spectroscopy of hadronic atoms give us various information on strong interaction between hadrons and nuclei. This method has been successfully applied for negatively charged hadrons (π^- , K^- , \bar{p} , and Σ^-). The negatively charged hadrons can approach to the nuclear surface, giving energy shifts of atomic states by attraction/repulsion as well as their energy widths by absorption. Therefore, the X-ray energy shift and width give information on the real and imaginary parts of the optical potential. In the $S = -1$ sector, for example, more than twenty data points are available for Σ^- atoms for a wide mass range of nuclei which give constraint on the Σ^- -nuclear

optical potentials [13]. On the other hand, no experimental data for Ξ -atomic X ray exists at present. Aiming a measurement of X rays from Ξ^- atoms for a wide mass range of target nuclei, we have conducted two experiments, J-PARC E07(2016-2017) and J-PARC E03(2020-2021). Analysis of these experiments is on-going and we will report the results in near future.

In this proposed experiment, a carbon target was selected because of a technical reason and an additional motivation related to the emulsion data for $S = -2$ bound systems discussed below. Furthermore, we have a chance to obtain a part of data for Ξ^- -atomic X rays from the carbon target in an approved experiment as described in section 2. In the proposed experiment, we will measure two X-ray transitions of $(n, l) = (4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ and $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ from Ξ^- C atoms, corresponding X-ray energies are ~ 55 keV and ~ 154 keV, respectively. Figure 2 shows a level scheme of the Ξ^- C atom. The finite energy shift and natural width would be appeared in the $(2, 1)$ state. By measuring the energy shift and width and comparing them with expected values with only Coulomb interaction, we can obtain information of the real and the imaginary parts of the ΞA optical potential. Because of a large absorption probability in the $(2, 1)$ state, no X ray is expected to be emitted from the state. Furthermore, because the $(3, 2)$ state would also have absorption probability, the yield of the X rays of the “lower” transition $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ should be smaller than that of the “upper” transition $(4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$. This yield ratio of the “upper” and the “lower” transitions also have information of the imaginary part of the potential. A preliminarily theoretical study for the X rays from Ξ^- C atoms using cascade model calculation suggest the energy shift (ΔE) and the width (Γ) of the $(2, 1)$ state to be $\Delta E > 1$ MeV and $\Gamma \sim 270$ keV with the ND potential and $\Delta E \sim 90$ keV and $\Gamma \sim 6$ keV with the HAL potential [14]. The calculation also suggest an expected yield ratio of the “upper” and the “lower” transitions to be $1/3$ with the ND potential and almost the same with the HAL potential. Because there are large differences in suggested energy shifts and widths with the potentials, experimental data on Ξ^- C atomic X rays may give a strong constraint to distinguish interaction models.

Impact on emulsion data

Ξ -atomic X-ray data for light nuclei may have another impact on the emulsion data, such as “NAGARA” event which gives the binding energy of double Λ s ($B_{\Lambda\Lambda}[\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He}]$) of 6.91 ± 0.16 MeV [15]. In this analysis, the binding energy of Ξ^- C atom (B_Ξ) is necessary to obtain the $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ value from kinematics at the production point of $\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He}$. The B_Ξ value of 0.13 MeV, corresponding to the binding energy of $(3, 2)$ Ξ -atomic state, was adapted to the analysis. This atomic state is assumed to be occupied just before the absorption because highest Ξ^- absorption probability per Ξ^- stop is expected according to a theoretical suggestion. However, the atomic state occupied just before the absorption may be different

if the absorption strength is different from the expectation. The absorption strength, and thus which is the “before absorption” state, should be confirmed by Ξ -atomic X-ray spectroscopy. Ξ -atomic X-ray data for nuclei contained in the emulsion (carbon, nitrogen and oxygen) may help the emulsion analysis.

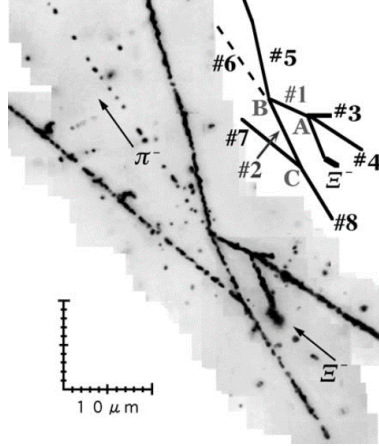


Figure 3: Emulsion image of NAGARA event [15]. This event shows production and decay of a double Λ hypernucleus, ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He}$; $\Xi^- + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow {}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} + t$, ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} \rightarrow {}_{\Lambda}{}^5\text{He} + p + \pi^-$.

2 Strategy of Ξ^- C atomic X-ray measurement

We had tried to measure X rays from Ξ^- carbon atoms in J-PARC E07 [2016-2017], systematic study of the doubly strangeness system with an emulsion-counter hybrid method [17]. Details of the measurement are shown in Appendix A.1. No clear peak structure was found in X-ray spectra and only upper limit of X-ray yield per Ξ^- stop was obtained. The preliminary result shows upper limit of ~ 0.4 (assuming the energy width of 1 keV in X-ray energy region of 100-200 keV). This value is almost the same as a theoretical case study with the Lattice QCD potential [14], $\sim 0.4 / \Xi^-$ stop. Technical reasons of the limited sensitivity for the X-ray measurement are follows; (1) the beam K^- intensity was limited for smaller contamination of π^- in the beam which make dummy tracks in the nuclear emulsion, (2) the acceptance of a X-ray detector (a Ge detector array, Hyperball-X) was limited due to interferences with the emulsion and its mover system and (3) no direct constraint for selecting Ξ^- stop events, where we applied a rejection with information of a forward counter and a kinematic selection for low momentum Ξ^- s.

We will retry the measurement for Ξ^- C atoms with an improved sensitivity in the proposed experiment. X-ray measurement using the same type Ge detector array combined with an Active Fiber Target (AFT) system can improve disadvantages in the previous

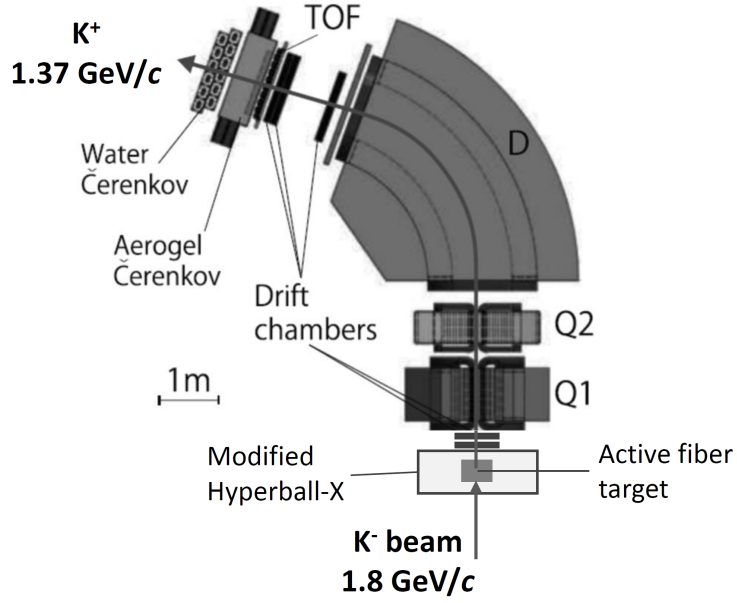


Figure 4: Experimental setup of the proposed experiment.

measurement, namely (1) higher beam intensity can be used without the emulsion, (2) Ge detectors can be closer to the target thanks to a cross shape of AFT and (3) track information of AFT can be used for the Ξ^- stop selection. We have a chance to take data of Ξ^- C atomic X rays in parallel with J-PARC E70, spectroscopic study of Ξ^- hypernucleus with the S-2S spectrometer [3], in which an active fiber target system will be installed for an energy loss correction. It is expected that peak structures of the X rays from Ξ^- C atoms will be observed with the the number of K^- beams requested for J-PARC E70, while an accuracy on the energy shift and width is not sufficient due to limited statistics. In addition, there are large uncertainties on the X-ray yield estimation as described in section 4. Therefore, we are considering two phase data-taking for the proposed experiment, the phase-1 for observation of X rays from Ξ^- C atoms to obtain realistic X-ray yield estimation and the phase-2 for measurement of the finite energy shifts and widths. The phase-1 data-taking can be done in the J-PARC E70 beam time. After an analysis of the phase-1 data, we will reconsider about necessary beam time for the phase-2 data-taking and report it in the PAC meeting.

3 Experimental method and detector system

The proposed experiment will be performed at the K1.8 beam line together with the Beamline spectrometer, the S-2S spectrometer and an Ge detector array, modified Hyperball-X. Figure 4 shows a schematic view of the experimental setup. The setup is common with the J-PARC E70 except for the modified Hyperball-X.

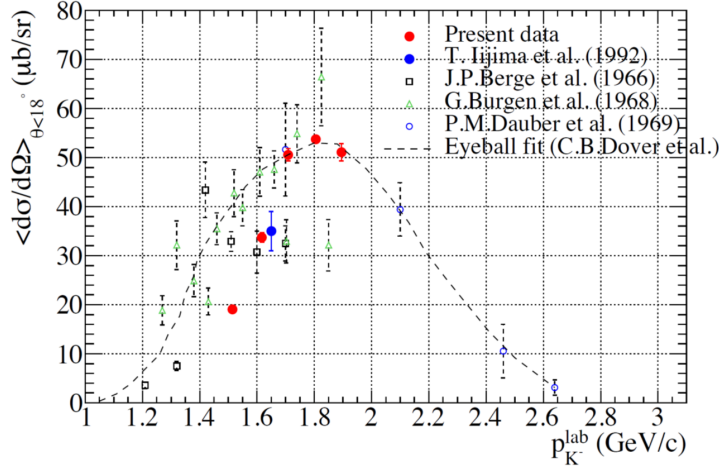


Figure 5: the cross section of the elementary process, $p(K^-, K^+)\Xi^-$ as a function of beam K^- momentum [16].

Ξ^- is produced by the (K^-, K^+) reaction at 1.8 GeV/ c where the cross section of the elementary process, $p(K^-, K^+)\Xi^-$, is at maximum as shown in Fig.5. Beam K^- s and scattered K^+ s are particle identified and momentum analyzed by magnetic spectrometers, the Beamline spectrometer and the S-2S spectrometer, respectively. Details of them are shown in section 3.1 and 3.2. Events of Ξ^- productions will be selected by a missing-mass analysis based on measured momenta in the Beamline and S-2S spectrometers. A missing-mass resolution better than 30 MeV is enough for a tagging of Ξ^- productions as in the case of the previous Ξ^- -atomic X-ray spectroscopy (J-PARC E03) using KURAMA spectrometer described in Appendix A.2. Therefore, The Beamline and S-2S spectrometer systems, in which an expected missing-mass resolution is better than 2 MeV, has sufficient performance for this measurement. For X-ray detection, Hyperball-X, which was used in the previous Ξ^- -atomic X-ray spectroscopy J-PARC E07 and E03, will be installed with modified geometrical configuration considering interferences with a target system. Details are shown in section 3.3. Active Fiber Target (AFT) will be used as a carbon target of which track information can be used for the Ξ^- stop identification. Details of the AFT system are shown in section 3.4. Description of a trigger and a data-acquisition (DAQ) system is also shown in section 3.5.

3.1 K1.8 beam line and Beamline spectrometer

The J-PARC K1.8 beam line was constructed to carry out missing-mass spectroscopy of hypernuclei both for $S = -1$ and -2 sectors and exotic hadrons. Secondary meson beams are produced at a primary target (Au, 66 mm thickness) placed at the most upstream in Hadron Experimental Facility by irradiating proton beam from J-PARC

30-GeV synchrotron. Secondary beams are delivered to the K1.8 beam line which was designed to provide separated pions and kaons with the momentum up to ~ 2 GeV/ c having $\sim 3\%$ momentum bite. For the kaon beam, good K/π separation with reasonable intensities is realized by removing pion contamination using two electrostatic separators (ESS1, ESS2) with a length of 6 m each and with mass slits installed at downstream of each separator. Furthermore, intermediate focus (IF) slits reject cloud pions generated near the primary target. The length between the primary target and the experimental target is ~ 46 m. We conducted beam optics tuning in the previous experiment J-PARC E42 performed in 2021. With the optimized parameters of the beam line optics, the K^- intensity at the experimental target was $\sim 800 \times 10^3$ per spill for $p_K = 1.8$ GeV/ c with the primary proton intensity of 6.8×10^{13} ppp. K/π ratio was measured to be 1:1 with this condition.

For the momentum-analysis of beam particles, the beamline spectrometer consists of QQDQQ magnets, with detectors for tracking (a scintillation fiber counter[BFT], drift chambers [BC3,4]). This system is completely common with the setup for J-PARC E70. The incident K^- momentum will be reconstructed using a third-order beam transport matrix with a hit position in BFT at the upstream of the magnets and a straight track measured by BC3 and BC4 at the downstream. The designed momentum resolution is $\Delta p/p = 3.3 \times 10^{-4}$ (FWHM) with the position accuracy of 0.2 mm (rms) for a measured beam trajectory. For the particle identification, time-of-flight analysis is applied using a time difference between BH1 and BH2, installed at up- and down-stream of the QQDQQ magnets, respectively. BH1 and BH2 are plastic scintillation counters which are horizontally segmented. An aerogel Cherenkov counter (BAC) will be installed for generating a data-taking trigger.

Details of the detector are described in [18, 19]. The detector system already exists at the K1.8 beam line and well established in the previous experiments.

3.2 S-2S spectrometer

The K^+ s scattered at forward angle from the (K^-, K^+) reaction are momentum analyzed with the S-2S spectrometer. This system is also completely common with the setup for J-PARC E70. The spectrometer consists of two quadrupole magnets and one dipole magnet (QQD). The first quadrupole magnet focuses the particles in vertical, and the next one in horizontal. A large aperture of the two quadrupole magnets keeps the solid angle as large as 55 msr. The bending angle for the central momentum of the dipole magnet is 70 degrees at 1.37 GeV/ c , which is typical value for K^+ produced in the (K^-, K^+) reaction with a 1.8 GeV/ c beam. The momentum acceptance of the S-2S is 1.2–1.6 GeV/ c . For lower ratio of the K^+ 's decay in flight, the flight length is kept as short as 9 m with a survival rate of 40%. The momentum resolution of the S-2S is estimated from a simu-

lation and found to be 5.5×10^{-4} (FWHM) by assuming the position resolution of drift chambers to be $250 \mu\text{m}$.

For the momentum analysis, the trajectory of scattered K^+ s will be reconstructed based on position information measured by the drift chambers at upstream (SDC1,2) and downstream (SDC3–5) of the QQD magnets using the magnetic field distribution calculated by the TOSCA code with corrections based on a measured magnetic field. These detectors have effective areas wide enough to cover the scattered particle profile. The S-2S pole gap will be filled with He gas contained in a bag with $16 \mu\text{m}$ -thick Mylar windows to reduce multiple scattering. For the particle identification, time-of-flight analysis is applied using a time difference between BH2 and TOF. TOF is a plastic scintillation counter which is horizontally segmented. Counters for generating a data-taking trigger will be installed: an aerogel Cherenkov counter (AC: refractive index $n=1.055$) for π^+ veto, and a water Cherenkov counter (WC: $n=1.33$) for proton veto.

Installation of the S-2S magnet system to the K1.8 beam line was already done in early 2022 and their detectors will be ready by fall 2022.

3.3 Modified Hyperball-X (Hyperball-X')

X rays will be detected by a Ge detector array by taking a coincidence with magnetic spectrometers. The Ge detector array, modified Hyperball-X, will be installed near the target. Modified Hyperball-X consists of four Clover-type Ge detector and two Single-type Ge detector, equipped with $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ge}_3\text{O}_{12}$ (BGO) counters surrounding each Ge crystal to suppress background events such as Compton scattering and high energy photons from π^0 decay. Components of the array is almost common with a Ge detector array (Hyperball-X) used in the previous experiments J-PARC E07[2016-2017] and E03[2020-2021]. As shown in Fig. 6(a), the detector configuration of modified Hyperball-X is arranged so as to avoid interferences between Hyperball-X detectors, trigger counters and the AFT system. Clover-type Ge detectors were installed at corner positions of the AFT system for a large solid angle and a low counting rate of each Ge crystal. Single type detector will be installed at up-stream side of the target where the counting rate is expected to be not serious. Photo-peak efficiencies for the array are estimated based on a Monte-Carlo simulation using the GEANT4 code as shown in Fig. 6(b). The plots shows the efficiency curve as a function of a X-ray energy with and without an effect of self-absorption inside the target. The photo-peak efficiencies are expected to be 3.9% and 3.8% for 55 keV and 154 keV, respectively. With this configuration, modified Hyperball-X will not affect the performance of the AFT system, and thus no effect is expected for the main purpose of J-PARC E70.

High energy resolution has great merit for the small ($<1 \text{ keV}$) energy width case, even if dead time due to signal pileups become longer. To optimize for a beam intensity of 0.5–1

MHz, slow type shaping amplifiers, ORTEC 671, will be used for the modified Hyperball-X, while fast type shaping amplifiers should be used for a higher beam intensity. In the previous experiment J-PARC E03, a typical energy resolution was ~ 2 keV (FWHM) for 202 keV.

A Lu_2SiO_5 (LSO) scintillator will be installed adjacent to each of the Ge detectors and used as a triggerable calibration source, it is called “LSO pulser”. The crystal contains ^{176}Lu , with a natural abundance of 2.6%, which emits 202 keV and 307 keV γ rays. The LSO pulser provides a timing signal for γ -ray emissions from ^{176}Lu by detecting a β ray. Through a $\beta - \gamma$ coincidence measurement between a LSO pulser and a Ge detector, we can discern γ rays from ^{176}Lu efficiently even in the in-beam condition. Data taken during beam spill and off the beam spill will be used for an energy calibration and a monitoring of the performance of the Ge detectors over the beam time. In the previous experiments J-PARC E07 and E03, this method was successfully applied with an accuracy of the energy calibration of 0.05 keV.

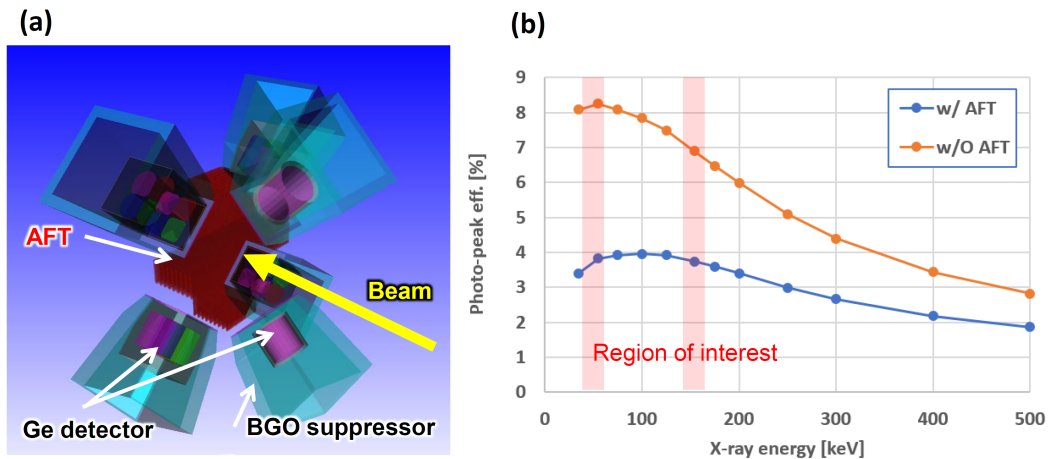


Figure 6: Schematic view of a Ge detector array (modified Hyperball-X) (a) and its photo peak efficiencies (b).

3.4 Active Fiber Target (AFT)

In J-PARC E70, spectroscopic study of Ξ^- hypernucleus with the high resolution S-2S spectrometer, a 9 g/cm^2 thick target will be used to gain yield of Ξ hypernuclei. To achieve a good missing-mass resolution of better than 2 MeV(FWHM) required for the purpose of J-PARC E70, the Active Fiber Target (AFT) system is introduced for measuring actual energy losses inside the target. AFT is made of scintillating fibers. As shown in Fig. 7(a), we will use $\phi 3 \text{ mm}$ scintillation fibers (Saint-Gobain, BCF-10SC) to

make the net target size of $5\text{cm}[\text{H}] \times 10\text{cm}[\text{W}] \times 10\text{cm}[\text{T}]$. By recording the pulse height of each scintillation fiber via MPPCs with EASIROC modules, we can correct the energy loss for tracks of beam K^- s and scattered K^+ s. Thus we can keep the energy resolution better than 2 MeV(FWHM) even with the thick target.

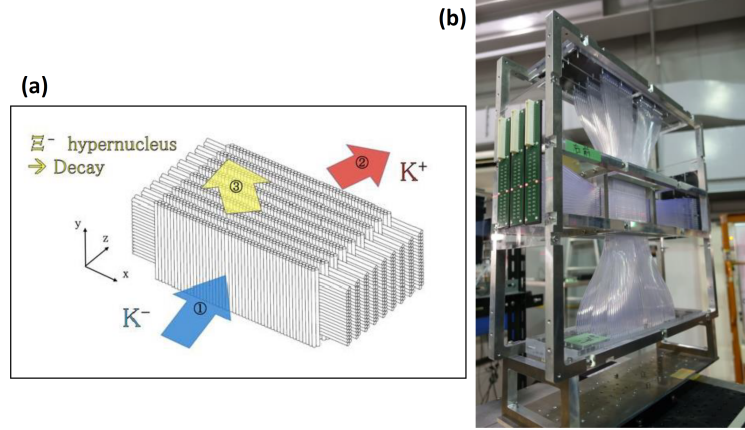


Figure 7: Schematic view of Active Fiber Target (a) and photo of a part of AFT for test experiments (b).

For the X-ray measurement, track information of AFT can be used for tagging Ξ^- stop events. Event selection can be made by finding tracks of Ξ^- s produced via the (K^-, K^+) reaction followed by a vertex of the Ξ^- absorption into a carbon nuclei. With this selection, we can reject dominant background sources such as (1) Ξ^- s pass through and exit the target and (2) Ξ^- s decay in-flight inside. Actually, more than 90% of the produced Ξ^- will decay before stop because of the small stopping power of the target material. Figure 8 shows sample event displays of the Ξ^- stop event and the Ξ^- decay event. In the analysis, we will select Ξ^- tracks with a long flight path (>4 cm) and a large energy deposit (>15 MeV) at the end of the track. This analysis procedure was tested using a Monte Carlo simulation. The background rejection ratio is expected to be $\sim 95\%$ with the 70% survival ratio for the Ξ^- stop events. This event selection may much improve the signal to noise ratio for X-ray measurement. Furthermore, it may be possible to obtain a better signal to noise ratio by introducing further analysis procedure, such as Ξ^- flight direction selection using measured momenta of K^- and K^+ .

A part of AFT system had been constructed as shown in Fig. 7(b) and its performance was evaluated in test experiments at RCNP and ELPH [16]. It was found that the energy resolution of the fiber is $\Delta E/E = 10\%$ at $\Delta E = 0.7$ MeV which corresponds to the mean energy loss of kaons in J-PARC E70. Full set of AFT will be constructed near future and installed to the K1.8 beam line in fall 2022.

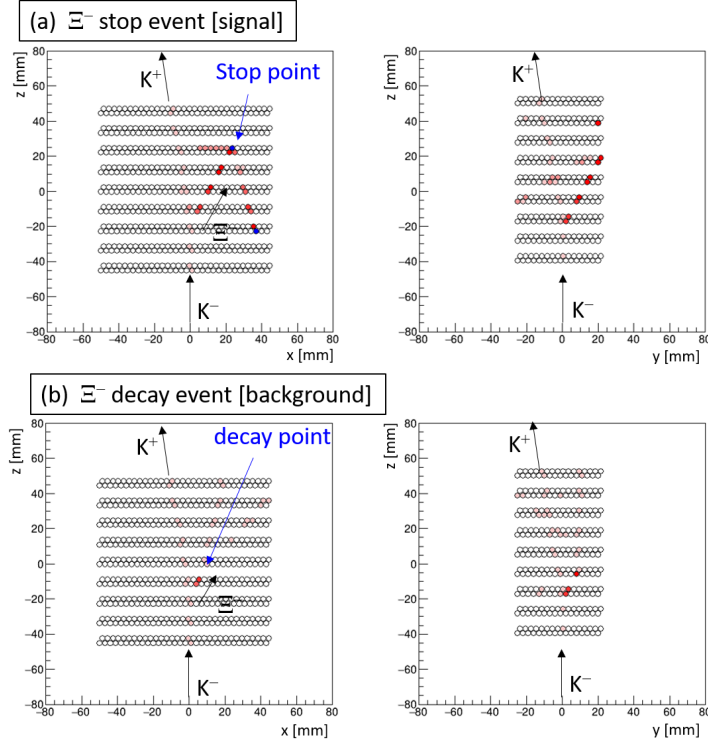


Figure 8: Event displays of the Ξ^- stop event (a) and the Ξ^- decay event (b) obtained by a Monte Carlo simulation. Colors denote energy deposits in each fiber. Blue color shows a energy deposit of >15 MeV.

3.5 Trigger and Data acquisition system

To select true (K^- , K^+) reaction events from a large amount of backgrounds such as (K^- , π^+) events, a data-taking trigger will be constructed by using information of trigger counters: plastic scintillation counters (BH1, BH2, TOF), aerogel Cherenkov counters (BAC, AC) and a water Cherenkov counter (WC). K^- beam trigger and out-going K^+ trigger are generated as “BH1 \times BH2 \times BAC” and “TOF \times AC \times WC”, respectively. This system is common with that for J-PARC E70. The expected trigger rate is less than 200 counts/spill as described in the technical design report of J-PARC E70 [16]. The DAQ efficiency is expected to be more than 95% with this trigger rate.

DAQ system and components for magnetic spectrometers will be almost same as those used for the previous experiment J-PARC E40 [2018-2020] and common with J-PARC E70. Network oriented readout modules, HUL and EASIROC, will be integrated by a network-based data-taking system (HD-DAQ) [20]. Data from each module are gathered by controllers having network interfaces with TCP/IP protocol. Event matching for data from each module will be controlled by MTM/RM system.

For the X-ray measurement, an independent DAQ system for readout of the modified

Hyperball-X (Ge detectors and BGO counters) will be constructed. ADC/TDC data will be gathered to HUL modules and then to a host computer. This system is the same as the previous X-ray measurement in J-PARC E03. A dead time of this DAQ system is almost same as that for the magnetic spectrometers. An event matching procedure between DAQ systems of the magnetic spectrometers and modified Hyperball-X had been evaluated in the previous experiment J-PARC E07. This independent DAQ system for modified Hyperball-X has no adverse effect on the DAQ system for the magnetic spectrometers.

4 Expected result

4.1 Expected X-ray yield

Expected X-ray yields in the phase-1 data-taking of the proposed experiment are shown in this section. Here, we assume a number of K^- beams expected in J-PARC E70, corresponding to 20 days beam time with 80kW MR operation. The X-ray yield $N_X(4 \rightarrow 3)$ for the “upper” $(n, l) = (4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ transition is estimated to be 22 counts in the following way. $N_X(4 \rightarrow 3)$ can be written as

$$N_X(4 \rightarrow 3) = N_{stopped \Xi^-} \times R_X \times \eta_X \times \epsilon_X,$$

where

$N_{stopped \Xi^-}$: Number of stopped Ξ^- in the target.

R_X : Intensity of the X ray of interest per stopped Ξ^- .

η_X : Probability that the X ray passes through the target uninteracted.

ϵ_X : X ray detection efficiency of the modified Hyperball-X.

and $N_{stopped \Xi^-}$ can be represented by

$$N_{stopped \Xi^-} = N_{beam} \times N_{target} \times \sigma_{\Xi^-} \times \Omega_{K^+} \times \epsilon_{K^+} \times \epsilon_{others} \times R_{\Xi^-} \times \epsilon_{AFT}$$

where

N_{beam} : Number of total K^- beam (3.3×10^{11}).

N_{target} : Target thickness (4.3×10^{23} atoms/cm² for both C and H).

σ_{Ξ^-} : Differential cross section of the $(K^-, K^+)\Xi^-$ reaction.

Ω_{K^+} : Acceptance of the S-2S spectrometer (55 msr).

ϵ_{K^+} : Overall efficiency of K^+ detection system.

ϵ_{others} : Overall efficiency due to DAQ deadtime and trigger efficiency.

R_{Ξ^-} : Stopping probability of produced Ξ^- .

ϵ_{AFT} : Survival ratio of Ξ^- stop selection using AFT.

Estimation of the parameters are explained in the following. σ_{Ξ^-} for a carbon target can be taken from Ref. [21] as $38 \times A^{0.38} \mu\text{b/sr}$ and is about $134 \mu\text{b/sr}$. That for hydrogen

target can be taken as $52 \mu\text{b}/\text{sr}$ as shown in Fig. 5. ϵ_{K^+} is estimated to be 0.3, including the effect of K^+ decay loss, based on the estimation for J-PARC E70 because of the common K^+ detecting system (S-2S). ϵ_{others} is assumed to be 0.8. Therefore, the number of produced Ξ^- is 3.7×10^5 by summing contributions from both carbon and hydrogen in the target. R_{Ξ^-} and ϵ_{AFT} are estimated to be 1.2% and 70% by a GEANT4 simulation. As mentioned in section 3.4, there is possibility to increase ϵ_{AFT} by improvement of tracking analysis using AFT's hit information. Then, $N_{\text{stopped } \Xi^-}$ is estimated to be 3.1×10^3 .

There are uncertainties in estimating R_X in the calculation of cascade process in the Ξ^- atom. According to a calculation [14], R_X for the transition $(4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ in Ξ^- C atom is 0.3–0.4. We take $R_X = 0.3$ for this yield estimation. $\eta_X \times \epsilon_X$ are estimated by a GEANT4 simulation to be 3.9% and 3.8% for 55 keV and 154 keV X rays, respectively. In addition, in-beam deadtime of the Ge detectors should be included in the ϵ_X . From our experience in the previous measurement (J-PARC E03, 2020-2021), the dead time is estimated to be 0.7. Therefore, $\eta_X \times \epsilon_X$ is expected to be $0.039 \times 0.7 = 0.027$. By considering these efficiencies, we obtained the expected yield of the “upper” transition (~ 55 keV) to be $N_X(4 \rightarrow 3) = 22$ counts.

For the the “lower” transition $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ of Ξ^- C atom, there are very large uncertainties on estimation of R_X because of strong dependencies on the absorption potential we want to know. Theoretical calculation shows the branching ratio of 30–100% for the X-ray transition $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ with the potentials. Therefore, we take the branching ratio of 50% corresponding to R_X of 0.15. The yields of the transition $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ (~ 154 keV) can be calculated to be $N_X(3 \rightarrow 2) = 11$ counts.

4.2 Expected sensitivity

We estimated expected sensibility of the proposed measurement for observation of the X rays from the transition $(4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ and $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ of Ξ^- C atoms in the phase-1 data taking, with the number of K^- beams expected in J-PARC E70. Figure 9 shows expected X-ray energy spectra with the phase-1 statistics. The background in the X-ray spectrum is estimated based on data of a test experiment for J-PARC E03 [2018] in which the background level was studied with actual detectors and beams by selecting the (K^-, K^+) reaction by KURAMA spectrometer. Measured background level in the test experiment is scaled for difference of the acceptance of the Ge detectors and a number of beams. In addition, contamination of the Ξ^- decay background due to miss identifications in the AFT analysis is taken into account. The spectrum (a) corresponds to the transition $(4, 3) \rightarrow (3, 2)$ of which the energy width is expected to be match smaller than our detector resolution. Peak structure can be observed with the phase-1 statistics. On the other hand, as shown in Fig.9 (b) and (c), the sensitivity for the X rays of the transition $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ will be much affected by the the absorption strength. We have

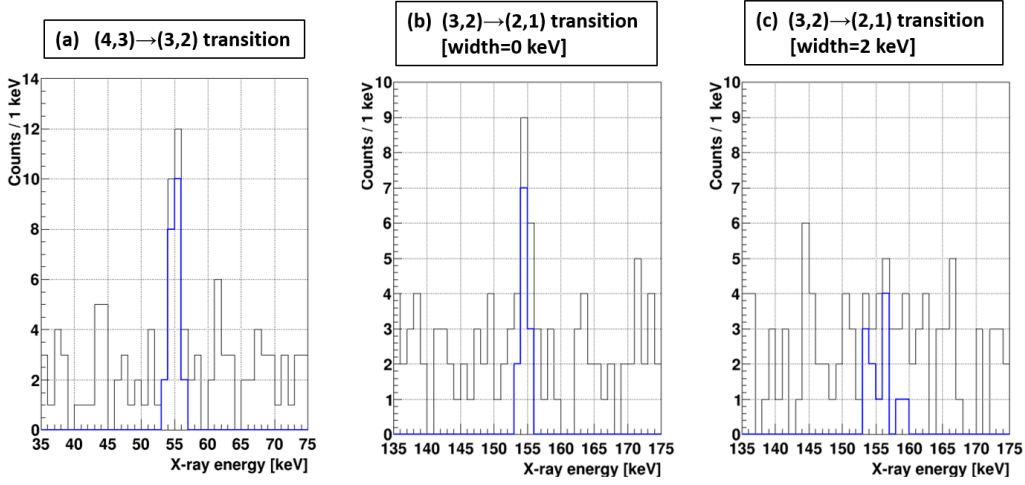


Figure 9: Expected X-ray energy spectrum (a) for the transition $(4,3) \rightarrow (3,2)$ and (b) for the transition $(3,2) \rightarrow (2,1)$ with no natural width. (c) is the same as (b) with a width of 2 keV.

a chance to obtain peak structure with the phase-1 statistics if branching ratio of X rays from the $(3,2)$ state is higher than 50% and the energy width is lower than 1 keV. An accuracy for the energy shift $\sigma(\Delta E)$ of the transition $(4,3) \rightarrow (3,2)$ is expected to be $\sigma(\Delta E) = 0.4$ keV, assuming a negligible small energy width (Γ) than the detector resolution. For the transition $(3,2) \rightarrow (2,1)$, $\sigma(\Delta E)$ is expected to be 0.5 keV if $\Gamma = 0$ keV.

With the number of K^- expected in J-PARC E70, the sensitivity seems to be low for the case of the width of more than 1 keV. Furthermore, accuracies for the energy shift and the width may not sufficient with this limited statistics. Therefore, we will request additional beam time as phase-2 after the phase-1 data taking. For a case study, the sensitivity with three times higher statistics is estimated with the same condition as the phase-1. The accuracy for the energy shift $\sigma(\Delta E)$ for the transition $(4,3) \rightarrow (3,2)$ is expected to be $\sigma(\Delta E) = 0.2$ keV. For the transition $(3,2) \rightarrow (2,1)$, it is possible to observe the peak structure even if the width is 2 keV. The accuracies for the energy shift for the transition $(3,2) \rightarrow (2,1)$ are $\sigma(\Delta E) = 0.3$ keV and 0.7 keV in the case of $\Gamma = 0$ keV and 2 keV, respectively. As already mentioned, there are large uncertainties on this yield estimation because of uncertainties on the theoretical calculation and unknown absorption strength which affect both the yield and the energy width. Therefore, we will reconsider about necessary statistics for the phase-2 data taking based on an analysis of the phase-1 data.

5 Beamtime request

We request 20 days beamtime for the phase-1 physics data taking assuming 80 kW MR operation, corresponding to $1600 \text{ kW} \times \text{days}$. This physics beamtime can be sheared with J-PARC E70 physics data taking without any adverse effect for the E70 purpose. With this phase-1 beamtime, we will irradiate $3.3 \times 10^{11} \text{ K}^- \text{s}$ in total on the target. Additionally, we need some commissioning beamtime for beam tuning, detector startup, performance test and calibration. For the beam tuning and the E70 common detectors such as the beamline and S-2S magnetic spectrometers and AFT system, about 2 weeks beam time is necessary as requested from the E70 group. We can also share this commissioning beamtime. In addition, we request 1 day dedicated beam time for performance test and calibration of modified Hyperball-X.

6 Time schedule and cost estimation

Most of the detectors, the beamline and S-2S spectrometer and AFT system, are common with E70. The readout and front-end electronics for these detectors are also common. The beamline spectrometer is existing and well established by the previous experiments [18]. We will reuse this spectrometer system without any modification. The S-2S spectrometer is under construction at the K1.8 beamline since Jan. 2022. Detectors for S-2S are already exist and ready for installation, scheduled in summer to autumn 2022. AFT system is under construction in Kyoto University and will be ready for installation in summer 2022. For these common detectors, no additional construction and preparation work is necessary to realize the proposed X-ray measurement.

Modified Hyperball-X is almost the same as Hyperball-X used in the previous E07 and E03 experiments while the detector position is optimized for AFT system. Ge detectors and BGO counters for Hyperball-X (property of Tohoku University) will be reused for the proposed experiment. Their performances were evaluated in the E07 and E03 experiments. New support frame for these detectors will be constructed with the Grant-in-Aid. The readout electronics used in Hyperball-X (property of Tohoku University) will be reuse for modified Hyperball-X. The construction and installation of modified Hyperball-X will be finished by the end of 2022, after maintenance work for the Ge detectors.

All the detectors will be ready by Dec. 2022, when the E70 preparation is also expected to be finished. Estimated cost is summarized in Table 1.

7 Summary

X-ray spectroscopy of hadronic atoms is a powerful tool to investigate strong interaction between the hadron and nuclei. No experimental data for Ξ -atomic X ray exists at

Table 1: Estimated cost

Item	Cost[kJY]	Comments
(K^-, K^+) reaction tagging system		
Beamline spectrometer	–	existing
S-2S spectrometer	–	common with E70
X-ray detection system		
Ge detectors (total 6 detectors)	–	existing
BGO counters (total 6 units)	–	existing
LSO counters	–	existing
Electronics and DAQ system	–	existing
Support frame structure	500	Grant-In Aid (granted)
Target system		
Active Fiber Target	–	common with E70
Electronics and DAQ system	–	common with E70
Electronics		
NIM, CAMAC, VME modules	–	existing
Rack, Bin, Crate etc.	–	existing
DAQ system	–	existing
Data storage	100	Grant-In Aid (granted)

present. We are aiming for measurement of X rays from Ξ^- atoms for a wide mass range of target nuclei. In this proposed experiment, a carbon target was selected because of a technical reason and an additional motivation. We have conducted the first experiment for Ξ^- C atomic X-ray spectroscopy in J-PARC E07 and found no clear peak structure because of technical limitations. The sensitivity will be improved in the proposed experiment by introducing an Active Fiber Target (AFT) system which will be used in J-PARC E70, expected to be run in 2023. We are planning phase-1 data-taking for the X-ray spectroscopy in parallel with J-PARC E70 using the S-2S spectrometer, AFT and modified Hyperball-X. Expected beam time for physics run is 20 days (common with J-PARC E70) assuming 80kW MR operation as requested by the J-PARC E70 collaboration. For the X-ray spectroscopy, additional 1 day commissioning beam time is necessary for the modified Hyperball-X just before the physics run, while commissioning for other apparatus is common with E70. Two X-ray transitions will be observed with the phase-1 statistics. However, there are uncertainties on the yield estimation of X rays and the energy width. We will reconsider about necessary statistics for the phase-2 data-taking to obtain sufficient accuracy for the energy shifts and widths.

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Appendix:

Previous Ξ^- -atomic X-ray spectroscopy at J-PARC

No experimental data for Ξ -atomic X ray exists at present. Aiming at the world-first detection of the X rays, we have conducted two experiments, J-PARC E07(2016-2017) and J-PARC E03(2020-2021). Preliminary reports from these experiments are shown below.

A.1 Measurement for Ξ^- atoms with C, Br and Ag in J-PARC E07

Our first measurement of Ξ -atomic X rays has been performed as a byproduct of J-PARC E07 experiment, search for double Λ hypernuclei and Ξ hypernuclei with hybrid emulsion technique. The data taking was done in 2016-2017. Figure 10(a) shows experimental setup around the target. In this experiment, hypernuclei were produced via Ξ^- capture by nuclei in a emulsion stack. Ξ^- s were produced via the (K^-, K^+) reaction and injected into the emulsion. Stopped Ξ^- s should form Ξ atoms before the hypernuclear production reaction. Tracks of Ξ^- , measured by KURAMA spectrometer, were used for a track following procedure for emulsion analysis. By applying this method, called hybrid emulsion technique, we found Ξ^- stop events efficiently.

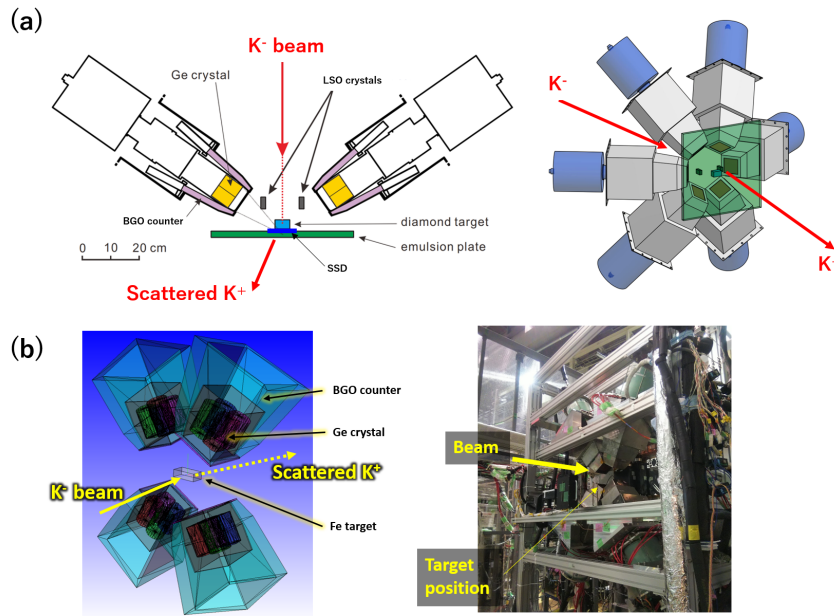


Figure 10: Experimental setup around the target in (a) J-PARC E07 and (b) J-PARC E03.

For the X-ray measurement, a germanium(Ge) detector array, Hyperball-X, was installed near the emulsion stack. The array can mount six detector units which consist of a Ge detector and BGO counters. When Ξ^- s stop in emulsion, it is possible to form Ξ atoms with nuclei contained in the emulsion: C, O, N, O, Br and Ag. It is noted that yields of Ξ atoms with Ag and Br are expected to be large because Ξ^- will be mostly captured by heavy nuclei. In addition, some of the Ξ^- s may also stop inside the Ξ^- production target, a 3.2 g/cm² thick diamond. Ξ^- C atoms can be formed in such events. In this measurement, we applied two methods to observe Ξ -atomic X rays; (1) combined analysis with Ξ^- stop identification using emulsion information, and (2) coincidence with only Ξ^- production without emulsion information.

Combined analysis with emulsion information

By selecting Ξ^- stop events with emulsion information, a good signal to noise ratio for the X-ray spectrum is expected while the yield should be low because of a low Ξ^- stopping probability and small abundance of each target nucleus in the emulsion: C, N, O, Br and Ag. Furthermore, the solid angle for the Ge detectors was limited by interferences with the emulsion and tracking system. As already mentioned, X-rays from Ξ^- atoms with Br and Ag are expected to be seen in the Ge detector spectra with this method. Expected X-ray transitions to the “last” Ξ^- -atomic states, which can not emit X-rays because of the strong absorption, are $(n, l) = (7, 6) \rightarrow (6, 5)$ for Br and $(8, 7) \rightarrow (7, 6)$ for Ag. Corresponding X-ray energies are 315 and 370 keV, respectively. At present, the emulsion analysis is ongoing and the number of identified Ξ^- stop events is about 20% of the expected number in full statistics analysis. It is difficult to see peak structure in the X-ray spectrum because expected X-ray counts is ~ 4 with this statistics. Further progress in emulsion analysis is necessary for more Ξ^- stop events.

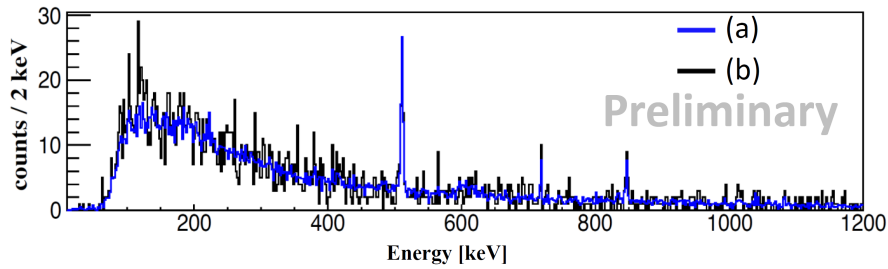


Figure 11: X-ray energy spectrum obtained in J-PARC E07 by an analysis without emulsion information [17]. The spectrum (a) for the events in coincidence with Ξ^- production is scaled. The spectrum (b) for the events in coincidence with Ξ^- having a large stop probability in the target.

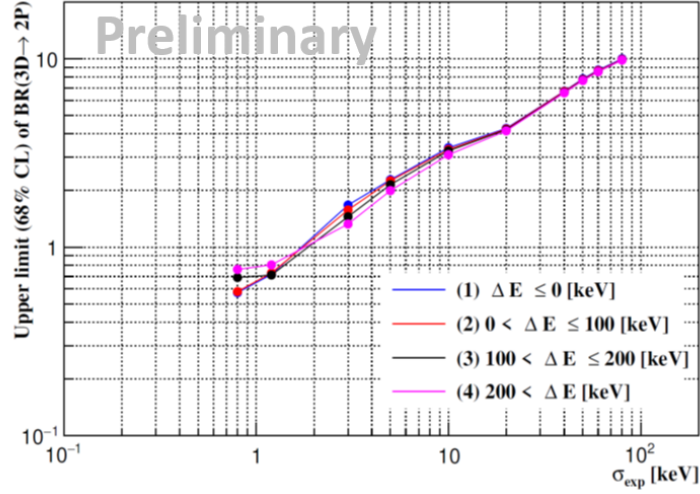


Figure 12: Upper limit of the branching ratio of $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ transition of Ξ^- C atoms obtained in J-PARC E07 as a function of the X-ray peak width [17]. The upper limit of branching ratio was evaluated in the each energy region.

Analysis without emulsion information

Ξ^- C atoms can be formed when produced Ξ^- s stop in the diamond target. In this analysis, we tried to select events in which Ξ^- s do not reach to a SSD placed at just downstream of the diamond target. In addition, by selecting Ξ^- s with low recoil momenta, true X-ray events will be selected efficiently because of a high stop probabilities of those Ξ^- s. However, the signal to noise ratio is lower than the emulsion combined analysis in which Ξ^- stop events are clearly identified. The expected X-ray transition to the “last” Ξ^- C atomic state is $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$, of which corresponding X-ray energy is 154 keV. Unlike in the previous method, the full statistics is available in this analysis without the emulsion analysis. Figure 11 shows preliminary result of X-ray spectrum, where no clear peak structure was observed. We estimated the upper limit for the X-ray yield of the $(3, 2) \rightarrow (2, 1)$ transition to be $\sim 40\%$ / Ξ^- stop assuming 1 keV peak width in the energy region of 100-200 keV as shown in Fig. 12. This limit is close to a value suggested by a theoretical case study with the lattice QCD potential [14]. In this proposed experiment, we will re-try this measurement with an improved sensitivity.

A.2 Ξ^- Fe atom measurement in J-PARC E03

Our second measurement of Ξ^- -atomic X rays has been performed as J-PARC E03 which is a dedicated experiment for Ξ^- -atomic X-ray spectroscopy. We selected iron as a target because of (1) a technical reason; iron is dense (7.9 g/cm^3) enough with a higher

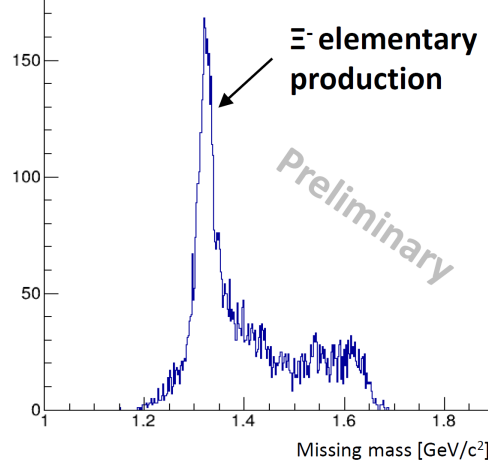


Figure 13: Missing-mass spectrum for the $p(K^-, K^+)X$ reaction with CH_2 target obtained in J-PARC E03 with KURAMA spectrometer.

Ξ^- stopping probability and (2) a physical reason; the expected absorption strength corresponding to the energy width of 4 keV is suitable for our measurement. This energy width is suggested in a theoretical calculation assuming strong absorption with a Woods-Saxon shape optical potential of -24 -3i MeV. On the other hand, a recent lattice QCD calculation predicts an imaginary strength more than one order of magnitude smaller. A sharp peak structure will be observed in the X-ray spectrum in such a weak absorption case. Since the J-PARC beam intensity is currently not enough to take the requested full statistics data, we decided to take 10% of the full statistics data as the 1st phase run. Even with the 1st-phase statistics, it is expected that a peak structure of the X-ray transition to the “last” Ξ^- Fe atomic state, $(6, 5) \rightarrow (5, 4)$ transition, of which energy is ~ 286 keV, can be observed if the energy width is 1 keV, while the full statistics is necessary in the case of 4 keV energy width. Furthermore, the upper X-ray transition, $(7, 6) \rightarrow (6, 5)$ transition with corresponding energy of 172 keV, will be observed without peak broadening because of its narrow energy width. The ratio between the yields of the upper and the lower X-ray transitions gives information on the absorption strength.

In this measurement, Ξ^- s were produced by the (K^-, K^+) reaction in a 24 g/cm^2 thick iron target and stopped in it. Ξ^- production was tagged by the missing mass analysis by reconstructing momenta of beam K^- s and scattered K^+ s with the magnetic spectrometers, K1.8 Beamline spectrometer and KURAMA spectrometer. X rays were detected by a Ge detector array by taking a coincidence with magnetic spectrometers. The Ge detector array, Hyperball-X', was installed near the target as shown in Fig.10(b), instead of another Ge detector array Hyperball-J which will be used for the full statistics run. Hyperball-X' consists of four Ge + BGO counters units covering the upper and lower directions from the target to avoid self-absorption of X rays inside the horizontally wide

iron target. Clover-type Ge detectors were mounted to the array to satisfy both a large solid angle in total and a low counting rate of each Ge crystal. High energy resolution has a great merit in the 1 keV energy width case, even if dead time due to signal pileups is longer. The energy resolution was ~ 2.3 keV (FWHM) for 307 keV.

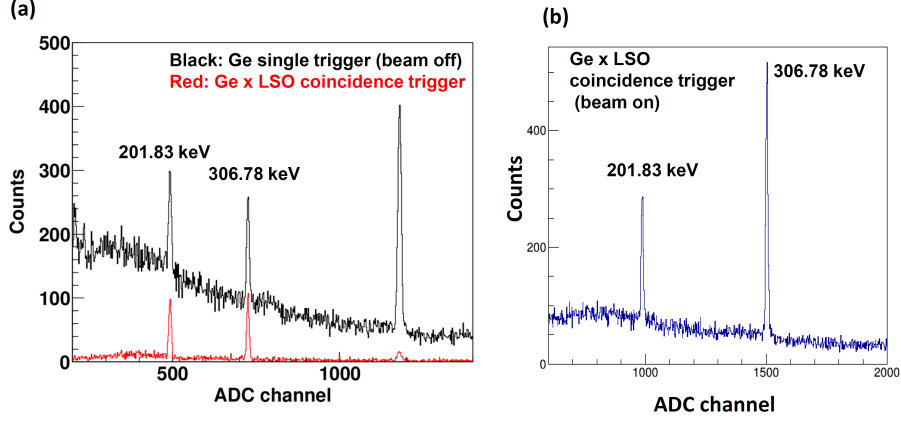


Figure 14: Energy spectra of Ge detector for energy calibration. (a) is that of with (red) and without (black) the Ge and LSO coincidence trigger. (b) is that taken in beam on period using the trigger.

Data taking for the E03 1st-phase was done in Apr. 2021 with the total irradiated K^- of 9.5×10^{10} . Analysis is on-going for selecting the (K^-, K^+) reaction and detecting X rays. We confirmed that Ξ^- production events can be clearly tagged by the missing mass method as shown in Fig.13 with momentum reconstructions in the Beamline spectrometer and the KURAMA spectrometer. Performances of Hyperball-X' were also evaluated for resolutions, efficiencies and background suppression. In addition, with the “LSO pulser” described in section 3.3, an energy calibration accuracy of 0.05 keV was achieved by taking in-beam calibration data as shown in Fig.14(b), where clear reference peaks can be obtained even in the beam on period. Further analysis for event selections and calibrations is necessary to obtain the final X-ray spectrum. The result will be reported in near future.