Development of an electron-tracking Compton camera based on a gaseous TPC and a scintillation camera for a balloon-borne experiment

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Abstract

We have developed an Electron-Tracking Compton Camera (ETCC) based on a gaseous micro Time Projection Chamber (μ−TPC) which measures the direction and the energy of the Compton recoil electron and a GSO(Ce) scintillation camera which surrounds the μ-TPC and measures the Compton scattered gamma ray. Measuring the direction of the recoil electron reduces the Compton cone to a point, and thus reconstructs the incident direction completely for a single photon and realizes the strong background rejection. Using the ETCC with a detection volume of about 10cm×10cm×15cm, we had a balloon-borne experiment in 2006 for the purpose of the observation of diffuse cosmic and atmospheric gamma rays. The experiment was successful. On the basis of the results, we are developing a large size ETCC in order to improve the effective area for the next balloon experiment. In this poster, we introduce the balloon experiment and report the fundamental performances of the large size ETCC.

1. Observation in MeV gamma–ray Astronomy

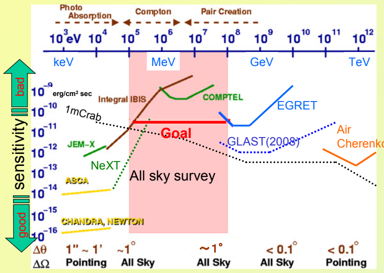
➢ Universe in MeV gamma ray

❒Nucleosynthesis
- SNR : Radio-isotopes : ^{56}Ni (0.158/0.812), ^{56}Co(0.847/1.238), ^{44}Ti(0.068/0.078/1.157)
- Galactic plane : ^{26}Al (1.8), ^{60}Fe (1.173/1.333)

❒Acceleration
- Jet (AGN), GRB :
  - Synchrotron radiation
  - Inverse Compton scattering

❒Strong Gravitational Potential
- Black Hole : accretion disk, π^0-decay

❒Etc.
- gamma-ray pulsar, solar flare
- Annihilation (0.511), neutron capture (2.2)



Sensitivity gap in MeV gamma-ray region

➢ Past observations

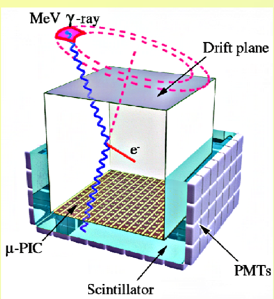
❒COMPTEL (CGRO)
- Classical Compton Imaging
- Detected ～30 steady sources

❒IBIS, SPI (INTEGRAL)
- Coded Aperture Imaging
- In MeV gamma-ray region, sensitivity is worse than that of COMPTEL.

Because these methods cannot determine the direction by 1 photon, the sensitivity were restricted by background.

2. Electron-Tracking Compton Camera

➢ Electron Tracking Compton Camera (ETCC)



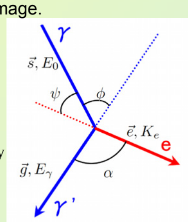
Schematic view of ETCC

The camera consists of a gaseous time projection chamber (TPC), which detects the 3D-track and the energy of the recoil electron, and a scintillation camera, which detects the absorption point and the energy of the scattered gamma ray. By using these four pieces of information, we can completely reconstruct the Compton scattering event by event, and obtain a fully ray-traced gamma-ray image.

$$E_0 = E_\gamma + K_e$$

$$\vec{s} = \left(\cos\phi - \frac{\sin\phi}{\tan\alpha}\right)\vec{g} + \frac{\sin\phi}{\sin\alpha}\vec{e}$$

- E_0 : Energy of incident gamma ray
- $\vec{s}$: unit vector of incident gamma ray
- $\vec{g}$: unit vector of scattered gamma ray
- $\vec{e}$: unit vector of recoil electron
- ϕ : Scattered angle
- α : Angle between $\vec{g}$ and $\vec{e}$



➢ Event selection with α cut

The angle α is described by the definition (α_{geo}): $\cos\alpha_{geo} = \vec{g}\cdot\vec{e}$

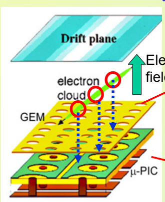
On the other hand, α is described by the Compton kinematics (α_{kin}): $\cos\alpha_{kin} = \left(1 - \frac{m_e c^2}{E_\gamma}\right)\sqrt{\frac{K_e}{K_e + 2m_e c^2}}$

Comparing these angles, we can select Compton scattered events and strongly reject background.

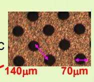
3. Gaseous TPC and scintillator

❒Gaseous TPC (μ-TPC)

2D-readout (μPIC 400μm pitch) + Drift time (100MHz)
→ **3D-track and energy**



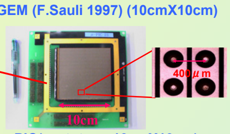
Schematic view of μ-TPC



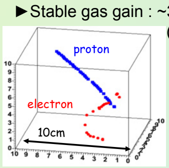
We use the GEM as a pre-amplifier to obtain stable high gain.

GEM (F.Sauli 1997) (10cmX10cm)

- ▶Volume : 10cm×10cm×15cm (prototype)
- ▶Position resolution : 400μm
- ▶Stable gas gain : ~30000 (μPIC ~3000 GEM ~10)



μPIC(prototype:10cmX10cm)

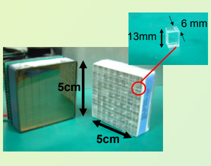


Example of 3D-tracks of the electron and the proton in the μ-TPC

Readout system Signals from anode and cathode electrode strips are pre-amplified, shaped, and digitized. All digital signals are individually fed to FPGAs, and the two dimensional position of electrodes is synchronously calculated with a 100MHz clock.

❒Scintillation camera

Multi Anode PMT + Pixel Scintillator Array → Scintillation camera

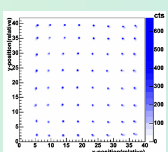


H8500 (left) and 8×8 GSO(Ce) pixel array (right)

- ▶Scintillator : GSO(Ce)
- ▶Photon sensor : H8500 (HPK)
- ▶Position resolution : 6mm
- ▶Energy resolution : ~11%(FWHM) @ 662keV

Readout system

64 anodes of H8500 are connected with resistors and reduced to 4ch. Obtained 4ch data are pre-amplified, shaped, and digitized by discrete modules.



Typical image from ^{137}Cs using charge division method

4. SMILE project

➢ SMILE *Sub-MeV gamma-ray Imaging Loaded-on-balloon Experiment*

For the sub MeV to MeV gamma-ray observation in astronomy, a detector must be launched in the space. Then, we have planned the balloon experiments, SMILE. At the first step, using the (10cm)^3 ETCC, we confirmed the gamma-ray detection by the observation of diffuse cosmic and atmospheric gamma rays. At the second step, we are developing the (30cm)^3 ETCC in order to enlarge the effective area for the observation of a blight source. In the future, we will construct the larger ETCC and have all sky survey with some balloons or a satellite.

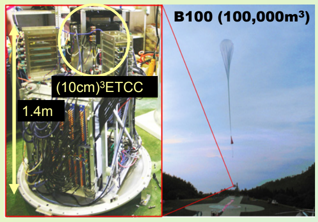
(10cm)^3 ETCC@Sanriku (Sep 1, 2006)
- ❒Operation test of ETCC @ 35km
- ❒Measurement of Diffuse cosmic and atmospheric gamma rays
- expectation: 0.1～1MeV ~200photons @ 35km, 3hours

(30cm)^3 ETCC @Japan 6hours (2011)
- Observation of Crab or Cyg X-1

(40cm)^3 ETCC
- Super pressure balloon～10days

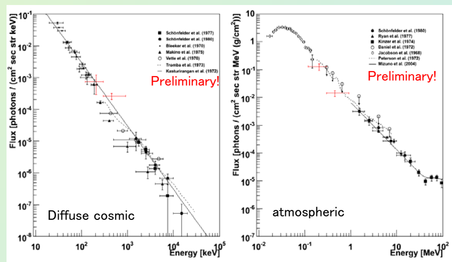
(50cm)^3 ETCC All sky survey
- Orbiting balloon (~30days) or satellite

Roadmap of the SMILE



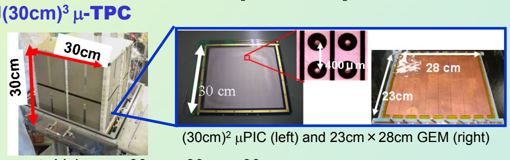
(10cm)^3 ETCC and readout system (left) and our balloon (right)

Obtained flux (red) and preceding measurement (error bar is statistical sigma) →



5. (30cm)^3 ETCC

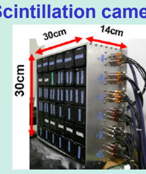
❒(30cm)^3 μ-TPC



(30cm)^2 μPIC (left) and 23cm×28cm GEM (right)

- ▶Volume : 30cm×30cm×30cm
- ▶Gas : Ar 90% + C_2H_6 10% 1atm
- ▶Energy resolution : 46%(FWHM)@31keV
- ▶Position resolution : 400μm
- ▶Stable gas gain : ~30000(μPIC ~3000 GEM ~10)

❒(30cm)^2 Scintillation camera

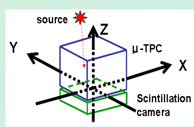


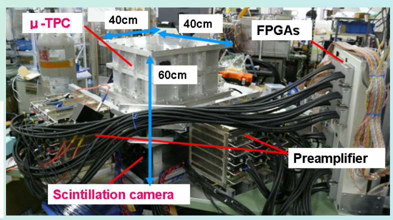
- ▶36 scintillation cameras (see section 3)

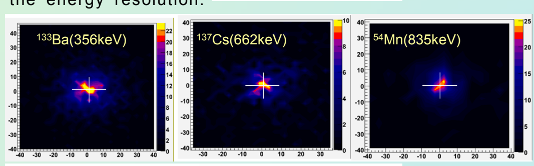
❒(30cm)^3 ETCC

We have constructed the (30cm)^3 ETCC which consists of (30cm)^2 μPIC, 23cm×28cm GEM, 36 scintillation cameras, and a readout system. We have investigated the first performances of the ETCC.

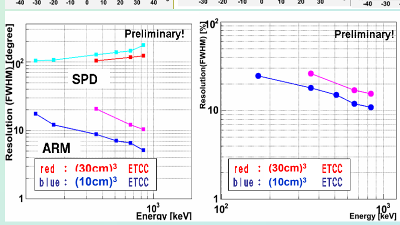
We placed some gamma-ray sources at about 50cm from the ETCC as shown in right figure. Then, we obtained the images, the angular resolution, and the energy resolution.

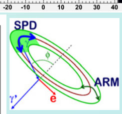






← **obtained point source images. The white cross is the position of source. XY-axis show XY position indicated above and color axis shows the counts of reconstructed gamma rays.**





❒Angular Resolution Measure (ARM) is the accuracy of the scattering angle.
❒Scatter Plane Deviation (SPD) is the accuracy of the determinant of the scattering plane.

← Angular (left) and energy (right) resolutions of the (30cm)^3 ETCC.

❒**Energy resolution : 16.9%(FWHM)@662keV**

❒**ARM : 12.1 deg, SPD : 117 deg (FWHM)@662keV**

6. Future work

- **▶Tuning : improve the ARM and the energy resolution to those of (10cm)^3 ETCC.**
- **▶Test : widen the dynamic range of 100keV to a few MeV, and investigate the detection efficiency and FOV.**
- **▶For the next balloon : start the design of next flight model of the ETCC.**
- **▶Furthermore : enlarge the size of the ETCC to (50cm)^3 for a super pressure balloon or a satellite experiment.**

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