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P1.060 Development of scintillating bolometer for ^{48}Ca neutrinoless double beta decay search

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The detection of neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$) would establish that the total lepton number is not conserved and the neutrino is a Majorana particle. The important points in the $0\nu\beta\beta$ detection are increment of the target mass, reduction of the background, and improvement of the energy resolution. Many groups aim to detect $0\nu\beta\beta$ with a variety of techniques. CANDLES is a project to search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ of ^{48}Ca with CaF_2 scintillators. The main advantage of ^{48}Ca is that it has the highest Q-value (4.27 MeV) among all the isotope candidates for $0\nu\beta\beta$. The CANDLES detector is currently running with 300 kg CaF_2 crystals and 62 photomultipliers in the Kamioka Underground Observatory, Japan. In $0\nu\beta\beta$ search, it is very important to develop the high energy resolution detector especially to avoid inevitable $2\nu\beta\beta$ background events. Therefore, we plan to use the CaF_2 bolometer which is able to achieve excellent energy resolution by detect heat signal. We aim to achieve 0.5% (FWHM) energy resolution at the Q-value using neutron transmutation doped germanium thermistors. The main background of CaF_2 bolometer is ^{238}U alpha events because the Q-value is almost the same as ^{48}Ca . In order to discriminate this alpha background events, CANDLES group is planning to introduce a CaF_2 scintillating bolometer. Simultaneous detection of heat and light signals of scintillating bolometer enables us to reject this alpha background events using the quenching effect of alpha-ray. At present, we are developing a small scintillating bolometer with several hundred grams of CaF_2 crystals in the surface laboratory. In this poster, the current status of development and future strategy of our scintillating bolometer will be reported.