



Contribution ID: 435

Type: Poster

## Track classification in Active Target Time Projection Chamber using supervised machine learning methods

In low-energy nuclear physics experiments, an Active Target Time Projection Chamber (AT-TPC) [1] can be advantageous for studying nuclear reaction kinematics. The  $\alpha$ -cluster decay of  $^{12}\text{C}$  is one such reaction requiring careful investigation due to its vital role in producing heavy elements through astrophysical processes [2]. The breakup mechanism of the Hoyle state, a highly  $\alpha$ -clustered state at 7.65 MeV in  $^{12}\text{C}$ , has long been an important case of study using different experimental techniques to investigate its decaying branch ratio. The direct decay of the Hoyle state into three  $\alpha$ -particles and the sequential decay via the  $^8\text{Be}$  ground state into three  $\alpha$ -particles can be identified by tracking the  $\alpha$ -particles and measuring their energies, which can be accomplished with AT-TPC.

In this work, a numerical model using Hough transformation and neural network models for track separation and classification has been developed for identifying the breakup of Hoyle state  $^{12}\text{C}$  into three  $\alpha$ -particles from the background scattering events in the active volume. The reaction kinematics of the decay of  $^{12}\text{C}$  have been determined using low-energy non-relativistic scattering of  $\alpha$ -particles on  $^{12}\text{C}$ . The event tracks in the active gas medium of the AT-TPC have been generated through primary ionization created by the  $\alpha$ -particles produced in the aforementioned reaction. This has been carried out using the Geant4 [3] simulation framework. The three  $\alpha$ -tracks have then been individually separated from the others and the background (uniform random noise generated) using the Hough transformation. Each  $\alpha$ -track has been fitted with a CrystalBall function to extract the features useful for training the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model. A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model has also been developed to identify all possible scattering events of  $^4\text{He}$  and  $^{12}\text{C}$  in the lab frame which are labeled as background events. These events have been further labeled by binary and multi-class classification models, which have been trained using simulated data. For this purpose, a fully connected ANN and CNN with hidden layers have been implemented using the high-level deep learning library Keras, written in Python [4]. The model has been tested on the events generated using simulation. Thus, it has been possible to precisely classify the Hoyle state  $\alpha$ -particles from background events. This model can also be beneficial as an automated analysis framework for tagging and separating events from experimental data.

[1] D. Suzuki et al., NIM A 691(2012) 39–54

[2] M. Freer, Reports on Progress in Physics 70, 2149 (2007)

[3] GEANT4 collaboration, GEANT4: A Simulation toolkit 2003 NIM A 506 (2003) 250-303

[4] F. Chollet et al., Keras, <https://keras.io>, 2015.

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**Session Classification:** Poster session

**Track Classification:** Track 5 - Simulation and analysis tools