

# SPECTRUM OF COMPTON SCATTERING

Cesium-137 is a radioactive isotope which decays via beta emission (half life of 30.2 years) to a an excited metastable state of Barium  $^{137m}\text{Ba}$ . This state decays with a half-life of 153 seconds to the ground state  $^{137}\text{Ba}$  emitting a photon with energy  $E_0 = 662$  keV. We want to study the spectrum of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and the effect of Compton scattering.

1. Generate 10000 photons with energy  $E_0$ .
2. Each photon is detected with a NaI crystal which has a resolution of 3%. Use a Gaussian convolution and plot the distribution of detected energy  $E_i$  of all photons. Make sure reasonable binning are used for the histogram and labels and units are added. The expected distribution should be a Gaussian entered at  $E_0$ .
3. Assume that each photon has a 60% probability of undergoing Compton scattering in the crystal.

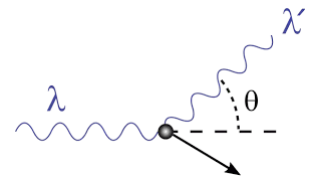
4. The energy  $E_f$  of the photon after the scattering is given by where  $m_e$  is the mass of the electron (511 keV) and  $\theta$  is the angle of the photon after scattering as shown in the figure.

$$E_f = \frac{E_i}{1 + (E_i/m_e)(1 - \cos\theta)}$$

5. The angle  $\theta$  must be generated casually assuming that the differential cross section

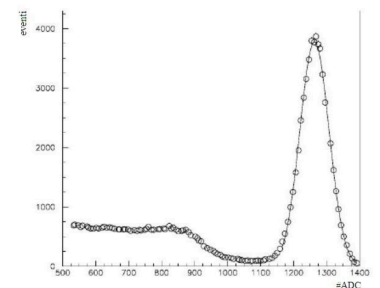
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} \propto 1 + \cos^2\theta$$

If you do not know how to do this, you can generate a flat distribution for  $\theta$  (with a penalty).



6. Plot the distribution of for all 10000 photons. You should still see a peak around  $E_0$  and a continuous distribution (a Fermi-Dirac shape) for  $E_f < E_0$ .

Save a PDF file for each of the above 2 plots. Use comprehensions and dictionaries to implement the simulation and plotting the required plots. Define a function **Compton** (with proper arguments and return values) to simulate the scattering for each photon of energy  $E_i$  at each step for each particle.



Evaluation will be based on use of python features and data structures, comprehensions (instead of C-style for loops), dictionaries, NumPy objects, labels, units, and clarity of plots.