

# Marlics User Guide

Renato Ferreira de Souza and Eric Khouidi Omori

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## 1 Introduction

Welcome to Marlics (**M**aringá **l**iquid **c**rystal **s**imulator). Marlics is a software developed in C++ to simulate the dynamics of the liquid crystal tensorial order parameter by means finite differences. Finite differences works very well in non-curvilinear geometries, and in a less extent, in curvilinear geometries as well. We already provided three of such geometries (slab, bulk and sphere), but since we are providing the source code under a GPL license, the user can implement their own geometries if needed (please see developer guide).

The software usage is simple: the user fills an input file choosing the values of simulation parameters and the stage variables. This script is passed to the software as the main input (“<” in Unix systems) which in turns set up and run the simulation. For ease of use we have provided an example input file with the code.

In the following sections we will shown describe which are all the possible parameters and options.

## 2 Download and Compilation

The marlics source code can be downloaded in Renato Ferreira de Souza(Belanji) git-hub page (**Fill here the gitub page later**). If you use an Unix system, the source code provides a makefile (thanks to Eric Khouidi Omori) to easy up the process of compilation. Marlics needs the following libraries installed on your system and reachable by the compiler: gsl (Gnu scientific library) and BLAS. We provide two examples in the make file, one we use the GSL BLAS, and other we use the mkl library to provide the necessary functions. After setting up you just have to type:

```
make
```

Now, Marlics is already functional. If you prefer you can add an shortcut (or a copy of the program) in a folder where your system can reach automatically. In Unix system the folder searched by the system when can be found in the variable \$PATH.

## 3 Execution

Executing marlics is very straightforward, you call the program and pass a input file as the standard input. For example, if you are using an Unix system and your marlics has an shortcut/copy in a directory shown in the \$PATH. If your input file is named “input\_file.txt” you will launch Marlics typing (we provide an example input file if you would like to try it in your console):

```
marlics < input_file.txt
```

You will notice that the software display several lines of information on your display, if you would like to save these lines to keep an log of the simulation execution (which we strongly advise you to do so), you can redirect the output direct to a file. In Unix systems this can be done with the redirection operator >, which will create a new file if it does not exist, or it will overwrite an existing file. If you would like to keep the

previous content in the file you can use append operator `>>`, however, we strongly advise against the use of `>>`, since it can leave the output files very difficult to understand.

Again as an example, if your settings is in a file named “input\_file.txt” and you would like to place the log information in a new/overwritten output file named “simulation.log”, you can do this by typing:

```
marlics < input_file.txt > simulation.log
```

## 4 Setting up your input file

All parameters and simulation setup are passed to marlics via the input file. In this section we will describe how to set up your simulation and how chose the parameters necessary.

To help the user we provided an example input file with the program.

### 4.1 Filling the input file

To fill in an parameter value in the input file you type de parameter name followed by any number of spaces and the parameter value afterwards:

```
parameter value
```

If you want to write a text to help you remember something our to help others understand you input file, you can place a comment on the file. Comments are lines placed in the input file that are ignored by marlics. In marlics comments start with the character `#` and goes until the end of the line.

### 4.2 geometry

The geometry parameter sets up the confinement of your liquid crystal. Actually there are 3 different types of geometries available in marlics: bulk, slab and sphere(experimental).

In bulk simulations, the liquid crystal is placed in an square box with periodic boundary conditions in all directions.

In slab the liquid crystal is placed inside a box with periodic boundary conditions in the x and y direction, and with boundary conditions chosen by the user in both ends of the z axis.

Finally in the sphere geometry the liquid crystal is places inside an sphere with one boundary condition setup-ed by the user and no periodic boundary conditions at all. Since here we use regular grids and the sphere has an curvilinear geometry, the fit of the liquid crystal inside the sphere is ....

```
geometry slab
```

The grid size and spacing is controlled with 6 parameters:  $Nx$ ,  $Ny$ ,  $Nz$ ,  $dx$ ,  $dy$  and  $dz$ . The number of points in each axis directions is defined ny the paramters  $Ni$ , while de distance between them is set by the parameters  $di$ . For example:

```
Nx 200 Ny 200 Nz 100
dx 10.0 dy 10.0 dz 10.0
```

Sets a grid with 200 points in the  $x$  and  $y$  axis and 100 in the  $z$  one, and every point is separated by a distance of 10 nanometers in each direction.

### 4.3 Integrator

We have now just one integrator implemented in marlics, a Dormand-Prince 5(4). It is a time adaptive 5th order Runge-Kutta method. Our implementation accepts 5 parameters to control how the time-adaption is performed, but all of them have standard values (we refer the interested reader to read the reference guide for more details).

An example line would be:

*integrator DP5*

#### 4.4 Liquid crystal Parameters:

In Marlics, we simulate the elastic behavior of chiral, or non-chiral, nematics by solving the dynamic equations given by Landau-de Gennes model (please, see reference xx). This model needs a set of parameters:  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $T - T^*$ ,  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$ ,  $L_q$ ,  $L_s$ ,  $p_0$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\mu_s$ .

The parameters  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are the thermodynamic parameters and defines the equilibrium liquid crystal order parameter, together with energy necessary to shift its value. It is obligatory to define all 3 of them, and  $c$  can not be 0. Example:

```
A 0.182
b -2.12
c 1.73
```

The parameters  $L_i$  can be filled in two different ways. You can pass the values of  $L_i$  directly , for example:

```
L1 15.0
L2 15.0
L3 15.0
Ls 1.0
Lq 12.0
```

Or you can provide the values of the Frank elastic constant and let marlics calculates the values of  $L_i$  for you. Example:

```
k11 16.7 k22 7.8 k33 18.1
```

If you miss the use of  $K_i$  and  $L_i$ , the software will use only the last mentioned and ignore the others (We strong advise against it, since it can make your input file very confusing).

If you want to simulate a chiral nematic you define the helix passe  $p_0$  as the space necessary to the helix execute a  $2\pi$  turn (distance being set in nanometers). For example:

```
p0 500.
```

Sets the passe to be 500 nanometers.

The temperature  $T$  is taken relative to virtual phase transition temperature  $T^*$ , for example:

```
T -1
```

means that  $(T - T^*) = -1$  Kelvin.

Finally, the liquid crystal viscosities can be passed in two different ways. You can pass the  $\mu$  (set in *Pas*) value directly, or pass the parameter  $\gamma$  (set in *Panms*) as used in the Frank-Osen theory and let marlics calculate the value of  $\mu_s$  for you. The same can be done with the surface viscosity. For example:

```
mu_1 0.3 mu_1_s 3.0
```

#### 4.5 Time parameters:

There is 3 time parameters to be set in the input file. The parameter  $t_i$  (in microseconds) defines the start time of the simulation. The parameter  $t_f$  (in microseconds) defines the time the simulation finished and  $dt$  (in microseconds) defines the initial time step for a fixed time-step integrator and the initial for an adaptive time integrator. For example:

```
dt 0.001 ti 0.0 tf 5000.0
```

#### 4.6 Taking snapshots:

There are 3 parameters to control how snapshots are taken and 1 controlling the file names in Marlics. The parameters controlling the snapshot frequency are: *timeprint*, *timeprint\_type*, *timeprint\_increase\_factor*. The *timeprint* sets when the first snapshot is taken (in microseconds).

The *timeprint\_type* sets the if the interval between snapshots will be linear or logarithmic. The parameter *timeprint\_increase\_factor* sets the time interval between snapshots. If *timeprint\_type* is set to “linear”, the value of *timeprint\_increase\_factor* is the time interval between snapshots. If *timeprint\_type* is set to “logarithmic”, the value of *timeprint\_increase\_factor* is factor which we multiply the snapshots times. Mathematically, it can be expressed as:

$$t_{s+1} = t_s * \text{timeprint\_increase\_factor} \quad (1)$$

where  $t_s$  is the  $S$ th snapshot time and  $t_{s+1}$  is the  $(S + 1)$ th snapshot time.

Finally, there is the parameter *initial\_output\_file\_number* which sets the number of the first snapshot taken. For example if *initial\_output\_file\_number* is set to 3, then, the first snapshot will be *director\_field\_3.csv*.

One example of the setup would be:

```
time_print_type logarithmic timeprint 50. timeprint_increase_factor 1.16 initial_output_file_number
0
```

## 4.7 Initial Conditions:

Marlics provides 4 types of initial conditions: Random, homogeneous, random\_bulk\_homogeneous\_easy\_axis and read\_from\_file.

The *Random* initial conditions gets random directors, however, the nematic order parameter is set to  $S = 0.15S_{eq}$  (there would be no meaning leaving the order parameter fluctuating with high variance).

The *homogeneous* initial conditions set the liquid crystal order parameter at  $S$  and  $P = 0$  and all the directors are set in the same direction. The direction is given by two parameters  $\theta_i$  and  $\phi_i$ , the polar and azimuthal angles, both in degrees units.

The *random\_bulk\_homogeneous\_easy\_axis* sets the liquid crystal as *random* in the bulk and as *homogeneous* in the boundaries, in this case, the liquid crystal will be oriented along the easy axis in the boundary.

Finally, the *read\_from\_file* take an marlics snapshot and use it as initial conditions. The file name is passed by the variable *ic\_file*.

One example of the initial condition setup would be:

```
initial_conditions homogeneous theta_i 45.0 phi_i 0.0
```

## 4.8 Boundary Conditions:

For each geometry you must setup a defined number of boundaries. Each boundary can be accessed by a number, which is given by the simulation geometry.

In the slab for example, the lower boundary is referred by the number 0 and the upper boundary by the number 1.

Each kind of boundary conditions has its own sets of parameters.

## 4.9 Complete input file: