

# ***XTANT-3: X-ray-induced Thermal And Nonthermal Transitions in Matter***

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theory, numerical details, user manual

Current version: XTANT-3

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**Nikita Medvedev**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author: ORCID: [0000-0003-0491-1090](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0491-1090), email: [nikita.medvedev@fzu.cz](mailto:nikita.medvedev@fzu.cz)

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## Disclaimer, how to cite

Although we endeavor to ensure that the code XTANT-3 and the results delivered are correct, no warranty is given as to its accuracy. We assume no responsibility for possible errors or omissions. We shall not be liable for any damage arising from the use of this code or its parts or any results produced with it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using this code or any related material.

This code is distributed at <https://github.com/N-Medvedev/XTANT-3> as is for non-commercial peaceful purposes only, such as research and education. It is explicitly **prohibited** to use the code, its parts, its results, or any related material for military-related and other than peaceful purposes.

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Should you use electron-phonon coupling in the calculations, the following citation should be included in addition to the abovementioned one:

*N. Medvedev, I. Milov, “Electron-phonon coupling in metals at high electronic temperatures”, Phys. Rev. B. 102 (2020) 064302.* <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.102.064302>

In a publication, I recommend that at least the following parameters should be mentioned for the reproducibility of the results:

Material, its initial structure, the number of atoms in the supercell, the initial conditions (atomic and electronic temperatures), an ensemble used, a type of boundary conditions, a type of cross sections in Monte Carlo simulation, a type of tight binding parameterization, whether the electron emission was included or not and if yes, whether Coulomb potential for atoms was accounted for and what model for electron emission was used, whether an additional short-range repulsive potential was used, the time step of MD simulation, parameters of the incoming laser pulse (its photon energy, deposited dose, duration).

Most of these parameters can be found in an output file `!OUTPUT_[Material]_Parameters.txt` described below.

## PART I: Theory

### I. Introduction

This document is specifically on the code XTANT-3 [1,2] and its features, many of which are unique to this code. Note that XTANT-3 is a separate development from XTANT+ [3], the two codes should not be confused. Although both grew out of the original XTANT code [4], years of independent development since then resulted in many differences in their philosophy, global structure, models used, and functionality (a reader interested in XTANT+ may consult its developers<sup>2</sup>). Problems faced in the combined code development resulted in many innovative technical solutions that had to be invented and which were not described elsewhere. The most important ones are presented here in detail with the hope that they might be useful not only to the users of XTANT-3 but also to other code developers facing similar issues. As multiscale codes are gaining popularity in recent years [5], I believe solutions specific to this class of methods may be valuable.

#### I.1. Ultrafast irradiation problem

Ultrafast laser irradiation of materials plays an important role in both, fundamental and applied sciences [6–10]. Understanding of basic phenomena in the physics of solids, nonequilibrium kinetics, and highly excited states of matter, benefits from experiments accessing the natural time window of the involved processes (femtosecond timescales) such as electron kinetics, electron-ion (electron-phonon) coupling, and atomic response [10–12]. Laser irradiation experiments are vital for materials processing, nano and micro technology, and medical applications such as laser surgery [9,10,13,14]. In turn, the interpretation of experimental results requires detailed theoretical and model descriptions of the processes involved.

Those processes span multiple timescales, starting from attoseconds of the photon absorption from the incoming pulse to femtoseconds for electronic and holes kinetics, to picoseconds of the atomic/ionic response [5,15]. In photoabsorption, for photon energies above the bandgap, energy is delivered primarily to electrons of the matter [16]. The photoelectrons are excited to higher energy states, which drives the electronic ensemble out of equilibrium [16,17]. The electrons then scatter among themselves in the conduction band of material, with electrons from the valence band and deeper shell (for those shells whose ionization potential is below the electron energy), or elastically with the atoms of the target (also known as the electron-phonon scattering). Electron-electron scattering thermalizes the electronic ensemble towards equilibrium Fermi-Dirac distribution, whereas electron-atom scattering exchanges energy between the two systems, heating the lattice. Typical electronic thermalization in metals takes place at femtosecond timescales [6,18], while equilibration between the electronic and atomic temperatures may take up to tens of picoseconds [2,6].

Another important effect is, since the electrons form the interatomic potential of the material, the excitation of electrons modifies the potential energy surface [1,6,19]. Atoms, in their former equilibrium positions, now experience new forces, which may drive them into a different material phase – the processes known as nonthermal phase transitions, the most famous example of which is nonthermal melting in covalently bonded solids [20,21]. Furthermore, in the time window when the electronic temperature (or, more generally, parameters of the nonequilibrium electronic distribution) is different

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<sup>2</sup> [https://xm.cfel.de/research/scientific\\_software/xtant\\_amp\\_xtant/](https://xm.cfel.de/research/scientific_software/xtant_amp_xtant/)

from the atomic one, this so-called two-temperature state departs from the equilibrium material phase diagram and may create states inaccessible under equilibrium conditions [22,23].

The variety of processes, taking place after ultrafast irradiation, may create synergy leading to nonlinear behavior [24]. For example, the nonthermal phase transitions were studied [25–27], in a few cases with nonadiabatic coupling included [1,28]. Effects of the electronic nonequilibrium were also analyzed separately [6,18,29,30]. The mutual effect of the electronic nonequilibrium and the electron-phonon coupling has also been demonstrated [31,32]. A combined effect of the interplay of the electronic nonequilibrium, nonadiabatic coupling, and nonthermal effects, was studied in Ref.[33] using XTANT-3 code.

The interplay of all these effects needs to be modeled in a unified framework – this is the main point of the XTANT-3 code. It combines on-the-fly a few appropriate models to address these most important effects taking place in the matter under ultrafast irradiation.

## I.2. Multiscale (hybrid, combined) simulation methods

To model the abovementioned effects, the concept of multiscale (or hybrid, or combined) modeling is employed in XTANT-3 (here, we use these terms interchangeably, although one may say that, in general, ‘hybrid’ and ‘combined’ approaches are more general terms than the ‘multiscale’) [5]. The philosophy of this type of approach is to combine a few models into one interconnected, executed together, and exchange the data on the fly. This can be achieved best in the case when the parameter space is separable: e.g., different processes take place at different timescales (models divisible in time [34,35]), particles of notably different masses are involved (models divisible by mass, such as quantum-classical combinations [36], or atomistic-continuum ones [37]), difference in the momentum space (separating close and distant collisions [38]), etc.

XTANT-3 combines four major models (and a countless number of minor ones) under one umbrella, as described below.

## I.3. XTANT-3 concept outline

XTANT-3 combines the following models to trace the essential effects in both, the electronic and the atomic systems of the target:

- (i) The electrons with energy above a certain chosen energy cutoff are modeled with the Monte Carlo (MC) simulation.
- (ii) The fractional populations of low-energy electrons on the valence and conduction band energy levels are traced with the Boltzmann equation (BE).
- (iii) The interatomic forces are calculated from the transferable tight-binding (TB) formalism, which also traces the evolution of the electronic energy levels (molecular orbitals).
- (iv) The motion of atoms is traced with help of the molecular dynamics (MD). Below, we will discuss the relevant details of each model, and their interconnection on-the-fly, enabling to model laser irradiation of matter.

The interconnection of these models is schematically shown in **Figure I.1** [39]. On top of that, there are a few models used for data analysis on-the-fly (as well as in post-processing), and minor models used within each of these general modules. Below we describe each model in detail.

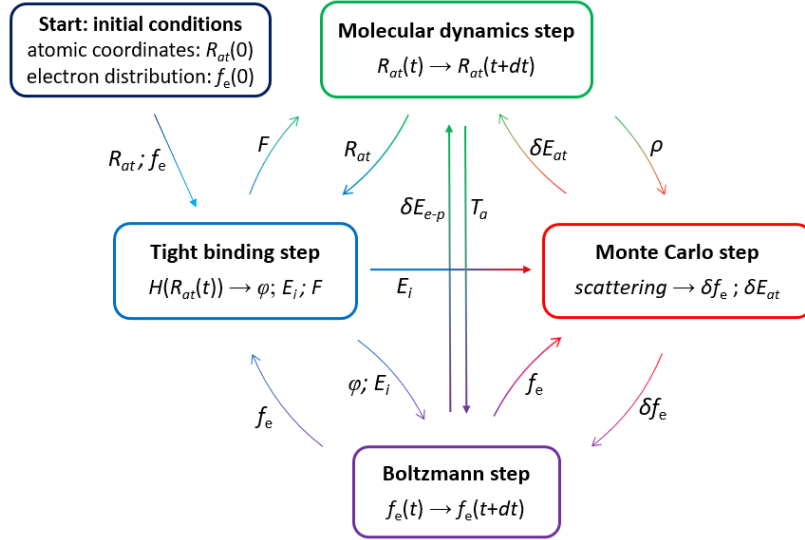


Figure I.1. Schematics of the XTANT-3 algorithms, interconnecting the main modules of the program. The initial conditions specify the coordinates of all the atoms in the simulation box  $R_{at}(t=0)$  and electronic distribution function  $f_e$ . The molecular dynamics (MD) module propagates the atomic coordinates, using the forces,  $F$ , calculated with the help of the tight-binding (TB) module. It also uses the electron transfer from the electronic system, calculated in two steps: elastic scattering of a high-energy fraction of electrons within the Monte Carlo (MC) step,  $\delta E_{at}$ , and electron-ion (electron-phonon) coupling of low-energy electrons calculated with the Boltzmann equation (BE),  $\delta E_{el-ph}$ . TB also provides the BE module with the transient electronic energy levels (eigenstates of the Hamiltonian),  $E_i$ , and wave functions (eigenfunctions)  $\varphi$ .  $E_i$  are also used in MC. MC calculates the source terms for BE associated with the photoabsorption, Auger decays, and electronic scattering:  $\delta f_e$ . MD step supplies the BE with the atomic temperature  $T_a$ , and the MC with the transient material density  $\rho$  (if the supercell size is allowed to change in the simulation). Figure reproduced from Ref. [39].

## II. Transport Monte Carlo simulation

### II.1. Basic concepts

A method that uses (pseudo-)random numbers belongs to the class of Monte Carlo (MC) methods [5]. Generally, in an MC method, any probability appearing in the governing equations may be replaced with a sampled random number uniform in the interval  $[0,1)$ . If the same procedure is repeated multiple times, the averaged results would reproduce a statistically significant distribution of the desired quantity [38].

For the problem of fast particle transport in the matter, the MC method is used to sample probabilities of scattering [38,40–42]. It involves a few random numbers to sample various effects and processes. Although we denote all the random numbers in this book with the same symbol  $\gamma$  (always uniformly distributed in the interval  $[0,1)$ ), each time a different number is assumed, sampled with a random number generator. XTANT-3 uses standard FORTRAN random number generator. Even though there exist random number generators with proven randomness (e.g., [43]), since many different values are sampled in XTANT-3, possible artificial correlations introduced by the pseudo-randomness of the standard generators do not play a role here.

The following values are sampled randomly in XTANT-3: free flight distance of a mobile particle (photon, fast electron) or decay time of a core hole, type of scattering event (inelastic vs. elastic), the transferred energy in a scattering event, scattering partner in a collision. An MC schematic algorithm can be found, e.g., in Chapters 7 and 15 of Ref. [5].



The free flight time, used to calculate the time of the next scattering event of a particle, is evaluated from its free flight distance,  $\lambda$ , and particle velocity,  $v$ :

$$t = \lambda/v, \quad (1)$$

where the free flight distance of a particle is sampled from the Poisson distribution (which assumes uniform homogeneous media for the target) [38,41,42]:

$$\lambda = -\lambda_0 \ln(\gamma), \quad (2)$$

where the mean free path – the distance a particle travels between successive collisions,  $\lambda_0$ , – is defined via the total cross-section of scattering,  $\sigma$ :

$$\lambda^{-1} = \sigma n_{at} = n_{at} \int_{W_-}^{W_+} \int_{Q_-}^{Q_+} \frac{d^2\sigma}{dWdQ} dWdQ, \quad (3)$$

here  $n_{at}$  is the density of target atoms;  $W_{\pm}$  are the minimal and maximal transferred energy ( $W = \hbar\omega$ ); the recoil energy  $Q$  is defined by the transferred momentum in a collision as  $Q(1 + Q/2m_t c^2) = \hbar^2 q^2 / (2m_t)$  (in the nonrelativistic limit  $Q = \hbar^2 q^2 / (2m_t)$ , with  $\hbar q$  being the transferred momentum and  $m_t$  being the scattering center (atom) mass). For the non-relativistic incident particle energy ( $E \ll \min(m_{in}, m_t) c^2$ ), the limits of the transferred momentum are [15,44]:

$$Q_{\pm} = \frac{m_{in}}{m_t} (\sqrt{E} \pm \sqrt{E - W})^2, \quad (4)$$

with  $m_{in}$  being the mass of the incident particle (e.g., an electron,  $m_{in} = m_e$  free-electron rest mass). The lower limit of the transferred energy ( $W_-$ ) and the upper limit ( $W_+$ ) for scattering on a particle (a target atom or an electron) are defined by the following formulae:

$$\begin{cases} W_- = I_p \\ W_+ = \frac{4m_{in}m_t}{(m_{in} + m_t)^2} E \end{cases}, \quad (5)$$

where  $I_p$  is the ionization potential of the atomic shell an electron is being ionized from. The upper limit is written here for a free particle. For scattering on a bound particle with a given ionization potential, the expressions are more complicated, see Ref. [45], but the free-particle approximation works very well for  $W_+ \gg I_p$ . In the case of ionization from the valence band  $I_p = E_{gap}$ . Here,  $E_{gap}$  is the material band gap, which is equal to zero in the case of metals. For the relativistic ones, the reader may refer, e.g., to Refs. [15,38].

An *event-by-event* (or analog) MC simulation traces each scattering event in detail, which is sufficient for tracing material response [46]. Transferred energy in a scattering act is sampled according to the following expression:

$$\gamma\sigma = \int_{W_-}^W \int_{Q_-}^{Q_+} \frac{d^2\sigma}{dWdQ} dWdQ, \quad (6)$$

here  $\gamma \in [0,1)$  is another random number; Eq.(6) must be solved for the transferred energy  $W$ . In some cases, the differential equation allows for analytical integration and a closed solution for  $W$  [38,45]. In general, a numerical solution is required [47], or further approximations to the electron spectrum should be employed [38].

In the first-order Born approximation (linear response), the cross-section of scattering may be represented as a cross-section of scattering on the individual scattering center (Coulombic) and the factor responsible for the collective dynamics of the target particles [15,48]. It then may be represented in terms of the thermal factor and the inverse of the complex dielectric function (CDF,  $\varepsilon(\omega, q)$ ) [15,48]:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d(\hbar\omega)d(\hbar q)} = \frac{2(Z_e e)^2}{n_{at}\pi\hbar^2 v^2} \frac{1}{\hbar q} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T}}\right)^{-1} \text{Im}\left[\frac{-1}{\varepsilon(\omega, q)}\right] \quad (7)$$

where  $e$  is the electron charge;  $\hbar\omega$  is the transferred energy and  $\hbar$  is Planck's constant;  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant, and  $T$  is the temperature of the sample;  $Z_e$  is the effective charge of the projectile penetrating through a solid (for an incident electron  $Z_e = 1$ ); the particle velocity,  $v$ , and a transferred momentum,  $q$ . Relativistic cross sections may be found, e.g., in Refs. [15,38,48].

In XTANT-3, the following convention is used:  $n_{sc}$  is the atomic density for scattering on core electrons and is equal to the molecular density for the valence (or conduction) band electrons.

## II.2. Photons

Photons in XTANT-3 experience only one type of interaction: absorption by target electrons in the linear regime (single-photon absorption). This limits the applicability of the code to the photon energies above the band gap of the material (since no multiphoton absorption via virtual levels is not included; note also that it limits the laser intensity at low photon energy to exclude non-linear effects). At high photon energy, it is limited by another approximation for decays of core holes (see below) by the energy of  $\sim 30$  keV.

The number of photons per pulse is estimated from the user-given absorbed dose. The temporal profile of the pulse may be chosen as one of three options: (i) Gaussian pulse; (ii) flat-top pulse; (iii) spiky pulse mimicking SASE operation of free-electron lasers [49].

A photon, arriving at the supercell at a time sampled according to the chosen pulse profile, will be absorbed by an electron from the shell  $N_{sh}$ , chosen randomly according to the partial photoabsorption cross-sections for different atomic shells of all elements of the target from the condition:

$$\gamma = \sum_i^{N_{sh}} \sigma_i / \sigma_{tot} \quad (8)$$

where the total cross-section of photon absorption is summed over all shells of all elements:  $\sigma_{tot} = \sum_i^{N_{all}} \sigma_i$ . The cross sections are taken from the EPICS2017 database<sup>3</sup> (unless CDF-function is provided by the user, see below, in which case the CDF-base cross section is used instead of the atomic ones from this database [50]).

An electron is emitted with the kinetic energy  $E_e = \hbar\omega - I_p$  (photon energy of  $\hbar\omega$ , the ionization potential of the chosen shell  $I_p$ ). A hole in the corresponding shell is created, unless the absorbing shell is the valence/conduction band of the material (in which case its particular energy level is sampled according to the transient electron distribution function traced within the Boltzmann equation as described in Section III), and its decay time is sampled, see below.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www-nds.iaea.org/epics/>

### II.3. High-energy electrons

Electrons, excited by photons (as well as by impact-ionization by fast electrons or *via* Auger-decays of core holes) to the energy states above a chosen cutoff,  $E_{cut}$ , then may experience two kinds of scattering events: elastic (in which the total kinetic energy is conserved between the incident particle and the scattering center – meaning, no ionization), and inelastic (in which the kinetic energy is not conserved – a part of the energy is spent to ionization; an impact ionization event). Additionally, if allowed by the user, an electron may be emitted from the target and lost from the MC simulation.

#### II.3.a. Inelastic scattering (impact ionization)

Inelastic scattering (impact ionization) is described by one of the two possible cross-sections: CDF-based or binary-encounter Bethe (BEB) atomic cross-section (if CDF is not available). The CDF function (entering Eq.(7)) is approximated with the set of artificial oscillators according to the Ritchie-Howie formalism [51,52]:

$$\text{Im}\left(\frac{-1}{\varepsilon(\omega, 0)}\right) \approx \sum_i \frac{A_i \gamma_i \hbar \omega_i}{((\hbar \omega_i)^2 - E_i^2)^2 + (\gamma_i \hbar \omega_i)^2} \quad (9)$$

This simple analytical representation depends on a set of parameters  $(A_i, E_i, \gamma_i)$  determined from the fitting procedure of the optical data [53]. The parameters represent the amplitude  $A_i$ , the position  $E_i$ , and the width  $\gamma_i$  of the  $i^{th}$  oscillator, and may be interpreted as intensity, energy, and an inverse lifetime of collective excitation (plasmon or phonon) associated with the peaks [15]. CDF parameters may be reconstructed from the optical coefficients, as described in detail, e.g., in Refs. [15,52,53].

For materials, for which CDF coefficients are unavailable, alternative cross-sections of scattering on an independent atom (instead of a solid) may be used. XTANT-3 allows using of BEB cross-sections of impact ionization [54]:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{dw} &= S \sum_{n=1}^3 F_n \left( \frac{1}{(1+w)^n} + \frac{1}{(K-w)^n} \right), \\ F_1 &= -\frac{F_2}{K+1}, F_2 = \frac{1}{K+u+1}, F_3 = \frac{\ln(K)}{K+u+1}, \\ S &= 4\pi a_0^2 N \left( \frac{Ry}{I_p} \right)^2; \\ \sigma &= \frac{S}{K+u+1} \left[ \frac{\ln(K)}{2} (1 - K^{-2}) + (1 - K^{-1}) - \frac{\ln(K)}{K+1} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Here  $w = dE/I_p$  is the energy transferred to the electron being ionized in this collision;  $I_p$  is the ionization potential of the shell being ionized;  $u = U/I_p$  is the normalized mean kinetic energy of the shell from which the electron is ejected;  $K = E_e/I_p$  is the kinetic energy of the incident electron normalized to the binding energy of the shell it is scattering on;  $N$  is the number of electrons in the corresponding shell,  $a_0=0.53 \text{ \AA}$  is the Bohr radius, and  $Ry=13.6 \text{ eV}$  is the Rydberg constant.

Ionization potential and shell-kinetic energies used are taken from the EPICS2017 database [55]. Note that in the case of BEB cross sections, atomic ionization potentials are used for the valence shells (instead of the bandgap of the material), since the parameters of the BEB cross sections were fitted to the atomic data. This may lead to certain problems in the mismatch of the parameters; these problems and solutions used in XTANT-3 will be discussed below in Section II.6.

The electron's energy is then updated, and the next collision is then sampled for this kinetic energy. The sampled energy lost by the incident electron is then transferred to a new electron, and a new hole is created (either in a core-shell or in the valence/conduction band). The new electron's next collision is sampled in the same manner as the primary electron.

If the electron loses energy below the predefined cutoff, it is eliminated from the MC simulation, and its energy is stored for further formation of the source term for the Boltzmann equation, see below. If the hole is created in the valence/conduction band, its energy level is then also used to form the source-term for BE.

### II.3.b. Elastic scattering

At the relativistic energies, the cross-section of elastic (nuclear) scattering, and the corresponding energy loss, can be obtained, e.g., from the Mott or Wentzel-Moliere screened scattering cross sections [56–58]:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left( \frac{Z_t e^2}{p_e v_e} \right)^2 \frac{1}{(2\eta + 1 - \cos(\theta))^2}, \quad (11)$$

here  $\Omega$  is the solid angle,  $p_e$  is the incident electron momentum and  $v_e$  is its velocity,  $\theta$  is the scattering angle, and  $\eta$  is a screening parameter [41]. The screening parameter is used in the modified Moliere form [41]:

$$\eta = 1.7 \times 10^{-5} Z_t^{2/3} \left( \frac{1 - \beta^2}{\beta^2} \right) \times \left( 1.13 + 3.76 \left( \frac{\alpha Z_t}{\beta} \right)^2 \sqrt{\frac{E_e}{E_e + m_e c^2}} \right), \quad (12)$$

Where  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum,  $m_e$  is the free electron mass,  $\beta^2 = 2E_e/m_e c^2$ , and  $\alpha = 1/137$  is the fine structure constant.

The corresponding total cross-section used to calculate the elastic mean free path (Eq.(3)) is then:

$$\sigma = \pi a_0^2 \frac{Z_t(Z_t + 1)}{\eta(\eta + 1)} \left( \frac{Ry}{E_e} \right)^2, \quad (13)$$

Where  $E_e$  is the incident electron energy,  $a_0=0.53 \text{ \AA}$  is the Bohr radius, and  $Ry=13.6 \text{ eV}$  is the Rydberg constant (used for normalization of energy here).

The scattering angle can be sampled according to the differential and total cross sections (Eqs. (11)-(13)) as:

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\gamma(2\eta + 1) - \eta}{\eta + \gamma}, \quad (14)$$

Transferred energy in a collision (connected to the recoil angle  $\theta_r$  via  $dE = \frac{4m_{in}m_t}{(m_{in}+m_t)^2} E_e \cos^2(\theta_r)$ , where  $M_{at}$  is the mass of a target atom) can be then calculated from the energy and momentum conservation laws [15,38].

The electron loses the defined amount of energy in the collision. Its next time of collision is then calculated for the updated energy. The energy loss  $dE$  is stored, to be later averaged over MC iterations and delivered to atoms, see Section V.5.

If the electron loses energy below the predefined cutoff, it is eliminated from the MC simulation, and its energy is stored for further formation of the source term for the Boltzmann equation, see below.

## II.4. Core holes

Considering the typical parameters XTANT-3 was developed for, the Auger of Koster-Kronig) decay is the dominant process of core-shell decay (not too high photon energies produce not too deep holes, for which radiative decays would be dominant). Thus, all decay in MC models is characterized by the atomic Auger (or Koster-Kronig) times [38,55,59–61]. In the MC simulation, the decay time is sampled with the exponential (Poisson) distribution:

$$t = -t_0 \ln(\gamma), \quad (15)$$

where  $t_0$  is the characteristic Auger-decay time, which is taken from the EPICS2017 database [62].

In such a case, the hole jumps into the closest higher shell. The energy release in such a transition is approximated as the difference between the ionization potentials of these shells involved. In the XTANT-3 algorithm, it is assumed that this energy is released as a (virtual) photon, which is then instantly absorbed by one of the atoms. Thus, the shell, absorbing this “photon” is sampled according to the photoabsorption cross-section – such a simulation allows for an interatomic Auger (Knotek-Feibelman) decay [63] since the “absorbing” shell may belong to a different element of a compound target. Its absorption then creates a free electron – the Auger electron – and the second holes, thereby completing the Auger decay.

The new excited electron then undergoes the same sampling procedure as a photo-electron, as well as both newly created holes.

If a hole is produced in the valence/conduction band, the hole is excided from the MC simulations. The level in which this hole appeared (sampled according to the transient electron distribution function defining populations on the transient valence energy levels) and its corresponding energy is then recorded to form the source term for the Boltzmann equation, as described below.

## II.5. Electron emission

In simulations where electrons may be emitted from the surface of the material (such as thin layers, nano samples, near-surface regions), this process must be taken into account. It leads to a few effects to consider.

Two simplistic conditions for electron emission are available in XTANT-3 (set bey the user):

- i) Emission after a given number of collisions
- ii) Emission of all electrons with energy above a defined threshold (e.g., work function)

When one of these conditions (chosen by the user) is satisfied, an electron is eliminated from the MC simulation, and its energy is essentially lost (tracked only for energy balance check, but no processes involving this electron are performed). The number of lost electrons is traced to account for the accumulation of the positive charge to be added to the Coulomb potential of atoms traced in MD, see Section V.4.

## II.6. Exceptions, patches, numerical tricks

If the cutoff energy used is larger than the width of the conduction band of the material (which may be the case of small tight-binding bases in certain parameterizations, see details in Section IV), an electron falling below the cutoff may appear above the highest available conduction band level ( $E_{CB} < E < E_{cutoff}$ ) and will not find the level to merge in the Boltzmann equation (see the next section). Such cases must be excluded from simulation, which is done by an automatic adjustment of the cutoff energy to be not larger than the width of the conduction band.

Another potential problem that may arise is if the cutoff energy is smaller than the material bandgap ( $E_{cutoff} < E < E_{gap}$ ). In such a case, electrons may be stuck in limbo, as they would not be able to lose energy and join the low-energy fraction modeled with the Boltzmann equation. Such cases are excluded in XTANT-3 by automatic adjustment of the cut-off energy to be larger or equal to the transient bandgap.

## III. Boltzmann equation

### III.1. Basic concepts, collision integrals

The methodology, first introduced in XTANT-3 in Ref. [33], uses the following Boltzmann collision integral formulation:

$$\frac{df_e(\varepsilon_i, t)}{dt} = I_{e-e} + I_{e-a} + I_{MC}. \quad (16)$$

Where the distribution function of electrons,  $f_e$ , is defined on the transient energy levels (the transient molecular orbitals defined in the tight binding module, see Section IV.2), and the source terms here are responsible for the electron-electron scattering  $I_{e-e}$ , electron-atom (or electron-phonon)  $I_{e-a}$ , and the source term or article and energy coming in or out to the valence/conduction energy levels from the MC module (high-energy electrons falling below cutoff, holes created in scattering events).

An explicit finite time difference scheme is used for solving the Boltzmann equation (14).

### III.2. Electron thermalization

For the electron-electron scattering [33], the relaxation time approximation is used in the current implementation [64]:

$$I_{e-e} = -\frac{f_e(\varepsilon_i, t) - f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_e, t)}{\tau_{e-e}}. \quad (17)$$

Here  $\tau_{e-e}$  is the characteristic electron-electron relaxation time (defined by the user);  $f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_e, t)$  is the equivalent equilibrium Fermi-Dirac distribution with the same total number of (low-energy) electrons ( $n_e$ ) and energy content ( $E_e$ ) as in the transient nonequilibrium distribution:

$$\begin{cases} n_e = \sum f_e(\varepsilon_i, t) = \sum f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_e, t) \\ E_e = \sum \varepsilon_i f_e(\varepsilon_i, t) = \sum \varepsilon_i f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_e, t) \end{cases}. \quad (18)$$

Eqs. (18) define the equivalent electronic temperature (also called the kinetic temperature,  $T_e$  [65]) and the equivalent chemical potential ( $\mu$ ). Within this ansatz, the total number of low-energy electrons and the total energy (in electrons and atoms) are conserved within an MD timestep (changes in the number of electrons may only occur *via* the  $I_{MC}$  term).

Eqs. (16)-(17) naturally unify various widely used approaches to quantum-classical dynamics [33]. It recovers the limiting cases of the Born-Oppenheimer (BO) molecular dynamics (in the limit of infinite electronic thermalization time,  $\tau_{e-e} \rightarrow \infty$ , and no nonadiabatic electron-atom coupling,  $I_{e-a} = 0$ ) in which the electronic populations are fixed; the Ehrenfest dynamics which includes average electron-atom energy exchange but no electron thermalization ( $\tau_{e-e} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $I_{e-a} \neq 0$ ); instantaneous thermalization in the adiabatic microcanonical ensemble ( $\tau_{e-e} = 0$ ,  $I_{e-a} = 0$ , used e.g. in Refs.[3,4]); and nonadiabatic dynamics with instantaneous electron thermalization ( $\tau_{e-e} = 0$ ,  $I_{e-a} \neq 0$ , used in the previous versions of XTANT-3 [1,2]; the same assumptions are used in the two-temperature-based models, TTM-MD [37,66,67]). It was also noted that the BO approximation only assumes the decoupling of the electronic and atomic wave functions, but not necessarily the ground state – excited adiabatic states may also be calculated in many cases, where potential energy surfaces are far apart, thus suppressing electronic transitions between them (far from such situations as conical intersections or avoided crossings) [68]. The ground-state BO molecular dynamics is a separate additional approximation, which can be reproduced within the relaxation-time formalism as the zero-temperature instantaneous thermalization with no coupling ( $\tau_{e-e} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $I_{e-a} = 0$ , and  $T_e = 0$ ) [33].

### III.3. Electron-ion (electron-phonon) coupling

For the nonadiabatic electron-atom (electron-ion, often called electron-phonon) coupling the scattering integral  $I_{e-a}^{ij}$  is defined as the time derivative of the electron distribution function,

$$\frac{df(\varepsilon_i, t)}{dt} = \sum_j I_{e-a}^{ij} \quad (19)$$

For solids, the method based on the ideas of Tully's surface hopping is used, modified for efficient treatment of a large number of electrons in the modeled ensemble: it can be used to obtain matrix elements (or probabilities  $W_{ij} = |\langle \psi_j(t) | \psi_i(t_0) \rangle|^2$  with the wave-function defined via the TB Hamiltonian, see Section IV) entering the scattering integral  $I_{e-a}^{ij}$  [2]:

$$I_{e-a}^{ij} = w_{ij} \begin{cases} f(\varepsilon_j)[2 - f(\varepsilon_i)] - f(\varepsilon_i)[2 - f(\varepsilon_j)]e^{-\varepsilon_{ij}/T_a}, & \text{for } i > j \\ f(\varepsilon_j)[2 - f(\varepsilon_i)]e^{-\varepsilon_{ij}/T_a} - f(\varepsilon_i)[2 - f(\varepsilon_j)], & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

$$w_{ij} = \frac{dW_{ij}}{dt} \approx 2 \frac{|\langle \psi_j(t) | \psi_i(t_0) \rangle|^2}{\delta t}$$

Here again  $f(\varepsilon_i)$  is the electron distribution function, normalized to 2 due to spin degeneracy;  $\varepsilon_{ij} = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j$ ; the time derivative is approximated with the finite difference method for the molecular dynamics time step  $\delta t$ , and the wave functions are calculated correspondingly on two consecutive steps:  $t_0$  and  $t=t_0+\delta t$ . The exponential terms result from the Maxwellian distribution of the atomic ensemble, and, in general, may be replaced with an integral of the transient nonequilibrium atomic distribution. Such a method of combining surface hopping with the Boltzmann collision integral (instead of a random sampling of electronic hops) enables direct calculation of energy flows between the quantum



mechanical electrons and classical atoms in the simulation, and, by extension, the coupling parameter [2].

Note that the method is applicable for arbitrary atomic displacements, without assuming harmonic potential and crystalline solids (phonons) – it also works for amorphous materials, liquids, and rapidly changing structures.

### III.4. Source terms

The influx or outflux of electrons from the valence and conduction band (low-energy electrons) *via* such processes as photoabsorption, scattering of high-energy electrons, and Auger decays, are traced in the MC as described above. In each scattering act involving the valence and conduction electrons, the energy level involved is sampled and recorded into the  $I_{MC}$ . The levels are sampled according to probability following the Pauli blocking term in the Boltzmann collision integral:  $w_i \sim f(\varepsilon_i)(2 - f(\varepsilon_i + \Delta E))$ , where  $\Delta E$  stands for the energy transferred in the collision under consideration (factor 2 is due to spin degeneracy). All the changes in populations in each energy level within the given timestep are then averaged over the MC iterations [33].

Since an incoming electron generally comes with energy somewhere in between the predefined discrete energy levels, the influx of the particles and energy is distributed between the two closest levels under the condition of conservation of the number of particles and energy: increasing the total number of low-energy electrons by one out of  $N_{MC}$  iterations and bringing energy  $\Delta E$  in the scattering event [33]:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta f_e(\varepsilon_i, t) = \Delta n \frac{\varepsilon_j - \Delta E}{\varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_i} \\ \Delta f_e(\varepsilon_j, t) = \Delta n \frac{\Delta E - \varepsilon_i}{\varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_i} \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

Where for one incoming electron out of  $N_{MC}$ , the change in the number is  $\Delta n = 1/N_{MC}$ , and the corresponding energy change is  $\Delta E = E_{el}/N_{MC}$  ( $E_{el}$  is the energy brought by this electron). This way, the total number of electrons and energy, in the low- *and* high-energy fractions (MC and BE modules), are conserved. In the case when one of the levels ( $i$  or  $j=i+1$ ) is fully occupied, another set of levels can be chosen – Eqs. (21) hold for arbitrary levels  $i$  and  $j$ . The total change of the population on each level is then summed over all scattering acts within the given timestep:  $I_{MC} = \sum \Delta f_e(\varepsilon_i, t)$  [33].

### III.5. Exceptions, patches, numerical tricks

Since the source term is gathered from all the independent MC iterations to calculate average quantities, a situation may occur that the source term could lead to changes in the distribution function below the physically allowed limits (dropping below 0 or rising above 2). In such a case, the extra number of electrons (the part below zero or above 2) is then redistributed between the closest allowed levels under the conditions Eqs. (21).

In a rare case (typically occurring under extremely high photon fluences – high doses and short pulses), this may not be possible: changes in the distribution function may be too large to be accommodated by such a redistribution. In this case, extra thermalization steps are used (Eq.(17) with artificial time-steps introduced) until the distribution function smoothens closer to the equilibrium Fermi to be within the physical limits (between 0 and 2).



## IV. Tight binding model

### IV.1. Basic concepts, Slater-Koster approximation

XTANT-3 uses the classic Slater-Koster (SK) approximation [69] for evaluation of the Hamiltonian in the tight-binding approximation (using solid harmonics), see educational overview in Ref. [70]. XTANT-3 supports s, p, and d rotational subroutines, which currently allows for the construction of the LCAO basis sets s,  $sp^3$ ,  $sp^3s^*$ ,  $sp^3d^5$  (and potentially  $sp^3d^5s^*$ ). At present, basis sets containing f-orbitals are not supported.

Within this method, the Hamiltonian is written in the matrix form via pairwise interaction terms between the atoms (hopping integrals  $h_{ij}$ ). It is generally written in the nonorthogonal basis set, thus overlap matrix  $S$  is also often necessary (that depends on the particular parameterization; XTANT-3 can deal with both, orthogonal and nonorthogonal parameterizations). The hopping integrals and overlap matrix in TB are split to the radial function depending only on the distance between the two atoms in the simulation, and the angular SK term  $Y(l,m)$  (defined by the angular quantum numbers [69,70]):

$$h(R_{ij}) = V(R_{ij})Y(l,m) \quad (22)$$

Such a representation allows for analytical calculation of the derivatives of the potential energy surface, which is convenient for the MD simulations, see below.

### IV.2. Electron energy levels (band structure; molecular orbitals)

Hamiltonian constructed from the on-site terms and hopping integrals is then diagonalized (either directly, or via the Lowdin method for nonorthogonal parameterizations [71]):

$$\varepsilon_i = \langle i | \hat{H}(\{R_{ij}(t)\}) | i \rangle \quad (23)$$

Here  $\varepsilon_i$  are the electronic energy levels, or molecular orbitals, or electronic band structure – the eigenstates of the electronic Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}$  that depends on all atomic positions in the simulation box, and  $|i\rangle$  is an eigenvector of this Hamiltonian [70].

### IV.3. Transferable tight binding parameterizations

To make the method transferable to multiple atomic structures, the radial part in the hopping integrals is a function depending on the interatomic distance, not merely constants fitted to reproduce a particular structure of the particular material [70]. XTANT-3 has a few modules to deal with several TB parameterizations: for elemental metals, NRL TB parameterization [72,73] is introduced, and for C and Si the Pettifor-type parameterization can be used, Refs. [74,75], or DFTB parameterization [76].

The potential energy of an atom in the second quantization tight binding formalism can be approximated as a contribution of the ionic repulsion and attraction to electrons [27,74]:

$$V(\{R_{ij}(t)\}, t) = E_{rep}(\{R_{ij}(t)\}) + \sum_i f(\varepsilon_i(\{R_{ij}(t)\}, t)) \varepsilon_i, \quad (24)$$

where the potential  $V$  depends on distances between all the atoms in the simulation box  $\{R_{ij}(t)\}$ ,  $E_{rep}$  is effective ion-ion repulsion term (containing all contributions apart from the electronic band energies), and  $f_i$  is fractional electron occupation numbers (distribution function) on the transient molecular orbitals.

This is the so-called non-self-consistent TB or zero-order TB. The self-consistent-charge (SCC [77]) iterative subroutine is also included in XTANT-3, but only for Born-Oppenheimer simulation – it currently cannot be used for other types of simulation, since it is a nontrivial task to combine the SCC method with NVE ensemble of simulation or nonequilibrium evolution of the electronic distribution function. Note that the SCC typically assumes Mulliken charges [78] on various elements, and thus high-order TB terms exactly vanish for elemental materials.

Interatomic forces are calculated by analytical derivatives of the given potential energy surface (see e.g. Ref. [64]).

## V. Molecular dynamics

### V.1. Initial conditions

Maxwellian distribution for all atoms in the simulation box for the desired temperature  $T_{at}$  can be set with the help of three independent random numbers  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$  (all uniformly distributed in the interval (0,1]):

$$E_i = 2T_{at}(-\ln(\gamma_1) - \ln(\gamma_2)\cos^2(\gamma_3\pi/2)). \quad (25)$$

Where  $E_i$  is the kinetic energy of the  $i^{th}$  atom, from where its velocity can be calculated; the direction of the velocity (or momentum) is then set uniformly in the solid angle.

This procedure creates a Maxwellian distribution of atomic energies/velocities with the temperature of  $2T_{at}$ , considering that energy will then be quickly redistributed equally between the kinetic and potential energies (the equipartition theorem), producing the kinetic temperature of  $T_{at}$ . This also assumes that the initial atomic coordinates must be set in the potential minimum, producing no additional configurational temperature (associated with the potential energy of atoms) [65,79]. Atoms located not in the potential minimum will accelerate, thereby producing a higher temperature than required.

In practice, equilibration of the atomic ensemble to the temperature  $T_{at}$ , starting from these initial conditions, takes only a few atomic oscillations (typically, times of a few tens to a few hundred femtoseconds).

### V.2. Atomic motion

As is typical for molecular dynamics simulations, we use Lagrange formalism for deriving equations of motion of atoms. Its advantage is in the fact that extended variables can be introduced straightforwardly in the equations of motion, defining, for example, the evolution of the supercell (simulation box) in the case of used barostats, as will be described below in Section V.7. The forces acting on the atoms are calculated as the gradients of the potential energy defined within the TB formalism (see Section IV.3) and possibly from additional classical potentials (see Section V.4):

$$M_i \frac{d^2 \mathbf{R}_i}{dt^2} = - \frac{\partial V(\{\mathbf{R}_{ij}\})}{\partial \mathbf{R}_i}. \quad (26)$$

Here  $M_i$  is the mass of a simulated particle (an ion or a target atom),  $\mathbf{R}_i$  is its coordinate vector and  $R_{ij}$  is the distance between a pair of atoms  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $V(\{\mathbf{R}_{ij}\})$  is interaction potential (collective potential energy surface or a pairwise potential, depending on all atoms  $j$  involved).

Equations of motion (26) for the ion-matter scattering may be solved using molecular dynamics (MD) simulations [80]. The set of Eqs. (26) is solved for all the atoms in the simulation box by numerical discretization of time into time steps, and propagating coordinates of all atoms accounting for the dynamical change of the potential of interaction among them.

XTANT-3 supports three integrators of atomic trajectories: Verlet (2<sup>nd</sup> order) [81], Yoshida (4<sup>th</sup> order) [82], and Martyna-Tuckerman (4<sup>th</sup> order) [83].

Additionally, the nonadiabatic energy transfer from the Boltzmann collision integral and the energy transfer from high-energy electrons elastic scattering are fed to atoms *via* velocity scaling at each timestep, which ensures the energy conservation in the entire system: all electrons and atoms (microcanonical ensemble), see Section V.5.

Using Eq.(16) allows directly tracing an effect of the nonequilibrium electronic distribution function on the interatomic forces in Eq.(24) (as well as on the electron-atom coupling,  $I_{e-a}$  [2]), and thus the dynamics and stability of the material under such conditions. As mentioned above, various approximations for the relaxation time also enable comparisons of different standard methods (e.g., BO, instantaneous thermalization approximation).

Note that the formalism of coupled BE-TBMD, at its core, relies on the Ehrenfest dynamics, and not on the finite-temperature extension to *ab initio* simulations [84]. The difference is, the underlying physical picture of the finite-temperature models is that the constant electronic temperature is enforced by the interaction with the bath. In our case, however, even in the limit of the instantaneous electron thermalization ( $\tau_{e-e} \rightarrow 0$ ), no interaction with the bath is assumed, and the electronic thermalization is an intrinsic process (non-mean-field effect added). The electronic temperature and chemical potential are not variables in this formulation but parameters. As was noted in Ref. [33], Eq.(17) could be replaced with the electron-electron Boltzmann collision integral, which does not employ any electronic temperature or chemical potential, even as parameters of the equivalent equilibrium distribution [18].

### V.3. Artificial dynamics: coordinate path, zero-temperature MD

Instead of the MD simulation, XTANT-3 allows to calculate all the properties of the system over a given coordinates path between two chosen states of matter (by setting the initial and final states in the initial data). This may be helpful for the coordinate-path calculations, allowing to identify potential barriers along predefined paths.

XTANT-3 also allows nullifying of atomic velocities (and velocities of the supercell vectors in Parrinello-Rahman MD) in every given number of MD steps (quenching). This method reduces to the common zero-temperature (steepest descent) MD in the case if atomic velocities are being nullified at each time step of the simulation. Choosing a larger step of nullifying the velocities (once in  $N$  simulation steps) allows to speed up the search of the potential minimum, especially in case a barostat is used and the evolution of the supercell vectors needs to be modeled (which is typically significantly

slower than the atomic motion and thus requires nullifying its “velocities” not as often as the atomic ones).

#### V.4. Interatomic potentials

TB-calculated potential energy surface in some cases needs to be augmented with additional classical potentials. It is very common to have additional short-range repulsive potential, which is typically included within the TB parameterization. In some cases, such short-range potential may be needed to be added externally. XTANT-3 supports a range of such potentials, in the form of polynomial, exponential, Coulomb, and universal ZBL [85] potentials.

Coulomb potential is softly truncated in the calculations [86]. In the case of electron emission included, XTANT-3 counts the average charge accumulated due to the emission and distributes it evenly among all the atoms in the simulation, creating additional Coulomb potential, which thus evolves in time depending on the number of emitted electrons.

Long-range potentials may also be used in XTANT-3, currently only as Lennard-Jones potential approximating van der Waals forces [86]. Long-range potential must be softly cut at short distances not to overlap with the TB-potential (a subject of further development to include models such as, e.g., d2, d3, and d4 dispersion corrections [87]).

#### V.5. Source terms, electron-ion coupling (two-temperature MD)

Energy, transferred to atoms from high-energy electrons *via* elastic scattering (from MC module) and from the nonadiabatic coupling of low-energy electrons (from BE module), is distributed to atoms at each time-step of MD simulation *via* velocity scaling:

$$v'_i = v_i \sqrt{1 + \frac{dE}{E}}, \quad (27)$$

Where  $E$  is the total kinetic energy of all the atoms in the simulation box,  $dE$  is the total energy transferred from electrons at this time step,  $v_i$  is the velocity of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  atom before the scaling, and  $v'_i$  is its velocity after the scaling (corresponding to the total energy increased by  $dE$ ). This Eq.(27) ensures that the total kinetic energy in the simulation box increases (decreases) by exactly the amount of  $dE$  while conserving the total momentum in the simulation box.

#### V.6. Thermostats

If high gradients in the energy/temperature in the target are present, the effects of the transport of energy may be important. Simulation box sizes that can be modeled with ab-initio-like MD are too small to capture such transport effect. To account for energy transport out of the simulation box, thermostats may be used. They allow the temperature or the energy in the supercell to change towards a defined temperature over a given characteristic time. XTANT-3 allows to use generalized Berendsen thermostat [88] for both, electronic and atomic systems (with independent parameters in the two systems). It is generalized in the sense that instead of a linear rate equation for the temperature, it uses a full exponential solution [62]:

$$T(t + \delta t) = T_0 + (T(t) - T_0)\exp(-\delta t/\tau), \quad (28)$$

Where  $T(t + \delta t)$  and  $T(t)$  are the atomic temperature on the current and previous time steps (before and after cooling),  $T_0$  is the bath temperature (typically, room temperature, 300 K),  $\tau$  is the characteristic cooling time, and  $\delta t$  is the MD time step. Note that Eq.(28) is an exact solution of the equation for the temperature rate, in contrast to the linearized one in the original work [88], and thus it does not require the condition  $\tau \gg \delta t$ .

For electrons, in the case of instantaneous thermalization, the same Eq.(28) is used for the electronic temperature; in the case of nonequilibrium electron simulation, the same time of equation is used but for the distribution function instead of the temperature:

$$f_e(\varepsilon_i, t + \delta t) = f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_0, t) + (f_e(\varepsilon_i, t) - f_{eq}(\varepsilon_i, \mu, T_0, t))\exp(-\delta t/\tau), \quad (29)$$

With the equilibrium distribution function to relax towards.

## V.7. Barostats: variable supercell

For simulations, where the system needs to change the size and shape of the supercell, ensembles of constant volume do not do the job. Such situations arise, for example, when different phases of material are required to be modeled. A phase transition between phases with different densities and symmetry may be modeled with MD using a barostat allowing the simulation box to change adjusting to the changes in the pressure tensor. XTANT-3 uses the Parrinello-Rahman barostat [89], in which case the supercell vectors are introduced in the Lagrangian of motion as additional variables. Their equation of motion is then defined by the pressure tensor.

## VI. Data analysis

### VI.1. Excited electrons and holes

XTANT-3 traces the number of high-energy electrons and the number of core-shell holes within the MC module. Additionally, it defines the number of the conduction band electrons (per atom in the simulation) as the number of electrons on the TB energy levels above the LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) state at  $T_e=0$ .

### VI.2. Electronic structure

The electronic structure is calculated at the Gamma point according to Eq.(23) unless the calculation of DOS is specified by the user. In the calculation of the forces, however, only Gamma-point calculations are used in all cases. It limits the simulation size to a sufficiently large number of atoms (typically, 64 atoms is sufficient).

### VI.3. Mulliken charge

Mulliken charge analysis [78] is performed by XTANT-3 for different elements in the target. AT present, charges on individual atoms are not traced, only average on various chemical elements in the simulation.

#### VI.4. Electron distribution function, thermalization and entropy

The electronic entropy  $S_e = -k_B 2 \sum [(f_e/2) \ln(f_e/2) + (1 - f_e/2) \ln(1 - f_e/2)]$ , with  $k_B$  being the Boltzmann constant, and factors of 2 due to the normalization of the distribution function according to the spin degeneracy. XTANT-3 prints out the transient entropy according to the transient distribution function, and according to the equivalent equilibrium distribution function (corresponding to the maximal entropy, to compare and identify the degree of the deviation of the electronic state from the equilibrium) [33].

#### VI.5. Temperatures, electronic and atomic

Electron temperature is used as the kinetic or equivalent temperature defined by Eqs. (18).

Atomic temperature is defined as the classical kinetic temperature [15,65]:

$$T_{kin} = \frac{1}{k_B N_{at}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{at}} \frac{M_i v_i^2}{2} \quad (30)$$

#### VI.6. Energy balance and conservation

XTANT-3 traces the evolution of the total energy in the system, which must conserve in NVE simulations (without quenching, thermostats, and barostats), except for the laser pulse. At the time of arrival of the laser pulse, the energy increases by the value, defined by the deposited dose.

#### VI.7. Pressure and stress tensor

The pressure tensor is defined according to the Parrinello-Rahman method (Section V.7), which is calculated even in NVE simulations (without calculating the equation of motion for the supercell vectors) [89].

#### VI.8. Electron-ion (electron-phonon) coupling parameter

As described in Section III.3, in the one-particle approximation, the electron-ion coupling parameter  $G$  is defined *via* [18]:

$$G(T_e, T_a) = \frac{1}{V_0(T_e - T_a)} \sum_{i,j} \varepsilon_j I_{e-a}^{ij} \quad (31)$$

Where summation runs over all electronic states  $i$  and  $j$ . See an example of the coupling parameter, calculated and averaged over 10 simulation runs, in Figure VI.1, according to the methodology described in [90].

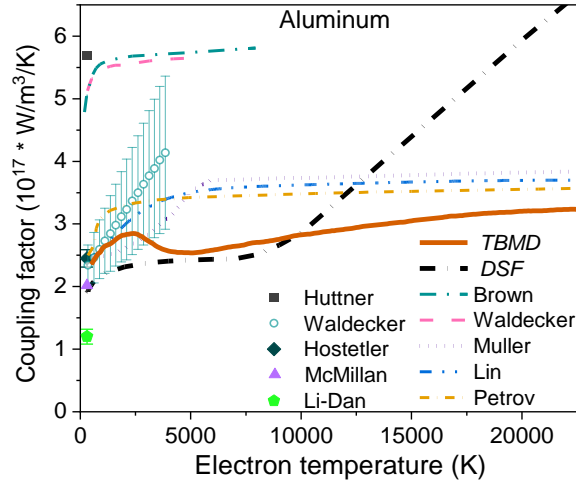


Figure VI.1. Electron-ion coupling parameter as a function of electron temperature in aluminum calculated within the XTANT-3 TBMD approach (Eq.(31)) [2]; DSF-based approach by Gorbunov et al. [91]; compared with other estimates by Lin et al. [92], McMillan [93], Allen et al. [94], Brown et al. [95], Petrov et al. [96], Muller et al. [97], Waldecker et al. [98]. Experimental data for comparison are from Huttner et al. [99], Waldecker et al. [98], Hostetler et al. [100], and Li-Dan et al. [101]. Reproduced from Ref. [2]

## VI.9. Atomic structure and displacement

Atomic structure is printed out in various formats and then can be analyzed with the standard MD visualization tools such as OVITO [102], VMD [103], Mercury [104], etc. Mean atomic displacement (in arbitrary degree, e.g. linear or square displacement) may be printed out for all chemical elements of the target. This, e.g., allows to identify melting into a liquid phase, for which the average square displacement is proportional to time ( $d \sim \sqrt{t}$ ).

## VI.10. Pair correlation function

The pair correlation function (or radial distribution function) is defined as:

$$g(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\rho} \left\langle \sum \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) \right\rangle \quad (32)$$

And the velocity autocorrelation function may be calculated (with the damping factor  $a$ ) [105]:

$$I(\omega) = \int \langle v(t)v(0) \rangle \exp(at^2) \exp(-i\omega t) dt \quad (33)$$

Which then can be used to calculate the phonon spectrum as the Fourier transform of it.

## VI.11. Neighbours analysis and fragmentation

XTANT-3 simulation package allows us to evaluate the number of nearest neighbors within the given radius, and count the number of fragments in case the system may break up in the simulation (e.g., ablation). Those fragments are then sorted by mass to create a mass spectrum.



## PART II: User Manual

### I. Limits of applicability of XTANT-3

The code has the following limitations due to approximations of the model:

- The photon absorption is modeled in the linear regime only. Since no simultaneous multi-photon absorption is included, the lowest allowed photon energy is limited by the material bandgap (for insulators). When modeling photon energy that is smaller than the energy cut-off (see description below), nonequilibrium electron kinetics may be included via the relaxation time approximation.
- The upper limit for the photon energy is ~20-30 keV (no radiative decays of core holes are included, which becomes important for heavy elements at higher photon energies; no relativistic effects for electrons are included).
- The deposited dose is limited to ~5 eV/atom, depending on the TB parameterization of the material. The code MAY be used at higher doses, if you understand the risks and shortcomings – such as, e.g., the results at ultrashort timescales may still be reliable, or ultrafast cooling or electron emission that may quickly reduce the dose, etc.
- At low deposited doses, the electron-phonon coupling model is unreliable, it is limited to electronic temperatures above some ~2-3 kK.
- The number of atoms in the simulation box must be larger than some 200-300, defined by the two factors: 1) the TB cut-off radius must be smaller than half of the simulation box with periodic boundaries; 2) the electron-phonon coupling, calculated at the gamma-point only, requires a few hundred atoms for convergence (must be checked for each material).
- Duration of simulation is typically limited to a few picoseconds, due to possible accumulating MD instabilities – they must be checked by the energy conservation in the simulation. Poor convergence (non-conserved energy) should be corrected by reducing the MD time step. Note: the energy drift may be mediated by using Berendsen thermostats.

### II. Compiling XTANT-3

If the executable (e.g. XTANT.x, or XTANT.exe) does not exist, compile the source files. With the help of the makefile, the compilation under Linux is as follows: go into the directory with the whole code (all necessary files that must be present are described below), and execute the command

**make**

in a terminal. It will compile the code and create an executable named **XTANT.x** in the same folder. It might take a few moments. It automatically compiles the code with OpenMP<sup>4</sup>.

Then execute the corresponding shell-script, which specifies paths to MKL libraries on your computer/cluster. Examples of the shell scripts prepared for running XTANT.x on some clusters it was used before include:

---

<sup>4</sup> More on OpenMP with fortran: [http://www.openmp.org/presentations/miguel/F95\\_OpenMPv1\\_v2.pdf](http://www.openmp.org/presentations/miguel/F95_OpenMPv1_v2.pdf)



`./XTANT_DESY.sh` - to run XTANT-3 at the cluster in DESY (Hamburg)

`./XTANT_Metacentrum.sh` – to run XTANT-3 on Luna cluster as part of the Metacentrum (Prague)

Alternatively, if you are using Windows (with Intel Fortran compiler, OpenMP, and MKL-library installed, and paths set in the environmental variables), rename the file `Make.bat.txt` into `Make.bat`, and execute it. It will create an executable `XTANT.exe`.

Run this `XTANT.exe` in case you are using Windows.

In case the program cannot find libraries required for OpenMP parallelization, you might have to specify the paths to them manually by executing commands similar to these (insert your current paths accordingly):

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/intel/2011/lib/intel64:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/products/mkl/11.0/mkl/lib/em64t:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

Some other libraries might be missing on your workstation. In this case, find the paths to them and export them analogously.

In case of having problems with a lack of memory (which XTANT-3 usually does), you must set it unlimited by executing

```
ulimit -s unlimited
limit stacksize unlimited
```

(For Windows, use the compiler option `/F99999999999`)

These four commands usually are not necessary since they are already inside of the `XTANT.sh`

If you wish to recompile the code without OpenMP, first you have to clean up all the old compiled files with the command

```
make clean
```

After that, you can compile the code without OpenMP by specifying

```
make OMP=no
```

Again, new recompilation with OpenMP must be preceded by making clean, because there are pre-processing options included. So, each recompilation that changes the involvement of OpenMP must be done *only after cleaning up* the files. This option is mainly for code-developing, since executing is much faster with parallelization with OpenMP.

Another option for debugging during the development of the code is compiling with:

```
make DEBUG=yes
```

Under Windows a user may compile it in the following way: `Make.bat X` or `make X`, where X is one of the following options (no ‘*make clean*’ needed for recompiling):

**DEBUG** - for debugging during the developing of the code (such as checking arrays boundaries, undeclared variables, etc.), compiles `XTANT_DEBUG.exe`.

**DEBUGOMP** or **db** - to compile parallel version with all debug options on, compiles `XTANT_DEBUG_OMP.exe`.

**FAST** or **slow** – to compile parallelized code with no optimizations and no debug (fast compilation, not-so-the-fastest execution), compiles `XTANT_OMP.exe`.

For a compilation for release, simply use `Make.bat` or `make`, with no additional option, which compiles XTANT.exe.

### III. Compiling additional post-processing programs

XTANT-3 package has additional useful programs for data analysis, saved in the folder `!XTANT_ANALYSIS_SUBROUTINES`. They can be compiled all together by using `Make.bat` (under Windows) file *in this* directory.

### IV. Running XTANT-3 with additional options

To include additional options in the code, you can run it with some additional options as follows:

`./XTANT.sh X` (or `XTANT.x X`, or `XTANT.exe X`)

where X is an option available. At the moment, there are only a few options:

- 1) `help` – If you need some short info on the XTANT-3 when starting the code, you can also call the following help-commands: `help` (so, run it as `./XTANT.sh help`, or correspondingly `./XTANT.x help` or `XTANT.exe help`). It will printout the numbers and meaning of possible errors in the error-file (see below), how to communicate with the program on-the-fly (see below), etc. This flag will only print some info and stop the execution of the code; no calculations will be performed.
- 2) `info` – Before running the code will print out some basic information about the XTANT. Running with this option will tell you some information about references, disclaimers, how to cite the code, and similar info. This flag will only print some info and stop the execution of the code; no calculations will be performed.
- 3) `size` – If you want to create the file with cohesive energy of the material as a function of the nearest neighbor distance (to compare with other works), run XTANT-3 with this option will create an output file named `OUTPUT_Energy.dat` with the energy as a function of the nearest neighbor distance, see a description below. Note: this file is overwritten every time you run the program with the flag “size”.

Note, if the `size` option is specified in the input file (`INPUT.txt` or `INPUT_MATERIAL.txt`, see below), then the user may (optionally) specify the parameters of the grid for the variable size change in the next line in the following format:

`min_a, max_a, points`

where `min_a` and `max_a` are real(8) parameters setting the minimal and maximal sizes in the units of the supercell, and `points` is the number of grid points to be used.

The default options are: `min_a=0.7`, `max_a=2.1`, `points=300`. They are used if there is no line with alternative parameters provided.

- 4) `allow_rotation` – By default, initializing MD removes the total angular momentum of the system. If you want to start MD simulation without removing it, which will allow the whole system to rotate (e.g. might be useful for modeling individual molecules), use this flag.

- 5) **matter** or **material** – To list all available materials in the directory INPUT\_DATA. XTANT-3 will read out the existing directories with the corresponding material parameters, create the file List\_of\_materials.txt and also print it on the screen. After that, the code terminates; no calculations will be performed.
- 6) **verbose** – If you want to see a lot of information on the screen during the simulation run (such as, when which subroutine was called, etc.), which may be useful for debugging and testing, use this option.
- 7) For a regular simulation run without additional options simply call:

**./XTANT.sh** or **XTANT.exe** for Windows.

Note that XTANT-3 supports as many flags at a simulation run as you need, they can be combined.

Also note that all these additional options may be listed at the end of the input file INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt, as described below.

## V. Files of the code

This code XTANT-3 is contained in several files that have to be compiled together, plus additional files for post-processing of the data if needed. All the files listed below must be in the same directory for XTANT-3 code compilation and execution:

- **Makefile** – this file uses a standard Linux program **make**<sup>5</sup> to create links between the compiler and source files, compile all the modules, and the final program: XTANT.x. Use it for Linux-based systems. For Windows, alternatively, rename **Make.bat.txt** to **Make.bat** and execute the file **Make.bat** in the command line (assuming all the paths to needed libraries such as OpenMP are provided in your system, or the libraries themselves are in the same folder).

By default, it uses the Intel Fortran-2013 compiler (ifort2013; or ifort.exe for Windows); this can be changed in the Makefile. Note that the code uses some of the intel-features, that would need to be corrected, should you want to compile the code with gnu-fortran (gfortran).

- **XTANT.sh** – this is the shell script to be executed for running the XTANT-3 (executable XTANT.x) under Linux. Alternatively, under Windows run the created XTANT.exe.
- **XTANT\_MAIN\_FILE.f90** – this file contains the main part of the XTANT-3 code. It assembles the program into one piece and performs the dynamics of atoms and electrons by calling all necessary subroutines. Also, all initialization of variables, reading input files, and creating output files are called from here.
- **Algebra\_tools.f90** – this file contains linear algebra necessary subroutines (also with references to the LAPACK library<sup>6</sup>).
- **Atomic\_tools.f90** – this file contains subroutines used for the atomic subsystem.

---

<sup>5</sup> Details on what is ‘make’: [http://linux.about.com/library/cmd/blcmdl1\\_make.htm](http://linux.about.com/library/cmd/blcmdl1_make.htm)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.netlib.org/lapack/>

- [BS\\_Basis\\_sets.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to deal with Gaussian basis sets that are required for xTB calculations (*unfinished*)
- [BS\\_Cartesian\\_Gaussians.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to deal with Cartesian Gaussian basis sets that are required for xTB calculations (*unfinished*)
- [BS\\_Spherical\\_Gaussians.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to deal with Spherical Gaussian basis sets that are required for xTB calculations (*unfinished*)
- [Coulomb.f90](#) – this file contains Coulomb potential and forces for modeling the Coulomb explosion of finite-size systems.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_3TB.f90](#) – this module contains subroutines for reading and interpreting files in 3TB format [106]. Note that currently XTANT-3 only supports the 2-body part of the parameterization, the 3-body part is unfinished.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_BOP.f90](#) – this module contains subroutines for reading and interpreting files in BOP format [107]. Note that this parameterization only supports dimer molecules, not solids.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_DFTB.f90](#) – this module contains subroutines for reading and interpreting files in the Slater-Koster format<sup>7</sup>, as provided by DFTB [108].
- [Dealing\\_with\\_EADL.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to read from the EPICS2017 (former EADL and EPDL) databases<sup>8</sup>, needed for naming atomic shells, extracting information on Auger-decay rates, ionization potential, photoabsorption cross sections (used in one of the options of MC, see below).
- [Dealing\\_with\\_eXYZ.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to read from extended XYZ format<sup>9</sup>.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_files.f90](#) – this file contains useful subroutines to deal with files, such as counting lines and columns, reading, checking for errors, etc.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_output\\_files.f90](#) – this file contains all subroutines to create and prepare output directories and files, communicate with the program, and interpret the user's commands.
- [Dealing\\_with\\_xTB.f90](#) – this module contains subroutines for reading and interpreting files in the extended tight binding, xTB, format [87] (*unfinished*)
- [Electron\\_tools.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to deal with the Fermi function of low-energy electrons.
- [Exponential\\_wall.f90](#) – this module contains short-range exponential repulsive potential and forces needed in case TB parameterization provides too low barrier for atoms at short distances.
- [Gnuplotting.f90](#) – this module contains subroutines to create gnuplot shell scripts.
- [Initial\\_configuration.f90](#) – this file sets up the initial conditions, such as constructing initial atomic positions and velocities and so on.
- [Little\\_subroutines.f90](#) – this file contains useful subroutines, such as for approximations, search in arrays, resizing arrays, etc.

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dftb.org/parameters/introduction/>

<sup>8</sup> See details of this database here: <https://www-nds.iaea.org/epdl97/libsa11.htm>, physical details and references for the database are here: <https://www-nds.iaea.org/epdl97/document/epdl97.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Original XYZ format: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ\\_file\\_format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ_file_format), its extension used in XTANT is described below

- [MC\\_cross\\_sections.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines for the calculation of electron cross-sections and the mean free path used in the Monte Carlo part. It uses complex dielectric function formalism [51,109], or BEB cross sections [54,110].
- [Monte\\_Carlo.f90](#) – this file contains all Monte Carlo model subroutines for photons, high-energy electrons, and core holes Auger decays.
- [Nonadiabatic.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines for Boltzmann collision integrals and nonadiabatic electron-ion energy exchange [111,112].
- [Objects.f90](#) – this file contains all the introduced objects in the framework of object-oriented programming<sup>10</sup> and some subroutines to deal with these objects.
- [Optical\\_parameters.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines for the calculation of the optical part of the complex dielectric function within the tight binding and RPA [113], or within the Drude model [114].
- [Periodic\\_table.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to extract information about each elements from the periodic table (must be attached as one of the input files, see below).
- [Read\\_input\\_data.f90](#) – this file contains subroutines to read all necessary input files (see below).
- [TB.f90](#) – this file contains general subroutines to deal with tight binding (TB) formalism. *Eventually, calling a DFT package, or HF, can be placed here too.*
- [TB\\_3TB.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate the TB Hamiltonian within one of the following basis sets: s,  $sp^3$ ,  $sp^3d^5$ , and corresponding forces, according to the 3TB model [106].
- [TB\\_BOP.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate the TB Hamiltonian within one of the following basis sets: s,  $sp^3$ ,  $sp^3d^5$ , and corresponding forces, according to the BOP method [107]. *Note that this parameterization only supports dimer molecules, not solids (unfinished).*
- [TB\\_DFTB.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate the TB Hamiltonian and the repulsive term within one of the following basis sets: s,  $sp^3$ ,  $sp^3d^5$ , and corresponding forces, according to the DFTB method [108].
- [TB\\_Fu.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate TB Hamiltonian within the  $sp^3$ -basis set and repulsive energy, and corresponding forces, as a combination of Pettifor's parameters, according to Fu *et al.*[115]. Note that the tests showed unstable systems, even though with correct band structure; *not recommended for using until solved.*
- [TB\\_Koster\\_Slater.f90](#) – contains some subroutines for the Koster-Slater angular parameterizations up to *d*-orbital [69].
- [TB\\_Molteni.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate TB Hamiltonian within the  $sp^3s^*$ -basis set and repulsive energy, and corresponding forces, according to Molteni *et al.*[116].
- [TB\\_NRL.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate TB Hamiltonian within the  $sp^3d^5$ -basis set and corresponding forces, according to NRL format [73].
- [TB\\_Pettifor.f90](#) – contains subroutines to calculate TB Hamiltonian within the  $sp^3$ -basis set and repulsive energy, and corresponding forces, according to Pettifor *et al.*[64].

- `Transport.f90` – contains simple rate equations mimicking heat transport out of the system using a Berendsen thermostat [88].
- `Universal_constants.f90` – this file contains all universal constants.
- `Use_statements.f90` – contains all ‘use’ statements included in the main file.
- `Van_der_Waals.f90` – this file contains all subroutines to deal with van der Waals potential.
- `Variables.f90` – this file contains all global variables (mainly as defined objects) used throughout the code.
- `ZBL_potential.f90` – ZBL potential [85] for core-core repulsion, only used for the construction of dimer repulsive potentials for BOP tight binding parameterization.

Additionally, the following modules for post-processing of the data can be compiled (stored in the directory `!XTANT_ANALYSIS_SUBROUTINES`, require separate compilation as described above):

- 1) `XTANT_atomic_data_analysis.f90`
- 2) `XTANT_autocorrelators.f90`
- 3) `XTANT_coupling_parameter.f90`
- 4) `XTANT_dielectric_function_analysis.f90`
- 5) `XTANT_fragmentation.f90`
- 6) `XTANT_entropy.f90`

## VI. INPUT FILES

The code requires input files stored in the directory: `INPUT_DATA`. This name cannot be changed. The directory contains the following files and directories:

- `INPUT_MATERIAL.txt` or `INPUT.txt` – input file with all the parameters of the material and laser pulse (and, optionally, numerical parameters).
- `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS.txt` – optional input file with all the numerical parameters of the calculations (can be included in the `INPUT.txt`, or set in this separate file).

These files cannot be renamed, the program has to be able to find them by these exact names.

The directories with the following names must also be present:

- `Atomic_parameters` must contain the following databases:
  - `EADL2017.all` – Electronic atomic database (ionization potentials, Auger- and radiative decay rates, kinetic energies of atomic electrons, etc.)
  - `EPDL2017.all` – Photoionization cross sections database for all elements.
  - `INPUT_atomic_data.dat` – periodic table of elements.
  - `INPUT_Hubbard_U.dat` – table with Hubbard U parameters for (chemical hardness) for selected elements, according to the ThreeBodyTB model<sup>11</sup> [106].
- `DFTB` containing directories with Slater-Koster files within DFTB format, e.g. matsci-0-3, and others. Inside the directories .skl files must be present, named `[El]-[El].skf`, where `[El]` stands for the element which overlap parameters with the second listed element this file contains<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>11</sup> The ThreeBodyTB code and its parameters can be found here: <https://github.com/usnistgov/ThreeBodyTB.jl>



- **DFTB\_no\_repulsion** optional directory with Slater-Koster files within DFTB format without the repulsive potential fitted, such as, e.g., can be found in <sup>13</sup>. Inside this folder must be a directory with the parameterization name specified in the TB\_Parameters file (e.g., “2elements”). In the directory, .skl files must be present, named  $[El]-[El].skf$ , where  $[El]$  stands for the element which overlap parameters.
- **3TB\_PARAMETERS** – files containing ThreeBodyTB parameterizations for elemental solids and binary compounds in xml format
- **BASIS\_SETS** – files with Gaussian basis sets in the gbs format<sup>14</sup> (*currently unused, since xTB or ab-initio model is unfinished*)
- **BOP\_data** – all the dimer parameters in BOP format in the file [models.bx](#) [107]

A few other folders with the names of the materials must be there. The material name given in the **INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt** (see below) must exactly coincide with the name of the folder, such as e.g.:

- **Diamond, Silicon, Gold**, etc. Each of the folders contains a few files describing the material properties, used in the code as described below.

## 1. File INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt or INPUT.txt

File **INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt** or **INPUT.txt** contains the following mandatory lines, which must be exactly in this order, with exactly as many numbers inside each line, as described below.

Note that the name **INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt** takes precedence over the name **INPUT.txt**, so if both files are present, the **INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt** will be read and **INPUT.txt** will be ignored.

```

1 PMMA                ! material name
2 C5O2H8              ! chemical formula of the compound
3 300.0                ! initial electron temperature [K]
4 300.0                ! initial atomic temperature [K]
5 0.0                  ! start of simulation [fs]
6 1000.0               ! end of simulation [fs]
7 1                    ! number of FEL-pulses
8 1.0d0 0.1e0          ! 1.0d0 0.1e0 ! absorbed dose per this pulse [eV/atom] (min, max, step)
9 1000.0 100.0         ! hw, mean photon energy [eV], FWHM of the distribution of hw [eV]
10 10.0d0              ! pulse FWHM-duration [fs]
11 1                   ! type of pulse to be analysed: 0 = rectangular, 1 = Gaussian, 2 = SASE
12 0.0d0               ! position of the maximum of the laser pulse [fs]
13
14 ! probe
15 0 1 1.0d-1 25.0d0 1.0d-1 ! optic coef: 0=no, 1=Drude, 2=Trani-k, 3=gamma; spectr (1) w/ KK (2), or no (0); min, max, d_hw (eV)
16 2 800.0 -70.0       ! how many rays (0=exclude, 1=1st ray, (>1)=sum all); probe-pulse wavelength [nm]; FWHM probe pulse [fs]
17 89.0 50.0d0         ! angle of prob-pulse with respect to normal [degrees]; material thickness [nm]
18
19 ! water
20 100
21
22 ! coupling

```

Figure VI.1 **INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt** or **INPUT.txt** example.

- Line 1: material name, must exactly coincide with the name of the folder, where the material parameters are stored (mentioned above, described below).
- Line 2: chemical composition or element, which material consists of. Each element **must** start with a capital letter, followed by the small letters and/or a number corresponding to the contribution of this element to the compound – that is how the program parses the names into

12 Detailed description of the files format is provided here: <http://www.dftb.org/parameters/introduction/>. The skl files can also be downloaded from there with the format that can be read by XTANT, no alterations needed.

13 Download files from [https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion\\_v1](https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion_v1), place in the INPUT\_DATA folder and rename the directory Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion\_v1-main into DFTB\_no\_repulsion

14 Basis set files can be downloaded from: <https://www.basissetexchange.org/>

separate chemical elements to be used for the periodic table reading. For example, diamond or graphite must be set as C; silicon – Si; gallium arsenide – GaAs; quartz – SiO<sub>2</sub>, etc.

- Line 3: setting the initial electron distribution function can be done in two ways:
  - If a number is provided in this line, it sets the initial electron temperature in [K]. Then, the initial electron distribution is assumed to be the Fermi function, defined by the given temperature and the number of electrons in the valence band of the material (calculated from the atomic valence electrons, given in the database [INPUT\\_atomic\\_data.dat](#), see above).
  - If the name of the file is given, XTANT-3 will attempt to read the electron distribution function from this file. The file must be located in the directory, containing all the material parameters (as provided in the first line). If the file with the given name cannot be found in the directory, then the Fermi distribution will be assumed instead, with the electronic temperature equal to the atomic one (see next line). The file with the distribution function must be in the following format:

The first line is the comment line that will be skipped while reading.

Second and all the other lines will be read. The last column in the file is assumed to contain the distribution function (compatible with the output file with the distribution function created by XTANT: [OUTPUT\\_electron\\_distribution.dat](#), see below).

This option can be used for setting nonequilibrium electron distributions that can be run in BO approximation (see flag setting it below, file [NUMERICAL\\_PARAMETERS.txt](#)); currently, no other simulation option supports nonequilibrium distributions – the initial one will be thermalized in all but BO simulations.

- Line 4: initial atomic temperature in [K].
- Line 5: starting time of simulation in [fs]. The starting time in the simulation will be chosen as the minimum between the user-provided value here, and  $[-50 + \text{FWHM} * 2.35]$ , where FWHM is the full width at half maximum of the laser pulse (see line 12 below).
- Line 6: total duration of the simulation in [fs]. *Can be later changed during the simulation, see below description of the Communication file.*
- Line 7: number of FEL-pulses to be simulated (multiple-pulses allowed). A number of next lines depends on this. In this example of Figure VI.1, there is only 1 pulse to be modeled. In case you want to model two pulses, set here 2.
- The next lines specify the parameters of each FEL-pulse:
  - Line 8: absorbed dose in [eV/atom], used for energy deposition from this pulse. Setting it equal to 0 gives NO laser pulse, dynamics of the unirradiated system (for example, for electron-ion thermalization, if the nonadiabatic coupling is included).

There are two options to set the absorbed dose:

(i) if a single number is given in this line, the single dose is set in [eV/atom]

(ii) if there are three (real) numbers in this line they are interpreted as a grid in dose: *first dose, last dose, step* (all in [eV/atom]). In this case, the program will create a set of input files with all identical parameters, except for the dose, which will be varied



between the first and the last number, by the *step* given in this line. The program then will run a sequence of simulations one after another automatically for all set doses, see below section VI.3.

- Line 9: parameters of the photon spectrum. It can be set by one or two numbers:

First (real) number:  $\hbar\omega$ , mean photon energy of the incoming FEL in [eV]

Second (real) number: FWHM of the photon spectrum in [eV], assuming a Gaussian distribution of the photon energies around the mean.

If the second number is not given, then zero-FWHM is assumed, and all the photon energies will be equal to the mean (ideal monochromatic pulse).

- Line 10: duration of the pulse,  $\tau$ , in [fs] (FWHM for Gaussian pulse, total duration for flat-top or SASE [117]).
- Line 11: type of the pulse to be used: 0 means flat-top pulse, 1 gives Gaussian, and 2 mimics SASE-like spiky pulse [117].
- Line 12: position of the center,  $t_0$  (Gaussian maximum) of the laser pulse [fs]. The simulation will start at  $(t_0 - \tau - 50)$  fs if this value is smaller than the starting time set by the user (line 5).
- If you want to set a second pulse, repeat the same lines 8-12 (with different pulse parameters) in the same order.

- Optional lines:

To provide additional options for calculations, one may use optional lines at the end of the file.

- Any of the additional options that may be passed to XTANT-3 *via* the command line (see Section IV) may also be specified here (e.g., size, info, help, etc.).
- **Probe**: specifies that calculation of the optical parameters of a probe pulse is required. Optional line 1: **probe**. Below this marker, the following three lines in the given order (and no empty lines in between) must be provided:

Optional line 2: this line contains 5 numbers:

- first one sets whether you want to calculate the evolution of the optical properties (set 0 if not), and within which model:
- a) 1 for the Drude model. If the Drude model is used, it requires additional parameters to be set in the file NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS using the optional block of data “DRUDE”, see below. If this block is not specified, the default values are used:  $n=1$ ,  $k=0$ ,  $m_{e\_eff}=m_{h\_eff}=m_e$ , and  $t_e=t_h=1$  fs.
- b) 2 for the Trani model at many k-points, distributed according to the user-defined grid or to the Monkhorst-Pack grid [118] (this option requires many diagonalizations of TH Hamiltonian which are currently not parallelized, and thus is very slow).
- c) 3 for the Trani model [113] at the Gamma-point only.

Note #1: if you want to calculate the DOS of the material (see the option in the numerical parameters file below) but *not* the optical properties, you can set here a negative value: -2 will calculate DOS on multiple k-points specified; setting -3 will provide DOS at gamma point.

Note #2: the DOS calculation parameter in line 25 of the file NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt (see below) takes precedence: if its value does not coincide with the value of the probe parameters model (the first number in this line), it will overwrite the Probe parameter and exclude the optical spectrum calculations. It means it is currently not possible to get a gamma-point probe pulse and multiple-k-points for DOS at the same time. They are connected: either both are calculated for multiple (and the same) k-points, or DOS calculation takes precedence and the probe is switched off.

- The second number in this line indicates whether you want to calculate the complex dielectric function only for a given (probe-photon) energy (set 0), or for the whole spectrum (set 1). The default choice is 0.
- The next three numbers define the interval of the spectrum you'd like to calculate, in case the previous number is set to 1: The third number is the starting point in [eV], the fourth is the ending point in [eV], and the fifth is the energy step in [eV] to make a uniform grid. If any of these three numbers is set to negative, then default values for the interval are used, which are: from 0 to 50 eV with the step of 0.05 eV.

Optional line 3: contains three numbers:

- First one sets for how many rays propagation you want to calculate the optical parameters (transmission, reflection, and absorption of the probe-pulse): set 1 for the first ray, or a value larger than 1 for summing up all rays. For femtosecond probe pulse, the default choice is 1 (however, for very thin samples, thinner than ~50 nm, sum up all).
- The second number sets the wavelength of the probe pulse in [nm].
- The third one is the duration of the probe pulse in [fs]. If the number is set to a positive value, the output files will be additionally convolved with the Gaussian probe pulse of the given duration. A set of additional convolved output data will be created with the tag 'CONVOLVED' (see below). To exclude this option, set the duration to zero or a negative value.

Optional line 4: contains two numbers:

- The first one sets the angle of incidence of the probe-pulse in degrees to the normal.
  - The second one sets the thickness of the material layer through which the probe pulse absorption and reflection are calculated in [nm]. Must be equal to the experimental target thickness, if it is thinner than the FEL photon attenuation length; or may be to the FEL-photon attenuation length otherwise.
- **Coupling:** option for automatic preparation of XTANT-3 input for calculations of the average electron-phonon coupling (see details in Section (VIII.3)) may be passed here. To set it, use the following command (2 lines):

Optional line 1: **Coupling** – the marker, identifying that input files for electron-phonon coupling calculations should be prepared.

Optional line 2:  $N$  is the number of simulations to be used for average electron-phonon coupling calculations. If  $N$  is not specified, the default value of  $N=10$  is used.

If the marker “Coupling” is found in the file, the code will create automatically  $N$  copies of the input files (INPUT\_DATA\_ $i$ .txt and NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS\_ $i$ .txt, for  $i=1..N$ ), in which the following parameters will be set:

- the start of simulation  $t_0$  ( $1 \pm 0.1RN$ ), where  $RN$  is a random number in the interval  $[0,1]$
- end of simulation  $t_f$  ( $1 \pm 0.25RN$ ), where  $RN$  is a different random number in the interval  $[0,1]$
- absorbed dose  $D$  ( $1 \pm 0.1RN$ ), where  $RN$  is a different random number in the interval  $[0,1]$
- pulse FWHM duration will be equal to the end of simulation time.

The values of  $t_0$ ,  $t_f$ , and  $D$  are taken from the existing input file, and in each successive file their own characteristic values are written, sampled around these ones. This way, slightly different initial conditions, and the absorbed dose will be used in each calculation, which then allows us to average the data for reliable calculation of the electron-phonon coupling parameter, see Section (VIII.3) for details.

This option allows for more convenient calculations of the electron-phonon coupling parameter, instead of the manual creation of input files.

- **Water**: option for the automatic embedding of the material or molecule into water. It will set randomly water molecules around the given material. The following lines must be specified:  
Optional line 1: **water**, the keyword specifying that the target will be embedded in water.  
Optional line 2: number of water molecules to be placed around the target material (integer).

This option performs the following procedure: sets the target material as specified above (by the unit cell or supercell parameters). Then, extends the size of the supercell, and places the specified number of water molecules around it. The molecules are randomly placed and randomly oriented but checked not to be placed too close to each other or the given target atoms.

Note, however, that there is no guarantee that thusly constructed water environment will make the supercell relaxed. If the code would be unable to place all the water molecules at the first attempt (it performs a certain number of iterations), then it will increase the size of the supercell and try again. A message about it will be displayed on the screen. Randomly placed water molecules will not be in an equilibrium state, and will need a two-step relaxation: (1) with quenching, attempting to find the equilibrium positions minimizing the potential energy (note that some molecules may break apart at this stage and the code may need to be run again!); (2) thermalization with Berendsen thermostat (to reach thermal equilibrium). See below options for quenching and thermostat.

This option is convenient for setting bio-molecules in water, without manually specifying all the water molecules.

- **NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS** (or **NUMERICS**, or **NUMPAR**): option to specify that all the numerical parameters will be provided in this file, just under this line, instead of the separate file

NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt described below. After this flag, the entire set of parameters in exactly the same order must be provided, as described below. This is just an option for the user to choose where to set numerical parameters for convenience: in a separate file, or all in one file, see an example in Figure VI.2.

Note that this option takes precedence over the separate file NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt: if both are present, the parameters will be read from here, and the separate file will be ignored.

- All optional parameters at the end of the NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt (described below) may also be used here (e.g., MASS, AUGER, etc.).

```

1  PbI2          ! material name
2  PbI2          ! chemical formula
3  300.0         ! initial electron temperature [K]
4  300.0         ! initial atomic temperature [K]
5  0.0          ! start of simulation [fs]
6  -1000.0       ! end of simulation [fs]
7  1            ! number of FEL-pulses
8  0.0e0 !1.0d0 0.5e0 ! absorbed dose per this pulse [eV/atom] (min, max, step)
9  2.0e0 0.0     ! hw, mean photon energy [eV], FWHM of the distribution of hw [eV]
10 15.0e0        ! pulse FWHM-duration [fs]
11 1            ! type of pulse to be analysed: 0 = rectangular, 1 = Gaussian, 2 = SASE
12 0.0e0        ! position of the maximum of the laser pulse [fs]
13
14 NUMERICS
15 3 3 1         ! number of unit-cells in X,Y,Z
16 1 1 1         ! periodicity along X,Y,Z directions (1=yes, 0=no)
17 BEB          ! where to take material parameters from (EADL, CDF)
18 -1.0d0       ! [g/cm^3] density of the material (used in MC in case of EADL parameters), if <0 uses data from MD supercell
19 1000         ! number of MC iterations
20 4            ! number of threads for OPENMP
21 2            ! MD algorithm: 0=Verlet (2d order); 1=Yoshida (4th order, slow); 2=Martyna (4th order, fast)
22 1            ! frozen atoms (=0), or moving normally (=1)
23 25.5d0       ! Parinello-Rahman super-cell mass coefficient
24 dt_grid.txt  ! time step for MD [fs] (or a file name with the variable time-grid)
25 1.0d0        ! printout data into files every 'dt_save_time' [fs]
26 1            ! it's = 1 if P=const, or = 0 if V=const
27 0.0d0        ! external pressure [Pa]
28 F 0 0.35     ! include SCC (True, False), model of gamma (default 0); mixing factor (default 0.35)
29 4 1d-3 0.0    ! scheme (0=decoupled; 1=E_tot=const; 2=T=const; 3=BO; 4=Relaxation time); coupling start [fs]; relaxation tau [fs]
30 -1           ! -1=nonperturbative (default), 0=no coupling, 1=dynamical coupling, 2=Fermi golden rule
31 -1.0d+3 4.0d0 ! [fs] when to switch on the nonadiabatic coupling; scaling factor (if needed; default=4.0)
32 5.0d0 0.001d0 ! [eV] acceptance window for nonadiabatic coupling; [eV] tolerance for quasidegenerate levels
33 0 -50.0 10.0 ! quenching (0=no, 1=yes); starting from when [fs]; how often [fs]
34 0 273.0 10.0 ! Berendsen thermostat for atoms (0=no, 1=yes); bath temperature [K]; cooling time [fs]
35 0 273.0 10.0 ! Berendsen thermostat for electrons (0=no, 1=yes); bath temperature [K]; cooling time [fs]
36 25.0d0       ! [eV] cut-off energy in MC (<0 means Ecut=top of CB)
37 1.0d30       ! [eV] work function for electron emission (>0 eV; <0 = number of collisions)

```

Figure VI.2 INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt or INPUT.txt example with option NUMERICS included.

## 2. File NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt

File NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt contains the following lines, which must be exactly in this order, with exactly as many numbers inside each line, as described below:

```

1 3 3 3 ! number of unit-cells in X,Y,Z
2 1 1 1 ! periodicity along X,Y,Z directions (1=yes, 0=no)
3 CDF ! where to take material parameters from (EADL, CDF)
4 -1.0d0 ! [g/cm^3] density of the material (used in MC in case of EADL parameters), if <0 uses data from MD supercell
5 1000 ! number of MC iterations
6 3 ! number of threads for OPENMP
7 2 ! MD algorithm: 0=Verlet (2d order); 1=Yoshida (4th order, slow); 2=Martyna (4th order, fast)
8 0 ! frozen atoms (=0), or moving normally (=1)
9 25.5d0 ! Parinello-Rahman super-cell mass coefficient
10 dt_grid.txt ! time step for MD [fs] (or a file name with the variable time-grid)
11 1.0d0 ! printout data into files every 'dt_save_time' [fs]
12 0 ! it's 1 if P=const, or = 0 if V=const
13 0.0d0 ! external pressure [Pa]
14 F 0 0.35 ! include SCC (True, False), model of gamma (default 0); mixing factor (default 0.35)
15 4 1d-3 0.0d0 ! scheme el. (0=decoupled; 1=E=const; 2=T=const; 3=BO; 4=Relaxation time); switch E to T [fs]; relaxation tau [fs]
16 0 ! coupling: -1=nonperturbative (default), 0=off, 1=dynamical, 2=Fermi golden rule;
17 -1.0d+3 4.0d0 ! [fs] when to switch on the nonadiabatic coupling; scaling factor (if needed)
18 5.0d0 0.001d0 ! [eV] acceptance window for nonadiabatic coupling; [eV] tolerance for quasidegenerate levels
19 1 0.0 2.0 ! quenching (0=no, 1=yes); starting from when [fs]; how often [fs]
20 0 300.0 100.0 ! Berendsen thermostat for atoms (0=no, 1=yes); bath Ta [K]; cooling time [fs] | Atomic_bath_grid.txt
21 1 300.0 10.0 ! Berendsen thermostat for electrons (0=no, 1=yes); bath Te [K]; time [fs] | Electronic_bath_grid.txt
22 8.0d0 ! [eV] cut-off energy in MC (<0 means Ecut=top of CB)
23 1.0d30 ! [eV] work function, for electron emission (>0 eV; <0 - number of collisions)
24 0 ! printout electron energy levels (1) or not (0)
25 0 0.1 1 ! printout DOS (0=no, 1=Gamma, 2=k-points); smearing of gaussian; print PDOS yes (1) or no (0)
26 0 ! printout Mulliken charges for types of atoms
27 0 0.1 100.0 ! printout fe (1), not (0), on grid (2), only on grid (-2); energy step for the grid [eV]; grid end [eV]
28 0 ! printout atomic pair correlation function (1) or not (0)
29 1 ! printout atomic positions in XYZ (1) or not (0)
30 0 ! printout atomic positions in CIF (1) or not (0)
31 0 ! printout raw data file OUTPUT_coordinates_and_velocities.dat (1) or not (0)
32 1 ! power of mean displacement to print out (set integer N: <[R(t)-R(t=0)]^N>)
33 -2.3e0 ! printout numbers of nearest neighbors within the given radius (<=0 NO, >0 = radius in [A])
34 png ! which format to use to plot figures: eps, jpeg, gif, png, pdf
35 9 9 9 ! number of k-points in each direction (used only for Trani-k!)
36
37 ! MASS
38 2 1.0d30

```

Figure VI.3. NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt (or optional lines in INPUT.txt after the flag NUMERICS) example.

Line 1: the number of unit-cells used in the code along each direction X, Y, Z. If one unit cell contains  $N_{at}$  atoms, the total number of atoms in the supercell will be  $N_{tot}=N_{at}*N_x*N_y*N_z$ .

- The numbers in a row must be separated by TAB, not SPACE.
- Setting here 0 0 0 should in principle exclude the atomic dynamics and run only electronic MC simulations (analogous to XCASCADE code[110]); this option, however, has not yet been tested!

Line 2: three numbers specify conditions at surfaces along X, Y, and Z axes: setting here 0 creates an open surface along the axis (by adding empty space around the sample), whereas setting here 1 means periodic boundaries. For example: 1 1 0 means periodic boundaries along X and Y, but free boundary along Z (thin layer of material).

*Note: Non-periodic simulation uses a periodic boundary in a supercell, in which the sample is surrounded by empty space. The code increases the size of the simulation box by 50 times its given value and places the atoms in the middle. That means, all the values that include normalization to the supercell volume (i.e. electron-ion coupling parameter, electron heat capacity, pressure) will include the empty space volume and must be rescaled manually for interpretation of the results.*

Line 3: which cross sections to use in the MC module: set here CDF (a cdf-file must be provided, see below) to use cross sections based on the complex dielectric function formalism [47]; or EADL to use atomic BEB-cross-sections (default choice) [54,110].

Line 4: the density of the material in  $[g/cm^3]$  to be used in the MC simulations. This value overwrites the default value given in the cdf-file (see below) if set positive. If you wish to use

the default value (defined by the number of atoms and size of the supercell), set here any negative number (this must be the default choice).

Line 5: number of iterations to be performed within the Monte Carlo module. A small number of iterations gives not smooth curves. Too large numbers give too long computation times. The optimal value empirically determined is  $\sim 2,000,000/(\text{Dose} * N_{\text{tot}})$ . *Note that large values here result in large arrays taking a lot of memory. In case you don't need MC simulations but only TBMD, set here 1.*

Line 6: number of threads used for parallel calculation via OpenMP. Set 1 for nonparallel calculations. Set the number equal to the number of cores in your machine for optimal fast calculations.

Line 7: which MD integrator to use: 0 = velocity Verlet algorithm (2<sup>d</sup> order) [81], 1=Yoshida algorithm (4<sup>th</sup> order; *it is 4 times slower than Verlet*) [82], 2 = Martyna predictor-corrector algorithm (4<sup>th</sup> order, *as fast as Verlet*) [83]. The default option is 2. *Note that the Martyna algorithm is included only for atomic coordinates, while for the supercell vectors, Verlet is used (2d order).*

Line 8: exclude the MD module, freezing the atoms in their equilibrium positions (if set 0), or allow the atoms to move (set 1). The default option is 1.

Line 9: the effective mass of the super-cell in [atomic mass] used in the framework of the Parrinello-Rahman MD [89] (only used in case of constant-pressure simulation, see below).

Line 10: time-step for the MD calculations.

It can be set in two ways:

- a. Constant time-step: write any real(8) number of dt in [fs]. The default value is 0.1 fs (or smaller for P=const simulations, see below), but in some simulations can be as large as 1 fs or even larger (especially for V=const simulations). Larger steps can lead to instabilities, smaller steps conserve energy better but run the program slower.
- b. Variable time-step: write here a name of a file where the array of timesteps is provided. The file must be present in the same folder INPUT\_DATA. The file must contain two columns. First column: time instant in [fs], when to change the timestep to the one given in the second column.

E.g., if the file contains the following lines:

```
-1.0e10    1.0
-50        0.2
100 0.5
```

At the first timestep of the simulation, the timestep is set to 1.0 fs. At the time instant of -50 fs, the timestep is changed to 0.2 fs. At the time instant of 100 fs, it is changed to 0.5 fs.

Line 11: time step how often the output data files must be saved in [fs] of the simulation time. Does not have to be equal to the MD time step, and can be larger to sparse the output data (but cannot be smaller). The default choice is 1 fs.

Line 12: here 1 means constant pressure simulations ( $P=\text{const}$ ; Parrinello-Rahman scheme of the super-cell motion, NPH ensemble); 0 means constant volume ( $V=\text{const}$ , NVE ensemble) [119]. For femtosecond dynamics,  $V=\text{const}$  (0) is the default choice.

Line 13: external pressure applied (set 0 to use for normal atmospheric pressure). Used only in case of  $P=\text{const}$  simulation.

Line 14: contains 3 numbers to set self-consistent-charge (SCC) calculations parameters:

- a. Column 1: to use or not the SCC ( $T$  or  $F$  - for True or False)

*this option works only with the Born-Oppenheimer approximation (option 3 in the next line), but not with any other simulation scheme, so cannot be combined with irradiation!*

- b. Column 2: which model for gamma to use: -1 is bare Coulomb (*do not use, only for testing*)

0 = Wolf's method of softly truncated Coulomb (this is the default choice) [120]

1 = Klopman-Ohno [77]

2 = Mataga-Nishimoto [77]

- c. Column 3: mixing factor for self-consistent calculations: weight of the new charge in the next iteration. Recommended values are between 0.2 and 0.7. Smaller values lead to too slow convergence, whereas higher values may not converge at all. The empirically found optimal value is 0.35, which should be the default choice.

Note that the default option must be  $F$  (no SCC). It should only be used with TB parameterizations that are specifically fitted to account for SCC (such as 3TB, and some of DFTB parameterizations) and with BO simulation *only*, while in most cases, the parameterizations cannot account for the SCC effects, and including this option may lead to qualitatively incorrect potentials.

Line 15: contains three numbers:

- a. The first one describes which scheme of simulation to use:

0 sets a scheme of decoupled electrons and ions, with instant electron thermalization (something like Two-Temperature Model).

1 sets enforced total energy conservation. *Obsolete, do not use!*

2 sets here fixed electron temperature instead of total energy (*does not work well with a pulse on or with an electron-ion coupling on, only for tests of unirradiated material*).

3 uses the true Born-Oppenheimer (BO) scheme – constant electron populations.

*Note* that if the laser pulse is on, the populations will change; also, if the electron-phonon coupling is on, it will affect the populations so the simulation instead of BO will be Ehrenfest-like dynamics.

4 uses the relaxation time approximation to trace the evolution of the electron distribution function. *This should be the default choice.*

- b. The second number tells when the scheme should start to be used. This parameter is used only if the first number is set to 1, then the simulation may be run with option 2, until the



given here time is reached. The default choice is 1.0d-3, meaning immediately after the beginning of the simulation. *Strongly recommended not to change!*

- c. The third number sets the characteristic time in [fs], used in the relaxation-time approximation only.

*Note:* To turn the simulation into instantaneous thermalization (equivalent to option 0 in “a”), set here time = 0.0e0. To turn the simulation into Ehrenfest-like (or BO, if the electron-ion coupling is off), set here infinite time, e.g., 1.0e20.

The numbers in a row must be separated by TAB, not SPACE.

Line 16: which electron-phonon coupling to use:

- a. 0 means no coupling included;
  - 1 generalization of dynamical coupling as described in Ref.[2] (this must be the default choice);
  - 1 means first-order dynamical coupling as described in Ref.[28];
  - 2 uses Fermi’s Golden Rule, which might overestimate the coupling rate (*do not use*).

Line 17: Coupling model; has two numbers:

- a. Sets the time, when the nonadiabatic coupling switches on (for test purposes, one can first thermalize the system, and only later let it exchange energy). The default choice for real simulations: 1d-3.
- b. Set the scaling factor for coupling calculations. For numerical reasons, must be equal to 4.0 for producing correct results with dynamical coupling. Can be smaller to artificially reduce coupling in the calculations of the coupling parameter (as described in section [Calculation of electron-ion coupling parameter  \$g\(\text{Te}\)\$ ,  \$\text{Ce}\(\text{Te}\)\$ ,  \$\mu\(\text{Te}\)\$](#) ), but the results must then be rescaled back manually!

Line 18: The coupling model (continuation); contains two numbers:

- a. acceptance window for nonadiabatic coupling in [eV]. It excludes electron transitions between the levels separated by more than this specified value. E.g. set 5 eV by default to separate over-band-gap nonadiabatic transitions in diamond.
- b. tolerance for quasi-degenerate levels in [eV]. It excludes transitions between too-close levels, separated by smaller energy than this given number, to exclude degenerate states. The default value is 0.001 eV.

Line 19: Quenching; three numbers here specify:

The first number defines whether to include artificial quenching, (0=no, 1=yes), the ‘yes’-option must be used only for the construction of amorphous materials. Any ‘real’ simulation must have 0 here. ‘Yes’ here means that once in a time-step specified by the next numbers of the line, atomic velocities will be set to zero. Similar to the method known as “zero-temperature molecular dynamics”.

The second number in this line is defining when to start cooling from in [fs].

The third number means how often set the atomic velocities to zero (in [fs]).

Line 20: Berendsen thermostat for atoms; it can be set in two ways:



Option #1: If three numbers are given here, they define a simple model (rate equation) for artificial cooling mimicking transport effects [121], using the Berendsen thermostat [88]:

First number: include electron heat transport out of the atomic system (1), or not (0).

Second number: in case there is transport, sets the atomic bath temperature towards which the cooling/heating will be made until temperatures equilibration in [K].

The third one is the characteristic time of cooling/heating of atoms in [fs].

Option #2: If a file name is given here, the file with the parameters of the Berendsen thermostat must be provided in the directory INPUT\_DATA. The file may contain an arbitrary number of lines. Each line must specify 3 parameters:

First number: time of simulation in [fs], when to switch to the Berendsen thermostat parameters given in the next two numbers.

Second line: the atomic thermostat temperature [K].

Third line: the characteristic time of the Berendsen thermostat for atoms in [fs].

E.g., if the file contains the following lines:

-1.0e10    300    1.0e15

0.0 500    100.0

100 1000    700.0

It will be interpreted as follows: at the beginning of the simulation (at a time larger than -1.0e10 fs), the thermostat is off (essentially infinite characteristic time, 1.0e15 fs). Then, at the time instant of 0.0 fs, it switches on with the bath temperature of 500 K and the characteristic time of 100 fs. At the time instant of 100 fs, it changes to the bath temperature of 1000 K and characteristic time of 700 fs.

Line 21: Berendsen thermostat for electrons; it can be set in two ways, analogous to the atomic thermostat:

Option #1: If three numbers are given here, they define a simple model (rate equation) for artificial cooling mimicking transport effects [121], using the Berendsen thermostat [88]:

First number: include electron heat transport out of the electronic system (1), or not (0).

Second number: in case there is transport, sets the electronic bath temperature towards which the cooling/heating will be made until temperatures equilibration in [K].

The third one is the characteristic time of electronic cooling/heating in [fs].

Option #2: If a file name is given here, the file with the parameters of the Berendsen thermostat must be provided in the directory INPUT\_DATA. The file may contain an arbitrary number of lines. Each line must specify 3 parameters:

First number: time of simulation in [fs], when to switch to the Berendsen thermostat parameters given in the next two numbers.

Second line: the electronic thermostat temperature [K].

Third line: the characteristic time of the Berendsen thermostat for electrons in [fs].

*Note* that if an electronic thermostat is used, it will equilibrate the electronic distribution function towards the given temperature, and electronic nonequilibrium simulation is thus affected.

Line 22: energy cut-off in [eV] that separates the low-energy and high-energy subspaces for electrons within MC and Boltzmann-equation [122]. The default value is 10 eV. If set negative, it uses dynamical evolution of the cut-off, adjusting it to the transient top-most CB level at each time-step (*only meaningful for small basis sets that do not include a lot of CB orbitals*).

Line 23: the work function, setting whether we want to allow for electron emission and build-up of an unbalanced charge in the system, which may lead to a Coulomb explosion. If the work function here is set higher than 1.0d25 [eV], no emission will take place. This must be the default choice.

- a. If the work function is set smaller, an electron with energy above the set number will be considered emitted from the sample and will disappear from the calculations (will forever stay in the high-energy domain, making no collisions).
- b. If the work function is set to a negative value, another model for electron emission is used: an electron is considered to be emitted after a certain number of collisions that is specified by the absolute value of the number set in this line. E.g. if -2.0 is set here, an electron will be emitted after performing 2 collisions (unless it falls below the cut-off energy and joins the low-energy fraction).
- c. If electrons are emitted, it builds up an uncompensated charge for the atomic system, inducing additional Coulomb repulsion of atoms (ions), if a file with Coulomb parameterization is present (see below) [86].

Line 24: to print out electron energy levels (eigenvalues of the TB Hamiltonian) as output (set 1) or not (set 0) at each saving time step. *Produces large files*.

Line 25: the three numbers here specify parameters of the density of states, DOS, and calculations at each saving time step:

- First number sets: to calculate total DOS or not. Use the following parameters:
  - 0 to exclude DOS calculations;
  - 1 to calculate DOS with the parameters set by the Probe pulse (see above optional “Probe” in the file INPUT\_MATERIAL); if Probe is unused, then Gamma-point calculations of DOS will be used by default.
  - 2 to calculate DOS for a given number of k-points (it overwrites the Probe parameters and excludes Probe if it was not set to calculate k-points, or if Probe is unused).
- Second number: which spreading to use for constructing the DOS out of the discrete energy levels in [eV].
- Third number: to calculate partial DOS (PDOS) for the atomic shells of each element in the compound (1), or not (0). Note that if the first parameter (responsible for calculating total DOS) is set to 0, the PDOS will also not be calculated, independently of what is set here.

Line 26: to save Mulliken charges for types of atoms (set 1), or not (set 0)

Line 27: Three numbers defining printout of the electron distribution function at each saving timestep.

- First is the flag that defines what to print out:

0 means no printing out of electron distribution (this should be the default choice because printing out the distribution produces large files, which are usually unnecessary);

1 means to printout the electron populations on the energy levels only (below  $E_{cutoff}$ );

2 means to also printout the electron distribution on a grid with the parameters set in the other two numbers in this line (produces twice the large files; not recommended to be used);

-2 means to printout only the distribution on the given grid, with the parameters defined by the two other numbers in this line;

- The second number in the line defines the step in the energy grid in [eV], on which the distribution is printed out if flag 2 or -2 is set.
- The third number defines the maximal energy for the grid in [eV], used if the flag 2 or -2 is set.

Most of the time, it is not necessary, thus use the default value 0. Option 1 is useful in case of nonequilibrium electron distributions, such as BO or relaxation-time approximation simulation. Option - 2 is useful for modeling the electron emission. Option 2 may be useful for code development and debugging.

Line 28: to save the atomic pair correlation function (set 1), or not (set 0) at each saving timestep. Produces large files. Most of the time, it is not necessary, thus the default value is 0.

Line 29: save atomic positions additionally in xyz-format<sup>15</sup> (set 1), or not (0). This format is used for plotting and making movies of the atomic positions e.g. with VMD<sup>16</sup>, OVITO<sup>17</sup>, or a similar program.

Line 30: save atomic positions additionally in CIF-format<sup>18</sup> (set 1), or not (0). This format is used for powder diffraction patterns calculations e.g. with Mercury<sup>19</sup> software.

Line 31: to save raw data file OUTPUT\_coordinates\_and\_velocities.dat (1) or not (0). This file is necessary for post-analysis calculations of atomic velocity autocorrelations and phonon spectra (see below). If not needed, do not save it, as it produces very large files.

Line 32: sets  $N$ , the power of mean displacement to print out (set integer  $N$ :  $\langle u^N \rangle - \langle u \rangle^N$ ). For example, for mean square displacement, set 2.

Line 33: save numbers of nearest neighbors within the given radius: to exclude optional set a number  $<0$ , a number  $>0$  means the radius within which the atoms are considered to be neighbors in the units of [Å].

---

<sup>15</sup> See description here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ\\_file\\_format](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ_file_format) (in XTANT-3, the extended format defined in OVITO is used, in which the comment line is used to specify the supercell size and parameters for coordinates, see [https://www.ovito.org/docs/current/reference/file\\_formats/input/xyz.html](https://www.ovito.org/docs/current/reference/file_formats/input/xyz.html))

<sup>16</sup> VMD: <http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/vmd/>

<sup>17</sup> OVITO: <https://www.ovito.org/>

<sup>18</sup> See description here: <http://www.iucr.org/resources/cif>

<sup>19</sup> Mercury: <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/solutions/csd-system/components/mercury/>

Line 34: which format to use to plot output figures: eps, jpeg, gif, png, pdf

Line 35: contains three numbers: numbers of k-points in each direction x, y, z; used only with the ‘Trani-k’ option (number 2 in line 12 in the file INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt), and ignored with other options.

Line 36: This and the next lines are optional, each block may be written in arbitrary order or skipped altogether (recommended). The optional blocks allow the user to set model-specific data, and to overwrite the default atomic data, such as the atomic mass, Auger decay times, kinetic energies of shell electrons, electronic populations, and the name of the element if needed. The default values are taken from the EPICS-2017 database, and recommended for use, so only replace them if you are absolutely sure of what you are doing.

- **DRUDE**: to set the parameters of the Drude optical model (if in the file INPUT\_DATA above, option “Probe” is set to use the Drude model for the calculation of the optical coefficients of the probe pulse). The following lines must be exactly in the following order and format:

Line Op1: DRUDE – the keyword, indicating that the following three lines set the parameters of the Drude model

Line Op2: two real numbers: initial values on unexcited materials optical coefficients  $n$  and  $k$ .

Line Op3: two real numbers: effective mass of the conduction band electrons and valence band holes [in units of the free-electron mass].

Line Op4: two real numbers: mean scattering times of electrons and holes in [fs].

- **MASS**: To replace an atomic mass, the following block of data must be used:

Line Op1: MASS – the keyword, indicating that the following line defines the atomic mass

Line Op2: must contain two numbers: *atom* (integer), and *mass* (real).

The *atom* must correspond to the number of the element in the used compound, as defined by the chemical formula in line 2 of the file ‘INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt’. For elemental targets, the number 1 still must be present.

The *mass* sets the mass of the element in the atomic mass units. See the example of a compound SiAu, setting the mass of Au (element #2) to “infinity” (1.0d30), in **Figure VI.4**. Note that such a mass will essentially freeze all the atoms of the chosen element (which will not speed up the calculations, since the force is still calculated for them, just they are too heavy to move).

```
MASS
2 1.0d30

NO_AUGER

AUGER
1 1 1d25
```

**Figure VI.4.** Example of optional lines in the file NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS.txt

- **NAME**: to replace the name of the element, the following block of data must be used:

Line Op1: NAME – the keyword, indicating that the following line defines the name of the element

Line Op2: must contain two numbers: *atom* (integer), *name* (character(3)).

The *atom* is analogous to the one from the block MASS above.

The *name* sets the new name of the element.

- **NO\_AUGER**: to switch off all Auger decays in the MC module, use the one-line option NO\_AUGER, see an example in Figure VI.4.

- **AUGER**: to replace Auger decay times of selected shells of selected elements, use the optional block (see an example in Figure VI.4):

Line Op1: AUGER – the keyword indicating overwriting of Auger decay times in this block.

Line Op2: three numbers: *atom* (integer), *shell* (integer), *time* (real) [fs].

The number *atom* sets the number of the element in the compound, analogously to the block MASS above, following the numbers set in the chemical formula in the input file.

The number *shell* sets the atomic shell, for which the Auger decay time must be replaced. The shell numbers are printed out in the output file !OUTPUT\_[*material*]-Parameters.txt, see below. The number of the shell must coincide with the number printed out in this file.

The number *time* sets the Auger decay time for the given shell of the given element in [fs].

- **Ip**: to replace ionization potentials of selected shells of selected elements, use the optional block:

Line Op1: Ip – the keyword indicating overwriting of ionization potentials in this block.

Line Op2: three numbers: *atom* (integer), *shell* (integer), *ionization\_potential* (real).

The numbers *atom* and *shell* are analogous to those in the block Auger (see above).

The *ionization\_potential* sets the ionization potential in the shell in [eV].

- **Ek**: to replace the kinetic energy of electrons in selected shells of selected elements (this value is only used in the BEB cross sections in the MC module), use the optional block:

Line Op1: Ek – the keyword indicating overwriting of kinetic energies in this block.

Line Op2: three numbers: *atom* (integer), *shell* (integer), *kinetic\_energy* (real).

The numbers *atom* and *shell* are analogous to those in the block Auger (see above).

The *kinetic\_energy* sets the kinetic energy of electrons in the shell in [eV].

- **Ne**: to replace the number of electrons in selected shells of selected elements (electron population of the atomic shell), use the optional block:

Line Op1: Ne – the keyword indicating overwriting of electronic populations in this block.

Line Op2: three numbers: *atom* (integer), *shell* (integer), *population* (real).

The numbers *atom* and *shell* are analogous to those in the block Auger (see above).

The *population* sets the number of electrons in the shell of a given element.

### 3. Executing consecutive runs of the program automatically

If you want to run XTANT-3 program several times in a row with different parameters (useful, e.g., for finding damage threshold by varying only the pulse fluence while keeping all others parameters the same, or for calculations of electron-phonon coupling parameter vs. electronic temperature), you can (apart from setting corresponding optional parameters in the INPUT file) create several input files manually in the following manner:

The first simulation run will use as input files `INPUT_MATERIAL.txt` (or `INPUT.txt`) and possibly `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS.txt`

After the end of the simulation, the program will check the presence of the next input files in the same folder named with consecutive integer numbers at the end of file names:

`INPUT_MATERIAL_1.txt` (or `INPUT_1.txt`) and possibly `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS_1.txt`

If they are present, XTANT-3 will read the data from these files and start the simulation over from the beginning automatically. The next automatic simulation run must have the next integer number at the end of the files (...\_2), and so on.

Note #1: that if the file `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS_1.txt` with the numerical parameters for the second run is absent, XTANT-3 will use the original file `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS.txt` instead. So, if the numerical parameters are identical in the simulation runs, there is no need to copy the same file – the original file will be reused.

Note #2: if the numerical parameters are provided in the `INPUT_PARAMETER.txt` (or `INPUT.txt`), the file `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS.txt` is unnecessary (as well as its numbered copies).

Note #3: if in the `INPUT_PARAMETER.txt` (or `INPUT.txt`) file you set a grid for the absorbed dose, several input files will be created automatically with the varying doses, corresponding to the grid given. In this case, all existing numbered files (`INPUT_MATERIAL_i.txt` (or `INPUT_i.txt`) and possibly `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS_i.txt`) will be overwritten, so make sure there is no conflict between the pre-existing files and the given dose or coupling grid.

### 4. Folder [material name]

Folders with material parameters, named exactly as the material name given above in the file `INPUT_MATERIAL.txt` (or `INPUT.txt`), contain several files describing necessary material parameters for the simulation.

*Do not change these files, unless you want to change the properties of the material!*

Folders with the files for already created materials are typically already set, and the user does not need to worry about them. If you want to create a new material, create it by example of already existing folders.

#### a) `[A]_[A]_TB_Hamiltonian_parameters.txt` and `[A]_[A]_TB_Repulsive_parameters.txt`

These files contain all the parameters used in the tight-binding Hamiltonian for each pair-wise interaction of atoms [A]. These files contain attractive and repulsive parts, correspondingly. For instance, in the case of a diamond, we only have carbon atoms, thus only files `C_C_TB_Hamiltonian_parameters.txt` and `C_C_TB_Repulsive_parameters.txt` should be in the folder.

In the case of GaAs, the combination of each interaction should be present in the files: Ga-Ga, Ga-As, and As-As.

In case identical parameters are used for multiple combinations of elements (this is possible within DFTB parameterization files as they only contain links to databases), one can use files: TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt and TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt. In a case XTANT-3 cannot find files [A]\_[A]\_TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt or [A]\_[A]\_TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt, it will look up the files without “[A]\_[A]\_” prefix.

This also means that one can set default parameterizations in the files without prefixes, and for specific elements use the files with the prefix to specify exceptions.

The first line of the files defines which TB model will be used. The models supported can be specified by the following code words:

- **3TB** : ThreeBodyTB model for elemental solids and binary compounds (*only standard 2-body TB is implemented currently, the three-body contribution is unfinished, see below*)
- **BOP** : a bond-order potential model for dimers [107] (*unfinished, no forces, do not use!*)
- **DFTB** : one of the s-,  $sp^3$ - or  $sp^3d^5$ -basis set according to DFTB [108,123]
- **DFTB\_no\_repulsion**: one of the s-,  $sp^3$ - or  $sp^3d^5$ -basis set according to DFTB [108,123], but without the repulsive potential in the file
- **Fu** :  $sp^3$ -basis set according to Fu [115] (*unfinished, do not use!*)
- **Mehl** :  $sp^3d^5$ -basis set according to NRL model [124]
- **Molteni** :  $sp^3s^*$ -basis set according to Molteni [116]
- **Pettifor** :  $sp^3$ -basis set according to Pettifor [64]
- **xTB** : extended tight binding [87] (*unfinished, do not use!*)

Thus, the first line in the file must contain one of the possible names of the parameterization. Depending on that, the further lines will define one or another parameterization:

### 1) 3TB parameterization

```
3TB
9.0    0.1    ! cut off [A], smoothing [A]
1.06   ! rc, rescaling coefficient
F      ! include 3-body terms or not (true, false)
T      ! exclude diagonal part of crystal field
```

Figure VI.5. 3TB TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt

```
3TB
```

Figure VI.6 3TB TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt

The files contain the parameters, according to ThreeBodyTB<sup>20</sup> parameterization, which may be s,  $sp^3$ , or  $sp^3d^5$ , depending on the element.

Line 1 specifies the model name, which must be “3TB”

Line 2 defines embedding cut-off function parameters, ensuring the interaction is short-ranged

<sup>20</sup> <https://pages.nist.gov/ThreeBodyTB.jl/>



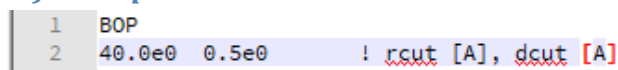
Line 3 defines the rescaling coefficient  $rc$  in the Laguerre polynomials for the TB radial function:  $L(d*rc)$ , which shifts the location of the potential minimum, allowing adjustment of the minimum to a desired value. A typical value here is between 1 and 1.1.

*Important note:* In certain cases, it is important to adjust it before productive calculations. Additionally, rigorous tests must be performed for each material: the shape of the cohesive energy curve and the stability of the lattice must be checked since the parameterization was not designed for MD runs (especially in highly excited systems), and not all materials are stable and behaving well dynamically.

Line 4 currently must have option  $F$ , meaning three-body interactions must be excluded because this option is not yet fully implemented in XTANT.

Line 5 must have the value  $T$  since the diagonal part of the crystal field should be excluded in calculations.

## 2) BOP parameterization




```

1 BOP
2 40.0e0 0.5e0 ! rcut [A], dcut [A]

```

Figure VI.7. BOP TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt



```

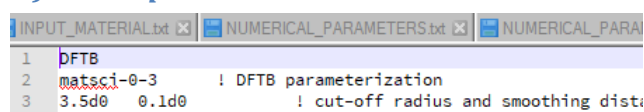
1 BOP

```

Figure VI.8 BOP TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt

The files contain the following lines, see for example Figure VI.7 and Figure VI.8.

## 3) DFTB parameterization

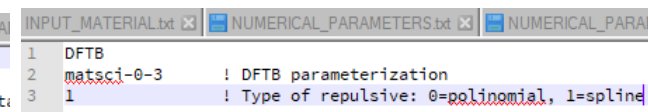


```

1 DFTB
2 matsci-0-3 ! DFTB parameterization
3 3.5d0 0.1d0 ! cut-off radius and smoothing dist:

```

Figure VI.9. TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt



```

1 DFTB
2 matsci-0-3 ! DFTB parameterization
3 1 ! Type of repulsive: 0=polynomial, 1=spline

```

Figure VI.10 TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt in DFTB format

The files contain the following lines, see for example Figure VI.9 and Figure VI.10 of C interaction with C (e.g. in diamond). There are two ways to set the path to the skf-files, *via* specifying the parameter in the second line. In the Hamiltonian file, the following lines must be specified (Figure VI.9):

- The first line sets the parameterization type (DFTB).
- The second line sets the path to the skf-files.
  - a) If in this line only the name of the SK parameters is provided, the default directory is assumed (“DFTB” inside of the directory “INPUT\_DATA”: INPUT\_DATA/DFTB under Unix system, or INPUT\_DATA\DFTB under Windows).
  - b) If the marker “Path” (acceptable forms: **PATH**, **Path**, **path**) is listed in this line, the next line must specify the full path to the skf file or a directory with the skf file (make sure to use the correct slash/backslash, depending on your system!). XTANT-3 first checks if there is a file with the given name in this line and if such a file is not found, it assumes that it is a directory, constructs the default filename (X\_Y.skf, where X and Y are the elements), and looks for it in the provided directory.

- The third (or fourth, if “**PATH**” is specified in the second line and the full path in the third) line defines the soft cut-off radius in [Å] and its smoothing in [Å]. Those can be adjusted empirically, but should not be larger than ~10 Å, as this is typically the limit in the SK files of DFTB. It usually makes sense to set the cut-off radius somewhere after the second or third nearest neighbor.

DFTB SK parameter files for various materials can be found, e.g., here:

1. <https://dftb.org/parameters/download> - official DFTB parameterizations distribution, contains most of the well-tested parameters (but does not have newly developed ones)
2. <http://kiff.vfab.org/dftb> - alternative distribution of parameter files
3. [https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion\\_v1](https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion_v1) - untested parameters across the periodic table *without* repulsive potential fitted (with no documentation but apparently came from here <https://www5.hp-ez.com/hp/calculations/page441>). It may (and in most cases does) require the manual fitting of the repulsive potential, for which one may use the function of **TB\_short** below. In the case of compounds, it may also require manual adjustment of the on-site energies of elements to match those expected in compounds.

Apart from the SK-parameters from the official DFTB website, XTANT-3 has the following parameterizations included:

- 1) PtRu containing parameters for Ru-Pt compounds from [125]
  - 2) TransMet containing Ag-Ag, Au-Au, Cu-Cu, Ni-Ni, Pd-Pd, Pt-Pt (for nanoclusters) from [126]
  - 3) trans3d-LANLFeC for Fe-C-O from [127]
  - 4) Al2O3 containing files Al-Al, Al-O, O-O, optimized for solid Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> from [128]
  - 5) Ga2O3 containing files Ga-Ga, Ga-O, O-O, optimized for solid Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> from [129]
  - 6) BC containing B-C from [https://github.com/tlyoon/BC\\_SKfiles](https://github.com/tlyoon/BC_SKfiles)
  - 7) 3ob\_cnoh containing parameters for C-H-N-O-P-S interactions from [https://bitbucket.org/solccp/adpt\\_core/src/master/erepfit/example/3ob\\_cnoh/](https://bitbucket.org/solccp/adpt_core/src/master/erepfit/example/3ob_cnoh/)
  - 8) Verners\_2023 containing parameters for a range of materials (similar to pbc parameterization) from <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28507.54564>
  - 9) MoS containing Mo-S from [https://github.com/hyllios/dftb\\_auto](https://github.com/hyllios/dftb_auto) (need to be converted from svn format to skf!)
- List of tools that can be used to create your own SK-parameters:

<https://github.com/dftbplus/skprogs>  
<https://github.com/pekkosk/hotbit> (Instruction for creation of parameterizations:  
<https://github.com/pekkosk/hotbit/wiki/Parameters-and-parametrization>)  
[https://www.dftbaby.chemie.uni-wuerzburg.de/DFTBaby/mdwiki.html#!WIKI/main\\_page.md](https://www.dftbaby.chemie.uni-wuerzburg.de/DFTBaby/mdwiki.html#!WIKI/main_page.md)  
[https://bitbucket.org/solccp/adpt\\_core/src/master/](https://bitbucket.org/solccp/adpt_core/src/master/)  
<https://gitlab.com/mvdb/tango>  
<https://github.com/v2quan89/DFTBparaopt>

In the Repulsive parameters file (Figure VI.10):

The first line sets the parameterization (DFTB). Must be the same as in the Hamiltonian file.

The second line sets the set of SK parameters to be used according to DFTB, which must coincide exactly with the directory name existing within the DFTB directory. Must be the same as in the Hamiltonian file.

The third line defines which form of the Repulsive term to use according to DFTB format: polynomial (0) or spline (1). It is recommended to use spline (since it contains exponential repulsion as short distances, which polynomial does not; also, apparently not in all sk-files polynomial form is given), thus 1 is the default choice.

All the parameters within the skf-files are described on the dftb-website<sup>21</sup>. Do not change those files (unless you know what exactly you want to change in the parameterization of TB Hamiltonian)!

Also note that currently XTANT-3 only supports zero-level DFTB, non-self-consistent calculations for productive runs (only for BO simulations with DFTB specifically).

#### 4) DFTB\_no\_repulsion parameterization

This parameterization is identical to the DFTB described above, but without the repulsive potential, e.g. found in [https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion\\_v1](https://github.com/by-student-2017/Slater-Koster-parameters-no-repulsion_v1). In this case, there may be an additional line present in the Hamiltonian file, specifying the default inner directory: in the “2elements” directory, there are other directories with pair-wise elements, e.g. Al-X, etc.), meaning if the second line specifies the parameterization “2elements”, there must be the third line specifying which subfolder to take the parameterization from (see example in Figure VI.11).

```
1 DFTB_no_repulsion
2 2elements          ! DFTB parameterization without repulsion
3 Al-X              ! inner folder with parameters
4 5.0d0 0.1d0       ! cut-off radius and smoothing distance [Å]
```

Figure VI.11. TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt

```
1 DFTB_no_repulsion
```

Figure VI.12 TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt in DFTB\_no\_repulsion format

In this case, the file TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt needs only one line with the name. Don’t forget to use TB\_short additional potential as a separate file.

#### 5) Fu parameterization

The files contain parameters in exactly the same format as Pettifor, where only the first line should read “Fu” instead of “Pettifor”. See the description below. *Unfinished, not recommended for use!*

#### 6) Mehl parameterization

The Hamiltonian files should contain 3 introductory lines and then a set of 97 parameters as defined in the NRL format. The Repulsive potential files should contain only one line “Mehl”, identifying the parameterization. They are all already prepared, so no need to change anything. To set new parameters for new material, use existing files as an example (starting from the third line, only the first column of parameters is used in the code, the others are comments explaining the meaning of the parameters).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.dftb.org/parameters/introduction/>

```

1 Mehl
2 1 0 1 ! parameterization index (1=with split between t2g and e2, or 0=without); (Sll'm 1=with
3 10.5 0.5 (RCUT and SCREENL for l-l interactions)
4 0.159901905594E+01 0 1 lambda (equation 7)
5 -.102789972814E+00 0 2 a_s (equation 9)
6 -.162604640052E+01 0 3 b_s (equation 9)
7 -.178884826119E+03 0 4 c_s (equation 9)
8 .451611342028E+04 0 5 d_s (equation 9)
9 .542619178314E+00 0 6 a_p (equation 9)
10 .273454062799E+01 0 7 b_p (equation 9)
11 -.671397098834E+02 0 8 c_p (equation 9)
12 .438528831452E+03 0 9 d_p (equation 9)
13 .100000000000E+02 1 10 a_t2g (equation 9)
14 .000000000000E+00 1 11 b_t2g (equation 9)
15 .000000000000E+00 1 12 c_t2g (equation 9)
16 .000000000000E+00 1 13 d_t2g (equation 9)
17 .100000000000E+02 1 14 a_eg (equation 9)
18 .000000000000E+00 1 15 b_eg (equation 9)
19 .000000000000E+00 1 16 c_eg (equation 9)
20 .000000000000E+00 1 17 d_eg (equation 9)

```

Figure VI.13 File TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt in NRL format

Line 1 must be “Mehl” identifying the parameterization name

Line 2 contains three numbers:

- First: included split between t2g (1) or excluded (0), as specified in an original NRL parameters file<sup>22</sup>[73]
- Second: includes the terms Sll'm with delta (1) or without (0)
- set  $f_{\text{bar}} = 0$  or not ( $=1$ )

Line 3 sets the cutoff distance in [Å] and its smoothing in [Å].

All these parameters must be extracted from the original NRL .par files. The rest of the lines must be just copied from NRL .par files without any changes. The available NRL .par files are saved in the directory [NRL\\_TB\\_database](#) and can be used to construct required parameterizations for chosen materials.

Note that NRL parameterization often needs additional short-range repulsive potential [130], as may be defined in a short-range (or “wall”) file, see below.

### 7) Molteni parameterization for $sp^3s^*$ basis set

The files contain the following lines, see Figure VI.14 and Figure VI.15 for examples of Ga interaction with As (GaAs). All the parameters are described in [116,131]. Do not change these files (unless you know what exactly you want to change in the parameterization of TB Hamiltonian).

<sup>22</sup> The NRL parameters files used to be available at <http://cst-www.nrl.navy.mil/bind/>, and later at <http://esd.spacs.gmu.edu/tb/tbp.html>, but currently can be extracted by means of internet archives such as Wayback Machine: <https://archive.org/web/>

```

1 Molteni
2 -2.657d0 ! Es, on-site energy of s-orbital [eV]
3 3.669d0 ! Ep, on-site energy of p-orbital [eV]
4 6.739d0 ! Es*, on-site energy of s*-orbital [eV]
5 -1.613d0 ! V0 (s s sigma)
6 2.504d0 ! V0 (s p sigma)
7 3.028d0 ! V0 (p p sigma)
8 -0.781d0 ! V0 (p p pi)
9 2.082d0 ! V0 (s* p)
10 2.46d0 ! r0
11 2.0d0 ! n
12 3.511d0 ! rc
13 13.0d0 ! nc
14 1.3d0 ! N; rcut = N*r0
15 0.1d0 ! d

```

Figure VI.14. File TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt in Molteni forma

```

1 Molteni
2 1 ! NP, type of potential
3 2.3906d0 ! phi1
4 1.2347d0 ! phi2
5 2.46d0 ! r0
6 1.3d0 ! N; rcut = N*r0
7 0.1d0 ! d
8 0.3555d0 ! alpha (NP=1) or m (NP=2)

```

Figure VI.15 File TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt

### 8) Pettifor parameterization

The files contain the following lines, see Figure VI.16 and Figure VI.17 for an example of Carbon. All the parameters are described in [75,122].

```

1 Pettifor
2 -5.25d0 ! Es, on-site energy of s-orbital of Si [eV]
3 1.20d0 ! Ep, on-site energy of p-orbital of Si [eV]
4 -2.038e0 ! V0 (s s sigma)
5 1.745e0 ! V0 (s p sigma)
6 2.75e0 ! V0 (p p sigma)
7 -1.075e0 ! V0 (p p pi)
8 2.360352e0 ! r0
9 2.0e0 ! n
10 4.0e0 ! r1
11 4.16e0 ! rm
12 9.5e0 ! nc(1)
13 8.5e0 ! nc(2)
14 7.5e0 ! nc(3)
15 7.5e0 ! nc(4)
16 3.5e0 ! rc(1)
17 3.55e0 ! rc(2)
18 3.7e0 ! rc(3)
19 3.7e0 ! rc(4)
20 -6.4651e-5 ! c0(1)
21 0.0014704 ! c1(1)
22 -0.010804 ! c2(1)
23 0.025871 ! c3(1)
24 0.0026017 ! c0(2)
25 -0.031794 ! c1(2)
26 0.092548 ! c2(2)
27 0.028371 ! c3(2)
28 0.028336 ! c0(3)
29 -0.20485 ! c1(3)
30 -0.76001 ! c2(3)
31 5.8340 ! c3(3)
32 -0.011077 ! c0(4)
33 0.08077 ! c1(4)
34 0.29709 ! c2(4)
35 -2.2806 ! c3(4)

```

Figure VI.16. TB\_Hamiltonian\_parameters.txt in Pettifor format

```

1 Pettifor
2 8.7393204 ! E0_TB [eV]
3 1.0e0 ! phi0
4 6.8755e0 ! m
5 13.017e0 ! mc
6 2.360352e0 ! d0
7 4.0e0 ! d1
8 4.16e0 ! dm
9 3.66995e0 ! dc
10 1.8790e-11 ! c0
11 1.3221e-9 ! c1
12 1.4324e-8 ! c2
13 -4.2468e-8 ! c3
14 0.0e0 ! a0
15 2.1604385 ! a1
16 -0.1384393 ! a2
17 5.8398423e-3 ! a3
18 -8.0263577e-5 ! a4

```

Figure VI.17 TB\_Repulsive\_parameters.txt

### c) [A]\_[A]\_vdW.txt

This optional file contains the parameters used in the van der Waals (vdW) potential for each pair-wise interaction of atoms [A]. For instance, in the case of diamond, we only have carbon atoms, thus only files C\_C\_vdW.txt should be in the folder. At present, the vdW potential is set according to Girifalco's model, in the shape of the Lennard-Jones 12-6 potential (see e.g. [132]), smoothly cut at large (for better energy conservation, and to limit it to some reasonable distance in the spirit of TB) as well as at short distances (not to overlap with the TB covalent bonds); see description of how the smooth cut-offs are constructed in Ref.[86].

The first line in the file must contain the exact name of the parameterization: Girifalco. An example of the file is shown in Figure VI.18. By default, it is now set to something different, to exclude the vdW potential from the calculations. Change it to the proper name to include it.

If the file is absent, the calculations will proceed without vdW forces. So, this module will not affect the materials for which there is no vdW force or parameterization.

```
Girifalco
22.5d3> ! C12 [eV*A^12] Lenard-Jones C12
15.4d0> ! C6 [eV*A^6] Lenard-Jones C6
5.0d0> ! dm [A] radius where to switch to polinomial
6.0d0> ! d_cut [A] cut-off radius
-0.8253440000d-3> ! a, fitting polinomial coefficients: a*x^3+b*x^2+c*x+d
0.1313740800d-1> ! b
-0.6851174400d-1> ! c
0.1163980800d0> ! d
3.4d0> ! dsm [A] radius where to switch to polinomial at small distances
2.5d0> ! ds_cut [A] cut-off radius on small distances
0.1286478847d0> ! as, fitting polinomial coefficients: a*x^3+b*x^2+c*x+d
-1.858707955d0> ! bs
10.66718892d0> ! cs
-30.40360058d0> ! ds
43.05091787d0> ! es
-24.23710839d0> ! fs
```

Figure VI.18 File C\_C\_TB\_vdW.txt for C<sub>60</sub>.

#### d) [A]\_[A]\_TB\_Coulomb.txt

This optional file contains parameters of the softly-cut Coulomb potential, softly cut according to [86]. It is only used in the case we have electron emission included in the simulation (e.g. modeling thin films). An example of the file is shown in Figure VI.19.

If the file is absent, the calculations will proceed without Coulomb forces. So, the Coulomb module will not affect the materials for which there is no Coulomb force or parameterization.

```
Coulomb_cut
20.0d0> ! dm
0.1d0> ! dd
```

Figure VI.19 File C\_C\_TB\_Coulomb.txt for C<sub>60</sub>.

#### e) [A]\_[A]\_TB\_short.txt or [A]\_[A]\_TB\_wall.txt

This optional file contains parameters of the short-range repulsive potential, *in addition* to the repulsive potential included in the used TB parameterization. E.g., it is to be used in case we have kinetic energies of atoms higher than the TB-provided barrier at short distances (in such a case, it is necessary to make the system stable at short distances); or in TB parameterizations where the repulsive part is not provided. The current parameterization may combine a few functional shapes described below (the obsolete version called “exponential wall” only includes the inverse exponential).

Generally, the repulsive potential is expressed in the form:

$$E_{SR} = F_{SR}f_{cut}, \quad (34)$$

Where  $F_{SR}$  is the short-range function, and  $f_{cut}$  is the cut-off function in the shape of the Fermi-function:

$$f_{cut} = \left( 1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - d_0}{d_d}\right) \right)^{-1}, \quad (35)$$

This function is always included, independently of the choice of  $F_{SR}$ , thus, its parameters must be always listed in the file, if additional short-range potential to be included. If unspecified, zero potential will be used (cut off at zero radii).

The short-range repulsive function,  $F_{SR}$ , may assume the following shapes, summed up pairwise for all the atoms in the simulation box ( $F_{SR} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j}^{Nat} F_{SR}^{i,j}$ ):

Flag	Function	Parameters to be specified in the file (must be exactly in the given order!)
Cutoff, or Cut_off, Cut-off	$\left( 1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - d_0}{d_d}\right) \right)^{-1}$	One line: $d_0$ $d_d$ – cut-off radius [Å], smoothing distance [Å]
Exp, Exponential	$\phi \exp\left(-\frac{r - r_0}{a}\right)$	One line: $\Phi$ $r_0$ $a$ – Energy [eV], characteristic radius [Å], characteristic distance [Å]
InvExp, Inv_Exp	$C \exp\left(\frac{1}{r - r_0}\right)$	One line: $C$ $r_0$ – Energy [eV], characteristic radius [Å]
Pow, Power	$F_{SR} = \Phi \left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^m$	Two or more lines: $N$ – number of power functions (integer) $N$ more lines each with three numbers for each power-function: $\Phi$ $r_0$ $m$ – Energy [eV], characteristic radius [Å], power
ZBL	Ziegler-Biersack-Littmark potential [133]	<i>No additional lines required, all parameters are fixed and included in the code</i>
Simple_wall ( <i>obsolete, cannot be combined with other functions!</i> )	$C \exp\left(\frac{1}{r - r_0}\right) f_{cut}$	Four lines: $C$ – Energy [eV], $r_0$ – characteristic radius [Å] $d_0$ – cut-off radius [Å] $d_d$ – smoothing distance [Å]

It is allowed to use a few power functions to construct a polynomial (or inverse fractions, using negative powers “m”, such as those used in [116]).

The first line in the file must specify the parameterization name, which may be either

“General” – to specify the new format described above, or

“Simple\_wall” – to specify the obsolete format which includes only the inverse exponential function.



An example of the new and the obsolete files containing the parameters in the same notations is shown in Figure VI.20.

1	General	1	Simple_wall
2		2	1.0d2 ! C [eV]
3	Cut-off	3	0.0d0 ! r0 [A]
4	2.7d0 0.25d0 ! d0 [A]; dd [A]	4	1.165d0 ! d0 [A]
5		5	0.01d0 ! dd [A]
6	Inv_exp		
7	35.0 1.5e0 ! C [eV]; r0 [A]		

Figure VI.20 Equivalent presentation of inverse exponential short-range (exponential wall) function in the new format (on the left, file C\_C\_TB\_short.txt) and in the obsolete format (on the right, file C\_C\_TB\_wall.txt).

If the file is absent or anything else but “General” or “Simple\_wall” is specified in the first line, the calculations will proceed without an additional short-range repulsive potential.

### f) Setting initial atomic configuration

The following formats may be used in setting the initial atomic configuration, in the following priorities:

- 1) Files with reaction coordinate path (using internal XTANT-3 SAVE-files format, see below) between two different phases of material (instead of full MD simulation); if the coordinate-path files are absent, the next option is checked
- 2) SAVE-files (internal XTANT-3 format for setting the supercell parameters and atomic coordinates); if SAVE-files are absent, the next option is checked
- 3) Cell-file (extended XYZ format); if Cell.xyz file is absent, the next option is checked
- 4) Unit-cell parameters and atomic coordinates in it (internal XTANT-3 format)

All the formats are described below.

#### i. Files PHASE\_[i]\_atoms.dat and PHASE\_[i]\_supercell.dat

The user can set the initial and final states of the simulation cell for calculation of the free-electron along a reaction coordinate path. Here [i] runs from 1 to 2, the index of the initial and the final phase. It can be done in the following way:

#### Calculation of free-energy along reaction coordinate path

Set initial atomic configuration in the files PHASE\_1\_atoms.dat and PHASE\_1\_supercell.dat

Set final atomic configuration in the files PHASE\_2\_atoms.dat and PHASE\_2\_supercell.dat

Run XTANT. If these files are present in the folder with the material data, XTANT-3 will linearly interpolate coordinates from the first to the second phase (accounting for periodic boundaries) and save all the output data along this coordinate path. The free energy will be calculated for the electronic temperature provided in the INPUT\_MATERIAL.txt file (see above).

#### ii. Files SAVE\_supercell.dat, SAVE\_atoms.dat and SAVE\_el\_distribution.dat

An alternative way to set the initial configuration of the atoms and supercell is to have the files SAVE\_supercell.dat and SAVE\_atoms.dat in the directory. If these files are present, the program will use them instead of the ‘Unit\_cell\_atom\_relative\_coordinates.txt’ and ‘Unit\_cell\_equilibrium.txt’ files

described above. With these files, you can add any desired atomic configuration, not only perfect periodic crystalline lattice.

The file `SAVE_el_distribution.dat` sets the electron distribution function. It must be present in the folder if the given electronic distribution needs to be used (e.g., to restart calculations with exactly the same parameters). In the absence of this file, the Fermi function with the given temperature will be used. This file allows to restore a nonequilibrium electronic distribution. The presence of the file supersedes the electronic temperature given in the input file: if the file is present, this distribution is used, and the electronic temperature specified is ignored.

The file `'SAVE_atoms.dat'` must contain the data in the same format as the file `'OUTPUT_coordinates_and_velocities.dat'` (see below).

The format of the file `'SAVE_supercell.dat'` must coincide with the format of the file `'OUTPUT_supercell.dat'` (see below).

If these files are present, XTANT-3 will ignore the number of unit-cells specified in the NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS file, and use the atomic coordinates and the supercell provided here.

These files can be used, e.g., for simulation of amorphous materials, and relaxation process before productive runs. They must be constructed separately as follows:

### Creation of initial configuration of an amorphous material

- 1) Choose a material you'd like to construct (e.g. carbon or silicon-based)
- 2) Choose a number of atoms in the simulation box, which will be used for all further simulations of the amorphous state (each number of atoms chosen requires separate preparation of the initial state!)
- 3) Set the proper density of the desirable amorphous material by adjusting the volume in the file `'Unit_cell_equilibrium.txt'` of the material we will start from the melt
- 4) Set parameters for quenching in the NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS input file as follows:

```
1 1000.0 10.0
```

The first parameter tells to include material cooling (quenching), which is made by setting atomic velocities to zero starting from the time, given in the second number (e.g. 1000.0 fs, after the melting), then propagates the atomic trajectories and repeats the procedure every (~10.0) femtosecond (e.g. for silicon-based material, chose here ~30.0 as an optimal time). Set initial conditions that would create a melted state (e.g., by setting high atomic temperature or irradiation with a high deposited dose). Run this simulation for a few picoseconds, until the total energy stops dropping. This means the material is relaxed into its equilibrium amorphous state.

Don't forget to switch this off (by setting the first parameter to 0) for further real simulations!

- 5) The files `'SAVE_atoms.dat'` and `'SAVE_supercell.dat'` are created during the simulation run in the output folder, and are updated at each saving time step; thus, the data in them after the simulation has finished correspond to the last time-step of the simulation and can be just copied into the input file, provided the simulation delivered desired quality of results. Place these files into the folder with the new material name, see next step.

- 6) Place both files into the folder ‘**Amorphous\_[material\_name]**’. Copy all other input files from the directory of ‘parental’ material (ideal material that you just melted) into the same folder, and set the name of the folder the same as the material name in the file ‘**INPUT\_FILE.txt**’.
- 7) Place the files ‘**SAVE\_atoms.dat**’ and ‘**SAVE\_supercell.dat**’ into the same directory.
- 8) Check if there is no artificial void in the new created state, and the density is uniform (and any other properties that are needed to be reproduced well in your amorphous material). If the amorphous material looks good, these files with the relaxed amorphous atomic state can now be used for further simulations of amorphous material. If not, repeat the procedure from the beginning until the quenched state is produced to satisfy your conditions.

### iii. Extended XYZ files

Another alternative way to set the initial conditions is to use a file **Cell.xyz**, which uses extended XYZ format<sup>23</sup>, where the extended format means that instead of the comment-line, line #2 specifies important parameters not included in the simple XYZ format. The format is as follows:

Line #1: number of atoms (integer)

Line #2: Specifiers. For the usual XYZ format, the following specifiers are needed:

Lattice="ax ay az ba by bz cx cy cz" Properties="species:S:1:pos:R:3"

- “Lattice” sets the unit- or super-cell vectors;
- “Properties” define in which format the next lines are specified:
  - ◆ “species” indicates that the first column will be defining the element type; if after the column “S” is specified then the symbol of the element from the Periodic Table must be in the first column; if “I” is specified then the index corresponding to the order in the provided chemical formula (in the INPUT file) must be in the first column.
  - ◆ “pos” defines that in the next 3 columns, atomic coordinates will be provided: if “R” is defined here, then absolute coordinates in [Å] must be given; if “S” is specified then relative coordinates within the supercell must be provided.
  - ◆ “vel” specifier identifies that columns 5-7 will be defining atomic velocities; if “V” is defined here, absolute velocities in [Å/fs] must be given; if “S” is specified, then relative velocities within the supercell must be provided.

Line #3 and further until the number of atoms specified in line #1: Element name or atomic type; Coordinates.

In the second line, instead of the standard specifiers “Lattice” and “Properties”, the user may choose to set a random atomic arrangement with the given material density. For that, the following identifier must be used:

“Random” (Note that it is not a part of the standard extended XYZ format, but specific to XTANT-3). If only the flag Random is set, then the unit-/super-cell will be cubic, with the size chosen to

---

<sup>23</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ\\_file\\_format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XYZ_file_format)

reproduce the density specified in the next lines. Alternatively, the user may set the X and Y dimensions of the supercell, while the Z dimension will be chosen to reproduce the density of the material. E.g.:

Random - cubic cell

Random="X 15.0 Y 14.0" – X dimension is set to be 15.0 Å, Y dimension is set to be 14.0 Å.

In this format, inside the quotation marks, 4 values must be set: character "X" (or "Y"), value (real) of the supercell in the dimension specified, character "Y" (or "X"), value (real) of the supercell in the dimension specified.

If this specifier is used, the next lines must define the following parameters:

Element name from the periodic table (character); density (real) [g/cm<sup>3</sup>]; the number of atoms (integer)

E.g., for a single aluminum cell with 100 atoms, one should write:

Al 2.7 100

For a multilayer system, containing, e.g., Al (100 atoms) and Cu (80 atoms) layers, the following should be set:

Al 2.7 100

Cu 8.96 80

The layers will be stacked along the Z direction.

The elements set in this file *must* be included in the chemical formula set in the [INPUT\\_MATERIAL.txt](#) file (see above).

Note that the XYZ file sets a "unit cell", and a supercell will be constructed, according to the number of images set in the [NUMERICAL\\_PARAMETERS.txt](#) file.

Note #2: similar to setting a molecular in water, such random placing of atoms requires two-step relaxation: first, quenching to the ground state is required, and after that, setting the required temperature (e.g., room temperature) may be done with help of Berendsen thermostat.

#### **[iv. Unit\\_cell\\_atom\\_relative\\_coordinates.txt and Unit\\_cell\\_equilibrium.txt](#)**

The file [Unit\\_cell\\_atom\\_relative\\_coordinates.txt](#) contains the coordinates of atoms inside of the equilibrium unit-cell in relative coordinates. The number of lines in this file defines how many atoms we have in the unit cell of the material. For example, it is 8 atoms for GaAs; see Figure VI.21. These 8 lines contain the following information:

The first number stands for the kind of atom according to its chemical formula given in the input file. For example, for GaAs number 1 stands for Ga, and number 2 stands for As. *Make sure your order of elements in the chemical formula in the file matches the order of elements in this file!*

The next 3 numbers in each line represent the initial relative coordinates  $S_x$ ,  $S_y$ ,  $S_z$  of 8 atoms inside the unit cell (normalized from 0 to 1).

Atom	Element	x	y	z
1	1	0.0e0	0.0e0	0.0e0
2	1	0.5e0	0.5e0	0.0e0
3	1	0.5e0	0.0e0	0.5e0
4	1	0.0e0	0.5e0	0.5e0
5	2	0.25e0	0.25e0	0.25e0
6	2	0.75e0	0.75e0	0.25e0
7	2	0.75e0	0.25e0	0.75e0
8	2	0.25e0	0.75e0	0.75e0

Figure VI.21 File Unit\_cell\_atom\_relative\_coordinates.txt for GaAs.

The file Unit\_cell\_equilibrium.txt contains the initial vectors of the unit cell in angstroms [Å], to be later evolved according to the Parrinello-Rahman method [89] (for P=const simulation). The file contains three vectors (as columns), see Figure VI.22.

Vector 1	Vector 2	Vector 3
5.431d0	0.0d0	0.0d0
0.0d0	5.431d0	0.0d0
0.0d0	0.0d0	5.431d0

Figure VI.22 File Unit\_cell\_equilibrium.txt for silicon

#### f) File [Material].cdf

This file contains all parameters needed for Monte Carlo calculations of the electron cross-sections within the Ritchie complex dielectric function formalism [51]. The file contains the following lines, see Figure VI.23. Only used if the cdf-cross sections are chosen, not used for BEB cross sections.

Line	Material	Element	Density [g/cm³]	Speed of sound [m/s]	Number of shells
1	Silicon	Si	2.3290	8430.0	4
2					
3					
4					
5	1	1	1838.9e0	2.0	1.66e0
6	1579.84393e0	236.1525e0	1192.8108e0	!	E0, A, Gamma coefficients
7	1	3	148.7e0	2.0	0.375e0
8	219.31853e0	223.14459e0	199.22160e0	!	E0, A, Gamma coefficients
9	1	4	99.2e0	6.0	16.06e0
10	100	685	145	!	E0, A, Gamma coefficients
11	2	63	1.12	4.0	1.0e23
12	15.9504e0	113.883e0	3.212e0	!	E0, A, Gamma coefficients
13	17.499583e0	135.1805e0	3.0291e0	!	E0, A, Gamma coefficients

Figure VI.23 Example file [Material].cdf (Silicon)

Line 1: material name

Line 2: chemical element name(s), according to the rules described above

Line 3: density of the material in [g/cm³] (this number is the default value, which may be overwritten by the input file, see above) and speed of sound (not used in this version of MC)

Line 4: number of shells of the first element in the compound

Line 5: for the first shell, the next five numbers in the line:

- 1) Number of complex dielectric function (CDF) oscillators used in the formalism [109]

- 2) Shell designator according to the EADL<sup>24</sup> database (see a copy in Table VI below), with an additional notation of shell number 63 corresponding to the valence band.
- 3) The ionization potential of this shell in [eV]
- 4) Number of electrons in this shell
- 5) Time of Auger-decay in [fs]; for the valence band set here a huge number such as 1.0d23.

The numbers must be separated by TAB, not SPACE.

**Table VI. Atomic Subshell Designators**

Desig- nator	Subshell	Desig- nator	Subshell	Desig- nator	Subshell
1.	K (1s1/2)	21.	N4 (4d3/2)	41.	P1 (6s1/2)
2.	L (2)	22.	N5 (4d5/2)	42.	P23 (6p)
3.	L1 (2s1/2)	23.	N67 (4f)	43.	P2 (6p1/2)
4.	L23 (2p)	24.	N6 (4f5/2)	44.	P3 (6p3/2)
5.	L2 (2p1/2)	25.	N7 (4f7/2)	45.	P45 (6d)
6.	L3 (2p3/2)	26.	O (5)	46.	P4 (6d3/2)
7.	M (3)	27.	O1 (5s1/2)	47.	P5 (6d5/2)
8.	M1 (3s1/2)	28.	O23 (5p)	48.	P67 (6f)
9.	M23 (3p)	29.	O2 (5p1/2)	49.	P6 (6f5/2)
10.	M2 (3p1/2)	30.	O3 (5p3/2)	50.	P7 (6f7/2)
11.	M3 (3p3/2)	31.	O45 (5d)	51.	P89 (6g)
12.	M45 (3d)	32.	O4 (5d3/2)	52.	P8 (6g7/2)
13.	M4 (3d3/2)	33.	O5 (5d5/2)	53.	P9 (6g9/2)
14.	M5 (3d5/2)	34.	O67 (5f)	54.	P1011 (6h)
15.	N (4)	35.	O6 (5f5/2)	55.	P10 (6h9/2)
16.	N1 (4s1/2)	36.	O7 (5f7/2)	56.	P11 (6h11/2)
17.	N23 (4p)	37.	O89 (5g)	57.	Q (7)
18.	N2 (4p1/2)	38.	O8 (5g7/2)	58.	Q1 (7s1/2)
19.	N3 (4p3/2)	39.	O9 (5g9/2)	59.	Q23 (7p)
20.	N45 (4d)	40.	P (6)	60.	Q2 (7p1/2)
				61.	Q3 (7p3/2)

The number of next lines depends on the number of CDF-oscillators specified. For each oscillator, there will be a separate line, containing the following  $E_0$ ,  $A$ ,  $I$  coefficients of the CDF [109]. The numbers must be separated by TAB, not SPACE.

Then, for each shell, there will be the same set of lines with its own parameters.

If there is more than one element in the compound (e.g. GaAs), the same lines from 5 and further must be present for the second element. However, the last orbital (energy level) must be skipped, because it forms the valence band, and the valence band is already described in the first element. Thus, for all the next elements the number of shells must be one less than for the case of an isolated atom.

In case one uses BEB cross sections (by setting the EADL option in the input file `NUMERICAL_PARAMETERS.txt`), the file `[Material].cdf` is not necessary. And vice versa, if you do not have cdf data and the corresponding file, switch to the EADL option for the cross sections.

### g) Files with electron mean free paths

`[Matter]_Total_Electron_IMFP.txt` contains the total electron mean free path in the material. The first column is the electron energy in [eV], and the second one is the inverse mean free path in [ $1/\text{\AA}$ ].

<sup>24</sup> See details of this library here: <https://www-nds.iaea.org/epdl97/librall.htm>, physical details and references for the library are here: <https://www-nds.iaea.org/epdl97/document/epdl97.pdf>

Files named as `[A]_[CS]_Electron_IMFP_Ip=[Ip]eV.txt` specify in the same format electron mean free paths for each shell of each kind of atom.

Here `[A]` represents the atomic species (Si, C, Ga, As...); `[CS]` represents within which formalism the cross-section (and, correspondingly, mean free path) is calculated: CDF or BEB; `[Ip]` is the ionization potential of the shell, the given value of `Ip` must coincide with the ionization potential specified in the cdf-file.

If these files are not present in the folder, at the first XTANT-3 run it will automatically calculate them for the given choice of the cross-section (CDF or BEB), and save. Next time, it will read from the saved files, instead of recalculating them again. This means, if you modify something in the atomic parameters or the cdf, you have to delete the mean free paths files and let the program recalculate the new ones at the next run.

At the first run with CDF, the code also informs you about the corresponding sum-rules for the cdf you provided [47].

### h) Files with photon attenuation lengths

The files are constructed in exactly the same way as the files for electrons described above, named similarly: `[Matter]_Total_photon_IMFP.txt`. In the case of the given cdf, the photon attenuation lengths (mean free paths) are calculated from the cdf; in the case of chosen EADL (or BEB) cross sections, the photoabsorption cross sections are extracted from the EADL (part of EPICS2017) database.

### i) K-points grid

File `k_grid.dat` may contain several lines with 3 values in each specifying the grid points ( $k_x$ ,  $k_y$ ,  $k_z$ ) in the reciprocal space for calculations of the CDF and/or DOS (if the corresponding options are set in the input file; otherwise, this file is ignored). See an example in Figure VI.24.

If no such a file is present, the Monkhorst-Pack[118] sampling of k-space points is used.

1	0.0d0	0.0d0	0.0d0
2	0.0d0	0.0d0	0.1d0
3	0.0d0	0.0d0	0.2d0
4	0.0d0	0.0d0	0.3d0
5	0.0d0	0.0d0	0.5d0
6	0.1d0	0.0d0	0.5d0
7	0.2d0	0.0d0	0.5d0
8	0.3d0	0.0d0	0.5d0
9	0.4d0	0.0d0	0.5d0
10	0.5d0	0.0d0	0.5d0

Figure VI.24. Example of `k_grid.dat` file

## VII. Output Files

XTANT-3 produces several output files.

### 1) OUTPUT\_Error\_log.dat

file must be empty if there were no errors during the execution of the code. In this case, it is automatically deleted after the execution is finished. If it's not empty and not deleted at the end, have a look inside for the description of a known error that you would have to find later in the code and figure out why it occurred. Known types of errors and their meaning:

- Error #1: file not found
- Error #2: file could not be opened



- Error #3: file could not be read on the line number given
- Error #4: some problem with databases (EADL, EPDL, periodic table file)
- Error #5: inconsistent TB parameterization (only the same type of parameterization is allowed for all kinds of atoms within the compound)
- Error #6: diagonalization subroutine with LAPACK failed (uses MKL library)
- Error #7: some errors in low-energy electrons (probably in temperature or chemical potential calculation)
- Error #8: error in optical coefficients (probably in complex Hamiltonian)

## 2) OUTPUT\_Energy.dat

In case you included an additional option **size**, the code produces this file with the following information:

Column 1 is the nearest neighbor distance in [Å]

Column 2 is the total energy [eV/atom]

Column 3 is the repulsive part of the energy [eV/atom]

Column 4 is the attractive part of the energy [eV/atom]

Column 5 is the van der Waals contribution in [eV/atom]

Column 6 is the ZBL potential in [eV/atom] (unused in real calculations but may be useful for creating repulsive potential or checking short-range potential)

## 3) Directory OUTPUT\_[material]\_hw=[hw]\_t=[t]\_F=[F]

Such a directory contains all output files with the results of the code execution. Its name itself contains details of the parameters of the run:

[material] is the name of the material used (diamond, silicon, etc.). If the option “water” was specified in the INPUT\_MATERIAL file, then the name will be augmented with the words “in\_water” (e.g. it will be *material* = “diamond\_in\_water”)

[hw] is the photon energy of the FEL pulse used [eV]

[t] is the duration of the FEL pulse [fs]

[F] is the pulse fluence in terms of the absorbed dose in [eV/atom]

For the case of more than one FEL-pulse modeled, these parameters are shown for the *first* pulse, but the directory-name is appended with the following:

OUTPUT\_[material]\_hw=[hw]\_t=[t]\_F=[F]\_[N]\_pulses

Where *N* shows the number of pulses specified in the input file.

Alternatively, for no pulse calculations ( $F=0$ ), the name will be OUTPUT\_[material]\_Te=[Te]\_Ta=[Ta]\_[coupling] where

[*Te*] is the initial electron temperature [K]; in case if electron distribution is read from the file (instead of Fermi distribution with a given temperature), then here “-1.0” will be used, to indicate that the distribution may be out of equilibrium and the electronic temperature is undefined.

[*Ta*] is the initial atomic temperature [K]

[*coupling*] will be either “no\_coupling” (if no electron-phonon coupling is included), or “with\_coupling” if the nonadiabatic coupling is switched on.

If a run with the same parameters already was performed, and the data file with the same name already exists, the new file will be created with a number at the end, e.g.

OUTPUT\_[*material*].\_hw=[*hw*].\_t=[*t*].\_F=[*F*].\_v1

An output directory will also contain several files, including a copy of the [INPUT\\_MATERIAL.txt](#) (or [INPUT.txt](#)) and, if exists, [NUMERICAL\\_PARAMETERS.txt](#) for your records, and the file

[!OUTPUT\\_\[\*material\*\].\\_Parameters.txt](#) with essentially the same information, plus the atomic data that are extracted from either cdf-file, or EADL database, and duration of execution of the program. Also, if you use a communication file (see the next subsection), its results will be saved here for your information.

#### 4) [SAVE\\_\[\*something\*\].dat](#)

Files with the atomic coordinates [SAVE\\_atoms.dat](#), with supercell vectors [SAVE\\_supercell.dat](#), and [SAVE\\_el\\_distribution.txt](#) containing electronic distribution. These files are updated at each printout-MD-step and can be used to restart the simulation from the current step (including the last step).

#### 5) [Communication with the program on-the-fly](#)

In the output folder, XTANT-3 creates a text file named [Communication.txt](#). This file is checked by the program at each saving-time-step. You can send the following messages to the program that it will interpret and act upon:

- [time](#) “number” : to change the total duration of the simulation (type ‘time’ and the new number in [fs], without quotation marks, e.g. time 10000, or Time 2e3)
- [SAVEDt](#) “number” : to change how often outputs are saved (type the new number in [fs], e.g. SAVEDt 2.0 – will make the program save output data with the time step of 2 fs)
- [MDdt](#) “number” : to change the timestep of MD simulation (type the new number in [fs], e.g. MDdt 0.01).
- [OMP](#) “number” : to change the number of OpenMP threads in the parallel calculations (integer). Setting here a zero or negative number will set the number of threads equal to the maximum number of threads on your machine.
- [Thermostat\\_Ta](#) “number” : to change the temperature of the atomic Berendsen thermostat. The number sets the new atomic temperature in [K]. A negative number switches off the atomic thermostat.
- [Thermostat\\_dt\\_a](#) “number” : to change the characteristic time of the atomic Berendsen thermostat. The number sets the new characteristic time of the thermostat in [fs]. A negative number switches off the atomic thermostat.

- **Thermostat\_Te** “number” : to change the temperature of the electronic Berendsen thermostat. The number sets the new atomic temperature in [K]. The negative number switches off the electronic thermostat.
- **Thermostat\_dt\_e** “number” : to change the characteristic time of the electronic Berendsen thermostat. The number sets the new characteristic time of the thermostat in [fs]. The negative number switches off the electronic thermostat.
- **Verbose** : switches the *verbose* option on (see Section IV.6).
- **verbose\_off** : switches the *verbose* option off.

For example, the following lines in the file shown will reset (1) the duration of simulation to 1000 fs, (2) the printout timestep to 10 fs, (3) the atomic thermostat to the temperature of 300 K, (4) the characteristic time of the atomic thermostat to 150 fs, and (5) switch off the electronic thermostat, see Figure VII.1.

```
1 time 1000
2 SAVEdt 10.0
3 thermostat_Ta 300.0e0
4 Thermostat_dt_a 150.0
5 Thermostat_Te -1
```

Figure VII.1 Example of the communication file.

At the end of the simulation, this file is deleted.

## 6) Plotting: OUTPUT\_Gnuplot\_all.sh

Execute this file to create all the plots of all results of calculations. You can do that even if XTANT-3 is still running, then it will give you transient results. At the end of the simulation run, this command will also be executed automatically.

This is a gnuplot shell script that is created by XTANT-3 to execute all other Gnuplot shell scripts in the folder that are plotting all the essential quantities:

OUTPUT\_bands\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the bottom of the valence band (VB), top of the VB, bottom of the conduction band (CB), and top of the CB, and chemical potential.

OUTPUT\_CB\_electron\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the density of conduction band electrons.

OUTPUT\_coupling\_parameter\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the electron-phonon coupling parameter.

OUTPUT\_deep\_shell\_holes\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the density of deep shell holes in each shell of each atom of the compound.

OUTPUT\_electron\_Ce.sh – plots the heat capacity of electrons.

OUTPUT\_electron\_entropy.sh – plots the entropy of electrons.

OUTPUT\_electron\_distribution\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the electron distribution function as an animated gif. Note that the points are plotted in the position of the current energy levels (molecular orbitals), so the shifts of the points reflect the shifts of the orbitals. In case nonequilibrium distributions are used,

such as BO or relaxation-time approximation, also the equivalent Fermi distribution will be plotted for comparison.

OUTPUT\_electron\_distribution\_on\_grid\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the electron distribution function on the user-defined grid (*not* the energy levels) as an animated gif. The full distribution is plotted (low- and high-energy electrons), multiplied by the DOS; free-electron DOS is assumed for high-density electrons. Thus, this plot is energy-resolved electron density.

OUTPUT\_electrons\_and\_holes\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the high-energy electrons and core holes densities.

OUTPUT\_energies\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the total, potential, and atomic energies.

OUTPUT\_energy\_levels\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the electron energy levels (eigenvalues of the TB Hamiltonian). Takes a few minutes to plot.

OUTPUT\_mean\_displacement\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the (mean atomic displacements)<sup>N</sup> with respect to the initial positions.

OUTPUT\_mu\_and\_Egap.sh – plots the electron chemical potential and band gap.

OUTPUT\_Mulliken\_charges\_Gnuplot.sh – plots charges of different types of atoms.

OUTPUT\_optical\_coefficients.sh – plots optical R, T, A for specified probe pulse wavelength.

OUTPUT\_optical\_n\_and\_k.sh – plots corresponding real and imaginary parts of the refractive index.

OUTPUT\_pressure\_Gnuplot.sh – plots total pressure in the atomic system in the simulation box.

OUTPUT\_stress\_tensor\_Gnuplot.sh – plots components of the atomic pressure tensor.

OUTPUT\_temperatures\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the electron and atomic temperatures.

OUTPUT\_volume\_Gnuplot.sh – plots the volume of the supercell.

In case you set a probe-pulse to be included, additional gnuplot files of the convolved data will be created (see below), that will be named exactly the same way with the word ‘CONVOLVED’ added at the end, e.g. convolved electron heat capacity would be in a file named

OUTPUT\_electron\_Ce\_CONVOLVED.sh

Note that in the case of the Windows operating system, instead of shell scripts the program will create cmd batch files (with the same name, just a different extension: .cmd instead of .sh). They will need a Windows version of Gnuplot installed<sup>25</sup>, and proper paths written in the environment variables<sup>26</sup>.

## 7) Output data files

OUTPUT\_atomic\_coordinates.xyz – contains the atomic positions at each time-step in [Å] (saving time-step specified in the input file, not the numerical time-step used in the MD) in the extended XYZ format. The comment line is used to save the supercell vectors, which can be read by many MD visualization programs, such as OVITO<sup>27</sup>.

---

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.gnuplot.info/>

<sup>26</sup> This, and many other useful things, can be done with help of Cygwin: <https://www.cygwin.com/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.ovito.org/windows-downloads/>

**OUTPUT\_atomic\_coordinates.cif** – contains the atomic positions at each time-step in [Å] (saving time-step specified in the input file, not the numerical time-step used in the MD) in the CIF format, which can be used to construct powder diffraction patterns by standard visualization software such as Mercury<sup>28</sup>.

**OUTPUT\_coordinates\_and\_velocities.dat** – contains the atomic coordinates and velocities for all atoms at each timestep. The first three values and the coordinates in [Å], last three are the velocities in each line in [Å/fs]. A line describes one atom in the supercell. After all atoms' data for one timestep, there are two empty lines. After that, the next timestep is starting. Use it for a quick look with Gnuplot, e.g.:

```
sp "OUTPUT_coordinates_and_velocities.dat" i 201 u 1:2:3 pt 6 ps 3
```

for step number 201, coordinates (columns 1:2:3).

Also, use it for calculations of atomic velocity autocorrelators and phonon spectra (see below).

**OUTPUT\_coupling.dat** – electron-ion coupling parameter. Contains the following lines:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) Total coupling parameter [W/m<sup>3</sup>K]
- 3) and further: Partial coupling parameter for each type of pair atoms [A]-[B] in the compound. For example, for elemental Al targets, there will be one column Al-Al. For compound AlCu, there will be 4 columns: Al-Al, Al-Cu, Cu-Al, and Cu-Cu. Etc.
- 4) The next columns will be partial coupling for each type of orbital (defined by the basis set) for each kind of atom in the compound. For example, for the sp<sup>3</sup>d<sup>5</sup> basis set, there will be couplings for the pairs of levels: s-s, s-p, s-d, p-s, p-p, p-d, d-s, d-p, d-d (for each kind of element [A]-[B] in the compound).

**OUTPUT\_deep\_shell\_holes.dat** – contains timestep [fs], the number of holes in each shell of each kind of atom in the compound in the next columns (normalized to the number of atoms).

**OUTPUT\_DOS.dat** – contains blocks of data separated by two empty lines. Each block contains a few columns:

- 1) energy in [eV]
- 2) total DOS in [states/eV]
- 3) partial DOS (PDOS) for the first atomic shell of the first element in the compound [states/eV]
- 4) PDOS for the next shell of the first element, etc.

PDOS corresponding to atomic orbital contributions into DOS will be printed out only if the user set the PDOS parameter to 1 (see input file NUMERICAL\_PARAMETERS above). The number of columns will depend on the number of elements in the compound and the basis set used. E.g., for one element with a sp<sup>3</sup>d<sup>5</sup> basis set, there will be three columns with PDOS, corresponding to s, p, and d PDOS. For N<sub>elem</sub> elements in the compound and sp<sup>3</sup>d<sup>5</sup> basis set, there will be 3xN<sub>elem</sub> columns; for the sp<sup>3</sup> basis set, there will be 2 columns per element: with s and p PDOS, etc.

The file is created only if printing out DOS is set by the user.

---

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/solutions/software/mercury/>

**OUTPUT\_dielectric\_function.dat** – contains blocks of data separated by two empty lines. Each block contains 16 columns:

- 1) energy in [eV]
- 2) the real part of CDF
- 3) the imaginary part of CDF
- 4) loss function
- 5) reflectivity
- 6) transmission
- 7) absorption
- 8) optical n (real part of the refraction coefficient)
- 9) optical k (imaginary part of the refraction coefficient)
- 10) dc-conductivity
- 11) The real part of the (x,x) component of the CDF
- 12) The imaginary part of the (x,x) component of the CDF
- 13) The real part of the (y,y) component of the CDF
- 14) The imaginary part of the (y,y) component of the CDF
- 15) The real part of the (z,z) component of the CDF
- 16) The imaginary part of the (z,z) component of the CDF

File created only if printing out the spectrum of optical coefficients is set by the user. From this file, parameters for a chosen photon energy may be extracted in post-processing (see below).

**OUTPUT\_electron\_Ce.dat** – electronic heat capacity. Contains the following lines:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) Total electronic heat capacity [ $\text{J/m}^3\text{K}$ ]
- 3) and further: partial electronic heat capacities for each type of orbitals (defined by the basis set) for each kind of atom in the compound.

For example, for the elemental Al target, there will be 3 columns with partial  $C_e$ : Al\_s, Al\_p, and Al\_d, corresponding to 3s, 3p, and 3d shells.

**OUTPUT\_electron\_entropy.dat** – electronic heat capacity. Contains the following 3 lines: Time [fs]; transient electronic entropy [ $\text{K/eV}$ ]; equivalent equilibrium electronic entropy [ $\text{K/eV}$ ] (corresponding to Fermi-Dirac distribution, i.e. maximal possible entropy for the given particle and energy content).

**OUTPUT\_electron\_distribution.dat** – contains electron distribution function on the current energy levels, for each timestep separated by the double empty line. The first column is the energy level in [eV], and the second column is the distribution function. In case nonequilibrium distributions are used, such as BO or relaxation-time approximation, there is the third column, containing equivalent Fermi distribution (Fermi function for equivalent or kinetic electron temperature and chemical potential).

[OUTPUT\\_electron\\_distribution\\_on\\_grid.dat](#) – contains full electron distribution function (energy-resolved density of electrons of both, low- and high-energy electrons, from Boltzmann and MC fractions) on the user-defined grid (*not* current energy levels), for each timestep separated by the double empty line. The first column is the energy grid in [eV], the second column is the electron density in [1/(V\*eV)] (where V is the volume of the supercell), the third column is the electron distribution function (the second column divided by the density of states; for MC electrons, the free-electron DOS is assumed with the mass equal to the free-electron mass, whereas for the low-energy electrons, the DOS is counted as the number of energy levels (at the gamma-point) within the given grid interval).

[OUTPUT\\_electron\\_hole\\_numbers.dat](#) – contains the following data:

- 1) Time [fs];
- 2) Number of valence band electrons;
- 3) Number of conduction band electrons;
- 4) Number of high-energy electrons;
- 5) Total number of core holes (in all shells summed up);
- 6) Error in the particle conservation;
- 7) Number of photons as sampled.

Data are normalized per the number of atoms.

[OUTPUT\\_electron\\_properties.dat](#) – contains the following data:

- 17) Time [fs]
- 18) Number of electrons [% , per atom]
- 19) Chemical potential [eV]
- 20) Band gap [eV]
- 21) Electrons heat capacity [J/m<sup>3</sup>K]
- 22) Electron-phonon coupling parameter [W/m<sup>3</sup>K]
- 23) Bottom of the VB [eV]
- 24) Top of the VB [eV]
- 25) Bottom of the CB [eV]
- 26) Top of the CB [eV]
- 27) Mulliken charges for all types of atoms in the modeled compound [electron charge]

[OUTPUT\\_energies.dat](#) – contains the following data:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) The energy of electrons [eV/atom]
- 3) The energy of all core holes [eV/atom]
- 4) The potential energy of atoms [eV/atom]
- 5) The kinetic energy of atoms [eV/atom]



- 6) The total energy of atoms [eV/atom]
- 7) The total energy of atoms and electrons [eV/atom]
- 8) The total energy in the system (atoms, electrons, holes) [eV/atom] – should be always conserved, except during an FEL pulse
- 9) Van der Waals energy (if included in the simulation) [eV/atom]
- 10) Additional short-range repulsion energy (if included) [eV/atom]

**OUTPUT\_energy\_levels.dat** – contains all the eigenstates of the Hamiltonian, at each timestep, separated by two empty lines, in [eV].

**OUTPUT\_optical\_coefficients.dat** – Optical coefficients for the given probe photon energy, printed in the same format as 16 columns in the file **OUTPUT\_dielectric\_function.dat**, except the first column in time in [fs]. The file is created only if the probe pulse is set by the user.

**OUTPUT\_pressure\_and\_stress.dat** – Contains:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) Pressure [GPa]
- 3) 9 columns with the components of the pressure tensor  $\text{Pressure}(a,b)$ , with  $a=x,y,z$  and  $b=x,y,z$ , all in [GPa]

**OUTPUT\_supercell.dat** – contains the data for the supercell: time, volume [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ], 9 super-cell vectors [ $\text{\AA}$ ], and their 9 velocities [ $\text{\AA}/\text{fs}$ ].

**OUTPUT\_temperatures.dat** – contains the following data:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) Electron temperature [K]

Note that in case of BO or nonequilibrium simulation, the kinetic (or equivalent; effective; nonequilibrium) electron temperature is printed here: the temperature and chemical potential are defined for the Fermi distribution function that contains the same number of electrons and total energy as in the real simulated system.

- 3) Kinetic atomic temperature [K]: the first column is the average, then for each element of the compound
- 4) (Mean atomic displacement)<sup>N</sup> [ $\text{\AA}^N$ ]: the first column is the average, then for each element of the compound

At each time instant of the simulation when output files are printed out, XTANT-3 also saves the following backup files: **SAVE\_atoms.dat**, **SAVE\_supercell.dat**, and **SAVE\_el\_distribution.dat**. They are consistent with the format that can be used to set initial data, as described above (section Files **SAVE\_supercell.dat**, **SAVE\_atoms.dat** and **SAVE\_el\_distribution.dat**). They contain information on the atomic coordinates and velocities, supercell vectors, and electronic distribution function.

## 8) ...CONVOLVED.dat output data files

If in the input file, you set a finite positive duration of the probe pulse, all the data from the output files mentioned above will be additionally convolved with a Gaussian function of a given FWHM. The

resulting data will be saved in the new output data files under the same names with the tag 'CONVOLVED' added to them, e.g. temperatures after the convolution will be in the file:

OUTPUT\_temperatures\_CONVOLVED.dat

These files will be used by gnuplot to prepare convolved figures.

## VIII. Post-processing

XTANT-3 package contains a few programs for post-processing of the output files if required. They are stored in the directory !XTANT\_ANALYSIS\_SUBROUTINES. To compile them, enter this directory and execute the Make.bat file inside (for Linux-based systems, follow the compilation examples given at the top of each file). It will compile all the post-processing subroutines listed below.

The following post-processing is possible:

### 1) Extracting pair correlation function

If the user did not set to printout the pair correlation function (PCF) in the input files, it can be extracted in the post-processing using the XTANT\_atomic\_data\_analysis.exe, which must be placed into the folder with the output data.

This program requires the following output data to be present:

'OUTPUT\_coordinates\_and\_velocities.dat'

'OUTPUT\_supercell.dat'

'OUTPUT\_energies.dat'

'OUTPUT\_temperatures.dat'

And can be run as follows: XTANT\_atomic\_data\_analysis.exe in the command line. It will construct and print out the pair correlation function at each time instant. It creates the output file OUTPUT\_PCF.dat, where the PCF is saved in the same format as OUTPUT\_pair\_correlation\_function.dat described above.

Note, however, that PCF can easily be obtained by standard molecular dynamics visualization software, such as VMD<sup>29</sup>, OVITO<sup>30</sup>, etc.

### 2) Calculation of velocity autocorrelation and phonon spectra

A program for calculation of atomic velocity autocorrelation functions and phonon spectra XTANT\_autocorrelators.exe must be placed into the folder with the output data. To execute, simply run XTANT\_autocorrelators.exe in the command line. The program will ask the user to input two parameters: alpha and time step. Alpha is the exponential factor suppressing correlation at long times  $\exp(-\alpha \cdot t)$ . The time step *tim\_step* sets how often to print out autocorrelators and phonon spectra: it will divide the data into *tim\_step* steps, and calculate data on them. E.g. if you had a simulation run from 0 to 1000 fs, and set *tim\_step*=10, it will print 10 files, at every 200 fs.

The program will create a set of files

OUT\_VAF\_[time].dat

---

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/vmd/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.ovito.org/>

OUT\_vibrational\_spectrum\_[time].dat

Where [time] is a timestamp at which the velocity autocorrelation function (VAF) and phonon spectrum are calculated. The program uses Fourier transform to get the spectrum from VAF [1].

The files OUT\_VAF\_[time].dat contain two columns:

- 1) Time [fs]
- 2) VAF [arb. units]

The files OUT\_vibrational\_spectrum\_[time].dat contain two columns:

- 1) Phonon frequency [THz]
- 2) Phonon spectrum [arb. units]

### 3) Calculation of electron-ion coupling parameter $g(T_e)$ , $C_e(T_e)$ , $\mu(T_e)$ , $P_e(T_e)$

To calculate the electron-ion coupling parameter as a function of electron temperature  $g(T_e)$ , electronic heat capacity  $C_e(T_e)$ , chemical potential  $\mu(T_e)$ , and electronic pressure  $P_e(T_e)$ , the following procedure can be used [130]:

It requires several output directories to be present with slightly different simulation parameters.

- They can be automatically set in the INPUT\_DATA.txt (or INPUT.txt) input file using the optional command “Coupling” (see the end of Section VI.1).

Alternatively, they can be set manually, following the procedure described below:

- Set a simulation run with the fluence of  $\sim 3$ -5 eV/atom, duration of  $\sim 10$ -30 fs, and low photon energy of  $\sim 10$  eV, the position of the maximum at 0 fs, and the starting time  $\sim -300$  –  $-400$  fs.
- Use a small timestep (both, for MD and for printing out) during the pulse. For that, it is convenient to use a file input with the specified time grid (see description of Line 10 in Section VI.2), in which a relatively large time step may be used for the equilibration phase before the pulse arrival (e.g., 1 fs up to  $-20$  fs, and 0.1 fs after  $-20$  fs).
- Create multiple simulations by either specifying in the INPUT\_DATA.txt file the additional option “Coupling” (with a number of simulations recommended 5-10 or more; see for details at the end of Section VI.1), or by manually creating a few additional input files with incrementally increasing numbers to run a few simulations in a sequence (see above how to do that, Section VI.3). In each of these files, vary slightly the parameters of the first pulse, e.g., choose different fluences between 3 and 5 eV/atom, chose different pulse durations between 10-30 fs, initial electronic temperature between 100 and 300 K, and slightly different arrival times of the second pulse between  $-300$  fs to  $-500$  fs. This will randomize the parameters and exclude artificial correlation effects [130]. Recommended number of thusly-created simulation runs: 10 or more.

- Run XTANT-3 to create 10 (or more) output folders with slightly different parameters as said above. Place all output folders into a separate directory, and place the file XTANT\_coupling\_parameter.exe in the same directory.

- Execute it as follows: XTANT\_coupling\_parameter.exe alpha max\_Te

**alpha** : an optional argument meaning the time [fs] from which to start averaging the coupling parameter (used to exclude early times where atoms are not equilibrated yet).

**max\_Te** : an optional parameter, specifying the maximal electronic temperature for grid to span the dependence on the electronic temperature (if not specified, the default value of 25000 K is used).

For example, set  $\alpha = -100$  fs and  $T_e = 50000$  K, i.e. run `XTANT_coupling_parameter.exe -100 50000`, which will exclude earlier times during which the system was still equilibrating, and create output files with the electronic temperature grid up to 50000 K (note that it is meaningless to set the electronic temperature higher than those achieved in the calculations, defined by the absorbed dose set in the input file).

This program will scan through all the output folders (note that no other folders or files in this directory should start with the word 'OUTPUT', as the program will use them and crush), and use files `OUTPUT_electron_properties.dat`, `OUTPUT_temperatures.dat`, `OUTPUT_coupling.dat` (if exists) and `OUTPUT_pressure_and_stress.dat` to extract  $g$ ,  $C_e$ ,  $\mu$  and Gruneisen parameter as functions of time, then sort them according to the electronic temperatures ( $T_e$ ) at those time, interpolate on a grid of  $T_e$ , the average overall 10 (or more) simulation runs, and printout averaged values into the following files:

`OUT_average_coupling.dat`

Which contains 3 columns:

- 1) Electron temperature [K]
- 2) Total coupling parameter [W/(m<sup>3</sup>K)]
- 3) The standard deviation of the coupling parameter (error bars)

`OUT_average_parameters.dat`

Which contains 4 columns:

- 1) Electron temperature [K]
- 2) Chemical potential [eV]
- 3) Electron heat capacity [J/(m<sup>3</sup>K)]
- 4) The standard deviation of the electron heat capacity (error bars)

`OUT_average_partial_couplings.dat`

Which contains several columns corresponding to the number of partial couplings for each pair of elements and shells (according to the file `OUTPUT_coupling.dat` in the same format).

`OUT_average_partial_Ce.dat`

Which contains several columns corresponding to the number of partial electronic heat capacities for each shell of each element (according to the file `OUTPUT_electron_Ce.dat` in the same format).

`OUT_average_pressure.dat`

Which contains 4 columns:

- 1) Electronic temperature  $T_e$  in [K]
- 2) Electron energy in [eV/atom]

- 3) Pressure in [GPa]
- 4) Electronic Gruneisen parameter, defined as  $dP/dE$  in [Pa/(J/atom)]

Note that an alternative definition of the electronic Gruneisen parameter is  $P/E$  (instead of derivative) [134], which can be calculated from columns 2 and 3 in this file. In this case, it is important to subtract the room temperature value from the pressure (since it is rarely exactly zero in the simulation). This definition is useful since the definition based on the derivative often produces too noisy results.

For convenience, it also creates the file collecting the partial electronic heat capacity and electron-ion coupling named

[OUT\\_XTANT3\\_Cd\\_partial\\_Ce\\_G.dat](#)

Which contains a few columns (depending on the TB basis set, and number of orbitals):

- 1) Electronic temperature  $T_e$  in [K]
- 2) Total electron heat capacity in [J/m<sup>3</sup>K]

The number of next columns depends on the number of orbitals in TB: for each s, p, and d orbital used, there will be a column with partial electron heat capacity.

Then comes the column with the total electron-ion coupling parameter, rescaled back to normal according to the parameter set in the file [NUMERICAL\\_PARAMETERS.txt](#). After that, partial couplings for each pair of orbitals are present, where paired orbitals are added together (and rescaled by the same factor as the total one). For example, for the  $sp^3d^5$  basis, there will be 6 columns, corresponding to the partial couplings of: s-s, s-p, s-d, p-p, p-d, d-d orbitals. For the calculation of s-p orbital coupling, the two columns from the file [OUT\\_average\\_partial\\_couplings.dat](#) (above) are summed: s-p and p-s.

Additionally, two gnuplot scripts are created that use data from the last file:

[OUT\\_gnuplot\\_Ce.cmd](#) and [OUT\\_gnuplot\\_G.cmd](#), which are executed to create the figures

[OUT\\_XTANT3\\_Cd\\_partial\\_Ce.gif](#) and [OUT\\_XTANT3\\_Cd\\_partial\\_G.gif](#) with the calculated partial electron heat capacity and electron-ion coupling.

#### 4) Extracting optical parameters for given wavelength from the spectrum

If you run XTANT-3 simulation with printing out the optical spectrum, you can extract optical parameters as a function of time for any photon energy (wavelength) within the spectrum interval, for s and p polarizations, and given angle of probe incidence and substrate.

To run, place the program [XTANT\\_dielectric\\_function\\_analysis.exe](#) into the output folder with the results which must contain the file [OUTPUT\\_dielectric\\_function.dat](#), and simply call it as: [XTANT\\_dielectric\\_function\\_analysis.exe hw](#), where  $hw$  is the probe photon energy in [eV].

It also requires the following additional input file to be present: [OPTICAL\\_PARAMETERS.dat](#) (place it manually into the same directory with the output data).

```

1 50.0d0      ! thickness [nm]
2 90.0d0      ! with respect to surface [deg]
3 1.0d0   0.0d0      ! n and k of the material above the target
4 3.6941d0   0.0065435d0 ! n and k of the material below the target

```

Figure VIII.1 Example of the input file for optical parameters extraction.

The lines in this file must be as follows:

- 1) The thickness of the target in [nm]
- 2) Probe incidence angle with respect to the surface [degree]
- 3) Optical  $n$  and  $k$  of the material above the target (typically, air)
- 4) Optical  $n$  and  $k$  of the substrate (substrate material below the target, may also be air)

The program will create 2 output files:

- 1) `OUTPUT_dielectric_function_[hw].dat` with the same format as the file `OUTPUT_optical_coefficients.dat` described above (just by interpolating the data from the file with the dielectric function printed out). The columns are marked in the first line of the file, as follows: time hw Re\_eps Im\_eps LF R T A n k. The optical coefficients are calculated for s-polarization only. *Note that it might not work well, and the file may contain just zeros!*
- 2) `OUTPUT_dielectric_function_[hw]_RTA.dat` with recalculated optical parameters taking into account properties of materials above and below the target, following the formalism described in [135]. The columns are marked in the first line of the file, as follows:
  1. time [fs]
  2. R\_s – the first ray reflection for s-polarization
  3. T\_s – the first ray transmission for s-polarization
  4. A\_s – the first ray absorption for s-polarization
  5. R\_p – the first ray reflection for p-polarization
  6. T\_p – the first ray transmission for p-polarization
  7. A\_p – the first ray absorption for p-polarization
  8. R\_s\_all – coherently summed all rays' reflection for s-polarization
  9. T\_s\_all – coherently summed all rays transmission for s-polarization
  10. A\_s\_all – coherently summed all rays absorption for s-polarization
  11. R\_p\_all – coherently summed all rays' reflection for p-polarization
  12. T\_p\_all – coherently summed all rays transmission for p-polarization
  13. A\_p\_all – coherently summed all rays absorption for p-polarization

## 5) Calculation of mass spectrum of ablation fragments

If you run a simulation with open boundaries (thin layer, nanoparticle, etc.), you can construct a mass spectrum of ablated fragments. For that, place the program `XTANT_fragmentation.exe` and the database `INPUT_atomic_data.dat` (present in the directory `!XTANT_ANALYSIS_SUBROUTINES`) into the output folder with the results which must contain the file `OUTPUT_atomic_coordinates.xyz`, and call it as: `XTANT_fragmentation.exe r dt`.

Here  $r$  set the cut-off radius in [Å] (above which atoms are considered to be separated and belong to a different fragment), and the printout time step  $dt$  in [fs] (which sets how often the mass spectrum should be printed out; it does not have to coincide with the timestep used in the simulation, but cannot be smaller than that).

Execution of this utility creates the output file `OUT_fragments_spectrum.dat` containing the following columns (first line set the time instants for each column, starting from #2):

Column 1: mass of the fragments in [a.m.u.]

Column 2 and others: number of fragments with the mass, set in column 1, at the time instant, set in the first line.

It also creates a Gnuplot script `OUT_fragments.cmd` (or `OUT_fragments.sh`), which plots the color-map plot of the mass spectrum vs. time in the file `OUT_fragments.png` using the data from the created file `OUT_fragments_spectrum.dat`.

## 6) Calculation of electron entropy

Although versions of XTANT-3 after 10.02.2023 produce output files with electronic entropy during simulation runs, legacy results may be analyzed with this post-processing utility. If the electronic distribution is printed out (file `OUTPUT_electron_distribution.dat`), electronic entropy can be calculated. For that, place the compiled post-processing file `XTANT_entropy.exe` in the folder with the output data, and execute this program. It does not require any additional input. It will create an output file with the electronic entropy `OUT_entropy.dat` containing three columns:

Column 1: time [fs]

Column 2: electron entropy [K/eV] for the transient distribution function read from the same file

Column 3: equilibrium (equivalent) electron entropy [K/eV] for the Fermi-Dirac distribution function (with the same particle and energy content as the transient one) read from the same file.

Since equilibrium distribution maximizes entropy, a comparison between these two functions demonstrates how far from equilibrium the transient electron distribution is.

The utility also creates and executes gnuplot script `OUT_entropy.cmd`, which creates a plot `OUT_entropy.png` with the two functions.

## 7) Analysis of electron distribution

If the distribution function on electronic energy levels (`OUTPUT_electron_distribution.dat`) or distribution on the grid was printed out (containing both, low-energy and high-energy electrons; file `OUTPUT_electron_distribution_on_grid.dat`), further analysis of those distributions is possible:

- Both distributions can be averaged over time with a given temporal profile (mimicking, e.g., photo- or Auger-emission from the chosen deep-shell holes)
- The distribution on the grid can be additionally smoothened via convolution with a Gaussian function of a given width in energy space (mimicking the spectral function of a measuring detector)

If one of these files is not present, the analysis will automatically run only for the present file.



The file `XTANT_el_distribution_analysis.f90` should be compiled into the post-processing subroutine `XTANT_el_distribution_analysis.exe`. This subroutine should be placed in the folder with the output data, and executed. To execute, it requires the input file called `EL_DISTR.txt` to be placed in the same directory. This file must contain three lines with the following parameters:

Line #1: Energy width in [eV]. Set a negative number to exclude convolution in the energy space, if not needed.

Line #2: File name, providing the data on the widths in time to average the distribution with; and the index of the column to use in this file. Set a non-existing file name to exclude averaging in time, if not needed.

Line #3: Cut off for the distribution, below which the distribution is not printed (to exclude too small value, making it easier to print in log-scale, and making the output files smaller)

The results are printed in the 3 files for the distribution on the energy levels (and 3 corresponding Gnuplot scripts, which create 2 png-figure and one animated gif), and 2 output files for distribution on the grid (and 4 Gnuplot scripts to create plots from these files):

- a) `OUT_fe_average.dat` – containing the averaged distribution on the energy levels. The first column is the averaged energy levels in [eV], second is the distribution function. Its corresponding Gnuplot script is `OUT_fe_average.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux) and its plot is in `OUT_fe_average.png`.
- b) `OUT_fe_gridded.dat` – containing the distribution put on the grid with the step defined by the user here. The first column is the energy grid in [eV], and the second column is the distribution function on this grid. Its corresponding Gnuplot script is `OUT_fe_gridded.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux), and the plot is `OUT_fe_gridded.gif`.
- c) `OUT_fe_gridded_average.dat` – containing the averaged distribution on the defined here energy grid. The first column is the grid in [eV], second is the averaged distribution function. Its corresponding Gnuplot script is `OUT_fe_gridded_average.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux) and its plot is in `OUT_fe_gridded_average.png`.
- d) `OUT_el_distr_vs_time.dat` – containing the processed electronic spectra (second column) and distribution function (third column), both convolved in energy space, if requested. In the same format as in the original file `OUTPUT_electron_distribution_on_grid.dat`. If no convolutions are required (line 1 in `EL_DISTR.txt` contains a negative number), this file is not created.

Their corresponding gnuplot scripts are: `OUT_el_distr_vs_time.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux), executed automatically to create an animated gif plot of the evolution of the convolved electronic spectrum from the file. The second file is `OUT_el_distr_vs_time_norm.cmd` executed automatically to create an animated gif plot of the evolution of the convolved distribution function from the file

- e) `OUT_el_distr_average.dat` – containing the electronic spectrum (second column) and the distribution function (third column) averaged over time with the provided weights. If no weights were provided in a file, all weights are assumed to be =1, and the function is just averaged over time.

Their corresponding gnuplot scripts are: `OUT_el_distr_average.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux), which creates a png-plot of the time-averaged spectrum from the file; and `OUT_el_distr_average_norm.cmd` (or `.sh` in Linux), which creates a png-plot of the time-averaged distribution from the file.

Note: files with “fe” (constructed from the distribution on the electron levels) are best for the analysis of low-energy electrons, while high-energy electrons are missing in them. Files with “distr” (constructed from the distribution on the grid) are best for analysis of high-energy electrons, whereas low-energy electrons may need more detailed analysis than the one used in XTANT-3 calculations – the parameters of the grid may need to be changed, etc.

For example, if we want to construct the spectrum of photons emitted by the decay of L-shell holes in simulated aluminum, and measured with the detector with the spectral width of 1.5 eV, we set the following in the file:

```
1.5 0.5      ! [eV] Energy convolution parameter; [eV] energy grid for  $f_e$ 
OUTPUT_deep_shell_holes.dat 5
1.0e-8      ! distribution cutoff
```

We chose this file with the core holes, and set column #5 in it, containing the data on the number of L3-shell holes. This way, the resulting output is the electronic distribution averaged with the weights, corresponding to the transient number of L-shell holes, mimicking the spectrum of photons emitted in radiative decays of these holes. The resulting distribution is convolved with a Gaussian function with a width of 1.5 eV, mimicking the detector resolution. An analogous procedure was used, e.g., in Ref.[29].

Similarly, a spectrum of emitted electrons by a probe pulse can be constructed, by setting up a file with the profile of the probe pulse (e.g., gaussian, centered at a given delay time).

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