

# *simetuc* User Manual

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# Chapter 1

## Features

- Command line interface program.
  - Run with

```
simetuc config_file.txt [options]
```
  - See help and all options with

```
simetuc -h
```
- The simulation is controlled by a configuration text file that the user can edit with the parameters adequate to the system of study. It includes:
  - Information about the host lattice.
  - Energy states labels.
  - Absorption and excitation (including ESA).
  - Decay (including branching ratios).
  - Energy transfer.
  - Other settings for the power and concentration dependence or optimization.
- *simetuc* works with any sensitizer and activator ion kind.
  - The examples are given for the Yb-Tm system.
- All kinds of energy transfer processes are supported:
  - Energy migration.
  - Upconversion (ETU).
  - Downconversion.
  - Cross-relaxation.
  - Cooperative processes.
  - Energy transfer from sensitizers to activators.
  - Back transfer from activators to sensitizers.

- See the example configuration file in the simetuc folder.
  - The configuration file sections are detailed and discussed in this document.
  - See also the full example in the appendix.
- Add decay experimental data as two column text data, separated by tabs or spaces.
- Different options:
  - Create the lattice.
  - Simulate the dynamics (rise and decay).
  - Optimize the energy transfer parameters.
    - \* Minimize the deviation between experiment and simulation.
  - Simulate the steady state.
  - Simulate the power dependence of each emission.
  - Simulate the concentration dependence of the dynamics or the steady state.
- All results are plotted and saved in the .hdf5 format.
- For all options **--average** uses standard average rate equations instead of microscopic ones.

## Chapter 2

# Installation

Python 3.5 or 3.6 is required. Installing Anaconda is recommended; it works with Windows (64/32 bits), Linux (64/32 bits) and Mac (64 bits).

After installing **Anaconda**, execute the following commands at the command prompt (*cmd.exe* for Windows, *shell* for Linux and Mac):<sup>1</sup>

```
conda config --add channels conda-forge
conda config --add channels pedvide
conda install simetuc
```

(The first two commands add package repositories with up-to-date versions of all needed packages.)

or

```
pip install simetuc
```

That will download and install all necessary files.

Check that the program was installed correctly with

```
simetuc -h
```

which should display something similar to Figure 2.1.

### 2.1 Update

If you installed it using *conda*, update with:

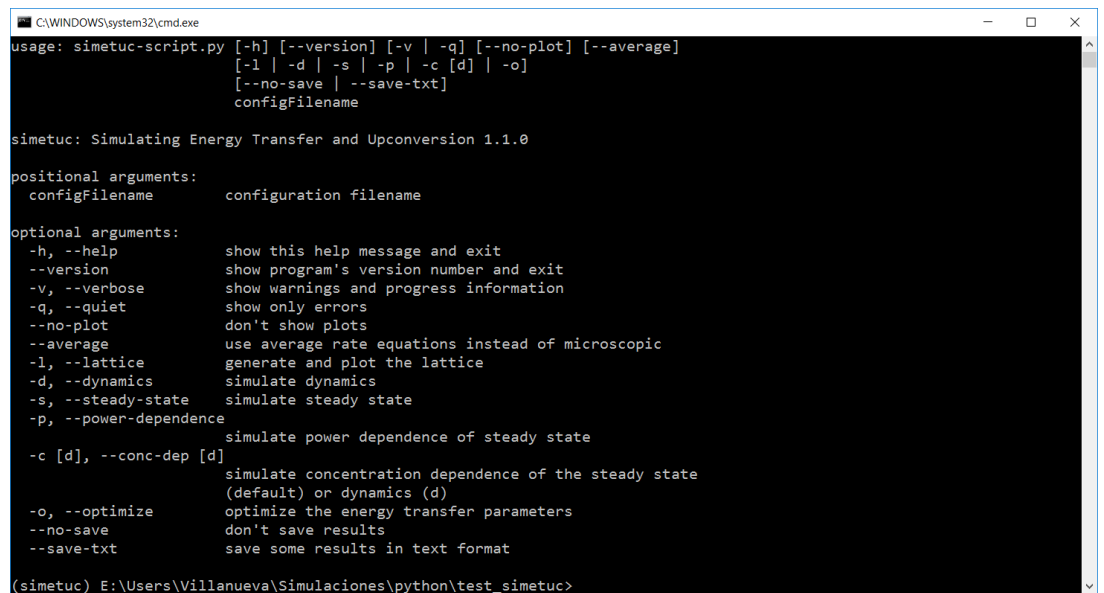
```
conda update -c pedvide simetuc
```

If you installed it with *pip*, update with:

```
pip install -U simetuc
```

---

<sup>1</sup>Some OSX users report problems using *conda*, if after installing you can't use the program (i.e., *simetuc -h* fails because *simetuc* wasn't recognized as a command), use *pip install simetuc*.



```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
usage: simetuc-script.py [-h] [--version] [-v | -q] [--no-plot] [--average]
                        [-l | -d | -s | -p | -c [d] | -o]
                        [--no-save | --save-txt]
                        configFilename

simetuc: Simulating Energy Transfer and Upconversion 1.1.0

positional arguments:
  configFilename      configuration filename

optional arguments:
  -h, --help          show this help message and exit
  --version           show program's version number and exit
  -v, --verbose       show warnings and progress information
  -q, --quiet         show only errors
  --no-plot           don't show plots
  --average           use average rate equations instead of microscopic
  -l, --lattice       generate and plot the lattice
  -d, --dynamics      simulate dynamics
  -s, --steady-state  simulate steady state
  -p, --power-dependence
                    simulate power dependence of steady state
  -c [d], --conc-dep [d]
                    simulate concentration dependence of the steady state
                    (default) or dynamics (d)
  -o, --optimize      optimize the energy transfer parameters
  --no-save           don't save results
  --save-txt          save some results in text format

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>

```

Figure 2.1: Results of `simetuc -h`.

## Chapter 3

# The configuration file

Some sections of the configuration file are mandatory (the starred Sections 3.1-3.5), some are optional (Sections 3.6-??), and some are only mandatory when performing a particular simulation type (Sections 3.9 and 3.10).

Comments can be placed anywhere in the file starting with a hash symbol (#).

The different sections of the file begin by a section name, for example lattice or states, followed by a colon (:). The different subsections and values are in a new line and indented with four spaces (not tabs!). A section can contain a single value or subsections; for example:

```
# comment1
section1: value1
section2:
    subsection1: value2 # comment2
    subsection2:
        subsubsection1: value3
```

Some of the values may be text or numbers, others, however, may be lists or a list of lists. A list is written as a comma-separated values between two square brackets:

```
section: [item1, item2, item3]
```

And for a list of lists:

```
section: [[lst1_item1, lst1_item2], [lst2_item1, lst2_item2]]
```

A full example of a configuration file, showing all options, is shown in Listing 8.1.

### 3.1 Version\*

At the moment, there is only one format for the configuration file; however, in the future, it is possible that an improved format is introduced that is not compatible with the current one. For this reason the version of the format has to be included, the only value allowed is 1:

```
version: 1
```

### 3.2 Lattice\*

This section defines the name of the lattice, the unit cell parameters, the concentration of sensitizer and activator ions, and optionally, a maximum distance of interaction.

This section starts with

```
lattice:
  # values and subsections...
```

Those values and subsections are described now.

**The name** is an arbitrary text that describes the lattice. It will be used as a folder name under latticeData (Section 5.1.1), expData (Section 5.3.1), and results (Section 4.2). Therefore it should only contain letters, numbers, and underscore (\_) characters (no spaces).

**The number of unit cells** is an integer greater than zero. It specifies how many unit cells along the three directions a lattice will consist of.

**The concentration** of sensitizer and activator, in percentages from 0 to 100%. An ion with 0% concentration will not participate in the equations and therefore will not make the simulation take longer.

```
S_conc: 0
A_conc: 0.3
```

**The unit cell parameters** consist of the three lattice distances and three angles. The distances are given in Angstrom and the angles in degrees (between 0 and 360°).

```
# distances in Angstrom
a: 5.9738
b: 5.9738
c: 3.5297
# angles in degree
alpha: 90
beta: 90
gamma: 120
```

**The spacegroup** determines the symmetry of the lattice. It can be given as the international short symbol (e.g., P-6) or as the International Union of Crystallography number (e.g. 174).

**The sites** positions and occupancies determine the positions of the doped ions (in units of the lattice distances, from 0 to 1) and their fractional occupancy (between 0 and 1). For a lattice with just one site:

```
sites_pos: [0, 0, 0]
sites_occ: 1
```

For a lattice with two sites, the second of which is half occupied:

```
sites_pos: [[0, 0, 0], [2/3, 1/3, 1/2]]
sites_occ: [1, 1/2]
```



The sites are populated randomly using the desired concentration, see Section 5.1.

A full example of the lattice section is

```
lattice: # all fields here are mandatory
  name: bNaYF4
  N_uc: 40
  S_conc: 0
  A_conc: 0.3
  # unit cell
  # distances in Angstrom
  a: 5.9738
  b: 5.9738
  c: 3.5297
  # angles in degree
  alpha: 90
  beta: 90
  gamma: 120
  spacegroup: P-6
  # info about sites.
  sites_pos: [[0, 0, 0], [2/3, 1/3, 1/2]]
  sites_occ: [1, 1/2]
```

### 3.2.1 Optional values

**The maximum distances** for the normal and cooperative interactions restrict energy transfer to ions closer than the distances. The normal maximum distance (**d\_max**) is not yet implemented; however, the cooperative one is, and it's strongly recommended to use it if cooperative interactions are present. The cooperative interactions grow approximately with the cube of the number of ions, the normal interactions grow with the square. If the values are not present, they are set to infinite.

```
lattice:
  ... all other fields ...
  d_max: 100.0
  d_max_coop: 25.0
```

## 3.3 States\*

This section determines the number of energy states per ion and their labels.

Four subsections are mandatory, two per ion type:

**The ion labels** is any text that describes the sensitizer or activator ion. It usually is the ion's chemical symbol.

**The ion states labels** is a list of text. Each item in the list labels an energy state; the first is the ground state, the rest should be in order of increasing energy. Usually the term symbols of the Dieke diagram are used.

```

states:
  sensitizer_ion_label: Yb
  sensitizer_states_labels: [GS, ES]
  activator_ion_label: Tm
  activator_states_labels: [3H6, 3F4, 3H5, 3H4, 3F3, 1G4, 1D2]

```

The ion and state labels will be used to define excitation (Section 3.4), decay (Section 3.5), branching ratios (Section 3.6), and energy transfer processes (Section 3.7).

### 3.4 Excitation\*

At the beginning of the simulation, all ions are in their ground state. An excitation source is necessary to pump them to an excited state. This source can be pulsed for dynamics or continuous for steady state simulations.

Any number of excitation subsections can be added to the file, and at least one has to be active (see below). A two-color experiment can be simulated by activating two excitations. Any number of excitations can be active.

An excitation block contains several mandatory subsections:

**The label** is a short unique text. It identifies the excitation and it is used in the naming of experimental data files (see Section 5.3.1), so short, informative names are encouraged.

**active** can be true or false and indicates whether the excitation will be used for the simulations.

**The excitation power density** in  $\text{W cm}^{-2}$ . For pulsed sources this has to be the instantaneous power density of the pulse. Usual values are in the order of  $10^5$ – $10^7 \text{ W cm}^{-2}$  for pulsed excitations and  $10^1$ – $10^3 \text{ W cm}^{-2}$  for continuous excitations.

**The pulse width** of the excitation source (in seconds) for pulsed excitations. For continuous excitations it can be omitted.

**The process** is the actual absorption transition. The format is `ion_label(state_label_i) -> ion_label(state_label_f)`. Where the ion and state labels were defined in Section 3.3. Both ion labels have to be present and equal; both state labels have to belong to the same ion type.

**The degeneracy** is the relative degeneracy of the initial and final states. The relative degeneracy of two trivalent lanthanide states with terms  $^{2S_i+1}L_iJ_i$  and  $^{2S_f+1}L_fJ_f$  is  $g_{rel} = \frac{2J_i+1}{2J_f+1}$ .

**The pump rate** is the absorption cross-section divided by the transition energy in units of  $\text{cm}^2 \text{ J}^{-1}$ , that is  $R_P = \frac{\sigma(\nu)}{h\nu}$ . The pump rate multiplied by the power density is equal to the absorption probability, with units of  $\text{s}^{-1}$ .

An example with two excitation blocks:

```

excitations:
  pulsed_1G4:
    active: True
    power_dens: 1e6
    t_pulse: 1e-8
    process: Tm(3H6) -> Tm(1G4)
    degeneracy: 13/9
    pump_rate: 9.3e-4
  CW_980nm:
    active: False
    power_dens: 1e2
    process: Yb(GS) -> Yb(ES)
    degeneracy: 4/3
    pump_rate: 4.4e-3

```

### 3.4.1 Excited state absorption

Excited state absorption (ESA) can be simulated by giving a list of transitions, degeneracies and pump rates in the corresponding fields, for example:

```

excitations:
  NIR_800:
    active: False
    power_dens: 1e5
    t_pulse: 1e-8
    process: [Tm(3H6)->Tm(3H4), Tm(3H5)->Tm(1G4)] # list
    degeneracy: [13/9, 11/9] # list
    pump_rate: [4.4e-3, 4e-3] # list

```

## 3.5 Decay\*

This section contains the decay lifetimes in seconds. There are two sections, one for the sensitizer and one for the activator. In both cases the decay lifetimes are input with `state_label: lifetime`:

```

sensitizer_decay:
  ES: 2.5e-3
activator_decay:
  3F4: 12e-3
  3H5: 25e-6
  3H4: 2e-3
  3F3: 2e-6
  1G4: 760e-6
  1D2: 67.5e-6

```

## 3.6 Branching ratios

These are two optional sections, one for the sensitizer and one for the activator.

The branching ratios describe the fraction of emission from an initial state to a final state. The format is `initial_state -> final_state: ratio`. The ratio is a number between zero and one. The branching ratio to the ground state does not need to be specified because it is calculated automatically from the other values.

```
sensitizer_branching_ratios: # can be empty or simply omitted
activator_branching_ratios:
    3H5->3F4: 0.4
    3H4->3F4: 0.3
    3H4->3H5: 0.1
    3F3->3H4: 0.999
    1G4->3F4: 0.15
    1G4->3H5: 0.16
    1G4->3H4: 0.04
    1G4->3F3: 0.001
    1D2->3F4: 0.43
```

### 3.6.1 Multiphonon relaxation and thermalization

When two states are close in energy, the upper one can decay nonradiatively to the lower one in a process known as multiphonon relaxation. This process can be described in the configuration file as a branching ratio from the upper to the lower state with the appropriate value. In the example above, the  ${}^3F_3$  state decays into the  ${}^3H_4$  state with a branching ratio of 0.999; this means that the MPR rate is  $k_{MPR} = 0.999 \cdot k_{3F_3}$ , where  $k_{3F_3}$  is the total decay rate given in section 3.5. The radiative decay rate to the ground state is then  $k_{rad} = (1 - 0.999) \cdot k_{3F_3}$ .

The lower state can also populate the upper one via phonons, and after some time a thermal equilibrium can be established. The ratio of the populations of the upper and lower states is then given by the Boltzmann distribution. This process can be described in the configuration file as a branching ratio from the lower to the upper state with the appropriate value. For example, if there is a thermal equilibrium between the  ${}^3F_3$  and  ${}^3H_4$  states we need to define two branching ratios in the configuration file, one for relaxation and the other for thermalization:

```
activator_branching_ratios:
...
    3F3->3H4: 0.999 # multiphonon relaxation
    3H4->3F3: 5e-5 # multiphonon thermalization
...
```

The value for the multiphonon thermalization branching ratio should be

$$k_{MPT} = k_{MPR} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta E}{kT}\right) = 0.999 \exp(-10) \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

where  $\Delta E = 2000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is the energy difference between the states and  $kT_r = 200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is the room temperature energy.

### 3.7 Energy transfer

This optional section includes one or more energy transfer processes between ions in the simulation. Each energy transfer block refers to one process and contains several fields:

**The label** is a short unique text. It can also be used to restrict the optimization to certain processes (Section 3.8).

**The process** describes the ET interaction with the format `ion_label1(init_state) + ion_label2(init_state) -> ion_label1(end_state) + ion_label2(end_state)`. Where the ion and state labels were defined in Section 3.3.

**The multipolarity** of the interaction is an integer number, usually 6, 8 or 10.

**The strength** of the interaction given in units of  $\text{s}^{-1} \text{\AA}^n$ , where  $n$  is the multipolarity. Optionally, an interaction strength for the average rate equation system can be given; this value is several orders of magnitude lower than the microscopic value, see Section 5.8. If it is not given and the average rate equations are solved, the normal strength will be used.

For example:

```
energy_transfer:
  CR50:
    process: Tm(1G4) + Tm(3H6) -> Tm(3H4) + Tm(3H5)
    multipolarity: 6
    strength: 4.3057e+09
    strength_avg: 8e+03 # optional, only for average system
  EM:
    process: Yb(ES) + Yb(GS) -> Yb(GS) + Yb(ES)
    multipolarity: 6
    strength: 4.50220614e+10
```

#### 3.7.1 Cooperative energy transfer

Cooperative energy transfer processes involve three ions. Two ions cooperatively transfer (receive) energy to (from) a third ion. The format is very similar to the normal energy transfer processes, the only field that changes is **process**. It now must contain the ion and state labels of three initial states and three final states, for example:

```
energy_transfer:
  coop:
    process: Yb(ES) + Yb(ES) + Tm(3H4) -> Yb(GS) + Yb(GS) + Tm(1G4)
    multipolarity: 6
    strength: 1e5
```

### 3.8 Optimization

**processes** An optional list of energy transfer or branching ratio labels. If empty or not present, all ET processes will be optimized (and no branching ratio). If present and not empty, this option restricts the optimization parameters to those in the list, for example

```
processes: [CR50, 3H4->3F4]
```

will optimize only the parameters CR50 and 3H4->3F4, and not any other.

**method** This optional section defines the method used to optimize the energy transfer parameters to the experimental data. Several options are available:

- SLSQP
- COBYLA
- L-BFGS-B
- basin\_hopping
- brute\_force

See the *Notes* section in the [scipy minimize documentation](#). SLSQP (the default) or **brute\_force** are recommended, as they seem to take the least time to arrive at the minimum.

SLSQP minimizes the error using a method similar to Newton-Raphson, which iteratively tries to find the parameter values that make the gradient zero.

**brute\_force** on the other hand computes the error at 10 points in a range from 0.1 to 10 times the parameter values given in the configuration file and selects the minimum; after it, it is advised to run an SLSQP minimization to further refine the value. If the parameter to optimize is a branching ratio, the maximum value is 1.

**excitations** is a optional list of excitation labels. If empty, the simulations will use the active excitation(s) in the configuration file. If not empty, the dynamics will be simulated several times, one per excitation label present, with each excitation successively set as active; the error of each simulation will be averaged and that error will be minimized. This is useful when experimental data for different excitations exist. For example:

```
excitations: [Vis_473, NIR_980]
```

### 3.9 Power dependence

This section is mandatory only if a power dependence simulation is performed. The starting and ending power density values and the number of steps need to be given

```
power_dependence: [1e0, 1e7, 8]
```

Note that it uses a logarithmic scale, so the above configuration will produce the power dependence at the following excitation power densities:  $10^0$ ,  $10^1$ ,  $10^2$ ,  $10^3$ ,  $10^4$ ,  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$ , and  $10^7$  W cm<sup>-2</sup>. See also Section 5.6.

### 3.10 Concentration dependence

This section is mandatory only if a concentration dependence simulation is performed. It consists of a list of two lists; the first list gives the sensitizer concentrations at which the simulation will take place, the second gives the same for the activators.

```
concentration_dependence: [[0, 0.5], [0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5]]
```

The concentration of either ion can also be fixed, so only the other ion changes:

```
concentration_dependence: [[0], [0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5]]
```

Note that everything else will remain constant; therefore, if the number of unit cells is not high enough, at lower concentrations the quality of the simulation may be low. If the concentration is too high then the simulation may take a long time; in this case it is recommended to split the simulation in two, with a higher number of unit cells for the lower concentrations and vice versa. See also Section 5.7.

### 3.11 Checking the configuration file

To check that a configuration file is correct, execute:

```
simetuc config_file.cfg
```

If no warnings or errors are displayed, the file is correct. Nonetheless, it is still possible that some optional values are missing but needed for a particular simulation type or have wrong values (e.g., negative distances or concentrations above 100%). In that case, this check will not warn the user, and only trying to perform the actual simulation will show if something is missing. In any case, the program never fails silently, that is, it always warns the user if there was a problem and how to fix it.

An example of a configuration file check that succeeded is shown in Figure 3.1. An example of a check failure is shown in Figure 3.2; in this case, the name or the lattice has been omitted from the file.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v
19:46:23 - simetuc           : INFO      Starting program...
19:46:23 - simetuc           : INFO      Loading configuration...
19:46:23 - simetuc.settings  : INFO      Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
19:46:23 - simetuc.settings  : INFO      Settings loaded!
19:46:23 - simetuc           : INFO      Program finished!
19:46:23 - simetuc           : INFO      Close the plot window to exit.

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>

```

Figure 3.1: Example of a correct configuration file check with and without the verbose option.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt
22:34:41 - simetuc.settings  : ERROR      The following values in section "lattice" are needed but not present in the fi
le:
22:34:41 - simetuc.settings  : ERROR      {'name'}
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:\Anaconda3\envs\simetuc\Scripts\simetuc-script.py", line 5, in <module>
    sys.exit(simetuc.commandline.main())
  File "C:\Anaconda3\envs\simetuc\lib\site-packages\simetuc\commandline.py", line 171, in main
    cte = settings.load(args.filename)
  File "C:\Anaconda3\envs\simetuc\lib\site-packages\simetuc\settings.py", line 821, in load
    cte['lattice'] = _parse_lattice(config_cte['lattice'])
  File "C:\Anaconda3\envs\simetuc\lib\site-packages\simetuc\settings.py", line 302, in _parse_lattice
    _check_values(needed_keys, dict_lattice, 'lattice', optional_values_lst=optional_keys)
  File "C:\Anaconda3\envs\simetuc\lib\site-packages\simetuc\settings.py", line 142, in _check_values
    {} must be present.'.format(set_needed_not_present))
simetuc.settings.ConfigError: The sections or values {'name'} must be present.

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>

```

Figure 3.2: Example of a wrong configuration file check. The two upper lines show the user-friendly error message; they can also be found in the error log (see Section 4.1.2). In this case the name of the lattice was omitted from the file.



## Chapter 4

# The logs and results folders

*simetuc* creates several subfolders during its usage; these subfolders are located under the current working directory (the directory from which *simetuc* is being used). Additionally, the experimental data must be saved in a folder with a specific format, see Section 5.3.1.

### 4.1 The log folder

Any operation of *simetuc* writes its status and current tasks on several log files, so the user can analyze what operations were performed, when, and whether they succeeded. The log files are stored in a subfolder called `logs`, which is created if it doesn't exist.

#### 4.1.1 Normal log

This is the primary log. Here all parts of the program register their operations. For example, any operation begins with:

```
2017-01-10 19:13:51,227 - simetuc : INFO Starting program...
```

The log format is the following:

```
YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS,mmm - simetuc[.part] : LEVEL message
```

The main program emits messages under the name *simetuc*, other parts of the program have names such as *simetuc.lattice* or *simetuc.simulations*. The log level can be `DEBUG`, `INFO`, `WARNING`, or `ERROR`.

#### 4.1.2 Error log

Whenever an operation was requested, but couldn't be completed due to an user error or an internal bug, the errors are written to an error log. This is log remains empty if all operations succeeded.

#### 4.1.3 Debug log

This log registers a lot of low level information that is usually not important, but can be relevant in the case of errors.

## 4.2 The results folder

All simulations produce some results that are stored in the subfolder `results/latticeName` with the hdf5 format.

## 4.3 Other folders

The lattice folder, Section 5.1.1.

The experimental data folder, see Section 5.3.1.

## 4.4 The HDF5 format

This is a open binary format that can be open with many scientific software such as Matlab or Origin. A lightweight viewer is [HDFCompass](#).

## Chapter 5

# Simulations

### 5.1 Creating a lattice

This is the first step in any simulation. The lattice and states section of the configuration file determine the position of the doped ions and the number of energy states.

The option for creating lattice is `-l`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -l
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.1.

#### 5.1.1 The `latticeData` folder

All created lattices are stored in a folder with the name of the lattice under the `latticeData` subfolder; the name of the lattice is given by the user in the configuration file, see Section 3.2. These saved files are used in subsequent simulations. The name format under which they are saved is

```
data_XXuc_y.yS_z.zA.hdf5
```

where `XX` is the number of unit cells, `y.y` is the concentration of sensitizers and `z.z` that of activators (both in percentage).

The file format is HDF5, see Section 4.4.

### 5.2 Simulating the dynamics

The simulation of the dynamics of a sample consists of two parts, the excitation pulse and the subsequent relaxation. The dynamics simulation includes the excitation, decay, branching ratios, and energy transfer sections of the configuration file. The output is a plot of the average decay curve of each state of the sensitizer and activator. The results are saved to a file, see Section 4.2.

The option for simulating the dynamics is `-d`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -d
```

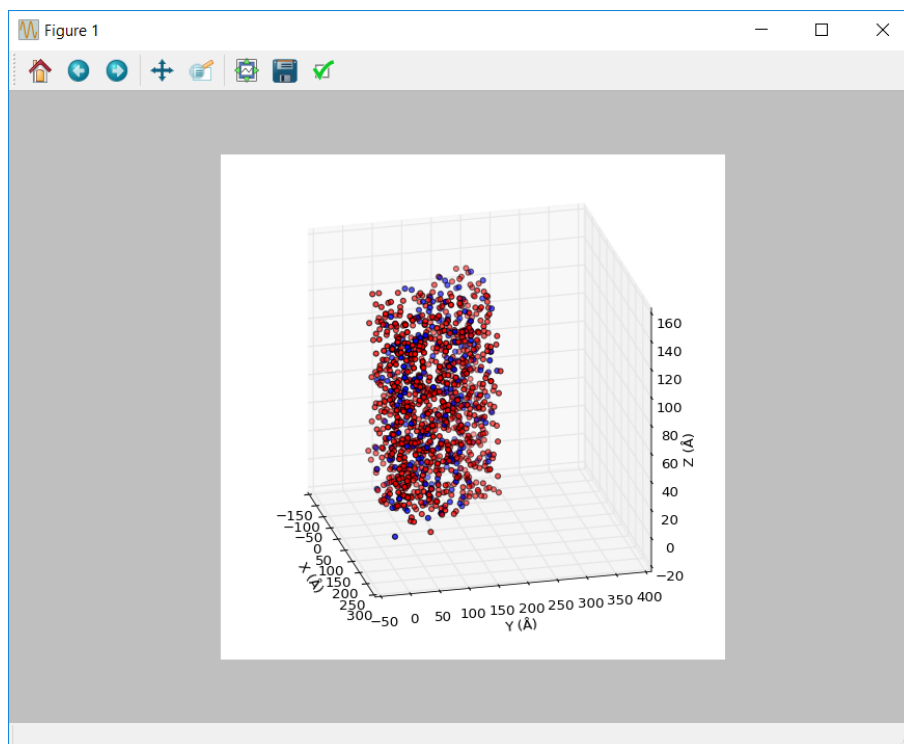
When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.2.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -l
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -l
15:21:17 - simetuc : INFO Starting program...
15:21:17 - simetuc : INFO Loading configuration...
15:21:17 - simetuc.settings : INFO Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
15:21:17 - simetuc.settings : INFO Settings loaded!
15:21:17 - simetuc : INFO Creating and plotting lattice...
15:21:17 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Generating lattice bNaYF4...
15:21:17 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Size: 40x40x40 unit cells.
15:21:17 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Concentrations: 1.00% Sensitizer, 0.30% Activator.
15:21:17 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Total number of atoms: 96099
15:21:18 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Total number of S+A: 1230, (1.28%).
15:21:18 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Number of sensitizers (percentage): 960 (1.00%).
15:21:18 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Number of activators (percentage): 270 (0.28%).
15:21:18 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Time to generate and populate the lattice: 00m 00s.
15:21:18 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Calculating distances...
Calculating distances: 100%|#####| 1230/1230 [00:03<00:00, 324.72atoms/s]
15:21:21 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Time to calculate distances: 00m 03s.
15:21:21 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Calculating parameters...
15:21:22 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Saving data...
15:21:23 - simetuc.lattice : INFO Generating lattice finished. Total time: 00m 05s.
15:21:23 - simetuc : INFO Program finished!
15:21:23 - simetuc : INFO Close the plot window to exit.

```

(a)



(b)

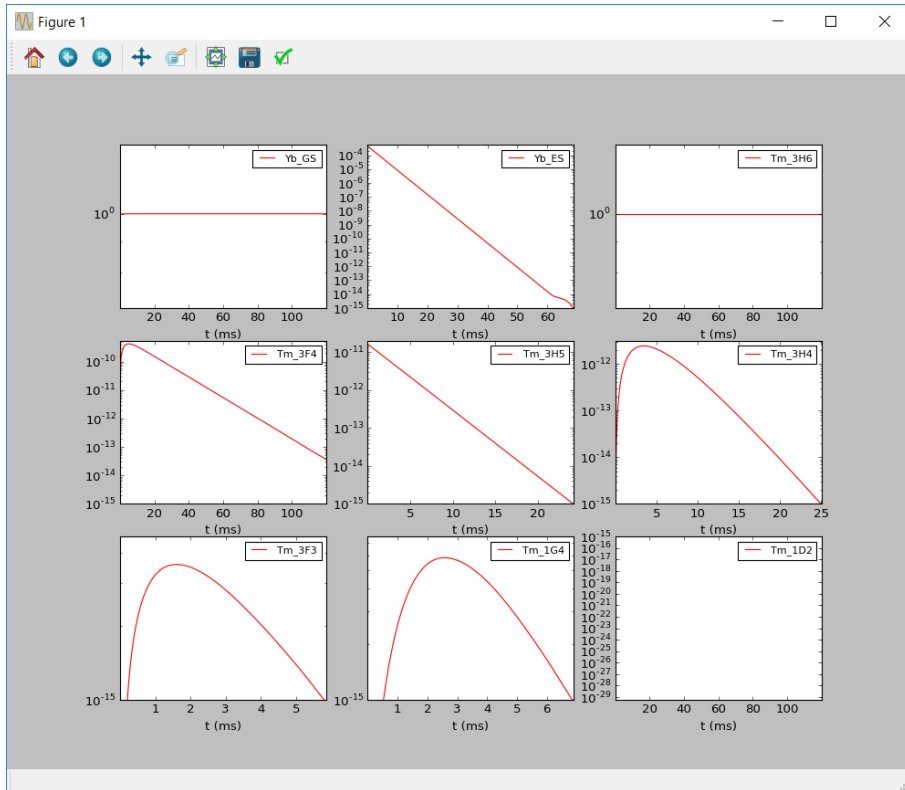
Figure 5.1: Lattice creation. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -l`. (b) shows the positions of the doped ions, the sensitizers as red dots and the activators as blue dots.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -d
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -d
17:32:47 - simetuc : INFO Starting program...
17:32:47 - simetuc : INFO Loading configuration...
17:32:47 - simetuc.settings : INFO Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
17:32:47 - simetuc.settings : INFO Settings loaded!
17:32:47 - simetuc : INFO Simulating dynamics...
17:32:47 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Starting simulation...
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Starting microscopic rate equations setup.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Lattice: bNaVF4.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Size: 40x40x40 unit cells.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Concentrations: 1.00% Sensitizer, 0.30% Activator.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Checking data...
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Lattice data found.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of ions: 1230, sensitizers: 960, activators: 270.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of states: 3810.
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Calculating parameters...
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Building matrices...
17:32:47 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Absorption and decay matrices...
17:32:48 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Energy transfer matrices...
17:32:50 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of interactions: 2,102,700.
17:32:50 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Cooperative energy transfer matrices...
17:33:48 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of cooperative interactions: 10,453.
17:33:48 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Setup finished. Total time: 60.74s.
17:33:48 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Solving equations...
17:33:48 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Solving excitation pulse...
ODE progress: 100%#####| 2/2 [00:07<00:00, 3.91s/step]
17:33:55 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Solving relaxation...
ODE progress: 100%#####| 1000/1000 [00:26<00:00, 37.69step/s]
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Equations solved! Total time: 00m 34s.
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Simulation finished! Total time: 01m 35s.
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO State errors:
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Yb_GS: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Yb_ES: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H6: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3F4: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H5: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H4: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3F3: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_1G4: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_1D2: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Total error: 0.0000e+00
17:34:22 - simetuc : INFO Program finished!
17:34:22 - simetuc : INFO Close the plot window to exit.

```

(a)



(b)

Figure 5.2: Dynamics simulation. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -d`. (b) shows a plot with the decay curves of all states of the sensitizer and activator.

### 5.3 Adding experimental data

The comparison of the experimental to the simulated data is important if to ensure that the energy transfer processes and their strengths truly represent an accurate picture of the sample's behavior.

Decay experimental data is automatically loaded from the `expData` folder (see next section), normalized and compared to the simulated decay curve of the appropriate states. The deviation between the experimental data and simulation is calculated for each level, and then all state errors are added together to yield the total error.

#### 5.3.1 The `expData` folder

This folder should contain a subfolders with the name of the lattice. Inside that subfolder several text files can be stored, each corresponding to an ion's state decay for a given concentration of sensitizers and activators. The name format is:

```
decay_ION_STATE_exc_EXCLABEL_x.xION-S_y.yION-A.txt
```

where `ION`, `STATE`, and `EXCLABEL` are labels defined in the configuration file: `ION` is an ion label, `STATE` is an state label corresponding to `ION`, and `EXCLABEL` is an excitation label defined in the excitations section of the configuration file, see Section 3.4. `x.x` and `y.y` are the sensitizer (`ION-S`) and activator (`ION-A`) concentrations.

As an example, the decay curve of the  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$  state  $^1\text{D}_2$  for the  $\beta\text{-NaYF}_4$ : 0.3%  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$  sample has a name:

```
decay_Tm_1D2_exc_Vis_473_0.0Yb_0.3Tm.txt
```

and is stored in the folder `expData/bNaYF4`.

The experimental data files must have two columns separated by spaces or tabs:

1. The first one with the time in seconds.
2. The second one with the emission intensity in any units (it will be normalized).

Lines starting with `#` are ignored as comments. For example:

```
# tau_em360_NYF_03Tm_EKSPLA473
# time in seconds
0 0.405264768901133
1.99999999999978E-7 0.42944597490052
3.99999999999956E-7 0.432506887052342
5.99999999999989E-7 0.43954698500153
7.99999999999967E-7 0.4640342822161
1E-6 0.468931741659014
1.19999999999998E-6 0.498010407101316
1.39999999999996E-6 0.48852157943067
1.59999999999999E-6 0.51147842056933
1.79999999999997E-6 0.513927150290787
...
```

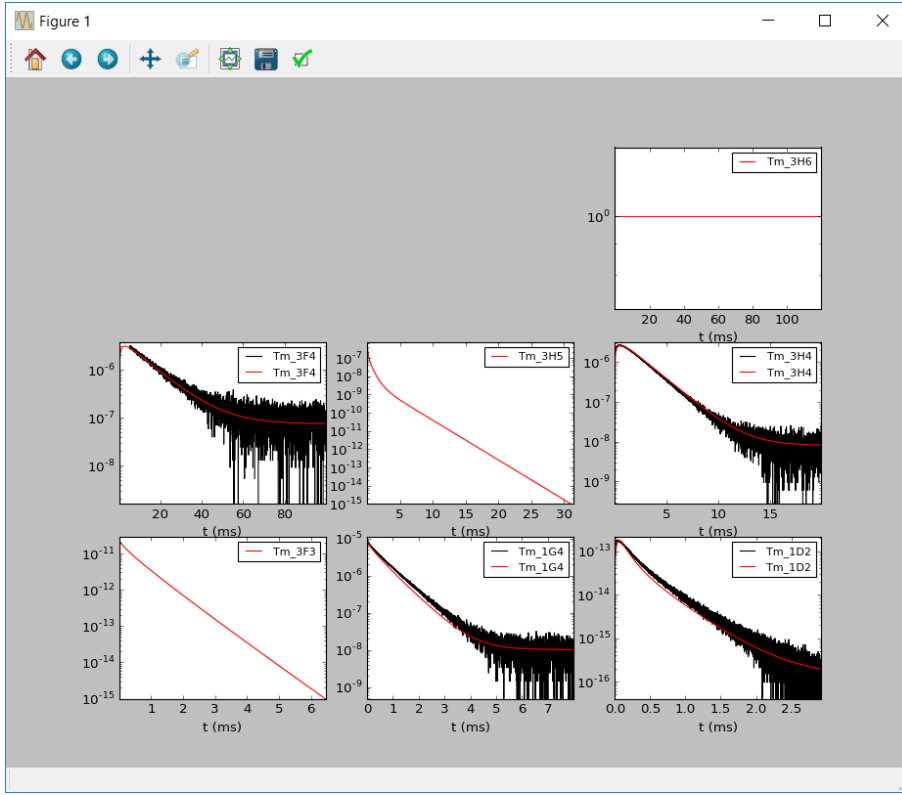


Figure 5.3: Dynamics simulation with experimental data.

Once the experimental data files are in the right folder and with the right names, they will be loaded automatically, like shown in Figure 5.3. The state and total errors will be shown in the commandline and recorded in the log files.

## 5.4 Optimizing the ET parameters

The strength of the interactions is *a priori* unknown, but, by fitting the simulations to the experimental data, it is possible to obtain realistic interaction strengths.

The option for optimizing the dynamics is `-o`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -o
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.4. The total error has decreased from 0.2202 to 0.1868 when the energy transfer parameters changed from  $1.3 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^6$  to  $2.4 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^6$  for the parameter CR50 and from  $1.5 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^6$  to  $4.1 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^6$  for the parameter ETU53.

The optimization procedure does not change the configuration file (*simetuc* never does), so the parameter values should be changed by the user. It is advisable to re-run a dynamics simulation with the new parameters to check that the fit is satisfactory.

```

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -o
21:29:43 - simetuc          : INFO    Starting program...
21:29:43 - simetuc          : INFO    Loading configuration...
21:29:43 - simetuc.settings : INFO    Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
21:29:43 - simetuc.settings : INFO    Settings loaded!
21:29:43 - simetuc          : INFO    Optimizing ET parameters...
21:29:43 - simetuc          : INFO    Optimization method: SLSQP.
(CR50, ETU53): RMS Error
(1.306e+09, 1.538e+09): 2.202e-01
(1.464e+09, 1.536e+09): 2.106e-01
(1.555e+09, 1.778e+09): 2.065e-01
(1.575e+09, 1.830e+09): 2.056e-01
(1.668e+09, 2.076e+09): 2.026e-01
(2.432e+09, 4.087e+09): 1.868e-01
Optimizing: 6points [00:39, 5.48s/points]
21:30:23 - simetuc          : INFO    Minimum reached! Total time: 0h 00m 40s.
21:30:23 - simetuc          : INFO    Optimized RMS error: 1.868e-01.
21:30:23 - simetuc          : INFO    CR50: 2.432e+09.
21:30:23 - simetuc          : INFO    ETU53: 4.087e+09.
21:30:23 - simetuc          : INFO    Program finished!

(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>

```

Figure 5.4: Optimization of the dynamics with the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -o`.

When optimizing a system for the first time it is recommended to first use the `brute_force` method, update the configuration file with its results, and then run the optimization again with the `SLSQP` method, see Section ??.

## 5.5 Simulating the steady state

If the excitation source is not pulsed, but it is kept switched on continuously, the states will reach a steady state; that is, the states will have a population that does not change anymore with time. The time it takes for the system to reach the steady state depends on the lifetimes and energy transfer processes.

The steady state populations are proportional to the emission intensity of each state under continuous excitation.

The excitation source activated in the configuration file should have a realistic excitation power density; usually pulsed sources have much higher instantaneous powers, see Section 3.4.

The option for simulating the steady state is `-s`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -s
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.5.

## 5.6 Simulating the power dependence of the steady state

A standard upconversion experiment consists in measuring the emission intensity (usually the area under the emission peak, but also just the maximum) as a function of the excitation power. The power dependence of the emission  $I$

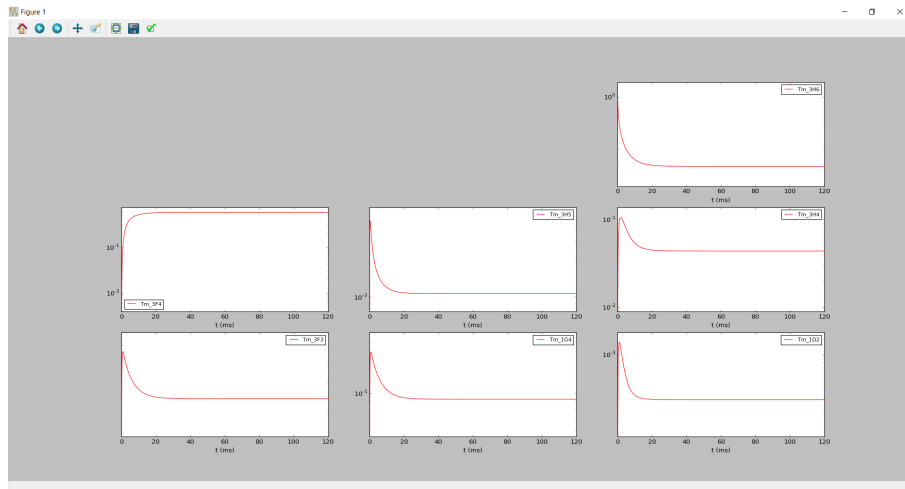


```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -s
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -s
13:42:37 - simetuc : INFO Starting program...
13:42:37 - simetuc : INFO Loading configuration...
13:42:37 - simetuc.settings : INFO Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
13:42:37 - simetuc.settings : INFO Settings loaded!
13:42:37 - simetuc : INFO Simulating steady state...
13:42:37 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Starting simulation...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Starting microscopic rate equations setup.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Lattice: bNaVF4.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Size: 30x30x30 unit cells.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Concentrations: 0.00% Sensitizer, 0.30% Activator.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Checking data...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Lattice data found.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of ions: 127, sensitizers: 0, activators: 127.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of states: 889.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Calculating parameters...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Building matrices...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Absorption and decay matrices...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Energy transfer matrices...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of interactions: 32,004.
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Cooperative energy transfer matrices...
13:42:37 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Number of cooperative interactions: 0.
13:42:38 - simetuc.precalculate : INFO Setup finished. Total time: 0.62s.
13:42:38 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Solving equations...
13:42:38 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Solving steady state...
ODE progress: 100%##### 1000/1000 [00:01:00:00, 702.62step/s]
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Equations solved! Total time: 1.43s.
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Simulation finished! Total time: 00m 02s.
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Steady state populations:
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Yb_GS: 0.0000e+00
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Yb_LS: 0.0000e+00
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H6: 2.8986e-01
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3F4: 5.7351e-01
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H5: 1.0638e-03
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3H4: 4.3429e-02
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_3F3: 2.4171e-07
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_1G4: 9.1848e-02
13:42:39 - simetuc.simulations : INFO Tm_1D2: 2.8930e-04
13:42:39 - simetuc : INFO Saving results to file.
13:42:39 - simetuc : INFO Program finished!

```

(a)



(b)

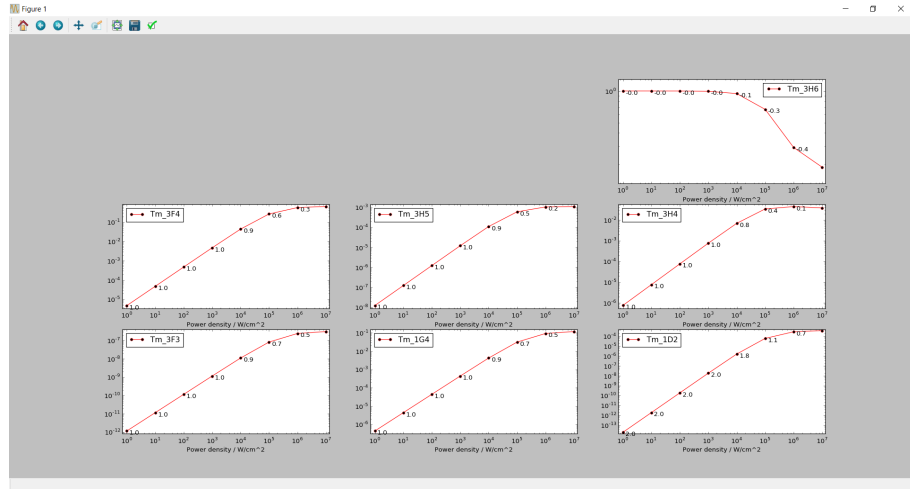
Figure 5.5: Steady state simulation. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -s`. (b) shows a plot with the decay curves of all states of the sensitizer and activator. All states have reached their steady state.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -p
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -p
13:53:48 - simetuc      : INFO      Starting program...
13:53:48 - simetuc      : INFO      Loading configuration...
13:53:48 - simetuc.settings : INFO      Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
13:53:48 - simetuc.settings : INFO      Settings loaded!
13:53:48 - simetuc      : INFO      Simulating power dependence...
Total progress: 100%|#####| 8/8 [00:09<00:00, 1.19s/points]
ODE progress: 100%|#####| 1000/1000 [00:00<00:00, 1101.42step/s]
13:53:57 - simetuc      : INFO      Saving results to file.
13:54:00 - simetuc      : INFO      Program finished!
13:54:00 - simetuc      : INFO      Close the plot window to exit.

```

(a)



(b)

Figure 5.6: Power dependence simulation. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -p`. (b) shows a plot with the emission power dependence of all states of the sensitizer and activator. The simulated excitation powers are taken from the configuration file. In this case, unrealistically high powers have been simulated to show the saturation regime.

usually follows a power law:  $I = P^n$ , where  $P$  is the excitation power and  $n$  is the number of photons involved in the mechanism; this is an approximation that only works at low excitation powers.

This simulations are capable of producing the entire power dependence curve so it can be compared to the experimental. *simetuc* simulates the steady state for the excitation powers defined in the configuration file and shows the steady state populations in a log-log plot. See Section 3.9 for the configuration file options.

The option for simulating the steady state is `-p`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -p
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.5.

## 5.7 Simulating the concentration dependence of the the steady state or of the dynamics

One of the strongest points of the microscopic rate equations that *simetuc* solves is that once the lifetimes, branching ratios and energy transfer parameters are known, it is possible to change the concentrations of sensitizers and activators and simulate the decay curves or the steady state, thus predicting the behavior of a new sample.

Simulating the concentration dependence of the steady state is equivalent to simulate the emission efficiency of each state as a function of both concentrations. Simulating the concentration dependence of the dynamic is useful to compare it with experimental data, because decay curves are easier to measure than emission efficiencies.

The simulated concentration range is controlled with the configuration file, see Section 3.10. The option for simulating the concentration dependence of the steady state is `-c`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -c
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.7.

The option for simulating the concentration dependence of the dynamics is `-c d`:

```
simetuc config_file.txt -c d
```

When given with the `-v` option to show the progress information, the results look like Figure 5.8.

## 5.8 Microscopic or average rate equations

It is useful to compare the results of the microscopic rate equation model to the standard average rate equation model. All simulations can be performed with the average model using the `--average` flag in a command, for example

```
simetuc config_file.txt -d --average
```

will simulate the dynamics using the average model and

```
simetuc config_file.txt -p --average
```

will simulate the power dependence of the average model.

In the average model, all sensitizer ions are represented as one average ion (same for the activators), therefore all energy migration processes are ignored (technically speaking, the average model has infinite energy migration between all states).

The energy transfer parameters in the average model are not the microscopic parameters between two ions, but an average of all interactions between the ions in the sample, which are at different distances. This means that knowledge of the average ET parameters for a sample with a certain concentration does not give much information about the ET parameters at other concentrations. That is, fitting decay data with the average model gives limited information (average ET strengths) about that sample and nothing about different samples.

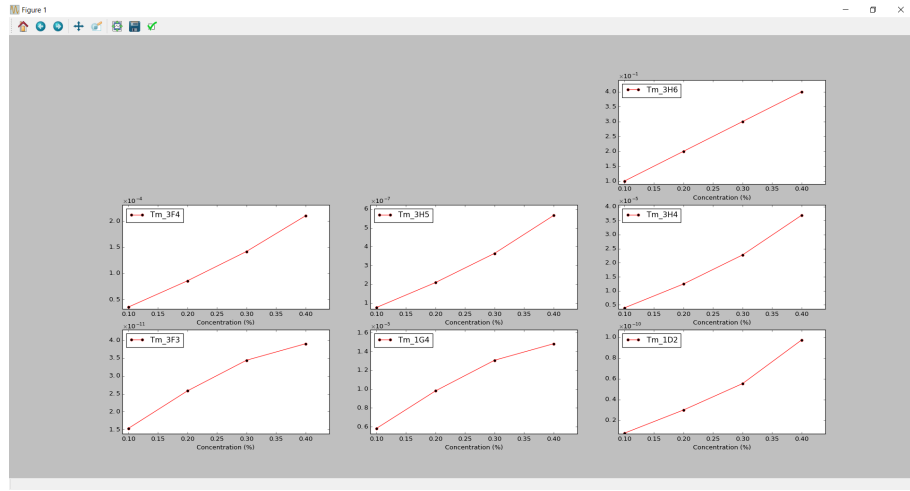
```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -c

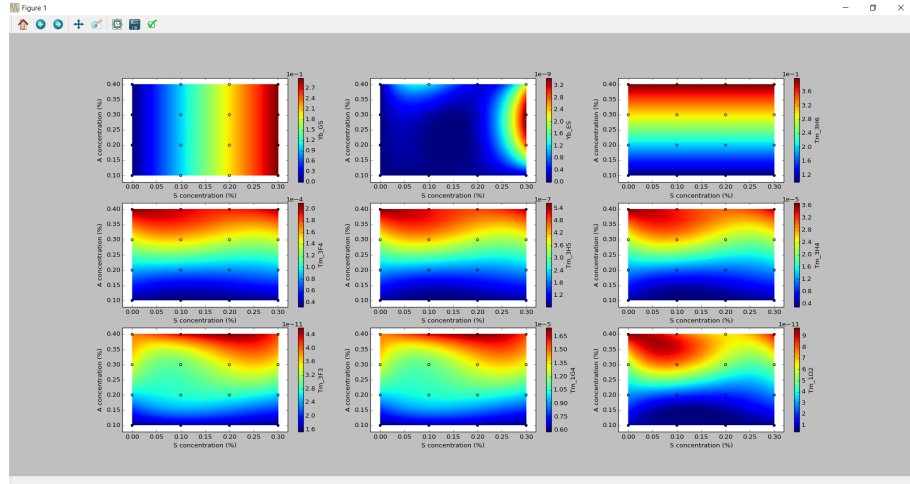
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -c
22:24:31 - simetuc : INFO Starting program...
22:24:31 - simetuc : INFO Loading configuration...
22:24:31 - simetuc.settings : INFO Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
22:24:31 - simetuc.settings : INFO Settings loaded!
22:24:31 - simetuc : INFO Simulating concentration dependence of steady state...
Total progress: 100%|#####| 4/4 [00:04:00:00, 1.04s/points]
ODE progress: 100%|#####| 1000/1000 [00:01:00:00, 680.78step/s]
22:24:35 - simetuc : INFO Saving results to file.
22:24:35 - simetuc : INFO Program finished!
22:24:36 - simetuc : INFO Close the plot window to exit.

```

(a)



(b)



(c)

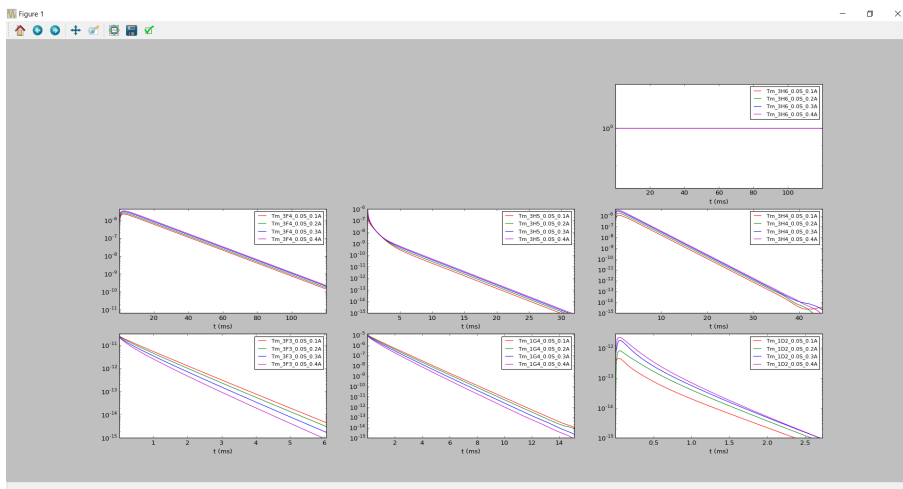
Figure 5.7: Concentration dependence of the steady state. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -c`. (b) and (c) show plots with the concentration dependence of the emission. The simulated concentrations are taken from the configuration file. In (b) the sensitizer concentration is fixed at 0%, only the activator concentration changes. In (c) both concentrations change.

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - simetuc config_file.txt -v -c d
(simetuc) E:\Users\Villanueva\Simulaciones\python\test_simetuc>simetuc config_file.txt -v -c d
23:16:15 - simetuc      : INFO    Starting program...
23:16:15 - simetuc      : INFO    Loading configuration...
23:16:15 - simetuc.settings : INFO    Reading settings file (config_file.txt)...
23:16:15 - simetuc.settings : INFO    Settings loaded!
23:16:15 - simetuc      : INFO    Simulating concentration dependence of dynamics...
Total progress: 100%##### 4/4 [00:35<00:00, 9.24s/points]
ODE progress: 100%##### 1000/1000 [00:16<00:00, 58.97step/s]
23:16:50 - simetuc      : INFO    Saving results to file.
23:16:53 - simetuc      : INFO    Program finished!
23:16:53 - simetuc      : INFO    Close the plot window to exit.

```

(a)



(b)

Figure 5.8: Concentration dependence of the dynamics. (a) shows the result of invoking the command `simetuc config_file.txt -v -c d`. (b) shows a plot with the decay curves at different concentrations. The simulated concentrations are taken from the configuration file.



## Chapter 6

# Publications and acknowledgments

This software has been described and used in these publications:

- Villanueva-Delgado, P.; Krämer, K. W. & Valiente, R. Simulating Energy Transfer and Upconversion in  $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub>: Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Tm<sup>3+</sup>, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, **2015**, *119* (41), pp 23648–23657. DOI: [10.1021/acs.jpcc.5b06770](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.5b06770).
- Villanueva-Delgado, P.; Krämer, K. W.; Valiente, R.; de Jong, M. & Meijerink, A. Modeling Blue to UV Upconversion in  $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub>: Tm<sup>3+</sup>, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **2016**, *18*, pp 27396–27404, DOI: [10.1039/C6CP04347J](https://doi.org/10.1039/C6CP04347J).
- Villanueva-Delgado, P. Upconversion in  $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub>: Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Tm<sup>3+</sup>: Synthesis, Experiments, and Models. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Bern, **2016**.

If you use this software in a scientific publication, please cite the appropriate articles above.

### 6.1 Acknowledgments

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## Chapter 7

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## Chapter 8

# Appendix: Example configuration file

Listing 8.1: Exampe configuration file

```
1 # settings file
# USE SPACES AND NOT TABS

version: 1 # mandatory, only 1 is supported at the moment
5
# mandatory section
lattice:
# all fields here are mandatory
    name: bNaYF4
10    N_uc: 20

    # concentration
    S_conc: 0
    A_conc: 0.3
15

    # unit cell
    # distances in Angstrom
    a: 5.9738
    b: 5.9738
20    c: 3.5297
    # angles in degree
    alpha: 90
    beta: 90
    gamma: 120
25

    # the number is also ok for the spacegroup
    spacegroup: P-6

    # info about sites.
30    # If there's only one site, use:
    # sites_pos: [0, 0, 0]
```

```

# sites_occ: 1
sites_pos: [[0, 0, 0], [2/3, 1/3, 1/2]]
sites_occ: [1, 1/2]
35
# optional
# maximum distance of interaction for normal ET and for cooperative
# if not present, both default to infinite
d_max: 100.0
40
# it's strongly advised to keep this number low,
# the number of coop interactions is very large (~num_atoms^3)
d_max_coop: 25.0

# mandatory section
45 states:
# all fields here are mandatory,
# add any label if necessary
# i.e.: just "sensitizer_ion_label: label" on a line
# but don't delete them.
50 # If you set the sensitizer concentration to zero,
# they will be ignored in all calculations
sensitizer_ion_label: Yb
sensitizer_states_labels: [GS, ES]
activator_ion_label: Tm
55 activator_states_labels: [3H6, 3F4, 3H5, 3H4, 3F3, 1G4, 1D2]

# mandatory section
excitations:
# the excitation label can be any text
60 # the t_pulse value is only mandatory for the dynamics
# at least one excitation must be present and active
Vis_473:
active: True
power_dens: 1e6 # power density W/cm^2
65 t_pulse: 1e-8 # pulse width, seconds
process: Tm(3H6) -> Tm(1G4) # both ion labels are required
degeneracy: 13/9 # initial_state_g/final_state_g
pump_rate: 9.3e-4 # absorption cross-section/energy in cm2/J
NIR_1470:
70 active: False
power_dens: 1e6
t_pulse: 1e-8
process: Tm(1G4) -> Tm(1D2)
degeneracy: 9/5
75 pump_rate: 2e-4
NIR_980:
active: False
power_dens: 1e7
t_pulse: 1e-8
80 process: Yb(GS)->Yb(ES)
degeneracy: 4/3

```

```

    pump_rate: 4.4e-3
NIR_800: # ESA: list of processes, degeneracies and pump rates
    active: False
85    power_dens: 1e2
    t_pulse: 1e-8
    process: [Tm(3H6)->Tm(3H4), Tm(3H5)->Tm(1G4)] # list
    degeneracy: [13/9, 11/9] # list
    pump_rate: [4.4e-3, 4e-3] # list
90
# mandatory section
sensitizer_decay:
# lifetimes in s
    ES: 2.5e-3
95
# mandatory section
activator_decay:
# lifetimes in s
    3F4: 12e-3
100    3H5: 25e-6
    3H4: 2e-3
    3F3: 2e-6
    1G4: 760e-6
    1D2: 67.5e-6
105
# optional section
sensitizer_branching_ratios:

# optional section
110 activator_branching_ratios:
    3H5->3F4: 0.4
    3H4->3F4: 0.3
    3H4->3H5: 0.1
    3F3->3H4: 0.999
115    1G4->3F4: 0.15
    1G4->3H5: 0.16
    1G4->3H4: 0.04
    1G4->3F3: 0.001
    1D2->3F4: 0.43
120
# optional section
energy_transfer:
# name:
# process: ion_label(state_label) + ion_label(state_label) -> ion_label(
state_label) + ion_label(state_label)
125 # multipolarity, and strength (in s(-1)*Angstrom(multipolarity))
CR50:
    process: Tm(1G4) + Tm(3H6) -> Tm(3H4) + Tm(3H5)
    multipolarity: 6
    strength: 4.3057e+09
130    # strength_avg is used only for average rate equations

```

```

# if it isn't present and average equations are solved
# the strength value will be used, which is probably too high
strength_avg: 8e+03
ETU53:
135   process: Tm(1G4) + Tm(3H4) -> Tm(1D2) + Tm(3F4)
      multipolarity: 6
      strength: 2.5377e+08
      strength_avg: 4e+02
ETU55:
140   process: Tm(1G4) + Tm(1G4) -> Tm(1D2) + Tm(3F3)
      multipolarity: 6
      strength: 0 # 4.50220614e+7
BackET:
      process: Tm(3H4) + Yb(GS) -> Tm(3H6) + Yb(ES)
145   multipolarity: 6
      strength: 4.50220614e+3
EM:
      process: Yb(ES) + Yb(GS) -> Yb(GS) + Yb(ES)
      multipolarity: 6
150   strength: 4.50220614e+10
ETU1:
      process: Yb(ES) + Tm(3H6) -> Yb(GS) + Tm(3H5)
      multipolarity: 6
      strength: 1e2
155   ETU2:
      process: Yb(ES) + Tm(3F4) -> Yb(GS) + Tm(3F3)
      multipolarity: 6
      strength: 1e8
ETU3:
160   process: Yb(ES) + Tm(3H4) -> Yb(GS) + Tm(1G4)
      multipolarity: 6
      strength: 1e8
ETU4:
      process: Yb(ES) + Tm(1G4) -> Yb(GS) + Tm(1D2)
165   multipolarity: 6
      strength: 0 #1e4
coop1:
      process: Yb(ES) + Yb(ES) + Tm(3H6) -> Yb(GS) + Yb(GS) + Tm(1G4)
      multipolarity: 8
170   strength: 0 # 1e8

# optional settings for optimization
optimization:
175   # optional: a list of enery_transfer or branching ratio labels to
      optimize.
      # the fewer the number of parameters, the faster the optimization
      processes: [CR50, 3H4->3F4]

      # optional: method for optimization of ET parameters. It can be:

```

```
180     # SLSQP, COBYLA, L-BFGS-B, basin_hopping, or brute_force.
    # SLSQP or brute_force are recommended.
    method: brute_force

    # optional: optimize using these excitations
185     #excitations: [Vis_473, NIR_980]

    # minimum and maximum excitation powers and the number of points
    # to calculate the power dependence
190     # note: a logarithmic scale is used
    # it's only mandatory if you want to calculate the power dependence
    power_dependence: [1e0, 1e7, 8]

    # list of two lists:
195     # [[sensitizer concentrations], [activator concentrations]]
    # to simulate for the concentration dependence
    # it's only mandatory if you want to calculate the concentration dependence
    concentration_dependence: [[0], [0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5]]
```