

## Supporting Material

### Kinetics of fast changing intramolecular distance distributions obtained by combined analysis of FRET efficiency kinetics and time resolved FRET equilibrium measurements

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#### Applicability of the model –simulation setup

Mean FRET efficiency kinetics data  $\langle E \rangle(t)$ , were simulated and tested assuming time independent  $R_o$  values using Eq. 4. The input for preparation of simulated transfer efficiency kinetics data were initial and final distance distributions assuming several combinations of the parameters  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $R_o$ , and folding rate constant,  $k_F$ , of  $0.2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Gaussian noise profile was added to the simulated curves with standard deviation similar to that known for the experimental stopped flow apparatus used in our lab (1), typically 1%. The simulated curves were then analyzed using the fitting of a theoretical curve obtained by computation of  $\langle E \rangle(t)_{calc}$  with input of the simulated  $P_F(r)$  (fixed), determined from equilibrium trFRET measurements;  $P(r)_{c,calc}$  and  $k_{F,calc}$ , the free parameters, were then recovered.

The extent of deviation of the fitted  $P(r)_{c,calc}$  from the simulated  $P(r)_{c,simul}$  was then assessed by the following parameters: their overlap area, the relative deviation of their peak, FWHM and  $k_F$  values, and most importantly, the 95% confidence interval error ranges of peak, FWHM of  $P(r)_{c,calc}$  and of  $k_F$ . The simulated and best fit parameters as well as the comparison parameters, for a total of 720 combinations of simulated distance distributions, rate constant, and  $R_o$ , are summarized in Supporting spreadsheet S1. The conclusions of the simulation results are reported in the main text and are based on the improvements in error ranges while gradually changing the simulated parameter sets that were free parameters in model fitting.

#### Validity of the model –simulation setup

To assess the limits of the two-state approximation, in realms that may deviate from such a scenario, we synthesized average FRET efficiency kinetics for various types of such deviations from two-state transition and then analyzed the resulting kinetics, after Gaussian noise profile addition, using either a mono-exponential function or the our two-state model (Eq. 3+4). The deviations from a simple two state scenario that were implemented were:

1. An underlying three state transition.
2. Two state transition with a time-dependent  $R_o$ .
3. Two state transition with a mixture of different rate constants at different fluxes
  - a. Central distribution of rate constants
  - b. Two discrete rate constants with two relative fluxes
4. Unimodal (one state) transition
5. Two state transition with the initial-state having high intramolecular flexibility

A three state model is described in Eqs. S1-S4. The resulting FRET kinetics curves were fit to our two-state model, described in Eq. 4. Tests of the quality of fit yielded three-state parameter ranges at which the two-state approximation fails; the resulting conclusions are reported in the main text. The Supporting spreadsheet S1 shows the simulated FRET kinetics goodness-of-fit to a two-state model.

In the case of a two state model with  $R_0$  changing throughout the transition, average FRET efficiency kinetic curves were simulated by the use of Eq. 3 and fit to a mono-exponential function. Tests of the quality of fit yielded criteria for  $R_0$  values for which the mono-exponential approximation fails. Typical  $R_0$  value changes (up to 2 Å) were used. The Supporting spreadsheet S1 shows the quality of the fit. As reported in the main text, this possibility does not introduce changes in the mono-exponential trends of the transitions.

Two state model average FRET efficiency kinetic traces with either two discrete rate constants or a central distribution of rate constants, were synthesized with values in the range of 0.1-1.0 s<sup>-1</sup>. These, in turn, were fitted to a mono-exponential function. In the case of two discrete rate constants, for a 0.5:0.5 flux ratio, the curves deviated from the mono-exponential function with a rate constant difference of 0.1 s<sup>-1</sup>. The higher the flux ratio, the higher the allowed rate constant difference. At a 0.95:0.05 flux ratio, the maximal allowed rate constant difference was 0.4 s<sup>-1</sup>. In the case of a central distribution of rate constants, the maximal allowed standard deviation was 0.4 s<sup>-1</sup>.

A unimodal transition is indicated by a gradual change of conformation (2-4). A unimodal FRET efficiency detected transition was simulated as a gradual exponential change not of the population fraction of the two states,  $f(t)$ , but of both PEAK and FWHM values of the transient distance distribution, between  $P_C(r)$  and  $P_F(r)$ . Examples of such average efficiency kinetics in comparison to their two-state counterparts are shown in Fig. S1. One can see that average transfer efficiency kinetics of unimodal transitions are far from exponential.

We used the Haas-Steinberg (5, 6) equations to produce donor fluorescence decay curves corresponding to a given distance distribution with intramolecular diffusion coefficients ranging from 0 to 20 Å<sup>2</sup>/ns (a high value reported for unfolded proteins) and then checked the extent to which raising the flexibility changed average transfer efficiency kinetics. The maximal increase was 5% which is within the error ranges.

### Treatment for Three-State Processes

For the following three-state transition,  $R \rightarrow I \rightarrow P$  the results of the states' kinetics laws are shown in Eqs. S1

$$\begin{aligned} [R](t) &= C_2 e^{-k_I t} \\ [I](t) &= C_1 e^{-k_P t} - C_2 [k_I / (k_I - k_P)] e^{-k_I t} \\ [P](t) &= N - [I](t) - [R](t) \\ N &= \text{Const.} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S1})$$

where  $N$ , is the total amount of molecules, which is constant (conserved);  $[R]$ ,  $[I]$  and  $[P]$ , are the time dependent concentrations of the Reactants-initial, Intermediate and Product-final state species respectively;  $k_I$ , and  $k_P$ , are the rate constants of the first and second transitions, respectively; and  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , are kinetic coefficients.

Assuming that at  $t=0$  there are non-negligible occupancies of only states  $R$  and  $I$ , we find that the coefficients,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , of Eq. S1 are shown in Eq. S2.

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= N + \frac{k_P}{k_I - k_P} \cdot U(t=0) \\ C_2 &= R(t=0) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S2})$$

Substitution of the coefficients to the kinetic Eq. S1 and division by the total amount of matter,  $N$ , obtain kinetic traces of the states' fractions as is shown in Eqs. S3

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_R(t) &= \alpha_R(0) e^{-k_I t} \\ \alpha_I(t) &= e^{-k_P t} + [\alpha_R(0) / (k_I - k_P)] (k_P e^{-k_P t} - k_I e^{-k_I t}) \\ \alpha_P(t) &= 1 - \alpha_I(t) - \alpha_R(t) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S3})$$

having  $\alpha_R$ ,  $\alpha_I$  and  $\alpha_P$  as the initial, intermediate and final state occupancies.

Then, if each state,  $i$ , can be characterized by a three-dimensional radial distance distribution,  $P_i(r)$ , as in Eqs. S4, the joint distance distribution at each time point,  $P(r,t)$ , should be a superposition of the three, weighted by their occupancies, as shown in Eqs. S4.

$$P(r,t) = \sum_i \alpha_i(t) p_i(r); i \in \{R, I, P\}$$

$$p_i(r) = 4\pi r^2 e^{-b_i(r-a_i)^2} \quad (\text{S4})$$

Using Eqs. S3 and S4 in the framework of the model described by Eq. 3, as a fitting model, while knowing the folded state characteristics (therefore holding them constant), one can retrieve the state characteristics of  $R$  and  $I$ , the two rate constants and the  $R \leftrightarrow I$  equilibrium, through the  $R$  state fraction at equilibrium.

Maintaining both  $R$  and  $P$  distributions as free parameters is assumed to yield large error ranges. Nevertheless, knowledge of the initial- and final-state distributions,  $R$  and  $P$ , can reduce error ranges of the rate constants and the intermediate distributions.

In order to assess the limits of the applicability of the three state transition model, we modeled average FRET efficiency kinetics using Eqs. S1-S4 and Eq. 4, added noise and then fitted the resulting kinetic data back to our three-state model, having the initial and final state distributions as constant constraints. Tests of the quality of fit yielded intermediate state distributions and rate constant parameter ranges, for which the proposed three-state model can yield acceptable results. The extent of deviation of the fitted  $P(r)_{I,calc}$  from the simulated  $P(r)_{I,simul}$  was then assessed by the following parameters: the 95% confidence interval error ranges of peak, and FWHM of  $P(r)_{I,calc}$  and of  $k_I$  and  $k_P$ . The simulated and best fit parameters, as well as the comparison parameters, for a total of 5400 combinations of simulated distributions, rate constants, and  $R_o$ , are summarized in the Supporting spreadsheet S1.

### Time dependent $R_o$

Tryptophan fluorescence spectrum and quantum yield is strongly solvent dependent (7-11). Additional changes can be caused by solvent relaxation (12-14) in the excited state (14-17). An initial change of the Trp emission spectrum, intensity and lifetime occurs upon dilution of the denaturant. This is followed by specific conformation-related effects such as interactions with main chain and side chain atoms that enhance or reduce the decay of the emission. In the stopped flow apparatus used in the current study, Trp emission was selected by a band-pass filter, which covers the entire range of AK Trp fluorescence emission spectra, 330-370 nm (BP 357/44 nm).

We can therefore conclude that the changes in fluorescence intensity of the DO mutant, after the mixing dead-time of the Stopped-Flow apparatus, is mostly due to quantum yield changes. The value of the donor quantum yield for calculation of the time dependent  $R_o$  values,  $R_o(t)$ , can be obtained from the ratio of the Trp emission intensity at any time to its final value after completion of the folding transition, as shown in Eq. S5.

$$\frac{R_o(t)}{R_o(t \rightarrow \infty)} = \left[ \frac{\varphi_D(t)}{\varphi_D(t \rightarrow \infty)} \right]^{1/6} = \left[ \frac{I_{DO}(t)}{I_{DO}(t \rightarrow \infty)} \right]^{1/6} \quad (\text{S5})$$

where  $R_o$ ,  $\varphi_D$  and  $I_{DO}$  are the Förster critical distance, donor fluorescence quantum yield, and intensity in the absence of an acceptor.

A  $R_o$  time-vector was therefore calculated and implanted in the model (Fig. 2, B). The simulations showed no deviation of the transfer efficiency change kinetics from mono-exponential trend.

## *Calculation of the kinetics of changes of transfer efficiency in the combined analysis of the donor emission intensities and the equilibrium trFRET data*

We calculated the kinetics of changes of the mean transfer efficiency,  $\langle E \rangle(t)$ , as a ratio of donor fluorescence intensities,  $I_i$ , as in Eq. S6

$$\langle E \rangle(t) = 1 - l I_{DA}(t) / I_{DO}(t) \quad (S6)$$

where  $i$  is for either DO or DA measurements. The  $l$  parameter accounts for extensive possible differences between DO and DA fluorescence intensities, such as different concentrations.  $l$  is calculated from the trFRET efficiencies in the final state at equilibrium as in Eq. S7

$$\langle E \rangle(t \rightarrow \infty) = 1 - l I_{DA}(t \rightarrow \infty) / I_{DO}(t \rightarrow \infty) = 1 - \langle \tau \rangle_{DA} / \langle \tau \rangle_{DO} \quad (S7)$$

where  $\langle \tau \rangle_{DA}$  and  $\langle \tau \rangle_{DO}$  are the average donor fluorescence lifetimes of DA and DO in the final-state at equilibrium.

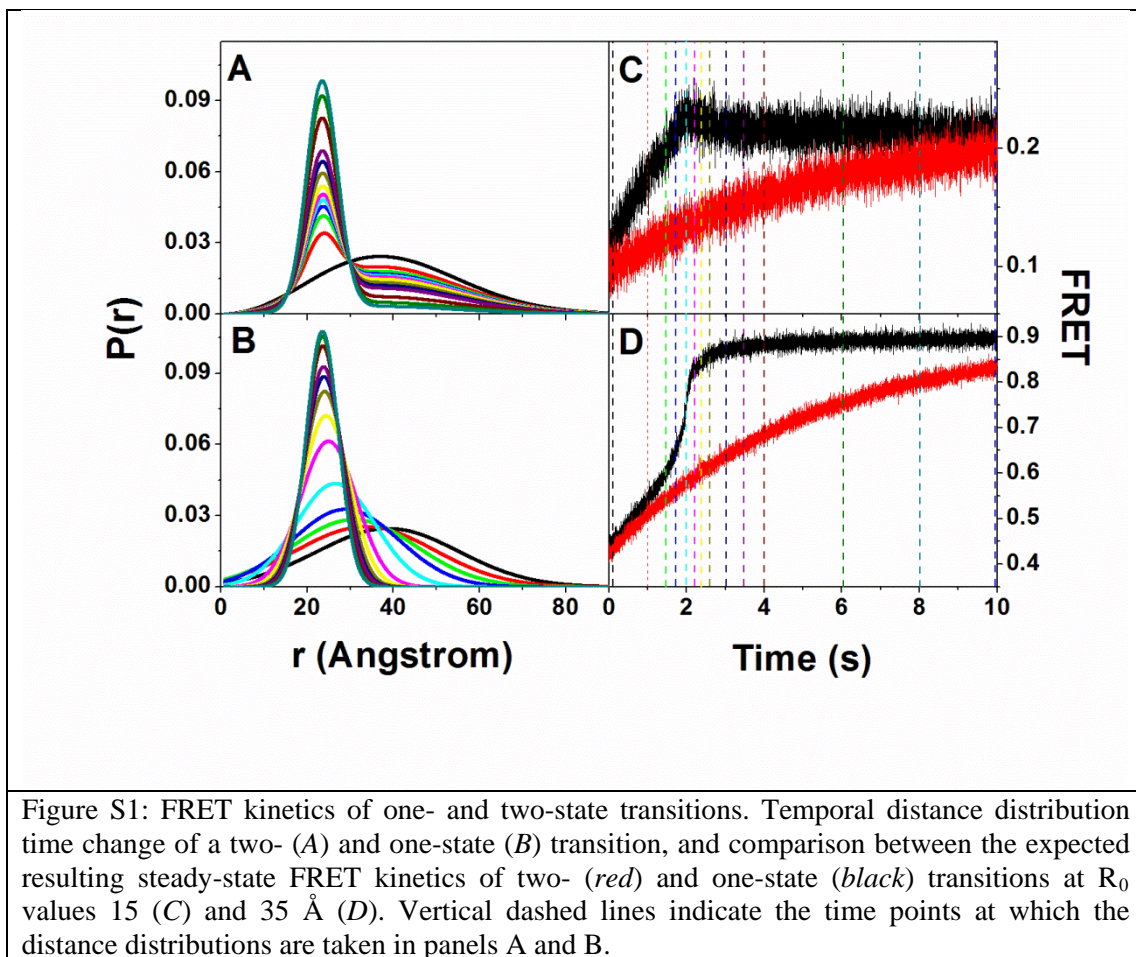
## **Supporting Spreadsheet**

The full dataset of simulated parameters that were used to synthesize the transfer efficiency kinetics together with the best model fitting results and statistical and model comparison parameters, are reported in a Supporting Excel Spreadsheet S1. Supporting spreadsheet S1 is organized in several tabs, each summarizing a different type of simulation: tab '2state', in which the applicability of the proposed model in Eq. 4 was checked against a given set of distributions and a rate constant parameter; tab '2 states approximation on 3 states', in which the validity of the two-state proposed model in Eq. 4 was checked against an underlying three-state scenario, produced using *Eqs. S1-S4*; tab 'exponentiality when  $R_0$  changes', in which the validity of the model proposed in *Eq. 4* is checked against cases with a time change of the Förster Radius,  $R_0$ ; tab '3state', in which the applicability of the model proposed in *Eqs. S1-S4* and *Eq. 4* was checked against a given set of intermediate state IDDs, rate constants and  $R_0$  values. Each column in each tab of spreadsheet S1 is described in comments of the headers. One can go through different possible realms by filtering columns of desired parameters.

## **Supporting Matlab files**

1. 'model\_implementation.m' – shows how to basically implement the model proposed in this work
2. 'pop2\_kinetics\_fit\_simple.m' – a function that calculates FRET kinetics assuming a constant time invariant  $R_0$  value throughout kinetics
3. 'pop2\_kinetics\_fit\_R0.m' - a function that calculates FRET kinetics assuming a  $R_0$  value changing throughout kinetics
4. 'time\_variable\_R0.m' – a function that calculates the  $R_0$  kinetics from Donor-Only fluorescence intensity kinetics from Eq. S5
5. 'FRET\_kinetics.m' – a function that calculates the mean FRET efficiency,  $\langle E \rangle$ , kinetics out of donor fluorescence intensity kinetics and fixing it to the  $\langle E \rangle$  value at infinite time known from equilibrium trFRET measurements
6. 'SkewedGaussian.m' - a function that calculates a normalized skewed Gaussian distance distribution and its PEAK and FWHM values
7. 'exponential\_kinetics.m' – a function used for fitting intensity kinetics with as mono-exponential

## **Supporting Figures**

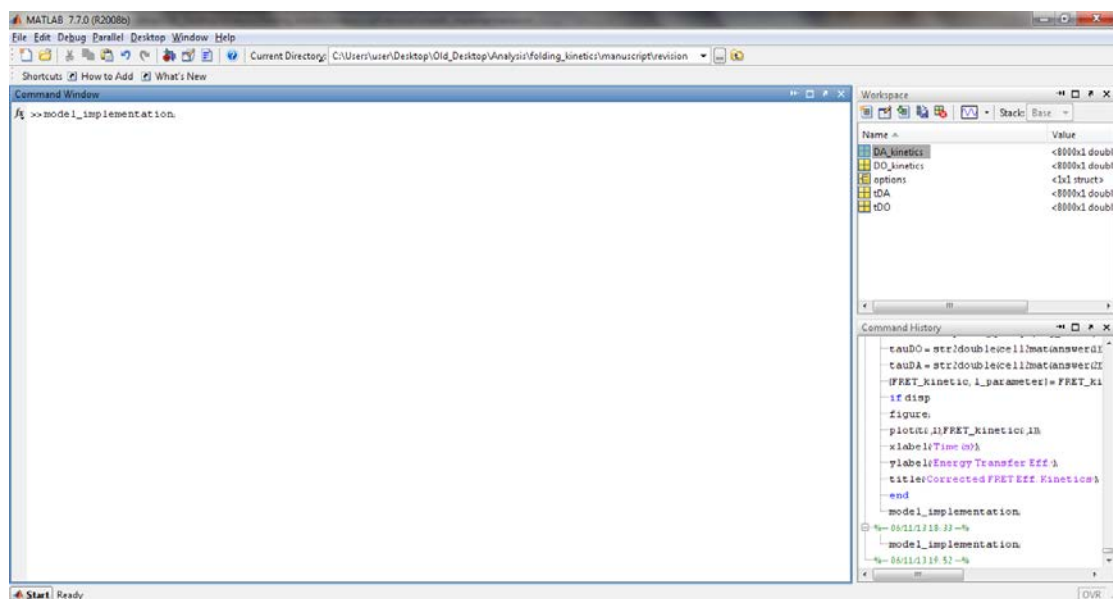


### Analysis of FRET Eff. Kinetics – program manual

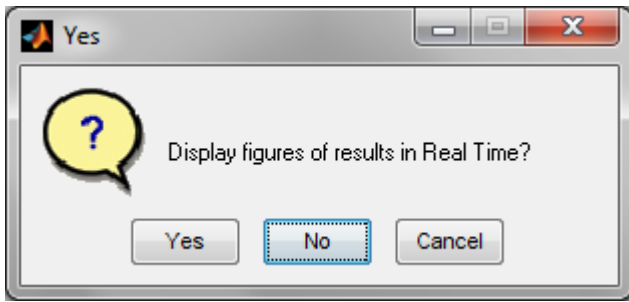
Input time vector of kinetic traces in '*tDO*' (for DO experiment) and '*tDA*' (for DA experiment) and intensity vector of kinetic traces in '*DO\_kinetics*' (for DO experiment) and in '*DA\_kinetics*' (for DA experiment). Together with an list of variables important for the analysis, '*options*', all these variables are found (as an example) in the file '*matlabStart.mat*'.

Work in a directory that includes all *.m* files.

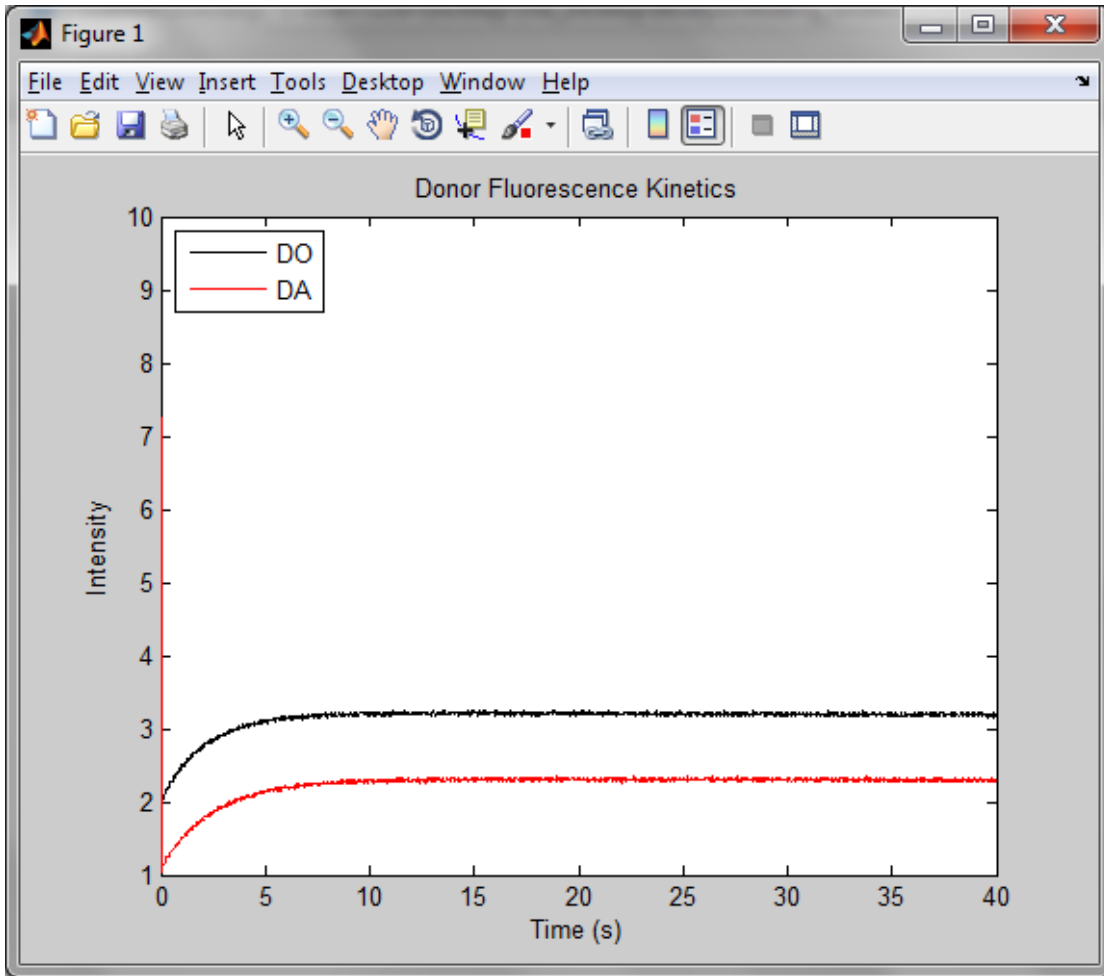
Start analysis by entering '*model\_implementation;*' command in the Matlab workspace.



A question pops up asking '*Display figures of results in Real Time?*'. If you want figures that portrait results of the stages of the analysis choose '*Yes*'. Otherwise choose '*No*'.



After Choosing 'Yes' the next result shows the raw data of the DO and DA donor fluorescence kinetic traces.



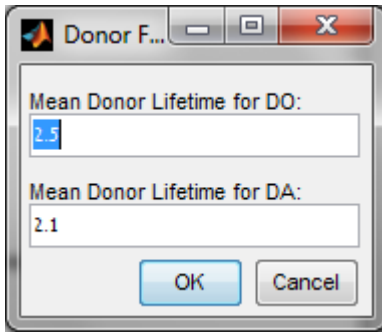
Next pops a dialogue box that asks for the donor fluorescence mean lifetimes for DO and DA ('Mean Donor Lifetime for DO' and 'Mean Donor Lifetime for DA', respectively) experiments that were measured in Equilibrium for the Final-state. Change the default values to the values relevant to your analysis, then press 'OK' to proceed with the analysis.

This step is important for the calculation of the FRET Eff. Kinetic trace. The FRET Eff. Kinetics is corrected for possible concentration differences between DO and DA measurements. The correction is performed by using the equation (Eqs S6, S7 from the article):

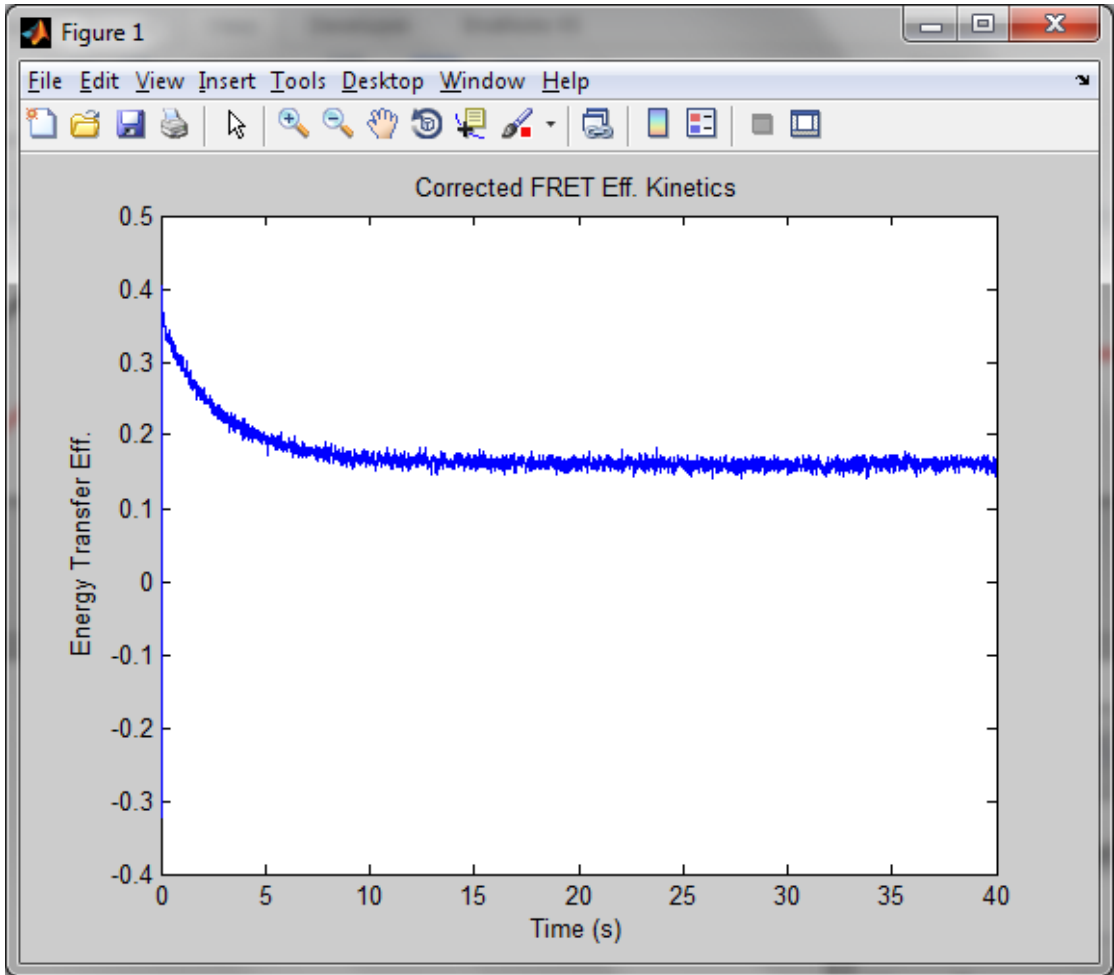
$$\langle E \rangle_{Final} = 1 - \frac{\tau_{DA}}{\tau_{DO}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle E \rangle(t)$$

$$\langle E \rangle(t) = 1 - l \frac{I_{DA}(t)}{I_{DO}(t)}$$

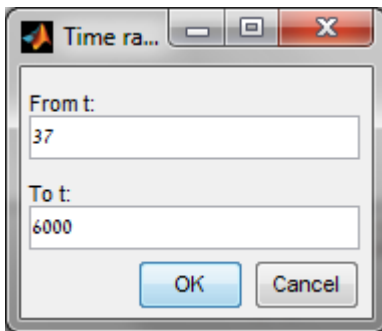
Therefore, the  $l$  correction parameter is found so that the FRET Eff. at the end of the kinetic trace will equal that of the final-state equilibrium out of trFRET.



Choose 'OK'. Afterwards, the corrected FRET Eff. Kinetic trace will be shown.



Then a question will pop up. The question asks the user for the time range for fitting (from 'From t' to 'To t'). It is not in time units of time but rather in units of numbers of cells in the time vector. After choosing the time range suitable for fitting, click 'OK'.



Then a dialogue box 'Input parameters' pops up. It asks for initial guesses of the values of the free parameters, as well as the known Final-state distance distribution parameters:

1. 'Enter guess for parameter  $a$  of initial-state distribution' – The initial-state distance distribution if of the form  $Norm \cdot r^2 e^{-b(r-a)^2}$ . This is for the unknown  $a$  parameter to be optimized by the analysis.
2. 'Enter guess for parameter  $b$  of initial-state distribution' – The initial-state distance distribution if of the form  $Norm \cdot r^2 e^{-b(r-a)^2}$ . This is for the unknown  $b$  parameter to be optimized by the analysis.
3. 'Enter guess for parameter  $k$  constant for kinetics' – This is the unknown two-state rate constant to be optimized by the analysis.
4. 'Enter Folded-state  $a$  parameter' - The final-state distance distribution if of the form  $Norm \cdot r^2 e^{-b(r-a)^2}$ . This is for the  $a$  parameter already found out of trFRET analysis of the equilibrium of final-state.
5. 'Enter Folded-state  $b$  parameter' - The final-state distance distribution if of the form  $Norm \cdot r^2 e^{-b(r-a)^2}$ . This is for the  $b$  parameter already found out of trFRET analysis of the equilibrium of final-state.

Next choose 'OK'.

Input parameters

Enter guess for parameter  $a$  of Initial-state distribution:  
20

Enter guess for parameter  $b$  of Initial-state distribution:  
0.001

Enter guess for parameter  $k$  constant for kinetics:  
1

Enter Folded-state  $a$  parameter:  
22.08

Enter Folded-state  $b$  parameter:  
0.0873

OK Cancel

Then a dialogue box 'Input parameters' pops up. It asks for the value of  $R_0$  found (by steady-state fluorescence measurements) in the equilibrium of the final-state. After entering its value choose 'OK'.

Input parameters

Enter value of  $R_0$  in Angstrom:  
17.3

OK Cancel

Now pops a question 'Is  $R_0$  constant throughout the kinetics?'.

If DO kinetic trace is not changing throughout time, press 'Yes'. Then the analysis will use Eq. 4 from the article.

If DO kinetic trace is changing throughout time press, press 'No'. Then the analysis will use Eq. 3 from the article.

Yes

Is  $R_0$  constant throughout the kinetics?

Yes No Cancel



After a  $R_0$  value have been input characterizing the value in the Equilibrium of the final-state, a test of its validity to the final FRET Eff. Will be performed according to:

$$\langle E \rangle = \int_{r_{min}}^{r_{max}} \frac{p(r)}{1 + \left(\frac{r}{R_0}\right)^6}$$

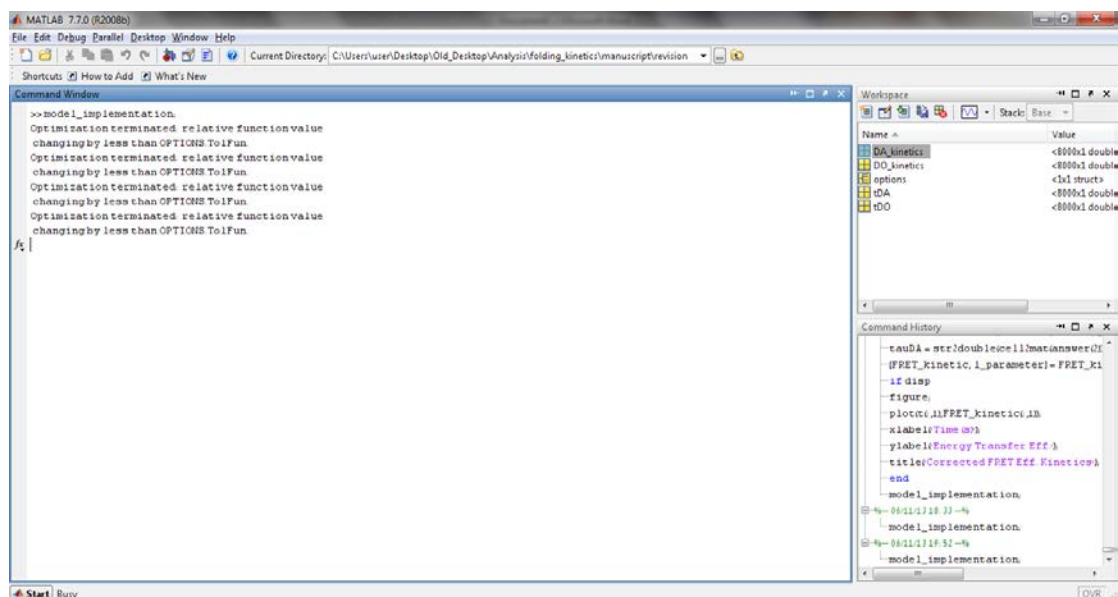
A dialogue box '*Assessment the validity of  $R_0$  to the Final-state FRET value*' will appear. It will ask for a range, (minimal – ' $R_0$ -min', maximal – ' $R_0$  max' and a given interval – ' $R_0$  – interval') of possible  $R_0$  values. Press '*OK*' to proceed with the assessment.

If the input  $R_0$  value, together with the input folded-state distribution parameters, yields a FRET Eff. Which is within 1% error from the values at the end of the FRET Eff. Kinetic trace, the analysis will proceed. On the other hand, if the error is larger than 1%, the program will notify that '*The  $R_0$  value does not fit Final-state FRET Eff.*' Then it will ask '*Would you like the software to find the best Final-state  $R_0$  ?*'

Pressing '*No*' will end the analysis. Pressing '*Yes*' will allow the software to scope over the given range of  $R_0$  values to find the one which yields a FRET Eff. that deviates from the values at the end of the FRET Eff. kinetics in less than 1%.

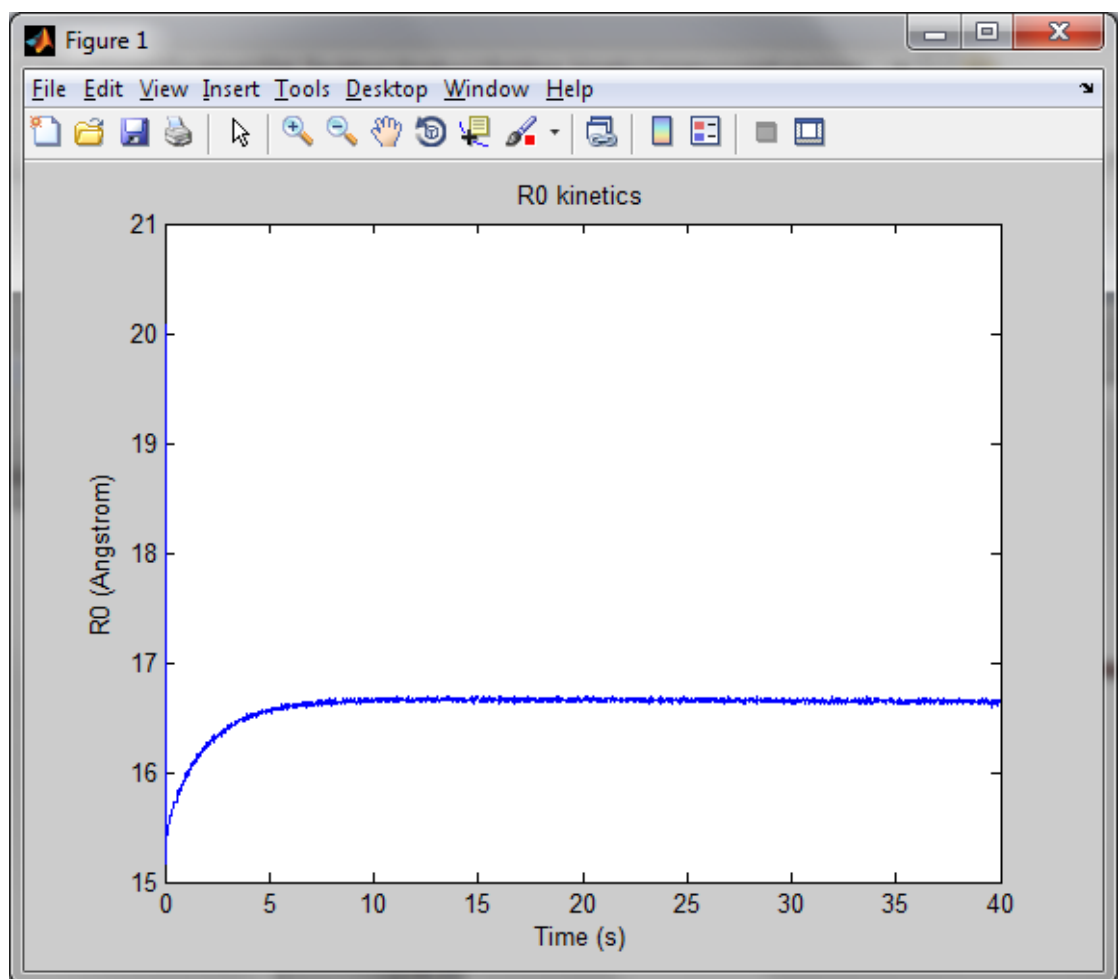
A dialogue box will show the best value for  $R_0$  ('*The best found value of  $R_0$  in Angstrom*'). If the new value does not deviate too much from the one input by the user (the user decides)press '*OK*'. Pressing '*Cancel*' terminates the analysis.

Then the actual optimization will start...

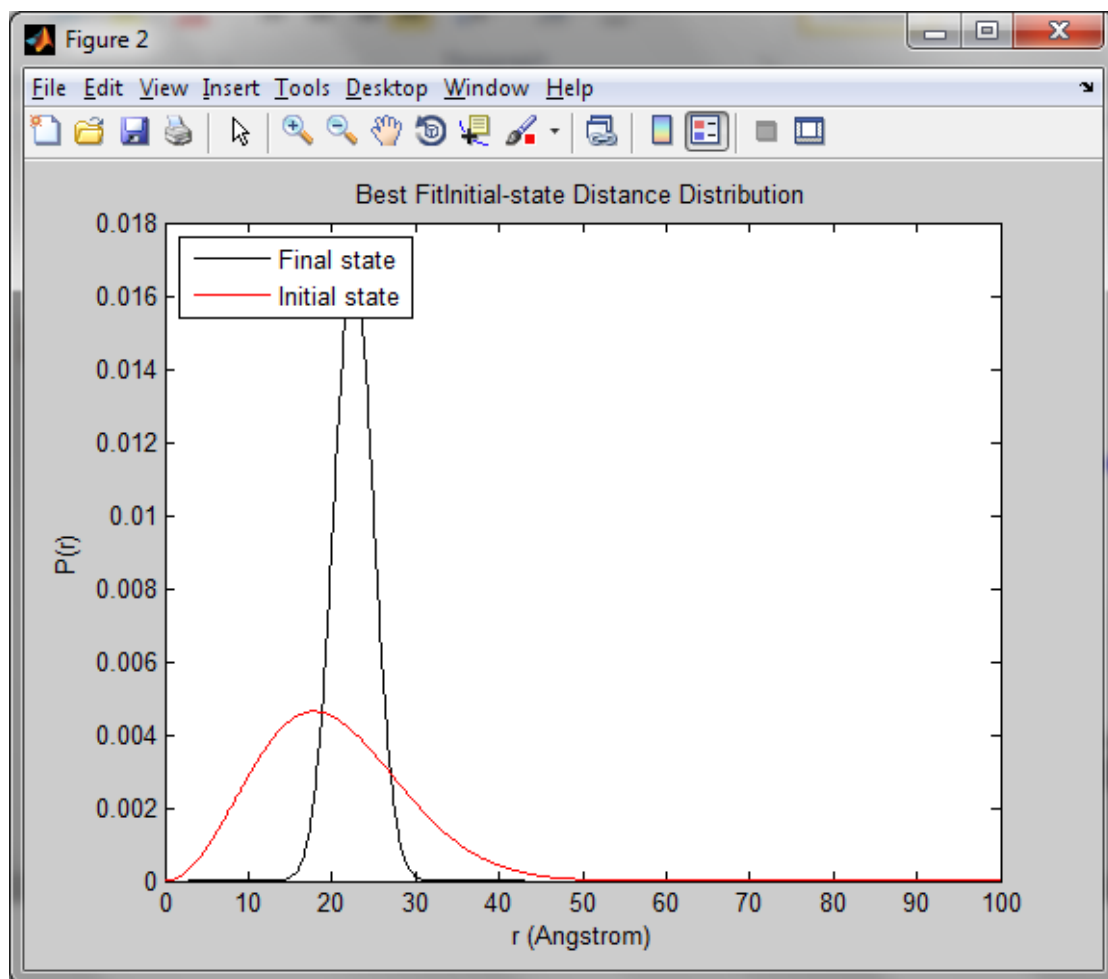


At the end of the optimization process three more figures will appear (if 'display figures' option was chosen in the beginning of the procedure):

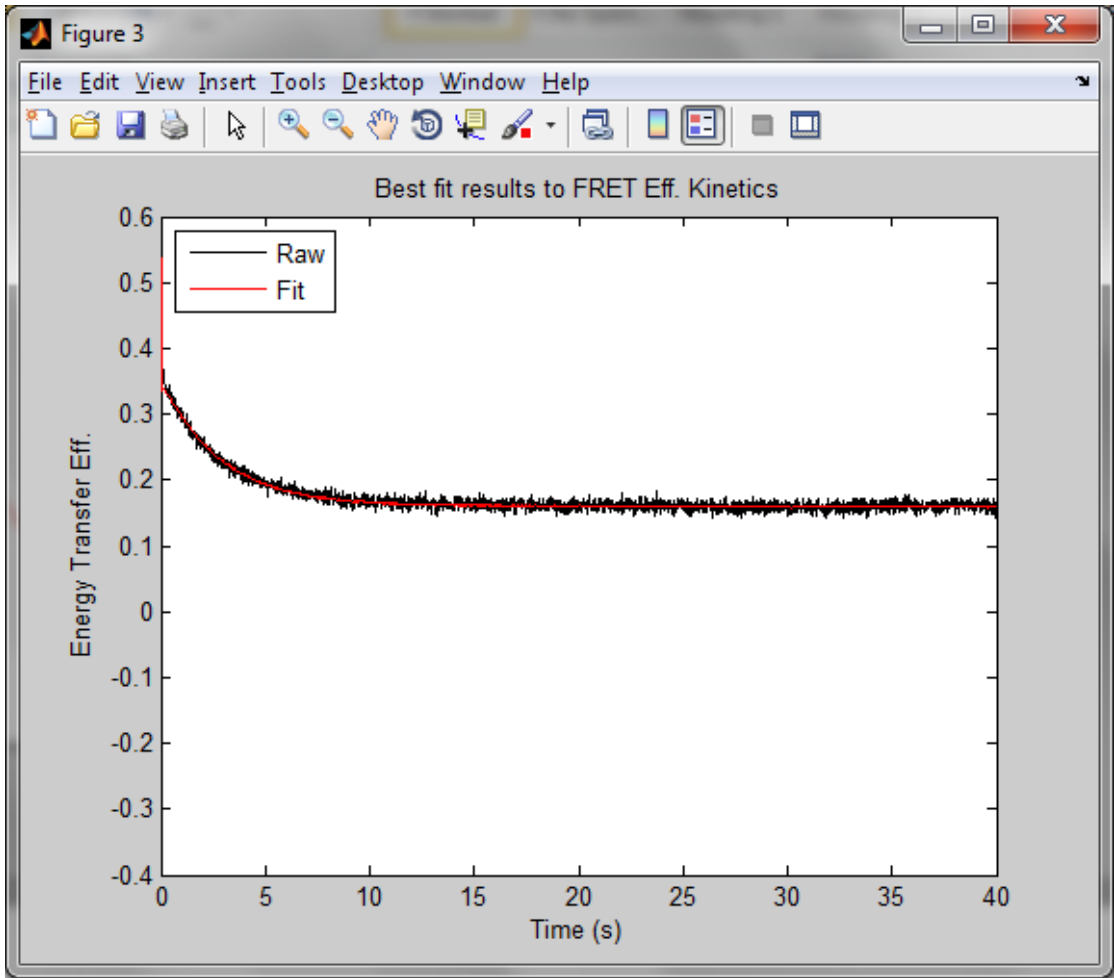
1. The resulting '*R0 kinetics*' – the change of  $R_0$  values due to changes in donor fluorescence quantum yields, calculated using the DO kinetic trace (Eq. S5 from the article)



2. Both the known '*Final state*' and the optimized '*Initial state*' distance distributions



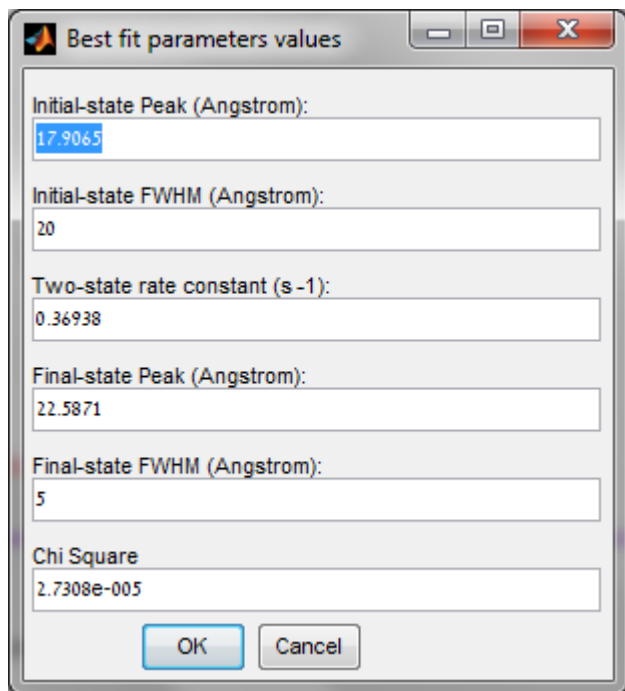
3. 'Best fit results to FRET Eff. Kinetics' – will show the raw (corrected) FRET Eff. kinetic trace ('Raw') and the best fit calculated kinetic trace ('Fit').



And the best fit results of the parameters will be shown:

1. 'Initial-state Peak (Angstrom)' – The most probable distance of the initial-state
2. 'Initial-state FWHM (Angstrom)' – The width of the distance distribution of the initial-state
3. 'Two-state rate constant (s<sup>-1</sup>)' – The rate constant of the transition from the initial- to the final-state assuming a two-state transition
4. 'Final-state Peak (Angstrom)' - The most probable distance of the final-state, known from Equilibrium trFRET
5. 'Final-state FWHM (Angstrom)' - The width of the distance distribution of the final-state, known from Equilibrium trFRET
6. 'Chi Square' – the value of the fitting  $\chi^2$  value calculated from  $\chi^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=t_{min}}^{t_{max}} ((E)(t)_{Raw} - (E)(t)_{Fit})^2}{DOF}$   $DOF = t_{max} - t_{min} - 3$  where  $t_{min}$  and  $t_{max}$  are given not in time units but rather in units of numbers of cells in the time vector

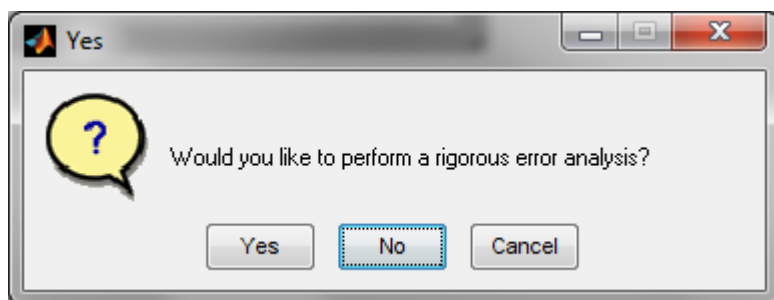
The user can then copy&paste the values and save all figures. To proceed with the analysis, press 'OK'.



Now, after the optimization has been finished and the best-fit values have been reached, the user can choose to find also the error ranges for the optimized parameters. The user will decide whether to proceed to error analysis judging by the quality of the fit.

Accordingly, a question '*Would you like to perform a rigorous error analysis*' will appear.

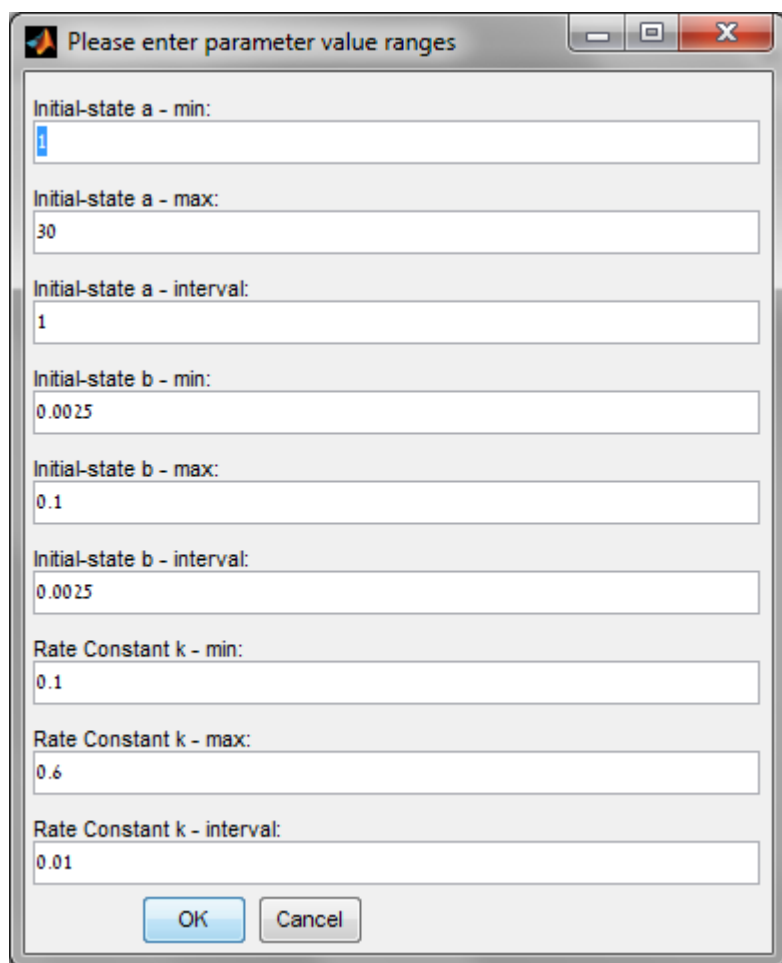
Pressing '*No*' will terminate the analysis procedure. To proceed to error analysis press '*Yes*'.



A dialogue box will appear '*Please enter parameter value ranges*'. According to the best fit parameter values, the user will decide upon the value ranges and the increments to be assessed:

1. Initial-state *a* parameter:
  - a. '*Initial-state a – min*'
  - b. '*Initial-state a – max*'
  - c. '*Initial-state a – interval*' – the increment between each assessed *a* value in the range.
2. Initial-state *b* parameter:
  - a. '*Initial-state b – min*'
  - b. '*Initial-state b – max*'
  - c. '*Initial-state b – interval*'
3. The two-state transition Rate Constant *k* parameter:
  - a. '*Rate Constant k – min*'
  - b. '*Rate Constant k – max*'
  - c. '*Rate Constant k – interval*'

To proceed with the error analysis, press '*OK*'.

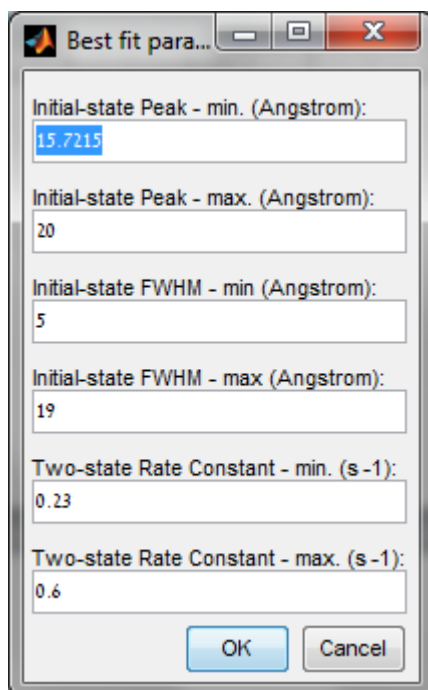


The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Please enter parameter value ranges". It contains nine input fields arranged in three groups. The first group is for the initial-state *a* parameter, with values 1, 30, and 1. The second group is for the initial-state *b* parameter, with values 0.0025, 0.1, and 0.0025. The third group is for the rate constant *k* parameter, with values 0.1, 0.6, and 0.01. At the bottom, there are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

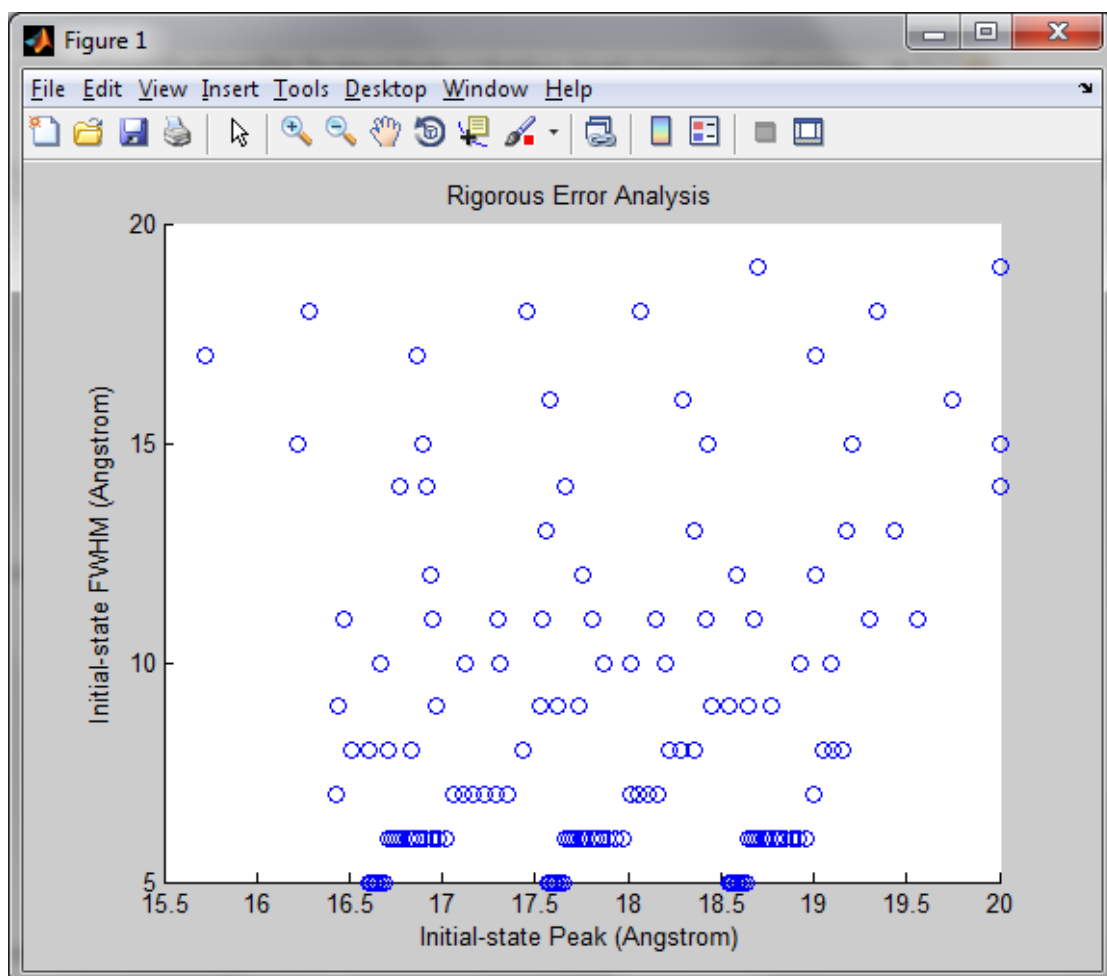
Parameter	Sub-parameter	Value
Initial-state <i>a</i>	min	1
	max	30
	interval	1
Initial-state <i>b</i>	min	0.0025
	max	0.1
	interval	0.0025
Rate Constant <i>k</i>	min	0.1
	max	0.6
	interval	0.01

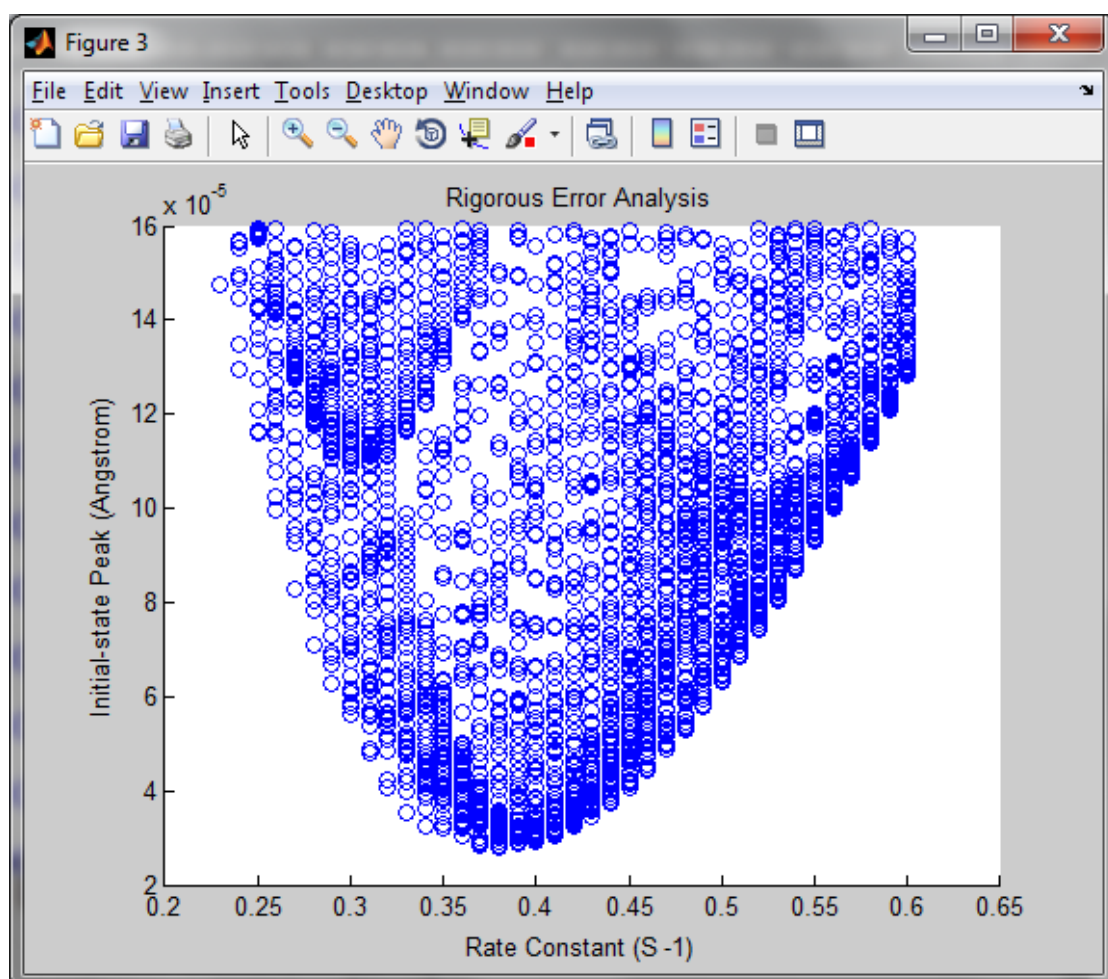
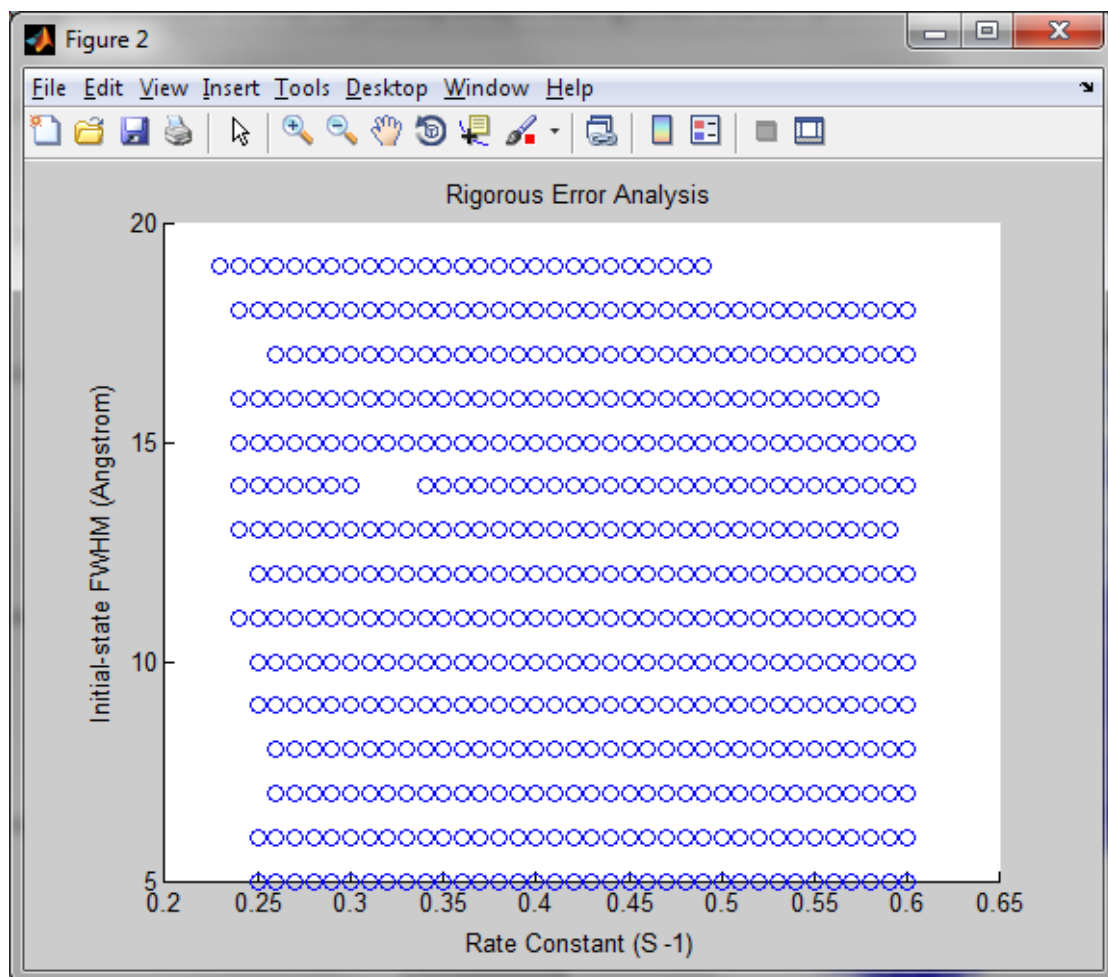
The error analysis can take a while...

After the error analysis is finished, the resulting minimal and maximal values, that are accepted within 95% confidence will be shown in the dialogue box '*Best fit parameters values*'.



and three scatter plots of the Initial-state Peak, FWHM and two-state Rate Constant acceptable values will be shown.







The output variables of this specific example are given in the file '*matlabFinish.mat*'.

**Workspace parameters:**

<b>Parameter Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>tauDO</i>	The average donor fluorescence lifetime in the absence of acceptor (DO), input by the user
<i>tauDA</i>	The average donor fluorescence lifetime in the presence of acceptor (DA), input by the user
<i>tDO</i>	Time vector of DO fluorescence kinetic trace
<i>tDA</i>	Time vector of DA fluorescence kinetic trace
<i>DO_kinetics</i>	Intensity vector of DO fluorescence kinetic trace
<i>DA_kinetics</i>	Intensity vector of DA fluorescence kinetic trace
<i>t</i>	Time vector of FRET Eff. kinetic trace
<i>min_time</i>	The minimal cell number in the time vector to which the model will be fit
<i>max_time</i>	The maximal cell number in the time vector to which the model will be fit
<i>FRET_kinetic</i>	The corrected experimental FRET Eff. kinetic trace
<i>FRET_kinetic_fit</i>	The best fit calculated FRET Eff. kinetic trace
<i>l</i>	The FRET Eff. correction factor
<i>a_start</i>	An array with parameter initial guesses
<i>a_start(1)</i>	The initial-state 'a' parameter guess
<i>a_start(2)</i>	The initial-state 'b' parameter guess
<i>a_start(3)</i>	The two-state transition rate constant parameter guess ( $s^{-1}$ )
<i>a_start(4)</i>	The final-state 'a' parameter known from trFRET in equilibrium
<i>a_start(5)</i>	The final-state 'b' parameter known from trFRET in equilibrium
<i>a_start(6)</i>	(optional): The time-constant $R_0$ value. Is being used if time-constant- $R_0$ analysis is chosen
<i>a_min</i>	An array of parameter lower boundaries.
<i>a_min(1)</i>	The initial-state 'a' parameter lower boundary
<i>a_min(2)</i>	The initial-state 'b' parameter lower boundary
<i>a_min(3)</i>	The two-state transition rate constant parameter lower boundary ( $s^{-1}$ )
<i>a_min(4)</i>	The final-state 'a' parameter lower boundary – is equated to $a\_start(4)*0.999$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>a_min(5)</i>	The final-state 'b' parameter lower boundary – is equated to $a\_start(5)*0.999$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>a_min(6)</i>	(optional): The time-constant $R_0$ lower boundary. Is being used if time-constant- $R_0$ analysis is chosen. – is equated to $a\_start(6)*0.999$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>a_max</i>	An array of parameter upper boundaries.
<i>a_max(1)</i>	The initial-state 'a' parameter upper boundary
<i>a_max(2)</i>	The initial-state 'b' parameter upper boundary
<i>a_max(3)</i>	The two-state transition rate constant parameter upper boundary ( $s^{-1}$ )
<i>a_max(4)</i>	The final-state 'a' parameter upper boundary – is equated to $a\_start(4)*1.001$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>a_max(5)</i>	The final-state 'b' parameter upper boundary – is equated to $a\_start(5)*1.001$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>a_max(6)</i>	(optional): The time-constant $R_0$ upper boundary. Is being used if time-constant- $R_0$ analysis is chosen. – is equated to $a\_start(6)*1.001$ since this parameter is Const. in the analysis
<i>x</i>	An array with parameter optimized values
<i>x(1)</i>	The initial-state 'a' parameter optimized value
<i>x(2)</i>	The initial-state 'b' parameter optimized value
<i>x(3)</i>	The two-state transition rate constant parameter optimized value ( $s^{-1}$ )
<i>x(4)</i>	The final-state 'a' parameter known from trFRET in equilibrium

	– Const.
$x(5)$	The final-state 'b' parameter known from trFRET in equilibrium – Const.
$x(6)$	(optional): The time-constant $R_0$ value. Is being used if time-constant- $R_0$ analysis is chosen – Const.
<i>PEAK_F</i>	Most probable distance of known final-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>FWHM_F</i>	Full Width at Half Maximum of known final-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>PEAK_I</i>	Most probable distance of optimized initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>FWHM_I</i>	Full Width at Half Maximum of optimized initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>PEAK_min</i>	The lower boundary value of the most probable distance of initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>PEAK_max</i>	The upper boundary value of the most probable distance of initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>FWHM_min</i>	The lower boundary value of the Full Width at Half Maximum of initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>FWHM_max</i>	The upper boundary value of the Full Width at Half Maximum of initial-state distance distribution (Å)
<i>rigorous</i>	A value of '1' if the user chooses the perform a rigorous error analysis and a value of '0' if not.
<i>rigorous_array</i>	An array that includes the fitting parameter values which yield a $\chi^2$ value lower or equal to the 95% Confidence limit.
<i>rigorous_array(:,1)</i>	Initial-state 'a' parameter
<i>rigorous_array(:,2)</i>	Initial-state 'b' parameter
<i>rigorous_array(:,3)</i>	Two-state transition Rate Constant ( $s^{-1}$ )
<i>rigorous_array(:,4)</i>	Initial-state Most probable distance (Å)
<i>rigorous_array(:,5)</i>	Initial-state Full Width at Half Maximum (Å)
<i>rigorous_array(:,6)</i>	$\chi^2$ value
<i>R</i>	Distance vector
<i>PF</i>	Known final-state distance distribution
<i>PI</i>	Optimized initial-state distance distribution
<i>chi2</i>	Value of Best fit $\chi^2$ value
<i>chi2limit_alpha_0_05</i>	95% Confidence limit for $\chi^2$ values
<i>chi2limit_alpha_0_01</i>	99% Confidence limit for $\chi^2$ values
<i>chi2limit_alpha_0_1</i>	90% Confidence limit for $\chi^2$ values
<i>chi2limit_alpha_0_33</i>	67% Confidence limit for $\chi^2$ values
<i>R0constant</i>	A Boolean variable with a value of 1 if time-constant- $R_0$ analysis is chosen and a value of 0 if time-dependent- $R_0$ analysis is chosen
<i>R0_final_equilibrium</i>	The value input by the user of $R_0$ (Å) in the case of a time-dependent- $R_0$ analysis
<i>R0vec</i>	The vector of $R_0$ values in the case of a time-dependent- $R_0$ analysis
<i>R0_test</i>	The value of $R_0$ input by the user
<i>Proposed_R0</i>	The value of $R_0$ proposed by the script, that best fits the final-state FRET Eff. and distance distribution
<i>Find_R0</i>	A Boolean variable with a value of 1 the $R_0$ value input by the user deviates from the optimized one and the user chooses to let the script find the optimal value of $R_0$ that best fits the final-state FRET Eff. and distance distribution
<i>options</i>	A list of variables important for the optimization procedure. Should always be present in the analysis
<i>options.MaxFunEvals</i>	The maximal number of function evaluations in the optimization. The default value used here is 5000.
<i>options.MaxIter</i>	The maximal number of optimization iterations for each function evaluation step. The default value used here is 5000

<i>options.TolFun</i>	The functional Tolerance value. The default value used here is 1E-25
<i>options.TolX</i>	The iterational Tolerance value. The default value used here is 1E-25
<i>options.DiffMinChange</i>	The minimal change that proceeds the optimization procedure to the next step. The default value used here is 1E-5

## Supporting References

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