

# The BBP data model, BluePy and friends

HBP CodeJam Workshop #7



Human Brain Project

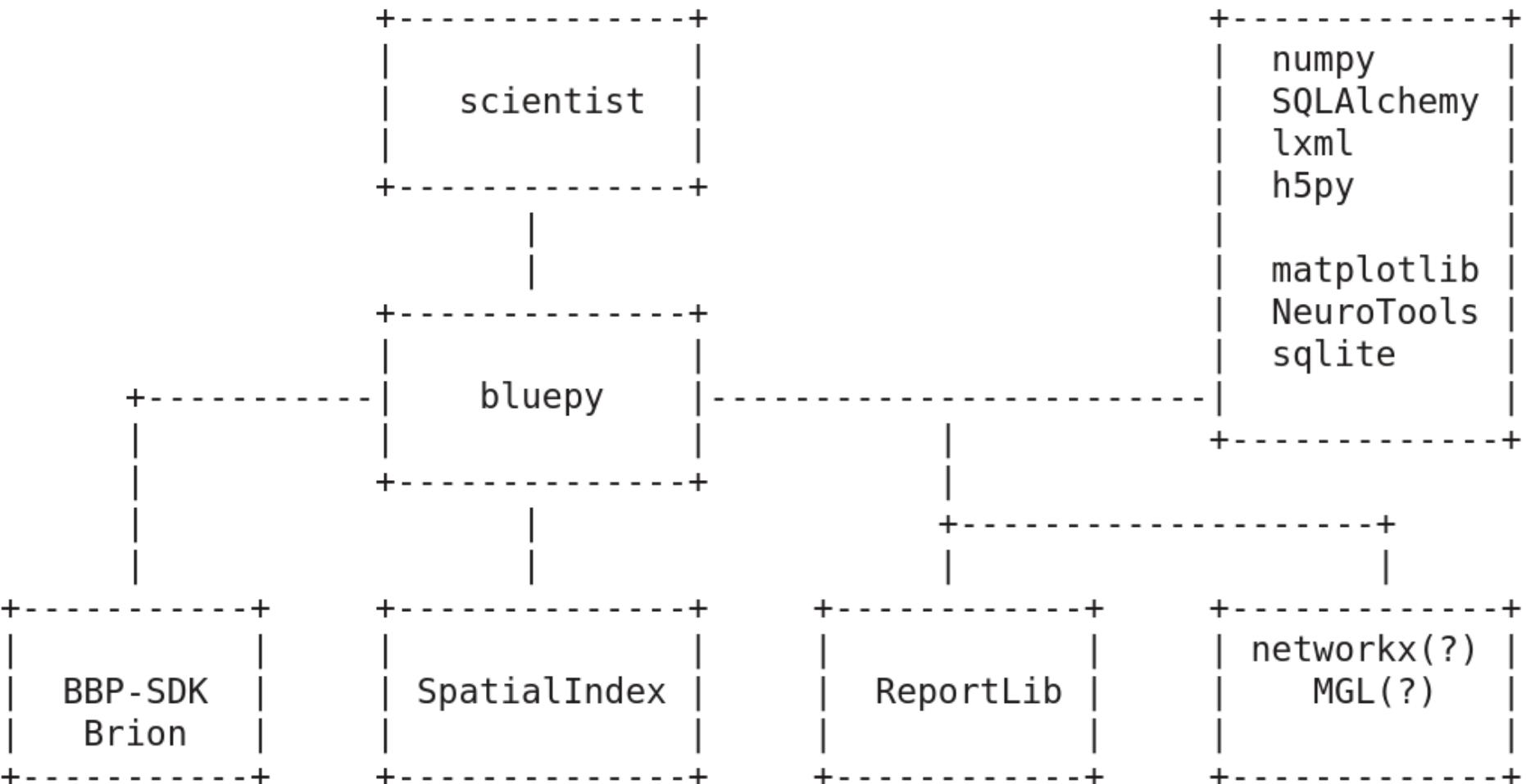
**Eilif Müller**  
[eilif.mueller@epfl.ch](mailto:eilif.mueller@epfl.ch)  
<http://bluebrain.epfl.ch>

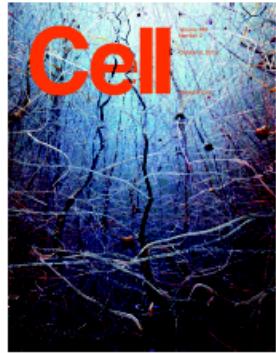


BluePy (pronounced "bloopy") is a scientist targeted productivity layer for scientists to access BBP **production entities**.

Designed to be empowering:

- "One-liners" for scientific needs
- Tools to facilitate automation streamlined

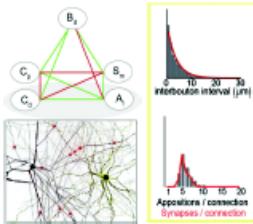




# Reconstruction and simulation of neocortical microcircuitry

Markram H, Muller E, Ramaswamy S, Reimann MW, ...  
DeFelipe J, Hill SL, Segev I, Schuermann F

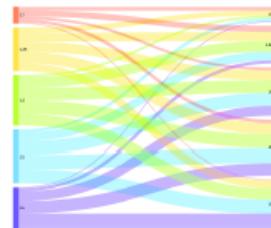
Cell 163:2, p456–492, 8 October 2015



An algorithm to predict the connectome of neural microcircuits

Reimann et al.

Front. Comp. Neurosci., 8 October 2015



The neocortical microcircuit collaboration portal: a resource for rat somatosensory cortex

Ramaswamy S, Courcol J-D, et al.

Frontiers in Neural Circuits, 8 October 2015

<https://github.com/BlueBrain>

<https://bbp.epfl.ch/nmc-portal>

BluePy was the primary API used for above analysis.  
Some IPython notebook use-cases ...



- BluePy **is not** yet open-source
- Brion **is** open-source
- Ongoing process to converge with ABI & community on underlying data models
- Intention to release our software ecosystem around such converged data models

bluebrain.github.io/Brion-1.5/index.html

human brain project github

# Brion 1.5.0

The Blue Brain C++ I/O library

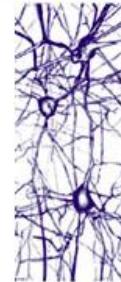
Main Page Related Pages Classes Files

Brion

Changelog Deprecated List

Classes Files

## Brion Documentation



# Blue Brain Project

Welcome to Brion, a C++ library for read and write access to Blue Brain data structures, including BlueConfig/CircuitConfig, Circuit, CompartmentReport, Mesh, Morphology, Synapse and Target files.

Brion can be retrieved by cloning the [source code](#).

- Core IO library for accessing BBP data model in C++
- <https://github.com/BlueBrain/Brion>
- <http://bluebrain.github.io/>

**Brion** includes classes for reading and writing files of the Blue Brain data model.

Fast and low-overhead read access to:

- Circuit descriptors “CircuitConfigs” (brion::Circuit)
- Simulation descriptors “BlueConfigs” (brion::BlueConfig) –
- H5 Synapses data (brion::SynapseSummary, brion::Synapse)
- Groupings of elements (neurons, syns, ...) “Targets” (brion::Target)
- BBP binary meshes (brion::Mesh)
- BBP H5 morphologies and SWC morphologies (brion::Morphology and brion::morphologies)
- Compartment reports (brion::CompartmentReport)
- Spike reports (brion::SpikeReport)

Fast and low-overhead write access to:

- Compartment reports (brion::CompartmentReport)
- BBP binary meshes (brion::Mesh)
- BBP H5 morphologies (brion::Morphology)

# BBP Data model - overview

- CircuitConfig
  - start.target “verbatim” defn. of named gid groups
  - nrn.h5 – connectivity and synapse parameters
  - circuit.mvd2 – neuron database
  - Circuit\_mvd2.sqlite, SEGMENT\_spatial.\*,  
SYNAPSE\_spatial.\* , nrn\_efferent.h5, ...
- BlueConfig
  - out.dat -> CSV: gid, spiketime
  - soma.bbp -> voltages per dt
  - soma.h5 -> voltage trace dataset per gid

# Example CircuitConfig – a key-value format

```
Run Default
```

```
{
```

```
    # URI to the morphology collection entity  
    MorphologyPath <...>/release/l2/2012.07.23/morphologies
```

```
    # URI to the morpho-electrical model collection entity  
    METypePath <...>/release/l2/2012.07.23/ccells
```

```
    # URI to the mesh collection entity  
    MeshPath <...>/release/l2/2012.07.23/meshes
```

```
    # URI to the build recipe entity  
    BioName <...>/project/proj1/entities/bionames/SomatosensoryCxS1-v5.r0
```

```
    # Circuit specific attributes & paths
```

```
    CircuitPath <...>/project/proj1/circuits/SomatosensoryCxS1-v5.r0/01/merged_circuit  
    nrnPath ncsFunctionalAllRecipePathways
```

```
    TargetFile default_user.target
```

```
    CentralHyperColumn 2
```

```
}
```

```
# Input projection entities defined for this circuit
```

```
Projection Thalamocortical_input_VPM
```

```
{
```

```
    Path ncsThalamocortical_VPM
```

```
    Source proj_Thalamocortical_VPM_Source
```

```
}
```

# circuit.mvd2 – The neuron database

Essentially A CSV file with:

morphology name (string)

database type [not used] (int)

hyperColumn (int)

miniColumn (int)

layer [note that 0 is layer 1, 1 is layer 2, etc.] (int)

morphology type [index into MorphTypes below] (int)

electrophysiology type [index into ElectroTypes below] (int)

neuronCenter[0] (float)

neuronCenter[1] (float)

neuronCenter[2] (float)

neuronRotation[1] (float)

metype (string)

sm090317a2\_idB 0 0 71 0 3 1 286.965408 1960.801904 83.942752 -144.357745 cNAC187\_L1\_HA  
sm090317a2\_idB 0 0 285 0 3 1 468.045056 1966.229605 50.926316 139.318573 cNAC187\_L1\_HA  
sm080905b1 0 0 289 0 3 4 263.596306 1940.176638 31.100535 24.977901 cIR216\_L1\_HAC\_1 sm  
C060106F 0 0 297 0 3 0 106.403043 2027.019862 232.607069 66.966942 bNAC219\_L1\_HAC\_1 C0  
C280206K 0 0 33 0 5 3 409.051345 1918.453896 130.654939 124.924653 cACint209\_L1\_SLAC\_1

## Synapses: nrn.h5 – and HDF5 file

Contains a dataset for every gid, with a Nx19 list of its synapses & params:

0: Connecting gid: presynaptic for nrn.h5, postsynaptic for nrn\_efferent.h5 (int)

1: Axonal delay: computed using the distance from AIS to the post synaptic terminal (ms) (float)

2: postSection ID (int)

3: postSegment ID (int)

4: The post distance (in microns) of the synapse from the begining of the post segment 3D point, or -1 for soma connections (float)

5: preSection ID (int)

6: preSegment ID (int)

7: The pre distance (in microns) of the synapse from the begining of the pre segment 3D point (float)

8: g\_synX is the conductance of the synapse (nS) (float)

9: u\_syn is the u parameter in the TM model (0-1) (float)

10: d\_syn is the time constant of depression (ms) (float)

11: f\_syn is the time constant of facilitation (ms) (float)

12: DTC - Decay Time Constant (milliseconds) (float)

13: synapseType, the synapse type Inhibitory < 100 or Excitatory >= 100 (specific value corresponds to generating recipe)

14: The morphology type of the pre neuron. Index corresponds with circuit.mvd2 (int)

15-16: BranchOrder of the dendrite, BranchOrder of the axon (int,int)

17: ASE Absolute Synaptic Efficacy (Millivolts) (int) (not used)

18: Branch Type from the post neuron(0 for soma, 1 for axon and 2 for basal and 3 for apical) (int)

## Targets: start.target

ASCII file:

```
Target Cell L1_SLAC
{
a7 a12 a13 a16 a24 a33 a36 a38 a50 a55 a69 a78 a79
}
Target Cell mc1_L6_BPC
{
a51924 a51927 a51941
}
....
```

# Simulation descriptors - BlueConfig

- Circuit URI
- Job params
- Define Reporting

```
RunMode LoadBalance
CircuitTarget Slice
Duration 12000
Dt 0.025
ForwardSkip 5000
```

```
Report soma
{
    Target Slice
    Type compartment
    ReportOn v
    Unit mV
    Format Bin
    Dt 0.1
    StartTime 0
    EndTime 20000
}

Report compartments
{
    Target Slice_5percent_AllComp
    Type compartment
    ReportOn v
    Unit mV
    Format Bin
    Dt 0.25
    StartTime 0
    EndTime 20000
}

Report I_NonSpecific
{
    Target AllCompartments_mc2
    Type Summation
    ReportOn i_pas ihcn_Ih ihcn_hcn3 icsa_csa
    Unit nA
    Format Bin
    Dt 0.1
    StartTime 0
    EndTime 2000
}
```

- Define stimuli & manipulations

```
Stimulus ThresholdExc
{
    Mode Current
    Pattern Noise
    MeanPercent 88.7711221281
    Variance 0.001
    Delay 0.000000
    Duration 20000.000000
}
```

```
StimulusInject ThresholdIntoExc
{
    Stimulus ThresholdExc
    Target Excitatory
}
```

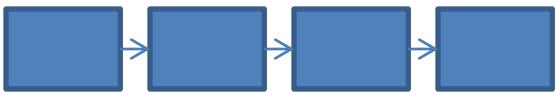
```
# Use adjustments due to Calcium 1.25 mM
Connection scheme_CaUse_ee
{
    Source Excitatory
    Destination Excitatory
    Weight 1.0
    SynapseConfigure %s.Use *= 0.1
}
```

# HBP Building Workflows

Morphologies &  
Electrical models



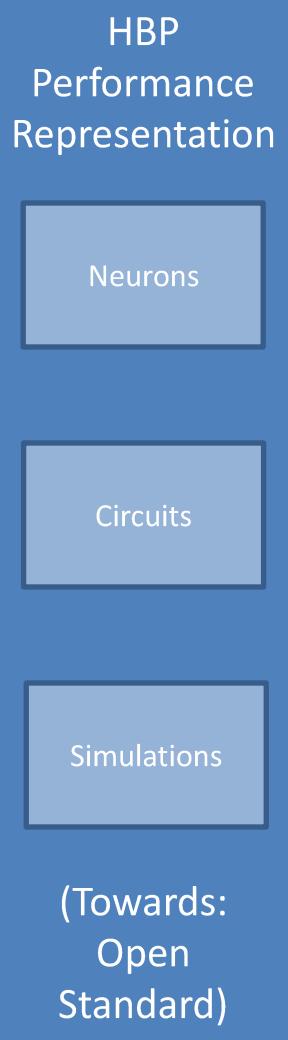
Circuits & Synapses



Simplifications

Simulations

STEPS, NEURON, NEST



Round-tripping



Curation



Other HBP  
supported  
representation  
formats ... ?

IO (Brion), Analysis, Validation APIs (OSS)  
Viz tools (RTNeuron)  
HBP Platform apps

- Relation to validation driven development
  - Validations rely on an analysis API
- Representation of simplified circuits
  - I&F
  - Population density
  - Mean-field

# Generality of the BBP data model

- PAVIA example export example
- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/display/HWP64/Required+changes+to+BBP+tools>
- Ongoing work in HBP:
  - Cerebellum
  - Hippocampus
  - Basal ganglia

# HBP: A first draft model of cerebellar granular layer

## Team:

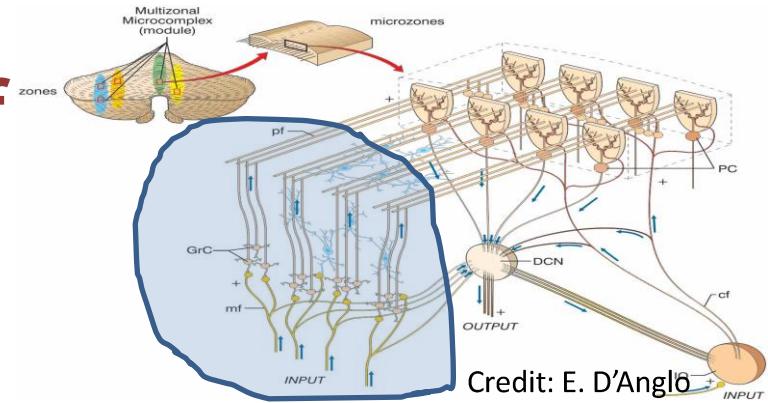
Stefano Masoli, Sergio Solinas, Stefano Casali,  
Martina Rizza, Werner van Geit, **Egidio D'Angelo**

## Reconstruction

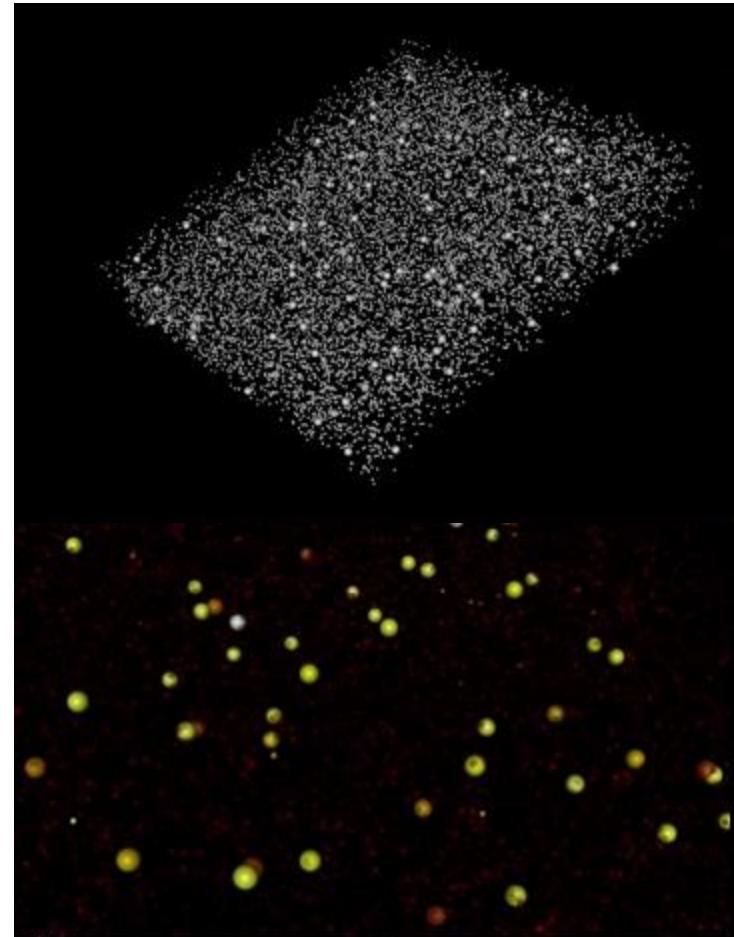
- Constructed Cerebellar granular layer model
- Connected **400,000 neurons** in a early draft cerebellar network (**Granule and Golgi Cells**)
- Neuron models optimized using BBP Optimizer framework
- Previous network connectivity (UPavia) ported to BBP circuit representation
- Simulated using BBP framework: **Neurodamus**

## Analysis

- Results analyzed and visualized using **bluepy**, **RTNeuron**.



Credit: E. D'Angelo INPUT

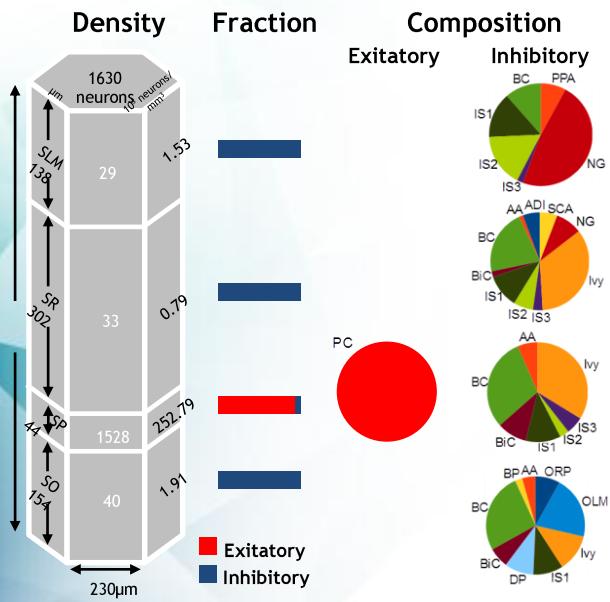


Rendering with RTNeuron

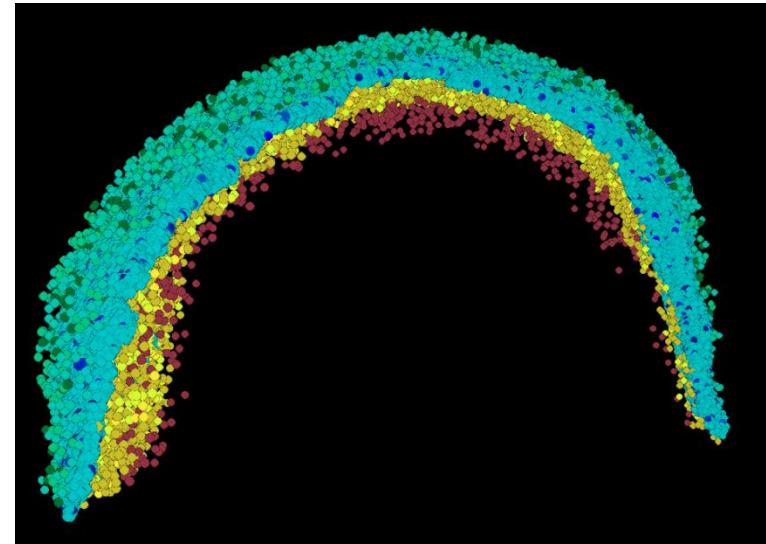
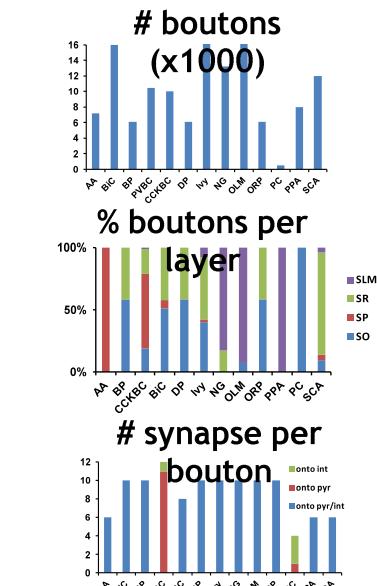
# HBP: First draft hippocampal CA1



Sources: morphologies from UCL, IEM



Sources: UCL, Ropireddy et al 2012, Bezaire and Soltesz 2013

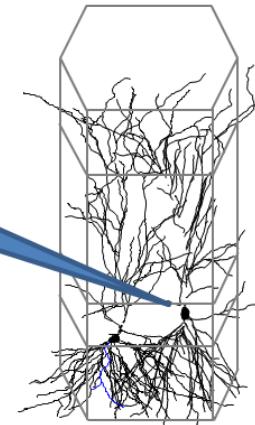


## Electrical model

exp.



model



Sources: traces from UCL

# Notable future plans: BluePy

- API: make all functions accept interchangeably the ways to express groups of neurons:
  - SQL queries
  - Named “verbatim” targets (deprecate)
  - Gid lists (deprecate)
- Leverage more functionality from Brion (C++ IO lib)
- Converge data model with the community
- Open-source in 2016.
- Support for I&F models

# Thoughts for convergence with Allen Brain Inst, and community standards

- NWB for simulation output
- LEMS for channel and synapses
- SWC for morphologies
- NeuroML for neuron biophysics
- Conceptual revision of CircuitConfig & BlueConfig  
-> JSON?

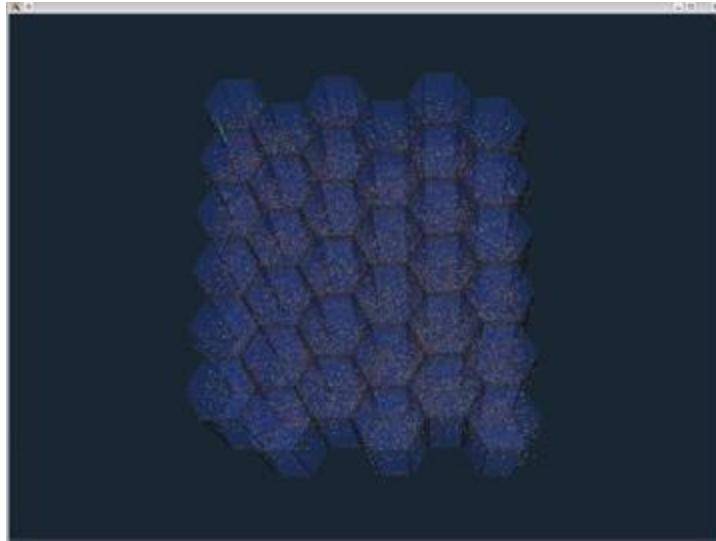
Simplified point-neuron case?

- LEMS for neuron models?
- NeuroML for neuron parameters?

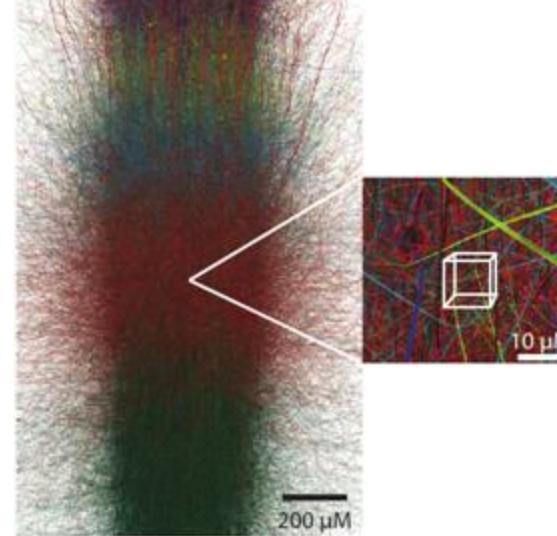
# Towards a community ecosystem

- Validation
- Simplification
- Building tools
- Visualization
- Analysis
- Neuroinformatics bridges

RTNeuron



Spatial Indexer



# BluePy & Data Model Links

Publically accessible documentation

- <https://developer.humanbrainproject.eu/docs/>
- <https://developer.humanbrainproject.eu/docs/projects/bluepy/0.5.11/index.html>

Accessibility for BBP-EXT members (can be case-by-case granted to HBP members)

Documentation & internal discussion on BBP file formats:

- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/display/HWP64/BBP+network+files+format>
- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=HWP64&title=BBP+network+files+format>

Issue tracker

- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/issues/browse/BLPY>

Data-model Improvement Proposals

- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/display/BBPWFA/MVD+version+3+-+Draft+0.0.1>
- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/display/BLBLD/New+h5+file+to+support+future+S2F>
- <https://bbpteam.epfl.ch/project/spaces/display/HWP64/Required+changes+to+BBP+tools>



Human Brain Project

# pyNapi

such python  
neural analysis  
productivity layer.  
much **wow.**



## Acknowledgements





Human Brain Project

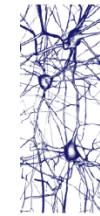


The BBP team

## Hippocamp Participants



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE



Blue  
Brain  
Project

# BBP Platform Team



**SP6**

# Members (WP and Task Leaders)

## Data-driven reconstruction of brain models

### **Henry Markram**

Idan Segev  
Marc-Oliver Gewaltig  
Felix Schürmann



## Brain Simulation Platform: integration and operations

### **Henry Markram**

Jeffrey Muller

## Brain Simulation Platform: user support and community building

### **Felix Schürmann**

## Molecular dynamics simulation

### **Paolo Carloni**

Richard Lavery  
Rebecca Wade



## Brain simulation engines

### **Felix Schürmann**

Erik De Schutter  
Julian Shillcock  
Michael Hines  
Markus Diesmann  
Fabien Delalondre



## Brain Simulation Platform: scientific coordination

### **Felix Schürmann**



# HBP Platform Teams

- SP5 – Neuroinformatics
- SP6 – Brain Simulation
- SP7 – HPC
- SP8 - Medical Informatics
- SP9 – Neuromorphic
- SP10 - Neurorobotics