

Tools & Simulation Structure (Before Coding)

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3:29 PM

1. Why NumPy is needed (fast math)

Python alone is slow for:

- arrays
- loops
- math on thousands of time steps
- large vectors

NumPy lets you do:

- ✓ fast vector operations
- ✓ handle voltage arrays
- ✓ handle spike arrays
- ✓ simulate in milliseconds
- ✓ run thousands of dt steps instantly

Without NumPy, our simulation would be painfully slow

2. Why Matplotlib is used (graph plotting)

Neuroscience = LOTS of graphs

We need:

- Voltage vs time graphs
- Spike raster plots
- Emotional patterns
- Firing rates
- Feature visualizations

Matplotlib makes these super easy, clean and scientific looking

3. Simulation Loop Logic (concept)

Every simulation has this loop:

```
for t in range(total_steps):  
    I = input_function(t)  
    v = update_voltage(V, I)  
    if v crosses threshold:  
        record spike  
        reset voltage  
    store results
```

This loop runs every dt

This is the entire heart of our simulation

4. Data structure to store Voltage & spikes

Voltage (v)

`voltage = np.zeros(total_steps)`

Each index = voltage at a time step

Spikes

`spikes = np.zeros(total_steps)`

When neuron fires:

`spikes[t] = 1`

This becomes spike train dataset

5. Why Jupyter Notebooks are Useful

- ✓ We can see graphs instantly
- ✓ We can run cell-by-cell
- ✓ We can keep notes + diagrams next to code
- ✓ We can debug more easily

6. Understanding Basic Project folder layout

How the simulation files will be organized:

`neuron_models/`

`l1f-single-neuron.ipynb`

`l1f-single-neuron.py`

`multi-neuron-circuit.ipynb`

`emotional-simulation/`

`spike-trains/`

`spike-plots/`

* Summary

- NumPy → fast math & arrays
- Matplotlib → graphs
- Simulation loop = core of neuron modeling
- Voltage stored in arrays
- Spikes stored in binary arrays
- Jupyter = perfect for scientific simulations
- Folder layout keeps project clean.