

Pose Estimation in NWB

ndx-pose



Neurodata
Extensions
Catalog



github.com/NeurodataWithoutBorders/nwb_hackathons/tree/main/Cosyne_2023

Pose Estimation in NWB

NWB Currently supports writing from two popular pose estimation frameworks

- SLEAP
- DeepLabCut (DLC)

We do not have time to fully explain the details of how these packages work...

...so we will simply explain the input-output (I/O) workflow

Input: Storing natural behavior in NWB

- The NWB data type for videos called the `ImageSeries`
- It has two modes
 - Internal
 - each frame of the video is extracted and written as a Dataset
 - same as any other array-valued series you might find in an NWB file

```
nwbfile.acquisition
```

```
{'Video: Rat10-20140708-01-prerun': Video: Rat10-20140708-01-prerun pynwb.image.ImageSeries  
Fields:
```

```
data: <HDF5 dataset "data": shape (5773, 360, 640, 3), type "|u1">  
description: Video recorded by camera.  
timestamps: <HDF5 dataset "timestamps": shape (5773,), type "<f8">  
timestamps_unit: seconds  
unit: Frames
```

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 - External
 - data type instead contains a *path* to the video file(s) outside the NWB file

```
'OriginalVideoBodyCamera': OriginalVideoBodyCamera pynwb.image.ImageSeries
```

Fields:

```
data: <HDF5 dataset "data": shape (0, 0, 0), type "|u1">
```

```
description: The original video each pose was estimated from.
```

```
external_file: <StrDataset for HDF5 dataset "external_file": shape (1,), type "|O">
```










```
format: external
```

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```
nwbfile.acquisition["OriginalVideoBodyCamera"].external_file[:]
```

```
array(['./sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_behavior+ecephys+image/sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_OriginalVideoBodyCamera.mp4'],  
      dtype=object)
```

000409 / sub-CSHL051 / sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_behavior+ecephys+image				Size
..				
sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_OriginalVideoBodyCamera.mp4				638.4 MB
sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_OriginalVideoLeftCamera.mp4				8.2 GB
sub-CSHL051_ses-ecb5520d-1358-434c-95ec-93687ecd1396_OriginalVideoRightCamera.mp4				3.8 GB

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 - data type instead contains a *path* to the video file(s) outside the NWB file
- Best Practices
 - [Internal mode](#)
 - videos of physiological recordings (such as optical imaging)
 - stimulus presentations
 - [External mode](#)
 - videos of natural behavior

Note: Reasoning for Best Practices

- Reasoning for these Best Practices is a bit nuanced...
- For some history of decision, see...
 - [NWB:#1647](#), [DANDI:#769](#) and [DANDI-helpdesk:#30](#)
- DANDI
 - strongly recommends these practices for storage
 - will automatically remap all paths and organize folder storage at time of upload

Step 1: Install SLEAP or DLC

- SLEAP - Talmo Lab - [instructions](#) - [GitHub repo](#)
- DLC - Mathis Lab - [instructions](#) - [GitHub repo](#)

- This step can take a while, but just be patient and persistent

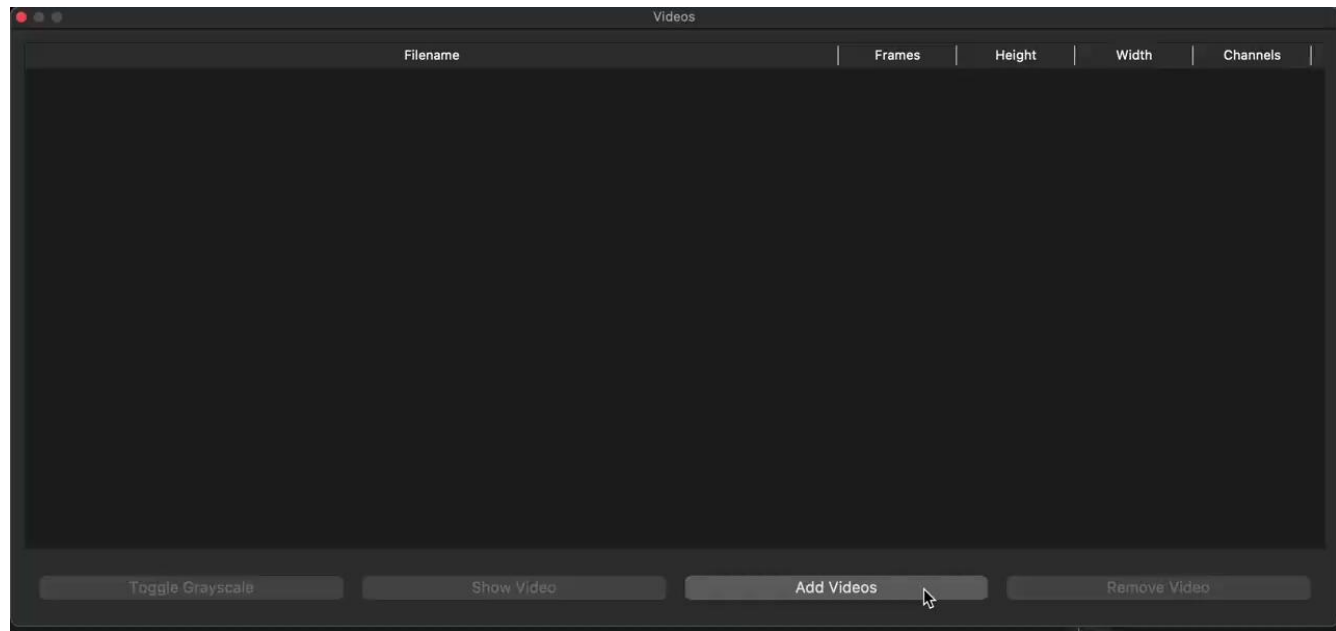
- If anything goes differently from instructions, when in doubt ask
 - Google
 - ChatGPT
 - or raise an issue on their repository or helpdesk

Step 2: Launch GUI

- These can be run headless, but for your first time I recommend using the **Graphical User Interface (GUI)** to help walk you through it
- Both are able to load in the original videos (`.mpg`, `.mp4`, `.avi`, etc...)
- Due to the previous discussion regarding storing `ImageSeries` of natural behavior, it is recommended to import directly from the raw video files when using either software package

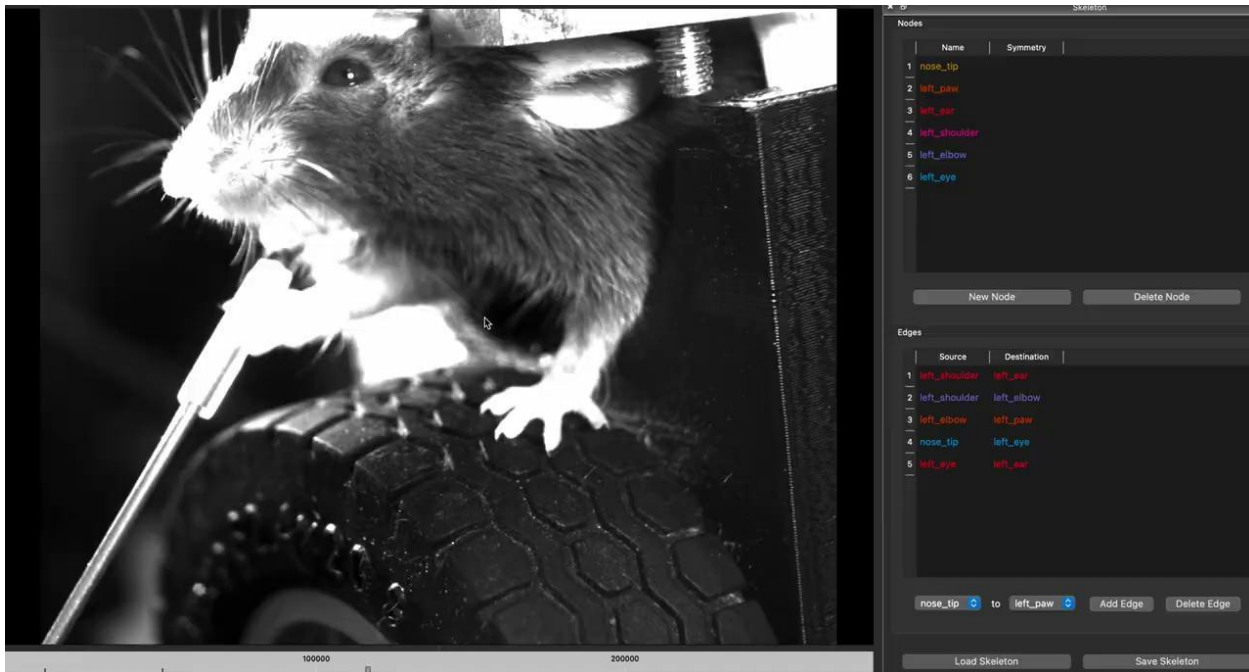
Steps 3-7

■ Step 3: Load videos



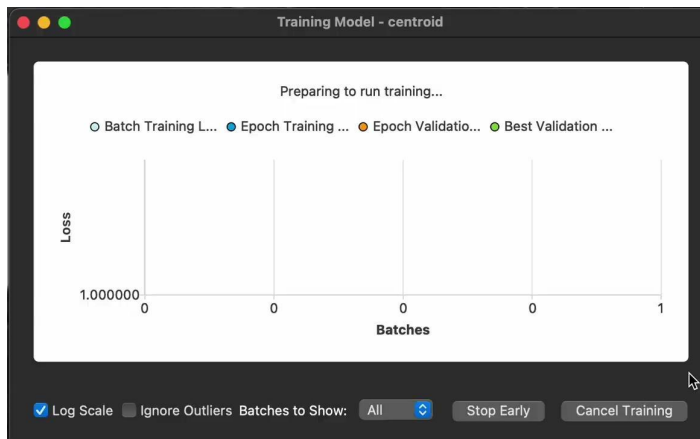
Steps 3-7

- Step 3: Load videos
- Step 4: Extract frames for training
- Step 5: Label points on the training frames

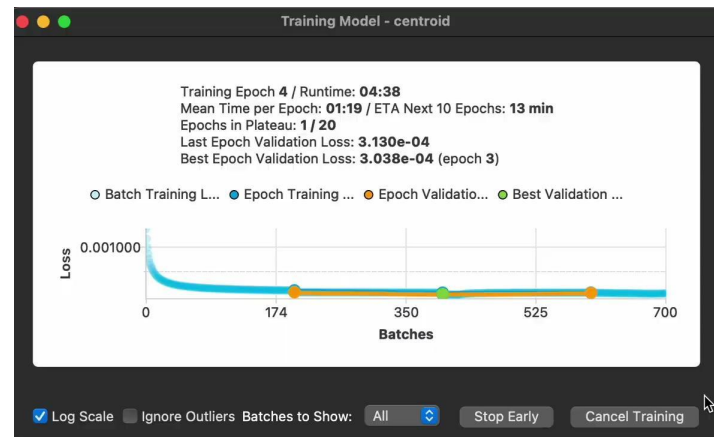


Steps 3-7

- Step 3: Load videos
- Step 4: Extract frames for training
- Step 5: Label points on the training frames
- Step 6: Train the model
- Step 7: Run the prediction



...



Output: Saving results

- The output of the prediction over the entire video can then be saved in either the source `.h5` (DLC) or `.slp` (SLEAP) formats
- These can in turn be converted to NWB format via two utility packages
 - `dlc2nwb` (`.h5` \rightarrow `.nwb`)
 - `nwb` sub-module of `sleap-io` (`.slp` \rightarrow `.nwb`)
- BONUS: SLEAP can export directly to NWB through the GUI

Understanding PoseEstimation

- In either case (or for any future integrations with keypoint tracking tools) these are modelled using a common structure in NWB called the `PoseEstimation`

```
nwbfile.processing["behavior"]["PoseEstimationLeftCamera"]
```

```
PoseEstimationLeftCamera abc.PoseEstimation at 0x140450551033632
```

```
Fields:
```

```
description: Estimated positions of body parts using DeeplabCut.
```

```
nodes: <StrDataset for HDF5 dataset "nodes": shape (11,), type "|O">
```

```
pose_estimation_series: {
```

```
    nose_tip <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    paw_l <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    paw_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    pupil_bottom_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    pupil_left_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    pupil_right_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    pupil_top_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    tongue_end_l <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    tongue_end_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    tube_bottom <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,
```

```
    tube_top <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>
```

```
}
```

```
source_software: DeeplabCut
```

Understanding PoseEstimation

- A single PoseEstimation is a container of multiple PoseEstimationSeries, one for each node (usually a body part) being tracked

```
nwbfile.processing["behavior"]["PoseEstimationLeftCamera"]
```


PoseEstimationLeftCamera abc.PoseEstimation at 0x140450551033632

Fields:

description: Estimated positions of body parts using DeepLabCut.

nodes: <StrDataset for HDF5 dataset "nodes": shape (11,), type "O">

pose_estimation_series: {

nose_tip <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>, 

paw_l <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

paw_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

pupil_bottom_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

pupil_left_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

pupil_right_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

pupil_top_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

tongue_end_l <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

tongue_end_r <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

tube_bottom <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>,

tube_top <class 'abc.PoseEstimationSeries'>

}

source_software: DeepLabCut

```
nwbfile.processing["behavior"]["PoseEstimationLeftCamera"]["nose_tip"]
```

nose_tip abc.PoseEstimationSeries at 0x140450549420416

Fields:

confidence: <HDF5 dataset "confidence": shape (242446,), type "<f8">

conversion: 1.0

data: <HDF5 dataset "data": shape (242446, 2), type "<f8">

reference_frame: (0,0) corresponds to the upper left corner when using width by height convention.

timestamps: <HDF5 dataset "timestamps": shape (242446,), type "<f8">

timestamps_unit: seconds

unit: px

Understanding PoseEstimation

- The data field of each PoseEstimationSeries represents the x/y/z positions being tracked over time

