

SBML Level 3 Package: Dynamic Structures (dyn)

NEED AUTHORS HERE

Version 1 (Draft)

September 29, 2014 (0.1 α)

This is a draft specification for the package 'dyn' and not a normative document. Please send feedback to the Package Working Group mailing list at sbml-dynamic@lists.sourceforge.net

The latest release, past releases, and other materials related to this specification are available at
http://sbml.org/Documents/Specifications/SBML_Level_3/Packages/dyn

This release of the specification is available at
[ToBeDecided](#)



Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Proposal corresponding to this package specification	3
1.2	Package dependencies	3
1.3	Document conventions	3
2	Background	5
2.1	Problems with current SBML approaches	5
2.2	Past work on this problem or similar topics	5
3	Proposed syntax and semantics	6
3.1	Overview of dyn extension	6
3.2	Namespace URI and other declarations necessary for using this package	6
3.3	Primitive data types	6
3.3.1	Type <code>CBOTerm</code>	6
3.3.2	Type <code>SpatialKind</code>	7
3.4	The extended <code>SBase</code> abstract class	7
3.4.1	The <code>cboTerm</code> attribute	7
3.5	The extended <code>Event</code> object	7
3.5.1	The <code>applyToAll</code> attribute	8
3.5.2	The <code>ListOfDynElements</code> class	8
3.6	The <code>DynElement</code> class	8
3.6.1	The <code>id</code> and <code>name</code> attributes	8
3.6.2	The <code>idRef</code> attribute	9
3.6.3	The <code>metaIdRef</code> attribute	9
3.7	The extended <code>Compartment</code> object	9
3.7.1	The <code>ListOfSpatialComponents</code> class	9
3.8	The <code>SpatialComponent</code> class	10
3.8.1	The <code>id</code> and <code>name</code> attributes	10
3.8.2	The <code>spatialIndex</code> attribute	10
3.8.3	The <code>variable</code> attribute	10
4	The Cell Behavior Ontology and the <code>cboTerm</code> attribute	11
4.1	Cell Behavior Ontology (CBO)	11
4.2	Using CBO and <code>cboTerm</code>	11
4.2.1	Structure of the Cell Behavior Ontology	11
4.2.2	CBO_Object branch	12
4.2.3	CBO_Process branch	13
4.2.4	CBO and the <code>Event</code> SBML component	13
4.2.5	Benefits of using CBO terms	14
4.2.6	Relationships to the SBML annotation element	14
5	Examples	15
5.1	Example of using dynamic events	15
5.2	Example for using <code>dyn</code> in a lattice-based model	16
5.3	Example for using <code>dyn</code> with the SBML Groups package	18
6	Best practices	20
A	Validation Rules	21
	Acknowledgments	26
	References	27

1 Introduction

Intrinsic dynamic cellular behaviors characteristic of multicellular systems (e.g., proliferation, differentiation, endocytosis, exocytosis, and cell death) may be modeled using a variety of mathematical and spatial frameworks. However, fully representing systems that undergo discrete structural changes during simulation cannot currently be accomplished using either SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core's structural constructs or available language extensions. While mathematical encoding of dynamic behaviors can be approximated, common constructs and behavior-specific semantics are still needed to signal how static constructs interact to emulate dynamic cellular behavior.

This package proposal is completely independent of all other package proposals. Though initially envisioned as being dependent on the Arrays package since dynamic structures are usually associated with compound structures such as lists, sets, and arrays, this proposal does not use constructs from any other language extension and can be used independently. Nevertheless, to facilitate the detailed encoding multicellular systems displaying dynamic cellular events, this extension is designed to work with already existing SBML packages. For example, the Hierarchical Model Composition package could be used to encapsulate portions of a model that need to change dynamically in response to a particular cellular process. The Spatial package could also be used to either describe time-varying species concentration fields as partial differential equations to match native modeling paradigms, or to specify the geometric representation of specific cellular components.

There are a sufficiently large number of multicellular simulators modeling dynamic cellular behaviors to justify the effort of creating a dynamic structures modeling extension. It is the purpose of this SBML Level 3 Version 1 proposal to define a common representation that enables modelers to encode the initial conditions and dynamics of models that include dynamic processes regardless of the spatial or mathematical methods used for simulation.

1.1 Proposal corresponding to this package specification

NEED THE URL TO UPLOADED PROPOSAL

1.2 Package dependencies

The dynamic structures package has no dependencies on other SBML Level 3 packages. It is also designed with the goal of being able to work seamlessly with other SBML Level 3 packages. For instance, one can describe dynamic cellular events in a model that incorporates features from the Hierarchical Model Composition, Groups, or Spatial package. (If any incompatibilities are discovered, please report them to the dyn Package Working Group at sbml-dynamic@lists.sourceforge.net)

1.3 Document conventions

Following the precedent set by the SBML Level 3 Core specification document, we use UML 1.0 (Unified Modeling Language; Eriksson and Penker 1998; Oestereich 1999) class diagram notation to define the constructs provided by this package. We also use color in the diagrams to carry additional information for the benefit of those viewing the document on media that can display color. The following are the colors we use and what they represent:

- **Black:** Items colored black in the UML diagrams are components taken unchanged from their definition in the SBML Level 3 Core specification document.
- **Green:** Items colored green are components that exist in SBML Level 3 Core, but are extended by this package. Class boxes are also drawn with dashed lines to further distinguish them.
- **Blue:** Items colored blue are new components introduced in this package specification. They have no equivalent in the SBML Level 3 Core specification.

We also use the following typographical conventions to distinguish the names of objects and data types from other entities; these conventions are identical to the conventions used in the SBML Level 3 Core specification document:

AbstractClass: Abstract classes are classes that are never instantiated directly, but rather serve as parents of other object classes. Their names begin with a capital letter and they are printed in a slanted, bold, sans-serif typeface. In electronic document formats, the class names defined within this document are also hyperlinked to their definitions; clicking on these items will, given appropriate software, switch the view to the section in this document containing the definition of that class. (However, for classes that are unchanged from their definitions in SBML Level 3 Core, the class names are not hyperlinked because they are not defined within this document.)

Class: Names of ordinary (concrete) classes begin with a capital letter and are printed in an upright, bold, sans-serif typeface. In electronic document formats, the class names are also hyperlinked to their definitions in this specification document. (However, as in the previous case, class names are not hyperlinked if they are for classes that are unchanged from their definitions in the SBML Level 3 Core specification.)

Something, otherThing: Attributes of classes, data type names, literal XML, and generally all tokens *other* than SBML UML class names, are printed in an upright typewriter typeface. Primitive types defined by SBML begin with a capital letter; SBML also makes use of primitive types defined by XML Schema 1.0 ([Biron and Malhotra, 2000](#); [Fallside, 2000](#); [Thompson et al., 2000](#)), but unfortunately, XML Schema does not follow any capitalization convention and primitive types drawn from the XML Schema language may or may not start with a capital letter.

For other matters involving the use of UML and XML, we follow the conventions used in the SBML Level 3 Core specification document.

2 Background

2.1 Problems with current SBML approaches

Representation of dynamical systems that undergo discrete structural changes during simulation cannot currently be accomplished mainly because SBML's structural constructs are fixed. This means that it is not possible to define the creation or removal of species, compartments, reactions, or other components from within a model. To simulate the creation or destruction of compartments, one has to use tricks. For example, a model could define all the compartments it could ever need and use variables to indicate which compartments are actually "active" at any given time. However, this would only work if the total number of compartments needed is known at the beginning of a simulation. This approach hard-codes the anatomical description of a model, which limits portability and becomes impractical beyond a few compartments.

Another limitation is the lack of appropriate constructs to represent the spatial location rearrangement that follows dynamic cellular processes. It can be argued that though unavailable in Core, SBML Level 3 Version 1 extensions such as Layout and Spatial provide the necessary constructs to represent the spatial positioning of modeling elements. However, location as implemented in the Layout package only indicates how components are to be positioned only for user visualization, which may be different from where elements are during simulation. Similarly, though the Spatial package enables the spatial mapping of modeling elements, the position of mapped components is not readily accessible, so it can not be updated as cells move, die and proliferate throughout simulation.

In defense of SBML's limitation in this area, it should be pointed out that the advent of software tools supporting dynamic cellular processes was only a handful until a few years ago. It is now clear that a variety modeling problems and platforms would benefit from this capability.

2.2 Past work on this problem or similar topics

A previous proposal for this language extension outlined the need to use compound data structures available in the Arrays and Sets package to accommodate for dynamic behavior of static SBML components. In this way, cell proliferation could be represented by adding a new cell to an array of cells, or increasing the dimension of an array of compartments. Similarly, cell death could be represented by the removal of a cell from a set. Nonetheless, dynamic creation/destruction of components using arrays proved to be impractical for large dynamic simulations. The current approach involves extending already existing SBML components and introducing new ones to emulate dynamic cellular processes as opposed to using constructs from other SBML extensions.

3 Proposed syntax and semantics

In this section, we define the syntax and semantics of the Dynamic Structures package for SBML Level 3 Version 1. We delineate the data types and constructs defined in this package, then in [Section 5 on page 15](#), we provide complete examples of using the constructs in example SBML models.

3.1 Overview of dyn extension

The primary mechanism this package uses to support dynamic cellular behavior are the **Event** and **SBase** constructs. The Dynamic Structures package extends these components to allow modelers to indicate what cellular processes are being modeled, at which point during simulation (i.e., under what cellular conditions) behaviors happen, and which modeling components are affected by them. To fully enable this, dyn also extends the **Compartment** object class to facilitate the representation of spatial rearrangements that follow dynamic cellular processes. Though such representations vary across tools based on the chosen modeling paradigm, this language extension defines the necessary constructs to enable tools to encode dynamic cellular behavior regardless of mathematical method or spatial representation framework.

3.2 Namespace URI and other declarations necessary for using this package

Every SBML Level 3 package is identified uniquely by an XML namespace URI. For an SBML document to be able to use a given SBML Level 3 package, it must declare the use of that package by referencing its URI. The following is the namespace URI for this version of the Dynamic Structures package for SBML Level 3 Version 1 :

`"http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1"`

In addition, SBML documents using a given package must indicate whether understanding the package is required for complete mathematical interpretation of a model, or whether the package is optional. This is done using the attribute **required** on the `<sbml>` element in the SBML document. For the Dynamic Structures package, the value of this attribute must be set to `"true"`. The following fragment illustrates the beginning of a typical SBML model using SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core and this version of the dyn package:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sbml xmlns="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/core" level="3" version="1"
  xmlns:dyn="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1" dyn:required="true">
```

3.3 Primitive data types

The Dynamic Structures package uses a number of the primitive data types described in Section 3.1 of the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core specification as well as a number of XML Schema 1.0 data types ([Biron and Malhotra, 2000](#)). More specifically, we make use of **boolean** and **SIdRef**. This package also adds additional primitive data types described below.

3.3.1 Type CBOTerm

The type **CBOTerm** is used as the data type of the attribute **cboTerm** on the extended **SBase** abstract class. **CBOTerm** follows the syntax defined for the **anyURI** data type, which considers it a character string data type whose values are interpretable as URIs (Universal Resource Identifiers; ([Harold and Means, 2001](#)); ([W3C, 2000](#))) as described by the W3C document RFC 3986 ([Berners-Lee et al., 2005](#)). Examples of valid string values of type CBOTerm are:

http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDeath
http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#Movement

These values are meant to be the identifiers of terms from the Cell Behavior Ontology (CBO) whose curated vocabulary describes cellular entities and processes in computational models. [Section 4 on page 11](#) provides more

information about the ontology, supported ontological terms and general principles for their use in SBML models using this extension.

3.3.2 Type **SpatialKind**

The **SpatialKind** primitive data type is used in the definition of the **SpatialComponent** class. **SpatialKind** is derived from the basic XML type **string** though it restricts possible values attributes of this data type. Supported values for attributes of this type are bound to a Cartesian coordinate system and include: “**cartesianX**”, “**cartesianY**”, “**cartesianZ**” for describing position in space; “**alpha**”, “**beta**”, and “**gamma**” for describing elemental rotations about the X, Y, and Z coordinate axes (or orientation); and “**F_x**”, “**F_y**”, and “**F_z**” for describing the vector components of the force that drives movement. Attributes of **SpatialKind** are discussed in the context of the extended **Compartment** object in [Section 3.7 on page 9](#).



Harold: The ultimate goal here is to have **SpatialKind** be of type URI and have values come from an ontology. This means that instead of the allowed values for **SpatialKind** above, modelers would either use terms from an ontology for characterizing position in space or from CBO- which may potentially be extended to do this. We hope that this will enable modelers to easily describe, for instance, objects modeled in dimensions higher than 3 or objects in vertex-based frameworks

3.4 The extended **SBase** abstract class

The **SBase** class is extended in the Dynamic Structures package. As nearly every object composing an SBML Level 3 model has a data type that is derived directly or indirectly from **SBase**, the addition of a **cboTerm** attribute enables modelers to attach cell-behavior specific ontological terms to each major element or list in an SBML model. [Figure 1](#) provides the corresponding UML diagram of the extended **SBase** class.

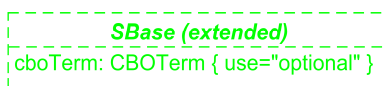


Figure 1: A UML representation of the extended **SBase** abstract class. See [Section 1.3](#) for conventions related to this figure.

3.4.1 The **cboTerm** attribute

The attribute called **cboTerm** on the **SBase** abstract class supports the use of Cell Behavior Ontology(CBO) terms on most SBML components. The relationship is of the form "an SBML component is-a X", where X is the CBO term. The term chosen should be the most precise one that captures the role of the component in the model. The value of **cboTerm** must conform to the syntax permitted by the **CBOTerm** data type previously described in [Section 3.3.1 on the previous page](#) of the current specification. The scope of the **cboTerm** attribute is local to the enclosing object definition and is not visible outside the object definition.

As described in [Section 3.5](#), though nearly all SBML components may define values for this attribute, special focus is placed on **Event** constructs. For a discussion on supported values for **cboTerm** on particular SBML objects and CBO in general, see [Section 4 on page 11](#).

3.5 The extended **Event** object

The **Event** class is extended in the Dynamic Structures package. Adding a value for the **SBase**-inherited **cboTerm** attribute allows a modeler, or a software package, to attach semantical information to events triggered to model dynamic cellular processes. The **applyToAll** attribute and subobjects **ListOfDynElements** and **DynElement** allow modelers to indicate which SBML components are involved in a given **Event**. [Figure 2](#) provides the corresponding UML diagram.

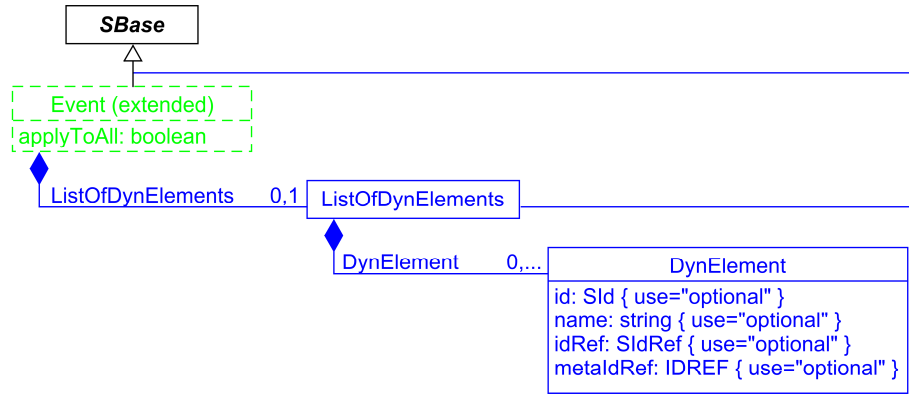


Figure 2: A UML representation of the extended **Event** class and newly defined **ListOfDynElements** and **DynElement** objects. See Section 1.3 for conventions related to this figure.

3.5.1 The **applyToAll** attribute

The **applyToAll** attribute is used as a mechanism for indicating which SBML model components are impacted by the execution of the current dynamic **Event**. If the value of this attribute is “**true**”, then all SBML elements in the model are involved in the **Event**. If “**false**”, modelers must list the specific components that are affected by means of the **ListOfDynElements** class. For instance, if the value of the **cboTerm** attribute semantically annotates the current **Event** as modeling cell death, the **applyToAll** attribute allows modelers to chose whether only some or all of the model components are to be removed from the simulation.

3.5.2 The **ListOfDynElements** class

An extended **Event** component with “**false**” as value for its **applyToAll** attribute must define an object of class **ListOfDynElements**. This object contains a list of **DynElement** references that uniquely identify the set of SBML components involved in the execution of a given dynamic **Event**.

3.6 The **DynElement** class

A **DynElement** object contains unique references to SBML components defined within a model. These references are pooled by a **ListOfDynElements** construct and modified characteristically depending on the cellular process that is modeled. This construct contains two optional attributes, **id** and **name**, which allow others to reference it. **DynElement** also defines two optional attributes, **idRef** and **metaIdRef**, which serve to store a reference to a given SBML component in the model. It is important to note that exactly one (and only one) of these attributes (**idRef** and **metaIdRef**) must have a value in a given **DynElement** object instance, and that references are not permitted to be circular: no **DynElement** may reference itself, its parent **ListOfDynElements**, nor its parent **Event**.

3.6.1 The **id** and **name** attributes

The optional **id** attribute serves to provide a way to reference **DynElement** objects from elsewhere in the model. The attribute takes a value of type **SId**. Note that the identifier of a **DynElement** reference carries no mathematical interpretation and cannot be used in mathematical formulas in a model. **DynElement** also carries an optional **name** attribute, which is of type **string**. The **name** attribute may be used in the same manner as other name attributes on SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core objects; please refer to Section 3.3.2 of the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core specification for more information.

3.6.2 The **idRef** attribute

The **idRef** is an optional attribute of the type **SIIDRef** that must be defined if a **DynElement** has no defined **metaIdRef** attribute, and must not be defined otherwise. This attribute is used to reference single anatomical structures (compartments or submodels) or additional SBML components that are altered following the execution of a given dynamic event. Only model elements having identifiers of type **SIID** can be referenced by this attribute.

The namespace in which the **SIID** is to be found is the **SIID** namespace of the **Model** to which the **DynElement** belongs. This includes elements from SBML packages which may have elements with id values that are part of the **SIID** namespace of the **Model**, such as **Deletion** elements from the Hierarchical Model Composition package, **FluxBound** elements from the Flux Balance Constraints package, and **Group** and **Member** elements from the Groups package. Conversely, elements with id values that are not part of the **SIID** namespace of the **Model** such as **UnitDefinition** and **LocalParameter** elements in SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, or **Port** elements from the Hierarchical Model Composition package, may not be referenced by this **idRef** attribute.

When **idRef** points to **Compartment** element, it is advisable to define a **ListOfSpatialComponents** object as seen in Section 3.7. This ensures that when an extended **Event** is executed, referenced cellular compartments will have an assigned spatial description, which is important in representing dynamic behavior. On the other hand, if this attribute points to the identifier of a **Group** from the SBML Groups extension, the **DynElement** references not the **Group** element, but all the elements within instead. For a complete description of how **DynElement** class instances are affected by different behaviors modeled in an extended **Event**, refer to Section 4.2.4 on page 13.

3.6.3 The **metaIdRef** attribute

The **metaIdRef** is an optional attribute of the type **IDREF** that must be defined if a **DynElement** has no defined **idRef** attribute, and must not be defined otherwise. This attribute is used to reference single anatomical structures (compartments or submodels) or additional SBML components that are altered following the execution of a given dynamic event. This attribute points to the **metaid** attribute value of other objects in the **Model** and should be used in cases where the object being referenced does not have an identifier in the **Model SIID** namespace, which is the case of the **UnitDefinition** and **LocalParameter** elements in SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core.

Since meta identifiers are optional attributes of **SBase**, all SBML objects have the potential to have a meta identifier value, including most elements from other SBML packages. Note that even if used in conjunction with the Hierarchical Model Composition package, this attribute is not allowed to reference elements from other **Model** objects in the same SBML document. Moreover, as in the case of **idRef**, if **metaIdRef** points to **Compartment** element, it is advisable to define a **ListOfSpatialComponents** object as explained in Section 3.7.

3.7 The extended **Compartment** object

The **Compartment** class may be extended to represent the spatial location and subsequent rearrangement that follows dynamic cellular processes emulated by extended **Event** constructs. Refer to Section 4 on page 11 for a list of supported dynamic cellular processes and associated ontological terms. This SBML extension adds to **Compartment** the subobjects **ListOfSpatialComponents** and **SpatialComponent** to describe the location and orientation of cellular components as well as how they move in space. Figure 3 provides the corresponding UML diagram of the various features of the extended **Compartment** class.

3.7.1 The **ListOfSpatialComponents** class

Compartments mapped by a **DynElement** construct may contain a **listOfSpatialComponents** element, of class **ListOfSpatialComponents**. Each list contains **SpatialComponent** objects that together serve to describe the spatial location (center of mass), orientation (Euler angles) and force vector (in the case of movement) of a given **Compartment**. If mapped, a **Compartment** cannot have an empty **ListOfSpatialComponents** list.

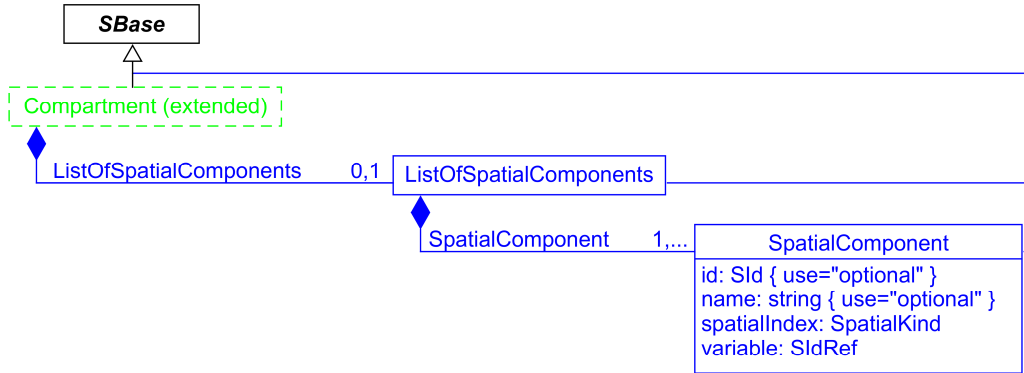


Figure 3: UML diagram for the extension of the **Compartment** object and the definition of **ListOfSpatialComponents** and **SpatialComponent** classes. See [Section 1.3](#) for conventions related to this figure.

3.8 The **SpatialComponent** class

Instances of the **SpatialComponent** class may represent individual components of either the spatial location, orientation or force vector of mapped **Compartment** structures that are involved in dynamic events. To this end, this construct defines two mandatory attributes: **spatialIndex** and **variable**. Being derived from **SBase**, this class also has all the usual attributes and elements of its parent class.

3.8.1 The **id** and **name** attributes

The optional **id** attribute serves to provide a way to reference **SpatialComponent** objects from elsewhere in the model. The attribute takes a value of type **SId**. Note that the identifier of a **SpatialComponent** reference carries no mathematical interpretation and cannot be used in mathematical formulas in a model. **SpatialComponent** also carries an optional **name** attribute, which is of type **string**. The **name** attribute may be used in the same manner as other name attributes on SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core objects; please refer to Section 3.3.2 of the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core specification for more information.

3.8.2 The **spatialIndex** attribute

The attribute **spatialIndex** of type **SpatialKind** is added to uniquely identify individual components of either the spatial location, orientation or force vector of an object modeled in a Cartesian coordinate system. **SpatialIndex** may take one of all the possible **SpatialKind** values specified in [Section 3.3.2 on page 7](#). A single “**cartesianX**” **SpatialComponent** can be used to define one-dimensional systems; two-dimensional systems are in turn characterized by having two **SpatialComponent** children with **spatialIndex** values of “**cartesianX**” and “**cartesianY**”; and three-dimensional ones can be defined by having three **SpatialComponent** elements with **spatialIndex** values of “**cartesianX**”, “**cartesianY**”, and “**cartesianZ**”. Rotational angles along X, Y and Z coordinate axes (orientation) may be defined by having **SpatialComponent** elements with respective **spatialIndex** values of “**alpha**”, “**beta**”, and “**gamma**”. Finally, values such as “**F_x**”, “**F_y**”, and “**F_z**” for **spatialIndex** can be used to describe the X, Y, and Z vector components of the force that characterizes object movement in space.

3.8.3 The **variable** attribute

The **variable** attribute of type **SIdRef** contains the identifier of a **Parameter** defined in the model that serves to quantitatively specify an object’s position, orientation or force components. The scope of the referenced **Parameter** component must be global to the whole model and its **constant** attribute must be set to “**false**” as the spatiality of the associated **Compartment** may change in response to dynamic processes.

4 The Cell Behavior Ontology and the `cboTerm` attribute

It is difficult to determine the semantics of **Event** constructs used to model intrinsic cellular behavior from SBML attributes alone. The `id` attribute on **Event** objects allows for unique identification and cross-referencing while the `name` attribute allows the assignment of human readable labels to Events. Possible values for these attributes are unrestricted so that modelers can choose whichever fits their modeling framework and preference best. However, this means that without any additional human intervention, software tools are unable to discern the semantics of an extended **Event** element modeling dynamic behavior. For instance, it would be inadvisable to interpret that an **Event** is modeling the process of cellular death even if the `id` and `name` of such **Event** have the string “Cell Death” as value. Additionally, as one may need to convert a dynamic **Event** between different representations (e.g., Cellular Potts Model vs. Center-based off-lattice Model), there is a need to provide a standard, framework-independent, way of associating **Event** components with given cellular processes.

A solution inspired by SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core is to associate model components with terms from carefully curated controlled vocabularies (CVs). This is the purpose of the `cboTerm` provided through the extended **SBase** class in [Section 3.4 on page 7](#). The `cboTerm` facilitates the annotation of **Event** components, among others, with terms belonging to the Cell Behavior Ontology (CBO) ([Sluka et al., 2014](#)). In this section, we discuss **CBO**, its usage in SBML models via the `cboTerm` attribute and relevant modeling implications in the case of **Event** objects.

4.1 Cell Behavior Ontology (CBO)

The development and use of bio-ontologies stems from the need to characterize and describe domains of biology in a standard way. The Cell Behavior Ontology (CBO) provides a carefully curated, controlled vocabulary that can be used to describe the behavior of a cell over time (dynamics) in a framework-independent manner, which enables the reliable exchange of biological descriptions. The Dynamic Structures SBML extension allows modelers to use available CBO identifiers to tag SBML components via its attribute `cboTerm` to make the underlying biology and spatiality of the cellular process being modeled more explicit. The relationship between a `cboTerm` term describing an SBML component and the CBO term being used is of the form “the component is-A X”, where X is the CBO term. Though CBO support provides an important source of information to understand the meaning of extended **Event** elements, software does not need to support CBO terms to be considered SBML compliant.

The presence of a `cboTerm` attribute in an extended **Event** is understood to change the way the **Event** is interpreted and simulated. Annotating SBML **Event** elements with CBO terms adds necessary semantic information that may be used to convert such **Event** from one framework to another when shared; it enables software tools to recognize precisely what cellular behavior this component is meant to model. For example, if the `cboTerm` has the value of http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDeath for a given **Event**, regardless of the value that the `id` or `name` attributes are given or the modeling method used, the **Event** labeled with this ontological term will be understood to model the dynamics of cellular death.

4.2 Using CBO and `cboTerm`

The `cboTerm` attribute is always of `CBOTerm` data type, as defined in [Section 3.4.1 on page 7](#). When present, the attribute's value must be the full identifier of a single term taken from the Cell Behavior Ontology. The term chosen should be the most precise one that best summarizes the agent or phenomenon represented by a given SBML component. The relationship indicated by the presence of a non-empty `cboTerm` attribute in an **Event**, for instance, is of the form “the Event is-A X”, where X is the CBO term.

4.2.1 Structure of the Cell Behavior Ontology

The purpose of CBO is to standardize the description of intrinsic physical and biological characteristics of cells and tissues, which provides a basis for describing the spatial and observable dynamic behavior of cells in SBML models. To achieve this, CBO is split into controlled vocabularies for **CBO_Objects**, which describe the physical entities of a biological model and **CBO_Processs**, which describe the processes that aforementioned objects participate in.

Figure 4 illustrates the taxonomy of CBO at the highest level.

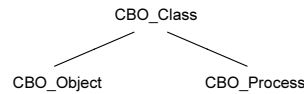


Figure 4: The controlled vocabularies that make up the main branches of CBO.

As this SBML extension uses CBO as a reference ontology for the description of modeling elements inheriting from **SBase**, the vocabulary supported in this extension is taken from both the **CBO_Object** and **CBO_Process** branches. Each of these branches has a hierarchy of terms underneath them which may be represented by different SBML components. At this time, we can only begin to list some initial concepts and terms of CBO; what follows is not meant to be complete, comprehensive or even necessarily consistent with future versions of CBO. The website for CBO (<http://biportal.bioontology.org/ontologies/CBO>) should be consulted for a current version of the ontology.

4.2.2 CBO_Object branch

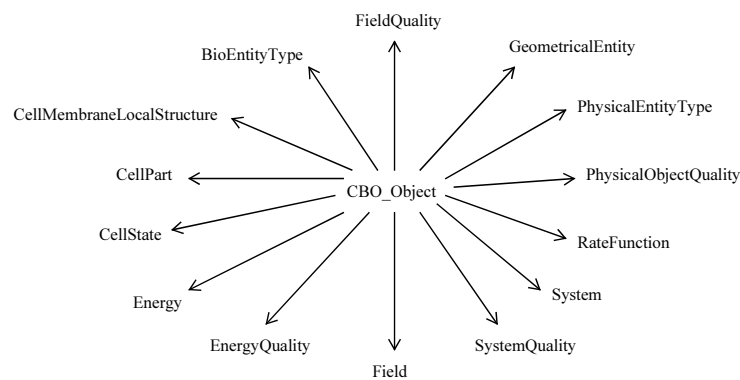


Figure 5: The controlled vocabularies that make up the **CBO_Object** branch.

Figure 5 shows the structure of the **CBO_Object** branch, which describes cell and non-cellular tissue components. As the CBO represents entities of a biological model as agents with the characteristics of physical objects, this branch includes terms to represent physical objects such as cells, membranes and cross-sections. Sub-branches such as the **BioEntityType**, **CellMembraneLocalStructure**, **CellPart** and **GeometricalEntity** each possess hierarchical groupings of the types of physical entities that can be represented in SBML by the **Compartment** and **Species** components. These include, but are not limited to cells, extracellular fluid/matrix, cellular structures such as filopodium in the case of motile cells and cellular regions such as the nucleus or cytoplasm.

The **CBO_Object** hierarchy also contains terms that enable the quantitative description of these biological entities. Hierarchies of these terms include sub-branches such as **PhysicalObjectQuality** and **Energy**, which indicate object properties such as mass, age, electrical or energy functions for physical objects. This controlled vocabulary for quantitative parameters or functions is best mapped in SBML by the **Parameter** and **FunctionDefinition** objects.

Also, defined under the **CBO_Object** substructure are classes of ontological terms that represent concepts associated with the SBML **Parameter** and **Model** objects. The **System—model** and **SystemQuality—model** branches possess groupings for the description of model extents, computational platform and system boundaries.

4.2.3 CBO_Process branch

Figure 6 shows the structure of the **CBO_Process** branch, which describes processes involving physical agents such as cells. This branch includes hierarchies such as **CellProcess**, **StructuralProcess**, **FundamentalPhysicalProcess** and **MoleculeProcess** that serve to describe existential processes of cells and molecules- i.e., dynamic behavior. Examples of supported processes are cell–cell adhesion, cell division and cell death, as well as existential processes of other model components such as molecule transport, diffusion, creation and destruction. The aforementioned branches possess hierarchical groupings of the types that are traditionally represented in SBML through either the **Reaction**, **Rule** or **Event** elements.

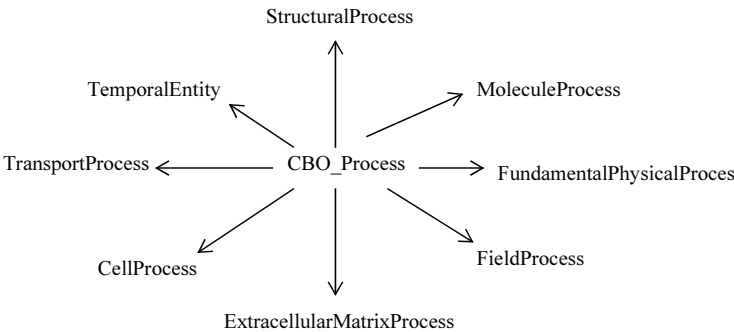


Figure 6: The controlled vocabularies that make up the **CBO_Process** branch.

4.2.4 CBO and the Event SBML component

One of the mechanisms the Dynamic Structures package uses to support the modeling of dynamic cellular behavior is the extension of the **SBase** abstract class to both annotate SBML components and impart specific simulation semantics to the **Event** construct. Under this extension, **Event** objects may carry a **cboTerm** attribute, whose value must be a full term identifier taken from the **CBO_Process** vocabulary branch, which describes the behavior modeled by said **Event**. Given substantial community input, the initial version of this package supports a handful of dynamic cellular behaviors. Table 1 displays supported dynamic processes and their corresponding CBO terms. This table is preliminary and should not be taken as complete. It is merely intended to provide a formalism for the cross-platform interpretation and execution of CBO-annotated **Event** constructs.

Cell Behaviors	CBO Terms
Cell Division	http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDivision
Cell Death	http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDeath
Cell Movement	http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#Movement

Table 1: Subset of supported cellular behaviors and corresponding CBO terms

The following list contains a description of specific simulation semantics for each of the behaviors shown in Table 1 when present in an **Event**. A description of how other constructs are affected as a result of each behavior is also provided. SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1 requires that software wishing to support dynamic cellular processes, understand the CBO vocabulary defined below:

- A **Cell Division** term as value for the **cboTerm** attribute indicates that the **Event** defines, by means of a **Trigger** subobject, the mathematical conditions under which cellular division is to take place. When the **applyToAll Event** attribute is set to “false”, the presence of this CBO term also dictates that model components whose **id** or **metaid** is referenced by a **DynElement** in the **ListOfDynElements** subobject have to be duplicated

into a daughter cell. Quantities of the respective species and size of the compartments are set to half of the original in the case of symmetric cell division. When the value of `applyToAll` is “true”, all model elements are duplicated.

- A CBO term for *Cell Death* as value for a `cboTerm` attribute indicates that the **Event** defines, by means of a **Trigger** subobject, the mathematical conditions under which cell death is to take place. When the `applyToAll Event` attribute is set to “false”, the presence of this CBO term also dictates that SBML model components whose `id` or `metaid` is referenced by a `DynElement` in the `ListOfDynElements` subobject have to be removed from the model. When the value of `applyToAll` is “true”, all model elements are removed.
- A CBO term for *Movement* as value for a `cboTerm` attribute indicates that the **Event** defines, by means of its **Trigger** subobject, the mathematical conditions under which cell movement is to take place. When the `applyToAll Event` attribute is set to “false”, the presence of this CBO term also dictates that SBML model **Compartments** whose `id` or `metaid` is referenced by a `DynElement` in the `ListOfDynElements` subobject will have their position updated according to the force vector defined as a `SpatialComponent`. When the value of `applyToAll` is “true”, the spatial location of all model **Compartments** is also updated.

Although the use of CBO can be beneficial on elucidating the role of modeling elements, it is critical to keep in mind that the presence of a `cboTerm` value on an object does not change the fundamental mathematical meaning of the model. SBML models must be defined in a way, so that they stand on their own without depending on additional information added by CBO terms for a correct mathematical interpretation. In the case of labeled **Event** elements, CBO term definitions will only imply alternative simulation semantics. Though tools not supporting these specific **Event** semantics will not be able to reproduce dynamic behaviors as intended, they will be able to understand the meaning of said **Event**. Allowing the use of `cboTerm` in **Event** elements to alter the mathematical meaning of a model would allow too much leeway to slip inconsistent concepts into SBML objects, ultimately reducing model interoperability.

4.2.5 Benefits of using CBO terms

The presented CBO-based approach to annotating SBML *sBase*-derived components with controlled terms has, just like the SBO-based approach presented in SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, the following strengths:

1. The syntax required is very straight-forward and requires a single `string` containing the `id` of a supported CBO term.
2. Supported CBO terms cover a relevant portion of the cellular behaviors required by the community.
3. It does not interfere with already-existing annotation schemes implemented by either Core or other available SBML extensions.
4. It may be expanded to accommodate further SBML community input without considerable changes to the `ids` of the terms themselves or the hierarchical taxonomy of the ontology.

4.2.6 Relationships to the SBML annotation element

A common mechanism used to provide information regarding modeled dynamic cellular behaviors is the *sBase Annotation* component. Annotations are commonly used by software tools, which generally have their own vocabulary for supporting similar cellular behaviors. However, the best-practice recommendation for interoperability is to use the `cboTerm` attribute in the **Event** object rather than an **Annotation** component. Software tools are encouraged to translate their tool-specific **Annotation** schemes to the proposed **CBO-based** approach when writing SBML models that include dynamic cellular behaviors.

5 Examples

This section contains a variety of examples on how to employ the constructs and extensions provided by the SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1.

5.1 Example of using dynamic events

This example depicts a model of single-cell population dynamics using the extended **Event** construct introduced in [Section 3.5 on page 7](#).

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sbml xmlns="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/core" level="3" version="1"
  xmlns:dyn="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1" dyn:required="true">

  <model id="singleCell">
    <listOfCompartments>
      <compartment id="Extracellular" spatialDimensions="3" size="8000000" constant="true" />
      <compartment id="PlasmaMembrane" spatialDimensions="2" size="314" constant="true"/>
      <compartment id="Cytosol" spatialDimensions="3" size="523" constant="true"/>
    </listOfCompartments>
    <listOfSpecies>
      <species id="C_EC" compartment="Extracellular" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="RTR_M" compartment="PlasmaMembrane" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="RCC_M" compartment="PlasmaMembrane" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="A_C" compartment="Cytosol" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="AA_C" compartment="Cytosol" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="T" compartment="Cytosol" initialConcentration="10" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="S" compartment="Cytosol" initialConcentration="5" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
    </listOfSpecies>
    <listOfReactions>
      <reaction id="r1" reversible="true" fast="false" compartment="Extracellular">
        <listOfReactants>
          <speciesReference species="RTR_M" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
          <speciesReference species="C_EC" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfReactants>
        <listOfProducts>
          <speciesReference species="RCC_M" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfProducts>
      </reaction>
      <reaction id="r2" reversible="true" fast="false" compartment="Cytosol">
        <listOfReactants>
          <speciesReference species="A_C" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfReactants>
        <listOfProducts>
          <speciesReference species="AA_C" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfProducts>
        <listOfModifiers>
          <modifierSpeciesReference species="RCC_M"/>
        </listOfModifiers>
      </reaction>
    </listOfReactions>
    <listOfEvents>
      <event useValuesFromTriggerTime="true" dyn:applyToAll="true"
        dyn:cboTerm="http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDeath">
        <trigger initialValue="false" persistent="true">
          <math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
```

```

        <apply> <lt;/> <ci> AA_C </ci> <ci> T </ci> </apply>
      </math>
    </trigger>
  </event>
  <event useValuesFromTriggerTime="true" dyn:applyToAll= "true"
    dyn:cboTerm="http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDivision">
    <trigger initialValue="false" persistent="true">
      <math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
        <apply> <lt;/> <ci> AA_C </ci> <ci> S </ci> </apply>
      </math>
    </trigger>
  </event>
</listOfEvents>
</model>
</sbml>

```

In the model above, a single cell was defined with species “C_EC” and “RTR_M” forming the complex “RCC_M” on the membrane. The intracellular domain of this complex then catalyzes the activation of the “A_C” into “AA_C”, which later returns to “A_C”. Each of the extended **Event** structures supports the modeling of a different dynamic behavior and are triggered when the concentration of “AA_C” goes below a threshold value of “T” or “S”. When executed, each **Event** will impact all model components as the **applyToAll** attribute is set to “true”.

5.2 Example for using **dyn** in a lattice-based model

This example illustrates a multicellular grid-based model using the extended **SBase**, **Event** and **Compartment** constructs introduced in [Section 3 on page 6](#). To accurately encode the model aggregation shown below, several elements from the Hierarchical Model Composition package were also used.

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sbml xmlns="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/core"
  xmlns:comp="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/comp/version1"
  xmlns:dyn="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1"
  comp:required="true" dyn:required="true" level="3" version="1">

  <model id="grid2x2">
    <listOfCompartments>
      <compartment id="Loc1" spatialDimensions="2" size="1" constant="false">
        <dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianX" dyn:variable="q1_X" />
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianY" dyn:variable="q1_Y" />
        </dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
        <comp:listOfReplacedElements>
          <comp:replacedElement comp:idRef="C" comp:submodelRef="GRID_1_1_cell"/>
        </comp:listOfReplacedElements>
      </compartment>
      <compartment id="Loc2" spatialDimensions="2" size="1" constant="false">
        <dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianX" dyn:variable="q2_X" />
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianY" dyn:variable="q2_Y" />
        </dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
        <comp:listOfReplacedElements>
          <comp:replacedElement comp:idRef="C" comp:submodelRef="GRID_1_2_cell"/>
        </comp:listOfReplacedElements>
      </compartment>
      <compartment id="Loc3" spatialDimensions="2" size="1" constant="false">
        <dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianX" dyn:variable="q3_X" />
          <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianY" dyn:variable="q3_Y" />
        </dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
        <comp:listOfReplacedElements>
          <comp:replacedElement comp:idRef="C" comp:submodelRef="GRID_2_1_cell"/>
        </comp:listOfReplacedElements>
      </compartment>
    </listOfCompartments>
  </model>

```



```

2   <compartment id="Loc4" spatialDimensions="2" size="1" constant="false">
3     <dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
4       <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianX" dyn:variable="q4_X" />
5       <dyn:spatialComponent dyn:spatialIndex="cartesianY" dyn:variable="q4_Y" />
6     </dyn:listOfSpatialComponents>
7     <comp:listOfReplacedElements>
8       <comp:replacedElement comp:idRef="C" comp:submodelRef="GRID_2_2_cell"/>
9     </comp:listOfReplacedElements>
10    </compartment>
11  </listOfCompartments>
12  <listOfParameters>
13    <parameter id="q1_X" value="1" constant="false"/>
14    <parameter id="q1_Y" value="1" constant="false"/>
15    <parameter id="q2_X" value="2" constant="false"/>
16    <parameter id="q2_Y" value="1" constant="false"/>
17    <parameter id="q3_X" value="1" constant="false"/>
18    <parameter id="q3_Y" value="2" constant="false"/>
19    <parameter id="q4_X" value="2" constant="false"/>
20    <parameter id="q4_Y" value="2" constant="false"/>
21  </listOfParameters>
22  <comp:listOfSubmodels>
23    <comp:submodel comp:id="GRID_1_1_cell" comp:modelRef="Cell"/>
24    <comp:submodel comp:id="GRID_1_2_cell" comp:modelRef="Cell"/>
25    <comp:submodel comp:id="GRID_2_1_cell" comp:modelRef="Cell"/>
26    <comp:submodel comp:id="GRID_2_2_cell" comp:modelRef="Cell"/>
27  </comp:listOfSubmodels>
28 </model>
29
30 <comp:listOfModelDefinitions>
31   <comp:modelDefinition id="Cell">
32     <listOfCompartments>
33       <compartment id="C" spatialDimensions="2" size="1" constant="false"/>
34     </listOfCompartments>
35     <listOfSpecies>
36       <species id="R" compartment="C" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
37         boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
38       <species id="S" compartment="C" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
39         boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
40     </listOfSpecies>
41     <listOfReactions>
42       <reaction id="Degradation_R" reversible="false" fast="false" compartment="C">
43         <listOfReactants>
44           <speciesReference species="R" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
45         </listOfReactants>
46       </reaction>
47       <reaction id="Degradation_S" reversible="false" fast="false" compartment="C">
48         <listOfReactants>
49           <speciesReference species="S" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
50         </listOfReactants>
51       </reaction>
52     </listOfReactions>
53     <listOfEvents>
54       <event id="event0" useValuesFromTriggerTime="false" dyn:applyToAll="true"
55         dyn:cboTerm="http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDivision">
56         <trigger initialValue="false" persistent="false">
57           <math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
58             <true/>
59           </math>
60         </trigger>
61       </event>
62     </listOfEvents>
63   </comp:modelDefinition>
64 </comp:listOfModelDefinitions>
65 </sbml>

```

In the model above, we defined a cell with a degradation reaction for species “R” and species “S”. This model also contains an extended **Event** structure to indicate when the cell divides. Given that the **applyToAll** attribute is set to “true”, all of the cell components will be affected as a result of this **Event**. The “Cell” model is instantiated 4 times within the “grid2x2” model to define a grid of 2 by 2. This model contains 4 **Compartment** elements each extending a **ListOfSpatialComponents** which positions them within the grid.

5.3 Example for using **dyn** with the SBML **Groups** package

This example shows a multicellular lattice-free model using the extended **Event** construct introduced in [Section 3 on page 6](#) and provides a use case for data objects defined in the **Groups** package.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sbml xmlns="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/core"
      xmlns:dyn="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1"
      xmlns:groups="http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/groups/version1"
      level="3" version="1" groups:required="false" dyn:required="true" >

  <model id="Cell">
    <listOfCompartments>
      <compartment id="C" spatialDimensions="3" constant="false" />
    </listOfCompartments>
    <listOfSpecies>
      <species id="E" compartment="C" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="P" compartment="C" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="EP" compartment="C" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
      <species id="T" compartment="C" initialConcentration="5" hasOnlySubstanceUnits="false"
        boundaryCondition="false" constant="false"/>
    </listOfSpecies>
    <listOfReactions>
      <reaction id="Association" compartment="C" reversible="false" fast="false">
        <listOfReactants>
          <speciesReference species="E" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
          <speciesReference species="P" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfReactants>
        <listOfProducts>
          <speciesReference species="EP" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfProducts>
      </reaction>
      <reaction id="Dissociation" compartment="C" reversible="false" fast="false">
        <listOfReactants>
          <speciesReference species="EP" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfReactants>
        <listOfProducts>
          <speciesReference species="E" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
          <speciesReference species="P" stoichiometry="1" constant="true"/>
        </listOfProducts>
      </reaction>
    </listOfReactions>
    <groups:listOfGroups>
      <groups:group groups:id="cellGroup" groups:kind="partonomy">
        <groups:listOfMembers>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="C"/>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="E"/>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="P"/>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="EP"/>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="Association"/>
          <groups:member groups:idRef="Dissociation"/>
        </groups:listOfMembers>
      </groups:group>
    </groups:listOfGroups>
  </model>
</sbml>
```

```

<listOfEvents>
  <event useValuesFromTriggerTime="true" dyn:applyToAll= "false"
    dyn:cboTerm="http://cbo.biocomplexity.indiana.edu/svn/cbo/trunk/CBO_1_0.owl#CellDeath">
    <trigger initialValue="false" persistent="true">
      <math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
        <apply> <lt/> <ci> EP </ci> <ci> T </ci> </apply>
      </math>
    </trigger>
    <dyn:listOfDynElements>
      <dyn:dynElement dyn:idRef="cellGroup"/>
    </dyn:listOfDynElements>
  </event>
</listOfEvents>
</model>
</sbml>

```

The previous example portrays a simple model containing both an association reaction that produces the complex “EP” from “E” and “P” and a dissociation reaction. This cell model also contains an extended **Event** structure to signal that death only occurs when the concentration of “EP” is less than a given threshold “T”. This example illustrates a different way to indicate which SBML components are affected during a cellular event. While the **applyToAll** attribute provides the means to specify whether all or some SBML elements are impacted, modelers can also use the **ListofGroups** construct from the **Groups** package, which allows them to specify the nature of the relationship between elements.

6 Best practices

In this section, we recommend a number of practices for using and interpreting the various constructs in the **dyn** package. Neglecting these recommendations may not render a model invalid, but may reduce the degree of interoperability that can be achieved when sharing it. Hence, we strongly advocate the following practices when using the SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1:

A Validation Rules

This section summarizes all the conditions that must (or in some cases, at least *should*) be true of an SBML Level 3 Version 1 model that uses the Dynamic Structures package. We use the same conventions as are used in the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core specification document. In particular, there are different degrees of rule strictness. Formally, the differences are expressed in the statement of a rule: either a rule states that a condition *must* be true, or a rule states that it *should* be true. Rules of the former kind are strict SBML validation rules—a model encoded in SBML must conform to all of them in order to be considered valid. Rules of the latter kind are consistency rules. To help highlight these differences, we use the following three symbols next to the rule numbers:

- ☑ A checked box indicates a *requirement* for SBML conformance. If a model does not follow this rule, it does not conform to the Dynamic Structures specification. (Mnemonic intention behind the choice of symbol: “This must be checked.”)
- ▲ A triangle indicates a *recommendation* for model consistency. If a model does not follow this rule, it is not considered strictly invalid as far as the Dynamic Structures specification is concerned; however, it indicates that the model contains a physical or conceptual inconsistency. (Mnemonic intention behind the choice of symbol: “This is a cause for warning.”)
- ★ A star indicates a strong recommendation for good modeling practice. This rule is not strictly a matter of SBML encoding, but the recommendation comes from logical reasoning. As in the previous case, if a model does not follow this rule, it is not considered an invalid SBML encoding. (Mnemonic intention behind the choice of symbol: “You’re a star if you heed this.”)

The validation rules listed in the following subsections are all stated or implied in the rest of this specification document. They are enumerated here for convenience. Unless explicitly stated, all validation rules concern objects and attributes specifically defined in the Dynamic Structures package.

🗉 For convenience and brevity, we use the shorthand “**dyn:x**” to stand for an attribute or element name **x** in the namespace for the Dynamic Structures package, using the namespace prefix **dyn**. In reality, the prefix string may be different from the literal “**dyn**” used here (and indeed, it can be any valid XML namespace prefix that the modeler or software chooses). We use “**dyn:x**” because it is shorter than to write a full explanation everywhere we refer to an attribute or element in the Dynamic Structures package namespace.

General rules about the Dynamic Structures package

- dyn-10101** ☑ To conform to Version 1 of the Dynamic Structures package specification for SBML Level 3, an SBML document must declare the use of the following XML Namespace: “<http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1>”. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.2 on page 6](#).)
- dyn-10102** ☑ Wherever they appear in an SBML document, elements and attributes from the Dynamic Structures package must be declared either implicitly or explicitly to be in the XML namespace: “<http://www.sbml.org/sbml/level3/version1/dyn/version1>”. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.2 on page 6](#).)

Rules for the extended SBML class

- dyn-10201** ☑ In all SBML documents using the Dynamic Structures package, the **SBML** object must include a value for the attribute **dyn:required** attribute. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.1.2.)
- dyn-10202** ☑ The value of attribute **dyn:required** on the **SBML** object must be of the data type **boolean**. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.1.2.)

- dyn-10203** ✓ The value of attribute **dyn:required** on the **SBML** object must be set to “**true**” (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.2 on page 6.](#))

General rules for CBO usage

- dyn-10301** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Model** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a model qualifier defined under the **CBO_Object** branch. The value must be a term derived from the **System—model** and **SystemQuality—model** hierarchies. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10302** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **FunctionDefinition** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a mathematical expression derived from either the **CBO_Object** or **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10303** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Parameter** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a quantitative parameter from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10304** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on an **InitialAssignment** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a mathematical expression derived from either the **CBO_Object** or **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10305** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on an **AlgebraicRule**, **RateRule** or **AssignmentRule** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a mathematical expression derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10306** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Constraint** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a mathematical expression derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10307** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Reaction** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a biological process derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10308** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **SpeciesReference** or a **ModifierSpeciesReference** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a physical entity (reactant, product or modifier) derived from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10309** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **KineticLaw** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to the rate law of a biological process derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10310** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on an **Event** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to an existential cellular process derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10311** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on an **EventAssignment** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a mathematical expression derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))

- dyn-10312** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Compartment** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a physical modeling entity derived from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10313** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Species** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to a biological entity derived from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10314** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Trigger** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to the mathematical expression of a biological process derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10315** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **Delay** object should be a full CBO identifier referring to the mathematical expression of a biological process derived from the **CBO_Process** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10316** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **LocalParameter** object should be a full CBO identifier of a quantitative parameter from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10317** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **DynElement** object is that of the referenced object. If not set, it should be a full CBO identifier from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))
- dyn-10318** ▲ The value of the attribute **dyn:cboTerm** on a **SpatialComponent** object is that of the referenced **Parameter**. If not set, it should be a full CBO identifier from the **CBO_Object** branch. (Reference: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 4 on page 11.](#))

Rules for extended *SBase* abstract class

- comp-20101** ✓ Any object derived from the extended **SBase** class (defined in the Dynamic Structures package) may contain a **dyn:cboTerm** attribute. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.4 on page 7.](#))
- dyn-20102** ✓ The value of a **dyn:cboTerm** attribute on an SBML object must always conform to the syntax of the **CBOTerm** data type. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.4.1 on page 7.](#))

Rules for extended *Event* objects

- dyn-20201** ✓ An **Event** object must have the attribute **dyn:applyToAll** because it is required. With the exception of the **dyn:cboTerm** attribute from **SBase**, no other attributes from the Dynamic Structures namespace are permitted on an **Event** object. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.5 on page 7.](#))
- dyn-20202** ✓ The value of an **dyn:applyToAll** attribute on a **Event** object must be of the data type **boolean**. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.5.1 on page 8.](#))
- dyn-20203** ✓ There may be at most one instance of a **ListOfDynElements** subobject within an **Event** object that uses the Dynamic Structures package. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.5 on page 7.](#))

- dyn-20204** ✓ The **ListOfDynElements** subobject within an **Event** object is optional, and it may contain 0 or more **DynElement** objects. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.5.2 on page 8.](#))
- dyn-20205** ✓ Apart from the general notes and annotation subobjects permitted on all SBML objects, a **ListOfDynElements** container object may only contain **DynElement** objects. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.5.2 on page 8.](#))
- dyn-20206** ✓ A **ListOfDynElements** object may have the optional attributes **metaid** and **sboTerm** defined by SBML Level 3 Core. No other attributes from the SBML Level 3 Core namespace or the Dynamic Structures namespace are permitted on a **ListOfDynElements** object. (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.8.)

Rules for DynElement objects

- dyn-20301** ✓ A **DynElement** object may have the optional SBML Level 3 Core attributes **metaid** and **sboTerm**. No other attributes from the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core namespace are permitted on a **DynElement** object (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.)
- dyn-20302** ✓ A **DynElement** object must have a value for one (and exactly one) of the attributes **dyn:idRef** or **dyn:metaIdRef**, and may additionally have the attributes **dyn:id** and **dyn:name**. No other attributes from the Dynamic Structures namespace are permitted on a **DynElement** object. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.6 on page 8.](#))
- dyn-20303** ✓ A **DynElement** object may have the optional SBML Level 3 Core subobjects for notes and annotation. No other elements from the SBML Level 3 Core namespace are permitted on an **DynElement** object. (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.)
- dyn-20304** ✓ The value of an **dyn:idRef** attribute on a **DynElement** object must always conform to the syntax of the SBML data type **SIdRef**. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.6.2 on page 9.](#))
- dyn-20305** ✓ The value of a **dyn:metaIdRef** attribute on a **DynElement** object must always conform to the syntax of the SBML data type **IDREF**. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.6.3 on page 9.](#))
- dyn-20306** ✓ The value of an **dyn:idRef** attribute, if set on a given **DynElement** object, must be the value of an **id** attribute on an existing object in the **SId** namespace of the parent **Model**. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.6.2 on page 9.](#))
- dyn-20307** ✓ The value of a **dyn:metaIdRef** attribute, if set on a given **DynElement** object, must be the value of a **metaid** attribute on an existing object in the parent **Model**. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.6.3 on page 9.](#))

Rules for extended Compartment objects

- dyn-20401** ✓ There may be at most one instance of a **ListOfSpatialComponents** subobject within a **Compartment** object that uses the Dynamic Structures package. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.7 on page 9.](#))
- dyn-20402** ✓ The **ListOfSpatialComponents** subobject within a **Compartment** object is optional, but if present, this container object must not be empty. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.7 on page 9.](#))
- dyn-20403** ✓ Apart from the general notes and annotation subobjects permitted on all SBML objects, a **ListOfSpatialComponents** container object may only contain **SpatialComponent** objects. (Ref-

erences: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.7.1 on page 9.](#))

- dyn-20404** ✓ A [ListOfSpatialComponents](#) object may have the optional attributes `metaid` and `sboTerm` defined by SBML Level 3. No other attributes from the SBML Level 3 Core namespace or the Dynamic Structures namespace are permitted on a [ListOfSpatialComponents](#) object. (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.8.)

Rules for SpatialComponent objects

- dyn-20501** ✓ A [SpatialComponent](#) object must have the attributes `dyn:spatialIndex` and `dyn:variable` because they are required, and may additionally have the attributes `dyn:id` and `dyn:name`. No other attributes from the Dynamic Structures namespace are permitted on a [SpatialComponent](#) object. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8 on page 10.](#))
- dyn-20502** ✓ A [SpatialComponent](#) object may have the optional SBML Level 3 Core attributes `metaid` and `sboTerm`. (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.)
- dyn-20503** ✓ A [SpatialComponent](#) object may have the optional SBML Level 3 Core subobjects for notes and annotation. No other elements from the SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core namespace are permitted on a [SpatialComponent](#) object. (References: SBML Level 3 Version 1 Core, Section 4.2.)
- dyn-20504** ✓ The value of a `dyn:spatialIndex` attribute on a [SpatialComponent](#) object must always conform to the syntax and allowed values of the newly defined `SpatialKind`. Permitted values for this attribute include: “`cartesianX`”, “`cartesianY`”, and “`cartesianZ`” for position; “`alpha`”, “`beta`”, and “`gamma`” for rotational angles; and “`F_x`”, “`F_y`”, and “`F_z`” for force in case of movement. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8.2 on page 10.](#))
- dyn-20505** ▲ If a given `Compartment` extends a [ListOfSpatialComponents](#), which contains [SpatialComponent](#) subobjects to indicate location, values for their `dyn:spatialIndex` attributes must be used in a specific order. For 1-dimensional cases, “`cartesianX`” is used; for 2-dimensional cases, “`cartesianX`” and “`cartesianY`” are used; and for 3-dimensional cases, “`cartesianX`”, “`cartesianY`”, and “`cartesianZ`” are used. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8.2 on page 10.](#))
- dyn-20506** ✓ The value of a `dyn:variable` attribute on a [SpatialComponent](#) object must always conform to the syntax of the data type `SIRef`. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8.3 on page 10.](#))
- dyn-20507** ✓ The value of a `dyn:spatialIndex` attribute on a [SpatialComponent](#) object is bound in a Cartesian coordinate system. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8.2 on page 10.](#))
- dyn-20508** ✓ The value of a `dyn:variable` attribute on a [SpatialComponent](#) object must be the identifier of an SBML parameter which cannot be constant. (References: SBML Level 3 Package Specification for Dynamic Structures, Version 1, [Section 3.8.3 on page 10.](#))

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank (insert people's names here) for their direct contributions. In addition, we would like to thank other contributors whose helpful discussions, email contributions or input during HARMONY and COMBINE helped us move the project closer to completion.

2
3
4
1

References

Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and Masinter, L. (2005). Uniform resource identifier (uri): Generic syntax.

Biron, P. V. and Malhotra, A. (2000). XML Schema part 2: Datatypes (W3C candidate recommendation 24 October 2000). Available via the World Wide Web at <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/>.

Eriksson, H.-E. and Penker, M. (1998). *UML Toolkit*. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Fallside, D. C. (2000). XML Schema part 0: Primer (W3C candidate recommendation 24 October 2000). Available via the World Wide Web at <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-0/>.

Harold, E. R. and Means, E. S. (2001). *XML in a Nutshell*. OŠReilly.

Oestereich, B. (1999). *Developing Software with UML: Object-Oriented Analysis and Design in Practice*. AW.

Sluka, J. P., Shirinifard, A., Swat, M., Cosmanescu, A., Heiland, R. W., and Glazier., J. A. (2014). The Cell Behavior Ontology: Describing the Intrinsic Biological Behaviors of Real and Model Cells Seen as Active Agents. *Bioinformatics*.

Thompson, H. S., Beech, D., Maloney, M., and Mendelsohn, N. (2000). XML Schema part 1: Structures (W3C candidate recommendation 24 October 2000). Available online via the World Wide Web at the address <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-1/>.

W3C (2000). W3C’s math home page. Available via the World Wide Web at <http://www.w3.org/Math/>.