

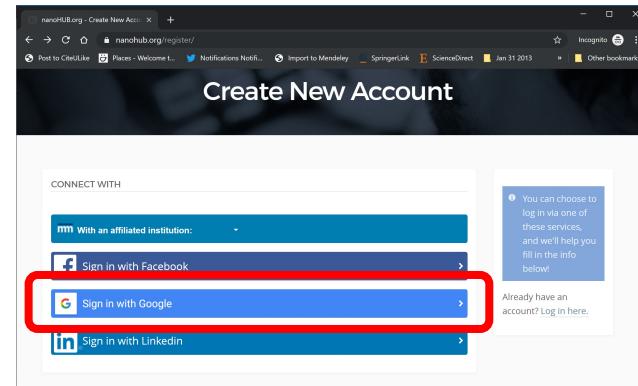
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- This talk's online PhysiCell models are cloud-hosted on nanoHUB.org.
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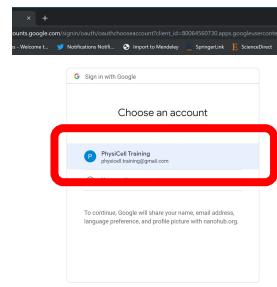
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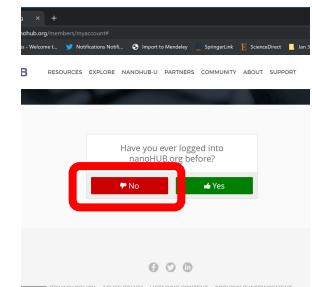
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Introduction to agent-based modeling in biology (Python-based)

Lecture materials and code are available at:



[link]

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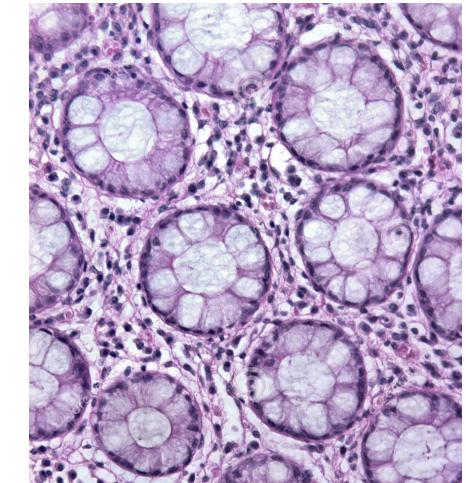
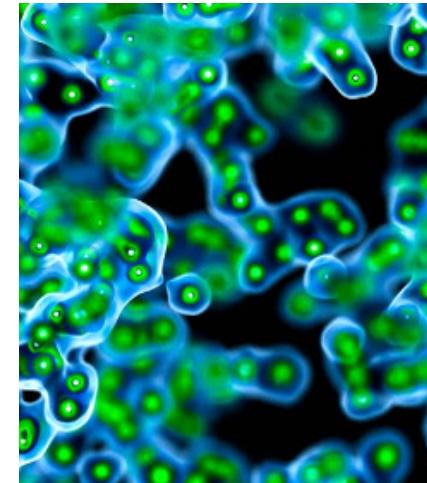
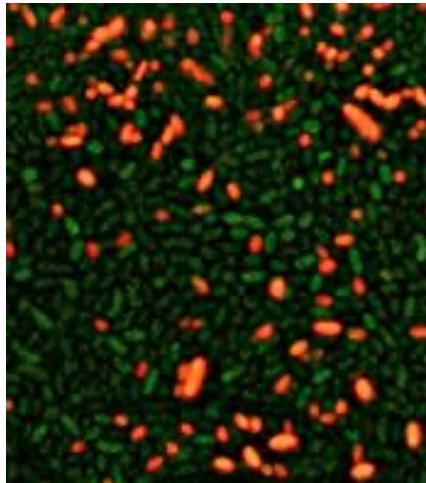
February 2, 2022

Simple single-cell behaviors ...

- Growth
- Division
- Death
- Adhesion
- Mechanics
- Motility
- Secretion
- Uptake
- Sampling
- Predation
- Differentiation
- ...

Give rise to complex systems

- **Multicellular systems**—composed of multiple cells of multiple types—can exhibit remarkable diversity, with complex emergent behaviors.



How do these systems self-organize and sustain themselves?

How do we understand these multiscale systems?

Interconnected systems and processes:

- Single-cell behaviors
- Cell-cell communication
- Physics-imposed constraints (e.g., diffusion)
- Systems of systems (e.g., immune system)

In diseases, these systems become dysregulated.

Treatments target parts of these systems.

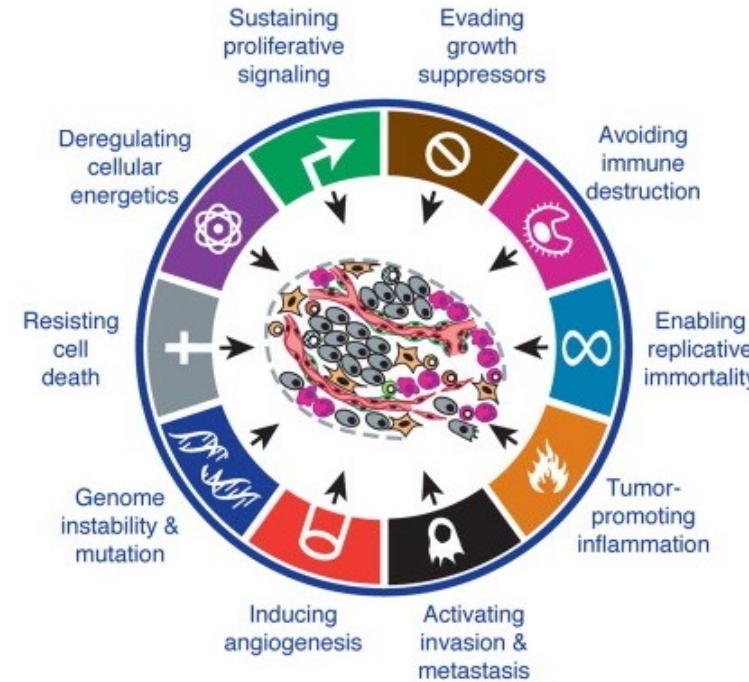
Health is a **complex system**:

changing one part can have **surprising effects!**

Modeling can help **understand** this system.

This is **multicellular systems biology**.

If we can **control** these systems, we've arrived at
multicellular systems engineering.



Source: Hanahan & Weinberg (2011)
DOI: [10.1016/j.cell.2011.02.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2011.02.013)

**Scientists use [models*] to
detangle complex systems.**

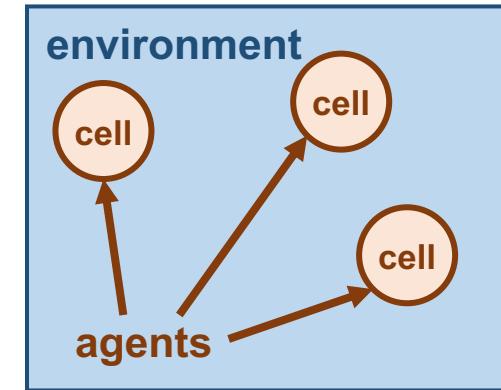
* animal, *in vitro*, engineered, mathematical, ...

Key parts of a multicellular virtual laboratory

- **Model multiple diffusing chemical factors**
 - Growth substrates and metabolites
 - Signaling factors
 - Drugs
- **Model many cells in these chemical environments**
 - Environment-dependent behavior (including molecular-scale "logic")
 - Mechanical interactions
 - Heterogeneity:
 - ◆ individual states
 - ◆ individual parameter values
 - ◆ individual model rules
- **Run many copies of the model in high throughput**
 - Discover the rules that best match observations.
 - Identify and exploit weaknesses that can restore control

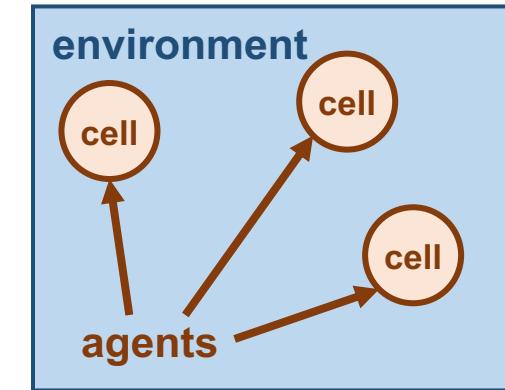
What is an agent-based model?

- Each cell is modeled as a separate software object (an **agent**) with:
 - **member data:** internal state variables
 - ◆ Position, Size, Cycle State, molecular variables,
 - **methods:** cellular processes
 - ◆ Cycling, Death, Motility, Growth, Adhesion, ...
- Virtual cells move a virtual (**micro**)environment
 - Usually liquid (e.g., water or interstitial fluid)
 - Chemical movement (oxygen, glucose, signaling factors)
 - ◆ Typically diffusion: solve partial differential equations (PDEs)
 - ◆ May also require advection for environments with flow
 - May include mechanical components like extracellular matrix (ECM)
 - ◆ Finite element methods or related methods



What's the connection to biology and physics?

- The **cell agents encode our biological knowledge and hypotheses**:
 - Cell variables (member data) are selected to record important biological quantities
 - ◆ Volume, cell cycle state, energy, ...
 - Cell rules (methods) encode biological hypotheses
 - ◆ Increase motility in low oxygen, down-regulate cycling under compression, ...
 - Cell rules are often written at mathematical models
 - ◆ Potential functions for mechanics, systems of ODEs for metabolism, ...
- The **microenvironment encodes physical constraints**:
 - *Chemical transport*: diffusion and advection equations (PDEs)
 - *Tissue mechanics*: viscoelastic, plastoelastic or other solid mechanics
- Most agent-based models combine **discrete** cell agents and **continuum** microenvironment processes. This is a **hybrid continuum-discrete approach**.



Types of cell-based models

- **lattice-bound**

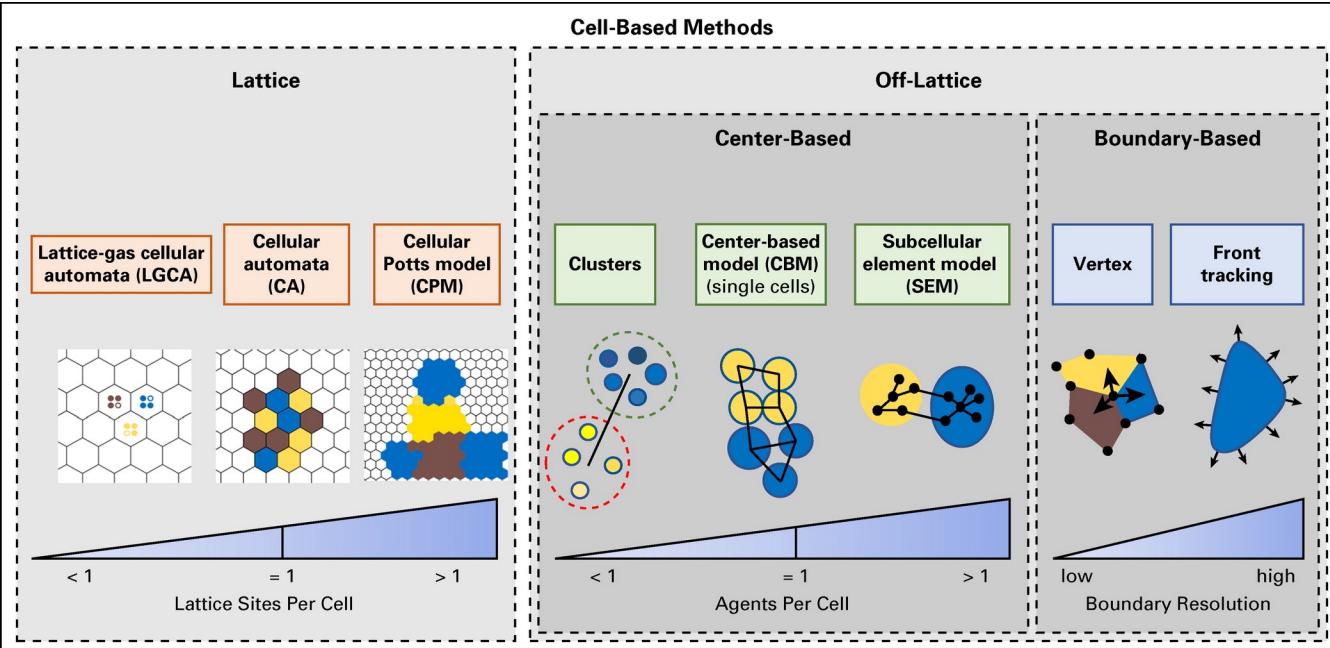
- resolution:

- ◆ < 1 site / cell:
 - » lattice gas
 - ◆ 1 site / cell
 - » cellular automaton
 - ◆ many sites / cell
 - » cellular Potts

- **off-lattice**

- **center-based**

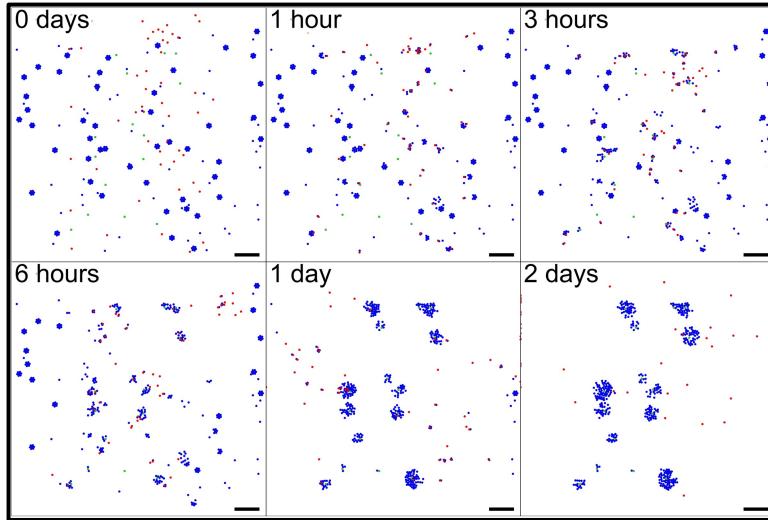
- **boundary-based**



J. Metzcar, Y. Wang, R. Heiland, and P. Macklin. A review of cell-based computational modeling in cancer biology. *JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics* 3:1-13, 2019 (invited review). DOI: [10.1200/CCI.18.00069](https://doi.org/10.1200/CCI.18.00069).

Example: biological cargo delivery system

- **Chemical environment:**
 - two diffusing chemical signals
- **Cell types and rules:**
 - **directors (green):**
 - ◆ secrete director signal to attract workers
 - **cargo (blue):**
 - ◆ **undocked:** secrete cargo signal to attract workers
 - ◆ **docked:** turn off signal
 - **workers (red):**
 - ◆ **undocked:** seek cargo via chemotaxis
 - ◆ **docked:** seek directors via chemotaxis, release cargo in high signal areas

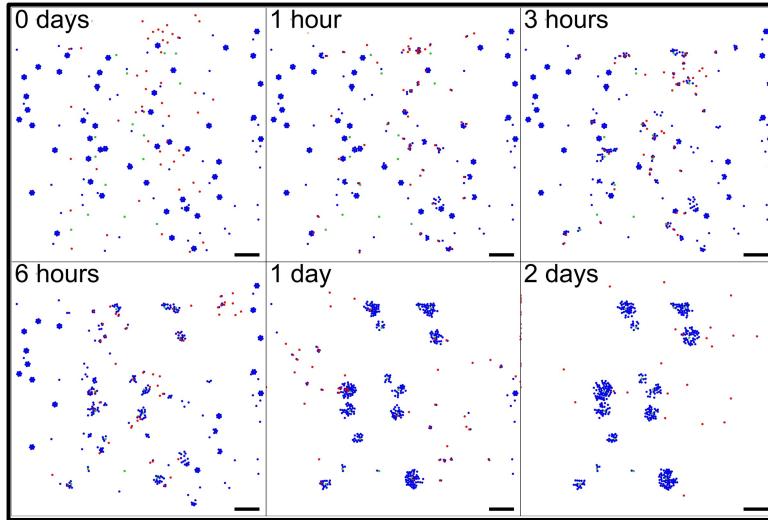


Try this model yourself!

<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4biorobots>

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Try this model yourself!

<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4biorobots>

Typical program flow

- Read parameters
- Set up microenvironment
 - Create meshes, initialize chemical substrates, diffusion solvers, etc.
- Set up cell agents
 - Define all cell types
 - Instantiate cells
- For each time:
 - Update microenvironment
 - ◆ Solve reaction-diffusion equations (as needed)
 - ◆ Solve tissue mechanics (as needed)
 - Update each cell's state
 - ◆ Sample environment
 - ◆ Run signaling model (as needed)
 - ◆ Update behavioral parameters based on signaling model and sampled environment
 - ◆ Run cell process models (growth, cycling, death, ...)
 - Calculate cell velocities
 - Update cell positions
 - Advance time

Let's build an agent-based model in Python

Classes

- A **class** is a template for creating a software object, including:
 - member data
 - initial values for its state (member variables)
 - member functions (or methods)
- A class will generally have one or more **constructors** that are called when the class is instantiated.
 - Set default values for member data

A class declaration (Python)

```
class Agent:  
    def __init__( self ): # default constructor  
        self.hidden_variable = False; # no such thing as private in Python  
        self.position = [0,0];  
        self.hunger = 0.0;  
        self.ID = 0;  
        return;  
  
    def move_me( self , dx, dy ): # member function  
        self.position[0] += dx ;  
        self.position[1] += dy;  
        return;  
  
    def display( self ):  
        print( str(self.ID) + ' at ' + str(self.position) + ' has hunger level '  
              + str(self.hunger) )  
  
Bob = Agent();  
Bob.ID = 1;  
Bob.move_me( 1,-1 );  
Bob.display();
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 1) to execute this code.

Loading key libraries

```
# Let's load libraries

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# set matplotlib to do plots inline
%matplotlib inline
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 2) to execute this code.

Creating an environment

- We'll create an environment with one chemical substrate c that diffuses and decays in the environment.
- We'll need a mesh on a domain $[a, b] \times [c, d]$
 - X coordinates: m nodes, $x_i = a + i\Delta x$
 - Y coordinates: n nodes, $y_j = c + j\Delta y$
 - An array to store the chemical substrate: $m \times n$ nodes
 - We'll store the diffusion coefficient (D) and decay rate (λ)
- By convention, $c_{i,j} = c(x_i, y_j)$ stored at the present simulation time.

Environment class (v1)

```
# Declare environment class
class Environment:
    def __init__( self , shape=[-100,-100,100,100] , m=2 , n=2 ):
        self.a = shape[0]
        self.b = shape[2]
        self.c = shape[1]
        self.d = shape[3]
        self.m = m;
        self.n = n;
        self.dx = (self.b-self.a)/(m-1);
        self.dy = (self.d-self.c)/(n-1);
        self.X = np.linspace( self.a, self.b , m )
        self.Y = np.linspace( self.c, self.d, n )
        self.C = np.zeros((m,n));
        return;
    def setup( self , D=1000, decay=0.1 , initial=1.0, boundary=1.0 ):
        self.D = D;
        self.decay = decay; # In Python you can evidently declare more class elements in methods
        # set boundary values
        self.C = boundary * np.ones((self.m,self.n))
        # set interior values to initial value
        for j in range(1,self.n-1):
            for i in range(1,self.m-1):
                self.C[i,j] = initial ;
    print( 'Length scale: ' + str( np.sqrt(self.D/self.decay) ) )
    return;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 3) to execute this code.

Testing ...

```
E = Environment( [-100,0,200,400] , 31,41 )  
  
E.setup( 1000, 0.1 , 0.5 , 1 )  
  
plt.contourf( E.X, E.Y, np.transpose( E.C ) )  
plt.axis('image')  
plt.colorbar()
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 3) to execute this code.

Adding diffusion and plotting

- Now, we want to solve the diffusion-decay equation:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 c - \lambda c$$

- We approximate the partial derivatives with finite differences:

$$\frac{c_{i,j}^{n+1} - c_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = D \left(\frac{c_{i+1,j}^n - 2c_{i,j}^n + c_{i-1,j}^n}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{c_{i,j+1}^n - 2c_{i,j}^n + c_{i,j-1}^n}{\Delta y^2} \right) - \lambda c_{i,j}^n$$

- Then, algebraically solve for $c_{i,j}^{n+1}$

Environment class (v2)

```
# Declare environment class
class Environment:
    # __init__ and setup as before

    def update( self , dt=0.001 ):
        # define constants for simplicity
        A = self.D * dt / ( self.dx**2 )
        B = self.D * dt / ( self.dy**2 )
        C = self.decay * dt
        # copy the prior solution.
        old = self.C.copy(); # make sure this is a real copy and not a reference.
        # finite differences for decay-diffusion
        for i in range(1,self.m-1):
            for j in range(1,self.n-1):
                self.C[i,j] = (1-2*A-2*B-C)*old[i,j] + A*(old[i-1,j]+old[i+1,j])
                    + B*( old[i,j-1]+old[i,j+1] );
        return;

    def plot( self ):
        plt.clf()
        plt.contourf( self.X, self.Y, np.transpose( self.C ) )
        plt.axis('image')
        plt.colorbar()
        plt.xlabel('x')
        plt.ylabel('y')
        plt.show()
        plt.pause(0.0001) # helps with animation
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 4) to execute this code.

A quick helper function

```
# a startup function for full-screen plots

def fullscreen_setup( fignum=1 , pause_time=2):
    %matplotlib qt
    plt.figure(fignum)
    plt.clf()
    figManager = plt.get_current_fig_manager()
    figManager.full_screen_toggle()
    plt.pause(pause_time); # some time to switch windows if needed
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 4) to execute this code.

A word on stability

- For an explicit finite difference method, the time step size must be chosen to maintain numerical stability.
- For n -dimensional diffusion, the criterion is

$$\Delta t \leq \frac{\Delta x^2}{2nD}$$

(Theory: Information cannot spread across your mesh faster than the diffusion process.)

Testing ...

```
# declare an environment
E = Environment( [-250,-250,250,250] , 26,26 )
# set up
E.setup( 10000, 1 , 0.5 , 1 )

dt = E.dx**2 / (2 * 2 * E.D )

print(dt)

# prepare for full-screen plots
fullscreen_setup()

# main test loop
for n in range(100):
    if( n % 10 == 0 ):
        E.plot()
        # plt.show()
        # plt.pause(0.001)
    E.update( dt )

E.plot()
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 4) to execute this code.

Creating a Cell class (v1)

- Let's iteratively create and refine a Cell class.
- The first version will add a constructor and basic cell-cell mechanics
 - Each cell will interact with nearby cells
 - We'll use a spring-like force to model the combined effects of adhesion and repulsion
 - We'll assume dissipative (drag-like) forces lead to fast equilibration, allowing us to solve for the cell velocity.

Cell velocities: math (1)

- Suppose cell i and cell j are connected by a spring with constant k_{ij} .
- Suppose they have radii R_i and R_j , and the equilibrium spacing is $s_{ij} = R_i + R_j$.
- Suppose the maximum cell-cell interaction distance is $R_{\max} > s_{ij}$.

- Let's calculate:
 - The displacement (directed from i to j) is:

$$\mathbf{d}_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i$$

- The distance between i and j is:
- The normal unit vector from i to j is:

$$d_{ij} = |\mathbf{d}_{ij}|$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{d}_{ij}}{d_{ij}}$$

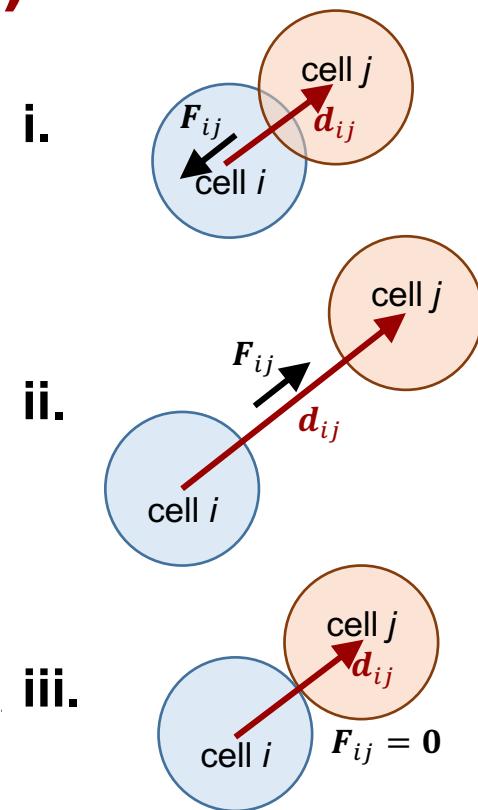
- If $d_{ij} < R_{\max}$, then the spring-like force acting upon cell i is:

$$\mathbf{F}_{ij} = k_{ij}(d_{ij} - s_{ij})\mathbf{n}_{ij}$$

(Otherwise, $\mathbf{F}_{ij} = 0$.)

- Sanity check:

- If $d_{ij} < s_{ij}$, then the cells are too close together. The force is directed along $-\mathbf{n}_{ij}$ away from cell j to increase displacement.
- If $d_{ij} > s_{ij}$, then the cells are too far apart. The force is directed along \mathbf{n}_{ij} towards cell i to decrease displacement.
- If $d_{ij} = s_{ij}$, then the cells are at the desired separation, and the net force is zero.



Cell velocities: math (2)

- As a very basic force law, let's total up all the forces acting upon cell i :

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbf{F}_{ij} - \nu \mathbf{v}_i$$

- If forces equilibrate quickly, then we arrive at an inertialess form:

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{k_{ij}}{\nu} (d_{ij} - s_{ij}) \mathbf{n}_{ij}$$

- From here out, let's scale the "spring" constant k_{ij} by the drag coefficient ν and rewrite with the "mechanics strength" $\alpha_{ij} = k_{ij}/\nu$

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_{ij} (d_{ij} - s_{ij}) \mathbf{n}_{ij}$$

Creating a Cell class (v1)

```
all_cells = list();

class Cell:
    def __init__( self ):
        self.position = np.array( [0.0,0.0] );
        self.velocity = np.array( [0.0,0.0] );
        self.mechanics_distance = 30.0;
        self.equilibrium_spacing = 20.0;
        self.mechanics_contant = 1.0;

    def update_velocity( self, dt , env , all_cells ):
        self.velocity = np.array([0.0,0.0])
        # spring-like interactions with cells
        for c in all_cells:
            displacement = c.position - self.position
            dist = np.linalg.norm( displacement )
            if( dist < self.mechanics_distance and dist > 1e-16 ):
                dv = dist - self.equilibrium_spacing
                displacement = displacement / dist;
                displacement = displacement * dv;
                displacement = displacement * self.mechanics_contant;
                self.velocity = self.velocity + displacement
            angle = 6.28318530718 * np.random.uniform();
            perturbation_size = 0.1 * self.mechanics_contant;
            self.velocity[0] += perturbation_size * np.cos(angle)
            self.velocity[1] += perturbation_size * np.sin(angle)

    def update_position( self, dt , env, all_cells ):
        self.position = self.position + dt*self.velocity;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 5) to execute this code.

Testing (part 1)

```
all_cells = list()

# make a plotting function
def plot_cells( env, all_cells ):
    env.plot()
    num_cells = len( all_cells )
    positions = np.zeros( (num_cells,2) );
    for n in range(num_cells):
        positions[n,:] = all_cells[n].position
    plt.plot( positions[:,0] , positions[:,1] , 'wo' )
    plt.axis('image')
    plt.show();
    plt.pause(0.0001)
    return;

fullscreen_setup(1,0.01)

# now make 10 cells with random positions
number_of_cells = 10;
center = [ 0.5*(E.a+E.b) , 0.5*(E.c+E.d) ]
for n in range(number_of_cells):
    c = Cell(); # create cell.
    r = 5 * np.random.normal();
    angle = 6.28318530718 * np.random.uniform();
    c.position[0] = center[0] + r * np.cos(angle)
    c.position[1] = center[1] + r * np.sin(angle)
    all_cells.append(c)

plot_cells( E, all_cells )
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 5) to execute this code.

Testing (part 2)

```
dt = 0.1

fullscreen_setup(1,0.001)

for n in range( 250 ):
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_velocity( dt , E, all_cells )
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_position( dt , E, all_cells )
    if( n % 25 == 0 ):
        plot_cells( E, all_cells )
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 5) to execute this code.

Cell class (v2)

- Now, we add division and death methods.
- Division will make a copy of the cell and add it to a list of all cells
- Death will remove the cell from the list of all cells and delete it

Cell class (v2)

```
class Cell:  
    # __init__, update_velocity, and update_position as before  
  
    def division( self, all_cells ):  
        # make a brand new cell  
        c = copy.deepcopy( self );  
        # append it to the data structure  
        all_cells.append( c );  
        # set its position to be near its parent cell  
        r = self.equilibrium_spacing;  
        angle = np.random.uniform()  
        c.position[0] = r*np.cos(angle)  
        c.position[1] = r*np.sin(angle)  
        return;  
  
    def death( self, all_cells ):  
        all_cells.remove( self )  
        del self;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 6) to execute this code.

Testing ...

```
all_cells.clear()

# now make 10 cells with random positions
number_of_cells = 10;
center = [ 0.5*(E.a+E.b) , 0.5*(E.c+E.d)]
for n in range(number_of_cells):
    c = Cell(); # create cell.
    r = 5 * np.random.normal();
    angle = 6.28318530718 * np.random.uniform();
    c.position[0] = center[0] + r * np.cos(angle)
    c.position[1] = center[1] + r * np.sin(angle)
    all_cells.append(c)

fullscreen_setup(1,0.01)
dt = 0.1;

for n in range( 1000 ):
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_velocity( dt , E, all_cells )
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_position( dt , E, all_cells )
    if( n % 50 == 0 ):
        n_cells = len( all_cells )
        n_divide = np.random.randint( n_cells );
        all_cells[n_divide].division( all_cells )
    if( n % 200 == 0 ):
        n_cells = len( all_cells )
        n_die = np.random.randint( n_cells );
        all_cells[n_die].death( all_cells )
    if( n % 100 == 0 ):
        plot_cells( E, all_cells )
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 6) to execute this code.

Cell class (v3)

- Now, we add an update function that uses a cell's birth and death rates to decide when to divide or die (stochastically).
- If an event X happens at rate r , then the probability of that rate happening between t and $t + \Delta t$ is:

$$\text{Probability}(X) = r\Delta t$$

- Numerically, if event X has probability p :
 - Evaluate a uniform random number generator to get $0 \leq u \leq 1$
 - If $u \leq p$, then the event X happens. Otherwise it does not.

Cell class (v3)

```
class Cell:  
    def __init__( self ):  
        #mostly same, but add these  
        self.birth_rate = 0.01;  
        self.death_rate = 0.005;  
  
    # update_velocity, update_position, division, and death as before  
    def update( self, dt, env, all_cells ):  
        prob_birth = self.birth_rate * dt;  
        prob_death = self.death_rate * dt;  
        if( np.random.uniform() <= prob_birth ):  
            self.division( all_cells );  
            return;  
        if( np.random.uniform() <= prob_death ):  
            self.death( all_cells );  
            return;  
    return;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 7) to execute this code.

Testing ...

```
all_cells.clear()

# now make 10 cells with random positions
number_of_cells = 10;
center = [ 0.5*(E.a+E.b) , 0.5*(E.c+E.d) ]
for n in range(number_of_cells):
    c = Cell(); # create cell.
    r = 5 * np.random.normal();
    angle = 6.28318530718 * np.random.uniform();
    c.position[0] = center[0] + r * np.cos(angle)
    c.position[1] = center[1] + r * np.sin(angle)
    all_cells.append(c)

fullscreen_setup(1,0.01)
dt = 0.1;

for n in range( 1000 ):
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update( dt , E, all_cells );
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_velocity( dt , E, all_cells )
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_position( dt , E, all_cells )
    if( n % 50 == 0 ):
        plot_cells( E, all_cells )
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 7) to execute this code.

Cell class (v4)

- Now, we make the cell interact with the environment:
 - Find the mesh point nearest to the cell at position (x, y) :

$$i = \text{round}\left(\frac{x-a}{\Delta x}\right), \quad j = \text{round}\left(\frac{y-c}{\Delta y}\right)$$

- Cell consumes resource c at rate r_C by the backwards Euler discretization:

$$\frac{c_{i,j}^{n+1} - c_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = -r_C c_{i,j}^{n+1}$$

- If $c \leq c_{\text{death}}$, then immediate death
- If $c > c_{\text{death}}$, then we scale the birth rate by:

$$\frac{c - c_{\text{death}}}{1 - c_{\text{death}}}$$

Cell class (v4)

```
class Cell:  
    def __init__( self ):  
        # add these  
        self.death_threshold = 0.3;  
        self.consumption_rate = 1.0;  
  
    # update_velocity and update_position unchanged  
    def update( self, dt, env, all_cells ):  
        # find my coordinates in the environment  
        i = int( np.round( (self.position[0]-env.a)/env.dx ) );  
        j = int( np.round( (self.position[1]-env.c)/env.dy ) );  
        # consume substrate (backwards Euler)  
        constant = 1.0 + dt*self.consumption_rate;  
        env.C[i,j] /= constant;  
        # update birth and death rates based on C  
        substrate = env.C[i,j]  
        birth_rate = self.birth_rate * (substrate - self.death_threshold)/(1-self.death_threshold);  
        death_rate = self.death_rate;  
        if( birth_rate < 0 ):  
            birth_rate = 0.0;  
        if( env.C[i,j] < self.death_threshold ):  
            self.death(all_cells)  
            return;  
        prob_birth = birth_rate * dt;  
        prob_death = death_rate * dt;  
        if( np.random.uniform() <= prob_birth ):  
            self.division( all_cells );  
            return;  
        if( np.random.uniform() <= prob_death ):  
            self.death( all_cells );  
            return;  
        return;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 8) to execute this code.

New plotting function

```
# make a plotting function
def plot( env, all_cells , t ):
    # plt.figure(1 , figsize=(10,10) )
    env.plot()
    num_cells = len( all_cells )
    positions = np.zeros( (num_cells,2) );
    for n in range(num_cells):
        positions[n,:] = all_cells[n].position
    plt.plot( positions[:,0],positions[:,1],'wo', markersize=15,
              markeredgecolor='k', alpha=0.5 )
    plt.axis('image')
    plt.title('number of cells: ' + str(num_cells) + ' time: ' + str(t) )
    plt.show();
    plt.pause(0.0001)
    return;
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 8) to execute this code.

Testing ...

```
all_cells.clear()
E.setup( 10000, 0.001 , 1 , 1 )

# now make 25 cells with random positions
number_of_cells = 25;
center = [ 0.5*(E.a+E.b) , 0.5*(E.c+E.d) ]
for n in range(number_of_cells):
    c = Cell(); # create cell.
    r = 50 * np.random.normal();
    angle = 6.28318530718 * np.random.uniform();
    c.position[0] = center[0] + r * np.cos(angle)
    c.position[1] = center[1] + r * np.sin(angle)
    all_cells.append(c)

dt = 0.1;
fullscreen_setup()

for n in range( 2000+1 ):
    for nn in range(10):
        E.update( 0.1*dt )
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update( dt , E, all_cells );
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_velocity( dt , E, all_cells )
    for c in all_cells:
        c.update_position( dt , E, all_cells )
    if( n % 200 == 0 ):
        plot( E, all_cells , n )
```

Go to the Lecture notebook
(Section 8) to execute this code.

Next time:

- Introduce PhysiCell as a more developed agent-based platform.
- Show examples of agent-based PhysiCell modeling in research.
- Explore cloud-hosted models.

Further reading (1)

- **BioFVM method paper (3-D diffusion)**

A. Ghaffarizadeh, S.H. Friedman, and P. Macklin. BioFVM: an efficient, parallelized diffusive transport solver for 3-D biological simulations. *Bioinformatics* 32(8):1256-8, 2016. DOI: [10.1093/bioinformatics/btv730](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btv730).

- **PhysiCell method paper (agent-based model)**

A. Ghaffarizadeh, R. Heiland, S.H. Friedman, S.M. Mumenthaler, and P. Macklin. PhysiCell: an open source physics-based cell simulator for 3-D multicellular systems. *PLoS Comput. Biol.* 14(2):e1005991, 2018. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005991](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005991).

- **PhysiBoSS (PhysiCell + MaBoSS for Boolean networks)**

G. Letort, A. Montagud, G. Stoll, R. Heiland, E. Barillot, P. Macklin, A. Zinovyev, and L. Calzone. PhysiBoSS: a multi-scale agent based modelling framework integrating physical dimension and cell signalling. *Bioinformatics* 35(7):1188-96, 2019. DOI: [10.1093/bioinformatics/bty766](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty766).

- **xml2jupyter paper (create GUIs for cloud-hosted models)**

R. Heiland, D. Mishler, T. Zhang, E. Bower, and P. Macklin. xml2jupyter: Mapping parameters between XML and Jupyter widgets. *Journal of Open Source Software* 4(39):1408, 2019. DOI: [10.21105/joss.01408](https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01408).

- **PhysiCell+EMEWS (high-throughput 3D PhysiCell investigation)**

J. Ozik, N. Collier, J. Wozniak, C. Macal, C. Cockrell, S.H. Friedman, A. Ghaffarizadeh, R. Heiland, G. An, and P. Macklin. High-throughput cancer hypothesis testing with an integrated PhysiCell-EMEWS workflow. *BMC Bioinformatics* 19:483, 2018. DOI: [10.1186/s12859-018-2510-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12859-018-2510-x).

- **PhysiCell+EMEWS 2 (HPC accelerated by machine learning)**

J. Ozik, N. Collier, R. Heiland, G. An, and P. Macklin. Learning-accelerated Discovery of Immune-Tumour Interactions. *Molec. Syst. Design Eng.* 4:747-60, 2019. DOI: [10.1039/c9me00036d](https://doi.org/10.1039/c9me00036d).

Further reading (2)

- **A review of cell-based modeling (in cancer):**

J. Metzcar, Y. Wang, R. Heiland, and P. Macklin. A review of cell-based computational modeling in cancer biology. *JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics* 3:1-13, 2019 (invited review).
DOI: [10.1200/CCI.18.00069](https://doi.org/10.1200/CCI.18.00069).

- **Progress on multicellular systems biology:**

P. Macklin, H.B. Frieboes, J.L. Sparks, A. Ghaffarizadeh, S.H. Friedman, E.F. Juarez, E. Jockheere, and S.M. Mumenthaler. "Progress Towards Computational 3-D Multicellular Systems Biology". In: . Rejniak (ed.), *Systems Biology of Tumor Microenvironment*, chap. 12, pp. 225-46, Springer, 2016. ISBN: 978-3-319-42021-9. (invited author: P. Macklin). DOI: [10.1007/978-3-319-42023-3_12](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-42023-3_12).

- **Challenges for data-driven multicellular systems biology**

P. Macklin. Key challenges facing data-driven multicellular systems biology. *GigaScience* 8(10):giz127, 2019. DOI: [10.1093/gigascience/giz127](https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giz127)

Some models to explore

On nanoHUB:

- **pc4heterogen**: heterogeneous cancer growth (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4heterogen>)
- **pc4cancerbots**: use the "biorobots" as a cell-based cancer therapy (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4cancerbots>)
- **pc4cancerimmune**: basic cancer immunotherapy model (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4cancerimmune>)
- **trmotility**: learn about biased random cell migration (<https://nanohub.org/tools/trmotility>)
- **pcisa**: learn about an adversarial ecosystem: invader cells are fueled by resource providers, but scout cells seek invaders to recruit attackers, who poison invaders. (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pcisa>)
- **pc4thanos**: Avengers *Endgame* battle using cell rules (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4thanos>)
- **pc4covid19**: COVID-19 simulation model (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4covid19>)
- **pc4livermedium**: tumor-stroma biomechanical feedbacks (<https://nanohub.org/tools/pc4livermedium>)