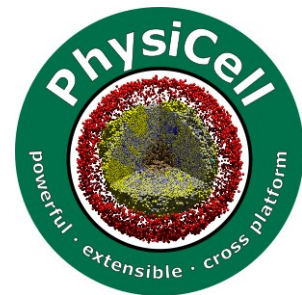# Session 7: **Functions in PhysiCell**

Paul Macklin, Ph.D.
@MathCancer

PhysiCell Project

July 27, 2021

LUDDY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS, COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING

Goals

- PhysiCell full modeling workflow
- Handy C++ Tidbits for Cell Agents
- Typical form / syntax / purpose of PhysiCell functions
- The customizable functions in Cell.functions
- How to assign new functions to a cell definition
- Sampling the microenvironment at Cell locations
- Example: Oxygen-based cell birth, death, and motility
- **Stretch goal:** Controlling initial cell placement
- **Stretch goal:** Custom coloring functions
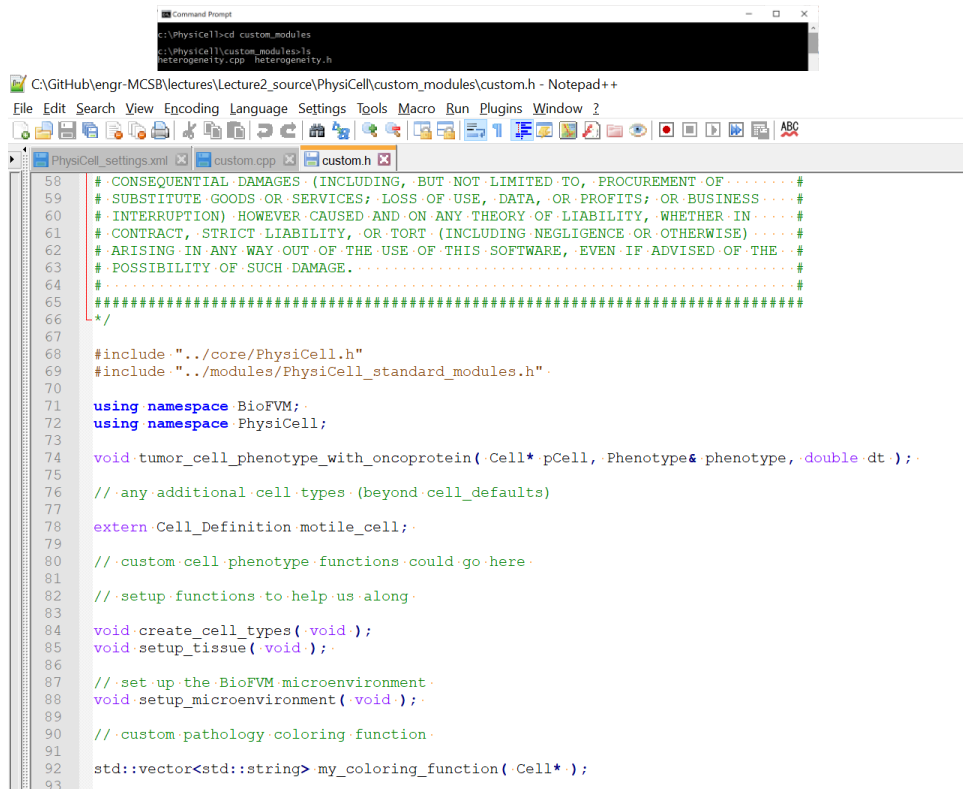
Full modeling workflow

Suitable for creating a new PhysiCell model with custom C++ to drive dynamical phenotype changes

- Plan the model

- Populate a project
- Edit configuration Model Builder GUI
  - Edit domain
  - Edit microenvironment
  - Edit cell definitions
  - **Add custom variables**
  - **Add custom parameters**

- **Edit custom modules:**
  - **Declare functions in custom.h**
  - **Implement functions in custom.cpp**
  - **Assign functions to cell definitions**
- **Edit initial cell placement**

- **Edit cell coloring function**

- Build
- Run
- View results

Project structure: custom modules

- Custom Modules
  - Setup functions
  - Cell definitions
  - Custom functions
  - any other modeling
  - Custom coloring functions

Project structure: custom modules

- Custom Modules
  - Any user-defined globals (at top)
  - Setup functions
    - ♦ **create_cell_types()**
      - » Do all setup on all cell types
        - ○ Adjust phenotype
        - ○ Add / adjust custom data
        - ○ Set functions
    - ♦ **setup_tissue()**
      - » Place initial cells in microenvironment
      - » Modify each cell as needed
  - Custom functions
  - any other modeling
  - Custom coloring functions
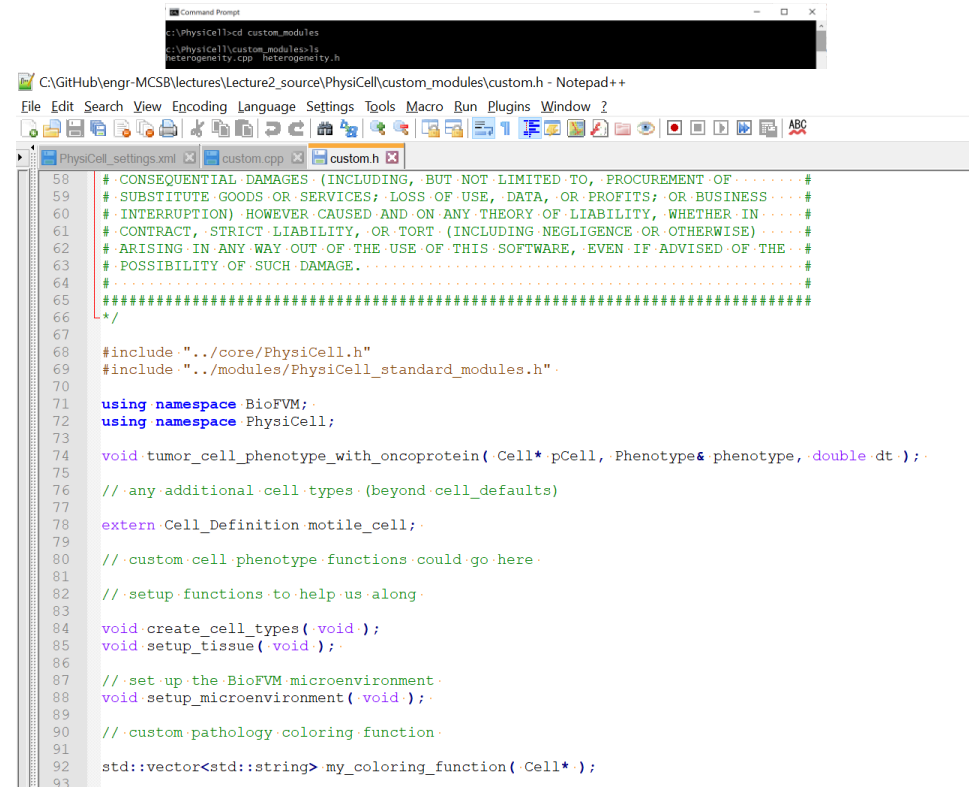
Project structure: main.cpp
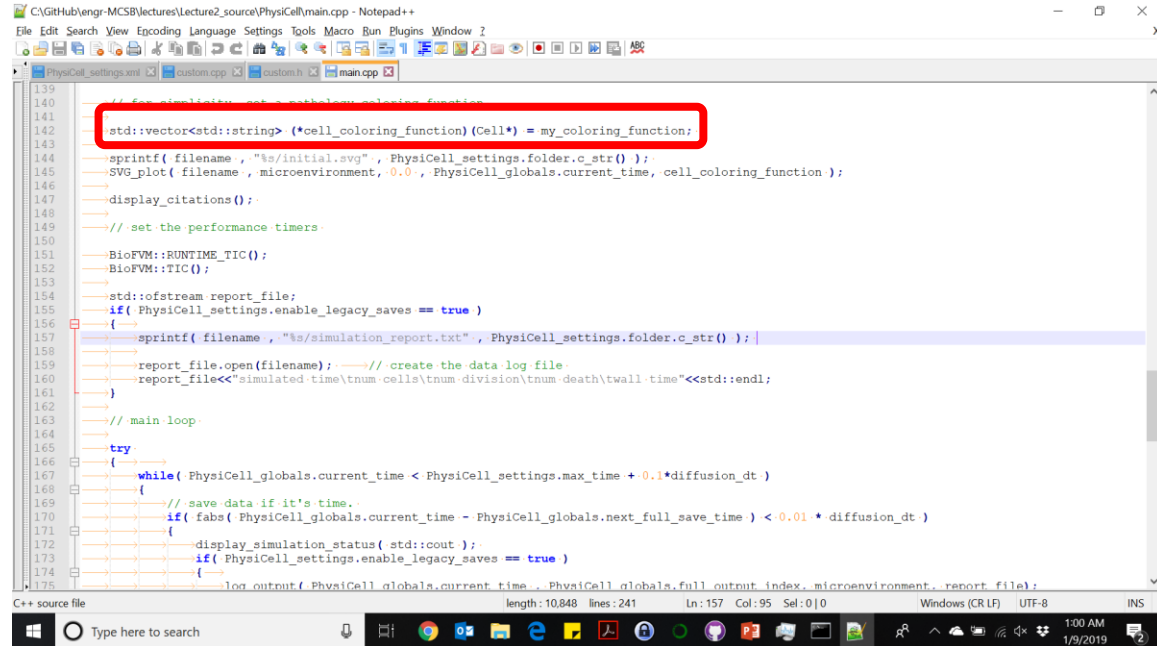
- **main.cpp**
  - (in the root directory)
  - calls the setup functions

Project structure: main.cpp (continued)

- **main.cpp**
  - set coloring function

Project structure: main.cpp (continued)

- **main.cpp**

  - main loop:

    - ♦ **This would be a good place to put extensions.**

Summary: Where things will go

- Declare custom functions in **./custom_modules/custom.h**

- Implement these functions in **./custom_modules/custom.cpp**

- Assign custom functions to cell definitions in custom.cpp in **create_cell_types()**;

- Declare any cell parameters needed for custom functions in the **custom_data** part of a cell definition in the XML configuration file

- Declare any parameters need to set up the simulation in the **user_parameters** part of the XML config file

Handy C++ Helpers (Part 1)

Handy C++ Tidbits: Random Numbers

- `double` **`UniformRandom`**`( void );`
  - Get a uniformly distributed number in U(0,1)

- `double` **`NormalRandom`**`( double mean, double standard_deviation );`
  - Get a normally distributed number in N(mean, standard_deviation)

- `std::vector<double>` **`UniformOnUnitCircle`**`( void );`
  - Get a uniformly random point on the Unit Circle

- `std::vector<double>` **`UniformOnUnitSphere`**`( void );`
  - Get a uniformly random point on (not in!) the unit sphere.

> **These use the STL 64-bit Mersenne Twister in C++11.**

- `int` **`choose_event`**`( std::vector<double>& probabilities );`
  - Given a vector of probabilities $(p_0, p_1, \ldots, p_{n-1})$, choose an integer in [0,*n*-1] with the given probabilities.
  - The probabilities must sum to 1.

Handy C++ Tidbits: Vectors

- `std::vector<double> `**`normalize`**`( std::vector<double>& v );`
  - Return a normalized vector. (Convention: return (0,0,0) for small vectors)

- `void `**`normalize`**`( std::vector<double>* v );`
  - Directly normalize the vector at v. (Convention: return (0,0,0) for small vectors)

- `double `**`norm_squared`**`( const std::vector<double>& v );`
  - Return a norm squared. (Handy and avoids an expensive square root.)

- `double `**`norm`**`( const std::vector<double>& v );`
  - Returns standard Euclidean (ℓ_2) norm.

> **We have also defined expected vector operations for std::vector<double>:**
> **+, -, *, /, +=, -=, *=, /=**

- `double `**`maxabs`**`( const std::vector<double>& v );`
  - Returns the maximum absolute value in the vector. i.e., this is the ℓ_∞ norm.

- `void `**`csv_to_vector`**`( const char* buffer , std::vector<double>& vect );`
  - Starting with a character string, separates (by a comma delimiter), converts to doubles, and stores result in the vector.

- `char* `**`vector_to_csv`**`( const std::vector<double>& vect );`
  - Turns a vector into a comma-separated string. Should probably modernize these with std::string.

Handy C++ tidbits: forced birth and death

- **Cell** methods for forcing cell birth and death
  - `void` **`flag_for_division`**`( void );`
    - ♦ Use this if you want to force the cell to divide at the next opportunity

  - `void` **`start_death`**`( int death_model_index );`
    - ♦ Use this to trigger a specific death model (at the next opportunity)

  - `void` **`lyse_cell`**`( void );`
    - ♦ Trigger *immediate death* that sets volume to 0, deactivates all functions, and detaches the cell from all other linked cells. Cell will be deleted at next dt_cell step.
    - ♦ Safer than flag_for_removal()

Handy C++ tidbits: Boolean flags

- The **Cell** class has a few useful member data:
  - `bool is_out_of_domain;`
    - ♦ Set this to **true** if the cell is out of the domain.
    - ♦ I'm not 100% sure this is maintained up-to-date by the code. (It's on my to do list!)

  - `bool is_movable;`
    - ♦ This is ordinarily **true**, and allows the cell to be pushed by other cells.
    - ♦ Set this to **false** if you want the cell to exert forces on other cells, but don't want it to move (i.e., behave as a rigid barrier)

PhysiCell Cell Functions

Functions in PhysiCell

- In PhysiCell, almost all cell functions have the following form:

```
void function( Cell* pCell, Phenotype& phenotype , double dt );
```

- pCell :   pointer to a cell. Can be NULL
- phenotype: a cell phenotype. Usually pCell->phenotype.
- dt: how far the function / model should be advanced in time.

- These functions can access:
  - Cell **state** via `pCell->state`
  - Cell **custom** data via pCell->custom_data
  - Cell **functions** via pCell->functions
  - Cell **phenotype** via phenotype
  - nearby **microenvironment** via pCell->nearest_density_vector() and pCell->nearest_gradient_vector()

Functions in PhysiCell

- Almost all functions in PhysiCell have this form:

```
void my_function( Cell* pCell, Phenotype& phenotype, double dt );
```

All cells have the following key functions (`in pCell->`**functions**):

- `volume_update_function` (defaults to a built-in model)
- `update_migration_bias` (default NULL unless you enabled chemotaxis)
- `custom_cell_rule` (default NULL, evaluated at each mechanics time step)
- `update_phenotype` (default NULL, evaluated at each phenotype time step)
- `update_velocity` (defaults to a built-in model with potentials)
- `set_orientation` (automatically set as needed)
- `contact_function` (default NULL, evaluated at each mechanics time step)
  - We'll spend more time on this in Sessions 9-11

Purpose of the Functions

- **volume_update_function**
  - Dynamically grow / shrink cells towards "target" values

- **update_migration_bias**
  - Used whenever a cell chooses a new migration bias direction

- **custom_cell_rule**
  - A catch-all customization that's evaluated at each mechanics time step. (0.1 min)
  - Use this for rules that need frequent evaluation.

- **update_phenotype**
  - The general purpose rule to set phenotype parameters at each cell temp step. (6 min)
  - Generally where you spend the majority of your (implementation) time in a modeling project.

- **update_velocity**
  - Sets the cell velocity based on interaction potentials.
  - The custom rule and motility functions are automatically evaluated as well.

- **set_orientation**
  - Used during cell division to choose the division plane (a random plane through this vector).
  - We set this to (0,0,1) for 2-D simulations to ensure division in the xy-plane

- **contact_function**
  - A newer addition for cell-cell contact interactions such as adding/removing spring links. Evaluated at each mechanics step. More tomorrow.

A short example

- In custom.h, declare your new function;

```
void my_phenotype_function( Cell* pCell, Phenotype& phenotype, double dt );
```

- In custom.cpp, write the code:

```
void my_phenotype_function( Cell* pCell, Phenotype& phenotype, double dt )
{
        // get a rate from cell's custom data
        double rate = pCell->custom_data["rate"];
        // change a cell's apoptosis rate
        phenotype.death.rates[0] = rate;
        return;
}
```

- Use the function

```
cell_defaults.functions.update_phenotype = my_phenotype_function;
```

    ▪ The best place to do this is in create_cell_types() in custom.cpp

Handy C++ Helpers (Part 2)

Cell methods to access the microenvironment

- `int` **`get_current_voxel`** `index( void )`
  - Gives the index of the voxel that contains the agent's center.
  - More on this when we discuss diffusion

- `std::vector<double>&` **`nearest_density_vector`** `( void )`
  - a vector for all the substrate density values (stuff/volume) in the cell's voxel
  - allows the user to directly access (i.e., sample or modify) the vector of substrates at the cell's position
  - useful building functions that alter cell phenotype based on the microenvironment.

- `std::vector<double>&` **`nearest_gradient`** `( int substrate_index )`
  - for the substrate with index *i,* gives the gradient $\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right] \rho_i$ in the cell's voxel
  - useful for things like chemotaxis.

- `std::vector<gradient>&` **`nearest_gradient_vector`** `( void )`
  - gives a vector of **all** the gradients in the cell's voxel returns

More key functions

- `Cell_Definition*` **`find_cell_definition`**`( std::string )`
  - Get a pointer to a cell definition by searching for its name.

- `Cell_Definition*` **`find_cell_definition`**`( int )`
  - Get a pointer to a cell definition by searching for its integer type.
  - Since cells keep their `type_ID`, this can be quite handy for phenotype functions.

- `int Microenvironment`**`::find_density_index`**`( std::string )`
  - Search for the index in for a specific ucstrate
  - Useful for phenotype functions.
  - The default microenvironment in PhysiCell is named **microenvironment.**

Full Model Workflow: Example

Scenario: Oxygen-dependent cells

- Let's illustrate these with an example:
  - tumor cells:
    - ♦ Cycle entry proportional to local pO2
    - ♦ Necrosis probability increases below a pO2 threshold

  - motile tumor cells:
    - ♦ Same as tumor cells, but:
      - » 1/10 cycling rate
      - » 1/10 apoptosis rate
      - » a more advanced chemotaxis up oxygen gradients
      - » migration slows as oxygen increases.

Full modeling workflow

Suitable for creating a new PhysiCell model with custom C++ to drive dynamical phenotype changes

- Plan the model

- Populate a project
- Edit configuration Model Builder GUI
  - Edit domain
  - Edit microenvironment
  - Edit cell definitions
  - **Add custom variables**
  - **Add custom parameters**

- **Edit custom modules:**
  - **Declare functions in custom.h**
  - **Implement functions in custom.cpp**
  - **Assign functions to cell definitions**
- **Edit initial cell placement**

- **Edit cell coloring function**

- Build
- Run
- View results

Planning (1)

- Microenvironment
  - [-400,400] x [-400,400], 2160 minutes max time.
  - Oxygen with default parameters, boundary and initial conditions to 38 mmHg
  - Enable virtual wall

- Custom cell data (known once you have planned your cell functions)
  - pO2_proliferation_saturation   (max proliferation rate above this value)
  - pO2_proliferation_threshold   (no proliferation below this value)
  - pO2_necrosis_threshold   (necrosis starts at this value)
  - pO2_necrosis_saturation   (necrosis at max value below this value)
  - max_necrosis_rate   (max necrotic death rate for very low pO2)
  - pO2_half_max   (for Hill function)
  - pO2_hill_power   (for Hill function)

- Cell definitions
  - tumor
  - motile tumor

Planning (2)

- Tumor cell proliferation (σ = pO$_2$) with the simpler **live** cycle model.

$$r_{00} = \bar{r}_{00} \left(\frac{\sigma - \sigma_{\text{p\_threshold}}}{\sigma_{\text{p\_saturation}} - \sigma_{\text{p\_threshold}}} \right)$$

- $\sigma_{\text{p\_saturation}} = 38$ mmHg (5%)
- $\sigma_{p\_\text{threshold}} = 5$ mmHg (0.65%)
- $\bar{r}_{00} = 0.00072$ min^{-1}

- Tumor cell necrosis (σ = pO$_2$)

$$r_N = \bar{r}_N \left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{n\_threshold}} - \sigma}{\sigma_{\text{n\_threshold}} - \sigma_{\text{n\_saturation}}} \right)$$

- $\sigma_{\text{n\_threshold}} = 5$ mmHg (0.65%)
- $\sigma_{\text{n\_saturation}} = 2.5$ mmHg (0.32%)
- $\bar{r}_N = 0.0028$ min^{-1}

Planning (3)

- Tumor cell motility (σ = pO$_2$)
  - Let's use a basic Hill function to modulate speed and bias in (already) motile tumor cells
  - Assume as pO2 increases, the "signal" is stronger for less random and faster migration.

$$\mathbf{d}_{\text{bias}} = \frac{\nabla \sigma}{|\nabla \sigma|}$$

$$\text{speed} = \bar{s}\left(1 - \frac{s}{1+s}\right), \qquad \text{where} \quad s = \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{HM}}}\right)^{\text{hp}}$$

$$\text{bias} = \left(\frac{s}{1+s}\right)$$

  - $\bar{s} = 1\ \mu\text{m/min}$
  - $\sigma_{\text{HM}} = 4\ \text{mmHg}\ (1\%)$
  - $\text{hp} = 2$
  - set persistence time to 15 min

Start modeling!

- populate and build the template project
  - **make template**
  - **make**

- Open Model Builder GUI
  - enter the **./PhysiCell/config** directory
  - **python ../../PhysiCell-model-builder/bin/gui4xml.py**

Edit the model: domain

- Go to "config basics" tab

- Xmin = -400, Xmax = 400

- Ymin = -400, Ymax = 400

- max time = 2160

- full output every 360 min

- SVG every 15 min

- activate "virtual wall"
  - keep cells from leaving the domain
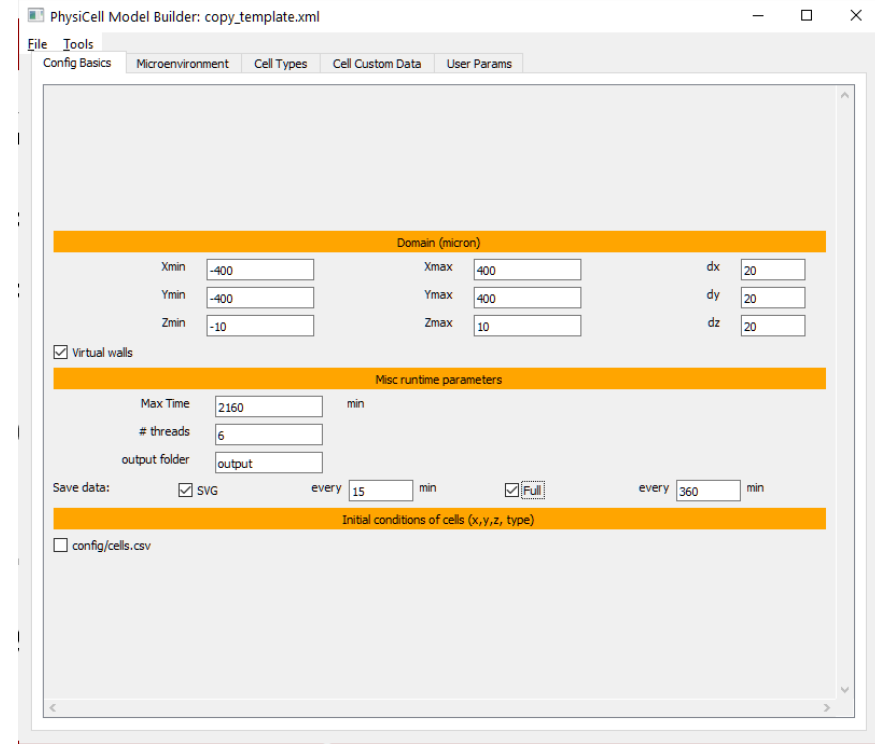
Edit the model: microenvironment

- Go to "microenvironment" tab

- double-click "substrate"
  - rename it oxygen, with units mmHg
  - reduce decay rate to 0.1
  - set Dirichlet BC to 38 (mmHg)
  - enable the Dirichlet BC
  - set initial value to 38 (mmHg)
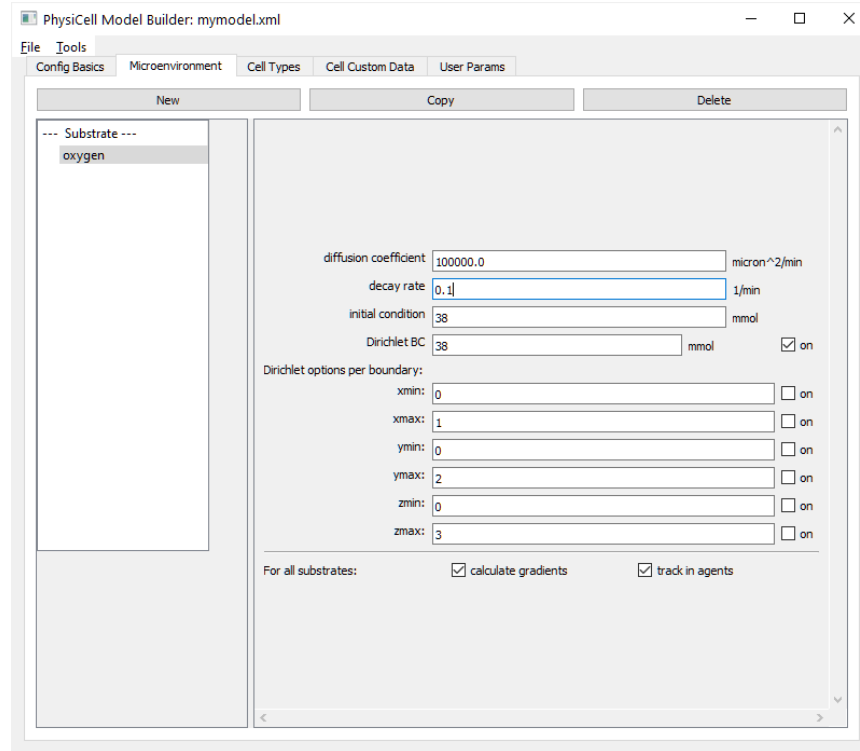
Edit the model: cell definitions (1)

- Go to "cell types" tab

- double-click "default"
  - rename it "tumor"
  - edit its phenotype:
    - ♦ click "cycle" subtab
      - » choose live cycle model
      - » select "transition rate(s)"
      - » set 0→0 transition to 0.00072
    - ♦ click "secretion" subtab
      - » Choose "oxygen" from dropdown
        - ○ set uptake rate to 10
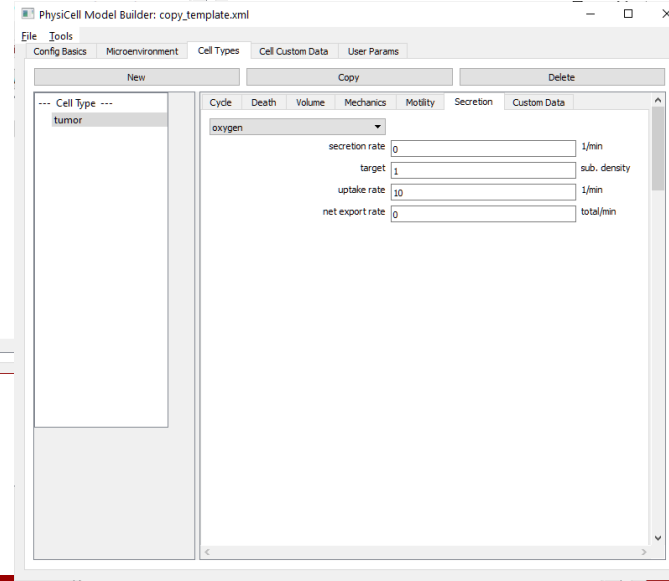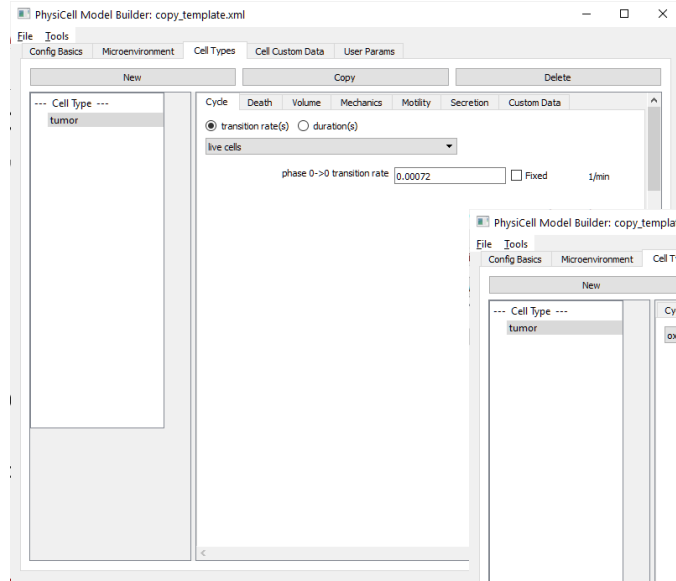
Edit the model: cell definitions (2)

- Go to "cell types" tab

- click "copy" to duplicate the tumor type
  - double click, rename to "motile tumor"
  - edit its phenotype:
    - ♦ click on "cycle"
      - » set phase 00 transition to 0.000072
    - ♦ click on "death"
      - » set apoptosis rate to 5.31667e-06
    - ♦ click on "motility"
      - » set speed to 1
      - » set persistence time to 15
      - » set bias to 0 (we'll handle in-function later)
      - » check to enable
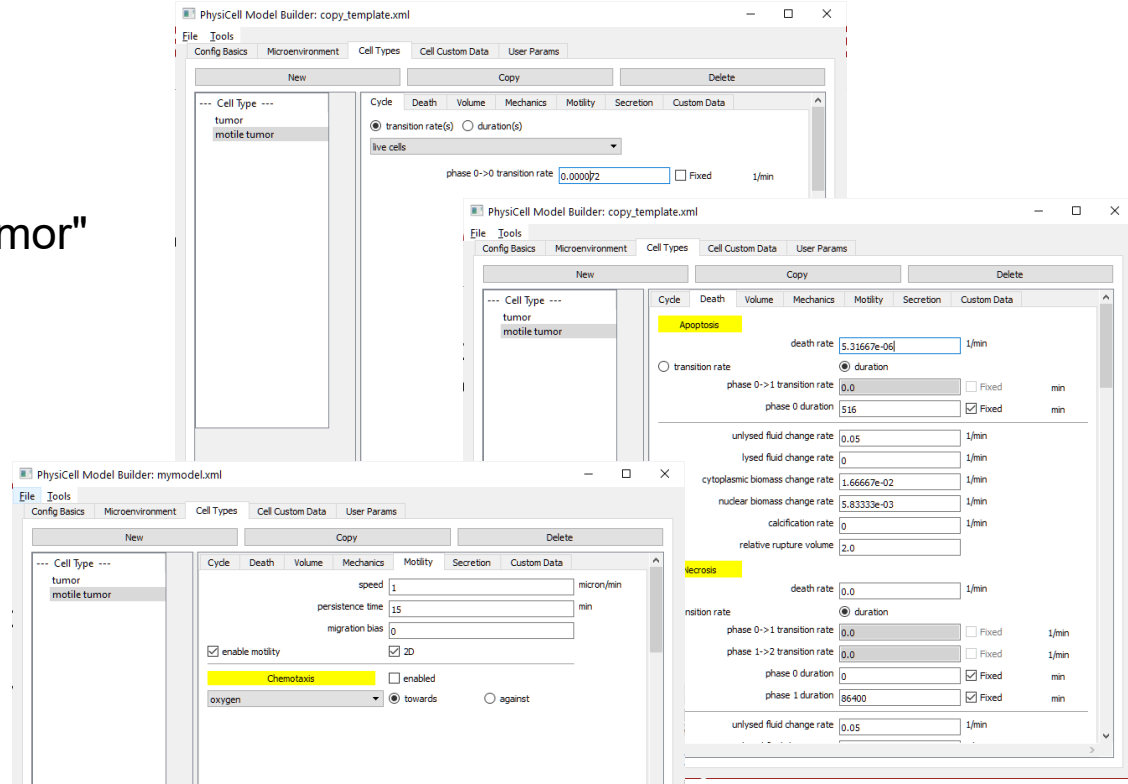
Edit the model: custom cell data

- Go to "cell custom data" tab
  - add a new data called "pO2_proliferation_saturation"
    - ♦ Fill out the default value, units, and description
    - ♦ Check the box on left to make sure it's copied to all cell definitions
  - Add pO2_proliferation_threshold
  - Add pO2_necrosis_threshold
  - Add pO2_necrosis_saturation
  - Add max_necrosis_rate
  - Add pO2_half_max
  - Add pO2_hill_power

Save to the project

- Go to "File", then "Save mymodel.xml"
  - This saves to wherever we ran PhysiCell Model Builder

- If needed, copy mymodel.xml to ./PhysiCell/config/

- Since we ran inside the config directory, it's already there!
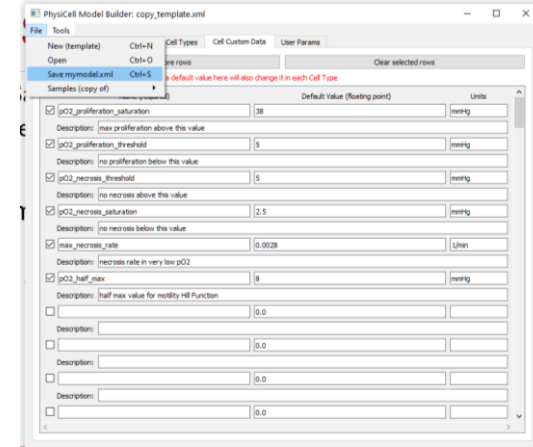
> **Unzip Session7_checkpoint1.zip**
> **in ./PhysiCell to get this code.**

Declare custom functions

- In `./custom_modules/custom.h`, declare:

```
void tumor_phenotype( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt);
```

```
void motile_tumor_phenotype( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt);
```

```
void motility_rule( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt );
```

Custom phenotype rule (1)

```
void tumor_phenotype( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt)
{
    // find my cell definition
    // find index of O2 in the microenvironment
    // find index of necrosis death model

    // sample O2

    // set birth rate
        // get base rate from cell definition
        // set multiplier to 1.0
        // sample pO2. if pO2 < pO2_proliferation_saturation:
            // multiplier = (pO2 -pO2_proliferation_threshold)
            //    /(pO2_proliferation_saturation-pO2_proliferation_threshold)
        // if pO2 < pO2_proliferation_threshold, set multipler = 0.0
        // transition rate = base_rate * multiplier

    // set necrosis rate
        // multiplier = 0.0
        // if pO2 < pO2_necrosis_threshold
            // multipler = (pO2_necrosis_threshold - pO2)
            //    /(pO2_necrosis_threshold-pO2_necrosis_saturation)
        // if pO2 < pO2_necrosis_saturation
            // multipler = 1
        // necrosis rate = max_necrosis_rate * multiplier

    // if dead, set secretion / uptake rates to zero

    // trick: if dead, overwrite with NULL function pointer.
}
```

Custom phenotype rule (2)

```
void tumor_phenotype( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt)
{
  // find my cell definition
  Cell_Definition* pCD = find_cell_definition( pC->type );

  // find index of O2 in the microenvironment
  static int nO2 = microenvironment.find_density_index( "oxygen" );

  // find index of necrosis death model
  static int nNecro = p.death.find_death_model_index( "Necrosis" );

  // sample O2
  double pO2 = pC->nearest_density_vector()[nO2];

  // set birth rate
    // get base rate from cell definition
  double base_rate = pCD->phenotype.cycle.data.transition_rate(0,0);
    // set multiplier to 1.0
  double multiplier = 1.0;
```

Custom phenotype rule (3)

```
   // sample pO2. if pO2 < pO2_proliferation_saturation:
if( pO2 < pC->custom_data["pO2_proliferation_saturation"] )
{
    // multiplier = (pO2 -pO2_proliferation_threshold)
    //   /(pO2_proliferation_saturation-pO2_proliferation_threshold)

  multiplier = (pO2 - pC->custom_data["pO2_proliferation_threshold"] )
     /( pC->custom_data["pO2_proliferation_saturation"]
       -pC->custom_data["pO2_proliferation_threshold"] );
}

   // if pO2 < pO2_proliferation_threshold, set multipler = 0.0
if( pO2 < pC->custom_data["pO2_proliferation_threshold"] )
{ multiplier = 0.0; }

   // transition rate = base_rate * multiplier
p.cycle.data.transition_rate(0,0) = base_rate * multiplier;
```

Custom phenotype rule (4)

```
// set necrosis rate
   // multiplier = 0.0
multiplier = 0.0;

   // if pO2 < pO2_necrosis_threshold
if( pO2 < pC->custom_data["pO2_necrosis_threshold"] )
{
     // multipler = (pO2_necrosis_threshold - pO2)
     //   /(pO2_necrosis_threshold-pO2_necrosis_saturation)

   multiplier = (pC->custom_data["pO2_necrosis_threshold"] - pO2 )
       / ( pC->custom_data["pO2_necrosis_threshold"]
         -pC->custom_data["pO2_necrosis_saturation"] );
}

   // if pO2 < pO2_necrosis_saturation
     // multipler = 1
if( pO2 < pC->custom_data["pO2_necrosis_saturation"] )
{ multiplier = 1.0; }

   // necrosis rate = max_necrosis_rate * multiplier
p.death.rates[nNecro] = pC->custom_data["max_necrosis_rate"] * multiplier;
```

Custom phenotype rule (5)

```
  // if dead, set secretion / uptake rates to zero
  // trick: if dead, overwrite with NULL function pointer.
  if( p.death.dead == true )
  {
    p.secretion.set_all_secretion_to_zero();
    p.secretion.set_all_uptake_to_zero();
    pC->functions.update_phenotype = NULL;
  }

  return;
}

void motile_tumor_phenotype( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt)
{ return; }
```

**Unzip Session7_checkpoint2.zip
in ./PhysiCell to get this code.**

Custom motility rule (1)

```
void motility_rule( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt )
{
   // find my cell definition
   // find index of O2 in the microenvironment

   // sample pO2
   // sample pO2 gradient

   // check against pO2_half_max; set motility false and exit if needed

   // set migration bias direction to grad(pO2)
   // normalize

   // set the Hill multiplier
      // s = (pO2/pO2_half_max)^pO2_hill_power
      // hill = s / ( 1+s );

   // set speed
      // speed = base_speed * (1-hill)

   // migration bias
      // bias = hill

   // trick: if dead, overwrite with NULL function pointer.
}
```

Custom motility rule (2)

```cpp
void motility_rule( Cell* pC, Phenotype& p, double dt )
{
  // find my cell definition
  Cell_Definition* pCD = find_cell_definition( pC->type );

  // find index of O2 in the microenvironment
  static int nO2 = microenvironment.find_density_index( "oxygen" );

  // sample pO2
  double pO2 = pC->nearest_density_vector()[nO2];

  // sample pO2 gradient
  // set migration bias direction to grad(pO2)
  p.motility.migration_bias_direction = pC->nearest_gradient(nO2);

  // normalize
  normalize( &(p.motility.migration_bias_direction) );
```

Custom motility rule (3)

```
    // set the Hill multiplier
      // s = (pO2/pO2_half_max)^pO2_hill_power
      // hill = s / ( 1+s );
    double temp = pow( pO2 / pC->custom_data["pO2_half_max"] , pC->custom_data["pO2_hill_power"] );
    double hill = temp / (1.0 + temp );

    // set speed
      // speed = base_speed * hill
    p.motility.migration_speed = pCD->phenotype.motility.migration_speed * (1-hill);

    // migration bias
      // bias = multiplier
    p.motility.migration_bias = hill;


    // trick: if dead, overwrite with NULL function pointer.
    if( p.death.dead == true )
    { pC->functions.update_migration_bias = NULL; }
}
```

Assign the functions

```
// in create_cell_types():

    /*
        Put any modifications to individual cell definitions here.

        This is a good place to set custom functions.
    */

    cell_defaults.functions.update_phenotype = phenotype_function;
    cell_defaults.functions.custom_cell_rule = custom_function;
    cell_defaults.functions.contact_function = contact_function;

    Cell_Definition* pCD = find_cell_definition( "tumor" );
    pCD->functions.update_phenotype = tumor_phenotype;

    pCD = find_cell_definition( "motile tumor" );
    pCD->functions.update_phenotype = motile_tumor_phenotype;
    pCD->functions.update_migration_bias = motility_rule;

    /*
        This builds the map of cell definitions and summarizes the setup.
    */

    // ...
```

Let's modify the setup

- Let's start with 200 of each cell type. Open `./config/mymodel.xml`:

- Scroll down to `user_parameters`

```
<user_parameters>
  <random_seed type="int" units="dimensionless"
    description="">0</random_seed>
  <number_of_cells type="int" units="none"
    description="initial number of cells
    (for each cell type)">200</number_of_cells>
</user_parameters>
```

Unzip Session7_checkpoint3.zip
in ./PhysiCell to get this code.

Rebuild and run the project

- Open the XML config file and set max simulation time to 3600 minutes

- rebuild:
  - **`make`**

- run:
  - **`./project ./config/mymodel.xml    (linux, MacOS)`**
  - **`project ./config/mymodel.xml     (Windows)`**

View results!

- make animated GIF
  - **make gif**
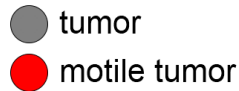
● tumor
● motile tumor

- Expected behavior:
  - gray tumor cells proliferate
    - ♦ fastest near higher pO2 on boundary
  - gray cells proliferate faster than red
  - red motile tumor cells migrate towards outer boundary
  - red migration slows down as they near boundary

Current time: 0 days, 0 hours, and 0.00 minutes, z = 0.00 μm
401 agents

0 days, 0 hours, 0 minutes, and 0.0170 seconds   200 μm
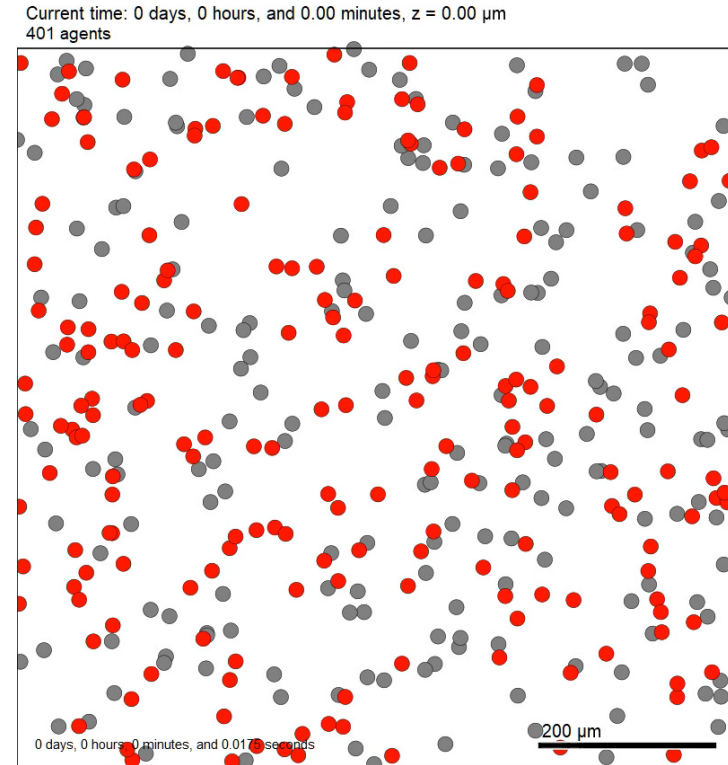
LUDDY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS, COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING

PhysiCell Project
PhysiCell.org
🐦 **@PhysiCell**

Handy C++ Helpers (Part 3)

Handy C++ tidbits: creating cells

- Functions to help (properly) create and place new cells
  - `Cell*` **`create_cell`**`( void );`
    - ♦ Create a new **Cell** using the default cell definition (cell_defaults: has ID 0)
    - ♦ Returns a pointer to the cell, allowing you to further access and modify it
  - `Cell*` **`create_cell`**`( Cell_Definition& cd );`
    - ♦ Create a new **Cell** using supplied cell definition
    - ♦ Returns a pointer to the cell, allowing you to further access and modify it
  - `bool` **`assign_position`**`( std::vector<double> new_position);`
    - ♦ Use this if you want to manually set the cell's position.
    - ♦ Fully compatible with BioFVM and its data structures
    - ♦ Useful for initialization

Example: Creating a new (default) cell

```cpp
// declare a cell pointer
Cell* pCell = NULL;

// create a cell
pCell = create_cell();

// assign its position
std::vector<double> position = {0,0,0};
pCell->assign_position( position );

// set any other state variables or properties
pCell->phenotype.motility.is_motile = false;
pCell->custom_data[ "damage" ] = 0.0;
```

Example: Creating and placing a new (custom) cell

```
// declare a cell pointer
Cell* pCell = NULL;

// find the cell definition for fibroblasts
Cell_Definition* pCD = find_cell_definition( "fibroblast" );

// create a cell (of type *pCD)
pCell = create_cell( *pCD );

// choose a random point on the circle of radius 3 centered at (4,-2,0)
std::vector<double> position = UniformOnUnitCircle();
position *= 3.0; position += {4,-2,0};
pCell->assign_position( position );
```

Handy C++ tidbits: accessing all cells

- **all_cells** is a pointer to a vector of all cell agents.

- Here's the syntax to use it to traverse all cell agents:

```
for( int i=0 ; i < (*all_cells).size() ; i++ )
{
 Cell* pCell = (*all_cells)[i];
 std::cout << "cell " << i << " at " << pCell
    << " is type " << pCell->type
    << " and death status is " << pCell->phenotype.death.dead
    << std::endl;
}
```

Full Model Workflow: Example 2

Scenario: Oxygen-dependent cells v2

- Let's illustrate these with an example:
  - tumor cells:
    - ♦ Cycle entry proportional to local pO2
    - ♦ Necrosis probability increases below a pO2 threshold

  - motile tumor cells:
    - ♦ Same as tumor cells, but:
      - » 1/10 cycling rate
      - » 1/10 apoptosis rate
      - » a more advanced chemotaxis up oxygen gradients
      - » stop migrating above a threshold value

  - **Specify how many of each cell type, and place them closer to origin**

Full modeling workflow

Suitable for creating a new PhysiCell model with custom C++ to drive dynamical phenotype changes

- Plan the model

- Populate a project
- Edit configuration Model Builder GUI
  - Edit domain
  - Edit microenvironment
  - Edit cell definitions
  - **Add custom variables**
  - **Add custom parameters**

- **Edit custom modules:**
  - **Declare functions in custom.h**
  - **Implement functions in custom.cpp**
  - **Assign functions to cell definitions**
- **Edit initial cell placement**

- **Edit cell coloring function**

- Build
- Run
- View results

Add new user parameters

- Go to "user parameters" in Model Builder
  - rename "number_of_cells" to "number_of_tumor_cells"
    - ♦ Set its value to 750
    - ♦ Change its description to "initial number of tumor cells"
  - add another parameter called "number_of_motile_cells"
    - ♦ set its type to int
    - ♦ set its value to 50
    - ♦ set units and description
  - add another parameter called "max_initial_distance"
    - ♦ keep its type as double
    - ♦ set its value and units to 250 micron
    - ♦ set description to "max initial cell distance from origin"
- Resave mymodel.xml
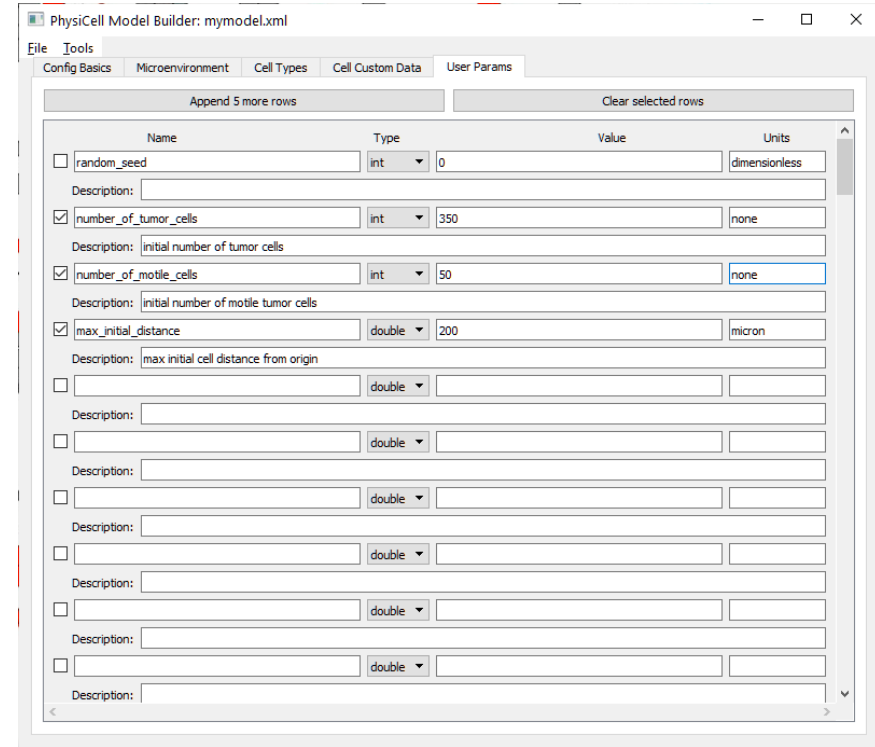
Edit setup_tissue (1)

- In `./custom_modules/custom.cpp` find `setup_tissue`

- Comment out the current placement code:

```
/*
  for( int k=0; k < cell_definitions_by_index.size() ; k++ )
  {
    Cell_Definition* pCD = cell_definitions_by_index[k];
    std::cout << "Placing cells of type " << pCD->name << " ... " << std::endl;
    for( int n = 0 ; n < parameters.ints("number_of_cells") ; n++ )
    {
      std::vector<double> position = {0,0,0};
      position[0] = Xmin + UniformRandom()*Xrange;
      position[1] = Ymin + UniformRandom()*Yrange;
      position[2] = Zmin + UniformRandom()*Zrange;

      pC = create_cell( *pCD );
      pC->assign_position( position );
    }
  }
*/
```

Edit setup_tissue (2)

```
        pC->assign_position( position );
      }
    }
*/

  // place tumor cells
  double max_distance = parameters.doubles("max_initial_distance");

  Cell_Definition* pCD = find_cell_definition( "tumor" );
  std::cout << "Placing cells of type " << pCD->name << " ... " << std::endl;
  for( int k=0 ; k < parameters.ints( "number_of_tumor_cells" ); k++ )
  {
     std::vector<double> position = {0,0,0};
     double r = sqrt(UniformRandom())* max_distance;
     double theta = UniformRandom() * 6.2831853;
     position[0] = r*cos(theta);
     position[1] = r*sin(theta);

     pC = create_cell( *pCD );
     pC->assign_position( position );
  }
```

Edit setup_tissue (3)

```cpp
// place motile tumor cells
pCD = find_cell_definition( "motile tumor" );

std::cout << "Placing cells of type " << pCD->name << " ... " << std::endl;
for( int k=0 ; k < parameters.ints( "number_of_motile_cells" ); k++ )
{
    std::vector<double> position = {0,0,0};
    double r = sqrt(UniformRandom()) * max_distance;
    double theta = UniformRandom() * 6.2831853;
    position[0] = r*cos(theta);
    position[1] = r*sin(theta);

    pC = create_cell( *pCD );
    pC->assign_position( position );
}

std::cout << std::endl;

// load cells from your CSV file (if enabled)
load_cells_from_pugixml();

return;
}
```

Unzip **Session7_checkpoint4.zip**
in **./PhysiCell** to get this code.

Rebuild and run the project

- Open the XML config file and set max simulation time to 3600 minutes

- rebuild:
  - **`make`**

- run:
  - **`./project ./config/mymodel.xml    (linux, MacOS)`**
  - **`project ./config/mymodel.xml    (Windows)`**

View results!

- make movie
  - **make jpeg && make movie**
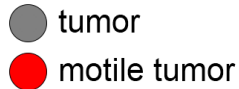
  ⬤ tumor
  🔴 motile tumor

- Expected behavior:
  - gray tumor cells proliferate
    - ♦ fastest near higher pO2 on boundary
  - gray cells proliferate faster than red
  - red motile tumor cells migrate towards outer boundary
  - red migration slows down as they near boundary

Current time: 0 days, 0 hours, and 0.00 minutes, z = 0.00 µm
801 agents

0 days, 0 hours, 0 minutes, and 0.0269 seconds   200 µm
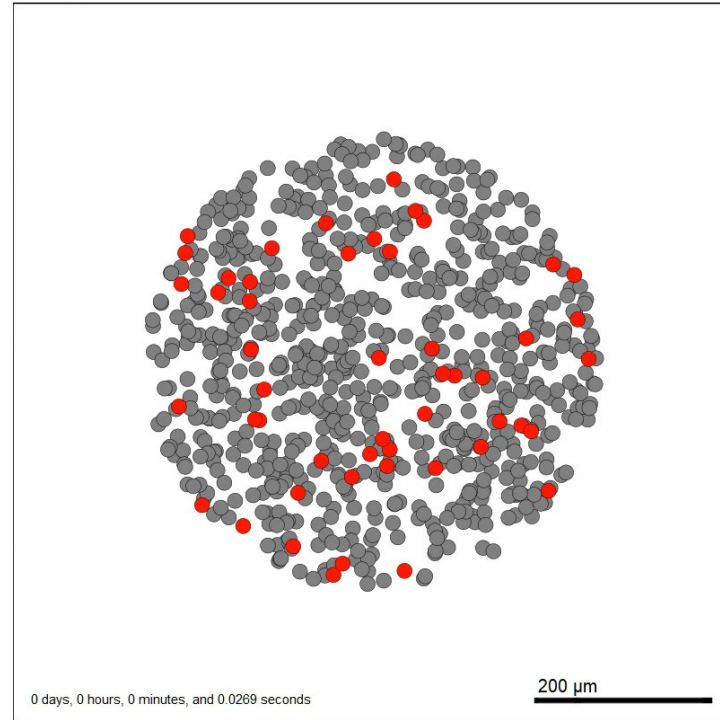
Full Model Workflow: Example 3

Scenario: Oxygen-dependent cells v3

- Let's illustrate these with an example:
  - tumor cells:
    - ♦ Cycle entry proportional to local pO2
    - ♦ Necrosis probability increases below a pO2 threshold

  - motile tumor cells:
    - ♦ Same as tumor cells, but:
      - » 1/10 cycling rate
      - » 1/10 apoptosis rate
      - » a more advanced chemotaxis up oxygen gradients
      - » stop migrating above a threshold value

  - Specify how many of each cell type, and place them closer to origin
  - Dial initial and boundary pO2 down to 15 mmHg
  - **Color non-motile tumor cells based on current cycling rate**

Full modeling workflow

Suitable for creating a new PhysiCell model with custom C++ to drive dynamical phenotype changes

- Plan the model

- Populate a project
- Edit configuration Model Builder GUI
  - Edit domain
  - Edit microenvironment
  - Edit cell definitions
  - **Add custom variables**
  - **Add custom parameters**

- **Edit custom modules:**
  - **Declare functions in custom.h**
  - **Implement functions in custom.cpp**
  - **Assign functions to cell definitions**
- **Edit initial cell placement**

- **Edit cell coloring function**

- Build
- Run
- View results

Custom coloring functions for SVGs (1)

Declare the function in the custom header file

```
std::vector<std::string> my_coloring_function( Cell* );
```

Create it in the custom cpp file

```
std::vector<std::string> my_coloring_function( Cell* pCell )
{
   // color 0: cytoplasm fill
   // color 1: outer outline
   // color 2: nuclear fill
   // color 3: nuclear outline

   // start black
   std::vector< std::string > = {"black", "black", "black", "black" };
   // make the cytoplasm red if it's not dead
   if( pCell->phenotype.death.dead == false )
   {  output[0] = "red"; }
   return output;
}
```

Let's make our shade from blue (zero prolif rate) to yellow (max prolif rate)

Coloring function (1)

```cpp
// declare new coloring in custom.h

std::vector<std::string> custom_coloring_function( Cell* );

// start work in custom.cpp

std::vector<std::string> custom_coloring_function( Cell* pC )
{
  // start with paint-by-numbers
  std::vector<std::string> output = paint_by_number_cell_coloring(pC);

  // get tumor cell def
  static Cell_Definition* pTC = find_cell_definition( "tumor" );

  // return if not live tumor cell
  if( pC->phenotype.death.dead || pC->type != pTC->type )
  { return output; }
```

Coloring function (2)

```cpp
    // get relative birth rate
    double s = pC->phenotype.cycle.data.transition_rate(0,0) /
      pTC->phenotype.cycle.data.transition_rate(0,0);

    // make color
    int color = (int) round( 255.0 * s );
    char szColor [1024];

    // blue to yellow
    sprintf( szColor, "rgb(%u,%u,%u)",color,color,255-color );

    // modify output
    output[0] = szColor;
    output[2] = szColor;
    output[3] = szColor;

    return output;
}
```

Tell PhysiCell to use your coloring function

In main.cpp

```
std::vector<std::string> (*cell_coloring_function)(Cell*) =
  custom_coloring_function;
```

Colors follow the W3C standards for SVG files. Names, RGB values, etc.

https://www.w3.org/TR/SVG11/types.html#ColorKeywords

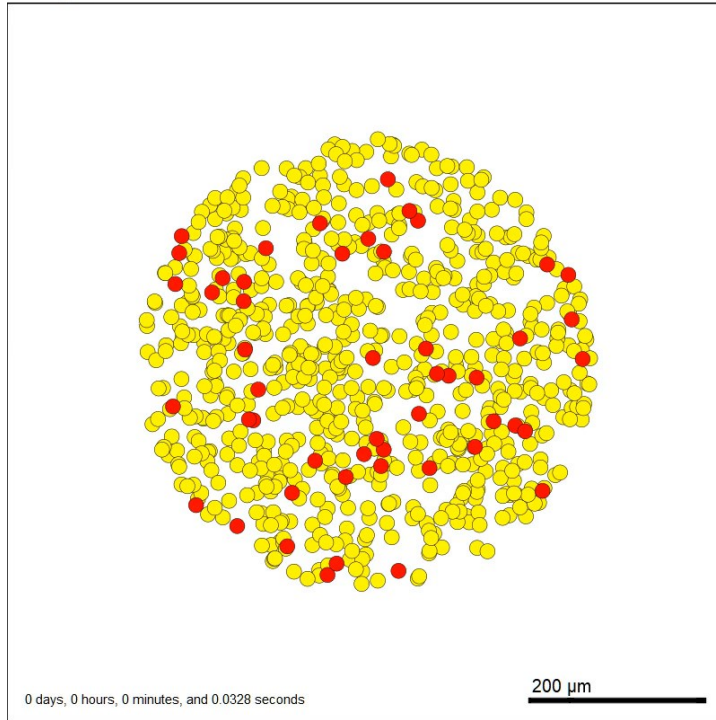**User Guide:** Section 14.2

> **Unzip Session7_checkpoint5.zip**
> **in ./PhysiCell to get this code.**

Run and View results!

- make && ./project ./config/mymodel.xml

- make movie
  - **make jpeg && make movie**

Current time: 0 days, 0 hours, and 0.00 minutes, z = 0.00 μm
801 agents

● tumor
● motile tumor

0 days, 0 hours, 0 minutes, and 0.0328 seconds

200 μm

Funding Acknowledgements

LUDDY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS, COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING

PhysiCell Project
PhysiCell.org
@PhysiCell