

# The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

---

Ankur Sinha  
Silver Lab  
Department of Neuroscience, Physiology, & Pharmacology  
University College London  
2024-02-26

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

Ankur Sinha  
Silver Lab  
Department of Neuroscience, Physiology, & Pharmacology  
University College London  
2024-02-26

Anatomy

Electrophysiology

Functional imaging

Multiple experimental figures/images go here. Showing different spatial scales.

2024-02-23

## The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ An understanding of the brain

1. Experiments provide us with direct information.
2. They study the brain at different levels.
3. There's no right level. It depends on the question being investigated.

Anatomy

Electrophysiology

Functional imaging

Multiple experimental figures/images go here. Showing different spatial scales.

Figure showing multiple scales of modelling goes here.

2024-02-23

## The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ A mechanistic understanding of the brain

1. There is so much data out there now, as we embrace Open Science.
2. Models/theory are necessary for:
3. combining independent experimental results into unified theories
4. exploring these complex systems across wider range of conditions
5. generating new testable hypotheses
6. RNNs are appropriate for lots of projects, for example.
7. So are whole brain neural mass models.
8. But, to really understand the underlying mechanisms that give rise to emergent behaviour, we must model the brain at biophysically detailed levels.

### └─ The model life cycle

- tweaked version of life cycle figure from paper goes here.
- remove NeuroML, add data

1. The figure shows a simplified model life cycle. Can be much more complex in practice.
2. Lots of tools out there for each step.
3. But there's are issues—fragmentation, lack of interoperability, so many APIs.

### └ Standards enable FAIR neuroscience

- NWB/BIDS for data
- NeuroML/SBML etc. for modelling
- Add logos

1. Standards allow the representation of data and models in specific, agreed formats.
2. They're not neuroscience specific, of course—even programming languages have standards.
3. More importantly, if one knows what the data is going to look like, one can then develop tools and APIs around it.
4. And instead of everyone writing a tool for their own standard, every tool anyone writes for the one standard can be used with everyone's data.

## But, too many standards?

- XKCD here.

2024-02-23

## The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ But, too many standards?

1. In neuroscience, we're fortunate enough to not have the issue of having too many standards.
2. There are only a few standards in biophysically detailed modelling, and as we'll see, we ensure that these few remain interoperable.

- Introduction to NeuroML.

- Figure 2 from paper



- Figure 3

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised  
multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ NeuroML: software ecosystem: core tools

• Figure 4

- Figure 4

- Figure 5
- Code example

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ NeuroML: create models

- Figure 5
- Code example

- Figure 6

- Figure 7
- Figure 8
- Figure 9

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised  
multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ NeuroML: visualise models

• Figure 7  
• Figure 8  
• Figure 9

- Example simulation: neuron/netpyne

- Figure from docs
- Mention inspyred

- Figure from docs
- Mention inspyred

## └ NeuroML: share and re-use models

- GitHub, OSBv1, OSBv2, NeuroML-DB



- Schema, component types

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised  
multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└ NeuroML: the standard

• Schema, component types

- Python API

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised  
multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└─ NeuroML: the APIs

• Python API

- LEMS, advantages

- Jupyterbook

2024-02-23

The NeuroML ecosystem for standardised  
multi-scale modelling in neuroscience

└─ NeuroML: Documentation

• Jupyterbook

- GSoC, Outreachy, good computer science students