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**Arborize**  
*Release 4.0.0b0*

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**Nov 15, 2023**



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Arborize lets you describe your model definitions, import schematics from multiple sources and build equivalent multicompartmental models on the supported backends (Arbor and NEURON).



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CHAPTER  
ONE

---

## GETTING STARTED

To build our first model, we start by creating a definition consisting of *soma* and *basal\_dendrite*.

We'll begin by defining *hh* and *pas* in the soma, and *pas* in the dendrites:

```
from arborize import define_model

definition = define_model({
    "cable_types": {
        "soma": {
            "cable": {
                "Ra": 100,
                "cm": 1,
            },
            "mechanisms": {
                "hh": {
                    "gnabar": 0.12,
                    "gkbar": 0.036,
                    "gl": 0.0003,
                    "el": -54.3,
                },
            },
        },
        "basal_dendrite": {
            "cable": {
                "Ra": 100,
                "cm": 1,
            },
            "mechanisms": {
                "pas": {
                    "g": 0.001,
                    "e": -65,
                },
            },
        },
    },
})
```

Next up we need to get a schematic, download this morphology from NeuroMorpho as *morpho.swc*, then we can create a file schematic from it:

```
from arborize import file_schematic  
  
schematic = file_schematic("morpho.swc", definition)
```

**Hint:** Arborize uses [MorphIO](#) to load schematics from file. The points are labelled with the `SectionType` enum.

We're ready to build a cell:

```
from arborize import neuron_build  
  
cell = neuron_build(schematic)
```

**Hint:** Arborize's NEURON builder uses [Patch](#) to construct NEURON objects. It provides many convenience functions.

Let's record the soma and plot the results:

```
from patch import p  
import plotly.express as px  
  
r = cell.soma[0].record()  
cell.basal_dendrite[0].iclamp(delay=5, duration=1, amplitude=0.1, x=1)  
t = p.time  
p.celsius = 6.3  
p.run(100)  
px.line(x=list(r), y=list(t)).show()
```

To create variants of your cell model, pass the template definition to `define_model`:

```
variant = define_model(definition, {  
    "cable_types": {  
        "soma": {  
            "mechanisms": {  
                "hh": {  
                    "gkbar": 0.172  
                }  
            }  
        }  
    }  
})
```

We can now plot the difference between the 2 cell types:

```
from patch import p  
import plotly.express as px  
  
wildtype_schematic = file_schematic("morpho.swc", definition)  
wildtype_cell = neuron_build(schematic)  
variant_schematic = file_schematic("morpho.swc", variant)  
variant_cell = neuron_build(variant_schematic)
```

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```
wildtype_cell.basal_dendrite[0].iclamp(delay=5, duration=1, amplitude=0.1, x=1)
variant_cell.basal_dendrite[0].iclamp(delay=5, duration=1, amplitude=0.1, x=1)
r_wt = wildtype_cell.soma[0].record()
r_var = variant_cell.soma[0].record()
t = p.time
p.celsius = 6.3
p.run(100)
px.line(x=list(r), y=list(t)).show()
```



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**CHAPTER  
TWO**

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**MODEL DEFINITIONS**



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**CHAPTER  
THREE**

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**MODEL SCHEMATICS**



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**CHAPTER  
FOUR**

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**MODEL BUILDERS**



## ARBORIZE

### 5.1 arborize package

#### 5.1.1 Subpackages

[arborize.builders package](#)

[Module contents](#)

[arborize.schematics package](#)

[Module contents](#)

#### 5.1.2 Submodules

##### 5.1.3 arborize.definitions module

```
class arborize.definitions.Assert
    Bases: object
        assert_()

class arborize.definitions.CableProperties(Ra: float = None, cm: float = None)
    Bases: Copy, Merge, Assert
        Ra: float = None
        cm: float = None
            Axial resistivity in ohm/cm
        copy()

class arborize.definitions.CableType
    Bases: object
        add_ion(key: str, ion: Ion)
        add_mech(mech_id: str | tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str], mech: Mechanism)
        add_synapse(label: str | tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str], synapse: Synapse)
```

```
static anchor(defs: Iterable[CableType], synapses: dict[str, arborizedefinitions.Synapse] | None = None,
use_defaults: bool = False) → CableType

assert_()
cable: CableProperties
copy()
classmethod default()
ions: dict[str, arborizedefinitions.Ion]
mechs: dict[Union[str, tuple[str], tuple[str, str], tuple[str, str, str]], arborizedefinitions.Mechanism]
merge(def_right: CableType)
set(param: Parameter)
synapses: dict[str, arborizedefinitions.Synapse]

class arborizedefinitions.Copy
Bases: object
copy()

class arborizedefinitions.Ion(rev_pot: float = None, int_con: float = None, ext_con: float = None)
Bases: Copy, Merge, Assert
ext_con: float = None
int_con: float = None
rev_pot: float = None

class arborizedefinitions.Mechanism(parameters)
Bases: object
copy()
merge(other)
parameters: dict[str, float]

class arborizedefinitions.Merge
Bases: object
merge(other)

class arborizedefinitions.ModelDefinition(use_defaults=False)
Bases: object
add_cable_type(label: str, def_: CableType)
add_synapse_type(label: str | tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str], synapse: Synapse)
copy()
get_cable_types()
```

```

get_synapse_types()

class arborize.definitions.Synapse(parameters, mech_id: str | tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str])
    Bases: Mechanism

copy()

    mech_id: tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str]

class arborize.definitions.default_ions_dict
    Bases: dict

arborize.definitions.define_model(templ_or_def, def_dict=None, /, use_defaults=False)

arborize.definitions.is_mech_id(mech_id)

class arborize.definitions.mechdict
    Bases: dict

arborize.definitions.to_mech_id(mech_id: str | tuple[str] | tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str]) → tuple[str] |
    tuple[str, str] | tuple[str, str, str]

```

#### 5.1.4 arborize.exceptions module

```

exception arborize.exceptions.ArborizeError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: DetailedException

    ArborizeError exception

exception arborize.exceptions.ConstructionError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: SchematicError

    ConstructionError exception

exception arborize.exceptions.FrozenError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: SchematicError

    FrozenError exception

exception arborize.exceptions.ModelDefinitionError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: ArborizeError

    ModelDefinitionError exception

exception arborize.exceptionsModelError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: ArborizeError

    ModelError exception

exception arborize.exceptions.SchematicError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: ArborizeError

    SchematicError exception

exception arborize.exceptions.TransmitterError(*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: ModelError

    TransmitterError exception

```

```
exception arborize.exceptions.UnknownLocationError(*args, **kwargs)
```

Bases: *ModelError*

UnknownLocationError exception

```
exception arborize.exceptions.UnknownSynapseError(*args, **kwargs)
```

Bases: *ModelError*

UnknownSynapseError exception

## 5.1.5 arborize.parameter module

```
class arborize.parameter.CableParameter(prop: str, value: float)
```

Bases: *Parameter*

```
    set_cable_params(cable)
```

```
class arborize.parameter.IonParameter(ion: str, prop: str, value: float)
```

Bases: *Parameter*

```
class arborize.parameter.MechParameter
```

Bases: *Parameter*

```
class arborize.parameter.Parameter
```

Bases: *object*

## 5.1.6 arborize.schematic module

```
class arborize.schematic.Branch
```

Bases: *object*

```
    append(point)
```

```
    points: list[arborize.schematic.Point]
```

```
class arborize.schematic.CableBranch
```

Bases: *Branch*

```
    append(loc, coords, radius, labels)
```

```
    points: list[arborize.schematic.Point]
```

```
class arborize.schematic.Point(loc, branch, coords, radius)
```

Bases: *object*

```
    branch: UnitBranch
```

```
class arborize.schematic.Schematic(name=None)
```

Bases: *object*

```
    create_empty()
```

```
    create_location(location, coords, radii, labels, endpoint=None)
```

```
    create_name()
```

---

```

property definition
freeze()
get_cable_types()
get_synapse_types()
property name
set_param(location: tuple[int, int] | tuple[tuple[int, int], tuple[int, int]] | str, param: Parameter)

class arborize.schematic.UnitBranch
  Bases: Branch
    children: list['UnitBranch']
    definition: CableType
    labels: list[str]
    parent: UnitBranch | None
  arborize.schematic.throw_frozen()

```

### 5.1.7 arborize.synapse module

```

class arborize.synapse.Synapse(cell, section, point_process_name, attributes={}, variant=None, type=None,
                                 source=None)
  Bases: object
    presynaptic(section, x=0.5, **kwargs)
    record()
    stimulate(*args, **kwargs)

```

### 5.1.8 Module contents



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CHAPTER  
SIX

---

## DEFINING A MODEL

Model definitions consist of *cable\_types* and *synapse\_types*. Cable types define the cable and ionic properties of the types of compartments in the model, such as the soma, axon and dendrites, and which biophysical mechanisms should be present. Synapse types define the properties of the synapses that can be inserted.

```
{  
    "cable_types": {...},  
    "synapse_types": {...}  
}
```

You then pass this dictionary style definition to the [define\\_model\(\)](#) function:

```
from arborize import define_model  
  
definition = define_model({  
    "cable_types": {...},  
    "synapse_types": {...},  
})
```

A *definition* can then be combined with a *schematic* by a *builder* to create instances of your model.

### 6.1 Cable types

Each cable type has a name. A cable type definition consists of *cable*, *ions*, *mechanisms*, and *synapses*. During the schematic construction multiple cable types can be applied to a single piece of cable in the model.

```
{  
    "cable_types": {  
        "soma": {  
            "cable": {...},  
            "ions": {...},  
            "mechanisms": {...},  
            "synapses": {...}  
        }  
    }  
}
```

### 6.1.1 Cable properties

- Ra: Axial resistivity (ohm/cm)
- cm: Membrane capacitance (uF/cm<sup>2</sup>)

```
{  
  "cable": {  
    "Ra": 0.34,  
    "cm": 1,  
  }  
}
```

### 6.1.2 Ion properties

The *ions* block can contain any key, representing the ion name, conventionally lowercase, and each can set the following properties:

- e: Reversal potential

```
{  
  "ions": {  
    "h": {"rev_pot": 0},  
    "ca": {"rev_pot": 30},  
  }  
}
```

### 6.1.3 Mechanisms

Mechanisms are defined by their mechanism ID, which is either a string name, or a tuple of up to 3 strings: name, variant, and package; and a set of parameters.

```
{  
  "mechanisms": {  
    "Kv1": {  
      "gbar": 1.4  
    },  
    ("Kv1", "burst"): {  
      "gbar": 1.4  
    }  
  }  
}
```

---

**Hint:** Arborize uses [Glia](#) to manage the mechanisms for the NEURON and Arbor backends. In order to use mechanisms you need to add them to your Glia library.

---

## 6.1.4 Synapses

A synapse definition is defined by its name, mechanism ID and parameter set. If you do not specify a mechanism ID, the name is used instead.

```
{
  "synapses": {
    "AMPA": {
      "gmax": 3200
    },
    "depressing": {
      "mechanism": ("AMPA", "TM"),
      "parameters": {
        "gmax": 1300,
        "U": 0.60
      }
    },
    "facilitating": {
      "mechanism": ("AMPA", "TM"),
      "parameters": {
        "gmax": 10000,
        "U": 0.12,
        "tau_facil": 1.1
      }
    },
  }
}
```

## 6.2 Synapse types

The previous section described how to add synapses to a cable type, but you can also define a synapse type available on the entire model by adding them to the *synapse\_types* field.

```
{
  "cable_types": {...},
  "synapse_types": {
    "AMPA": {
      "gmax": 3200
    }
  }
}
```

## 6.3 Drawing a schematic

Schematics can come from any source, and Arborize supports 2 sources out of the box:

- BSB schematics from BSB morphologies and parameters.
- File schematics load morphologies from file using MorphIO.

```
from arborize import file_schematic, define_model, neuron_build

definition = define_model({
    "cable_types": {...},
    "synapse_types": {...},
})
schematic = file_schematic("my_cell.swc", definition)
n_cells = 100
cells = [neuron_build(schematic) for i in range(n_cells)]
```

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