VCell

A modeling environment for the simulation of cellular events. Download at $\underline{vcell.org}$.





Virtual Cell is developed by the Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling at the University of Connecticut Health Center. It is funded as a Biomedical Technology Research Resource by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

VCell BioModel with Multiple Applications

Objective

Create a single Biomodel of RAN nuclear transport then use different modeling strategies to solve simulations.

Goals

- Create a Biomodel Physiology with species, reactions and fluxes
- Create a spatial deterministic application of the Physiology
- Import fluorescence images into VCell and segment a 3D image stack within VCell to create a geometry
- Create a simulation and specify solver, time, and computational mesh.
- Run the simulation, view results and create graphs

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- Opening VCell
- Defining compartments
- Creating fluxes, reactions and species
- Specifying kinetic laws
- Creating applications
- Importing images
- Segmenting images
- Editing computational domain size
- Mapping geometry to <u>compartments</u>
- Specifying initial conditions

- Creating a simulation
- Viewing simulation results
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- Copy an application
- Create a stochastic simulation
- Export results as spreadsheet
- <u>Create a non-spatial</u> <u>deterministic application</u>
- Using parameter estimation
- <u>Create a spatial stochastic</u> <u>application</u>

Your first time opening VCell

You need to register as a New User if you want to run simulations on the VCell compute resources, or use the VCell database to store models that can be shared with collaborators.

👹 Virtual Cell login	×
User Name Password	
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Your first time opening VCell Guest Login Option

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VCell BioModel Organization



The VCell Interface

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Education (33)		
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Use the selection tool to name compartments and membranes. The area will turn red upon selection. Double click the structure name you wish to change and enter the new name. File Server Window Tools Help BioModel2 🚺 🤔 Reaction Diagram 💿 Reactions 💿 Structures 💿 Speciation Molecules 💿 Observables • Physiology **?å** ∎\$ ∎\$ ∎\$ ANN 👬 REL 👬 KA XK 🐓 Reaction Diagram P Reactions (0) Structures (5) PM EC **c1** NM. C, Species (0) Molecules (0) Observables (0) Applications (0) Parameters, Functions and Units • Pathway Scripting AV VCell DB BMDB Pathway Comm Sabio, BioModels MathModels Geometries 111 🕀 Search Biological Models Pathway Links 🔻 Delete Search AV Object Properties Problems (0 Errors, 0 Warnings) Select only one structure to edit properties 🗄 🧰 Tutorials (8) Structure Name EC Size Variable Name EC [µm³] Annotation

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Note that you cannot move species, reactions, or fluxes from one compartment to another. You must delete a species, flux, or reaction from one compartment and then create it in another compartment.









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Use the Reactions, Structures, Species, Molecules or Observables tabs to look up specific details of the physiology shown in a table view as opposed to the Reaction Diagram. The table view is useful when working with large and complicated models.

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Contents



After importing the images, be sure to adjust the z plane so you can see your cells. The stack defaults to the first z level therefore you may not be able to see your cells until you focus up through the stack.





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and reduce the image size. Select the crop tool, and use your cursor to drag over a specific area, let go of your cursor and click "OK".		
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In order to reduce noise in the images, you can apply an averaging filter to the stack.



With the Averaging Filter, each pixel and it's immediate neighbor's intensity values are added together and the sum is divided by the number of neighbors. For example, in a 2-D image, each pixel has 8 surrounding neighbors. The 9 values are added together and divided by 9 and that value replaces the original pixel value.















Use the Domains to Image display slider to adjust the way your image is displayed. This can show the image as segmented domains, the image only, or a overlay of the two.

This tool is helpful for visualizing your cell while defining the domains.



Contents

Scroll through the Z slider to view more slices in which the nucleus and membrane are in close proximity or where you need to fill in regions within the nucleus. Data Info; : 7=21/34: zoom(1.69): contr/bright+1) View Z: View Z: 1 34 Active Domain: Nuc Add Domain... Delete Domain... **Clear Selections** Original Smoother Domains Image 436 Domain Regions 9 bkgrnd (854342) Nuc (1652) Nuc (74) Nuc (30) Nuc (29) Nuc (26) Nuc (21) ם Nuc (19) Nuc (17) Nuc (17) Nuc (14) Nuc (14) ŵ Auto-Merge Continue either erasing the membrane, until there are no parts of the highlighted membrane that touch the highlighted nucleus, or filling in the nucleus through all the z sections. Finish Attributes... Export... Import stl... Cancel





















Contents

Click "Slice View" in order to view the segmented compartments by individual slices.



Contents

Click "Surface View" in order to view the volume in 3-D.



visualizing the different domains within the volume.

The cell here looks flat because there was no Z step information in the images to use to define the domain size. This will be corrected in the next slide by adjusting the domain size for Z.

Contents





Contents

On the Geometry tab > Structure Mapping tab, use the line tool to link the physiology to the geometry. You must select the line tool each time and drag your cursor from a structure to its corresponding subdomain.









Contents

Select the "Mesh" tab to edit the mesh resolution for the simulation in the X, Y, and Z planes. Select "OK" to accept your changes.

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F p n t	Please note, for this tutorial, demonstration purposes, run the simulation using the larger nesh elements to save on your simulation ime.		The	e ları men sim	ger the total size of the mesh its in x,y, and z, the more accurate sulation, but it will be slower.

Select the "Solver" tab to edit the solver run configuration as shown. Be sure to press "OK" to accept your changes.

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Contents

In order to view your results, be sure to adjust the following three parameters:







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Contents

Plot Legend:

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Creating a New Application from an Existing Application

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You can now run your simulation, and view your results as previously described in this tutorial.

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