
MEAutility Documentation

Release 1.2.1

Alessio Buccino

Jun 02, 2025

CONTENTS

1	Installation	3
2	Requirements	5
3	Contents	7
4	Contact	33

Python package for multi-electrode array (MEA) handling and stimulation.

INSTALLATION

To install run:

```
pip install MEAutility
```

If you want to install from sources and be updated with the latest development you can install with:

```
git clone https://github.com/alejoe91/MEAutility  
cd MEAutility  
python setup.py install (or develop)
```

The package can then imported in Python with:

```
import MEAutility as MEA
```


REQUIREMENTS

- numpy
- pyyaml
- matplotlib

CONTENTS

The following sections will guide you through definitions and handling of MEA models, as well as electrical stimulation and plotting functions.

3.1 MEA definition

This notebook shows how MEA can be using a .yaml file and how MEA models can be added and removed to and from the file system.

```
import MEAutility as MEA
from pprint import pprint
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

3.1.1 List available MEAs:

```
MEA.return_mea()
```

Available MEA:

```
['SqMEA-6-25um', 'SqMEA-10-15um', 'tetrode', 'Neuroseeker-128', 'SqMEA-5-30um', 'SqMEA-
↪15-10um', 'Neuronexus-32-Kampff', 'Neuronexus-32-cut-30', 'Neuropixels-128',
↪'Neuroseeker-128-Kampff', 'Neuropixels-24', 'SqMEA-7-20um', 'Neuronexus-32',
↪'Neuropixels-384']
```

These MEA are saved during installation. Each MEA corresponds to a .yaml file containing key information for the MEA. Let's take a look at some examples.

3.1.2 Square MEA

```
sqmea_info = MEA.return_mea_info('SqMEA-10-15um')
pprint(sqmea_info)
```

```
{'dim': 10,
 'electrode_name': 'SqMEA-10-15um',
 'pitch': 15,
 'shape': 'square',
 'size': 5,
 'sortlist': None,
 'type': 'mea'}
```

The returned dictionary corresponds to the .yaml file. For this MEA model `dim` is a single `int` and `pitch` is a single `int` (or `float`). Therefore, a 10x10 Square MEA is instantiated with 15um pitch in the yz direction (if `plane` is not in the yaml file, yz is default). The electrodes `shape` is `square`, and half the side length is 5um. Since `sortlist` is `None`, the electrode count starts from the bottom left and it follows the rows up and then goes to the next column (the last index is the electrode on the top right). The `type` `mea` will be used for plotting.

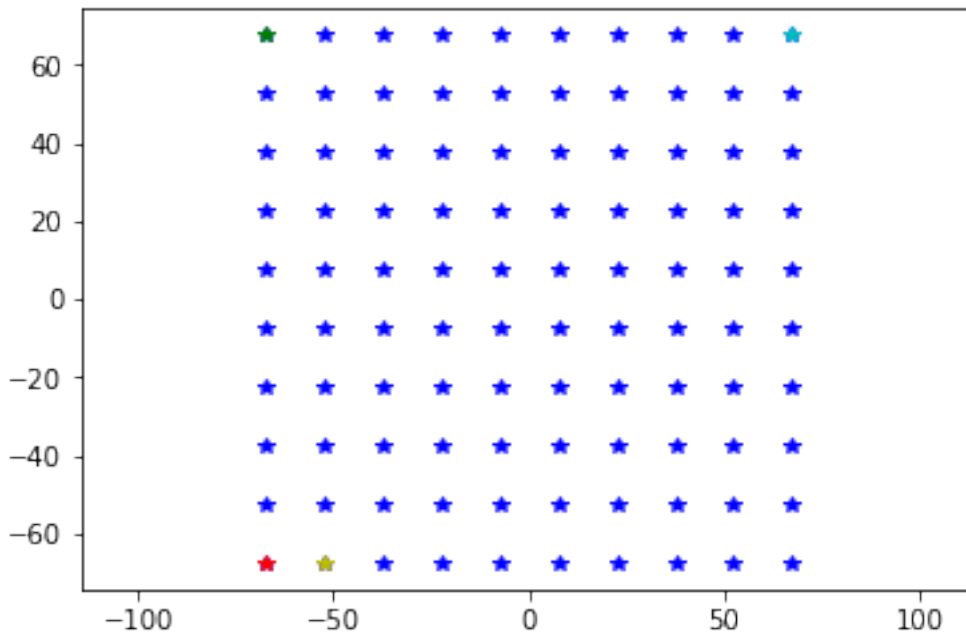
Let's now instantiate a MEA object:

```
sqmea = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-10-15um')
print(type(sqmea))
print(sqmea.number_electrodes)
print(sqmea.dim)
```

```
'plane' field with 2D dimensions assumed to be 'yz'
Model is set to semi
<class 'MEAutility.core.RectMEA'>
100
[10, 10]
```

The MEA is a rectangular MEA with 100 electrodes.

```
plt.plot(sqmea.positions[:, 1], sqmea.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
plt.plot(sqmea.positions[0, 1], sqmea.positions[0, 2], 'r*')
plt.plot(sqmea.positions[9, 1], sqmea.positions[9, 2], 'g*')
plt.plot(sqmea.positions[10, 1], sqmea.positions[10, 2], 'y*')
plt.plot(sqmea.positions[-1, 1], sqmea.positions[-1, 2], 'c*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



Rectangular MEAs can be handled as matrices, where the first index is the ROW and the second index is the COLUMN:

```
print(sqmea[0][0].position) # electrode 0
print(sqmea[9][0].position) # electrode 9
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
print(sqmea[0][1].position) # electrode 10
print(sqmea[-1][-1].position) # electrode 99
```

```
[ 0. -67.5 -67.5]
[ 0. -67.5  67.5]
[ 0. -52.5 -67.5]
[ 0.  67.5  67.5]
```

3.1.3 Rectangular MEA

```
neuroseeker_info = MEA.return_mea_info('Neuroseeker-128')
pprint(neuroseeker_info)
```

```
{'dim': [32, 4],
 'electrode_name': 'Neuroseeker-128',
 'pitch': 22.5,
 'shape': 'square',
 'size': 10.0,
 'sortlist': None,
 'type': 'mea'}
```

This MEA is rectangular, with 32 rows, 4 columns, and a regular pitch of 22.5um

```
neuroseeker = MEA.return_mea('Neuroseeker-128')
print(type(neuroseeker))
print(neuroseeker.number_electrodes)
print(neuroseeker.dim)
```

```
'plane' field with 2D dimensions assumed to be 'yz'
Model is set to semi
<class 'MEAutility.core.RectMEA'>
128
[32, 4]
```

```
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
print(neuroseeker[0][0].position) # electrode 0
print(neuroseeker[31][0].position) # electrode 31
print(neuroseeker[1][0].position) # electrode 32
print(neuroseeker[-1][-1].position) # electrode 127
```

```
[ 0.   -33.75 -348.75]
[ 0.   -33.75  348.75]
[ 0.   -33.75 -326.25]
[ 0.    33.75  348.75]
```



3.1.4 General MEA

When `dim` and `pitch` are single int (or float for `pitch`) or a list of 2 values, a rectangular MEA is created. Some MEA configuration can be different.

```
neuronexus_info = MEA.return_mea_info('Neuronexus-32')
pprint(neuronexus_info)
```

```
{'dim': [10, 12, 10],
 'electrode_name': 'Neuronexus-32',
 'pitch': [25.0, 18.0],
 'shape': 'circle',
 'size': 7.5,
 'sortlist': None,
 'stagger': -12.5,
 'type': 'mea'}
```

For this MEA there are 3 different options: - `dim` has 3 elements - `pitch` has 2 elements - `stagger` is present

When `len(dim) > 2`, then each element represents the number of rows of each column. In this case, there are 3 columns: the first and third have 10 electrodes, the second one has 12.

The first value of `pitch` is the inter-row distance (top to bottom). The second value is the inter-column distance (left to right).

The `stagger` key allows the shift columns. If only one value is given (int or float) every other column starting from the second one is staggered. Otherwise `stagger` can be a list with the same number of elements of `dim`.

Given this information, we can expect how the neuronexus MEA looks like:

```
neuronexus = MEA.return_mea('Neuronexus-32')
plt.plot(neuronexus.positions[:, 1], neuronexus.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```

'plane' field with 2D dimensions assumed to be 'yz'
Model is set to semi



Adding and removing MEA models

It is possible to load user-defined yaml files in the MEAutility package, so that they are available from the entire file system.

Let's first create a user.yaml file on-the-fly.

```
import yaml, os

user_info = {'dim': [10, 12, 9, 8],
             'electrode_name': 'user',
             'description': "a brief description of the probe",
             'pitch': [10.0, 40.0],
             'shape': 'circle',
             'size': 7.5,
             'sortlist': None,
             'stagger': [0, -12, 30, -22],
             'type': 'mea'}

with open('user.yaml', 'w') as f:
    yaml.dump(user_info, f)

yaml_files = [f for f in os.listdir('.') if f.endswith('.yaml')]
print(yaml_files)
```

```
['user.yaml']
```

Now we can add the newly created yaml file to the MEA package:

```
MEA.add_mea('user.yaml')
```

Available MEA:

```
['SqMEA-6-25um', 'SqMEA-10-15um', 'tetrode', 'Neuroseeker-128', 'SqMEA-5-30um', 'SqMEA-15-10um', 'Neuronexus-32-Kampff', 'Neuronexus-32-cut-30', 'Neuropixels-128', 'Neuroseeker-128-Kampff', 'Neuropixels-24', 'SqMEA-7-20um', 'Neuronexus-32', 'user', 'Neuropixels-384']
```

and create a user MEA object:

```
usermea = MEA.return_mea('user')
plt.plot(usermea.positions[:, 1], usermea.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```

'plane' field with 2D dimensions assumed to be 'yz'
Model is set to semi



If we don't need the user MEA anymore, we can remove it from the MEA package:

```
MEA.remove_mea('user')
```

Removed: /home/alessiob/anaconda3/envs/mearec/lib/python3.6/site-packages/MEAutility/
electrodes/user.yaml

Available MEA:

```
['SqMEA-6-25um', 'SqMEA-10-15um', 'tetrode', 'Neuroseeker-128', 'SqMEA-5-30um', 'SqMEA-15-10um', 'Neuronexus-32-Kampff', 'Neuronexus-32-cut-30', 'Neuropixels-128', 'Neuroseeker-128-Kampff', 'Neuropixels-24', 'SqMEA-7-20um', 'Neuronexus-32', 'Neuropixels-384']
```


3.2 MEA handling

This notebook shows how to handle MEA and electrodes in the 3D space.

```
import MEAutility as MEA
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

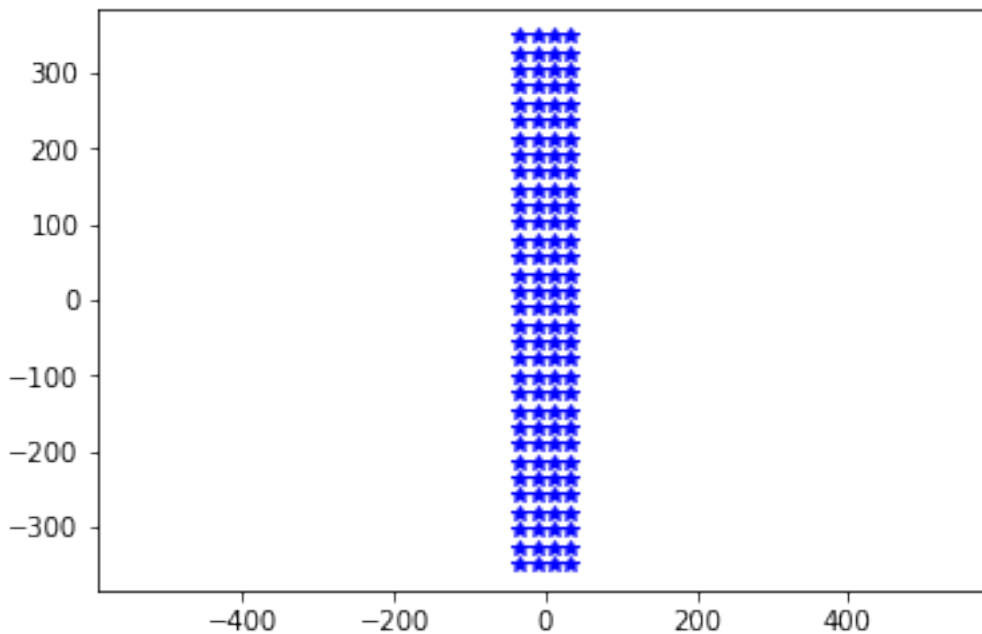
First, let's instantiate a MEA object among the available MEAs:

```
MEA.return_mea()
```

Available MEA:

```
['SqMEA-6-25um', 'SqMEA-10-15um', 'circle_500', 'tetrode', 'Neuroseeker-128', 'SqMEA-5-30um', 'SqMEA-15-10um', 'Neuronexus-32-Kampff', 'Neuronexus-32-cut-30', 'Neuropixels-128', 'Neuroseeker-128-Kampff', 'Neuropixels-24', 'SqMEA-7-20um', 'Neuronexus-32', 'Neuropixels-384']
```

```
neuroseeker = MEA.return_mea('Neuroseeker-128')
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



By default the MEA is instantiated with its center of mass at (0,0,0) and electrodes lying in the plane specified in the yaml file (by default plane is yz)

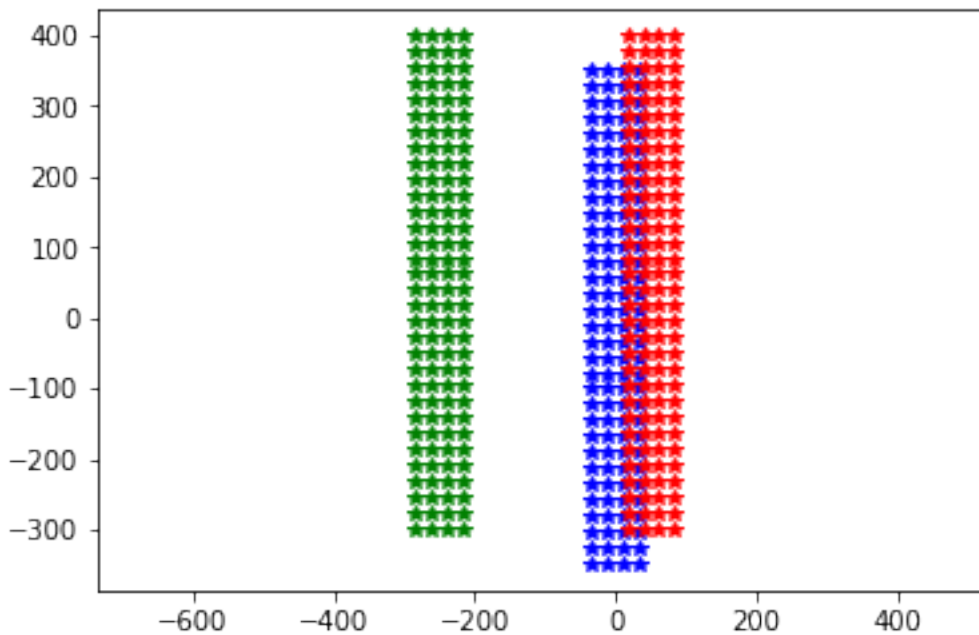
```
neuroseeker.plane
```

```
'yz'
```

3.2.1 Moving the probe around

The probe can be easily moved with a the move and center methods:

```
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
neuroseeker.move([0, 50, 50])
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'r*')
neuroseeker.move([0, -300, 0])
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'g*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



```
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'g*')
neuroseeker.center()
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'y*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



3.2.2 Rotating the probe

With the `rotate` method, MEA probes can be rotated along any axis by any angle (in degrees). The current plane and orientation of the probe is stored by the variables `main_axes` and `normal`

```
# main_axes indicate the MEA plane
print(neuroseeker.main_axes[0], neuroseeker.main_axes[1])

# normal indicates the axis perpendicular to the electrodes
print(neuroseeker.normal)

# normal axis is also stored by each electrode and could be changed separately
print(type(neuroseeker.electrodes[0]), neuroseeker.electrodes[0].normal)
```

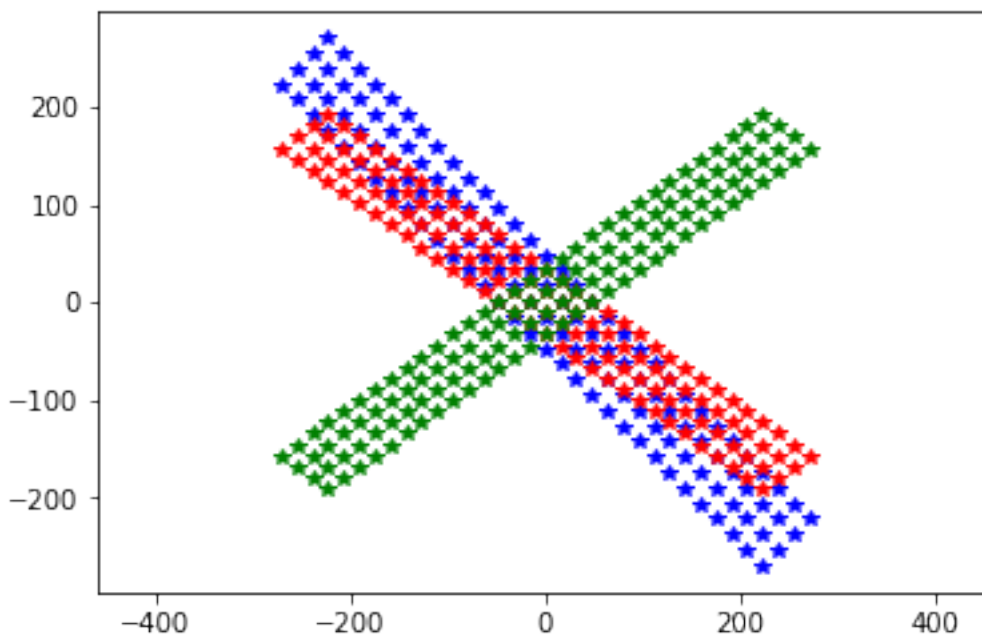
```
[0 1 0] [0 0 1]
[-1.  0.  0.]
<class 'MEAutility.core.Electrode'> [-1.  0.  0.]
```

Now let's make some rotations!!

```
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
neuroseeker.rotate([1, 0, 0], 45)
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'r*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



```
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
neuroseeker.rotate([0, 1, 0], 45)
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'r*')
neuroseeker.rotate([0, 1, 0], 90)
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'g*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



```
# back to normal
neuroseeker.rotate([0, 1, 0], -90)
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
neuroseeker.rotate([0, 1, 0], -45)
neuroseeker.rotate([1, 0, 0], -45)
plt.plot(neuroseeker.positions[:, 1], neuroseeker.positions[:, 2], 'b*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



3.3 MEA stimulation

This notebook shows how to simulate the electric potential generated by electrode currents using a MEA object. Stimulation is performed by means of currents. Voltage stimulation is not implemented as it strongly depends on the electrode itself (e.g. faradaic/capacitive).

```
import MEAutility as MEA
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
```

First, let's instantiate a MEA object among the available MEA models:

```
MEA.return_mea()
```

Available MEA:

```
['SqMEA-15-10um', 'SqMEA-6-25um', 'Neuronexus-32-cut-30', 'SqMEA-5-30um', 'Neuropixels-
↪384', 'SqMEA-10-15um', 'Neuropixels-128', 'SqMEA-7-20um', 'Neuronexus-32-Kampff',
↪'Neuroseeker-128', 'tetrode', 'Neuropixels-24', 'Neuronexus-32', 'Neuroseeker-128-
↪Kampff', 'tetrode_mea']
```

```
sqmea = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-10-15um')
```

By default, the stimulation model is set to `semi`. This is the default for MEA objects of type `mea` and it models that currents radiate only on one side of the probe (the MEA is considered as an infinite insulating plane). The underlying assumption is that ground is infinitely far away. In this case the electric potential at point \vec{r} generated by the electrode

currents I_i is (electrode positions are \vec{r}_i):

$$V(\vec{r}) = \sum_i \frac{I_i}{2\sigma\pi|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|}$$

where σ is the tissue conductivity.

Instead, for mea type wire, the tissue is assumed to be infinite and homogeneous, that is the probe has no effect on the electric potential and currents radiate in all directions:

$$V(\vec{r}) = \sum_i \frac{I_i}{4\sigma\pi|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|}$$

3.3.1 Conventions

- currents are in nA
- distances and positions are in μm
- electric potentials are in mV

3.3.2 Handling currents

MEA currents can be easily accessed and changed in various ways:

```
# check currents
print(sqmea.currents)
```

[illegible]

```
# set currents with an array
curr = np.arange(sqmea.number_electrodes)
sqmea.currents = curr
print(sqmea.currents)

#set currents with a list
curr = list(curr)
sqmea.currents = curr
print(sqmea.currents)
```

```
[ 0. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.
18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35.
36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53.
54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71.
72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89.
90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99.]
[ 0. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.
18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35.
36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53.
54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71.
72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89.
90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99.]
```

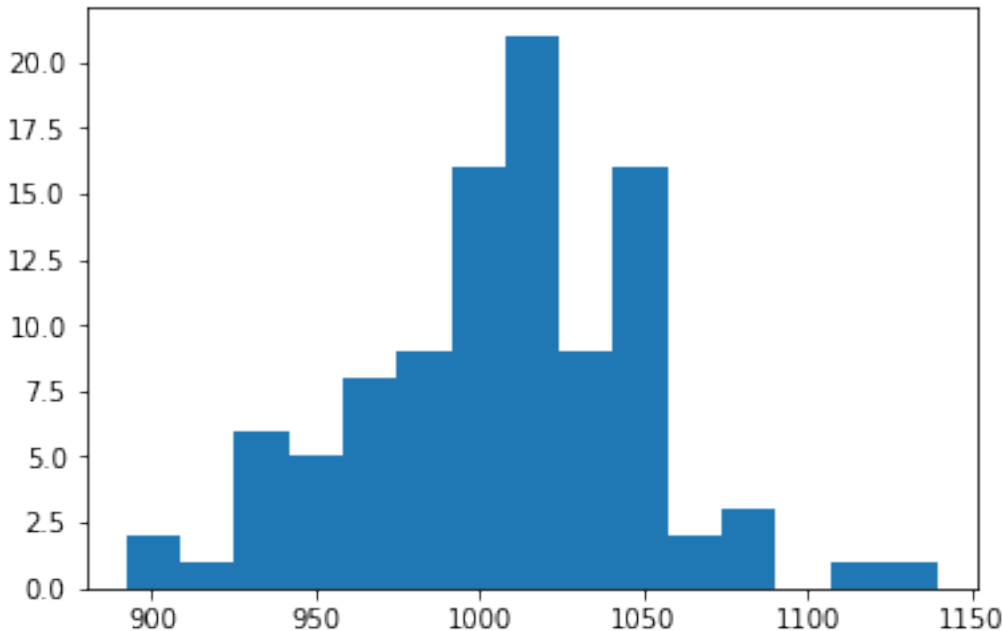
```
# reset currents to 0
sqmea.reset_currents()
print(sqmea.currents)

# reset currents to 100
sqmea.reset_currents(100)
print(sqmea.currents)
```

```
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.
 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.
 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.
 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.
 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.
 100. 100.]
```

```
# random values with a certain amplitude and standard deviation
sqmea.set_random_currents(mean=1000, sd=50)
print(sqmea.currents)
_ = plt.hist(sqmea.currents, bins=15)
```

```
[ 973.91615691 1016.83720943 1089.49043841 1139.8579249  927.79316233
 1000.89661725 1047.3334144  1051.8497402  927.37268018  996.62983039
 1016.49251336 1043.75742297 1004.9168758  940.30748105 1054.53993841
 973.75422086 983.60405175 1042.34697708 1040.74580548 1014.98436691
 1001.8608754 995.65886874 1012.95710254 970.06809296 927.99036328
 999.92788465 1049.19541344 997.14646988 1039.79123706 984.20047048
 930.55017661 1009.74184644 1023.24453635 1018.02056444 1049.41097968
 1017.43562542 1062.60398159 973.51622737 1053.37464287 892.22969949
 999.73394752 1012.93137879 980.73150404 953.77253661 951.55426365
 905.11921863 1107.92750924 913.69396055 1077.18729127 962.6261477
 1043.49287399 952.72622053 993.51633173 1029.79201114 1014.65998008
 986.78997864 1007.9228314 973.1521672 1039.92862132 993.2816604
 1058.30275146 951.99364936 1047.30143561 1004.77930621 1010.1738069
 960.06196844 991.50504623 999.62108637 1037.74033168 1022.7296349
 1016.31311019 1020.75966681 1039.98604723 937.02190389 1050.16695834
 1041.47298494 1057.30344821 1022.87078261 1026.73934869 1049.05606228
 1010.57269555 1019.66052338 977.72552581 1043.29217666 988.32520744
 1003.95374263 1088.5345568 981.05722135 976.19800375 1037.08286147
 1026.14202785 1016.49830716 1012.46829058 1041.29563699 1010.75733243
 1005.74013272 958.06708739 1007.22074273 985.12744284 969.1025596 ]
```



For Rectangular MEAs, currents can be handled with matrices:

```
print(sqmea.get_current_matrix())
print('Shape: ', sqmea.get_current_matrix().shape)
```

```
[ [ 973.91615691 1016.49251336 1001.8608754  930.55017661  999.73394752
    1043.49287399 1058.30275146 1016.31311019 1010.57269555 1026.14202785]
  [1016.83720943 1043.75742297  995.65886874 1009.74184644 1012.93137879
    952.72622053  951.99364936 1020.75966681 1019.66052338 1016.49830716]
  [1089.49043841 1004.9168758  1012.95710254 1023.24453635  980.73150404
    993.51633173 1047.30143561 1039.98604723  977.72552581 1012.46829058]
  [1139.8579249  940.30748105  970.06809296 1018.02056444  953.77253661
    1029.79201114 1004.77930621  937.02190389 1043.29217666 1041.29563699]
  [ 927.79316233 1054.53993841  927.99036328 1049.41097968  951.55426365
    1014.65998008 1010.1738069  1050.16695834  988.32520744 1010.75733243]
  [1000.89661725  973.75422086  999.92788465 1017.43562542  905.11921863
    986.78997864  960.06196844 1041.47298494 1003.95374263 1005.74013272]
  [1047.3334144  983.60405175 1049.19541344 1062.60398159 1107.92750924
    1007.9228314  991.50504623 1057.30344821 1088.5345568  958.06708739]
  [1051.8497402  1042.34697708  997.14646988  973.51622737  913.69396055
    973.1521672  999.62108637 1022.87078261  981.05722135 1007.22074273]
  [ 927.37268018 1040.74580548 1039.79123706 1053.37464287 1077.18729127
    1039.92862132 1037.74033168 1026.73934869  976.19800375  985.12744284]
  [ 996.62983039 1014.98436691  984.20047048  892.22969949  962.6261477
    993.2816604  1022.7296349  1049.05606228 1037.08286147  969.1025596 ] ]
Shape: (10, 10)
```

```
current_of_zeros = np.zeros((10,10))
print(current_of_zeros)
```



```
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
[0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.]
```

```
sqmea.set_current_matrix(current_of_zeros)
sqmea.get_current_matrix()
```

```
array([[0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.],
       [0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.]])
```

Single currents can be set separately either by:

```
# set electrode 50 current to 10000
sqmea.set_current(24, 10000)
sqmea.currents
```

```
array([[ 0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
        10000.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,
         0.,  0.,  0.,  0.]])
```

Or by using matrix notation for rectangular MEAs. This makes it easy, for example, to create multipolar current sets.

```
# reset electrode 50 current to 0
sqmea.set_current(24, 0)
center_electrode = sqmea.dim[0]//2

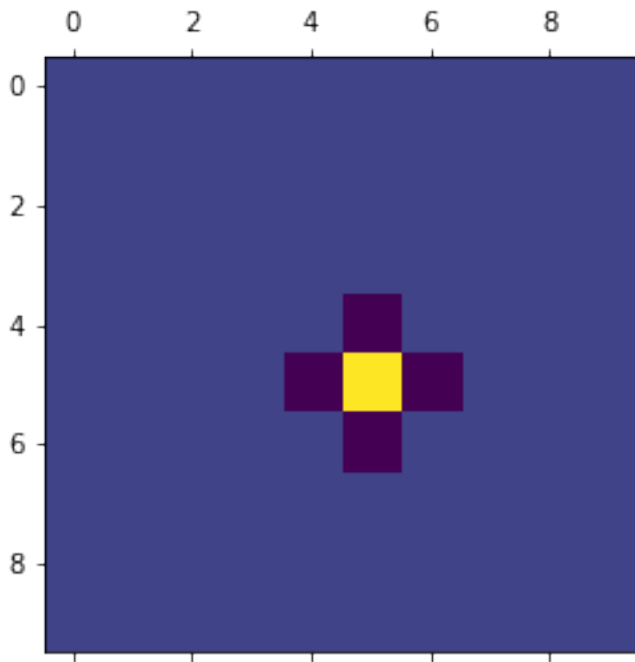
# build a multipolar current set
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
sqmea[center_electrode][center_electrode].current = 8000
sqmea[center_electrode+1][center_electrode].current = -2000
sqmea[center_electrode-1][center_electrode].current = -2000
sqmea[center_electrode][center_electrode+1].current = -2000
sqmea[center_electrode][center_electrode-1].current = -2000

_ = plt.matshow(sqmea.get_current_matrix())
```



3.3.3 Stimulation

Once currents are set, electric potentials can be computed with the `compute_field` function. Let's first create a bunch of 3d points, for example, on a straight line from close to the active electrode.

```
center_pos = sqmea[center_electrode][center_electrode].position
print(center_pos)
```

```
[0.  7.5 7.5]
```

```
npoints = 1000
x_vec = np.linspace(5, 100, npoints)
y_vec = [center_pos[1]] * npoints
z_vec = [center_pos[2]] * npoints

points = np.array([x_vec, y_vec, z_vec]).T
# points should be a np.array (or list) of npoints x 3
print(points.shape)
print(points)
```

```
(1000, 3)
[[ 5.          7.5          7.5          ]
 [ 5.0950951   7.5          7.5          ]
 [ 5.19019019  7.5          7.5          ]
 ...
 [ 99.80980981  7.5          7.5          ]
 [ 99.9049049   7.5          7.5          ]
 [100.         7.5          7.5          ]]
```

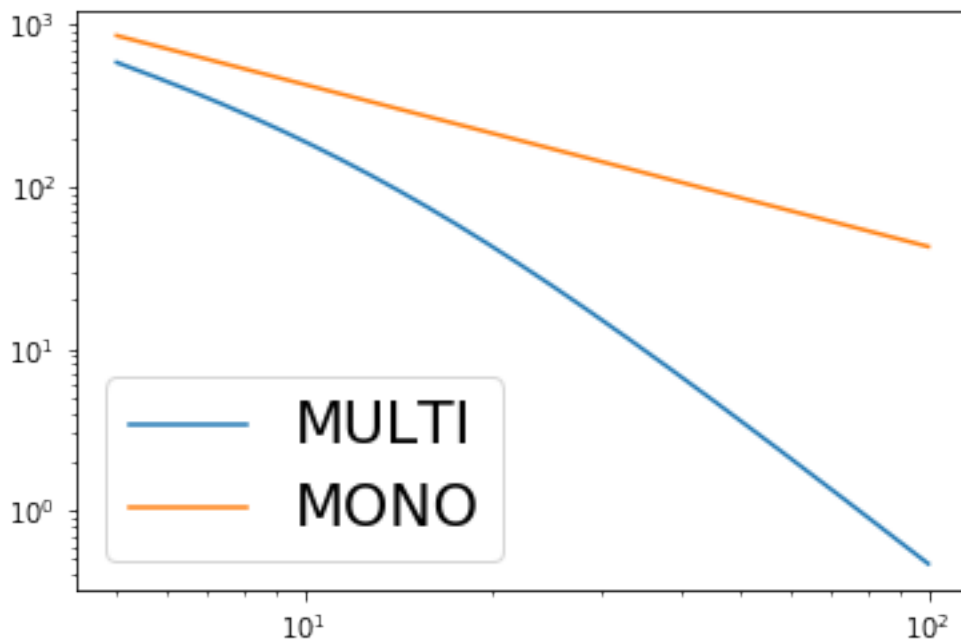
Now, we can compute the electric potential:

```
# multipolar currents
Vp_multi = sqmea.compute_field(points)
```

and compare the field generated by a single electrode (monopolar current source).

```
# monopolar currents
sqmea.reset_currents()
sqmea[5][5].current = 8000
Vp_mono = sqmea.compute_field(points)
```

```
_ = plt.loglog(x_vec, Vp_multi, label='MULTI')
_ = plt.loglog(x_vec, Vp_mono, label='MONO')
_ = plt.legend(fontsize=22)
```



The potential fall for the multipolar is faster than the monopolar configuration (which is linear in log scale)!

3.3.4 Finite electrode effect

So far, we assumed that the electrodes were point sources, but this is of course not the case as they have a finite size. In some cases the finite size of the electrode may be taken into consideration. In order to do so, one can set the variable `points_per_electrode` of the MEA object to the number of points within the electrode in which the entire electrode current is split.

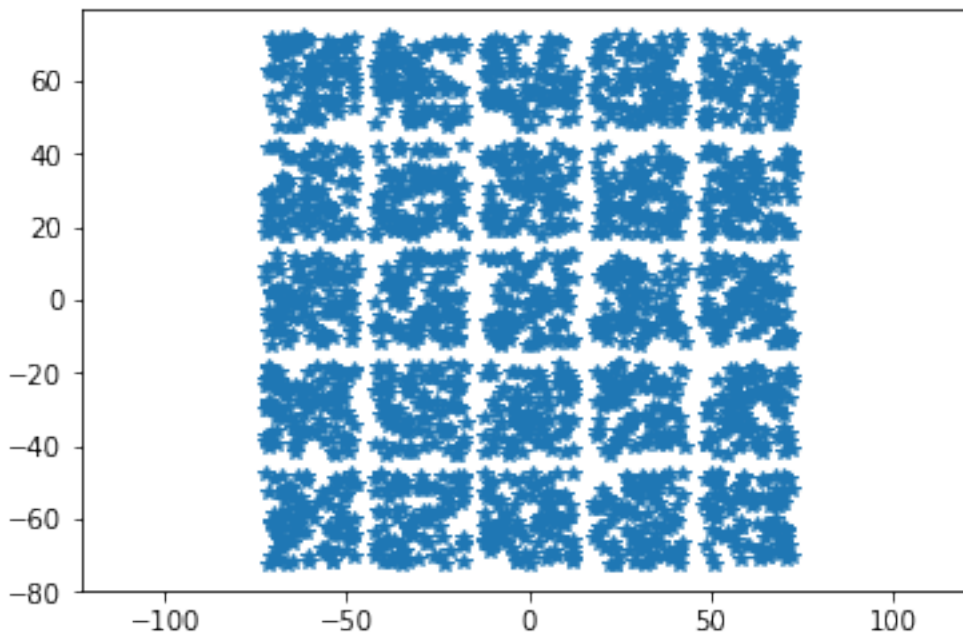
Let's take a look at an example:

```
sqmea_r = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-5-30um')
center_electrode = sqmea_r.dim[0] // 2

# Activate all electrodes
sqmea_r.set_random_currents(mean=0, sd=10000)
reduced_points = points[:10]
```

```
sqmea_r.points_per_electrode = 100

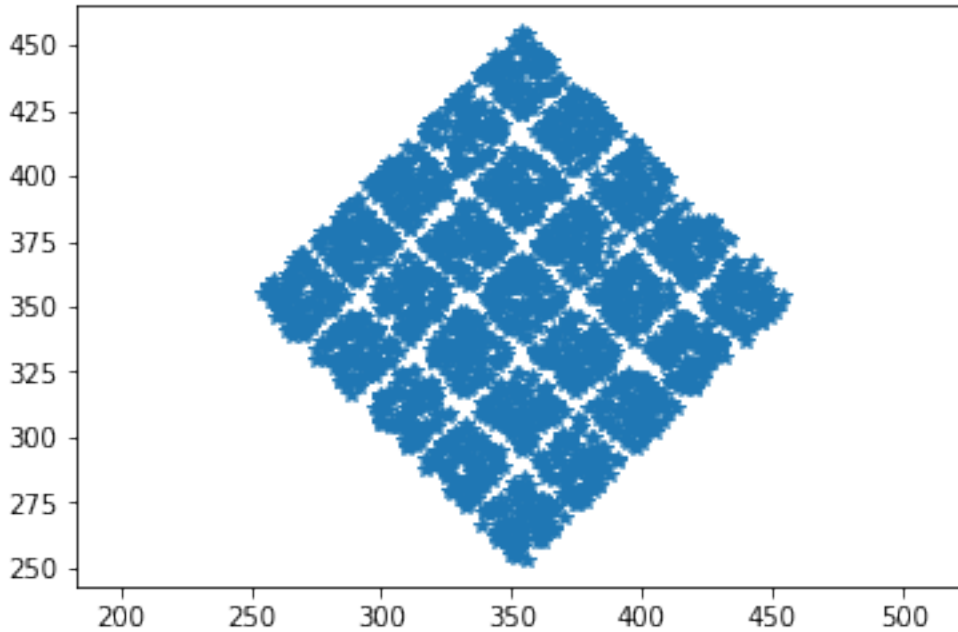
# compute electric potential and return stimulation points
vp, stim_points = sqmea_r.compute_field(reduced_points, return_stim_points=True)
_ = plt.plot(stim_points[:, 1], stim_points[:, 2], '*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



The stimulation points are within the electrode square. Stimulation positions are consistent with after probe shifts and rotations:

```
sqmea_r.move([0, 500, 0])
sqmea_r.rotate([1, 0, 0], 45)

# compute electric potential and return stimulation points
vp, stim_points = sqmea_r.compute_field(reduced_points, return_stim_points=True)
_ = plt.plot(stim_points[:, 1], stim_points[:, 2], '*')
_ = plt.axis('equal')
```



The effect of the electrode finite size on the electric potential in proximity of the stimulation site is shown in the MEA_plotting section.

3.3.5 Temporal dynamics

So far, we used *static* currents, but the effect of current dynamics can be very important for exciting neurons. Temporal varying currents can be easily implemented with the MEAutility package.

Let's instantiate a new MEA object and set a monopolar biphasic source with 2 pulses:

```
sqmea = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-10-15um')
center_electrode = sqmea.dim[0] // 2

ntimes = 100
bipolar_source = np.zeros(ntimes)
bipolar_source[10:20] = 10000
bipolar_source[25:35] = -10000
bipolar_source[50:60] = 10000
bipolar_source[65:75] = -10000

_ = plt.plot(bipolar_source)
```



```
# the current can be set directly accessing the electrode current
sqmea[center_electrode][center_electrode].current = bipolar_source

# OR

# using set_current() (get_linear_id returns the index of the matrix in the linear array)
sqmea.set_current(sqmea.get_linear_id(center_electrode+2, center_electrode+2), bipolar_
↪source)
```

```
_ = plt.matshow(sqmea.currents)
```



Computing the electrical potential returns an array when currents have temporal dynamics:

```
vp = sqmea.compute_field(points[:100])
```

```
print(vp.shape)
_ = plt.plot(vp.T)
```

```
(100, 100)
```



As expected the potential becomes lower moving further away from the probe!

3.4 MEA plotting

This notebook shows some plotting routines implemented in the MEAutility package.

```
import MEAutility as MEA
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
%matplotlib notebook
```

3.4.1 2D plotting

As usual, let's first define some MEA objects:

```
sqmea = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-10-15um')
neuronexus = MEA.return_mea('Neuronexus-32')
neuropixels = MEA.return_mea('Neuropixels-128')
```

The `plot_probe()` function plots the probe in 2D. The axis is returned and an existing axis can be passed with the `ax` argument. Here are some examples:

```
MEA.plot_probe(neuropixels)
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f4d5a79f630>
```

```
fig, ax1 = plt.subplots()
ax1 = MEA.plot_probe(neuronexus, ax=ax1, type='shank')
_ = ax1.axis('off')
```

`plot_probe()` always plots the probe along its main axes:

```
neuronexus.rotate([1,0,0], 45)
ax1 = MEA.plot_probe(neuronexus, type='shank')
_ = ax1.axis('off')
```

```
_ = MEA.plot_probe(sqmea, type='planar', xlim=[-400,400], ylim=[-200,200])
```

To visualize the stimulating currents, one can use the `color_currents` parameter:

```
sqmea.set_random_currents()
ax = MEA.plot_probe(sqmea, color_currents=True)
```

```
# colormap can be changed
ax = MEA.plot_probe(sqmea, color_currents=True, cmap='hot')
```

3.4.2 3D plotting

The function `plot_probe_3d` allows to plot MEA objects in 3d axes. The plots reflect the current position and rotation of the MEA.

```
neuronexus = MEA.return_mea('Neuronexus-32')
_ = MEA.plot_probe_3d(neuronexus)
```



```
neuronexus.rotate([1,0,0], 45)
_ = MEA.plot_probe_3d(neuronexus)
```

```
neuronexus.set_random_currents()
_ = MEA.plot_probe_3d(neuronexus, color_currents=True, cmap='jet')
```

```
ax = MEA.plot_probe_3d(neuronexus, color_currents=True, cmap='jet',
                      xlim=[-100,100], ylim=[-100,100], zlim=[-100,100])
_ = ax.axis('off')
```

3.4.3 Electric potential images

The functions `plot_v_image()` and `plot_v_surf()` allows the user to plot potential images on a plane. The plane can be defined with the `plane` argument and boundaries can be given with `x_bound`, `y_bound`, and `z_bound` arguments (e.g. if plane is `xz`, `x_bound` and `z_bound` are required). The offset on the other direction (i.e. `y` when plane is `xz`) is controlled by the `offset` parameter.

```
sqmea = MEA.return_mea('SqMEA-10-15um')
sqmea.points_per_electrode = 1
sqmea.reset_currents()
sqmea[0][0].current = 10000
sqmea[5][0].current = 10000
sqmea[0][7].current = 10000
```

```
_ = MEA.plot_v_image(sqmea, y_bound=[-100, 100], z_bound=[-100, 100], plane='yz',
                    offset=10)
```

With `plot_v_image` we can show the effect of electrodes of finite sizes:

```
print(sqmea[0][0].position)
```

```
[ 0. -67.5 -67.5]
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2)
# points per electrode = 1
sqmea.points_per_electrode = 1
_, v1 = MEA.plot_v_image(sqmea, y_bound=[-55, -80], z_bound=[-55, -80], offset=2,
                        npoints=30, plane='yz', ax=axes[0])

# points per electrode = 100
sqmea.points_per_electrode = 100
_, v100 = MEA.plot_v_image(sqmea, y_bound=[-55, -80], z_bound=[-55, -80], offset=2,
                          npoints=30, plane='yz', ax=axes[1])
```

The finite size results in a *squarer* electric potential in proximity of the electrode!

```
fig = plt.figure()
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(1, 2, 1, projection='3d')
ax2 = fig.add_subplot(1, 2, 2, projection='3d')

sqmea.points_per_electrode = 1
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
_ = MEA.plot_v_surf(sqmea, v_plane=v1, y_bound=[-55, -80], z_bound=[-55, -80], offset=10,
                    npoints=30, plane='yz', ax=ax1)
```

```
_ = MEA.plot_v_surf(sqmea, v_plane=v100, y_bound=[-55, -80], z_bound=[-55, -80],
                    ↪offset=10,
                    npoints=30, plane='yz', ax=ax2)
```

```
sqmea.points_per_electrode = 1
sqmea[0][0].current = 10000
ax, v = MEA.plot_v_surf(sqmea, y_bound=[-100, 100], z_bound=[-100, 100],
                        plane='yz', plot_plane='yz', offset=30, distance=200)
MEA.plot_probe_3d(sqmea, ax=ax, xlim=[-500, 500], color_currents=True)
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.Axes3DSubplot at 0x7f4d5829be48>
```

```
sqmea.rotate([0,1,0], 90)
print(sqmea.main_axes)
```

```
[[0.  1.  0.]
 [1.  0.  0.]]
```

```
ax, v = MEA.plot_v_surf(sqmea, x_bound=[-100, 100], y_bound=[-100, 100],
                        plane='xy', plot_plane='xy', offset=30, distance=30)
MEA.plot_probe_3d(sqmea, ax=ax, xlim=[-100, 100], zlim=[-100, 300], color_currents=True,
                    ↪type='planar')
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.Axes3DSubplot at 0x7f4d4aed14e0>
```

```
sqmea.rotate([0,1,0], -90)
sqmea.rotate([0,0,1], -90)
print(sqmea.main_axes)
```

```
[[1.  0.  0.]
 [0.  0.  1.]]
```

```
ax, v = MEA.plot_v_surf(sqmea, x_bound=[-100, 100], z_bound=[-100, 100],
                        plane='xz', plot_plane='xz', offset=30, distance=100)
MEA.plot_probe_3d(sqmea, ax=ax, color_currents=True,)
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.Axes3DSubplot at 0x7f4d582e0710>
```

3.4.4 Plot signal traces

```
# fake noise signal
signals = np.random.randn(sqmea.number_electrodes, 10000)
_ = MEA.plot_mea_recording(signals, sqmea, lw=0.1)
```

3.4.5 Animations

```
# %matplotlib notebook
# from IPython.display import HTML

# anim = MEA.play_mea_recording(signals, sqmea, 1000, interval =100, lw=0.1)
# HTML(anim.to_jshtml())
```

3.5 Module MEAutility.core

3.6 Module MEAutility.plotting

CONTACT

If you have questions or comments, contact Alessio Buccino: alessiob@ifi.uio.no