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# **probeinterface**

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probeinterface is Python package to handle probe layout, geometry and wiring to device for neuroscience experiments.

The package handles the following items:

- probe geometry (2D or 3D layout)
- probe shape (contour of the probe)
- shape and size of the s
- probe wiring to the recording device
- combination of several probes: global geometry + global wiring

The probeinterface package also provide:

- basic plotting functions with matplotlib
- input/output functions to several formats (PRB, NWB, CSV, MEArec, SpikeGLX, ...)

Here a schema for the naming used in the package:



orphan



## EXAMPLES

Start here with a tutorial showing probeinterface.

## 1.1 Generate a Probe from scratch

This example generates a probe from scratch.

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

from probeinterface import Probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

First, let's create dummy positions for a 32-contact probe

```
n = 24
positions = np.zeros((n, 2))
for i in range(n):
    x = i // 8
    y = i % 8
    positions[i] = x, y
positions *= 20
positions[8:16, 1] -= 10
```

Now we can create a *Probe* object and set the position and shape of each contact

The *ndim* argument indicates that the contact is 2d, so the positions have a (n\_elec, 2) shape. We can also define 3d probe with *ndim*=3 and positions will have a (n\_elec, 3) shape.

Note: *shapes* and *shape\_params* could be arrays as well, indicating the shape for each contact separately.

```
probe = Probe(ndim=2, si_units='um')
probe.set_contacts(positions=positions, shapes='circle', shape_params={'radius': 5})
```

*Probe* objects have fancy prints!

```
print(probe)
```

```
Probe - 24ch - 1shanks
```

In addition to contacts, we can crate the planar contour (polygon) of the probe

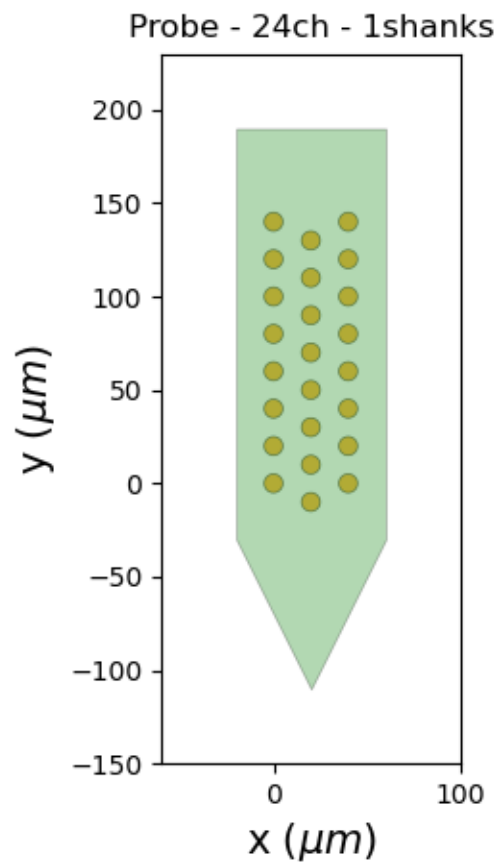
```
polygon = [(-20, -30), (20, -110), (60, -30), (60, 190), (-20, 190)]
probe.set_planar_contour(polygon)
```

If *pandas* is installed, the *Probe* object can be exported as a dataframe for a simpler view:

```
df = probe.to_dataframe()
df
```

If *matplotlib* is installed, the *Probe* can also be easily plotted:

```
plot_probe(probe)
```



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b88a6a90>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b88a7e50>)
```

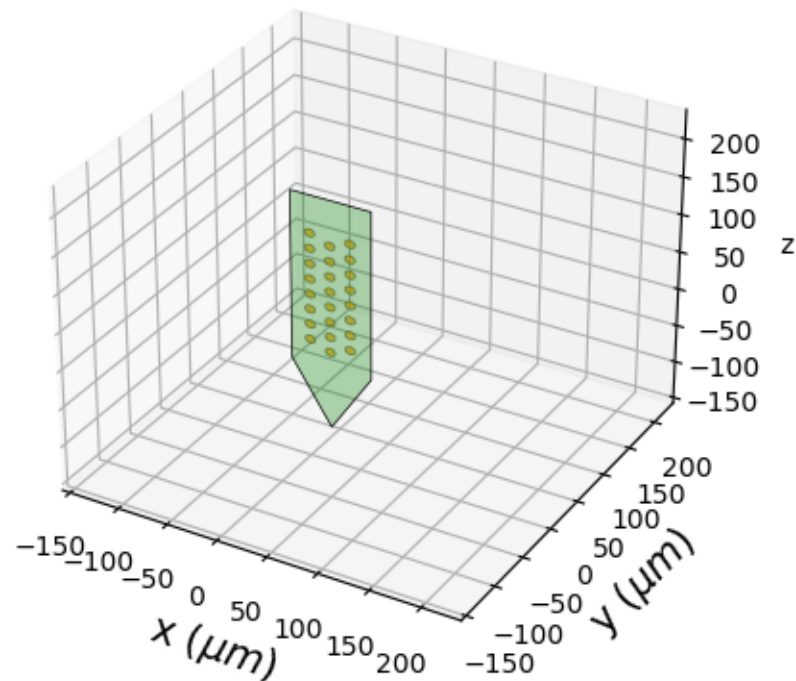
A 2d *Probe* can be transformed to a 3d *Probe* by indicating the *axes* on which contacts will lie (Here the 'y' coordinate will be 0 for all contacts):

```
probe_3d = probe.to_3d(axes='xz')
plot_probe(probe_3d)

plt.show()
```



Probe - 24ch - 1shanks



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.372 seconds)

## 1.2 2d and 3d Probes

This example shows how to manipulate the probe in 2d or 3d.

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

First, let's create one 2d probe with 32 contacts:

```
n = 24
positions = np.zeros((n, 2))
for i in range(n):
    x = i // 8
    y = i % 8
    positions[i] = x, y
positions *= 20
```

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```
positions[8:16, 1] -= 10

probe_2d = Probe(ndim=2, si_units='um')
probe_2d.set_contacts(positions=positions, shapes='circle', shape_params={'radius': 5})
probe_2d.create_auto_shape(probe_type='tip')
```

Let's transform it into a 3d probe.

Here the axes are 'xz' so y will be 0 for all contacts. The shape of probe\_3d.contact\_positions is now (n\_elec, 3)

```
probe_3d = probe_2d.to_3d(axes='xz')
print(probe_2d.contact_positions.shape)
print(probe_3d.contact_positions.shape)
```

```
(24, 2)
(24, 3)
```

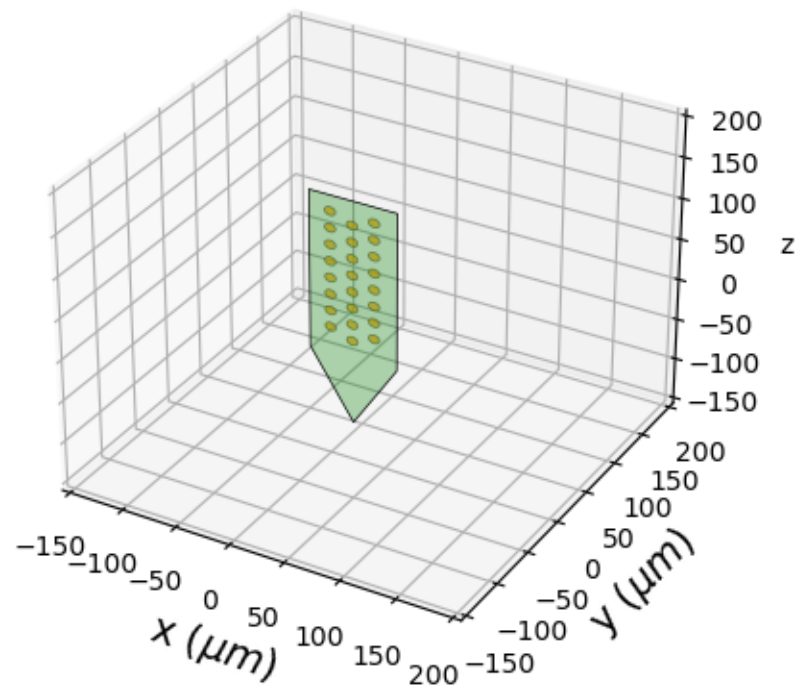
Note that all “y” coordinates are 0

```
df = probe_3d.to_dataframe()
df[['x', 'y', 'z']].head()
```

The plotting function automatically displays the *Probe* in 3d:

```
plot_probe(probe_3d)
```

Probe - 24ch - 1shanks

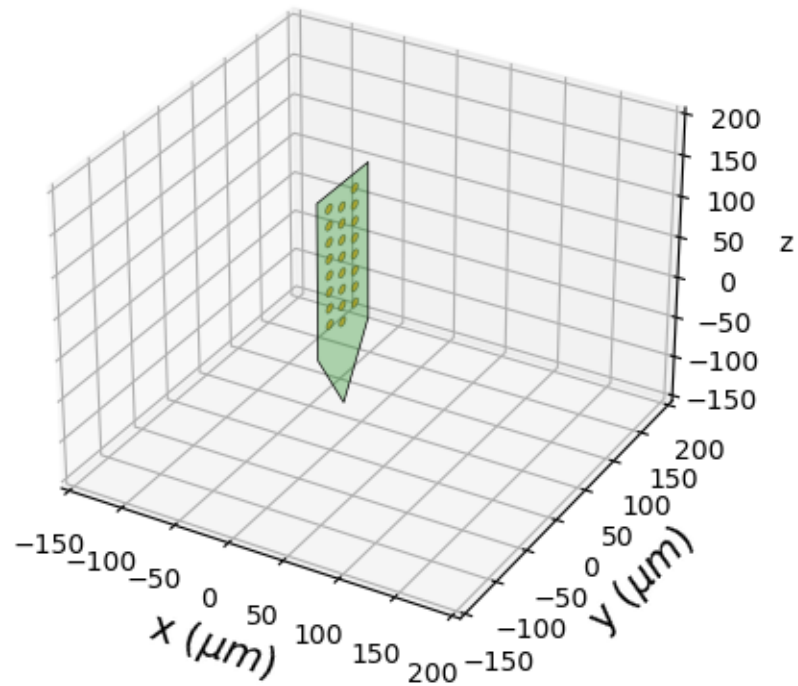


```
(<matplotlib.mplot3d.art3d.Poly3DCollection object at 0x7f09b871be90>, <matplotlib.mplot3d.art3d.Poly3DCollection object at 0x7f09b8719910>)
```

We can create another probe lying on another plane:

```
other_3d = probe_2d.to_3d(axes='yz')
plot_probe(other_3d)
```

Probe - 24ch - 1shanks



```
(<matplotlib.pyplot.art3d.Poly3DCollection object at 0x7f09b88b9d10>, <matplotlib.pyplot.art3d.Poly3DCollection object at 0x7f09b869ae50>)
```

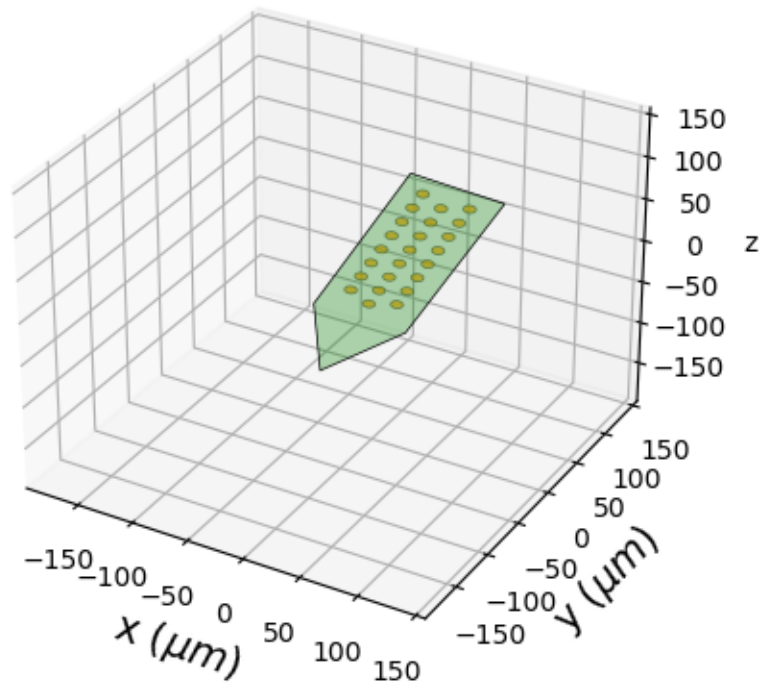
*Probe* can be moved and rotated in 3d:

```
probe_3d.move([0, 30, -50])
probe_3d.rotate(theta=35, center=[0, 0, 0], axis=[0, 1, 1])

plot_probe(probe_3d)

plt.show()
```

Probe - 24ch - 1shanks



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.244 seconds)

### 1.3 Generate a ProbeGroup

This example shows how to assemble several Probe objects into a ProbeGroup object.

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe_group
from probeinterface import generate_dummy_probe
```

Generate 2 dummy *Probe* objects with the utils function:

```
probe0 = generate_dummy_probe(elec_shapes='square')
probe1 = generate_dummy_probe(elec_shapes='circle')
probe1.move([250, -90])
```

Let's create a *ProbeGroup* and add the *Probe* objects into it:

```
probegroup = ProbeGroup()
probegroup.add_probe(probe0)
probegroup.add_probe(probe1)

print('probe0.get_contact_count()', probe0.get_contact_count())
print('probe1.get_contact_count()', probe1.get_contact_count())
print('probegroup.get_channel_count()', probegroup.get_channel_count())
```

```
probe0.get_contact_count() 32
probe1.get_contact_count() 32
probegroup.get_channel_count() 64
```

We can now plot all probes in the same axis:

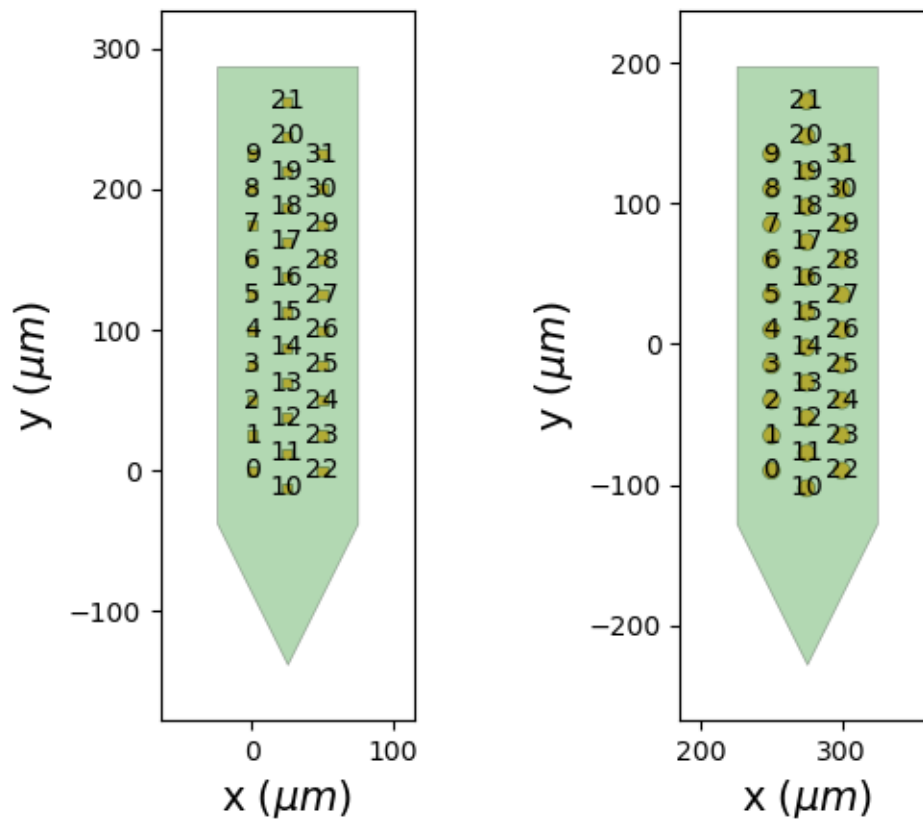
```
plot_probe_group(probegroup, same_axes=True)
```



or in separate axes:

```
plot_probe_group(probegroup, same_axes=False, with_channel_index=True)

plt.show()
```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.165 seconds)

## 1.4 Multi shank probes

This example shows how to deal with multi-shank probes.

In *probeinterface* this can be done with a *Probe* object, but internally each probe handles a *shank\_ids* vector to carry information about which contacts belong to which shanks.

Optionally, a *Probe* object can be rendered split into *Shank*.

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface import generate_linear_probe, generate_multi_shank
from probeinterface import combine_probes
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

Let's use a generator to create a multi shank probe:

```
multi_shank = generate_multi_shank(num_shank=3, num_columns=2, num_contact_per_column=6)
plot_probe(multi_shank)
```



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b86d5a10>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8a89ad0>)
```

*multi\_shank* is one *probe* object, but internally the *Probe.shank\_ids* vector handles the shank ids.

```
print(multi_shank.shank_ids)
```

```
['0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1'
 '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2' '2']
```

The dataframe displays the *shank\_ids* column:

```
df = multi_shank.to_dataframe()
df
```

We can iterate over a multi-shank probe and get Shank objects. A *Shank* is link to a *Probe* object and can also retrieve positions, contact shapes, etc.:

```
for i, shank in enumerate(multi_shank.get_shanks()):
    print('shank', i)
```

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```
print(shank.__class__)
print(shank.get_contact_count())
print(shank.contact_positions.shape)
```

```
shank 0
<class 'probeinterface.shank.Shank'>
12
(12, 2)
shank 1
<class 'probeinterface.shank.Shank'>
12
(12, 2)
shank 2
<class 'probeinterface.shank.Shank'>
12
(12, 2)
```

Another option to create multi-shank probes is to create several *Shank* objects as separate probes and then combine them into a single *Probe* object

```
# generate a 2 shanks linear
probe0 = generate_linear_probe(num_elec=16, ypitch=20,
                              contact_shapes='square',
                              contact_shape_params={'width': 12})

probe1 = probe0.copy()
probe1.move([100, 0])

multi_shank = combine_probes([probe0, probe1])
```

```
print(multi_shank.shank_ids)
```

```
['0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '0' '1' '1'
 '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1' '1']
```

```
plot_probe(multi_shank)
```

```
plt.show()
```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.131 seconds)

## 1.5 Handle channel indices

Probes can have a complex contacts indexing system due to the probe layout. When they are plugged into a recording device like an Open Ephys with an Intan headstage, the channel order can be mixed again. So the physical contact channel index is rarely the channel index on the device.

This is why the *Probe* object can handle separate *device\_channel\_indices*.

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe, plot_probe_group
from probeinterface import generate_multi_columns_probe
```

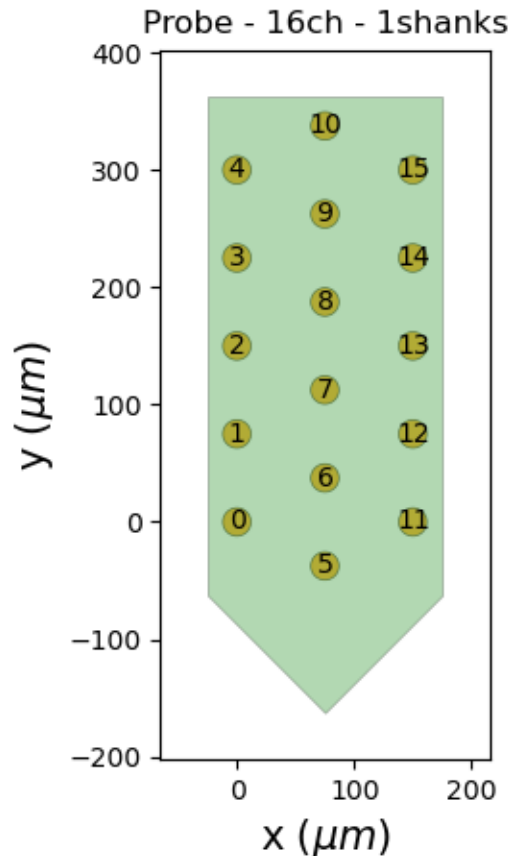
Let's first generate a probe. By default, the wiring is not complicated: each column increments the contact index from the bottom to the top of the probe:

```

probe = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,
                                     num_contact_per_column=[5, 6, 5],
                                     xpitch=75, ypitch=75, y_shift_per_column=[0, -37.5, 37.5],
                                     contact_shapes='circle', contact_shape_params={
                                         'radius': 12})

plot_probe(probe, with_channel_index=True)

```



```

(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8aafe10>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b93860d0>)

```

The Probe is not connected to any device yet:

```
print(probe.device_channel_indices)
```

None

Let's imagine we have a headstage with the following wiring: the first half of the channels have natural indices, but the order of other half is reversed:

```

channel_indices = np.arange(16)
channel_indices[8:16] = channel_indices[8:16][::-1]

```

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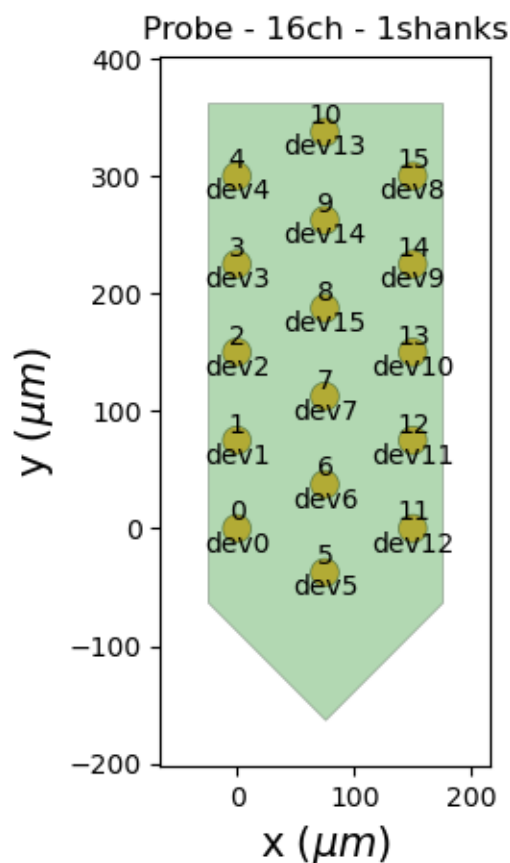
```
probe.set_device_channel_indices(channel_indices)
print(probe.device_channel_indices)
```

```
[ 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7 15 14 13 12 11 10  9  8]
```

We can visualize the two sets of indices:

- the prbXX is the contact index ordered from 0 to N
- the devXX is the channel index on the device (with the second half reversed)

```
plot_probe(probe, with_channel_index=True, with_device_index=True)
```



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b861b390>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09bb4b1cd0>)
```

Very often we have several probes on the device and this can lead to even more complex channel indices. *ProbeGroup.get\_global\_device\_channel\_indices()* gives an overview of the device wiring.

```
probe0 = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,
                                      num_contact_per_column=[5, 6, 5],
                                      xpitch=75, ypitch=75, y_shift_per_column=[0, -37.5,
                                      ↪ 0],
```

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```

contact_shapes='circle', contact_shape_params={
↪ 'radius': 12})
probe1 = probe0.copy()

probe1.move([350, 200])
probegroup = ProbeGroup()
probegroup.add_probe(probe0)
probegroup.add_probe(probe1)

# wire probe0 0 to 31 and shuffle
channel_indices0 = np.arange(16)
np.random.shuffle(channel_indices0)
probe0.set_device_channel_indices(channel_indices0)

# wire probe0 32 to 63 and shuffle
channel_indices1 = np.arange(16, 32)
np.random.shuffle(channel_indices1)
probe1.set_device_channel_indices(channel_indices1)

print(probegroup.get_global_device_channel_indices())

```

```

[(0, 9) (0, 4) (0, 7) (0, 10) (0, 11) (0, 5) (0, 15) (0, 3) (0, 6)
 (0, 0) (0, 1) (0, 12) (0, 2) (0, 14) (0, 8) (0, 13) (1, 19) (1, 18)
 (1, 23) (1, 27) (1, 26) (1, 30) (1, 25) (1, 31) (1, 20) (1, 22) (1, 21)
 (1, 17) (1, 29) (1, 28) (1, 16) (1, 24)]

```

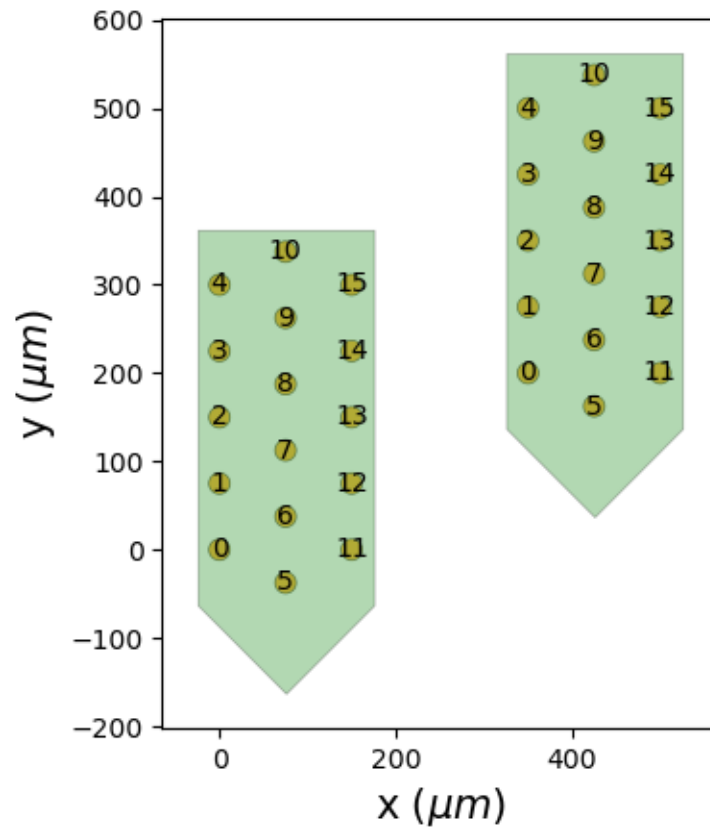
The indices of the probe group can also be plotted:

```

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
plot_probe_group(probegroup, with_channel_index=True, same_axes=True, ax=ax)

plt.show()

```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.215 seconds)

## 1.6 Import/export functions

*probeinterface* has its own format based on JSON. The format can handle several probes in one file. It has a ‘probes’ key that can contain a list of probes.

Each probe field in the json format contains the *Probe* class attributes.

It also supports reading (and sometimes writing) from theses formats:

- PRB (.prb) : used by klusta/spyking-circus/tridesclous
- CVS (.csv): 2 or 3 columns locations in text file
- mearec (.h5) : mearec handle the geometry
- spikeglx (.meta) : spikeglx handle the handle also the geometry

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe, plot_probe_group
```

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```

from probeinterface import generate_dummy_probe
from probeinterface import write_probeinterface, read_probeinterface
from probeinterface import write_prb, read_prb

```

Let's first generate 2 dummy probes and combine them into a ProbeGroup

```

probe0 = generate_dummy_probe(elec_shapes='square')
probe1 = generate_dummy_probe(elec_shapes='circle')
probe1.move([250, -90])

probegroup = ProbeGroup()
probegroup.add_probe(probe0)
probegroup.add_probe(probe1)

```

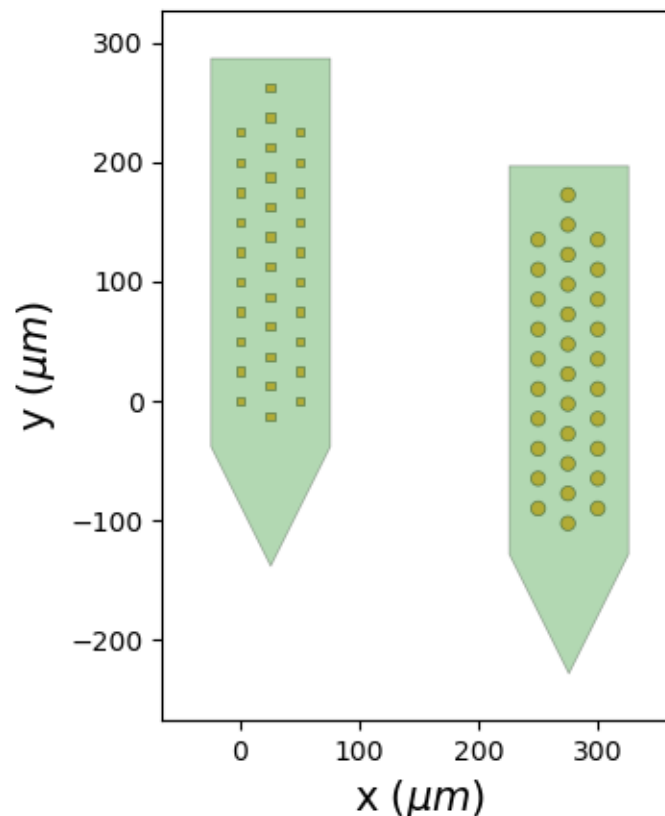
With the `write_probeinterface` and `read_probeinterface` functions we can write to and read from the json-based probeinterface format:

```

write_probeinterface('my_two_probe_setup.json', probegroup)

probegroup2 = read_probeinterface('my_two_probe_setup.json')
plot_probe_group(probegroup2)

```



The format looks like this:





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```

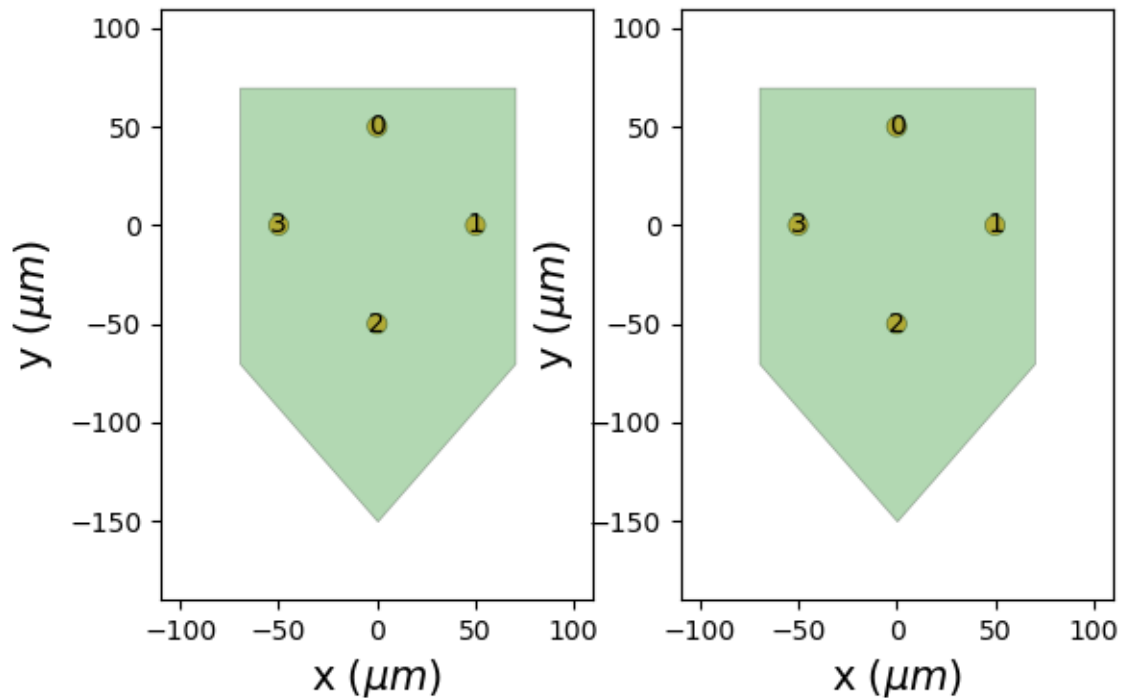
        'channels' : [4,5,6,7],
        'geometry': {
            4: [0, 50],
            5: [50, 0],
            6: [0, -50],
            7: [-50, 0],
        }
    }
}
"""

with open('two_tetrodes.prb', 'w') as f:
    f.write(prb_two_tetrodes)

two_tetrode = read_prb('two_tetrodes.prb')
plot_probe_group(two_tetrode, same_axes=False, with_channel_index=True)

plt.show()

```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.144 seconds)

## 1.7 Probe generator

*probeinterface* have also basic function to generate simple contact layouts like:

- tetrodes
- linear probes
- multi-column probes

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe, plot_probe_group
```

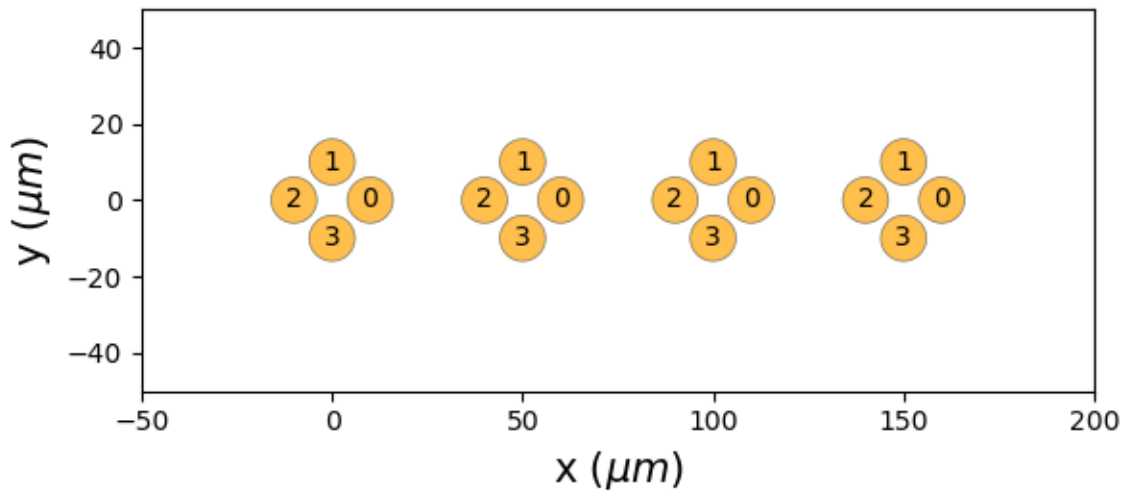
Generate 4 tetrodes:

```
from probeinterface import generate_tetrode

probegroup = ProbeGroup()
for i in range(4):
    tetrode = generate_tetrode()
    tetrode.move([i * 50, 0])
    probegroup.add_probe(tetrode)
probegroup.set_global_device_channel_indices(np.arange(16))

df = probegroup.to_dataframe()
df

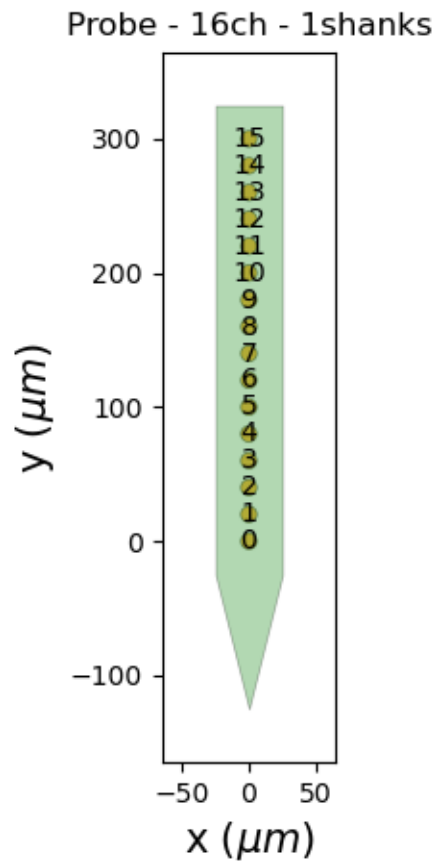
plot_probe_group(probegroup, with_channel_index=True, same_axes=True)
```



Generate a linear probe:

```
from probeinterface import generate_linear_probe

linear_probe = generate_linear_probe(num_elec=16, ypitch=20)
plot_probe(linear_probe, with_channel_index=True)
```

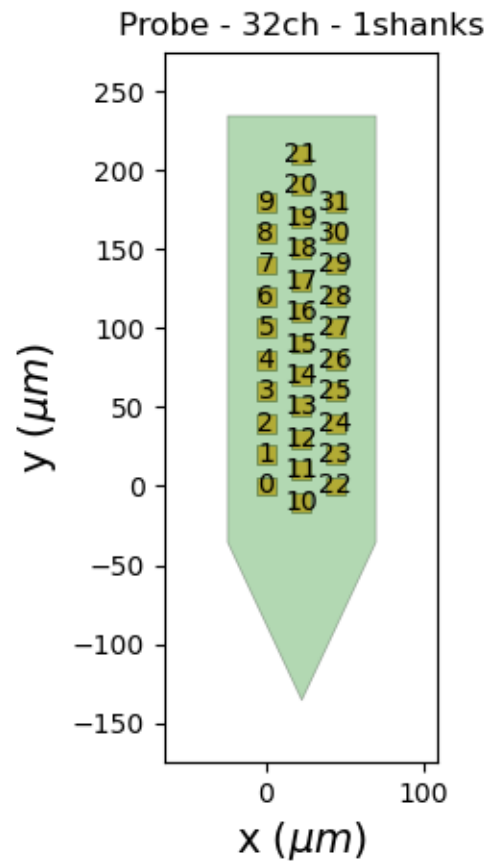


```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8930b10>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09ba32ead0>)
```

Generate a multi-column probe:

```
from probeinterface import generate_multi_columns_probe

multi_columns = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,
                                              num_contact_per_column=[10, 12, 10],
                                              xpitch=22, ypitch=20,
                                              y_shift_per_column=[0, -10, 0],
                                              contact_shapes='square', contact_shape_
↳ params={'width': 12})
plot_probe(multi_columns, with_channel_index=True, )
```



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8618dd0>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b857ac50>)
```

Generate a square probe:

```
square_probe = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=12,
                                             num_contact_per_column=12,
                                             xpitch=10, ypitch=10,
                                             contact_shapes='square', contact_shape_
↳ params={'width': 8})
square_probe.create_auto_shape('rect')
plot_probe(square_probe)

plt.show()
```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.256 seconds)

## 1.8 More plotting examples

Here some examples to showcase several plotting scenarios.

Import

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

from probeinterface import Probe, ProbeGroup
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe, plot_probe_group
from probeinterface import generate_multi_columns_probe, generate_linear_probe
```

Some examples in 2d

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

probe0 = generate_multi_columns_probe()
plot_probe(probe0, ax=ax)

# make some colors for each probe
```

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```

probe1 = generate_linear_probe(num_elec=9)
probe1.rotate(theta=15)
probe1.move([200, 0])
plot_probe(probe1, ax=ax,
            contacts_colors=['red', 'cyan', 'yellow'] * 3)

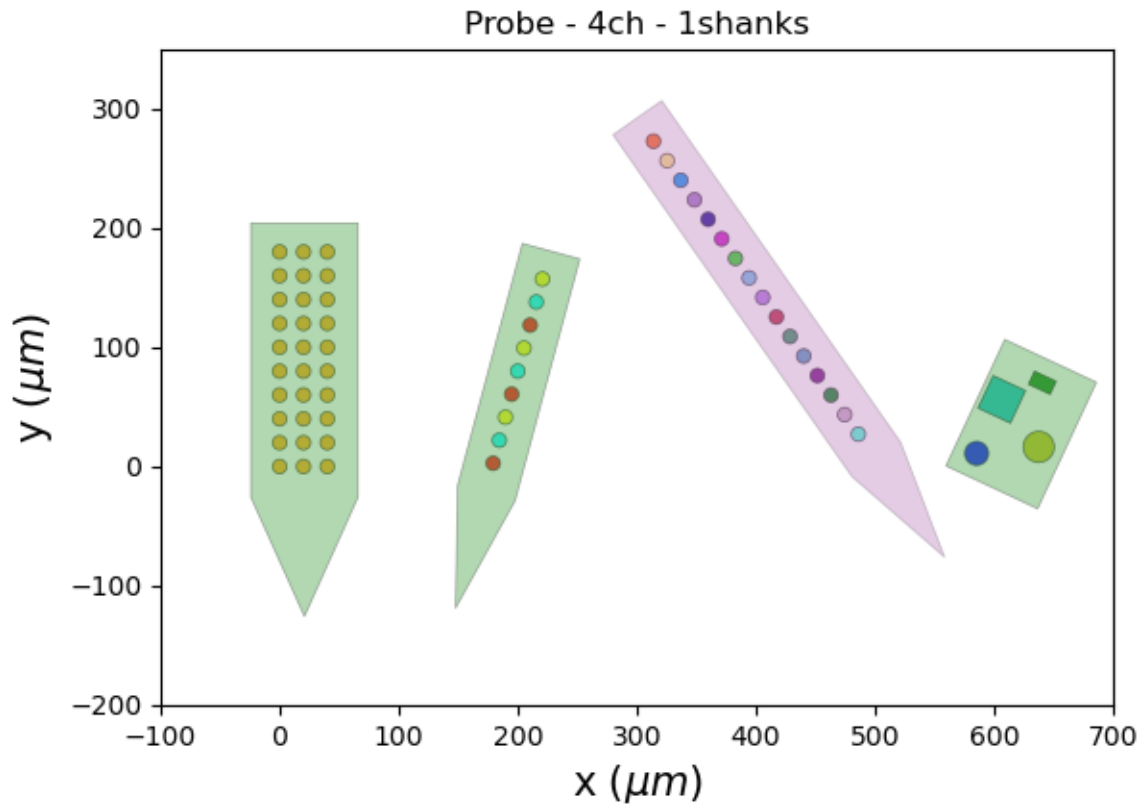
# prepare yourself for carnival!
probe2 = generate_linear_probe()
probe2.rotate(theta=-35)
probe2.move([400, 0])
n = probe2.get_contact_count()
rand_colors = np.random.rand(n, 3)
plot_probe(probe2, ax=ax, contacts_colors=rand_colors,
            probe_shape_kwargs={'facecolor': 'purple', 'edgecolor': 'k', 'lw': 0.5, 'alpha'
→ ': 0.2'})

# and make some alien probes
probe3 = Probe()
positions = [[0, 0], [0, 50], [25, 77], [45, 27]]
shapes = ['circle', 'square', 'rect', 'circle']
params = [{'radius': 10}, {'width': 30}, {'width': 20, 'height': 12}, {'radius': 13}]
probe3.set_contacts(positions=positions, shapes=shapes,
                    shape_params=params)
probe3.create_auto_shape(probe_type='rect')
probe3.rotate(theta=25)
probe3.move([600, 0])
plot_probe(probe3, ax=ax, contacts_colors=['b', 'c', 'g', 'y'])

ax.set_xlim(-100, 700)
ax.set_ylim(-200, 350)

ax.set_aspect('equal')

```



Some example in 3d for romantic who like flowers...

```
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(1, 1, 1, projection='3d')

n = 8
for i in range(n):
    probe = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,
                                         num_contact_per_column=[8, 9, 8],
                                         xpitch=20, ypitch=20,
                                         y_shift_per_column=[0, -10, 0]).to_3d()
    probe.rotate(theta=35, center=[0, 0, 0], axis=[0, 1, 0])
    probe.move([100, 50, 0])
    probe.rotate(theta=i * 360 / n, center=[0, 0, 0], axis=[0, 0, 1])
    plot_probe(probe, ax=ax,
               probe_shape_kwargs={'facecolor': ['purple', 'cyan'][i % 2], 'edgecolor':
    ↪ 'k', 'lw': 0.5, 'alpha': 0.2})

probe = generate_linear_probe(num_elec=24, ypitch=20).to_3d()

probe.move([0, 0, -450])
plot_probe(probe, ax=ax)

lims = -450, 450
```

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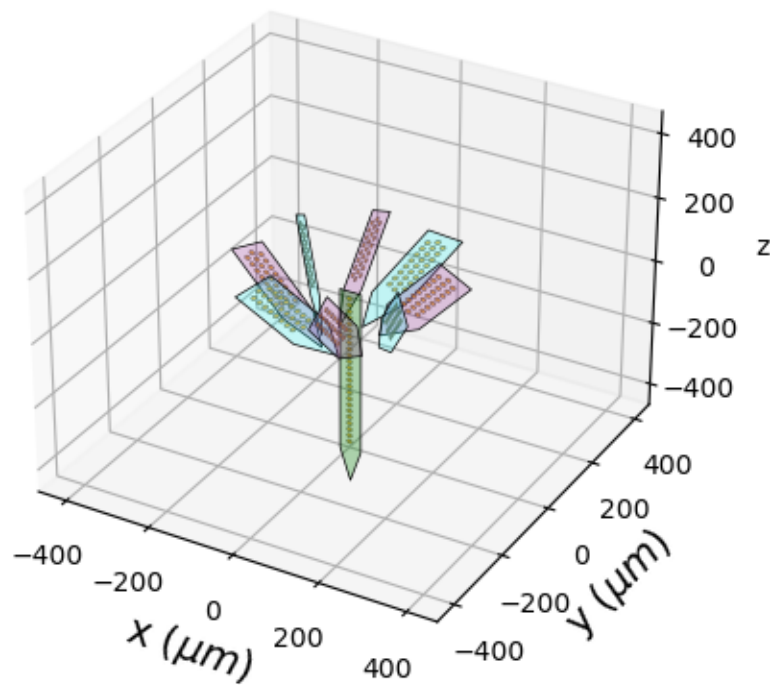


(continued from previous page)

```
ax.set_xlim(*lims)
ax.set_ylim(*lims)
ax.set_zlim(*lims)

plt.show()
```

Probe - 24ch - 1shanks



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.205 seconds)

## 1.9 More complicated probes

This example demonstrates how to generate more complicated probe with hybrid contacts shape and contact rotations with the `contact_plane_axes` attribute.

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

from probeinterface import Probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

Let's first set the positions of the contacts

```
n = 24
positions = np.zeros((n, 2))
for i in range(3):
    positions[i * 8: (i + 1) * 8, 0] = i * 30
    positions[i * 8: (i + 1) * 8, 1] = np.arange(0, 240, 30)
```

Electrode shapes can be arrays to handle hybrid shape contacts

```
shapes = np.array(['circle', 'square'] * 12)
shape_params = np.array([{'radius': 8}, {'width': 12}] * 12)
```

**The *plane\_axes* argument handles the axis for each contact.**

It can be used for contact-wise rotations.

*plane\_axes* has a shape of (num\_elec, 2, ndim)

```
plane_axes = [[[1 / np.sqrt(2), 1 / np.sqrt(2)], [-1 / np.sqrt(2), 1 / np.sqrt(2)]]] * n
plane_axes = np.array(plane_axes)
```

Create the probe

```
probe = Probe(ndim=2, si_units='um')
probe.set_contacts(positions=positions, plane_axes=plane_axes,
                  shapes=shapes, shape_params=shape_params)
probe.create_auto_shape()
```

```
plot_probe(probe)
```

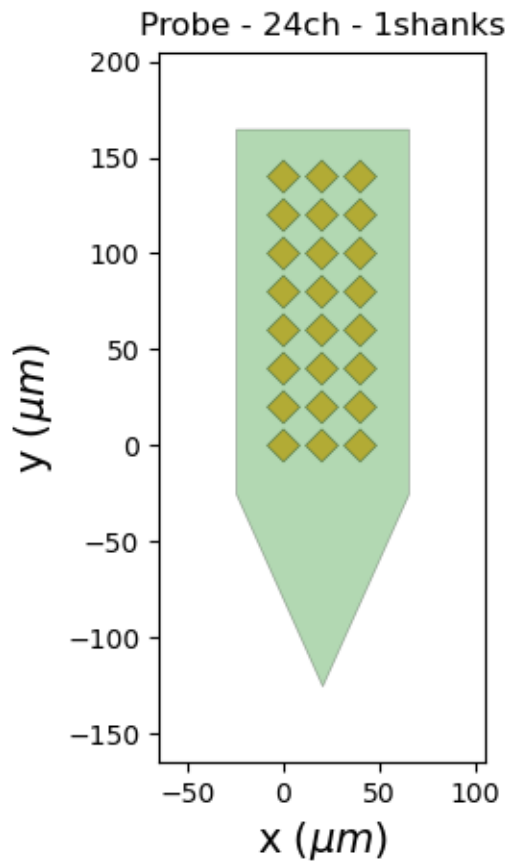


```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b866d390>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8608050>)
```

We can also use the *rotate\_contacts* to make contact-wise rotations:

```
from probeinterface import generate_multi_columns_probe

probe = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,
                                     num_contact_per_column=8, xpitch=20, ypitch=20,
                                     contact_shapes='square', contact_shape_params={
↳ 'width': 12})
probe.rotate_contacts(45)
plot_probe(probe)
```



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b8949890>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b88cbd90>)
```

```
probe = generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=5,
                                     num_contact_per_column=5, xpitch=20, ypitch=20,
                                     contact_shapes='square', contact_shape_params={
↳ 'width': 12})
thetas = np.arange(25) * 360 / 25
probe.rotate_contacts(thetas)
plot_probe(probe)

plt.show()
```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.174 seconds)

## 1.10 Get probe from library

*probeinterface* provides a library of probes from several manufacturers on the gin platform: [https://gin.g-node.org/spikeinterface/probeinterface\\_library](https://gin.g-node.org/spikeinterface/probeinterface_library)

Users and manufacturers are welcome to contribute to it.

The Python module provide a function to download and cache files locally in the *probeinterface* json-based format.

```
from pprint import pprint

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from probeinterface import Probe, get_probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

Download one probe:

```
manufacturer = 'neuronexus'
probe_name = 'A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177'
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
probe = get_probe(manufacturer, probe_name)
print(probe)
```

```
neuronexus - A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177 - 32ch - 1shanks
```

Files from the library also contain annotations specific to manufacturers. We can see here that Neuronexus probes have contact indices starting at “1” (one-based)

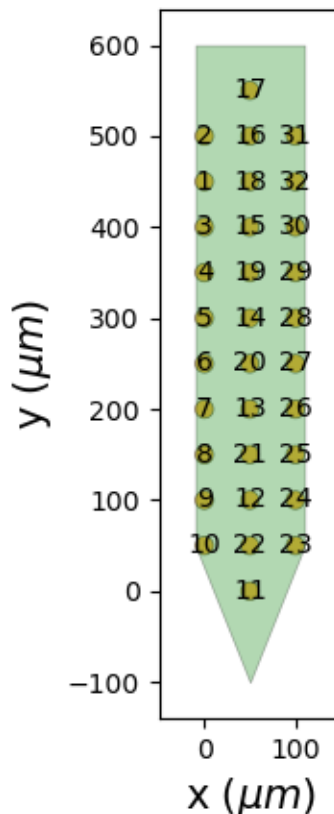
```
pprint(probe.annotations)
```

```
{'first_index': 1,
 'manufacturer': 'neuronexus',
 'name': 'A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177'}
```

When plotting, the channel indices are automatically displayed with one-based notation (even if internally everything is still zero based):

```
plot_probe(probe, with_channel_index=True)
```

neuronexus - A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177 - 32ch - 1shanks



```
(<matplotlib.collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09baf901d0>, <matplotlib.
collections.PolyCollection object at 0x7f09b86d80d0>)
```

```
plt.show()
```

Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.078 seconds)

## 1.11 Automatic wiring

Here is an example on how to handle the wiring automatically and to get the `device_channel_indices`.

```
from pprint import pprint

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from probeinterface import Probe, get_probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

Download one probe:

```
manufacturer = 'neuronexus'
probe_name = 'A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177'

probe = get_probe(manufacturer, probe_name)
print(probe)
```

```
neuronexus - A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177 - 32ch - 1shanks
```

We can “wire” this probe to a recording device. Imagine we connect this Neuronexus probe with an Omnetic to an Intan RHD headstage.

Using this 2 wiring documentation [https://neuronexus.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wiring\\_H32.pdf](https://neuronexus.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wiring_H32.pdf) [http://intantech.com/RHD\\_headstages.html?tabSelect=RHD32ch&yPos=0](http://intantech.com/RHD_headstages.html?tabSelect=RHD32ch&yPos=0)

after long headache we can figure out the wiring to device manually and set it using the `probe.set_device_channel_indices()` function:

```
device_channel_indices = [
    16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 31, 30, 29, 27, 26, 25, 24, 28, 23, 19,
    12, 8, 3, 7, 6, 5, 4, 2, 1, 0, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15]
probe.set_device_channel_indices(device_channel_indices)
```

In order to ease this process, *probeinterface* also includes some commonly used wiring based on standard connectors. In our case, we can simply use:

```
probe.wiring_to_device('H32>RHD2132')
print(probe.device_channel_indices)
```

```
[16 17 18 20 21 22 31 30 29 27 26 25 24 28 23 19 12  8  3  7  6  5  4  2
  1  0  9 10 11 13 14 15]
```

In this figure we have 2 numbers for each contact:

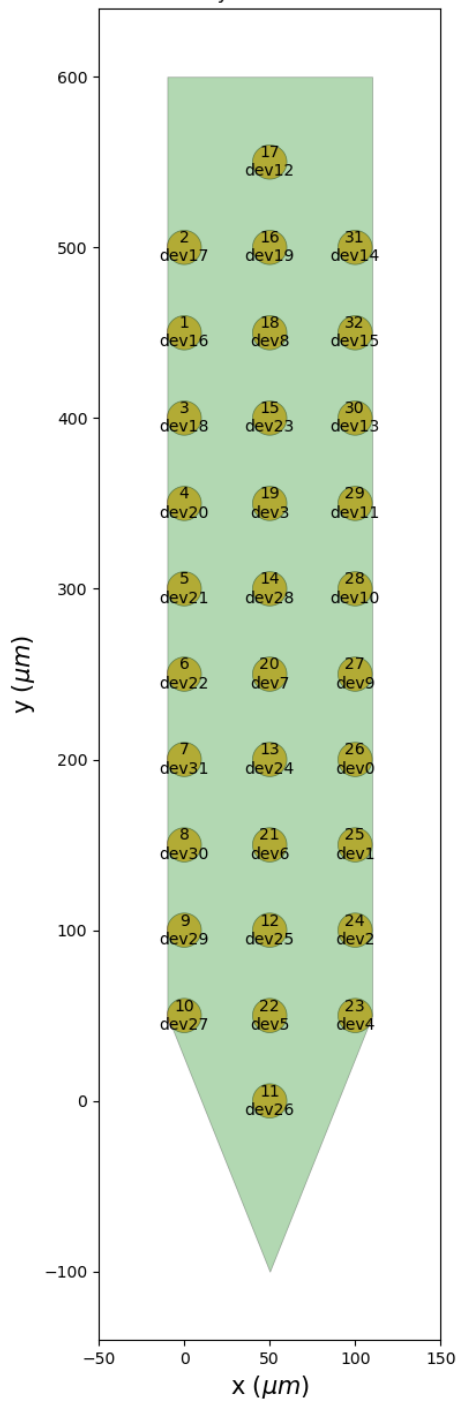
- the upper number “prbXX” is the Neuronexus index (one-based)
- the lower “devXX” is the channel on the Intan device (zero-based)

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 15))
plot_probe(probe, with_channel_index=True, with_device_index=True, ax=ax)

plt.show()
```



neuronexus - A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177 - 32ch - 1shanks



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 0.114 seconds)

## 1.12 Plot values

Here is an example on how to plot values with color scales. And also plot interpolated image.

```
from pprint import pprint

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from probeinterface import Probe, get_probe
from probeinterface.plotting import plot_probe
```

Download one probe:

```
manufacturer = 'neuronexus'
probe_name = 'A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177'

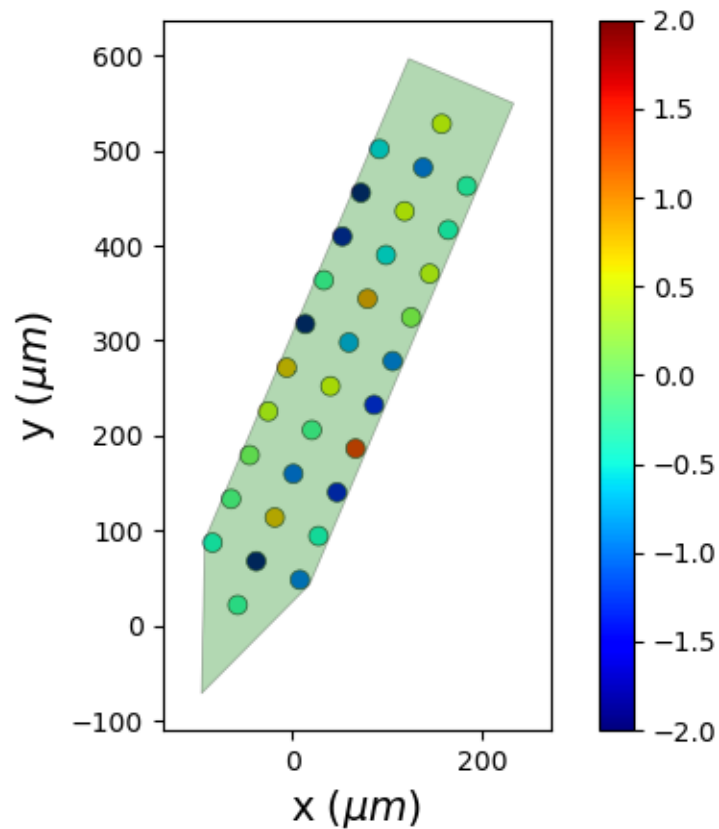
probe = get_probe(manufacturer, probe_name)
probe.rotate(23)
```

fake values

```
values = np.random.randn(32)
```

plot with value

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
poly, poly_contour = plot_probe(probe, contacts_values=values,
                                cmap='jet', ax=ax, contacts_kargs={'alpha' : 1}, title=False)
poly.set_clim(-2, 2)
fig.colorbar(poly)
```



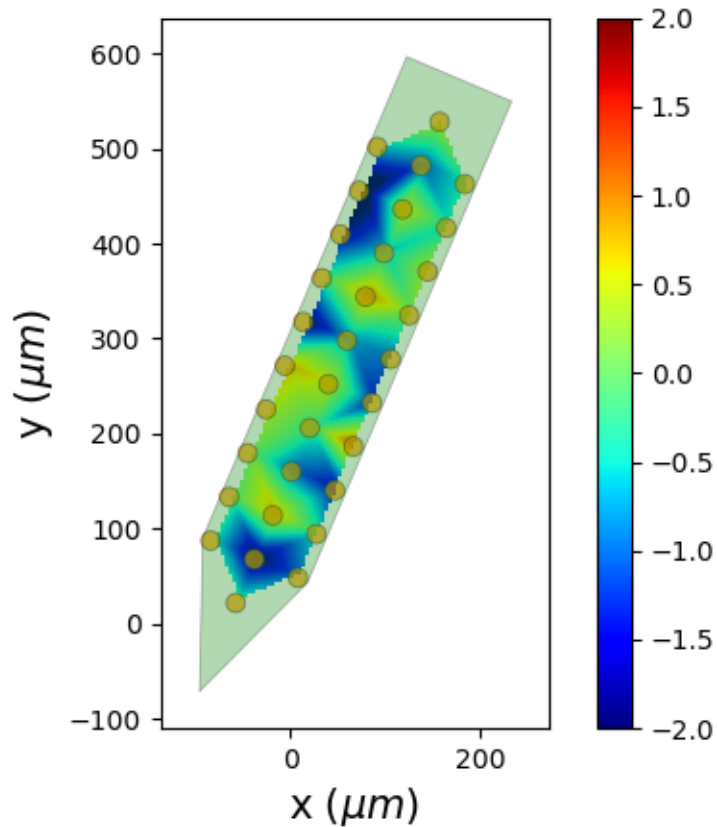
```
<matplotlib.colorbar.Colorbar object at 0x7f09b854cf90>
```

generated an interpolated image and plot it on top

```
image, xlims, ylims = probe.to_image(values, pixel_size=4, method='linear')

print(image.shape)

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
plot_probe(probe, ax=ax, title=False)
im = ax.imshow(image, extent=xlims+ylims, origin='lower', cmap='jet')
im.set_clim(-2,2)
fig.colorbar(im)
```



```
(127, 67)
```

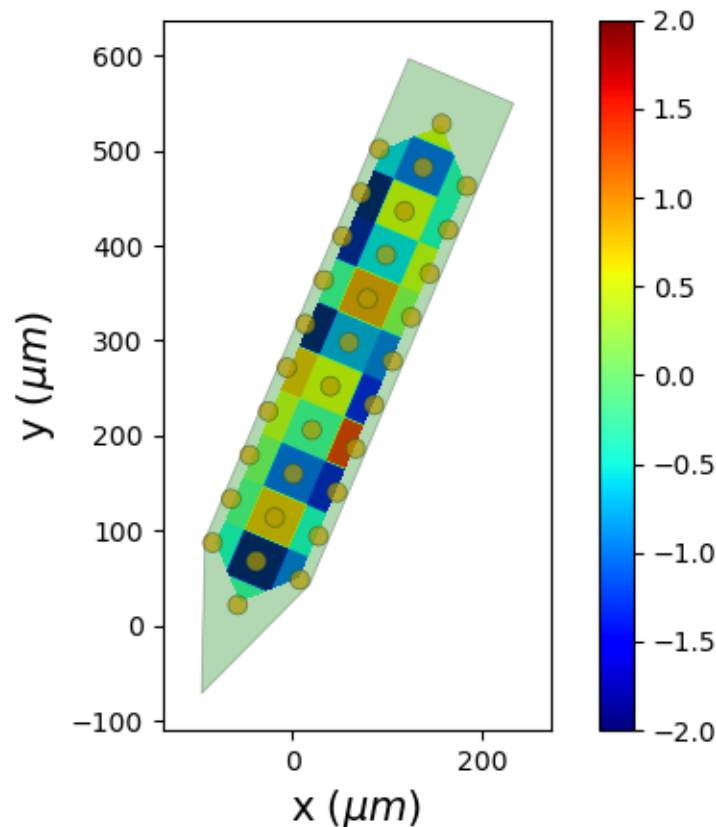
```
<matplotlib.colorbar.Colorbar object at 0x7f09aaa25e90>
```

works with several interpolation method

```
image, xlims, ylims = probe.to_image(values, num_pixel=1000, method='nearest')

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
plot_probe(probe, ax=ax, title=False)
im = ax.imshow(image, extent=xlims+ylims, origin='lower', cmap='jet')
im.set_clim(-2,2)
fig.colorbar(im)

plt.show()
```



Total running time of the script: ( 0 minutes 1.199 seconds)

## 1.13 Overview

### 1.13.1 Introduction

To record neural electrical signals, extracellular neural probes are inserted in the brain. Neural probes are (usually) multi-channel arrays able to record from multiple contacts simultaneously, spanning from a few channels (e.g. tetrodes) to high-dense silicon probes (e.g. Neuropixels - with up to 384 recorded channels).

These probes (especially silicon probes) generally have a complex layout (or geometry) and can be connected to the recording system in multiple ways (wiring). To connect a neural probe to a recording device (e.g. Open Ephys, Blackrock, Ripple, Plexon, Intan, Multi-channel System) a headstage is used that is connected to the main recording device.

The complexity of the probe wiring and device wiring leads to the difficult task to directly link the **physical contacts on the probe** and the **logical channel index on the device**.

Recent *spike sorting* (i.e. methods to extract single neurons' activity from the extracellular recordings) algorithms mainly strongly rely on the probe geometry to exploit the spatial distribution of the contacts and improve their performance.

Therefore, there is a need to correctly handle probe geometry and the wiring to the device in an easy-to-use and standardized way.

As an example, imagine you have:

- a **Neuronexus A1x32-Poly2** probe
- with the **intan RHD2132** headstage using the **omnetics 1315** connector
- connected on the **port B of Open Ephys board**

What would be your final channel mapping?

Of course one can sit down in the lab and try to figure it out... The goal of `probeinterface` is to make this time-consuming and error-prone step easier and standardized.

### 1.13.2 Scope

The scope of this project is to handle one (or several) Probe with three simple python classes:

- `Shank`
- `Probe`
- `ProbeGroup`.

**These classes handle:**

- probe geometry (2D or 3D contact layout)
- probe planar contour (polygon)
- shape and size of the contacts
- probe wiring to the recording device
- combination of several probes: global geometry + global wiring

**This package also provide:**

- read/write to a common format (JSON based)
- read/write function to existing format (PRB, NWB, CSV, MEArec, SpikeGLX, ...)
- plotting routines
- generator functions to create user-defined probes

### 1.13.3 Goal 1

This common interface could be used by several projects for spike sorting and electrophysiology analysis:

- `SpikeInterface`: integrate this into `spikeextractors` to handle channel location and wiring
- `NEO`: handle `array_annotations` for `AnalogSignal`
- `SpikeForest`: use this package for plotting probe activity
- `Phy`: integrate for probe display
- `SpiKING Circus`: handle probe with this package
- `Kilosort`: handle probe with this package
- `Tridesclous`: handle probe with this package
- ...and more

### 1.13.4 Goal 2

Implement and maintain a collection of widely used probes in Neuroscience, for example:

- [Neuronexus](#)
- [IMEC](#)
- [Cambridge Neurotech](#)

We have started a work-in-progress repo with a [probe library](#)

### 1.13.5 Existing projects

probeinterface is not the first attempt to build a library of available probes. Here is a list of available resources:

- [JRClust probe library](#) - Matlab format
- [Klusta probe library](#) - PRB format
- [SpyKING Circus probe library](#) - PRB format
- [Justin Kiggins did some script for neuronexus mapping](#)

All of these projects only describe the contact positions. Furthermore there is a strong ambiguity for users between the **contact index on the probe** and the **channel index on device**. This could lead to a wrong interpretation of the wiring.

With probeinterface we try to provide a unified framework for probe description, handling, and a comprehensive probe library.

### 1.13.6 Acknowledgements

The probeinterface is inspired on the [MEAutility](#) package, written by [Alessio Buccino](#).

While the general idea of having an enhanced probe description is present, the MEAutility package mainly focuses on handling probes for modeling purposes, hence missing the wiring concept, and it can only handle a single probe at a time.

With probeinterface the focus is also to combine several Probes and to handle complex wiring for experimental description.

## 1.14 Examples

Start here with a tutorial showing probeinterface.

## 1.15 Format specifications

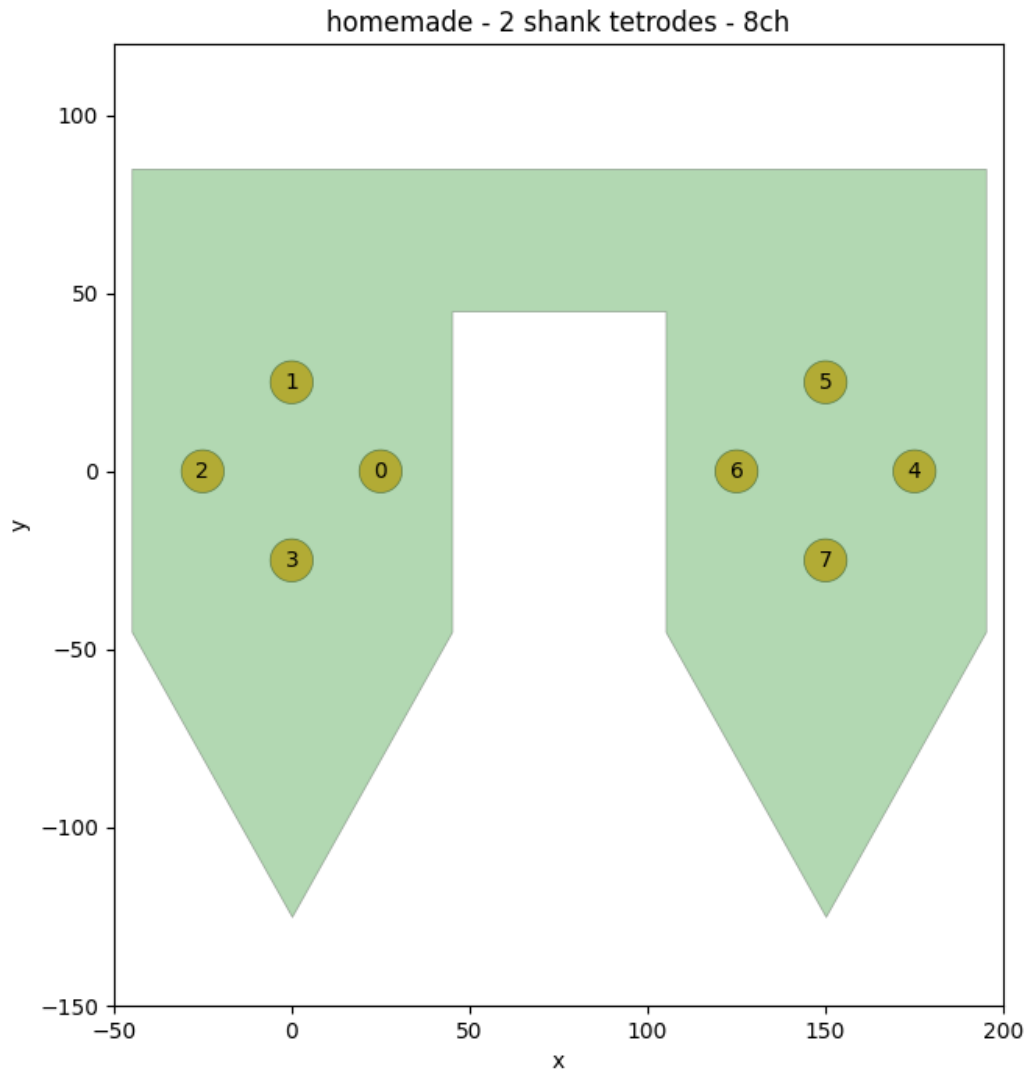
With probeinterface we introduce a simple format based on JSON format. The format is a trivial json-serialisation of a Python dictionary. The dictionary maps every attributes of the Probe class.

In fact, the format itself describes a ProbeGroup, so it can include several probes. The format can describe a simple unique probe with its geometry and wiring, as well as a full experimental setup with several probes and their wiring to the recording device.

Here a description of the fields in the json file.

Let's imagine we want to describe a probe with:

- 8 channels
- 2 shanks (one tetrode on each shank)



The first part contains fields about the `probeinterface` version and a list of probes:

```
{  
  "specification": "probeinterface",  
  "version": "0.1.0",  
  "probes": [  
    {  
      ...  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

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```
]
}
```

Then each probe will be a sub-dictionary in the probes list:

```
{
  "ndim": 2,
  "si_units": "um",
  "annotations": {
    "name": "2 shank tetrodes",
    "manufacturer": "homemade"
  },
  "contact_positions": [
    ...
```

The probe dictionary contains all necessary fields and optional fields.

#### Necessary:

- ndim
- si\_units
- annotations
- contact\_positions
- contact\_shapes
- contact\_shape\_params

#### Optional:

- contact\_plane\_axes
- probe\_planar\_contour
- device\_channel\_indices
- shank\_ids

The full json file looks as follows:

```
{
  "specification": "probeinterface",
  "version": "0.1.0",
  "probes": [
    {
      "ndim": 2,
      "si_units": "um",
      "annotations": {
        "name": "2 shank tetrodes",
        "manufacturer": "homemade"
      },
      "contact_positions": [
        [
          25.0,
          0.0
        ],

```

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```

        [
            0.0,
            25.0
        ],
        [
            -25.0,
            0.0
        ],
        [
            0.0,
            -25.0
        ],
        [
            175.0,
            0.0
        ],
        [
            150.0,
            25.0
        ],
        [
            125.0,
            0.0
        ],
        [
            150.0,
            -25.0
        ]
    ],
    "contact_plane_axes": [
        [
            [
                1.0,
                0.0
            ],
            [
                0.0,
                1.0
            ]
        ],
        [
            [
                1.0,
                0.0
            ],
            [
                0.0,
                1.0
            ]
        ],
        [

```

(continues on next page)



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```
        ],
        [
            0.0,
            1.0
        ]
    ],
    "contact_shapes": [
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle",
        "circle"
    ],
    "contact_shape_params": [
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        },
        {
            "radius": 6
        }
    ],
    "probe_planar_contour": [
        [
            -45.0,
            85.0
        ],
        [
            -45.0,
            45.0
        ],
    ],
```

(continues on next page)

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```

        [
            -45.0,
            -45.0
        ],
        [
            0.0,
            -125.0
        ],
        [
            45.0,
            -45.0
        ],
        [
            45.0,
            45.0
        ],
        [
            105.0,
            45.0
        ],
        [
            105.0,
            -45.0
        ],
        [
            150.0,
            -125.0
        ],
        [
            195.0,
            -45.0
        ],
        [
            195.0,
            45.0
        ],
        [
            195.0,
            85.0
        ]
    ],
    "shank_ids": [
        0,
        0,
        0,
        0,
        1,
        1,
        1,
        1
    ]
}

```

(continues on next page)

```
]
}
```

## 1.16 Probeinterface public library

Probeinterface also handle a collection of probe description on the [gin platform](#)

The python module have simple function to download and chache locally *get\_probe(...)*

```
from probeinterface import get_probe
probe = get_probe(manufacturer='neuronexus',
                  probe_name='A1x32-Poly3-10mm-50-177')
```

The gin platform is a github like platform that make possible to handle “big files” with git annex. So user contribution in gin is as easy as a standard github pull request.

We expect to build rapidly commonly used probes in this public repository.

### 1.16.1 How to contribute

TODO: exlain with more details

1. **Genertae the JSON file with probeinterface function (or directly with another language)**
2. Generate animage with *plot\_probe*
3. Clone with gin client the [probeinterface\\_library](#) repo
4. Put files at the good place.
5. Ask for an account
6. Push to a branch with gin client
7. Make a pull request on the gin portal (like a github PR)

## 1.17 API

### 1.17.1 Probe

**class** probeinterface.**Probe**(*ndim=2, si\_units='um'*)

Class to handle the geometry of one probe.

This class mainly handles contact positions, in 2D or 3D. Optionally, it can also handle the shape of the contacts and the shape of the probe.

**annotate**(*\*\*kwargs*)

Annotates the probe object.

## Parameter

**\*\*kwargs** : list of keyword arguments to add to the annotations

### **copy()**

Copy to another Probe instance.

Note: device\_channel\_indices is not copied and contact\_ids is not copied

### **create\_auto\_shape**(*probe\_type='tip', margin=20.0*)

Create planar contour automatically based on probe contact positions.

## Parameters

### **probe\_type**

[str, optional] The probe type ('tip' or 'rect'), by default 'tip'

### **margin**

[float, optional] The margin to add to the contact positions, by default 20

### **static from\_dataframe**(*df*)

Create Probe from a pandas.DataFrame see Probe.to\_dataframe()

## Parameters

### **df**

[pandas.DataFrame] The dataframe representation of the probe

## Returns

### **probe**

[Probe] The instantiated Probe object

### **static from\_dict**(*d*)

Instantiate a Probe from a dictionary

## Parameters

### **d**

[dict] The dictionary representation of the probe

## Returns

### **probe**

[Probe] The instantiated Probe object

### **static from\_numpy**(*arr*)

Create Probe from a complex numpy array see Probe.to\_numpy()

### Parameters

**arr**  
[np.array] The structured np.array representation of the probe

### Returns

**probe**  
[Probe] The instantiated Probe object

**get\_contact\_count()**  
Return the number of contacts on the probe.

**get\_contact\_vertices()**  
Return a list of contact vertices.

**get\_shank\_count()**  
Return the number of shanks for this probe.

**get\_shanks()**  
Return the list of Shank objects for this Probe

**get\_slice(selection)**  
Get a copy of the Probe with a sub selection of contacts.  
Selection can be boolean or by index

### Parameters

selection : np.array of bool or int (for index)

**move(translation\_vector)**  
Translate the probe in one direction.

### Parameters

**translation\_vector**  
[list or array] The translation vector in shape 2D or 3D

**rotate(theta, center=None, axis=None)**  
Rotate the probe around a specified axis.

### Parameters

**theta**  
[float] In degrees, anticlockwise.

**center**  
[array] Center of rotation. If None, the center of probe is used

**axis**  
[None] Axis of rotation. It must be None for 2D probes and specified for 3D ones



**rotate\_contacts**(*thetas*)

Rotate each contact of the probe. Internally, it modifies the `contact_plane_axes`.

**Parameters****thetas**

[array of float] Rotation angle in degree. If scalar, then it is applied to all contacts.

**set\_contact\_ids**(*contact\_ids*)

Set contact ids. Channel ids are converted to strings. Contact ids must be **unique** for the **Probe** and also for the **ProbeGroup**

**Parameters****contact\_ids**

[list or array] Array with contact ids. If contact\_ids are int or float they are converted to str

**set\_contacts**(*positions*, *shapes*='circle', *shape\_params*={'radius': 10}, *plane\_axes*=None, *shank\_ids*=None)

Sets contacts to a Probe.

**Parameters****positions**

[array (num\_contacts, ndim)] Positions of contacts (2D or 2D depending on probe 'ndim').

**shapes**

[str or array] Shape of each contact ('circle'/'square'/'rect').

**shape\_params**

[dict or list of dict] Contains kwargs for shapes ("radius" for circle, "width" for square, "width/height" for rect)

**plane\_axes**

[(num\_contacts, 2, ndim)] Defines the axes of the contact plane (2d or 3d)

**shank\_ids**

[None or array of str] Defines the shank ids for the contacts. If None, then these are assigned to a unique Shank.

**set\_device\_channel\_indices**(*channel\_indices*)

Manually set the device channel indices.

If some channels are not connected or not recorded then channel should be set to "-1"

### Parameters

#### **channel\_indices**

[array of int] The device channel indices to set

#### **set\_planar\_contour**(*contour\_polygon*)

Set the planar countour (the shape) of the probe.

### Parameters

#### **contour\_polygon**

[list] List of contour points (2D or 3D depending on ndim)

#### **set\_shank\_ids**(*shank\_ids*)

Set shank ids.

### Parameters

#### **shank\_ids**

[list or array] Array with shank ids

#### **to\_2d**(*axes='xy'*)

Transform 3d probe to 2d probe.

Note: device\_channel\_indices is not copied.

### Parameters

#### **plane**

[str] The plane on which the 2D probe is defined. 'xy', 'yz' , 'xz'

#### **to\_3d**(*axes='xz'*)

Transform 2d probe to 3d probe.

Note: device\_channel\_indices is not copied.

### Parameters

#### **axes**

[str] The axes that define the plane on which the 2D probe is defined. 'xy', 'yz' , 'xz'

#### **to\_dataframe**(*complete=False*)

Export the probe to a pandas dataframe

### Parameters

**complete**

[bool] If True, export complete information about the probe, including the probe plane axis.

### Returns

**df**

[pandas.DataFrame] The dataframe representation of the probe

**to\_dict**(*array\_as\_list=False*)

Create a dictionary of all necessary attributes. Useful for dumping and saving to json.

### Parameters

**array\_as\_list**

[bool, optional] If True, arrays are converted to lists, by default False

### Returns

**d**

[dict] The dictionary representation of the probe

**to\_image**(*values, pixel\_size=0.5, num\_pixel=None, method='linear', xlims=None, ylims=None*)

Generated a 2d (image) from a values vector which an interpolation into a grid mesh.

### Parameters

**values :**

vector same size as contact number to be color plotted

**pixel\_size :**

size of one pixel in micrometers

**num\_pixel :**

alternative to pixel\_size give pixel number of the image width

method : 'linear' or 'nearest' or 'cubic' xlims : tuple or None

Force image xlims

**ylims**

[tuple or None] Force image ylims

**Returns****image**

[2d array] The generated image

**xlms**

[tuple] The x limits

**ylms**

[tuple] The y limits

**to\_numpy**(*complete=False*)

Export to a numpy vector (structured array). This vector handles all contact attributes.

Equivalent to the 'to\_dataframe()' pandas function, but without pandas dependency.

Very useful to export/slice/attach to a recording.

**Parameters****complete**

[bool] If True, export complete information about the probe, including contact\_plane\_axes/si\_units/device\_channel\_indices (default False)

**returns****arr**

[numpy.array] With complex dtype

**wiring\_to\_device**(*pathway, channel\_offset=0*)

Automatically set device\_channel\_indices based on a pathway.

See probeinterface.get\_available\_pathways()

**Parameters****pathway**

[str] The pathway. E.g. 'H32>RHD'

## 1.17.2 ProbeGroup

**class** probeinterface.**ProbeGroup**

Class to handle a group of Probe objects and the global wiring to a device.

Optionally, it can handle the location of different probes.

**add\_probe**(*probe*)**auto\_generate\_contact\_ids**(*\*args, \*\*kwargs*)

Annotate all contacts with unique contact\_id values.

### Parameters

*\*args*: will be forwarded to *probeinterface.utils.generate\_unique\_ids* *\*\*kwargs*: will be forwarded to *probeinterface.utils.generate\_unique\_ids*

**auto\_generate\_probe\_ids**(\*args, \*\*kwargs)

Annotate all probes with unique probe\_id values.

### Parameters

*\*args*: will be forwarded to *probeinterface.utils.generate\_unique\_ids* *\*\*kwargs*: will be forwarded to *probeinterface.utils.generate\_unique\_ids*

**static from\_dict**(d)

Instantiate a ProbeGroup from a dictionary

### Parameters

**d**

[dict] The dictionary representation of the probegroup

### Returns

**probegroup**

[ProbeGroup] The instantiated ProbeGroup object

**get\_channel\_count**()

Total number of channels.

**get\_global\_contact\_ids**()

get all contact ids concatenated across probes

**get\_global\_device\_channel\_indices**()

return a numpy array vector with 2 columns (probe\_index, device\_channel\_indices)

**Note:**

channel -1 means not connected

**set\_global\_device\_channel\_indices**(channels)

Set global indices for all probes

**to\_dict**(array\_as\_list=False)

Create a dictionary of all necessary attributes.

### Parameters

**array\_as\_list**

[bool, optional] If True, arrays are converted to lists, by default False

### Returns

**d**

[dict] The dictionary representation of the probegroup

**to\_numpy**(*complete=False*)

Export all probes into a numpy array.

## 1.17.3 Import/export to formats

Read/write probe info using a variety of formats:

- probeinterface (.json)
- PRB (.prb)
- CSV (.csv)
- mearec (.h5)
- spikeglx (.meta)
- ironclust/jrclust (.mat)
- Neurodata Without Borders (.nwb)

**probeinterface.io.read\_probeinterface**(*file*)

Read probeinterface JSON-based format.

### Parameters

**file: Path or str**

The file path

### Returns

probegroup : ProbeGroup object

**probeinterface.io.write\_probeinterface**(*file, probe\_or\_probegroup*)

Write a probeinterface JSON file.

The format handles several probes in one file.

## Parameters

### file

[Path or str] The file path

### probe\_or\_probegroup

[Probe or ProbeGroup object] If probe is given a probegroup is created anyway

`probeinterface.io.read_prb(file)`

Read a PRB file and return a ProbeGroup object.

Since PRB does not handle contact shapes, contacts are set to be circle of 5um radius. Same for the probe shape, where an auto shape is created.

PRB format does not contain any information about the channel of the probe Only the channel index on device is given.

## Parameters

### file

[Path or str] The file path

## Returns

probegroup : ProbeGroup object

`probeinterface.io.write_prb(file, probegroup, total_nb_channels=None, radius=None, group_mode='by_probe')`

Write ProbeGroup into a prb file.

### This format handles:

- multi Probe with channel group index key
- channel positions with “geometry”
- device\_channel\_indices with “channels” key

### Note: much information is lost in the PRB format:

- contact shape
- shape
- channel index

### Note:

- “total\_nb\_channels” is needed by spyking-circus
- “radius” is needed by spyking-circus
- “graph” is not handled

`probeinterface.io.read_csv(file)`

Return a 2 or 3 columns csv file with contact positions

`probeinterface.io.write_csv(file, probe)`

Write contact postions into a 2 or 3 columns csv file

### `probeinterface.io.read_spikeglx(file)`

Read probe position for the meta file generated by SpikeGLX

See <http://billkarsh.github.io/SpikeGLX/#metadata-guides> for implementation. The `x_pitch/y_pitch/width` are set automatically depending the NP version.

The shape is auto generated as a shank.

#### Now reads:

- NP0.0 (=phase3A)
- NP1.0 (=phase3B2)
- NP2.0 with 4 shank

### Parameters

#### **file**

[Path or str] The .meta file path

### Returns

probe : Probe object

### `probeinterface.io.read_mearec(file)`

Read probe position, and contact shape from a MEArec file.

See <https://mearec.readthedocs.io/en/latest/> and <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12021-020-09467-7> for implementation.

### Parameters

#### **file**

[Path or str] The file path

### Returns

probe : Probe object

### `probeinterface.io.read_nwb(file)`

Read probe position from an NWB file

## 1.17.4 Probe generators

This module contains useful helper functions for generating probes.

### `probeinterface.generator.generate_dummy_probe(elec_shapes='circle')`

Generate a dummy probe with 3 columns and 32 contacts. Mainly used for testing and examples.



### Parameters

**elec\_shapes**

[str, optional] Shape of the electrodes, by default 'circle'

### Returns

**probe**

[Probe] The generated probe

`probeinterface.generator.generate_dummy_probe_group()`

Generate a ProbeGroup with 2 probes. Mainly used for testing and examples.

### Returns

**probe**

[Probe] The generated probe

`probeinterface.generator.generate_tetrode(r=10)`

Generate a tetrode Probe.

### Returns

**probe**

[Probe] The generated probe

`probeinterface.generator.generate_multi_columns_probe(num_columns=3,  
num_contact_per_column=10, xpitch=20,  
ypitch=20, y_shift_per_column=None,  
contact_shapes='circle',  
contact_shape_params={'radius': 6})`

Generate a Probe with several columns.

### Parameters

**num\_columns**

[int, optional] Number of columns, by default 3

**num\_contact\_per\_column**

[int, optional] Number of contacts per column, by default 10

**xpitch**

[float, optional] Pitch in x direction, by default 20

**ypitch**

[float, optional] Pitch in y direction, by default 20

**y\_shift\_per\_column**

[float, optional] Shift in y direction per column, by default None

**contact\_shapes**

[str, optional] Shape of the contacts ('circle', 'rect', 'square'), by default 'circle'

**contact\_shape\_params**

[dict, optional] Parameters for the shape, by default {'radius': 6}

**Returns****probe**

[Probe] The generated probe

```
probeinterface.generator.generate_linear_probe(num_elec=16, ypitch=20, contact_shapes='circle',  
                                              contact_shape_params={'radius': 6})
```

Generate a one-column linear probe.

**Parameters****num\_elec**

[int, optional] Number of electrodes, by default 16

**ypitch**

[float, optional] Pitch in y direction, by default 20

**contact\_shapes**

[str, optional] Shape of the contacts ('circle', 'rect', 'square'), by default 'circle'

**contact\_shape\_params**

[dict, optional] Parameters for the shape, by default {'radius': 6}

**Returns****probe**

[Probe] The generated probe

### 1.17.5 Plotting

A simple implementation for plotting a Probe or ProbeGroup using matplotlib.

Depending on Probe.ndim, the plotting is done in 2D or 3D

```
probeinterface.plotting.plot_probe(probe, ax=None, contacts_colors=None, with_channel_index=False,  
                                  with_contact_id=False, with_device_index=False,  
                                  text_on_contact=None, first_index='auto', contacts_values=None,  
                                  cmap='viridis', title=True, contacts_kargs={},  
                                  probe_shape_kwargs={}, xlims=None, ylims=None, zlims=None,  
                                  show_channel_on_click=False)
```

Plot a Probe object. Generates a 2D or 3D axis, depending on Probe.ndim

## Parameters

**probe**

[Probe] The probe object

**ax**

[matplotlib.axis, optional] The axis to plot the probe on. If None, an axis is created, by default None

**contacts\_colors**

[matplotlib color, optional] The color of the contacts, by default None

**with\_channel\_index**

[bool, optional] If True, channel indices are displayed on top of the channels, by default False

**with\_contact\_id**

[bool, optional] If True, channel ids are displayed on top of the channels, by default False

**with\_device\_index**

[bool, optional] If True, device channel indices are displayed on top of the channels, by default False

**text\_on\_contact: None or list or numpy.array**

Additional text to plot on each contact

**first\_index**

[str, optional] The first index of the contacts, by default 'auto' (taken from channel ids)

**contacts\_values**

[np.array, optional] Values to color the contacts with, by default None

**cmap**

[str, optional] [description], by default 'viridis'

**title**

[bool, optional] If True, the axis title is set to the probe name, by default True

**contacts\_kargs**

[dict, optional] Dict with kwargs for contacts (e.g. alpha, edgecolor, lw), by default { }

**probe\_shape\_kwargs**

[dict, optional] Dict with kwargs for probe shape (e.g. alpha, edgecolor, lw), by default { }

**xlims**

[tuple, optional] Limits for x dimension, by default None

**ylims**

[tuple, optional] Limits for y dimension, by default None

**zlims**

[tuple, optional] Limits for z dimension, by default None

**show\_channel\_on\_click**

[bool, optional] If True, the channel information is shown upon click, by default False

**Returns****poly**

[PolyCollection] The polygon collection for contacts

**poly\_contour**

[PolyCollection] The polygon collection for the probe shape

`probeinterface.plotting.plot_probe_group(probegroup, same_axes=True, **kargs)`

Plot all probes from a ProbeGroup Can be in an existing set of axes or separate axes.

**Parameters****probegroup**

[ProbeGroup] The ProbeGroup to plot

**same\_axes**

[bool, optional] If True, the probes are plotted on the same axis, by default True

## 1.17.6 Library

Provides functions to download and cache pre-existing probe files from some manufacturers.

The library is hosted here: [https://gin.g-node.org/spikeinterface/probeinterface\\_library](https://gin.g-node.org/spikeinterface/probeinterface_library)

The gin platform enables contributions from users.

`probeinterface.library.get_probe(manufacturer, probe_name)`

Get probe from ProbeInterface library

**Parameters****manufacturer**

[str] The probe manufacturer (e.g. 'cambridgeneurotech')

**probe\_name**

[str] The probe name

**Returns**

probe : Probe object

## 1.18 Release notes

### 1.18.1 probeinterface 0.2.16

February, 9th 2023

- Fix for `read_spikeglx()` when not all channels are saved

### 1.18.2 probeinterface 0.2.15

December, 12th 2022

- Bug fix when parsing Open Ephys version from XML file (<https://github.com/SpikeInterface/probeinterface/pull/146>)
- Add test files and tests for Open Ephys reader

### 1.18.3 probeinterface 0.2.14

October, 27th 2022

- Fix a **important bug** in `read_spikeglx()` / `read_imro()` that was leading to wrong contact locations when the Imec Readout Table (aka imRo) was set with complex multi-bank patterns. The bug was introduced with version **0.2.10**, released on September 1st 2022, and it is also present in these versions: **0.2.10**, **0.2.11**, **0.2.12**, and **0.2.13**.

**If you used spikeinterface/probeinterface with SpikeGLX data using one of these versions, we recommend you to check your contact positions (if they are non-standard - using the probe tip) and re-run your spike-sorting analysis if they are wrong.**

A big thanks to Tom Bugnon and Graham Findlay for [spotting the bug](#).

### 1.18.4 probeinterface 0.2.13

October, 20th 2022

- Fix install bug due to pyproject.toml
- Better handling of contact ids for unknown NP type in OpenEphy
- Including ability to read phase3A neuropixel arrays

### 1.18.5 probeinterface 0.2.12

October, 10th 2022

- New configuration files with pyproject.toml

### 1.18.6 probeinterface 0.2.11

September, 14th 2022

- do not rely on BASESTATION field to parse OpenEphys probe

### 1.18.7 probeinterface 0.2.10

September, 1st 2022

- fix read\_openephys()
- fix read\_spikeglx()
- regenerate cambridge neurotec
- implement read\_imro() / write\_imro()
- Add new wiring : ‘ASSY-77>Adpt.A64-Om32\_2x-sm>two\_RHD2132’
- Handle OpenEphys NPIX with multiple probes
- Add cross-checked ASSY-116>RHD2132 mapping

### 1.18.8 probeinterface 0.2.9

April, 15th 2022

- openephys neuropixel
- fix examples

### 1.18.9 probeinterface 0.2.8

March, 23rd 2022

- wiring CambridgeNeurotec mini-amp-64
- expose function select\_dimensions (2d>3d and 3d>2d)
- add to\_dict/from\_dict in ProbeGroup
- Add “text\_on\_contact” in plot\_probe()
- Add read\_openephys function for Neuropux-PXI plugin

### 1.18.10 probeinterface 0.2.7

March, 1 2022

- add read\_3brain to io
- annotate spikeGLX with probe version

### 1.18.11 probeinterface 0.2.6

November, 26 2021

- documentation improvement
- spikeglx neuropixel2 integration
- plotting improvement

### 1.18.12 probeinterface 0.2.5

September, 14 2021

- vector annotations added to numpy representation
- add “electrode” to annotations from read\_maxwell

### 1.18.13 probeinterface 0.2.4

July, 30 2021

- expose read\_maxwell function
- vector annotations
- changes to BIDS format

### 1.18.14 probeinterface 0.2.3

May, 21 2021

- add a pathway
- show\_channel\_on\_click
- debug read\_mearec()

### 1.18.15 probeinterface 0.2.2

April, 4 2021

- better plot\_probe with index
- write\_prb handle group\_mode
- add wiring RDH2164
- doc improvement

### 1.18.16 probeinterface 0.2.1

March, 24 2021

- read/write to BIDS proposal.
- to\_numpy()/from\_numpy()
- to\_dataframe()/from\_dataframe()
- read\_mearec

### **1.18.17 probeinterface 0.2.0**

March, 2 2021

Format improvement with all ids in str.

### **1.18.18 probeinterface 0.1.0**

11th jan 2021

Initial release.



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