Bayesian inference of transcription dynamics from population snapshots of single-molecule RNA FISH in single cells

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BayFish: Bayesian inference of transcription dynamics from population snapshots of single-molecule RNA FISH in single cells

Mariana Gómez-Schiavon^{1,2}, Liang-Fu Chen³, Anne E. West^{3*} and Nicolas E. Buchler^{4,5,6*} (1)

A spatial model for induced gene expression

Let X represent an arbitrary RNA transcript of an induced gene G. Assume two promoter states (on and off)

Gene activation : $G_{off} \stackrel{k_{on}}{\rightarrow} G_{on}$

Gene inactivation : $G_{on} \stackrel{k_{off}}{\rightarrow} G_{off}$

Transcription : $G_{on} \stackrel{k_t}{\rightarrow} G_{on} + X_{\text{nuc}}$

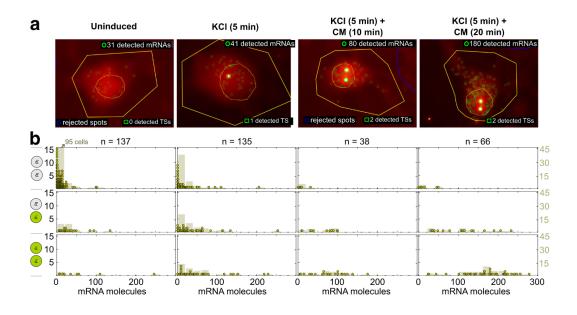
RNA Export : $X_{\text{nuc}} \stackrel{k_{exp}}{\rightarrow} X_{\text{cyt}}$

RNA degradation : $X_{\text{cvt}} \stackrel{\gamma}{\to} \emptyset$

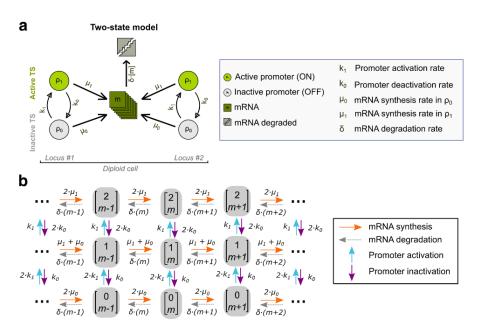
Raw data collected post induction can be used to infer parameters

$$\theta = (k_{on}, k_{off}, k_t, k_{exp}, \gamma)$$

smFISH data of Npas4 mRNA in primary neurons after membrane depol.



Two-state model of gene expression



Bayesian inference of model parameters

Transcription is stochastic so we observe samples $X \sim P(X|\theta)$

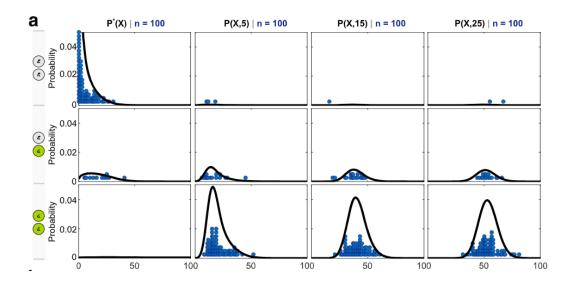
Let $\theta = (k_0, k_1, \mu_0, \mu_1, \delta)$. Using Bayes Rule:

$$P(\theta|X) = \frac{P(X|\theta)P(\theta)}{\int P(X|\theta)P(\theta)} \propto P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$$

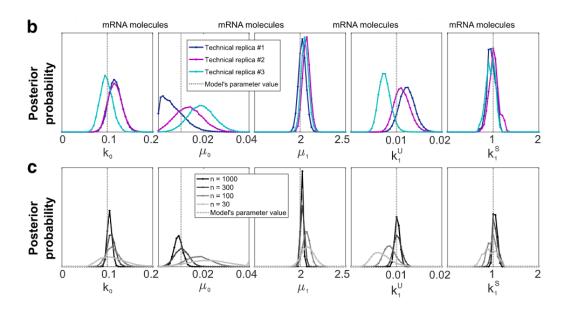
Can infer θ if we know the likelihood $P(X|\theta)$ and specify a prior $P(\theta)$

Generally we have to resort to Monte Carlo methods to find $P(X|\theta)$ (Gillespie algorithm). BayFISH evaluates $P(X|\theta)$ directly

Validating BayFish on synthetic smFISH data



Validating BayFish on synthetic smFISH data



Posterior distribution for (k1,k0)-stimulus model run on Npas4 data

