

1 **A computational proposal for tracking multiple molecules in a multi-focus confocal**  
2 **setup**

3 **— Supplementary Material —**

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21 In these supplementary materials we discuss: (i) additional results that illustrate the potential of our  
22 method to estimate diffusion coefficient, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission  
23 rates. (ii) summary of point estimates results. (iii) details of the methods including descriptions of  
24 the motion model, point spread functions (PSFs), trajectory selection. (iv) a complete description of  
25 the inference framework developed that includes choices for the prior probability distributions. (v) a  
26 description of the computational implementation of the model. (vi) summary of notation and other  
27 conventions used throughout this study as well as detailed parameter choices for the simulations  
28 and analyses.

# Contents

29

30	S1. Additional results	3
31	S2. Summary of point estimates	11
32	S3. Detailed methods description	12
33	S3.1. Description of frame of reference	12
34	S3.2. Definition of molecular brightness	12
35	S3.3. Definition of point spread function models	12
36	S3.4. Description of the data simulation	13
37	S3.5. Description of the time trace preparation	14
38	S4. Detailed description of the inference framework	15
39	S4.1. Description of prior probability distributions	15
40	S4.1.1. Prior on the diffusion coefficient	15
41	S4.1.2. Priors on molecular brightness and background photon emission rates	15
42	S4.1.3. Priors on initial molecule locations	15
43	S4.1.4. Priors and hyperpriors for molecule loads	15
44	S4.2. Summary of our model	17
45	S5. Description of the computational scheme	17
46	S5.1. Overview of the sampling updates	18
47	S5.2. Sampling of active molecule trajectories	18
48	S5.2.1. Posterior transformation to a Hamiltonian	19
49	S5.2.2. Perform the Strang-splitting algorithm to solve Hamilton's equations	21
50	S5.2.3. Perform a Metropolis-Hastings test to accept or reject the proposed sample	24
51	S5.3. Sampling of inactive molecule trajectories	25
52	S5.4. Sampling the diffusion coefficient	25
53	S5.5. Sampling the molecule loads	26
54	S5.6. Joint sampling of molecular brightness and background photon emission rates	27
55	S5.7. Track the loads and the trajectories of molecules	28
56	S5.8. Maximum posteriori (MAP) sample	30
57	S6. Summary of notation, abbreviations, parameters and other quantities	33

## S1. Additional results

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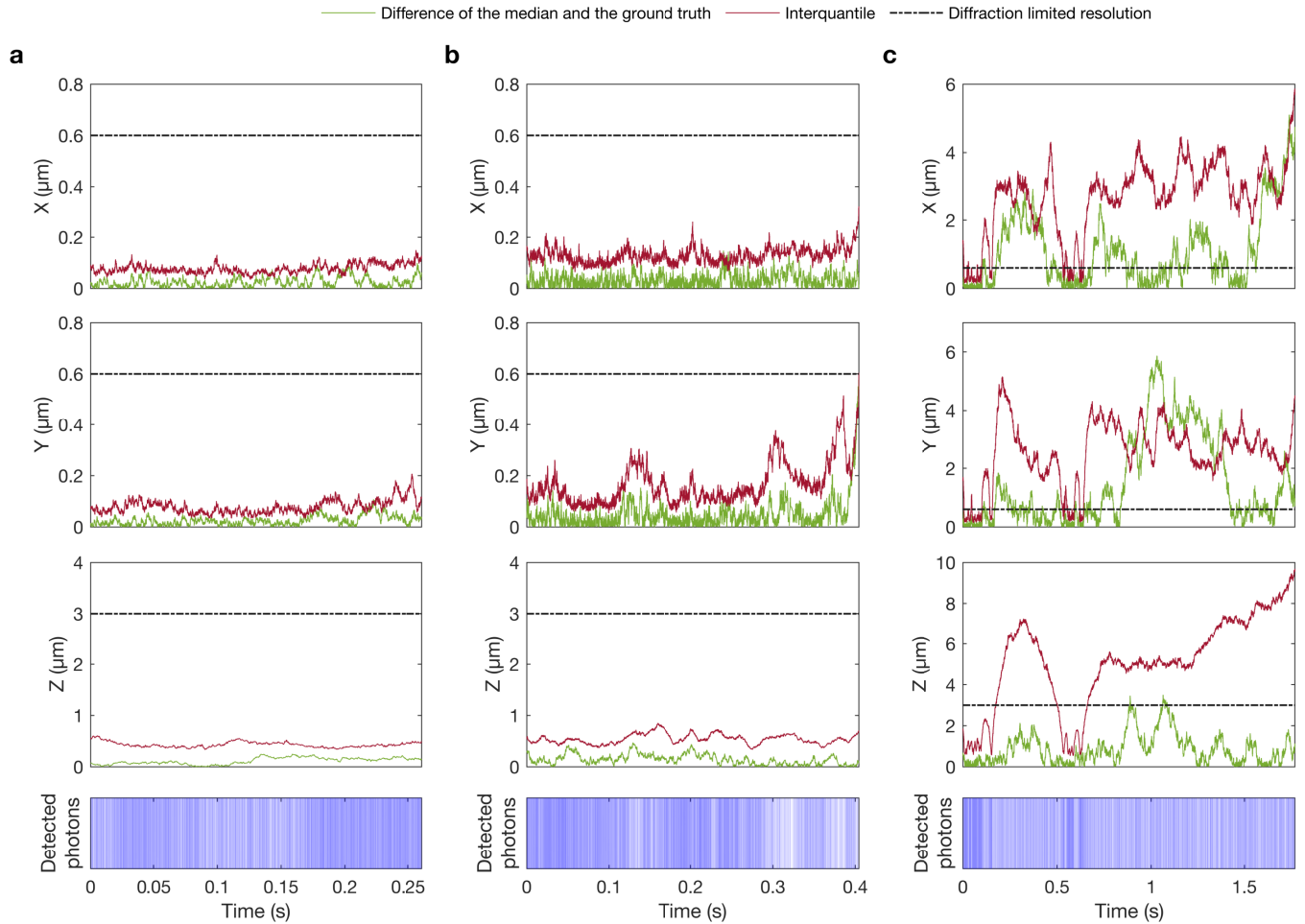
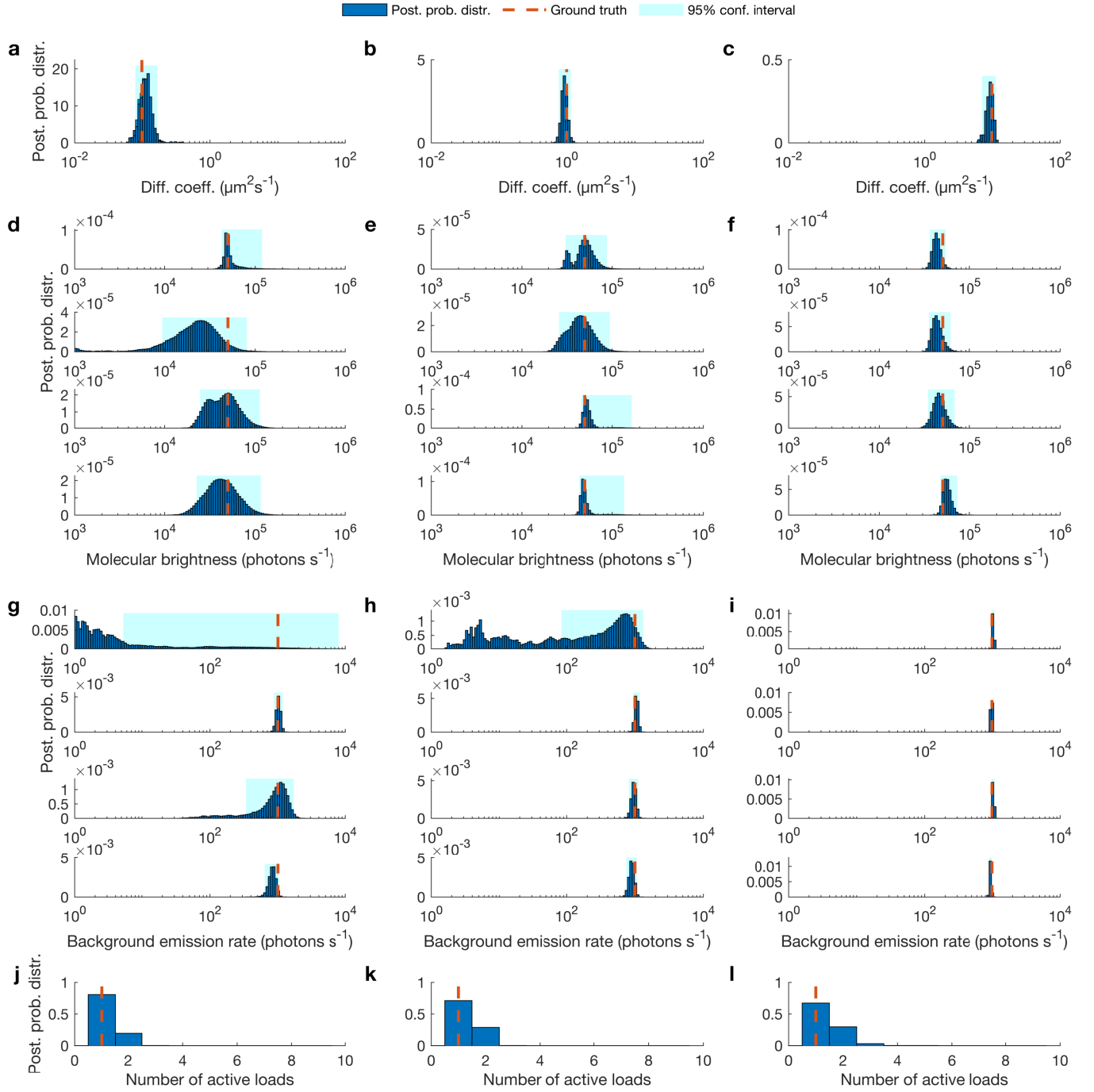


FIG. S1. **Accuracy and precision of the trajectory estimate.** (a-c) The difference of the median of the posterior and the ground truth as the accuracy (shown with green) and interquartile of the posterior as the precision (shown with maroon) for all coordinates associated with the synthetic single photon arrival time traces used in Fig. 2.



**FIG. S2. Estimated posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates.** (a-c) Posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients associated with the synthetic single photon arrival time traces used in Fig. 2. (d-f) Posterior probability distributions of the molecular brightnesses associated with those same synthetic fluorescent intensity traces. (g-i) Posterior probability distributions of the background photon emission rates for those same traces. (j-l) Posterior probability distributions of the number of active molecules for those same traces.

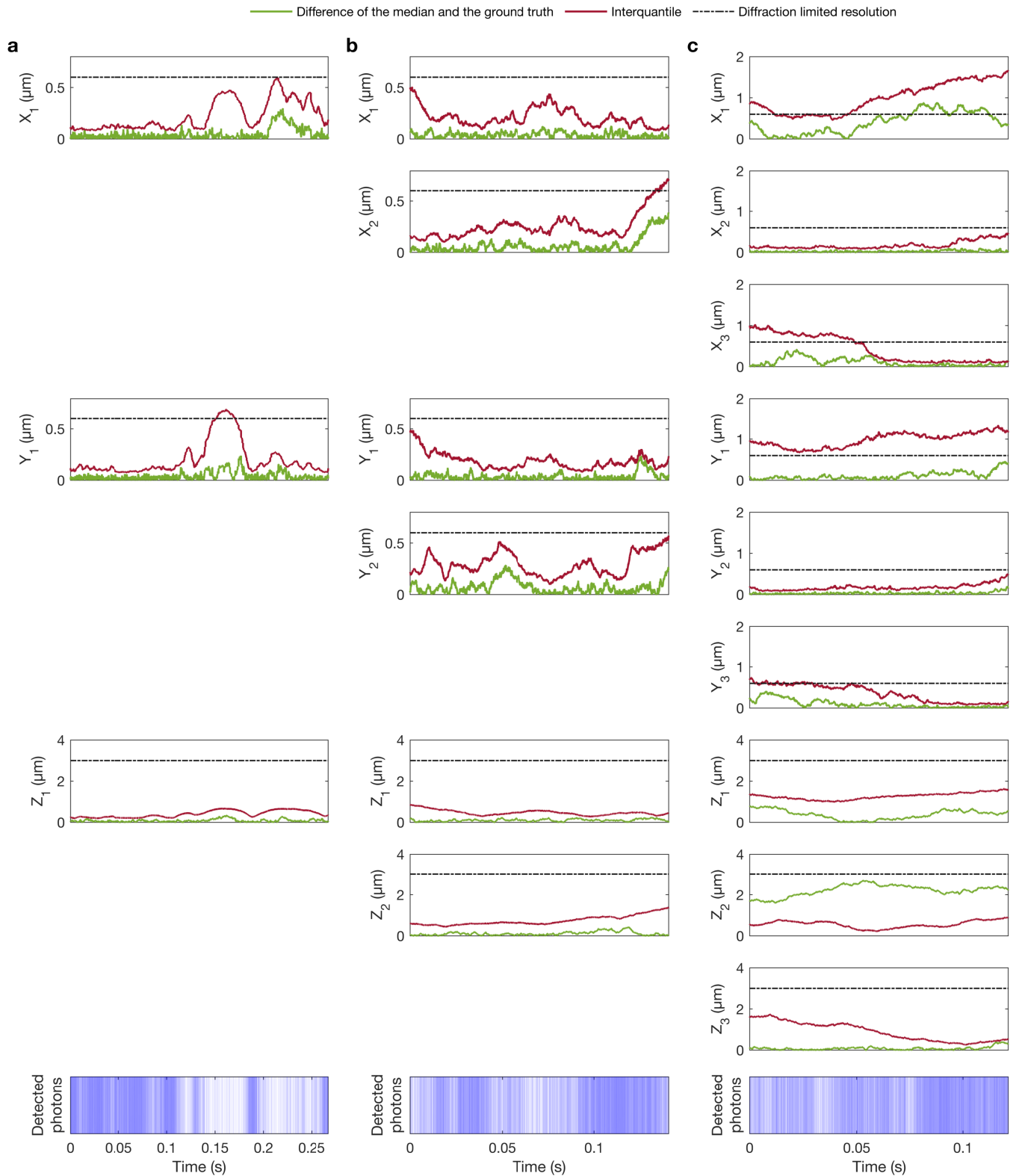


FIG. S3. **Accuracy and precision of the trajectory estimate.** (a-c) The difference of the median of the posterior and the ground truth as the accuracy (shown with green) and interquartile of the posterior as the precision (shown with maroon) for all coordinates associated with the synthetic single photon arrival time traces used in Fig. 3.

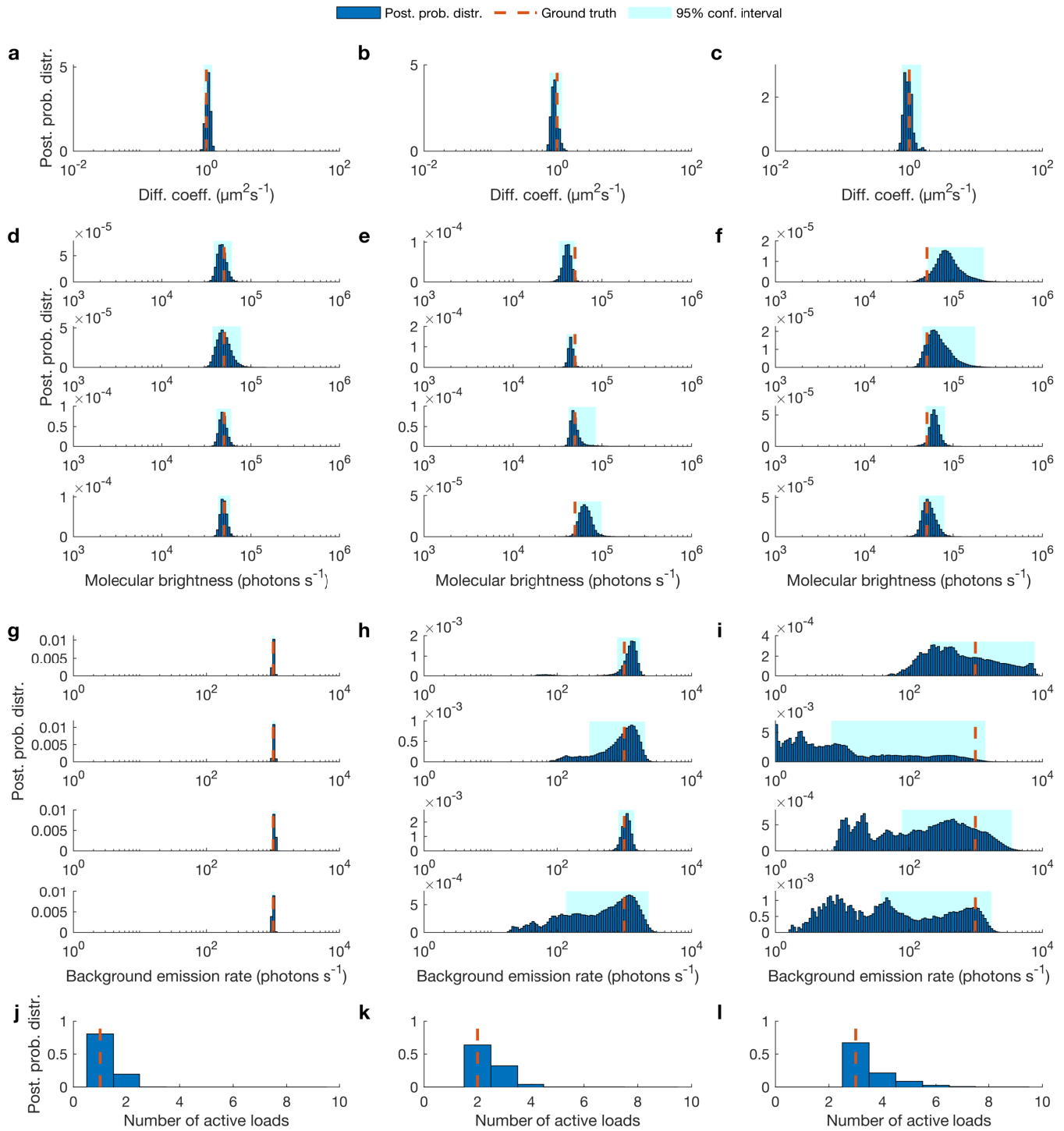


FIG. S4. **Estimated posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates.** (a-c) Posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients related to synthetic fluorescent intensity trace used in Fig. 3. (d-f) Posterior probability distributions of the molecular brightnesses associated with those same synthetic fluorescent intensity traces. (g-i) Posterior probability distributions of the background photon emission rates for those same traces. (j-l) Posterior probability distributions of the number of active molecules for those same traces.

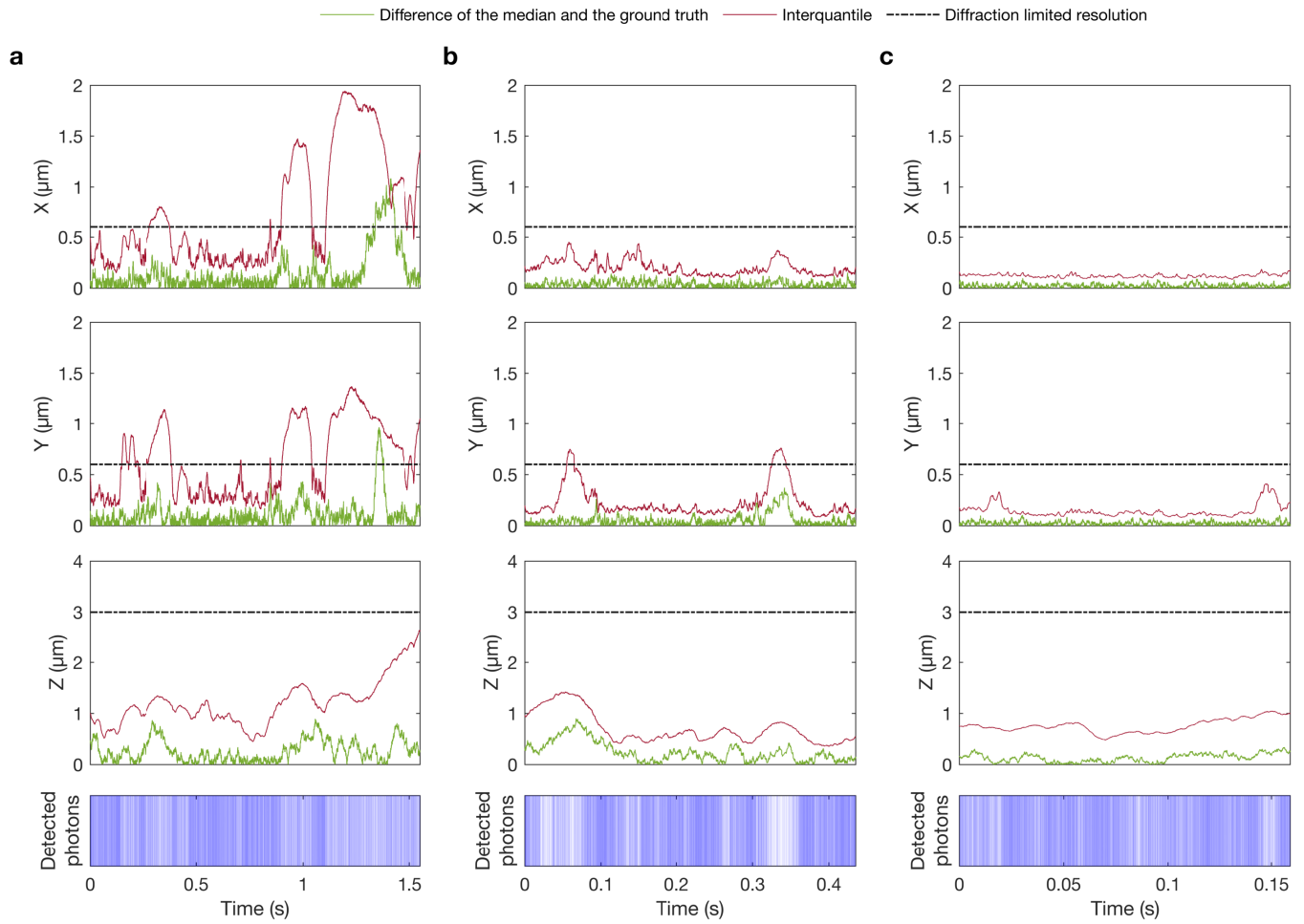


FIG. S5. **Accuracy and precision of the trajectory estimate.** (a-c) The difference of the median of the posterior and the ground truth as the accuracy (shown with green) and interquartile of the posterior as the precision (shown with maroon) for all coordinates associated with the synthetic single photon arrival time traces used in Fig. 4.

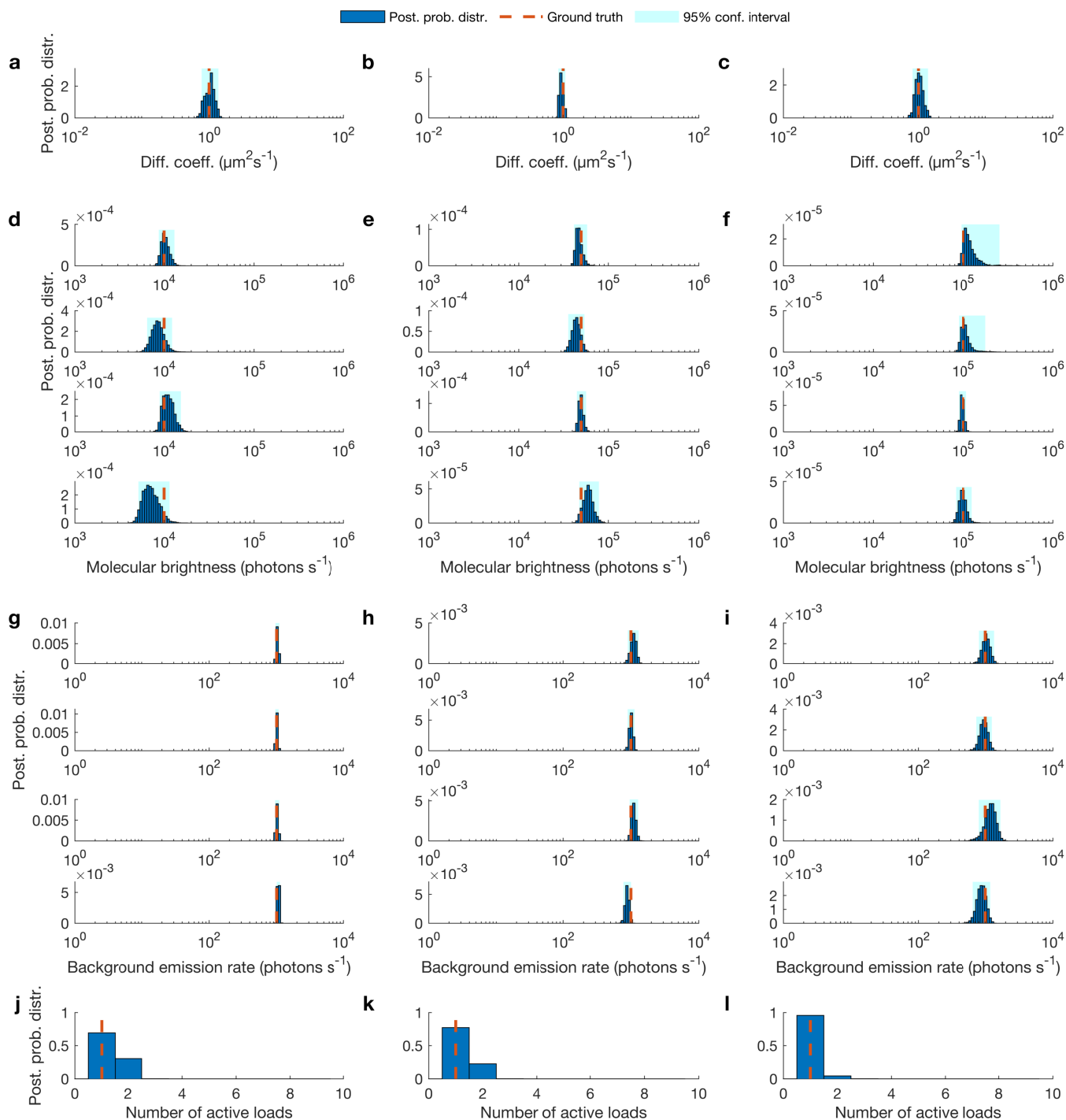


FIG. S6. **Estimated posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates.** (a-c) Posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients related to synthetic fluorescent intensity trace used in Fig. 4. (d-f) Posterior probability distributions of the molecular brightnesses associated with those same synthetic fluorescent intensity traces. (g-i) Posterior probability distributions of the background photon emission rates for those same traces. (j-l) Posterior probability distributions of the number of active molecules for those same traces.



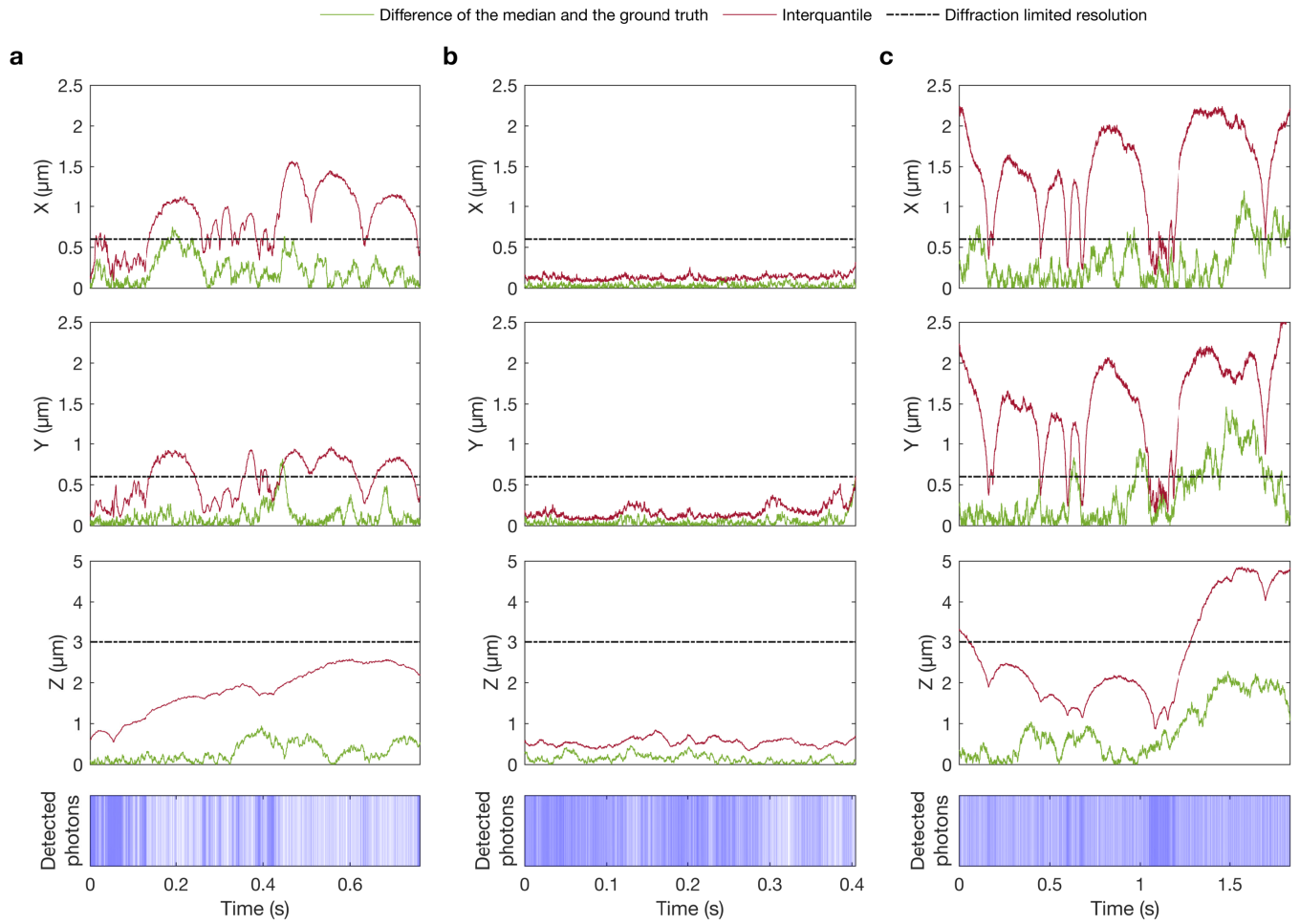


FIG. S7. **Accuracy and precision of the trajectory estimate.** (a-c) The difference of the median of the posterior and the ground truth as the accuracy (shown with green) and interquartile of the posterior as the precision (shown with maroon) for all coordinates associated with the synthetic single photon arrival time traces used in Fig. 5.

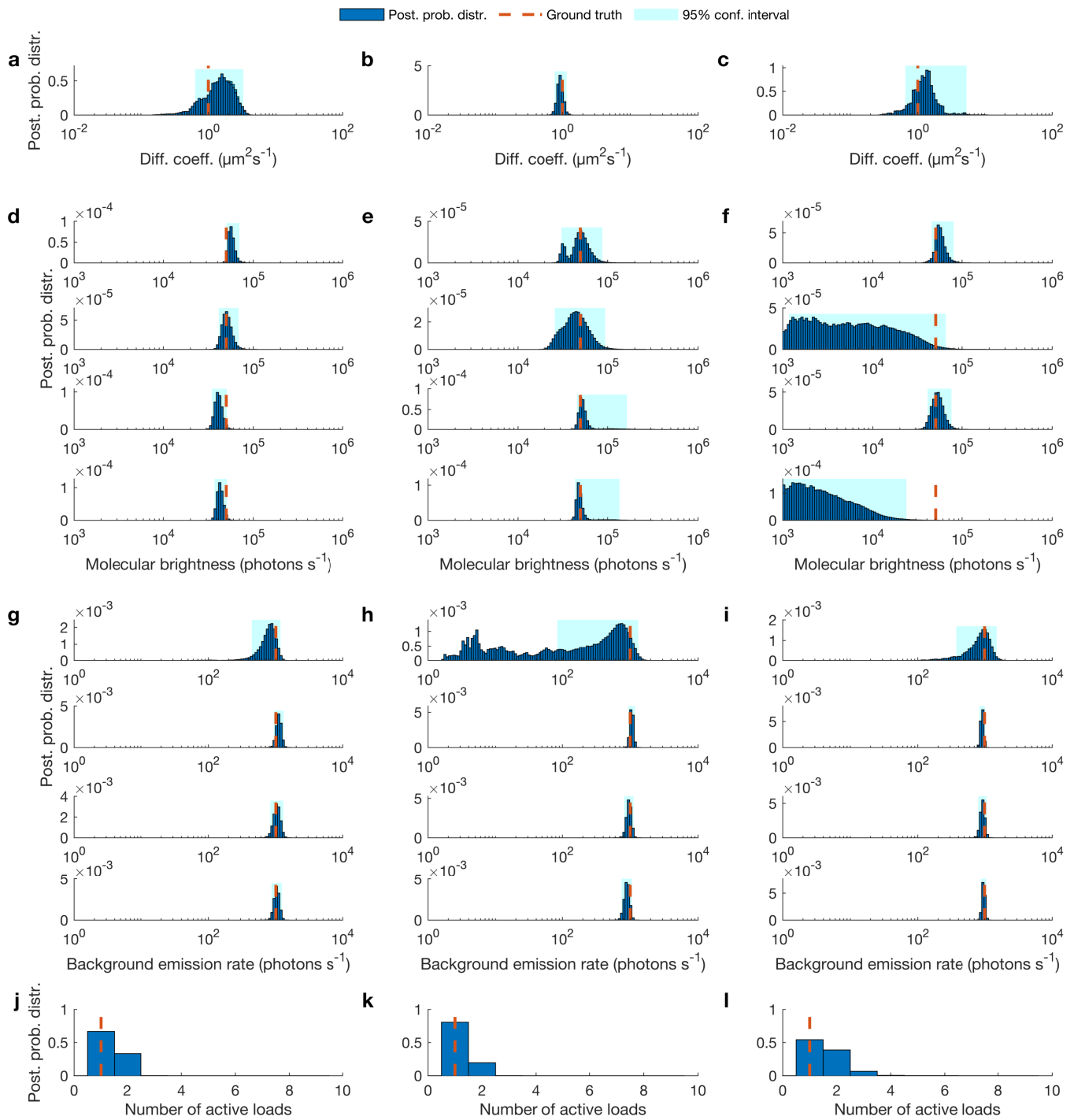


FIG. S8. **Estimated posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates.** (a-c) Posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients related to synthetic fluorescent intensity trace used in Fig. 5. (d-f) Posterior probability distributions of the molecular brightnesses associated with those same synthetic fluorescent intensity traces. (g-i) Posterior probability distributions of the background photon emission rates for those same traces. (j-l) Posterior probability distributions of the number of active molecules for those same traces.

## S2. Summary of point estimates

TABLE S1. Here, we list characteristic values (point estimates) of the posterior probability distributions of the diffusion coefficients  $D$ , molecular brightnesses  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and background photon emission rates  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$  of all examples shown in this study. Mean and std refer to mean value and standard deviation of the posterior (i.e., the square root of variance). Since, in this study we consider four confocal volumes  $m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , there are four molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates for each figure.

	$D$ ( $\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ )		$\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$ (photons $\text{s}^{-1}$ )		$\mu_m^{\text{back}}$ (photons $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	
	mean	std	mean	std	mean	std
Fig. 2(a)	0.13	0.07	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.65 \\ 3.23 \\ 5.50 \\ 5.43 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 2.03 \\ 1.84 \\ 2.29 \\ 2.40 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 2.10 \\ 1.02 \\ 1.08 \\ 0.84 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 24.1 \\ 0.75 \\ 3.43 \\ 0.99 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 2(b)	0.96	0.13	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.31 \\ 5.07 \\ 6.43 \\ 5.82 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.51 \\ 1.81 \\ 3.06 \\ 2.52 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.72 \\ 1.06 \\ 0.97 \\ 0.90 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3.99 \\ 0.63 \\ 0.78 \\ 0.81 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 2(c)	9.37	2.12	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.61 \\ 5.12 \\ 4.65 \\ 5.72 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.24 \\ 2.52 \\ 0.90 \\ 0.68 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.04 \\ 0.99 \\ 1.04 \\ 0.95 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.37 \\ 0.25 \\ 0.27 \\ 0.24 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 3(a)	1.07	0.08	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.78 \\ 5.14 \\ 5.35 \\ 5.42 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.62 \\ 1.04 \\ 3.05 \\ 3.08 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.01 \\ 1.02 \\ 1.04 \\ 0.99 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.33 \\ 0.28 \\ 0.29 \\ 0.33 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 3(b)	0.94	0.11	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.14 \\ 4.52 \\ 5.23 \\ 6.83 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.43 \\ 0.28 \\ 1.30 \\ 1.43 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.29 \\ 1.21 \\ 1.10 \\ 1.17 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.24 \\ 0.45 \\ 0.15 \\ 0.57 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$
Fig. 3(c)	1.03	0.28	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.03 \\ 0.81 \\ 0.62 \\ 0.55 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^5$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.46 \\ 3.58 \\ 0.80 \\ 1.04 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3.51 \\ 0.55 \\ 1.33 \\ 0.84 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 2.42 \\ 0.40 \\ 1.01 \\ 0.47 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$
Fig. 4(a)	1.06	0.16	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.05 \\ 0.89 \\ 1.14 \\ 0.76 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.26 \\ 1.55 \\ 1.76 \\ 2.17 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.03 \\ 1.01 \\ 1.02 \\ 1.06 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.42 \\ 0.30 \\ 0.64 \\ 0.31 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 4(b)	0.92	1.12	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.79 \\ 4.53 \\ 4.94 \\ 5.97 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.87 \\ 6.77 \\ 3.22 \\ 10.2 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.10 \\ 0.99 \\ 1.09 \\ 0.87 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.18 \\ 1.08 \\ 1.14 \\ 0.82 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 4(c)	1.03	0.14	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.27 \\ 1.09 \\ 0.99 \\ 1.01 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^5$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4.09 \\ 2.23 \\ 0.67 \\ 1.12 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.06 \\ 1.03 \\ 1.22 \\ 0.91 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.41 \\ 7.97 \\ 2.60 \\ 1.42 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 5(a)	1.92	0.77	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.76 \\ 5.21 \\ 4.16 \\ 4.31 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.10 \\ 6.93 \\ 4.13 \\ 3.54 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.83 \\ 1.12 \\ 1.05 \\ 1.04 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.85 \\ 0.95 \\ 1.19 \\ 0.94 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 5(b)	0.96	0.14	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.31 \\ 5.07 \\ 6.43 \\ 5.83 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.51 \\ 1.81 \\ 3.06 \\ 2.52 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.72 \\ 1.06 \\ 0.97 \\ 0.90 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3.99 \\ 0.63 \\ 0.78 \\ 0.81 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$
Fig. 5(c)	3.03	6.45	$\begin{bmatrix} 5.76 \\ 2.08 \\ 5.41 \\ 0.64 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.09 \\ 1.72 \\ 0.87 \\ 0.72 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1.18 \\ 0.92 \\ 0.95 \\ 0.97 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	$\begin{bmatrix} 12.8 \\ 0.45 \\ 1.16 \\ 0.47 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^2$

### S3. Detailed methods description

#### S3.1. Description of frame of reference

The PSFs we consider in this study are created by the overlap of the detection profile with the excitation profile. It can be seen in Fig. S9(a-b) how  $\text{PSF}_m$ ,  $m = 1, \dots, M$  can be considered as the result of the detection profile and the excitation profile. As with regular FCS, the dimension of each  $\text{PSF}_m$  can be calibrated by considering a well known molecule with a known diffusion coefficient. [1–3] Also, as we illustrate in Fig. S9(c), to coordinate all PSFs, we define a global frame of reference where the point of origin is placed at (0,0,0) and each one of the PSFs are centered at distance  $(C_{m,x}, C_{m,y}, C_{m,z})$  from the point of origin.

#### S3.2. Definition of molecular brightness

Here, we use the term “molecular brightness” for the random variables  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$ . This random variable the is the same as in our previous work on a single-focus confocal volume. [4] Specifically

$$\mu_m(x, y, z) = \mu_{\text{exc}} \varphi_{\text{d}} \varphi_{m,\text{qe}} \varphi_{\text{f}} \sigma \text{EXC}(x, y, z) \text{CEF}(x, y, z) \quad (\text{S1})$$

where,  $\mu_{\text{exc}}$  is the maximum excitation intensity which occurs at the center of the excitation profile,  $\varphi_{m,\text{d}}$  is the efficiency of the photon collection at the center of the detection profile of detector  $m$ ,  $\varphi_{\text{qe}}$  is the quantum efficiency of the detector  $m$ ,  $\varphi_{\text{f}}$  is the quantum efficiency of the fluorophore (i.e. quantum yield),  $\sigma$  is the absorption cross-section of the fluorophore,  $\text{EXC}(x, y, z)$  is the excitation profile and  $\text{CEF}_m(x, y, z)$  is the detection profile of detector  $m$ , i.e., collection efficiency function, which equals the fraction of the photons collected by the detector  $m$  to the total photons emitted by a point source. [5]

To obtain Eq. (3), we cast Eq. (S1) in the simplified form

$$\mu_m(x, y, z) = \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \text{PSF}_m(x, y, z) \quad (\text{S2})$$

where  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}} = \mu_{\text{exc}} \varphi_{m,\text{d}} \varphi_{m,\text{qe}} \varphi_{\text{f}} \sigma$ , which we term molecular brightness at the center of the confocal volume  $m$ , [6] and  $\text{PSF}_m(x, y, z) = \text{EXC}(x, y, z) \text{CEF}_m(x, y, z)$ , which we term the PSF.

#### S3.3. Definition of point spread function models

There are several PSF models one could consider. For example: the Airy function, [7–9] 3D-Gaussian (3DG), [10] 2D-Gaussian-Lorentzian (2DGL) [11–14] and 2D-Gaussian-Cylindrical (2DGC). [10] Our work is general and can accommodate any of these points spread functions (PSFs) or combinations thereof.

The definition of the 3DG PSF is

$$\text{PSF}_{m,3\text{DG}}(x, y, z) = \exp\left(-2\left(\left(\frac{x - C_{m,x}}{\omega_{m,x}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y - C_{m,y}}{\omega_{m,y}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z - C_{m,z}}{\omega_{m,z}}\right)^2\right)\right) \quad (\text{S3})$$

while that of the 2DGL PSF is

$$\text{PSF}_{m,2\text{DGL}}(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{z - C_{m,z}}{\omega_{m,z}}\right)^2} \exp\left(-2\left(\frac{\left(\frac{x - C_{m,x}}{\omega_{m,x}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y - C_{m,y}}{\omega_{m,y}}\right)^2}{1 + \left(\frac{z - C_{m,z}}{\omega_{m,z}}\right)^2}\right)\right). \quad (\text{S4})$$

Finally, that of the 2DGC PSF is

$$\text{PSF}_{m,2\text{DGCZ}}(x, y, z) = \exp\left(-2\left(\left(\frac{x - C_{m,x}}{\omega_{m,x}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y - C_{m,y}}{\omega_{m,y}}\right)^2\right)\right) \quad (\text{S5})$$

where  $(C_{m,x}, C_{m,y}, C_{m,z})$  is the coordinate of the center of the  $\text{PSF}_m$  from the point of origin and  $(\omega_{m,x}, \omega_{m,y}, \omega_{m,z})$  are the semi-axes lateral and parallel to the optical axis of the confocal volume  $m$ . Here, the widths of the confocal volumes  $(\omega_{m,x}, \omega_{m,y}, \omega_{m,z})$  can be directly estimated by calibration experiments with known diffusion coefficients; for example see Ref. [15].

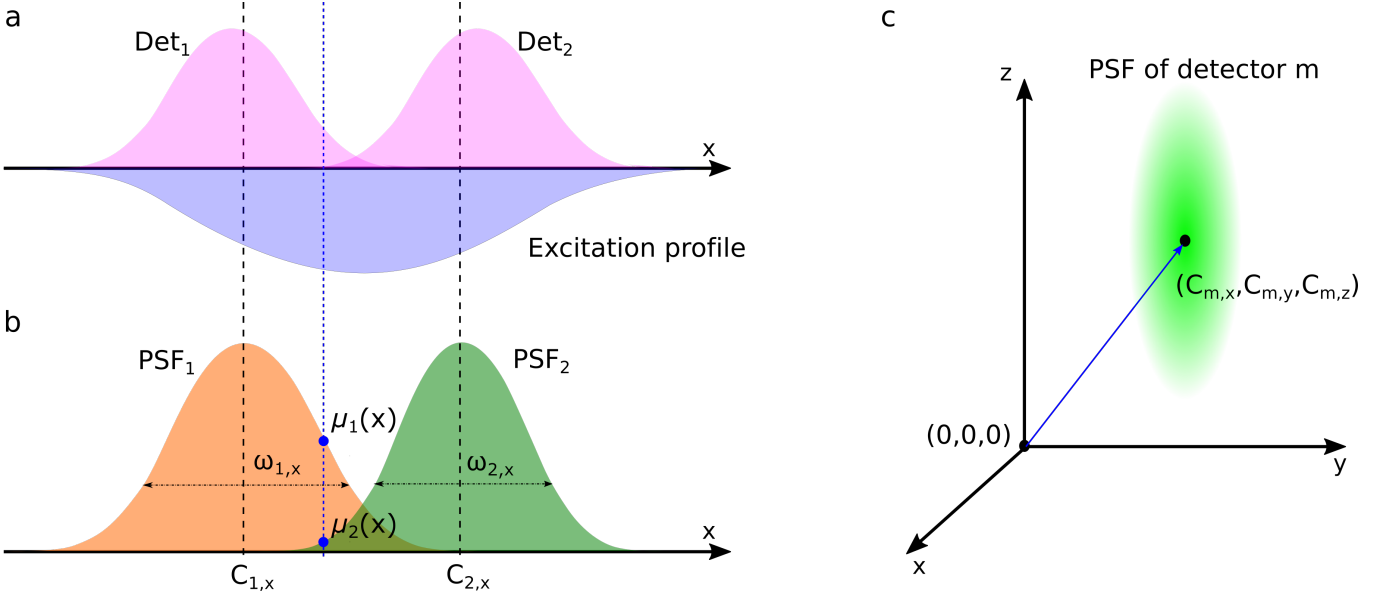


FIG. S9. **Illustration of a multi-focus confocal setup.** (a) The excitation profile is represented by the inverted blue Gaussian while the detection volumes (Det<sub>1</sub> and Det<sub>2</sub>) are represented by the pink curves in 1D coordinate. (b) The overlap in the detection volume and illumination volumes produce two PSFs in 1D coordinate that we term “confocal volume”. Each PSF has its own mean and standard deviation denoted by  $C_{1,x}$  and  $C_{2,x}$  as mean values and  $\frac{\omega_{1,x}}{2}$  and  $\frac{\omega_{2,x}}{2}$  as standard deviations. (c) The global frame of reference which shows the point of origin and position of PSFs in 3D.

94

### S3.4. Description of the data simulation

To generate single photon arrival time traces mimicking a realistic multi-focus confocal setup, we simulate molecules moving [16, 17] through multi-illuminated 3D volumes. The number of diffusing molecules,  $N$ , is prescribed in each simulation. To maintain a relatively stable concentration of molecules near the confocal volume, we impose periodic rectangular boundaries. The boundaries are placed at  $\pm L_x$  and  $\pm L_y$  perpendicular to the focal plane and  $\pm L_z$  perpendicular to the optical axis. We typically choose  $L$  large enough such that it be larger than the width of the combinations of PSFs

$$L_x \gg |\max(\overline{C_x}) - \min(\overline{C_x})| + \max(\overline{\omega_x}) \quad (\text{S6})$$

$$L_y \gg |\max(\overline{C_y}) - \min(\overline{C_y})| + \max(\overline{\omega_y}) \quad (\text{S7})$$

$$L_z \gg |\max(\overline{C_z}) - \min(\overline{C_z})| + \max(\overline{\omega_z}) \quad (\text{S8})$$

95 where  $(\overline{C_x}, \overline{C_y}, \overline{C_z})$  and  $(\overline{\omega_x}, \overline{\omega_y}, \overline{\omega_z})$  are the coordinate of the centers from point of origin and dimensions of confocal  
 96 volumes. For simulation purposes, we assess the locations of the molecules  $(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})$ , where  $k = 1, \dots, K$   
 97 label time levels and  $n = 1, \dots, N$  label molecules, at equidistant time intervals  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_K$ . The time interval  $\delta t$ ,  
 98 however, is smaller than the time interval between successive assessments  $\Delta_k = t_{k+1} - t_k$  and the total trace duration  
 99  $T_{\text{total}} = t_K - t_0$ .

100 Molecule locations at the first assessment  $(x_{n,1}, y_{n,1}, z_{n,1})$  are sampled randomly from a uniform distribution with  
 101 limits equal to the boundaries  $\pm L_x$ ,  $\pm L_y$  and  $\pm L_z$  of our pre-specified volume. Subsequent locations are sampled  
 102 according to the diffusion model which we considered it as a Brownian motion, [4, 18, 19] under a prescribed diffusion  
 103 coefficient  $D$ .

Finally, we obtain individual photon inter-arrival times,  $\Delta_k$ , from any of the confocal volumes and the detector,  $s_k$  which can take value 1 to  $M$ , at which the  $k^{\text{th}}$  photons is detected as follows

$$\Delta_k \sim \mathbf{Exp} \left( \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right) \quad (\text{S9})$$

$$s_k \sim \mathbf{Cat}_{1, \dots, M} \left( \left[ \frac{\mu_{1,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}}, \dots, \frac{\mu_{M,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}} \right] \right) \quad (\text{S10})$$

104 where the rate  $\mu_{m,k}$  gathers single photon contributions from the background and the entire molecule population  
 105 according to

$$106 \quad \mu_{m,k} = \mu_m^{\text{back}} + \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}). \quad (\text{S11})$$

107 Here, both background photon emission rate and molecular brightness,  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$ , are prescribed and  $\text{PSF}_m$   
 108 stands for any of the PSFs introduced in Eqs. (S3)(S4)(S5). As an example, in Fig. S9, we illustrate two Gaussian  
 109 shape PSFs overlapping with each others in 1D. Detailed parameter choices for all simulations performed are listed  
 110 in Table S6.

### 111 S3.5. Description of the time trace preparation

112 In real experiments, we envision each of the  $M$  photon detectors to be simultaneously active. We label the time  
 113 of arrival of photons at the  $m^{\text{th}}$  detector as  $t_{m,k}$ , where  $k' = 1, 2, \dots, K'_m$ . Our data, the starting point for our  
 114 analysis, consists of the detector label at which each successive photon is detected,  $\bar{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_K)$ , and the photon  
 115 inter-arrival times obtained by combining all traces,  $\bar{\Delta} = (\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_{K-1})$  where  $\Delta_k = t_{k+1} - t_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, K - 1$ .

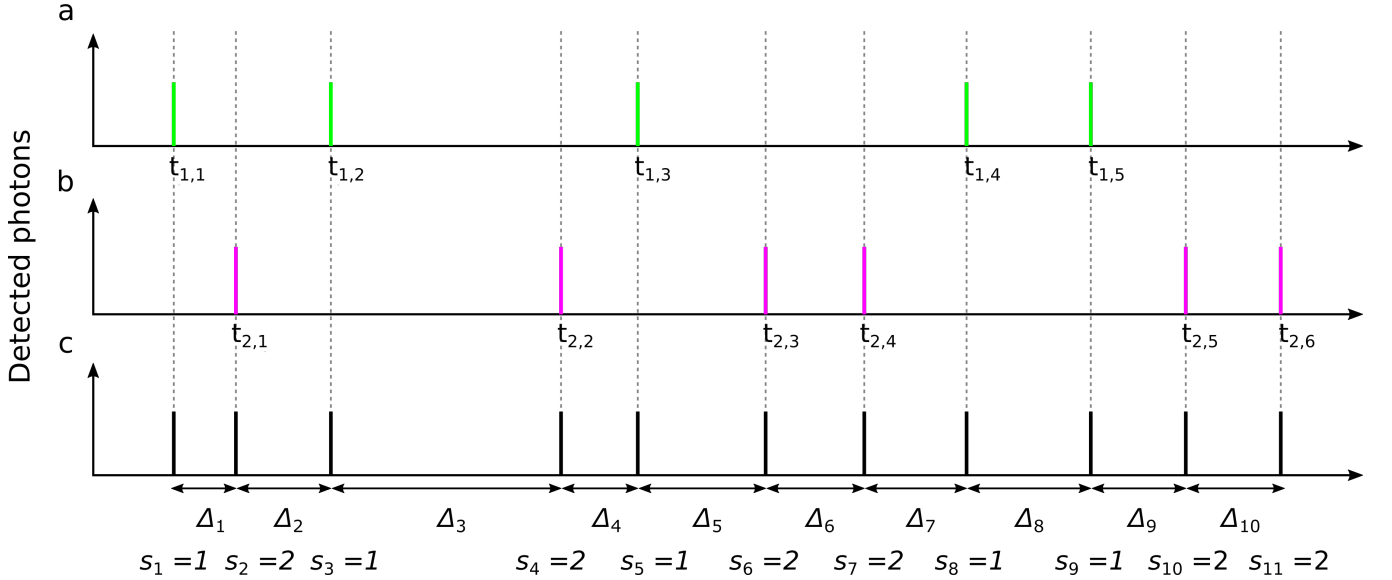


FIG. S10. **Illustration of time traces used in the analysis.** (a-c) Single photon time traces recorded by confocal volume one ( $m=1$ ), two ( $m=2$ ) and both ( $m=1,2$ ), respectively. The inter-arrival times are denoted  $\bar{\Delta}$  and  $\bar{s}$  is a sequence of detector labels (with labels 1 through  $M$  where  $M = 2$  here for illustrative purposes) at which each photon was detected.

## S4. Detailed description of the inference framework

### S4.1. Description of prior probability distributions

Model parameters in our framework requiring priors are: the diffusion coefficient  $D$ ; the molecular brightness and background photon emission rates  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$ ; the initial molecule locations  $x_{n,1}, y_{n,1}, z_{n,1}$ ; and load  $b_n$ . As we will see, the load plays the role of an indicator variable which is either zero or one whether the molecule is or is not contributing photons. Our choices are described below.

#### S4.1.1. Prior on the diffusion coefficient

To ensure that  $D$  sampled in our formulation attains only positive values, we place a inverse-Gamma prior

$$D \sim \text{InvGamma}(\alpha_D, \beta_D). \quad (\text{S12})$$

Besides ensuring a positive  $D$ , this prior is conjugate to the motion model, captured by Eq. 4, which facilitates the computations (see below).

#### S4.1.2. Priors on molecular brightness and background photon emission rates

To ensure that  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$  sampled only attain positive values, we place Gamma priors on both

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_m^{\text{mol}} &\sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha_{\text{mol}}, \beta_{\text{mol}}) \\ \mu_m^{\text{back}} &\sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha_{\text{back}}, \beta_{\text{back}}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S13})$$

Due to the specific dependencies of the likelihood (that we will discuss shortly) on the photon emission rates, conjugate priors cannot be achieved for  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$ . So, the above choice offers no computational advantage (see below) and could be readily replaced with other distributions.

#### S4.1.3. Priors on initial molecule locations

Since, molecules can be anywhere in space, we place priors on the initial locations. To facilitate the computations (see below), we place independent symmetric normal distributions, on each Cartesian coordinate of the model molecule

$$x_{n,1} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_{x_0}, \sigma_{x_0}^2) \quad (\text{S14})$$

$$y_{n,1} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_{y_0}, \sigma_{y_0}^2) \quad (\text{S15})$$

$$z_{n,1} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_{z_0}, \sigma_{z_0}^2). \quad (\text{S16})$$

where  $(\sigma_{x_0}, \sigma_{y_0}, \sigma_{z_0})$  denote the standard deviations (set to large values as compared to the size of the confocal volumes), and  $(\mu_{x_0}, \mu_{y_0}, \mu_{z_0})$  denotes the mean which we choose to be centered at the origin.

#### S4.1.4. Priors and hyperpriors for molecule loads

In previous work, we explored the Beta-Bernoulli process used to determine how many molecules are contributing photons. [4, 18, 19] Briefly, we define a large population of molecules  $N$  which include both active and inactive molecules. These molecules are collectively indexed by  $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . Estimating how many molecules are actually warranted by the data under analysis is equivalent to estimating how many of those  $N$  molecules are active, i.e.,  $b_n=1$  and emitting detected photons, while the remaining inactive ones, i.e.,  $b_n=0$ , have no impact whatsoever and are instantiated only for computational purposes.

To ensure that each load  $b_n$  takes only values 0 or 1, we place a Bernoulli prior of weight  $q_n$  on  $b_n$  and a conjugate Beta prior on  $q_n$

$$q_n \sim \mathbf{Beta} \left( \frac{\gamma_b}{N}, \frac{N-1}{N} \right) \quad (\text{S17})$$

$$b_n | q_n \sim \mathbf{Bernoulli} (q_n) \quad (\text{S18})$$

where,  $n=1, \dots, N$ . Under these choices, and in the limit that  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ; that is, when the assumed molecule population is allowed to be large, this prior/hyperprior converge to the Beta-Bernoulli process, [20, 21] a novel mathematical tool that avoids having to pre-specify the number of active molecules by hand (as would be required within the traditional, parametric, Bayesian paradigm). Thanks to these new tools, even for  $N \gg 1$ , the posterior sharpens at the correct value of active molecules irrespective of how large we make  $N$  initially. In other words, provided  $N$  is large enough, our choice of  $N$  is insignificant; while its precise value has only computational implications.

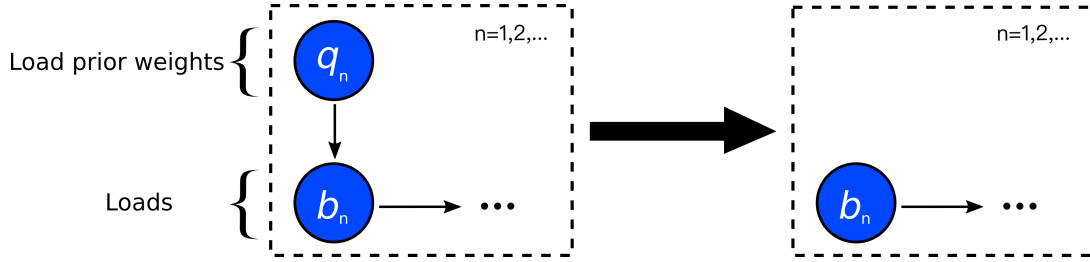


FIG. S11. **Graphical summary of the general framework developed for Beta-Bernoulli process.** A population of model molecules, labeled by  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , load on each molecule is shown by  $b_n$  and the weight on each load is by  $q_n$ .

As a way of simplification, and to avoid learning the  $q_n$ , we may marginalize over these as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(b_n) &= \int_0^1 \mathbb{P}(b_n) \mathbb{P}(q_n) dq_n = \int_0^1 q_n^{b_n} (1 - q_n)^{1-b_n} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + \frac{N-1}{N})}{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N}) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N})} q_n^{\frac{\gamma_b}{N}-1} (1 - q_n)^{\frac{N-1}{N}-1} dq_n \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + \frac{N-1}{N})}{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N}) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N})} \int_0^1 q_n^{\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + b_n - 1} (1 - q_n)^{\frac{N-1}{N} - b_n + 1 - 1} dq_n \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + \frac{N-1}{N})}{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N}) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N})} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + b_n) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N} - b_n + 1)}{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + \frac{N-1}{N} + 1)} \underbrace{\int_0^1 \mathbf{Beta} \left( q_n; \frac{\gamma_b}{N} + b_n, \frac{N-1}{N} - b_n + 1 \right) dq_n}_1 \\ &= \frac{1}{\frac{\gamma_b + (N-1)}{N}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N} + b_n) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N} - b_n + 1)}{\Gamma(\frac{\gamma_b}{N}) \Gamma(\frac{N-1}{N})}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S19})$$

As  $b_n$  can only attain values of 0 or 1, we arrive at a renormalized Bernoulli probability distribution over  $b_n$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{P}(b_n = 0) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\gamma_b}{N-1}} \\ \mathbb{P}(b_n = 1) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \end{cases} \implies b_n \sim \mathbf{Bernoulli} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right). \quad (\text{S20})$$



## S4.2. Summary of our model

For concreteness, below we summarize the entire set of equations used in our framework, including a complete list of priors and hyperpriors

$$D \sim \mathbf{InvGamma}(\alpha_D, \beta_D) \quad (\text{S21})$$

$$\mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sim \mathbf{Gamma}(\alpha_{\text{mol}}, \beta_{\text{mol}}) \quad (\text{S22})$$

$$\mu_m^{\text{back}} \sim \mathbf{Gamma}(\alpha_{\text{back}}, \beta_{\text{back}}) \quad (\text{S23})$$

$$b_n \sim \mathbf{Bernoulli}\left(\frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}}\right) \quad (\text{S24})$$

$$x_{n,1} \sim \mathbf{Normal}(x_0, \sigma_{x_0}^2) \quad (\text{S25})$$

$$y_{n,1} \sim \mathbf{Normal}(y_0, \sigma_{y_0}^2) \quad (\text{S26})$$

$$z_{n,1} \sim \mathbf{Normal}(z_0, \sigma_{z_0}^2) \quad (\text{S27})$$

$$x_{n,k+1}|x_{n,k}, D \sim \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,k}, 2D\Delta_k), \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1 \quad (\text{S28})$$

$$y_{n,k+1}|y_{n,k}, D \sim \mathbf{Normal}(y_{n,k}, 2D\Delta_k), \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1 \quad (\text{S29})$$

$$z_{n,k+1}|z_{n,k}, D \sim \mathbf{Normal}(z_{n,k}, 2D\Delta_k), \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1 \quad (\text{S30})$$

$$\Delta_k | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}\}_n \sim \mathbf{Exp}\left(\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}\right), \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1 \quad (\text{S31})$$

$$s_k | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}\}_n \sim \mathbf{Cat}_{1, \dots, M}\left(\frac{\mu_{1,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}}, \dots, \frac{\mu_{M,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}}\right), \quad k = 1, \dots, K \quad (\text{S32})$$

$$\mu_{m,k} = \left(\mu_m^{\text{back}} + \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sum_n b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})\right). \quad (\text{S33})$$

## S5. Description of the computational scheme

The posterior over all unknowns that we wish to infer is  $\mathbb{P}(D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n | \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ , where molecular trajectories and intensities (measurements) are gathered in

$$\bar{x}_n = (x_{n,1}, x_{n,2}, \dots, x_{n,K}) \quad (\text{S34})$$

$$\bar{y}_n = (y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}, \dots, y_{n,K}) \quad (\text{S35})$$

$$\bar{z}_n = (z_{n,1}, z_{n,2}, \dots, z_{n,K}) \quad (\text{S36})$$

$$\bar{\Delta} = (\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_{K-1}) \quad (\text{S37})$$

$$\bar{s} = (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_K). \quad (\text{S38})$$

This posterior corresponds to the graphical model shown in Fig. 6. Due to the nonlinear dependency over molecular positions introduced in the PSF and the non-parametric prior on  $b_n$ , analytic evaluation or direct sampling of this posterior is impossible. For this reason, we develop a specialized Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) scheme that can be used to generate pseudo-random samples from this posterior. [22–26] This scheme is explained in detail below.

The implementation of the proposed model as the source code and GUI, see Fig. S12, are available through the SUPPORTING MATERIALS.

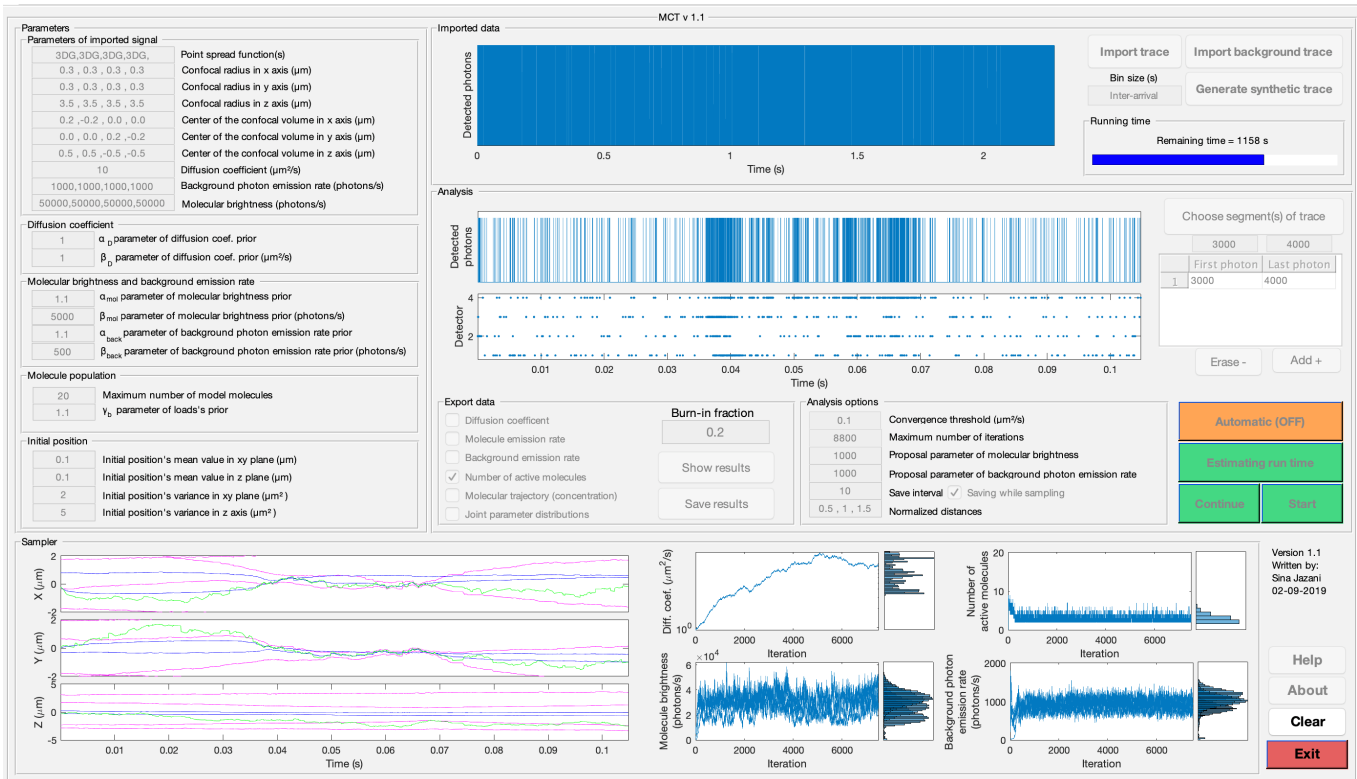


FIG. S12. A working implementation of the framework described in this study is available through the SUPPORTING MATERIALS. Along with this implementation, we provide a graphical user interface (GUI) that can be used to analyze intensity traces from confocal microscopy.

161

### S5.1. Overview of the sampling updates

162 The MCMC we used exploits a Gibbs sampling scheme [22–24] by sampling each one of the random variables sequentially from their conditional probabilities on other random variables and the measurements  $\bar{\Delta}$  and  $\bar{s}$ . Conceptually, 163 the steps involved in the generation of each posterior sample  $(D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n)$  are: 164

- 165 (1) For each  $n$  of the *active* molecules
    - 166 (i) Update trajectory  $\bar{x}_n$  of active molecule  $n$
    - 167 (ii) Update trajectory  $\bar{y}_n$  of active molecule  $n$
    - 168 (iii) Update trajectory  $\bar{z}_n$  of active molecule  $n$
  - 169 (2) Update jointly the trajectories  $\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n$  for all  $n$  of the *inactive* molecules
  - 170 (3) Update the diffusion coefficient  $D$
  - 171 (4) Update jointly the loads  $b_n$  for all model molecules
  - 172 (5) Update jointly the molecular brightness and background photon emission rates  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$ , respectively
- 173 These steps are described in detail below.

174

### S5.2. Sampling of active molecule trajectories

175 We sample the trajectory of active molecules  $\bar{x}_n$  from the corresponding conditional probability distribution 176  $\mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n | D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n'}, \bar{y}_{n'}, \bar{z}_{n'}\}_{n'}, \{\bar{x}_{n'}\}_{n' \neq n}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ . We, directly sample the trajectories using Hamiltonian 177 Monte Carlo (HMC) [23, 27, 28] which we expand below.

178 As far as we know, this strategy has rarely been used in the Natural Sciences and yet is critical in avoiding 179 approximations in sampling the molecular trajectories. In our previous work [4, 18, 19] we used Kalman filters for

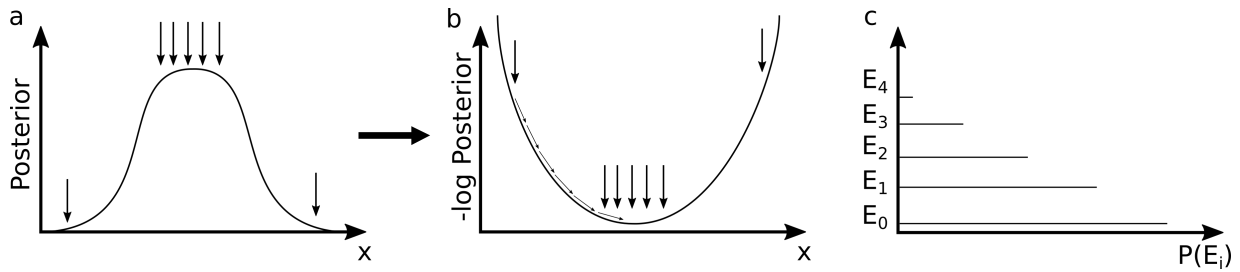


FIG. S13. **A cartoon representation of HMC.** (a) Samples from the posterior for molecular location are often more likely drawn near the posterior’s mode. As a result, in (b), samples are drawn more often near the minimum or minima of the negative logarithm of the posterior. (c) In HMC, we ascribe an interpretation of the negative logarithm of the posterior. We think of it as a potential and think of HMC as a means of locating potential minima. Each equiprobable region of the posterior is thought of as an isoenergetic surface of our potential.

180 this task due to its computational efficiency, and to do this, we needed to approximate the likelihood which results  
 181 in new point statistics that appear as a transformation of the data. To do this approximation, we imposed some  
 182 assumptions and as the result, the posterior sampled was an approximate posterior. Now, by applying HMC, we can  
 183 directly target any posterior, without concern as to the complex dependency of the likelihood on the parameters we  
 184 wish to infer.

185 In HMC, we have three main steps:

- 186 (1) Posterior transformation to a Hamiltonian
- 187 (2) Perform Strang-splitting [29, 30] to solve the Hamiltonian equations and propose locations of molecules
- 188 (3) Perform a Metropolis-Hastings to accept or reject the proposed sample.

189 The benefits of posterior transformation to a Hamiltonian is that, we can estimate the random variables which in  
 190 this case are the positions of the molecule by solving the Hamiltonian equations.

### 191 S5.2.1. Posterior transformation to a Hamiltonian

192 The idea underlying HMC is summarized in Fig. S13. Without approximation, we re-write the posterior probability  
 193 distribution as  $\mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|\bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}, \dots) \propto \exp(-U(\bar{x}_n))$  with the potential energy defined as  $U(\bar{x}_n) = -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|\bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}, \dots)$ .

194 The target probability distribution to sample from is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n'}, \bar{y}_{n'}, \bar{z}_{n'}\}_{n'}, \{\bar{x}_{n'}\}_{n' \neq n}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &\propto \\
 \mathbb{P}(\bar{s}|\bar{x}_n, D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n'}, \bar{y}_{n'}, \bar{z}_{n'}\}_{n'}, \{\bar{x}_{n'}\}_{n' \neq n}) & \\
 \times \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta}|\bar{x}_n, D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n'}, \bar{y}_{n'}, \bar{z}_{n'}\}_{n'}, \{\bar{x}_{n'}\}_{n' \neq n}) & \\
 \times \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|D, \bar{\Delta}) &
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{S39}$$

196 where the positions of the active molecule  $\bar{x}_n$  are the variables and both  $\bar{\Delta}$  and  $\bar{s}$  are observations. In HMC, the  
 197 logarithm of the above conditional coincides with what is termed the “HMC potential”

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(\bar{x}_n) &= -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|\bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}, \dots) \\
 &= -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{s}|\bar{x}_n, \dots) - \log \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta}|\bar{x}_n, \dots) - \log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n|\bar{\Delta}, D) + \text{Constant} \\
 &= V(\bar{x}_n) + L(\bar{x}_n) + \text{Constant}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{S40}$$

For computational reasons, we have split the potential into two where  $V(\bar{x}_n) = -\log(\mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta}|\bar{x}_n, \dots) \mathbb{P}(\bar{s}|\bar{x}_n, \dots))$

contains the likelihood portion of the posterior and  $L(\bar{x}_n) = -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n | D, \bar{\Delta},)$  contains the prior.

$$V(\bar{x}_n) = -\log \left( \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(\Delta_k | x_{n,k}, \dots) \mathbb{P}(s_k | x_{n,k}, \dots) \right] \mathbb{P}(s_K | x_{n,K}, \dots) \right) \quad (\text{S41})$$

$$= -\log \left( \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \text{EXP} \left( \Delta_k; \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right) \frac{\mu_{s_k,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}} \right] \frac{\mu_{s_K,K}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,K}} \right) \quad (\text{S42})$$

$$= -\log \left( \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mu_{s_k,k} \exp \left( -\Delta_k \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right) \right] \frac{\mu_{s_K,K}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,K}} \right) \quad (\text{S43})$$

$$= \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} -\log(\mu_{s_k,k}) + \Delta_k \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right] - \log(\mu_{s_K,K}) + \log \left( \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,K} \right). \quad (\text{S44})$$

199 Also, as the result of expanding the partial potential  $L(\bar{x}_n) = -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n | \bar{\Delta}, D)$  in Eq. (S39) we have

$$200 \quad \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n | D, \bar{\Delta}) = \mathbb{P}(x_{n,1}) \mathbb{P}(x_{n,2} | x_{n,1}, \Delta_1, D) \cdots \mathbb{P}(x_{n,K} | x_{n,K-1}, \Delta_{K-1}, D). \quad (\text{S45})$$

201 Since  $\mathbb{P}(x_{n,1})$  above is given by Eq. (S14) and the subsequent conditional probabilities are dictated by the motion  
202 model, Eq. (S28), we arrive at

$$203 \quad \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n | \bar{\Delta}, D) = \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,1}; x_0, \sigma_{x_0}^2) \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,2}; x_{n,1}, 2D\Delta_1) \cdots \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,K}; x_{n,K-1}, 2D\Delta_{K-1}) \quad (\text{S46})$$

204 where  $x_0, \sigma_{x_0}^2$  are the mean value and the variance of the initial position's prior in Eqs. (S25), (S26), (S27). The  
205 negative logarithm of the above yields

$$\begin{aligned} L(\bar{x}_n) &= -\log \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_n) \\ &= -\log \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,1}; \mu_{x_0}, \sigma_{x_0}^2) - \log \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,2}; x_{n,1}, 2D\Delta_1) - \log \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,3}; x_{n,2}, 2D\Delta_2) \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\quad - \log \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,K-1}; x_{n,K-2}, 2D\Delta_{K-2}) - \log \mathbf{Normal}(x_{n,K}; x_{n,K-1}, 2D\Delta_{K-1}) \\ &= + \frac{1}{2\sigma_x^2} (x_{n,1} - \mu)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4D\Delta_1} (x_{n,2} - x_{n,1})^2 + \frac{1}{4D\Delta_2} (x_{n,3} - x_{n,2})^2 \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4D\Delta_{K-2}} (x_{n,K-1} - x_{n,K-2})^2 + \frac{1}{4D\Delta_{K-1}} (x_{n,K} - x_{n,K-1})^2 + \text{Constant}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S47})$$

207 Now that we have the potential  $U(\bar{x}_n) = V(\bar{x}_n) + L(\bar{x}_n)$ , we define a kinetic energy required for the HMC sampler.  
208 To do this, we introduce a new set of auxiliary random variables,  $\bar{p}_n$ , as well as a mass matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ . As usual, the  
209 kinetic energy is given by

$$210 \quad T(\bar{p}_n) = \frac{\bar{p}_n^T \mathbf{M}^{-1} \bar{p}_n}{2}. \quad (\text{S48})$$

211 The mass matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  has to be positive definite (i.e. has exclusively positive real eigenvalues). Since, any choice that  
212 satisfies this requirement works, we choose the simplest choice which is the diagonal matrix [27]

$$213 \quad \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} m_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & m_K \end{bmatrix}. \quad (\text{S49})$$

214 The resulting full Hamiltonian (ignoring the constant term), the key quantity of HMC, is separable and of the form

$$215 \quad \begin{aligned} H(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) &= T(\bar{p}_n) + U(\bar{x}_n) \\ &= T(\bar{p}_n) + V(\bar{x}_n) + L(\bar{x}_n). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S50})$$

### S5.2.2. Perform the Strang-splitting algorithm to solve Hamilton's equations

216

In order to find  $\bar{x}_n$  and  $\bar{p}_n$ , we need solve the Hamiltonian's equations [27, 28]

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} = +H_{\bar{p}_n}(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S51})$$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} = -H_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n). \quad (\text{S52})$$

217 where  $H_{\bar{p}_n}$  and  $H_{\bar{x}_n}$  are gradients of the Hamiltonian with respect to the subscripted quantity. If we could solve  
218 Eqs. (S51), (S52) without approximation, we could directly sample the whole trajectory of the molecule  $n$ ,  $\bar{x}_n$ .  
219 However, in our case, there is no analytic solution and we need to use some numerical method to solve them.

220 To solve the Hamilton's equations Eqs. (S51), (S52), we use Strang-splitting [29, 30] which is a symplectic integrator  
221 preserving the energy of the mechanical system (and thus the target probability distribution from which we want  
222 to sample) and preserving the phase volume. Since, Strang-splitting, is a numerical method to solve differential  
223 equations, we might have some error in the final answer. So, to correct such error, at the end we evaluate the answer  
224 by a Metropolis-Hastings algorithm to avoid any error caused by the Strang-splitting.

225 To use the Strang-splitting, we split the Hamiltonian in Eq. (S53) into two Hamiltonians:

$$226 \quad H(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) = H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) + H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S53})$$

where

$$H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) = V(\bar{x}_n) \quad (\text{S54})$$

$$H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) = T(p) + L(\bar{x}_n). \quad (\text{S55})$$

227 To integrate the dynamics, in Strang-splitting, instead of considering the full step, we consider many small steps with  
228 a step size of  $h$  and integrate each of the partial Hamiltonians  $H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$  and  $H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$  successively. As the result,  
229 Strang-splitting is based on single steps with the following fractional steps of

230

- 231 (1) Advance half-step using  $H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$
- 232 (2) Advance whole-step using  $H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$
- 233 (3) Advance half-step using  $H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$ .

234

235

236 Taken together, these three steps are equal to a full step for each Hamiltonian. Below, we describe each of these  
237 steps in detail.

238

239

#### (1) Advance half-step using $H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$

In this step we have a half-update using the  $H^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) = V(\bar{x}_n)$  and integrate the dynamics as follows

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} = +H_{\bar{p}_n}^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S56})$$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} = -H_{\bar{x}_n}^1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S57})$$

which simplifies to

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} = 0 \quad (\text{S58})$$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} = -V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n). \quad (\text{S59})$$

To solve Eqs. (S58), (S59), we use Stormer-Verlet, [31] which is second order and symplectic

$$\frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}} - \bar{p}_n^{\text{old}}}{h/4} = -H_{\bar{x}_n}^1(\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}, \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}) \quad (\text{S60})$$

$$\frac{\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}}{h/4} = -H_{\bar{p}_n}^1(\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}, \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}) + H_{\bar{p}_n}^1(\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}, \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}) \quad (\text{S61})$$

$$\frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}}{h/4} = -H_{\bar{x}_n}^1(\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}, \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}) \quad (\text{S62})$$

which immediately simplifies to

$$\frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}} - \bar{p}_n^{\text{old}}}{h/4} = -V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}) \quad (\text{S63})$$

$$\frac{\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}}{h/4} = 0 \quad (\text{S64})$$

$$\frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{p}_n^{\text{mid}}}{h/4} = -V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}) \quad (\text{S65})$$

such that

$$\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} = \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}} \quad (\text{S66})$$

$$\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}} = \bar{p}_n^{\text{old}} - \frac{h}{2} V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}). \quad (\text{S67})$$

The gradient of the partial potential  $V(\bar{x}_n)$  can be written as

$$V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n) = \frac{\partial V_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n)}{\partial \bar{x}_n} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{x}_n} \left( \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} -\log(\mu_{s_k, k}) + \Delta_k \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m, k} \right] - \log(\mu_{s_K, K}) + \log \left( \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m, K} \right) \right) \quad (\text{S68})$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\frac{\partial \mu_{s_1, 1}}{\partial x_{n, 1}}}{\mu_{s_1, 1}} + \Delta_1 \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial \mu_{m, 1}}{\partial x_{n, 1}} \\ -\frac{\frac{\partial \mu_{s_2, 2}}{\partial x_{n, 2}}}{\mu_{s_2, 2}} + \Delta_2 \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial \mu_{m, 2}}{\partial x_{n, 2}} \\ -\frac{\frac{\partial \mu_{s_3, 3}}{\partial x_{n, 3}}}{\mu_{s_3, 3}} + \Delta_3 \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial \mu_{m, 3}}{\partial x_{n, 3}} \\ \vdots \\ -\frac{\frac{\partial \mu_{s_{K-1}, K-1}}{\partial x_{n, K-1}}}{\mu_{s_{K-1}, K-1}} + \Delta_{K-1} \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial \mu_{m, K-1}}{\partial x_{n, K-1}} \\ -\frac{\frac{\partial \mu_{s_K, K}}{\partial x_{n, K}}}{\mu_{s_K, K}} + \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial \mu_{m, K}}{\partial x_{n, K}}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m, K}} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (\text{S69})$$

240

## (2) Advance whole-step using $H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n)$

In this step we have a whole-update using the  $H^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) = T(\bar{p}_n) + L(\bar{x}_n)$  and integrate the dynamics as follows

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} = +H_{\bar{p}_n}^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S70})$$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} = -H_{\bar{x}_n}^2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{p}_n) \quad (\text{S71})$$

which simplifies to

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} = M^{-1} \bar{p}_n \quad (\text{S72})$$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} = -L_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n). \quad (\text{S73})$$

241 The gradient of the partial potential  $L(\bar{x}_n)$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
L_{\bar{x}_n}(\bar{x}_n) &= \begin{bmatrix} L_{x_{n,1}}(\bar{x}_n) \\ L_{x_{n,2}}(\bar{x}_n) \\ L_{x_{n,3}}(\bar{x}_n) \\ \vdots \\ L_{x_{n,K-1}}(\bar{x}_n) \\ L_{x_{n,K}}(\bar{x}_n) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(x_{n,1} - \mu_{x_0})}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} + \frac{(x_{n,1} - x_{n,2})}{2D(t_2 - t_1)} \\ \frac{(x_{n,2} - x_{n,1})}{2D(t_2 - t_1)} + \frac{(x_{n,2} - x_{n,3})}{2D(t_3 - t_2)} \\ \frac{(x_{n,3} - x_{n,2})}{2D(t_3 - t_2)} + \frac{(x_{n,3} - x_{n,4})}{2D(t_4 - t_3)} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(x_{n,K-1} - x_{n,K-2})}{2D(t_{K-1} - t_{K-2})} + \frac{(x_{n,K-1} - x_{n,K})}{2D(t_K - t_{K-1})} \\ \frac{(x_{n,K} - x_{n,K-1})}{2D(t_K - t_{K-1})} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(x_{n,1} - \mu_{x_0})}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} + \frac{(x_{n,1} - x_{n,2})}{2D\Delta_1} \\ \frac{(x_{n,2} - x_{n,1})}{2D\Delta_1} + \frac{(x_{n,2} - x_{n,3})}{2D\Delta_2} \\ \frac{(x_{n,3} - x_{n,2})}{2D\Delta_2} + \frac{(x_{n,3} - x_{n,4})}{2D\Delta_3} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(x_{n,K-1} - x_{n,K-2})}{2D\Delta_{K-2}} + \frac{(x_{n,K-1} - x_{n,K})}{2D\Delta_{K-1}} \\ \frac{(x_{n,K} - x_{n,K-1})}{2D\Delta_{K-1}} \end{bmatrix} \\
&= -\frac{1}{2D} \begin{bmatrix} -(\frac{2D}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} + \frac{1}{\Delta_1}) & \frac{1}{\Delta_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\Delta_1} & -(\frac{1}{\Delta_1} + \frac{1}{\Delta_2}) & \frac{1}{\Delta_2} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\Delta_2} & -(\frac{1}{\Delta_2} + \frac{1}{\Delta_3}) & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -(\frac{1}{\Delta_{K-2}} + \frac{1}{\Delta_{K-1}}) & \frac{1}{\Delta_{K-1}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{1}{\Delta_{K-1}} & -\frac{1}{\Delta_{K-1}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{n,1} \\ x_{n,2} \\ x_{n,3} \\ \vdots \\ x_{n,K-1} \\ x_{n,K} \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
&= -\frac{1}{2D} \mathbf{A} \bar{x}_n - \frac{1}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} \bar{v}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S74}$$

242  
243 Now, inserting the gradient, shown in Eq. (S74), into Eqs. (S72) and (S73), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\bar{x}_n}{dt} &= \mathbf{M}^{-1} \bar{p}_n \\
\frac{d\bar{p}_n}{dt} &= \frac{1}{2D} \mathbf{A} \bar{x}_n + \frac{1}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} \bar{v}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S75}$$

245 To be able to solve the above equations efficiently, we apply the implicit midpoint method, [31] which is second order  
246 and symplectic. By applying the implicit midpoint, we recover

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}}{h} &= \mathbf{M}^{-1} \frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{old}} + \bar{p}_n^{\text{new}}}{2} \\
\frac{\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{p}_n^{\text{old}}}{h} &= \frac{1}{2D} \mathbf{A} \frac{\bar{x}_n^{\text{old}} + \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}}{2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} \bar{v}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S76}$$

Next, we first solve  $\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}}$  from the first equation and plug it into the second equation

$$\left( \frac{2\mathbf{M}}{h} - \frac{h}{4D} \mathbf{A} \right) \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} = \left( \frac{2\mathbf{M}}{h} + \frac{h}{4D} \mathbf{A} \right) \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}} + \frac{h}{\sigma_{x_0}^2} \bar{v} + 2\bar{p}_n^{\text{old}} \tag{S77}$$

$$\bar{p}_n^{\text{new}} = \frac{2\mathbf{M}}{h} (\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}) - \bar{p}_n^{\text{old}}. \tag{S78}$$

In order to simplify Eqs. (S77), (S78), we now introduce these metrics

$$\mathbf{G} = \frac{2}{h} \mathbf{M} \tag{S79}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \mathbf{G} - \frac{h}{4D} \mathbf{A} \tag{S80}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_2 = \mathbf{G} + \frac{h}{4D} \mathbf{A} \tag{S81}$$

and recast Eqns. (S77), (S78) in the form

$$\mathbf{F}_1 \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} = \mathbf{F}_2 \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}} + \frac{h}{\sigma_x^2} \bar{\nu} + 2p_n^{\text{old}} \quad (\text{S82})$$

$$p_n^{\text{new}} = \mathbf{G} (\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} - \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}}) - p_n^{\text{old}}. \quad (\text{S83})$$

Next, our goal is to solve Eqs. (S82), (S83) to find the  $\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}$  and the  $p_n^{\text{new}}$ . To solve these equations, we use tri-diagonal solver also known as Thomas algorithm [32] (this is due to the tri-diagonality of  $\mathbf{L}(\bar{x}_n)$  which leads to tri-diagonal  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ ). Re-writing Eq. (S82) we have

$$\mathbf{F}_1 \bar{x}_n^{\text{new}} = d \quad (\text{S84})$$

where  $d = \mathbf{F}_2 \bar{x}_n^{\text{old}} + \frac{h}{\sigma_x^2} \bar{\nu} + 2p_n^{\text{old}}$ . With all matrices made explicit, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi_1 & \psi_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \psi_1 & \phi_2 & \psi_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \psi_2 & \phi_3 & \psi_3 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \psi_{K-2} & \phi_{K-1} & \psi_{K-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \psi_{K-1} & \phi_K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{n,1}^{\text{new}} \\ x_{n,2}^{\text{new}} \\ x_{n,3}^{\text{new}} \\ \vdots \\ x_{n,K-1}^{\text{new}} \\ x_{n,K}^{\text{new}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \\ \vdots \\ d_{K-1} \\ d_K \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{S85})$$

where,  $\bar{\psi}$  and  $\bar{\phi}$  are

$$\psi_k = -\frac{h}{4D\Delta_k}, \quad k = 1, \dots, K$$

$$\phi_k = \begin{cases} \frac{2m_k}{h} + \frac{h}{4D} \left( \frac{2D}{\sigma_{z_0}^2} + \frac{1}{\Delta_k} \right) & , \quad k = 1 \\ \frac{2m_k}{h} + \frac{h}{4D} \left( \frac{1}{\Delta_k} + \frac{1}{\Delta_{k-1}} \right) & , \quad k = 2, \dots, K-1 \\ \frac{2m_k}{h} + \frac{h}{4D} \frac{1}{\Delta_{k-1}} & , \quad k = K. \end{cases} \quad (\text{S86})$$

To implement the Thomas algorithm to solve Eq. (S85), we must first ‘‘march forward’’ as follows

$$C'_k = \begin{cases} \frac{\psi_k}{\phi_k} & , \quad k = 1 \\ \frac{\psi_k}{\phi_k - \psi_{k-1} C'_{k-1}} & , \quad k = 2, \dots, K-1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{S87})$$

$$d'_k = \begin{cases} \frac{d_k}{\phi_k} & , \quad k = 1 \\ \frac{d_k - \psi_{k-1} d'_{k-1}}{\phi_k - \psi_{k-1} C'_{k-1}} & , \quad k = 2, \dots, K \end{cases} \quad (\text{S88})$$

and by marching backward we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n,K}^{\text{new}} &= d'_K \\ x_{n,k}^{\text{new}} &= d'_k - C'_k x_{n,k+1}^{\text{new}} \quad , \quad k = K-1, \dots, 1. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S89})$$

### S5.2.3. Perform a Metropolis-Hastings test to accept or reject the proposed sample

Solutions of the Hamiltonian equations are deterministic. However, due to the error caused using of Strang-splitting to solve these equations, we now need to evaluate the proposed trajectory by comparing posteriors over the positions determined with the old posteriors in the Metropolis-algorithm and accept or reject positions  $\bar{x}_n^{\text{new}}$ . Since, we already, calculated the logarithm of the posterior, we compare the logarithm of the posterior ratio which is equal to the difference of Hamiltonians defined by Eq. (S50).



### S5.3. Sampling of inactive molecule trajectories

264

265 After updating the trajectories of the active molecules, we update the trajectories of the inactive ones. For this,  
 266 we sample from the corresponding conditionals  $\mathbb{P}(\{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_{n:b_n=0} | D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ . Since the lo-  
 267 cations of inactive molecules are not associated with the observations in  $\bar{\Delta}$  and  $\bar{s}$ , these conditionals simplify to  
 268  $\mathbb{P}(\{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_{n:b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta})$  which can be readily simulated jointly in the same manner as standard 3D Brown-  
 269 ian motion.

270 So, the conditional probability distribution  $\mathbb{P}(\{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_{n:b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta})$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(\{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_{n:b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}) &= \mathbb{P}(\bar{x}_{n,b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}) \mathbb{P}(\bar{y}_{n,b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}) \mathbb{P}(\bar{z}_{n,b_n=0} | D, \{b_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}) \\
 &= \mathbb{P}(x_{n,1}) \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(x_{n,k+1} | x_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k) \\
 &\times \mathbb{P}(y_{n,1}) \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(y_{n,k+1} | y_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k) \\
 &\times \mathbb{P}(z_{n,1}) \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(z_{n,k+1} | z_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k).
 \end{aligned} \tag{S90}$$

271

272 Since coordinates of  $(x, y, z)$  are independent from each others, we can sample them separately. For the first positions  
 273 of inactive molecules, we sample them from the prior.

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{n,1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(x_0, \sigma_{x_0}^2) \\
 y_{n,1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(y_0, \sigma_{y_0}^2) \\
 z_{n,1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(z_0, \sigma_{z_0}^2)
 \end{aligned} \tag{S91}$$

274

275 and for the rest of the trajectory, we march forward and sample them from

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{n,k+1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(x_{n,k,b_n=0}, D, \Delta_k) \\
 y_{n,k+1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(y_{n,k,b_n=0}, D, \Delta_k) \quad , \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1 \\
 z_{n,k+1,b_n=0} &\sim \text{Normal}(z_{n,k,b_n=0}, D, \Delta_k).
 \end{aligned} \tag{S92}$$

276

### S5.4. Sampling the diffusion coefficient

277

278 By having the updated locations of molecules, we sample the diffusion coefficient  $D$  from the corresponding condi-  
 279 tional probability distribution of  $\mathbb{P}(D | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ , which due to independence of the dif-  
 280 fusion coefficient from the emission rates and the labels on the confocal volume, simplifies to  $\mathbb{P}(D | \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta})$ ;  
 281 such variable dependencies are also shown graphically in Fig. 6. Now, using the prior, Eq. (S12), and motion model,  
 282 Eqs. (S28), in 1D, we arrive at the marginal posterior

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(D | \{\bar{x}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}) &\propto \prod_{n=1}^N \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \text{Normal}(x_{n,k+1}; x_{n,k}, 2D\Delta_k) \text{InvGamma}(D; \alpha_D, \beta_D) \\
 &= \frac{\beta_D^{\alpha_D}}{\Gamma(\alpha_D) (4\pi)^{\frac{N(K-1)}{2}}} D^{-(\alpha_D + \frac{N(K-1)}{2})-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\beta_D + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} \frac{(x_{n,k+1} - x_{n,k})^2}{\Delta_k}}{D}\right) \\
 &\propto \text{InvGamma}(D; \alpha'_D, \beta'_D)
 \end{aligned} \tag{S93}$$

283

284 where  $\alpha'_D$  and  $\beta'_D$  are given by

$$\alpha'_D = \alpha_D + \frac{N(K-1)}{2}, \quad \beta'_D = \beta_D + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} \frac{(x_{n,k+1} - x_{n,k})^2}{\Delta_k}. \tag{S94}$$

285

286 In 3D, Eq. (S93) can be re-written by using Eqs. (S28), (S29) and (S29) and the parameters of  $\alpha'_D$  and  $\beta'_D$  have new  
287 form of

$$288 \quad \alpha'_D = \alpha_D + \frac{3N(K-1)}{2}, \quad \beta'_D = \beta_D + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} \left( \frac{(x_{n,k+1} - x_{n,k})^2 + (y_{n,k+1} - y_{n,k})^2 + (z_{n,k+1} - z_{n,k})^2}{\Delta_k} \right). \quad (\text{S95})$$

## 289 S5.5. Sampling the molecule loads

290 In the next step, where we sample the loads of molecules  $\{b_n\}_n$ , we sample from  
291  $\mathbb{P}(\{b_n\}_n | D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$  which simplifies to  $\mathbb{P}(\{b_n\}_n | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ ;  
292 variable dependencies are also shown graphically in Fig. 6. Based on these dependencies, the marginal posterior can  
293 be written as follows

$$294 \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\{b_n\}_n | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &\propto \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\ &\times \mathbb{P}(\bar{s} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\ &\times \mathbb{P}(\{b_n\}_n). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S96})$$

295 We could, in principle, sample each load successively, that is from

$$296 \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(b_{n'} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \{b_n\}_{n \neq n'}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &\propto \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\ &\times \mathbb{P}(\bar{s} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\ &\times \mathbb{P}(b_{n'}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S97})$$

297 In practice, we have found that this gives rise to poor mixing of our MCMC chain.

298 The best mixing would be achieved if we could sample all loads simultaneously. This can be done by calculating  
299 the posteriors of all configurations of loads

$$300 \quad \begin{aligned} B_1 &= [0, 0, \dots, 0] & , & & P_1 &= \mathbb{P}(B_1 | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \dots) \\ B_2 &= [1, 0, \dots, 0] & , & & P_2 &= \mathbb{P}(B_2 | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \dots) \\ B_3 &= [0, 1, \dots, 0] & , & & P_3 &= \mathbb{P}(B_3 | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \dots) \\ &\vdots & & & & \\ B_{2^N} &= [1, 1, \dots, 1] & , & & P_{2^N} &= \mathbb{P}(B_{2^N} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \dots). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S98})$$

301 and construct the categorical distribution and sample the configuration of loads

$$302 \quad \{b_n\}_n | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s} \sim \mathbf{Cat}_{[B_1, B_2, B_3, \dots, B_{2^N}]}(P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots, P_{2^N}). \quad (\text{S99})$$

303 The problem is that this categorical distribution has  $2^N$  arguments, i.e., each load can be 0 or 1. The computational  
304 cost associated to calculating these probabilities is prohibitively high.

305 For this reason, we compromise. We pick a fixed number of loads at random (from a uniform discrete distribution  
306 with  $N$  outcomes). We update these simultaneously and repeat for the remainder of the loads until all loads have  
307 been updated.

308 Concretely, we define a random sets of loads  $\{b_{n'}\}_{n'}$  where  $n' = 1, \dots, N'$  and apply direct sam-  
309 pling to these. The posterior over this smaller set of loads that we update simultaneously is  
310  $\mathbb{P}(\{b_{n'}\}_{n'} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n, b_{n, n \neq n'}\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ . So, the conditional probability distribution can be written

311 as

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}(\{b_{n'}\}_{n'} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n, b_{n, n \neq n'}\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &\propto \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n, n \neq n'}, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \{b_{n'}\}_{n'}) \\
&\times \mathbb{P}(\bar{s} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_{n, n \neq n'}, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \{b_{n'}\}_{n'}) \\
&\times \mathbb{P}(\{b_{n'}\}_{n'}) \\
&= \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbf{Exp} \left( \Delta_k; \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right) \right] \left[ \prod_{k=1}^K \mathbf{Cat} \left( s_k; \frac{\mu_{1,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}}, \dots, \frac{\mu_{M,k}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k}} \right) \right] \left[ \prod_{n'=1}^{N'} \mathbf{Bernoulli} \left( b_{n'}; \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right) \right] \\
&= \left( \frac{\mu_{s_K, K}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m, K}} \right) \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mu_{s_k, k} \exp \left( -\Delta_k \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right) \right] \left[ \prod_{n'=1}^{N'} \mathbf{Bernoulli} \left( b_{n'}; \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{S100}$$

312

313 where,  $\mu_{m,k} = \mu_m^{\text{back}} + \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})$ .314 Again, to simplify the computational calculations, we calculate the logarithmic of this conditional probability  
315 distribution as

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \mathbb{P}(\{b_{n'}\}_{n'} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n, b_{n, n \neq n'}\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &= \log \left( \frac{\mu_{s_K, K}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m, K}} \right) + \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} \log(\mu_{s_k, k}) - \Delta_k \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,k} \right] \\
&+ N' \log \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right) - \left( \sum_{n'=1}^{N'} b_{n'} \right) \log \left( \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b} \right) \\
&+ \text{Constant}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S101}$$

316

317 **S5.6. Joint sampling of molecular brightness and background photon emission rates**

318 Finally, after we update locations of molecules as well as loads, we update the molecular brightnesses and background  
319 photon emission rates related to all of confocal volumes  $\{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}\}_m$  and  $\{\mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m$  by sampling from the corresponding  
320 conditional  $\mathbb{P}(\{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m | D, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ , which simplifies to  $\mathbb{P}(\{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m | \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$   
321 and  $m = 1, \dots, M$  where the  $M$  is the total number confocal volumes.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}(\{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m | \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) &\propto \mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\
&\times \mathbb{P}(\bar{s} | \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \\
&\times \mathbb{P}(\{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}\}_m) \mathbb{P}(\{\mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m) \quad , \quad m = 1, \dots, M.
\end{aligned} \tag{S102}$$

322

323 We carry over this sampling using a Metropolis-Hastings update where proposals for  $\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$  and  $\mu_m^{\text{back}}$  are computed  
324 according to

$$\begin{aligned}
(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} &\sim \mathbf{Gamma} \left( \alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}}, \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}}{\alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}}} \right) \quad , \quad m = 1, \dots, M \\
(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} &\sim \mathbf{Gamma} \left( \alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}}, \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}}{\alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}}} \right) \quad , \quad m = 1, \dots, M
\end{aligned} \tag{S103}$$

325

326 where  $(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}$  and  $(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}$  denote the existing samples. So, by defining the proposal probability distributions we  
327 can calculate the ratio

$$\begin{aligned}
r &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta}|\{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}, (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \mathbb{P}(\bar{s}|\{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}, (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n)}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{\Delta}|\{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}, (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n) \mathbb{P}(\bar{s}|\{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}, (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n)} \\
&\times \prod_{m=1}^M \frac{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}})}{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}})} \frac{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} | (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}})}{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} | (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}})} \frac{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}})}{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}})} \frac{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} | (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}})}{\mathbb{P}((\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} | (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}})} \\
&= \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \left[ \exp \left( \Delta_k \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M \left( (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} \right) + \left( (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} \right) \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}) \right] \right) \right. \\
&\times \frac{(\mu_{s_k}^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} + (\mu_{s_k}^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_{s_k}(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})}{(\mu_{s_k}^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} + (\mu_{s_k}^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_{s_k}(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})} \\
&\times \prod_{m=1}^M \left[ \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}} \right)^{2\alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}} - \alpha_{\text{mol}}} \exp \left( \alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}} \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}} - \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}}{\beta_{\text{mol}}} \right) \right. \\
&\times \left. \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}} \right)^{2\alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}} - \alpha_{\text{back}}} \exp \left( \alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}} \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}} - \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}}{\beta_{\text{back}}} \right) \right]. \tag{S104}
\end{aligned}$$

328

329

As it is convenient in computation, we compute the log of above ratio which reads

$$\begin{aligned}
\log r &= \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} \left[ \Delta_k \left( \sum_{m=1}^M \left( (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} \right) + \left( (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} \right) \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}) \right) \right. \\
&+ \log \left( \frac{(\mu_{s_k}^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}} + (\mu_{s_k}^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_{s_k}(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})}{(\mu_{s_k}^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} + (\mu_{s_k}^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_{s_k}(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})} \right) \left. \right] \\
&+ \sum_{m=1}^M \left[ \left( 2\alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}} - \alpha_{\text{mol}} \right) \log \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}} \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}} - \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{mol}})^{\text{prop}}}{\beta_{\text{mol}}} \right. \\
&+ \left. \left( 2\alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}} - \alpha_{\text{back}} \right) \log \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}} \left( \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}} - \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}}}{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}} \right) + \frac{(\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{old}} - (\mu_m^{\text{back}})^{\text{prop}}}{\beta_{\text{back}}} \right]. \tag{S105}
\end{aligned}$$

330

331

### S5.7. Track the loads and the trajectories of molecules

332 After sampling all of the random variables in one iteration of the Gibbs sampling scheme, we need to find a way to  
333 sort the sampled values for our random variables. The most important variables in this study are the trajectories of  
334 the active molecules and the loads which represent the active molecules  $\{\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_{n, b_n=1}$ . As we show in Fig. S14(a),  
335 due to the exchangeability of the sampler, the values of variables (molecular trajectories and the loads) will swap  
336 and yield identical posteriors. This is a generic characteristic of Bayesian nonparametric approaches. [33–35] For this  
337 reason, we need to find a way to relate the sampled trajectories and loads of each molecule at any iteration of the  
338 Gibbs sampler (iterations are shown with index  $i$ ).

339 To be able to distinguish the trajectories and loads, we calculate the distances of each trajectory from the others.  
340 At the same time, we need to consider the effect of the PSFs, molecular brightnesses and the loads. To do this, we  
341 consider the molecular emission rate of each individual model molecule at any given time  $\eta_{n,k}$ ,

$$\eta_{n,k} = b_n \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}) \quad , \quad k = 1, \dots, K-1. \tag{S106}$$

342

343 For each molecule,  $\bar{\eta}_n = (\eta_{n,1}, \dots, \eta_{n,K})$  represents the total emission rate of that molecule detected over all confocal  
344 volumes any time we detect a photon at time  $t_k$ .

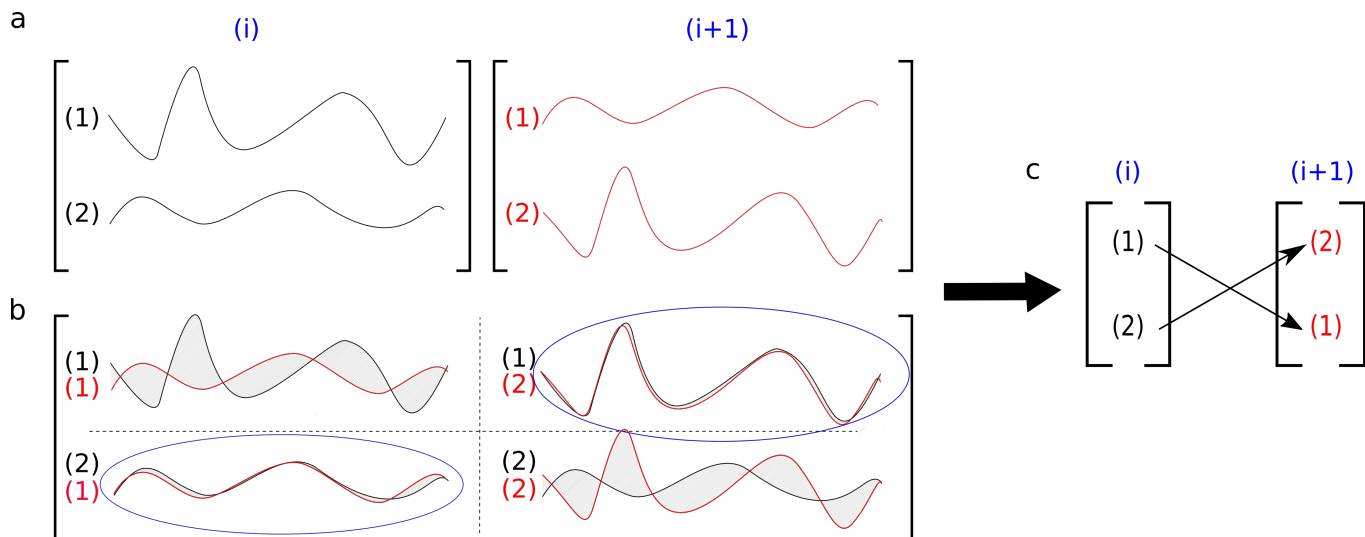


FIG. S14. **Hungarian algorithm.** (a) A simple example of the Hungarian algorithm when we have only two molecular trajectories sampled at iteration  $i$  and  $i + 1$  of the Gibbs sampler. At each iteration of the Gibbs sampler, we sample all of the random variables but here we only illustrate the molecular trajectories. In the first iteration, the first trajectory can be assigned to molecule 1 and the second to molecule 2 and vice versa for the second iteration. We emphasize this problem is fundamental (and not a limitation of our approach) as the posterior is invariant with respect to label swapping. (b) We compare trajectories to re-assign molecular identity labels. This can be achieved by minimizing the area between the trajectories. The area here serves as a post-processing cost-function. (c) The Hungarian algorithm results in re-assigned labels for trajectories.

345 Using  $\bar{\eta}_n$ , we now construct the cost matrix (the matrix of distances between trajectories incorporating information  
 346 on molecular emission rate) demanded of the Hungarian algorithm [36]

$$347 \quad \text{Cost matrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_{1,1} & d_{1,2} & \dots & d_{1,N} \\ d_{2,1} & d_{2,2} & \dots & d_{2,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ d_{N,1} & d_{N,2} & \dots & d_{N,N} \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{S107})$$

348 where each element of this matrix is equal to

$$349 \quad d_{n,n'} = \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} |\eta_{n,k} - \eta_{n',k}|. \quad (\text{S108})$$

350 The goal is then to associate elements of the cost matrix in Eq. (S107) (each row corresponds to a trajectory and its  
 351 load of the fixed values (pivot) and each column corresponds to a trajectory and its load at iteration  $i$ ) that the sum  
 352 of them is minimized using the Hungarian algorithm [36].

353 We are flexible to choose any pivot. Here, we choose the trajectories and loads of the MAP computed sample as  
 354 our pivot.

### S5.8. Maximum posteriori (MAP) sample

355

356 For each iteration of our MCMC chain, we have one sample from the posterior probability distribution. We can  
 357 process these samples to find the MAP sample which is used as the pivot in the Sec. S.5.7. To compute the MAP  
 358 sample, we calculate the joint posterior over all random variables

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{P}(D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n | \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s}) \\
 & \propto \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(\Delta_k | \{b_n, x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}\}_n, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m) \mathbb{P}(s_k | \{b_n, x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}\}_n, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m) \right] \\
 & \times \left[ \prod_{n=1}^N \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \mathbb{P}(x_{n,k+1} | x_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k) \mathbb{P}(y_{n,k+1} | y_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k) \mathbb{P}(z_{n,k+1} | z_{n,k}, D, \Delta_k) \right] \mathbb{P}(x_{n,1}) \mathbb{P}(y_{n,1}) \mathbb{P}(z_{n,1}) \mathbb{P}(\{b_n\}_n) \right] \\
 & \times \mathbb{P}(D) \prod_{m=1}^M \mathbb{P}(\mu_m^{\text{mol}}) \mathbb{P}(\mu_m^{\text{back}}) \\
 & = \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \left( \mu_{s_k}^{\text{back}} + \mu_{s_k}^{\text{mol}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_{s_k}(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}) \right) \exp \left( -\Delta_k \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_m^{\text{back}} + \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}) \right] \right) \\
 & \times \left[ \prod_{n=1}^N \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{K-1} \frac{1}{(4\pi D \Delta_k)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \exp \left( -\frac{(x_{n,k+1} - x_{n,k})^2 + (y_{n,k+1} - y_{n,k})^2 + (z_{n,k+1} - z_{n,k})^2}{4D \Delta_k} \right) \right] \right] \\
 & \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi^3 \sigma_{x_0}^2 \sigma_{y_0}^2 \sigma_{z_0}^2}} \exp \left( -\frac{(x_{n,1} - x_0)^2}{2\sigma_{x_0}^2} + \frac{(y_{n,1} - y_0)^2}{2\sigma_{y_0}^2} + \frac{(z_{n,1} - z_0)^2}{2\sigma_{z_0}^2} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right)^{b_n} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\gamma_b}} \right)^{1-b_n} \\
 & \times \text{InvGamma}(D; \alpha_D, \beta_D) \prod_{m=1}^M \text{Gamma}(\mu_m^{\text{mol}}; \alpha_{\text{mol}}, \beta_{\text{mol}}) \text{Gamma}(\mu_m^{\text{back}}; \alpha_{\text{back}}, \beta_{\text{back}})
 \end{aligned} \tag{S109}$$

359

360 where  $\mu_{m,k} = \mu_m^{\text{back}} + \mu_m^{\text{mol}} \sum_n b_n \text{PSF}_m(x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k})$ . Of course, to avoid numerical underflow, we compute directly  
 361 the logarithm  $\log \mathbb{P}(D, \{\mu_m^{\text{mol}}, \mu_m^{\text{back}}\}_m, \{b_n, \bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n, \bar{z}_n\}_n | \bar{\Delta}, \bar{s})$ .

TABLE S2. Summary of notation.

Description	Variable	Units
Diffusion coefficient	$D$	$\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$
$\alpha$ parameter of the diffusion coefficient prior	$\alpha_D$	-
$\beta$ parameter of the diffusion coefficient prior	$\beta_D$	$\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$
Total time trace duration	$T_{\text{total}}$	s
Molecular brightness at the center of the confocal volume m	$\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$	photons $\text{s}^{-1}$
$\alpha$ parameter of the molecular brightness's prior	$\alpha_{\text{mol}}$	-
$\beta$ parameter of the molecular brightness's prior	$\beta_{\text{mol}}$	photons $\text{s}^{-1}$
Proposal parameter of the molecule photon emission rate	$\alpha_{\text{mol}}^{\text{prop}}$	-
Combined photon emission rates of all molecules at time $t_k$ of the confocal volume m	$\mu_{m,k}$	photons $\text{s}^{-1}$
Background photon emission rate of confocal volume m	$\mu_m^{\text{back}}$	photons $\text{s}^{-1}$
$\alpha$ parameter of the background photon emission rate's prior	$\alpha_{\text{back}}$	-
$\beta$ parameter of the background photon emission rate's prior	$\beta_{\text{back}}$	photons $\text{s}^{-1}$
Proposal parameter of the background photon emission rate	$\alpha_{\text{back}}^{\text{prop}}$	-
Minor and major semi-axes of confocal PSF (x axis) of confocal volume m	$\omega_{m,x}, \omega_{m,y}, \omega_{m,z}$	$\mu\text{m}$
Location of molecule n at time $t_k$ in x, y and z coordinates	$x_{n,k}, y_{n,k}, z_{n,k}$	$\mu\text{m}$
Recorded photon inter-arrival by all of the detector	$\Delta_k$	s
Label on the detected photon at time $t_k$	$s_k$	-
Load variable for molecule $n$	$b_n$	-
Prior weight for $b_n$	$q_n$	-
Parameter of hyperprior $q_n$	$\gamma_b$	-
Upper bound for the number of model molecules	$N$	-
Number of confocal volumes	$\mathbf{M}$	-
Mean values of initial molecule position's prior in the x, y and z axes	$x_0, y_0, z_0$	$\mu\text{m}$
Variances of the initial molecule position's prior in the x, y and z axes	$\sigma_{x_0}^2, \sigma_{y_0}^2, \sigma_{z_0}^2$	$\mu\text{m}$
Periodic boundaries in the x, y and z axes (focal plane)	$L_x, L_y, L_z$	$\mu\text{m}$

TABLE S3. List of abbreviations.

Phrase	Abbreviation
Fluorescence confocal microscopy	FCM
Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy	FCS
Region of interest	ROI
Hamiltonian Monte Carlo	HMC
Point spread function	PSF
Three dimensional Gaussian	3DG
Two dimensional Gaussian-Lorentzian	2DGL
Two dimensional Gaussian-Cylindrical	2DGC
Markov chain Monte Carlo	MCMC
Graphical user interface	GUI
Excitation profile	EXC

TABLE S4. Probability distributions used and their densities. Here, the corresponding random variables are denoted by  $x$ .

Distribution	Notation	Probability density function	Mean value	Variance/Covariance
Normal	<b>Normal</b> $(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$
Exponential	<b>Exp</b> $(\mu)$	$\mu e^{-\mu x}$	$\mu^{-1}$	$\mu^{-2}$
Gamma	<b>Gamma</b> $(\alpha, \beta)$	$\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)\beta^\alpha} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}}$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha\beta^2$
Inverse Gamma	<b>InvGamma</b> $(\alpha, \beta)$	$\frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{-\alpha-1} e^{-\frac{\beta}{x}}$	$\frac{\beta}{\alpha-1}$	$\frac{\beta^2}{(\alpha-1)^2(\alpha-2)}$
Beta	<b>Beta</b> $(\alpha, \beta)$	$\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$
Bernoulli	<b>Bernoulli</b> $(q)$	$(q-1)\delta_0(x) + q\delta_1(x)$	$q$	$q(1-q)$



## S6. Summary of notation, abbreviations, parameters and other quantities

TABLE S5. Parameter values used in the generation of synthetic traces. Choices are listed according to figures. Since we consider four confocal volumes  $m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , we have four PSFs, molecular brightnesses and background photon emission rates for any of the respective figures. Additional values are listed in Table. S6

Units	$L_{xy}$ $\mu\text{m}$	$L_z$ $\mu\text{m}$	PSF $_m$ -	$[C_{m,x}, C_{m,y}, C_{m,z}]$ $\mu\text{m}$	$[\omega_{m,x}, \omega_{m,y}, \omega_{m,z}]$ $\mu\text{m}$	$N$ -	$D$ $\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$	$\mu_m^{\text{mol}}$ pht $\text{s}^{-1}$	$\mu_m^{\text{back}}$ pht $\text{s}^{-1}$	$T_{\text{total}}$ s
Fig. 2(a)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	0.1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.26
Fig. 2(b)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.41
Fig. 2(c)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	10	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	1.77
Fig. 3(a)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.27
Fig. 3(b)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	2	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.14
Fig. 3(c)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	3	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.12
Fig. 4(a)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	1.33
Fig. 4(b)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.23
Fig. 4(c)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^5$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.06
Fig. 5(a)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.01 & 0.0 & -0.01 \\ 0.01 & 0.0 & -0.01 \\ 0.0 & -0.01 & 0.01 \\ 0.0 & 0.01 & 0.01 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.76
Fig. 5(b)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.0 & -0.5 \\ 0.0 & -0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	0.75
Fig. 5(c)	6	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \\ \text{3DG} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -1.0 & 0.0 & -1.5 \\ 1.0 & 0.0 & -1.5 \\ 0.0 & -1.0 & 1.5 \\ 0.0 & 1.0 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$	1	1	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^4$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$	1.83



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