

## S1 SM Normalization

We call  $\mathbf{r}$  a binary response vector from a recorded cell and  $r(n)$  the response at the  $n^{th}$  bin. Then we call  $r_{est}(n)$  the estimated response in the same bin. For the training dataset we set a threshold to our model so that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N_r} r(n) = \sum_{n=1}^{N_r} r_{est}(n) = N_{sp} \quad (1)$$

Where  $N_r$  is the number of response bins and  $N_{sp}$  is the total number of spikes emitted by the cell. We call  $p_M = \frac{N_{sp}}{N_r}$  the model probability of firing a spikes. The cell firing probability depends on the time bin considered and we call  $p_C(n)$  the firing probability for the  $n^{th}$  bin and  $\hat{p}_C$  the average firing probability. Note that  $\hat{p}_C = p_M$ .

In order to evaluate the fit of the model we propose the following index

$$SM = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N_r} |r(n) - r_{est}(n)|}{C} \quad (2)$$

Where  $C$  is the normalization constant expressed as

$$C = \frac{2N_{sp}(N_R - N_{sp})}{N_R} \quad (3)$$

So that the expected value for  $SM$  is 1 when the model is totally uncorrelated to cell activity. We derived  $C$  as follows:

- Let  $p_{\hat{C}0}$  the average joint probability of one spike from the cell and no spike from the model
- Let  $p_{\hat{0}M}$  the average joint probability of no spike from the cell and one spike from the model
- The expected value for  $\sum_{n=1}^{N_r} |r(n) - r_{est}(n)|$  when model predicts by chance is equal to  $N_r(p_{\hat{C}0} + p_{\hat{0}M})$

Then we compute  $p_{\hat{C}0}$  and  $p_{\hat{0}M}$ :

$$p_{\hat{C}0} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_r} p_C(n)(1 - p_M) = \hat{p}_C(1 - p_M) = p_M(1 - p_M) = \frac{N_{sp}(N_R - N_{sp})}{N_R^2} \quad (4)$$

$$p_{\hat{0}M} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_r} (1 - p_C(n))p_M = (1 - \hat{p}_C)p_M = p_M(1 - p_M) = \frac{N_{sp}(N_R - N_{sp})}{N_R^2} \quad (5)$$

Then we can obtain  $C$  as

$$C = N_r(p_{\hat{C}0} + p_{\hat{0}M}) = N_R 2p_{\hat{C}0} = \frac{2N_{sp}(N_R - N_{sp})}{N_R} \quad (6)$$