

**Table S5. Table of the main equations.**

Key Equations	Description
$\text{FRET}_R = \frac{I_{\text{FRET}}}{S_{\text{tot}}}$	Experimental definition of $\text{FRET}_R$ .
$p(M D, I) \propto p(D M, I) \cdot p(M I)$	Posterior probability from Bayes theorem.
$f(X, I_{da}, k_{da}) = 1 + \frac{k_{da} \cdot \{[D] - g(X)\}}{I_{da} \cdot g(X) + [A]}$	Microscopic model of $\text{FRET}_R$ . Referred to as the $\text{FRET}_R$ forward model.
$f(\{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}) = 1 + \frac{k_{da} \cdot \{[D] - \langle g(X) \rangle\}}{I_{da} \cdot \langle g(X) \rangle + [A]}$	Solution of $\text{FRET}_R$ generalized to take into account multiple states. Referred to as the (multi-state) $\text{FRET}_R$ forward model.
$p(d_n   \{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}, \sigma_n) = \frac{1}{d_n \sigma_n \sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \exp \left[ -\frac{\log^2(d_n / f(\{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}))}{2\sigma_n^2} \right]$	Data likelihood for data point $n$ .
$p(\sigma_n   \sigma_0) = \frac{2\sigma_0}{\sqrt{\pi}\sigma_n^2} \exp \left( -\frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_n^2} \right)$	Prior distribution for the uncertainty $\sigma_n$ associated to data point $n$ .
$p(d_n   \{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}, \sigma_0) = \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma_0}{\pi d_n} \cdot \frac{1}{\log(d_n / f(\{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}))^2 + 2\sigma_0^2}$	Marginal data likelihood for data point $n$ .
$p(\{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}, \sigma_0   \{d_n\}) \propto p(I_{da}   I_{da}^{exp}, \sigma_{da}^{exp}) p(k_{da}) \prod_{k=1}^N p(X_k) p(w_k) \prod_{n=1}^{N_F} p(d_n   \{X_k, w_k\}, I_{da}, k_{da}, \sigma_0)$	Multi-state posterior probability.