

# Package ‘OAtools’

February 27, 2026

**Title** Analysis of OpenArray PCR Data

**Version** 0.99.9

**Description** Provides a suite of R functions to analyze gene expression experiments on the OpenArray real-time PCR platform. OAtools fits logistic regressions to fluorescence curves to distinguish between real amplification and false positives. OAtools supports data import, analysis, and visualization through plots and a dynamic HTML report.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**LazyData** FALSE

**Depends** R (>= 4.6)

**Imports** basilisk (>= 1.20.0), Biobase (>= 2.70.0), dplyr (>= 1.1.4), DT (>= 0.34.0), ggplot2 (>= 3.5.2), janitor (>= 2.2.1), methods (>= 4.5.2), plotly (>= 4.11.0), purrr (>= 1.2.0), ReadqPCR (>= 1.56.0), readxl (>= 1.4.5), reticulate (>= 1.43.0), rlang (>= 1.1.6), rmarkdown (>= 2.29), S4Vectors (>= 0.48.0), SummarizedExperiment (>= 1.40.0), tibble (>= 3.3.0), tidyr (>= 1.3.1)

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0), knitr, kableExtra (>= 1.4.0), NormqPCR (>= 1.56.0), BiocManager (>= 1.30.27)

**biocViews** qPCR, GeneExpression, DataImport, Regression

**BugReports** <https://github.com/uwvirology-ngs/OAtools/issues>

**URL** <https://github.com/uwvirology-ngs/OAtools>

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.runFitCurve	<i>Run the fit_curve() function</i>
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## Description

A thin R wrapper for the python3 function `fit_curve()`, which attempts to optimize 5-parameter logistic regressions to PCR fluorescence curves.

## Usage

```
.runFitCurve(pcr_data, linear_threshold)
```

## Arguments

<code>pcr_data</code>	A data.frame with the following required columns: <b>cycle</b> PCR cycle number <b>fluo</b> observed fluorescence
<code>linear_threshold</code>	numeric value specifying the minimum overall change-in-fluorescence over the PCR reaction required for the optimizer to attempt fitting a logistic model

**Value**

The model as a nested list

---

computeModels

*Optimize 5PL models to OpenArray PCR data and save as metadata*

---

**Description**

Computes 5-parameter logistic models optimized to PCR data contained in the specified assay matrix, either `fluo_normalized` or `fluo_reporter`. The former refers to the base-line adjusted, normalized fluorescence from the Amplification Data tab of the original Excel output. The latter refers to the multicomponent fluorescence from the Multicomponent Data tab.

The expected input for this function is a `SummarizedExperiment` object containing OpenArray PCR data, which can be generated by calling the `excelToSE()` function of the package on the raw Excel output from QuantStudio software.

**Usage**

```
computeModels(se, assay_name, linear_threshold = 400)
```

**Arguments**

<code>se</code>	OpenArray PCR data as a <code>SummarizedExperiment</code> object
<code>assay_name</code>	character value specifying the assay matrix from which to load PCR data for curve-fitting, either <code>fluo_normalized</code> or <code>fluo_reporter</code>
<code>linear_threshold</code>	numeric value specifying the minimum overall change-in-fluorescence over the PCR reaction required for the optimizer to attempt fitting a logistic model

**Details**

Under the hood, this function invokes `.runFitCurve()`, a thin wrapper which calls python3 code to fit models with `scipy.optimize`, on each PCR reaction of the OpenArray plate separately. The computed models are added to the `SummarizedExperiment` container in metadata, named as `assay_name + _models`. For example, `fluo_normalized_models` would be created in the experiment metadata if `computeModels(assay_name = "fluo_normalized")` is called.

**Value**

OpenArray PCR data as a `SummarizedExperiment` object with information from the computed model stored as metadata.

## Examples

```
path <- system.file(
  "extdata",
  "oa_gene_expression_1.xlsx",
  package = "OAtools"
)

se <- excelToSE(excel_path = path) |>
  computeModels(assay_name = "fluo_normalized") |>
  computeModels(assay_name = "fluo_reporter")
```

---

determinePCRResults	<i>Determine PCR results from features of multicomponent fluorescence curves</i>
---------------------	--

---

## Description

Assigns positive or negative PCR results to every PCR reaction depending on the equation of the model curve optimized to the fluorescence curve. In particular, the reporter dye fluorescence without normalization is used to distinguish between real amplification and false positives.

## Usage

```
determinePCRResults(se, key_path)
```

## Arguments

se	a SummarizedExperiment object containing OpenArray qPCR Data
key_path	file path to the target-threshold key

## Details

The target-threshold key is an Excel file which stores threshold values used to separate PCR curves. These thresholds are defined across metrics such as cycle threshold, overall change-in-fluorescence, and slope of the fluorescence curve during the exponential phase. The thresholds are separately defined for each gene to accommodate inherent differences in assays.

## Value

a SummarizedExperiment

## Examples

```
data(example_se)

key_path = system.file(
  "extdata",
  "target_threshold_key.xlsx",
```

```
    package = "OAtools"
  )

se <- example_se |>
  determinePCRResults(key_path = key_path)
```

---

example_se	<i>Example OpenArray Gene Expression Data Contained in a SummarizedExperiment</i>
------------	---

---

### Description

A sample of OpenArray gene expression data from respiratory tract microbiota profiling experiments conducted at the UW Virology research lab on human nasal swabs. This file (.rda) stores the PCR data in a SummarizedExperiment container and is intended for use with package examples and unit testing.

### Format

a SummarizedExperiment object with the following:

**colData** information associated with each PCR well

**rowData** cycle numbers

**assays** matrices of fluorescence values by PCR well and cycle

### Details

Load this object into the environment with: `data(example_se)`

### Source

This object contains PCR data imported from the initial Excel QuantStudio output. Logistic and linear models were fit to the PCR data and stored as metadata.

The object can be reproduced from the package example data by running the following commands in the R console:

```
path <- system.file(
  "extdata",
  "oa_gene_expression_1.xlsx",
  package = "OAtools"
)

se <- excelToSE(excel_path = path) |>
  computeModels(assay_name = "fluo_normalized") |>
  computeModels(assay_name = "fluo_reporter")
```

excelToSE

*Convert OpenArray data from Excel to a Summarized Experiment*

---

**Description**

Transforms raw gene expression run data exported from the OpenArray QuantStudio 12K Flex Software from .xlsx format into an instance of the SummarizedExperiment class from Bioconductor.

**Usage**

```
excelToSE(excel_path, header_rows = 17, skip = 19)
```

**Arguments**

excel_path	file path to the Excel document containing the PCR data
header_rows	number of rows of run metadata to read in from the header
skip	number of rows to skip when reading fluorescence data or results

**Value**

OpenArray PCR data as a SummarizedExperiment object

**Examples**

```
path = system.file(  
  "extdata",  
  "oa_gene_expression_1.xlsx",  
  package = "OAtools"  
)  
  
se <- excelToSE(excel_path = path)
```

---

generateReport*Generate a PCR Report*

---

**Description**

Knits an HTML report summarizing the OpenArray experiment and saves to the specified directory.

**Usage**

```
generateReport(se, path = tempdir(), model_results = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

se	a SummarizedExperiment containing OpenArray qPCR data
path	intended outfile path, defaults to a temporary directory
model_results	boolean value indicating whether to include the results column, which is created when deriving results using the curve-fitting method

## Value

An HTML Report summarizing the OpenArray experiment

## Examples

```
data(example_se)
generateReport(se = example_se)
```

---

oa\_gene\_expression\_1 *Example Raw OpenArray Gene Expression Data*

---

## Description

The first of two Excel files storing run data from separate OpenArray gene expression experiments. The context behind the experiment was respiratory tract microbiota profiling on human nasopharyngeal swabs from patients experiencing respiratory syndromes.

## Format

An Excel file (.xlsx) with three tabs:

**Amplification Data** normalized fluorescence by cycle number

**Multicomponent Data** spectral contribution of the reporter dye by cycle number

**Results** PCR results, PCR well metadata, and QC metrics

## Details

Access this file with: `system.file("extdata", "oa_gene_expression_1.xlsx", package = "OAtools")`

## Source

This file was exported from QuantStudio 12K Flex Software after a gene expression run, then filtered down to include 12 samples and 4 genes for file size concerns.

---

oa\_gene\_expression\_2 *Example Raw OpenArray Gene Expression Data*

---

### Description

The second of two Excel files storing run data from separate OpenArray gene expression experiments. The context behind the experiment was respiratory tract microbiota profiling on human nasopharyngeal swabs on patients experiencing respiratory syndromes.

### Format

An Excel file (.xlsx) with three tabs:

**Amplification Data** normalized fluorescence by cycle number

**Multicomponent Data** spectral contribution of the reporter dye by cycle number

**Results** PCR results, sample metadata, and QC metrics

### Details

Access this file with: `system.file("extdata", "oa_gene_expression_2.xlsx", package = "OAtools")`

### Source

This file was exported from QuantStudio 12K Flex Software after a gene expression run, then filtered down to include 12 samples and 4 genes for file size concerns.

---

plotCrt *Plot Relative Cycle Threshold Values by Gene*

---

### Description

Generates a box and whisker plot visualizing the distribution of Crt values measured on an OpenArray plate by Gene.

### Usage

```
plotCrt(se)
```

### Arguments

se a SummarizedExperiment object containing OpenArray qPCR data

### Value

a ggplot2 figure

**Examples**

```
data(example_se)

plotCrt(example_se)
```

---

`plotModel`*Plot Fluorescence Values Predicted by Model*

---

**Description**

Juxtaposes the fluorescence values predicted by the model optimized to the measured fluorescence vs. cycle data for a particular well.

**Usage**

```
plotModel(
  se,
  well_id,
  assay_name,
  include_mdpt_tangent = FALSE,
  include_coldata_annotation = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>se</code>	a SummarizedExperiment object containing OpenArray qPCR data
<code>well_id</code>	a character representing the name of the well to plot as listed in the assay matrix
<code>assay_name</code>	name for the assay matrix from which to pull observed fluorescence values, either <code>fluo_reporter</code> or <code>fluo_normalized</code>
<code>include_mdpt_tangent</code>	boolean determines whether to annotate the midpoint of the reaction and draw a tangent line to the model curve at that point
<code>include_coldata_annotation</code>	boolean determines whether to annotate the coldata onto the top left of the plot.

**Value**

a ggplot2 figure

**Examples**

```
data(example_se)

plotModel(
  example_se,
  well_id = "well_2665",
  assay_name = "fluo_reporter",
```

```
    include_mdpt_tangent = TRUE,  
    include_coldata_annotation = TRUE  
  )
```

---

plotOverview

*Plot Amplification Status by Sample and Gene*

---

### Description

Generates an overview graphic summarizing qPCR results for each combination of sample and gene on an OpenArray experiment.

### Usage

```
plotOverview(se)
```

### Arguments

se a SummarizedExperiment object containing OpenArray qPCR data

### Value

a ggplot2 figure

### Examples

```
data(example_se)  
  
plotOverview(example_se)
```

---

plotQC

*Plot a 3D Quality Control Graphic from a SummarizedExperiment*

---

### Description

Generates a 3-dimensional quality control plot comparing the amplification status to the crt, Cq conf, and amplification score metrics output by QuantStudio 12K Flex Software.

### Usage

```
plotQC(se)
```

### Arguments

se a SummarizedExperiment object containing OpenArray qPCR data

**Value**

a plotly figure

**Examples**

```
data(example_se)
plotQC(example_se)
```

---

seToQPCRBatch	<i>Convert to qPCRBatch Object</i>
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---

**Description**

Transforms OpenArray run data contained within the SummarizedExperiment container into a qPCRBatch object. This conversion allows for convenient gene expression analyses with the NormqPCR package.

**Usage**

```
seToQPCRBatch(se)
```

**Arguments**

se                    A SummarizedExperiment object with OpenArray run data

**Value**

a qPCRBatch object

**Examples**

```
path = system.file(
  "extdata",
  "oa_gene_expression_1.xlsx",
  package = "OAtools"
)

se <- excelToSE(excel_path = path)

qpcr <- seToQPCRBatch(se)
```

---

target\_threshold\_key *Target Threshold Key*

---

**Description**

This Excel file (.xlsx) contains a table associating each assay target contained in the example gene expression run data with thresholds values. This key is optionally used to aid in concurrently interpreting data including numerous targets with dissimilar behaviors.

**Format**

An Excel sheet (.xlsx) with four columns:

target the target assay ID

slope\_threshold minimum acceptable slope in the exponential phase for a positive result

delta\_threshold minimum acceptable overall change in fluorescence for a positive result

crt\_threshold maximum acceptable crt for a positive result

**Details**

The example key is stored in the `inst/extdata/` directory of the package. Access this file with: `system.file("extdata", "target_threshold_key.xlsx", package = "OAtools")`.

**Source**

Written manually for use with resulting functions.

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