Ligand Optimisation using R

The purpose of these notes is to explain how to apply McGuigan's new extended Ligand Optimisation Method (LOME) using software written in the package R.

The R package

The user is required to download and install the free package R from http://cran.r-project.org, if necessary.
Once the user has opened R, running the code involves copying and pasting some commands in a script file into the R window and pressing ENTER, as explained below. It is not necessary for the user to know anything about R itself.

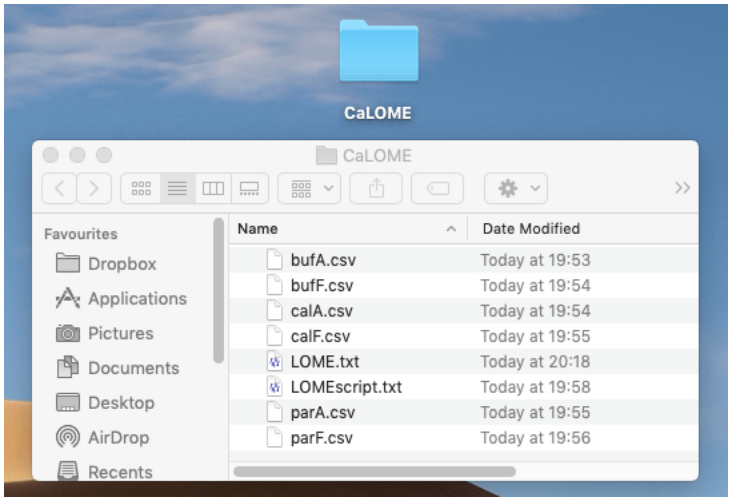
Also, download and install RStudio from:

https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/

We will use RStudio in the following demonstration. The file.choose command used below works better in RStudio in that the working directory is made available to the user.

The Data Files

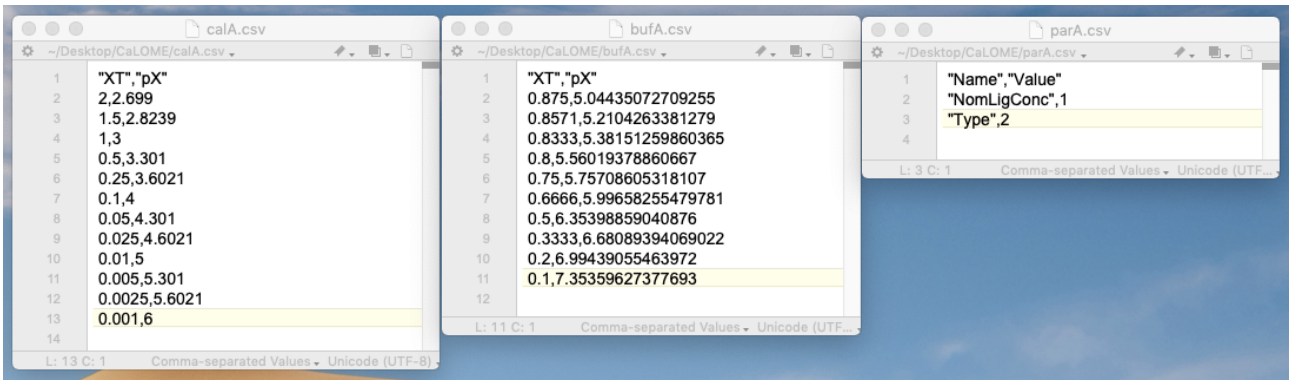
Let's assume that the folder CaLOME has been placed on the user's Desktop, as shown below.



The folder CaLOME contains the files that are necessary to run the program LOME on the selected input data. There are two sets of files - one set for the Aequorin data and one set for the fluorescence data – with the contents shown in screenshots.

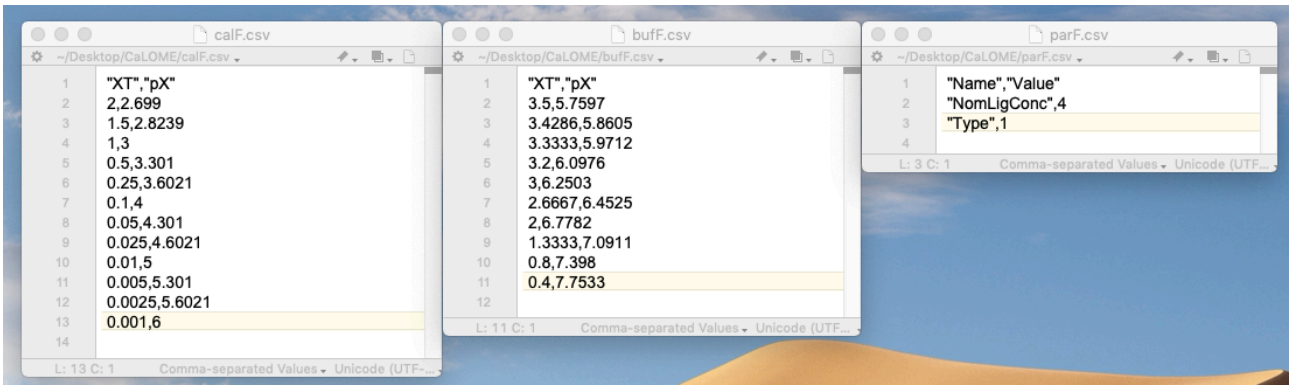
Aequorin Data Files

calA.csv	the data obtained using the calibrating solutions
bufA.csv	the data obtained from the buffer solutions
parA.csv	the parameter values for nominal ligand concentration and the type of data



Fluorescence Data Files

calF.csv	the data obtained using the calibrating solutions
bufF.csv	the data obtained from the buffer solutions
parF.csv	the parameter values for nominal ligand concentration and the type of data

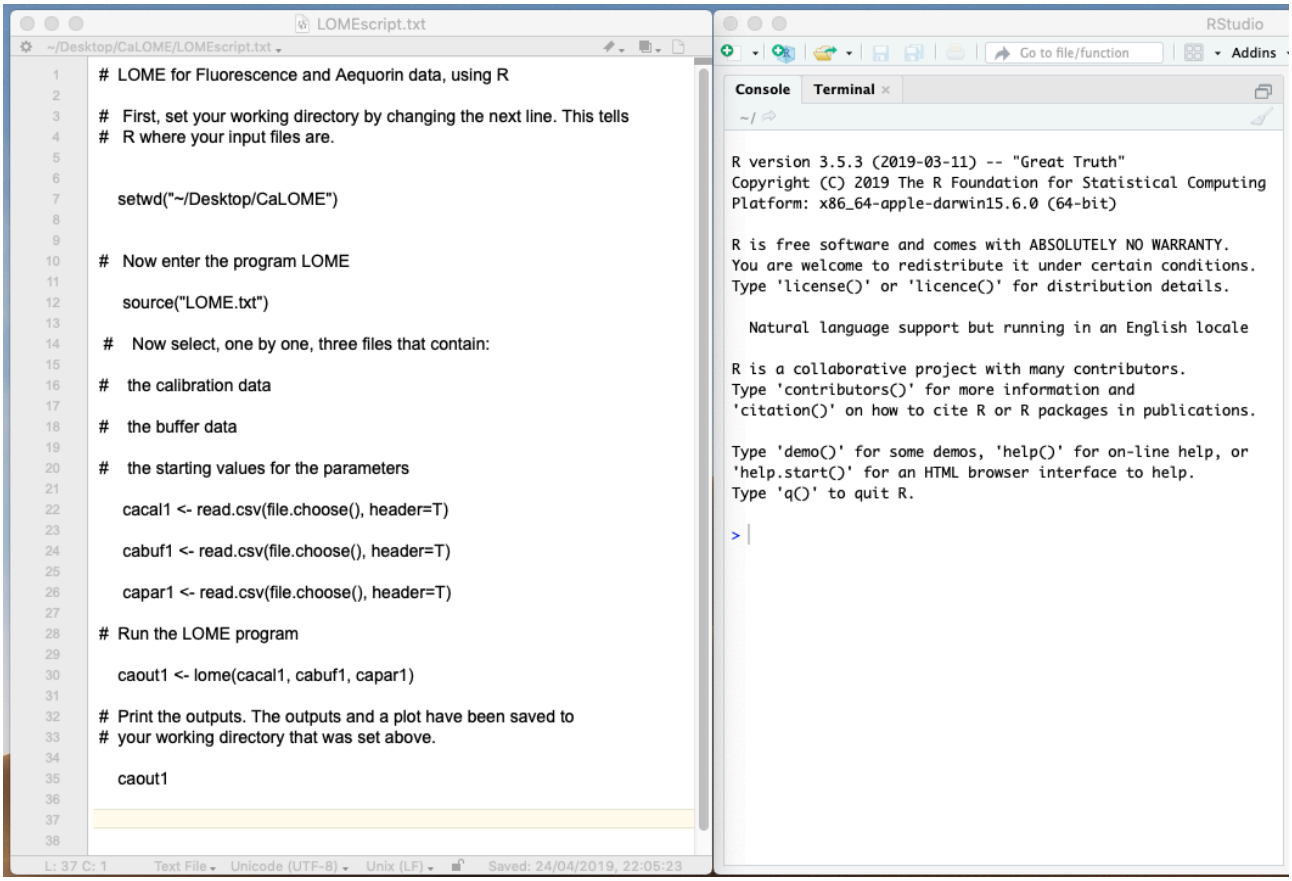


These files are in comma separated value (csv) format. A simple way to make data files in this format is to use Excel and then save the file in csv format. Alternatively, a text editor could be used to place the data in csv format; in each row the entries must be separated by commas rather than white space.

Running the LOME program

1. Launch the application RStudio. This will open a window into which R commands can be entered.

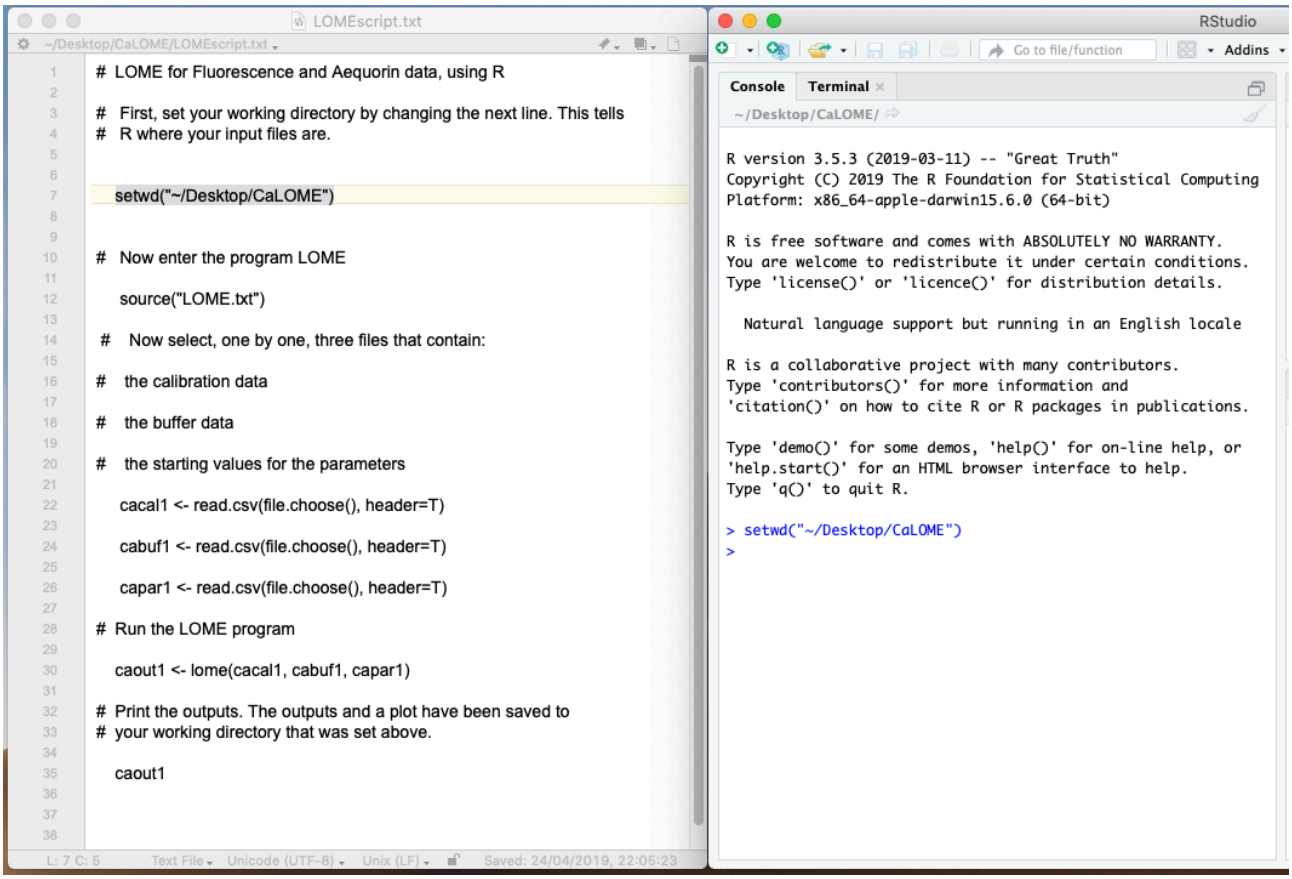
2. Open the file LOMEscript.txt. This contains the the required R commands. The lines beginning with # are comment lines are are ignored by the R interpreter. Now, both windows will be open on the desktop, as shown below.



3. Set the working directory to tell RStudio where the data files are; output will also be sent to this folder. For this illustration it has been assumed that the files are in a folder named CaLOME and it is placed on the Desktop. The user can place the files in a folder with a name of their choosing and place the folder anywhere in their Documents folder; if so, the setwd( ) command needs editing.

   NB. The form of the folder name given here is suitable for a Mac, but in Windows the slashes would be different.

   Select setwd("~/Desktop/CaLOME") and copy this to the R window at the command prompt >, and then press ENTER to run this command.

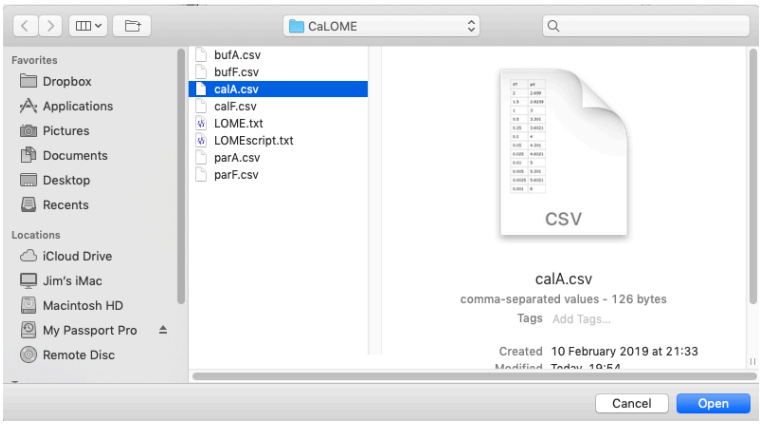


4. Select the line source("LOME.txt") and copy and paste this into the RStudio window at the command prompt, and then press ENTER to run this command. This loads the program LOME into RStudio and this program will be run below once we have entered the data files. In what follows we will enter the data files for an application with Aequorin data.

5. Enter the data files one by one. Select the line

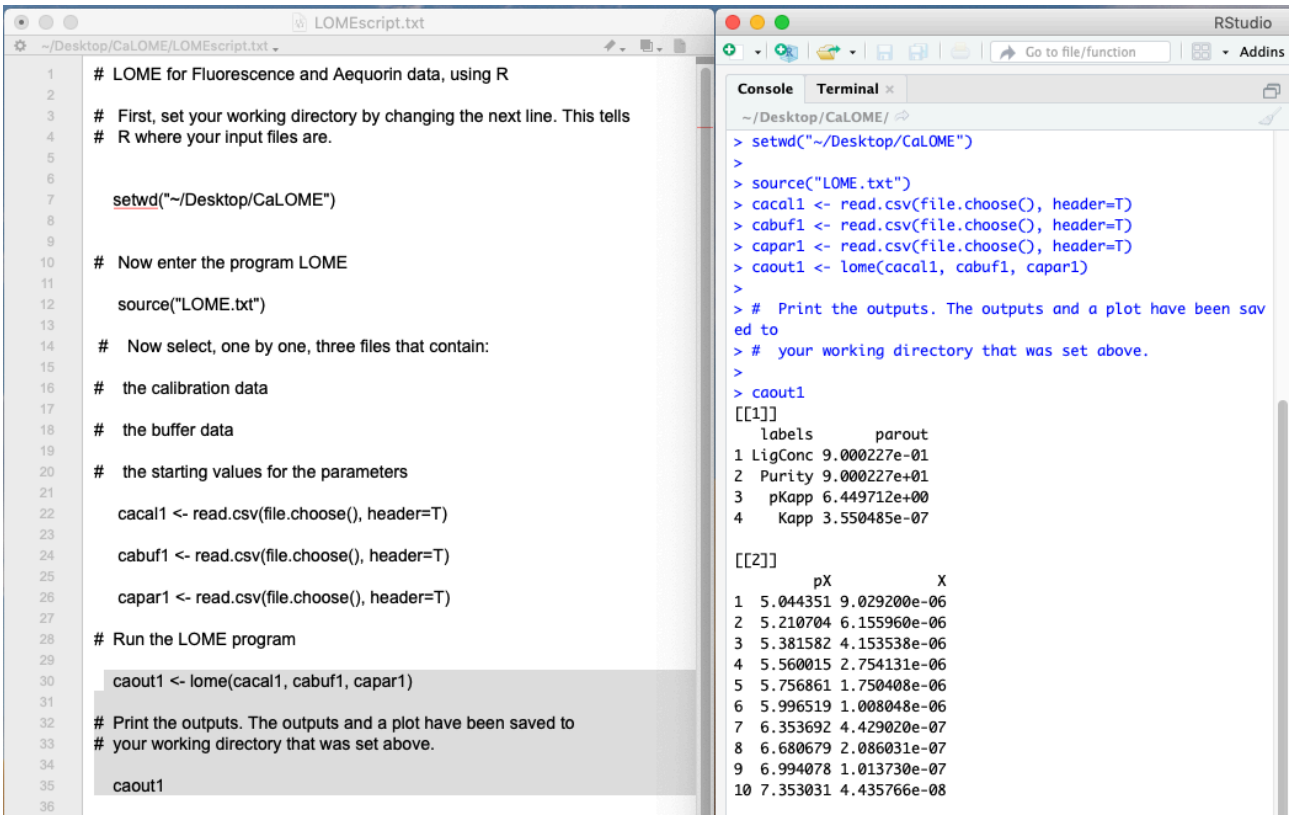
$$\text{cacal1} < - \text{read.csv(file.choose(), header=T)}$$

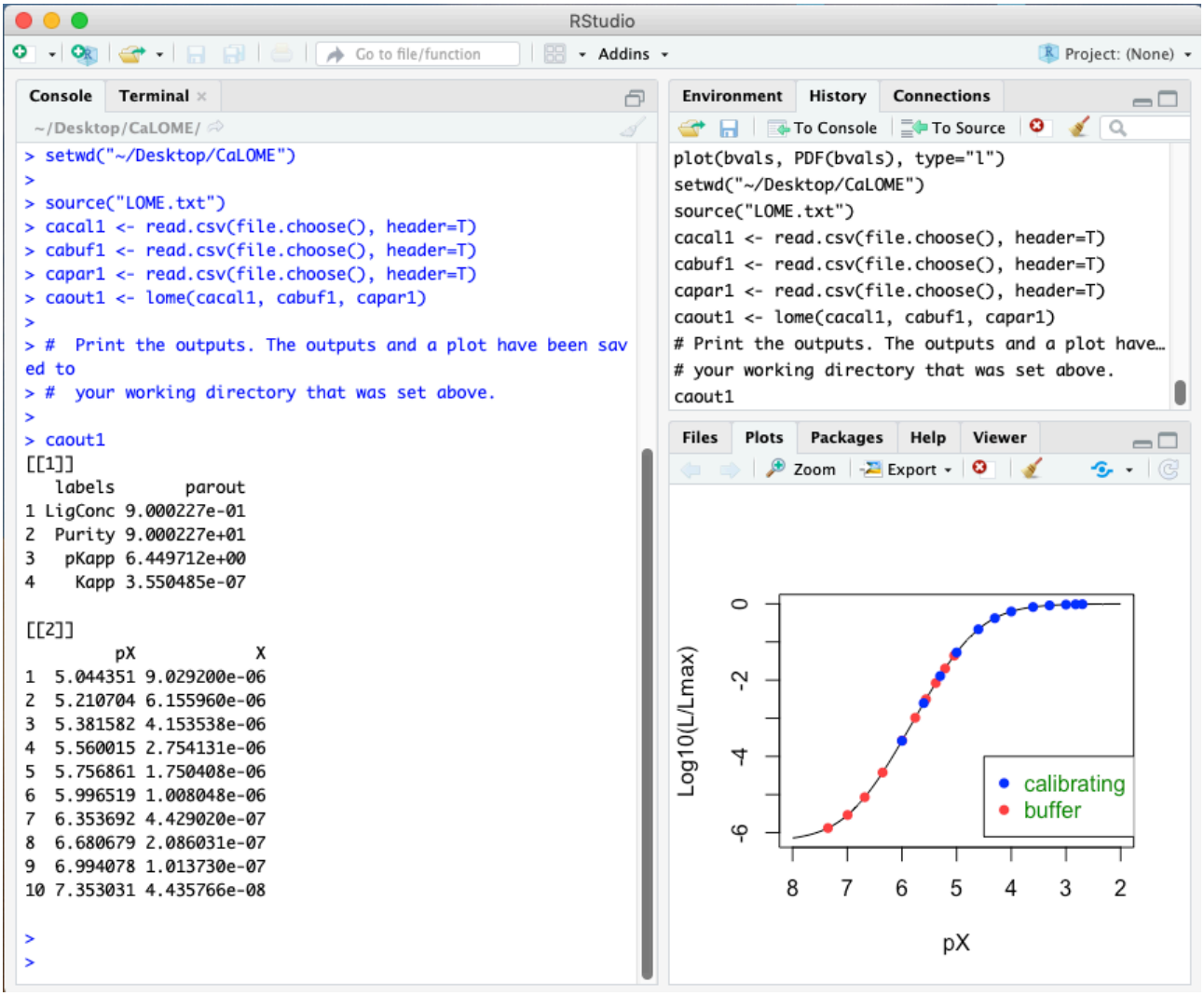
and copy and paste this into the R window at the command prompt; then press ENTER. This command opens a dialogue box and gives the user access to their filesystem. Select the file calA.csv. Then Click Open. The calibration data will then have been entered into the RStudio window.



6. Repeat step 5 to enter the buffer data (bufA.csv) and the input parameters (parA.csv) into RStudio.

7. Now the scene has been set and we can run the LOME program. Select the lines containing caout1, as shown below, and copy and paste them into the RStudio window, and press ENTER. The output will appear in the RStudio window. Also a plot of the fitted model and data will appear in the plot window, as shown in the next plot below.





8. The program will have written the output data and saved the plot to the working directory CaLOME in files with names starting with OUT, as shown below.