

# Package ‘catseyes’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Create Catseye Plots Illustrating the Normal Distribution of the Means

**Version** 0.2.5

**Description** Provides the tools to produce catseye plots, principally by `catseyesplot()` function which calls R's standard `plot()` function internally, or alternatively by the `catseyes()` function to overlay the catseye plot onto an existing R plot window. Catseye plots illustrate the normal distribution of the mean (picture a normal bell curve reflected over its base and rotated 90 degrees), with a shaded confidence interval; they are an intuitive way of illustrating and comparing normally distributed estimates, and are arguably a superior alternative to standard confidence intervals, since they show the full distribution rather than fixed quantile bounds. The `catseyesplot` and `catseyes` functions require pre-calculated means and standard errors (or standard deviations), provided as numeric vectors; this allows the flexibility of obtaining this information from a variety of sources, such as direct calculation or prediction from a model. Catseye plots, as illustrations of the normal distribution of the means, are described in Cumming (2013 & 2014).  
Cumming, G. (2013). The new statistics: Why and how. *Psychological Science*, 27, 7-29. <[doi:10.1177/0956797613504966](https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797613504966)> pmid:24220629.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

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**Suggests** emmeans

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### Description

The `catseyes()` function is used to plot catseye interval(s) onto an existing basic R plot background. Catseye plots illustrate the normal distribution of the mean (picture a normal bell curve reflected over its base and rotated 90 degrees), with a shaded confidence interval; they are an intuitive way of illustrating and comparing normally distributed estimates, and are arguably a superior alternative to standard confidence intervals, since they show the full distribution rather than fixed quantile bounds. The `catseyes()` function requires pre-calculated means and standard errors (or standard deviations), provided as numeric vectors; this allows the flexibility of obtaining this information from a variety of sources, such as direct calculation or prediction from a model – see examples below. NOTE: The drawn vertical range of the outline spans 99.8% of the distribution of the mean.

### Usage

```
catseyes(
  x,
  ymean,
  yse,
  dx = 0.1,
  conf = 0.95,
  se.only = TRUE,
  col = "black",
  shade = rgb(0.05, 0.05, 0.05, 0.2),
  lwd = 1,
  plot.mean.line = FALSE,
  fTransform = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	numeric horizontal position(s); if factor, will be converted to integer in factor level order
<code>ymean</code>	numeric mean(s)
<code>yse</code>	numeric standard error(s); may use standard deviation(s) for population level plots
<code>dx</code>	specifies the width (in x direction) of the catseye interval(s)
<code>conf</code>	specifies the confidence of the confidence interval ( <code>conf=.95</code> for $\alpha=.05$ )
<code>se.only</code>	boolean, if TRUE (default) will shade only +/- 1 standard error about the mean, overriding <code>conf</code> , otherwise if FALSE will shade the confidence interval (per <code>conf</code> ) about the mean
<code>col</code>	specifies the color of the outline of the catseye, as well as the interval point & line, if shown

shade	specifies the color of the shaded confidence region
lwd	sets the line width of the interval and outline
plot.mean.line	boolean, draws a horizontal line at the position of the mean if TRUE
fTransform	Optional function to transform catseye plot from normal distribution (as with analyzing log-transformed data, see example under catseyesplot)

### Author(s)

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### References

Cumming, G. (2014). The new statistics: Why and how. *Psychological Science*, 27, 7-29. <doi:10.1177/0956797613504966>  
 pmid:24220629  
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer/2014/march-14/theres-life-beyond-05.html>

### Examples

```
#Show catseye plots for 4 groups with means of c(-3,2,-1,6)
# and standard errors of c(1,2,4,3)
plot(NULL,xlim=c(.5,4.5),ylim=c(-10,10),xlab="",ylab="",main="4 Groups",xaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:4,labels = c("Group1","Group2","Group3","Group4"))
catseyes(1:4,ymean=c(-3,2,-1,6),yse=c(1,2,4,3))
#Optionally, add points and lines (usually lines only when joining time sequence)
lines(1:4,c(-3,2,-1,6),type="b")
```

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catseyesplot

*catseyesplot*

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### Description

The `catseyesplot()` function plots catseye intervals as a basic R `plot()` window in one step. Can be called with standard plot parameters to further customize the resulting figure. If `xlim` & `ylim` are not specified, these will be generated internally per the provided `x`, `ymean`, and `yse`. Catseye plots illustrate the normal distribution of the mean (picture a normal bell curve reflected over its base and rotated 90 degrees), with a shaded confidence interval; they are an intuitive way of illustrating and comparing normally distributed estimates, and are arguably a superior alternative to standard confidence intervals, since they show the full distribution rather than fixed quantile bounds. The `catseyesplot()` function requires pre-calculated means and standard errors (or standard deviations), provided as numeric vectors; this allows the flexibility of obtaining this information from a variety of sources, such as direct calculation or prediction from a model – see examples below. NOTE: The drawn vertical range of the outline spans 99.8% of the distribution of the mean.

**Usage**

```

catseyesplot(
  x,
  ymean,
  yse,
  dx = 0.1,
  conf = 0.95,
  se.only = TRUE,
  col = "black",
  shade = rgb(0.05, 0.05, 0.05, 0.2),
  lwd = 1,
  plot.mean.line = FALSE,
  fTransform = NULL,
  labels = FALSE,
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  x_scatter = NULL,
  y_scatter = NULL,
  jitter_scatter = FALSE,
  dx_scatter = 0.05,
  pch_scatter = 1,
  col_scatter = 1,
  cex_scatter = 1,
  ...
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	numeric horizontal position(s); if factor, will be converted to integer in factor level order
<code>ymean</code>	numeric mean(s)
<code>yse</code>	numeric standard error(s); may use standard deviation(s) for population level plots
<code>dx</code>	specifies the width (in x direction) of the catseye interval(s)
<code>conf</code>	specifies the confidence of the confidence interval (conf=.95 for alpha=.05)
<code>se.only</code>	boolean, if TRUE (default) will shade only +/- 1 standard error about the mean, overriding conf, otherwise if FALSE will shade the confidence interval (per conf) about the mean
<code>col</code>	specifies the color of the outline of the catseye, as well as the interval point & line, if shown
<code>shade</code>	specifies the color of the shaded confidence region
<code>lwd</code>	sets the line width of the interval and outline
<code>plot.mean.line</code>	boolean, draws a horizontal line at the position of the mean if TRUE
<code>fTransform</code>	Optional function to transform catseye plot from normal distribution (as with analyzing log-tranformed data, see example)

labels	Optional, may be logical (if TRUE, uses x) or a character vector
xlim	x limits of the plot, as with plot.default
ylim	y limits of the plot, as with plot.default
x_scatter	numeric x values of corresponding raw data for scatterplot; factors will convert to integer sequence of levels
y_scatter	numeric y values of corresponding raw data for scatterplot
jitter_scatter	boolean, if TRUE x_scatter will be randomly jittered by jitter function, with amount=jitter_scatter
dx_scatter	numeric value specifying amount of jittering used if jitter_scatter is TRUE
pch_scatter	pch characters of points in scatterplot; if non-null, must be single value or vector corresponding to x, otherwise selected automatically
col_scatter	color of points in scatterplot; if non-null, must be single value or vector corresponding to x, otherwise selected automatically
cex_scatter	numeric scaling factor of points in scatterplot
...	standard arguments to be passed to the plot function

**Value**

Returns a list containing xlim and ylim used in the plot

**Author(s)**

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**References**

Cumming, G. (2014). The new statistics: Why and how. *Psychological Science*, 27, 7-29. <doi:10.1177/0956797613504966> pmid:24220629  
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer/2014/march-14/theres-life-beyond-05.html>

**Examples**

```
#Show catseye plots for 4 groups with means of c(-3,2,-1,6)
# and standard errors of c(1,2,4,3)
catseyesplot(1:4,ymean=c(-3,2,-1,6),yse=c(1,2,4,3),xlab="",ylab="",main="4 Groups",xaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:4,labels = c("Group1","Group2","Group3","Group4"))
#Optionally, add points and lines (usually lines only when joining time sequence)
lines(1:4,c(-3,2,-1,6),type="b")

#Using the labels option
catseyesplot(1:4,ymean=c(-3,2,-1,6),yse=c(1,2,4,3),xlab="",ylab="",labels =
  c("Group A","Group B","Group C","Group D"))
catseyesplot(1:4,ymean=c(-3,2,-1,6),yse=c(1,2,4,3),xlab="",ylab="",labels = TRUE)

#Demonstration of inclusion of scatterplots
datTest=data.frame(x=c(rep(1,10),rep(2,10),rep(3,10)),y=rnorm(10,30))
```

```

datTest$y[datTest$x==2]=datTest$y[datTest$x==2]+7
datTest$y[datTest$x==3]=datTest$y[datTest$x==3]+5
means=c(mean(datTest$y[datTest$x==1]),mean(datTest$y[datTest$x==2]),
        mean(datTest$y[datTest$x==3]))
ses=c(sd(datTest$y[datTest$x==1]),sd(datTest$y[datTest$x==2]),
      sd(datTest$y[datTest$x==3]))/sqrt(10)

catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=means,yse=ses,xlab="Group",ylab="",x_scatter = datTest$x,
            y_scatter = datTest$y)
catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=means,yse=ses,xlab="Group",ylab="",x_scatter = datTest$x,
            y_scatter = datTest$y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:3,labels = c("Group1","Group2","Group3"))

#Demonstration of plotting of factor estimates by direct prediction from lm model
datTest$x=factor(datTest$x)
lm1=lm(y~x,data=datTest)
newdata=data.frame(x=c("1","2","3"))
pred_lm=predict(lm1,se.fit = TRUE,newdata=newdata,type="response")
catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=pred_lm$fit,yse=pred_lm$se.fit,xlab="Group",ylab="",
            plot.mean.line = TRUE,labels=TRUE,
            x_scatter = datTest$x,y_scatter = datTest$y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n")

#Demonstration of plotting of factor estimates from emmeans package
require(emmeans)
emmeans1=emmeans(lm1,~x)
#Assess differences between levels of x
pairs(emmeans1,adjust="tukey")
preds=confint(emmeans1)
catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=preds$emmean,yse=preds$SE,xlab="Group",ylab="",
            plot.mean.line = TRUE,labels=TRUE,
            x_scatter = datTest$x,y_scatter = datTest$y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n")
#Plot with variable x positions
catseyesplot(c(1,3.5,5),ymean=pred_lm$fit,yse=pred_lm$se.fit,xlab="Group",
            plot.mean.line = TRUE,labels=TRUE,
            ylab="",x_scatter = datTest$x,y_scatter = datTest$y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n")

#Demonstrate use of transformation function fTransform
#Create skewed y
set.seed(3142)
datTest=data.frame(x=c(rep(1,10),rep(2,10),rep(3,10)),y=rnorm(30,mean=0))
datTest$y[datTest$x==2]=datTest$y[datTest$x==2]+1
datTest$y[datTest$x==3]=datTest$y[datTest$x==3]+.5
datTest$y=exp(datTest$y)#Create skewed y
datTest$log_y=log(datTest$y+1)#Transform skewed y to normal distribution for analysis
qqnorm(datTest$y)
qqnorm(datTest$log_y)
plot(datTest$x,datTest$y)
plot(datTest$x,datTest$log_y)
means=c(mean(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==1]),mean(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==2]),
        mean(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==3]))
ses=c(sd(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==1]),sd(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==2]),
      sd(datTest$log_y[datTest$x==3]))/sqrt(10)
#Plot on log scale

```

```

catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=means,yse=ses,xlab="Group",ylab="",x_scatter = datTest$x,
  y_scatter = datTest$log_y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n",yaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:3,labels = c("Group1","Group2","Group3"))
axis(2,at=log(c(0,1,2,4,8,16)+1),labels = c(0,1,2,4,8,16))
#Show catseye plot on original (skewed) scale
#Define function to invert data from log_y scale to y scale
fInvertLog<-function(y_vals) {exp(y_vals)-1}
catseyesplot(1:3,ymean=means,yse=ses,xlab="Group",ylab="",x_scatter = datTest$x,
  y_scatter = datTest$y,jitter_scatter = TRUE,xaxt="n",fTransform=fInvertLog)
axis(1,at=1:3,labels = c("Group1","Group2","Group3"))

#Logistic regression example (2 groups)
set.seed(3333)
datBin=data.frame(Group=factor(c(rep("A",15),rep("B",15))),
  Y=c(rbinom(15,1,.8),rbinom(15,1,.5)))
sum(datBin$Y[datBin$Group=="A"])/sum(datBin$Group=="A")
sum(datBin$Y[datBin$Group=="B"])/sum(datBin$Group=="B")
glm1=glm(Y~Group-1,family = binomial,data=datBin)
summary(glm1)
(smr=coefficients(summary(glm1)))
#Plot Results on logit=log(odds) Scale
catseyesplot(1:2,smr[,1],smr[,2],xaxt="n",ylab="log(odds)",xlab="Group")
axis(1,at=c(1,2),labels = c("A","B"))
#Plot Results on Probability Scale
fInvLogit<-function(yy) {exp(yy)/(1+exp(yy))}
catseyesplot(1:2,smr[,1],smr[,2],xaxt="n",ylab="Probability",xlab="Group",
  fTransform = fInvLogit,ylim=c(0,1))
axis(1,at=c(1,2),labels = c("A","B"))

```

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