

# Package ‘ggChernoff’

May 8, 2026

**Title** Chernoff Faces for 'ggplot2'

**Version** 0.3.0

**Description** Provides a Chernoff face geom for 'ggplot2'. Maps multivariate data to human-like faces. Inspired by Chernoff (1973) <[doi:10.1080/01621459.1973.10482434](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1973.10482434)>.

**Depends** R (>= 3.2.5)

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** ggplot2 (>= 2.2.0), grid, scales

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**URL** <https://github.com/Selbosh/ggChernoff>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/Selbosh/ggChernoff/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** David Selby [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** David Selby <[selby@cs.uni-kl.de](mailto:selby@cs.uni-kl.de)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2022-11-17 13:10:01 UTC

## Contents

chernoffGrob . . . . .	2
geom_chernoff . . . . .	3
scale_brow_continuous . . . . .	5
scale_eyes_continuous . . . . .	6
scale_smile_continuous . . . . .	7

<b>Index</b>	<b>9</b>
--------------	----------

---

`chernoffGrob`*Draw a smiley face*

---

**Description**

Uses [Grid](#) graphics to draw a face.

**Usage**

```
chernoffGrob(  
  x = 0.5,  
  y = 0.5,  
  size = 1,  
  colour = "black",  
  fill = NA,  
  alpha = 1,  
  smile = 1,  
  brow = NA,  
  nose = FALSE,  
  eyes = 1  
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	horizontal position
<code>y</code>	vertical position
<code>size</code>	area of the face
<code>colour</code>	colour of outlines and features
<code>fill</code>	fill colour
<code>alpha</code>	transparency, where 0 is transparent and 1 is opaque
<code>smile</code>	amount of smiling/frowning
<code>brow</code>	eyebrow angle, to represent anger or concern
<code>nose</code>	logical. Adds a nose to the face
<code>eyes</code>	distance between the eyes

**Value**

A [grobTree](#) object.

**See Also**

[geom\\_chernoff](#)

**Examples**

```
face <- chernoffGrob(.5, .5, size = 1e3, smile = -1, brow = 1, colour = 'navy', fill = 'lightblue')
grid::grid.newpage()
grid::grid.draw(face)
```

geom\_chernoff

*Chernoff faces in ggplot2***Description**

The Chernoff geom is used to create data visualisations in the shape of human-like faces. By mapping to the relevant aesthetics, faces can appear to vary in happiness, anger, size, colour and so on.

**Usage**

```
geom_chernoff(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  stat = "identity",
  position = "identity",
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by <a href="#">aes</a> or <a href="#">aes_</a> . If specified and <code>inherit.aes = TRUE</code> (the default), is combined with the default mapping at the top level of the plot. You only need to supply mapping if there isn't a mapping defined for the plot.
data	The data to be displayed in this layer. There are three options: If <code>NULL</code> , the default, the data is inherited from the plot data as specified in the call to <a href="#">ggplot()</a> . A <code>data.frame</code> , or other object, will override the plot data. All objects will be fortified to produce a data frame. See <a href="#">fortify()</a> for which variables will be created. A function will be called with a single argument, the plot data. The return value must be a <code>data.frame</code> , and will be used as the layer data. A function can be created from a formula (e.g. <code>~ head(.x, 10)</code> ).
stat	The statistical transformation to use on the data for this layer, either as a <code>ggproto</code> <code>Geom</code> subclass or as a string naming the stat stripped of the <code>stat_</code> prefix (e.g. "count" rather than "stat_count")

position	Position adjustment, either as a string naming the adjustment (e.g. "jitter" to use position_jitter), or the result of a call to a position adjustment function. Use the latter if you need to change the settings of the adjustment.
na.rm	If FALSE, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If TRUE, missing values are silently removed.
show.legend	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
inherit.aes	If FALSE, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <code>borders()</code> .
...	Other arguments passed on to <code>layer()</code> . These are often aesthetics, used to set an aesthetic to a fixed value, like <code>colour = "red"</code> or <code>size = 3</code> . They may also be parameters to the paired geom/stat.

### Value

A [Geom](#) layer object for use with `ggplot2`.

### Aesthetics

`geom_chernoff` understands the following aesthetics (required aesthetics are in bold):

- **x**
- **y**
- colour
- fill
- size

The following aesthetics are unique to `geom_chernoff`:

- smile
- brow
- nose
- eyes

For details, see [chernoffGrob](#).

### References

Chernoff, H. (1973). The use of faces to represent points in  $k$ -dimensional space graphically. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 68(342), 361–368.

### See Also

[chernoffGrob](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(iris, aes(Sepal.Width, Sepal.Length, smile = Petal.Length, fill = Species)) +
  geom_chernoff()

ggplot(data.frame(x = 1:4,
                  y = c(3:1, 2.5),
                  z = factor(1:4),
                  w = rnorm(4),
                  n = c(rep(FALSE, 3), TRUE)
                  )) +
  aes(x, y, fill = z, size = x, nose = n, smile = w) +
  geom_chernoff()
```

---

scale\_brow\_continuous *Scales for angry eyebrows*

---

**Description**

scale\_brow lets you customise how eyebrows are generated from your data. It also lets you tweak the appearance of legends and so on. By default, brow is set to NA, in which case no eyebrows will appear (see Examples).

**Usage**

```
scale_brow_continuous(..., range = c(-1, 1), midpoint = mean)
```

```
scale_brow(..., range = c(-1, 1), midpoint = mean)
```

**Arguments**

...	Other arguments passed onto <code>continuous_scale</code> to control name, limits, breaks, labels and so forth.
range	Output range of eyebrow angles. +1 corresponds to very angry and -1 corresponds to a worried look.
midpoint	A value or function of your data that will return level eyebrows, i.e.  ::-)

**Details**

Use range to vary how angrily your maximum/minimum values are represented. Minima smaller than -1 and maxima greater than +1 are possible but might look odd! You can use midpoint to set a specific 'zero' value in your data or to have eyebrow angles represented as relative to average.

The function scale\_brow is an alias of scale\_brow\_continuous. At some point we might also want to design a scale\_brow\_discrete, scale\_brow\_manual and so on.

Legends are a work in progress. In particular, size mappings might produce odd results.

**Value**

A [Scale](#) layer object for use with `ggplot2`.

**See Also**

[geom\\_chernoff](#), [scale\\_smile](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)
p <- ggplot(iris) +
  aes(Sepal.Width, Sepal.Length, fill = Species, brow = Sepal.Length) +
  geom_chernoff()

p
p + scale_brow_continuous(midpoint = min)
p + scale_brow_continuous(range = c(-.5, 2))

# Only show eyebrows if 'sad', otherwise hide them
usa <- data.frame(date = c(time(presidents)), rating = c(presidents))
ggplot(subset(usa, complete.cases(usa))) +
  aes(date, rating, smile = rating, fill = rating,
       brow = ifelse(rating < 50, rating, NA)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_chernoff(show.legend = FALSE) +
  scale_brow(range = -1:0) +
  scale_fill_gradient(low = 'skyblue1', high = 'goldenrod1')
```

---

scale\_eyes\_continuous *Scales for eye separation*

---

**Description**

`scale_eyes` lets you customise how eye separation is determined from your data. It also lets you tweak the appearance of legends and so on.

**Usage**

```
scale_eyes_continuous(..., range = c(0.1, 2), midpoint = mean)
```

```
scale_eyes(..., range = c(0.1, 2), midpoint = mean)
```

**Arguments**

...	Other arguments passed onto <a href="#">continuous_scale</a> to control name, limits, breaks, labels and so forth.
range	Output range of eye distances. 0 corresponds to a cyclops and +1 to a 'normal' distance.
midpoint	A value or function of your data that will return a 'normal' separation

**Details**

Use `range` to vary how happily/sadly your maximum/minimum values are represented. Minima smaller than -1 and maxima greater than +1 are possible but might look odd! You can use `midpoint` to set a specific 'zero' value in your data or to have eye width represented as relative to average.

The function `scale_eyes` is an alias of `scale_eyes_continuous`.

Legends are a work in progress. In particular, size mappings might produce odd results.

**Value**

A [Scale](#) layer object for use with `ggplot2`.

**See Also**

[geom\\_chernoff](#), [scale\\_brow](#), [scale\\_smile](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)
p <- ggplot(iris) +
  aes(Sepal.Width, Sepal.Length, fill = Species, eyes = Sepal.Length) +
  geom_chernoff()
p
p + scale_eyes_continuous(midpoint = min)
p + scale_eyes_continuous(range = c(0, 2))
```

---

scale\_smile\_continuous

*Scales for smiling and frowning*

---

**Description**

`scale_smile` lets you customise how smiles are generated from your data. It also lets you tweak the appearance of legends and so on.

**Usage**

```
scale_smile_continuous(..., range = c(-1, 1), midpoint = mean)
```

```
scale_smile(..., range = c(-1, 1), midpoint = mean)
```

**Arguments**

<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed onto <a href="#">continuous_scale</a> to control name, limits, breaks, labels and so forth.
<code>range</code>	Output range of smiles. +1 corresponds to a full smile and -1 corresponds to a full frown.
<code>midpoint</code>	A value or function of your data that will return a neutral/straight face, i.e. :-

### Details

Use `range` to vary how happily/sadly your maximum/minimum values are represented. Minima smaller than -1 and maxima greater than +1 are possible but might look odd! You can use `midpoint` to set a specific 'zero' value in your data or to have smiles represented as relative to average.

The function `scale_smile` is an alias of `scale_smile_continuous`. At some point we might also want to design a `scale_smile_discrete`, `scale_smile_manual` and so on.

Legends are a work in progress. In particular, size mappings might produce odd results.

### Value

A [Scale](#) layer object for use with `ggplot2`.

### See Also

[geom\\_chernoff](#), [scale\\_brow](#)

### Examples

```
library(ggplot2)
p <- ggplot(iris) +
  aes(Sepal.Width, Sepal.Length, fill = Species, smile = Sepal.Length) +
  geom_chernoff()
p
p + scale_smile_continuous(midpoint = min)
p + scale_smile_continuous(range = c(-.5, 2))
```

# Index

`aes`, 3

`aes_`, 3

`borders()`, 4

`chernoffGrob`, 2, 4

`continuous_scale`, 5–7

`fortify()`, 3

Geom, 4

`geom_chernoff`, 2, 3, 6–8

`ggplot()`, 3

Grid, 2

`grobTree`, 2

`layer()`, 4

Scale, 6–8

`scale_brow`, 7, 8

`scale_brow(scale_brow_continuous)`, 5

`scale_brow_continuous`, 5

`scale_eyes(scale_eyes_continuous)`, 6

`scale_eyes_continuous`, 6

`scale_smile`, 6, 7

`scale_smile(scale_smile_continuous)`, 7

`scale_smile_continuous`, 7