

# Package ‘pecanr’

May 9, 2026

**Title** Partial Eta-Squared for Crossed, Nested, and Mixed Linear Mixed Models

**Version** 0.2.0

**Description** Computes partial eta-squared effect sizes for fixed effects in linear mixed models fitted with the 'lme4' package. Supports crossed, nested, and mixed (crossed-and-nested) random effects structures with any number of grouping factors. Mixed designs handle cases where grouping factors are simultaneously crossed with some variables and nested within others (e.g., photos nested within models, but both crossed with participants). Random slope variances are translated to the outcome scale using a variance decomposition approach, correctly accounting for predictor scaling and interaction terms. Both general and operative effect sizes are provided. Methods are based on Correll, Mellinger, McClelland, and Judd (2020) <[doi:10.1016/j.tics.2019.12.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2019.12.009)>, Correll, Mellinger, and Pedersen (2022) <[doi:10.3758/s13428-021-01687-2](https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-021-01687-2)>, and Rights and Sterba (2019) <[doi:10.1037/met0000184](https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000184)>.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://github.com/bcohen0901/pecanr>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/bcohen0901/pecanr/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Imports** lme4

**Suggests** spelling, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Language** en-US

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Brandon Cohen [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0009-0004-1802-3435>>),  
Joshua Correll [aut, ths] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1142-459X>>)

**Maintainer** Brandon Cohen <[brandon.cohen-1@colorado.edu](mailto:brandon.cohen-1@colorado.edu)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-04-12 02:20:02 UTC

## Contents

batch_eta2p . . . . .	2
eta2p . . . . .	3

<b>Index</b>	<b>8</b>
--------------	----------

---

batch_eta2p	<i>Batch Calculate Partial Eta-Squared for Multiple Effects</i>
-------------	---

---

## Description

Calculates partial eta-squared for all fixed effects (excluding the intercept) in a model.

## Usage

```
batch_eta2p(
  model,
  data,
  design = c("crossed", "nested", "mixed"),
  subj_var = NULL,
  item_var = NULL,
  cross_vars = NULL,
  nest_vars = NULL,
  operative = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

model	A fitted model object from <code>lme4::lmer()</code> .
data	Data frame used to fit the model.
design	Character string: "crossed", "nested", or "mixed". Use "mixed" when the model contains both crossed and nested random effects (e.g., photos nested within models, but both crossed with participants).
subj_var	Character string specifying the subject/participant grouping variable. Retained for backward compatibility; prefer <code>cross_vars</code> .
item_var	Character string specifying the item/stimulus grouping variable. Retained for backward compatibility; prefer <code>cross_vars</code> .
cross_vars	Character vector of grouping variable names that are <i>crossed</i> with each other and with the nested hierarchy (e.g., <code>c("participant")</code> or <code>c("participant", "rater")</code> ). Supersedes <code>subj_var</code> and <code>item_var</code> when provided.

nest_vars	Character vector of nesting variables ordered from lowest to highest level (e.g., c("photo", "model") when photos are nested within models). Required for design = "nested" or design = "mixed".
operative	Logical. If TRUE, calculates operative effect size (excludes variance components that do not contribute to the SE of the effect). Default is FALSE.
verbose	Logical. If TRUE, prints detailed results. Default is TRUE.

### Value

A data frame with one row per effect containing:

effect	Name of the fixed effect.
eta2p	Partial eta-squared value.
effect_level	Effect level (nested/mixed designs only).
variance_effect	Variance attributed to the effect.
variance_error	Error variance used in the denominator.
type	"general" or "operative".
within_subj, within_item	(Crossed/mixed, operative only) Whether the effect is within subjects / within items.

Rows are sorted by eta2p in decreasing order.

---

eta2p	<i>Partial Eta-Squared for Linear Mixed Models</i>
-------	--

---

### Description

Calculates partial eta-squared effect sizes for fixed effects in linear mixed models with crossed, nested, or mixed (crossed-and-nested) random effects.

### Usage

```
eta2p(
  model,
  effect,
  data,
  design = c("crossed", "nested", "mixed"),
  subj_var = NULL,
  item_var = NULL,
  cross_vars = NULL,
  nest_vars = NULL,
  effect_level = NULL,
  var_x = NULL,
  operative = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

model	A fitted model object from <code>lme4::lmer()</code> .
effect	Character string specifying the fixed effect to analyze. Must match a name in <code>fixef(model)</code> .
data	Data frame used to fit the model.
design	Character string: "crossed", "nested", or "mixed". Use "mixed" when the model contains both crossed and nested random effects (e.g., photos nested within models, but both crossed with participants).
subj_var	Character string specifying the subject/participant grouping variable. Retained for backward compatibility; prefer <code>cross_vars</code> .
item_var	Character string specifying the item/stimulus grouping variable. Retained for backward compatibility; prefer <code>cross_vars</code> .
cross_vars	Character vector of grouping variable names that are <i>crossed</i> with each other and with the nested hierarchy (e.g., <code>c("participant")</code> or <code>c("participant", "rater")</code> ). Supersedes <code>subj_var</code> and <code>item_var</code> when provided.
nest_vars	Character vector of nesting variables ordered from lowest to highest level (e.g., <code>c("photo", "model")</code> when photos are nested within models). Required for <code>design = "nested"</code> or <code>design = "mixed"</code> .
effect_level	Character string specifying the level at which the effect varies (e.g., "L1", "L2"). If NULL, detected automatically from <code>nest_vars</code> .
var_x	Optional numeric. Pre-computed variance of the predictor (or interaction product). If supplied, overrides the internal <code>var()</code> calculation from data. Useful when raw data are unavailable but the predictor variance is known (e.g., from design: a +/-1 binary predictor has <code>var_x = 1</code> ).
operative	Logical. If TRUE, calculates operative effect size (excludes variance components that do not contribute to the SE of the effect). Default is FALSE.
verbose	Logical. If TRUE, prints detailed results. Default is TRUE.

## Details

**Variance decomposition:** The function implements a variance decomposition approach for computing partial eta-squared in mixed models. Random slope variances are translated to the outcome scale using:

$$\sigma_{\text{slope}}^2(Y) = \sigma_b^2 \times \sigma_X^2$$

For interaction effects,  $\sigma_X^2$  is computed as the variance of the actual product term, correctly accounting for centering, scaling, and predictor correlation. The `var_x` argument allows bypassing this computation when the variance is known a priori.

**General vs. operative effect sizes:** For **general effect sizes** (default), all variance components appear in the denominator. For **operative effect sizes** (`operative = TRUE`), only components that contribute to the standard error of the effect are included. In mixed designs, each grouping factor (both crossed and nested) is independently classified as "within" or "between" the focal effect; between-subjects intercept variances are excluded from the operative denominator.

**Mixed designs:** Use `design = "mixed"` when the model contains both crossed and nested random effects simultaneously. A canonical example is participants viewing multiple photos of each model (stimulus): photos are nested within models, but both levels are crossed with participants. The corresponding **lme4** model and `eta2p` call would be:

```
fit <- lmer(y ~ x + (1 | participant) + (1 | model) + (1 | photo:model),
           data = dat)
eta2p(fit, "x", dat,
      design      = "mixed",
      cross_vars  = "participant",
      nest_vars   = c("photo", "model"))
```

Residual variance is attributed to the crossed side and counted exactly once; the nested calculator's residual is subtracted to prevent double-counting.

**Crossed designs:** Supports any number of grouping factors via `cross_vars`. The two-argument form (`subj_var + item_var`) is retained for backward compatibility and is equivalent to `cross_vars = c(subj_var, item_var)`.

## Value

An object of class `"eta2p_lmm"` containing:

<code>eta2p</code>	Partial eta-squared value.
<code>variance_effect</code>	Variance explained by the effect.
<code>variance_error</code>	Error variance (denominator).
<code>effect</code>	Name of the effect.
<code>design</code>	Design type: <code>"crossed"</code> , <code>"nested"</code> , or <code>"mixed"</code> .
<code>operative</code>	Whether operative effect size was calculated.
<code>variance_components</code>	List of individual variance components. For <code>"mixed"</code> designs this is a list with <code>\$crossed</code> and <code>\$nested</code> sub-lists.
<code>within_between</code>	(Mixed/crossed designs) Named list or vector classifying each grouping factor as <code>"within"</code> or <code>"between"</code> with respect to the focal effect. Only populated when <code>operative = TRUE</code> .
<code>cross_vars</code>	(Crossed/mixed designs) Crossed grouping variable names.
<code>nest_vars</code>	(Nested/mixed designs) Nested grouping variable names.
<code>n_per_factor</code>	(Crossed designs) Number of units per crossed factor.
<code>n_cross</code>	(Mixed designs) Number of units per crossed factor.
<code>n_nested</code>	(Mixed designs) Number of units per nested factor.
<code>n_levels</code>	(Nested designs) Number of units per nested level.
<code>effect_level</code>	(Nested/mixed designs) Detected or supplied effect level.

## References

Correll, J., Mellinger, C., McClelland, G. H., & Judd, C. M. (2020). Avoid Cohen's 'Small', 'Medium', and 'Large' for Power Analysis. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 24(3), 200–207. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2019.12.009

Correll, J., Mellinger, C., & Pedersen, E. J. (2022). Flexible approaches for estimating partial eta squared in mixed-effects models with crossed random factors. *Behavior Research Methods*, 54, 1626–1642. doi:10.3758/s13428021016872

Rights, J. D., & Sterba, S. K. (2019). Quantifying explained variance in multilevel models: An integrative framework for defining R-squared measures. *Psychological Methods*, 24(3), 309–338. doi:10.1037/met0000184

## Examples

```
library(lme4)

# --- Two crossed factors (backward-compatible call) ---
set.seed(42)
crossed_data <- data.frame(
  y          = rnorm(120),
  condition = rep(c(-0.5, 0.5), 60),
  subject   = factor(rep(1:20, each = 6)),
  item      = factor(rep(1:6, 20))
)
model_c <- lmer(y ~ condition + (1 | subject) + (1 | item),
               data = crossed_data)
eta2p(model_c, "condition", crossed_data,
       design = "crossed",
       subj_var = "subject",
       item_var = "item")

# --- Three crossed factors using cross_vars ---
set.seed(42)
three_way_data <- data.frame(
  y          = rnorm(180),
  condition = rep(c(-0.5, 0.5), 90),
  subject   = factor(rep(1:20, each = 9)),
  item      = factor(rep(rep(1:6, each = 3), 10)),
  rater     = factor(rep(1:3, 60))
)
model_3 <- lmer(y ~ condition +
               (1 | subject) + (1 | item) + (1 | rater),
               data = three_way_data)
eta2p(model_3, "condition", three_way_data,
       design = "crossed",
       cross_vars = c("subject", "item", "rater"))

# --- Mixed design: photos nested within models, crossed with participants ---
# Participants each view multiple photos of multiple models.
# Photos are nested within models (each photo belongs to one model),
# but both levels are crossed with participants.
set.seed(42)
```

```
n_subj <- 30; n_model <- 10; n_photo <- 3
mixed_data <- expand.grid(
  participant = factor(seq_len(n_subj)),
  photo_id    = factor(seq_len(n_model * n_photo))
)
mixed_data$model_id <- factor(
  rep(seq_len(n_model), each = n_photo)[as.integer(mixed_data$photo_id)]
)
mixed_data$x <- rnorm(nrow(mixed_data))
mixed_data$y <- rnorm(nrow(mixed_data))

model_m <- lmer(y ~ x +
  (1 | participant) +
  (1 | model_id) +
  (1 | photo_id:model_id),
  data = mixed_data)
eta2p(model_m, "x", mixed_data,
  design      = "mixed",
  cross_vars  = "participant",
  nest_vars   = c("photo_id", "model_id"))

# --- Supply predictor variance directly (var_x) ---
eta2p(model_c, "condition", crossed_data,
  design      = "crossed",
  cross_vars  = c("subject", "item"),
  var_x       = 1) # +/-1 binary predictor: var = 1 by design
```

# Index

[batch\\_eta2p](#), [2](#)

[eta2p](#), [3](#)