Package ‘forestplot’

September 16, 2017

Version 1.7.2
Date 2017-09-16
Title Advanced Forest Plot Using 'grid' Graphics
Description A forest plot that allows for multiple confidence intervals per row, custom fonts for each text element, custom confidence intervals, text mixed with expressions, and more. The aim is to extend the use of forest plots beyond meta-analyses. This is a more general version of the original 'rmeta' package's forestplot() function and relies heavily on the 'grid' package.
License GPL-2
URL http://gforge.se/packages/
BugReports https://github.com/gforge/forestplot/issues
Biarch yes
Depends grid, magrittr, checkmate
Suggests testthat, abind, knitr, rmarkdown
Encoding UTF-8
NeedsCompilation no
VignetteBuilder knitr
RoxygenNote 6.0.1
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Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2017-09-16 18:51:41 UTC
Description

The forest plot function, `forestplot`, is a more general version of the original `rmeta`-packages `forestplot` implementation. The aim is at using forest plots for more than just meta-analyses.

Details

The forestplot:

1. Allows for multiple confidence intervals per row
2. Custom fonts for each text element
3. Custom confidence intervals
4. Text mixed with expressions
5. Legends both on top/left of the plot and within the graph
6. Custom line height including auto-adapt height
7. Graph width that auto-adapts
8. Flexible arguments
9. and more

Additional functions

The `getTicks` tries to format ticks for plots in a nicer way. The major use is for exponentials where ticks are generated using the $2^n$ since a doubling is a concept easy to grasp for less mathematical-savvy readers.
forestplot  

**Draws a forest plot**

**Description**

The `forestplot` is based on the `rmeta`-package's `forestplot` function. This function resolves some limitations of the original functions such as:

- Adding expressions: Allows use of expressions, e.g. `expression(beta)`
- Multiple bands: Using multiple confidence bands for the same label
- Autosize: Adapts to viewport (graph) size

**Usage**

```
forestplot(...)
```

```r
## Default S3 method:
forestplot(labeltext, mean, lower, upper, align,
    is.summary = FALSE, graph.pos = "right", hrzl_lines, clip = c(-Inf, Inf), xlab = "", zero = ifelse(xlog, 1, 0), graphwidth = "auto", colgap, lineheight = "auto", line.margin, col = fpColors(), txt_gp = fpTxtGp(), xlog = FALSE, xticks, xticks.digits = 2, grid = FALSE, lwd.xaxis, lwd.zero, lwd.ci, lty.ci = 1, ci.vertices, ci.vertices.height = 0.1, boxsize, mar = unit(rep(5, times = 4), "mm"), title, legend, legend_args = fpLegend(), new_page = getOption("forestplot_new_page", TRUE), fn.ci_norm = fpDrawNormalCI, fn.ci_sum = fpDrawSummaryCI, fn.legend, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- ...: Passed on to the `fn.ci_norm` and `fn.ci_sum` arguments
- `labeltext`: A list, matrix, vector or expression with the names of each row. The list should be wrapped in m x n number to resemble a matrix: `list(list("rowname 1 col 1", "rowname 2 col 1")
You can also provide a matrix although this cannot have expressions by design: `matrix(c("rowname 1 col 1", "rowname 2 col 1", "r1c2", "beta"), ncol=2).
Use NA:s for blank spaces and if you provide a full column with NA then that column is an empty column that adds some space. Note: If you do not provide the mean/lower/upper arguments the function expects the label text to be a matrix containing the labeltext in the rownames and then columns for mean, lower, and upper.
- `mean`: A vector or a matrix with the averages. You can also provide a 2D/3D matrix that is automatically converted to the lower/upper parameters. The values should be in exponentiated form if they follow this interpretation, e.g. use `exp(mean)` if you have the output from a logistic regression
- `lower`: The lower bound of the confidence interval for the forestplot, needs to be the same format as the mean, i.e. matrix/vector of equal columns & length
upper: The upper bound of the confidence interval for the forestplot, needs to be the same format as the mean, i.e. matrix/vector of equal columns \& length.

align: Vector giving alignment (l,r,c) for the table columns.

is.summary: A vector indicating by TRUE/FALSE if the value is a summary value which means that it will have a different font-style.

graph.pos: The position of the graph element within the table of text. The position can be 1-(ncol(labeltext) + 1). You can also choose set the positin to "left" or "right".

hrzl_lines: Add horizontal lines to graph. Can either be TRUE or a list of gpar. See line section below for details.

clip: Lower and upper limits for clipping confidence intervals to arrows.

xlab: x-axis label.

zero: x-axis coordinate for zero line. If you provide a vector of length 2 it will print a rectangle instead of just a line.

graphwidth: Width of confidence interval graph, see unit for details on how to utilize mm etc. The default is auto, that is it uses up whatever space that is left after adjusting for text size and legend.

colgap: Sets the gap between columns, defaults to 6 mm but for relative widths. Note that the value should be in unitHLBLnpcBL.

lineheight: Height of the graph. By default this is auto and adjusts to the space that is left after adjusting for x-axis size and legend. Sometimes it might be desirable to set the line height to a certain height, for instance if you have several forestplots you may want to standardize their line height, then you set this variable to a certain height, note this should be provided as a unit object. A good option is to set the line height to unit(2, "cm"). A third option is to set line height to "lines" and then you get 50 % more than what the text height is as your line height.

line.margin: Set the margin between rows, provided in numeric or unit formar. When having multiple confidence lines per row setting the correct margin in order to visually separate rows.

col: Set the colors for all the elements. See fpColors for details.

txt_gp: Set the fonts etc for all text elements. See fpTxtGp for details.

xlog: If TRUE, x-axis tick marks are to follow a logarithmic scale, e.g. for logistic regression (OR), survival estimates (HR), poisson regression etc. Note: This is an intentional break with the original forestplot function as I’ve found that exponentiated ticks/clips/zero effect are more difficult to for non-statisticians and there are sometimes issues with rounding the tick marks properly.

xticks: Optional user-specified x-axis tick marks. Specify NULL to use the defaults, numeric(0) to omit the x-axis. By adding a labels-attribute, attr(my_ticks, "labels") <- ... you can dictate the outputted text at each tick. If you specify a boolean vector then ticks indicated with FALSE wont be printed. Note that the labels have to be the same length as the main variable.

xticks.digits: The number of digits to allow in the x-axis if this is created by default.
grid
If you want a discrete gray dashed grid at the level of the ticks you can set
this parameter to TRUE. If you set the parameter to a vector of values lines
will be drawn at the corresponding positions. If you want to specify the gpar
of the lines then either directly pass a gpar object or set the gp attribute e.g.
attr(line_vector, "gp") <- gpar(lty=2, col = "red")
lwd.xaxis lwd for the xaxis, see gpar
lwd.zero lwd for the vertical line that gives the no-effect line, see gpar
lwd.ci lwd for the confidence bands, see gpar
lty.ci lty for the confidence bands, see gpar
ci.vertices Set this to TRUE if you want the ends of the confidence intervals to be shaped
as a T. This is set default to TRUE if you have any other line type than 1 since
there is a risk of a dash occurring at the very end, i.e. showing incorrectly narrow
confidence interval.
ci.vertices.height
The height hoft the vertices. Defaults to npc units corresponding to 10% of the
row height. Note that the arrows correspond to the vertices heights.
boxsize Override the default box size based on precision
mar A numerical vector of the form c(bottom, left, top, right) of the type
unit
title The title of the plot if any
legend Legend corresponding to the number of bars
legend_args The legend arguments as returned by the fpLegend function.
new_page If you want the plot to appear on a new blank page then set this to TRUE, by
default it is TRUE. If you want to change this behavior for all plots then set the
options(forestplot_new_page = FALSE)
fn.ci_norm You can specify exactly how the line with the box is drawn for the normal (i.e.
non-summary) confidence interval by changing this parameter to your own func-
tion or some of the alternatives provided in the package. It defaults to the box
function fpDrawNormalCI
fn.ci_sum Same as previous argument but for the summary outputs and it defaults to fpDrawSummaryCI.
fn.legend What type of function should be used for drawing the legends, this can be a list
if you want different functions. It defaults to a box if you have anything else
than a single function or the number of columns in the mean argument

Details
See vignette("forestplot") for details.

Value
NULL
Multiple bands

Using multiple bands, i.e. multiple lines, per variable can be interesting when you want to compare different outcomes. E.g. if you want to compare survival specific to heart disease to overall survival for smoking it may be useful to have two bands on top of eachother. Another useful implementation is to show crude and adjusted estimates as separate bands.

Horizontal lines

The argument hrzl_lines can be either TRUE or a list with gpar elements:

- TRUE A line will be added based upon the is.summary rows. If the first line is a summary it
- gpar The same as above but the lines will be formatted according to the gpar element
- list The list must either be numbered, i.e. list("2" = gpar(lty=1)), or have the same length as the NROW(mean) + 1. If the list is numbered the numbers should not exceed the NROW(mean) + 1. The no. 1 row designates the top, i.e. the line above the first row, all other correspond to the row below. Each element in the list needs to be TRUE, NULL, or gpar element. The TRUE defaults to a standard line, the NULL skips a line, while gpar corresponds to the fully customized line. Apart from allowing standard gpar line descriptions, lty, lwd, col, and more you can also specify gpar(columns = c(1:3, 5)) if you for instance want the line to skip a column.

Known issues

The x-axis does not entirely respect the margin. Autosizing boxes is not always the best option, try to set these manually as much as possible.

API-changes from rmeta-package's forestplot

- xlog: The xlog outputs the axis in log() format but the input data should be in antilog/exp format
- col: The corresponding function is fpColors for this package

Author(s)

Max Gordon, Thomas Lumley

See Also

Other forestplot functions: fpColors, fpDrawNormalCI, fpLegend

Examples

# Simple examples of how to do a forestplot #

ask <- par(ask=TRUE)

# A basic example, create some fake data
```r
col_no <- grep("coef", colnames(test_data))
row_names <- list(
  list("Category 1", "Category 2", "Category 3", expression(Category >= 4)),
  list("ref",
```
substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[2, col_no]), 2))),
substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[3, col_no]), 2))),
substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[4, col_no]), 2))))
)

coef <- with(test_data, cbind(coef1, coef2))
low <- with(test_data, cbind(low1, low2))
high <- with(test_data, cbind(high1, high2))

forestplot(row_names, coef, low, high,
title="Cool study",
zero = c(0.98, 1.02),
grid = structure(c(2^- .5, 2^ .5), gp = gpar(col = "steelblue", lty=2)),
boxsize=0.25,
col=fpColors(box=c("royalblue", "gold"),
line=c("darkblue", "orange"),
summary=c("darkblue", "red")),
xlab="The estimates",
new_page = TRUE,
legend=c("Treatment", "Placebo"),
legend_args = fplegend(pos = list("topright"),
title="Group",
  r = unit(.1, "snpc"),
  gp = gpar(col="#CCCCCC", lwd=1.5))

# An example of how the exponential works
test_data <- data.frame(coef=c(2.45, 0.43),
  low=c(1.5, 0.25),
  high=c(4, 0.75),
  boxsize=c(0.5, 0.5))
row_names <- cbind(c("Name", "Variable A", "Variable B"),
  c("HR", test_data$coef))
test_data <- rbind(rep(NA, 3), test_data)

forestplot(labeltext = row_names,
  test_data[,c("coef", "low", "high")],
is.summary=c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE),
boxsize = test_data$boxsize,
zero = 1,
xlog = TRUE,
col = fpColors(lines="red", box="darkred"))

par(ask=ask)
# See vignette for a more detailed description
# vignette("forestplot", package="forestplot")
Description

This function encapsulates all the colors that are used in the forestplot function. As there are plenty of color options this function gathers them all in one place.

Usage

fpColors(all.elements, box = "black", lines = "gray", summary = "black",
zero = "lightgray", text = "black", axes = "black",
hrz_lines = "black")

Arguments

- all.elements: A color for all the elements. If set to NULL then it's set to the par("fg") color
- box: The color of the box indicating the estimate
- lines: The color of the confidence lines
- summary: The color of the summary
- zero: The color of the zero line
- text: The color of the text
- axes: The color of the x-axis at the bottom
- hrz_lines: The color of the horizontal lines

Details

If you have several values per row in a forestplot you can set a color to a vector where the first value represents the first line/box, second the second line/box etc. The vectors are only valid for the box & lines options.

This function is a copy of the meta.colors function in the rmeta package.

Value

- list A list with the elements:
  - box: the color of the box/markers
  - lines: the color of the lines
  - summary: the color of the summary
  - zero: the color of the zero vertical line
  - text: the color of the text
  - axes: the color of the axes

Author(s)

Max Gordon, Thomas Lumley

See Also

Other forestplot functions: forestplot, fpDrawNormalCI, fpLegend
Examples

```r
ask <- par(ask=TRUE)

# An example of how the exponential works
test_data <- data.frame(coef=c(2.45, 0.43),
                        low=c(1.5, 0.25),
                        high=c(4, 0.75),
                        boxsize=c(0.5, 0.5))
row_names <- cbind(c("Name", "Variable A", "Variable B"),
                   c("HR", test_data$coef))
test_data <- rbind(rep(NA, 3), test_data)

forestplot(labeltext = row_names,
           test_data[c("coef", "low", "high")],
           is.summary=c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE),
           boxsize = test_data$boxsize,
           zero = 1,
           xlog = TRUE,
           col = fpColors(lines="#609000", box="#660000", zero = "darkblue"),
           new_page = TRUE)

par(ask=ask)
```

**fpDrawNormalCI**  
*Draw standard confidence intervals*

Description

A function that is used to draw the different confidence intervals for the non-summary lines. Use the `fpDrawNormalCI` function as a template if you want to make your own funky line + marker.

Usage

```r
fpDrawNormalCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, y.offset = 0.5,
                clr.line, clr.marker, lwd, lty = 1, vertices, vertices.height = 0.1, ...)

fpDrawDiamondCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, y.offset = 0.5,
                 clr.line, clr.marker, lwd, lty = 1, vertices, vertices.height = 0.1, ...)

fpDrawCircleCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, y.offset = 0.5,
                clr.line, clr.marker, lwd, lty = 1, vertices, vertices.height = 0.1, ...)

fpDrawPointCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, y.offset = 0.5,
              clr.line, clr.marker, lwd, lty = 1, vertices, vertices.height = 0.1,
              pch = 1, ...)

fpDrawSummaryCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, col, y.offset = 0.5,
                 ...)
```
fpDrawBarCI(lower_limit, estimate, upper_limit, size, col, y.offset = 0.5, ...)

Arguments

lower_limit  The lower limit of the confidence line. A native numeric variable that can actually be outside the boundaries. If you want to see if it is outside then convert it to 'npc' and see if the value ends up more than 1 or less than 0. Here’s how you do the conversion: convertX(unit(upper_limit, "native"), "npc", valueOnly = TRUE) and the convertX together with unit is needed to get the right values while you need to provide the valueOnly as you cannot compare a unit object.

estimate  The estimate indicating the placement of the actual box. Note, this can also be outside bounds and is provided in a numeric format the same way as the lower_limit.

upper_limit  The upper limit of the confidence line. See lower_limit for details.

size  The actual size of the box/diamond/marker. This provided in the 'snpc' format to generate a perfect marker. Although you can provide it alternative units as well, this is useful for the legends to work nicely.

y.offset  If you have multiple lines they need an offset in the y-direction.

clr.line  The color of the line.

clr.marker  The color of the estimate marker

lwd  Line width, see gpar

lty  Line type, see gpar

vertices  Set this to TRUE if you want the ends of the confidence intervals to be shaped as a T. This is set default to TRUE if you have any other line type than 1 since there is a risk of a dash occurring at the very end, i.e. showing incorrectly narrow confidence interval.

vertices.height  The height hoft the vertices. Defaults to npc units corresponding to 10% of the row height.

...  Allows additional parameters for sibling functions

cpch  Type of point see grid.points for details

col  The color of the summary objectct

Value

void The function outputs the line using grid compatible functions and does not return anything.

Author(s)

Max Gordon, Thomas Lumley

See Also

Other forestplot functions: forestplot, fpColors, fpLegend
Examples

ask <- par(ask=TRUE)

test_data <- data.frame(coef1=c(1, 1.59, 1.3, 1.24),
                     coef2=c(1, 1.7, 1.4, 1.84))

test_data$low1 <- test_data$coef1 - 1.96*c(0, .2, .1, .15)
test_data$high1 <- test_data$coef1 + 1.96*c(0, .2, .1, .15)

test_data$low2 <- test_data$coef2 - 1.96*c(0, .1, .15, .2)
test_data$high2 <- test_data$coef2 + 1.96*c(0, .1, .15, .2)

col_no <- grep("coef", colnames(test_data))
row_names <- list(
  list("Category 1", "Category 2", "Category 3", expression(Category >= 4)),
  list("ref",
    substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
      list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[2, col_no]), 2)))),
  substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
    list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[3, col_no]), 2)))),
  substitute(expression(bar(x) == val),
    list(val = round(rowMeans(test_data[4, col_no]), 2))))
)

coeff <- with(test_data, cbind(coef1, coef2))
low <- with(test_data, cbind(low1, low2))
high <- with(test_data, cbind(high1, high2))

# Change all to diamonds
forestplot(row_names, coeff, low, high,
fn.ci_norm=fpDrawDiamondCI,
title="Cool study",
zero = 1, boxsize=0.25,
col=fpColors(box=c("royalblue", "gold"),
  line=c("darkblue", "orange"),
  summary=c("darkblue", "red")),
xlab="The estimates",
new_page = TRUE,
legend=c("Treatment", "Placebo"),
legend_args = fpLegend(title="Group",
  pos = list("topright", inset=.1),
  r=unit(.1, "snpc"),
  gp = gpar(col="#CCCCCC", lwd=1.5))

# Change first to diamonds
forestplot(row_names, coeff, low, high,
fn.ci_norm=fpDrawDiamondCI,
title="Cool study",
zero = 1, boxsize=0.25,
col=fpColors(box=c("royalblue", "gold"),
  line=c("darkblue", "orange"),
  summary=c("darkblue", "red")),
xlab="The estimates",
new_page = TRUE,
legend=c("Treatment", "Placebo"),
legend_args = fpLegend(title="Group",
  pos = list("topright", inset=.1),
  r=unit(.1, "snpc"),
  gp = gpar(col="#CCCCCC", lwd=1.5)))
fpLegend

line=c("darkblue", "orange"),
summary=c("darkblue", "red"),
new_page = TRUE,
legend=c("Treatment", "Placebo"),
legend_args = fpLegend(title="Group",
   pos = list("topright", inset=.1),
   r=unit(.1, "snpc"),
   gp = gpar(col="#CCCCCC", lwd=1.5))

# You can also use a list with the actual functions
# as long as it is formatted [[row]][[column]]
# Note: if you have a non-square input then
# the software will reformat [[col]][[row]]
# to [[row]][[col]]

forestplot(row_names, coef, low, high,
   fn.ci_norm=list(list(fpDrawDiamondCI, fpDrawCircleCI),
      list(fpDrawNormalCI, fpDrawNormalCI),
      list(fpDrawNormalCI, fpDrawCircleCI),
      list(fpDrawNormalCI, fpDrawNormalCI)),
   title="Cool study",
   zero = 1, boxsize=0.25,
   col=fpColors(box=c("royalblue", "gold"),
      line=c("darkblue", "orange"),
      summary=c("darkblue", "red")),
   xlab="The estimates",
   new_page = TRUE,
   legend=c("Treatment", "Placebo"),
   legend_args = fpLegend(title="Group",
      pos = list("topright", inset=.1),
      r=unit(.1, "snpc"),
      gp = gpar(col="#CCCCCC", lwd=1.5))

par(ask=ask)

fpLegend

A function for the legend used in forestplot()

Description

This function encapsulates all the legend options that are used in the forestplot function. This is
in order to limit the crowding among the arguments for the forestplot call.

Usage

fpLegend(pos = "top", gp = NULL, r = unit(0, "snpc"),
   padding = unit(else(lis.null(gp), 3, 0), "mm"), title = NULL)
Arguments

pos The position of the legend, either at the "top" or the "right" unless positioned inside the plot. If you want the legend to be positioned inside the plot then you have to provide a list with the same x & y qualities as legend. For instance if you want the legend to be positioned at the top right corner then use pos = list("topright") - this is equivalent to pos = list(x=1, y=1). If you want to have a distance from the edge of the graph then add a inset to the list, e.g. pos = list("topright", "inset"=.1) - the inset should be either a unit element or a value between 0 and 1. The default is to have the boxes aligned vertical, if you want them to be in a line then you can specify the "align" option, e.g. pos = list("topright", "inset"=.1, "align"="horizontal")

gp The gpar options for the legend. If you want the background color to be light grey then use gp = gpar(fill = "lightgrey"). If you want a border then set the col argument: gp = gpar(fill = "lightgrey", col="black"). You can also use the lwd and lty argument as usual, gp = gpar(lwd=2, lty=1), will result in a black border box of line type 1 and line width 2.

r The box can have rounded edges, check out grid.roundrect. The r option should be a unit object. This is by default unit(0, "snpc") but you can choose any value that you want. The "snpc" unit is the preferred option.

padding The padding for the legend box, only used if box is drawn. This is the distance from the border to the text/boxes of the legend.

title The title of the legend if any

Value

d list Returns a list with all the elements

See Also

Other forestplot functions: forestplot, fpColors, fpDrawNormalCI

fpTxtGp Get font settings for forestplot

Description

This function generates all the gpar() elements for the different text elements within the graph. Elements not specified inherit their default settings from the label argument.

Usage

fpTxtGp(label, summary, xlab, title, ticks, legend, legend.title, cex = 1)
**Arguments**

- **label**: The text labels (see details below)
- **summary**: The summary labels (see details below)
- **xlab**: The xlab text
- **title**: The plot title
- **ticks**: The ticks associated with the xlab
- **legend**: The legend text
- **legend.title**: The legend title
- **cex**: The font size

**Value**

A list of the `fpTxtGp` class

**List arguments for label/summary**

You can provide a list of elements for the `label` and `summary` in order to specify separate elements. If you provide a list in one dimension the `gpar` elements are assumed to follow the columns. If you provide a list of 2 dimensions the structure assumes is `list[[row]][[column]]` and the number of elements should correspond to the number of labels for the `label` argument, i.e. without the rows marked as summary elements. The same goes for `summary` arguments.

**Examples**

```r
fpTxtGp(label=gpar(fontfamily="HersheySerif"))
```

**Description**

Gets the ticks in a formatted version. This is since I’m not always that fond of just pretty(1:10/5). In exponential form the ticks are determined from the 2-base, meaning that you get an intuitive feeling for when the value is doubled.

**Usage**

```r
getTicks(low, high = low, clip = c(-Inf, Inf), exp = FALSE, digits = 0)
```

**Arguments**

- **low**: lower bound, can be a single number or a vector
- **high**: upper bound - optional, you can just have all data in the low variable
- **clip**: if the ci are clipped
- **exp**: If the value should be in exponential form (default)
- **digits**: Number of digits - used in exp mode
Details

This function is far from perfect and I recommend specifying yourself the ticks that you want.

Value

vector Returns a vector with the ticks

Examples

test_data <- data.frame(coef=c(2, 0.5),
  low=c(1.5, 0.05),
  high=c(3, 0.75),
  boxsize=c(0.5, 0.5))

# Exponential form where the exponent base is 2 for easier understanding
getTicks(low = test_data$low,
  high = test_data$high,
  clip=c(-Inf, Inf),
  exp=TRUE)

# Non exponential form with using pretty
getTicks(low = test_data$low,
  high = test_data$high,
  clip=c(-Inf, Inf),
  exp=FALSE)

# A very simple example
getTicks(1:5*2.33,
  exp=FALSE)

# A slightly more advanced exponential version
getTicks(1:10*.33,
  digits=2,
  exp=TRUE)

---

**HRQoL**

*Regression coefficients and confidence intervals from HRQoL study*

---

**Description**

The data is a list containing the Swedish and the Danish coefficients for health related quality of life (HRQoL) 1 year after total hip arthroplasty surgery. The age is modelled as a spline and is therefore presented as a contrast.

**Author(s)**

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