

# Package ‘zcurve’

January 21, 2026

**Title** An Implementation of Z-Curves

**Version** 2.4.6

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**Description** An implementation of z-curves - a method for estimating expected discovery and replicability rates on the bases of test-statistics of published studies. The package provides functions for fitting the density, EM, and censored EM version (Bartoš & Schimmack, 2022, <[doi:10.15626/MP.2021.2720](https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2021.2720)>; Schimmack & Bartoš, 2023, <[doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0290084](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0290084)>), as well as the original density z-curve (Brunner & Schimmack, 2020, <[doi:10.15626/MP.2018.874](https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2018.874)>). Furthermore, the package provides summarizing and plotting functions for the fitted z-curve objects. See the aforementioned articles for more information about the z-curves, expected discovery and replicability rates, validation studies, and limitations.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 1.0.2), nleqslv, stats, evmix, graphics, ggplot2, Rdpack, rlang

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Suggests** parallel, spelling, testthat, vdiff

**Language** en-US

**RdMacros** Rdpack

**URL** <https://fbartos.github.io/zcurve/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/FBartos/zcurve/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-01-21 16:50:02 UTC

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control_density	<i>Control settings for the z-curve 2.0 density algorithm</i>
-----------------	---

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Description

All settings are passed to the density fitting algorithm. All unspecified settings are set to the default value. Setting model = "KD2" sets all settings to the default value irrespective of any other setting and fits z-curve as describe in Bartoš and Schimmack (2022). In order to fit the z-curve 1.0 density algorithm, set model = "KD1" and go to [control\\_density\\_v1](#)

Arguments

version	Which version of z-curve should be fitted. Defaults to 2 = z-curve 2.0. Set to 1 in order to fit the original version of z-curve. For its settings page go to <a href="#">control_density_v1</a> .
model	A type of model to be fitted, defaults to "KD2" (another possibility is "KD1" for the original z-curve 1.0, see <a href="#">control_density_v1</a> for its settings)
sig_level	An alpha level of the test statistics, defaults to .05
a	A beginning of fitting interval, defaults to qnorm(sig_level/2, lower.tail = F)
b	An end of fitting interval, defaults to 6
mu	Means of the components, defaults to seq(0, 6, 1)

sigma	A standard deviation of the components, "Don't touch this" \- Ulrich Schimmack, defaults to 1
theta_min	Lower limits for weights, defaults to <code>rep(0, length(mu))</code>
theta_max	Upper limits for weights, defaults to <code>rep(1, length(mu))</code>
max_iter	A maximum number of iterations for the <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization for fitting mixture model, defaults to 150
max_eval	A maximum number of evaluation for the <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization for fitting mixture model, defaults to 1000
criterion	A criterion to terminate <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization, defaults to $1e-03$
bw	A bandwidth of the kernel density estimation, defaults to .10
aug	Augment truncated kernel density, defaults to TRUE
aug.bw	A bandwidth of the augmentation, defaults to .20
n.bars	A resolution of density function, defaults to 512
density_dbc	Use <a href="#">bckden</a> to estimate a truncated kernel density, defaults to FALSE, in which case <a href="#">density</a> is used
compute_FDR	Whether to compute FDR, leads to noticeable increase in computation, defaults to FALSE
criterion_FDR	A criterion for estimating the maximum FDR, defaults to .02
criterion_FDR_dbc	A criterion for estimating the maximum FDR using the <a href="#">bckden</a> function, defaults to .01
precision_FDR	A maximum FDR precision, defaults to .05

## References

Bartoš F, Schimmack U (2022). "Z-curve 2.0: Estimating replication rates and discovery rates." *Meta-Psychology*, **6**. doi:[10.15626/MP.2021.2720](https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2021.2720).

## See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#), [control\\_density\\_v1](#), [control\\_EM](#)

## Examples

```
# to decrease the criterion and increase the number of iterations
ctrl <- list(
  max_iter = 300,
  criterion = 1e-4
)
## Not run: zcurve(OSC.z, method = "density", control = ctrl)
```

---

control_density_v1	<i>Control settings for the original z-curve density algorithm</i>
--------------------	--

---

## Description

All settings are passed to the density fitting algorithm. All unspecified settings are set to the default value. Setting `model = "KD1"` sets all settings to the default value irrespective of any other setting and fits z-curve as described in Brunner and Schimmack (2020).

## Arguments

<code>version</code>	Set to 1 to fit the original version of z-curve. Defaults to 2 = the updated version of z-curve. For its settings page go to <a href="#">control_density</a> .
<code>model</code>	A type of model to be fitted, defaults to "KD1" (the only possibility)
<code>sig_level</code>	An alpha level of the test statistics, defaults to .05
<code>a</code>	A beginning of fitting interval, defaults to <code>qnorm(sig_level/2, lower.tail = F)</code>
<code>b</code>	An end of fitting interval, defaults to 6
<code>K</code>	Number of mixture components, defaults to 3
<code>max_iter</code>	A maximum number of iterations for the <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization for fitting mixture model, defaults to 150
<code>max_eval</code>	A maximum number of evaluation for the <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization for fitting mixture model, defaults to 300
<code>criterion</code>	A criterion to terminate <a href="#">nlminb</a> optimization, defaults to $1e-10$
<code>bw</code>	A bandwidth of the kernel density estimation, defaults to "nrd0"

## References

Brunner J, Schimmack U (2020). "Estimating population mean power under conditions of heterogeneity and selection for significance." *Meta-Psychology*, **4**. doi:10.15626/MP.2018.874.

## See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#), [control\\_density](#), [control\\_EM](#)

## Examples

```
# to increase the number of iterations
ctrl <- list(
  version = 1,
  max_iter = 300
)
## Not run: zcurve(OSC.z, method = "density", control = ctrl)
```

control\_EM

*Control settings for the zcurve EM algorithm***Description**

All these settings are passed to the Expectation Maximization fitting algorithm. All unspecified settings are set to the default value. Setting `model = "EM"` sets all settings to the default value irrespective of any other setting and fits z-curve as described in Bartoš and Schimmack (2022)

**Arguments**

<code>model</code>	A type of model to be fitted, defaults to "EM" for a z-curve with 7 z-scores centered components.
<code>sig_level</code>	An alpha level of the test statistics, defaults to .05
<code>a</code>	A beginning of fitting interval, defaults to <code>qnorm(sig_level/2, lower.tail = F)</code>
<code>b</code>	An end of fitting interval, defaults to 5
<code>mu</code>	Means of the components, defaults to <code>0:6</code>
<code>sigma</code>	A standard deviation of the components, defaults to <code>rep(1, length(mu))</code>
<code>theta_alpha</code>	A vector of alpha parameters of a Dirichlet distribution for generating random starting values for the weights, defaults to <code>rep(.5, length(mu))</code>
<code>theta_max</code>	Upper limits for weights, defaults to <code>rep(1, length(mu))</code>
<code>criterion</code>	A criterion to terminate the EM algorithm, defaults to <code>1e-6</code>
<code>criterion_start</code>	A criterion to terminate the starting phase of the EM algorithm, defaults to <code>1e-3</code>
<code>criterion_boot</code>	A criterion to terminate the bootstrapping phase of the EM algorithm, defaults to <code>1e-5</code>
<code>max_iter</code>	A maximum number of iterations of the EM algorithm (not including the starting iterations) defaults to <code>10000</code>
<code>max_iter_start</code>	A maximum number of iterations for the starting phase of EM algorithm, defaults to <code>100</code>
<code>max_iter_boot</code>	A maximum number of iterations for the booting phase of EM algorithm, defaults to <code>100</code>
<code>bootstrap_prop</code>	A proportion of the sample size to be used for the bootstrapping, defaults to <code>1.0</code> (i.e., N-out-of-N bootstrap)
<code>fit_reps</code>	A number of starting fits to get the initial position for the EM algorithm, defaults to <code>100</code>

**References**

Bartoš F, Schimmack U (2022). "Z-curve 2.0: Estimating replication rates and discovery rates." *Meta-Psychology*, **6**. doi:[10.15626/MP.2021.2720](https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2021.2720).

**See Also**

[zcurve\(\)](#), [control\\_density](#)

**Examples**

```
# to increase the number of starting fits
# and change the means of the mixture components

ctrl <- list(
  fit_reps = 50,
  mu = c(0, 1.5, 3, 4.5, 6)
)
## Not run: zcurve(OSC.z, method = "EM", control = ctrl)
```

---

head.zcurve_data	<i>Prints first few rows of a z-curve data object</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

Prints first few rows of a z-curve data object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve_data'
head(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	z-curve data object
...	Additional arguments

**See Also**

[zcurve\\_data\(\)](#)

---

is.zcurve	<i>Reports whether x is a zcurve object</i>
-----------	---

---

### Description

Reports whether x is a zcurve object

### Usage

```
is.zcurve(x)
```

### Arguments

x	an object to test
---	-------------------

---

OSC.z	<i>Z-scores from subset of original studies featured in OSC 2015 reproducibility project</i>
-------	--

---

### Description

The dataset contains z-scores from subset of original studies featured in psychology reproducibility project (Collaboration and others 2015). Only z-scores from studies with unambiguous original outcomes are supplied (eliminating 7 studies with marginally significant results). The real replication rate for those studies is 35/90 (the whole project reports 36/97).

### Usage

```
OSC.z
```

### Format

A vector with 90 observations

### References

Collaboration OS, others (2015). “Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science.” *Science*, **349**(6251). doi:[10.1126/science.aac4716](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aac4716).

plot.zcurve

*Plot fitted z-curve object***Description**

Plot fitted z-curve object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve'
plot(
  x,
  annotation = FALSE,
  CI = FALSE,
  extrapolate = FALSE,
  plot_type = "base",
  y.anno = c(0.95, 0.88, 0.78, 0.71, 0.61, 0.53, 0.43, 0.35),
  x.anno = 0.6,
  cex.anno = 1,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

x	Fitted z-curve object
annotation	Add annotation to the plot. Defaults to FALSE.
CI	Plot confidence intervals for the estimated z-curve. Defaults to FALSE.
extrapolate	Scale the chart to the extrapolated area. Defaults to FALSE.
plot_type	Type of plot to be produced. Defaults to "base" for the base plotting function. An alternative is "ggplot" for a ggplot2.
y.anno	A vector of length 8 specifying the y-positions of the individual annotation lines relative to the figure's height. Defaults to c(.95, .88, .78, .71, .61, .53, .43, .35)
x.anno	A number specifying the x-position of the block of annotations relative to the figure's width.
cex.anno	A number specifying the size of the annotation text.
...	Additional arguments including main, xlab, ylab, xlim, ylim, cex.axis, cex.lab

**See Also**[zcurve\(\)](#)



### Examples

```
## Not run:
# simulate some z-statistics and fit a z-curve
z <- abs(rnorm(300,3))
m.EM <- zcurve(z, method = "EM", bootstrap = 100)

# plot the z-curve
plot(m.EM)

# add annotation text and model fit CI
plot(m.EM, annotation = TRUE, CI = TRUE)

# change the location of the annotation to the left
plot(m.EM, annotation = TRUE, CI = TRUE, x_text = 0)

## End(Not run)
```

---

power\_to\_z

*Compute z-score corresponding to a power*

---

### Description

A function for computing z-scores of two-sided tests corresponding to power power for a given significance level alpha alpha (or corresponding cut-off z-statistic a).

### Usage

```
power_to_z(
  power,
  alpha = 0.05,
  a = stats::qnorm(alpha/2, lower.tail = FALSE),
  two.sided = TRUE,
  nleqslv_control = list(xtol = 1e-15, maxit = 300, stepmax = 0.5)
)
```

### Arguments

power	A vector of powers
alpha	Level of significance alpha
a	Or, alternatively a z-score corresponding to alpha
two.sided	Whether directionality of the effect size should be taken into account.
nleqslv_control	A named list of control parameters passed to the <a href="#">nleqslv</a> function used for solving the inverse of <a href="#">z_to_power</a> function.

### Examples

```
# z-scores corresponding to the (aproximate) power of components of EM2
power_to_z(c(0.05, 0.20, 0.40, 0.60, 0.80, 0.974, 0.999), alpha = .05)
```

---

```
print.estimates.zcurve
```

*Prints estimates from z-curve object*

---

### Description

Prints estimates from z-curve object

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve'  
print.estimates(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	Estimate of a z-curve object
...	Additional arguments

### See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#)

---

```
print.summary.zcurve
```

*Prints summary object for z-curve method*

---

### Description

Prints summary object for z-curve method

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve'  
print.summary(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	Summary of a z-curve object
...	Additional arguments

### See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#)

---

print.zcurve	<i>Prints a fitted z-curve object</i>
--------------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Prints a fitted z-curve object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve'  
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	Fitted z-curve object
...	Additional arguments

**See Also**

[zcurve\(\)](#)

---

print.zcurve_data	<i>Prints a z-curve data object</i>
-------------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Prints a z-curve data object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve_data'  
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	z-curve data object
...	Additional arguments

**See Also**

[zcurve\\_data\(\)](#)

---

summary.zcurve	<i>Summarize fitted z-curve object</i>
----------------	--

---

## Description

Summarize fitted z-curve object

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'zcurve'
summary(
  object,
  type = "results",
  all = FALSE,
  ERR.adj = 0.03,
  EDR.adj = 0.05,
  round.coef = 3,
  conf.level = 0.95,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

object	A fitted z-curve object.
type	Whether the results "results" or the mixture mode parameters "parameters" should be returned. Defaults to "results".
all	Whether additional results, such as file drawer ration, expected and missing number of studies, and Soric FDR be returned. Defaults to FALSE
ERR.adj	Confidence intervals adjustment for ERR. Defaults to .03 as proposed by Bartos & Schimmack (in preparation).
EDR.adj	Confidence intervals adjustment for EDR. Defaults to .05 as proposed by Bartos & Schimmack (in preparation).
round.coef	To how many decimals should the coefficient be rounded. Defaults to 3.
conf.level	Confidence level for the confidence intervals. Note that the ERR.adj and EDR.adj arguments were calibrated for a 95% CI and might not be appropriate for other confidence levels.
...	Additional arguments

## Value

Summary of a z-curve object

## See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#)

zcurve

*Fit a z-curve***Description**

zcurve is used to fit z-curve models. The function takes input of z-statistics or two-sided p-values and returns object of class "zcurve" that can be further interrogated by summary and plot function. It default to EM model, but different version of z-curves can be specified using the method and control arguments. See 'Examples' and 'Details' for more information.

**Usage**

```
zcurve(
  z,
  z.lb,
  z.ub,
  p,
  p.lb,
  p.ub,
  data,
  method = "EM",
  bootstrap = 1000,
  parallel = FALSE,
  control = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

z	a vector of z-scores.
z.lb	a vector with start of censoring intervals of censored z-scores.
z.ub	a vector with end of censoring intervals of censored z-scores.
p	a vector of two-sided p-values, internally transformed to z-scores.
p.lb	a vector with start of censoring intervals of censored two-sided p-values.
p.ub	a vector with end of censoring intervals of censored two-sided p-values.
data	an object created with <a href="#">zcurve_data()</a> function.
method	the method to be used for fitting. Possible options are Expectation Maximization "EM" and density "density", defaults to "EM".
bootstrap	the number of bootstraps for estimating CI. To skip bootstrap specify FALSE.
parallel	whether the bootstrap should be performed in parallel. Defaults to FALSE. The implementation is not completely stable and might cause a connection error.
control	additional options for the fitting algorithm more details in <a href="#">control EM</a> or <a href="#">control density</a> .

## Details

The function returns the EM method by default and changing `method = "density"` gives the KD2 version of z-curve as outlined in Bartoš and Schimmack (2022). For the original z-curve (Brunner and Schimmack 2020), referred to as KD1, specify `'control = "density", control = list(model = "KD1")'`. Specifying the lower and upper bounds of z-scores or p-values will fit the censored version of z-curve described in (Schimmack and Bartoš 2023).

## Value

The fitted z-curve object

## References

Bartoš F, Schimmack U (2022). “Z-curve 2.0: Estimating replication rates and discovery rates.” *Meta-Psychology*, **6**. doi:10.15626/MP.2021.2720.

Brunner J, Schimmack U (2020). “Estimating population mean power under conditions of heterogeneity and selection for significance.” *Meta-Psychology*, **4**. doi:10.15626/MP.2018.874.

Schimmack U, Bartoš F (2023). “Estimating the false discovery risk of (randomized) clinical trials in medical journals based on published p-values.” *PLoS ONE*, **18**(8), e0290084. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0290084.

## See Also

[summary.zcurve\(\)](#), [plot.zcurve\(\)](#), [control\\_EM](#), [control\\_density](#)

## Examples

```
# load data from OSC 2015 reproducibility project
OSC.z

# fit an EM z-curve (with disabled bootstrap due to examples times limits)
m.EM <- zcurve(OSC.z, method = "EM", bootstrap = FALSE)
# a version with 1000 bootstrapped samples would looked like:
m.EM <- zcurve(OSC.z, method = "EM", bootstrap = 1000)

# or KD2 z-curve (use larger bootstrap for real inference)
m.D <- zcurve(OSC.z, method = "density", bootstrap = FALSE)

# inspect the results
summary(m.EM)
summary(m.D)
# see '?summary.zcurve' for more output options

# plot the results
plot(m.EM)
plot(m.D)
# see '?plot.zcurve' for more plotting options

# to specify more options, set the control arguments
```

```
# ei. increase the maximum number of iterations and change alpha level
ctr1 <- list(
  "max_iter" = 9999,
  "alpha"    = .10
)
## Not run: m1.EM <- zcurve(OSC.z, method = "EM", bootstrap = FALSE, control = ctr1)
# see '?control_EM' and '?control_density' for more information about different
# z-curves specifications
```

---

zcurve.estimate

*z-curve estimate*


---

## Description

The following functions extract estimates from the z-curve object.

## Usage

```
ERR(object, round.coef = 3)

EDR(object, round.coef = 3)

ODR(object, round.coef = 3)

Soric(object, round.coef = 3)

file_drawer_ratio(object, round.coef = 3)

expected_n(object, round.coef = 0)

missing_n(object, round.coef = 0)

significant_n(object)

included_n(object)
```

## Arguments

object	the z-curve object
round.coef	rounding for the printed values

## Details

Technically, ODR, significant n, and included n are not z-curve estimates but they are grouped in this category for convenience.

## See Also

[zcurve\(\)](#)

zcurve\_clustered

*Fit a z-curve to clustered data***Description**

zcurve\_clustered is used to fit z-curve models to clustered data. The function requires a data object created with the [zcurve\\_data\(\)](#) function as the input (where id denotes clusters). Two different methods that account for clustering are implemented via the EM model: "w" for down weighting the likelihood of the test statistics proportionately to the number of repetitions in the clusters, and "b" for a nested bootstrap where only a single study from each bootstrap is selected for model fitting.

**Usage**

```
zcurve_clustered(
  data,
  method = "b",
  bootstrap = 1000,
  parallel = FALSE,
  control = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

data	an object created with <a href="#">zcurve_data()</a> function.
method	the method to be used for fitting. Possible options are down weighting "w" and nested bootstrap "b". Defaults to "w".
bootstrap	the number of bootstraps for estimating CI. To skip bootstrap specify FALSE.
parallel	whether the bootstrap should be performed in parallel. Defaults to FALSE. The implementation is not completely stable and might cause a connection error.
control	additional options for the fitting algorithm more details in <a href="#">control EM</a> .

**Value**

The fitted z-curve object

**References**

There are no references for Rd macro \insertAllCites on this help page.

**See Also**

[zcurve\(\)](#), [summary.zcurve\(\)](#), [plot.zcurve\(\)](#), [control\\_EM](#), [control\\_density](#)



zcurve\_data

*Prepare data for z-curve***Description**

zcurve\_data is used to prepare data for the `zcurve()` function. The function transform strings containing reported test statistics "z", "t", "f", "chi", "p" into two-sided p-values. Test statistics reported as inequalities are as considered to be censored as well as test statistics reported with low accuracy (i.e., rounded to too few decimals). See details for more information.

**Usage**

```
zcurve_data(data, id = NULL, rounded = TRUE, stat_precise = 2, p_precise = 3)
```

**Arguments**

data	a vector strings containing the test statistics.
id	a vector identifying observations from the same cluster.
rounded	an optional argument specifying whether de-rounding should be applied. Defaults to FALSE to treat all input as exact values or a numeric vector with values specifying precision of the input. The other option, TRUE, automatically extracts the number of decimals from input and treats the input as censored if it does not surpass the stat_precise and the p_precise thresholds.
stat_precise	an integer specifying the numerical precision of "z", "t", "f" statistics treated as exact values.
p_precise	an integer specifying the numerical precision of p-values treated as exact values.

**Details**

By default, the function extract the type of test statistic:

"F(df1, df2)=x" F-statistic with df1 and df2 degrees of freedom,

"chi(df)=x" Chi-square statistic with df degrees of freedom,

"t(df)=x" for t-statistic with df degrees of freedom,

"z=x" for z-statistic,

"p=x" for p-value.

The input is not case sensitive and automatically removes empty spaces. Furthermore, inequalities (" $<$ " and " $>$ ") can be used to denote censoring. I.e., that the p-value is lower than "x" or that the test statistic is larger than "x" respectively. The automatic de-rounding procedure (if rounded = TRUE) treats p-values with less decimal places than specified in p\_precise or test statistics with less decimal places than specified in stat\_precise as censored on an interval that could result in a given rounded value. I.e., a "p = 0.03" input would be de-rounded as a p-value lower than 0.035 but larger than 0.025.

**Value**

An object of type "zcurve\_data".

**See Also**

`zcurve()`, `print.zcurve_data()`, `head.zcurve_data()`

**Examples**

```
# Specify a character vector containing the test statistics
data <- c("z = 2.1", "t(34) = 2.21", "p < 0.03", "F(2,23) > 10", "p = 0.003")

# Obtain the z-curve data object
data <- zcurve_data(data)

# inspect the resulting object
data
```

---

zcurve_options	<i>Options for the zcurve package</i>
----------------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

A placeholder object and functions for the zcurve package. (adapted from the runjags R package).

**Usage**

```
zcurve.options(...)

zcurve.get_option(name)
```

**Arguments**

- ...            named option(s) to change - for a list of available options, see details below.
- name           the name of the option to get the current value of - for a list of available options, see details below.

**Value**

The current value of all available zcurve options (after applying any changes specified) is returned invisibly as a named list.

---

z\_to\_power

---

*Compute power corresponding to z-scores***Description**

A function for computing power of two-sided tests corresponding to z-scores for a given significance level. alpha (or corresponding cut-off z-score a)

**Usage**

```
z_to_power(  
  z,  
  alpha = 0.05,  
  a = stats::qnorm(alpha/2, lower.tail = FALSE),  
  two.sided = TRUE  
)
```

**Arguments**

z	A vector of z-scores
alpha	Level of significance alpha
a	Or, alternatively a z-score corresponding to alpha
two.sided	Whether directionality of the effect size should be taken into account.

**Examples**

```
# mean powers corresponding to the mean components of KD2  
z_to_power(0:6, alpha = .05)
```

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