To determine if there are significant category (cats) effects, first we can use side-by-side boxplots to have an overview of the impact of categories of "cats" on the variable "gauss".

** See the plot in the file named: "side-by-side boxplot of gauss by cats"

From side-by-side boxplot, we can see that there is a difference in the "gauss" values which are in the third category comparing with the other two categories;

"gauss" values in categories one and two are not very different. (A lot of outliers are also observed in all categories).

Then use a linear mix model to verify our claim;

Considering "gauss" as the response variable, "cats" as the categorical fixed effect and "id" as the random effect, we have the model: gauss \sim cats + $(1 \mid id)$;

Here is the output from "lmer" function in R, which gives us: variance and standard deviation of the random effect in the model, and the estimated values, standard errors and the t-values(=estimates/standard deviations) of the fixed effect;

Formula: gauss \sim cats + (1 | id)

Random effects:

Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
id (Intercept) 0.03782 0.1945
Residual 24.95746 4.9957
Number of obs: 300000, groups: id, 1e+05

Fixed effects:

Estimate Std. Error t value (Intercept) 16.00432 0.01582 1011.7 catsthree 7.99944 0.02236 357.7 catstwo 3.99778 0.02236 178.8

"id" does not show too much variability (Variance close to zero), so it makes sense to consider it as random effect.

For the fixed effect, "cats", which is a categorical variable: gauss is higher for cats='three' than cats='one' by 7.99, and it is higher in cats='two' than cats='one' by 3.99. So we can say categories 'one' and 'two' are included more similar values of "gauss" than category 'three'.

We can also use Anova which gives us p-value;

Analysis of Deviance Table (Type II Wald chisquare tests)

Response: gauss

Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq) cats 127983 2 < 2.2e-16 ***

Signif. codes:

0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

From p-value obtained from Wald-type chi-sq test which is very small (< 2.2e-16),

we may say there is a significant difference in "gauss" values corresponding the different levels of "cats" considering "id" as a random effect.

**BUT unfortunately, p-values for mixed models are not as straightforward as they are for the linear model,

CINCLUSION

Thus, we can conclude that there is a SLIGHT difference in "gauss" values

corresponding to the three different categories of variable "cats".