

# Package ‘DirichletMultinomial’

July 6, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Dirichlet-Multinomial Mixture Model Machine Learning for  
Microbiome Data

**Version** 1.51.0

**Description** Dirichlet-multinomial mixture models can be used to  
describe variability in microbial metagenomic data. This  
package is an interface to code originally made available by  
Holmes, Harris, and Quince, 2012, PLoS ONE 7(2): 1-15, as  
discussed further in the man page for this package,  
?DirichletMultinomial.

**License** LGPL-3

**Depends** S4Vectors, IRanges

**Imports** stats4, methods, BiocGenerics

**Suggests** lattice, parallel, MASS, RColorBrewer, DT, knitr, rmarkdown,  
BiocStyle

**Collate** AllGenerics.R dmn.R dmngroup.R roc.R util.R

**SystemRequirements** gsl

**biocViews** ImmunoOncology, Microbiome, Sequencing, Clustering,  
Classification, Metagenomics

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://mtmorgan.github.io/DirichletMultinomial/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/mtmorgan/DirichletMultinomial/issues>

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/DirichletMultinomial>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** 9174cf6

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-04-15

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

**Date/Publication** 2025-07-06

**Author** Martin Morgan [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5874-8148>>)

**Maintainer** Martin Morgan <mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

## Contents

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| DirichletMultinomial-package | 2         |
| cvdmngroup                   | 2         |
| data                         | 4         |
| dmn                          | 4         |
| DMN-class                    | 6         |
| dmngroup                     | 7         |
| DMNGroup-class               | 8         |
| heatmapdmn                   | 9         |
| model components             | 10        |
| roc                          | 11        |
| Utilities                    | 12        |
| <b>Index</b>                 | <b>14</b> |

---

DirichletMultinomial-package

*Dirichlet-Multinomial Mixture Model Machine Learning for Microbiome Data*

---

### Description

Dirichlet-multinomial mixture models can be used to describe variability in microbial metagenomic data. This package is an interface to code originally made available by Holmes, Harris, and Quince, 2012, PLoS ONE 7(2): 1-15.

### Details

The estimation routine is from the LGPL-licensed (as stated on the corresponding googlecode page) source <http://microbedmm.googlecode.com/files/MicrobeDMMv1.0.tar.gz>, retrieved 17 February 2012.

The algorithm is described in Holmes I, Harris K, Quince C, 2012 Dirichlet Multinomial Mixtures: Generative Models for Microbial Metagenomics. PLoS ONE 7(2): e30126. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030126.

### Author(s)

Maintainer: Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

---

cvdmngroup

*Cross-validation on Dirichlet-Multinomial classifiers.*

---

### Description

Run cross-validation on Dirichlet-Multinomial generative classifiers.

### Usage

```
cvdmngroup(ncv, count, k, z, ..., verbose = FALSE,
            .lapply = parallel::mclapply)
```

**Arguments**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ncv     | integer(1) number of cross-validation groups, between 2 and nrow(count).                                                                                                                                                     |
| count   | matrix of sample x taxon counts, subsets of which are used for training and cross-validation.                                                                                                                                |
| k       | named integer() vector of groups and number of Dirichlet components; e.g., c(Lean=1, Obese=3) performs cross-validation for models with k=1 Dirichlet components for the 'Lean' group, k=3 Dirichlet components for 'Obese'. |
| z       | True group assignment.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ...     | Additional arguments, passed to <a href="#">dmn</a> during each cross-validation.                                                                                                                                            |
| verbose | logical(1) indicating whether progress should be reported                                                                                                                                                                    |
| .lapply | A function used to perform the outer cross-validation loop, e.g., lapply for calculation on a single processor, parallel::mclapply for parallel evaluation.                                                                  |

**Value**

A data.frame summarizing classifications of test samples in cross-validation groups. Columns are:

|                    |                                                                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| group              | The cross-validation group in which the individual was used for testing.           |
| additional columns | Named after classification groups, giving the posterior probability of assignment. |

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

**See Also**

[dmn](#), [DirichletMultinomial-package](#), [vignette\("DirichletMultinomial"\)](#)

**Examples**

```
data(xval) ## result of following commands
head(xval)

## Not run:
## count matrix
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "Twins.csv")
count <- t(as.matrix(read.csv(fl, row.names=1)))

## phenotype
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "TwinStudy.t")
pheno0 <- scan(fl)
lvls <- c("Lean", "Obese", "Overwt")
pheno <- factor(lvls[pheno0 + 1], levels=lvls)
names(pheno) <- rownames(count)

## subset
keep <- c("Lean", "Obese")
count <- count[pheno
```

```
pheno <- factor(pheno[pheno

## cross-validation, single Dirichlet component for Lean, 3 for Obese
xval <- cvdmngroup(nrow(count), count, c(Lean=1, Obese=3), pheno,
                  verbose=TRUE, mc.preschedule=FALSE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|      |                                                        |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| data | <i>Data objects used for examples and the vignette</i> |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

These data objects correspond to steps in a typical work flow, as described in the vignette to this package. `fit` corresponds to `dmn` fits to different values of `k`. `bestgroup` is the result of the two-group generative classifier. `xval` summarizes leave-one-out cross validation of the classifier.

## Usage

```
data(fit)
data(bestgrp)
data(xval)
```

## Format

`fit` is a list of seven [DMN](#) objects.

`bestgrp` is a [DMNGroup](#) object.

`xval` is a `data.frame` with columns corresponding to the cross-validation group membership and the Lean and Obese posterior probabilities.

## Examples

```
data(fit); fit[1:2]
plot(sapply(fit, laplace), type="b")
data(bestgrp); bestgrp
data(xval); head(xval, 3)
```

---

|     |                                                        |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| dmn | <i>Fit Dirichlet-Multinomial models to count data.</i> |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

Fit Dirichlet-Multinomial models to a sample x taxon count matrix.

## Usage

```
dmn(count, k, verbose = FALSE, seed = runif(1, 0, .Machine$integer.max))
```

## Arguments

|         |                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| count   | matrix() of sample x taxon counts.                                |
| k       | integer(1), the number of Dirichlet components to fit.            |
| verbose | logical(1) indicating whether progress in fit should be reported. |
| seed    | numeric(1) random number seed.                                    |

## Details

This implements Dirichlet-multinomial mixture models describe in the package help page, [DirichletMultinomial-package](#).

## Value

An object of class dmn, with elements (elements are usually retrieved via functions defined in the package, not directly).

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GoodnessOfFit | NLE, LogDet, Laplace, AIC, and BIC criteria assessing goodness-of-fit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Group         | matrix of dimension samples x k, providing the Dirichlet parameter vectors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Mixture       | <b>Weight</b> numeric() of length k, with relative weight of each component.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Fit           | <b>Lower</b> matrix() of dimension taxa x k with 95% lower bounds on Dirichlet component vector estimates.<br><b>Estimate</b> matrix() of dimension taxa x k with Dirichlet component vector estimates.<br><b>Upper</b> matrix() of dimension taxa x k with 95% upper bounds on Dirichlet component vector estimates. |

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

## References

Holmes I, Harris K, Quince C, 2012 Dirichlet Multinomial Mixtures: Generative Models for Microbial Metagenomics. PLoS ONE 7(2): e30126. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030126.

## See Also

[DirichletMultinomial-package](#), vignette("DirichletMultinomial")

## Examples

```
data(fit)
## k = 1:7; full example in vignette
lplc <- sapply(fit, laplace)
plot(lplc, type="b")
fit[[which.min(lplc)]]
```

---

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| DMN-class | <i>Class "DMN"</i> |
|-----------|--------------------|

---

## Description

Result from fitting a Dirichlet-Multinomial model.

## Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls to [dmn](#)..

## Slots

The contents of a slot is usually retrieved via the methods described on the [mixture](#) help page.

**goodnessOfFit** NLE, LogDet, Laplace, AIC, and BIC criteria assessing goodness-of-fit.

**group** matrix of dimension samples x k, providing the Dirichlet parameter vectors.

**mixture Weight** `numeric()` of length k, with relative weight of each component.

**fit Lower** `matrix()` of dimension taxa x k with 95% lower bounds on Dirichlet component vector estimates.

**Estimate** `matrix()` of dimension taxa x k with Dirichlet component vector estimates.

**Upper** `matrix()` of dimension taxa x k with 95% upper bounds on Dirichlet component vector estimates.

## Methods

See the [mixture](#) help page.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

## See Also

[dmn](#), [mixture](#).

## Examples

```
data(fit)
fit[[4]]
```

---

dmngroup*Dirichlet-Multinomial generative classifiers.*

---

## Description

Fit Dirichlet-Multinomial generative classifiers to groups (rows) within a sample x taxon count matrix.

## Usage

```
dmngroup(count, group, k, ..., simplify = TRUE,  
         .lapply = parallel::mclapply)
```

## Arguments

|          |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| count    | matrix() of sample x taxon counts.                                                                                                                              |
| group    | factor() or vector to be coerced to a factor, with as many elements as there are rows in count, indicating the group to which the corresponding sample belongs. |
| k        | integer(), the number(s) of Dirichlet components to fit.                                                                                                        |
| ...      | Additional arguments, passed to <a href="#">dmn</a> .                                                                                                           |
| simplify | Return only the best-fit model for each group?                                                                                                                  |
| .lapply  | An lapply-like function for application of group x k fits.                                                                                                      |

## Details

This function divided count into groups defined by group, creates all combinations of group x k, and evaluates each using [dmn](#). When simplify=TRUE, the best (Laplace) fit is selected for each group.

## Value

An object of class dmngroup, a list of fitted models of class [dmn](#). When simplify=TRUE, elements are named by the group to which they correspond.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

## References

Holmes I, Harris K, Quince C, 2012 Dirichlet Multinomial Mixtures: Generative Models for Microbial Metagenomics. PLoS ONE 7(2): e30126. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030126.

## See Also

[dmn](#), [DirichletMultinomial-package](#), `vignette("DirichletMultinomial")`

## Examples

```
## best fit for groups 'Lean' and 'Obese'; full example in vignette.
## Not run: bestgrp <- dmngroup(count, pheno, k=1:5, verbose=TRUE,
                               mc.preschedule=FALSE)

## End(Not run)
data(bestgrp)
bestgrp
bestgrp[["Obese"]]
```

---

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| DMNGroup-class | <i>Class "DMNGroup"</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------|

---

## Description

Result from fitting a Dirichlet-Multinomial generative classifier.

## Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls to [dmngroup](#).

## Slots

All slots in this class are inherited from [SimpleList](#); see ‘Methods’, below, for information on how to manipulate this object.

## Extends

Class "[SimpleList](#)", directly. Class "[List](#)", by class "SimpleList", distance 2. Class "[Vector](#)", by class "SimpleList", distance 3. Class "[Annotated](#)", by class "SimpleList", distance 4.

## Methods

See the [mixture](#) help page for functions that operate on DMNGroup and DMN.

DMNGroup can be manipulated as a list; see [SimpleList](#) for a description of typical list-like functions.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

## See Also

[mixture](#), [DMN](#), [SimpleList](#).

## Examples

```
data(bestgrp)
bestgrp
bestgrp[[1]]
```

heatmapdmn

*Heatmap representation of samples assigned to Dirichlet components.***Description**

Produce a heat map summarizing count data, grouped by Dirichlet component.

**Usage**

```
heatmapdmn(count, fit1, fitN, ntaxa = 30, ...,
            transform = sqrt, lblwidth = 0.2 * nrow(count), col = .gradient)
```

**Arguments**

|           |                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| count     | A matrix of sample x taxon counts, as supplied to <a href="#">dmn</a> .                                                                |
| fit1      | An instance of class dmn, from a model fit to a single Dirichlet component, k=1 in <a href="#">dmn</a> .                               |
| fitN      | An instance of class dmn, from a model fit to N != 1 components, k=N in <a href="#">dmn</a> .                                          |
| ntaxa     | The ntaxa most numerous taxa to display counts for.                                                                                    |
| ...       | Additional arguments, ignored.                                                                                                         |
| transform | Transformation to apply to count data prior to visualization; this does <i>not</i> influence mixture membership or taxonomic ordering. |
| lblwidth  | The proportion of the plot to dedicate to taxonomic labels, as a fraction of the number of samples to be plotted.                      |
| col       | The colors used to display (possibly transformed, by transform) count data, as used by <a href="#">image</a> .                         |

**Details**

Columns of the heat map correspond to samples. Samples are grouped by Dirichlet component, with average (Dirichlet) components summarized as a separate wide column. Rows correspond to taxonomic groups, ordered based on contribution to Dirichlet components.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

**Examples**

```
## counts
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "Twins.csv")
count <- t(as.matrix(read.csv(fl, row.names=1)))

## all and best-fit clustering
data(fit)
lplc <- sapply(fit, laplace)
best <- fit[[which.min(lplc)]]

heatmapdmn(count, fit[[1]], best, 30)
```

---

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| model components | <i>Access model components.</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|

---

## Description

The accessors `mixture` and `mixturewt` return information about the estimated Dirichlet components of the fitted model. Return values are described in the Values section, below.

## Usage

```
mixture(object, ..., assign=FALSE)
mixturewt(object, ...)
goodnessOfFit(object, ...)
laplace(object, ...)
## S4 method for signature 'DMN'
AIC(object, ..., k = 2)
## S4 method for signature 'DMN'
BIC(object, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'DMN'
fitted(object, ..., scale=FALSE)
## S4 method for signature 'DMN'
predict(object, newdata, ..., logevidence=FALSE)
## S4 method for signature 'DMNGroup'
fitted(object, ...)
## S4 method for signature 'DMNGroup'
predict(object, newdata, ..., assign=FALSE)
## S4 method for signature 'DMNGroup'
summary(object, ...)
```

## Arguments

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>object</code>      | An instance of class <code>dmn</code> .                                                                                                                                                             |
| <code>newdata</code>     | A matrix of new sample x taxon data to be fitted to the model of <code>object</code> .                                                                                                              |
| <code>...</code>         | Additional arguments, available to methods, when applicable.                                                                                                                                        |
| <code>assign</code>      | logical(1) indicating whether the maximum per-sample mixture component should be returned ( <code>assign=FALSE</code> ), or the full mixture matrix ( <code>assign=TRUE</code> ).                   |
| <code>scale</code>       | logical(1) indicating whether fitted values should be returned unscaled (default, <code>scaled=FALSE</code> ) or scaled by the variability of <code>mixturewt</code> parameter <code>theta</code> . |
| <code>logevidence</code> | logical(1) indicating whether posterior probability (default, <code>logevidence=FALSE</code> ) or log evidence <code>logical=TRUE</code> should be returned.                                        |
| <code>k</code>           | ignored.                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Value

`mixture` with `assign=FALSE` returns a matrix of sample x Dirichlet component estimates. With `assign=TRUE` `mixture` returns a named vector indexing the maximal Dirichlet component of each sample.

`mixturewt` returns a matrix with rows corresponding to mixture components, and columns `pi` (component weight) and `theta` (component variability). Small values of `theta` correspond to highly variable components.

`goodnessOfFit` returns a named numeric vector of measures of goodness of fit.

`laplace`, `AIC`, and `BIC` return the corresponding measures of goodness of fit.

### Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

### Examples

```
data(fit)
best <- fit[[4]]
mixturewt(best)
head(mixture(best), 3)
head(mixture(best, assign=TRUE), 3)
goodnessOfFit(best)

f1 <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "Twins.csv")
count <- t(as.matrix(read.csv(f1, row.names=1)))
data(bestgrp)
bestgrp
head(predict(bestgrp, count))
```

---

roc

*Summarize receiver-operator characteristics*

---

### Description

Returns a `data.frame` summarizing the cumulative true- and false-positive probabilities from expected and observed classifications.

### Usage

```
roc(exp, obs, ...)
```

### Arguments

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>exp</code> | <code>logical()</code> vector of expected classifications to a particular group.                                                                                        |
| <code>obs</code> | Predicted probability of assignment to the group identified by TRUE values in <code>exp</code> . The length of <code>exp</code> and <code>obs</code> must be identical. |
| <code>...</code> | Additional arguments, available to methods.                                                                                                                             |

### Value

A `data.frame` with columns

|                            |                                                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <code>TruePositive</code>  | Cummulative probability of correct assignment.   |
| <code>FalsePositive</code> | Cummulative probability of incorrect assignment. |

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

**Examples**

```
library(lattice)

## count matrix
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "Twins.csv")
count <- t(as.matrix(read.csv(fl, row.names=1)))

## phenotype
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "TwinStudy.t")
pheno0 <- scan(fl)
lvls <- c("Lean", "Obese", "Overwt")
pheno <- factor(lvls[pheno0 + 1], levels=lvls)
names(pheno) <- rownames(count)

## count data used for cross-validation, and cross-validation
count <- csubset(c("Lean", "Obese"), count, pheno)
data(bestgrp)

## true, false positives from single-group classifier
bst <- roc(pheno[rownames(count)] == "Obese",
          predict(bestgrp, count)[,"Obese"])
head(bst)

## lattice plot
xyplot(TruePositive ~ FalsePositive, bst, type="l",
       xlab="False Positive", ylab="True Positive")
```

---

Utilities

*Helpful utility functions*


---

**Description**

`csubset` creates a subset of a count matrix, based on identity of column phenotypes to a specified value.

**Usage**

```
csubset(val, x, pheno, cidx = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

|                    |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>val</code>   | character(1) specifying the subset of phenotype to select.                                                                               |
| <code>x</code>     | A matrix of counts, with rows corresponding to samples and columns to taxonomic groups.                                                  |
| <code>pheno</code> | A character() vector of length equal to the number of rows in <code>count</code> , indicating the phenotype of the corresponding sample. |

`cidx` A logical(1) indicating whether columns (taxa) with zero counts in the count matrix following removal of taxa not satisfying `pheno %in% val` should be removed. `cidx=FALSE` removes the 0-count columns.

**Value**

A matrix of counts, with rows satisfying `pheno %in% val` and with columns equal either to `ncol(x)` (when `cidx=TRUE`) or the number of columns with non-zero counts after row subsetting (`cidx=FALSE`).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.xyz@gmail.com>

**Examples**

```
## count matrix
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "Twins.csv")
count <- t(as.matrix(read.csv(fl, row.names=1)))

## phenotype
fl <- system.file(package="DirichletMultinomial", "extdata",
                  "TwinStudy.t")
pheno0 <- scan(fl)
lvls <- c("Lean", "Obese", "Overwt")
pheno <- factor(lvls[pheno0 + 1], levels=lvls)
names(pheno) <- rownames(count)

## subset
dim(count)
sum("Lean" == pheno)
dim(csubset("Lean", count, pheno))
dim(csubset("Lean", count, pheno, cidx=FALSE))
```

# Index

- \* **classes**
  - DMN-class, [6](#)
  - DMNGroup-class, [8](#)
- \* **datasets**
  - data, [4](#)
- \* **manip**
  - dmn, [4](#)
  - dmngroup, [7](#)
  - heatmapdmn, [9](#)
  - model components, [10](#)
  - Utilities, [12](#)
- \* **package**
  - DirichletMultinomial-package, [2](#)
- \* **stats**
  - cvdmggroup, [2](#)
  - roc, [11](#)
- AIC, DMN-method (model components), [10](#)
- Annotated, [8](#)
- bestgrp (data), [4](#)
- BIC, DMN-method (model components), [10](#)
- csubset (Utilities), [12](#)
- cvdmngroup, [2](#)
- data, [4](#)
- DirichletMultinomial-package, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [7](#)
- DMN, [4](#), [8](#)
- dmn, [3](#), [4](#), [6](#), [7](#), [9](#), [10](#)
- DMN-class, [6](#)
- DMNGroup, [4](#)
- dmngroup, [7](#), [8](#)
- DMNGroup-class, [8](#)
- fit (data), [4](#)
- fitted, DMN-method (model components), [10](#)
- fitted, DMNGroup-method (model components), [10](#)
- goodnessOfFit (model components), [10](#)
- heatmapdmn, [9](#)
- image, [9](#)
- laplace (model components), [10](#)
- List, [8](#)
- mixture, [6](#), [8](#)
- mixture (model components), [10](#)
- mixturewt, [10](#)
- mixturewt (model components), [10](#)
- model components, [10](#)
- predict, DMN-method (model components), [10](#)
- predict, DMNGroup-method (model components), [10](#)
- roc, [11](#)
- show, DMN-method (model components), [10](#)
- show, DMNGroup-method (model components), [10](#)
- SimpleList, [8](#)
- summary, DMNGroup-method (model components), [10](#)
- Utilities, [12](#)
- Vector, [8](#)
- xval (data), [4](#)