Package 'DirichletReg'

October 19, 2026

Type Package

Version 0.7-4

Date 2026-10-19

Title Dirichlet Regression

Description Implements Dirichlet regression models.

Encoding UTF-8

Depends R (>= 3.0.0), Formula

Imports stats, graphics, methods, maxLik

Suggests rgl, knitr, rmarkdown, formatR, testthat

License GPL (>= 2)

URL https://github.com/maiermarco/DirichletReg, https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=DirichletReg

BugReports https://github.com/maiermarco/DirichletReg/issues

ByteCompile yes

LazyLoad yes

LazyData yes

ZipData yes

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

NeedsCompilation yes

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-10-19 14:10:02 UTC

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`DirichletReg-package` *The* **DirichletReg** *Package*

Description

This package provides a functions to analyze compositional data using Dirichlet regression methods.

Package:	DirichletReg
Type:	Package
Version:	0.7-4
Date:	2026-10-19
License:	GPL (>= 2)

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
example(plot.DirichletRegData)
example(DirichReg)
```

anova.DirichletRegModel *Compare Dirichlet Regression Models using an LRT*

Description

This function allows for pairwise tests of Dirichlet regression models using a likelihood ratio test (LRT).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
anova(object, ..., sorted = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`object`	the model to be compared against those listed in ...
`...`	models to be tested against the one specified as `object`
`sorted`	should the models be sorted according to their numbers or parameters?

Details

The test statistic is computed $LR = -2\left[\log(L_a) - \log(L_b)\right]$ where L_i is the likelihood of model i with df equal to the difference of the number of parameters in the models.

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
ALake <- ArcticLake
ALake$AL <- DR_data(ArcticLake[,1:3])
mod0 <- DirichReg(AL ~ 1, ALake)
mod1 <- DirichReg(AL ~ depth, ALake)
mod2 <- DirichReg(AL ~ depth + I(depth^2), ALake)
anova(mod1, mod0, mod2, sorted = TRUE)
```

ArcticLake *Arctic Lake Data (Aitchison)*

Description

These data are taken from Aitchison (2003) and contain information on the relation of sediment composition with depth in an Arctic lake.

Usage

```
ArcticLake
```

Format

A data frame with 39 observations on the following 4 variables:

`sand`, `silt`, `clay` relative frequencies of sand, silt, and clay

`depth` water depth in meters

Source

Aitchison, J. (2003). *The Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data.* The Blackburn Press, Caldwell, NJ.

Examples

```
head(ArcticLake)
AL <- DR_data(ArcticLake[,1:3])
plot(AL)
summary(AL)
```

BloodSamples *Serum Protein Composition in Blood Samples*

Description

These data (Aitchison, 2003) list blood samples' compositions of *Albumin*, *Pre-Albumin*, *Globulin A*, and *Globulin B* in relation to two types of diseases. 14 patients suffer from disease A, 16 from disease B and 6 are unclassified.

Usage

```
BloodSamples
```

Format

A data frame with 36 observations on the following 6 variables.

`Albumin`, `Pre.Albumin`, `Globulin.A`, `Globulin.B` the amounts of Albumin, Pre-Albumin, Globulin A, and Globulin B.

`Disease` diagnosis of disease `A`, `B`, or `NA` for unclassified observations.

`New` a factor indicating whether the observations are old and classified (`No`) or new and unclassified (`Yes`).

Source

Aitchison, J. (2003). *The Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data.* The Blackburn Press, Caldwell, NJ.

Examples

```
head(BloodSamples)
Bl <- DR_data(BloodSamples[,1:4])
summary(Bl)
```

Dirichlet *The Dirichlet Distribution*

Description

Density function and random number generation for the Dirichlet distribution

Usage

```
rdirichlet(n, alpha)

ddirichlet(x, alpha, log = FALSE, sum.up = FALSE)

ddirichlet_R(x, alpha, log = FALSE, sum.up = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`n`	number of random observations to draw
`x`	a matrix containing observations
`alpha`	the Dirichlet distribution's parameters. Can be a vector (one set of parameters for all observations) or a matrix (a different set of parameters for each observation), see "Details"
`log`	if `TRUE`, logarithmic densities are returned
`sum.up`	if `TRUE`, the (log-)likelihood is returned

Details

The Dirichlet distribution is a multidimensional generalization of the Beta distribution where each dimension is governed by an α-parameter. Formally this is

$$\mathcal{D}(\alpha_i) = \left[\Gamma(\sum_i \alpha_i) \Big/ \prod_i \Gamma(\alpha_i) \right] \prod_i y_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$$

Usually, `alpha` is a vector thus the same parameters will be used for all observations. If `alpha` is a matrix, a complete set of α-parameters must be supplied for each observation.

`log` returns the logarithm of the densities (therefore the log-likelihood) and `sum.up` returns the product or sum and thereby the likelihood or log-likelihood.

Dirichlet (log-)densities are by default computed using C-routines (`ddirichlet_log_vector` and `ddirichlet_log_matrix`), a version only using R is provided by `ddirichlet_R`. Caution: Although `.C()` can be used to call the C routines directly, R will crash or produce wrong values, if, e.g., data types are not set properly.

Value

`rdirichlet`	returns a matrix with random numbers according to the supplied alpha vector or matrix.
`ddirichlet`	returns a vector of densities (if `sum.up = FALSE`) or the (log-)likelihood (if `sum.up = TRUE`) for the given data and alphas. Returns `NaN` if any element of `alpha` is ≤ 0.
`ddirichlet_R`	as `ddirichlet`, only implemented purely in R.

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
X1 <- rdirichlet(100, c(5, 5, 10))

a.mat <- cbind(1:10, 5, 10:1)
a.mat
X2 <- rdirichlet(10, a.mat)
# note how the probabilities in the first an last column relate to a.mat
round(X2, 2)

ddirichlet(X1, c(5, 5, 10))
ddirichlet(X2, a.mat)

ddirichlet(X2[1:3,], c(1, 2, -1))
ddirichlet(X2[1:3,], c(1, 2, -1), sum.up = TRUE)
```

`DirichletRegData` *Prepare Compositional Data*

Description

This function prepares a matrix with compositional variables for further processing in the **DirichletReg** package.

Usage

```
DR_data(Y, trafo = sqrt(.Machine$double.eps), base = 1,
    norm_tol = sqrt(.Machine$double.eps))

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegData'
print(x, type = c("processed", "original"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegData'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

`Y`	A `matrix` or `data.frame` with nonnegative values of all compositional variables (in some cases, a vector is also permissible, see "Details").
`trafo`	Either a logical or numeric value. Transformation of variables causes the values to shrink away from extreme values of 0 and 1, see "Details". If logical, it will force (`TRUE`) or suppress (`FALSE`) transformation. Suppressing transformation in the presence of extreme values (0 and 1) will result in an error. If `trafo` is numeric it is used as a "threshold", so transformation will be applied if values in `Y` are $y <$ `trafo` or $y >$ (1 − `trafo`).
`base`	The "base" component to use in the reparametrized model
`norm_tol`	Due to numerical precision, row sums of $\mathbf{Y}$ may not be *exactly* equal to 1. Therefore, `norm_tol` is a small non-negative value (default: $\sqrt{\texttt{.Machine\$double.eps}}$) which represents the tolerance when testing for "near equality" to 1 (see `all.equal`).
`x`	A `DirichletRegData` object
`type`	Displays either the (possibly normalized or transformed) `"processed"` or `"original"` data
`object`	A `DirichletRegData` object
`...`	Further arguments

Details

`Y`:

`Y` is a `matrix` or `data.frame` containing compositional variables. If they do not sum up to 1 for all observations, normalization is forced where each row entry is divided by the row's sum (a warning will be issued that normalization was applied).

In case one row-entry (or more) is NA, the whole row will be returned as NA. Beta-distributed variables can be supplied as a single vector which, however, has to have values in the interval $[0, 1]$. The second variable will be generated (1 - Y) and a matrix consisting of the columns 1 - Y and Y will be returned. A message will be issued that a beta-distributed variable was assumed and that this assumtion needs to be checked.

trafo:

The transformation (done if trafo = TRUE) is a generalization of that proposed by Smithson and Verkuilen (2006) that transforms each component y of Y by computing $y^* = \frac{y(n-1)+\frac{1}{2}}{n}$ where n is the number of observations in Y (this approach is also used in the package **betareg**, see Cribari-Neto & Zeileis, 2010).
For an arbitrary number of dimensions (or variables) d the transformation is $y^* = \frac{y(n-1)+\frac{1}{d}}{n}$.

base:

To set the base (i.e., omitted) component of Y for the "alternative" (mean/precision) model, the argument base can be used. This is by default set to the first variable in Y (if a vector is be supplied, the column 1 - Y becomes the base component).
Note that the definition can be overruled in DirichReg.

x **and** object:

Objects created by DR_data.

type:

specifies for the print method whether the original or processed data are displayed.

Value

The function returns a matrix object of class DirichletRegData with the following attributes:

attr(*, "dimnames")
: a list with two entries, row names (by default NULL) and column names.

attr(*, "Y.original")
: the original data

attr(*, "dims")
: number of dimensions of Y (i.e., number of columns)

attr(*, "dim.names")
: the number of components in Y

attr(*, "obs")
: number of observations of Y (i.e., number of rows)

attr(*, "valid_obs")
: number of valid observations

attr(*, "normalized")
: a logical value indicating whether the data were normalized

attr(*, "transformed")
: a logical value indicating whether the data were transformed

attr(*, "base")
: number of the variable used as the base in the reparametrized model

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

References

Smithson, M. & Verkuilen, J. (2006). A Better Lemon Squeezer? Maximum-Likelihood Regression With Beta-Distributed Dependent Variables. *Psychological Methods, 11*(1), 54–71.

Cribari-Neto, F. & Zeileis, A. (2010). Beta Regression in R. *Journal of Statistical Software, 34*(2), 1–24.

Examples

```
# create a DirichletRegData object from the Arctic Lake data
head(ArcticLake[, 1:3])
AL <- DR_data(ArcticLake[, 1:3])
summary(AL)
head(AL)
```

`DirichletRegModel` *Methods for the Class* `DirichletRegModel`

Description

These are available methods for the results of Dirichlet regression models and objects of class `DirichletRegModel`. These methods contain functions for `print` and `summary` of the data, generate `fitted` values and predicting new values using `predict`. Various types of `residuals` are implemented and `confint` can be used to compute confidence intervals of the parameters. Furthermore `logLik` extracts the log-likelihood of the model and `vcov` extracts the covariance matrix of the parameter estimates.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
print(x, digits = max(3, getOption("digits") - 3), ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
fitted(object, mu = TRUE, alpha = FALSE, phi = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
predict(object, newdata, mu = TRUE, alpha = FALSE, phi = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
residuals(object, type = c("standardized", "composite", "raw"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
confint(object, parm, level, ..., type=c("all", "beta", "gamma"), exp = FALSE)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegConfint'
```

```
print(x, digits = 3, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
logLik(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
AIC(object, ..., k = 2)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
BIC(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
nobs(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
vcov(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
update(object, formula., ..., evaluate = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegModel'
drop1(object, scope, test = c("LRT", "none"), k = 2, sort = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	an object of class DirichletRegModel
object	an object of class DirichletRegModel or DirichletRegConfint for printing an object obtained by confint.DirichletRegModel
alpha	logical; returns alpha values
mu	logical; returns expected values
phi	logical; returns precision values
type	for residuals: defines the type of residuals to be computed "standardized" (i.e., Pearson), "composite", or "raw" for confint: defines the type of parameter ("all", "beta", or "gamma") for which confidence values are returned
newdata	a data.frame containing new observations
k	number for the weighting of parameters
parm	a vector containing names of the parameters to print
level	(a vector of) confidence level(s), defaults to .95
exp	logical; returns parameters in exponentiated form
digits	the number of digits in the output
formula.	the new formula to be updated, see update.formula and update.Formula
evaluate	if FALSE the updated call will be returned, but not evaluated
scope	defines the scope of variables to be dropped, see drop1

test	defines the type of test for drop1
sort	if TRUE, p-values will be sorted in decreasing order.
...	further arguments

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
ALake <- ArcticLake
ALake$AL <- DR_data(ArcticLake[, 1:3])

mod1 <- DirichReg(AL ~ depth + I(depth^2) | depth, data = ALake, model="alternative")

update(mod1, . ~ . | . + I(depth^2), evaluate = FALSE)
mod1

drop1(mod1)   ### issues a caveat when used for the first time in an R session

summary(mod1)

head(fitted(mod1))

predict(mod1, newdata = data.frame("depth" = seq(10, 100, 10)))

head(residuals(mod1))

confint(mod1)
confint(mod1, exp = TRUE)

logLik(mod1)
round(vcov(mod1), 5)
```

DirichReg *Fitting a Dirichlet Regression*

Description

This function allows for fitting Dirichlet regression models using two different parametrizations.

Usage

```
DirichReg(formula, data, model = c("common", "alternative"),
          subset, sub.comp, base, weights, control, verbosity = 0)
```

Arguments

formula	the model formula (for different specifications see "Details")
data	a data.frame containing independent **and** dependent variables
model	specifies whether the "common" (αs) or "alternative" (μ/ϕ) parametrization is employed (see "Details")
subset	estimates the model for a subset of the data
sub.comp	analyze a subcomposition by selecting specific components (see "Details")
base	redefine the base variable
weights	frequency weights
control	a list containing control parameters used for the optimization
verbosity	prints information about the function's progress, see Details

Details

Formula Specification and Models: formula determines the used predictors. The responses **must** be prepared by DR_data and can be optionally stored in the object containing all covariates which is then specified as the argument data. (Although "on-the-fly" processing of DR_data in a formula works, it is only intended for testing purposes and may be removed at any time – use at your own risk.)

There are two different parametrization (controlled by the argument model, see below):

- the *"common"* param. that models each α by an (possibly individual) set of predictors, and
- the *"alternative"* param. that models expected values (μ; as in multinomial logistic regression) and precision parameters (ϕ) with two sets of predictors.

As the two models offer different modeling strategies, the specification of their formulae differ:

Formulae for the "Common" Model: The simplest possible model here is to include only an intercept for all components. If DV is the *'dependent variable'* (i.e., compositional data) with three components, we can request this null-model by DV ~ 1. We always have at least two dependent variables, so simple formulae as the one given above will be expanded to DV ~ 1 | 1 | 1, because DV hast three components. Likewise, it is possible to specify a common set of predictors for all components, as in DV ~ p1 * p2, where p1 and p2 are predictors.
If the covariates of the components shall differ, one has to set up a complete formula for each subcomposition, using | as separators between the components, for example, DV ~ p1 | p1 + p2 | p1 * p2 will lead to a model where the first response in DV will be modeled using p1, the second will be predicted by p1 + p2 and the third by p1 * p2. Note that if you use the latter approach, the predictors have to be stated explicitly for all response variables.

Formulae for the "Alternative" Model: The simplest possible model here is to include an intercept for all components (except the base) and an intercept for precision. This can be achieved by DV ~ 1, which is expanded to DV ~ 1 | 1. The part modeling the 'mean' (first element on the right-hand side) is mandatory, if no specification for precision is included, an intercept will be added. Note that you need to set model = "alternative" to use this parametrization!
The alternative parametrization consists of two parts: modeled expected values (μ) and their 'precision' (ϕ). As in multinomial logistic regression, one response variable is omitted (by default the first, but this can be changed by the base argument in DR_data or DirichReg) and

for the rest a set of predictors is used with a multinomial logit-link. For precisions, a different set of predictors can be set up using a log-link.
`DV ~ p1 * p2 | p1 + p2` will set up a model where the expected values are predicted by `p1 * p2` and precision are modeled using `p1 + p2`.

Data Preparation: The `data` argument accepts a `data.frame` that **must** include the dependent variable as a named element (see examples how to do this).

Changing the Base Component and Analyzing Subcompositions: The base-component (i.e., omitted component) is initially set during the stage of data preparation `DR_data`, but can easily be changed using the argument `base` which takes integer values from 1 to the maximum number of components.

If a data set contains a large number of components, of which only a few are relevant, the latter can be 'sorted out' and the irrelevant (i.e., not selected) components will be aggregated into a single variable (row sums) that automatically becomes the base category for the model, unless specified otherwise by `base`. The positioning of variables will necessarily change: the aggregated variable takes the first column and the others are appended in their order of selection.

Subsets and Weights: Using `subset`, the model can be fitted only to a part of the data, for more information about this functionality, see `subset`.
Note that, unlike in `glm`, `weights` are **not** treated as prior weights, but as frequency weights!

Optimization and Verbosity: Using the `control` argument, the settings passed to the optimizers can be altered. This argument takes a named list. To supply user-defined starting values, use `control = list(sv=c(...))` and supply a vector containing initial values for all parameters. Optimizer-specific options include the number of iterations (`iterlim = 1000`) and convergence criteria for the BFGS- and NR-optimization ((`tol1 = 1e-5`) and (`tol2 = 1e-10`)).

Verbosity takes integer values from `0` to `4`. `0`, no information is printed (default). `1` prints information about 3 stages (preparation, starting values, estimation). `2` prints little information about optimization (`verbosity` values greater than one are passed to `print.default = verbosity - 1` of `maxBFGS` and `maxNR`). `3` prints more information about optimization. `4` prints all information about optimization.

Value

`call`	[`language`] function call
`parametrization`	[`character`] used parametrization
`varnames`	[`character`] components' names
`n.vars`	[`numeric`] vector with the number of parameters per set of predictors
`dims`	[`numeric`] number of components
`Y`	[`numeric`] used components
`X`	[`numeric list`] sets of predictors
`Z`	[`numeric list`] sets of predictors (only for the alternative parametrization)
`sub.comp`	[`numeric`] vector of single components
`base`	[`numeric`] base (only for the alternative parametrization)

weights	[numeric] vector of frequency weights
orig.resp	[DirichletRegData] the original response
data	[data.frame] original data
d	[data.frame] used data
formula	[Formula] expanded formula
mf_formula	[language] expression for generating the model frame
npar	[numeric] number of parameters
coefficients	[numeric] named vector of parameters
coefnames	[character] names of the parameters
fitted.values	[list of matrices] list containing alpha's, mu's, phi's for the observations
logLik	[numeric] the log-likelihood
vcov	[matrix] covariance-matrix of parameter estimates
hessian	[matrix] (observed) Hessian
se	[numeric] vector of standard errors
optimization	[list] contains details about the optimization process provided by maxBFGS and maxNR

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
ALake <- ArcticLake
ALake$Y <- DR_data(ALake[,1:3])

# fit a quadratic Dirichlet regression models ("common")
res1 <- DirichReg(Y ~ depth + I(depth^2), ALake)

# fit a Dirichlet regression with quadratic predictor for the mean and
# a linear predictor for precision ("alternative")
res2 <- DirichReg(Y ~ depth + I(depth^2) | depth, ALake, model="alternative")

# test both models
anova(res1, res2)

res1
summary(res2)
```

GlacialTills *Glacial Tills*

Description

Data from Aitchison (2003)

Usage

```
GlacialTills
```

Format

A data frame with 92 observations on the following 5 variables.

`Red.Sandstone` a numeric vector

`Gray.Sandstone` a numeric vector

`Crystalline` a numeric vector

`Miscellaneous` a numeric vector

`Pcount` a numeric vector

Source

Aitchison, J. (2003). *The Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data.* The Blackburn Press, Caldwell, NJ.

plot.DirichletRegData *Plot Dirichlet-Distributed Data*

Description

With this function you can plot Dirichlet-distributed data in 2, 3 and 4 dimensions.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DirichletRegData'
plot(x, dims, ticks = TRUE, ref.lines = NULL, dim.labels, a2d = list(colored =
  TRUE, c.grid = TRUE, col.scheme = c("dims", "entropy"), entropy.contours =
  FALSE, entropy.colors = FALSE), a3d = list(rgl = TRUE, ...), rug = TRUE,
  reset_par = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	data prepared with DR_data
dims	select two, three, or four Dimensions of your data x to plot
ticks	display ticks?
ref.lines	.
dim.labels	a character vector giving labels for the dimensions/variables
a2d	a named list of settings for ternary plots (3 variables), see Details
a3d	a named list of settings for quaternary plots (4 variables), see Details
rug	display a rug for a one-dimensional plot (2 variables)
reset_par	reset graphical parameters of DR_data after creating a two-dimensional plot (2 variables), see Details
...	further graphical arguments as col, pch, cex, ...

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
# plot of "Sand" in the Arctic Lake data set
plot(DR_data(ReadingSkills[, 1]), main="Reading Accuracy")

# ternary plot of Arctic Lake data
plot(DR_data(ArcticLake[, 1:3]), a2d = list(colored = FALSE))
```

Reading Accuracy Data *Pammer and Kevan's Data on Reading Skills*

Description

These data provide transformed reading accuracy scores predicted by IQ and diagnosed dyslexia.

Usage

```
ReadingSkills
```

Format

A data frame containing 44 observations on 3 variables.

`accuracy` reading accuracy score transformed to fit into $(0, 1)$

`dyslexia` a factor with the diagnosis of dyslexia ("yes" or "no")

`iq` non-verbal IQ (z-scores; $\mu = 0$, $\sigma^2 = 1$)

Source

Example 3 from http://www.michaelsmithson.online/stats/betareg/betareg.html

Rocks *Aitchison's Rock Data*

Description

A compilation of four datasets listed in Aitchison (2003)

Each type of rock has 25 observations – to use only a certain type of rock, see "Details".

Usage

```
Rocks
```

Format

A data frame with 100 observations on the following 8 variables.

`Albite`, `Blandite`, `Cornite`, `Daubite`, `Endite` numeric vectors

`depth` a numeric vector

`porosity` a numeric vector

`type` a factor with levels `Boxite` `Coxite` `Hongite` `Kongite`

Source

Aitchison, J. (2003). *The Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data.* The Blackburn Press, Caldwell, NJ.

Simplex-Transformations *Transform Compositional Data for a Simplex*

Description

These functions transform a matrix with three or four components to fit into a two- or three-dimensional simplex (triangle or tetrahedron).

Usage

```
toSimplex(x)

toTernary(abc)
toTernaryVectors(c1, c2, c3)

toQuaternary(abcd)
toQuaternaryVectors(c1, c2, c3, c4)
```

Arguments

x	a matrix-like object with 3 or 4 columns.
abc	a matrix-like object with 3 columns.
abcd	a matrix-like object with 4 columns.
c1	a numeric vector with values of the first component.
c2	a numeric vector with values of the second component.
c3	a numeric vector with values of the third component.
c4	a numeric vector with values of the fourth component.

Details

Most of these functions are only used internally, but sometimes it might be useful to plot "custom" ternary or quaternary graphics.

Note that, apart from `toSimplex()`, functions do not have *any* checks, so it is advisable to use this function if elements are added to plots or own graphics are created.

Value

The function returns a `matrix` object with coordinates in two or three dimensions

Note

In prior versions (up to 0.5-0), an unexported function `coord.trafo()` was used internally and could also be accessed via `DirichletReg:::coord.trafo()`.

If you have used this in your code, you will get a message that the function is now deprecated and will become defunct in the future. Use `toSimplex()` instead.

Author(s)

Marco J. Maier

Examples

```
# create a DirichletRegData object from the Arctic Lake data
"to be added"
```

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