

Dirichlet distribution (of order  $k$ ).

a random vector  $(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k)$ , with  $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$

with density

$$C \cdot p_1^{\alpha_1-1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2-1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{k-1}^{\alpha_{k-1}-1} \cdot \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i\right)^{\alpha_k-1} = f(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{k-1})$$

on  $0 < p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{k-1} < 1$

$$\text{density} = C \cdot p_1^{\alpha_1-1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2-1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{k-1}^{\alpha_{k-1}-1} \cdot \left(p_k\right)^{\alpha_k-1}$$

↑  
 $p_k = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i$

Compare this to beta density.

$$C \cdot p^{\alpha-1} \cdot (1-p)^{\beta-1} = C \cdot p_1^{\alpha-1} \cdot p_2^{\beta-1}$$

↑  
 $p_2 = 1-p_1$

Dirichlet distribution is often used for the prior dist. for multinomial random variable [just as beta is used for the prior of binomial random variable]