

# Package ‘FVDDPpkg’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Implement Fleming-Viot-Dependent Dirichlet Processes

**Version** 0.1.2

**Description** A Bayesian Nonparametric model for the study of time-evolving frequencies, which has become renowned in the study of population genetics. The model consists of a Hidden Markov Model (HMM) in which the latent signal is a distribution-valued stochastic process that takes the form of a finite mixture of Dirichlet Processes, indexed by vectors that count how many times each value is observed in the population. The package implements methodologies presented in Ascolani, Lijoi and Ruggerio (2021) <[doi:10.1214/20-BA1206](https://doi.org/10.1214/20-BA1206)> and Ascolani, Lijoi and Ruggerio (2023) <[doi:10.3150/22-BEJ1504](https://doi.org/10.3150/22-BEJ1504)> that make it possible to study the process at the time of data collection or to predict its evolution in future or in the past.

**License** LGPL (>= 3)

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Imports** Rcpp, Rdpack

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**RdMacros** Rdpack

**Suggests** rmarkdown, knitr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Stefano Damato [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Stefano Damato <[stefano.damato@idsia.ch](mailto:stefano.damato@idsia.ch)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2024-07-09 16:10:12 UTC

## Contents

approx.propagate	2
approx.smooth	3

error.estimate . . . . .	4
initialize . . . . .	5
polya.sample . . . . .	6
posterior.sample . . . . .	7
predictive.struct . . . . .	8
print.fvddp . . . . .	8
propagate . . . . .	9
prune . . . . .	10
smooth . . . . .	11
summary.fvddp . . . . .	12
update . . . . .	13

<b>Index</b>	<b>14</b>
--------------	-----------

---

approx.propagate	<i>Approximate the propagation of a Fleming-Viot latent signal</i>
------------------	--

---

## Description

Approximate the propagation of a Fleming-Viot latent signal

## Usage

```
approx.propagate(fvddp, delta.t, N)
```

## Arguments

fvddp	An instance of class generated via <code>initialize()</code> . In order to perform the propagation, the FVDDP has to be fed some data using <code>update()</code> , at least once.
delta.t	The time of the propagation.
N	The amount of samples to be drawn in order to perform the approximation.

## Value

A object of class fvddp. Since this function is a Monte-Carlo based approximation of `propagate()`, the outputs are similar.

## References

Ascolani F, Lijoi A, Ruggiero M (2021). “Predictive inference with Fleming–Viot-driven dependent Dirichlet processes.” *Bayesian Analysis*, **16**(2), 371 – 395. doi:10.1214/20BA1206.

## See Also

`approx.propagate()` for a (slower) exact computation.

**Examples**

```
#a first example
FVDDP = initialize(theta = 1, sampling.f = function(x) rpois(x, 3),
                  density.f = function(x) dpois(x, 3), atomic = TRUE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(4,5))
approx.propagate(FVDDP, 0.2, 10000)

#another example; it does not matter wether P0 is atomic or not
FVDDP=initialize(theta = 3, function(x) rnorm(x, -1, 3),
                function(x) dnorm(x, -1, 3), atomic = FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(-1.145, 0.553, 0.553, 0.553))
approx.propagate(FVDDP, 0.6, 10000)
```

---

approx.smooth	<i>Approximate the smoothing distribution of a Fleming-Viot latent signal</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

Approximate the smoothing distribution of a Fleming-Viot latent signal

**Usage**

```
approx.smooth(fvddp.past, fvddp.future, t.past, t.future, y.new, N)
```

**Arguments**

fvddp.past	An instance of class fvddp, progressively updated and propagated with data referring to past times via <code>update()</code> and <code>propagate()</code> (or its approximate version, <code>approx.propagate()</code> ).
fvddp.future	Same as fvddp.past, but in this case the propagation has been performed with time data from times later than the one to be estimated. Its hyperparameters must be equal to the ones of fvddp.past.
t.past	The time between the last collection of data (in the past) and the time at which the smoothing is performed.
t.future	Same as t.past, but in this case it is referred to the future. t.future is positive too.
y.new	The data collected at the time the smoothing is performed.
N	the amount of samples to be drawn in order to perform the approximation.

**Value**

An object of class fvddp, with the same hyperparameters as fvddp.past and fvddp.future. Since this function is a Monte-Carlo based approximation of `smooth()`, the outputs are similar.

**See Also**

[smooth\(\)](#) for a (slower) exact computation

**Examples**

```
FVDDP = initialize(3, function(x) rbinom(x, 10, .2),
                  function(x) dbinom(x, 10, .2), TRUE)
FVDDP.PAST = update(FVDDP, c(2,3))
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP, c(4))
FVDDP.FUTURE = propagate(FVDDP.FUTURE, 0.5)
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP.FUTURE, c(1))
approx.smooth(fvddp.past = FVDDP.PAST, fvddp.future = FVDDP.FUTURE,
              t.past = 0.4, t.future = 0.3, y.new = c(1,3), N = 20000)
```

---

error.estimate	<i>Compare the performance of a Monte-Carlo estimate with respect to the exact result.</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Compare the performance of a Monte-Carlo estimate with respect to the exact result.

**Usage**

```
error.estimate(fvddp.exact, fvddp.approx, remove.unmatched = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

`fvddp.exact` An instance of class `fvddp` obtained via smoothing ([smooth\(\)](#)) or propagation ([propagate\(\)](#)).

`fvddp.approx` An instance of class `fvddp` obtained using the approximating algorithms for smoothing or propagation, with the same input as `fvddp.exact`.

`remove.unmatched` Choose whether the weights associated to multiplicities that are in `fvddp.exact` but not in `fvddp.approx` should be removed in the computation (TRUE) or considered to be 0 (FALSE).

**Value**

A vector whose  $j$ -th element is the difference (in absolute value) between the weight of the  $j$ -th row of the matrix  $M$  of `fvddp.exact` and the weight of the row of the matrix  $M$  of `fvddp.approx` equal to it. The length depends on the value of `remove.unmatched`.

**Examples**

```

#initialize the process
FVDDP = initialize(3, function(x) rgamma(x, 2,2),
                  function(x) dgamma(x, 2,2), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(rep(abs(rnorm(2,1, 4)), 2), rexp(2, 0.5)))
#perform n exact propagation and an approximate one
EXACT = propagate(FVDDP, 0.7)
APPROX = approx.propagate(FVDDP, 0.7, 10000)
#measure the error with this function
error.estimate(fvddp.exact = EXACT, fvddp.approx = APPROX, TRUE)

#in order to smoot, create and propagate the signal from the past and from the future
FVDDP=initialize(3, function(x) rbinom(x, 10, 0.2),
                function(x) dbinom(x, 10, 0.2), TRUE)
FVDDP.PAST = update(FVDDP, c(2,3))
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP, c(4))
FVDDP.FUTURE = propagate(FVDDP.FUTURE, 0.5)
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP.FUTURE, c(1))
#compute an exact and an approximate smoothing
EXACT = smooth(FVDDP.PAST, FVDDP.FUTURE, 0.4, 0.3, c(1,3))
APPROX = approx.smooth(FVDDP.PAST, FVDDP.FUTURE, 0.4, 0.3, c(1,3), 20000)
#compute the error again
error.estimate(fvddp.exact = EXACT, fvddp.approx = APPROX)

```

---

initialize	<i>Initialize Fleming-Viot dependent Dirichlet Processes by setting hyperparameters</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

Initialize Fleming-Viot dependent Dirichlet Processes by setting hyperparameters

**Usage**

```
initialize(theta, sampling.f, density.f, atomic)
```

**Arguments**

theta	The intensity of the centering measure, in the sense of Bayesian Nonparametrics.
sampling.f	A function to sample from the centering. Its unique argument must be the amount of values to be drawn.
density.f	A function to compute the value of the density function or mass function of the centering. It has to be consistent with sampling.f.
atomic	A boolean value stating whether the centering is atomic or not.

**Value**

A list containing the input (renamed as `theta`, `P0.sample`, `P0.density`, and `is.atomic`) and three empty slots that will contain the information once the FVDDP is updated with data. In particular, they are:

- `y.star`: a vector of unique values
- `M`: a matrix of multiplicities, represented as row vectors
- `w`: a vector of weights associated to each row of the matrix of multiplicities. Such list represents a n object of the `fvddp` class.

**References**

Papaspiliopoulos O, Ruggiero M (2014). “Optimal filtering and the dual process.” *Bernoulli*, **20**(4). doi:10.3150/13bej548.

Papaspiliopoulos O, Ruggiero M, Spanò D (2016). “Conjugacy properties of time-evolving Dirichlet and gamma random measures.” *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, **10**(2), 3452 – 3489. doi:10.1214/16EJS1194.

**Examples**

```
#initialization with an atomic measure (Pois(3))
initialize(theta = 1, sampling.f = function(x) rpois(x, 3),
           density.f = function(x) dpois(x, 3), atomic = TRUE)

#initialization with a non-atomic measure (N(-1, 3))
initialize(theta = 3, sampling.f = function(x) rnorm(x, -1, 3),
           density.f = function(x) dnorm(x, -1, 3), atomic = FALSE)
```

---

polya.sample

*Sampling via Polya Urn scheme*

---

**Description**

Sampling via Polya Urn scheme

**Usage**

```
polya.sample(n, theta, v = c(), sampling.f)
```

**Arguments**

<code>n</code>	The amount of samples to be drawn.
<code>theta</code>	The intensity, in the sense of Bayesian Statistics
<code>v</code>	A vector of values, considered to be already drawn from the Polya scheme.
<code>sampling.f</code>	A function to sample new values. Its unique argument must express the number of values to draw.

**Value**

A vector containing n values extracted.

**Examples**

```
polya.sample(10, 2, c(0,1), function(x) rbeta(x,1,1))
```

---

posterior.sample	<i>Draw values from the posterior distribution FVDDP</i>
------------------	--

---

**Description**

Draw values from the posterior distribution FVDDP

**Usage**

```
posterior.sample(fvddp, N)
```

**Arguments**

fvddp	The instance of class fvddp the values are drawn from.
N	The amount of values to draw.

**Value**

A vector of length N of values drawn either from the centering of the FVDDP (the input) or from the empirical probability measure generated by past observations. The difference between this function and `predictive.struct()` is that in this case the process is not update with respect to any drawn value.

**Examples**

```
#create a dummy process and sample some values from it
FVDDP = initialize(7, function(x) rbeta(x, 3,3),
                 function(x) dgamma(x, 3,3), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, rep(0:1, 2))
posterior.sample(fvddp = FVDDP, N = 100)
```

---

predictive.struct	<i>Use the predictive structure of the FVDDP to sequentially draw values and update</i>
-------------------	---

---

**Description**

Use the predictive structure of the FVDDP to sequentially draw values and update

**Usage**

```
predictive.struct(fvddp, N)
```

**Arguments**

fvddp	The instance of class fvddp the values are drawn from.
N	The amount of values to draw.

**Value**

A vector of length N of values obtained using the predictive structure. Precisely, after that any observation is drawn (either from the centering measure or from past observations) the input fvddp is modified as if the function `update()` is called, with the new value as second argument.

**References**

Ascolani F, Lijoi A, Ruggiero M (2021). “Predictive inference with Fleming–Viot-driven dependent Dirichlet processes.” *Bayesian Analysis*, **16**(2), 371 – 395. doi:[10.1214/20BA1206](https://doi.org/10.1214/20BA1206).

**Examples**

```
#create a dummy process and exploit the predictive structure
FVDDP = initialize(7, function(x) rbeta(x, 3,3),
                  function(x) dgamma(x, 3,3), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, rep(0:1, 2))
predictive.struct(fvddp = FVDDP, N = 100)
```

---

print.fvddp	<i>Print hyperparameters and values from Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Processes</i>
-------------	---

---

**Description**

Print hyperparameters and values from Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Processes

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x                    The fvddp object to be printed.  
 ...                  Optional arguments for summary methods.

**Value**

A list of the hyperparameters of the process, i.e. `theta`, `P0.sample`, `P0.density`, and `is.atomic`. Moreover, if the process is still empty, this will be printed; if otherwise it has been updated (via [update\(\)](#)), then the values in `y.star`, `M` and `w` will be printed.

**Examples**

```
#a simple example
FVDDP = initialize(theta = 1, sampling.f = function(x) rpois(x, 3),
                  density.f = function(x) dpois(x, 3), atomic = TRUE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(4,5))
print(FVDDP)

#in case there are no data
FVDDP=initialize(theta = 3, function(x) rnorm(x, -1, 3),
                function(x) dnorm(x, -1, 3), atomic = FALSE)
print(FVDDP)
```

---

propagate

*Propagate the Fleming-Viot latent signal in time*


---

**Description**

Propagate the Fleming-Viot latent signal in time

**Usage**

```
propagate(fvddp, delta.t)
```

**Arguments**

fvddp                An instance of class generated via [initialize\(\)](#). In order to perform the propagation, the FVDDP has to be fed some data using [update\(\)](#), at least once.  
 delta.t              The non-negative time of the propagation. If 0, the returned process is the input.

**Value**

A list of the same class to the one given as an input (fvddp). The amount of rows of the matrix `M`, as well as the vector of weights, `w`, will increase. The hyperparameters will be the same.

## References

Papaspiliopoulos O, Ruggiero M, Spanò D (2016). “Conjugacy properties of time-evolving Dirichlet and gamma random measures.” *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, **10**(2), 3452 – 3489. doi:10.1214/16EJS1194.

## See Also

`approx.propagate()` for a (faster) Monte-Carlo-based analogous.

## Examples

```
FVDDP = initialize(1, function(x) rpois(x, 3),
                  function(x) dpois(x, 3), TRUE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(4,5))
propagate(FVDDP, 0.2)

FVDDP = initialize(3, function(x) rnorm(x, -1,3),
                  function(x) dnorm(x, -1, 3), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(-1.145, 0.553, 0.553, 0.553))
propagate(FVDDP, 0.6)
```

---

 prune

---

*Reduce the size of Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Processes*


---

## Description

Reduce the size of Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Processes

## Usage

```
prune(fvddp, eps)
```

## Arguments

<code>fvddp</code>	An object of class <code>fvddp</code> , generated via <code>initialize()</code> .
<code>eps</code>	The value below which the weights are removed, with their components of the mixture. <code>eps</code> has to be in the interval (0,1).

## Value

An `fvddp` list of smaller size of the input. Precisely, the components whose weight goes below the threshold `eps` will be removed: the vector `w` and the matrix `M` will have a lower amount of rows; if the latter will include all-zero columns, they will be removed.

## References

Ascolani F, Lijoi A, Ruggiero M (2023). “Smoothing distributions for conditional Fleming–Viot and Dawson–Watanabe diffusions.” *Bernoulli*, **29**(2), 1410 – 1434. doi:10.3150/22BEJ1504.

**Examples**

```
#create a large process
FVDDP = initialize(3, function(x) rexp(x, 4),
                  function(x) dexp(x, 4), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(rep(rexp(1, 3), 7), rep(rexp(1, 5), 5), rexp(1, 7), 3))
FVDDP = propagate(FVDDP, 1)
prune(fvddp = FVDDP, eps = 1e-4)
```

smooth

*Compute the smoothing distribution of the Fleming-Viot latent signal***Description**

Compute the smoothing distribution of the Fleming-Viot latent signal

**Usage**

```
smooth(fvddp.past, fvddp.future, t.past, t.future, y.new)
```

**Arguments**

<code>fvddp.past</code>	An instance of class <code>fvddp</code> , progressively updated and propagated with data referring to past times via <code>update()</code> and <code>propagate()</code> (or its approximate version, <code>approx.propagate()</code> ).
<code>fvddp.future</code>	Same as <code>fvddp.past</code> , but in this case the propagation has been performed with time data from times later than the one to be estimated. Its hyperparameters must be equal to the ones of <code>fvddp.past</code> .
<code>t.past</code>	The time between the last collection of data (in the past) and the time at which the smoothing is performed.
<code>t.future</code>	Same as <code>t.past</code> , but in this case it is referred to the future. <code>t.future</code> is positive too.
<code>y.new</code>	The data collected at the time the smoothing is performed.

**Value**

The function returns an instance of class `fvddp` whose hyperparameters are the same of `fvddp.past` and `fvddp.future`. The values of `y.star` and `M` are such that to represent the state of the FVDDP signal in the present time, i.e. the one which is `t.past` away from the time at which `fvddp.past` is estimated, and is `t.future` away from the time at which `fvddp.future` is estimated. Since the computation is usually extremely long, one can rely on the Monte-Carlo approximation provided by `approx.smooth()`.

**References**

Ascolani F, Lijoi A, Ruggiero M (2023). “Smoothing distributions for conditional Fleming–Viot and Dawson–Watanabe diffusions.” *Bernoulli*, **29**(2), 1410 – 1434. doi:10.3150/22BEJ1504.

**See Also**

`approx.smooth()` for a (faster) approximation based on importance sampling.

**Examples**

```
#create wo process and sequentilly update and propagate them
FVDDP = initialize(3, function(x) rbinom(x, 10, .2),
                  function(x) dbinom(x, 10, .2), TRUE)

#for the past
FVDDP.PAST = update(FVDDP, c(2,3))
#for the future
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP, c(4))
FVDDP.FUTURE = propagate(FVDDP.FUTURE, 0.5)
FVDDP.FUTURE = update(FVDDP.FUTURE, c(1))
#get a smoothed FVDDP merging them (with new values too)
smooth(fvddp.past = FVDDP.PAST, fvddp.future = FVDDP.FUTURE,
       t.past= 0.4, t.future = 0.3, y.new = c(1,3))
```

---

summary.fvddp

*Show the data contained within the Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Process*

---

**Description**

Show the data contained within the Fleming-Viot Dependent Dirichlet Process

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'fvddp'
summary(object, ..., rows = FALSE, K = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

object	An element of class fvddp, created via <code>initialize()</code> .
...	Optional arguments for summary methods.
rows	Specify whether the rows must be printed. Useful in case M is large.
K	Specify whether the values of K, the amount of clusters for each row, must be printed.

**Value**

The function prints a `base::data.frame()` object (that is, of class "data.frame") where every row is a vector of multiplicities (according to the observations as in the names of the columns), with its associated weight.

**Examples**

```
#initialize a simple process and show its summary
FVDDP = initialize(2, function(x) rgeom(x, .25),
                  function(x) dgeom(x, .25), TRUE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, rpois(4, 2))
FVDDP = propagate(FVDDP, 0.5)
summary(FVDDP)
```

update

*Update the FVDDP when new observations are collected***Description**

Update the FVDDP when new observations are collected

**Usage**

```
update(fvddp, y.new)
```

**Arguments**

fvddp	An object of class fvddp; it can be created via <a href="#">initialize()</a> .
y.new	A vector of new values to update the process.

**Value**

An object which is similar to the one given as an input. In particular, the multiplicities of `y.new` will be added to each row of `M`, and the weights `w` will be multiplied times the probability of drawing `y.new` from each row of the matrix `M` according to Polya urn sampling scheme.

**References**

Papaspiliopoulos O, Ruggiero M, Spanò D (2016). “Conjugacy properties of time-evolving Dirichlet and gamma random measures.” *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, **10**(2), 3452–3489. doi:10.1214/16EJS1194.

**Examples**

```
#initialize and propagate a object
FVDDP = initialize(1, function(x) rpois(x, 3),
                  function(x) dpois(x, 3), TRUE)
update(fvddp = FVDDP, y.new = c(4,5))

#in this case, update after a propagation to see the diiffent effect of polya urn on the weights
FVDDP=initialize(3, function(x) rnorm(x, -1,3),
                 function(x) dnorm(x, -1, 3), FALSE)
FVDDP = update(FVDDP, c(-1.145, 0.553, 0.553))
FVDDP = propagate(FVDDP, 0.6)
update(fvddp = FVDDP, y.new = c(0.553, -0.316, -1.145))
```

# Index

`approx.propagate`, 2  
`approx.propagate()`, 2, 3, 10, 11  
`approx.smooth`, 3  
`approx.smooth()`, 11, 12  
  
`base::data.frame()`, 12  
  
`error.estimate`, 4  
  
`initialize`, 5  
`initialize()`, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13  
  
`polya.sample`, 6  
`posterior.sample`, 7  
`predictive.struct`, 8  
`predictive.struct()`, 7  
`print.fvddp`, 8  
`propagate`, 9  
`propagate()`, 2–4, 11  
`prune`, 10  
  
`smooth`, 11  
`smooth()`, 3, 4  
`summary.fvddp`, 12  
  
`update`, 13  
`update()`, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11