

A Appendix: Copulas

If we are in the situation where we do know about the marginal distributions but relatively little about the joint distribution, and want to build a simulation model, then the copula is a useful method to deriving such a joint distributions respecting all those given marginal distributions. Here we present some basic ideas of copulas and introduce the two copulas that we used in this paper. For further details on the topic, we refer the readers to^{1,2}.

Definition 1. A p -dimensional copula $C: [0, 1]^p \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a function which is a cumulative distribution function with uniform marginals.

The following result due to Sklar (1959) says that one can always express any distribution function in terms of a copula of its margins.

Theorem 1 (Sklar's theorem). Consider a p -dimensional cdf F with marginals $F_1, \dots, F_p$. There exists a copula C , such that

$$F(x_1, \dots, x_p) = C(F_1(x_1), \dots, F_p(x_p)) \quad (1)$$

for all x_i in $[-\infty, \infty]$, $i = 1, \dots, p$. If F_i is continuous for all $i = 1, \dots, p$ then C is unique; otherwise C is uniquely determined only on $\text{Ran } F_1 \times \dots \times \text{Ran } F_p$, where $\text{Ran } F_i$ denotes the range of the cdf F .

In our work, we make use of the following two bivariate copulas. The bivariate Gumbel copula or Gumbel-Hougaard copula is given in the following form:

$$C_\gamma(u_1, u_2) = \exp \left\{ - \left[(-\ln u_1)^\gamma + (-\ln u_2)^\gamma \right]^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \right\},$$

where $\gamma \in [1, \infty)$. The Clayton copula is given by

$$C_\gamma(u_1, u_2) = \left(\max \{ u_1^{-\gamma} + u_2^{-\gamma} - 1, 0 \} \right)^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}},$$

where $\gamma \in [-1, \infty) \setminus \{0\}$.

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