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Let $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_d) = \mu + AY$ be elliptically distributed with $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$ and a spherically distributed vector $Y \sim S_k(\psi)$.

Assume that $0 < E(X_k^2) < \infty$ holds $\forall k$. If the risk measure ρ has the properties (C1) and (C3) and $\rho(Y_1) > 0$ for the first component Y_1 of Y , then

$$\arg \min \{ \rho(Z(w)) : w \in \mathcal{P}_m \} = \arg \min \{ \text{var}(Z(w)) : w \in \mathcal{P}_m \}$$

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Let M be the set of returns of the portfolios in $\mathcal{P} := \{w = (w_i) \in \mathbb{R}^d, \sum_{i=1}^d |w_i| = 1\}$. Let the asset returns $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_d)$ be elliptically distributed, $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_d) \sim E_d(\mu, \Sigma, \psi)$ for some $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ and $\psi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then VaR_α is coherent in M , for any $\alpha \in (0.5, 1)$.

Copulas: Definition and basic properties

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Equivalently, a copula C is a function $C: [0, 1]^d \rightarrow [0, 1]$, with the following properties:

1. $C(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_d)$ is mon. increasing in each variable u_i , $1 \leq i \leq d$.
2. $C(1, 1, \dots, 1, u_k, 1, \dots, 1) = u_k$ for any $k \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ and $\forall u_k \in [0, 1]$.
3. The *rectangle inequality* holds $\forall (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_d) \in [0, 1]^d$, $\forall (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_d) \in [0, 1]^d$ with $a_k \leq b_k, \forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$:

$$\sum_{k_1=1}^2 \dots \sum_{k_d=1}^2 (-1)^{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_d} C(u_{1k_1}, u_{2k_2}, \dots, u_{dk_d}) \geq 0,$$

where $u_{j1} = a_j$ and $u_{j2} = b_j$.

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Remark: The k -dimensional marginal distributions of a d -dimensional copula are k -dimensional copulas, for all $2 \leq k \leq d$.

Lemma: Let $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a monotone increasing function with $h(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}$ and $h^{\leftarrow}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the generalized inverse function of h . Then the following statements hold:

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Lemma: Let X be a r.v. with continuous distribution function F . Then $P(F^{\leftarrow}(F(x)) = x) = 1$, i.e. $F^{\leftarrow}(F(X)) \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{=} X$

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If $U \sim U(0, 1)$, then $P(G^{\leftarrow}(U) \leq x) = G(x)$.

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Theorem: (Sklar, 1959)

Let $F: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, 1]$ a c.d.f. with marginal d.f. F_1, \dots, F_d . There exists a copula C , such that for all $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d \in \bar{\mathbb{R}} = [-\infty, \infty]$ the equality

$$F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) = C(F_1(x_1), F_2(x_2), \dots, F_d(x_d)) \text{ holds.}$$

If F_1, \dots, F_d are continuous, then C is unique.

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C as above is called *the copula of F* . For a random vector $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with c.d.f. F we say that C is *the copula of X* .

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Corollary: Let F be a c.d.f. with continuous marginal d.f. F_1, \dots, F_d . The unique copula C of F is given as :

$$C(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_d) = F(F_1^{\leftarrow}(u_1), F_2^{\leftarrow}(u_2), \dots, F_d^{\leftarrow}(u_d)).$$

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Theorem: (Copula invariance w.r.t. strictly monotone transformations)

Let $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_d)^T$ be a random vector with continuous marginal d.f. F_1, F_2, \dots, F_d and copula C . Let T_1, T_2, \dots, T_d be strictly monotone increasing functions in \mathbb{R} . Then C is also the copula of $(T_1(X_1), T_2(X_2), \dots, T_d(X_d))^T$.

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Example: Let $X = (X_1, \dots, X_d) \sim N_d(0, \Sigma)$ with $\Sigma = R$ being the correlation matrix of X . Let ϕ_R and ϕ be the c.d.f of X and X_1 , resp.. The copula of X is called a *Gaussian copula* and is denoted by C_R^{Ga} :

$$C_R^{Ga}(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_d) = \phi_R(\phi^{-1}(u_1), \phi^{-1}(u_2), \dots, \phi^{-1}(u_d)).$$

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For $d = 2$ and $\rho = R_{12} \in (-1, 1)$ we have :

$$C_R^{Ga}(u_1, u_2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\phi^{-1}(u_1)} \int_{-\infty}^{\phi^{-1}(u_2)} \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left\{\frac{-(x_1^2 - 2\rho x_1 x_2 + x_2^2)}{2(1-\rho^2)}\right\} dx_1 dx_2$$