

Simple and efficient estimators for rare-event maxima and sums

Patrick J. Laub

University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia and
Aarhus University, Aarhus Denmark

Greenland

August 1, 2016



Outline

Part 1: $\mathbb{P}(\max\{X_1, \dots, X_d\} > \gamma)$ for large γ

- present a collection of (raw) estimators,
- tradeoff between numerical integration and MC estimation,
- bounded relative error.

Joint with Leonardo Rojas-Nandayapa (UL) & Lars Nørvang Andersen (AU).

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- uses asymptotic information about the sum,
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My priorities: explain the intuition, mention theoretical and numerical results, get feedback.

Rare maxima

Say $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_d) \sim F(\cdot)$, and $M := \max\{X_1, \dots, X_d\}$. Want to know

$$\ell(\gamma) := \mathbb{P}(M \geq \gamma).$$

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Indeed, the *Boole–Fréchet inequalities* tell us that

$$\max_i \{\mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma)\} \leq \mathbb{P}(M \geq \gamma) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma).$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \ell(\gamma) = & \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) - \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma, X_j > \gamma) \\ & + \dots + (-1)^{d-1} \mathbb{P}(X_1 > \gamma, \dots, X_d > \gamma), \end{aligned}$$

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which can be rewritten as

$$\ell(\gamma) = \sum_{i=1}^d \left[(-1)^{i-1} \sum_{\substack{I \subset \{1, \dots, d\} \\ |I|=i}} \mathbb{P}(\{X_j > \gamma; j \in I\}) \right].$$

Rare maxima

Define $E_\gamma(\omega) := \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbf{1}\{X_i(\omega) > \gamma\}$, the number of *exceedences* over level γ for the vector $\mathbf{X}(\omega)$. Note,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^d (-1)^{i-1} \binom{E_\gamma}{i} \mathbf{1}\{E_\gamma \geq i\} \right] = \ell(\gamma). \quad (1)$$

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In particular,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\binom{E_\gamma}{1} \mathbf{1}\{E_\gamma \geq 1\} \right] = \mathbb{E}[E_\gamma] = \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma),$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[- \binom{E_\gamma}{2} \mathbf{1}\{E_\gamma \geq 2\} \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[- \frac{1}{2} E_\gamma (E_\gamma - 1) \right] = - \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma, X_j > \gamma),$$

and so on.

Building an estimator 1

Firstly, we make the estimator where the first summand of (1) is calculated, and the remaining terms are MC estimated:

$$\hat{\ell}_1(\gamma) := \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) + \sum_{i=2}^d \left[(-1)^{i-1} \binom{E_\gamma}{i} \mathbf{1}_{\{E_\gamma \geq i\}} \right].$$

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As $\sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{k-1} \binom{n}{k} = 0$, we can simplify this as

$$\hat{\ell}_1(\gamma) = \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) + (1 - E_\gamma) \mathbf{1}\{E_\gamma \geq 2\}.$$

Building an estimator 2

The estimator where the first two summands of incl-excl. are calculated is

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\ell}_2(\gamma) &:= \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) - \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma, X_j > \gamma) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=3}^d \left[(-1)^{i-1} \binom{E_\gamma}{i} \mathbf{1}_{\{E_\gamma \geq i\}} \right]\end{aligned}$$

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which simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\ell}_2(\gamma) &= \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) - \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma, X_j > \gamma) \\ &\quad + \left[1 - E_\gamma + \frac{1}{2} E_\gamma (E_\gamma - 1) \right] \mathbf{1}\{E_\gamma \geq 3\}.\end{aligned}$$

Building the general estimator

Thus, for $n \in \{1, \dots, d-1\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\ell}_n(\gamma) := & \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(-1)^{i-1} \sum_{\substack{I \subset \{1, \dots, d\} \\ |I|=i}} \mathbb{P}(\{X_j > \gamma; j \in I\}) \right] \\ & + \left[\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \binom{E_\gamma}{i} \right] \mathbf{1}_{\{E_\gamma \geq n+1\}}. \end{aligned}$$

Nice interpretations

Overall: set of estimators $\{\hat{\ell}_1, \dots, \hat{\ell}_{d-1}\}$ that control



$\hat{\ell}_1(\gamma)$ specifically: Uses MC to estimate the difference between $\mathbb{P}(M > \gamma)$ and its Boole–Fréchet upper bound, $\sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma)$.

Also we often have

$$\mathbb{P}(M > \gamma) \sim \sum_i \mathbb{P}(X_i > \gamma) \quad \text{as } \gamma \rightarrow \infty.$$

Here, $\hat{\ell}_1$ uses MC to estimate the difference between $\mathbb{P}(M > \gamma)$ and its (first-order) asymptotic expansion.



Stuff I don't have time for

- Another derivation of estimators using *control variates*.
- We prove *bounded relative error* for $\hat{\ell}_1$ in many cases.
- Associated importance sampling regimes are nice.
- Some numerical results (not many competitor algorithms).

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- Another derivation of estimators using *control variates*.
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Now time for something (not so) completely different!

Rare Sums

Estimate:

$$\ell(\gamma) := \mathbb{P}(S > \gamma),$$

for large γ , where

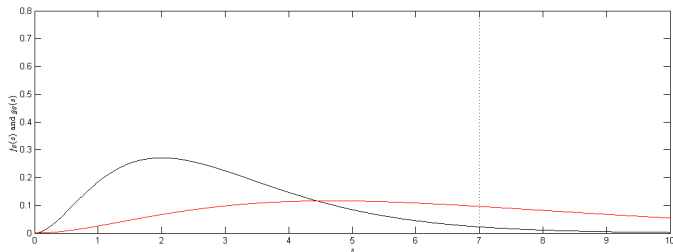
$$S := X_1 + \cdots + X_d, \quad \mathbf{X} := (X_1, \dots, X_d) \sim f_{\mathbf{X}}.$$

We assume each $X_i \geq 0$ is absolutely continuous, with marginal distributions F_i and densities f_i .

Importance Sampling

Importance sampling (IS):

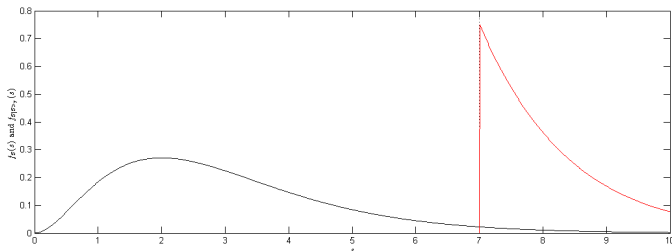
$$\ell(\gamma) = \mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathbf{X}}} \left[\mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{g_{\mathbf{X}}} \left[\mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}} \frac{f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{X})}{g_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{X})} \right].$$



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Zero variance IS density:

$$g_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = f_{\mathbf{X} | S > \gamma}(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}}(\mathbf{x})}{\ell(\gamma)}.$$

Good importance sampling

When estimating $\ell(\gamma) = \mathbb{P}(S > \gamma)$, we need to choose $g_{\mathbf{X}}$ so that

- 1 $\{S > \gamma\}$ happens more often (preferably every time), and
- 2 $g_{\mathbf{X}}$ is similar to $f_{\mathbf{X}}$ when $\{S > \gamma\}$.

Transform the problem

Change of variables (to $\approx L^1$ polar form):

$$\mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \left(X_1 + \cdots + X_d, \frac{\mathbf{X}}{X_1 + \cdots + X_d} \right) =: (S, \boldsymbol{\Theta}).$$

The density of $(S, \boldsymbol{\Theta})$ is

$$f_{(S, \boldsymbol{\Theta})}(s, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = f_{\mathbf{X}}(s\boldsymbol{\theta}) \times |s|^{d-1}.$$

The Main Idea

Conceptually

$$f_{(S,\Theta)} = f_S \times f_{\Theta|S},$$

however we cannot access the RHS here. Consider IS densities

$$g_{(S,\Theta)} = g_S \times g_{\Theta|S}$$

where we *can* access g_S and $g_{\Theta|S}$.

Try to find a $g_{(S,\Theta)}$ where

$$g_{(S,\Theta)} \approx f_{(S,\Theta)} \quad (\text{for large } S),$$

by making sure

$$g_S \approx f_S \quad \text{and} \quad g_{\Theta|S} \approx f_{\Theta|S} \quad (\text{for large } S).$$

Resulting IS Estimator

$$\ell(\gamma) = \mathbb{E}_{g(S, \Theta)} \left[\mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}} \frac{f_{(S, \Theta)}(S, \Theta)}{g_S(S)g_{\Theta|S}(\Theta|S)} \right] .$$

Resulting IS Estimator

$$\ell(\gamma) = \mathbb{E}_{g_{(S,\Theta)}} \left[\mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}} \frac{f_{(S,\Theta)}(S, \Theta)}{g_S(S)g_{\Theta|S}(\Theta|S)} \right].$$

Truncate $g_{(S,\Theta)}$ to $\{S > \gamma\}$ and use this as the IS density:

$$\ell(\gamma) = \overline{G}_S(\gamma) \mathbb{E}_{g_{(S,\Theta)}|S > \gamma} \left[\frac{f_{(S,\Theta)}(S, \Theta)}{g_S(S)g_{\Theta|S}(\Theta|S)} \right],$$

where $\overline{G}_S(\gamma) := \int_{\gamma}^{\infty} g_S(s) ds$.

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where $\overline{G}_S(\gamma) := \int_{\gamma}^{\infty} g_S(s) ds$. Thus, the general form of the estimator is

$$\widehat{\ell}_{\text{Gen}}(\gamma) := \overline{G}_S(\gamma) \frac{f_{(S, \Theta)}(S, \Theta)}{g_S(S)g_{\Theta|S}(\Theta|S)}$$

for $S \sim g_{S|S > \gamma} := g_S \mathbf{1}_{\{S > \gamma\}} / \overline{G}_S(\gamma)$ and $\Theta \sim g_{\Theta|S}(\cdot|S)$.

Choosing Radial Approximation g_S

Often know asymptotics of $\bar{F}_S(\gamma) = \mathbb{P}(S > \gamma)$,

$$\bar{F}_S(\gamma) = c_S \bar{f}_S(\gamma) \times [1 + o(1)]$$

$$\Rightarrow f_S(s) = c_S f_S(s) \times [1 + o(1)].$$

In $\hat{\ell}_{\text{Gen}}(\gamma)$ choose $g_S = f_S$. Thus, draw $S \sim f_{S|S>\gamma}$, $\Theta \sim g_{\Theta|S}(\cdot | S)$, then

$$\hat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma) := c_S \bar{f}_S(\gamma) \times \frac{f_{(S,\Theta)}(S, \Theta)}{c_S f_S(S) g_{\Theta|S}(\Theta | S)}.$$

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Choosing Angular Approximation $g_{\Theta|S}$ in Theory

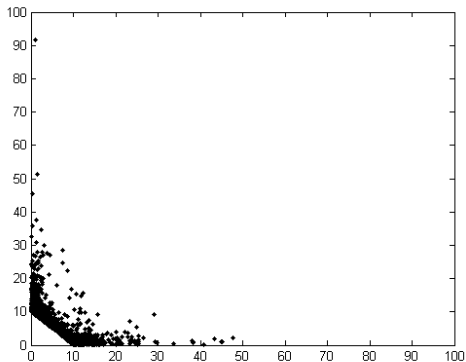
For the estimator to be very accurate, we must understand *how* the summands behave when producing a large sum. We consider three cases:

- 1 Subexponential tail decay: $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \overline{F}^{*n}(\gamma) / \overline{F}(\gamma) = n$.
- 2 Superexponential tail decay: $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \gamma^{-1} \log(\overline{F}(\gamma)) = -\infty$
- 3 “Exponential” tail decay: $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \gamma^{-1} \log(\overline{F}(\gamma)) = -\lambda, \lambda \in (0, \infty)$

Subexponential Tail Decay

Example

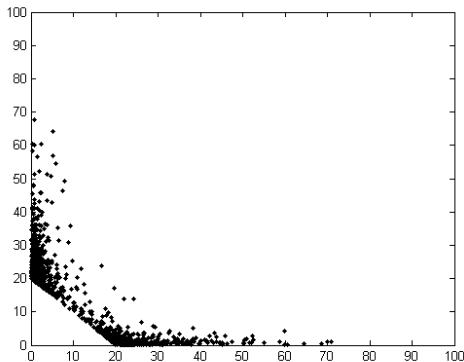
$$X_1, X_2 \sim \text{LogN}(0, 1): f(x) = (x \sqrt{2\pi})^{-1} e^{-\frac{\log(x)^2}{2}}.$$



Subexponential Tail Decay

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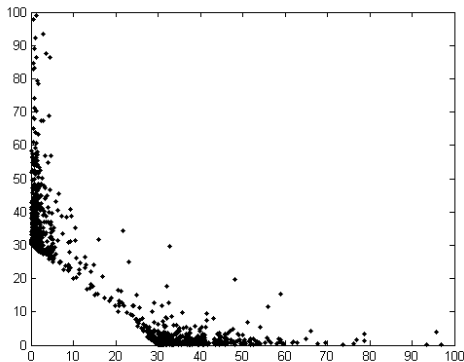
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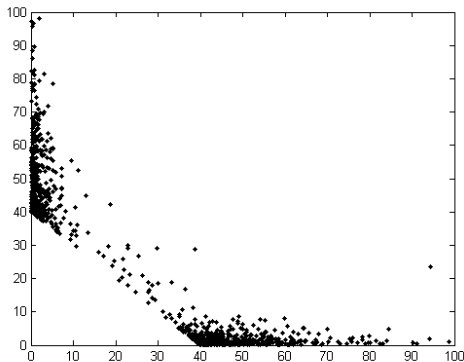
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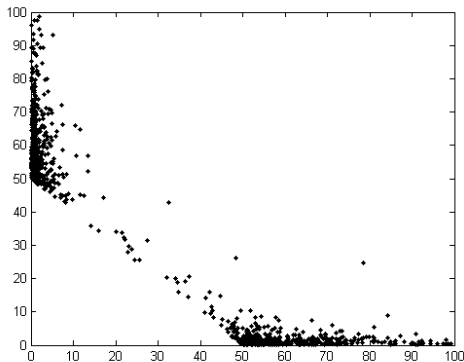
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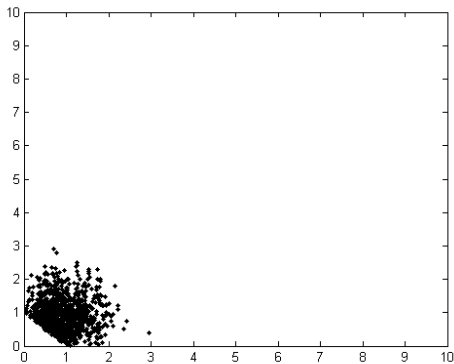
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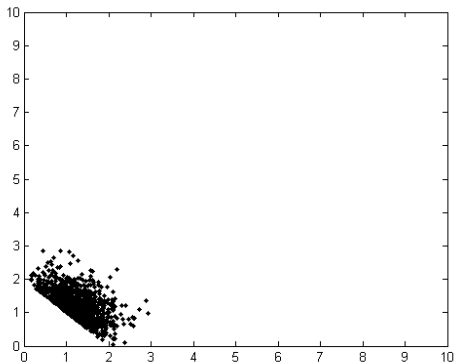
$X_1, X_2 \sim \text{Weib}(2, 1)$: $f(x) = 2x e^{-x^2}$.



Superexponential Tail Decay

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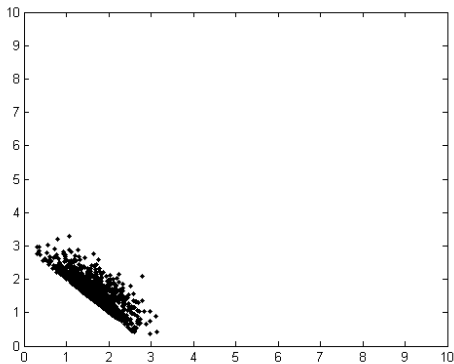
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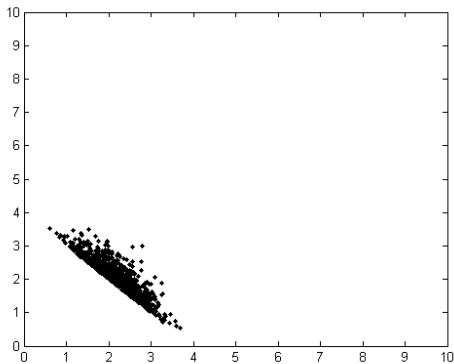
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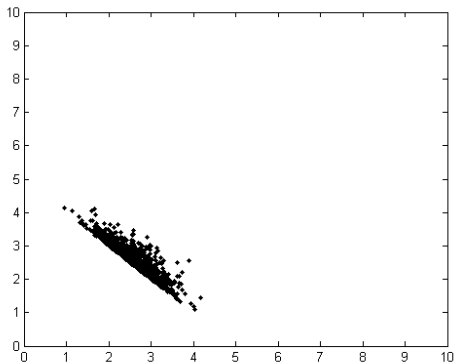
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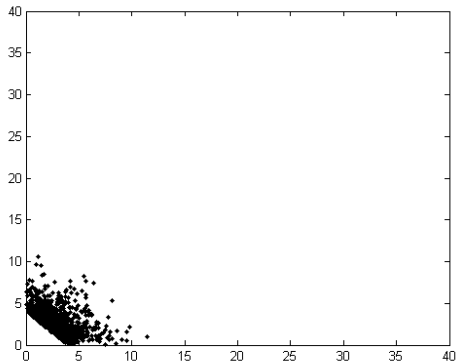
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Exponential Tail Decay

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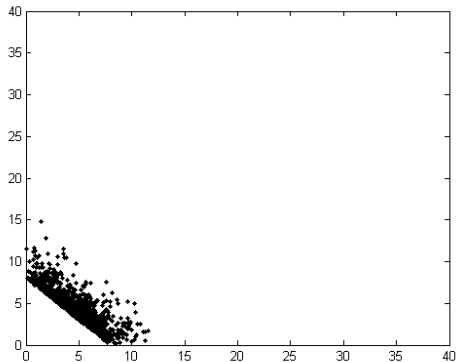
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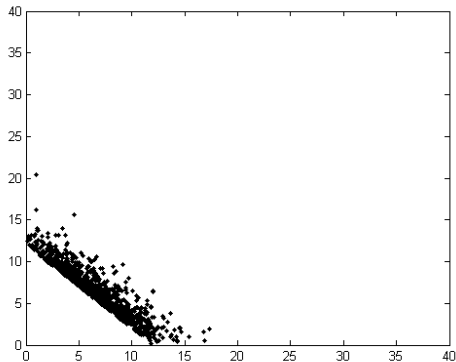
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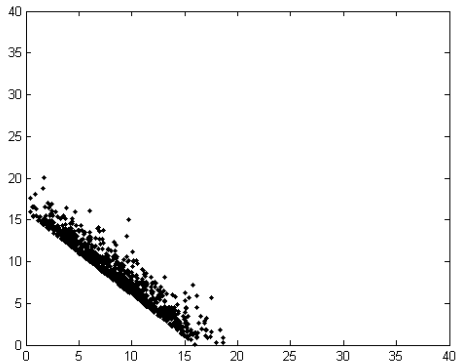
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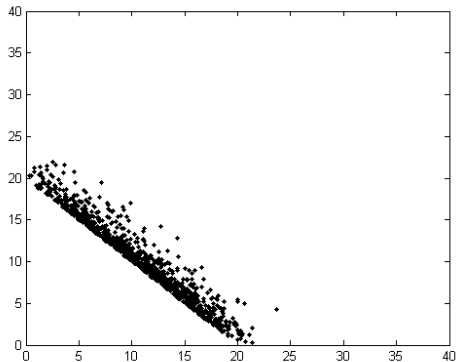
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Exponential Tail Decay

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Choosing Angular Approximation $g_{\Theta|S}$ in Theory

These considerations indicate behaviour of $g_{\Theta|S}$ when γ is large.

Unfortunately, does not immediately suggest the appropriate functional form for $g_{\Theta|S}$.

In the remainder, we present a preliminary approach to addressing this.

Select $g_{\Theta|S}$ from some family of distributions which has the appropriate support.

Choosing Angular Approximation $g_{\Theta|S}$ in Practice

Definition (Dirichlet distribution)

The Dirichlet(α) distribution has

$$f_{\text{Dir}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i\right)}{\Gamma\left(\prod_{i=1}^d \alpha_i\right)} \prod_{i=1}^d \theta_i^{\alpha_i-1}, \quad \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1},$$

as its density, where $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ is a vector of positive constants. \diamond

Choosing Angular Approximation $g_{\Theta|S}$ in Practice

Sample many $(\mathbf{X} | S > \gamma)$ using MCMC, and find which Dirichlet distribution is the closest fit (VM or CE), by

$$\min_{\alpha : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^d} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{f_{(S, \Theta)}(\Theta^{[t]})}{f_{\text{Dir}}(\Theta^{[t]}; \alpha)} \quad \text{or} \quad \max_{\alpha : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^d} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \log f_{\text{Dir}}(\Theta^{[t]}; \alpha)$$

where $\Theta^{[t]} \sim f_{(S, \Theta) | S > \gamma}$.

Note: RHS is just maximum likelihood.

The Algorithm

Algorithm

- $\hat{\alpha} \leftarrow$ fitted Dirichlet parameter (from MCMC & optim).
- For $r = 1, \dots, R$:
 - 1 Generate $S^{[r]} \sim f_{S|S>\gamma}$ and $\Theta^{[r]} \sim f_{\text{Dir}}(\cdot; \hat{\alpha})$.
 - 2 Compute

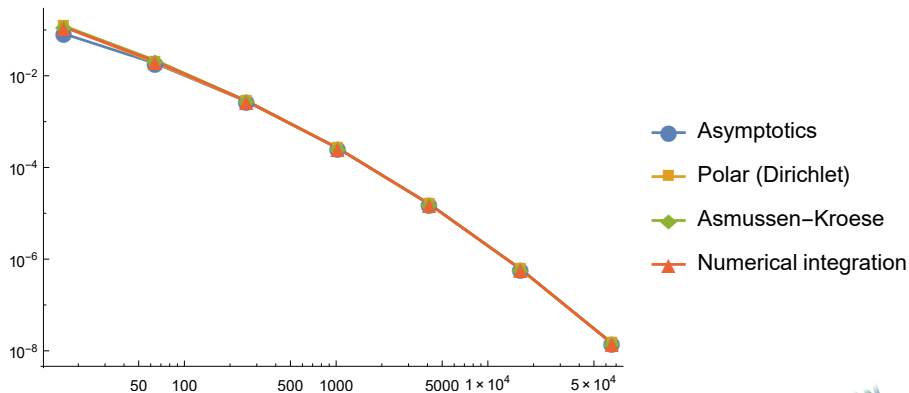
$$\mathcal{R}^{[r]} = \frac{f_{(S, \Theta)}(S^{[r]}, \Theta^{[r]})}{c_S f_S(S^{[r]}) f_{\text{Dir}}(\Theta^{[r]}; \hat{\alpha})}$$

Return

$$\hat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma) := c_S \bar{f}_S(\gamma) \times \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R \mathcal{R}^{[r]}.$$

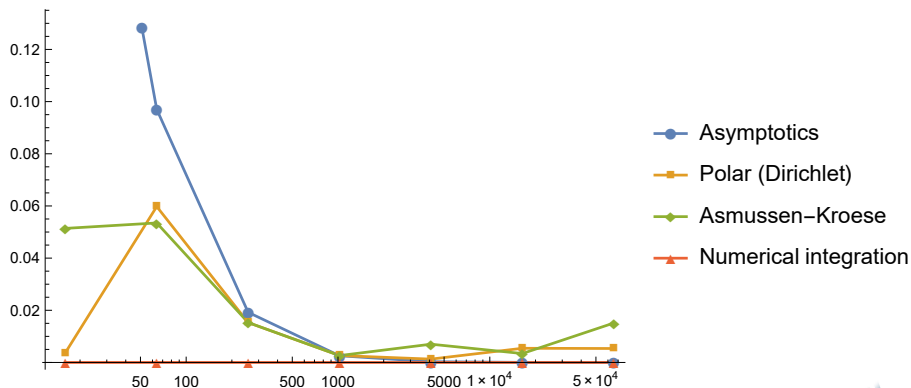
Example: Dependent Lognormals ($d = 2$)

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More stuff I don't have time for

- In some regimes, we show *vanishing relative error* for $\hat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}$.
- Many numerical experiments, conclusion is $\hat{\ell}_{\text{TP}} \sim \text{Asmussen--Kroese}$.
- MCMC is a terribly unreliable friend.

Questions for the audience!

- (Part 1) Have you seen this before?
- (Part 2) Any suggestions here?
- (Both) Do these seem useful?

Tak for at lytte!

Supported by: University of Queensland, Aarhus University, ACEMS.

Efficiency conditions for $\widehat{\ell}_1$

An estimator $\widehat{p}(\gamma)$ of $p(\gamma)$ has *bounded relative error (BRE)* if

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We can show that $\widehat{\ell}_1(\gamma)$ has BRE iff

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that is,

$$\max_{i \neq j} \mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma, X_j \geq \gamma) = \mathcal{O}(\max_i \{\mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma)\}^2) \quad \text{as } \gamma \rightarrow \infty.$$

Correlation in the limit

Assume common marginals. Most common measure is the *coefficient of asymptotic upper tail dependence*

$$\lambda(X_i | X_j) := \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma | X_j \geq \gamma).$$

A finer measure is *residual tail dependence*. It states that¹ as $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma, X_j \geq \gamma) \sim \mathcal{L}(\gamma) \gamma^{-\frac{1}{\eta}}$$

for some slowly-varying function $\mathcal{L}(\cdot)$ and $\eta \in [0, 2]$.

¹Given we transform to unit Fréchet marginal distributions.

Efficiency conditions for $\widehat{\ell}_1$

Must have $\forall i \neq j$ that $\lambda(X_i | X_j) = 0$, but this isn't strong enough. Say

$$\frac{\mathbb{P}(X_i \geq \gamma, X_j \geq \gamma)}{\mathbb{P}(X_k \geq \gamma)^2} \sim \frac{\mathcal{L}(\gamma) \gamma^{-\frac{1}{\eta}}}{\gamma^{-2}} = \mathcal{L}(\gamma) \gamma^{2-\frac{1}{\eta}},$$

then the condition for $\widehat{\ell}_1$ having BRE becomes

$$\limsup_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{L}(\gamma) \gamma^{2-\frac{1}{\eta}} < \infty \Leftrightarrow \eta \in [0, \frac{1}{2}) \text{ or } (\eta = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } \mathcal{L}(\gamma) \rightarrow 0).$$

Copulas for which $\widehat{\ell}_1$ has BRE

This is a subset of Table 1 of Heffernan (2000):

#	Name	η	$L(x)$
1	Ali-Mikhail-Haq	0.5	$1 + \alpha$
2	BB10 in Joe	0.5	$1 + \theta/\alpha$
3	Frank	0.5	$\delta/(1 - e^{-\delta})$
4	Morgenstern	0.5	$1 + \alpha$
5	Plackett	0.5	δ
6	Crowder	0.5	$1 + (\theta - 1)/\alpha$
7	BB2 in Joe	0.5	$\theta(\delta + 1) + 1$
8	Pareto	0.5	$1 + \delta$
9	Raftery	0.5	$\delta/(1 - \delta)$
10	Gaussian ($\rho \leq 0$)	$\frac{1+\rho}{2}$	$C_\rho(\log t)^{-\frac{\rho}{1+\rho}}$

Table: Copulas with BRE.

Choosing Radial Approximation g_S

In many cases, know asymptotics

$$\ell(\gamma) = (1 + o(1)) c_S \bar{\mathfrak{F}}_S(\gamma),$$

where $\bar{\mathfrak{F}}_S$ is the complementary cdf of a random variable with density f_S .

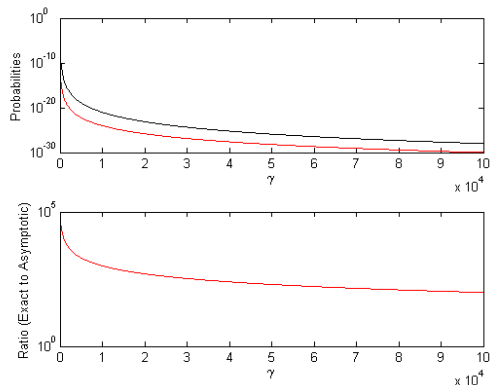
Tempting to use (deterministic) estimator $\hat{\ell}_{\text{Asym}}(\gamma) := c_S \bar{\mathfrak{F}}_S(\gamma)$.

Can be wildly inaccurate for moderate γ .

Choosing Radial Approximation g_S

Example ($f_i(x) = \lambda_i \alpha_i (1 + \lambda_i x)^{-(\alpha_i+1)}$, $i = 1, 2$.)

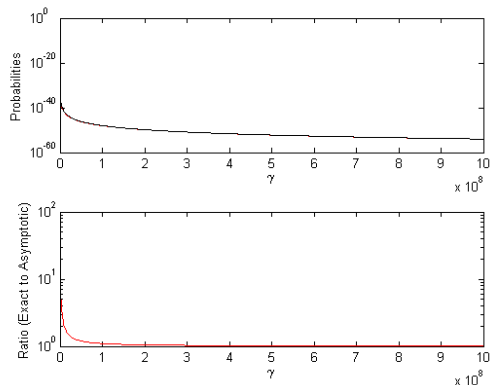
E.g. $\alpha_1 = 6$, $\lambda_1 = 1$, $\alpha_2 = 7$, and $\lambda_2 = 0.1$; $\hat{\ell}_{\text{Asym}}(\gamma) = (1 + \gamma)^{-6}$.



Choosing Radial Approximation g_S

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E.g. $\alpha_1 = 6, \lambda_1 = 1, \alpha_2 = 7, \text{ and } \lambda_2 = 0.1; \hat{\ell}_{\text{Asym}}(\gamma) = (1 + \gamma)^{-6}.$



Efficiency Criteria

Definition

An estimator $\hat{p}(\gamma)$ of some real probability $p(\gamma)$ which satisfies $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

$$\limsup_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var } \hat{p}(\gamma)}{p(\gamma)^{2-\varepsilon}} = 0 \quad (2a)$$

$$\limsup_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var } \hat{p}(\gamma)}{p(\gamma)^2} < \infty \quad (2b)$$

$$\limsup_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var } \hat{p}(\gamma)}{p(\gamma)^2} = 0 \quad (2c)$$

has *logarithmic efficiency* (2a), *bounded relative error/strong efficiency* (2b), or *vanishing relative error* (2c) respectively.

Efficiency of the Estimator $\widehat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma)$

Define $\mathbb{S}^{d-1} := \{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}_+^d : \boldsymbol{\theta}^\top \mathbf{1} = 1\}$.

Assumption (Assumption 1)

$$\limsup_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \frac{f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}|S}(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\gamma)}{g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}|S}(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\gamma)} \leq K,$$

for some $1 \leq K < \infty$.

Proposition

Under Assumption 1, the estimator $\widehat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma)$ has bounded relative error as $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$. If $K = 1$ in Assumption 1, the estimator $\widehat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma)$ has vanishing relative error as $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$.

Some Copulas and Their Impact on $c_S \bar{\mathfrak{F}}_S(\gamma)$

Proposition (Asymptotic right-tail independence)

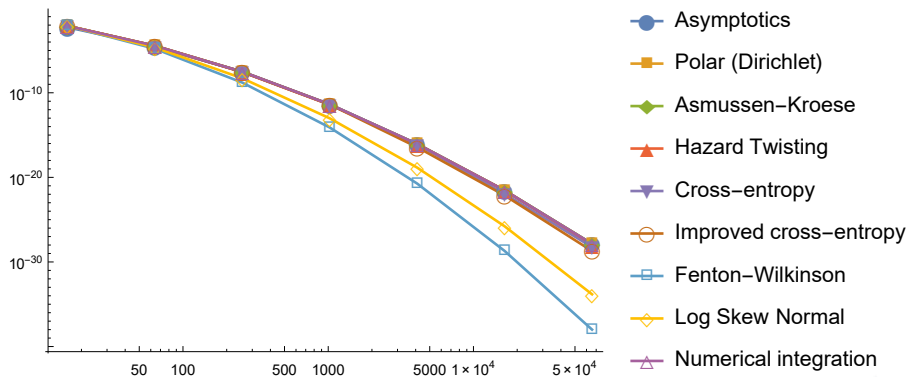
Clayton, Ali–Mikhail–Haq, Frank, Farlie–Gumbel–Morgenstern, Gaussian (all pairwise correlations $\notin \{-1, 1\}$).

Proposition (Asymptotic right-tail dependence)

Joe, Gumbel–Hougaard, t , Gaussian (all pairwise correlations $\in \{-1, 1\}$).

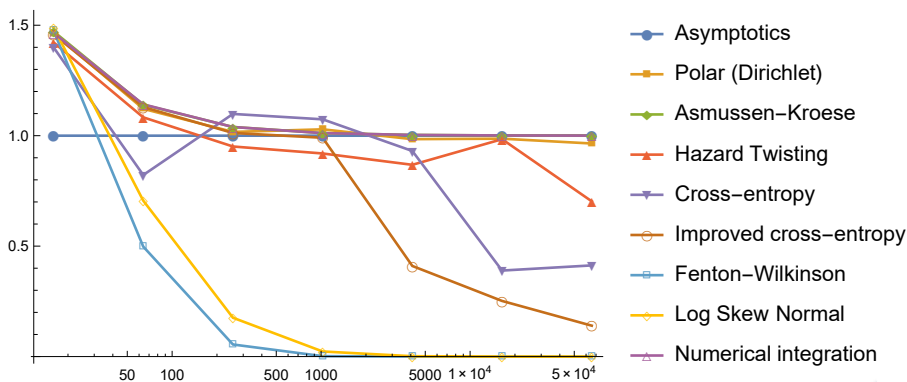
Example: iid Lognormals ($d = 2$)

$$\mu = \mathbf{0}, \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



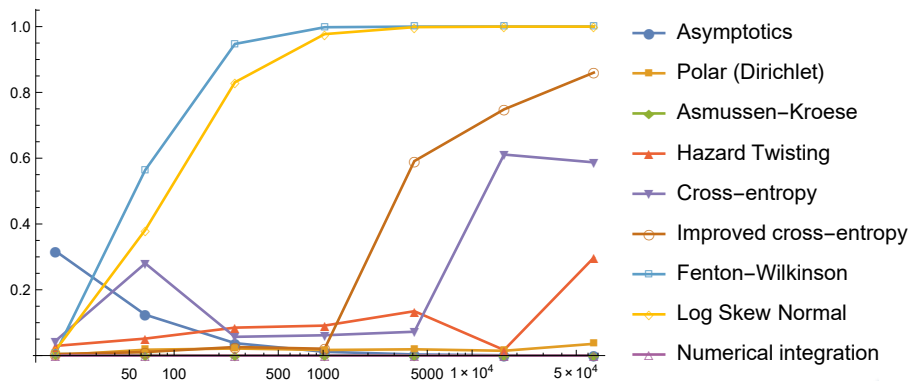
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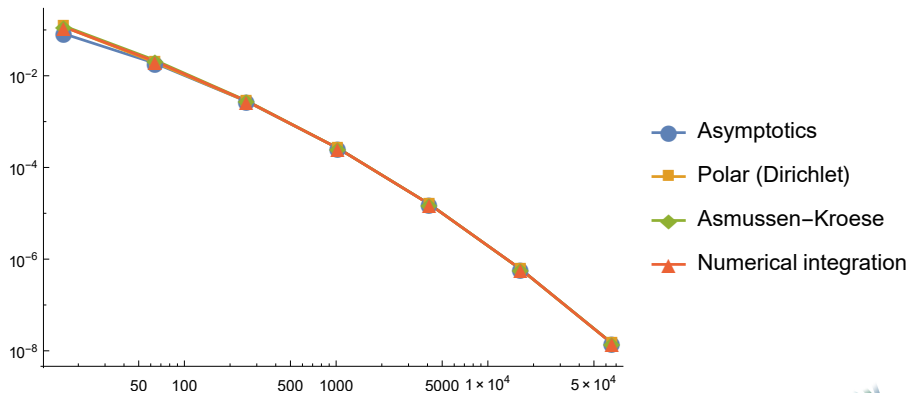
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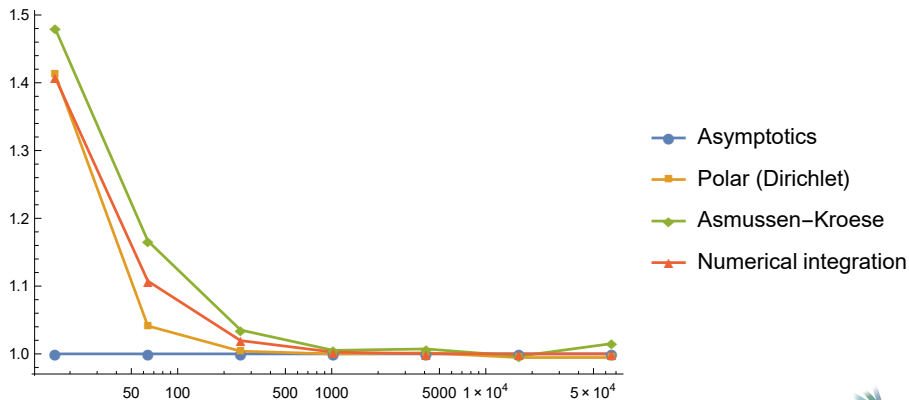
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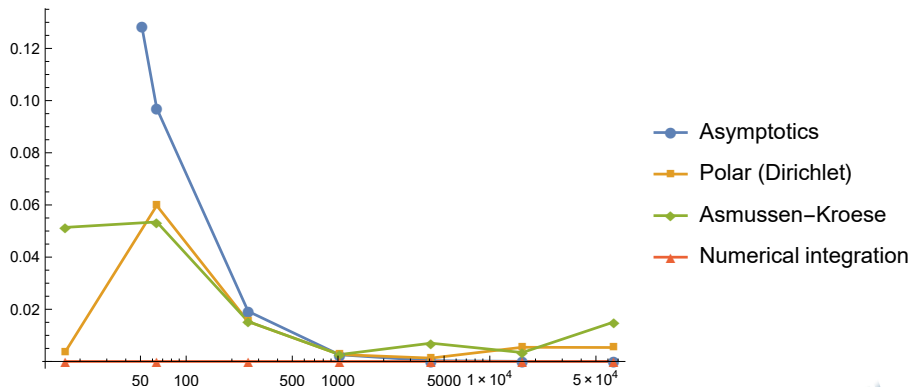
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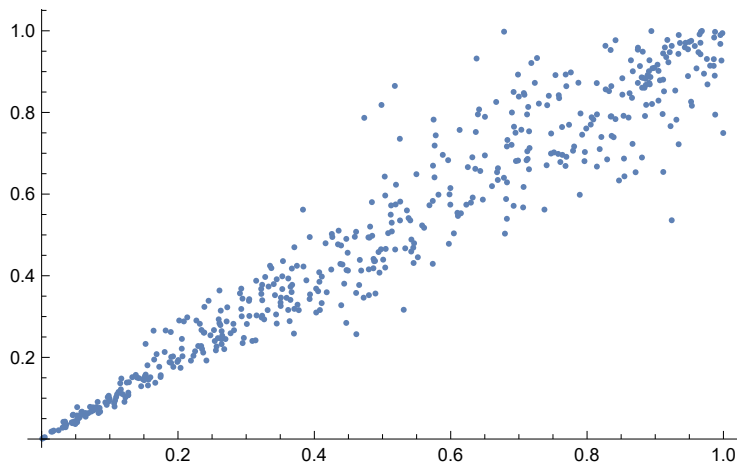
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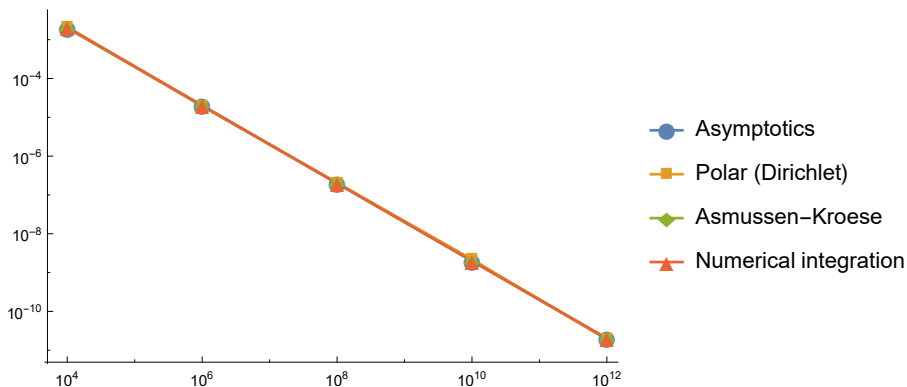
Example: Dependent Paretos ($d = 2$)

$\alpha = 10$. Clayton copula.



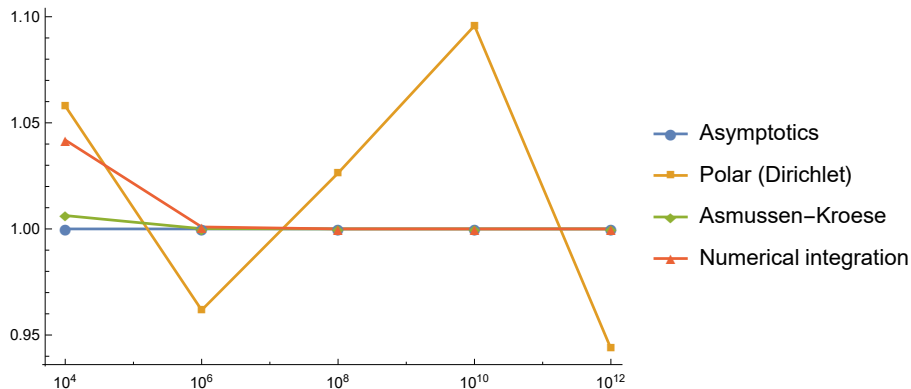
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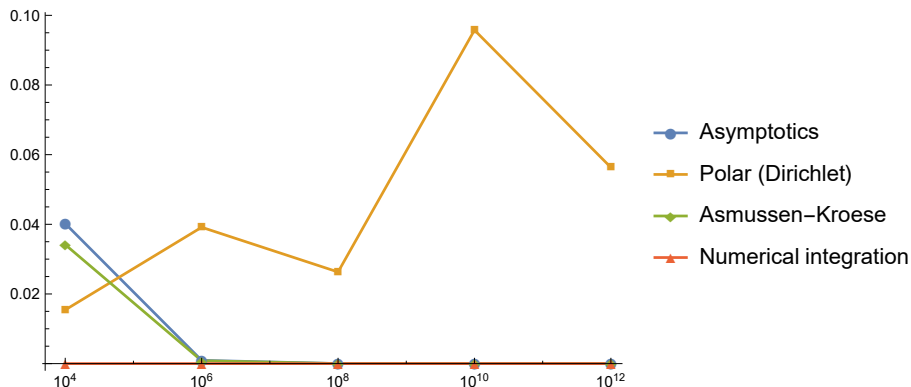
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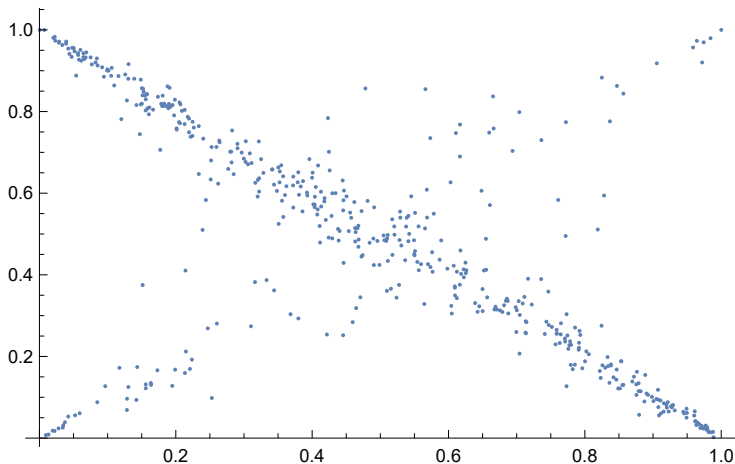
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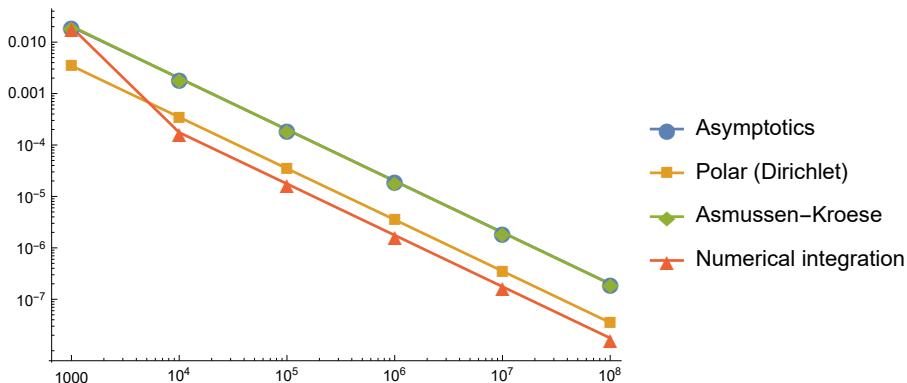
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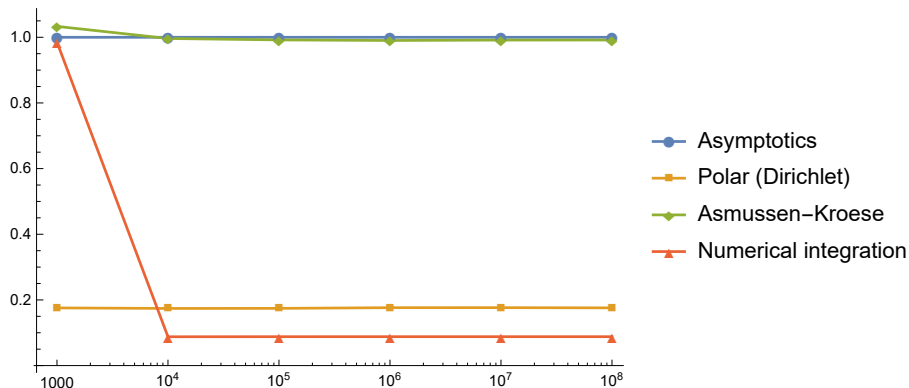
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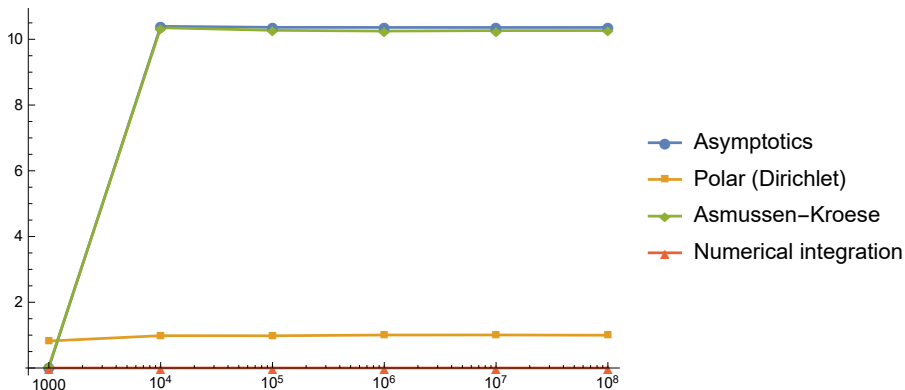
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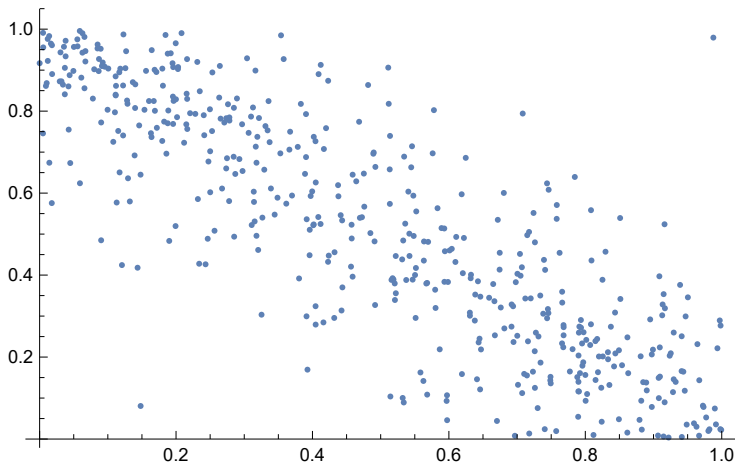
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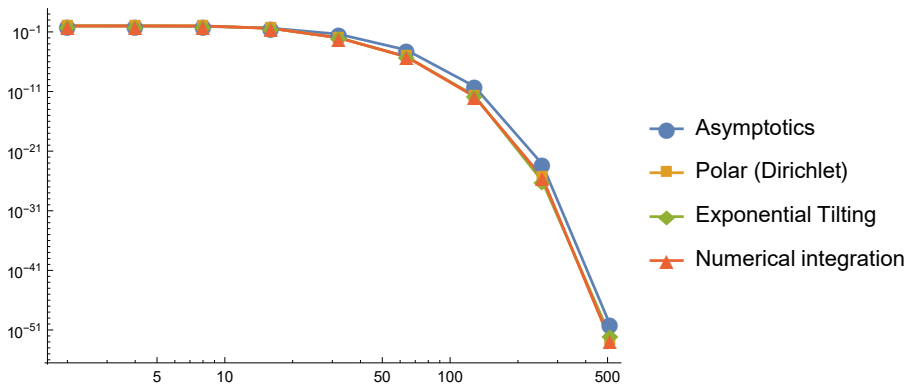
Example: Dependent Gammas ($d = 2$)

$\alpha = 2, \lambda = 4$. Frank copula.



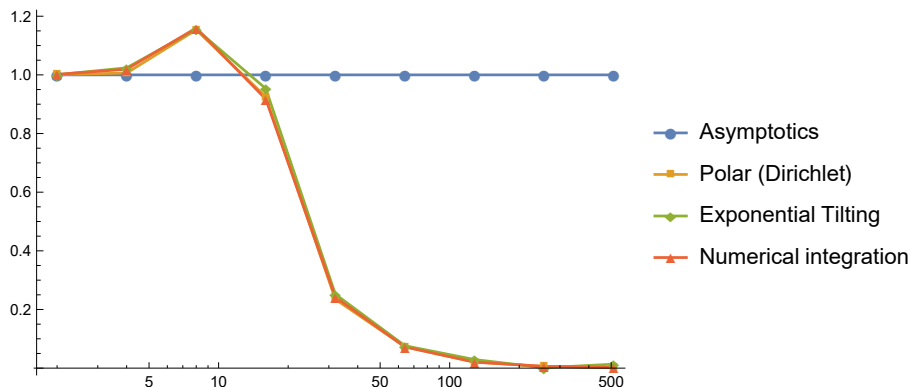
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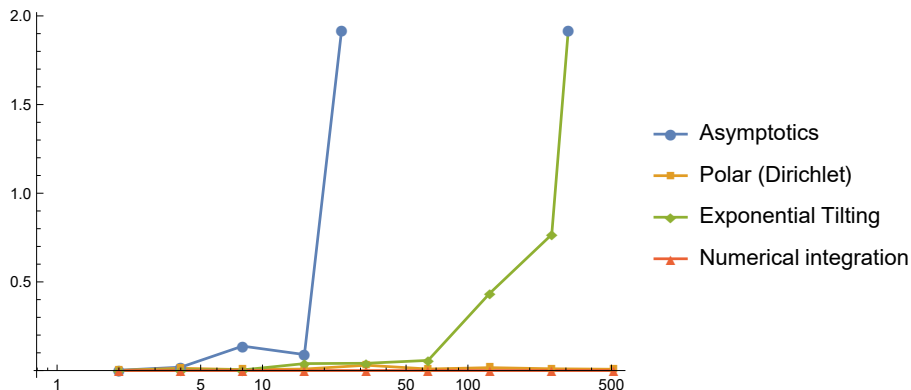
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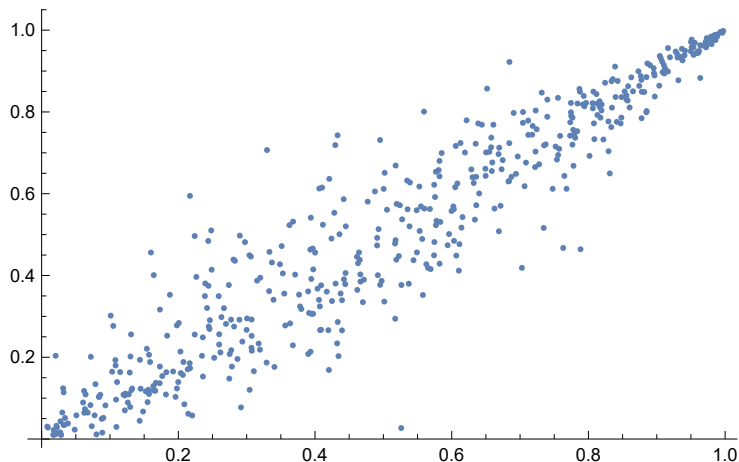
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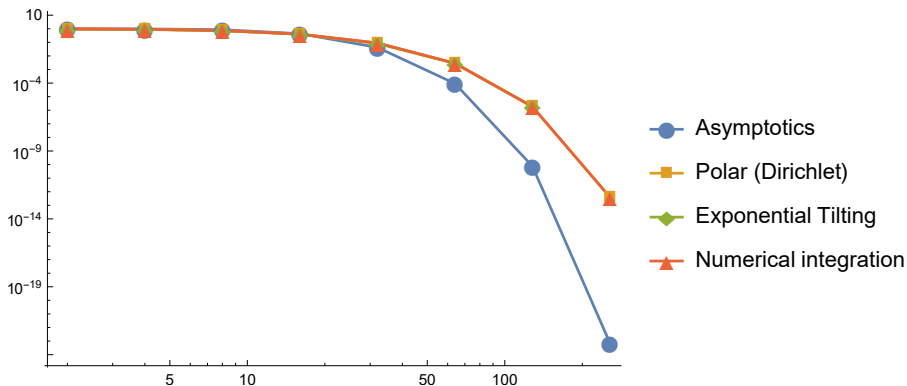
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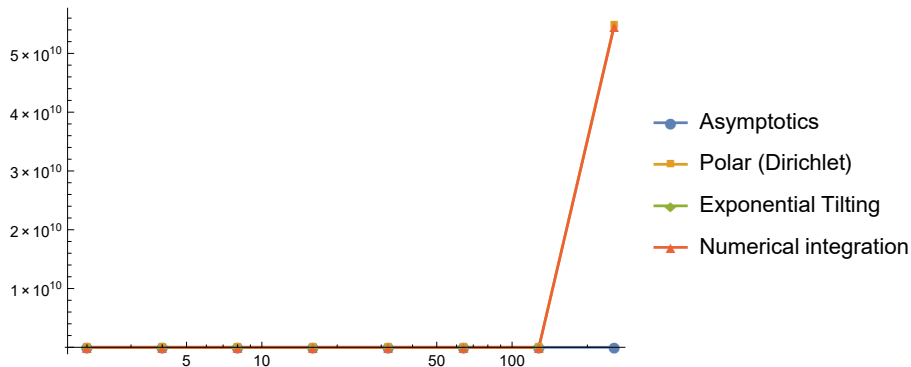
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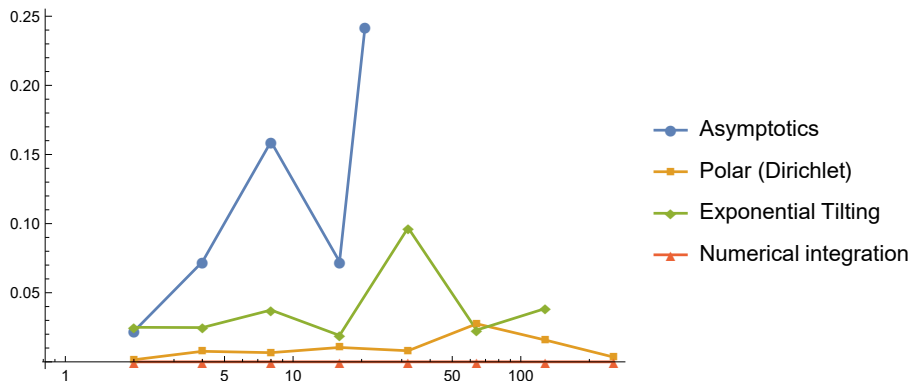
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Discussion

Asymptotic form is assumed for $\hat{\ell}_{\text{TP}}(\gamma)$; however, reasonable practical performance should be achievable with “educated guess” in $\hat{\ell}_{\text{Gen}}(\gamma)$.

More precise asymptotics for $\Theta|S > \gamma$?

Extensions: e.g. $S = \max\{X_1, \dots, X_d\}$, $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$.