

# Notes on hedging cryptos with spectral risk measures

December 8, 2020

## Abstract

We investigate different methods of hedging cryptocurrencies with Bitcoin futures. A useful generalisation of variance-based hedging uses spectral risk measures and copulas.

## 1. Optimal hedge ratio

Following (Barbi and Romagnoli, 2014), we consider the problem of the optimal hedge ratios by extending commonly known minimum variance hedge ratio to more general risk measures and dependence structures.

Hedge portfolio:  $R_t^h = R_t^S - hR_t^F$ , involving returns of spot and future contract and where  $h$  is the hedge ratio

Optimal hedge ratio:  $h^* = \operatorname{argmin}_h \rho_\phi(s, h)$ , for given confidence level  $1 - s$  (if applicable, e.g. in the case of VaR, ES), where  $\rho_\phi$  is a spectral risk measure with weighting function  $\phi$  (see below).

Corollary 2.1 of (Barbi and Romagnoli, 2014), corrected:

**Proposition 1.** Let  $R^S$  and  $R^F$  be two real-valued random variables on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$  with corresponding absolutely continuous copula  $C_{R^S, R^F}^t(w, \lambda)$  and continuous marginals  $F_{R^S}$  and  $F_{R^F}$ . Then, the distribution of  $R^h$  is given by

$$F_{R^h}(x) = 1 - \int_0^1 D_1 C_{R^S, R^F} \left( u, F_{R^F} \left[ \frac{F_{R^S}^{-1}(u) - x}{h} \right] \right) du.$$

The proof uses the  $D_1$ -operator. Here  $D_1 C(u, v) = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} C(u, v)$ , which can be shown to fulfil (Cherubini *et al.*, 2011)

$$D_1 C_{X,Y}(F_X(x), F_Y(y)) = \mathbf{P}(Y \leq y | X = x). \quad (1)$$

*Proof.* Using the identity (1) gives

$$\begin{aligned} F_{R^h}(x) &= \mathbf{P}(R^S - hR^F \leq x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( R^F \geq \frac{R^S - x}{h} \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( R^F \leq \frac{R^S - x}{h} \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\ &= 1 - \int_0^1 D_1 C_{R^S, R^F} \left( u, F_{R^F} \left( \frac{F_{R^S}^{-1}(u) - x}{h} \right) \right) du. \end{aligned}$$

□

### 1.1. Special case: Gaussian copula

Let  $R^S \sim N(\mu_S, \sigma_S^2)$  and  $R^F \sim N(\mu_F, \sigma_F^2)$  and assume further that they are jointly normally distributed with correlation  $\rho$ . Then,

$$R^h = R^S - hR^F \sim N(\mu_S - h\mu_F, \sigma_S^2 + h^2\sigma_F^2 - 2\rho h\sigma_S\sigma_F).$$

More generally, if  $R^k \sim F^k$ ,  $k \in \{S, F\}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}(R^S - hR^F \leq x) &= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( R^F \leq \frac{R^S - x}{h} \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( N^{(-1)}(F_F(R^F)) \leq N^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{R^S - x}{h} \right) \right) \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( \rho N^{(-1)}(F_S(R^S)) + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \varepsilon \leq N^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{R^S - x}{h} \right) \right) \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ N \left( \frac{N^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{R^S - x}{h} \right) \right) - \rho N^{(-1)}(F_S(R^S))}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \int_0^1 N \left( \frac{N^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{F_S^{(-1)}(u) - x}{h} \right) \right) - \rho N^{(-1)}(u)}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \right) du.
\end{aligned}$$

## 2. Special case: Normal variance mixtures

Let  $(R^S, R^F)$  follow a normal variance mixture, i.e., there exists a decomposition such that

$$\begin{aligned}
R^S &= \mu_S + \sqrt{W} \sigma_S Z_1 \\
R^F &= \mu_F + \sqrt{W} \sigma_F (\rho Z_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} Z_2),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $W$  is the mixing variable and  $Z_1, Z_2$  are independent standard normal variables. Then,  $R^h$  follows a NVM distribution with

$$R^h = R^S - hR^F = \mu_S - h\mu_F + \sqrt{W} \left( (\sigma_S - h\sigma_F\rho)Z_1 - h\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}\sigma_F Z_2 \right) = \mu_S - h\mu_F + \sqrt{W} Z_3,$$

where  $Z_3 \sim N(0, \sigma_S^2 + h^2 \sigma_F^2 - 2\rho h \sigma_S \sigma_F)$ .

More generally, let  $R^k \sim F^k$ ,  $k \in \{S, F\}$  and write  $V$  as the marginal distribution functions of the NVM distribution components. Let  $V^{(-1)}(F_S(R^S)) = \sqrt{W}Z_1$  and  $V^{(-1)}(F_F(R^F)) = \sqrt{W}\rho Z_1 + \sqrt{W}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}Z_2$ , where  $Z_1, Z_2$  are independent standard normals. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}(R^S - hR^F \leq x) &= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( R^F \leq \frac{R^S - x}{h} \middle| R^S \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( V^{(-1)}(F_F(R^F)) \leq V^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{R^S - x}{h} \right) \right) \middle| W, Z_1 \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{P} \left( \sqrt{W}\rho Z_1 + \sqrt{W}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}Z_2 \leq V^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{F_S^{(-1)}(V(\sqrt{W}Z_1)) - x}{h} \right) \right) \middle| W, Z_1 \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbf{N} \left( \frac{V^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{F_S^{(-1)}(V(\sqrt{W}Z_1)) - x}{h} \right) \right) - \rho\sqrt{W}Z_1}{\sqrt{W}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \right) \right] \\
&= 1 - \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty \mathbf{N} \left( \frac{V^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{F_S^{(-1)}(V(\sqrt{w}z_1)) - x}{h} \right) \right) - \rho\sqrt{w}z_1}{\sqrt{w}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \right) \varphi(z_1) f_W(w) dz_1 dw \\
&= 1 - \int_0^1 \int_{-\infty}^\infty \mathbf{N} \left( \frac{V^{(-1)} \left( F_F \left( \frac{F_S^{(-1)}(u) - x}{h} \right) \right) - \rho V^{(-1)}(u)}{V^{(-1)}(u)/z_1 \sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \right) \varphi(z_1) dz_1 du
\end{aligned}$$

### 3. Spectral risk measures

Spectral risk measure (Acerbi, 2002; Cotter and Dowd, 2006):

$$\rho_\phi = - \int_0^1 \phi(p) q_p \, dp,$$

where  $q_p$  is the  $p$ -quantile of the return distribution and  $\phi(s)$ ,  $s \in [0, 1]$ , is the so-called *risk aversion function*, a weighting function such that<sup>1</sup>

- (i)  $\phi(p) \geq 0$ ,
- (ii)  $\int_0^1 \phi(p) \, dp = 1$ ,
- (iii)  $\phi'(p) \leq 0$ .

Examples: VaR, ES

Replacing the last property with  $\phi'(p) > 0$  rules out risk-neutral behaviour.

Spectral risk measures are coherent (Acerbi, 2002).

#### 3.1. Representation of spectral risk measures

To prevent numerical instabilities involving the quantile function, re-write spectral risk measures as follows:

- Integration by substitution:  $\int_a^b g(\varphi(x)) \varphi'(x) \, dx = \int_{\varphi(a)}^{\varphi(b)} g(u) \, du$ .
- Spectral risk measures:  $-\int_0^1 \phi(p) F^{(-1)}(p) \, dp$

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<sup>1</sup>Note that the treatment in (Acerbi, 2002) is measure-based and therefore slightly different

- Set  $\varphi(x) = F(x)$ ,  $g(p) = \phi(p) F^{(-1)}(p)$ .
- Then:

$$-\int_0^1 \phi(p) F^{(-1)}(p) dp = -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(F(x)) x f(x) dx.$$

### 3.2. Exponential spectral risk measures

- Choose exponential utility function:  $U(x) = -e^{-kx}$ , where  $k > 0$  is the Arrow-Pratt coefficient of absolute risk aversion (ARA).
- Coefficient of absolute risk aversion:  $R_A(x) = -\frac{U''(x)}{U'(x)} = k$
- Coefficient of relative risk aversion:  $R_R(x) = -\frac{xU''(x)}{U'(x)} = xk$
- Weighting function  $\phi(p) = \lambda e^{-k(1-p)}$ , where  $\lambda$  is an unknown positive constant.
- Set  $\lambda = \frac{k}{1 - e^{-k}}$  to satisfy normalisation.
- Exponential spectral risk measure:

$$\rho_\phi = \int_0^1 \phi(p) F^{(-1)}(p) dp = \frac{k}{1 - e^{-k}} \int_0^1 e^{-k(1-p)} F^{(-1)}(p) dp.$$

(If calculation of quantiles is a problem use change of variables above.)

- What exactly is the link between risk measure and utility? I think there is no direct link: the exponential risk measure is *inspired* by ARA utility.

## 4. $D_1$ Operator

The  $D_1$  operator is given as

$$D_1 C_{X,Y}(F_X(x), F_Y(y)) = \mathbf{P}(Y \leq y | X = x).$$

In the context of the above notation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 C_{R^s, R^F}\{w, g(w)\} &= \mathbf{P}[R_F \leq F_F^{(-1)}\{g(w)\} | R_s = F_S^{(-1)}(w)] = \mathbf{P}\{V \leq g(w) | U = w\} \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{P}\{U \in dw, V \leq g(w)\}}{\mathbf{P}(U \in dw)} = \mathbf{P}\{U \in dw | V \leq g(w)\} = \int_0^{g(w)} c(w, v) dv. \end{aligned}$$

The last line can also be written as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w} C\{w, g(w')\} \Big|_{w'=w}.$$

We give an explicit equation of the  $D_1$  operator for Archimedean copulae.

The  $D_1$  operator is defined as the partial derivatives of the first input to the copula function, so we fix the second argument while taking derivative with respect to the first, and then evaluate the function. we have

$$\frac{\partial C\{v, g(w)\}}{\partial v} \Big|_{v=w} = \frac{\partial \phi^{-1}[\phi(v) + \phi\{g(w)\}]}{\partial[\phi(v) + \phi\{g(w)\}]} \frac{\partial[\phi(v) + \phi\{g(w)\}]}{\partial v} \Big|_{v=w} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\partial \phi^{-1}[\phi(v) + \phi\{g(w)\}]}{\partial[\phi(v) + \phi\{g(w)\}]} \frac{\partial \phi(v)}{\partial v} \Big|_{v=w} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{\partial \phi^{-1}[\phi(w) + \phi\{g(w)\}]}{\partial[\phi(w) + \phi\{g(w)\}]} \frac{\partial \phi(w)}{\partial w} \quad (4)$$

$$, \text{ where } g(w) = F_{R^F} \left\{ \frac{F_{R^S}^{-1}(w) - r^h}{h} \right\} \quad (5)$$

$$(6)$$

Function	Gumbel	Frank	Clayton	Independence
$\phi(t)$	$\{-\log(t)\}^\theta$	$-\ln \left\{ \frac{\exp(-\theta t)-1}{\exp(-\theta)-1} \right\}$	$\frac{1}{\theta}(t^{-\theta} - 1)$	Same to Gumbel where $\theta = 1$
$\phi^{-1}(t)$	$\exp(-t^{1/\theta})$	$\frac{-1}{\theta} \log[1 + \exp(-t)\{\exp(-\theta) - 1\}]$	$(1 + \theta t)^{-\frac{1}{\theta}}$	
$\partial\phi(t)/\partial t$	$\theta \frac{\phi(t)}{t \log(t)}$	$\frac{\theta \exp(-\theta t)}{\exp(-\theta t)-1}$	$-t^{-(\theta+1)}$	
$\partial\phi^{-1}(t)/\partial t$	$\frac{-1}{\theta} t^{\frac{1}{\theta}-1} \phi^{-1}(t)$	$\frac{1}{\theta} \frac{\exp(-t)\{\exp(-\theta)-1\}}{1+\exp(-t)\{\exp(-\theta)-1\}}$	$\theta(1 + \theta t)^{-\frac{1}{\theta}-1}$	

Table 1: Archimedean Copulae's Generator, Generator Inverse, and their derivative.

## 5. Dependence

Dependence through copula (e.g. Student t, Clayton, Gumbel, double t, NIG, Frank, skewed-t, elliptical (this is too general, but maybe some theoretical results))

### 5.1. Archimedean copulas

- A well-studied one-parameter family of copulas are the **Archimedean copulas**.
- Let  $\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  be a continuous and strictly decreasing function with  $\phi(1) = 0$  and  $\phi(0) \leq \infty$ .
- We define the **pseudo-inverse** of  $\phi$  as

$$\phi^{(-1)}(t) = \begin{cases} \phi^{-1}(t), & 0 \leq t \leq \phi(0), \\ 0, & \phi(0) < t \leq \infty. \end{cases}$$

- If, in addition,  $\phi$  is convex, then the following function is a copula:

$$C(u, v) = \phi^{(-1)}(\phi(u) + \phi(v)).$$



- Such copulas are called **Archimedean copulas**, and the function  $\phi$  is called an **Archimedean copula generator**.
- Examples of Archimedean copulas are the **Gumbel** and the **Clayton** copulas:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{\theta, \text{Gu}}(u, v) &= \exp \left\{ -((-\ln u)^\theta + (-\ln v)^\theta)^{1/\theta} \right\}, & 1 \leq \theta < \infty, \\ C_{\theta, \text{Cl}}(u, v) &= (u^{-\theta} + v^{-\theta} - 1)^{-1/\theta}, & 0 < \theta < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

- In the case of the Gumbel copula, the independence copula is attained when  $\theta = 1$  and the comonotonicity copula is attained as  $\theta \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Thus, the Gumbel copula interpolates between independence and perfect dependence.
- In the case of the Clayton copula, the independence copula is attained as  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ , whereas the comonotonicity copula is attained as  $\theta \rightarrow \infty$ .

## 5.2. Elliptical Copulae

See e.g. Theorem 3.22, Definition 3.26 and Theorem 3.28 of (McNeil *et al.*, 2005):

**Definition 1.** A random vector  $\mathbf{Z} = (Z_0, \dots, Z_d)^T$  follows an elliptical distribution if it has a representation

$$\mathbf{Z} \stackrel{L}{=} G\mathbf{A}\mathbf{U},$$

where  $G > 0$  is a scalar random variable, the so-called *mixing variable*,  $\mathbf{A}$  is a deterministic  $(d+1) \times (d+1)$  matrix with  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T := \Sigma$ , which in turn is a  $(d+1) \times (d+1)$  nonnegative definite symmetric matrix of rank  $d+1$ , and  $\mathbf{U}$  is a  $(d+1)$ -dimensional random vector uniformly distributed on the unit sphere  $\mathcal{S}_{d+1} := \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1} : \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{z} = 1\}$ , and  $\mathbf{U}$  is independent of  $G$ .

A subclass of elliptical distributions are the so-called *normal variance mixtures (NVM)*, see Section 3.3 of (McNeil *et al.*, 2005). For the connection between NVM and elliptical distributions, see also Theorem 3.25 of (McNeil *et al.*, 2005).

**Definition 2** (Normal variance mixture (NVM)). The random vector  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_k)^T$  follows a multivariate *normal variance mixture (NVM) distribution* if

$$\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \mu + \sqrt{W}A\mathbf{Z},$$

where

- (i)  $\mathbf{Z} \sim N_k(\mathbf{0}, I_k)$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{Z}$  are independent, standard normally distributed,
- (ii)  $W \geq 0$  is a random variable independent of  $\mathbf{Z}$ ,
- (iii)  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^d$  are a matrix and vector of constants, respectively.

It is easily observed that  $\mathbf{X}|W = w \sim N_d(\mu, w\Sigma)$ , where  $\Sigma = AA'$ .

In general, we will assume that  $\Sigma$  is positive definite and that  $W > 0$   $\mathbf{P}$ -a.s.. Then, the density of  $\mathbf{X}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) &= \int f_{\mathbf{X}|W}(\mathbf{x}|w) dH(w) \\ &= \int \frac{w^{-d/2}}{(2\pi)^{d/2}|\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mu)}{2w}\right) dH(w), \end{aligned}$$

where  $H$  is the distribution function of  $W$ .

Special cases:

- Normal distribution:  $W$  constant
- Student  $t$  distribution:  $W \sim Ig(1/2\nu, 1/2\nu)$ , where  $Ig$  is an inverse gamma distribution

- Symmetric generalised hyperbolic distribution:  $W \sim N^-(\lambda, \chi, \psi)$  where  $N^-$  refers to the generalised inverse Gaussian (GIG) distribution
- Normal inverse Gaussian (NIG):  $W$  follows a GIG distribution with  $\lambda = -0.5$ .

under construction

*[The definition below is one way of introducing the elliptical copula, but not the most practical one for our purposes.]*

**Definition 3.** Elliptical Distribution. The  $d$ -dimensional random vector  $\mathbf{y}$  has an elliptical distribution if and only if the characteristic function  $\mathbf{t} \mapsto \mathbb{E}\{\exp(i\mathbf{t}^\top \mathbf{y})\}$  with  $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  has the representation

$$\phi_g(\mathbf{t}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = \exp(i\mathbf{t}^\top \boldsymbol{\mu})g(\mathbf{t}^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{t}; \boldsymbol{\nu}) \quad (7)$$

where  $g(\cdot; \boldsymbol{\nu}) : [0, \infty[ \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is a symmetric positive semidefinite  $d \times d$ -matrix.

If  $r$  has a density, then the density of  $\mathbf{y}$  is of the form

$$|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{\frac{1}{2}}g\{(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\}. \quad (8)$$

The function  $g(\cdot; \boldsymbol{\nu})$  is known as characteristic generator, whereas  $\boldsymbol{\nu}$  is parameter that determines the shape, in particular the tail index of the distribution.

**Corollary 2.** (*Fang, 2018, equation 2.12*) If  $\mathbf{y}$  follows an elliptical distribution, then  $\mathbf{y}$  has a stochastic representation

$$\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + r\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{u}, \quad (9)$$

where  $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}$ , and  $\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ .

Distribution	$r \sim$	$g(\mathbf{t})$
Gaussian		$\chi_n$

Table 2: Generators of Elliptical Distributions summarised from (Fang, 2018, Chapter 2)

### 5.3. Gaussian Copula

The Gaussian or Normal copula is

$$C_{\Sigma}^{Ga}(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}(x_1)} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}(x_d)} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} y^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} y \right\} dy_1 \dots dy_d \quad (10)$$

The copula density is

$$c_{\Sigma}^{Ga}(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi^{-1}(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ \Phi^{-1}(x_d) \end{pmatrix}^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi^{-1}(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ \Phi^{-1}(x_d) \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (11)$$

Simplified notation bivariate Gaussian copula

$$C_{\rho}^{Ga}\{w, g(w)\} = \Phi_{\rho}[\Phi^{-1}(w), \Phi^{-1}\{g(w)\}], \quad (12)$$

where  $g(w) : [0, 1] \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is defined above,  $\rho$  is the dependency parameter of a bivariate Gaussian copula,  $\Phi_{\rho}$  is bivariate normal distribution with mean 0 and covariance  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\Phi(\cdot)$  is CDF of standard normal,  $\phi(\cdot)$  is PDF of standard normal,  $\Phi^{-1}(\cdot)$  is quantile function of standard normal.

The bivariate  $D_1 C_{\rho}^{Ga}\{w, g(w)\}$  is

$$D_1 C_{\rho}^{Ga}\{w, g(w)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}\{g(w)\}} \phi_{\rho}\{\Phi^{-1}(w), u\} du \cdot \frac{1}{\phi\{\Phi^{-1}(w)\}} \quad (13)$$

*Proof.*

$$D_1 C_\rho\{w, g(w)\} = \left. \frac{\partial C_\rho\{w, g(w')\}}{\partial w} \right|_{w'=w} \quad (14)$$

$$= \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_\rho[\Phi^{-1}(w), \Phi^{-1}\{g(w)\}]}{\partial \Phi^{-1}(w)} \frac{\partial \Phi^{-1}(w)}{\partial w} \right|_{w'=w} \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\rho} \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}\{g(w)\}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)} \Phi^{-1}(w)^2 - 2\rho\Phi^{-1}(w)u + u^2 \right\} du \cdot \frac{1}{\phi\{\Phi^{-1}(w)\}} \quad (16)$$

□

## 5.4. t-copulae

The t copula is to represent the dependency structure by t distribution (Fang *et al.*, 2002; Embrechts *et al.*, 2002). Demarta and McNeil (2005) extend this idea to skewed t copula and grouped t copula to allow more flexibility in the modelling of dependency structure.

### 5.4.1. Vanilla t-copula

The t-copula is

$$C_{\nu, \Sigma}^t(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{t_\nu^{-1}(x_1)} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{t_\nu^{-1}(x_n)} \frac{\Gamma\left\{\frac{\nu+i}{2}\right\}}{\Gamma\left\{\frac{\nu}{2}\right\} (\pi\nu)^{i/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \left(1 + \frac{y^\top \Sigma^{-1} y}{\nu}\right)^{-\frac{\nu+i}{2}} dy_1 \dots dy_n, \quad (17)$$

where  $t_\nu^{-1}$  is the quantile function of a univariate student-t distribution with degree of freedom  $\nu$ .

### 5.4.2. Skewed t copula

Mean variance mixture

### 5.4.3. Double-t copula

*[It is OK to introduce the copula without any reference to CDO's.]* Hull and White (2006) present an alternative way to the Gaussian copula for valuing CDO tranches. The double-t copula model is a weighted sum of a common (or market) variable  $M$  and an idiosyncratic variable  $Z_i$ . *[They are t-distributed, right?]* The double-t copula is

$$X_i = w_i M + \sqrt{1 - w_i^2} Z_i \quad (18)$$

where  $M$  and  $Z_i$  are independent random variables with zero mean and unit variance, and  $X_i$  is an indicator variable for  $i^{\text{th}}$  asset. The authors map the time to default of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  obligor,  $t_i$ , to  $X_i$ ,

$$F_{X_i}(x) = F_{t_i}(t). \quad (19)$$

In our case, we map  $X_i$  to log-returns of portfolio constituents,

$$F_{X_1}(x) = F_{r^S}(s) \text{ and } F_{X_2}(x) = F_{r^F}(t). \quad (20)$$

This is also known as percentile-to-percentile mapping (Hull, 2006).

*[The percentile-to-percentile mapping is just the property that applying the cdf to a random variable yields a  $U(0, 1)$  variable:]*

$$F(x) = \mathbf{P}(X \leq x) = \mathbf{P}(F(X) \leq F(x)) = \mathbf{P}(U \leq F(x)),$$

*since by definition,  $U \sim U(0, 1)$  fulfills  $\mathbf{P}(U \leq u) = u$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ . This could be introduced when copulas and Sklar's Theorem are introduced. ]* The reason for this mapping is to turn incomprehensible dependency structures into known structure.

### 5.4.4. Normal Inverse Gaussian Copula

Normal Inverse Gaussian (NIG) distribution is a flexible 4-parameter distribution that can produce fat tails and skewness, unlike student-t distribution, NIG's convolution is stable under certain conditions and the CDF, PDF and quantile function can still be computed sufficiently fast (Schlösser, 2011, chapter 5). NIG distribution is a mixture of normal and inverse Gaussian distribution.

**Definition 4.** Inverse Gaussian Distribution. A non-negative random variable  $Y$  has an Inverse Gaussian (IG) distribution with parameters  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\beta > 0$  if its density function is of the form

$$f_{\text{IG}}(y; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2\pi\beta}} y^{-1.5} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\alpha - \beta z)^2}{2\beta z} \right\} \quad (21)$$

The corresponding distribution function is:

$$F_{\text{IG}}(y; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2\pi\beta}} \int_0^y z^{-1.5} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\alpha - \beta z)^2}{2\beta z} \right\} dz. \quad (22)$$

We write  $Y \sim \text{IG}(\alpha, \beta)$ .

**Definition 5.** Normal Inverse Gaussian Distribution. A random variable  $X$  has an Normal Inverse Gaussian (NIG) distribution with parameters  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\delta$  if its density function is of the form

$$X|Y = y \sim \Phi(\mu + \beta y, y) \quad (23)$$

$$Y \sim \text{IG}(\delta\gamma, \gamma^2) \text{ with } \gamma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} \quad (24)$$

The corresponding distribution function is:

$$F_{\text{NIG}}(y; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2\pi\beta}} \int_0^y z^{-1.5} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\alpha - \beta z)^2}{2\beta z} \right\} dz. \quad (25)$$

## 6. Estimation

### 6.1. Two-Stage Estimation

Joe (2005) study the efficiency of a two-stage estimation procedure of copula estimation. The authors also call this method inference function for margins IFM.

#### Pros

1. Almost as efficient as MLE methods but easier to be implemented
2. Yields an asymptotically Gaussian, unbiased estimate

#### Cons

1. Subject to specification of marginals Kim *et al.* (2007)

Our data

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{11} & \cdots & y_{1i} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_{n1} & \cdots & y_{ni} \end{bmatrix} \quad (26)$$

Let  $F$  and  $f$  be the joint cdf and joint density of  $\mathbf{y}$  with parameters  $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ , and let  $F_i$  and  $f_i$  be the marginal cdf and marginal density for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  random variable with parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\theta}_i, \boldsymbol{\delta}) = c\{F_1(\mathbf{y}_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}_1), F_2(\mathbf{y}_2; \boldsymbol{\theta}_2), \dots, F_i(\mathbf{y}_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}_i); \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \prod_{j=1}^i f_i(\mathbf{y}_j; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j) \quad (27)$$

For a sample of size  $n$ , the log-likelihood of functions of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  univariate margin is

$$L_i(\theta_i) = \sum_{m=1}^n \log f_i(y_{mi}; \theta_i), \quad (28)$$



and the log-likelihood function for the joint distribution is

$$L(\delta, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_i) = \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^i \log f(y_{mj}; \delta, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_i) \quad (29)$$

In most cases, one does not have closed form estimators and numerical techniques are needed. Numerical ML estimation difficulty increase when the total number of parameters increases. The two-stage estimation is designed to overcome this problem.

The two-stage procedure is

1. estimate the univariate parameters from separate univariate likelihoods to get  $\tilde{\theta}_1, \dots, \tilde{\theta}_i$
2. maximize  $L(\delta, \tilde{\theta}_1, \dots, \tilde{\theta}_i)$  over  $\delta$  to get  $\tilde{\delta}$

Under regularity conditions <sup>2</sup>,  $(\tilde{\theta}_1, \dots, \tilde{\theta}_i, \tilde{\delta})$  is the solution of

$$(\partial L_1 / \partial \theta_1^T, \dots, \partial L_i / \partial \theta_i^T, \partial L / \partial \delta^T) = \mathbf{0} \quad (30)$$

For comparison, if we optimize  $L$  directly without the two-stage procedure (i.e. MLE), we solve for

$$(\partial L / \partial \theta_1^T, \dots, \partial L / \partial \theta_i^T, \partial L / \partial \delta^T) = \mathbf{0} \quad (31)$$

We denote the two solutions as  $\tilde{\eta} = (\tilde{\theta}_1, \dots, \tilde{\theta}_i, \tilde{\delta})$  for two-stage procedure;  $\hat{\eta} = (\hat{\theta}_1, \dots, \hat{\theta}_i, \hat{\delta})$  for MLE procedure. and compare the asymptotic relative efficiency of  $\tilde{\eta}$  and  $\hat{\eta}$ .

Asymptotics: yet to be done.

Kim *et al.* (2007) show the estimation of  $\theta$  may be seriously affected. They compare the two-stage approach and Canonical Maximum Likelihood Method by simulation and conclude that Canonical Maximum Likelihood is preferred from a computational statistics and data analysis point of view.

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<sup>2</sup>Regularity conditions include 1.  $\exists \frac{\partial \log f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial^2 \log f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}, \frac{\partial^3 \log f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^3}$  for all  $x$ ; 2.  $\exists g(x), h(x)$  and  $H(x)$  such that for  $\theta$  in a neighborhood  $N(\theta_0)$  the relations  $\left| \frac{\partial f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right| \leq g(x)$ ,  $\left| \frac{\partial^2 f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right| \leq h(x)$ ,  $\left| \frac{\partial^3 f(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^3} \right| \leq H(x)$  hold for all  $x$ , and  $\int g(x) dx < \infty$ ,  $\int h(x) dx < \infty$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_\theta \{H(X)\} < \infty$  for  $\theta \in N(\theta_0)$ ; 3. For each  $\theta \in \Theta$ ,  $0 < \mathbb{E}_\theta \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial \log f(X; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right\}$ . For detail see section 4.2.2 of Serfling (2009)

## 6.2. Canonical Maximum Likelihood Method

This approach was studied by [Genest \*et al.\* \(1995\)](#) and [Shih and Louis \(1995\)](#). One estimates the margins using empirical CDF

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n 1(X_i \leq x) \quad (32)$$

,  
we maximize the log-likelihood

$$L(\delta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log[c_\delta\{F_X(X_i), F_Y(Y_i)\}] \quad (33)$$

This procedure does not require specification of marginals.

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