

Kybernetika

VOLUME 44 (2008), NUMBER 6

The Journal of the Czech Society for
Cybernetics and Information Sciences

Published by:

Institute of Information Theory and Automation of the AS CR

Editorial Office:

Pod Vodárenskou věží 4, 182 08 Praha 8

Editor-in-Chief:

Milan Mareš

Managing Editors:

Lucie Fajfrová
Karel Sladký

Editorial Board:

Jiří Anděl, Sergej Čelikovský, Marie Demlová, Jan Flusser, Petr Hájek, Vladimír Havlena, Didier Henrion, Yiguang Hong, Zdeněk Hurák, Martin Janžura, Jan Ježek, George Klir, Ivan Kramosil, Tomáš Kroupa, Petr Lachout, Friedrich Liese, Jean-Jacques Loiseau, František Matúš, Radko Mesiar, Karol Mikula, Jiří Outrata, Jan Seidler, Karel Sladký, Jan Štecha, Olga Štěpánková, František Turnovec, Igor Vajda, Jiřina, Vejnarová, Milan Vlach, Miloslav Vošvrda, Pavel Zítek

Kybernetika is a bi-monthly international journal dedicated for rapid publication of high-quality, peer-reviewed research articles in fields covered by its title.

Kybernetika traditionally publishes research results in the fields of Control Sciences, Information Sciences, System Sciences, Statistical Decision Making, Applied Probability Theory, Random Processes, Fuzziness and Uncertainty Theories, Operations Research and Theoretical Computer Science, as well as in the topics closely related to the above fields.

The Journal has been monitored in the Science Citation Index since 1977 and it is abstracted/indexed in databases of Mathematical Reviews, Zentralblatt für Mathematik, Current Mathematical Publications, Current Contents ISI Engineering and Computing Technology.

Kybernetika. Volume 44 (2008)

ISSN 0023-5954, MK ČR E 4902.

Published bimonthly by the Institute of Information Theory and Automation of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Pod Vodárenskou věží 4, 182 08 Praha 8. — Address of the Editor: P. O. Box 18, 182 08 Prague 8, e-mail: kybernetika@utia.cas.cz. — Printed by PV Press, Pod vrstevnicí 5, 140 00 Prague 4. — Orders and subscriptions should be placed with: MYRIS TRADE Ltd., P. O. Box 2, V Štíhlách 1311, 142 01 Prague 4, Czech Republic, e-mail: myris@myris.cz. — Sole agent for all “western” countries: Kubon & Sagner, P. O. Box 34 01 08, D-8 000 München 34, F.R.G.

Published in December 2008.

© Institute of Information Theory and Automation of the AS CR, Prague 2008.

EXTREME DISTRIBUTION FUNCTIONS OF COPULAS

MANUEL ÚBEDA-FLORES

In this paper we study some properties of the distribution function of the random variable $C(X, Y)$ when the copula of the random pair (X, Y) is M (respectively, W) – the copula for which each of X and Y is almost surely an increasing (respectively, decreasing) function of the other –, and C is any copula. We also study the distribution functions of $M(X, Y)$ and $W(X, Y)$ given that the joint distribution function of the random variables X and Y is any copula.

Keywords: copula, diagonal section, distribution function, Lipschitz condition, opposite diagonal section, ordering, Spearman's footrule

AMS Subject Classification: 60E05, 62H05, 62E10

1. INTRODUCTION

Let H_1 and H_2 be two bivariate distribution functions with common continuous one-dimensional margins F and G – the distribution functions considered are taken to be right-continuous. Let (X, Y) be a random pair – all the random variables considered are defined on the same probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) – whose joint distribution function is H_2 , and let $\langle H_1|H_2 \rangle(X, Y)$ denote the random variable $H_1(X, Y)$. The H_2 *distribution function of H_1* , which we denote by $(H_1|H_2)$, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (H_1|H_2)(t) &= \Pr[\langle H_1|H_2 \rangle(X, Y) \leq t] \\ &= \mu_{H_2}(\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid H_1(x, y) \leq t\}), \quad t \in [0, 1], \end{aligned}$$

where μ_{H_2} denotes the measure on \mathbb{R}^2 induced by H_2 [7, 12]. In this paper we study some properties of the distribution function of the random variable $H_1(X, Y)$ when each variable of the random pair (X, Y) is almost surely an increasing (respectively, decreasing) function of the other.

Since our methods involve the concept of a copula, we review this notion and some of its properties. A (bivariate) *copula* is the restriction to $[0, 1]^2$ of a continuous (bivariate) distribution function whose margins are uniform on $[0, 1]$. The importance of copulas stems largely from the observation that the joint distribution H of the random pair (X, Y) with respective margins F and G can be expressed by $H(x, y) = C(F(x), G(y))$, for all $(x, y) \in [-\infty, \infty]^2$, where C is a copula that is

uniquely determined on $\text{Range } F \times \text{Range } G$ (*Sklar's Theorem*) [17, 18]. Let Π denote the copula for independent random variables, i. e., $\Pi(u, v) = uv$ for all $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$. For a complete survey on copulas, see [11].

By Sklar's Theorem, if C_1 and C_2 are two copulas and (U, V) is a pair of uniform $[0, 1]$ random variables with copula C_2 , and $\langle C_1|C_2 \rangle(U, V)$ denotes the random variable $C_1(U, V)$ – written $\langle C_1|C_2 \rangle$ when the meaning is clear –, then the C_2 distribution function of C_1 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (C_1|C_2)(t) &= \Pr[\langle C_1|C_2 \rangle(U, V) \leq t] \\ &= \mu_{C_2}(\{(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \mid C_1(u, v) \leq t\}), \quad t \in [0, 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Every copula C of the random pair (X, Y) satisfies the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} \max(u + v - 1, 0) &= W(u, v) \leq C(u, v) \leq M(u, v) \\ &= \min(u, v), \quad \forall (u, v) \in [0, 1]^2. \end{aligned}$$

M (respectively, W) is the copula for which each of X and Y is almost surely an increasing (respectively, decreasing) function of the other.

In the sequel, we shall use the following notation: For any pair of random variables X and Y with respective distribution functions F and G , “ \leq_{st} ” denotes the stochastic inequality, i. e., $X \leq_{st} Y$ if, and only if, $F \geq G$; and $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$ denotes the equality in distribution.

Distribution functions of copulas are employed – among other purposes – to construct orderings on the set of copulas (see [12]). If C , C_1 and C_2 are copulas, two of those orderings are: (a) C_1 is C -larger than C_2 if $\langle C_1|C \rangle \geq_{st} \langle C_2|C \rangle$; and (b) C_1 is C -larger in measure than C_2 if $\langle C|C_1 \rangle \geq_{st} \langle C|C_2 \rangle$. As a consequence, two equivalences are given, namely: (c) C_1 is C -equivalent to C_2 (written $C_1 \equiv_C C_2$) if $\langle C_1|C \rangle \stackrel{d}{=} \langle C_2|C \rangle$; and (d) C_1 is C -equivalent in measure to C_2 if $\langle C|C_1 \rangle \stackrel{d}{=} \langle C|C_2 \rangle$.

It is known that if F is a right-continuous distribution function such that $F(0^-) = 0$ and $F(t) \geq t$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, then there exists a copula C such that $(C|C)(t) = F(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$ (see [13, 16]). We now wonder whether this result can be generalized (in some sense) to other distribution functions of copulas. To be exact: if C_0 is a copula, and F is a distribution function such that $(M|C_0)(t) \leq F(t) \leq (W|C_0)(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, does there exist a copula C such that $(C|C_0)(t) = F(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$? The answer is affirmative when $C_0 = M$. We will also provide some additional properties of the distributions $(C|M)$ and $(C|W)$ for any copula C .

2. THE M DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION OF A COPULA

The *diagonal section* δ_C of a copula C is the function given by $\delta_C(t) = C(t, t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. A *diagonal* is a function $\delta: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ which satisfies the following properties:

- (i) $\delta(1) = 1$,
- (ii) $\delta(t) \leq t$ for all t in $[0, 1]$,

- (iii) $0 \leq \delta(t') - \delta(t) \leq 2(t' - t)$ for all t, t' in $[0, 1]$ such that $t \leq t'$ - i.e., δ is increasing and 2-Lipschitz.

The diagonal section of any copula is a diagonal; and for any diagonal δ , there always exist copulas whose diagonal section is δ [5] (see also [4, 14, 15]): for instance, the Bertino copula B_δ [6], which is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_\delta(u, v) &= \min(u, v) - \min(s - \delta(s) \mid \min(u, v)) \\
 &\leq s \leq \max(u, v), \quad (u, v) \in [0, 1]^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

The diagonal section δ_C of a copula C is the restriction to $[0, 1]$ of the distribution function of $\max(U, V)$, whenever (U, V) is a random pair distributed as C . Let $\delta_C^{(-1)}$ denote the *cadlag* inverse of δ_C , i.e., $\delta_C^{(-1)}(t) = \sup\{u \in [0, 1] \mid \delta_C(u) \leq t\}$ for t in $[0, 1]$.

The following result gives a (partial) answer to the question posed at the end of Section 1.

Theorem 1. Let F be a right-continuous distribution function such that $F(0^-) = 0$, $F(t) \geq t$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, and $F'(t) \geq 1/2$ for almost every t in $[0, 1]$. Then there exists a copula C such that $(C|M)(t) = F(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$.

Proof. We know that $\delta_C^{(-1)}$ is the restriction to the interval $[0, 1]$ of a distribution function with support on $[0, 1]$ and such that $(M|M)(t) \leq (C|M)(t) \leq (W|M)(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Since

$$(C|M)(t) = \delta_C^{(-1)}(t), \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

(see [12]), and δ_C is 2-Lipschitz, we have that $\delta_C^{(-1)}$ must be a strictly increasing function (not necessarily continuous) whose derivative is greater or equal to $1/2$ for almost every point in $[0, 1]$. Since the Bertino copula B_δ associated with δ satisfies $(B_\delta|M)(t) = \delta^{(-1)}(t) = F(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$ (see [12]), this completes the proof. \square

If C_1 and C_2 are two copulas, then we say that $C_1 \equiv_M C_2$ if $(C_1|M)(t) = (C_2|M)(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. The next example provides a class in this equivalence relation which contains more than one copula.

Example 1. Let C be the copula given by $C(u, v) = \max(0, u + v - 1, \min(u, v - 1/2))$, $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$. C is a *shuffle of Min* [9], whose mass is spread uniformly on two line segments on $[0, 1]^2$: one joining the points $(0, 1/2)$ and $(1/2, 1)$, and the second one joining the points $(1/2, 1/2)$ and $(1, 0)$. Then it is easy to verify that $(C|M)(t) = (W|M)(t) = (1 + t)/2$ for all t in $[0, 1]$.

As a consequence of Theorem 1, we have the following

Corollary 2. Each equivalence class of the equivalence relation \equiv_M on the set of copulas contains a unique Bertino copula.

Consider *Spearman's footrule coefficient* [19], whose population version for a random pair (X, Y) with copula C , is given by

$$\varphi_C = 1 - 3 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 |u - v| dC(u, v)$$

(see [11]). In terms of the M distribution function of the copula C , this measure can be rewritten as

$$\varphi_C = 4 - 6 \int_0^1 (C|M)(t) dt$$

(see [12]). Given two copulas C_1 and C_2 , $\langle C_1|M \rangle \leq_{st} \langle C_2|M \rangle$ implies that $\varphi_{C_1} \leq \varphi_{C_2}$. However, the converse result is not true in general, as the following example shows.

Example 2. Let C be the shuffle of Min given by $C(u, v) = \min(u, v, \max(1/3, u + v - 2/3))$, $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$. Its mass is spread uniformly on three line segments in $[0, 1]^2$: one joining the points $(0, 0)$ and $(1/3, 1/3)$, another one joining the points $(1/3, 2/3)$ and $(2/3, 1/3)$, and the third one joining the points $(2/3, 2/3)$ and $(1, 1)$. Then we have $(\Pi|M)(t) = \sqrt{t}$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, and $(C|M)(t) = 2/3$ if $t \in [1/3, 2/3]$ and $(C|M)(t) = t$ otherwise. Thus, $\varphi_\Pi = 0 < 2/3 = \varphi_C$, but $(\Pi|M)(1/3) \simeq 0.577 < 0.67 \simeq (C|M)(1/3)$.

The “ M -larger” ordering has several applications. For example, if (U_i, V_i) are two uniform $[0, 1]$ random variables with copula C_i , $i = 1, 2$, then C_1 is M -larger than C_2 if, and only if, the order statistics of U_1 and V_1 are stochastically “inside” the interval determined by the order statistics of U_2 and V_2 [12]. The next result shows the relationship between the M -larger and the M -larger in measure orderings. To this end, we first note that, for any pair (U, V) of random variables with associated copula C , the C distribution function of M is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (M|C)(t) &= \Pr[\min(U, V) \leq t] = \Pr[U \leq t] + \Pr[U > t, V \leq t] \\ &= t + \int_t^1 \Pr[V \leq t|U = u] du = t + \int_t^1 \frac{\partial C}{\partial u}(u, t) du \\ &= t + t - C(t, t) = 2t - \delta_C(t) \end{aligned}$$

for every t in $[0, 1]$.

Proposition 3. Let C_1 and C_2 be two copulas. Then $\langle M|C_1 \rangle \leq_{st} \langle M|C_2 \rangle$ if, and only if, $\langle C_1|M \rangle \leq_{st} \langle C_2|M \rangle$.

Proof. Let δ_{C_1} and δ_{C_2} be the respective diagonal sections of C_1 and C_2 . Then C_1 is M -larger in measure than C_2 if, and only if, $2t - \delta_{C_1}(t) \leq 2t - \delta_{C_2}(t)$ for all t

in $[0, 1]$, i. e., $\delta_{C_2} \leq \delta_{C_1}$, which is equivalent to $\delta_{C_1}^{(-1)} \leq \delta_{C_2}^{(-1)}$, that is, $(C_1|M)(t) \leq (C_2|M)(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. \square

As a consequence of Proposition 3, the M -equivalence in measure coincides with the M -equivalence. We now show that the equality $\langle M|C \rangle \stackrel{d}{=} \langle C|M \rangle$ only holds when $C = M$.

Proposition 4. Let C be a copula. Then $\langle M|C \rangle \stackrel{d}{=} \langle C|M \rangle$ if, and only if, $C = M$.

Proof. Suppose $\langle M|C \rangle \stackrel{d}{=} \langle C|M \rangle$, i. e., $2t - \delta_C(t) = \delta_C^{(-1)}(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Thus, $\delta_C^{(-1)}(t) = \sup\{u \in [0, 1] \mid \delta_C(u) \leq t\} \leq 2t$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, which implies that $\delta_C(t) \geq t/2$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Hence, $2t - \delta_C^{(-1)}(t) \geq t/2$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, i. e., $\delta_C^{(-1)}(t) \leq 3t/2$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, which implies that $\delta_C(t) \geq 2t/3$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. After n iterations, we have that $\delta_C(t) \geq nt/(n + 1)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Therefore, if n tends to infinity, we have that $\delta_C(t) \geq t$, and hence, $\delta_C(t) = t$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Thus, we obtain that $C = M$; otherwise, if there exists a point (u, v) in $[0, 1]^2$ such that $C(u, v) < M(u, v)$ with $u \leq v$ (the case $u \geq v$ is similar), then $C(u, u) \leq C(u, v) < M(u, v) = u$, that is, there exists u in $[0, 1]$ such that $\delta_C(u) < u$, which is absurd. The converse is trivial, completing the proof. \square

Let C_1 and C_2 be two copulas. We say that C_1 is *df-larger* than C_2 if $\langle C_1|C_1 \rangle \geq_{st} \langle C_2|C_2 \rangle$ [2, 12, 13]. The following example shows that the df-larger and the M-larger orderings are not comparable.

Example 3.

- (a) Consider the copulas Π and the shuffle of Min given by $C(u, v) = \min(u, v, \max(0, u - 0.3, v - 0.612, u + v - 0.912))$, $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$, whose mass is spread on three line segments in $[0, 1]^2$: one joining the points $(0, 0.612)$ and $(0.3, 0.912)$, the second one joining the points $(0.3, 0)$ and $(0.912, 0.612)$, and the third one joining the points $(0.912, 0.912)$ and $(1, 1)$. For every t in $[0, 1]$, we have $(\Pi|\Pi)(t) = t - t \ln t$, $(\Pi|M)(t) = \sqrt{t}$, $(C|C)(t) = \max(t, \min(2t, t + 0.3, 0.912))$, and $(C|M)(t) = \max(t, \min(t + 0.3, (t + 0.912)/2))$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. Then, it is easy to check that $\langle \Pi|\Pi \rangle \leq_{st} \langle C|C \rangle$; however, we have $(\Pi|M)(0) = 0 < 0.3 = (C|M)(0)$ and $(\Pi|M)(0.912) \simeq 0.955 > 0.912 = (C|M)(0.912)$.
- (b) Consider now the copulas Π and $A = (M + W)/2$ – recall that the convex linear combination of two copulas is again a copula. The mass distribution of A is spread uniformly on two line segments in $[0, 1]^2$: one connecting the points $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 1)$, and the second one connecting $(0, 1)$ to $(1, 0)$. Then, for every t in $[0, 1]$, we have $(A|A)(t) = \min(3t, (2 + t)/3)$ and $(A|M)(t) = \min(2t, (2t + 1)/3)$. Thus, it is easy to verify that $\langle \Pi|M \rangle \leq_{st} \langle A|M \rangle$; but $(\Pi|\Pi)(0.25) \simeq 0.5966 < 0.75 = (A|A)(0.25)$ and $(\Pi|\Pi)(0.75) \simeq 0.9658 > 0.9167 = (A|A)(0.75)$.

3. THE W DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION OF A COPULA

The *opposite diagonal section* ω_C of a copula C is the function given by $\omega_C(t) = C(t, 1 - t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. An *opposite diagonal* is a function $\omega: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ which satisfies the following properties:

- (i) $\omega(1) = 0$,
- (ii) $\omega(t) \leq \min(t, 1 - t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$,
- (iii) $\omega(t') - \omega(t) \leq t' - t$ for all t, t' in $[0, 1]$ such that $t \leq t'$ - i. e., ω is 1-Lipschitz.

The opposite diagonal section of any copula is an opposite diagonal; and for any opposite diagonal ω , there exist copulas whose opposite diagonal section is ω : for instance, the copula J_ω given by

$$J_\omega(u, v) = \max\left(0, u + v - 1, \frac{u + v - 1 + \omega(u) + \omega(1 - v)}{2}\right)$$

for all (u, v) in $[0, 1]^2$ (see [3]).

The following result provides a probabilistic interpretation of the opposite diagonal section of a copula (in the sequel, we will denote the distribution function of a random variable X either by $\text{df}(X)$ or a letter such as F).

Proposition 5. Let (U, V) be a pair of random variables with associated copula C . Then

$$\omega_C(t) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (\Pr[\min(U, 1 - V) \leq t < \max(U, 1 - V)]).$$

Proof. The copula C' associated with the random pair $(U, 1 - V)$ is given by $C'(u, v) = u - C(u, 1 - v)$ for every (u, v) in $[0, 1]^2$ (see [11]). Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{df}(\min(U, 1 - V))(t) &= \Pr[\min(U, 1 - V) \leq t] \\ &= \Pr[U \leq t] + \Pr[1 - V \leq t] - \Pr[U \leq t, 1 - V \leq t] \\ &= t + t - C'(t, t) = t + C(t, 1 - t) = t + \omega_C(t), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{df}(\max(U, 1 - V))(t) &= \Pr[\max(U, 1 - V) \leq t] = \Pr[U \leq t, 1 - V \leq t] \\ &= C'(t, t) = t - C(t, 1 - t) = t - \omega_C(t). \end{aligned}$$

whence the result easily follows. \square

Let (U, V) be a random pair with copula C . The W distribution function of C is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (C|W)(t) &= \Pr[C(U, V) \leq t] = \Pr[C(U, 1 - U) \leq t] = \Pr[\omega_C(U) \leq t] \\ &= \lambda(\{u \in [0, 1] \mid \omega_C(u) \leq t\}), \end{aligned}$$

where λ denotes the Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R} .

Distribution functions of copulas are also employed in constructing new measures of association. Thus, for instance, given a copula C , it seems reasonable to obtain a measure χ_C – in the same sense than Spearman’s footrule coefficient φ_C – based on the W distribution function of C , and given by the linear expression

$$\chi_C = a \int_0^1 (C|W)(t) dt + b$$

where a and b are two real numbers. If we consider $\chi_W = -1$ and $\chi_\Pi = 0$ for this measure – for the Spearman’s footrule coefficient we have $\varphi_M = 1$, $\varphi_\Pi = 0$, and $\varphi_W = -1/2$ –, since $(\Pi|W)(t) = 1 - \sqrt{\max(0, 1 - 4t)}$ and $(M|W)(t) = \min(2t, 1)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$, then we obtain

$$\chi_C = 5 - 6 \int_0^1 (C|W)(t) dt.$$

The coefficient χ_C can be also written as

$$\chi_C = 6 \int_0^1 C(t, 1 - t) dt - 1 = 3 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 |1 - u - v| dC(u, v) - 1.$$

This coefficient – which first appeared in this last form in [1] – satisfies $\chi_M = 1/2$. Observe also that the population version γ_C of the known *Gini’s rank correlation coefficient* [8, 10, 11] of a copula C can be written as $\gamma_C = 2(\varphi_C + \chi_C)/3$.

Unlike the relationship between the M -larger and the M -larger in measure orderings, there is no analogue to Proposition 3 for the W -larger and the W -larger in measure orderings, as the next example shows. The example also provides a class in the equivalence relation \equiv_W – recall that if C_1 and C_2 are two copulas, then $C_1 \equiv_W C_2$ if $(C_1|W)(t) = (C_2|W)(t)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$ – which contains more than one copula. First note that, if (U, V) is a random pair with copula C , then the C distribution function of W is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (W|C)(t) &= \Pr[U + V - 1 \leq t] = \Pr[U \leq t] + \Pr[U > t, V \leq 1 + t - U] \\ &= t + \int_t^1 \Pr[V \leq 1 + t - u | U = u] du \\ &= t + \int_t^1 \frac{\partial C}{\partial u}(u, 1 + t - u) du \end{aligned}$$

for every t in $[0, 1]$.

Example 4. Let C be the shuffle of Min given by $C(u, v) = \min(u, v, \max(1/2, u + v - 1))$, $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$. Its mass is spread uniformly on two line segments in $[0, 1]^2$: one joining the points $(0, 0)$ and $(1/2, 1/2)$, and the second one joining the points $(1/2, 1)$ and $(1, 1/2)$. Then it is easy to verify that $(C|W)(t) = (M|W)(t) = \min(2t, 1)$ for all t in $[0, 1]$. But, on the other hand, we have $(W|C)(t) = 1/2$ if $t \in [0, 1/2)$ and $(W|C)(t) = 1$ if $t \in [1/2, 1]$, and $(W|M)(t) = (1 + t)/2$.

Hence, $(W|C)(1/4) = 1/2 < 5/8 = (W|M)(1/4)$ and $(W|C)(3/4) = 1 > 7/8 = (W|M)(3/4)$.

To see the “utility” of the C distribution function of W , where C is the copula of the random pair (U, V) , we provide the following result, which describes the relationship between this distribution function and the distribution function of the random variable $U + V$. In what follows, we will use some notation. Let f be a real function defined on $[a, b]$ (or on a dense subset of $[a, b]$, including a and b) having only removable or jump discontinuities. Then $\ell^+ f$ and $\ell^- f$ are the functions defined on $[a, b]$ via $\ell^+ f(x) = f(x^+)$ and $\ell^- f(x) = f(x^-)$, where $f(x^+)$ (respectively, $f(x^-)$) denotes the limit – if it exists – by the right (respectively, left) of f in x . Let \hat{C} denote the *survival* copula of C , i. e., $\hat{C}(u, v) = u + v - 1 + C(1 - u, 1 - v)$ for every $(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2$ (see [11]).

Proposition 6. Let (U, V) be a pair of random variables with associated copula C . Then we have

$$\text{df}(U + V)(t) = \begin{cases} \ell^+(1 - (W|\hat{C})(1 - t)), & \text{if } t \in [0, 1] \\ (W|C)(t - 1), & \text{if } t \in [1, 2]. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let $t \in [0, 1]$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{df}(U + V)(t) &= \mu_C(\{(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \mid u + v \leq t\}) \\ &= \mu_C(\{(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \mid (1 - u) + (1 - v) - 1 \geq 1 - t\}) \\ &= \mu_C(\{(1 - u', 1 - v') \in [0, 1]^2 \mid u' + v' - 1 \geq 1 - t\}) \\ &= \mu_{\hat{C}}(\{(u', v') \in [0, 1]^2 \mid u' + v' - 1 \geq 1 - t\}) \\ &= \mu_{\hat{C}}(\{(u', v') \in [0, 1]^2 \mid W(u', v') \geq 1 - t\}) \\ &= 1 - \mu_{\hat{C}}(\{(u', v') \in [0, 1]^2 \mid W(u', v') < 1 - t\}) \\ &= 1 - \ell^-(W|\hat{C})(1 - t) \\ &= \ell^+(1 - (W|\hat{C})(1 - t)), \end{aligned}$$

where we have done the transformations $u' = 1 - u$, $v' = 1 - v$. On the other hand, for every $t \in [1, 2]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (W|C)(t) &= \mu_C(\{(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \mid u + v - 1 \leq t\}) \\ &= \mu_C(\{(u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \mid u + v \leq t + 1\}) \\ &= \text{df}(U + V)(t + 1), \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. \square

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was supported by the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (Spain) and FEDER, under research project MTM2006-12218.

(Received May 12, 2008.)

REFERENCES

-
- [1] J. Behboodan, A. Dolati, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Measures of association based on average quadrant dependence. *J. Probab. Statist. Sci.* *3* (2005), 161–173.
 - [2] P. Capérà, A.-L. Fougères, and C. Genest: A stochastic ordering based on a decomposition of Kendall's tau. In: *Distributions with Given Marginals and Moment Problems* (V. Beneš and J. Štěpán, eds.), Kluwer, Dordrecht 1997, pp. 81–86.
 - [3] B. De Baets, H. De Meyer, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Constructing copulas with given diagonal and opposite diagonal sections, to appear.
 - [4] F. Durante, A. Kolesárová, R. Mesiar, and C. Sempi: Copulas with given diagonal sections: novel constructions and applications. *Internat. J. Uncertain. Fuzziness Knowledge-Based Systems* *15* (2007), 397–410.
 - [5] G. A. Fredricks and R. B. Nelsen: Copulas constructed from diagonal sections. In: *Distributions with Given Marginals and Moment Problems* (V. Beneš and J. Štěpán, eds.), Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht 1997, pp. 129–136.
 - [6] G. A. Fredricks and R. B. Nelsen: The Bertino family of copulas. In: *Distributions with Given Marginals and Statistical Modelling* (C. Cuadras, J. Fortiana, and J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, eds.), Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht 2002, pp. 81–91.
 - [7] C. Genest and L.-P. Rivest: On the multivariate probability integral transformation. *Statist. Probab. Lett.* *53* (2001), 391–399.
 - [8] C. Gini: *L'Ammontare e la composizione della ricchezza delle nazione*. Bocca Torino 1914.
 - [9] P. Mikusiński, H. Sherwood, and M. D. Taylor: Shuffles of Min. *Stochastica* *13* (1992), 61–74.
 - [10] R. B. Nelsen: Concordance and Gini's measure of association. *J. Nonparametric Statist.* *9* (1998), 227–238.
 - [11] R. B. Nelsen: *An Introduction to Copulas*. Second edition. Springer, New York 2006.
 - [12] R. B. Nelsen, J. J. Quesada-Molina, J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Distribution functions of copulas: a class of bivariate probability integral transforms. *Statist. Probab. Lett.* *54* (2001), 277–282.
 - [13] R. B. Nelsen, J. J. Quesada-Molina, J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Kendall distribution functions. *Statist. Probab. Lett.* *65* (2003), 263–268.
 - [14] R. B. Nelsen, J. J. Quesada-Molina, J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Best-possible bounds on sets of bivariate distribution functions. *J. Multivariate Anal.* *90* (2004), 348–358.
 - [15] R. B. Nelsen, J. J. Quesada-Molina, J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, and M. Úbeda-Flores: On the construction of copulas and quasi-copulas with given diagonal sections. *Insurance: Math. Econ.* *42* (2008), 473–483.
 - [16] R. B. Nelsen, J. J. Quesada-Molina, J. A. Rodríguez-Lallena, and M. Úbeda-Flores: Kendall distribution functions and associative copulas. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems* *160* (2009), 52–57.
 - [17] A. Sklar: Fonctions de répartition à n dimensions et leurs marges. *Publ. Inst. Statist. Univ. Paris* *8* (1959), 229–231.
 - [18] A. Sklar: Random variables, joint distributions, and copulas. *Kybernetika* *9* (1973), 449–460.
 - [19] C. Spearman: 'Footrule' for measuring correlation. *British J. Psychology* *2* (1906), 89–108.

Manuel Úbeda-Flores, Departamento de Estadística y Matemática Aplicada, Universidad de Almería, Carretera de Sacramento s/n, 04120 La Cañada de San Urbano, Almería, Spain.

e-mail: mubeda@ual.es