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# Vine copulas for uncertainty quantification: why and how

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# Vine copulas for Uncertainty Quantification: why and how

Emiliano Torre<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Stefano Marelli<sup>1</sup>, Paul Embrechts<sup>2,3</sup>, Bruno Sudret<sup>1,2</sup>



## Outline

#### 1 Uncertainty Quantification (UQ)

#### 2 (Vine) copulas in UQ



#### Outline

#### 1 Uncertainty Quantification (UQ)

(Vine) copulas in UQ

#### 3 Conclusions

#### Problem statement

A model  $\mathcal{M}$  subject to input X produces the response Y:

$$Y = \mathcal{M}(\boldsymbol{X}),$$

where:

- *M*: <u>known</u> computational model (black box)
- $X = (X_1, \ldots, X_d)$ : real-valued random vector with joint cdf  $F_X$
- $\Rightarrow$  Y uncertain: real-valued random variable

Uncertainty Quantification (UQ): Statistics of Y?

 $\mathcal{M}$  computationally expensive  $\Rightarrow$  Monte Carlo unaffordable  $\Rightarrow$  faster methods.

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Uncertainty Quantification (UQ): Statistics of Y?

 $\mathcal{M} \text{ computationally expensive} \Rightarrow \mathsf{Monte \ Carlo \ unaffordable} \Rightarrow \mathsf{faster \ methods}.$ 

# UQ analyses and methods

Parameters of  $Y = \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{X})$  of interest in UQ:

- Global parameters:  $\mathbb{E}(Y^k)$ , PDF  $f_Y$ , ...  $\hookrightarrow$  Perturbation theory, surrogate modelling
- Tail probabilities, extreme quantiles: P(Y ≥ y<sub>critical</sub>)
   → Reliability analysis: FORM, SORM, subset simulation, ...
- Conditional tail probabilities: P(Y ≥ y<sub>critical</sub> | X<sub>2</sub> = x<sub>2</sub>)
   → Fragility analysis
- Sensitivity indices, importance factors
   → Sensitivity analysis

• ...

# Uncertainty analysis: main steps



- Most research in UQ: given  $\mathcal{M}$  (step A) and  $F_X$  (step B), solve step C. Historically:  $\{X_i\}$  assumed independent or with Gaussian copula.
- Focus here: choose a suitable  $F_X$  (step B)
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Especially a suitable copula. For large d: vines
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Map to specific probability spaces needed for some UQ methods

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#### Outline



#### 2 (Vine) copulas in UQ

#### 3 Conclusions

# Examples: two finite element models

23 bar horizontal truss (bridge):



120 bar truss (dome):



- $\mathcal{M}$  : finite element model
- X : structural parameters and loads
- Y : max deflection  $\Delta$

Parameter of  $\Delta$  of interest:

•  $\mathbb{P}(|\Delta| > \delta_{crit})$ 

#### What is coming

We will:

- Define the **true** joint PDF  $f_X$  of X (marginals + vine copula)
- Compute the reference solution by large MC simulation, or by FORM

Then, we will forget everything and

- Infer f<sub>X</sub> from data (300 multivariate observations)
   In particular: Independence, Gaussian, or C-/D-vine copula
   →Q1: does the copula matter?
- Estimate P(|∆| > δ<sub>crit</sub>) by large MC simulation and by FORM for each copula
   →Q2: does the "copula + UQ" framework work?

Copula

Model

 $C^{\mathcal{V}}$ 

 $\hat{C}^{\mathcal{V}}$ 

 $\hat{C}^{\mathcal{N}}$ 

Method

(# runs)

MC (10<sup>7</sup>)

MC (10<sup>7</sup>)

MC (10<sup>7</sup>)

 $MC(10^7)$ 

 $P_f$ (×10<sup>-4</sup>)

4.84

5.52

0.31

## Reliability analysis by MCS



The	copula	matters!

# First Order Reliability Method (FORM)

Problem: system fails in <u>unknown</u> failure domain  $\mathcal{D}_f$ . Failure probability  $P_f$ ?

- Assume  $\mathcal{D}_f$  convex  $\Rightarrow \exists !$  point  $U^* \in \mathcal{D}_f$  closest to 0
- Assume  $F_{\boldsymbol{X}} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_d$ , *d*-variate standard normal distribution

Then  $P_f \approx 1 - F_X(U^*) = \Phi_d(-||U^*||).$ 



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Then  $P_f \approx 1 - F_X(U^*) = \Phi_d(-||U^*||)$ . Task: find  $U^*$ .



• If  $f_{oldsymbol{X}} 
eq \Phi_d$ : First map  $oldsymbol{X} \mapsto oldsymbol{X}' \sim \Phi_d$ 

#### Reliability analysis: MC vs FORM results



- The copula matters!
- FORM works well in combination with vine copulas

#### Reliability analysis: MC vs FORM results



E. Torre (RSUQ & Risk Center, ETH Zürich)

#### Conclusions

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- Vine copulas are dependence models suitable to UQ problems:
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Enable use of advanced UQ methods when input X exhibits complex dependencies
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Work well in combination with inference
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Demonstrated applications in reliability analysis (FORM)
- Code soon available via UQlab: www.uqlab.com
- For more details:



Probabilistic Engineering Mechanics Volume 55, January 2019, Pages 1-16



A general framework for data-driven uncertainty quantification under complex input dependencies using vine copulas

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# THANK YOU!







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# $\overline{\mathrm{UQLAB}}$ : facts and figures

•  $\approx$  2,000 users



- 930<sup>+</sup> active users from 77 countries
- Release of V0.9 on July 1st, 2015 (beta version)
- V1.0 on April 28th, 2017 UQLabCore + modules (PCE, Kriging, Sensitivity, Rare events)
- V1.1 on July 1st, 2018 Support vector machines, UQLink
- V1.2 on February 22nd, 2019 Bayesian inversion, UQLib

Country	# Users
United States	354
China	224
France	223
Switzerland	180
Germany	134
United Kingdom	92
Italy	73
India	57
Canada	53
Brazil	51

As of May 27, 2019

#### www.uqlab.com

UQLAB

# UQLAB: The Uncertainty Quantification Software



#### UQLAB

#### UQLAB example: Inference of Truss input model



```
for ii = 1:2
                 % Assign uncertain Young moduli
    iOpts.Marginals(ii).Type = 'LogNormal';
    iOpts.Marginals(ii).Moments = [2.1e11, 2.1e10];
end
for ii = 3:4 % Assign uncertain cross-sections
 iOpts.Marginals(ii).Inference.Data = A(:,ii-2);
end
for ii = 5:10 % Assign uncertain loads
    iOpts.Marginals(ii).Inference.Data = L(:,ii-4);
end
% Define the input copula: product of Independent(dim:4) copula
% and D-Vine copula inferred from data matrix L
iOpts.Copula(1).Type = 'Independent';
iOpts.Copula(1).Parameters = eve(4);
iOpts.Copula(2).Type = 'DVine';
iOpts.Copula(2).Inference.Data = L;
% Create Input
myInput = ug_createInput(iOpts);
```

```
E. Torre (RSUQ & Risk Center, ETH Zürich)
```

UQLAB

#### UQLAB example: Inference of Truss input model



% Create probabilistic input model myInput = ... % see previous slide

#### % Perform FORM analysis

aOpts.Type = 'Reliability'; aOpts.Method = 'FORM'; myAnalysis = uq\_createAnalysis(aOpts);

# Polynomial Chaos Expansion (PCE)

PCE model of 
$$Y$$
 to  $X$ :  $Y_{PC} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N}^d} y_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \Psi_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}(X),$ 

where  $\Psi_{\alpha}$  are multivariate polynomials orthonormal wrt  $f_{X}$ .

#### Theorem

If  $\mathbb{V}(Y) < \infty$  and  $\mathbb{E}(X^k) < \infty \ \forall k \ge 1$ , then  $\exists \{y_{\alpha}, \Psi_{\alpha}\} : Y_{PC} \xrightarrow{L^2} Y = \mathcal{M}(X)$ .<sup>1</sup>

- Properties of coefficients  $y_{\alpha}$ : (A)  $\mathbb{E}(Y_{PC}) = y_0$ , (B)  $\mathbb{V}(Y_{PC}) = \sum_{\alpha \neq 0} y_{\alpha}^2$
- (B) guarantees compressibility  $\Rightarrow$  parsimonious parametric model  $\Rightarrow$  for large *d*: sparse regression (e.g. least angle regression)
- Provides good estimates of "global" statistics of Y:  $\mathbb{E}(Y), \mathbb{V}(Y), f_Y \dots$

How to build the orthonormal basis  $\{\Psi_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}, \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N}^d\}$ ?

- If  $f_X = \prod_{i=1}^d f_{X_i}$ :  $\Psi_{\alpha}(x) := \prod_{i=1}^d \phi_{\alpha_i}^{(i)}(x_i)$ , where  $\phi_{\alpha_i}^{(i)}$  are univariate polynomials orthonormal wrt  $f_{X_i}$ .
- Otherwise: Rosenblatt transform  $m{X}\mapstom{X}'$ , followed by PCE  $Y_{
  m PC}(m{X}')$

<sup>1</sup>Ernst, Mugler, Starkloff, Ullmann (2012), ESAIM:M2AN, 46(2):317-339

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Polynomial chaos expansion

#### Vine representations + PCE: errors on $\mathbb{E}(\Delta)$ and $\operatorname{std}(\Delta)$

