

Wasserstein–Aitchison GAN for angular measures of multivariate extremes

Stéphane Lhaut¹ Holger Rootzén² Johan Segers^{1,3}

¹UCLouvain, LIDAM, Institute of Statistics, Biostatistics and Actuarial Sciences

²Chalmers University of Technology, Department of Mathematical Sciences

³KU Leuven, Department of Mathematics

Workshop on Generative AI Modelling for Extreme Events
Edinburgh, June 13–14 2025

 UCLouvain

 **LIDAM**
ISBA | Louvain Institute of Data Analysis and
Modeling in economics and statistics


LA LIBERTÉ DE CHERCHER

Outline

Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

- Simulated data: logistic model

- Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

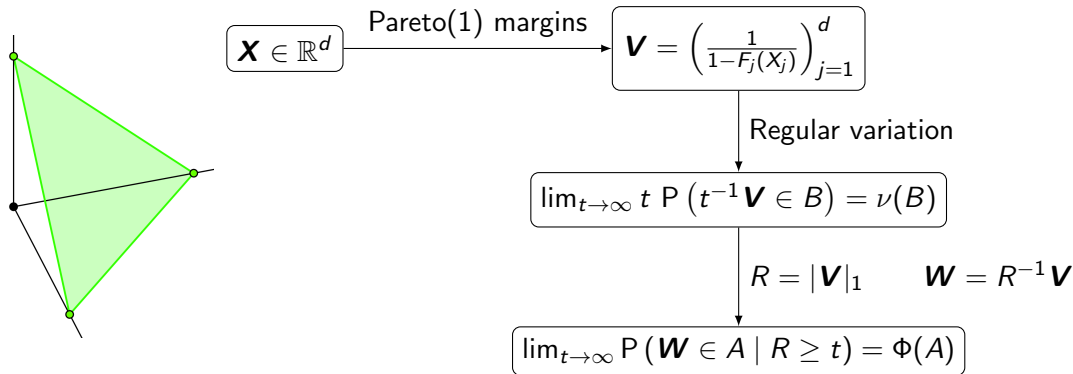
Numerical results

- Simulated data: logistic model

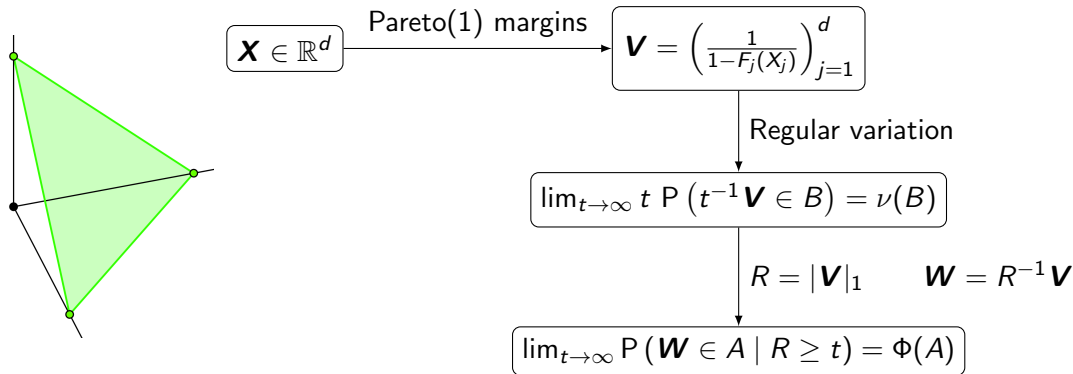
- Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Multivariate tail modeling and angular measure



Multivariate tail modeling and angular measure



Main goal: “model” Φ via a generative method

Empirical data from Φ

- ▶ $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ i.i.d. distributed as $\mathbf{X}$

Empirical data from Φ

- ▶ $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ i.i.d. distributed as $\mathbf{X}$
- ▶ Empirical Pareto(1) standardization:

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}_i = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \hat{F}_j(X_{ij})} \right)_{j=1}^d, \quad \hat{F}_j(t) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{X_{ij} \leq t\}$$

Empirical data from Φ

- ▶ $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ i.i.d. distributed as $\mathbf{X}$
- ▶ Empirical Pareto(1) standardization:

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}_i = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \hat{F}_j(X_{ij})} \right)_{j=1}^d, \quad \hat{F}_j(t) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{X_{ij} \leq t\}$$

- ▶ Extracting “large angles”: fix some large $r > 0$ (here $r = n/k$ with $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$)

$$\text{If } R_i = |\hat{\mathbf{V}}_i|_1 \geq r, \quad \mathbf{W}_i = R_i^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_i$$

$\mathbf{W}_1, \dots, \mathbf{W}_K$, with $K = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{R_i \geq r\}$, considered as Φ -distributed

Data transformation to linear space

Two facts will hamper the learning process:

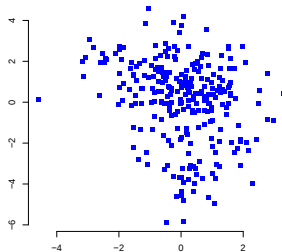
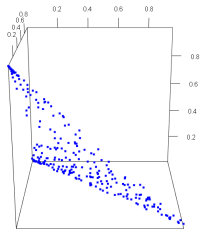
- ▶ $\mathbf{W}_i$ take values in the simplex $\Delta_{d-1} = \{\mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^d : |\mathbf{x}|_1 = 1\}$
- ▶ $K \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{\approx} \text{Bin}(n, k/n)$

Data transformation to linear space

Two facts will hamper the learning process:

- ▶ $\mathbf{W}_i$ take values in the simplex $\Delta_{d-1} = \{\mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^d : |\mathbf{x}|_1 = 1\}$
- ▶ $K \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{\approx} \text{Bin}(n, k/n)$

Transform $\mathbf{W}_i$ to coordinates $\mathbf{W}_i^*$ in an orthonormal basis of Δ_{d-1}



Aitchison simplex: the CLR space

Assumption: concentration on the open simplex

$$\Phi(\Delta_{d-1}^o) = 1 \text{ where } \Delta_{d-1}^o = \{\mathbf{x} \in (0, 1)^d : |\mathbf{x}|_1 = 1\}$$

Aitchison simplex: the CLR space

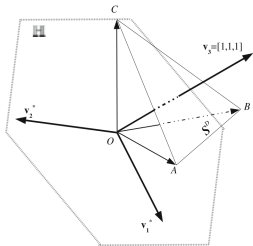
Assumption: concentration on the open simplex

$$\Phi(\Delta_{d-1}^o) = 1 \text{ where } \Delta_{d-1}^o = \{\mathbf{x} \in (0, 1)^d : |\mathbf{x}|_1 = 1\}$$

 J. Aitchison (1926–2016) inner product space structure on Δ_{d-1}^o via the isometry

$$\text{clr} : \mathbf{w} \in \Delta_{d-1}^o \mapsto \text{clr}(\mathbf{w}) = \left(\log \frac{w_j}{(\prod_{i=1}^d w_i)^{1/d}} \right)_{j=1}^d \in \mathbb{H} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{1}_d \rangle = 0\}$$

with inverse being the (restriction to $\mathbb{H}$) of the softmax function



Aitchison simplex: ON basis

▣ Orthonormal basis of Δ_{d-1}^o given by $\{\mathbf{e}_j^* = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{e}_j) : j = 1, \dots, d-1\}$ with

$$\mathbf{e}_j = \sqrt{\frac{j}{j+1}} \left(\underbrace{j^{-1}, \dots, j^{-1}}_{j \text{ times}}, -1, 0, \dots, 0 \right) \in \mathbb{H}$$

Aitchison simplex: ON basis

⌚ **Orthonormal basis** of Δ_{d-1}^o given by $\{\mathbf{e}_j^* = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{e}_j) : j = 1, \dots, d-1\}$ with

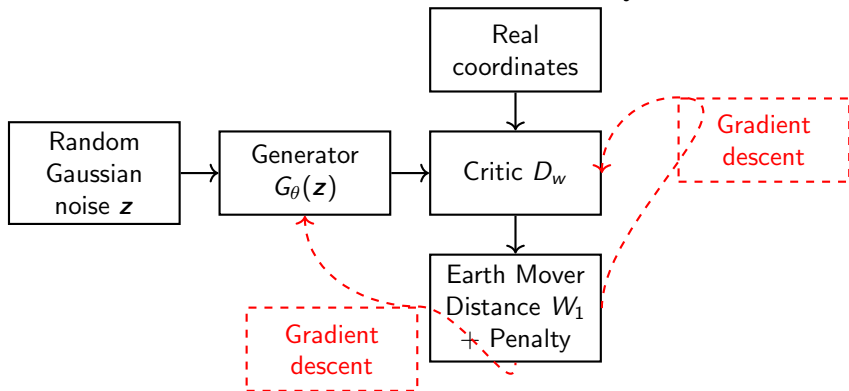
$$\mathbf{e}_j = \sqrt{\frac{j}{j+1}} \left(\underbrace{j^{-1}, \dots, j^{-1}}_{j \text{ times}}, -1, 0, \dots, 0 \right) \in \mathbb{H}$$

⊕ $\mathbf{w} \in \Delta_{d-1}^o$ is decomposed as

$$\mathbf{w} = \bigoplus_{j=1}^{d-1} \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{e}_j^* \rangle_A \mathbf{e}_j^* = \bigoplus_{j=1}^{d-1} \langle \text{clr}(\mathbf{w}), \mathbf{e}_j \rangle \mathbf{e}_j^*$$

Wasserstein–Aitchison Generative Adversarial Networks

WGAN algorithm on the coordinates $\mathbf{w}_i^* = (\langle \text{clr}(\mathbf{w}_i), \mathbf{e}_j \rangle)_{j=1}^{d-1}$



► the GAME:

$$\min_{\theta} \max_w \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X}} D_w(x) dP(x) - \int_{\mathcal{Z}} D_w(G_\theta(z)) dP_Z(z) \right\},$$

Penalty term

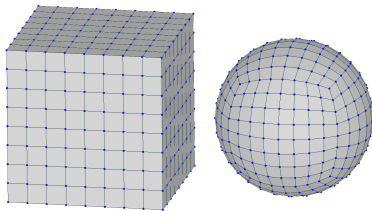
🔑 $\lambda, \rho > 0$

$$\underbrace{\lambda \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (|\nabla_{\mathbf{w}^*} D_{\mathbf{w}}(\hat{\mathbf{w}}_i^*)|_2 - 1)^2}_{\text{Lipschitz constraint}} + \rho \underbrace{\left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \text{softmax}(VG_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_i)) - \frac{\mathbf{1}_d}{d} \right|}_{\text{marginal constraints}}$$

Change of norm

- ▶ $\Theta_1, \dots, \Theta_n$ sample from Φ on Δ_{d-1}
- ▶ Estimator for an arbitrary norm $\|\cdot\|$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \Lambda_i \delta_{\frac{\Theta_i}{\|\Theta_i\|}}, \quad \Lambda_i = \frac{\|\Theta_i\|}{\sum_{i=1}^n \|\Theta_i\|}$$



Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

- Simulated data: logistic model

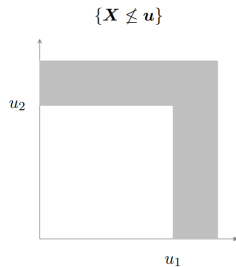
- Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Going beyond the dependence structure

$\mathbf{u}_*$ = upper endpoint of $\mathbf{X}$

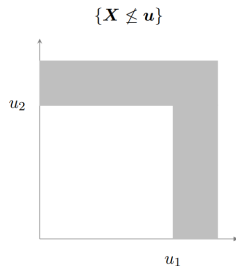
$$\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{X} \not\leq \mathbf{u}, \quad \text{as } \mathbf{u} \rightarrow \mathbf{u}_*$$



Going beyond the dependence structure

u_* = upper endpoint of $\mathbf{X}$

$$\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{X} \not\leq \mathbf{u}, \quad \text{as } \mathbf{u} \rightarrow \mathbf{u}_*$$



Assumption: Generalized Pareto limit of marginal tails

For every $j \in \{1, \dots, d\}$, there exists $\xi_j \in \mathbb{R}$ and a function $\sigma_j(\cdot) : (-\infty, u_{*j}) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$

$$\forall y > 0, \quad \lim_{u \nearrow u_{*j}} \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{X_j - u}{\sigma_j(u)} > y \mid X_j > u \right) = (1 + \xi_j y)_+^{-1/\xi_j},$$

where $a_+ \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max(a, 0)$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$; if $\xi_j = 0$, the limit is to be understood as $\exp(-y)$.

Regular variation + GP assumptions $\implies$ MGPD convergence [Lhaut et al., 2025, Proposition 1]

Proposition (Convergence to a Multivariate Generalized Pareto distribution)

Under the previous assumptions, along the curve

$$\mathbf{u} : t \in (1, \infty) \mapsto \mathbf{u}(t) = \left(F_j^{-1}(1 - 1/t) \right)_{j=1}^d$$

we have

$$\frac{\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{u}(t)}{\sigma(\mathbf{u}(t))} \mid \mathbf{X} \not\leq \mathbf{u}(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\mathbf{Y}^\xi - 1}{\xi}, \quad t \rightarrow \infty,$$

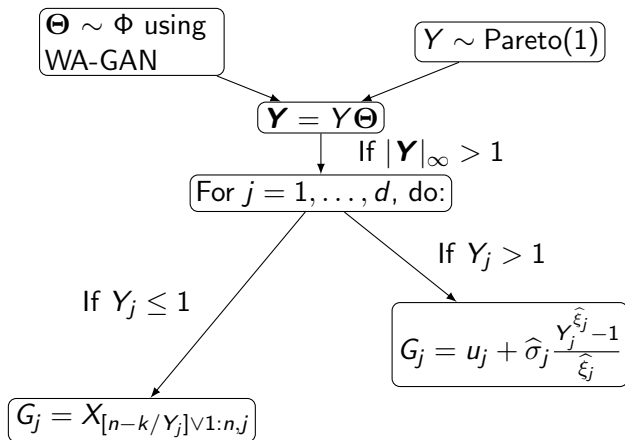
where $\mathbf{Y}$ is Multivariate Pareto distributed, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{Y} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} (Y\Theta \mid Y\Theta \not\leq 1),$$

with Y unit-Pareto distributed and $\Theta \sim \Phi$ independent.

📖 Sampling from $\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{X} \not\leq \mathbf{u}$:

Input: data $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$, integer $k \in [1, n]$, ML estimates $(\hat{\xi}, \hat{\sigma})$ of marginal GP parameters



Output: $\mathbf{G} = (G_j)_{j=1}^d$ sample from $\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{X} \not\leq \mathbf{u}$

Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

- Simulated data: logistic model

- Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Performance measures

🔗 Dependence score:

$$E_{\bar{\theta}}(k) = \frac{1}{\binom{d}{k}} \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq \{1, \dots, d\} \\ |J|=k}} \left| 1 - \frac{\theta_J^{\mathcal{G}}}{\theta_J^{\mathcal{I}}} \right|, \quad k \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$$

based on the extremal coefficients

$$\theta_J = d \cdot \int_{\Delta_{d-1}} \bigvee_{j \in J} w_j \, d\Phi(\mathbf{w}) \in [1, |J|]$$

Performance measures

 Dependence score:

$$E_{\bar{\theta}}(k) = \frac{1}{\binom{d}{k}} \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq \{1, \dots, d\} \\ |J|=k}} \left| 1 - \frac{\theta_J^{\mathcal{G}}}{\theta_J^{\mathcal{T}}} \right|, \quad k \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$$

based on the extremal coefficients

$$\theta_J = d \cdot \int_{\Delta_{d-1}} \bigvee_{j \in J} w_j \, d\Phi(\mathbf{w}) \in [1, |J|]$$

 Extremes score: generalized Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) score

$$W_2^2(\mathbf{X}_u^{\mathcal{G}}, \mathbf{X}_u^{\mathcal{T}}) = \inf_{\pi \in \Pi\left(\frac{\mathbf{1}_{n_{\mathcal{G}}}}{n_{\mathcal{G}}}, \frac{\mathbf{1}_{n_{\mathcal{T}}}}{n_{\mathcal{T}}}\right)} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathcal{G}}} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathcal{T}}} \|(\mathbf{X}_u^{\mathcal{G}})_i - (\mathbf{X}_u^{\mathcal{T}})_j\|_2^2 \pi_{ij}$$

Methodology and computations

-  **Architectures:** fully connected MLP with leaky ReLU activation function
-  **Hyperparameter search:** random search among 2000 possible models (batch size, dimension of the latent space, penalty parameters, number of layers, ...)
-  **Comparison with existing methods:** we compare our performance to (own implementation of) Heavy-Tailed GAN [Girard et al., 2024] and Generalized Pareto GAN [Li et al., 2024]
-  **Software:** training on PyTorch, validation and testing on R
-  **Hardware:** Lemaitre4 and NIC5 computer clusters available from the Consortium of Équipements de Calcul Intensif ¹

¹<https://www.cecil-hpc.be/clusters.html>

Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

Simulated data: logistic model

Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Results

 **$\mathbf{X}$** has **Gumbel copula** such that Kendall's correlation equals $\tau \in \{1/4, 1/2, 3/4\}$ and **Pareto margins** with parameter $\alpha = 2$ in dimension $d \in \{10, 20, 50\}$

Results

- 🗄 **X** has **Gumbel copula** such that Kendall's correlation equals $\tau \in \{1/4, 1/2, 3/4\}$ and **Pareto margins** with parameter $\alpha = 2$ in dimension $d \in \{10, 20, 50\}$
- 🗄 $n_{\text{train}} = 10\,000$, $n_{\text{val}} = 5\,000$, $n_{\text{test}} = 20\,000$ and $k = \sqrt{n_{\text{train}}}$ for each algorithm

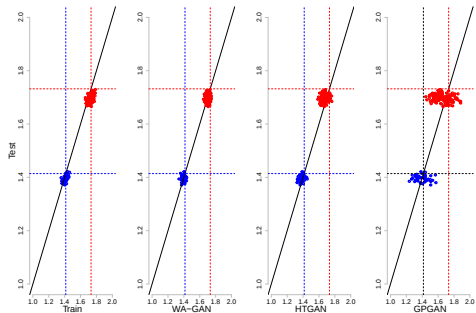
Results

☰ **X** has **Gumbel copula** such that Kendall's correlation equals $\tau \in \{1/4, 1/2, 3/4\}$ and **Pareto margins** with parameter $\alpha = 2$ in dimension $d \in \{10, 20, 50\}$

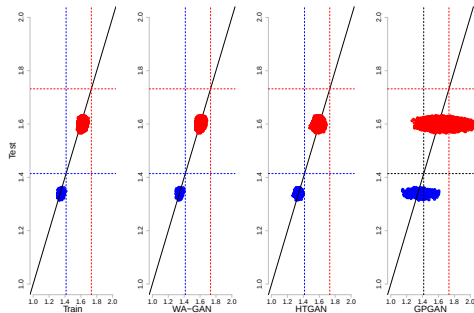
☰ $n_{\text{train}} = 10\,000$, $n_{\text{val}} = 5\,000$, $n_{\text{test}} = 20\,000$ and $k = \sqrt{n_{\text{train}}}$ for each algorithm

τ	Model	Dependence score			Extremes score		
		$d = 10$	$d = 20$	$d = 50$	$d = 10$	$d = 20$	$d = 50$
$\tau = \frac{1}{4}$	WA-GAN	0.0103	0.0074	0.0054	67.311	62.905	42.825
	HTGAN	0.0146	0.0185	0.0199	1479.9	3106.7	1170.7
	GPGAN	0.0262	0.0321	0.0326	66.663	65.429	52.133
$\tau = \frac{1}{2}$	WA-GAN	0.0176	0.0207	0.0097	66.734	52.832	32.468
	HTGAN	0.0247	0.0179	0.0126	2725.3	1447.9	2367.4
	GPGAN	0.0511	0.0671	0.0672	67.841	55.308	46.996
$\tau = \frac{3}{4}$	WA-GAN	0.0208	0.0266	0.0158	59.548	44.602	31.808
	HTGAN	0.0284	0.0338	0.055	891.62	612.44	440.45
	GPGAN	0.0497	0.0726	0.0818	59.919	53.758	45.541

Illustration: extremal coefficients

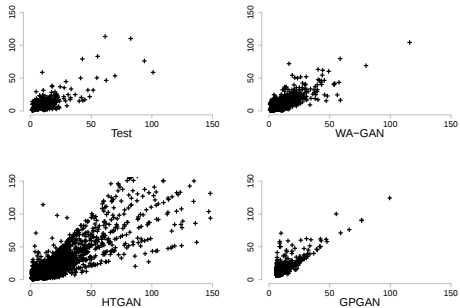


$d = 10, \theta = 2$

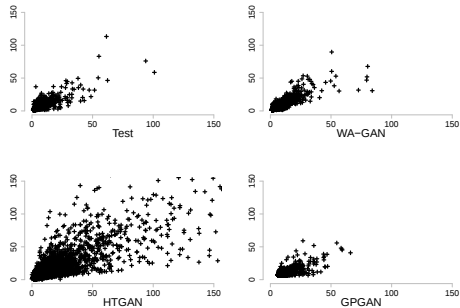


$d = 50, \theta = 2$

Illustration: generated extremes



$d = 10, \theta = 2$



$d = 50, \theta = 2$

Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

Simulated data: logistic model

Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

Data description

- Value-averaged daily returns of $d = 30$ industry portfolios compiled and posted as part of the Kenneth French Data Library ²

²https://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html

Data description

- Value-averaged daily returns of $d = 30$ industry portfolios compiled and posted as part of the Kenneth French Data Library ²
- Between 1950 and 2015 ($n = 16\,694$). We take $n_{\text{train}} = 7\,000$, $n_{\text{val}} = 3\,000$, $n_{\text{test}} = 6\,694$ and $k = \sqrt{n_{\text{train}}}$

²https://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html

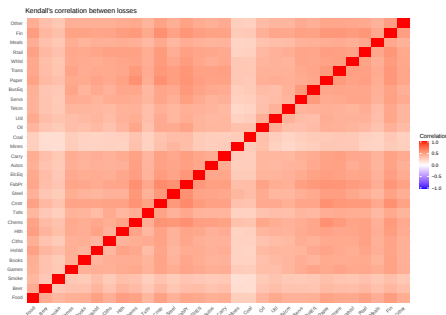
Data description

- Value-averaged daily returns of $d = 30$ industry portfolios compiled and posted as part of the Kenneth French Data Library ²
- Between 1950 and 2015 ($n = 16\,694$). We take $n_{\text{train}} = 7\,000$, $n_{\text{val}} = 3\,000$, $n_{\text{test}} = 6\,694$ and $k = \sqrt{n_{\text{train}}}$
-  Extreme losses $\rightarrow$ data multiplied by -1

²https://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html

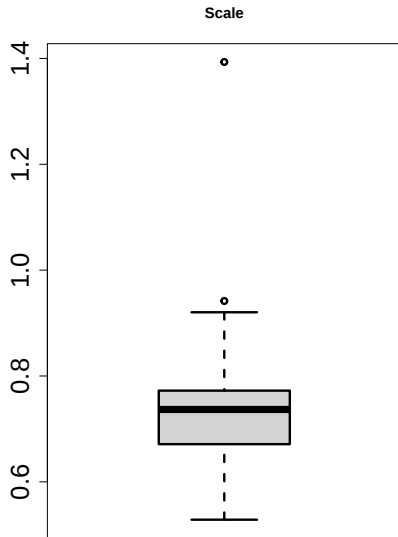
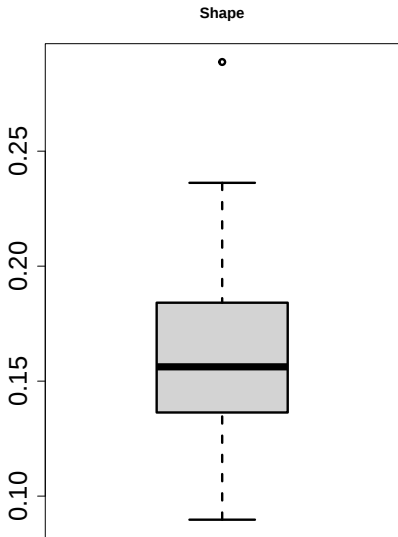
Data description

- Value-averaged daily returns of $d = 30$ industry portfolios compiled and posted as part of the Kenneth French Data Library ²
- Between 1950 and 2015 ($n = 16\,694$). We take $n_{\text{train}} = 7\,000$, $n_{\text{val}} = 3\,000$, $n_{\text{test}} = 6\,694$ and $k = \sqrt{n_{\text{train}}}$
- Extreme losses → data multiplied by -1



²https://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html

Marginal parameters of the GPD

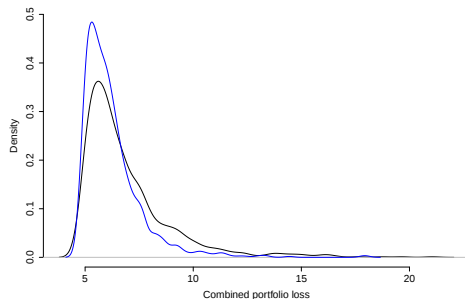
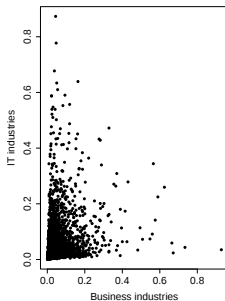
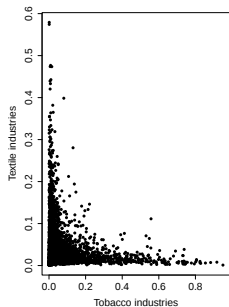


Results

method	dependence	extremes
WA-GAN	0.018	11.93
HTGAN	0.026	/
GPGAN	0.043	8.46

Results

method	dependence	extremes
WA-GAN	0.018	11.93
HTGAN	0.026	/
GPGAN	0.043	8.46



Angular measure modeling

Multivariate Generalized Pareto modeling

Numerical results

- Simulated data: logistic model

- Real data: daily returns of industry portfolios

Conclusions and extensions

- ✓ WA-GAN method to **sample from angular measures** w.r.t. L_1 -norm
- ✓ Simple post-processing allows for **arbitrary norm**
- ✓ Captures the dependence structure in **moderately high dimensions**
- ✓ May be used to **sample from the associated MGPD** if the margins are supposed to be in the DoA of univariate GPDs

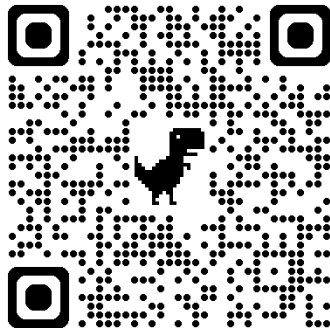
- ✓ WA-GAN method to **sample from angular measures** w.r.t. L_1 -norm
- ✓ Simple post-processing allows for **arbitrary norm**
- ✓ Captures the dependence structure in **moderately high dimensions**
- ✓ May be used to **sample from the associated MGPD** if the margins are supposed to be in the DoA of univariate GPDs
- ⚙ No uncertainty quantification but can be done via “bootstrap”
- ⚙ Many other architectures possible for the networks, some of which may be more adapted to particular data types

Thank you!



✉ stephane.lhaut@uclouvain.be

in  Stéphane Lhaut



References

-  Girard, S., Gobet, E., and Pachebat, J. (2024).
Deep generative modeling of multivariate dependent extremes.
HAL preprint, hal-04700084v2, pages 1–35.
-  Lhaut, S., Rootzén, H., and Segers, J. (2025).
Wasserstein-Aitchison GAN for angular measures of multivariate extremes.
-  Li, J., Li, D., Li, P., and Samorodnitsky, G. (2024).
Generalized Pareto GAN: Generating extremes of distributions.
In Proceedings of the 2024 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), pages 1–8. IEEE.