



Deep Learning Joint Extremes of Metocean Variables using the SPAR Model

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Overview

- Brief review of existing approaches and limitations
- The SPAR model
 - Definition
 - Inference
- Five-dimensional example
- Conclusions





Global hierarchical models

- Suppose random vector $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ has joint density $f_{\mathbf{X}}$ and marginal densities f_{X_1}, \dots, f_{X_d} and distribution functions F_{X_1}, \dots, F_{X_d}
- Approach:
 - 1. Write joint density as: $f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = f_{X_1}(x_1) f_{X_2|X_1}(x_2|x_1) \cdots f_{X_d|X_1,\dots,X_{d-1}}(x_d|x_1,\dots,x_{d-1})$
 - 2. Choose parametric models for f_{X_1} , $f_{X_2|X_1}$,..., $f_{X_d|X_1,...,X_{d-1}}$
 - 3. Estimate relations between the parameters of the conditional densities and the conditioning variables

Limitations:

- No a priori reason for choosing one model over another
- Fitting a global model does not guarantee of good fit in the tail
- Model for the conditional dependence structure is ad hoc and does not provide a rationale for extrapolation
- Often a poor fit to observations





Copula modelling

Approach

1. Use Sklar's theorem to write:

$$f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = f_{X_1}(x_1) \cdots f_{X_d}(x_d) c\left(F_{X_1}(x_1), \dots, F_{X_d}(x_d)\right)$$

where c is the copula density of \mathbf{X}

2. Choose parametric model for margins and copula

Limitations:

- Global model for margins and copula does not guarantee of good fit in the tail
- No rationale for choose marginal or copula models
- Different choices of copula can lead to large differences in joint tail behaviour





Copulas on Laplace margins all with correlation coefficient $\rho = 0.6$

The SPAR model

- Semi-Parametric Angular-Radial (SPAR) model
- Introduced at OMAE 2024
- Reframes multivariate extremes as an intuitive extension of univariate theory, with angular dependence
- Inference is standard univariate peaks-overthreshold (POT) problem with covariate dependence
- Many existing methods for multivariate extremes are special cases of SPAR
- SPAR is more flexible than current methods









Univariate extremes with covariate dependence



Transformation to angular-radial coordinates

- Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ have density $f_{\mathbf{X}}$
- Define radial and angular variables:

 $R = \|\mathbf{X}\|_2$ $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{X}/R$

where
$$\|\mathbf{X}\|_2 = \sqrt{X_1^2 + \dots + X_d^2}$$
 is the Euclidean (L2) norm

- Note that
 - *R* is radial variable
 - W is a pseudo-angle corresponding to a point on the unit hypersphere
- Then (R, \mathbf{W}) has density

$$f_{R,\mathbf{W}}(r,\mathbf{w}) = r^{d-1} f_{\mathbf{X}}(r,\mathbf{w})$$







SPAR model statement

• Write joint density in conditional form:

 $f_{R,\mathbf{W}}(r,\mathbf{w}) = f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{w})f_{R|\mathbf{W}}(r|\mathbf{w})$

- Assume standard univariate POT model for tail of $f_{R|W}(r|w)$
- Define threshold function $u(\mathbf{w})$ as conditional quantile of $R|(\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{w})$ at exceedance probability ζ
- SPAR model for the joint density is

 $f_{R,\mathbf{W}}(r,\mathbf{w}) = \zeta f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{w}) f_{\mathrm{GP}}(r - u(\mathbf{w}); \xi(\mathbf{w}), \sigma(\mathbf{w})),$

 $f_{\rm GP}(r;\xi,\sigma)$ is a generalised Pareto density function with shape parameter ξ and scale parameter σ



- $r > u(\mathbf{w})$

Inference

• Model:

 $f_{R,\mathbf{W}}(r,\mathbf{w}) = \zeta f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{w}) f_{\mathrm{GP}}(r - u(\mathbf{w}); \xi(\mathbf{w}), \sigma(\mathbf{w}))$

- Need to estimate:
 - Angular density: $f_{W}(\mathbf{w})$
 - Threshold function: $u(\mathbf{w})$
 - GP shape and scale parameter functions: $\xi(\mathbf{w}), \sigma(\mathbf{w})$
- Problems are separable:
 - Angular density can be estimated independently of GP threshold and parameter functions
- Many existing methods for these problems



Angular modelling

- Problem of estimating a density on the hypersphere is one of **directional statistics**
- Many 'off-the-shelf' methods available:
 - Kernel density estimation (KDE)
 - Mixture modelling
 - Spline-based models
- KDE used in this example:
 - Simple to implement
 - Very flexible
 - Fast to simulate from model
- Bandwidth optimised using cross-validation scheme
- Only difference from 'standard' KDE in \mathbb{R}^d is that kernels are density functions on the sphere





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Conditional radial modelling

- Two problems:
 - Threshold function $u(\mathbf{w})$
 - GP shape and scale parameter functions: $\xi(\mathbf{w}), \sigma(\mathbf{w})$
- Threshold function :
 - Defined as a conditional quantile at fixed exceedance probability
 - Process of estimating conditional quantiles is known as **quantile** regression
- GP parameter functions:
 - Inference is non-stationary peaks-over-threshold (POT) with angle as covariate
 - Many existing methods for this
- Key consideration is choosing suitable parametric form for threshold and parameter functions



Chapman & Hall/CRC Handbooks of Modern **Statistical Methods**

Handbook of **Quantile Regression**

Edited by **Roger Koenker** Victor Chernozhukov Xuming He Limin Peng





Covariate representations

- Various ways of representing covariate functions: e.g.
 - Generalised additive models (GAMs), e.g. splines
 - Gaussian processes
 - Artificial neural networks (ANNs)
- All provide flexible function approximation
- Neural networks have computational advantages over GAMs in higher dimensions
 - Computationally-efficient training algorithms for ANN parameter optimisation and regularisation
- Parameter estimation method for ANN and GAMs both use maximum likelihood





Schematic of ANN with two hidden layers

Five-dimensional application

• 31-year hindcast of hourly values for a site in Celtic Sea

Variables

- Wind speed & direction
- Wave height, period & direction
- Transformed to:
 - East-North components of winds and waves
 - Logarithm of wave period
 - All normalised to have unit variance











 x_5

Assessment of angular model



Coloured plots: Empirical joint densities of pairs of angular components Red lines: Contours of the joint densities from a sample from the KD model





Local assessment



Example of Voronoi partition of sphere into non-overlapping cells Comparison of observed to expected number of observations in each cell. Red lines are 95% CI for sampling effects







Radial model diagnostics



Marginal lower & upper tail exceedance plots



Local tail QQ plots

Summary

- Existing 'engineering' methods for modelling multivariate extremes have strong limitations
 - Rely on ad-hoc choices
 - Poor fit in practice
- SPAR model
 - Provides mathematically-justified model for multivariate extremes
 - Requires no strong assumptions about form of margins or dependence structure
 - Inference built on existing practices
 - Shown to provide good fit to metocean datasets
- Future work
 - Detailed comparison with existing inference methods
 - Effect of choice of margins
 - Effect of choice of origin
 - Optimisation of neural network inference







Questions?

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Updated version: https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.15808

