Modelling Financial Risks for Egyptian Insurance Market. Evidence from Insurance Investment Channels

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Abstract

Recently, there has been renewed interest in modelling risks especially in insurance market, there has been substantial research undertaken on the importance of copula in financial risk management field. This study aim to estimate risk measures Value-at-Risk (VaR) and Expected Shortfall (ES) based on the dependence structure between investment channels (Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity) by using elliptical Gaussian copula on data collected from Egyptian insurance market from 2007/2008 to 2018/2019. The principal finding of this research is to measure the financial risk according to the copula estimation. The findings of this paper illustrate that the copula parameter ρ is simmilar to the parameter in the whole market, that is because the life insurance sector has long term conrtacts while the nonlife sector has short term contracts. Moreover, VaR and CVaR in all sectors are equevlint that reflects the stability in insurance sector.

Keywords: Copula, dependence structure, VaR, ES.

1. Introduction

Recently copulas have been widely used in the area of risk management, finance, insurance and economics. It is useful for modelling multivariate distributions; it also allows combining marginals and decomposing joint distributions into marginals and dependence structure.

The financial risk measure Value at Risk (VaR) shows a figure that expresses the expected losses over a certain period of time based on the desired confidence level assuming normal market conditions. Best (1998) defined the Value at Risk as the maximum amount of money that may be lost on a portfolio over a given period of time, with given level of confidence. The second measure of risk considered in this paper is the Expected shortfall (ES) that is defined as the conditional expectation of loss given that the amount of loss exceeds VaR.

Our paper used several econometric techniques, initially the use of copulas based on the dependence structure between the random variables, and measuring the financial risk measures VaR and ES.

The remainder of this research is constructed as follows. Section 2 is a focus on the literature of the copulas and financial risk measures, section 3 demonstrates details of the suggested models and methodology, section 4 presents the data analysis and evidence results and section 5 conclusions and areas of further research.

2. Literature Review

A most useful approach to model a multivariate dependence illustrated by Sklar (1959), based on copula functions. A copula is a joint distribution function of random vectors with uniform margins.

Vine-Copula is flexible to construct a multivariate distribution in case of higher dimensional copula. Aas et al. (2009) developed C-Vine and D-Vine copulas, these approaches construct a tree of bivariate copulas. Dibmann et al. (2013) developed the R-Vine copula which is an upper case of C-Vine and D-Vine copulas that means C-Vine and D-Vine copulas are special cases of R-Vine copula.

Kurowicka and Cooke (2005) and Heinen and Valdesogo (2009) assumes the C-autoregressive Vine-Copula and this method aloes still restricted to small number of variables.

Methods of factor copula have been developed by Krupskii and Joe (2013) and Oh and Patton (2013), the main idea of factor copula is it reduces the dimension of the set of data assuming that common factors can represent the dependence structure. Factor copula also considers how the dependence structures behave over time and how to model the dependence structure in different ways, depending on the assumptions of the original variables.

Qu et al. (2009) minimises Kolmogorov-Smirnov distances between the uniform marginals generated from copulas and a univariate random variables for the original distributions.

Genest and Rivest (1993) estimates the bivariate single parameter Archimedean Copula using the method of moments based on Kendall tau.

Berg (2009) or Savu and Trede (2010) applied the pairwise empirical Kendall Tau as a rank dependence measure to estimate the copula parameters for a two dimensions copula. Kojadinovic and Yan (2010) discussed a higher dimensional estimation of copula parameters using Kendall tau.

Jaworski et al. (2010) applied several surveys in finance and insurance in the aspect of copula by modelling the empirical copulas.

Choros et al. (2010) applied parametric and non-parametric estimates of copulas for iid (independent and identically distributed) time series data.

Manner and Reznikova (2012) illustrated different models of copula functions with dependence structures at different points of time and compare the results and the applicability of these copulas in different situations.

Christoffersen et al. (2012) applied the Generalized Hyperbolic Skewed t Copulas (GHST), they considered all marginal distributions to have the same parameters, differs from their original model.

Patton (2009a), Patton (2012a) and Patton (2012b) illustrates the estimation and inference methods of different copulas this study is considered as a

comprehensive review of copulas in financial risk management and economics.

Embrechts and Hofert (2016) and Alexander (2008) and Andersen et al. (2013) used several mathematical methods and the algorithms of copula to provide a guidance to use copula functions in risk management.

Christoffersen et al. (2012) applied the dynamic copula using the dependence structure for four financial channels and conclude that significant economic values are obtained when dynamic copulas are used. They show how the role of management in the area of finance addresses the relation between the dependence structures of the financial factors, they also mentioned the importance of the copula modelling and the extreme dependencies. Furthermore, they used dynamic asymmetric copula functions for non-Gaussian multivariate and conclude that diversifying benefits diminished for developed markets, where emerging markets may diversify benefits.

Elkamhi and Stefanova (2015) demonstrate that based on copulas it allows for increased and asymmetric dependence between extreme asset returns and can yield significant economic values.

Chabi-Yo (2012) illustrated how strong lower tail dependence generates high negative skewness, also showed the increase in Beta factor with respect to lower tail dependence.

Lambert (2007) illustrated the idea of splines for approximating certain ratios that involves the generators of Archimedean copulas. Brahimi and Necir (2012) also used the minimum distance approach between distributions and splines for estimation.

Stephenson (2009) described the extreme value distribution to estimate Gumbel copula parameters in a Bayesian setup. Genest et al. (2011) or Charpentier et al. (2007) applied the non-parametric estimation approach.

Chao Xu and Huigeng Chen (2012) discussed the estimation of the financial measure VaR for a portfolio based on the multivariate VaR models. They used Multivariate EWMA and DCC-GARCH model and the multivariate copulas.

Christian and Hans (2008) applied an autoregressive process to model a dynamic copula in order to estimate the dependence coefficients; they also examined the estimated parameters using goodness of fit tests.

Chen et al. (2009) estimated copula parameters using the maximum likelihood estimation (MLE), they also considered Markov models as a model to estimate the copula parameters as a semi-parametric approach.

Jean et al. (2015) illustrated new tools of copula goodness of fit tests based on non-parametric models. They applied a particular for the simulated data and showed that these tests are more powerful than Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Cramer-von Mises tests.

Peter (2013) used a new class of dynamic copula to characterize dependence structure and asymmetry in big size firms, also documented the differences between dependence dynamics for equity returns and credit spreads. He concluded that copula parameter (i.e. correlation parameter) increase significantly in case of financial crisis.

Kjersti (2016) introduced the pair-copula constructions (PCCs) in risk management, this model is considered as a flexible of generating a high dimensional copula.

Emmanouil and Nikos (2018) in this paper the authors proposed a new approach of estimating VaR and CVaR based on copula. They extended this definition to estimate conditional expected shortfall (CoES). Moreover, they examined the existence of market factors (i.e. size, leverage and Beta) based on systematic risk.

3. Models and Methodology

3.1 Definition of copula

A Copula is a multi-dimensional function consists of Uniform [0, 1] marginals. And satisfy the following conditions:

1. $C : [0,1]^n \rightarrow [0,1]$;

2. C is a grounded and n-increasing function;

3. C has margins C_i that satisfy $C_i(u) = C(1,...,1,u,1,...,1) = u$, $u \in [0,1]$

For a univariate CDFs $F_1, ..., F_n$, $C[F_1(x_1),...,F_n(x_n)]$ represents a multivariate copula with marginals $F_1, ..., F_n$.

3.2 Sklar's Theorem

If $F(\cdot)$ is an n-dimensional Cumulative distribution function (CDF) with continuous marginals $F_1,...,F_n$, can be expressed as the following unique copula representation:

$$F(x_1,...,x_n) = C(F_1(x_1),...,F_n(x_n))$$

Sklar (1959), defined the copula as we can divide a multi-dimensional distribution into univariate marginals and dependence structure as follows;

$$f(x_1,...,x_n) = \frac{\partial F(x_1,...,x_n)}{\partial x_1...\partial x_n} = \frac{\partial C(F_1(x_1),...,F_n(x_n))}{\partial x_1...\partial x_n} = \frac{\partial C(u_1,...,u_n)}{\partial u_1...\partial u_n} \times \prod_i \frac{\partial F_i(x_i)}{\partial x_i}$$
$$= c(u_1,...,u_n) \times \prod_i f_i(x_i) = c(\tilde{u}) \times \prod_i f_i(x_i)$$

where $f(x_1,....,x_n)$ is the density function of $F(\cdot)$

$u_i = F_i(x_i)$, $i = 1,...,n$

$\tilde{u} = (u_1,...,u_2)$

$c(\tilde{u})$ denotes the density function of copula

3.2.1 Normal Gaussian copula

Gaussian copula is a multivariate function of normal marginals, assuming $X = (X_1, X_2,..., X_n)$ is multivariate normal, if and only if:

(a) Its margins $F_1,...,F_n$ are normally distribution, and

(b) A unique copula function exists, such that

$$C_R^N(u_1,...,u_n) = \Phi_R(\phi^{-1}(u_1),...,\phi^{-1}(u_n))$$

Where Φ_R is defined as a multivariate standard normal distribution with correlation matrix R and the inverse of standard normal marginals ϕ^{-1}.

3.2.2 The bivariate normal copula

The bivariate Gaussian copula is defined as

$$C(u_1, u_2; \rho) = \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}(u_1)} \int_{-\infty}^{\Phi^{-1}(u_2)} \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{r^2 - 2\rho rs + s^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}\right\} dr ds,$$

where ρ is the Pearson coefficient of correlation between marginal distributions and Φ^{-1} is the inverse of the univariate standard normal function.

3.3 Risk Measures

3.3.1 Value at Risk

(McNeil et al, 2002) determined that VaR depends on α the confidence level and the time horizon, as:

$$\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha(L) = \inf\{l \in \mathbb{R} : P(L > l) \leq 1 - \alpha\} = \inf\{l \in \mathbb{R} : F_L(l) \geq \alpha\}$$

Assume that Y is a random variable of the returns obtained from the Egyptian insurance market data with a distribution function $F(Y)$. Then VaR is given by:

$$VaR_{(\alpha)}(Y) = -q^\alpha(Y)$$

where $q^\alpha(Y)$ is the largest α-quantile:

$$q^\alpha(Y) = inf\{y : P(Y \leq y) > \alpha\}.$$

3.3.2 Expected shortfall

Expected shortfall measure can be estimated by the conditional expectation using the classical probability theory where ES is defined as:

$$ES_\alpha = E(Y \mid Y < VaR_\alpha).$$

And, equivalently

$ES_\alpha = VaR_\alpha + E(Y - VaR_\alpha \mid Y > VaR_\alpha).$

4. Models

For life insurance data, the selected portfolio consists of four dependent investment channels:

i_1 = Government bonds
i_2 = Securities available for trade
i_3 = Securities available for sale
i_4 = Securities held to maturity

Fitting statistical distributions has been performed using the EASYFIT software, and the results obtained are tested using Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling test and Chi-Square test, these results show that:

- i_1 is distributed Generalized Pareto with three parameters (K = -1.7181 , σ = 2.0253E+7 and μ= -4.5525E+5)
- i_2 is distributed Generalized Pareto with three parameters (K = -0.73803 , σ = 8.2228E+5 and μ= 6.9001E+5)
- i_3 is distributed Gamma III with parameters (α = 1.4501 , β= 1.43883E+6 γ = 3.0316E+6)
- i_4 is distributed Weibull with parameters (α = 1.3278 , β= 3.5402E+2 γ = 0)

For non-life insurance, the selected portfolio consists of four dependent investment channels:

j_1 = Government bonds
j_2 = Securities available for trade
j_3 = Securities available for sale
j_4 = Securities held to maturity

- j_1 is distributed LogLogistic with parameters (α = 4.0582 , β= 1.7081E+6 γ =0)
- j_2 is distributed Weibull with parameters (α = 2.7309 , β= 65670 , γ = 0)

- j_3 is distributed Cauchy with parameters (σ = 2.4336E+5 and μ= 3.2434E+6)
- j_4 is distributed Frechet with parameters (α = 1.0948 , β= 1.8671E+6).

For insurance market, the selected portfolio consists of four dependent investment channels:

k_1 = Government bonds
k_2 = Securities available for trade
k_3 = Securities available for sale
k_4 = Securities held to maturity

- k_1 *is* distributed Cauchy with parameters (σ = 8.4986E+5 and μ= 1.0870E+7)
- k_2 is distributed Uniform with parameters (α = 7.5704E+5 , β= 1.8368E+6)
- k_3 is distributed Weibull with parameters (α = 0.8254 , β= 2.3058E+6 , γ = 6.3106E+6)
- k_4 is distributed Frechet with parameters (α = 1.3009 , β= 3.7526E+6 , γ = 0).

4.1 Data collection, Empirical procedures and results analysis

The data collected in this paper are for life and non-life Egyptian insurance market from 2007/2008 to 2018/2019 consists of four dependent investment channels: Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity collected from the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA).

Table (1) amounts invested in securities for life insurance companies.

| Year | LIFE INSURANCE SECUTITES In Thousands EGP | | | |
	Government bonds	Securities available for trade	Securities available for sale	Securities held to maturity
2007/08	1694096	818339	3374555	846990
2008/09	2817975	829234	3031600	1245212
2009/10	2973821	1074467	3486635	1798333
2010/11	3223877	1459431	4222146	1912633
2011/12	6150196	1578720	4155168	1931916
2012/13	7557275	1485577	4117487	1965402
2013/14	8678154	1493209	5008864	1585957
2014/15	9807282	1380133	4916113	2996224
2015/16	10223695	1134978	5171593	4715760
2016/17	9719000	905721	10254035	6236102
2017/18	9896481	920933	6732350	9065620
2018/19	11210420	876716	6799787	9883015

Source: Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), 2019.

Table (1) shows the amounts invested in a portfolio that consist of four dependent investment channels: Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity for life insurance companies.

Table (2) amounts invested in securities for non-life insurance companies.

Year	NON-LIFE INSURANCE SECUTITES In Thousands EGP			
	Government bonds	Securities available for trade	Securities available for sale	Securities held to maturity
2007/08	1616485	968319	3187127	1329855
2008/09	1667096	67054	3279040	1331627
2009/10	1816538	81971	3000740	1280000
2010/11	3274390	87696	3496074	1251634
2011/12	4506700	50245	3640024	1165056
2012/13	2878587	39051	3027918	2673560
2013/14	1680893	47383	3463821	4576623
2014/15	1620075	41398	3013076	5500245
2015/16	1169295	29920	2508107	6575542
2016/17	1174572	41394	6805835	8460984
2017/18	1316466	75928	3264195	11762778
2018/19	1589727	75048	4056938	13000538

Source: Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), 2019.

Table (2) shows the amounts invested in a portfolio that consist of four dependent investment channels: Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity for nonlife insurance companies.

Table (3) amounts invested in securities for insurance market.

Year	INSURANCE MARKET SECUTITES In Thousands EGP			
	Government bonds	Securities available for trade	Securities available for sale	Securities held to maturity
2007/08	3310581	1786658	6561682	2176845
2008/09	4485071	896288	6310640	2576839
2009/10	4790359	1156438	6487375	3078333
2010/11	6498267	1547127	7718220	3164267
2011/12	10656896	1628965	7795192	3096972
2012/13	10435862	1524628	7145405	4638962
2013/14	10359047	1540592	8472685	6162580
2014/15	11427357	1421531	7929189	8496469
2015/16	11392990	1164898	7679700	11291302
2016/17	10893572	947115	17059870	14697086
2017/18	11212947	996861	9996545	20828398
2018/19	12800147	951764	10856725	22883553

Source: Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), 2019.

Table (3) shows the amounts invested in a portfolio that consist of four dependent investment channels: Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity for insurance market.

Table (4) Descriptive statistics for life insurance companies

In Thousands EGP

Sector	Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	SE
Life	i_1	6996023	3460730	-0.32	-1.73	999027
	i_2	1163122	296417	0.14	-1.88	85568
	i_3	5105861	2014759	1.27	0.82	581611
	i_4	3681930	311237	0.95	-0.76	898464

Table (4) illustrates the statistical characteristics of four variables for life insurance companies, showing that Government bonds is negatively skewed while, Securities available for trade, Securities held to maturity and Securities available for sale are skewed to the right, also it is obvious that all variables are platykurtic.

Table (5) Correlation matrix for life insurance data

Variable	i_1	i_2	i_3	i_4
i_1	1	0.06695	0.6953	0.7306
i_2		1	-0.2773	-0.4389
i_3			1	0.7357
i_4				1

Figure (1) Correlation matrix for life insurance

The correlation matrix demonstrated in table (5) and figure (1), presents Pearson correlation coefficient ρ between each pair of investment instruments for life insurance companies (*i.e. $\rho_{i1,i2} = 0.06695$ means that the correlation coefficient between Government bonds and Securities available for trade is positive and weak*).

Table (6) Descriptive statistics non-for life insurance
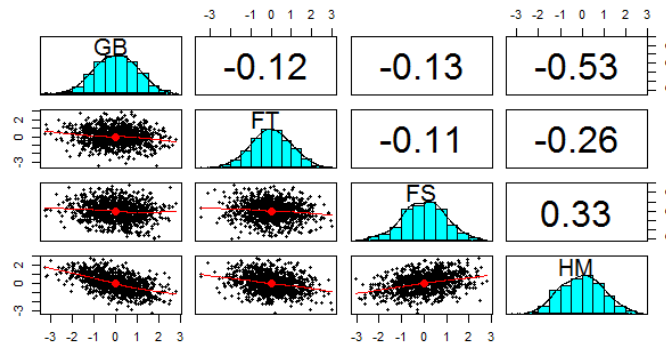In Thousands EGP

Sector	Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	SE
Non-life	j_1	2025902	1009778	1.29	0.39	291498
	j_2	133784	263505	2.62	5.39	76067
	j_3	3561908	1091665	2.08	3.59	315136
	j_4	4909037	4258354	0.70	-1.08	1229281

Table (6) demonstrates the four moments for variables of non-life insurance companies, showing that Government bonds, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity are positively skewed. Moreover, Government bonds and Securities held to maturity are platykurtic, while, Securities available for sale and securities available for trade are leptokurtic.

Table (7) Correlation matrix for non-life insurance data

Variable	j_1	j_2	j_3	j_4
j_1	1	-0.1199	-0.1302	-0.5332
j_2		1	-0.1140	-0.2646
j_3			1	0.3319
j_4				1

Figure (2) Correlation matrix for non-life insurance

The correlation matrix illustrated in table (7) and figure (2), shows the correlation coefficient ρ between each pair of investment channels for non-life insurance companies (*i.e.* $\rho_{j1,j2}$ = -0.1199 *means that the correlation coefficient between Government bonds and Securities available for trade is negative and very weak*).

Table (8) Descriptive statistics insurance market
In Thousands EGP

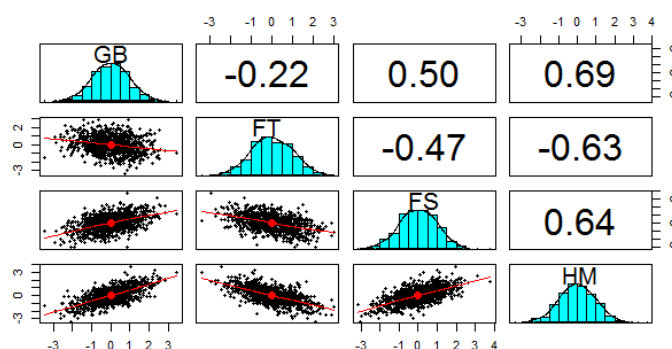| Sector	Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	SE
Insurance Market	k_1	9021925	3274202	-0.63	-1.43	945181
	k_2	1296905	311690	0.05	-1.73	89977
	k_3	8667769	2973684	1.79	2.40	858429
	k_4	8590967	7307944	0.84	-0.91	2109622

Table (8) demonstrates the four moments for variables of insurance market, showing that Government bonds negatively skewed, while, Securities available for trade, Securities available for sale and Securities held to maturity are positively skewed. Moreover, all securities are platykurtic.

Table (9) Correlation matrix for non-life insurance data

Variable	j_1	j_2	j_3	j_4
j_1	1	-0.2187	0.4974	0.6897
j_2		1	-0.4663	-0.6282
j_3			1	0.6373
j_4				1

Figure (3) Correlation matrix for non-life insurance

The correlation matrix illustrated in table (9) and figure (3), shows the correlation coefficient ρ between each pair of investment channels for non-life insurance companies (*i.e. ρ_{k1k2} = -0.2187 means that the correlation coefficient between Government bonds and Securities available for trade is negative and very weak*).

4.2 Modelling Copula

The main purpose of copula models is to separate the joint distribution into two parts: marginals and dependence structure.

If a random variable Y has a distribution function f, then the cumulative distribution F(Y) is uniform within the interval [0, 1].

The following steps are required in order to use copula:

1. Estimating the copula parameter(s) (i.e. ρ in case of Gaussian copula)

2. Generating the suitable copula that fits the data.

3. Using the invers functions or the inversion method to generate scenarios from the original marginals to apply the chosen copula.

For simulation we need to perform the following steps:

1. Estimate the correlation matrix from the original marginals, assuming normality using the C.D.Fs F (.) and the inverse of the standard normal C.D.F $\Phi^{-1}(.)$.

2. Simulating the data to fit a copula from transformed variables that satisfy the copula parameter ρ. Then use the invers of these variables $\Phi^{-1}(.)$ to produce the copula.

3. the former step generates dependent uniform marginals u_i to fit a copula, these marginals u_i can be simulated to estimate the copula parameter ρ by using the formula $\varepsilon_i = F_i^{-1}(u_i)$.

Figure (4) the probabilty densty function (pdf) of the gaussian copula generated from life insurance companies investment channels.
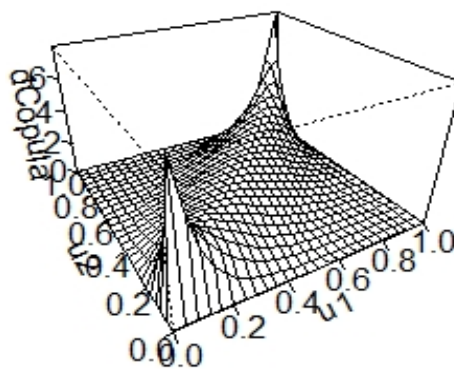

Figure (4) shows the probability densty function for the gaussian copula with estimated parameter $\rho = 0.8876$.

$VaR_{1\%}$ for life insurance companies is 0.01016

$CVaR_{1\%}$ for life insurance companies is 0.005422

Figure (5) the probabilty densty function (pdf) of the gaussian copula generated from non-life insurance companies investment channels.
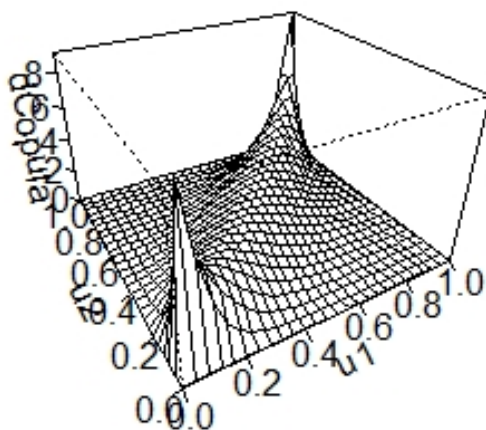

Figure (5) shows the probability densty function for the gaussian copula with estimated parameter $\rho = 0.2051$.

$VaR_{1\%}$ for nonlife insurance companies is 0.01045

$CVaR_{1\%}$ for nonlife insurance companies is 0.004836

Figure (6) the probabilty densty function (pdf) of the gaussian copula generated from insurance market investment channels.
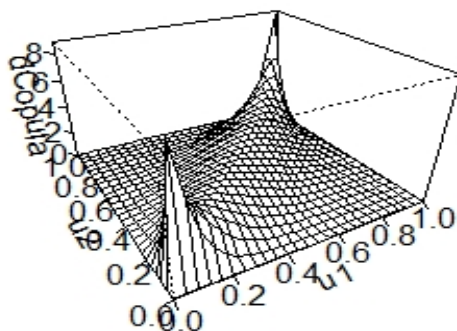

Figure (6) shows the probability densty function for the gaussian copula with estimated parameter $\rho = 0.8805$.

$VaR_{1\%}$ for nonlife insurance companies is 0.01232

$CVaR_{1\%}$ for nonlife insurance companies is 0.004977

5. Conclusion and Further Research

This study seeks to measure risks using VaR and ES for investments instruments for life and non-life Egyptian insurance companies based on Gaussian copula and the dependence structure between variables. We used Gaussian copula to fit a model of a multivariate financial data and use the fitted models to simulate data in order to estimate the risk measures. This paper found out that both life and non-life have an approximately the same risk measure according to the copula estimation because both fit a Gaussian copula with a close dependence measure ρ. Further research may consider the use of other types of copula such as t-copula and Archimedean copulas to measure risks, also the extreme value theory may be a useful tool for measuring the tail of the statistical distributions. This paper recommends the use of copula and risk measure to be used in insurance investment funds and stock market.

Table (10) Summary of results for life, nonlife and market VaR and CVaR

	ρ	$VaR_{1\%}$	$CVaR_{1\%}$
Life insurance co.	0.8876	0.01016	0.005422
Nonlife Insurance co.	0.2051	0.01045	0.004836
Market	0.8805	0.01232	0.004977

Table (10) describes the summary of results of VaR and CVaR for insurance sectors in Egypt, we can conclude that life insurance sector has the copula parameter ρ is simmilar to the parameter in the whole market, that is because the life insurance sector has long term conrtacts while the nonlife sector has short term contracts. Moreover, VaR and CVaR in all sectors are equevlint that reflects the stability in insurance sector.

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