# ESG, Risk, and (tail) dependence

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- The availability of non-financial data, including environmental, social, and governance (ESG) data has skyrocketed, and has gained great interest from academics and practitioners.
- ESG scores are based on several criteria given by a rating institution (Bhattacharya and Sharma, 2019). The rating institutions use quantitative and qualitative methods to assign an ESG score to a company (Berg and Lange, 2020).

## **EIKON Thomson Reuters ESG Scores**

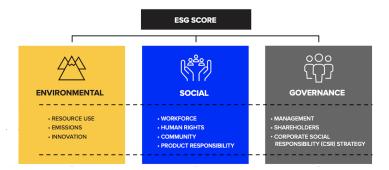
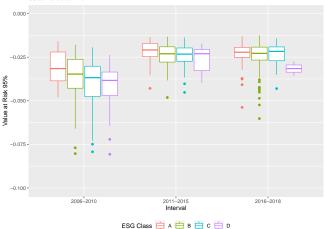


Figure 1: Aggregate ESG Scores

- It has been suggested that companies with better ESG scores enjoy better financial and market performance (Aboud and Diab, 2019).
- However, adding ESG criteria to an equity portfolio may not necessarily yield any additional returns (Breedt et al., 2019).
- No-consensus has yet been found on the link to corporate financial performance, as the results differ depending on the data used and the design of the study (Junkus and Berry, 2015; Shafer and Szado, 2018; Friede, 2019; Dorfleitner et al., 2020)

- While more than 2000 empirical studies have been done analysing ESG scores and financial performance, little has been done to understand the dependence structure and associated risks.
- Regulatory authorities, such as the European Banking Authority (EBA), have acknowledged that ESG scores can contribute to risk.
- This research aims to question whether ESG score can allow to capture (tail) dependence and (tail) risk to a certain degree.

# 95% Value-at-Risk



95% Value at Risk

Figure 2: 95% VaR with ESG Grade A (75< score  $\leq~$  100 ), B (50 < score  $\leq~$  75 ), C (25 < score  $\leq~$  50 ), D (0 < score  $\leq~$  25)

# **Dependence Modelling**

A copula C is a cumulative distribution function (cdf) with uniform marginals on the [0, 1].

Sklar's theorem (1959) states that if F is a continuous d-dimensional distribution function for  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_d)^{\top}$  with a univariate cdf  $F_p(x_p)$  of a continuous random variable  $X_p$  for  $p = 1, \dots, d$  with its realizations  $x_p$ , the joint distribution function F can be written as

$$F(x_1,...,x_d) = C(F_1(x_1),...,F_d(x_d)).$$
 (1)

The corresponding density is

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_d) = c(F_1(x_1), \dots, F_d(x_d)) \cdot \prod_{p=1}^{a} f_p(x_p),$$
(2)

where C is some appropriate d-dimensional copula with copula density c.

However, there are some drawbacks to multivariate copula models. These include the inflexibility in larger dimensions and the restriction of similar dependence structures between the variable pairs.

To overcome these issue and as we are interested in separate multivariate component modeling, we fit *vine copula* models instead.

# Vine Copula Model

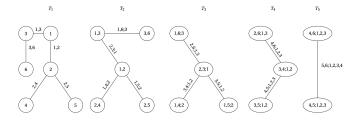


Figure 3: Example of a 6-dimensional regular vine with edge labels.

		Itau <sup>1</sup> Copulas							BB Copulas			
Properties	t	F	N	С	J	G	I	BB1	BB7	BB8		
Positive Dependence	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	~	~	~	~	-	$\checkmark$	~	~		
Negative Dependence	V	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Tail Asymmetry	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Lower Tail Dependence	V 1	-	-	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-		
Upper Tail Dependence	V	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		

 Table 1: Parametric copula families and their properties without rotations and reflections. Notation of copula families:
 Image: Texa and the second sec

 $^1$  Copula families for which the parameter estimation by Kendall's au inversion is available without rotations

- Daily log returns of 334 companies *j* (constituents the S&P 500)
- Time frame: y = 2006 2018
- Trading days: *t* = 1, ..., 3271
- Time periods q : 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2018
- Sectors:  $S = 1, \dots, 10$
- Yearly ESG Scores (ESG<sup>S</sup><sub>j,y</sub>)
- S&P 500 Sector indices  $(I_t^{S,q})$
- S&P 500 market capitalization weights (by 1.01.2015) to compute the ESG class indices I<sup>S,q</sup><sub>t,k</sub>

Sector (S)	Count (j)
Basic Materials	19
Consumer Cyclicals	50
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	31
Energy	16
Financials	49
Healthcare	35
Industrials	41
Real Estate	21
Technology	51
Utilities	23

**Table 2:** Number of Assets *j* per Sector (S)

## **ESG Scores - Trend**



Figure 4: Boxplot ESG Scores

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We cluster data companies according to their mean ESG score over the specific interval.

We have  $\forall_{j,S,q}$ :

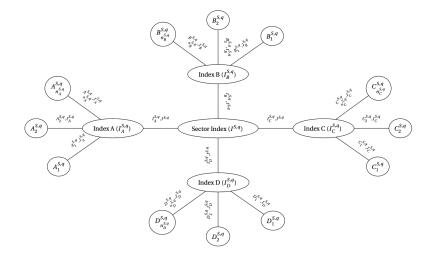
$$R_{j}^{S,q} = \begin{cases} A, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [75, 100], \\ B, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [50, 75), \\ C, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [25, 50), \\ D, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(3)

This is necessary to compute our ESG class indices  $(\mathbf{I}_{t,k}^{S,q})$ 

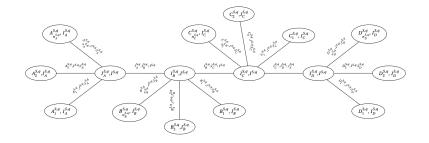
# **Two-Step Inference for Margins**

- Financial data are strongly dependent on past values and not uniformly distributed on [0,1]<sup>d</sup>, therefore, a two-step inference for margins (IFM) approach is followed.
- We propose a parametric marginal model and estimate the margins first, we then use the estimated marginal distributions to transform the data on the copula scale by defining the pseudo-copula data.
- A GARCH(1,1) with Student *t* innovations is fitted to each financial return series, Sector index, and ESG Class Indices, allowing for time-varying volatility and volatility clustering.
- Using the cumulative distribution function of the standardized Student t distribution, we determine the pseudo-copula data using the probability integral transform (PIT).

#### R-vine Copula ESG Risk Model - Tree 1



#### R-vine Copula ESG Risk Model - Tree 2



For each asset *j* with its ESG class *k* in period *q* within each sector *S*. We use the associated Kendall's  $\tau$  and its estimate  $\hat{\tau}$  as a dependence measure.

$$D_{j}^{S,q}(\tau) = \frac{|\hat{\tau}_{j,l_{k}}^{S,q}|}{|\hat{\tau}_{j,l_{k}}^{S,q}| + |\hat{\tau}_{j,l_{5}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}| + |\hat{\tau}_{j,o_{j_{1}}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}| + \cdots + |\hat{\tau}_{j,o_{j_{1}}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{l_{k}}^{S,q}|_{$$

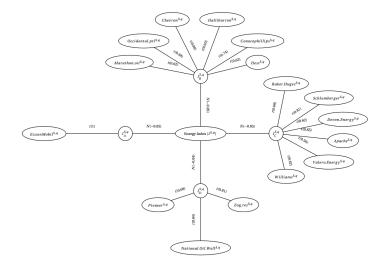
It accounts for the conditional dependencies of the asset j to other assets  $o_{j_1}^{S,q}, ..., o_{j_{l-1}}^{S,q}$ , where  $j_l$  is the number of assets which occur in the conditioning set, when j is in the conditioned set with the fitted vine in sector S and period q.

Similarly, we can also define the following ESG class lower tail dependence indicator  $D_j^{S,q}(\lambda)$  for each asset j with its ESG class k within each sector S and period q.

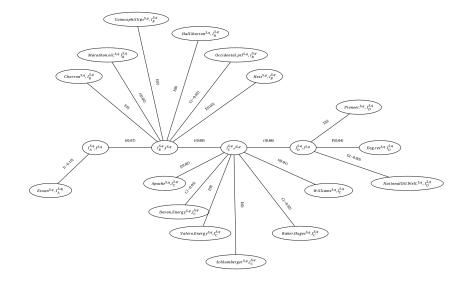
$$D_{j}^{S,q}(\lambda) = \frac{|\hat{\lambda}_{j,l_{k}^{S,q}}|}{|\hat{\lambda}_{j,l_{k}^{S,q}}| + |\hat{\lambda}_{j,l_{k}^{S,q}}|_{k}^{S,q}| + |\hat{\lambda}_{j,o_{j_{1}}^{S,q}}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}| + \dots + |\hat{\lambda}_{j,o_{l}^{S,q}}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}^{S,q}|_{k}$$

The lower tail dependence coefficient is also non-zero when the fitted bivariate copula class is Student's t, Clayton, 180° Joe, 180° Gumbel, BB1, BB7, or 180° BB8 in our model. For other bivariate copula families, we have zero lower tail dependence coefficient.Here  $\lambda$  is denotes the lower tail dependence coefficient, with estimate  $\hat{\lambda}$ .

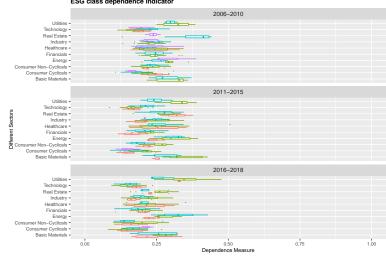
#### Energy Sector - Tree 1 - 2006-2010



# Energy Sector - Tree 2 - 2006-2010



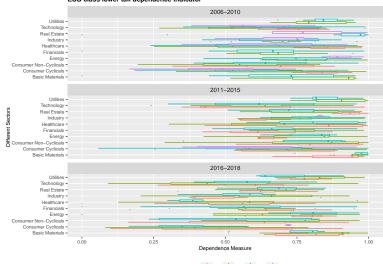
#### ESG Class Dependence Indicator for each time interval



ESG class dependence indicator

ESG Class 🖨 A 🖨 B 🖨 C 🚍 D

# ESG Class Lower Dependence Indicator for each time interval



ESG class lower tail dependence indicator

ESG Class 🖨 A 🛱 B 🖨 C 🛱 D

Time Interval		2006	-2010			2011	-2015			2016-2018			
Sector   ESG class	Α	В	С	D	A	В	С	D	Α	В	С	D	
Basic Materials	-	0.30	0.29	-	0.25	0.35	0.27	-	0.23	0.28	0.25	-	
Consumer Cyclicals	0.25	0.22	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.21	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.21	
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	0.22	0.23	0.23	-	0.22	0.26	0.19	-	0.16	0.20	0.16	-	
Energy	-	0.29	0.25	0.30	0.24	0.31	0.30	-	0.23	0.28	0.33	-	
Financials	-	0.25	0.24	-	0.17	0.23	0.21	-	0.19	0.21	0.18	-	
Healthcare	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.28	-	0.22	0.22	0.22	-	
Industrials	-	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.19	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.17	0.23	0.19	-	
Real Estate	-	-	0.38	0.24	0.32	0.27	0.26	-	0.23	0.26	0.22	-	
Technology	0.19	0.17	0.23	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.22	-	0.18	0.15	0.15	-	
Utility	-	0.32	0.30	-	-	0.32	0.24	-	0.33	0.35	0.26	-	

**Table 3:**  $\bar{D}_{k}^{S,q}(\tau)$  for each Sector and ESG Class - Largest values in red

$$\bar{D}_{k}^{S,q}(\tau) = \frac{1}{n_{k}^{S,q}} \sum_{\substack{j' \in [1,n_{S}] \\ j': R_{j'}^{S,q} = k}} D_{j'}^{S,q}(\tau), \quad \forall_{S,q,k},$$
(6)

Time Interval		2006	-2010			2011	-2015			2016	-2018	
Sector   ESG class	A	В	С	D	A	В	С	D	A	В	С	D
Basic Materials	-	0.82	0.68	-	0.86	0.95	0.93	-	0.79	0.75	0.74	-
Consumer Cyclicals	0.84	0.63	0.51	0.48	0.72	0.66	0.55	0.60	0.39	0.33	0.36	0.72
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	0.66	0.54	0.60	-	0.80	0.79	0.75	-	0.51	0.70	0.53	-
Energy	-	0.78	0.73	0.90	0.65	0.79	0.78	-	0.77	0.56	0.81	-
Financials	-	0.69	0.64	-	0.64	0.76	0.67	-	0.60	0.61	0.54	-
Healthcare	0.86	0.64	0.61	0.65	0.80	0.68	0.81	-	0.51	0.54	0.48	-
Industrials	-	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.61	0.76	0.81	0.83	0.49	0.64	0.56	-
Real Estate	-	-	0.85	0.80	0.94	0.78	0.74	-	0.40	0.69	0.67	-
Technology	0.75	0.55	0.61	0.60	0.58	0.59	0.63	-	0.58	0.46	0.57	-
Utility	-	0.81	0.84	-	-	0.89	0.85	-	0.78	0.83	0.72	-

**Table 4:**  $\bar{D}_{k}^{S,q}(\lambda)$  for each Sector and ESG Class- Lowest values in blue

$$\bar{D}_{k}^{S,q}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n_{k}^{S,q}} \sum_{\substack{j' \in [1,n_{S}] \\ j': R_{j'}^{S,q} = k}} D_{j'}^{S,q}(\lambda), \quad \forall_{S,q,k},$$
(7)

# Conclusion

- By introducing an indicator to capture overall dependence among assets with the similar ESG scores and across sector, we are capable to quantify dependence.
- We see that such dependence is not negligible, with values often between 0.2 and 0.4, which tend to increase during crisis.
- Still, as the overall ESG dependence vary between 0.2 and 0.4, the idiosyncratic component for each stock as well as some other effects could still play a relevant role.
- We show that tail dependence tends to be higher during crisis.

- The understanding and estimation of such dependence is of utmost importance for setting up adequate risk management and mitigation tools as well as building portfolios, ideally also ESG diversified and resilient to crises.
- Current popular ESG inclusion approaches that focus on picking only assets in the highest ESG rating classes could have indeed possibly benefit in the past from better VaR values but such behavior is not clear for the most recent interval, where ESG classes are overlapping.

# Conclusion

- In fact, picking assets with the highest ESG scores does not lead to better VaR values necessarily and could instead results in applying too much pressure on a specific set of assets, without a clear benefit.
- The constant trend in improving ESG scores might be a factor behind the lack of VaR differentiation between the classes A, B, and C in the last time interval, joint to the fact that such ESG scores are yet not definitive.
- Still, we notice that ESG class D assets tend to exhibit poorer VaR values than other ESG classes, suggesting that ESG disclosure might also have some indirect and positive effect on the company risk management.

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# **Data Notation**

We introduce the mathematical indices, data sets and their notations used in the paper.

Type of Data	Notation
Sector	$S = 1, \dots, 10$
Trading day	t = 1,, 3271
Year	<i>y</i> = 2006,,2018
Period	q = 1,2,3
Total number of assets in sector S	$n_S$ in Section Appendix B, Table B.7
Asset j in sector S	$j = 1,, n_S$
ESG class	$k \in \{A,B,C,D\}$
ESG score of asset $j$ in sector $S$ in year $y$	$ESG_{y,j}^S$
Log return of asset $j$ in sector $S$ in period $q$ on trading day $t$	$Y_{t,j,k}^{S,q}$
belonging to ESG class $k$	<sup>1</sup> t,j,k
S&P 500 log return for sector S on trading day t in period $q$	$I_t^{S,q}$
Market capitalization weight of asset $j$ in sector $S$ (by 1.01.2015)	$M_{i}^{S}$
Mean ESG score of asset $j$ in sector $S$ and period $q$	$\overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q}$
ESG class of asset $j$ in sector $S$ and period $q$	$R_j^{S,q}$
ESG class weight of asset $j$ in sector $S$ in period $q$	$\alpha_j^{S,q}$
Values of ESG class $k$ in sector $S$ and period $q$ at trading day $t$	$I_{t,k}^{S,q}$

$$\overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q}$$

Mean ESG score of asset j in sector S and period q ( $\overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q}$ )

$$\overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} = \frac{1}{|P_{q}|} \sum_{y \in P_{q}} ESG_{y,j}^{S} \quad \text{for} \quad \forall_{j,S,q},$$
(8)

where  $P_1 = [2006, 2010]$ ,  $P_2 = [2011, 2015]$ ,  $P_3 = [2016, 2018]$ , and  $|P_q|$  denotes the number of years in  $P_q$ .

$$R_j^{S,q}$$

ESG class of asset j in sector S and period q  $(R_j^{S,q})$  We have  $\forall_{j,S,q}$ :

$$R_{j}^{S,q} = \begin{cases} A, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [75, 100], \\ B, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [50, 75), \\ C, & \text{if } \overline{ESG}_{j}^{S,q} \in [25, 50), \\ D, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(9)



Values of ESG class k in sector S and period q at trading day t  $(\mathbf{I}_{t,k}^{S,q})$ 

 $\mathbf{I}_{t,k}^{S,q} = \sum_{\substack{j' \in [1,n_S] \\ j': R_{j'}^{S,q} = k}} \alpha_{j'}^{S,q} \cdot Y_{t,j',k}^{S,q} \quad \text{for} \quad \forall_{S,q,k} \quad \text{and} \quad t \in T_q, \quad (10)$ 

where  $T_1 = [1, 1260]$ ,  $T_2 = [1261, 2517]$ ,  $T_3[2518, 3271]$ .

As financial data are strongly dependent on past values and not uniformly distributed on  $[0, 1]^d$ , which is the necessary input for a copula, a two-step inference for margins (IFM) approach is followed. This approach as been investigated by Joe (2005). We follow a parametric marginal model and estimate the margins first. we then use the estimated marginal distributions to transform the data on the copula scale by defining the pseudo-copula data. This allows us to remove the marginal time dependence by utilizing standard univariate time series models and then proceed with standardized residuals obtained from these models. We fit a generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (GARCH) model with Student *t* innovations to our data, allowing for time-varying volatility and volatility clustering.

Parameters	Notation
The set of trading days in period $q$	$p_q$ with $p_0 = \emptyset$ , $p_1 = \{1, \dots, 1260\}$ , $p_2 = \{1261, \dots, 2517\}$ , $p_3 = \{2518, \dots, 3271\}$
S&P 500 log returns for sector S in period $q$	$I^{S,q} = (I^{S}_{1+ p_{q-1} }, \dots, I^{S}_{ p_{q-1} + p_{q} })^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{ p_{q} }$
Matrix of log returns $Y_{t,j}^S$ in sector S and period q for $T \in t_q$	$Y^{S,q} = [Y_1^S, \dots, Y_{n_S}^S] \in \mathbb{R}^{ p_q  \times n_S}, \text{ where } Y_{j'}^S = (Y_{1+ p_{q-1} ,j'}^S, \dots, Y_{ p_{q-1} + p_q ,j'}^S)^\top, j' \in [1, n_S]$
Data matrix for sector $S$ in period $q$	$X^{S,q} = [Y^{S,q}, I^{S,q}, I^{S,q}_A, I^{S,q}_B, I^{S,q}_C, I^{S,q}_D, I^{S,q}_D] \in \mathbb{R}^{ p_q  \times P}$
Columns of the data matrix $X^{S,q}$	$d = 1, \dots, P$
Column <i>d</i> of the data matrix $X^{S,q}$	$X_d^{S,q} = (X_{1,d}^{S,q}, \dots, X_{ p_q ,d}^{S,q})^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{ p_q }$
Conditional variance vector of $X_{t,d}^{S,q}$ on trading day $t$	$(\sigma^{S,q}_{d,t})^2$
Estimated degree of freedom for $X_{t,d}^{S,q}$	$\hat{v}_d^S$
Estimated distribution function of the innovation distribution for time series $X_{t,d}^{S,q}$	$\hat{F}_{d}^{S,q}(\cdot;\hat{v}_{d}^{S})$
Estimated u-data for an observation $X_{t,d}^{S,q}$ in sector S and period q	$\hat{u}_{t,d}^{S,q}$ where $t \in T_q$

As an input of a R-vine model in sector S and period q, we have a data matrix  $X^{S,q}$  defined in the Data Notation Section. Overall, we have  $|S| \times |q| = 10 \times 3 = 30$  vine copula risk models.

In sector S and period q, we fit a GARCH(1,1) models with appropriate error distribution for a marginal time series,  $\mathbf{X}_{d}^{S,q}$ , and estimate the parameters of the following model:

$$\varepsilon_{d,t}^{S,q} = \sigma_{t,d}^{S,q} \cdot z_t \qquad (\sigma_{d,t}^{S,q})^2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot (\varepsilon_{t-1,d}^{S,q})^2 + \beta_1 \cdot (\sigma_{t-1,d}^{S,q})^2$$
(11)

where  $(z_t)_{t>1}$  is a sequence of normal random independent and identically distributed random variables satisfying the standard assumptions  $E[z_t] = 0$  and  $var[z_t] = 1$  and follows a Student's tdistribution. Then using the cumulative distribution function of the standardized Student's *t* distribution, we determine the *pseudo-copula data* as probability integral transformation (PIT), i.e.

$$\hat{u}_{t,d}^{S,q} := \hat{F}_d \left( \frac{X_{t,d}^{S,q}}{\hat{\sigma}_{t,d}^S}; \hat{\nu}_d^S \right).$$
(12)

Following this two-step approach allows us to convert data to the copula scale, which can be used for estimation of the copula parameter of the chosen bivariate copula family.

Time Interval		2006-2010				2011	-2015			2016-	2018	
Sector   ESG class	Α	В	С	D	A	В	С	D	Α	В	С	D
Basic Materials	1	7	11	0	3	11	5	0	5	10	4	0
Consumer Cyclicals	2	15	23	10	4	25	15	6	9	27	12	2
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	6	11	13	1	9	17	4	1	9	18	4	0
Energy	1	6	6	3	3	9	3	1	4	9	3	0
Financials	1	17	30	1	3	24	22	0	6	13	30	0
Healthcare	2	13	16	3	6	18	9	1	13	16	5	0
Industrials	1	15	20	5	3	22	14	2	7	24	10	0
Real Estate	1	1	14	4	2	7	10	1	6	10	4	0
Technology	6	16	21	8	7	25	18	1	10	32	9	0
Utilities	0	13	10	0	0	15	8	0	2	18	3	0

**Table 5:** Number of Assets for each ESG class per sector *S* and time period *q* 

# Two R-vine Copula ESG Risk Model

Two R-vine models for each sector S and time period q $2 \cdot 10 \cdot 3 = 60$ 

The first R-vine model is fitted allowing only for the *itau* copula families and their rotations and reflections, while in the second R-vine model we allow for all *parametric* copula families and their rotations and reflections (all copula families are presented in Table 6).

		Itau <sup>1</sup> Copulas							BB Copulas			
Properties	t	F	N	С	J	G	1	BB1	BB7	BB8		
Positive Dependence	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	~	~	~	~	-	~	~	~		
Negative Dependence	V	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Tail Asymmetry	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
Lower Tail Dependence	V	-	-	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	$\checkmark$	-		
Upper Tail Dependence	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		

 Table 6:
 Parametric copula families and their properties without rotations and reflections. Notation of copula families: t =

 Student's t, F = Frank, N = Gaussian, C = Clayton, J = Joe, G = Gumbel, I = Independence, BB1 = Clayton- Gumbel, BB7 = Joe-Clayton, BB8 = Extended Joe

 $^{\rm 1}{\rm Copula}$  families for which the parameter estimation by Kendall's  $\tau$  inversion is available without rotations

To choose our optimal model we use the Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC) as it tends to select a parsimonious model that reasonably approximates the density (Schwarz and Others, 1978).

Considering BIC values of the model fits indicate that *itau* bivariate copula family set is preferred in our data, except for the Real Estate sector in period  $q_1 = 2006 - 2010$  and  $q_2 = 2011 - 2015$ . Therefore, we allowed for BB copula fits in these two cases. Since the number of parameters differ in the bivariate copula families that we considered, we used the parsimonious BIC correction in the Vuong test to favor more parsimonious models.

## Fitted Copula Families - Itau

Sector	BM. <sup>a</sup>	C. Cyc. <sup>b</sup>	N.Cyc. <sup>C</sup>	Ene. <sup>d</sup>	Fin. <sup>e</sup>	H.Care <sup>f</sup>	Ind. <sup>g</sup>	R. Est. <sup>h</sup>	Tech. <sup>i</sup>	Uti. <sup>j</sup>
2006-2010	$T_1$	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	$T_1$	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
Student's t	18	44	30	16	50	33	44	20	50	23
Clayton	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Frank	1	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	2
Gaussian	3	0	2	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
Gumbel	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Independence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Joe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011-2015	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	$T_1$	$T_1$	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T1	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
Student's t	19	43	31	15	50	34	41	20	50	23
Clayton	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Frank	0	7	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0
Gaussian	0	0	4	1	2	1	2	0	2	0
Gumbel	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Independence	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Joe	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
2016-2018	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	$T_1$	$T_1$	T <sub>1</sub>	$T_1$
Student's t	18	41	29	15	50	33	41	18	50	23
Clayton	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	3
Frank	0	10	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
Gaussian	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	0
Gumbel	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Independence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Joe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 7:** Bivariate *itau* copula families and independence copula fitted for Tree 1 ( $T_1$ ). To simplify, no difference in the counts are made based on rotations and reflections. These are available on request by the authors. (<sup>a</sup> Basic Materials, <sup>b</sup> Consumer Cyclicals, <sup>c</sup> Consumer Non-Cyclicals, <sup>d</sup> Energy, <sup>e</sup> Financials, <sup>f</sup> Healthcare, <sup>g</sup> Industrials, <sup>h</sup> Real Estate, <sup>l</sup> Technology, <sup>J</sup> Utility)

Comparison of the *itau* and *parametric* R-vine models.

In the following the BIC are compared from three different vine models for the Energy sector and time period. In every model the preselect feature of *rvinecopulib* is not activated. The output of all additional sectors and time intervals are available from the authors upon request. See Table 6 for copula family abbreviations.

	loglik	BIC		
Itau 2006-2010	32393.89	-63074.45		
Par 2006-2010	32363.61	-62899.67		
Itau 2011-2015	30135.86	-58637.47		
Par 2011-2015	29643.34	-57495.43		
Itau 2016-2018	11526.09	-21727.11		
Par. 2016-2018	11005.10	-20671.87		

Interval	Statistic	Schwarz Statistic	Schwarz p-value
2006-2010	2.012	5.806	6.383e-09
2011-2015	4.470	5.182	2.194e-07
2016-2018	6.210	6.289	3.190e-10

Table 9: Vuong Test - Energy

Table 8: Model Fit - Energy