

# Local Refinement and Bias Correction of Regional Climate Simulations through Copulas

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## Why regional climate modelling?

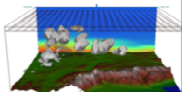
In the light of warming climate there is a need for adaption to changing environmental conditions especially in climate-sensitive regions as the alpine space

**Now decisions have to be taken for the future!**

- flood prevention measures
- drinking water supply
- hydroelectric power production
- water availability for agricultural purposes
- tourism



**Decision makers need regional climate impact studies with a high spatio-temporal resolution to provide regional precipitation and temperature fields.**



# Downscaling - from Global Climate Model (GCM) to Regional Climate Model (RCM)

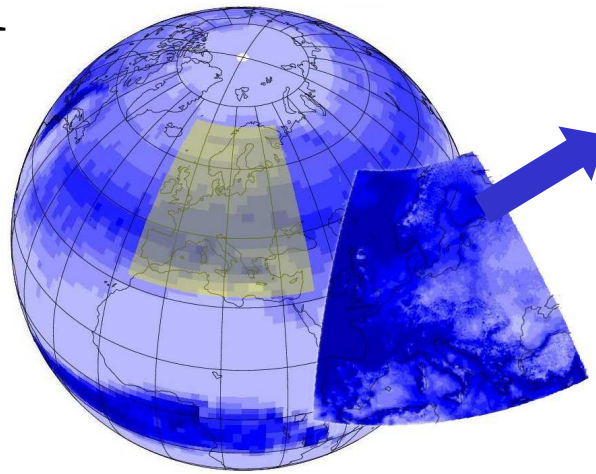
**GCM**



downscaling

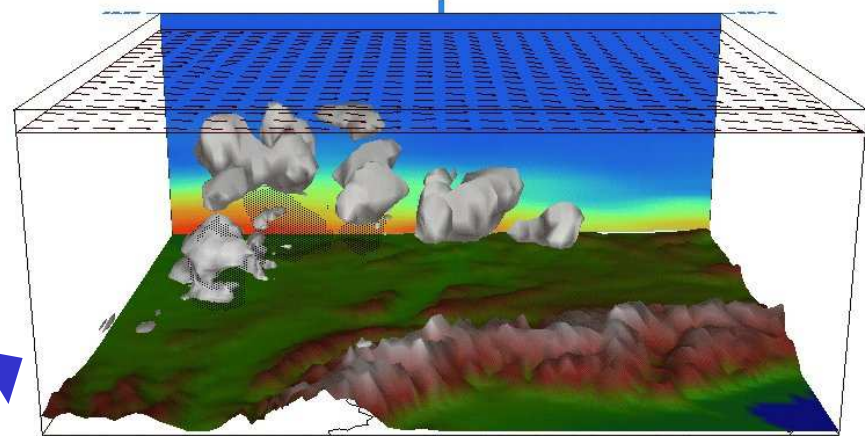


**RCM**

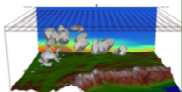


dynamical downscaling

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Monday



the boundary conditions for the regional model are taken from GCM results.



## Three different approaches:

Dynamical  
downscaling



➤ Local variable of interest is predicted from values of the corresponding variable simulated at the **closest grid point of the GCM**

➤ **Empirical adjustment** compensates simulation errors and small-scale effects

➤ Output from the GCM is used to **drive a nested high resolution regional climate model (RCM)**

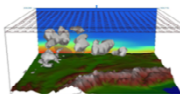
➤ The prediction is now based on the result at the nearby RCM grid point

Statistical  
downscaling



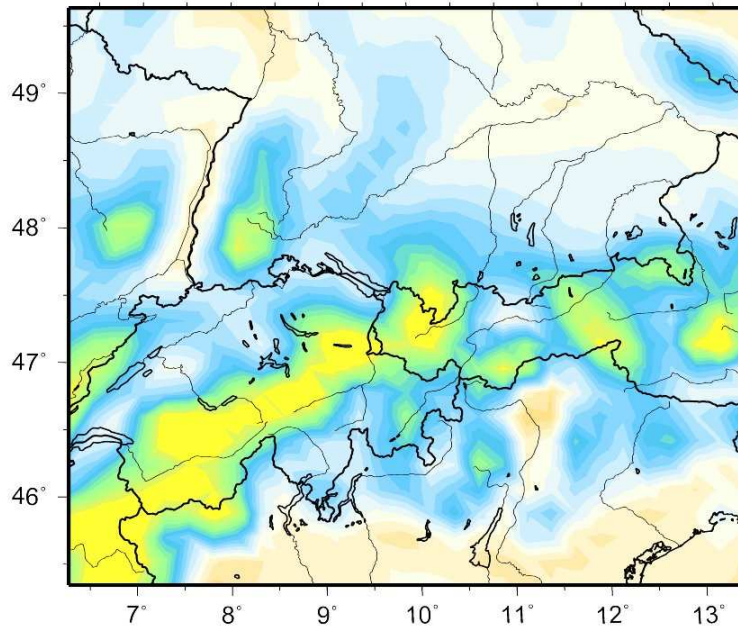
➤ **Statistic relationships are developed** to link the local variable to predictor variables (stochastic weather generators)

**In practice the downscaling techniques are often mixtures of this approaches and show a mixture of their attributes**

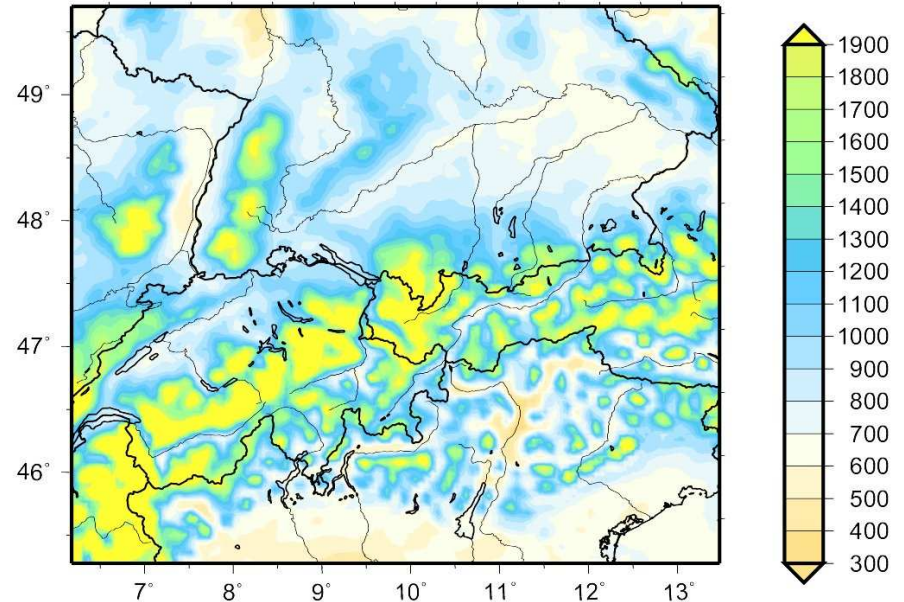


# Advantages of regional climate modelling

resolution 19.2 km

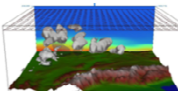


resolution 4.8 km

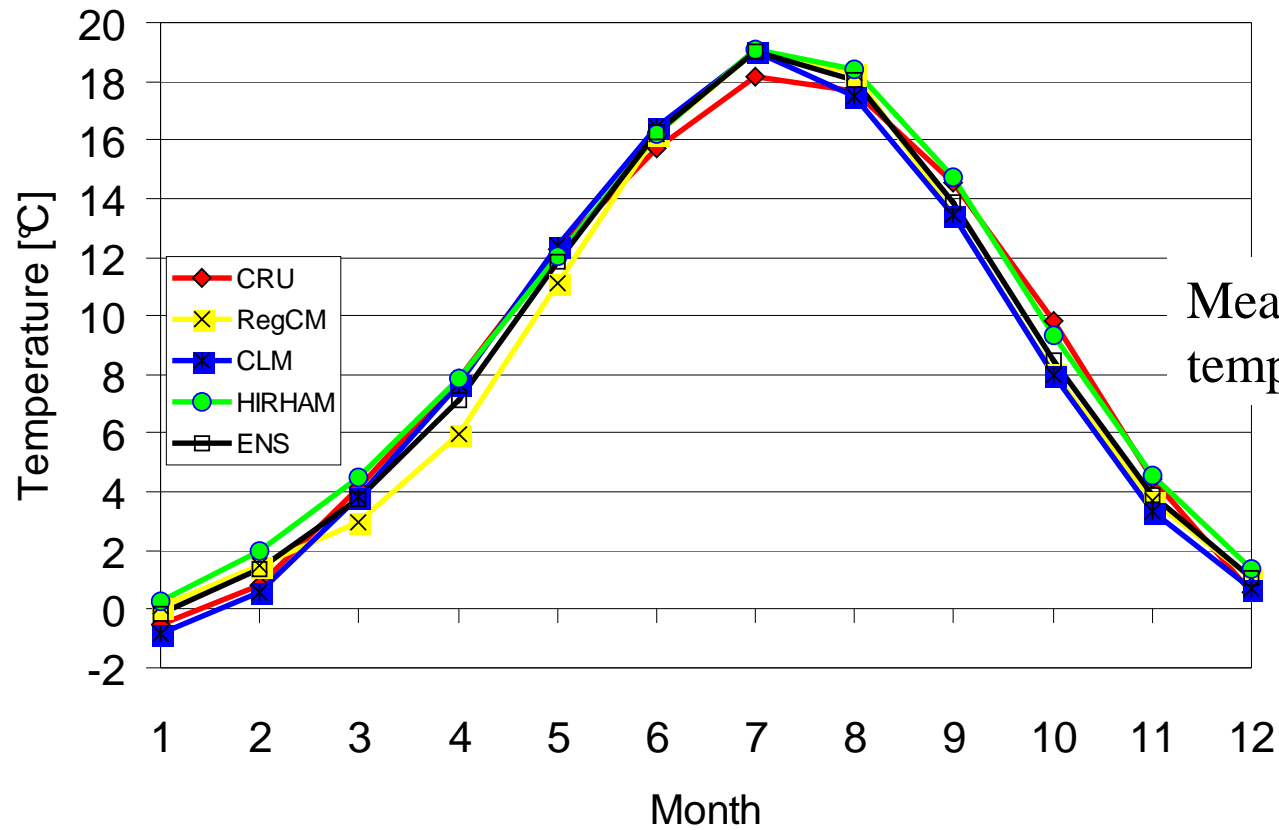
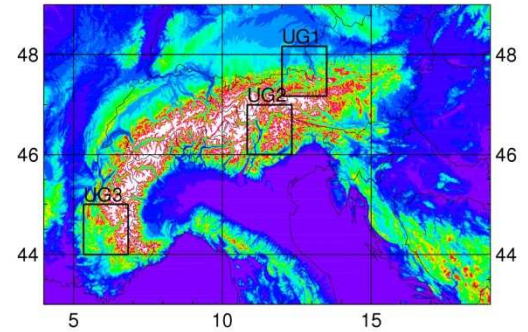


R.Knoche, IMK-IFU, KIT

But how good do RCMs reproduce the observed regional climate?

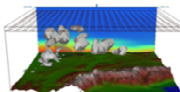


# Example in the Alpine Space

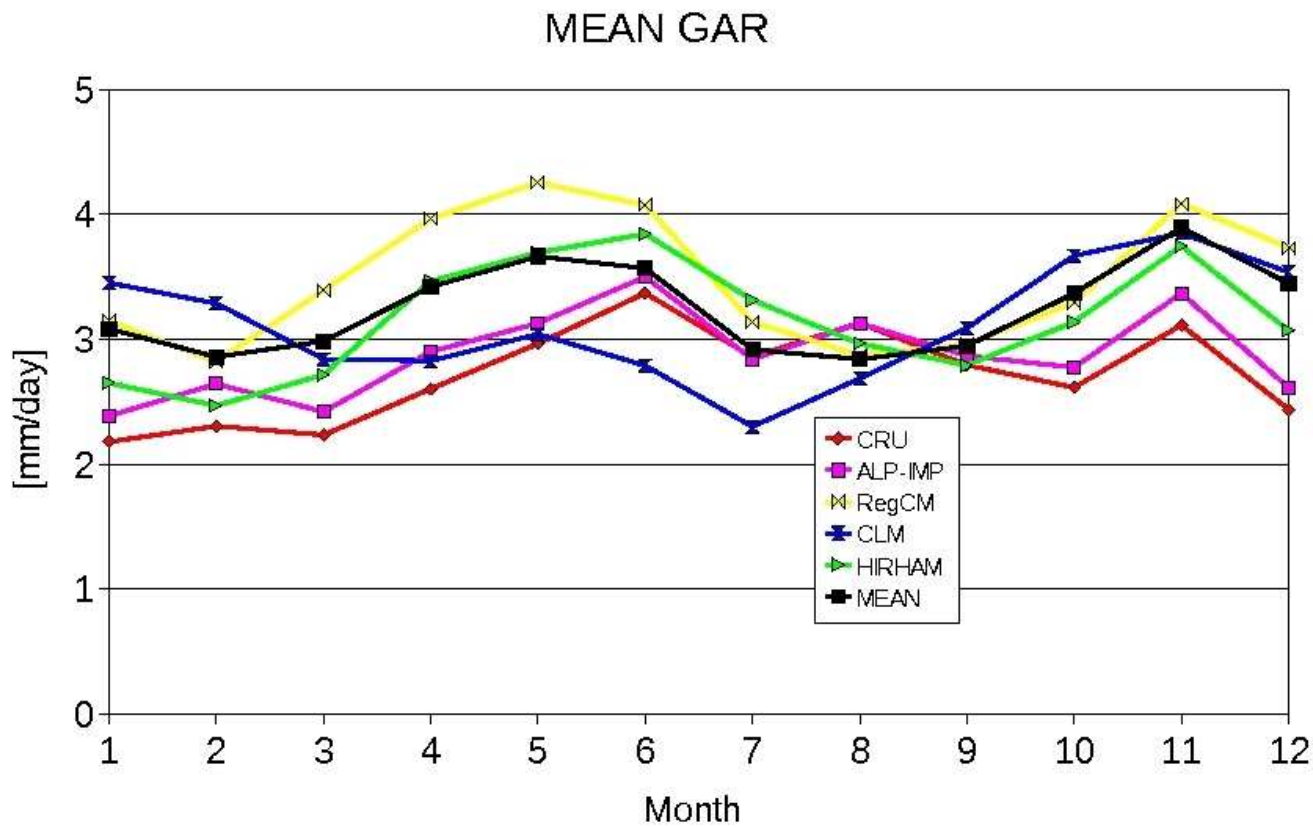
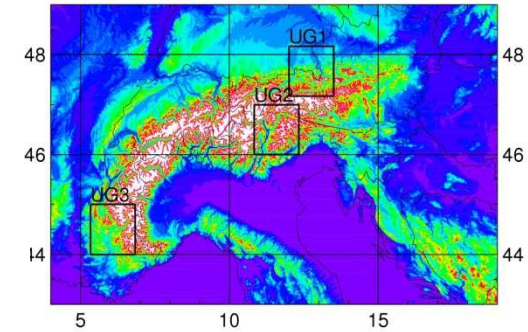


Mean monthly temperature bias +/- 1°C

Smiatek, Kunstmann, Knoche, Marx, 2009 (JGR)



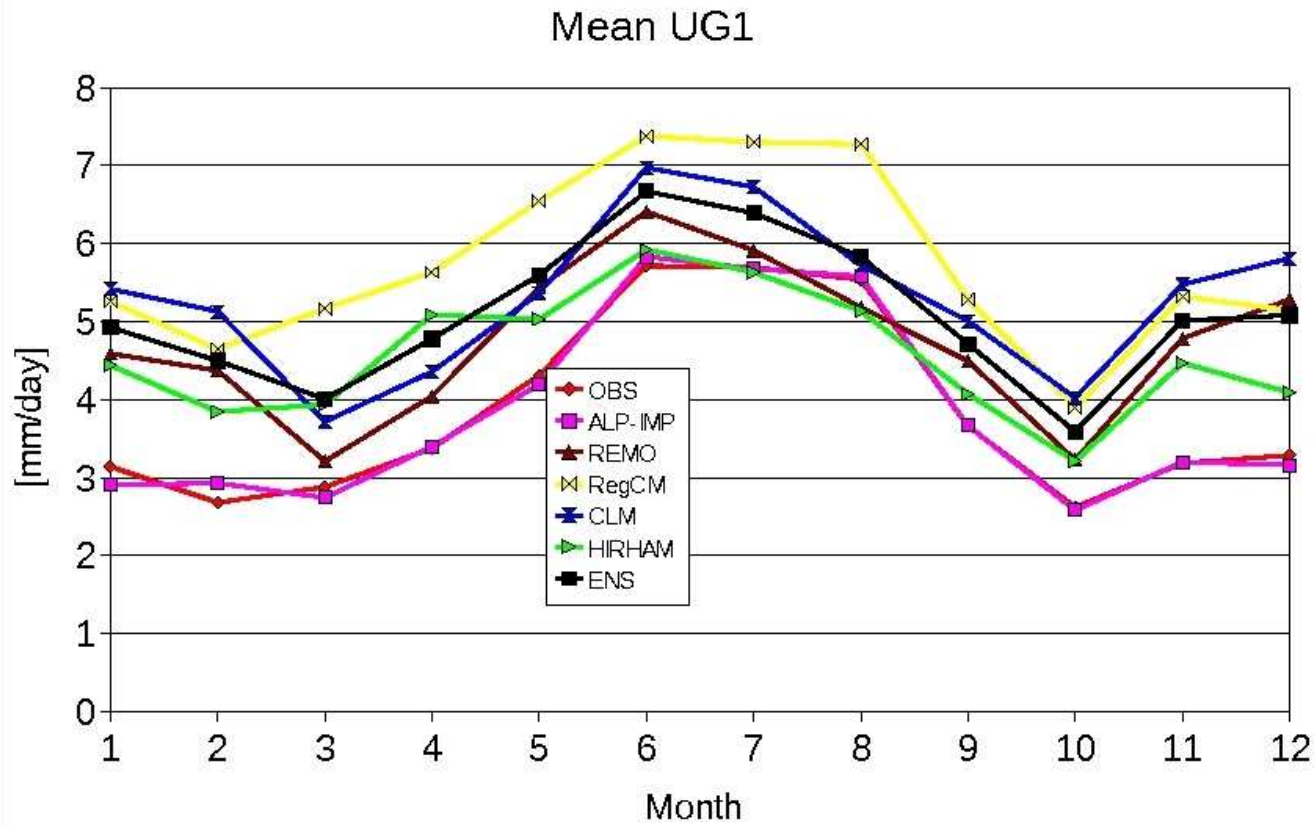
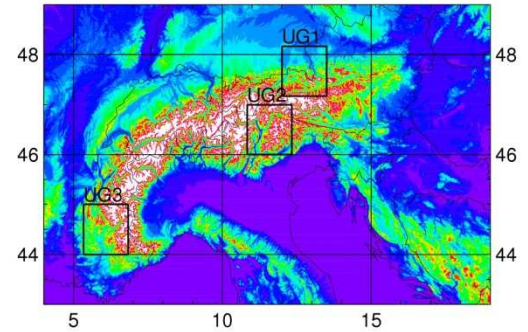
# Example in the Alpine Space



Precipitation bias up to 1.5 mm/day :-|

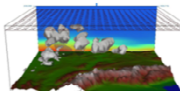
Smiatek, Kunstmann, Knoche, Marx, 2009 (JGR)

# Example in the Alpine Space



Precipitation bias up to 2.5 mm/day :-)

Smiatek, Kunstmann, Knoche, Marx, 2009 (JGR)





➤ The validation of the RCM results shows the **need for bias correction (BC)** before coupling the model results to the hydrological models

➤ Bias correction methods:

- **Linear BC (corrects difference in the mean)**
- **Non-linear BC (adjustment of mean and standard deviation)**
- **Histogram equalization techniques**
- **Bootstrap BC**
- **Quantile regression**
- ...

- often correlation based
- lack of correcting specific types of systematic errors
- mostly correction for single variables (decoupling)

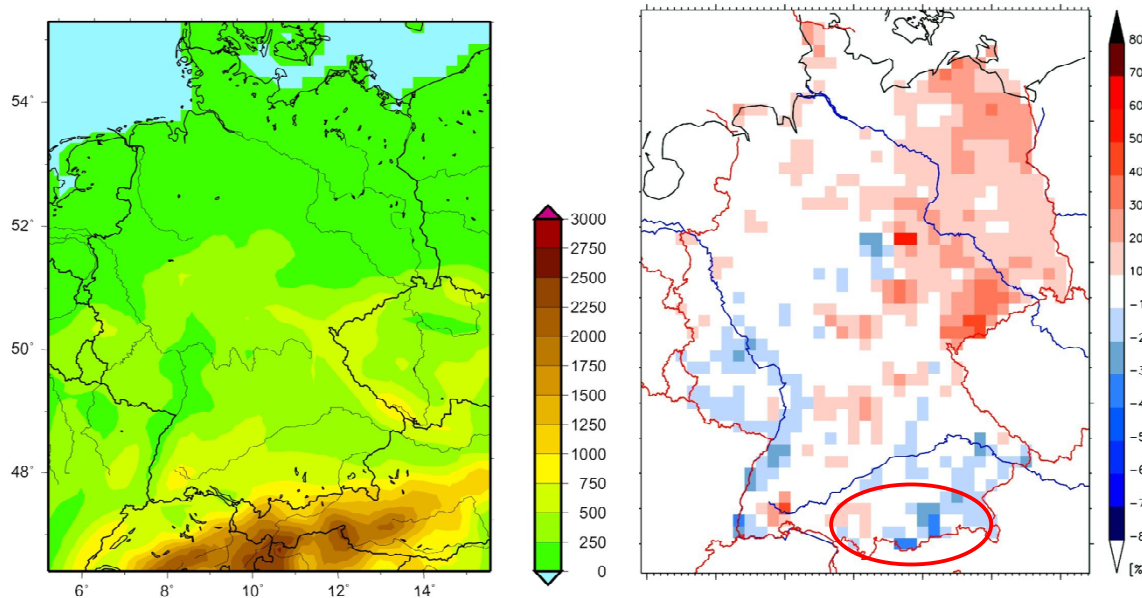
➤ **But still:** improvement of bias correction/downscaling will influence the final results of the hydrological model

➔ Develop new methods

➔ Copula theory could show new ways

## Application:

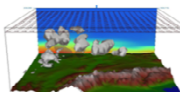
### Bias-correction of regional climate modeling in the alpine space



Domain and topography of regional climate simulations with MM5, 19.2 km spatial resolution (left).

Bias of mean annual total precipitation for the MM5 with respect to the DWD reference data set [%] (right)

- Dry bias (wet bias) for eastern part of Germany (alpine space & Rhine valley)
- Underestimation in the alpine region possibly due to the complex terrain



## Theory:

random sample from  $(X, Y)$ :

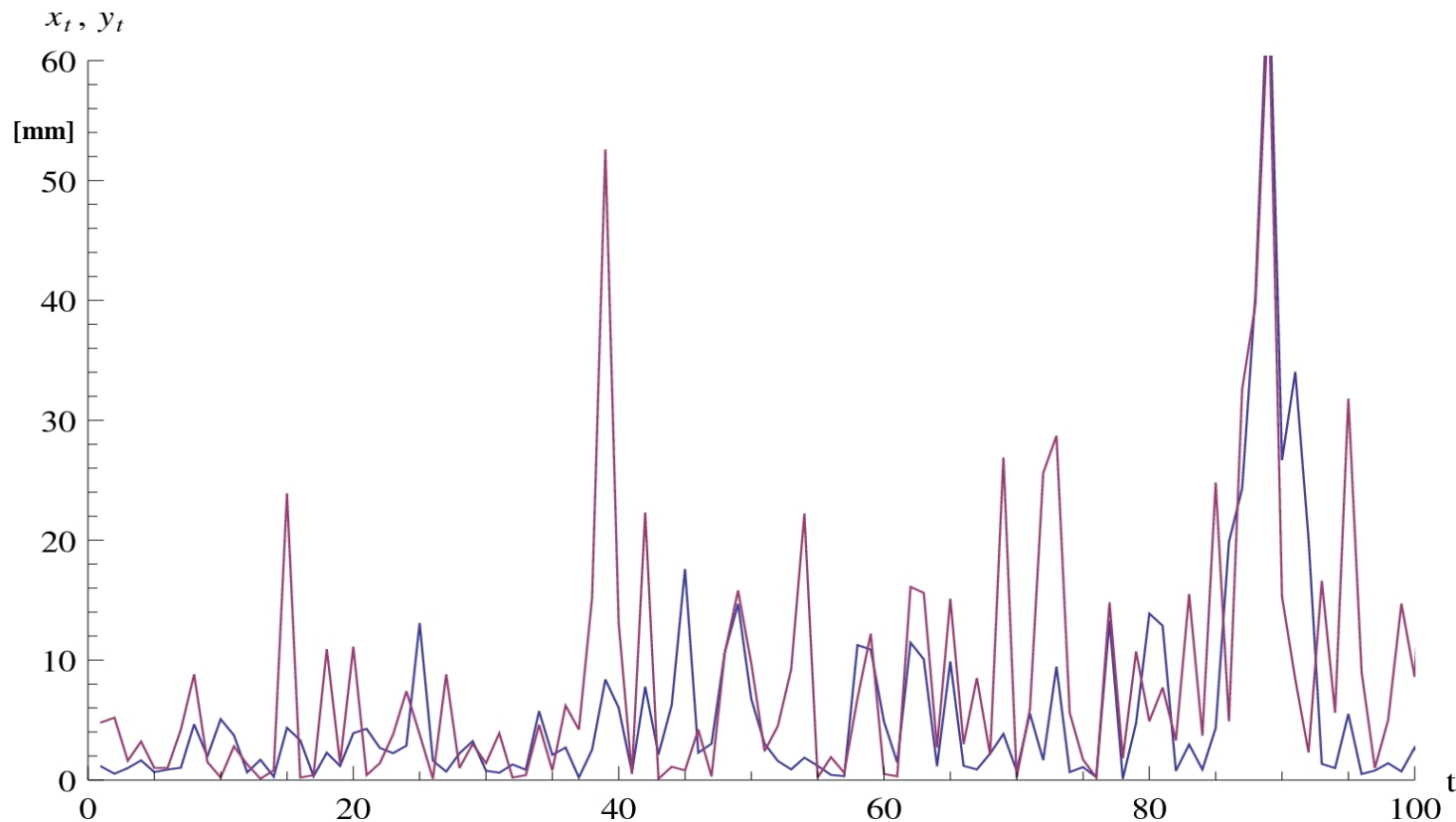
$$(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)$$



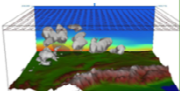
In practice we have two time series: e.g.

- modeled temperature and measured temperature
- modeled precip. and measured precip.

$x_t$  model (blue),  $y_t$  measurement (red), station GAP



**The joint dependence between these variables is fully characterized by their Copula  $C(x, y)$ .**



- every Copula is the representation of the dependence structure of the two (or more) variables
- by using a Copula it is possible to derive a bi- or multivariate PDF  $f(x,y)$  just by knowing the single marginal distributions  $F_X(x)$  and  $F_Y(y)$

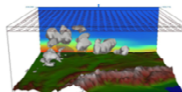
$$\underbrace{f(x, y)}_{\text{joint density}} = \underbrace{c(F_X(x), F_Y(y))}_{\text{pdf of Copula (copula density)}} \cdot \underbrace{f_X(x) \cdot f_Y(y)}_{\text{pdfs of the marginals}}$$



$$c(u, v) = \frac{\partial^2 C(u, v)}{\partial u \partial v}$$

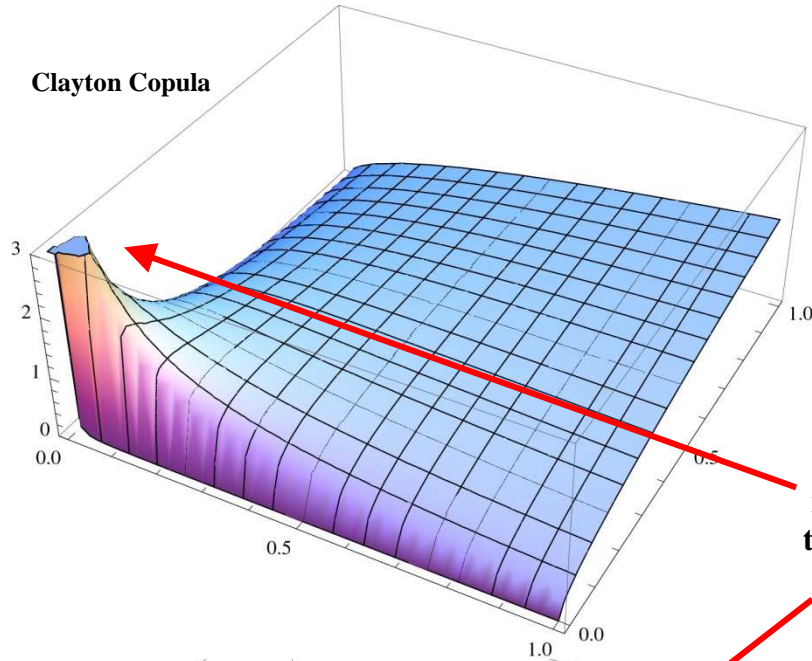


**the copula density  $c(u,v)$  is often called “dependence function”**

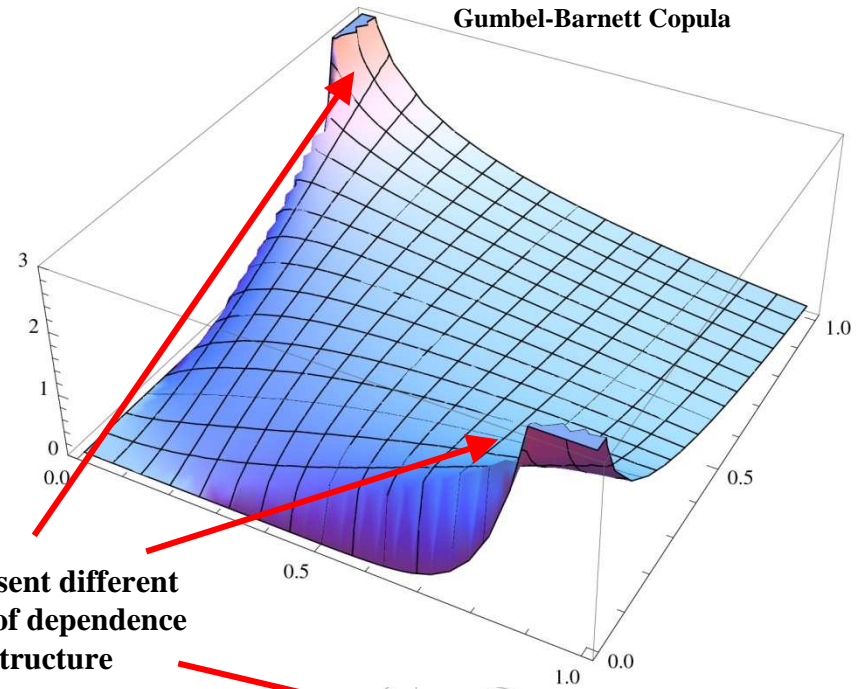


# PDFs of different Copula families

Clayton Copula

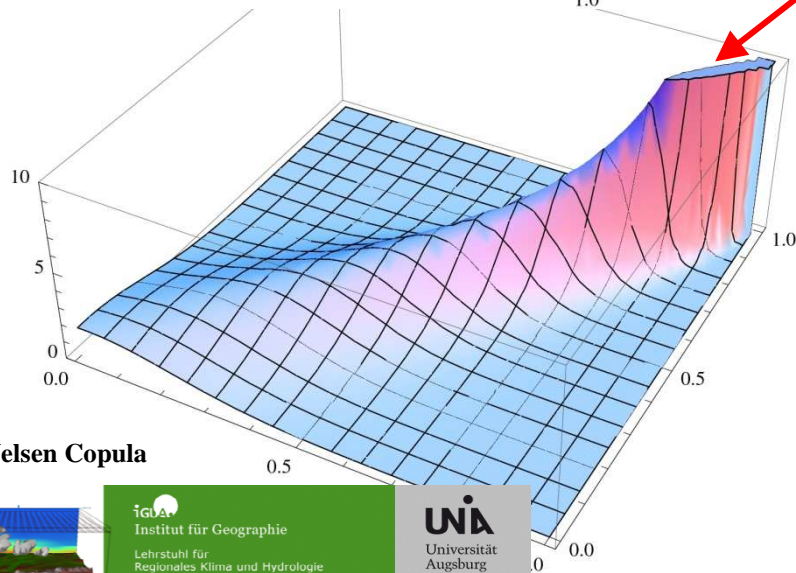


Gumbel-Barnett Copula

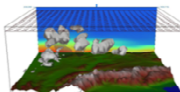
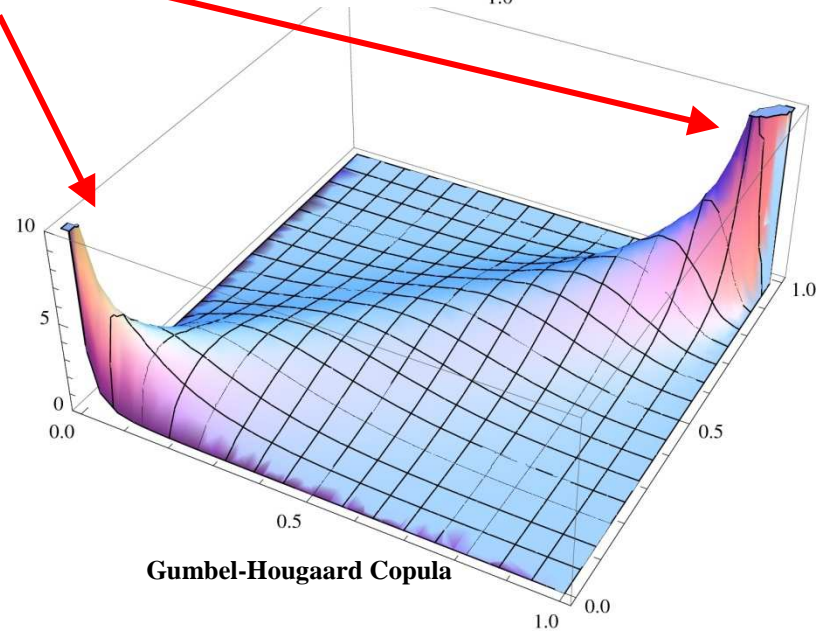


represent different types of dependence structure

Nelsen Copula



Gumbel-Hougaard Copula



## Connection of the Copula parameter to rank based dependence estimators - Kendalls tau

$$(+)\quad \tau = 2 \frac{n_c - n_d}{n(n-1)} = 4 \iint_{I^2} C(u, v) dC(u, v) - 1$$

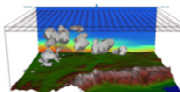
←  $\tau$  is a measure of dependence based on ranks

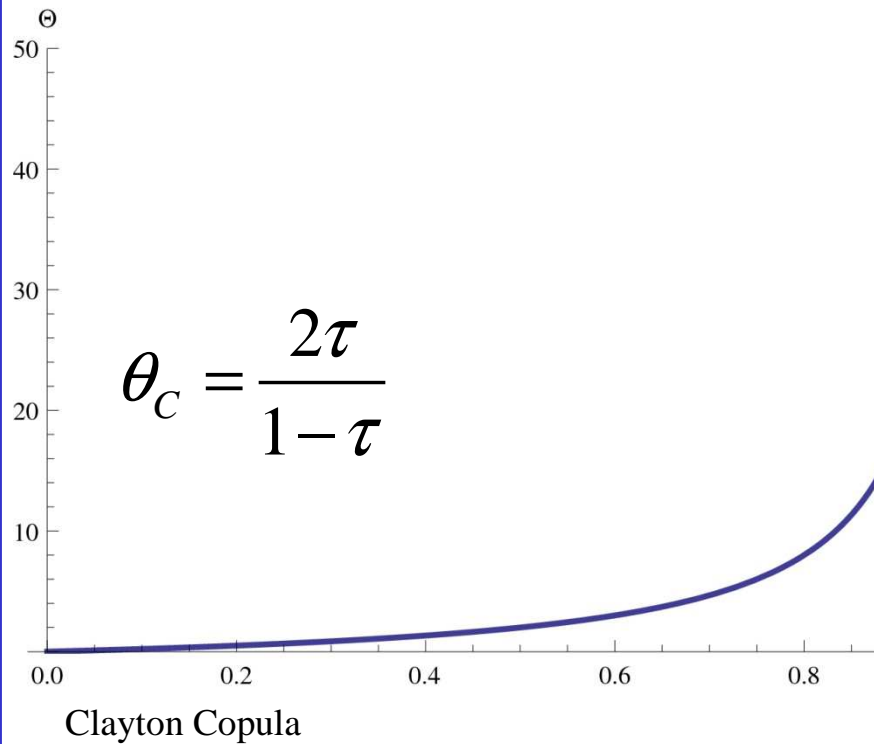
$$C_\theta(u, v) = \max\left(\left[u^{-\theta} + v^{-\theta} - 1\right]^{-\frac{1}{\theta}}, 0\right) \quad \text{Clayton Copula}$$

$$C_\theta(u, v) = \exp\left(-\left[(-\ln u)^\theta + (-\ln v)^\theta\right]^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\right) \quad \text{Gumbel-Hougaard Copula}$$



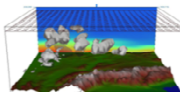
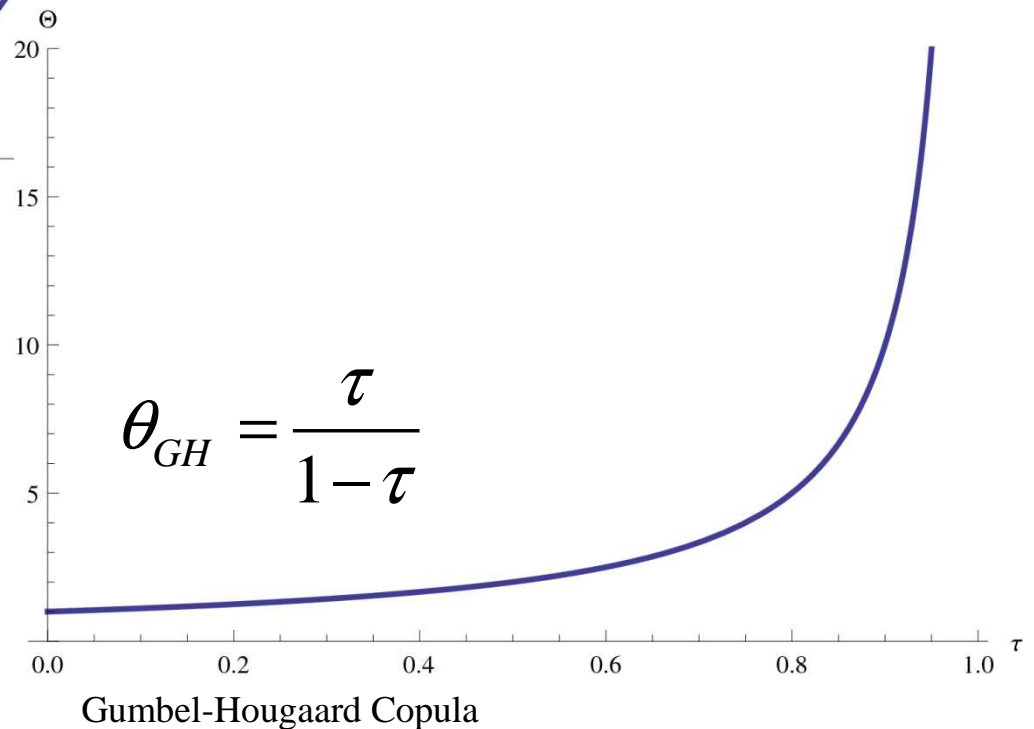
**There is a relationship between Kendalls  $\tau$  and the Copula parameter  $\theta$  via (+)**



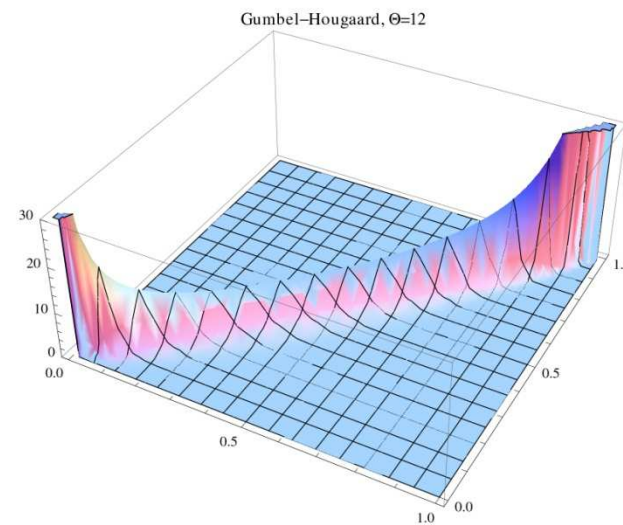
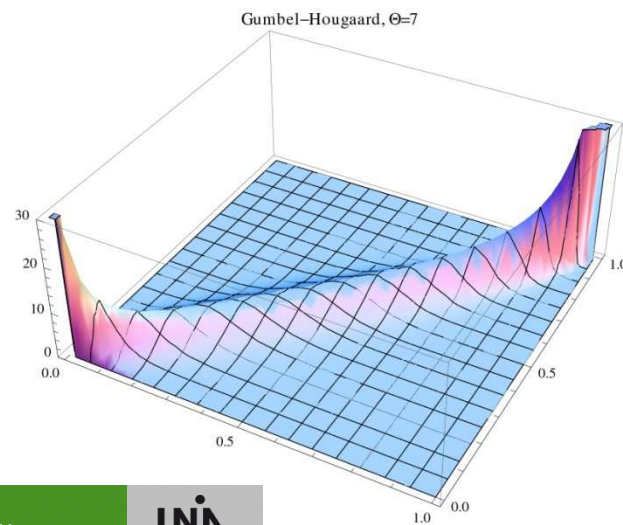
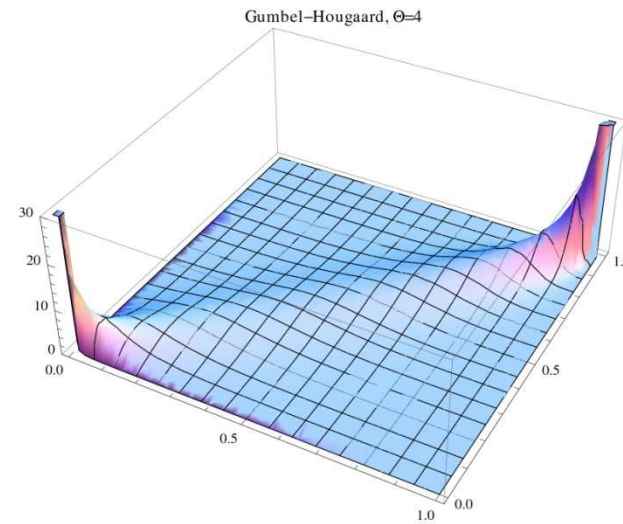
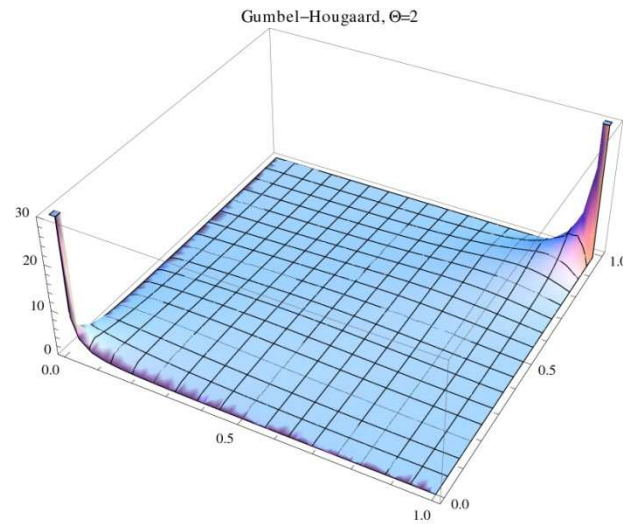


**$\theta$  is a monotonically increasing function of  $\tau$**

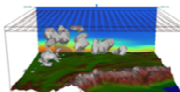
**high Copula parameters indicate strong correlation**



# larger Copula parameter - higher dependence



PDF of GH Copula for 4 different values of  $\theta$



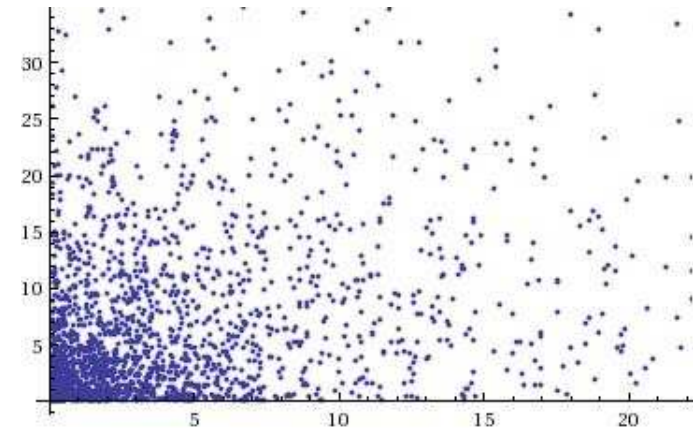


# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

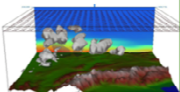
data  $(X_i, Y_i)$



needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)



scatter plot of the original data



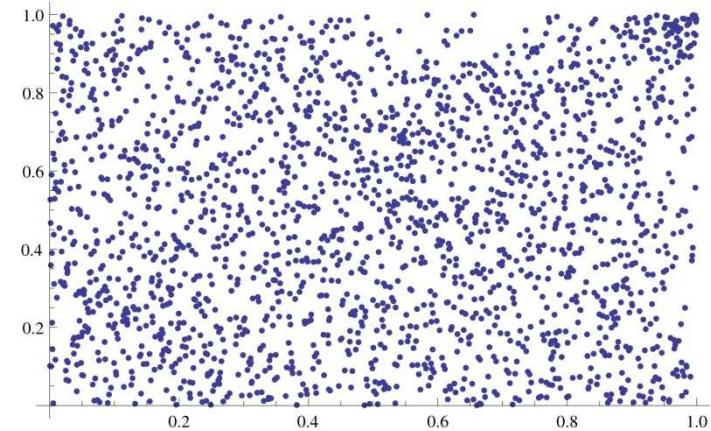
# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

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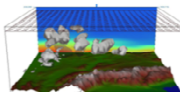
needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

transform data to  
an i.i.d. data set  
 $(X_i^*, Y_i^*)$

ARMA-GARCH  
transformation is applied to get  
i.i.d. data



scatter plot of the iid residuals



# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

data  $(X_i, Y_i)$

needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

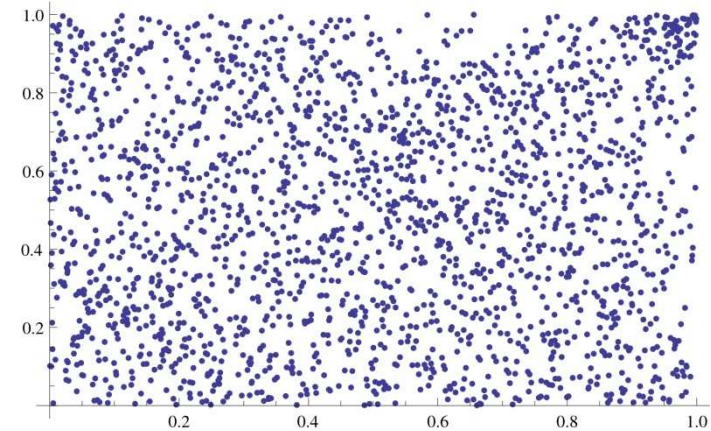
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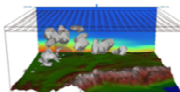
ranks  $(R_i, S_i)$  of  
the i.i.d. data

ranks have the same dependence  
structure as original data

➔ same Copula



scatter plot of the ranks of the iid  
residuals



# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

data  $(X_i, Y_i)$

needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

transform data to  
an i.i.d. data set  
 $(X_i^*, Y_i^*)$

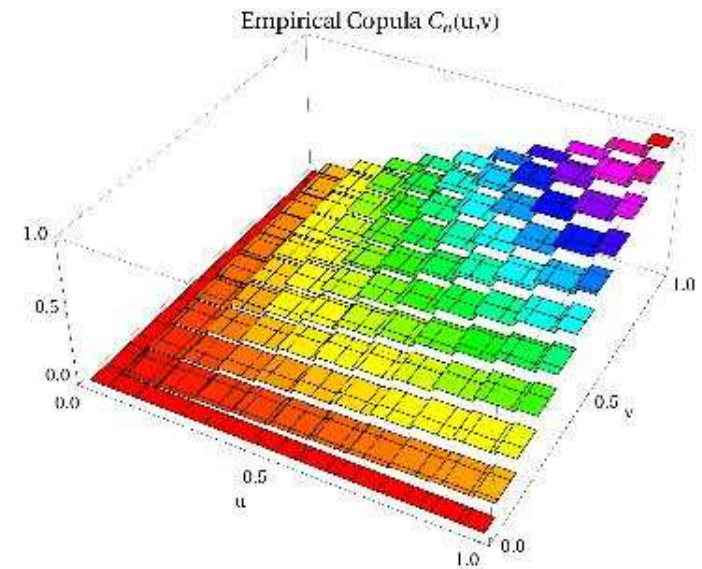
ARMA-GARCH  
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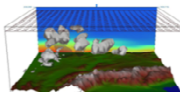
ranks have the same dependence  
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➔ same Copula

calculate the empirical  
copula  $C_n(u, v)$



CDF of the empirical Copula



# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

data  $(X_i, Y_i)$

needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

transform data to  
an i.i.d. data set  
 $(X_i^*, Y_i^*)$

ARMA-GARCH  
transformation is applied to get  
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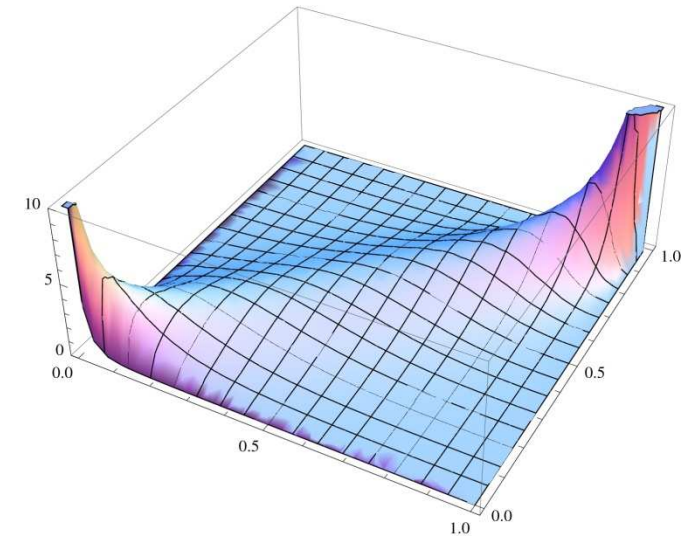
ranks  $(R_i, S_i)$  of  
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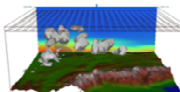
➔ same Copula

calculate the empirical  
copula  $C_n(u, v)$

estimate the Copula parameter and  
decide which copula family is  
appropriate



PDF of the Gumbel-Hougaard Copula



# Find a theoretical Copula to model the dependency between model output and measurement

data  $(X_i, Y_i)$

needs to be i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

transform data to an i.i.d. data set  $(X_i^*, Y_i^*)$

ARMA-GARCH transformation is applied to get i.i.d. data

ranks  $(R_i, S_i)$  of the i.i.d. data

ranks have the same dependence structure as original data

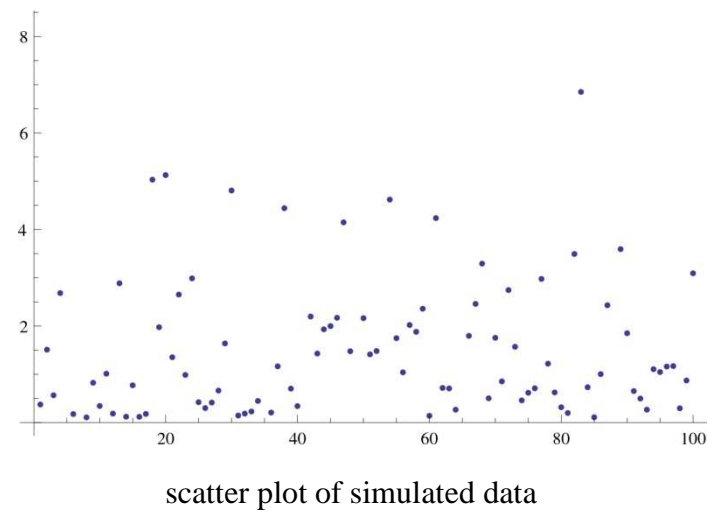
➔ same Copula

calculate the empirical copula  $C_n(u, v)$

estimate the Copula parameter and decide which copula family is appropriate

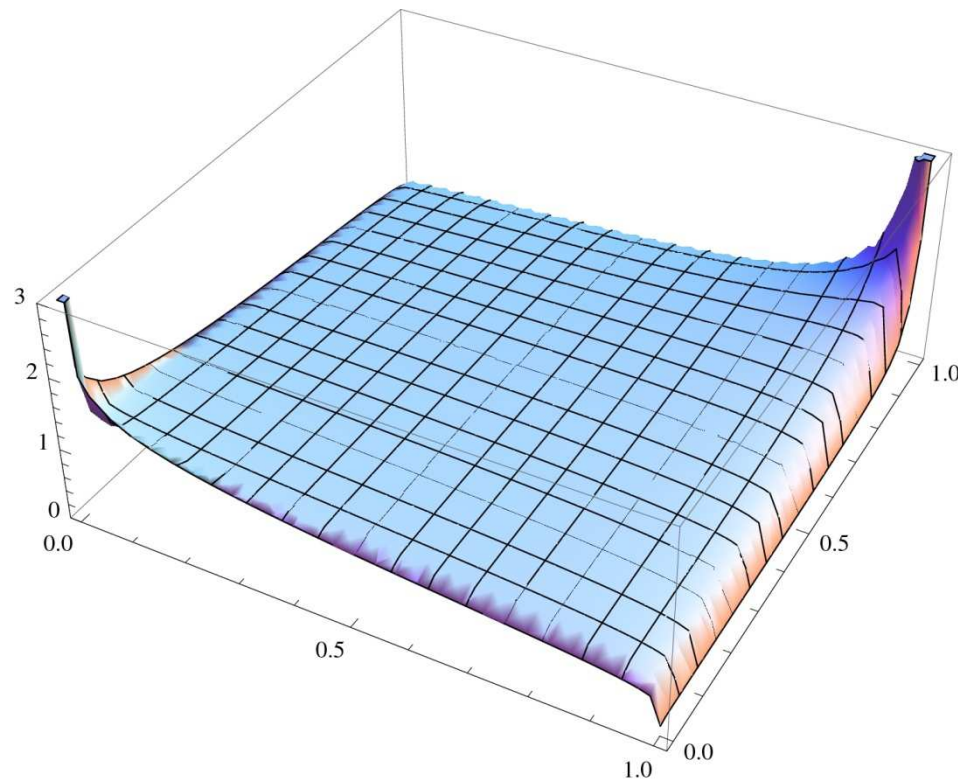
Simulate data from Copula

Back transformation of simulated data to a time series

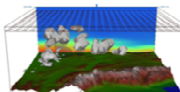
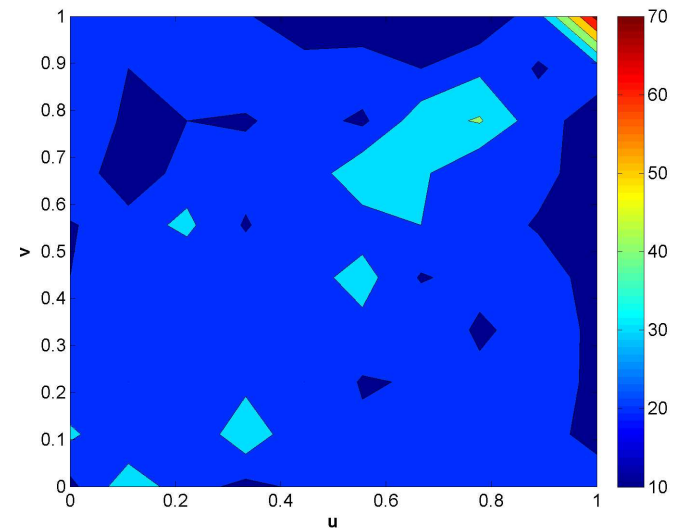
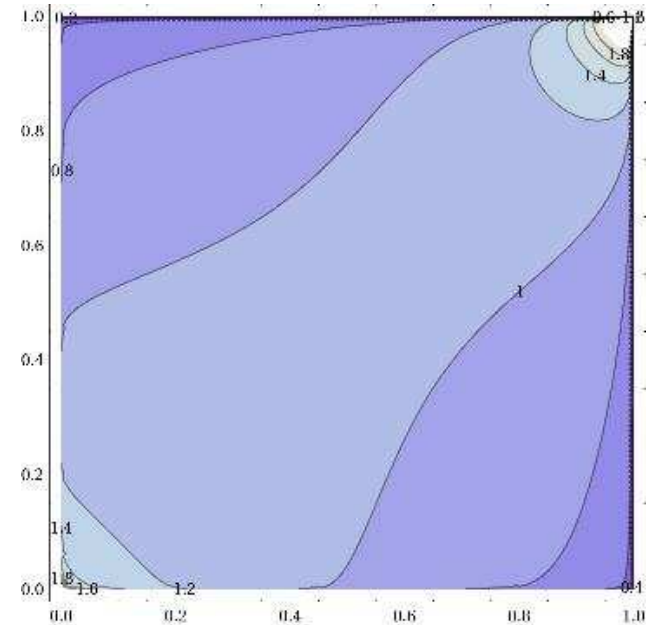


After GOF-tests the Gumbel-Hougaard Copula was identified as appropriate

$$\theta = 1.1$$

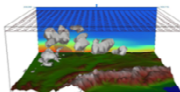
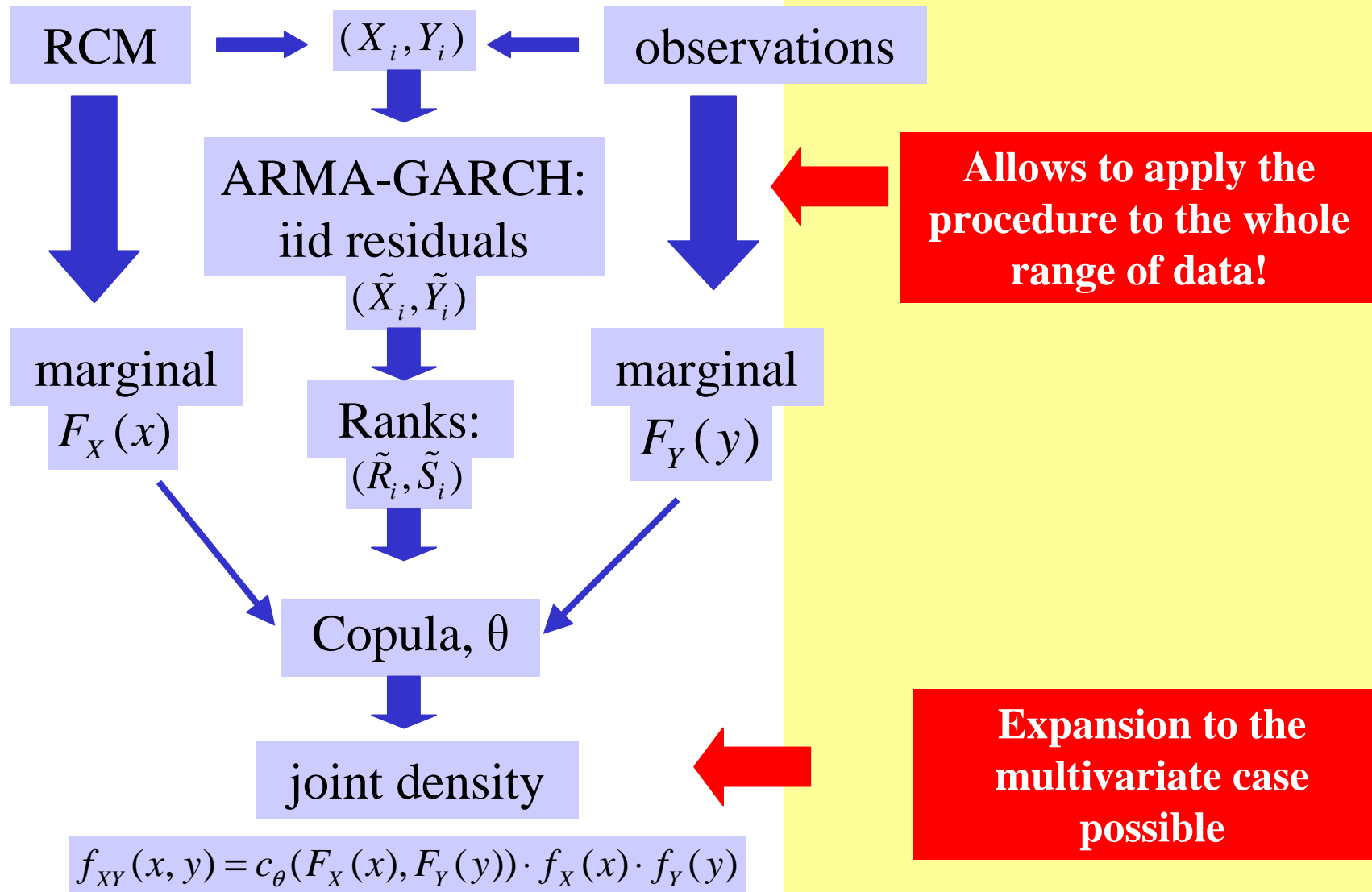


PDF of the Gumbel-Hougaard Copula with  $\theta = 1.1$

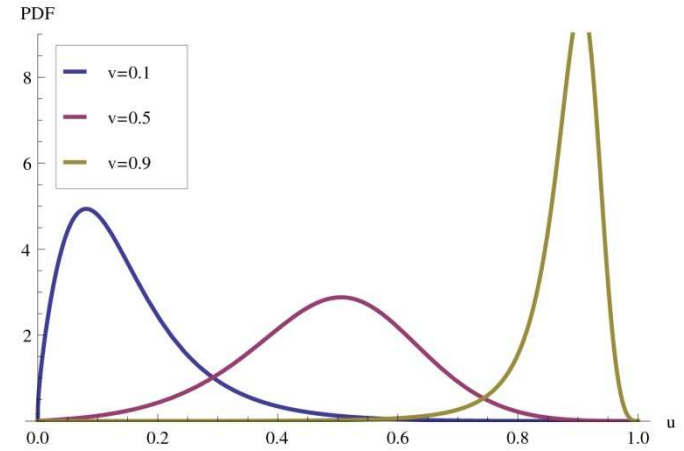
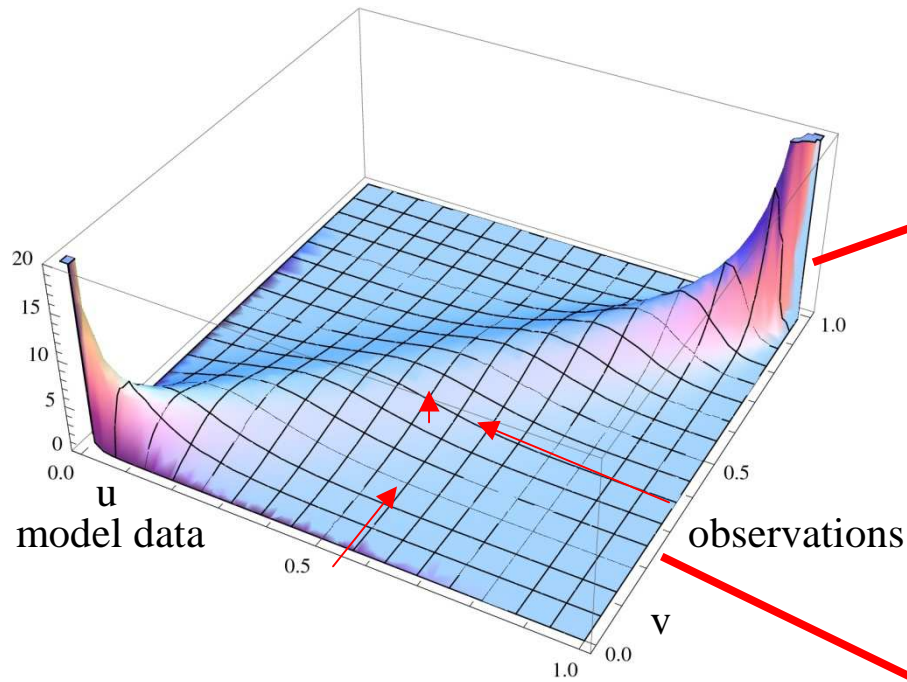


# Modelling data from Copula

## New features



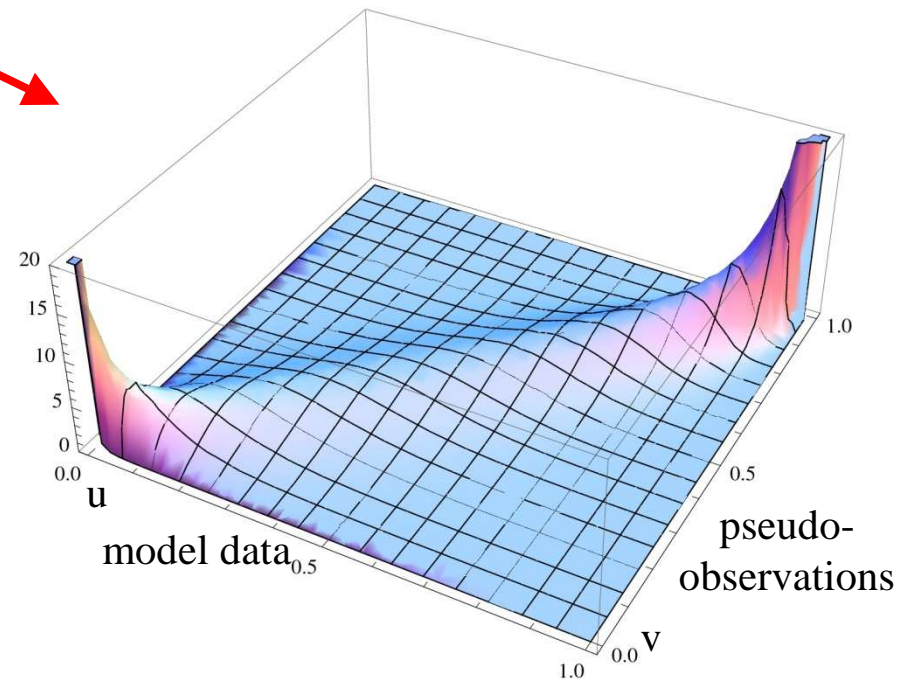




For a fixed  $v$  the PDF gives the probability that the corresponding  $u$  takes a certain value

**Assumption:**

- The joint PDF of model data and observation is the same as that of model data and pseudo-observation (BC)
- Pseudo-obs. can be constructed from the PDF and therefore from the Copula!

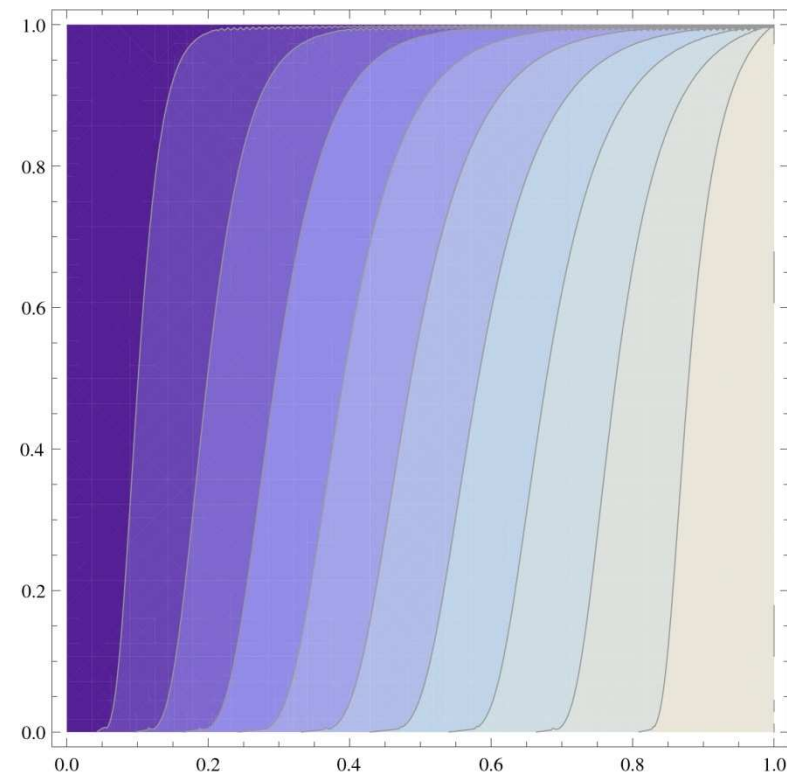
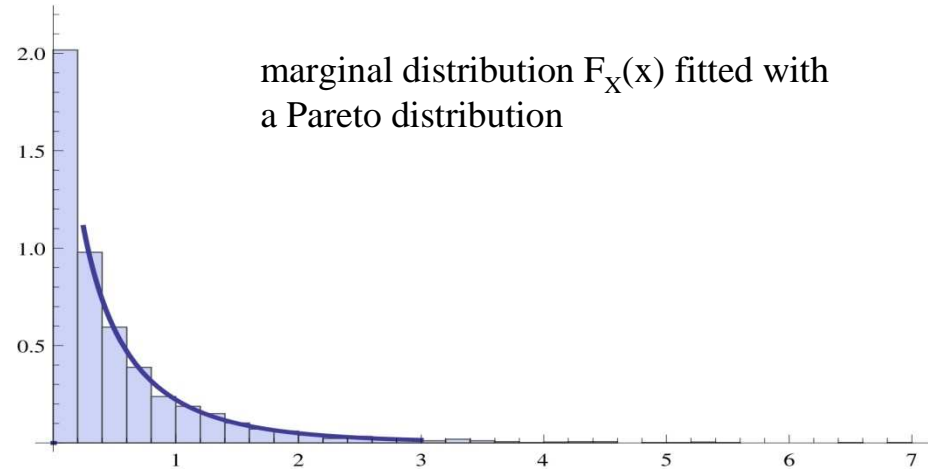


## Algorithm for a conditional simulation of (X, Y)

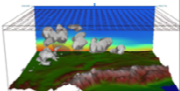
- calculate  $u = F_X(x)$
- create random samples of  $v$  under the condition  $u$  using

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} C(u, v) = P(V \leq v, U = u)$$

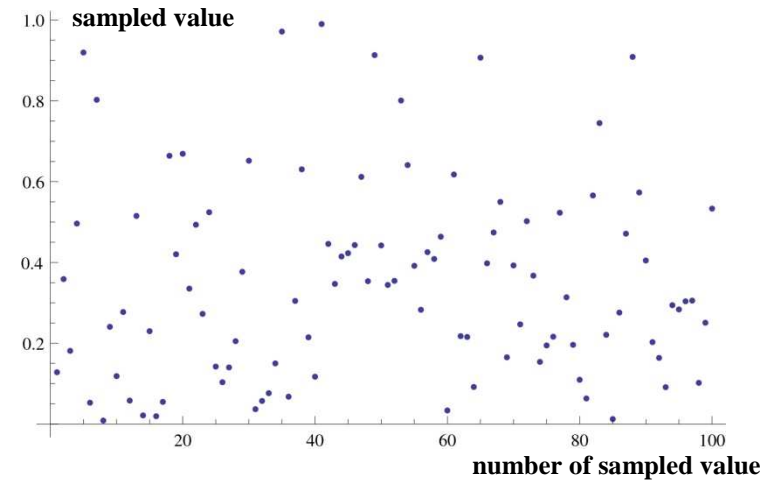
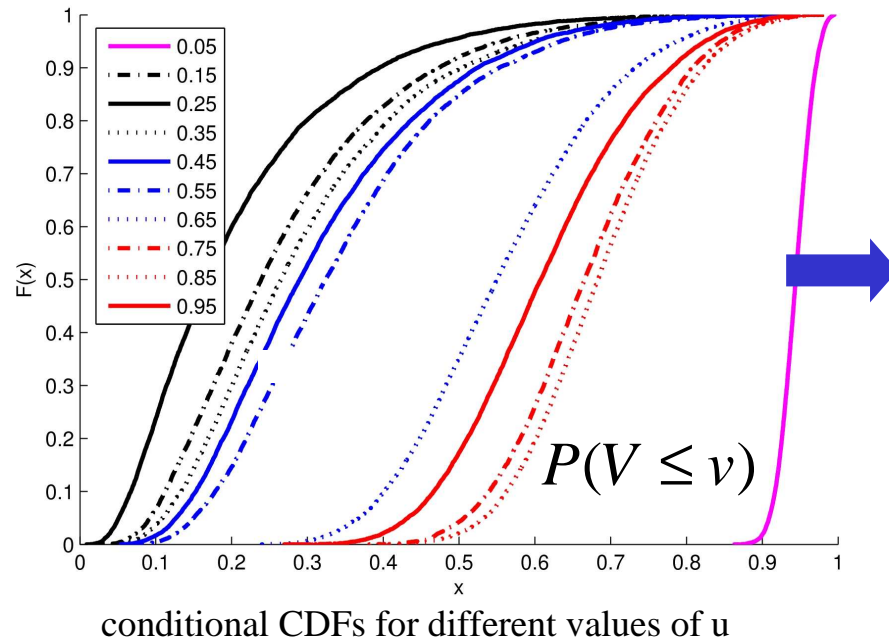
- use  $F_Y^{-1}(v) = y$  to calculate a sample of model values  $y$
- based on the conditional CDF there is a **range of possible values for the variable  $y$**



Conditional CDFs for the whole range of data

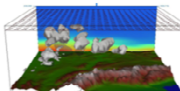
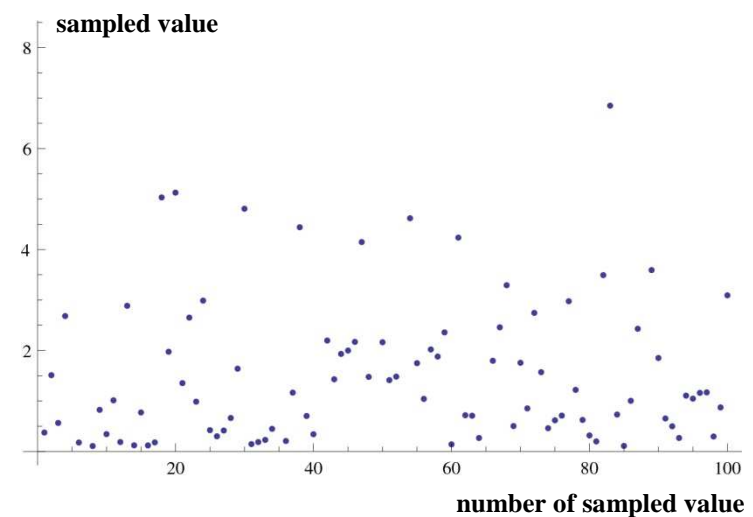


- now for each  $u$  in the time series a random sample is drawn from the conditional CDF

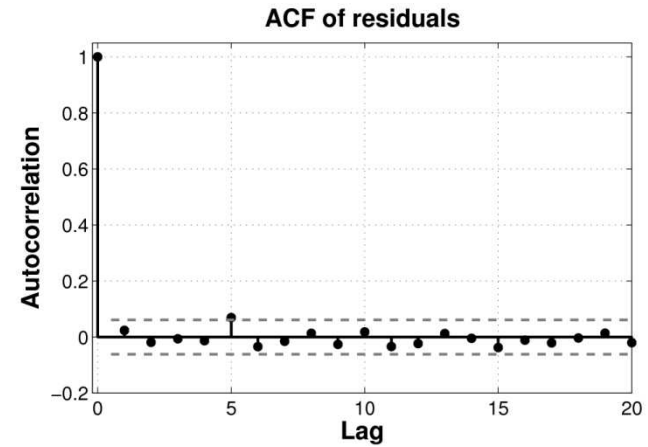
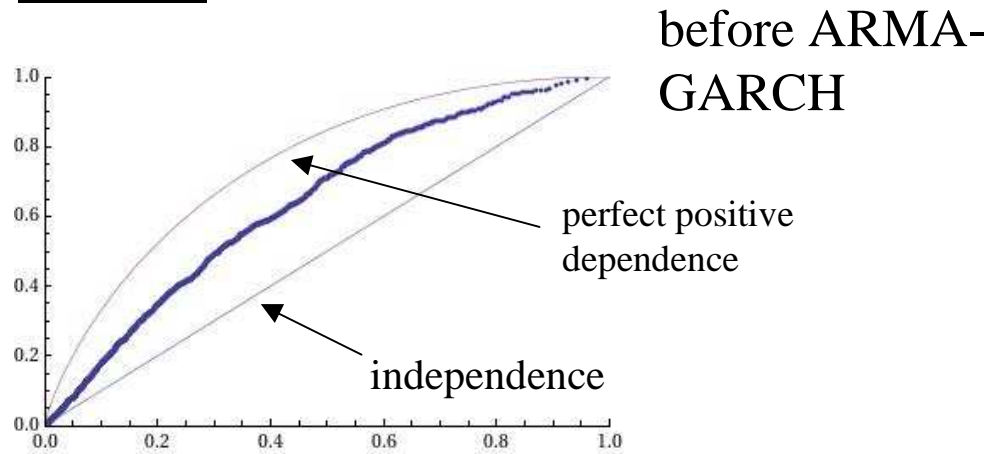


- the corresponding  $y$ -values are derived using the inverse marginal CDF

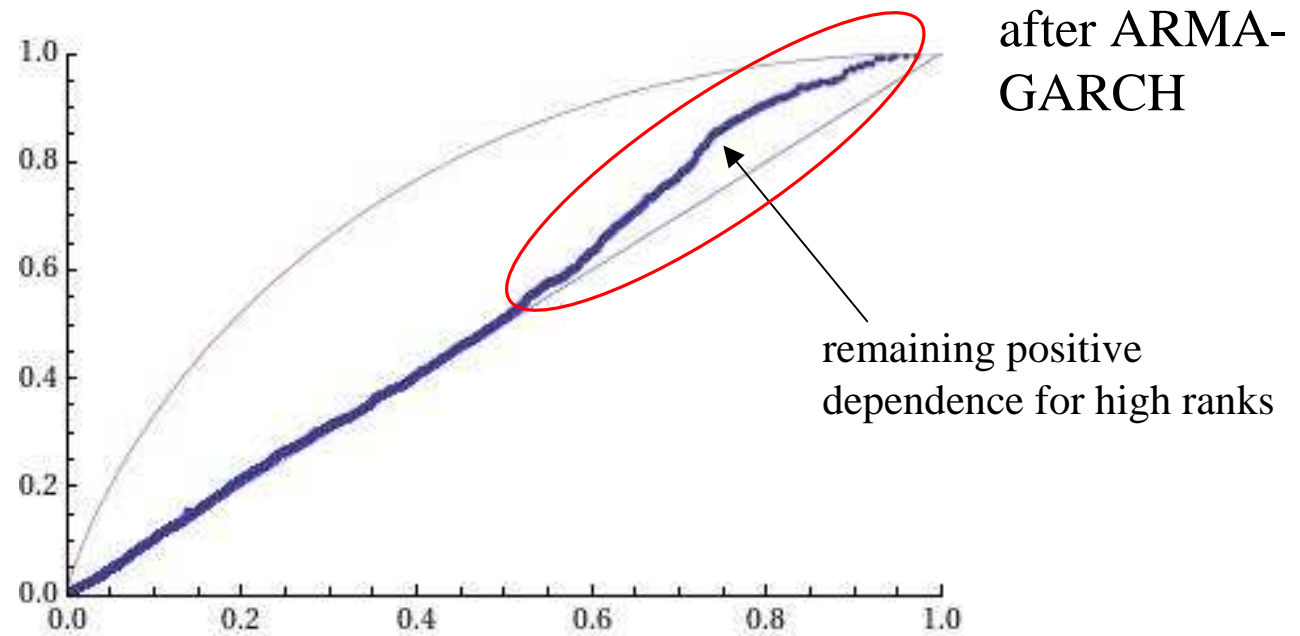
$$F_Y^{-1}(v) = y$$



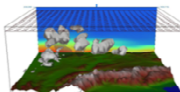
# Results



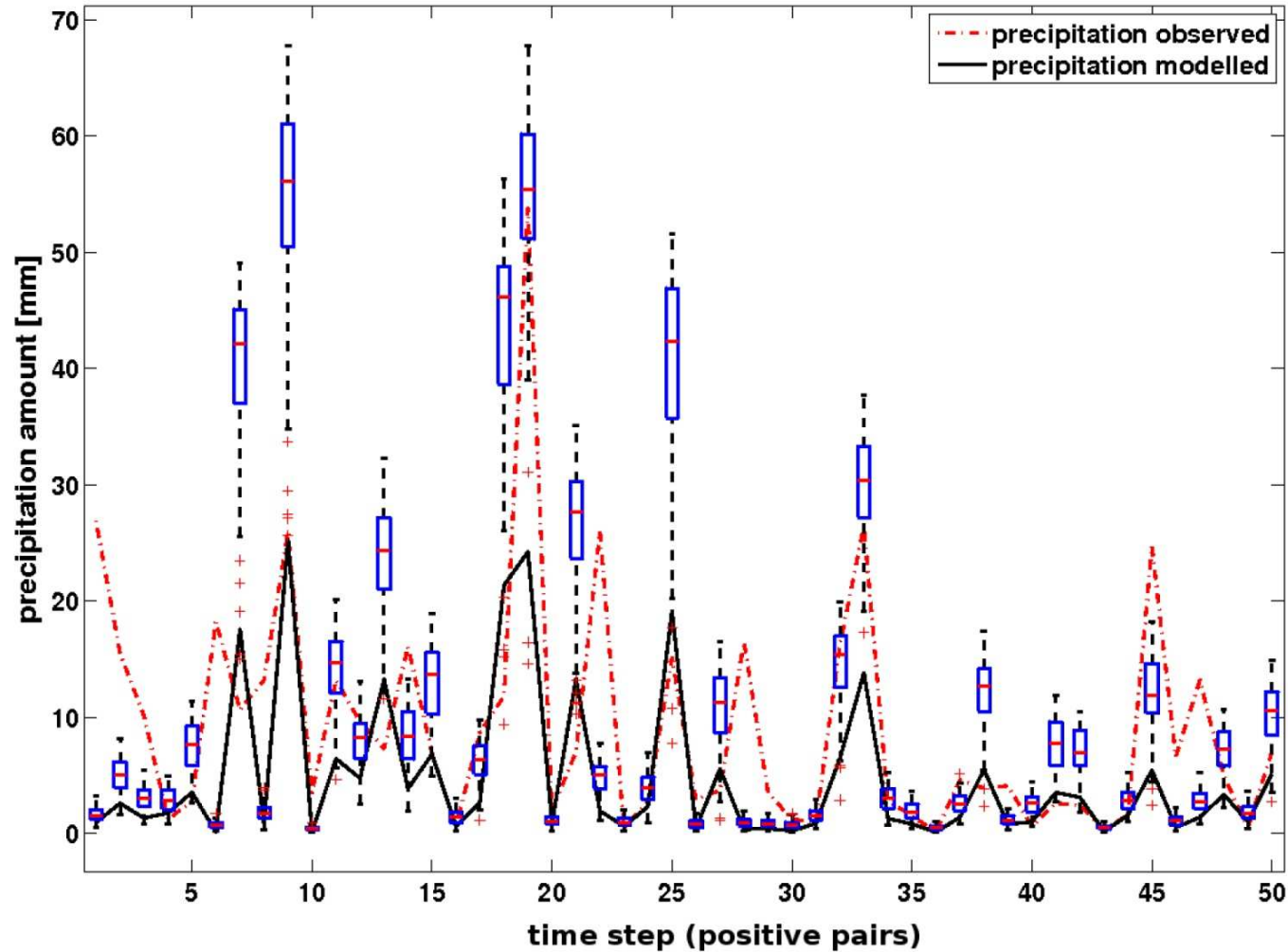
K-plots of time series  
before and after  
ARMA-GARCH  
transformation



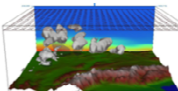
Laux, P., Vogl, S., Qiu, W., Knoche, H. R., and Kunstmann, H. (2011): Copula-based statistical refinement of precipitation in RCM simulations over complex terrain, HESS D 8, 3001–3045, 2011.



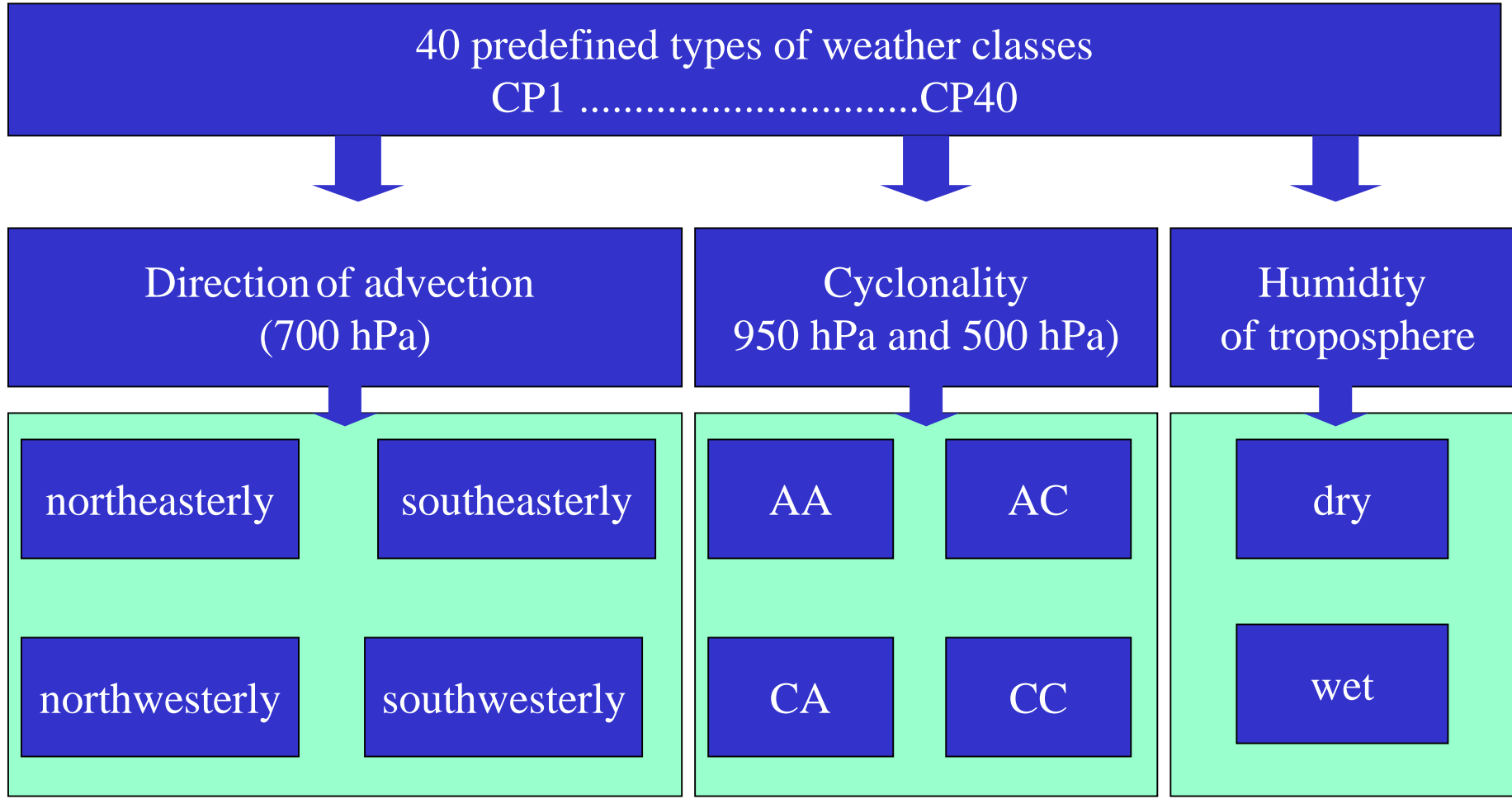
# Uncond. Pseudo-observations



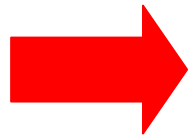
Laux, P., Vogl, S., Qiu, W., Knoche, H. R., and Kunstmann, H. (2011): Copula-based statistical refinement of precipitation in RCM simulations over complex terrain, HESS D 8, 3001–3045, 2011.



# Weather classification - an improvement?

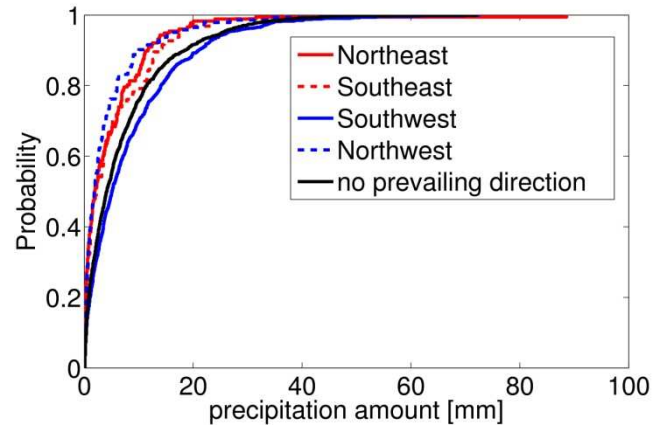


Bissouli and Dittmann, (2001)

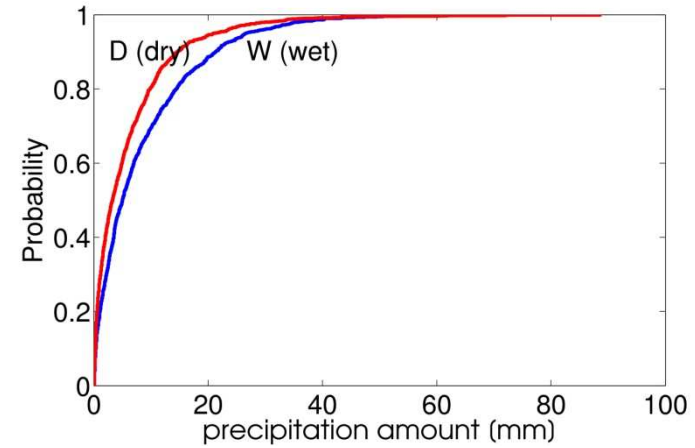


For each group of weather types a theoretical Copula model is estimated separately

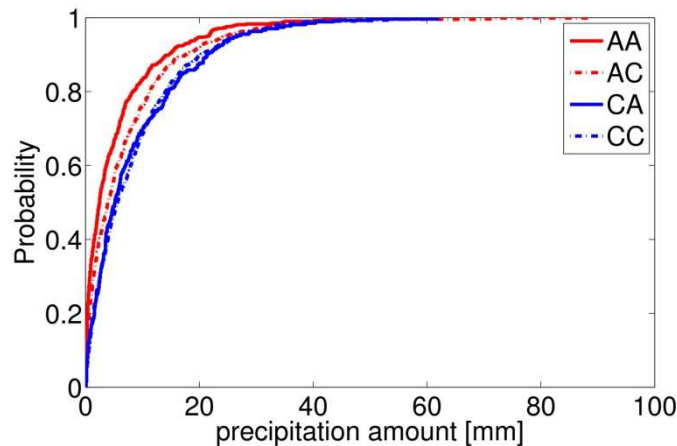
# Dependence on large scale-weather situation



different advection types



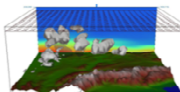
humidity types



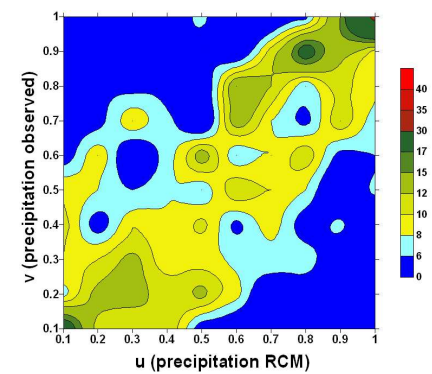
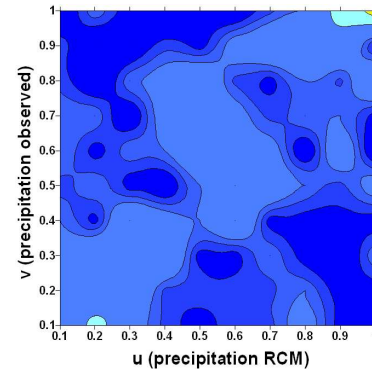
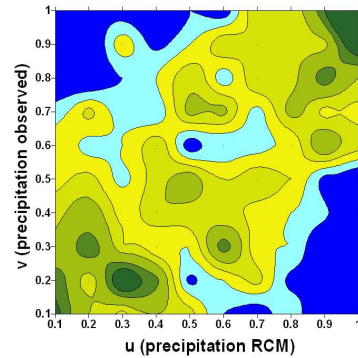
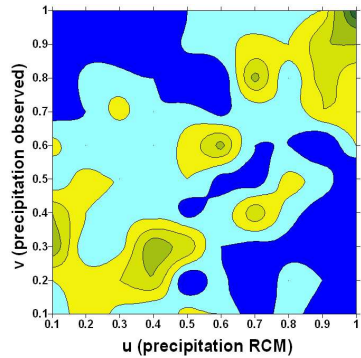
cyclonality

Marginal distributions for different weather conditions

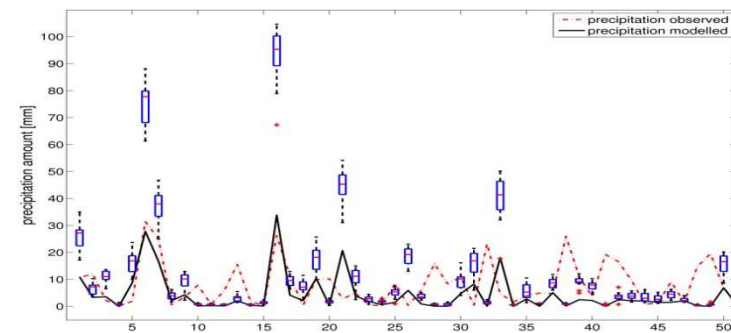
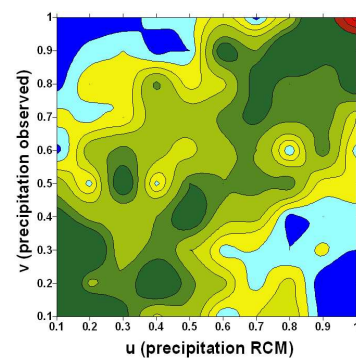
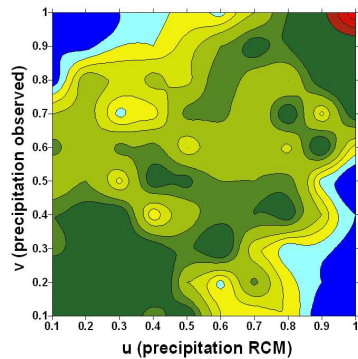
Laux, P., Vogl, S., Qiu, W., Knoche, H. R., and Kunstmann, H. (2011): Copula-based statistical refinement of precipitation in RCM simulations over complex terrain, HESS D 8, 3001–3045, 2011.



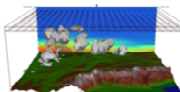
# Empirical Copula densities



cyclonality



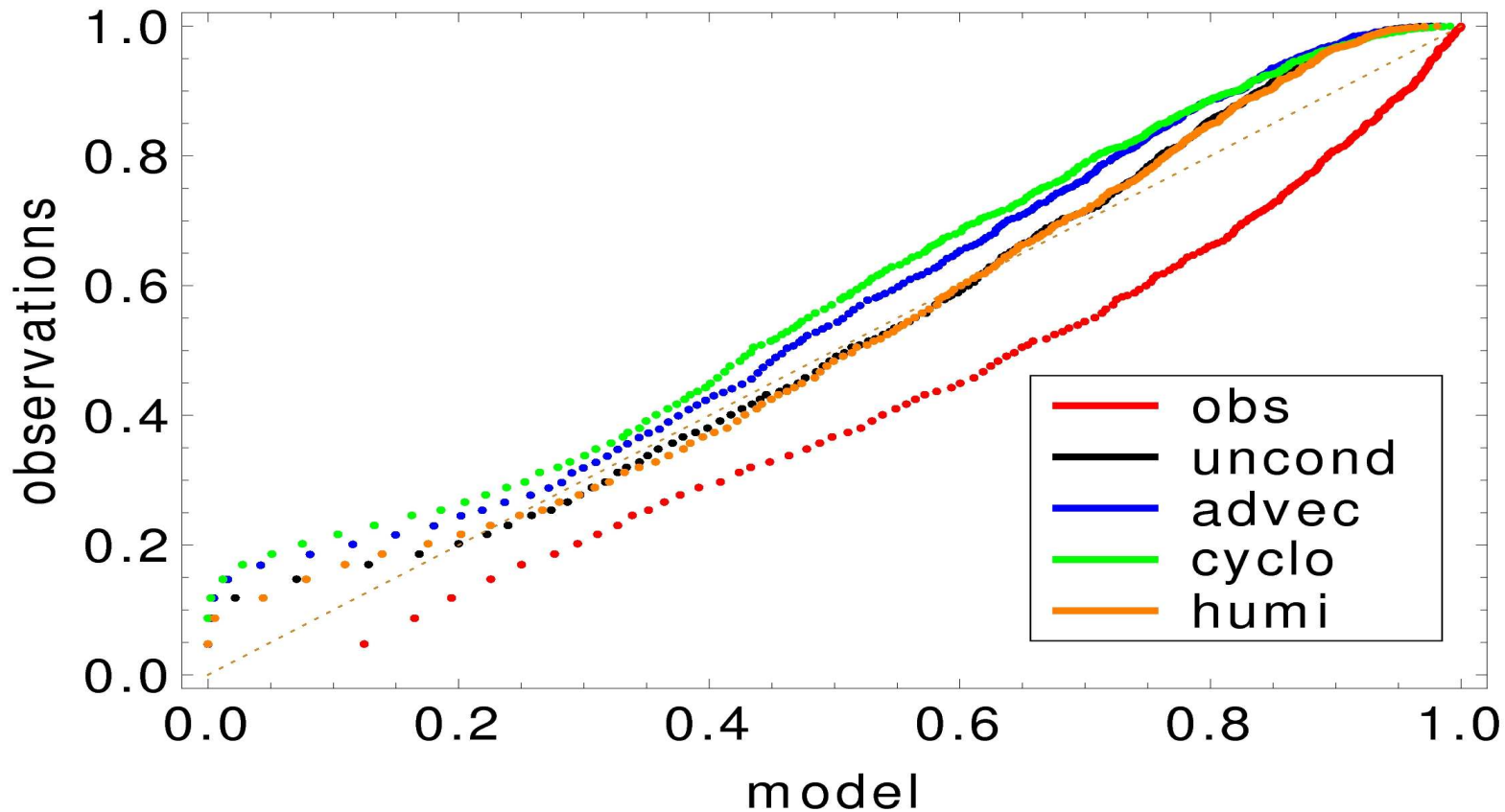
humidity



Laux, P., Vogl, S., Qiu, W., Knoche, H. R., and Kunstmann, H. (2011): Copula-based statistical refinement of precipitation in RCM simulations over complex terrain, HESS D 8, 3001–3045, 2011.



# Probability plots for different cond. simulations



	uncond	advec	cyclo	humi
obs	0.36	0.43	0.45	0.37

Pearson Correlation coefficients

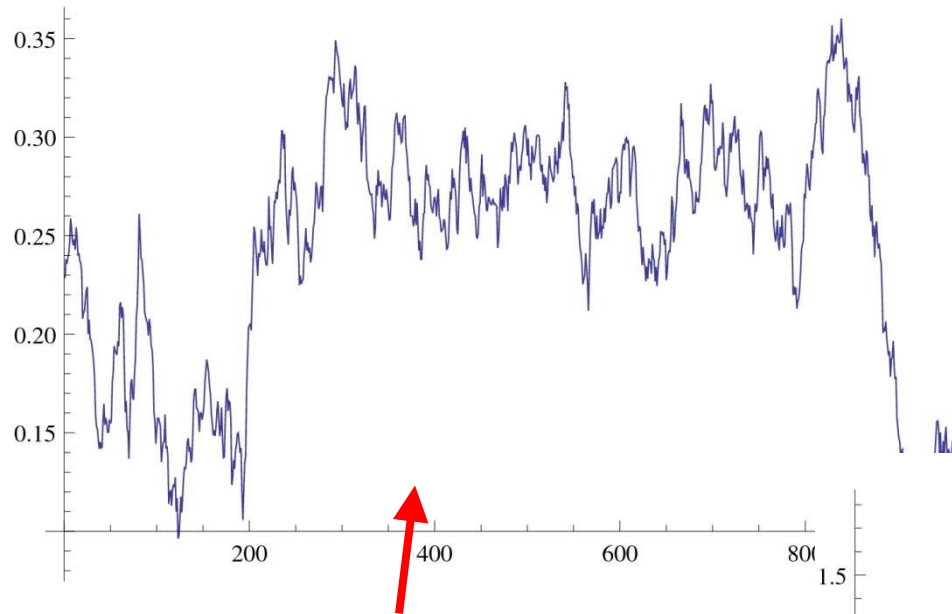


Conditioning on cyclonicity gives the best result

Laux, P., Vogl, S., Qiu, W., Knoche, H. R., and Kunstmann, H. (2011): Copula-based statistical refinement of precipitation in RCM simulations over complex terrain, HESS D 8, 3001–3045, 2011.

# Possible improvement

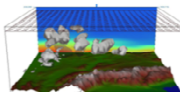
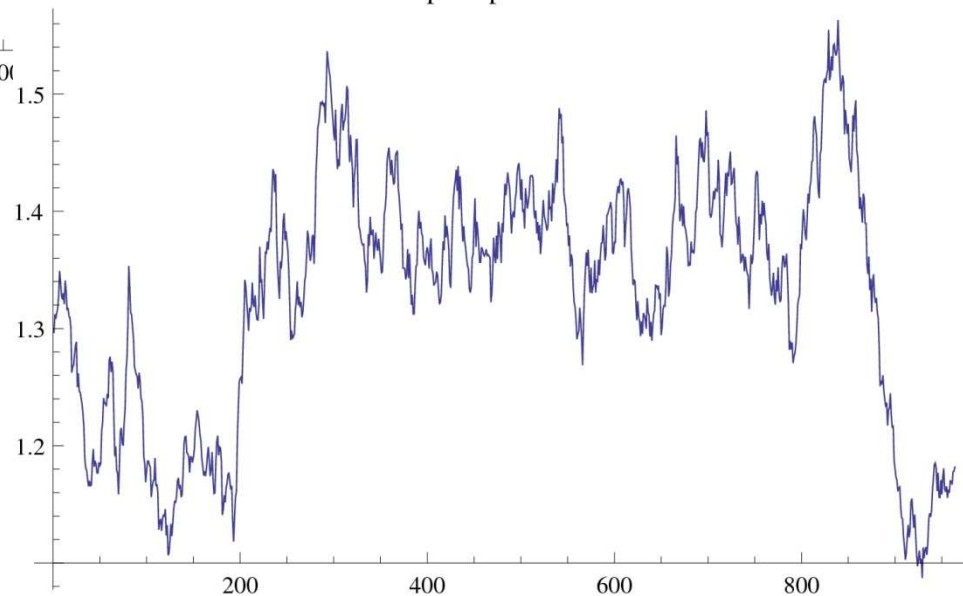
$$\theta \approx \frac{1}{1-\tau}$$



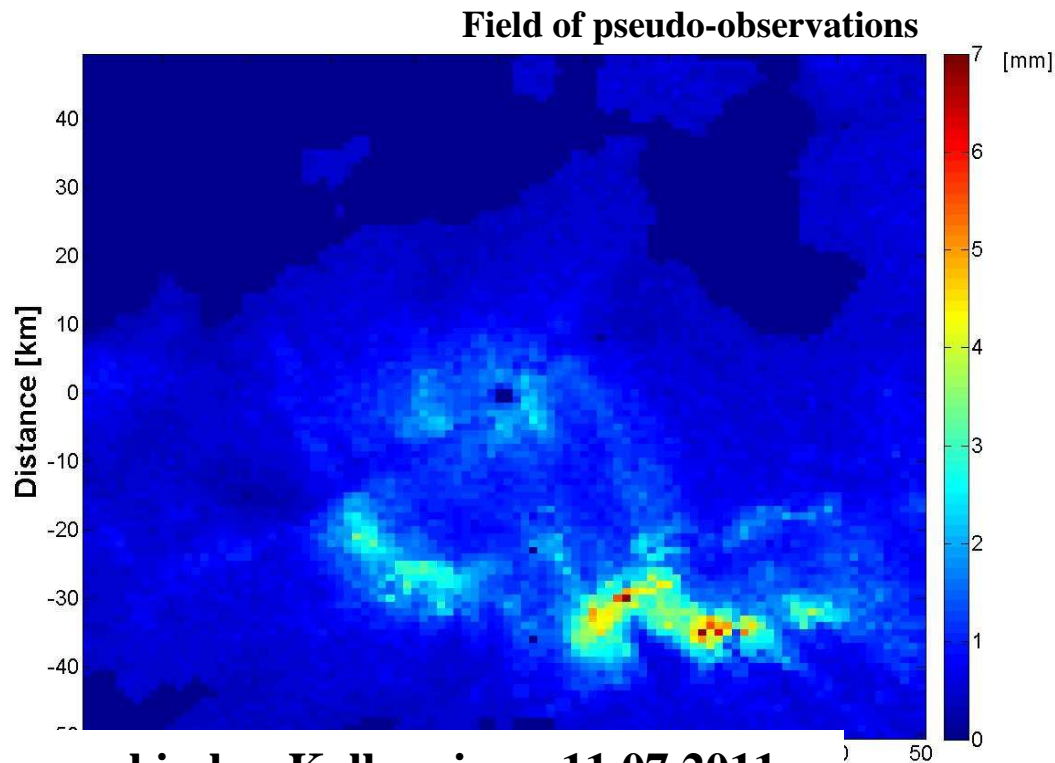
$\tau$  is not constant over the range of data

$\theta$  is not constant over the range of data

Copula parameter



# Spatial application

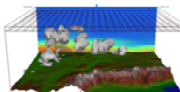
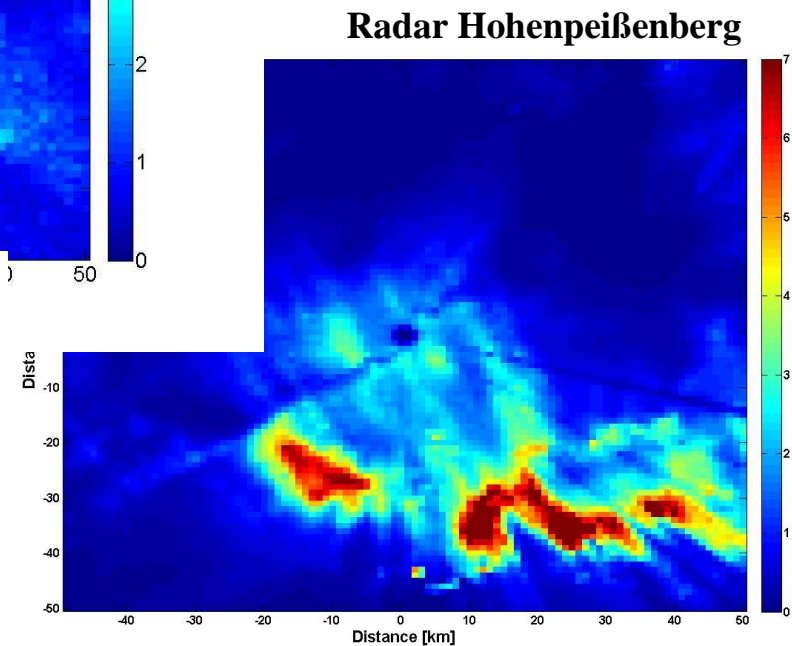


Using radar fields for copula-based spatial interpolation of gauge-data

**Geographisches Kolloquium: 11.07.2011**

**Wei Qiu**

**Copula based Precipitation Estimation by combining Gauge-, Radar, and Microwave link observations**



## Future work

- Compare the results of the new approach with traditional methods of bias correction
- Extension to  $(0,1)$  and  $(1,0)$ , and  $(0,0)$  - case
- Develop a copula that is tailored to the particular needs of hydrological/meteorological data such as precipitation, temperature etc.
- Expand the bivariate to the multivariate case

