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# Joint Chance-Constrained Markov Decision Processes 

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#### Abstract

We consider a finite state-action uncertain constrained Markov decision process under discounted and average cost criteria. The running costs are defined by random variables and the transition probabilities are known. The uncertainties present in the objective function and the constraints are modelled using chance constraints. We assume that the random cost vectors follow multivariate elliptically symmetric distributions and dependence among the random constraints is driven by a Gumbel-Hougaard copula. We propose two second order cone programming problems whose optimal values give lower and upper bounds of the optimal value of the uncertain constrained Markov decision process. As an application, we study a stochastic version of a service and admission control problem in a queueing system. The proposed approximation methods are illustrated on randomly generated instances of queueing control problem as well as on well known class of Markov decision problems known as Garnets.


Keywords: Constrained Markov decision process, Joint chance constraint, Second order cone programming problem, Copula, Elliptical distribution, Queueing problem.

## 1 Introduction

Markov decision process (MDP) is a decision making framework for a stochastic system which evolves over finite/infinite horizon. The system can have a finite or infinite number of states, and at each state, a controller chooses an action from a set of available actions at that state. The system moves from one state to another state according to a controlled Markov chain. At every stage, the system incurs cost whenever a state is visited and an action is taken. The objective is to find a policy which minimizes the expected cost incurred over a period of time. The discounted and average cost criteria are most commonly used in the literature. For a finite state-action MDP with known transition probabilities and running costs, there exists a stationary deterministic optimal policy, and it can be obtained by using dynamic programming and Linear programming (LP) based methods [1, 3, 19]. MDPs can also be solved via policy iteration [25]. In many real-life examples, there are more than one running costs incurred at every stage whenever the Markov chain visits a state and an action is taken. For instance, in [1], the author studies the example of service and admission control in a queueing system in which the controller incurs three different costs at every stage. In [22], the authors study a variant of a machine replacement problem by considering the case when the controller incurs opportunity cost together with maintenance cost at every stage. In such cases, one type of running cost defines a long-run expected cost function which needs to be minimized and other types of running costs define the long-run expected cost functions on which constraints are imposed. This class of MDP is called a constrained Markov decision process (CMDP). For a finite state-action CMDP problem, when running costs and transition probabilities are stationary and exactly known, there exists a stationary randomized optimal policy which can be obtained by solving an equivalent LP problem [1].

In practice, the MDP model parameters such as running costs and transition probabilities are not exactly known. They are either learnt with experience or from historical data, thereby leading to errors in the optimal policies [15]. The early literature on MDPs with uncertain parameters dates back to the 1970s, where MDPs under uncertain transition probabilities were studied [20, 23]. Previous studies have accounted for the uncertainties in MDPs under a robust optimization framework by considering the worst case realization of the uncertain parameters [12, 17, 24]. Recently, the equivalent reformulations of robust CMDP problem, with uncertain costs and known transition probabilities, for various uncertainty sets are proposed by Varagapriya et al. [22]. Delage and Mannor [7] observed that robust optimization problems can give highly conservative optimal solutions. As an alternative approach, they considered an uncertain MDP problem under discounted cost criterion where either running costs or transition probabilities are defined as random variables and proposed a chance constraint programming based formulation. The chance constraint based MDP is equivalent to a second-order cone programming (SOCP) problem when the running cost vector follows a normal
distribution and transition probabilities are known [7]. When the prior transition probabilities follow Dirichlet distribution and running costs are known, the uncertain MDP problem becomes intractable and optimal policies can be computed using approximation methods [7].

To the best of our knowledge, CMDPs where either running costs or transition probabilities are defined using random variables are not considered in the literature. In this paper, we consider a finite state-action CMDP problem under both discounted and average cost criteria where running cost vectors are random vectors and transition probabilities are known. We use chance constraint programming $[4,18]$ to model the uncertainties present in the objective function and the constraints of the CMDP problem. For a given policy, the chance constraint based objective function of the CMDP problem gives a minimum long-run expected cost which is incurred with at least a given probability level. The random constraints of the CMDP problem are defined as a joint chance constraint which guarantees that the random constraints are jointly satisfied with at least a given probability level. We call this uncertain CMDP as a joint chance-constrained Markov decision process (JCCMDP). In general, the random constraint vectors present in the joint chance constraint can be dependent random vectors. In order to study the dependence structure of random variables, the concept of copula was introduced by Abe Sklar in 1959 [21]. We consider the case when running cost vectors follow multivariate elliptically symmetric distribution and dependence among random constraint vectors is driven by a Gumbel-Hougaard copula. The choice of elliptical distributions is due to the fact that it is a generalization of normal distributions and contains a list of important symmetric distributions [9] and they are closed under linear transformations. The Gumbel-Hougaard copula is considered because it is separable in nature. Using the fact that the elliptical distributions are closed under a linear transformation and Gumbel-Hougaard copula is separable, we propose a deterministic non-convex optimization problem which is equivalent to the JCCMDP problem. We approximate the equivalent non-convex problem by two SOCP problems whose optimal values give lower and upper bounds of the optimal value of the JCCMDP problem. As an application, we study the problem of admission and service control in a queueing system and perform numerical experiments by considering various instances of different sizes.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the definition of a CMDP. Section 3 presents a JCCMDP problem and its SOCP based approximations. Section 4 gives the results of numerical experiments carried out on the queueing control problem and on random CMDPs. We conclude the paper in Section 5.

## 2 Constrained Markov decision processes

We define an infinite horizon CMDP by the following objects [1]:
(i) $S$ is a finite set of states whose generic element is denoted by $s$.
(ii) $A$ is a finite set of actions and $A(s)$ denotes the set of actions available at state $s$.
(iii) $\mathcal{K}=\{(s, a) \mid s \in S, a \in A(s)\}$ is the set of all state-action pairs; $|\mathcal{K}|$ denotes the cardinality of $\mathcal{K}$.
(iv) $\gamma=(\gamma(s))_{s \in S}$ is a probability distribution according to which an initial state is chosen.
(v) $p: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \wp(S)$ is a transition probability function where $\wp(S)$ is the set of probability distributions on $S ; p\left(s^{\prime} \mid s, a\right)$ is the probability of moving from state $s$ to $s^{\prime}$ when the controller chooses an action $a \in A(s)$.
(vi) $c=(c(s, a))_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}}$ denotes the running cost vector associated with the objective function, where $c(s, a)$ is the cost incurred at state $s$ when an action $a \in A(s)$ is chosen.
(vii) $d^{k}=\left(d^{k}(s, a)\right)_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}}, k=1,2, \ldots, K$, denote the running cost vectors associated with the constraints, where $d^{k}(s, a)$ is the cost incurred at state $s$ when an action $a \in A(s)$ is chosen.
(viii) $\left(\xi_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}$ are the bounds for the constraints.

We consider a discrete-time vector stochastic process $\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right)_{t=0}^{\infty}$, where $\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right)$ denotes the state-action pair at time $t$. At time $t=0$, the state of the Markov chain is $s_{0} \in S$ according to an initial distribution $\gamma$ and the controller chooses an action $a_{0} \in A\left(s_{0}\right)$. As a consequence, running $\operatorname{costs} c\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right)$, $d^{k}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right), k=1,2, \ldots, K$, are incurred. The Markov chain moves to state $s_{1}$ at time $t=1$ with probability $p\left(s_{1} \mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right)$ and the same thing repeats at $s_{1}$ and it continues for the infinite horizon. In general, the decision at time $t$ may depend on the history $h_{t}=\left(s_{0}, a_{0}, s_{1}, a_{1}, \ldots, s_{t-1}, a_{t-1}, s_{t}\right)$ at time $t$. Let $H_{t}$ be the set of all possible histories at time $t$. A history dependent decision rule $f_{t}$ at time $t$ is a function $f_{t}: H_{t} \rightarrow \wp(A)$, where for every $h_{t} \in H_{t}$ with final state $s_{t}, f_{t}\left(h_{t}\right) \in \wp\left(A\left(s_{t}\right)\right)$. A sequence of history dependent decision rules $f^{h}=\left(f_{t}\right)_{t=0}^{\infty}$ is called a history dependent policy. When each $f_{t}$ in the sequence $\left(f_{t}\right)_{t=0}^{\infty}$ depends only on the state at time $t$, it is called a Markovian policy. A Markovian policy $\left(f_{t}\right)_{t=0}^{\infty}$ is called a stationary policy if there exists a decision rule $f$ such that $f_{t}=f$ for all $t$. We write a stationary policy $(f, f, \ldots)$ by $f$ with abuse of notation, and define $f=(f(s))_{s \in S}$ such that $f(s) \in \wp(A(s))$ for every $s \in S$. According to a stationary policy $f$, whenever the Markov chain visits state $s$, the controller chooses an action from $A(s)$ according to the decision rule $f(s)$. We denote the set of all history dependent and stationary policies by $F_{H D}$ and $F_{S}$, respectively.

The policy $f^{h}$ and initial distribution $\gamma$ define a probability measure $P_{\gamma}^{f^{h}}$ over the state and action trajectories (for details see Section 2.1.6 of [19]), and $E_{\gamma}^{f^{h}}$ denotes the expectation operator corresponding to probability measure $P_{\gamma}^{f^{h}}$. For a given history dependent policy $f^{h} \in F_{H D}$ and an initial distribution $\gamma$, the expected discounted costs at a discount factor $\alpha \in(0,1)$ are defined as
[1]

$$
\begin{aligned}
C_{\alpha}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) & =(1-\alpha) \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{t} E_{\gamma}^{f^{h}} c\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right) \\
& =\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{a \in A(s)} g_{\alpha}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right) c(s, a) \\
D_{\alpha}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) & =(1-\alpha) \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{t} E_{\gamma}^{f^{h}} d^{k}\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right) \\
& =\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{a \in A(s)} g_{\alpha}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right) d^{k}(s, a),
\end{aligned}
$$

for all $k=1,2, \ldots, K$, where $(1-\alpha)$ is a normalization constant. The set $\left\{g_{\alpha}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)\right\}_{(s, a)}$ is the occupation measure defined by

$$
g_{\alpha}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)=(1-\alpha) \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{t} P_{\gamma}^{f^{h}}\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}=s, \mathbb{A}_{t}=a\right), \forall(s, a) \in \mathcal{K} .
$$

For a given history dependent policy $f^{h}$ and an initial distribution $\gamma$, the expected average costs are defined as [1]

$$
\begin{aligned}
C_{e a}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) & =\limsup _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} E_{\gamma}^{f^{h}} c\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right) \\
& =\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{a \in A(s)} g_{e a}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right) c(s, a), \\
D_{e a}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) & =\limsup _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} E_{\gamma}^{f^{h}} d^{k}\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}, \mathbb{A}_{t}\right) \\
& =\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{a \in A(s)} g_{e a}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right) d^{k}(s, a),
\end{aligned}
$$

for all $k=1,2, \ldots, K$. The set $\left\{g_{e a}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)\right\}_{(s, a)}$ is an occupation measure obtained from the accumulation points of $\left\{\left\{g_{e a}^{n}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)\right\}_{(s, a)}\right\}_{n}$, where

$$
g_{e a}^{n}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} P_{\gamma}^{f^{h}}\left(\mathbb{X}_{t}=s, \mathbb{A}_{t}=a\right), \forall(s, a) \in \mathcal{K} .
$$

The optimal policy of a CMDP problem can be obtained by solving the following optimization problem

$$
\begin{align*}
\min _{f^{h} \in F_{H D}} & C_{\mathfrak{v}}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right)  \tag{1}\\
\text { s.t. } & D_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K,
\end{align*}
$$

where $\mathfrak{v}=\alpha$ and $\mathfrak{v}=e a$ represent a CMDP problem with discounted cost criterion and average cost criterion, respectively.

We make the following assumption on the average cost criterion throughout the paper.

Assumption 1. For the CMDP problem with average cost criterion, we assume that the CMDP is unichain, i.e., under any stationary deterministic policy, the Markov chain is aperiodic and irreducible (with possibly some transient states) [1, 19].

Assumption 1 ensures that the accumulation points of $\left\{\left\{g_{e a}^{n}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)\right\}_{(s, a)}\right\}_{n}$ is unique and independent of the initial distribution $\gamma$. Therefore, the expected average costs are well defined. We do not need Assumption 1 in the case of discounted cost criterion. It is well known that the CMDP problem (1) for $\mathfrak{v} \in\{\alpha, e a\}$ can be restricted to the class of stationary policies without loss of optimality when the running costs and transition probabilities are stationary, i.e., they depend only on states and actions but time. This follows from the fact that the set of occupation measures defined with respect to history dependent policies and the set of occupation measures defined with respect to stationary policies are equal (see Theorems 3.1 and 4.1 of [1]). Moreover, it follows from Theorem 3.2 (resp. Theorem 4.2) of [1] that the set of occupation measures defined with respect to stationary policies for the discounted (resp. average) cost criterion and the set $\mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(\gamma)$ (resp. $\left.\mathcal{Q}_{e a}(\gamma)\right)$ are equal. For $\mathfrak{v} \in\{\alpha, e a\}$, the set $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)$ is defined as

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)= & \left\{\rho \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{K}|} \mid \sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a)\left(\delta\left(s, s^{\prime}\right)-\eta p\left(s^{\prime} \mid s, a\right)\right)=(1-\eta) \gamma\left(s^{\prime}\right), \forall s^{\prime} \in S,\right. \\
& \left.\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a)=1, \rho(s, a) \geq 0, \forall(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}\right\},
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\eta \in(0,1]$ and $\delta\left(s, s^{\prime}\right)$ is the Kronecker delta which takes the value 1 when $s=s^{\prime}$, and 0 otherwise. If $\eta<1$, we take it as the discount factor $\alpha$ and $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)=\mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(\gamma)$, while if $\eta=1, \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)=\mathcal{Q}_{e a}(\gamma)$. Therefore, the CMDP problem (1) is equivalent to the following LP problem

$$
\begin{align*}
\min _{\rho} & \sum_{s \in S} \\
\text { s.t. } & \sum_{a \in A(s)} \rho(s, a) c(s, a)  \tag{2}\\
& \sum_{s \in S} \\
& \sum_{a \in A(s)} \rho(s, a) d^{k}(s, a) \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma) .
\end{align*}
$$

If $\rho^{*}$ is an optimal solution of (2), the optimal stationary policy $f^{*}$ of the CMDP problem is defined as $f^{*}(s, a)=\frac{\rho^{*}(s, a)}{\sum_{a \in A(s)} \rho^{*}(s, a)}$ for all $s \in S, a \in A(s)$, provided the denominator is non-zero (if it is zero, we choose $f^{*}(s)$ arbitrarily from $\wp(A(s)))$.

## 3 CMDP under chance constraints

In real-life scenario, the model parameters such as running costs and transition probabilities are subject to errors and are not exactly known. In this paper, we assume that the transition probabilities are stationary and exactly known while the running cost vectors are random vectors defined on a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. We denote the running cost vectors corresponding to objective function and constraints by $\hat{c}$ and $\hat{d}^{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K$, respectively. Therefore, for each realization $\omega \in \Omega, \hat{c}(s, a, \omega), \hat{d}^{k}(s, a, \omega)$ represents the real valued costs which are incurred at state $s$ when an action $a$ is chosen. We assume that the uncertainty in running costs is stationary in nature, i.e., the random cost vectors $\hat{c}$ and $\hat{d}^{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K$, do not vary with time. For a given $f^{h} \in F_{H D}$, the costs corresponding to the objective function and the constraints of (1), denoted by, $\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right), \hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right), k=1,2, \ldots, K$, are random variables and it makes (1) a stochastic optimization problem. We consider the case where the controller is interested in the minimum long-run expected cost which is incurred with at least $p_{0}$ probability, and the random constraints are jointly satisfied with at least $p_{1}$ probability. This leads to the following joint chance constraint programming based formulation of the CMDP problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min _{t, f^{h} \in F_{H D}} t \\
\text { s.t. } & \mathbb{P}\left(\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) \leq t\right) \geq p_{0},  \tag{3}\\
& \mathbb{P}\left(\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}\right) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \geq p_{1} .
\end{array}
$$

We call (3) a joint chance-constrained Markov decision process (JCCMDP) problem.

Proposition 1. Let Assumption 1 holds for average cost criterion. Then, the JCCMDP problem (3) can be restricted to the class of stationary policies without loss of optimality. Moreover, it can be equivalently written using the decision vector $(t, \rho)$ as

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min _{t, \rho} t \\
\text { s.t. } & (i) \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{c}(s, a) \leq t\right) \geq p_{0},  \tag{4}\\
& \text { (ii) } \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \geq p_{1}, \\
& \text { (iii) } \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma) .
\end{array}
$$

If $\rho^{*}$ is a part of an optimal solution vector of (4), the optimal stationary policy $f^{*}$ of the JCCMDP problem is given by $f^{*}(s, a)=\frac{\rho^{*}(s, a)}{\sum_{a \in A(s)} \rho^{*}(s, a)}$ for all
$s \in S, a \in A(s)$, provided the denominator is non-zero (if it is zero, we choose $f^{*}(s)$ arbitrarily from $\left.\wp(A(s))\right)$.

Proof Fix a realization $\omega \in \Omega$. Let $\left(t, f^{h}\right)$ be a feasible solution of (3). It follows from Theorems 3.1 and 4.1 of [1] that the set of occupation measures corresponding to history dependent strategies and stationary strategies are the same, i.e., there exists $f \in F_{S}$ such that $g_{\mathfrak{v}}\left(\gamma, f^{h} ; s, a\right)=g_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f ; s, a)$ for all $(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}$. Hence, $\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}\left(\gamma, f^{h}, \omega\right)=\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f, \omega)$ and $\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}\left(\gamma, f^{h}, \omega\right)=\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}(\gamma, f, \omega), k=1,2, \ldots, K$. Thus, we can restrict the JCCMDP problem (3) to the class of stationary policies and obtain the following equivalent problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min _{t, f \in F_{S}} t \\
\text { s.t. } & \mathbb{P}\left(\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f) \leq t\right) \geq p_{0},  \tag{5}\\
& \mathbb{P}\left(\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}(\gamma, f) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \geq p_{1} .
\end{array}
$$

Now, we show that (4) and (5) are equivalent. Let $(t, f)$ be a feasible point of (5). Define a vector $\rho$ such that $\rho(s, a)=g_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f ; s, a)$ for all $(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}$. It follows from Theorems 3.2 and 4.2 of [1] that $\rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)$ and $\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f, \omega)=\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{c}(s, a, \omega)$ and $\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}(\gamma, f, \omega)=\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a, \omega), k=1,2, \ldots, K$. Hence, $(t, \rho)$ is a feasible point of (4). Conversely, if $(t, \rho)$ is a feasible solution of (4), then there exists $f \in F_{S}$ defined as $f(s, a)=\frac{\rho(s, a)}{\sum_{a \in A(s)} \rho(s, a)}$, whenever the denominator is nonzero (if it is zero, we choose $f(s)$ arbitrarily from $\wp(A(s)))$. For such an $f$, we have $\hat{C}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma, f, \omega)=$ $\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{c}(s, a, \omega)$ and $\hat{D}_{\mathfrak{v}}^{k}(\gamma, f, \omega)=\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a, \omega), k=1,2, \ldots, K$. This implies that $(t, f)$ is a feasible solution of (5). Thus, (5) is equivalent to (4).

The problem (4) is an LP problem with a joint chance constraint [14]. In general, such problems are hard to solve. This is because, for any given $\rho$, finding the feasibility of the joint chance constraint requires multi-dimensional integration, which is NP-hard [10]. Moreover, the feasible set of this constraint is not convex. In order to obtain an equivalent deterministic optimization problem, we need the information of the distributions of random variables $\rho^{T} \hat{c}$ and $\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{k}$. These random variables are linear combinations of random running cost vectors $\hat{c}$ and $\hat{d}^{k}$. Therefore, we assume that the running cost vectors $\hat{c}, \hat{d}^{k}$ follow multivariate elliptically symmetric distributions. The class of elliptically symmetric distributions is a generalization of the normal distribution [9] and it is closed under linear transformation (Theorem 2.16 of [9]). Thus, the distribution of running cost vectors extends to the associated long-run expected costs. Further, we assume the dependence among the random constraints present under the joint chance constraint of (4) is driven by Gumbel-Hougaard copula. The separable nature of this copula enables us to express the joint chance
constraint as a set of individual chance constraints. We first review a few definitions and results on copulas and elliptical distributions, which will be used in subsequent analysis.

### 3.1 Preliminaries

Definition 1 (Copula $[6,13,16]$ ) A $K$-dimensional copula, where $K \geq 2$, is a distribution function on $[0,1]^{K}$ such that all its one dimensional marginals follow a uniform distribution on $[0,1]$.

The relation between the joint distribution of a random vector $X=$ ( $X_{1}, X_{2}, \ldots, X_{K}$ ) and a copula is given by the Sklar's theorem [16].

Theorem 1 (Sklar's theorem [16]). For a given $K$-dimensional distribution function $\hat{\Phi}$ and all its one dimensional marginals $\hat{\Phi}_{1}, \hat{\Phi}_{2}, \ldots, \hat{\Phi}_{K}$, there exists a copula $\mathcal{C}$ that satisfies

$$
\hat{\Phi}\left(v_{1}, v_{2}, \ldots, v_{K}\right)=\mathcal{C}\left(\hat{\Phi}_{1}\left(v_{1}\right), \hat{\Phi}_{2}\left(v_{2}\right), \ldots, \hat{\Phi}_{K}\left(v_{K}\right)\right), \forall v_{1}, v_{2}, \ldots, v_{K} \in \mathbb{R}
$$

When all the marginals are continuous, $\mathcal{C}$ is unique throughout its domain; else it is unique on $\times_{i=1}^{K}$ Range $\hat{\Phi}_{i}$,
where Range $\hat{\Phi}_{i}$ denotes the set of all possible values $\hat{\Phi}_{i}$ can take for $i=$ $1,2, \ldots, K$. In this paper, we consider a particular class of copulas, namely, the Gumbel-Hougaard family of copulas, denoted by $\mathcal{C}_{\theta}$, defined as in [6]

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{C}_{\theta}(u)=\exp \left\{-\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K}\left(-\ln \left(u_{k}\right)\right)^{\theta}\right]^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\right\} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $u=\left(u_{1}, u_{2}, \ldots, u_{K}\right)^{T} \in[0,1]^{K}, \theta \geq 1$ and $\exp$ is the exponential function. When $\theta=1, \mathcal{C}_{1}(u)=\prod_{k=1}^{K} u_{k}$ is the product copula. The joint distribution function of a random vector $X$ defined by a product copula implies that the random variables $X_{1}, X_{2}, \ldots, X_{K}$ are independent.

Definition 2 (Elliptical distribution [9]) A $K$-dimensional random vector $X$ is said to follow a multivariate elliptically symmetric distribution if its characteristic function has the form $E\left(e^{i b^{T} X}\right)=e^{i b^{T}} \mu \varphi\left(b^{T} \Sigma b\right)$, where $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{K}$ is the location parameter, the matrix $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$ is the scale parameter and $\varphi$ is the characteristic generator. We denote it as $X \sim \mathcal{E}_{K}(\mu, \Sigma, \varphi)$.

If $X \sim \mathcal{E}_{K}(\mu, \Sigma, \varphi)$ and the density function of $X$, denoted by $\phi$ exists, then it has the form

$$
\phi(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{\operatorname{det}(\Sigma)}} g\left((x-\mu)^{T} \Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)
$$

where the scale matrix $\Sigma$ is positive definite, $\operatorname{det}(\Sigma)$ is the determinant of $\Sigma$, and the function $g$ is the density generator. In such a case, we also write $X \sim \mathcal{E}_{K}(\mu, \Sigma, g)$. From Theorem 2.16 of [9], a linear combination of the components of an elliptically distributed random vector follows a univariate elliptical distribution. Thus, if $X \sim \mathcal{E}_{K}(\mu, \Sigma, \varphi)$, for a $b \in \mathbb{R}^{K}, b^{T} X \sim \mathcal{E}_{1}\left(b^{T} \mu, b^{T} \Sigma b, \varphi\right)$. Moreover, if $\Sigma$ is a positive definite matrix, then $\frac{b^{T} X-b^{T} \mu}{\left\|\Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} b\right\|_{2}}$ is a spherically distributed random variable with characteristic generator $\varphi$.

### 3.2 Second order cone approximations

By using Sklar's theorem given in Section 3.1, the joint chance constraint (ii) of (4) can be equivalently written as

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \\
&=\mathcal{C}_{\theta, \rho}\left(\mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{1} \leq \xi_{1}\right), \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{2} \leq \xi_{2}\right), \ldots, \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{K} \leq \xi_{K}\right)\right) \geq p_{1}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\mathcal{C}_{\theta, \rho}$ denotes the copula that defines the joint distribution of the random vector $\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{1}, \rho^{T} \hat{d}^{2}, \ldots, \rho^{T} \hat{d}^{K}\right)^{T}$. We make the following assumption on this copula.

Assumption 2. There exists a $K$-dimensional Gumbel-Hougaard copula, $\mathcal{C}_{\theta}$ given by (6), such that $\mathcal{C}_{\theta, \rho}=\mathcal{C}_{\theta}$ for all $\rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)$.

Proposition 2. Let Assumption 2 holds, and $\hat{c} \sim \mathcal{E}_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left(\mu_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{c}}, \varphi_{\hat{c}}\right)$, $\hat{d}^{k} \sim$ $\mathcal{E}_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left(\mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \varphi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\right), k=1,2, \ldots, K$, such that $\Sigma_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}, k=1,2, \ldots, K$, are positive definite matrices. Then, the JCCMDP problem (4) is equivalent to the following non-linear programming problem,

$$
\begin{align*}
& \quad \min _{t, \rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}} t \\
& \text { s.t. } \\
& \text { (i) } \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{c}}+\Phi_{\hat{c}}^{-1}\left(p_{0}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{c}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq t,  \tag{7}\\
& \\
& \text { (ii) } \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\hat{\theta}}}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& \\
& \text { (iii) } \sum_{k=1}^{K} y_{k}=1, y_{k} \geq 0, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& \text { (iv) } \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma),
\end{align*}
$$

where $p_{0}, p_{1} \in(0.5,1)$ and $\Phi_{\hat{c}}^{-1}(\cdot), \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}(\cdot)$ are the quantile functions of spherical distributions corresponding to $\hat{c}, \hat{d}^{k}$, respectively.

Proof Since, $\hat{c} \sim \mathcal{E}_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left(\mu_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{c}}, \varphi_{\hat{c}}\right)$, the constraint $(i)$ of (4) is equivalent to constraint (i) of (7) (see Lemma 2.2 of [11]). It follows from Lemma 1 of [6] that the joint chance constraint (ii) of (4) can be equivalently written as

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{k} \leq \xi_{k}\right) \geq p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{K} y_{k}=1  \tag{8}\\
& y_{k} \geq 0, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K
\end{align*}
$$

We provide the proof to make our paper self-contained. Let $\rho$ be a feasible point of the joint chance constraint (ii) of (4). Define $\bar{y}_{k}, y_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K$, such that $\mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{k} \leq \xi_{k}\right)=p_{1}^{\bar{y}_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}$, i.e., $\bar{y}_{k}=\left(\frac{\ln \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{k} \leq \xi_{k}\right)}{\ln \left(p_{1}\right)}\right)^{\theta}$ for all $k$, and $y_{k}=\frac{\bar{y}_{k}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k}}$ for all $k$. From the joint chance constraint (ii) of (4), we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_{1} & \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \\
& =\mathcal{C}_{\theta}\left(\mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{1} \leq \xi_{1}\right), \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{2} \leq \xi_{2}\right), \ldots, \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{K} \leq \xi_{K}\right)\right) \\
& =\mathcal{C}_{\theta}\left(p_{1}^{\bar{y}_{1}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}, p_{1}^{\bar{y}_{2}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}, \ldots, p_{1}^{\bar{y}_{K}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right) \\
& =\exp \left\{-\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K}\left(-\ln \left(p_{1}^{\bar{y}_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)\right)^{\theta}\right]^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\right\} \\
& =\exp \left\{-\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k}\left(\ln \frac{1}{p_{1}}\right)^{\theta}\right]^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\right\} \\
& =\exp \left\{\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} \ln \left(p_{1}\right)\right\} \\
& =p_{1}^{\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}},}
\end{aligned}
$$

where the first equality follows by Sklar's theorem. The condition $p_{1} \leq p_{1}^{\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}$ implies that $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \bar{y}_{k} \leq 1$. Then, from the definition of $y_{k}$, we have $\bar{y}_{k} \leq y_{k}$ for all $k$, which in turn implies that

$$
\mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{k} \leq \xi_{k}\right) \geq p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K
$$

The other two constraints of (8) follow from the definition of $y_{k}$.
Conversely, suppose $\left(\rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}\right)$ is feasible for (8). By Sklar's theorem and the first constraint of (8),

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{(s, a) \in \mathcal{K}} \rho(s, a) \hat{d}^{k}(s, a) \leq \xi_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots, K\right) \\
& =\mathcal{C}_{\theta}\left(\mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{1} \leq \xi_{1}\right), \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{2} \leq \xi_{2}\right), \ldots, \mathbb{P}\left(\rho^{T} \hat{d}^{K} \leq \xi_{K}\right)\right) \\
& \geq \mathcal{C}_{\theta}\left(p_{1}^{y_{1}^{\theta}}, p_{1}^{y_{2}^{\theta}}, \ldots, p_{1}^{y_{K}^{\theta}}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
=\exp \left\{-\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K}\left(-\ln \left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)\right)^{\theta}\right]^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\right\}=p_{1}
$$

Hence, $\rho$ is a feasible solution of (ii) of (4). Since, $\hat{d}^{k} \sim \mathcal{E}_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left(\mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \varphi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\right), k=$ $1,2, \ldots, K$, it follows from Lemma 2.2 of [11] that the set of constraints in (8) can be equivalently written as

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{E}}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{K} y_{k}=1, \\
& y_{k} \geq 0, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, (4) is equivalent to (7).
Remark 1. When $K=1$, the constraint (iii) of (7) gives $y_{1}=1$ and (7) reduces to the following SOCP problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min _{t, \rho} t \\
\text { s.t. } & \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{c}}+\Phi_{\hat{c}}^{-1}\left(p_{0}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{c}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq t, \\
& \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{1}}+\Phi_{\hat{d}^{1}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{1}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{1}, \\
& \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)
\end{array}
$$

For $K \geq 2$, the optimization problem (7) is a non-convex optimization problem due to the product terms $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{E}}}\right)\left\|\sum_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}} \rho\right\|_{2}$ present in its constraints. We approximate (7) by two SOCP problems whose optimal values give lower and upper bounds on the optimal value of the JCCMDP problem. Our approximations hold under the following assumption.

Assumption 3. For each $k=1,2, \ldots, K$, the quantile function $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)$ is a convex function of $y_{k}$.

For the spherical distributions listed in Table 1, Assumption 3 holds true. This follows from the fact that $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{E}}}\right)$ is a composition of functions $p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}$ and $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(y_{k}\right)$, where former is a convex function of $y_{k} \in[0,1]$ and latter is nondecreasing and convex function of $y_{k} \in\left[p_{1}, 1\right]$. The convexity of $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(y_{k}\right)$ for the probability distributions listed in Table 1 can be verified by checking the following condition for all $k$,

$$
\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\right)^{\prime \prime}(y)=\frac{-\phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\prime}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}(y)\right)}{\left(\phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}(y)\right)\right)^{3}} \geq 0, \quad \forall y \in\left[p_{1}, 1\right)
$$

where $\phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}(\cdot)$ is the probability density function of the spherical distribution whose cumulative distribution function is $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}(\cdot)$. The convexity of $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(y_{k}\right)$ for all $k$, on $\left[p_{1}, 1\right]$ holds because it is a continuous function at $y_{k}=1$. We

Table 1 List of some spherical distributions.

| Probability Distribution | Density Function $\left(\phi_{d^{k}}(u)\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Normal | $c e^{\frac{-u^{2}}{2}}$ |
| Pearson Type VII | $c\left(1+\frac{u^{2}}{s}\right)^{-N} ; N>\frac{1}{2}, s>0$ |
| t | $c\left(1+\frac{u^{2}}{m}\right)^{\frac{-(1+m)}{2}} ; m>0$ an integer |
| Cauchy | $c\left(1+\frac{u^{2}}{s}\right)^{-1} ; s>0$ |
| Logistic | $c e^{-u^{2}}$ |
| $1+e^{\left.-u^{2}\right)^{2}}$ |  |
| Laplace | $c e^{-\|u\|}$ |
|  |  |

The constant $c>0$ is the normalization factor that ensures the density function gives 1 on integration.
approximate the functions $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{E}}}\right), k=1,2, \ldots, K$, using piecewise tangent and linear approximations to obtain two SOCP problems whose optimal values give the lower and upper bounds for the optimal value of (7).

### 3.2.1 Lower bound approximation

For every $k$, we approximate the term $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)$ in (7) by choosing $N$ tangent points $y_{k}^{1}<y_{k}^{2}<\ldots<y_{k}^{N}$ from the interval $(0,1]$. We denote the Taylor series expansion around the point $y_{k}^{i}$ by $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{E}}}\right)_{i}$ and define it as

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)_{i}=\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)+\left(y_{k}-y_{k}^{i}\right) \frac{d}{d y_{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right) \\
& =\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-\frac{\left(y_{k}^{i}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}} \ln \left(p_{1}\right)}{\theta \phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)}+\frac{p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i \frac{1}{\theta}}} \ln \left(p_{1}\right)\left(y_{k}^{i}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}-1} y_{k}}{\theta \phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)} \\
& =\bar{a}_{k}^{i}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}, \forall i=1, \ldots, N,
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\bar{a}_{k}^{i}=\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-\frac{\left(y_{k}^{i}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}} \ln \left(p_{1}\right)}{\theta \phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)}, \bar{b}_{k}^{i}=\frac{p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i \frac{1}{\theta}}} \ln \left(p_{1}\right)\left(y_{k}^{i}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}-1}}{\theta \phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)}$.

Theorem 2. Let Assumption 3 holds. A lower bound for the optimal value of the equivalent JCCMDP problem (7) is given by the optimal value of the following SOCP problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \left.\min _{t, \rho,\left(x_{k j}\right)_{k=1, j=1}^{K},\left(z_{k j}\right)}^{K}\right)_{k=1, j=1}^{|\mathcal{K}|}, \\
\text { s.t. } & \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{c}}+\Phi_{\hat{c}}^{-1}\left(p_{0}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{c}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq t, \\
& \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} z_{k}\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& z_{k j} \geq\left(\bar{a}_{k}^{i} \rho_{j}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} x_{k j}\right), \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|, i=1,2, \ldots, N, \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{K} x_{k j}=\rho_{j}, \forall j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|, \\
& x_{k j} \geq 0, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|, \\
& \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma), \tag{9}
\end{array}
$$

where $\rho_{j}$ is the $j$-th component of $\rho \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{K}|}$ and $z_{k}=\left(z_{k j}\right)_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{K}|}$ for every $k=$ $1,2, \ldots, K$.

Proof It is sufficient to show that for every feasible solution of (7) there exists a feasible solution of (9). The proof is similar to Theorem 3.1.1 of [5]. Suppose the vector $\left(t, \rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}\right)$ is a feasible solution of (7). Under Assumption 3, we obtain $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{k}}}\right) \geq \max _{1 \leq i \leq N}\left(\bar{a}_{k}^{i}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}\right)$ for all $k$. Therefore,

$$
\rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\max _{1 \leq i \leq N}\left(\bar{a}_{k}^{i}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K .
$$

The vectors $z_{k}, k=1,2, \ldots K$, where $z_{k j}=\max _{1 \leq i \leq N}\left(\bar{a}_{k}^{i} \rho_{j}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k} \rho_{j}\right)$ for all $k=1,2, \ldots, K$, $j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|$, satisfy

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} z_{k}\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K \\
& z_{k j} \geq \bar{a}_{k}^{i} \rho_{j}+\bar{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k} \rho_{j}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|, i=1,2, \ldots, N .
\end{aligned}
$$

Then, the vector $\left(t, \rho,\left(x_{k j}\right)_{k=1, j=1}^{K},\left(z_{k j}\right)_{k=1, j=1}^{K}|\mathcal{K}|\right.$ where

$$
x_{k j}=y_{k} \rho_{j}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, j=1,2, \ldots,|\mathcal{K}|,
$$

is a feasible solution for the problem (9).

### 3.2.2 Upper bound approximation

For every $k$, we approximate the term $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{b}}}\right)$ in (7) by choosing $N$ interpolation points $y_{k}^{1}<y_{k}^{2}<\ldots<y_{k}^{N}$ from the interval ( 0,1 ], such that the point $y_{k}^{1}$
is sufficiently close to 0 . We denote the linear interpolating polynomial passing through the points $\left(y_{k}^{i}, \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)$ and $\left(y_{k}^{i+1}, \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right)$ by $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)_{i}$ and define it as

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)_{i}=\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)+\frac{y_{k}-y_{k}^{i}}{y_{k}^{i+1}-y_{k}^{i}}\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right) \\
& =\frac{y_{k}^{i+1} \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-y_{k}^{i} \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)}{y_{k}^{i+1}-y_{k}^{i}}+\frac{\left(\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)\right) y_{k}}{y_{k}^{i+1}-y_{k}^{i}} \\
& =\hat{a}_{k}^{i}+\hat{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}, \forall i=1,2, \ldots, N-1,
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\hat{a}_{k}^{i}=\frac{y_{k}^{i+1} \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)-y_{k}^{i} \Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1 \frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)}{y_{k}^{i+1}-y_{k}^{i}}, \hat{b}_{k}^{i}=\frac{\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i+1}}\right)-\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{i} \frac{1}{\theta}}\right)}{y_{k}^{i+1}-y_{k}^{i}}$.
Theorem 3. Let Assumption 3 holds. An upper bound for the optimal value of the equivalent JCCMDP problem (7) is given by the optimal value of the following SOCP problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min _{t, \rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K},\left(z_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}} t \\
\text { s.t. } & \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{c}}+\Phi_{\hat{c}}^{-1}\left(p_{0}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{c}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq t \\
& \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+z_{k} V_{k}^{*} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& z_{k} \geq \hat{a}_{k}^{i}+\hat{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, i=1,2, \ldots, N-1,  \tag{10}\\
& \sum_{k=1}^{K} y_{k}=1, \\
& y_{k} \geq 0, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K, \\
& \rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)
\end{array}
$$

where $\rho_{j}$ is the $j$-th component of $\rho \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{K}|},\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{j}$ is the $j$-th column of the matrix $\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and, $V_{k}^{*}=\max _{\bar{\rho} \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)} \sum_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{K}|} \bar{\rho}_{j}\left\|\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{j}\right\|_{2}$ for every $k=1,2, \ldots, K$.

Proof We show that for every feasible solution of (10) there exists a feasible solution of (7). Suppose the vector $\left(t, \rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K},\left(z_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}\right)$ is a feasible solution of (10). It is enough to show that $\rho$ is a feasible solution of constraint (ii) of (7). Under Assumption 3, we obtain $\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{b}}}\right) \leq \max _{1 \leq i \leq N-1}\left(\hat{a}_{k}^{i}+\hat{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}\right)$ for all $k$. For an arbitrarily fixed
$k \in\{1,2, \ldots, K\}$, consider

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2} & =\left\|\rho_{1}\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{1}+\rho_{2}\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{2}+\ldots+\rho_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{|\mathcal{K}|}\right\|_{2} \\
& \leq \rho_{1}\left\|\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{1}\right\|_{2}+\rho_{2}\left\|\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{2}\right\|_{2}+\ldots+\rho_{|\mathcal{K}|}\left\|\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{|\mathcal{K}|}\right\|_{2} \\
& \leq \max _{\bar{\rho} \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)} \sum_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{K}|} \bar{\rho}_{j}\left\|\left(\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)_{j}\right\|_{2}=V_{k}^{*} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The first inequality holds by triangular inequality of $\|\cdot\|_{2}$, while the second inequality holds because $\rho \in \mathcal{Q}_{\mathfrak{v}}(\gamma)$. Thus, $V_{k}^{*}$ is an upper bound of $\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2}$. Consequently, the following inequality holds true

$$
\begin{aligned}
\rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} & \leq \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\max _{1 \leq i \leq N-1}\left(\hat{a}_{k}^{i}+\hat{b}_{k}^{i} y_{k}\right) V_{k}^{*} \\
& \leq \rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+z_{k} V_{k}^{*} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore,

$$
\rho^{T} \mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}+\Phi_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{-1}\left(p_{1}^{y_{k}^{\frac{1}{\theta}}}\right)\left\|\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho\right\|_{2} \leq \xi_{k}, \forall k=1,2, \ldots, K .
$$

Hence, the vector $\left(t, \rho,\left(y_{k}\right)_{k=1}^{K}\right)$ is a feasible solution for the problem (7).

## 4 Numerical experiments

We perform numerical experiments using MOSEK solver of CVX package in MATLAB optimization toolbox, on an $\operatorname{Intel}(\mathrm{R})$ 64-bit Core(TM) i5-8250U CPU @ 1.60GHz with 8.0 GB RAM machine. We study our approximations on a queueing control problem [1] in Section 4.1, and on randomly generated CMDPs in Section 4.2. In all our numerical experiments, we fix $p_{0}, p_{1}=0.95$, $\alpha=0.99$, and assume $\gamma$ to be a uniformly distributed vector. For our approximations, we vary $N$, pick uniformly spaced points between $10^{-5}$ and 1 and keep them as both tangent and interpolation points for all the constraints. We note that the interpolation point $y_{k}^{1}$ is sufficiently close to 0 .

### 4.1 Queueing control problem

We consider a stochastic version of a discrete-time service and admission control problem in a single queue introduced by Altman (see Chapter 5 of [1]). The system has two controllers, namely, service and admission controllers. We consider them as a single controller because their joint objective is to minimize the expected cost incurred in the long-run. The states represent the queue length with buffer size $L$. Thus, $S=\{0,1, \ldots, L\}$, where $s=0$ indicates that the queue is empty, while $s=L$ indicates that the queue is full. The action set of the controller is $A^{1} \times A^{2}$, where $A^{1}$ and $A^{2}$ are finite sets of probability values. If $\left(a^{1}, a^{2}\right) \in A^{1} \times A^{2}$, then $a^{1}$ and $a^{2}$ denote the probabilities with which the controller finishes the service and admits a customer into the system, respectively. We assume that $A^{1} \subseteq\left[a_{\text {min }}^{1}, a_{\text {max }}^{1}\right]$ and $A^{2} \subseteq\left[a_{\text {min }}^{2}, a_{\text {max }}^{2}\right]$, where $0<a_{\text {min }}^{1} \leq a_{\max }^{1}<1$ and $0 \leq a_{\text {min }}^{2} \leq a_{\max }^{2}<1$. Moreover, when $s=L$,
we assume no admission takes place. The transition probabilities from [1] are given by

$$
p\left(s^{\prime} \mid s,\left(a^{1}, a^{2}\right)\right)= \begin{cases}a^{1}\left(1-a^{2}\right) & 1 \leq s \leq L-1, s^{\prime}=s-1 \\ a^{1} a^{2}+\left(1-a^{1}\right)\left(1-a^{2}\right) & 1 \leq s \leq L-1, s^{\prime}=s \\ \left(1-a^{1}\right) a^{2} & 0 \leq s \leq L-1, s^{\prime}=s+1 \\ 1-\left(1-a^{1}\right) a^{2} & s^{\prime}=s=0 \\ 1-a^{1} & s=L, s^{\prime}=L \\ a^{1} & s=L, s^{\prime}=L-1\end{cases}
$$

If at state $s \in S$, the controller chooses an action $\left(a^{1}, a^{2}\right)$, it incurs running costs $c(s), d^{1}\left(a^{1}\right)$ and $d^{2}\left(a^{2}\right)$. The running cost $c(s)$ is the holding cost incurred due to customers waiting in the queue. Therefore, it only depends on the size of the queue. The holding cost is zero for an empty queue, i.e., $c(0)=0$. The running cost $d^{1}\left(a^{1}\right)$ is a service cost incurred when a customer is served with probability $a^{1}$ and $d^{2}\left(a^{2}\right)$ denotes the cost when a customer is not admitted into the system with $\left(1-a^{2}\right)$ probability. The service cost $d^{1}\left(a^{1}\right)$ increases with $a^{1}$ and no admission cost $d^{2}\left(a^{2}\right)$ decreases with $a^{2}$. These costs do not depend on the size of the queue. The controller aims to minimize the expected holding cost in the long-run by keeping the long-run expected service and admission costs below certain threshold values. Usually the costs in the queueing system are not realized before the decisions are taken. Therefore, the running cost vectors $c$, $d^{1}$ and $d^{2}$ are better modelled using random vectors. We assume that they follow normal distribution and denote them as $\hat{c} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{c}}\right), \hat{d}^{k} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}\right)$, $k=1,2$, where $\hat{c}=(\hat{c}(s))_{s \in S}, \hat{d}^{1}=\left(\hat{d}^{1}\left(a^{1}\right)\right)_{a^{1} \in A^{1}}$ and $\hat{d}^{2}=\left(\hat{d}^{2}\left(a^{2}\right)\right)_{a^{2} \in A^{2}}$.
We consider the case where the number of states is 10 , i.e., $L=9$, and the controller finishes the service with probability $a^{1}=0.75$. The admission controller has two possible actions: 'No Admission $\left(a^{2}=0\right)$ ' or 'Admission with probability $0.8\left(a^{2}=0.8\right)^{\prime}$. We take $\hat{c}, \hat{d}^{2}$ to be normally distributed random vectors and $\hat{d}^{1}$ to be fixed, thus $K=1$. Hence, from Remark 1, it follows that the JCCMDP problem (4) reduces to an SOCP problem. We take $\xi_{2}=9$, $\mu_{\hat{c}}=(0,1,2, \ldots, 9)^{T}$, the matrix $\Sigma_{\hat{c}} \in \mathbb{R}^{10 \times 10}$ with all diagonal values 0.9 and off-diagonal values 0.35 , and

$$
\mu_{\hat{d}^{2}}=\binom{10.0}{7.60}, \quad \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{2}}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
0.80 & 0.24 \\
0.24 & 0.61
\end{array}\right)
$$

The optimal values of the JCCMDP problem with the above data for discounted and average cost cases are 5.7963 and 6.2296 , respectively. Figure 1 shows the optimal probability of not admitting a customer into the queue at various states. For both the cases, we conclude that the optimal probability of 'No Admission' is 1 at the last state.

We consider a system where the action set of the controller is given by $A^{1} \times A^{2}=\{(0.2,0.75,0.9),(0,0.5,0.8)\}$. Thus, $K=2$, and we compute the


Fig. 1 The solid lines marked with ' $*^{\prime}$ and ' 0 ' denote the optimal probability of not admitting a customer into the queue for discounted and average cost problems, respectively.
lower bound and upper bound for the optimal value of the JCCMDP problem (7) by solving the SOCP problems (9) and (10), respectively. For $L=n-1$ $(|S|=n)$, we take $\mu_{\hat{c}}=(0,1,2, \ldots, n-1)^{T}$, the matrix $\Sigma_{\hat{c}} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ with all diagonal values 0.9 and off-diagonal values $0.35, \mu_{\hat{d}^{1}}=(4.32,9.1875,10.83)^{T}$, $\mu_{\hat{d}^{2}}=(10.00,8.50,7.60)^{T}$, and

$$
\Sigma_{\hat{d}^{1}}=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
0.15 & 0.05 & 0.10 \\
0.05 & 0.10 & 0.15 \\
0.10 & 0.15 & 0.40
\end{array}\right), \quad \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{2}}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
0.80 & 0.35 & 0.24 \\
0.35 & 0.70 & 0.20 \\
0.24 & 0.20 & 0.61
\end{array}\right) .
$$

The mean vector $\mu_{\hat{c}}$, where $\mu_{\hat{c}}(s)=s$, captures the fact that the holding cost increases with $s$. We take the mean vectors $\mu_{\hat{d}^{1}}$ and $\mu_{\hat{d}^{2}}$ such that $\mu_{\hat{d}^{1}}\left(a^{1}\right)=$ $3\left(1+a^{1}\right)^{2}$ and $\mu_{\hat{d}^{2}}\left(a^{2}\right)=10-3 a^{2}$. It is motivated from the fact that the service cost increases with $a^{1}$ and no admission cost decreases with $a^{2}$. We take $\xi_{1}=11.30, \xi_{2}=11.35$. We solve the SOCP problems (9) and (10) for different values of $\theta$ and $|S|$. The higher values of $\theta$ indicate stronger dependence between the random constraints driven by Gumbel-Hougaard copula. The numerical results are summarized in Tables 2 and 3 for the case of discounted and average cost criteria, respectively. In the average cost criterion, for all states except $s=0,1$, the corresponding $\rho$ becomes significantly low, such that it has a negligible effect on the optimal value. Thus, the optimal value remains almost the same with the number of states. We define the gap between the lower and upper bounds for the optimal value of the JCCMDP problem (4) by

$$
\operatorname{Gap}(\%)=\frac{\text { Opt.(UB)-Opt.(LB) }}{\text { Opt.(LB) }} \times 100
$$

From Tables 2 and 3, we observe that the gap ranges from 0 to 1.3565 . The CPU time analysis shows that the SOCP problems (9) and (10) can be solved efficiently for our example.

Table 2 Queueing control problem: Discounted cost criterion.

| $\theta$ | States | $N=5$ |  |  |  |  | $N=10$ |  |  |  |  | $N=20$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) |
|  |  | Opt. | CPU(s) | Opt. | CPU(s) |  | Opt. | CPU(s) | Opt. | CPU(s) |  | Opt. | CPU(s) | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(\mathrm{s})$ |  |
| 1 | 500 | 177.4043 | 68.25 | 178.639 | 11.8281 | 0.696 | 177.4071 | 75.7813 | 178.5013 | 12.9375 | 0.6168 | 177.408 | 97.7344 | 178.3905 | 11.9219 | 0.5538 |
|  | 1000 | 422.0911 | 342.1875 | 427.8169 | 31.6875 | 1.3565 | 422.2185 | 353.9531 | 427.266 | 27.5938 | 1.1955 | 422.226 | 412.1875 | 427.2463 | 39.5156 | 1.189 |
|  | 1500 | 671.2592 | 943.6094 | 677.8156 | 56.7656 | 0.9767 | 671.4757 | 877.5938 | 677.2248 | 62.8438 | 0.8562 | 671.5145 | 980.75 | 677.2431 | 65.8281 | 0.8531 |
|  | 2000 | 920.8955 | 1908.6 | 927.8149 | 85.8281 | 0.7514 | 921.2717 | 2004.6 | 927.2242 | 87.7813 | 0.6461 | 921.3652 | 2318.6 | 927.2425 | 111.9219 | 0.6379 |
|  | 500 | 177.3957 | 63.2188 | 177.3996 | 9.9063 | 0.0022 | 177.3955 | 69.7656 | 177.3988 | 11.125 | 0.0019 | 177.3959 | 83.4531 | 177.3984 | 11.4688 | 0.0014 |
|  | 1000 | 420.2786 | 299.2813 | 423.1495 | 33.875 | 0.6831 | 420.2828 | 310.9688 | 423.1099 | 28.7031 | 0.6727 | 420.2915 | 345.9844 | 423.0939 | 32.1719 | 0.6668 |
|  | 1500 | 669.3847 | 829.7344 | 673.0587 | 58.5 | 0.5489 | 669.4349 | 892.6406 | 672.9414 | 62.3594 | 0.5238 | 669.4366 | 951.6875 | 672.9065 | 72.1094 | 0.5183 |
|  | 2000 | 919.0816 | 1809.2 | 923.0578 | 96.6875 | 0.4326 | 919.1713 | 1930.1 | 922.9407 | 110.0625 | 0.4101 | 919.1847 | 2105.8 | 922.9059 | 104.6875 | 0.4048 |

Table 3 Queueing control problem: Average cost criterion.

| $\theta$ | States | $N=5$ |  |  |  |  | $N=10$ |  |  |  |  | $N=20$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) | Lower Bound (LB) |  | Upper Bound (UB) |  | Gap(\%) |
|  |  | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(\mathrm{s})$ | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(\mathrm{s})$ |  | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(s)$ | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(\mathrm{s})$ |  | Opt. | CPU(s) | Opt. | $\mathrm{CPU}(\mathrm{s})$ |  |
| 1 | 500 | 1.5606 | 73.75 | 1.5607 | 16.6094 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 77.2188 | 1.5607 | 14.7656 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 92.7031 | 1.5607 | 14.2188 | 0.0064 |
|  | 1000 | 1.5606 | 331.9063 | 1.5607 | 33.8594 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 353.1406 | 1.5607 | 32.7656 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 412.4063 | 1.5607 | 31.875 | 0.0064 |
|  | 1500 | 1.5606 | 980.5313 | 1.5607 | 71.875 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 927.5313 | 1.5606 | 103.5938 | 0 | 1.5606 | 975.5781 | 1.5607 | 72.125 | 0.0064 |
|  | 2000 | 1.5606 | 1776.8 | 1.5606 | 272.3438 | 0 | 1.5605 | 2195.8 | 1.5607 | 119.5313 | 0.0128 | 1.5606 | 2231.2 | 1.5606 | 136 | 0 |
| 3 | 500 | 1.5606 | 65.2188 | 1.5607 | 12.75 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 68.7969 | 1.5607 | 12.6563 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 84.3906 | 1.5607 | 11.3125 | 0.0064 |
|  | 1000 | 1.5606 | 294 | 1.5607 | 30.5938 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 320.2656 | 1.5607 | 33.0625 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 346.2656 | 1.5607 | 31.6406 | 0.0064 |
|  | 1500 | 1.5606 | 882.6875 | 1.5607 | 104.1563 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 933.2031 | 1.5607 | 88.8125 | 0.0064 | 1.5606 | 941 | 1.5607 | 68.625 | 0.0064 |
|  | 2000 | 1.5606 | 1973.1 | 1.5606 | 176.5625 | 0 | 1.5605 | 1948.7 | 1.5606 | 124.0781 | 0.0064 | 1.5605 | 2099 | 1.5606 | 136.4219 | 0.0064 |

### 4.2 Random CMDPs

We generate random finite CMDPs with normally distributed cost vectors to study the efficiency of our proposed methods. Previous literature has conducted experiments on randomly generated finite MDPs known as Garnets $[2,8]$. We construct our system similar to the description in [8], using the parameter tuple $\left(|S|,|A|,\left|B_{f}\right|\right)$, where $|S|$ and $|A|$ are the number of states and actions, respectively, while $\left|B_{f}\right|$ is the branching factor that indicates the number of states reachable from a given state-action pair. For each state-action pair $(s, a)$, we draw $\left|B_{f}\right|$ states using the function sort(randsample $\left(|S|,\left|B_{f}\right|\right)$ ) and denote the corresponding states as $\left(s^{i}\right)_{i=1}^{\left|B_{f}\right|}$. To fix the non-zero probability values for these states, we randomly generate $\left|B_{f}\right|-1$ values in the interval $(0,1)$ using the function $\operatorname{sort}\left(\operatorname{rand}\left(\left|B_{f}\right|-1,1\right)\right)$ and denote them as $\left(q^{i}\right)_{i=1}^{\left|B_{f}\right|-1}$. We take $q^{0}=0$ and $q^{\left|B_{f}\right|}=1$. Following the rule given in Section 4.1 of [8], the transition probabilities are given by

$$
p\left(s^{\prime} \mid s, a\right)= \begin{cases}q^{i}-q^{i-1} & \text { if } s^{\prime}=s^{i}, i=1,2, \ldots,\left|B_{f}\right| \\ 0 & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}
$$

For simplicity, we generate only irreducible transition probability matrices. This ensures that Assumption 1 is trivially satisfied. We fix $\theta=6,|S|=500$,
and $|A|, K=10$. Thus, $\hat{c} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{c}}\right), \hat{d}^{k} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}\right), k=1,2, \ldots, 10$ are random vectors of dimension $5000 \times 1$. We randomly generate $\mu_{\hat{c}}$ in $(30,200)$, $\mu_{\hat{d}^{k}}$ in $(30,150)$, and $\xi_{k}$ in $(75,120)$ for $k=1,2, \ldots, 10$ using the function rand. We generate the square roots of $\Sigma_{\hat{c}}, \Sigma_{\hat{d}^{k}}, k=1,2, \ldots, 10$, each of dimension $5000 \times 5000$ using the function sprandsym( $5000,0.0005,3 \operatorname{rand}(5000,1))$. The generated matrices are symmetric with density 0.0005 and randomly generated eigenvalues in the interval $(0,3)$. We consider two cases: $(i)\left|B_{f}\right|=100$ (20\% of the states are reachable from each state-action pair), (ii) $\left|B_{f}\right|=400$ ( $80 \%$ of the states are reachable from each state-action pair). We solve the SOCP problems (9) and (10), and summarize the results in Tables 4 and 5 for the case of discounted and average cost criteria, respectively.

In both the tables, the average gap between the lower and upper bounds reduces as $N$ increases, irrespective of $\left|B_{f}\right|$. Furthermore, the average gaps for $\left|B_{f}\right|=100$ are larger than the corresponding gaps for $\left|B_{f}\right|=400$, while the gaps obtained for the discounted cost criterion are smaller than the corresponding gaps for the average cost criterion. For the data we generate, the gap ranges from 1.5155 to 12.9035 . This indicates that gaps obtained are data-dependent. The average CPU time to solve the problem (10) is less than (9), possibly since the latter problem has $K$ additional second order constraints. Furthermore, on average it takes more time to solve the problems with $\left|B_{f}\right|=400$ than with $\left|B_{f}\right|=100$ and more time to solve the discounted cost criterion than its average cost criterion counterpart. However, we conclude that both our approximations can be solved efficiently for both the cost criteria.

## 5 Conclusion

We consider a JCCMDP problem under discounted and average cost criteria. The dependence among the random cost constraint vectors is driven by a Gumbel-Hougaard copula. When the random cost vectors follow multivariate elliptically symmetric distributions, we propose SOCP based approximations which give lower and upper bounds on the optimal value of the JCCMDP problem. We illustrate our results on queueing control problem and on a class of randomly generated CMDP problems by considering various small and large instances. The gap between the lower and upper bounds shows the effectiveness of the SOCP approximations. The CPU time analysis shows that both the approximations can be solved efficiently for large instances.

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Table 4 Random CMDPs: Discounted cost criterion.


## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Table 5 Random CMDPs: Average cost criterion.

| Instance | $\left\|B_{f}\right\|=100$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\left\|B_{f}\right\|=400$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $N=5$ |  |  | $N=10$ |  |  | $N=20$ |  |  | $N=5$ |  |  | $N=10$ |  |  | $N=20$ |  |  |
|  | LB | UB | Gap(\%) | LB | UB | Gap(\%) | LB | UB | Gap(\%) | LB | UB | Gap(\%) | LB | UB | Gap(\%) | LB | UB | Gap(\%) |
| 1 | 45.695 | 46.5047 | 1.772 | 45.695 | 46.4982 | 1.7577 | 45.695 | 46.4971 | 1.7553 | 45.6792 | 46.5134 | 1.8262 | 45.6792 | 46.5071 | 1.8124 | 45.6792 | 46.5061 | 1.8102 |
| 2 | 46.9646 | 48.8013 | 3.9108 | 46.9646 | 48.8002 | 3.9085 | 46.9646 | 48.8002 | 3.9085 | 47.0759 | 48.9296 | 3.9377 | 47.076 | 48.9282 | 3.9345 | 47.076 | 48.928 | 3.9341 |
| 3 | 47.4974 | 50.7698 | 6.8896 | 47.4975 | 50.6238 | 6.582 | 47.4976 | 50.5957 | 6.5226 | 47.7091 | 50.8134 | 6.5067 | 47.7092 | 50.6866 | 6.2407 | 47.7092 | 50.6622 | 6.1896 |
| 4 | 46.9017 | 50.0882 | 6.794 | 46.9019 | 50.0852 | 6.7871 | 46.902 | 50.0844 | 6.7852 | 46.9612 | 50.1588 | 6.809 | 46.9615 | 50.1545 | 6.7992 | 46.9615 | 50.1546 | 6.7994 |
| 5 | 48.4068 | 51.6737 | 6.7488 | 48.407 | 51.6704 | 6.7416 | 48.407 | 51.6679 | 6.7364 | 48.4222 | 51.6657 | 6.6984 | 48.4224 | 51.6646 | 6.6957 | 48.4224 | 51.6624 | 6.6911 |
| 6 | 50.2145 | 55.6889 | 10.902 | 50.2149 | 55.6871 | 10.8976 | 50.215 | 55.6847 | 10.8926 | 50.4912 | 56.019 | 10.948 | 50.4916 | 56.0174 | 10.944 | 50.4918 | 56.0161 | 10.941 |
| 7 | 46.84 | 48.0515 | 2.5865 | 46.84 | 48.0402 | 2.5623 | 46.84 | 48.0403 | 2.5626 | 46.8431 | 48.046 | 2.5679 | 46.8431 | 48.0348 | 2.544 | 46.8431 | 48.0349 | 2.5442 |
| 8 | 47.8958 | 51.8755 | 8.3091 | 47.8961 | 51.8654 | 8.2873 | 47.8962 | 51.864 | 8.2842 | 47.8883 | 51.8122 | 8.1939 | 47.8886 | 51.8019 | 8.1717 | 47.8887 | 51.8002 | 8.1679 |
| 9 | 45.9592 | 47.0843 | 2.448 | 45.9592 | 47.0745 | 2.4267 | 45.9592 | 47.0715 | 2.4202 | 46.1179 | 47.2548 | 2.4652 | 46.1179 | 47.2449 | 2.4437 | 46.1179 | 47.2418 | 2.437 |
| 10 | 47.9638 | 52.4409 | 9.3343 | 47.964 | 52.4053 | 9.2597 | 47.9641 | 52.3941 | 9.2361 | 48.0961 | 52.5021 | 9.1608 | 48.0963 | 52.4671 | 9.0876 | 48.0963 | 52.4559 | 9.0643 |
| 11 | 47.3877 | 50.3894 | 6.3343 | 47.3879 | 50.3672 | 6.287 | 47.388 | 50.3556 | 6.2623 | 47.518 | 50.5066 | 6.2894 | 47.5182 | 50.4837 | 6.2408 | 47.5183 | 50.4718 | 6.2155 |
| 12 | 47.6421 | 51.1962 | 7.46 | 47.6422 | 50.9347 | 6.9109 | 47.6423 | 50.9229 | 6.8859 | 47.6325 | 51.2258 | 7.5438 | 47.6327 | 50.9782 | 7.0235 | 47.6327 | 50.9677 | 7.0015 |
| 13 | 44.6419 | 45.4248 | 1.7537 | 44.6419 | 45.4084 | 1.717 | 44.6419 | 45.4053 | 1.7101 | 44.6519 | 45.3393 | 1.5395 | 44.652 | 45.3315 | 1.5218 | 44.652 | 45.3295 | 1.5173 |
| 14 | 47.0033 | 49.3519 | 4.9967 | 47.0034 | 49.3461 | 4.9841 | 47.0035 | 49.3457 | 4.9830 | 47.1142 | 49.5244 | 5.1157 | 47.1143 | 49.5164 | 5.0985 | 47.1143 | 49.5162 | 5.098 |
| 15 | 48.698 | 52.5481 | 7.9061 | 48.6982 | 52.5228 | 7.8537 | 48.6983 | 52.5203 | 7.8483 | 48.9692 | 52.8335 | 7.8913 | 48.9694 | 52.8103 | 7.8435 | 48.9694 | 52.8079 | 7.8386 |
| 16 | 49.8999 | 54.1923 | 8.602 | 49.9003 | 54.1771 | 8.5707 | 49.9004 | 54.1729 | 8.5621 | 49.9587 | 54.3092 | 8.7082 | 49.9591 | 54.2925 | 8.6739 | 49.9592 | 54.29 | 8.6687 |
| 17 | 46.5338 | 48.3091 | 3.8151 | 46.5339 | 48.2887 | 3.771 | 46.5339 | 48.2823 | 3.7573 | 46.631 | 48.5096 | 4.0287 | 46.631 | 48.4824 | 3.9703 | 46.631 | 48.4744 | 3.9532 |
| 18 | 49.9295 | 56.3007 | 12.7604 | 49.93 | 56.2018 | 12.5612 | 49.9301 | 56.1594 | 12.476 | 49.955 | 56.4006 | 12.9028 | 49.9555 | 56.2931 | 12.6865 | 49.9556 | 56.25 | 12.6 |
| 19 | 47.6405 | 49.8774 | 4.6954 | 47.6406 | 49.8552 | 4.6486 | 47.6406 | 49.8525 | 4.6429 | 47.6382 | 49.8756 | 4.6967 | 47.6383 | 49.8495 | 4.6416 | 47.6384 | 49.8485 | 4.6393 |
| 20 | 47.2795 | 51.129 | 8.142 | 47.2797 | 50.7361 | 7.3105 | 47.2798 | 50.7216 | 7.2796 | 47.1843 | 50.9124 | 7.9011 | 47.1845 | 50.5679 | 7.1706 | 47.1845 | 50.5533 | 7.1396 |
| Av. CPU time | 736.1953 | 45.7406 | - | 823.9044 | 46.9141 | - | 955.171 | 54.4117 | $\checkmark$ | 840.7188 | 59.4695 | - | 899.7156 | 62.1219 | - | 1019.4791 | 68.4539 | - |
| Av. Gap | - | , | 6.308 | - | - | 6.1913 | - | - | 6.1756 | - | $\checkmark$ | 6.2865 | - | - | 6.1772 | - | - | 6.1625 |

The last two rows of the table give the average CPU time taken to solve the SOCP problems (against the columns with optimal values) and the average gap between the lower and upper bounds (against the columns with Gap(\%)).

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