Correlation Structure of Infectious Default Model

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We discuss the correlation structure of an infectious default and recovery model for N obligors. Obligors are assumed to be exchangeable and their states are described by N Bernoulli random variables S_i . They are expressed by multiplying independent Bernoulli variables $X_i, Y_i j, Y'_i j$, and default and recovery infections are described by Y_{ij} and $Y'_i j$. From the default probability function P(k) for k defaults, we study the correlation structures, the conditional default probabilities and conditional correlation coefficients. By comparing them with those of an implied default distribution function inferred from the quotes of iTraxx-CJ, we show that to explain the behavior of the implied distribution, the recovery effect is necessary.