

Probability and Statistics

Tutorial 2

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Outline

- 1 Review
- 2 Homework
- 3 Supplement Exercises
- 4 Further Reading

1. Definition of Probability Measure P in (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P)

- $P(A) \geq 0$, for any $A \in \mathcal{F}$.
- $P(\Omega) = 1$.
- $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$, where $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, for any $i \neq j$. (Countable Additivity)

2. Properties of Probability Measure P

- $P(A) \in [0, 1]$, for any $A \in \mathcal{F}$.
- $P(\bar{A}) = 1 - P(A)$, for any $A \in \mathcal{F}$. ($P(\emptyset) = 0$)
- $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^N A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(A_i)$, where $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, for any $i \neq j$. (Finite Additivity)
- If $A \subset B$, then $P(A) \leq P(B)$.
- $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$.

2. Properties of Probability Measure P

- $P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i A_j) + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} P(A_1 A_2 \dots A_n)$. (Proof Method: (1) Induction (2) Indicator Function and Expectation.)
- $P(A - B) = P(A) - P(AB)$.
- $P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$.

3. Counting Methods

- $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_N\}$ and $P(\omega_i) = 1/N$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$. Then, we have $P(A) = \frac{\text{number of outcomes that A contains}}{\text{number of all outcomes}}$, for $A \subset \Omega$.
- Addition Principle. $N = m_1 + \dots + m_s$.
- Multiplication Principle. $N = m_1 \cdot m_2 \cdot \dots \cdot m_p$.

P20, 4

4. 证明:

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)$$

Homework

Solution

Method 1. By the Supplement Exercises last time, let $B_1 = A_1$ and

$$B_k = A_k - \bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} A_i \text{ for } k = 2, \dots, n.$$

Then, we have $\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$, where $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$, for $i \neq j$.

Also, $P(B_k) \leq P(A_k)$, for $k = 2, \dots, n$.

$$\text{Hence, } P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(B_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i).$$

Method 2. Since $P(A \cup B) \leq P(A) + P(B)$, then we have

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) \leq P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} A_i\right) + P(A_n) \leq \dots \leq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i).$$

P20, 7

7. 证明邦费罗尼 (Bonferroni) 不等式:

$$P(A \cap B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1$$

Solution

Since $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$ and $0 \leq P(A \cup B) \leq 1$, then $P(A) + P(B) \geq P(A \cap B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1$.

P21, 28

出牌的概率是多少？

28. 扑克游戏中, 5 个玩家从 52 张纸牌中每人分得 5 张. 共有多少种分法?

Homework

Solution

$$\binom{52}{5,5,5,5,5,27}. \text{ (or } C_{52}^5 C_{47}^5 C_{42}^5 C_{37}^5 C_{32}^5, \text{ or } \binom{52}{5} \binom{47}{5} \binom{42}{5} \binom{37}{5} \binom{27}{5}, \text{ or } \frac{52!}{5!5!5!5!27!} \text{)}$$

P21, 29

29. 扑克玩家分到 3 个黑桃和 2 个红心. 他甩掉其中 2 个红心后再抽 2 张扑克. 他再抽到 2 个黑桃的概率是多少?

Homework

Solution

$$\frac{\binom{10}{2}}{\binom{47}{2}} = \frac{10 \cdot 9}{47 \cdot 46}.$$

Exercise 1

1. 设 A, B, C 是三个随机事件, 且 $P(A) = P(B) = P(C) = \frac{1}{4}$, $P(AB) = P(BC) = 0$, $P(AC) = \frac{1}{8}$, 求 A, B, C 至少有一个发生的概率. \leftarrow

Supplement Exercises

Solution

Since $ABC \subset AB$ and $P(AB) = 0$, then $P(ABC) = 0$.

Hence, $P(A \cup B \cup C) =$

$$P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(AB) - P(BC) - P(AC) + P(ABC) = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{5}{8}.$$

Exercise 2

2. 已知 A, B 两个事件满足条件 $P(AB) = P(\overline{A}\overline{B})$, 且 $P(A) = p$. 求 $P(B)$. ↵

Solution

We have $P(\overline{A}B) = P(\overline{A}) - P(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}) = (1 - p) - P(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})$.

Then, $P(B) = P(\overline{A}B) + P(AB) = (1 - p) - P(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}) + P(AB) = 1 - p$.

Exercise 3

1. 从 n 双尺码不同的鞋子中任取 $2r$ ($2r < n$) 只, 求下列事件的概率:↵
 - 1) 所取 $2r$ 只鞋子中没有两只成对;↵
 - 2) 所取 $2r$ 只鞋子中只有两只成对;↵
 - 3) 所取 $2r$ 只鞋子恰好配成 r 对.↵

Supplement Exercises

Solution

$$(1) \frac{C_n^{2r} 2^{2r}}{C_{2n}^{2r}}.$$

$$(2) \frac{C_n^{2r-1} C_{2n-1}^1 2^{2r-2}}{C_{2n}^{2r}} \text{ or } \frac{C_n^1 C_{n-1}^{2r-2} 2^{2r-2}}{C_{2n}^{2r}}.$$

$$(3) \frac{C_n^r}{C_{2n}^{2r}}.$$

Exercise 4

2. (匹配问题) 将 4 把能打开 4 间不同房门的钥匙随机发给 4 个人,试求至少有一人能打开门的概率.↵

Supplement Exercises

Solution

*Method 1. Number of the outcomes that no one choose the right key=3*3=9. Then, $P = 1 - \frac{9}{24} = \frac{5}{8}$.*

Method 2. Let A_i be the event that i -th key is given to the right people.

Then, we have $P(A_i) = \frac{A_3^3}{A_4^4} = \frac{1}{4}$, $P(A_i A_j) = \frac{A_2^2}{A_4^4} = \frac{1}{12}$,

$P(A_i A_j A_k) = \frac{1}{A_4^4} = \frac{1}{24}$ and $P(A_i A_j A_k A_l) = \frac{1}{A_4^4} = \frac{1}{24}$.

Then, we have $P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3 \cup A_4) = \sum_i P(A_i) - \sum_{i < j} P(A_i A_j) + \sum_{i < j < k} P(A_i A_j A_k) - P(A_1 A_2 A_3 A_4) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{24} = \frac{5}{8}$.

Method 3. Consider the k keys case. Let M_k =number of the outcomes that no one choose the right key. We have $M_1 = 0$ and $M_2 = 1$. Also, $M_k = (k-1)M_{k-1} + (k-1)M_{k-2}$. Hence, $M_3 = 2$ and $M_4 = 9$. Hence, $P = 1 - \frac{9}{24} = \frac{5}{8}$.

Exercise 4'

How about n keys rather than 4 keys?

Supplement Exercises

Solution

Method 1. Let A_i be the event that i -th key is given to the right people.

Then, we have $P(A_i) = \frac{A_{n-1}^{n-1}}{A_n^n} = \frac{1}{n}$, $P(A_i A_j) = \frac{A_{n-2}^{n-2}}{A_n^n} = \frac{1}{n(n-1)}$, ...,

$P(A_{i_1} A_{i_2} \dots A_{i_k}) = \frac{1}{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}$, ... and $P(A_i A_j A_k A_l) = \frac{1}{n!}$.

Then, we have

$$P(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = \sum_i P(A_i) - \sum_{i < j} P(A_i A_j) + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} P(A_1 \dots A_n) = \frac{C_n^1}{n} - \frac{C_n^2}{n(n-1)} + \frac{C_n^3}{n(n-1)(n-2)} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{C_n^n}{n!} = 1 - \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} - \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{n!}.$$

Remark. When $n \rightarrow \infty$, then $P(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n) \rightarrow 1 - \frac{1}{e}$.

Supplement Exercises

Solution

Method 2. Consider the k keys case. Let M_k = number of the outcomes that no one choose the right key. We have $M_1 = 0$ and $M_2 = 1$. Also, $M_k = (k-1)M_{k-1} + (k-1)M_{k-2}$.

Let $F_k = \frac{M_k}{k!}$. Then, we have $F_k = \frac{k-1}{k}F_{k-1} + \frac{1}{k}F_{k-2}$.

Henceforth, $F_k - F_{k-1} = -\frac{1}{k}(F_{k-1} - F_{k-2})$.

Then, $F_k - F_{k-1} = (-1)^{k-2} \frac{1}{k(k-1)\dots 3} (F_2 - F_1) = (-1)^k \frac{1}{k!}$.

Then, $F_k = \frac{1}{2!} - \frac{1}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^k \frac{1}{k!}$.

Hence, $P(\text{no key matches}) = F_n = \frac{1}{2!} - \frac{1}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{1}{n!}$.

Therefore,

$P(\text{at least one key matches}) = 1 - F_n = 1 - \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} - \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{n!}$.

Exercise 5

6

对任意事件 A, B, C 证明:

- $P(AB) + P(AC) - P(BC) \leq P(A)$;
- $P(AB) + P(AC) + P(BC) \geq P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - 1$

Solution

Answer:

$$(1) \quad (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) = A \cap (B \cup C)$$

$$P((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)) = P((A \cap B)) + P((A \cap C)) - P(ABC)$$

$$P(A) \geq P(A \cap (B \cup C)), P(BC) \geq P(ABC)$$

$$P(A) + P(BC) \geq P(A \cap (B \cup C)) + P(ABC)$$

结合上面所有式子可得。

$$(2) \quad P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(AB) - P(BC) - P(AC) + P(ABC)$$

再结合所有概率在 $[0, 1]$ 之间可得。

Exercise 6

15. 设 A, B 是两事件, 且 $P(A) = 0.6, P(B) = 0.8$, 问:
- (1) 在什么条件下 $P(AB)$ 取到最大值, 最大值是多少?
 - (2) 在什么条件下 $P(AB)$ 取得最小值, 最小值是多少?

Solution

解 (1) 因为 $P(AB) \leq P(A) = 0.6$, $P(AB) \leq P(B) = 0.8$, 所以当 $P(AB) = P(A)$ 时, $P(AB)$ 的最大值是 0.6.

(2) 因为 $P(AB) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cup B) \geq P(A) + P(B) - 1 = 0.4$, 所以有 $P(AB) \geq 0.4$. 而当 $P(A \cup B) = 1$ 时, 有 $P(AB)$ 达到最小值 0.4.

Exercise 7

23. 证明: $|P(AB) - P(A)P(B)| \leq \frac{1}{4}.$

Supplement Exercises

Solution

证 不妨设 $P(A) \geq P(B)$, 则

$$P(AB) - P(A)P(B) \leq P(B) - P(B)P(B) = P(B)[1 - P(B)] \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

另一方面, 还有

$$\begin{aligned} P(A)P(B) - P(AB) &= P(A)[P(AB) + P(\bar{A}B)] - P(AB) \\ &= P(A)P(\bar{A}B) + P(AB)[P(A) - 1] \\ &\leq P(A)P(\bar{A}B) \leq P(A)P(\bar{A}) = P(A)[1 - P(A)] \leq \frac{1}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

综合上述两方面, 可得

$$|P(AB) - P(A)P(B)| \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

Exercise 8

17. 把 n 个“0”与 n 个“1”随机地排列,求没有两个“1”连在一起的概率.

Solution

解 考虑 n 个“1”的放法: $2n$ 个位置上“1”占有 n 个位置, 所以共有 $\binom{2n}{n}$ 种放法, 这是分母. 而“没有两个 1 连在一起”, 相当于在 n 个“0”之间及两头 (共 $n+1$ 个位置) 去放“1”, 这共有 $\binom{n+1}{n}$ 种放法, 于是所求概率为

$$p_n = \frac{\binom{n+1}{n}}{\binom{2n}{n}} = \frac{n+1}{\binom{2n}{n}}.$$

具体可算得 $p_3 = 0.2$, $p_5 = 0.0238$, $p_7 = 0.00233$. 随着 n 的增加, 此种事件发生的概率愈来愈小, 最后趋于零.

Exercise 9

0

13. 把 10 本书任意地放在书架上,求其中指定的四本书放在一起的概率.

Solution

解 10本书任意地放在书架上所有可能的放法数为 $10!$,这是分母.若把指定的四本书看作一本“厚”书,则与其他的6本书一起随意放,有 $7!$ 种可能放法,这是第一步.第二步再考虑将这指定的四本书作全排列,共有 $4!$ 种可能放法.故总共有 $7! \times 4!$ 种可能放法,这是分子.于是所求概率为

$$\frac{7! \cdot 4!}{10!} = \frac{1}{30}.$$

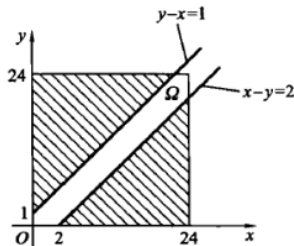
Exercise 10

24. 甲乙两艘轮船驶向一个不能同时停泊两艘轮船的码头,它们在一昼夜内到达的时间是等可能的. 如果甲船的停泊时间是一小时,乙船的停泊时间是两小时,求它们中任何一艘都不需要等候码头空出的概率是多少?

Supplement Exercises

Solution

$$P(A) = \frac{S_A}{S_n} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(23^2 + 22^2)}{24^2} = 0.879.$$



Exercise 11

3''

22. 将 n 个完全相同的球(这时也称球是不可辨的)随机地放入 N 个盒子中,试求:

- (1) 某个指定的盒子中恰好有 k 个球的概率;
- (2) 恰好有 m 个空盒的概率;
- (3) 某指定的 m 个盒子中恰好有 j 个球的概率.

Solution

解 先求样本点总数. 我们用 $N+1$ 根火柴棒排成一行, 火柴棒之间的 N 个间隔恰好形成 N 个盒子, 并依次称它们为第 1 个盒子, 第 2 个盒子, \dots , 第 N 个盒子, n 个球用“0”表示, 考虑到两端必须是火柴棒方能形成 N 个盒子, 所以 n 个 (不可辨) 球放入 N 个 (可辨) 盒子中, 就相当于把 $N-1$ 根火柴棒 ($N+1$ 根火柴棒中去掉两端的两根) 和 n 个“0”随机地排成一行. 譬如 $N=4, n=3$ 时, “10010111”表示第 1 个盒子中有 2 个球、第 2 个盒子中有 1 个球、第 3、4 个盒子中无球. 这样一来, n 个球放入 N 个盒子所有的样本点总数相当于: 从 $N-1+n$ 个位置任选 n 个位置放“0”、其他位置放火柴棒. 故样本点总数为 $\binom{N+n-1}{n}$.

(1) 记 A 为事件“指定的某个盒子中恰有 k 个球”, 不失一般性, 可认为第 1 个盒子中有 k 个球, 则余下 $n-k$ 个球放入另外 $N-1$ 个盒子中. 类似于样本点总数的计算, 此种样本点共有 $\binom{N-1+n-k-1}{n-k}$, 考虑到球不可辨故

$$(N+n-k-1)$$

Solution

$$P(A) = \frac{\binom{N+n-k-2}{n-k}}{\binom{N+n-1}{n}}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq n.$$

(2) 记 B_m 为事件“恰有 m 个空盒”. 它的发生可分两步描述:

第一步, 从 N 个盒子任取 m 个盒子, 共有 $\binom{N}{m}$ 种取法.

第二步, 将 n 个球放入余下的 $N-m$ 个盒中, 且这 $N-m$ 个盒子中都要有球. 这当然要求 $n \geq N-m$ (或 $m \geq N-n$), 否则第二步发生的概率为零. 为了使第二步能发生, 我们设想先把 n 个球排成一行, 随机抽取球与球之间的 $n-1$ 个间隔中的 $N-m-1$ 个间隔放火柴棒即可, 这有 $\binom{n-1}{N-m-1}$ 种可能.

综合上述两步, 所求概率为

Solution

$$P(B_m) = \frac{\binom{N}{m} \binom{n-1}{N-m-1}}{\binom{N+n-1}{n}}, \quad N-n \leq m \leq N-1.$$

(3) 若事件 C 表示“指定的 m 个盒子中恰有 j 个球”，这意味着另外 $N-m$ 个盒子中放 $n-j$ 个球. 由类似于样本点总数的计算知： j 个球放入 m 个盒子中共有 $\binom{m+j-1}{m-1}$ 种放法，而另外 $n-j$ 个球放入余下的 $N-m$ 个盒子中有 $\binom{N-m+n-j-1}{n-j}$ 种放法. 于是所求概率为

$$P(C) = \frac{\binom{m+j-1}{m-1} \binom{N-m+n-j-1}{n-j}}{\binom{N+n-1}{n}}, \quad 1 \leq m \leq N, \quad 0 \leq j \leq n.$$

Exercise 12

9

从 n 个不同元素中每次取出一个，放回后再取出下一个，如此连续取 r 次所得的组合称为重复组合。

Solution

Answer:

$$\left| \begin{array}{c} o \\ o \end{array} \right| \left| \begin{array}{c} o \\ o \end{array} \right| \dots \left| \begin{array}{c} o \\ o \end{array} \right|$$

我们可以把 n 个元素看作是 n 个盒子，第一个盒子放第一个元素，第二个盒子放第二个元素，依次推理下去，盒子里不放球相当于没有抽到对应的元素。如果把 "o" 和 "|" 看作一个位置，相当于从总位置 $(n+r-1)$ 个选出 r 个位置给小 o，即 $\binom{n+r-1}{r}$

Exercise 13

31. (巴拿赫问题) 某数学家有两盒火柴, 每盒都有 n 根. 每次使用时, 他任取一盒并从中抽出一根. 问他发现一盒空而另一盒还有 r ($0 \leq r \leq n$) 根的概率是多少?

Solution

解 由对称性知,只要计算事件 $E = \text{“发现 } A \text{ 盒空而 } B \text{ 盒还有 } r \text{ 根”}$ 的概率即可,所求概率是此概率的 2 倍.

先计算样本空间中的样本点个数. 因为每次都是等可能地取 A 盒或 B 盒,共取了 $2n - r + 1$ 次,故样本空间中共有 2^{2n-r+1} 个样本点.

事件 E 发生可分两段考察,前 $2n - r$ 次中 A 盒恰好取到 n 次,且次序不论,最后一次(第 $2n - r + 1$ 次)必定取到 A 盒,这样才能发现 A 盒已空,此种样本点共有 $\binom{2n-r}{n}$ 个,因此 $P(E) = \binom{2n-r}{n} / 2^{2n-r+1}$. 所求概率为 $p = 2P(E) = \binom{2n-r}{n} / 2^{2n-r}$.

Exercise 14

$$= P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(AB) - P(AC) - P(BC) + P(ABC).$$

25. 甲掷硬币 $n + 1$ 次, 乙掷 n 次. 求甲掷出的正面数比乙掷出的正面数多的概率.

Solution

解 记

X_1 = 甲掷出的正面数, X_0 = 甲掷出的反面数 $= n + 1 - X_1$,

Y_1 = 乙掷出的正面数, Y_0 = 乙掷出的反面数 $= n - Y_1$.

又记

$$E = \{X_1 > Y_1\}, \quad F = \{X_0 > Y_0\},$$

由于正反面的地位是对称的, 因此 $P(E) = P(F)$. 又因为

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \{X_0 > Y_0\} = \{n + 1 - X_1 > n - Y_1\} \\ &= \{X_1 - 1 < Y_1\} = \{X_1 \leq Y_1\} = \bar{E}, \end{aligned}$$

所以由 $P(E) = P(F) = P(\bar{E})$, 得 $P(E) = 0.5$.

Further Reading

1. Benferroni Inequality and Inclusion-Exclusion Identity

...and more and more precise with the following expansion:

For sets A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n , we create a new set of nested intersections as follows. Let

$$P_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)$$

$$P_2 = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j)$$

$$P_3 = \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$P_n = P(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n).$$

Then the inclusion-exclusion identity says that

Then the *inclusion-exclusion identity* says that

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_n) = P_1 - P_2 + P_3 - P_4 + \cdots \pm P_n.$$

Moreover, the P_i are ordered in that $P_i \geq P_j$ if $i \leq j$, and we have the sequence of upper and lower bounds

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &\geq P(\cup_{i=1}^n A_i) \geq P_1 - P_2 \\ P_1 - P_2 + P_3 &\geq P(\cup_{i=1}^n A_i) \geq P_1 - P_2 + P_3 - P_4 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

See Exercises 1.42 and 1.43 for details.

These bounds become increasingly tighter as the number of terms increases, and they provide a refinement of the original Bonferroni bounds. Applications of these bounds include approximating probabilities of runs (Karlin and Ost 1988) and multiple comparisons procedures (Naiman and Wynn 1992).

Further Reading

- b.** We illustrate the proof that the P_i are increasing by showing that $P_2 \geq P_3$. The other arguments are similar. Write

$$\begin{aligned} P_2 &= \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n P(A_i \cap A_j) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \left[\sum_{k=1}^n P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) + P(A_i \cap A_j \cap (\cup_k A_k)^c) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Now to get to P_3 we drop terms from this last expression. That is

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \left[\sum_{k=1}^n P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) + P(A_i \cap A_j \cap (\cup_k A_k)^c) \right] \\ &\geq \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \left[\sum_{k=1}^n P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) \right] \\ &\geq \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=j+1}^n P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} P(A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k) = P_3. \end{aligned}$$

The sequence of bounds is improving because the bounds $P_1, P_1 - P_2 + P_3, P_1 - P_2 + P_3 - P_4 + P_5, \dots$, are getting smaller since $P_i \geq P_j$ if $i \leq j$ and therefore the terms $-P_{2k} + P_{2k+1} \leq 0$. The lower bounds $P_1 - P_2, P_1 - P_2 + P_3 - P_4, P_1 - P_2 + P_3 - P_4 + P_5 - P_6, \dots$, are getting bigger since $P_i \geq P_j$ if $i \leq j$ and therefore the terms $P_{2k+1} - P_{2k} \geq 0$.

Thank you!