

Independence of coin tossing events

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In probability triple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P) = ([0, 1], \mathcal{B}[0, 1], \text{Leb})$. Let event

$$A_n = [0, \frac{1}{2^n}) \cup [\frac{2}{2^n}, \frac{3}{2^n}) \cup \dots \cup [\frac{2^n - 2}{2^n}, \frac{2^n - 1}{2^n}).$$

Then $(A_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_+)$ are independent.

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Proof. By definition, we should show that

$$\mathcal{A}_i := \{\emptyset, A_n, \Omega \setminus A_n, \Omega\}, i \in \mathbb{N}_+.$$

are independent σ -algebras.

Consider any $B_i \in \mathcal{A}_i$ and distinct i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n . For some $l \in [n]$,

- If $B_{i_l} = \emptyset$, then $\bigcap_{k=1}^n B_{i_k} = \emptyset$ and $P(B_i) = 0$ thus $\prod_{k=1}^n P(B_{i_k}) = 0$. The equation holds for any other B_{i_k} .
- If $B_{i_l} = \Omega$, then $\bigcap_{k \in [n]} B_{i_k} = \bigcap_{k \in [n] \setminus \{l\}} B_{i_k}$ and $P(B_{i_l}) = 1$. Thus

$$P(\bigcap_{k \in [n]} B_{i_k}) = \prod_{k \in [n]} P(B_{i_k}) \iff P(\bigcap_{k \in [n] \setminus \{l\}} B_{i_k}) = \prod_{k \in [n] \setminus \{l\}} P(B_{i_k}).$$

So we can assume that either $B_{i_k} = A_{i_k}$ or $B_{i_k} = \Omega \setminus A_{i_k}$.

Let $N = \max_{k \in [n]} i_k$ and $L_i = [\frac{i}{2^N}, \frac{i+1}{2^N})$. (L_i) are disjoint. Then

$$\begin{aligned} A_{i_k} &= \bigcup_{s=0}^{2^{i_k}-1} [\frac{2s}{2^{i_k}}, \frac{2s+1}{2^{i_k}}) \\ &= \bigcup_{s=0}^{2^{i_k}-1} \bigcup_{i=2^{N-i_k} \cdot 2s}^{2^{N-i_k}(2s+1)-1} L_i \\ &= \bigcup_{\{i \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^N-1\} : \lfloor \frac{i}{2^{i_k}} \rfloor \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\}} L_i. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $\Omega \setminus A_{i_k} = \bigcup_{\{i \in \{0,1,\dots,2^N-1\} : \lfloor \frac{i}{2^{i_k}} \rfloor \equiv 1 \pmod{2}\}} L_i$.

Thus

$$P\left(\bigcap_{k \in [n]} B_{i_k}\right) = P\left(\bigcup_{\{i \in \{0,1,\dots,2^N-1\} : \forall k \in [n], \lfloor \frac{i}{2^{i_k}} \rfloor \equiv a_k \pmod{2}\}} L_i\right) = 2^{-k}$$

, where $a_k = \begin{cases} 0, & B_{i_k} = A_{i_k} \\ 1, & B_{i_k} = \Omega \setminus A_{i_k} \end{cases}$.

We also have $\forall k, P(\Omega \setminus A_{i_k}) = P(A_{i_k}) = 2^{i_k-1} \cdot 2^{N-i_k} \cdot 2^{-N} = 2^{-1}$. Therefore

$$P\left(\bigcap_{k \in [n]} B_{i_k}\right) = \prod_{k \in [n]} P(B_{i_k}) = 2^{-k}.$$

This implies that (\mathcal{A}_i) are independent σ -algebras, and then (A_n) are independent events.

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