

E9.2 Symmetry Conditional Probability

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E9.2 Suppose $X, Y \in \mathcal{L}^1(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, and $E(X|Y) = Y, a.s., E(Y|X) = X, a.s..$ To proof $P(X = Y) = 1$

Solution As the hint said,

$$\begin{aligned} E((X - Y)I_{Y \leq c}) &= E((X - Y)I_{Y \leq c}I_{X \leq c}) + E((X - Y)I_{Y \leq c}I_{X > c}) \\ E((X - Y)I_{X \leq c}) &= E((X - Y)I_{Y \leq c}I_{X \leq c}) + E((X - Y)I_{X \leq c}I_{Y > c}) \end{aligned}$$

At the same time,

$$\begin{aligned} E((X - Y)I_{X \leq c}) &= E((X - E(X|Y))I_{X \leq c}) \\ &= E(XI_{X \leq c}) - E((X|Y)I_{X \leq c}) \\ &= E(XI_{X \leq c}) - E(XI_{X \leq c}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

So that

$$E((X - Y)I_{Y \leq c}I_{X > c}) = E((X - Y)I_{X \leq c}I_{Y > c})$$

Because the left side is non-negative and the right side is non-positive, both of them equal to 0. Then we can present the following events:

$$\begin{aligned} (X < Y) &= \bigcup_{c \in \mathbb{Q}} (X \leq c) \cap (Y > c) \\ (X > Y) &= \bigcup_{c \in \mathbb{Q}} (X > c) \cap (Y \leq c) \end{aligned}$$

They are all null events, which leads to the event $(X \neq Y)$ is a null event. Then we got $P(X = Y) = 1$.

Question Is the union of infinite null-set is also a null-set?

Another way to proof

$$E(X^2) = E(XE(Y|X)) = E(E(XY|X)) = E(XY)$$

$$E(Y^2) = E(YE(X|Y)) = E(E(XY|Y)) = E(XY)$$

So that

$$E((X - Y)^2) = E(X^2 + Y^2 - 2XY) = 0$$

Which means X and Y is different on a null-set.