

Suppose k events form a partition of the sample space Ω . That is, they are disjoint and

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i = \Omega.$$

Assume that $P(B) > 0$. Prove that if $P(A_1|B) < P(A_1)$ then $P(A_i|B) > P(A_i)$ for some $i \in \{2, \dots, k\}$.

Proof. Suppose to the contrary that $P(A_1|B) < P(A_1)$ and $P(A_i|B) \leq P(A_i)$ for each $i \in \{2, \dots, k\}$. This means,

$$P(A_1|B) = \frac{P(A_1 B)}{P(B)} < P(A_1)$$

and

$$P(A_i|B) = \frac{P(A_i B)}{P(B)} \leq P(A_i)$$

for each $i > 1$. Given $P(B) > 0$, then (for each i)

$$P(A_i B) \leq P(A_i)P(B)$$

Consequently, seeing that $P(A_1 B) < P(A_1)P(B)$, we must have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i B) &< \sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i)P(B) \\ \sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i B) &< P(B) \sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i). \end{aligned}$$

We know that each A_i is disjoint, so $A_n \cap A_m = \emptyset$ whenever $n \neq m$. Simultaneously, we know that $A_i B \subseteq A_i$ for each i . As such $A_n B \cap A_m B \subseteq A_n \cap A_m = \emptyset$ whenever $n \neq m$. That is to say, each $A_i B$ is disjoint. By the third axiom of probability[†],

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i B\right) < P(B) \cdot P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i\right).$$

Recall that the collection of each A_i forms a partition of Ω , so $\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i = \Omega$. Furthermore, by the distributive property of set intersection over set union, we have $\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i B = (\bigcup_{i=1}^k A_i)B = \Omega B = B$. Ultimately,

$$\begin{aligned} P(B) &< P(B) \cdot 1 \\ P(B) &< P(B), \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. It must then be the case that at $P(A_i|B) > P(A_i)$ for some $i \in \{2, \dots, k\}$.

[†] - We assume that σ -additivity implies finite additivity.