MAT2013: Probability and Statistics

Spring 2017

Problem Set 1

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1. Prove that if $P(\cdot)$ is a legitimate probability function and B is a set with P(B) > 0, then $P(\cdot|B)$ also satisfies Kolmogorov's Axioms. **Sketch:**

$$P(A|B) \underset{Def.}{\underbrace{=}} \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \underset{P(A) \geq P(A \cap B)}{\underbrace{\geq}} \frac{P(A)}{P(B)} \underset{P(A) \geq 0, P(B) > 0}{\underbrace{\geq}} 0$$

$$P(\Omega|B) \underset{Def.}{\underbrace{=}} \frac{P(\Omega \cap B)}{P(B)} \underset{P(\Omega \cap B) = P(B)}{\underbrace{=}} \frac{P(B)}{P(B)} = 1$$

$$P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i | B) \underset{Def.}{\underbrace{=}} \frac{P((\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) \cap B)}{P(B)} \underset{Dist.law}{\underbrace{=}} \frac{P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (A_i \cap B))}{P(B)} \underset{Axiom(3)}{\underbrace{=}} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{P(A_i \cap B)}{P(B)} \underset{Def.}{\underbrace{=}} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i | B)$$

Proof

Let (Ω, \mathcal{A}, P) be a probability space, then the probability measure P satisfies following axioms:

- 1. $P: \mathcal{A} \to [0, \infty)$ (i.e. $\forall A \in \mathcal{A}, P(A) \ge 0$)
- 2. $P(\Omega) = 1$
- 3. If A_i is a sequence of disjoint sets that belongs to \mathcal{A} , then

$$P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$