

Homework problem #12 in §1.12 seems less straightforward. Here is a way to prove it.

To make clear what we seek to calculate, we need some definitions (they are similar to those used for proving Theorem 1.10.2).

$$\begin{aligned} B_1 &= A_1 A_2^c A_3^c \cdots A_n^c \\ B_{12} &= A_1 A_2 A_3^c \cdots A_n^c \\ &\dots = \dots \\ B_{123 \cdots n} &= A_1^c A_2^c \cdots A_n^c. \end{aligned}$$

Other B sets can be similarly defined. We also abuse the notations by adopting the convention: Let  $s \subseteq S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we denote  $B_s$  as the event with all the elements in  $s$  as its subscript. For example,  $s = \{1, 2, 3\}$  then  $B_s = B_{123}$ . Also  $B = A_1^c A_2^c \cdots A_n^c$ .

In the notations, #12 asks us to show that

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n B_i\right) = \sum_{l=1}^n P(\dots)$$

*Proof.* By Binomial Theorem,

$$\sum_{m=0}^k C_m^k (-1)^m = 0, \quad (3)$$

(noting that  $(1 - 1)^k = \sum_{m=0}^k C_m^k (-1)^m 1^{k-m}$ ) and

$$(1 + x)^k = \sum_{m=0}^k C_m^k x^m 1^{k-m}. \quad (4)$$

Differentiate both sides of (4) and then evaluate them at  $x = -1$ , we have

$$\sum_{m=1}^k m C_m^k (-1)^m = 0. \quad (5)$$

Thus by (3) and (5), the difference of the two sides is equal to the difference of the two sides.