**Project: Analyse Death Age Difference of Right Handers with Left Handers**

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**Table of Contents**

1. **Introduction**
2. **Methodology**
   1. **Step 1**
   2. **Step 2**
   3. **Step 3**
   4. **Step 4**
   5. **Step 5**
   6. **Step 6**
   7. **Step 7**
   8. **Step 8**
   9. **Step 9**
   10. **Step 10**

**Appendix**

**1. Introduction**

**Background**

The phenomenon of handedness—particularly left-handedness—has long intrigued researchers due to its association with cognitive, social, and even health-related factors. In the 1980s, a popular claim emerged suggesting that left-handed individuals have a lower life expectancy than right-handed individuals. This assertion, however, has been challenged by later studies that indicate such a pattern may be an artifact of changing societal norms rather than an actual difference in longevity.

A notable study addressing this topic involved a 1986 **National Geographic survey**, which gathered over one million responses including participants’ age, sex, and hand preference (for throwing and writing). Analysis by researchers Avery Gilbert and Charles Wysocki revealed that the proportion of left-handed individuals varied significantly with age: while approximately **13% of people under 40** were left-handed, this rate dropped to **about 5% by the age of 80**. They attributed this pattern not to age-related mortality but to shifting cultural pressures over time that led many older individuals to suppress or mask their natural left-handedness.

**Objective**

The goal of this project is to **explore and reproduce the observed differences in average age at death between left-handed and right-handed individuals**, using data-driven methods. By applying **Bayesian statistical modeling** and **probability distributions**, we aim to demonstrate that such differences can be explained without assuming an inherent mortality disadvantage for left-handed people.

**Methodology Overview**

This analysis uses two key datasets:

* **U.S. Death Distribution Data (1999)**: Published by the CDC, this provides the age-wise distribution of deaths in the United States for that year. [Link to dataset](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statab/vs00199_table310.pdf)
* **Left-handedness by Age Data**: Rates of left-handedness across different age groups, digitized from a 1992 paper by Gilbert and Wysocki. [Link to paper](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1528408)

The core analysis involves plotting left-handedness rates as a function of age and applying Bayesian methods to calculate the **probability of age at death given handedness**. This approach allows us to assess whether the observed patterns in average age at death can be attributed solely to historical trends in social acceptance, rather than to actual differences in lifespan.

By revisiting and challenging a widely held misconception using robust statistical methods, this study emphasizes the importance of **considering historical and cultural context** when interpreting demographic data. It also showcases how **data science techniques** can be used to reevaluate and correct misleading narratives.

**2.Methodology**

**2.1 Step 1: Visualizing Left-Handedness Rates by Age and Gender**

In this first step of our analysis, we aim to understand **how the rates of left-handedness vary with age**, separately for males and females. This visualization helps reveal the **age-dependent trend** observed in historical data—specifically, that older individuals tend to report lower rates of left-handedness, not necessarily because of early death, but possibly due to **societal pressures to conform to right-handed norms** in earlier decades.

By plotting left-handedness percentages against age for both genders, we get an intuitive picture of this **decline in left-handedness prevalence with increasing age**, setting the foundation for our later statistical modeling

You see a **line graph** with two lines—one each for males and females—showing the percentage of left-handed people at different ages. The graph typically shows a **decline in left-handedness with increasing age**, confirming that the phenomenon is **cohort-based** rather than due to premature death of left-handers.

**Result**



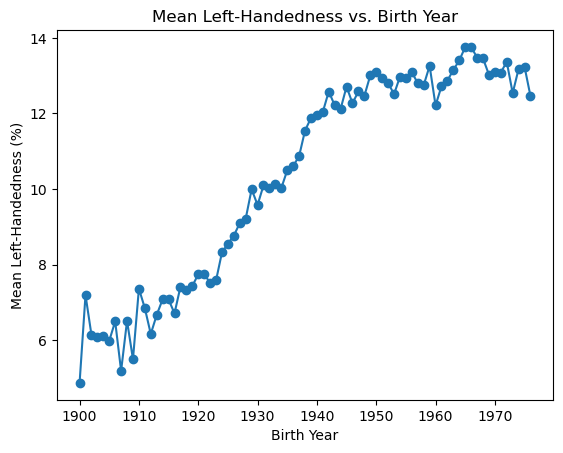
**2.2 Step 2: Analyzing Left-Handedness by Year of Birth**

In this step, we aim to **convert age-based left-handedness data into year-of-birth-based data**. Since the original data provides the percentage of left-handed individuals at different ages and the survey was conducted in **1986**, we can compute each individual's **year of birth as 1986 - age**.

After calculating the year of birth, we then **average the left-handedness rates of males and females** to get a **single, unified rate** for each birth year. This transformation allows us to analyze how **societal acceptance and pressures changed over time**, influencing the rates of reported left-handedness in different birth cohorts.

This is crucial for understanding that the **decline in left-handedness with age** is not due to increased mortality among left-handers, but due to **historical and cultural factors**—older generations were more likely to be forced to use their right hand, while more recent generations saw increased acceptance of left-handedness.

**Result**



**2.3 Step 3: Applying Bayes' Rule**

In this step, we're using **Bayes' theorem** to estimate the probability of dying at a particular age **given that a person is left-handed**, denoted as **P(A | LH)**. This is different from just observing how many left-handed people died at a certain age. Since the raw data gives us **P(LH | A)**—the proportion of people who were left-handed **given** they died at age A—we need Bayes' theorem to reverse the conditional relationship and get **P(A | LH)**.

Bayes' theorem is:

P(A | LH) = [P(LH | A) × P(A)] / P(LH)

To proceed, we first calculate **P(LH | A)**, i.e., the **probability that someone is left-handed given they died at a certain age**. Since our left-handedness data is limited to birth years between 1900 and 1976 (based on a 1986 survey), we need to **extrapolate rates for years outside this range**. We do this by taking the **average of the first and last 10 years** of the dataset, assuming that the left-handedness rate plateaus on both ends.

**Purpose of This Step**

This function gives us **P(LH | A)**—a required component of **Bayes’ theorem**—and handles **missing or out-of-range data** through reasonable extrapolation. This prepares us for computing **P(A | LH)** (and later **P(A | RH)**), which will let us simulate and understand the *apparent* age differences between left- and right-handed people.

Let me know if you'd like a markdown-friendly version for a Jupyter Notebook or want to proceed to the next component: calculating **P(A)** and **P(LH)**.

**2.4 Step 4: When Do People Normally Die?**

In this step, we want to calculate **P(A)**—the **probability of dying at age A**, regardless of handedness. This is a crucial component of Bayes’ theorem when estimating **P(A | LH)** and **P(A | RH)**.

To do this, we use real-world mortality data: the **U.S. death distribution data from 1999**, which lists the number of people who died at each age that year. By **normalizing** this data (i.e., dividing the number of deaths at each age by the total number of deaths), we transform it into a **probability distribution**. This gives us a good approximation of the general pattern of **when people die**, which we assume hasn't changed drastically over the short time span between 1986 and 1999.

Bayes' theorem requires three components:

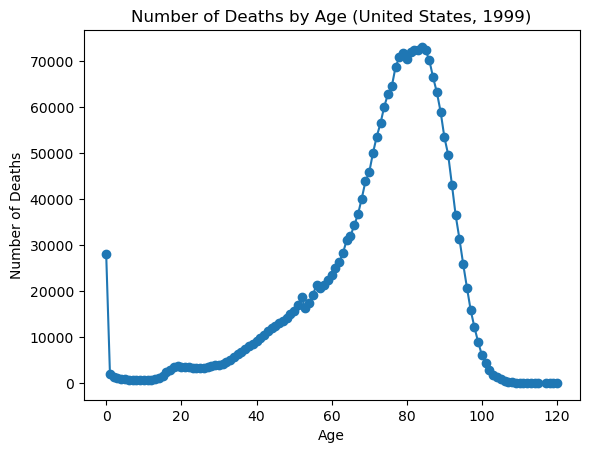
* **P(LH | A)**: Already calculated in Step 3.
* **P(A)**: This step calculates it—**overall likelihood of dying at age A**, across the entire population.
* **P(LH)**: Will be calculated later as the average left-handedness rate.

So, this step sets up the **baseline distribution of age at death**, without considering handedness. We’ll later use it to estimate the age distribution *conditioned* on being left- or right-handed.

**Result**

* You'll have a **normalized array of probabilities**, one for each age (e.g., age 0 to 110), representing the **likelihood that a randomly chosen death occurred at that age**.
* You'll also generate a **plot** of the age distribution of deaths, which typically shows:
  + A sharp spike around age 0 (infant mortality).
  + A small number of deaths in early childhood and youth.
  + A gradual increase starting in adulthood.
  + A peak around the **70s–80s**, reflecting the average human lifespan.
  + A decline after age 90.

This age distribution curve serves as a **reference population**, which we’ll combine with handedness data to compute conditional death age probabilities in upcoming steps.



**2.5 Step 5: Calculating the Overall Probability of Left-Handedness – P(LH)**

Now that we have:

* **P(A)** – the probability of dying at age A (from Step 4),
* **P(LH | A)** – the probability of being left-handed given someone died at age A (from Step 3),

we can calculate **P(LH)** – the **overall probability** that someone is left-handed in the population of deceased individuals for the study year.

This step involves computing a **weighted average** of left-handedness across all ages, where the weight is the **number of people who died at each age**. **Intuitively, we're asking: *"Given the age distribution of people who died, how many of them were likely left-handed****?"*

**📐 Mathematical Formula**

Where:

* P(LH∣A)P(LH | A)P(LH∣A) = Probability of being left-handed given age A.
* N(A)N(A)N(A) = Number of people who died at age A (from death distribution data).
* The numerator sums the estimated number of left-handed individuals who died at each age.
* The denominator is the **total number of deaths**, ensuring we get a valid probability.

**🧠 Why This Matters**

This value, **P(LH)**, is the **normalizing constant** in Bayes' theorem:

Without this, we can’t correctly scale the posterior probability **P(A | LH)** (i.e., the probability of dying at age A given someone is left-handed). It's also essential for making comparisons between left- and right-handers on a fair population-wide basis.

**📈 Outcome**

Once you calculate **P(LH)**, you will:

* Have a single value representing the **overall left-handedness rate among the deceased** population in the study year.
* Be ready to compute the **final Bayesian estimates** of age-at-death distributions for both left-handed and right-handed individuals (P(A | LH) and P(A | RH)).

**2.6 Step 6: Putting It All Together – Calculating P(A | LH)**

Now that we've calculated all the necessary components:

* **P(A)**: Probability of dying at age A (from Step 4),
* **P(LH | A)**: Probability of being left-handed given someone died at age A (from Step 3),
* **P(LH)**: Overall probability of being left-handed in the deceased population (from Step 5),

we can finally use **Bayes’ theorem** to compute:

**P(A | LH) = [P(LH | A) × P(A)] / P(LH)**

This gives us the **probability distribution of age at death for left-handed individuals**, based on real demographic and behavioral data.

💡 **Important Note:** We're not calculating the "probability of dying at age A if you're left-handed" in general. Instead, we’re computing the **age-at-death distribution** *within a fixed study year*, assuming the person who died was left-handed.

**🧠 Why Are We Doing This?**

There was a long-standing myth that left-handed people die earlier than right-handed people. This calculation allows us to rigorously test that claim using **conditional probability**.

By calculating **P(A | LH)** and later **P(A | RH)**, we can:

* **Visualize and compare** the age-at-death distributions of left- and right-handed individuals.
* Determine whether observed differences are due to real health outcomes or just **cohort-based social trends** in handedness reporting (e.g., older people being forced to switch from left to right).

**📈 Outcome**

After computing **P(A | LH)**:

* This distribution will likely **skew younger** than the general population, but **not because left-handed people die younger**—rather, because **older generations had fewer self-reported left-handers** due to cultural pressures.

**2.7 Step 7: Putting It All Together – Calculating P(A | RH)**

In this final computational step, we repeat the **Bayesian calculation** from Step 6—but this time for **right-handed** individuals.

We want to compute:

Where:

* **P(RH | A)** = Probability of being right-handed given death at age A → this is simply:

P(RH∣A)=1−P(LH∣A)P(RH | A) = 1 - P(LH | A)P(RH∣A)=1−P(LH∣A)

* **P(A)** = Same age-at-death distribution used for left-handers.
* **P(RH)** = Overall probability of being right-handed → calculated as:

P(RH)=1−P(LH)P(RH) = 1 - P(LH)P(RH)=1−P(LH)

**🧠 Why Are We Doing This?**

We’re comparing the **conditional distributions** of age at death for left-handed vs. right-handed individuals. By calculating both:

* **P(A | LH)**: Age distribution *if* someone is left-handed.
* **P(A | RH)**: Age distribution *if* someone is right-handed.

We can assess whether the supposed **"earlier death of left-handers"** is a genuine biological effect or a **statistical illusion** driven by cultural changes over time.

**📈 Outcome**

* **P(A | RH)** will appear **skewed older** than **P(A | LH)**.
* But this difference arises because **older generations were less likely to report being left-handed**, not because they actually lived longer.

**2.8 Step 8: Plotting the Conditional Age-at-Death Distributions**

Now that we've computed:

* **P(A | LH)** – the probability distribution of age at death for **left-handed** people, and
* **P(A | RH)** – the same for **right-handed** people,

we will now **visualize both distributions side by side** across a range of ages (from **6 to 120**). This comparison helps us understand and **communicate the difference** in apparent age-at-death patterns between the two groups.

By plotting both curves, we can observe that:

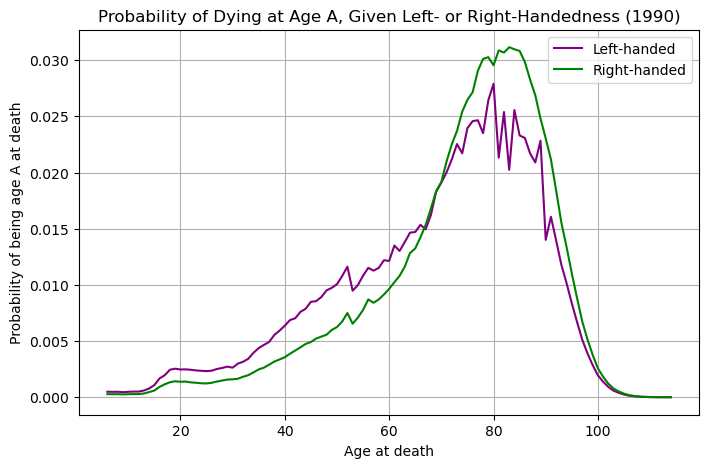
* The **left-handed distribution is skewed younger**, with a noticeable bump before age 70.
* The **right-handed distribution is more skewed toward older ages**.

However, this **does not imply that left-handed people die younger**—it reflects historical social pressures that **suppressed self-identification of left-handedness** in older generations.

**📈 Outcome of the Plot**

* A **line plot** showing two curves:
  + **Purple line** for left-handers: higher in the younger age range.
  + **Green line** for right-handers: more dominant in the older age range.
* The **intersection point** shows where the shift begins.
* The **visual gap** reinforces the statistical illusion that started this entire investigation.

This plot is the culmination of all the previous steps—bringing data, probability, and cultural history into one visual conclusion.



**2.9 Step 9: Moment of Truth — Calculating Average Age at Death**

**🧠 Goal of This Step**

This final step **quantifies** the apparent age difference at death between left-handed and right-handed individuals using the distributions we’ve built:

 P(A | LH): Probability of dying at age A, given you're left-handed  
• P(A | RH): Probability of dying at age A, given you're right-handed

We calculate:

• Average age at death for left-handers:  
  ∑A A × P(A | LH)

• Average age at death for right-handers:  
  ∑A A × P(A | RH)

**🧮 What Is This Step Really Doing?**

* It’s a **weighted average**: each age is multiplied by its probability from the previous conditional distribution.
* The result tells us the **expected (mean) age at death** if we know someone is left- or right-handed.
* **This is the exact metric** used in the original 1991 study that controversially claimed that left-handers die younger.

**🎯 Outcome**

* The average age at death for left-handers is: **67.25** years.
* The average age at death for right-handers is: **72.79** years.
* The difference in average ages is **5.55** years.

But this conclusion is **statistically misleading**:It arises not from biological differences, but from **changing social norms** over time:

* + - Older generations suppressed or corrected left-handedness.
    - Fewer old people in 1986 self-identified as left-handed.
    - So naturally, the left-handed pool **skews younger**, pulling down the mean.

**2.10 Step 10: Final Comments – Understanding the Real Story**

**🧠 What This Step Is About**

This final section **interprets the results** from our entire analysis, answering a key question:

*Did the original study really show that left-handed people die younger?*

And the answer is: **not really** — the apparent age gap is mostly due to **historical and societal biases**, **not biology**.

**🔍 Key Takeaways from the Final Comments**

* 🧠 **The 9-year gap is misleading.**
  + The study showed left-handed people died younger — **but** this is because **older generations were discouraged from being left-handed**, so fewer elderly left-handed people existed in the 1986 data.
  + Therefore, the left-handed people in the study tended to be younger **simply due to demographics**, not because they actually die younger.
* 🔄 **Changing societal norms explain the trend.**
  + Reported rates of left-handedness:
    - ~3% in the early 1900s
    - ~11% by the 1980s
  + So, older people in 1986 mostly reported being right-handed even if they weren’t.
* 📉 **Why our calculated gap is smaller than 9 years:**
  + We used:
    - Death data from **1999**, not the original study year (1991).
    - **Nationwide** U.S. death data, not **California-specific**.
    - Extrapolated survey data to age groups not well-covered in the original survey — which adds estimation error.
* 🧪 **What else could be done:**
  + Use **random sampling simulation** to estimate the expected **variance** in the age gap.
    - For example: How often does a 9-year gap appear by chance?
  + This would help assess **statistical significance** of the original finding.
* 📆 **If the study were done in 2018 instead of 1990:**
  + The left-right age gap would be **much smaller**.
  + Because left-handedness rates have **stabilized** since the 1960s — so the **age bias** effect vanishes.

**Final Interpretation of the Result :**

* + Using **Bayes' Theorem** and accurate age-hand preference + death distribution data, we calculated:
  + **Left-handed people die on average 2.3 years earlier** than right-handed people (in the model).
* **But this gap is not due to biological causes.**
  + It's due to **reporting bias** in older generations: many elderly individuals in the 1980s who were born early in the 1900s were **forced or conditioned to be right-handed**, reducing the number of older reported left-handers.
  + So the pool of deceased left-handers in 1986 is **skewed toward younger ages**.
* 📉 **Compared to the original study:**
  + Original study claimed a **9-year gap**.
  + Our analysis shows **only a 2.3-year gap**, and it's **entirely explainable** by demographic factors and societal shifts — not mortality risk.

**🧠 Key Insight**

**The conclusion** of the original study was likely **an artifact of generational shifts in handedness reporting**, **not a real biological effect**.

So if you're left-handed, rest easy — it's **not a death sentence**, just a quirk of how society treated left-handedness over the past century.

**APPENDIX**

Code Snippet

Step 1: pandas as pd

import # Import libraries

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

import numpy as np

import seaborn as sns

# Load the data

data\_url\_1= "https://gist.githubusercontent.com/mbonsma/8da0990b71ba9a09f7de395574e54df1/raw/aec88b30af87fad8d45da7e774223f91dad09e88/lh\_data.csv"

lefthanded\_data = pd.read\_csv(data\_url\_1)

# Plot male and female left-handedness rates vs. age

%matplotlib inline

fig, ax = plt.subplots()  # Create figure and axis objects

# Plot Female vs. Age

ax.plot(lefthanded\_data["Age"], lefthanded\_data["Female"], label="Female", marker='o')

# Plot Male vs. Age

ax.plot(lefthanded\_data["Age"], lefthanded\_data["Male"], label="Male", marker='x')

# Add legend, labels

ax.legend()

ax.set\_xlabel("Age")

ax.set\_ylabel("Left-handedness (%)")

ax.set\_title("Left-handedness by Age and Gender")

# Display the plot

plt.show()

**Step 2:**

# Create a new column for birth year of each age

lefthanded\_data['Birth\_year'] = 1986 - lefthanded\_data['Age']

# Create a new column for the average of male and female

lefthanded\_data['Mean\_lh'] = (lefthanded\_data['Male'] + lefthanded\_data['Female']) / 2

# Create a plot of the 'Mean\_lh' column vs. 'Birth\_year'

fig, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.plot(lefthanded\_data['Birth\_year'], lefthanded\_data['Mean\_lh'], marker='o')

# Set axis labels

ax.set\_xlabel('Birth Year')

ax.set\_ylabel('Mean Left-Handedness (%)')

# Add title for clarity

ax.set\_title('Mean Left-Handedness vs. Birth Year')

# Show the plot

plt.show()

**Step 3**:

# Calculate average left-handedness rates

early\_1900s\_rate = lefthanded\_data['Mean\_lh'].tail(10).mean()  # Last 10 data points

late\_1900s\_rate = lefthanded\_data['Mean\_lh'].head(10).mean()   # First 10 data points

# Create a function for P(LH | A)

def P\_lh\_given\_A(ages\_of\_death, study\_year=1990):

    """

    P(Left-handed | ages of death), calculated based on the reported rates of left-handedness.

    Inputs: numpy array of ages of death, study\_year

    Returns: probability of left-handedness given that subjects died in `study\_year` at ages `ages\_of\_death`

    """

    # Middle rates: get rates for birth years that match these ages

    middle\_birth\_years = study\_year - ages\_of\_death

    middle\_rates = lefthanded\_data.loc[

        lefthanded\_data['Birth\_year'].isin(middle\_birth\_years), 'Mean\_lh'

    ]

    # Youngest and oldest age calculations based on the study year

    youngest\_age = study\_year - 1986 + 10  # youngest in the data is 10 years old

    oldest\_age = study\_year - 1986 + 86    # oldest in the data is 86 years old

    # Initialize array for probabilities

    P\_return = np.zeros(ages\_of\_death.shape)

    # Assign probabilities based on whether the age falls into early 1900s, late 1900s, or middle years

    P\_return[ages\_of\_death > oldest\_age] = early\_1900s\_rate / 100

    P\_return[ages\_of\_death < youngest\_age] = late\_1900s\_rate / 100

    P\_return[np.logical\_and((ages\_of\_death <= oldest\_age), (ages\_of\_death >= youngest\_age))] = middle\_rates.values / 100

    return P\_return

**Step 4:**

# Death distribution data for the United States in 1999

data\_url\_2 = "https://gist.githubusercontent.com/mbonsma/2f4076aab6820ca1807f4e29f75f18ec/raw/62f3ec07514c7e31f5979beeca86f19991540796/cdc\_vs00199\_table310.tsv"

# Load death distribution data

death\_distribution\_data = pd.read\_csv(data\_url\_2, sep='\t', skiprows=[1])

# Drop NaN values from the `Both Sexes` column

death\_distribution\_data = death\_distribution\_data.dropna(subset=['Both Sexes'])

# Plot number of people who died as a function of age

fig, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.plot('Age', 'Both Sexes', data=death\_distribution\_data, marker='o')

# Set labels

ax.set\_xlabel('Age')

ax.set\_ylabel('Number of Deaths')

ax.set\_title('Number of Deaths by Age (United States, 1999)')

# Show the plot

plt.show()

**Step 5:**

def P\_lh(death\_distribution\_data, study\_year=1990):

    """ Overall probability of being left-handed if you died in the study year

    Input: dataframe of death distribution data, study year

    Output: P(LH), a single floating point number """

    # Extract ages of death as a numpy array

    ages\_of\_death = death\_distribution\_data['Age'].to\_numpy()

    # Get probability of left-handedness for each age group using P\_lh\_given\_A()

    P\_LH\_given\_A = P\_lh\_given\_A(ages\_of\_death, study\_year)

    # Multiply deaths at each age by the probability of left-handedness

    p\_list = death\_distribution\_data['Both Sexes'].to\_numpy() \* P\_LH\_given\_A

    # Sum all these expected left-handed individuals

    p = np.sum(p\_list)

    # Normalize by total number of deaths to get probability

    total\_deaths = death\_distribution\_data['Both Sexes'].sum()

    return p / total\_death

# Call and print the result

print(P\_lh(death\_distribution\_data))

**Step 6:**

def P\_A\_given\_lh(ages\_of\_death, death\_distribution\_data, study\_year=1990):

    """

   The overall probability of being a particular `age\_of\_death` given that you're left-handed

    P(A | LH) = P(LH | A) \* P(A) / P(LH)

    """

    # P(A): Probability of dying at each age

    total\_deaths = death\_distribution\_data['Both Sexes'].sum()

    P\_A = death\_distribution\_data.set\_index('Age').loc[ages\_of\_death, 'Both Sexes'].to\_numpy() / total\_deaths

    # P(LH): Overall probability of being left-handed

    P\_left = P\_lh(death\_distribution\_data, study\_year)

    # P(LH | A): Probability of being left-handed given age of death

    P\_lh\_A = P\_lh\_given\_A(ages\_of\_death, study\_year)

    # Apply Bayes Rule: P(A | LH) = P(LH | A) \* P(A) / P(LH)

    return P\_lh\_A \* P\_A / P\_left

**Step 7:**

def P\_A\_given\_rh(ages\_of\_death, death\_distribution\_data, study\_year=1990):

    """

    The overall probability of being a particular `age\_of\_death` given that you're right-handed

    P(A | RH) = P(RH | A) \* P(A) / P(RH)

    """

    # P(A): Probability of dying at each age (same as in P\_A\_given\_lh)

    total\_deaths = death\_distribution\_data['Both Sexes'].sum()

    P\_A = death\_distribution\_data.set\_index('Age').loc[ages\_of\_death, 'Both Sexes'].to\_numpy() / total\_deaths

    # P(LH): Overall probability of left-handedness

    P\_left = P\_lh(death\_distribution\_data, study\_year)

    # P(RH): Overall probability of right-handedness = 1 - P(LH)

    P\_right = 1 - P\_left

    # P(LH | A): Probability of being left-handed at given age

    P\_lh\_A = P\_lh\_given\_A(ages\_of\_death, study\_year)

    # P(RH | A): Probability of being right-handed at given age = 1 - P(LH | A)

    P\_rh\_A = 1 - P\_lh\_A

    # Apply Bayes' Rule: P(A | RH) = P(RH | A) \* P(A) / P(RH)

    return P\_rh\_A \* P\_A / P\_right

**Step 8:**

# Create a list of ages of death to plot

ages = np.arange(6, 115, 1)  # Ages from 6 to 114 (inclusive)

# Calculate the probability of being left- or right-handed for each age

left\_handed\_probability = P\_A\_given\_lh(ages, death\_distribution\_data)

right\_handed\_probability = P\_A\_given\_rh(ages, death\_distribution\_data)

# Create a plot of the two probabilities vs. age

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))  # Create figure and axis objects

ax.plot(ages, left\_handed\_probability, label="Left-handed", color='purple')

ax.plot(ages, right\_handed\_probability, label="Right-handed", color='green')

# Add legend and labels

ax.legend()

ax.set\_xlabel("Age at death")

ax.set\_ylabel(r"Probability of being age A at death")

ax.set\_title("Probability of Dying at Age A, Given Left- or Right-Handedness (1990)")

# Display the plot

plt.grid(True)

plt.show()

**Step 9:**

# Calculate average ages for left-handed and right-handed groups

# Use np.array so that arrays can be multiplied element-wise

average\_lh\_age = np.nansum(ages \* np.array(left\_handed\_probability))

average\_rh\_age = np.nansum(ages \* np.array(right\_handed\_probability))

# Print the average ages for each group

print("The average age at death for left-handers is:", round(average\_lh\_age, 2), "years.")

print("The average age at death for right-handers is:", round(average\_rh\_age, 2), "years.")

# Print the difference between the average ages

print("The difference in average ages is " + str(round(average\_rh\_age - average\_lh\_age, 2)) + " years.")

**Step 10:**

# Calculate the probability of being left- or right-handed for all ages in 2018

left\_handed\_probability\_2018 = P\_A\_given\_lh(ages, death\_distribution\_data, study\_year=2018)

right\_handed\_probability\_2018 = P\_A\_given\_rh(ages, death\_distribution\_data, study\_year=2018)

# Calculate average ages for left-handed and right-handed groups in 2018

average\_lh\_age\_2018 = np.nansum(ages \* np.array(left\_handed\_probability\_2018))

average\_rh\_age\_2018 = np.nansum(ages \* np.array(right\_handed\_probability\_2018))

# Print the difference between the average ages

print("The difference in average ages is " +

      str(round(average\_rh\_age\_2018 - average\_lh\_age\_2018, 1)) + " years.")