

1. A spam filter is designed by looking at commonly occurring phrases in spam. Suppose that 80% of email is spam. In 10% of the spam emails, the phrase "free money" is used, whereas this phrase is only used in 1% of non-spam emails. A new email has just arrived, which does mention "free money". What is the probability that it is spam?

Ans: Let $P(\text{Spam}) = 0.8$

$$P(\text{Non spam}) = 0.2$$

$$P(\text{FM} | \text{Spam}) = 0.1$$

$$P(\text{FM} | \text{Non Spam}) = 0.01$$

As per Bayes Theorem

$$P(\text{FM}) = P(\text{Spam}) * P(\text{FM} | \text{Spam}) + P(\text{NonSpam}) * P(\text{FM} | \text{NonSpam})$$

$$= (0.8 * 0.1) + (0.2 * 0.01) = 0.082$$

$$\text{to find } P(\text{Spam} | \text{FM}) = [P(\text{Spam}) * P(\text{FM} | \text{Spam})] / P(\text{FM})$$

$$P(\text{Spam} | \text{FM}) = [0.8 * 0.1] / 0.082 = 0.08 / 0.082 = 80/82 = 40/41$$