

# *Intro to Probability*

Instructor: Alexandre Bouchard  
Fall 2014

# Plan for today:

- Solution to exercises
- Conditioning, continued

# Logistics

- What's new/recent on the website:
  - Due today 5:00: Webwork.
  - Assignment #1 released.

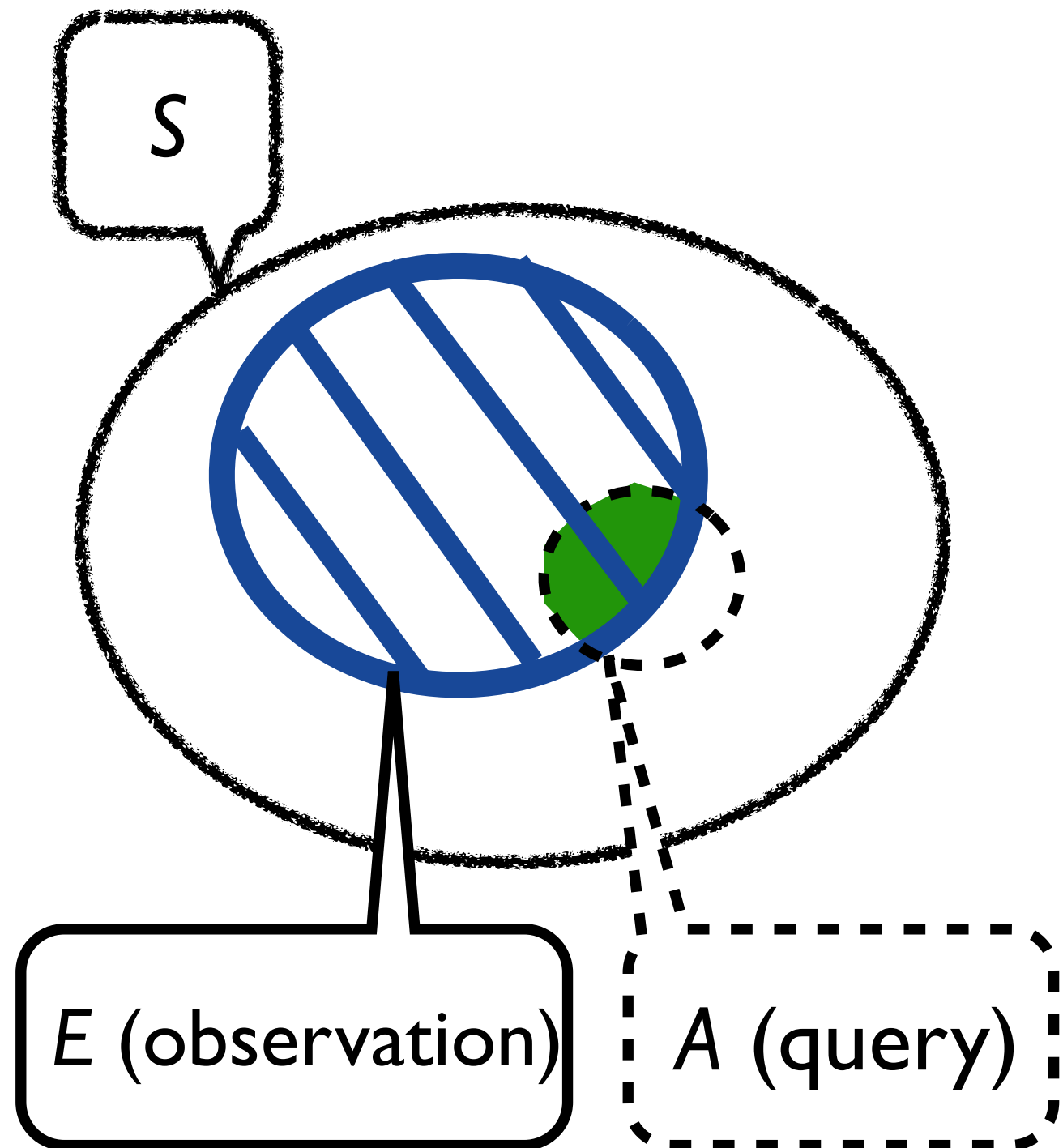
# Review

# Conditional probability: Review

## Conditioning

$$P(A|E) =$$

$$\frac{P(\mathbf{E} \cap \mathbf{A})}{P(\mathbf{E})}$$



# Properties

- Check these:
  - $0 \leq P(A \mid E) \leq 1$
  - $P(S \mid E) = 1$
  - If  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are disjoint:  
$$P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \mid E) = P(A_1 \mid E) + P(A_2 \mid E) + \dots$$
- In other words:  $P(\cdot \mid E)$  is a probability

# Solutions

## Ex. 20

**Example** (*Pb. 25*): The game of bridge is played by 4 players, each of who is dealt 13 cards. How many bridge deals are possible?

A.  $13^4$

B.  $13! * 4!$

C.  $13 * 4$

D.  $52! / (13! 13! 13! 13!)$

**Answer:** There are  $4 \times 13 = 52$  cards so  $52!$  possible permutations. However, like all card games, any permutation of the cards received by a given player are irrelevant (order does not matter). So there are

$$\frac{52!}{13!13!13!13!}$$

different possible deals.



# Birthday problem

- *What is the probability that at least 2 people have the same birthday in this class?*
- 80 people
- # birthdays = 365 (ignore leap years)
- Hint: compute the probability that everybody have different birthdays

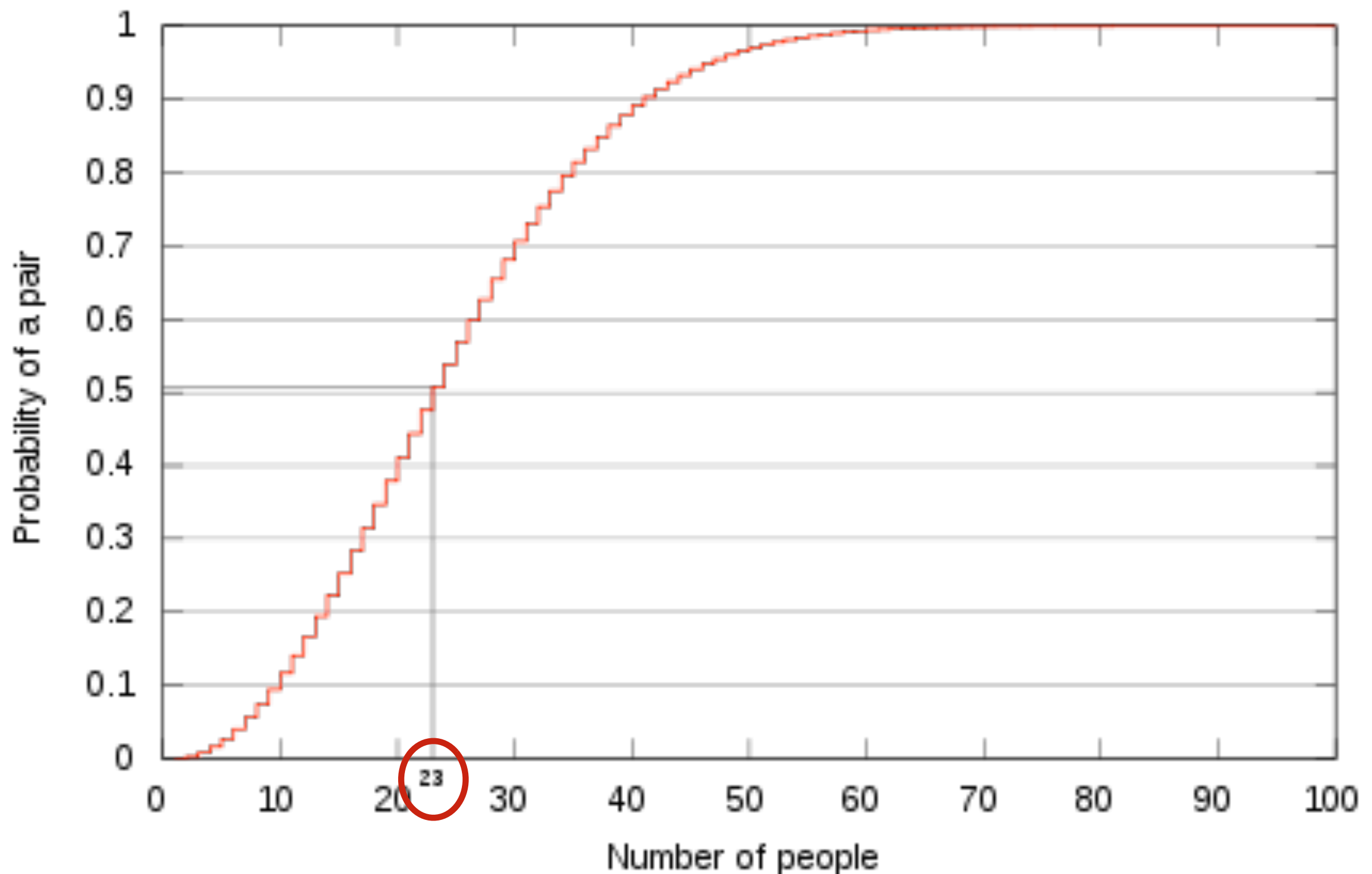
A.  $80! / 365!$

B.  $1 - 365! / 285! / 365^{80}$

C.  $80 / 365$

D.  $1 - 80! / 365!$

# Birthday paradox



# Webwork #2, question #2

- A soccer team plays in a division with 6 teams in total.
- Each team plays every other team twice, home and away.
- The result of each game is recorded as the name of the teams, and a home win, an away win, or a draw.
  - (a) *For a particular team, how many outcomes are in the sample space of results for that team?*
  - (b) *How many outcomes are in the sample space of results for the entire league program?*

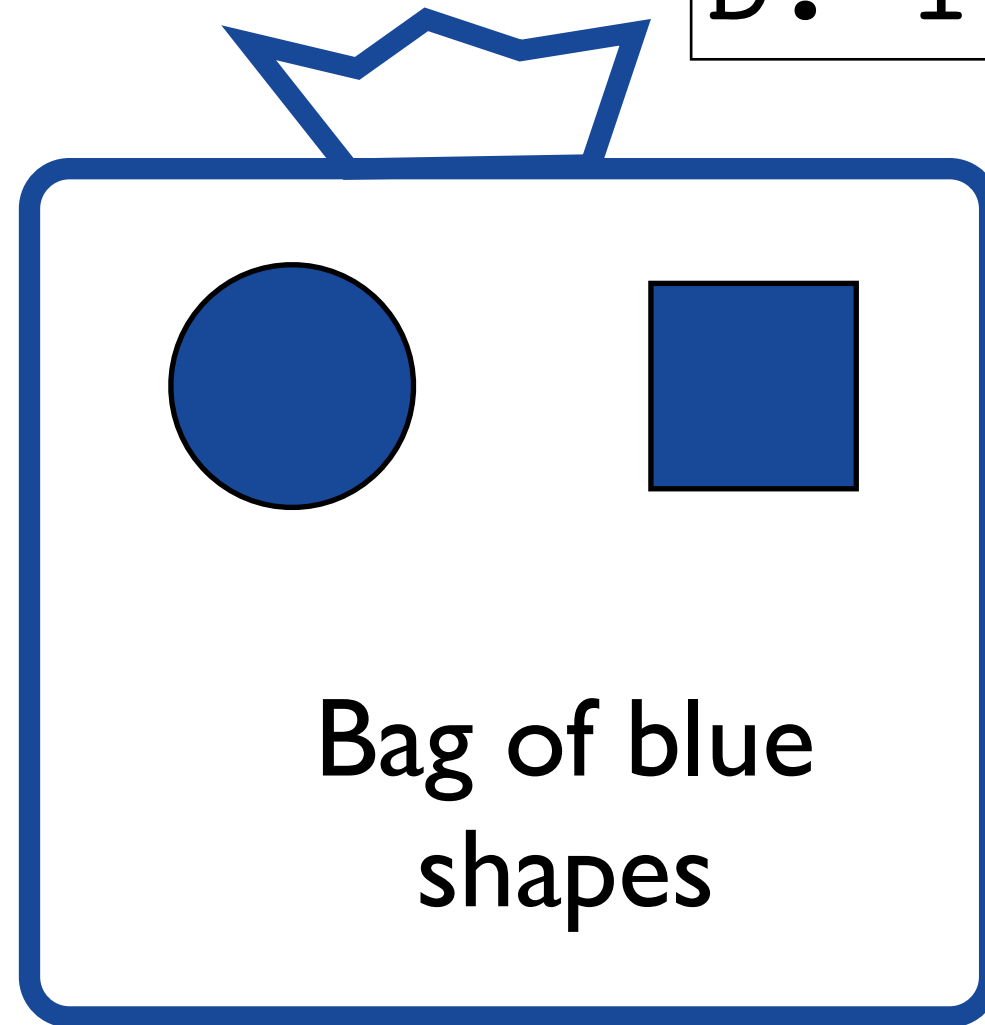
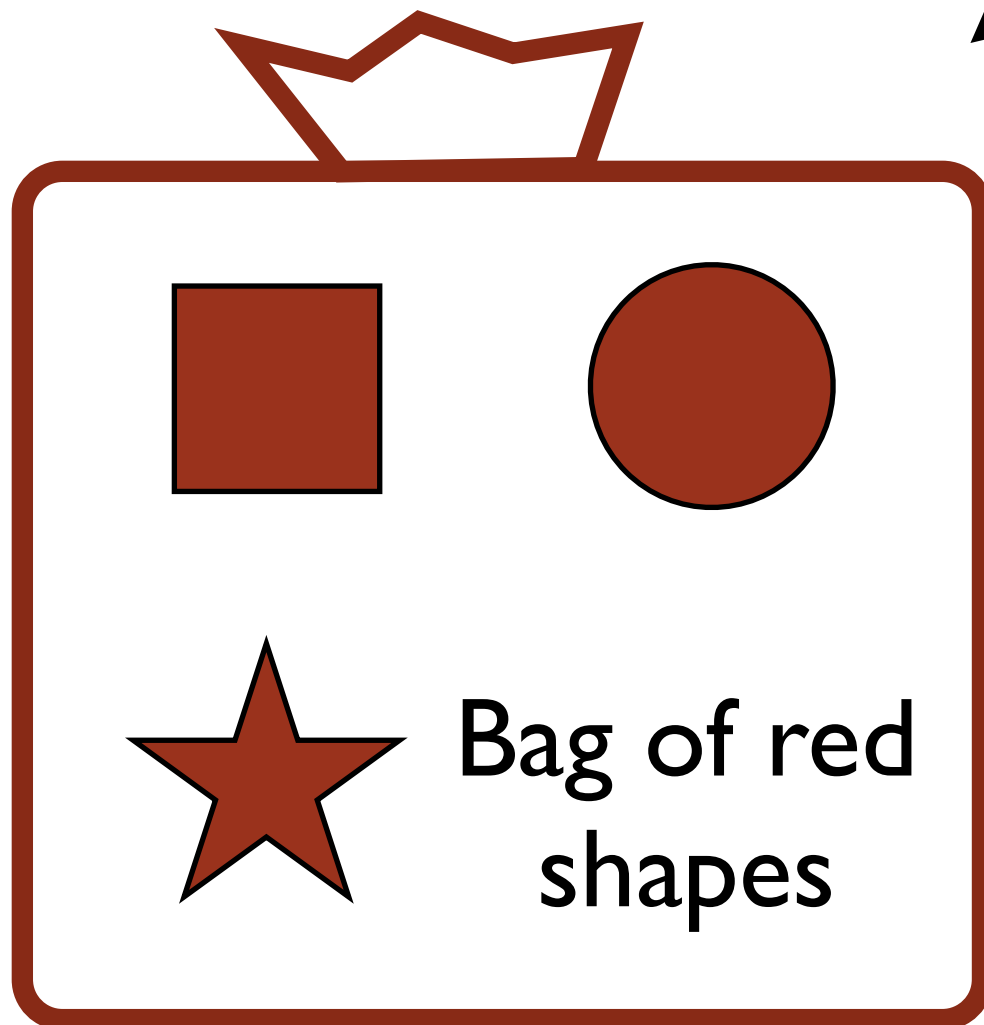
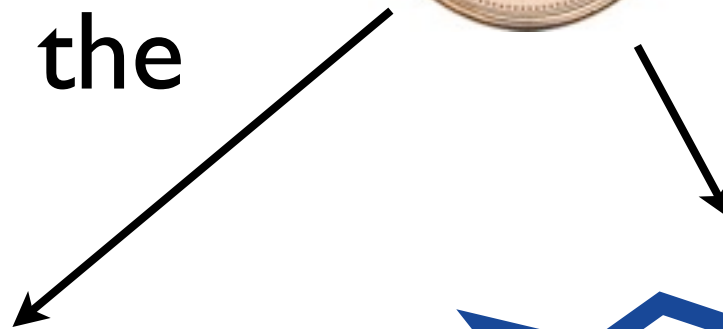
# Decision trees and conditional probabilities

Ex. 23

# Two bags

1) Flip a coin to pick one of the two bags

2) Pick one shape from the selected bag



**Question:**

*Probability to pick the star?*

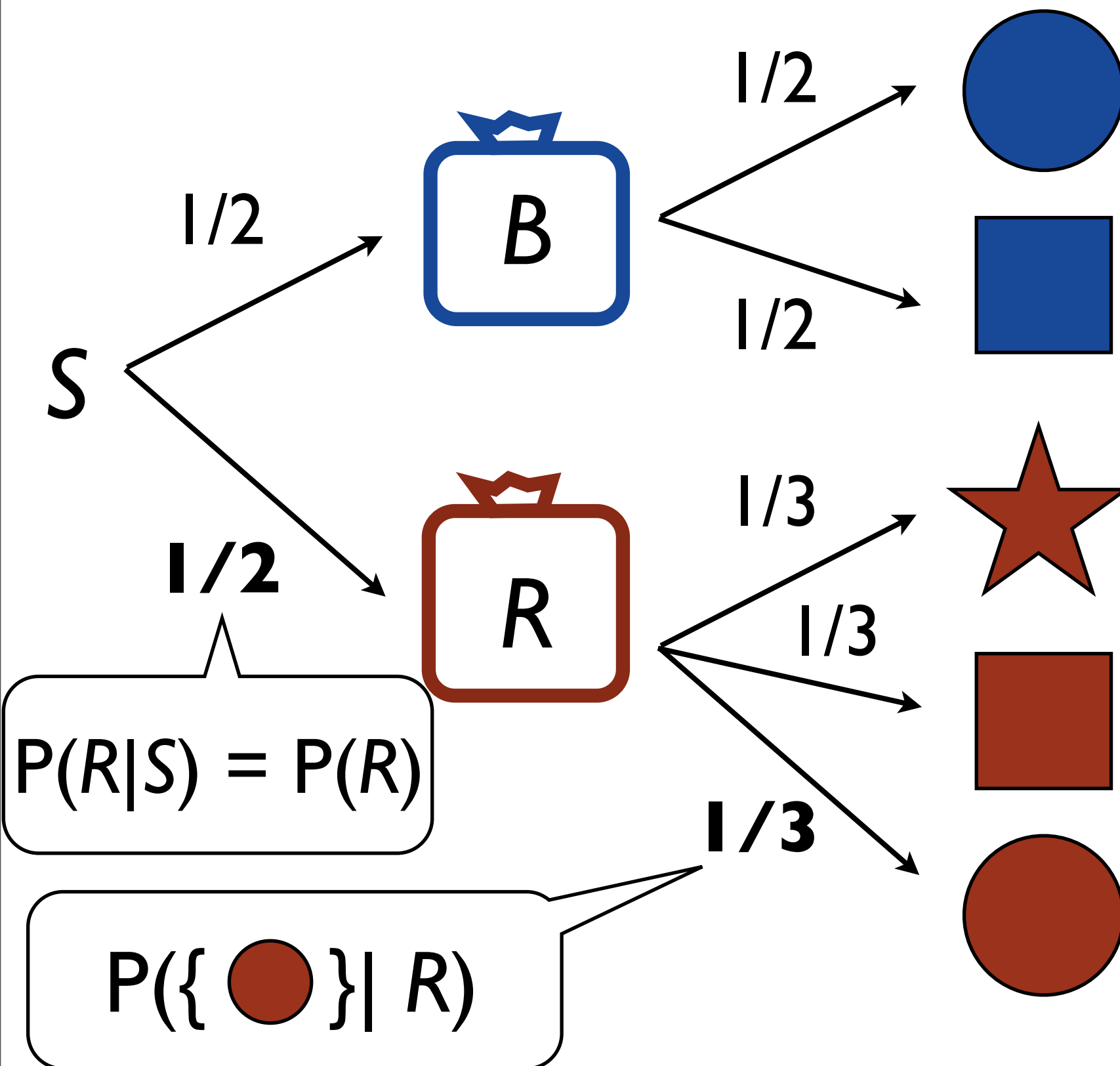
A.  $1/6$

B.  $1/5$

C.  $1/4$

D.  $1/2$

# Decision tree: **not** equally weighted outcomes



## **Question:**

*Probability to pick the star?*

A.  $1/6$

B.  $1/5$

C.  $1/4$

D.  $1/2$

# Chain rule

For any events  $A, B$ , with  $P(A) > 0$ :

$$P(A, B) = P(A) P(B | A)$$

**Useful trick:** it can be done in the other order

$$P(A, B) = P(B) P(A | B)$$

# Medical tests and the law of total probability



# HIV tests: background

- Ways of detecting HIV infections:
  - Direct: try to match conserved regions of HIV's genome,
  - Indirect: try to detect the immune system's reaction to the virus.
- Modern tests often use combinations of these methods and are highly accurate.
- Today: let's assume an hypothetical, less than perfect test..

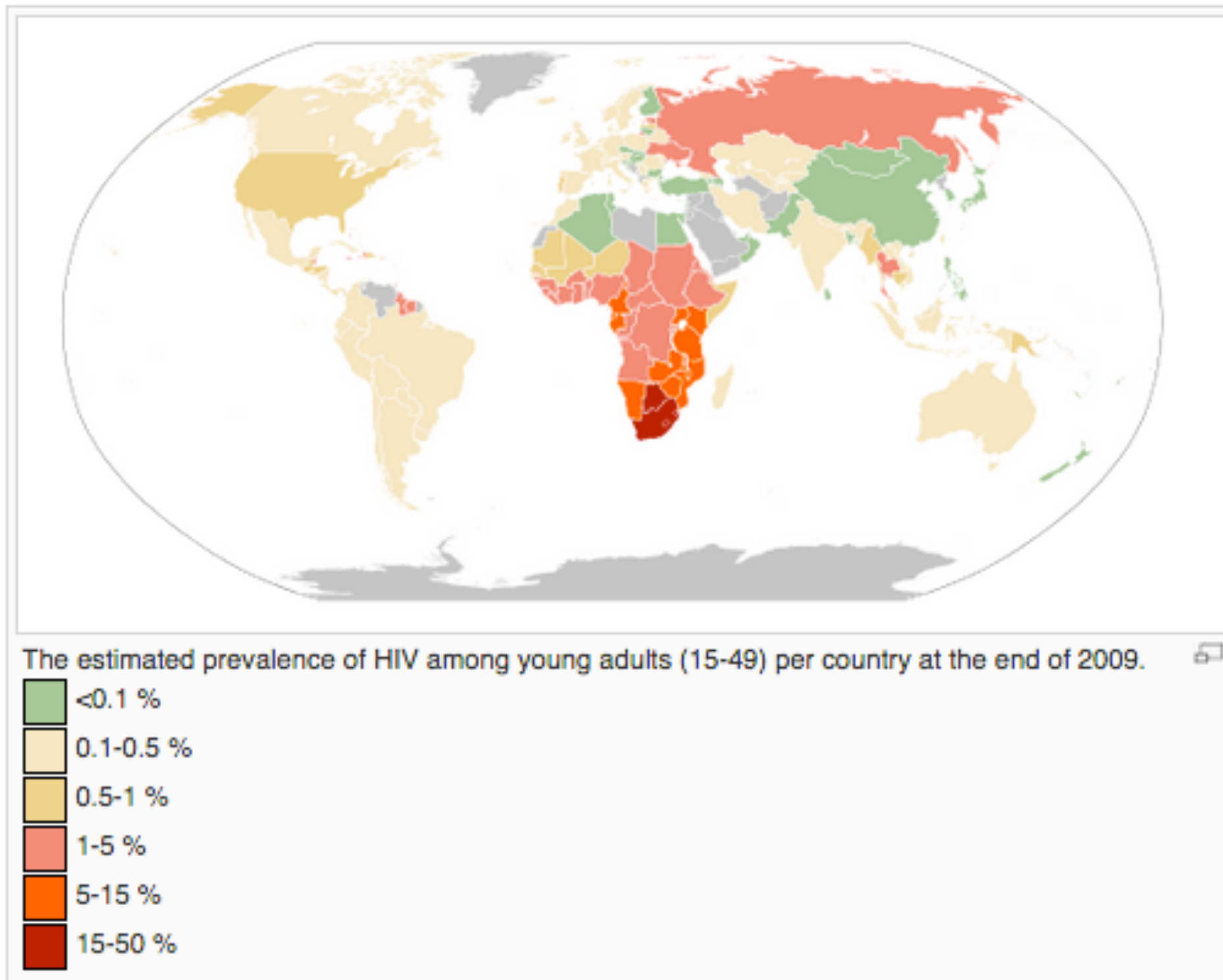
# HIV testing

- An HIV test has the following two modes of failure:
  - When a patient has the disease, the test will still be negative 2% of the time (*false negative*)
  - When a patient does **not** have the disease, the test will turn positive 1% of the time (*false positive*)

Ex. 24

# HIV prevalence

Source: Wikipedia, <http://tinyurl.com/n7kakso>



# HIV testing

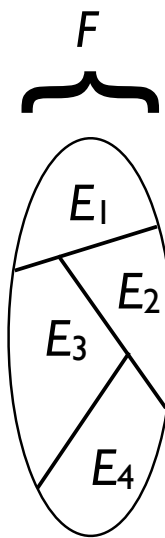
- An HIV test has the following two modes of failure:
  - When a patient has the disease, the test will still be negative 2% of the time (*false negative*)
  - When a patient does **not** have the disease, the test will turn positive 1% of the time (*false positive*)
- Question: *if 0.5% of the population has HIV, what % of the tests will turn positive?*
  - A. 2.0%
  - B. 2.198%
  - C. 1.485%
  - D. 0.02%

# Justification for: $P(T_+) = P(H \cap T_+) + P(H^c \cap T_+)$

## First: recall that...

Def. 4

### Partition of an event



The events  $E_i$  form a partition of the event  $F$  if:

1. The union of the  $E_i$ 's is equal to  $F$ :

$$\bigcup_i E_i = F$$

2. The  $E_i$ 's are disjoint:

$$\text{if } i \neq j, \text{ then } E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$$

Why is this useful?

**Note:** as consequence of 1, 2 and the axioms of probability,  $P(F) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) + P(E_3) + P(E_4)$

$$F = T_+$$

$$E_1 = H \cap T_+$$

$$E_2 = H^c \cap T_+$$

## Second: check that...

$$1. E_1 \cup E_2 = F$$

$$2. E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$$

# Law of total probability

If  $A$  is any event of interest (for example,  $A = T_+$  in the previous example), then we can decompose it as:

$$P(A) = P(H \cap A) + P(H^c \cap A)$$

This is true for any event  $H$ .

## Ex. 25

# HIV testing

- An HIV test has the following two modes of failure:
  - When a patient has the disease, the test will still be negative 2% of the time (*false negative*)
  - When a patient does **not** have the disease, the test will turn positive 1% of the time (*false positive*)
- Question: Questions:
  - (a) If 0.5% of the population has HIV, what % of the tests will turn positive?
  - (b) *Given that the test is positive, what is the updated (posterior) probability that the patient is indeed affected by HIV?*
    - A. ~33%
    - B. ~57%
    - C. ~94%
    - D. ~96%

# Bayes rules



- Notation:  
 **$H$ ,  $H^c$** : a partition of the space into hypotheses (example: has HIV vs. not).  
 **$E$** : an observation (example: test positive,  $E = T_+$ )
- We want:  $P(H|E)$ .
- We have:  $P(E|H)$ ,  $P(E|H^c)$ ,  $P(H)$

$$\begin{aligned} P(H|E) &= \frac{P(E, H)}{P(E)} = \frac{P(H) P(E|H)}{P(E, H) + P(E, H^c)} \\ &= \frac{P(H) P(E|H)}{P(H) P(E|H) + P(H^c) P(E|H^c)} \end{aligned}$$