

A man is known to speak truth 3 out of 4 times. He throws a die and reports that it is a six. Find the probability that it is actually a six.

Let A = the man reports it is a six

E_1 = six occurs


E_2 = six doesn't occur

$$P(E_1/A) = \frac{P(E_1)P(A/E_1)}{P(E_1)P(A/E_1) + P(E_2)P(A/E_2)}$$

Now,

$$P(E_1) = \text{Probability that six occurs} = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$P(E_2) = \text{Probability that six doesn't occur} = 1 - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$$



$P(A/E_1)$ = Probability that the man reports that it is six given that six occurs

$$= \text{Probability that the man speaks truth} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$P(A/E_2)$ = Probability that the man reports that it is six given that six doesn't occur

$$= \text{Probability that the man doesn't speak the truth} = 1 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_1/A) &= \frac{P(E_1) P(A/E_1)}{P(E_1) P(A/E_1) + P(E_2) P(A/E_2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{3}{4}}{\left(\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{3}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{5}{6} \times \frac{1}{4}\right)} = \frac{3}{8} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that 5% of men and 0.25% of women have a grey hair. A grey haired person is selected at random. What is the probability of this person being a male ? Assume that there are equal number of males and females.

Let A = a grey haired person is chosen

E_1 = a male is chosen


E_2 = a female is chosen

$$P(E_1/A) = \frac{P(E_1)P(A/E_1)}{P(E_1)P(A/E_1) + P(E_2)P(A/E_2)}$$

Now,

$$P(E_1) = \text{Probability that a male is chosen} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(E_2) = \text{Probability that a female is chosen} = \frac{1}{2}$$



$$P(A/E_1) = \text{Probability that a grey haired person is chosen when it known that the person is male} = \frac{5}{100} = 0.05$$

$$P(A/E_2) = \text{Probability that a grey haired person is chosen when it known that the person is female} = \frac{0.25}{100} = 0.0025$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_1/A) &= \frac{P(E_1)P(A/E_1)}{P(E_1)P(A/E_1) + P(E_2)P(A/E_2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \times 0.05}{\left(\frac{1}{2} \times 0.05\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} \times 0.0025\right)} = \frac{20}{21} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose a girl throws a die. If she gets a 5 or 6, she tosses a coin three times and notes the number of heads. If she gets 1, 2, 3 or 4, she tosses a coin once and notes whether a head or tail is obtained. If she obtained exactly one head, what is the probability that she threw 1, 2, 3 or 4 with the die ?



Let A = getting exactly one head

E_1 = getting 5 or 6 in a single throw of a die


E_2 = getting 1, 2, 3 or 4 in a single throw of a die

$$P(E_1) = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$P(E_2) = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$$

By Bayes' Theorem,

$$P(E_2/A) = \frac{P(E_2)P(A/E_2)}{P(E_1)P(A/E_1) + P(E_2)P(A/E_2)}$$



$P(A/E_1)$ = Probability of getting exactly one head given that a coin is tossed three times

$$= {}^3C_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{3-1} = \frac{3}{8}$$

$P(A/E_2)$ = Probability of getting exactly one head given that a coin is tossed once

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_2/A) &= \frac{P(E_2)P(A/E_2)}{P(E_1)P(A/E_1) + P(E_2)P(A/E_2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2}}{\left(\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2}\right)} = \frac{8}{11} \end{aligned}$$