

### Father of lies

**Question:** A father claims about snowfall last night. First daughter tells that the probability of snowfall on a particular night is  $1/8$ . Second daughter tells that **5 out of 6 times the father is lying!** What is the probability that there actually was a snowfall?

**Solution:** Let  $S$  = there was a snowfall and  $C$  = father claims about a snowfall.

Note that 5 out 6 times the father is lying **is a conditional probability:**  $P(C|S) = 1/6$  and  $P(C|\text{not } S) = 5/6$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(S|C) &= \frac{P(S, C)}{P(C)} \\ &= \frac{P(C|S) \times P(S)}{P(C|S) \times P(S) + P(C|\text{not } S) \times P(\text{not } S)} \\ &= \frac{1/6 \times 1/8}{1/6 \times 1/8 + 5/6 \times 7/8} \\ &= 1/36 \end{aligned}$$