

BAYES' THEOREM

Thomas Bayes (c. 1702 – [17 April 1761](#)) was a [British mathematician](#) and [Presbyterian](#) minister, known for having formulated a specific case of the theorem that bears his name: [Bayes' theorem](#), which was published posthumously.



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Of those who smoke, 1% develop lung cancer.
Of those who don't smoke,
1 in 2500 will get lung cancer.

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The Problem

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$$P(L \text{ given } S^c) = 1/2500 = 0.0004$$

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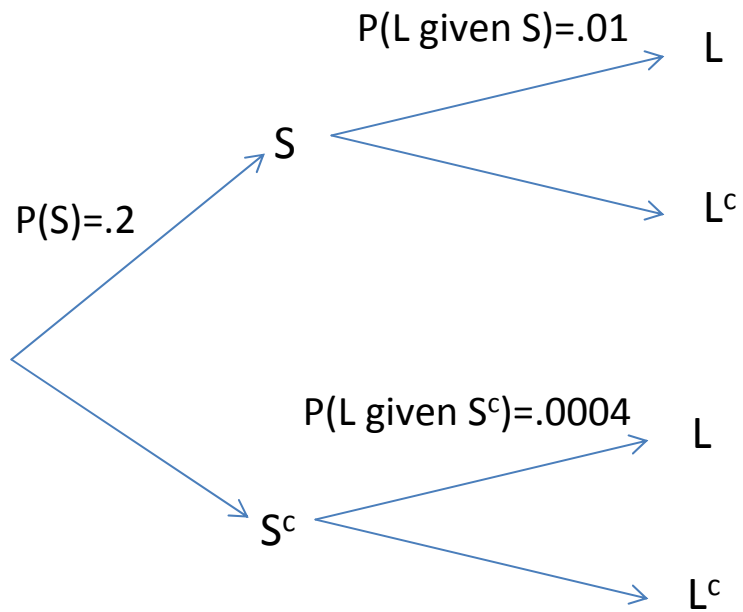
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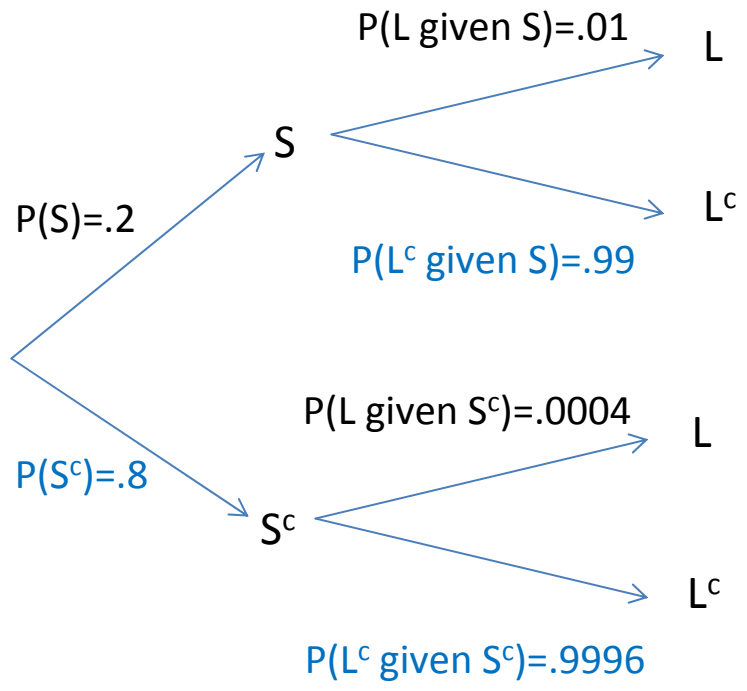
$$P(S) = 0.2$$

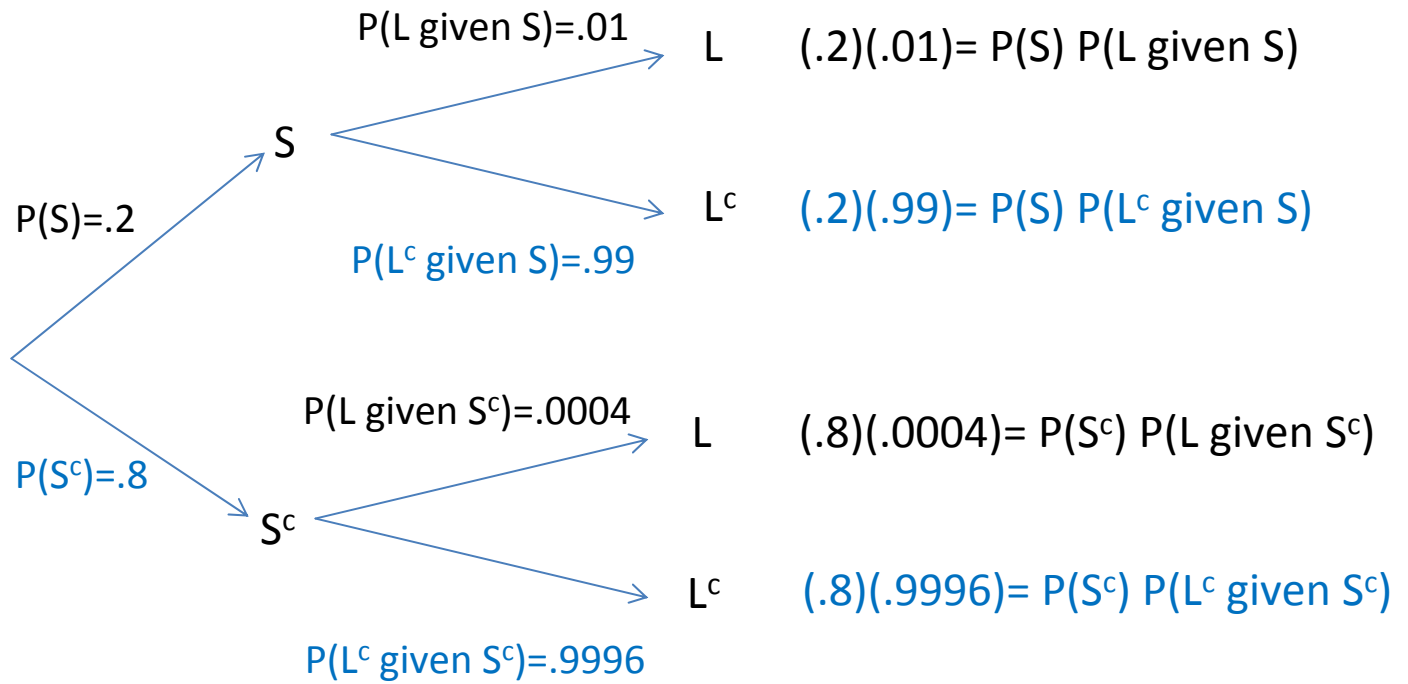
$$P(L \text{ given } S) = 0.01$$

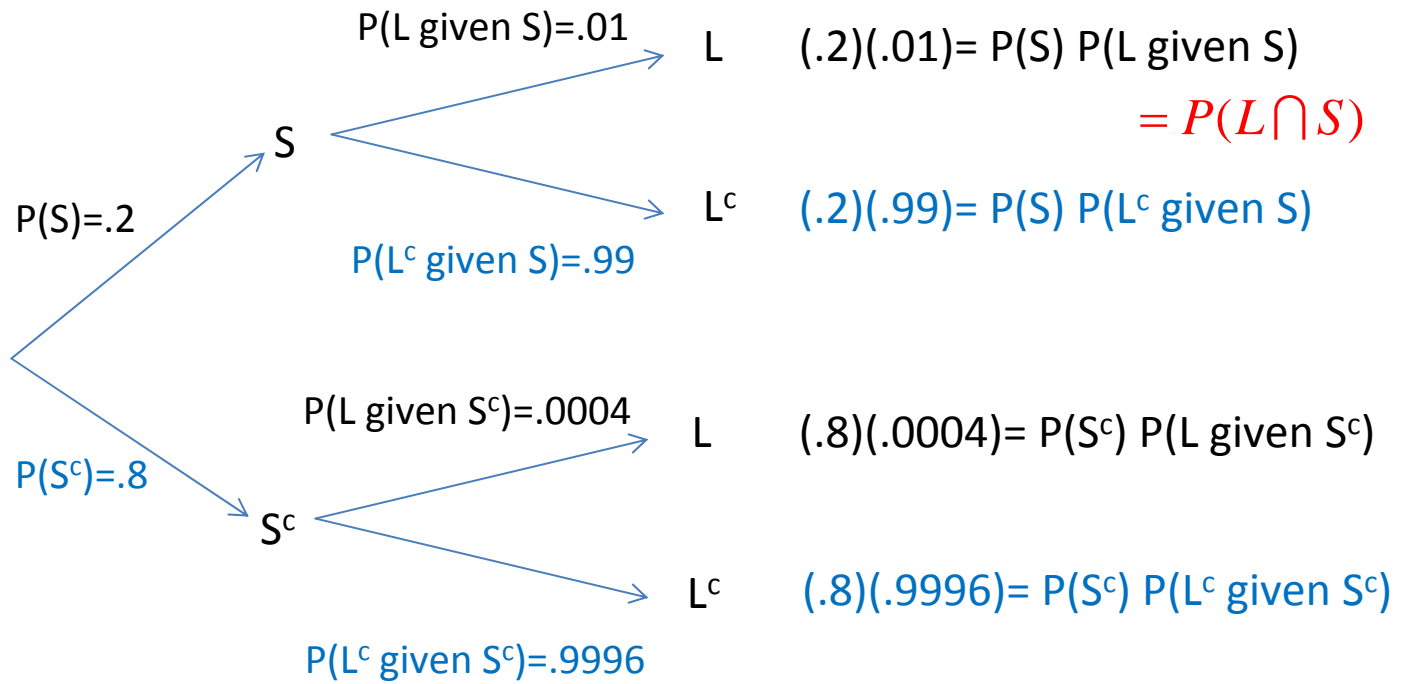
$$P(L \text{ given } S^c) = 1/2500 = 0.0004$$

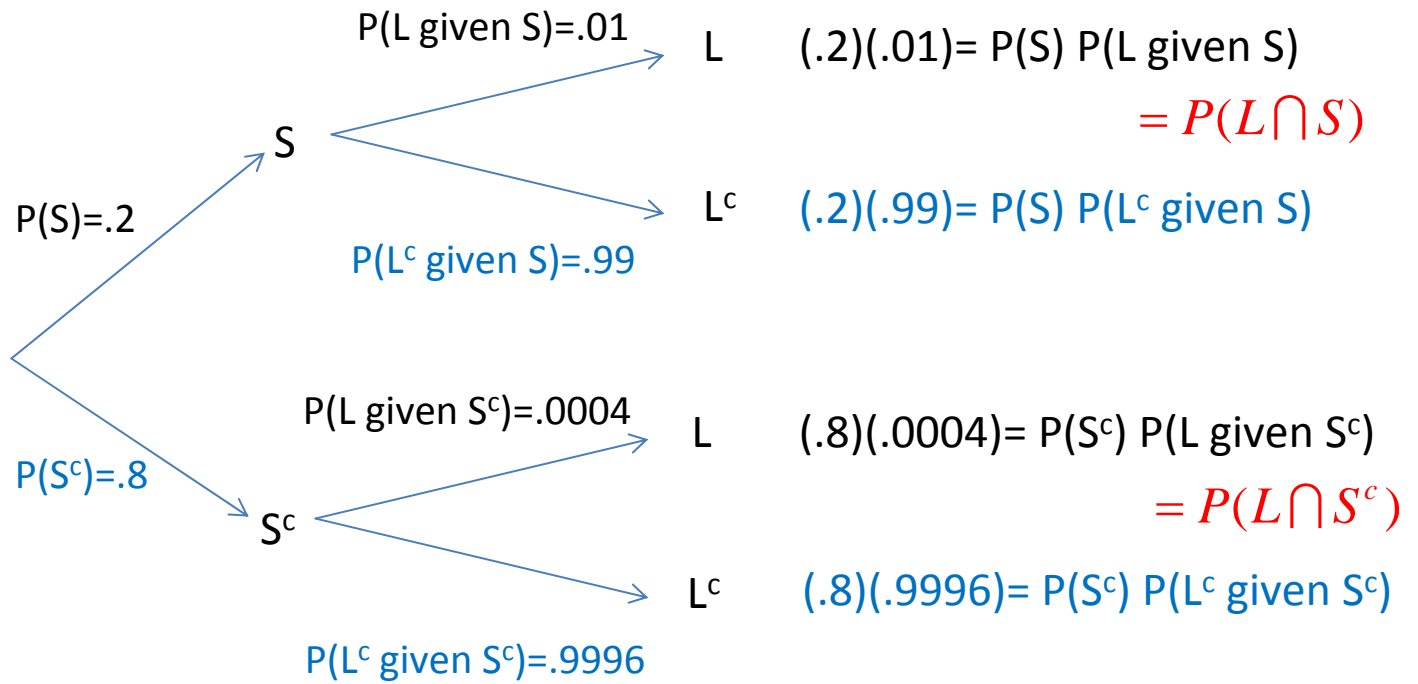
Find $P(S \text{ given } L)$

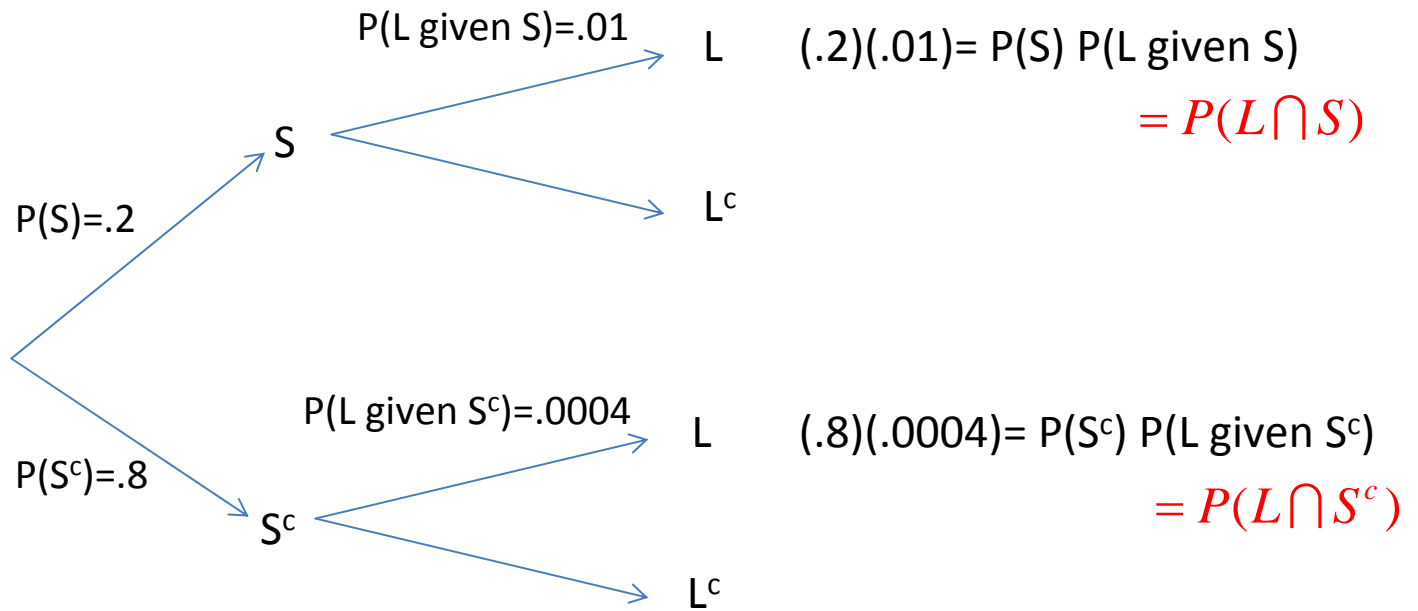




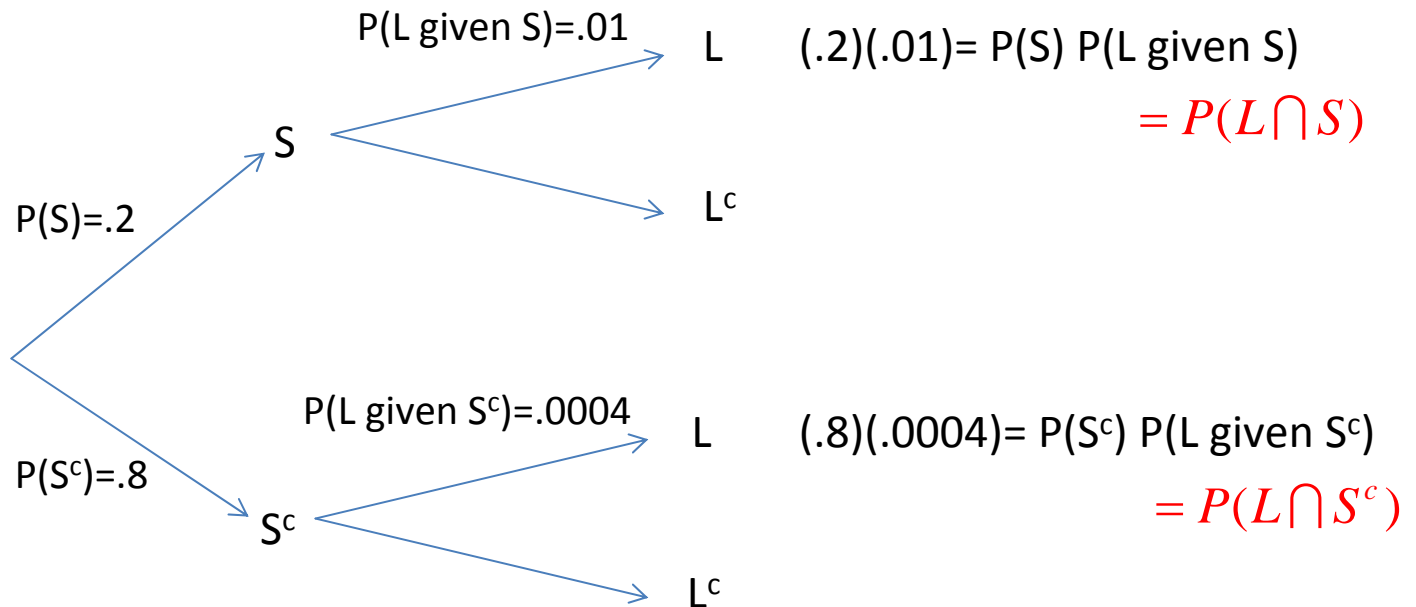








What is $P(S \text{ given } L)$?



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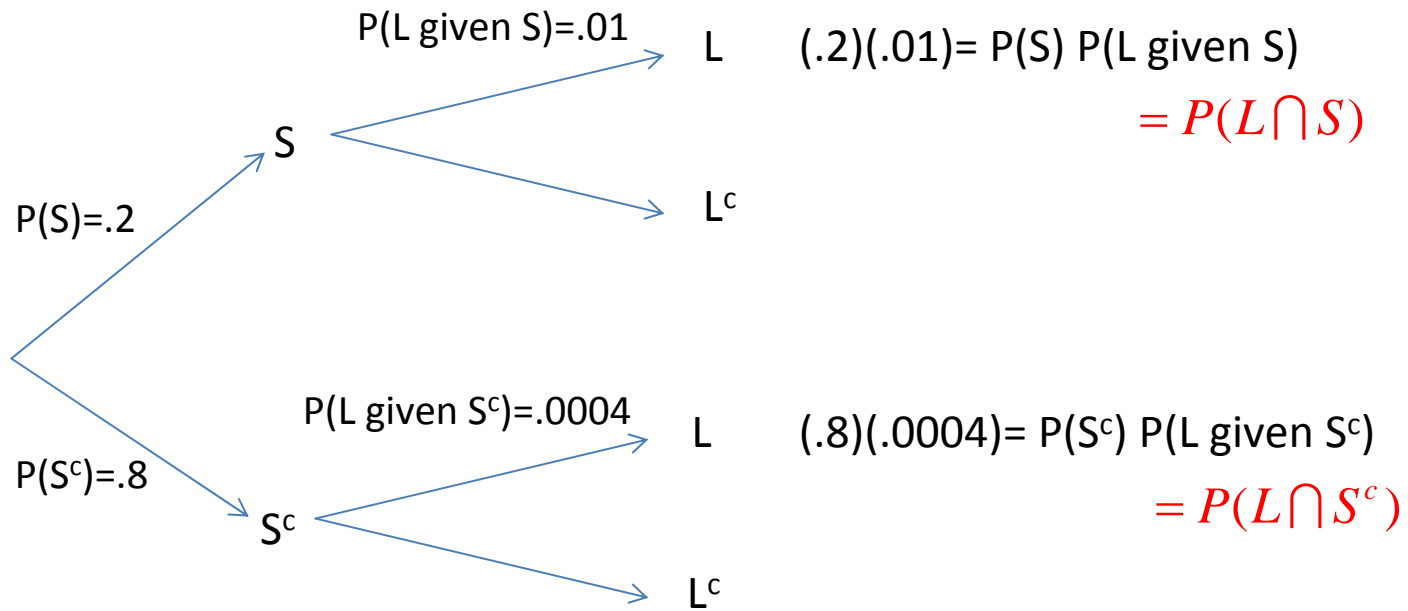
$$P(S \text{ given } L) = \frac{P(S \cap L)}{P(L)} = \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L)}$$

What is $P(S \text{ given } L)$?

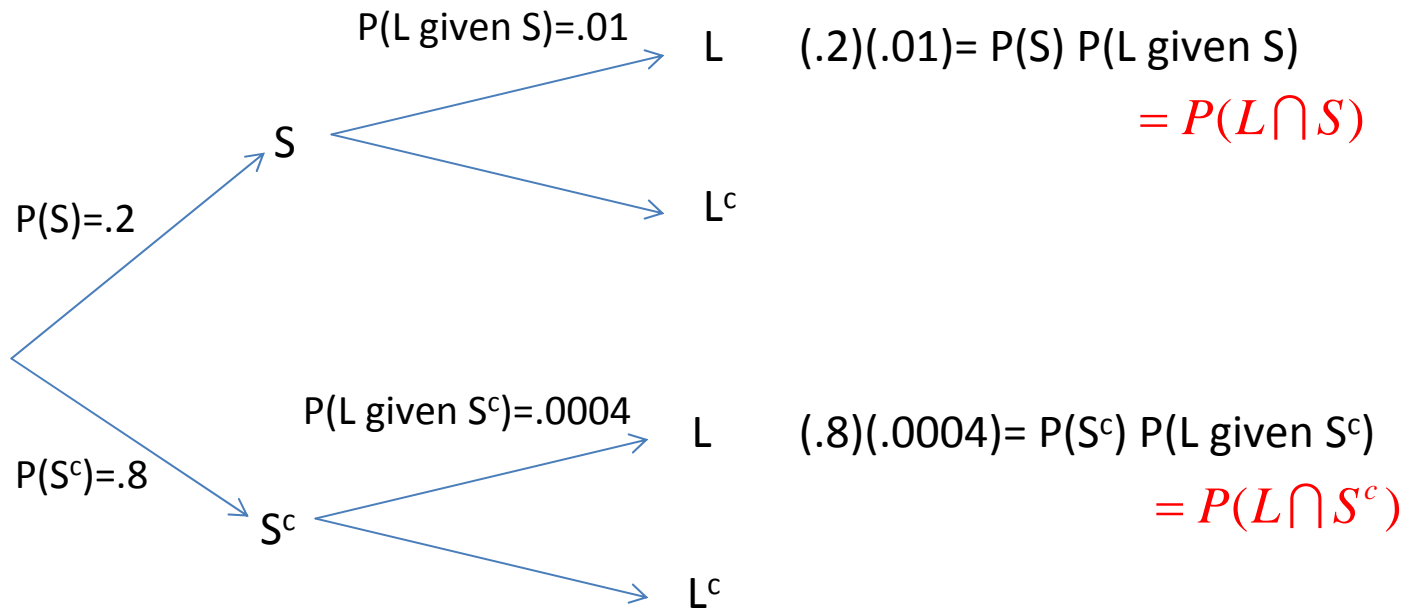
$$\begin{aligned} P(S \text{ given } L) &= \frac{P(S \cap L)}{P(L)} = \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L)} \\ &= \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L \cap S) + P(L \cap S^c)} \end{aligned}$$

Since $L = (L \cap S) \cup (L \cap S^c)$

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version 1

$$P(S \text{ given } L) = \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L \cap S) + P(L \cap S^c)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} P(S \text{ given } L) &= \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L \cap S) + P(L \cap S^c)} \\ &= \frac{P(S)P(L \text{ given } S)}{P(S)P(L \text{ given } S) + P(S^c)P(L \text{ given } S^c)} \end{aligned}$$

BAYES' THEOREM

version 2

If S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n are pairwise disjoint sets whose union is the entire sample space S , and if A is a subset of S , then,

$$P(S_1 \text{ given } A) = \frac{P(S_1)P(A \text{ given } S_1)}{P(S_1)P(A \text{ given } S_1) + P(S_2)P(A \text{ given } S_2) + \dots + P(S_n)P(A \text{ given } S_n)}$$

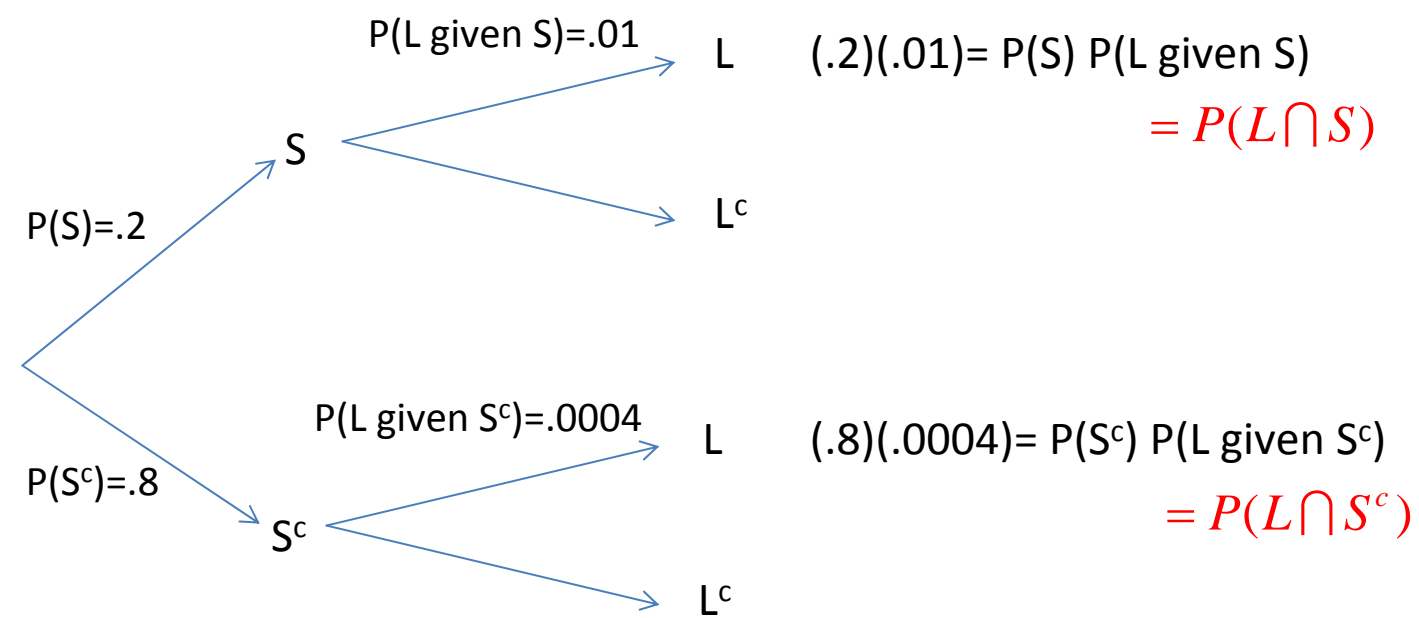
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$$\begin{aligned} P(S_1 \text{ given } A) &= \frac{P(S_1)P(A \text{ given } S_1)}{P(S_1)P(A \text{ given } S_1) + P(S_2)P(A \text{ given } S_2) + \dots + P(S_n)P(A \text{ given } S_n)} \\ &= \frac{P(A \cap S_1)}{P(A \cap S_1) + P(A \cap S_2) + \dots + P(A \cap S_n)} \end{aligned}$$

$$P(S \text{ given } L) = \frac{P(L \cap S)}{P(L \cap S) + P(L \cap S^c)} = \frac{(.2)(.01)}{(.2)(.01) + (.8)(.0004)} \approx 0.86$$



Example 2, Page 402:

Registered voters in Marin County are 45% Democratic, 30% Republican, and 25% Independent. In the last election for county supervisor, 70% of the Democrats voted, as did 80% of the Republicans and 90% of the Independents. What is the probability that a randomly selected voter in this election was a Democrat?

Problem 9, Page 405:

In 1986 the Reagan administration issued an executive order allowing agency heads to subject all employees to urine tests for drugs. Suppose that the test is 95% accurate both in identifying drug users and in clearing nonusers. Suppose also that 1% of employees use drugs. What is the probability that a person who tests positive is not a drug user?