In particular, if A *and* B *are disjoint events, then*

$$P((A \cup B)|F) = P(A|F) + P(B|F)$$

We have

$$P((A \cup B)|F) = \frac{P[(A \cup B) \cap F]}{P(F)}$$

$$= \frac{P[(A \cap F) \cup (B \cap F)]}{P(F)}$$

(by distributive law of union of sets over intersection)

$$= \frac{P(A \cap F) + P(B \cap F) - P(A \cap B \cap F)}{P(F)}$$

$$= \frac{P(A \cap F)}{P(F)} + \frac{P(B \cap F)}{P(F)} - \frac{P[(A \cap B) \cap F]}{P(F)}$$

$$= P(A|F) + P(B|F) - P((A \cap B)|F)$$

When A and B are disjoint events, then

$$P((A \cap B)|F) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad P((A \cup B)|F) = P(A|F) + P(B|F)$$

Property 3 $P(E'|F) = 1 - P(E|F)$

From Property 1, we know that $P(S|F) = 1$

$\Rightarrow \quad P(E \cup E'|F) = 1$ since $S = E \cup E'$

$\Rightarrow \quad P(E|F) + P(E'|F) = 1$ since E and E′ are disjoint events

Thus, $\quad P(E'|F) = 1 - P(E|F)$

Let us now take up some examples.

Example 1 If $P(A) = \frac{7}{13}$, $P(B) = \frac{9}{13}$ and $P(A \cap B) = \frac{4}{13}$, evaluate $P(A|B)$.

Solution We have $P(A|B) = \dfrac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \dfrac{\frac{4}{13}}{\frac{9}{13}} = \dfrac{4}{9}$

Example 2 A family has two children. What is the probability that both the children are boys given that at least one of them is a boy ?

Solution Let b stand for boy and g for girl. The sample space of the experiment is

$$S = \{(b, b), (g, b), (b, g), (g, g)\}$$

Let E and F denote the following events :

E : 'both the children are boys'

F : 'at least one of the child is a boy'

Then $$E = \{(b,b)\} \text{ and } F = \{(b,b), (g,b), (b,g)\}$$

Now $$E \cap F = \{(b,b)\}$$

Thus $$P(F) = \frac{3}{4} \text{ and } P(E \cap F) = \frac{1}{4}$$

Therefore $$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{\frac{3}{4}} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Example 3 Ten cards numbered 1 to 10 are placed in a box, mixed up thoroughly and then one card is drawn randomly. If it is known that the number on the drawn card is more than 3, what is the probability that it is an even number?

Solution Let A be the event 'the number on the card drawn is even' and B be the event 'the number on the card drawn is greater than 3'. We have to find P(A|B).

Now, the sample space of the experiment is S = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}

Then $$A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\},\ B = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$$

and $$A \cap B = \{4, 6, 8, 10\}$$

Also $$P(A) = \frac{5}{10},\ P(B) = \frac{7}{10} \text{ and } P(A \cap B) = \frac{4}{10}$$

Then $$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{\frac{4}{10}}{\frac{7}{10}} = \frac{4}{7}$$

Example 4 In a school, there are 1000 students, out of which 430 are girls. It is known that out of 430, 10% of the girls study in class XII. What is the probability that a student chosen randomly studies in Class XII given that the chosen student is a girl?

Solution Let E denote the event that a student chosen randomly studies in Class XII and F be the event that the randomly chosen student is a girl. We have to find P (E|F).

Now $\quad P(F) = \frac{430}{1000} = 0.43$ and $P(E \cap F) = \frac{43}{1000} = 0.043$ (Why?)

Then $\quad P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} = \frac{0.043}{0.43} = 0.1$

Example 5 A die is thrown three times. Events A and B are defined as below:

A : 4 on the third throw

B : 6 on the first and 5 on the second throw

Find the probability of A given that B has already occurred.

Solution The sample space has 216 outcomes.

Now
$$A = \begin{Bmatrix} (1,1,4) & (1,2,4) & ... & (1,6,4) & (2,1,4) & (2,2,4) & ... & (2,6,4) \\ (3,1,4) & (3,2,4) & ... & (3,6,4) & (4,1,4) & (4,2,4) & ... & (4,6,4) \\ (5,1,4) & (5,2,4) & ... & (5,6,4) & (6,1,4) & (6,2,4) & ... & (6,6,4) \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$B = \{(6,5,1), (6,5,2), (6,5,3), (6,5,4), (6,5,5), (6,5,6)\}$$

and $\quad A \cap B = \{(6,5,4)\}$.

Now $\quad P(B) = \frac{6}{216}$ and $P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{216}$

Then $\quad P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{\frac{1}{216}}{\frac{6}{216}} = \frac{1}{6}$

Example 6 A die is thrown twice and the sum of the numbers appearing is observed to be 6. What is the conditional probability that the number 4 has appeared at least once?

Solution Let E be the event that 'number 4 appears at least once' and F be the event that 'the sum of the numbers appearing is 6'.

Then, $\quad E = \{(4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4), (4,5), (4,6), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4), (5,4), (6,4)\}$

and $\quad F = \{(1,5), (2,4), (3,3), (4,2), (5,1)\}$

We have $\quad P(E) = \frac{11}{36}$ and $P(F) = \frac{5}{36}$

Also $\quad E \cap F = \{(2,4), (4,2)\}$

Therefore $\qquad P(E \cap F) = \frac{2}{36}$

Hence, the required probability

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} = \frac{\frac{2}{36}}{\frac{5}{36}} = \frac{2}{5}$$

For the conditional probability discussed above, we have considered the elementary events of the experiment to be equally likely and the corresponding definition of the probability of an event was used. However, the same definition can also be used in the general case where the elementary events of the sample space are not equally likely, the probabilities $P(E \cap F)$ and $P(F)$ being calculated accordingly. Let us take up the following example.

Example 7 Consider the experiment of tossing a coin. If the coin shows head, toss it again but if it shows tail, then throw a die. Find the conditional probability of the event that 'the die shows a number greater than 4' given that 'there is at least one tail'.

Solution The outcomes of the experiment can be represented in following diagrammatic manner called the 'tree diagram'.

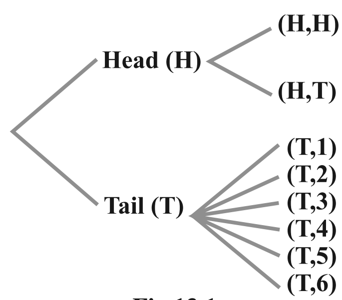

Fig 13.1

The sample space of the experiment may be described as

$$S = \{(H,H), (H,T), (T,1), (T,2), (T,3), (T,4), (T,5), (T,6)\}$$

where (H, H) denotes that both the tosses result into head and (T, i) denote the first toss result into a tail and the number i appeared on the die for $i = 1,2,3,4,5,6$.

Thus, the probabilities assigned to the 8 elementary events

(H, H), (H, T), (T, 1), (T, 2), (T, 3) (T, 4), (T, 5), (T, 6)

are $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{12}$ respectively which is clear from the Fig 13.2.

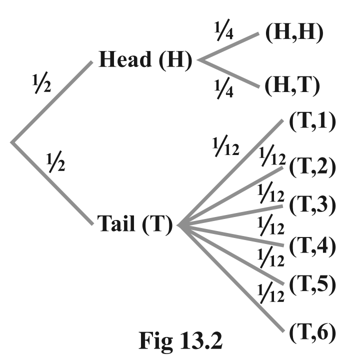

Fig 13.2

Let F be the event that 'there is at least one tail' and E be the event 'the die shows a number greater than 4'. Then

$$F = \{(H,T), (T,1), (T,2), (T,3), (T,4), (T,5), (T,6)\}$$

$$E = \{(T,5), (T,6)\} \text{ and } E \cap F = \{(T,5), (T,6)\}$$

Now
$$P(F) = P(\{(H,T)\}) + P(\{(T,1)\}) + P(\{(T,2)\}) + P(\{(T,3)\}) + P(\{(T,4)\}) + P(\{(T,5)\}) + P(\{(T,6)\})$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} = \frac{3}{4}$$

and
$$P(E \cap F) = P(\{(T,5)\}) + P(\{(T,6)\}) = \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{6}$$

Hence
$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{3}{4}} = \frac{2}{9}$$

EXERCISE 13.1

1. Given that E and F are events such that P(E) = 0.6, P(F) = 0.3 and $P(E \cap F) = 0.2$, find P(E|F) and P(F|E)
2. Compute P(A|B), if P(B) = 0.5 and $P(A \cap B) = 0.32$
3. If P(A) = 0.8, P(B) = 0.5 and P(B|A) = 0.4, find

   (i) $P(A \cap B)$ (ii) $P(A|B)$ (iii) $P(A \cup B)$
4. Evaluate $P(A \cup B)$, if $2P(A) = P(B) = \frac{5}{13}$ and $P(A|B) = \frac{2}{5}$
5. If $P(A) = \frac{6}{11}$, $P(B) = \frac{5}{11}$ and $P(A \cup B) = \frac{7}{11}$, find

   (i) $P(A \cap B)$ (ii) $P(A|B)$ (iii) $P(B|A)$

   Determine P(E|F) in Exercises 6 to 9.
6. A coin is tossed three times, where

   (i) E : head on third toss , F : heads on first two tosses

   (ii) E : at least two heads , F : at most two heads

   (iii) E : at most two tails , F : at least one tail