

# How can Bayes' Theorem be applied in Python?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Bayes' Theorem is a mathematical concept used to calculate the probability of an event occurring, based on prior knowledge or information. In Python, this theorem can be applied through various libraries and functions, such as the "scipy.stats" module or the "BayesPy" library. These tools allow users to input prior probabilities and data, and then use Bayes' Theorem to update these probabilities and make predictions. By using Python, users can easily apply this theorem in a quick and efficient manner, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and decision making.

## Apply Bayes' Theorem in Python

**Bayes' Theorem states the following for any two events A and B:**

$$P(A|B) = P(A) * P(B|A) / P(B)$$

**where:**

**P(A|B):** The probability of event A, given event B has occurred.  
**P(B|A):** The probability of event B, given event A has occurred.  
**P(A):** The probability of event A.  
**P(B):** The probability of event B.

**For example, suppose the probability of the weather being cloudy is 40%.**

**Also suppose the probability of rain on a given day is 20%.**

**Also suppose the probability of clouds on a rainy day is**

**85%.**

**If it's cloudy outside on a given day, what is the probability that it will rain that day?**

**Solution:**

$$P(\text{cloudy}) = 0.40 \quad P(\text{rain}) = 0.20 \quad P(\text{cloudy} \mid \text{rain}) = 0.85$$

**Thus, we can calculate:**

$$P(\text{rain} \mid \text{cloudy}) = P(\text{rain}) * P(\text{cloudy} \mid \text{rain}) / P(\text{cloudy})$$
$$P(\text{rain} \mid \text{cloudy}) = 0.20 * 0.85 / 0.40$$
$$P(\text{rain} \mid \text{cloudy}) = 0.425$$

**If it's cloudy outside on a given day, the probability that it will rain that day is 42.5%.**

**We can create the following simple function to apply Bayes' Theorem in Python:**

```
def bayesTheorem(pA, pB, pBA):  
    return pA * pBA / pB
```

**The following example shows how to use this function in practice.**

## Example: Bayes' Theorem in Python

$$P(\text{rain}) = 0.20 \quad P(\text{cloudy}) = 0.40 \quad P(\text{cloudy} \mid \text{rain}) = 0.85$$

To calculate  $P(\text{rain} \mid \text{cloudy})$ , we can use the following syntax:

```
#define function for Bayes' theorem
def bayesTheorem(pA, pB, pBA):
    return pA * pBA / pB

#define probabilities
pRain = 0.2
pCloudy = 0.4
pCloudyRain = 0.85

#use function to calculate conditional probability
bayesTheorem(pRain, pCloudy, pCloudyRain)

0.425
```

This tells us that if it's cloudy outside on a given day, the probability that it will rain that day is 0.425 or 42.5%.

This matches the value that we calculated earlier by hand.

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Python:**

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