

The confusion matrix

N TRUTH P

To evaluate a search/retrieval system that is not perfect...

—	TN	FN
+	FP	TP

The confusion matrix

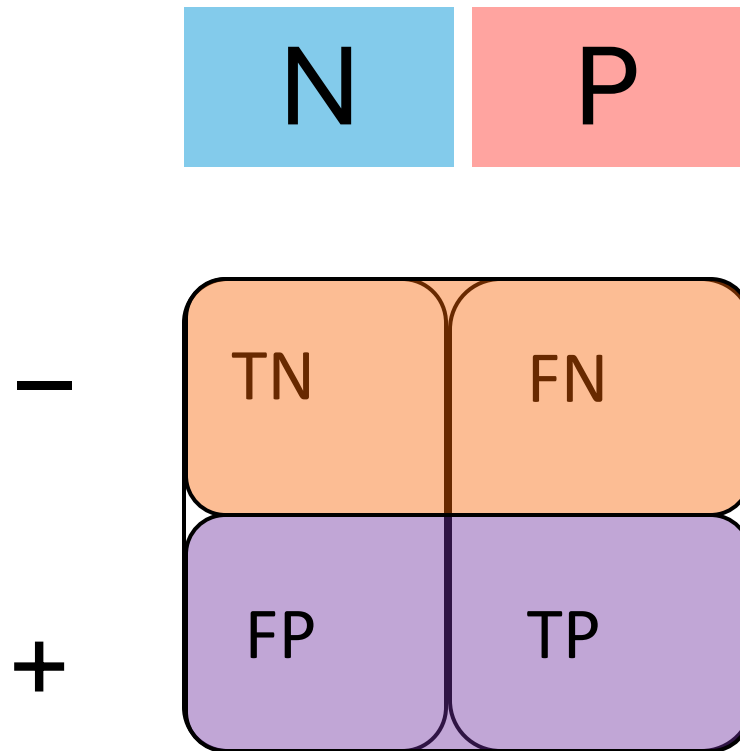
	N NONTARGET	P TARGET
NOT RETRIEVED —	TN	FN
RETRIEVED +	FP	TP

TRUTH IN DENOMINATOR

$$\text{TPR} = \text{TP}/\text{P} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN}) = \text{SENSITIVITY} \\ = \text{RECALL}$$

$$\text{TNR} = \text{TN}/\text{N} = \text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FP}) = \text{SPECIFICITY}$$

TPR and TNR are the ratios to known-truth.
There are others, ratios to test/retrieval results:



TRUTH IN DENOMINATOR

$$\text{TPR} = \text{TP}/\text{P} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN}) = \text{SENSITIVITY}$$

$$\text{TNR} = \text{TN}/\text{N} = \text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FP}) = \text{SPECIFICITY}$$

TEST IN DENOMINATOR

$$\text{NPV} = \text{TN}/\text{N}_{\text{test}} = \text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{PPV} = \text{TP}/\text{P}_{\text{test}} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP}) = \text{PRECISION}$$

How do the cells affect the search task?

	N	P	
		TARGET	
-	TN	FN	TP
+	FP	TP	FN
			FP
			TN

How do the cells affect the search task?

	N	P
		TARGET
-	TN	FN
+	FP	TP

TP : This is the good stuff.

FN = imperfect sensitivity: Causes loss of signal, miss hits that should have been retrieved.

FP : retrieve from the database hits that are not responsive. Affects performance (wastes time) but sometimes this is ok.

TN: This should be the bulk of the database. We aren't usually concerned with whether we classify non-responsive hits correctly.