Biostatistics: Exercise 07

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Exercise 01: ROC

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves are commonly used to compare diagnostic tests. They were initially developed in World War II, by the British who build the "Chain Home" series of radar detectors to identify incoming German planes. Besides planes, the radar detectors also detected flocks of birds and other "false positive" signals. The responsiveness of the radar detector could be tuned from off over increasing settings to full.

Take a careful look at the following table:

Radar detector setting	Planes correctly detected	Geese flocks correctly identified	Geese flocks incorrectly identified
Off	0	100	0
Setting 1	35	93	7
Setting 2	60	85	15
Setting 3	85	70	30
Setting 4	92	30	70
Full	100	0	100

- Which column represents the sensitivity, specificity and 1-specificity respectively?

- How does sensitivity and specificity change with increasing radar responsiveness? Describe the relationship using a plot.

```
# We can evaluate the table or compare the sensitivity and specificity
# within a plot:
dat = data.frame(setting = c("off", "set1", "set2", "set3", "set4", "full"),
                 sens = c(0, 35, 60, 85, 92, 100) / 100,
                 spec = c(100, 93, 85, 70, 30, 0) / 100)
plot(dat$sens, xaxt = "n", ylab = "Value", pch = 16,
     main = "Specificity and sensitivity", xlab = "Radar setting")
points(dat$spec, col = "skyblue", pch = 16)
axis(1, at=1:nrow(dat), labels=dat$setting)
legend("bottom", c("sensitivity","specificity"), pch = c(16, 16),
       col = c("black", "skyblue"), bty = "n")
```

Specificity and sensitivity
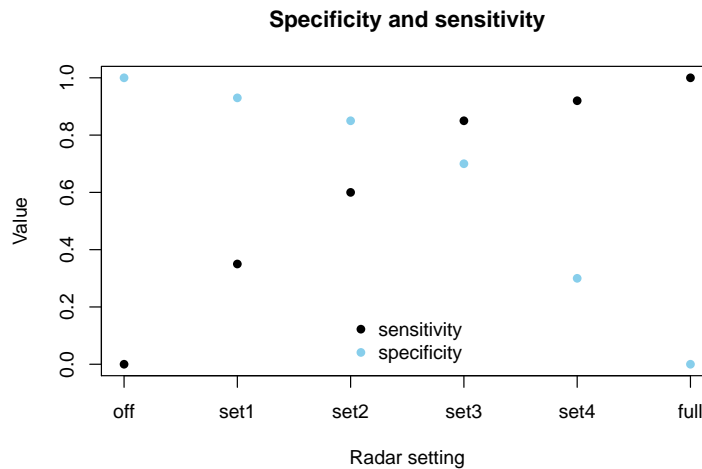

```
# With increasing sensitivity, the specificity decreases.
# So, if the responsiveness of the radar detector is off,
# 100% of the planes and none of the Geese flocks are detected.
# If the responsiveness of the radar detector is full, 100% of
# the Geese flocks are detected but none of the planes.
```

- Generate a ROC curve by plotting `sensitivity` against `1-specificity` from the table above. Do you think the responsiveness of the radar detector is good?

```
# The ROC curve can be calculated as:
plot(1-dat$spec, dat$sens, ylab = "sensitivity",
     main = "ROC curve", xlab = "1-specificity", type='S')
abline(0, 1, col='darkblue', lty=2)
```

ROC curve
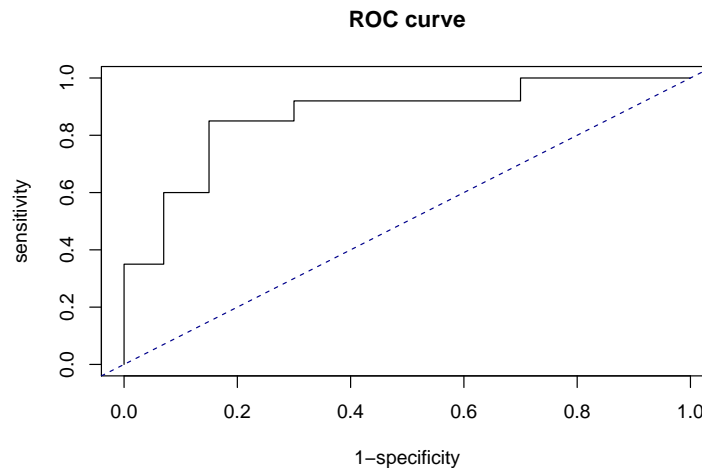
Exercise 02: ROC 2

The chromosomes of human being usually consists 23 pairs of chromosomes (one of the pair is the sex chromosome, in case of a woman XX and for a man XY). If a human being has 3 or 4 chromosomes instead of a pair, it usually leads to severe diseases. Trisomy 21 (also called Down syndrome), in which the chromosome 21 occurs three times, is the most common of these diseases. In prenatal diagnostics the nuchal translucency (NT) is used to test for Trisomy 21.

Assume that the probability for having a child with Trisomy 21 in pregnant women at the age of 30 years is 0.2%. The NT-test provides a positive result for the presence of trisomy 21 with 90% probability. If the child has no trisomy 21, the result is in 5% of the cases still positive.

- Draw a probability tree.

- What are the sensitivity and specificity of the NT-test?

- Assume that the NT-test is done for every pregnant woman of 30 years. Let's take 100.000 pregnant woman of the age 30. Fill in the following table.

	NT^+	NT^-	Total
T^+			
T^-			
Total			

- Calculate the probabilities that
    - a randomly chosen pregnant women has a positive test.
    - there is really trisomy 21, if the test is positive.

- Calculate the positive/negative predictive value of the test.

- How many false positives (FPs)/true negatives (TNs) do we have (in case of the 100000 women)?

- What are the true positive rate (TPR) and false positive rate (FPR)?