

# Probability Practice

2024-08-13

## Probability Practice

**Part A)** Visitors to your website are asked to answer a single survey question before they get access to the content on the page. Among all of the users, there are two categories: Random Clicker (RC), and Truthful Clicker (TC). There are two possible answers to the survey: yes and no. Random clickers would click either one with equal probability. You are also giving the information that the expected fraction of random clickers is 0.3. After a trial period, you get the following survey results: 65% said Yes and 35% said No. What fraction of people who are truthful clickers answered yes? Hint: use the rule of total probability.

Y = yes

N = no

RC = random clicker (1-B)

TC = truthful clicker (B)

$$P(Y | RC) = 0.50$$

$$P(N | RC) = 0.50$$

Fraction of random clickers is 0.30 so:

$$P(RC) = 0.30$$

$$P(TC) = 1 - P(RC) = 1.0 - 0.30 = 0.70$$

After trial period:

$$P(Y) = 0.65 \quad P(N) = 0.35$$

By total probability...

$$P(A) = P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|1-B)P(1-B) \rightarrow P(Y) = P(Y|TC)P(TC) + P(Y|RC)P(RC)$$

$$P(A|B) = P(A) - (P(A|1-B)P(1-B)) / P(B)$$

```
p_RC <- 0.3
```

```
p_TC <- 1 - p_RC
```

```
p_Yes_RC <- 0.5
```

```
p_Yes_total <- 0.65
```

```
p_Yes_TC <- (p_Yes_total - (p_Yes_RC * p_RC)) / p_TC
```

```
p_Yes_TC
```

```
## [1] 0.7142857
```

**Answer:** Using the total probability rule we find that the fraction of people who are truthful clickers that answered yes is 0.71428 or about 71.43%

**Part B)** Imagine a medical test for a disease with the following two attributes:

- The sensitivity is about 0.993. That is, if someone has the disease, there is a probability of 0.993 that they will test positive.
- The specificity is about 0.9999. This means that if someone doesn't have the disease, there is probability of 0.9999 that they will test negative.
- In the general population, incidence of the disease is reasonably rare: about 0.0025% of all people have it (or 0.000025 as a decimal probability).

**Suppose someone tests positive. What is the probability that they have the disease?**

D = Someone that has the disease  
H = Someone that does **not** have the disease  
P = Testing positive  
N = Testing negative

$P(D) = 0.000025$   
 $P(H) = 1 - 0.000025 = 0.99975$   
 $P(P|D) = 0.993$   
 $P(N|H) = 0.9999$

Supposing someone tests positive, what is the probability that they have the disease can be represented by  $P(D|P)$

First:

$P(N|D) = 1 - 0.993 = 0.007$   
 $P(P|H) = 1 - 0.9999 = 0.0001$

The probability that someone has the disease given that they test positive ( $D/P$ ) is represented by:

$$P(D|P) = ( P(P|D)P(D) ) / P(P)$$

To calculate this we need to find the probability that someone tests positive. The probability that a person tests positive can be calculated by:

$P(P) = P(P|D)P(D) + P(P|H)P(H)$   
 $P(P|D) = 0.993$   
 $P(P|H) = 1 - 0.9999 = 0.0001$   
 $P(D) = 0.000025$   
 $P(H) = 1 - 0.000025 = 0.99975$

$$P(P) = (0.993)(0.000025) + (0.0001)(0.99975) = 0.0001248225$$

Now to calculate  $P(D|P)$ :

$$P(D|P) = (0.993 \cdot 0.000025) / 0.0001248225$$

```
sensitivity <- 0.993 #p(p/d)
specificity <- 0.9999 #p(n/h)
```

```

prevalance <- 0.000025 #p(d)

false_positive <- 1 - specificity #p(p/h)

prob_positive <- (sensitivity*prevalance) +(false_positive*(1-prevalance))

p_disease_g_positive <- (sensitivity*prevalance)/prob_positive
p_disease_g_positive

## [1] 0.1988824

```

**Answer:** The probability of having the disease given that they tested positive is 0.19882 or 19.89%