

## CHAPTER 2: PROBABILITY (PART 2)

### Example 2.7. How accurate is rapid testing for COVID-19?

From the iHealth® website

<https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/ihealth-covid-19-antigen-rapid-test-details>:

"Based on the results of a clinical study where the iHealth® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test was compared to an FDA authorized molecular SARS-CoV-2 test, iHealth® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test correctly identified 94.3% of positive specimens and 98.1% of negative specimens."

Suppose you take the iHealth® rapid test.

- (1) What is the probability of a positive test result?
- (2) What is the probability of having COVID-19 if you get a positive test result?
- (3) What is the probability of not having COVID-19 if you get a negative test result?

### What information were we given?

First, let's define our events of interest:

- $D$  = event one has disease (COVID-19)
- $D^c$  = event one does not have disease
- $T^+$  = event one tests positive for disease
- $T^-$  = event one tests negative for disease

Translate given information into mathematical notation:

- Test correctly gives a positive result 94.3% of the time:  
Sensitivity =  $\mathbb{P}(T^+|D) = 0.943$   
(aka PPA = positive percent agreement)
- Test correctly gives a negative result 98.1% of the time:  
Specificity =  $\mathbb{P}(T^-|D^c) = 0.981$   
(aka NPA = negative percent agreement)
- What are all the possible scenarios of test results? Make 2-way table of test results (rows) vs. disease status (columns)

	$D$	$D^c$	Total
$T^+$	sensitivity	false positive	$\neq 1$
$T^-$	false negative	specificity	$\neq 1$
Total	1	1	

Given:  $\mathbb{P}(T^+|D) = 0.943$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(T^-|D^c) = 0.981$

***Solutions to questions***

(1) *What is the probability of a positive test result?*

- *Sample space with  $D$  vs.  $D^c$  and blob for  $T^c$*
- *Law of Total Probability*
- *Need to know prevalence,  $\mathbb{P}(D)$*   
*Assume  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.000838$  (0.0838%)*
- *Tree Diagram for calculating total probability*
- *Answer: 0.01977431*

Given:  $\mathbb{P}(T^+|D) = 0.943$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(T^-|D^c) = 0.981$

(2) What is the probability of having COVID-19 if you get a positive test result?

- $PPV = \mathbb{P}(D|T^+)$
- *conditional probability*
- Assume  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.000838$  (0.0838%) (Multnomah Co on 10/12/2022)
- Bayes' rule
- Answer: 0.03996265

$$\frac{0.943 * 0.000838}{0.943 * 0.000838 + (1 - 0.981) * (1 - 0.000838)} = 0.03996265$$

- If  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.01$  (1%), then answer = 0.3339235
- If  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.1$  (10%), then answer = 0.8464991

Given:  $\mathbb{P}(T^+|D) = 0.943$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(T^-|D^c) = 0.981$

(3) What is the probability of not having COVID-19 if you get a negative test result?

- $NPV = \mathbb{P}(D^c|T^-)$
- *conditional probability*
- Assume  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.000838$  (0.0838%)
- Bayes' rule
- Answer: 0.9999513

$$\frac{0.981 * 0.999162}{0.981 * 0.999162 + (1 - 0.943) * 0.000838} = 0.9999513$$

- If  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.01$  (1%), then answer = 0.9994134
- If  $\mathbb{P}(D) = 0.1$  (10%), then answer = 0.9935854

## Bayes' Theorem (Section 2.2.5)

In the previous examples we derived the formula for Bayes' Theorem.

**Theorem 2.8** (Bayes' Theorem). *If the sample space  $S$  can be split into disjoint events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  that make up all possible outcomes in  $S$ , and if  $\mathbb{P}(A_i) > 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$ , then*

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1|B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(B|A_1) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_1)}{\mathbb{P}(B|A_1) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_1) + \mathbb{P}(B|A_2) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_2) + \dots + \mathbb{P}(B|A_k) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_k)}$$

Special case of Bayes' Theorem for sample space being split into  $A$  and  $A^c$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(A|B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(B|A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A)}{\mathbb{P}(B|A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B|A^c) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A^c)}$$

**Theorem 2.9** (Law of Total Probability). *(denominator of Bayes' Theorem)*

*If the sample space  $S$  can be split into disjoint events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  that make up all possible outcomes in  $S$ , and if  $\mathbb{P}(A_i) > 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(B) &= \mathbb{P}(B \text{ and } A_1) + \mathbb{P}(B \text{ and } A_2) + \dots + \mathbb{P}(B \text{ and } A_k) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(B|A_1) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_1) + \mathbb{P}(B|A_2) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_2) + \dots + \mathbb{P}(B|A_k) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A_k) \end{aligned}$$

Special case of Law of Total Probability for sample space being split into  $A$  and  $A^c$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(B) &= \mathbb{P}(B \text{ and } A) + \mathbb{P}(B \text{ and } A^c) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(B|A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B|A^c) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A^c) \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.10. Antibody test for COVID-19**

According to the FDA's EUA Authorized Serology Test Performance website, the Abbott AdviseDx SARS-CoV-2 IgG II (Alinity) antibody test for COVID-19 has sensitivity 98.1% and PPV 98.4% when the prevalence is 20%.

*Question: What is the specificity of the antibody test?*

**What information were we given?**

First, let's define our events of interest:

- $A$  = event one has antibodies for COVID-19
- $A^c$  = event one does not have antibodies
- $T^+$  = event one tests positive for antibodies
- $T^-$  = event one tests negative for antibodies

Translate given information into mathematical notation:

- Sensitivity is 98.1%:  
Sensitivity =  $\mathbb{P}(T^+|A) = 0.981$
- PPV is 98.4%:  
PPV =  $\mathbb{P}(A|T^+) = 0.984$
- Prevalence is 20%:  
 $\mathbb{P}(A) = 0.20$

**Solution:** Want specificity =  $\mathbb{P}(T^-|A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(A|T^+) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(T^+|A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A)}{\mathbb{P}(T^+|A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A^c)} \\ 0.984 &= \frac{0.981 \cdot 0.20}{0.981 \cdot 0.20 + \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) \cdot (1 - 0.20)} \\ 0.984 &= \frac{0.1962}{0.1962 + \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) \cdot 0.80} \\ 0.1962 &= 0.984 \cdot (0.1962 + 0.80\mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c)) \\ 0.1962 &= 0.1931 + 0.7872 \cdot \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) \\ \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) &= \frac{0.1962 - 0.1931}{0.7872} = 0.0039 \\ \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) &= \frac{0.1962 - 0.1931}{0.7872} = 0.00399\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{specificity} = \mathbb{P}(T^-|A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(T^+|A^c) = 1 - 0.00399 = 0.99601$$