

Homework Assignment 1 - 10 Points
Due at beginning of class, Thursday, 20 January 2011

There are two parts to this homework assignment. Each part counts 5 points. Late homework will receive a grade of zero. Your homework must be typed, not handwritten. Graphs must be prepared with computer software, not hand-drawn.

Part 1:

Two radiologists were tested on their ability to detect cancer from x-ray photographs. They were shown 650 x-rays without cancer and 250 with cancer and were asked to say whether or not cancer was present. The resulting 2 x 2 contingency tables for each are presented below:

		Radiologist A Response				Radiologist B Response	
		“yes”	“no”			“yes”	“no”
Cancer present		190	60	Cancer present		164	86
Cancer absent		201	449	Cancer absent		138	512

Using the **equal-variance** signal detection theory model, determine each radiologist’s sensitivity (d') and response bias (c) for the detection of cancer. Use Equations 9c and 12 in the Signal Detection Handout. Present your work in an orderly fashion by showing the transformations of the above response frequencies into probabilities, and the probabilities into z-scores (quantiles of the unit standard normal distribution). In R, the function `qnorm()` may be used to compute quantiles from probabilities. Which Radiologist would you want to evaluate your x-rays? Why?

Part 2:

Below is a set of **hit rates** and **false alarm rates** computed from the confidence judgments of a one subject in a signal detection experiment.

	1	2	3	4	5
Hit Rates	0.2898	0.5477	0.7169	0.8275	0.9229
False Alarm Rate	0.0135	0.0829	0.2386	0.4146	0.7056

Plot two ROC graphs from these data: one graph in linear probability coordinates (ranging between 0.0 and 1.0), the other in z-score coordinates (ranging from -2.5 to +2.5). Hint: the R function `qnorm()` converts probabilities to quantiles (z-scores). Make the x- and y-axes of your graph equal in length so that each graph forms a square. Take care to properly label your graphs and to make them neat. What is your opinion about how well the Gaussian signal detection model describes these data? In four sentences or less explain your answer.