

## Virus test

- Let us say that we have a test for a virus that is 99% accurate. Specifically, this means:
  - If someone is positive for the virus, then the test shows positive with probability 99%;
  - If someone is negative for the virus, then the test shows negative with probability 99%;
- Ok, now assume that someone has tested positive. What's the probability that they actually have the virus?

## Some notation

- Let  $V$  and  $T$  be the random variables as to whether the person has the virus, and whether the test is positive, respectively.
- i.e.,  $\{V = 1\}$  means the subject has the virus,  $\{V = 0\}$  means they do not,  $\{T = 1\}$  means test is positive, and  $\{T = 0\}$  means the test is negative.
- By the assumptions in the problem, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(T = 1|V = 1) &= 0.99, & \mathbb{P}(T = 0|V = 1) &= 0.01, \\ \mathbb{P}(T = 1|V = 0) &= 0.01, & \mathbb{P}(T = 0|V = 0) &= 0.99.\end{aligned}$$

- And we are asking: what is  $\mathbb{P}(V = 1|T = 1)$ . Is it 99%???