Deliverables

Tyler Yellott and Ashley Hutchings

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1. Concept and Purpose

The goal of the Alzheimer's Data Explorer is an interactive Shiny application designed to help users explore patterns and potential risk factors related to Alzheimer's Disease. Its purpose is to make complex health data more accessible, especially for users without programming experience. By providing a visual, no-code interface, the app empowers users to investigate relationships between variables and Alzheimer's diagnosis using dynamic charts, summary statistics, and customizable data tables.

2. Initial Plan and Motivation

The motivation behind this app was to create a simple platform for visualizing the Alzheimer's dataset in a way that was intuitive and accessible for individuals without coding experience. The focus on Alzheimer's disease seeks to shed light on the complexities of diagnosing it based on multiple contributing factors. See final page for design sketch.

3. Dataset and Relevance to the Course

The dataset used is a publicly available Alzheimer's Disease dataset from Kaggle. It contains 35 variables related to demographics, cognitive test scores, physical health measures, and behavioral symptoms. The dataset provides real-world data with which to practice and apply techniques learned in this class such as data wrangling, visualizations and data summaries. The data contains both categorical and continuous variables, leveraging conditional logic.

4. Key Features and User Interaction

Inputs

Users can provide 3 inputs: variable selector, chart type, and an option to facet by Diagnosis. Once a variable is selected, the options provided for chart type will dynamically change depending on the type of variable. If the variable is numeric then users will have the option to view a box plot or a histogram. If the variable is not numeric, then the chart type will be bar chart.

5. Define Server Logic

The server handles everything behind the scenes that makes the app interactive. It reacts to user input and updates the visuals or tables in real time. We used reactive() to manage filtered data and make sure it changes automatically based on selections. Outputs like plots and tables are displayed using renderPlot() and renderTable(), so anytime the user adjusts a variable or filter, the app shows the updated results right away.

6. Examples of insights or analyses that can be obtained through your app

This app helps users explore the Alzheimer's data set in a simple, visual way. They can compare variables like age, gender, diet quality, etc. and see how those might relate to diagnosis or cognitive scores. By applying filters and changing the inputs, users can break the data down into different groups and spot trends without needing to do manual calculations. It's a helpful tool for getting quick insights from a pretty big data set.

7. Link to GitHub repository containing complete R code for your Shiny app

Here's the GitHub repo with all the files and code used to build the app: https://github.com/ashley-hutchings/Shiny-App-R-HW