Weekly 1

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Weekly Progress (5 points)

1. Finalized and submitted my capstone project proposal focused on predicting ALS disease progression using longitudinal clinical data.
2. Clearly defined the modeling objective as predicting ALSFRS-R score progression over time and clarified the scope to ensure feasibility within one semester.
3. Identified and reviewed primary datasets (PRO-ACT, Answer ALS, and Target ALS Data Engine) to understand available variables and data structure.
4. Set up the GitHub repository structure, including folders for data, notebooks, scripts, figures, and documentation to support reproducibility.
5. Began outlining the overall modeling pipeline, including data cleaning steps, feature engineering for longitudinal data, and potential baseline models.

Challenges (3 points)

1. Narrowing the scope of the project to something realistic while still incorporating multiple data types (clinical, demographic, biomarker).
2. Anticipating potential data access delays and dataset formatting inconsistencies across different ALS research platforms.
3. Determining how best to define the prediction target (future ALSFRS-R score vs. rate of decline vs. survival modeling).

Code Commits (2 points)

1. Initial repository setup with project directory structure, README draft, and environment requirements file.
2. Committed proposal document and updated project documentation outlining planned workflow.

References