Diabetes risk factors Viktória Nemkin (M8GXSS) June 2, 2023

1 Setup

I am interested in medical research, so I have chosen the Diabetes prediction dataset from Kaggle as the topic of my homework project. The goal of this dataset is to predict whether someone will develop diabetes, based on key indicators of the disease.

1.1 Input data

The dataset is anonymised and contains the following data about 100,000 individuals:

- Age: Ranges from 0-80, diabetes is more common amongst older adults.
- Gender: Can also have an impact on a person's susceptibility.
- Body Mass Index (BMI): Higher BMI values are linked to higher diabetes risk.
- Hypertension: Presistently elevated blood pressure in the arteries, linked to heart disease.
- Heart disease: Associated with a risk of developing diabetes.
- Smoking history: Considered as a risk factor, can worsen the complications of diabetes.
- **HbA1c level**: Hemoglobin A1c, measures blood sugar level over the past 2-3 months. Over 6.5% indicates diabetes.
- Blood glucose level: Key indicator of diabetes.
- Diabetes: Target value.

These are some of the key indicators of diabetes, along with demographic data, which could be used to determine risk factors for developing diabetes.

While it is not explicitly stated, I believe the data is on Type 2 diabetes, since Type 1 is a genetic condition.

1.2 Tools

I used Python, the numpy and pandas libraries for manipulation of the dataset, matplotlib and seaborn for plotting and visualising and scipy and scikit-learn for the various statistical analysis and evaluation tools they offer.

```
[1]: import numpy as np
  import pandas as pd
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  import matplotlib.cm as cm
  import seaborn as sns
  from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
  from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
```

```
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error
from scipy.stats import chi2_contingency
```

1.3 Data cleaning and sanity checks

The first step in working with data is making sure it is not flawed. There is no single method that we can follow and guarantee no issues persist, but essentially we need to be careful and thourough and make sure nothing weird is happening in the dataset.

First, I read in the dataset from the csv file.

```
[2]: df = pd.read_csv('../data/diabetes_prediction_dataset.csv')
    df.head(10)
```

[2]:		gender	age	hypertension	heart_disease	smoking_history	bmi	
	0	Female	80.0	0	1	never	25.19	\
	1	Female	54.0	0	0	No Info	27.32	
	2	Male	28.0	0	0	never	27.32	
	3	Female	36.0	0	0	current	23.45	
	4	Male	76.0	1	1	current	20.14	
	5	Female	20.0	0	0	never	27.32	
	6	Female	44.0	0	0	never	19.31	
	7	Female	79.0	0	0	No Info	23.86	
	8	Male	42.0	0	0	never	33.64	
	9	Female	32.0	0	0	never	27.32	

	HbA1c_level	blood_glucose_level	diabetes
0	6.6	140	0
1	6.6	80	0
2	5.7	158	0
3	5.0	155	0
4	4.8	155	0
5	6.6	85	0
6	6.5	200	1
7	5.7	85	0
8	4.8	145	0
9	5.0	100	0

I like check the value ranges for the data and make sure, that the columns are correctly typed:

[3]: df.dtypes

```
[3]: gender object
age float64
hypertension int64
heart_disease int64
smoking_history object
bmi float64
HbA1c_level float64
```

blood_glucose_level int64 diabetes int64

dtype: object

We can use the describe method to check the value ranges of the columns:

[4]: df.describe(include='all')

E 4 7		,						1 . 1	
[4]:		gender	40000	age	0 1	ension	-	smoking_history	,
	count	100000	100000	.000000	100000	.00000	100000.000000	100000	\
	unique	3		NaN		NaN	NaN	6	
	top	Female		NaN		NaN	NaN	No Info	
	freq	58552		NaN		NaN	NaN	35816	
	mean	NaN	41	. 885856	0	.07485	0.039420	NaN	
	std	NaN	22	.516840	0	.26315	0.194593	NaN	
	min	NaN	0	.080000	0	.00000	0.000000	NaN	
	25%	NaN	24	.000000	0	.00000	0.000000	NaN	
	50%	NaN	43	.000000	0	.00000	0.000000	NaN	
	75%	NaN	60	.000000	0	.00000	0.000000	NaN	
	max	NaN	80	.000000	1	.00000	1.000000	NaN	
			bmi	HbA1c	_level	blood	_glucose_level	diabetes	
	count	100000.	000000	100000.			100000.000000	100000.000000	
	unique		NaN		NaN		NaN	NaN	
	top		NaN		NaN		NaN	NaN	
	freq		NaN		NaN		NaN	NaN	
	mean	27.	320767	5.	527507		138.058060	0.085000	
	std		636783	1.	070672		40.708136	0.278883	
	min		010000		500000		80.000000	0.000000	
	25%		630000		800000		100.000000	0.000000	
	50%		320000		800000		140.000000	0.000000	
	75%		580000		200000		159.000000	0.000000	
			690000		000000		300.000000	1.000000	
max		30.	00000	Э.	000000		300.00000	1.000000	

This shows, that gender and smoking_history are actually categorical columns (they have a few unique values), while hypertension, heart_disease, and diabetes are meant to be boolean, and finally age should be an integer.

```
[5]: df['age'] = df['age'].astype(int)
    df['gender'] = df['gender'].astype('category')
    df['smoking_history'] = df['smoking_history'].astype('category')
    df['hypertension'] = df['hypertension'].astype(bool)
    df['heart_disease'] = df['heart_disease'].astype(bool)
    df['diabetes'] = df['diabetes'].astype(bool)
```

```
[5]: gender
                            category
    age
                                int32
    hypertension
                                 bool
    heart_disease
                                 bool
     smoking_history
                            category
     bmi
                              float64
    HbA1c level
                              float64
    blood_glucose_level
                                int64
     diabetes
                                 bool
     dtype: object
    Let's check our categorical values:
[6]: columns = df.select_dtypes(include='category').columns.tolist()
     for column in columns:
         values = sorted(list(df[column].unique()))
         print(column)
         print(values)
         print()
    gender
    ['Female', 'Male', 'Other']
    smoking_history
    ['No Info', 'current', 'ever', 'former', 'never', 'not current']
    I would like to fix the inconsistent values in smoking_history:
[7]: df['smoking_history'] = df['smoking_history'].replace({'No Info': 'no_info', ___

¬'not current': 'not_current'})
     columns = df.select_dtypes(include='category').columns.tolist()
     for column in columns:
         values = sorted(list(df[column].unique()))
         print(column)
         print(values)
         print()
    gender
    ['Female', 'Male', 'Other']
    smoking_history
    ['current', 'ever', 'former', 'never', 'no_info', 'not_current']
```

1.3.1 Analising the column values and their distribution

When our data comes from a third party, and we have not collected it ourselves, it is a good idea to check for any inconsistencies in the values.

First, I checked that no values were missing.

```
[8]: df.isna().sum()
[8]: gender
                              0
                              0
     age
                              0
     hypertension
     heart_disease
                              0
     smoking_history
                              0
     bmi
                              0
                              0
     HbA1c_level
     blood_glucose_level
                              0
     diabetes
                              0
     dtype: int64
```

If there were missing values, we could drop them with df.dropna(inplace=True), but it is not needed.

BMI The first weirdness I noticed was with BMI.

Let us plot the values of BMI in a histogram:

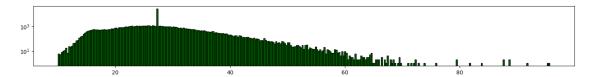
```
[9]: values = df['bmi']
counts, bins, _ = plt.hist(values, bins='auto', color='darkgreen', __
edgecolor='black')

plt.gcf().set_size_inches(18, 2)
plt.show()
```

That doesn't look good. I kept increasing the bins, before leaving them auto, but that singular peak will not disappear. Let's try logarithmic scale, so we can at least see something:

80

plt.show()



Is that a single value of BMI? Let's count the most common values:

```
[11]: max_count_bin = np.argmax(counts)
    max_count = counts[max_count_bin]
    max_bin_range = (bins[max_count_bin], bins[max_count_bin + 1])

max_bin_range

unique_values, counts = np.unique(values, return_counts=True)
    sorted_indices = np.argsort(counts)[::-1]
    sorted_values = unique_values[sorted_indices]
    sorted_counts = counts[sorted_indices]

top_10_values = sorted_values[:10]
    top_10_counts = sorted_counts[:10]

print(top_10_values)
    print(top_10_values)
    print(top_10_counts)
```

```
25.
                                                          24.5]
[27.32 23.
             27.12 27.8
                          24.96 22.4
                                             25.6
                                                   26.7
                                          99
[25495
         103
               101
                      100
                            100
                                   99
                                                98
                                                       94
                                                             94]
```

Yes, for some reason, we have over $\frac{1}{4}$ entries of the dataset with the exact BMI of 27.32. Let's look at these:

```
[12]: weird_entries = df[df['bmi'] == 27.32]
weird_entries.head(10)
```

```
[12]:
          gender
                       hypertension heart_disease smoking_history
                                                                       bmi
                  age
          Female
                              False
                                              False
                                                            no_info 27.32 \
      1
                   54
      2
            Male
                   28
                              False
                                              False
                                                                     27.32
                                                              never
      5
          Female
                                              False
                                                              never 27.32
                   20
                              False
                                                              never 27.32
          Female
                   32
                              False
                                              False
      9
      10 Female
                   53
                              False
                                              False
                                                              never 27.32
         Female
                              False
                                              False
                                                            no_info 27.32
      14
                   76
      15
            Male
                   78
                              False
                                              False
                                                            no_info 27.32
      18
         Female
                   42
                              False
                                              False
                                                            no_info 27.32
      26
            Male
                   67
                              False
                                               True
                                                        not_current 27.32
```

HbA1c_level blood_glucose_level diabetes 1 6.6 80 False 2 5.7 158 False 5 6.6 85 False 9 5.0 100 False	27.32	current	False	True	True		Male	38
2 5.7 158 False 5 6.6 85 False			diabetes	_glucose_level	blo	evel	HbA1c_l	
5 6.6 85 False			False	80		6.6		1
			False	158		5.7		2
9 5.0 100 False			False	85		6.6		5
			False	100		5.0		9
10 6.1 85 False			False	85		6.1		10
14 5.0 160 False			False	160		5.0		14
15 6.6 126 False			False	126		6.6		15
18 5.7 80 False			False	80		5.7		18
26 6.5 200 True			True	200		6.5		26
38 5.7 260 True			True	260		5.7		38

These all seem like real entries, not duplicates of the same entry. My best guess for what happened, is that when the BMI was missing, they put down the mean of the rest of the dataset, which is exactly 27.32.

```
[13]: df[df['bmi'] != 27.32]['bmi'].mean()
```

[13]: 27.321029595329176

In a real life scenario, I would clearify this with the person who gave me the data, however for this homework project, I will assume that when a person looks average weight, they may not bother measuring their BMI, so the average is probably a good approximation, so I will accept this.

Another concern I had was with extreme cases of BMI, such as the values 80 and above. I choose to keep these, because they are not overrepresented and diabetes is linked to extreme obesity, so these are important entry points for prediction.

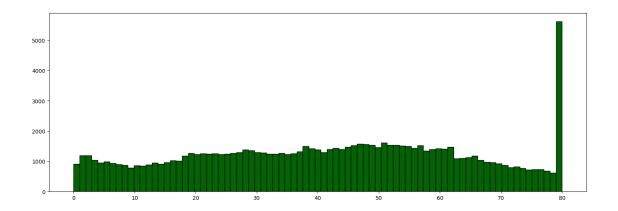
1.3.2 Age

Next issue is with the age.

Let's plot the values:

```
values = df['age']
num_bins = values.nunique()
counts, bins, _ = plt.hist(values, bins=num_bins, color='darkgreen', __
edgecolor='black')

plt.gcf().set_size_inches(18, 6)
plt.show()
```



We have a lot of people aged 80. It looks like older people are overrepresented in this data and probably not all of them are exactly 80, they just cut off the age to fit into a [0,80] interval.

```
[15]: df[df['age']==80]['age'].count()
```

[15]: 5621

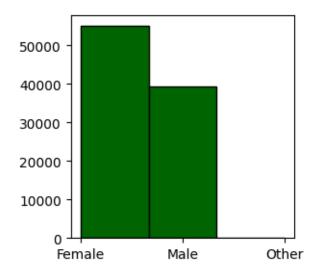
In this case, I choose to remove these values, because I feel like this could cause some skewing.

1.3.3 Gender

Let's plot the values:

```
values = df['gender']
num_bins = values.nunique()
counts, bins, _ = plt.hist(values, bins=num_bins, color='darkgreen',
edgecolor='black')

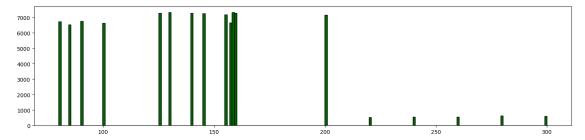
plt.gcf().set_size_inches(3, 3)
plt.show()
```



The category Other can mean many things. For medical research, we are concerned about the biological sex of the participants, so I will remove these entries too.

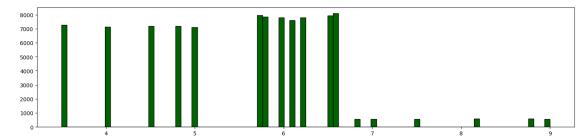
```
[18]: df = df[df['gender'] != 'Other']
df['gender'] = df['gender'].cat.remove_categories('Other')
df['gender'].unique()
```

1.3.4 Blood glucose level



It seems like this is not a continuous spectrum. There is also a concentration of values around 155-160. I'm not sure how to interpret this. The values are probably in mg/dl. For fasting levels, 80-100 is normal, 101-125 is elevated and above 126 is high. Other than that, I would need to ask someone with medical knowledge on why this is happening. For now, I have to accept these, as there is no clear way on how to fix them or if they need to be fixed at all.

1.3.5 Blood sugar level



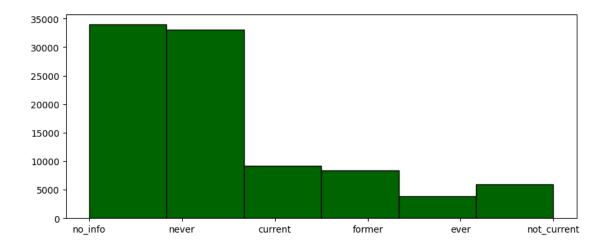
For HbA1c, less than 5.6% is normal, between 5.7% - 6.4% is elevated (prediabetes) and above 6.5% is high (diabetes).

Although increasing the granuality does reveal that not every value is represented, but the precision is only one digit after the integer, so I think this looks okay.

1.3.6 Smoking history

```
[21]: values = df['smoking_history']
num_bins = values.nunique()
counts, bins, _ = plt.hist(values, bins=num_bins, color='darkgreen', ___
edgecolor='black')

plt.gcf().set_size_inches(10, 4)
plt.show()
```

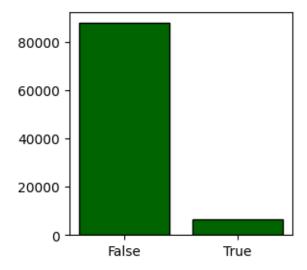


We have a large amount of entries with no_info as a value. It might be worth removing these later, but I will keep them in for now, because they represent a large chunk of our data.

I was also questioning what ever means, given the other possibilities present, but I think it means they have tried smoking in the past, but weren't addicted.

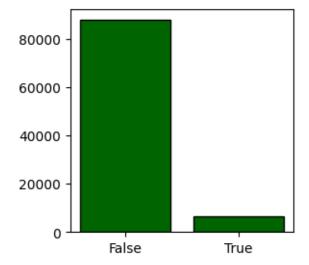
1.3.7 Hypertension

It seems like a reasonable distribution.



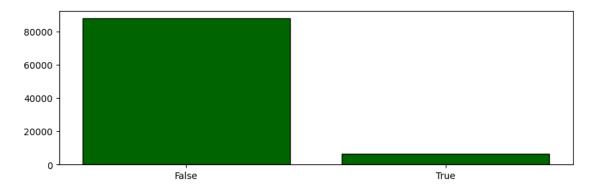
1.3.8 Heart disease

Similarly, this looks okay.



1.3.9 Diabetes

And our target value. This seems like a good ratio, similar to the generic population.



2 Analysis

2.1 Multivariate linear regression

The first thing I will try is create a multivariate linear regression model, using all of the available variables.

In order to do this, we must convert the categorical variables into 0/1 variables. This can be done with the get_dummies function, as seen below.

```
[25]: df_encoded = pd.get_dummies(df)
df_encoded.head()
```

```
[25]:
         age
              hypertension heart_disease
                                               bmi
                                                    HbA1c_level
                                                                 blood_glucose_level
          54
                     False
                                     False
                                            27.32
                                                             6.6
                                                                                    80
      1
      2
          28
                     False
                                     False 27.32
                                                             5.7
                                                                                   158
      3
                      False
                                     False 23.45
                                                             5.0
          36
                                                                                   155
```

4	76	True 20.14 4.8					155		
5	20	False	False 27.32			6.6		85	
	diabetes	<pre>gender_Female</pre>	gender_M	ale	smoking_	history_no_info			
1	False	True	Fa	lse		True	\		
2	False	False	T	rue		False			
3	False	True	Fa	lse		False			
4	False	False	T	rue		False			
5	False	True	Fa	lse		False			
	smoking_history_current smoking_history_ever smoking_history_former								
1		False			False		False	\	
2		False		False					
3		True		False					
4		True	False				False		
5		False	False				False		
	smoking_h	istory_never s	moking_hi	story	_not_cur	rent			
1		False			F	alse			
2		True			F	alse			
3		False	False						
4		False	False						
5		True	False						

Then, we separate our target variable.

```
[26]: X = df_encoded.drop('diabetes', axis=1)
y = df_encoded['diabetes']
```

And split the data into training and testing datasets, with the ratio of 80% and 20%. It is good practice to seed the pseudorandom generator, so it will always result in the same split, across multiple runs of our notebook.

```
[27]: X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, u arandom_state=42)
```

Then we create our multivariate linear regression model, using scikit-learn.

```
[28]: model = LinearRegression()
model.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

[28]: LinearRegression()

The model's coefficients are as follows:

```
print("Coefficients:")
print(coefficients)
print("\nIntercept:")
print(intercept)
```

Coefficients:

```
Variable Coefficient
2
                  heart_disease
                                     0.133472
                   hypertension
1
                                     0.103687
4
                    HbA1c_level
                                     0.076937
         smoking_history_former
11
                                     0.015804
7
                    gender_Male
                                     0.006450
3
                             bmi
                                     0.004050
5
            blood_glucose_level
                                     0.002163
    smoking_history_not_current
13
                                     0.001371
0
                             age
                                     0.001358
           smoking_history_ever
10
                                    -0.001578
9
        smoking_history_current
                                    -0.001865
12
          smoking_history_never
                                    -0.003399
                  gender_Female
6
                                    -0.006450
8
        smoking_history_no_info
                                    -0.010332
```

Intercept:

```
Variable Coefficient
O Intercept -0.814089
```

It is important to note here immediately, that the scale of these coefficients depends on their value sets. For example, gender_Male is between 0 and 1, while BMI is between 10 and 100. For this reason, we cannot compare the relative values of the coefficients, without taking into account the possible values of the variables behind them.

However, the signs (positive or negative) can be looked at and compared, which we will do shortly.

But first, the precision of this model on the test dataset is as follows:

```
[30]: y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
mse = mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred)
print("Mean Squared Error:", mse)
```

Mean Squared Error: 0.04693052558568325

And on the train dataset:

```
[31]: y_pred = model.predict(X_train)
mse = mean_squared_error(y_train, y_pred)
print("Mean Squared Error:", mse)
```

Mean Squared Error: 0.048474640595590854

We can conclude, that the model was not overfit and the error is relatively low.

2.2 Independence testing

2.2.1 **Gender**

Examining the coefficients, the first thing I noticed is the gender variables. It seems that, with all other variables present, being male slightly increases, while being female slightly reduces the risk of diabetes.

I wonder if without the other variables, what could we say about the influence of gender on diabetes? I will test the independence of the **gender** and **diabetes** variables in the original dataset using Chi-square test of independence.

At first, I will create the frequency table of their values:

```
[32]: crosstab = pd.crosstab(df['gender'], df['diabetes'])
crosstab
```

```
[32]: diabetes False True gender
Female 51188 3856
Male 35697 3620
```

Then, I will use scipy, to compute a Pearson's chi-squared statistic.

The null hypothesis is that the variables are independent.

```
[33]: chi2, p, dof, expected = chi2_contingency(crosstab)
    print(f"Chi-square value: {chi2}")
    print(f"P-value: {p}")
    print(f"Degrees of freedom: {dof}")
    print("Expected:")
    print(expected)
```

```
Chi-square value: 152.1271942474673
P-value: 5.94328803769177e-35
Degrees of freedom: 1
Expected:
[[50682.9933977 4361.0066023]
[36202.0066023 3114.9933977]]
```

With a p-value of $p = 5,94 \cdot 10^{-35}$ we can say, that we have very strong evidence against our null hypothesis, therefore we can conclude that gender and diabetes are indeed correlated with each other.

The gender of a person influences the likelihood of developing diabetes.

As we can see in the Expected matrix, that is the expected frequencies for the same population size, were these variables independent of each other. We can see that we got less than expected females with diabetes and more than expected males with diabetes.

2.2.2 Smoking history

crosstab

no info

smoking_history

False True

1260

32751

[36]: diabetes

The other interesting thing I noticed about the multivariate linear regression coefficients is that smoking_history_current has a negative coefficient, while smoking_history_former and smoking_history_not_current have positive coefficients. At least smoking_history_never has a negative coefficient too, which makes perfect sense.

I do have tales from friends and family saying that when someone chooses to stop smoking is when the problems start. A more likely explanation is that when people stop smoking, the damage has already been done. When someone is still smoking, maybe they have less years behind them and quitting smoking **earlier** should help lower the risk of diabetes and heart disease (amongst many diseases).

```
[34]: crosstab = pd.crosstab(df['smoking history'], df['diabetes'])
      crosstab
[34]: diabetes
                       False
                              True
      smoking_history
                                1260
     no_info
                       32751
      current
                        8227
                                 924
                                 436
                        3376
      ever
                        7004
                                1372
      former
                       30181
                                2878
      never
     not_current
                        5346
                                 606
[35]: chi2, p, dof, expected = chi2 contingency(crosstab)
      print(f"Chi-square value: {chi2}")
      print(f"P-value: {p}")
      print(f"Degrees of freedom: {dof}")
      print("Expected:")
      print(expected)
     Chi-square value: 1844.0298560488386
     P-value: 0.0
     Degrees of freedom: 5
     Expected:
     [[31316.38849737 2694.61150263]
      [ 8425.98780216
                         725.01219784]
      [ 3509.98420958
                         302.01579042]
      [ 7712.3892286
                         663.6107714 ]
      [30439.81321732
                       2619.18678268]
      [ 5480.43704497
                         471.56295503]]
[36]: crosstab = pd.crosstab(df['smoking history'], df['diabetes'])
```

```
    current
    8227
    924

    ever
    3376
    436

    former
    7004
    1372

    never
    30181
    2878

    not_current
    5346
    606
```

```
[37]: chi2, p, dof, expected = chi2_contingency(crosstab)
    print(f"Chi-square value: {chi2}")
    print(f"P-value: {p}")
    print(f"Degrees of freedom: {dof}")
    print("Expected:")
    print(expected)
```

```
Chi-square value: 1844.0298560488386
P-value: 0.0
Degrees of freedom: 5
Expected:
[[31316.38849737
                  2694.61150263]
 [ 8425.98780216
                   725.01219784]
 [ 3509.98420958
                   302.01579042]
 [ 7712.3892286
                   663.6107714 ]
 [30439.81321732
                  2619.18678268]
 [ 5480.43704497
                   471.56295503]]
```

The p-value is so small, the numerical representation cannot display it. This means smoking history has indeed a strong influence on whether or not someone develops diabetes.

I would like to further investigate this relationship. Since diabetes is a binary variable, it is hard to see exactly the effects of smoking on it. However, we have a few numerical variables in the dataset, which are strong indicators of diabetes, such as various measurements of blood levels and BMI.

So I will continue exploring the effects of smoking on these variables further.

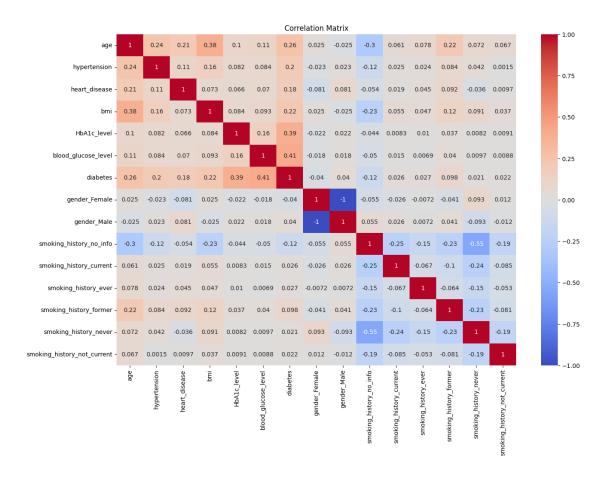
2.3 Correlation matrix

In order to establish which numerical variables have a strong relationship with diabetes, I will be using a correlation matrix heatmap to visualise these 1-1 relationships.

```
[38]: correlation_matrix = df_encoded.corr()

plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    sns.heatmap(correlation_matrix, annot=True, cmap='coolwarm', center=0)

plt.title('Correlation Matrix')
    plt.show()
```



We can see on the heatmap, that blood_glucose_level and HbA1c_level have the strongest correlation to diabetes, so I will be exploring the effects of smoking on these variables.

2.4 Testing the mean of categories

Smoking history is a categorical variable, which means it defines different groups of people. For these groups, I can calculate the mean of blood_glucose_level and HbA1c_level, then, I can investigate whether or not the differences in the results are statistically significant.

Here, we can see that the average blood glucose level slightly increases, as someone has more history with smoking. Interestingly again, current smokers rank below former smokers. This can again be due to the fact that former smokers may have a longer smoking history than current smokers.

```
[40]: df.groupby('smoking_history')[['HbA1c_level']].mean().sort_values('HbA1c_level')
[40]:
                       HbA1c_level
      smoking_history
                          5.457690
     no_info
     never
                          5.531640
                          5.546694
      current
                          5.557023
     not_current
      ever
                          5.571800
      former
                          5.646036
```

However, for HbA1c_level, the level of ever, which I assume means "smoked a bit a long time ago" seems really high on the ranking.

F statistic: 11.402418239496091 p-value: 0.0007357788133329733