Graphical User Interface for a Statistical Package

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Abstract

Computer software, including statistical packages, was mainly operated by character user interfaces (CUIs), in which users give command lines and the software displays the results using ASCII characters. As computing power is greatly increased, graphical user interfaces (GUIs), in which users operate software by clicking menus or icons on the screen by the use of pointing devices, have become popular. Even though GUI is more user-friendly than CUI, CUI still has some merits for programming. For this reason, Liu et al. (1995) proposed building GUI programs for statistical packages whose interfaces are CUIs, and refer to this approach as composite user interfaces. In this article, we show that this approach has become very easy to employ by using current computer technologies. We use Tcl/Tk language and World Wide Web (WWW) browser abilities for making GUI programs for SHAZAM statistical package. Our systems enable the user to run, load, save and edit SHAZAM programs with interactive help menus on local or remote computers.