

Assignment 05

Regression Assumptions

Research. Teaching. Service. The trifecta upon which that almost every university instructor is evaluated, and, ultimately compensated. There has been substantial research to indicate that higher quality teaching is associated with increased faculty salaries. One way which academic administrators judge teaching quality is through teachers' course evaluations. While we know evaluation scores are not perfectly measures of teaching quality, nonetheless, they do play a role in the tenure and promotion process. Hamermesh & Parker (2005) examined whether, adjusting for other determinants, whether instructor attractiveness explain differences in course evaluation scores—and thus on earnings differences. In this assignment, you will use a sample of their data to examine this question.

Please submit your responses to each of the questions below in a printed document. Also, please adhere to the following guidelines for further formatting your assignment:

- All graphics should be resized so that they do not take up more room than necessary and should have an appropriate caption and labels.
- Any typed mathematics (equations, matrices, vectors, etc.) should be appropriately typeset within the document using Equation Editor, Markdown, or L^AT_EX.

This assignment is worth 12 points. Each question is worth one point unless otherwise noted.

For this assignment, you will use the file *beauty.csv*. This file contains data collected from student evaluations of instructors' beauty and teaching quality for several courses at the University of Texas. The teaching evaluations were conducted at the end of the semester, and the beauty judgments were made later, by six students who had not attended the classes and were not aware of the course evaluations. The variables are:

- **prof**: Professor ID number
- **avgeval**: Average course rating
- **btystdave**: Measure of the professor's beauty composed of the average score on six standardized beauty ratings
- **tenured**: 0 = non-tenured; 1 = tenured
- **nonenglish**: 0 = native English speaker; 1 = non-native English speaker
- **age**: Professor's age (in years)
- **female**: 0 = male; 1 = female
- **students**: Number of students enrolled in the course
- **percentevaluating**: Percentage of enrolled students who completed an evaluation

These source of these data is: Hamermesh, D. S. & Parker, A. M. (2005). Beauty in the classroom: Instructors' pulchritude and putative pedagogical productivity. *Economics of Education Review*, 24, 369–376. The data were made available by: Gelman, A., & Hill, J. (2007). *Data analysis using regression and multi-level/hierarchical models*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Preparation

Fit the regression model using beauty ratings and the percentage of students completing an evaluation to predict the variation in course evaluation scores. You will use the output from the fitted model to answer the questions in the assignment.

Preliminary Examination of Assumptions

1. Create the density plots for the outcome and each of the predictors (three total).
2. Do any of these distributions foreshadow problems for the normality assumption? Explain.
3. Create the scatterplot of the outcome vs. each predictor (two total). Include the fitted simple regression line in each plot.
4. Do any of these relationships foreshadow problems for the linearity assumption? Explain.

Examination of the Standardized Residuals from Each Simple Regression Model

5. Create the residual plots (residual versus fitted values) using the standardized residuals for each of the simple regression models (two total).
6. Do any of these plots foreshadow problems for the linearity assumption? Explain.
7. Do any of these plots foreshadow problems for the homogeneity of variance assumption? Explain.

Examination of the Standardized Residuals from the Multiple Regression Model

8. Create the density plot of the marginal distribution of the standardized residuals from the two-predictor model. Add the confidence envelope for the normal distribution.
9. Does this plot suggest problems about meeting the normality assumption? Explain.
10. Create the scatterplot of the standardized residuals versus the fitted values from the two-predictor model. In the plot identify observation with extreme residuals (≤ -3 or ≥ 3) by indicating the row number of that observation in the plot.
11. Does this plot suggest problems about meeting the linearity assumption? Explain.
12. Does this plot suggest problems about meeting the homogeneity of variance assumption? Explain.