

# Multiple linear regression

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## Grading the professor

Many college courses conclude by giving students the opportunity to evaluate the course and the instructor anonymously. However, the use of these student evaluations as an indicator of course quality and teaching effectiveness is often criticized because these measures may reflect the influence of non-teaching related characteristics, such as the physical appearance of the instructor. The article titled, “Beauty in the classroom: instructors’ pulchritude and putative pedagogical productivity” (Hamermesh and Parker, 2005) found that instructors who are viewed to be better looking receive higher instructional ratings. (Daniel S. Hamermesh, Amy Parker, Beauty in the classroom: instructors pulchritude and putative pedagogical productivity, *Economics of Education Review*, Volume 24, Issue 4, August 2005, Pages 369-376, ISSN 0272-7757, 10.1016/j.econedurev.2004.07.013.

(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775704001165>)<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775704001165>.)

In this lab we will analyze the data from this study in order to learn what goes into a positive professor evaluation.

## The data

The data were gathered from end of semester student evaluations for a large sample of professors from the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, six students rated the professors’ physical appearance. (This is aslightlyly modified version of the original data set that was released as part of the replication data for *Data Analysis Using Regression and Multilevel/Hierarchical Models* (Gelman and Hill, 2007).) The result is a data frame where each row contains a different course and columns represent variables about the courses and professors.

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
## Warning: package 'ggplot2' was built under R version 3.2.5
```

```
load("more/evals.RData")
```

variable	description
score	average professor evaluation score: (1) very unsatisfactory - (5) excellent.
rank	rank of professor: teaching, tenure track, tenured.