Multiple linear regression

Donald Butler

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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" by Hamermesh and Parker found that instructors who are viewed to be better looking receive higher instructional ratings.

Here, you will analyze the data from this study in order to learn what goes into a positive professor evaluation.

Getting Started

Load packages

In this lab, you will explore and visualize the data using the **tidyverse** suite of packages. The data can be found in the companion package for OpenIntro resources, **openintro**.

Let's load the packages.

```
library(tidyverse)
library(openintro)
library(GGally)
```

This is the first time we're using the `GGally` package. You will be using the `ggpairs` function from this package later in the lab.

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. The result is a data frame where each row contains a different course and columns represent variables about the courses and professors. It's called `evals`.

```
glimpse(evals)
```

```
## Rows: 463
## Columns: 23
## $ course_id     <int> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 1~
## $ prof_id       <int> 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5,~
```

```
## $ score         <dbl> 4.7, 4.1, 3.9, 4.8, 4.6, 4.3, 2.8, 4.1, 3.4, 4.5, 3.8, 4~
## $ rank          <fct> tenure track, tenure track, tenure track, tenure track, ~
## $ ethnicity     <fct> minority, minority, minority, minority, not minority, no~
## $ gender        <fct> female, female, female, female, male, male, male, male, ~
## $ language      <fct> english, english, english, english, english, english, en~
## $ age           <int> 36, 36, 36, 36, 59, 59, 59, 51, 51, 40, 40, 40, 40, 40, ~
## $ cls_perc_eval <dbl> 55.81395, 68.80000, 60.80000, 62.60163, 85.00000, 87.500~
## $ cls_did_eval  <int> 24, 86, 76, 77, 17, 35, 39, 55, 111, 40, 24, 24, 17, 14,~
## $ cls_students  <int> 43, 125, 125, 123, 20, 40, 44, 55, 195, 46, 27, 25, 20, ~
## $ cls_level     <fct> upper, upper, upper, upper, upper, upper, upper, upper, ~
## $ cls_profs     <fct> single, single, single, single, multiple, multiple, mult~
## $ cls_credits   <fct> multi credit, multi credit, multi credit, multi credit, ~
## $ bty_f1lower   <int> 5, 5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 7, 7,~
## $ bty_f1upper   <int> 7, 7, 7, 7, 4, 4, 4, 2, 2, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 9, 9,~
## $ bty_f2upper   <int> 6, 6, 6, 6, 2, 2, 2, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 9, 9,~
## $ bty_m1lower   <int> 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 7, 7,~
## $ bty_m1upper   <int> 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 6, 6,~
## $ bty_m2upper   <int> 6, 6, 6, 6, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 6, 6,~
## $ bty_avg       <dbl> 5.000, 5.000, 5.000, 5.000, 3.000, 3.000, 3.000, 3.333, ~
## $ pic_outfit    <fct> not formal, not formal, not formal, not formal, not form~
## $ pic_color     <fct> color, color, color, color, color, color, color, color, ~
```

We have observations on 21 different variables, some categorical and some numerical. The meaning of each variable can be found by bringing up the help file:

```
?evals
```

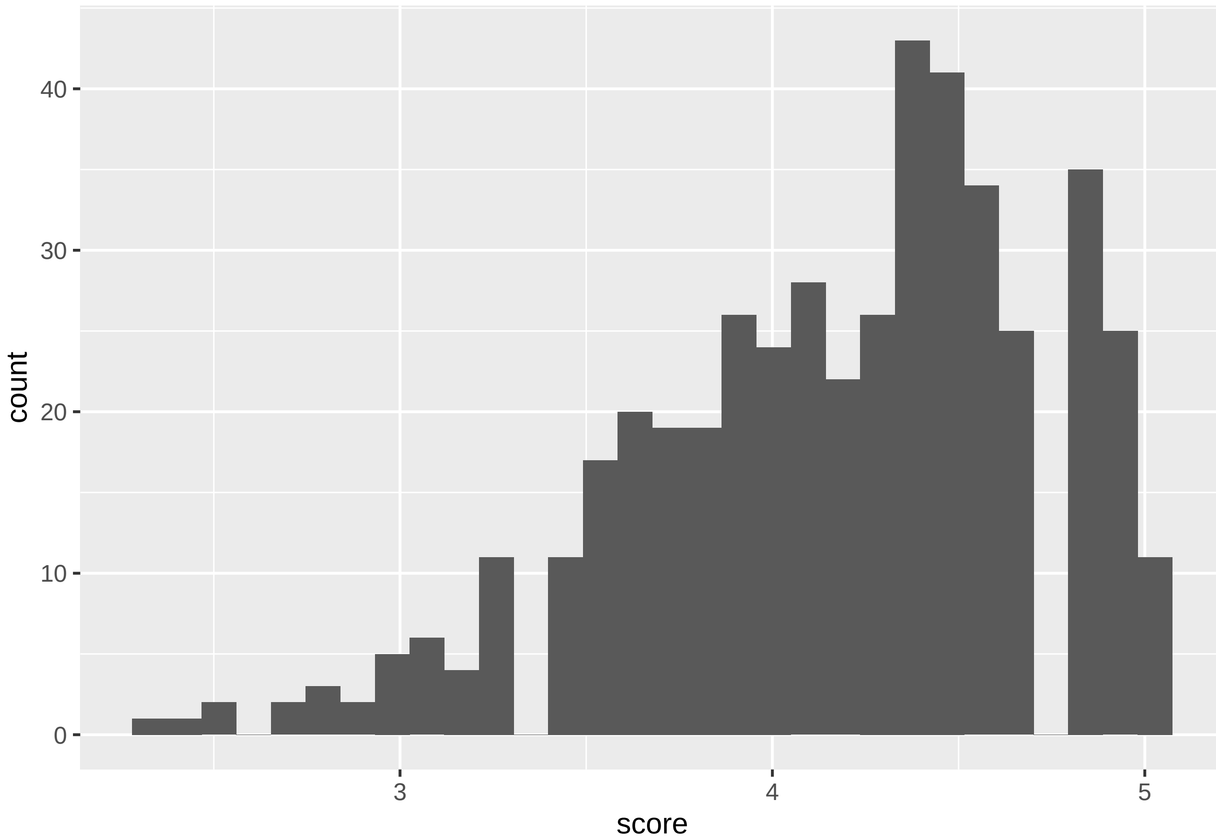
Exploring the data

1. Is this an observational study or an experiment? The original research question posed in the paper is whether beauty leads directly to the differences in course evaluations. Given the study design, is it possible to answer this question as it is phrased? If not, rephrase the question.

This is an observational study because there are not separate control and experimental groups. This study cannot determine causation, only correlation. A more accurate research question might be: Is the instructor's physical appearance related to how students evaluate the course.

2. Describe the distribution of `score`. Is the distribution skewed? What does that tell you about how students rate courses? Is this what you expected to see? Why, or why not?

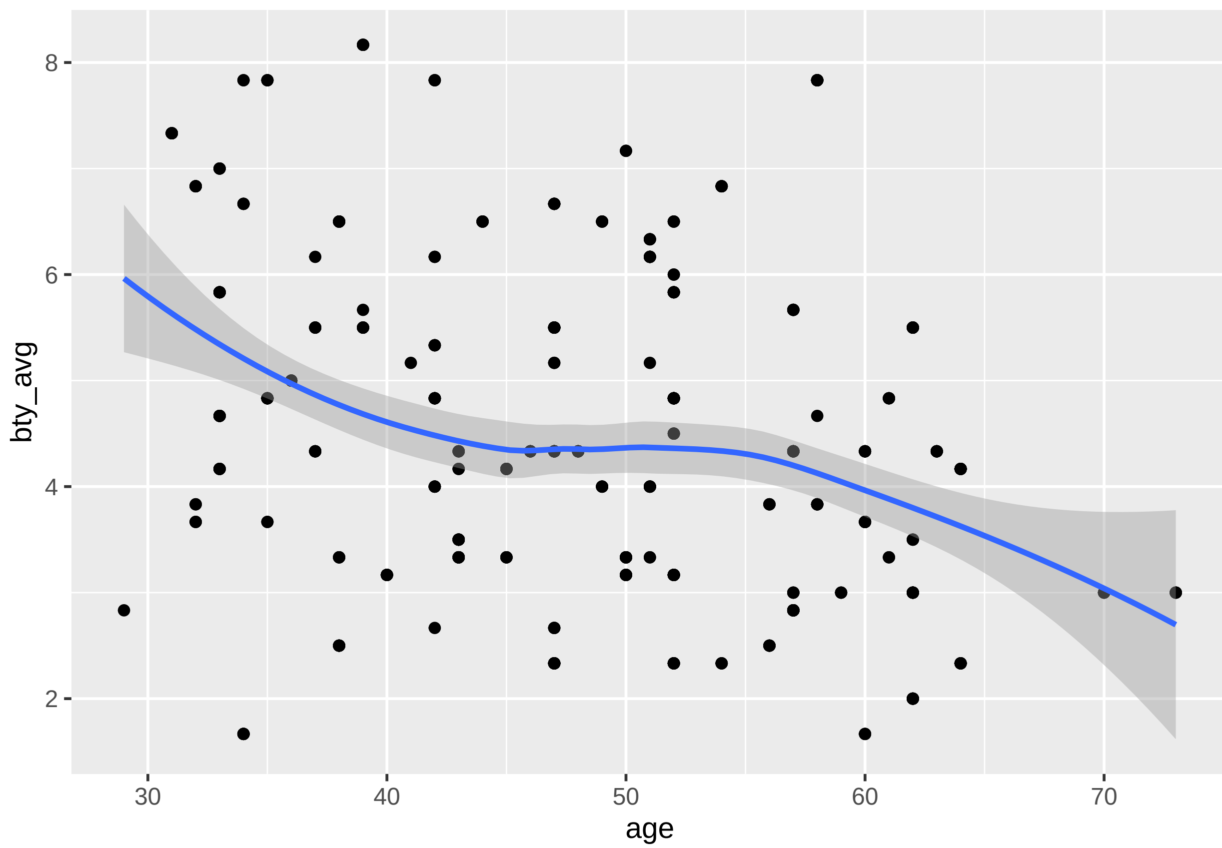
```
evals %>%
  ggplot(aes(score)) + geom_histogram()
```



The distribution is left skewed. With `score` on a scale of 1-5, most courses have been rated positively. This is pretty much as I would expect because I would only rate something 1-3 unless it was really bad.

3. Excluding `score`, select two other variables and describe their relationship with each other using an appropriate visualization.

```
evals %>%
  ggplot(aes(age,bty_avg)) + geom_point() + geom_smooth()
```

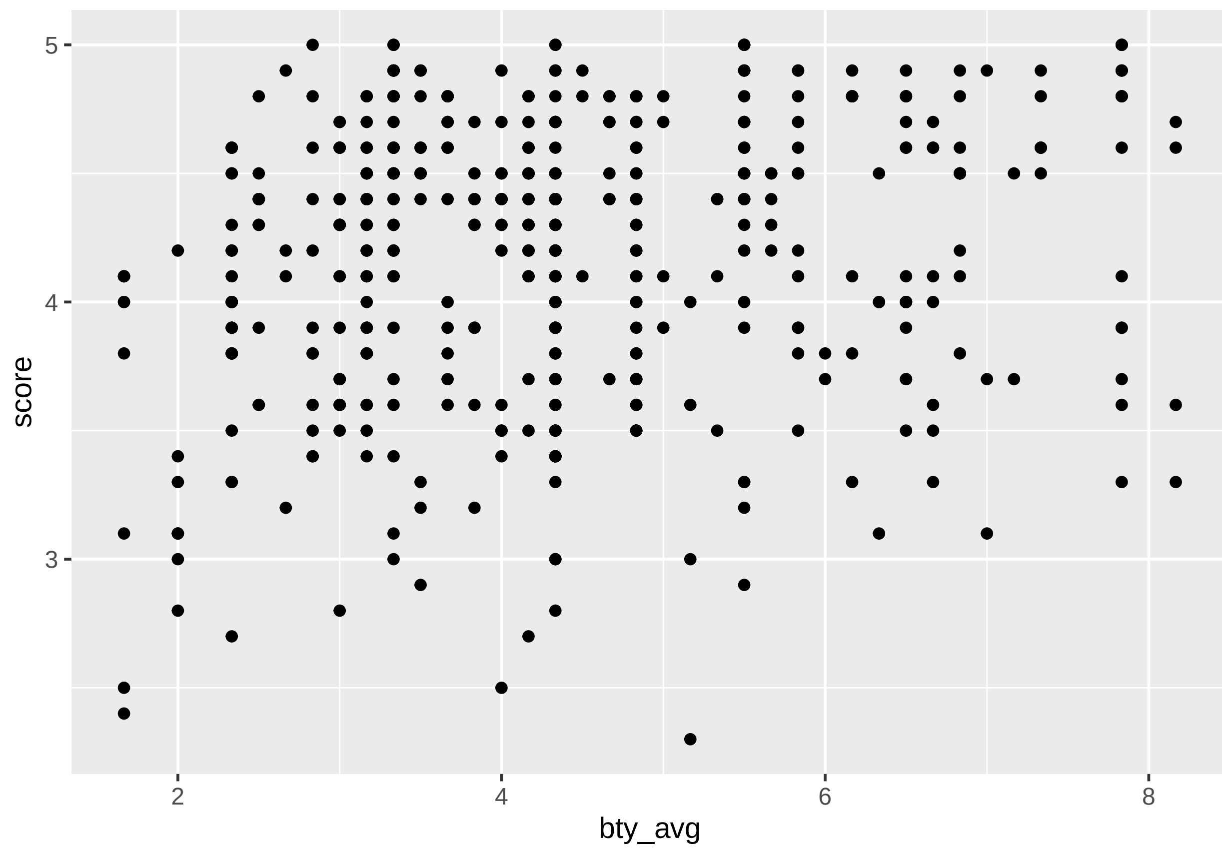


The age of the instructor appears to be inversely related to their beauty score, as would be expected.

Simple linear regression

The fundamental phenomenon suggested by the study is that better looking teachers are evaluated more favorably. Let's create a scatterplot to see if this appears to be the case:

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_avg, y = score)) +
  geom_point()
```



Before you draw conclusions about the trend, compare the number of observations in the data frame with the approximate number of points on the scatterplot. Is anything awry?

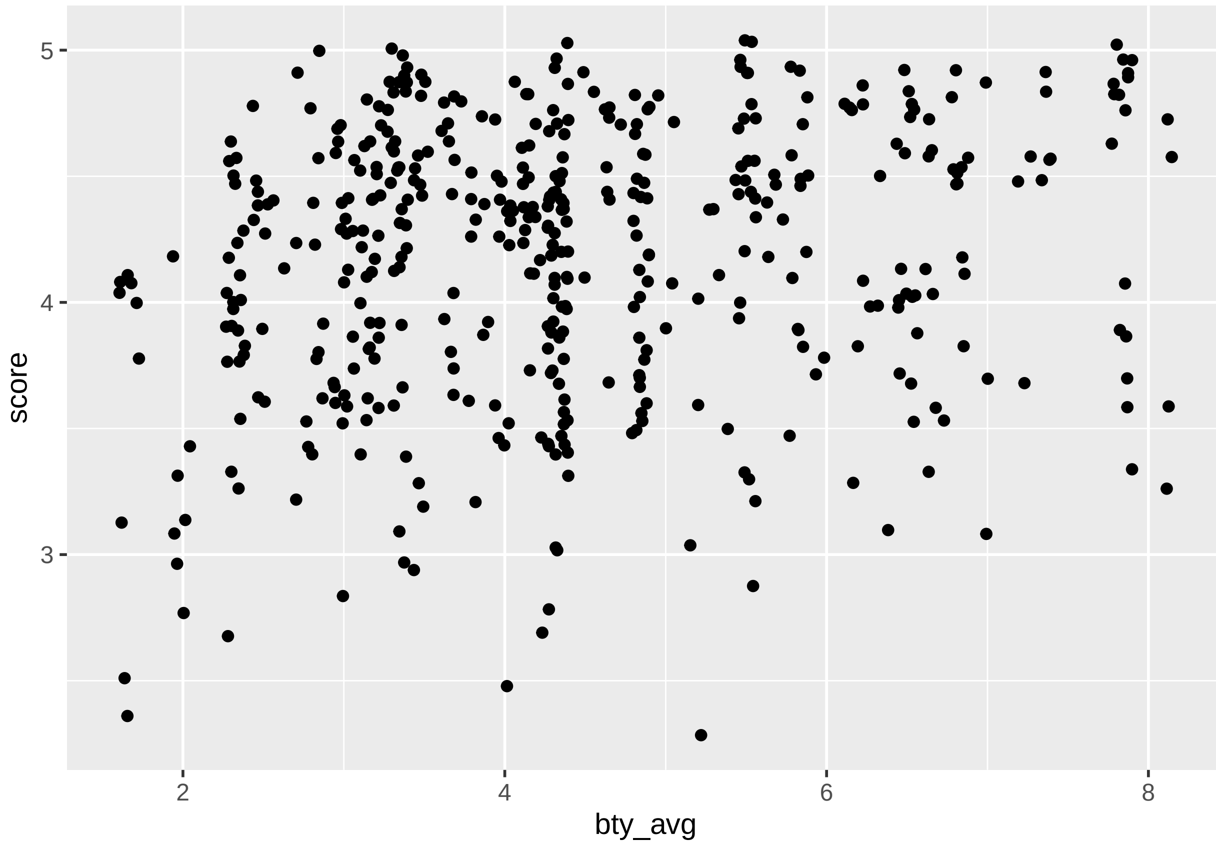
```
nrow(evals)
```

```
## [1] 463
```

There are 463 observations in the evals dataset, but the scatterplot doesn't appear to have that many observations.

4. Re-plot the scatterplot, but this time use `geom_jitter` as your layer. What was misleading about the initial scatterplot?

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_avg, y = score)) +
  geom_jitter()
```



The initial scatterplot has a number of observations on top of each other. This appears to be caused by the rounding used in the `score` and `bty_avg` variables. This can be seen in the original plot by looking at the vertical and horizontal spacing between observations.

5. Let's see if the apparent trend in the plot is something more than natural variation. Fit a linear model called `m_bty` to predict average professor score by average beauty rating. Write out the equation for the linear model and interpret the slope. Is average beauty score a statistically significant predictor? Does it appear to be a practically significant predictor?

```
m_bty <- evals %>%
  lm(score ~ bty_avg, data = .)

summary(m_bty)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ bty_avg, data = .)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -1.9246 -0.3690  0.1420  0.3977  0.9309
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  3.88034    0.07614   50.96  < 2e-16 ***
```

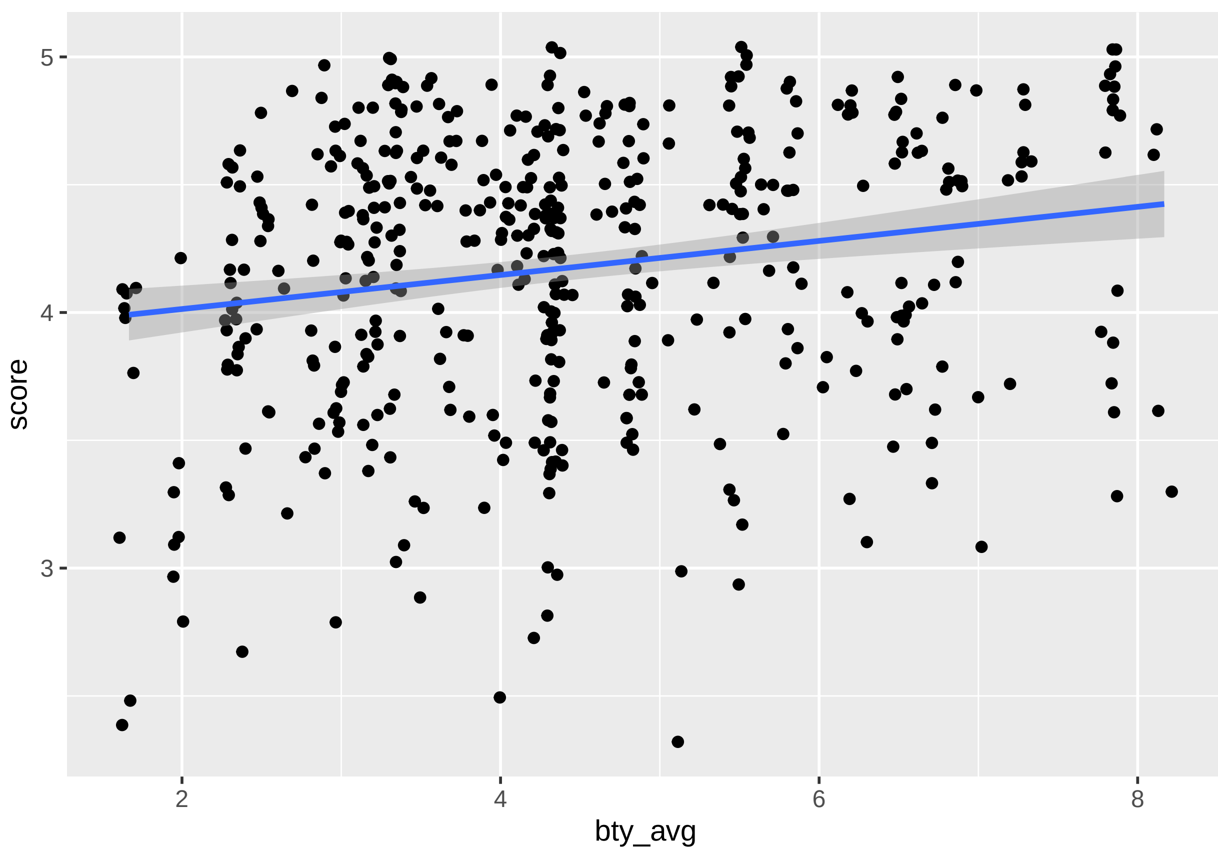
```
## bty_avg      0.06664    0.01629    4.09 5.08e-05 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.5348 on 461 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.03502,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.03293
## F-statistic: 16.73 on 1 and 461 DF,  p-value: 5.083e-05
```

$$\hat{score} = 3.88034 + .06664 \times bty\_avg$$

The p-value is less than .05 so the relationship is statistically significant, but with a small `R^2` value, the `bty_avg` variable does not provide much of the variation in `score`.

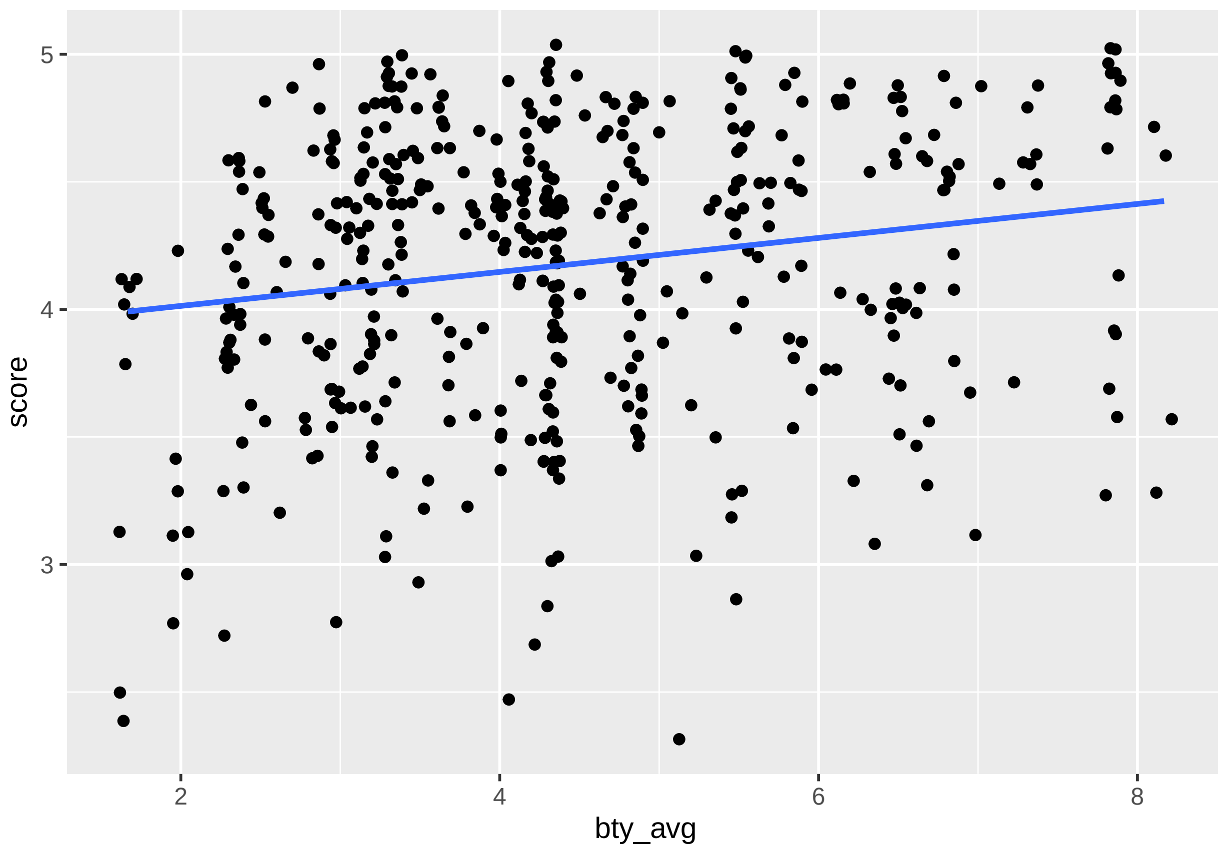
Add the line of the bet fit model to your plot using the following:

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_avg, y = score)) +
  geom_jitter() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm")
```



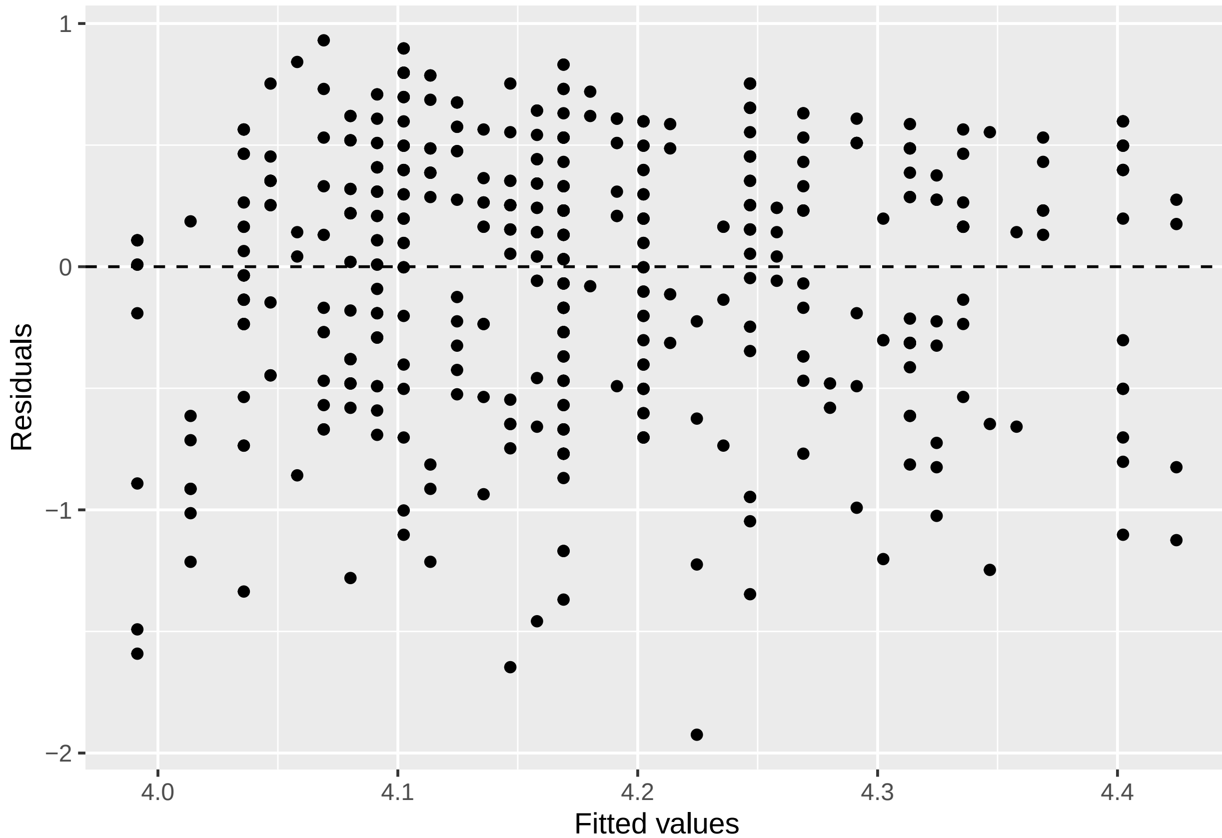
The blue line is the model. The shaded gray area around the line tells you about the variability you might expect in your predictions. To turn that off, use `se = FALSE`.

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_avg, y = score)) +
  geom_jitter() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE)
```



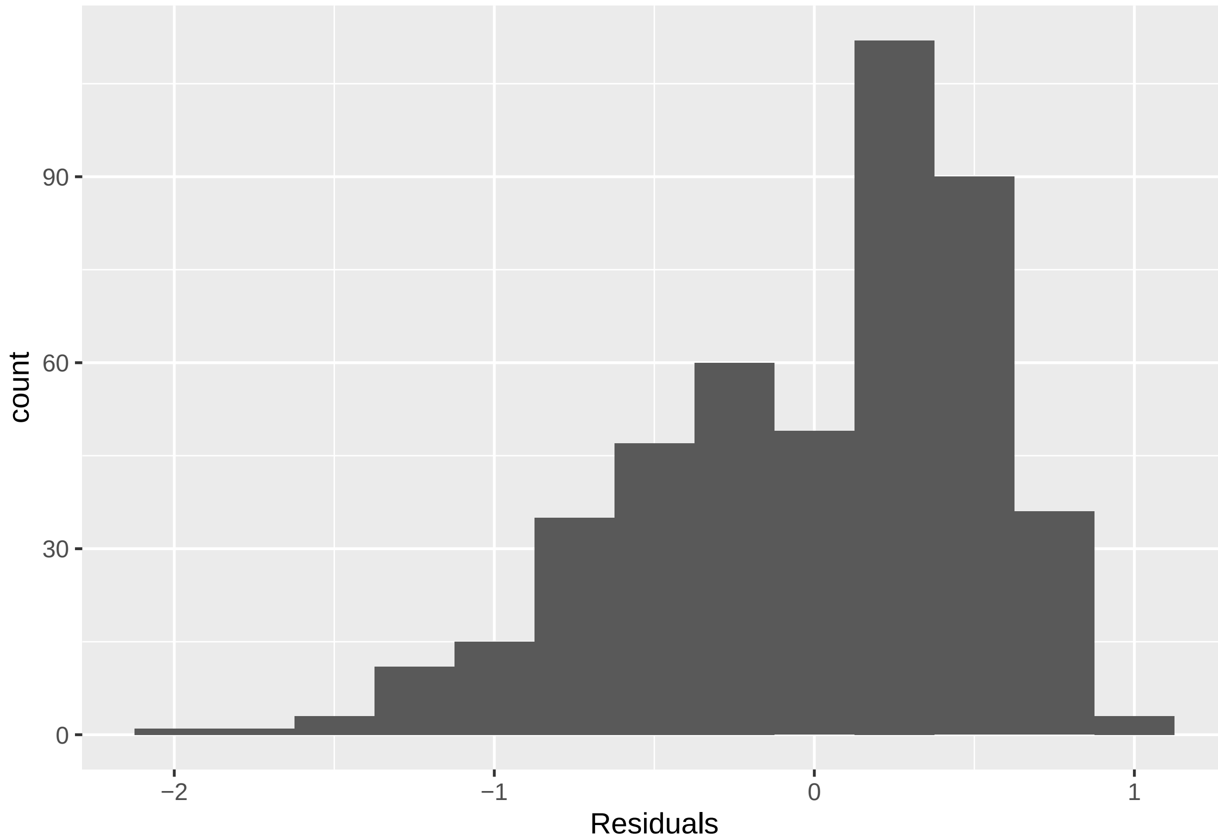
6. Use residual plots to evaluate whether the conditions of least squares regression are reasonable. Provide plots and comments for each one (see the Simple Regression Lab for a reminder of how to make these).

```
m_bty %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .fitted, y = .resid)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed") +
  xlab("Fitted values") +
  ylab("Residuals")
```



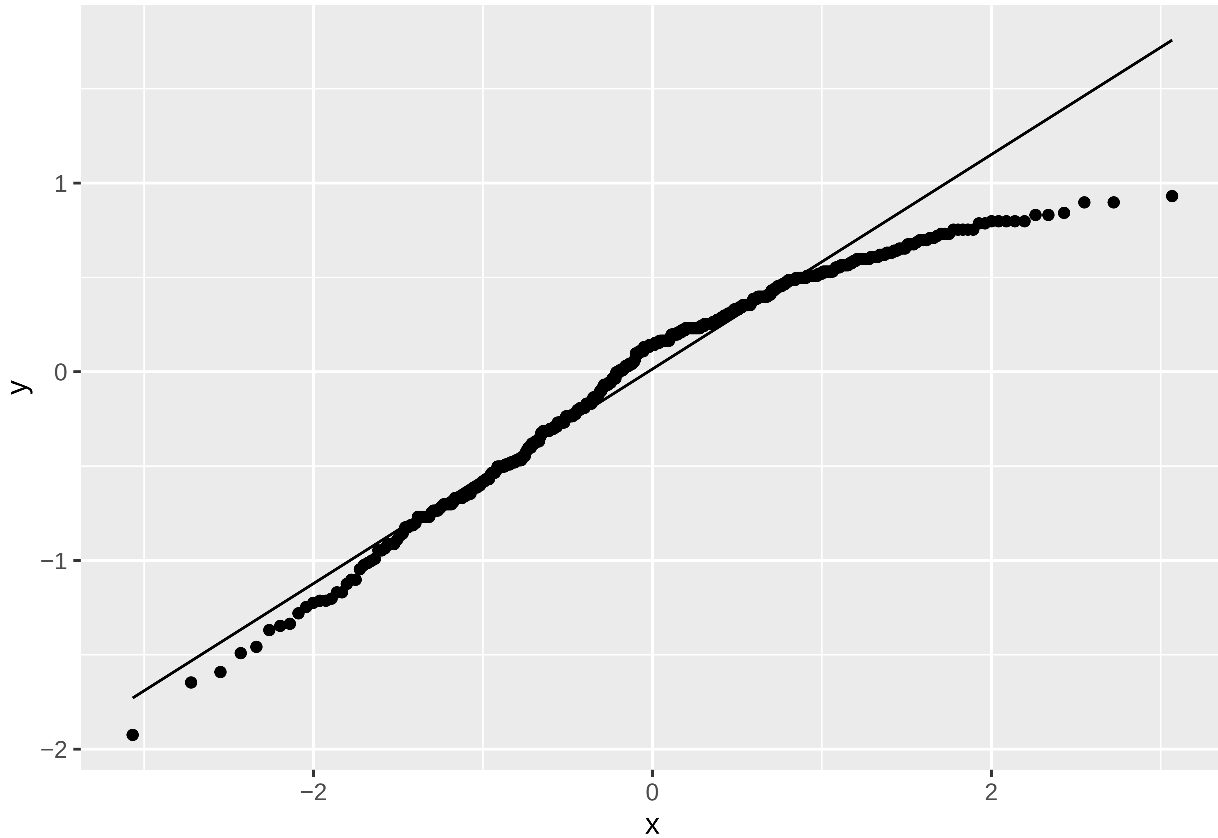
The scatterplot of residuals shows constant variability.

```
m_bty %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .resid)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = .25) +
  xlab('Residuals')
```



The histogram of residuals shows a left skew. It's unclear if this is close enough to be considered normal.

```
m_bty %>%
  ggplot(aes(sample = .resid)) +
  stat_qq() + geom_qq_line()
```

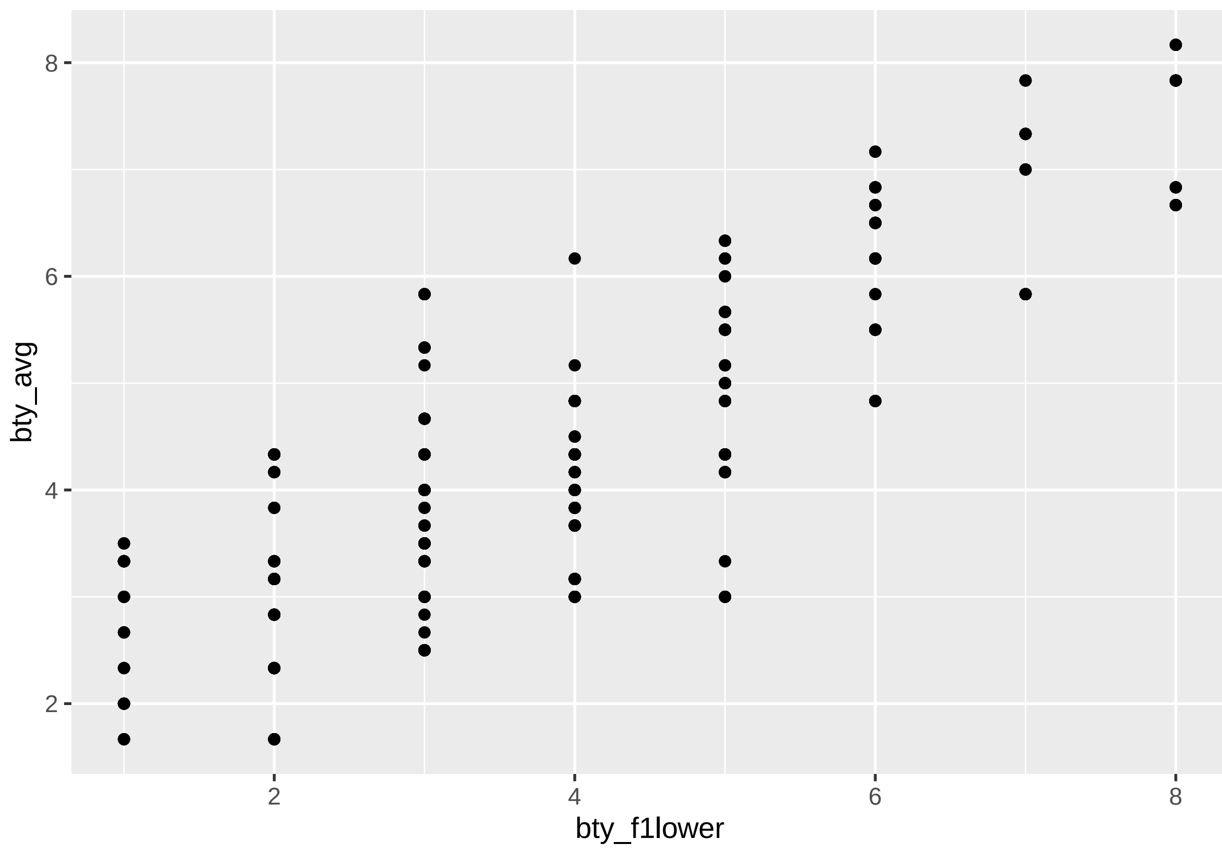


The QQ plot shows the same deviation from normal that was seen in the histogram of residuals.

Multiple linear regression

The data set contains several variables on the beauty score of the professor: individual ratings from each of the six students who were asked to score the physical appearance of the professors and the average of these six scores. Let's take a look at the relationship between one of these scores and the average beauty score.

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_f1lower, y = bty_avg)) +
  geom_point()
```

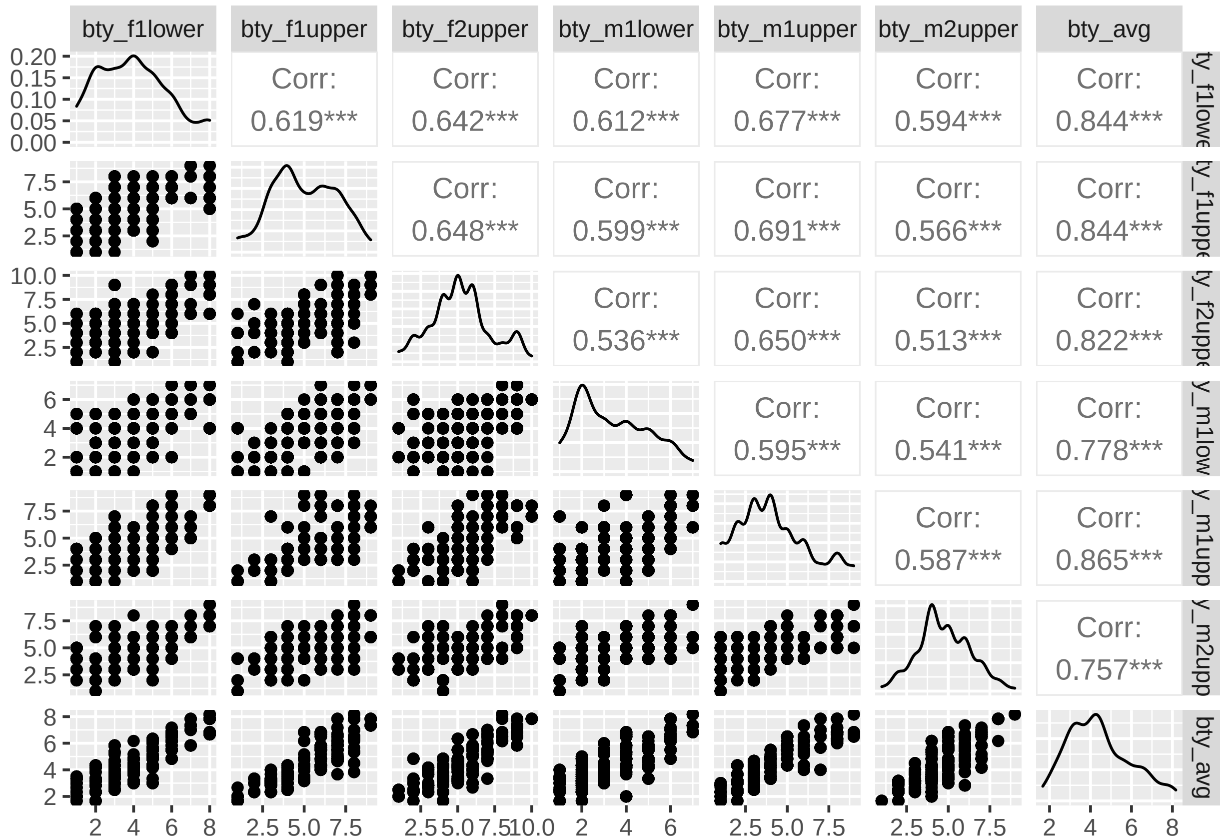



```
evals %>%
  summarise(cor(bty_avg, bty_f1lower))
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
##   `cor(bty_avg, bty_f1lower)`
##                         <dbl>
## 1                       0.844
```

As expected, the relationship is quite strong—after all, the average score is calculated using the individual scores. You can actually look at the relationships between all beauty variables (columns 13 through 19) using the following command:

```
evals %>%
  select(contains("bty")) %>%
  ggpairs()
```



These variables are collinear (correlated), and adding more than one of these variables to the model would not add much value to the model. In this application and with these highly-correlated predictors, it is reasonable to use the average beauty score as the single representative of these variables.

In order to see if beauty is still a significant predictor of professor score after you've accounted for the professor's gender, you can add the gender term into the model.

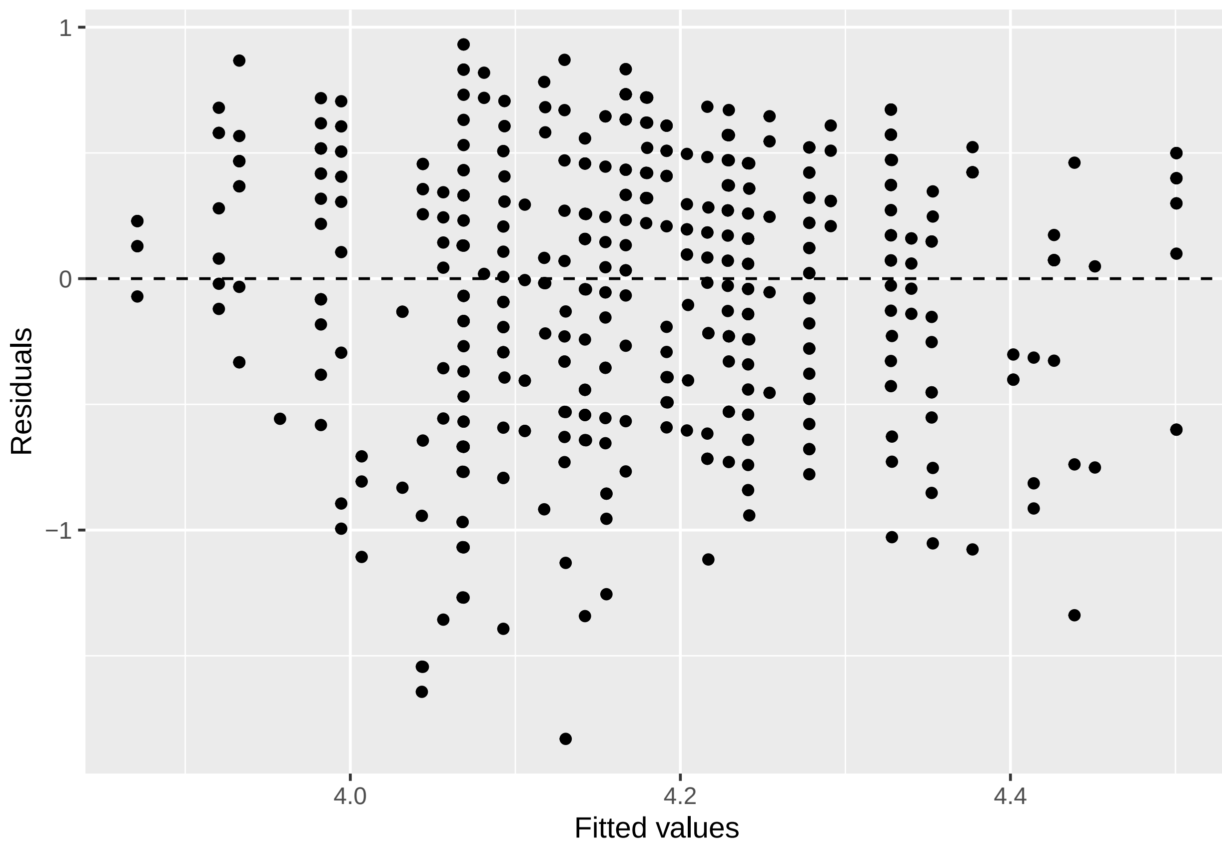
```
m_bty_gen <- lm(score ~ bty_avg + gender, data = evals)
summary(m_bty_gen)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ bty_avg + gender, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -1.8305 -0.3625  0.1055  0.4213  0.9314
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  3.74734    0.08466  44.266  < 2e-16 ***
## bty_avg      0.07416    0.01625   4.563 6.48e-06 ***
## gendermale   0.17239    0.05022   3.433 0.000652 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
```

```
## Residual standard error: 0.5287 on 460 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.05912,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.05503
## F-statistic: 14.45 on 2 and 460 DF,  p-value: 8.177e-07
```

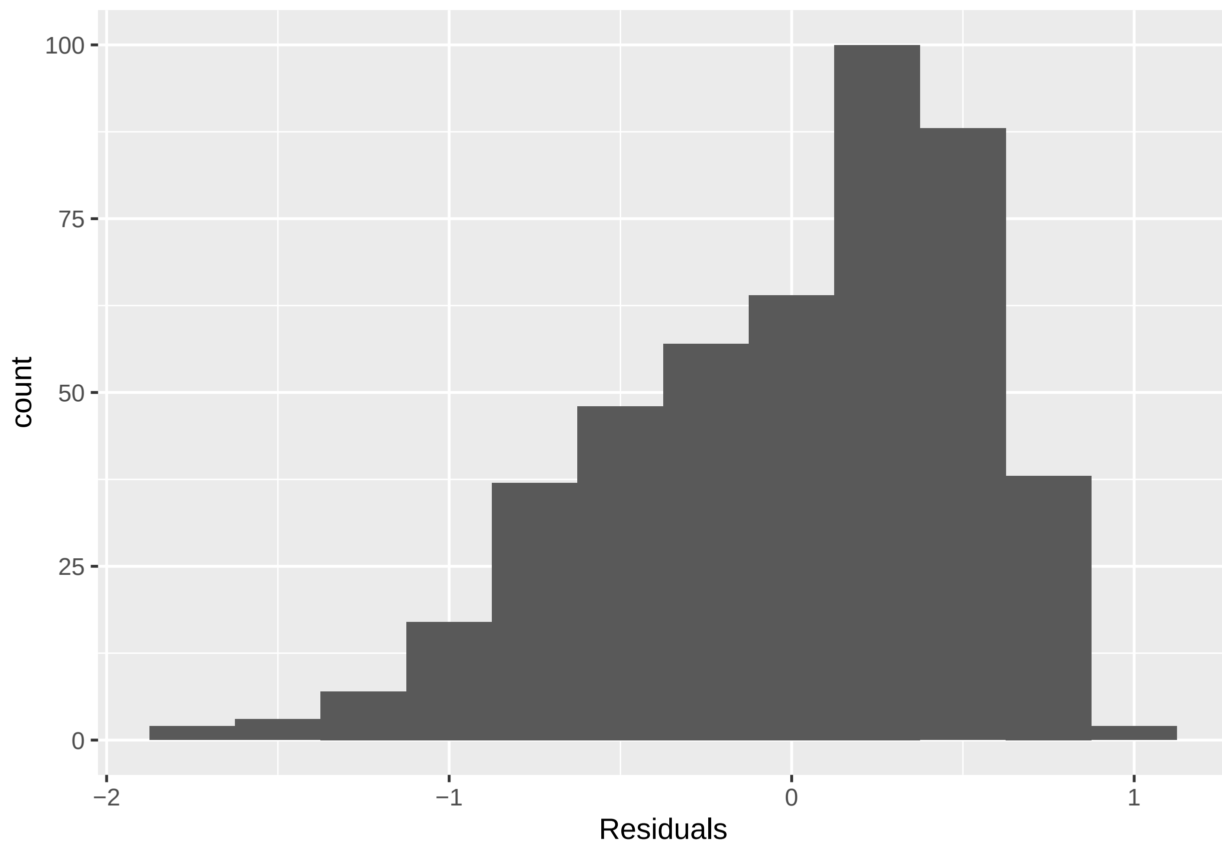
7. P-values and parameter estimates should only be trusted if the conditions for the regression are reasonable. Verify that the conditions for this model are reasonable using diagnostic plots.

```
m_bty_gen %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .fitted, y = .resid)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed") +
  xlab("Fitted values") +
  ylab("Residuals")
```



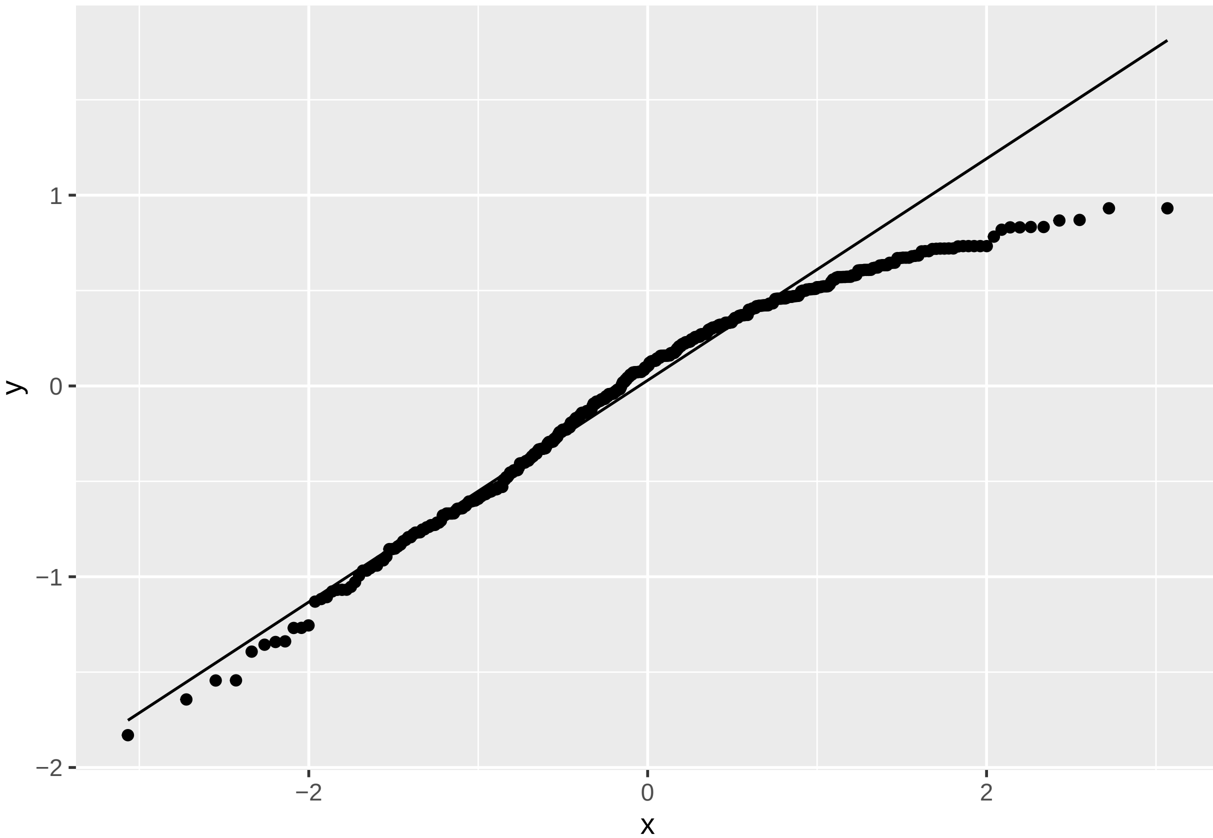
The scatterplot of residuals shows constant variability.

```
m_bty_gen %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .resid)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = .25) +
  xlab('Residuals')
```



The histogram of residuals shows a left skew.

```
m_bty_gen %>%
  ggplot(aes(sample = .resid)) +
  stat_qq() + geom_qq_line()
```



The QQ plot shows the same deviation from normal that was seen in the histogram of residuals.

8. Is `bty_avg` still a significant predictor of `score`? Has the addition of `gender` to the model changed the parameter estimate for `bty_avg`?

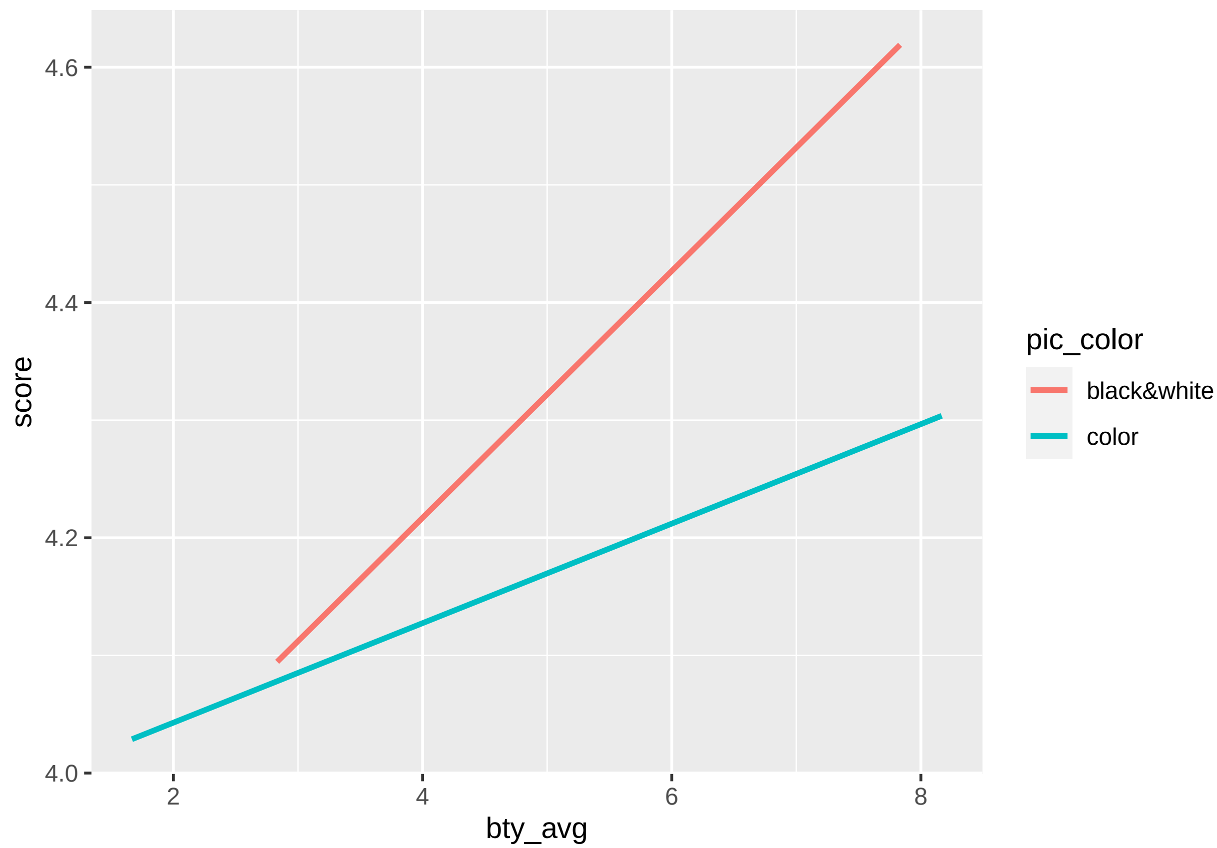
With a p-value less than .05, `bty_avg` is still a significant predictor of `score`. The R-squared value increased with the addition of gender improving the point estimate for `bty_avg`.

Note that the estimate for `gender` is now called `gendermale`. You'll see this name change whenever you introduce a categorical variable. The reason is that R recodes `gender` from having the values of `male` and `female` to being an indicator variable called `gendermale` that takes a value of 0 for female professors and a value of 1 for male professors. (Such variables are often referred to as "dummy" variables.)

As a result, for female professors, the parameter estimate is multiplied by zero, leaving the intercept and slope form familiar from simple regression.

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{score} &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \times bty\_avg + \hat{\beta}_2 \times (0) \\ &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \times bty\_avg\end{aligned}$$

```
ggplot(data = evals, aes(x = bty_avg, y = score, color = pic_color)) +
 geom_smooth(method = "lm", formula = y ~ x, se = FALSE)
```



9. What is the equation of the line corresponding to those with color pictures? (*Hint:* For those with color pictures, the parameter estimate is multiplied by 1.) For two professors who received the same beauty rating, which color picture tends to have the higher course evaluation score?

```r
m_bty_pic <- lm(score ~ bty_avg + pic_color, data = evals)
summary(m_bty_pic)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ bty_avg + pic_color, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -1.8892 -0.3690  0.1293  0.4023  0.9125
##
## Coefficients:
##                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)       4.06318    0.10908  37.249  < 2e-16 ***
## bty_avg           0.05548    0.01691   3.282  0.00111 **
## pic_colorcolor -0.16059    0.06892  -2.330  0.02022 *
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.5323 on 460 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.04628,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.04213
```

```
## F-statistic: 11.16 on 2 and 460 DF,  p-value: 1.848e-05
```

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{score} &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \times bty\_avg + \hat{\beta}_2 \times (1) \\ &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \times bty\_avg + \hat{\beta}_2\end{aligned}$$

The estimate for pic_color is negative, which indicates that color pictures (1) have a lower score than black & white by 0.16.

The decision to call the indicator variable `gendermale` instead of `genderfemale` has no deeper meaning. R simply codes the category that comes first alphabetically as a 0. (You can change the reference level of a categorical variable, which is the level that is coded as a 0, using the`relevel()` function. Use `?relevel` to learn more.)

10. Create a new model called `m_bty_rank` with `gender` removed and `rank` added in. How does R appear to handle categorical variables that have more than two levels? Note that the rank variable has three levels: `teaching`, `tenure track`, `tenured`.

```
m_bty_rank <- lm(score ~ bty_avg + rank, data = evals)
summary(m_bty_rank)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ bty_avg + rank, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -1.8713 -0.3642  0.1489  0.4103  0.9525
##
## Coefficients:
##                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)       3.98155    0.09078  43.860  < 2e-16 ***
## bty_avg           0.06783    0.01655   4.098 4.92e-05 ***
## ranktenure track -0.16070    0.07395  -2.173   0.0303 *
## ranktenured      -0.12623    0.06266  -2.014   0.0445 *
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.5328 on 459 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.04652,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.04029
## F-statistic: 7.465 on 3 and 459 DF,  p-value: 6.88e-05
```

The first value of a categorical variable is given 0 weight, the remaining values are given an estimate. This gives estimates for one less than the number of values in the variable.

The interpretation of the coefficients in multiple regression is slightly different from that of simple regression. The estimate for `bty_avg` reflects how much higher a group of professors is expected to score if they have a beauty rating that is one point higher *while holding all other variables constant*. In this case, that translates into considering only professors of the same rank with `bty_avg` scores that are one point apart.

The search for the best model

We will start with a full model that predicts professor score based on rank, gender, ethnicity, language of the university where they got their degree, age, proportion of students that filled out evaluations, class size, course level, number of professors, number of credits, average beauty rating, outfit, and picture color.

11. Which variable would you expect to have the highest p-value in this model? Why? *Hint:* Think about which variable would you expect to not have any association with the professor score.

I think that the outfit of the professor in the picture (formal,non-formal) would not be a good predictor of score and should have a high p-value.

Let's run the model…

```
m_full <- lm(score ~ rank + gender + ethnicity + language + age + cls_perc_eval
             + cls_students + cls_level + cls_profs + cls_credits + bty_avg
             + pic_outfit + pic_color, data = evals)
summary(m_full)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ rank + gender + ethnicity + language + age +
##     cls_perc_eval + cls_students + cls_level + cls_profs + cls_credits +
##     bty_avg + pic_outfit + pic_color, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -1.77397 -0.32432  0.09067  0.35183  0.95036
##
## Coefficients:
##                         Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)            4.0952141  0.2905277  14.096  < 2e-16 ***
## ranktenure track      -0.1475932  0.0820671  -1.798  0.07278 .
## ranktenured           -0.0973378  0.0663296  -1.467  0.14295
## gendermale             0.2109481  0.0518230   4.071 5.54e-05 ***
## ethnicitynot minority  0.1234929  0.0786273   1.571  0.11698
## languagenon-english   -0.2298112  0.1113754  -2.063  0.03965 *
## age                   -0.0090072  0.0031359  -2.872  0.00427 **
## cls_perc_eval          0.0053272  0.0015393   3.461  0.00059 ***
## cls_students           0.0004546  0.0003774   1.205  0.22896
## cls_levelupper         0.0605140  0.0575617   1.051  0.29369
## cls_profssingle       -0.0146619  0.0519885  -0.282  0.77806
## cls_creditsone credit  0.5020432  0.1159388   4.330 1.84e-05 ***
## bty_avg                0.0400333  0.0175064   2.287  0.02267 *
## pic_outfitnot formal  -0.1126817  0.0738800  -1.525  0.12792
## pic_colorcolor        -0.2172630  0.0715021  -3.039  0.00252 **
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.498 on 448 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.1871, Adjusted R-squared:  0.1617
## F-statistic: 7.366 on 14 and 448 DF,  p-value: 6.552e-14
```

12. Check your suspicions from the previous exercise. Include the model output in your response.

The p-value for the outfit variable is .128 which would indicate that it is not a significant predictor for score. The highest p-value variable was for the variable indicating if there were multiple professors teaching different sections of the same course.

13. Interpret the coefficient associated with the ethnicity variable.

The estimate for non-minority ethnicity of the professor is .123 which indicates a higher score than a minority. The p-value for ethnicity is .117 which indicates it is not a significant factor in the score.

14. Drop the variable with the highest p-value and re-fit the model. Did the coefficients and significance of the other explanatory variables change? (One of the things that makes multiple regression interesting is that coefficient estimates depend on the other variables that are included in the model.) If not, what does this say about whether or not the dropped variable was collinear with the other explanatory variables?

```
m_minusprof <- lm(score ~ rank + gender + ethnicity + language + age + cls_perc_eval
             + cls_students + cls_level + cls_credits + bty_avg
             + pic_outfit + pic_color, data = evals)
summary(m_minusprof)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ rank + gender + ethnicity + language + age +
##     cls_perc_eval + cls_students + cls_level + cls_credits +
##     bty_avg + pic_outfit + pic_color, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -1.7836 -0.3257  0.0859  0.3513  0.9551
##
## Coefficients:
##                        Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)           4.0872523  0.2888562  14.150  < 2e-16 ***
## ranktenure track     -0.1476746  0.0819824  -1.801 0.072327 .
## ranktenured          -0.0973829  0.0662614  -1.470 0.142349
## gendermale            0.2101231  0.0516873   4.065 5.66e-05 ***
## ethnicitynot minority  0.1274458  0.0772887   1.649 0.099856 .
## languagenon-english  -0.2282894  0.1111305  -2.054 0.040530 *
## age                  -0.0089992  0.0031326  -2.873 0.004262 **
## cls_perc_eval         0.0052888  0.0015317   3.453 0.000607 ***
## cls_students          0.0004687  0.0003737   1.254 0.210384
## cls_levelupper        0.0606374  0.0575010   1.055 0.292200
## cls_creditsone credit  0.5061196  0.1149163   4.404 1.33e-05 ***
## bty_avg               0.0398629  0.0174780   2.281 0.023032 *
## pic_outfitnot formal  -0.1083227  0.0721711  -1.501 0.134080
## pic_colorcolor        -0.2190527  0.0711469  -3.079 0.002205 **
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.4974 on 449 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.187,  Adjusted R-squared:  0.1634
## F-statistic: 7.943 on 13 and 449 DF,  p-value: 2.336e-14
```

The estimates have changed slightly and the adjusted R-squared value improved slightly with the removal of the `cls_profs` variable.

15. Using backward-selection and p-value as the selection criterion, determine the best model. You do not need to show all steps in your answer, just the output for the final model. Also, write out the linear model for predicting score based on the final model you settle on.

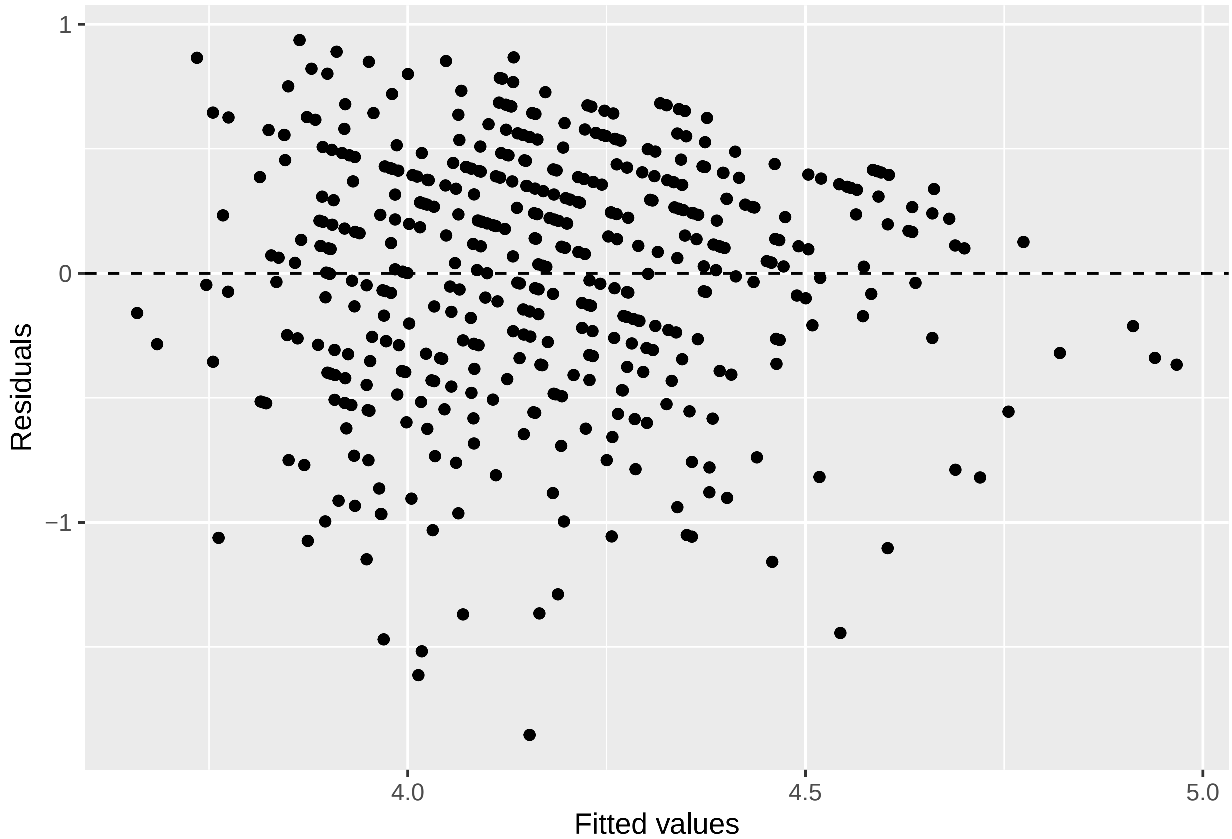
```
m_best <- lm(score ~ gender + ethnicity + language + age + cls_perc_eval
             + cls_credits + bty_avg
             + pic_color, data = evals)
summary(m_best)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = score ~ gender + ethnicity + language + age + cls_perc_eval +
##     cls_credits + bty_avg + pic_color, data = evals)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -1.85320 -0.32394  0.09984  0.37930  0.93610
##
## Coefficients:
##                        Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)            3.771922   0.232053  16.255  < 2e-16 ***
## gendermale             0.207112   0.050135   4.131 4.30e-05 ***
## ethnicitynot minority  0.167872   0.075275   2.230  0.02623 *
## languagenon-english   -0.206178   0.103639  -1.989  0.04726 *
## age                   -0.006046   0.002612  -2.315  0.02108 *
## cls_perc_eval          0.004656   0.001435   3.244  0.00127 **
## cls_creditsone credit  0.505306   0.104119   4.853 1.67e-06 ***
## bty_avg                0.051069   0.016934   3.016  0.00271 **
## pic_colorcolor        -0.190579   0.067351  -2.830  0.00487 **
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.4992 on 454 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.1722, Adjusted R-squared:  0.1576
## F-statistic:  11.8 on 8 and 454 DF,  p-value: 2.58e-15
```

$$\widehat{score} = 3.772 + 0.207 \times gender + 0.168 \times ethnicity - 0.206 \times language - 0.006 \times age + 0.005 \times cls\_perc\_eval + 0.503 \times credits + 0.051$$

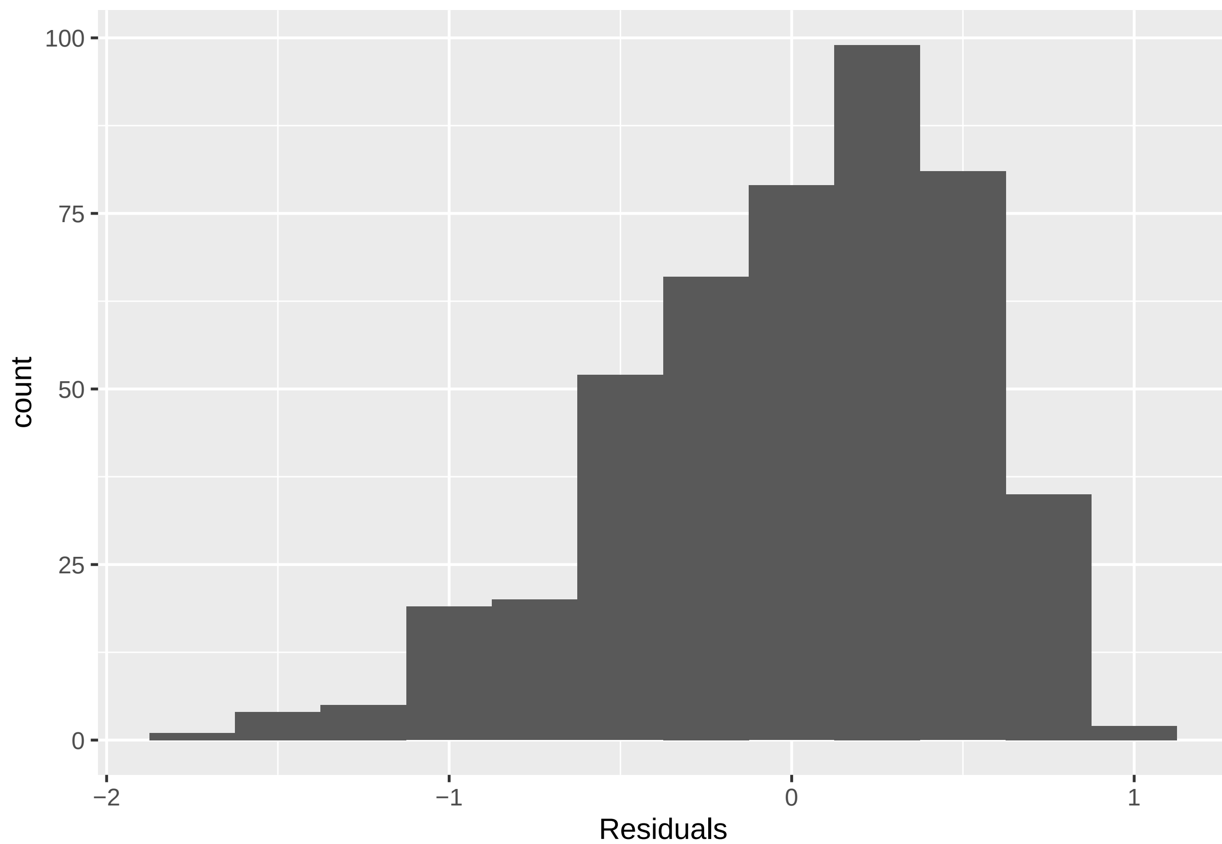
16. Verify that the conditions for this model are reasonable using diagnostic plots.

```
m_best %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .fitted, y = .resid)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed") +
  xlab("Fitted values") +
  ylab("Residuals")
```



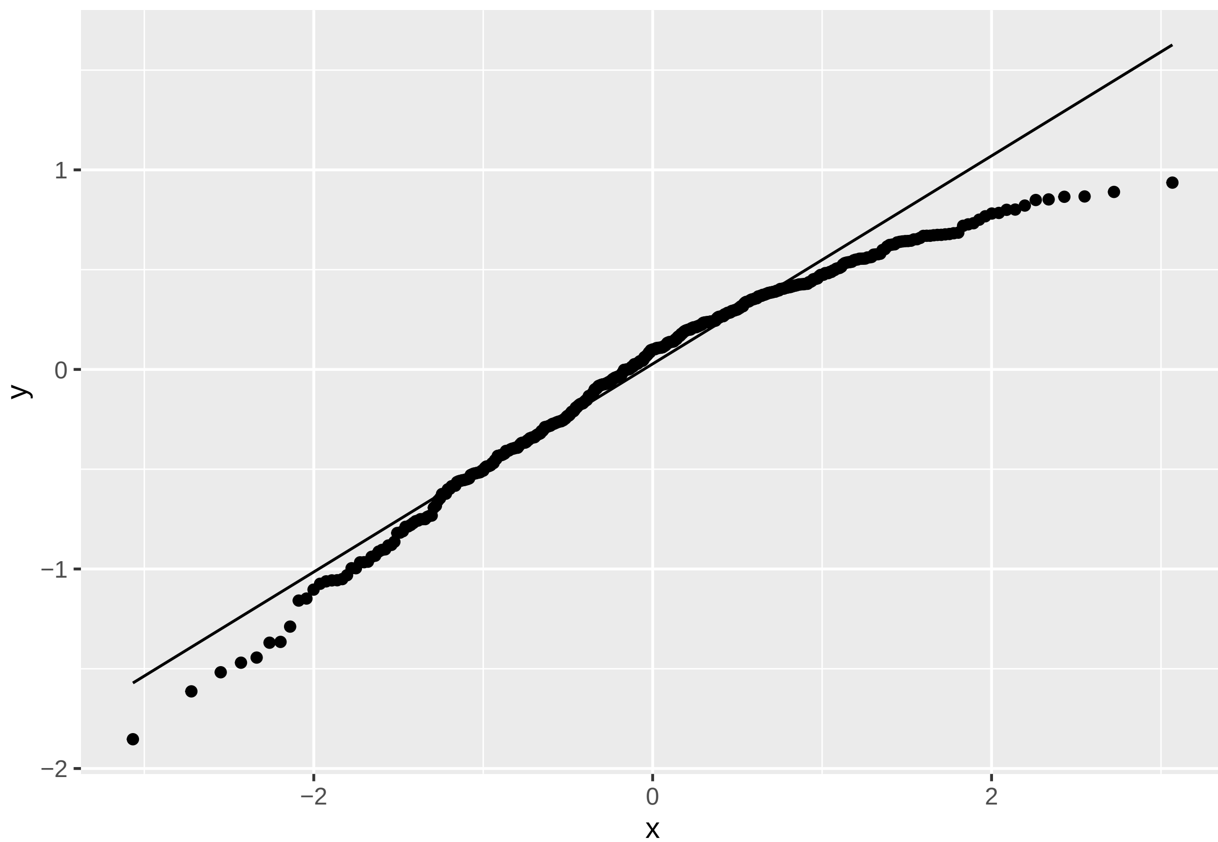
The scatterplot of residuals shows constant variability.

```
m_best %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = .resid)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = .25) +
  xlab('Residuals')
```



The histogram of residuals shows a left skew.

```
m_best %>%
  ggplot(aes(sample = .resid)) +
  stat_qq() + geom_qq_line()
```



The QQ plot shows the same deviation from normal that was seen in the histogram of residuals.

17. The original paper describes how these data were gathered by taking a sample of professors from the University of Texas at Austin and including all courses that they have taught. Considering that each row represents a course, could this new information have an impact on any of the conditions of linear regression?

One of the conditions is that the observations are independent between each other. With some observations containing evaluations for the same professor, although a different class, the regression model may not be valid.

18. Based on your final model, describe the characteristics of a professor and course at University of Texas at Austin that would be associated with a high evaluation score.

A white, male, english-speaking professor with a black & white photograph teaching a one credit hour course would be associated with a high evaluation score.

19. Would you be comfortable generalizing your conclusions to apply to professors generally (at any university)? Why or why not?

The model is more about how the students at the university rate their professors. I would have a hard time using this model as a generalization for professors due to the nature of students that attend the University of Texas.