

Homework 4

INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE (QR2)

due: 10/8/25

Instructions: Please submit solutions on Populi. Only a knitted pdf of an Rmarkdown file will be accepted.

Problem 1: Write a short paragraph on a topic you found interesting in the readings related to prediction. What sparked your interest and what did you learn?

Problem 2: In this problem, you will investigate the impact of faculty attractiveness on teaching evaluation score. Yes, this has been **rigorously studied!** In your Rstudio, load in the data `beautydata.csv` and fit a simple linear regression model of `CourseEvals` on `BeautyScore`. `CourseEvals` are on the standard Likert scale, and `BeautyScore` is based on a panel of undergraduate students rating headshots of teachers. A couple suggestions for code:

```
# load in the data
beautydata = read.csv("beautydata.csv")
# fit a model, note the similarity of lm() and model_train() in our computing tutorials.
modelfit = lm(CourseEvals ~ BeautyScore, data = beautydata)
# print out a summary of the fitted model!
summary(modelfit)
# Include extra explanatory variables on the right-hand-side, like gender and english-speaker.
modelfit = lm(CourseEvals ~ BeautyScore + female + nonenglish, data = beautydata)
```

- Interpret all coefficient estimates in the regression outputs. What do you conclude about the effect of attractiveness on evaluations, and why do you think this is the result?
- Include an additional variable in your model that is the product of gender and beauty score, like: `female*BeautyScore`. How do your coefficient estimates change? Why do they change and what is their new meaning?