

RATE MY
PROFESSORS.COM

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PROFESSORS

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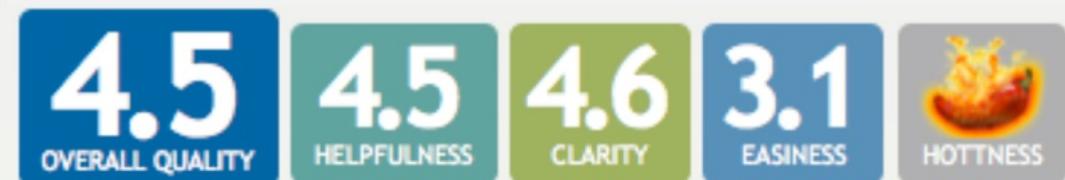


BACKGROUND

- Problem of Ratings:
 - Highly unstructured
 - Inconsistent
 - Can be skewed
- Questions:
 - Is there a pattern of professors being highly rated?
 - What are key drivers or implications of ratings?
 - Can rate be predicted based on key drivers?

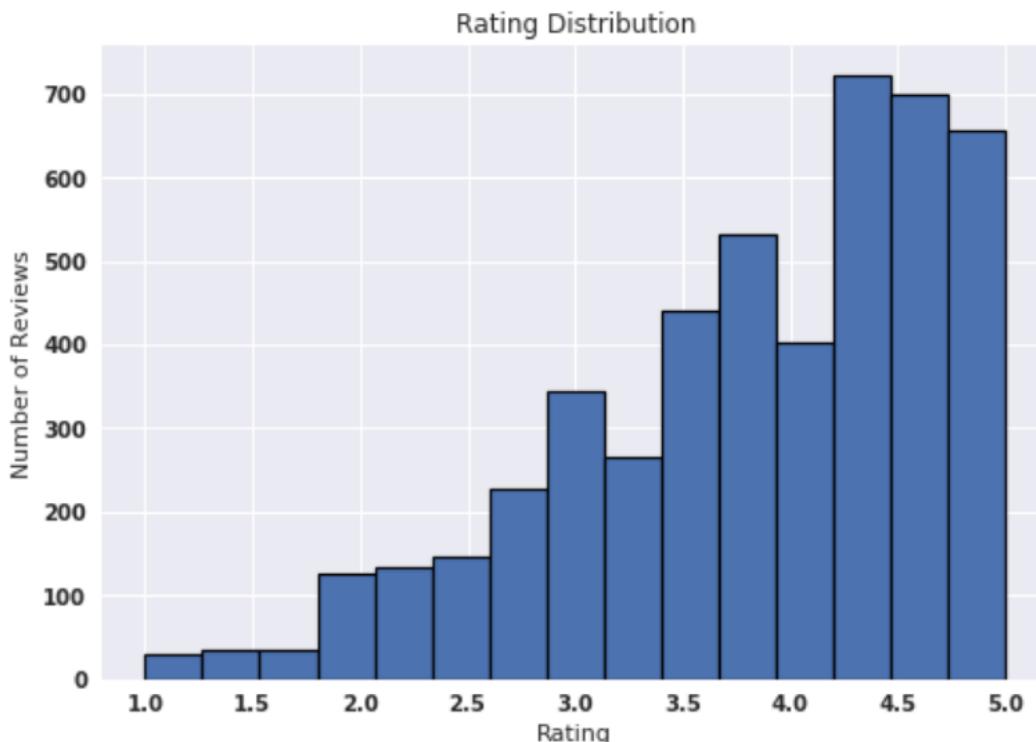


A full database of the good, the bad and the hot:
Ratemyprofessors.com



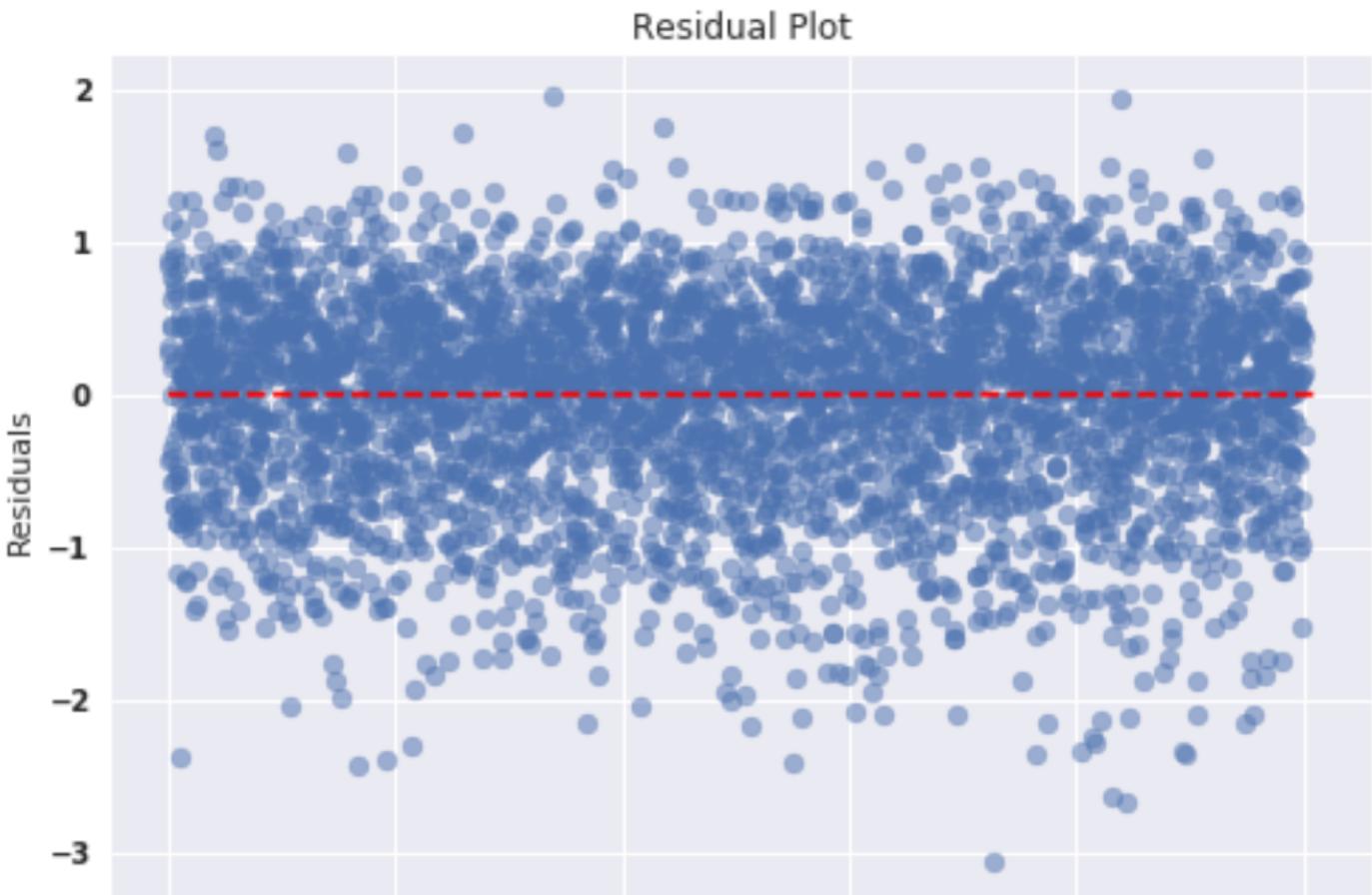
APPROACH

- Data: 16K -> 5K professor records
- Approach:
 - Linear regression with regularization
- Achievement:
 - 30+ features -> 9 features
 - Skewness - confirmed
 - Moderate signal (R^2 =0.41)



FINDINGS

- Top 3 point boosters:
 - Amazing lectures (+0.23*)
 - Respected (+0.20*)
 - Give good feedback (+0.16*)
- Top point deductor:
 - Level of difficulty (-1.15*)
- Fall off the list:
 - Skip class? you won't pass.
 - Lots of homework
 - Tough grader



* : Maximum potential impact on rating



NEXT STEPS

- Coverage on more colleges
- Natural language processing (NLP)
- Future application: general reviews



APPENDIX



FEATURE ENGINEERING

- Starting point: 30 features
 - ['Rating', 'Level of difficulty', 'Total reviews', 'Student size', 'Type_public', 'Type_private', 'Region_west', 'Region_east', 'Region_south', 'Accessible outside class', 'Amazing lectures', 'Beware of pop quizzes', 'Caring', 'Clear grading criteria', 'Extra credit', 'Get ready to read', 'Gives good feedback', 'Graded by few things', 'Group projects', 'Hilarious', 'Inspirational', 'Lecture heavy', 'Lots of homework', 'Participation matters', 'Respected', 'Skip class? you won't pass.', 'So many papers', 'Test heavy', 'Tough grader']
- Ending point: 9 features
 - ['Level of difficulty', 'Accessible outside class', 'Amazing lectures', 'Caring', 'Gives good feedback', 'Hilarious', 'Inspirational', 'Participation matters', 'Respected']

