Beauty and Teaching

David Puelz

April 13, 2016

Is there a link?

Beauty (attractiveness) $\iff$ Teaching evaluations

Is there a link?

Beauty (attractiveness) $\iff$ Teaching evaluations

Beauty (attractiveness) + other? $\iff$ Teaching evaluations

Prior

Data

Posterior

What's your prior?

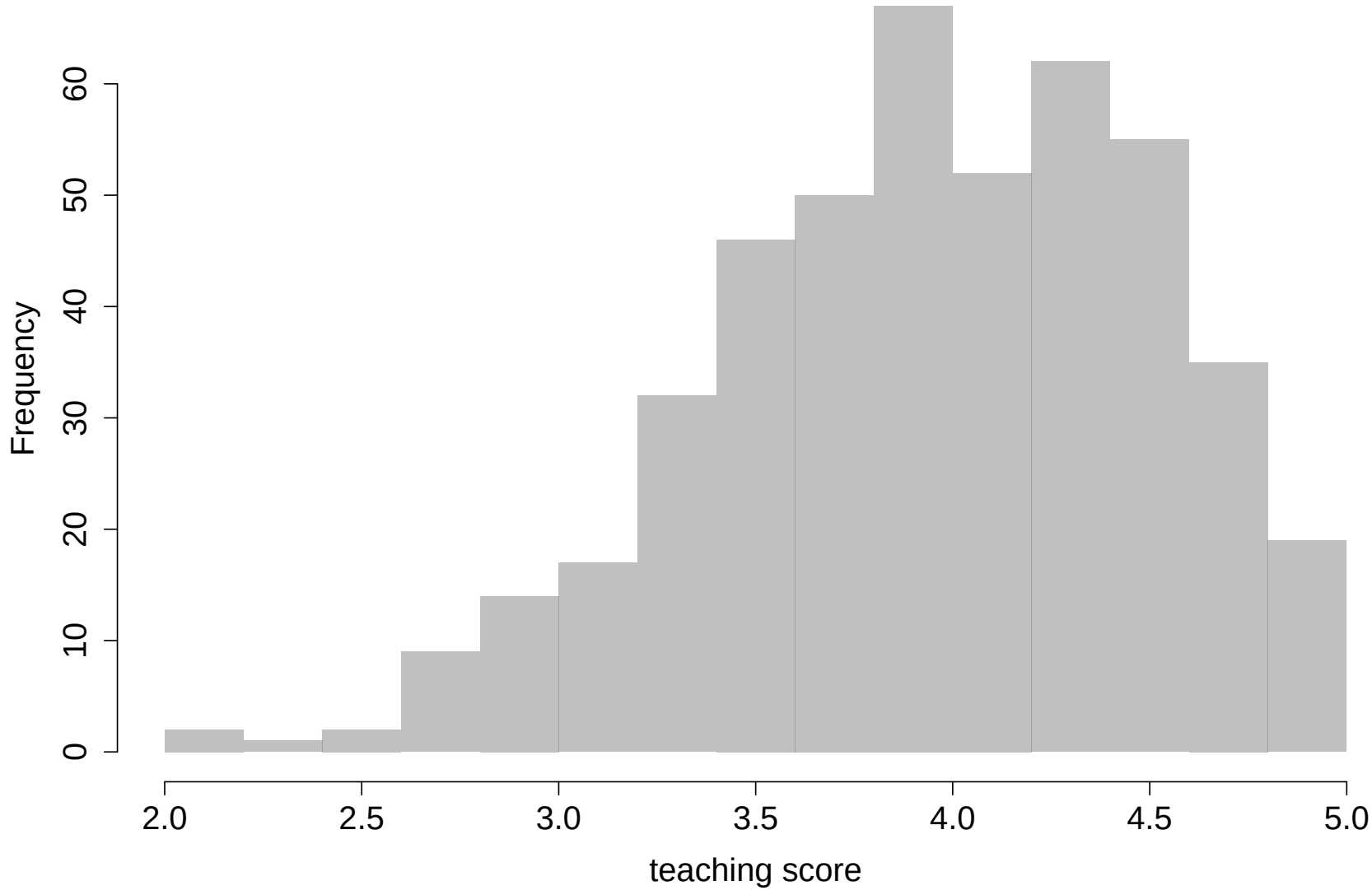
Effect or no effect?

Now, knowing our prior beliefs, let's see what the data reveals ...

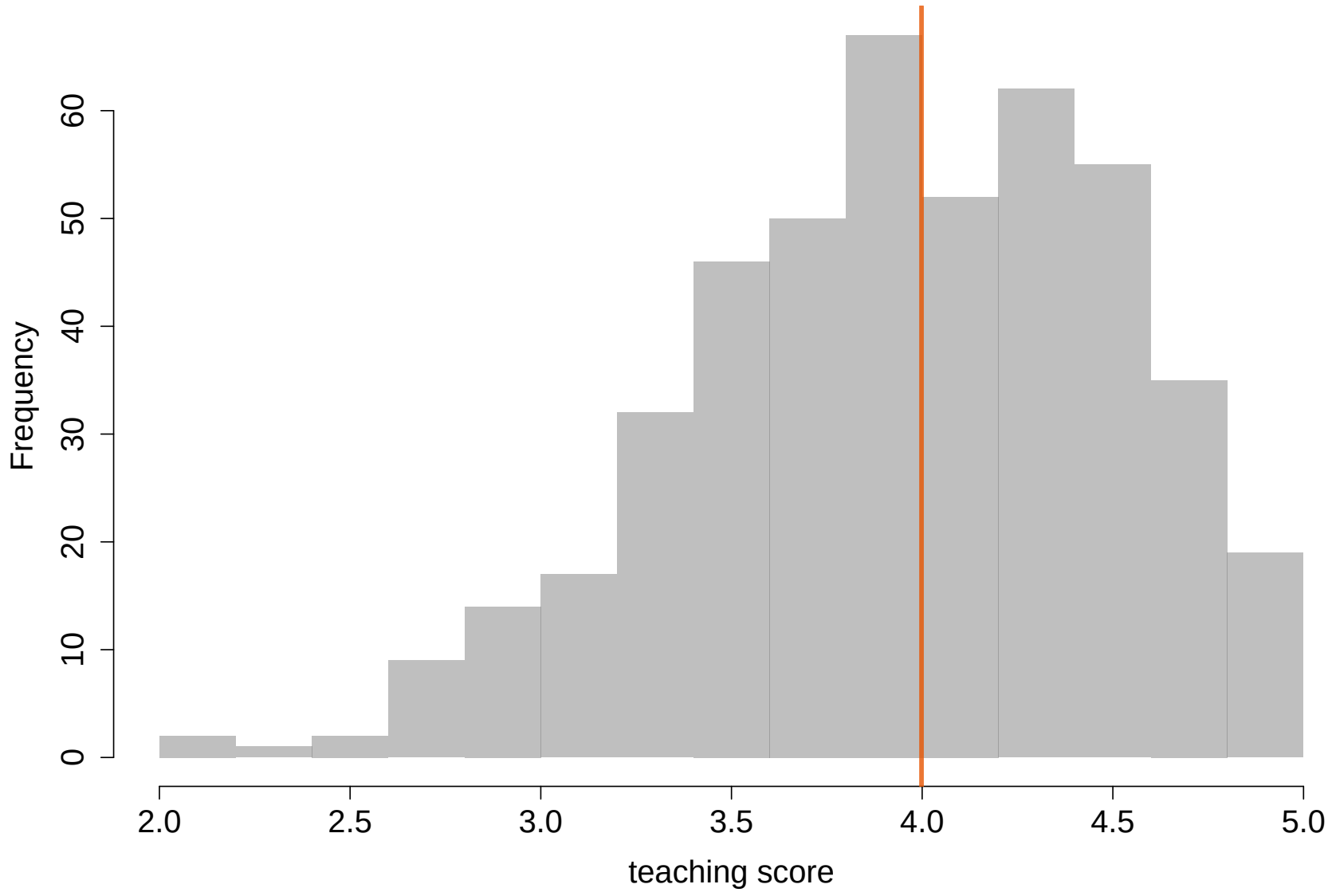
The data

- Hamermesh et al. *Beauty in the Classroom: Professors' Pulchritude and Putative Pedagogical Productivity* (2005).
- 463 courses at UT Austin from 2000-2002.
- 25,547 students and most major departments.
- Variables: beauty, eval, minority, age, gender, credits, students, allstudents, native, tenure.

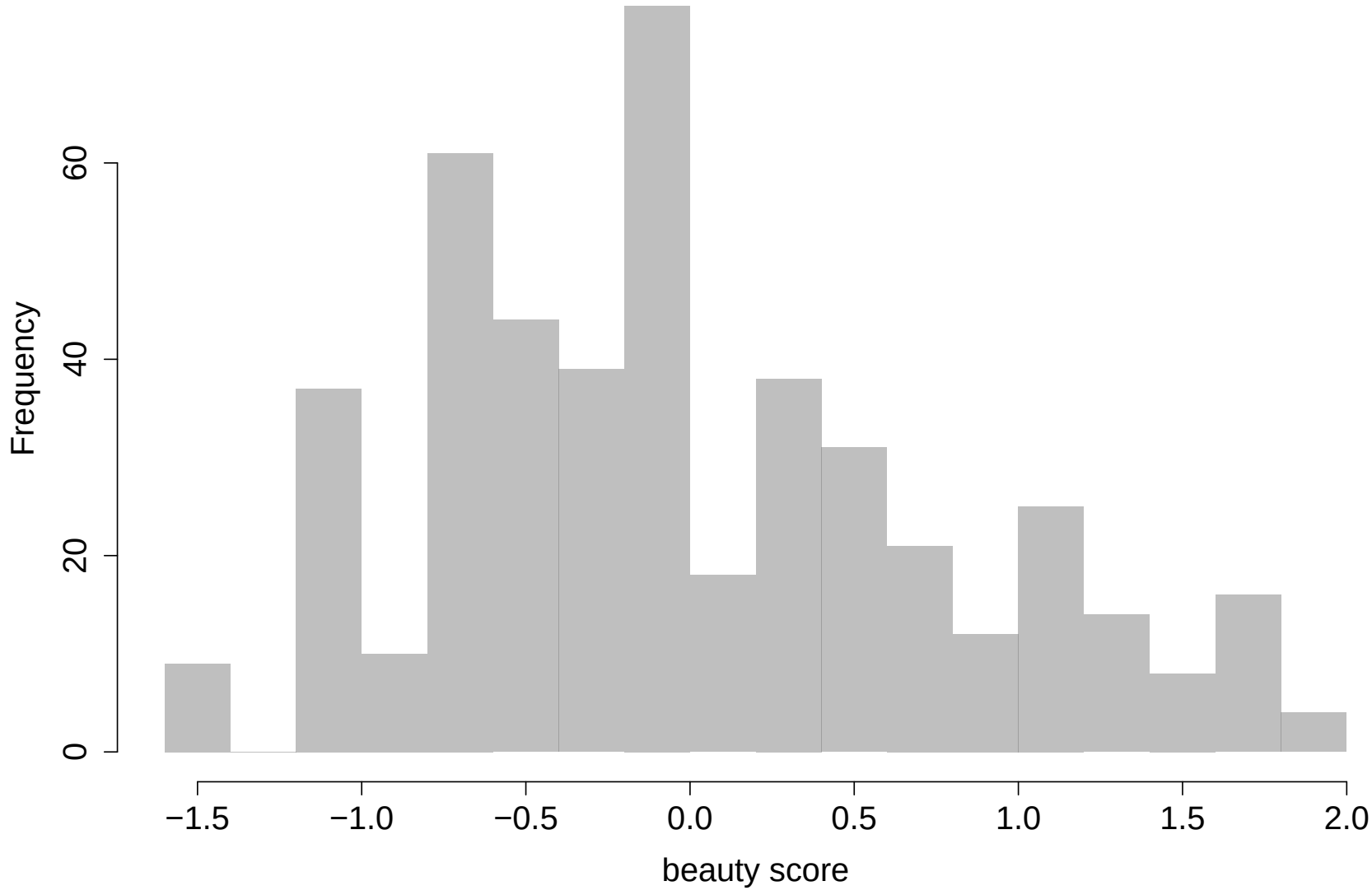
Teaching score



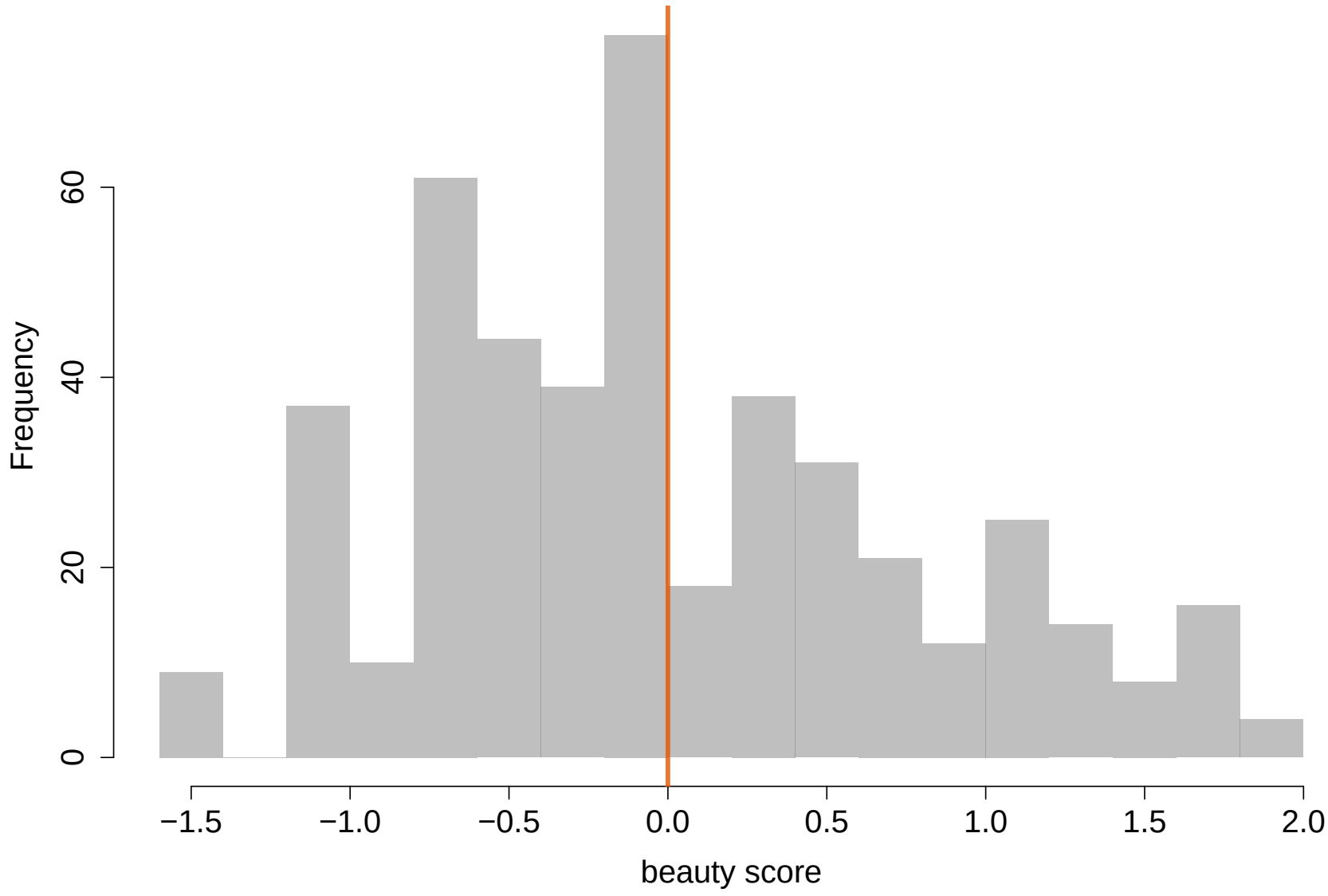
Teaching score



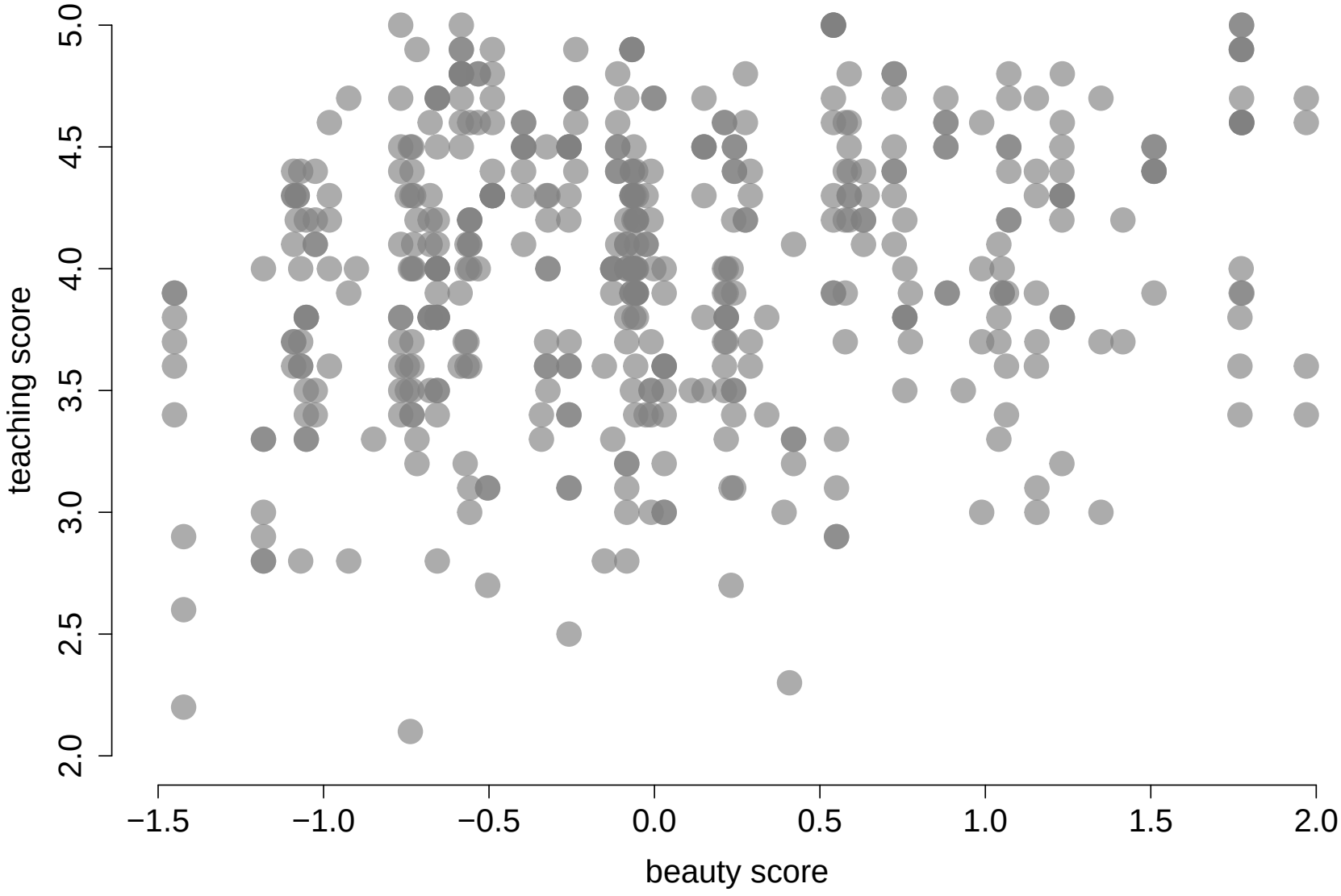
Beauty score



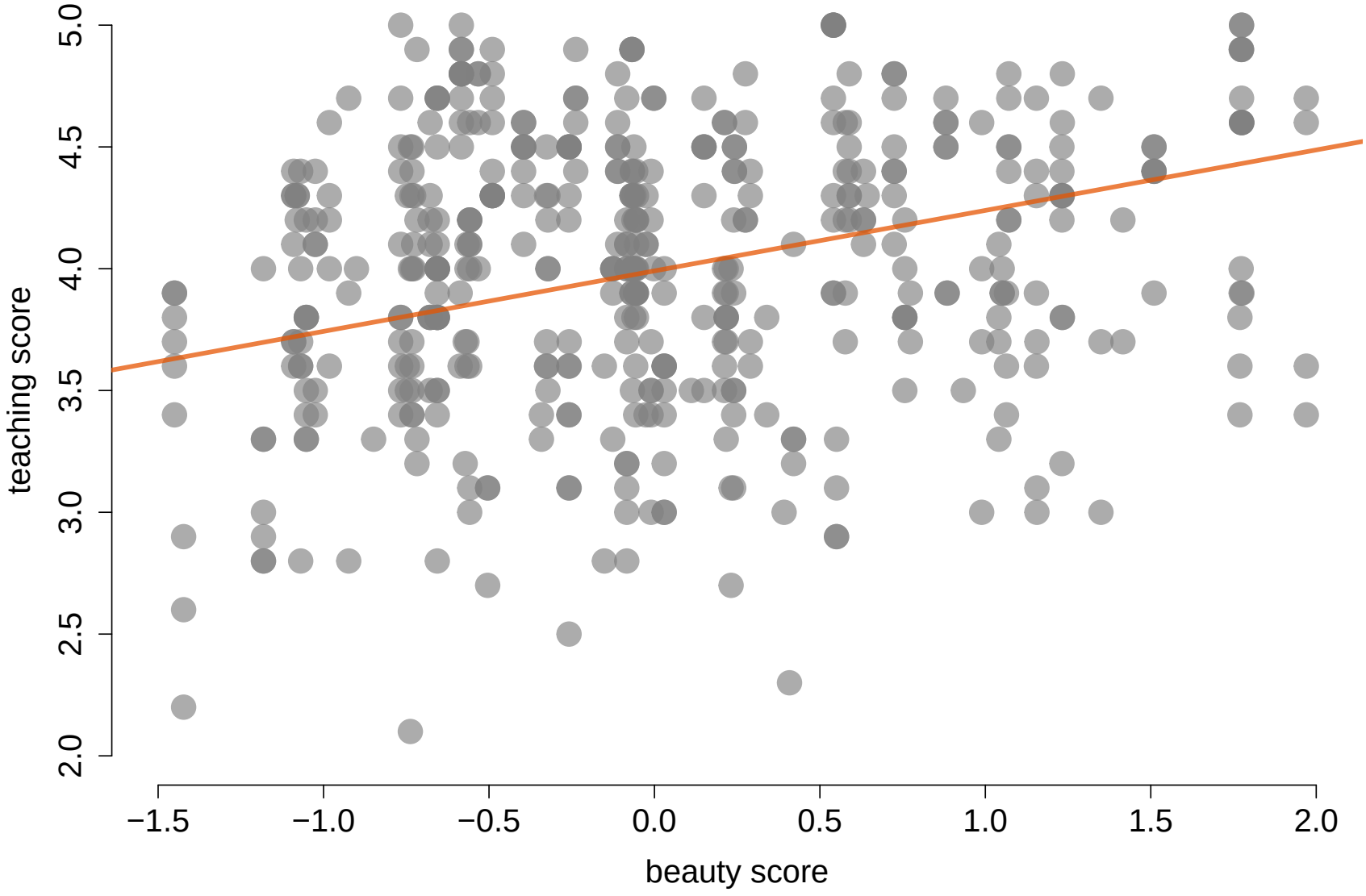
Beauty score



Beauty score vs. teaching score

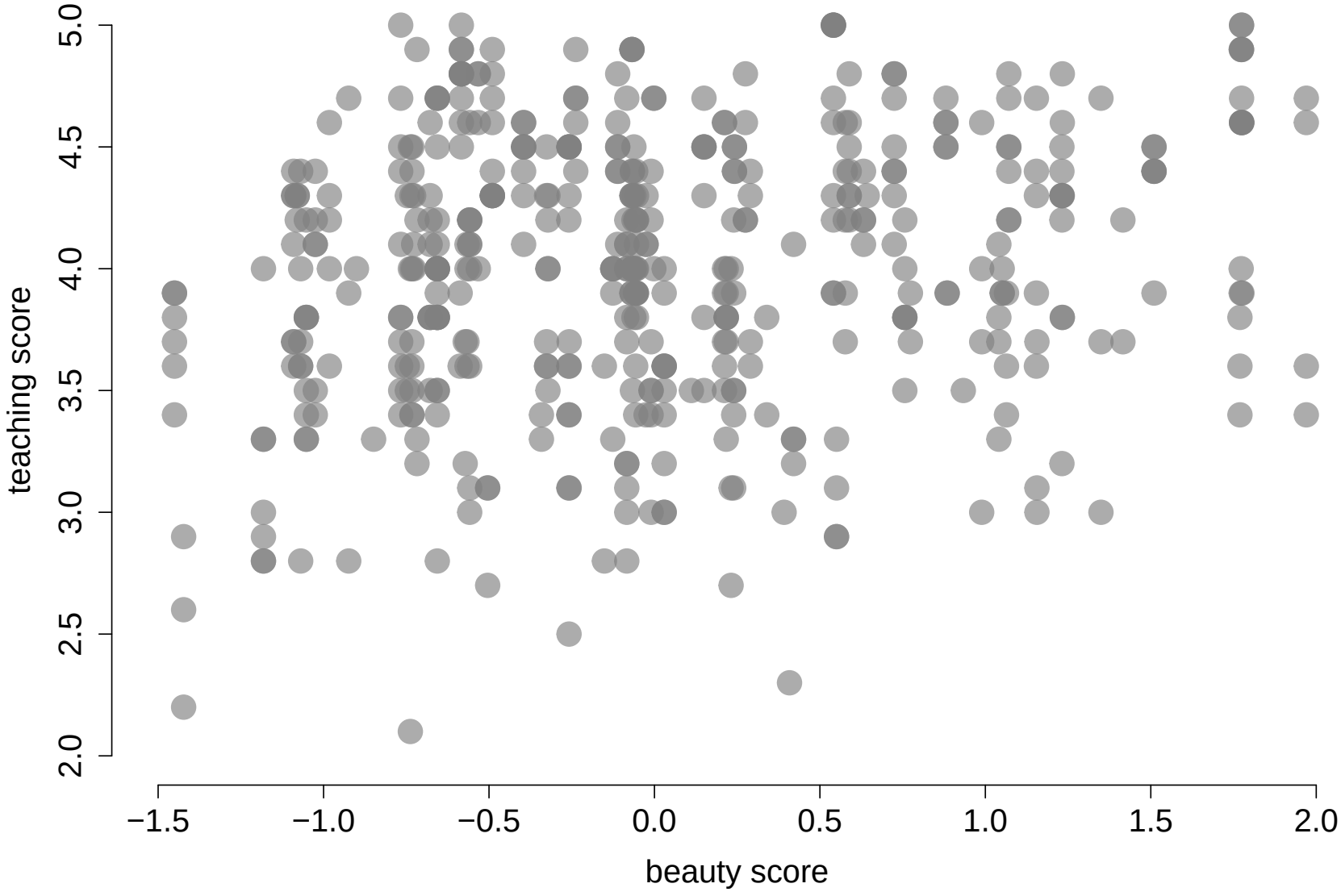


Beauty score vs. teaching score: $\beta = 0.25^{***}$

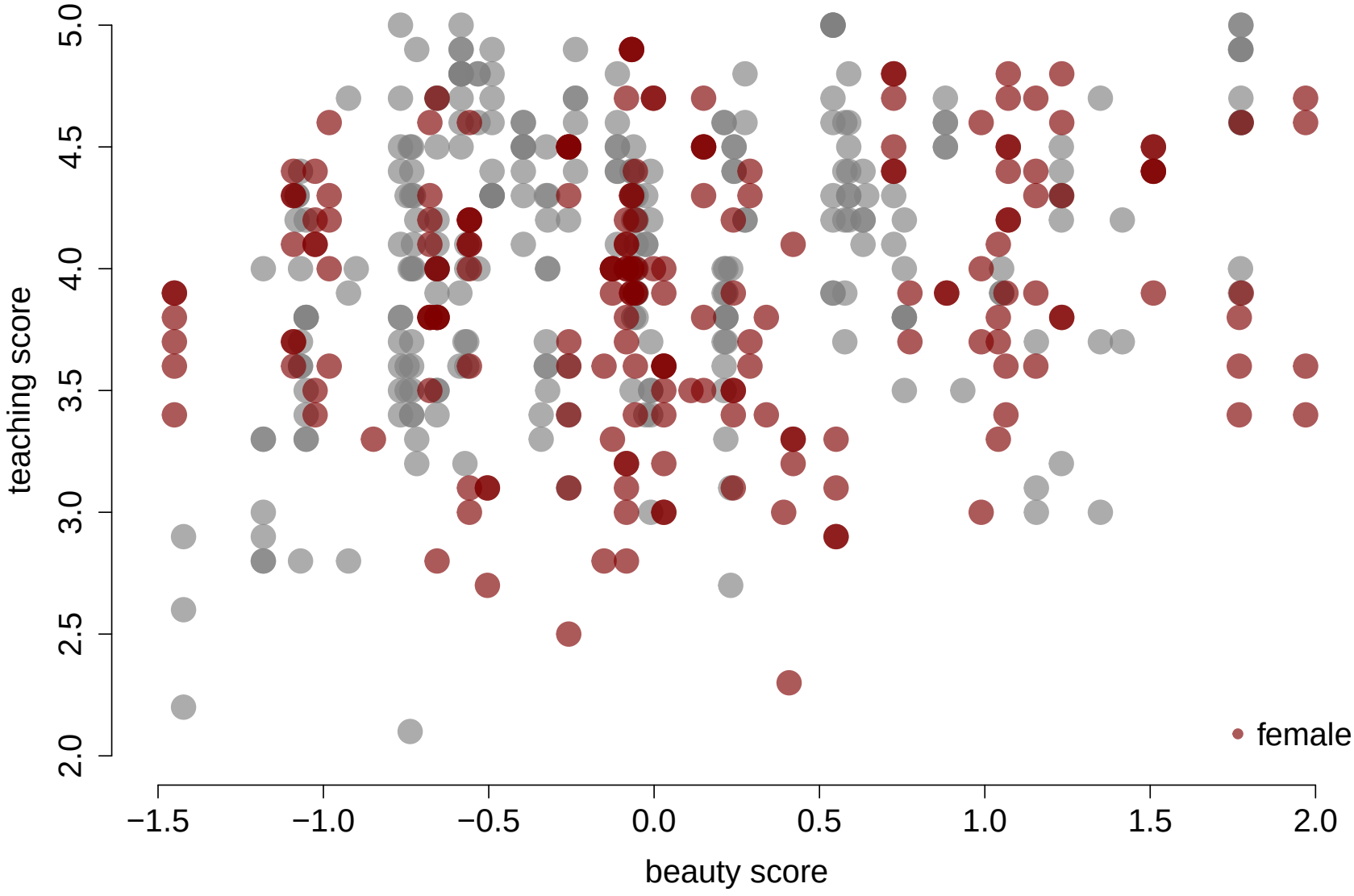


All done?

Beauty score vs. teaching score



Stratify by gender



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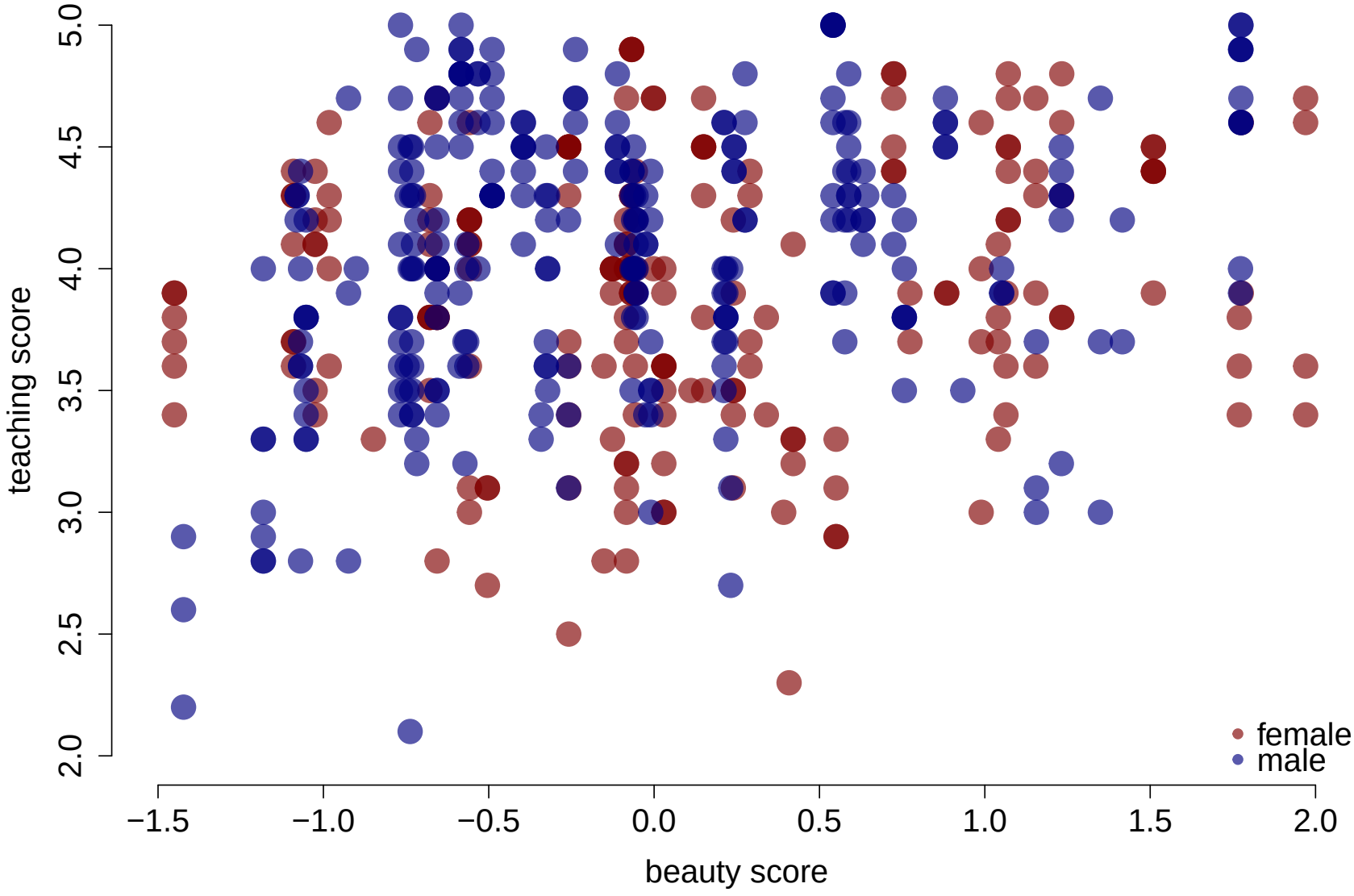
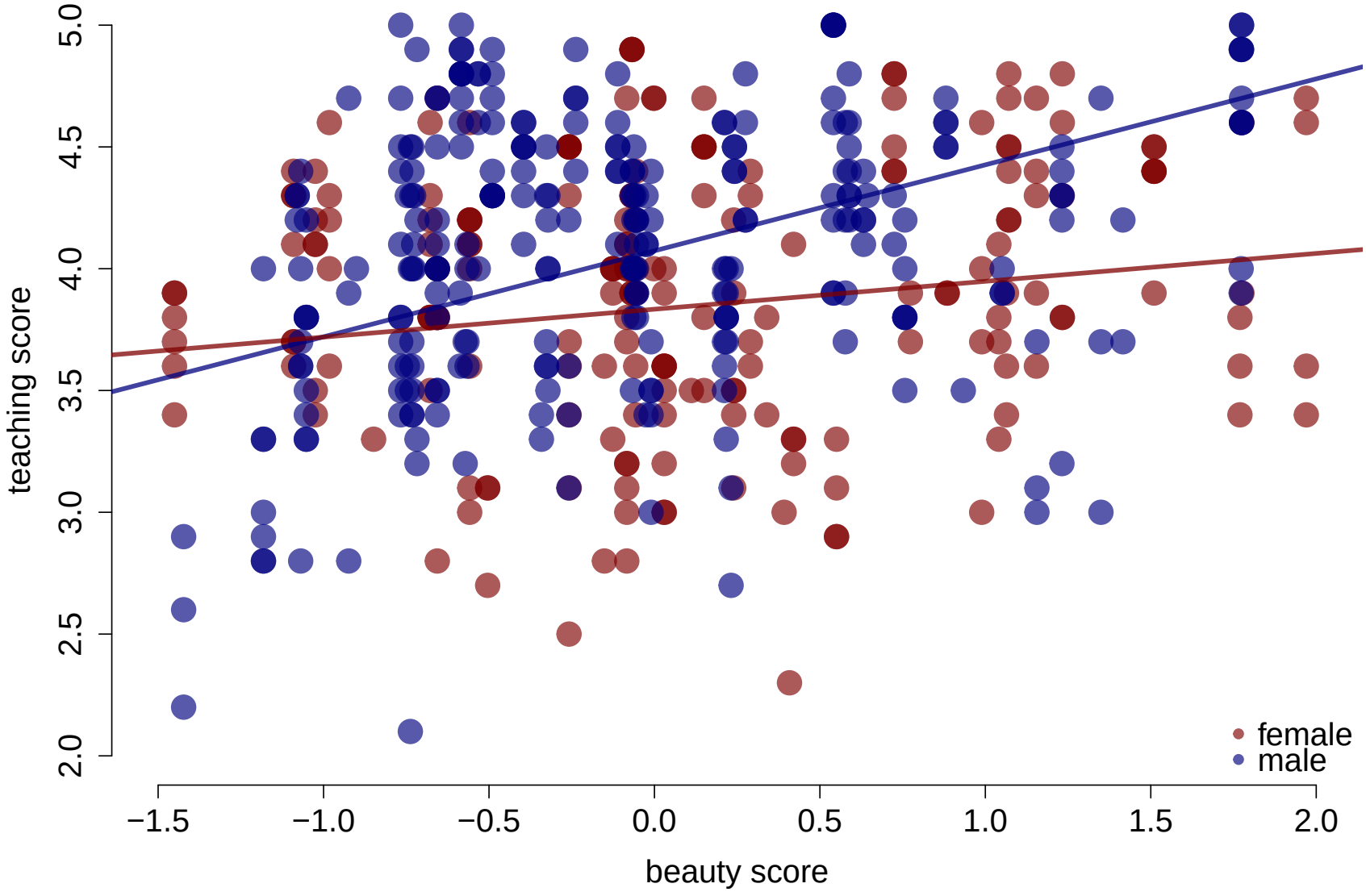
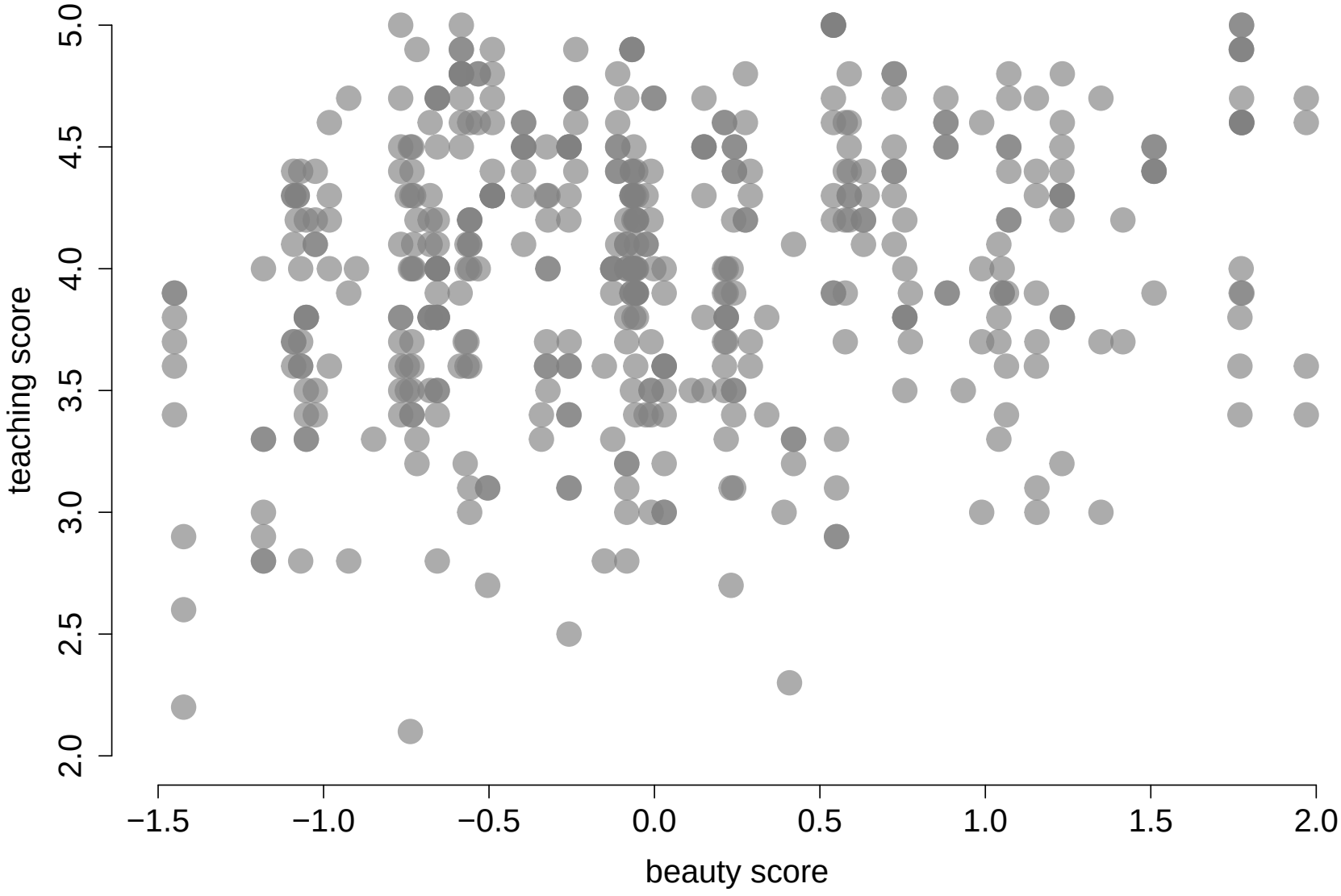


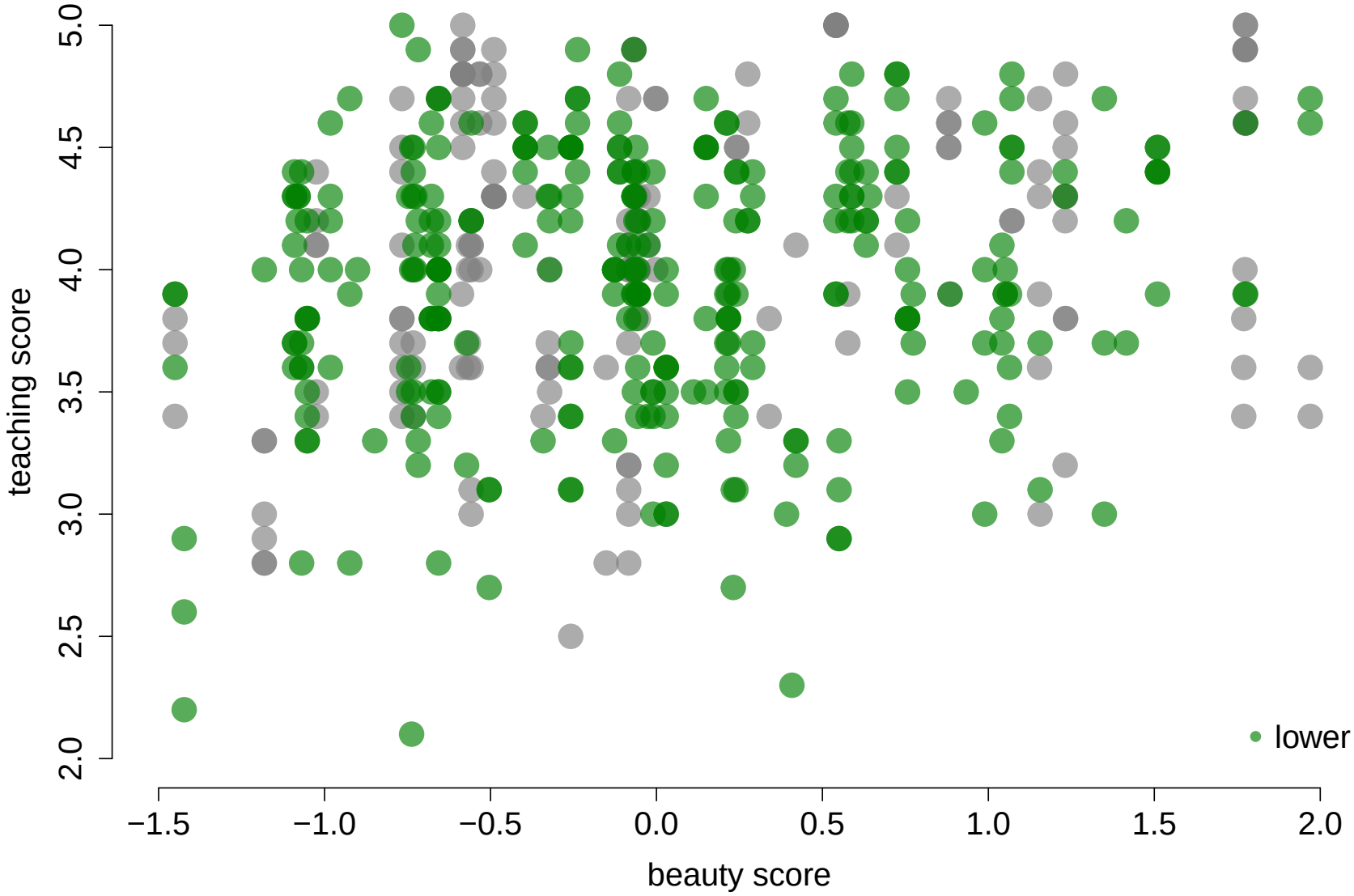
Stratify by gender: $\beta_{\text{female}} = 0.11^{***}$, $\beta_{\text{male}} = 0.35^{***}$



Beauty score vs. teaching score



Stratify by division



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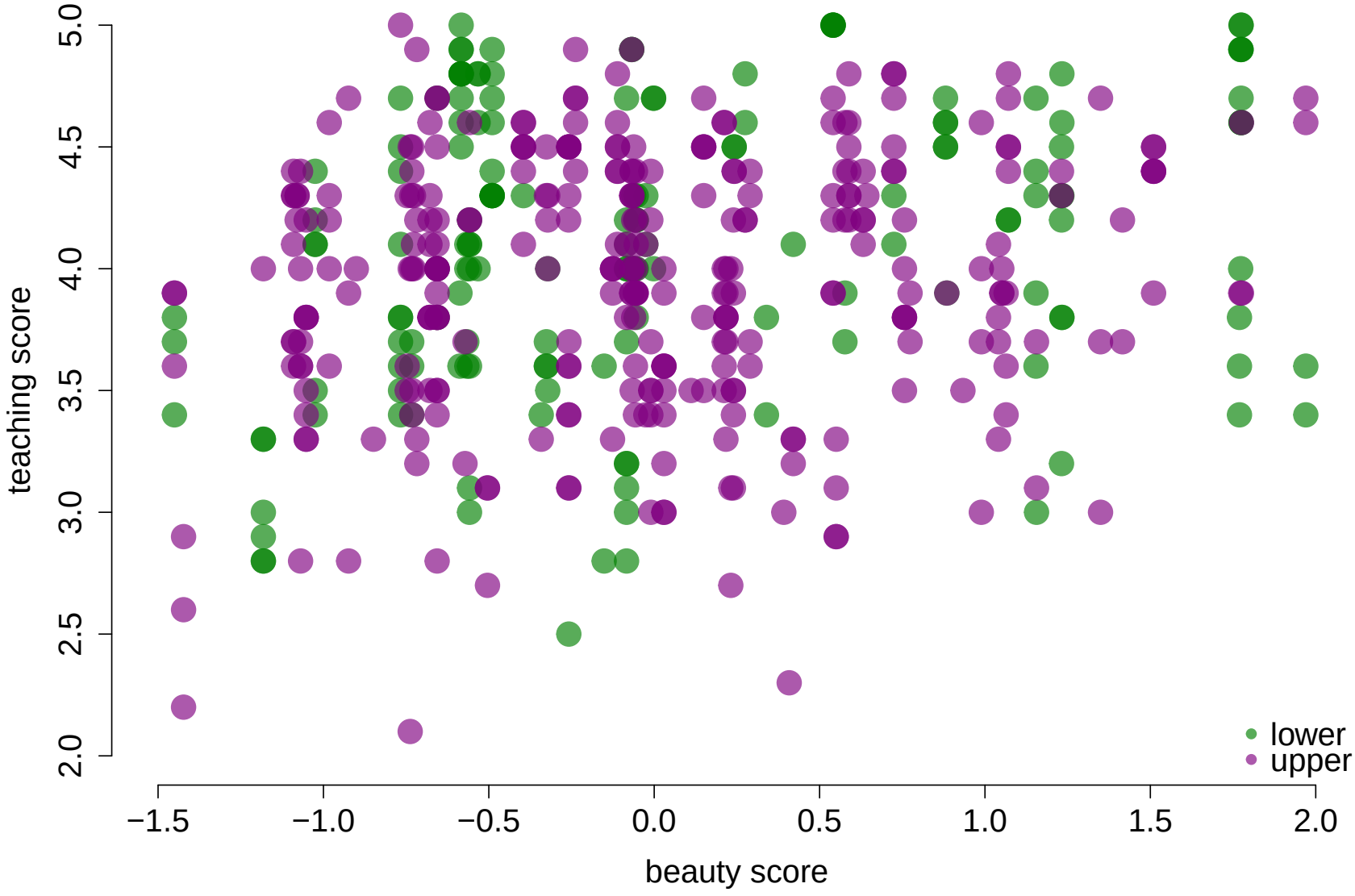
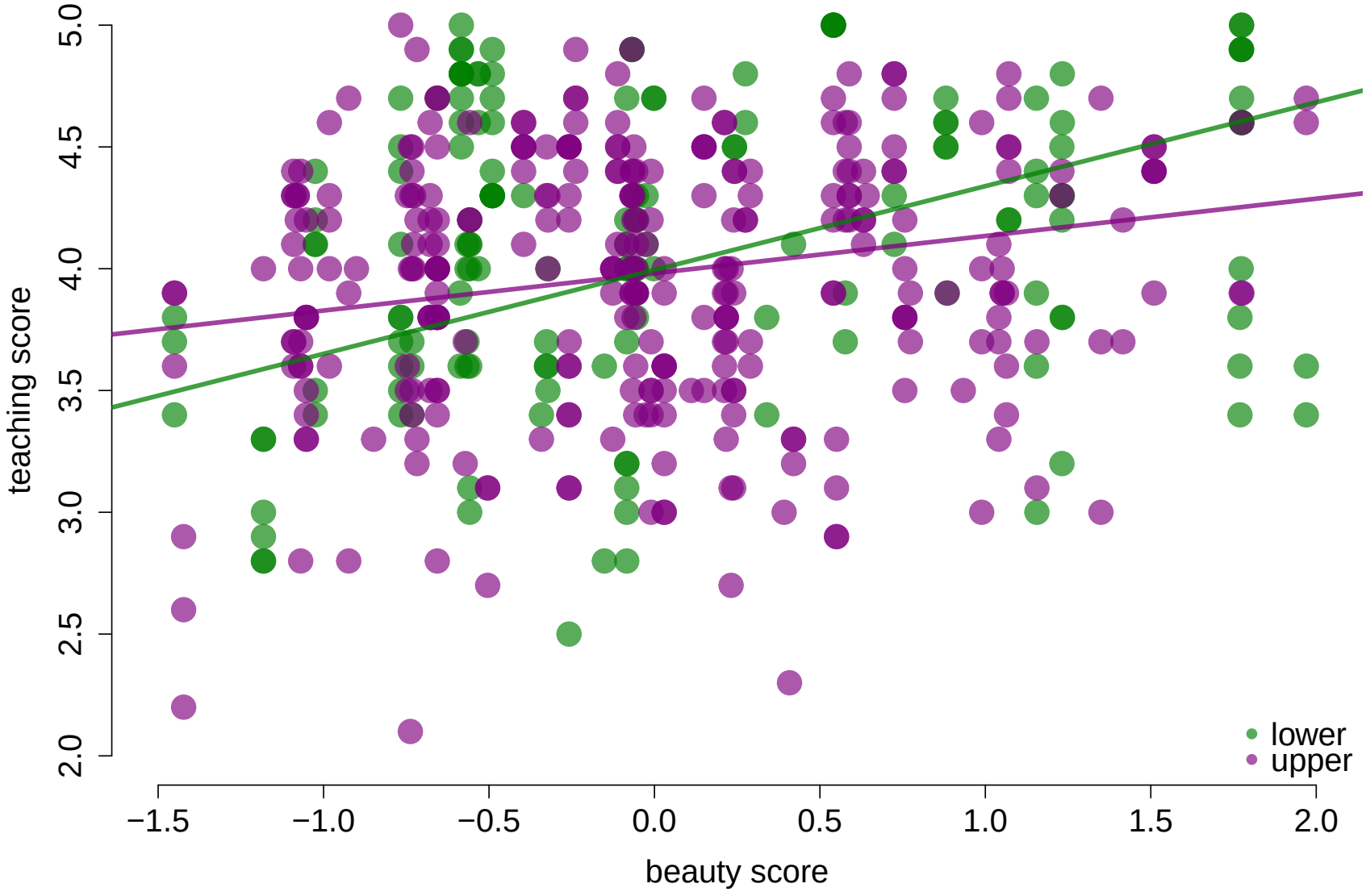
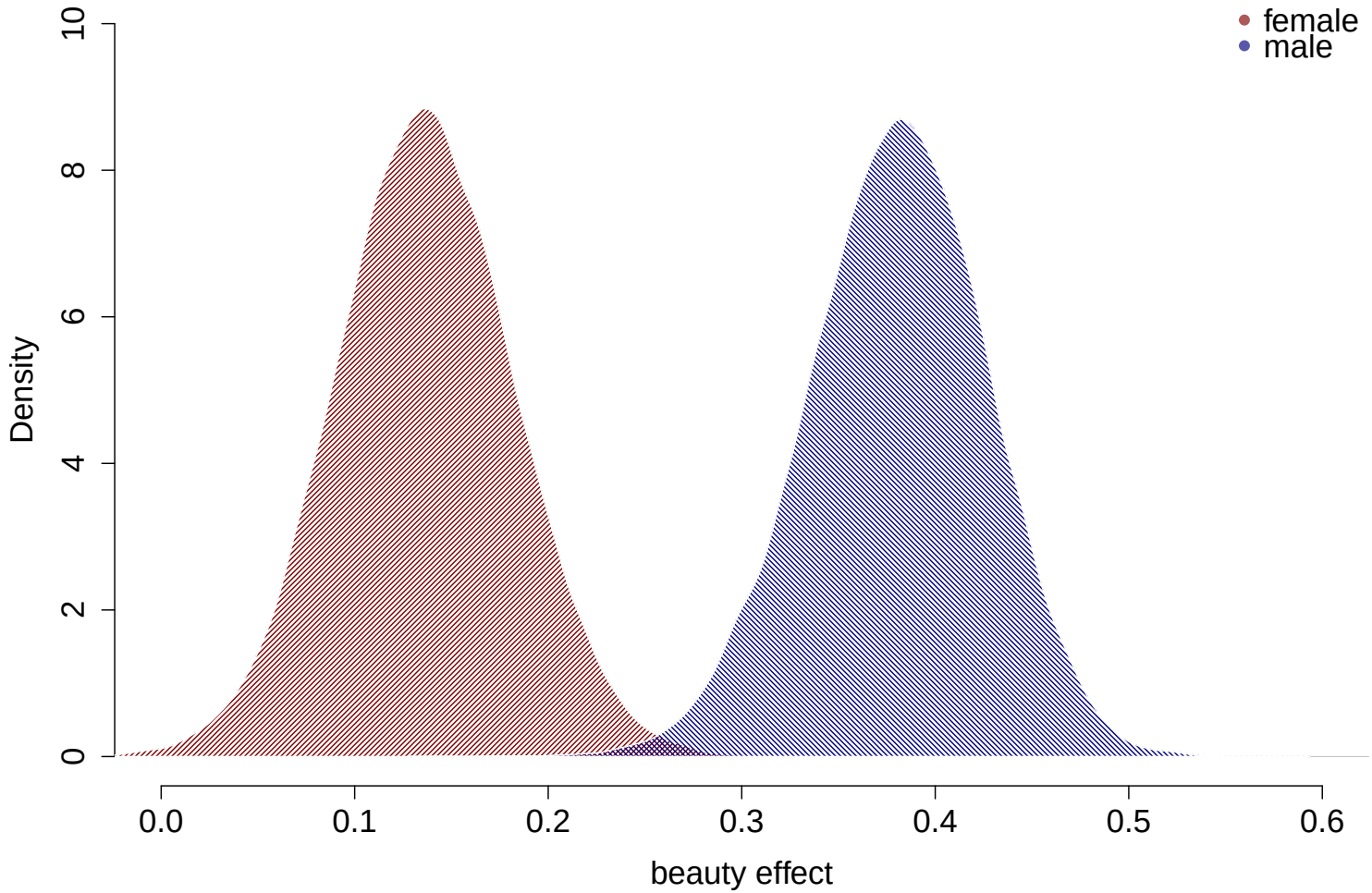


Stratify by division: $\beta_{\text{lower}} = 0.34^{***}$, $\beta_{\text{upper}} = 0.15^{***}$

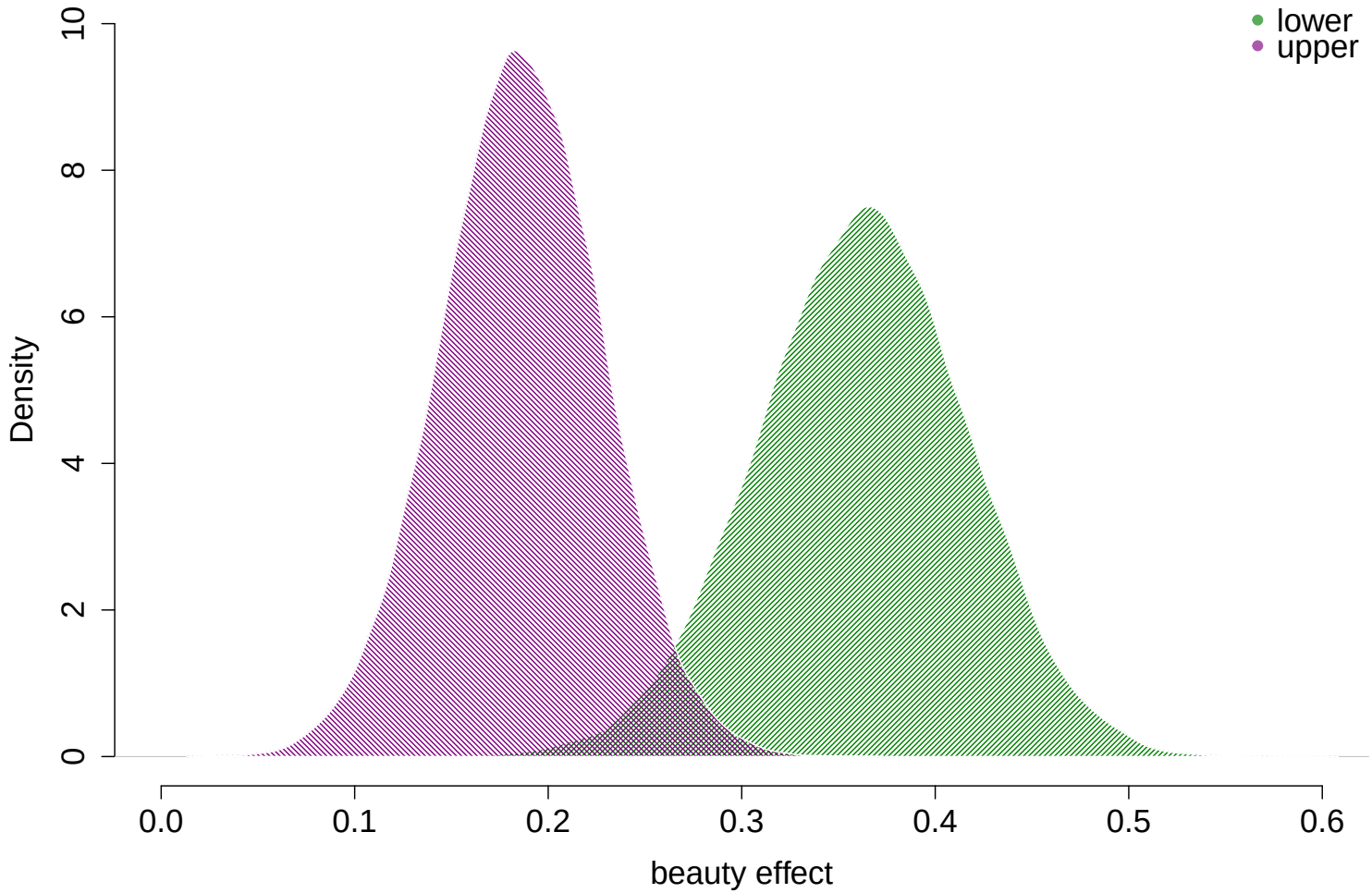


The beauty effect and its uncertainty ... *with controls*[1]



[1] division, minority, native, tenure, credits

The beauty effect and its uncertainty ... *with controls*[2]



[2] gender, minority, native, tenure, credits

What's your posterior?

After seeing the data, what do you think now?

Data $+$

$=$ **?**

Concluding thoughts

- Many uncontrollable factors drive teaching evaluations.

- Beauty affects teaching evaluations for men/women and lower/upper division courses differently.

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Roll over image to zoom in

ToyCentre

High quality cardboard mask "Brad Pitt"

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