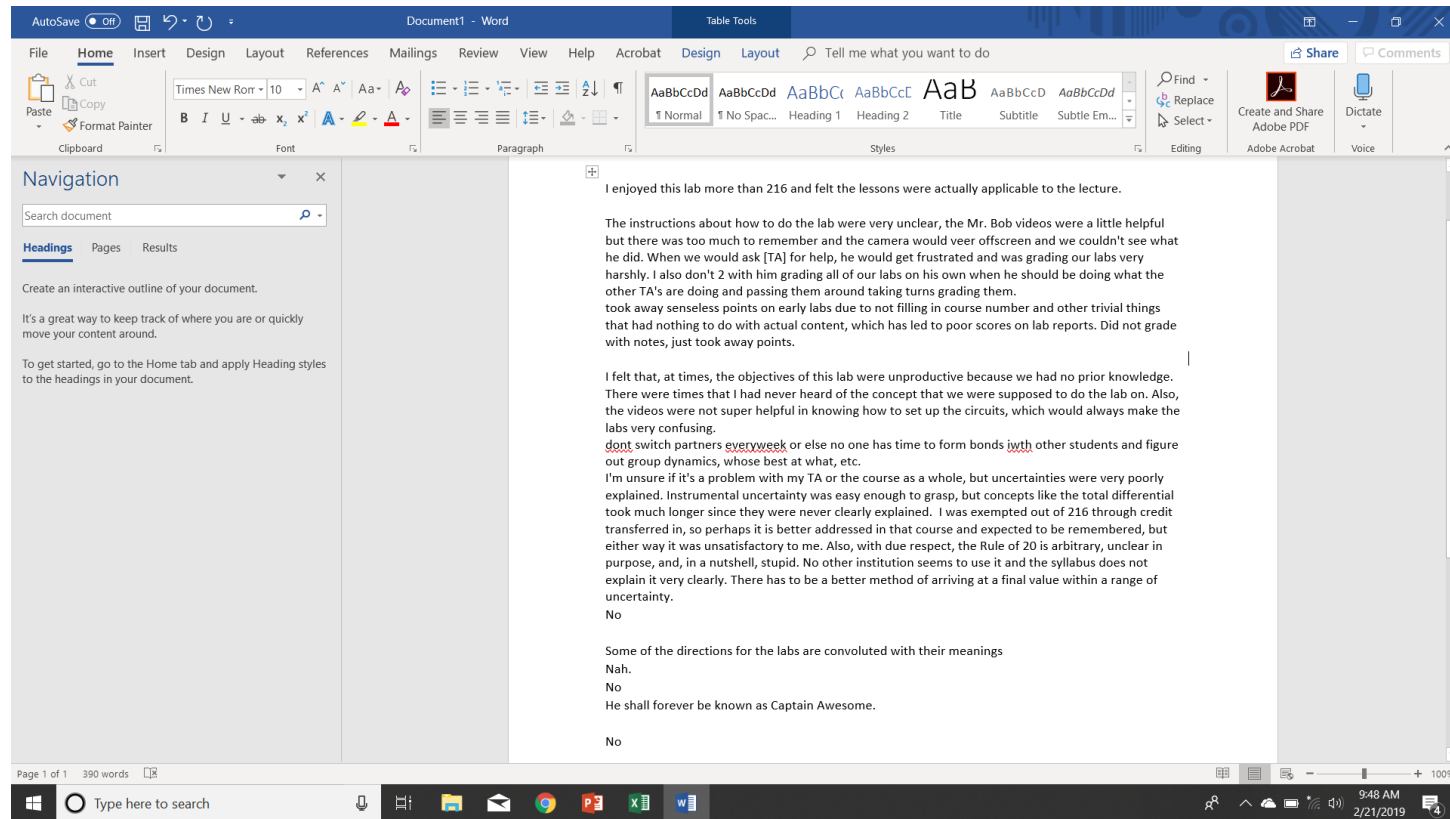


Reviews are terrible

“Any additional thoughts?”



Question: Can I interpret student comments about their TA in a more rigorous way?

Right now I just read them all and form a very squishy opinion.

Want to know if I can classify TAs based on student's comments about them.

I would also like to compare these comments to “numerical” scores TAs receive to see if there are any correlation(s)

“Numerical” scores

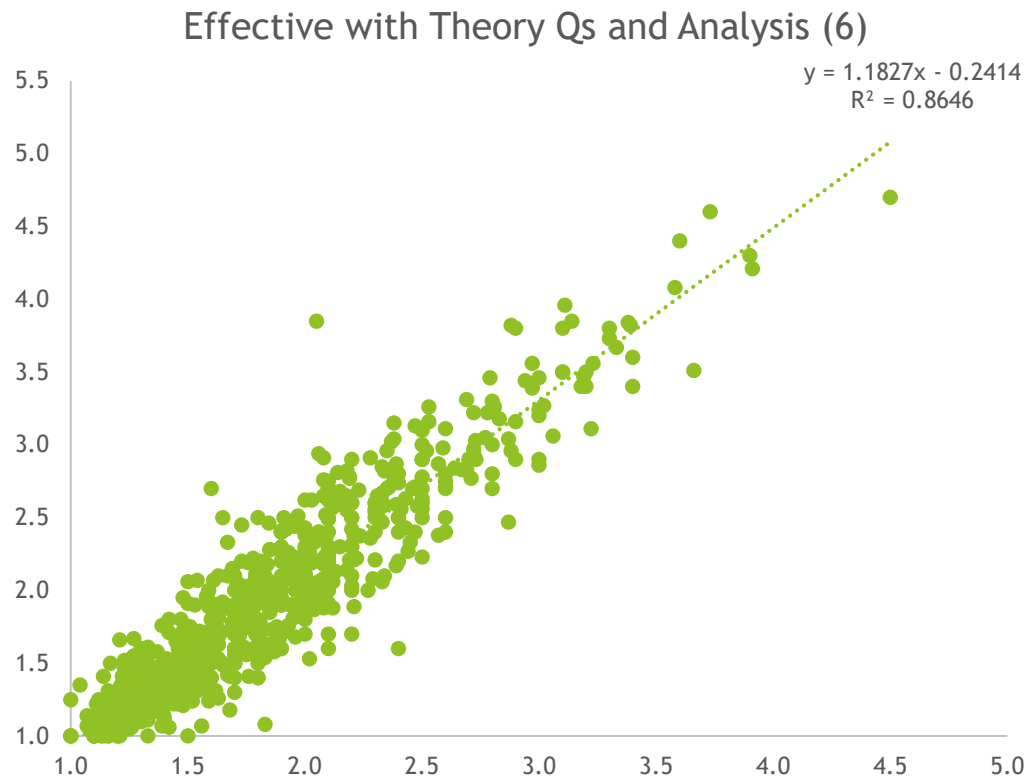
Students are asked questions like, “The TA normally arrives on time or early for lab”

And can pick choices, “strongly agree”, “agree”, “neither agree or disagree”, “disagree” or “strongly disagree”

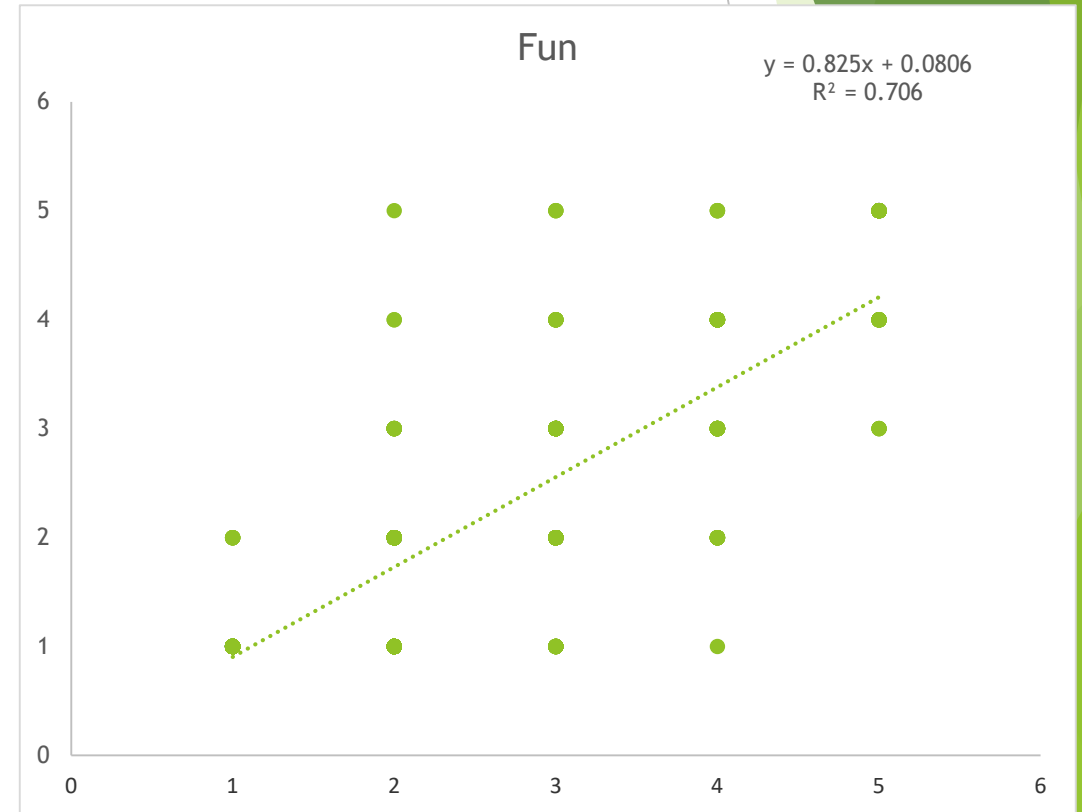
Bob and I assign these a value and use the values to find averages.

	Year	Semester	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1997	97	2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0
1997	97	2	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.2
1997	97	2	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.1
1997	97	2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5
1997	97	2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.4
1997	97	2	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.3
1997	97	2	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.5
1997	97	2	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.7
1997	97	2	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.4
1997	97	2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.6
1997	97	2	1.1	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.5	2.3	1.7	1.5
1997	97	2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.1	1.2	1.9
1997	97	2	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.3	2.3
1997	97	2	1.2	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.3	2.3
1997	97	2	1.4	2.9	2.1	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.4	1.5	2.1
1997	97	2	1.6	1.9	2.2	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	1.7	2.2

All averaged (over TA) data



All Raw Data for one semester



Student comments are difficult

Information that isn't about the TA

I think that my TA was very professional and actually wanted [their] students to succeed (I had a different TA last year before I dropped the class after a couple meetings, and in my opinion [they] made it too hard on students and would not give clear help when a student needed it to be successful). My TA this semester has been great.

[TA] was great but I would have liked more clear instructions in the lab manual

Bimodal Responses

Absolutely fantastic TA for an otherwise potentially unpleasant lab experience. The semester started rough as I had little physics experience, but [they were] great in guiding us without explicitly telling us what to do. [They] compromised really well between following the structure of the course, assisting us, and helping us really appreciate the physics experimentation process.

10/10 TA

VS

My TA was often unpleasant or annoyed when asked a question and answers were quite unhelpful. Gave vague ideas or explanation on how to use equipment and requirements for the sheets we needed to complete that just created more questions. Seemed extremely inconvenienced to be teaching the lab.

Smaller problem: why do (or don't) students recommend TAs?

Have about 16 years of TA review data, with student avg response to the same 10 questions, one of which is, “would you recommend this TA?”

Can I predict agreement with this question based on the answers to the other 9 questions?

How do recommendations track with comments?

Train the machine with comments from “recommended” and “not recommended” TAs

Can it predict from the comments whether a TA is recommend or not?

Can I group explanations?

Is there a better classification system?

How do grades and assessments correlate with comments?

Also will have pre/post assessment scores and grades.

Train machine with the comments for TAs with much improved, or high grade students with those whose students improve less

Too many variables, not enough data

Time and day of lab

Student pop (114er are meanies compared to 216ers?)

Fall vs Spring

Student bias towards TA gender, nationality, age, etc

Poor questions -> skew in answers