

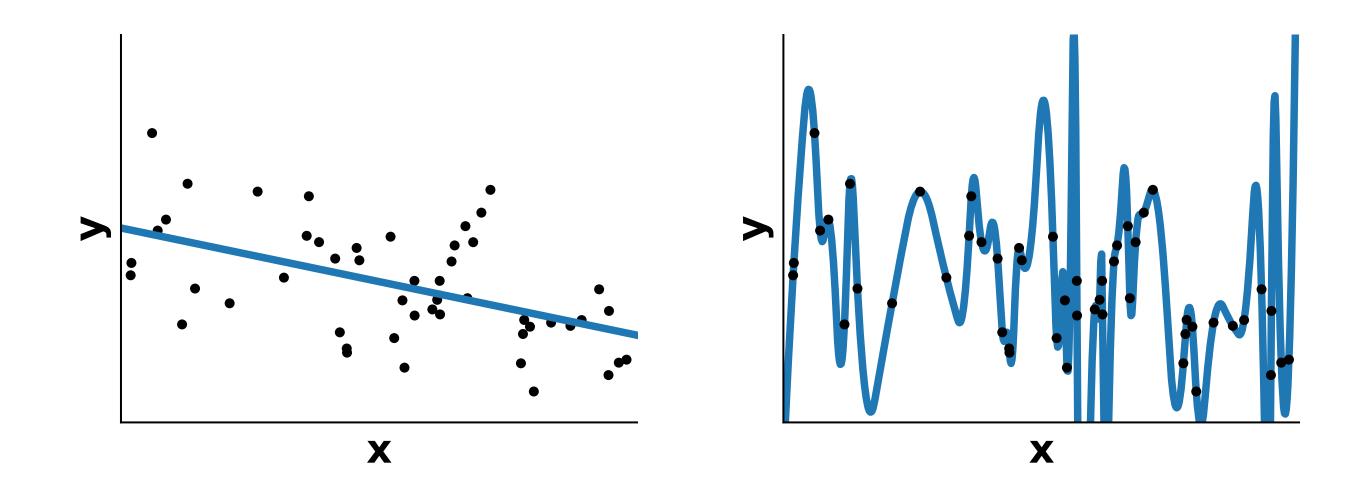
# Overfitting and underfitting

Understand when and why a model does or does not generalize well on unseen data.





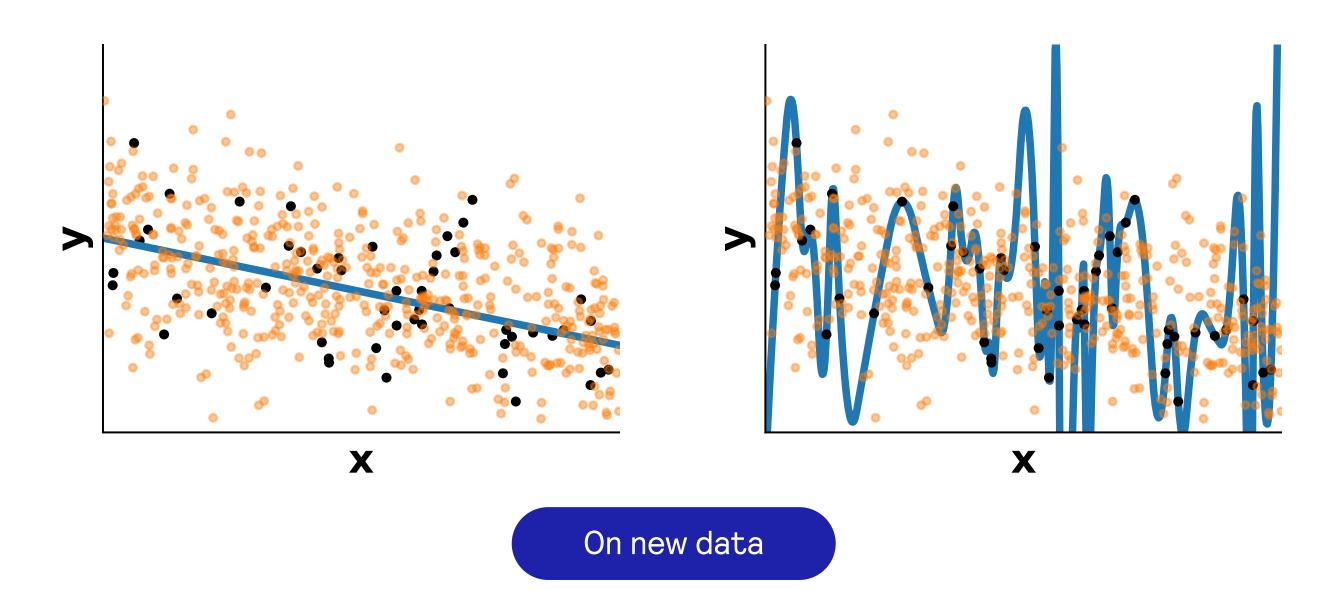
# Which data fit do you prefer?







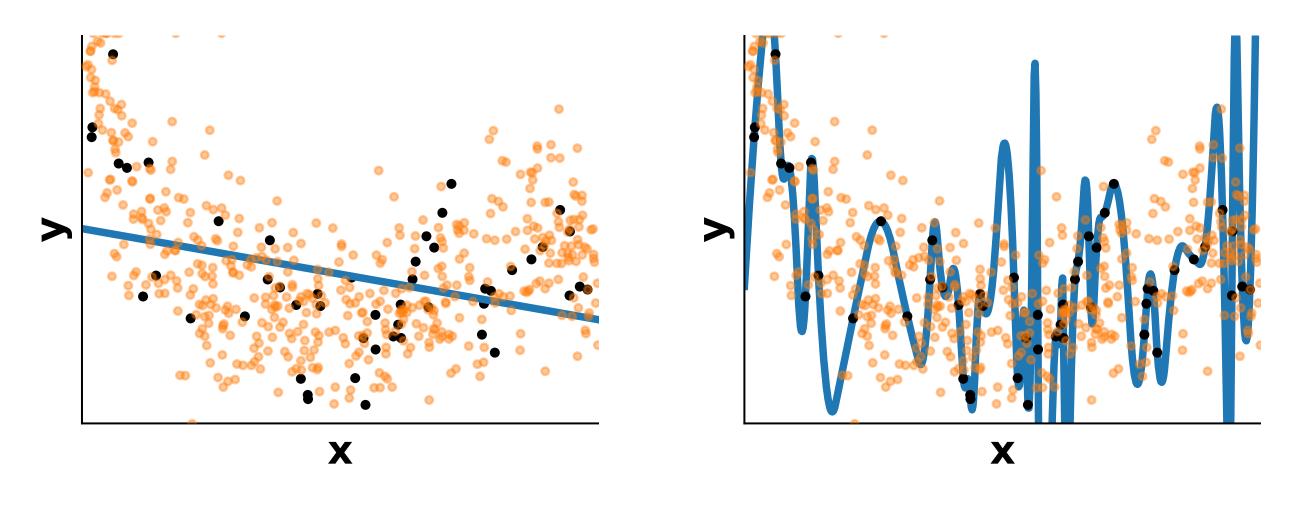
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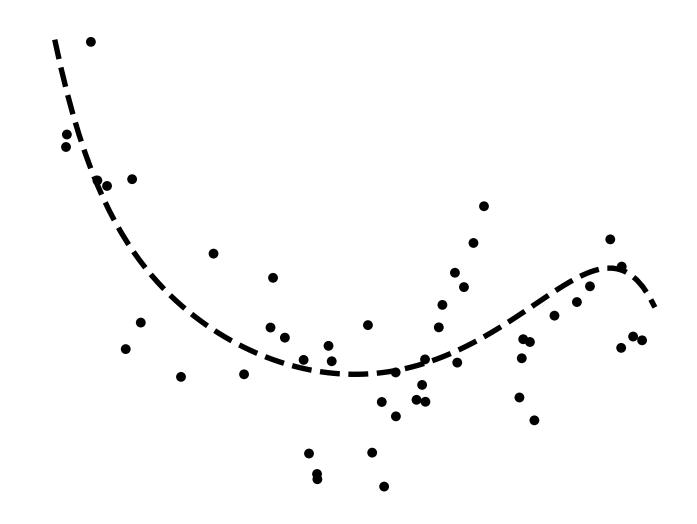
## Which data fit do you prefer?



A bit more complex example



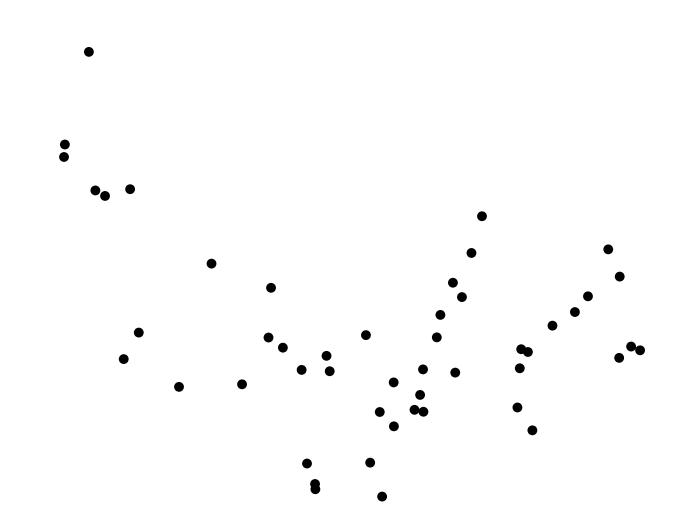




• Data generated with a 9th-degree polynomial + some noise



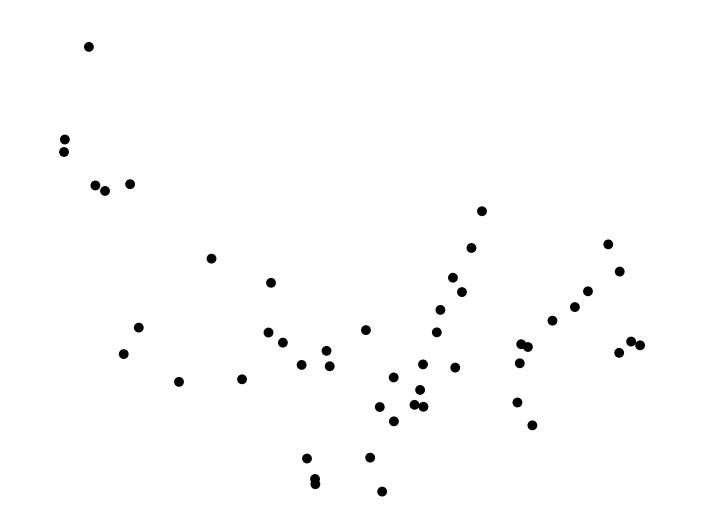




- Data generated with a 9th-degree polynomial + some noise
- This process is unknown







- Data generated with a 9th-degree polynomial + some noise
- This process is unknown
- We can only access the observations





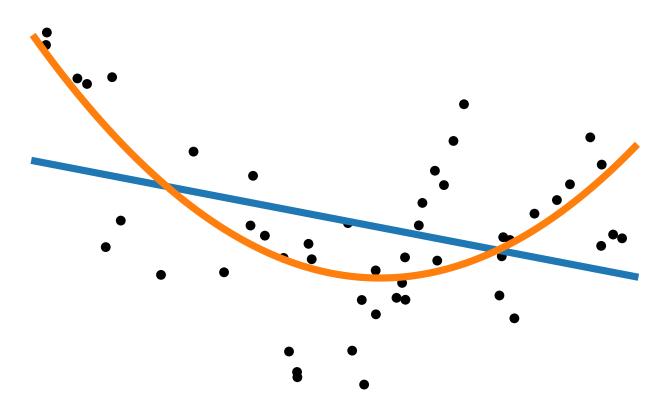
- Fitted degree 1 poly.

- Data generated with a 9th-degree polynomial + some noise
- This process is unknown
- We can only access the observations
- Fit polynomials of various degrees





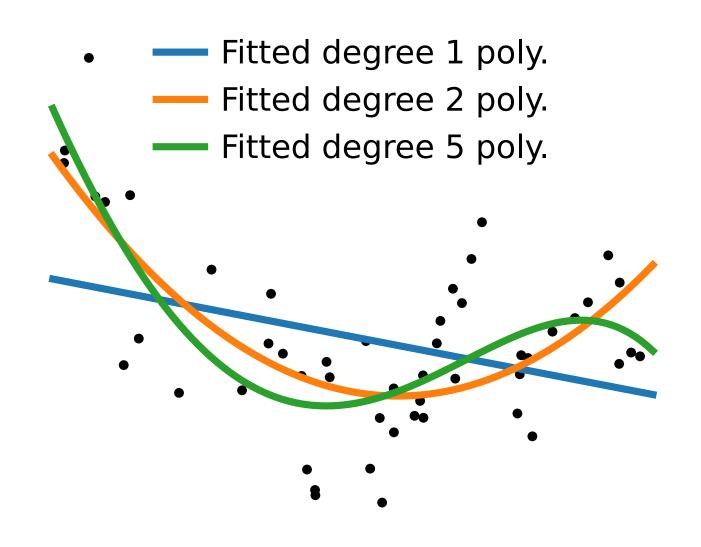
- Fitted degree 1 poly.
  - Fitted degree 2 poly.



- Data generated with a 9th-degree polynomial + some noise
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- Fit polynomials of various degrees



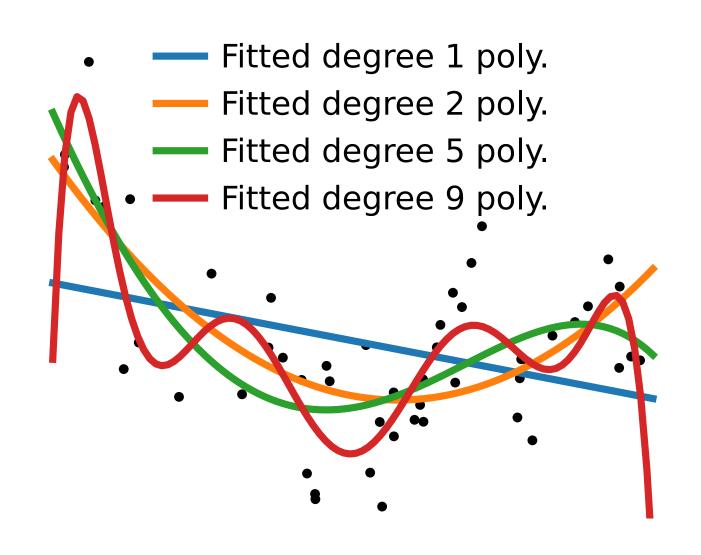




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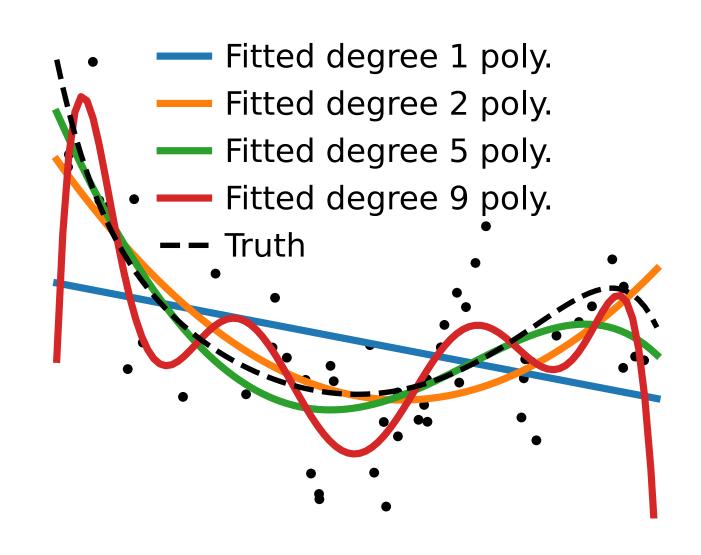




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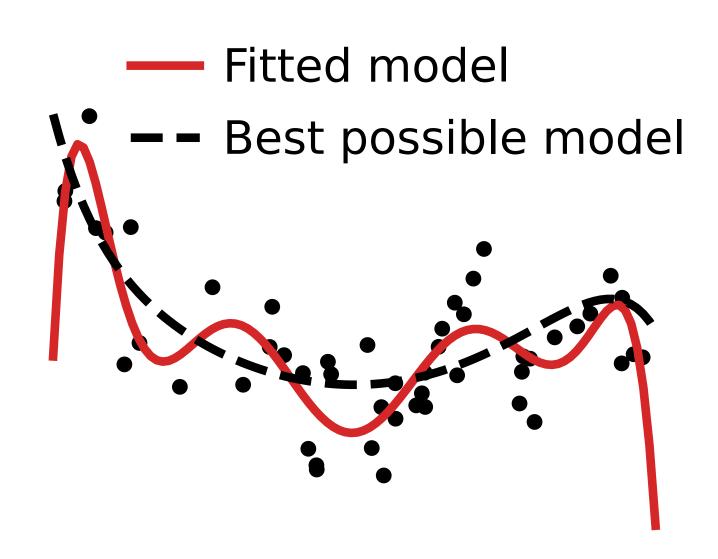


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#### Overfit: model too complex



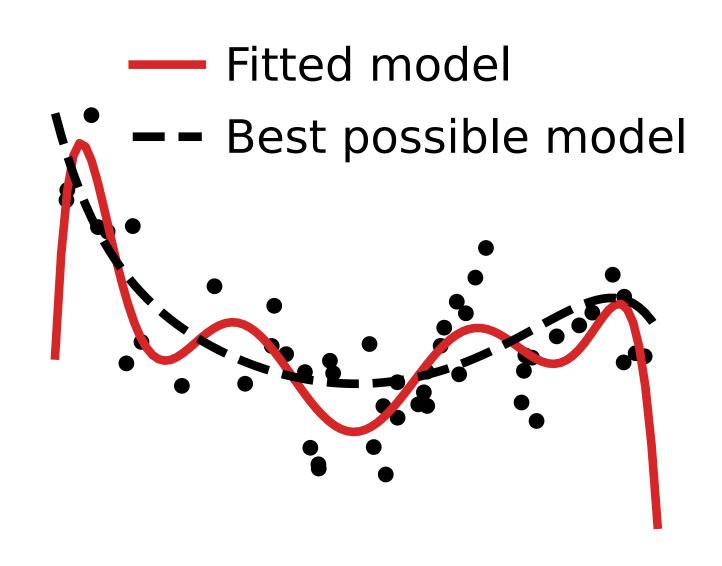
Model too <u>complex</u> for the data:

- Its best possible fit would approximate well the generative process
- However, its flexibility captures noise





#### Overfit: model too complex



Model too <u>complex</u> for the data:

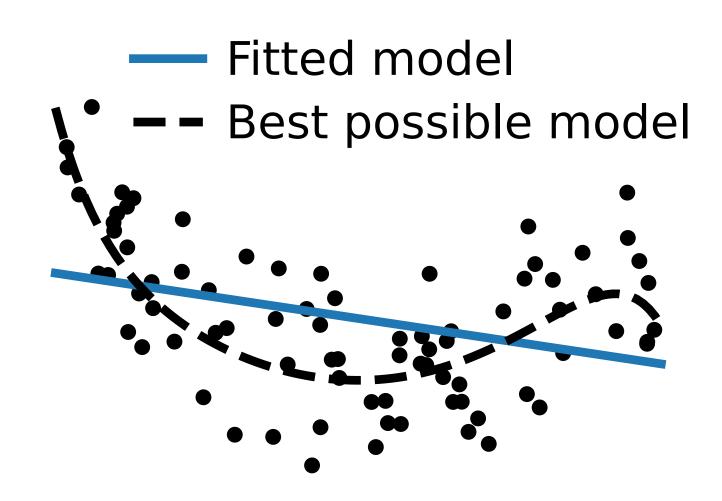
- Its best possible fit would approximate well the generative process
- However, its flexibility captures noise

Not enough data 
Too much noise





#### Underfit: model too simple



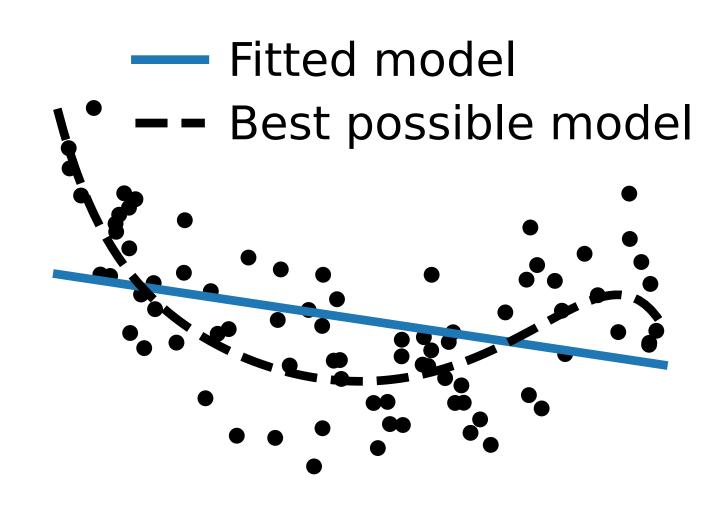
#### Model too <u>simple</u> for the data:

- Its best does not approximate well the generative process
- Yet it captures little to no noise





#### Underfit: model too simple



Model too <u>simple</u> for the data:

- Its best does not approximate well the generative process
- Yet it captures little to no noise

Plenty of data

Low noise





#### Main takeaways

Models too complex for the data overfit:

- They explain too well the data that they have seen
- They do not generalize

Models too simple for the data underfit;

- They capture no noise
- They are limited by their expressivity

How to find the right trade-off?

