

# Introduction to Generalized Additive Models

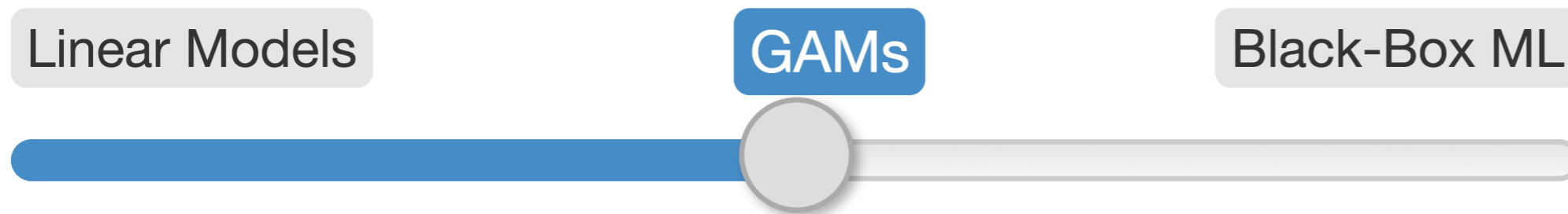
NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R

**Noam Ross**

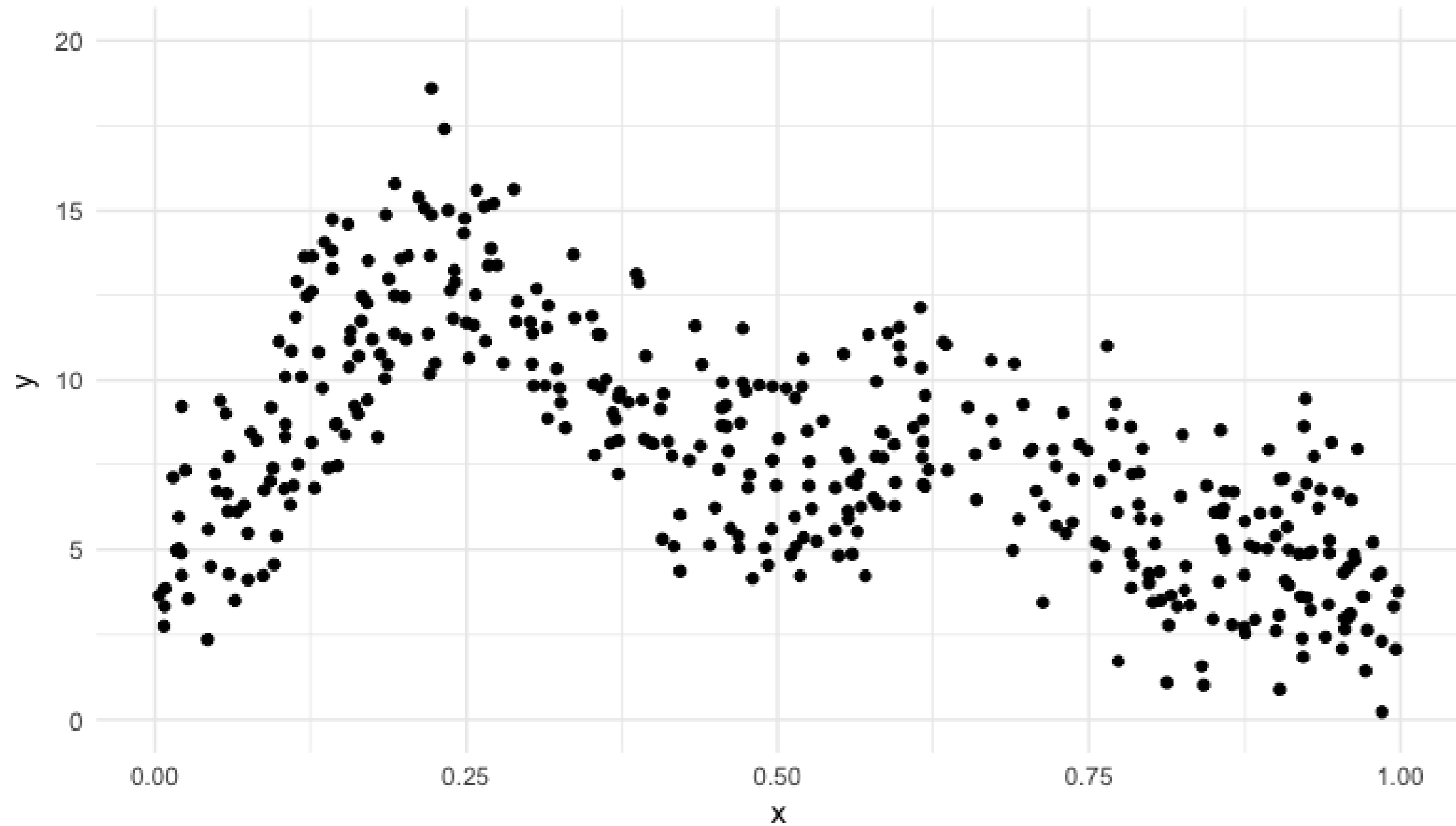
Senior Research Scientist, EcoHealth  
Alliance



# Trade-offs in model building

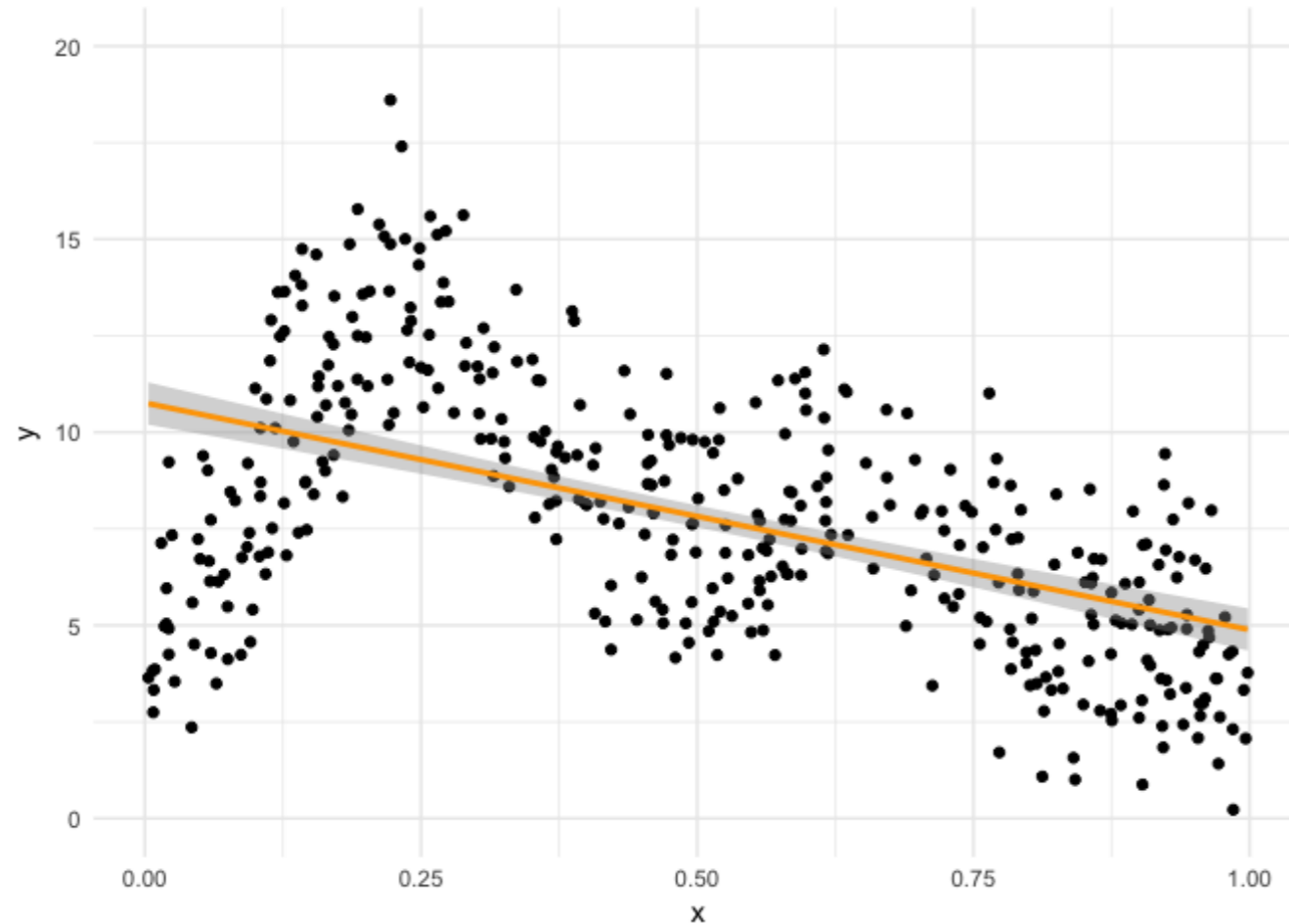


# Non-linear relationships



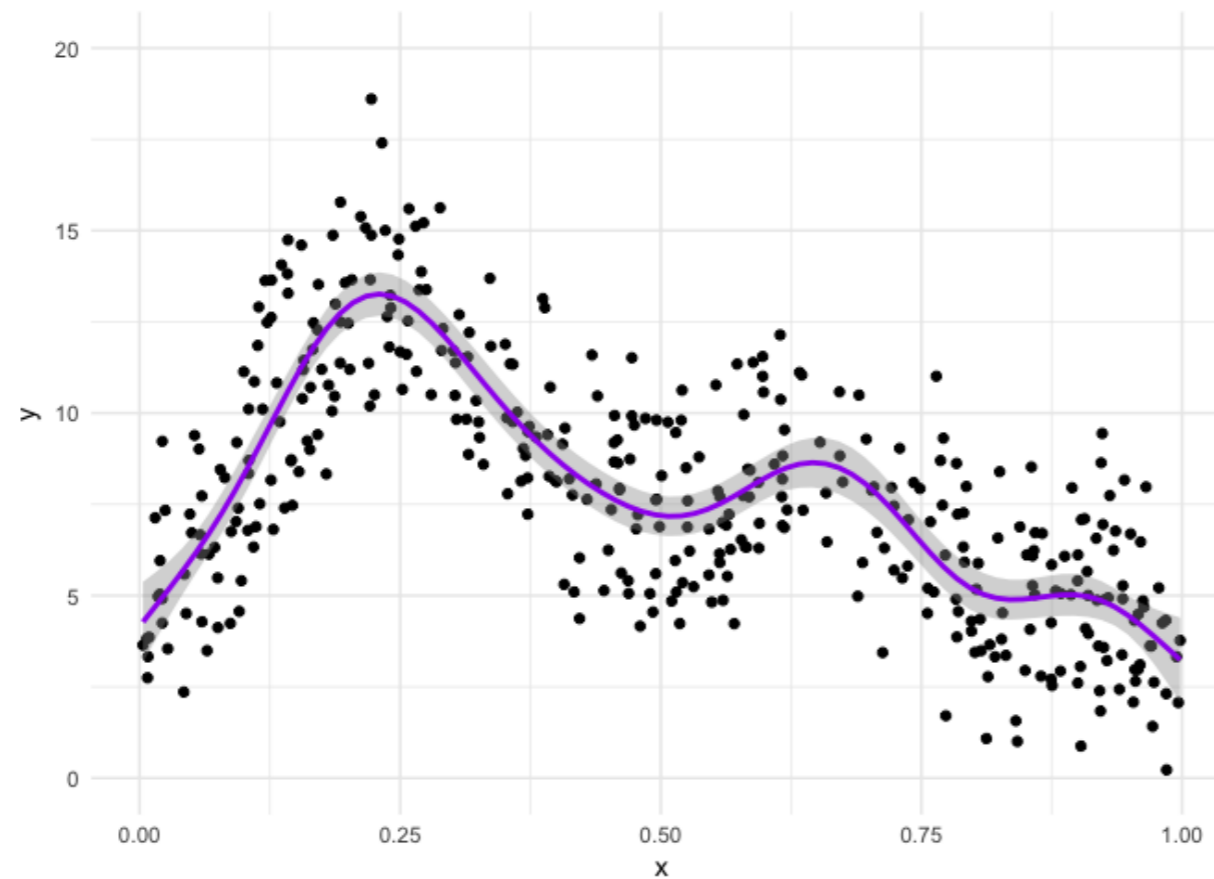
# Nonlinear relationships

```
linear_mod <- lm(y ~ x, data = my_data)
```

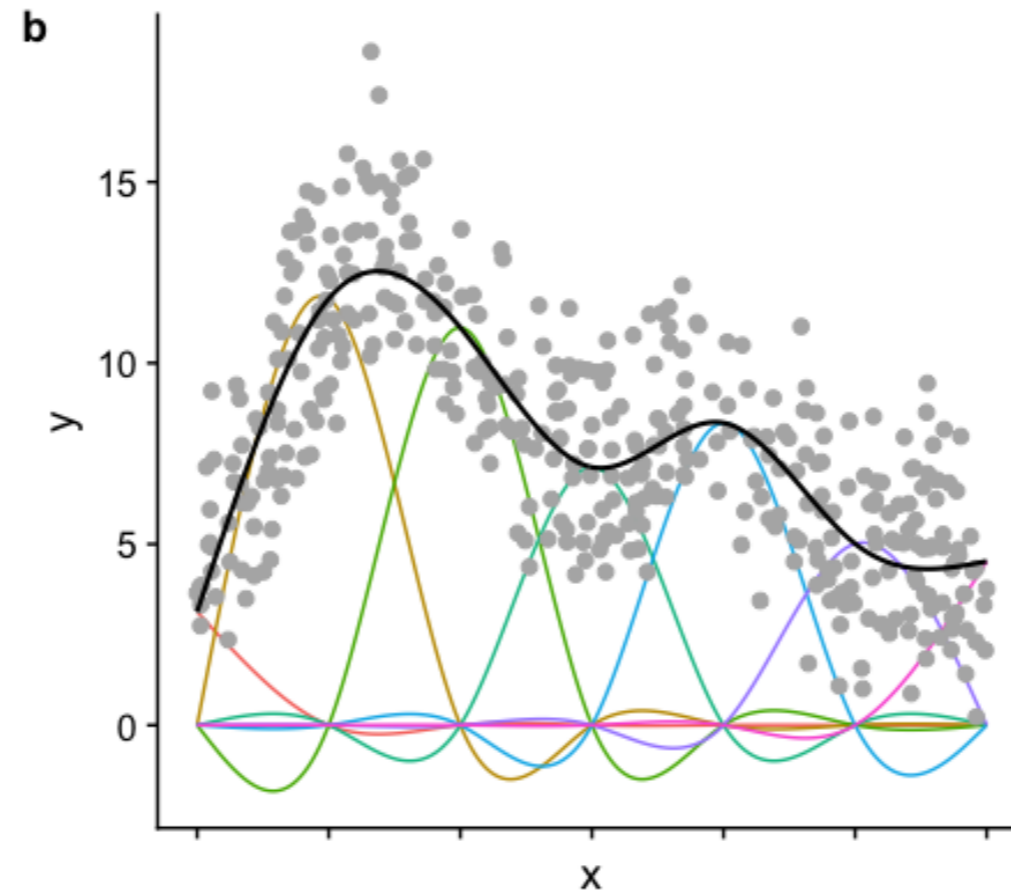
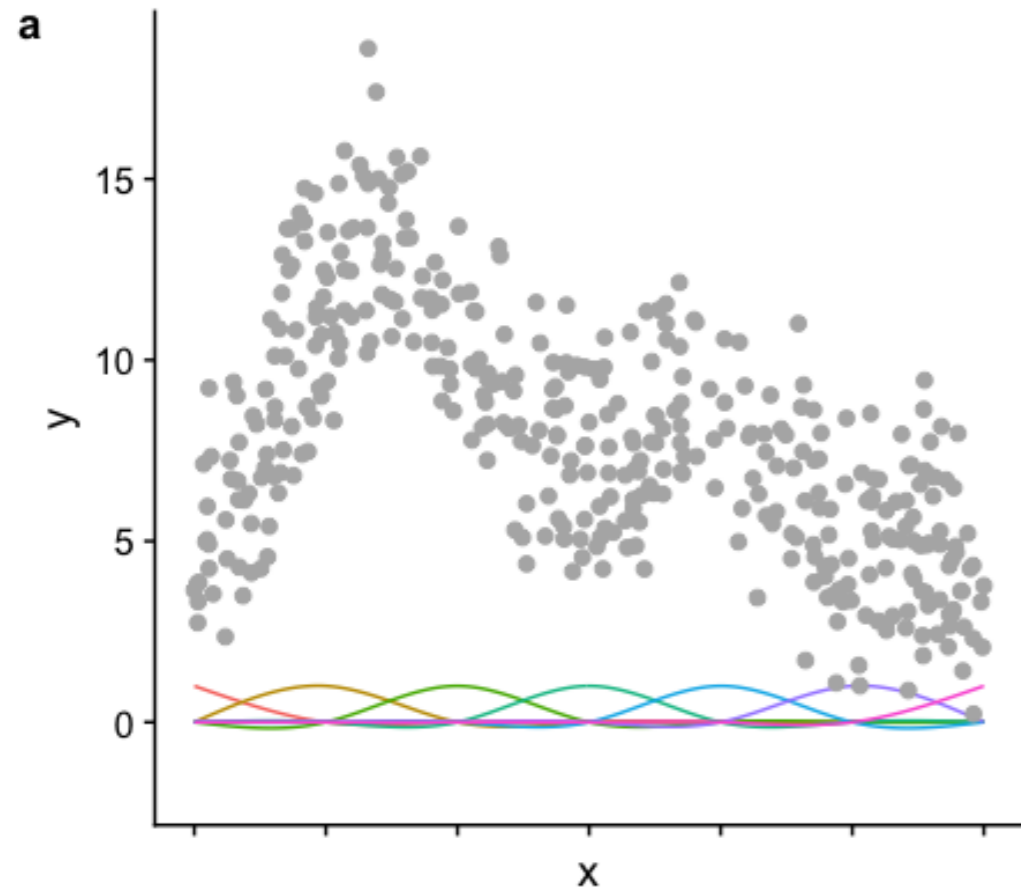


# Nonlinear relationships

```
library(mgcv)
gam_mod <- gam(y ~ s(x), data = my_data)
```



# Basis functions



# Basis functions

```
gam_mod <- gam(y ~ s(x), data = my_data)
```

```
coef(gam_mod)
```

```
(Intercept)      s(x2).1      s(x2).2  
7.814448        5.272290        5.104941  
  
s(x2).3         s(x2).4         s(x2).5  
1.271135        1.720561       -1.180613  
  
s(x2).6  
-2.676133
```

# Let's practice!

NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R



# Basis Functions and Smoothing

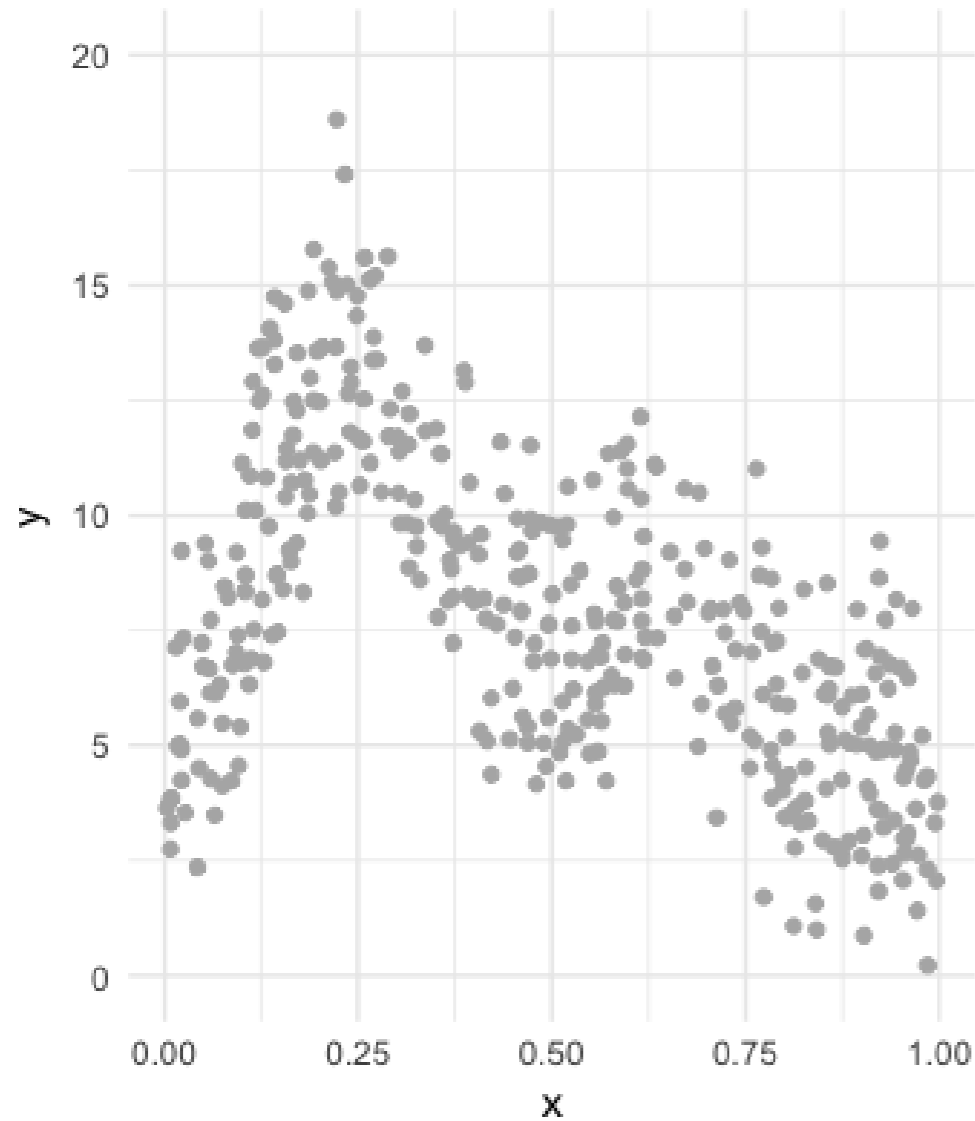
NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R



**Noam Ross**

Senior Research Scientist, EcoHealth Alliance

# Getting the right fit

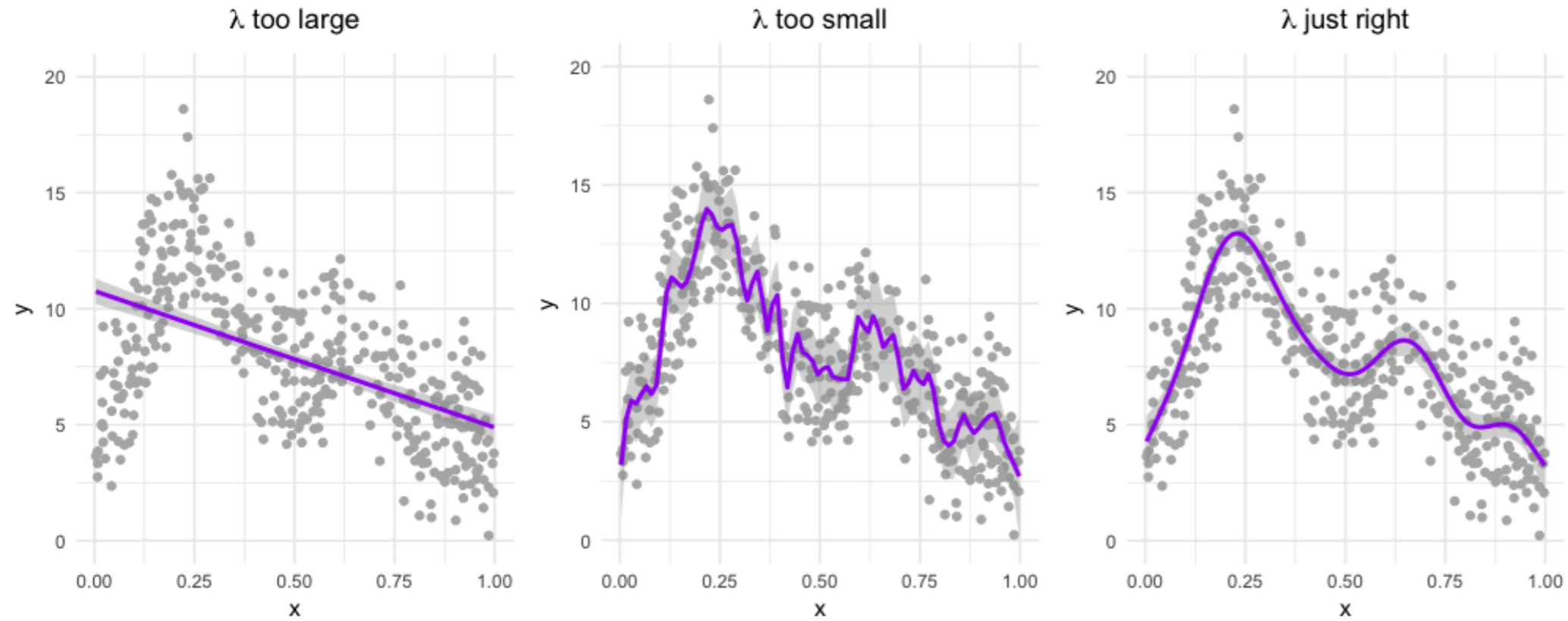


- Close to the data (avoiding under-fitting)
- Not fitting the noise (avoiding over-fitting)

# Balancing Wiggleness

$$\text{Fit} = \text{Likelihood} - \lambda \times \text{Wiggleness}$$

# Choosing the right smoothing parameter



# Smoothing syntax

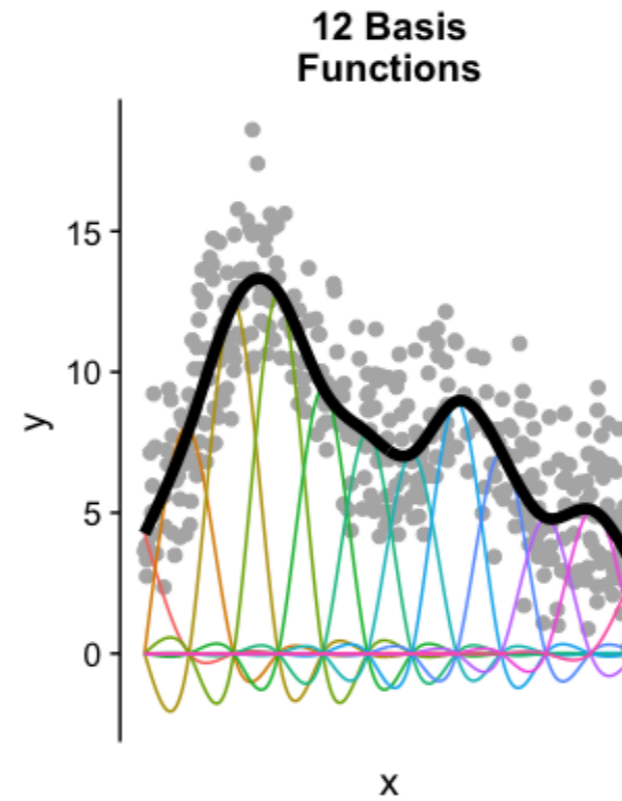
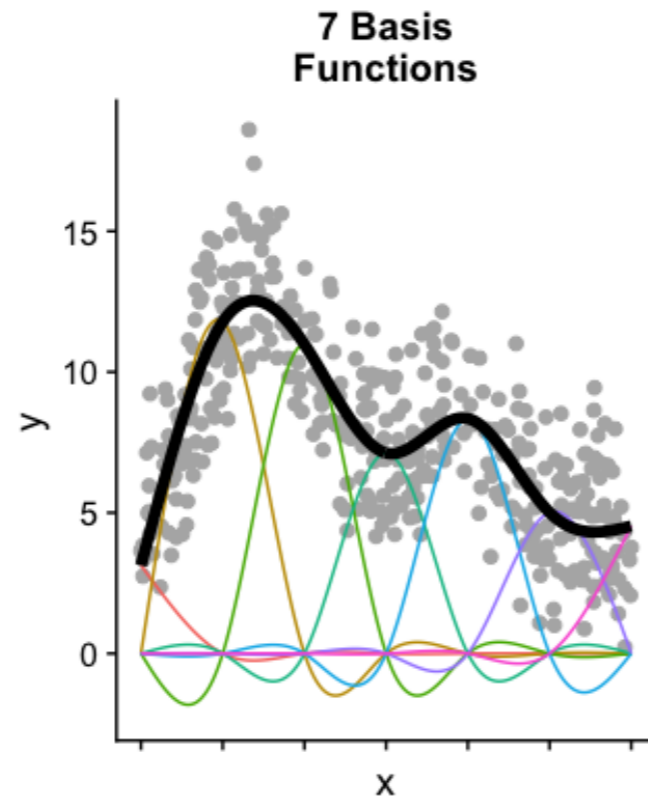
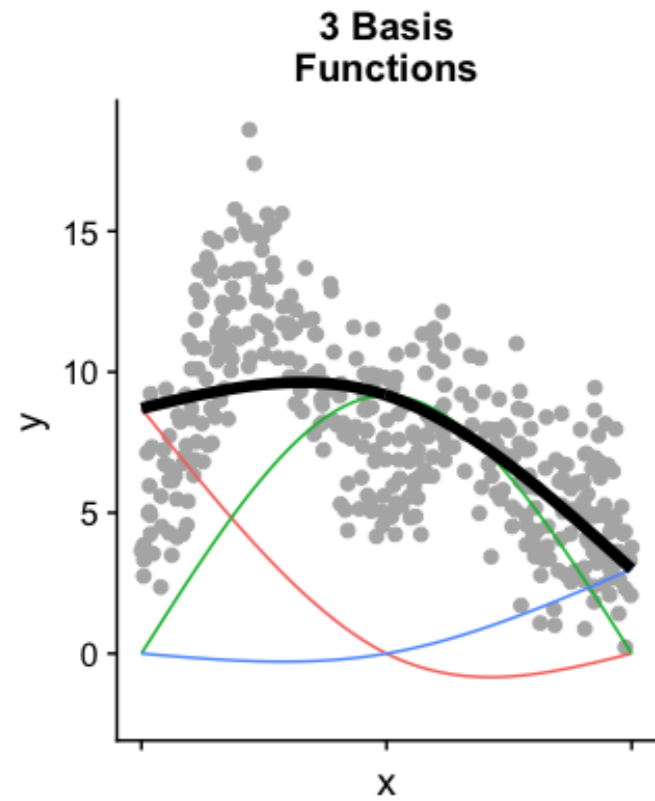
Setting a fixed smoothing parameter

```
gam(y ~ s(x), data = dat, sp = 0.1)  
gam(y ~ s(x, sp = 0.1), data = dat)
```

Smoothing via restricted maximum likelihood

```
gam(y ~ s(x), data = dat, method = "REML")
```

# Number of basis functions



# Basis function syntax

Setting number of basis functions

```
gam(y ~ s(x, k = 3), data = dat, method = "REML")
```

```
gam(y ~ s(x, k = 10), data = dat, method = "REML")
```

Use the defaults

```
gam(y ~ s(x), data = dat, method = "REML")
```

# Let's practice!

NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R



# Multivariate GAMs

NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R



**Noam Ross**

Senior Research Scientist, EcoHealth  
Alliance

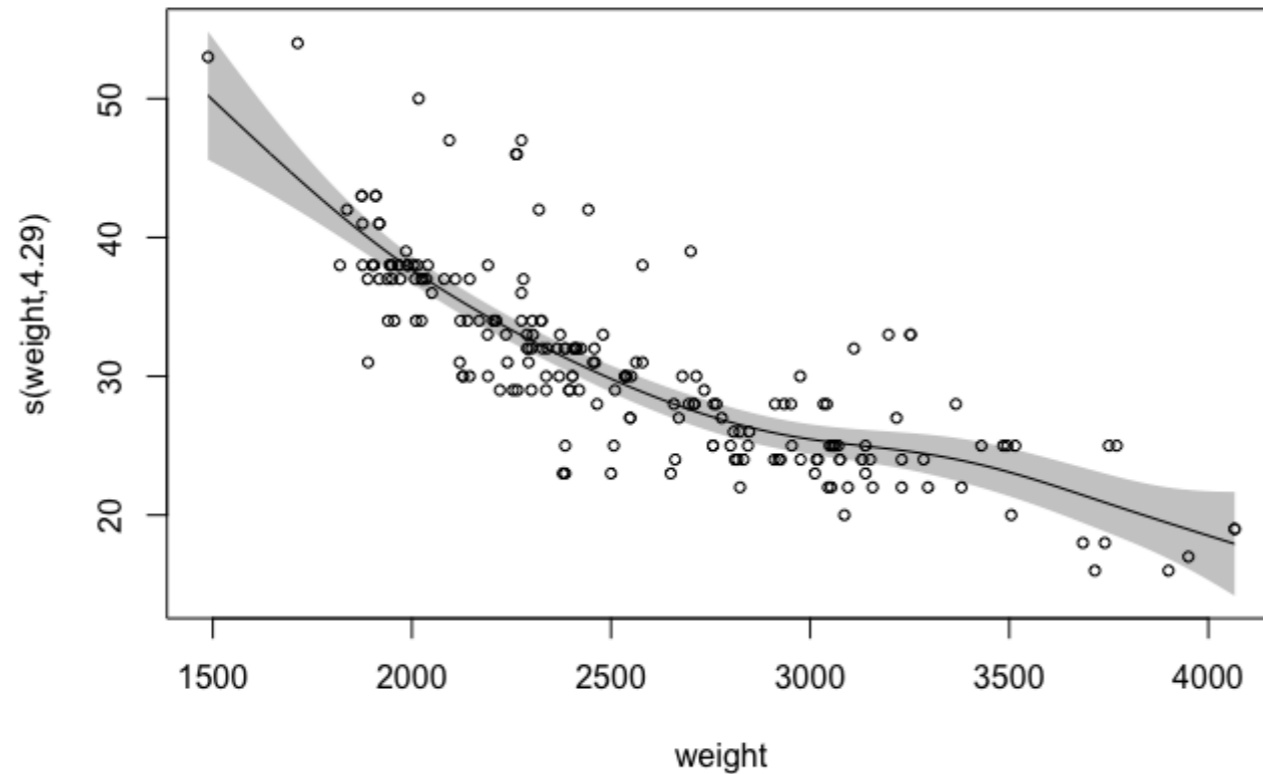
# Our working dataset: mpg

mpg

```
  symbol loss      make fuel aspir doors ... eng.loc   wb length width
1      3   NA alfa-romero gas  std  two ... front  88.6 168.8 64.1
2      3   NA alfa-romero gas  std  two ... front  88.6 168.8 64.1
3      1   NA alfa-romero gas  std  two ... front  94.5 171.2 65.5
4      2 164      audi  gas  std  four ... front  99.8 176.6 66.2
5      2 164      audi  gas  std  four ... front  99.4 176.6 66.4
6      2   NA      audi  gas  std  two ... front  99.8 177.3 66.3
7      1 158      audi  gas  std  four ... front 105.8 192.7 71.4
8      1   NA      audi  gas  std  four ... front 105.8 192.7 71.4
9      1 158      audi  gas turbo four ... front 105.8 192.7 71.4
10     0   NA      audi  gas turbo two ... front  99.5 178.2 67.9
...
```

# Multiple smooths (1)

```
model <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight), data = mpg,  
             method = "REML")
```



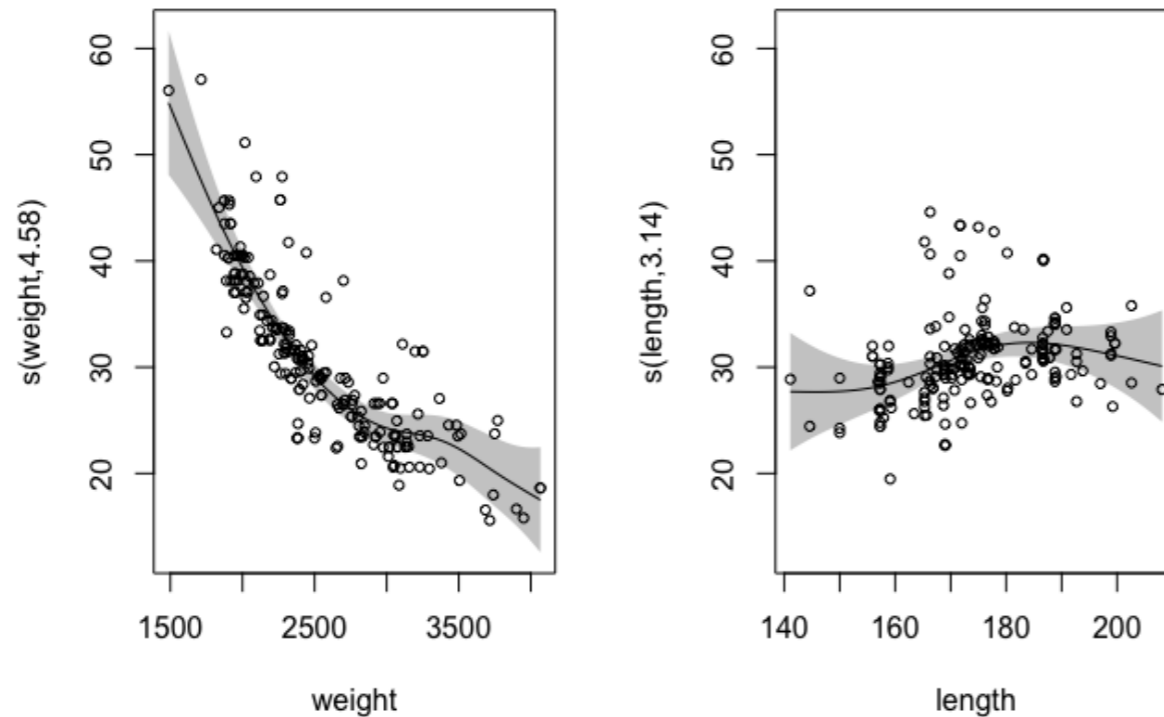
# Multiple smooths (2)

```
model <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight), data = mpg,  
            method = "REML")
```

```
model2 <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight) + s(length), data = mpg,  
             method = "REML")
```

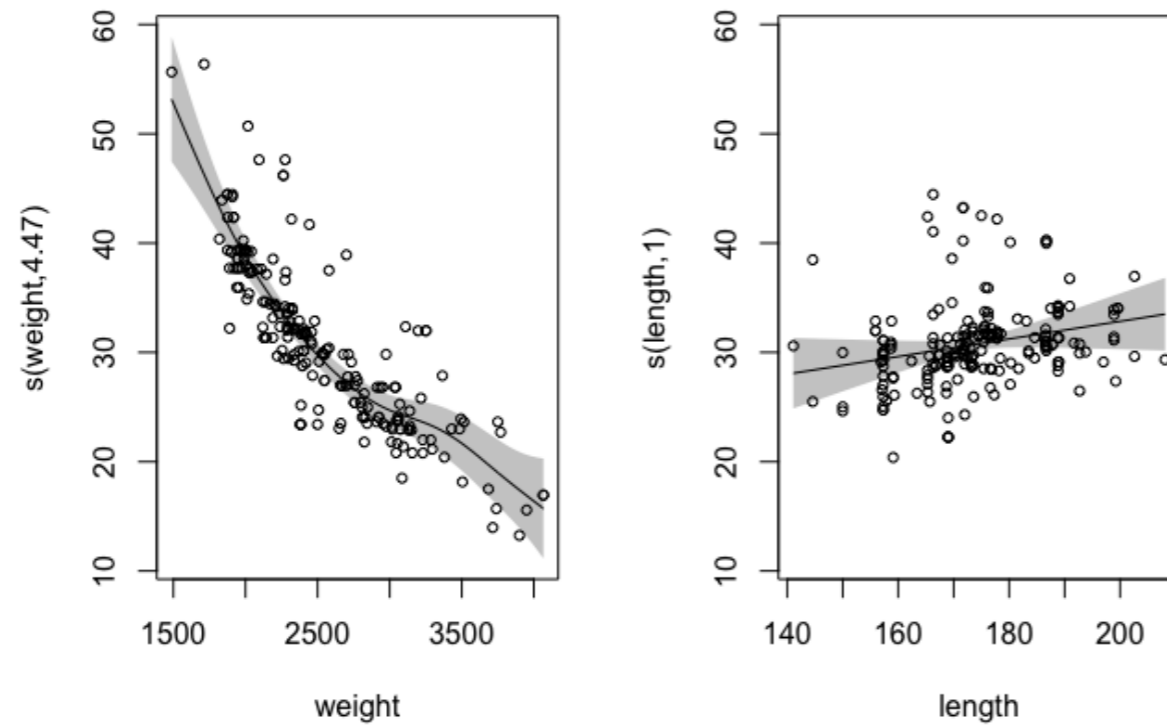
# Multiple smooths (3)

```
model2 <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight) + s(length), data = mpg,  
              method = "REML")
```



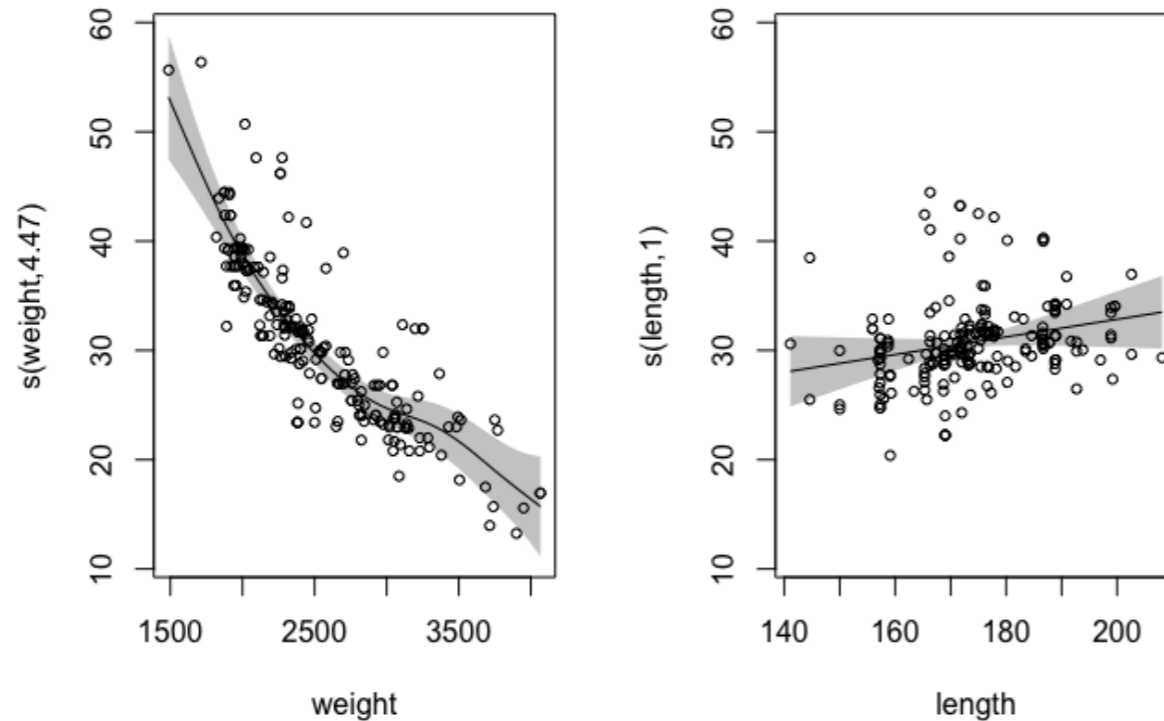
# Linear terms

```
model2 <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight) + length, data = mpg,  
              method = "REML")
```



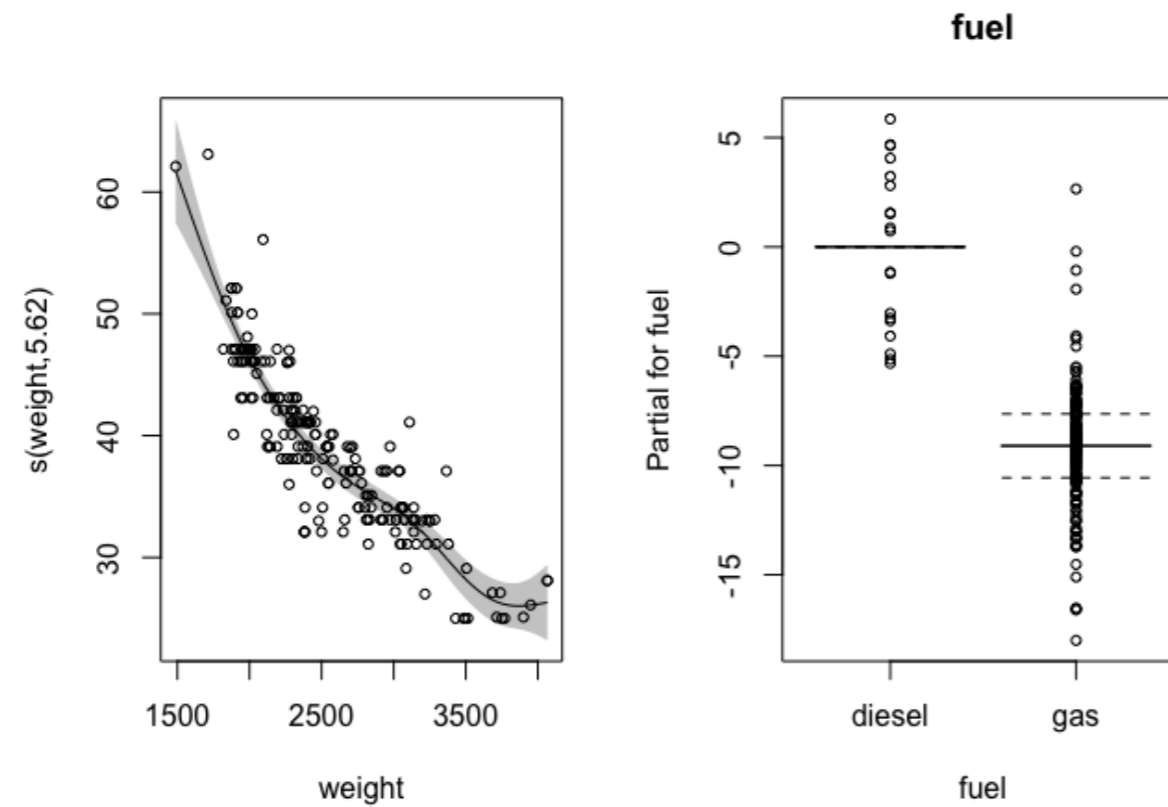
# Linear terms (2)

```
model2b <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight) + s(length, sp = 1000),  
              data = mpg, method = "REML")
```



# Categorical terms (1)

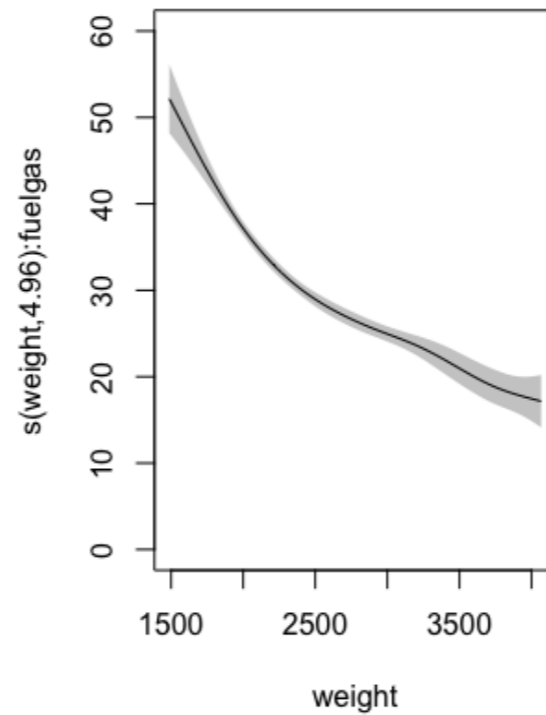
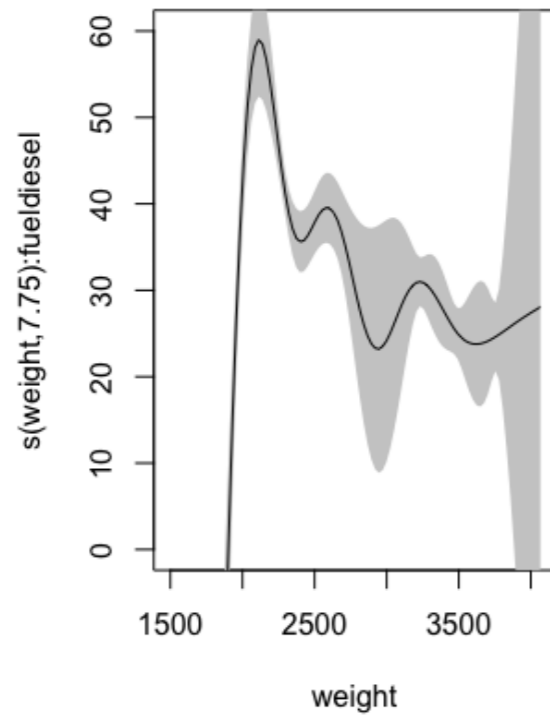
```
model3 <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight) + fuel, data = mpg,  
              method = "REML")
```





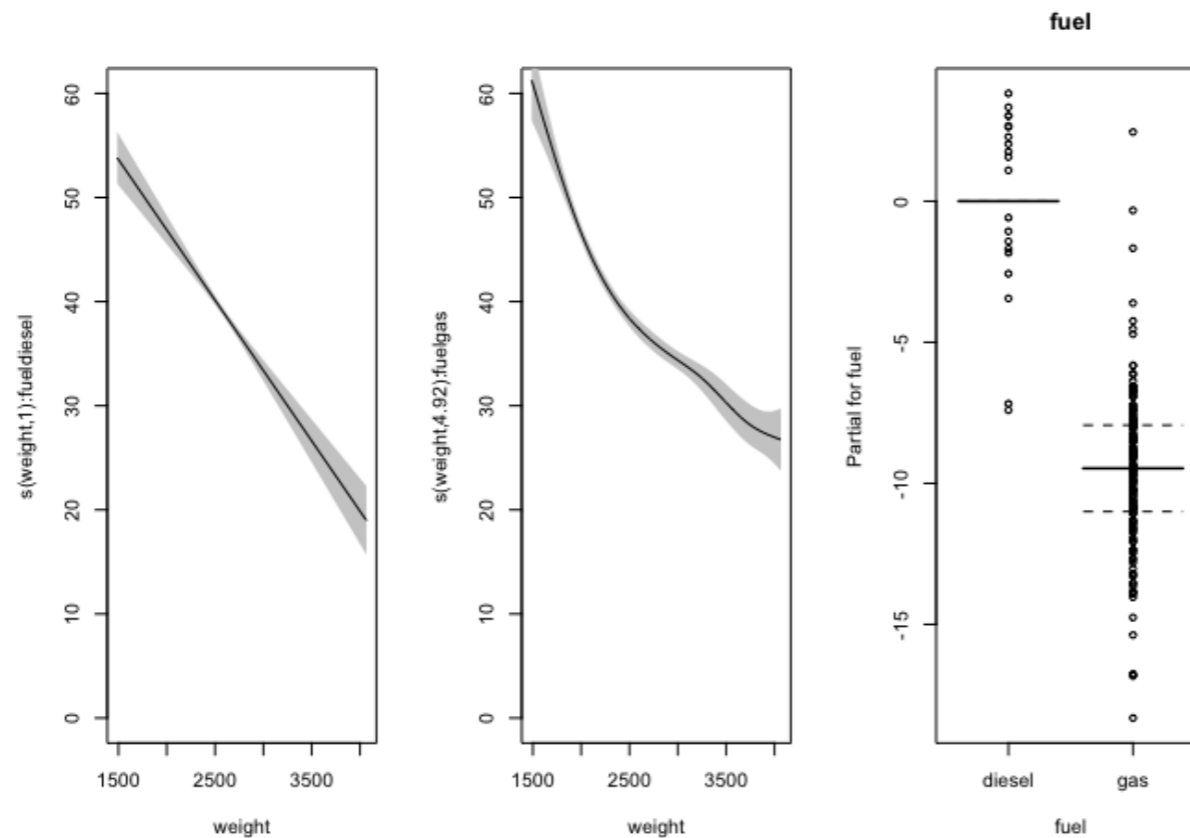
# Categorical terms (2)

```
model4 <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight, by = fuel), data = mpg,  
              method = "REML")
```



# Categorical terms (3)

```
model4b <- gam(hw.mpg ~ s(weight, by = fuel) + fuel,  
              data = mpg, method = "REML")
```



# Let's practice!

NONLINEAR MODELING WITH GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS (GAMS) IN R