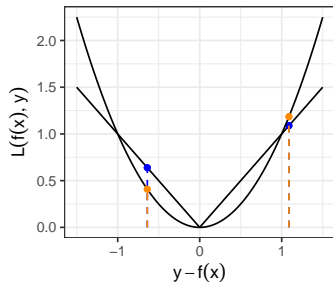
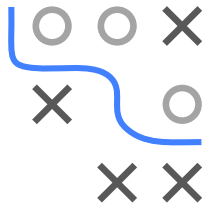


# Introduction to Machine Learning

## Supervised Regression: Linear Models with $L_1$ Loss

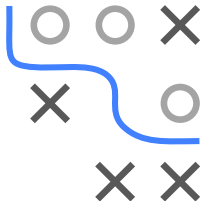
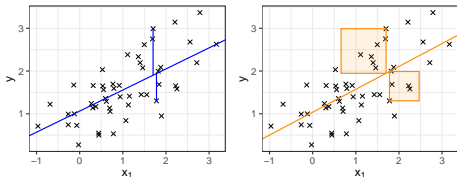


### Learning goals

- Understand difference between  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  regression
- See how choice of loss affects optimization & robustness

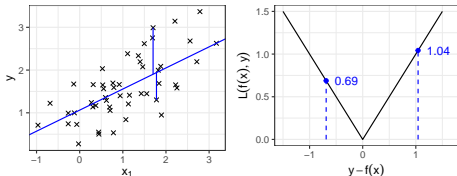
# ABSOLUTE LOSS

- $L_2$  regression minimizes quadratic residuals – wouldn't **absolute** residuals seem more natural?

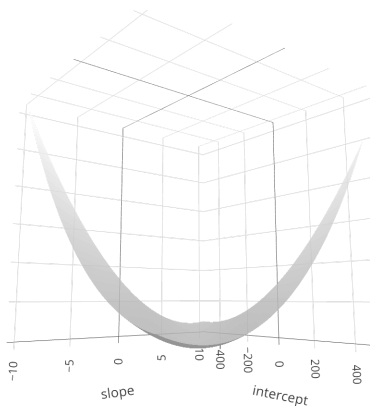
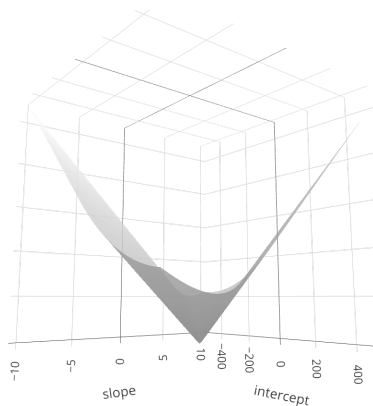


- $L_1$  loss / absolute error / least absolute deviation (LAD)

$$L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = |y - f(\mathbf{x})|$$



# L1 VS L2 – LOSS SURFACE



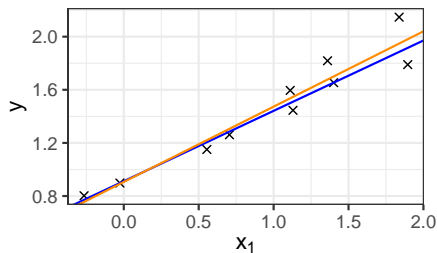
L1 loss (left) harder to optimize than L2 loss (right)

- Convex but **not differentiable** in  $y - f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$
- No analytical solution

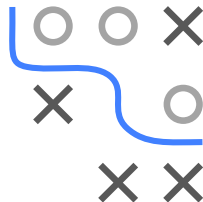
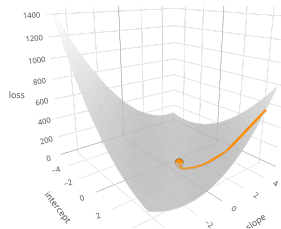
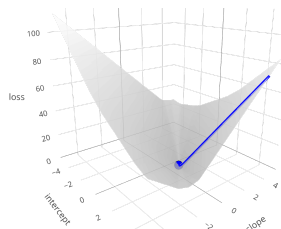
# L1 VS L2 – ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

- Results of  $L1$  and  $L2$  regression often not that different
- Simulated data:  $y^{(i)} = 1 + 0.5x_1^{(i)} + \epsilon^{(i)}$ ,  $\epsilon^{(i)} \stackrel{i.i.d}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 0.01)$

	intercept	slope
$L1$	0.91	0.53
$L2$	0.91	0.57

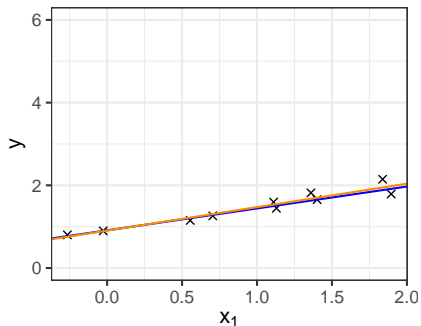


absolute quadratic

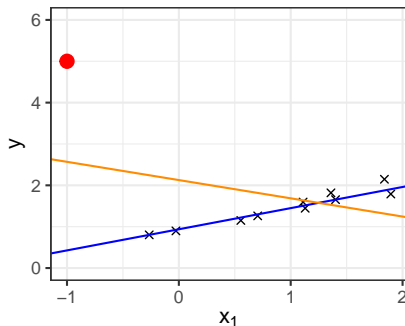


# L1 VS L2 – ROBUSTNESS

- L2 quadratic in residuals  $\rightsquigarrow$  outlying points carry lots of weight
- E.g.,  $3\times$  residual  $\Rightarrow 9\times$  loss contribution
- L1 more **robust** in presence of outliers (example ctd.):



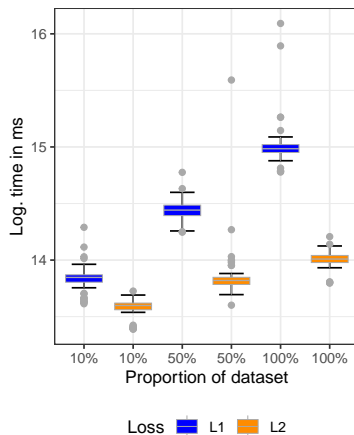
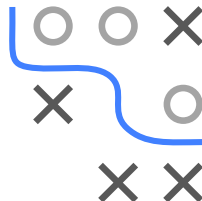
absolute quadratic



absolute quadratic

# L1 VS L2 – OPTIMIZATION COST

- Real-world weather problem  $\rightsquigarrow$  predict mean temperature
- Compare **time** to fit L1 (`quantreg::rq()`) vs L2 (`lm::lm()`) for different dataset proportions (repeat 50 $\times$ )



Loss

	Fitted: <i>L1</i>	Fitted: <i>L2</i>
Total <i>L1</i> loss	$8.98 \times 10^4$	$8.99 \times 10^4$
Total <i>L2</i> loss	$5.83 \times 10^6$	$5.81 \times 10^6$

Estimated coefficients

$x_j$	<i>L1</i> : $\hat{\theta}_j$	<i>L2</i> : $\hat{\theta}_j$
Max_temperature	0.553	0.563
Min_temperature	0.441	0.427
Visibility	0.026	0.041
Wind_speed	0.002	0.010
Max_wind_speed	-0.026	-0.039
(Intercept)	-0.380	-0.102

**L1 slower to optimize!**