# General Formulations for Structures: Conditional Random Fields

CS 6355: Structured Prediction



## Where are we?

- Graphical models
  - Bayesian Networks
  - Markov Random Fields
- Formulations of structured output
  - Joint models
    - Markov Logic Network
  - Conditional models
    - Conditional Random Fields (again)
    - Constrained Conditional Models

## **Recall:** Markov Random Fields

We have seen Markov random fields

- Joint probability over a set of random variables
- Factors connect random variables



- Typically, but not necessarily, exponential functions
- A way of decomposing joint probability
  - Product of potentials over factors  $P(\mathbf{x}) \propto f_a(x_1, x_2, x_4) f_b(x_2, x_3, x_5) f_c(x_4, x_5)$
- (Markov Logic Network: a concise language to define an MRF)



## Another look at conditional random fields

- A MRF models a joint distribution
  - Think P(x, y)
    - In fact, no separation of variables into inputs and outputs
  - A generative model
- A CRF is
  - A discriminative version of the MRF
    - Model P(**y** | **x**)
    - No factors that involve only the x's
  - A structured extension of logistic regression

## From generative models to CRF



Naive Bayes





Logistic Regression

[Figure from Sutton and McCallum, '05]

## From generative models to CRF



## From generative models to CRF



#### **General CRFs**



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## **Computational questions**

- 1. Learning: Given a training set {<**x**<sub>i</sub>, **y**<sub>i</sub>>}
  - Train via maximum likelihood (typically regularized)

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i} \log P(\mathbf{y}_{i} | \mathbf{x}_{i}, \mathbf{w}) = \max_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i} \mathbf{w}^{T} \phi(\mathbf{x}_{i}, \mathbf{y}_{i}) - \log Z_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}_{i})$$

Need to compute partition function during training

$$Z_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \sum_{\mathbf{y}} \exp(\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}))$$

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- 2. Prediction  $\max_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ 
  - Go over all possible assignments to the y's
  - Find the one with the highest probability/score