



Computer  
Science

# **CSC535: Probabilistic Graphical Models**

**Introduction and Course Overview**

**Prof. Jason Pacheco**

# What is a Probabilistic Graphical Model?

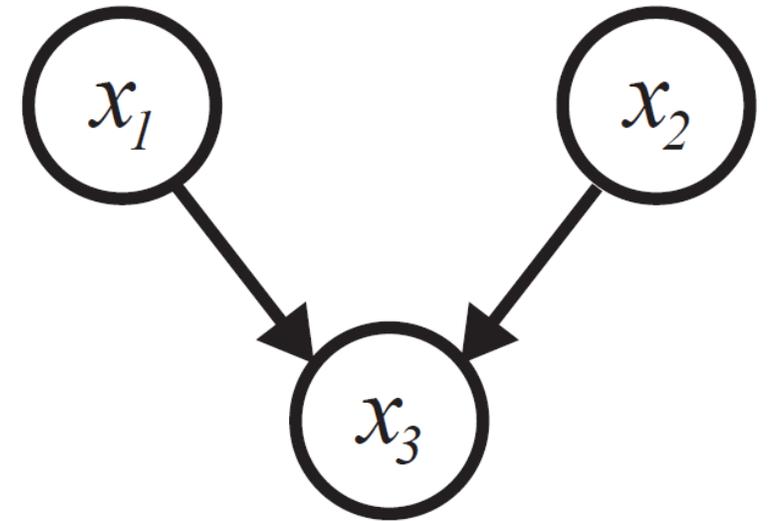
*A probabilistic graphical model allows us to pictorially represent a probability distribution\**

**Probability Model:**

$$p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3 | x_1, x_2)$$



**Graphical Model:**

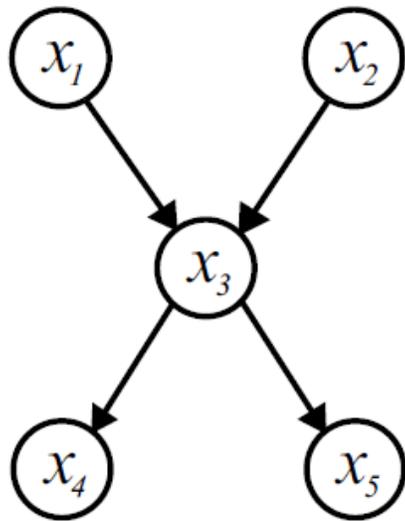


The graphical model structure *obeys* the factorization of the probability function in a sense we will formalize later

\* We will use the term “distribution” loosely to refer to a CDF / PDF / PMF

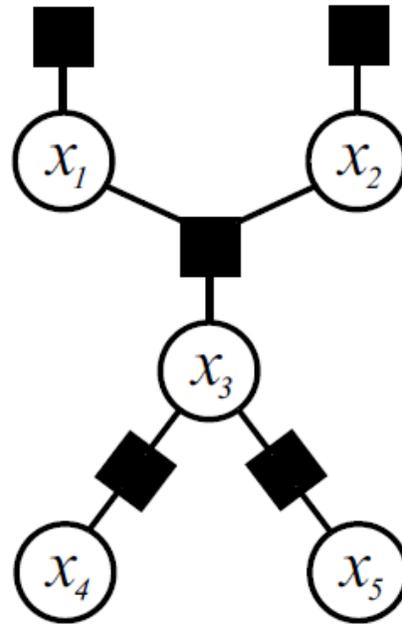
# Graphical Models

*A variety of graphical models can represent the same probability distribution*

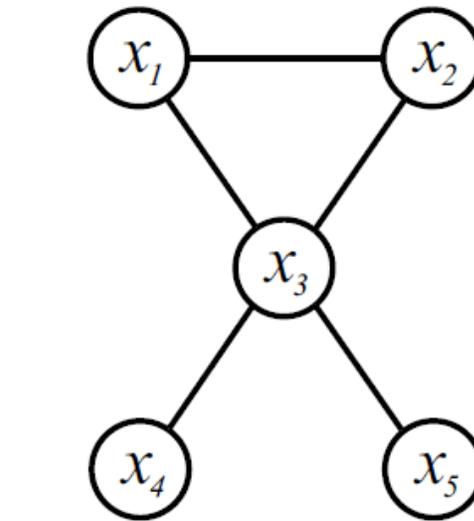


**Bayes Network**

**Directed Models**



**Factor Graph**

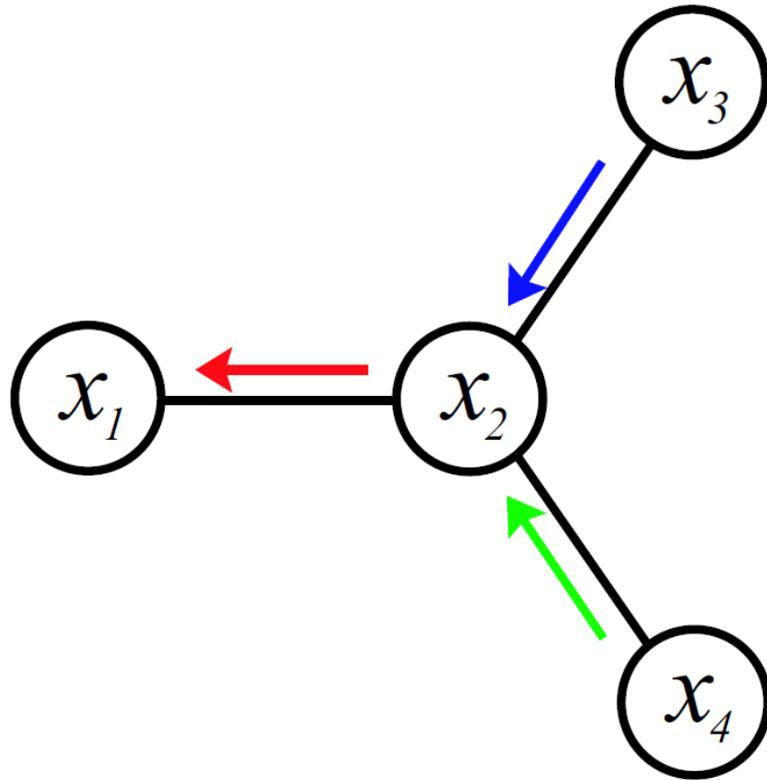


**Markov Random Field**

**Undirected Models**

# Why Graphical Models?

Structure simplifies both **representation** and **computation**



## Representation

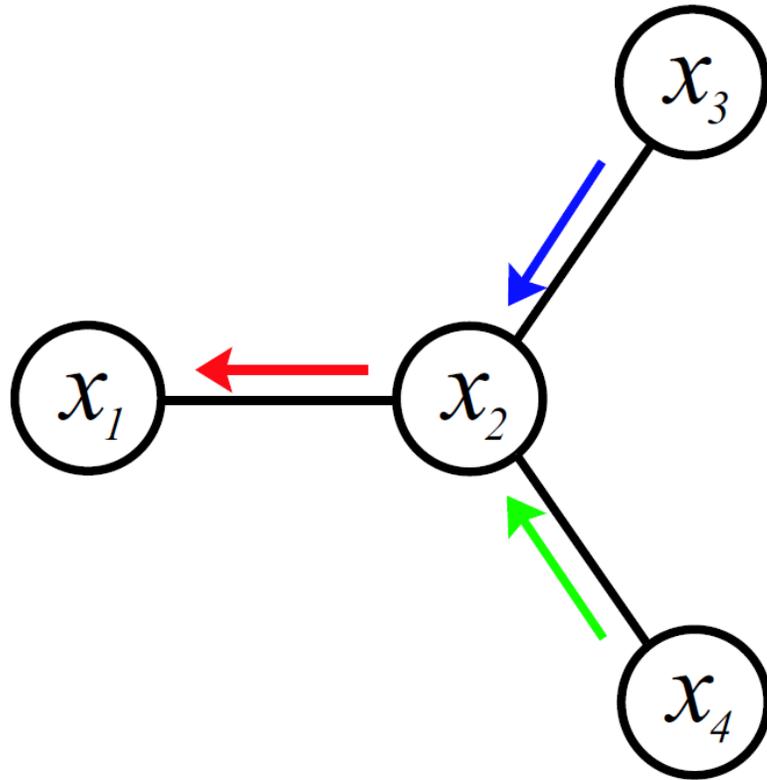
Complex global phenomena arise by simpler-to-specify local interactions

## Computation

Inference / estimation depends only on subgraphs (e.g. dynamic programming, belief propagation, Gibbs sampling)

# Why Graphical Models?

Structure simplifies both **representation** and **computation**



## Representation

Complex global phenomena arise by simpler-to-specify local interactions

## Computation

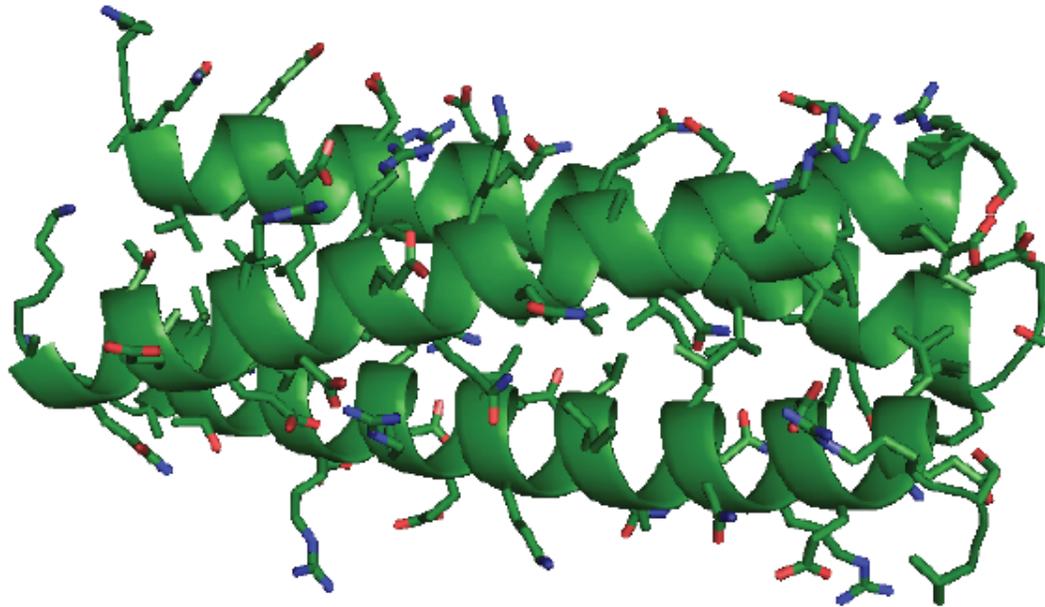
Inference / estimation depends only on subgraphs (e.g. dynamic programming, belief propagation, Gibbs sampling)

We will discuss inference later, but let's focus on representation...

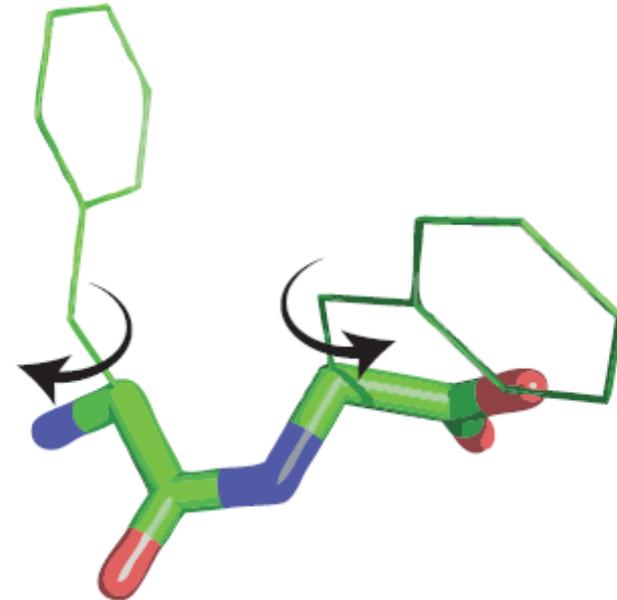
# Protein Side Chain Prediction

**Problem:** Given 3D protein backbone structure, estimate orientation of every side chain molecule.

**Backbone + Side Chains**



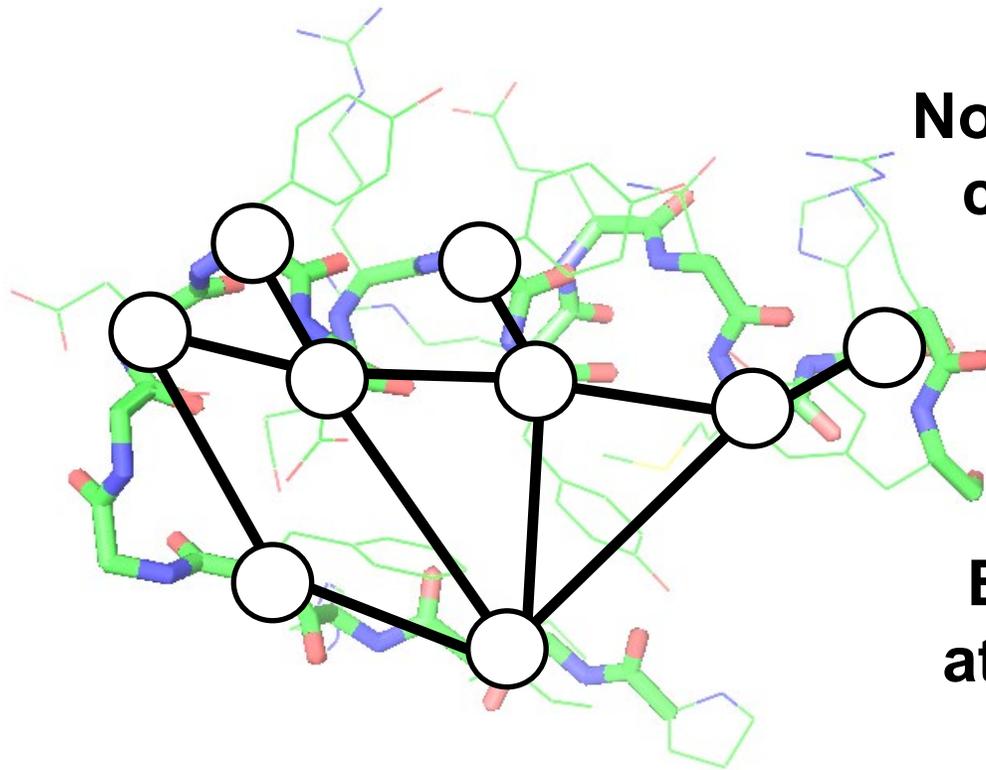
**Side Chain Rotation**



**Solution:** Just physics of atomic interaction. Easy, right!?

# Protein Side Chain Prediction

## Graphical Model

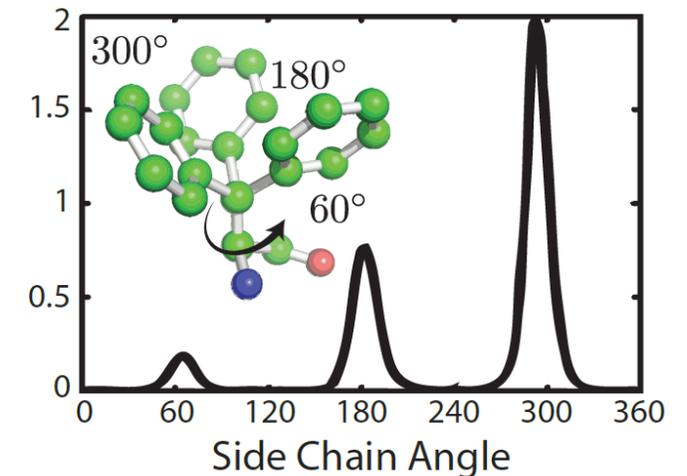
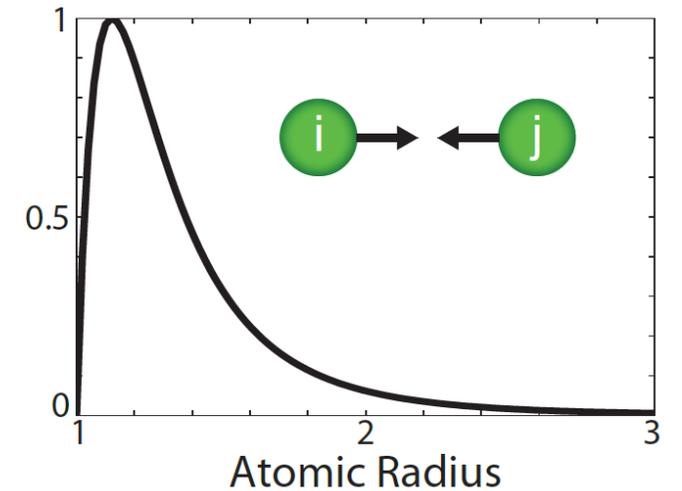


**Nodes represent side chain orientations**

**Edges represent atomic interaction**

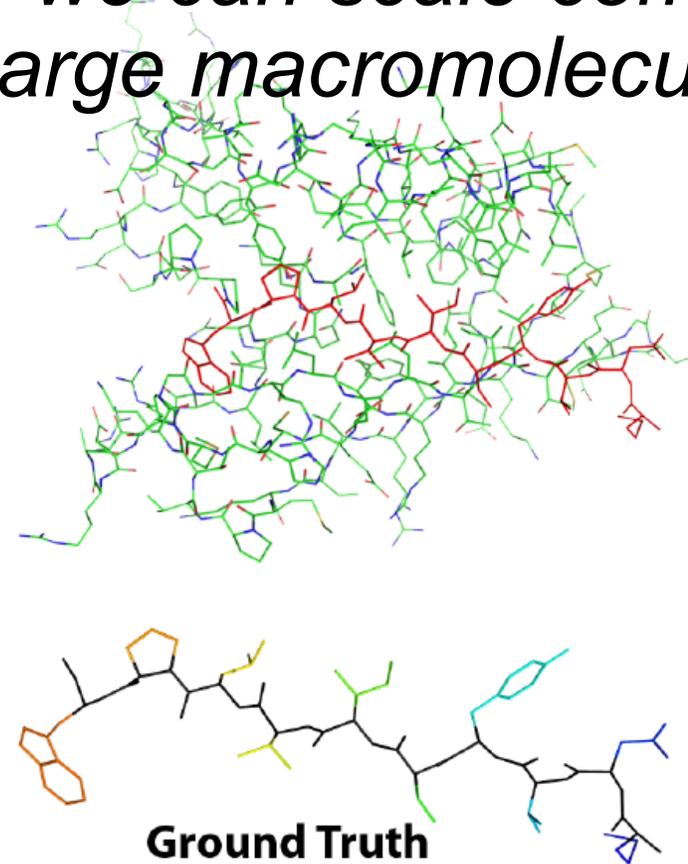
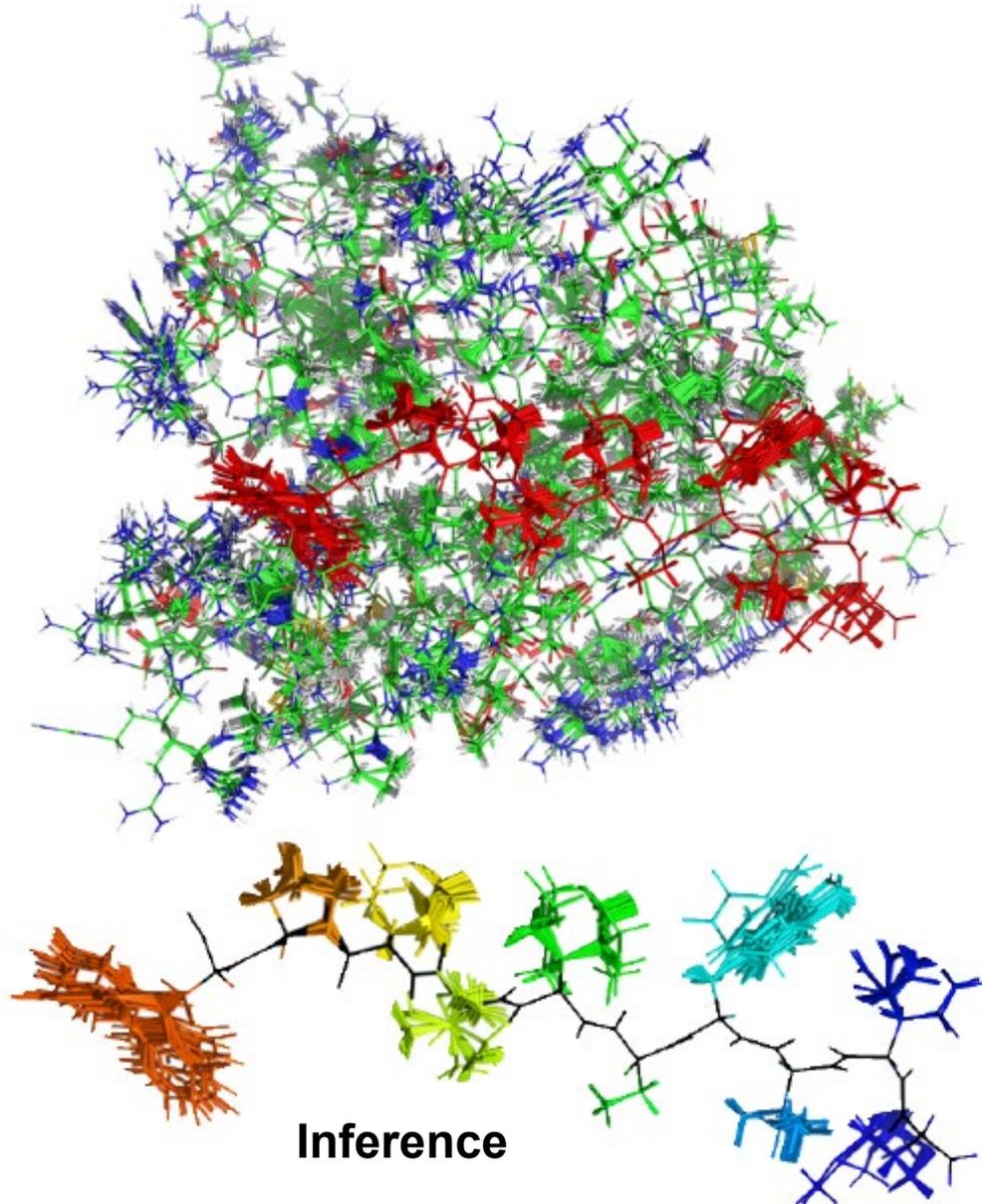
Complex phenomena specified by simpler atomic interactions

## Configuration Likelihoods



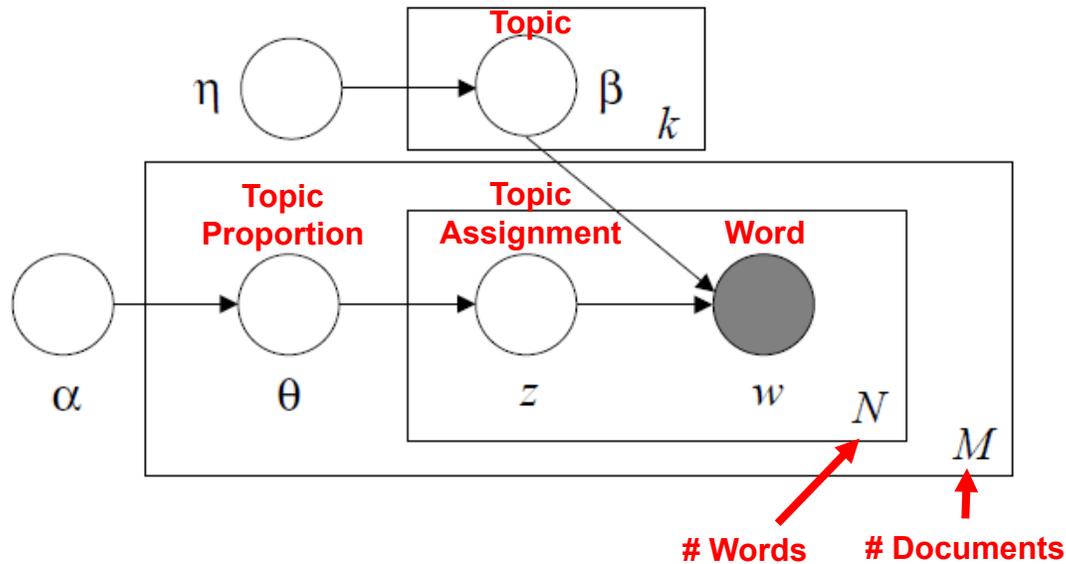
# Protein Side Chain Prediction

*By exploiting graphical model structure we can scale computation to large macromolecules*



# Topic Models

## Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)



Allows *unsupervised learning* of document corpus via mixture modeling

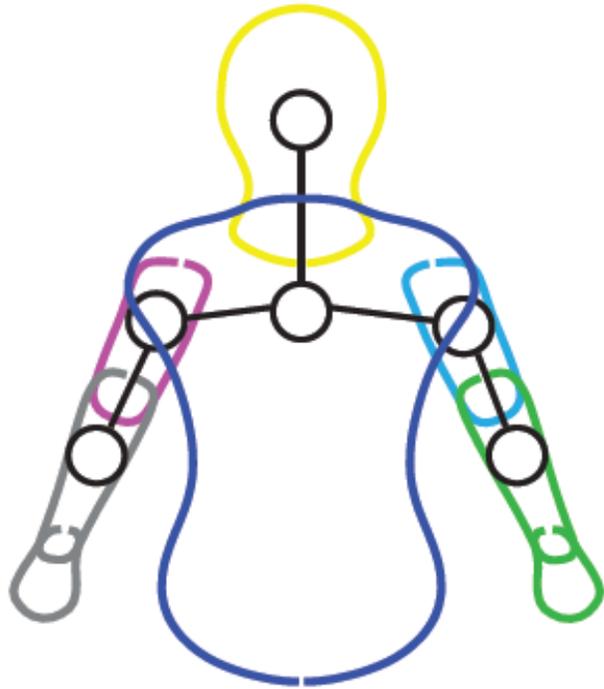
“Arts”	“Budgets”	“Children”	“Education”
NEW	MILLION	CHILDREN	SCHOOL
FILM	TAX	WOMEN	STUDENTS
SHOW	PROGRAM	PEOPLE	SCHOOLS
MUSIC	BUDGET	CHILD	EDUCATION
MOVIE	BILLION	YEARS	TEACHERS
PLAY	FEDERAL	FAMILIES	HIGH
MUSICAL	YEAR	WORK	PUBLIC
BEST	SPENDING	PARENTS	TEACHER
ACTOR	NEW	SAYS	BENNETT
FIRST	STATE	FAMILY	MANIGAT
YORK	PLAN	WELFARE	NAMPHY
OPERA	MONEY	MEN	STATE
THEATER	PROGRAMS	PERCENT	PRESIDENT
ACTRESS	GOVERNMENT	CARE	ELEMENTARY
LOVE	CONGRESS	LIFE	HAITI

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# Pose Estimation

*Estimate orientation / shape / pose of human figure from an image*

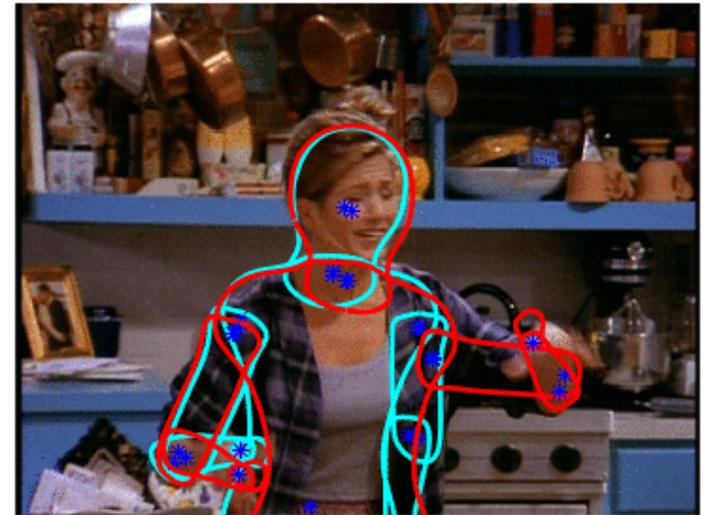
## Graphical Model

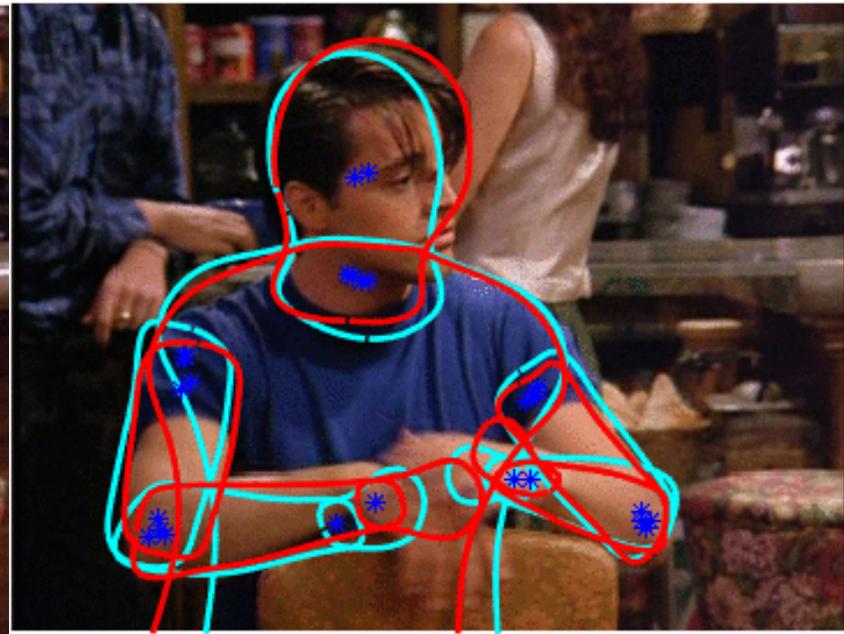
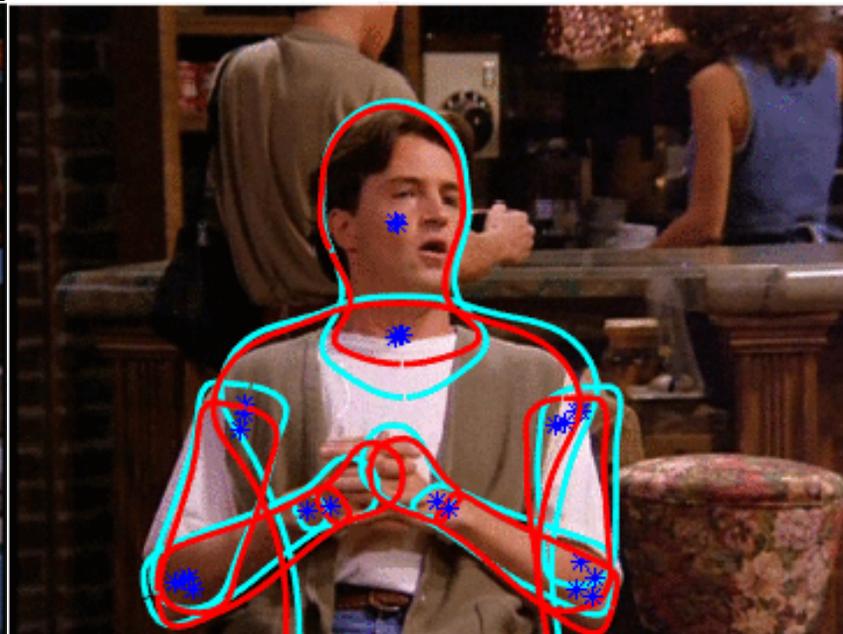
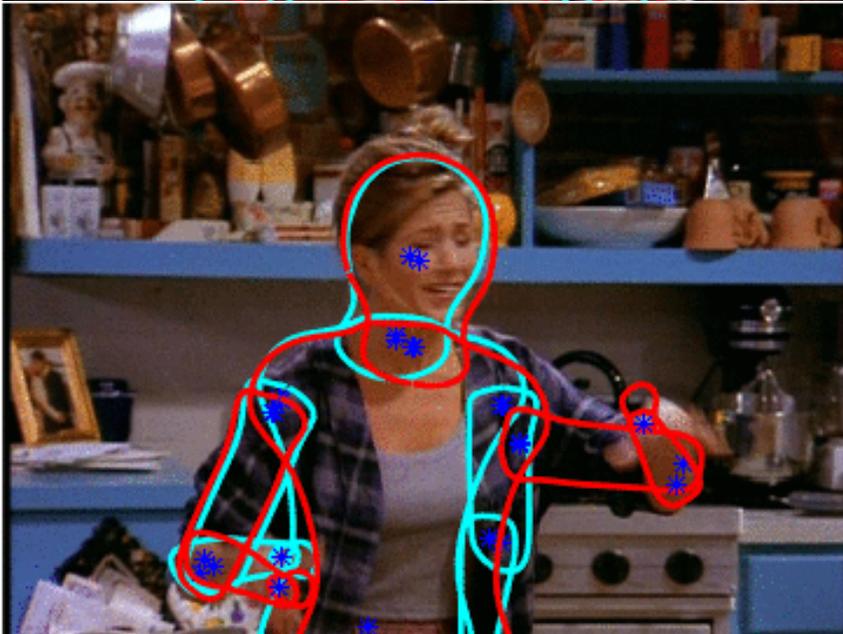
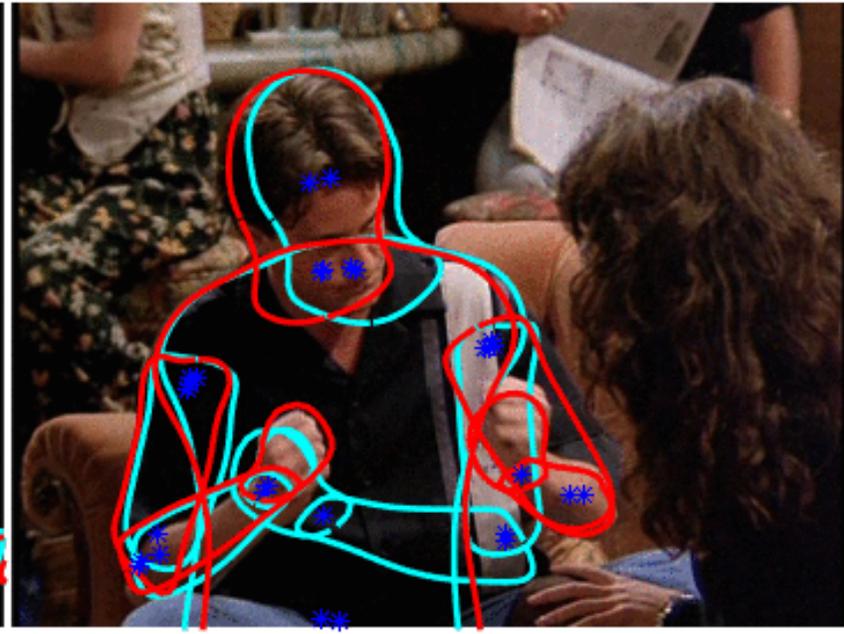
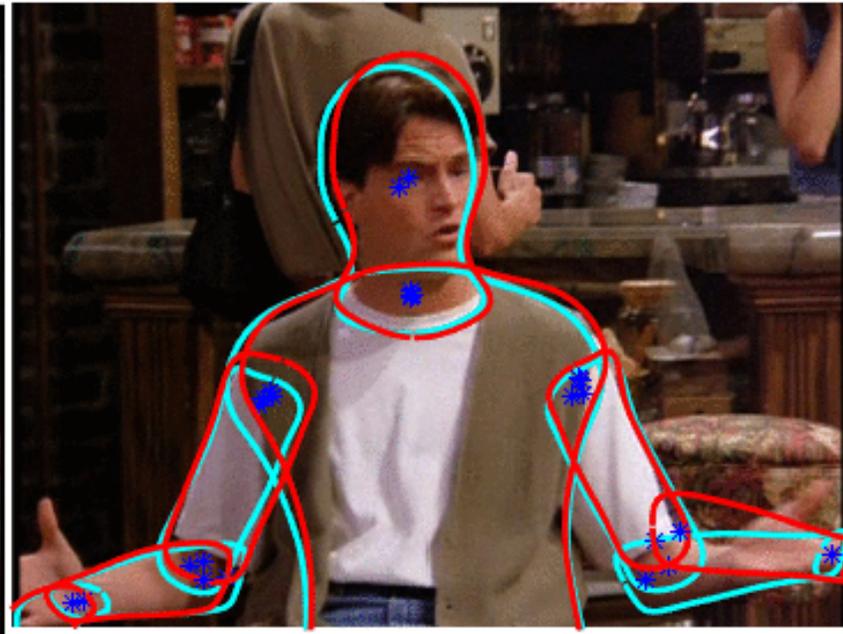
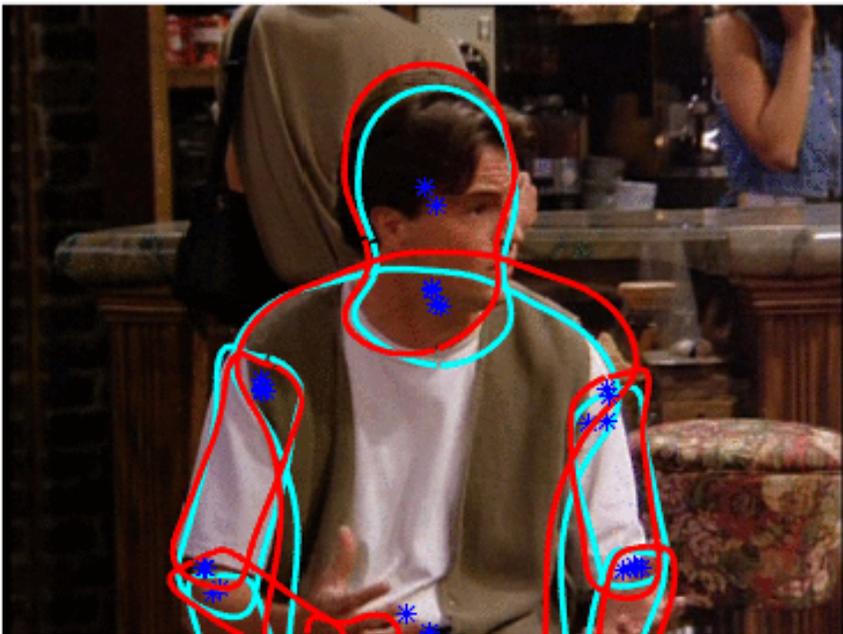


## Data



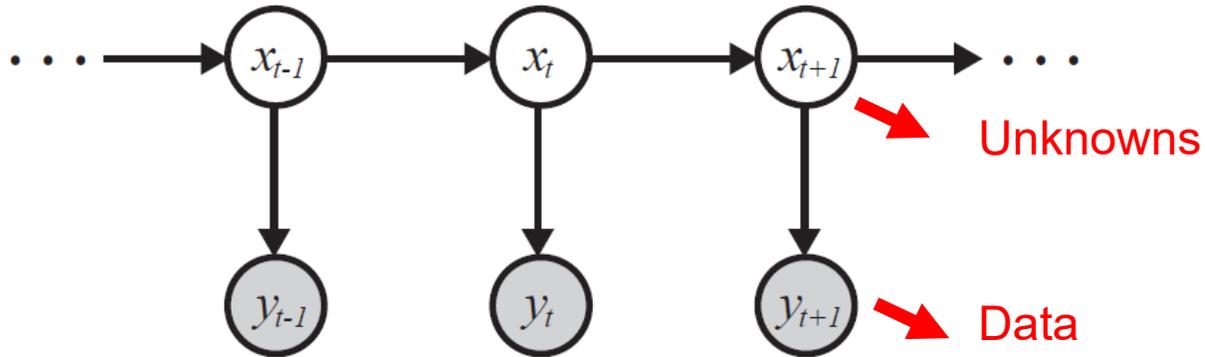
## Estimates



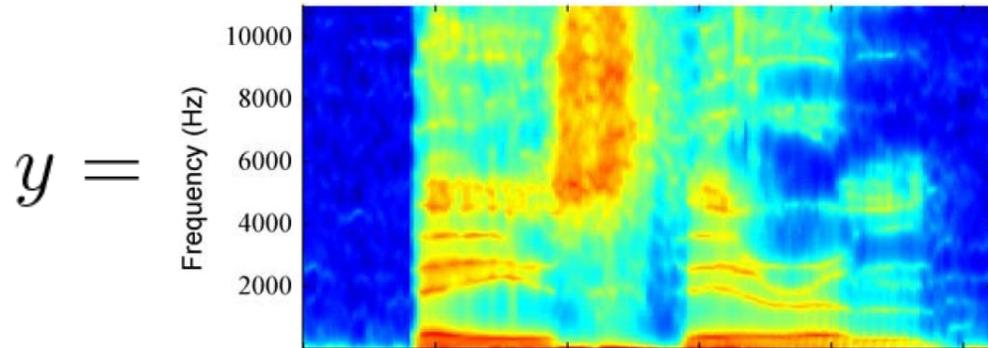


# Hidden Markov Models

*Sequential models of discrete quantities of interest*

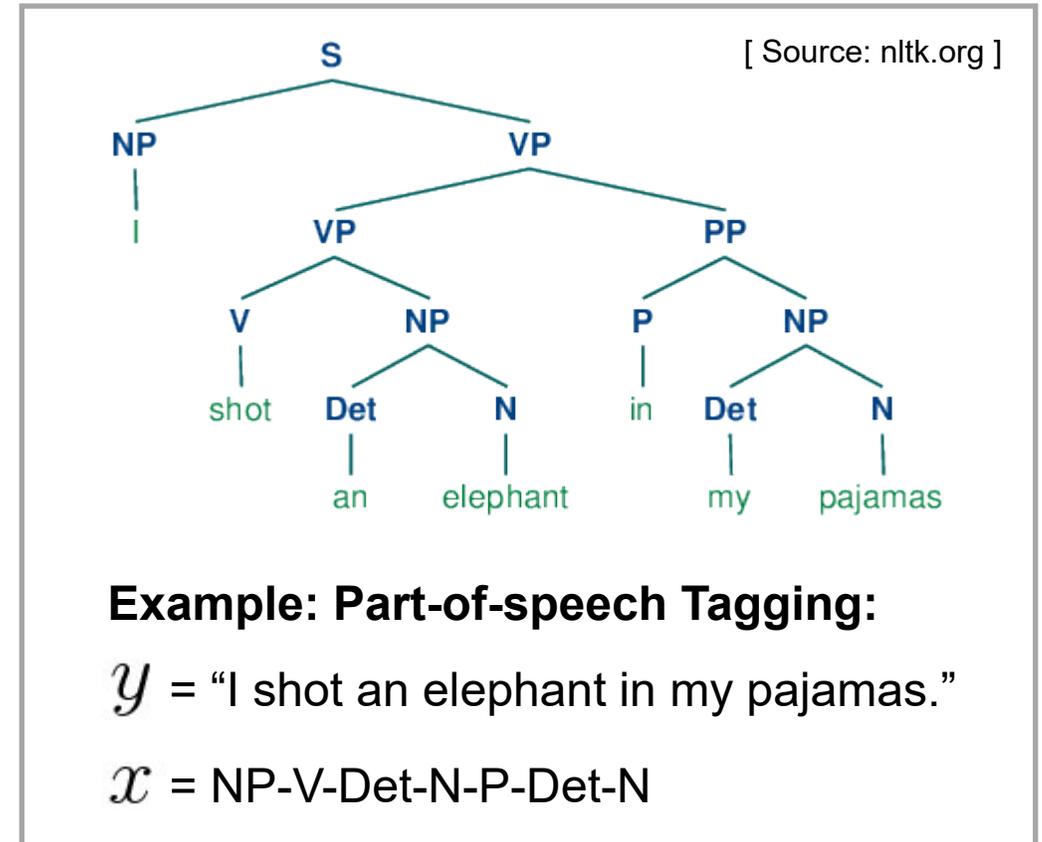


## Example: Speech Recognition



$\mathcal{X}$  = b-ey-z-th-ih-er-em  $\rightarrow$  Bayes' Theorem

[ Source: Bishop, PRML ]



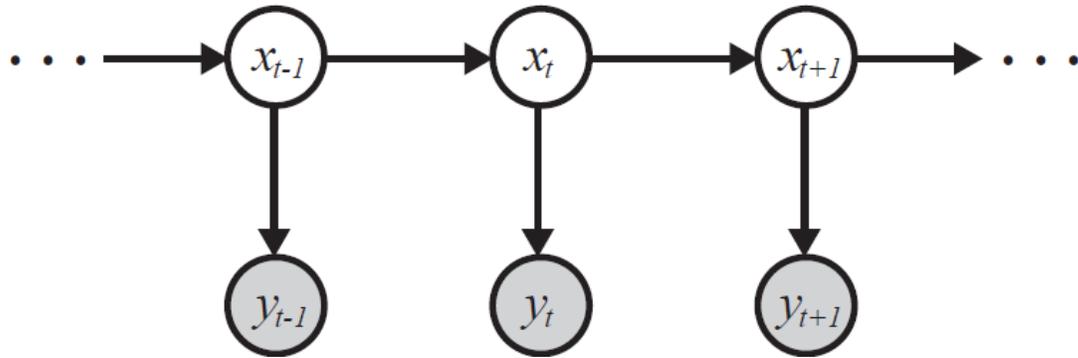
## Example: Part-of-speech Tagging:

$y$  = "I shot an elephant in my pajamas."

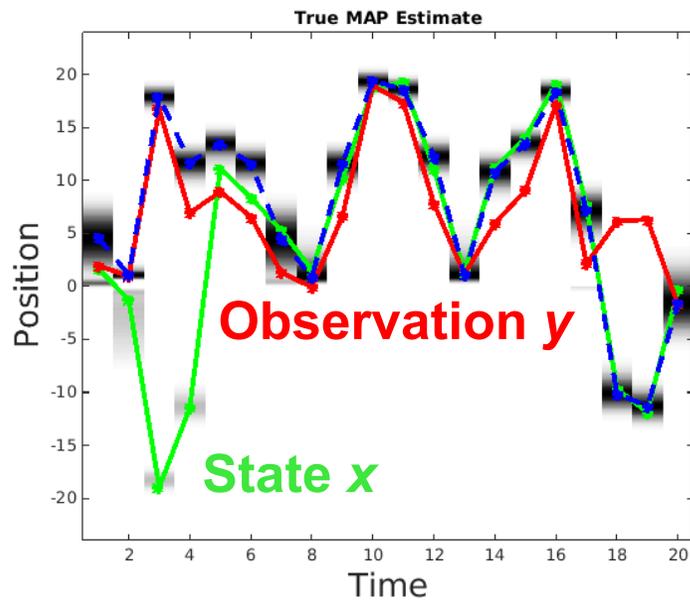
$\mathcal{X}$  = NP-V-Det-N-P-Det-N

# Dynamical Models

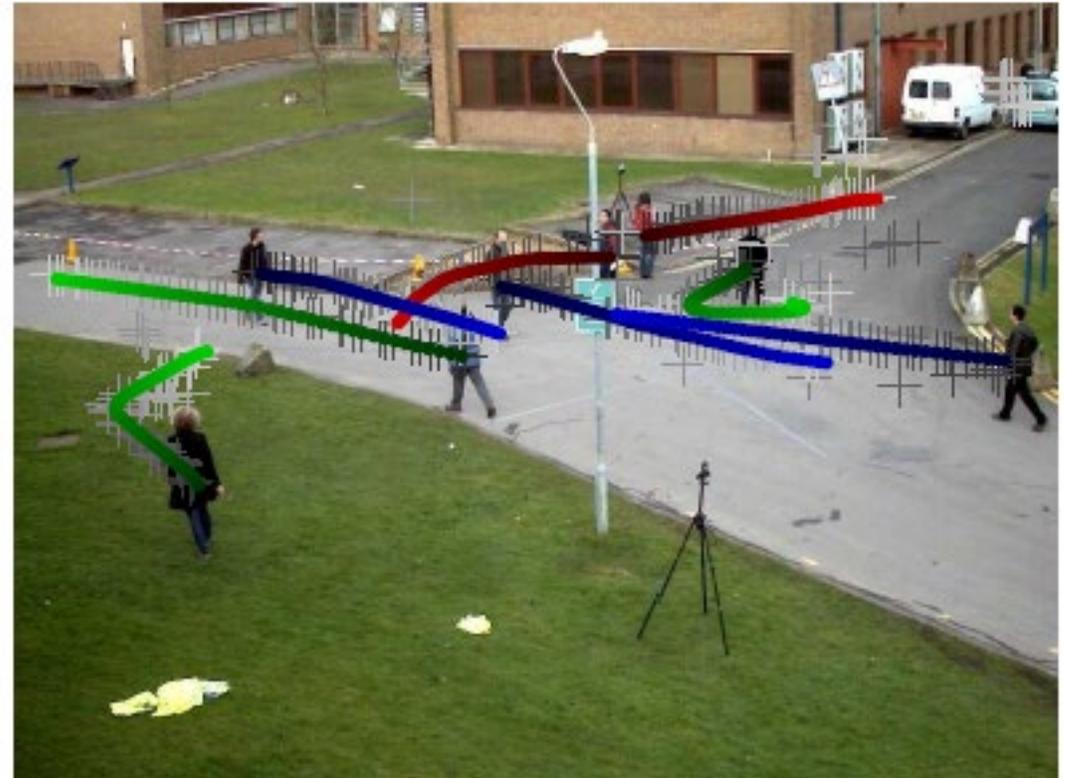
*Sequential models of continuous quantities of interest*



**Example: Nonlinear Time Series**

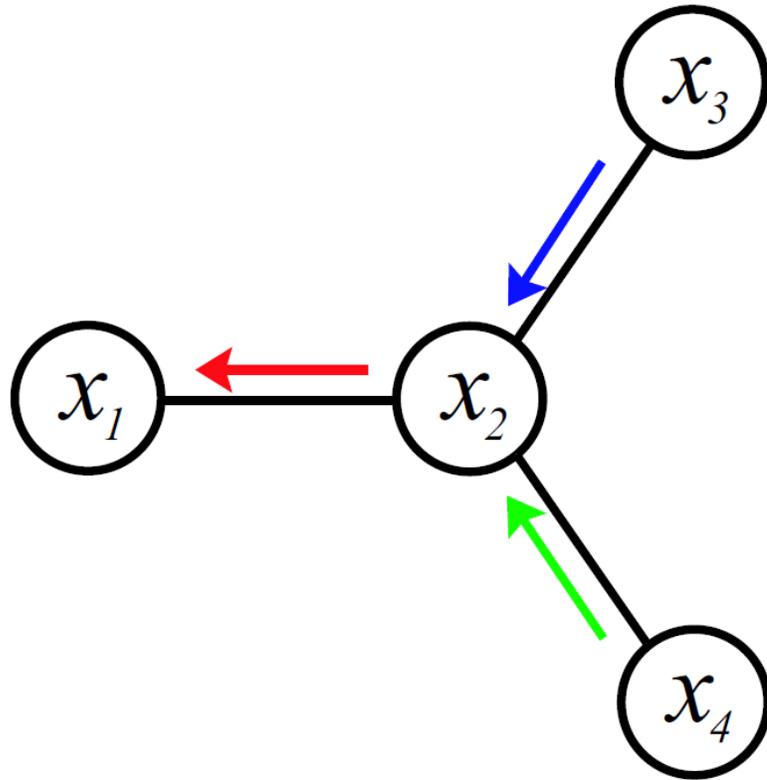


**Example: Multitarget Tracking**



# Why Graphical Models?

Structure simplifies both **representation** and **computation**



## Representation

Complex global phenomena arise by simpler-to-specify local interactions

## Computation

Inference / estimation depends only on subgraphs (e.g. dynamic programming, belief propagation, Gibbs sampling)

# Bayesian Inference

$X$  Quantity to be inferred

$D$  Observed Data

$$p(x | D) = \frac{p(x)p(D | x)}{p(D)}$$

**prior** belief →  $p(x)$

**likelihood** →  $p(D | x)$

**model** →  $p(x)p(D | x)$

**Typically hard to compute** →  $p(D)$

**marginal likelihood** →  $p(D)$

**posterior** belief →  $p(x | D)$

Posterior encodes our *belief* about unknowns *given* data

# Marginal Likelihood

*Inference typically involves solving high-dimensional integrals that lack a closed-form in non-trivial models... e.g. marginal likelihood:*

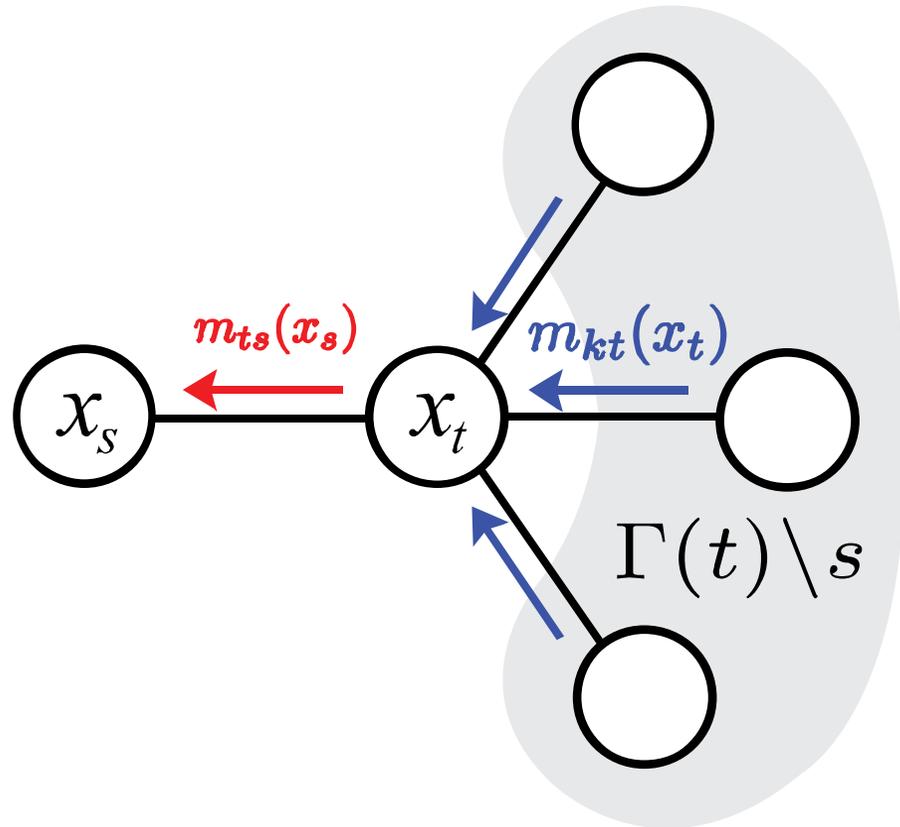
$$p(D) = \int p(x)p(D | x) dx$$

**Example** Pose estimation inference requires marginalizing over **every possible pose** that could ever occur. This is NP-hard...

*As computer scientists, we will exploit graph structure to develop efficient algorithms...*

# Dynamic Programming (DP)

*Breaks difficult global computations into simpler local updates*



**Many algorithms use some form of DP**

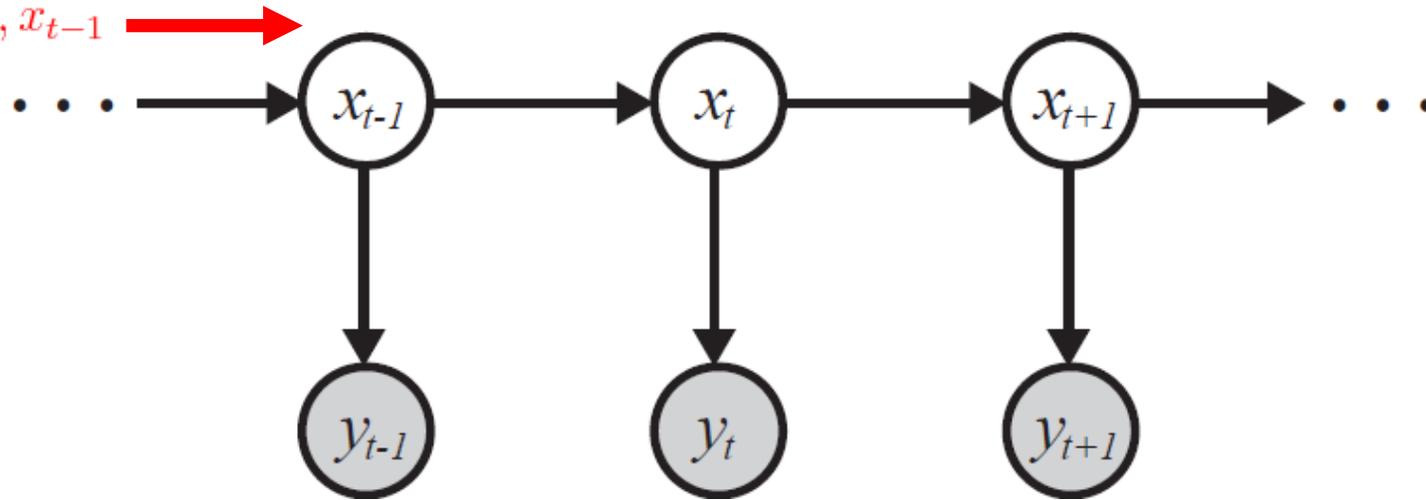
- Belief propagation
- Gibbs sampling
- Particle filtering
- Viterbi decoder for HMMs
- Kalman filter (marginal inference)

**Key Idea:** Local computations only depend on the statistics of the current node and neighboring interactions

# Viterbi Decoder

Summary of

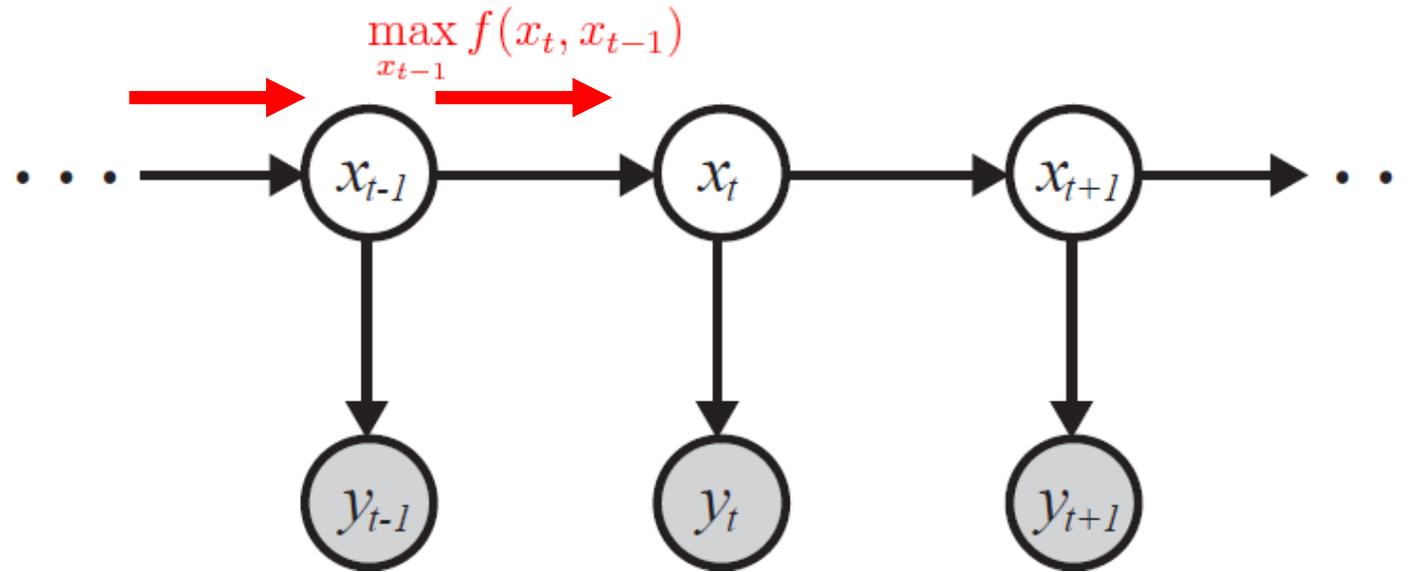
$x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}$



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

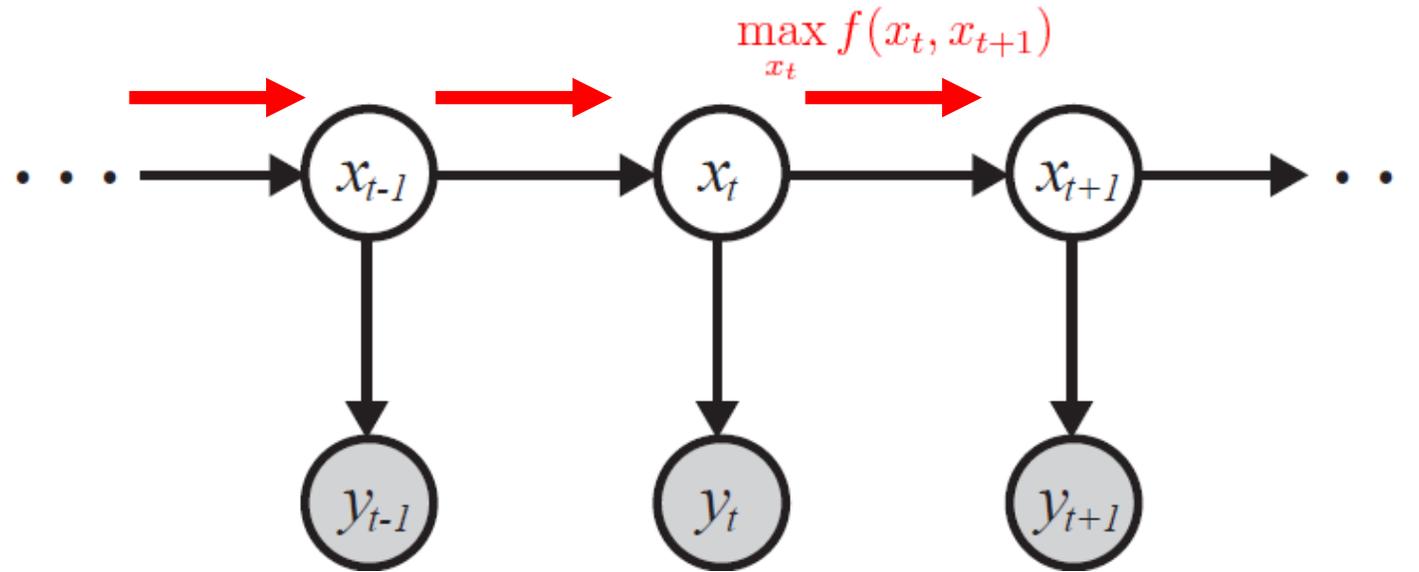
# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

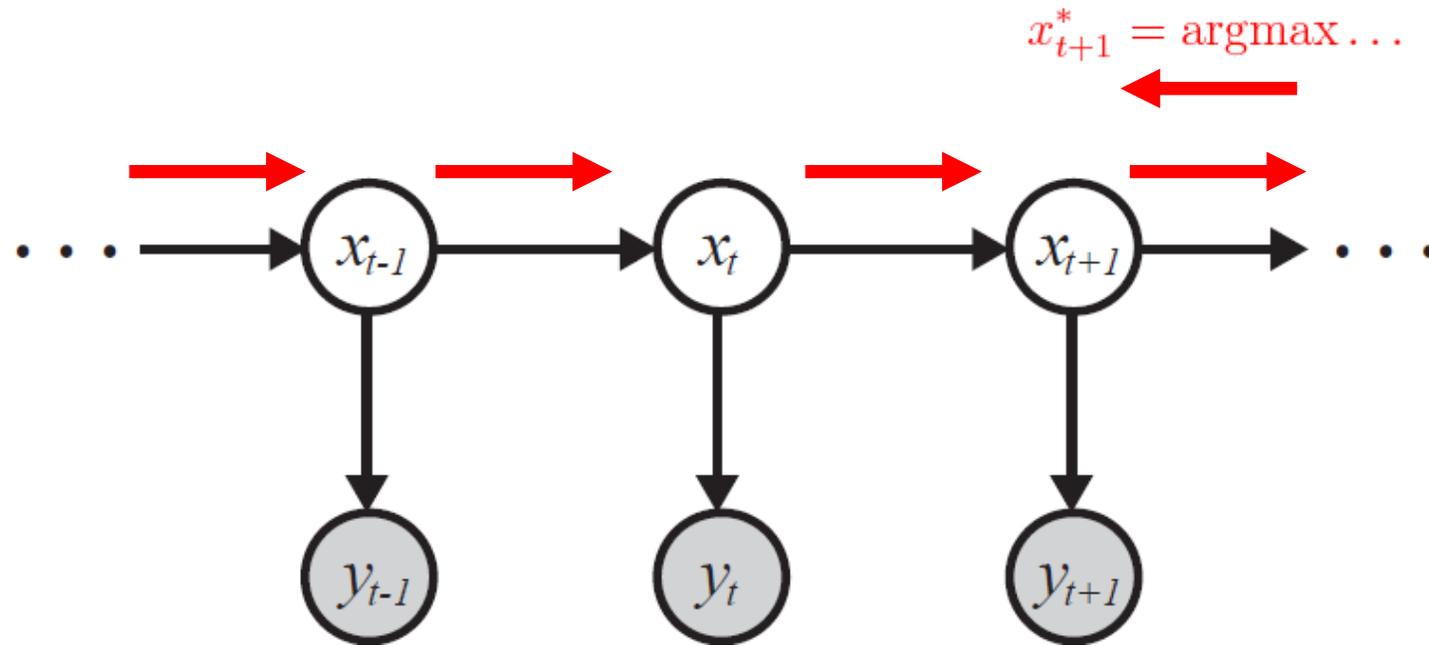
# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

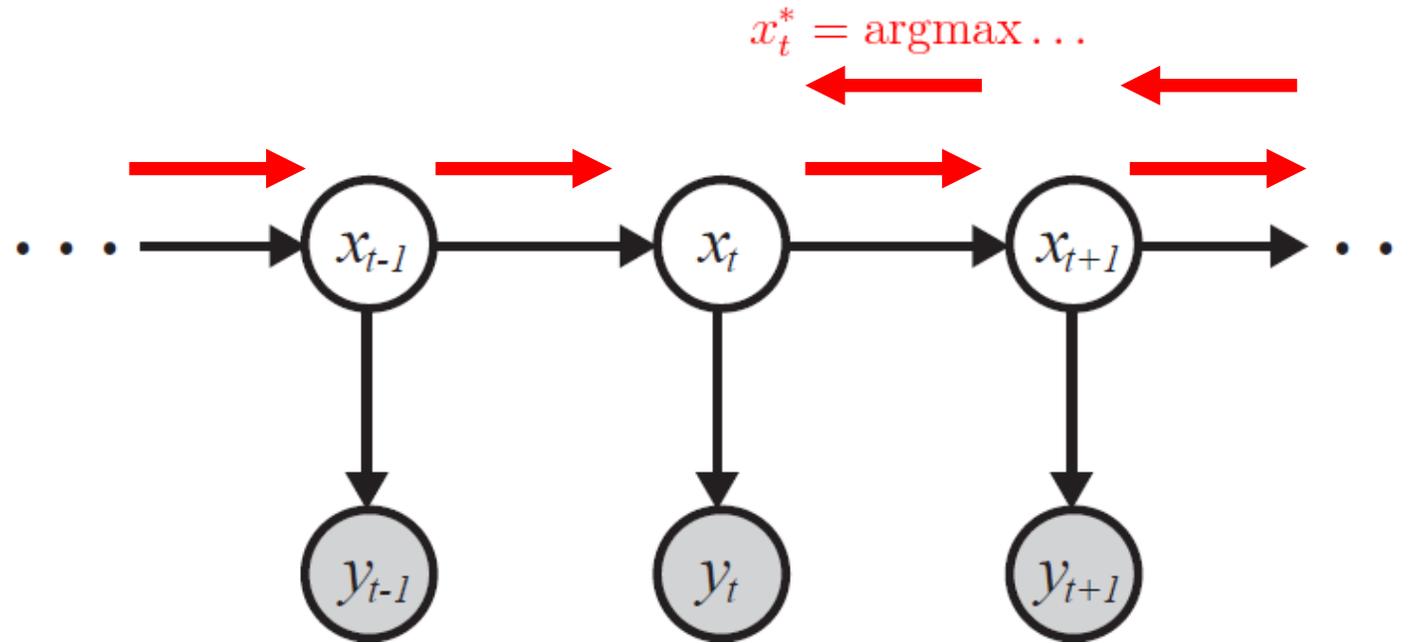
# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

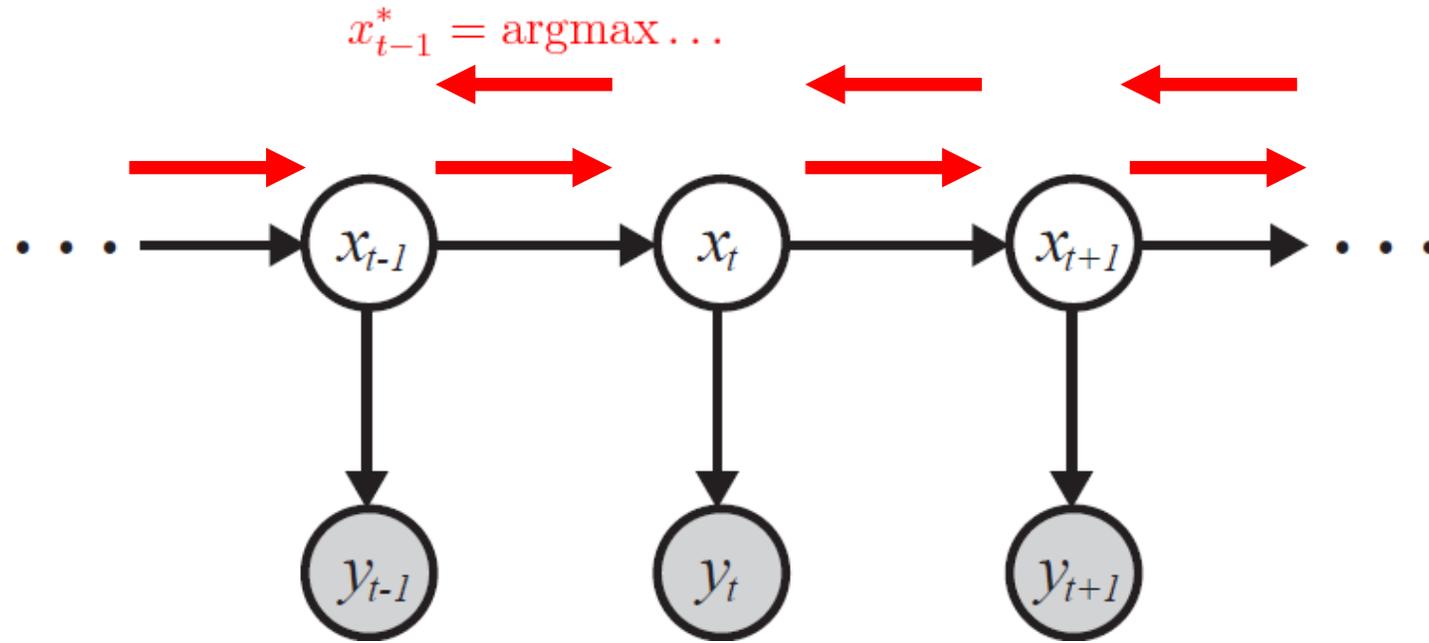
# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

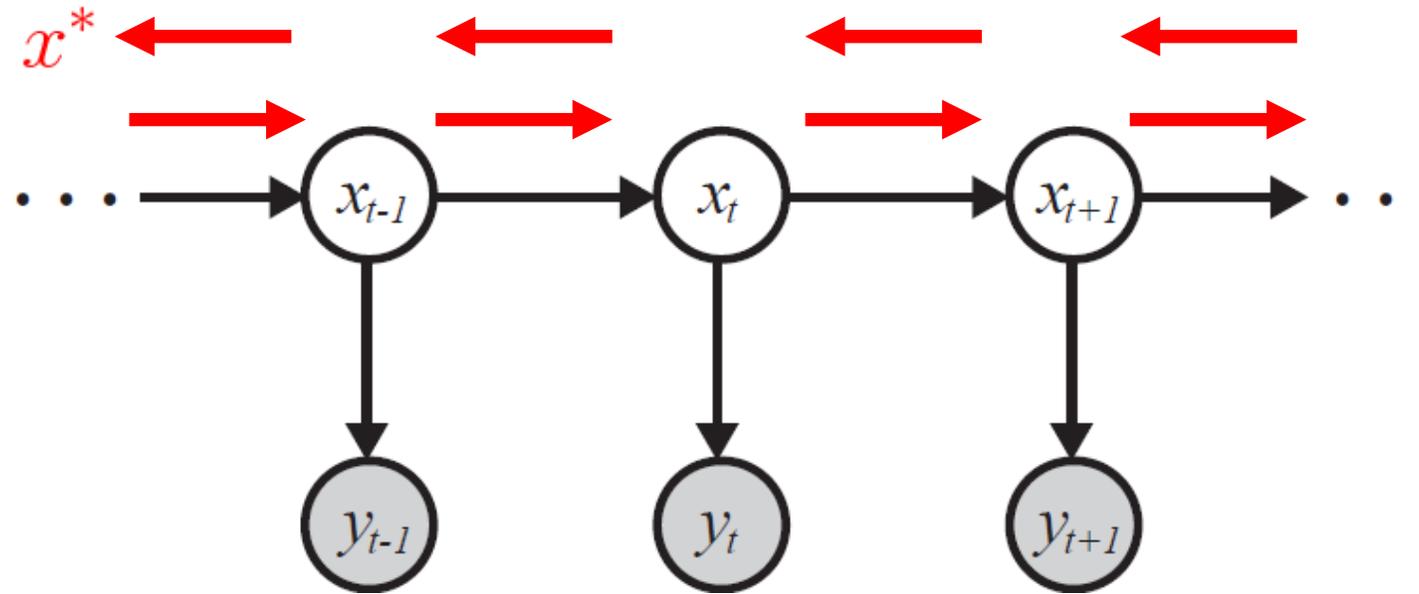
# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

# Viterbi Decoder



$$x^* = \underset{x}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(x | y)$$

**Efficiently computes MAP estimate for state-space model by *passing messages* forward and backward along chain.**

# Course Objectives

*Along with basic familiarity of PGMs, we will develop the following basic skills...*

- Create directed / undirected graphical models of stochastic processes
- Identify conditional independencies in graphical models
- Apply exact inference to compute marginal probabilities and maximally probable configurations given a model (elimination, sum-product, and max-sum algorithms)
- Apply approximate inference to learn model parameters using expectation maximization (EM), variational inference, and various Monte Carlo methods

# Course Overview

Course is broken down into **six** primary topics...

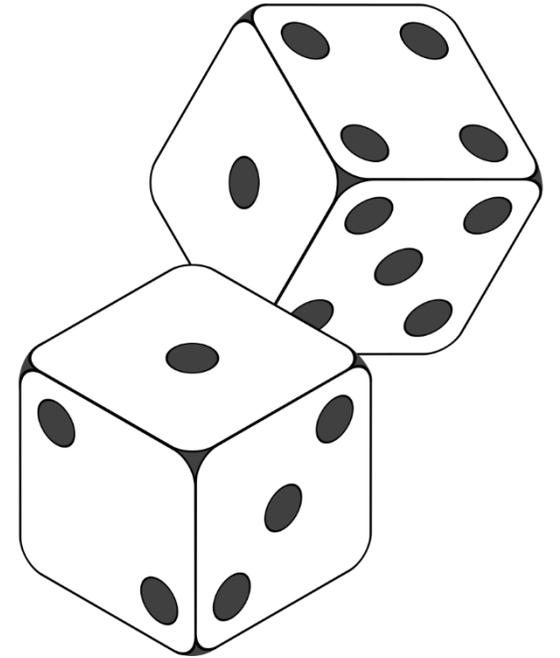
Probability and Statistics	Message Passing Algorithms	Monte Carlo Methods	Sequence Models and Dynamical Systems	Variational Inference	Bayesian Deep Learning
Probability primer, Bayesian statistics, PGMs, Exponential families	Elimination, Junction tree, Sum-product / max-product, Belief propagation, Viterbi decoding	Rejection sampling, Importance sampling, Metropolis-Hastings, Gibbs	Linear and switching state-space models, Kalman filter, Particle filter	Mean field, Stochastic variational, Bethe energy methods	Combining probability and deep learning models

# Probability and Statistics

***Suppose we roll two fair dice...***

- What are the possible outcomes?
- What is the *probability* of rolling **even** numbers?

***... this is an **experiment** or **random process**.***

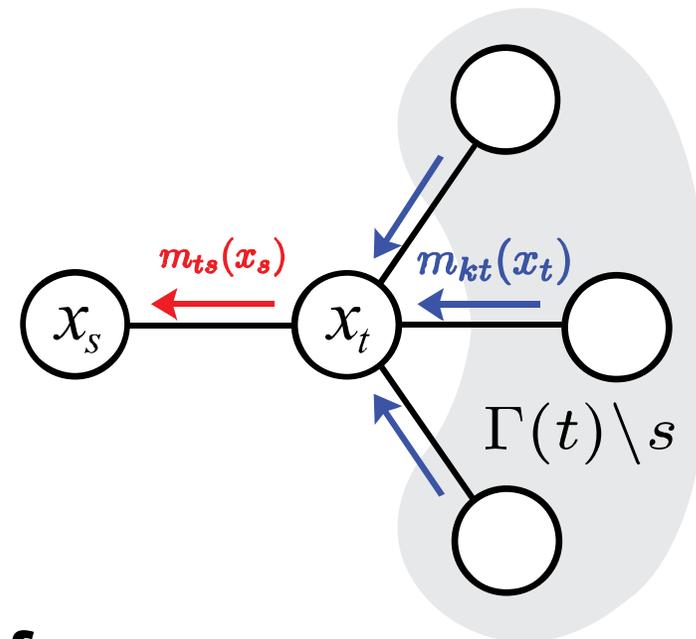


***We will learn how to...***

- Mathematically formulate outcomes and their probabilities?
- Describe characteristics of random processes
- Estimate unknown quantities (e.g. are the dice actually fair?)
- Characterize the uncertainty in random outcomes
- Identify and measure dependence among random quantities

# Message Passing Algorithms

***Encompasses a family of dynamic programming algorithms for performing exact / approximate inference***

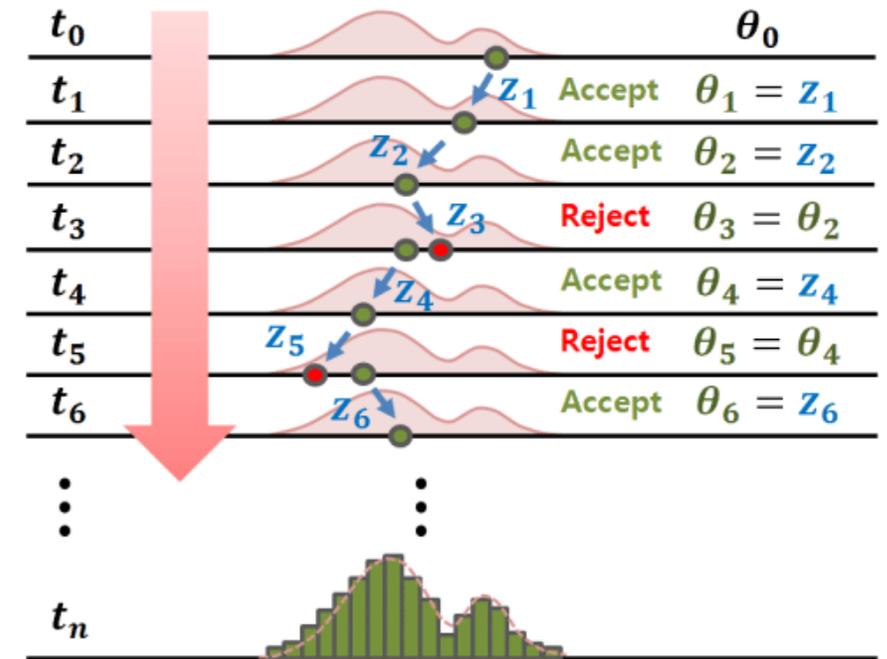


***We will learn the following message passing inference***

- Variable elimination
- Junction tree
- Sum-Product and Max-Product Belief Propagation
- Loopy Belief Propagation (approximate inference)

# Monte Carlo Methods

***Sample-based methods that simulate realizations from the model to perform inference***



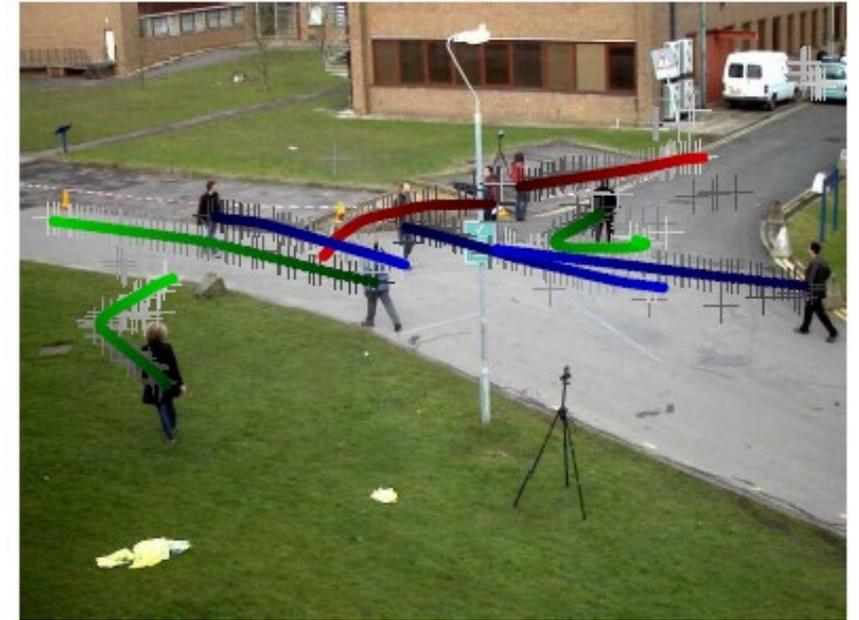
***We will learn how to perform sample-based inference using:***

- Rejection sampling
- Importance sampling
- Sequential importance sampling (particle filter)
- Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) : Metropolis-Hastings
- MCMC : Gibbs Sampling

# Sequence Models / Dynamical Systems

***Data follow an explicit ordering or sequence...***

- *Hidden Markov Model*
- *Forward Backward Algorithm*
- *Baum-Welch Algorithm*



***State-space models describe time-ordered data***

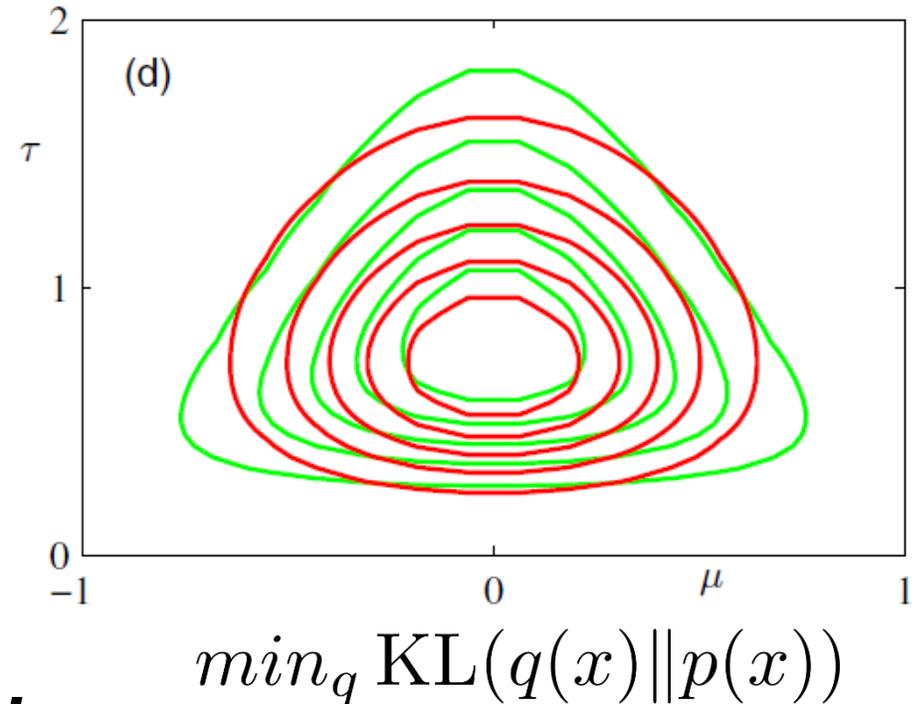
- Target tracking
- Linear Dynamical System
- Kalman Filter
- Switching State-Space Models
- Nonlinear Dynamical Systems

# Variational Inference

***Recasts statistical inference as the solution to an optimization problem***

***We will learn how to conduct inference via,***

- *Mean field and variational Bayes*
- *Stochastic variational*
- *Bethe free energy methods (Belief Propagation, Expectation Propagation)*

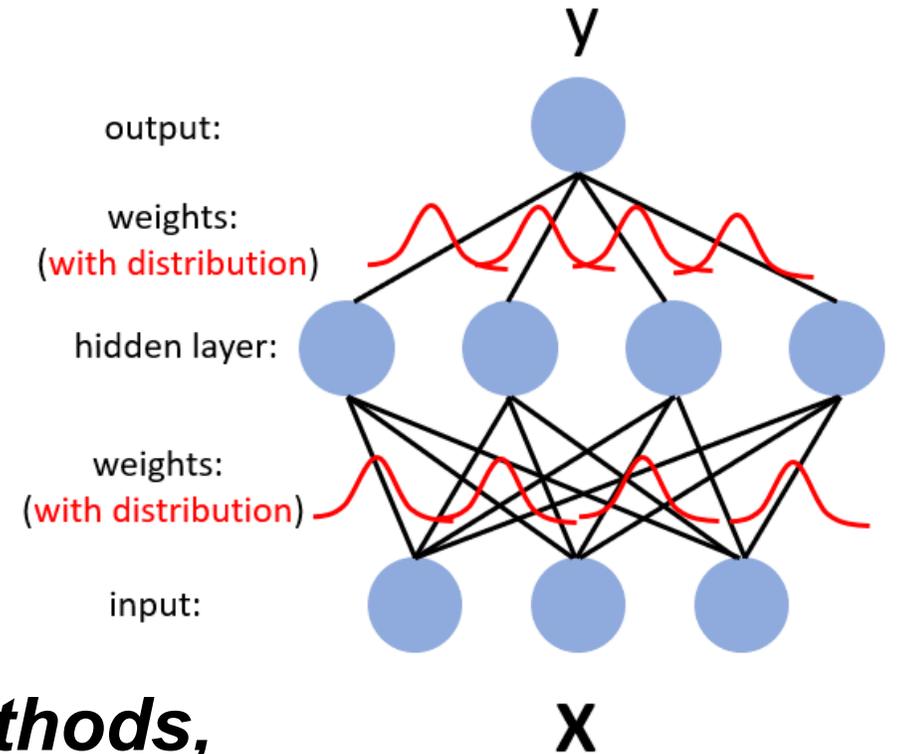


# Bayesian Deep Learning

## ***Combine probabilistic reasoning with Deep Learning models***

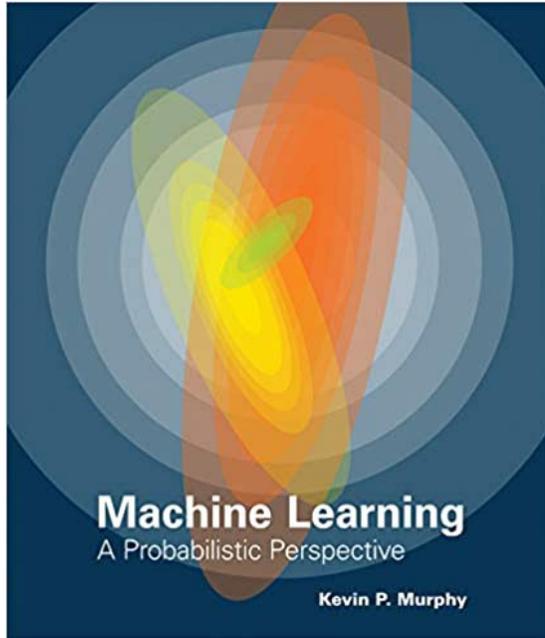
***We will learn the following models and methods,***

- *Variational autoencoder*
- *Bayesian Neural Network*
- *Structured Variational Autoencoders*
- *Dropout predictions*



# Textbook

## *Readings assigned for each lecture*



*There is a newer version floating around on the internet – we are using the 2012 copy*

*All readings and additional material will be posted on the course webpage*

Murphy, K. "Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective." MIT press, 2012

[\( UA Library \)](#)

# Online Resources

All material (lectures / HWs / readings) are available on the **course webpage**:

[http://pacheco.j.com/courses/csc535\\_spring22/](http://pacheco.j.com/courses/csc535_spring22/)

We will use **D2L** for Zoom links, submitting assignments, grades:

<https://d2l.arizona.edu/d2l/home/1135240>

We will use **Piazza** for discussion:

<https://piazza.com/arizona/spring2022/csc535>

I am considering Gradescope instead of D2L for assignments... opinions???

# Grading

*8 Homeworks + Midterm + Final Exam*

## **Grading Breakdown**

- Homework: 65%
- Midterm: 15%
- Final: 20%

*Most assignments will be a mix of math problems and coding  
(later assignments are more coding)*

## **Programming Language:**

- Some homeworks will provide **Python** template code
- You may use Matlab / R / etc. but will need to reimplement any handout code

# Grading Questions

- I will announce in class and/or Piazza when grading of each item is complete
- Officially, you have **1 week** to raise any grading concerns (from the completion of grading)
- If you don't receive a grade, but should have, you must tell me **within 1 week**

# Required Background

## Undergrad calculus

- You should be able to compute derivatives
- You should understand the fundamentals of integration

## Basic understanding of optimization

- Nonlinear vs. linear programming
- Gradient ascent
- Dynamic programming (we will cover the basics)

## Basic Linear Algebra

- Basic vector / Matrix algebra
- Matrix inversion / rank / condition

## Basic coding and data structures

- Ideally familiarity with Python / Numpy / Scipy
- Computational complexity (understand big-O notation and NP-hardness)
- Should be able to write / manage code on the order of 1,000 lines

# Late Policy

*Late submissions impact other students, delay grading, and delay solutions*

## **But sometimes we need a little extra time...**

- **No more than 1** assignment **no more than 1** day late without penalty
- All subsequent late assignments will receive a zero score
- D2L will accept late assignments but they will be flagged

## **If you are struggling with time...**

- Notify me (Piazza) at least 24hrs before the deadline
- Submit the best version of what you have by the deadline
- In general I **will not** grant extra time, and will grade what has been submitted

# Academic Integrity

*Assignments are to be done independently...*

## **If I suspect a student of having cheated...**

- You will be notified immediately
- We will have a conference
- If I remain convinced of cheating you will receive a zero for the assignment
- Multiple cases will have more severe consequences
- There is an appeals process if you are confident in your case

**Bottom line don't cheat**

# Academic Integrity Continued

- You may discuss assignments with other students
- You **may not** discuss or share assignment solutions
- You may consult any online or textbook resources
- You **may not** directly copy from external resources
- You **may not** upload solution material publicly accessible web
- You **may not** discuss exams with students in any capacity

**Good Rule** Cite any external resource you use that may be considered plagiarism without citation.

# Lectures and Attendance

## **In-Person + Synchronous (Live) Zoom Lectures**

- Attendance during Zoom lectures is **highly encouraged**
- Attendance is not explicitly graded, but I will consider it

## **Lecture Recordings**

- All lectures will be recorded and posted online after-the-fact
- Recordings are accessible via D2L
- Recorded lectures should supplement lecture, **they should not** be used in place of lecture

# Office Hours

## **Use scheduled office hours for**

- Specific homework questions
- Clarification on lecture / reading topics
- General course-related questions

## **Details**

- 2 hours per week
- Office hours will be held on Zoom, but schedule is TBD
- Message me on Piazza if you have a conflict with hours and I will try to schedule something for you
- I still need to set a time for hours – ignore the current time in the Syllabus / course webpage

# Piazza

- Use Piazza for **all course communication**
- If you email me directly I may not see it (I get a lot of email)
- You can ask / answer questions related to the course
- Also post course-related material (e.g. if you find something on the internet that is interesting / useful to the course)

# Mental Well-Being

*Some level of stress / depression / anxiety is normal, but sometimes you may need extra help*

- Non-emergency UA resources at Counseling & Psych Services Mon-Fri
  - Phone: 520-621-3334
  - Web: <https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>
- Emergency resources in Tucson in this [Google Doc](#)

*I am happy and point you in the right direction, but keep in mind that I am not a mental health professional*

# Inclusivity

*I want to foster a comfortable and inclusive classroom experience*

Please let me know if you feel excluded in any way, e.g.

- “Alice-and-Bob” style examples of material
- Improper use of pronouns
- Microaggressions
- Miscellaneous statements / interactions

**You can message me anonymously on Piazza**

**Questions? Comments? Thoughts?**