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 So far we have discussed the most general form of an undirected graphical model in which cliques are parameterized by general potential functions ψ_c(x_c).

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{X}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{X}_n) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \psi_c(\mathbf{x}_c)$$

- But for large cliques these general potentials are exponentially costly for inference and have exponential numbers of parameters that we must learn from limited data.
- One solution: change the graphical model to make cliques smaller. But this changes the dependencies, and may force us to make more independence assumptions than we would like.
- Another solution: keep the same graphical model, but use a less general parameterization of the clique potentials.
- This is the idea behind feature-based models.

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