# Multiscale Conditional Random Fields for Semi-supervised Machine Vision



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#### **Object Detection and Localization**



- Solvable using local image models, and supervised learning.
- Big problem: Pixel-labeled data is scarce and expensive.



 Much easier to find images known to contain an object, without knowing where.



- How to train a local image model, using globally-labeled data?
- An important problem.
- Seems like it should be possible...

# Multiscale model



- Perform segmentation at several scales.
- Define a joint object presence model over all scales.
- Evidence from global scale can flow downwards to local scale.
- Enough evidence should resolve ambiguities.

# Recursive Segmentation









# Recursive Segmentation









### How to Build a CRF



• Need to estimate local object probabilities for each patch, and combine them.

### Image Segments to Class Probabilities



- Patch Features: Colour histograms, HoG, textons, location.
- Each feature vector has 826 dimensions.
- Could use GIST at top level.

#### Class probabilities to CRF



- Local class probabilities become nodes on a Conditional Random Field
- CRF has factors enforcing consistency



# Semi-supervised Learning





- Semi-Supervised: Trained on an additional 400 globally-labeled examples.
- Used E-M for learning, Belief Propagation for inference.
- Learning the local image models, and the CRF joint factors.

## Models





Independent



Pairwise Trees



Noisy-or Trees



Globally-labeled data improves pixel-level labels!

# Pixel-level Improvement from Semi-Supervised

#### Which classes benefitted?



Controlled for better global-level model.

# Combining evidence



- Could incorporate evidence from other classifiers
- Could handle noisy labels
- Could learn from loose bounding boxes

## Conclusion



- Learning a local image model from globally-labeled data is possible.
- All you need is a joint probabilistic model over all scales.
- Questions?