

# The Art of Prediction

CSCI 373

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# Background

“It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future.”

– Yogi Berra

Stein's Law: *If a trend cannot continue, it will stop.*

– Herbert Stein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Nixon and Ford.

# Foundations of Trend Prediction

1. Observed Data.
  - Similar setting.
2. Observed Trends.
  - Observed data over time.
3. Known constraints.
  - Global min/max.
4. Mathematical models.
5. Expert opinion.

# Weather Forecasting

How do each of these five approaches appear in weather forecasting?

# Exercise

- Identify elements that could influence the future of your topic area.
- Identify how these elements might interact and how changes would impact your predictions.
- Make a predictive statement about your topic area for 6 months or a year from now.