

The important thing is to establish a political climate of opinion which will make it politically profitable for the wrong people to do the right thing.”

— Milton Friedman

Markets

Amsterdam Bitcoin Meetup

Paul Sztorc

www.BitcoinHivemind.com

Version 1.3
5 July 2018

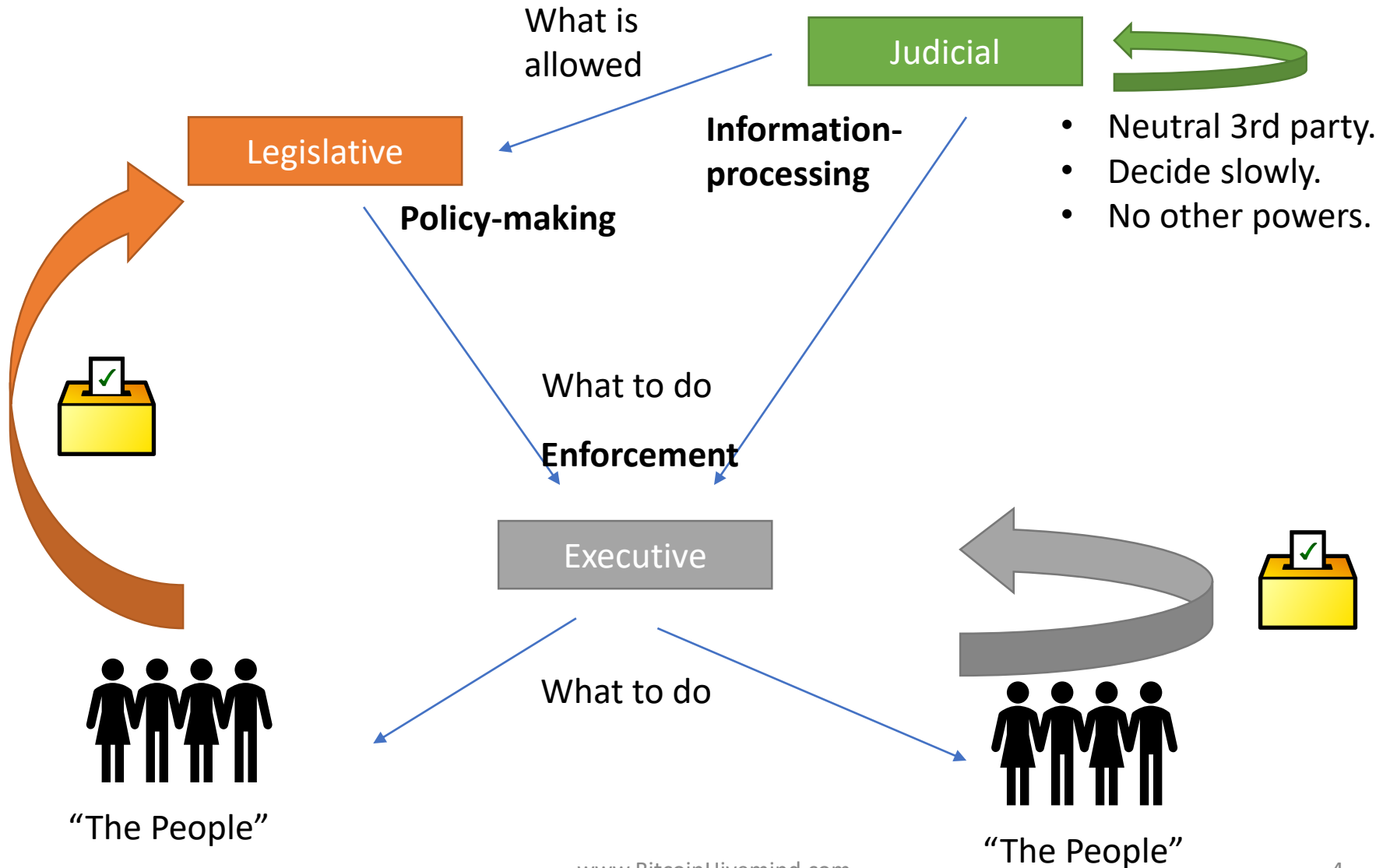
Still refining this presentation – please help.

Intro

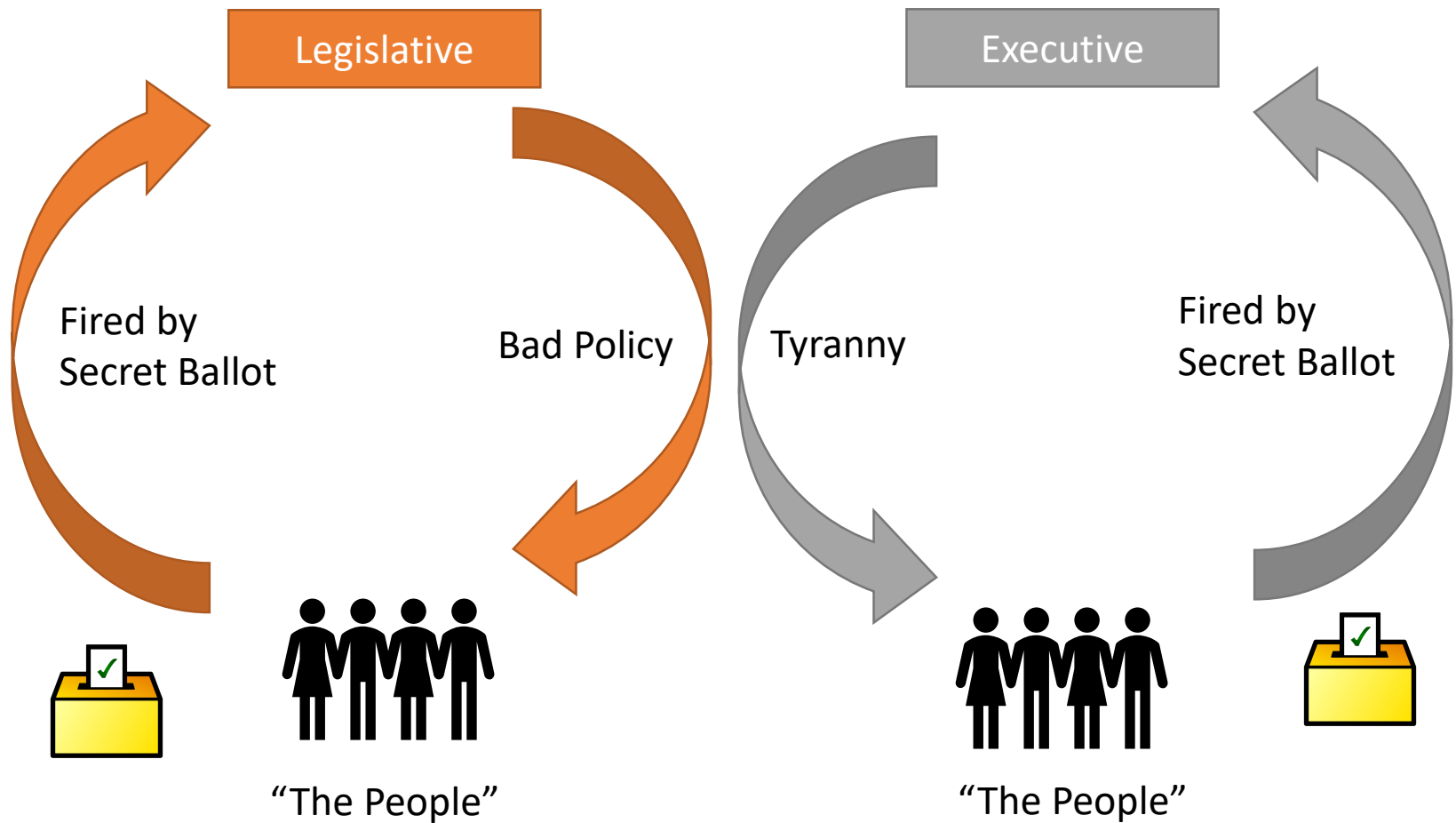
- Blockchain prediction markets can solve many problems.
- I will present on *the most exciting solution* only.
- This is something that can probably *only* be done with censorship-resistant crypto-financial blockchain technology.



Post-Enlightenment Political Technology



Feedback to Remove Errors

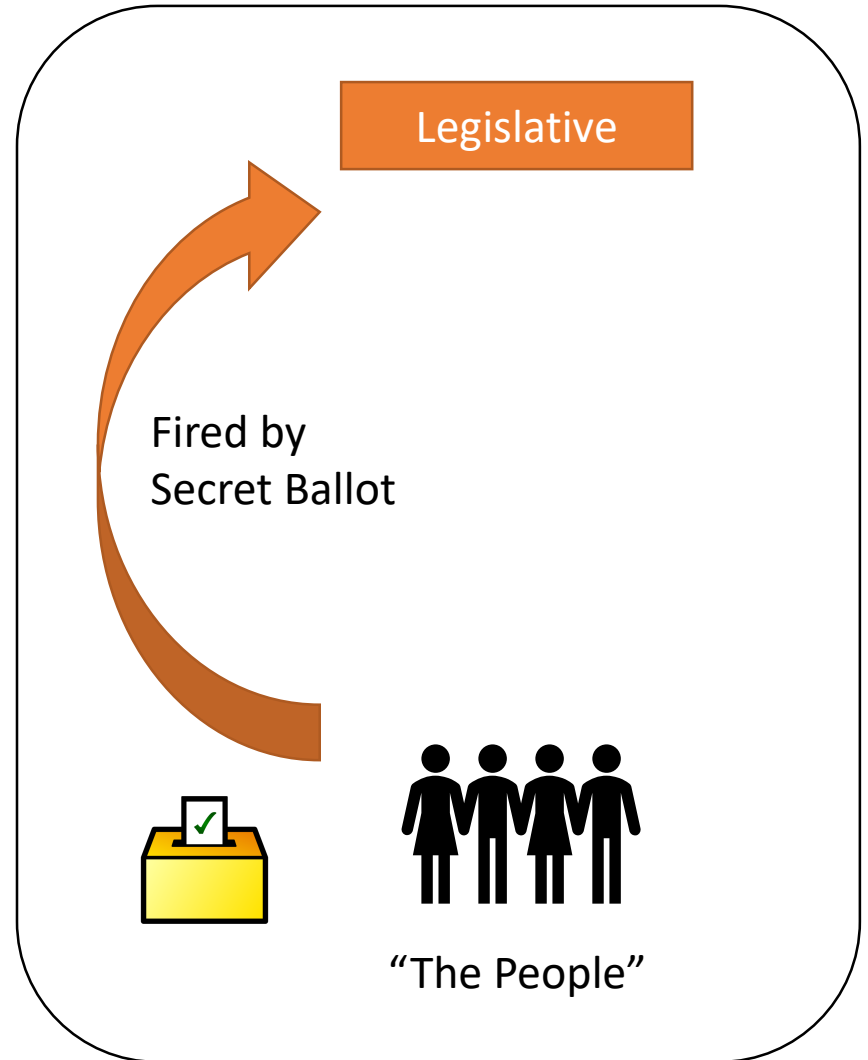


Drawbacks

- Method works...but it does ask the voter to do a great deal of counterfactual thinking, and game-theoretic reasoning.

“Rational
ignorance”

“Elect-ability”



Rational Ignorance

- Much worse over time:
 1. Scale → More people = less impact per vote.
 2. Media Ecology
 3. Greater complexity of society.

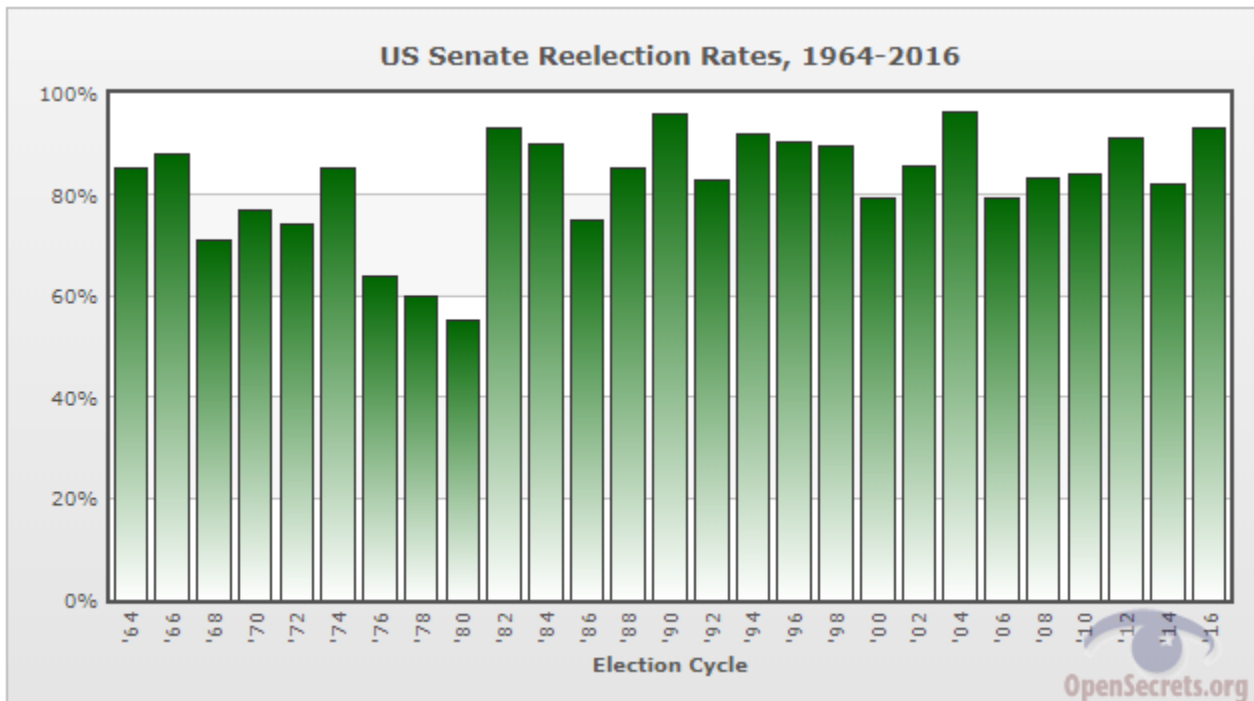
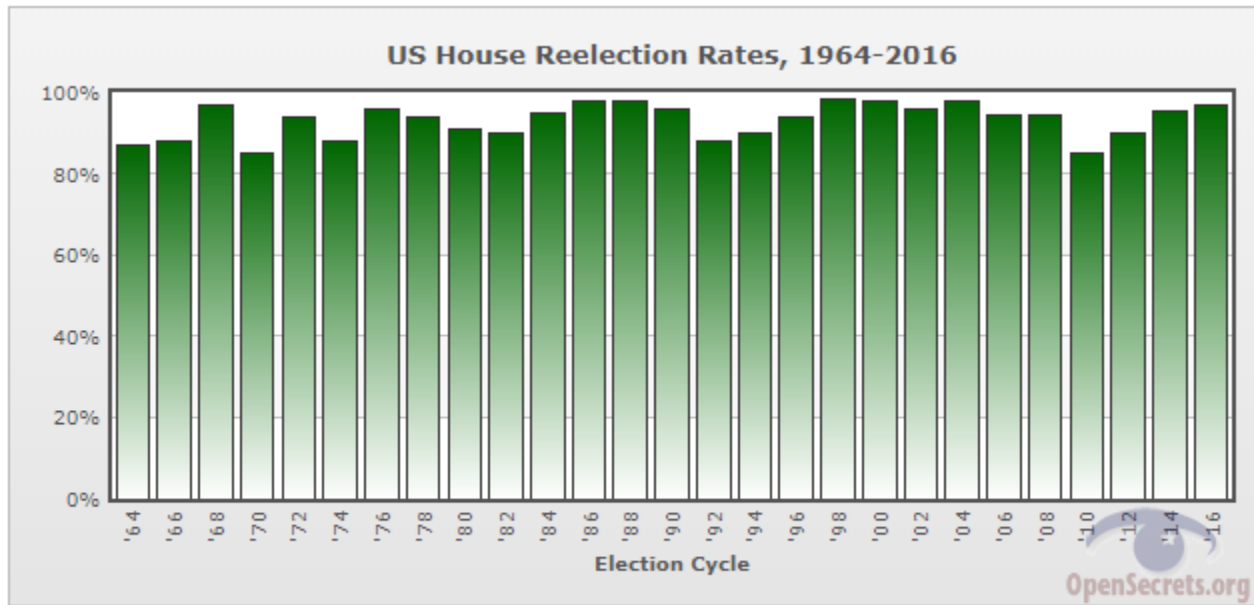
Now...I will skip a bunch of slides, to talk more about electability.

Voting – Your Civic Duty

- Knowledge Cost – too high
 - existing option , the challenger, both plans, likelihood of follow-through, and effect of these plans on you.
- **Effect** is a complex topic. For some policies, only ultra-specialists know.
- 71% of Americans can't even name their Congressional Representative (Delli-Carpini and Keeter (1997)),
 - let alone the challenger or any proposed policies or voting records (or any State Senators, etc).
- Story: Lobbyists on a Plane
- Re-election Rates (unbelievable)

Voti

- Knowledge
 - exist follow
- **Effect** special
- 71% of Repres
 - let all State
- Story:
- Re-ele



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ultra-
ssional
ds (or any

Electability

South Park – s08e08 –
Giant D, and T Sandwich

But, we will be back, to talk about rational ignorance
-- both problems can be addressed with the same
solution: **Conditional** prediction markets.

Governance is Hard. Why?

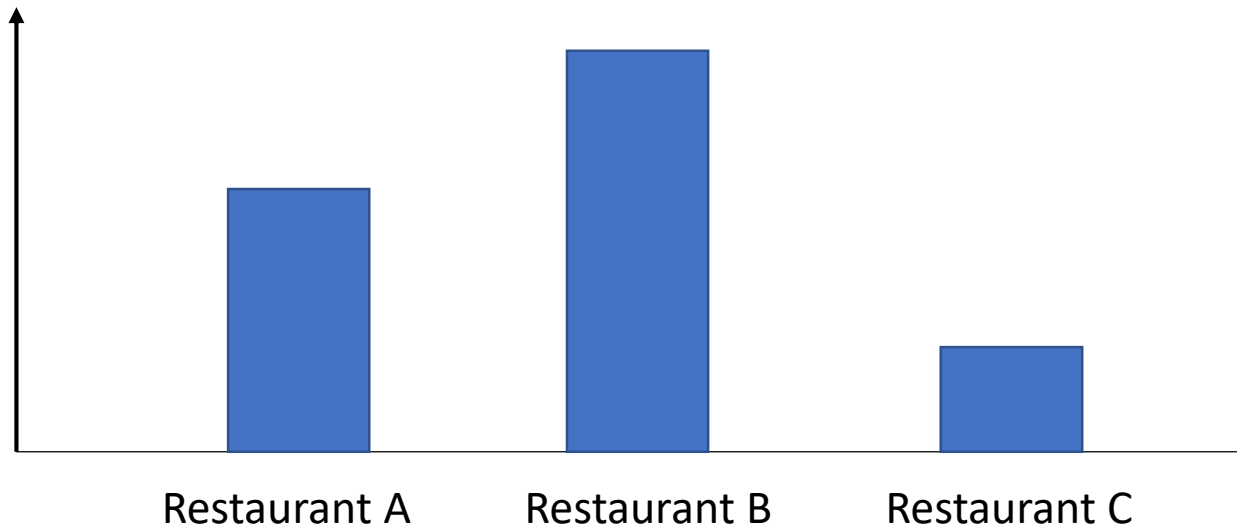
- If everyone is doing the wrong thing, why can't we just get everyone to stop doing that, and do something else?
- Answer: **Multi-Factor Competition**
 - Negotiation is too Expensive
 - Too many 'other things' to do
 - High cost of miscoordination

Great read: "Inadequate Equilibria" by Yudkowsky

Single-Factor Competition

- You want to spend up to \$20 on dinner.
- You are choosing (and dining) alone.

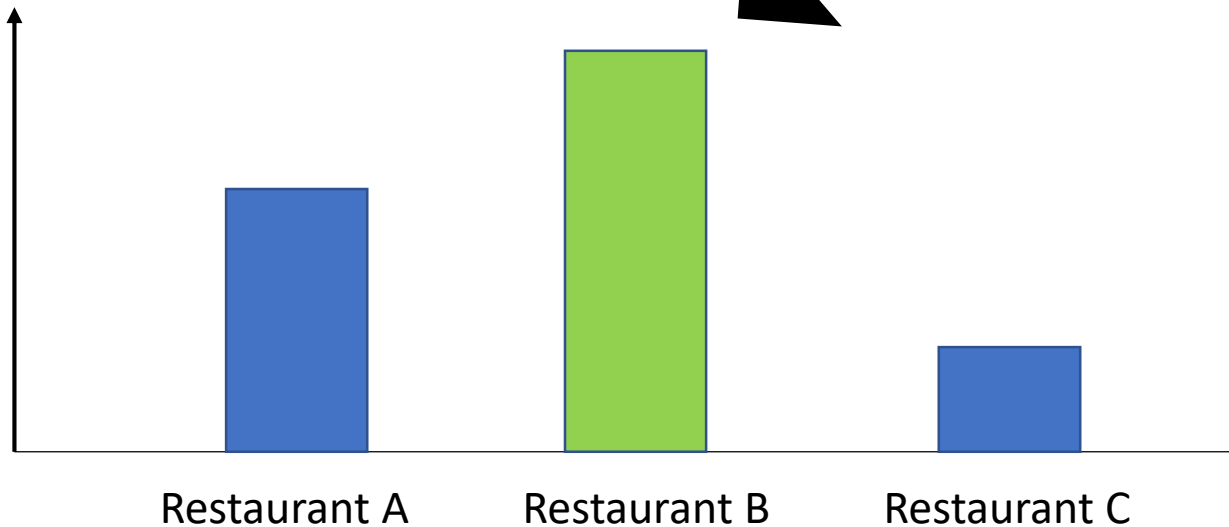
Expected satisfaction
by spending $\leq \$20$ at
the given restaurant



Single-Factor Competition

- You want to spend up to \$20 on dinner.
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Expected satisfaction
by spending $\leq \$20$ at
the given restaurant

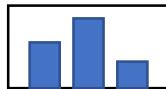


- You get the highest satisfaction possible.
- Restaurants induced to compete on (satisfaction / \$).

Multi-Factor Competition

- Many people are choosing a restaurant
- **You all prefer to meet at the same place.**
- Harder!— your decision now depends on:

1. What you prefer,



2. and where other people might go. Which is itself a function of:

1. ...what they might prefer.



2. ...where they think other people might go. Which is itself a function of:

1. Everyone's collective best guess on where most people currently plan on going (ie, the status quo), and,



2. ... (since time/attention/communication are not free) how open to communication / negotiation everyone is.



- You have four criteria, but you ultimately must make one selection. Forced aggregation.

Multi-Factor Competition

- Many people are choosing a restaurant
- **You all prefer to meet at the same place.**

Self-fulfilling prophecy – Those who believe that “negotiating to pick a better restaurant is a lost cause”, will be less open to negotiation. Circular truth.

Negotiation is especially hard when there are [1] many people, and [2] many alternatives. In USA there are ~250 Million adults, and a near-infinite number of potential policies. In these cases the prophecy is likely to self-fulfill (lost cause).

function of:

1. Everyone's collective best guess on where most people currently plan on going (ie, the status quo), and,
2. ... (since time/attention/communication are not free) how open to communication / negotiation everyone is.

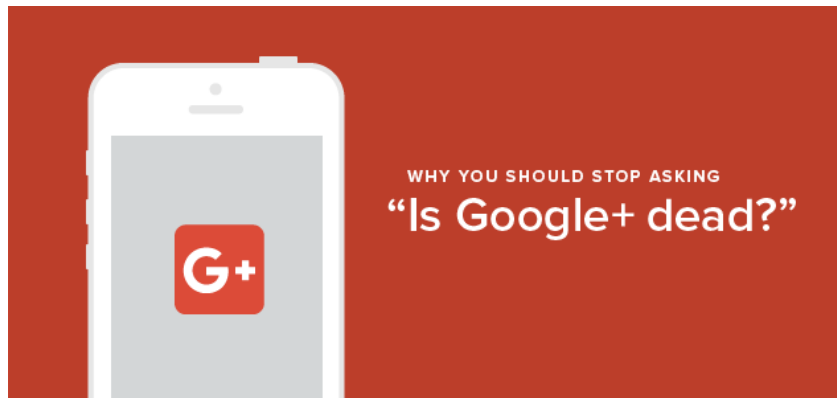


- You have four criteria, but you ultimately must make one selection. Forced aggregation.

If people dissent from Bitcoin Core, should they just “fork off”? Can they?

Multi-Factor Competition

- The root cause in the restaurant example, “wanting to stay in sync with others” is a common desire.
 - Coordination reduces ambiguity / conflict.
 - Network effects / economies of scale.
- Competing w/ Facebook or Craigslist ...vs w/ local barber shop.



Multi-Factor Competition

The problem is real, and it has nothing to do with “coercion” and can’t be explained with moral arguments.

Most people will put up with Facebook, even though FB is “evil”. Because the alternatives are :

- [1] no Facebook (and social isolation), or
- [2] and endless (and ultimately futile) negotiation with unmotivated friends/family to switch to one particular alternative (among many). They would then need to convince their own friends, who would need to convince their own friends, and so on and so forth...

In the same way, we put up with governments, even though they are incompetent. The alternatives are:

- [1] no government and no property rights (a disaster), or
- [2] an uncertain, potentially endless, potentially violent transition period, leading to an ambiguous final outcome.

Voting – Multifactor-ness of “Electability”

- Arrow impossibility result: voting = paradox
 - While you have more than one voter, and a deterministic aggregation process (technicalities), you can only have one of the following two:
 - **Pareto efficiency** – you can’t hurt an option when *everyone* ranks it higher
 - **Irrelevant alternatives** really are irrelevant – you can’t hurt an option by re-ranking the set of options below or above it. Stalin vs Hitler.
- Arrow’s result leads to **strategic voting**
 - If Jeb Bush had run, would have **split the vote**
 - When vote is split, **votes cast for a ‘lost cause’ do not contribute** at all to *The Battle* that really matters.
 - Electability – knowledge that *other people* believe that this choice is not a lost cause. (Same as the restaurant example.)
 - Hence political parties / media have great influence.

To Solve Governance, We Need:

1. A cheap, **reliable source of information** on who to vote for.
2. A way of **crunching** the multi-factoriness, specifically electability, back into a single factor.
3. A way of **preventing capture** of the above processes by lobbyists/cronies.

Bitcoin Hivemind

Sidechain for P2P Prediction Markets

Intrade's Conditional Prediction Markets

By [Hal Finney](#) · July 29, 2008 7:14 pm · [Comments \(24\)](#) · [« Prev](#) · [Next »](#)

We have often discussed the possible benefits of prediction markets for reducing bias. One key element that could be particularly useful is a conditional prediction market, where betting claims are based on outcomes conditional on some factor we want to evaluate. Robin recently mentioned the possible benefit from [market claims on longevity or health conditional on various interventions](#).

Unfortunately, there are few prediction markets in the world, and fewer conditional ones, so it is hard to know how practical this institution may become. Thanks to an initiative by OB contributor [Peter McCluskey](#), Intrade – the large, real-money prediction market – has added conditional claims

“There are only a few people alive today worth listening to. Robin Hanson is one of them.”

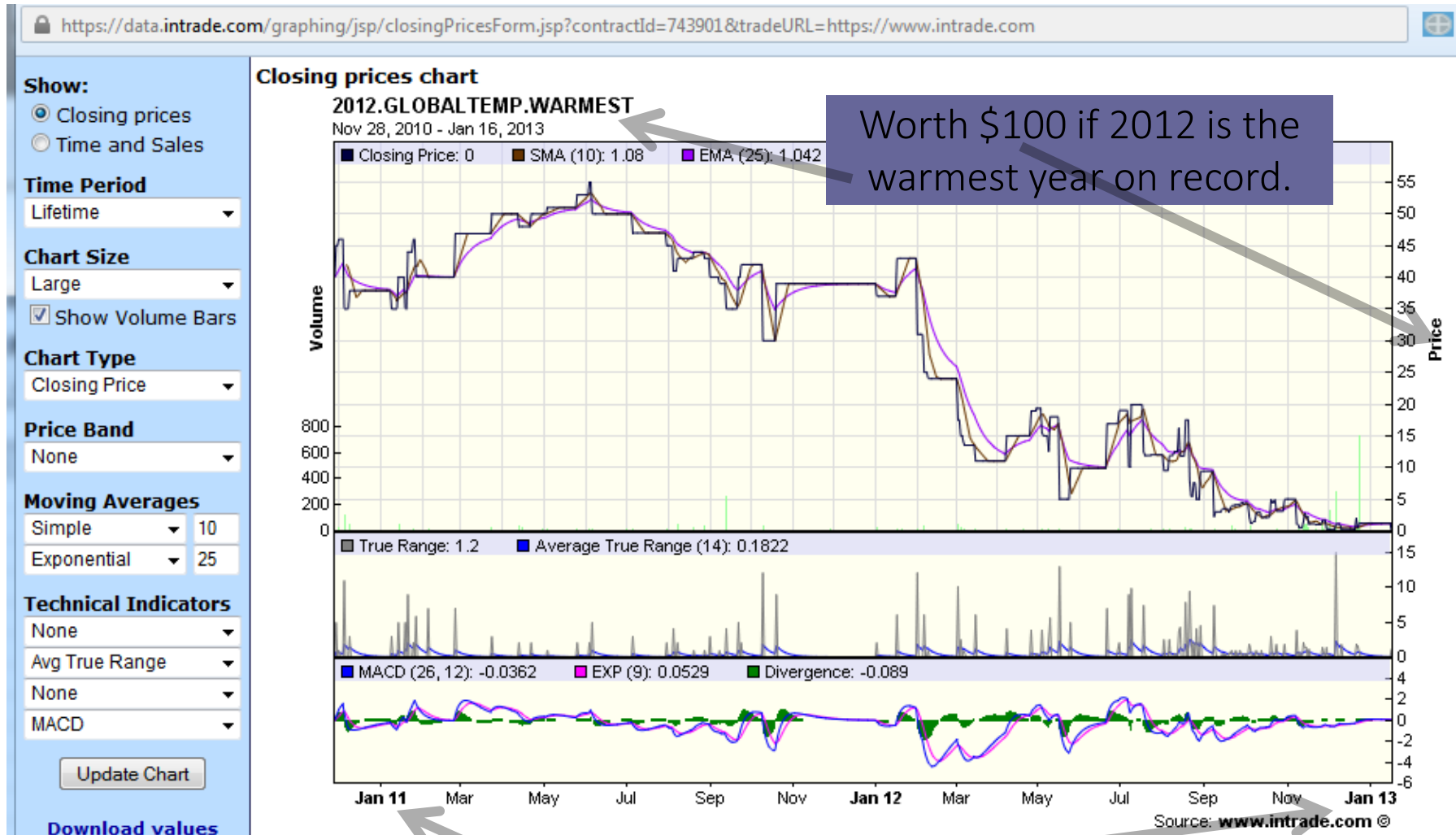
– Ralph Merkle, co-inventor of asymmetric (public/private) key cryptography, inventor of cryptographic hashing, and of the Merkle tree.

Agenda

1. Moral Objections to Governance (Speech)
2. How Society Reacts to Problems (An Analogy)
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A 'prediction market' is a special kind of derivative.

Below: event derivative (InTrade.com) on 2012 global warming



Ran from Jan 2011 to End of 2012

Event Derivatives

Finance Thing	Interpretation
	<p>"I, Paul Sztorc, owe \$20 to whoever is holding this bond certificate on 03/02/2015."</p>
	<p>"I, the CEO of SztorcCorp, owe 1/100th of SztorcCorp's profits to whoever is holding this stock certificate on 03/02/2015."</p>
	<p>"I, Paul Sztorc, owe \$20 to whoever is holding this Option on 03/02/2015, <u>only if</u> the stock price of SztorcCorp is above 40 \$/share on that date."</p>
...(others)...	...(others)...
	<p>"I, Paul Sztorc, owe \$20 to whoever is holding this derivative on 12/01/2016, <u>only if</u> Hillary Clinton is elected US President in 2016. Otherwise I owe \$0."</p>
...(others)...	<p>www.BitcoinHivemind.com</p> <p>...(others)...</p>

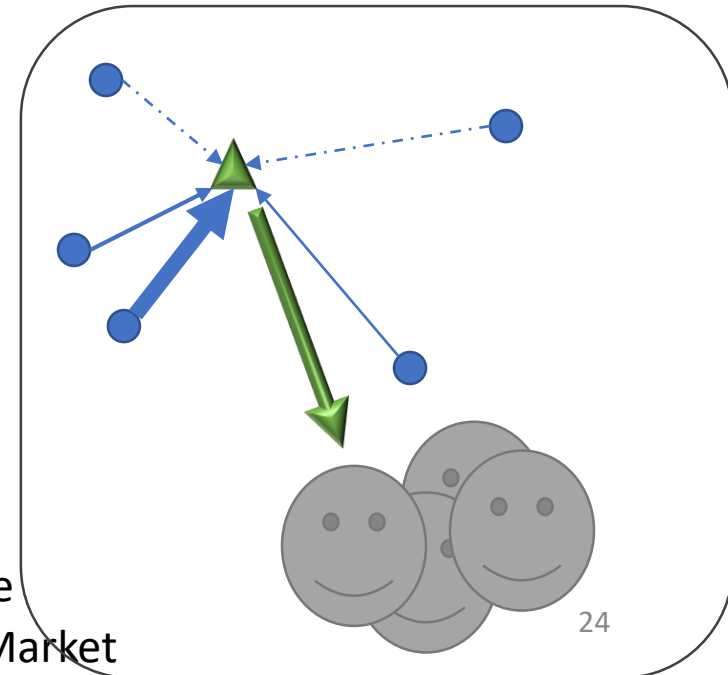
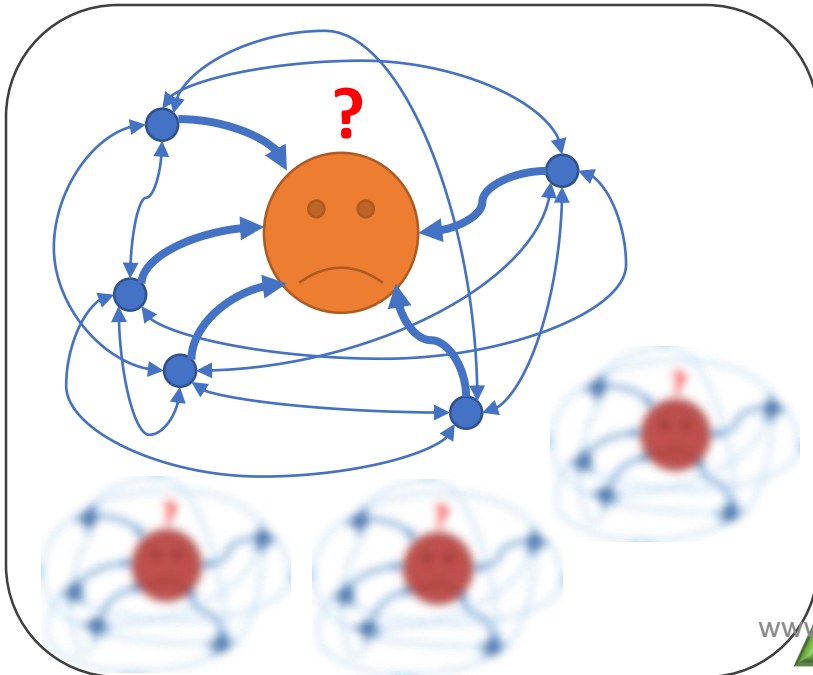
Markets Aggregate Information

- For the Public: **Reliable** and **Common** Information

It's right.

It's broadcast to everyone (and everyone knows that everyone got it).

Does all of the **Research** for us, and the **Persuading**!



● = Info Source
▲ = Prediction Market
www.BitcoinHivemind.com

Benefits of PMs (Over Talking)

- Talk: Why even bother becoming informed?
 - Hard to learn this stuff (and I only have so much time)
 - How am I supposed to convince others?
 - Info-processing is difficult (why résumés *must* be short).
 - Minimal-info strategies (join a tribe/“political party”).
- PM forces a clear definition.
- Prices are **constantly** and **unanimously** acceptable. At all times, everyone agrees with the price (if not, they can profitably trade).
- Note: Suppose climate change were false. The “reliability” and “broadcast” problems are much worse.

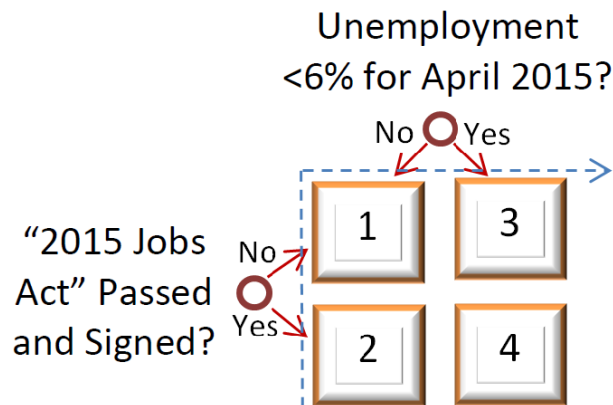
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Conditional Forecasts: More Than One Dimension



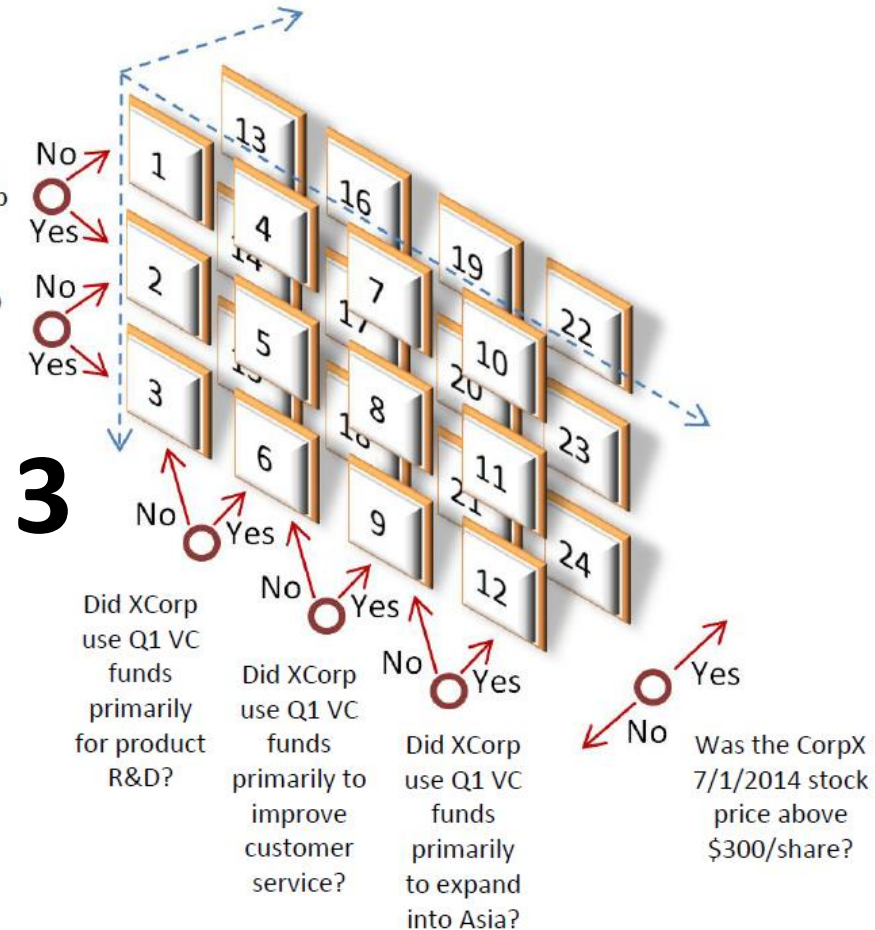
1



2

Did XCorp replace CEO Adam with Bob during 2014 Q1?

Did XCorp replace CEO Adam with Charlie during 2014 Q1?



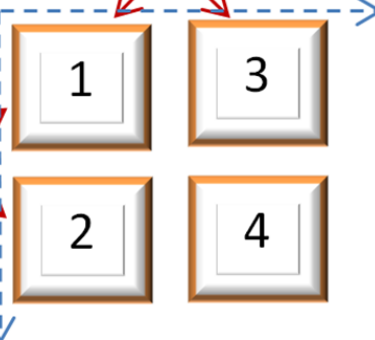
More Dimensions: More Forecasts, AND More Relationships

2016 Warmest Year
on Record?

No Yes

No Yes

“2015 Climate
Act” Passed
and Signed?



Joint, Marginal, and
Conditional Probabilities

MSRs
Bayesian Net

	No	Yes	
No	0.35	0.05	0.40
Yes	0.15	0.45	0.60
	0.50	0.50	1.00

	No	Yes	
No	0.15	0.45	0.60
Yes	0.35	0.05	0.40
	0.50	0.50	1.00

	No	Yes	
No	0.25	0.25	0.50
Yes	0.25	0.25	0.50
	0.50	0.50	1.00

The Point: Probabilities are not only: “Will X happen?”...
...they are also: “Would Y influence X?”

Attempt to teach Conditional Probability

	H	T
H	.25	.25
T	.25	.25

Two coins.

	H	T
H	?	?
T	?	?

The same coin
(not realistic).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	?	?	?	?	?	?
2	?	?	?	?	?	?
3	?	?	?	?	?	?
4	?	?	?	?	?	?
5	?	?	?	?	?	?
6	?	?	?	?	?	?

Two dice.

Attempt to teach Conditional Probability

	H	T
H	.25	.25
T	.25	.25

Two coins.

	H	T
H	.50	0
T	0	.50

The same coin
(not realistic).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	(1/6)	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	(1/6)	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	(1/6)	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	(1/6)	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	(1/6)	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	(1/6)


Two dice.

Example – Which CEOs aren't pulling their weight?

General Electric / CEO

John L. Flannery

Aug 1, 2017–



John L. Flannery is an American business executive. He is currently the CEO and chairman of General Electric, appointed in August 2017. [Wikipedia](#)

How do we tell??
Problem of **Agency Cost**

Two Individual Markets...

Mirroring
(superfluous data)

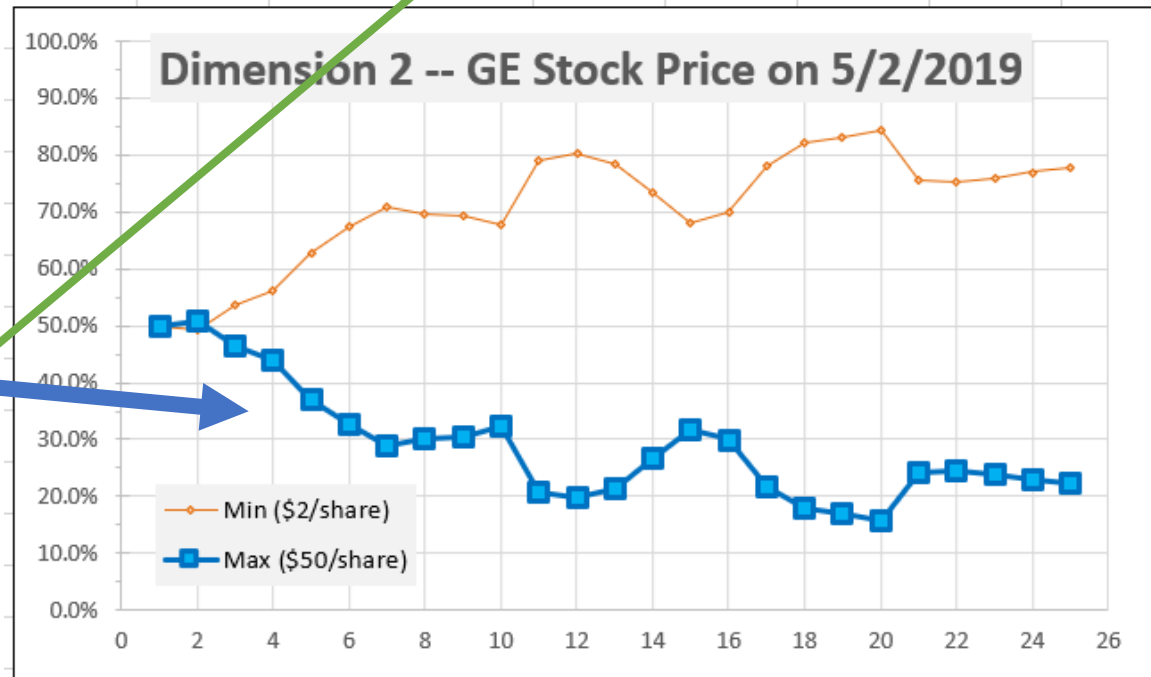
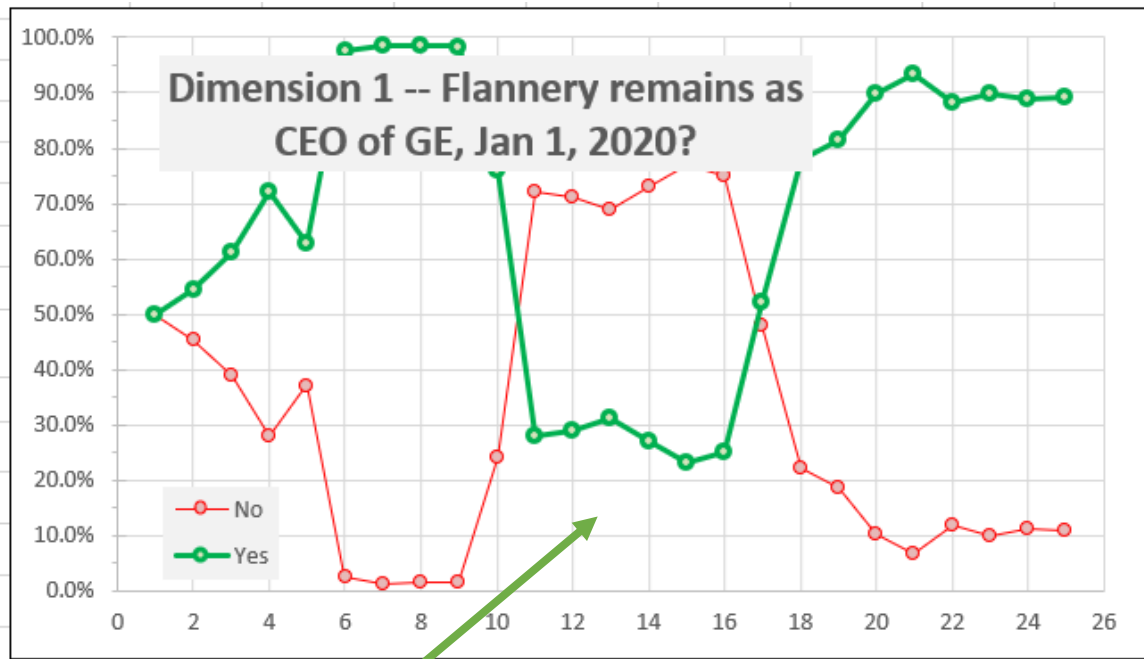
Because $\Pr(\text{Yes}) = 1 - \Pr(\text{No})$

But not for long...

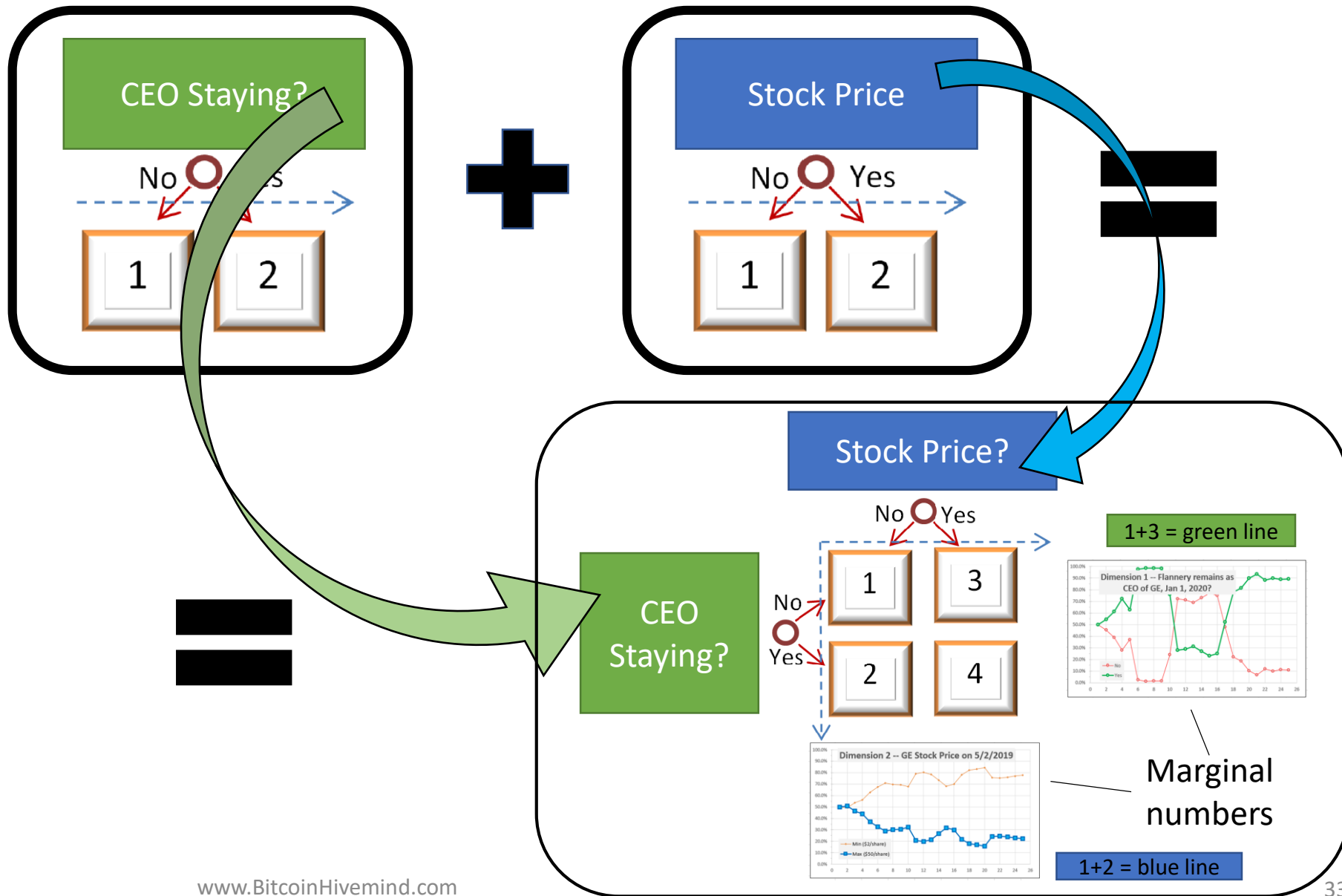
Binary: Yes vs No
Scaled: Min vs Max

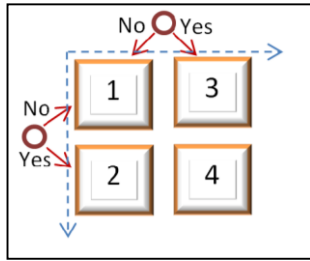
GE is having a
rough year!

Is the CEO departing? Will
he be fired? Should he be?



Exact same data...



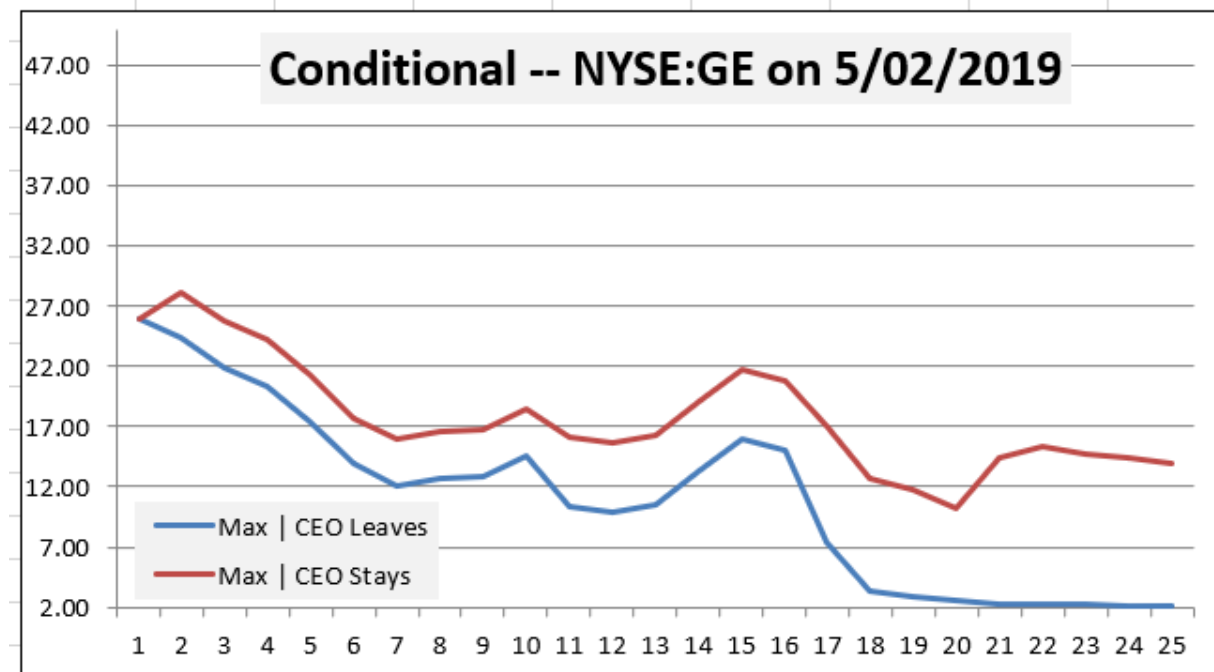
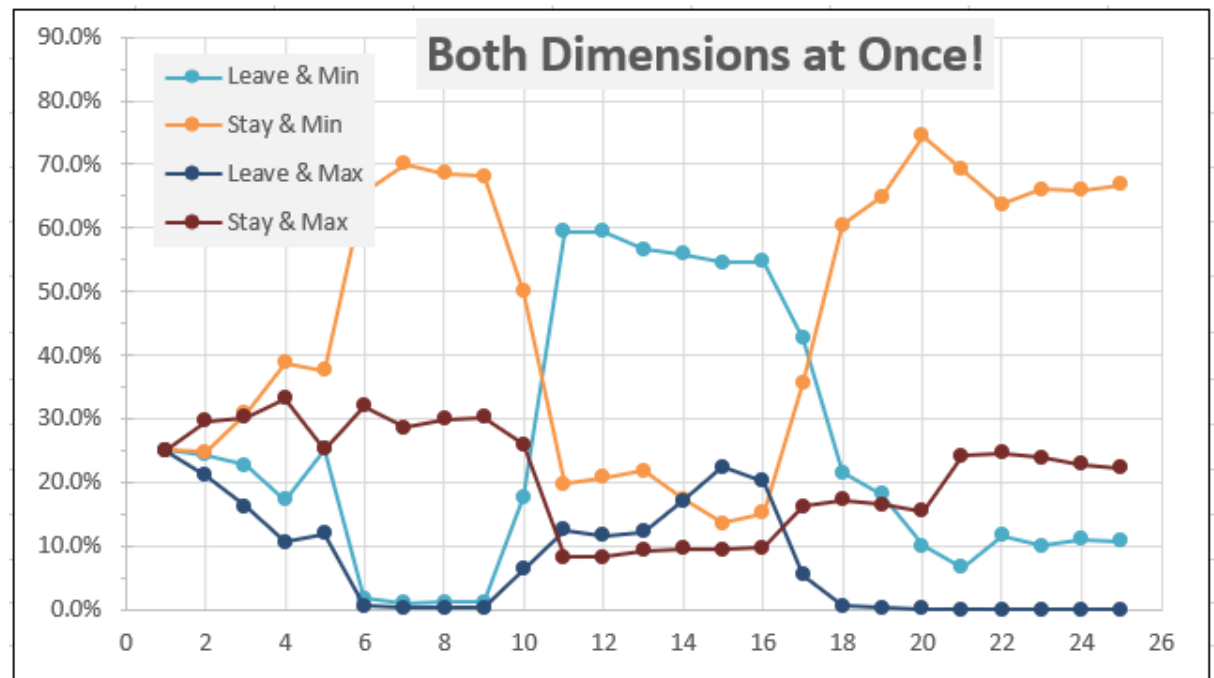


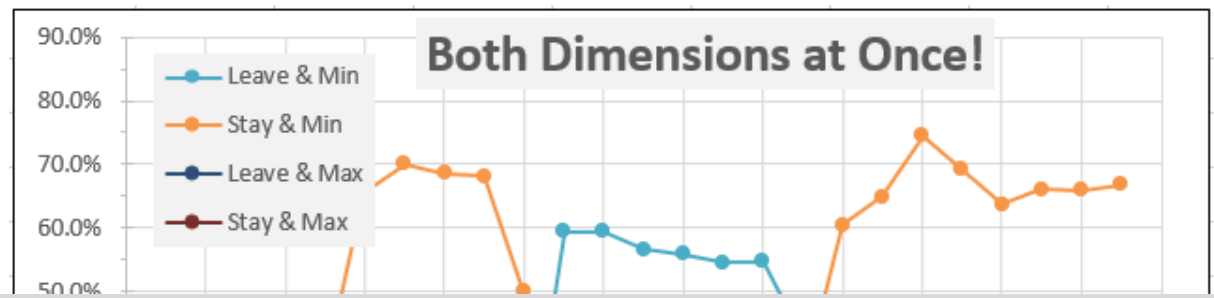
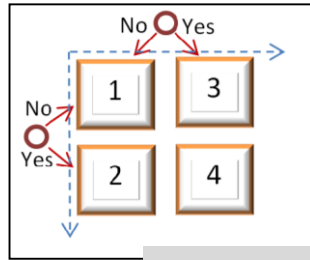
Four Dimensions at once,
different “mirroring”

Same Data

- Deleted 2 lines (of 4).
- (Stay & Max) / Stay
- (Leave & Max) / Leave
- Scaled y-axis to \$/share.

Now: only measures
GE’s Stock Price

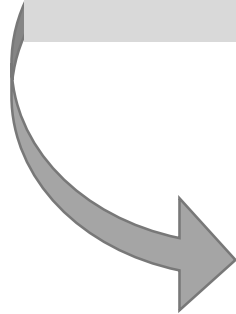




Four Dimension
different “mirror

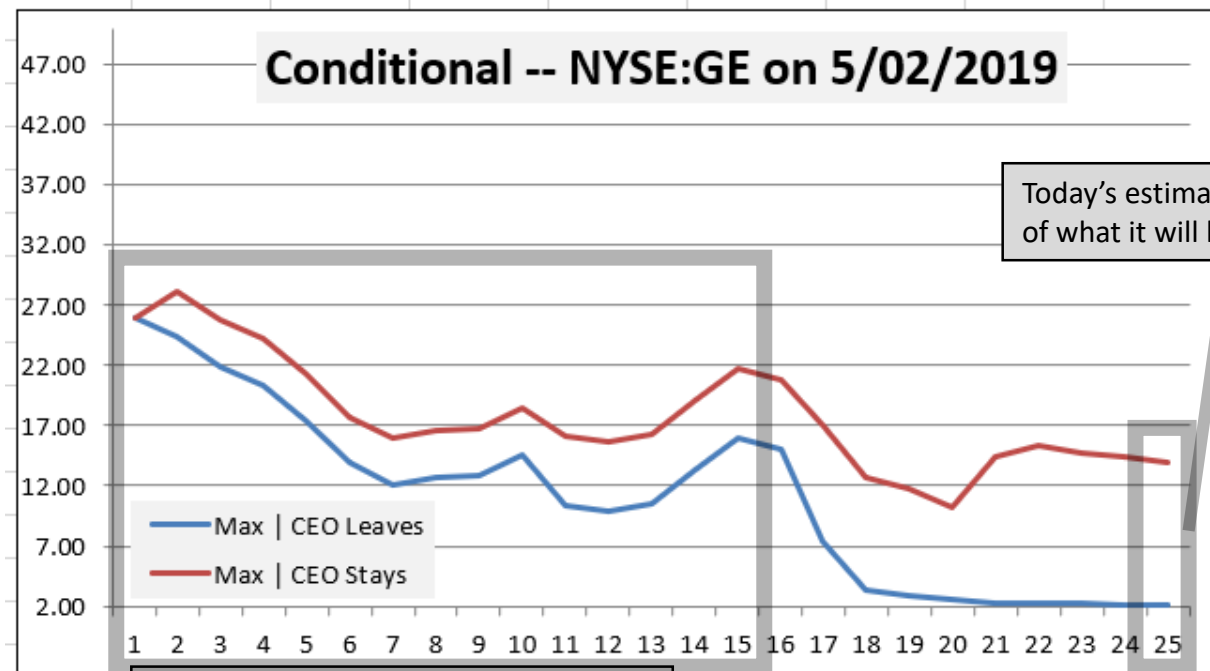
Forecasting the future stock price...

Same Data



- Deleted 2 lines (of 4).
- (Stay & Max) / Stay
- (Leave & Max) / Leave
- Scaled y-axis to \$/share.

Now: only measures
GE's Stock Price



Today's estimate
of what it will be.

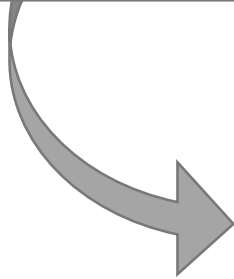
Past estimates of what it would be.

Important Questions:

Four
different

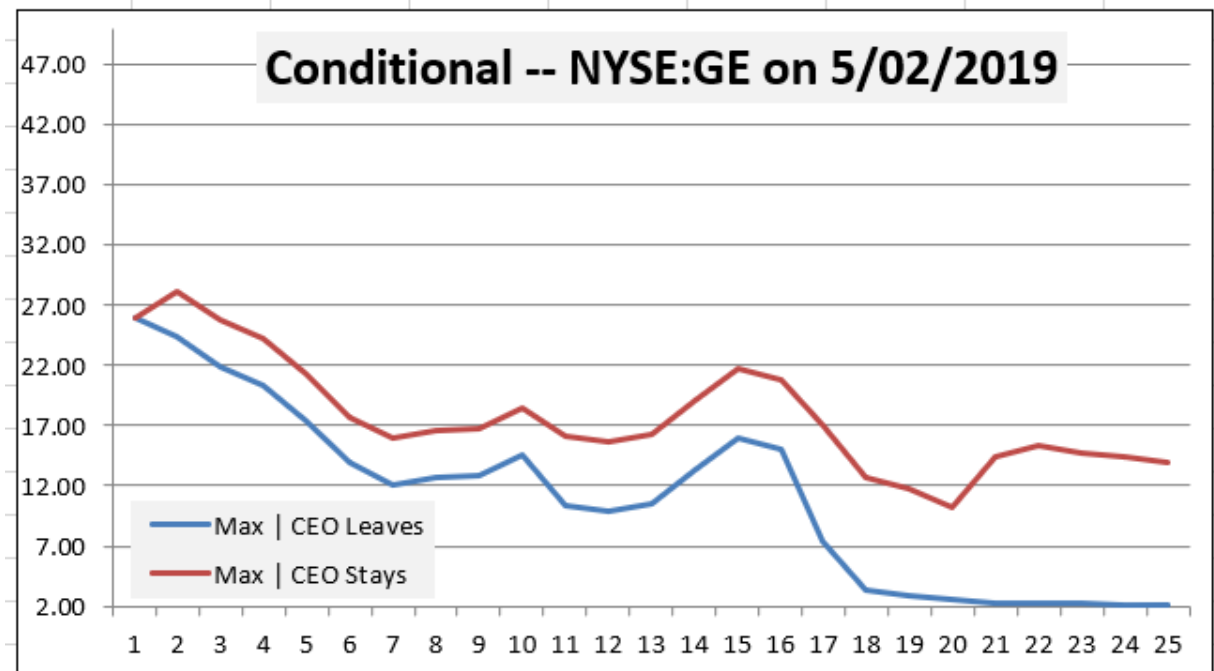
1. Should the CEO be fired, or get a raise?
2. Why are both forecasts of “the future stock price” going down?
3. [extra credit] If I had instead graphed “CEO Leaves | Max” and “CEO Stays | Min”, what would those lines represent?

Same Data



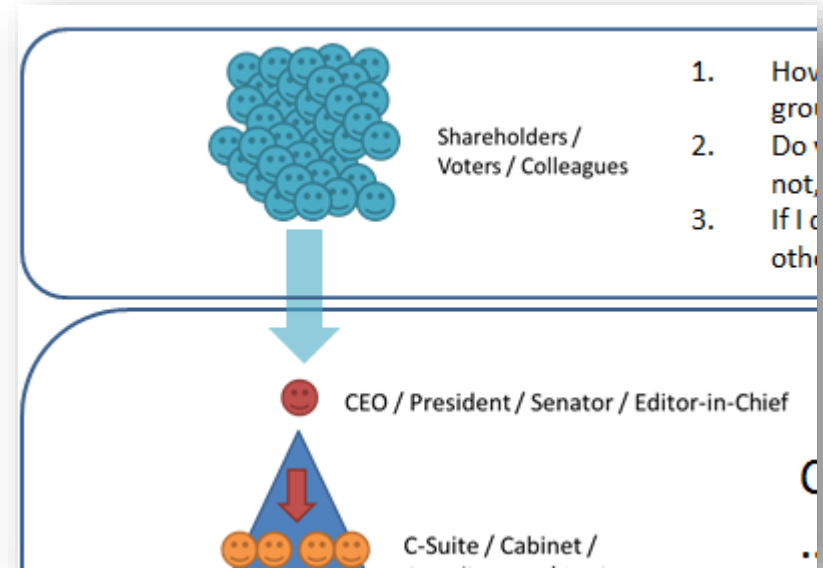
- Deleted 2 lines (of 4).
- (Stay & Max) / Stay
- (Leave & Max) / Leave
- Scaled y-axis to \$/share.

Now: only measures
GE's Stock Price



PM Governance

- Applications
 - “Which CEO *would most increase* **our stock price**?”
 - “Which President *would most decrease* **unemployment**?”
 - “Which FED Policy *would most increase* **GDP**?”
 - “Which law *would most decrease* **violent crime**?”



We need



- A cheap, **reliable source of information** on who to vote for.

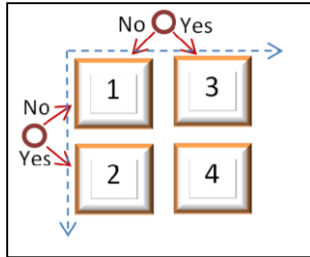


- A way of **crunching** the multi-factoriness, specifically electability, back into a single factor.



- A way of **preventing capture** of the above processes by lobbyists/cronies.

Multidimensionality can reverse the Multi-factor effects of Electability



**“Good Economy” in 2021
(<5% Unemployment)?**

**Nov 2020
Election
Winner**

Someone Else

Democrat

Republican

Elon Musk

	No	Yes	
Someone Else	0.0005	0.0005	0.001
Democrat	.61	.00	.61
Republican	.38	.00	.38
Elon Musk	.00	.009	.009
	.9905	.0095	

**Musk unlikely to win,
0.9%, “Lost Cause”**

Multidimensionality can reverse the Multi-factor effects of Electability

		“Good Economy” in 2021 (<5% Unemployment)?			Conditional Likelihood of Good Economy
		No	Yes		
Nov 2020 Election Winner	Someone Else	0.0005	0.0005	0.001	50%
	Democrat	.61	.00	.61	0%
	Republican	.38	.00	.38	0%
	Elon Musk	.00	.009	.009	100%
		.9905	.0095		

Multidimensionality can reverse the Multi-factor effects of Electability

Election hasn't happened yet...		Likelihood of Winning	Conditional Likelihood of Good Economy
Nov 2020 Election Winner	Someone Else	00.1%	50%
	Democrat	61.0%	0%
	Republican	38.0%	0%
	Elon Musk	00.9%	100%
And everyone knows it...			

Multidimensionality can reverse the Multi-factor effects of Electability

Election hasn't happened yet...

Likelihood of **Conditional** Winning

Nov 2020 Election Winner

Someone Else
Democrat
Republican
Elon Musk

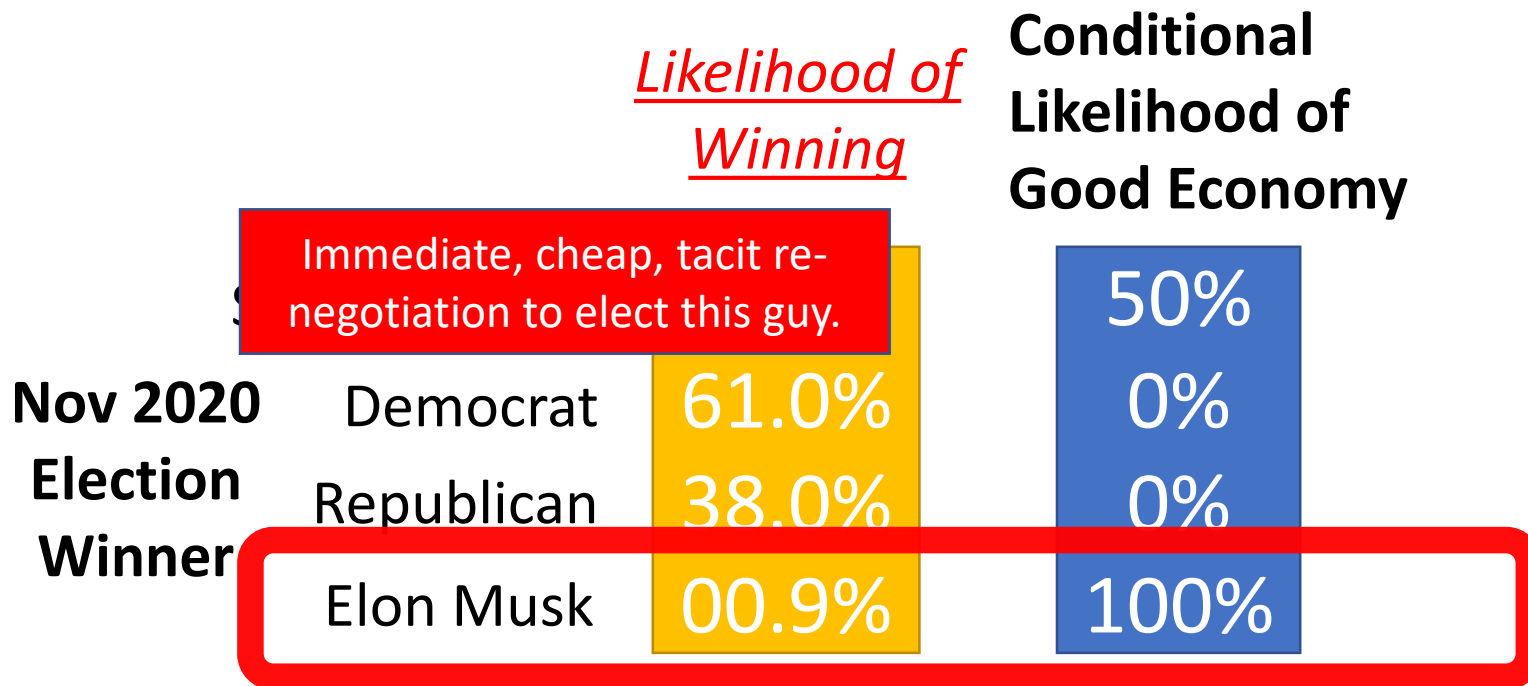
00.1%
61.0%
38.0%
00.9%



And **everyone** knows it...

Voter

Multidimensionality can reverse the Multi-factor effects of Electability



Epecially for uninformed or angry voters – the ***less*** they know, the better. The ***more*** they are confounded by media/ads, the better!

We have returned to Single-Factor Competition!

		Conditional Likelihood of Good Economy
Nov 2020 Election Winner	Someone Else	50%
	Democrat	0%
	Republican	0%
	Elon Musk	100%

Scales up!!

Conditional Likelihood of Good Economy

**Nov 2020
Election
Winner**

Someone Else	50%
Democrat	0%
Republican	0%
Elon Musk	100%
Peter Thiel	99%
Oprah	52%
Kim Kardashian	14%

...

Scales up!!

Conditional Likelihood of Good Economy

**Nov 2020
Election
Winner**

Someone Else	50%
Democrat	0%
Republican	0%
Elon Musk	100%
Peter Thiel	99%
Oprah	52%
Kim Kardashian	14%

crucial point

...

Agenda

1. Moral Objections to Governance (Speech)
2. How Society Reacts to Problems (An Analogy)
3. Why Governance is Hard (A Diagnosis)
4. What Prediction Markets Are (An Institution)
5. Blockchain Conditional Prediction Markets – Solution to Governance
6. Getting Practical (2 slides)

How to convince people that the PM information is reliable and interesting?

- Ramp it up over time – Popular Things – Sports (SuperBowl, March Madness), Arts (Oscars, Tonys)
- Accuracy will remain high, and that people gradually become interested.
- The election process is so broken, and distasteful (ie, attack ads), that people will come around eventually.
- Keep up the pressure each election year. Aim especially for Congressional elections where impact is high, voters least informed.

The “Joy Index” – a talk for another time

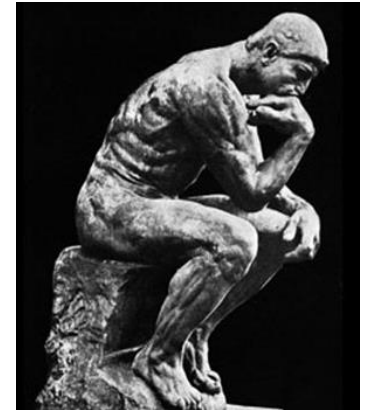
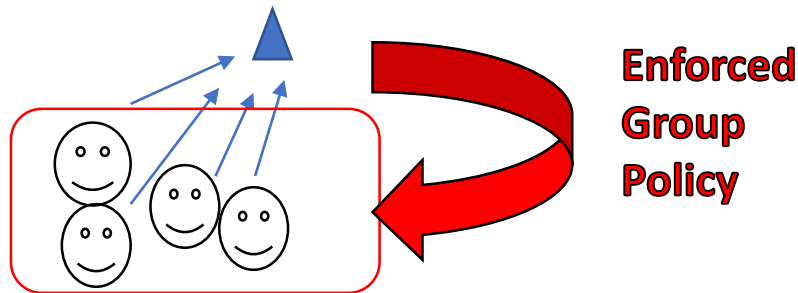
- What do measure?
 - Land Value (ie Georgism)
 - Easily-Reproducible Metrics – unemployment rate, life expectancy (?).
- How to measure it safely, without **that** being gamed?
 - Randomness – un-gameable (“Sortition”)
 - Non-attribution, secret ballots

Thank You!

Questions?

Overview

- This talk is about **the problem** which Hivemind solves,
- it is **not** about how Hivemind works .
- www.BitcoinHivemind.com
- Hivemind is about “Governance”, defined as **group decision-making**.



- **Governance** has problems – namely rational ignorance and preference aggregation, and these problems can be solved with conditional prediction markets.
- This is a passion project of mine, I hope you enjoy!

Agenda

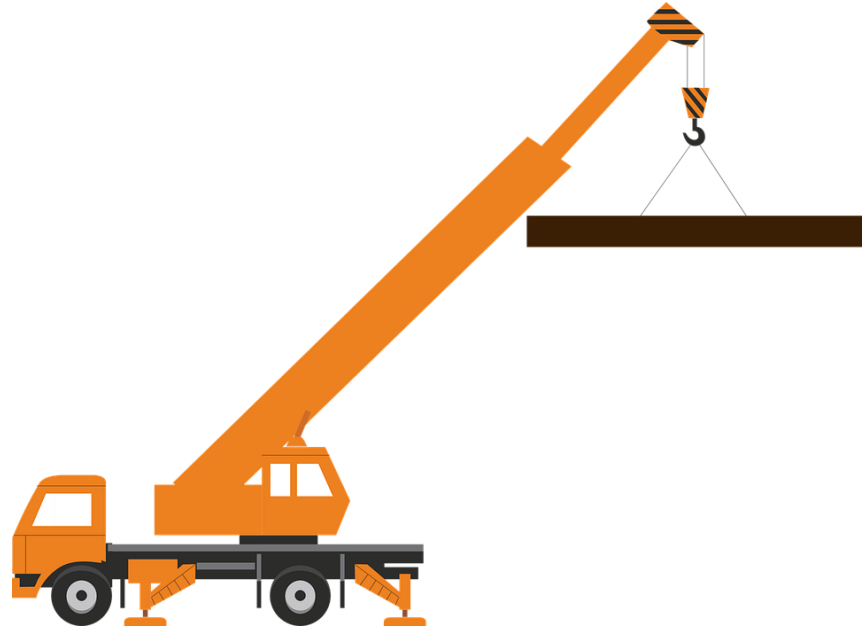
1. Governance is a Real Problem
2. How Society Reacts to Problems (An Analogy)
3. Why Governance is Hard (A Diagnosis)
4. What Prediction Markets Are (An Institution)
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Governance Is Real – Don't Reject It!



- **Observation:** “Coercion is bad.”
Undesirable to be forced into something.
 ↙ extreme
- **Policy:** Reject all Coercion, by giving blanket veto-power to the individual.
- But I don't agree.
 1. Moral Foundation of Estimated Consent
 2. Economic Foundation for Governance

Consent & Governance – Three Key Facts



1. Consent is a state of mind; consent is “decided” (and **not “given”**).
2. It is always **guessed** by the audience*, and these guesses are necessarily imperfect.
.. story ..
3. Consent-measurement is **expensive**, and so there is an efficient “stopping point” for measuring consent. Society has consented to your best guess of consent.

Goal of **governance technology** should be: make consent **easier to measure**!

*The audience is “whoever enforces the rules around here”. Could be the state, could be a parent, could be security guard, could be no one.

Asking Groups What They Want is Expensive

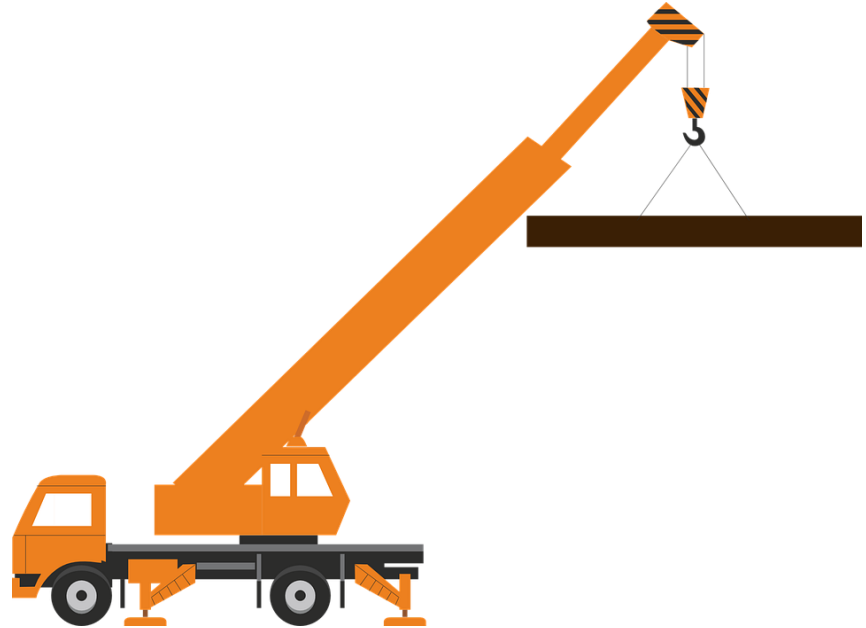
Even when every member of the group is awake, healthy, and talkative....

- $O(n^2)$ Conversations – doesn't scale
- Free Riding – Incentive to lie (and say you never wanted a public good)
- Abusing the Process / Shake Down – Use fake disagreement ; favors whoever can most afford to prolong the negotiations. Expensive: literally consumes GDP, day by day.
- Arrow's Impossibility Result -- mathematically, voters always have an incentive to vote strategically (ie, avoid voting for their preferred choice).

"If Hospers [libertarian party candidate / protégé of Rand]...gets ten votes away from Nixon, which I doubt, it is a moral crime." – Ayn Rand

"the liberum veto was a major cause of the deterioration of... the Commonwealth's eventual destruction...and foreign occupation, dominance and manipulation of Poland for the next 200 years or so." – Wikipedia

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2 – Economic Foundation of Governance

- Some things are much easier to buy/maintain as a group. Marginal utility of “individualism” rapidly diminishes as we approach “100% individualism”.
- **Externalities**
 - “One Person Ruins it for Everyone” (de facto Entangled, “OR” function)
 - Ozone Layer / The Montreal Protocol (no competing Earths)
 - (Hypothetical) Grey Goo – self replicating nanotechnology that kills us all
 - Pollution / Electromagnetic Spectrum management
 - Overfishing / Species Extinction (Harming Future Societies)
 - Extremely ‘contagious’ spread of fire / disease / looting.
- Efficient “re-use” of goods/services.
 - The roads (infamous) and highways (hard to charge “per use”); National parks
 - Walls/Castles -- ($4x$ vs x^2), strangers vs friends/family, trust issues
 - The Erie Canal, Louisiana Purchase, Interstate Highway System,
 - Basic science research (ie, its hard for Newton to patent “Gravity”)

“However attractive anarchy may be as a philosophy, it is not feasible in a world of imperfect men.” – Milton Friedman

- Coming Up
 - Ignoring, Tolerating, and Solving Problems – A rain metaphor
 - Governance is hard. Why?
 - What are prediction markets?
 - What are conditional prediction markets?

Agenda

1. Governance is Real
2. How Society Reacts to Problems (An Analogy)
3. Why Governance is Hard (A Diagnosis)
4. What Prediction Markets Are (An Institution)
5. Blockchain Conditional Prediction Markets – Solution to Governance
6. Getting Practical

Problems – Rejecting, Tolerating, and Solving

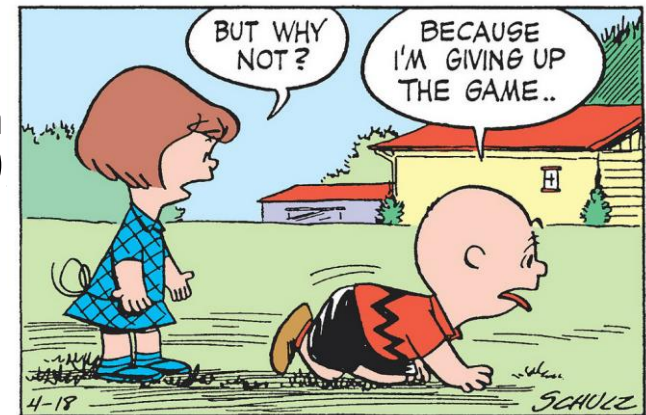
- **Rejecting** a Problem
 - Misunderstanding/misrecognizing the problem.
 - Ceremonial use of problem as backdrop, for social reasons.
- **Tolerating** a Problem
 - You know there is a problem, you know there is currently no solution. Problem may seem unsolvable.
 - Problem is accepted as an unalterable fact of life.
- **Solving** a Problem
 - You know the problem, and the solution.
 - You will have obtained more knowledge and better technology, and the problem will depart, never to return.

Ex: No Rain, Bad Harvest

- **Pray more** – [do nothing to get more rain]
 - Try to reject the problem, or erroneously respond – the critical thing is prayer, not water.
 - Use false solution as opportunity for socialization (ie ‘signaling’ or ‘loud complaining done to make friends’).
 - Culture may eventually *rely* on these false solutions, for stability.
- **Settle for Failure** – [accept that “rain is unreliable” is unalterably true]
 - Accept reality and make the best of it.
 - Other options: ration more; have fewer children / livestock; **give up** on agriculture (hunt instead) plant many more seeds to overcompensate for the eventual loss (work harder).



Allen, *Praying for Rain* (1938)



Schulz, *Peanuts* (1954)

- **Irrigation Technology** – [solve the problem]
 - ...using *more knowledge*, and *better technology*.

Ex: No Rain, Bad Harvest



- **Irrigation Technology** – [solve the problem]
 - ...using *more knowledge, and better technology*.



Schulz, Peanuts (1954)

Problems – Rejecting, Tolerating, and Solving

- **Rejecting** a Problem

- Misunderstanding/mis
- Ceremonial use of problem for social reasons.

Anarchism / Voluntarism /
Voting Ron Paul

- **Tolerating** a Problem

- Recognizing that a problem exists and that there is currently no solution, and that the problem is unsolvable.
- You will grit your teeth and accept this as an unalterable fact of life -- reaching an equilibrium with the problem.

The Cypherpunks /
Encryption / Bitcoin

- **Solving** a Problem

- Understanding the problem
- You will have obtained more information than you need, and will depart, never to return.

Blockchain Conditional
Prediction Markets

Pumping up that second factor, with a **CRISIS!!**



“...while these crises [Great Depression, WW2] were *transitory*, the increase in the scope of government was *permanent*.”

Bad policies following crises:

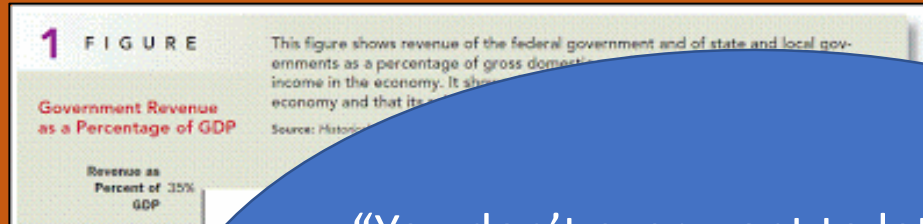
1929 Crash → Taxes/tariffs, labor cartels

WW2 → Japanese Internment Camps

9/11/2001 → Iraq War / PATRIOT Act

2008 Crash → Bailouts, Retroactive Bonus Financing

Pumping up that second factor, with a **CRISIS!!**



“You don’t ever want to let a crisis go to waste: It’s an opportunity to do important things you would otherwise avoid.”

- Rahm Emanuel (WH Chief of Staff under Barack Obama), speaking in 2008

“...which
scope

t Dep
permanent

in the

Bad policies:

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Pumping up that second factor, with a **CRISIS!!**

1 FIGURE

This figure shows revenue of the federal government and of state and local governments as a percentage of gross domestic income in the economy. It shows that the economy and that its

Government Revenue

Crisis Logic

In times of crisis:

- Mis-coordination costs RISE !
- Anyone interfering with coordination is dangerous!
- Thus, the *defenses of the Status Quo* greatly increase.

Crisis and Leviathan

CRITICAL EPISODES
IN THE GROWTH
OF AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT

ROBERT HIGGS





people currently plan on going (ie, the status quo), and,

2. ... (since time/attention/communication are not free)
how open to communication / negotiation everyone is.



ave four criteria, but you ultimately must make

A Kind of “Future Wikipedia”

	 Wikipedia	 Truthcoin
Focus	Outcomes of past events. Consensus on known facts.	Outcomes of future events. Future consensus on <i>knowable</i> facts.
Cost	Free to read and edit.	Free to read, <u>easy to understand</u> (check prices), but edits can cost or earn you money.



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Article Talk

United States elections, 2012

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from United States Election 2012)

This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (November 2012)

Elections were held in the United States throughout 2011. These included many federal elections on Election Day, November 6, 2012, most prominently the 57th presidential election, Senate elections (where 33 seats were decided), and House of Representatives elections (to elect all 435 members of the House for the 113th United States Congress). It also featured 13 state and territorial governors' races; state and territorial legislature races; special elections; and various other state, territorial and local races and referenda on votes held in November as well as throughout the year.

Little overall change occurred on the Federal level. Incumbent President Barack Obama was elected to a second term, with the national popular vote percentage being 51.1% to 47.2%, and the Electoral College vote being 332 to 206, for Obama and challenger Mitt Romney, respectively. The Democratic Party held control of the Senate and the Republican Party

2012 United States elections

Presidential election year

Election day November 6

Presidential election

Electoral vote

Barack Obama (D) 332

Mitt Romney (R) 206

Map showing electoral college results: Obama (D) 332, Romney (R) 206.

