Plan of progress

Now I think that there is sufficient data gathered, so I start to dig myself into it following this plan. First I intend to explore the data along different axes to possibly reduce dimensions and find expected trends in the prices that can act as a baseline in most cases.

Foils vs. regular cards

The first - and relatively short – aim is to determine whether foil cards should be handled differently or not. By this I mean I intend to compare the prices and trends of foil cards to their non-foil counterparts and if I find some kind of clear relation between the two, I can use that relation in the following, thus this can be a good method of reducing the dimensions of the data.

Trends in editions

For this second correction I probably don't have enough data but intuition would say that the general trend of prices of an edition should go down monotonously with time (as their standard-legality expires as well as the market gets more copies – supply – of individual cards). Since standard rotates only once a year, the effects of standard rotation are probably not perfectly modeled yet with my data but I hope to get a general picture. I intend to apply different metrics to have a nice grasp of this parameter.

Correlations, delays in correlations

Different cards are bound to have correlations in their prices (ones in the same decks depending on the success of the deck) or anti-correlations (counters of each other). I first intend to apply the correction of the set (since above mentioned trends would imply systematic correlations in cards from the same set), and then try to find correlations in prices. These correlations should be explainable through deck-lists including both cards. It is possible that some less obvious cards (or counter cards to specific strategies) in decks might follow the trends of stronger cards with a few days of delay, I will have to pay close attention to whether this effect occurs.

Lands

Lands should also have their trends, but these should be less tied to editions, or individual decks due to their wider usage both in the sense of decks they are in and formats they are used in.

Insider trading, trading strategies

After looking through the behaviour of card prices, there should be indicators of insider trading, as most drastic changes should be tied to events. There are foreseeable (bans, nerfs, new cards) and unforeseeable (tournament wins) events which could sharply change the trends in card prices. If there is a difference between the effect of the two types above those differences could be used to prove or disprove the existence of individuals gaining information (and using it to gain financial advantage) before the public does.

As a last step I will see if there are any rules that can be used to gain short-or long term profit by buying and selling cards along some kind of strategy. I will try to estabilish the strategy and build an imaginary collection from a budget, and test the strategy for a following test period.