Can we predict the outcome of the presidential election?

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Abstract: In just a matter of weeks the US will elect its 45th president. Over the past few election cycles, an increasing amount of attention has been paid to election forecasts, which present odds of any of the candidates winning the election weeks and even months ahead of the election itself.

How do these forecasts work? Can they accurately predict the outcome of elections? In this talk we will address these questions, and others, by focusing on one forecasting model built by Nate Silver of fivethirtyeight.com.

No background knowledge will be assumed for this talk, and all students are welcome!