

Supporting Information

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Supporting Information on Coding Methods

Forecast Difficulty. Expert coders coded the difficulty of the forecast as low-to-moderate (“easier”) or moderate-to-high (“harder”). Taking into account the context of the intelligence assessment, coders were instructed to use the following guidelines:

Low/moderate difficulty included judgments under most or all of the following conditions: (i) availability of a substantial and credible information base, (ii) involving a limited number of factors and/or largely a straight-line continuation of current trends, (iii) little influence of irrational or unpredictable behavior, and (iv) generally involving a short time horizon (several months).

Moderate/high difficulty included judgments affected by some of the following conditions: (i) a limited and unreliable information base, (ii) involving a wide range of complicated factors with multiple potential outcomes, (iii) high likelihood of unpredictable behavior, and (iv) involving a longer time horizon (a year or more).

There were 675 easier forecasts and 839 harder forecasts. Providing some indication of reliability, there was less outcome variance in the easier set ($VI = 0.19$) than in the harder set ($VI = 0.25$).

Forecast Importance. The importance of the forecast for intelligence consumers was coded as “low/moderate” (“lesser”) and “moderate/high” (“greater”) by the coder.

Forecasts of low/moderate importance were defined as follows:

The event being considered has negligible or limited impact on specific Canadian interests and has negligible or limited impact on the overall stability of the country/region in question or on international diplomacy, the global economy, or other important international issues (proliferation, illegal migration, etc.).

Forecasts of moderate/high importance were defined as follows:

The event being considered has either (i) substantial or very significant impact on Canadian diplomatic, security, economic, or consular interests or (ii) substantial or very significant impact on the overall stability of the country/region in question or on international diplomacy, the global economy, or other important international issues (proliferation, illegal migration, etc.).

There were 300 forecasts of lesser importance and 1,214 of greater importance.

Resolution Time Frame. Time frame information was extracted from intelligence reports and from specific judgments in those reports. In the former case, a report might set an approximate time frame over which its assessments were intended to apply. In some cases, individual forecasts also provided a time frame. For instance, the report might specify a 6-mo time frame overall, yet a specific forecast in that report might specify a longer (e.g., 1 y) or shorter (e.g., less than 1 mo) time frame. In cases where time frame information was presented for the overall report and for a specific forecast, the time frame pertaining to the forecast was used as the basis for coding that forecast. In the few cases where no explicit information about time frame was given, the coder inferred the time frame of the forecast from his knowledge of the assessment context.

Five coding categories were used, which corresponded to the most common time frame ranges covered by reports. These were (i) up to 1 mo ($n = 186$), (ii) 2–3 mo ($n = 217$), (iii) 3–6 mo ($n = 485$), (iv) 6 mo to 1 y ($n = 563$), and (v) more than 1 y ($n = 63$). For the analyses reported in this article, forecasts were grouped onto those that were either less than 6 mo (i.e., *i–iii*) or greater than 6 mo (i.e., *iv* and *v*). However, the original coding of time frame is preserved in [Dataset S1](#).

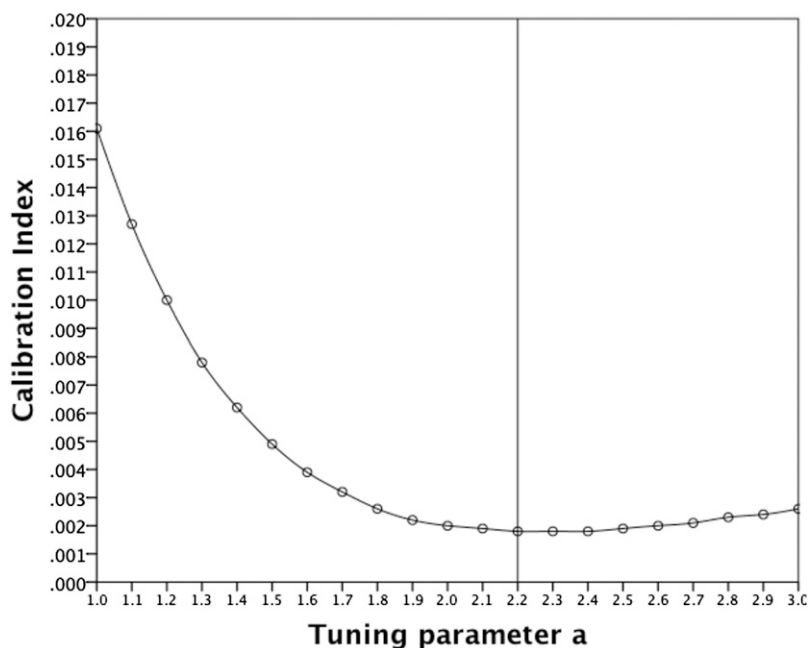


Fig. S1. Calibration index value as a function of tuning parameter, a , in Karmarkar transformation, t .

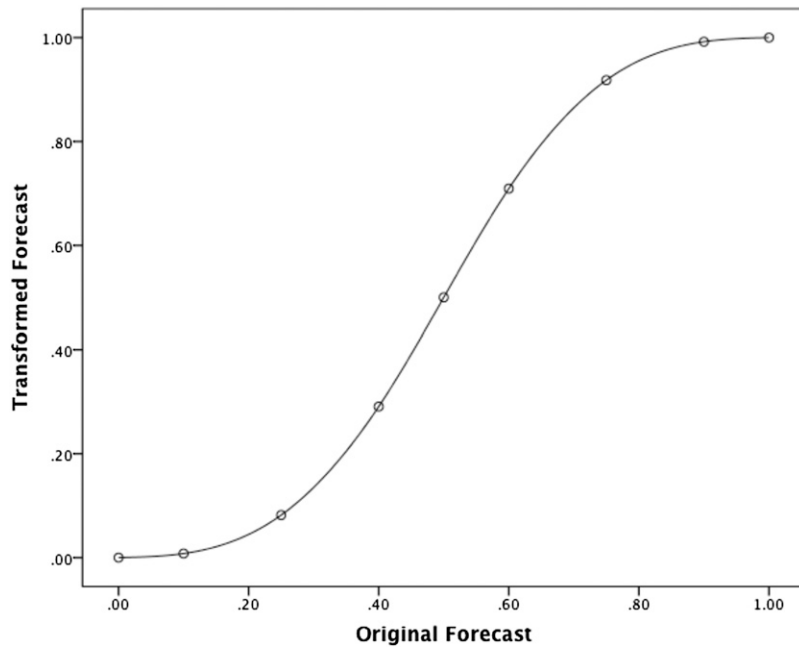


Fig. S2. Transformed forecast, t , as a function of original forecast, f_k .

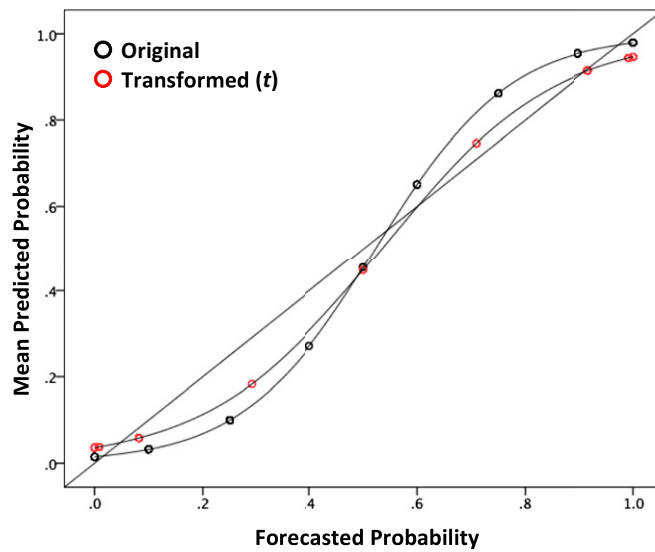


Fig. S3. Calibration curves before and after recalibration to t .

Other Supporting Information Files

[Dataset S1 \(XLS\)](#)