# Introducing the Econ-ARK: Economics "Algorithmic Repository and toolKit"

Generic Presentation

May 23, 2018

State-of-the-art set of tools for:

State-of-the-art set of tools for:

Solving dynamic stochastic optimization problems

State-of-the-art set of tools for:

- Solving dynamic stochastic optimization problems
  - 'Hard' Bellman problems with uncertainty, 'kinks,' nonconvexities

#### State-of-the-art set of tools for:

- Solving dynamic stochastic optimization problems
  - 'Hard' Bellman problems with uncertainty, 'kinks,' nonconvexities
- Simulate behavior of populations of agents

2 / 15

Who, What, Why May 23, 2018

#### State-of-the-art set of tools for:

- Solving dynamic stochastic optimization problems
  - 'Hard' Bellman problems with uncertainty, 'kinks,' nonconvexities
- Simulate behavior of populations of agents
- Finding equilibria for markets/economies populated by such agents

#### Who Has Produced It?

Name	TLA	Affiliation
Christopher D Carroll	CDC	JHU, CFPB
David C Low	DCL	CFPB
Nathan M Palmer	NMP	OFR
Matthew N White	MNW	UDel, CFPB
Alex Kaufman	ABK	$CFPB \to ? \; (Timbuktu?)$
Jiaxiong Yao	JXY	JHU  o IMF

Nothing herein may be interpreted as reflecing opinions of

CFPB - United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

JHU - Johns Hopkins University

IMF - International Monetary Fund

OFR - Office of Financial Research, U.S. Treasury

UDel - University of Delaware

Just Received Big Grant from Alfred P. Sloan Foundation!

Three Years

#### Just Received Big Grant from Alfred P. Sloan Foundation!

#### Three Years

• Hire Programmers, RA's, Open Source Project Managers, etc etc

 Who, What, Why
 Who
 May 23, 2018
 4 / 15

Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit
  - HARK!

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit
  - HARK!
- Structural Micro Models (e.g., labor, health)

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit
  - HARK!
- Structural Micro Models (e.g., labor, health)
- IO models with equilibrim between consumer agents and firm agents

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit
  - HARK!
- Structural Micro Models (e.g., labor, health)
- IO models with equilibrim between consumer agents and firm agents
  - Unlike Noah's, our ARK can hold more than two of each kind!

- Heterogeneous Agent Macro Models
  - Original name: Heterogeneous Agent Resources and toolKit
  - HARK!
- Structural Micro Models (e.g., labor, health)
- 10 models with equilibrim between consumer agents and firm agents
  - Unlike Noah's, our ARK can hold more than two of each kind!
  - Ultimate goal: Get examples on the ARK of all types of animal (model)

- Micro Structural Modeling 2017  $\approx$  Econometrics circa 1970
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this
- In practice:

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this
- In practice:
  - Each paper is hand-crafted work of art involving years of work

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this
- In practice:
  - Each paper is hand-crafted work of art involving years of work
    - Impenetrable spaghetti code, derived from generations of copy-and-paste

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this
- In practice:
  - Each paper is hand-crafted work of art involving years of work
    - Impenetrable spaghetti code, derived from generations of copy-and-paste
  - Progress very slow

- **1** Micro Structural Modeling  $2017 \approx \text{Econometrics circa } 1970$ 
  - 1970 econometrics: Write your own matrix inversion package!
  - 2017 structural: Write your own numerical convergence alogrithms
- 2 In principle, we know how to do this
- In practice:
  - Each paper is hand-crafted work of art involving years of work
    - Impenetrable spaghetti code, derived from generations of copy-and-paste
  - Progress very slow
  - Confidence is not very high

Make it *much* easier:

Make it much easier:

• To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling

#### Make it *much* easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)

#### Make it much easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)
- To compare models to each other

#### Make it *much* easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)
- To compare models to each other
- To add new capabilities

#### Make it *much* easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)
- To compare models to each other
- To add new capabilities
- To mix-and-match components/modules/agent types

#### Make it *much* easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)
- To compare models to each other
- To add new capabilities
- To mix-and-match components/modules/agent types

#### Make it *much* easier:

- To get started doing structural Heterogeneous Agent modeling
- To teach (with hands-on, problem-set-assignable exercises)
- To compare models to each other
- To add new capabilities
- To mix-and-match components/modules/agent types

Remove the excuse 'Structural model was not worth the effort'

# Why Are Policy Institutions So Interested?

#### Who?

• Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

 U.S. NEC Chair Larry Blanchard (2016), Fed Chair Janet Blanchard (2016), former IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard (2016), ECB Governing Board Member Benoit Blanchard (2016), Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Blanchard (2016), etc etc

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

- U.S. NEC Chair Larry Blanchard (2016), Fed Chair Janet Blanchard (2016), former IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard (2016), ECB Governing Board Member Benoit Blanchard (2016), Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Blanchard (2016), etc etc
- Heterogeneity (say, between borrowers and lenders) desperately needed

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

- U.S. NEC Chair Larry Blanchard (2016), Fed Chair Janet Blanchard (2016), former IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard (2016), ECB Governing Board Member Benoit Blanchard (2016), Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Blanchard (2016), etc etc
- Heterogeneity (say, between borrowers and lenders) desperately needed

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

- U.S. NEC Chair Larry Blanchard (2016), Fed Chair Janet Blanchard (2016), former IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard (2016), ECB Governing Board Member Benoit Blanchard (2016), Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Blanchard (2016), etc etc
- Heterogeneity (say, between borrowers and lenders) desperately needed

Policymaking = Applied Theory. Options:

Informal, intuitive, "wetware" theory

#### Who?

- Participation: CFPB, OFR, IMF
- Interest From: FRB, ECB, BLS

RA models unable to address key questions in Great Recession

- U.S. NEC Chair Larry Blanchard (2016), Fed Chair Janet Blanchard (2016), former IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard (2016), ECB Governing Board Member Benoit Blanchard (2016), Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Blanchard (2016), etc etc
- Heterogeneity (say, between borrowers and lenders) desperately needed

Policymaking = Applied Theory. Options:

- Informal, intuitive, "wetware" theory
- Pormal, structural, "software" theory

# Why? Welfare Analysis With Heterogeneity

Sensible cost-benefit analysis requires:

• Estimates of distribution of heterogeneous outcomes

# Why? Welfare Analysis With Heterogeneity

Sensible cost-benefit analysis requires:

- Estimates of distribution of heterogeneous outcomes
- Utility or other weighting of those outcomes

# Why? Welfare Analysis With Heterogeneity

Sensible cost-benefit analysis requires:

- Estimates of distribution of heterogeneous outcomes
- Utility or other weighting of those outcomes
- → Structure

Who, What, Why May 23, 2018 9 / 15

• Has been done already in many other scientific/technical fields

- Has been done already in many other scientific/technical fields
  - AstroPy

- Has been done already in many other scientific/technical fields
  - AstroPy
  - Statistics: 'R' and the Journal of Statistical Software

- Has been done already in many other scientific/technical fields
  - AstroPy
  - Statistics: 'R' and the Journal of Statistical Software
  - Many open-source resources in other sci/tech fields

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

Invention of 'the experiment'

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

### Right explanation:

Creation of community of scholars

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

### Right explanation:

- Creation of community of scholars
- ... whose methods and results were 'open source'

#### Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

### Right explanation:

- Creation of community of scholars
- ... whose methods and results were 'open source'
- ... who critcized and improved and debugged each other

#### Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

### Right explanation:

- Creation of community of scholars
- ... whose methods and results were 'open source'
- ... who critcized and improved and debugged each other

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

#### Right explanation:

- Creation of community of scholars
- ... whose methods and results were 'open source'
- ... who critcized and improved and debugged each other

### Alchemy → Chemistry

Wrong explanations for the Scientific Revolution:

- Invention of 'the experiment'
- Invention of the printing press
- ...

#### Right explanation:

- Creation of community of scholars
- ... whose methods and results were 'open source'
- ... who critcized and improved and debugged each other

### Alchemy → Chemistry

17th and 18th century version of github.com!

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration
- Version Control

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration
- Version Control
- Object-Oriented Programming (Python!)

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration
- Version Control
- Object-Oriented Programming (Python!)
- Integrated Development Environments

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration
- Version Control
- Object-Oriented Programming (Python!)
- Integrated Development Environments
- Apache License

Suite of powerful modern tools developed by software engineers:

- Almost-Automatic Integrated Documentation
- Robust Built-In Testing
- Continuous Integration
- Version Control
- Object-Oriented Programming (Python!)
- Integrated Development Environments
- Apache License
- ...



A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

• CFPB - Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority
  - Hired MNW (leave of absence from UDel) To Create It

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority
  - Hired MNW (leave of absence from UDel) To Create It
- Central Banks

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority
  - Hired MNW (leave of absence from UDel) To Create It
- Central Banks
  - So far: Fed (Board and Banks), ECB, BoE, RBA, RBNZ

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority
  - Hired MNW (leave of absence from UDel) To Create It
- Central Banks
  - So far: Fed (Board and Banks), ECB, BoE, RBA, RBNZ
- IMF

A lot of enthusiasm from deep-pocketed policy institutions

- CFPB Lion's Share of the Credit For Getting Here
  - Hired CDC As Chief Economist
    - On Specific Premise that Toolkit Would Be Priority
  - Hired MNW (leave of absence from UDel) To Create It
- Central Banks
  - So far: Fed (Board and Banks), ECB, BoE, RBA, RBNZ
- IMF
- OFR

### Browse without installing:

• Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark

### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:

### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it

### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at <a href="http://github.com/econ-ark">http://github.com/econ-ark</a>
  - Contains all "stable" code

#### Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

#### Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

#### Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed
- Install the 'econ-ark' package:

 Who, What, Why
 Where
 May 23, 2018
 14 / 15

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

#### Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed
- Install the 'econ-ark' package:

 Who, What, Why
 Where
 May 23, 2018
 14 / 15

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed
- Install the 'econ-ark' package:

Run notebooks on your own computer:

Install Jupyter

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed
- Install the 'econ-ark' package:

Run notebooks on your own computer:

Install Jupyter

#### Browse without installing:

- Browse on our webpage at econ-ark.org
- Browse our code at http://github.com/econ-ark
  - Contains all "stable" code

Install 'econ-ark' on your computer:

- If you don't have Python 2.7 on your computer, get it:
  - On Mac or Linux to download and install it
  - On Windows
- Make sure you have pip installed
- Install the 'econ-ark' package:

Run notebooks on your own computer:

Install Jupyter

Run our demonstration notebooks using MyBinder

### References I

- BLANCHARD, OLIVIER (2016): "Do DSGE Models Have a Future?," Discussion paper, Petersen Institute for International Economics, Available at <a href="https://piie.com/system/files/documents/pb16-11.pdf">https://piie.com/system/files/documents/pb16-11.pdf</a>.
- COEURE, BENOIT (2013): "The relevance of household-level data for monetary policy and financial stability analysis," .
- HALDANE, ANDY (2016): "The Dappled World," Discussion paper, Bank of England, Available at http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/speeches/2016/937.aspx.
- SUMMERS, LAWRENCE H. (2011): "Larry Summers and Martin Wolf on New Economic Thinking," Financial Times interview, <a href="http://larrysummers.com/commentary/speeches/brenton-woods-speech/">http://larrysummers.com/commentary/speeches/brenton-woods-speech/</a>.
- Yellen, Janet (2016): "Macroeconomic Research After the Crisis," Available at <a href="https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/yellen20161014a.htm">https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/yellen20161014a.htm</a>.