# Introduction Markdown

Jan Boone

Dept. of Economics, Tilburg University

# Introduction

## this lecture

- in this part, we look at
  - markdown
  - pandoc
  - atom

Latex

## latex vs markdown

- ▶ Latex is great!
- ▶ markdown does not compete with latex when writing a paper or PhD thesis
- ▶ however,
  - ▶ when writing a short note (say, assignment or referee report), latex is a bit heavy handed
  - ▶ latex is geared towards pdf; markdown is a lot more flexible, e.g. export to html
  - ▶ markdown to write your first notes (e.g. on a paper), then you convert to latex
  - ▶ creating presentations in latex is . . . horrendous (and we don't want to talk about Office at all)
  - ▶ jupyter notebooks allow you to explain your code with markdown, results in something like this

Installation

## what you need

- ▶ markdown: nothing
- ▶ pandoc: go to pandoc website
- ▶ an editor, e.g. atom
  - ▶ you can use editors like atom and emacs also for latex and lots of other things
  - ▶ please don't use Scientific Workplace (or any other 'wysiwyg' editor); it is easy at the start, but you will regret such a choice for the rest of your life . . .

# markdown

## simple!

- ▶ markdown allows you to create structure in a simple way
- ▶ much simpler than latex and more readable in source file
- ▶ especially when making presentations this is very useful

- examples are:

```
this is a heading
=================


subheading
----------


or when doing a presentation:


new slide
---------


* first bullet
* second bullet
```

▶ math you type as in latex

* $x^2$, $\beta$, $\sqrt{9}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\bar x$

▶ This yields:
▶ $x^2, \beta, \sqrt{9}, \frac{1}{2}, \bar{x}$

## pandoc

- ▶ this is where the magic happens
- ▶ you need to be able to work with shell/terminal/command prompt (which is useful for latex as well)
- ▶ with pandoc you can convert markdown files into many other file formats
- ▶ pandoc website contains examples of how to convert from one file format into another
- ▶ these commands can be quite elaborate

▶ the command to turn the markdown version of this
  presentation into an html file is given by

```
pandoc -s --mathjax --slide-level 2 --toc --toc-depth=1 -t
```

▶ if you are really addicted to latex beamer, then do:

```
pandoc --slide-level 2 --toc --toc-depth=1 -t beamer markdc
```

- have fun using pandoc!