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README

# SPEC: RL INVESTOR (PPO + ICM) with Epstein-Zin Preferences + Learnable Fractional Differencing

A self-contained, implementation-ready specification. No code included. All math, shapes, distributions, rewards, targets, and losses are explicit.

## 0) PURPOSE & SCOPE

This document **replaces CRRA** with **Epstein–Zin (EZ)** recursive preferences and **adds a Learnable Fractional Differencing (FracDiff) layer** in the feature pipeline, while preserving the **PPO + ICM** training stack and environment mechanics. It is **drop-in**: policy parameterization, buffers, rollout loop, exact log-probabilities, and PPO machinery remain intact. Only the **preference aggregator** (reward/value semantics) and **feature memory module** (FracDiff) change.

### What stays the same (do not touch):

- Time/indexing, assets, returns, risk-free, ~~turnover/transaction cost~~, budget identity.
- Actor heads (consumption squashed Gaussian; ~~risky weights Dirichlet/softmax~~), exact log-prob math. (No more portfolio optimization)
- Critic backbone mechanics (but we output two EZ heads; see §5).
- ICM encoder/forward (and optional inverse) and curiosity reward wiring.
- PPO: ratio, clipping, GAE, epochs/minibatching, entropy, optimizers.
- Data split, standardization, rollout collection, buffer contents.

### What changes:

1. **Utility/Value**: CRRA is replaced by **Epstein–Zin** with a numerically stable target in (z)-space (§4–§6).
2. **Features**: Insert **Learnable FracDiff** over returns before feature construction (§3).

## 1) Core definitions (time, single risky asset, wealth, consumption)

We now consider a **single risky asset** (S&P) and remove portfolio optimization entirely.

### 1.1 Time and assets

- Discrete time ( $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, T - 1$ ).
- One risky asset with **gross** return ( $R_{t+1} \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ) between ( $t$ ) and ( $t + 1$ ).
- No explicit risk-free asset and no portfolio weights – all *unconsumed* wealth is automatically invested in the risky asset.

### 1.2 Wealth, consumption, normalization

- Wealth at start of step ( $t$ ): ( $W_t > 0$ ).
- Consumption fraction (action): ( $c_t \in (0, 1)$ ); **dollar consumption** ( $C_t := c_t \cdot W_t$ ).
- Running max wealth ( $M_t := \max_{0 \leq \tau \leq t} W_\tau$ ); normalized wealth ( $\tilde{W}_t := W_t / M_t \in (0, 1]$ ).

### 1.3 Budget identity (wealth transition)

In the simplified world, after consuming ( $C_t = c_t W_t$ ), the remaining wealth ( $(1 - c_t)W_t$ ) is fully invested in the risky asset, which realizes a gross return ( $R_{t+1}$ ) over ( $[t, t + 1]$ ).

The **wealth transition** is

$$([W_{t+1} = (1 - c_t)W_t R_{t+1} .])$$

We may optionally clip  $(W_{t+1})$  below by a small floor ( $\varepsilon_W > 0$ ) for numerical stability. Running max wealth is updated as

$$([M_{t+1} := \max(M_t, W_{t+1}) .])$$

## 2) OBSERVATIONS, FEATURES, STATE (BASELINE PIPELINE)

### 2.1 Observables at time $(t)$

- $(W_t)$  and a causal feature vector  $(x_t \in R^d)$  built **only** from data  $(\leq t)$ .
- Standardize  $(x_t)$  via train-set  $((\mu, \sigma))$  to  $(\tilde{x}_t)$  (store  $(\mu, \sigma)$  from training only).

### 2.2 State to networks

- **State:**  $(s_t := \text{concat}(\tilde{W}_t, \tilde{x}_t) \in R^{1+d+n})$  (fixed order).

At time  $(t)$  the agent observes:

- Normalized wealth  $(\tilde{W}_t = W_t / M_t)$ .
- A standardized feature vector  $(\tilde{x}_t \in R^d)$ , built from the FracDiff pipeline and other signals, using only information up to time  $(t)$ .

The **state** fed to the policy and critic is

$$(s_t := \text{concat}(\tilde{W}_t, \tilde{x}_t) \in R^{1+d} .)$$

There is no  $(w_{t-1})$  term in the state any more, since there is no portfolio decision.

## 3) Learnable Fractional Differencing (returns-domain feature module)

### 3.1 Goal & parameter

Learn a memory depth  $(d_{\text{target}} \in [d_{\text{min}}, d_{\text{max}}])$  (e.g.,  $([0, 1])$ ) that controls the fractional differencing of returns to **capture long memory** while promoting **stationarity**.

### 3.2 Placement in pipeline

- Input raw **log-returns** per asset:  $(r_t \in R^n)$  (or windows).
- Apply a FracDiff operator with effective exponent  $(d_{\text{eff}})$ :
  - **Mode "direct"**: apply  $((1 - L)^{d_{\text{target}}})$  to returns.
  - **Mode "price\_equiv"**: apply  $((1 - L)^{d_{\text{target}} - 1})$  to returns (equivalent to price fracdiff of  $(d_{\text{target}})$  without reconstructing prices).

- Truncate the kernel to length ( $K$ ) (auto-chosen from ( $d_{\text{eff}}$ ) and a tolerance). Outputs lose the first ( $K$ ) steps.

### 3.3 State augmentation & alignment

- Build usual statistics **from** the FD output (lags, MAs, vol, PCA, cross-sectional transforms).
- **Shift** all time-aligned targets by ( $K$ ) (drop first ( $K$ ) steps) so shapes match.
- Optionally append ( $\text{stop}_{\text{grad}}(d_{\text{target}})$ ) and ( $K$ ) as scalar features so the policy/critic can adapt to memory depth.

### 3.4 Regularization & constraints

- Keep ( $d_{\text{target}}$ ) within bounds via a sigmoid reparameterization.
- Add a small L2 penalty if ( $d_{\text{target}}$ ) sticks to the bounds.
- Optional "whiteness" regularizer: penalize low-lag autocorrelation of FD residuals to avoid over-memory.

Everything backpropagates end-to-end because kernel weights are differentiable functions of ( $d_{\text{eff}}$ ).

## 4) Epstein–Zin Preferences (replace CRRA)

Let ( $\beta \in (0, 1)$ ) be the subjective discount, ( $\gamma > 0$ ) risk aversion, ( $\psi > 0$ ) intertemporal elasticity (EIS). Define transforms:

- ( $z(V) := V^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}$ ) (EIS/consumption space)
- ( $y(V) := V^{1-\gamma}$ ) (risk space)

### 4.1 EZ aggregator (Kreps–Porteus form)

For lifetime utility ( $V_t$ ) and consumption ( $C_t$ ):

$$([V_t = \left[ (1 - \beta)C_t^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}} + \beta \left( E_t[V_{t+1}^{1-\gamma}] \right)^{\frac{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}{1-\gamma}} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}}.])$$

### 4.2 Practical RL parameterization (stable targets)

We train in ( $z$ )-space with a two-head critic predicting ( $\hat{z}_t \approx z(V_t)$ ) and ( $\hat{y}_t \approx y(V_t)$ ).

- **External (shaped) reward:** ( $r_t^{\text{ext}} := (1 - \beta)C_t^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}$ ).
- **One-step bootstrap target for ( $z$ ):**

$$([T_t^{(z)} := (1 - \beta)C_t^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}} + \beta \left( \hat{y}_{t+1} \right)^{\frac{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}{1-\gamma}}.])$$

- **Value loss:** ( $L_{\text{value}} := \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{z}_t - T_t^{(z)} \right)^2$ ).

- Optional **consistency** regularizer: encourage  $(\hat{y}_t \approx (\hat{z}_t)^{\frac{1-\gamma}{1-\psi}})$  with a small weight.

**Degeneracies:** ( $\psi \rightarrow 1$ ) approaches additive/separable (log-like); ( $\gamma \rightarrow 1$ ) reduces risk curvature; recipe reduces toward CRRA smoothly.

## 5) ACTOR & CRITIC (Z-functions, distributions, exact log-probs)

We now have a **single action dimension**: the consumption rate ( $c_t \in (0, 1)$ ).

### Dimensions and symbols used throughout this section

- State at time ( $t$ ): ( $s_t \in R^{1+d+n}$ ) is the concatenation ( $s_t := \text{concat}(\tilde{W}_t, \tilde{x}_t)$ ), where ( $\tilde{W}_t = W_t / M_t$ ) and ( $\tilde{x}_t$ ) is the standardized feature vector.
- Consumption fraction (action component): ( $c_t \in (0, 1)$ ). Dollar consumption: ( $C_t := c_t W_t$ ).
- Hyperparameters for heads: ( $\sigma_{\min} > 0$ ) (std floor).

### 5.1 Actor ( $f_\theta$ )

The actor takes ( $s_t \in R^{1+d}$ ) and passes it through a shared backbone (e.g. an MLP) to produce parameters for a scalar Gaussian in a latent space:

- Pre-squash Normal parameters: ( $[\mu_c(s_t) \in R, \quad \ell_c(s_t) \in R, \quad \sigma_c(s_t) := \text{softplus}(\ell_c) + \sigma_{\min} .]$ )
- Sample pre-squash variable ( $[y_c \sim N(\mu_c(s_t), \sigma_c(s_t)^2) .]$ )
- Squash to the action space via the sigmoid: ( $[c_t := \sigma(y_c) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-y_c}} \in (0, 1) .]$ )
- Deterministic (evaluation) action is given by ( $[c_t^{\text{det}} := \sigma(\mu_c(s_t)) .]$ )

There is no risky-weights head any more; ( $w_t$ ) is implicitly equal to (1) on the single asset.

### 5.2 Exact log-probability of ( $c_t$ )

Let

$$([y_c = \text{logit}(c_t) = \log \frac{c_t}{1 - c_t} .])$$

The log-probability under the squashed Gaussian is

$$([\log p(c_t | s_t) = \log N(y_c, \mu_c(s_t), \sigma_c(s_t)^2) - \log(c_t(1 - c_t)) .])$$

where the first term is the Gaussian log-density of ( $y_c$ ) and the second term is the log-Jacobian of the sigmoid.

This ( $\log p(c_t | s_t)$ ) is the **only** action log-probability used in PPO here.

### 5.3 Critic ( $g_\psi$ ) (two heads for EZ)

The critic takes ( $s_t$ ) and outputs two scalars:

- ( $\hat{z}_t \approx z(V_t)$ ) with ( $z(V) := V^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}}$ ).
- ( $\hat{y}_t \approx y(V_t)$ ) with ( $y(V) := V^{1-\gamma}$ ). These are used to build the EZ bootstrap target and TD residual below.

## 6) ENVIRONMENT STEP (FULL SEQUENCE)

At time ( $t$ ), given state ( $s_t$ ) and sampled consumption rate ( $c_t$ ), the environment performs:

### 1. Consumption and wealth evolution

Dollar consumption:

$$([C_t = c_t W_t .])$$

Remaining wealth:

$$([W_t^{\text{after}} = (1 - c_t)W_t .])$$

Apply the risky asset gross return ( $R_{t+1}$ ):

$$([W_{t+1} = W_t^{\text{after}} R_{t+1} = (1 - c_t)W_t R_{t+1} .])$$

Optionally clip ( $W_{t+1} \geq \varepsilon_W$ ) if needed for numerical stability.

### 2. Running max and next state

$$([M_{t+1} = \max(M_t, W_{t+1}), \quad \tilde{W}_{t+1} = \frac{W_{t+1}}{M_{t+1}} .])$$

The feature pipeline (including FracDiff) produces the next standardized feature vector ( $\tilde{x}_{t+1}$ ) from market data up to time ( $t+1$ ).

The next state is

$$([s_{t+1} = \text{concat}(\tilde{W}_{t+1}, \tilde{x}_{t+1}) .])$$

### 3. Termination

Episodes end when ( $t = T - 1$ ) (or when data runs out).

### Wealth transition

- Gross growth factor:

$$([G_{t+1} := (1 - c_t) (R_f[t+1] + w_t^\top \tilde{R}[t+1]) - \kappa \|w_t - w_{t-1}\|_1 .])$$

- Next wealth: ( $W_{t+1} := W_t \cdot G_{t+1}$ ). Safety floor may clip ( $G_{t+1} \geq \varepsilon_g > 0$ ).

## 7) REWARDS (EXTERNAL EZ FLOW, INTRINSIC ICM)

We use the Epstein–Zin flow term for external reward and the Intrinsic Curiosity Module (ICM) to supply an intrinsic shaping signal.

### EZ parameters

- Discount ( $\beta \in (0, 1)$ )
- Risk aversion ( $\gamma > 0$ )
- Elasticity of intertemporal substitution (EIS) ( $\psi > 0$ )
- Consumption ( $C_t = c_t W_t$ )

### 7.1 External reward (EZ flow term in (z)-space)

The **external reward** at time ( $t$ ) is the EZ flow term in (z)–space, depending only on consumption:

$$([r_t^{\text{ext}} = (1 - \beta)C_t^{1 - \frac{1}{\psi}} = (1 - \beta)(c_t W_t)^{1 - \frac{1}{\psi}}.])$$

This is the main objective that encourages good consumption timing.

### 7.2 Intrinsic Curiosity Module (ICM) — complete specification

We define the ICM exactly and fully:

#### Network dimensions

Let:

- Feature dimension ( $d$ )
- State dimension ( $1 + d$ ) since state is ( $\text{concat}(\tilde{W}_t, \tilde{x}_t)$ )
- State-embedding dimension ( $m$ ) (e.g., 64)
- Hidden widths for ICM networks:
  - Encoder hidden width ( $E$ ) (e.g., 128)
  - Forward-model hidden width ( $F$ ) (e.g., 128)

Define the state encoder:

$$([\phi_\omega: R^{1+d} \rightarrow R^m.])$$

#### State encoder network

Given state ( $s_t \in R^{1+d}$ ):

$$([e1 = \text{GELU}(W_{e1}s_t + b_{e1}), \quad W_{e1} \in R^{E \times (1+d)} .])$$

$$([e2 = \text{GELU}(W_{e2}e1 + b_{e2}), \quad W_{e2} \in R^{E \times E} .])$$

$$([\phi(s_t) = W_{eo}e2 + b_{eo}, \quad W_{eo} \in R^{m \times E} .])$$

Define:

$$([\phi_t := \phi(s_t), \quad \phi_{t+1} := \phi(s_{t+1}) .])$$

## Action embedding (scalar action)

Because the action is **only** consumption ( $c_t \in (0, 1)$ ), we embed it as:

$$([y_c = \text{logit}(c_t) = \log \frac{c_t}{1 - c_t} .])$$

Then define:

$$([\psi(a_t) := \psi(c_t) := y_c \in R^1 .])$$

Dimensions: action embedding is 1-dimensional.

## Forward dynamics model

Maps  $((\phi(s_t), \psi(a_t)))$  into a prediction of  $(\phi(s_{t+1}))$ .

Input dimension to forward model:

$$([m + 1 .])$$

Forward model layers:

$$([u1 = \text{GELU}(W_{f1}, \text{concat}(\phi_t, \psi(c_t)) + b_{f1}), \quad W_{f1} \in R^{F \times (m+1)} .])$$

$$([u2 = \text{GELU}(W_{f2}u1 + b_{f2}), \quad W_{f2} \in R^{F \times F} .])$$

$$([\hat{\phi}_{t+1} := W_{fo}u2 + b_{fo}, \quad W_{fo} \in R^{m \times F} .])$$

There is **no inverse model** in the consumption-only version.

## Intrinsic reward

Given:

- Encoded next state  $(\phi_{t+1})$
- Predicted next state  $(\hat{\phi}_{t+1})$



The intrinsic reward is:

$$([r_t^{\text{int}} := \eta \left\| \phi_{t+1} - \hat{\phi}_{t+1} \right\|_2^2,])$$

with a small scale factor ( $\eta > 0$ ) (e.g.,  $(10^{-3})$  ).

## ICM losses

Forward loss:

$$([L_{\text{fwd}}(\omega) := \left\| \phi_{t+1} - \hat{\phi}_{t+1} \right\|_2^2 .])$$

Inverse loss:

$$([L_{\text{inv}} := 0])$$

since we removed portfolio weights and do not reconstruct ( $w_t$ ).

The action is 1-dimensional and directly known, so inverse dynamics is unnecessary.

Total ICM loss:

$$([L_{\text{ICM}} = L_{\text{fwd}} .])$$

## 7.3 Total reward used by PPO

$$(r_t := r_t^{\text{ext}} + r_t^{\text{int}}).$$

## 8) Advantages, EZ targets, and losses (consumption-only)

All variables used below are defined here or earlier sections.

### 8.1 EZ one-step target in ( $z$ )-space

We have two critic heads:

- ( $\hat{z}_t \approx z(V_t) := V_t^{1 - \frac{1}{\psi}}$ )
- ( $\hat{y}_t \approx y(V_t) := V_t^{1 - \gamma}$ )

The one-step EZ bootstrap target is:

$$([T_t^{(z)} = (1 - \beta)C_t^{1 - \frac{1}{\psi}} + \beta(\hat{y}_{t+1})^{\frac{1 - \frac{1}{\psi}}{1 - \gamma}} .])$$

All terms are fully defined:

- $(C_t = c_t W_t)$  is consumption
- $(\hat{y}_{t+1})$  comes from the critic applied to next state
- exponents come from EZ preference structure

## 8.2 Value loss (z-head)

$$([L_{\text{value}} = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{z}_t - T_t^{(z)})^2 .])$$

## 8.3 TD residual in (z)-space and GAE

Define the **combined reward**:

$$([r_t = r_t^{\text{ext}} + r_t^{\text{int}}])$$

and the **EZ temporal-difference residual**:

$$([\delta_t^{\text{EZ}} := r_t + \beta (T_t^{(z)} - r_t^{\text{ext}}) - \hat{z}_t .])$$

This matches the structure of the general EZ TD residual while incorporating intrinsic reward.

### Generalized Advantage Estimation (GAE)

Let  $(\lambda \in [0, 1])$  be the GAE parameter.

Compute the advantages by backward recursion:

$$([\tilde{A}_t = \delta_t^{\text{EZ}} + (\beta\lambda), \delta_{t+1}^{\text{EZ}} + (\beta\lambda)^2, \delta_{t+2}^{\text{EZ}} + \dots .])$$

Practical implementation uses backward iteration over a rollout.

We normalize  $(\tilde{A}_t)$  to mean 0 and variance 1 in each minibatch.

## 8.4 PPO clipped policy loss (consumption-only)

Let:

- $(\log \pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(c_t | s_t))$  be the stored behavior log-prob.
- $(\log \pi_{\theta}(c_t | s_t))$  be recomputed with the current actor.
- Importance ratio:

$$([r_t(\theta) := \exp (\log \pi_{\theta}(c_t | s_t) - \log \pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(c_t | s_t)) .])$$

- Clipping parameter  $(\varepsilon \in (0, 1))$ .

The PPO objective (to **minimize**) is:

$$([L_{\text{PPO}} = -E_t \left[ \min (r_t(\theta) \tilde{A}_t, \text{clip}(r_t(\theta), 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon) \tilde{A}_t) \right] .])$$

## 8.5 Entropy term (Gaussian action only)

The actor samples

$$([y_c \sim N(\mu_c(s_t), \sigma_c(s_t)^2)])$$

before applying the sigmoid.

Entropy of a Normal:

$$([H_c = \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi e \sigma_c^2) \cdot])$$

We encourage exploration by adding the entropy term:

$$([L_{\text{ent}} := -H_c \cdot])$$

There is no Dirichlet entropy here since we removed risky-weight allocations.

## 8.6 ICM loss

As defined in §7.2:

$$([L_{\text{ICM}} = L_{\text{fwd}} = \left\| \phi_{t+1} - \hat{\phi}_{t+1} \right\|_2^2 \cdot])$$

The inverse loss is zero in consumption-only and can be enabled later if desired.

## 8.7 Final training loss

Define scalar weighting hyperparameters:

- ( $c_v > 0$ ): value loss weight
- ( $\beta_{\text{ent}} > 0$ ): entropy loss weight
- ( $c_{\text{icm}} > 0$ ): curiosity loss weight

The full objective is:

$$([L_{\text{total}} = L_{\text{PPO}} + c_v L_{\text{value}} + \beta_{\text{ent}} L_{\text{ent}} + c_{\text{icm}} L_{\text{ICM}} \cdot])$$

# 9) TRAINING PROCEDURE (COLLECT → TARGETS → PPO)

## 9.1 Hyperparameters (additions/changes)

- **EZ**: choose ( $\gamma \in 5, 10$ ), ( $\psi \in 0.5, 1.0, 1.5$ ), ( $\beta \in [0.95, 0.999]$ ).
- **FracDiff**: ( $d_{\text{target}}$ ) init (0.3) – (0.5) within  $([0, 1])$ , tolerance ( $10^{-4}$ ), ( $K_{\text{max}} \in [1024, 4096]$ ) (match horizon).

- **RL:** keep PPO ( $\lambda$ ), clip, epochs, minibatch, lrs same initially.

## 9.2 Rollout collection (unchanged mechanics)

- Collect tuples  $((s_t, a_t = (c_t, w_t), r_t, s_{t+1}, \log \pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}))$  where  $(r_t)$  includes EZ flow + curiosity.
- Align time by dropping first  $(K)$  steps due to FracDiff.

## 9.3 Target building & PPO update

- For each step, compute  $(T_t^{(z)}), (\delta_t^{\text{EZ}})$ , GAE, and  $(z)$ -value loss.
- Recompute current  $(\log \pi_{\theta})$  exactly (§5.2); perform clipped PPO with entropy and ICM losses.
- After epochs, set  $(\theta_{\text{old}} \leftarrow \theta)$ .

## 9.4 Evaluation (deterministic)

- Use  $(c_t := \sigma(\mu_c)), (w_t := \alpha / \sum_i \alpha_i)$ .
- Recover EZ value via inverse transform for reporting:  $(\hat{V}_t = \hat{z}_t^{1/(1-\frac{1}{\psi})})$ .
- Report PnL, CAGR, MDD, Calmar, turnover, and  $(\hat{V}_0)$ .

# 10) DIAGNOSTICS, CHECKS, & ABALATIONS

- **EZ sanity:** as  $(\psi \rightarrow 1)$  or  $(\gamma \rightarrow 1)$ , curves and training behavior should smoothly approach separable/CRRRA.
- **Scale hygiene:** track  $(\hat{z}_t, \hat{y}_t)$  magnitudes; clamp/normalize if exploding.
- **FracDiff:** monitor learned  $(d_{\text{target}})$  trajectory; inspect ACF/PACF of FD outputs; avoid non-stationary drift.
- **Alignment:** verify all post-FD tensors drop the first  $(K)$  steps; shapes of policy/value/ICM batches match.
- **Ablations:** (i) turn off FracDiff (identity) to test EZ alone; (ii)  $(\psi)$  grid with fixed  $(\gamma)$ ; (iii) compare CRRRA vs EZ at matched  $(\gamma)$  with  $(\psi \approx 1)$ .

# 11) MINIMAL MIGRATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Expose  $(\gamma, \psi, \beta)$  in config; leave PPO hypers unchanged initially.
- ☐ Critic: switch to **two heads**  $((\hat{z}, \hat{y}))$ ; keep shared backbone.
- ☐ Reward pipe: compute  $(r_t^{\text{ext}} = (1 - \beta)C^{1-1/\psi})$ ; add curiosity as before  $\rightarrow (r_t)$ .
- ☐ Targets: build  $(T^{(z)})$  with next-state  $(\hat{y})$ ; compute  $(\delta^{\text{EZ}})$  and GAE in  $(z)$ -space.
- ☐ Insert **Learnable FracDiff** before feature builder; shift by  $(K)$ .
- ☐ Log  $(d_{\text{target}}, K)$ , ACF diagnostics, and  $(\hat{z}, \hat{y})$  summaries.

## 12) GLOSSARY

- $(C_t)$ : dollar consumption;  $(W_t)$ : wealth;  $(c_t)$ : consumption rate.
- $(\gamma)$ : risk aversion;  $(\psi)$ : EIS;  $(\beta)$ : discount.
- $(V_t)$ : EZ lifetime utility;  $(z(V) = V^{1-1/\psi})$ ;  $(y(V) = V^{1-\gamma})$ .
- $(d_{\text{target}})$ : fracdiff memory parameter;  $(K)$ : kernel truncation length.
- ICM: Intrinsic Curiosity Module;  $(\phi)$ : encoder;  $(f)$ : forward model.

## 13) TL;DR (one-screen summary)

- **Objective change:** CRRA  $\rightarrow$  Epstein–Zin with a two-head critic  $((\hat{z}, \hat{y}))$ , shaped external reward  $((1 - \beta)C^{1-1/\psi})$ , and a one-step  $(z)$ -target using  $(\hat{y}_{t+1})$ .
- **Feature change:** Insert **Learnable FracDiff** over returns; align time by kernel length  $(K)$ .



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