A Practitioner's Perspective

#### GUI Development

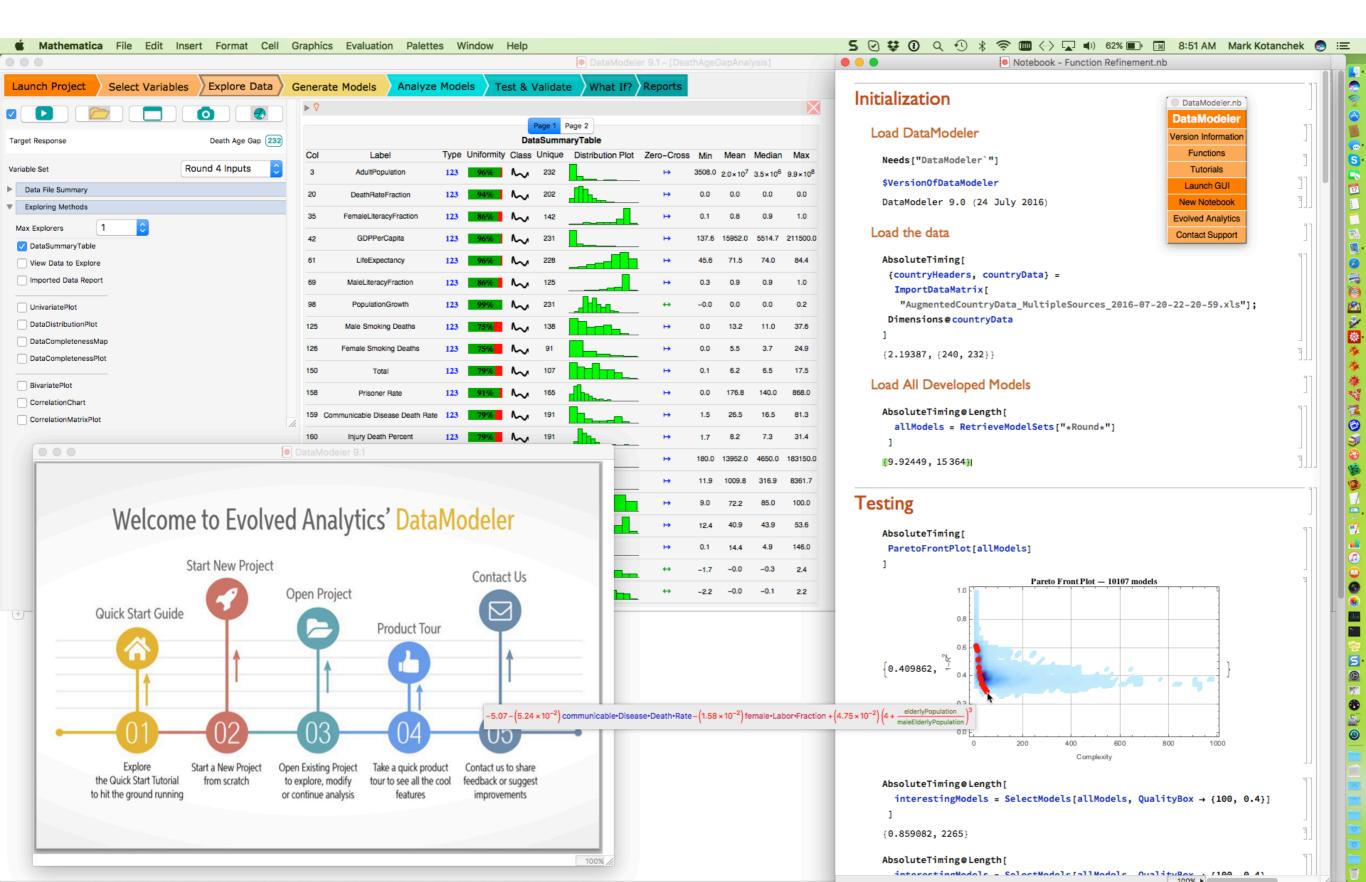
Mark Kotanchek Evolved Analytics LLC

Ariel Sepúlveda Pronto Analytics Inc.

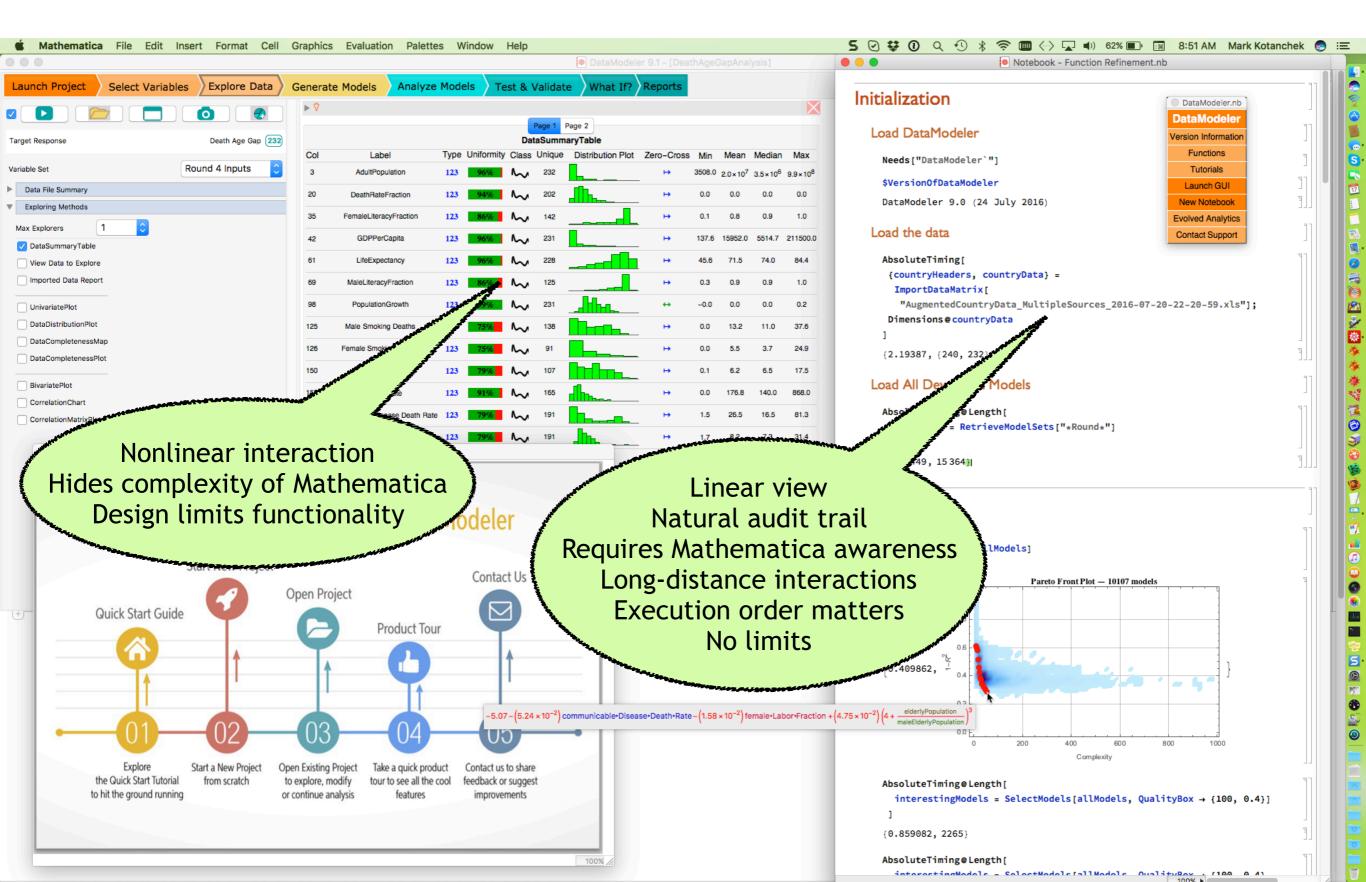
#### Abstract

- \* Although Manipulate is great for quick-and-dirty interactive interfaces, non-trivial interfaces require migrating towards DynamicModule and finer-grained control of the Dynamic evaluations. The Evolved Analytics' DataModeler GUI (Graphical User Interface) is one of the most sophisticated systems developed in 100% pure Mathematica but we have also developed other GUI systems which leverage Enterprise Mathematica to be able to provide clients with solutions which only require CDFPlayer and hide the complexity of the Wolfram Language.
- In this talk we will address the implementation best practices which have emerged over the years as well as some of the more subtle functional forms and option settings for dynamics and notebooks which contribute to success.

#### GUI vs. Notebook Interface



#### GUI vs. Notebook Interface



# Agenda

- Motivations
- Manipulate Advantages & Limitations
- GUI Layout Tools
- Development Environment
- Interface Elements
- Design Review of Deployed GUIs
- Dynamics
- Issues
- Deployment
- Best Practices
- IP Protection

# Why Build a GUI?

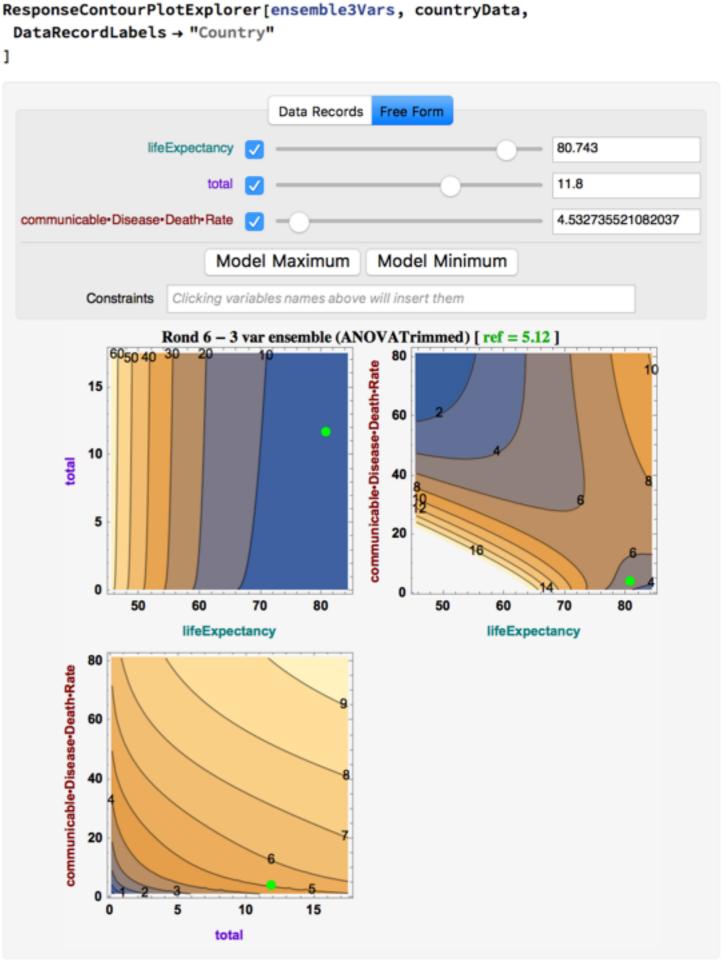
- Nonlinear Workflow
  - Iterative Analysis
  - Design option exploration
- Control the Environment
  - Hide Complexity
  - Constrain behaviors
- \* Ease-of-Use

A GUI can have a prohibitive advantage relative to the linear and no-rules nature of a conventional Mathematica notebook

No Mathematica knowledge required!

Credentials

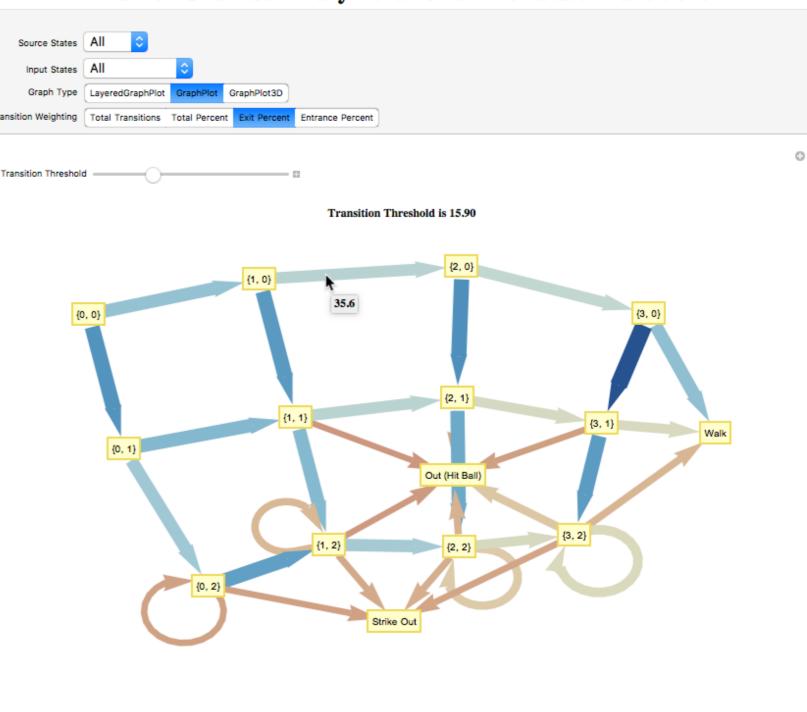
- \* Mark
  - DataModeler Response
     Explorers
  - Image Analyzer
  - Knitting Pattern Design
- \* Ariel
  - DataModeler GUI
  - BESTViewpoints
  - BEST DB Editor
  - OEE RADAR
  - consulting

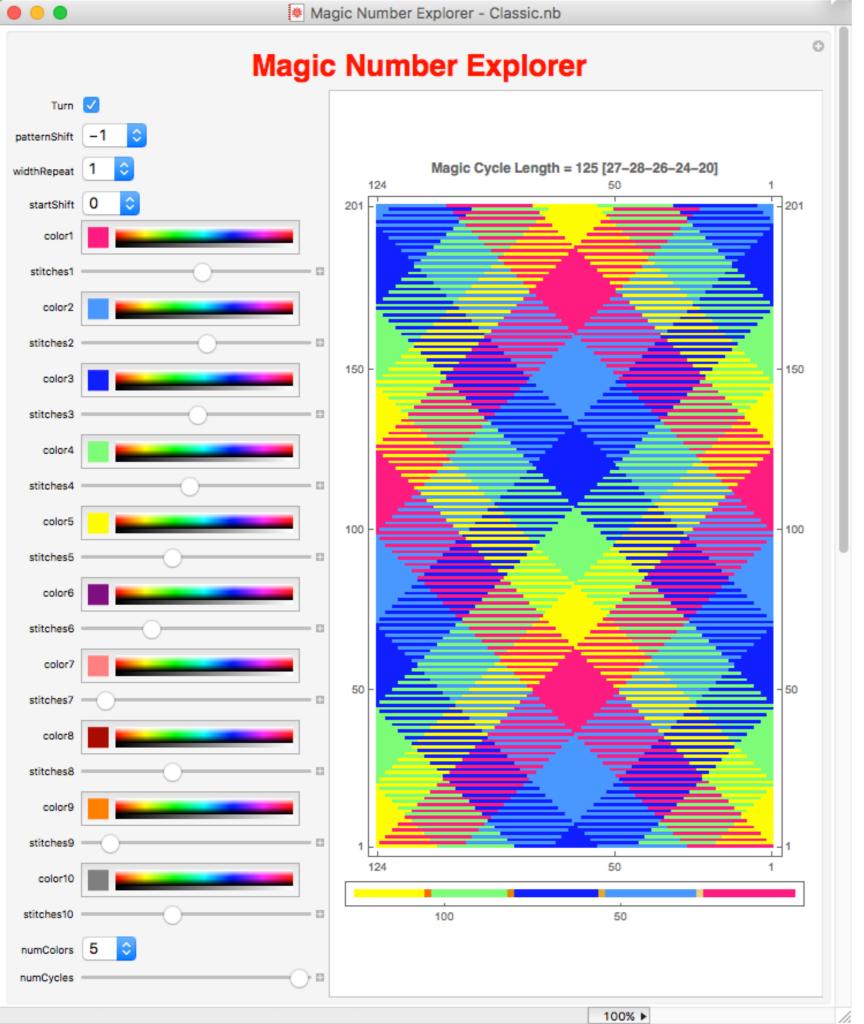


#### What's Great about Manipulate?

- Great for quickand-dirty interactive exploration
- Can achieve reasonably decent interfaces
- Intelligent defaults on behaviors

**Markov Chain Summary Behavior of Pitch State Transitions** 





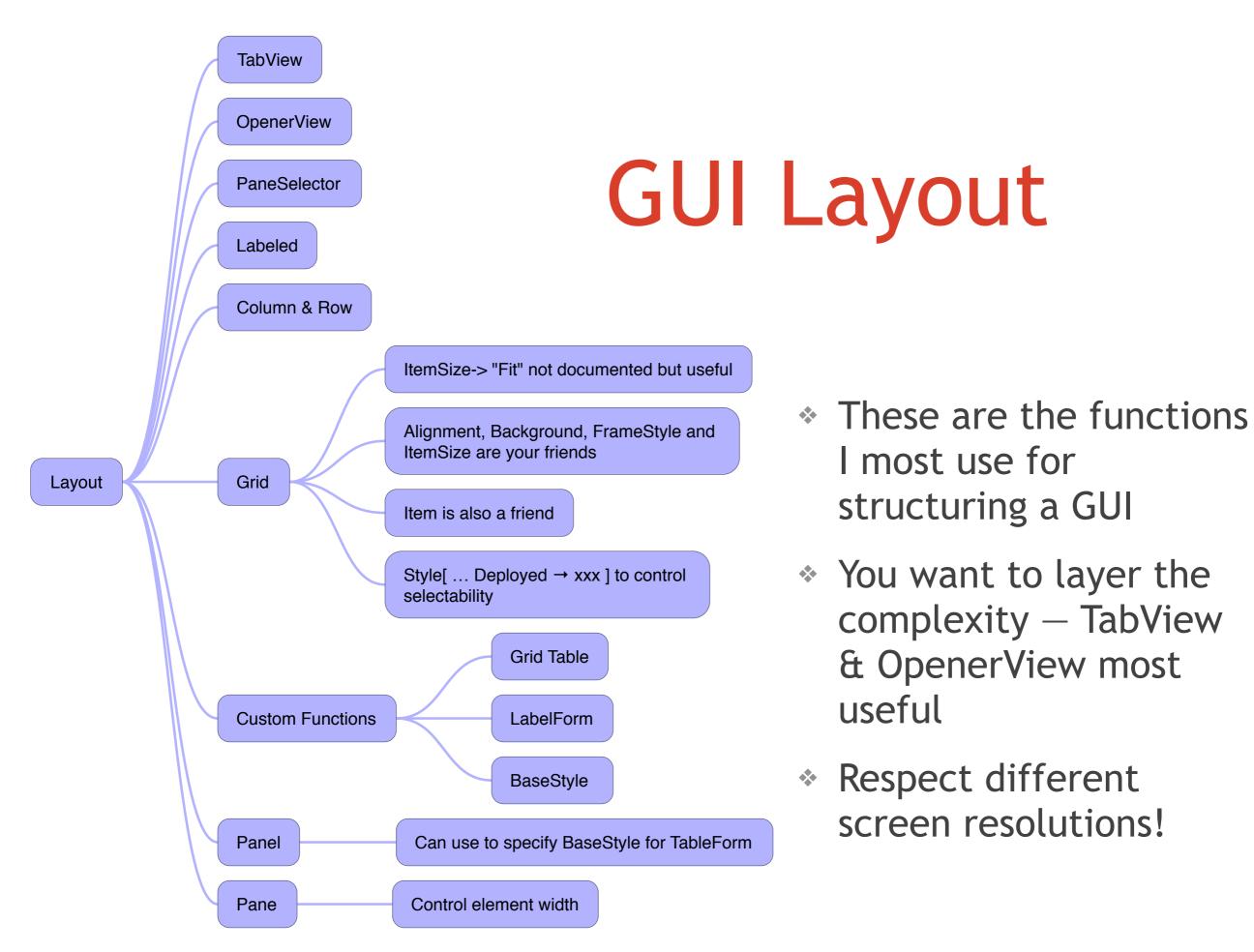
#### What's Wrong with Manipulate?

- Doesn't scale well to complicated interfaces
- Difficult to precisely control the firing of variable updates

### Manipulate is Handy!

((MorphologicalBinarize[#1, {0.5, 0.7}] &) [RemoveBackground[#1, {Background, Dark}]] &) [ImageEnhance[#1]] &	1st Processing	ImageEnhance	
turated Pilot – Set Point 2/Bottom 1/bottom1_comp.tif	2nd Processing	RemoveBackground	
The purposes of this	3rd Processing	MorphologicalBinarize	
interface was to help design an image analysis workflow	4th Processing	None	
<ul> <li>but option settings and</li> </ul>	5th Processing	None	
sequence are critical to success in image analysis!	Show Defined Fu	nction 🗸	
	▼ ImageClip Co	ntrols	
	ImageClip Threshold {0.9, 1.}		
	RidgeFilter Controls		
	RangeFilter Controls		
	▶ GradientFilter	GradientFilter Controls	
	Morphologica	MorphologicalBinarize Controls	
	Morphologica	MorphologicalComponents Controls	
	Morphologica	IPerimeter Controls	
	▶ ContourDetec	ContourDetect Controls	
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	LaplacianGaussianFilter Controls		
		▼ EdgeDetect Controls	
	Pixel Range	II 4	
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Openers are handy to			
Openers are handy to			
hide complexity			

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#### Development Environment

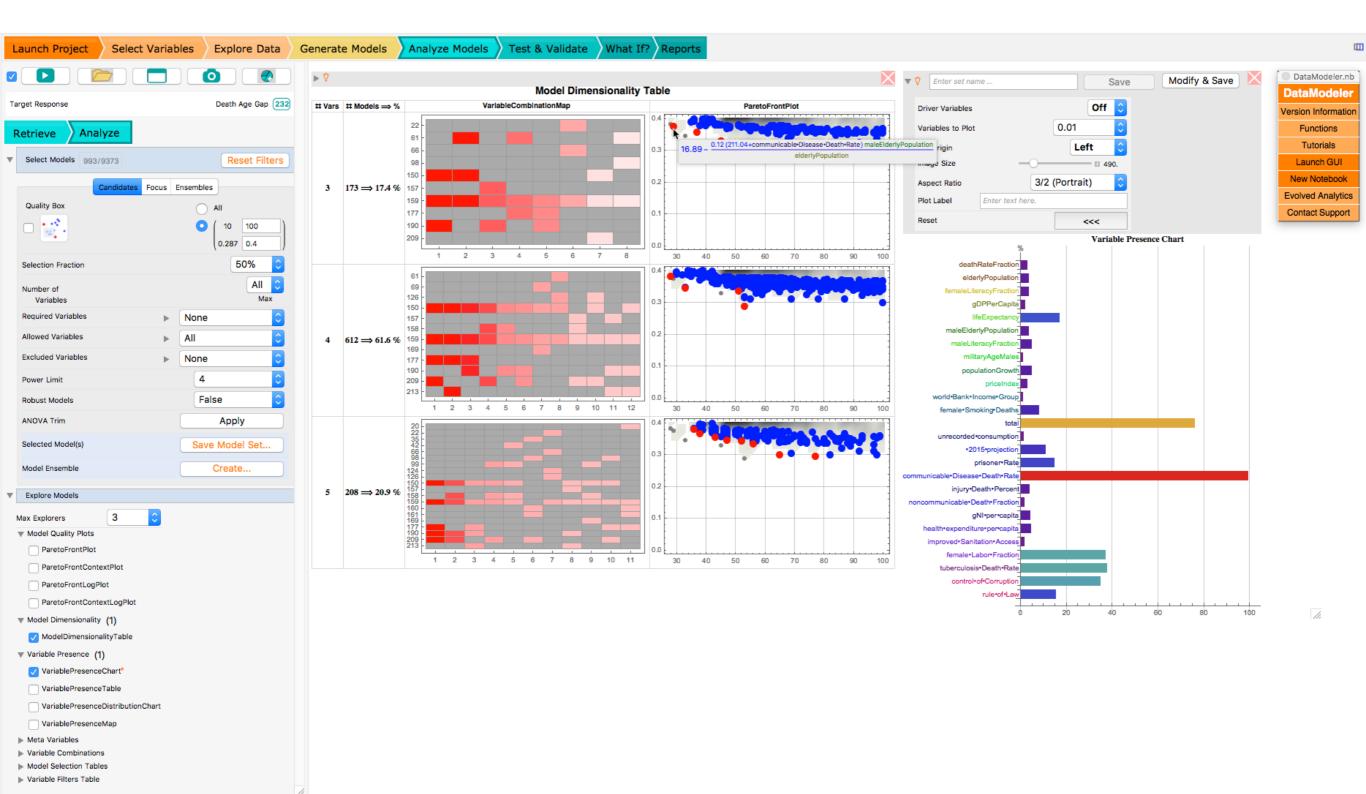
- \* GUIs are verbose & lots of lines are quickly generated
- \* Workbench, eventually, becomes important to managing the chaos
- Easily & safely killing out-ofcontrol Dynamics is a huge benefit
- Use descriptive and unambiguous variable names or you will hate life during maintenance
- Document functions as you go or you will regret it!
- Maintaining code style conventions is important

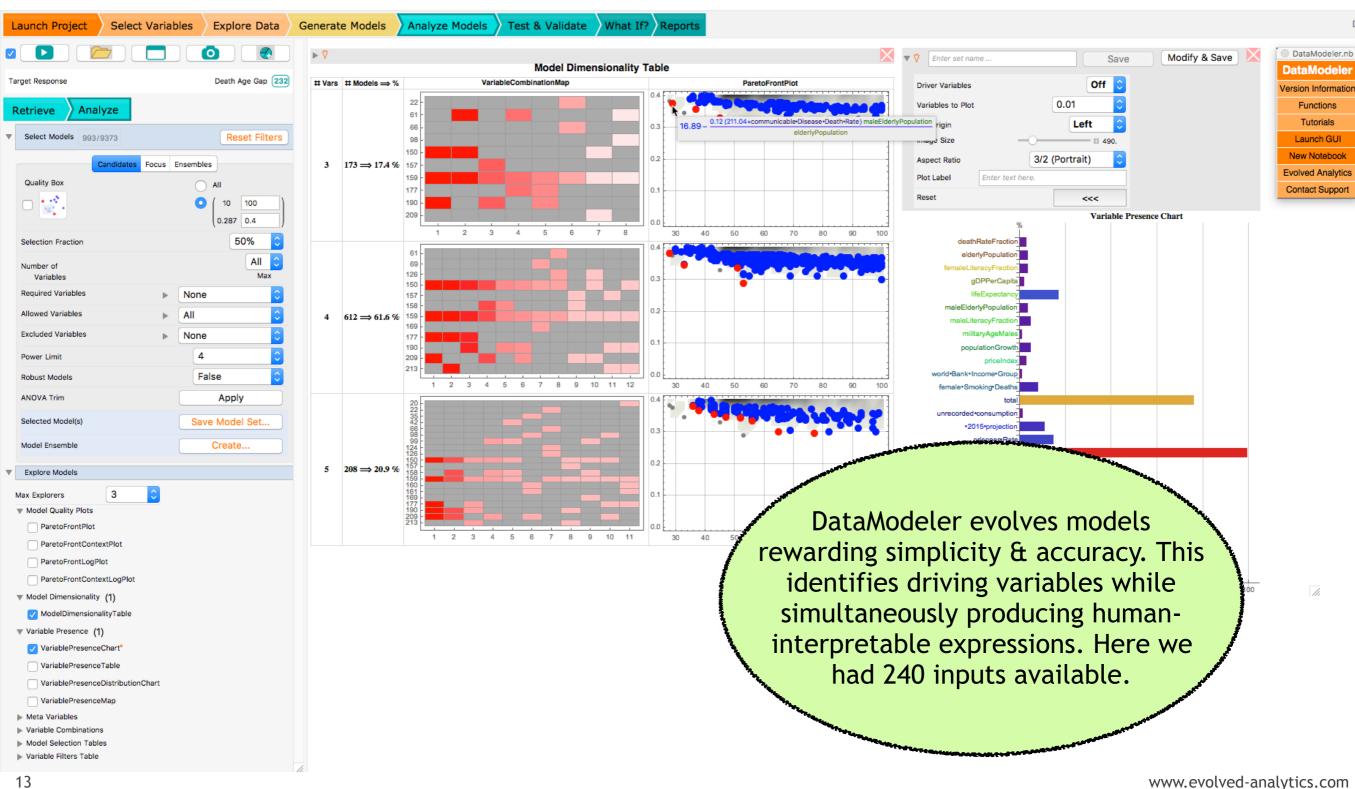
#### Myriad Controls are Available

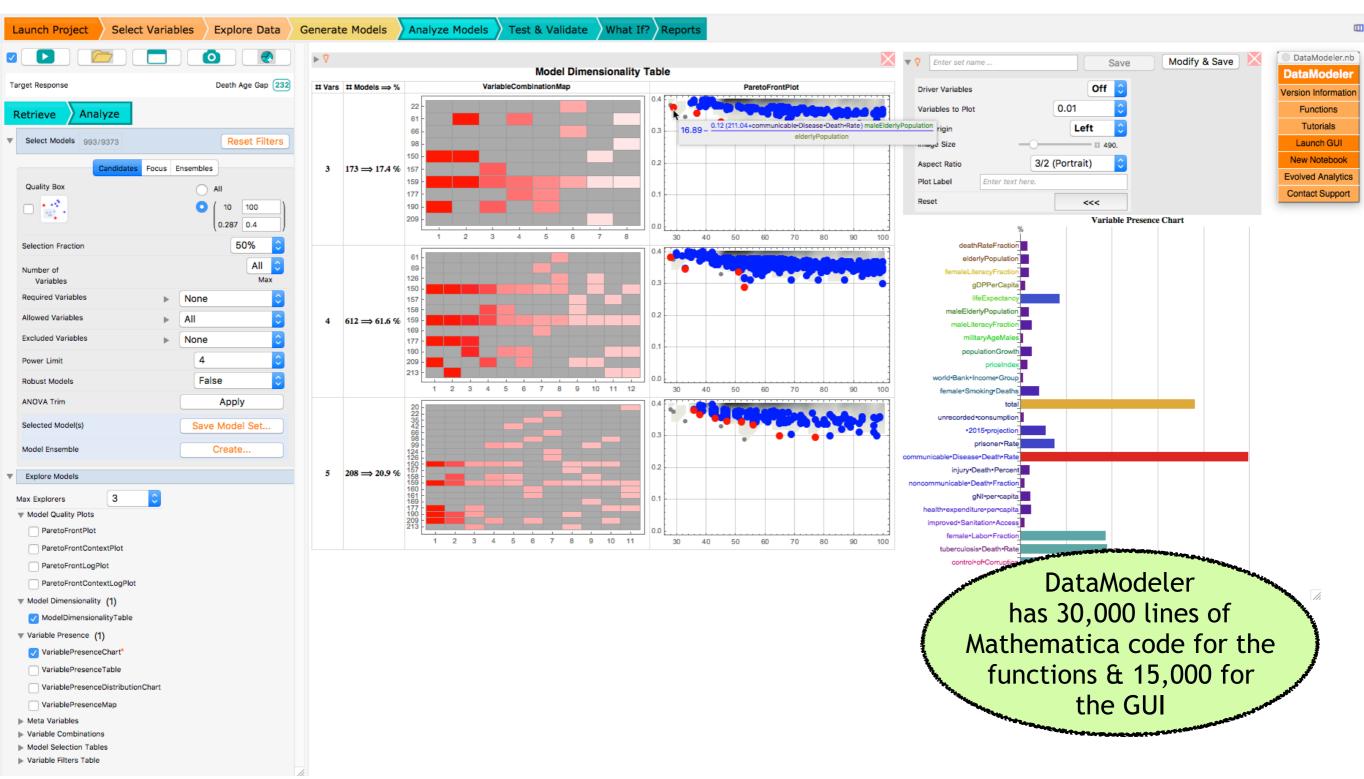
Buttons	Button Setter SetterBar ButtonBar ActionMenu	
Sliders	Slider Slider2D VerticalSlider IntervalSlider	
Gauges	HorizontalGauge VerticalGauge BulletGauge AngularGauge	
Switches	Checkbox RadioButton RadioButtonBar TogglerBar	
Togglers	Toggler TogglerBar	
Colors	ColorSetter ColorSlider	
Pickers	PopupMenu ListPicker CheckboxBar	
Actions	EventHandler LocatorPane ClickPane	
Annotations	Tooltip Mouseover Annotation MouseAnnotation MouseAppearance	
View	TabView SlideView MenuView FlipView OpenerView PopupView	
Files	FileNameSetter SystemDialogInput	
Dialogs	DialogInput CreateDialog MessageDialog ChoiceDialog	

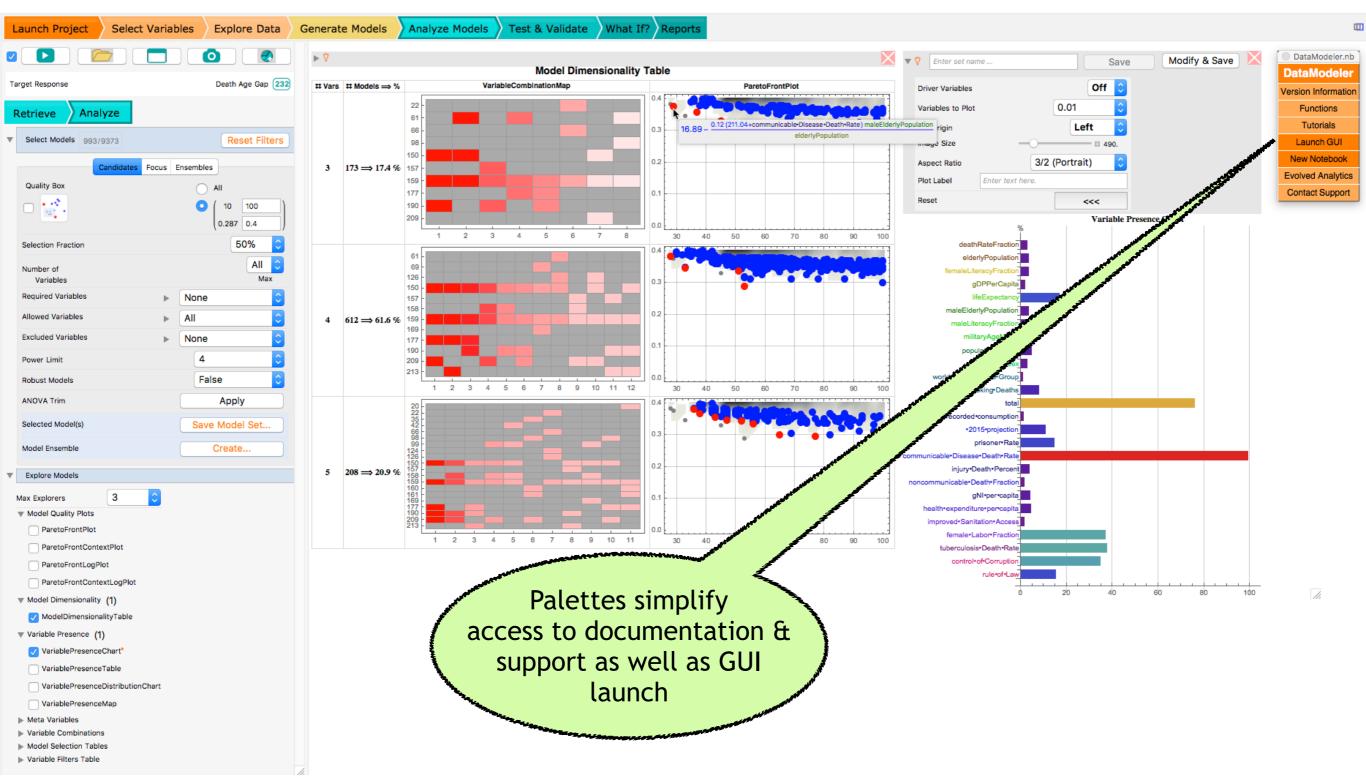
### Interface Elements

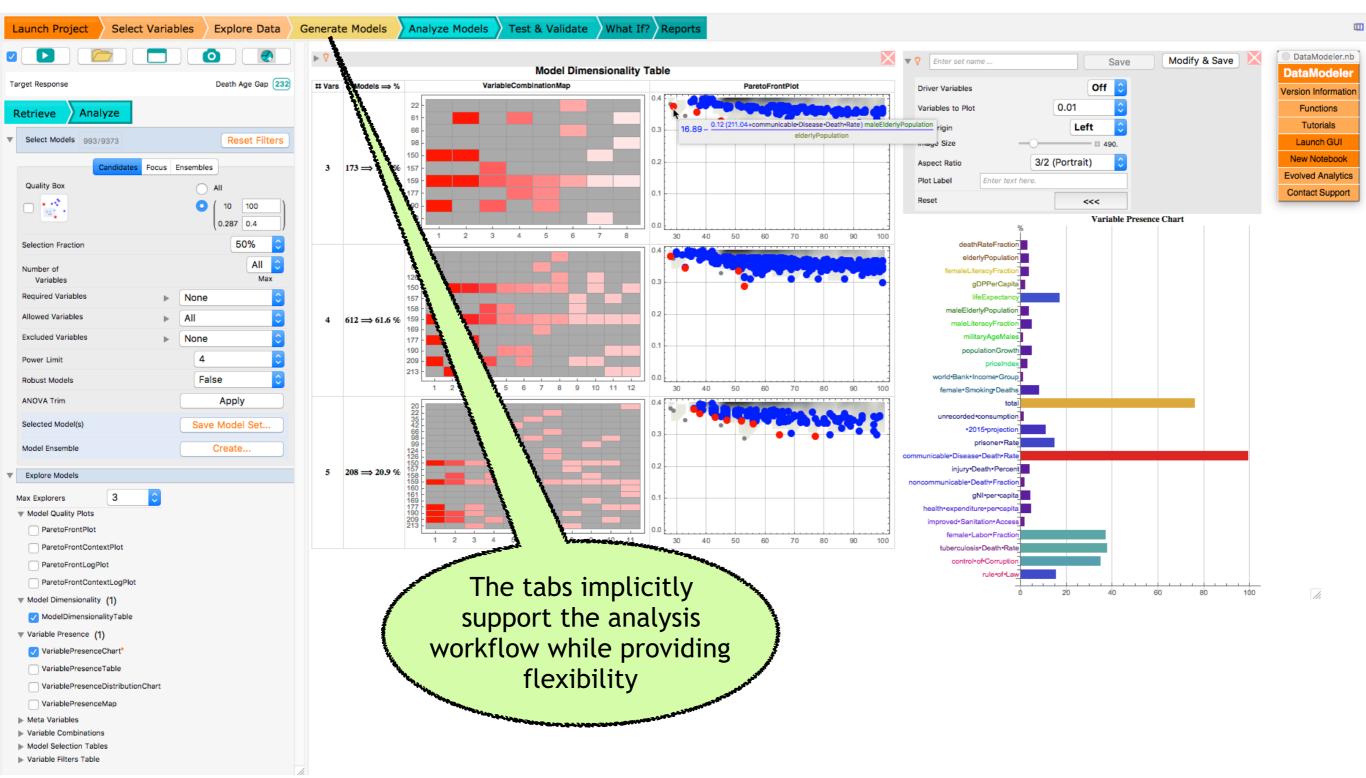
- \* There is never only one way implement in Mathematica!
- \* Good enough trumps analysis paralysis
- \* However, aesthetics matter!
- The right controls AND the right layout AND the right option settings are key ingredients to success

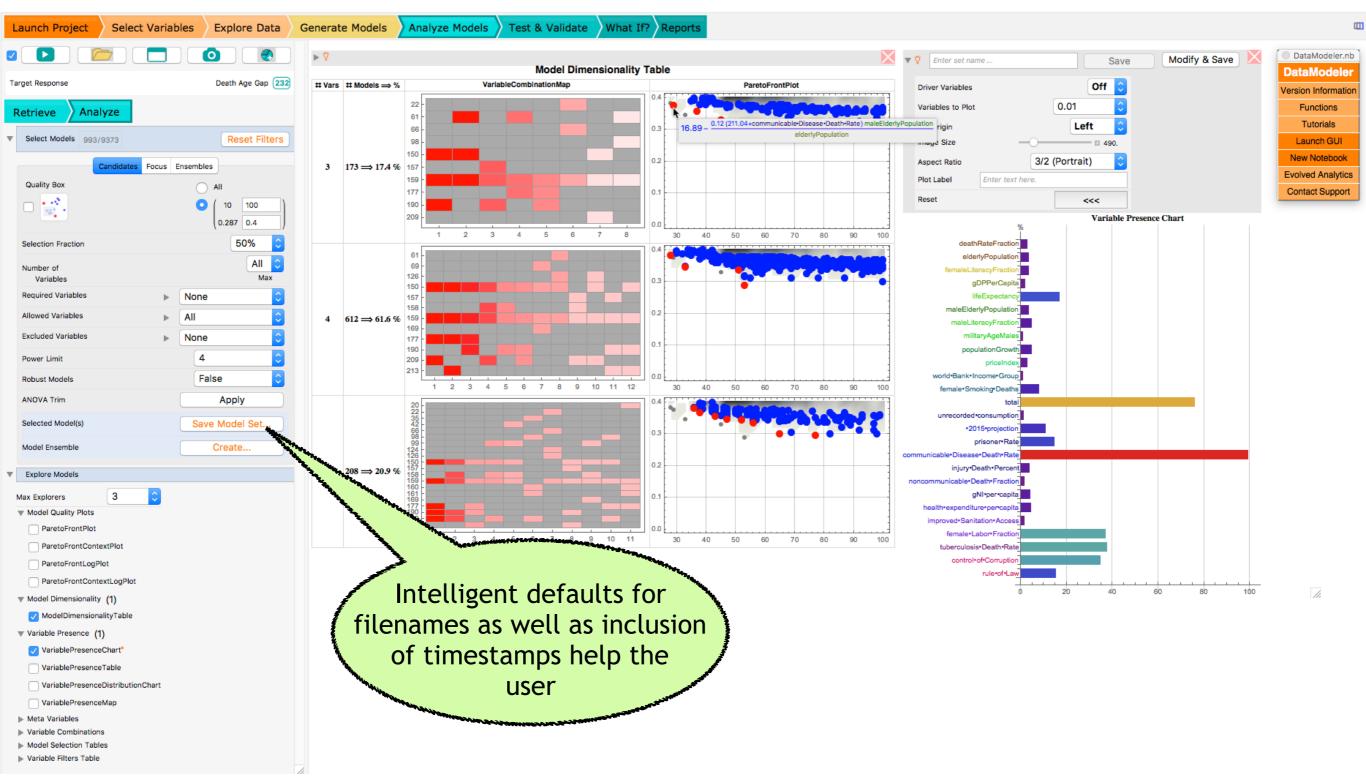


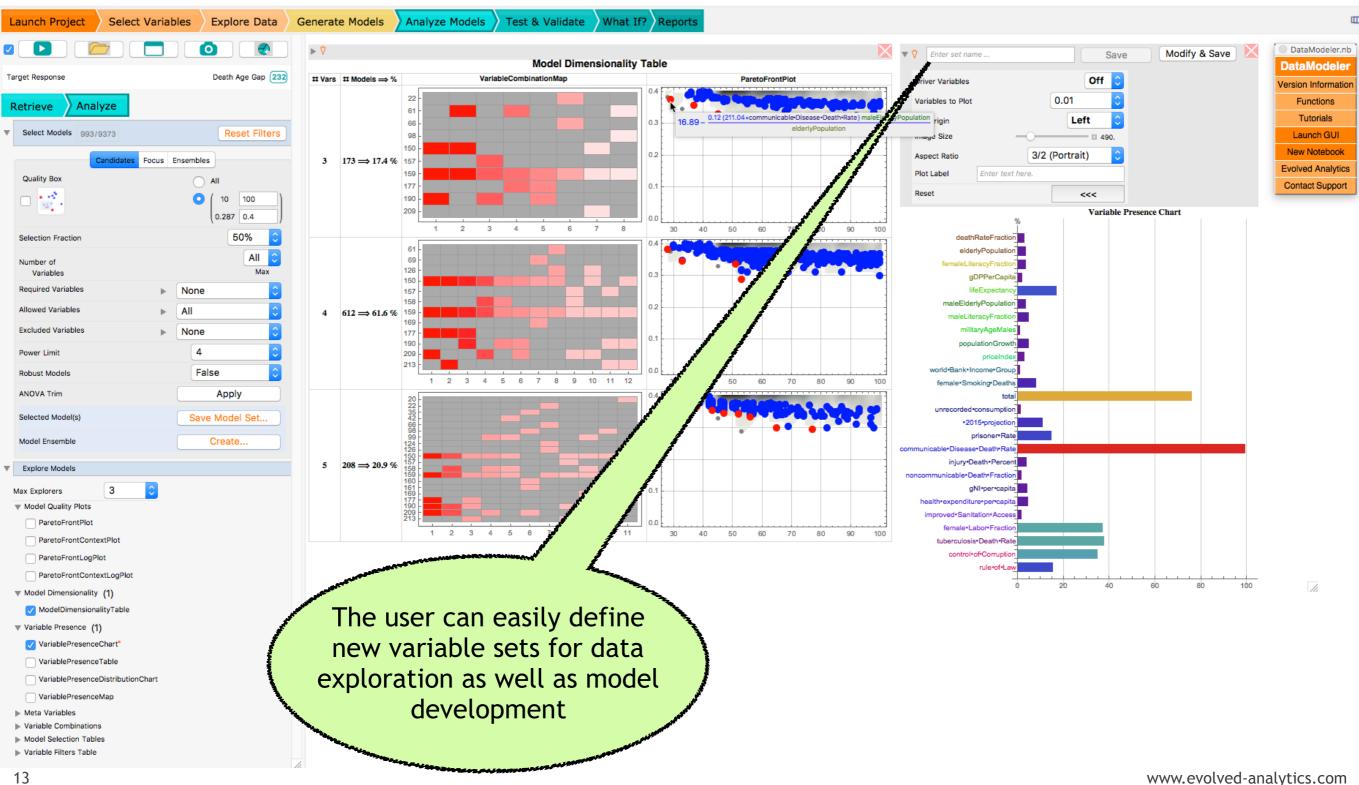


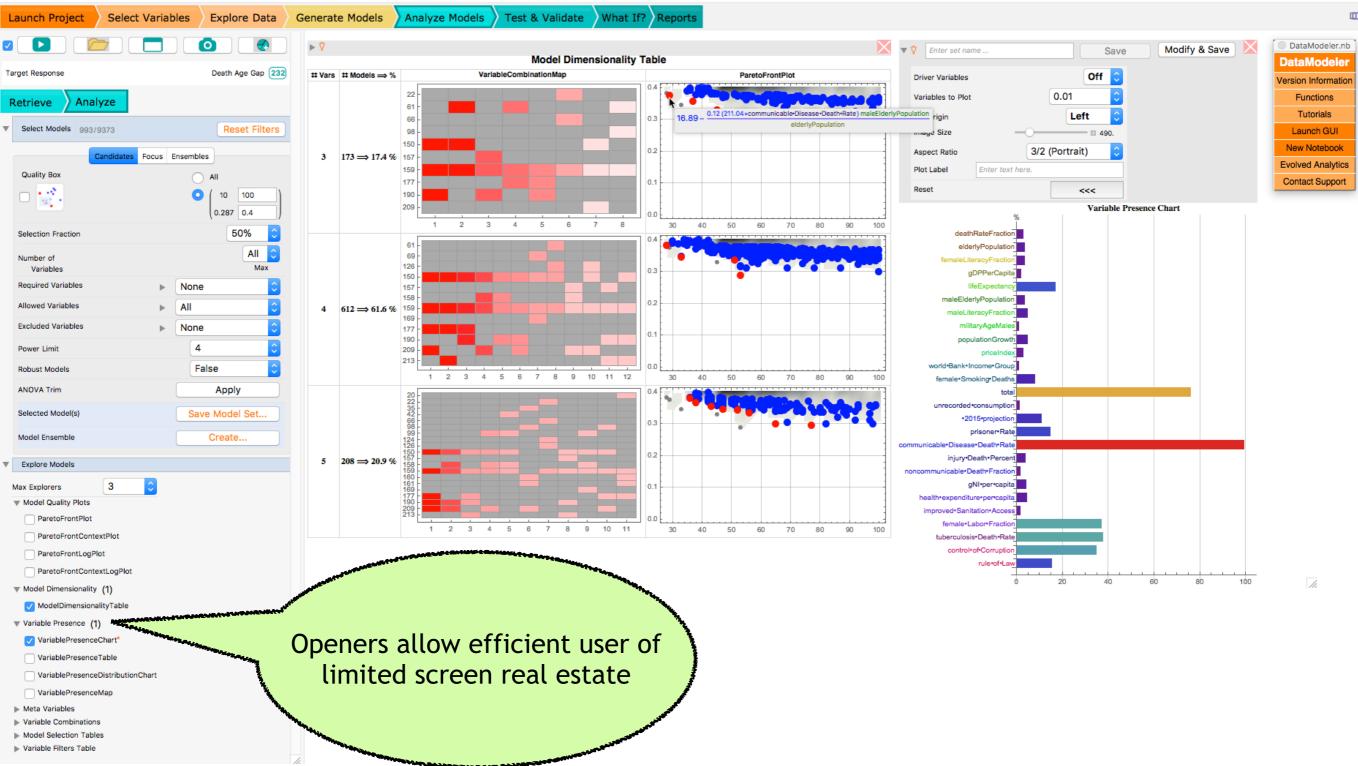






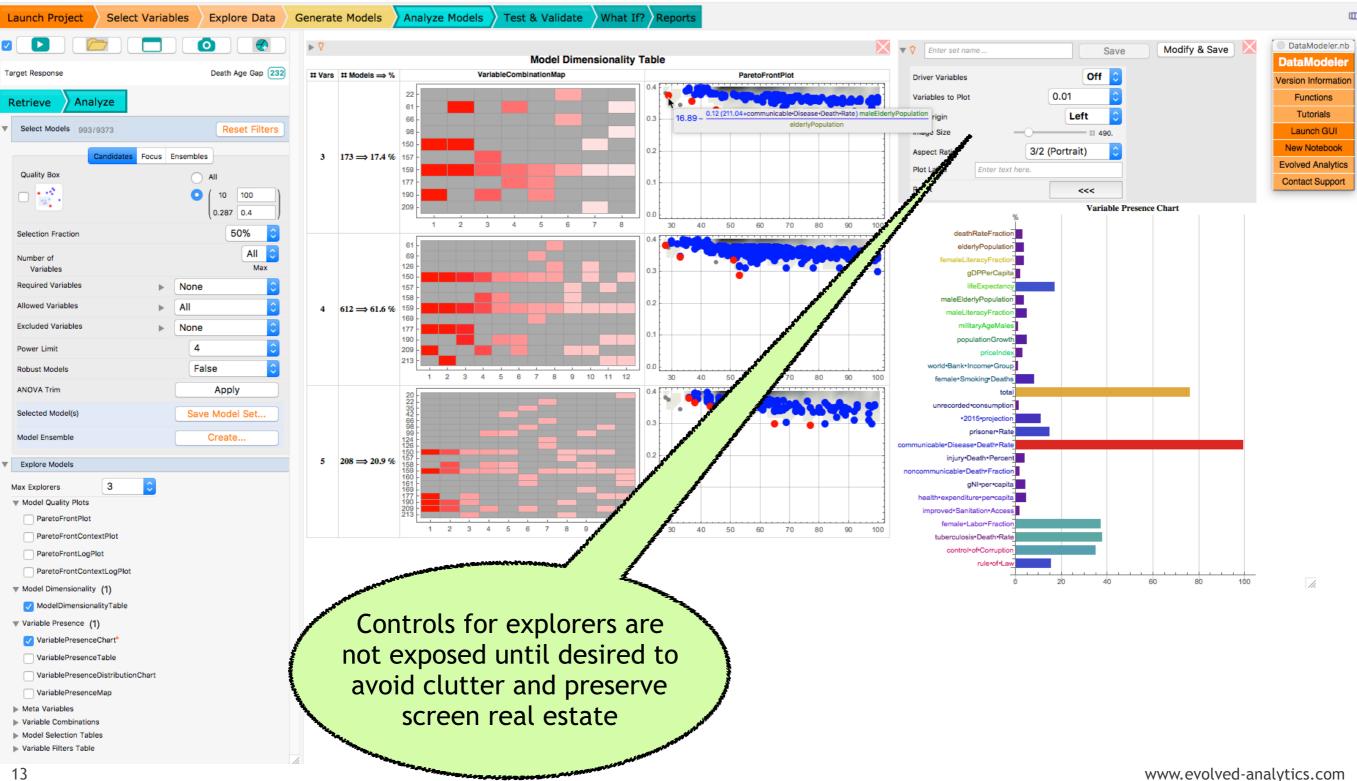


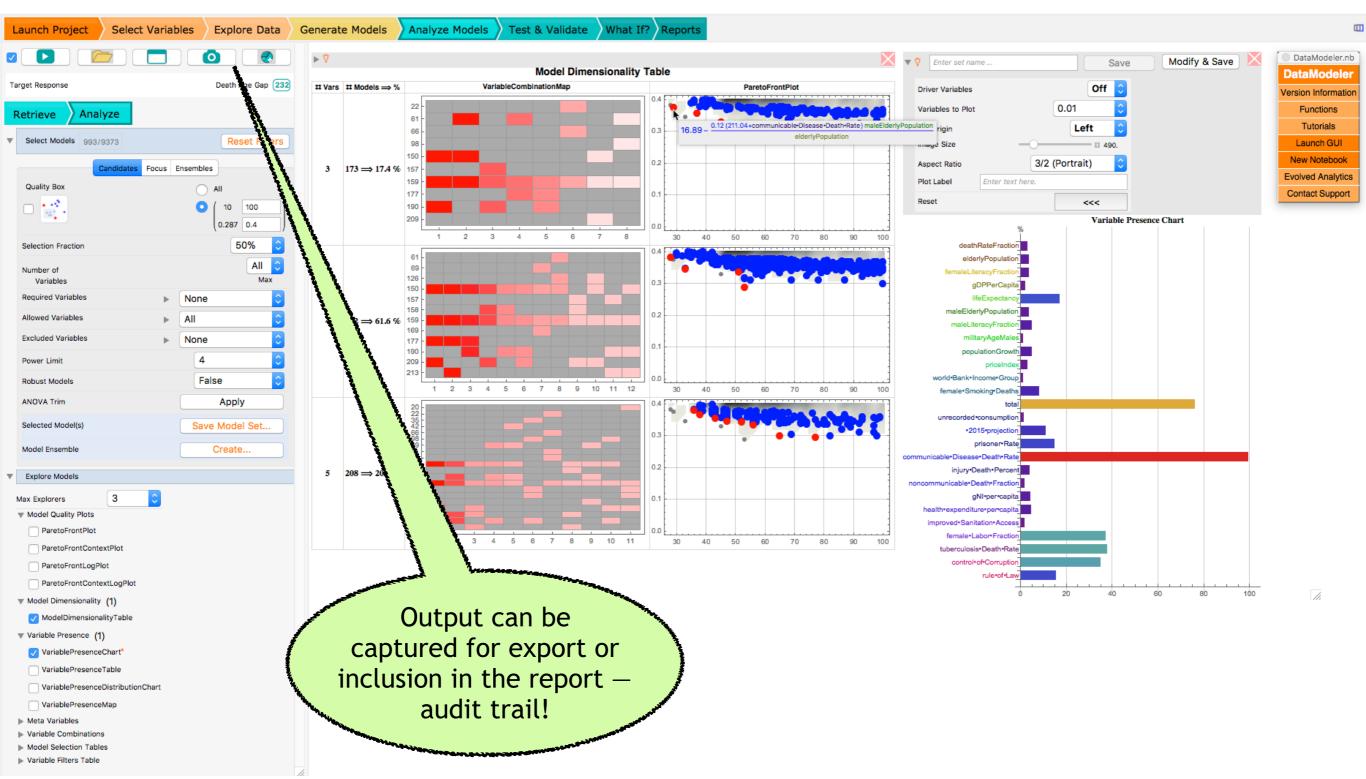


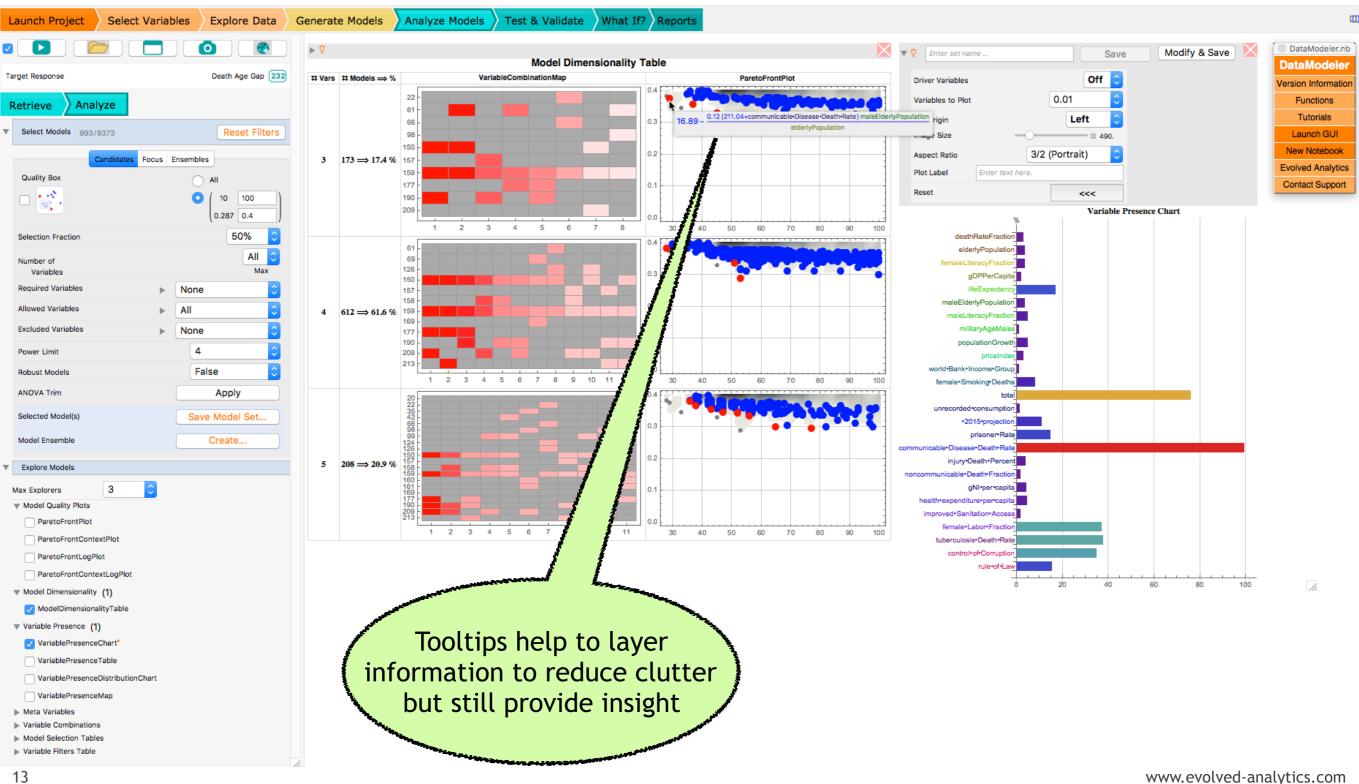


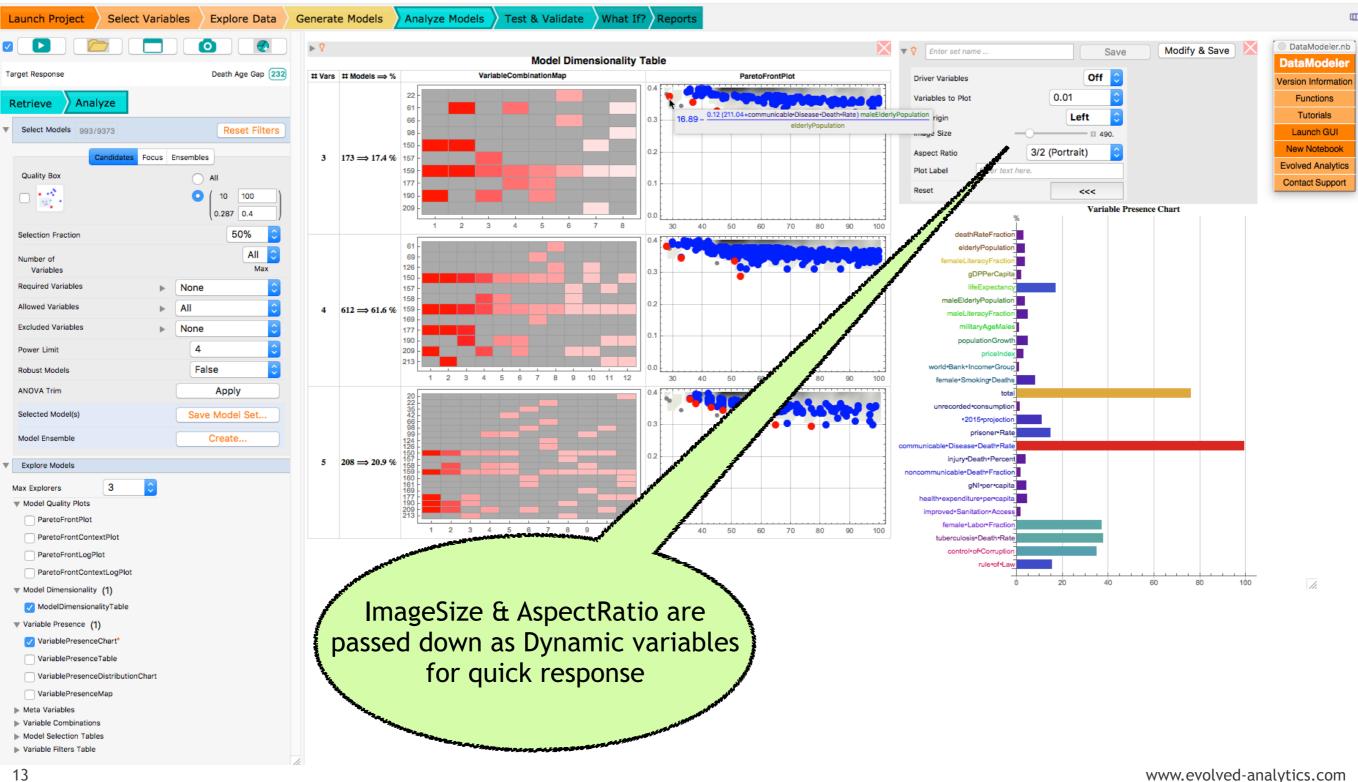
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13

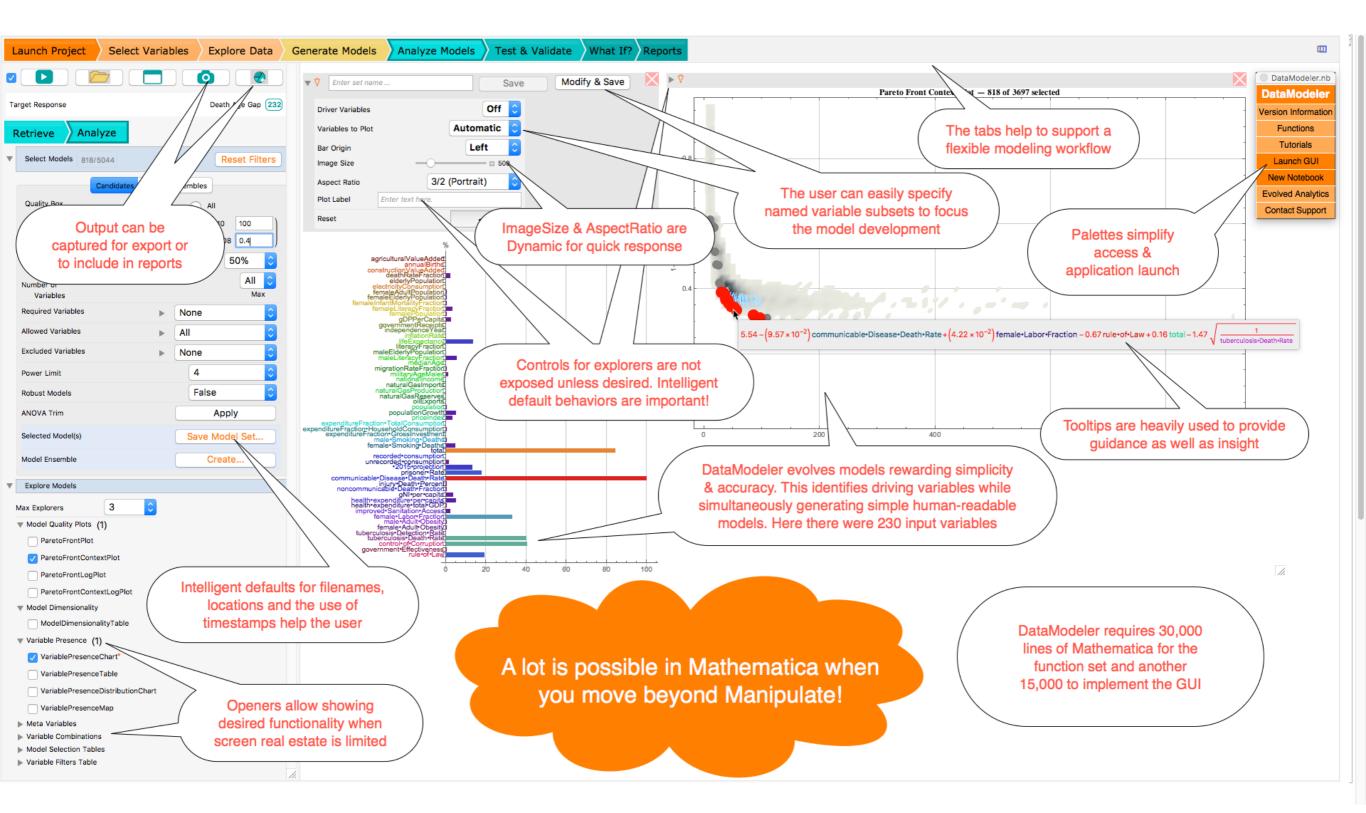


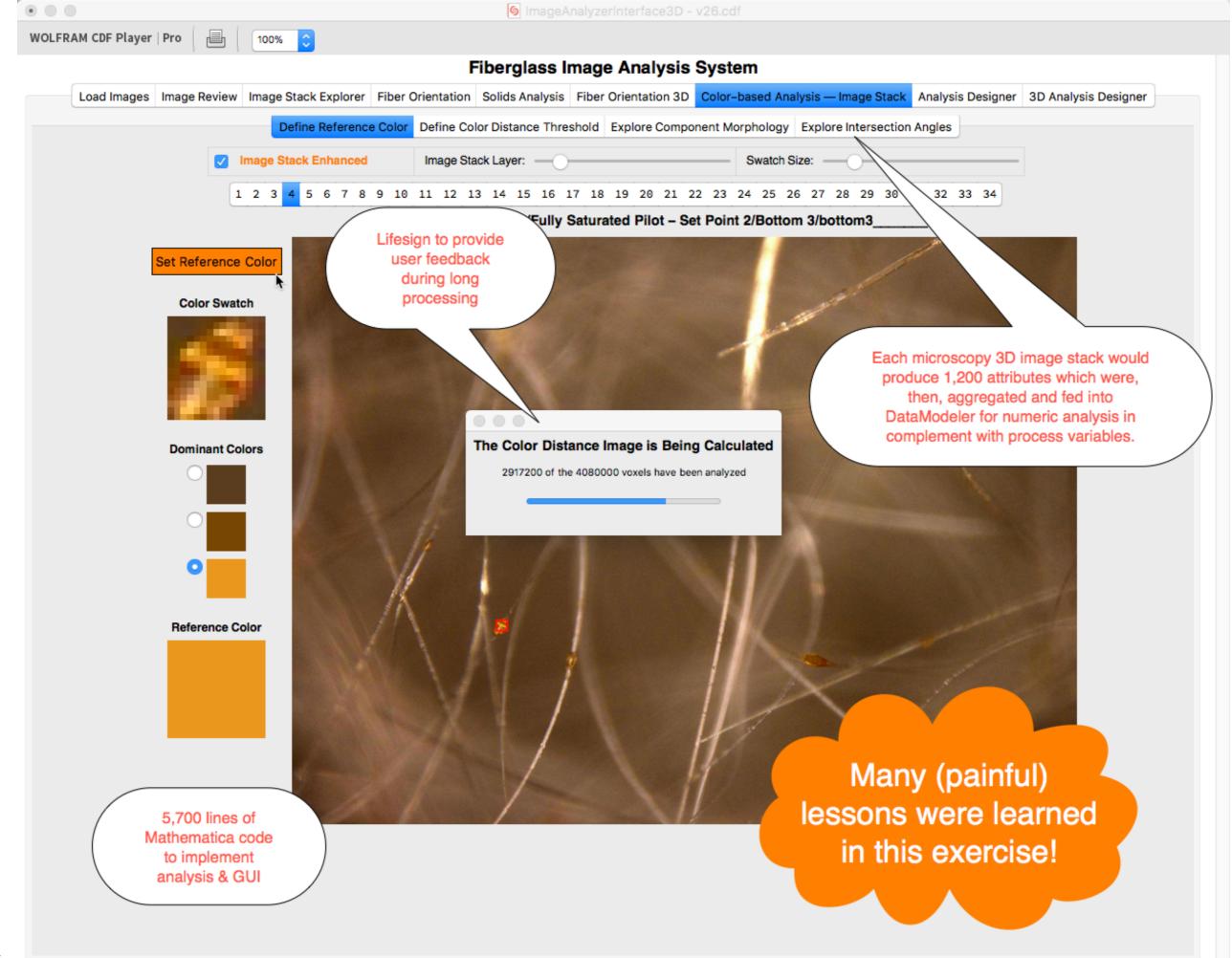


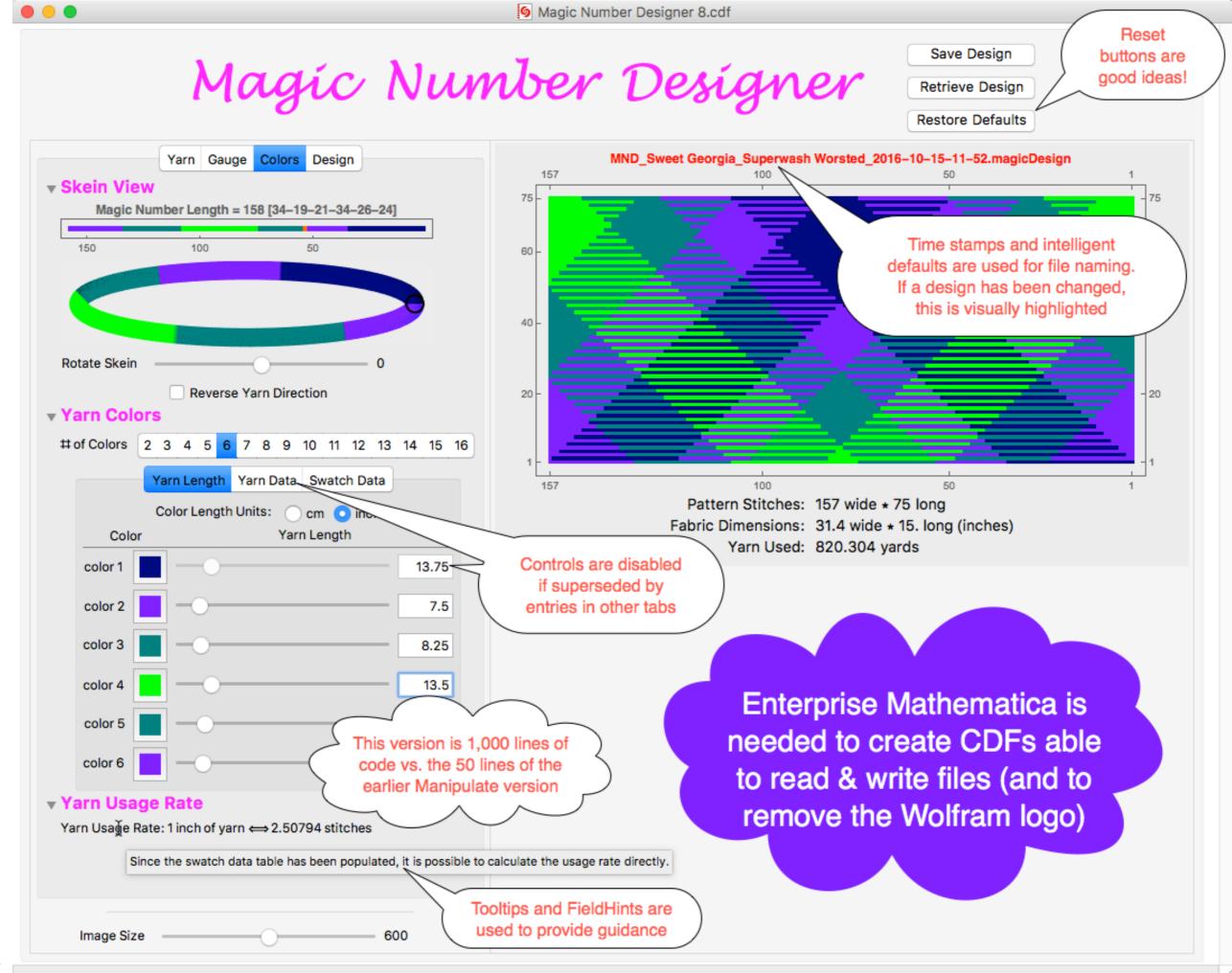




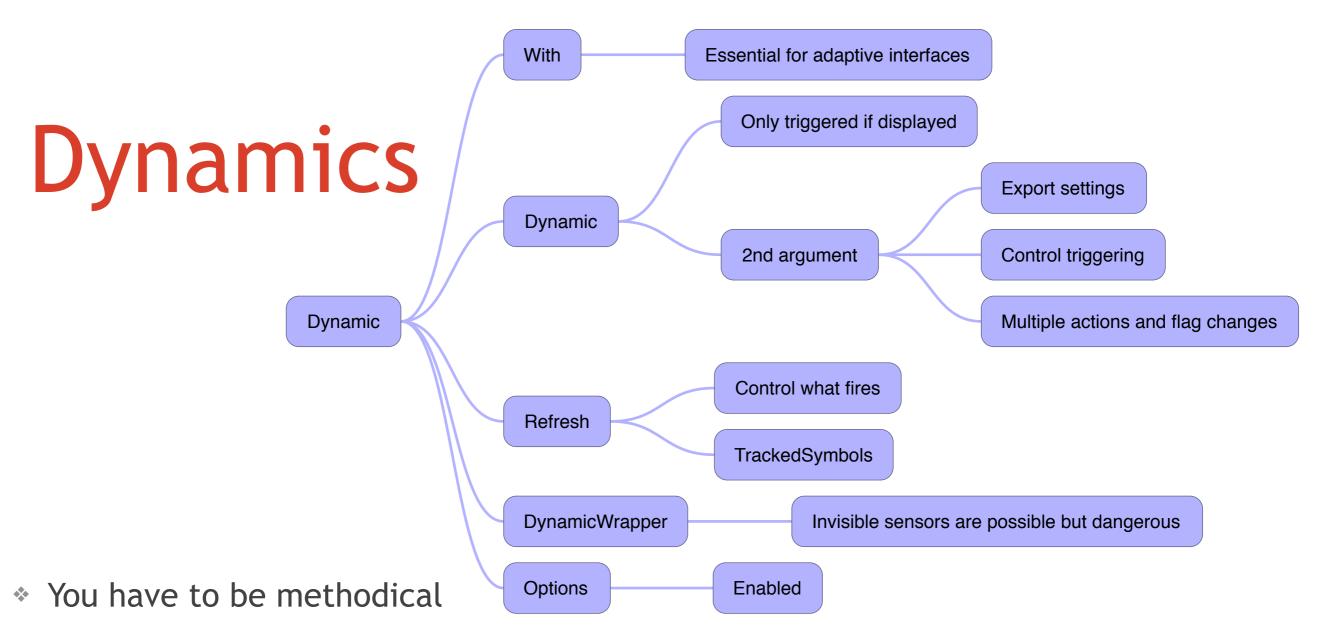




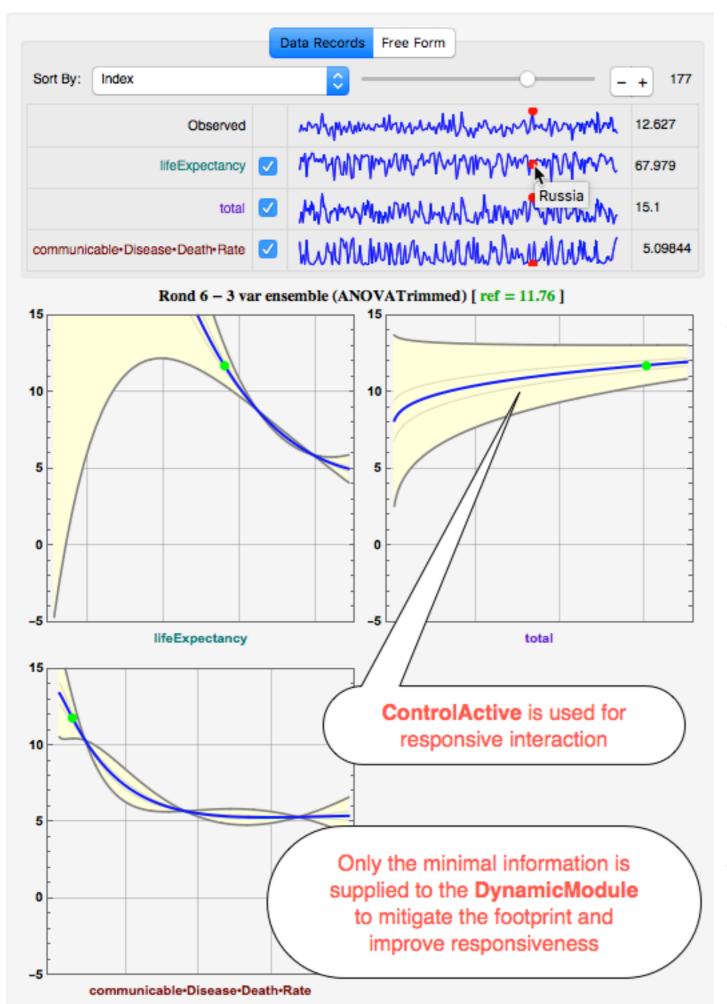




16



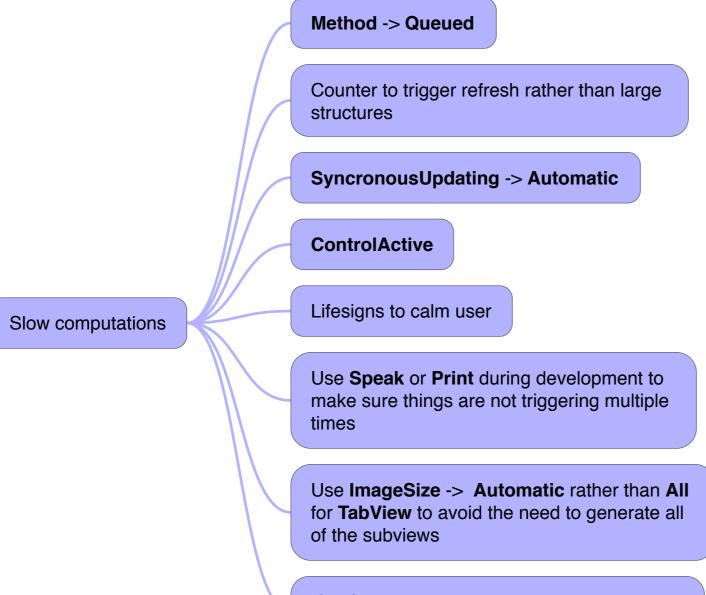
- Initialize ALL variables & have an initialization function
- \* Try to partition functionality & minimize interactions
- Do not TrackSymbols that are large (e.g., arrays or images) use surrogates as triggers for updates. Counters also provide fine control of updates
- \* The 2nd argument for **Dynamic** is important to understand and embrace
- You WILL improve your ability to combine profanities in novel ways



#### DynamicModule

- Do NOT nest DynamicModule functions (if it can be avoided)
  - variables are maintained by default which can blow out memory footprints and hammer responsiveness
  - If nesting needed, nonlocal variables and the UnsavedVariables option are useful
- Minimize the size of data transferred into DynamicModule

# Slow Computations



*GUIControl*[ ... Enabled → Dynamic[*whenReadyQ*] is a useful construct

- Management of slow computations needs to be explicit to avoid timeouts on the part of Mathematica.
- Users need feedback that the system is alive and to keep them from clicking vigorously — which causes more problems!
- Synchronous vs Asynchronous updating is a big deal!

## Lifesign Panels for CDFs

```
CreateMonitorPanelMA[title_, templateString_String, vals_] := CreateDialog[
   Column[{
      LabelFormDM[title, FontSize -> 14],
      StringForm[templateString, vals],
      ProgressIndicator[ #1, {0, #2 }]&[vals],
      }, Center, 1.5 ]
   1;
Switch showProgress,
   True, (
      Block
         {mnbOld, mnbNew, fileIndex, numFiles = Length@fileNameSet},
         imageSet = \{\};
         fileIndex = 0;
         mnbNew = mnbOld = CreateMonitorPanelMA[
             "Image Stack Retrieval",
            "`1` of the `2` 3D images have been retrieved",
            fileIndex, numFiles
            1;
         imageSet = MapIndexed[(
            fileIndex = First@#2;
            mnbNew = CreateMonitorPanelMA
                "Image Stack Retrieval",
                "`1` of the `2` 3D images have been retrieved",
                fileIndex, numFiles
                ];
            NotebookClose@mnbOld;
            mnbOld = mnbNew;
            Import[#1, "Graphics"]
            ) &,
            fileNameSet
            1;
         NotebookClose@mnbOld
  _, imageSet = Import[#, "Graphics"] & /@ fileNameSet
]
```

- Dialogs can be updated in Mathematica; however, such doesn't work when exported to CDFs
- One workaround is to create a new status panel over the prior one and delete the old one from behind
- This causes some flicker so it is suboptimal, albeit, functional

# Other Issues

x = 27

27

InputField[Dynamic@x, Number]

InputField[Dynamic@x, Number]

Dynamic@FullForm[x]

George

- Entering a nonnumeric into a numeric InputField will not display an entered nonnumeric; however the variable will still be defined!
  - The 2nd argument to Dynamic can be used to trap this situation
- Many Tooltips are dangerous for the front-end
  - Limit the number of Tooltips simultaneously on-screen
  - Use the TooltipDelay option or bad things will happen
- Workbench is only marginally maintained
- Need an iPad solution

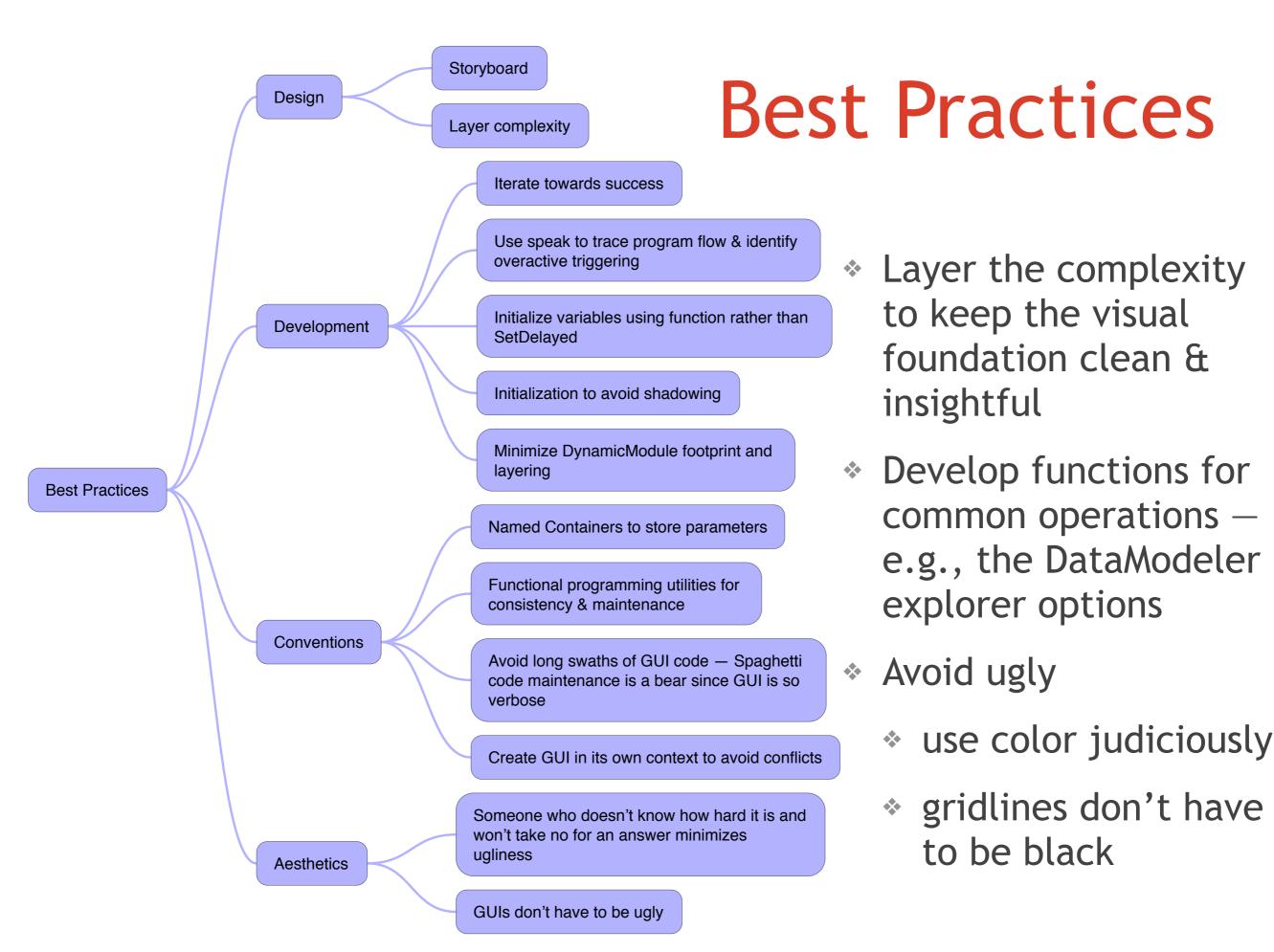
#### Notebook Creation

```
ImageSize -> imageSize+50,
                  Alignment -> Center,
                  Background -> Lighter[Gray, 0.85]
                  ٦,
               TrackedSymbols :> {
                  numColors, segmentColors, segmentLengths, cy
                  rowsPerGaugeUnit, stitchesPerGaugeUnit, gauge
                  foldLocation, showBothSides, fileName, designMc
            1
          }},BaseStyle->{FontFamily-> "Ariel", FontSize -> 12},
    , SaveDefinitions->False
WindowSize->All,
ShowCellBracket ->False,
WindowFloating -> False,
Editable -> False,
Deployed -> True,
Saveable -> False,
WindowElements -> {"VerticalScrollBar", "StatusArea"},
PrivateNotebookOptions -> { "PluginToolbarEnabled" -> False }
```

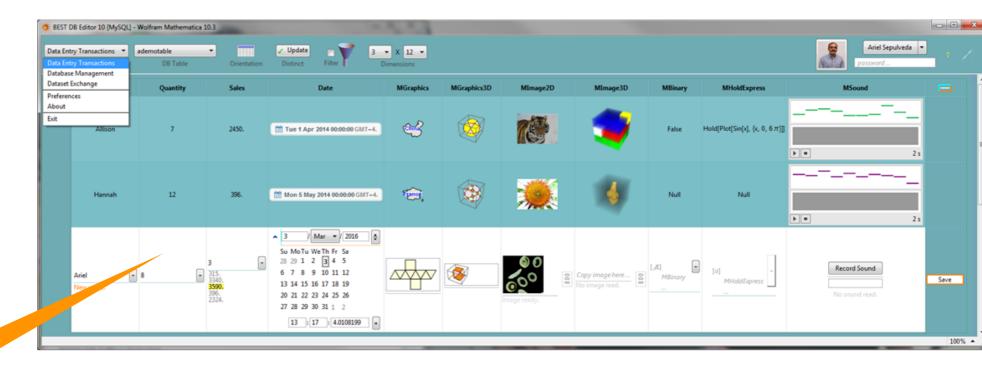
- CreateDocument[ guiDesignDynamicModule[ ... ] opts]
- The big one here is Saveable
   → False so the user is not prompted when they close the app

# Deployment

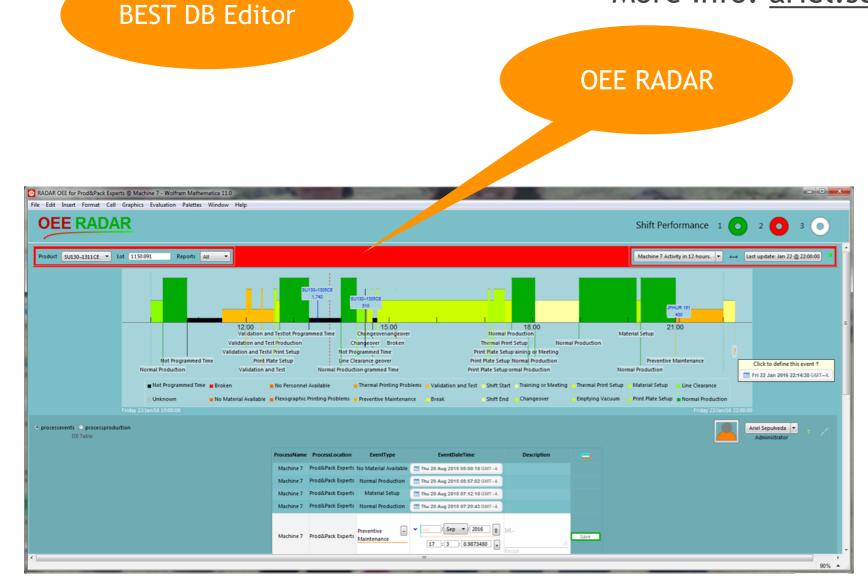
- \* Mathematica/CDF
  - easiest path but overkill for many users
- CDF Player Pro
  - \* Pay per deployed system ~\$200/seat
- Enterprise Mathematica
  - \* 10% of revenue (minimum of \$12,000)
- Cloud
  - Have not explored



#### BEST Practices Implemented



#### More Info: <a>ariel.sepulveda@prontoanalytics.com</a>



- BEST DB Editor is a database editor which can be used to manage or edit database systems and tables.
  - Works on Windows and Mac for database systems like MySQL, SQLServer, etc.
  - Can be used to work with many data types like text, dates, numbers, Graphics, Images, Sound, etc.
  - Can be used as a subcomponent of other
     Mathematica GUIs like OEE
     RADAR which is a real-time data capture and analysis system.

Magic Number Designer 8.cdf ~ (\* Content-type: application/vnd.wolfram.cdf.text \*)

(\*\*\* Wolfram CDF File \*\*\*) (\* http://www.wolfram.com/cdf \*)

(\* CreatedBy='Mathematica 10.4' \*)

```
*)
(*
                                                                  *)
   This file was created under the Wolfram Enterprise licensing terms.
                                                                 *)
(*
                                                                  *)
        For additional information concerning CDF licensing see:
                                                                  *)
                                                                  *)
         www.wolfram.com/cdf/adopting-cdf/licensing-options.html
                                                                  *)
                                                                  *)
(*
(*CacheID: 234*)
(* Internal cache information:
NotebookFileLineBreakTest
NotebookFileLineBreakTest
NotebookDataPosition[
                        1064,
                                     201
NotebookDataLength[
                                 30971
                    160530,
NotebookOptionsPosition[
                         160923,
                                      30871
NotebookOutlinePosition[
                         161523,
                                      3112]
CellTagsIndexPosition[
                                    3109]
                       161480,
WindowFrame->Normal*)
(* Beginning of Notebook Content *)
Notebook[{
Cell[BoxData[
 DynamicModuleBox[{MagicNumber`Private`defaultSettings$$,
 MagicNumber `Private` yarnColorFunction$$, MagicNumber `Private` cycle$$ =
  False, MagicNumber`Private`reverseYarn$$ = False,
```

MagicNumber`Private`skeinRotation\$\$ = 0, MagicNumber`Private`patternShift\$\$ = 0, MagicNumber`Private`startLocation\$\$ = 0, MagicNumber`Private`widthRepeat\$\$ = MagicNumber Private numColors\$\$ = 4, MagicNumber`Private`yarnLengthUnits\$\$ = "inch", MagicNumber`Private`maxColors\$\$ = 16, MagicNumber`Private`segmentColors\$\$ = { RGBColor[1., 0.499474, 0.], RGBColor[0.921184, 0.6542725, 0.0297604925], RGBColor[0.789261500000001, 0.6147505, 0.2668325], RGBColor[0.816195500000001, 0.41711224999999996`, 0.62417325], RGBColor[0.9952513749999999, 0.5463053124999999, 0.000994424375], RGBColor[0.881750625, 0.667947375, 0.0622695625], RGBColor[0.7719553125, 0.5767103125, 0.3573026875], RGBColor[0.850505125, 0.3719416875, 0.6759001875], RGBColor[0.99050275, 0.593136625, 0.00198884875], RGBColor[0.842598750000001, 0.66271225, 0.11674487500000001`], RGBColor[0.779648125, 0.523144, 0.4543724999999996`], RGBColor[0.885300625, 0.34233825, 0.6915035], RGBColor[0.9608285, 0.626415125, 0.013726104375], RGBColor[0.8065676875, 0.6527906874999999, 0.1763623125], DCBColor[0 701507/375 0 /6600 0 5525/225]

### Intellectual Property

- The default for a CDF is to store a plaintext version of the code
- The solution is to Encode a package file (optionally, tied to a **\$MachinelD**)
- The GUI uses a DynamicModule with Initialization  $\rightarrow$ Needs["encodedPackage`"] to retrieve the encoded IP
- \* Reading & Writing files is restricted to CDFs created with Enterprise Mathematica or PlayerPro

#### Overview

#### Script the Encoding

The sequence of activities to create a DataModeler release package are:

- I. Make sure the \$VersionOfDataModeler variable in the SymbolicRegression.m source code is accurate and update if needed.
  - Duplicate the # DataModelerWorkbench/DataModeler/ folder structure and within a top-level folder as DataModeler/ with a time-stamp suffix on the toplevel folder
  - 3. ...
  - The Attributes of the symbols created within package files should already be set to ReadProtected and Locked as the final cells within the notebook (and the SymbolicRegression.m file should be automatically created)
  - Copy the installation GUI and readme files from this folder to the release folder and rename the latest version of the DataModelerUIDate.m file to be just DataModelerUI.m
  - Rename init m to be initSource m and execute Encode[initSource m, init m] to create an encrypted version of the init m file
  - Rename SymbolicRegression.m to be SymbolicRegressionSource.m and execute Encode[SymbolicRegressionSource.m, SymbolicRegression.m, key] to create an encrypted and password-protected version of the critical symbolic regression functions. The key, of course, should be the same as that embedded within the now-encrypted init.m file
  - Do the same for the non-SymbolicRegression.m source files and Encode[] them. Rename other m to be otherSource.m and execute Encode[otherSource.m, source.m] to create an encrypted version of the source m files. Then delete the unencoded source files
  - NOTE: The filenames supplied to Encode[] must be different. If they are not, the original file will be destroyed — but a functional replacement will not be created.
  - Copy the SpreadsheetViewDM.m file over to the target file since it is already encrypted, it will not need to be re-encrypted.
  - Remove all \*.nb files in the DataModeler/ folder structure with the exception of those within the DataModeler/Documentation/English/ subfolder.
  - Remove the initSource.m and SymbolicRegressionSource.m files since they are in plaintext.
  - 13. Remove all files & folders within the DataModeler/Documentation/ path which are NOT within the English/ folder. (We are making an implicit assumption that the BrowserIndex.nb and BrowserCategories.m files are upto-date and there are no superfluous files within the English/ subfolder.)

At this point, the created folder structure should be safe for release. We still have a couple of manual steps to create the release package

- I4. Zip up the DataModeler folder using CleanArchiver with settings so that the Mac OS X hidden files are deleted.
  - 15. Send out the update.

#### m DataModelerGUI.m ~

#### (\*!1N!\*)mcm

]rk;rDC6H&(\$a\*\*Wl/ix[R3Vj-0nuYJ@3t1EJj[1"#<[55p(6YEa(#6lL3Z[B~]]\$3`Q@-\$|\$Atb%]n;Z}GZVG-%\$'m;!(JAMvE\$a`n<[GJ+VR%p-~Gk(.d@"1tb%]j)M+fCkd]\@o6] blEs-YcyL,d;"1tb%]j)M+fCkd]\@okB-~0-0R(-Eq5:^!A^t|taGiBiJz`;U%;:L%DJa1 m8!(JAMyE\$a`n<p|Ve"%?:2@(-Eq5:^!A^t|taGiBj!qN'hrbP\*^oML\h|L0?`5:^!A^t|</pre> taGiBjuEV0.bSTL(dwA1N!"#ghK^50b(]\@oG.=ceelM!LA#5Ef0iy]|"#ghK^50b(]\@o G.^\$A^t|taGiBjuU@,\$'m;..JuDq(GJL`;)y(b5EsN.h&2ba)rp(6YEa(#61!(C!eda{\ PFq2p'hsjK&F>r#LRz1^H9D4tas2V]N9G1 H6lVI-%>wpK.h&2ba)rp(j)N-,ZfP!b\$|M: T6EI4!Zt!QTS5J?A<E6j#u#^lEN"bFL(p%@V;bI-96Si5Z%}MY6\:+e8!07,i !NL"!!\5</pre> =+lH082>.)?B<E6j4&]5J@MyPBG1s+JI'DN4lK\$xs/+<4~fPij2q.kb(.!)lSl'|DN@bna 0`cc-/m}qA e0Q\*bC(p(IhV`-pCYi?'Dl/khtNBe"GM:PF;<=](<1.6th7?\$L{153\*!6cB</pre> d=Stop6Y 4-c^du!UE#x/c!S.b%CapDc)o"(>")e\V@n+:n\_&pnS!|^&fHGZsT4N.UC\*oU (=pRZzh>a\9H!ckf^=B\$5a\$'o5ZI\*#0Z;<n1'3U&0p!ot/\n.5U&=R`2@>YNitbcop\$/\P b,"0^eoQ9UP4V:J.D)?>@>YN=C8\$XH#u@|E!&em='A]i;2oX\_krD^#RQG",T!gX7;-\_!uw 6X:+C!QCE#b)N%Utc}a<um\*?n1'3U&Op!ot/\n.5U&=R`2@>YNitbcqp\$/\Pb,"0^eoQ9U P4V:J.D)?>@>YN=C8\$XHI[XfW{k+&:A+lCA@[cu^;g`2MZ( v'^qNj# `V#u@|E!&em='A ]i,,,M41ibh0khhfHk(/=,4m<C;}EU#-[`q<0\_h|Jn-sk46l0+v.?HbP!0>)DCEZ\rdVI6 uf\$2+1:vcH<DH 't+PPM\$W19@ BnuuiA10ps05m8t[(E6BUsPZXip /i7!2LmclYoZkW[q EK@#\<JTkAa2lpY8(H#TZuVsW?b h`Tc5b SA@!(%@@#FE V"/\$ =)e~42S9u%'.+o@j]8 &q<M6d.^`j89e]RR%`NjEg&&>.5:pk@XqS<[0?LthU;I:\_01E-Em#H Xhq`y@Bj:k[&p!1 K=.G3z)^JvoNhHd7)H8A(\$`;Gk@6d>a:\*Wl/ix[R^aPe\u791EA,%|D\_k{MU9de44U,3&~ RZ7X0woj6T[`reA%^(5D0Mk]\:\'#dSahm!Ro[6\iS9'D@TF\_!6B8iDB,X@E\${"/[s40o6 ?@"\*d@Ra9Td^F GU0fWKsBe{pTAABg[8Fb[PKYgyd7=Bo0-0B-[8uj#}27f7PFg2p'hsTu sTJ=g`.m^%A^t|taGiRzZ5DL1KBRGWKD]tRaWb]@&g"3>gn@E\$j=7Ct`M0L2dY\$@s/+<]{ \$!VQ(+YYB~#cR4XpMU`@Qn[fa\$V ]<FP?R'6<|`p%0(\DNrlid>F^Cu.k;T6syf8H)CFR? B^?vK0+ 19h|oC\_4\mFPt'`A27q^V;p3fld>50b(]\@oG.kQs"rW?v[clu0WUyVao[1{S\* Mm%C<X/]e>c2l@p1!#]OC ('rU6</tVn\$<d4e~\@a\*H!ewayp-]0:-d<e~hLM`/`SY6^;8 W{[{JAG}#93>>=^L%m43JD&1k\$><d7e~MqA+A\,bLaT6rze{.`,"d<e~&d[N`#]sRa[fa\$ eOh7h.o[t~t7fI7,3Xi-50ZeP(.N5<EX#-[`q<0\_h]?S\Yj)q26;uV@=DWUh0>a211R2\0 e00.d#WDTiuLm|.Tik3\*(\?K<"JgM\*T6PL\$|;aiyM4kC0&MY^LNgs+\$i"/R}S4`Ur\$v,Ur \$| cS-h0^\MqA+Vit7Y8`S6T:+86"N-pL\$,T.4+E9qYNitbc=[ix%k0~\}\$3`Q@-\$|-j^V 3v=0Ko.Go6ZIj<WK;-\_!uwFVGbocr\3ig|uKD99x&pdo]\a0fC(7Gb\u\$WMZ( h&h6n^a OhRFFQ>qZ7j#GZt\_;g=quaJ@p1`Pd6TQ6ToK`,6AD@GhlNlY@H?&&f'JGbK6IY\=X}&j72 !g\R\_EMU.13v0h@ @sS; 6mnSx\*!baPe\Q0!oKdB+zm:v2e06U[`reeUY0QuZr`X;3Q]:9 K)R|[fa\$e07fa1onk6&:A+5|\$,1IqB;Q@.!3!TSDMoB^f)ZcelIH7/h6SH7/JZ0XWMrDta \$<m6B~8F6&4bg``6,Ub6Ky(8Bra%WLm<!nN'hrbPE1sk3Ua@Pm9uJ>\_ rD\*\_HZNDu5n?V` )kHFKw\_"(V,em1Lqt#dCe~'ASFf.5%Nl\$/27J?`l?Hc>tt"Kf9PF89e^!;c,s!\$.6^Hq/T &lR-W2.9k4\*FIr:9\$zT3c}igflPFsT\$wV<\*W[>#PU~myMirOe]'ASFf.SBM=\_".\$]f)FA1 mro68Z 08A:+E#],+x&&A3I|`;r\$NA,]istn9feuL~GbS5M{qZkA4#r&5bBsACQ:<KFZ\Z</pre> JaK6 AEB^cM 7?7R-^nesxP2okk@i:h6<MJXnD&\_b&Yyu17Cl<F%XBg2FZ\ZJa=<(/,{@"</pre> [@\*b\*B:fl<F%s=q/0L07^{a @^Kzuw<,X0Fo;11#Kja>!\_uZX97e.K5<JM?!I}d-'c%a0]</pre> bBl+Znj060d-'c%aQ]bBl+eYjRN'i!\_42whl5yJ{Y1gB3GN!'6lDa.a"#)t~:=\*G^kGZpA J2whl5yJ{Y1gBZlr\$GZD\E]Kwh7\=56#4h7\=56#4-R%CRaM=506|oN\$~=j4bDse1;30] -ynzTn\e@o?6?D3S:tg\_3H6AuXtaGi\ 0DD9h6Q65u&:gp0U7+Vf)kv0?HbP!03>SrBi"G M:P/g:&q-~%M!#n|uU\ML>agc2sqNS&~EI4!EgmrFmkpn90Wefd@;2:r6BN0b!%x\$w-~S\* w1Fa)002Wt #FFmKe1K0%ke0Wlbu7efP16V0[1"0Wlbu7 05<reNP+YNMHOR( NMHOR(

#### Conclusion

- I love GUIs
- \* I hate GUI development
- Being disciplined can minimize the pain

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