

Shared Foundations

Rethinking AI Competitive Advantage
in Financial Services



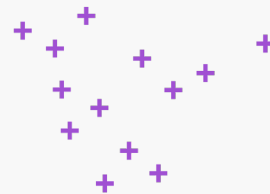
VECTOR
INSTITUTE

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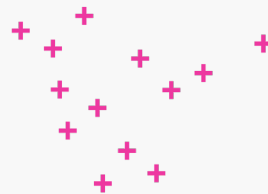
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Institutions that treat AI
algorithms
as their competitive edge
are protecting the wrong thing.



*Not just because openness is a principle worth defending,
but because of how AI knowledge works.*

AI algorithms are not IP. Only trained models are.



NOT YOUR IP

Software is IP. Ideas are not.
AI algorithms sit closer to ideas.

- Transformer architectures
- Attention mechanisms
- Diffusion models
- RLHF & alignment methods

YOUR MOAT

When you train on your data,
you generate model weights
that encode your domain,
your clients, your judgment.

That's the software.
That's the IP.

No institution can track this field alone.



CONFERENCE	DOMAIN	2024	2025
NeurIPS	General ML	4,497	5,290
ICML	General ML	2,609	3,260
ICLR	Deep Learning	2,260	~3,700
AAAI	General AI	~2,500	3,032
CVPR	Computer Vision	2,719	2,878
ACL	NLP / LLMs	940	~1,600
EMNLP	NLP / LLMs	1,271	~2,000
NAACL	NLP / LLMs	565	719
IJCAI	General AI	791	1,023
KDD	Applied ML / Data	562	~600
Top 10 conferences		~18,700	~24,100

+28% in one year

Vector Institute's co-development model: a proof of concept.



200+

organizations

550+

use cases

250K

hours co-developed

200+

reference implementations

2/3

reduction in exploration time
(partner-reported)

But the more important finding:

Openness doesn't just accelerate development.

It builds the trust that closed
systems structurally cannot.

*Modern AI was launched in Canada.
Canada can lead in open-source AI too.*

Open models don't ask for blind trust.



They can be verified.



- ❖ Build on open foundations: the algorithms are already shared
- ❖ Invest your edge in data, domain expertise, and good governance
- ❖ Join communities that accelerate trust