

MATHEMATICAL PRECISION IN THE AGE OF AI HYPE

Math4NL Community Event, Dec 2025

MY JOURNEY

ACADEMIA → INDUSTRY

VU Amsterdam

- Master Business Mathematics & Informatics
- PhD Operations Research & Survey Design
- Foundation in rigor & modeling
- Structured thinking
- Interdisciplinary mindset
- Public speaking

Data science

- ML in production
- R + C++ → Python + Dev On Duty
- AWS + Databricks + Snowflake
- Data scientist → SVP AI Strategy
- Solving equations & business problems with clarity
- Engineering + mathematics + product dev + executive decisions

AI4ALL

- Cut through AI hype
- \$\$\$\$ due diligence
- AI transformation advisor
- Business value + math reality
- Tech, data & algorithm audits
- Tech ↔ Business translator
- Responsible AI dev roadmap
- AI/ML executive educator

AI4ALL MOAT

1 UNDER WHAT ASSUMPTIONS?

Stress-testing claims, Where will my model/system break? Reveal hidden risks, Decisions under uncertainty

2 SAMPLE → POPULATION

Is this representative? Will this generalize? A/B uplift test, Noisy metrics vs robustness questions

3 HIERARCHICAL THINKING

Conflicting objectives, short vs long-term, system thinking, specialized vs general models

4 OPTIMIZATION FRAMING

Mental habit, breakdown problems, name the constraints and trade-offs, applicable everywhere

PIVOTAL MOMENT #1

THE STATS RIDDLE

1st line of code → \$53M B2B ML product



App Usage Analytics

How to estimate?

Budget vs data

PIVOTAL MOMENT #2

NON-ZERO PROBABILITY

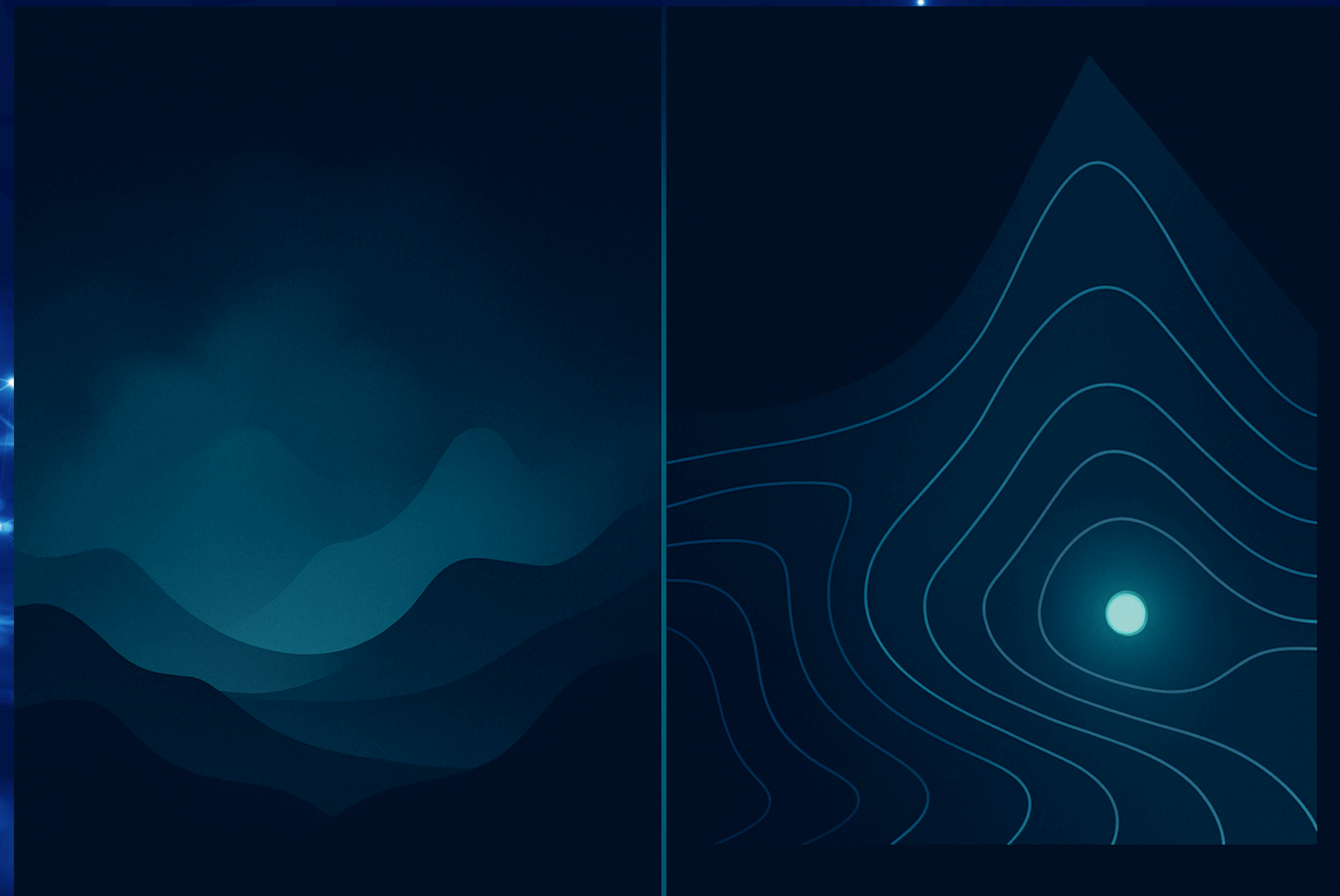


Unlikely scenario that changed everything

PIVOTAL MOMENT #3

CLEAR DECISIONS

Stock
Market



Hand-wavy marketing

Communicate with precision

Customers
Investors
CEOs
Auditors

UNEXPECTED LESSONS

1 PITCH/BOARD DECK REALITY

Bird's eye view vs details, commit to execute the risky future, alternatives vs recommendation, tech trends explained

2 REGULATORY OPPORTUNITIES

Real challenge → cross-functional learning, hierarchical & ensemble models, MLOps, structured sales

3 FALLBACK

Failed assumption → new fallback algo, experimentation vs exploitation, make limitations visible, at all risk levels

4 WE NEED AI

What for? What are the constraints? Did you try ML? How is your data organized? What is your tech stack?

THE THROUGHLINE

Grounding AI strategy in the mathematics it actually comes from
PROBABILITY THEORY, OPTIMIZATION, PATTERN RECOGNITION

mapped along the realities of

SCALE PRODUCTION & MOAT



THE CORE TRUTH

Most “AI experts” just guess while YOU

- formalize mess
- build proofs
- see the whole system
- are comfortable in uncertainty
- show intellectual integrity
- build trust

Your academic training uniquely positions you to lead AI transformation



WHERE YOU CAN CREATE IMPACT

1 TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

- Not just building systems
- Designing with mathematical integrity
- Leading teams evaluating claims rigorously

2 STRATEGIC ADVISORY

- Technical due diligence at scale
- Investors and executives pay for clarity they cannot get elsewhere

3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Genuine innovation creates defensible advantage
- Not just "AI wrappers" but real structural insights





THANK YOU

