

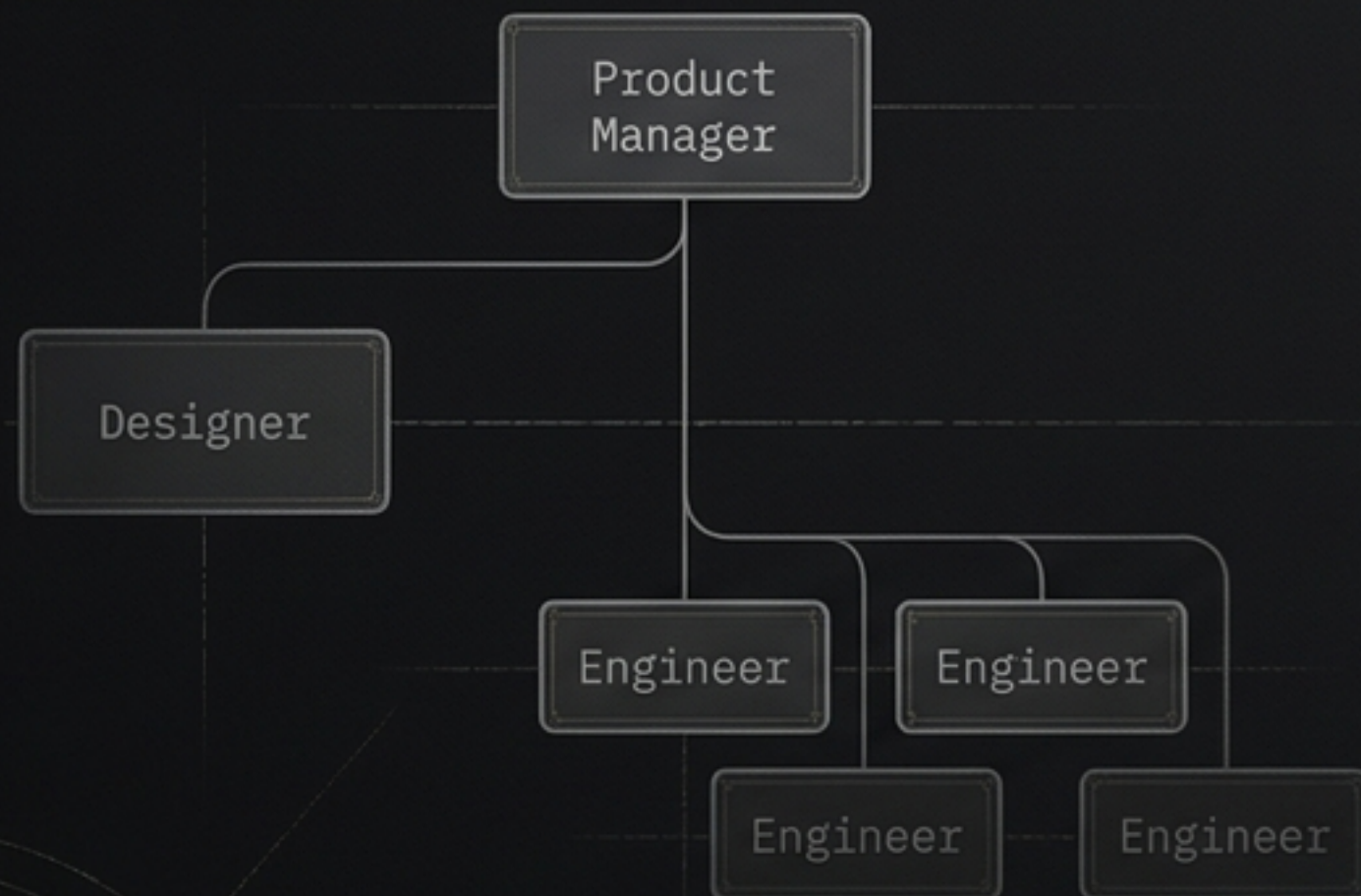
The Solo AI-Augmented Builder Playbook



Lessons from shipping 1,134 commits, 109 PRs,
and 9 product verticals in production.

The minimum viable product team has collapsed

Traditional Architecture



"AI-augmented" is the wrong frame. AI is not a supplement; it is the core execution engine.

The Solo Builder Reality

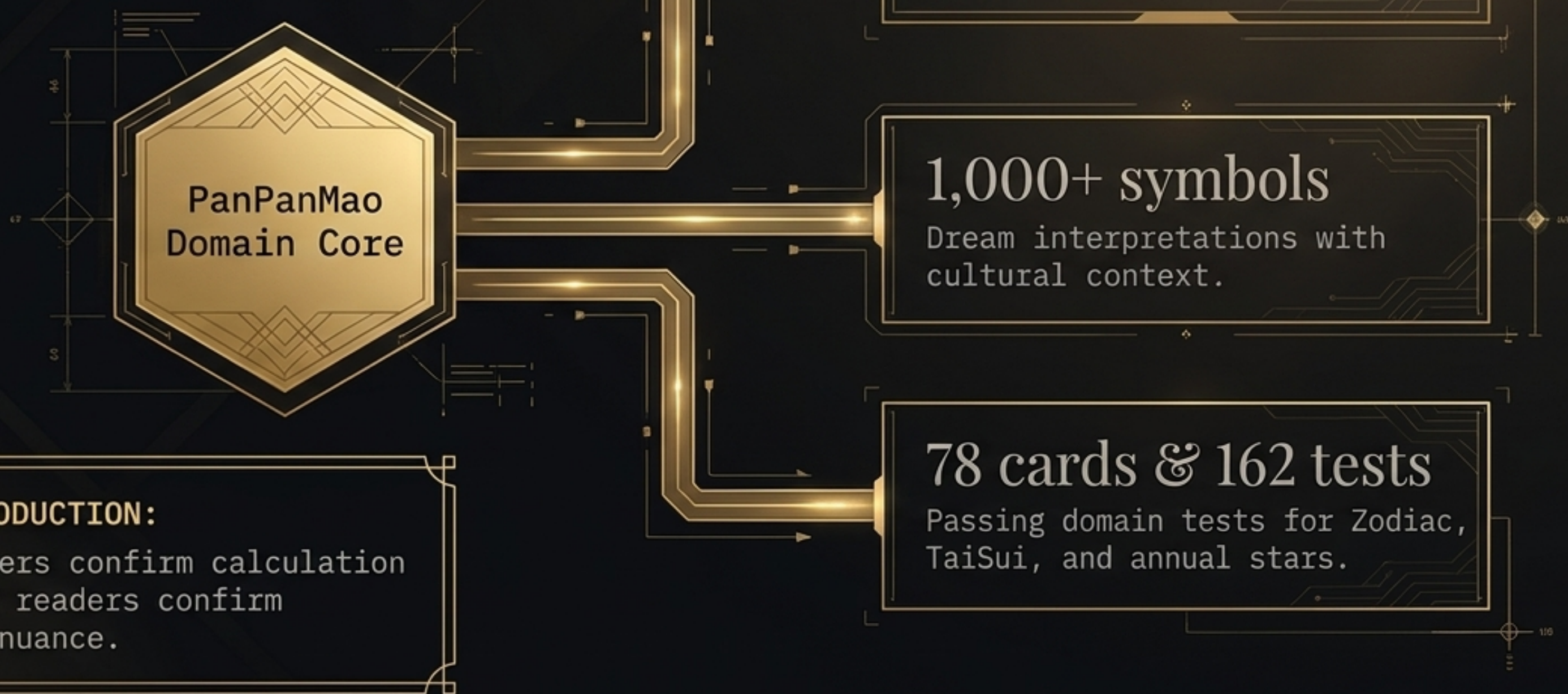


The modern platform team is exactly one engineer with good taste and access to AI tools.

The New Division of Labor

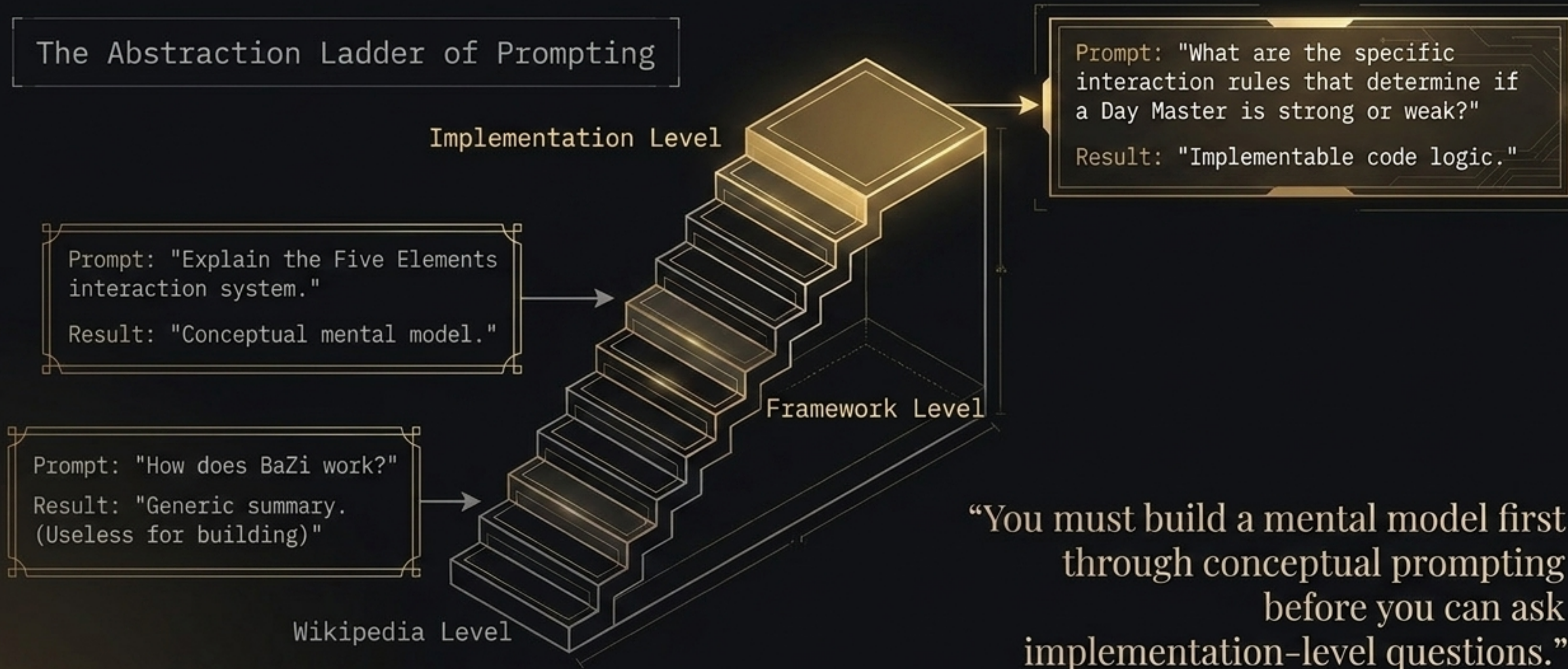
Role	Ownership	Primary Function
Domain Expert	100% AI	Fortune-telling logic, cultural context, calculation rules
Execution Engine	95% AI	Writing code, applying patterns, mechanical refactors
System Architect	90% Human	System design, package boundaries, data models
Product Leader	100% Human	Positioning, pricing, tone, conversion design
Code Reviewer	100% Human	Reviewing every single line before merge

AI can completely bridge a domain knowledge gap



Zero knowledge is possible. Zero curiosity is not.

The Abstraction Ladder of Prompting



The AI tone problem is harder than any engineering problem

AI Default (“讨好型” / People-Pleasing)

Everything is positive.
Health is always fine.
Relationships are promising.
Success is practically guaranteed.



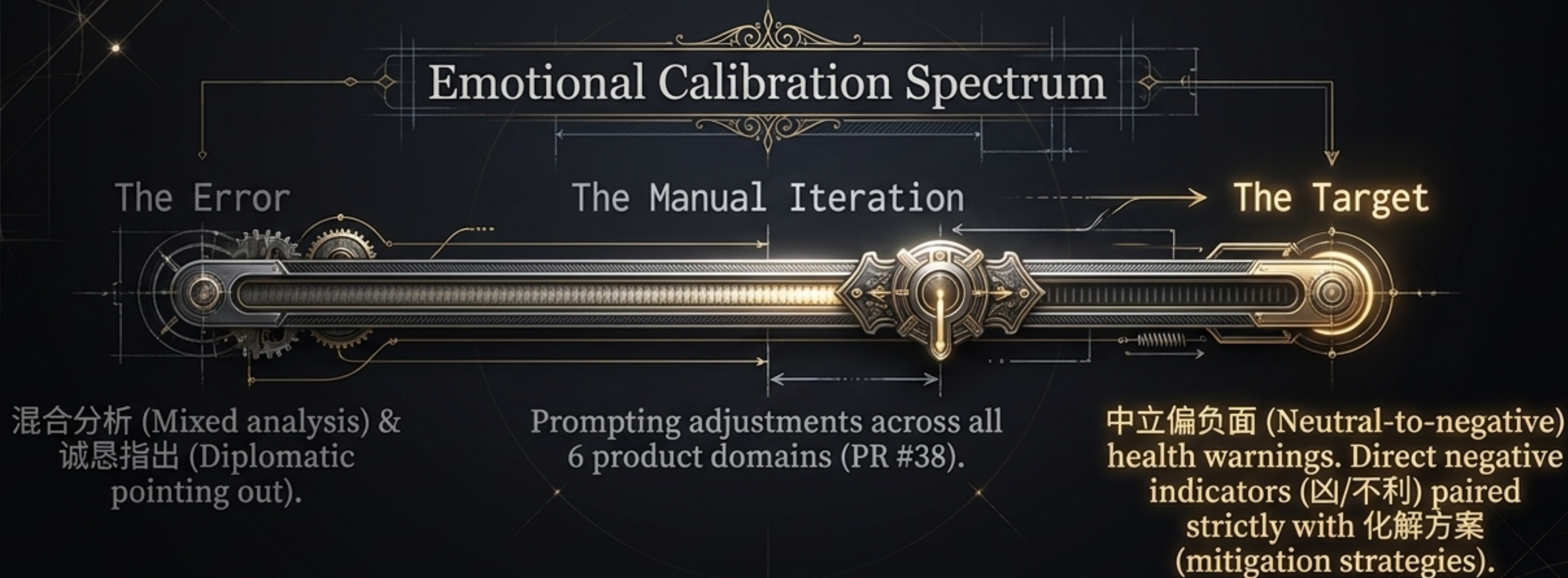
Cultural Expectation (Real Fortune Teller)

- Points out obstacles.
- Highlights unfavorable months.
- Directly states when TaiSui (太岁) is in conflict with the birth year.



AI excels at domain knowledge mechanics, but completely struggles with domain culture and emotional expectations.

Calibrating from diplomacy to authority



This required 100% human emotional intelligence.
AI models cannot self-correct for cultural authority.

Product decisions eclipse engineering decisions



V1: Cozy & Approachable

Felt too soft. Users thought it was a children's app.
(Failure)



V2: Clean & Functional

Too mechanical. Users thought it was a tech demo.
(Failure)



V3: Dark Luxury

Deep blacks, gold accents, mysterious oracle. Users felt "trustworthy and professional."
(Success)

Three full redesigns for a positioning problem, not a code problem.
Polish comes after product-market fit.

Optimizing psychological pricing and incentive design

Asymmetric vs. Symmetric Referral Scale



Human Reaction: Extractive.
"I'm using my friend to get credits."

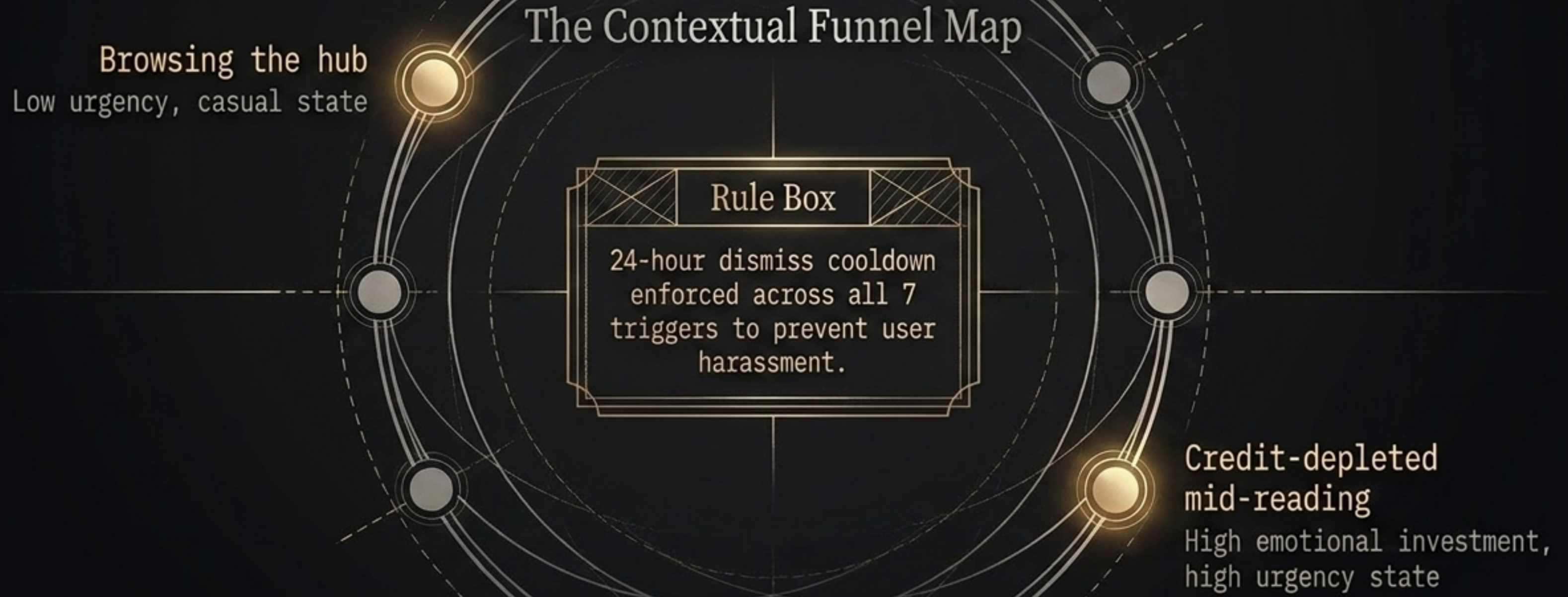


Human Reaction: Gift-giving.
Referral volume increased immediately.



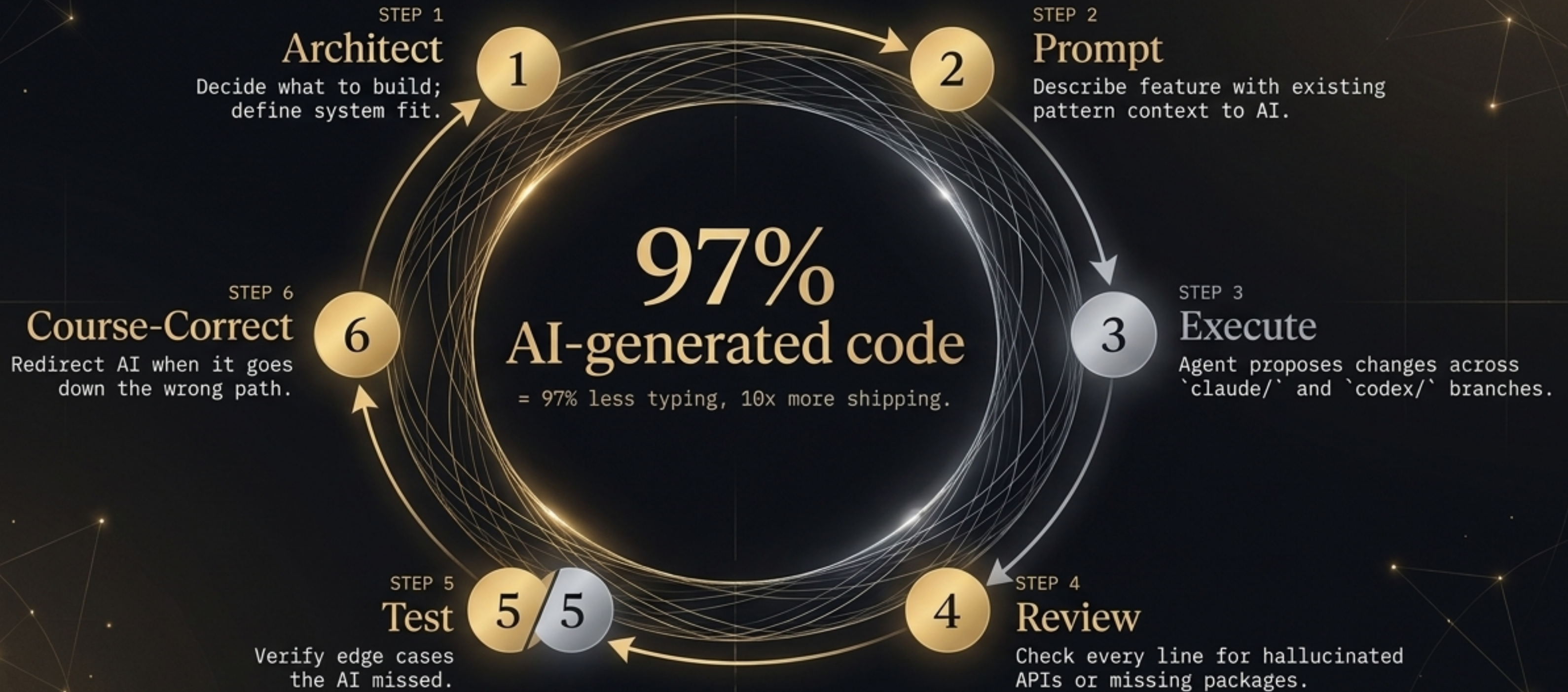
The decision to rename credits to '小鱼干' (dried fish treats) reduced spending friction more than any API optimization.

Architecting conversion through emotional context



AI cannot design an empathetic conversion funnel.

The agentic workflow is real (but it isn't automatic)



Diagnostic: Human Intuition vs. AI Mechanics



AI Outperforms (Mechanics & Consistency)

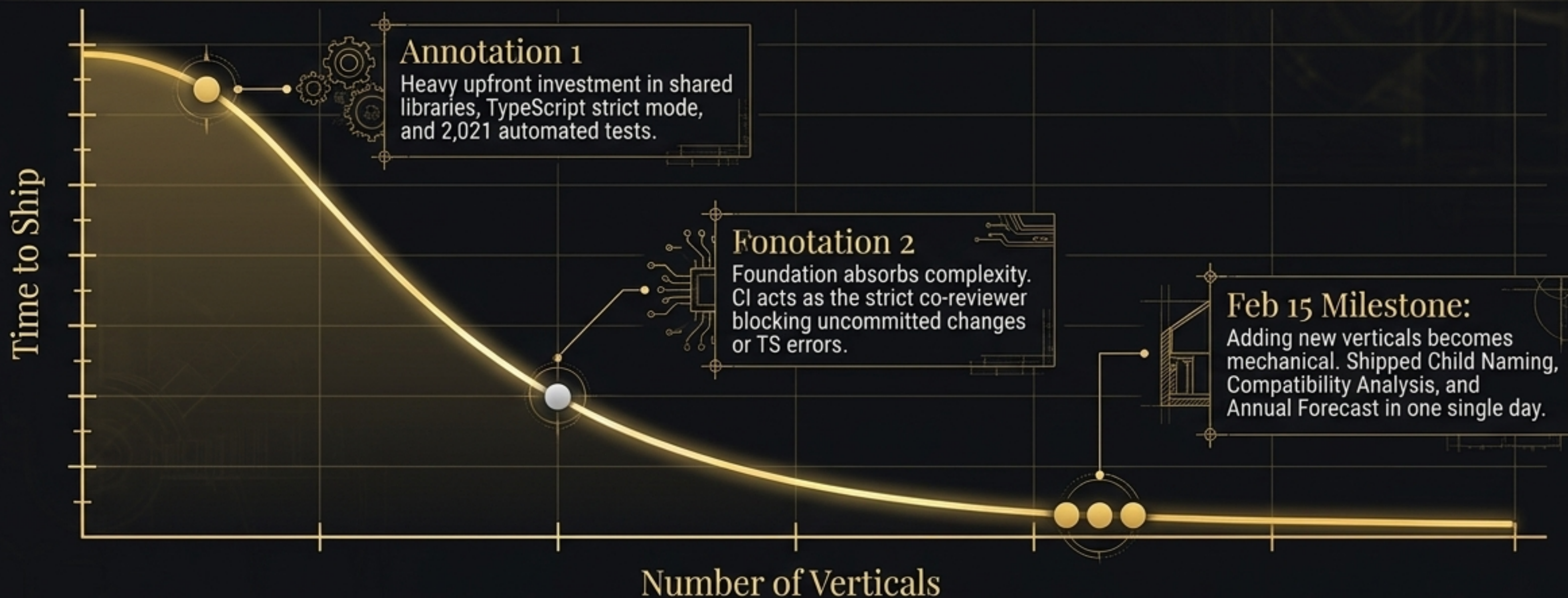
- Uniformly applying `createAIStreamResponse()` across 15 different endpoints (PR #16).
- Executing mechanical refactors across 20 files simultaneously (`createRouteCostLogger` - PR #21).
- Never getting bored with boilerplate code.

Human Outperforms (Taste & Judgment)

- 🧭 Knowing when to stop iterating (combating solo blind spots).
- 💡 Designing the three-stage content filter evolution.
- 💡 Overhauling cultural tone and referral system psychology.

The compounding effect of foundational architecture

The Architecture Compounding Curve

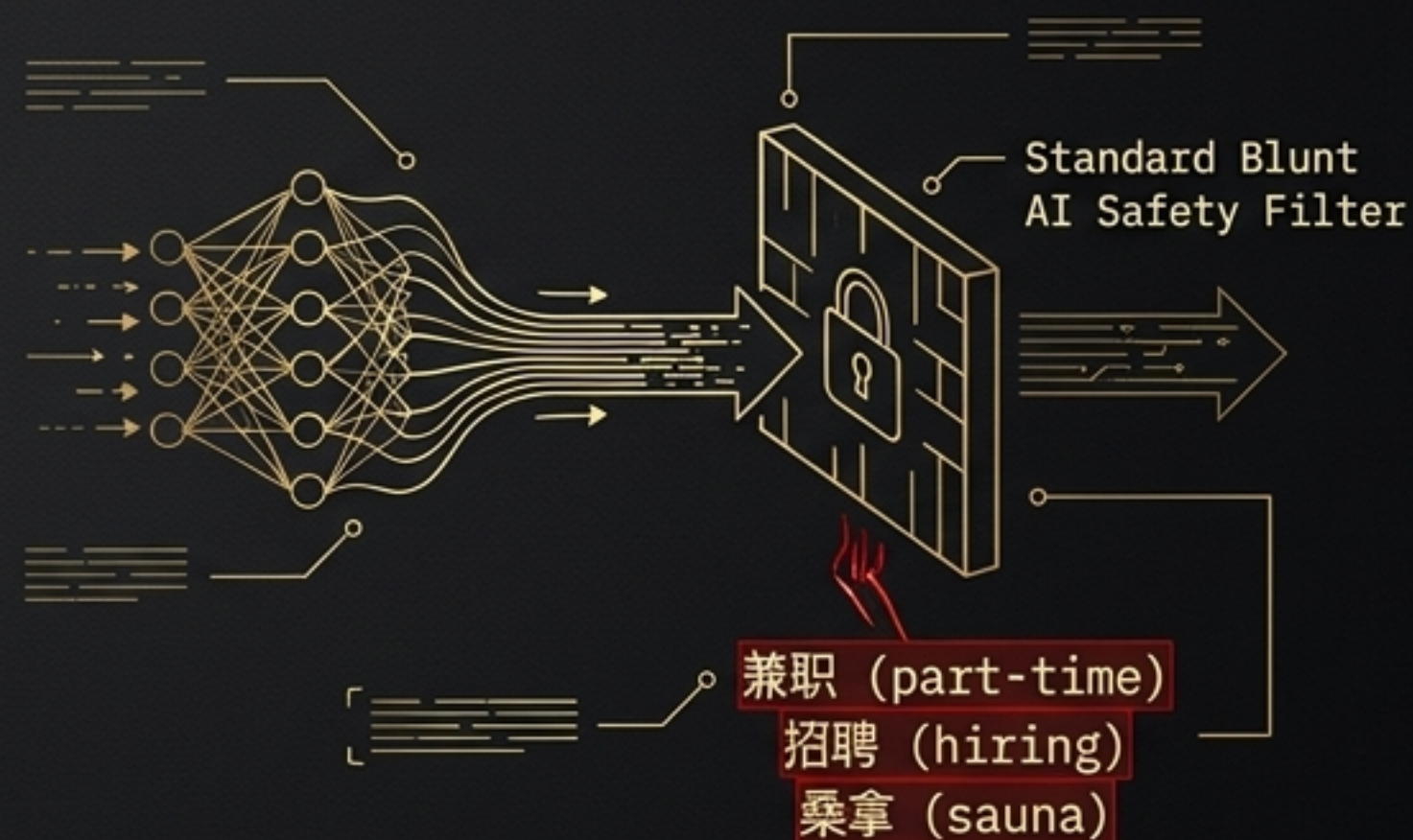


China market compliance is not an afterthought

Regulatory Frameworks (PR #83)

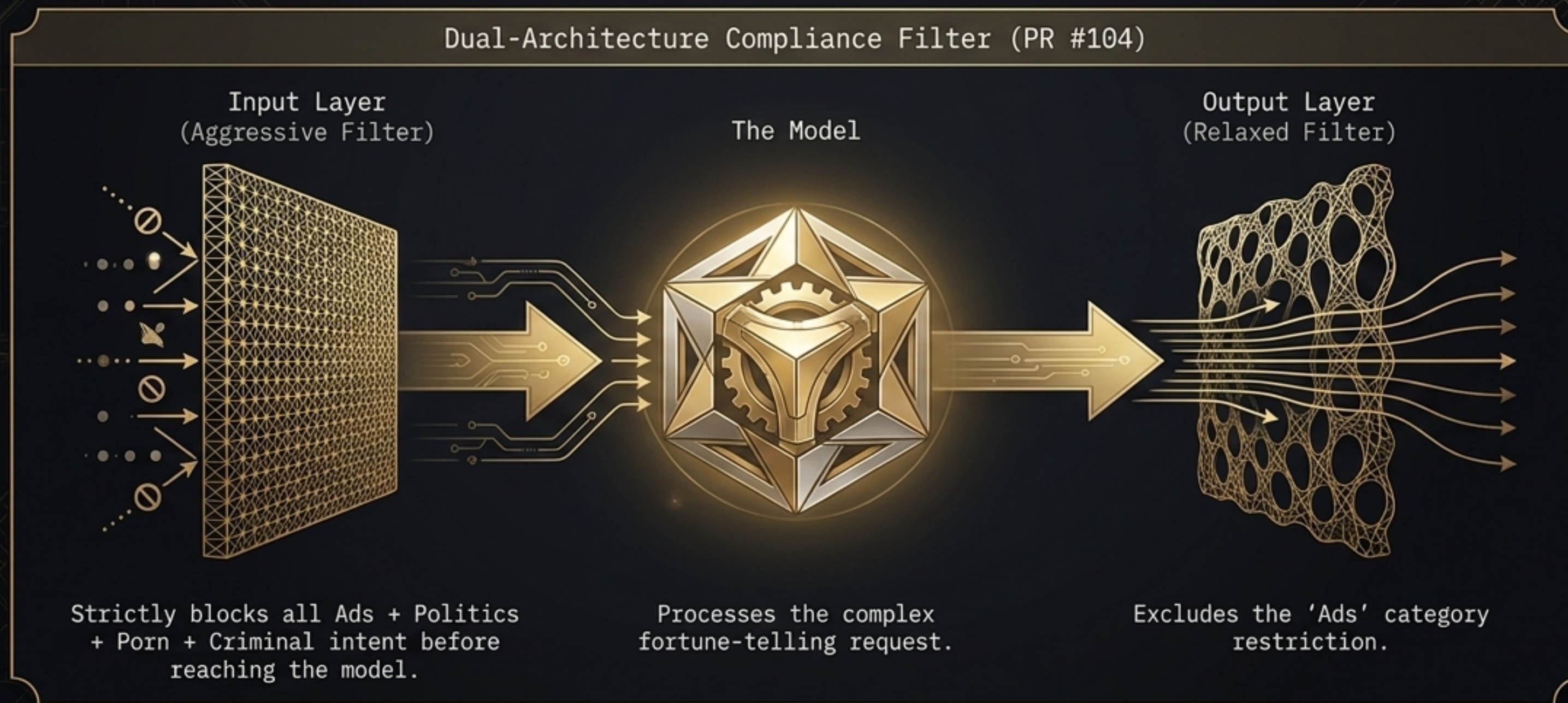
- [X] Bifurcated legal architecture (Chinese / English).
- [X] Implemented Generative AI Interim Measures & Deep Synthesis provisions.
- [X] PIPL cross-border transfer mechanisms & sensitive PI consent flows.

The Vocabulary Collision



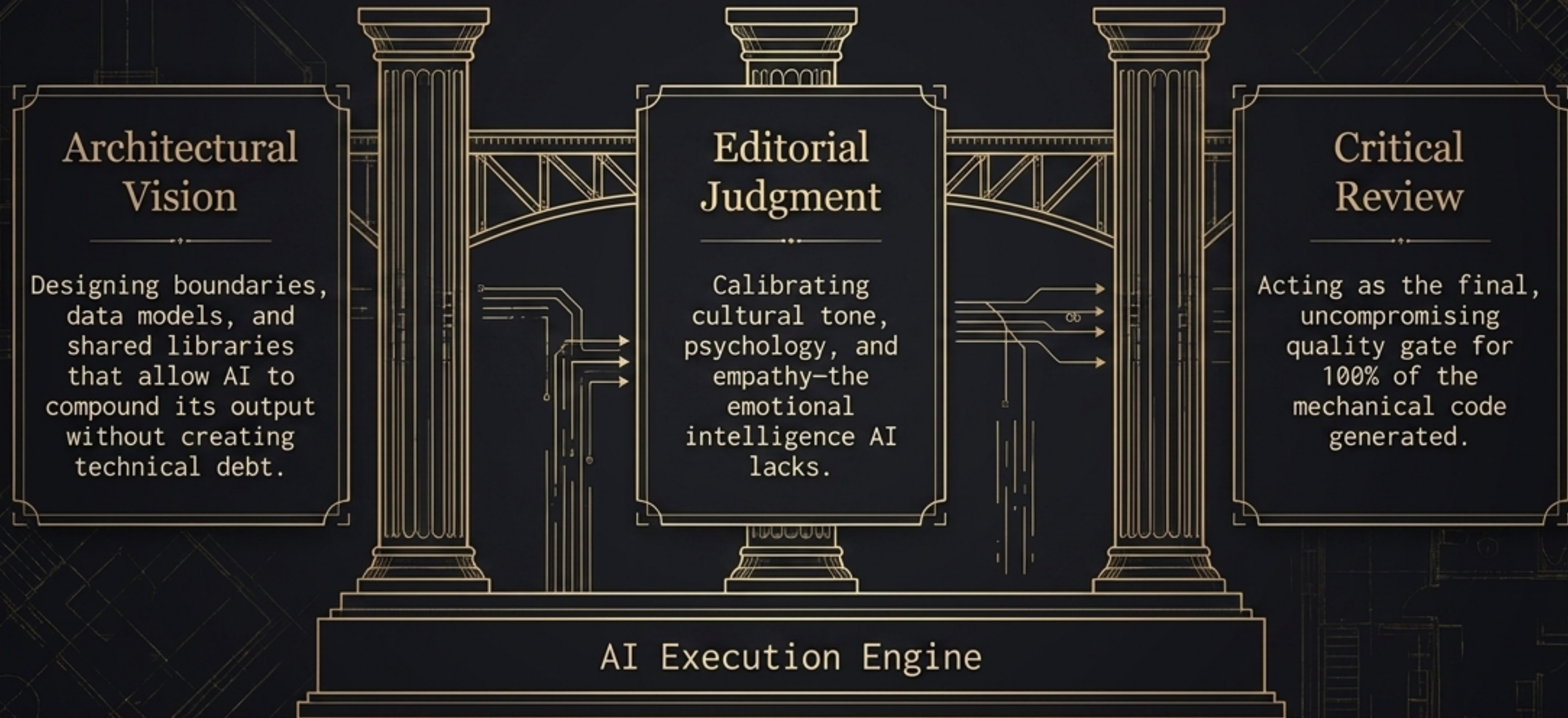
- Standard blunt AI safety filters fail in this domain.
- Fortune-telling naturally generates words like 兼职 (part-time), 招聘 (hiring), and 桑拿 (sauna).
- Standard keyword filters mistakenly flag this as illegal advertising.

Architecting the dual-layer content filter



This asymmetry prevents the system from self-censoring valid astrological predictions containing flagged vocabulary.

The AI-Augmented Skill Tree



Execution is commoditized. Taste and architecture are at a premium.