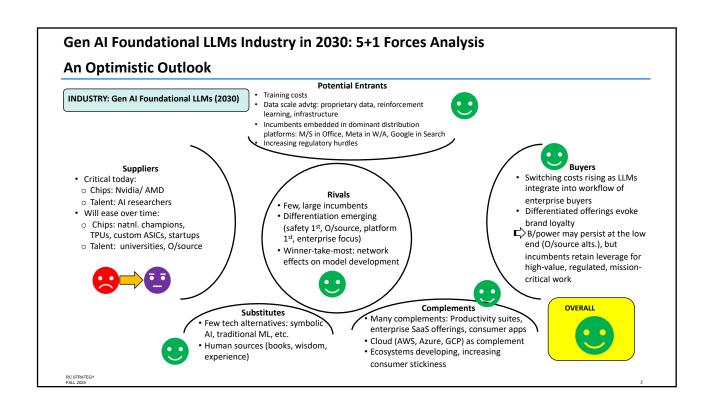
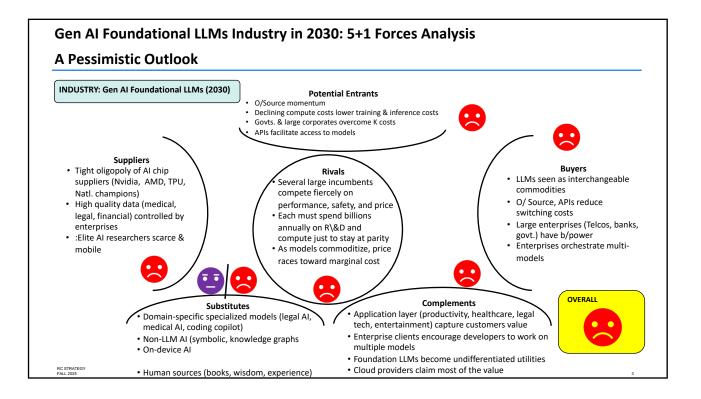


#### AI WARS: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

RC STRATEGY
SECTIONS B & C
ASHISH NANDA
FALL 2025





### Alphabet's Strategy

## What might be a good strategy for Alphabet to pursue in each of these scenarios?

Scenario	<b>Emerging Industry Structure</b>	Alphabet's Strategy	How to create advantage?
Attractive Industry (disciplined oligopoly, high barriers to entry, complements expand the value pie)	Frontier LLMs are few, expensive to build, and highly differentiated; complements reinforce their value	Frontier model incumbent  • Keep Gemini at the quality frontier  • Integrate vertically (chips → cloud → models → apps)  • Capture value via complements (Search, Ads, YouTube, Workspace)  • Shape regulation to favor incumbents	Cutting edge research  Cale  Vertical integration  Build an ecosystem to expand demand, capture value, and create stickiness  Support regulatory standards
Unattractive Industry (commoditized, cutthroat rivalry, powerful suppliers and buyers, complements capture value)	Many competitive models; APIs interchangeable; substitutes abound; value accrues to complements	Own valued complements & orchestrate ecosystem  • Strengthen complements (Workspace copilots, YouTube, Search answers, Android Al)  • Position GCP as a neutral multi-model orchestration platform  • Invest in domain-specific vertical solutions (healthcare, finance)  • Invest in and monetize distribution rather than Al processing power	Ensure applications and platforms capture margins even as AI models commoditize     Lock in enterprises through GCP orchestration and compliance     Lock in consumers through AI-enabled Search, YouTube, Android

- Optimal strategy is contingent on industry structure
  - In a rapidly evolving industry, this requires prediction as to what the future will bring
  - However, strategy can also shape the future, not only for the firm, but also for the entire industry

RC STRATEGY

## One View of the Future of AI



Many may dig for gold but, for sure, those who sell shovels and those who sell jewelry will succeed





RC STRATEGY FALL 2025

# 

