



Beyond the Pandemic

Long-term Trends and Structural Loss
in University Library Attendance
Post-Pandemic in Japan

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Tohoku University

- Japan's 1st certified "University for International Research Excellence"
- Strong in semiconductors & material science
- ~17,000 students (10,000 undergrads / 7,000 grads)



Library



Background and Purpose

Context

- 6 years Post-COVID
- Drastic changes in lifestyles & academic environments

Core Question

Temporal recovery
vs.
Structural shift?

Goal & Focus

- Isolate COVID-19 Impacts
- Identify where to intervene:
Collections, Courses, or Space?

Data & Method

Analyses: Time-Series Analysis / Statistical Analysis / Cohort Studies

University co-op sales

Book loans

E-book
access logs

Gate counts

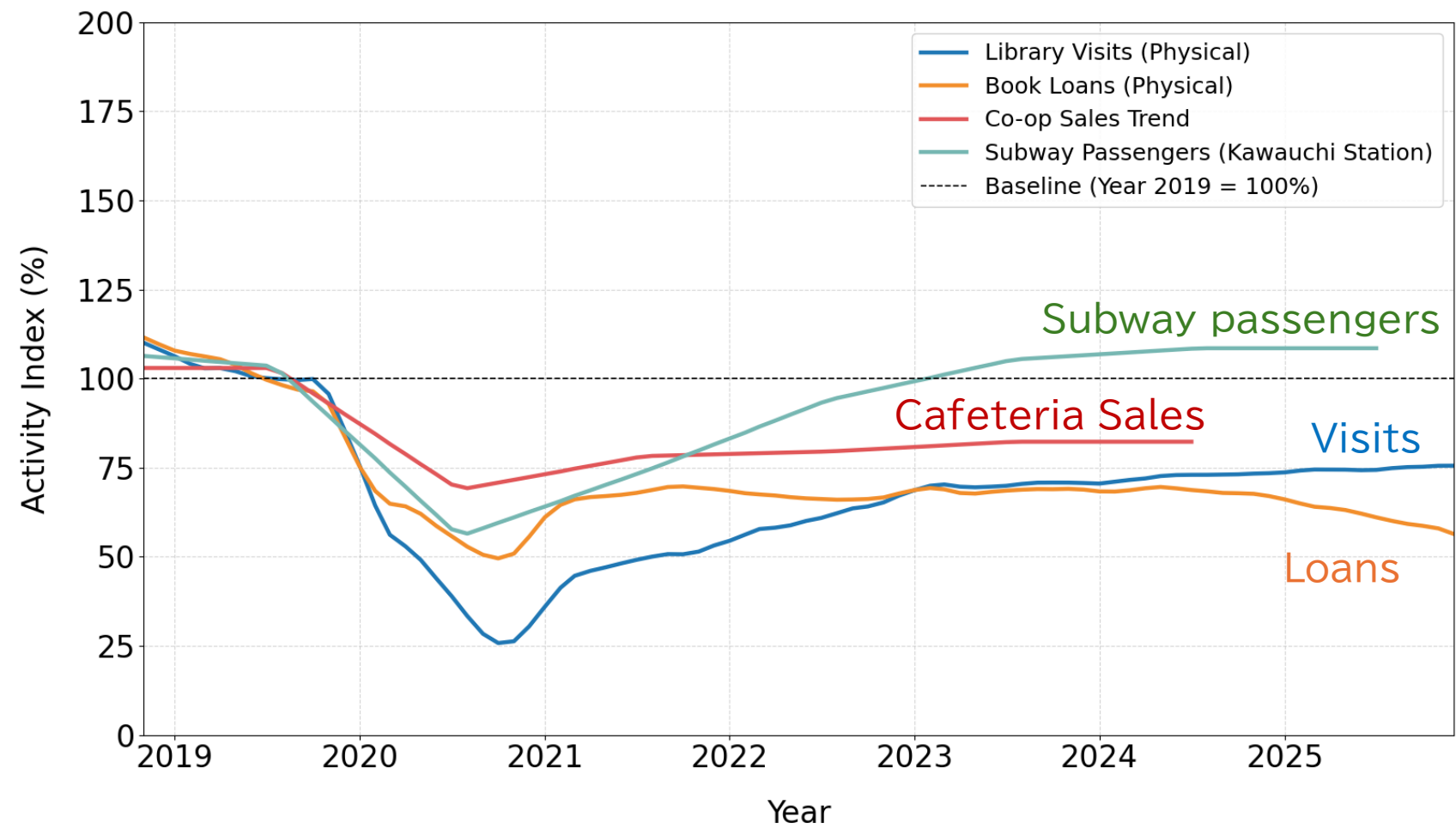
Subway ridership

Student lifestyle
survey

Contextual Data (Annual)

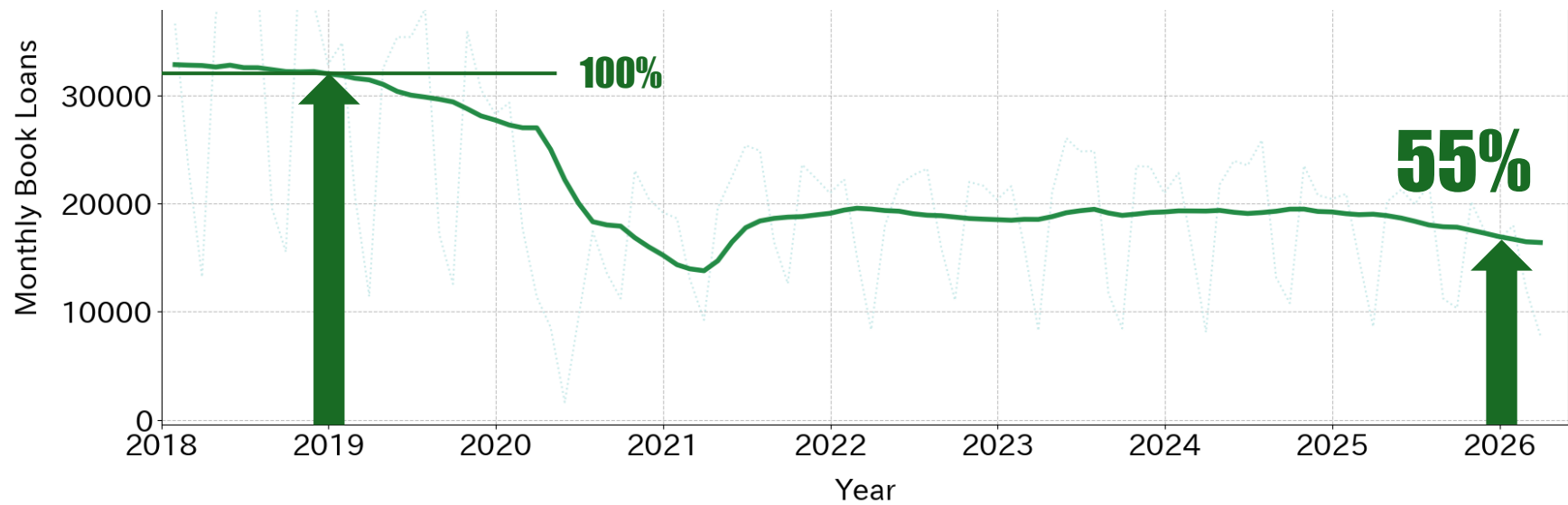
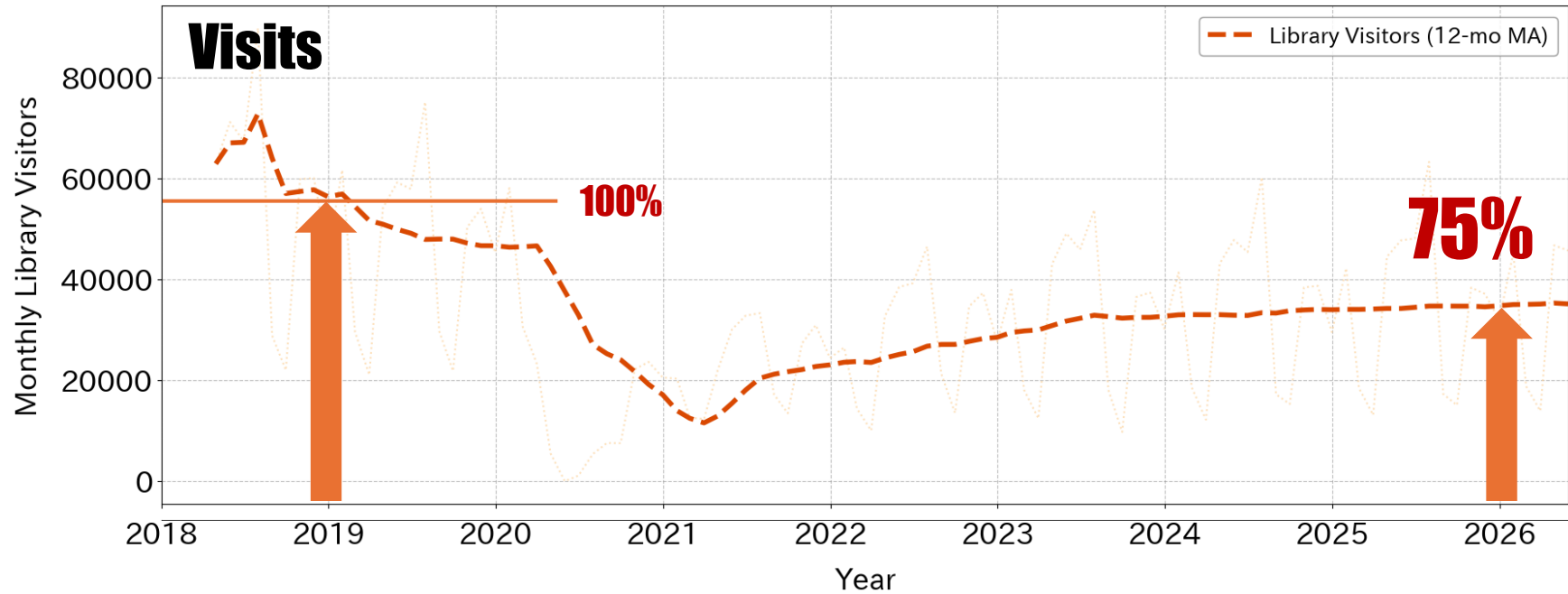
Library Data (Monthly)

Subway Ridership vs. Actual Presence: Shorter Stays and Reduced On-Campus Activity

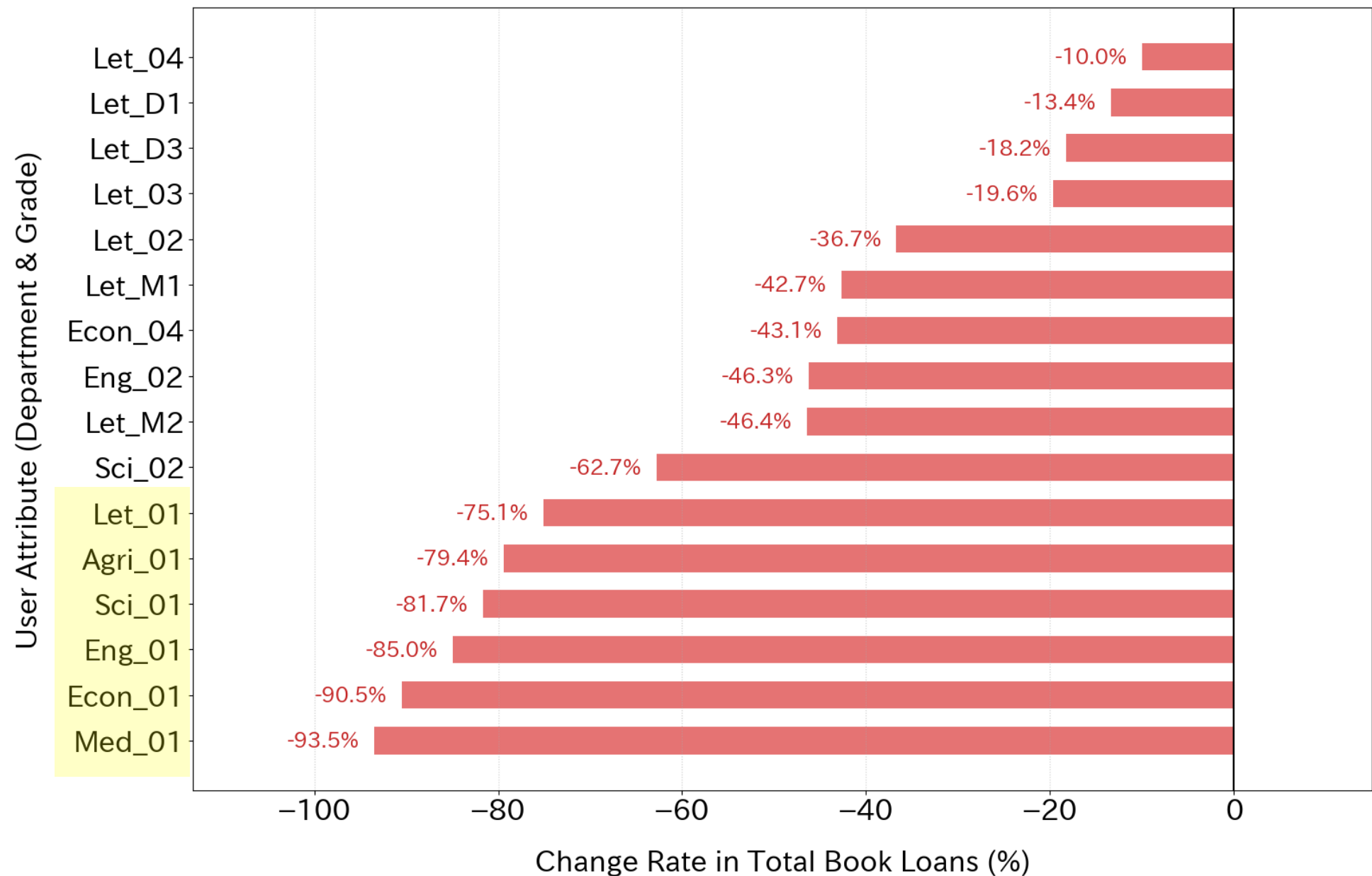


Note: While subway pass-through reaches 100%, overall campus dwell time has declined, and non-subway commuters constitute the primary user base for the Main Library.

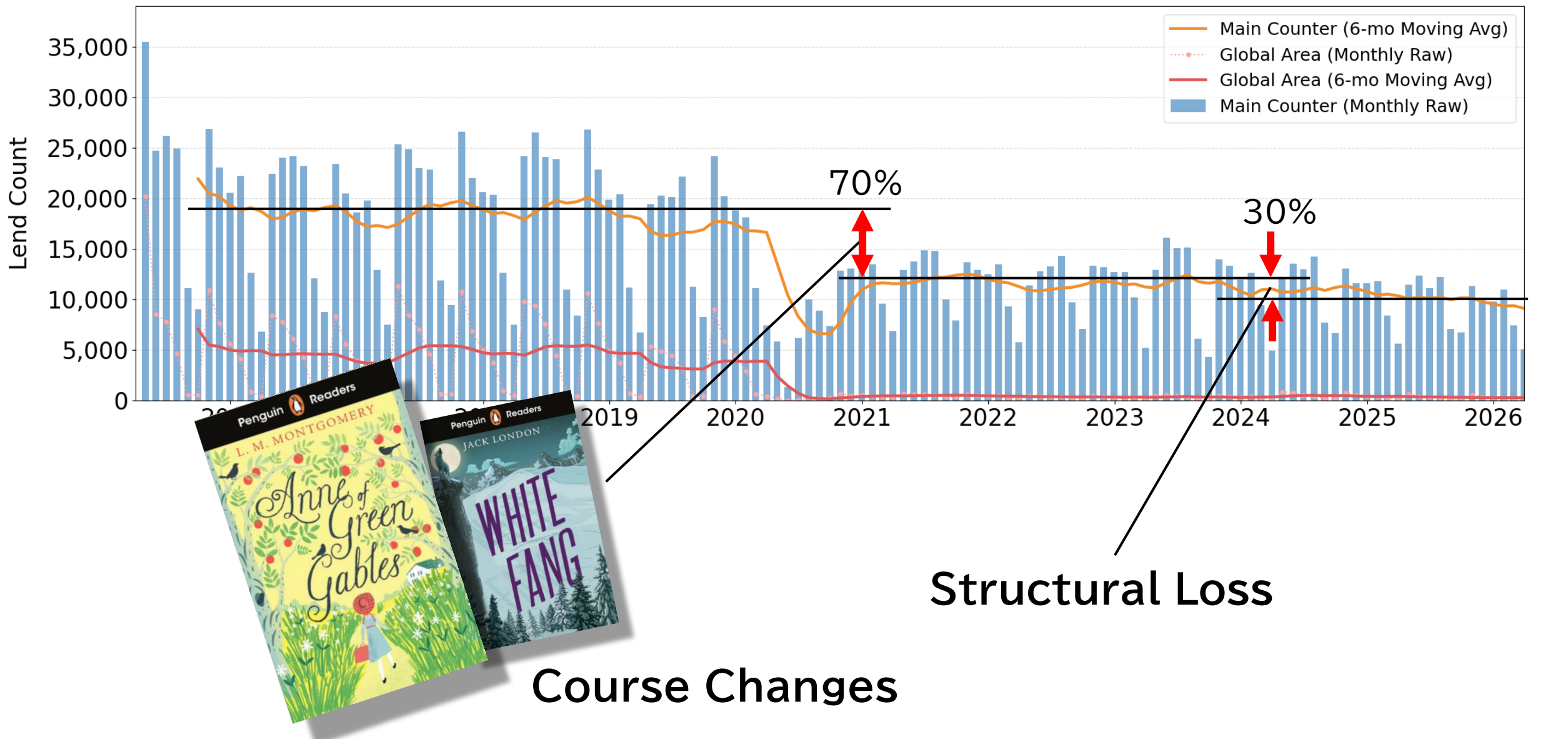
Visits Plateaued and Loans Decreasing



Sharpest Drop in Loans Among First-Years



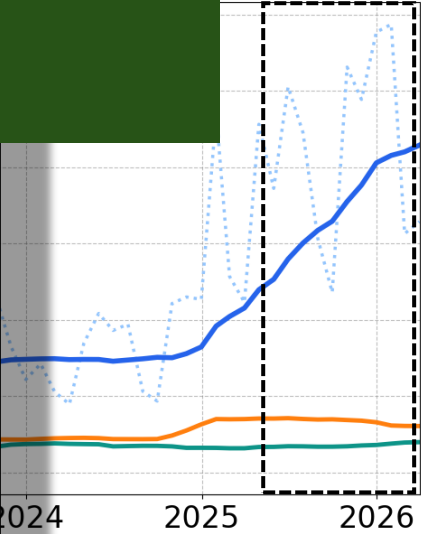
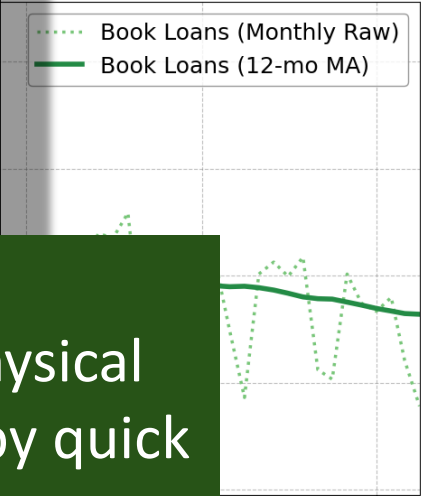
Curriculum Shift vs. Structural Loss



E-book growth is not replacing the physical loans

month	rank	access	title	publisher / platform
2025-01	1	✓ 1217	Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2024	Springer Nature Switzerland
2025-01	2	✓ 637	International Encyclopedia of Statistical Science	Springer Berlin Heidelberg
2025-01	3	603	Artificial Intelligence in Education	Springer Nature Switzerland
2025-02	1	✓ 1546	Encyclopedia of Solid Earth Geophysics	Springer International Publishing
2025-02	2	346	Computer Vision - ECCV 2024	Springer Nature Switzerland
			Advanced Intelligent Computing Theories and Applications. With Aspects of Artificial	
2025-02	3	284	Intelligence	Springer Berlin Heidelberg
2025-03	1	376	Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2022	Springer Nature Switzerland
2025-03	2	258	Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2024	Springer Nature Switzerland
2025-03	3	195	High P	
2025-04	1	385	Function	
			Procee	
2025-04	2	333	Material	
2025-04	3	234	Medica	
2025-05	1	512	PRICAI	
2025-05	2	364	Artifici	
2025-05	3	297	Function	
2025-06	1	✓ 6765	The N	
2025-06	2	637	Medica	
2025-06	3	✓ 514	Encycl	
2025-07	1	✓ 2208	Encycl	
2025-07	2	683	Compu	
2025-07	3	636	Encycl	
2025-08	1	✓ 3319	The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics	Palgrave Macmillan UK
2025-08	2	✓ 1526	Encyclopedia of Nanotechnology	Springer Netherlands
2025-08	3	190	Advanced Intelligent Computing Technology and Applications	Springer Nature Singapore
2025-09	1	1222	Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2025	Springer Nature Switzerland
			Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Environmental Degradation of	
2025-09	2	✓ 333	Materials in Nuclear Power Systems - Water Reactors	Springer International Publishing
2025-09	3	✓ 179	The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics	Palgrave Macmillan UK
2025-10	1	✓ 2162	Encyclopedia of Tribology	Springer US
2025-10	2	✓ 973	Encyclopedia of Algorithms	Springer US
2025-10	3	425	Artificial Intelligence in Education	Springer International Publishing
2025-11	1	753	12th International Copper Conference	Springer Nature Switzerland
2025-11	2	380	Advances in Artificial Life	Springer Berlin Heidelberg
2025-11	3	273	Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention - MICCAI 2015	Springer International Publishing
2025-12	1	✓ 1422	Encyclopedia of Optimization	Springer US
2025-12	2	✓ 1004	Encyclopedia of Wireless Networks	Springer International Publishing
2025-12	3	431	Superalloys 2020	Springer International Publishing

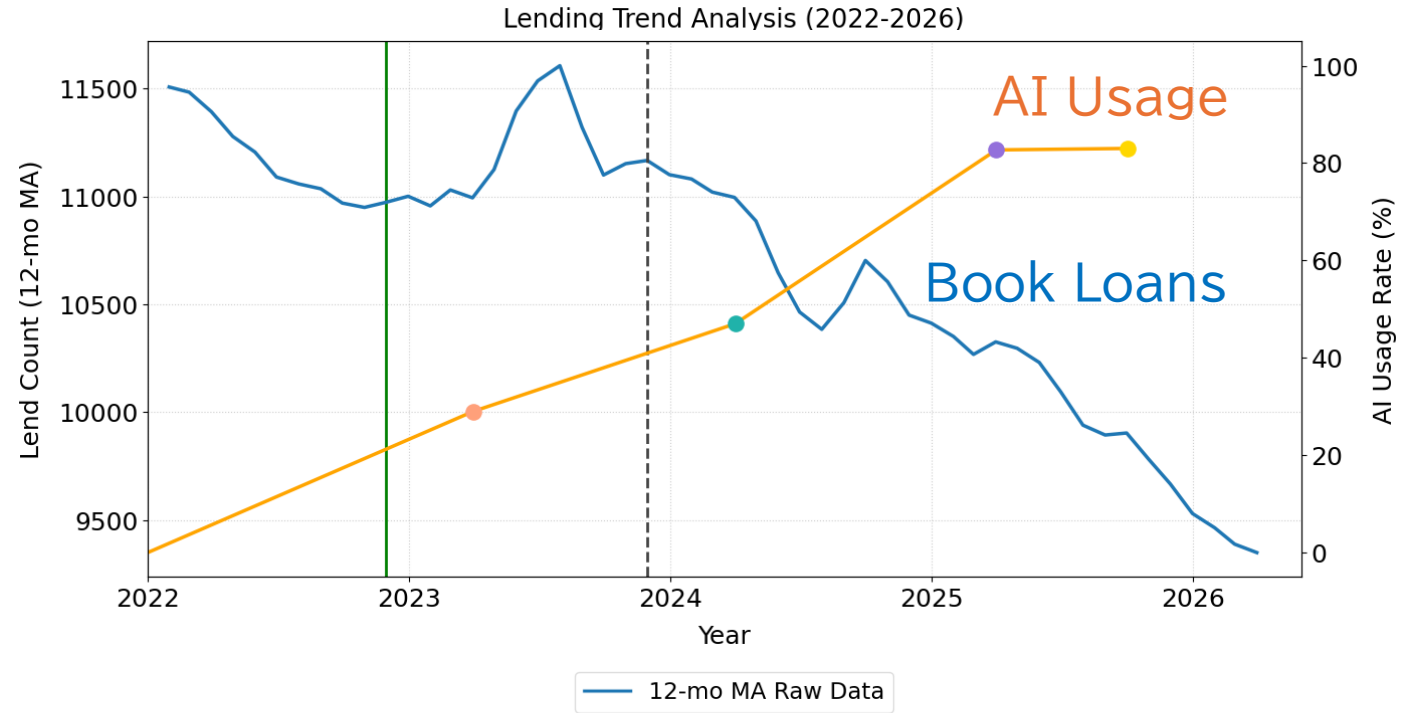
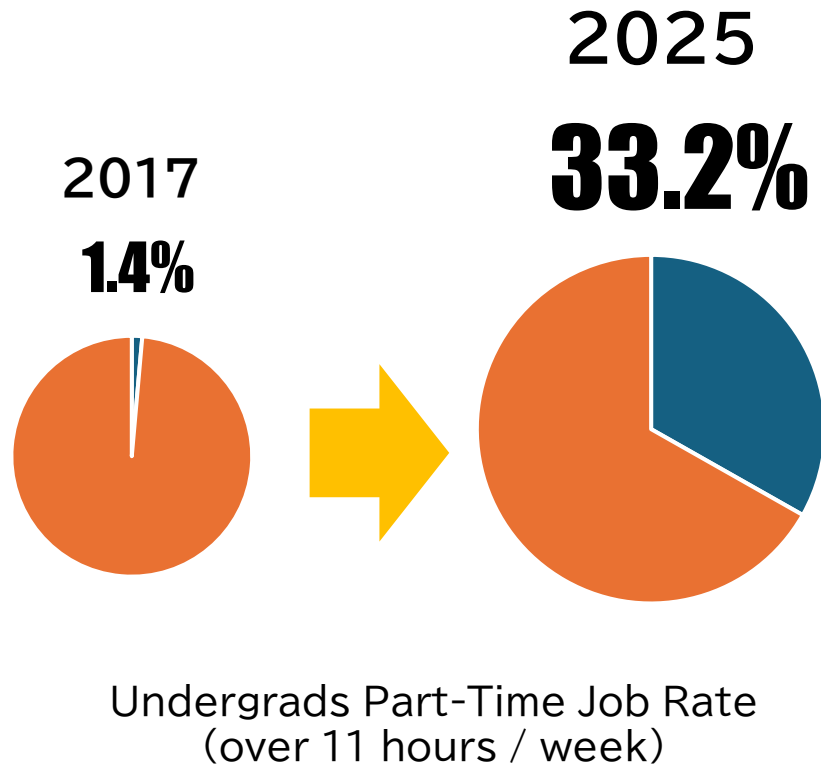
E-book access operates independently of physical loan trends, as its usage is primarily driven by quick reference or dictionary-style consultations.



Springer etc.

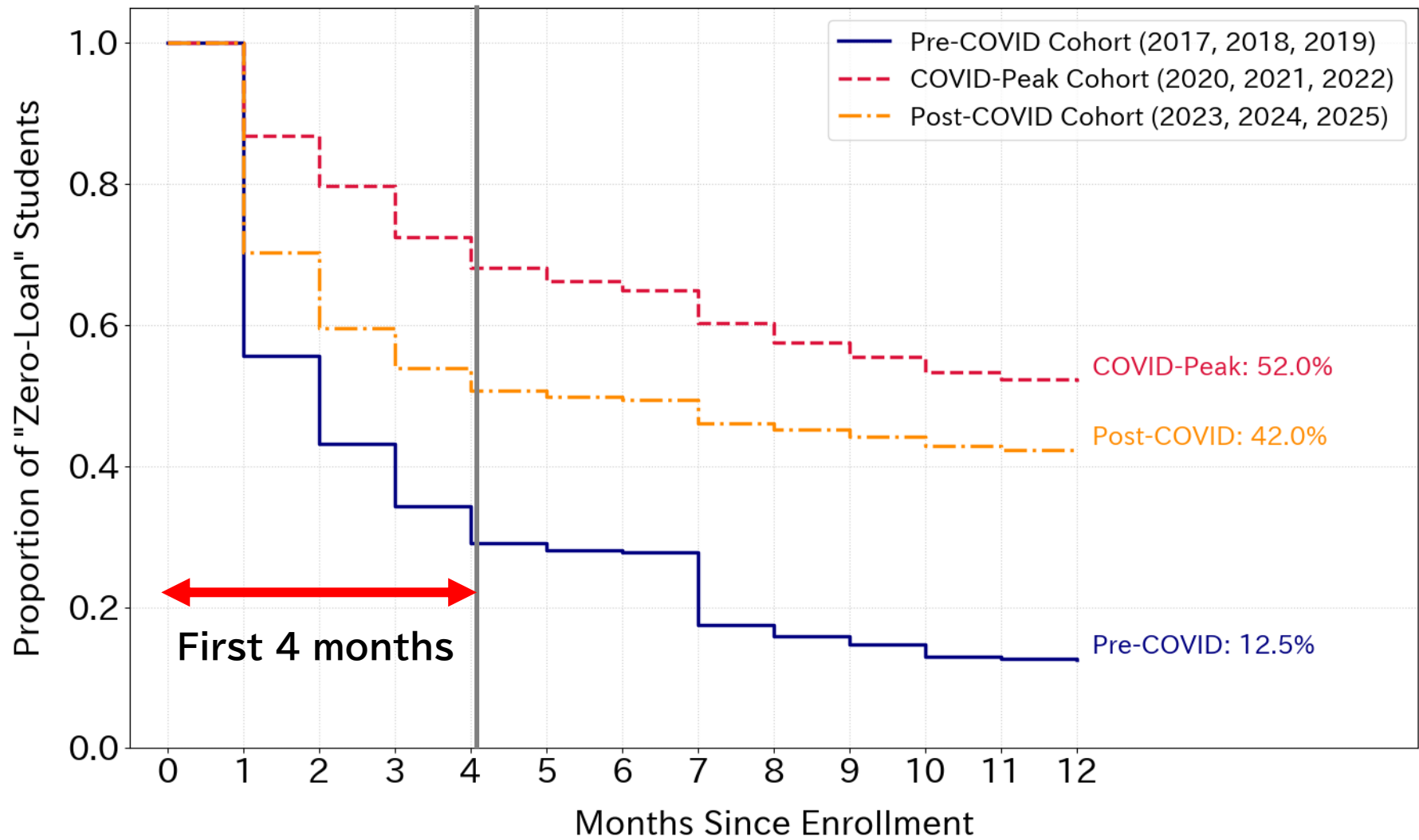
MeL
KinoDen

Why the Shift ? Time-poverty & AI



AI acts as a “survival tool” for time-constrained students.

Crucial Window: 1st Semester



Summary & Strategic Implications

Findings

Visits vs. Loans Divergence

- Visits: 75% (Plateaued)
- Loans: 55% (Declining)

Shift: Borrowing
↓
Space Usage

Key Drivers

Curriculum vs. Structural Loss

- 70%: Course changes (Extensive reading)
- 30%: Lifestyle shifts & AI adoption

Strategic Action

1st Semester Intervention

- 4-month Window: Habits set early (Zero-loan Cohort)
- Action: Embed in 1st-year curricula & redesign physical spaces

Thank you for your attention.



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