

## A review on collateral management and Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) strategies: Challenges and solutions for financial institutions

Balaji Ramanujam \*

*Credit Risk Control, Standard Chartered Bank, New York Metropolitan Area, USA.*

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### Abstract

The steady state of global economics demands financial institutions providing investment businesses and insurance firms who control capital flow and enforce risk regulations to align with regulatory requirements. Firms combining asset management methods with RWA optimization achieve two advantages by reaching financial requirements for bank capital yet adhering to banking regulation standards. This paper evaluates the present-day collateral management systems because they serve as essential risk mitigation tools to protect against financial market dangers. The regulatory framework defined by 'Basel III', 'CRD IV' and 'Dodd-Frank Act' establishes rules for both capital composition and collateral procedure regulations. Modern financial management technology receives evaluation because its combination of blockchain authentication systems, automatic portfolio controls, and AI analytical tools makes operations more performative while increasing visibility. Research explores RWA calculation by investigating methods for reducing credit risk and internal ratings as well as securitization approaches. This evaluation examines central obstacles because of liquidity challenges cybersecurity issues, and regulatory complexity through proposing multiple solutions. The research utilizes market information alongside contemporary tools to produce essential understandings about market-based risk structure development along with operational transformations and ability to adapt to market changes.

**Keywords:** Collateral Management; Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA); Financial Institutions; Credit Risk; Capital Allocation.

### 1. Introduction

The benchmark of current financial risk management exists through changing collateral management practices and Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) approaches because of regulatory shifts together with technological developments and market challenges. Due to Basel III and CRD IV and Dodd-Frank Act regulatory requirements, financial institutions must fully exploit their available collateral resources [1]. Great collateral management functions became clear during the 2008 financial crisis as stopping systemic risks from occurring became essential [2][3]. Worldwide regulatory institutions established tighter capital buffers together with collateral requirements due to this situation. [4]. Interconnected financial markets produce a requirement that [5], During the current market environment, institutions build stronger operations through automated collateral systems that combine with AI risk models for better counterparty risk control [6].

Banks need to maintain sufficient Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) according to banking regulations, as these assets define the minimum required capital for credit risk management, market risk management, and operational risk management [7]. The traditional methods for Risk-Weighted Assets calculation through standardized approaches and internal models may receive better accuracy and compliance from recently developed econometric and machine learning

\* Corresponding author: Balaji Ramanujam

models. Business activities in financial services and mining industry demonstrate negative relationships between RWA metrics while sectors related to education and healthcare have positive RWA associations indicating different risk assessment approaches. Financial institutions now benefit from improved explanation of RWA computations through Explainable AI (XAI) models which include 'SHAP' and 'LIME' [8][9].

Collaboration management systems undergo advances that adapt current approaches for risk reduction strategies [10]. Financial institutions must use automated techniques for tracking collateral assets in addition to optimizing their portfolios because derivatives and structured finance, as well as securitization, have increased the need for collateral [11]. Systems that automate operations provide instantaneous collateral assessment as well as instant margin calls and counterparty exposure detection, which minimizes system hazards [12]. The digitalization of financial assets allows financial contracts to be collateralized through data assets functionally in digital marketplaces [13].

The latest advancements in the financial industry have not resolved cybersecurity challenges nor regulatory compliance problems together with liquidity issues which remain persistent. Financial institutions must now focus on boosting their RWA level while protecting profitability since credit risk-weighted assets have grown while market and operational risks remain [14]. The existing capital adequacy regulations receive ongoing updates from regulatory bodies specifically to control regulatory arbitrage as they build financial system stability. The next course for risk and collateral management frameworks will have three core components: blockchain-based collateral tracking AI prediction systems and open banking application programming interfaces [15][16]. The present article examines the complete research about collateral management alongside RWA methods while focusing on technological progress together with regulatory developments and financial organization obstacles.

### 1.1. Motivation of the Study

This research addresses the changing demands in the management of collateral as well as Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) since these approaches fulfill regulatory standards while supporting financial system stability. Financial institutions have to battle rising regulatory demands, which creates difficulties for them in achieving optimal collateral deployment as well as controlling liquidity risks, and properly assessing their risks. New digital finance systems, together with risk models built with AI and machine learning programs, have changed established risk management practices even though these methods require further advancement in adoption. This study examines evolving approaches regulatory modifications, and technological advances because it aims to support financial institutions regarding their risk management and efficiency needs in their fast-evolving financial landscape.

### 1.2. Structure of the Study

The document follows this organization: Section I presents motivation along with its goals. Section II covers collateral management and best practices. The third section describes RWA protocols while also presenting optimization approaches. Section IV presents essential challenges together with their corresponding solutions. The future outlook for financial institutions serves as the topic of discussion in Section V. This thesis includes a literature review in Section VI prior to the final conclusions and research prospects for the future in Section VII.

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## 2. Collateral Management in Financial Institutions

A significant part of the process by which 'small' and 'medium-sized' businesses (SMEs) obtain formal credit is the use of collateral [17]. The requirement for bank collateral in loan provision obstructs SMEs from obtaining bank credit, imposing financial limitations on them, most notably in the ASEAN area and other emerging nations. Previous studies have shown that financial limitations significantly affect the development and longevity of SMEs. Therefore, collateral is a major roadblock for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) seeking funding and on their paths to growth.

Collateral can be broken down into two kinds. Inside collateral is the first type of collateral, and it is when the borrower uses an asset that is part of the project that is being financed as collateral. Lenders typically seize projects when borrowers fail to make their loan payments in the second category, which is referred to as "outside collateral," assets that are not utilized in the project are posted as collateral.

Significant changes have occurred in collateral management since the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the beginning of the financial crisis [18]. The financial crisis of 2008-09, coupled with the stagnation of credit markets, heightened uncertainty owing to the implementation of new rules ("BASEL III", "CRD IV", "EMIR", and the "Dodd-Frank Act") and substantial quantities of collateralized loans. In Europe, banks faced a deficit of Euro 374.1 billion (Quantitative Impact Study by the Basel Committee, 2012) while meeting the supplementary liquidity requirements of "Basel III".

The industry needed improved collateral management as a result of the loss of millions of dollars that occurred as a result of the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Industry efforts forced businesses to examine more intelligent ways of utilizing the few collaterals that were available [19]. The extensive use of derivatives in collateral management and the risk of counterparties' creditworthiness became the primary concerns of financial institutions. In addition, the implementation of global regulations emphasized the need for collateral management systems to be automated in order to facilitate the management of large and complex derivatives. This increased transparency and reduced systemic risk in pre- and post-trade financial transactions, as well as in Over-the-Counter (OTC) trades.

### **2.1. Bringing Efficiency to Collateral Management:**

Managing two parties' interactions under a single agreement for a single business sector is made more difficult by collateral management [20]. For tax, accounting, regulatory, and other purposes, a company may be conducting business with the same counterparty across several organizations in various jurisdictions.

The following problems must be fixed via collateral management in order to increase process efficiency:

- In order to secure different exposures, a counterparty is launching many requests for collateral.
- During a period when one company requests collateral and another company returns it to the same counterparty, both organizations run the danger of being over-collateralized.
- Connections with the counterparty may be regulated by several agreements with distinct provisions pertaining to different items that may intersect.
- Firms must automate the comprehensive collateral management process. Automation introduces supplementary administrative responsibilities, including the oversight of securities involved in a collateral arrangement, executing daily mark-to-market calculations, and managing margin calls.

### **2.2. Five Optimal Practices Revolutionizing Collateral Management**

#### *2.2.1. Maintaining Critical Buy-Side Relationships*

To comprehend collateral requests in both the bilateral and central adversary environments depends heavily on the buy-side's relationships [21]. To get the greatest prices on various goods, hedge funds, asset managers, and insurance firms continue to search for key service providers.

#### *2.2.2. Seeking Regular and Frequent Portfolio Reconciliation*

Regularly or before the first margin call, a thorough portfolio reconciliation should be carried out. Relying on infrequent exposure assessments, which are not considered a solid basis for collateralization, the collateral that goes back and forth is in a precarious position. Collateral disagreements occur less frequently when portfolios are regularly reconciled.

#### *2.2.3. Outsourcing Collateral Management*

Only 25% of businesses have implemented vendor collateral management systems internally, less than 50% have outsourced collateral management, and the remaining 25% rely on spreadsheets and custom applications (ISDA, 2012). Maintaining bilateral contacts with selected counterparties is simple with an outsourced collateral management system [22]. Additionally, the outsourced solution will save counterparties and investment managers from worrying about operational, regulatory reporting, and transaction obligations so they can concentrate on strategy.

#### *2.2.4. Investing in Build-and-Buy Systems*

Investing in plug-and-play solutions is necessary for financial institutions that are having trouble managing collateral and over-the-counter derivatives. Systems can be purchased or leased regionally or through a hosted solution from a supplier of bundled or dedicated services. It is possible to modify service providers' systems to meet collateral management standards.

#### *2.2.5. Regulations are Driving Demand for More Sophisticated Technology*

Systems for managing collateral heavily rely on technology. Organizational efficiency depends on collateral management's capacity to work in tandem with other systems and programs, such as those for managing orders and trades, trading, risk management, and external data feeds.

### 3. Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) Framework

Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) are a key component of banking regulation used to determine the capital adequacy of financial institutions. RWA represents the total assets of a bank, weighted by risk factors assigned to each asset type, as per regulatory guidelines such as the Basel Accords[23]. The bank must maintain a larger amount of capital to offset possible losses in assets with higher risk.

Examples of Risk Weights and Asset Classes:

Asset Class	Risk Weight (%)
Cash	0%
Government Securities	0%
Home Loans	35%
Business Loans	100%
Commercial Loans	100%
Commercial Loans > 50%	150%
Non-current Commercial Loans	150%
Foreign Bank Exposure	100%
Foreign Bank Exposure (OECD member)	20%
Foreign Bank Exposure (OECD member, 3 months or less)	20%
Foreign Bank Exposure (non-OECD member)	100%
Foreign Bank Exposure (non-OECD member, 3 months or less)	20%
Foreign Bank Exposure (sovereign default)	150%
Governement Sponsored Enterprises (GSE) Exposure (other than equity or preferred stock)	20%
GSE Preferred Stock	100%

To optimize capital efficiency and regulatory compliance, banks implement various RWA strategies, which include:

- **Portfolio Optimization** – Banks strategically manage their asset portfolios by balancing high-risk and low-risk assets to maintain an optimal capital allocation. This involves diversifying investments, reducing exposure to high-risk assets, and focusing on risk-adjusted returns.
- **Credit Risk Mitigation** – Financial organizations use strategies like credit derivatives and collateralized lending to reduce the risk [24] and guarantees to reduce the risk associated with loans and investments, thereby lowering RWA.
- **Securitization** – By packaging loans and selling them as asset-backed securities, banks can transfer risk to investors, reducing their RWA and freeing up capital for further lending.
- **Use of Internal Risk Models** – Many banks develop internal models to calculate RWA more accurately. By using advanced credit, market, and operational risk models, institutions can potentially lower their capital requirements while staying compliant with regulations [24].
- **Regulatory Arbitrage** – Some banks restructure transactions or shift assets to jurisdictions with more favorable capital requirements, optimizing their RWA while maintaining profitability. However, regulators continuously update rules to prevent excessive arbitrage.
- **Enhanced Risk Data Management** – Effective data analytics and reporting help banks assess risk exposures more accurately, enabling better RWA calculations and informed decision-making to maintain an optimal capital position.
- **Operational Risk Reduction** – Strengthening risk management frameworks, improving cybersecurity, and implementing strict governance policies help reduce operational risks, ultimately lowering RWA and improving capital efficiency.

#### 3.1. Importance of Weighted Risk Assets (RWA)

Capital supervision focuses on the risk sensitivity of risk-weighted assets held by commercial banks to curb their excessive risk-taking behavior, which can otherwise rely too much on the government's safety net [25]. The calculation and management of the risk-associated collateral is pivotal in the routine operation of commercial banks [26]. The assessment of Risk Weighted Assets for Chinese commercial banks includes 'credit risk', 'market risk', 'internal models', 'operational risk', data and 'technological support', as well as adherence to regulatory requirements. These measures substantially affect the bank's capital adequacy ratio and its capacity to handle risks efficiently. If the calculation of risk-

associated collateral does not consider all the potential risks faced by the bank, it can incorrectly assess the actual risk level faced by the bank.

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## 4. Challenges and solutions for financial institutions

### 4.1. Cyber security

It has emerged as a significant worry in the realm of the Internet, encompassing mobile banking, payment applications, and Fintech broadly. Traditional banking systems rely on security personnel, surveillance cameras, vaults, and reinforced bulletproof doors to ensure the confidentiality of their data [27]. However, when discussing virtual security, the situation is more complex than it may initially appear. Vulnerabilities are far more subtle and may have a greater impact on consumers, as they jeopardize not just financial assets but also personal information [28].

**Solution:** By collaborating with a Fintech app development firm, you can construct a highly secure application. The below items may be incorporated into the application to enhance security:

- Authorization through dual factors
- Biometrics-based authentication
- Data obfuscation and encryption
- Real-time notifications and alerts
- Analysis of behavior

### 4.2. Legal Regulation and Compliance:

Many regulations in the Indian banking sector are unavoidably to blame for the stalling of Fintech start-ups. These regulations are challenging to adhere to, and they also pose significant challenges for Fintech enterprises seeking to penetrate the Indian market [29]. Compliance standards serve as a strict regulatory framework designed to prevent fraud. They do, however, also pose serious barriers to entry for new Fintech firms. There are several regulations that Fintech start-ups must fulfill before they can even commence operations.

**Solution:** Ensure the software's legal compliance prior to its use or the development of an application. Furthermore, if required, you may engage a legal consultant to help you through the essential regulations and rules. Ensure your legal team is informed of the latest government rules prior to market entry, enabling prompt adjustments as needed.

### 4.3. Lack of knowledge of Mobile Technologies:

Certain banks or financial institutions within the fintech industry exhibit insufficient or impractical mobile banking functionalities [30]. Despite several banks' efforts to replicate websites, no one would choose a mobile application in the current digital landscape. Each user desires a straightforward and pragmatic option.

**Solution:** The following characteristics of your mobile device are necessary for users to be able to utilize fintech app development services:

- Two-factor identification using a fingerprint
- A Lense that is capable of doing an automatic scan of a credit card number
- QR-code for payments in public transportation
- NFC chip in stores

### 4.4. Big Data and AI:

82% of bankers in the United States and 79% of bankers globally believe that artificial intelligence will revolutionize the way in which banks gather data and engage with customers, according to Accenture [31]. It is well known that every business is impacted by technological developments like big data and artificial intelligence. Businesses can utilize big data to gather personal information about their consumers, including their financial behavior, habits, social status, and app usage.

**Solution:** It is necessary to train AI by utilizing ML in order for big data and AI to function together [32]. In order to train your system to handle this, you will require a significant amount of data. The vast majority of banking applications are unable to successfully process and retrieve many distinct data sources [33]. As a result, you might be able to solve

this issue by employing a one-shot learning model, which gives you the ability to train your machine-learning system on a smaller amount of data.

#### 4.5. Governmental Inaction and Lack of Support:

It is extremely difficult for the government to provide financial technology companies with the incentives and help they need to protect their interests in the Indian financial markets. This may be a very disappointing experience for new entrants in the financial technology industry. Fintech companies are very important to the process of economic expansion, and it is imperative that they be supplied with all of the resources necessary for their success.

**Solution:** To have a detrimental effect on the financial sector, it is essential to maintain a balance between the use of innovative technologies and compliance with the existing framework.

## 5. The Future of Financial Institutions

The swift progression of Fintech, artificial intelligence, and blockchain is transforming the future of financial institutions worldwide [34][35]. Traditional banks, insurance companies, and investment firms are evolving to integrate digital solutions and customer-centric innovations to stay competitive in the modern financial ecosystem.

### 5.1. The Rise of Digital-First Banking

- Traditional brick-and-mortar banks are transforming into digital-first institutions that offer seamless online banking services.
- The growth of neo-banks and challenger banks (fully digital banks with no physical branches) is increasing, catering to tech-savvy consumers [36].  
Example: PayPal, Nubank, Cash App, Revolut, N26 and Monzo are redefining banking by integrating digital payments, credit, and savings products into one platform.

### 5.2. Open Banking and API-Driven Finance

- Application Programming Interfaces, or APIs, are being used by financial institutions to safely exchange data with outside service providers.
- Open banking is encouraging cooperation between Fintech companies and traditional banks, resulting in cutting-edge services like real-time lending and integrated finance.  
Example: Mint, Plaid, Stripe, PhonePe, RazorpayX, and Zeta are partnering with banks to offer digital wallets, lending, and payment processing services.

### 5.3. AI and Machine Learning in Banking

- AI-driven 'chatbots', 'robo-advisors', and 'fraud detection' are increasing the efficiency of financial institutions [37].
- Banks are using AI to provide personalized investment advice, automate credit underwriting, and enhance cybersecurity.  
Example: 'Bank of America's "Erica", Capital One's "Eno", Wells Fargo's "AI Bot", HDFC Bank's 'EVA' are AI-driven virtual assistants for customer service.

### 5.4. The Expansion of Embedded Finance

- Financial organizations incorporate their services into non-financial channels, including social media, ride-hailing applications, and e-commerce.  
Example: Amazon Pay, Google Pay, Apple Pay and Venmo embed financial services into shopping platforms.
- BNPL (Buy Now, Pay Later) services are blurring the lines between banking and retail financing.

### 5.5. Blockchain and Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

- Financial transactions are being revolutionized by blockchain technology, which offers quicker, safer, and more affordable alternatives [38].
- Banks and financial institutions are adopting CBDCs (Central Bank Digital Currencies) and smart contracts to streamline operations [39].  
Example: Digital Pound (UK), Digital Euro (Europe), Digital Renminbi (China), Digital Rupee (India) Fintech-Bank Collaboration and Financial Inclusion.

- To reach the underserved and unbanked, traditional banks are collaborating with Fintech firms to offer financial services.
- Rural banking, microfinance, and AI-driven credit scoring are making financial services more accessible.  
Example: AI-Powered Chatbots, facilitate KYC and single sign-in are enhancing financial inclusion.

### 5.6. Cybersecurity and Regulatory Adaptation

- As digital transactions increase, banks are investing in cybersecurity, data privacy, and fraud prevention technologies.
- Regulatory frameworks (e.g., General Data Protection Act which sets data protection requirements for businesses across Europe, Reserve Bank of India's digital lending guidelines) are evolving to ensure consumer protection while fostering innovation.

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## 6. Literature Review

This study reviews key literature on collateral management and Risk Weighted Assets (RWA), focusing on regulatory changes, risk assessment models, and the impact on financial risk management.

Nallakaruppan et al. (2024) suggest an explainable artificial intelligence model serves credit risk management purposes specifically to measure peer-to-peer lending risks through credit loans. Shapley' values and important explanatory factors enable the production of AI predictions through the model. The high accuracy rates of 0.89 from decision tree models along with 0.93 from random forest models made them the most successful prediction methods. The model performed similarly accurately when assessed on a larger dataset testing its operational capability. According to test results the "decision tree" (DT) and "random forest" (RF) models demonstrated 0.90 and 0.93 precision levels. These models were chosen for XAI (explainable AI) modeling because the challenge demanded binary classification. The presented XAI models utilized LIME and SHAP functionality for national and universal explanation roles [40].

Mallik (2024) This study examines the improvement in banking sector risk, measured by the Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) density ratio, in 2023. It highlights the significant growth in RWA of credit risk compared to market and operational risks and notes the banking industry's increased capital requirements despite a slight decrease in rated exposures as a proportion of cumulative exposure. Overall Capital to Risk-weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) surpassed the threshold, ensuring regulatory compliance [41].

Cheong, Kim and Vaquero (2023) suggests creating a data valuation methodology that would allow businesses to finance financial transactions by using data assets as collateral. Because the cost technique is less likely to entail inaccuracy and arbitrariness than other valuation model approaches, a model was created with this goal in mind. Additionally, a model simulation was carried out after the security of transaction data from a Korean provider of secondhand marketplaces. The cost of using data indicating the ratio of data activities was computed among this marketplace provider's overall costs, with a focus on financial statements and tangible and intangible assets over the last five years. The costs of purchasing data assets were determined, and the costs of replacing data were computed by taking historical rates of wage and price increase into account. The findings showed that a total of "KRW" 26.8 billion in data might be used by simulation firms as loan collateral [42].

Leogrande et al. (2023) execute an econometric model utilizing "Pooled Ordinary Least Squares", "Fixed Effects Panel Data", "Random Effects Panel Data", and "Weighted Least Squares". They discovered that Risk-Weighted Assets exhibit a negative correlation with the volume of NFC loans in mining and quarrying, public administration and defense, as well as in financial and insurance sectors. Conversely, there is a positive correlation with the distribution of NFC loans in human health services and social work activities, education, and the level of net fee and commission income. Additionally, they do cluster analysis utilizing the k-means technique, revealing the existence of two clusters. A study of eight distinct machine learning techniques for forecasting the value of the RWAs revealed that linear regression is the most effective predictor. The RWA value is anticipated to rise by 1.5% [43].

Gorantla and Holmukhe (2022) highlight the modifications participants are implementing and the progress in collateral management. It examines the developments and their implications and proposes measures to transition to a more effective collateral management system. Collateral obligations have increased in a regulatory environment that is evolving. In response, financial market players are adjusting their collateral management systems to comply with new emergent collateral regulations [44].

Pandey (2022) endeavored to ascertain the current condition of agricultural credit and the associated challenges and issues. The statistical information, reports, and conclusions from “MoALD”, “MoF”, “NPC”, “NRB”, and other relevant publications are the only sources of data used in this study. Through the implementation of several statutes, policies, strategies, and initiatives through the “NRB”, “MoALD”, and “MoF”, the government seeks to improve agricultural credit through banking and financial institutions (BFIs) [45].

Table I summarizes key studies on credit risk, collateral management, AI applications in finance, and banking sector risk, highlighting their focus, findings, models, and implications.

**Table 1** Summary of literature review based on collateral Management and Risk Management Assets.

Research Study	Research Focus	Methodology	Key Findings	Models Used	Implications
Nallakaruppan et al. (2024)	Explainable AI for credit risk management in peer-to-peer lending	Decision Trees, Random Forest, SHAP, LIME	Random Forest achieved 93% accuracy in credit risk prediction; AI models explain lending decisions.	Decision Tree, Random Forest, SHAP, LIME	Improves trust and transparency in AI-driven credit scoring
Mallik (2024)	Risk-weighted assets (RWA) and capital adequacy in banking	RWA Density Ratio Analysis	Increased capital requirements due to higher credit risk RWA; CRAR compliance ensured	RWA density ratio model	Ensures stability and regulatory compliance in banking
Cheong, Kim & Vaquero (2023)	Data valuation model for using data as collateral	Cost-based valuation approach, financial modelling, data simulation	Data assets valued at KRW 26.8 billion could be used as collateral for loans	Cost approach for data valuation	Supports alternative financing using data assets
Leogrande et al. (2023)	Econometric & ML models for predicting RWA changes	Pooled OLS, Fixed & Random Effects, k-means Clustering, Machine Learning	RWA is negatively associated with loans in mining/finance and positively associated with education/health sectors	Econometric models, k-means clustering, ML (Linear Regression best predictor)	Helps banks predict future RWA trends for policy adjustments
Gorantla & Holmukhe (2022)	Changes in collateral management due to regulatory shifts	Regulatory analysis, impact assessment	Increased collateral requirements have driven system improvements in financial institutions.	Regulatory framework analysis	Optimizes collateral management to meet changing financial regulations
Pandey (2022)	Challenges in agricultural credit	Statistical data analysis, policy review	Expansion of agricultural credit via BFIs and government policies	Government strategies and Policies	Highlights agricultural credit gaps & suggests policy interventions

## 7. Conclusion And Future Work

The evolution of collateral management and risk-weight assets (RWA) strategies is essential for financial stability, regulatory compliance, and capital efficiency. Advanced risk models, AI-driven analytics, and blockchain innovations have improved efficiency and risk mitigation. However, challenges such as regulatory uncertainties, cybersecurity threats, and liquidity constraints remain significant. A key limitation is the reliance on evolving regulatory frameworks,



which may create inconsistencies in risk assessment and capital allocation. Future research should explore Explainable AI (XAI) for transparent RWA computations and the role of decentralized finance (DeFi) in improving collateral liquidity. The potential of quantum computing for optimizing risk calculations also warrants further study. Additionally, efforts toward regulatory harmonization across jurisdictions should be examined to reduce inconsistencies in global risk management.

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