

Yuta Saito

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Research Interests

My research lies at the intersection of statistical machine learning and causal inference called *counterfactual learning*. I am interested in the counterfactual nature of logged bandit feedback obtained from interactive systems, and ways of using biased real-world data to achieve safe automated decision making in the wild.

Education

2021 - Cornell University
Incoming Ph.D. Student in Computer Science
Advisors: Thorsten Joachims and Nathan Kallus
Research Field: Counterfactual Inference, Learning from Human Behavior Data

2016 - 2021 Tokyo Institute of Technology
B.Eng. in Industrial Engineering and Economics
Research Field: Counterfactual Inference, Off-Policy Evaluation, Information Retrieval

Publications

Preprints

1. **Yuta Saito**, Shunsuke Aihara, Megumi Matsutani, and Yusuke Narita. Open Bandit Dataset and Pipeline: Towards Realistic and Reproducible Off-Policy Evaluation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.07146*, 2020.

International Conference Proceedings (refereed)

1. Nathan Kallus, **Yuta Saito**, and Masatoshi Uehara. Optimal Off-Policy Evaluation from Multiple Logging Policies. In *Proceedings of 38th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2021 (to appear).
2. **Yuta Saito**. Doubly Robust Estimator for Ranking Metrics with Post-Click Conversions. In *Proceedings of the 14th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys)*, 2020.
3. **Yuta Saito**. Unbiased Pairwise Learning from Biased Implicit Feedback. In *Proceedings of 6th ACM SIGIR International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR)*, 2020.
4. **Yuta Saito** and Shota Yasui. Counterfactual Cross-Validation: Stable Model Selection Procedure for Causal Inference Models. In *Proceedings of 37th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2020.
5. **Yuta Saito**. Asymmetric Tri-training for Debiasing Missing-Not-At-Random Explicit Feedback. In *Proceedings of the 43rd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR)*, 2020.
6. **Yuta Saito**, Gota Morishita, and Shota Yasui. Dual Learning Algorithm for Delayed Conversions. In *Proceedings of the 43rd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR)*, 2020 (short paper).

7. **Yuta Saito**, Hayato Sakata, and Kazuhide Nakata. Cost-Effective and Stable Policy Optimization Algorithm for Uplift Modeling with Multiple Treatments. In *Proceedings of the 2020 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM)*, 2020.
8. **Yuta Saito**, Suguru Yaginuma, Yuta Nishino, Hayato Sakata, and Kazuhide Nakata. Unbiased Recommender Learning from Missing-Not-At-Random Implicit Feedback. In *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM)*, 2020.
9. **Yuta Saito**, Hayato Sakata, and Kazuhide Nakata. Doubly Robust Prediction and Evaluation Methods Improve Uplift Modeling for Observational Data. In *Proceedings of the 2019 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM)*, 2019.

International Conference Tutorial Proposals

1. **Yuta Saito** and Thorsten Joachims. Offline Evaluation and Learning for Recommender Systems: Foundations, Implementations, and Recent Advances. In *Proceedings of the 15th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys)*, 2021 (to appear).

International Conference Workshop Papers (refereed)

1. **Yuta Saito**, Shunsuke Aihara, Megumi Matsutani, and Yusuke Narita. A Large-scale Open Dataset for Bandit Algorithms. *RecSys 2020 Workshop on Bandit and Reinforcement Learning from User Interactions (REVEAL)*, 2020 (**Oral Presentation**).
2. **Yuta Saito**, Takuma Udagawa, and Kei Tateno. Data-Driven Off-Policy Estimator Selection: An Application in User Marketing on An Online Content Delivery Service. *RecSys 2020 Workshop on Bandit and Reinforcement Learning from User Interactions (REVEAL)*, 2020.
3. **Yuta Saito**, Shunsuke Aihara, Megumi Matsutani, and Yusuke Narita. A Large-scale Open Dataset for Bandit Algorithms. *ICML 2020 Workshop on Real World Experiment Design and Active Learning (RealML)*, 2020.
4. Daisuke Moriwaki, Yuta Hayakawa, Isshu Munemasa, **Yuta Saito**, and Akira Matsui. Unbiased Lift-based Bidding System. In *Proceedings of the 2020 AdKDD&TargetAd Workshop, held in conjunction with the 26th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (AdKDD)*, 2020.
5. Masahiro Nomura and **Yuta Saito** (equal contribution). Multi-Source Unsupervised Hyperparameter Optimization. *ICML 2020 Workshop on Automated Machine Learning (AutoML)*, 2020.
6. **Yuta Saito**. Offline Recommender Learning Meets Unsupervised Domain Adaptation. *The first forum for newcomers to ML co-located with NeurIPS (NewInML)*, 2019.

Work Experience

Jul 2020 - Present	Hanjuku-kaso Co., Ltd. Co-Founder and Director of Science
Apr 2020 - Dec 2020	CyberAgent, Inc., AI Lab Research Partner (outsourcing agreement)
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	SMN Corporation, a.i lab. Research Partner (outsourcing agreement)
Apr 2020 - Sep 2020	Sony Corporation Research Partner (outsourcing agreement)
Feb 2020 - Present	ZOZO Technologies, Inc. Research Partner (outsourcing agreement)

Scholarships and Awards

2021 - 2023	Funai Overseas Scholarship Doctoral research fellowship by the Funai Foundation (a private foundation in Japan). Granted two full years of tuition plus a monthly stipend of \$3,000 for living expenses.
2020	The SIGIR 2020 Student Travel Grant Program

Involved Research Projects

- **Open Bandit Project** (<https://github.com/st-tech/zr-obp>)
Open Bandit Project is an open-source research project that aims to enable realistic and reproducible experiments on bandit algorithms and their off-policy evaluation. The projects consists of a large-scale real-world dataset called *Open Bandit Dataset* and Python software called *Open Bandit Pipeline*.
Awarded **The Prime Minister's Award for Open Innovation by the Japanese Government**.

Professional Service

Conference Reviewing

WSDM	2022
NeurIPS	2021
ICML	2021
AISTATS	2021

Languages

Japanese (native), English (TOEFL iBT: 105)