

# YUTA SAITO

Phone: (+81)9031151920 ◇ EMail: [saito.y.bj@m.titech.ac.jp](mailto:saito.y.bj@m.titech.ac.jp) ◇ Website: <https://usaito.github.io>

## EDUCATION

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**Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo**

*Apr 2016 - present*

Bachelor of Engineering

Industrial Engineering and Economics.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research lies at the intersection of machine learning and causal inference called counterfactual machine learning. I am interested in the counterfactual nature of logged bandit feedback obtained from interactive systems, and ways of using biased real-world datasets to assist better decision making.

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **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 ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM20), Houston, Texas, USA, Feb. 3-7, 2020 (to appear).
2. **Yuta Saito**, “[Unsupervised Domain Adaptation Meets Offline Recommender Learning](#)”, NewInML forum (co-located with NeurIPS), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 09, 2019.
3. **Yuta Saito**, Gota Morishita, and Shota Yasui, “[Dual Learning Algorithm for Delayed Feedback in Display Advertising](#)”. NeurIPS Workshop on Causal Machine Learning, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 13-14, 2019.
4. **Yuta Saito**, “Unbiased Pairwise Learning from Implicit Feedback”. NeurIPS Workshop on Causal Machine Learning, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 13-14, 2019. (**Spotlight Presentation**)
5. **Yuta Saito** and Shota Yasui, “[Counterfactual Cross-Validation](#)”. ACM RecSys Workshop on Reinforcement and Robust Estimators for Recommendation (REVEAL), Copenhagen, Denmark, Sep. 20, 2019.
6. **Yuta Saito**, Hayato Sakata, and Kazuhide Nakata, “[Doubly Robust Prediction and Evaluation Methods Improve Uplift Modeling for Observational Data](#)”. In Proceedings of the SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM19), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, May. 2-4, 2019. (**Oral Presentation**)

## PREPRINTS

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1. **Yuta Saito** and Shota Yasui, “[Counterfactual Cross-Validation: Effective Causal Model Selection from Observational Data](#)”, *arXiv:1909.05299*.
2. **Yuta Saito**, “[Eliminating Bias in Recommender Systems via Pseudo Labeling](#)”, *arXiv:1910.01444*.
3. **Yuta Saito**, Hayato Sakata, and Kazuhide Nakata, “[Cost-Effective and Stable Policy Optimization Algorithm for Uplift Modeling with Multiple Treatments](#)”.

## WORK & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

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**ZOZO Technologies, Inc.**

*Nov 2019 - present*

*Research Internship*

- Empirical studies on off-policy evaluation.

**Jinch Co., Ltd.***Nov 2019 - present**Part-time Researcher*

- Empirical studies on off-policy evaluation.
- Work with Prof. Yusuke Narita (Yale Univ.).

**CyberAgent, Inc. AI Lab***Jun 2019 - present**Part-time Researcher*

- Model selection for causal inference models [[RecSys'19 WS](#)]
- Offline learning with delayed feedback data in display advertising [[NeurIPS'19 WS](#)]

**Nakata Lab, Tokyo Institute of Technology***Apr 2019 - present**Research Assistant*

- Treatment allocation optimization

**So-net Media Networks Corp., a.i lab.***Dec 2017 - Sep 2019**Research Internship*

- Unbiased recommender learning from implicit feedback [WSDM'20]
- Offline lift-effect prediction using observational data [[SDM'19](#)]

**Cancer Scan***Oct 2017 - Feb 2018**Data Science Internship*

- Treatment optimization in health marketing.

**PERSONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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**Unsupervised Domain Adaptation Meets Offline Recommender Learning.***2019*

- Constructed a new theory of recommendation with missing-not-at-random feedback using the theoretical framework of unsupervised domain adaptation. The proposed method can alleviate bias and solve the limitations of previously proposed causality-based approaches. [[NeurIPS'19 NewInML](#)]

**Eliminating Bias in Recommender Systems via Pseudo-Labeling.***2019*

- Applied a well-performing asymmetric tri-training framework in unsupervised domain adaptation to the missing-not-at-random recommendation. I also conducted a theoretical analysis of the strength of the proposed prediction method in the recommendation setting.

**Unbiased Pairwise Learning from Implicit Feedback.***2019*

- Developed an unbiased pairwise loss function and a corresponding ranking algorithm. The proposed algorithm empirically outperforms the existing baseline methods, including matrix factorization and Bayesian personalized ranking. [[NeurIPS'19 WS](#)]

**AWARDS**

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**2nd place: DATA DEMOCRACY DAYS***Apr 2018**@ Culture Convenience Club Co., Ltd.*

- Proposed a relationship app using the matrix completion technique.

**COMPETENCES**

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**Programming and Libraries:** Python, R, Matlab, SQL, Google BigQuery, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Scikit-Learn, Tensorflow, EconML

**Languages:** English, Japanese