Ryotaro Shimizu / 清水良太郎

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Apr 2021 – Sep 2023
M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Apr 2017 – Mar 2019
B.Eng. in Industrial Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Apr 2013 – Mar 2017

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

ML/Data Science: Data Mining, Recommender Systems, Explainable AI, LLMs, CV, Statistics
Programming: Python, Java, Go, Ruby, C++, SQL
Frameworks/Tools: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Docker, Git, GCP, Linux, Tableau
Languages: Japanese (Native), English (Fluent), Chinese (Intermediate)

EXPERIENCE

Lead Research Scientist — Jan 2021 – Present
ZOZO NEXT, Inc. – ZOZO Research
- Led ML collaborations with academic and industry partners; tripled team size and increased publication output 7-fold.
- Published 50+ peer-reviewed papers; research featured in 100+ media outlets.
- Collaborated with engineering and business teams as analyst, data scientist, or advisor on key initiatives, including dynamic thumbnail optimization, personalized coupon targeting, automated article generation, and production process optimization.
- Third selected as company-wide top performer; promoted to lead a 10-member ML team across research and deployment.

Visiting Researcher — Oct 2023 – Present
Waseda University – Institute of Data Science
- Supervised 14+ students; mentees consistently ranked top of class three years in a row.

Part-time Lecturer — Oct 2023 – Present
Sophia University
- Designed and taught undergraduate courses on data analysis and Python; received 4.8/5.0 student rating.

Visiting Researcher — Jul 2023 – Jul 2025
University of California, San Diego – Julian McAuley's Lab
- Published 5 papers on recommender systems and LLM fine-tuning; collaborated with global researchers.

Software Engineer — Apr 2019 – Dec 2020
DeNA, Inc.
- Built and maintained backend systems (Java, GCP) for global mobile games used by tens of millions of players; delivered core features including billing, virtual currency, authentication, and support tools.

Early Career Experience
Toreta, Inc., PKSHA Technology, Inc., Azest, Inc. (2015–2019)
- Built predictive models and dashboards in data analytics/ML internships.

HONORS & AWARDS

ZOZO Group "Souzoh no Nanameue" Grand Prize (2023, 2025) among 1,700+ employees; LINE Yahoo "INTERSECTION" Technology Award (2024) among 27,000+ employees; Best Paper/Presentation Awards – CIE, JSAI, JIMA (2017–2024)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Founded and managed a tennis tournament community of 400+ members, organizing events with 30–120 participants (TaRO's CUP, 2016–2020). Established a student tennis club of 150+ members with sponsorship from three corporate partners (Laissez-Faire T.C., 2014–2016). Founded and led an AI learning community of 500+ members. Competitive tennis player for the LINE Yahoo! Group; sponsored by Bridgestone Sports (2013–2020).