

1 Supervised Machine Learning Approach Discovers Protective Sequence for Avoiding  
2 Sexual Victimization in Criminal Suit Documents

3

4 **Abstract**

5 Effective self-protective behaviors, such as victim's physical resistance for avoiding  
6 sexual victimization have been studied. However, effective self-protective behavioral  
7 sequences, such as offender's physical violence followed by victim's physical resistance,  
8 have not been studied often. Our study aims to clarify these sequences through  
9 supervised machine learning approach. The samples consisted of 88 official documents  
10 on sexual crimes regarding women committed by male offenders incarcerated in a  
11 Japanese local prison. The crimes were classified as completed or attempted cases based  
12 on judges' evaluation. All phrases in each crime description were also partitioned and  
13 coded according to the Japanese Penal Code. The Support Vector Machine learned the  
14 most likely sequences of behaviors to predict completed and attempted cases. Around  
15 90% of cases were correctly predicted through the identification of sequences of  
16 behaviors. The sequence involving the offender's violence followed by victim's  
17 physical resistance predicted attempted sexual crime. However, the sequence involving  
18 victim's general resistance followed by the offender's violence predicted completed  
19 sexual crime. Timing of victim's resistance and offender's violence could affect  
20 potential avoidance of sexual victimization.

21 **Keywords:** Criminal Suit Documents; Supervised Machine Learning; Protective Action;  
22 Rape; Sexual Coercion.

## 23 **Introduction**

24

25 Sexual crime violates victim's human rights and needs to be prevented before it  
26 occurs. To prevent the crime, several protective actions were proposed for potential  
27 victims (Ullman, 2007). Among the protective actions, the most convincing strategy is  
28 physical resistance, namely physical action against offenders such as fighting, fleeing,  
29 guarding one's body with one's arm, and struggling (Clay-Warner, 2002; Sarnquist et al.,  
30 2014; Senn et al., 2015; Tark & Kleck, 2014). The second effective strategy is forceful  
31 verbal resistance, which refers to a verbal response leaving no room for the offender to  
32 talk, such as screaming, yelling, and swearing at the offender (Clay-Warner, 2002; Tark  
33 & Kleck, 2014; Ullman, 2007; Zoucha-Jensen & Coyne, 1993). The third strategy is  
34 non-forceful verbal resistance, which is a verbal response leaving some room for the  
35 offender to talk, such as reasoning, arguing, persuading, or appeasing the offender  
36 (Fisher, Daigle, Cullen, & Santana, 2007). University women who received a training  
37 regarding the first and second strategies reduced the risk of sexual victimization than  
38 those who did not (Senn et al., 2015). The third non-forceful verbal resistance was  
39 especially effective for child victims (Leclerc, Wortley, & Smallbone, 2011b) and sexual  
40 crime without offender's physical violence (Fisher et al., 2007).

41 Although these protective actions were well reported (Senn et al., 2015), behaviors  
42 before and after the protective actions were still unclear. On the one hand, victim's  
43 protective actions paired to offender's behavior were reportedly effective to decrease the  
44 risk of sexual victimization (Fisher et al., 2007; Ullman, 1998): Victims' physical

45 resistance after the offender's physical violence was effective to reduce the risk of  
46 sexual victimization. Similarly, victims' forceful verbal resistance after the offender's  
47 verbal coercion was effective to reduce the risk. On the other hand, other studies  
48 suggested that offender's physical violence after the victim's resistance increase the risk  
49 of sexual victimization, because offender's violence stops victim's resistance (Balemba,  
50 Beaugard, & Mieczkowski, 2012; Jordan, 2005). Hence antecedent offender's  
51 violence and consequent victim's physical resistance might reduce the risk of sexual  
52 victimization, whereas antecedent victim's resistance and consequent offender's  
53 violence might increase the risk of sexual victimization. Still, direct comparison of these  
54 behavioral sequences was rare so that behavioral sequences of protective action were  
55 still unclear.

56 Our study aims to clarify the behavioral sequences of protective actions. Our  
57 research question is what behavioral sequence predicts completed and attempted (but  
58 not completed) sexual crimes. To clarify the sequence, we focused behavioral  
59 interactions between a victim and an offender during a sexual crime. Specific  
60 interaction which predicts attempted sexual crime is regarded as a protective behavioral  
61 sequence for avoiding victimization. Another interaction which predicts completed  
62 sexual crime is regarded as predictive behavioral sequence for victimization. Both  
63 protective and predictive sequences clarify the knowledge regarding sequences of  
64 protective action and are beneficial for protective action training (Senn et al., 2013).

65 The present study sampled women-victim cases and excluded child-victim cases,  
66 because victims' protective action, offenders' behavior, and effects of protective actions

67 were different between women and child victims. Child victims more received gifts  
68 from offenders (Leclerc & Wortley, 2015; Leclerc, Wortley, & Smallbone, 2011a), more  
69 used non-forceful verbal resistance (Leclerc, Wortley, & Smallbone, 2010), and less  
70 protected efficiently (David Finkelhor, Asdigian, & Dziuba-Leatherman, 1995b, 1995a)  
71 than women victims. We regarded those less than 13 years old as children according to  
72 Japanese law (Maeda, 2015) and excluded cases including these child victims, although  
73 definitions of children were different among countries and eras (David Finkelhor et al.,  
74 1995a; Leclerc & Wortley, 2015). In sum, to eliminate ambiguity of sample, we  
75 excluded child-victim cases and analyzed cases where victims were more than 13 years  
76 old.

77 Further, to label the sexual crime as completed and attempted case, we utilized  
78 official suit documents on sexual crime in Japan. Attempted crime has a less severe  
79 penalty than completed crime in Japan (Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016), so the term for  
80 these attempts is clearly described in the documents. Furthermore, the documents also  
81 describe behavioral chains between an offender and a victim during the crime. The  
82 described interaction was useful to clarify behavioral sequences at the crime.

83 Based on the label of crime (completed or attempted) and behavioral sequences in  
84 the documents, we tested four hypotheses: To confirm previous findings of protective  
85 action (Leclerc et al., 2011b; Senn et al., 2015), victim's physical resistance, forceful  
86 verbal resistance, and non-forceful verbal resistance would predict attempted sexual  
87 crime (Hypothesis 1). According to the parity effects of protective action (Fisher et al.,  
88 2007; Ullman, 1998), the offender's antecedent physical violence and victim's

89 consequent physical resistance would predict attempted sexual crime (Hypothesis 2).  
90 Similarly, the offender's antecedent verbal coercion and victim's consequent forceful  
91 verbal resistance would predict attempted sexual crime (Hypothesis 3). According to the  
92 effect of offender's physical violence on victim's resistance (Balemba et al., 2012;  
93 Jordan, 2005), antecedent victim's resistance and consequent offender's physical  
94 violence would predict sexual victimization (Hypothesis 4).

95 Our study utilized supervised machine learning models as a statistical model. This is  
96 because the number of behavioral sequences increases exponentially the number of  
97 variables and destroys the premise of psychological statistical analysis: The 0, 1, and 2  
98 behavioral sequences in our study require 18, 324, 5832 variables. The 324 and 5832  
99 independent variables did not fit well with regression analysis for the prediction of a  
100 binary dependent data (completed or attempted). In contrast, Support Vector Machine in  
101 the supervised machine learning is robust against the increased number of variables  
102 (Bishop, 2006), so we used the Support Vector Machine like other studies(Costa,  
103 Fonseca, Santana, de Araújo, & Rego, 2017).

104

## 105 **Methods**

106

### 107 *Sample*

108 We identified the 128 sexual offence cases consisted of 72 male inmates who were  
109 imprisoned in April 20XX in a local Japanese prison as repeat offenders. Among them,  
110 12 cases were inaccessible, because of offenders' transportation; furthermore, the 28

111 cases involved child victims (aged under 12 years). Thus, these cases were excluded  
112 from the analysis. Finally, we analyzed 88 sexual offence cases. Of these, the 35  
113 involved teen victims (aged between 13 and 19 years) and 52 involved adult victims  
114 (aged over 20 years). One case included a charge of public lewdness; therefore, the  
115 victim's age was unknown.

### 116 *Measures*

117 *Categories of sexual crime.* Table 1 shows four categories of sexual crime in our  
118 study: completed rape, attempted rape, completed sexual coercion, and attempted sexual  
119 coercion. Although the definition of rape and sexual coercion differs slightly in previous  
120 studies (Clay-Warner, 2002; Fisher et al., 2007; Ullman & Knight, 1992), we utilized  
121 the Japanese Penal Code to fit with the finalized criminal suit documents in Japan.  
122 Completed rape is an offender's realization of penile-vaginal penetration achieved by  
123 either or both of illegal physical force and verbal coercion (Maeda, 2015; Yamashita &  
124 Yamaguchi, 2016). Attempted rape did not involve realization of penile-vaginal  
125 penetration, but include offender's intent of penile-vaginal penetration. For instance, in  
126 a case that offender exposed his private parts to a victim and penetrated her vagina with  
127 his finger in her private room, the Japanese judges regarded the offender has intent of  
128 penile-vaginal penetration and wrote "rape" in the section on charged offence and "with  
129 intention to rape" in the criminal behavior description section.

130 Completed sexual coercion involves any sexual behaviors other than penile-vaginal  
131 penetration achieved by either or both of illegal physical force and verbal coercion  
132 (Maeda, 2015; Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016). The completed sexual coercion did not

133 involve offender's intent of penile-vaginal penetration (Table 1). In a case where  
134 offender touched victim's breast in a public train with many passengers, the Japanese  
135 judges did not regard the offender has intent of penile-vaginal penetration so the judges  
136 never write the term of "rape" in the documents. Attempted sexual coercion did not  
137 involve realization of any sexual behavior, but included offender's intent of the sexual  
138 behavior. For instance, in a case that offender prepared spy camera in his bathroom and  
139 forced his victim to take shower, but she noticed the camera before taking shower, the  
140 judges regarded the offender has intent of sexual behavior but did not realize his  
141 behavior. Hence, they wrote "attempted" in the section on the charged offence and  
142 "failed to accomplish one's purpose" in the criminal behavior description section. Based  
143 on these descriptions, we categorized cases as completed rape (n = 24), attempted rape  
144 (n = 13), completed sexual coercion (n = 49), and attempted sexual coercion (n = 2).

145 *Code of Behaviors.* All phrases in the criminal description were partitioned. In total,  
146 560 phrases were coded according to the following definitions.

147 *Victim's Resistance.* Physical resistance is physical action against an attacker  
148 (Clay-Warner, 2002). Forceful verbal resistance refers to a verbal response leaving no  
149 room for the offender to talk (Ullman, 2007). Non-forceful verbal resistance refers to a  
150 verbal response leaving some room for the offender to talk (Fisher et al., 2007). Several  
151 phrases included "resist" (n = 5) or "fierce resistance" (n = 1) only; these phrases cannot  
152 be regarded as specific type of resistance, so they were coded as general resistance.  
153 Table 2 shows details of victims' resistant behaviors.

154 *Offender's Behavior.* Sexual behavior is a behavior that "unnecessarily stimulates

155 and excites sexual desires,” “harms the grace of a citizen,” and “is against sexual  
156 morality” (Maeda, 2015), as defined in the sections on Rape, Forcible Indecency, and  
157 Public Indecency in the Japanese penal code (Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016). Physical  
158 violence is defined as the illegal use of physical force, regardless of physical contact  
159 (Maeda, 2015) in the Assault section of the Japanese penal code (Yamashita &  
160 Yamaguchi, 2016). Verbal Coercion is defined as “intimidating another through a threat  
161 to another's life, body, freedom, reputation, or property” in the Intimidation section  
162 (Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016), and “causes the other to perform an act which the  
163 other person has no obligation to perform, or hinders the other from exercising his or  
164 her rights” in the Compulsion section (Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016). Persuasion  
165 (non-forceful verbal behaviors) is verbal communication without threat and compulsion.  
166 Table 2 shows details of offenders’ behavior at the crime.

167 The transfer of possessions is defined as transferring others’ property against their  
168 will (Maeda, 2015) in the Theft and Robbery sections (Yamashita & Yamaguchi, 2016).  
169 Although there are various types of property (Maeda, 2015), we focused on the transfer  
170 of money only to clarify mercenary motives. Here, offenders obtained the victim’s cash  
171 (n = 5), cash card (n = 1), and credit card (n = 1).

172 *Crime Location.* The location of the encounter was categorized according to  
173 indoor/outdoor and private/semi-public/public criteria (Beauregard, Proulx, Rossmo,  
174 Leclerc, & Allaire, 2007). Private refers to a privately owned site not open to the public.  
175 Semi-public refers to a privately owned site open to the public, especially for business  
176 purposes. Public is a publicly owned site. An indoor private location includes the



177 victim's house (n = 31), hotel room (n = 9), victim and offender's houses (n = 9),  
178 offender's house (n = 3), and someone else's house (n = 3). Indoor semi-public locations  
179 include the elevator (n = 2), plastic greenhouse (n = 2), restaurant (n = 2), trash area (n  
180 = 2), bar (n = 1), cafe (n = 1), and toilets in an apartment (n = 1). Indoor public locations  
181 include toilets in the park (n = 2), car on the road (n = 3), and train (n = 2). Outdoor  
182 private locations include the building area of someone's house (n = 4) and a school (n =  
183 1). Outdoor semi-public locations include parking lots (n = 5), a station (n = 2), a field  
184 (n = 2), a corridor in an apartment (n = 2) and a building (n = 2). Entrance in an  
185 apartment (n=1), escalator in a building (n=1), and stairs in a building (1) are also  
186 included. Outdoor public locations include roads (n=12) only.

187 The approach to the crime location was coded as "Invade" and "Go with." "Invade"  
188 means that the offender approached the victim's private place alone (Leclerc, Chiu, Cale,  
189 & Cook, 2016), invading the space through an open door (n=8), through an open  
190 window (n = 8), through a window (n = 4), through the door (n = 3), or through the vent  
191 (n=1). In addition to these numbers, six offenders invaded the victim's home, but their  
192 invasion methods are unknown. "Go with" means that the offender moved to the crime  
193 location with the victim (Leclerc et al., 2016), bringing the victim (n =14) or moving the  
194 victim by his car (n = 1) and taxi (n = 1). In addition to these numbers, two offenders  
195 moved with the victim, but their transportation is unknown (n = 2).

196 *Bystander.* A bystander is an individual present, who is not the victim or offender: "a  
197 third person detected the crime (n = 2)," and "a third person (n = 1) and the victim's  
198 sibling (n = 1) came to the situation."

199 *Coding Process*

200 The following case is a dummy attempted rape case: “The offender invaded the  
201 victim’s house through an open window, saying, “I will kill you if you make a noise.”  
202 The offender then touched the victim's private parts, and tried to conduct sexual  
203 intercourse with her; however, she fled, meaning that he failed to accomplish his  
204 purpose.” When we code this case, the code can be “offender’s invade→ a victim  
205 encounters the offender at private indoor setting → offender’s verbal coercion →  
206 offender’s sexual behavior → offender’s sexual behavior → victim’s physical resistance  
207 → offender’s failure to achieve goal.”

208 Sequence 1 (continuous two behaviors) includes “Invade→ Private Indoor,”  
209 “Private Indoor → Verbal Coercion,” ..., and “Physical Resistance → Failure to achieve  
210 goal.” Here, the sequence with “Failure to achieve goal” is excluded from the analysis,  
211 because this is the classification criterion of attempted case. The selected sequences  
212 were linked with the attempted class, and these sequences were weighted to predict the  
213 attempted class. Similarly, all cases were used and the Support Vector Machine learned  
214 the weights of sequences. The final weights of these sequences show the most predictive  
215 sequences.

216 *Plan of Analysis*

217 To show the probability of behavioral sequence, conditional probability was applied.  
218 Furthermore, to predict attempted and completed cases through a behavioral sequence,  
219 the Linear Support Vector Classifier was used in scikit-learn 0.18.1. The results of  
220 prediction have four categories: A true positive (TP) indicates that both judge and

221 classifier supported the completed sexual crime, while a false positive (FP) indicates  
222 that the classifier supported the completed sexual crime but the judge did not support.  
223 Furthermore, a false negative (FN) indicates that the judge supported the completed  
224 sexual crime but the classifier did not support, while a true negative (TN) indicates that  
225 neither the judge nor the classifier supported the completed sexual crime. To evaluate  
226 the results of prediction, we utilized index of accuracy: accuracy is  $(TP+FN) /$   
227  $(TP+TN+FP+FN)$ . For the validation of the accuracy, the 10 cross-validation is utilized:  
228 Total sample ( $N = 88$ ) is randomly partitioned into 10 equal-sized subsamples ( $n = 8$  or  
229 9). A single subsample is retained as test data, whereas the other subsamples are used as  
230 training data (9 subgroups,  $n = 79$  or 80). With training data, the predictive model  
231 (weights of sequence) is estimated. The model analyzes retaining test data as a test and  
232 provides accuracy. Next, another single subsample is selected as test data, the other  
233 subsamples are training data, and the model provides accuracy. Similarly, we can test 10  
234 models and provide 10 accuracies. The average of 10 accuracies indicates robust  
235 accuracy of the total sample.

236

## 237 **Results**

238

### 239 *Comparison of rape and sexual coercion cases*

240 Table 3 shows several significant differences between the rape and sexual coercion  
241 cases. Victims in sexual coercion cases were attacked by unknown strangers more  
242 frequently than those in rape cases. The rate of completed sexual coercion cases is also

243 higher than the rate in completed rape cases. In contrast, victims used physical  
244 resistance and general resistance in rape cases more frequently than those in sexual  
245 coercion cases did. Furthermore, the rape cases occurred in indoor private settings more  
246 frequently than sexual coercion cases. Except for these indexes, rape and sexual  
247 coercion were not differed in other indexes such as victims' and offenders' age.

248 *Interconnections of victim's protective action and offender's failure of sexual crime*

249 Table 4 shows the conditional and unconditional probabilities of offenders' behavior  
250 and victim's protective action. The probabilities in rape and sexual coercion cases were  
251 quite similar; therefore, Table 4 shows the combined probabilities only. Table 4 shows  
252 that the chance of consequent rape (sexual coercion) avoidance is predicted by the  
253 victim's antecedent physical resistance (38%), forceful verbal resistance (33 %),  
254 non-forceful verbal resistance (11 %), general resistance (83 %), and bystander's  
255 intervention (75 %). The unconditional chance of consequent rape (sexual coercion)  
256 avoidance is 3%, meaning that these victims' antecedent resistant behaviors and  
257 bystander's intervention increased the chance of successfully thwarting rape (or sexual  
258 coercion) completion.

259 Furthermore, victim's resistance behavior and bystander's intervention were  
260 connected with each other. Figure 1 shows the interconnections between victim's  
261 protective action and offender's failure of sexual crime. Victim's physical resistance  
262 increased the chance of victim's forceful-verbal resistance. The victim's forceful-verbal  
263 resistance increased the probabilities of victim's non-forceful-verbal resistance and  
264 bystander's intervention. Further, the bystander's intervention increased the

265 probabilities of victim's physical resistance. All of victim's resistance and bystander's  
266 intervention increased the probabilities of offender's failure of sexual crime. Figure 1  
267 indicated the protective actions were connected with each other and had both direct and  
268 indirect effects on increasing the probabilities of offender's failure of sexual crime.

269 *Prediction Accuracy of attempted and completed sexual crime with Behavioral*  
270 *Sequence*

271 We used 0 (single behavior), 1 (two continuous behaviors), 2 sequences (three  
272 continuous behaviors) as sequence units and built models to predict completed and  
273 attempted cases. Table 5 shows the prediction accuracies of the models. All accuracies  
274 were over 80%. Especially, models in rape cases show over 88%. Taking into account  
275 random chance (64.9 %, Table 3), the sequence of continuous behavior predicted rape  
276 avoidance well.

277 *Protective Sequence for Avoiding Sexual Victimization (Hypothesis 1, 2, and 3)*

278 Table 6 shows the protective sequence for avoiding sexual victimization. As  
279 hypothesized (1), attempted sexual crime was predicted by victim's general resistance (0  
280 sequence 1<sup>st</sup> place  $w = -2.00$ ), physical resistance (0 sequence 3<sup>rd</sup> place  $w = -1.54$ ),  
281 forceful verbal resistance (0 sequence 2<sup>nd</sup> place  $w = -1.76$ ), and non-forceful verbal  
282 resistance (0 sequence 7<sup>th</sup> place  $w = -0.17$ ). Moreover, as expected (2), the sequence of  
283 offender's antecedent violence and victim's consequent physical resistance was also  
284 protective for avoiding sexual victimization (1 sequence 6<sup>th</sup> place:  $w = -1.00$ , 2 sequence  
285 4<sup>th</sup> place:  $w = -0.82$ ). Similarly, the sequence of offender's antecedent verbal coercion  
286 and victim's consequent forceful verbal resistance was also protective for avoiding

287 sexual victimization (1sequence 3<sup>rd</sup> place:  $w = -1.20$ , 2sequence 3<sup>rd</sup> place:  $w = -1.18$ )  
288 [hypothesis 3]. Further, victim's general resistance after the offender's sexual behavior  
289 is also protective for avoiding sexual victimization (1sequence 1<sup>st</sup> place:  $w = -2.09$ ,  
290 2sequence 1<sup>st</sup> place:  $w = -2.11$ )

#### 291 *Predictive Sequence for Sexual Victimization (Hypothesis 4)*

292 Table 7 shows the predictive sequence for sexual victimization. As hypothesized (4),  
293 the sequence of victim's antecedent general resistance and offender's consequent  
294 violence was predictive for sexual victimization (1 sequence 2<sup>nd</sup> place:  $w = 0.76$ , 2  
295 sequence 8<sup>th</sup> place:  $w = 0.26$ ). Further, offender's antecedent violence and offender's  
296 consequent sexual behavior was predictive for sexual victimization (1 sequence 1<sup>st</sup>  
297 place:  $w = 0.88$ , 2 sequence 1<sup>st</sup> place  $w = 0.40$ ). Table 4 also shows indoor public setting  
298 is predictive for sexual victimization (0 sequence 1<sup>st</sup> place  $w = 1.09$ ). These findings  
299 suggest that a victim's physical resistance in response to an offender's antecedent  
300 physical contact was protective in avoiding sexual victimization. However, an  
301 offender's physical contact in response to a victim's antecedent resistance was  
302 predictive for sexual victimization.

303

## 304 **Discussion**

305

#### 306 *Protective Action for Avoiding Sexual Victimization (Hypothesis 1)*

307 Our study confirmed the effects of protective action for avoiding sexual  
308 victimization. In line with environmental criminology theory (Braga, 2005; Clarke,

1997; Cornish & Clarke, 2014; Felson & Clarke, 1998; Guerette & Santana, 2010), we confirmed that physical resistance was the effective protective action for avoiding sexual victimization. Physical resistance requires that offenders expend additional labor such as catching the victim again, and pose additional risk such as injury to the offender (Guerette & Santana, 2010). This labor and risk might be effective in reducing the potential of sexual victimization. Effects of physical resistance were mainly reported in North America (Clay-Warner, 2002; Fisher et al., 2007; Senn et al., 2015; Tark & Kleck, 2014; Ullman, 2007) with a few exceptions (Sarnquist et al., 2014). Our findings with a Japanese sample confirmed generalizability of previous findings into the Asian population. We also found that the effects of forceful verbal resistance were comparable to the effects of physical resistance, similar to previous studies (Clay-Warner, 2002; Zoucha-Jensen & Coyne, 1993). Interconnections between victim's protective action and offender's failure of sexual crime suggested indirect effects of forceful verbal resistance (Figure 1). Antecedent victim's forceful verbal resistance was linked to consequent bystander intervention and victim's non-forceful verbal resistance, both of which increased the chance of avoiding sexual victimization. Forceful verbal resistance adds the cost of crime, such as clear resistance from the potential victim, during the initial step, and might add other costs of crime, such as being caught by bystanders, in the second step. The two-step effects of forceful verbal resistance might make the total effect comparable to the effects of physical resistance. We also found that victim's non-forceful resistance was effective for avoiding sexual victimization, but the effect size of victim's non-forceful resistance was smaller than the effect size of victim's

331 physical resistance and forceful verbal resistance. One reason stems from sample  
332 differences. Our study did not include child-victim cases for whom the non-forceful  
333 verbal resistance was effective (Leclerc et al., 2011b), so that non-forceful resistance  
334 might not show the protective effects like previous study. Our study also include rape  
335 victims who preferred physical resistance(Fisher et al., 2007) so that the effects of  
336 physical resistance might be expanded, whereas the effects of non-forceful resistance  
337 might be diminished.

338 *Parity between Victim's Protective Action and Offender's Criminal Behaviors predicted*  
339 *attempted sexual crime (Hypothesis 2 and 3)*

340 As hypothesized (2), the sequence of offender's antecedent violence and victim's  
341 consequent physical resistance was effective for avoiding sexual victimization. The  
342 sequence of offender's antecedent verbal coercion and victim's consequent forceful  
343 physical resistance was effective for avoiding sexual victimization (hypothesis 3).  
344 Moreover, the sequence of offender's antecedent sexual behavior and victim's  
345 consequent physical resistance was effective for avoiding sexual victimization. These  
346 findings clarified the temporal order of the parity between an offender's antecedent  
347 physical contact and the victim's consequent physical resistance (Fisher et al., 2007;  
348 Nurius & Norris, 1996; Ullman, 1998). Victim's physical resistance responding to an  
349 offender's antecedent physical contact might prevent additional criminal behaviors by  
350 the offender and decrease the potential of sexual victimization. Similarly, victim's  
351 forceful verbal resistance responding to an offender's antecedent verbal coercion might  
352 prevent additional criminal behaviors by the offender and decrease the potential of



353 sexual victimization.

354 *Predictive Sequence for Sexual Victimization (Hypothesis 4)*

355 As hypothesized (4), the sequence of victim's antecedent general resistance and  
356 offender's consequent violence predicted sexual victimization ( $w = 0.76$ ). The sequence  
357 of offender's antecedent violence and offender's consequent sexual behavior predicted  
358 sexual victimization. Taking into account that the small effect size of single violence ( $w$   
359  $= 0.17$ ), offender's violence need to be interpreted with antecedent and consequent  
360 behaviors of his violence. The offender's violence followed by his sexual behavior on a  
361 victim could predict sexual victimization, because his violence could prevent additional  
362 resistance from the victim (Jordan, 2005). In contrast, the offender's violence followed  
363 by victim's physical resistance could predict avoidance of sexual victimization, because  
364 his violence cause counterattack from the victim and increase the cost of crime (Fisher  
365 et al., 2007).

366 *Limitations*

367 Our study has limitations regarding sample and behavioral coding. First, the number  
368 of sample is too small to generalize our findings(Pang, Lee, & Vaithyanathan, 2002;  
369 Tong & Koller, 2001), so our findings are preliminary and requires caution for  
370 interpretation. Moreover, our sample did not include child-victim cases so that  
371 protective action and sequence for avoiding sexual victimization might be biased.  
372 Previous study suggested that child-victims' physical resistance might have adverse  
373 effects on sexual victimization(Finkelhor et al., 1995a, 1995b) and their non-forceful  
374 verbal resistance could be effective to reduce the risk of sexual victimization(Leclerc et

375 al., 2011b). Future study needs large sample including child-case victims. Second, our  
376 behavioral coding was based on criminal suit documents; the documents focused on  
377 criminal behaviors, so several general behaviors might not have been described well,  
378 such as giving gifts and playing games (Leclerc et al., 2016). The documents were also  
379 written by individual judge. Description of crime situation could be changed by judges  
380 (Zaleski, Gundersen, Baes, Estupinian, & Vergara, 2016). Actually, several victim's  
381 resistant behavior was describe only "resistance" and cannot categorize specific  
382 resistant behavior. Individual differences of judges need to be controlled near the future.

383

#### 384 **Conclusion**

385

386 Despite these limitations, our supervised machine learning model including victim's  
387 and offender's behaviors during sexual crime clarified the protective sequence for  
388 avoiding sexual victimization. We summarize three points. First, the sequence of an  
389 offender's antecedent violence and a victim's consequent physical resistance was  
390 effective protective action, but the sequence of a victim's antecedent resistance and an  
391 offender's consequent violence was predictive for sexual victimization. Hence,  
392 protective training needs a lecture how to restrain an offender's counterattack. Second,  
393 forceful verbal resistance was especially effective after the offender's verbal coercion.  
394 Hence, offender's verbal coercion could be a sign to use forceful verbal resistance.  
395 Third, our model showed protective sequences avoiding for sexual victimization, which  
396 were not clarified by predominant methodology. Use of supervised machine learning

397 models in other official criminal documents, such as murder and robbery case, could  
398 discover protective sequences avoiding for these crimes. Protective sequence is  
399 fundamental in resistance training (Senn et al., 2013, 2015), and contribute to the  
400 improvement of resistance training (Senn et al., 2015).

401

## 402 **Compliance with ethical standards**

403

### 404 *Funding*

405 The present study was not funded by any foundation.

### 406 *Conflict of interest*

407 The first author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

### 408 *Ethical approval*

409 All procedures performed in the present study involving human participants were in  
410 accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional research committee and with  
411 the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

### 412 *Informed consent*

413 The present study abbreviated informed consent because of three reasons. First,  
414 participants' informed consent and researchers' will do not affect our sampling methods.  
415 This is because our criminal suit documents are based on daily activity logs in Japanese  
416 courts. Regardless of the participants and researchers' will, Japanese courts created and  
417 stored the documents as their professional tasks. Second, if we analyzed only those who  
418 could get informed consent in prison, the data could be biased strongly and cannot be a

419 representative data of sexual offenders in a Japanese prison. Third, analysis of criminal  
420 documents is the best method to clarify effective behavioral sequences for avoiding rape.  
421 The effective behavioral sequences for avoiding rape were essential to prevent sexual  
422 victimization.

423       Following these reasons, we abbreviated informed consent. Abbreviation of  
424 informed consent was frequent in epidemiological study (e.g., Information about  
425 influenza and Ebola virus was frequently used without informed consent from patients).  
426 The present study was also acknowledged by an ethical committee in a local university  
427 and a research committee in a local prison in Japan.

428

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**Table 1** Definition of rape and sexual coercion in Japan

	Use of illegal physical force or verbal coercion	Intent of behavior	sexual Realization sexual behavior	of Intent penile-vaginal penetration	of Realization penile-vaginal penetration	of
Completed Rape	○	○	○	○	○	○
Attempted Rape	○	○	○	○	○	×
Completed Sexual Coercion	○	○	○	×	×	×
Attempted Sexual Coercion	○	○	×	×	×	×

**Table 2** Code and example of victims' and offenders' behaviors

Subject	Code	Example	n
<b>Victim</b>			
Physical		“flee”	6
Resistance		“(escaped from him and) step out onto a balcony”	1
		“overpower the offender”	1
Forceful		“scream”	1
Verbal		“call the police with mobile phone”	1
Resistance		“shout”	1
		“alert police”	1
		“scream for someone to get help”	1
		“make a noise”	1.
Non-Forceful		“demand accusingly”	1
Verbal		“She said ‘I will do anything for you’”	1
Resistance		“She said ‘I want to go back to my house’”	1
General		“resist”	5
Resistance		“fierce resistance”	1
<b>Offender</b>			
Sexual		“sexual intercourse”	38
behavior		“touch victim’s private parts”	28
		“grab victim’s breast”	25
		”tear victim’s clothes off”	17
		“oral sex”	13
		“penetrate victim’s vagina with offender’s finger”	7
		“touch victim’s bottom”	5
		“lick victim’s cheek (n = 1), nipple (n = 1), breast (n = 1), and nipple and private parts (n = 1)”	4
		“expose offender’s private parts”	4
		“kiss on the lips”	3
		“press oneself against victim”	3
		“hand job”	3
		“press offender’s penis against victim’s face (n = 2), bottom (n = 1)”	3
		“ejaculation”	3
		“record pornographic scene”	2
		“touch victim’s thigh”	2

	“open victim’s crotch”	1
Physical violence	“cover victim’s mouth with hand (n=24) or towel (n=1),” “cover victims’ eyes with adhesive tape (n=2) or unknown object (n=1),” “cover victim’s face with victim’s hood (n=1), flag (n=1) or unknown object (n=1)”	31
	“push down”	14
	“choke”	12
	“grip victim’s arm (n = 9), victim’s hair (n = 2)”	11
	“mount”	10
	“punch”	9
	“tie victim with banding band (n=1), belt (n=1), rope (n=1), towel (n=1), and unknown object (n=1)”	5
	“show knife (n=4) and imitation sword (n=1)”	5
	“pinion victim”	3
	“pull victim”	3
	“press knife against victim’s body (n=2) and private parts (n=1)”	3
	“push victim”	1
	“press scissors against victim’s body”	1
	“press pen against victim’s face”	1
	“kick victim's face”	1
	“lift offender’s hand against victim”	1
	“press a burning cigarette bottom against victim”	1
	“slap victim”	1
	“slash victim with knife”	1
Verbal Coercion	Threats to a victim’s life include: “I kill you if you make a noise” (n=16), “I will kill you” (n=4), “I will kill you if you move” (n=2), “Choose to be killed or have sex” (n=1), “I will kill you if you flee” (n=1), “I will kill you if you refuse my touch” (n=1), “I will not kill you if you do not make a noise” (n = 1), and ”Shall we die together?” (n=1). Threats to a victim’s body include: “Choose to choke or have sex” (n = 1), “Do what I tell you if you do not want to get punched” (n = 1), “Do you want to be beaten up?” (n = 1), “I will punch you” (n = 1), “I will shoot you if you open your eyes” (n = 1), “I will smash you if you raise your voice” (n =	27 8

1), “Let me slash you with this knife” (n = 1), and “You can go back to your house if we can have sex together” (n = 1).

Threats to a victim’s reputation include: “Take off your clothes” (n=2), “I filmed you secretly. You do not want the film to be exposed on the Internet” (n=1), and “Let us go to the police” (n=1).

Threats to a victim’s property include: “Pay X yen or be my girlfriend” (n=1) and “You can go back to your house if you pay money” (n=1).

Threats to a victim’s freedom include: “I will take you away if you make a noise” (n=1).

Threats to something else include: “Anything can happen if I get angry” (n=1), “Be quiet. You know what will happen if you make a noise” (n=1), “Be quiet. Your children are at risk” (n=1), “Shout angrily” (n=1), “I am a mafia member” (n=1), “I have another collaborator” (n=1), “I will not do anything” (n=1), “You are being monitored by the gang” (n=1), “You are a target of the mafia” (n=1), and “You exposed our secret” (n=1).

Orders to hinder victims from exercising their rights include: “Be quiet” (n=14), “Do not move” (n = 7), “Be quiet and do not move (n = 1)” “Do not look at my face” (n=1), “I will grab your breasts (Do not refuse)” (n=1), and “I will penetrate you (Do not refuse)” (n=1).

Orders to perform an act include: “Suck” (n = 2) and “Lower your eyes” (n=1).

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Persuasion	Offenders pretended to be a company manager and talked to the victim as her boss (n=2), pretended to be a security guard and talked about the victim’s shoplifting (n=1).	3
	They also frequently communicated with victims via telephone and e-mail (n=1), and offered kindness to them, such as “May I help you?” (n=1) and “Rest in my car” (n=1).	3
	They also made fake contracts with night service victims, such as “I will give you X yen for your service” (n =2).	2
	They also used real identities such as shop managers and telephoned the victim as a customer (n=1).	1

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**Table 3** Comparison of rape and sexual coercion cases

	Total <i>N</i> = 88		Rape <i>n</i> = 37		Sexual Coercion <i>n</i> = 51		<i>d.f.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Age and Sex	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	
Female Victim's Age	22.0 <sup>a</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	22.5	6.6	21.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	0.61	85.00 0.54
Male Offender's Age	42.3	8.4	43.4	9.9	41.5	7.2	0.98	62.77 0.33
Relationships	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%		
Parent-Child	6	6.8	4	10.8	2	3.9		0.20
Romantic	1	1.1	1	2.7	0	0.0		0.42
Non-romantic	6	6.8	4	10.8	2	3.9		0.20
Unknown	75	85.2	28	75.7	47	92.2		0.03 *
Complete cases	73	83.0	24	64.9	49	96.1		0.00**
Alcohol Use								
Alcohol-induced Drunkenness	2	2.3	1	2.7	1	2.0		1
Resistance								
Physical	6	6.8	5	13.5	1	2.0		0.03 *
Forceful Verbal	6	6.8	4	10.8	2	3.9		0.16
Non-forceful Verbal	3	3.4	3	8.1	0	0.0		0.06
Verbal general	6	6.8	5	13.5	1	2.0		0.03 *
Bystanders								
Bystanders Intervention	4	4.5	2	5.4	2	3.9		0.56
Setting <sup>b</sup>								
In. Private	49	55.7	26	70.3	23	45.1		0.02 *
In. Semi-public	10	11.4	6	16.2	4	7.8		0.19
In. Public	7	8.0	3	8.1	4	7.8		0.63
Out. Private	5	5.7	2	5.4	3	5.9		0.65
Out. Semi-public	16	18.2	6	16.2	10	19.6		0.45
Out. Public	11	12.5	5	13.5	6	11.8		0.53

<sup>a</sup>: one case is charged with public lewdness, so the victim's age and sex are

unknown. <sup>b</sup>: several cases used multiple locations, so the percentage for settings is more than 100%. In.: Indoor, Out.: Outdoor, \*:  $p < .05$ , \*\*:  $p < .01$ .

**Table 4** Conditional and unconditional probabilities of offender's and victim's behaviors

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. In. Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	.02	0	.04	.22	.38	.32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02	.11
2. In. Semi-public	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.18	0	.45	.36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.02
3. In. Public	0	0	0	0	0	0	.29	0	0	.14	0	.57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.01
4. Out. Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.80	.20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.01
5. Out. Semi-public	0	0	0	0	0	0	.13	0	0	.06	.56	.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.03
6. Out. Public	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.82	.18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.02
7. Go with	.22	.17	.11	0	.06	0	0	0	0	.11	.17	.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.04
8. Invade	.93	0	0	.03	.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.06
9. Persuasion	.11	0	.22	0	0	0	.22	0	0	.22	0	.22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.02
10. Ver. Coercion	.01	0	0	0	.01	0	.05	0	.01	.27	.16	.36	0	.01	.02	.02	0	.01	.05	.17
11. Violence	0	0	0	0	.01	0	.03	.02	0	.32	.32	.29	0	.01	.01	0	0	0	0	.24
12. Sexual Behav.	0	0	0	0	0	0	.02	.01	0	.04	.08	.65	.01	.05	.02	0	.07	.02	.02	.19
13. Failure of goal	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	null	0
14. Phy. Resistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.50	0	.38	0	.13	0	0	0	0	.02
15. Forc. Ver. Resi.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.17	.17	0	.33	0	0	.17	0	.17	0	.01
16. Non-Forc. Ver. Resi.	0	0	0	0	0	0	.11	0	0	.11	0	0	.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	.01
17. Gen. Resi.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.17	0	.83	0	0	0	0	0	0	.01
18. Bystander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.75	.25	0	0	0	0	0	.01
19. Money	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	.60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.01
20. Unconditional	.07	.01	.01	0	.01	0	.04	.01	.01	.17	.24	.34	.03	.02	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	nul



*Note.* N = 472<sup>a</sup>. The rows show antecedent behavior, and the columns show consequent behavior. The final row and column represent unconditional antecedent and consequent behaviors respectively. <sup>a</sup>: The number of total behaviors is 560, but the initial and final behavior in a case cannot be consequent and antecedent behaviors, so these ends of behaviors were excluded from consequent and antecedent data analysis. In.: Inside, Out.: outside. Ver.: Verbal, Behav.: Behavior, Phy.: Physical, Forc.: Forceful, Gene.: General, Resi.: Resistance

1 **Table 5** Tenfold-cross-validated accuracy of complete/attempted sexual crimes with  
 2 behavioral sequences

	Total	Rape	Sexual Coercion
0 sequence (one behavior)	0.872	0.933	0.963
0+1 sequence (one behavior + two continuous behaviors)	0.908	0.883	0.963
0+1+2 sequence (one behavior + two continuous behaviors + three continuous behaviors)	0.962	0.883	0.963

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37 **Table 6** Protective sequence for avoidance of sexual victimization

	0 sequence	<i>w</i>	1 sequence	<i>w</i>	2 sequence	<i>w</i>
1	V's general resistance	-2.00	O's sexual behavior => V's general resistance	-2.09	O's sexual behavior => O's sexual behavior => V's general resistance	-2.11
2	V's verbal resistance	-1.76	O's sexual behavior => V's physical resistance	-1.47	O's sexual behavior => O's sexual behavior => V's physical resistance	-1.60
3	V's physical resistance'	-1.54	O's Verbal coercion => V's verbal resistance	-1.20	O's persuasion => O's verbal coercion => V's verbal resistance	-1.18
4	Bystander Intervention	-0.84	O's violence => V goes with O	-1.08	O's verbal coercion => O's violence => V's physical resistance	-0.82
5	V goes with O	-0.64	O's sexual behavior => V's verbal resistance	-1.08	V's physical resistance => O's violence => O's violence	-0.73
6	O's verbal coercion	-0.18	O's violence => V's physical resistance	-1.00	O's violence => O's verbal coercion => O's violence	-0.69
7	V's non forceful verbal resistance	-0.17	V goes with O => O's Verbal coercion	-0.77	O's sexual behavior => O's sexual behavior => V's verbal resistance	-0.69
8	O invades	-0.06	V's verbal resistance => V's non forceful verbal resistance	-0.77	O's sexual behavior => V's verbal resistance => V's non forceful verbal resistance	-0.69
9	V encounters O at outdoor public setting	-0.06	V's verbal resistance => O's verbal coercion	-0.72	V encounters O at indoor semipublic setting => O's violence => V goes with O	-0.68
10	O's violence	0.17	O's verbal coercion => V's physical resistance	-0.69	O's violence => V goes with O => V's verbal coercion	-0.68

38 *Note.* Negative score indicates the negative predictive value on sexual victimization. O:  
 39 Offender, V: Victim

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48 **Table 7** Predictive sequence for sexual victimization

	0 sequence	w	1 sequence	w	2 sequence	w
1	V encounters O at indoor public setting	1.09	O's violence => O's sexual behavior	0.88	O's violence => O's sexual behavior => O's violence	0.40
2	O's sexual behavior	0.75	V's general resistance => O's violence	0.76	O's verbal coercion => O's verbal coercion=> O's violence	0.38
3	O robbed V's money	0.50	V encounters O at outdoor semipublic setting => O's sexual behavior	0.65	O's verbal coercion => O's violence => O's sexual behavior	0.34
4	V encounters O at outdoor semipublic setting	0.36	V encounters O at indoor private setting => O's sexual behavior'	0.64	V encounters O at indoor semipublic setting => O's violence => O's violence	0.33
5	O's persuasion	0.35	V encounters O at indoor public setting => O's sexual behavior	0.45	V encounters O at indoor semipublic setting => O's violence => O's verbal coercion	0.31
6	V encounters O at indoor private setting	0.33	V encounters O at indoor semipublic setting => O's sexual behavior	0.39	O invades => V encounters O at indoor private setting => O's sexual behavior	0.29
7	V encounters O at indoor semipublic setting	0.26	V encounters O at outdoor public setting => O's sexual behavior	0.33	O's verbal coercion => O's verbal coercion => O's sexual behavior	0.27
8	V encounters O at outdoor private setting	0.22	O's verbal coercion => V goes with O	0.32	V's general resistance => O's violence => O's sexual behavior	0.26
9	O's violence	0.17	O robbed V's money => O's sexual behavior	0.32	O's sexual behavior => V's general resistance => O's violence	0.26
10	V encounters O at outdoor public setting	-0.06	O's sexual behavior => O's verbal coercion	0.30	V encounters O at outdoor semipublic setting=> O's sexual behavior => V's physical resistance	0.26

49 *Note.* Positive score indicates the positive predictive value on sexual victimization. O:  
 50 Offender, V: Victim

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