

Findings through JUACEP

Name: Kentaro Takagi

Affiliation at Nagoya University: Dept. Mechanical Systems Engineering

Participated program: Medium-term course 2022



Research theme: Identifying relation between CPG network and oscillation profile

Advisor at the visiting university: Prof. Tetsuya Iwasaki

Affiliation at visiting university: Dept. Mechanical Aerospace Engineering, UCLA

My life in LA was challenging and memorable. When I was an undergrad, I was joining tennis club, so I played tennis almost every day and studied like other students did. It was satisfying life, but after I retired from the tennis club, I started to worry about my future. I thought changing environment that is currently surrounding me would help me interact with many people with different backgrounds and would open my world in a good way. In addition, I thought doing research in English is one of the most effective ways to improve my English. From these thoughts, I decided to join this program. As a result, I was able to learn many things and I could say for sure that I spent the best half year in my whole life.

The research life in UCLA was challenging and exciting. The part I struggled the most was discussing with Professor. I needed to study technical terms in English and had to practice explaining what I did briefly in English. Although it was difficult, this effort improved my communication skill a lot. The exciting part is talking with my lab mates. Since there are only 2 members other than me and they are PhD students, I was able to talk with them a lot and get inspiration from them. They told me how good it is to be a PhD student. I started to think going to PhD is a good option.

I had amazing roommates, so I was able to enjoy my life in LA. Two of my roommates were both from India, so I learned many Indian culture from them, especially food. We went various places in LA and ate and drunk together on weekends. I talked with them every day with English which helped me improve English.



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Name: Hiroshi Goto

Affiliation at Nagoya University: Dept. Applied Physics

Participated program: Medium course 2022

Research theme: Observation of the chiral-induced spin selectivity effect regarding an organic chiral molecule

Advisor at the visiting university: Prof. Kang L. Wang

Affiliation at visiting university (Dept & Univ):

UCLA, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering



My life as an international student of UCLA was wonderful. Honestly speaking, I had bigger worries than expectancies at first as I had never visited the U.S., much less lived there until then. Furthermore, my English was not good. However, such worries were gone soon thanks to my roommates, colleagues, and friends with whom I met some communities although it took some time to adapt. I would like to share my experience below briefly through this program. Anyway, I could have spent good time in LA and certain that my decision was right. I would like to thank all of them and JUACEP Officer.

1. Research in UCLA

My exchange program offer was accepted by Prof. Kang L. Wang, and I belonged to Device Research Laboratory (DRL). It consists of three groups, spintronics group which I joined, topological group and AI group. First month, I struggled to communicate with colleagues and learn how to use experimental equipment. Honestly speaking, it was also hard to attend weekly group meeting and entire meeting every Tuesday and Friday, however, I could have gotten not only knowledge or advise regards with my research but also motivated to do my research thanks to their enthusiasm for their research. I would like to thank Prof. Kang L. Wang for giving me such an amazing opportunity. Also, I'm thankful for kindness of DRL members.

2. Daily life in the U.S.

I could get along with my roommates soon and we often went out together in weekends. In holidays, we had special dish and explored around Los Angeles such as Santa Monica, Culver City, Beverly Hills and downtown. Also, I joined Japan Student Association and soccer community, and made friends there. They are great guys, and it was interesting to know about their histories.

Talking about the hard point of my life in LA, price of everything was so high due to worst depreciation of the yen ever recorded and price increases. In the U.S, the price of eating out is originally high compared with Japan and even in the fast food, it costs at least \$10 that is converted more than 1,500 yen at that time. Thus, I cooked almost every dish by myself in order to save money. Although that was hard for me, that became a good experience including finding out the difference between an American supermarket and a Japanese one and being taught how to make an Indian dish by Indian roommates. I recommend going to a grocery store and try many kinds of food you have not eaten ever in Japan. You can visit a large grocery store called "Ralphs" near the UCLA and a Japanese supermarket called "NIJIYA" in Sawtelle if you want to get Japanese stuff.

