

Report on visiting NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

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I visited Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), in Pasadena, California, from October 16th to December 25th. The host was Dr. Neal Turner, the group supervisor of Interstellar and Heliospheric Physics at JPL, who is an expert on the topic I am currently interested in: Dust dynamics in photoevaporating protoplanetary disks. We started a new project regarding this topic, collaborating with Dr. Mario Flock, a postdoctoral scholar at JPL, and it is now in progress.

There are many researchers who work on interstellar astrophysics at JPL. I could discuss general astrophysics every day, including the topic I work on, with them (even at lunchtime!). It was an inspiring experience that the comments I got from the chats were actually helpful and practical. I learned daily discussions are much more efficient for conducting research than performing it on my own.

JPL has many visitors from other institutes every week, so I had a chance to meet and discuss with them. Especially, meeting Dr. Uma Gorti (SETI Institute) and Dr. Jonathan Squire (California Institute of Technology) were impressive. I could not only discuss dust dynamics but also advertise my previous work. I realized how meaningful the visit was. Without it, my work would not be known by the worldwide researchers in the field.

I am grateful to Dr. Neal Turner, Dr. Mario Flock, Dr. Yasuhiro Hasegawa, and people who supported me at JPL. This valuable experience has been supported by the ALPS program.



Figure 1: A scene in a seminar I (the speaker) had.