Three-month visit to Univ. of Texas, Austin

ALPS Course Student

Department of Applied physics

Xiao-Xiao Zhang  D2

Sponsored by the ALPS program, I was visiting the department of physics of the University of Texas, Austin during the past three months. It is undoubtedly an unforgettable experience to me, filled with hopes and obstacles, cultural differences, making new friends and a lot more.

I lived in a big room in a big house owned by a very nice Texan family. The only other resident was the youngest son of that family, with whom I had many memorable and joyful conversations on American and Asian cultures and histories and what the future would look like. I learned a lot from his unique perspectives.

After listening to a talk on my previous works, my host professor suggested me to think more on spin waves therein. Unluckily, after some hard working, I found an essential difficulty along this direction, which was basically out of our reach then. Therefore, I turned to collaborate on another topic with a student in the same department, which is still undergoing. I plan to continue and finish in some form the second topic within a few months and seek further towards a better understanding of the first one.

During the stay, I got along very well with the professors, collaborators, and got acquaintance with many nice young people. Without them, their hospitality and help, the trip would not be so valuable. My sincere gratitude to all of them, my primary and secondary supervisors in Univ. of Tokyo and the ALPS program.