

Nagoya-Kyoto-Tokyo 2004

10/3/04 and 10/4

Got up at 5am for the 6:15am departure from home for the KCI airport. It was a cool morning and the sunrise was gorgeous. The bright orange sky just lasted for a fraction of a minute and I could not catch it at the Topeka rest area. The drive was uneventful and arrived the airport and checked in the suitcase so the travel is less demanding. Arrived Detroit on time and after a hamburger from Burger King waited at the airport to read the papers from Chin's group on H2+. Did manage to learn a few things. Now is on the flight to Nagoya. Four hours into the flight—still nine to go.

Arrived Nagoya at about 6:30pm. Met Wiese formally. We took the bus and then the train to Tajimi station and Taxi from there to the hotel. It was raining lightly and we went to have light dinner later, Inokuti and CN Liu. The sleep was easy tonite.

10/5

The bus took us to the conference center at Toki. It was raining. The meeting had about 200 people and quite a few of them are the old faces. It is interesting that there are quite a few communities still need all kinds of atomic and molecular data. The problem is that nobody is willing to pay for it. The talks are mostly ok, got to know a few different things from astrophysics, fusion etc. There was a reception in the evening by the city of Toki. Got to the hotel at about 9pm and went on to sleep right away. Got up at about 1:30am to watch the football game between KC and Baltimore. Then worked on my talk and went to sleep again till 6:30am—unable to run.

10/6/04

The weather is nice today, with all sunshines. Then in the afternoon it became too tired and so sleepy that I decided to take a break in the late afternoon session. The poster session goes on late and we have to wait for the bus at 7:45 pm to go back to the hotel.

10/7

This morning got up early and went for a jog in the city of Tajimi. Followed the path of the river bank and then went out to the hillside and came back along highway 19. The run lasted for about 1 hr.

This morning the session was ok. Learn a few things but can not recall at this time. In the afternoon, the tour was to visit Meji-mura which is about 1 hr from the Toki conference center. The place is indeed quite attractive, with the old buildings from the Meji period, including the school houses, the big names, the stately buildings of the wealthy and the forgeigners. It was located by the shore of a lake. The banquet was at a "hotel" designed by the Frank Loyld Wright and the garden in front of it. The setting was indeed quite impressive. Came back to a sound sleep.

10/8/04

This morning I gave the first talk on "New and Old theoretical tools for evaluating crs in ion-atom collisions". The talk prepared was longer than I had anticipated, but I thought it was reasonably given. The talk from Kimura is hard to appreciate—it appears that he overkilled it by using complicated calculations for simple cross sections.

After the morning session, Alex Imai took me and CN Liu for the ride to Kyoto. The drive was about 2 hrs along the central highway. We stopped at the reststop to have lunch and arrived Kyoto at about 3:30pm. With the typhoon approaching it is hard to avoid the rain. The drive in the fog makes it hard to see the countryside.

After arriving Kyoto, we went to visit “silver palace temple”. I took quite a few photos since the setting was so charming. In the rain, with the fewer tourists, the place is so peaceful. We then took a walk by the park and then took the taxi to return to the guest house.

Later at 7pm Kyoshi came to pick us up and we went to a small restaurant on the N. side. The dinner was joined by his wife and Imai. It was quite delightful, with plenty of saki and beers. It was tiring after the return from the dinner.

10/9

This morning we went out in the rain—walking along the duck river of Kyoto toward 3rd street. We were looking for the temples near the geisha area, but was unable to find it.

Had breakfast at the Starbucks—first latte in Japan. Then after 9:15am went to Kyoto University in the Nuclear Eng. Department to give a talk on attosecond physics. I do not know how much the students can understand but they are all very well behaved.

After lunch at the University we left for the train station – Kioshi walked us to the station and we had the ShinKanshen ticket to Tokyo. The typhoon was in the area and we had no idea how long it would take us. We ended up taking a slow train to Nagoya and then we realized that all the trains going north were stopped. It was about 3:45pm. We figured that it would take only a couple of hours for the train to get started again. It was wrong. We waited and waited. Fortunately there was CN travelling together so it was not as much difficult—at least one person can talk to. The waiting continued into the evening and after the dinner boxes and into the late hours. I was surprised to find that I was not too unhappy and was quite peaceful with myself. At about 10pm it was announced that the rained in the north had slowed down and that they were inspecting the lines. It would be another hour before we get it started. Then it was another hour of stop. In any case by the time we got to Tokyo station it was already 15 mins past 1am. Fortunately Toru came to pick us up at the Tokyo Station since there was no more trains going to Chofu. We arrived the hotel at about 2:30am. After a quick shower and a good sleep, it was a long long day indeed.

10/10

Today is Sunday and it was supposed to be the sightseeing day. CN called at 7:30am indicating that he was ready. We had coffee and donuts in Chofu and then took the train to Shinjuku and then to Ueno. The first part was to look at the Ueno park. We took a walk and ended up spending an hour looking at the house of a wealthy Japneses from the good old days. They know how to live well—western and Japn style house. It was beautiful and elegant. The Ueno park is actually quite nice and have many museums. I should visit them next time in the area.

The next stop is the Imperial Palace. We got out of Tokyo station and then walked to the Palace outskirts. The outer garden is already very beautiful. The beautifully shaped pine trees and the lawn are very very eye pleasing. We then went up to the Eastern Garden which is supposed to be the private garden of the Imperial family. It was a place worth of revisiting each time. Then we walked to Ginza area—it turned out to be a rather long walk. We did not have time to eat at the crowded restaurants so just grabbed a sandwich and then we met Toru. His wife and daughter were waiting in the Garden nearby. It was a good garden again and we walked for a while and then we went to take a boat ride to Asakusa. The boat trip is quite interesting since you got to see the tall buildings along the river and the colorful bridges. Asakusa was very very crowded with

the tourists. This is my third or 4th time in the area. We stopped for coffee before heading for Shinjuku area. We went up to the top of the City Hall to view the night lights of Tokyo. It was ok since it is hard to identify the really famous tall buildings in Tokyo.

Then we took the taxi to have dinner at a restaurant 54th floor above. We sit by the window. The view was fantastic and the meals were heavenly. It must cost Toru a fortune. By the end of the day I was exhausted again—another very long day.

10/11

This is supposed to be a working day. Since it is a holiday for Japn, only Shin and Michio showed up. We just chatted and in the afternoon after CN returned home Toru explained his work on attosecond pulses. His results were incorrect but in the evening after we met again for dinner he told me that he made a mistake by plotting wrong column. He got the laser-assisted autoionization from ab initio calculations. For the dinner we went to a Sushi place and it was another large meal and it was good too. The Japn know how to handle foods.

10/12/04

With the wireless available in the hotel room the stay at Creston has been quite enjoyable. I can access the world and worked from there and then went out for food or having fun. This morning I took a long walk and run to the riverside. It took one hour and that was only my second exercise during the trip. I was able to read the papers from AT and XM quickly and both papers appear to be in good shape.

At 11am left the hotel and took the train coming to Narita—and started the long journey home. It was a very enjoyable trip indeed.

The flight was uneventful even thou it was full. Arriving KCI it was cold. The leaves went turning yellow. The fall is fast approaching.