

Thanks to the Merit Errantry Program, I had the chance to attend the America Physical Society March Meeting held in San Antonio and interact with many researchers from all around the world. I also visited Prof. Xiaodong Xu at Washington University in Seattle and Prof. Harold Hwang at Stanford University in San Francisco. This trip has been a great experience to my life.

### **America Physics Society (APS) March Meeting (@ San Antonio, TX, 3/2-6)**

APS March Meeting is the largest international conference in the physical society and attracts as many as 10,000 participants every year, including students, post-docs and professors from US and all other countries such as Japan, China and Europe. During the meeting, I made a presentation about exciton dimensionality of layered material 3R-MoS<sub>2</sub>. After the presentation, I was lucky to have a chance to discuss with Dr. Wang Yao, who is one of the leading theorists in this research field. The phenomena I reported were too difficult to be explained by any simple model. However, we finally managed to come up with new ideas for the explanation and agreed to keep in touch for further discussions.

Actually, the most exciting point of joining a huge international conference is that I have the chance to discuss with many foreign researchers face to face and establish personal connections. So, I was very happy that I made new friends and collaborators during this March meeting. While listening to one professor's talk, I noticed that a Chinese researcher (Dr. Liu) raised a question on which I have different interpretation. So I caught him after the presentation and discussed with him. When I showed him my un-presented old results, he was very surprised since he already published a paper in *Physical Review Letters* giving the theoretical interpretation to my old results and he was about to make the presentation.

Such a coincidence made us become more interested in each other's researches. Then we enjoyed lunch together and kept discussing on the most recent topics of layered materials. Also I actively interacted with professors and looked for the chances of collaboration. After I listened to another interesting presentation about semi-metal layered material by a Korean professor, I talked with him and successfully persuade him to provide me his samples. Through this meeting, I discussed with many foreign researchers from different point of views and thus it helped me to broaden my horizon and open my mind.

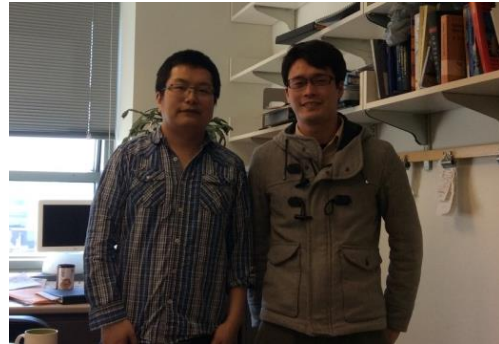


**March Meeting Place: Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center**

**Prof. Xiaodong Xu (Washington University, Seattle, 3/9)**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, I visited Prof. Xu's group and gave a presentation on my recent study including unpublished data. Since he is one of the leading researchers in optical property of layered materials, I was so excited to discuss with him as well as his group members. I think they regarded my studies as fresh and interesting topics although they were not so familiar with my main research content. But there was a pity that my new crystal seemed to be

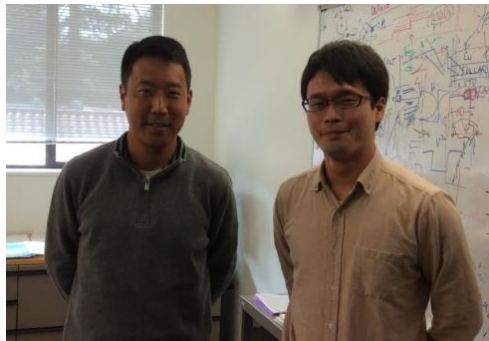
not so attractive to them. Nevertheless, it's a great experience for me to visit the lab and take a look at their apparatuses. Particularly, I'd like to thank Dr. Schaibley, one of the lab members who was so kind to guide me around and take me out for lunch.

**Prof. Xu (Left)& Suzuki(Right)****Prof. Harold Hwang (Stanford, San Francisco, 3/10)**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, I visited Prof. Hwang's group and had a discussion on my research topics.

Prof. Hwang is very gentle and patient to listen to my talk. During that discussion, I fortunately met one postdoc from the neighbouring laboratory and he gave me an important suggestion that might lead to my future experimental plan. Also I'd like to thank Dr. Yuan for his arrangement of my visit. He is the current member of Prof. Hwang's group and the former member of our laboratory. He is an energetic guy who always keeps in communication

with other people. Through the conversation with him, I learned how to behave better as a researcher. In Japan, each laboratory does not interact with each other very frequently. But in US universities, research collaborations between laboratories are very common and everyone talks very straightforwardly. I also learnt from him that the students and postdoc could even start their collaborations before their supervisor knew it and later report the result after their success. Dr. Yuan has succeeded in publishing several papers in Nature series journals because he has enhanced many of his researches via using his network. He clearly demonstrates that what one can do on his own is much less than what a team can do, So I'd like to follow his way of doing research.

**Prof. Hwang (Left)&Suzuki(Right)****Suzuki (Left) & Dr. Yuan**

I want to thank the Merit Errantry Program for providing me such a great chance that I obtained many important suggestions to my research subject, research style, and so on. I am also very grateful to all of those who provide me strong support to my trip: Prof. Xu, Prof. Hwang, Dr. Yuan, Prof. Iwasa, and MERIT office.