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ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
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Report from Visiting Professorship at ISSP

I, Henrik M. Ronnow, spent the period 1st of December 2014 to 31st of March 2015 as visiting professor at the Institute for Solid State Physics (ISSP) at the Kashiwa campus of The University of Tokyo. I was kindly hosted by Professor Takatsugu Masuda in the Neutron Science Laboratory.

For me, this was an outstanding opportunity to interact with some of the many leading groups in neutron scattering, low-temperature techniques, materials discovery and theory that inhabit the ISSP.

Specifically, being hosted in the group of Prof. Masuda was very inspiring and fruitful. As just one example of their accommodating hospitality, during my stay they conducted their group meetings in English. As each group member presented progress on their topic, I could get an insight in the many exciting projects in the group, and in many cases I could provide useful suggestions based on my own experiences. I also got the impression that this was a very welcome opportunity for the group members to practice presentation skills in English, which inevitably is the universal international language of scientific dissemination.

During my stay we were able to perform several neutron scattering experiments at J-PARC both at the HRC and AMATERAS beamlines. I was very impressed by the performance of these beamlines, which demonstrated that Japanese neutron instrumentation is world class. Moreover, the continuous assistance from beamline responsables and from both scientific and technical staff at the Neutron Science Laboratory was extraordinarily impressive.

My positive interactions were far from limited to the Neutron Science Laboratory. I enjoyed inspiring discussions about new materials exploration with Prof. Zenji Hiroi and his group members. Dr. Yosuke Matsumoto from the group of Prof. Satoru Nakatsuji very kindly performed ultra-low temperature specific heat measurements on LiYbF₄. And we were able to perform high field torque measurements in the laboratory of Prof. Toshiro Sakakibara. These positive experiences stretched beyond science with the ability to follow Japanese classes and several memorable dinners where I could enjoy the admirable friendliness and hospitality of my Japanese colleagues.

In summary, the visit to ISSP was a great success, for which I am extremely grateful. I believe this was the start of longer lasting collaborations, several of which are already ongoing. For instance, later this year will I have the pleasure to welcome and host in my Laboratory for Quantum Magnetism in Lausanne Prof. Masuda's student Shohei Hayashida for an exchange visit forming part of his PhD.

I sincerely thank the ISSP for this splendid opportunity - Arigatou gozaimasu,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Henrik M. Ronnow', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Henrik M. Ronnow