UTSIP Kashiwa 2024 Program B

Host Laboratory List

Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences

- Advanced Materials Science (AdvMS)

Division of Biosciences

- Integrated Biosciences (IB)
- Computational Biology and Medical Sciences (CBMS)

Division of Environmental Studies

- Human and Engineered Environmental Studies (HEES)
- Socio-Cultural Environmental Studies (SCES)

Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences

Department of Advanced Materials Science

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Mayumi Laboratory	Assoc. Prof. MAYUMI Koichi	The research goal of our group is to reveal molecular mechanisms for macroscopic properties of soft matter systems. One of our targets is to understand toughening mechanisms of polymeric materials. Recently, the fine control of nano-structure has improved significantly the mechanical toughness of polymer-based materials. The tough polymeric materials are expected to be applied for biomaterials, soft robots, and structural materials for automobiles and airplanes. We study nano-structure and dynamics of the tough polymeric materials by means of neutron, X-ray, and light scattering techniques. By combining the nano-scale structure/dynamics measurements, macroscopic mechanical tests, and molecular dynamics simulations, we aim to establish molecular understandings of toughening mechanisms for polymeric materials and discover novel molecular designs for tough materials.	Polymer, Soft Material, Mechanical Property, Nano Structure, Scattering Techniques	We are interested in the microscopic structural change of polymeric materials under stress fields. For example, we have for the first time discovered reversible strain-induced crystallization of polymer chains in hydrogels and developed tough and highly reversible polymer gels (Science, 372, 1078 (2021)). The reversibility of the strain-induced crystallization allows the tough hydrogels to rapidly recover from mechanical stress, which is important for artificial ligaments and joints. In the summer programme, we propose the microscopic structural analysis of polymer gels/solutions under external stress fields by using scattering techniques combined with deformation devices. From the observation of the microscopic structural change under stress fields, we reveal the molecular origin of macroscopic mechanical properties of polymeric materials.

Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences

Department of Advanced Energy

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Ono-Inomoto-Tanabe Laboratory	Prof. ONO Yasushi Dr. INOMOTO Michiaki Dr. TANABE Hiroshi	Our main research fields are Plasma Physics and Engineering, especially development of fusion energy, alternative energy sources, space and solar plasmas and plasma applications. The present fusion research already realized fusion power output larger than the input power as an exhaustless energy without any global warming gas. Its key question is whether we can develop cost-effective /high-beta confinement using economic high-power heating, where the beta is the plasma thermal pressure P confined by the unit magnetic field: beta=P/(B^2/2μ_0) ~ fusion output power / coil cost. We have developed a number of new ideas for (1) high-power heating: merging/ reconnection heating and (2) ultra-high-beta confinements: second-stable Spherical Tokamak (ST) , using the TS-3, TS-4, TS-6, UTST and MAST, ST-40 devices (based on UK-Japan collaboration). Since the magnetic field-line reconnections (mergng of two ST plasma) converts about half of poloidal (reconnnecting) magnetic energy into plasma kinetic/ thermal energy, our TS-3 and ST-40 experiments documented significant ion heating over 2.3keV. We found the new scaling law of reconnection heating energy proportional to square of reconnecting magnetic fiels B_rec, indicating that the high-B_rec ST merging will heat ions to the burning plasma regime without using any additional heating facility line neutral beam injection (NBI). This fact leads us to new high-magnetic field ST merging/ reconnection experiments TS-6 with B_rec > 0.3-0.5T for ion heating >1keV. We are now organizing the international world-wide reconnection collaboration program CMSO for physics, application of merging and reconnection and also for international and interdisciplinary plasma education of young scientists among MRX (Princeton U.), MST (Wisconsin Univ.), MAST (Culham lab.) and ST-40 (Tokamak Energy Inc). I. ■ Web：http://tanuki.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/	Plasma Experiment; Fusion Energy; Laboratory Astrophysics; Magnetic Reconnection; Spherical Tokamak (ST); Magnetic Self-Organization	We, international plasma research groups composed of Univ. Tokyo, Princeton Univ, NIFS, JAXA etc. are planning annual interdisciplinary schools and workshops of plasma astrophysics in 2024 using bidirectional exchanges of research staffs, graduate and undergraduate students. This new approach focuses on interrelationship of laboratory plasma experiments, space/ astrophysical plasma observations and numerical/ theoretical plasma studies and their applications based on the international and interdisciplinary collaborations. Our annual school and workshop will be held in Tokyo area for graduate and undergraduate students. Mutual visits of faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students will be encouraged and realized. Our initiative will provide a new interdisciplinary and balanced education of plasma astrophysics in both the undergraduate and the graduate schools. This program involves laboratory experiments, space observations and numerical / theoretical studies of plasma astrophysics. Our activities will generate a joint consortium of departments of advanced energy, space-astrophysical science, physics and electrical engineering. We believe that our annual school and workshop will provide new opportunities of international and interdisciplinary lectures, discussions and experiments to all plasma-course students.

Division of Biosciences

Department of Integrated Biosciences

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Assoc. Prof. SUZUKI Kuninori	The budding yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae is a very attractive model organism for studying the fundamental theories and concepts of eukaryotic cells. We applied the power of yeast genetics to understand many aspects of yeast cells. Our current research is mainly focused on (1) molecular mechanism of autophagosome formation using live imaging techniques, (2) molecular mechanism of autophagic body degradation by biochemistry, (3) screening of new membraneless organelles, and (4) analysis of intracellular phospholipid dynamics. (1) Autophagy is a major pathway of bulk degradation of cytoplasmic materials. In yeast, autophagy has been studied as a cellular response for survival during nutrient-limited conditions. During autophagy, cytoplasmic components are enclosed in a membrane compartment, called an autophagosome. We have been studying the molecular mechanism of autophagosome formation by live imaging and quantitative analysis of microscopic images. (2) The autophagosome fuses with the vacuole, to become an autophagic body. The cytoplasmic components to be degraded are sequestered from the hydrolytic enzymes in the vacuolar lumen by the autophagic body membrane. Thus, degradation of the autophagic body membrane is necessary for proteolytic enzymes to access the cargoes of the autophagic body. We are trying to elucidate the molecular mechanism of autophagic body membrane degradation by biochemical analysis. (3) Nucleolus is a membraneless organelle that has been known for a long time. Recently, membraneless organelles have become known not only in the cell nucleus but also in the cytoplasm However, no comprehensive screening has been performed so far. We have screened novel membraneless organelles from a unique viewpoint. We have been analyzing the obtained candidates using bioimaging techniques. (4) Phospholipid is a main component of biological membranes. Recent studies have shown that phospholipids dyamically traffic between membrane organelles via membrane contact sites. We are analyzing phospholipid dynamics using a fluorescent probe which we have found and biochemical methods. Our ultimate goal is to draw a comprehensive map for phospholipid dynamics in eukaryotic cells.	autophagy; cell biology; live imaging; membraneless organelles; organelles	(1) Live imaging of autophagosome formation by fluorescence microscopy. (2) Analysis of phospholipid transfer from the endoplasmic reticulum to autophagosome membranes by FRAP (fluorescence recovery after photobleaching) analysis. (3) Analysis of the autophagosome formation process by deep learning. (4) Morphological classification of autophagosome formation by multivariate analysis of high-dimensional morphometric data. (5) Molecular analysis of domains of the yeast vacuolar phospholipase Atg15. (6) Live imaging of autophagic body degradation by fluorescence microscopy. (7) Biochemical analysis of autophagic body degradation by biochemistry. (8) Live imaging of membraneless organelles by fluorescence microscopy. (9) Regulation of the formation of membraneless organelles by chemical reagents and temperature changes. (10) Live imaging of lipid dynamics using a fluorescent probe. (11) Analysis of phospholipid dynamics by thin-layer chromatography.
Molecular Recognition Laboratory	Prof. NAGATA Shinji	My research interest is to investigate the instinctive behavior observed in insects. We are particularly interested in feeding strategies such as carnivorous, herbivorous, and omnivorous characteristics. To explore the mechanisms of host preference and feeding motivation observed in insects, we focus on the endocrine control in the nervous system and metabolic mechanisms. In the lights of biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, and chemical biology, we run our projects to address the insect's innate behavioral motivation.	Insect; feeding behavior; endocrine factors; knockdown; metabolism	【Experimental projects】Using crickets Gryllus bimaculatus, program students will experience the functional assay of feeding behavior. Program students will also experience a transcriptional knockdown technique of RNA interference targetting several genes, which encode endocrine factors or metabolism-related molecules. Finally, program students must evaluate if those target molecules can influence innate feeding behavior and/or metabolisms in crickets. 【Experience during UTSIP activity】RT-PCR, quantitative RT-PCR, GC-MS, MALDI-TOF MS, and generally using techniques of molecular biology and chemical biology, and behavioral analyses using crickets.

Division of Biosciences

Department of Computational Biology and Medical Sciences

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Frith Laboratory	Prof. FRITH Martin	Our aim is to find interesting and useful information in genetic sequences, and to develop algorithmic and mathematical methods for this purpose. We recently discovered the oldest ever "protein fossils": segments of formerly protein-coding DNA, by sensitive probability-based analysis. This revealed a great diversity of transposable elements in vertebrate ancestors of the Paleozoic Era. We also collaborate with medical geneticists to understand complex chromosome rearrangements and tandem repeat expansions / contractions that cause disease. We discovered the cause of neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease: a tandem repeat expansion in a human-specific gene. In related work, we have detected recombination events between LINE and SINE repeat elements, showing that recombination of repeat elements generates somatic complexity in human genomes. Another project found significant non-existence of sequences in genomes and proteomes, providing clues about immune recognition and pathogen/host adaption. Finally, we are developing a mathematically-optimal way to sample big sequence data, so it can be analyzed quickly, based on minimally-overlapping words.	Genome; evolution; probability; algorithms	Students are encouraged to pursue their own ideas on analyzing genetic sequences. There are broadly two types of project: biological investigation, and method development. Examples of biological investigation: survey the evolution of gene structure by gain or loss of splice sites, frameshifting, gene fusion or fission, etc; compare the evolution of mitochondrial versus plastid genomes; compare genome evolution to major body-form evolution (e.g. snakes, whales). Examples of method development: make a sensitive probabilistic model for finding distantly-related DNA sequences; devise a beautiful way to visualize complex sequence rearrangements; develop a way to extract specific rearrangement events from pair-wise alignments of long sequences (e.g. long DNA reads or whole genomes).

Division of Environmental Studies

Department of Human and Engineered Environmental Studies

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Simulation of Complex Systems Laboratory	Prof. CHEN Yu	A wide range of research topics are studied in our lab, including social-economics, complex fluids, and biological systems. There are three main research directions: (1) Multi-agent cooperative evolutionary games for modeling and simulations of financial markets; (2) Discrete kinetic models for simulation of complex fluids; (3) Cellular automata and heterogeneous stochastic agent models for simulations of cancer and aging.	Complex Systems; Agent-Based Modeling; Stock Price; Aging; Tumorigenesis	As part of the program, a student will be assigned a small project, involving model construction and computer simulation. The specific complex system for study will depend on the student's interest. A financial market, a solution containing colloid, or a growing tumor could be studied. Apart from research, visits to related laboratories at other universities, and/or scenic sites surrounding Tokyo, etc., will also be scheduled.

Division of Environmental Studies

Department of Socio-Cultural Environmental Studies

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Jun SASAKI (Estuarine & Coastal Environment) Laboratory	Prof. SASAKI Jun	We focus on estuarine and coastal environmental studies in the field of civil, coastal, and hydro-environmental engineering: (1) Numerical modeling and application of physical and biogeochemical processes in estuarine and coastal waters. (2) Environmental restoration in urban bays. (3) Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including evaluation of carbon removal by blue carbon ecosystems. (4) Coastal disaster mitigation. (5) Sustainability of community and livelihood in coastal areas in developing countries. Tokyo Bay is one of our main study fields at a short distance from our campus. The bay has suffered from a decline in fishery and water quality, including hypoxia and anoxia, for a long time. We have been considering strategies for environmental restoration, rehabilitation, and mitigation in the bay supported by scientific rationale. Disaster mitigation against storm surges and tsunamis is also our research target, including developing and applying prediction systems for coastal hazards using open-source numerical models. Our focus is also on coastal zone management for sustainability in developing countries, especially in mangrove areas influenced by climate change and associated (relative) sea level rise.	Coastal engineering; numerical simulation; water quality and ecosystems; blue carbon; storm surges	Students will first study physical and biogeochemical processes in estuarine and coastal waters, including coastal circulation, water quality and ecosystems, and sedimentary processes. Secondly, students will choose one of the related problems and learn its mechanism by applying a numerical model. Students will also learn skills in pre-processing and post-processing for numerical computation using Python tools and/or Matlab. Students may select an open source model, e.g., FABM-ERSEM and FVCOM. Students will plot results, interpret them, and present their works and outcomes at the lab's progress report session. Students interested in estuarine and coastal engineering and numerical computation are welcome. Students are expected to have basic IT skills, such as programming in Python and working on Linux.

Division of Environmental Studies

Department of International Studies

Laboratory	Faculty	Introduction of research activities and laboratory	Key words	Projects or activities summer program students can participate
Honda Laboratory	Prof. HONDA Riki	Our society is exposed to various types of risks including natural disasters. Preparation for such risks is essential, but no countermeasure can provide perfect protection against severe disasters. In the presence of various threats such as climate change, huge earthquakes and tsunamis, society needs to be endowed with capability of adaptation and resilience. In our group, mechanism of collective behavior observed in the society coping with the situation with severe uncertainty is discussed from the viewpoints of social networks, game theory, adaptive systems theory, etc. Innovative mathematical approach for uncertainty management, such as financial problems is also in our scope. Development and management of infrastructure systems, advanced design methods, asset management and international technology transfer are also of our interest.	Infrastructure; community resilience; disaster management; information theory; machine learning	(1) To discuss how community's attitude for disasgers is developed, statistical analysis of survey data using Bayesian approach or social network analysis will be conducted. (2) To explore the methodologies for siismic design/infrastructure maintenance, machine learning and information theory based approch will be conducted.