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From November 2004 to October 2006, I was a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo, Japan. My host researcher is Professor Takashi Tsuchiya. The topic of my research is studying optimization approaches to solve some data mining and machine learning problems. It is interdisciplinary in mathematics and computer science.

The Institute of Statistical Mathematics is a national research institute in Japan. Many research staff there have research experience abroad. And the institute hosts foreign visitors regularly. When I was there, the institute designated a secretary to help foreign visitors. Tokyo is an international city. Most street signs and subway signs are bilingual, both in Japanese and English. Usually I could find some staff in the stores or in the government agencies that speak English, especially in big commercial areas. In addition, JSPS provides some Japanese training courses. The institute was located in a quiet area in central Tokyo. I rented a studio near the institute, which is not expensive compared with that in England. Professor Tsuchiya is a nice person. He tried his best to ensure that I didn't have any difficulty in research and in living.

Let me summarize my impressions of Japan: Japanese revere old and senior persons. And seniors are glad to give guidance's and promote juniors. Tokyo is the world's most populous city, but it is safe and in good order. People obey the formalities of daily life, for instance, walking on the right side at the subway entrances, standing on the left side on automatic stairs to leave rooms for those who walk or run on automatic stairs. Japanese cuisine is unique and their table wares are delicate.

Shops and banks are open 7 days a week except on New Year's Day. Many stores are open till late night. You can expect to see crowded streets at 8 pm on Sundays. In conclusion, I have good research and living experiences as a JSPS fellow in Japan.