

## Monthly Report

December 2016

Motonari Hamanaka

### [1] Traveling

It was a winter vacation at Warwick and I visited Birmingham (Fig 1-2) and London (Fig 3-6) using these holidays. London is the capital of the UK and Birmingham is known as the second largest city behind London. When I visited Birmingham, the Christmas Market was held. This market is the largest authentic German Christmas market outside of Germany and we can enjoy Germany goods, foods and alcohol. I walked around and enjoyed sightseeing with eating hotdogs and drinking hot cider. I did not know this hot cider was alcohol, so it was surprising that I was asked my ID to show. I recommend you to visit this Christmas market if you have a chance, but to be honest I was not so intrigued by Birmingham itself. On the other hand, London was so exciting. I visited some sightseeing spots such as Tower Bridge, Tower of London, London Eye, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, British Museum, Buckingham Palace, and Kings Cross Station (there is a platform 9 and 3/4 shop). There are many spots to visit in London. Since you can visit both of historical and modern buildings there, you will love the city so much. For your information, it takes about 1 hour and a half to go to London from University of Warwick by bus and train. Warwick University is located in the city of Coventry and this city is placed at the center of England so it is easy to visit anywhere in the England.



Fig 1-2. Birmingham Christmas market.



Fig 3-6. London.

## [2] Christmas

I think Christmas is the most important event for British of all the events. During this season, most people go back to their home town and spend time with their family. Therefore, a few people stay in the university that makes it so quiet. Also, most shops are closed, so Christmas in the university seems lonely.