

## The Keen Insight of the late Professor Reiji Natori

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“A more distant object appears smaller. Physics that converts infinite to zero will facilitate your understanding of nature.”

This brief comment by the late Professor Reiji Natori made a great impression on me. He made it during a lecture on the physiology of visual sensation while I was a medical student wondering what to do with my future.

As soon as I graduated from The Jikei University School of Medicine, I began to study physiology with Professor Natori. I found myself interested in applying diffraction techniques to monitor the dynamic structure of skinned skeletal muscle fibers at a supramolecular level. I soon discovered that the physics of diffraction was exactly as Professor Natori had described. Diffraction of a monochromatic light beam projects a distance in the real space onto a

reciprocal space : an infinite distance in real space is converted to zero distance in a reciprocal space.

Professor Natori occasionally provided us with interesting views and insights on a variety of topics. At that time many of his comments were mysterious to me. Only recently have I managed to understand the real meaning and challenges of his invention of skinned fibers.

I recall vividly the day I was struck by his comments in the lecture hall as if real time had been converted reciprocally in me by the passing of Professor Reiji Natori, Emeritus President of The Jikei University School of Medicine. After a brief illness he passed away calmly and peacefully on November 20, 2006.

His nearly 95-year life was perfect in every sense.