

Engineering as a Lingua Franca

What is a Lingua Franca?

- Literal translation: ‘Frankish Tongue’ in Italian.
- First used to refer to the French/Italian-based language developed by Crusaders in the eastern Mediterranean
- “Any of various languages used as common or commercial tongues among peoples of diverse speech” (Merriam-Webster)

The Purpose of Lingua Francas

- Generally used to unify groups of people
 - Utilized in many empires and major trade ports
 - Modern international air traffic control uses English as the common language
 - Until the 18th Century, European scholars spoke Classical Latin as opposed to the less prestigious variety of Latin spoken by German traders (Brittanica)
- Eliminates the language barrier

If you encountered a language barrier with one of the following, which do you think would be the easiest to deal with?

- a) Family Member
- b) Co-Worker
- c) Teacher
- d) Significant other

How could you break/work through the barrier?

Interview with Team-member

- Do you find it easier to communicate with English-speaking engineering students through speech or through engineering processes?
 - “If we are talking about a project or assignment, it is quicker for me to communicate by showing my thoughts through math or a diagram. Sometimes it takes a while to think of the correct words I am trying to say, but it is easy to show.”
- Can you think of a time where it was easier to use the subject of engineering as a way to communicate rather than verbal language?
 - “When I have to analyze a circuit, we use software called Multisim to calculate values and digitally construct it. When I get stuck, it is very easy to communicate with classmates by showing them my screen and the error based on my circuit. Rather than telling them what connections I made I am able to show them and still get their help.”

The Lingua Franca of Engineering

- Breaking the language barrier through:
 - Math/Symbols
 - Simulation/Design Software
 - Conceptual Interpretation

Math

- Math courses such as Calculus, Algebra and Trigonometry are taught across the world. Engineers use these topics everyday.
- Symbols in countries may vary, but the same operations are done.
 - For example: Division in the US is represented as $3/2$, where in Latin American countries it is also represented as $3:2$. Also, for angles, rather than using \angle next to a value to show it is an angle being represented, Latin American countries use \wedge above the value to represent an angle. (Todos)
 - Greek letters to represent specific values are used from country to country

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Calculus: Isaac Newton, Englishman and Gottfried Leibniz, German

-First developed the concepts of calculus together.

Trigonometry: Hipparchus, Greek Astronomer and Mathematician, Bartolomeo Pitiscus, Polish Theologian

-First utilized by Hipparchus to determine the distance between the stars

-First titled Trigonometry and created a study on the concepts

Algebra: Francois Viète, French Mathematician

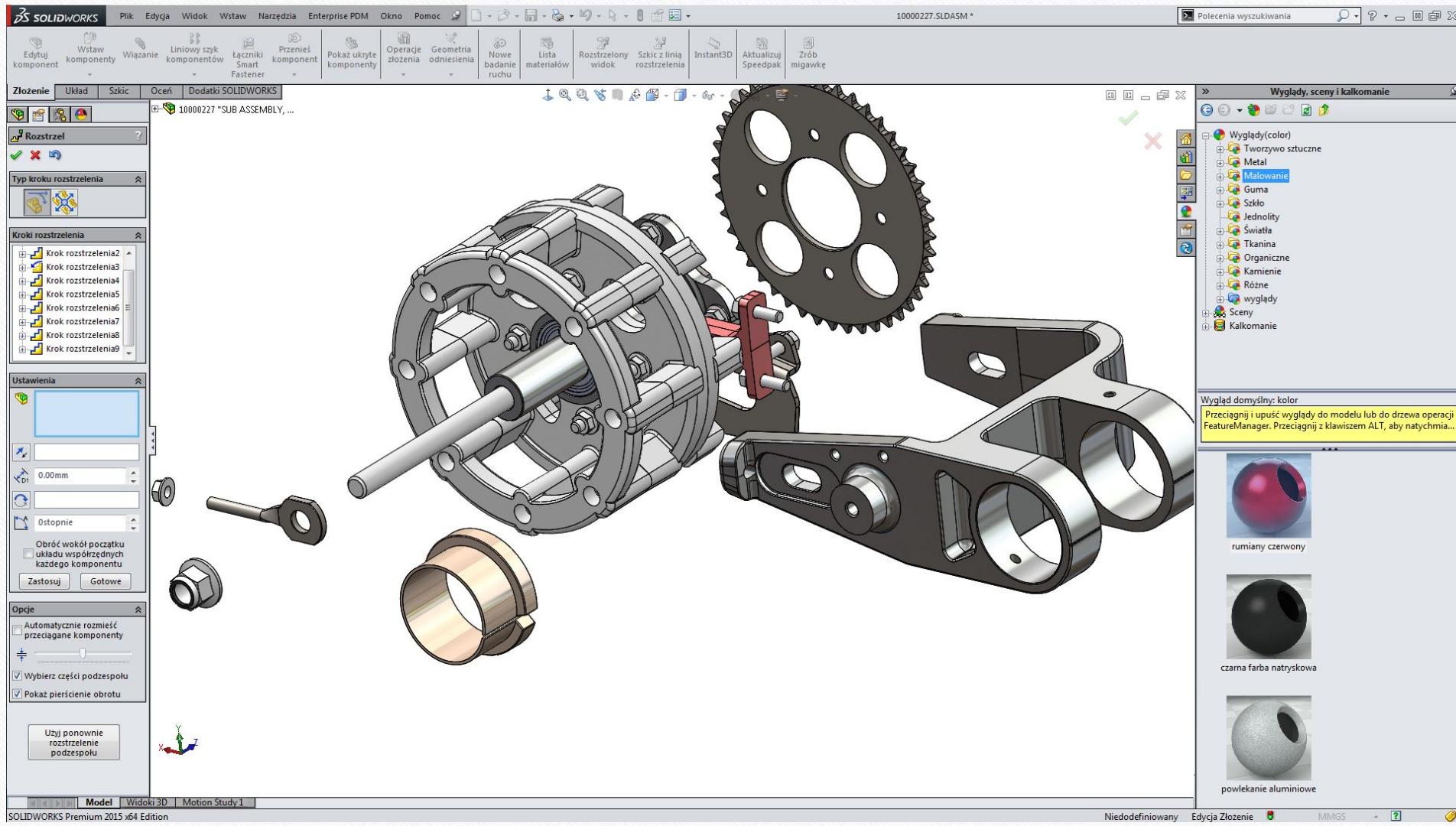
-First emerged in 16th century Europe by Francois

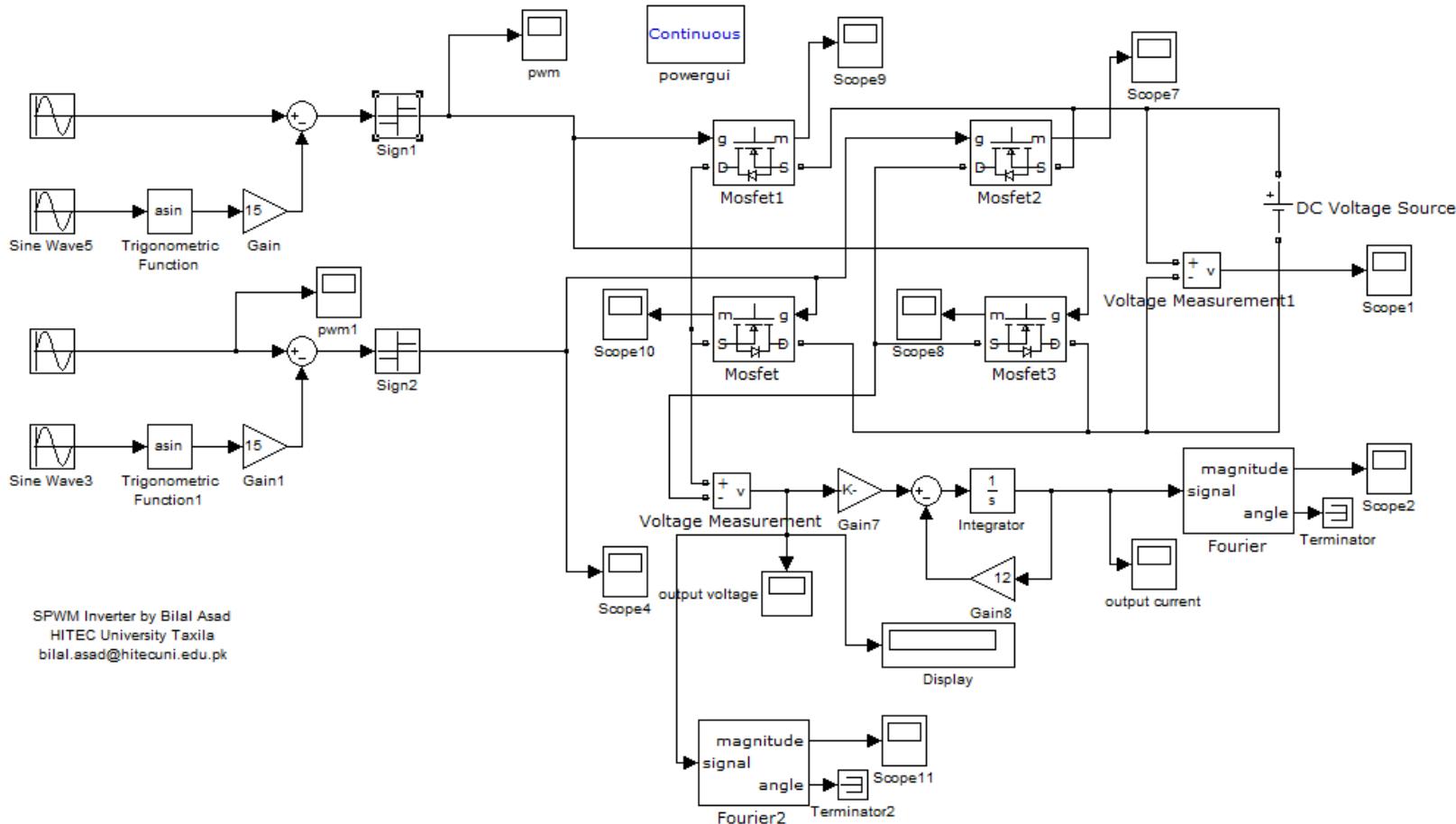
-Derived from Arabic word, al-jabr, coming from the work of a medieval Persian mathematician named Muḥammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī, his work titled The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing

-There is Greek algebra, Chinese algebra, Indian algebra, Islamic algebra, European algebra, and Modern algebra, all of which utilized the three stages of algebraic expression, rhetorical, syncopated, and symbolic.

Software

- Solidworks/3-D CAD
 - Visualize models and build parts geometrically.
 - Operation based on visual cues only.
- Simulink/Multisim
 - Construct electrical and mechanical systems visually
 - Analyze via software utilizing math-based operations
- MATLAB
 - Used to solve difficult and overwhelming equations/systems
 - Uses math concepts and structure







EXPLORER

WORKING FILES

POKER-CARDDECK

__pycache__

.vscode

images

poker.py

README.md

poker.py

```
33     """
34     random.shuffle(self.deck)
35
36     # when running standalone, deal a few hands
37     if __name__ == '__main__':
38         cards = CardDeck()
39         players = ['Doug', 'Al', 'Marty', 'Tom', 'Bob', 'Greg']
40         for player in players:
41             hand = cards.deal(5)
42             print(player.ljust(6), hand)
43
```

OUTPUT

```
Doug  ['2 s', '7 d', '8 h', '10 d', 'A c']
Al    ['2 d', '3 d', '4 s', '5 c', 'K h']
Marty ['3 h', '5 d', '6 d', 'Q c', 'A d']
Tom   ['3 c', '6 s', '9 h', '10 c', 'Q d']
Bob   ['2 c', '5 h', '8 c', '9 d', 'K c']
Greg  ['4 h', '5 s', '6 c', 'J d', 'Q h']
```

source code

program output



Concepts

- Physics
 - Mathematical representation of the physical world around us
- Structural Analysis
 - Study of effects of loads on physical structures such as buildings, bridges, vehicles, etc.
- Programming
 - Creation of a set of functions to execute computer programs

Conclusion

- In various ways, Engineering can serve as a lingua franca to unify students in order to solve a common problem.
- Although not an actual language, the topic has several aspects that can allow people to communicate ideas and problems non-verbally.
- Mostly through visual cues and physical concepts/observations

Works Cited

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