

## My Canadian exchange

At the beginning of the fall semester of 2009 I thought that I am a lucky person. Now I know that I am. Two of us from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics were chosen to spend our fall semester in Vancouver, Canada as exchange students. The story began in the summer, two months before september, when we had been looking for accommodation. The campus dormitories were completely full by then. It was hard for us to find a suitable place from such a long distance. Fortunately, I got in



know with a very nice and friendly family from Vancouver, who spent their holiday in a village close to my home in Hungary. It was the first step, which significantly determined the atmosphere of my semester in Canada. When I arrived to Vancouver with my classmate, they gave us a ride from the airport and invited us to a dinner. They accommodated us too, since we were allowed to move in our rent two days later. Their kindness and kindness accompanied me through the semester.



During my studies I took three courses at the Simon Fraser University. At the beginning of the semester I realized that the system of education is very different from the Hungarian one. Here, the work during the semester is more significant than it is at my home university, but the exam period is much more shorter. I thought that the three courses will not take too much time, but they did.



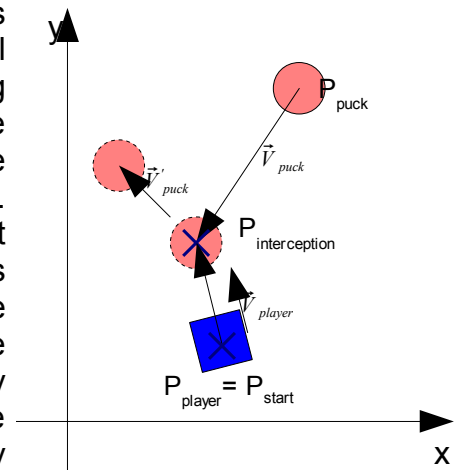
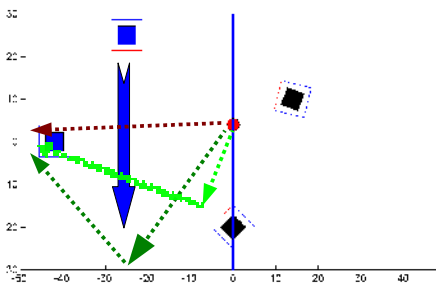
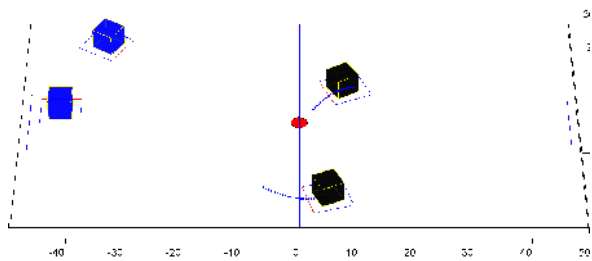
One of the courses was an engineering course, namely the Feedback Control Systems. I think, this contains the basic knowledge, which is needed during the life of every single engineer. The lectures were supplemented by self-supporting laboratory works. In the course of the semester we could try the theories in real life during the solution of the homework. The tasks were presented on a complex rotating system, and we had to solve control problems on this system.

## Personal Experience Report — Péter Hajas

I had the most difficulty with the Canadian Cultural subject since the language of the history was not close to me before. Fortunately during the first part of the semester I was able to get accustomed to it, the subject became interesting. I took Canada to Confederation which introduced me to the early history of this area, the relationship between the nations on the territory of the northern part of North America.



My main course was the Special Project Laboratory, which provided me with an opportunity to deal with a special area in details on the field of engineering. My work was closely related to the robotic hockey. This aims the construction of a hockey team capable of playing against an other team without human intervention. It closely connects to a bunch of real life engineering problems such as coordination and cooperation of multiple robots in order to find the optimal solution for a problem. During the semester I dealt with puck passing strategies in order to develop the cooperation between the robots. I mainly worked on my own computer, but both of the laboratories I used was very convenient and suitable place for work.



During my stay I experienced the multicultural face of Vancouver with people coming here from different cultures and living here together. What I liked in Canada that there is an opportunity for people to keep their customs, keep their national identity. I think this causes the real colourfulness, that people could belong to a smaller group. One of my greatest experience is that I met the Hungarian folk dance group here in Vancouver. I also visited Winnipeg with them, where the Western Canadian Hungarian Folk Festival took place, which was a wonderful experience. At the end of the last night I also had the opportunity to play folk music for the dancers.





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My great experience was also to meet and get acquainted with the Forest Engineers from Sopron. They established the first forest engineering faculty in Canada in 1957. They showed us the interesting things of the nature in the neighbourhood of Vancouver. They also showed us the University of British Columbia, where a monument was erected for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Forest Engineering Faculty at UBC.



Besides continuing my studies at the university I kept in view to experience the natural



richness of the area of Vancouver. It was a new experience for me, that I was living in a huge city, but I did not feel, that I was very distant from the nature. We visited a lot of place with my friend from Budapest, Canadian, Sweden, German, Irish, Finnish, Chinese and other nationality exchange students, who we got in touch with here at the SFU.



Vancouver has an extremely beautiful surroundings, the mountains around the city, the sea and the ocean makes it particular. It is great that you just have to make some steps, and you can find yourself in a few hundred years old forest.



Fortunately, it would be hard to enumerate all the places,



where I have been. To mention some, I visited Whistler, accomplished the Grouse Grind hiking path. We visited Lynn Canyon, where we swam in the nearly ice-cold spring water. I think, it was the coldest water I have ever tried. We visited, Victoria on Vancouver Island and Bchart Garden. It was amazing colourful still in autumn. We made a trip to Seattle as well.

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With my classmate from Budapest we gained Chinese friends from the university, who were very open to get to know with different cultures. They showed us two of their traditional Chinese cuisine, in return we introduced them in the traditional Hungarian cuisine.

I very liked the city. Taking the advantage that it is comparatively young, it was designed consciously. This is one of the reasons for being one of the most livable cities in the world. During the semester I got in know with the entertainment facilities in the city, we went out for music occasions, exhibition and cinema.



I really enjoyed the time I spent in Vancouver, I gained a lot of experience during the semester. Of course, if I could have the opportunity to start the semester today I would do a lot of things in another way. For example, I would visit a national park in the Rocky Mountains. If I could have the opportunity to come back, I would definitely do so.

Péter Hajas