

**MAL Manufacturing Automation Laboratory – 2011 Report**  
**UBC, Vancouver, BC, Canada**  
**December 18, 2011**

Well, there is no point in hiding the age anymore. I became 58 years old on December 15, 2011. I also lost most of my hair. However, there is a Turkish expression: “Grass does not grow on high lands!” It perfectly suits me now!.. Also, old professors are experienced, and they need to be treated like well-aged wine (at least until they turn into vinegar!). I am enjoying the advantages of being a senior academic.

Assistants jump to my “assistance”:

“Dr. Altintas, your brief case with a hammer set is heavy for you. Please let us carry it for you!”

“Sir, please sit here. You look very tired!”

I hate to hear such diplomatic offers of assistance, but the frequency of such offers started to increase!

Jokin Munoa and Mikel Zatarin invited me to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDEKO (Sept.25-30, 2011). I asked for a bribe: They had to arrange a visit to a winery and find a Spanish wine that would be better than my family’s Kup wine. Mikel is innocent in wine tasting, but Jokin was my postdoc for a year. He picked up the trade... They took me to a winery built in 1860. There were plenty of well-aged bottles in the dark cellar. I asked the guide:

“It is pity that the bottles are left alone. Do you open them for guests?”

“Yes sir, we do open them occasionally. We opened a bottle from 1913 for the Spanish king few years ago!”

“ I am also a king, the king of machine tool chatter. Could you open a bottle to honor me as well? 1930s would be good enough for me, you don’t have to open an 1860 vintage bottle!”

She gave a good laugh, and ignored my request and kingship on machine tool dynamics and control... She proved to be totally illiterate lady for not recognising my status in the kingdom of machine tools. . The best way to get one of those bottles is to introduce her to one of my bachelor assistants! She was a beautiful girl, and I had my wife with me!

Engineers Canada and UBC Engineering students have also paid their respect to my age, years of teaching experience, and my family name. Engineers Canada discovered the meaning of my family name (Altintas means Gold Stone), and

they gave me 2011 Gold Medal. The gold is heavy, and can definitely be used to buy some vintage wine in the future! I have been teaching MECH491 (now MECH467) where we cover the computer control of machines. The students learned the magic of mathematics in multi-axis control of machines in the Mechatronics Option that I founded in 1994. Since I have aged, they finally awarded me with Killiam Teaching Prize in Engineering. As soon as I got the loot, I turned the course over to Jin Xioliang for teaching! (I was on sabbatical.)

MAL had transient vibrations in 2011. Caner quit the Ph.D. a day before the comprehensive exam, and completed his master instead. He left the thin walled machining project at a critically stable state. Murat has been debugging the semi-discrete codes which are not as robust as frequency domain solutions. Serban completed the machining of a hip implant made from foam! I guess it was prepared for aliens who have light body and soft bones! Caner, Serban and Adem joined ASCO Aerospace, the only aerospace plant they can work in BC. Jochem and Erin had joined the plant earlier. Jochem appears to have broken MAL's productivity record in manufacturing babies. He became a father again third time in six years!. Mehdi Namazi and Evren Bal finally threw the towel, and copied Jochem, Chinedum and William. They too became decent baby production engineers in 2011. Chinedum had enough of warm and sunny weather in California, and moved to Michigan where the temperature is as cool as the University of Michigan's reputation where he is teaching. Burak forgot how to speak Turkish, English and German. We ask in English, and he bows his head and answers in Japanese!. I have never seen anyone who adapted to Japan so fast. Girl friends can be amazingly powerful in transforming a man! Sacha Roeck tasted the good life at MAL, and abandoned ISW to join a technical school in Germany as a prof. Ken Ng fooled both us and DTL as a CNC expert and joined Mori Seiki DTL. Athony Siu is lost again without a trace of life. Ehsan, after making Virtual CNC almost as a real CNC, is somewhere in Iran.

I fired all Virtual Machining System group by citing the lack of funding! They completed the project, and my life time dream – Virtual Machining System (MACHPRO)– has been released to industry. Doruk, who headed the development group, has finally been sent away from MAL, at least that was the plan. I am now stuck with him again in promoting and supporting MACHPRO. He educated the Sandvik and Pratt Canada folks, spent million free hours in training Mehdi Namazi at DTL, and he is coming back to BC. Yes he is still with the same girl-friend this year! ( He seems to be losing it!). Keith Dunwoody fooled around for few weeks at MAL Inc., and was sent away to a company as a real time software gig. I got stuck with Jim Lao. He formed a company and took the first grand contract from MAL Inc. Brian acts as a software consultant for MAL Inc. I thought I had laid-off all of these guys. Why are they still around me? Debbie, Ahmet and Mustafa are the only ones who are officially at MAL as staff members pretending to run NSERC CANRIMT, computer systems, lab and me!

Jin, Mohit and Murat are moving along Ph.D. path. I think I will get rid of Jin in May 2012. Fan Chen joined the Ph.D. group in January 2011. Ahmet Gencoglu finished his Master and ran away to Germany with his sweet-hearth. We will terminate Oguzhan's master degree in January 2012, but we will get stuck with him for another decade as a Ph.D. student. He will continue to complain about everything including himself and the challenges of his thesis. Coskun Islam was transferred to UBC from MAL Mafia branch headed by Ismail Lazoglu at Koc University in Istanbul. He has been getting some shock therapies at UBC grad courses! We lured Alexander Yuen and Lucky Sekhon from UBC's infamous Mechatronics Option. We also brought Amirhossein Hadi from Shariff University of Iran, and Stephen McMillan – teacher at BCIT Vancouver. The new guys are working in top secret projects that I even don't know yet! Postdoctors Wang Chao (Jin's wife) and Shen Hongyao are working on virtual research to create a Virtual CNC!

Former intern Xavier came back to the booth camp, and benefited from our Virtual and Real CNC set-ups. We had several visiting students from Germany and France. Vince learned that Virtual Machining is harmless, and transferred it to his aerospace company in France. Hamza missed the cold and boring city of Yozgat, and returned to his base! I visited Prof. Ali Unuvar in Konya, where restaurants forgot what the wine looked like! I immediately returned to my home town (Bekilli, population 3200) where 10% of Turkish wine is produced and tasted!

I just returned from a tour of Europe and Asia. I had planted MAL mafia members everywhere except Taiwan, which will fall in our hands soon! I visited Spain and was looked after by Jokin. Tomas Holkup took care of us in Prague. Liu Qiang, Yiqing and others were handy in China. Eun Young Heo and Dr. Park were my guards and guides in Korea. I poisoned the Taiwanese friends by teaching them the drink called "Red Wine". Faby Fong has to share the criminal activity by bringing vintage wine to all dinners we had in Taijung city. Taiwanese looked after me so well that I gained a kilogram in a week. Instead of arranging the five star Hotel Windsor in Taijung, they could have placed me in a famous hotel at Sun Moon Lake where the toilets are made from Gold, and daily rate is \$8K. They did not respect my family name (Altintas=Gold Stone). They promised to rent the hotel's toilet in my next visit.

I was abandoned in Turkey except by Prof. Ali Unuvar. I visited dry Konya, his laboratory and Mevlana. No one was allowed to approach to our winery where I spent all of my spare time when I was not travelling the world! My brother said: "Nothing will be left to sell, please leave the winery, and go back to Canada! At least you import our wine and pay one to us and five times to Canadian Government as tax!"

I returned to MAL base on December 13, 2011. I checked the situation. The lab's journal citation record was 3050 with h-factor of 33 in 2010, and now jumped to 3900 with h-factor 35, excluding self-citations and citations to my Bekilli stories in Turkish! Our thin wall and parallel milling projects are moving at the speed of snail. I need to start terrorizing Murat. Mohit seems to have reduced the computation time of reduced order machine tool dynamic models. Jin is scratching the surface finish waves to get the process damping. Fan Chen reached to the design stage of active boring bar. It is best that I give them a good party (see below) before I terrorize them in the coming year.

***I wish you a very happy, peaceful, healthy and successful 2012.***

***Yusuf Altintas***

***“Virtual” Professor of Virtual Machining Research***



Traditional MAL Party at the slave driver's house – December 17-2011.