

Blog: EE4

Week 2

This week the project actually started, previous week was mainly occupied by task division and such. The seminar this Tuesday started with a presentation of the Umicore Solar Team, it was very informative and they explained the basic principles of their solar car.

The second presentation was a bit more theoretical and they explained the working of several gears and other transmission systems with each their advantages and disadvantages. This information was very essential since we have to build a solar car ourselves and it must also have some sort of transmission because the dc motor its speed is way too high. We will have to figure out a way to reduce the speed and gain power.

After the presentations we had a little meeting with our coach where we discussed the documents we had to hand in last week. Overall it was ok, he said, but we had to make a few adaptations. First the plan of approach, we said that it would be best to split the work so each nationality can work on it while speaking his own language. But our coach explained that this was a bad idea and that it is not a disadvantage to be in a mixed group. Second we had too few working hours on our Gantt chart. And third, the written English contained several errors.

Now it was time to go get our solar panel and dc motor. The first thing to do was test our solar panel and set up a graph that shows the current in function of the voltage. This was the last thing we did together this week.

We will meet again next Tuesday and in the meantime everyone can already think about possible designs. Jeff has also made a Maple file to calculate the gear ratio.

This concludes week two.