Math Matters

A Brief Look at How Mathematics Has Influenced Modern Life

Electrification

Electronics

Water Supply & Distribution

Household Appliances

Airplanes

Spacecraft

High Performance Materials

Highways

Petroleum & Petrochemicals

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

Mathematics Matters in the Modern World

In 2003, the National Academy of Engineering (USA) published ***A Century of Innovation: Twenty Engineering Achievements that Transformed Our Lives***[1]. This book celebrates the top twenty technological advances of the twentieth century that fundamentally changed society. These advances have influenced where and how we live, what we eat, what we do for work or leisure, and even how we think about our world and the universe.

Mathematics has played a major role in bringing these innovations to reality. Many mathematical theories and models of real world problems have helped scientists and engineers grapple with seemingly impossible tasks. Today, mathematical techniques reach even further into our society. In addition to making technology more efficient and effective, mathematical techniques help organizations deal with financial, manufacturing, and even marketing issues.

This poster is a tribute to the National Academy of Engineering as well as the men and women who have focused their brilliance to transform the modern world. The poster is a mosaic of the ways mathematics helps us utilize and benefit from these great technological achievements. Some achievements will be familiar. Some will be a surprise. All, hopefully, will encourage you to investigate these topics further.

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Maplesoft is proud to sponsor this public service poster. As a leading provider of software tools for mathematical applications, research, and education, we feel that the promotion of mathematics itself is equally as important as the promotion of our technologies. For more information on how Maplesoft products such as Maple helps modern engineers and scientists manage their mathematics, visit www.maplesoft.com.

[1] George Constable and Bob Somerville, A Century of Innovation: Twenty Engineering Achievements That Transformed Our Lives (Washington: National Academies Press, 2003).

The content on this poster does not necessarily reflect the position or views of the National Academy of Engineering, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

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