

---

# MEEN 432 –Automotive Engineering

Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Arnold Muyshondt

Acknowledgement: Most of the material for this class was developed by Dr. Swami Gopalswamy

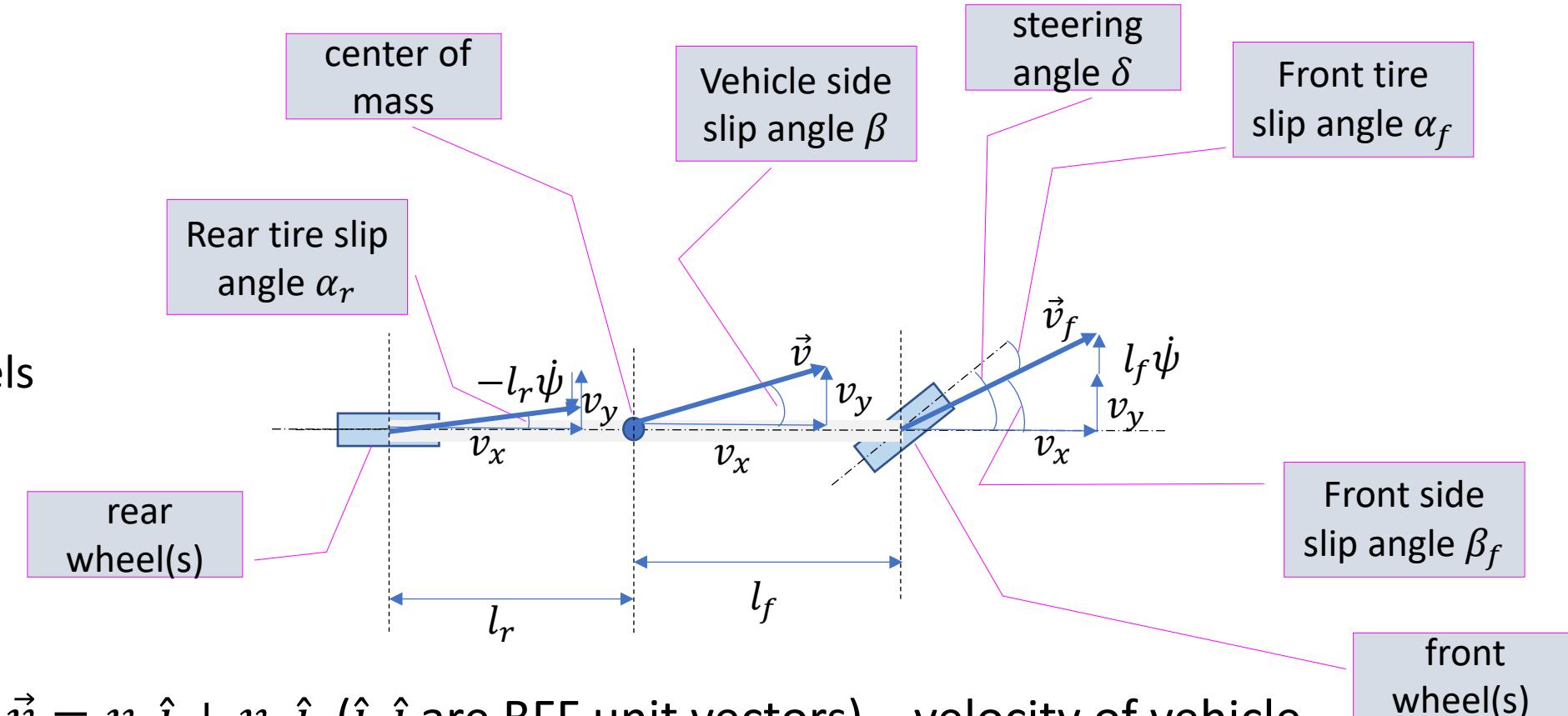
---

# Lecture 6: Vehicle Lateral Dynamics

- Race Car – simulation system architecture
- Tire Forces
- Vehicle Forces

# Bicycle (!) Model of a Car

- Vehicle “collapsed” along longitudinal line of symmetry
  - Two wheels collapse into each other



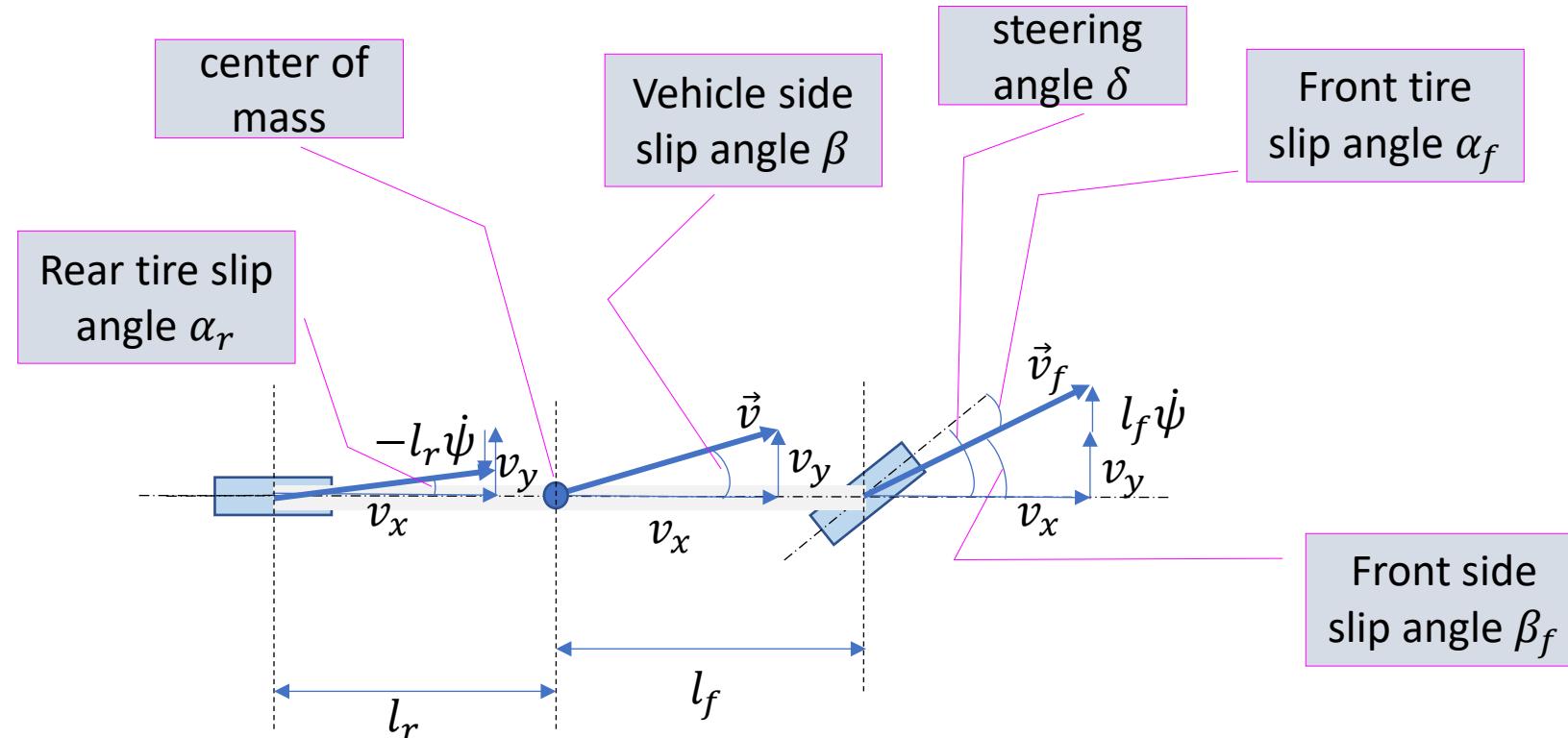
- $\vec{v} = v_x \hat{i} + v_y \hat{j}$  ( $\hat{i}, \hat{j}$  are BFF unit vectors) – velocity of vehicle
- $\vec{v}_f = v_x \hat{i} + (v_y + l_f \dot{\psi}) \hat{j}$  - velocity of vehicle at front axle
- $\vec{v}_r = v_x \hat{i} + (v_y - l_r \dot{\psi}) \hat{j}$  - velocity of vehicle at rear axle

# Bicycle (!) Model of a Car

- $\vec{v} = v_x \hat{i} + v_y \hat{j}$
- $\vec{v}_f = v_x \hat{i} + (v_y + l_f \dot{\psi}) \hat{j}$
- $\vec{v}_r = v_x \hat{i} + (v_y - l_r \dot{\psi}) \hat{j}$

→

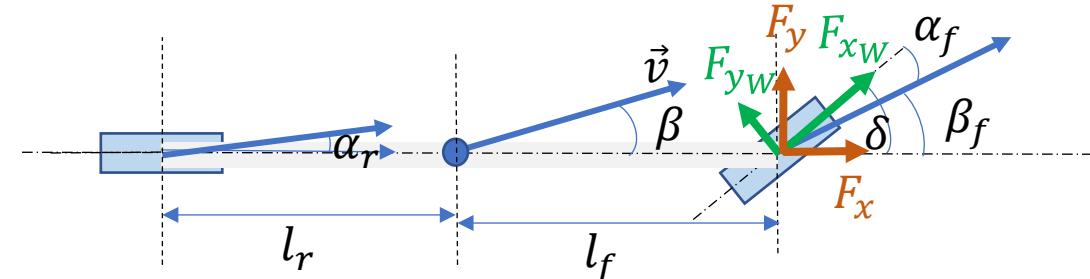
- $\beta = \tan^{-1} \frac{v_y}{v_x}$
- $\beta_f = \tan^{-1} \frac{v_y + l_f \dot{\psi}}{v_x}$
- $\beta_r = \tan^{-1} \frac{v_y - l_r \dot{\psi}}{v_x}$



- $\alpha_f = \delta - \beta_f = \delta - \tan^{-1} \frac{v_y + l_f \dot{\psi}}{v_x}$
- $\alpha_r = -\beta_r = -\tan^{-1} \frac{v_y - l_r \dot{\psi}}{v_x}$

# Tire Forces in BFF

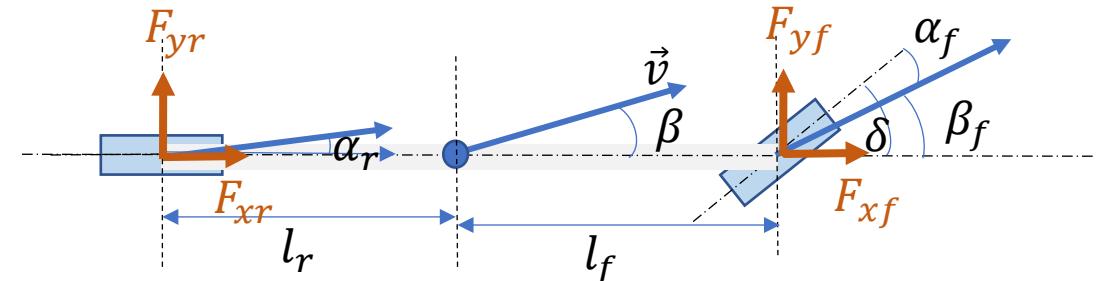
- We previously described the tire forces in the TFF – now we transform it to the BFF:
  - Tire forces  $F_{xW}(\lambda)$  and  $F_{yW}(\alpha)$  are in TFF
  - Their impact on the vehicle  $F_x$  (the longitudinal traction force) and  $F_y$  (the lateral force) are in BFF
  - $F_x = F_{xW}(\lambda) \cos \delta - F_{yW}(\alpha) \sin \delta$
  - $F_y = F_{xW}(\lambda) \sin \delta + F_{yW}(\alpha) \cos \delta$



- Often a “small angle approximation” is employed:  $\delta$  and  $\alpha$  are small
  - $\cos \delta \approx 1, \cos \alpha \approx 1$
  - $\sin \delta \approx \delta, \sin \alpha \approx \alpha$
- Then:
  - $F_x = F_{xW} - F_{yW}\delta$
  - $F_y = F_{xW}\delta + F_{yW}$

# Vehicle Forces

- We consider the tire forces at both the front and rear, in BFF
- NOTE: We need to consider both the right and left wheels together, i.e. sum the forces at each axle
- Net Forces:
  - $\Sigma F_x = F_{xf} + F_{xr} - F_{drag} - F_{gravity}$
  - $\Sigma F_y = F_{yf} + F_{yr}$
- Net Moment:
  - $\Sigma M = F_{yf}l_f - F_{yr}l_r$



- Expanding (assuming Front Wheel Steer):
  - $\Sigma F_x = F_{xWf}(\lambda_f) \cos \delta - F_{yWf}(\alpha_f) \sin \delta + F_{xWr}(\lambda_r) - F_{drag} - F_{gravity}$
  - $\Sigma F_y = F_{xWf}(\lambda) \sin \delta + F_{yWf}(\alpha) \cos \delta + F_{yWr}(\alpha)$
  - $\Sigma M = (F_{xWf}(\lambda) \sin \delta + F_{yWf}(\alpha) \cos \delta) l_f - F_{yWr}(\alpha) \cos \delta l_r$

# Vehicle Dynamics

$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\nu}_x \\ \dot{\nu}_y \\ \dot{\omega} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_y \omega + (F_{xWf}(\lambda_f) \cos \delta - F_{yWf}(\alpha_f) \sin \delta + F_{xWr}(\lambda_r) - F_{drag} - F_{gravity})/m \\ -v_x \omega + (F_{xWf}(\lambda) \sin \delta + F_{yWf}(\alpha) \cos \delta + F_{yWr}(\alpha))/m \\ ((F_{xWf}(\lambda) \sin \delta + F_{yWf}(\alpha) \cos \delta) l_f & - F_{yWr}(\alpha) \cos \delta l_r)/I \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$