Racecar 101

James Wright

September 7, 2022

Outline

What makes a car fast?

2 Blocks in Beamer

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Note

This first part is a very simplified breakdown

- It's not the most accurate
- It's not to insult anyone's intelligence

It's simply to not distract from the things that can be easily forgotten or muddied.

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To make a car faster, you must make the car accelerate more

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What famous equation involves acceleration?

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Newton's 2nd law!

$$F = ma$$

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We care about acceleration, so rearange:

$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

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Decrease Mass

Make things lighter

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• Increase the force the tires can apply to the ground

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- Increase the force the tires can apply to the ground
- Increase power output

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- Increase braking torque

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The latter two hold only if the tires can transfer the torque

Balancing ↑Force vs ↓Mass

Sometimes \uparrow mass $+ \uparrow$ force $= \uparrow$ acceleration

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Bigger Engine

Increases the total vehicle mass, but increases power output Depending on the ratio, can lead to better acceleration.

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Smaller/Narrower Tires

Decreases total vehicle mass, but decreases total acceleration potential Also reduces unsprung mass (improves vehicle handling and response)

Simplest acceleration to model:

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- Ensure that care is capable of absolute maximum braking acceleration

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- Ensure that care is capable of absolute maximum braking acceleration
- Power (positive)
 - Almost always limited by the power unit (ICE, electric motor, rubber band windup, etc.)

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Turning causes *Lateral Acceleration*, which is not a change in speed, but of direction:

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$$F = m \frac{V^2}{r} \ \Rightarrow \ V = \sqrt{\frac{Fr}{m}}$$

Blocks in Beamer

Standard Block

This is a standard block.

Alert Message

This block presents alert message.

An example of typesetting tool

Example: MS Word, LATEX