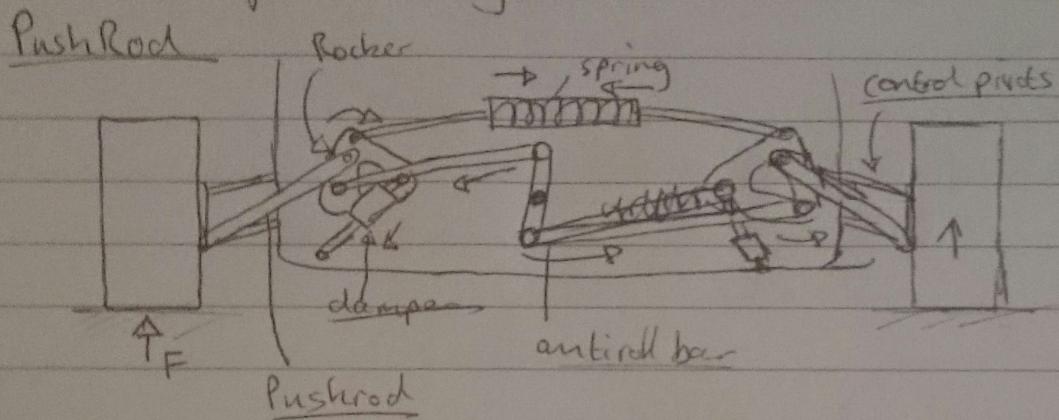


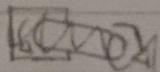
Formula Student

Suspension System



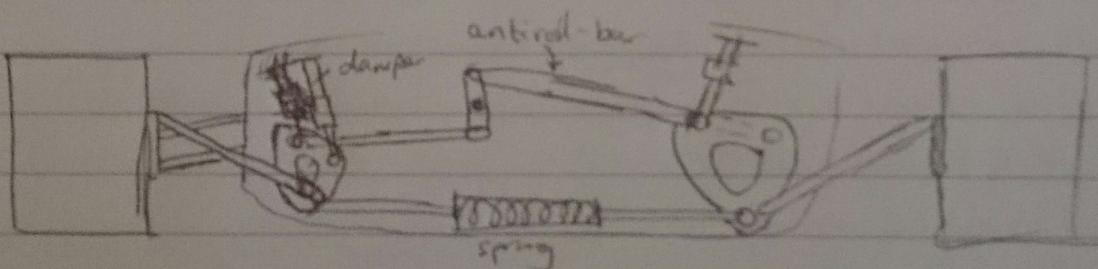
- Double Wishbone connections (Control Points)

~~Antiroll bar = torsion bar~~



- Antiroll Bar Adv compared with normal suspension system
 - Restrictive wheel movement (stiff).
 - keeps the car at same road level (ride height)
 - components are internal instead of outside.
 - reduces drag

Pull rod Suspension - Pushrod suspension upside down



Compared with Pushrod

Adv

- Lower centre of gravity
 - better handling characteristics

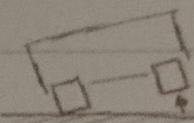
DisAdv

- Control arms (double wishbones) needs to be stronger as pull rod don't support weight/forces, unlike a pushrod.
- Rarely used.

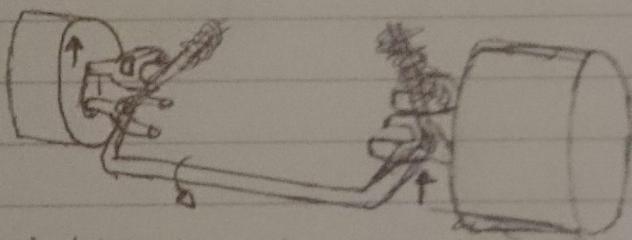
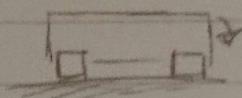
Car can only perform when tyres are connected to the body. Car suspension makes sure tyres stay on the ground.

Anti-Roll Bars / Anti-sway bar

- Reduces body roll when cornering by distributing lateral force more evenly across both tyres.
- Can change Understeer/Oversteer.
 - Car turning sharp left w/o Antiroll bar



- Car turning sharp left with Antiroll bar



- Antiroll bar transfers Torque from one tyre to the other.

- Double wishbone arms connect tyres & Car Frame

- Antiroll bar connects Suspension components together

Reduces Understeer

- Increase stiffness rear AR bar
- OR reduce stiffness in front AR bar

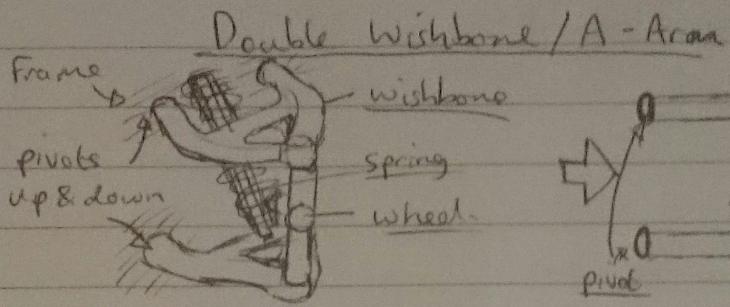
Reduces Oversteer

- Vice Versa to Reducing oversteer

- Another way to reduce roll is to increase suspension stiffness.

Slackducts

- Driving on broken road may produce jiving side-to-side motion (waddling movement), which increases in severity with diameter and stiffness of sway bars.
- too much rollbar stiffness will make car fall on 1 side.



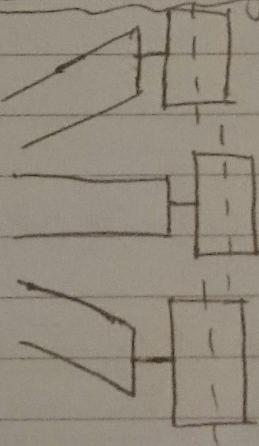
- Spring connected to 1 of the wishbones (lower) to the frame of the car (fixed).

- 2 control arms (wishbones)

If 2 control arms (wishbones) are at equal length :

- Adv

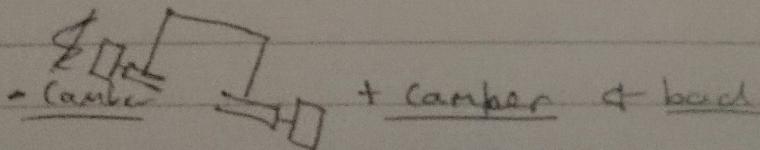
- as the wheel moves up & down relative to the chassis, Camber angle stays the same



- D-Adv

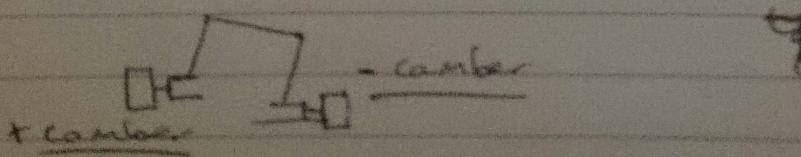
- Camber angle changes when cornering (as the chassis is at an off angle when the car rolls).

Left corner

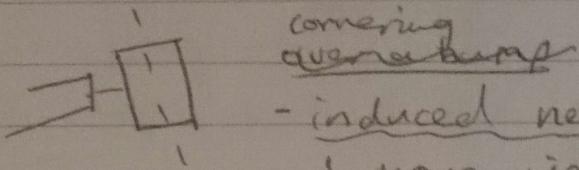
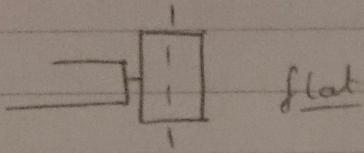


The upper control arm

Using a shorter upper control arm!



- as the tyre drives over a bump!



- induced negative camber
i. more grip mechanical grip

i. Adv

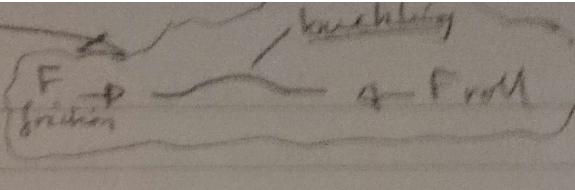
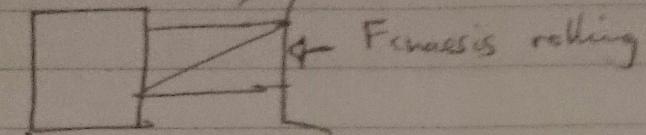
- increased negative camber on inside tyres when roll & positive camber on outside tyre = MAX contact with tyre & road i. max grip
- can handle large deflections - larger bumps on the road, - larger travel of wheel moving up & down
- versatile - any configuration of suspension system.

Formula 1 car - 2012 Lotus

- Suspension must be soft enough to maintain contact with the road over bumps - high mechanical grip
- Too soft - slow response of driver input to car output e.g. driver turns hard left, car responds sluggishly
- Normal cars suspension is designed to hold the force of the car (weight)
 - Formula 1 cars suspension is designed to hold the forces in all directions (not just up & down) & holds 3x weight of the car (due to aerodynamical force)

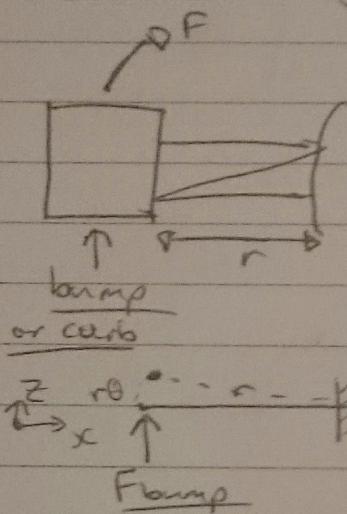
2 types of movements in suspension system

- Chassis moves in the same time with the wheels
 - called Heave movement
- Chassis moves relative to the wheels (opposite direction)
 - 2 situations where this occurs:
 - 1) Cornering: chassis (car) rolls against one side of the wheels.
 2. Lateral forces in the suspension



Friction ($= \mu N$) of tyre + road opposes rolling force $\rightarrow N \approx F_{\text{chassis roll}}$
 - control rods + pull/push rod must be able to withstand lateral forces of the car turning (rolling + friction)
 - prevent buckling

2) Bumps: 1 tyre moves vertically relative to the chassis



- distance travelled of tyre (vertical) = $r\theta$

- This, in essence can be simplified into a cantilever problem

\rightarrow assume chassis remains fixed (due to very high stiff spring + damper system)

Solving the 2 situations

1) use anti roll bar

- neutral (ineffective) when 2 wheels on either side is moving together - e.g. when Heave movement occurs
- prevents (limits) (1) situation as there'll be less F_{chassis roll}, and as Friction force is proportional to N ($\approx F_{\text{chassis roll}}$) \rightarrow less friction force as well THEREFORE less buckling

normal road cars has both suspensions/movements in their suspension system. In F1 car, there's a third element (central element)

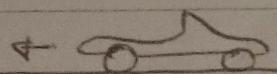
• Third Element (central)

- for any race car with wings/downforce
- does the opposite of what anti-roll bar does
- for AR bar, it only acts when the wheels are moving independently from each other, i.e. when 1 wheel moves up.
- Central element opposite when the 2 wheels are moving relative to each other (does nothing during roll).

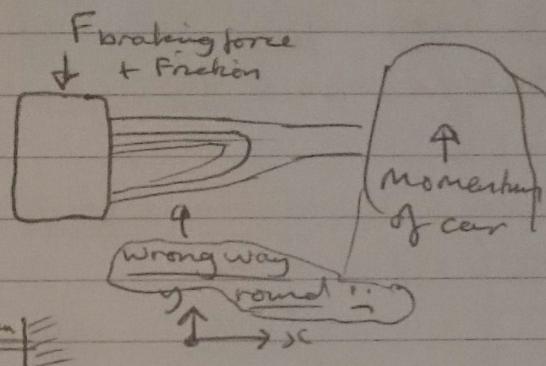
Third Element

Called FRIC (Front to Rear Interlinked Suspension)

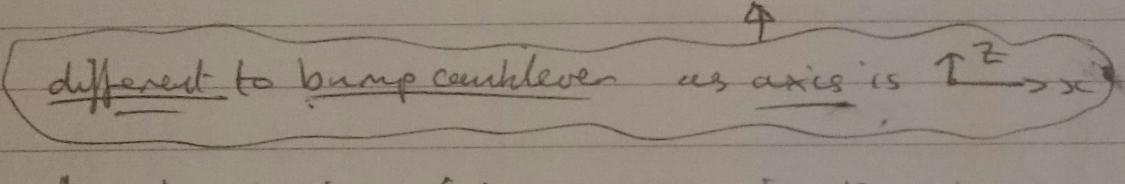
- produced by Mercedes + Lotus in 2012
- F1 car goes through number of movements
- car pitches when braking



braking:



∴ for control rods:



- rolls when turning (shown on previous page)

- Car is unstable during these handling movements

- goal is to keep vehicle stability through a maneuver, optimize aero downforce aerodynamics (through not changing ride height during maneuvers), → due to instability of vehicle, car ride height is also unstable, aerodynamics is affected and maintaining downforce.

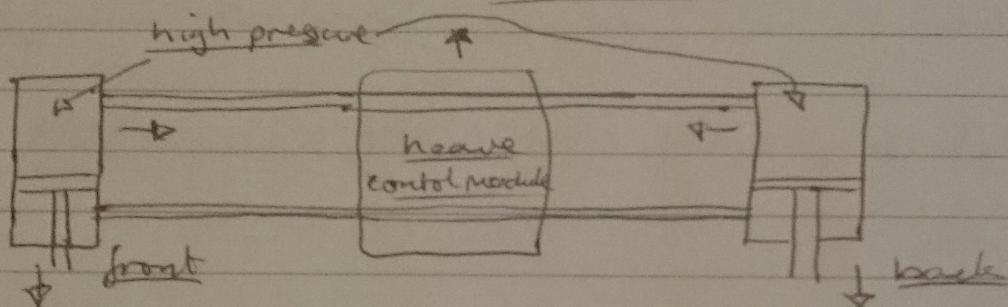


- FRIC suspension system links front + rear suspension of the car using hydraulics
- keeps all 4 corners of the car at constant ride height under braking
- inertia based - doesn't use mechanical/electronic input from the driver, i.e. passive
- You want soft springs for more grip → but too much instability in car
∴ aero is affected/harassed & driver control & responsiveness reduced

- FRIC controls heave ($\uparrow \downarrow$ movements), pitch (forward movement - when braking & backward when accelerating) and roll ($\leftarrow \rightarrow$ movement). i.grip + aerodynamics are manipulated
- The dampers on the front & back are connected via pipes therefore damper fluid can change from 1 end to the other.

In Heave

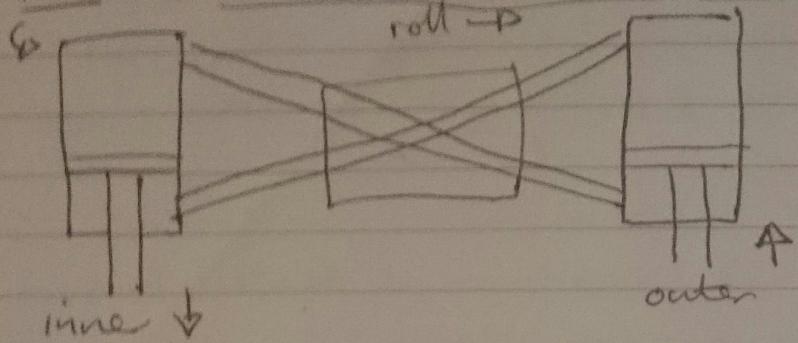
- When the car brakes, the car pitches forward therefore front suspension compresses & rear suspension rises.



- Pressure builds up on one side of the centre element on the front suspension and this pressure is transferred to the rear centre element.
- This increases suspension spring effect at the front and reduces it at the back ∴ car won't dive nose down under braking.
- In heave, both front + back dampers has a high pressure field on the top (due to piston moving down). But as both of them are connected together, the pistons will resist any more downward movement, hence in effect, increase the damping stiffness of the car.
- Therefore more rigid chassis when in heave

In Roll

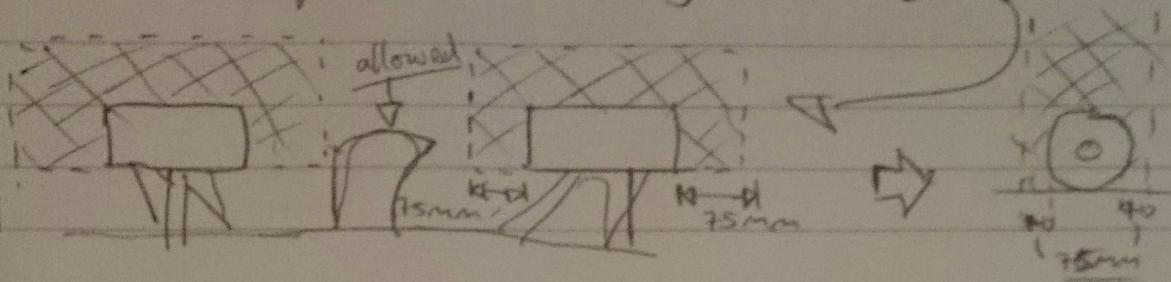
- when rolling (e.g. turning left), the outer hydraulic will compress and the inner element will rise.
- This will increase damper coefficient i.e. stiffer car when turning



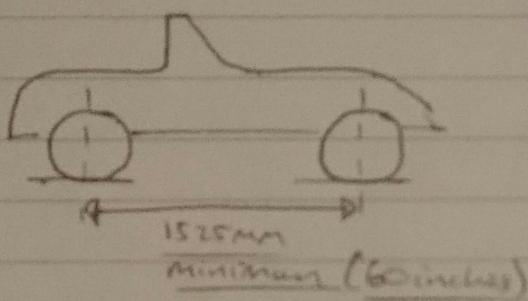
- Same effect in pitching, from front side to back side
- ∴ Front 2 wheel Dampers are cross-linked to prevent roll along with AR bar
- ∴ LHS front wheel Damper is parallel connected to the LHS back wheel Damper to prevent heave movement (up + down of car). Same with RHS front + back dampers

Formula Student Rule

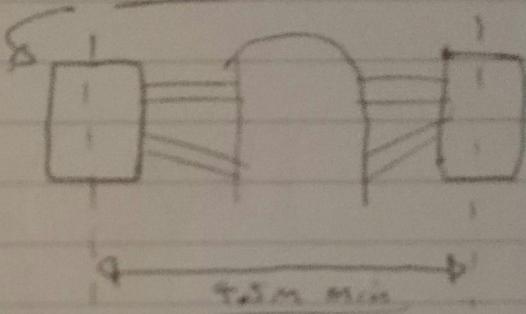
- No part of the vehicle may enter the keep out zone:



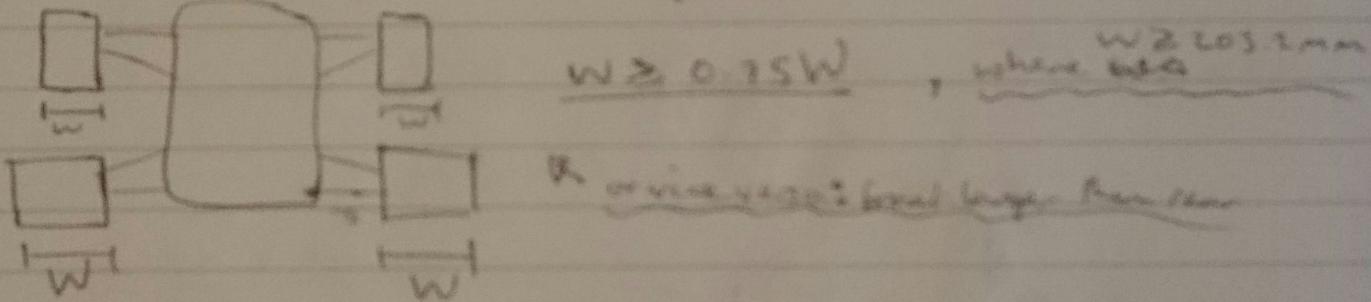
- Wheelbase - at least 1525 mm long



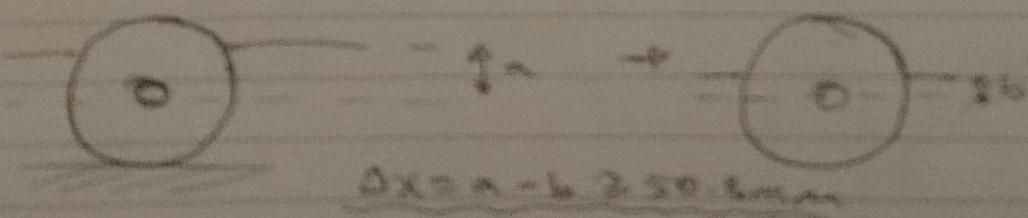
- Track width - at least 4.5m



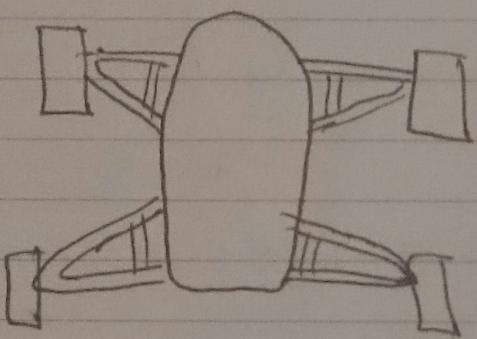
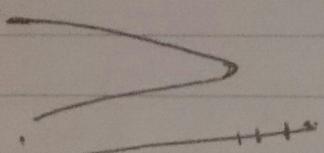
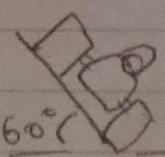
- Vehicle Track - smaller track width of vehicle (front / rear) must be no less than 75% of the width of the large one.



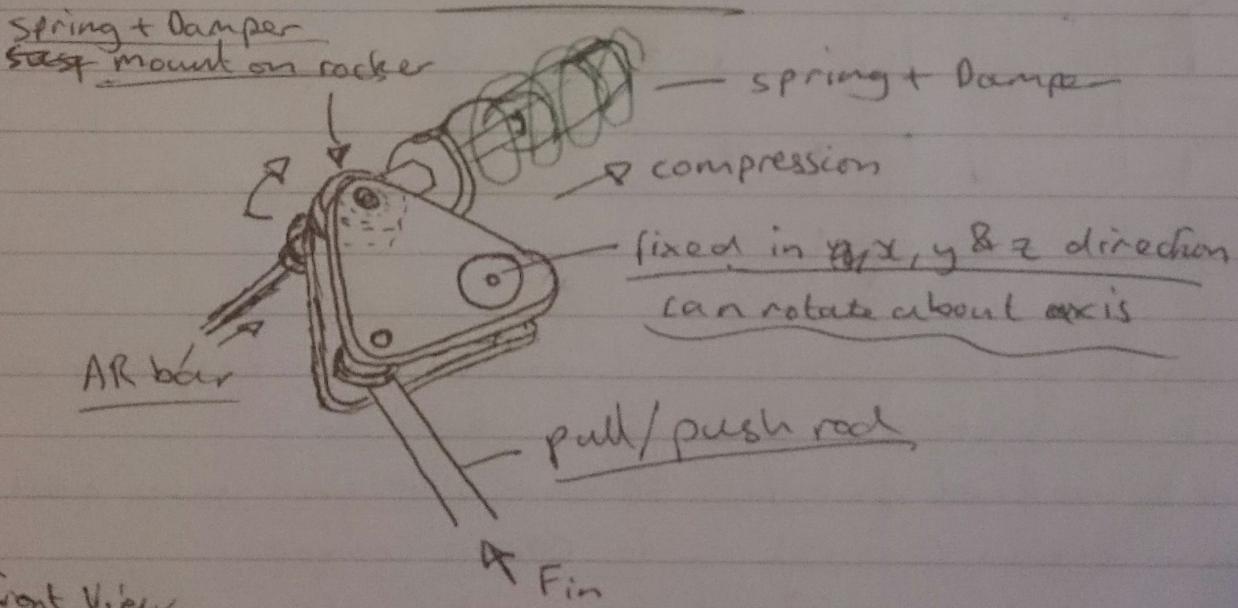
- Suspension - must be equipped with fully functional suspension systems with shock absorbers (dampers) in front + rear - wheels.
- usable wheel travel of at least 50.8mm + 25.4mm travel and 25.4mm rebound (1-inch) with Oliver sealed
- All suspension mounting points must be visible at technical inspection



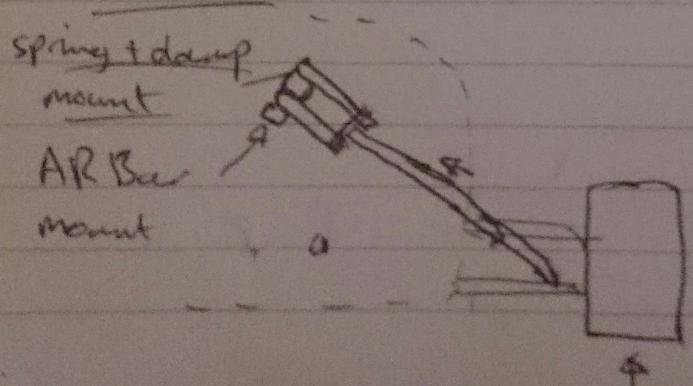
- Roll-over Stability - vehicle must not roll when inclined at 60° from horizontal ($\approx 16 \text{ m/s}$) ($= 1.7 \text{ g's}$) with the tallest driver in the normal driving position



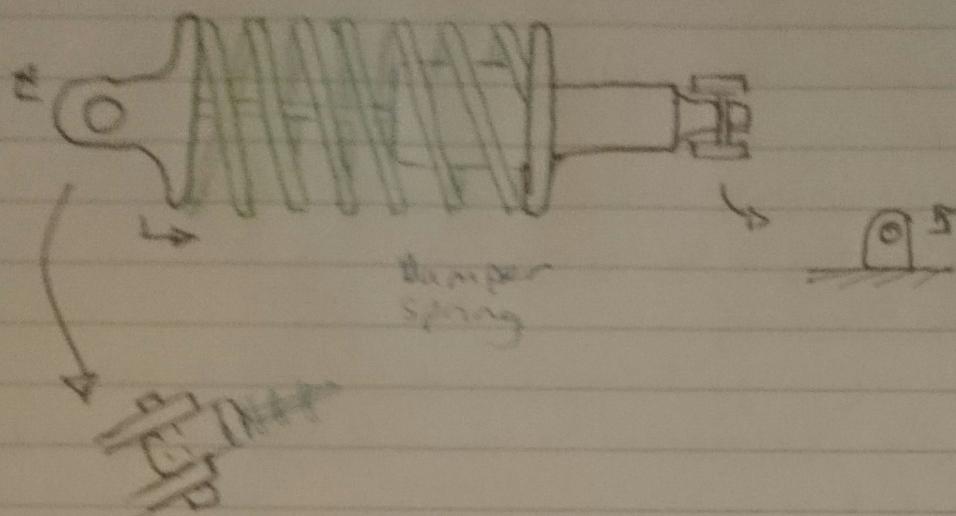
ROCKER



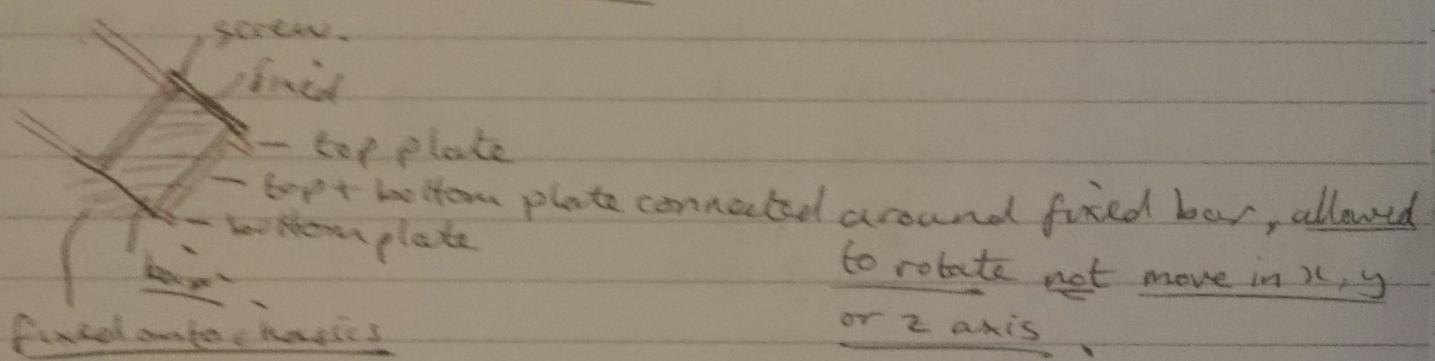
Front View



Spring + Dumper

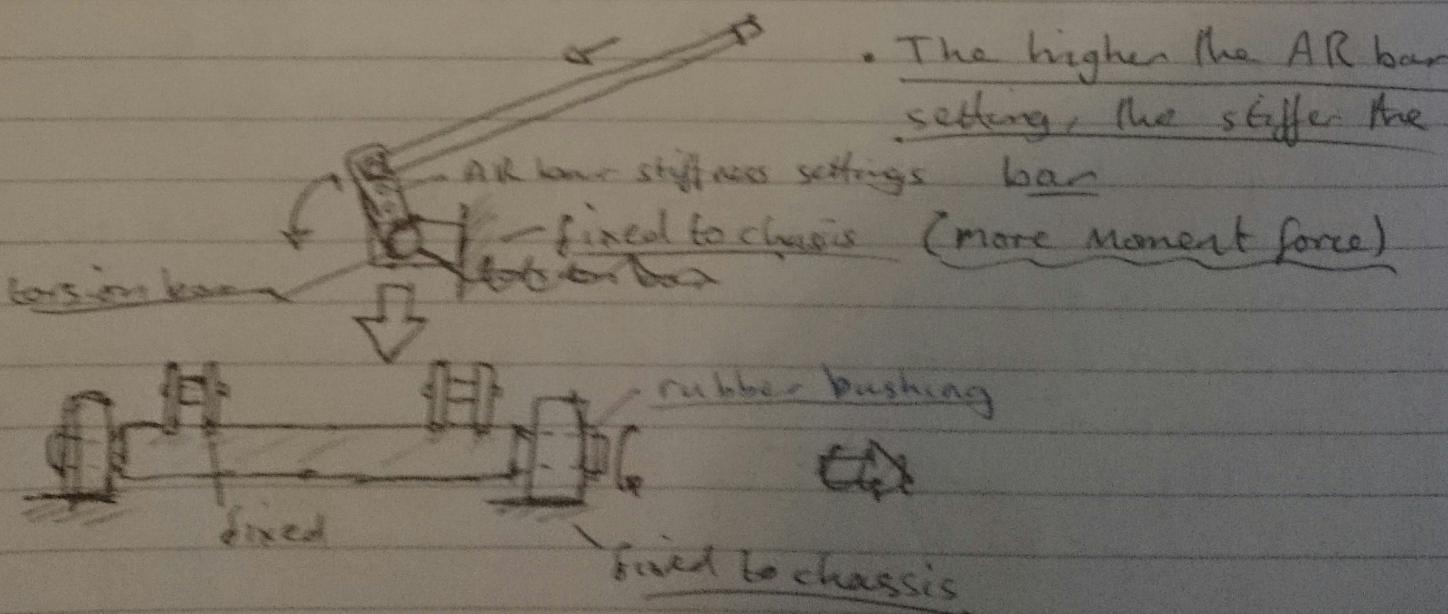


Fixed Mount



θ = angle of pull/push rod.

AR Bar



- Target - Max suspension travel of 10cm ... ?

[1] - forum.wscc.co.uk/forum/index.php/topic/23372-selecting-the-correct-springs-dampers-for-my-car/
 ↳ google → 'racing spring damper suspension' → 7th link

- Selecting the right valving for the damper

- selecting a 'Bounce Frequency'.

- lower bounce frequency, the more comfortable & more mechanical grip, however, the car will feel unresponsive to driver input [1]

{ - 0.5 - 1.5 Hz for passenger cars, 1.5 - 2.1 Hz for sports / Track cars
 and 3 - 5 Hz for aero cars. [1]

- Bounce frequency is usually set different from Front to Rear by a small margin as the front of the car hits the bump first before the rear, so the rear needs a higher frequency to 'catch up'.

↳ - For race cars, higher front bounce frequency for good cornering in and ~~out~~ exit grip [1]

• Calculate spring rates using spring & unsprung mass supported by that wheel and the motion ratio of the spring (angle it's inclined) L17
 ↳ - this lets us select correct springs.

• Damping Ratio

- $S = 1$ is not desirable because because when you hit a series of bumps small bumps (e.g. racing cars on a bank), the suspension locks and you end up running on the bump stoppers (the spring cannot return to its open length quickly enough).

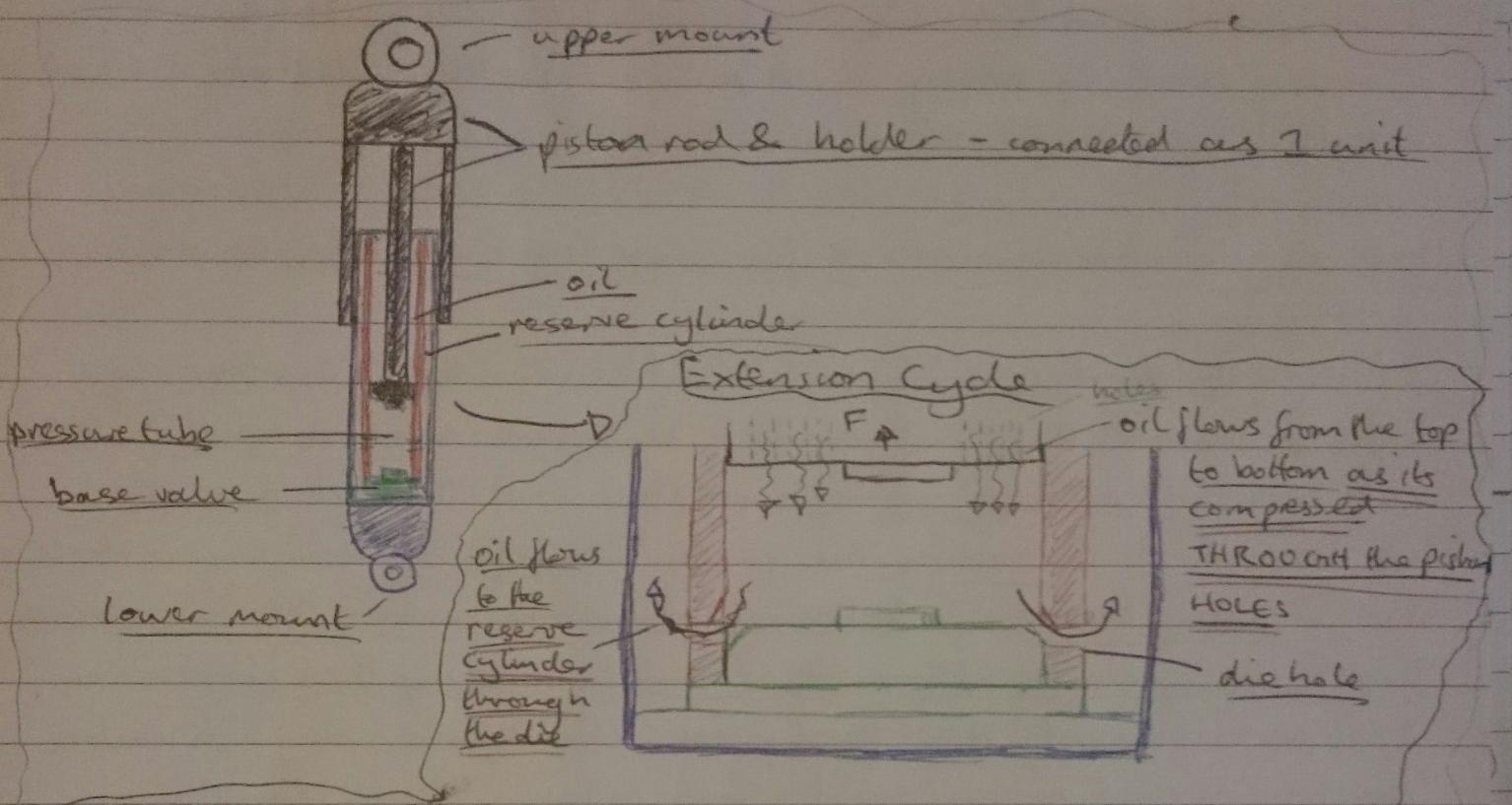
- lower damping ratio, more comfortable the car feels, but more unresponsive the car is to driver input.

{ - 0.2 - 0.3 comfortable road cars, 0.4 - 0.6 track cars, 0.7 - 0.8 for race cars.

- this lets us select a TARGET damping ratio, we can use this to equate our damper characteristics

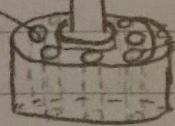
- Force vs Velocity Graph

- shaft velocity of the damper & force of Damper



Piston Head

holes



oil is able
to flow through
the piston from
1 area to the other

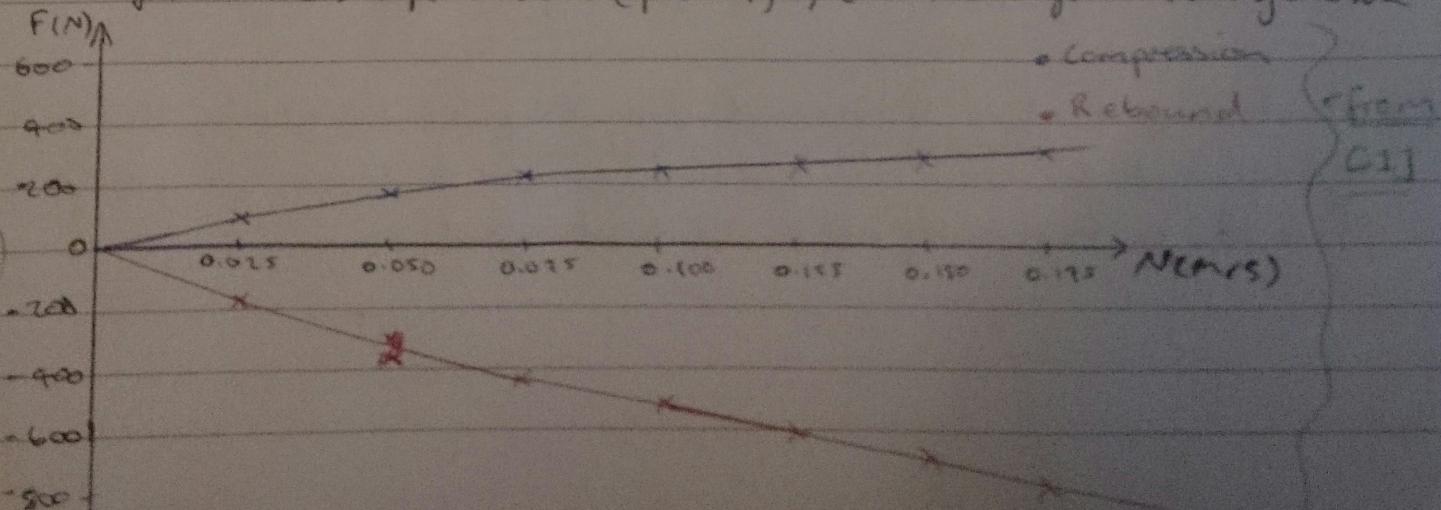
Compression Cycle

- arrows are inverted

[7] - auto.howstuffworks.com/car/suspension2.htm

↳ google images → car shock absorber how it works - p 1st image

- the faster the shaft moves (piston), the more force it'll generate

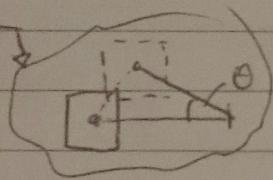


- Velocity: The axis is split into 2 areas - low speed damping (below 0.075 m/s) and the high speed area. The low speed is what the driver feels when cornering, braking/accelerating. The damper is moving relatively slowly in comparison to the high speed area which's when the car travels over a bump.

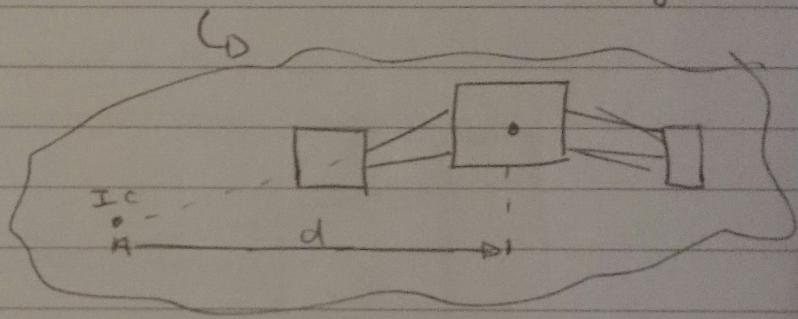
• How do we choose a curve for our Force vs Velocity graph?

- If it's a track day car, we would be aiming for a damping ratio of around 0.6, which can be entered into an equation to obtain an 'initial slope' of our graph. ← First part of graph
- We then need to modify the graph. Compression damping controls the unsprung mass, Rebound damping controls the sprung mass, hence we normally run more rebound damping than compression.
- Last part is tuning high speed area. Higher damping will make the low-speed area control + feel better, lower damping will make the higher speed area feel + control better. For race cars, we'd run as much rebound damping as much as possible before 'jackdown' occurs - where damping doesn't allow spring rate to return to normal length quickly enough before the next bump. ← last part of graph ↑ high speed
- This is why we have 2 different gradients of lines for both compression + rebound curves.
- The shape the curve makes are also given different names.
 - (1) Progressive - shaft speed increases, so does damping rate
 - (2) Linear - shaft speed increases, damping remains constant
 - (3) Degrassive - shaft speed increases, damping rate decreases.
- Most important is Rebound Damping for Formula student. We want the car to quickly compress when going over bumps, but steadily rebound that effect.

- Kingpin Angle, Tyre Scrub
- IC = Instantaneous centre - point about which linkages pivot
suspension system moves around
→ ~~wanted~~ make 'd' as long as possible
- IC controls the camber centering, ~~you~~ the tyre strut, and wheel characteristics
- d is also called Side View Swing Arm (SVSA)
- increasing SVSA length decreases angular travel
- IC can be above/below ground - not an issue



d = distance from IC to centre of mass



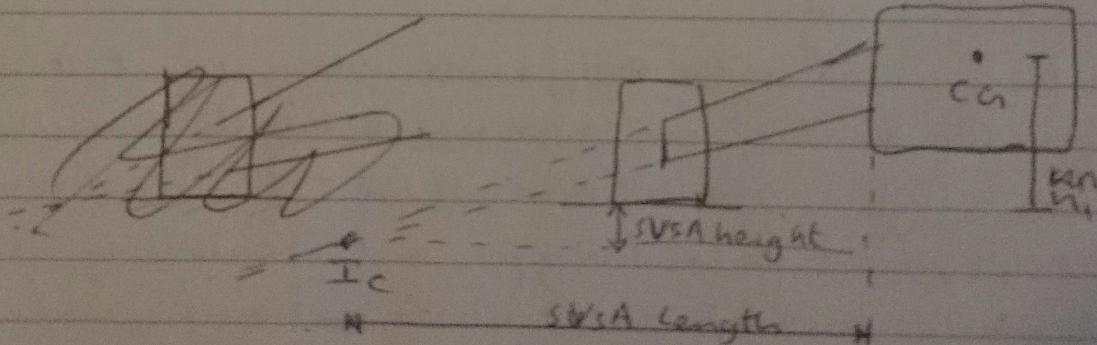
Anti-Dive & Anti-Squat

- When the car pitches forward/backwards
- Dive & Squat has to be as small as possible

$$\% \text{ AntiDive} = (\% \text{ braking Force of Front}) \times \left(\frac{\text{SVSA Height}}{\text{SVSA Length}} \right) \times \left(\frac{L}{h} \right)$$

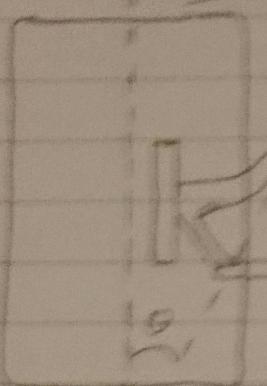
h = centre of gravity height from ground

L =



The centre is also called the Roll Cen

→ spurage

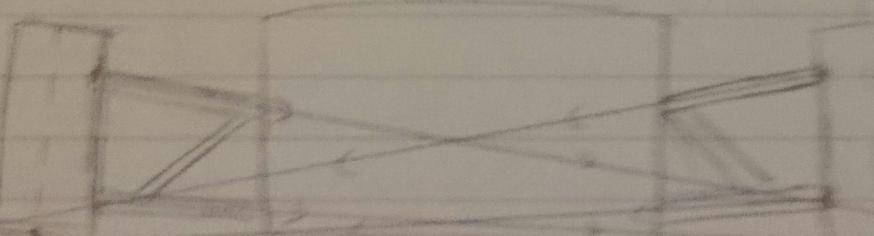
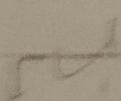


• Spurage - angle between road surface & the centre

• roll angle -

• roll radius - distance between steering axis and the wheel centre point

→ steering



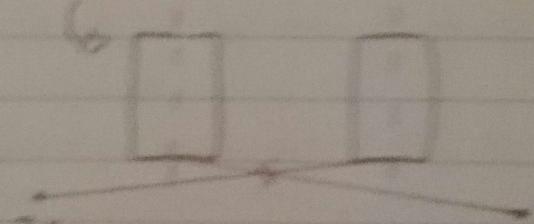
In
Gait

• roll angle

• roll

• Roll Centre - intersection of lines between ty-coaxial axis & the instant centres of wheels

• Roll centre defines the point at which the chassis rolls



• The instantaneous roll centre really exists with regard to wheels

• G33 - roll centre & rear suspension must have same

• Pitchrod has a higher roll centre than pitchrod G33

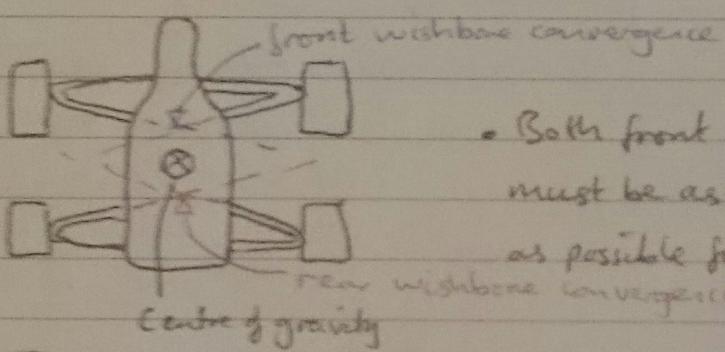
• Anti-lift - helps prevent the car lifting forward when braking

• Anti-squat - helps prevent the car from lifting upwards in when accelerating

How does Anti-dive / Squat work? (3)

- By tilting the front + rear suspension mounts, by a couple of degrees towards the vehicle's centre of gravity, anti-dive & anti-squat characteristics can be achieved.
- This is purely achieved by geometric design, the suspension system itself cannot implement this effect.
- Care must be taken when deploying just anti-dive (front) or anti-squat (rear) on just one end of the vehicle. This is because the same set-ups to provide resistance to longitudinal weight transfer in one direction, can also have the reverse effect by aiding weight transfer in the opposite direction. This effectively improves weight transfer in one direction, but with negative effect in the other direction.
- Anti-dive & Anti-squat are designed to keep suspension in check, and also helps aerodynamical stability as car stays parallel to the road.

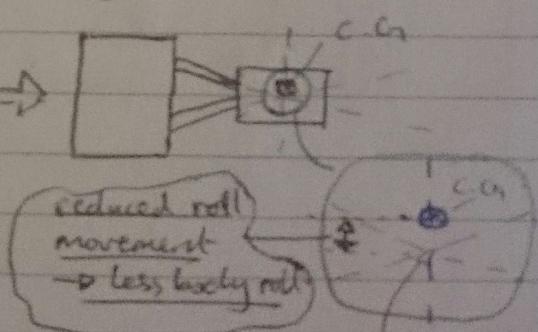
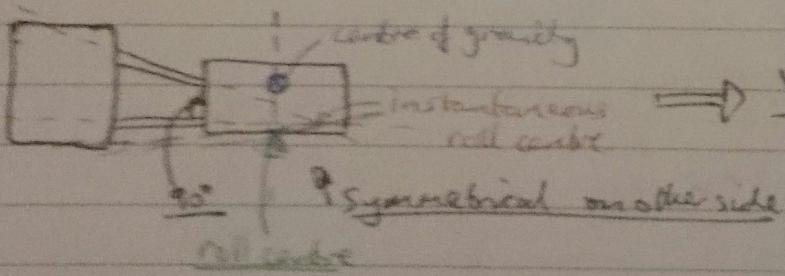
e.g.



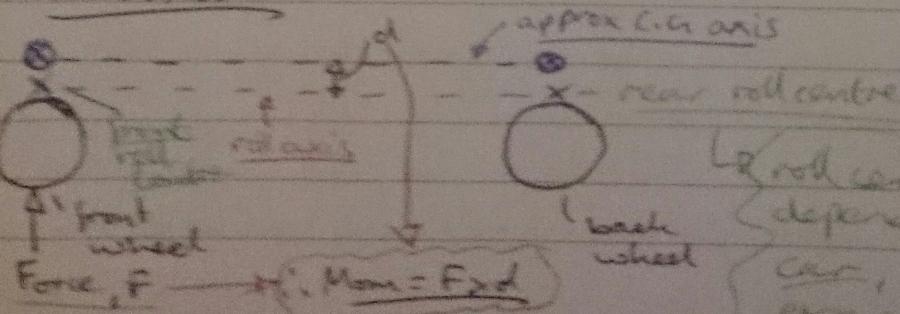
- Both front + rear wishbone convergence must be as close ~~to~~ to the Centre of gravity as possible for effective Anti-dive & squat.

Roll Centres - [4] Engineering Explained YouTube

- Roll Centre - the instantaneous axis about which the sprung mass rotates



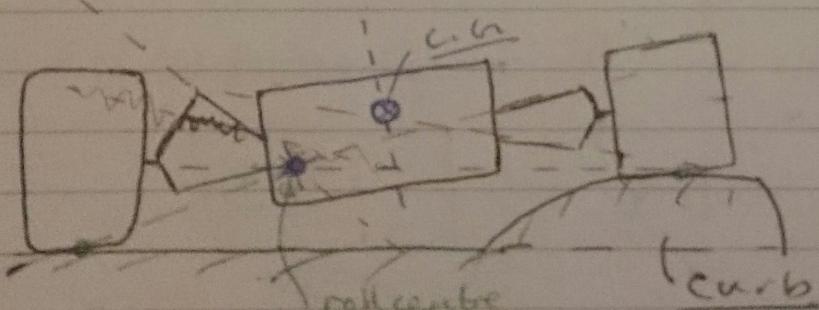
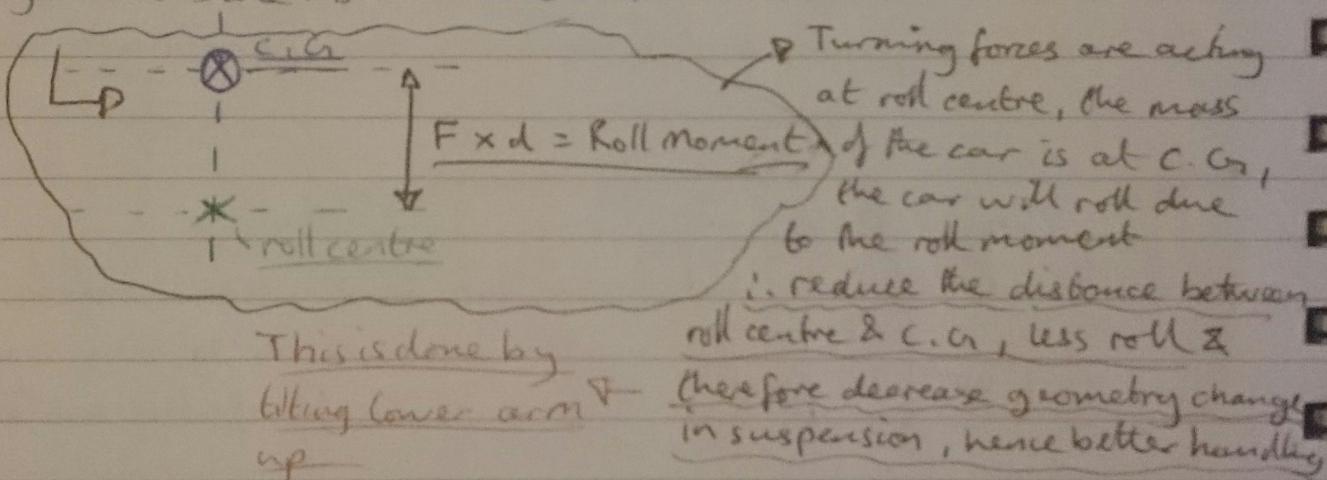
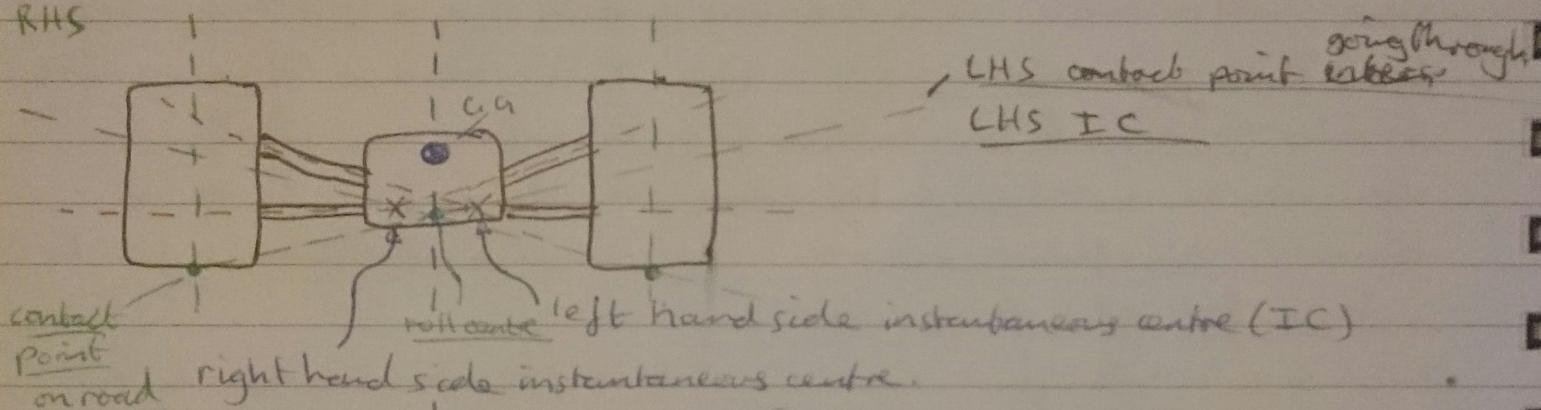
Side View



• Roll centre line always changes depending upon the angle of car, look at next page for example

- The instantaneous centre point is where the A-Arms (or wheel) are rotating about at that very ~~instant~~ instant.
- Roll centre - calculated by taking the line from the bottom contact point of the tyre to the instantaneous centre (straight green line), done on BOTH SIDES. The point at which the 2 green lines intersect is called the Roll Centre.

RHS

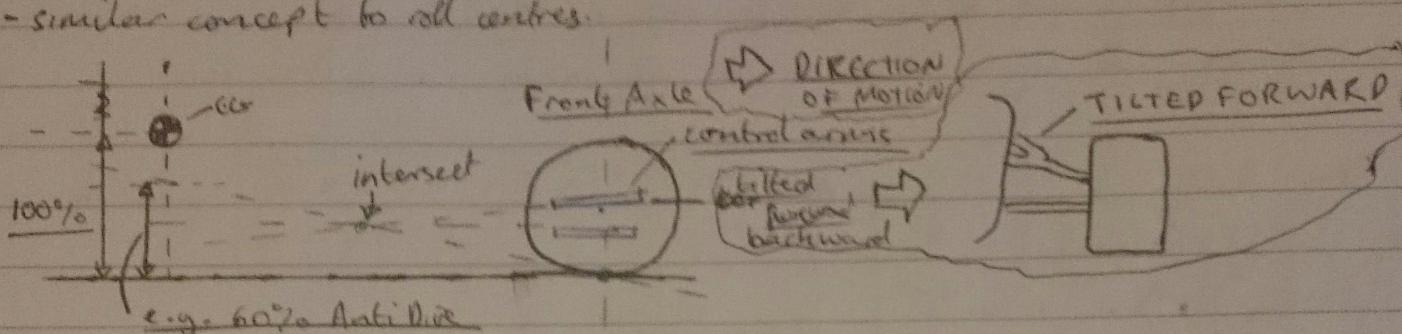


Design Goals

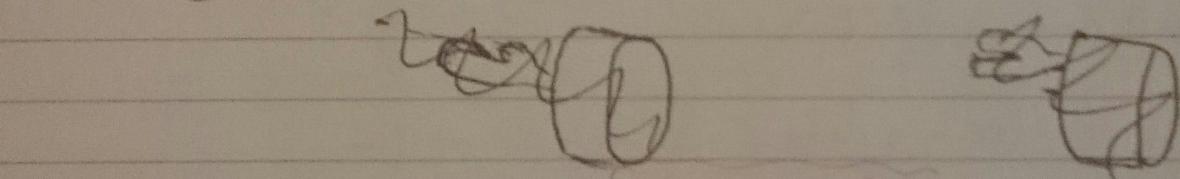
- Minimize body roll - to make roll centre & C.G. as close to each other as possible
- Minimize camber/geometry changes with suspension movement - increasing angle of lower arm may move roll resistance, but it changes centre of gravity
- Minimize roll centre movement for a more predictable driving feel
- Balance front/rear roll centre heights for desired slip angle characteristics (if high C.R. on one end & low C.R. on the other, you may have a roll step angle)

Anti-Dive Geometry - [4.3]

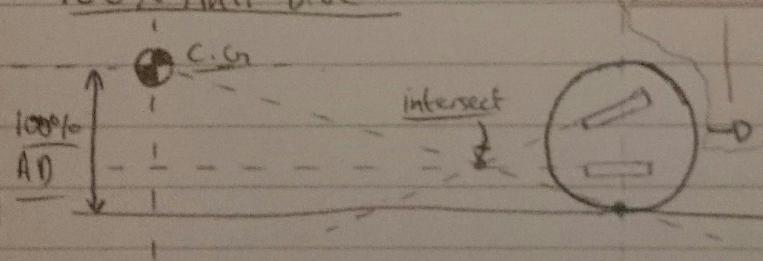
- prevents body dive by loading suspension linkage (rigid)
- similar concept to roll centres.



- Instead of parallel control arms, have them at an angle for anti-Dive characteristics.
- Red Line is control arm lines. The point at which they intersect, this is where the green line ~~also~~ passes through.
- Green line is a straight line from bottom of tyre contact point to the intersection of the 2 red lines. The vertical height at which the green line crosses the vertical position of the centre of gravity is called the anti-dive ^{length} ~~percentage~~.
- The ~~ratio~~ between the vertical centre of gravity height and the anti-dive ^{length} ~~length~~ is called the anti-dive percentage of a suspension system.
(for this system $\rightarrow = 60\% \text{ AD}$)



100% Anti-Dive



- All of load transfer (front pitching) when braking will pass through the control arms only, rather than the spring/damper

Design Goals

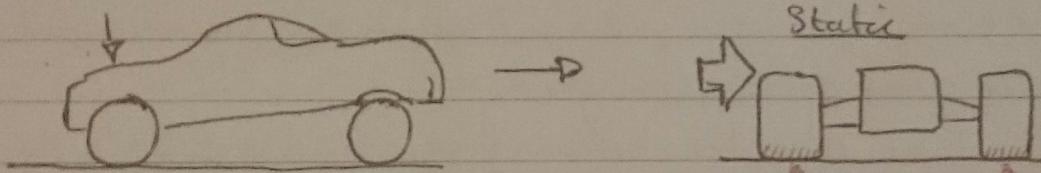
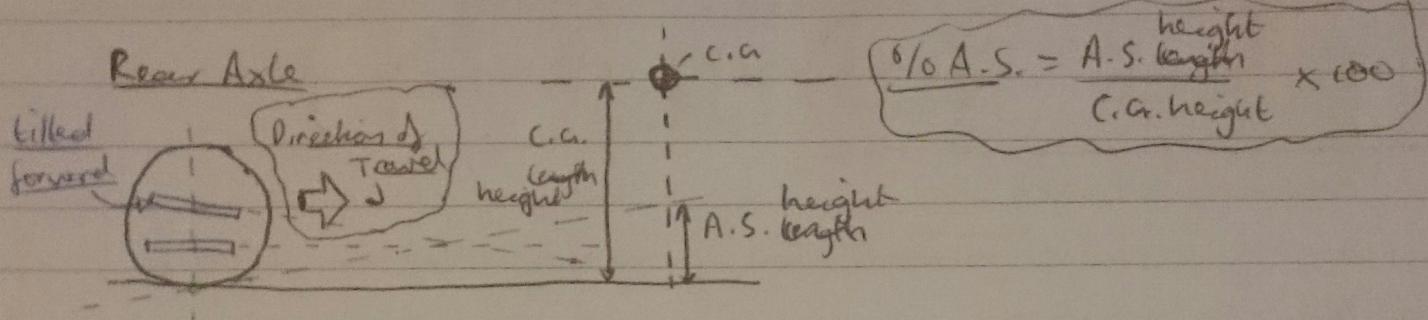
- Reduce suspension geometry changes associated with more dive you won't have as much traction
- Maintain aero characteristics of desired ride height

Drawbacks

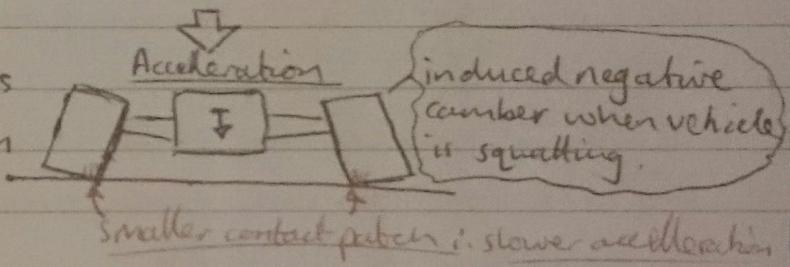
- Stiffer the front suspension components, making it less compliant to surface irregularities
- Reducing suspension input/signal

Anti-Squat - [4]

- prevents body squat by loading suspension linkage rigidly
- same principle as Anti-Dive, but for rear axle
- for vehicles with high power to weight ratios - e.g. Drag Cars

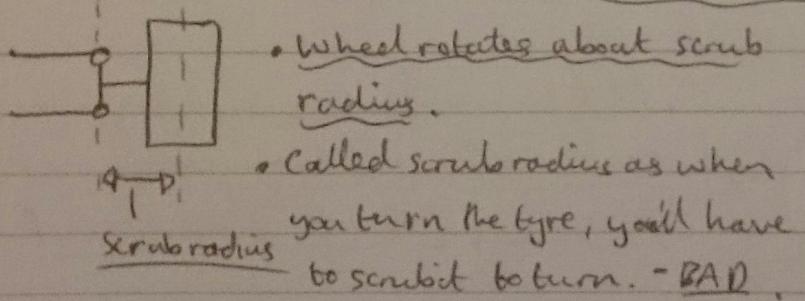


full contact patch: fast acceleration



Same Adv & D-Adv as Anti-Dive

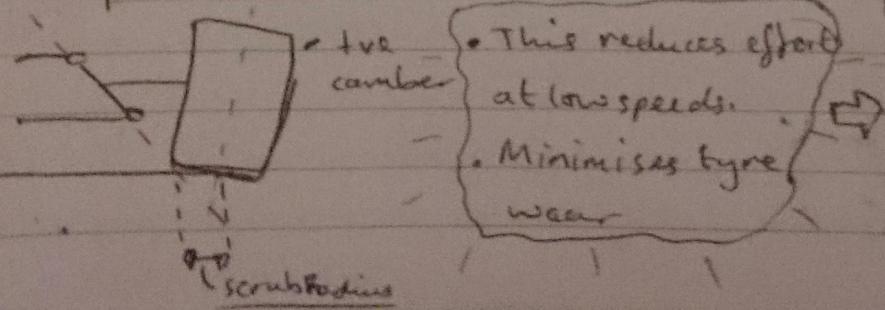
Steering Axis Inclination - [4]



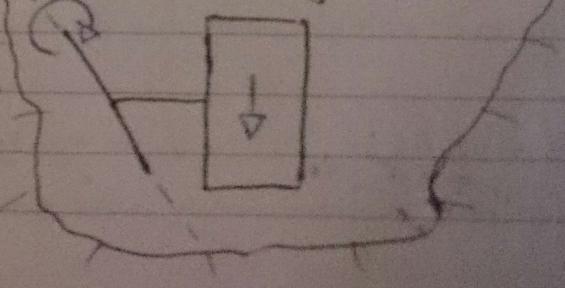
- wheel rotates about scrub radius.
- called scrub radius as when you turn the tyre, you'll have to scrub it to turn. - BAD.

Aim - reduce scrub radius as much as possible - quicker turn-in response

- by steering axis inclination
- or positive camber.

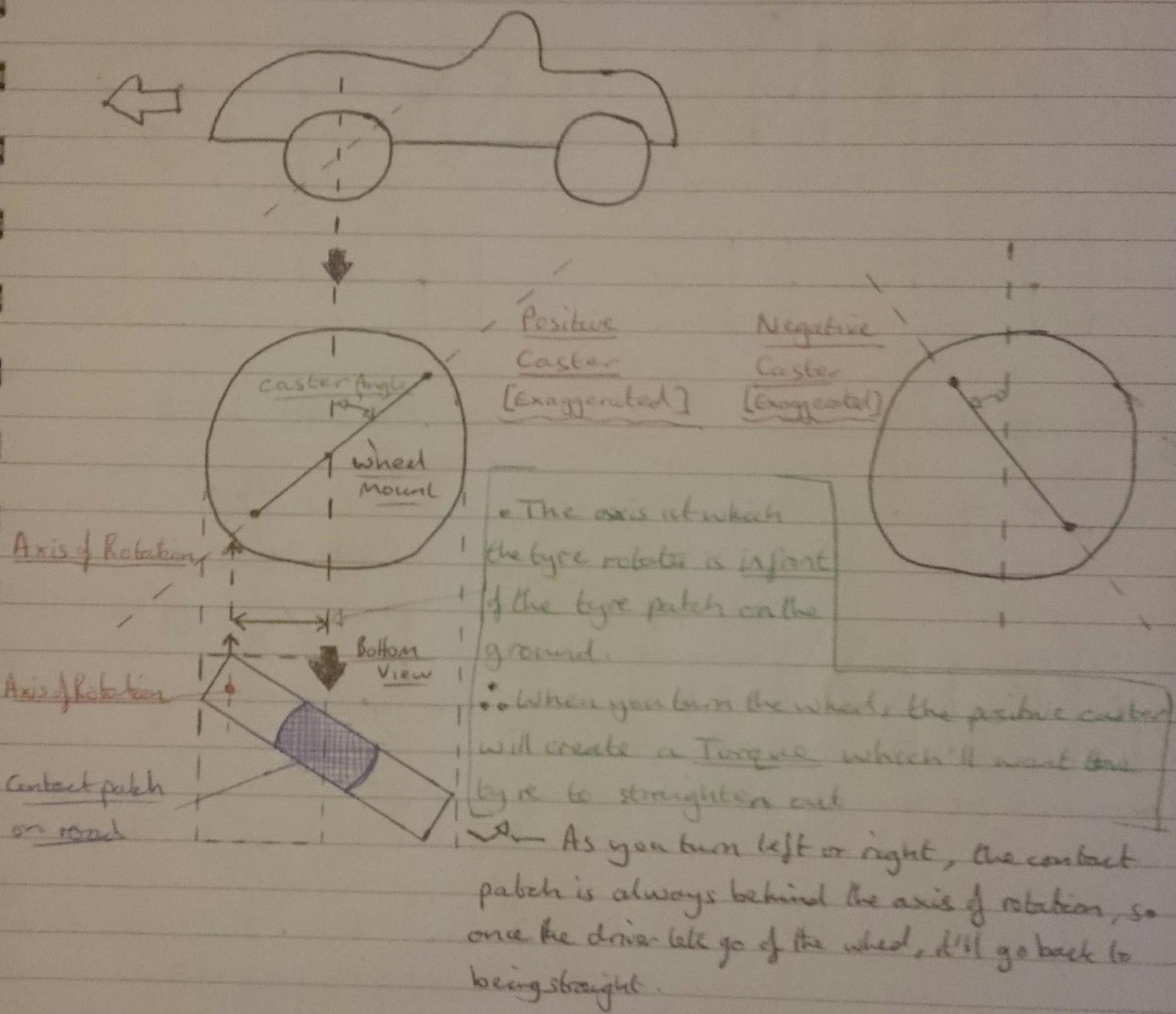


Added Benefit
Also, wheel goes straight when steering released



Caster SlipAngle - [+]

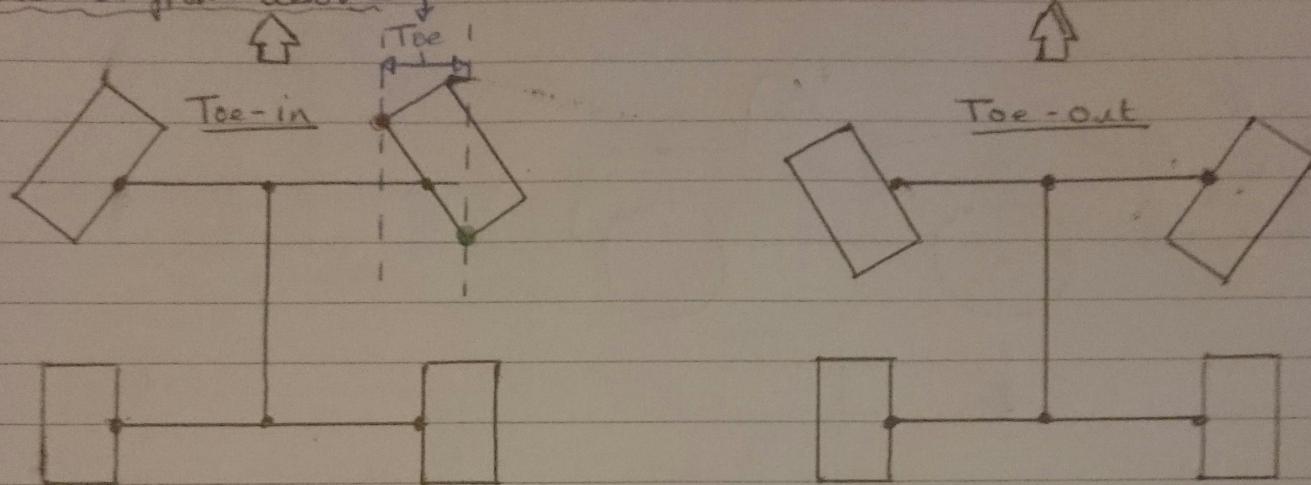
- Caster - Angle of steering axis wrt vertical axis
- Another angle at which the car is rotating about.



- Positive caster keeps tyre straight
- Negative caster makes the car unstable
- Positive caster angle is usually $+5^\circ$

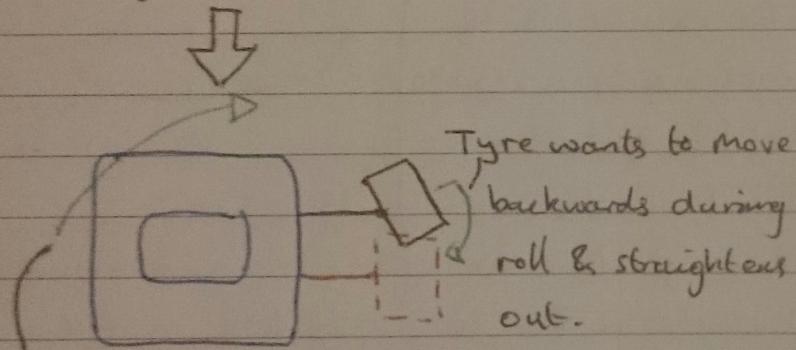
Toe - [4] -

- Toe - Distance from front wheels to the back of the front wheels when viewed from above →



- Toe-in used in RWD

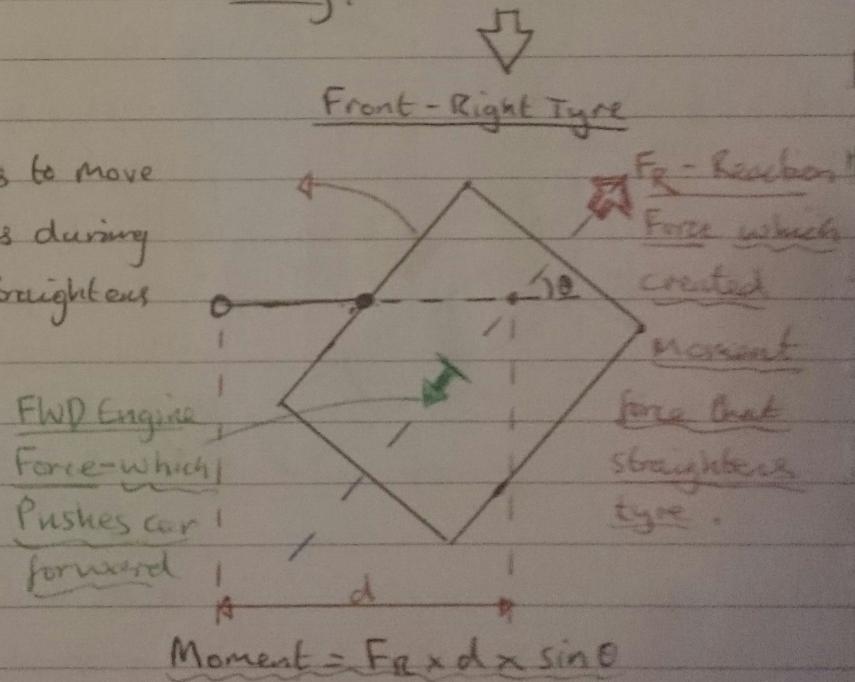
- Why?



Cornering Right, body starts to roll

- Toe-out used in FWD

- Why?



$$\text{Moment} = F_r \times d \times \sin\theta$$

- [5] - www.enginebasics.com/chassis%20Tuning/Understanding%20Toe.html

• Toe-in increases the cars straight line stability, A deflection of the suspension doesn't cause the wheels to initiate a turn.

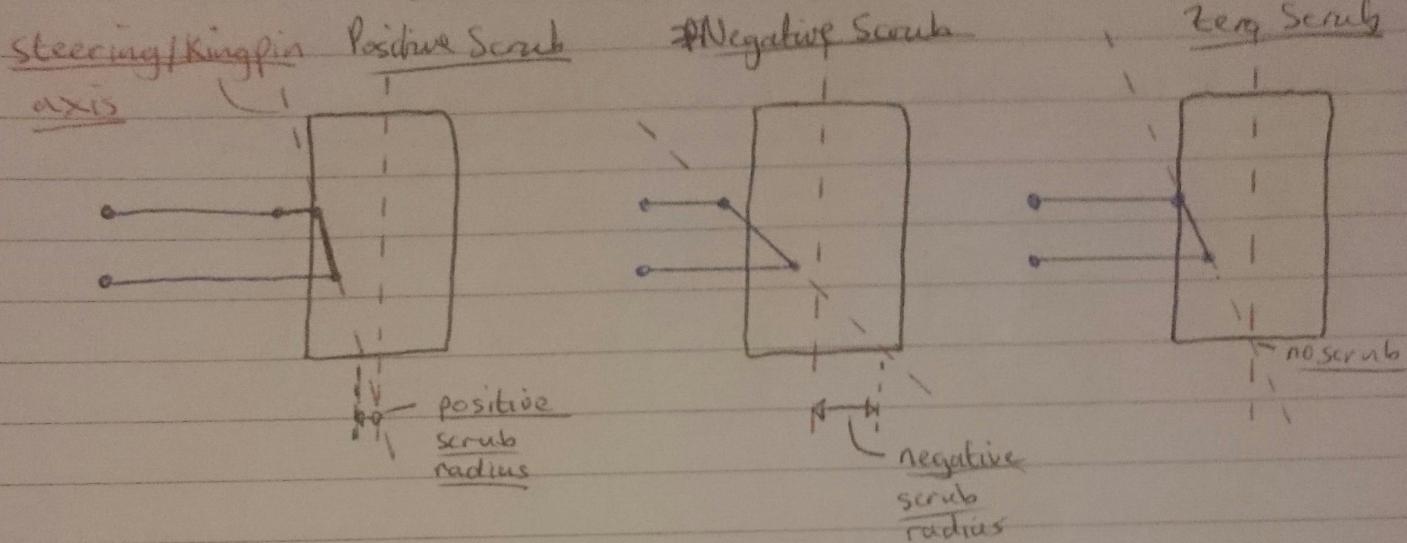
• Toe-out decreases the cars straight line stability as any deflection will cause the wheels to initiate a turn.

∴ Toe in resists turning of the tyres whereas Toe-out quickly reacts to turning. - Racing cars usually have a small Toe-out angle (-1° - 2°) [- google search 'Toe in vs Toe out' → 6th link]

- [6] - crown. min. not/yb/snowthread. pmp? t = 44140

- For the rear wheels, it's usually very small toe-in angle (-1°) as toe-out makes the car spin & toe-in makes the car resist spinning.
[- google search: 'Toe-in vs toe-out' for rear wheels' → 3rd link]

Scrub Radius - [4] -



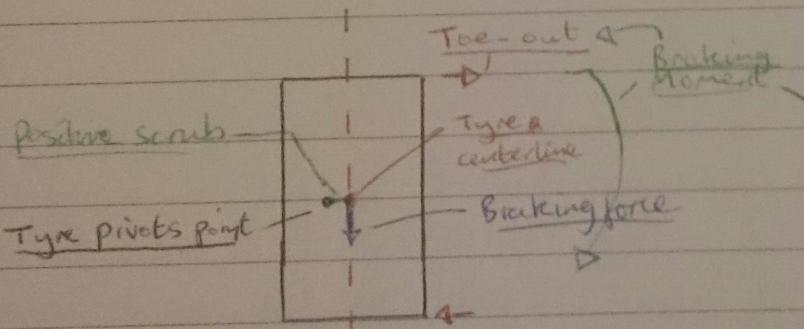
• Positive Scrub is common for double wishbone setup.

- Why?

• Negative Scrub is common for McPherson Strut.

- Why?

Bottom View of Front Right Tyre



Braking Moment = Braking Force \times scrub radius.

when Accelerating:

FWD - induced Toe-in

RWD - induced Toe-out

when Braking:

FWD - Toe-out

RWD - Toe-in

LD for wants
to turn when braking.

when Accelerating:

FWD - Toe-out

RWD - Toe-in

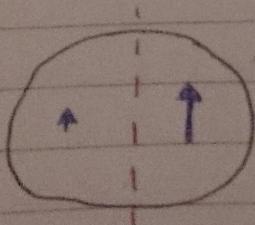
when Braking

- Toe-in

• Tyre resists
turning when
braking

Why don't we use zero scrub?

Bottom View - Tyre contact patch



Squirm

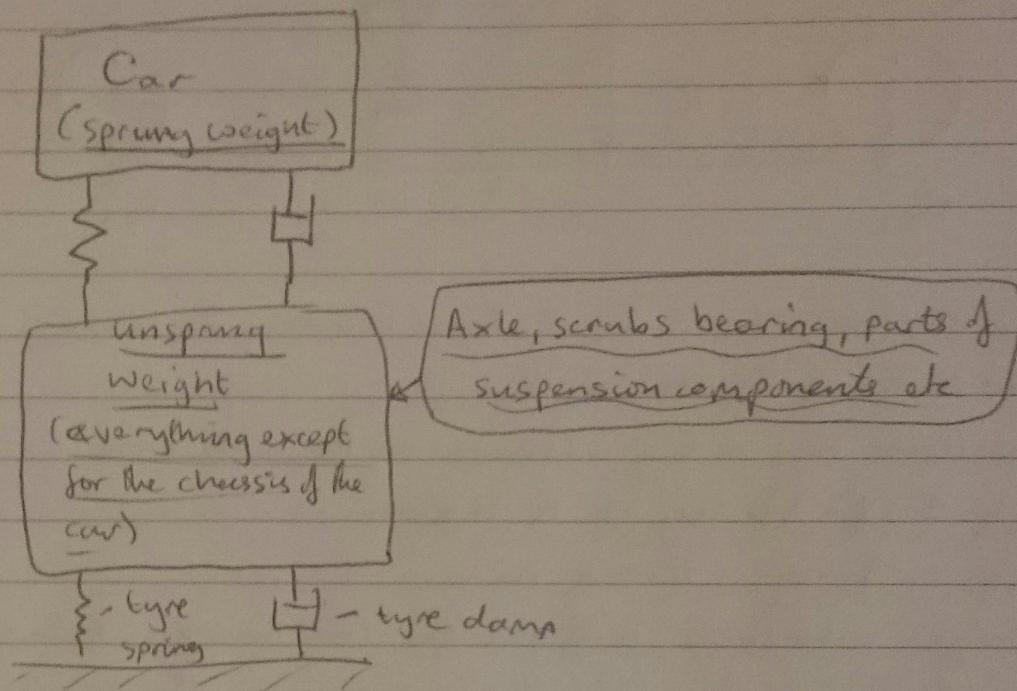
• Stable in straight line

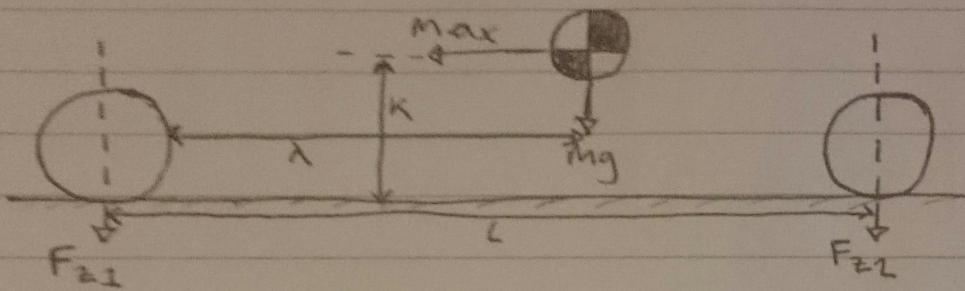
• Steering is unstable when cornering due to
squirm + more tyre wear.

• Squirm - outside contact patch wants to spin faster
than inner \rightarrow like a differential. i.e. Tyre wears

Overall Goal:

- Minimise scrub radius to reduce influence on steering & Toe characteristics for stable braking.



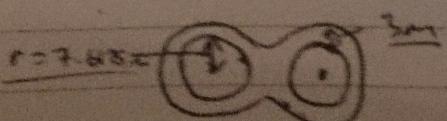
Suspension Design Aspects - [Pete's FB Link]Wheelbase

- The wheelbase, l , is the distance between the centre of the front axle to the centre of the rear axle.
- Wheelbase has a big influence on the axle load distribution:
$$F_{Z1} = (\frac{l}{l} - \lambda) \cdot mg + K \cdot ax \cdot m$$

$$F_{Z2} = \lambda \cdot mg + K \cdot ax \cdot m$$
- A longer wheelbase will give less load transfers between the front & rear axles than a shorter wheelbase during acceleration and braking ~~accordingly~~.
- A longer wheelbase will therefore be able to be fitted with softer springs & more comfort for the driver.
- A shorter wheelbase has an advantage of shorter turning radius for the same input \rightarrow too short = unstable when turning.
- Antifeatures can be built into a suspension which also effects the axle loads.

Track Width

- Influences the vehicle's cornering behaviour & tendency to roll.
 - Larger Track width = smaller lateral load transfer when cornering.
 - Vice versa for smaller Track width.
- Load Transfer of Rear Axle, $\Delta F_{Z2} = \frac{m_{int} \cdot h_{co}}{l_{TW}}$
- Larger track width has disadvantage that more lateral movement is needed of the vehicle to avoid obstacles.
 - For Acceleration Event: 75m long, 4.9m wide
 - For Skid Pad Event: Figure of 8 cornering test, 3m wide track, cornering at a radius of 7.6125m



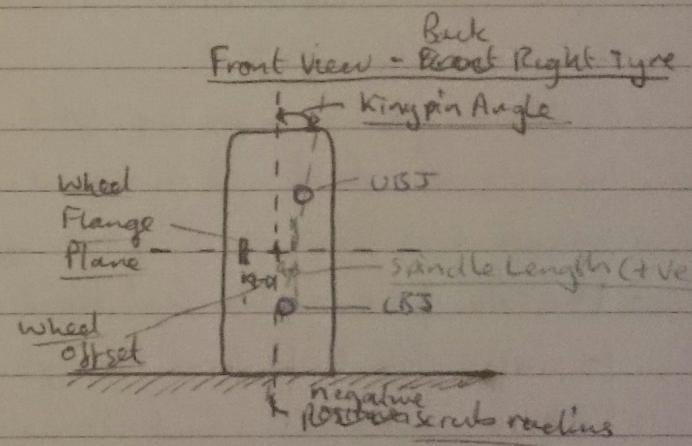
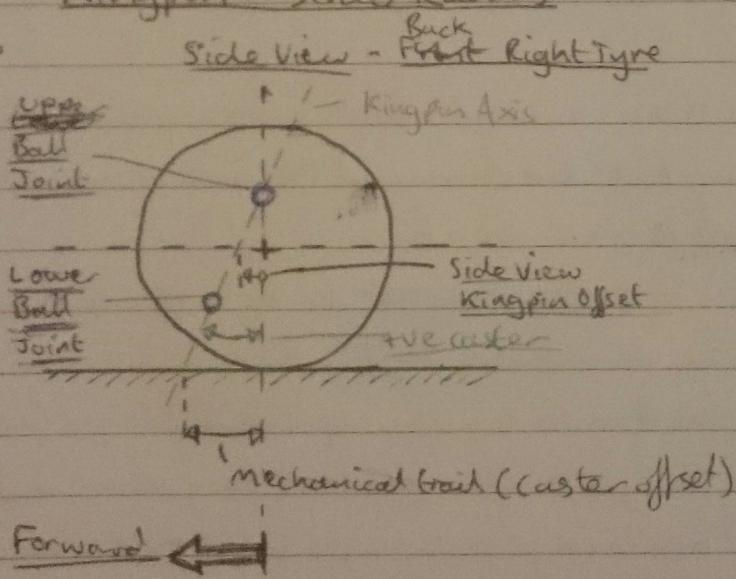
- For Autocross Event :

- Straights: no longer than 60m with hairpins at both ends
- Constant Turns: 25m to 45m diameter
- Hairpin Turns: Min 9m diameter
- Slaloms: comes in a straight line with 7.62m to 12.19m spacing
- Miscellaneous: chicanes, multiple turns decreasing radius turns etc., Min width is 3.5m

- For Endurance Event :

- Average speed of 29.8 mph (48 Km/hr) to 35.4 mph (57 Km/hr) with top speeds of 68.2 mph (105 km/hr), for 22 Km (13.66 miles) long.
- Straights: no longer than 77m with hairpin at both ends.
- Constant Turns: 30m to 54m diameter
- Hairpin Turns: Minimum of 9m diameter
- Slaloms: 9m to 15m spacing
- Miscellaneous: Min width is 4.5m

Kingpin & Scrub Radius



- Kingpin Axis is determined by the Upper Ball Joint (UBJ) & Lower Ball Joint (LBJ) on the outer ends of the A-arms.
- If the spindle length is positive, the car will be raised up as the wheels are turned and this results in an increase of steering moment at the steering wheel. The larger the Kingpin angle, the more the car will be raised regardless of which way the front wheels are turned. If there's no castor present, this

effect is symmetrical from side to side. The nose of the car has a self-aligning effect the ~~on~~ steering at low speeds.

The Kingpin angle effects the steer camber. When a wheel is steered it will lean out on the top, towards positive camber if the Kingpin angle is positive. This effect is ~~as~~ small, but not small enough to neglect if the track includes tight turns.

If the driving or braking force is different on the left or right side, this will introduce a steering torque proportional to the scrub radius, which will be felt by the driver at the steering wheel.

Caster & Trail

In the side view of the Kingpin angle is called the Caster angle. If the Kingpin axis doesn't pass through the centre of the wheel, then there's a side view Kingpin offset present. The distance from the Kingpin axis to the centre of the tyre print on the ground is called Trail or Caster Offset (side view)

- the longer the trail is, the higher the steering torque needed.
- Caster Angle will cause the ~~wheel~~ to rise and fall with steer. This effect is opposite from side to side and causes ~~roll~~ roll & weight transfer, leading to an oversteering effect.
- Caster angle has a positive effect on steer-camber. With positive caster angle the outside wheel will camber in a negative direction and the inner wheel in a positive direction, causing both wheels to lean into a turn.
- The size of the mechanical trail due to caster may not be too large compared to pneumatic trail from the tyre. The pneumatic trail will approach zero as the tyre reaches the slip limit. This will result in lowering the self ~~centering~~ centering torque that is present due to the lever arm between the tyre rotation point at the ground and point of attack for the lateral force. This "breakaway signal" may be lost if the mechanical trail is large compared to the pneumatic trail.

Instant Centre & Roll Centre