

Suspension analysis through reverse engineering in the vehicle development concept phase

Virtual.Lab Motion ↔ Imagine.Lab AMESim

Ir. Valerio CIBRARIO
Dr. Ir. Joris DE CUYPER
Ir. Marco GUBITOSA

Vertical Business Unit Manager, Automotive Solutions, C&S – LMS Italiana
Product Line Manager Virtual.Lab MOTION – LMS International
Research Engineer – LMS International



Suspension analysis through “reverse engineering” in the vehicle development concept phase

The term “reverse engineering” as applied to software means different things to different people, prompting Chikofsky and Cross to write a paper researching the various uses and defining a taxonomy.

From their paper:

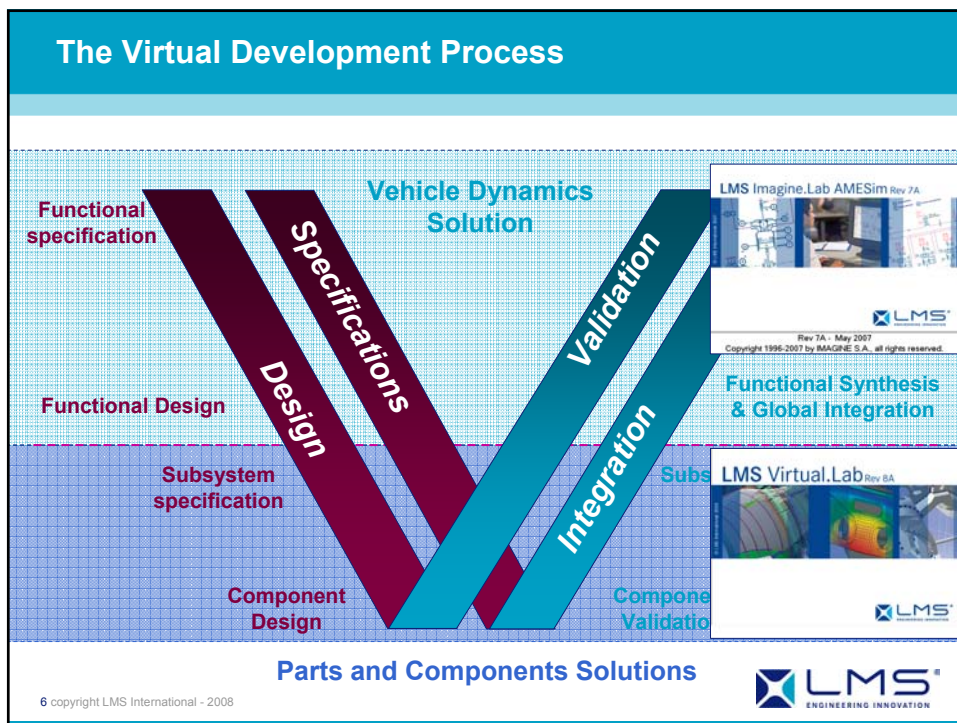
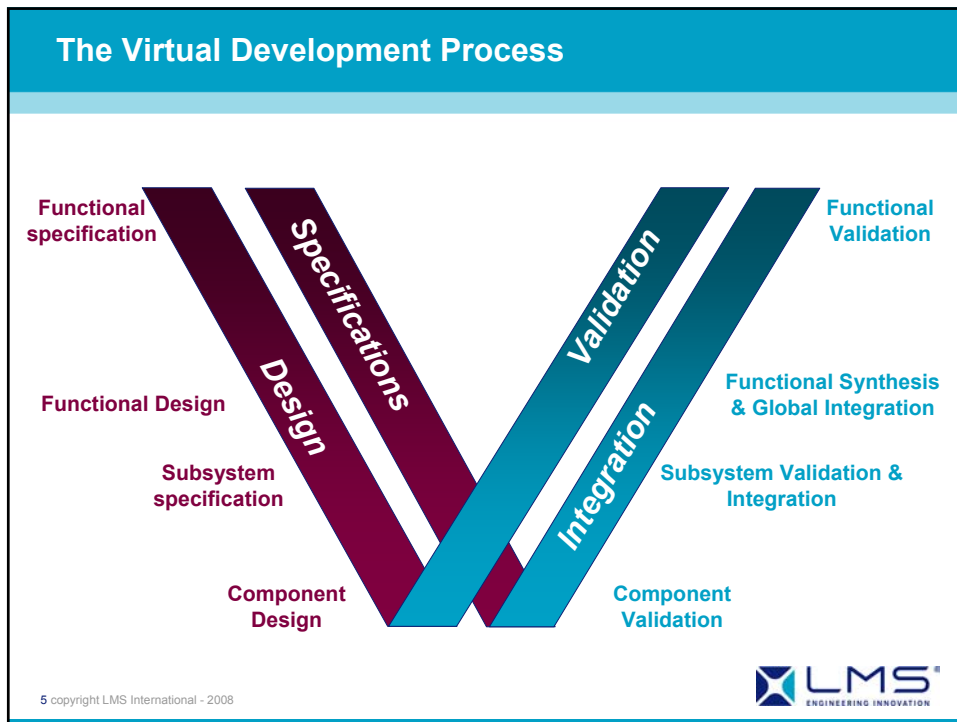
“Reverse engineering is the process of analyzing a subject system to create representations of the system at a higher level of abstraction”.[1]

It can also be seen as:

“going backwards through the development cycle”.[2]

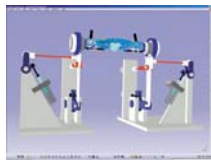
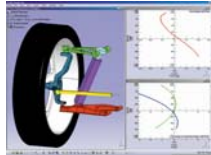
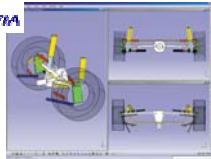
[1] Chikofsky, E.J.; J.H. Cross II (January 1990). “Reverse Engineering and Design Recovery: A Taxonomy in IEEE Software”. *IEEE Computer Society*: 13–17.

[2] Warden, R. (1992). *Software Reuse and Reverse Engineering in Practice*. London, England: Chapman & Hall, 283–305.



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Suspension Motion Simulation



Full Vehicle Motion Simulation



Dedicated tire model the 'Comfort-Durability' tire model



CDTire 20
Rigid ring model
Long wavelength surfaces



CDTire 30
Single flexible ring model
Short wavelength surfaces,
lateral height profile constant



CDTire 40
Multiple flexible rings
Suited for
irregular road surfaces
like "Belgian Block" or
cleats with variable height
or arbitrary position

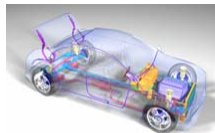


- Scalable modeling for handling, comfort and durability
- Customization automation
- Integrated controls simulation

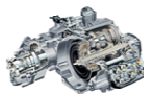


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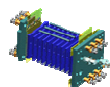
Transmission
Performance and losses,
Comfort, NVH



Vehicle Systems Dynamics
Braking, Steering, Suspension,
Vehicle dynamics



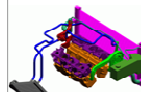
Energy Storage
Fuel Cell, Battery



ICE Related Hydraulics
Fuel Injection, VVT, VVA, Engine
compression brake



Internal Combustion Engine
Engine control, Air Path
Management, Combustion,
Hybrid Vehicle



Thermal Management
Lubrication, Cooling System,
Air conditioning

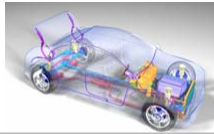


Electrical Systems
Electromechanical components,
Electrical networks



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Transmission

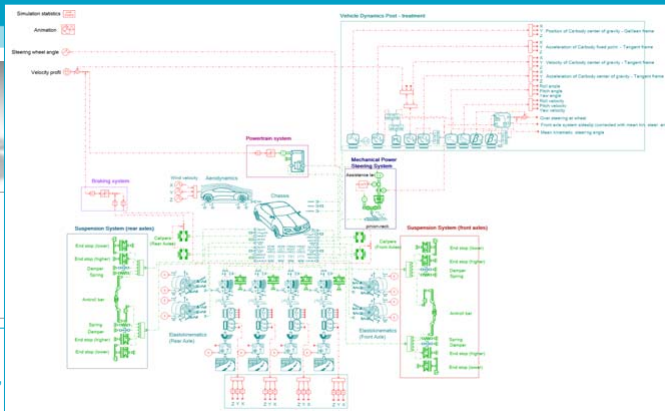
Performance and losses,
Comfort, NVH

Vehicle Systems Dynamics

Braking, Steering, Suspension,
Vehicle dynamics

Energy Storage

Fuel Cell, Battery



- **Global vehicle behaviour** with usage of conceptual suspensions
- Dedicated library for Vehicle Dynamics able to run **Real-Time**
- Linear analyses and optimization
- Parametric functions to modify the shape of the kinematics tables
- Suitable for vehicle **data management**
- Fully open for connections with **Simulink**

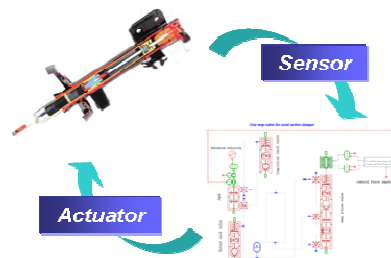
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Unique "1D - 3D" simulation for scalable mechanical and mechatronic system simulation

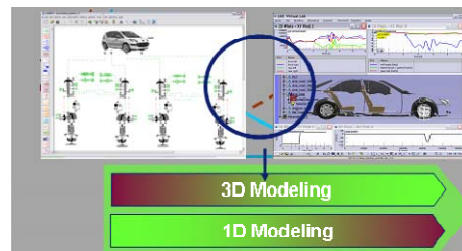
Mechatronic System Analysis

- LMS Virtual.Lab Motion
- LMS Imagine.Lab AMESim
- Coupled simulation of mechanical, electrical, pneumatic...systems including controls



Fusion of 1D – 3D Simulation

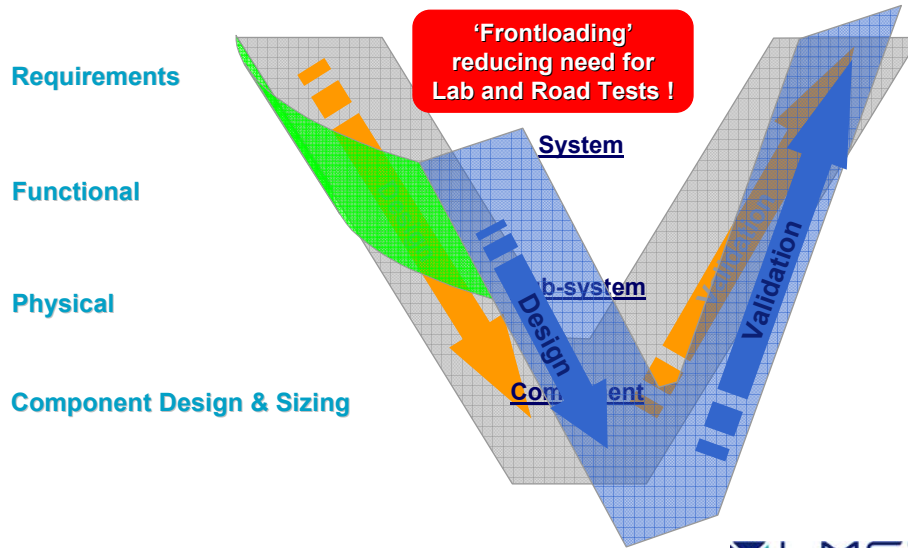
- Scalable simulation
Support all stages of design
- Vehicle dynamics – Ride& Handling, Comfort, NVH
- Powertrain/driveline comfort and NVH
- ...



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Reverse Engineering approach in new developing cycles



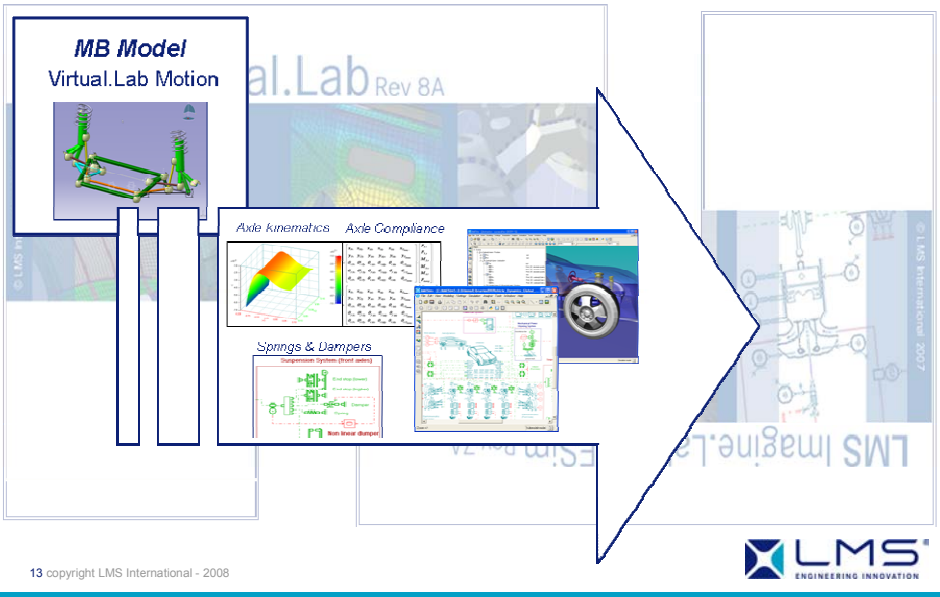
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Methodology flow chart

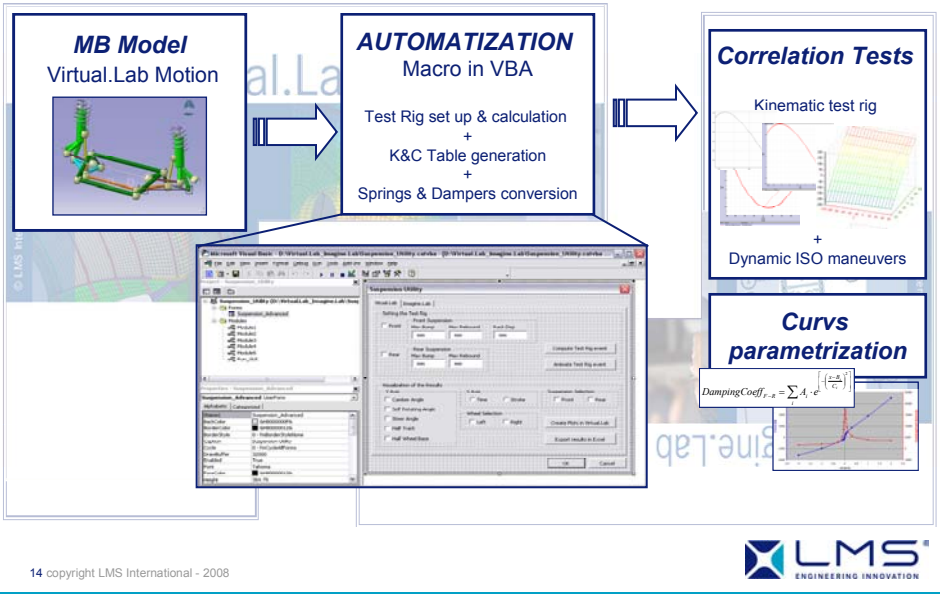


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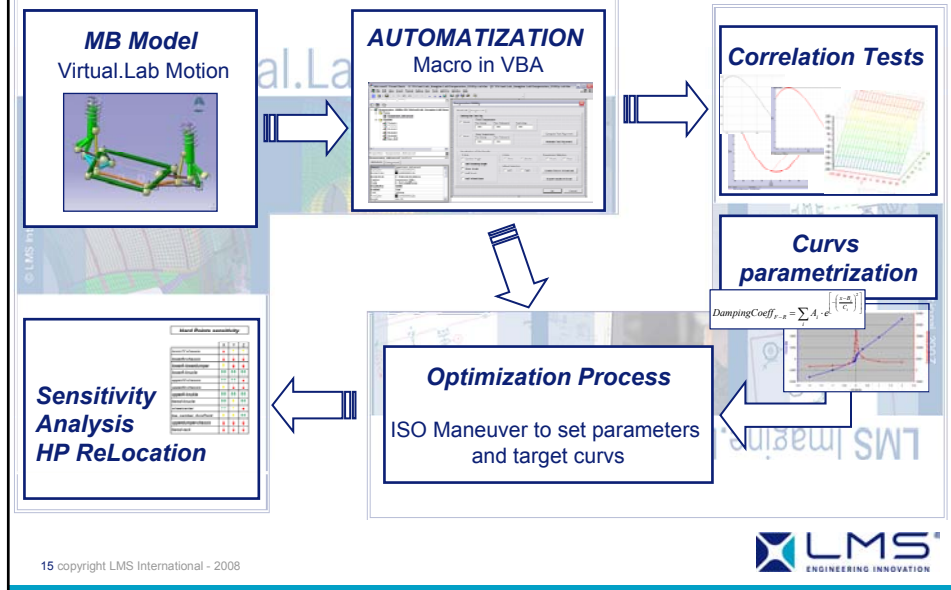
Methodology flow chart



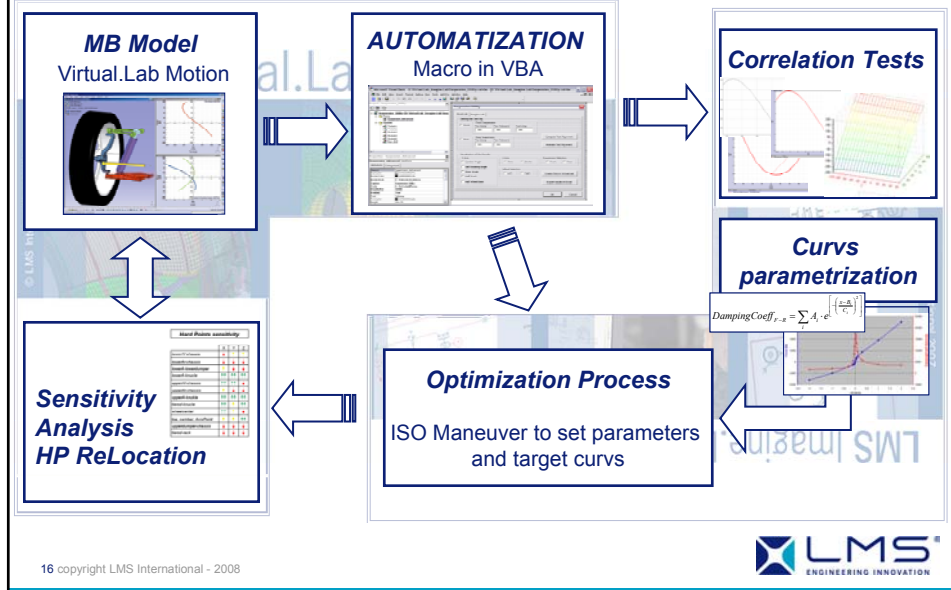
Methodology flow chart



Methodology flow chart

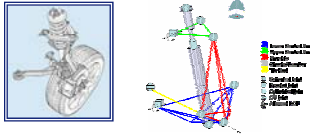


Methodology flow chart

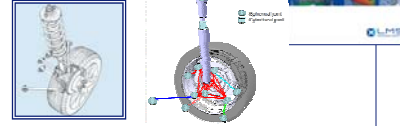


Steps performed – MB Vehicle Modeling

➤ Front suspension: Double Wishbone

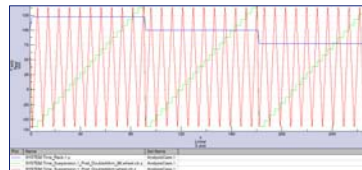


➤ Rear suspension: Multi Link



An important simplification to take care of is the missing modeling of compliances (bushings)

➤ Set up a testing environment (Test Rig Event) to extract kinematic tables



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Steps performed – 1 D Vehicle Modeling

➤ The mathematical model used is a 15 DOF :



Car body: 6 DOF
Steering rack body: 1 DOF
4 Spindle body: 4x1 DOF
4 Wheel body: 4x1 DOF

Complete model
with joints
15 DOF



➤ The mathematical formulation of kinematic constraint in Trans & Rot parts :

Front axle

$$\vec{A}_1, \vec{A}_2 \text{ front axles} = \vec{a}_{rel}(\vec{z}, y_n, z_{app}) = \begin{bmatrix} x(\vec{z}, y_n, z_{app}) \\ y(\vec{z}, y_n, z_{app}) \\ z \end{bmatrix}_{R_1}$$

Rear axle

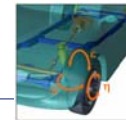
$$\vec{A}_1, \vec{A}_2 \text{ rear axles} = \vec{a}_{rel}(\vec{z}, z_{app}) = \begin{bmatrix} x(\vec{z}, z_{app}) \\ y(\vec{z}, z_{app}) \\ z \end{bmatrix}_{R_1}$$

Front axle

$$\vec{r}_{rel \text{ front axles}} : \vec{r} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} \delta(z, y_n, z_{app}) & e(z, y_n, z_{app}) & \eta(z, y_n, z_{app}) \\ (\vec{x}_1, \vec{y}_1, \vec{z}_1) & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_1', \vec{y}_1', \vec{z}_1') & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_1'', \vec{y}_1'', \vec{z}_1'') & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_2, \vec{y}_2, \vec{z}_2) \end{matrix}$$

Rear axle

$$\vec{r}_{rel \text{ rear axles}} : \vec{r} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} \delta(z, z_{app}) & e(z, z_{app}) & \eta(z, z_{app}) \\ (\vec{x}_1, \vec{y}_1, \vec{z}_1) & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_1', \vec{y}_1', \vec{z}_1') & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_1'', \vec{y}_1'', \vec{z}_1'') & \rightarrow (\vec{x}_2, \vec{y}_2, \vec{z}_2) \end{matrix}$$

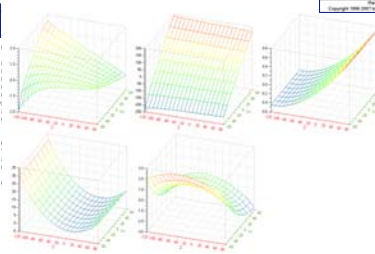
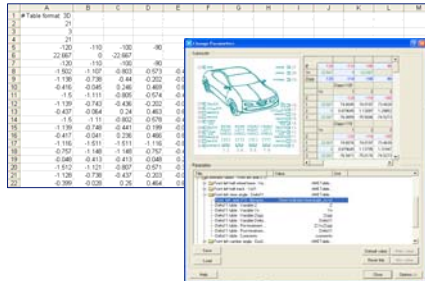


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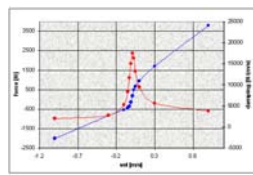
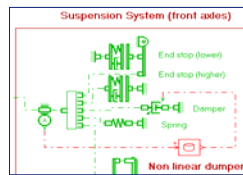
Steps performed – 1 D Vehicle Modeling

- The kinematics is translated in a look-up-table solution :



Wheel base, steer angle, self rotating angle, half track and caster angle at $Z_{opp} = \text{cost} = 0$

- Traduce spring damper characteristics from the multibody :

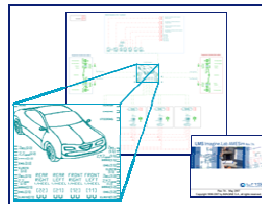
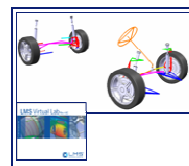


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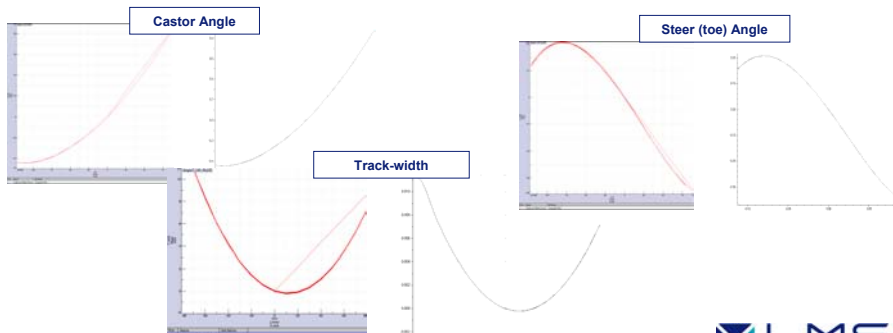


Steps performed – Correlation tests

- Tests performed with test rig event :



Figures shows 1D and 3D model representations are equivalent



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Simulation maneuver

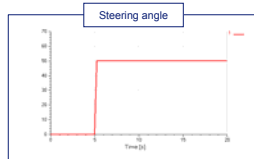
ISO 7401: 2003 Step-steer:

Road vehicles – Lateral transient response methods – Open loops tests

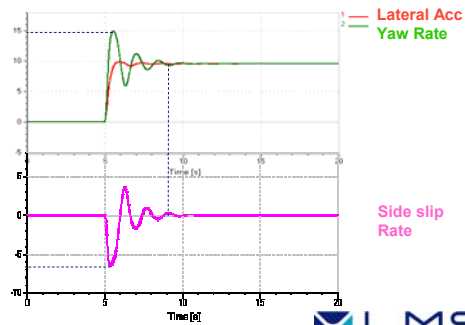


Test overview:

- Instant of step: 5 s
- Step steer lag: 0.25 s
- Max steering angle: 50 deg
- Speed: 27.8 m/s (100 km/h)



Input Domain	Test Method
Time Domain	Step Input
	Sinusoidal Input (one period) / Two pins slalom
	Random Input
Frequency Domain	Pulse Input
	Continuous Sinusoidal / Continuous Slalom



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Parameters definition in the Optimization process

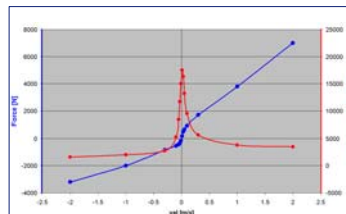
➤ Damping coefficient:

Parameterization of the damping coefficient's curve through a superposition of three Gaussian curves:

$$DampingCoeff_{F-R} = \sum_i A_i \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{x-B_i}{C_i}\right)^2}$$

Coefficients to be evaluated:

$A_{i,j}, B_{i,j}, C_{i,j}$, with $i=1, 2, 3$ and $j=Front, Rear$



➤ Springs stiffness and preload:

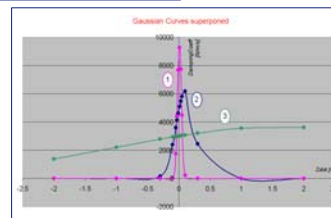
$KSusp_F$
 $KSusp_R$
 $PreLoad_F$
 $PreLoad_R$

4

➤ Antiroll bars characteristics:

$K_Antiroll_F$
 $K_Antiroll_R$

2



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Parameters definition in the Optimization process

Kinematic curves

Parameterization of the kinematic curves has been done through a quadratic formulation:

$$ParametrizedCurve = X + CoeffShift + Coeff \cdot Z + CoeffQuad \cdot Z^2 \quad \text{Where } \mathbf{X} = \begin{matrix} \text{Camber Angle} \\ \text{Toe Angle} \\ \text{Wheel Base} \\ \text{Half Track} \\ \text{Caster Angle} \end{matrix}$$

\mathbf{Z} is the stroke

- Camber Angle coefficients
 - Toe Angle coefficients
 - Wheel Base coefficients
 - Half Track coefficients
 - Caster Angle coefficients
- } for Front and Rear

30

Those steps brought out a set of **54 parameters**

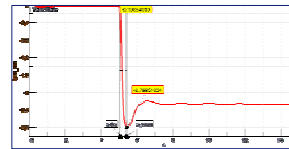
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Objective functions definition

Steady state yaw rate [1]: $1 - \dot{\psi}_{Steady}$

Yaw rate overshoot [1]: $\frac{\dot{\psi}_{Max} - \dot{\psi}_{Steady}}{\dot{\psi}_{Steady}}$



Tβ Factor [1]: $T_{\dot{\psi}_{Max}} \cdot \beta_{Steady}$

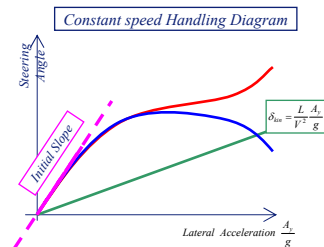
Improving readiness & keeping tangential to path orientation

Initial Understeer Gradient: $K_{opt} - K; K = \frac{d(\delta_f)}{d\left(\frac{A_y}{g}\right)}$

Getting as close as possible to the target value

Final Understeer number: $\frac{A_{Rr,max}}{A_{Fr,max}} - 1$

To have a progressive steering control and not opposite: If >0 ⇒ final understeer



[1] Presentation extracted from:
Course of "Advances in Optimal Design of Mechanical Systems"
Giampiero Mastinu, Massimiliano Gobbi
Hyderabad - 22/26 March 1999

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Optimization Process in Imagine.Lab AMESim

➤ Full factorial DOE

To identify the most important coefficients to be implemented in the dynamic optimization

Selection of the Factors and Responses

$$DampingCoeff_{F-R} = \sum_i A_i \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{x-B_i}{C_i}\right)^2}$$

Effects/Responses	TB		OvershootPsiP		UndersteerInitGrad		UndersteerNumber		PsiPMin	
A1 F	0.00181	TRUE	-0.01926	TRUE	-0.01350	TRUE	-0.00070	TRUE	-0.00159	TRUE
A2 F	0.00143	TRUE	-0.01772	TRUE	-0.01281	TRUE	-0.00059	TRUE	-0.00059	TRUE
A3 F	0.00198	TRUE	-0.00922	TRUE	-0.01598	TRUE	-0.00048	FALSE	-0.00093	TRUE
B1 F	-0.00108	TRUE	0.00280	FALSE	0.00136	FALSE	0.00017	FALSE	0.00010	FALSE
B2 F	-0.00103	TRUE	0.00766	TRUE	0.00468	FALSE	0.00034	FALSE	0.00010	FALSE
B3 F	-0.00032	FALSE	0.00322	FALSE	0.00232	FALSE	0.00008	FALSE	0.00019	FALSE
C1 F	0.00734	TRUE	-0.00339	TRUE	-0.05482	TRUE	0.00100	TRUE	-0.00024	TRUE
C2 F	0.00863	TRUE	-0.05989	TRUE	-0.05350	TRUE	0.00088	TRUE	-0.00189	TRUE
C3 F	0.00657	TRUE	-0.00791	TRUE	-0.03395	TRUE	0.00112	TRUE	-0.00121	TRUE

54 ➔ 48

➤ Optimization algorithm

GA (Genetic Algorithm)

Note that there is **no need to use a Response Surface Model (RSM)**, thanks to the speed of the simulation in AMESim !

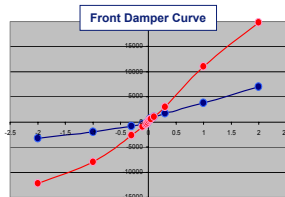
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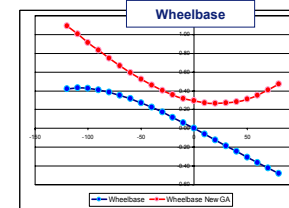
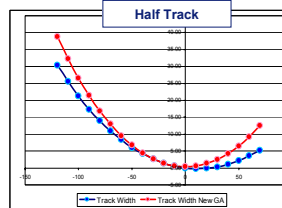
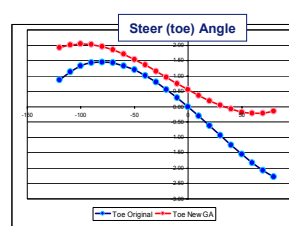
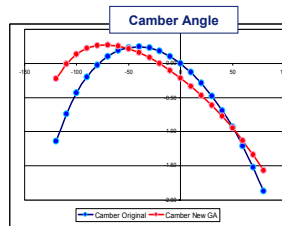
Results from GA Optimization - Component characteristics

$$DampingCoeff_{F-R} = \sum_i A_i \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{x-B_i}{C_i}\right)^2}$$

A	B	C
6950	0.01022	0.03700
8790	0.1015	3.47200
3670	1.624	1.23000



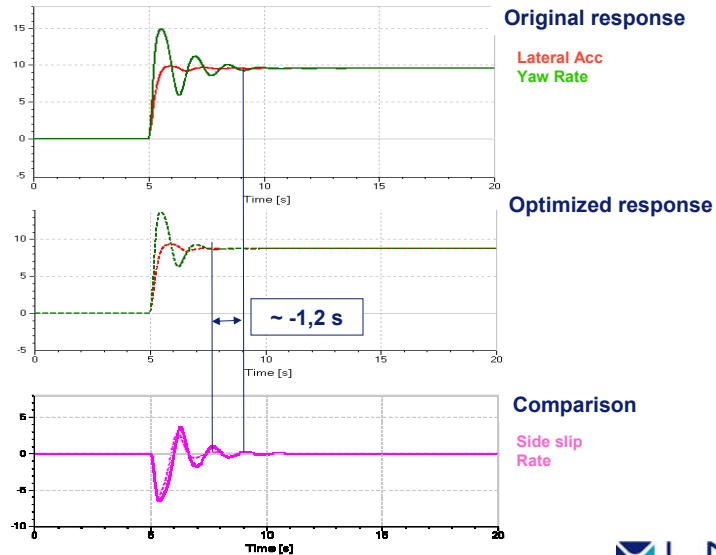
— Original
— Optimized



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Results from GA Optimization - Dynamic response



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Final geometrical Optimization in Virtual.Lab MOTION

Sensitivity Analysis

Feeding the model with the target curves a cost function to be minimized must be figured out :

$$RMS = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t_f - t_i} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} e^2 dt}$$

where e is the error between target and desired actual curves of :

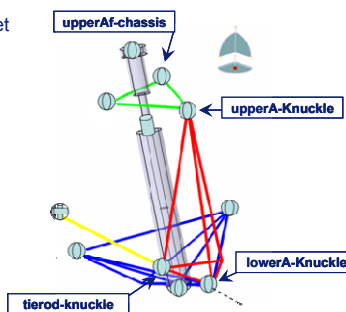
- Camber
- Toe
- Wheelbase
- Half track



Hard Points sensitivity

	X	Y	Z
lowerAf-chassis	↓	↑	↑
lowerAr-chassis	↓	↓	↓
lowerA-lowerdumper	↑	↓	↓
lowerA-knuckle	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
upperAf-chassis	↑↑	↑↑	↓
upperAr-chassis	↑	↓	↓
upperA-knuckle	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
tierod-knuckle	↑↑	↑	↑↑
wheelcenter	↑↑	↑	↓
toe_camber_AxisPoint	↑	↑	↑↑
upperdumper-chassis	↓	↓	↓
tierod-rack	↓	↓	↓

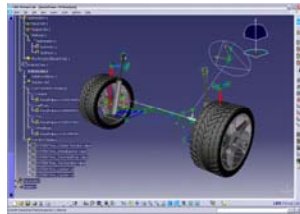
↑↑ high effect
↑ medium effect
↓ low effect



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Final geometrical Optimization in Virtual.Lab MOTION



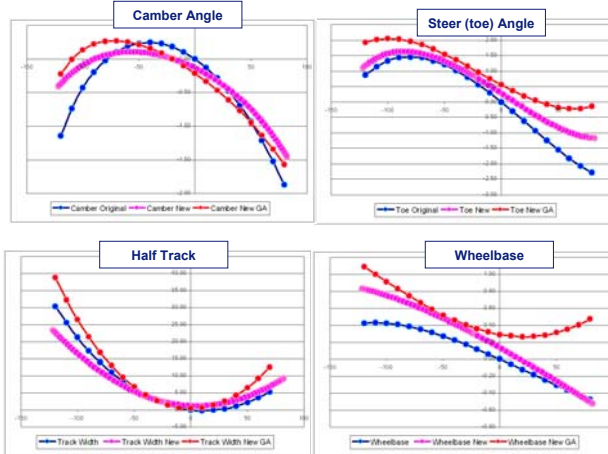
Hard Points variations

	X	Y	Z
lowerA1-chassis			
lowerA1-chassis			
lowerA1-lowerdumper			
lowerA1-knuckle	-15.0	15.0	15.0
upperA1-chassis	-5.0	17.0	
upperA1-chassis			
upperA1-knuckle	-6.4	-6.8	-10.3
lowerA1-knuckle	-2.7		5.3
wheelcenter	4.2		
toe_camber_AxisPoint			0.1
upperdumper-chassis			
lowerA1-track			

— Original AMESim

— Optimized AMESim = Target VL.MOTION

— Optimized VL.Motion



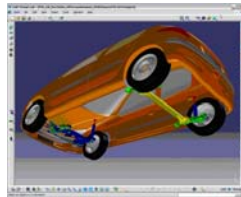
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Further investigations

➤ Adding elasto-kinematic contribution

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} &= d_{rel\ ELAS} + d_{rel\ CIN} ; \\
 \begin{cases} x_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = x_{rel\ ELAS} + x_{rel\ CIN} \\ y_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = y_{rel\ ELAS} + y_{rel\ CIN} \end{cases} & \quad \begin{cases} r_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = r_{rel\ ELAS} + r_{rel\ CIN} \\ \delta_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = \delta_{rel\ ELAS} + \delta_{rel\ CIN} \\ \epsilon_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = \epsilon_{rel\ ELAS} + \epsilon_{rel\ CIN} \\ \eta_{rel\ ELASTOCIN} = \eta_{rel\ ELAS} + \eta_{rel\ CIN} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

➤ Implementation of flexible parts (subframes, trimmed body, ...)



➤ Full Multi-attribute Optimization (Ride-comfort & Handling)



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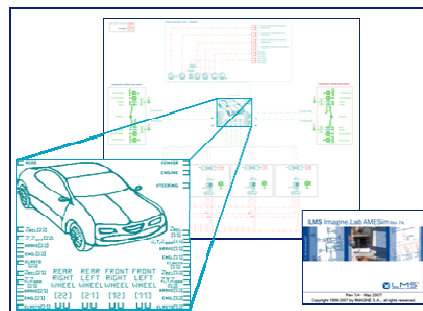
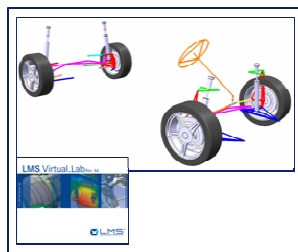
Conclusions

- A **reverse engineering methodology** in Concept Stage of new vehicle development has been shown
- Show-case has been applied to **kinematics of the front suspension** to optimize handling in the ISO step-steer maneuver
- Methodology can be extended to **complete front and rear K&C characteristics including flexible parts and full multi-attribute optimization for Ride-comfort & Handling** maneuvers
- Integration of **LMS Virtual.Lab/Motion®** and **Imagine.Lab AMESim®** offers a **unique automated solution for the complete simulation study and optimization in chassis and full vehicle performance domain**

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Thanks for your attention !

Ir. Valerio CIBRARIO Vertical Business Unit Manager, Automotive Solutions, C&S – LMS Italiana
Dr. Ir. Joris DE CUYPER Product Line Manager Virtual.Lab MOTION – LMS International
Ir. Marco GUBITOSA Research Engineer – LMS International

