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Title

Investigation of the influence of tyre deformation and tyre "foot print" on the lift and drag force predictions of a passenger car

| Fields of study | Department / Company / Location |
|------------------------------------|---|
| CFD, Aerodynamics, Fluid Mechanics | 91780 CFD group, Volvo Car Corporation, Göteborg |

Description of thesis work

It is a known fact that wheels and tyres have a strong contribution and influence on the total aerodynamic drag and lift of passenger vehicles. Therefore, it is of extreme importance to have a numerical model that represents, as close as possible to the reality, the shape and deformation of the tyres at ground contact for the different curb positions. These aspects can have a significant influence on the flow around this area and on the wake behind the wheel. It is proposed in this thesis to perform a series of CFD simulations with the wheels placed at different ground contact positions and with different deformation of the tyres, according to specifications from the tyre suppliers. Whenever possible, the results of the simulations will be compared with wind tunnel results. All the aforementioned simulations are to be carried out on a fully-detailed CFD model. If time allows, simulations with moving meshes of a single rotating wheel will also be performed to add knowledge to this very complex flow problem.

At the end of this work, the student will have a very good basis of the most common CFD softwares available in the market today, good knowledge of passenger vehicle aerodynamics, in addition to the opportunity of having worked with one of the leading CFD teams in the car industry today.

Suitable Student background

Required: Good knowledge in fluid mechanics and aerodynamics. Will to do work with computer programs and CFD. Self standing, curious and fast learner. Knowledge of CFD codes and mesh generation softwares is not required, but it will be considered as an asset.

| Starting date | Number of students |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| February or March 2007 | 1 |

| Tutor / Contact Person | E-mail | Telephone |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Simone Sebben | ssebben@volvocars.com | 031- 596636 |
| Address | | |
| Volvo Car Corporation | | |
| Computational Fluid Dynamics | | |
| Dept. 91780, PVT3 | | |
| SE-405 31 Göteborg | | |

| ADM Info | | |
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