

# Friction Studies-From Passive to Intelligent Tires

**Saied Taheri, PhD**  
**Associate Professor and Director**  
**Center for Tire Research (CenTiRe)**  
**Mechanical Engineering Department**  
**Virginia Tech**  
**Blacksburg, VA 24060**



# CenTiRe Vision

- The Center for Tire Research will provide the forum for industry/university cooperative research for the further development, validation, and industrial implementation of the emerging technologies of tire materials, manufacturing, modeling, and testing.



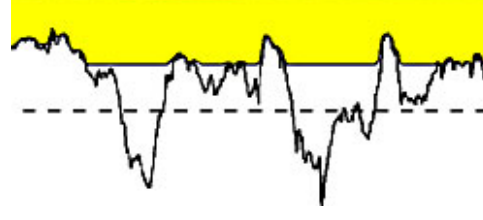
# Relevant Projects

- Multi-Scale Modeling of Tire-Road Contact and Adhesion
- Tire-Soil Interaction Model
- Pneumatic Tire Performance on Ice
- Macro Road Surface Profiling
- A Portable Low-Cost System for High-Speed High-Precision Surface Profiling
- High-Precision Tire Modeling and Analysis for Tire-Road Noise Prediction
- Estimating Tire-Road Friction from Probe Vehicles



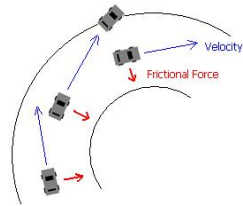
# Multiscale Modeling

- To better understand tire and vehicle performance, a better understanding of tire-road contact mechanics is needed
- Accurate road profiles -> extract characteristic properties (e.g., friction, roughness)
- Build a comprehensive, multi-scale database of Pavement Surface Characteristics and friction
- Tire-road contact modeling using Wavelet and Fractal based approach



# Background/Introduction

- A major problem in highway safety and traffic engineering is to understand the mechanisms of friction between the tire and the road.



- Pavement surface texture significantly contributes to tire-pavement friction.
- Several researchers have claimed that road profiles are fractal, and that this fractality is related to the friction properties of the road.
- The objective here is to present texture properties and contact mechanics that can predict tire-pavement friction.

# Rubber Road Contact

In order to be able to estimate friction between rubber and a rough surface, we need to:

- Measure the surface profile (possible through using the Nanovea optical profilometer)
- Characterize the surface
- Characterize the tread compound
- Calculate the real area of contact
- Estimate cold friction
- Include the effect of flash temperature



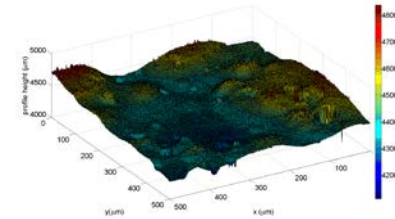
# Estimated Friction

$$C(q) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int d^2x \langle h(\mathbf{x})h(\mathbf{0}) \rangle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$

Power Spectral Density  
of profile height

$$C(q) \approx k(q/q_0)^{-2(H+1)}$$

Simplified version for self-affine surfaces



$$P(q) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dx \frac{\sin x}{x} \exp[-x^2 G(q)]$$

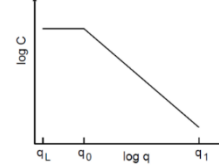
$$G(q) = \frac{1}{16\pi} (q_0 h_0)^2 H \int_1^{q/q_0} d\zeta \zeta^{-2H+1} \times \int d\phi \left| \frac{E(q_0 \zeta v \cos \phi)}{(1-\nu^2)\sigma_0} \right|^2$$

The stress probability distribution  
in the contact area on each length  
scale

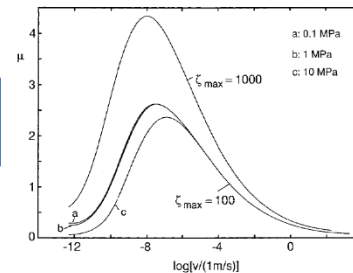
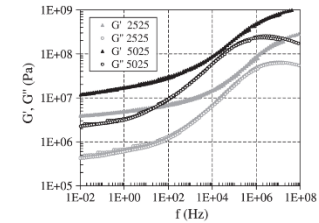
$$\mu \approx \frac{1}{4\pi} (q_0 h_0)^2 H \int_1^{q_1/q_0} d\zeta \zeta^{-2H+1} P(q_0 \zeta) \times \int d\phi \cos \phi \operatorname{Im} \frac{E(\zeta q_0 v \cos \phi)}{(1-\nu^2)\sigma_0}$$

Kinetic coefficient of  
friction

PSD vs.  
Wavevector

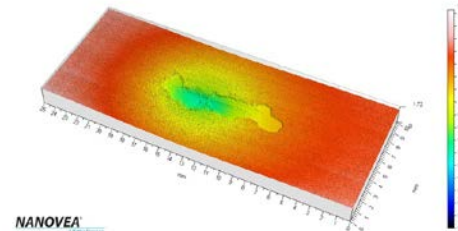
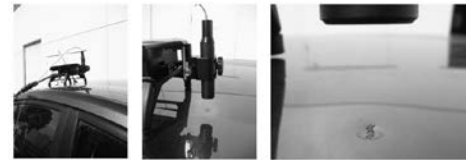
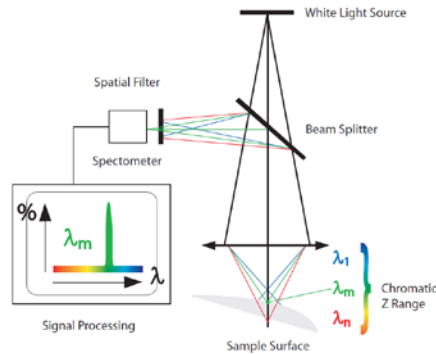


CB-filled SBR



# Nanovea JR25

- Designed with leading edge optical pens using superior white light axial chromatism.
- Excellent vertical and spatial resolution.
- Add-on features:
  - Contour measurement
  - Fracture surface measurements
  - Surface wear subtraction
  - Adhesion surface topography





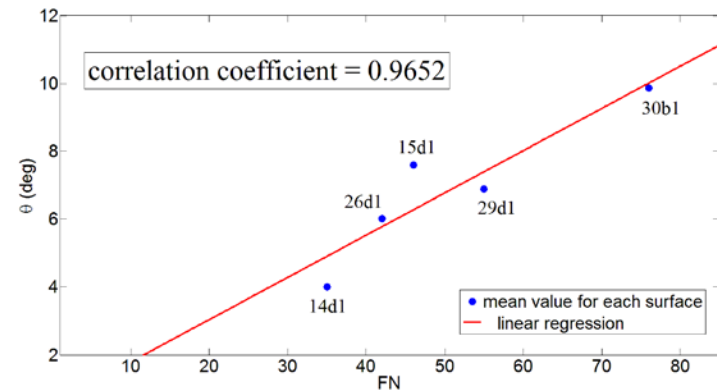
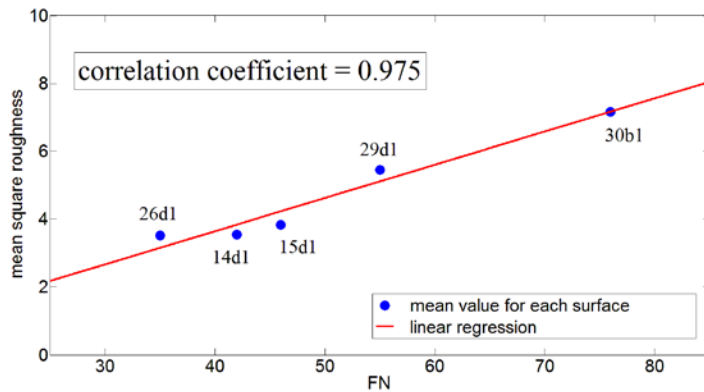
# Friction Tester

- **Outdoor testing:**
  - Weather conditions.
  - Time -- Money -- Human resources
- **Indoor Testing:**
  - Reduced cost
  - Controlled laboratory environment
  - Improved data accuracy and reproducibility
  - Ease of data accessibility and processing

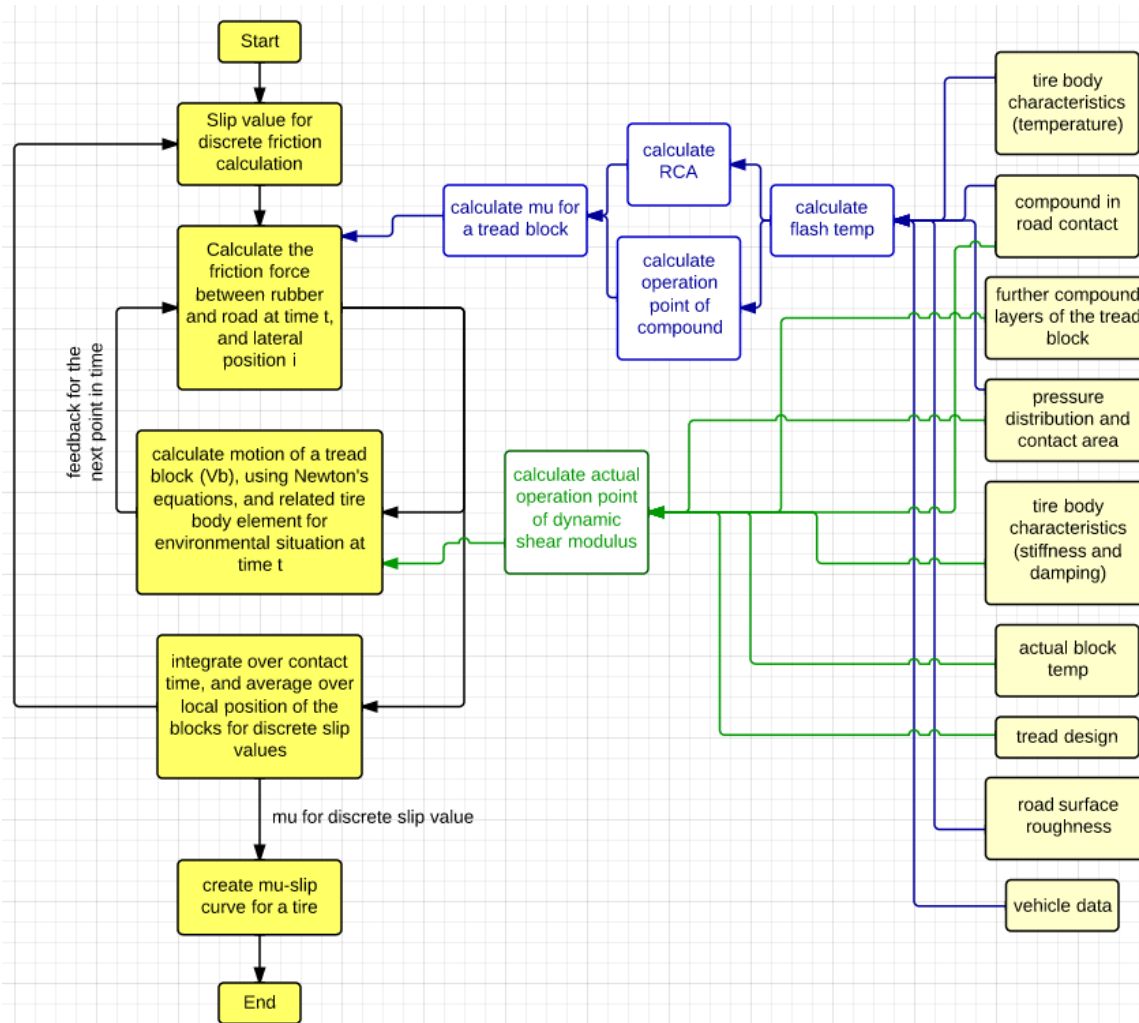


# Road Profile Characterization

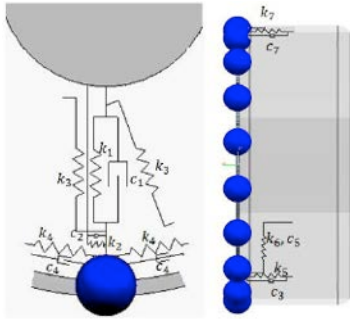
Profile		Mean Square Roughness	Power Spectral Density
B0	0.48	0.0511	0.0502
B90	0.39	0.0405	0.0398
C180	0.35	0.0374	0.0366



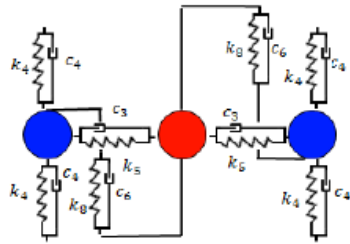
# $\mu$ -Slip Curve for Tires



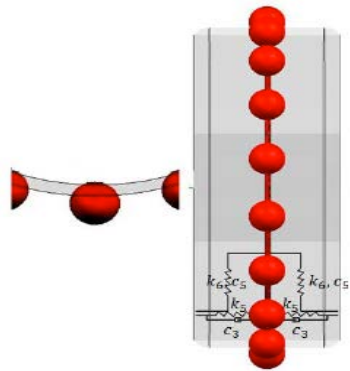
# Tire-Soil MBD Model



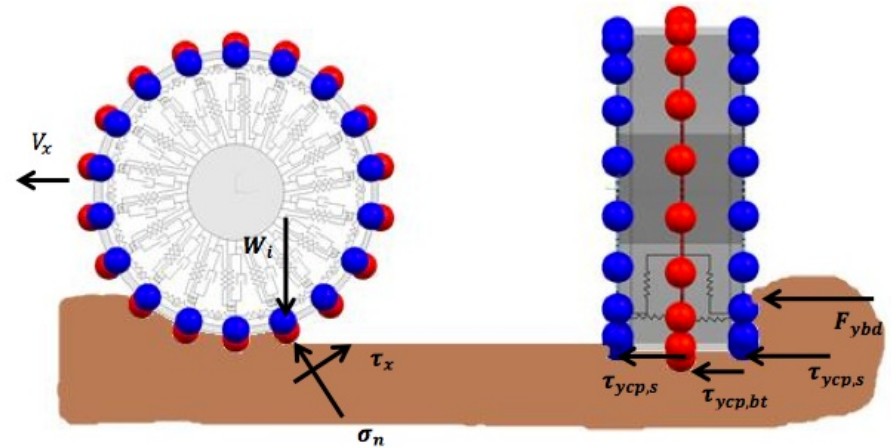
Side wall diagram



Circumferential plane



Tread and belt diagram



# Terramechanics Rig

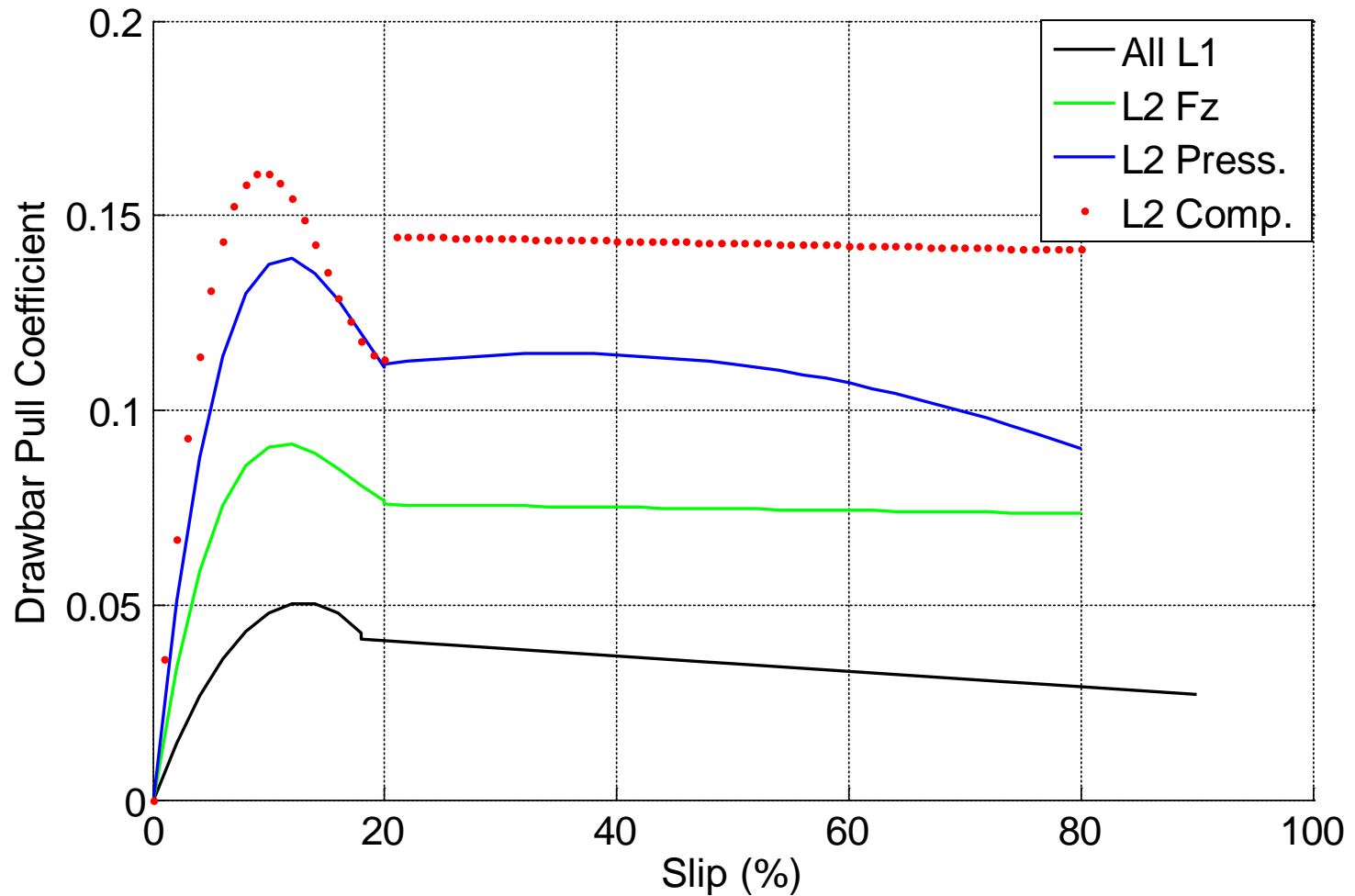


Test Tire: Michelin LTX A/T2 235/85/R16





# DOE – Individual Parameter Change



# Ice Project

- 2 inches thickness of ice
- Ambient Temperature= 15-17<sup>0</sup>C



[Video](#)



**VirginiaTech**  
Invent the Future

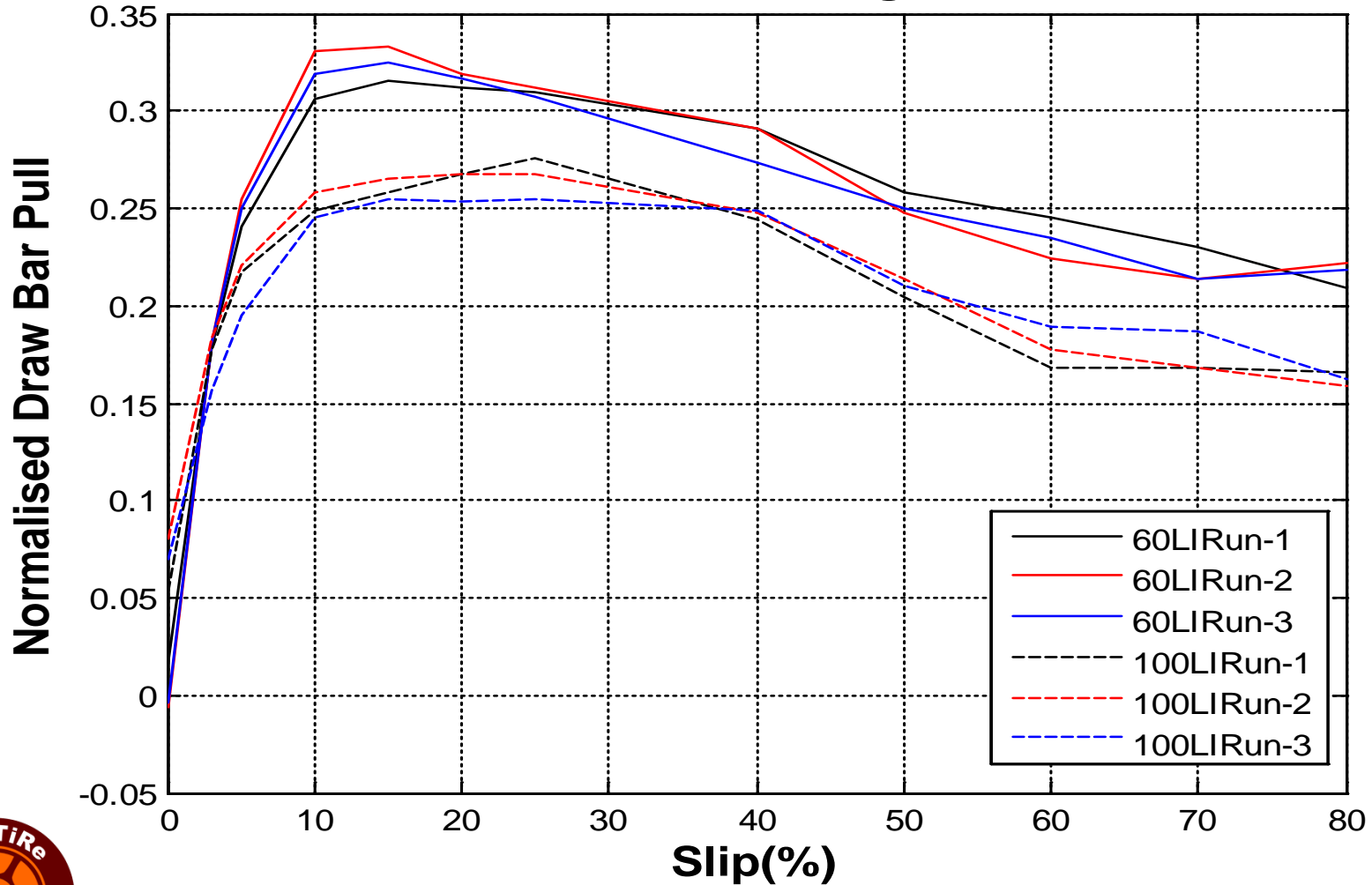
Pavement Evaluation  
September 15-18 Blacksburg, VA

9/24/2014



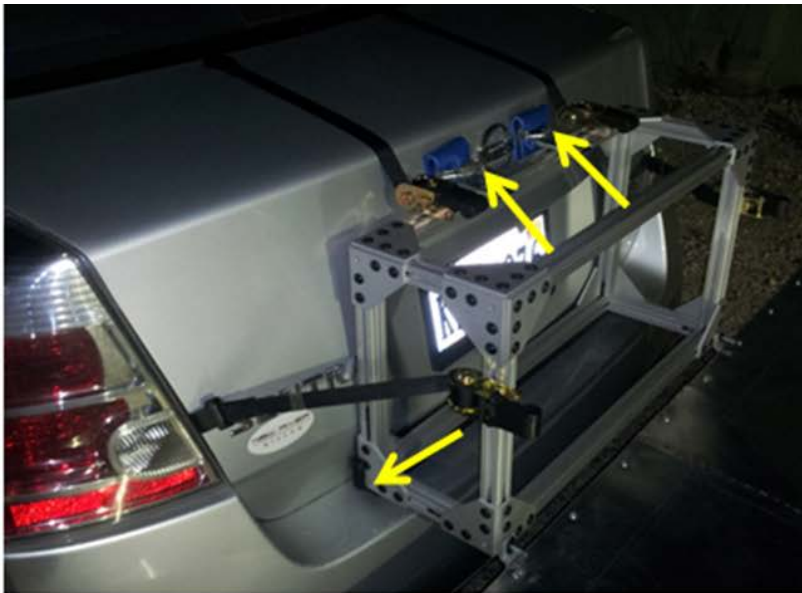
# Results

## Curve Fitting





# Macro Road Profilometer Prototype System



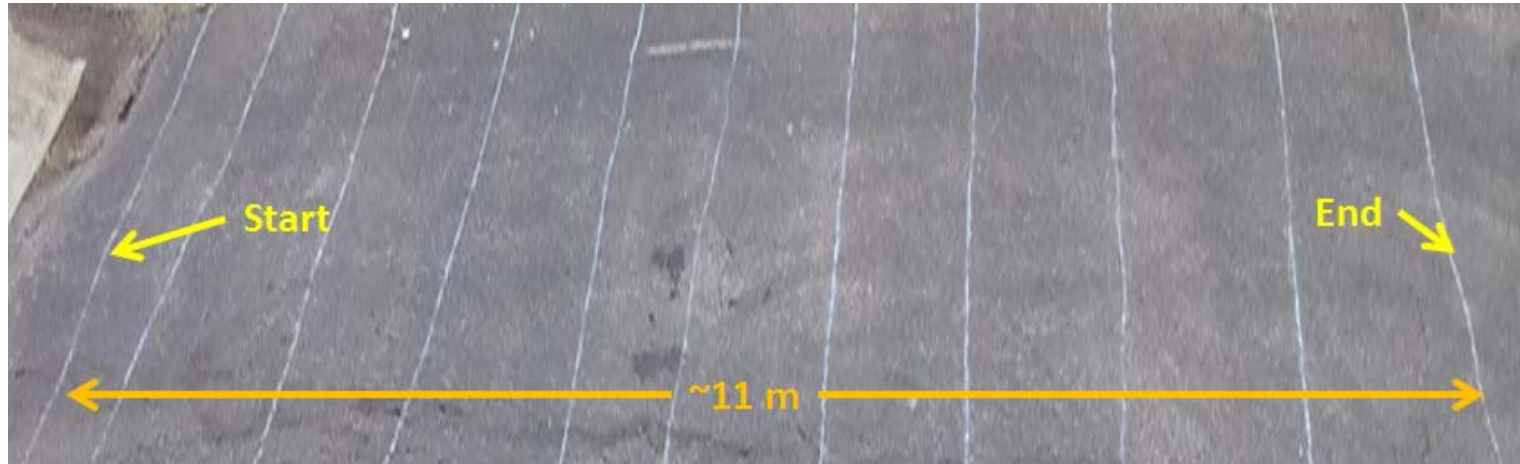
Padded surface contacts



Four anchor points



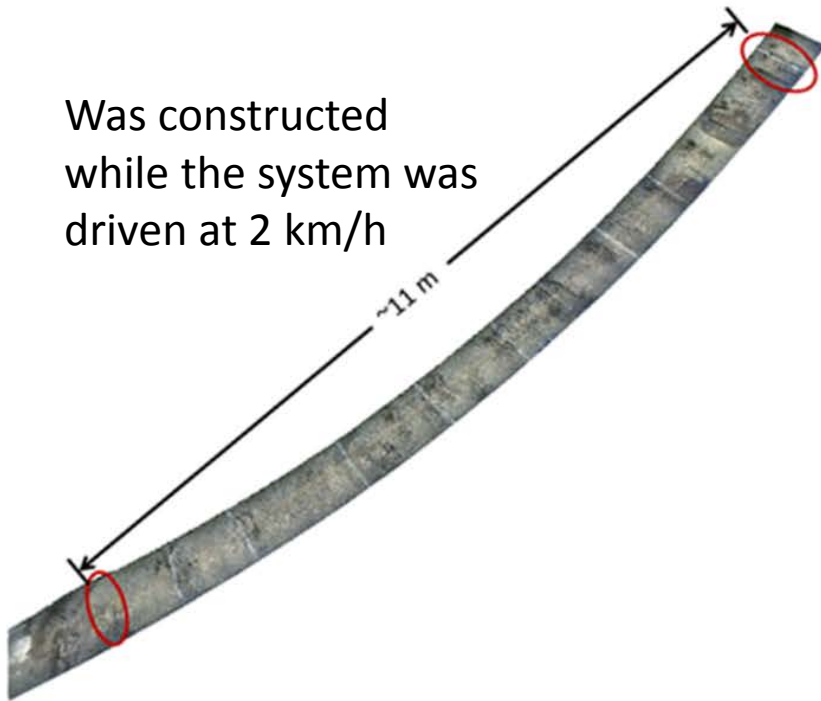
# Experimental Setup



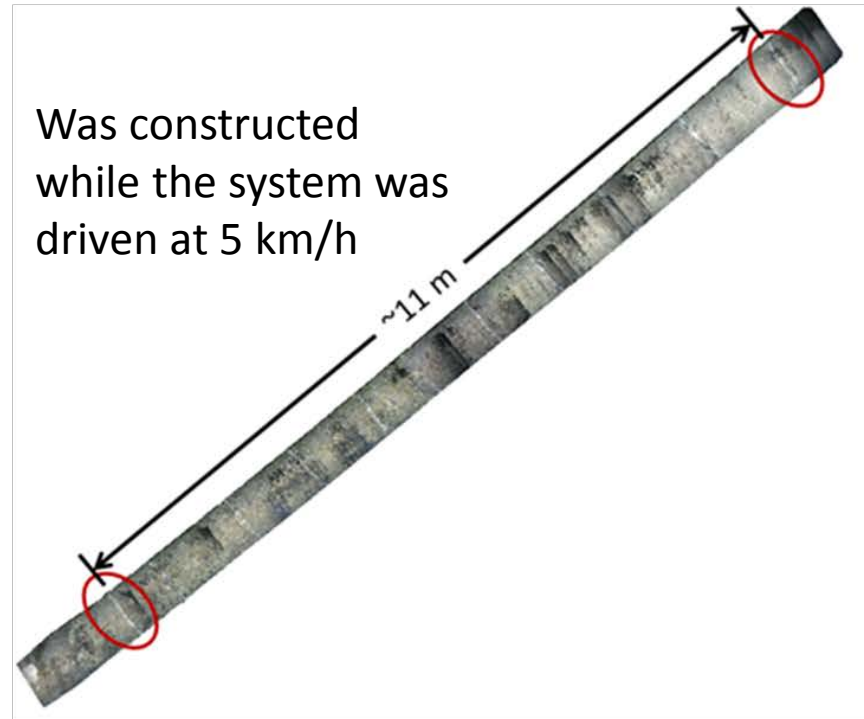
- Identify scan matching algorithm's ability to assemble road profiles
  - Image features are trackable
  - Depth measurements are preserved

# Road Profiling Results

Was constructed while the system was driven at 2 km/h



Was constructed while the system was driven at 5 km/h

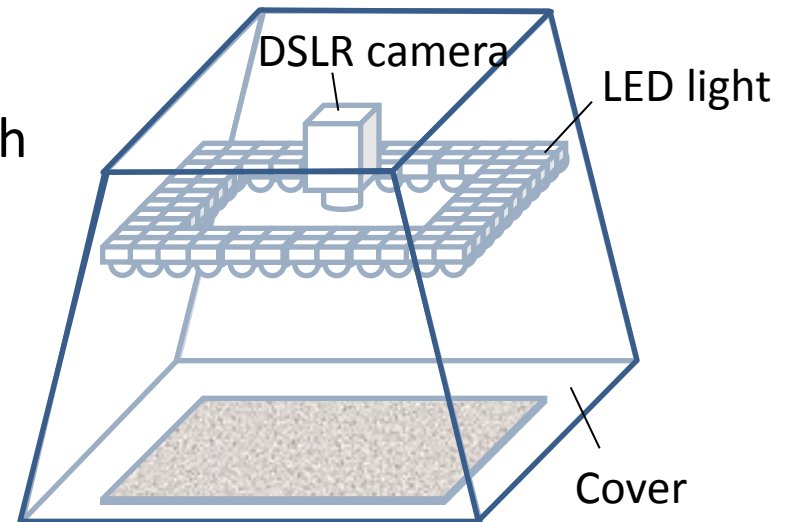


— Endpoints

# Micro Road Profiling System

## Core procedures:

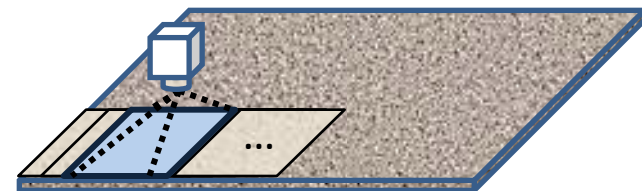
- Images taken with single LED on each time
- 3D surface reconstruction from images via Shape from Shading (SfS)
- Scan matching for large area measurements



Proposed conceptual system [1]

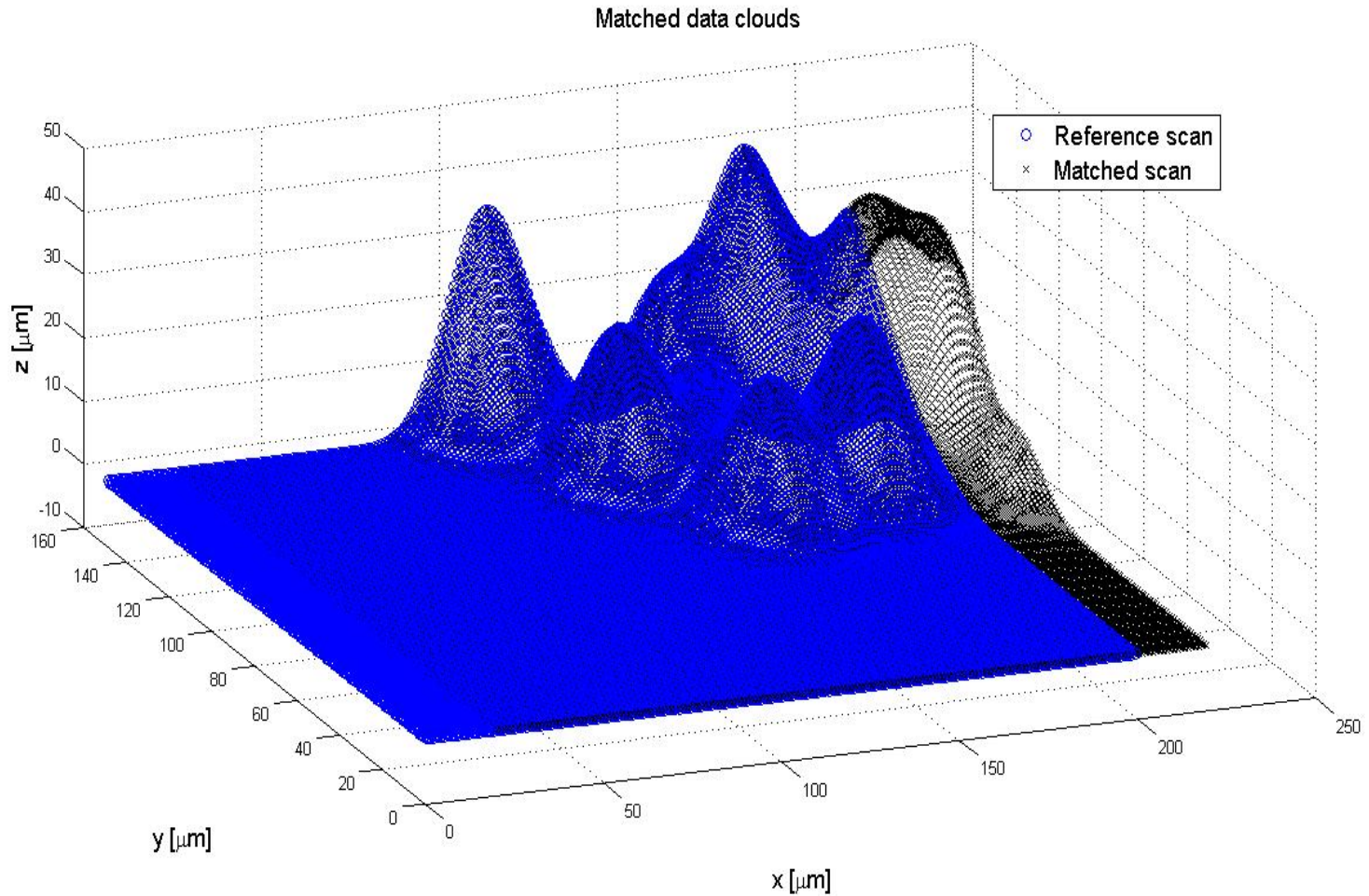
## Special features:

- Fast data acquisition due to area scan
- Compact and mobile



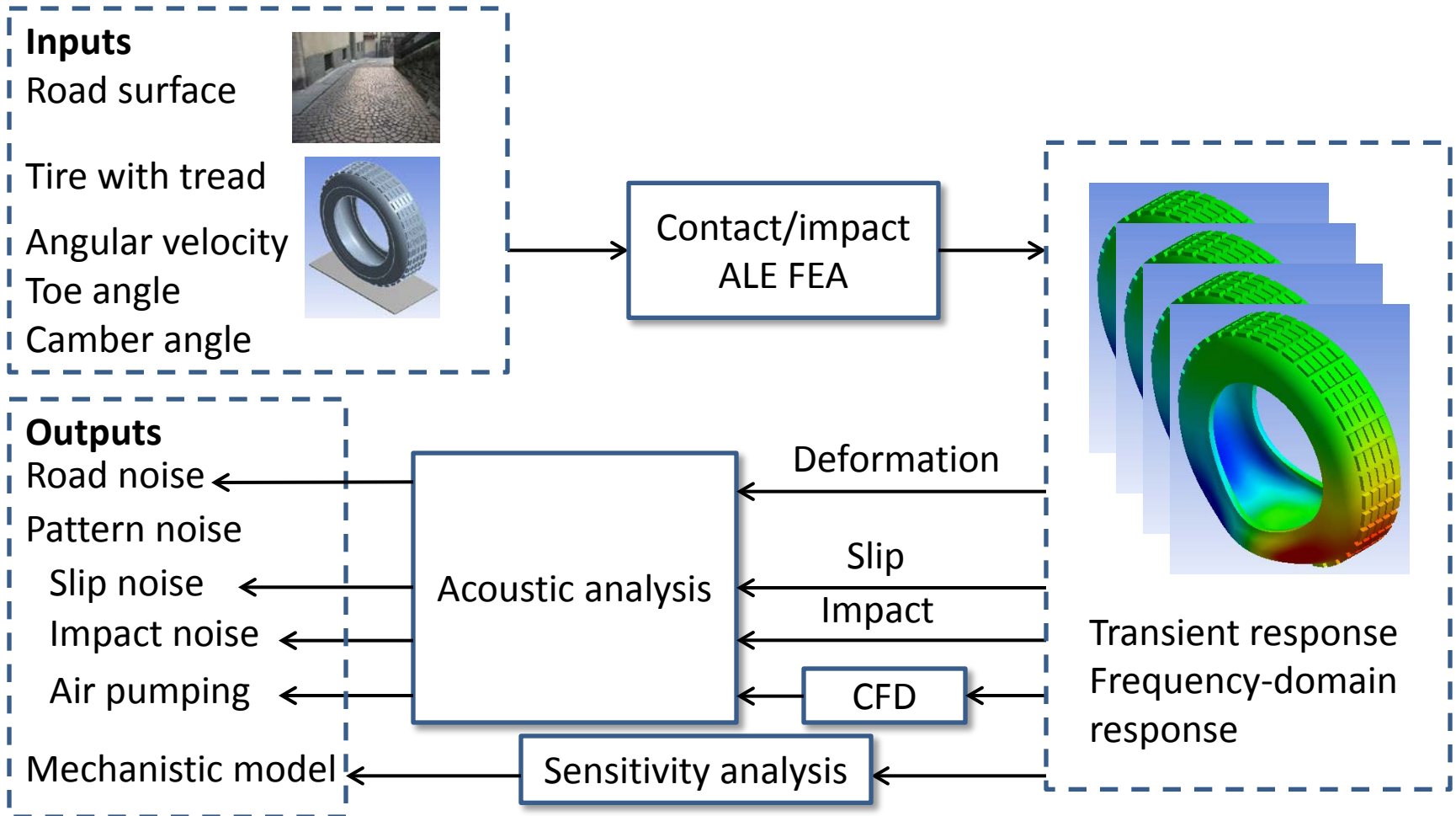
Scan matching

# Results

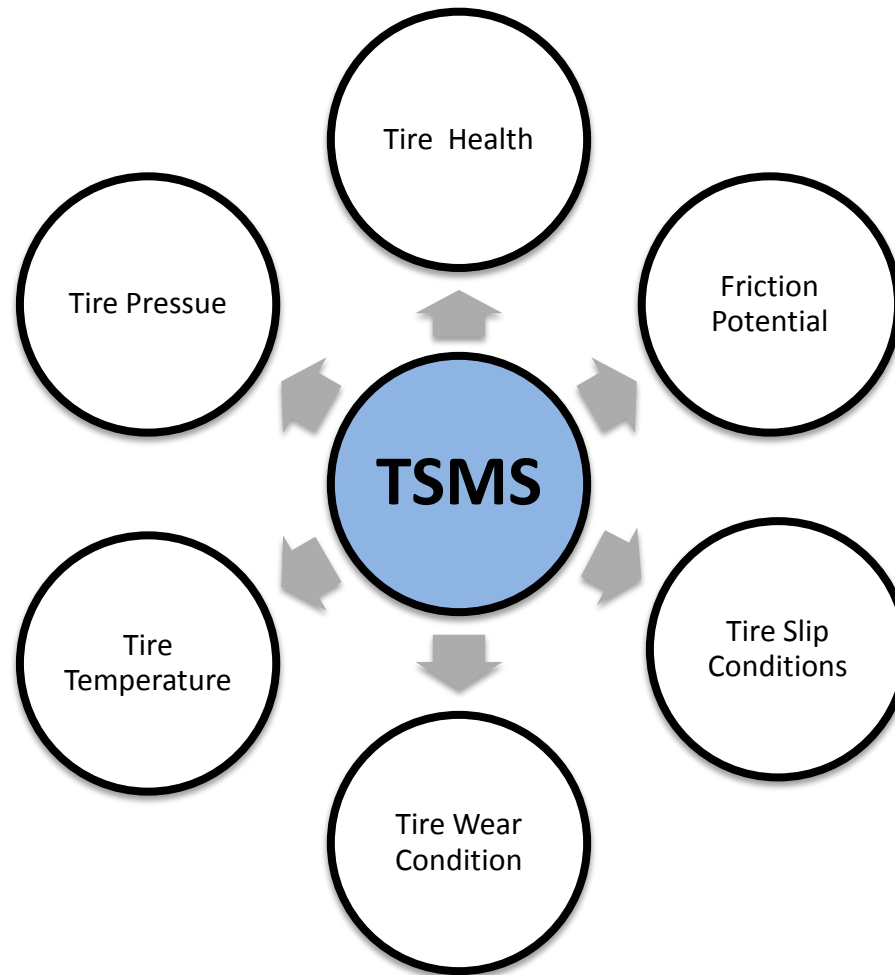




# Noise Modeling



# Tire State Measurement System-TSMS



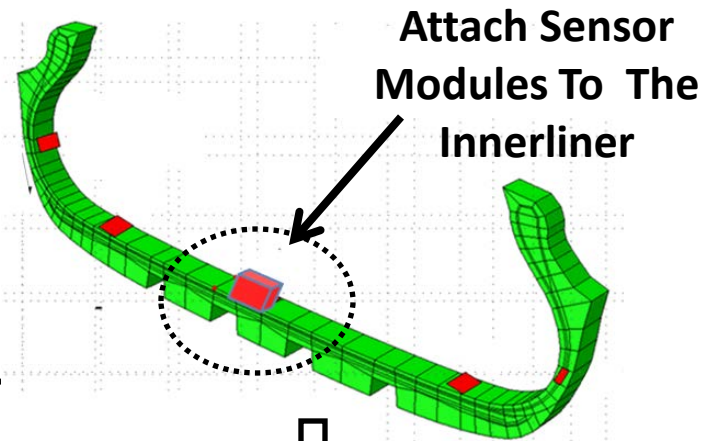
# Tire State Measurement System



Robust And Prompt Information About The Contact Dynamics, Health, Temp, Pressure, ..

Eliminating Uncertainty-adding Procedures

## Methodology



Add "Intelligence" To The Modern Day Passive Tire

## Intelligent Tire System

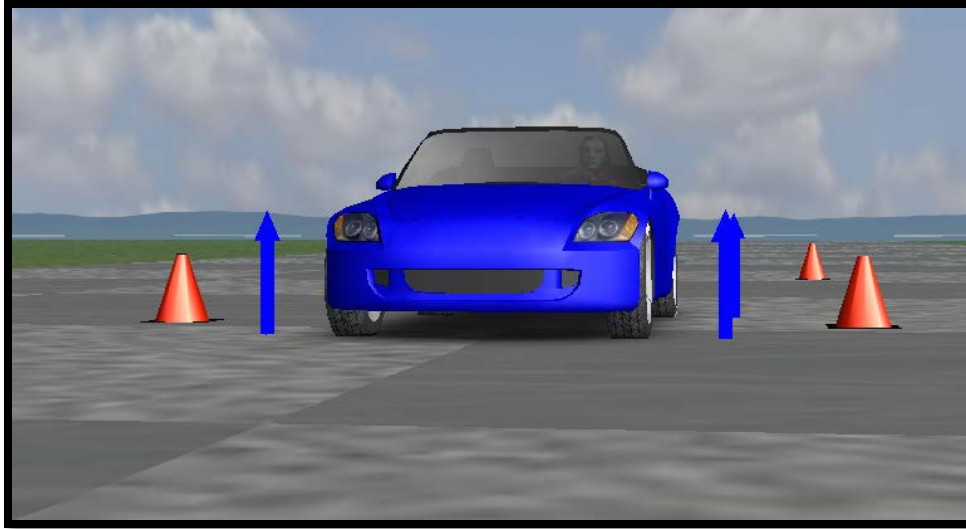




# The Tire of The Future

“Tire- In -The Loop (TIL) System”

Vehicle Equipped With Intelligent Tires



Feedback  
From  
The Tire

Low Grip

Driver Assist System

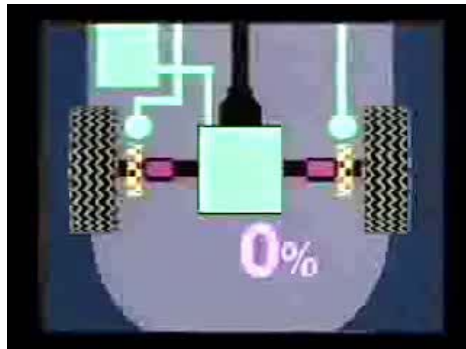


(Drivers can adjust their driving style)

On-board Vehicle Controller



(Improve the performance of current control systems like ABS/VSC)

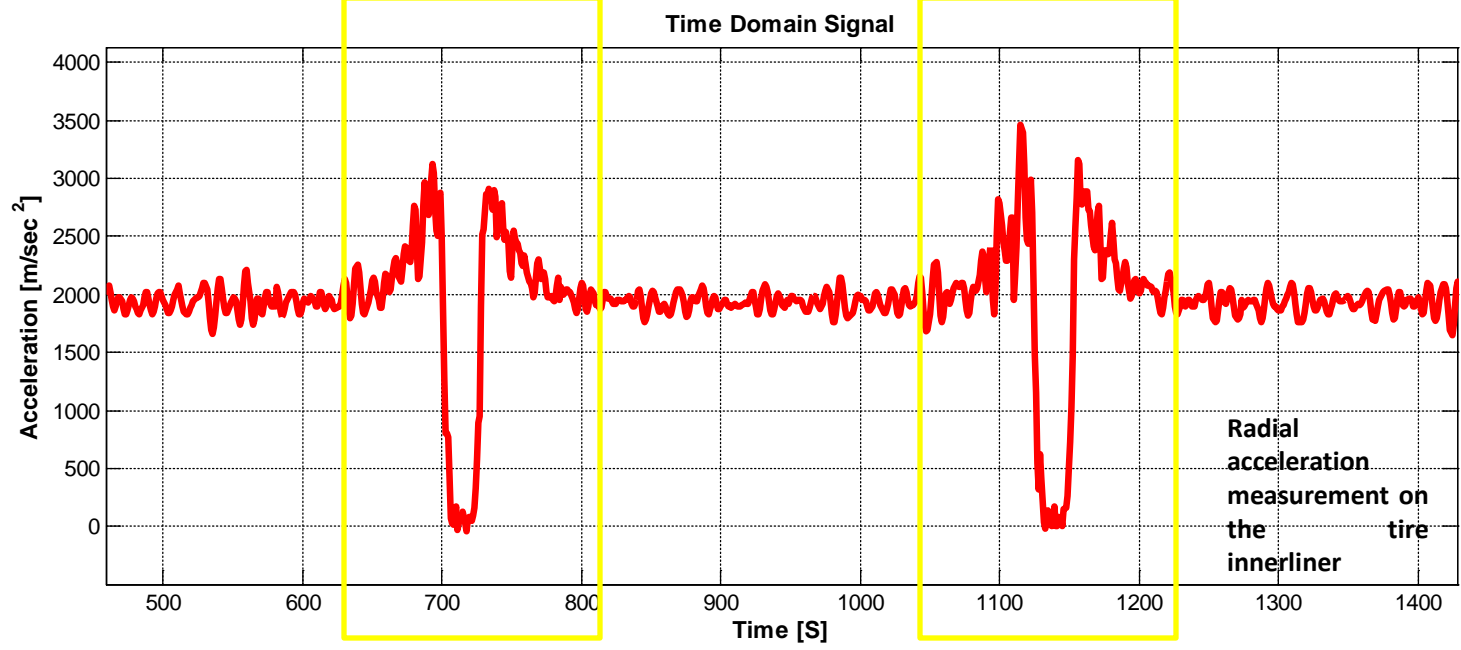
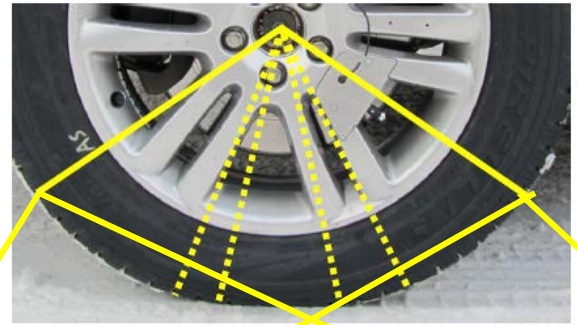
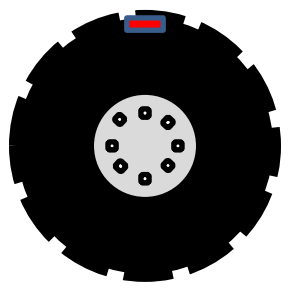


Force Feedback Based Advanced Chassis Control Systems for Vehicle Handling and Active Safety



# Single-point Sensing System – “Useful” Data Available Once Every Tire Revolution

Sensor Location



# Tire Instrumentation and Testing

Goal: Examine Sensor Performance



**Asphalt/Concrete Testing**



**Gravel Testing**



**Extensive  
Outdoor  
Testing**



A central dashed circle containing the text 'Extensive Outdoor Testing'. Four arrows point outwards from this circle to the four test scenario images: Asphalt/Concrete Testing, Gravel Testing, High Speed Testing, and Wet Testing.

**High Speed Testing**

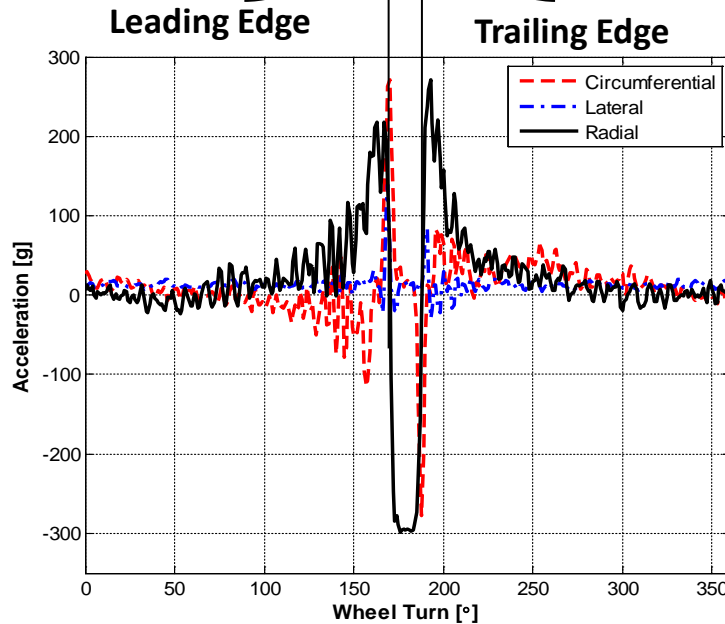


**Wet Testing**



# Algorithm Development Process

RAW SIGNAL

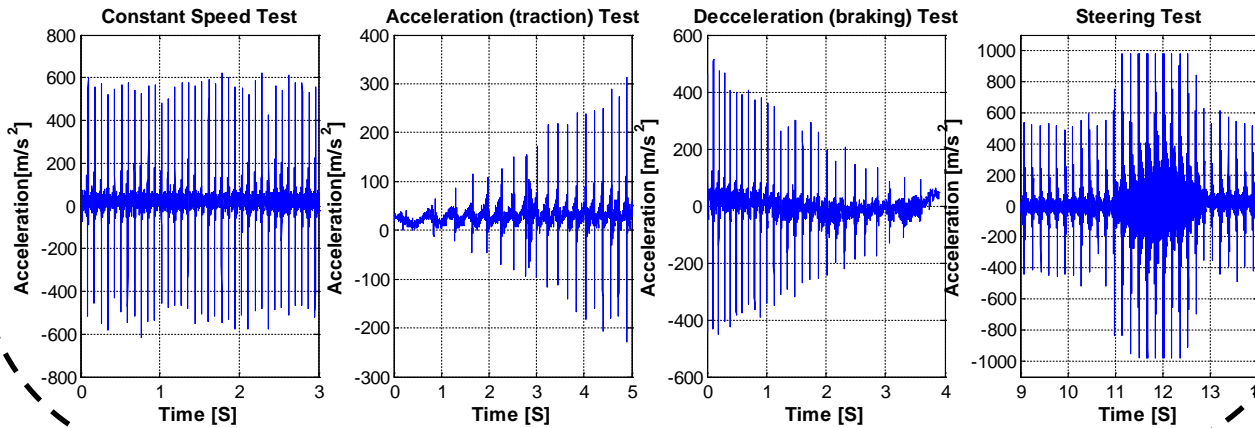
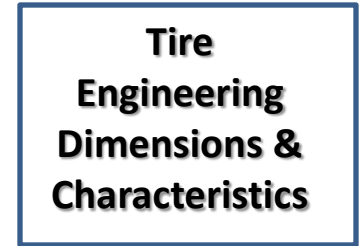


Test Data From Extensive Outdoor Testing

Raw Signal

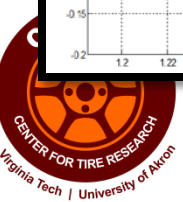
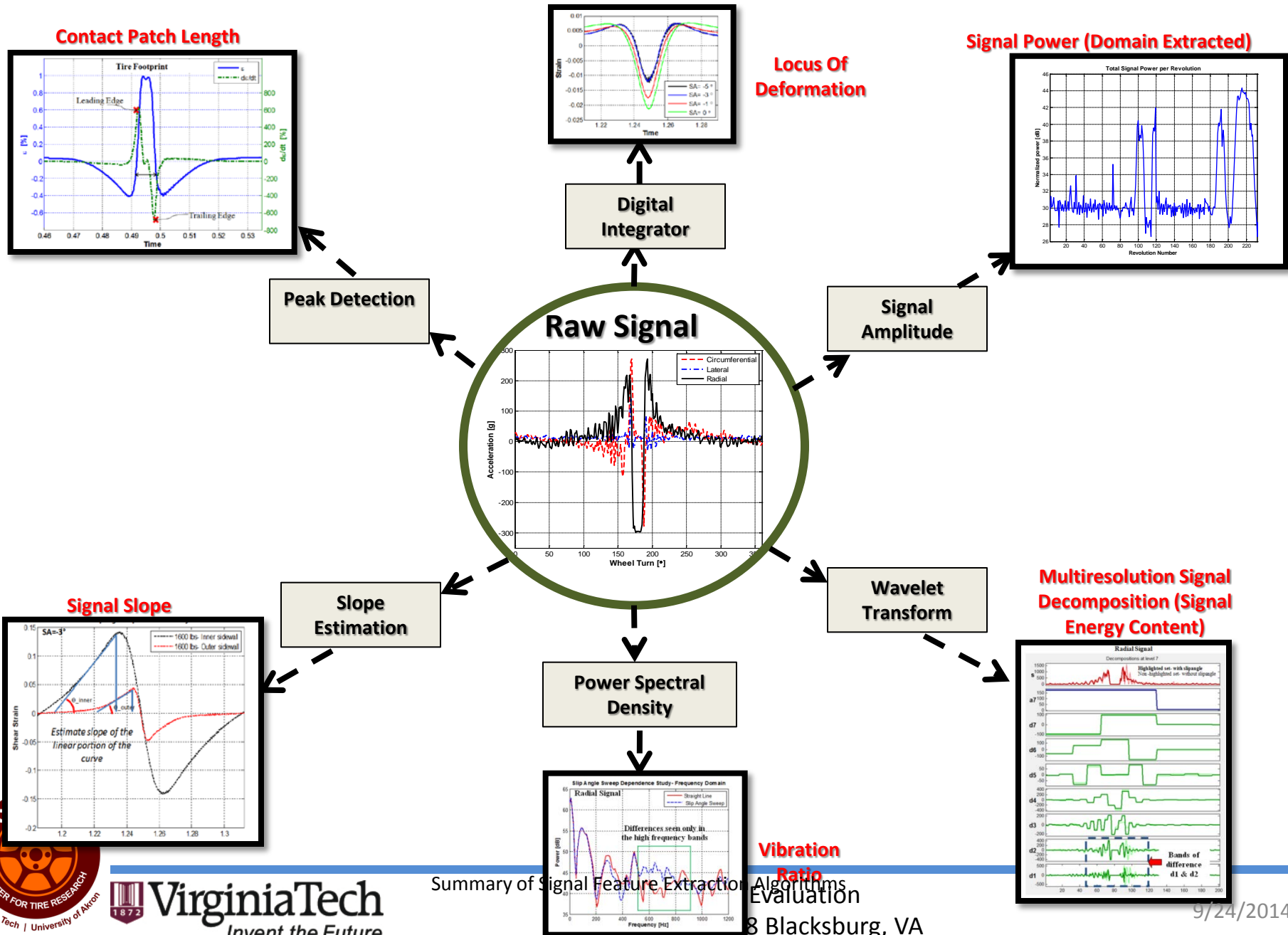


Valuable Information



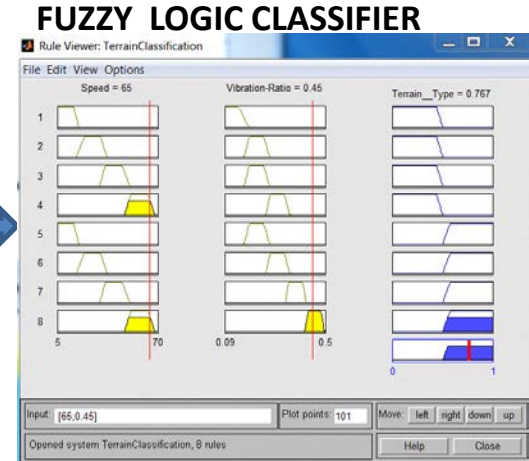
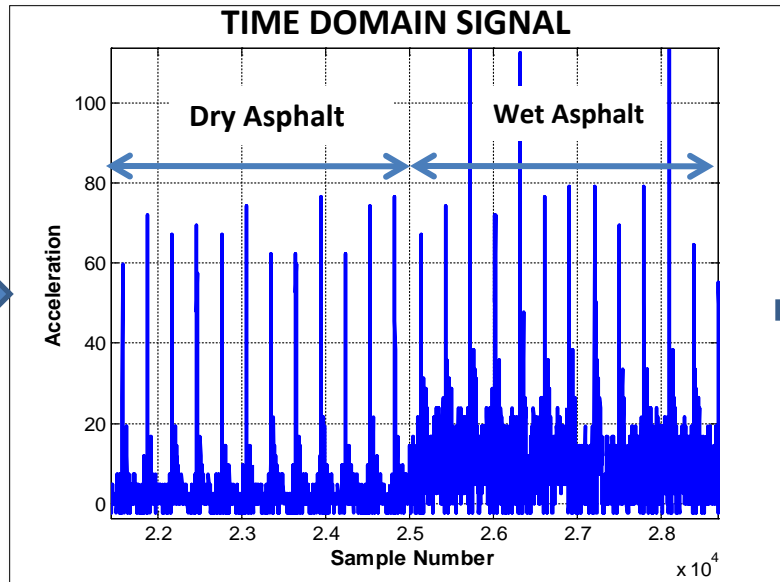
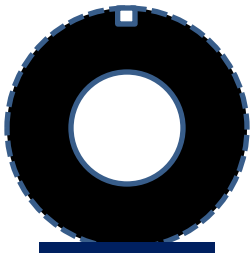
Goal: Derive a correlation between the signal and physical phenomenon under investigation

# Signal Processing and Feature Extraction

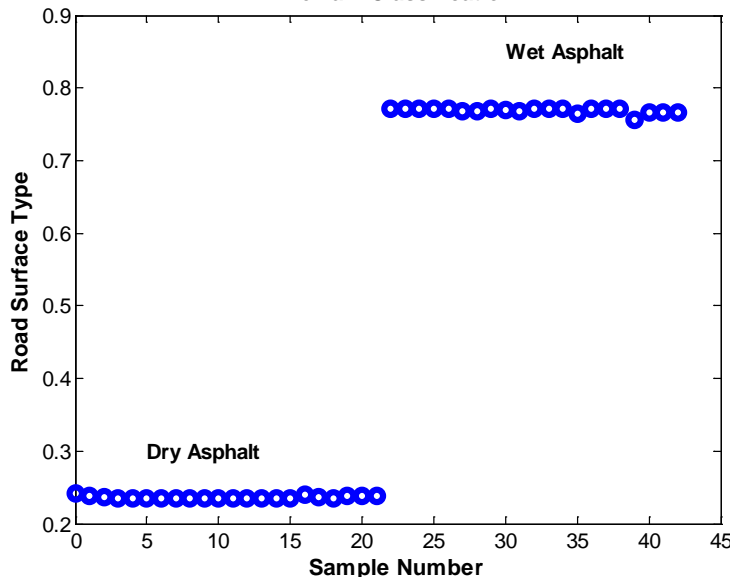




# System Performance

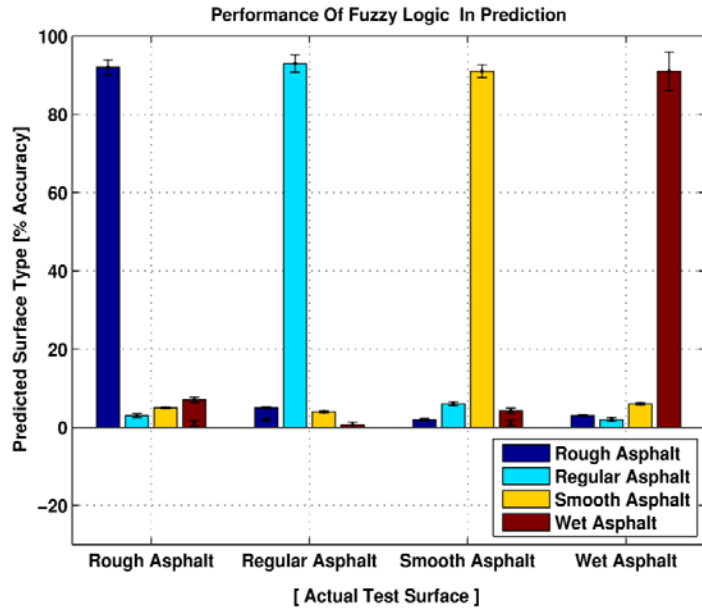


Terrain Classification



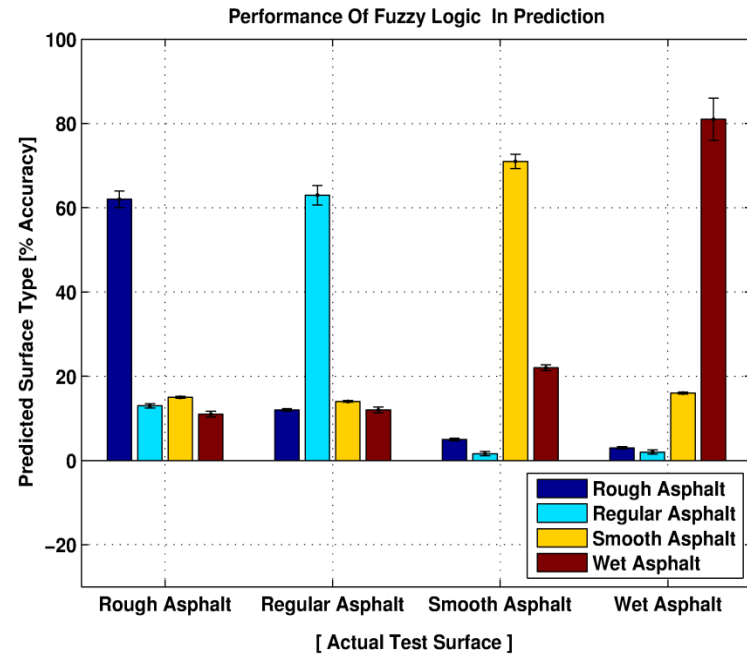
✓ The experimental results show that, the proposed method detects friction change from dry asphalt to wet asphalt while the tire travels at constant speed without braking, accelerating or cornering

## Low-slip conditions



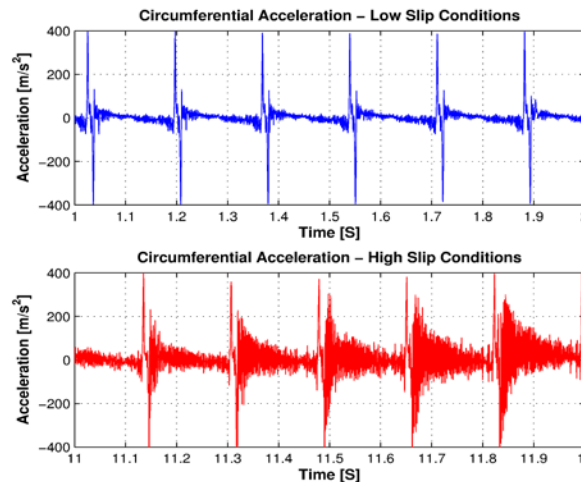
Classifier was successfully able to distinguish between the different road surface conditions

## High-slip conditions



Classifier performance was unsatisfactory

✓ Friction condition can be estimated when vehicle is not necessarily performing any dynamic or handling maneuver.



Higher misclassification rates under high slip conditions were attributed to the increased vibration levels in the circumferential acceleration signal due to the stick/slip phenomenon linked to the tread block vibration modes.

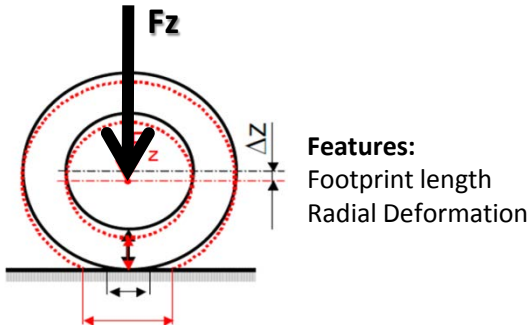
EVENT EVALUATION

September 15-18 Blacksburg, VA

9/24/2014



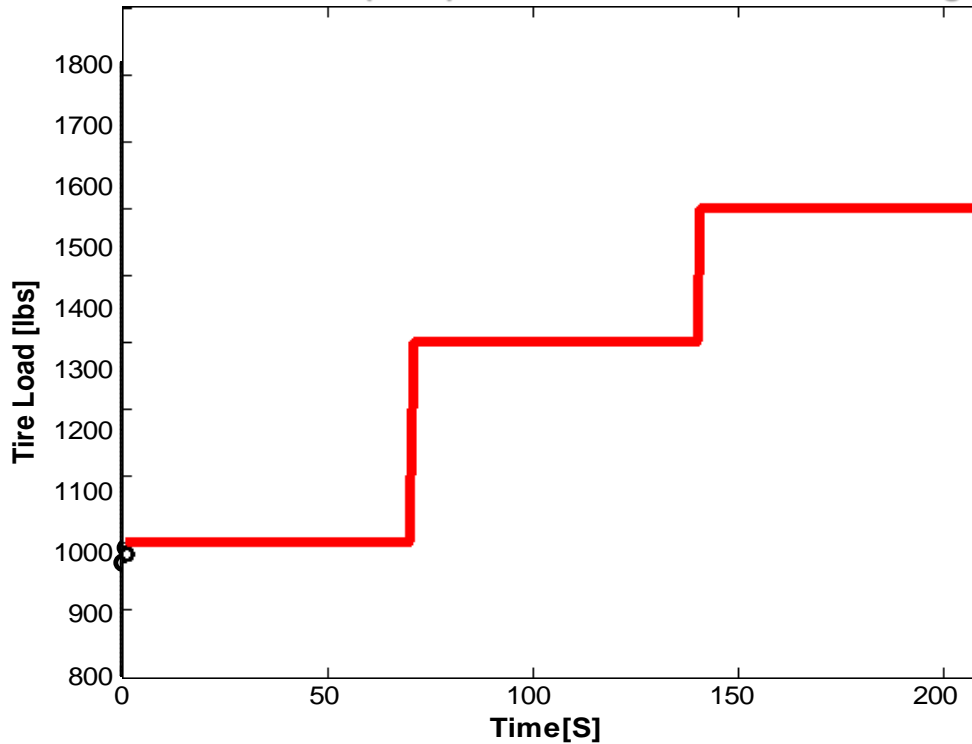
# Load Estimate



Features:  
Footprint length  
Radial Deformation



Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Based Parameter Estimation Algorithm



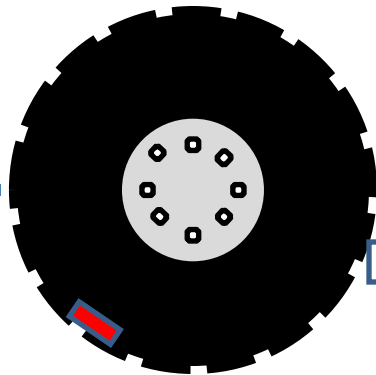
System Performance  
(Outdoor Tests)

Tire Speed (mph)	System Accuracy (%)
30	90%
45	93%
65	89%



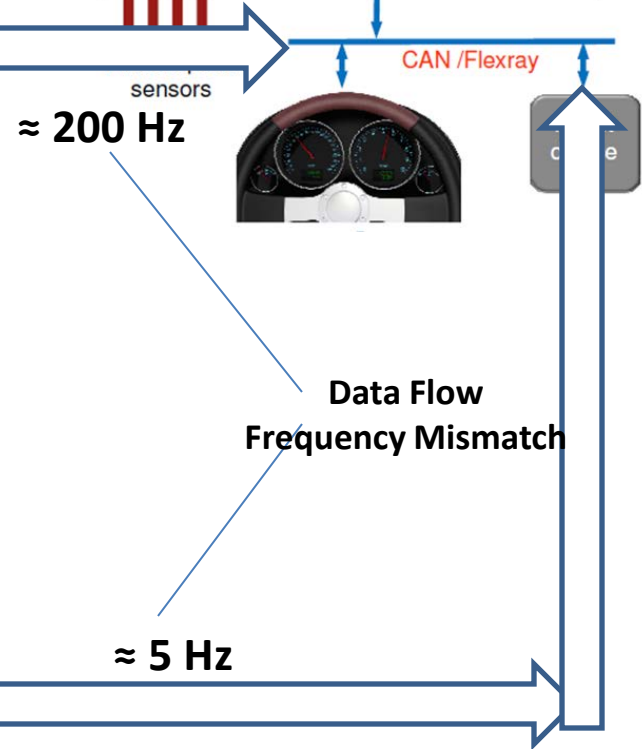
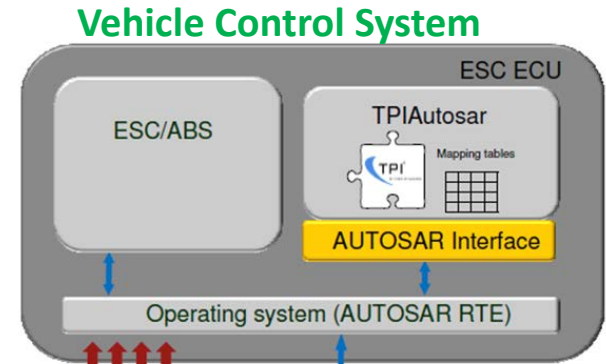
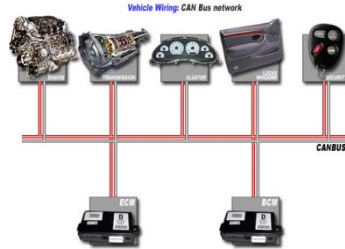


**Consequences of Adopting a Single-point Sensing System..**  
 To exploit the fullest potential of the intelligent technology, a data fusion approach with more complex data processing algorithms would be required....



**Tire Embedded Sensor**

**On-Board Vehicle Sensors**



# Closing Remarks

- A good example of closing the gap between pavement characteristics and tire-vehicle system, is IRI
- Up to this point, a single entity that could close the gap in all aspects of pavement characteristics and tire and vehicle dynamics did not exist
- Center for Tire Research (CenTiRe), with the major OEMs and tire companies as members, can become the research partner with DOTs/FHWA/RPUG to further evaluate the existing pavement characterization methodologies and add new ones to close the gap mentioned above
- Also, partnership with private companies can help with the development and commercialization of the technologies being developed



# Thank You!

## Questions?



[staheri@vt.edu](mailto:staheri@vt.edu)  
[www.Centire.org](http://www.Centire.org)

