



PLECS

DEMO MODEL

Two-Axle Vehicle with Driving Profile

Last updated in PLECS 4.3.1

www.plexim.com

- ▶ Request a PLECS and PLECS Coder trial license
- ▶ Get the latest RT Box Target Support Package
- ▶ Check the PLECS and RT Box documentation

here as a lumped mass. The vehicle model also incorporates the effect of acceleration/deceleration on the weight distribution of the vehicle. The 'Pitch Change Delay' is used to model the stiffness of the suspension system of the vehicle.

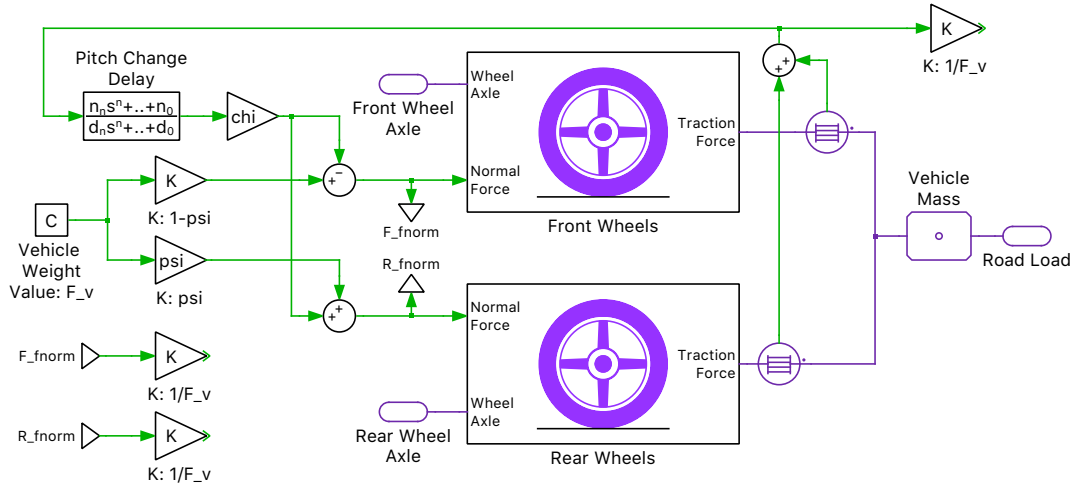


Fig. 2: Two-axle vehicle model

2.3 Wheel model

The torque applied to the wheel axle acts on a wheel, which is modeled in a lumped fashion as a Rotational Inertia block. The rotational speed of the wheel as well as the translational speed of the vehicle (V_s) are both measured. The rotational speed of the wheel is scaled by the radius of the wheel to determine the translational speed of the tire (V_w) near the point of contact with the road. The normal force acting on the wheel axle and the measured speeds (V_w and V_s) are used to calculate the traction force (F_t) applied on the vehicle by the wheels. The applied traction force will then move the total vehicular system.

There are two implementations for the calculation of the tire slip. The 'Basic Tire Model' ignores the transient behavior of the tires while the 'Restricted Fully Nonlinear Model' incorporates the transient behavior. For both implementations, the calculated slip is then translated into a traction force using Pacejka's Magic Formula from [1]:

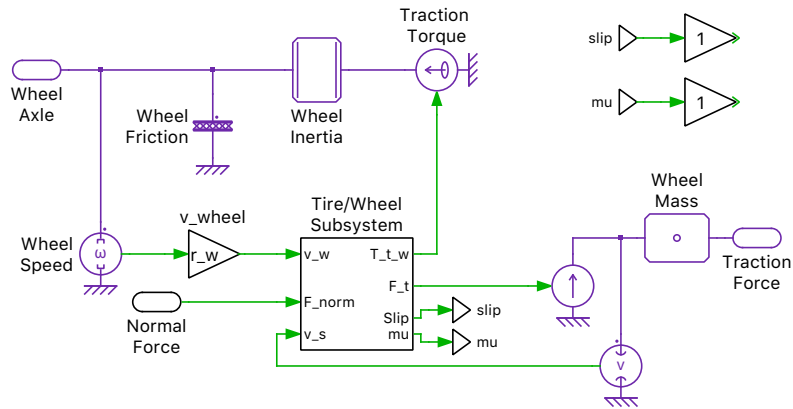
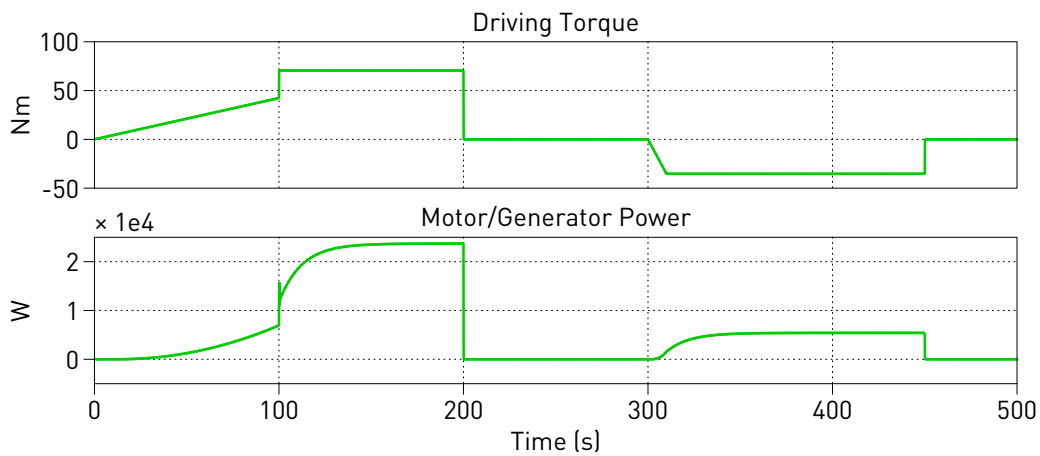
$$F_{\text{Traction}} = D_x \cdot \sin(C_x \cdot \arctan(B_x \cdot \lambda)),$$

where λ is the tire slip and B_x , C_x , and D_x are Magic Formula coefficients that are determined through experimental characterization of the vehicular system.

3 Simulation

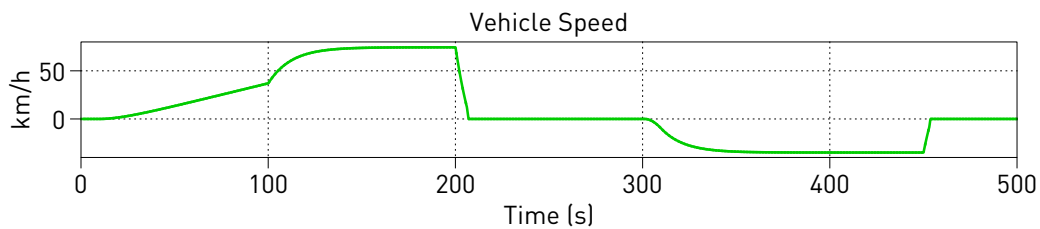
3.1 Driving profile

Fig. 4 below shows the torque applied by the electric motor on the vehicular system over the length of the simulation. A ramped accelerating torque demand is applied on the motor for the first 100 s. At $t = 100$ s, the accelerator is slammed down leading to a step change in the torque applied by the electric machine. At $t = 200$ s, the driver uses the mechanical brakes to slow the vehicle down, which leads to zero torque being applied by the motor. At $t = 300$ s, a negative torque is applied by the motor to reverse the vehicle. This torque is maintained over the next 150 s when the mechanical brakes are employed again to bring the vehicle to a standstill. Additionally, the power required by the motor is also plotted. As can be seen, the electric machine is only operated in motoring mode in this drive cycle.

**Fig. 3: Wheel model****Fig. 4: Mechanical drivecycle**

3.2 Velocity

The vehicle is initially at rest. The vehicle accelerates slowly from rest to 36 km/h over the first 100 s. At $t = 100$ s, a step change in torque causes a faster acceleration of the vehicle. The vehicle continues to accelerate until it reaches its final steady-state speed of 74 km/h at around $t = 150$ s. This steady-state speed is maintained until $t = 200$ s and then the brakes are applied, bringing the vehicle to a standstill in 4.7 s. At $t = 300$ s, the vehicle is reversed, reaching a final velocity of -34.9 m/s at $t = 380$ s. This speed is maintained until $t = 450$ s when the brakes are applied to bring the vehicle to standstill in 3.2 s.

**Fig. 5: Vehicle speed**

3.3 Weight distribution and accelerating traction force

Fig. 6 below shows the effect of the simulated drive cycle on the weight distribution of this vehicle. The accelerating force applied on the vehicle is shown in an additional plot. As can be seen, the ramped increase in forward acceleration over the first 100 s causes the weight of the vehicle to be slowly shifted to the rear of the vehicle. A step change in driving torque contributes to a sudden shift in the weight distribution of the vehicle to the rear. As the vehicle reaches steady-state speed, a constant weight distribution is maintained. As the vehicle is brought to a quick standstill, the weight is shifted to the front of the vehicle, as can be seen by the green spike at $t = 200$ s. As the vehicle is reversed, the weight of the vehicle is shifted towards the front of the vehicle due to acceleration in the negative direction. As the reversing vehicle is brought to a stop, the weight of the vehicle is shifted to the back of the vehicle, as can be seen by the red spike at $t = 450$ s. The waveform between $t = 205$ s and 300 s, and $t = 450$ s and 500 s shows the weight distribution of the vehicle at standstill.

The Traction Force plot shows the accelerating/decelerating force acting on the vehicle over the entire drive cycle. It can be seen that as the vehicle reaches steady-state speed, between $t = 150$ s and 200 s, the vehicle accelerating traction force is zero. During this period, the torque generated by the electric motor is used to overcome the force due to the road load.

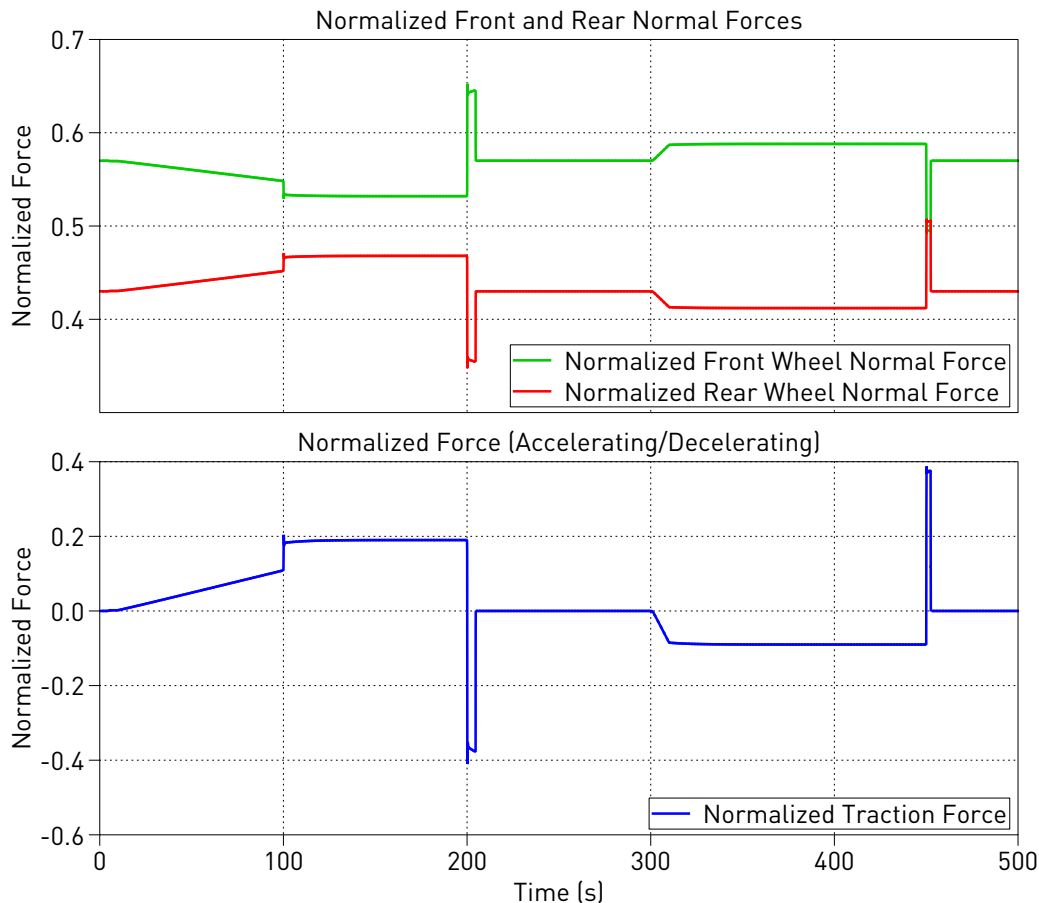


Fig. 6: Mechanical force

3.4 Regenerative braking

An alternative to slowing down the vehicle with mechanical brakes is using the the electric machine as a generator to recapture the kinetic energy. In Fig. 7 below, the negative torque between $t = 200$ s and 205 s is used to slow down the vehicle, leading to the machine being operated in generator mode, allowing the kinetic energy to be recaptured. Similarly, the positive torque applied between $t = 450$ s and 453 s is used

to slow down the reversing vehicle, allowing the kinetic energy to be recaptured.

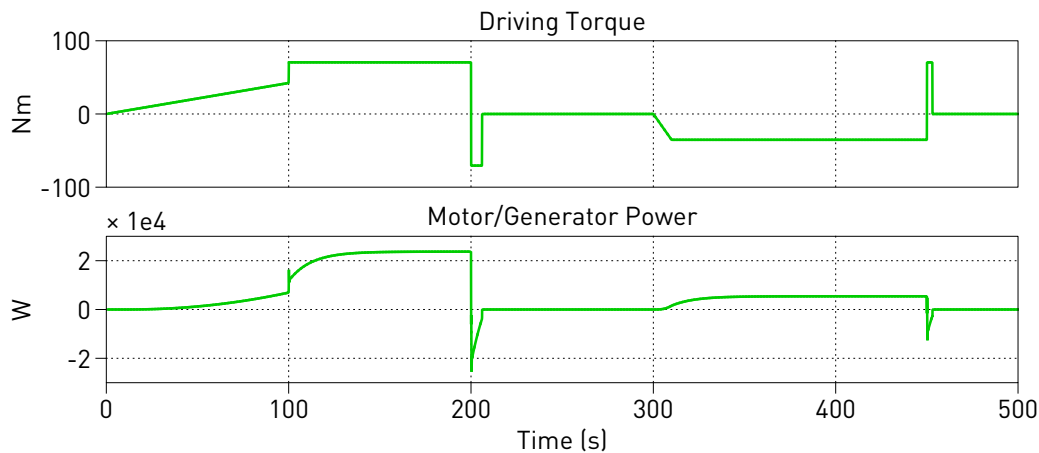


Fig. 7: Regenerative drivecycle

3.5 Restricted non-linear model vs basic model

The simulations may also be repeated using the 'Restricted Fully Nonlinear Model'. This implementation models the transient behavior of the tire/wheel, which results in a wind-up oscillation due to a step change in torque applied to the wheel. Fig. 8 below shows the accelerating/decelerating force applied on the vehicle due to instantaneous mechanical braking of the vehicle. These results correlate with the observations in Chapter 8 of the textbook [1].

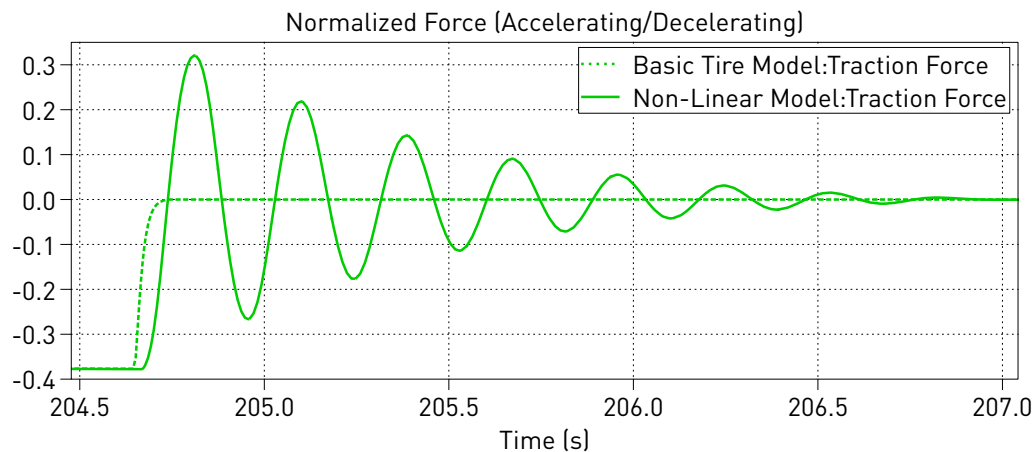


Fig. 8: Wheel implementation comparison

4 Conclusion

This model highlights a two-axle electric vehicle model with a front-wheel drive. PLECS mechanical domain components are used to create a non-linear mechanical load, allowing users to analyze the electrical drive system in more detail. Further enhancements of this model could involve providing a selection of various tire dimensions as well as road conditions. For more models highlighting the mechanical domain, please use the filter feature of the **PLECS Demo Models** library.

5 Bibliography

- [1] Pacejka, H.B, *Tire and Vehicle Dynamics*, 3rd Edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 2012, Chapters: 1, 4, 7, and 8.

Revision History:

PLECS 4.3.1 First release

How to Contact Plexim:

+41 44 533 51 00	Phone
+41 44 533 51 01	Fax
Plexim GmbH Technoparkstrasse 1 8005 Zurich Switzerland	Mail
info@plexim.com	Email
https://www.plexim.com	Web

PLECS Demo Model

© 2002–2026 by Plexim GmbH

The software PLECS described in this document is furnished under a license agreement. The software may be used or copied only under the terms of the license agreement. No part of this manual may be photocopied or reproduced in any form without prior written consent from Plexim GmbH.

PLECS is a registered trademark of Plexim GmbH. MATLAB, Simulink and Simulink Coder are registered trademarks of The MathWorks, Inc. Other product or brand names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.