



# Steering Towards Efficiency

The racing team is just as important to a car's finish as the driver is. With little to separate competitors over hundreds of laps, teams search for any technological edge that will propel them to Victory Lane. Of special use today is computational fluid dynamics, which is used to predict airflow over a car, both alone and in relation to other cars (for example, when drafting). Engineers also rely on more basic subjects, such as calculus and geometry, to improve their cars. In fact, one racing team engineer said of his calculus and physics teachers, "the classes they taught to this day were the most important classes I've ever taken."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Math and science skills essential to race car maintenance," Morgan Wall, *The Mount Airy News*, June 8, 2008.



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