

Description

Technical field

This invention relates to methods and apparatus for controlling the stopping of an elevator car in relation to changes in car velocity due to load changes.

Background art

Low cost elevator systems, such as those found in low rise apartment houses, warehouses and garages, are characterized by very simple, basic car motion control: basically start and stop. Unlike more sophisticated systems, where the car velocity is regulated to obtain a short "flight time" between floors without discomfort to the passengers, less costlier systems do not provide any form of car velocity control. Instead, car velocity is uncontrollably determined by the load: as the load increases, the car ascends slower and descends faster. One slight variation from this occurs in two speed A.C. systems: In those systems motor speed is switched from a high speed to a slowdown speed as the car is stopped. But this does not actually control the car velocity to any real extent because in either mode the load still alters the car velocity.

A typical car stopping sequence in a single speed system is this: As the elevator car approaches the floor, the motor is deactivated, at some distance from the floor level, and the brake is applied; the car then slides to a stop; ideally it smoothly stops precisely at the floor level. The operation of a two speed system is slightly different in that there the motor is slowed at a first distance from the floor level and then, at a second distance, which is closer to the floor, the motor is stopped and the brake is applied. But regardless which of the systems is used, if the car speed varies, that type of performance is very difficult to obtain because in most systems the stopping operation begins at a predetermined distance from the floor level, and that distance is usually determined by considering the maximum car velocity which occurs under full load down and no load up conditions. The maximum car velocity is obviously used because that dictates the maximum stopping distance required to position the car precisely at the floor. But this imposes a prescribed, unalterable car position at which the stopping action commences, regardless of the actual car velocity and, consequently, if the car velocity is less than the predetermined maximum velocity, the car will not stop precisely at the floor level, simply because less stopping distance is required at that lower velocity. If this happens, the car may undershoot the floor and the car then has to be moved slightly. The uneven ride often associated with low cost systems stems from such performance.

Owing to this limitation, a number of remedial approaches have been taken. These approaches, however, have added considerably to cost and complexity of the systems and have not proven to be extremely accurate or reliable, especially for

two speed systems. They may be characterized as those which mechanically respond to motor speed and those which electrically measure changes in power consumption; to detect changes in car velocity.

Generally speaking, the mechanical arrangements operate like a governor. As motor speed increases, it causes a contact, which energizes the brake, to be variably positioned, in proportion to the speed, from a cam which is moved to actuate the contact, in order to energize the brake. Depending on the motor speed, the distance required for the cam to move varies in proportion to the motor speed (hence, the load) and thus brake operation is delayed also in proportion to the load. This type of system, however, is not inexpensive, principally due to its rather complex structure. Furthermore, it also imposes a significant maintenance expense for the same reasons.

DE-B-1168036 discloses an elevator and a method as specified in the precharacterizing parts of claims 1 and 13 respectively. According to this document mechanical governors and profiled control discs are employed to provide a speed-dependent delay in the switching to electrical braking and the application of the brake.

Those systems following the mechanical approach measure the power consumed by the motor; the power varies, of course, roughly in proportion to the load. In its most simple form a power measuring system merely diverts a portion of the motor current through a transformer which produces a voltage at a transformer output. The magnitude of that voltage varies according to the motor current and therefore the load. The magnitude of the transformer output signal is utilized in conventional ways to variably control a timing circuit that initiates the stopping operation. Among the disadvantages of this scheme is that it has very poor sensitivity to actual load variations. Typically, the speed range for an A.C. motor used in a low cost elevator system is between 1000 and 1500 R.P.M.; yet the change in speed between maximum and minimum load conditions is frequently no more than 80 R.P.M. That requires a speed variation sensitivity of roughly 8%. A system of the power measuring type having that sensitivity is expensive. A further complication in the application of these systems is that the speed regulation of the motors in low cost systems is typically coarse (no better than 5% to 7%). Consequently, changes in motor speed due to poor motor speed regulation frequently are mistakenly sensed by these systems as changes in load. Another significant limitation with these systems is their susceptibility to erroneous readings due to high starting currents and line surges and, because of that, it is often necessary to sense both the motor currents and its phase angle. But this adds to the complexity of the system and therefore its cost. For all of these reasons, this type of load compensating system is not a very attractive approach in inexpensive elevator systems.

Because these prior art approaches raise reli-

ability, accuracy and service concerns, and add considerable cost, it is not surprising that they have not found wide acceptance as a solution to the car positioning problems found in low cost elevator systems, especially those using single and two speed A.C. motors. Thus there still is a need for a simple, highly reliable, low cost system for controlling the car stopping functions in relation to the car load, and manifestly a system which is equally suited for both retrofit and new equipment applications. Those needs are fulfilled by the method and apparatus of the present invention.

Disclosure of invention

Viewed from one aspect the invention provides an elevator comprising a car, a motor, having a shaft coupled to the car, and a brake system for stopping the car, a motor and brake operation control system including a system for generating a control signal to initiate car stopping operations at a fixed distance from each floor based upon a predetermined maximum car velocity V_{MAX} , and a load compensating system for modifying said operation based upon actual car velocity V , said elevator being characterized in that said compensating system comprises:

a motor speed sensor coupled to the motor shaft for producing, at least once during each motor revolution, a digital motor speed MS signal reflecting V in relation to the angular velocity of the shaft,

a reference signal generator for producing a predetermined digital reference REF signal manifesting the motor speed at V_{MAX} ,

means for producing, from said REF and MS signals, a difference DIF signal reflecting the difference between V_{MAX} and V , and

means triggered by the control signal from the motor and brake operation system and responsive to said DIF signal for initiating the stopping operations after a delay following production of said control signal and for varying said delay in proportion to the difference between V_{MAX} and V reflected by said DIF signal.

Viewed from another aspect the invention provides a method of controlling the operation of an elevator system of the kind comprising an elevator car and drive means, said drive means including a motor the speed of which varies according to the torque loading on it, brake means for halting the car and a component the angular velocity of which varies in proportion to said speed, said method being effective to bring the car to a halt at a floor level and characterised by:

producing by sensor means a first signal indicative of the angular velocity of said component, said first signal being produced during one revolution of said component,

producing a reference signal, that represents maximum angular velocity of said component,

comparing the first signal with the reference signal to derive a difference signal indicative of the weight carried by the car, and

controlling the operation of said drive means in response to said difference signal to compensate for weight carried by the car by delaying the slowing of the drive means in proportion to the magnitude of said difference signal.

Thus, in the preferred embodiment, motor speed is sensed through a tachometer-like arrangement which is coupled to the motor shaft to produce a motor speed (MS) signal whose characteristics change in proportion to motor speed (m) and therefore load. This signal is compared with a reference (REF) signal, during each revolution of the motor. The reference signal reflects the motor speed for maximum car velocity (V_{MAX}) conditions which occur during full load down (FLD) and no load up (NLU). The MS and REF signals are subtracted; the stopping and/or slowdown signals are generated at predetermined stopping distances, based on V_{MAX} , from the floor level, and the difference between the MS and REF signals at that time (when the car is still at a constant velocity) varies a delay in the transmission of stopping and/or slowdown signals to the motor and/or brake. If the car is in fact at V_{MAX} , the difference between the two signals is zero and thus there is no delay because none is needed. But if the car is in fact going a lower speed (i.e. V_{MIN}) (which occurs under no load down (NLD) or full load up (FLU)), the difference signal is greater than zero and delays the stop and/or slowdown operations by a predetermined time that is proportionally related to the difference. If car velocity is between V_{MAX} and V_{MIN} , the delay is smaller (due to the smaller difference signal), but nonetheless proportional, to the actual motor speed and therefore the car velocity, which is proportional to the load.

The present invention thus provides a method and apparatus which does not require a mechanical governor arrangement or mechanical sensing of the motor speed; nor does it require sensing motor power consumption in any way. The present invention, in contrast, provides a system which has extremely high accuracy because the signal manifesting the instantaneous motor speed is generated by actually measuring motor speed in time intervals less than time of a full motor rotation. This is particularly important since frequently the motor speeds vary by no more than 8% due to load variations.

A system according to the present invention furthermore is low cost, requires minimal, if any, maintenance and is easily deployed as a retrofit device which can be easily installed in older systems.

A further feature is that it may be implemented with a low cost microprocessor, or alternately, with discrete, digital or analog circuits.

Other features, benefits and qualities of the present invention will no doubt be obvious to one skilled in the art from the following description and drawings.

Brief description of drawings

Fig. 1 is a functional block diagram of a motor

and brake control system for controlling the operation of a two speed motor and brake in accordance with the teachings of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a graph of car velocity and time showing the stopping response of a two speed elevator system under two operating conditions; one condition is without any velocity adjustment; the other condition is with load adjustment provided by a system according to the invention;

Fig. 3 is a graph of velocity and time showing the response of a single speed elevator system under the conditions specified for Fig. 2; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are illustrations of a motor speed sensor system which can be used in a system according to the invention; each is partially an elevated view of a disc, which can be mounted on a motor shaft, and partially a functional block diagram of an electronic optical sensing system responsive to the rotation of the disc for generating the signals indicative of the speed of rotation of the motor.

Best mode for carrying out the invention

Fig. 1 shows a motor control system for controlling the operation of a two speed motor 10 and a motor brake 12 so as to achieve the overall car velocity profile (during stopping) shown by the curves A and B in Fig. 2, by sensing motor speed which reflects the actual load. Although not shown, the motor is connected to the car by cables to raise and lower it in an elevator shaft. Curve C shows the response for a two speed system without any load adjustment for minimum speed (V MIN) operation. Curve A, on the other hand, is the same with or without the system because no load adjustment is required for the maximum car speed conditions (V MAX) which determine the car position in the shaft at which the unmodified braking and slowdown control signals are generated. Curve B, however, is essentially curve C with delays, following the generation of the control signal for slowdown and stop respectively to compensate for the slower car velocity that requires less stopping time. The motor control system delays the operation of the brake and the slowdown mode (speed switching) of the motor when the car is moving at less than V MAX. The system delays the slowdown operation by a time t1 and the later activation of the brake by a time t2. As stated, there is not delay with respect to the slowdown and stop operations for the full load down (FLD) (i.e. 110% load) and no load up (NLU) as they are preset in the elevator system for those load conditions in that the mechanical devices or other apparatus which generate the control signals (slowdown and stop signals) are operated at particular points in the hoistway, which points are located by considering the stopping time for the car when it is at the V MAX. Whether the car is moving up or down it is necessary to generate the slow and stop commands at a point which is closer to the actual floor as the car velocity decreases from V MAX. The system in Fig. 1 does this by delaying the

transmission of the actuating signals to the motor and the brake by the times t1 and t2, respectively, which are varied in the system in Fig. 1 in direct proportion to the change in car speed which results from the change in car load, also called duty load.

Fig. 3, on the other hand, shows the load-velocity response of a single speed motor system, which is one that merely deactivates the motor and simultaneously activates the brake; in other words, one having only a stop mode. Curve D thus reflects the V MIN operation without the introduced delay t3 causing curve E. Curve F, like curve A in Fig. 2, reflects the V MAX operation which the invention does not alter since, as in the two speed system, this operation takes place at a predetermined distance above and below the floor, which distance is also determined from V MAX. In a single speed system a single delay of time t3 is introduced to delay activation of the brake signal and deactivation of the motor. The motor control system shown in Fig. 1 also works with a single speed system because it is continuously generating the proper time delay from the difference between V MAX and actual car velocity (V), and thus, it is simply a matter of selection (determined by whether the motor is single or dual speed) whether to use that time to delay a slowdown signal or the braking signal. In other words, this system has virtually universal application in that it modifies the present stopping operations or sequences (which are based on V MAX) for the actual velocity (V) by electronically sensing the motor speed during each revolution of the motor shaft.

To achieve these results, the system in Fig. 1 includes a motor speed sensing system 14 for sensing motor shaft speed and producing a motor speed (MS) signal which reflects the instantaneous motor speed or R.P.M. (m). The MS signal is supplied to the input of a subtractor 16. A generator 18 (i.e. triggered counter) generates a reference speed (REF) signal which corresponds to the particular MS signal produced by the sensing system 14 when the motor speed (n) is at its maximum, which occurs at V MAX (full load down and no load up operation). The REF signal is generated synchronously with the generation of the MS signal. The MS and REF signals are subtracted to produce a difference or error (DIF) signal which reflects the difference (m-n) and hence the difference between the instantaneous car velocity (V) and V MAX. If the car is fully loaded and moving down (FLD), the difference signal is zero. The same is also true if the car is unloaded and moving up (NLU). But if the car is not loaded and moving down (NLD), n is greater than m and therefore will be greater than zero. Stated as car velocity, this means V is less than V MAX.

The DIF signal is applied to a delay system 19 which generates delayed (in proportion to the magnitude of the DIF signal) slowdown (DLY SLOW) and delayed stop (DLY STOP) signals, over the so identified lines, in response to brake

and motor control signals (stop (STOP) and slowdown (SLDW) signals) on so named lines, from the motor and brake control 25. The DLY SLOW and DLY STOP signals are applied to the motor and brake control 24 which, in response, changes motor speed (in response to the DLY SLOW signal) and activates the brake and deactivates the motor (in response to the DLY STOP signal). The DIF signal is applied to one input of a first delaying circuit 20 (i.e. a programmable latch) and one input of a second delaying circuit 22, which comprise the delay system 19. The first delay circuit 20 receives the slowdown (SLDW) signal from motor controls 24; these are part of the basic elevator control system and include a slowdown signal generator 26 for producing the SLDW signal and a stop signal generator 28 for generating the STOP signal as the car approaches a floor. The first and second delay circuits 20 and 22 delay the transmission of the DLY SLOW and DLY STOP signals for a time (t_1 for the slowdown signal; t_2 for the stop signal) corresponding to the instantaneous magnitude of the difference signal, which reflects the instantaneous difference between V_{MAX} and V , as stated previously. When the SLDW signal is generated, it activates (triggers) the delay circuit 20 to read the instantaneous DIF signal then produced by the subtractor 16. After the delay t_1 , which is proportional to the magnitude of the DIF signal, the delay circuit generates the DLY SLOW signal which is supplied to the motor controls so as to cause the motor to change speed; the motor thus begins to slow down. When the car reaches the predetermined position in the hoistway where the STOP signal is generated, that signal causes the delay circuit 22 to then read the DIF signal then produced. It, delay circuit 22, produces the DLY STOP signal following the delay t_2 , which is varied by the delay circuit in proportion to the magnitude of the DIF signal read by the delay circuit 22 when the STOP signal is generated. Obviously, during the slowdown sequence the car has slowed down significantly from its normal speed and the DIF signal read by the delay circuit 22 will be greater than the DIF signal read by the delay circuit 20. However, it is merely a matter of appropriate scaling for the delay circuit 22 to provide the proper delay t_2 in response to a particular DIF signal and so the delay function should be designed so that when the car is at V_{MAX} , the DIF signal produced when the stop command is generated will cause t_2 to be zero. Thus, if the car is in fact moving slower due to a lower weight, the DIF signal (when the stop signal is generated) will be larger, thus causing t_2 to have a value other than zero.

The sensor 14 includes a detector 30 for measuring the motor speed in response to the motor shaft. This disc may contain a number of "slits" 34, as shown in the embodiment in Fig. 5, or a single slit or cut 36 having a predetermined disc circumference width of a few degrees, as shown in Fig. 4. The sensor 30 further includes an energy detector or receiver 38 (photocell) and

transmitter 37 (light source) which, in the embodiment in Fig. 5, transmits light through the slits to cause pulses 39 to be generated on the output of the detector 38. In the embodiment in Fig. 7, a single pulse 41 is generated by the motion of the disc. These pulses are supplied to one input to a gate 40 and the other input (41) receives the output from a clock 42. In the embodiment in Fig. 5, this clock produces at a frequency greater than that of the detector pulses, in other words, greater than the motor R.P.M., successive pulses. The detector pulse 41 gates these pulses to the gate output to produce a gate output signal 44 that consists of a pulse having a width w containing a number of the gated pulses. The number of pulses reflects the motor speed. As motor speed changes, w changes in proportion, thus proportionately changing the number of pulses in the signal 44. Alternatively, if the disc 32, shown in Fig. 4, is used, the clock 42 is used to generate a gate pulse 39 and the detector output comprises pulses, at a frequency greater than the clock frequency, which, in effect, divides the motor revolution into a number of increments. The frequency of the detector pulses and period are proportional to the motor speed. Obviously, in this embodiment the gate output signal 44 also consists of a number of pulses and this number reflects motor speed. Thus both versions of the sensor 14 produce an MS signal consisting of a pulse with a width w containing a number of sequential pulses whose number reflects the motor speed m . But in the embodiment in Fig. 4, w changes with motor speed.

The reference signal generator 18 is actuated by the first of these sequential pulses appearing in the MS signal and regardless of which sensor version (Fig. 4 or Fig. 5) is used, the purpose is to produce a fixed REF signal, when the MS signal is generated, so that the summation can be made synchronously in the summing circuit 16, in a usual manner.

An alternate embodiment obviously may use an N bit counter to generate a binary MS word, derived from the gate 40 output (signal 44), which would be summed in the subtractor 16 with a similar binary word from the reference generator 18. For example, the signal 44 may be supplied to the "clock" input of a binary counter which at the beginning of a gating sequence is reset to zero at reflect V_{MAX} . On receipt of the clock pulses the counter increments so that at the end of the gating period the counter has been incremented by m times where m is the number of clock pulses during the gating period. After a small delay to allow for settling time required for the binary counter, a signal is generated for application to a store input on a latch causing the binary number contained in the counter and reflecting V to be transferred to the latch. After a further settling period a signal is generated to "reset" input of the binary counter and to cause the count in the counter to be returned to zero. On the commencement of the next gating signal the sequence is repeated.

To obtain a count proportional to the change in speed the frequency of the clock oscillator is preset as follows: First, the minimum gating pulse width is calculated (this occurs at maximum motor RPM) from the arc 49 of the motor disc. Second, the clock oscillator is adjusted to obtain 2^n clock pulses in the "minimum gating pulse width" where n is the number of stages of the binary counter. Third, the number transferred to the latch during each sequence will now be proportional to the difference between maximum RPM and motor RPM at other loads. For example:

Max. motor RPM	=	1010
Arc of motor disc	=	170°
Number of counter stages	=	12
Revolutions/second	=	$\frac{1010}{60}$
	=	16.83
Period for one revolution	=	$\frac{1}{16.833}$
	=	0.0594 secs.
Gating period	=	$0.0594 \times \frac{170}{360}$
	=	0.02805 secs.
No. of clock pulses req'd	=	2^{12}
	=	4096
Counter clock frequency	=	$\frac{4096}{0.02805}$
	=	146024 Hz

Even though the embodiment of the invention in the system in Fig. 1 focuses on generating the reference signal n in synchronism with the speed signal m , it is obvious that the speed and reference signals do not have to be generated sequentially; instead, the MS signal can be a binary word. This binary MS signal can be supplied to a summing circuit which also receives a binary REF signal reflecting V_{MAX} . The two words can be subtracted to produce, at selected intervals the difference signal T whose magnitude will vary in proportion to the motor speed. The binary word reflecting the difference can be used to proportionately control the delay in the transmission of the stop and slowdown signals. Quite clearly, this type of approach may be easily accomplished through the use of a system

employing a microprocessor, or discrete digital components.

Another embodiment of the invention may use a microprocessor in this manner, which is similar to that of the mentioned binary counter: An incremental counter in the processor counts between the beginning and end points of a pulse that reflects the motor speed. This pulse is provided from the motor speed sensor (such as the one shown above for the binary counter) and has a duration that varies in proportion to the motor speed and load. A base count reflecting maximum car velocity is stored in the microprocessor. When a stop or slowdown signal is generated, the microprocessor, in response, subtracts the base count from the most current incremental count to produce a difference count. The difference count is analogous to the DIF signal and, accordingly, may be used in the same manner to vary the delays.

A system of this type and others may utilize this extremely inexpensive, simple sensor apparatus: A piece of reflective metal tape is attached to the motor shaft which is painted flat black. A photo-transistor is positioned close to the shaft where it can respond to the light reflected from the tape to produce a pulse. The duration of this pulse obviously varies in proportion to the motor speed and therefore proportionately reflects the load. Obviously, this sensor apparatus may also be used in conjunction with the discrete binary counter system mentioned earlier.

Claims

1. An elevator comprising a car, a motor (10), having a shaft coupled to the car, and a brake system (12) for stopping the car, a motor and brake operation control system (24) including a system (26, 28) for generating a control signal to initiate car stopping operations at a fixed distance from each floor based upon a predetermined maximum car velocity V_{MAX} , and a load compensating system for modifying said operation based upon actual car velocity V , said elevator being characterized in that said compensating system comprises:

a motor speed sensor (14) coupled to the motor shaft for producing, at least once during each motor revolution, a digital motor speed MS signal reflecting V in relation to the angular velocity of the shaft,

a reference signal generator (18) for producing a predetermined digital reference REF signal manifesting the motor speed at V_{MAX} ,

means (16) for producing, from said REF and MS signals, a difference DIF signal reflecting the difference between V_{MAX} and V , and

means (19) triggered by the control signal from the motor and brake operation system and responsive to said DIF signal for initiating the stopping operations after a delay following production of said control signal and for varying said delay in proportion to the difference between V_{MAX} and V reflected by said DIF signal.

To obtain a count proportional to the change in speed the frequency of the clock oscillator is preset as follows: First, the minimum gating pulse width is calculated (this occurs at maximum motor RPM) from the arc 49 of the motor disc. Second, the clock oscillator is adjusted to obtain 2^n clock pulses in the "minimum gating pulse width" where n is the number of stages of the binary counter. Third, the number transferred to the latch during each sequence will now be proportional to the difference between maximum RPM and motor RPM at other loads. For example:

Max. motor RPM	=	1010
Arc of motor disc	=	170°
Number of counter stages	=	12
		1010
Revolutions/second	=	60
	=	16.83
		1
Period for one revolution	=	16.833
	=	0.0594 secs.
		170
Gating period	=	$0.0594 \times \frac{170}{360}$
	=	0.02805 secs.
No. of clock pulses req'd	=	2^{12}
	=	4096
		4096
Counter clock frequency	=	0.02805
	=	146024 Hz

Even though the embodiment of the invention in the system in Fig. 1 focuses on generating the reference signal n in synchronism with the speed signal m , it is obvious that the speed and reference signals do not have to be generated sequentially; instead, the MS signal can be a binary word. This binary MS signal can be supplied to a summing circuit which also receives a binary REF signal reflecting V_{MAX} . The two words can be subtracted to produce, at selected intervals the difference signal T whose magnitude will vary in proportion to the motor speed. The binary word reflecting the difference can be used to proportionately control the delay in the transmission of the stop and slowdown signals. Quite clearly, this type of approach may be easily accomplished through the use of a system

employing a microprocessor, or discrete digital components.

Another embodiment of the invention may use a microprocessor in this manner, which is similar to that of the mentioned binary counter: An incremental counter in the processor counts between the beginning and end points of a pulse that reflects the motor speed. This pulse is provided from the motor speed sensor (such as the one shown above for the binary counter) and has a duration that varies in proportion to the motor speed and load. A base count reflecting maximum car velocity is stored in the microprocessor. When a stop or slowdown signal is generated, the microprocessor, in response, subtracts the base count from the most current incremental count to produce a difference count. The difference count is analogous to the DIF signal and, accordingly, may be used in the same manner to vary the delays.

A system of this type and others may utilize this extremely inexpensive, simple sensor apparatus: A piece of reflective metal tape is attached to the motor shaft which is painted flat black. A photo-transistor is positioned close to the shaft where it can respond to the light reflected from the tape to produce a pulse. The duration of this pulse obviously varies in proportion to the motor speed and therefore proportionately reflects the load. Obviously, this sensor apparatus may also be used in conjunction with the discrete binary counter system mentioned earlier.

Claims

1. An elevator comprising a car, a motor (10), having a shaft coupled to the car, and a brake system (12) for stopping the car, a motor and brake operation control system (24) including a system (26, 28) for generating a control signal to initiate car stopping operations at a fixed distance from each floor based upon a predetermined maximum car velocity V_{MAX} , and a load compensating system for modifying said operation based upon actual car velocity V , said elevator being characterized in that said compensating system comprises:

a motor speed sensor (14) coupled to the motor shaft for producing, at least once during each motor revolution, a digital motor speed MS signal reflecting V in relation to the angular velocity of the shaft,

a reference signal generator (18) for producing a predetermined digital reference REF signal manifesting the motor speed at V_{MAX} ,

means (16) for producing, from said REF and MS signals, a difference DIF signal reflecting the difference between V_{MAX} and V , and

means (19) triggered by the control signal from the motor and brake operation system and responsive to said DIF signal for initiating the stopping operations after a delay following production of said control signal and for varying said delay in proportion to the difference between V_{MAX} and V reflected by said DIF signal.



2. An elevator according to claim 1, characterized in that said motor speed sensor comprises:

- an energy transmitter (37),
- an energy detector (38),

energy modulator means (32) mounted on the motor shaft and positioned with respect to the transmitter and detector for modulating, during each shaft rotation, the energy transmitted between said detector and transmitter for producing a detector output signal having characteristics proportionally reflecting the motor speed; and a signal generator (40, 42) responsive to said detector output signal for generating said MS signal.

3. An elevator according to claim 2, characterized in that,

said modulator produces, during each motor revolution, a detector output signal (44) comprising at least one pulse, and varies the duration of said pulse in proportion to shaft rotational speed, and

said signal generator produces an MS signal comprising a number of pulses, and varies said number in proportion to the duration of said detector output signal pulse.

4. An elevator according to claim 2, characterized in that,

said modulator produces, within a motor revolution, a detector signal comprising a number of successive pulses (39), said number being proportional to the angular velocity, and

said signal generator produces, at intervals during each motor revolution, an MS signal comprising a lesser number of pulses and varies, at each interval, said lesser number in proportion to the number of said detector signal pulses produced during said interval.

5. An elevator according to claim 3, characterized in that said signal generator comprises:

- a clock (42) generating a plurality of successive pulses at a frequency substantially greater than the frequency of said detector signal pulses, and
- a gate (40) receiving the clock output and said detector signal for gating a number of said clock pulses to the gate output during each detector signal pulse.

6. An elevator according to claim 4, characterized in that said signal generator comprises:

- a clock (42) generating a plurality of successive pulses at a frequency less than the frequency of said detector signal pulses, and

a gate (40) receiving the detector signal and said clock pulses for gating a number of said detector pulses to the gate output during each clock pulse.

7. An elevator according to claim 2, characterized in that,

said modulator produces a detector signal comprising a pulse whose duration is proportional to the angular velocity of the motor shaft, and

said signal generator comprises means for generating, from said detector pulse, a binary

word whose magnitude is proportional to the duration of said pulse.

8. An elevator according to claim 7, characterized in that said binary word generator means comprises:

- a clock (42), actuated by the detector signal pulse, generating clock pulses for the duration of the pulse, and

- a binary counter, reset following each detector signal pulse and incremented by each clock pulse.

9. An elevator according to any one of the claims 3, 4, 7 characterized in that,

said modulator means comprises a disc (32) which rotates with the motor shaft and is slotted to periodically allow energy transmission from said transmitter to said detector.

10. An elevator according to claim 9, characterized in that,

said energy transmitter is a light source, and said detector is a photocell.

11. An elevator according to any one of claims 1-8, characterized in that,

said triggered means produces a signal which is supplied to the motor and brake control system, after said delay, to initiate the stopping operation, said delay being proportional to said difference.

12. An elevator according to any one of claims 1-8, characterized in that,

said trigger means produces, in response to a slowdown control signal, a first signal that is supplied to the motor control and brake control system, after a controllable delay, to initiate a motor slowdown sequence, and produces, in response to a subsequent stop control signal, a second signal, also supplied to the motor and brake control system after a second delay, initiating a stopping operation including stopping the motor and actuating the brake; said delays being proportional to the difference reflected by the DIF signal produced when their respective control signal is generated.

13. A method of controlling the operation of an elevator system of the kind comprising an elevator car and drive means, said drive means including a motor (10) the speed of which varies according to the torque loading on it, brake means (12) for halting the car and a component (32) the angular velocity of which varies in proportion to said speed, said method being effective to bring the car to a halt at a floor level and characterised by:

- producing by sensor means (14) a first signal indicative of the angular velocity of said component, said first signal being produced during one revolution of said component,

- producing a reference signal, that represents maximum angular velocity of said component, comparing the first signal with the reference signal to derive a difference signal indicative of the weight carried by the car, and

- controlling the operation of said drive means in response to said difference signal to compensate for weight carried by the car by delaying the slowing of the drive means in proportion to the magnitude of said difference signal.



14. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the steps of arranging said sensor means to produce a plurality of prospective first signals repetitively while said component is rotating and selecting one of the prospective first signals occurring when the speed of the car is substantially constant to be the first signal to be compared with the reference signal.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the selection of said first signal from said prospective first signals is effected by comparing each prospective first signal with said reference signal to produce a plurality of prospective difference signals and then selecting a prospective difference signal occurring at a time when the speed of the car is substantially constant to be the difference signal utilized for controlling the operation of the drive means.

16. A method according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said step of selecting is taken in response to a control signal issued at a predetermined time prior to arrival of said car at said floor level and subsequent to attainment by said car of a substantially constant velocity.

17. A method according to any one of claims 13, 14 or 15 wherein said step of controlling comprises the step of actuating said brake means for a period which varies in response to said difference signal.

18. A method according to any one of claims 13, 14 or 15 wherein said step of controlling comprises the step of actuating said brake means at a second time which varies from a first time by an interval the duration of which is responsive to said difference signal, said first time being a predetermined time prior to arrival of said car at said floor level and subsequent to attainment by said car of a substantially constant speed.

19. A method according to claim 18 further comprising the steps of issuing a control signal at said first time, producing in response to said control signal and from a first signal produced at a time in close proximity to said first time, said difference signal, and actuating said brakes at said interval after said first time the duration of which is responsive to said difference signal.

20. A method according to any one of claims 13, 14 or 15 wherein said step of controlling comprises the step of actuating said brake means when said car is at a second distance which varies from a first distance by an amount which is responsive to said difference signal, said first distance being a predetermined distance from said floor level.

21. A method according to any one of claims 13, 14 or 15 wherein said step of controlling said drive means comprises controlling the operation of said motor means and controlling the operation of said brake means in response to said difference signal.

22. A method according to any of claims 13 to 21 further comprising the step of adjusting said reference signal so that said difference signal varies in direct proportion to a change in weight carried by said car.

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Aufzug, umfassend eine Kabine, einen Motor (10), dessen Welle mit der Kabine verbunden ist, und ein Bremssystem (12) zum Anhalten der Kabine, ein Steuersystem (24) für den Motor- und Bremsbetrieb, einschließlich eines Systems (26, 28) zur Erzeugung eines Steuersignals zwecks Einleitung der Kabinen-anhaltvorgänge in einem festgelegten Abstand zu jeder Etage, basierend auf einer vorbestimmten maximalen Kabinengeschwindigkeit V_{MAX} , sowie ein Belastungsausgleichssystem zur Veränderung des genannten Vorgangs auf der Basis der tatsächlichen Kabinengeschwindigkeit V , wobei der genannte Aufzug dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß das genannte Ausgleichssystem umfaßt:

einen Motordrehzahlsensor (14), der mit der Motorwelle in Verbindung steht, um zumindest einmal während jeder Motorumdrehung ein digitales Motordrehzahl-(MS)-Signal zu erzeugen, das V im Verhältnis zur Winkelgeschwindigkeit der Welle wiedergibt,

einen Referenzsignalerzeuger (18) zur Erzeugung eines vorbestimmten Digitalreferenz-(REF)-Signals, das die Motorumdrehungszahl bei V_{MAX} bestimmt,

eine Vorrichtung (16), um aus den genannten REF- und MS-Signalen ein Differenz-(DIF)-Signal zu erzeugen, das die Differenz zwischen V_{MAX} und V wiedergibt, und

eine Vorrichtung (19), die über das Steuersignal des Motor- und Bremsbetriebssystems ausgelöst wird und auf das genannte DIF-Signal zwecks Einleitung der Anhaltvorgänge nach einer Verzögerung im Anschluß an die Erzeugung des genannten Steuersignals anspricht und der Veränderung der genannten Verzögerung im Verhältnis zur Differenz zwischen V_{MAX} und V , durch das genannte DIF-Signal wiedergegeben, dient.

2. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der genannte Motordrehzahlsensor umfaßt:

einen Energietransmitter (37),

einen Energiedetektor (38),

eine Energiemodulatorvorrichtung (32), die auf der Motorwelle montiert und im Verhältnis zum Transmitter und Detektor so angeordnet ist, daß während jeder Wellenumdrehung eine Modulation der zwischen dem genannten Detektor und dem Transmitter übertragenen Energie zwecks Erzeugung eines Detektorausgangssignals erfolgt, dessen Kenngrößen die Motordrehzahl proportional wiedergeben, und

einen Signalzeuger (40, 42), der auf das genannte Detektorausgangssignal zwecks Erzeugung des genannten MS-Signals anspricht.

3. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß

der genannte Modulator während jeder motorumdrehung ein Detektorausgangssignal (44) erzeugt, das zumindest einen Impuls umfaßt und



die Dauer des genannten Impulses im Verhältnis zur Wellenumdrehungszahl verändert, und der genannte Signalerzeuger ein MS-Signal erzeugt, das eine Anzahl von Impulsen umfaßt und die genannte Anzahl im Verhältnis zur Dauer des genannten Detektorausgangssignalimpulses verändert.

4. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß

der genannte Modulator innerhalb einer Motorumdrehung ein Detektorsignal erzeugt, das eine Anzahl aufeinanderfolgender Impulse (39) umfaßt, wobei sich die genannte Anzahl proportional zur Winkelgeschwindigkeit verhält, und der genannte Impulserzeuger in Abständen während jeder Motorumdrehung ein MS-Signal erzeugt, das eine geringere Anzahl von Impulsen umfaßt und bei jedem Abstand die genannte geringere Anzahl im Verhältnis zur Anzahl der genannten Detektorsignalimpulse, die während des genannten Abstands erzeugt werden, verändert.

5. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der genannte Signalerzeuger umfaßt:

eine Uhr (42) zur Erzeugung einer Vielzahl aufeinanderfolgender Impulse mit einer Frequenz, die wesentlich über derjenigen der genannten Detektorsignalimpulse liegt, und

eine Steuereinheit (40) zur Aufnahme des Uhrenaussgangs und des genannten Detektorsignals, um eine Anzahl der genannten Uhrenimpulse zum Steuerausgang während eines jeden Detektorsignalimpulses auszusteuern.

6. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der genannte Signalerzeuger umfaßt:

einen Uhr (42) zur Erzeugung einer Vielzahl aufeinanderfolgender Impulse mit einer Frequenz, die unter derjenigen der genannten Detektorsignalimpulse liegt, und

eine Steuereinheit (40) zur Aufnahme des Detektorsignals und der genannten Uhrenimpulse, um eine Anzahl der genannten Detektorimpulse während eines jeden Uhrenimpulses zum Steuerausgang auszusteuern.

7. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der genannte Modulator ein Detektorsignal erzeugt, das einen Impuls umfaßt, dessen Dauer sich proportional zur Winkelgeschwindigkeit der Motorwelle verhält, und

der genannte Signalerzeuger eine Vorrichtung umfaßt, die aus dem genannten Detektorimpuls ein Binärwort erzeugt, dessen Länge sich proportional zur Dauer des genannten Impulses verhält.

8. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die genannte Binärworterzeugungsvorrichtung umfaßt:

eine Uhr (42), betätigt über den Detektorsignalimpuls, zur Erzeugung von Uhrenimpulsen während der Dauer des Impulses, und

einen Binärzähler, der im Anschluß an jeden Detektorsignalimpuls zurückgestellt und von jedem Uhrenimpuls schrittweise erneut gestartet wird.

9. Ein Aufzug gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 3, 4, 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die genannte Modulatorvorrichtung eine Scheibe (32) umfaßt, die sich mit der Motorwelle dreht und entsprechende Schlitze aufweist, um periodisch eine Energieübertragung vom genannten Transmitter zum genannten Detektor zu ermöglichen.

10. Ein Aufzug gemäß Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der genannte Energietransmitter eine Lichtquelle und

der genannte Detektor eine Photozelle ist.

11. Ein Aufzug gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die genannte Auslösevorrichtung ein Signal erzeugt, das nach der genannten Verzögerung zum Motor- und Bremssteuersystem übertragen wird, um den Anhaltevorgang einzuleiten, wobei sich die genannte Verzögerung proportional zur genannten Differenz verhält.

12. Ein Aufzug gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die genannte Auslösevorrichtung durch Ansprechen auf ein Steuersignal zur Verlangsamung ein erstes Signal erzeugt, das nach einer kontrollierbaren Verzögerung zum Motor- und Bremssteuersystem übertragen wird, um eine Motorverlangsamungssequenz einzuleiten, und die durch Ansprechen auf ein nachfolgendes, Anhaltesteuersignal ein zweites Signal erzeugt, das ebenfalls nach einer zweiten Verzögerung zum Motor- und Bremssteuersystem übertragen wird, um einen Anhaltevorgang einzuleiten, der ein Anhalten des Motors und eine Betätigung der Bremse beinhaltet, wobei sich diese Verzögerungen proportional zur Differenz verhalten, die vom DIF-Signal wiedergegeben wird, das entsteht, wenn deren entsprechendes Steuer-signal erzeugt wird.

13. Eine Methode zur Steuerung des Betriebs eines Aufzugsystems in einer Ausführung, die eine Aufzugskabine und Antriebsvorrichtungen umfaßt, wobei die genannten Antriebsvorrichtungen einen Motor (10), dessen Drehzahl sich je nach Drehmomentbelastung verändert, eine Bremsvorrichtung (12) zum Anhalten der Kabine und ein Bauteil (32) umfassen, dessen Winkelgeschwindigkeit sich im Verhältnis zur genannten Drehzahl ändert, wobei die genannte Methode bewirkt, daß die Kabine auf einer Etagenhöhe angehalten wird, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß: durch eine Sensorvorrichtung (14) ein erstes Signal erzeugt wird, das die Winkelgeschwindigkeit des genannten Bauteils wiedergibt, wobei das genannte erste Signal während einer Umdrehung des genannten Bauteils erzeugt wird, ein Referenzsignal erzeugt wird, das der maximalen Winkelgeschwindigkeit des genannten Bauteils entspricht,

das erste Signal mit dem Referenzsignal verglichen wird, um eine Differenzsignal zu erhalten, das das von der Kabine getragene Gewicht wiedergibt, und

der Betrieb der genannten Antriebsvorrich-



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tungen durch Ansprechen auf das genannte Differenzsignal gesteuert wird, um das von der Kabine getragene Gewicht über eine Verzögerung der Verlangsamung der Antriebsvorrichtungen im Verhältnis zur Größe des genannten Differenzsignals auszugleichen.

14. Eine Methode gemäß Anspruch 13, weiterhin umfassend die Schritte der Anordnung der genannten Sensorvorrichtung zur wiederholten Erzeugung einer Vielzahl zu erwartender erster Signale während der Drehung des genannten Bauteils und der Auswahl eines der zu erwartenden ersten Signale zu einem Zeitpunkt, wenn die Geschwindigkeit der Kabine im wesentlichen konstant ist, um so als erstes Signal mit dem Referenzsignal verglichen zu werden.

15. Eine Methode gemäß Anspruch 14, wobei die Auswahl des genannten ersten Signals aus den genannten zu erwartenden ersten Signalen durch einen Vergleich eines jeden zu erwartenden ersten Signals mit dem genannten Referenzsignal zwecks Erzeugung einer Vielzahl zu erwartender Differenzsignale und durch anschließende Auswahl eines zu erwartenden Differenzsignals zu einem Zeitpunkt erfolgt, wenn die Geschwindigkeit der Kabine im wesentlichen konstant ist, um so als Differenzsignal zur Steuerung des Betriebs der Antriebsvorrichtungen zu dienen.

16. Eine Methode gemäß Anspruch 14 oder Anspruch 15, wobei der genannte Schritt des Auswählens durch Ansprechen auf ein Steuersignal erfolgt, das zu einem vorbestimmten Zeitpunkt vor Eintreffen der genannten Kabine auf der genannten Etagenhöhe und im Anschluß an das Erreichen einer im wesentlichen konstanten Geschwindigkeit der genannten Kabine erzeugt wird.

17. Eine Methode gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 13, 14 oder 15, wobei der genannte Schritt der Steuerung den Schritt der Betätigung der genannten Bremsvorrichtung während einer Zeitdauer umfaßt, die sich durch Ansprechen auf das genannte Differenzsignal ändert.

18. Eine Methode gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 13, 14 oder 15, wobei der genannte Schritt der Steuerung den Schritt der Betätigung der genannten Bremsvorrichtung zu einem zweiten Zeitpunkt umfaßt, der von einer ersten Zeit um einen Abstand abweicht, dessen Dauer vom genannten Differenzsignal abhängt, wobei es sich bei der genannten ersten Zeit um eine vorbestimmte Zeit vor Eintreffen der genannten Kabine auf der genannten Etagenhöhe und im Anschluß an das Erreichen einer im wesentlichen konstanten Geschwindigkeit der genannten Kabine handelt.

19. Eine Methode gemäß Anspruch 18, weiterhin umfassend die Schritte der Erzeugung eines Steuersignals zur genannten ersten Zeit, der gleichzeitigen Erzeugung des genannten Differenzsignals durch Ansprechen auf das genannte Steuersignal und aufgrund eines ersten Signals in unmittelbarer Nähe zur genannten ersten Zeit sowie der Betätigung der genannten Bremsen im genannten Abstand nach der

genannten ersten Zeit, deren Dauer vom genannten Differenzsignal abhängt.

20. Eine Methode gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 13, 14 oder 15, wobei der genannte Schritt der Steuerung den Schritt der Betätigung der genannten Bremsvorrichtung umfaßt, wenn sich die genannte Kabine in einem zweiten Abstand befindet, der von einem ersten Abstand um eine Größenordnung abweicht, die vom genannten Differenzsignal abhängt, wobei es sich bei dem genannten ersten Abstand um einen vorbestimmten Abstand von der genannten Etagenhöhe handelt.

21. Eine Methode gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 13, 14 oder 15, wobei der genannte Schritt der Steuerung der genannten Antriebsvorrichtungen die Steuerung des Betriebs der genannten Motorvorrichtung und die Steuerung des Betriebs der genannten Bremsvorrichtung durch Ansprechen auf das genannte Differenzsignal umfaßt.

22. Eine Methode gemäß irgendeinem der Ansprüche 13 bis 21, weiterhin umfassend den Schritt der Angleichung des genannten Referenzsignals, so daß sich das genannte Differenzsignal in direkter Abhängigkeit zur Veränderung des von der genannten Kabine getragenen Gewichts ändert.

Revendications

1. Ascenseur comprenant une cabine, un moteur (10) présentant un arbre accouplé à la cabine et un système de frein (12) pour arrêter la cabine, un système de commande de fonctionnement de moteur et de frein (24) comprenant un système (26, 28) pour engendrer un signal de commande pour amorcer les opérations d'arrêt de la cabine à une distance fixe de chaque palier sur la base d'une vitesse maximale prédéterminée V MAX de la cabine et un système de compensation de charge pour modifier cette opération sur la base de la vitesse effective V de la cabine, cet ascenseur étant caractérisé par le fait que le système de compensation comprend:

un capteur de vitesse du moteur (14) accouplé à l'arbre du moteur pour engendrer, au moins une fois pendant chaque tour du moteur, un signal numérique de vitesse du moteur MS reflétant V en relation avec la vitesse angulaire de l'arbre, un générateur de signal de référence (18) pour engendrer un signal numérique de référence prédéterminé REF manifestant la vitesse du moteur à V MAX,

des moyens (16) pour engendrer, en partant des signaux REF et MS, un signal de différence DIF reflétant la différence entre V MAX et V, et des moyens (19), déclenchés par le signal de commande venant du système de fonctionnement de moteur et de frein et répondant au signal DIF pour amorcer les opérations d'arrêt après un retard à la suite de la production du signal de commande et pour faire varier ce retard en proportion de la différence entre V MAX et V, reflétée par le signal DIF.





2. Ascenseur selon la revendication 1, caractérisé par le fait que le capteur de vitesse du moteur comprend:

un transmetteur d'énergie (37),

un détecteur d'énergie (38),

des moyens modulateurs d'énergie (32) montés sur l'arbre du moteur et positionnés par rapport au transmetteur et au détecteur pour moduler, pendant chaque tour de l'arbre, l'énergie transmise entre le détecteur et le transmetteur pour engendrer un signal de sortie de détecteur ayant des caractéristiques reflétant proportionnellement la vitesse du moteur; et

un générateur de signal (40, 42) répondant audit signal de sortie du détecteur pour produire ledit signal MS.

3. Ascenseur selon la revendication 2, caractérisé par le fait que le modulateur engendre, pendant chaque tour du moteur, un signal de sortie de détecteur (44) comprenant au moins une impulsion et fait varier la durée de cette impulsion en proportion de la vitesse de rotation de l'arbre, et que le générateur de signal engendre un signal MS comprenant un certain nombre d'impulsions et fait varier ce nombre en proportion de la durée de l'impulsion de signal de sortie du détecteur.

4. Ascenseur selon la revendication 2, caractérisé par le fait que le modulateur engendre, en un tour du moteur, un signal de détecteur comprenant un certain nombre d'impulsions successives (39), ce nombre étant proportionnel à la vitesse angulaire, et que le générateur de signal engendre, à des intervalles pendant chaque tour du moteur, un signal MS comprenant un moindre nombre d'impulsions et fait varier ce moindre nombre, à chaque intervalle, en proportion du nombre d'impulsions de signal de détecteur engendrées pendant cet intervalle.

5. Ascenseur selon la revendication 3, caractérisé par le fait que le générateur de signal comprend:

une horloge (42) engendrant de multiples impulsions successives à une fréquence notablement supérieure à la fréquence des impulsions de signal de détecteur, et

une porte (40) recevant la sortie de l'horloge et le signal de détecteur pour transmettre un certain nombre des impulsions d'horloge à la sortie de la porte pendant chaque impulsion de signal de détecteur.

6. Ascenseur selon la revendication 4, caractérisé par le fait que le générateur de signal comprend:

une horloge (42) engendrant de multiples impulsions successives à une fréquence inférieure à la fréquence des impulsions de signal de détecteur, et

une porte (40) recevant le signal de détecteur et les impulsions d'horloge pour transmettre un certain nombre des impulsions de détecteur à la sortie de la porte pendant chaque impulsion d'horloge.

7. Ascenseur selon la revendication 2, caractérisé par le fait que le modulateur engendre un signal de détecteur comprenant une impulsion

dont la durée est proportionnelle à la vitesse angulaire de l'arbre du moteur, et que le générateur de signal comprend des moyens pour engendrer, en partant de l'impulsion de détecteur, un mot binaire dont la gradeur est proportionnelle à la durée de cette impulsion.

8. Ascenseur selon la revendication 7, caractérisé par le fait que les moyens générateurs de mot binaire comprennent:

une horloge (42) actionnée par l'impulsion de signal de détecteur, engendrant des impulsions d'horloge pendant la durée de l'impulsion; et

un compteur binaire, remis à zéro à la suite de chaque impulsion de signal de détecteur et avançant sous l'action de chaque impulsion d'horloge.

9. Ascenseur selon l'une quelconque des revendications 3, 4 et 7, caractérisé par le fait que les moyens modulateurs comprennent un disque (32) qui tourne avec l'arbre du moteur et est fendu de manière à permettre périodiquement la transmission d'énergie du transmetteur au détecteur.

10. Ascenseur selon la revendication 9, caractérisé par le fait que le transmetteur d'énergie est une source lumineuse et que le détecteur est une cellule photoélectrique.

11. Ascenseur selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8, caractérisé par le fait que les moyens déclenchés engendrent un signal qui est fourni aux systèmes de commande de moteur et de frein, après le retard mentionné, pour amorcer l'opération d'arrêt, le retard étant proportionnel à la différence mentionnée.

12. Ascenseur selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8, caractérisé par le fait que les moyens de déclenchement engendrent, en réponse à un signal de commande de ralentissement, un premier signal qui est fourni au système de commande de moteur et de commande de frein, après un retard réglable, pour amorcer un processus de ralentissement du moteur et engendre, en réponse à un signal de commande d'arrêt qui suit, un deuxième signal, aussi fourni au système de commande de moteur et de frein après un deuxième retard, amorçant une opération d'arrêt comprenant l'arrêt du moteur et l'actionnement du frein; les retards étant proportionnels à la différence reflétée par le signal DIF engendré quand leur signal de commande respectif est engendré.

13. Procédé de commande du fonctionnement d'un système d'ascenseur du type comprenant une cabine d'ascenseur et des moyens d'entraînement, ces moyens d'entraînement comprenant un moteur (10) dont la vitesse varie selon le couple qui le charge, des moyens de freinage (12) pour arrêter la cabine et un composant (32) dont la vitesse angulaire varie en proportion de ladite vitesse, ce procédé ayant pour effet d'amener la cabine à un arrêt à un niveau de palier et caractérisé par le fait que des moyens capteurs (14) engendrent un premier signal indiquant la vitesse angulaire du composant, ce premier signal étant engendré pendant un tour du composant, qu'il est engendré un signal de



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référence qui représente la vitesse angulaire maximale du composant, que le premier signal est comparé au signal de référence pour tirer un signal de différence indiquant le poids porté par la cabine, et que le fonctionnement des moyens d'entraînement est commandé en réponse au signal de différence pour compenser le poids porté par la cabine en retardant le ralentissement des moyens d'entraînement en proportion de la grandeur du signal de différence.

14. Procédé selon la revendication 13, comprenant en outre les étapes consistant à arranger les moyens capteurs pour engendrer de multiples premiers signaux de prospection à répétition pendant que le composant tourne et à choisir l'un des premiers signaux de prospection se produisant quand la vitesse de la cabine est pratiquement constante pour être le premier signal à comparer au signal de référence.

15. Procédé selon la revendication 14, dans lequel on effectue la sélection du premier signal entre les premiers signaux de prospection en comparant chaque premier signal de prospection au signal de référence pour engendrer de multiples signaux de différence de prospection, puis en choisissant un signal de différence de prospection se produisant à un moment où la vitesse de la cabine est pratiquement constante, pour être le signal de différence utilisé pour commander le fonctionnement des moyens d'entraînement.

16. Procédé selon l'une des revendications 14 et 15, dans lequel l'étape de sélection s'effectue en réponse à un signal de commande émis à un moment prédéterminé avant l'arrivée de la cabine au niveau de palier et après que la cabine ait atteint une vitesse pratiquement constante.

17. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13, 14 et 15, dans lequel l'étape de commande comprend l'étape consistant à actionner les moyens de freinage pendant un laps de temps qui varie en réponse au signal de différence.

18. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13, 14 et 15, dans lequel l'étape de commande comprend l'étape consistant à actionner les moyens de freinage à un deuxième moment qui diffère d'un premier moment à raison d'un intervalle dont la durée répond au signal de différence, le premier moment étant un moment prédéterminé avant l'arrivée de la cabine au niveau de palier et après que la cabine n'ait atteint une vitesse pratiquement constante.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 18, comprenant en outre les étapes consistant à émettre un signal de commande au premier moment, à engendrer, en réponse à ce signal de commande et à un premier signal engendré à proximité immédiate du premier moment, le signal de différence et à actionner les freins audit intervalle après le premier moment, dont la durée obéit au signal de différence.

20. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13, 14 et 15, dans lequel l'étape de commande comprend l'étape consistant à actionner les moyens de freinage quand la cabine est à une deuxième distance, qui diffère d'une première distance à raison d'une grandeur qui obéit au signal de différence, la première distance étant à une distance prédéterminée du niveau de palier.

21. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13, 14 et 15, dans lequel l'étape de commande des moyens d'entraînement consiste à commander le fonctionnement des moyens moteurs et à commander le fonctionnement des moyens de freinage en réponse au signal de différence.

22. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 13 à 21, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à ajuster le signal de référence de façon que le signal de différence varie en proportion directe d'une variation de poids porté par la cabine.



* C L M S *