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ABSTRACT



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AN IMPROVED MOTION-IMPARTING APPARATUS

5 Apparatus for imparting motion to a load comprises means
for applying a force to the load and a compliant support
for the load, in which there are provided means for
effecting dynamic variation of the compliance of the
support during operation of the apparatus so as to
10 optimise the power efficiency. The apparatus may be
capable of controlling relative motion in a plurality of
degrees of freedom between a platform and a reference
plane the compliant means acting to support the weight of
the platform, and the force-applying means being one or
15 more actuators for applying perturbing forces between the
platform and the reference plane. Control means act to
control the or each actuator to move in one direction or
the other whereby to displace the platform with respect
to the reference plane. At least part of the compliant
20 support may be a gas spring and in one embodiment this is
in the form of a bellows supporting the platform.