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# Elevator Polyphase Motor Control

This invention pertains to elevators, in particular, polyphase motor control in elevators.

It is well known that the speed and torque of a polyphase induction motor is a function of the frequency of the alternating power that is supplied to the motor and the voltage that is applied to the windings.

It is also well known that the motor can operate at either a synchronous speed, the same frequency as the power to it, and an asynchronous speed, higher or lower than that frequency. It operates at the synchronous speed when the motor is under no load and at the asynchronous speed when the motor is under load or being driven. The speed difference is known as slip, the magnitude of which dramatically impacts the motor's efficiency and performance.

The typical polyphase motor is given requirements for maximum slip by the manufacturer, typically about  $\pm 1\text{Hz.}$ , depending on the motor design and whether it is motoring or regenerating, or braking. To develop maximum torque and maximize motor efficiency, the slip under load conditions should be held at that figure. For instance, if a two-pole

15 motor is powered from a 60 Hz. source during motoring, the speed at rated torque would be about 3540 r.p.m., that being a positive slip of +1 Hz.

5       Following a converse concept, but using the same  
criteria, if the motor is operating at a speed which is  
greater than the frequency, power can be supplied from  
it or regenerated back to the source. The slip also  
should be maintained within those limits in this case,  
but, for regeneration or braking, the speed of the  
10 motor may be, for instance, 3660 at rated torque. In this  
case the slip is negative -1 Hz.

So, it is not surprising that many techniques  
have been tried to control slip precisely; however,  
most have met with less than desirable results because  
15 they are too costly, too complicated or do not provide  
good performance.

In an elevator, slip control is particularly  
important and demanding because motor performance  
there must be superior to that in most other  
20 applications. For instance, for a comfortable ride  
the motor must be accelerated and decelerated  
smoothly, without vibration and noise; yet, for system  
speed it must be fast. It should also be efficient,  
which means it should regenerate power, and,  
25 naturally, it must be operated in such a way as to  
provide precise car positioning at the floors. Most  
important, the motor must often be operated at near  
zero speed, a condition in which precise frequency control  
is critically important for smooth performance.

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An object of the present invention is to provide a polyphase motor-powered elevator with speed and torque control.

According to the invention, there is provided an  
5 elevator system comprising:

a polyphase electric motor, said motor having N phases and corresponding windings, N being two or more;

a D.C. power supply;

10 an inverter, powered by the supply, for providing current or voltage to each stator winding in the motor, said inverter having an input for each winding and a corresponding output;

a position encoder for providing a signal  
15 (TACH) that identifies the motor shaft position;

an elevator car that is propelled by the motor;

an elevator control system for controlling the operation of the inverter to produce alternating N  
20 phase current or voltage for said stator windings to control motor speed (r.p.m.), slip and direction;

the elevator system being characterized in that said control system comprises:

means for providing a signal (AMPLITUDE) in  
25 response to the TACH signal to control motor speed (r.p.m.);

means for providing a signal (SLIP) in response to the TACH signal to control the difference between the motor rotational frequency and the frequency  
30 (F SYNCH) of the alternating current or voltage that is supplied to the motor by the inverter;

means responsive to the SLIP signal and TACH signal for providing a signal that repeats at F SYNCH, said signal identifying an angular position on a sine  
35 curve, and for providing N second signals, each representing the Y-coordinate on said sine curve at different angular positions thereon, said positions

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being equally spaced apart by  $\frac{360^\circ}{N}$ , said N second signals being provided in a successive sequence during each motor rotation, the sequence in one motor direction being the reverse of the sequence in the

5 opposite direction;

means for varying the magnitude of each second signal as a function of the AMPLITUDE signal; and

10 means for applying each second signal to a different one of the inverter inputs according to said successive sequence.

Preferably, the polyphase motor is powered by an inverter that is powered by a battery that is charged by a battery charger. The inverter is controlled in such a way  
15 that the motor slip is controlled to achieve maximum torque and also maximum regeneration to charge the battery. The inverter's output frequency and magnitude are also controlled to control the motor's speed and torque.

20 According to another feature, this inverter is controlled by a device that provides signals that represent a computed motor speed and slip. Using these signals, the inverter is driven so as to follow a sine curve pattern that is at the desired frequency  
25 for the computed slip and at a desired magnitude to achieve desired motor operation with that slip. These signals are digitally produced by sensing the motor shaft position and constantly accumulating a count and augmenting that count in proportion to the desired  
30 slip. The accumulated count occurs in some particular period of time that corresponds to one-quarter of the period of that sine curve. Taking into account the characteristic interrelationship between the various phases of the signals that are to be supplied to the  
35 motor, the relative instantaneous Y-value on the sine curve signal at each phase is produced from that

count. The Y-value is adjusted up and down to reflect the instantaneous levels for each phase that drives the inverter. This yields a signal which is supplied to each phase input on the inverter by a switching arrangement. The magnitude of that signal is scaled up or down to control motor current or voltage. Hence, starting with a simple count that represents motor speed and shaft position and adding some numbers to that, a multiphase drive is provided to the inverter to control motor speed, slip and torque.

A feature of the invention is that the slip control that is achieved is very precise, because the shaft is encoded at a very high rate, far higher than the motor's speed, in other words, many times during each revolution.

The control is universal; it can be used on all multiphase motors, and by augmenting the motor speed count with different pole configurations, and, being that it is not inherently frequency limited, it can control a motor over very wide speed ranges, especially at near zero and low speed, hence making it very attractive for elevators. At the same time, by providing for very precise slip control, the invention optimizes regeneration of power back into the battery, and that is a feature which is particularly useful in an elevator system where regeneration occurs about 30% of the time because the load is counterweighted.

Other objects, benefits and features of the invention will become apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description of an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

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Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an elevator system utilizing an inverter to drive a 3-phase motor, and that inverter being powered by a battery and controlled in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of an amplitude and frequency control (AFCL) that is used in the system in Fig. 1 to drive the inverter to obtain slip, torque and speed control; and

Fig. 3 consists of several waveforms that are in a common time base.

Fig. 1 shows an elevator control system which includes a number of functional components that are well known and whose design is not critical to the invention. Hence, those components are not described in detail, except to the extent that is needed to describe the invention. These components include a motion controller, profile generator and speed and torque controller, and others identified in what follows.

In Fig. 1 an elevator car 10 is connected by a cable 11 to a counterweight 12. The car is connected to the phase induction motor 13 which receives 3-phase power from an inverter 14. The motor drives a tachometer 15 (shaft encoder) which produces a tachometer output, TACH 1 signal, on the line 15a, that signal reflecting the instantaneous speed of the

motor. The inverter receives DC power from a battery 16, and the battery is charged by a charger 17 which is connected to a power source. The DC power may flow to and from the battery through the inverter. Power  
5 may flow to the battery by regeneration from the motor as a result of the motion of the car in one direction (e.g. down), and that, in addition to the charger, charges the battery. The battery provides most of the surge or peak power to the inverter, meaning that the  
10 system is virtually isolated from the power source, which eliminates one source of RFI and other electrical noises that can build up in the power system and disturb other equipment connected to it.

A system controller 18 receives car controls and  
15 calls, and in response communicates with a motion controller 19 over a plurality of lines 19a. The motion controller sends signals from lines 19b to a profile generator 20, which, in a predetermined or programmed manner, establishes a particular motion or  
20 velocity profile for the elevator car to move in response to the motion control, this concept being shown in numerous patents. The profile generator provides an output, PROF 1 signal, on line 20a which is supplied to a speed and torque control 21. This  
25 speed and torque control unit provides, in response to the PROF 1 signal, a first DC signal, SLIP 1 signal, on line 21a, the SLIP 1 signal reflecting a desired slip for the particular PROF 1 signal generated by the profile generator. The speed and torque control unit also  
30 provides, on line 21b, a second DC output, AMPLITUDE 1

signal, which represents the desired amplitude of current (or voltage) to the motor winding to move the car as desired.

5       The interrelationship between the SLIP 1 and  
AMPLITUDE 1 signals determine the torque and speed of  
the motor, and the interrelationship is established  
through feedback control, that control centering on  
sensing the TACH 1 signal, supplied from the  
tachometer, and supplying it to the motion controller,  
10   the profile generator, and the speed and torque  
controller, which use it to generate their respective  
signals, and the SLIP 1 and AMPLITUDE 1 signals to  
obtain a desired motor performance characteristic at  
any instant to control the car motion as required.

15       The TACH 1 signal is also supplied to an  
amplitude and frequency control circuit (AFCL) 22  
which also receives the SLIP 1 and AMPLITUDE 1 signal.  
The AFCL circuit uses those signals to generate PHASE  
1, 2, 3 signals over the three output lines 22a, each  
20   of those signals comprising a staircase sine wave of  
high resolution, whose magnitude is varied in a  
selected relation to the AMPLITUDE 1 signal in order  
to control the car motion in a certain manner.  
The signals (PHASE 1-3) are phased apart as required  
25   by the phase of the motor (e.g. 0, 120, 240, for a 3-  
phase motor, the example shown), and their frequency  
reflects the desired motor speed and slip for a  
selected SLIP 1 signal. Their magnitude reflects  
desired motor current, that being controlled by the  
30   AMPLITUDE 1 signal.

These PHASE 1-3 signals that comprise the AFCL output are supplied to a current regulator (CR) 23, which then produces output CR signals, also sine waves, on its output lines 23a, these signals being  
5 provided to a pulse width modulator (PWM) 24. The PWM supplies corresponding output signals, PWM signals, each signal comprising a pulse whose duration varies in proportion to the magnitude of its corresponding CR signal. The PWM signals are supplied to the inverter  
10 on line 24a. The current regulator provides closed loop control of the motor current to ensure that it accurately tracks the PHASE 1-3 signals. This type of control is well known in the field.

The PWM signals that are supplied from the PWM to  
15 the inverter turn separate sections or portions of the inverter on and off in direct proportion to the duration of the pulses in the PWM signal. The inverter turns the battery voltage on and off in proportion to the duration of the pulses that comprise  
20 the PWM signals, that voltage being applied on the lines 14a to the motor windings. Because the duration of those pulses that drive the inverter are interrelated in a sinusoidal fashion by the AFCL circuit, the average values of the pulses on the  
25 inverter output are sinusoidal also. But, even though the output signal on each of the lines 14a from the inverter comprises voltage pulses, the inductive characteristics of the motor result in a sinusoidal current (I) through the motor over each of the lines  
30 14a, the frequency of that current being the primary

frequency of the PHASE 1, 2, 3 signals. The harmonics are dramatically suppressed due to the motor's inductance, and, hence, the inverter provides, in effect, sinusoidal 3-phase current to the motor, that  
5 current being in response to digital pulses that reflect the current's frequency, magnitude and the phase relationship among the motor's windings. This current I is adjustable in its frequency and its magnitude, through which the motor speed, torque and  
10 slip are controlled. This adjustment is accomplished through the AFCL circuit 22, the detailed description of which follows.

Fig. 2 shows the AFCL circuit 22. The AFCL circuit receives the SLIP 1 signal and also the  
15 AMPLITUDE 1 signal. The SLIP 1 signal is applied to a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) 30 which produces an output VCO signal, on line 30a. The VCO signal, which is supplied to a flip-flop 32, consists of a string of pulses whose frequency (VCO frequency) F1  
20 varies in proportion to the DC level of the SLIP 1 signal, which can be adjusted between predetermined positive and negative values, those levels defining a motor speed range, over which the frequency of the VCO may vary to control motor slip.

25 The flip-flop 32 also receives a CLK output signal from a clock 34; that signal strobes the signal from the VCO to the flip-flop output, producing a flip-flop output signal, also a string of pulses at F1, which are supplied over line 32a to a SLIP counter  
30 34; it counts those pulses. The SLIP counter

continually counts up, and on reaching its maximum count (e.g. N bits) starts over. So, its output is actually a signal, COUNT 1, reflecting the count at any instant.

5        Fig. 3 shows this type of recurring count over time, the Y coordinate there representing the digital output or COUNT 1, the X-coordinate time.

10        The SLIP 1 signal is also supplied to a second flip-flop 36. Also strobed by the CLK signal, this flip-flop is responsive to the polarity of the SLIP 1 signal, changing state from high to low depending on that polarity in order to provide a count direction signal, CD signal, that commands the SLIP counter to count up or to count down. COUNT 1, from the SLIP  
15        counter, is supplied on lines 34a to a motor speed (MS) adder 38, which also receives the output from another counter, speed (SPEED) counter 40, over the lines 40a.

20        The SPEED counter receives the output from a circuit 42 which includes a flip-flop 42a. This flip-flop 42a provides on its output lines 42b a train of square wave pulses. These are provided in response to the output from a divider circuit 42e which receives the TACH signal that is supplied on the line 15a. That line actually comprises two lines,  
25        each of which provide a square wave pulse relative to each other, the pulses on these lines being in quadrature (90° apart).

30        The divider circuit 42e receives the square wave pulses on one of these lines and provides, as its output, trigger pulses which are at a repetition rate that is equal to or lower than the repetition rate of the square wave pulses provided to its input.

The output from the flip-flop 42a is provided to the input of the SPEED counter 40.

Both of the signals that comprise the TACH signal are also supplied to a comparator circuit 42c, and  
5 this circuit produces, in response, an output signal, which, depending upon the relationship between those two pulses (i.e. which one leads, which one lags), represents the direction in which the motor is turning. The output from the comparator 42c is then  
10 supplied to a flip-flop 42d, which, in response, produces an output signal which is either high or low. This signal is supplied to the count control terminal on the counter 40 to command it to count up or count down the pulses from the flip-flop 42a, depending on  
15 whether the signal is high or low. Just like the SLIP counter, the SPEED counter also continuously counts up, resets, and then counts up again. It can also count down depending on the output from the flip-flop 42d. The result is an output signal, COUNT 2, from the counter  
20 40. This signal is also shown in Fig. 2. The repetition rate for COUNT 2 is  $F_2$ , which is in proportion to the motor speed, since they are generated from the motor's rotation. The pulses that comprise the TACH 1 signal are generated very rapidly during each rotation of the  
25 motor, the effect of this being that the rotational position is resolved very precisely. The purpose for the divider then becomes correlating that count to the driving frequency of the motor, which is necessary in order to take into account the number of poles in the  
30 motor, since the number of poles determines the speed of the motor. This correlation is important because

the repetition rate F2 should correspond to the driving frequency. For example, comparing a four-pole and two-pole motor, the shaft position in the four-pole motor must be resolved so that the COUNT 2 is produced more rapidly per revolution. Hence, the TACH signal must be divided by two for a two-pole motor, otherwise F2 would be too high - the motor would not be synchronized within the slip range. (This assumes that the same tachometer is used, further, the count/revolution would be the same regardless of motor speed.) The reason for this will become even more apparent from the remaining portions of this description, which will show that from the basic frequency F2, a higher or lower frequency is established from the COUNT 1 signal in order to vary the driving frequency from that of the actual motor speed, this being done in order to control slip.

The MS adder adds COUNT 1 and COUNT 2, producing at its output lines 35a, an output COUNT 3 which is the sum of the two. The effect of adding COUNT 1 and COUNT 2 is to shorten the time it takes to obtain a particular COUNT 3 (waveform A), and thus shorten T in Fig. 3. In other words, as the SLIP counter counts up, the slope of waveform A will increase because T becomes less. As it counts slower, the slope will be less because T will increase. So, by changing the VCO frequency, T can be increased and decreased in proportion to COUNT 1, that range being the SLIP RANGE or  $\Delta t$ , that defining a change in frequency between F1, the frequency of COUNT 1, and F2, the frequency of COUNT 2.

As explained later in detail, to maintain a certain slip, COUNT 1 is controlled to be higher or lower than COUNT 2 by an amount that equals the slip that is desired (e.g. specified for the motor).

- 5 The overall action of the AFCL circuit on the motor's operation is represented by this equation (1).

$$F \text{ SYNCH} = \pm F(\text{MOTOR}) \pm F(\text{SLIP}) \quad (1)$$

- Here, F SYNCH is also the frequency (F3) of the PHASE 1-3 signals, which is the inverter driving frequency.
- 10 F MOTOR is the motor speed and COUNT 2 is a function of it, but may be  $\pm$  depending on the direction of rotation, because COUNT 2 can be a down count or up count. F SLIP, the same as the VCO frequency, may be  $\pm$  depending on the SLIP signal, which may be  $\pm$  to effect  $\pm$  slip.
- 15 Thus, a smooth transition between motor functions is obtained, which is important for leveling at "close speed" (near zero speed).

- In addition to COUNT 3, the adder 35 also provides a digital output, QC signal, which is a representation
- 20 of the number (0-4) of cycles made by the COUNT 2. Each cycle is a quadrant, representing 90° in a full cycle of 360°. To do this, the MS adder output may have N bits, but actually use N-X bits for COUNT 3, and the remainder of the N bits for indicating the
- 25 quadrant and the sign of the sine curve in that quadrant.

COUNT 3, from the MS adder, is supplied to a second adder, the PHASE adder 44. The PHASE adder 44 also receives, on the lines 46a, a phase identifi-

cation (PC) signal, from a ring counter 46, that signal being provided in response to the CLK signal. The PC signal identifies, at any instant in time, one of the desired phases, i.e. windings (e.g. 0°, 120°, 240°). This PC is a number which, if added to COUNT 3, would reflect what would be COUNT 3 at that phase; that is, a phase shifted by some amount reflected in the PC signal. In other words, the ring counter continually provides a "circulating digital" number which, when added to COUNT 3, reflects a count for one of the phases. The PC signal is also added with the QC signal in the PHASE adder, producing a PQ signal that represents the right quadrant for the phase for the PC signal, since the quadrant may be different for a different phase. Thus, the output from the PHASE adder 44 includes (1) an instantaneous digital representation, COUNT 4, of the count for a particular point X or counts for one phase, and (2) a digital representation of the quadrant for the PQ signal and its sign.

COUNT 4 represents the coordinate for any point on the SINE curve in Fig. 3, but only between 0°-90°. From the two, the proper point on the SINE curve for that coordinate is generated at any instant. This is done in the AFCL circuit for each phase, each time the PC signal changes, which occurs at the CLK rate.

COUNT 4 and the PQ signal are supplied to a subtractor unit 48, over the lines 44a. In response to the PQ signal, the subtractor provides an output, the IC signal, which is the proper coordinate value for the quadrant indicated in the PQ signal for COUNT 3.

The subtractor counts down from the COUNT 4 signal for other quadrants during the presence of a PQ signal identifying that quadrant which, if not present, inactuates the subtractor. Then, it can be seen that  
5 the effect of the PC signal is to shift the IC signal between  $0^\circ$ ,  $120^\circ$  and  $240^\circ$ .

The IC signal from the subtractor is a coordinate (e.g. X), and it is furnished on lines 48a to a lookup table, ROM 50. That IC signal addresses a particular  
10 number in the lookup table, that number corresponding to the sine value for a point on the SINE curve between  $0^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ . The ROM thus produces, on its output lines 50a, a digital output, SIG 1, that is the sine value for the coordinate identified by COUNT 3, but  
15 still uncorrected for the polarity for its quadrant. The SIG 1 signal is supplied to a digital to analog (D/A) converter 52 which produces an analog output, DRIVE 1 signal, on line 52a. This DRIVE 1 signal is  
20 supplied to a switch circuit 54, which also receives the PQ signal and, depending on what quadrant that identifier identifies, switches the DRIVE 1 signal between a positive or negative value, which gives the DRIVE 1 signal the right polarity for the quadrant. For example, the SIG 1 signal (so also DRIVE 1) would  
25 be negative in quadrants 3 and 4, as shown by the broken sine curve containing SIG 1' (SIG 1' being SIG 1 on the true sine curve). Thus a full sine curve is generated through the four quadrants shown over time - as different SIG 1 signals are provided and given the  
30 right polarity.

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From the switch circuit the DRIVE 1 signal is supplied on line 54a to an amplifier (G) 56, whose gain is controlled in response to the magnitude of the AMPLITUDE 1 signal, in order to produce an output, DRIVE 2, whose magnitude is proportional to the AMPLITUDE 1 signal. This DRIVE 2 output signal is simultaneously supplied to three switches 60, 62, 64, each one corresponding to one phase drive of the inverter, each providing one of the PHASE 1, 2, 3 signals. These three switches receive the PC signal from the ring counter 46, that signal identifying the phase for the DRIVE 2 signal, and, depending on what that signal is, one of these switches is actuated, which transfers the DRIVE 2 signal to correct one of the sample and hold circuits 55, which produces a staircase sine signal over time - as the DRIVE 2 signal is generated. The SH outputs are the PHASE 1, PHASE 2 and PHASE 3 signals.

The PHASE 1, PHASE 2, PHASE 3 signals are thus phased according to the PC signal and are at a common frequency, F SYNCH (see equation 1).

To demonstrate this slip control, this example is provided. Assume a two-pole AC motor at 3600 r.p.m., that is, driven by variable frequency drive using the invention; what are the frequencies of the VCO output (F1) and TACH signals and slip characteristics required for, (Case 1) zero torque; (Case 2) positive driving torque; and (Case 3) negative regeneration or braking using a constant AMPLITUDE 1 signal.

Case 1: FM = 60 Hz.

F SLIP = 0

F SYNCH = 60 Hz.

VCO frequency = 0

TACH frequency = 1024 pulses/second

Case 2: FM = 60 Hz.

F SLIP = +1 Hz.

F SYNCH = 61 Hz.

VCO frequency = +170

TACH frequency = 1024 pulses/second

Case 3: FM = 60 Hz.

F SLIP = -1 Hz.

F SYNCH = 59 Hz.

VCO frequency = -170

TACH frequency = 1024 pulses/second

Hence, with this system the car can be moved from zero to full speed at a controlled rate and with a controllable slip, by controlling the SLIP 1 and AMPLITUDE 1 signals.

Obviously, various operations in this system may be performed with computer based equipment. Discrete portions have been used in this description for illustrative purposes to demonstrate one way to implement the invention. To one skilled in the art there will be modifications and variations that can be made to the embodiment that has been shown described without departing from the true scope of the invention. Some of those variations may include the use of a computer to carry out a number of functions performed in the discrete system comprising the AFCL circuit.

The use of the invention to control a 3-phase motor has been shown and described because it facilitates an understanding of the invention. Even so, it should be apparent to one skilled in the art

5. that it could be used to control other motors, such as a 2-phase motor, simply by using the right phase signal relationship, in order to identify the phase windings and in order to generate the correct coordinate on the sine curve for the winding and
10. establish the correct polarity for it.

Although the invention has been shown for use for controlling the current of the motor, it could be used to control motor voltage. Further, by correlating the amplitude and slip, different motor and slip controls

15. can be obtained, e.g. one signal can dictate motor torque.

- From the foregoing it will be seen that there are many applications for the invention to control induction motors and that the invention may be carried
20. out in many ways, perhaps through computer utilization for carrying out various computational type functions that are performed by the discrete circuits and units that have been described. This may, in fact, be an

economically attractive alternative to using such items as the adders, counters and flip-flops, which simply provide a convenient, comparatively low cost way to perform certain functions that could be done in  
5 a computer, for example, one using a microprocessor.

Other modifications, variations and alterations may be made to the embodiments of the invention that have been described without departing from the true  
10 scope of the invention as described in the claims that follow.



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Claims:

1. An elevator system comprising :
  - a polyphase electric motor, said motor having N phases and corresponding windings, N being two or more;
  - 5 a D.C. power supply;
  - an inverter, powered by the supply, for providing current or voltage to each stator winding in the motor, said inverter having an input for each winding and a corresponding output;
  - 10 a position encoder for providing a signal (TACH) that identifies the motor shaft position;
  - an elevator car that is propelled by the motor;
  - an elevator control system for controlling
  - 15 the operation of the inverter to produce alternating N phase current or voltage for said stator windings to control motor speed (r.p.m.), slip and direction;
  - the elevator system being characterized in that said control system comprises:
    - 20 means for providing a signal (AMPLITUDE) in response to the TACH signal to control motor speed (r.p.m.);
    - means for providing a signal (SLIP) in response to the TACH signal to control the difference
    - 25 between the motor rotational frequency and the frequency (F SYNCH) of the alternating current or voltage that is supplied to the motor by the inverter;
    - means responsive to the SLIP signal and TACH signal for providing a signal that repeats at F SYNCH,
    - 30 said signal identifying an angular position on a sine curve, and for providing N second signals, each representing the Y-coordinate on said sine curve at different angular positions thereon, said positions being equally spaced apart by  $\frac{360^\circ}{N}$ , said N second
    - 35 signals being provided in a successive sequence during each motor rotation, the sequence in one motor



direction being the reverse of the sequence in the opposite direction;

means for varying the magnitude of each second signal as a function of the AMPLITUDE signal;  
5 and

means for applying each second signal to a different one of the inverter inputs according to said successive sequence.

2. An elevator system as claimed in claim 1  
10 wherein said D.C. power supply comprises a battery and a battery charger.

3. An elevator system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said means for providing said N second signals comprises:  
15 means for providing a third signal in response to said TACH signal and said SLIP signal, said third signal representing a motor shaft position within one of four possible quadrants on a sine curve with a frequency of F SYNCH and being repeated a plurality of  
20 times during each shaft rotation, and for providing a fourth signal that identifies the quadrant on said curve, said plurality being a function of the magnitude of said SLIP signal and proportional to motor slip represented by said SLIP signal.

25 4. An elevator system according to claim 3, characterized in that said means for providing said N signals comprises:

means for providing corresponding pairs of fifth and sixth signals in response to said third and fourth  
30 signal, each of said fifth signals representing an angular position on the sine wave between 0°-180°, said positions being  $\frac{180^\circ}{N}$  degrees apart for each fourth signal, each of said sixth signals representing the correct sign, either plus or minus, and quadrant for its  
35 corresponding fifth signal; and



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means for providing a corresponding seventh signal in response to each fifth and sixth signal, said seventh signal being the sine X, where X identifies an angular position between  $0^{\circ}$ - $180^{\circ}$  that is identified by the fifth signal.

5. An elevator system according to claim 4, characterized in that said means for providing N signals comprises:

means for providing an eighth signal in response to each of said corresponding pairs of sixth and seventh signals, the magnitude of said eighth signal being defined by the function sine X, where X is  $0^{\circ}$ - $360^{\circ}$  and is defined as being a particular combination of each fifth signal and its corresponding sixth signal.

6. An elevator system according to claim 5, characterized in that:

said means for providing said seventh signal comprises a read only memory (ROM); and

said means for providing said eighth signal comprises a digital to analog converter for providing an analog signal from said seventh signal and a switch circuit for providing an analog output from said analog signal, said analog output being either positive or negative as a function of the sixth signal.

7. An elevator system according to any preceding claim characterised in that said means for providing N second signals comprises:

means for providing a signal that increases progressively during shaft motion in one quadrant and decreases in the next successive quadrant.



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8. An elevator system according to any preceding claim characterised in that said means for providing said N second signals comprises:

5 means for providing a signal in response to the TACH signal, said signal representing the instantaneous position of the motor shaft within one of the four quadrants and the characteristic of its change over time representing the direction in which the motor is rotating;

10 means for providing a signal in response to the SLIP signal, said signal representing the slip frequency and its characteristic over time representing the direction of the slip; and

15 means for providing a signal that represents the sum of said signal that represents the slip frequency and said signal that represents the shaft position.

9. An elevator system according to any preceding claim characterised in that:

20 said means for varying the magnitude of each second signal comprises an amplifier that receives an analog signal, the gain of said amplifier being adjustable as a function of the amplitude signal; and

25 said means for applying each second signal to one of the N windings comprises a switching circuit having N controllable switches each connected to the output of said operational amplifier, each one being responsive to a particular control signal among N control signals that are applied simultaneously to the switches, a distinct one of said control signals being  
30 provided for each second signal.

10. An elevator system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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