

Problem 1.23

Smooth elevator ride

For a smooth (“low jerk”) ride, an elevator is programmed to start from rest and accelerate according to

$$\begin{aligned} a(t) &= (a_m/2)[1 - \cos(2\pi t/T)] & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ a(t) &= -(a_m/2)[1 - \cos(2\pi t/T)] & T \leq t \leq 2T \end{aligned}$$

where a_m is the maximum acceleration and $2T$ is the total time for the trip.

- (a) Draw sketches of $a(t)$ and the jerk as functions of time.
- (b) What is the elevator’s maximum speed?
- (c) Find an approximate expression for the speed at short times near the start of the ride, $t \ll T$.
- (d) What is the time required for a trip of distance D ?

[**TYPO: The right parenthesis is missing.**]