Condition Monitoring for Elevator Systems

Abhiram Pinni Venkata
School of Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : abhiramp428@gmail.com

Meghna Sinha
School of Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : meghna.sinha2020@vitstudent.ac.in

Nipun Rautela
School of Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : nipun.rautela2020@vitstudent.ac.in

Anosh Damania
School of Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : anosh.damania2020@vitstudent.ac.in

Sanjay K.P.S.
School of Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : sanjaykps37@gmail.com

Geetha S
Professor & Associate Dean
Vellore Institute of Technology
Chennai , India
Email : geetha.s@vit.ac.in

***Abstract*— The vertical transportation systems we commonly know as elevators play a crucial role in our modern urban landscape. They facilitate the movement of people and goods within buildings and high-rise structures, making them an indispensable part of our daily lives. It is imperative to ensure the dependable and safe functioning of elevators since any unexpected malfunction can lead to inconvenience, safety hazards, and financial repercussions. To address these concerns, elevator condition monitoring systems have become pivotal technologies. They proactively manage the health of elevators, enhancing safety and optimizing maintenance operations. This report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of elevator condition monitoring, shedding light on its significance, advantages, underlying technologies, and implementation strategies. Our project, by utilising various sensors delves into condition and prevention monitoring for lift systems, going into detail about the sensors to be embedded and the monitoring methods which can be applied on a particular system.**

***Index Terms*— Elevator condition monitoring , Vertical transportation systems , Sensor technology,Monitoring methods, Proactive maintenance**

I. INTRODUCTION

The modern urban landscape is characterized by towering structures that house the daily activities of millions. At the heart of these architectural marvels are elevators, the unsung heroes that enable seamless vertical mobility. Elevators have evolved into an indispensable facet of our daily lives, facilitating the efficient movement of people and goods within high-rise buildings. While their significance cannot be overstated, it is equally imperative to acknowledge the potential risks associated with unexpected malfunctions, which can lead to inconveniences, safety hazards, and financial implications. In light of these challenges, the emergence of elevator condition monitoring systems has revolutionized the management of these vertical transportation systems. These technologies play a pivotal role in ensuring the reliable and safe operation of elevators by proactively assessing their health and optimizing maintenance operations.

Elevator condition monitoring systems serve as a proactive safeguard against the unforeseen complications that can arise within these complex mechanical systems. Beyond their immediate role in preventing malfunctions, these systems offer a spectrum of advantages, ranging from enhanced safety to the optimization of maintenance processes. This report delves into the intricacies of elevator condition monitoring, shedding light on the underlying technologies that drive these systems. By leveraging a comprehensive array of sensors, our project endeavors to provide a detailed examination of condition and prevention monitoring for lift systems. The integration of sensor technologies and the implementation of specific monitoring methods form the cornerstone of our approach, aiming to contribute to the ongoing efforts in elevating the safety and reliability standards of vertical transportation systems.

Our project not only underscores the critical importance of elevator condition monitoring but also outlines practical strategies for its effective implementation. As we navigate the intricacies of sensor integration and monitoring methodologies, the ultimate goal is to empower stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to ensure the dependable and safe functioning of elevators in our ever-expanding urban environments. This paper thus stands as a comprehensive guide, offering insights into the significance, advantages, and implementation strategies of elevator condition monitoring, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on the evolution of urban infrastructure.

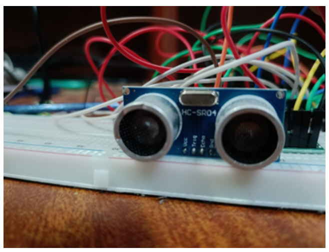
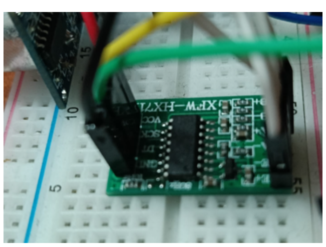
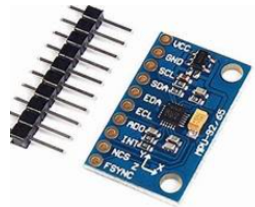
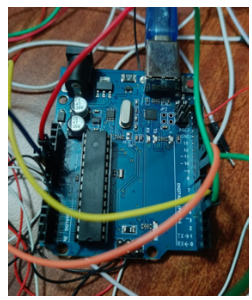
II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The current challenge in lift systems lies in the absence of proactive monitoring mechanisms, leading to unexpected failures, safety risks, and financial consequences. The lack of real-time insights into elevator health, exacerbated by factors such as wear and tear, environmental conditions, and component failures, underscores the critical need for an advanced condition monitoring system. Addressing this gap is imperative to ensure the reliable operation of elevators, enhance safety, and optimize maintenance operations, ultimately mitigating inconvenience and minimizing economic impact.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. *Component Specifications*

In this study, the methodology focuses on evaluating sensor performance in real-world scenarios. A systematic literature review is conducted to understand existing sensor technologies and their applications. The research design incorporates the deployment of various sensors in controlled environments to gather empirical data. A combination of quantitative metrics and qualitative observations is utilized for comprehensive analysis. The results are then interpreted to draw insights into sensor reliability, accuracy, and effectiveness, contributing to advancements in sensor technology.

Component	Product Specification
 Ultrasonic Sensor	Model: HC-SR04 Operating Voltage: 5V DC Detection Range: 2 cm to 400 cm Resolution: 3 mm Output Interface: Digital signal (Echo pulse) Trigger Signal: 10 µs TTL pulse
 Half Bridge Load cell	Strain Gauge Load Cells Rated Capacity: 50kg Material: Stainless Steel Sensitivity: 2 mV/V Operating Temperature: -10°C to 80°C Excitation Voltage: 5V Protection Class: IP67
 Hx711 Amplifier	HX711 Amplifier Type: Precision 24-bit Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) Amplification Gain: Adjustable (128, 64) Operating Voltage: 2.6V to 5.5V Communication: Serial (SPI) Onboard Voltage Regulator: Yes
 Camera	ESP32-CAM Microcontroller: ESP32 Image Sensor: OV2640 (2 MP) Operating Voltage: 5V Wireless Connectivity: Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n) GPIO Pins: 9 (General Purpose Input/Output) Flash Memory: 4 MB Camera Interface: I2C, SPI Camera Resolution: 1600 x 1200 pixels (JPEG output)
 Accelerometer	MEMS Accelerometer Axes: 3 (X, Y, Z) Acceleration Range: ±4g Sensitivity:, 16384 LSB/g Operating Voltage: [Specify voltage, e.g., 3.3V or 5V] Communication: I2C or SPI Output Data Rate: Adjustable (e.g., 100 Hz, 200 Hz) Operating Temperature Range: -40°C to 85°C
 Arduino	Arduino Uno Microcontroller: ATmega328P Operating Voltage: 5V Digital I/O Pins: 14 (including 6 PWM outputs) Analog Input Pins: 6 Flash Memory: 32 KB (ATmega328P) Clock Speed: 16 MHz Communication: USB, UART, SPI, I2C

B. *Hardware Utilization*

Ultrasonic Sensors

Ultrasonic sensors utilize high-frequency sound waves for precise object detection and distance measurement. By emitting ultrasonic pulses and measuring their return time after hitting an object, these sensors find applications in proximity sensing, obstacle avoidance, and fluid level measurements.

Half Bridge Load Cell (2x per Apparatus)

A strain gauge-based sensor, the half bridge load cell is commonly employed to measure force or weight. Comprising a Wheatstone bridge circuit, it exhibits sensitivity to mechanical strain, making it suitable for applications such as weighing scales, tension measurements, and force monitoring in industrial equipment.

Hx711 Amplifier

The Hx711 Amplifier is an electronic device essential for amplifying low-level signals from sensors or transducers. This component plays a crucial role in signal conditioning, ensuring weak sensor output signals are boosted to a usable level for data acquisition and processing in applications like strain gauge measurements and load cell systems.

Camera

Cameras, equipped with sensors, serve as optical devices capturing still images or recording videos. Widely used in photography, surveillance, and scientific research, cameras are indispensable tools for visually documenting information and recording events across various fields.

Accelerometer

Accelerometers are motion sensors measuring acceleration, enabling the detection of changes in speed or direction. Commonly found in smartphones, vehicles, and industrial equipment, these devices contribute to features like screen orientation, crash detection, and vibration analysis.

Arduino

Arduino, an open-source microcontroller platform, empowers users to create interactive electronic projects. With a user-friendly programming environment, it controls a variety of sensors, actuators, and devices, making it a popular choice for hobbyists, students, and professionals in the field of electronics and embedded systems.

C. Parameters Analyzed

Wear and Tear

Ultrasonic sensors emerge as pivotal tools in elevating the condition monitoring of elevator shafts, proficiently detecting wear, tear, and the onset of rust. Through strategic placement along the shaft, these sensors continuously measure surface thickness and integrity. As the elevator moves, the sensor emits high-frequency sound waves, which bounce back off the shaft's surface. Inconsistencies in the reflected signal, such as decreased material thickness or the presence of rust, serve as indicators of deterioration. Regular analysis of ultrasonic data allows for tracking changes over time, establishing a baseline for the shaft's condition. This proactive monitoring approach facilitates early identification of potential issues, enabling timely interventions that prevent further damage, enhance elevator safety, and extend equipment lifespan. Ultrasonic sensors, owing to their non-invasive and high-precision capabilities, offer an efficient and cost-effective solution for structural health monitoring in elevators.

Fraying

Detecting fraying on elevator wires is paramount for maintaining safety and preventing failures. Our cutting-edge solution utilizes high-resolution cameras strategically placed within elevator shafts and cabins. Continuously capturing images of the wires, these cameras employ advanced image processing and computer vision algorithms to identify irregularities and signs of wear. The image processing algorithms can detect subtle changes in wire texture, color, or alignment—key indicators of fraying or damage. They recognize fine details in wire strands, highlighting any deviations from the expected pattern. Color and contrast analysis reveal discolorations or variations along the wire, indicating potential corrosion or degradation.

Regular monitoring through this camera-based system ensures prompt detection of wire issues, allowing for timely maintenance interventions. This proactive approach minimizes the risk of accidents, equipment malfunctions, and costly downtimes, enhancing the overall safety and reliability of elevator systems. Leveraging camera technology for wire condition monitoring proves to be a cost-effective and efficient method that complements traditional preventive maintenance practices. This approach not only extends the lifespan of elevator systems but also provides peace of mind to passengers and facility managers alike.

Load

The load directly influences the risk of future mechanical failures, as elevators operate under specified load limits to ensure safety. However, over time, components experience wear and tear, altering the system's load capacity. To prevent catastrophic failures, it's crucial to regularly assess the maximum load the system can handle. Weekly or daily evaluations may suffice, with additional assessments triggered by defects, wear, tear, or post-maintenance fixes. Continuous load measurement to ensure it stays within safety limits, established based on comprehensive parameter readings. While considering various parameters, emphasis is placed on critical factors such as the condition of the main wire, given its significance over less impactful metrics like slight deviations in acceleration. Direct damage to physical components is closely monitored, recognizing that even minor impacts can lead to major breakdowns and safety risks. A statistical model will be developed to calculate the maximum load capacity, ensuring the elevator system remains reliable and safe.

Acceleration

Accelerometers, specialized sensors measuring acceleration, play a pivotal role in elevator system health monitoring. These sensors are strategically placed on critical components like the cabin, counterweight, and machinery. Continuous monitoring of acceleration data allows engineers to perform vibration analysis, a key diagnostic tool. Through this analysis, we can identify unusual or excessive vibrations, which often signify underlying issues such as misalignment, imbalances, or wear in the mechanical components. The early detection facilitated by vibration analysis enables a pre-emptive maintenance approach, allowing for timely interventions to address potential problems before they escalate. This proactive strategy not only prevents breakdowns but also ensures the smooth and safe operation of the elevator system. Placing accelerometers strategically provides a comprehensive and effective means of monitoring the health and performance of the entire elevator system.

D. Monitoring with R-Charts

R-charts, also known as range charts, are a statistical tool used in quality control to monitor the variability of a process. In the context of our project, we use R-charts to track the range of variation in sensor readings over time.

Working: Data Collection: Gather data from vibration and ultrasonic sensors in the lift systems. Collect samples at regular intervals, capturing the variability in sensor readings.

Calculate Ranges: For each sample, calculate the range of values between the maximum and minimum readings from both types of sensors.

Establish Control Limits: Define upper and lower control limits based on historical data or acceptable thresholds for sensor variation. These limits help identify when the process is going out of control.

Plot R-chart: Plot the calculated ranges over 'time' on the R-chart, with the x-axis representing time and the y-axis representing the range of values.

Monitoring: Regularly monitor the R-chart for any points that fall outside the control limits. These points indicate potential issues with sensor readings or variations that may require attention.

Analysis: Investigate and analyze the points beyond control limits. Sudden spikes or trends in the R-chart can indicate changes in the lift system's condition that may need further investigation.

Response: Now we can take appropriate actions based on the analysis. This might involve calibrating or replacing sensors, performing maintenance, or addressing other factors affecting sensor readings.

Continuous Improvement: Use insights gained from the R-chart to improve the condition monitoring process continuously. Adjust control limits or update procedures to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring system.

E. Other Data Analytics Schemes

Time-Frequency Analysis: Techniques such as Short-Time Fourier Transform (STFT) or Wavelet Transform can be applied to analyze how the frequency content of the sensor data changes over time. This can provide insights into transient events or frequency shifts indicating potential issues.

Statistical Process Control (SPC): Besides R-charts, other SPC tools like X-bar charts (for monitoring the mean) and control charts for individual measurements can be used to detect abnormal variations in sensor readings.

Pattern Recognition: Utilize pattern recognition algorithms to identify specific patterns or signatures associated with normal and abnormal operating conditions. This can enhance the system's ability to detect subtle changes indicative of potential problems.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Load cell code

insert code ss here

This code is for interfacing with an HX711 load cell amplifier using the HX711_ADC library. The HX711 is a 24-bit analog-to-digital converter specifically designed for weight measurement applications.

Procedure:

Include Libraries:
Some necessary libraries are required for the functioning, especially the `HX711_ADC` library, which provides functions to interact with the HX711 load cell amplifier. It also includes the EEPROM library for handling non-volatile memory on some microcontrollers.

Define Pin Configuration:
The pins for data (DOUT) and clock (SCK) connections between the microcontroller and the HX711 are specified. These connections are crucial for communication with the load cell.

Initialize HX711_ADC Object:
An instance of the `HX711_ADC` class is created with the specified pin configuration. This object, named `LoadCell`, will be used for interacting with the HX711.

Setup Function:
- Serial communication is initialized for debugging purposes.
- The `LoadCell` object is initialized with some additional settings, including stabilization time and whether to perform taring (zeroing the scale) at startup.
- If any issues occur during initialization, an error message is printed.

Loop Function:
Data is continuously read from the load cell using `LoadCell.update()`.
If new data is available, it's printed to the serial monitor.
The code checks for commands from the serial terminal:
- 't': Initiates tare (zero) operation.
- 'r': Calls the `calibrate()` function for calibration.
- 'c': Calls the `changeSavedCalFactor()` function for manually changing the calibration value.

It also checks if the tare operation is complete and prints a message if so.

Calibration Function (`calibrate()`):
- Tares the load cell to account for any offset.
- Prompts the user to place a known mass on the load cell and send the 't' command to set the tare offset.
- Prompts the user to input the weight of the known mass from the serial monitor.
- Refreshes the dataset and calculates a new calibration value.
- Asks the user whether to save the new calibration value to EEPROM.

Change Calibration Value Function

We allow the user to manually change the calibration value by entering a new value from the serial monitor. We also ask the user whether to save the new calibration value to EEPROM.

The code provides a flexible way to calibrate and interact with the HX711 load cell amplifier, making it suitable for various weight measurement applications.

Ultrasonic Sensor

Pin Configuration:
- `trigPin`: Connected to the trigger pin of the ultrasonic sensor (for sending the signal).

- `echoPin`: Connected to the echo pin of the ultrasonic sensor (for receiving the signal).

Setup Function:
- Configures `trigPin` as an output and `echoPin` as an input. These configurations define the roles of the pins in the Arduino.
- Initializes serial communication at a baud rate of 57600 to communicate with the Serial Monitor.

Loop Function:
- The main code block that runs repeatedly.
- Sets the `trigPin` to LOW and waits for 100 milliseconds. This is done to ensure a clean start.
- Sends a short pulse (10 microseconds) to the `trigPin` by setting it to HIGH and then LOW.
- Uses `pulseIn` to measure the duration (in microseconds) for which the `echoPin` is HIGH. This duration corresponds to the time taken for the ultrasonic pulse to travel to the object and back.
- Calculates the distance using the formula: ` *distance = duration * speed of sound / 2*`.
The factor of 0.034 is used to convert the time to distance in centimeters (since the speed of sound is approximately 343 meters/second).
- Prints the calculated distance to the Serial Monitor.

This code reads distance measurements from an ultrasonic sensor and outputs the results to the Serial Monitor. The ultrasonic sensor sends out a sound pulse, and the Arduino measures the time it takes for the pulse to bounce back. The distance is then calculated based on the speed of sound.

V. ARCHITECTURE

3.1 Predictive Condition Monitoring

Data Collection:
We collected data in real time from Load Cells and Ultrasonic Sensor.

Sensor Integration:
Couple the data acquisition system with load cells and ultrasonic sensor. Ensure that appropriate linkages and settings are made for live communication of data from sensors to the software.

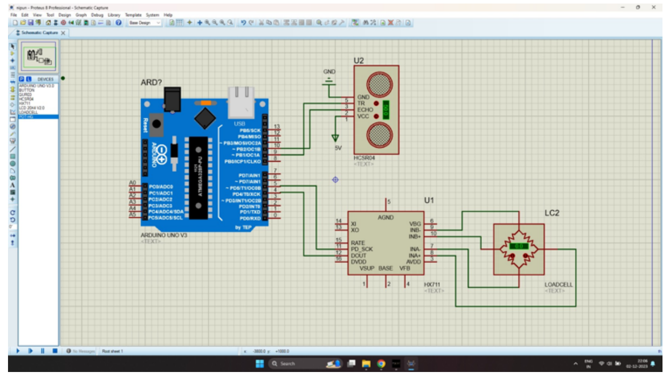
Sensor Calibration:
Ensure the calibration of load cells and ultrasonic sensors for reliable and precise readings. It is important to conduct the calibration step in order to obtain reliable data for predictive modeling.

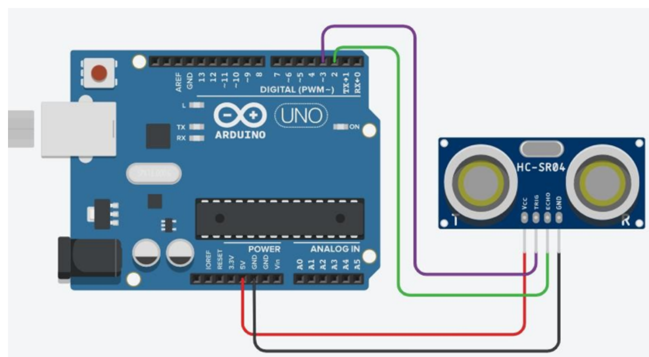
Data Logging Setup: Have a rigorous data logging system for recording the sensory values after pre-specified time intervals. Make sure to date-stamp every record in order to preserve the chronological nature of the information. With this, the microcontroller such as "Arduino" can link with the sensors.

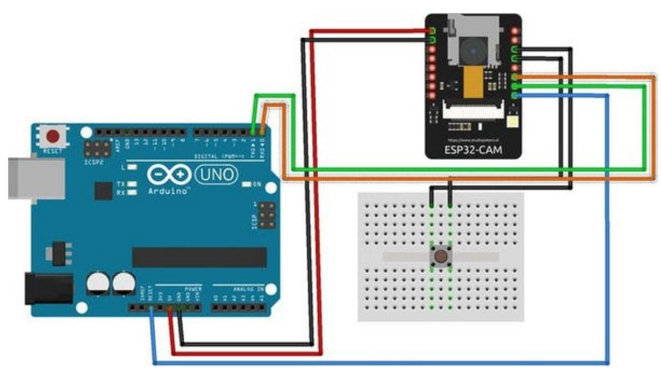
Streaming Protocol: Select a suitable continuous streaming protocol. As for example, one can transmit serial data streams through a USB cable if one uses an Arduino in combination with the mentioned sensors. The software used for capturing and processing such data should therefore be developed.

Data Storage: Create a data storage tool that can contain the data. Such forms could include but not limited to databases and flat files. The storage solution should be scalable to support large volumes of data.

Data Formatting: Cleaning collected data ready for machine learning processing. Make sure that your model's input is in the same format as the data, and ensure the right time-series lengths are used.







VI. RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Starting...": This is typically a message that appears when a process or application has begun its initialization sequence.
"Startup is complete": This indicates that the initialization process has finished successfully.
"Distance: 7.41" (and other similar lines): These lines give a numerical value labelled "Distance." This is the output from the ultrasonic sensor measuring distance.
"Load cell output val: -0.00" (and similar lines): A load cell is a type of transducer that converts force into an electrical signal. These lines show the output value from such a load cell. The "-0.00" suggests that either there is no load on the cell or the value is so small that it rounds down to zero when displayed to two decimal places.
The regular pattern of the "Distance" and "Load cell output val" lines suggests this is a continuous monitoring log, a program designed to read from sensors in real-time.

Load cell:
The load cell measures the weight supported by the lift, ensuring that the load is within the specified capacity. In case of wear and tear the load capacity varies, using ESP 32 cam we detect the wear and tear which helps us to monitor the load capacity in real-time. We also monitor variations in load, helping to detect anomalies such as overcrowding or abnormal loads that could lead to mechanical stress.
The above output screenshot shows the variation in load indicating that the sensor is working

ULTRA SONIC SENSOR:
Studies say that the thickness of steel increases by 6 times during corrosion, using this knowledge we used the ultrasonic sensor which emits sound waves to detect any increase in metal thickness. In case of any increase in thickness, we can confirm the rust. In the output photo, we can see the distance being calculated which can be used to detect corrosion

ESP 32 CAM:
The ESP32 CAM serves as a camera module, enabling visual inspection of the lift components. We used this to capture images or videos of critical areas, allowing for detailed analysis of the physical condition of components. Visual data can be used to identify wear and tear, corrosion, or any physical anomalies in the lift system.

Enhanced Safety

- Proactive detection of potential safety issues.
- Real-time monitoring reduces the risk of elevator malfunctions.
- Swift response to abnormal vibrations contributes to emergency brake activation, averting accidents.

Predictive Maintenance Efficiency

- Timely interventions minimize downtime and optimize elevator performance.
- Extended lifespan of elevator components.

Substantial Cost Savings

- Reduction in costly emergency repairs.
- Minimized downtime results in significant financial benefits.
- Targeted and cost-effective maintenance interventions.

Data-Driven Solutions

- Comprehensive integration of advanced technologies.
- Holistic approach covers various aspects of elevator health.
- Data-driven decision-making enhances overall efficiency.

Versatility and Adaptability

- Apparatus suitable for both new installations and retrofitting.
- Addresses diverse elevator conditions with adaptability.

Preservation of Building Assets

- Early detection prevents deterioration of elevator components.
- Preserves building assets by avoiding potential malfunctions.

Legal Liability Mitigation

- Averts potential legal liabilities associated with elevator malfunctions.
- Ensures compliance with safety standards, reducing legal risks.

VII. SINGLE UNIQUE FACTOR

Proactive Safety Features

Ultrasonic sensors detect wear, tear, and rust in elevator shafts.
Cameras inspect wires for fraying, serving as an early warning system. Acceleration monitoring responds to abnormal vibrations, activating emergency brakes and preventing accidents.

Predictive Maintenance Strategies
Deep learning algorithms analyze sensor data to predict faults and wear patterns.
Timely interventions minimize downtime and optimize elevator performance.
Extends the lifespan of components, ensuring precise maintenance when needed.

Cost Savings Benefits

Reduces the need for costly emergency repairs.
Minimizes downtime for significant financial benefits.
Early detection allows for targeted and cost-effective maintenance interventions.

Holistic and Integrated Nature

Comprehensive solution covering structural integrity, wire conditions, and operational vibrations.
Versatile for both new installations and retrofitting.
Offers a unique and valuable addition to elevator condition monitoring.

VIII. END USER BENEFITS

Building Owners and Property Managers

Benefit from increased property value through reliable elevator performance.
Reduce operational costs and enhance tenant satisfaction.

Facility Maintenance Teams

Streamline maintenance activities through targeted interventions.
Improve efficiency by focusing efforts on critical components.

Elevator Service Providers

Enhance customer satisfaction by offering proactive maintenance services.
Reduce emergency service calls through preventive measures.

Regulatory Authorities

Ensure compliance with safety regulations.
Access comprehensive data for regulatory reporting and audits.

Occupants and Visitors

Experience increased confidence in elevator safety.
Enjoy a smoother and more reliable elevator service.

Insurance Providers

Mitigate risk through proactive maintenance, potentially lowering insurance premiums.
Access data for risk assessment and policy pricing.

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