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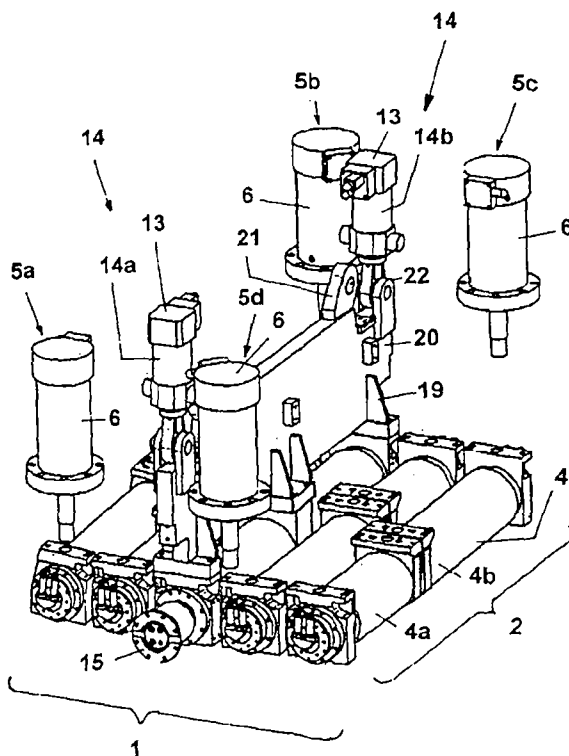
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[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: METHOD AND ROLL SEGMENT FOR DETERMINING CORE SOLIDIFICATION AND/OR THE LIQUID
CRATER TIP IN THE CONTINUOUS CASTING OF METALS, PARTICULARLY STEEL MATERIALS(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN UND ROLLESEGMENT ZUM BESTIMMEN DER KERNERSTARRUNG UND/ODER
DER SUMPFSPIITZE BEIM STRANGGIESSEN VON METALLEN, INSBESONDERE VON STAHLWERKSTOFFEN(57) Abstract: A method and roll segment (1) for
determining core solidification and/or the liquid
crater tip in the continuous casting of metals,
particularly steel materials, inside a roll segment
(1) of a support roller gantry (2), wherein the upper
frame (3) thereof supporting the upper rollers (4) can
be drivingly adjusted via hydraulic piston-cylinder
units (6), which are arranged in the corners (5a-5d)
of a polygon, counter to the lower rollers (8) of a
lower frame (7), according to the thickness of the
billet, working in a more accurate manner, using
an independent pair (14) of piston-cylinder units
(6) with an external or internal measuring device
(13a,13) in order to adjust a rotationally driven,
individual upper roller (4), taking into account the
measuring values for positional adjustment or force
adjustment in order to determine the position of core
solidification and/or the liquid crater tip in the cast
billet.(57) Zusammenfassung: Ein Verfahren und
ein Rollensegment (1) zum Bestimmen der
Kernerstarrung und / oder der Sumpfspitze beim
Stranggießen von Metallen, insbesondere von
Stahlwerkstoffen, innerhalb eines Rollensegmentes
(1) eines Stützrollengerüsts (2), dessen Oberrollen
(4) tragender Oberrahmen (3) über in den Ecken
(5a-5d) eines Polygons

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TRANSLATION (HM-739PCT):

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METHOD AND ROLL SEGMENT FOR DETERMINING CORE SOLIDIFICATION
AND/OR THE TIP OF THE LIQUID CRATER IN THE CONTINUOUS
CASTING OF METALS, ESPECIALLY STEEL MATERIALS

The invention concerns a method and a roll segment for determining the core solidification and/or the tip of the liquid crater in the continuous casting of metals, especially steel materials, within a roll segment of a support roll frame, whose upper frame, which supports the upper rolls, is driven towards the lower rolls of a lower frame by hydraulic piston-cylinder units installed at the vertices of a polygon to adjust to the given strand thickness.

EP 0 908 256 B1 discloses a method and a device for producing slabs in a continuous casting plant, whose strand guide consists of roll segments downstream of the continuous casting mold. Each segment frame is divided into two sections, and the frame sections are braced together by means of piston-cylinder units. To this end, each roll segment has four hydraulic cylinders, which brace pairs of opposing rolls for supporting and conveying the solidifying continuously cast

strand. At least one of these rolls, which acts as a drive roll, is pressed with a well-defined contact force against the continuously cast strand to transmit the strand-conveying forces. In this regard, the roll gap between the roll conveyor of the stationary side and the roll conveyor of the movable side is determined, measured, and, if necessary, automatically controlled by hydraulic cylinders with integrated electronic displacement sensors and position sensors relative to one another. The position of the tip of the liquid crater inside the continuously cast strand is determined via the movement of the entire upper frame and/or an evaluation of the four position values in conjunction with the resulting force values of the four hydraulic cylinders.

It was found that this method for determining the tip of the liquid crater and the preceding regions is not sufficiently accurate. In addition, the expense for non-position-controlled roll segments is very high.

In accordance with the invention, the stated objective is achieved by taking into consideration the measured values in the automatic position or force control for determining the position of the core solidification and/or the position of the tip of the liquid crater in the cast strand by means of an independent pair

of piston-cylinder units with an external measuring device or an internal measuring device for adjusting a single, rotationally driven upper roll. The measurement results that are obtained are advantageously used as the basis for expanded process-engineering sequences and functions for the operation and optimization of the adjustment parameters of the continuous casting and the continuous casting plant. The selection of a position value with subsequent evaluation of the resulting force or the selection of the force values with subsequent evaluation of the resulting position can be used as process-engineering feedback of the state of the strand or the position of the tip of the liquid crater. The accuracy of the determination of the precise position of the tip of the liquid crater can be improved compared to the previously known procedure of using the entire upper frame for the measurement. The application is related to automatically position-controlled segments and an independent installation for segments without automatic position control. The equipment can be less expensively designed.

In accordance with additional features of the invention, increased accuracy can be preadjusted by simultaneously measuring the measured values in several (selected) roll segments with at least one pair of independent piston-cylinder

units in each case and processing all of the measured data to obtain a mean value.

The mechanical solution of the problem of the invention is achieved by providing the upper frame with an independent crossbeam, which serves the purpose of mounting an external measuring device or at least a pair of hydraulic piston-cylinder units and has a single, rotationally driven upper roll for measuring the data for the dummy bar force or the cast strand force. The crossbeam can be equipped with one or two hydraulic piston-cylinder units. The position of the piston-cylinder units is automatically controlled. For this purpose, position sensors are integrated in the cylinders, or an external measuring device is mounted on the crossbeam. An automatic control system receives the determined position values and automatically controls the cylinder set position by a hydraulic valve. The contact force of the single roll can be automatically controlled in similar fashion. For this purpose, pressure sensors are integrated in the hydraulic cylinders (in both cylinder chambers) or in connecting lines (between the control valve and cylinder). The cylinder set forces are automatically controlled by the hydraulic control valve.

In a refinement of the invention, for an odd total number

of upper rolls and lower rolls, at least a middle upper roll and the opposite lower roll are driven.

It is then advantageous to arrange the roll segment with the features of the invention as the last roll segment of the support roll frame in the direction of casting. When the automatically position-controlled crossbeam is placed in this way as the last stand of a support roll frame, it is possible to optimize the casting speed with maximum utilization of the continuous casting plant and maximum throughput. This prevents a hazard due to bulging of the strand downstream of the continuous casting machine when the casting speed at which the liquid crater leaves the strand guide is set too high.

Specific embodiments are illustrated in the drawings and explained in greater detail below.

-- Figure 1 shows an exploded perspective view of an upper roll segment

-- Figure 2 shows a perspective view of a unit consisting of an upper frame and lower frame, several of which can be arranged in succession to form a support roll frame.

Figures 1 and 2 show a roll segment 1, and Figure 2 shows the roll segment 1 in its installed state in a section of the support roll frame 2. An upper frame 3 supports the upper rolls

4. Hydraulic piston-cylinder units 6 are mounted at the vertices 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d of a polygon and are connected with a lower frame 7 by the pistons. The lower frame 7 supports the lower roll 8. To allow adjustment of the upper rolls 4 towards each corresponding lower roll 8, the upper frame 3 is slidably supported on lateral uprights 9a, 9b in guides 10, so that the upper frame 3 with its upper rolls 4 can move in a suitable manner when the cast strand undergoes a change in thickness (e.g., bulging).

The upper rolls 4 and the lower rolls 8 are realized in partial lengths 4a, 4b and 8a, 8b, respectively, and are rotatably supported by inner bearings 11 and outer bearings 12 and internally cooled.

The method for determining the core solidification and/or the position of the tip of the liquid crater during the continuous casting of metals, especially steel materials, is carried out in such a way that the measured values in the automatic position or force control for determining the position of the core solidification and/or the position of the tip of the liquid crater in the cast strand are taken into consideration by means of an external measuring device 13 that is independent of the upper rolls 4 and lower rolls 8 or by means of at least a

pair 14 of additional piston-cylinder units 14a, 14b, which is independent of the other piston-cylinder units 6 and has an internal measuring device 13a for adjusting a single, rotationally driven upper roll 4. The single, rotationally driven upper roll 4 has an upper shaft end 15, and the opposite unadjustable lower roll 8 has a lower shaft end 16, to which the respective rotational drives (not shown) are connected.

It is also possible, depending on the process, simultaneously to obtain the measured values in several roll segments 1 with at least one pair 14 of independent piston-cylinder units 14a, 14b in each case, and to process all of the measured data to obtain a mean value.

In accordance with Figure 2 (see also Figure 1), the upper frame 3 supports, in addition to the polygonal piston-cylinder units 6 on the movable side 17 (the stationary-mounted lower frame 7 on the stationary side 18 corresponds to the upper frame 3), a crossbeam 20 between paired transverse walls 19. The single, driven upper roll 4 is mounted and rotatably supported on the crossbeam 20. The crossbeam 20 is provided with jack rings 21, so that a unit consisting of the single upper roll 4, the independent pair 14 of piston-cylinder units 6, and the measuring device 13 can be lifted out or lowered into position

with a crane. The pair 14 of piston-cylinder units 6 is connected by joints 22.

In the illustrated embodiment, for an odd total number of upper rolls 4 and lower rolls 8, at least the middle upper roll 4 is driven via the shaft end 15. The opposite lower roll 8 is also driven, and the lower shaft end 16 synchronously transmits a drive force.

List of Reference Numbers

1	roll segment
2	support roll frame
3	upper frame
4	upper roll
4a	partial length
4b	partial length
5a	vertex of a polygon
5b	vertex of a polygon
5c	vertex of a polygon
5d	vertex of a polygon
6	piston-cylinder unit
7	lower frame
8	lower roll
8a	partial length
8b	partial length
9a	upright member
9b	upright member
10	guide
11	inner bearing
12	outer bearing

- 13 measuring device
- 13a internal measuring device
- 14 independent pair of piston-cylinder units
- 14a piston-cylinder unit
- 14b piston-cylinder unit
- 15 upper shaft end
- 16 lower shaft end
- 17 movable side
- 18 stationary side
- 19 transverse wall
- 20 crossbeam
- 21 jack ring
- 22 joint

CLAIMS

1. Method for determining the core solidification and/or the tip of the liquid crater in the continuous casting of metals, especially steel materials, in a roll segment (1) of a support roll frame (2), whose upper frame (3), which supports the upper rolls (4), is driven towards the lower rolls (8) of a lower frame (7) by hydraulic piston-cylinder units (6) installed at the vertices (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) of a polygon to adjust to the given strand thickness, characterized by the fact that the measured values in the automatic position or force control for determining the position of the core solidification and/or the position of the tip of the liquid crater in the cast strand are taken into consideration by means of an independent pair (14) of piston-cylinder units (6) with an external measuring device (13) or an internal measuring device (13a) for adjusting a single, rotationally driven upper roll (4).

2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the measured values are simultaneously measured in several roll segments (1) with at least one pair (14) of independent piston-cylinder units (14a, 14b) in each case, and all of the measured data is processed to obtain a mean value.

3. Roll segment (1) for a support and drive roll frame (2) in continuous casting installations for metals, especially steel materials, with hydraulic piston-cylinder units (6) arranged polygonally in pairs, in which the roll separations, which are set to the given strand thickness, are adjusted on the movable side (17) of an adjustable upper frame (3), which supports the upper rolls (4), towards the lower rolls (8) of the lower frame (7), which constitutes the stationary side (18), characterized by the fact that the upper frame (3) is provided with an independent crossbeam (20), which serves the purpose of mounting an external measuring device (13) or at least a pair (14) of hydraulic piston-cylinder units (14a, 14b) and has a single, rotationally driven upper roll (4) for measuring the data for the dummy bar force or the hot strand force.

4. Roll segment in accordance with Claim 3, characterized by the fact that, for an odd total number of upper rolls (4) and lower rolls (8), at least a middle upper roll (4) and the opposite lower roll (8) are driven.

5. Roll segment in accordance with Claim 3 or Claim 4, characterized by its arrangement as the last roll segment (1) of the support roll frame (2) in the direction of casting.

FIG. 2