SAFETY DRIVING CONTROL AND RESCUE SYSTEM FOR WHEEL DIAMETER CHANGE AND HIGH-SPEED TIRE BURST

A safety driving control and rescue system for wheel radius change and high-speed tire burst comprises: a real-time monitoring module for detecting a rolling wheel radius of each wheel, an analyzing and processing module for processing a height change of an effective wheel radius, a central control device (210) for determining whether an effective rolling radius change and tire burst occur in each wheel according to the height change of the effective wheel radius of each wheel transmitted from the analyzing and processing module, and a wheel braking control module. After the central control device determines that a change and particularly tire burst occur on a wheel, the wheel braking control module, according to an effective wheel radius difference between two coaxial wheels, controls a braking device to apply braking forces with different value and different action time to wheels in a state that the vehicle is driven in a straight line or driven in a curve road, so as to control a real-time traveling speed of each wheel in cooperation with regulation and control on a driving force of the engine, so that the vehicle in which change of the wheel radius or high-speed tire burst occurs maintains the original stable driving state.
Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The disclosure relates to a safety driving control and rescue system for wheel radius change and tire burst in high-speed.

[0002] At present, a safety driving auto-control technique represented by ABS, TCS and ESP has developed well and helps to work well and importantly for the safety and stable control in particular cases. However, a question relating to a driving safe control and rescue when effective rolling radius obviously changes during high speed driving lacks of effective research. There is hardly a safe and effective solution for the vehicle according to the wheel radius change.

[0003] For example, on a highway, if a front tire of a vehicle suddenly burst, the effective rolling radius of the tire will change considerably. At this time, the head of the vehicle will rapidly deflect toward the side with the burst tire. If huge inertia and direct of the vehicle can not be put right, the laterally rolling can happed very likely, thereby a serious traffic accident can be caused. Even though the vehicle is equipped with the most advanced ESP system this moment, it doesn’t do much good for preventing harm of a serious accident caused by tire bursting.

[0004] Specifically, taking a conventional tire 195/70R 14 77H of a usual car for example, in which the section width of the tire is 195mm, the section height of the tire itself is 136.5mm, the radius of the hub is 355.6mm, the total radius is 492.1mm, the circumference of the tire is 3090.4mm. After the tire has burst during driving at a high speed, if the tire falls off, the total radius of the wheel is maximally reduced to 355.6mm of the hub radius from 492.1mm, that is, the rolling radius or the height from the hub to ground is decreased by up to a 27.74%, a linear speed converted by the same angular speed also will be decreased by 27.74%. It means that the rolling distance of the tire burst wheel is less than that of the tire non-burst wheel by 0.857m if they each rotate a circle. For a vehicle with a high speed of 108km/h, the theoretic linear speed of a wheel of the vehicle is 30m/s. If the tire of the right front wheel as a driving wheel has burst, the tire non-burst wheel with this specification theoretically will go forward 8.32m more than the tire burst wheel in an extreme condition of no operation to control direction. When the rolling resistance between the tire burst wheel and ground is greater than that between the tire non-burst wheel and ground, a differential mechanism will work to further enlarge the driving force of the tire non-burst wheel. The width of a usual vehicle road is about 3.5m, and the distance between two wheel axles of a vehicle is only less than 2m, therefore the tire non-burst wheel will drive more than the tire burst wheel by width of a lane or double axle distance in the moment of half second. Especially after a tire is torn, the burst tire will suffer from a huge rolling resistance, at this time, a differential mechanism will rapidly rotate a tire non-burst wheel, and the vehicle will then rotate around the tire burst wheel. Then the tire non-burst wheel will drive a distance of an axle more than the tire non-burst wheel within 0.3s, which will lead to a turn of 90 degrees or even 180 degrees of the vehicle head. The vehicle will laterally occupy the driving lane on the burst tire side, thereafter the huge going-forward inertia of the vehicle is enough to roll over or tail it within 0.5s, and a serious traffic accident will thereby be caused.

[0005] However, in the automotive industry at present, the problem of driving damages and safety and stability control caused by suddenly changing the rolling radius of a tire rarely gets attentions. A commonly adopted monitoring solution aiming at the high-speed burst is judging if the inside pressure of the tire is suddenly reduced to zero. The existing tire pressure monitoring system TPMS for car mainly has two manners, one of which is using angular speed sensor equipped by ABS. By the manner, the reducing of gas pressure will lead to decrease of the effective diameter of the tire, which thus will lead to abnormal increase of rotation speed of the tire. The other manner is a direct detecting manner with gas pressure sensor and temperature sensor mounted inside of a tire. The detecting precision of the direct manner is usually higher than that of the indirect manner.

[0006] In the direct manner, it is possible to detect the descending gas pressure by means of the difference between the rotation speeds of left and right tires using the wheel speed sensor of ABS. The advantage of the indirect manner is in that additional costs basically is not required if only mounting ABS, but the problem of the manner is that the detecting precision of gas pressure is lower than the direct manner, and the detecting can not be done when the gas pressures of all four tires are reduced.

[0007] In the direct manner of TPMS, the sensors and transmitter chips are mounted adjacent to a valve for tire, thus can timely alarm vehicle-mounted wireless receiver and provide information of tire burst when the pressure of the tire is too high, too low, or the tire is quickly or slowly leaking gas, or the temperature of the tire is changing abnormally. No matter when the vehicle is driving or in a resting state, the condition of the pressure of the tire (including spare tire) can be monitored at any time. But, TPMS can not complete automatic rescue and stability control of the vehicle after the tire bursts under the high speed, so that, the serious traffic accident, such as car crash and people died and pileup, caused by burst of the tire can not be avoided completely.

[0008] According to the tire pressure monitoring technology of the existing TPMS, the sampling frequency is low, such as one sampling needs about few seconds or even few minutes, so that the burst signals can not be obtained timely. If the tire pressure abnormal signals including burst are needed to be obtained timely, the sampling frequency must be higher, which will influence the life of the battery. Moreover, the manufacturing cost is high. For the sake of saving electricity or others, circuitry de-
sign will become complicate. Because tire pressure monitoring and emitting module usually is located at the mounting position of the valve, it is damaged easily when the tire is mounted or dismounted.

[0009] But the existing TPMS for detecting tire pressure or BMBS (burst monitoring and braking system), or BMBS and ESP system for controlling the vehicle in the dangerous condition, all can not measure and provide the tire radius change in the condition of seriously lacking of gas or burst. Therefore, the above systems can not perform more targeted, more timely and scientific and more effective driving control and rescue according to the real-time information of the effective rolling radius of respective wheel such as when the effective rolling radius of the vehicle driving at a high speed changes instantaneously obviously due to burst or any other.

[0010] As an example, the control logic of the highest level ESP driving stability control system equipped by a vehicle so far is based on the following hypothesis: the effective rolling radius of respective wheel is constant. But in fact, when determining if the rolling speed of some wheel changes, there exist two equally important detections, that is, one for detecting if the angular speed of rotation changes, the other for detecting if the dimension of the effective rolling radius changes. Only combining two detections, the driving condition of respective wheel can be determined accurately, and thus the vehicle can be controlled scientifically and effectively. If only the dimension of the angular speed of respective wheel and difference between them are monitored, and the dimension change of the present effective rolling radius of respective wheel are not detected, a serious deviation from the actual condition in which some tire seriously lacks of gas or suddenly bursts can appear, so that the ESP system can be leaded to provide a seriously wrong control countermeasure.

[0011] For example, at the instant of the left front tire burst, the laterally tilting force accumulative effect caused by suddenly increased rolling resistance of the burst tire due to lacking of gas is relatively small compared with the huge longitudinally going-forward inertia. At this time, the vehicle is still in the state of longitudinally stably going-forward under the inertia, and ESP also can not monitor that the vehicle has been up to the threshold of laterally slipping or rotating around the vertical axle but can firstly detect that the angular speed of the left front wheel is obviously momentarily increased by about 30%. At this moment, ESP may determine that the left front wheel has the tendency of slipping as a result of passing the road with one side of slippery surface, and thus may stop the left front wheel, so that the angular of the left front wheel may be identical with that of the right normal wheel. But the right front wheel will obtain greater driving force under the action of differential mechanism, and thus will rotate more distance with respect to the left burst wheel within the same time. In this way, as a result of the control of ESP, a sudden and huger leftwards deflecting force may be induced momentarily on the contrary, which thereby will lead to turning around or laterally rolling of the vehicle. At this time, ESP system can become confused in control logic, and further produce wrong countermeasures and then lead to a more serious accident.

[0012] Furthermore, some technologies aiming at high-speed burst accident has been present, but they cannot root out the danger of laterally tilting and laterally rolling of the vehicle with burst tire during driving at a high speed, don’t consider the driving characteristics when the wheel radius changes, thus cannot rescue effectively aiming at burst. The prior public technologies also cannot root out the rear-end accident caused by tire burst during the actual driving. Aiming at potential risk arising from the vehicle driving at a high speed, there is existing a requirement for a more scientific and perfect rescue countermeasure and a safely driving control solution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Therefore, aiming at a safe driving control and rescue problem of a vehicle when the effective rolling radius of a tire changes or a tire suddenly burst during driving at a high speed, the present invention provides an intelligent control system for rescue of high speed tire burst and for a safe driving when the wheel radius obviously changes, which can ensure that the vehicle with changed wheel radius drives safely and stably, and the damages to people and vehicle and serious traffic accident likely caused by a vehicle with burst tire at a high speed can be reduced and even to zero possibility.

[0014] The invention provides a safety driving control and rescue system for wheel radius change and tire burst in high-speed, including: a real-time monitoring module for detecting a rolling wheel radius and an angular speed of respective wheel; a signal transmitting module for transmitting detected signals of the rolling wheel radius and the angular speed of the real-time monitoring module; an analyzing and processing module for receiving the wheel radius signals and the angular speed signals from the signal transmitting module and analyzing and processing the signals to obtain a height change amount of effective wheel radius and an angular speed change amount; a central control device for determining whether respective wheel tire bursts or not according to the height change amount of the effective wheel radius of respective wheel transmitted by the analyzing and processing module; and a wheel braking control module, after the central control device determines a tire has burst, the central control device executes an emergency braking command and transmit the effective wheel radius signals and the real-time angular speed signals of respective wheel to the wheel braking control module, then the wheel braking control module can control a braking device to apply braking forces with different values and different acting times to respective wheel based on the state of the vehicle driving on linear road or curved road according to a difference between the effective wheel radius of the wheel with burst tire and the effective wheel radius of the
wheel with non-burst tire, in order to control real-time driving speed of the respective wheel, thereby the vehicle can be maintained in the state of its original stable driving.

[0015] Preferably, in the state of a vehicle driving on linear road, the wheel braking control module can control the braking system of the respective wheel to output a braking force so as to adjust a ratio of the angular speed of the wheel with burst tire and the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire being inversely proportion to a ratio of the real-time effective rolling radii of the wheel with burst tire and the real-time effective rolling radii of the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire by means of generating a braking force control signal for increasing braking force of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire, thereby both coaxial front wheels or both coaxial back wheels of the vehicle are controlled to reach or always maintain identical linear speeds; or in the state of the vehicle driving on curved road, the wheel braking control module can adjust the difference between the angular speed of the wheel with burst tire and the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire to a difference between the linear speeds of both coaxial wheels according to the dimension and direction of the steering angular for satisfying the requirement for the steering angular of the vehicle when driving on curved road. Therefore, the difference between the linear speeds of the wheel with burst tire and the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire caused by the difference between their rolling radii, rolling resistances and tractions will be eliminated, thus the same linear speeds of both wheels are ensured when the vehicle is driving on linear road, or the difference between the linear speed of both wheels can satisfy the demand of driving on curved road. The situation of producing lateral force caused by the burst tire can be fundamentally avoided. As a result, the vehicle with burst tire can be completely in the state of a stable and safe driving.

[0016] Preferably, during the above control, the central control device can collectively control the wheel braking control module and the engine driving control module. A necessary braking force for the vehicle will be produced, while a driving traction force applied to the vehicle from the engine will be increased or reduced in order to secure that the vehicle may accelerate or decelerate, so that the vehicle can be operated to change roadway at a reasonable speed, in particular, a pileup accident caused by improper speed control during high speed tire burst can be avoided.

[0017] Preferably, the central control device determines the tire of the respective wheel has burst when the height change amount of effective rolling radius of the respective wheel $\Delta h$ is equal to maximal height change extent $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ of the effective wheel radius, wherein $\Delta h_{\text{max}} = R_{\text{max}}R_{\text{min}}$, $R_{\text{min}}$ is the maximal effective rolling radius of the wheel predetermined when gas pressure is enough, and $R_{\text{min}}$ is the minimal effective rolling radius of the wheel predetermined when gas pressure is zero completely; the central control device determines the tire is in the state of lacking of gas or seriously lacking of gas when $\Delta h$ is between 0 and $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$.

[0018] Preferably, the real-time monitoring module for the rolling wheel radius of the wheel includes one or more height sensors which are fixedly mounted on respective wheel axle adjacent to respective wheel hub, the height sensors can measure the real-time height change amount from the hub to the ground from outside of the tire during the vehicle is driving; wherein the height sensors include measuring elements for measuring the height from the hub to the ground by means of ultrasonic, infrared or laser.

[0019] Preferably, the central control device determines that tire burst has occur when the height change amount of the effective radius of the tire is equal to the maximal height change amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ of the effective wheel radius and the height change amount still maintains unchanged in the set time-delay distance during the vehicle driving. If $\Delta h$ is a fixed value in the range of $0-\Delta h_{\text{max}}$, the central control device determines the tire lacks of gas or seriously lacks of gas. If $\Delta h>\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ (refers to the condition in which the tire is completely flat and the hub also will become less, but above condition is not existent actually; generally refers to the condition in which the tire just right falls into a concavity or the road surface below the sensor is higher than the road surface below the tire) or $\Delta h<0$ (refers to the condition in which the effective rolling radius of the tire increases, but above condition is also not existent actually; generally refers to the condition in which the tire jumps away from the ground), the central control device will determine that the road has abnormal concavo-convex surface. The data collected at this time will automatically disappear after the vehicle runs a distance, and will not be considered by the system.

[0020] Preferably, a laterally tilting amount sensor used as an assistant judging system can determine which tire has burst by detecting a tilting amount of tire burst vehicle toward a direction of a tire burst wheel. After a tire has burst, there will be a specific height reducing amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ of the vehicle from the ground at the burst tire position. The specific height reducing amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ will lead to a specific tilting angular $\theta_{\text{max}}$ of the vehicle toward the direction of the tire burst wheel. The horizontal plane of the chassis of the vehicle will maintain a stable tilt condition during the vehicle with burst tire is driving. The stable tilt condition can be detected by a set of the laterally tilting amount sensors mounted on the bottom of the vehicle and can be used for helping to judge whether tire has burst or whether the rolling radius changes a specific amount.

[0021] Preferably, after the central control device determines a tire has burst and the vehicle continue to drive a distance, if the height change amount of the effective radius of the tire is not equal to the maximal height change amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$, but is again back to its ordinary value, the central control device can determine that the vehicle has drove by a distance of abnormal protruding or depressed
Preferably, the detecting device for detecting value $R_{\text{max}}$ when the tire pressure is normal, the system real-time signals is considerably more than the maximal when the rolling radius corresponding to the monitored for a long time, and then separates from the hub, that is, sure and saving electricity, so that the requirement for TPMS including wheel radius, tire temperature, tire pressure sensors, thus becomes an updated the wheel radius change from inside of the tire may integrate with acceleration sensors, pressure sensors and tire temperature sensors, thus becomes an updated and upgraded produce VW-TPMS with multiple functions TPMS including wheel radius, tire temperature, tire pressure and saving electricity, so that the requirement for the stable control of a vehicle will be satisfied better and more scientifically.

Preferably, the real-time monitoring module for rolling wheel radius preferably uses a technical solution in which the effective rolling radius of the wheel can be detected from inside of the tire. Specifically, a detecting function integral module device is mounted on the hub inside of each tire. The integral module device at least includes a power supply module, sensors for detecting the height of inside of a crown and a wireless emission module. The detecting function integral module device may be mounted at a gas valve or a hub. By means of a real-time change amount of a distance between the crown and the hub detected when the detecting function integral module device is rotated to the lowest portion, a real-time change amount of effective rolling radius of the tire can be determined. The advantages of this detecting manner are in that it is not disturbed by the abnormal road surface, and the data can be processed easily and reliably. The crown height detecting module can be mounted on hub at multiple of situations for multiply improving the detecting rate of the wheel radius change. The sensors for detecting the height of inside of the crown can detect height change of the crown in wireless manner by means of ultrasonic, microwave, infrared ray or laser. The sensors for detecting the height of inside of the crown also can measure a specific reduced amount of crown height when the tire has burst or seriously lacks of gas in a manner of physically directly elastically contacting the crown by means of a contact electromagnetic switch, a proximity switch, a displacement detecting sensor, and thereby determines whether a tire has burst or seriously lacks of gas and obtains effective rolling radius corresponding to the present.

Preferably, according to the designed functions of the crown height change amount monitoring system, after the crown height has reduced to the maximum $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$, when the burst tire is torn by the hub due to rolling for a long time, and then separates from the hub, that is, when the rolling radius corresponding to the monitored real-time signals is considerably more than the maximal value $R_{\text{max}}$ when the tire pressure is normal, the system will determine the tire has fallen off, and use of the radius of the metal hub as the present effective rolling radius to take corresponding measures.

Preferably, according to the designed function, the crown height change amount monitoring system will send tire burst signals and wheel radius signals only when the crown height has reduced to the maximal value $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ in order to prolong the life of the internal battery.

Preferably, the detecting device for detecting the wheel radius change from inside of the tire may integrate with acceleration sensors, pressure sensors and tire temperature sensors, thus becomes an updated and upgraded produce VW-TPMS with multiple functions TPMS including wheel radius, tire temperature, tire pressure and saving electricity, so that the requirement for the stable control of a vehicle will be satisfied better and more scientifically.

Preferably, the system further includes a tire burst alarming module. The tire burst alarming module receives tire burst signals from the central control device, automatically starts alarming function to inside and outside of the vehicle, and maintains the alarming function until the alarming function is automatically removed after the vehicle safely stops or manually removed at the proper time. The alarming functions to inside include voice announcing, caution lights on the dashboard twinkling. The alarming functions to outside include lightening fog lights, lights on four corners, stoplight, high-beam and dipped light, whistling, or alarming with a special alarm, such as turning on lights on four corners and twinkling the direction indicator lamp on the side with emergency stop area.

Preferably, the system further includes a steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module. The steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module provides the dimension and direction information of the steering angular of the steering wheel to the central control device. The steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module will automatically immediately increase resistance of the steering wheels or completely lock the steering wheel for the vehicle equipped with an electric power steering after receiving the tire burst signals from the central control device. The steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module again properly reduces the resistance when detecting the driver actively steers, so that the vehicle can change road by slightly adjusting the direction.

Preferably, the system further is equipped with a rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module, which is signal communicated with the central control device. The rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module includes a distance detecting device for real-time detecting a distance between this vehicle and a closely following rear vehicle. When the central control device executes an emergency braking function for reducing the vehicle speed after tire burst, the distance detecting device transmits the distance signals real-time detected to the rear-ending preventing module. The rear-ending preventing module firstly compares the distance with a predetermined "braking released threshold". The rear-ending preventing module transmits vehicle emergent braking released signals to the central control device if the distance is less than the "braking released threshold". The central control device further sends decelerate released control command to the wheel braking module and the engine driving control module, so that the vehicle will maintain a safe distance from the rear vehicle unchanged. When the rear-ending preventing module detects that the distance between this vehicle and the rear vehicle is further being shortened quickly, it compares the distance with a predetermined "accelerate start threshold". The rear-ending preventing module outputs accelerate start signals to the central control device if the distance from the rear vehicle is equal to or less than the "accelerate start
Preferably, when the central control device determines that a vehicle’s tires do not burst but lack of gas, such as \( 0 < \Delta h < 0.6 \Delta h_{\text{max}} \), the central control device will only activate the wheel braking control module, the tire burst alarming module, the steering wheel’s angular measuring and stabilizing module and the engine driving control module according to the real-time angular speeds and the real-time change amount of the dimension of the effective wheel radius of left and right wheels on the respective axle and the dimension of the steering angular of the steering wheel, such that the angular speed of respective wheel is adjusted to satisfy the requirement for the dimension of real-time linear speed of coaxial left and right wheels when the vehicle is driving safely and stably. As a result, such phenomenon as laterally tilting, turning around, or tailing caused by the wheel radius change can be rooted out. If the phenomenon appears, the central control device will alarm to inside of the vehicle, then the driver can determine whether to decelerate or to stop to detect. When the tires are found to seriously lack of gas or tires explode suddenly, such as \( \Delta h > 0.6 \Delta h_{\text{max}} \), the central control device will send control demands to the wheel braking control module, the alarming module, the steering wheel’s angular measuring and stabilizing module, the engine driving control module and the rear-ending preventing module, so that intelligent control and rescue function for safe driving is activated to intelligently reduce the speed to "tire burst safe speed" for avoiding rear-ending.

First embodiment

As shown in FIG. 1, the present invention provides a monitoring apparatus 100 for wheel radius change and tire burst, the monitoring apparatus 100 includes a vehicle-mounted power supply module 101, a real-time monitoring module 102 for wheel radius change, a real-time detecting module 103 for wheel angular speed, a signal transmitting module 104 and an analyzing and processing module 105 for respective wheel’s effective rolling radius, angular speed, linear speed and real-time change amount.

The real-time monitoring module 102 for wheel radius change includes height sensor(s) fixedly mounted on respective axle adjacent to respective hub. The height sensor(s) real-time measures the height from the hub to the ground or the height and the real-time change amount of a tire during the vehicle is driving, wherein the height sensor(s) is a measuring element for measuring the height from the hub to the ground or height change of the tire (here refer to a height change of effective wheel radius of respective wheel) by means of ultrasonic, infrared, laser or other direct or indirect method. A laterally tilting amount sensor as an assistant judging system can judge which tire has burst by detecting a tilting amount sensor(s) is a measuring element for measuring the hori-zontal plane of the chassis of the vehicle will maintain a stable tilt condition during the vehicle with burst tire is driving. In this way it is possible to help to judge whether which tire has burst or whether the rolling radius produces particular change amount by monitoring the tilt condition.

The manner detecting a real time change amount of effective rolling radius of a tire has the following advantages: it is possible to achieve on-line continuous measurement without considering sampling frequency and service life limit of the built-in battery, and the appa-
ratus and circuit are simple and reliable.

[0035] The signal transmitting module 104 transmits the real time angular speed signals of respective wheel and the real-time effective rolling radius signals of respective wheel and/or laterally tilting amount signals by means of wired harness.

[0036] The analyzing and processing module 105 analyzes and processes the real-time detected effective rolling radius signals and obtains a height change amount $\Delta h$ of the effective radius, that is, a change amount in height from the hub to the ground or a burst tire. In the embodiment as shown in FIG.1 according to the invention, the analyzing and processing module 105 is a single module. However, in the other embodiments, the analyzing and processing module also can be integrated into a central control system of a vehicle and then completed as a part thereof.

[0037] The monitoring apparatus 100 for wheel radius change and tire burst is comprised in the safety driving control and rescue system 200. The monitoring apparatus 100 includes a central control device 210. The real-time angular speed signals of respective wheel output from the analyzing and processing module 105 of the monitoring apparatus 100 for wheel radius change and tire burst are output to the central control device 210. The central control device 210 then judges whether burst has occurred during a high-speed driving according to the collected change amount (reduced amount) in height of the effective wheel radius is equal to or greater than the feature change amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ of tire burst feature, the central control device has a function for automatically eliminating disturbing of the fault signals resulted from the abnormal road surface and immediately releasing tire burst stopping rescue.

(4) During the vehicle is driving, if the height reduced amount of the effective radius of the tire has come back to an ordinary value again after a distance, and it is not equal to the change amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ of tire burst feature, the central control device will automatically setup the control for automatically eliminating disturbing of the fault signals resulted from the abnormal road surface and immediately releasing tire burst stopping rescue;

(5) After a condition in which the height of the effective wheel radius is equal to or greater than the feature change amount $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$ has been monitored, for the vehicle with the function of tire pressure monitoring TPMS, the central control system will automatically activate the corresponding branch of TPMS, and inspect and verify. If an information in which the tire pressure is zero or seriously low is transmitted from the corresponding branch of TPMS, the central control device will automatically setup the function of tire burst intelligent rescue; if the tire pressure is normal, it is indicates that the vehicle has passed the depressed or protruding road surface, or the road surface with fallouts, so that the central control device will judge tire burst accident does not occur.

[0038] As shown in FIG.1, a safe driving control and rescue system for wheel radius change and high-speed tire burst (VM-ESP) 200 further includes a wheel braking control module 211, a tire burst alarming module 212, a steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module 213, an engine driving control module 214 and a rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module 215 connected to the central control device 210.

[0039] The central control device 210 can collectively control the wheel braking control module 211 and the engine driving control module 214, thereby produces a necessary braking force for the vehicle, at the same time increases or reduces the driving traction force applied to the vehicle from the engine, which can secure that the
vehicle may not only automatically decelerate but also automatically accelerate, so that the vehicle can be operated to change road in a reasonable speed, in particular, a condition in which the vehicle’s speed is controlled in an unscientific manner which leads to pileup with rear vehicles is avoided during high-speed tire burst rescue. [0040] After the central control module 210 judges that certain tire burst has happened, it will send the information, which includes a command for executing urgent braking, and the effective wheel radius of the respective wheel and the real-time angular speed of the respective wheel and so on, to the wheel braking control module 211. The wheel braking control module 211 then applies braking forces with different level and different applying time to respective wheels according to a difference between the effective wheel radius of the burst tire and the effective wheel radius of the wheel with non-burst tire and the driving condition of the vehicle, so that the vehicle can maintain original stable driving condition during the vehicle is driving and a risk of out-of-control of the vehicle, for example including deflection of the driving direction of the vehicle, can be prevented. Here, the driving condition may be straight driving or driving on curved roads. In the straight driving condition, in order to make two coaxial front wheels and two coaxial rear wheels of the vehicle reach identical linear speeds, the wheel braking control module 211 adjusts the angular speeds of the burst tire and coaxial non-burst tire into being inversely proportional to their respective real-time effective rolling radius by increasing the braking force of the coaxial non-burst tire combining with controlling the engine driving control module 214 by the central control device 210. In the condition of the vehicle driving on curved road, the wheel braking control module 211 adjusts the difference between the angular speeds of the burst tire and the coaxial non-burst tire into a difference between the linear speeds of the two coaxial wheels according to direction of the steering angular and real-time effective rolling radii of both wheels, in order to meet demand of stable driving on curved roads. [0041] According to the present invention, under the condition combining a dynamic difference between effective rolling radii of burst tire wheel and coaxial tire non-burst wheel, or in broad terms, a dynamic difference between effective rolling radii of coaxial left and right wheels of the vehicle, a control goal of present invention is to make the real-time driving linear speeds of burst tire wheel and coaxial non-burst tire wheel (or left and right wheels on the same axle) be identical, excluding a condition of a difference between linear speeds of both wheels meeting the requirement on steering in curved roads, by means of respectively adjusting and controlling the values of the braking forces applied to the two wheels, combined with adjusting and controlling functions including controlling the driving force of the engine and separately and/or collectively braking and driving other wheels, the wheel braking control module 211 automatically eliminates a difference between actually driving linear speeds of tire burst wheel and coaxial tire non-burst wheel, which are caused by differences between adhesive forces in every direction, rolling resistances, rolling radii, rolling angular speeds of both wheels after tire burst, and essentially eliminates a direction deflection force resulting from a difference between lateral forces occurring on the axle due to tire burst and disaster accidents thereby caused by out-of-control of the direction. [0042] At the same time, the tire burst alarming module 212, after receiving tire burst signals or seriously lacking gas signals from the central control device 210, automatically starts alarming function to the vehicle, that is, alarming function to inside of the vehicle and to outside of the vehicle, and maintain the alarming function until be automatically reset after the vehicle safely stops or manually reset at the proper time. The alarming functions to inside of the vehicle include voice announcing, caution lights on the dashboard twinkling; the alarming functions to outside of the vehicle include lightening and flashing fog lights, lights on four corners, stoplight, high-beam and dipped light and whistling, or alarming with specific alarm, such as including activating lights on four corners and alternatively twinkling the direction indicator lamp on the side with emergency stop area. In this way the rear vehicle can be alarmed that the front vehicle is abnormal, thereby automatically decelerates or keeps away from it when the distance to the rear vehicle is too short or the speed of the vehicle is too high while the left and the right roads have been occupied. [0043] Optionally, except for providing the value and direction of the present real-time steering angular to the central control device, the steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module 213 will automatically immediately increase resistance of the steering wheel or completely lock the steering wheel for the vehicle equipped with an electric power steering or an electric hydraulic steering after receiving the tire burst signals from the central control device 210. So that when the tire burst occurs, the driver is prevented from out-of-control to direction which is caused by instantly outburst huge deflecting force or tailing force due to the hubs rolling while touching the ground resulting from the burst tire wheel lacking of gas subsequently being rapidly rolled and torn, and so that the accidents are further avoided, and then the steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module 213 can properly reduce the resistance when detecting the driver intends to steer so that the vehicle can slightly adjust the direction to change road. [0044] In the advantageous embodiment of the invention, the safety driving control and rescue system 200 for wheel radius change and high-speed tire burst (VW-ESP) further includes rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module 215 communicated with the central control device 210. The rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module 215 includes a distance detecting device for real-time detecting a distance between this vehicle and the rear vehicle closely following it. After detecting seriously lacking of gas or tire burst occurring, such as
In which the vehicle laterally slips or tails turning around is avoided, when the above condition appears, the central control device 210 will provide the alarm to inside of the vehicle, then the driver can determine whether to decelerate or to stop to detect; when the tires are found to seriously lack of gas or tires explode suddenly, such as \( \Delta h > 0.6 \Delta h_{\text{max}} \), the central control device 210 of the system will send control demands to the wheel braking control module 211, the alarming module 212, the angular measuring and stabilizing module 213 of steering wheel, the engine driving control module 214 and the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module 215 accordingly to the above described solution based on the information of the real-time angular speed and the value of the effective wheel radius, so that intelligent control and rescue function is activated to intelligently reduce the speed to "tire burst safe speed" for avoiding impacted by the rear vehicle.

In order to real-time accurately detect whether tire burst occurs or how the effective radius of the wheel changes when a vehicle is driving at high speed, using the invention, due to high sampling frequency of monitoring the wheel radius, if only a vehicle drives 0.1~0.5 m, a update to effective rolling radius parameter of the wheel can be completed, and a control for avoiding forming deflecting force and reducing the speed of the vehicle can be implemented.

Second embodiment

As shown in FIG.1, the present invention provides a monitoring apparatus 100 for wheel radius change and tire burst, the monitoring apparatus 100 includes a vehicle-mounted power supply module 101, a real-time monitoring module 102 for wheel radius change, a real-time detecting module 103 for wheel angular speed, a signal transmitting module 104 and an analyzing and processing module 105 for respective wheel's effective rolling radius, angular speed, linear speed and real-time changing amount. In addition, the safety driving control and rescue system for wheel radius change and high-speed tire burst (VM-ESP) 200 of the present invention further includes a wheel braking control module 211, a tire burst alarming module 212, a steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module 213, an engine driving control module 214 and a rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module 215 connected to a central control device 210.

The difference between second embodiments of the invention and the above-mentioned first embodiment of FIG.1 is only in the difference of the structure and detecting manner of the real-time monitoring module 102, and other structure and solution of the embodiment are the same as that of the first embodiment.

In other embodiments, the real-time monitoring module 102 of the monitoring apparatus 100 for wheel radius change and tire burst is optionally displaced with a detecting device for detecting the effective rolling radius
of the wheel from inside of the wheel tire and correspond-
ing technical solution.

Different from the manner of first embodiment
[0050] in which the real-time value of effective rolling radius of
the wheel tire is indirectly detecting from outside of the
tire, the real-time monitoring module 102 of the second
embodiment directly detects the reduced height of the
tire crown in different lack-of-gas conditions from inside
by means of a integral module device with real-time de-
tecting function for wheel radius change mounted on
the hub inside of each tire, thereby directly measures and
determines the change of effective rolling radius of the
tire. The advantages for the second embodiment are data
being accurate, processing being simple, mounting being
convenient, measurement being not disturbed by exter-
nal muddy environment due to rain or snow and abnormal
protruding and depressed road surface, and delay deter-
mining and filtering handle to the detected data after driv-
ing a distance being not required.

The real-time monitoring module 102 for wheel
radius change at least includes a power supply module,
sensors for detecting the height of inside of the crown
and wireless emission module. The real-time monitoring
module 102 is an integral module device that can be
mounted at a gas valve or on the hub, by means of a
real-time change amount of a distance between the de-
tected crown and the wheel hub when the detect device
is rotated to the lowest portion, a real-time change
amount of effective rolling radius of the tire can be deter-
mined. The sensors for detecting the height of inside of
the crown can be mounted on hub at multiple of situations
for multiply improving the detecting rate of the wheel ra-
dius change. The sensors for detecting the height of in-
side of the crown can detect height change of the crown
in wireless manner by means of electromagnetic wave
signals such ultrasonic, infrared ray, laser and etc. The
sensors for detecting the height of inside of the crown
also can measure a reduced amount of crown height
when the tire has burst or lacks of gas in such manner
of physically directly elastically contacting to detect the
specific displacement of the crown by means of a contact
electromagnetic switch, a proximity switch, a displace-
ment detecting sensor, and thereby determines whether
tires have burst or lack of gas and obtains present cor-
responding effective rolling radius.

[0051] Preferably, after the tires have burst, if the ve-
hicle cannot change the running lane or decelerate due
to such a road condition of the road being occupied by
the back and left and right vehicles, thereby the vehicle
is forced to drive at high speed for a long time, the burst
tires will be torn by the hub thereof due to being rolled
for a long time, and then separate from the hub, at this
time, the rolling radius corresponding to the real-time sig-
als monitored by the real-time monitoring module 102
will be considerably greater than the maximal value
Rmax when the tire pressure is normal. In this respect,
the invention includes a function design with a crown
height change amount monitoring system, in which a pre-
determined effective radius value of burst tire when the
metal wheel hub rolls contacting the ground is automa-
tically used as the present effective rolling radius to take
responding measures.

In practically implementing, the real-time mon-
toring module 102 for wheel radius sends tire burst and
wheel radius signals only when detecting the crown
height has reduced to the maximal characteristic value
Δhmax to delay the life of internal battery and reduce the
produce cost, and improve reliability of the parts.

Besides, the real-time monitoring module 102
for wheel radius may integrate with sensors relating to
acceleration, tire pressure and tire temperature, and
thereby becomes an updated and upgraded produce
VW-TPMS with multiple functions TPMS including wheel
radius, tire temperature, tire pressure and saving elec-
tricity, so that the vehicle can be controlled with higher,
more scientific driving stability.

Like the first embodiment, the rescue and safe
driving control function to the vehicle with wheel radius
change or burst tire at high speed includes the following
four aspects: adjusting and controlling the driving speed
of both coaxial wheels with wheel radius change or burst
tire, controlling the stability of the steering wheel, the
 alarming function to outside and inside and controlling to
decelerate to avoid rear-ended by the rear vehicle.
Therefore, the vehicle with burst tire can drive safely and
stably and can decelerate to reasonable driving speed,
such that the driver can safely stop on emergency stop
area to carry out such operation as changing spare tire,
and such accident caused by out-of-control of vehicle
resulting from high speed tire burst as lateral roll, turn
around, tail and serious pileup is avoided.

Although the above embodiments have been described
in details in the disclosure, many developments are pos-
sible without essentially departing from the novel teaches
and advantages of the subjects described herein.

Claims

1. A safety driving control and rescue system for wheel
radius change and tire burst in high-speed, including:

- a real-time monitoring module for detecting a
  rolling wheel radius and an angular speed of re-
spective wheel;
- a signal transmitting module for transmitting de-
tected signals of the rolling wheel radius and the
angular speed of the real-time monitoring mod-
ule;
- an analyzing and processing module for receiv-
ing the wheel radius signals and the angular
speed signals from the signal transmitting mod-
ule and analyzing and processing the signals to
obtain a height change amount of effective
wheel radius and an angular speed change amount;
a central control device for determining whether respective wheel tire bursts or not according to the height change amount of the effective wheel radius of respective wheel transmitted by the analyzing and processing module; and
a wheel braking control module, after the central control device determines a tire has burst, the central control device executes an emergency braking command and transmit the effective wheel radius signals and the real-time angular speed signals of respective wheel to the wheel braking control module, then the wheel braking control module can control a braking device to apply braking forces with different values and different acting times to respective wheel based on the state of the vehicle driving on linear road or curved road according to a difference between the effective wheel radius of the wheel with burst tire and the effective wheel radius of the wheel with non-burst tire, in order to control real-time driving speed of the respective wheel, thereby the vehicle can be maintained in the state of it's original stable driving.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein, in the state of a vehicle driving on linear road, the wheel braking control module can control the braking system of the respective wheel to output a braking force so as to adjust a ratio of the angular speed of the wheel with burst tire and the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire being inversely proportion to a ratio of the real-time effective rolling radii of the wheel with burst tire and the real-time effective rolling radii of the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire by mean of generating a braking force control signal for increasing braking force of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire, , thereby both coaxial front wheels or both coaxial back wheels of the vehicle are controlled to reach or always maintain identical linear speeds; or in the sate of the vehicle driving on curved road, the wheel braking control module can adjust the difference between the angular speed of the wheel with burst tire and the angular speed of the coaxial wheel with non-burst tire to a difference between the linear speeds of both coaxial wheels according to the dimension and direction of the steering angular for satisfying the requirement for the steering angular of the vehicle when driving on curved road.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein, the central control device determines the tire of the respective wheel has burst when the height change amount of effective wheel radius of the respective wheel is equal to maximal height change extent \( \Delta h_{max} \) of the effective wheel radius, wherein \( \Delta h_{max} = R_{max} - R_{min} \), where \( R_{min} \) is the maximal effective rolling radius of the wheel predetermined when gas pressure is enough, and \( R_{max} \) is the minimal effective rolling radius of the wheel predetermined when gas pressure is zero completely; the central control device determines the tire is in the sate of lacking of gas or seriously lacking of gas when \( \Delta h \) is between 0 and \( \Delta h_{max} \).

4. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the real-time monitoring module for the rolling wheel radius of the wheel includes one or more height sensors which are fixedly mounted on respective wheel axle adjacent to respective wheel hub, the height sensors can measure the real-time height change amount from the hub to the ground from outside of the tire during the vehicle is driving; wherein the height sensors include measuring elements for measuring the height from the hub to the ground by means of ultrasonic, infrared or laser.

5. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a laterally tilting amount sensor as an assistant judging system can determine which tire bursts by detecting a tilting amount of the vehicle toward a direction of tire burst wheel; after a tire has burst, there will be a specific height reducing amount \( \Delta h_{max} \) of the vehicle from the ground at the burst tire position, the specific height reducing amount \( \Delta h_{max} \) will lead to a specific tilting angular \( h_{max} \) of the vehicle toward the direction of the tire burst wheel, the horizontal plane of the chassis of the vehicle will maintain a stable tilt condition during tire burst wheel driving, a set of the laterally tilting amount sensors mounted on the bottom of the vehicle can help to judge whether which tire has burst or whether the rolling radius has a particular change amount by monitoring the specific tilt condition.

6. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the central control device determines that tire has burst when the height change amount of the effective radius of the tire is equal to the maximal height change amount \( \Delta h_{max} \) of the effective radius and the height change amount still maintains unchanged after the vehicle has passed the predetermined time-delay distance.

7. The system according to claims 6, wherein after the vehicle has passed a driving distance after the central control device determines tire burst, if the central control device detects that the height change amount of the effective radius of the tire is not the maximal height change amount \( \Delta h_{max} \) when the tire has burst, but is again back to its stable ordinary value, it can determine that there are disturbing fault signals produced due to local abnormal protruding or depressed road surface and immediately release the determination of tire burst.
8. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the real-time monitoring module for the rolling wheel radius of the wheel is form of detecting function integral module devices mounted on the hub inside of each tire, the detecting function integral module device at least includes a power supply module, sensors for detecting the height of inside of a crown and a wireless emission module; the detecting function integral module device can be mounted on a gas valve or a hub; a real-time change amount of effective rolling radius of the tire can be determined by means of a real-time change amount of a distance between the crown and the hub detected when the detecting function integral module device is rotated to the lowest portion; the sensors for detecting the height of inside of a crown can detect height change of the crown in wireless manner by means of ultrasonic, infrared ray or laser, or can measure a reduced amount of crown height when the tire has burst or seriously lacks of gas in the manner of physically directly elastically contacting the crown by means of a contact electromagnetic switch, a proximity switch or a displacement detecting sensor, and thereby determines whether tires have burst or seriously lack of gas and obtains effective rolling radii corresponding to the present.

9. The system according to claims 8, wherein the detecting function integral module device sends tire burst information and wheel radius signals to outside only when detecting the crown height is reduced to the maximal value $\Delta h_{\text{max}}$.

10. The system according to claims 8, wherein the detecting function integral module device for detecting the effective rolling radius of the wheel from inside of the tire can integrate with acceleration sensors, tire pressure sensors and tire temperature sensors.

11. The system according to claims 8, wherein after the crown height is reduced to the lowest value, when the burst tire is torn by the hub due to rolling for a long time and then separates from the hub, the rolling radius corresponding to the real-time signals will be considerably more than the maximal value $R_{\text{max}}$ determined when the tire pressure is normal, the detecting function integral module device uses an effective radius of a metal hub measured when it rolls directly contacting the ground as the present effective rolling radius.

12. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein further includes a tire burst alarming module, the tire burst alarming module receives tire burst signals from the central control device, automatically activates alarming function to inside and outside of the vehicle, and maintains the alarming function until the alarming function is automatically removed after the vehicle safely stops or manually removed at the proper time; the alarming functions to inside include voice announcing, caution lights on the dashboard twinking; the alarming functions to outside include lightening fog lights, lights on four corners, stoplight, high-beam and dipped light, whistling, or alarming with specific alarm, such as turning on lights on four corners and twinking the direction indicator lamp on the side with emergency stop area.

13. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein further includes a steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module, the steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module provides the real-time value and direction data of the steering angular of the steering wheel to the central control device, at the same time, the steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module will automatically immediately increase resistance of the steering wheels or completely lock the steering wheel for the vehicle equipped with an electric power steering or an electric hydraulic steering after receiving the tire burst signals from the central control device; and then the steering wheel angular measuring and stabilizing module can properly reduce the resistance when detecting the driver intends to steer so that the vehicle can change a roadway by slightly adjusting the direction.

14. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein further includes a rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module, which is signal communicated with the central control device, the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module includes a distance detecting device for real-time detecting a distance between this vehicle and a closely following rear vehicle; when the system determines the tire of the vehicle seriously lacks of gas or has burst, the distance detecting device transmits the real-time detected distance signals to the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module, the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module firstly compares the distance with a predetermined braking released threshold, and then transmits vehicle emergency braking released signals to the central control device when the distance is less than the braking released threshold, the central control device subsequently outputs braking released signals to the braking control module and the engine driving control module, for controlling the vehicle speed and keeping a safe distance between this vehicle and the rear vehicle unchanged; when the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module detects the distance between this vehicle and the rear vehicle is further shortening quickly, it compares the distance with a predetermined accelerate start threshold, and then outputs accelerate start signals to the central control device if the distance is equal or less than the accelerate start threshold, the cen-
tral control device subsequently further outputs an accelerate executing command to the engine driving control module, so that the engine's driving force is increased and the speed is thus increased while the driving linear speeds of the both wheels on the axle with burst tire are maintained in equal by the braking control module or the speed difference meets with a requirement for the vehicle being driving on curved road, thereby a safe distance to the rear vehicle is increased actively; when the distance between vehicles is increased up to the predetermined braking released threshold, the central control device will automatically send a command of automatically releasing accelerate to the engine driving control module; when the rear vehicle rear-ending preventing module detects that the distance between this vehicle and the rear vehicle is again increased to greater than the predetermined braking released threshold, the central control device will resend the emergency decelerate command to the braking control module for controlling the speed of the vehicle with burst tire until it is reduced to a predetermined tire burst safe driving speed.

15. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the central control device can collectively control the wheel braking control module and the engine driving control module, so that the respective wheel of the vehicle can be braked, then the angular speed of respective wheel can be adjusted, at the same time, output power applied to the vehicle from the engine can be increased or reduced, thereby the vehicle can accelerate or decelerate.

16. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein when the central control device determines that a vehicle's tires lack of gas, such as the height change amount $\Delta h$ of the effective wheel radius satisfies the following condition: $0 < \Delta h < 0.6 \Delta h_{\text{max}}$, the central control device is set such that according to the real-time angular speeds and the real-time change amount of the dimension of the effective wheel radius of left and right wheels on the respective axle and the value and the direction of the steering angular of the steering wheel, the angular speed of respective wheel is real-time adjusted to make the value of linear speed of coaxial left and right wheels meet the requirement of safe and stable driving of the vehicle driving on linear road or curved road, and the tire burst alarming module will be activated to execute alarming to inside and outside.

17. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the sampling frequency of the monitoring module can complete a update to effective rolling radius parameter of a wheel as long as the vehicle runs 0.1~0.5 m.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

See the extra sheet
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: B60C, B60W

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPI, EPDOC, CNPAT, CNKI: tyre explosion, wheel diameter, brake, tyre?, explod+, radi, radius, sensor?, speed, control+, control+

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
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* Special categories of cited documents:
  “A” document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  “E” earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
  “L” document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  “O” document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  “P” document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 2009)
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
**Information on patent family members**

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### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

- B60C 23/06 (2006.01) i
- B60W 10/18 (2012.01) i