Spatial Three Degree of Freedom Parallel Manipulator
Forward Kinematic Position Analysis

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Abstract

This work presents forward kinematic position analysis of a spatial three degree of freedom parallel manipulator, which has three symmetric loops. The three loops consist of an actuated sliding links-rotational and spherical joints. The actuated sliding links are attached to inclined base platform via rotational joints. The limbs are connected from rotational joints to moving platform by spherical joints. The degree of freedom of a spatial parallel manipulator is analyzed via kutzbach criterion. The forward kinematic position analysis carried out by using 3-coupled trigonometric equations which are formulated with side and behaviour constraints of the manipulator. There are many difficulties in solving the system of non-linear equations in kinematics of manipulator therefore by using MATLAB the three non-linear coupled algebraic equations are solved. The forward position kinematic analysis part is used in the development procedure of spatial parallel manipulator to check, the required and obtained positions of the moving platform of the developed manipulator.

Keywords: Forward kinematics; position analysis; spatial parallel manipulator; 3- degree of freedom.

1. Introduction

The parallel manipulators perform the task of controlling the moving platform with respect to the base frame. The six degree of freedom spatial parallel manipulators such as Stewart –Gough platform type and Stewart universal type test machines [1,2] suffer the difficult in position kinematic analysis. For several applications like air craft simulation require less than 6 -dof Therefore, less than six degree of freedom spatial parallel manipulators have been developed. Yangmin Li and Qingsong Xu[3,4] proposed kinematic analysis of 3-dof translational parallel manipulators which are moving in rectangular coordinate system. Meng-Shium Tsai[5] proposed the analysis of a 3-PRS parallel mechanism which indicate the analysis of mechanism. J.A.carretero [6] proposed analysis and optimization of parallel manipulator in which prismatic joints are actuated. Lee and Shah[7] proposed analysis of 3-dof parallel actuated manipulator, in which the motion will be constrained. Yangmin Li and Qingsong Xu[8] presented the analysis of 3-PRS parallel manipulator in which the sliding joints were actuated. Xin-JunLiu and Farhad Tahmasebi[9,10] performed new parallel manipulators using the Grubler mobility criterion as it may be demonstrated that the mechanism has 3-dof. The purpose of this work is to develop an analytical method and systematic design procedure to analyze the basic forward position kinematics of 3-dof spatial parallel manipulator. The geometric method is applied to formulate 3-coupled trigonometric equations by considering with side and behaviour constraints and equations are solved by vector technique. The nonlinear equations which are very difficult to solve, therefore by using MATLAB the three non-linear coupled algebraic kinematic equations are solved.

2. Geometry Description of Spatial 3-Dof Parallel Manipulator

The spatial three degree of freedom parallel manipulator consists of a moving platform which is connected to a fixed base by three similar supporting limbs with three symmetric loops as shown in Fig 1. In these three loops the number of rotational joints, type of joints and number of sliding joints and number of moving limbs are same and equal to the dof of the moving platform of the manipulator. The actuated sliding joint of each limb is inclined from the fixed link of base platform by an angle αi for ith position of limb. The sliding joint is actuated on a limb of fixed length via a rotational joint and limbs are connected to the moving platform by spherical joints. The fixed platform co-ordinate reference frame O(x, y, z) is considered at the centre of ΔB1B2B3. Similarly the moving platform co-ordinate reference frame P(u, v, w) is considered at the centre of ΔS1S2S3. Consider x-axis in the direction OB1 and the u-axis in the direction PS1. For each actuation along three loops the distance between B1 and Pk is denoted by dB1[j=1,2,3 and i=1,2,3,4,etc] as in Fig. 1. The Fig.2 and Fig. 3 represent the position vector of fixed platform vertices B1[j=1,2,3] and moving platform vertices Sj[j=1,2,3] with respect to fixed base frame centre O (x, y, z) and moving platform frame centre P (u, v, w) can be expressed as follows:

\[ OB1 = g_1, OB2 = g_2, OB3 = g_3, OS1 = h_1, OS2 = h_2, OS3 = h_3, OP = \overline{p}_1, OS_{\parallel} = \overline{q}_1 \]
2.1. Geometry Diagrams of Spatial 3-Dof Parallel Manipulator

![Fig. 1 Spatial 3-dof parallel manipulator]

![Fig. 2 Geometry of moving platform]

![Fig. 3 Geometry of fixed base platform]

2.2. Degree of Freedom of Spatial Parallel Manipulator

The degree of freedom is the number of input parameters required to specify the configuration of a spatial parallel manipulator completely. The equation depends on number of links, number of joints and type of joints incorporated in the selected spatial parallel manipulator. The spatial parallel manipulator consists of eight joints, three rotational joints, three sliding joints and three spherical joints. The dof of spatial parallel manipulator can be calculated by using Kutzbach criterion.

\[ f = 6(n - 1) - 5j_1 - 4j_2 - 3j_3 - 2j_4 - j_5 = 6(8 - 1) - 5 \times 6 - 4 \times 0 - 3 \times 3 - 2 \times 0 - 1 \times 0 = 3 \]  

(1)

Where \( f \) denotes dof of a spatial parallel manipulator.

\( j_1 \) represents the number of links or joints which losses 1dof

\( j_2 \) represents the number of links or joints which losses 2dof

\( j_3 \) represents the number of links or joints which losses 3dof

\( j_4 \) represent the number of links or joints which losses 4dof

\( j_5 \) represent the number of links or joints which losses 5dof

3. Forward Kinematic Position Analysis

First a set of actuated inputs are given, then the position and orientation of the moving platform are obtained by forward kinematic analysis. Let \( \bar{P}_j \bar{S}_j \big|_{j=1,2,3} = \bar{L}_j \big|_{j=1,2,3} \)

\[ \bar{P}_j \bar{S}_j \big|_{j=1,2,3} = \bar{L}_j \big|_{j=1,2,3} \]

![Equation Image]

\[ \bar{q}_{ji} = \left[ (g_i + d_i \cos \xi_i + L_i \cos(\xi_i - \alpha_i)) \cos \beta_i \right] \| + \left[ (g_i + d_i \cos \xi_i + L_i \cos(\xi_i - \alpha_i)) \sin \beta_i \right] \| + \left[ d_i \sin \xi_i + L_i \sin(\xi_i - \alpha_i) \right] \| \]

(2)

Where \( j=1, 2, 3 \) and \( i=1,2,3,4 \) etc

Consider at \( \beta_1 \big|_{j=1,2,3} = 0^\circ, 120^\circ, 240^\circ \)and \( g_1 = g_2 = g_3 = g, L_1 = L_2 = L_3 = L, \xi_1 = \xi_2 = \xi_3 = \xi \) then Eq. (2) can be written as

\[ \bar{q}_{11} = \left[ (g_1 + d_1 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_1)) \cos \beta_1 \right] \| + \left[ (g_1 + d_1 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_1)) \sin \beta_1 \right] \| + \left[ d_1 \sin \xi + L \sin(\xi - \alpha_1) \right] \| \]

(3)

\[ \bar{q}_{12} = \left[ (g_1 + d_2 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_2)) \cos \beta_2 \right] \| + \left[ (g_1 + d_2 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_2)) \sin \beta_2 \right] \| + \left[ d_2 \sin \xi + L \sin(\xi - \alpha_2) \right] \| \]

(4)

\[ \bar{q}_{13} = \left[ (g_1 + d_3 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_3)) \cos \beta_3 \right] \| + \left[ (g_1 + d_3 \cos \xi + L \cos(\xi - \alpha_3)) \sin \beta_3 \right] \| + \left[ d_3 \sin \xi + L \sin(\xi - \alpha_3) \right] \| \]

(5)

The position and orientation of the limbs can be determined by the geometric distance between two spherical joints that are to be constant in magnitude. i.e.

\[ |\bar{q}_{11} - \bar{q}_{12}| = |\bar{q}_{11} - \bar{q}_{13}| = \sqrt{3}h \]

(6)

Subtracting Eq. (4) from Eq. (3) then

\[ \bar{q}_{11} - \bar{q}_{12} = \left[ (a_{31} - 1)g + (a_{32}d_{31} - d_{32}) \cos \xi + L(a_{23} \cos(\xi - \alpha_1)) \cos \beta_1 \| + \left[ (b_{13} - 1)g + (b_{23}d_{21} - d_{23}) \cos \xi + L(b_{12} \cos(\xi - \alpha_1) - \cos(\xi - \alpha_2)) \sin \beta_1 \right] \| + \left[ d_{12} \sin \xi + L \sin(\xi - \alpha_1) - \sin(\xi - \alpha_2) \right] \| \]

(7)

Subtracting Eq. (5) from Eq. (4) then

\[ \bar{q}_{12} - \bar{q}_{13} = \left[ (a_{31} - 1)g + (a_{32}d_{31} - d_{32}) \cos \xi + L(a_{23} \cos(\xi - \alpha_1)) \cos \beta_1 \| + \left[ (b_{13} - 1)g + (b_{23}d_{21} - d_{23}) \cos \xi + L(b_{12} \cos(\xi - \alpha_1) - \cos(\xi - \alpha_2)) \sin \beta_1 \right] \| + \left[ d_{12} \sin \xi + L \sin(\xi - \alpha_1) - \sin(\xi - \alpha_2) \right] \| \]

(8)
systematic design procedure to analyze the basic kinematics
through the plane of spherical joints, actuated sliding joints
for terms and motion. By solving Eq. (13), Eq. (14)
Then the Eq. (16) can be written as
\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{P}_{x_1} & = \frac{1}{3} (\mathbf{Q}_{123x_1}^1 - \mathbf{Q}_{123x_1}^2) - \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{Q}_{123x_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \\
\mathbf{P}_{y_1} & = \frac{1}{3} (\mathbf{Q}_{123y_1}^1 - \mathbf{Q}_{123y_1}^2) - \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{Q}_{123y_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \\
\mathbf{P}_{z_1} & = \frac{1}{3} (\mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 - \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^2) - \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h}
\end{align*}
\]

For each actuation the values of \( n \) unknowns are to be determined. Therefore for each prismatic actuation the values of \( \phi_1 \) can be calculated.

From Eq. (17) the value of \( 3 \mathbf{p}_{z_1} = \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 + (\mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} - \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1}) \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} - (\mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} + \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1}) \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} = 0
\]

By substituting Eq. (11) in Eq. (6) then
\[
C_{i+1} \sin^2 a_{i+1} + C_{i+2} \sin a_{i+2} + C_{i+3} \cos^2 a_{i+3} + C_{i+4} \sin^2 a_{i+4} + C_{i+5} \sin a_{i+5} \sin^2 a_{i+5} + C_{i+6} \cos^2 a_{i+6} + C_{i+7} \sin a_{i+7} \sin^2 a_{i+7} + C_{i+8} \cos^2 a_{i+8} + C_{i+9} \sin a_{i+9} \sin^2 a_{i+9} + C_{i+10} \cos^2 a_{i+10} + C_{i+11} \sin a_{i+11} \sin^2 a_{i+11} + C_{i+12} \cos^2 a_{i+12} + C_{i+13} \sin a_{i+13} \sin^2 a_{i+13} + C_{i+14} \cos^2 a_{i+14} + C_{i+15} = 0
\]

By substituting Eq. (12) in Eq. (6) then
\[
C_{i+1} \sin^2 a_{i+1} + C_{i+2} \sin a_{i+2} + C_{i+3} \cos^2 a_{i+3} + C_{i+4} \sin^2 a_{i+4} + C_{i+5} \sin a_{i+5} \sin^2 a_{i+5} + C_{i+6} \cos^2 a_{i+6} + C_{i+7} \sin a_{i+7} \sin^2 a_{i+7} + C_{i+8} \cos^2 a_{i+8} + C_{i+9} \sin a_{i+9} \sin^2 a_{i+9} + C_{i+10} \cos^2 a_{i+10} + C_{i+11} \sin a_{i+11} \sin^2 a_{i+11} + C_{i+12} \cos^2 a_{i+12} + C_{i+13} \sin a_{i+13} \sin^2 a_{i+13} + C_{i+14} \cos^2 a_{i+14} + C_{i+15} = 0
\]

By substituting the calculated values of \( \theta_1 \) and \( \psi_1 \) for each actuation the values of \( \phi_1 \) can be calculated.

From Eq. (17) the value of
\[
3 \mathbf{p}_{z_1} = \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 + (\mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} - \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1}) \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} - (\mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} + \mathbf{Q}_{123z_1}^1 \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1}) \mathbf{h} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{s}_{\phi_1} = 0
\]

By substituting the calculated values of \( \theta_1 \) and \( \phi_1 \) in Eq. (22), the values of \( \psi_1 \) are to be calculated. Therefore for each prismatic actuation of the limb, the position and orientation of the moving manipulator constrained variables \( \mathbf{p}_{x_1}, \mathbf{p}_{y_1}, \mathbf{p}_{z_1} \) and unconstrained variables \( \theta_1, \psi_1 \) are to be calculated.

4. Conclusion

In this paper the forward position kinematic analysis of spatial 3-dof parallel manipulator are analyzed. The dof of spatial parallel manipulator is calculated by using kutzbach criterion. The physical constraints followed by Euler angle representation are introduced along the plane of spherical joints, actuated sliding joints and limbs are considered. The forward position kinematic problem is solved through geometric method by using vector technique. The purpose of this analysis is to develop an analytical method and systematic design procedure to analyze the basic kinematics.
of the manipulator, to check the required and obtained positions of the moving platform of the developed spatial parallel manipulator.

Appendix

The constants in forward kinematic equation are

\[ C_{11} = L^2(a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + \cos^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{21} = L^2(a_{13}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{31} = L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{13}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 - 1) \]
\[ C_{41} = L \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + \cos^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{51} = L \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{61} = -2L^2(a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \sin^2 \xi + \cos^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{71} = L \sin 2\theta (a_{13}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 - 1) \]
\[ C_{81} = L \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 - 1) \]
\[ C_{91} = -2L^2(a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{101} = L^2 \sin 2\theta (\cos^2 \beta_2 + \sin^2 \beta_2 - 1) \]
\[ C_{111} = L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 - d_{121} \cos \xi) \]
\[ C_{121} = L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos^2 \xi + \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{131} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 - d_{121} \cos \xi) \]
\[ C_{141} = -2L^2 \cos \theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{151} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{161} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{171} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{181} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{191} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{201} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{211} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{221} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{231} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{241} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{251} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{261} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{271} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{281} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{291} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{301} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]
\[ C_{311} = -L^2 \sin 2\theta (a_{12}^2 \cos^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + b_{12}^2 \sin^2 \beta_2 \cos \xi + d_{121} \sin^2 \xi) \]

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