DESIGN AND REMOTE CONTROL OF A GANTRY MECHANISM FOR THE SCARA ROBOT

A Thesis

by

SURINDER PAL

Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies

Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

August 2007

Major Subject: Mechanical Engineering

DESIGN AND REMOTE CONTROL OF A GANTRY MECHANISM FOR THE SCARA ROBOT

A Thesis

by

SURINDER PAL

Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies

Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Approved by:

Chair of Committee, Sheng-Jen "Tony" Hsieh

Committee Members, Steve Suh

A. K. Chan

Head of Department, Dennis L. O'Neal

August 2007

Major Subject: Mechanical Engineering

ABSTRACT

Design and Remote Control of a Gantry Mechanism for the SCARA Robot. (August 2007)

Surinder Pal, B.Tech., Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay Chair of Advisory Committee: Dr. Sheng-Jen "Tony" Hsieh

Remote experimentation and control have led researchers to develop new technologies as well as implement existing techniques. The multidisciplinary nature of research in electromechanical systems has led to the synergy of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science. This work describes the design of a model of a Gantry Mechanism, which maneuvers a web-cam. The user controls virtually the position of end-effecter of the Gantry Mechanism using a Graphical User Interface. The GUI is accessed over the Internet. In order to reduce the unbalanced vibrations of the Gantry Mechanism, we investigate the development of an algorithm of input shaping. A model of the Gantry Mechanism is built, and it is controlled over the Internet to view experimentation of the SCARA Robot. The system performance is studied by comparing the inputs such as distances and angles with outputs, and methods to improve the performance are suggested.

DEDICATION

To my parents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my committee chair, Dr. Hsieh, and my committee members, Dr. Suh and Dr. Chan, for their guidance and support throughout the course of this research.

Thanks also to my friends and colleagues and the department faculty and staff for making my time at Texas A&M University a great experience. I also want to extend my gratitude to Mr. Frank and Mr. Butch for providing help in the workshop.

Finally, thanks to my mother and brother for their encouragement.

NOMENCLATURE

CGI Common Gateway Interface

CNC Computerized Numerical Control

CORBA Common Object Request Broker Architecture

DCOM Distributed Component Object Model

DSL Digital Subscriber Line

IP Internet Protocol

ISDN Integrated Services Digital Network

ISP Internet Service Provider

JNI Java Native Interface

LAN Local Area Network

RTAI Real Time Application Interface

SCARA Selective Compliant Articulated/Assembly Robot Arm

TCP Transmission Control Protocol

UDP User Datagram Protocol

VLAN Virtual LAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ABSTRACT		iii
DEDICATIO	N	iv
ACKNOWLI	EDGMENTS	V
NOMENCLA	ATURE	vi
TABLE OF C	CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIG	GURES	ix
LIST OF TA	BLES	X
CHAPTER		
I	INTRODUCTION	1
	Objective	. 2
II	LITERATURE REVIEW	4
	Web-based control survey Summary of literature review. Selection of software and hardware for control over Internet Selection of mechanism.	4 12 12 14
III	DESIGN OF GANTRY MECHANISM	18
	Introduction Design and selection of mechanical parts Design and selection of electrical parts	18 18 26
IV	CONTROL OF GANTRY MECHANISM AND SCARA ROBOT	32
	Introduction Interfaces of the PIC microcontroller Feedback control of Gantry Mechanism. Over-distance and over-angle avoidance Control of the Gantry Mechanism over the Internet Formulation of position, rotation and direction of Gantry Mechanism. Vibration control of the Gantry Mechanism.	ı 38

CHAPTER		Page
V	EVALUATION OF RESULTS	45
	Sample calculation of position, direction and rotation of Gantry Mechanism Error between input parameters and measured parameters Calculation for vibration control	
VI	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	52
	Summary Future work Conclusion	52 52 53
REFERENCI	ES	54
APPENDIX.		56
VITA		61

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		Page
1.1	Gantry Mechanism	2
2.1	Block diagram of embedded control system [16]	5
2.2	Block diagram of proposed architecture of control Gantry Mechanism using the Internet	13
2.3	Cylindrical Mechanism	15
3.1	Top view of Gantry Mechanism showing X and Y degrees of freedom	19
3.2	Side view of Gantry Mechanism showing Z and θ degrees of freedom	20
3.3	Belt and pulley arrangement	21
3.4	Shaft loading for Y-motion	24
3.5	Loading due to webcam	25
3.6	Torque vs speed of motor	27
3.7	Pin-outs of SN75441ONE	30
4.1	Interfaces of control of Gantry Mechanism	32
4.2	Interfaces of PIC microcontroller	33
4.3	Feedback loop of Gantry Mechanism	35
4.4	Over-distance and over-angle avoidance circuit diagram	36
4.5	Programming software of client, server and PIC-microcontroller	37
4.6	Graphic User Interface of Gantry Mechanism	38
4.7	Superposition of two impulse responses	41
4.8	Spring-dashpot modal of Gantry Mechanism (Y-direction)	43
5.1	Input distance vs error (X-direction)	48
5.2	Input distance vs error (Y-direction)	49
5.3	Input distance vs error (Z-direction)	49
5.4	Input angle vs error (θ -direction)	50
5.5	Impulse responses of sample calculation (Gantry Mechanism: Y-motion)	51

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		Page
2.1	Comparative study of different approaches in web-based control	9
2.2	Comparative study of Gantry Mechanism and Cylindrical Mechanism.	17
3.1	Basic power calculation	20
3.2	Calculation of timing belts and pulleys dimensions	22
3.3	Selection of motors and gearheads	29
3.4	Logic table of SN75441	31
5.1	Expected error between input and measured Parameters	46
5.2	Comparison of input and measured distances and angles	47

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The development of automation industry, complex and multidisciplinary nature of research has led to the growth of remote interactive experimentation, monitoring and control. At the same time, the advancement in information technology has faced the challenges by increase in computation capabilities and internet bandwidths. Web-Based Control (WBC) involves controlling the remote devices via internet. It has captured a huge interest of real-world applications like monitoring and/or control in telemanufacturing, tele-surgery, tele-robotics and distant education. Its architecture essentially comprise of remote devices, sensors, actuators, controllers, computers and communication networks.

Objective

The objective of this research is to survey the field of web-based control, and to design a Gantry mechanism and development of its control over the Internet for remote experimentation of SCARA robot. The Gantry Mechanism is used to observe the working space of the SCARA robot through the Internet. A web CAM mounted on the Gantry mechanism provides a three-dimensional view of Adept manipulator and its work space. A web-based application with Graphic User Interface (GUI) is developed for user to remotely control the mechanism that drives the web CAM. In addition, Algorithms are explored to reduce the vibration effect on the web CAM so that a steady image of working space is presented on the client side. The 3D view provided by the web CAM driven by the Gantry Mechanism enhances the user's visualization of working area, object, and robot working in the real time environment.

This follows the style of the *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications*.

Research tasks

The research task of designing the Gantry-Mechanism and implementation of its webbased control has been divided in three tasks.

Design of the Gantry Mechanism

The first task is to design and build a Gantry Mechanism. A model of the actual mechanism is built (Fig. 1.1). The mechanism has four degrees of freedom: three along the coordinate axis X, Y and Z direction, and one rotation in the X-Y plane. The mechanism carries a camera and maneuvers it in the working space. The mechanical parts comprise of timing belt-pulley drives, screw-nut arrangements and the transmission shafts. The electrical parts are motors, sensors, motor drivers, logic gates and PIC microcontroller.



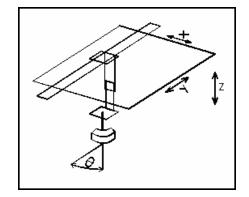


Fig. 1.1 Gantry Mechanism

Control of the Gantry Mechanism over the Internet

The position and angle of view of the camera is controlled over the Internet to view the workspace and manipulator. The user virtually controls the movement of the mechanism using a Graphical User Interface on the client side. The user selects coordinates of the Gantry Mechanism by computer mouse and keyboard. After receiving the coordinates from the client, the server generates the commands for the PIC microcontroller, and sends them through serial cable.

Vibration Control of the Gantry Mechanism

The motive of studying vibration control is to reduce the unbalanced vibrations of the Gantry Mechanism. The working space of actual mechanism is about 2.5 m x 1.9 m x 1.5 m. The accelerated mass produces vibrations of hanging web-cam. The vibrations can damage the surrounding and hit the Adept manipulator. In this research, a scaled modal of actual web-cam mechanism is built. However, a study of vibration control is made and methods of vibration control are explored for actual implementation.

Organization of the thesis

The literature review of web-based control is performed in Chapter II. A suitable architecture is selected based on this study. Two mechanisms are studied to fulfill the requirements, and the Gantry mechanism is selected. Chapter III describes the design of the Gantry Mechanism, which involves the design and selection of mechanical and electrical parts, and software for programming. The development of control of Gantry Mechanism is presented in Chapter IV. It describes the interfaces of various software and hardware in building the feedback control loop. In Chapter V, the performance of the Gantry Mechanism is evaluated. Chapter VII presents summary of work, scope for future work and conclusions.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter performs the literature survey of web-based control and seeks the solutions for the tasks proposed. Based on the survey of web-based control systems, a suitable control system comprising of interfaces of various software and hardware has been selected. A suitable mechanism is also selected after comparison of two proposed mechanisms. A survey of vibration control to improve the mechanism stability is performed, and algorithm has been developed to control the vibration.

Web-based control survey

The literature survey of Real-Time Web-based Control considering specific systems such as embedded control systems, distributed control systems, virtual laboratory, autonomous robots etc. has been presented in this section. Implementation of different technologies which enhance the system performance with respect to reliability and efficiency has been presented. A comparative study of different approaches and technologies adopted in the past, has been made in conjunction with the issues like time-delay and network traffic over network communication.

An embedded control system [1] exemplifies a simple web-based control system which uses programmable controller. It is used to maintain a constant temperature of an enclosure (Fig. 2.1). The temperature control via internet is a slow process because of the restricted bandwidth and network time delays. There is a specified time when the system loop is closed by changing parameters which increase or decrease the temperature by heating or cooling. So the process control through the Internet should be applied to those relatively slow processes.

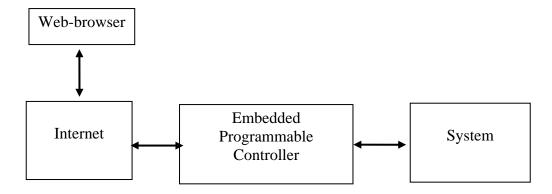


Fig. 2.1 Block diagram of embedded control system [1]

The issue of time delay is not only encountered in process control but many other network controlled devices experience the same. In order to minimize the time delay so that the events happen at precise times, in [2] a need of a real time operating environment is suggested. The authors have proposed a real-time operating environment based on RTAI (Real Time Application Interface) 24.1.2 with Redhat Linux 7.3. It is also suggested that use of UDP instead of TCP/IP gives better performance.

Another approach to deal with the problems of internet transmission delays, delay jitter and not-guaranteed bandwidth availability has been presented in [3]. It involves the implementation of a new trinomial protocol for data transmission instead of TCP and UDP. The comparison of TCP, UDP and proposed protocol with respect to delay jitter and packet losses provides good results. Mobile Agent technology [4] is an approach to cope up with the limitations of restricted bandwidth. A Mobile Agent, a software program, is best suited to applications characterized by asynchronous transactions, low-bandwidth, high latency, remote information retrieval, multiprocessing, or distributed task processing features.

In [5], a virtual engineering lab is established using LAN, dialup modem and ISP for data transmission over internet. A video camera is used for remote viewing. The time delay in the performance is caused by slow dialup networking. The experiment also sends large sized graphical bitmap images, which adds to the slow process. However, with the development in technology high-speed and reliable Internet connection

technologies such as ISDN, cable, and DSL alleviate this problem. In graphical interfaces, instead of sending a large bitmap of the entire screen a local copy of the graphical screen can be updated by sending only the required data. This can be implemented by embedding the code for the remote graphical user interface panels in the local Web server using Java language applets. The Java applets are automatically sent to the remote site and are launched by the Web browser. Further, real-time communication requires only data and status information transfers, substantially improving system response time.

Researchers have always been in search of better solutions with the development of technology. In order to, further, solve the problem of transmission of large sized image file, another concept of Wise-Shop Floor (A Web-based integrated Sensor-driven e-shop Floor) is presented in [6, 7]. In this approach Java 3D graphics and sensors on the device are used to view the device virtually. The device can be represented by a scene graph-based Java-3D model as an applet. The applet remains alive with passing of low volume sensor data and control commands. It also has the flexibility of visualization by walk through and fly-around. This concept is implemented to control CNC machine in [8]. Implementation of Java 3D as compared to other 3D visualizations in [8] is more appropriate as it does not require any other software to be installed on the client browser.

Internet Telerobotics is emerging field in the decade of web-based control. There are two generations of internet robotics. Mercury Project (1994) was one of the earliest outcomes of telerobotics over internet. The first generation was mainly based on direct control of robotic manipulators and simple mobile robots. These robots have no local intelligence and they operate in well-structured environment with little uncertainty [9]. In direct control mode the robot behaves as a puppet, and is operated only by the user who understands the robot's characteristics. Direct control via the Internet with inherent high latency, low bandwidth, uncertain time delay and packet losses, is not suitable for robotic systems. However, when the robot fails to function and requires remote teaching, direct control is important [10].

In [11], the authors presented the control of robotic manipulator using a web server and CGI technology. But to provide robust control they suggested the use of client-server application in Java in their open-ended project.

In contrast to the first generation, the second generation of robotics has recently begun. This focuses the supervisory control of autonomous robots. These robots cope with uncertainty and work in dynamic world [9]. Robots work as a service man to do some specific works. The client sends only high-level command to the server. The robot performs the task with built in mechanisms and local intelligence. For example, in mobile robots, robot behavior such as collision avoidance, path planning, self-referencing, object recognition etc. is implemented. With local intelligence the control system can avoid too many communication details through internet [10].

Unfortunately, most of supervisory controls involve lack of adequate human-robot interaction. The control interface involves limited control methods such as a mouse to click a map. The operator (client) can issue a very high-level instructions and it is difficult to obtain robot's running status or information about the events it has encountered. The robot often needs to know some environmental knowledge in advance for path planning or self-localization. Therefore, it is difficult to be applied in the unknown dynamic environment. The typical examples include Xavior (an office-exploring robot at CMU), RHINO and MINERVA (museum tour-guide robots) and Mars lander [9].

Researchers attempt to make the human-robot interaction more active. In [9], the authors have explored two methods of active supervisory control by tele-commanding using joystick commands (navigation keyboard keys) and advanced linguistic commands, such as MOVE, TURN, WANDER, GOTOEND and COORDINATE. A similar approach in [10] has been implemented using supervisory behavior control mode. The experimental results conducted on a mobile robot strengthens the use of supervisory control over direct control mode in terms of efficiency, operating environment, complex task handling, and control capability.

Further development in the field led the researchers in [12] to give another webbased controlled robot, UBROBO. While Xavior, RHINO and MINERVA operate in known environments, it works in unknown environment using camera images.

Real-Time web-based control does not limit to control of a single device but its application is expanded to distributed control systems where a number of different devices can be controlled over the internet. Real-Time distributed control systems play an important role in industries. These systems are used to monitor and control industrial processes, telecommunication systems, manufacturing systems, robots, and commercial on-line transaction processing systems. There are so many different real-time systems and distributed control systems in the market. They run different operating systems and software applications, which makes them communicate with each other over the internet.

In order to integrate the heterogeneous applications, fundamental technologies: CORBA and DCOM are suggested in [13]. Both control functionality and data are distributed in WDCS. CORBA can be used to provide a platform-independent, language-independent architecture for Writing distributed, object- oriented applications. DCOM runs only on Microsoft operating system, there is a concern if COMA is a more portable system. CORBA provides network transparency and Java provides implementation transparency. Together they allow various objects communicate under all circumstances on the internet. In order to make communication between devices which use different languages a native resource accessing interface JNI is used in [13]. JNI enables CORBA objects written in Java interoperate with drivers or applications written in other programming languages easily.

An appropriate network is required in distributed control systems to establish communication. Ethernet is best suited for this. In order to ensure the real time performance some measures of a suitable Ethernet are outlined in [14]. These include adoption of Ethernet Switch, Full Duplex Communication Mode, VLAN and Quality of Service. A comparative study of different approaches in web-based control has been carried out to select a suitable architecture (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Comparative study of different approaches in web-based control

S. No.	Technology	Chnology Experimental Setup Mea Perfo		Comment
1	Embedded controller in Process control	Temperature control of a tube	Large time delay due to restricted bandwidth and network transmission	Applicable to relatively slow processes. Possible solution is using large bandwidth and network traffic control.
2	Real-Time Operating Environment using RTAI 24.1.2 with Redhat Linux 7.3, UDP	Control of mag-lav ball	Time delay	Applicable in Distributed control systems
3	Mobile agent	Manufacturing and machine conditioning	Decreases time delay by reducing network traffic	Applicable to asynchronous transactions, low-bandwidth, high latency and distributed systems
4	Trinomial Protocol in place of TCP and UDP	Networking	Decreases time delay	Applicable to solve problems of internet transmission delays, delay jitter and not-guaranteed bandwidth
5	Wise Shop Floor using Sensor driven Java 3D realization	CNC Machine Tool, Tripod Manipulator	Time delay and network traffic	Reduces network traffic and increase system performance in communication by sending of commands and data instead of large images

Table 2.1 continued

		T	T	
S. No.	Technology	Experimental Setup	Measure of Performance	Comment
6	Control of Adept using LabVIEW, Datasockets, camera and TCP/IP.	Adept manipulator	Real-time viewing performance depends on network bandwidth	
7	Ethernet using Full Duplex Communication Mode, VLAN, embedded server.	Distributed Control System	Real-Time Performance, Network Traffic	Full bandwidth available to all equipments due to switch, so reduces network traffic
8	CORBA and COM	DRBA and COM Distributed Control System		To provide a platform-independent, language-independent architecture
9	Space Browser: Internet and wireless transmission, camera, microphone, speaker	A flying space browser (tele-mobot)	Real-time performance of object detection and avoidance.	
10	Robotic manipulator (Webserver and CGI, Java and Webcam)	Control of Autonomous Robots	Robust control using all the system architecture in Java	
11	Multi-sensor based control of Autonomous Robots. CGI for wireless transmission and Fuzzy- logic for navigation algorithm.	Three-wheeled mobile robot with 20 tactile and 16 sonar sensors, CCD Camera, wireless communication,	Efficiency, operating environment, complex task handling and control capability	Behavior control superior to direct control

Table 2.1 continued

S. No.	Technology Experimental Setup		Measure of Performance	Comment
12	Java server and image feedback by camera of mobile robot in unknown environment. Web- server path planning and robot obstacle detection. PID controller for straight line path.	Ceiling Camera, a remote robot, internet interface and RF wireless interface, IR sensors for object detection and wheel encoding,	Object avoidance and path planning. Time delay in transmitting images.	Use of better encoders, sensors and motors can improve object detection and avoidance as well as smooth starting and stopping.

Summary of literature review

Web-based control has been discussed with respect to time delay. Low bandwidth and network traffic are the main sources of time delay. Researchers have devised methods of reducing time delays. Trinomial protocol and mobile agent are software specific programs. They aid in increasing the network speed thereby reducing the network traffic and hence time delay. Sending data over the Internet in place of images further reduces traffic. Wise shop floor implements the communication using sensor driven data and Java3D technology.

Virtual engineering lab experiment uses Labview, datasockets, camera and dialup connection. The dialup connection introduces time delay. Another experiment on robotic manipulator uses web-cam and cgi script on server to capture the images and transmit them on internet. The webcam images are sent from the server along with other data. It increases the traffic and hence time delay. In supervisory control of autonomous robots, the server has local intelligence of robots. The client sends the high level commands using joy-stick.

This study implemented an architecture aimed at reducing time delay. The interaction of user with the setup takes place through a graphic user interface, which is a web-page comprised of graphics and commands. After the web-page is accessed, further communication takes place by data, not images, which reduces network traffic. The camera transmitted data separately over the Internet, further reduces the congestion because the camera images do not need to travel from the server. For real time communication between the client and the Gantry Mechanism, the server runs executable files written in Common Gateway Interface (CGI), which is best suited in processing the HTML forms. Finally a high speed internet connection was used.

Selection of software and hardware for control over Internet

In this problem the communication line comprises of three nodes. These are client, server and working object. The client side interaction is accomplished using a GUI

webpage (Fig. 2.2). HTML is used to create web-page and Javascript to write code for movement of graphics and calculations on client side.

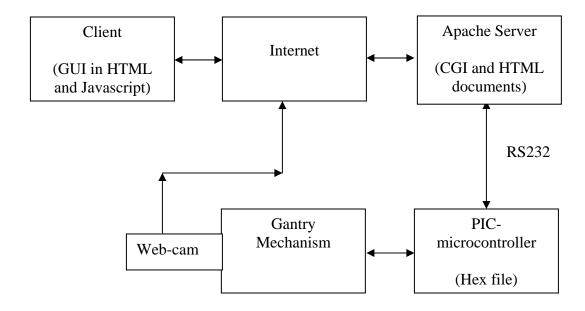


Fig. 2.2 Block diagram of proposed architecture of Gantry Mechanism control using the Internet

The Apache server interacts with the client and working object. Executable files are written in CGI language using in Visual Basic. The server can run these file to communicate with the Gantry Mechanism. Commands written in CGI are sent to the flexible webcam mechanism.

A PIC-microcontroller is used to communicate with the server. The PIC-microcontroller receives commands from CGI executable file, and then runs its own hex file for further interaction with the motors. The hex files can be generated by writing programs in PIC-C language and then compiling them.

Selection of mechanism

Working space of SCARA robot

The Adept manipulator has four degrees of freedom upto the end-effecter. Three are rotational in the X-Y plane and the fourth is translational along the z-axis. The rotational motion covers a radius of 800mm, and the vertical stroke is of length 203 mm (approx). The working table has dimensions of 1235 x 1835. A border of 300 mm is kept to accommodate the mechanism and the working space. The following is considered to calculate the maneuvering space of mechanism:

- a) The vertical distance between the top of table and the base of robot stroke is 400 mm. The stroke length is 203 mm. Therefore, the z-axis movement of mechanism can be between 203 and 400mm to view the end-effecter and the object.
- b) The robot has a working radius of 800mm. The mechanism can enter this space based on figuring out available space using sensor feedback. However, the web-cam can be held in the border area around the table because in this area it can give good quality of image as well as viewing envelope.
- c) Incorporation of a rotational motion of the camera will let the user view the space at a point without moving it to another point.

Proposed Mechanisms

In order to satisfy the requirement of maneuvering the camera in space around the SCARA robot, two mechanisms are studied.

- a) Gantry Mechanism: In this mechanism three translational motions along X, Y and Z-axis, and one rotational motion in X-Y plane at the end of mechanism will suffice the requirement of viewing the workspace (Fig. 1.1).
- b) Cylindrical Mechanism: In this mechanism two rotational and one translational motion will be sufficient (Fig. 2.3). It has been observed that the camera in the border area (300mm around the working table) gives a good view. Therefore, keeping the webcam at this constant radial distance can be used.

Comparison of Gantry Mechanism and Cylindrical Mechanism

A comparative study is performed in order to select the suitable mechanism. The comparison is based on certain requirements and parameters (Table-2.2).

- a. The Gantry Mechanism has four degrees of freedom, while the Cylindrical Mechanism has three degrees of freedoms. The Cylindrical Mechanism is less flexible than the Gantry Mechanism. Number of components of the Gantry Mechanism, such as motors, shafts and sensors, will be more than the Cylindrical Mechanism.
- b. The Gantry Mechanism is more rigid in case of motion in the X and Y direction.
- c. The Cylindrical mechanism has to be rotated around the center point, which will be anchored at the ceiling. This requires thrust bearing of high capacity for θ rotation.
- d. There are more variables of control in case of the Gantry Mechanism because it has more degrees of freedom.
- e. The Gantry Mechanism covers more working space because there is no restriction on radial movement as in case of the Cylindrical Mechanism.

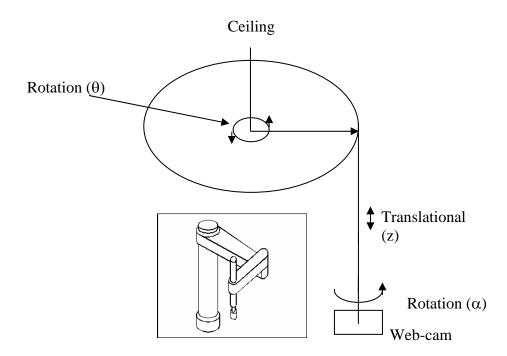


Fig.-2.3 Cylindrical Mechanism

The analysis of different parameters (Table 2.2) leads to the selection of the Gantry Mechanism for this application. It has more rigidity because of four supports while cylindrical mechanism is supported at the center. More rigid structure leads to less vibration problems and camera can be moved precisely to the specified location. The Gantry mechanism has four degrees of freedom, which makes it more flexible, and also enables it to cover more working space. The following chapters discuss the design, implementation, control and evaluation of performance of the Gantry mechanism.

Table 2.2 Comparative study of Gantry Mechanism and Cylindrical Mechanism

S. No.	Parameter of Measurement	Gantry Mechanism	Cylindrical Mechanism
1	Degrees of Freedom	Four	Three
2	No. of Motors and encoders	Four	Three
3	Rigidity	Relatively more	Less rigid
4	Complexity	X, Y, Z motion combined with rotation, so comparable complexity, but more parts	Two rotations and one translational motions, so comparable complexity, but less parts
5	Space envelope	Covers much space than cylindrical	The space is restricted by fixed radial distance
6	Control	Needs to control more control parameters as four dof's	Less control parameters needed to be controlled
7	Critical part	Z-axis movement. Nut-screw arrangement.	θ-rotation and Z-axis rotation.
8	Vibration	Less	More, because of cantilever nature of θ -motion

CHAPTER III

DESIGN OF GANTRY MECHANISM

Introduction

The basis of design of the Gantry mechanism is the gantry robot, also known as a Cartesian robot. A gantry robot contains a minimum of three elements of motion, each of which represents a linear motion in a single direction. These motions are arranged to be perpendicular to each other and are typically labeled X, Y, and Z. X and Y are located in the horizontal plane and Z is vertical. The interior of this box is referred to as the working envelope, the space in which the robot can move things anywhere.

The Gantry Mechanism designed, in this thesis, has one more degree of freedom, which is rotation in the X-Y plane. The fourth degree of freedom enables the user to horizontally observe the workspace by rotating the end-effecter.

Design and selection of mechanical parts

The motion in X and Y direction is achieved by power transmission through timing belts and pulleys assemblies (Fig. 3.1), while Z-direction motion comprise of a threaded rod and nut arrangement (Fig. 3.2). The motor for θ -direction motion directly couples with a shaft, the other end of which carries the camera.

Timing belts and pulleys

Timing belts and pulleys provide synchronized motion. The grooves of timing belts mate with the teeth on the timing pulleys, which make the drive positive. The slip between the belt and the pulley is extremely minor, which ensures that the driven pulley is always rotating at a fixed speed ratio to the driving pulley. These belts have an operating efficiency of about 98% and they can operate successfully between 8000 and 12000 hrs.

Belt design procedure, based on power calculations, has following steps [16]:

1) The required driven power is calculated from the driven speed and the maximum driven torque required (including inertia load, shock loads, friction, etc). A

service factor is obtained from the information on the driver, the driven equipment and the operating period.

2) A design power is obtained based from the product of the driven power required and the service factor.

Design Power = Driven Power x Service Factor

3) Based on design power a belt section is initially selected. A basic power for the belt is calculated, assuming pulley diameters, using the Table 3.1.

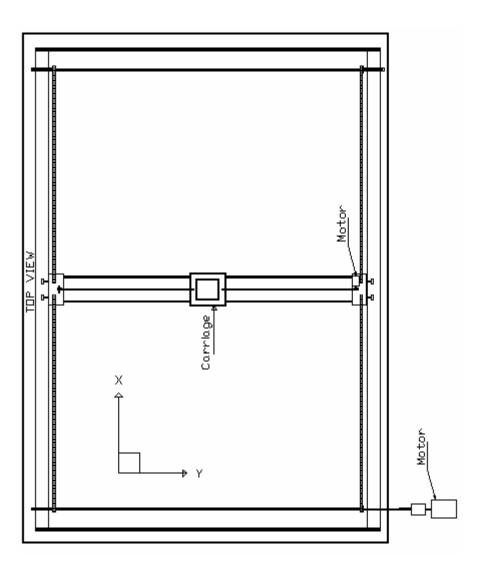


Fig.-3.1 Top view of Gantry Mechanism showing X and Y degrees of freedom

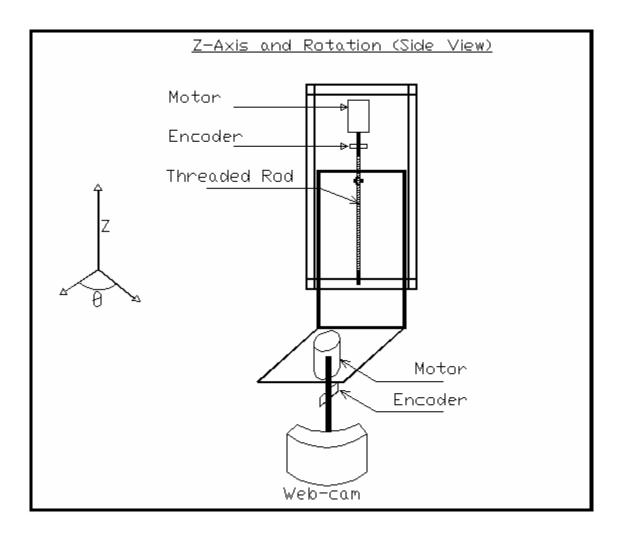


Fig. 3.2 Side view of Gantry Mechanism showing Z and θ degrees of freedom

Table 3.1 Basic power calculation

Belt type	Width	Basic Power
XL	9.652	$Pr = 0.746 \times Z \times (0.0916 - 707.10 - 5 \times Z^{2})$
L	25.4	$Pr = 0.746 \times Z \times (0.436 - 301.10 - 4 \times Z^{2})$
Н	76.2	$Pr = 0.746 \times Z \times (3.73 - 141.10 - 3 \times Z^{2})$
XH	101.6	$Pr = 0.746 \times Z \times (7.21 - 468.10 - 3 \times Z^{2})$
XXH	127	$Pr = 0.746 \times Z \times (11.14 - 781.10 - 3 \times Z^{2})$

where, r rpm of faster shaft /1000;

- p pitch diameter of smallest Pulley (mm);
- Z (p x r) / 25.4.
- 4) Using the basic power and design power, a suitable belt width is selected. If the basic belt power is less than the design power one or more of belt size, pulley size or speed is/are changed. A width factor is calculated by dividing the basic power by the design power. A belt width is selected with a width factor higher than the calculated width factor.
- 5) After selecting suitable pulleys and centre distance of the belt, the drive geometry is designed (Fig. 3.3).

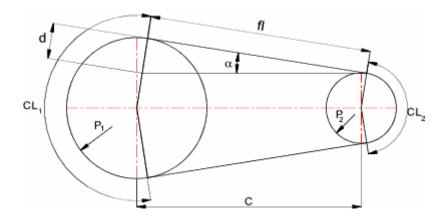


Fig.-3.3 Belt and pulley arrangement

The design and selection of parts has been performed starting from θ -motion. Subsequently, calculations for Z-motion, Y-motion and X-motion are made. A specimen calculation is presented in Appendix-A. The inputs and results are shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Calculation of timing belts and pulleys dimensions

	Inputs			Inputs Results					Selection	
	Linear Velocity (mm/s)	Pulley Dia. (assumed) (mm)	Load (mass kg)	Factor of safety	P _{design} (kW)	P _{Basic} (kW)	Width factor	Belt Width (mm)	Pulley PCD (mm)	Pitch (Belt and Pulley, mm)
X-Motion	100	20	2	2	1.43 x 10 ⁻³	5.13 x 10 ⁻³	3.58	9.5	16.2	5.08
Y-Motion	100	20	1.5	2	0.0124	0.0051	415	9.5	16.2	5.08

Shafts

Shafts for X-direction motion

The shafts, which transmit power in the X-direction, are designed for torsional loading. Diameter of a shaft in torsion is given by the following relation:

$$d = \left\lceil \frac{16T}{\pi \tau} \right\rceil^{\frac{1}{3}} x 1000 \dots \tag{3.1}$$

where, d = diameter of shaft (mm);

T = Torque (0.1197Nm, Appendix-C2);

 τ = Allowable shear stress;

= 260Mpa (Maximum Shear Stress Theory, τ_{all} = 0.5Sy, Sy = 520 MPa);

$$d = (16 \times 0.1197 / (pi \times 260 \times 10^6))^{(1/3)} \times 1000;$$

= 1.3285 mm;

Selected shaft dia = 6 mm.

Shafts for Y-direction motion

The shafts for Y-direction undergo bending due to the sliding assembly for Z and θ -motion. Diameter of a shaft in bending is given by the following relation:

$$d = \left[\frac{32M}{\pi\sigma}\right]^{\frac{1}{3}} x 1000 \dots \tag{3.2}$$

where, d = diameter of shaft (mm);

M = Bending Moment (Nm);

 σ = Allowable bending stress;

= 260Mpa (Maximum Normal Stress Theory and Von Mises Theory, σ_{all} = Sut,

Sut = 860 MPa);

Bending Moment, M = Px(L/2).

Maximum bending stress in the shafts will happen when the hanging mass (m) is in the middle of the shaft (Fig. 3.4).

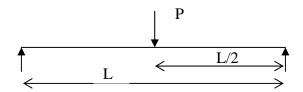


Fig. 3.4 Shaft Loading for Y-motion

Mass supported by shafts, m = 1.082 kg

Factor of safety on load = 2

$$mfs = m \times 2 = 2.164 \text{ kg}$$

Force,
$$F = mfs \times g = 2.164 \times 9.81$$

$$= 21.3 N$$

Force on each shaft, P = F / 2 = 10.65 N

Span Length, L = 60 mm

Bending Moment, $M = 10.65 \times 60/2 / 1000 = 0.3184 \text{ Nm}$

$$d = (32 \times 0.3184 / (pi \times 860 \times 10^6)^{(1/3)} \times 1000$$

$$= 1.5585 \text{ mm}$$

Selected shaft dia = 6 mm

Maximum deflection in the shaft is given by,

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = \frac{Px \frac{L}{2} \left(L^2 - b^2\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{9\sqrt{3}LEI}.$$
(3.3)

For a shaft loaded at the center it occurs at

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{L^2 - b^2}{3}}$$

where, I = area moment of inertia of the cross-section ($\pi d^4/64$);

$$I = 6.3617e-011 \text{ m}^4$$
;

$$\delta_{max} = 3.7541e-004 \text{ mm};$$

$$x = L/2$$
.

The deflection is very small; therefore, the Carriage-2 can slide over the shafts without shaft deflection constraint.

Shafts for θ -direction motion

Selected shaft dia = 4 mm.

The shaft for the θ -direction is also designed for torsional loading. Diameter of a shaft in torsion is given by the relation 3.1.

$$T = \mu \ x \ P \ x \ r \(Fig. 3.5)$$
 where,
$$\mu = \text{Coefficient of static friction (0.61);}$$

$$P = mw \ x \ g;$$

$$mw = \text{mass of web-cam (1lb = 0.454 kg);}$$

$$r = \text{mean radius of loading;}$$

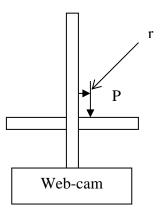


Fig. 3.5 Loading due to webcam

```
\begin{split} \tau &= \text{Allowable shear stress;} \\ &= 260 \text{Mpa (Maximum Shear Stress Theory, } \tau_{all} = 0.5 \text{Sy, Sy} = 520 \text{ MPa);} \end{split} Therefore, T &= 0.0217 \text{ Nm;} \\ d &= (~16 \text{ x } 0.0217 \text{ / (pi x } 260 \text{ x } 10^6)^{(1/3)} \text{x} 1000; \\ &= 0.7519 \text{ mm;} \end{split}
```

Threaded rod and nuts

The threaded rod and hex nuts of thread size 5/16 - 24 are selected. Pitch of threads is 24 threads per inch.

Design and selection of electrical parts

DC motors

Power required to drive a DC motor is the product of current and voltage. This power is transmitted through a motor-gearbox assembly to the body to be moved. The gearbox reduces the speed and increases the torque at its output shaft. The torque generated by a motor is directly proportional to the current passing through it.

$$M_o = k_M \times I$$
 ----- (3.4)

where, $M_o = Torque produced$;

 $k_{\rm M}$ = torque constant;

I = current.

A constant current produces a constant torque regardless of voltage. Input voltage is given by

$$V = R \times I + k_w \times n$$
 (3.5)

where, V = input voltage;

 k_w = speed constant;

I = current;

R = resistance of winding;

n = motor shaft speed.

At constant voltage output speed and torque are inversely proportional. Increasing the load torque decreases the speed and vice-versa (Fig. 3.6).

$$\tau = \tau_s - (\tau_s / \omega_n) \omega \quad ---- \quad (3.6)$$

$$\omega = (\tau_s - \tau) \, \omega_n / \, \tau_s \quad ---- \qquad (3.7)$$

where, $\tau = motor torque$;

 ω = motor speed;

 τ_s = stall torque (no-load torque);

 ω_n = no-load speed.

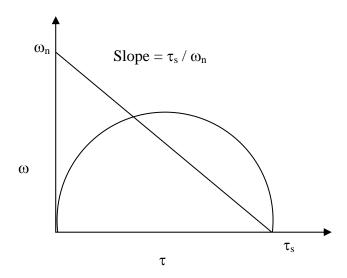


Fig. 3.6 Torque vs speed of motor

Output power (P) is given by

$$P = \tau \times \omega \quad ---- \quad (3.8)$$

$$P = (\tau_s - (\tau_s / \omega_n) \omega) \omega \qquad ---- \qquad (3.9)$$

$$P = \tau \left(\left(\tau_s - \tau \right) \omega_n / \omega \right) \quad ----- \quad (3.10)$$

On differentiating equation (3.9) or (3.10) with respect to ω or τ and equating the result to zero determines the operating point. On substitution of this operating point in equation (3.8) gives maximum power (P_{max})

$$P_{max} = (1/4) \; \tau_s \quad \omega_n \quad ----- \qquad (3.11) \label{eq:pmax}$$

The operating point of maximum output power is at half of stall torque and half of no-load speed. Due to thermal consideration, the motor is operated at the maximum power. The most efficient area of motor is to operate 90% of no-load speed and 10-30% of stall torque. For use with gearbox a motor is operated at less operating voltage than the nominal voltage rating. This results in lower noise generation and better life characteristics.

The selection procedure involves the following steps:

- 1. Required torque (τ) and speed (ω) are calculated based on the system requirements. Power required is the product of required torque and speed.
- 2. Design power (P_{DES}) is calculated by multiplying the power required with factor of safety. A motor of higher power rating than the design power, is selected.
- 3. Speed (n_A) at available voltage (V_A) is calculated using no-load speed (n_L) and nominal voltage (V).

$$n_A = n_I x (V_A/V)$$
 ----- (3.12)

- 4. Maximum power (P_{MAX}) is the determined from speed (n_A) and stall torque (τ_s) Operating speed (n_o) is assumed greater than 50% of no-load speed.
 - 5. Gear ratio is calculated using operating speed and speed required at output of gearbox. Using gear ratio and load torque (τ_L) equivalent torque (τ_E) at the motor is also calculated.
 - 6. Equivalent load current (I_E) is calculated using k_M and equivalent torque (τ_E).
 - 7. Current required (I_R) is the sum of equivalent load current (I_E) and no load current (I_O)

$$I_R = I_E + I_o$$
 (3.13)

8. The actual speed, at load, is calculated using,

$$n = n_A - (I_R \times R) / k_M$$
 ----- (3.14)

9. Power and torque requirements are checked using the following relations:

$$P_{MAX} > P_{DES}$$

$$\tau_S > \tau_E$$

10. If the requirements of step 9 are not satisfied then a motor of higher power rating is selected, and calculations of steps 1 through 9 are performed again.

For the Gantry Mechanism four motors have been selected (Table 3.3). An example calculation is presented in Appendix B.

Table 3.3 Selection of motors and gearheads

	Re	equired paramete	ers	Selected Motor						
	Design Power (W)	Torque (Nm)	Speed (rpm)	Power (W)	No load speed (rpm)	Stall Torque (mNm)	Gearhead Reduction	Speed at Gearhead (rpm)	Torque at Gearhead (Nm)	
X- Motion	3.3	0.1066	118	4.0	11500	14.4	104 : 1	110	1.4976	
Y- Motion	1	0.376	100	2.5	11400	8.5	76:1	150	0.646	
Z-Motion	1	0.094	100	2.5	11400	8.5	76 : 1	150	0.646	
θ-Motion	0.15	0.0194	30	0.75	13000	1.25	256 : 1	50	0.320	

Sensors

Optical encoders feed back the position signals and angle signals from the output shafts to the PIC microcontroller. For θ -motion, one optical encoder of bore size of 4mm, and for X, Y and Z motion, three optical encoders of bore size 6mm, are selected.

H-Bridge motor controller

The motors require bi-directional motion control to execute motion in the forward and reverse direction. A motor driver SN75441, also known as H-Bridge, drives two motors independently (Fig. 3.7). The logic table (Table 3.4) shows the state of pins for clockwise and anticlockwise rotation of the motors.

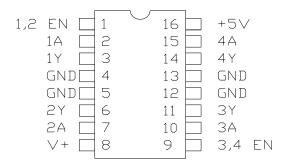


Fig. 3.7 Pin-outs of SN75441ONE

As an example, for one motor, three output pins of PIC16F877 send signals to pins 1, 2 and 7 of H-bridge. Input voltage for the motors is supplied at pin 8, while input voltage of 5V is supplied to the H-bridge. The output voltage to the motor is taken from pins 3 and 6. Pins 4 and 5 are grounded. Switching between the states of pins 1A and 2A enables the H-bridge to run the motor in clockwise and anticlockwise direction.

Table 3.4 Logic table of SN75441

EN1,2/EN3,4	1A/3A	2A/4A	State
Н	Н	L	Clockwise
Н	L	Н	Anti-clockwise
Н	L	L	Fast Stop
Н	Н	Н	Fast Stop
L	X	X	Slow Stop

PIC microcontroller

PIC16F877 is selected to build interface between mechanical and electrical parts.

Software and hardware for programming PIC-microcontroller

Bootloader hardware and software

A boot loader software program runs on the PIC microcontroller. The bootloader program records the incoming data into the program area of the PIC microcontroller memory. The purpose of a boot loader is to load programs onto a micro-controller over a serial line, and also helps in loading programs much faster. A software program, called *ICProg*, downloads the bootloader hex file to the PIC microcontroller through a serial port and *PIC-PG2 hardware*.

PIC-C compiler and MPLAB

There are a number of compilers to program PIC micro-controllers such as CCS-C, CC5X, PICBasic, MikroBasic, MikroC, H-Tech PIC-lite, Pbasic and Mbasic. CCS-C compiler is mostly used in programming a PIC such as PIC16F877. The CCS-C compiler does not have its own editor, so MPLAB, GUI software, is integrated with CCS-C compiler to build the programs. After the C program is written in the MPLAB environment, it is compiled to generate a hex file. The hex file is then downloaded in the PIC microcontroller using another software program called *PIC downloader*.

CHAPTER IV

CONTROL OF GANTRY MECHANISM

Introduction

Control of the Gantry Mechanism involves two steps. In the first step, a feedback loop is built by making interfaces of PIC micro-controller with the server, the actuators and the sensors. In the second step, the communication between the client and the server is made, which provide reference command to the feedback loop of the Gantry Mechanism (Fig. 4.1).

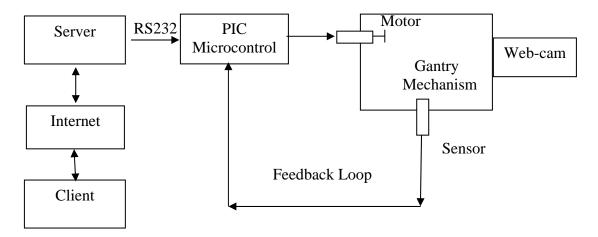


Fig. 4.1 Interfaces of control of the Gantry Mechanism

Interface of the PIC microcontroller

There are three interfaces of PIC micro-controller (Fig. 4.1).

- a) Interface between PIC micro-controller and Server (PC).
- b) Interface between PIC micro-controller and Actuator (Motors).
- c) Interface between PIC micro-controller and Sensor (Encoders)

Interface between PIC micro-controller and server

The server and PIC16F877 are connected using RS-232 (DB-9) cable, which is 9-pin male-to-female cable. The pin voltage range of RS-232 is -12V to +12V. The PIC

micro-controller requires low voltage (+5V). Therefore, RS-232 cable can not be connected directly to the PIC microcontroller.

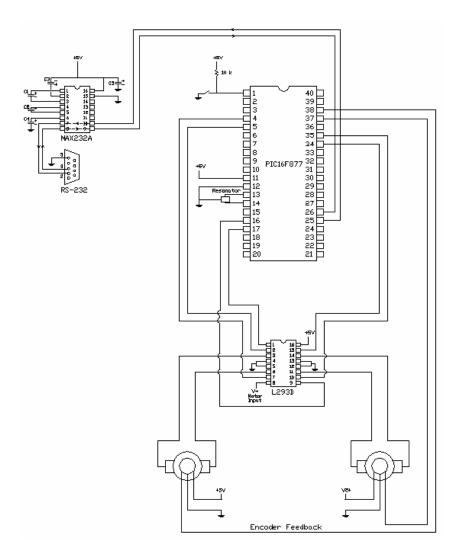


Fig. 4.2 Interfaces of PIC microcontroller

A chip MAX232 serves as an intermediate to convert high voltage of RS-232 to low voltage for the PIC microcontroller and vise-versa [32, 33, 34] (Fig. 4.2).

Interface between PIC micro-controller and actuators

PIC micro-controller pins provide low currents (20mA), which is not sufficient to meet the output torque requirement of motor. H-Bridge chip is used to drive the motors at high currents as well as bi-directional motion control.

Interface between PIC micro-controller and sensors

Optical encoders are used to measure the actual positions of the Gantry Mechanism. The optical disc of the sensor is mounted on the output shaft. When the disc rotates along with the shaft, the sensor produces pulses of high and low voltages at the output channel. These pulses are counted to determine the actual speed and the position of the shaft (Fig. 4.2).

Feedback Control of Gantry Mechanism

The feedback loop consists of the PIC microcontroller, the H-Bridge, the motors and the encoders (Fig. 4.3). The PIC microcontroller receives the parameters from the server. The PIC sends signals to H-Bridge which turns the motors. The encoders mounted on the output shafts feed back the signal. This signal is used to control the voltage input of the motors. A specimen calculation of position, direction and rotation control is outlined in chapter V.

Over-distance and over-angle avoidance

The movements of carriages in X, Y Z and θ directions can cause hitting of ends, when the Gantry Mechanism travel over distances and over angle. Two methods are implemented to avoid the over travel. Firstly, the Javascript program is so written that the user can not enter distances and angles outside the limits. Secondly, a logic circuit, which enables push-buttons when they are hit, is also designed (Fig. 4.4). The push button makes the respective pin of OR gate to logic zero. The output of OR logic, which is connected to the PIC microcontroller, switches its state. The PIC microcontroller detects the state and stops the motor.

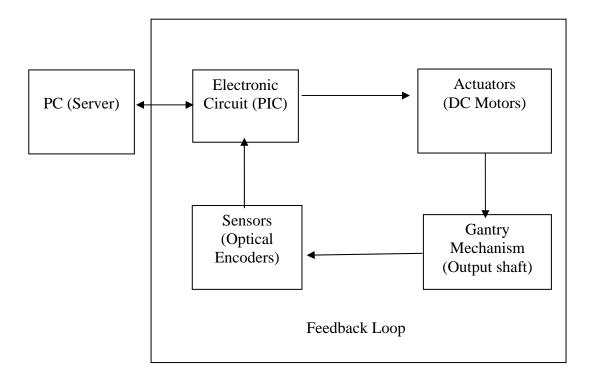


Fig. 4.3 Feedback loop of Gantry Mechanism

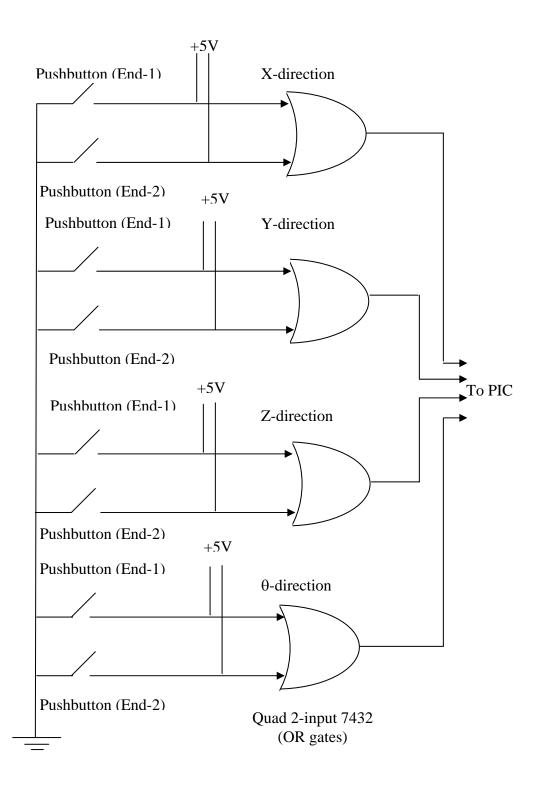


Fig. 4.4 Over-distance and over-angle avoidance circuit diagram

Control of the Gantry Mechanism over the Internet

The user sends commands to the server over the internet. The server processes these commands and prepares the commands for the PIC microcontroller. The various programming languages used to develop programs and interfaces are shown in Fig. 4.5.

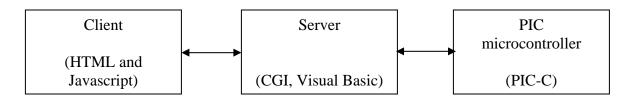


Fig. 4.5 Programming software of client, server and PIC-microcontroller

Design of web-page

A Graphic User Interface is designed to make interaction between the user and the webbrowser. The user selects the coordinates of the Gantry Mechanism either moving the sliders of GUI using a computer mouse, or entering numeric data in the text boxes using a computer keyboard (Fig. 4.6). The graphic images are drawn in Microsoft Paint. *Dynamic HTML*, HTML and Javascript language, code is written to control the movement of sliders. The slider-1 moves in X-direction, and the carriage-2 slides over the slider-1 and makes Y-direction motion. The carriage4 slides over slider-3 and makes motion in Z-direction. Rotation in θ -direction is achieved by rotating the yellow circular slider inside the green area.

Server-PIC interface programming

Apache server, installed on the server, communicates in the real time mode. After receiving the user request, the server sends the GUI to the web-browser. The user selects the parameters in the GUI, and clicks the button named "Move". The CGI executable file, stored in the cgi-bin directory of the server, processes the HTML form and prepares

input commands for the PIC microcontroller. The CGI executable files are programmed using Visual Basic. The CGI file then opens the port, and sends data to the PIC microcontroller circuit.

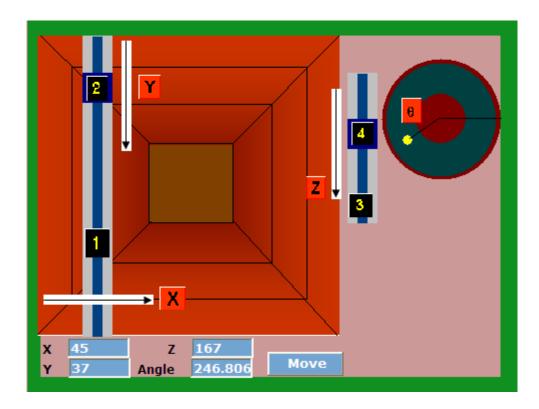


Fig. 4.6 Graphic User Interface of Gantry Mechanism

Formulation of position, rotation and direction of Gantry Mechanism

The server receives the distances and angle values from the webpage when the user clicks "MOVE" button. The Visual Basic program on the server calculates the number of counts, and determines the direction of motion. The number of counts and the direction are sent to the PIC-microcontroller.

```
xc
        = Current position in X-direction
        = Current position in Y-direction
yc
        = Current position in Z-direction
ZC
        = Current angle in \theta-direction
\theta c
        = previous position in X-direction
хp
        = previous position in Y-direction
yp
        = previous position in Z-direction
zp
        = previous angle in \theta-direction
\theta p
dx (mm)
                = (xc - xp), distance moved in X-direction
                = (yc - yp), distance moved in Y-direction
dy (mm)
dz (mm)
                = (zc - zp), distance moved in Z-direction
d\theta (deg)
                = (\theta c - \theta p), angle of rotation
        = counts per revolution of encoder for X-direction
cprx
        = counts per revolution of encoder for Y-direction
cpry
cprz
        = counts per revolution of encoder for Z-direction
cpr\theta
        = counts per revolution of encoder for \theta-direction
radpulleyx (mm)
                        = radius of pulley for X-direction
radpulleyy (mm)
                        = radius of pulley for Y-direction
pitchz (mm)
                        = pitch of threaded rod for Z-direction
                = number of counts for X-direction
ncountsx
                = number of counts for Y-direction
ncountsy
                = number of counts for Z-direction
ncountsz
ncountsθ
                = number of counts for \theta-direction
ncountsx = cprx / (2 \times \pi \times \text{radpulleyx}) \times dx
ncountsy = cpry / (2 \times \pi \times \text{radpulleyy}) \times \text{dy}
ncountsz = cprz / (pitchz) x dz
ncounts\theta = cpr\theta / (360) x d\theta
```

Vibration control of Gantry Mechanism

Many applications of control design require precise positioning of an object and fast point to point movement. Reduction in time of movement requires reduction of inertia, which results low frequency dynamics [15]. Precise placement requires that the vibration of the object should be zero or close to zero. Feedback controllers are designed to minimize the error between the reference command and the output. Input shaping of the reference command is another technique of reducing the unbalanced vibrations.

Formulation of input shaping for vibration control

The residual vibration is reduced by generating a command profile. The command profile cancels the vibration induced by the first part by the later part of the command. The input command is convolved by a sequence of impulses. The resulting command is used to drive the system.

A linear vibratory system of any order can be represented as a set of cascaded second order system. The transfer function of a typical second order system is given by

$$\frac{Y(s)}{R(s)} = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2}$$
 (4.1)

where, Y(s) = output signal;

R(s) = reference signal;

 ω_n = natural frequency of the vibrating system;

 ζ = damping ratio.

The impulse response of a second order system is given by the following equation:

$$\frac{y(t)}{1(t)} = \frac{A\omega_n}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} e^{-\sigma\omega_n(t-t_i)} \sin(w_d(t-t_i)) \qquad (4.2)$$

where, A = amplitude of impulse;

 t_i = initial time;

$$\omega_d = \omega_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}$$
 damped frequency. (4.4)

Two impulse responses can be superimposed to generate zero vibration as shown in (Fig. 4.7)

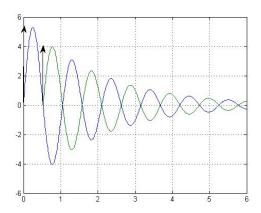


Fig. 4.7 Superposition of two impulse responses

In order to produce such responses amplitude of impulses and time between the impulses are required. The two responses can be represented as

$$y_{1}(t) = \frac{A_{1}\omega_{n}}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^{2}}}e^{-\sigma(t-t_{1})}\sin(w_{d}(t-t_{1})) = B_{1}\sin(w_{d}t-w_{d}t_{1}) = B_{1}\sin(w_{d}t-\phi_{1})$$

$$y_2(t) = \frac{A_2 \omega_n}{\sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}} e^{-\sigma(t - t_2)} \sin(w_d(t - t_2)) = B_2 \sin(w_d t - w_d t_2)) = B_2 \sin(w_d t - \phi_2)$$

The resulting response is given by

$$A_{res}\sin(w_d t - \psi) = B_1 \sin(w_d t - \phi_1) + B_2 \sin(w_d t - \phi_2)$$
(4.5)

From equation 4.5, A_{res} is determined by performing trigonometric relations and solving the resulting equations (Appendix-C)

The amplitude of the resultant response A_{res} is zero if both the terms in the square root are zero.

$$B_1 \cos(\phi_1) + B_2 \cos(\phi_2) = 0$$

$$B_1 \sin(\phi_1)) + B_2 \sin(\phi_2) = 0$$

$$B_1 \cos(\omega_d t_1) + B_2 \cos(\omega_d t_2) = 0$$

$$\frac{\omega_n}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}}e^{-\sigma t}[A_1e^{\sigma t_1}\cos(w_d t_1) + A_2e^{\sigma t_2}\cos(w_d t_2)] = 0$$

$$\frac{\omega_n}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} e^{-\sigma t} [A_1 e^{\sigma t_1} \sin(w_d t_1) + A_2 e^{\sigma t_2} \sin(w_d t_2)] = 0$$

Considering initial time (t₁) to be zero of first response

$$t_1 = 0$$

$$1 + A_2 e^{\sigma t_2} \cos(w_d t_2) = 0 \tag{4.7}$$

$$A_2 e^{\sigma t_2} \sin(w_d t_2) = 0 \tag{4.8}$$

The second equation implies that $w_d t_2 = n\pi$ ----- (4.9)

$$t_2 = \frac{n\pi}{w_d} = \frac{n\pi}{w_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}}$$

For n=1,

$$t_2 = \frac{\pi}{w_d} = \frac{\pi}{w_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}}, \quad \text{and } t_1 = 0$$
 ------ (4.10)

The amplitude constraint to obtain a normalized solution requires that the sum of amplitudes is one [15].

$$A_1 + A_2 = 1$$
 (4.11)

The solution of equations 4.7, 4.9 and 4.11 give A_1 and A_2 .

$$A_{1} = \frac{e^{\sigma t_{2}}}{1 + e^{\sigma t_{2}}} \tag{4.12}$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\sigma t_2}} \tag{4.13}$$

A step input is convolved with the impulse amplitudes (equations 4.12 and 4.13) at time interval given by equation 4.10.

Mathematical modal of Gantry Mechanism

The Gantry Mechanism has belt and pulley drive in X and Y direction motion. Considering Y-direction motion, the model is represented as a combination of spring and dashpot arrangement (Fig. 4.8)

Equation of motion of the model is given by

$$m y + c y + ky = F$$
 (4.14)

$$F = \frac{T}{r} = \frac{k_i iGR}{r} \tag{4.15}$$

where, F = force due to torque produced by motor;

 $T = k_t iGR$, Torque produced by motor;

 k_t = torque constant;

i = current;

GR= gear ratio;

r = radius of pulley.

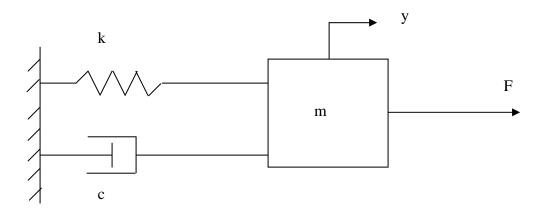


Fig. 4.8 Spring-dashpot model of Gantry Mechanism (Y-direction)

$$m y + c y + ky = \frac{k_t GR}{r} i$$
 (4.16)

Laplace transform of equation 4.16, with zero initial conditions, is given by

$$\frac{Y(s)}{I(s)} = \frac{k_t GR}{r(ms^2 + cs + k)}$$
 (4.17)

Comparing equation 4.17 with equation 4.1, the response is given as

$$\frac{y(t)}{1(t)} = \frac{A}{\omega_n^2} \frac{\omega_n}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} e^{-\sigma\omega_n(t-t_i)} \sin(w_d(t-t_i))$$
 (4.18)

where,
$$A = A_i \frac{k_t GR}{r}$$
;

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$
;

$$\zeta = \frac{c}{2\sqrt{km}}.$$

CHAPTER V

EVALUATION OF RESULTS

In this chapter, calculations of position of Gantry Mechanism have been performed. The actual measurements of positions and angle, and input parameters are compared. Further calculations are performed to generate input shape commands to reduce unbalanced vibrations. Two impulse commands have been considered to obtain amplitudes and time intervals. These values are convolved with input unshaped commands.

Sample calculation of position, direction and rotation of Gantry Mechanism

The values of current position of Gantry Mechanism are: xc = 100, yc = 100, zc = 30, and $\theta c = 90$. The previous position values of Gantry Mechanism are: xp = 0, yp = 0, zp = 0, and $\theta p = 0$.

CPR values of encoders are: cprx = 16, cpry = 16, cprz = 16, and $cpr\theta = 16$. The radius of each pulley is: radpulleyx (mm) = 8.1.

The pitch of the threaded rod and the nut is: pitchz (mm) = $1/24 \times 25.4 = 1.058$. The difference between the current and the previous distances and angles is calculated as: dx = 100; dy = 100; dz = 30; $d\theta = 90$.

All the differences are positive; therefore, the direction of rotation of all motors is clockwise (as per convention).

The number of counts calculated are: ncountsx = $16 / (2 \times \pi \times 8.1) \times 100 = 32$ (integer rounded); ncountsy = $16 / (2 \times \pi \times 8.1) \times 100 = 32$; ncountsz = $16 / 1.058 \times 30 = 454$; ncounts $\theta = 16 / 360 \times 90 = 4$.

Error between input parameters and measured parameters

Least distance moved and least angle rotated varies between zero and that which correspond to one count of encoder. So the error in measurement varies from zero to the value corresponding to one count of encoder.

Least distance moved in X-direction, dxl, is (2 x π x radpulleyx) / cprx, in Y-direction, dyl, is (2 x π x radpulleyy) / cpry, in Z-direction is (pitchz) / cprz, and in θ -direction, d θ l, is (360) / cpr θ .

Hence, the values calculated are: $dxl = (2 x \pi x 8.1) / 16 = 3.2$ mm, $dyl = (2 x \pi x 8.1) / 16 = 3.2$ mm, dzl = 1.058 / 16 = 0.07 mm, and $d\theta l = 360 / 16 = 22.5$ degree. Table 5.1 shows the ranges of errors. Table 5.2 shows the input data, the output measured values, and the difference between the input and output parameters.

Table 5.1 Expected error between input and measured parameter

Expected Error in								
X-direction (mm)	Y-direction (mm)	Z-direction (mm)	θ-direction (degree)					
0 to 3.2	0 to 3.2	0 to 0.07	0 to 22.5					

Table 5.2 Comparison of input and measured distances and angles

S.	Input parameter				Measured parameter			Difference between				
No.	(distance in mm				(distance in mm and			Measured and Input				
	and angle in deg.)				angle in deg.)				parameter			
	X	Y	Z	θ	X	Y	Z	θ	ΔΧ	ΔΥ	ΔΖ	Δθ
1	20	20	10	45	20	20	10	43	0	0	0	-2
2	40	40	20	90	41	44	20	105	1	4	0	15
3	60	60	30	135	60	59	29	135	0	-1	-1	0
4	80	80	40	180	80	83	39	200	0	3	-1	20
5	100	100	50	225	101	105	50	225	1	2	0	0
6	150	150	60	270	153	148	59	290	3	-2	-1	20
7	200	200		315	201	205		335	1	5		20
8	250	250		360	248	248		380	-2	-2		20
9	300				297				-3			

The error in input distance in X direction varies from -3mm to 3mm (Fig. 5.1). The negative value is due to the system dynamics. The elasticity of belt and friction due to wheels and the railing are the causes of this difference. As the distance of travel increases, the system becomes more and more accelerated, so the fluctuation in error also increases.

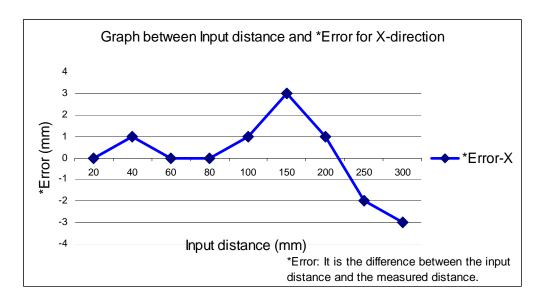


Fig. 5.1 Input distance vs error (X-direction)

In case of Y-direction motion the error varies between -2 mm and 5mm, which can again be accounted for the same reason as for X-direction motion (Fig. 5.2). The fluctuation in error also increases with the distance traveled. However, since the inertia reduces, so the fluctuation is not as high as in the case of X-direction motion.

The error in case of Z-direction motion is between -1mm to zero, which is quite close to the predicted value (Fig. 5.3). In case of θ -motion, the error is again within the range of predicted range (Fig. 5.4). As the angle of rotation increases the error becomes constant.

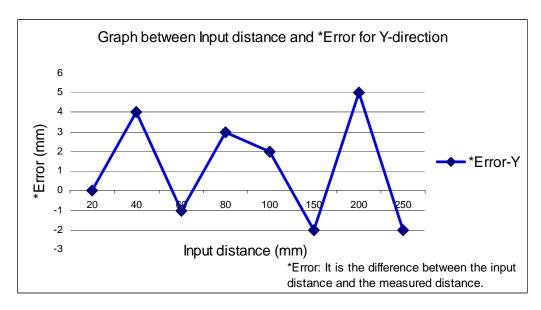


Fig. 5.2 Input distance vs error (Y-direction)

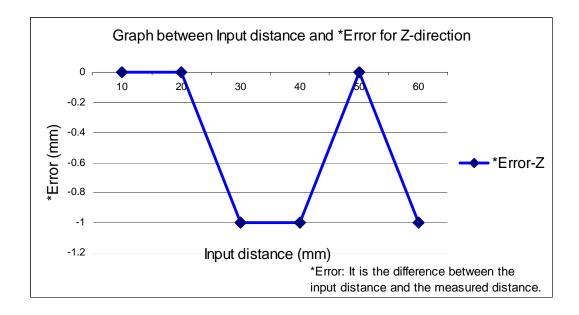


Fig. 5.3 Input distance vs error (Z-direction)

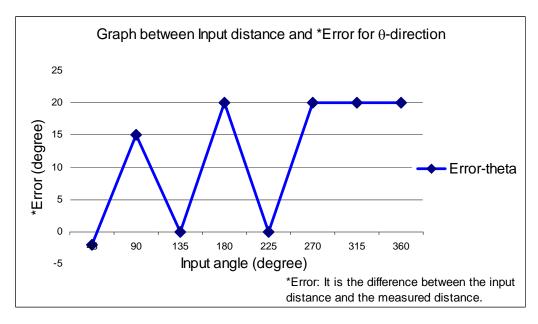


Fig. 5.4 Input angle vs error (θ -direction)

Calculation for vibration control

Method of generating input shaping commands have been outlined in chapter-IV. Laplace transform from equation 4.17, with zero initial conditions, is given by

$$\frac{Y(s)}{I(s)} = \frac{k_t GR}{r(ms^2 + cs + k)}$$

The impulse response is given by equation (4.18)

$$\frac{y(t)}{1(t)} = \frac{A}{\omega_n^2} \frac{\omega_n}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} e^{-\sigma\omega_n(t-t_i)} \sin(w_d(t-t_i))$$

where,
$$A = A_i \frac{k_t GR}{r}$$
;

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$
;

$$\zeta = \frac{c}{2\sqrt{km}}.$$

The data, from datasheets of the motors and properties of neoprene belt, used to calculate the amplitudes and time intervals of impulse responses is: kt = 4.95 mNm/A, GR = 76, r = 8.1 mm, m = 1 kg, c = 0.1, and k = 35 kN/mm.

The amplitudes and time interval matrix is determined as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ t_1 & t_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5066 & 0.4934 \\ 0 & 0.5310 \end{bmatrix}$$

The superposition of two impulse responses which cancel each other to generate zero vibration are shown in Fig.5.3. The first impulse starts at zero time and the second starts at 0.531 sec.

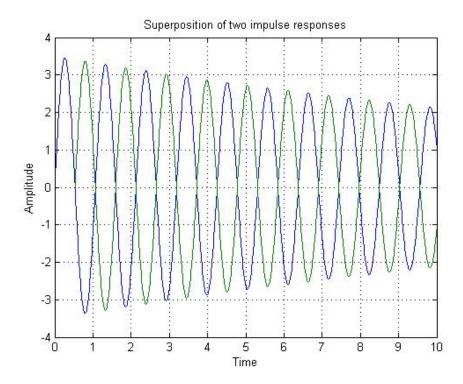


Fig. 5.5 Impulse responses of sample calculation (Gantry Mechanism: Y-motion)

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The research objective is to build a Gantry Mechanism and control it over the Internet. The mechanism will be used to view the working of a SCARA robot. A model of the Gantry Mechanism is designed, built and controlled over the Internet. The Gantry Mechanism maneuvers the camera in the working envelope. The camera captures the images and transmits them over the Internet. In this way, the user virtually sees the working space from different positions.

The Gantry Mechanism has four degrees of freedom along X, Y, Z and θ -direction in the X-Y plane. The X and Y motion has belt-pulley transmission. The Z-direction motion consists of threaded rod and nut arrangement. Finally, in the θ -motion, the motor is directly coupled with the shaft carrying the camera.

The control of the Gantry Mechanism is implemented in two parts. The feedback control loop is built using motors, H-bridge, logic gates, encoders and PIC-microcontroller. The reference input is obtained from the user, who uses a Graphical User Interface in the web-browser on the client side. The reference command is processed on the server to generate input commands for the feedback loop.

Further to reduce the unbalanced vibrations of the Gantry Mechanism, an algorithm of input command shaping has been developed. The algorithm involves calculation of impulse amplitudes and their time-intervals of application. These impulse commands are convolved with actual step command to generate inputs to the motors.

Future work

Improvement in the design of feedback control loop along with input shaping will, further, reduce the error in input parameters and measured parameters. The setup designed is cost-effective. Motor controllers with position feedback can be used with

MATLAB to make more robust system. However, one has to learn how to write programs and make interfaces which would bridge between client, MATLAB programs and PIC-microcontroller. Finally, the Graphical User Interface can be improved by shifting from HTML and Javascript programming to Java3D.

Conclusions

In this research the objective of designing a Gantry Mechanism and its control through the Internet has been achieved. A model of the Gantry Mechanism was built and also developed its control through the Internet. The experimental results were evaluated by comparing the predicted errors and actual errors. Suggestions for the system improvement and error reduction were outlined. The design can be scaled up to develop an actual Gantry Mechanism for the experimentation of the SCARA Robot. Finally, the unbalanced vibrations can be reduced by implementing the input shaping algorithm and improvement in feedback control loop.

The applications of the Gantry Mechanism, which maneuvers the camera and is controlled over the Internet, include industry, viewing inaccessible places like nuclear plants, shop floors, hospitals, underwater, space and home security systems.

REFERENCES

- [1] H. Yang, R. Eagleson, "Design and implementation of an internet-based embedded control system", in *IEEE Conference on Control Applications Proceedings*, vol 2, 2003, pp 1181-1185.
- [2] W.J. Kim, K. Ji, Kun, A. Ambike, "Real time operating environment for networked control systems", *IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology*, submitted for publication.
- [3] P.X. Liu, M. Meng, Q. H. Max, J. Gu, S.X. Yang, C. Hu, "Control and data transmission for internet robots", in *Proc. IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, vol 2, 2003, pp 1659-1664.
- [4] S.K. Ong, W.W. Sun, "Application of mobile agents in a web-based real-time monitoring system" *International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology*, vol 22, no. 1-2, 2003, pp 33-40.
- [5] R. B. Sepe Jr., N. Short, M. Chamberland, "Web-based Virtual Engineering Laboratory (VE-LAB) for a hybrid electric vehicle starter/alternator", in *Conf. Rec.* IAS Annual Meeting (IEEE Industry Applications Society), vol 4, 1999, pp 2642-2648.
- [6] L. Wang, W. Shen, S. Lang, "Wise-ShopFloor: A Web-Based and Sensor-Driven Shop Floor Environment" in *Proc. of the International Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work in Design, Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on CSCW in Design*, vol 7, pp 413-418, 2002.
- [7] L. Wang, R. Sams, M. Verner, F. Xi, "Integrating Java 3D model and sensor data for remote monitoring and control", *Robotics and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing*, vol 19, no. 1-2, pp 13-19, 2003.
- [8] L. Wang, P. Orban, A. Cunningham, S. Lang, "Remote real-time CNC machining for web-based manufacturing", *Robotics and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing*, vol 20, no. 6, pp 563-571, 2004.

- [9] M. Wang, J. N. K. Liu, "Interactive control for Internet-based mobile robot teleoperation", *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, vol 52, no. 2-3, pp 160-179, 2005.
- [10] R.C. Luo, M. C. Tse, C. C. Yih, "Intelligent autonomous mobile robot control through the internet", *IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics*, vol 1, pp PL6-PL11, 2000.
- [11] A. Malinowski, T. Konetski, B. Davis, D. Schertz, "Web-controlled robotic manipulator using Java and client-server architecture", in *Proc. IECON (Industrial Electronics Conference)*, vol 2, pp 827-830, 1999.
- [12] T. M. Sobh, R. Sanyai, B. Wang, "Remote surveillance via wireless-controlled mobile robots", in *Proc. Sixth Biannual World Automation Congress, WAC*, *Robotics: Trends, Principles, and Application.*. pp 541-546, 2004.
- [13] L. Chen, Y. Wang, "Design and implementation of a web-based distributed control system (WDCS)", in *Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering*, vol 2, 2002, pp 681-686.
- [14] H. Wu, J. Ming, Y. Yang, S. Zhu, "Integrating embedded-web technology and real-time Ethernet for modern distributed control" in *Proc. World Congress on Intelligent Control and Automation (WCICA)*, WCICA 2004 Fifth World Congress on Intelligent Control and Automation, Conference Proceedings, vol 2, 2004, pp 1323-1325.
- [15] T. Singh, W. Singhose, "Tutorial on Input Shaping/Time Delay Control of Maneuvering Flexible Structues")", in *Proceedings of the American Control Conference* Anchorage, AK, pp 1717-1731, 2002.
- [16] R. Beardmore, "Mechanical Engineering Design and Engineering Materials", last updated 06-06-2007, [online] Available: www.roymech.co.uk/index3.htm.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

Specimen Design calculation for selection of Belt and Pulley

Inputs

Linear velocity (Vlin) = 100 mm/sPCD of pulley (assumed) (D) = 20 mmLoad (mass) (m) = 2 kg

Factor of safety on load (fs) = 2

Acceleration due to gravity (g) = 9.81 m/s^2

Static coefficient of friction (μ) = 0.61

Calculations

Radius of pulley (R) = 10 mmAngular velocity of pulley (ω) = Vlin/R

= 10 rad/s

 $Rpm (N) = \omega x (60/(2 x \pi))$

= 95.5 rpm

Load with factor of safety (msf) = m x fs

=4 kg

Load in newtons (F) = msf x g

= 39.2 N

Load per belt (Fe) = 19.6 N

Tension in the belt (T) $= \mu x Fe$

= 11.9 N

Torque in the pulley (τ) = T x (R/1000)

= 0.1197 Nm

Power (P) $= \tau \times \omega$

= 1.197 W

Service factor (sfac) = 1.2

Design power (Pdes) = P x sfac

$$= 1.4362 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kW}$$

Basic power (Pr) =
$$0.746 \times Z \times (0.0916 - 7.07 \times 10^{-5} \times Z^2)$$

$$= 5.1381 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kW}$$

Width factor (wfac)
$$= Pr / Pdes$$

$$= 3.58$$

Belt and pulley selected online

Belt Width = 9.5

Pulley PCD = 16.2

Pitch (XL) = 5.08

Appendix B

Specimen Design calculation for selection of Motor

Inputs

Acceleration due to gravity (g) = 9.81 m/s^2

Static coefficient of friction (μ) = 0.61

Calculations

Radius of pulley (R) = 8.1 mmAngular velocity of pulley (ω) = Vlin/R

= 12.3 rad/s

 $Rpm (N) = \omega x (60 / (2 x \pi))$

= 118 rpm

Load in newtons (F) $= m \times g$

= 19.6 N

Load per belt (Fe) = 9.8 N

Tension in the belt (T) = μ x Fe

= 5.98 N

Torque in the pulley (τ) = T x (R/1000)

= 0.0485 Nm

Torque for both pulleys (τ) = 1.1 x (2 τ)110% considered for margin

= 0.1066

Power (P) $= \tau \times \omega$

= 1.32 W

Factor of safety (sfac) = 2.5

Design power (Pdes) = P x sfac

= 3.3 W

Motor selected

Power (P) = 4.0 W

Operating voltage (V) = 12 V

No-load speed (ω n) = 11500 rpm

Stall Torque (τ s) = 14.4 mNm

Gearhead reduction ratio = 104:1

Maximum power output (Pmax) = $\tau s / 2 \times \omega n / 2$

at $\tau s / 2$ and $\omega n / 2$ = 4.34 W

Speed at maximum power (ω max) = 11500 / 2

= 5750

Torque at maximum power $(\tau max) = 14.4 / 2$

= 7.2 mNm

Operating voltage range = 5V to 12 V

Operating speed range = $11500 \times (5/12 \text{ to } 12/12)$

=4792 to 11500

Torque at constant speed (τ) = $\tau_s - (\tau_s / \omega_n) \omega$

Operating torque range = 8.4 to 0 mNm

Operating torque range at Gearhead = 0 to 873.6 mNm = 0 to 0.8736 Nm

Torque required = 0.1066 Nm

% margin over torque = 75

Appendix-C

$$A_{res}\sin(w_{d}t - \psi)) = B_{1}\sin(w_{d}t - \phi_{1})) + B_{2}\sin(w_{d}t - \phi_{2}))$$

Expanding the trigonometric expressions on both sides

$$A_{res}(\sin(w_d t)\cos(\psi) - \cos(w_d t)\sin(\psi))$$

$$= B_1(\sin(w_d t)\cos(\phi_1) - \cos(w_d t)\sin(\phi_1)) + B_2(\sin(w_d t)\cos(\phi_2) - \cos(w_d t)\sin(\phi_2))$$

This can be written as

$$\sin(w_d t)[A_{res}\cos(\psi)] - \cos(w_d t)[A_{res}\sin(\psi)] = \sin(w_d t)[B_1\cos(\phi_1) + B_2\cos(\phi_2)] - \cos(w_d t)[B_1\sin(\phi_1)) + B_2\sin(\phi_2)]$$

Equating the coefficients of sine and cosine terms on both sides

$$A_{res}\cos(\psi) = B_1\cos(\phi_1) + B_2\cos(\phi_2)$$

$$A_{res}\sin(\psi) = B_1\sin(\phi_1)) + B_2\sin(\phi_2)$$

Squaring and adding both sides

$$A_{res}^2 = [B_1 \cos(\phi_1) + B_2 \cos(\phi_2)]^2 + [B_1 \sin(\phi_1)) + B_2 \sin(\phi_2)]^2$$

$$A_{res} = \sqrt{[B_1 \cos(\phi_1) + B_2 \cos(\phi_2)]^2 + [B_1 \sin(\phi_1)) + B_2 \sin(\phi_2)]^2}$$

VITA

Name: Surinder Pal

Address: Texas A&M University

Department of Mechanical Engineering

3123 TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-3123

Email Address: pal_surinder@yahoo.com

Education: B. Tech., Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of

Technology, Bombay, 1997

M.S., Mechanical Engineering, Texas A & M University,

2007