

HAN Master Major Project

# Major Project

## Using FANUC R-2000iC/210F (6-axis robot) for improved efficiency in FRC parts formation

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Figure 0.1: FANUC R-2000iC/210F 6-axis industrial robot arm

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# 1. Abstract

This work aims to integrate a FANUC 210F 6 axis industrial robot arm into an experimental production line. As this production line is set in a research environment, gaining a deeper understanding of all involved systems is desired.

The dynamic behaviour of a physical system is best expressed with an analytical model. In order to control a robot arm, a kinematic model needs to be created. With this model, a control algorithm can be derived.

The objective of this thesis is to derive the complete inverse kinematic model of a 6 degrees of freedom ([DOF](#)) robotic arm analytically. For an exact numerical simulation of the device most steps are laid out theoretically and difficulties in the practical implementation are described. Additionally for follow up projects this work also contains a quick start guide and a safety manual for the robot in this setting . Finally to contribute to current research, twinning specifications will be defined.

# 2. Preface

Robots can be defined as programmable movement automations that can perform tasks without human supervision and can be taught at least repetitive tasks. Increasingly, also ways to sense their surroundings are added and improve their movements according to their surroundings. These additionally to the sensors like pulse encoders at their axes to feedback control their endpoint position accuracy.

I have started working with robots and robotic systems in my bachelor studies. As a starting engineer, I was exploring the possibilities of automated manufacturing with CNC mills and 3D printers. These were very simplistic robotic systems based on a feedforward control with stepper motors for position accuracy. For starting a production process, these devices had to be half automatically calibrated and the position and orientation

needed to be taught automatically by pointing the drill/printing head to the markerpoints.

## 3. Summary

## 4. Acronyms

**HAN** Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen

**SPC** Smart Production Cell

**DOF** degrees of freedom

**FRC** Fibre Reinforced Composites

**DH** Denavit-Hartenberg

**IOT** Internet Of Things

**FHEM** Freundliche Hausautomation und Energie-Messung [10]

**NFC** Near-field communication

**IPKW** Industrial Park Kleevse Waard

**NFC** Near Field Communication

**ROS** Robot Operating System

**GUI** Graphical User Interface

**EOAT** End Of Arm Tooling

**PL** Production Line

**ETCS** European Train Control System

**DT** Digital Twin

## 5. Problem Definition

For Fibre Reinforced Composites (**FRC**) part production, a robot arm can be used to load the press with raw material, as it allows for more flexibility in the production line. As the robot arm has many degrees of freedom, there are different strategies for a control cycle. Main constraint is to achieve this movement of materials as

fast as possible to minimize the cool-down of the molten FRC. Additionally, the accelerations and forces on the material should be minimized while transferring, to make sure no material is lost in the process. This makes it hard to find an ideal, fast control strategy to place the raw material into the press.

## 6. Literature survey

In my project plan I stated that "I will demonstrate my master level by understanding and simulating the dynamics of a 6 axis Robot arm."<sup>[37]</sup> This should be done by creating a model of the robot arm. This model can then be used to create a controller. To create the model of the robot arm, a literature review is necessary to lay out the best approach.

Additionally to the modelling and control of the robot arm, digital twinning became a research topic within the project. A review of existing literature on digital twinning will be done as well.

### 6.1 Field of study

To start the literature review, a set of first keywords was needed. Through an expert interview with my company supervisor Trung Nguyen [22], who had already supervised other thesis projects in the domain of robotics, a list of keywords to start with was found in a quick discussion. Not all of these keywords were immediately clear, so it was necessary to find definitions for these. With the help of scientific databases and search engines, sources for these definitions could be found.

**6 axis robot** serial 6 degree of freedom robots ([36] with HANQuest)

**industrial robot arm** some form of jointed structure achieved by the linking of a number of rotary and/or linear motions or joints( [41] with Science Direct)

**inverse kinematics** mathematical process of recovering the movements of an object with kinematic equations to determine the joint parameters that provide a desired position for each of the robot's end effectors ([12] with Wikipedia)

**Peter Corke robotics toolbox** Matlab toolbox for the study and simulation of classical arm-type robotics, for example such things as kinematics, dynamics, and trajectory generation ([29] with Google search)

**motion planning** find a sequence of valid configurations that moves the robot from the source to destination ([19] with Google search)

**robot dynamics** relationship between the forces acting on a robot mechanism and the accelerations they produce ([9], with Scholarpedia)

**ROS** Robot Operating System - framework for writing robot software. It is a collection of tools, libraries, and conventions that aim to simplify the task of creating complex and robust robot behaviour across a wide variety of robotic platforms. ([27] with Google search )

As seen in "Implementation of Robot Systems" [41], the FANUC 210F is an articulated robot arm, also called a jointed arm. It is a 6 axis robot that has six rotational joints, each mounted on the previous joint. This type of robot has the ability to reach a point within the working envelope in more than one configuration or position. As there are multiple configurations possible to reach the same position, path planning would become an important topic. This means through inverse kinematics the motion of the joints needs to be determined without considering the local forces that cause them to move. The robotics toolbox by Peter Corke was seen as a good tool for simulating these kinematics in MATLAB. When attaching the dynamics to this model, further simulations could be made to simulate the dynamic behaviour of the robot arm and create a controller. ROS, while being an advanced tool for robot control would not fall in the scope of this thesis, as it would rather be a tool for later in the process of integrating the robot into the production line.

## 6.2 In depth literature

As stated in the online manual of MathWorks, "Kinematics is the study of motion without considering the cause of the motion, such as forces and torques." [23] Inverse Kinematics, also called backward kinematics is the logical opposite to forward kinematics also called direct kinematics (See figure 6.1).

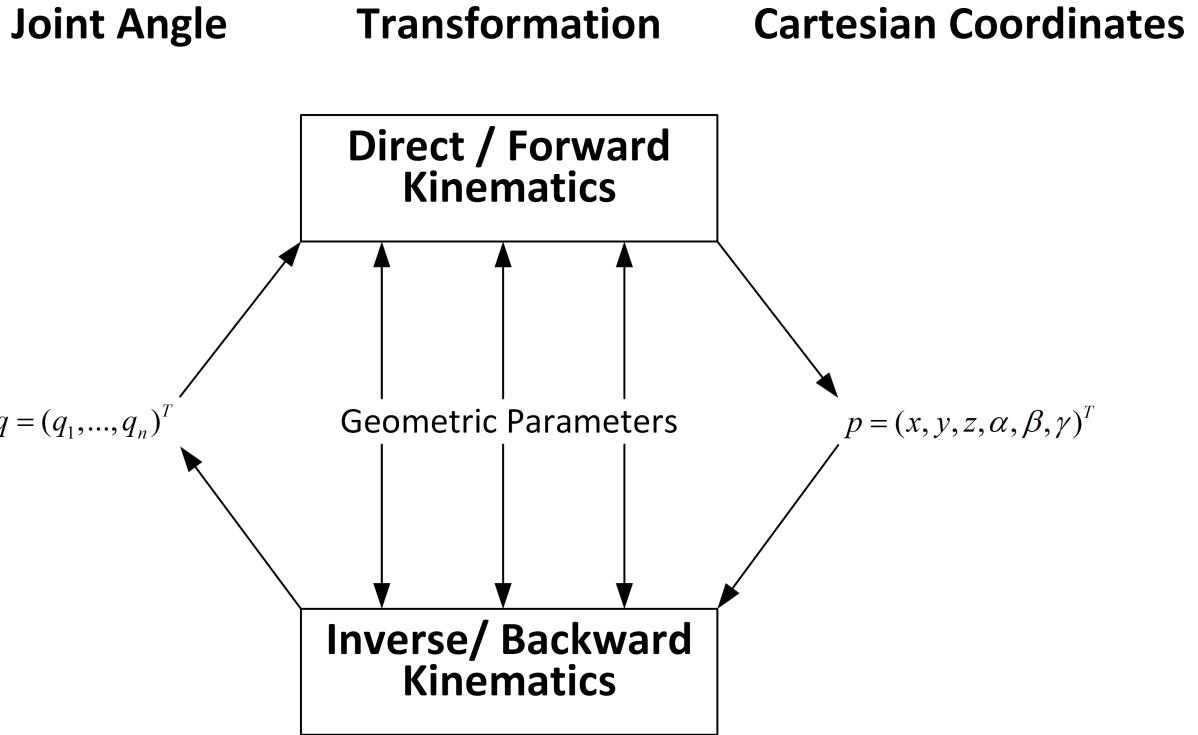


Figure 6.1: Relation between inverse and forward kinematics translated from German Wikipedia site on inverse kinematics [26]

In the german wikipedia article on inverse kinematics [13], the thesis "Verallgemeinerte inverse Kinematik für Anwendungen in der Robotersimulation und der virtuellen Realität" [31] is given as one of the main sources. This thesis work gives a good overview on the topic of inverse kinematics. As stated in this thesis work, the Denavit-Hartenberg notation is a robotic convention to map the local coordinate systems within a kinematic chain as found in robot arms.

As seen in "A Mathematical Introduction to Robotic Manipulation" [25] (obtained through Semantic Scholar, search phrase: robotic convention), there are several other conventions besides the "Denavit-Hartenberg notation" used in the robotics research field like the the "product of exponentials formulation". As most literature prefers a Denavit-Hartenberg fomulation of the kinematics (see [25]), this convention will be chosen in this work as well.

Solutions for forward kinematics are simple to obtain but solving inverse kinematics has been one of the main concerns in robot kinematics research. With more DOF, solutions get more complex as non-linear equations with transcendental functions need to be solved. For this set of equations, no general algorithms are available. Often algebraic, geometric and iterative methods for complex manipulators are used to find a solution to the inverse kinematic problem as stated by Tarun Pratap Singh et al. [33].

To find a suitable method for solving the inverse kinematic problem, a definition for the solution is needed:

"A manipulator will be considered solvable if the joint variables can be determined by an algorithm that allows one to determine all sets of joint variables associated with a given position and orientation. [...] The algorithm should find all possible solutions" -Dr.-Ing. John Nassou[21]

With this definition of solvability, all systems with revolute and prismatic joints with 6 DOF in a single series chain are solvable with the current available research. [21] As a quick search on HAN Quest with the search term "7 DOF inverse kinematics" suggests, there is currently ongoing research for the inverse kinematics problem in higher DOF manipulators with fuzzy logic as multiple articles following this approach can be found.

As the goal is to find a suitable solution strategy for the inverse kinematic problem, it helps to map out the different types of methods. Solution strategies can be split into two classes as stated by Dr.-Ing. John Nassou [21]:

Closed-form solutions	Numerical solutions
faster because analytical method	slower because of iterative nature
will find all solutions	not always find all solutions
Two approaches:	
<b>algebraic approach</b>	<b>geometric approach</b>

As numerical methods solve within an unknown number of operations, cannot always deliver all solutions and depend on the users decision for accuracy, [21] a closed-form solution will be preferred.

On HAN Quest, with the keywords "6DOF inverse kinematics" the article "Inverse Kinematics Solution and Optimization of 6DOF Handling Robot" [38] can be found. This offers an algebraic method to solve the inverse kinematic problem for 6 axis robots. A similar approach is shown in "Forward and Inverse Kinematic Analysis of Robotic Manipulators" [33]

As an alternative, a geometric modeling can be done as seen in "Workspace analysis and geometric modeling of 6 DOF Fanuc 200IC " [3]. A completely different approach is given in "A inverse kinematic solution of a 6-DOF industrial robot using ANN" by using artificial neural networks [2].

With one of these methods, a solution can be found for the inverse kinematic problem. This solution can then be verified with the robotics toolbox (Corke)

With this solution, a dynamic model of the robot can be created by attaching dynamics to the model as seen in "Control and Safety Mechanisms for a 3 DOF Manipulator with Human Interaction" [39] and "A mathematical introduction to Robotic Manipulation" [25]. A complete example of a dynamic simulation of a 6 DOF robot arm can be found in "Dynamic Multibody Simulation of a 6-DOF Robotic Arm" [18]

A controller for trajectory tracking can then be created with the model as seen in "Experimental Evaluation of Nonlinear Feedback and Feedforward Control Schemes for Manipulators" [15]

This controller could then be plugged into the real robot as stated in the "Control of a FANUC Robotic arm using MATLAB manual" [34] An example of this can be found in "Modelling and analysis of a 6 DOF robotic arm manipulator" [14]

### 6.3 Digital twinning

In the setup of the experimental PL for **FRC** at the Smart Production Cell (**SPC**) Digital Twin (**DT**) has been chosen as one of the key technologies for "Smart manufacturing". In the cooperation with Qing, there have been a few discrepancies on the understanding of a **DT**.

To approach this topic, the term digital twin has to be defined. This Concept was introduced for the first time by Grieves at one of his presentations about Product Lifecycle Management in 2003 at University of Michigan as a virtual representation of what has been produced [11]. As stated by Qinglin Qi [24], a **DT** is a high fidelity virtual model for physical objects in a digital way to simulate their behaviour. When looking on the Wikipedia page on digital twinning [5], a wide variety of definitions can be found. This shows, that the concept of the **DT** is not yet clearly defined. All of these definitions have in common though, that **DTs** are "digital replications of living as well as nonliving entities that enable data to be seamlessly transmitted between the physical and virtual worlds" [6].

To approach the problem from the other side, it might help to look at, what is not a digital twin. A virtual representation of a physical object without any exchange of data is a digital model [40]. If data is fed from the physical system into the model, a digital shadow is created [16]. Only a "bi-directional relation between a physical artefact and the set of its virtual models" [30] fulfills Schleich's vision of a **DT**.

As an example, a computer aided design (CAD) model is a representation of a physical entity and it is typically used to describe the shape, dimensions and materials of a construction. This model can be a 2D or a 3D model. Only if the latest sensor data associated with a matching physical device is fed into this CAD model, it can be considered a DS. [40] By simulating different scenarios in a model and representing the current state of the

system the DS turns into a digital twin, if decisions are made automatically fed back through an actuator into the physical entity [30]. An implementation of this data transmission can be found in "Sensor Data Transmission from a Physical Twin to a Digital Twin" [1].

As the **DT** is mostly used in the context of Production Lines (**PLs**), it makes sense to look for similar examples in other industries, that have undergone comparable transformations with the beginning of the digital age. Such a comparable system can be found in the transport industry. **PLs** have several points in common with train networks. One of the latest internationally standardized systems in rail infrastructure is European Train Control System (**ETCS**) which will probably become the standard signalling and control component in all European countries. A great overview on the **ETCS**-standard is given by Thales on their website [7]

## 7. Forward Kinematics

To model the movements of the end effector of a kinematic chain, a forward kinematic analysis is needed. This means, that the position of the endpoint in the operational space needs to be described by the kinematic equations with the joint space as input. The non-linear kinematic equations map the joint parameters to the configuration of the robot system. This results in a pure geometrical description of motion by means of position, orientation, and their time derivatives.

### 7.1 Approach

A serial-link manipulator consists of links in a chain connected by joints. A link is a rigid body, defining the spatial relationship between two following axes. For describing the serial-link mechanism geometry the Denavit Hartenberg notation is one possible approach. It gives a description of a manipulator for kinematic solutions, Jacobians, dynamics, motion planning and simulation. This description can be obtained through a five step algorithm:[4]

### 7.2 Numbering the joints and links

A serial link robot with  $n$  joints has  $n + 1$  links.

**numbering of links** The numbering scheme for links starts at (0) with the fixed grounded base and then increases sequentially up to ( $n$ ) for the end effector.

**numbering of joints** The numbering scheme for joints starts at (1) with the joint connecting the first movable link to the base and then increases sequentially up to  $n$ .

**relation between links and joints** Link ( $i$ ) is connected to its

- lower link ( $i - 1$ ) at its proximal [20] end by joint ( $i$ )
- upper link ( $i + 1$ ) at its distal [20] end by joint ( $i + 1$ )

**Joint and link numbering in Fanuc 210F** This numbering scheme can be applied to the Fanuc 210F (see 7.1)



Figure 7.1: Links (turquoise) and joints (orange) in the FANUC 210F

### 7.3 local coordinate reference frames

With the Denavit-Hartenberg convention, local coordinate frames can be attached to the far end of the links ( $i$ ) and their accompanying joints ( $i + 1$ ). Each link ( $i$ ) is described relative to the pose of the preceding link.

**Assignation of  $z_i$  axes** With the DH-notation, the  $z_i$  axes are assigned to link ( $i$ ). Two cases need to be considered:

**revolute:**  $z_i$  is the axis of revolution of joint ( $i + 1$ )

**prismatic:**  $z_i$  is the axis of translation of joint ( $i + 1$ )

This means, that joint  $z_i$  turns around axis  $z_i$ .

**Direction of rotation** With the direction of the  $z_i$ -axis, the direction of positive rotation around joint ( $i + 1$ ) is also given by the right hand rule (see [28] at 10:35). This means, the direction of positive rotation is counter-clockwise around the  $z_i$ -axis.

**$z_i$  axes in Fanuc 210F** As described above, the  $z_i$  axes can be attached to the Fanuc 210F (see figure 7.2).



Figure 7.2:  $z_i$  axes on the Fanuc 210F with the direction of positive rotation (orange)

**Base frame** The base frame (0) can be chosen nearly arbitrarily. The origin of the base frame can be any point on  $z_0$ . For simplicity, the origin of frame(0) can be put into joint(1). Usually, the x-axis of the base frame is chosen, so that it points in the direction of the End Of Arm Tooling (**EOAT**) in default position according to its base, [42] but can be chosen in any convenient manner [32].

**Assignation of frames** (i) Starting from frame (0) in an iterative process, frame ( $i$ ) can be set up using frame ( $i - 1$ ).

Three cases regarding the relationship of axes  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  need to be considered when setting up frames:

**Non coplanar:** Axes don't intersect and are not parallel. Line containing the common normal  $z_{i-1}$  to  $z_i$  defines  $x_i$ -axis and the point of intersection with  $z_i$  is the origin of frame ( $i$ )

- a) find common normal of the joint axes
- b) put origin in intersection of normal with joint axis
- c) put  $z_i$  axis in the joint axis
- d)  $x_i$  points in direction of the common normal, facing away from frame (0)
- e) add  $y_i$  according to right hand rule

**Parallel:** Axes are parallel. Line containing the normal through origin of frame ( $i + 1$ ) and the  $z_i$ -axis defines the  $x_i$ -axis which is directed from origin of frame ( $i$ ) toward the distal joint. The point of intersection of common normal with  $z_i$ -axis gives the origin of frame ( $i$ ).

- a) look for normal originating from distal joint
- b) put origin in the intersection of the normal with the joint axis
- c) put the  $z_i$  axis in the joint axis of the link ( $i + 1$ )
- d)  $x_i$  points follows the common normal with the distal joint, pointing towards the distal joint
- e) add  $y_i$  according to right hand rule

**Intersecting:** Axes are intersecting. Line containing the normal to the plane formed by axes  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  gives the  $x_i$ -axis with positive direction chosen arbitrarily. Point of intersection of axes  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  is the origin of frame ( $i$ ).

- a) put origin in intersection point of the axes
- b) put the  $z_i$  axis in the joint axis of the link ( $i + 1$ )
- c)  $x_i$  is perpendicular to both joint axes
- d) add  $y_i$  according to right hand rule

**Assignation of EOAT frame** As there is no distal joint for the EOAT frame, the steps for this frame are different:

- put origin on axis of proximal joint
- axis  $z_i$  follows direction of  $z_{i-1}$
- $x_i$  can be chosen arbitrarily, but is usually determined by screw holes
- add  $y_i$  according to right hand rule

**local coordinate reference frames on the Fanuc 210F** As described above, the local coordinate reference frames can also be attached to the Fanuc 210F as seen in 7.3.

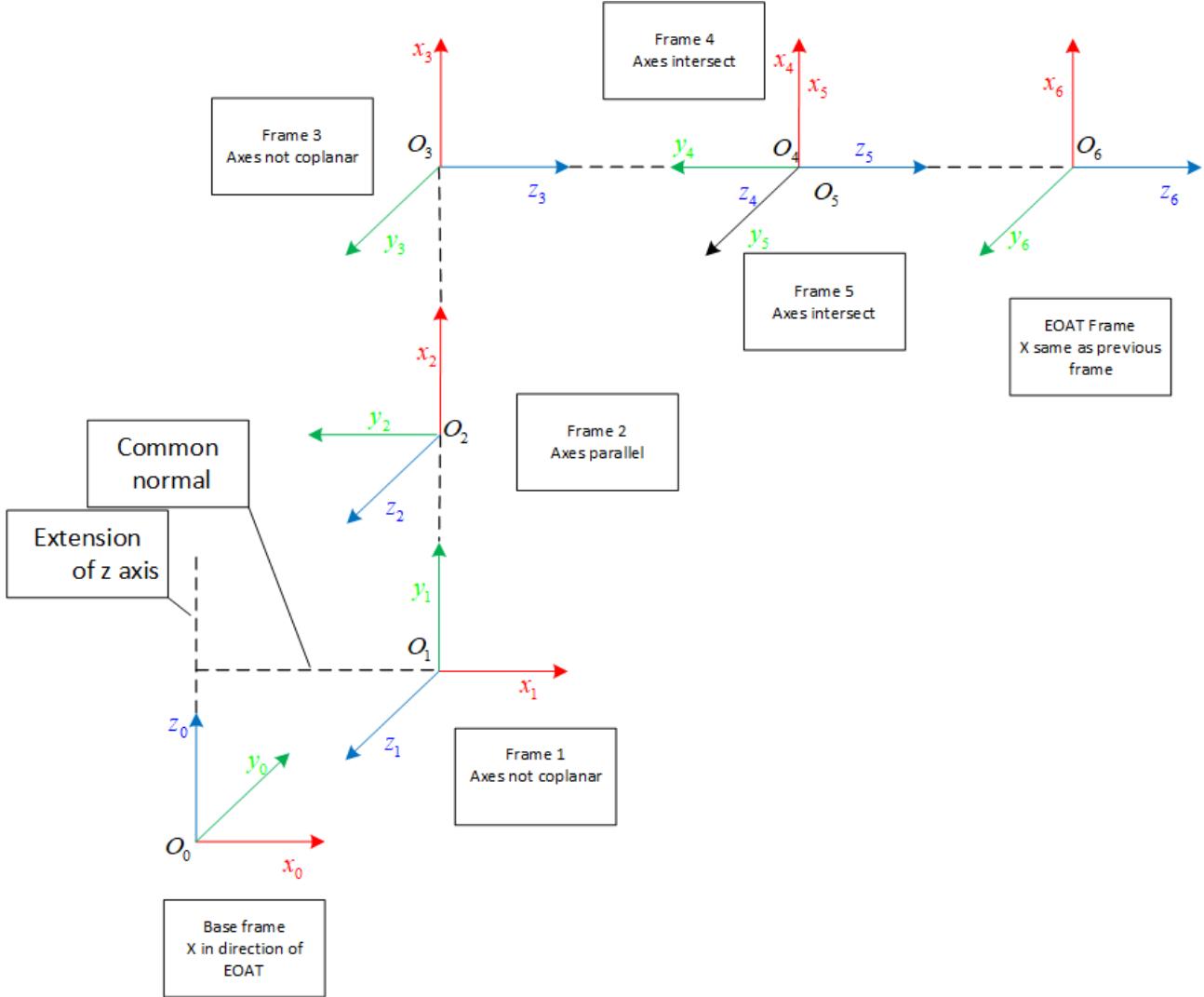


Figure 7.3: Coordinate reference frames for Fanuc 210F

**frame 0 (Base)** The frame mapping starts with the base frame. For the base frame the z-axis is given through joint  $j_1$ . Origin of frame 0 is put into joint 1. The x-axis is chosen to point in direction of the EOAT in standard pose. For standard pose see 7.4. This pose will also be chosen for alignment of all distal frames.

**frame 1** For frame 1, the z-axes are not coplanar. Because of that, the  $z_0$ -axis is extended until a common normal can be found that intersects with  $z_i$  to define the origin  $O_1$ .  $x_1$  departs from  $O_1$  along the common normal.  $y_1$  is added according to the right hand rule.

**frame 2** As seen, in image 7.2, axes  $z_2$  and  $z_1$  are parallel.  $O_2$  can be found at the intersection of the normal through  $O_1$  with  $z_2$ .  $x_2$  follows the common normal with joint 4.  $y_2$  is added according to the right hand rule.

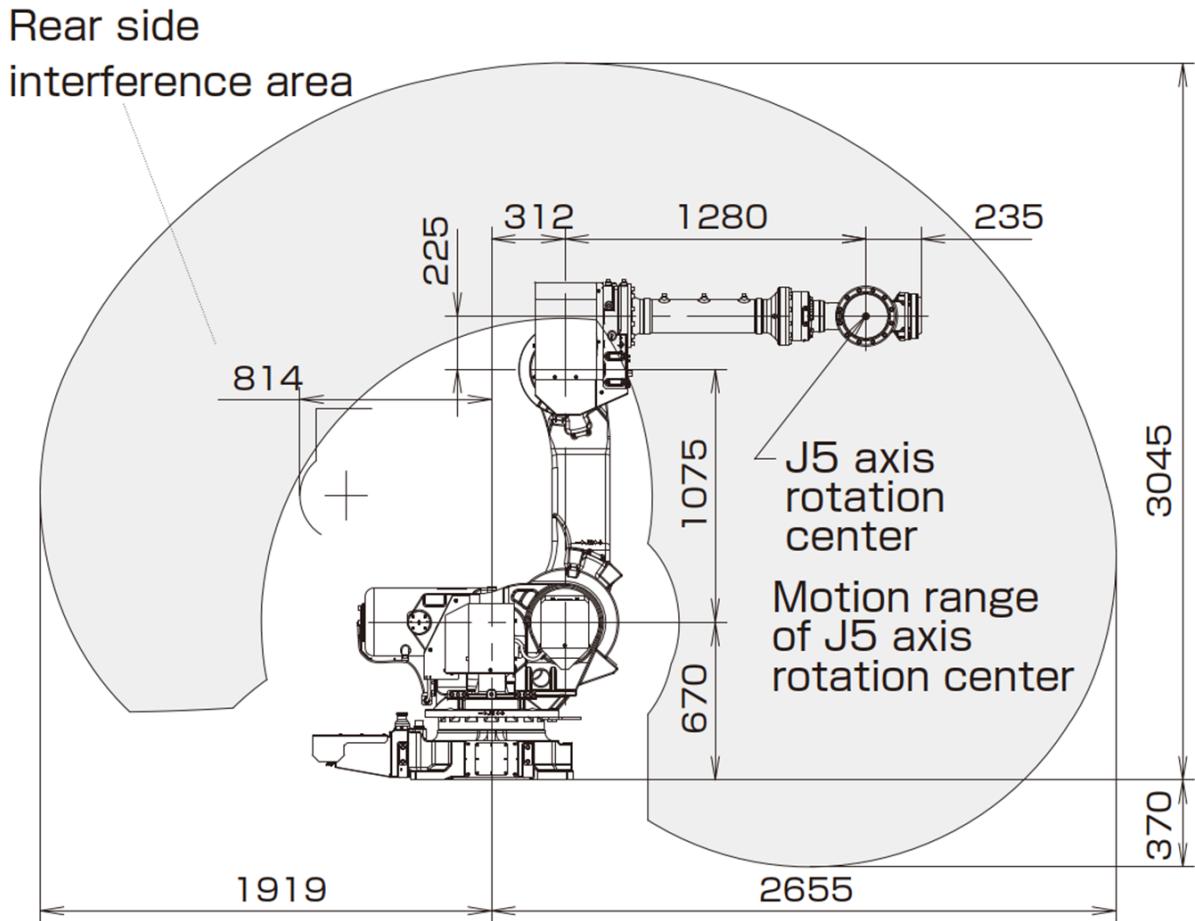


Figure 7.4: Standard pose of the robot

**frame 3** Joint 3 and joint 4 are not exactly aligned (see image 7.4), which prevents the z-axes to intersect. That's why axes  $z_3$  and  $z_2$  are not coplanar.  $z_3$  runs parallel through the link 3, due to the orientation of the rotational axis. As the common normal between  $z_3$  and  $z_2$  defines  $x_3$ , which in turn gives  $O_3$ , the origin can be found far away from the physical position of the joint.  $y_3$  is added according to the right hand rule.

**frame 4** Joint 5 lies in line with joint 4. As  $z_3$  follows this line, the axes  $z_4$  and  $z_3$  intersect in the center of joint 5, which gives  $O_4$ .  $x_4$  leaves the plane spanned by  $z_4$  and  $z_3$  perpendicular. The positive direction of  $x_4$  is chosen to be similar as in frame 3 for simplicity.  $y_4$  is added according to the right hand rule and points in direction of frame 3.

**frame 5** As  $z_5$  lies in line with  $O_4$ , the axes  $z_5$  and  $z_4$  intersect in  $O_4$  which puts  $O_5$  at the same position as  $O_4$ .  $x_5$  leaves the plane spanned by  $z_5$  and  $z_4$  perpendicular. The positive direction of  $x_5$  is chosen to be similar as in frame 4 for simplicity, which puts  $x_5$  and  $x_4$  on top of each other.  $y_5$  is added according to the right hand rule and as  $z_5$  is turned 90 degrees relative to  $z_4$  around  $x_{4,5}$ ,  $y_5$  is turned 90 degrees relative to  $z_4$  around  $x_{4,5}$  as well.

**frame 6 (EOAT)**  $z_6$  lies in line with  $z_5$  and is consequently parallel. As there are no distal joints, to reference  $x_6$ , it can be chosen arbitrarily. For simplicity, it is chosen to be similar as in frame 5.  $y_6$  is added according to the right hand rule.

## 7.4 Establishing DH parameters for each link

# 8. Denavit-Hartenberg-Convention

The [DH](#)-Convention is a commonly used and simplifies the forward and backward transformation. It was named after Jaques Denavit and Richard Hartenberg who developed a general theory to describe a serial link mechanism. [17]

It consists of following parts:

- [DH](#)-Convention for establishing the coordinate systems
- [DH](#)-Transformation for generation of the coordinate systems
- [DH](#)-Parameters as a result form the transformations

Determining the coordinate systems is done according to set rules. Nevertheless, the choices of coordinate frames are also not unique, so different people will derive different, but correct frame assignments. This freedom of choice should be used to bring as many [DH](#)-Parameters as possible to zero. This simplifies subsequent equations and calculations. [42]

Each joint of the robot is described by four parameters.

## 8.1 Robot configurations

As mentioned before, a 6 [DOF](#) manipulator can reach the same position in multiple configurations. The different configurations in the solutions can be seen in the example of the FANUC robot arms (see figure 8.1)

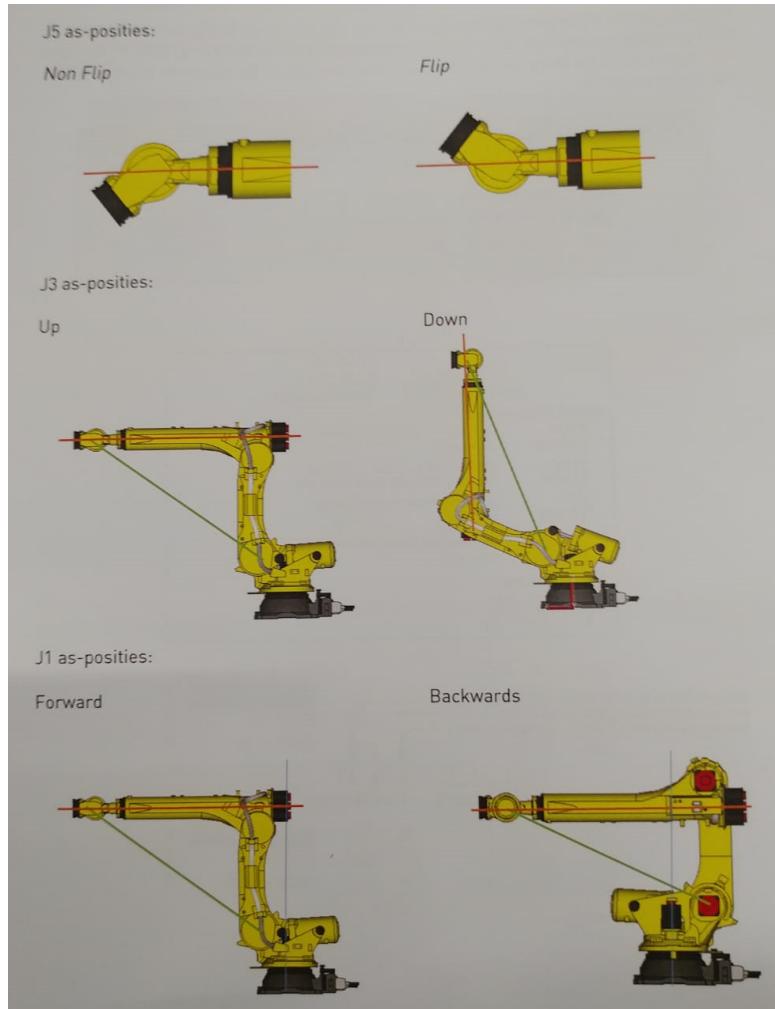


Figure 8.1: 6 axis robot configurations on the example of a FANUC Robot [8]

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# Appendices

# A. Appendix 1

# B. Appendix 2

# C. Robot Quick start guide

A big part of this was derived from [35].

## 3.0.1 Parts of the robot

A quick overview over the visible parts.

### FANUC R-2000iC/210F 6 axis robotic arm

The robot has 6 movable joints with a possible payload attached to the end. Its features include a wide reach (2655 mm), sturdy but flexible arm design, a spring loaded counterbalance, relatively high payload capacity (210Kg) and fast moving axes. The joints also have hashes to indicate the zero positions which help with the calibration of the robot.

### R30iA Robot Controller

The Robot is controlled using an original equipment manufacturer controller called the FANUC R30iA controller. Its features include faster sustained speed and superior position accuracies. It also has the I/O ports that are used to connect grippers and other payloads. (It also houses the camera circuits which are required to access the data from the SONY camera provided with the robot. - Delta only) The controller is also provided with a data card slot in which the special SD cards manufactured can be inserted and used as external memory. On the outside of the controller (side of iPendant at Delta) a USB port can be found. With these, programs, firmware files and other files can easily be transferred. Additionally, there is extended connectivity via its Ethernet port e.g. for FTP available.

### iPendant

The teaching pendant is the primary user interface to the robot. It is used to move the joints of the robot manually, to program specific trajectories, to control the gripper, and various other actions. It also is an interface that can be used for input and output of the robot controller parameters. The user can access the system variables and position variables. (It is provided with a USB port that can be used to connect to a USB

drive for external storage. - Delta only) It can also be used to setup an FTP server and client in order to communicate with the PC.

## Gripper

The robot as handed over does not have an active gripper system. It has been tested though with a pneumatic gripper controlled via the DO ports and pneumatic valves. A 2-way pneumatic valve, some piping and a pressure regulator are still available. (Delta Equipment varies here a lot).

### 3.0.2 iPendant Navigation Manual:

The teaching pendant is the primary user interface to the robot. This section deals with the important buttons on the TP.

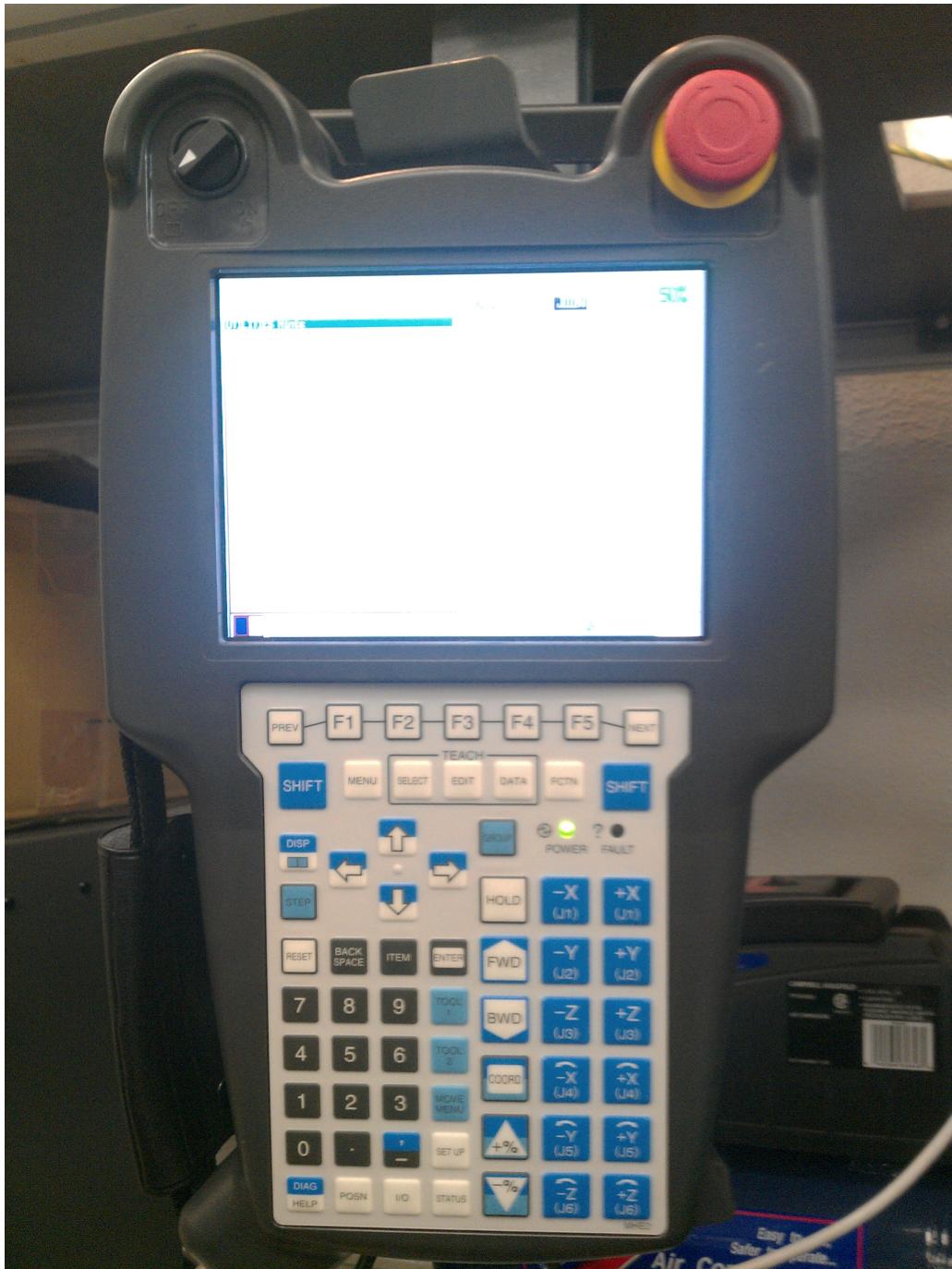


Figure 3.1: Most important iPendant buttons numbered: This image from another iPendant than the ones available was chosen because of its labelling of buttons. Some buttons of the available iPendants are not labelled, so this picture can be used as a reference. Source: [35]

**Emergency stop:**

Makes the robot stop immediately by applying brakes. Use it only when necessary as the brakes wear down. There is also an E-stop on the controller. Press down on the button to activate it. Twist it to the right to release. If a slow and gradual halt is required, press HOLD on the iPendant. TP on/off Below the E-stop button. It should be ON to access any function in the Teach Pendant (Set-ups, calibration, programs etc) and OFF when running in AUTO mode. Deadman switch The 2 yellow bars behind the iPendant. 3 modes are available: Fully released, halfway pressed, fully pressed. Only the middle mode activates control.