

The mathematical modeling of the kinematics of a 3R planar manipulator involved in identifying the end-effector position or the joint angles. The 3R planar manipulator has three revolute joint and three links, as shown in Figure 1. The robot forward kinematics yields the end-effector position and its orientation from the given link lengths and joint angles. On the contrary, the robot inverse kinematics finds the joint angles from the given end-effector and its orientation.

and its orientation relative to the world x-axis is denoted γ . The robot joint angles are denoted θ_i . The trigonometric functions, sine and cosine, are used extensively in the text so the following notations are introduced.

$$\begin{aligned} s_i &= \sin(\theta_i) \\ c_i &= \cos(\theta_i) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

This notation is also extended to sums as

$$s_{1+2} = \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \quad (3)$$

Link lengths are the distances between the joints and denoted as L_{ij} , where i is the joint number closer to the base and j is the joint number to the end-effector. In this text, we derived equations for the forward and inverse kinematics of a 3R planar manipulator, in accordance to the earlier notations. Also, we create *fkkinematics* and *ikkinematics* functions in MATLAB for forward and inverse kinematics of 3R planar manipulator respectively, and evaluate it by comparing the result of each function.

II. METHODS

A. Forward Kinematics

The robot forward kinematics calculates the end-effector position and orientation given the joint angles and link lengths. The end-effector position is define by

$$P = f(\theta, L) \quad (4)$$

where θ comprises the joint angles and L is made up of all the link lengths. Also,

We derived the joint angles using the trigonometric relations in a right triangle. The joint positions are

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; & P_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_{12}c_1 \\ L_{12}s_1 \end{bmatrix}; \\ P_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} x_3 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_{12}c_1 + L_{23}c_{1+2} \\ L_{12}s_1 + L_{23}s_{1+2} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We take the vector sum of all the joint position and yield the forward kinematic equation for 3R planar manipulator as

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} x_e \\ y_e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_{12}c_1 + L_{23}c_{1+2} + L_{34}c_{1+2+3} \\ L_{12}s_1 + L_{23}s_{1+2} + L_{34}s_{1+2+3} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\gamma = \theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 \quad (8)$$

B. Reverse Kinematics

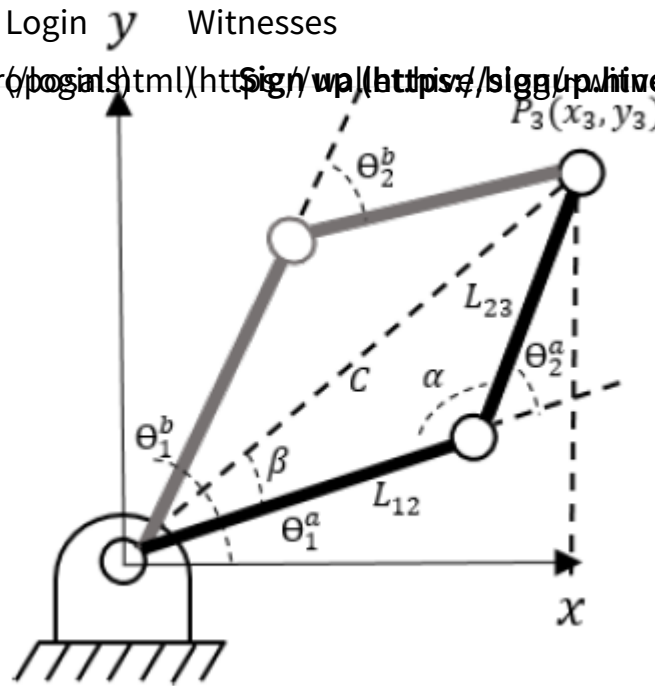


Fig. 2: 2R Planar Manipulator

Robot reverse kinematics is a more useful study because the end-effector position is known. In reverse kinematics problem, the task is to find the joint angles given position p , orientation γ , and the link lengths. Initially, we solve the position of $P3$ and get

$$P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} x_3 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_e - L_{34}\cos(\gamma) \\ y_e - L_{34}\cos(\gamma) \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Hence $P3$ is obtained by equation 7, the joint angles θ_1 and θ_2 are given by a 2R inverse kinematics problem with $P3$ as the end-effector, as shown in Figure 3. We solve the angles α and β as

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{x_3^2 + y_3^2 - L_{12}^2 - L_{23}^2}{2L_{12}L_{23}} \right)$$

$$\beta = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{L_{23} \sin \alpha}{\sqrt{x_3^2 + y_3^2}} \right).$$
(10)

These angles are used to determine the joint angles θ_1 and θ_2 . We keep in mind that there are two set of solution for the joint angles in 2R inverse kinematics problem. We refer joint 3 as the wrist, and joint 2 as the elbow. We compute the joint angles θ_1 and θ_2 by considering the elbow-up and elbow-down configuration, as shown in Figure 2, in reference to wrist angle θ_3 .

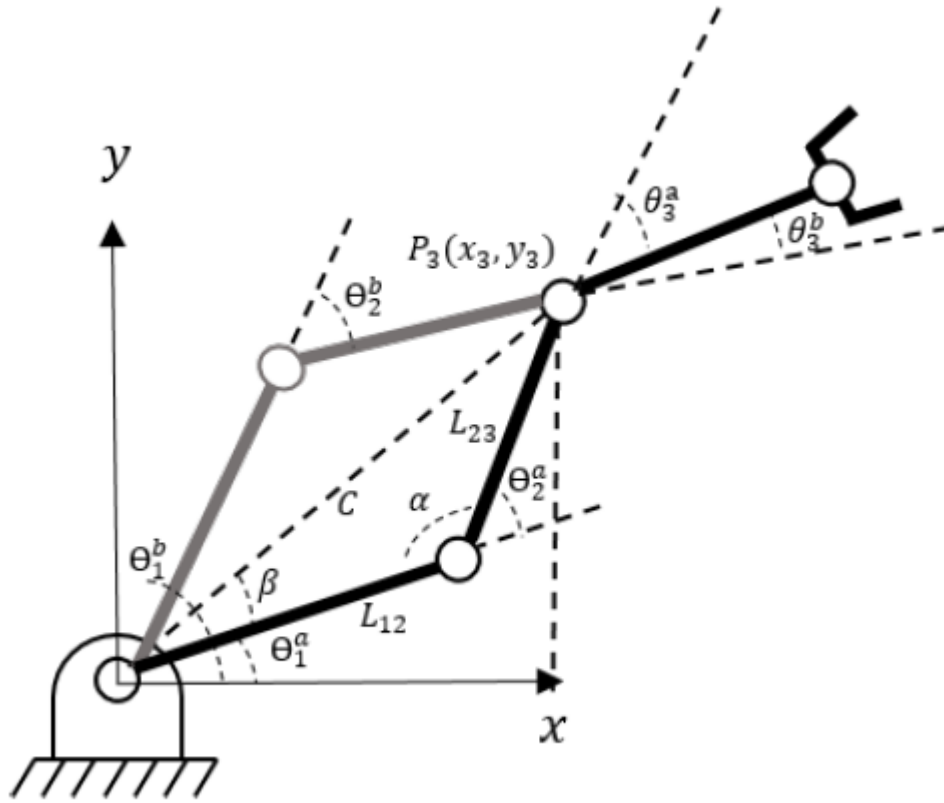


Fig. 3: 3R Planar Manipulator

The joint angles θ_1 and θ_2 are

$$\theta_1^a = \left(\tan^{-1} \frac{y_3}{x_3} - \beta \right); \quad \theta_1^b = \left(\tan^{-1} \frac{y_3}{x_3} + \beta \right) \quad (11)$$

$$\theta_2^a = (180 - \alpha); \quad \theta_2^b = -(180 - \alpha) \quad (12)$$

The wrist angles, θ_3 , are

$$\theta_3^a = \gamma - \theta_1^a - \theta_2^a; \quad \theta_3^b = \gamma - \theta_1^b - \theta_2^b \quad (13)$$

The a and b notation denotes the elbow-up and elbow-down configuration respectively. The joint and wrist angles are shown in Figure 3.

C. MATLAB Implementation

We implement the equations for the forward and inverse kinematics of a 3R planar manipulator in MATLAB. We create a *fkinematics* and *ikinemantics* function for forward and inverse kinematics respectively. The *fkinematics* function accept the link lengths and the joint angles. It returns the end-effector position and orientation. Also, a plot of the 3R planar manipulator and its end-effector point is displayed. The script used for *fkinematics* is shown in listing 1.

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```

function fkinematics(links1,links2,links3,theta1,theta2,theta3)
%links1,links2,links3 are length of each links in the robotic arm
% base is the length of base of the robotic arm
% theta1,theta2,theta3 are joint angles in reference to x-axis

format compact
format short

L12 = links1;
L23 = links2;
L34 = links3;
J1 = theta1;
J2 = theta2;
J3 = theta3;


%joint equation
x2 = L12*cosd(J1);
x3 = L23*cosd(J1+J2)+ x2;
xe = L34*cosd(J1+J2+J3) + x3;
y2 = L12*sind(J1);
y3 = L23*sind(J1+J2)+ y2;
ye = L34*sind(J1+J2+J3) + y3;
gamma = J1+J2+J3;
fprintf('The position of the end-effector is (%f, %f) and orientation is(%f)\n',xe,ye,gam

%plotting the links
r = L12 + L23 + L34;
daspect([1,1,1])
rectangle('Position',[-r,-r,2*r,2*r],'Curvature',[1,1],...
    'LineStyle',':')
hold on
axis([-r r -r r])
line([0 x2], [0 y2])
line([x2 x3],[y2 y3])
line([x3 xe],[y3 ye])
line([0 0], [-r/10 r/10], 'Color', 'r')
line([-r/10 r/10], [0 0], 'Color', 'r')
hold on
plot([0 x2 x3],[0 y2 y3],'o')
plot([xe],[ye],'o','Color','r')
grid on
xlabel('x-axis')
ylabel('y-axis')
title('Forward Kinematics 3-Link Planar Manipulator')
end

```

Listing 1: Forward Kinematics implementation (fkinematics function)

We set the link lengths, the end-effector position, and orientation as the input for the *ikinematics* function. The function returns the joint angles and a plot showing the 3R planar manipulator. Hence the inverse cosine yields to either a real or complex value, we set a conditional statement in the script so that inverse cosine would return a real-valued angle. The script used for *ikinematics* is shown in listing 2.



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```

function ikinematics(links1, links2, links3, positionx, positiony, gamma)
% links1, links2, links3 are length of each links in the robotic arm
% base is the length of base of the robotic arm
% positionx, positiony are joint angles in reference to x-axis
% gamma is the orientation

format compact
format short

L12 = links1;
L23 = links2;
L34 = links3;
xe = positionx;
ye = positiony;
g = gamma;

%position P3
x3 = xe-(L34*cosd(g));
y3 = ye-(L34*sind(g));
C = sqrt(x3^2 + y3^2);

if (L12+L23) > C
    %angle a and B
    a = acosd((L12^2 + L23^2 - C^2)/(2*L12*L23));
    B = acosd((L12^2 + C^2 - L23^2)/(2*L12*C));

    %joint angles elbow-down
    J1a = atan2d(y3,x3)-B;
    J2a = 180-a;
    J3a = g - J1a -J2a;

    %joint angles elbow-up
    J1b = atan2d(y3,x3)+B;
    J2b = -(180-a);
    J3b = g - J1b - J2b;

    fprintf('The joint 1, 2 and 3 angles are (%f,%f, %f) respectively for elbow-down config\n');
    fprintf('The joint 1, 2 and 3 angles are (%f,%f, %f) respectively for elbow-up config\n');
else
    disp('    Dimension error!')
    disp('    End-effector is outside the workspace.')
    return
end
x2a = L12*cosd(J1a);
y2a = L12*sind(J1a);
x2b = L12*cosd(J1b);
y2b = L12*sind(J1b);
r = L12 + L23 + L34;
daspect([1,1,1])
rectangle('Position',[-r,-r,2*r,2*r],'Curvature',[1,1],...

```

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```

'LineStyle',':')
line([0 x2a], [0 y2a], 'Color','b')
line([x2a x3], [y2a y3], 'Color','b')
line([x3 xe], [y3 ye], 'Color','b')
line([0 x2b], [0 y2b], 'Color','g', 'LineStyle','--')
line([x2b x3], [y2b y3], 'Color','g', 'LineStyle','--')
line([x3 xe], [y3 ye], 'Color','b', 'LineStyle','--')
%line([0 xe], [0 ye], 'Color','r')
line([0 0], [-r/10 r/10], 'Color', 'r')
line([-r/10 r/10], [0 0], 'Color', 'r')
hold on
plot([0 x2a x3],[0 y2a y3],'o','Color','b')
plot([x2b],[y2b],'o','Color','g')
plot([xe],[ye],'o','Color','r')
grid on
xlabel('x-axis')
ylabel('y-axis')
title('Inverse Kinematics 3-Links Planar Manipulator')
end

```

Listing 2: Inverse Kinematics implementation (ikinematics function)

III. Result and Discussion

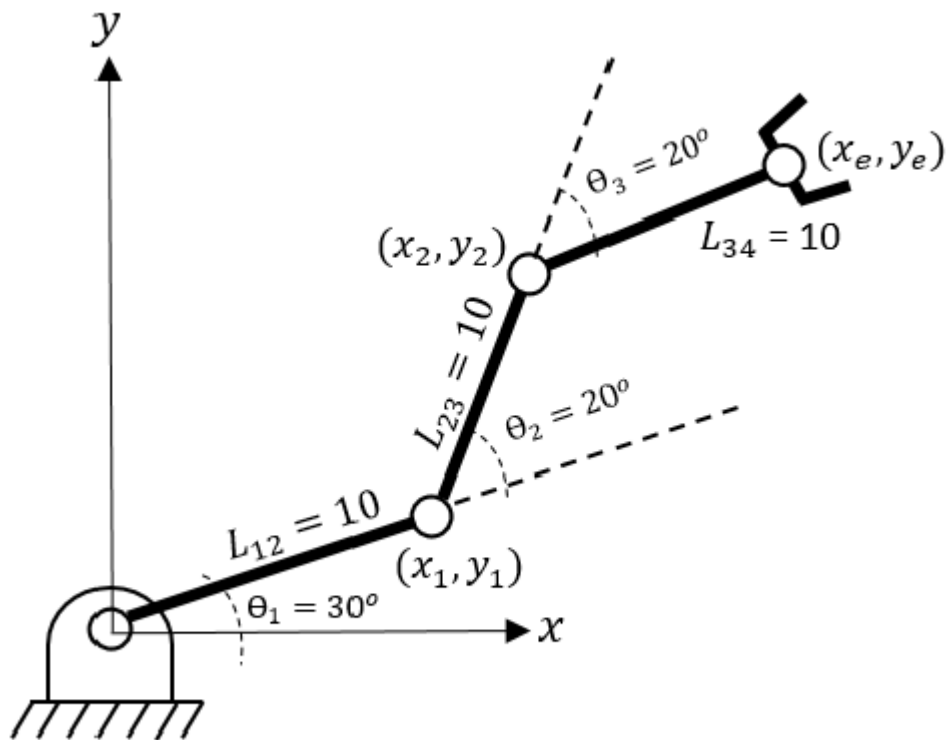


Fig. 4: 3R Planar Manipulator

A. Forward Kinematics

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In the Matlab window console, we run

```
fkinematics(10,10,10,30,20,20)
```

and yield to the end-effector position, ($x_e = 18.508332$, $y_e = 22.057371$) and orientation, ($\gamma = 70.00$). Figure 5 shows the 3R planar manipulator.

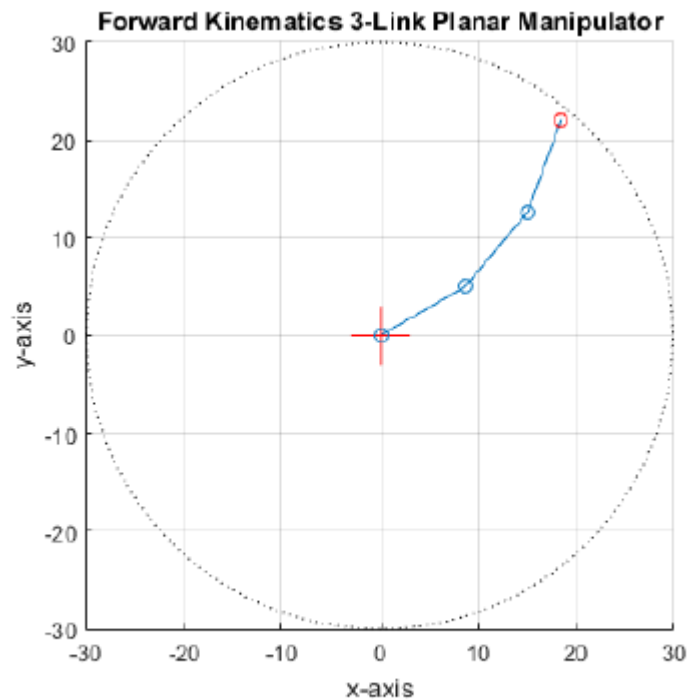


Fig. 5

The end-effector position and its orientation from the *fkinematics* is set as an input to *ikinematics* to evaluate it. The function must yield the joint angles shown in Figure 4. We run

```
ikinematics(10,10,10,18.508332,22.057371,70)
```

and we yield the following joint angles for elbow-down configuration are $\theta_1 = 30.000009$, $\theta_2 = 19.999981$, and $\theta_3 = 20.000009$. Hence the inverse kinematics has two set of unique solution, we have the joint angles for elbow-up configuration as $\theta_1 = 49.999991$, $\theta_2 = -19.999981$, and $\theta_3 = 39.999991$.

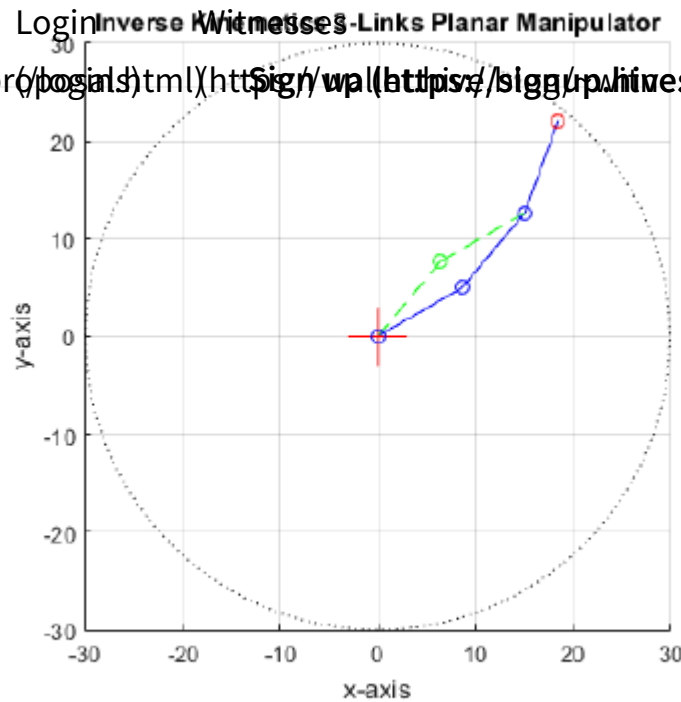


Fig. 6

Thus, we verified that the forward kinematics equations which yields to a correct end-effector position and its orientation.

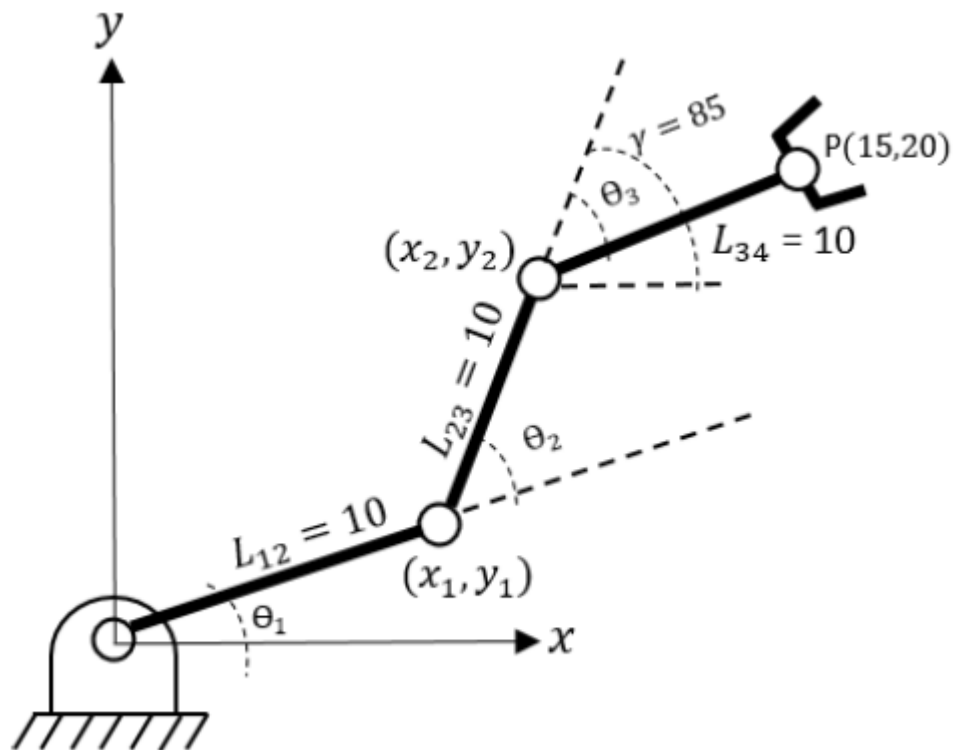


Fig. 7: 3R planar manipulator with end-effector

B. Inverse Kinematics

Figure 7 shows a 3R planar manipulator with an identified end-effector position and its orientation. We use *ikinemantics* function in MATLAB to generate the joint angles. Then, we evaluate the result by substituting it as an input to *fkinemantics* function. In the Matlab window console, we run

```
ikinemantics(10,10,10,15,20,85)
```

and yield a joint angle for elbow-down configuration as $\theta_1 = 5.455370$, $\theta_2 = 59.875741$, $\theta_3 = 19.668889$ while for elbow-up configuration as $\theta_1 = 65.331111$, $\theta_2 = -59.875741$, $\theta_3 = 79.544630$. Figure 9 shows the 3R planar manipulator plot for the end-effector position $x_e = 15$, $y_e = 20$ and its orientation, $\gamma = 85$.

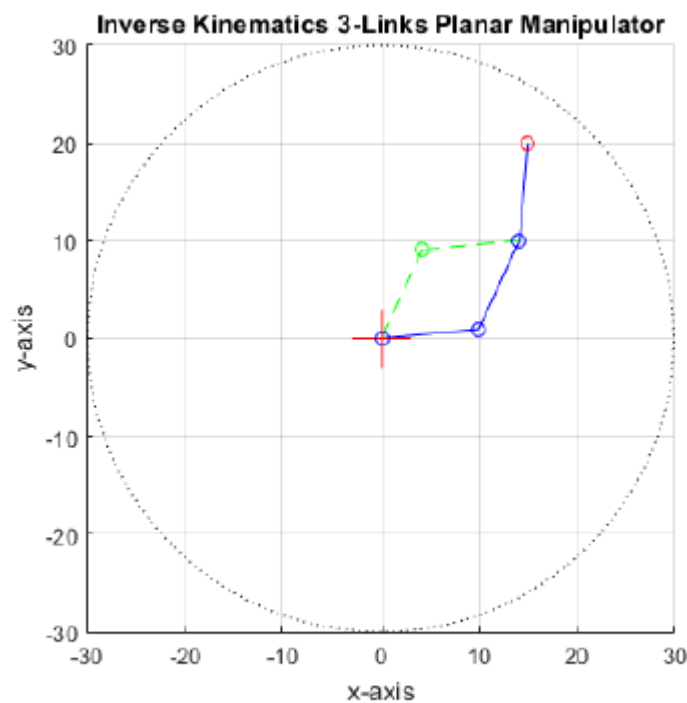


Fig. 8

We validate the result by substituting the values to *fkinemantics* and in Matlab console, run

```
fkinemantics(10,10,10,5.455,59.876,19.669)
```

This gives us an end-effector position equal to $x_e = 15.000024$ and $y_e = 19.999928$, and orientation equal to $\gamma = 85$. The joint angles in elbow-up configuration also yield to the same end-effector and orientation.

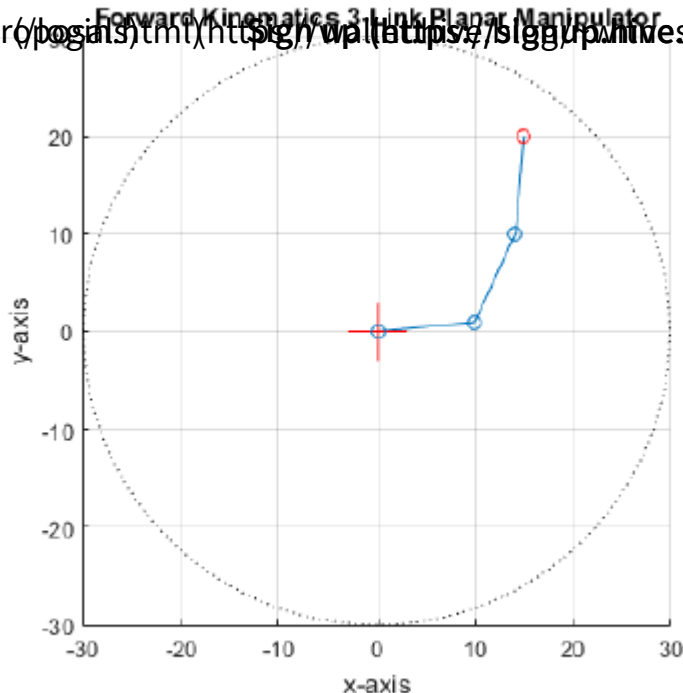


Fig. 9: Elbow-down configuration

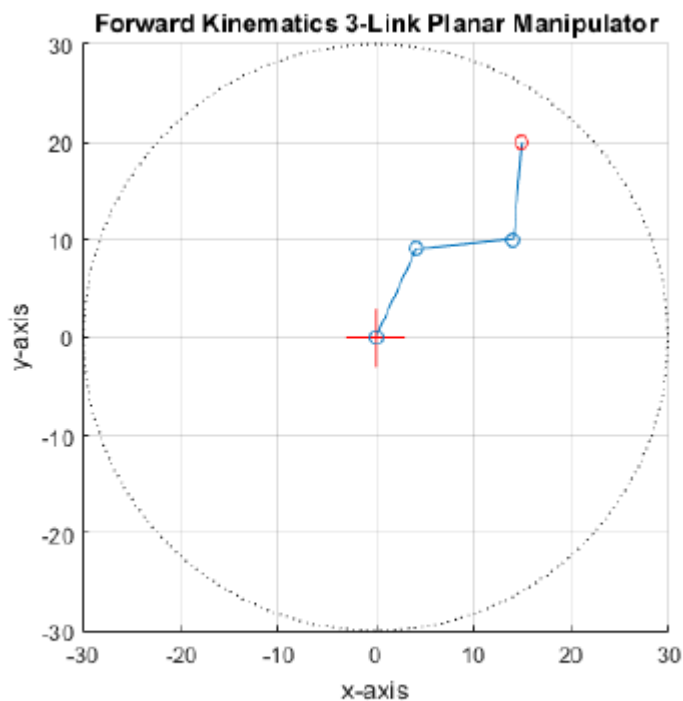


Fig. 10: Elbow-up configuration

Thus, we verified that the inverse kinematics equations which yields to the joint angles.

IV. Conclusion

In this text, we modelled the equations for the forward and inverse kinematics of a 3R planar manipulator as shown in Figure 1. In MATLAB, we wrote a script for the *fkinematics* and *ikkinematics* functions. These functions are used to validate the forward and inverse kinematics model in the text. The *fkinematics* function returns the end-effector position P and its orientation γ . The result of *fkinematics* is validate by using its result as an input to *ikkinematics* function. On the contrary, the *ikkinematics* function returns the joint angles θ_1 , θ_2 and θ_3 . We cross-validate the joint angles by setting it as an input to the *fkinematic* function.

Thus, the forward and inverse kinematics model yield to correct values for the end-effector position and its orientation, and the joint angles. Also, the joint angles, either elbow-up and elbow-down configuration, in the inverse kinematics model gives the same end-effector point and orientation when cross-validated.

V. References

- [1] Lynch, K. and F. Park. "Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control." (2017).
- [2] John J. Craig. 1989. Introduction to Robotics: Mechanics and Control (2nd. ed.). Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing Co., Inc., USA.
- [3] Merat, Frank. (1987). Introduction to robotics: Mechanics and control. Robotics and Automation, IEEE Journal of. 3. 166 - 166. 10.1109/JRA.1987.1087086

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