

**QUESTION 1.**

Examine the following VAL-1 program:

```

SHIFT NIB BY 10.0, 10.0, 0.0
MOVE NIB : OFFSET
MOVES NIB
SHIFT NIB BY 80.0, 80.0, 0.0
MOVES NIB
SHIFT NIB BY 80.0, -80.0, 0.0
MOVES NIB
DEPART 20
SHIFT NIB BY -40.0, 40.0, 0.0
MOVE NIB : OFFSET
MOVES NIB
SHIFT NIB BY -80.0, 0.0, 0.0
MOVES NIB
DEPART 20
SHIFT NIB BY -50.0, -50.0, 0.0
MOVES NIB
STOP

```

If a pen is used as the end-effector of a PUMA robot executing this program and a blank piece of paper is supported in the  $Z=0$  plane and *NIB* and *OFFSET* are initialised as follows:

$$NIB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \qquad OFFSET = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 20 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- i). Draw a diagram of the shape which will appear on the paper. Give precise co-ordinates for all important points and indicate the direction of travel of the Tool Centre Point.
- ii). What would be the likely effects of substituting *MOVE* commands for *MOVES* commands in the program?
- iii). Why is the off-line programming of robots in this manner still problematic and unreliable?

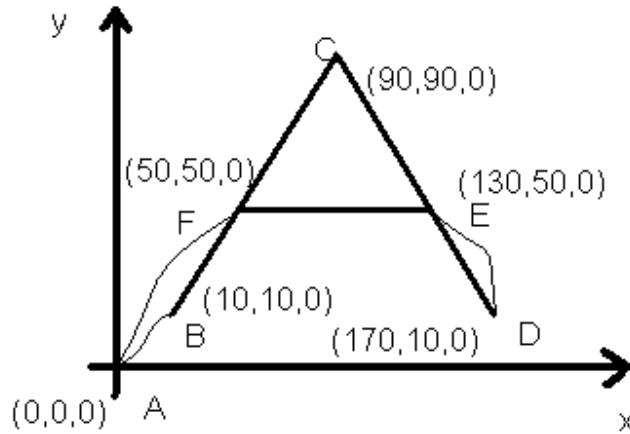
**QUESTION 2.**

Describe three other methods by which an industrial manipulator could be programmed.

## SOLUTION 1.

- (i). Important to note that *SHIFT BY* merely modifies the transform NIB.  
The *MOVE*, *MOVES* and *DEPART* commands carry out the actual motions.

The TCP will travel along the route A-B-C-D-E-F-A



- (ii). *MOVES* ensures straight-line motion  
*MOVES* will result in a nice linear “A” shape

*MOVE* uses joint interpolation

*MOVE* will result in more efficient changes to joint angles

The path followed by the TCP will be wobbly and might even break the pen nib

- (iii). Two key problems which are very difficult to predict in advance

DEGENERACIES

More than one solution for a given TCP position

SINGULARITIES

Dead points in space – resulting from denominators of zero in the inverse kinematics

## **SOLUTION 2.**

(i). **PHYSICAL SET-UP**

Mechanical stops or pegs are used to mark the end points of joint motions  
Used for limited sequence devices only

(ii). **WALK-THROUGH**

Physically dragging the arm (or a proxy arm) through the required motions  
Recording desired positions along the way

(iii). **LEAD-THROUGH**

A teach pendant is used to provide -  
Individual joint direction  
Relative tool direction  
Absolute tool direction  
Target positions are recorded