Robot

This chapter is excerpted from Introduction to robotics mechanics and control by J.Craig. If you want to read more about it, please buy it online.

1 Background

The history of industrial automation is characterized by the rapid renewal of technological means. The renewal of such automation technology is closely related to the world economy, whether as an inducement or a result of the development of the world economy. Industrial robot in the 1960s is undoubtedly a unique equipment, it will be combined with the computer aided design (CAD) system, computer aided manufacturing (CAM) system application, this is the modern manufacturing automation of the latest development trend. These technologies are leading the transition to a new field of industrial automation.

Manipulator is one of the most important types of industrial robots. Whether the manipulator can be called an industrial robot is controversial. The equipment shown here is generally considered to belong to the category of industrial robots, while CNC (NC) grinders are usually outside this category.

Generally speaking, the research of manipulator mechanism and control theory is not a new science, it is only a synthesis of traditional theory.Mechanical engineering theory provides a methodology for the study of manipulator in static and dynamic environments.The mathematical method is used to describe the spatial motion of the manipulator and its characteristics.Control theory provides various design methods and evaluation algorithms for the realization of desired motion or force.Electrical engineering technology can be used in sensor and industrial robot interface design;Computer technology provides the programming platform needed to perform the desired task.

2 Basic Concepts

Mechanical Arm

Mechanical Arm can also be called industrial robot, cooperative robot, manipulator arm, bionic arm, series robot, etc.

Position & Pose

In robot research, we usually study the position of objects in a three-dimensional space. The objects referred to here include not only the lever, parts and grasping tools of the manipulator, but also other objects in the workspace of the manipulator. Usually these objects can be described by two very important properties: position and pose. Naturally, we will first study how to express and calculate these parameters mathematically.

In order to describe the position and posture of a space object, we usually place the object firmly in a space coordinate system, that is, the reference frame, and then we study the position and posture of the space object in this reference coordinate system.

Direct Kinematics

Kinematics is the study of the motion of objects without regard to the forces causing such motion. In kinematics, we study higher-order derivatives of position, velocity, acceleration, and position variables with respect to time or other variables. Thus, the research object of manipulator kinematics is all the geometric and temporal characteristics of motion. Almost all manipulators are composed of rigid links, adjacent links connected by joints that allow for relative motion. If it's a revolute joint, its displacement is called the joint Angle. These joints are usually fitted with position sensors to measure the relative position of adjacent bars. If you have a revolute joint, this displacement is called the joint Angle. Some manipulators have sliding (or moving) joints, so the displacement of two adjacent links is a linear motion, which sometimes called the joint offset.

A typical problem in the study of manipulator kinematics is manipulator forward kinematics. It is a static geometry problem to calculate the position and posture of its end-effector of the manipulator. Specifically, given a set of values for joint angles, the forward kinematics problem is to compute the position and posture of the tool coordinate system relative to the base coordinate system. In general, we refer to this process as the representation of manipulator position from joint space description to Cartesian space description.

Degree of Freedom (DOF)

The number of DOF is the number of manipulator position variables in the coordinate system (reference frame) with figure 1-5 in the manipulator, which determines the position of all components in the mechanism. DOF is universal to all mechanisms. For example, a four-bar mechanism has only one DOF (although it has three movable rods). For a typical industrial robot, the number of joints is equal to the number of DOF because manipulator arms are mostly open motion chains and each joint position is defined by an independent variable.

End-effector

End-effector is installed at the free end of the manipulator. Depending on different applications of robot, it may be a fixture, a welding torch, an electromagnet, or some other devices. We usually describe the position of the manipulator in terms of a tool coordinate system attached to its end-effector, and the corresponding tool coordinate system is the base coordinate system connected to the fixed base of the manipulator.

Inverse Kinematic

Given the position and posture of the end-effector of the manipulator, calculating all joint angles that can reach the given position and attitude.