

RBOT 250: Homework Solutions

Dr. Lekan Molu

Homework 1. SCARA Robot Mobility Analysis:

Using the mobility condition, determine and explain why the SCARA robot of Fig 2.5 has the number degrees of freedom that you find.

Solution 1. We have the following general equation for a mechanism's mobility condition:

$$\mathfrak{M} = 6(n - g - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^g f_i. \quad (1)$$

where n is the number of links, g is the total number of joints, and f_i are the respective relative degrees of freedoms of the individual joints. The SCARA manipulator has three joints with an RRP configuration *i.e.*, $g = 3$. These connect four links (including the end-effector) so that $n = 4$. Each of the joints have freedoms, $f_i = 1$. Plugging these into (1), we find that

$$\mathfrak{M} = 6(4 - 3 - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^3 f_i = 3 \quad (2)$$

Hence, the SCARA manipulator is a 3DOF robot.

Homework 2. Parallel Robot Mechanism Analysis

With the *Grübler-Kutzbach's mobility condition* that we have learned, analyze the mobility criteria of the mechanism of Fig. 1. Hint: This mechanism is made up of two chains: chains $A_3 B_3 B_1 A_1$ and $A_2 B_2 B_4 A_4$, and there is a fixed distance between the U -joints, $A_2 A_3$ as well as $A_1 A_4$.

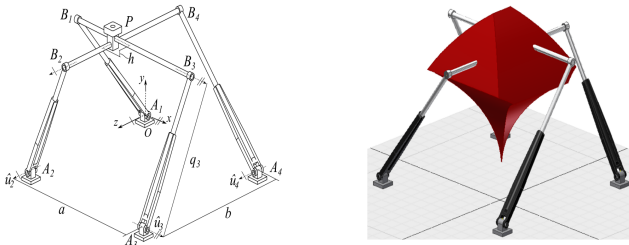


Fig. 1. *Left:* A Parallel Planar Robot Mechanism. *Right:* Workspace of the mechanism.

Solution 2. This robot has four RPRP-type kinematic chains. Three of these chains have their prismatic pair closest to the base; they serve as active joints. The fourth kinematic chain is completely passive. Points B_1 and B_2 are connected by a rod, which is perpendicular to the rod that connects points B_2 and B_4 . Both rods are connected to the moving platform by prismatic joints, which are separated from each other by a vertical offset h . Point $P = (P_x, P_y, P_z)$ is the interconnecting point for all the chains on the mobile platform and the top rods. Notice that the rotational axes of the revolute joints *i.e.*

, \hat{u}_i are parallel to the x-axes of joints 1 and 3; also, they are parallel to the z-axis for joints 2 and 4.

There are many ways of solving this mobility problem. However, note that this mechanism has multiple closed loops and care must be taken when using the formulas we have introduced in our notes. Here, I will be using Gogu's method as proposed in [1]. It decomposes the mechanism into the different closed loops in order to properly analyze the mobility constraint. The mobility of the mechanism is

$$\mathfrak{M} = \sum_{i=1}^g f_i - r \quad (3)$$

with r being the number of joint parameters that lose independence after closing the loops of the mechanism. We define r as

$$r = \sum_{j=1}^k C_j - \bar{C} r_l \quad (4)$$

where k is the number of closed-loops in the mechanism, C_j is the connectivity of the j 'th closed loop, L_j when separated from the mechanism; \bar{C} is the overall connectivity of the mechanism and r_l is the total number of parameters that lose independence in the closed loops. We may find the variables as follows

$$C_j = \dim(\xi_j), \quad \bar{C} = \dim(\bar{\xi}), \quad r_l = \sum_{j=1}^k r_l^{L_j} \quad (5)$$

where ξ_j is the velocity vector associated with the interest point P in a closed loop L_j ; $\bar{\xi}$ is the resultant velocity vector formed from the intersection of ξ_j *i.e.* $\bar{\xi} = \xi_1 \cap \xi_2 \dots \cap \xi_k$ and $r_l^{L_j}$ is the number of parameters that lose independence in the loop L_j . We define the variable $r_h^{L_j}$ as

$$r_l^{L_j} = \Theta_1^{L_j} + \Theta_2^{L_j} - \bar{C}_{L_j} \quad (6)$$

with $\Theta_i^{L_j}$, $i = 1, 2$ being the connectivity of $G_i^{L_j}$ in L_j , whereas \bar{C}_{L_j} is the loop's connectivity. We define

$$\Theta_i^{L_j} = \dim(\eta_{1,2}^{L_j}), \quad \bar{C}_{L_j} = \dim(\bar{\xi}_{L_j}) \quad (7)$$

where $\eta_i^{L_j}$ are the velocity vectors for $G_i^{L_j}$ and $\bar{\xi}_{L_j}$ is the resultant velocity vector formed by the intersection of the $\eta_i^{L_j}$ s.

For this mechanism, we have $g = 14$ and $k = 2$; furthermore, we have $\xi_1 = \{v_x, v_y, v_z, \omega_x\}$ and $\xi_2 = \{v_x, v_y, v_z\}$ so that the loops' connectivity are $C_1 = 4$ and $C_2 = 4$. Hence $\bar{\xi} = \xi_1 \cap \xi_2 = \{v_x, v_y, v_z\}$ and the mechanism's connectivity is thus $\bar{C} = \dim(\bar{\xi}) = 3$.

If we disconnect the limbs, the velocity vector of $\eta_1^{H_1} = \eta_2^{H_1} = \{v_x, v_z, \omega_x\}$ and $\eta_1^{H_2} = \eta_2^{H_2} = \{v_x, v_y, \omega_z\}$, so that the connectivity of each limb is $\Theta_{1,2}^{H_1} = \Theta_{1,2}^{H_2} = 3$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\xi}_{H_1} &= \eta_1^{H_1} \cap \eta_2^{H_1} = \{v_x v_z \omega_x\}, \\ \bar{\xi}_{H_2} &= \eta_1^{H_2} \cap \eta_2^{H_2} = \{v_x v_z \omega_z\}\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

so that $\Theta_{H_1} = \bar{C}_{H_2} = 3$. Moreover, we see that $r_l^{H_1} = r_l^{H_2} = 3$ and $r_l = 6$. Thus, we have

$$r = C_1 + C_2 - \bar{C} + r_l = 11. \quad (9)$$

Since $p = 14$ and $f_i = 1$, we have

$$\mathfrak{M} = 14 - 11 = 3. \quad (10)$$

Hence, the mechanism has only 3 degrees of freedom. It is a planar parallel manipulator.

REFERENCES

- [1] G. Gogu, "Maximally regular t3-type translational parallel robots," *Structural Synthesis of Parallel Robots: Part 2: Translational Topologies with Two and Three Degrees of Freedom*, pp. 687–748, 2009. [1](#)