Introduction to Robotics

A common view : Robots as Humanoids





Robotics Timeline

- 1922 Czech author Karel Capek wrote a story called Rossum's Universal Robots and introduced the word "Rabota" (meaning worker)
- 1954 George Devol developed the first programmable Robot.
- 1955 Denavit and Hartenberg developed the homogenous transformation matrices
- 1962 Unimation was formed, first industrial Robots appeared.
- 1973 Cincinnati Milacron introduced the T3 model robot, which became very popular in industry.
- 1990 Cincinnati Milacron was acquired by ABB

Robot Classification

- The following is the classification of Robots according to the Robotics Institute of America
- Variable-Sequence Robot : A device that performs the successive stages of a task according to a predetermined method easy to modify
- Playback Robot : A human operator performs the task manually by leading the Robot
- Numerical Control Robot : The operator supplies the movement program rather than teaching it the task manually.
- Intelligent Robot : A robot with the means to understand its environment and the ability to successfully complete a task despite changes to the environment.

ROBOT

- Defined by Robotics Industry Association (RIA) as
 - a re-programmable, multifunctional manipulator designed to move material, parts, tools or specialized devices through variable programmed motion for a variety of tasks
- possess certain anthropomorphic characteristics
 - mechanical arm
 - sensors to respond to input
 - Intelligence to make decisions

Classifying Robots

- The following definitions make it possible to classify most types of robots:
 - A machine that can sense its environment, process information from its sensors and other internal information, decide what to do next and execute that decision will be called a **robot**.
 - A robot that can move using wheels, legs, or other means with onboard power supply can be called a mobile robot.

Classifying Robots cont...

- A robot that can operate without the assistance of a human is said to be autonomous.
 - Consequently, autonomy literally means 'self law' and so the degree of autonomy refers to the extent to which the robot's behavior is subject to its own law or its own "free will".
- A robot that can perform its functions in the *presence* of uncertainty is **intelligent**.

Robot Accessories

- A Robot is a system, consists of the following elements, which are integrated to form a whole:
- Manipulator / Rover : This is the main body of the Robot and consists of links, joints and structural elements of the Robot.

- End Effector : This is the part that generally handles objects, makes connection to other machines, or performs the required tasks.
- It can vary in size and complexity from a endeffector on the space shuttle to a small gripper





Accessories



- Acutators : Actuators are the muscles of the manip for Common types of actuators are servomotors, stepper motors, pneumatic cylinders etc.
- Sensors : Sensors are used to collect information about the internal state of the robot or to communicate with the outside environment. Robots are often equipped with external sensory devices such as a vision system, touch and tactile sensors etc which help to communicate with the environment
- Controller : The controller receives data from the computer, controls the motions of the actuator and coordinates these motions with the sensory feedback information.

Robot Configurations

Some of the commonly used configurations in Robotics are

 Cartesian/Rectangular Gantry(3P) : These Robots are made of 3 Linear joints that orient the end effector, which are usually followed by additional revolute joints.





Figure 9.3. Gantry configuration robot. (Courtesy of Cincinnati Milacron.)

Cartesian Robot - Work Envelope



Robot Configurations (cont'd)

• **Cylindrical (R2P):** Cylindrical coordinate Robots have 2 prismatic joints and one revolute joint.





Cylindrical Robot - Work Envelope



Robot Configurations (cont'd)

• **Spherical joint (2RP):** They follow a spherical coordinate system, which has one





Spherical Robot - Work Envelope



Robot Configurations (cont'd)

• Articulated/anthropomorphic(3R) : An articulated robot's joints are all revolute, similar to a human's arm.





Robot Configurations (cont'd)

• Selective Compliance Assembly Robot Arm (SCARA) (2R1P): They have two revolute joints that are parallel and allow the Robot to move in a horizontal plane, plus an additional prismatic joint that moves vertically





Robot Configurations



Reference Frames

- World Reference Frame which is a universal coordinate frame, as defined by the x-y-z axes. In this case the joints of the robot move simultaneously so as to create motions along the three major axes.
- Joint Reference Frame which is used to specify movements of each individual joint of the Robot. In this case each joint may be accessed individually and thus only one joint moves at a time.
- Tool Reference Frame which specifies the movements of the Robots hand relative to the frame attached to the hand. The x',y'and z' axes attached to the hand define the motions of the hand relative to this local frame. All joints of the Robot move simultaneously to create coordinated motions about the Tool frame.

Robot Reference Frames



World reference frame



Joint reference frame



Tool reference frame

Work Envelope concept

- Depending on the configuration and size of the links and wrist joints, robots can reach a collection of points called a Workspace.
- Alternately Workspace may be found empirically, by moving each joint through its range of motions and combining all space it can reach and subtracting what space it cannot reach

Pure Spherical Jointed Arm - Work envelope



2) Parallelogram Jointed





Exercise

Readiness Assessment Test A.K.A

AS A INDIVIDUAL, prepare a detailed response for the following Readiness Assessment test

What type of Robot Configuration does the ABB 140 Robot have? Can you find out its Work Space?



WRIST

- typically has 3 degrees of freedom
 - Roll involves rotating the wrist about the arm axis
 - *Pitch* up-down rotation of the wrist
 - Yaw left-right rotation of the wrist
- End effector is mounted on the wrist

WRIST MOTIONS



CONTROL METHODS

- Non Servo Control
 - implemented by setting limits or mechanical stops for each joint and sequencing the actuation of each joint to accomplish the cycle
 - end point robot, limited sequence robot, bangbang robot
 - No control over the motion at the intermediate points, only end points are known

- Programming accomplished by
 - setting desired sequence of moves
 - adjusting end stops for each axis accordingly
 - the sequence of moves is controlled by a "squencer", which uses feedback received from the end stops to index to next step in the program
- Low cost and easy to maintain, reliable
- relatively high speed
- repeatability of up to 0.01 inch
- limited flexibility
- typically hydraulic, pneumatic drives

- Servo Control
 - Point to point Control
 - Continuous Path Control
- Closed Loop control used to monitor position, velocity (other variables) of each joint

Point-to-Point Control

- Only the end points are programmed, the path used to connect the end points are computed by the controller
- user can control velocity, and may permit linear or piece wise linear motion
- Feedback control is used during motion to ascertain that individual joints have achieved desired location

- Often used hydraulic drives, recent trend towards servomotors
- loads up to 500lb and large reach
- Applications
 - pick and place type operations
 - palletizing
 - machine loading

Continuous Path Controlled

- in addition to the control over the endpoints, the path taken by the end effector can be controlled
- Path is controlled by manipulating the joints throughout the entire motion, via closed loop control
- Applications:

- spray painting, polishing, grinding, arc welding

ROBOT PROGRAMMING

- Typically performed using one of the following
 - On line
 - teach pendant
 - lead through programming
 - Off line
 - robot programming languages
 - task level programming