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ABSTRACT

Forward Kinematics Solution of a Special Class of General Stewart Platforms

by Jian Li

A Stewart platform is a fully parallel, six-degree-of-freedom manipulator mechanism. A platform manipulator has a fixed platform acting as base, a mobile platform on which end-effector is mounted, and in-parallel kinematics chains (legs) between the two platforms. Although some direct position kinematics solutions for Stewart platforms of simplified geometry have been represented, to the best of our knowledge, no close-form direct kinematics solution for the general Stewart platform is available yet.

A common feature of six-degree-of-freedom Stewart platform of simplified geometry is the use of pairs of concentric ball joints. Due to inevitable manufacturing and assembly errors, practically there are no perfect concentric ball joints. This thesis presents an efficient method for solving the forward kinematics of this class of general Stewart platforms. The approach described in this thesis first finds an initial solution by approximating the original platform with a platform of simplified geometry, then improve the solution with a Jacobian based method. A numerical example is used to illustrate the method.

FORWARD KINEMATICS SOLUTION OF A SPECIAL CLASS OF GENERAL STEWART PLATFORMS

by Jian Li

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of New Jersey Institute of Technology in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

Department of Mechanical Engineering

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LIST OF NOMENCLATURE

- \mathbf{P}_{r} = the position of R in base coordinate
- \mathbf{P}_{s} = the position of S in base coordinate
- \mathbf{Pt} = the position of T in base coordinate
- \mathbf{P}_{or} = the position vector of Or coordinate

 \mathbf{P}_{0S} = the position vector of Os coordinate

Pot = the position vector of Ot coordinate

Wr = the unite vector along links OrR

 W_s = the unite vector along links OsS

 W_t = the unite vector along links OtT

mr = the length of OrR

 m_1 = the length of OtS

 $m_s = the length of O_sT$

 $b_1 = the length of RS$

 $b_2 = the length of ST$

 $b_3 = the length of RT$

 PA_1 = the position A_1 in base coordinate

 PA_2 = the position A_2 in base coordinate

 PB_1 = the position B_1 in base coordinate

 PB_2 = the position B₂ in base coordinate

 PC_1 = the position C1 in base coordinate

 PC_2 = the position C_2 in base coordinate

 β r = the angles made by the lines perpendicular to C1C2

 β s = the angles made by the lines perpendicular to B1B2

 βt = the angles made by the lines perpendicular to A1A2

 ϕ r = the angle line OrR and its projection on base coordinate

- ϕ_1 = the angle line O_tT and its projection on base coordinate
- ϕ_s = the angle line OsS and its projection on base coordinate
- La = the approximate leg lengths
- Le = the exact leg lengths
- L_j = the leg lengths using the Jacobian method
- ΔL = the error between the approximate and the exact leg lengths
- ΔL_j = the error between the L_j and the exact leg lengths (method 1)
- ΔL_{j1} = the error between the L_j and the exact leg lengths (method 2, first iteration)
- ΔL_{j2} = the error between the L_j and the exact leg lengths (method 2, second

iteration)

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Industrial robots have traditionally been used as general-purpose positioning devices and are anthro-promotion open-chain mechanism that generally has the links connected end to end or serially. A radical departure from conventional robot design is to connect the links side by side, in parallel. The advantage of a parallel linkage is the increased rigidity because it doesn't have cantilever-link structure and high force/torque capacity as the actuators are arranged in parallel and near the base. Therefore they are good candidate as high accuracy positioning devices under high loads. The most notable configuration of this kind is a six-degree-offreedom Stewart platform (Figure 1), which has been originally designed as an aircraft simulator, and later as a robot wrist. A manipulator consists of a base platform, six extensible links, and a moving platform on which end-effector is mounted. The moving platform is connected to the links by the means of spherical joints, the other ends of the links are connected to the base platform through universal joints. Sometime spherical joints are used at both ends of a link. By altering the lengths of the six limbs, the moving platform can be manipulated with respect to the base platform through all six degree of freedom.

Manipulator kinematics is concerned with distances and angles and transitional and angular velocities and accelerations, but not with forces, masses, torques and moments of inertial that are the province of dynamics. The fundamental problem of robot kinematics deal with mapping between vectors in two spaces: joint space θ and Cartesian space x, where θ represents the joints of a robot manipulator and x represent the position and orientation of the robot end effector. The mapping from joint space to Cartesian is referred to as "direct

1



Figure 1. Stewart platform of general geometry

Waldron and Hunt showed that kinematics behavior of parallel manipulator has many dual characteristics to that of serial manipulators. Several examples of such duality were discussed in (4). While inverse kinematics of a serial manipulator is much more difficult than its direct kinematics, the opposite is true for a parallel manipulator. The direct kinematics of Stewart platform can be stated as follow: given the values of the six lengths of the legs (AG, BH, CI, DJ, EK and FL in Figure 1), compute the position and orientation of the moving platform. Due to the difficult in solving direct kinematics of Stewart platform with general geometry, the direct kinematics of simple geometry was studied first. The most simplified form of the mechanism contains six legs which meet in a pair-wise fashion at three points in both the top and base platform. This form of the mechanism is called the "3-3 Stewart Platform". Its direct kinematics was solved by Griffis and Duffffy. Significant progress has been now made in solving direct mechanism is called the "3-3 Stewart Platform". Its direct kinematics was solved by Griffis and Duffffy. Significant progress has been now made in solving direct kinematics problem of platform manipulators, as evidenced by the large number of Closed-form solutions, expressed as single-variable published reports. polynomials, have been obtained for various special platform configurations, such as "3-6", "4-4", "4-5", "4-6" and "5-5" platforms (5-10), where the numbers show the configuration of the platforms. For general "6-6" platforms (Figure 1), Raghavan (11) concluded that there are forty solutions to the direct kinematics, based on a numerical technique known as polynomial continuation. With a monodimensional-search algorithm, Innocenti and Parenti-Castelli (12) developed a numerical approach to find all the real solutions to the direct kinematics of the most general Stewart platforms, based on their position analysis of "5-5". To the best of our knowledge, no closed-form direct kinematics solution for the general Stewart platform is available yet.

For all the simplified Stewart platforms, at least one concentric ball joint is used. Due to inevitable manufacturing and assembly errors, practically there is no perfect concentric ball joint between cointersecting connecting legs. Therefore the actual platforms are all of general geometry. Since it is not possible to solve this direct kinematics in closed form, a new method needs to be developed. In the thesis, we present a method for a class of general Stewart platforms whose moving plate has at least one of very closely placed ball joints (Figure 2) either purposely to alleviate design difficulty or as the result of manufacturing and assembly errors. Our approach has three major steps. First, the pair of closely placed joints are approximated by concentric joint, and the position and the orientation of the coordinate frame fixed to the moving plate is obtained for the resulted "Simplified" platform, using the closed-form solution is available, which will bring us quickly to a solution close to the exact solution of the original lengths is then mapped to obtain the position and orientation error of the moving plate. Finally, a correction to the approximation is made to improve the solution.

To illustrate our new method, we implemented our approach with a near "3-6" Stewart platform whose six joints of moving platform from three pairs of closely placed joins shown in Figure 3. In Figure 3, points A, B, C, D, E and F represent the three concentric joints of the approximate platform. For a given set of leg lengths, the position and orientation of the moving platform is approximated using the triangle RST. The resulted errors in leg lengths are then used to improve the solution with a Jacobian based method.

The results using Jacobian method is listed at the end of the thesis. The data show the better tendency to modify the approximate leg lengths using jocobian method. It also shows the better results of the Jacobian method when just using a fraction of the error.



Figure 2. Equivalent form of general Stewart platform



Figure 3. The approximate configuration of "6-6" moving platform

CHAPTER 2

TRIANGLE APPROXIMATION

2.1 General Description of the Approximation

In this chapter, the equations for the direct position kinematics of the "3-6" Stewart platform has been presented, and the solution has been show to be reducible to a 16th-order polynomial equation in $tan(\phi r/2)$. This result implies that for a given set of link lengths, the Stewart platform can be assembled in at almost 16 different configurations.

2.2 Equations for Satisfying the Geometry Conditions

First we simplify this problem, assuming that the joint center of pairs of adjacent limbs of the upper platform is coincident. (Figure 4)



Figure 4. The structure of "3-6" platform

It is shown that the direct kinematics equation for this form of Stewart platform can be put into a form that is similar to those of the triple arm mechanism. Then, we think it without moving platform for the moment. In the triangle A1RA2, because R is the joint of two limbs RA1 and RA2, according to the geometry of the structure, R must be located either on a sphere with its center at A1 and radius equal to L1 or on a sphere with its center at A2 and radius equal to L2. Thus the locus of R will be at the intersection of the two spheres, which is a circle with its center located on the line joining the centers of the two spheres. Thus, the triangular structure A1RA2 can be replaced by a single link with a revolute joint at one end and a spherical joint at the other end, which is passing through R and perpendicular to the line A1A2. The analyses are the same to those of B1SB2 and C1TC2. We use OrR, OsS, OsT standing for the triangular A1RA2, B1SB2 and C1TC2, see Figure 5.



Figure 5. Base and the links with the moving member

We place the fixed coordinate system x-y plane in the base platform, the position vector of R,S,T are determined as following:

$$Pr = Por + mr \cdot Wr$$

$$Ps = Pos + ms \cdot Ws$$

$$Pt = Pot + mt \cdot Wt$$
(2.1)

Still, we should add some constrained equation for R, S, T's moving.

$$|\mathbf{Pr} - \mathbf{Ps}|^{2} = b_{1}^{2}$$

$$|\mathbf{Ps} - \mathbf{Pt}|^{2} = b_{2}^{2}$$

$$|\mathbf{Pt} - \mathbf{Pr}|^{2} = b_{3}^{2}$$
(2.2)

Let us use the notation to express the limb length as the figure before.

$$r_{1} = \frac{A_{1}^{2} + L_{1}^{2} - L_{2}^{2}}{2 \cdot A_{2}}$$

$$r_{2} = A_{1} - r_{1}$$

$$s_{1} = \frac{A_{2}^{2} + L_{6}^{2} - L_{5}^{2}}{2 \cdot A_{2}}$$

$$s_{2} = A_{2} - s_{1}$$

$$t_{1} = \frac{A_{3}^{2} + L_{4}^{2} - L_{3}^{2}}{2 \cdot A_{3}}$$

$$t_{2} = A_{3} - t_{1}$$

$$m_{r} = (L_{1}^{2} - r_{1}^{2})^{1/2}$$

$$m_{s} = (L_{6}^{2} - s_{1}^{2})^{1/2}$$

 $\mathbf{m}_{t} = \left(L_{4}^{2} - t_{1}^{2}\right)^{1/2}$

Next

$$POr = PA1 + A1Or$$

$$POs = PB1 + B1Os$$

$$POt = PC1 + C1Ot$$

$$A1Or = r1 \cdot \frac{PA2 - PA1}{|PA2 - PA1|}$$

$$B1Os = s1 \cdot \frac{PB2 - PB1}{|PB2 - PB1|}$$

$$C1Ot = t1 \cdot \frac{PC2 - PC1}{|PC2 - PC1|}$$

At last,

$$W_{r} = \cos\beta_{r} \cos\phi_{r} i + \sin\beta_{r} \cos\phi_{r} j + \sin\phi_{r} k$$
$$W_{s} = \cos\beta_{s} \cos\phi_{s} i + \sin\beta_{s} \cos\phi_{s} j + \sin\phi_{s} k$$
$$W_{t} = \cos\beta_{t} \cos\phi_{t} i + \sin\beta_{t} \sin\phi_{t} j + \sin\phi_{t} k$$

$$\beta \mathbf{x} = \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{\{(\mathbf{P}_{Y2} - \mathbf{P}_{Y1}) \times k\} \cdot i}{|(\mathbf{P}_{Y2} - \mathbf{P}_{Y1})|} \right]$$

or

$$\beta \mathbf{x} = \sin^{-1} \left[\frac{\{(\mathbf{P}_{Y2} - \mathbf{P}_{Y1}) \times k\} \cdot i}{|(\mathbf{P}_{Y2} - \mathbf{P}_{Y1}) \times k\}|} \right]$$

Where (x, y) = (R, A), (S, B) or (T, C).

2.3 Solve the Polynomial Equation

So far, we have all the kinematics equations to solving our problem.



Figure 6. Description of vector



Figure 7. Description of angle

Substitute of the expressions for P_r and P_s , P_s and P_t , P_r and P_t from (2.1) into (2.2), we simplify them and get the following equations.

$$D(1) \cdot \cos \phi_r + D(2) \cdot \cos \phi_s + D(3) \cdot \cos \phi_r \cdot \cos \phi_s + D(4) \cdot \sin \phi_r \cdot \sin \phi_s + D(5)$$

$$E(1) \cdot \cos \phi_s + E(2) \cdot \cos \phi_t + E(3) \cdot \cos \phi_t \cdot \cos \phi_s + E(4) \cdot \sin \phi_t \cdot \sin \phi_s + E(5)$$

$$F(1) \cdot \cos \phi_t + F(2) \cdot \cos \phi_r + F(3) \cdot \cos \phi_t \cdot \cos \phi_r + F(4) \cdot \sin \phi_t \cdot \sin \phi_r + F(5)$$

In between:

$$\begin{split} D(1) &= 2 \cdot mr \cdot \cos\beta r\{(P_{0r})x - (P_{0s})x\} + 2 \cdot mr \cdot \sin\beta r \cdot \{(P_{0r})Y - (P_{0s})Y\} \\ D(2) &= -2 \cdot ms \cdot \cos\beta s\{(P_{0r})x - (P_{0s})x\} - 2 \cdot ms \cdot \sin\beta s \cdot \{(P_{0r})Y - (P_{0s})Y\} \\ D(3) &= -2 \cdot mr \cdot ms \cdot \cos(\beta r - \beta s) \\ D(4) &= -2 \cdot mr \cdot ms \\ D(5) &= \{(P_{0r})x - (P_{0s})x\}^2 + \{(P_{0r})Y - (P_{0s})Y\}^2 + mr^2 + ms^2 - b1^2 \end{split}$$

$$E(1) = 2 \cdot ms \cdot \cos\beta s\{(P_{0s})X - (P_{0t})X\} + 2 \cdot ms \cdot \sin\beta s \cdot \{(P_{0s})Y - (P_{0t})Y\}$$

$$E(2) = -2 \cdot mt \cdot \cos\beta t\{(P_{0s})X - (P_{0t})X\} - 2 \cdot mt \cdot \sin\beta t \cdot \{(P_{0s})Y - (P_{0t})Y\}$$

$$E(3) = -2 \cdot ms \cdot mt \cdot \cos(\beta s - \beta t)$$

$$E(4) = -2 \cdot ms \cdot mt$$

$$E(5) = \{(P_{0s})X - (P_{0t})X\}^{2} + \{(P_{0s})Y - (P_{0t})Y\}^{2} + ms^{2} + mt^{2} - b2^{2}$$

$$F(1) = 2 \cdot mt \cdot \cos\beta t \{ (Pot) X - (Por) X \} + 2 \cdot mt \cdot \sin\beta t \cdot \{ (Pot) Y - (Por) Y \}$$

$$F(2) = -2 \cdot mr \cdot \cos\beta r \{ (Pot) X - (Por) X \} - 2 \cdot mr \cdot \sin\beta r \cdot \{ (Pot) Y - (Por) Y \}$$

$$F(3) = -2 \cdot mt \cdot mr \cdot \cos(\beta t - \beta r)$$

$$F(4) = -2 \cdot mt \cdot mr$$

$$F(5) = \{ (Pot) X - (Por) X \}^{2} + \{ (Pot) Y - (Por) Y \}^{2} + mt^{2} + mr^{2} - b3^{2}$$

Let

$$Xi = tan\left(\frac{\phi_i}{2}\right) \qquad (i = R, S, T)$$

$$\cos \phi_i = \frac{1 - X_i^2}{1 + X_i^2}$$

$$\sin \phi_i = \frac{2 \cdot X_i^2}{1 + X_i^2}$$

Solve D, E, F simultaneously to determine the possible values of $\phi_{r}, \phi_{s}, \phi_{t}.$ We get:

$$[G(1) \cdot X_r^2 + G(2)] \cdot X_s^2 + [G(3) \cdot X_r)] \cdot X_s + [G(4) \cdot X_r^2 + G(5)] = 0$$

$$[H(1) \cdot X_t^2 + H(2)] \cdot X_s^2 + [H(3) \cdot X_t)] \cdot X_s + [H(4) \cdot X_t^2 + H(5)] = 0$$

$$[I(1) \cdot X_r^2 + I(2)] \cdot X_t^2 + [I(3) \cdot X_r)] \cdot X_t + [I(4) \cdot X_r^2 + I(5)] = 0$$

$$G(1) = -D(1) - D(2) + D(3) + D(5)$$

$$G(2) = D(1) - D(3) - D(3) + D(5)$$

$$G(3) = 4 \cdot D(4)$$

$$G(4) = -D(1) + D(2) - D(3) + D(5)$$

$$G(5) = D(1) + D(2) + D(3) + D(5)$$

$$H(1) = -E(1) - E(2) + E(3) + E(5)$$

$$H(2) = E(1) - E(3) - E(3) + E(5)$$

$$H(3) = 4 \cdot E(4)$$

$$H(4) = -E(1) + E(2) - E(3) + E(5)$$

$$H(5) = E(1) + E(2) + E(3) + E(5)$$

$$I(1) = -F(1) - F(2) + F(3) + F(5)$$

$$I(2) = F(1) - F(3) - F(3) + F(5)$$

$$I(3) = 4 \cdot F(4)$$

$$I(4) = -F(1) + F(2) - F(3) + F(5)$$

$$I(5) = F(1) + F(2) + F(3) + F(5)$$

Using Bezout's method (13), we eliminate Xs from equations of G(i) and H(i) (i=1,.....5) to get:

$$\begin{vmatrix} G(1) \cdot Xr^{2} + G(2) & G(4) \cdot Xr^{2} + G(5) \\ H(1) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(4) & H(2) \cdot Xr^{2} + H(5) \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} H(3) \cdot Xt & G(3) \cdot Xr \\ H(1) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(4) & G(1) \cdot Xr^{2} + G(2) \\ H(3) \cdot Xr & G(4) \cdot Xr^{2} + G(5) \\ H(3) \cdot Xt & H(2) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(5) \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} H(3) \cdot Xt & H(2) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(5) \\ H(1) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(4) & H(2) \cdot Xt^{2} + H(5) \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

We simplify equation (2.3) as:

$$J_{1} \cdot X_{t}^{4} + J_{2} \cdot X_{t}^{3} + J_{3} \cdot X_{t}^{2} + J_{4} \cdot X \cdot J_{5} = 0$$

$$J_{1} = K_{1} \cdot X_{r}^{4} + K_{2} \cdot X_{r}^{2} + K_{3}$$

$$J_{2} = K_{4} \cdot X_{r}^{3} + K_{5} \cdot X_{r}$$

$$J_{3} = K_{6} \cdot X_{r}^{4} + K_{7} \cdot X_{r}^{2} + K_{8}$$

$$J_{4} = K_{9} \cdot X_{r}^{3} + K_{10} \cdot X_{r}$$

$$J_{5} = K_{11} \cdot X_{r}^{4} + K_{12} \cdot X_{r}^{2} + K_{13}$$

K1, K2, ..., K13 are constants computer from about G's and H's. We can rewrite the equation about I's as:

$$M1 = I1 \cdot Xr^{2} + I4$$
$$M2 = I3 \cdot Xr$$
$$M3 = I2 \cdot Xr^{2} + I5$$

Using the same method of Bezout's, eliminate Xt from J's and M's equation:

$$\begin{vmatrix} J_{2} \cdot M_{1} - J_{1} \cdot M_{2} & J_{3} \cdot M_{1} - J_{1} \cdot M_{3} & J_{4} \cdot M_{1} & J_{5} \cdot M_{1} \\ J_{3} \cdot M_{1} - J_{1} \cdot M_{3} & J_{3} \cdot M_{2} - J_{2} \cdot M_{3} + J_{4} \cdot M_{1} & J_{4} \cdot M_{2} + J_{5} \cdot M_{1} & J_{5} \cdot M_{2} \\ M_{1} & M_{2} & M_{3} & 0 \\ 0 & M_{1} & M_{2} & M_{3} \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$(2.4)$$

Then we get the equation as following:

$$A(9) \cdot Xr^{16} + A(8) \cdot Xr^{14} + A(7) \cdot Xr^{12} + A(6) \cdot Xr^{10} + A(5) \cdot Xr^{8} + A(4) \cdot Xr^{6} + A(3) \cdot Xr^{4} + A(2) \cdot Xr^{2} + A(1) = 0$$
(2.5)

The coefficients A(1), A(2),, A(9) are computed from K1, K2,...., K10, I1, I2,, I6.

We evaluate the determinations in equation (2.3) and (2.4) with "MATHEMATICA" in symbolic forms. The symbolic solution is then used in our program to get the coefficient of equation (2.5).

The polynomial equation (2.5) have some complex roots, we just disregard those conjugate complex results of Xr's.

As we described before

$$\cos\phi_i = \frac{1 - X_i^2}{1 + X_i^2}$$

$$\sin \phi_i = \frac{2 \cdot X_i^2}{1 + X_i^2}$$

Substitute above values into F's, E's equation, we can change the equation form into as below:

$$\mathbf{P}\cdot\cos\phi+\mathbf{Q}\cdot\sin\phi+\mathbf{R}=0$$

It is easy to solve this equation as

$$\cos\phi = \frac{-P \cdot R \pm Q \cdot (P^2 + Q^2 - R^2)^{1/2}}{P^2 + Q^2}$$
$$\sin\phi = \frac{-Q \cdot R \pm P \cdot (P^2 + Q^2 - R^2)^{1/2}}{P^2 + Q^2}$$

Now we get the results of ϕ_s , ϕ_t consequently.

2.4 Some Comments on Solving "3-6" Platform

So far, the three pairs of closely joints are approximated by three pairs of concentric joints. The position and the orientation of the coordinate frame. The position fixed to the moving plate can be obtained for the resulted of "3-6" platform, using the close-form solution discussed above.

After we find all the real solutions of "3-6" platform, we can substitute them into the equation (2.1) to get the final positions of R, S and T. Except those of the values not satisfying the constrained equation (2.2). The approximated position and orientation of the moving platform is now obtained.

2.5 About the Computer Program

The program consists of main and sub-programs. In main program, we solve the simple parameter such as D's, E's, F's and G's, H's, I's, and calculate the

coefficients of the polynomial from the symbolic equations obtained with " MATHEMATICA."

The sub-programs include solving the polynomial equation and checking the computing angle which quadrant is located, check the value of the angle whether it satisfies the constrained equation (2.2).

In order to increase the precision, "Double Precision" is used for all real number.

Because of the existence of complex numbers, we use FORTRAN language to implement our method.

2.6 Computer Diagram

Following is the computer program diagram we used to solve the moving position of "3-6" platform. The inputs to the program include the side lengths of triangle, and the coordinates of joints on the base platform. Through the procedure described in the chapter, we get the polynomial equation of degree sixteen, using the numerical method to get the results of the equation and at last reach the position of the moving platform.



CHAPTER 3

IMPROVEMENT OF APPROXIMATE SOLUTION

3.1 Jacobian Method

For the description of the relative configuration of the two plates, a base coordinates frame B(O, x, y, z) and a moving frame M(P, x', y', z') are defined on the two plates respectively, as shown in Figure 8. The origins of the two frames are located at the centers of the corresponding plates. With this definition, the configuration of the moving plate with respect to the base plate can be described by a vector **P** directed to point P from O, and a rotation matrix T representing the orientation of the moving frame M with respect to the base frame B. The geometries of the two plates can be described by vector **u** and **r** here i=1, 2, ..., 6, as indicated in figure 1. Clearly, each of the two vectors sets {**u**} and {**r**} is coplanar. Moreover, vector **u** has constant components in frame B, while the components of vector **r** are orientation-dependent in B.



Figure 8. Illustration of position vector

Where $\mathbf{r}i'$ is the representation of vector $\mathbf{r}i$ in the moving plate. With the above definitions, it is a simple matter to derive basic kinematics constraints of the manipulator, namely,

$$(\mathbf{P}+\mathbf{r}\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{u}\mathbf{i})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{P}+\mathbf{r}\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{u}\mathbf{i}) = \mathbf{q}\mathbf{i}$$
(3.1)

Here q_i denotes the coordinate representing the leg length of the *i*th leg. Furthermore, to treat the orientation and translation in the same frame, a 6-D twist vector of the end-effector is defined as:

$$\mathbf{t} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix}$$

Upon differentiating the constraint equations with respect to time, we get the desired relation between the end-effector twist and the joint velocity, the form is

At = Bq

Where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}_1 \times (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u}_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{r}_6 \times (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u}_6) \\ \mathbf{r}_1 \times \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{r}_6 \times \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u}_6 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}$$
$$q = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 & q_2 & q_3 & q_4 & q_5 & q_6 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}$$
$$B = \operatorname{diag}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_6)$$

We define the Jacobian matrix of the manipulators under study as the mapping from the end-effector twist vector to the joint velocity vector, namely,

$$Jt = q$$

$$J = B^{-1}A$$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \times e_1 & \cdots & r_6 \times e_6 \\ e_1 & \cdots & e_6 \end{bmatrix}^T$$
(3.2)

Since the exact solution to the position and orientation of the moving frame is unknown, we use the closed-form solution of "3-6" that is easily to find "6-6" Since the exact solution to the position and orientation of the moving frame is unknown, we use the closed-form solution of "3-6" that is easily to find "6-6" platform as the exact leg lengths (figure 2). Then use three pairs of concentric joints to approximate. For a given set of leg lengths Li (i = 1, ..., 6), represented by a rotation matrix R_a and position vector P_a in the reference frame {B} attached to the base frame.

Let us express the relation between the exact solution and the approximate solution as

$$\mathbf{R} = \Delta \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{a}} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{a}} + \Delta \mathbf{P}$$
 (3.3)

Where

$$\Delta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\delta\theta z & \delta\theta y \\ \delta\theta z & 1 & -\delta\theta x \\ -\delta\theta y & \delta\theta x & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.4)

and Δ is a differential displacement:

$$\Delta \mathbf{P} = [\delta \mathbf{x}, \delta \mathbf{y}, \delta \mathbf{z}] \tag{3.5}$$

The error for the *i*th legs is

$$\Delta Li = Li - La \tag{3.6}$$

By defining two 6 x 1 vectors

 $\Delta t = \begin{bmatrix} \delta \theta x & \delta \theta y & \delta \theta z & \delta x & \delta y & \delta z \end{bmatrix}^{T}$

And

$$\Delta \mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{L}_1 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_2 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_3 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_4 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_5 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_6 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}$$
$$\mathbf{J} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{t} = \Delta \mathbf{L}$$
(3.7)

First, from Eqs.(3.1), (3.6) and (3.3) and the approximate solution represented by R_a and P_a, we can evaluate the error in leg lengths ΔL and matrix J. Second, Δt is solved from Eq.(3.7). In this step, we find if the magnitude of vector ΔL is not small enough, then we should divided one step of correction into two or more. Third, correction in the form of matrix Δ and the vector Δp are calculated from Eqs (3.4), (3.5). Finally, the improved solution is computed from Eq. (3.2).

3.2 The Idea of Solving the Problem

As described before, general Stewart platform with moving plate has three pairs of very closely placed ball joints, either purposely to alleviate design difficulty or as the result of manufacturing and assembly errors. The forward kinematics of this class of Stewart platform is much complex than that of the platform with simplified geometry, which usually include three steps.

(1) The three pairs of closely placed joints are approximated by three pairs of concentric joints, and the position and the orientation of the coordinate frame fixed to the moving plate is obtained for the resulted "3-6" platform, using the closed-form solution (first part).

(2) The actual leg lengths corresponding to this approximation are now calculated and compared with the given leg lengths. The difference in the leg lengths mapped to obtain the position and the orientation error of the moving plate.

(3) Correction to the approximate solution is made to obtain new solution.First step:

Assuming a set of leg lengths, with base and moving platform (six points) in Figure 1 which represented by the solid lines. There also exist three points on the moving platform such that, when these three points are used as three pairs of concentric ball joints, they should be the same corresponding leg lengths with the concentric ball joints, they should be the same corresponding leg lengths with the same position and orientation of a frame {M} attached to the moving plate, but since there is no prior knowledge of the position and orientation of the moving plate, it is impossible to locate these three points on the moving plate, furthermore, these three points could be anywhere if they satisfy the moving platform (six points) position and orientation. However, since each pair of joints of two points is closely placed together in the platforms under our discus, they can be approximated as three pairs of concentric joints. Solution based on the approximate "3-6" platform will be close to the exact solution and is therefore a good initial data for further improvement.

Since the exact solution to the position and orientation of the moving plate is unknown, the error of the approximation can only be measured in terms of the leg lengths.

Following are the procedure to solve this problem. For a given set of leg lengths Li (i = 1, 2, ..., 6), we use forward kinematics ("3-6") method to find the mid-points of each pair of joint respectively, thus alternatively, we can get this each pair of joint with simple mathematical calculation. That is to say, we use the triangle approximation for obtaining an initial solution of leg lengths for known parameter. Since the exact solution to the position and orientation of the moving frame is unknown only the error of the leg lengths can be measured. The detail of the calculation is described as following.

3.3 The Way to Solve the Problem

For known the leg lengths Li (i = 1, 2, ...6), the moving platform's distances, the coordination of the base platform, we use the program described in chapter one and get the positions' results of R, T, S (the points of triangle of moving platform). From these three points, we calculate corresponding relative six points that have

From these three points, we calculate corresponding relative six points that have the same position and orientation frame attached to the moving platform of these three points. Now we use six points' leg lengths Lei (calculated by using Te)and Te (same as the above three points) as a reference. Let Re, Pe, represent an exact solution's (six points) rotation matrix and original position. Now choose the middle point of each pair of closely joints of these six points as the approximate triangle. Using the same "3-6" platform program to get the R', T', S' when knowing leg lengths (now are equal to the six points) and distances of the moving platform, also can get the corresponding rotate matrix Ta and original matrix Pa. Then use the same way to calculate the corresponding relative six points (we choose the same six points as before). Then calculate the approximate leg lengths according to the Ta and Lai.

Now let us express the relation between the exact solution and the approximate solution as

and
$$\mathbf{R} = \Delta \cdot \mathbf{R} \mathbf{a}$$
$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{a}} + \Delta \mathbf{P}$$

Where Δ is a differential rotation matrix:

$$\Delta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\delta\theta z & \delta\theta y \\ \delta\theta z & 1 & -\delta\theta x \\ -\delta\theta y & \delta\theta x & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and ΔP is a differential displacement:

$$\Delta \mathbf{P} = [\delta \mathbf{x}, \delta \mathbf{y}, \delta \mathbf{z}]$$

With some mathematical manipulation to equation, we get the following relation by neglecting terms that contain product of $\delta\theta x$, $\delta\theta y$, $\delta\theta z$, δx , δy , δz , we get the equation:

$$\mathbf{J} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{t} = \Delta \mathbf{L}$$

$$\Delta t = \begin{bmatrix} \delta \theta x & \delta \theta y & \delta \theta z & \delta x & \delta y & \delta z \end{bmatrix}^{I}$$

And

$$\Delta \mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{L}_1 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_2 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_3 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_4 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_5 & \Delta \mathbf{L}_6 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

For J $\Delta t = \Delta L$, knowing J matrix and ΔL , we can get Δt directly and that provides a way to estimate how the initial approximation should be connected. Following is how to get improving solution for correcting.

When we get Δ from above procedure, the improved solution then should be computed.

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{R} = \Delta \mathbf{R} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e} + \Delta \mathbf{P} \end{cases}$$

The procedure may be repeated if necessary to better the solutions.

3.4 The Computer Program Diagram



CHAPTER 4

NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

4.1 The Geometry and Dimension of the "6-6" Platform

The "6-6" platform (Figure 9) consists of the base platform (Figure 10) and the moving platform (Figure 11), also six extensible link lengths with spherical or universal joints at both ends of the link.



Figure 9. Description of "6-6" platform



Figure 10. The geometry relation about the base platform



Figure 11. The geometry relation about the moving platform

When we use "3-6" platform to find the initial solution (or the exact solution) of Te and Le, its dimension and geometry is following (Figure 3 and 9).

The initial data include leg lengths Li:

L1=5.0 L2=4.5 L3=5.0 L4=5.5 L5=5.5 L6=5.7 The distance of the moving platform:

RT=2.5 TS=2.5 RS=2.5

The position of A, B, C, D,E, F in moving platform's coordinate:

Suppose we give AR=d=0.001

$F_1 = -d/2$	$F_{2} = -2.5 \cdot sin$	$(60) \cdot 2/3 + d \cdot \sin(60)$	F3=0.0
E1=d/2	E2=F2		E3=0.0
D1=2.5/2 - d	• cos(60)	$D_2=1/3 \cdot 2.5 \cdot \sin(60) - d \cdot \sin(60)$	D3=0.0
C1=2.5/2 - d		C2=2.5/6sin(60)	C3=0.0
B1=-C1		B2=C2	B 3=0.0
A1=-D1		A2=D2	A3=0.0

The distance of the triangle of R'T'S':

```
R'T'=2.4958 T'S'=2.4958 R'S'=2.4958
```

The dimension of base platform are:

PA1(-2.9, -0.9, 0.0)	PA2(-1.2, 3.0, 0.0)
PB1(1.3, -2.3, 0.0)	PB2(-1.2, -3.7, 0.0)
PC1(2.5, 4.1, 0.0)	PC2(3.2, 1.0, 0.0)

4.2 The Results

Let suppose

$$\Delta L = La - Le$$
$$\Delta Lj = Lj - Le$$
$$\Delta Lj1 = Lj1 - Le$$

For the first result of polynomial equation:

 $\phi r = 97.98$ $\phi s = 51.06$ $\phi t = 56.67$

Le	4.713	5.422	5.627	6.731	5.509	5.682
La	4.709	5.433	5.609	6.748	5.536	5.719
Lj	4.713	5.429	5.574	6.716	5.504	5.676
ΔL	-0.004	0.011	-0.018	0.017	0.027	0.037
ΔL_j	0.000	0.007	-0.053	-0.015	-0.005	-0.006

Le	4./15	5.422	5.027	0.751	5.309	5.082
La	4.709	5.433	5.609	6.748	5.536	5.719
Lj1	4.709	5.434	5.560	6.705	5.488	5.660
Lj2	4.711	5.431	5.592	6.733	5.521	5.698
ΔL	-0.004	0.011	-0.018	0.017	0.027	0.037
ΔL_{j1}	0.000	0.012	-0.067	-0.026	-0.021	-0.022
ΔLj2	-0.002	0.009	-0.035	0.002	-0.012	0.016

The second result of polynomial equation

 $\phi r = 101.02$ $\phi s = 28.40$ $\phi t = 54.91$

Le	5.186	5.612	5.531	6.629	5.522	5.675
La	5.179	5.623	5.515	6.645	5.564	5.695
Lj	5.223	5.588	5.516	6.621	5.569	5.680
ΔL	-0.007	0.011	-0.016	0.016	0.044	0.020
ΔLj	0.037	-0.024	-0.015	-0.008	0.047	0.020

Le	5.186	5.612	5.531	6.629	5.522	5.675
La	5.179	5.623	5.515	6.645	5.564	5.695
Lj1	5.206	5.623	5.505	6.621	5.568	5.694
Lj2	5.249	5.632	5.524	6.612	5.575	5.732
ΔL	-0.007	0.011	-0.016	0.016	0.042	0.020
ΔLj1	0.020	0.011	-0.026	-0.008	0.046	0.001
ΔLj2	0.070	0.020	-0.007	-0.033	0.053	0.057

For the third results of the polynomial equation:

 $\phi r = 103.92$ $\phi s = 38.35$ $\phi t = 18.23$

Le	4.990	4.506	4.986	5.509	6.691	6.247
La	4.991	4.517	4.966	5.531	6.264	6.023
Lj	4.888	4.487	4.900	5.519	6.115	5.900
ΔL	0.001	0.011	-0.020	0.022	-0.427	-0.224
ΔLj	-0.102	-0.019	-0.086	0.010	-0.576	-0.347

Le	4.990	4.506	4.986	5.509	6.691	6.247
La	4.991	4.517	4.966	5.531	6.264	6.023
Lj1	4.941	4.502	4.924	5.516	6.184	5.952
Lj2	4.802	4.491	4.830	5.484	5.994	5.788
ΔL	0.001	0.011	-0.020	0.022	-0.427	0.224
ΔLj1	-0.049	-0.004	-0.062	0.007	-0.507	0.290
ΔLj2	-0.188	-0.015	-0.156	-0.025	-0.697	-0.459

For the forth results of polynomial equation

 $\phi r = 56.59$ $\phi s = 20.88$ $\phi t = 48.73$

Le	5.106	5.345	6.285	6.856	5.510	5.698
La	5.093	5.337	6.283	6.847	6.302	6.824
Lj	5.124	5.428	6.283	6.778	6.313	6.875
ΔL	-0.013	-0.008	-0.002	-0.009	0.792	0.126
ΔL_j	0.018	0.083	-0.002	-0.078	0.803	0.177

Le	5.106	5.345	6.285	6.856	5.510	5.698
La	5.093	5.337	6.283	6.847	6.302	5.824
Lj1	5.125	5.428	6.283	6.778	6.313	5.875
Lj2	5.236	5.589	6.194	6.563	6.316	5.937
ΔL	-0.013	-0.008	-0.002	-0.009	0.792	0.126
ΔL_{j1}	0.019	0.083	-0.002	-0.078	0.803	0.177
ΔLj2	0.130	0.244	-0.091	-0.293	0.806	0.239

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS

This thesis deals with the direct kinematics of a special class of general Stewart platforms, whose moving plates contains some closely placed joints. This class of Stewart platforms can be approximated with platform of simpler geometry so that closed-form solution can be found as initial solutions. A Jacobian based correction method is then used to improve the initial solutions.

Since the correction with Jacobian method is based on the linear relation. It is sensitive to the initial approximation errors. Multi-step correction may be needed when the errors in the initial approximation is large.

A numerical example for a Stewart platform that can be approximated by a "3-6" platform is presented.

The effectiveness of the method developed in the thesis is supported by the results obtained from the numerical example.

APPENDIX PROGRAM FOR CALCULATION OF SPECIAL CLASS OF GENERAL STEWART PLATFORM

- 1 C MAIN PROGRAM (METHOD 1)
- 2 CALL LEG (L, R, S, T)
- 3 DATA L/5.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 5.5, 5.7/
- 4 CALL SEL1(R, S, T, RR1, SS1, TT1)
- 5 CALL NEWPS (RR1, TT1, SS1, LE, PE, RE)
- 6 CALL DATA3 (RR2, TT2, SS2)
- 7 CALL TTF (RR2, CA, CB, CC, PE, RR)
- 8 CALL TTF (TT2, CA, CB, CC, PE, TT)
- 9 CALL TTF (SS2, CA, CB, CC, PE, SS)
- 10 CALL DD1 (SS, PB2, LA(5))
- 11 CALL DD1 (SS, PB1, LA(6))
- 12 CALL DD1 (TT, PC2, LA(3))
- 13 CALL DD1 (TT, PC1, LA(4))
- 14 CALL DD1 (RR, PA1, LA(1))
- 15 CALL DD1 (RR, PA2, LA(2))
- 16 DO 5 I = 1, 6
- $17 \quad LA1(I) = LA(I)$
- 18 5 CONTINUE
- 19 ID1 = (LA1 LE)/2.0
- 20 CALL WPS (ID1, RE, PE, WP)
- 21 CALL IP (WP, C1)
- 22 DO 10 I=1, 3
- 23 DO 10 J=1,3
- 24 TA(I,J)=RE(I,J)

- 25 10 CONTINUE
- 26 TA(1,4)=PE(1)
- 27 TA(2,4)=PE(2)
- 28 TA(3,4)=PE(3)
- 29 TA(4,4) = 1.0
- 30 TA(4,1)=0.0
- 31 TA(4,2)=0.0
- 32 TA(4,3)=0.0
- 33 CALL MUL(C1, TA, TAA)
- 34 PAC=PE+WP
- 35 DO 14 I=1,3
- 37 DO 14 J=1,3
- 38 RAA(I,J)=TAA(I,J)
- 39 CALL WPP (PAC, RAA, LAA)
- 40 ID2=LAA LE
- 41 CALL WPS (ID2, RAA, PAC, WP2)
- 42 CALL IP (WP2, C2)
- 43 DO 15 I=1,3
- 44 DO 15 J=1,3
- 45 TAA(I,J)=RAA(I,J)
- 46 15 CONTINUE
- 47 TAA(4,1)=0.0
- 48 TAA(4,2)=0.0
- 49 TAA(4,3)=0.0
- 50 TAA(4,4)=1.0
- 51 TAA(1,4)=PAC(1)
- 52 TAA(2,4)=PAC(2)

- 53 TAA(3,4)=PAC(3)
- 54 PAC2=PAC+WP2
- 55 CALL MUL(C2, TAA, TAA2)
- 56 DO 20 I=1,3
- 57 DO 20 J=1,3
- 58 RAA2(I,J)=TAA2(I,J)
- 59 20 CONTINUE
- 60 CALL WPP(OAC2, RAA2, LAA2)
- $61 \qquad ID3 = LAA2 LE$
- 62 STOP
- 63 END
- 1 C MAIN PROGRAM (METHOD 2)
- 2 CALL LEG (L, R, S, T)
- 3 DATA L/5.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 5.5, 5.7/
- 4 CALL SEL1 (R, S, T, RR1, SS1, TT1)
- 5 CALL NEWPS (RR1, TT1, SS1, LE, PE, RE)
- 6 CALL DATA3 (RR2, TT2, SS2)
- 7 CALL TTF (RR2, CA, CB, CC, PE, RR)
- 8 CALL TTF (TT2, CA, CB, CC, PE, TT)
- 9 CALL TTF (SS2, CA, CB, CC, PE, SS)
- 10 CALL DD1 (SS, PB2, LA(5))
- 11 CALL DD1 (SS, PB1, LA(6))
- 12 CALL DD1 (TT, PC2, LA(3))
- 13 CALL DD1 (TT, PC1, LA(4))
- 14 CALL DD1 (RR, PA1, LA(1))
- 15 CALL DD1 (RR, PA2, LA(2))

16 DO 5 I= 1, 6 LA1(I) = LA(I)17 **5** CONTINUE 18 19 ID = LA1 - LECALL WPS (ID, RE, PE, WP) 20 21 CALL IP (WP, C1) DO 10 I=1, 3 22 DO 10 J=1,3 23 24 TA(I,J)=RE(I,J)10 CONTINUE 25 26 TA(1,4) = PE(1)27 TA(2,4) = PE(2)TA(3,4)=PE(3)28 29 TA(4,4)=1.030 TA(4,1)=0.031 TA(4,2)=0.0TA(4,3)=0.032 CALL MUL(C1, TA, TAA) 33 PAC=PE+WP 34 35 DO 14 I=1,3 DO 14 J=1,3 36 37 RAA(I,J)=TAA(I,J)14 CONTINUE 38 CALL WPP (PAC, RAA, LAA) 39 ID1=LAA - LE 40 41 STOP 42 **END**

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3 Z(2)=PE(2)+CB(1)*X(1)+CB(2)*X(2)+CB(3)*X(3)

Z(1)=PE(1)+CA(1)*X(1)+CA(2)*X(2)+CA(3)*X(3)

- 1 SUBROUTINE TF
- 21 **END**

2

- 20 RETURN
- CC(I,3)=RE(I,3)19
- 18 CB(I,2)=RE(I,2)
- CA(I,1)=RE(I,1)17
- 16 DO 5 I=1,3
- $RE(3,3)=N3/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 15
- $RE(3,2)=M3(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 14
- $RE(3,1)=L3/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 13
- $RE(2,3)=N2/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 12
- $RE(2,2)=M2/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 11
- $RE(2,1)=L2/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 10
- $RE(2,1)=M1/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 9
- $RE(1,1)=L1/(L1^2+M1^2+N1^2)^{1/2}$ 8
- N1 T(3)-R(3) 7
- 6 M1=T(2)-R(2)
- 5 L1=T(1)-R(1)
- 4 RE(3) = (R(3)+S(3)+T(3))/3.0
- 3 PE(2) = (R(2)+S(2)+T(2))/3.0
- 2 PE(1) = (R(1)+S(1)+T(1))/3.0
- 1 SUBROUTINE NEWPS

- 4 Z(3)=PE(3)+CC(1)*X(1)+CC2)*X(2)+CC(3)*X(3)
- 5 RETURN
- 6 END
- 1 SUBROUTINE LEG
- 2 P1=(1-RROOTS)**2/(1+RROOTS**2)
- 3 P2=2*RROOTS/(1+RROOTS**2)
- 4 CALL FF(F, P1, P2, Q1, Q2, Q11, Q22)
- 5 CALL FF(E, Q1, Q2, Z1, Z2, Z11, Z22)
- 6 CALL FFF (D, P1, P2, Z1, Z2, ZZ1)
- 7 CALL DD(P2, P1, P)
- 8 CALL DD(Q2, Q1, Q)
- 9 CALL DD(Z2,Z1,Z)
- 10 WR = P/PI*180
- 11 WT= Q/PI*180
- 12 WS=Z/PI*180
- 13 CALL DDD(POR, MR, CSR, P, PR(1), PR(2), PR(3))
- 14 CALL DDD(POT, MT, CST, Q, PT(1), PT(2), PT(3))
- 15 CALL DDD(POS, MS, CSS, Z, PS(1), PS(2), PS(3))
- 16 RETURN
- 17 END

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