

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic - Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

P.Raju, G.Muralidharan

M.E Mechatronics, Department of Production Technology, Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University, Chennai, India

Department of Production Technology, Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University, Chennai, India

ABSTRACT— A Bipedal robots have been considered as the best means of locomotion on any irregular surfaces. But achieving stability of the robot during walking is difficult. Several studies have been proposed for achieving stability. This paper discusses the overview of various approaches that have been designed so far for achieving stability during walking. The main objective of this paper is to construct a bipedal robot with height sensor at the foot to measure the robot position coordinates. In order to make a stable walk, the position vector coordinates has to be calculated. The position vector coordinate is computed by Denavit Hartenberg representation and inverse kinematics. The DH representation is used to find the coordinates relative to the joint angles of the robot. The measured coordinates are then used to control the joint angle that controls the robot walking. This paper also discusses about the force torque controlled actuation of the joint motor of the robot during walking on uneven and non-linear surfaces. The torso is designed to make the robot walking upright by itself. The trajectory of the robot can be identified by placing the height sensor at the robot foot. This sensor reads the Z axis value as the robot is walking on the floor. By using this measured Z axis and known X axis values, the robot predicts its path and manipulates its trajectory by itself. The biped robot stability can be controlled by constantly shifting the center of gravity (COG) to the right and left leg of the robot during walking. The camera is placed at the hip to maneuver the obstacles along the path. The Mathematical modelling of the biped robot is done to find the torque acting at the joints. The computed point (position vector of the foot) coordinates along the trajectory is then proved through the simulation using MATLAB/Simulink.

Keywords— Biped robot, Mathematical modelling, MATLAB/Simulink, Passive dynamic walking, DH Representation

I. INTRODUCTION

Various approaches have been proposed to make the robot walking dynamically. Of them, zero moment point (ZMP) method is extensively used in these areas. The ZMP method is assumed that the robot had flat feet provided during walking. The passive dynamic walking is achieved only when an inverted pendulum approach were used. The human inspired walking robot is mimicked like the humans actuate the joints to realize walking. The methods proposed so far are difficult to understand. But this paper will present an easy way of computing the robot leg position coordinates. The force torque relationship of the rigid link of the robot is stated briefly in this paper. This kind of unique way is very much needed to actuate the joints according to the force experienced by the leg when it touches the ground. This force is often called as the ground reaction forces. The analysis of the ground reaction force distribution is very important for determining the robot's stability. Analyzing the force exerted by robot's leg on the ground is important for the synthesis of position control. As it is already mentioned, the main objective of this paper is to construct a bipedal robot with torso for balanced walking. The torso control dynamically changes the position of center of gravity from one foot to another during dynamic walking. The mechanical design of the robot and its degrees of freedom (DOF) are clearly explained in section II. The mathematical modelling of the biped robot is

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

explained in section III. Section IV gives the trajectory information for the robot with the help of sensor at the foot to maintain the balance of the biped robot.

II. MECHANICAL DESIGN

The most important considerations in mechanical design are that the robot should have sufficient degrees of freedom to balance and walk dynamically. The link of the robot must be rigid to withstand the pressure and the forces exerted on them. A bipedal robot suitable for dynamic walking requires robust force torque control to actuate the links for locomotion.

A. DOF of the robot

The bipedal robot at least requires 2 DOF to move its leg. A human leg has more than 30 DOF to attain a perfect locomotion. Higher the DOF, higher the complexity arises in the robot. So, for the sake of simplicity in analysis, the biped robot with fewer DOF has proposed. The biped structure proposed in this paper has 11 DOF, in which HIP and ANKLE possess 2 DOF each in pitch and Yaw axis. The anthropomorphic knee possesses 1 DOF and the active torso joint has 1 DOF.

B. Torso control

A torso design provides the ability to move around, gives support and structure to the robot's body during walking. The torso plays a vital role in changing the COG to the stance leg during walking. A stance leg is nothing but the leg that touches with the ground. A yaw movement is provided to the torso to shift the COG in order to maintain a stable walk. A torso is an active joint with 1 DOF and an actuated through a yaw motion. Figure 2.1 shows the CAD model of the robot designed in Pro-Engineer.

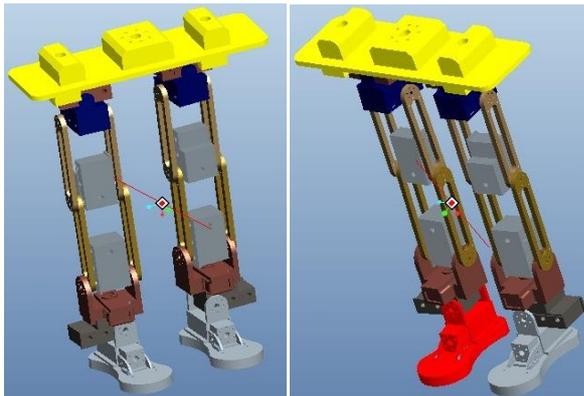


Fig 2.1 - CAD Model of biped robot

A. Ankle joint

Figure 2.2 shows the structure of ankle joint of the robot. The structure has rubber type foot sole and several foot sensors used for force-torque optimization. The sensor placed at the foot measures the ground reaction forces exerted by the robot during walking. The foot sole

made of rubber will reduce the impact at the joint during landing.

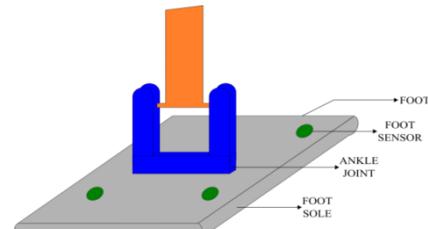


Fig 2.2 – structure of ankle joint

B. Knee joint

Figure (2.3) shows the structure of knee joint of the biped robot. In the structure, the magnetic lock is provided at the knee to limit the angles bending to a certain range. Because the knee should not rotate under the zero angle. It will make a damage to the biped link and joint motor if it rotates beyond the maximum value.

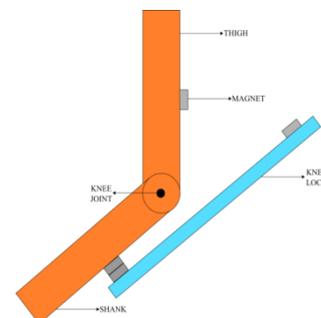


Fig 2.3-Structure of the Knee Joint

III. KINEMATIC MODELLING

The kinematics is the study of the robot's movements with regard to a reference system. The kinematics model is used to find the robot's position and the orientation of the foot and the values of their joint coordinate. Figure (3.1) shows the block diagram of the modelling procedure of the biped robot.

A. Modelling of biped robot

The following considerations are defined to model the biped robot.

- First define the coordinate system of the biped robot.
- Set the reference coordinates as the origin to describe the location of the other joints indirectly.
- Use DH parameters to calculate the position vector and orientation matrix.
- Imply inverse kinematics to calculate the joint angles by fixing the position coordinate vector.
- Find the different joint angles for different feet position coordinates along the trajectory of the robot.

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

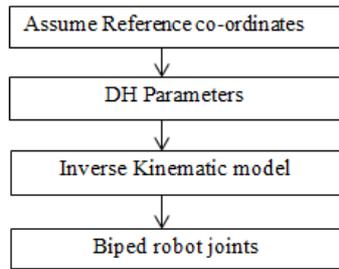


Fig 3.1 - Block diagram

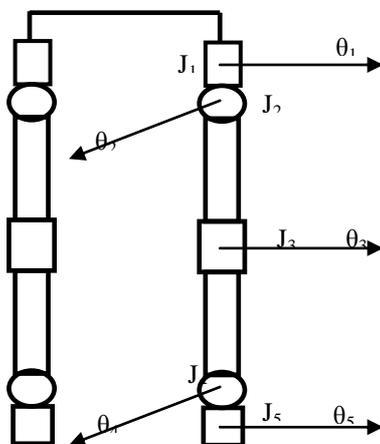
B. Kinematics representation

The kinematic model of a robot can be represented by the homogeneous transformation matrix. This representation is necessary for robots with more than two degrees of freedom. A robot of n degrees of freedom (DOF) is formed by n links assembled by n articulations, in such way that each articulation-link constitutes a DOF. When homogeneous transformation matrix is used to represent the position and the relative orientation between two consequent links, a reference system to each link must be associated. Thus, it is possible to represent the translations and relative rotations between the different links. Where the matrix L_{n+1} represents the position and relative orientation between the associated systems of two consequent robot's links. This matrix allows a total or partial representation of the robot's kinematics.

For example, 0L_1 represents the position and orientation of the first link relative to the base reference, and ${}^0L_3 = {}^0L_1 {}^1L_2 {}^2L_3$ represents the position and orientation of the third link relative to the base reference coordinate system. When the DOF are considered, the ${}^nL_{n+1}$ matrix have to be found out. Thus, for six degrees of freedom robot per leg, the final links position and orientation is represented by the R matrix:

$$R = {}^0L_5 = {}^0L_1 {}^1L_2 {}^2L_3 {}^3L_4 {}^4L_5 \quad (1)$$

C. Denavit harternberg representation



In order to locate the coordinate systems from each link and to obtain the robot's kinematics,

Denavit-Hartenberg (D-H) method is used. D-H methods describe robot's kinematics and represent its motions. It has four parameters namely $\{\alpha, \theta, d$ and $a\}$. These parameters are used to find the joint angles of the robot link. Figure (3.2) represents the robot joints and its angles rotation with respect to the base frame. The base frame assumed is as shown in the figure (3.3). The twist angle of the robot links can be found out by comparing the joints rotation relative to the base frame. If it rotates in clockwise direction relative to the axis assumed in base frame, the twist angle " α " should be taken as -90° and if it rotates in counter clockwise direction, the twist angle assumed is 90° .

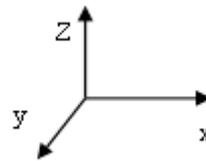


Fig 3.3 - Base frame

Table 3.1 shows the values of the DH parameters obtained from the biped relative to base frame. In the table I, L_1 and L_2 represents the link lengths of the biped robot. ' θ_{1-5} ' represents the angles at which the joints are rotated. The ' d ' represents the link offset. ' α ' denotes the twist angles.

Table I – DH parameters notation

Θ	A	a	d
Θ_1	-90°	0	0
Θ_2	90°	L_2	0
Θ_3	-90°	L_1	0
Θ_4	90°	0	0
Θ_5	-90°	0	0

The DH parameters for both the legs have the same values. But during walking, the angles are not the same because the two legs can never be in the same position except when the robot is in standing phase. In the table I, angle $\Theta_1, \Theta_3, \Theta_5$ represents the pitch angle at the hip, knee and ankle. The angle Θ_4, Θ_5 are the yaw angle at the hip and ankle.

A. DH Matrix

After getting all the parameters as in the table 3.1, the Position coordinates, orientation and rotation of the biped robot relative to the base frame is calculated by substituting the value in equation (1).

The DH matrix is

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

$${}^0L_{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_{n+1} & -\cos \alpha_{n+1} \sin \theta_{n+1} & \sin \alpha_{n+1} \sin \theta_{n+1} & a_{n+1} \cos \theta_{n+1} \\ \sin \theta_{n+1} & \cos \theta_{n+1} \cos \alpha_{n+1} & -\cos \theta_{n+1} \sin \alpha_{n+1} & a_{n+1} \sin \theta_{n+1} \\ 0 & \sin \alpha_{n+1} & \cos \alpha_{n+1} & d_{n+1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}^3L_4 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_4 & 0 & \sin \theta_4 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_4 & 0 & -\cos \theta_4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}^0L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_1 & -\cos(-90^\circ) \sin \theta_1 & \sin(-90^\circ) \sin \theta_1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 \cos(-90^\circ) & -\cos \theta_1 \sin(-90^\circ) & 0 \\ 0 & \sin(-90^\circ) & \cos(-90^\circ) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}^4L_5 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_5 & 0 & \sin \theta_5 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_5 & 0 & -\cos \theta_5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

0L_1 represents the orientation and rotation of the first link with respect to the base frame.

$${}^0L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_1 & 0 & \sin \theta_1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_1 & 0 & -\cos \theta_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Put the entire matrix obtained in equation (1) to find the joint angles of the biped robot. The resulting matrix R is obtained. The robot orientation, position and rotational information can be found from the matrix R. The height sensor fixed at the foot provides the position information P_z when the robot is walking. With this information the amount of angle required to actuate the joints can be easily found from the matrix R by substituting the value in the equation (2) and (4).

$${}^1L_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_2 & 0 & \sin \theta_2 & L_2 \cos \theta_2 \\ \sin \theta_2 & 0 & -\cos \theta_2 & L_2 \sin \theta_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} r_{x1} & r_{x2} & r_{x3} & P_x \\ r_{y1} & r_{y2} & r_{y3} & P_y \\ r_{z1} & r_{z2} & r_{z3} & P_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Similarly, 1L_2 , 2L_3 , 3L_4 and 4L_5 represent the rotation, orientation of the link of the biped robot relative to one another

$${}^2L_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_3 & 0 & \sin \theta_3 & L_1 \cos \theta_2 \\ \sin \theta_3 & 0 & -\cos \theta_3 & L_1 \sin \theta_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

From the matrix R, the first 3x3 matrix represents the rotation transformation matrix. P_x , P_y , P_z represents the position vector co-ordinates of foot relative to the base frame. The position vector coordinates calculated from the matrix are

$$P_x = \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 (L_1 \cos \theta_1 + L_2) - L_1 \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \quad (2)$$

$$P_y = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$P_z = \sin \theta_2 (L_1 \cos \theta_2 + L_2) \quad (4)$$

B. Torque calculation

In order to achieve stability, the rotation of the joint angles must be controlled properly. It can be obtained by calculating the amount of torque required to actuate the joint motor of the biped robot during walking.

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

Figure (3.3) shows the torque parameters of the biped robot ankle. The torque calculation is done when the robot is in double support phase, i.e., both the leg of the robot touches with the ground.

a. Torque at the ankle

To find the torque at the ankle, some assumptions has to be made. The link between the hip, foot and knee are massless and the angle between the foot and ground is zero. The maximum torque at the ankle is calculated when the entire weight of the robot acting on the edge of the robot foot except the grounded foot.

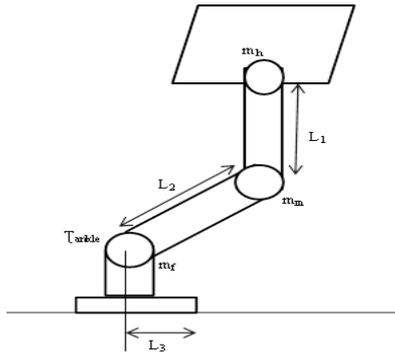


Fig 3.3 Biped robot torque notation at the ankle

$$(5) \quad T_{ankle} = [(m_h + m_f + 2 \cdot m_m) \cdot g] \cdot L_1$$

b. Torque at the knee

The weight of the upper body and ungrounded leg is perpendicular to the hip joint. The torque at the knee is calculated when the knee bends at 90°.

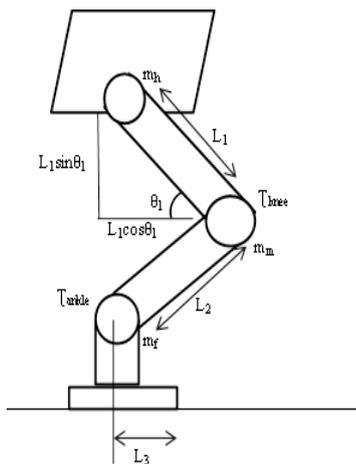


Fig 3.4 Biped robot torque notation at the knee

$$(6) \quad T_{knee} = [(m_h + m_f + m_m) \cdot g] \cdot L_1 \cos \theta_1$$

c. Torque at the hip joint

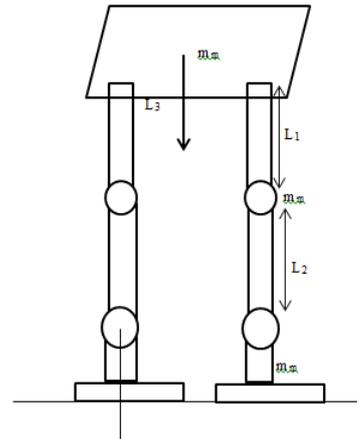


Fig 3.5 Torque representation at the hip

Since, it is in the double support phase, the mass acting at the ankle is assumed to be zero. So, equate the equation (5) to zero, the torque at the ankle is found out. The mass acting at the hip is a known parameters, put the value in equation (6), the torque at the hip can be found out and used for actuate the joint motor at the hip relative to all the other joints.

Total mass acting at the ankle

$$(7) \quad = [-(m_m \cdot g \cdot L_2 \cos \theta_1) + m_h \cdot g (L_3/2 - L_3 \cos \theta_1) + m_f \cdot g \cdot L_3 + m_m \cdot g \cdot (L_3 - L_3 \cos \theta_1)]$$

Total mass at the hip

$$(8) \quad = [T_{hip} + m_h \cdot g \cdot L_3/2 + m_m \cdot g \cdot (L_3 + L_1 \cos \theta_1) + m_f \cdot g \cdot (L_3 + (L_1 + L_2) \cos \theta_1)]$$

IV. TRAJECTORY GENERATION

The sensor fixed at the foot measures the z axis height when the leg moving from standing phase to swinging phase. In between the phases, a lot of intermediate points are considered. Each point can be determined through the height sensor fixed at the robot leg. This value can then be substituted with the DH representation position vector equation P_x, P_y, P_z to obtain the torques acting at the joints. These torque (θ_1, θ_2) can be found from the equations (2),(3),(4) as described in chapter III.

The height sensor fixed at the robot foot measures the P_z values for different set of points from one position to other (Z_0-Z_1) as shown in the figure 4.1. As, it is already mentioned the value for P_x is step length and is constant. If the step length (P_x) varies, the number of steps robot takes to reach from one position to other is also varied. In this project, the step length (P_x) is fixed value. It cannot be changed during the walking of the biped robot. Figure 4.1 shows the trajectory information and the set of points are obtained from the sensor

Intelligent Path Planning Human Mimic Biped Walking Robot (Height Sensor Based Control)

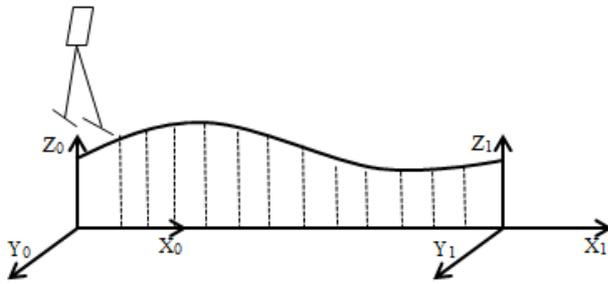


Fig 4.1 Trajectory formation

The camera placed at the hip senses the obstacles present along the path and sends the information to the joint motor again to move in proper directions. After calculating those points, the inverse kinematics is done and the position coordinates are found out. These coordinates are then used to find angle required to actuate the joint motors by taking the inverse kinematics. In this way, the biped robot intelligently identifies the trajectories and the robot path is planned by itself. The ground surface of the robot is modelled as a set of (x, z) points. Here the x value (step length) is kept constant. Step length is nothing but the amount of distance between each steps of the robot during walking. The 'z' axis values are obtained from the height sensor and hence the trajectory is generated and the robot is controlled.

V.CONCLUSION

The intelligent path planning biped robot with 10 DOF is constructed and its mechanism, stability, torque calculation are found out. The height measuring sensor was used at the robot foot to generate the path by the robot itself. The camera placed at the hip of the biped robot senses the obstacles on the path and notifies the controller to turn to other directions. This made it an intelligent path planning biped robot. In order to withstand the forces exerted on the links, the high quality aluminum channel can be used for making rigid structure.

For further improvement, the camera has to be placed at the foot for the trajectory generation instead of the sensor. The camera controls the robot as well as predicting the path through 3D calibration technique. By adopting the camera based trajectory generation, the biped robot can be efficiently controlled with greater stability.

REFERENCES

- [1] Eunchul Jeon and Sungho Jo, "Human Gait-Based Bipedal Walking Robot Design in Progress" in International Conference on Control, Automation and Systems, 2010. Eunchul Jeon and Sungho Jo, "Human Gait-Based Bipedal Walking Robot Design in Progress" in International Conference on Control, Automation and Systems, 2010.
- [2] Garcia.M, Chatterjee.A, Ruina.A, and Coleman.M, "The simplest walking model: Stability, complexity, and scaling," to appear in ASME Journal of Biomechanical Engineering, 1998.
- [3] Garcia.M, Chatterjee.A, Ruina.A, and Coleman.M, "The simplest walking model: Stability, complexity, and scaling," to appear in ASME Journal of Biomechanical Engineering, 1998
- [4] Goddard.R.E, Zheng.F, Yuan, and Hemami.H, "Control of the heel-off to toe-off motion of a dynamic biped gait," IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 92-102, 1992
- [5] Helbo, "Modelling and Control of a Biped Robot", Dep. of Control Engineering, Aalborg University, Denmark, 2007, p. 5-10
- [6] Josep Font-Llagunes and Jozef Kovacs. "Dynamics and energetics of a class of bipedal walking systems". Mechanism and Machine Theory, 44(11):1999-2019, 2009
- [7] Kristin Fondahl, "An Adaptive Sensor Foot for a Bipedal and Quadrupedal Robot", The Fourth IEEE RAS/EMBS International Conference on Biomedical Robotics and Biomechatronics Roma, Italy. June 24-27, 2012.
- [8] Mingguo Zhao, "Passive dynamic walking with torso, Proceedings of the 2012 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Biomimetics", December 11-14, 2012
- [9] Miura.H and Shimoyama.I, "Dynamicwalk of a biped," International Journal of Robotics Research, vol. 3, pp. 60-74, 1984.
- [10] Raibert.M.H, "Legged Robots That Balance", Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.