

# Software Development for an Inverse Kinematics of Seven-Degrees of Freedom Newly Designed Articulated Inspection Robot

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## ABSTRACT

Now-a-days robots have occupied a space for themselves in our daily routine life. Modern robots are proficient to execute the complex tasks from like Space Exploration, Nuclear Inspection, Manufacturing, etc to the simple tasks like pick and place. The robots are developed to execute their specified task in the 3-D space. The end-effector of the robot is designed in such a way that it follows the desired trajectory within its working environment. For the accurate functioning of the robot the control over each links and joints is to be ensured. The position and orientation of the end-effector should be precisely controlled to obtain the smooth functioning of the robot. The stable mathematical model is required to indicate the end effector motion and joint-link motions. This type of mathematical model is known as Kinematic Model. It defines the complete spatial position and orientation of the joint-links, end-effector. It involves the mechanics of the motion without considering the forces that causes the motion. In reality inverse kinematic equations are more important which allows the robot controller to move the robot to the desired position and orientation. This paper presents an enhanced analytical approach of inverse kinematics using Denavit-Hartenberg (D-H) parameters. Software named Robot Kinematics is developed in VB6 Platform for better understanding of inverse kinematics and quick manipulations of required angles.

## General Terms

Robotics, Forward Kinematics, Inverse Kinematics, Software Applications, Algorithm Development

## Keywords

Inverse Kinematics, Software Development, 7-Degrees of Freedom, Algorithm Development, Frame Assignment

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Inverse kinematics (IK) is very important area in robotics. It is very complex to manipulate and is also indispensable in the design, analysis, planning and control of robot linkage [12]. It is essential to manipulate systems such as robotic arms, hands, limbs. Research works continued to reduce the complexity. Initially analytic methods were used which gave multiple solutions, now they are replaced by Neuro fuzzy networks. The important milestones in IK manipulations are surveyed to search out the better one. Srinivas Neppalli et al, have presented a geometric approach for performing the inverse kinematics for continuum robots with multi degree of freedom

[14]. Assumptions are made such that the inverse kinematics of single trunk is implemented to get the complete solution by compensating the changes in orientation. The Inverse Kinematics for a 5-DOF P-Arm Manipulator is done by De Xu [3]. The solution is done multiplying the individual matrices formed by D-H conventions and computing the final Transformation matrix which gives the position and Orientation elements for inverse kinematic solution. The new strategy is also developed based on the geometric projection which creates the necessary criteria to determine the accurate solutions of inverse kinematics without using the forward kinematics. Li Han et al, have given a new inverse kinematics approach to serial chain robots [7]. Instead of regular geometric parameters a new set of parameters like Diagonal length, triangle orientation etc. can be used in solving inverse kinematics with spherical joints in space and revolute joints in plane. These parameters give linear equations which can be easily solved in techniques like linear programming, diagonal sweeping etc.

The advanced approaches carried out were, Wesam Mohammed Jasim, have done inverse kinematics solution to a 4-DOF SCARA manipulator [15]. The author has introduced an Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Networks (ANFIS). It is the linear integration of the parameters by Least Square method and the approximation error is back propagated in every layer. For simulating the codes MATLAB package 7.8.0 R2009a is implemented. Finally the ANFIS gives Acceptable solutions promptly. Sreenivas Tejomurtula et al, have presented the inverse kinematics for the manipulators with Revolute and Prismatic joints [13]. The three approaches error-back propagation, the optimization approach and the iterative approach were used. For the three joint Robotic Manipulator Rasit Koker et al, have presented the inverse kinematics approach [10], which is based on the neural network Within the work volume the position of the end effector are generated and they are trained and saved in neural network which can be later retrieved for ant positions. Kumar.S et al have presented the inverse kinematics approach by converting the optimization based approach into non linear optimization state [11].

Since the formulation of inverse kinematics is complex, a very few attempts were been made to develop the software for it. Baki Koyuncu et al, has developed named MSG which is capable of testing the motional Characteristics of the robot. C- Programming is implemented in developing the software with Visual Studio.Net 2005 Development Platform [1]. This software is proposed to compute the Forward and inverse

kinematics of the particular Lynx-6 Robot arm. Mohammed Reyad AbuQassem has developed the software named Robot Simulation Software (RSS) to provide hands on experience of the expensive robotics equipments to the educational students [8]. This specially designed educational software consists of four important concerns in designing of any robot like Forward Kinematics, Inverse kinematics, Trajectory planning and a Controller.

This paper is well organized in a way to understand the kinematics, Inverse Kinematics procedure and its software development steps.

## 2. ROBOT MODELING

Analyzing the current demand of robot in the field of inspection, the robot with 7 Degrees of Freedom articulated type configuration is designed. The robot is made capable to inspect the weld defect in the nuclear waste storage tanks (steel canisters). With the additional accessories the robot is capable of welding the minor cracks in the inspected areas. The designing software CATIA is used in designing the expected robot mechanical configuration as shown in Fig. 1.

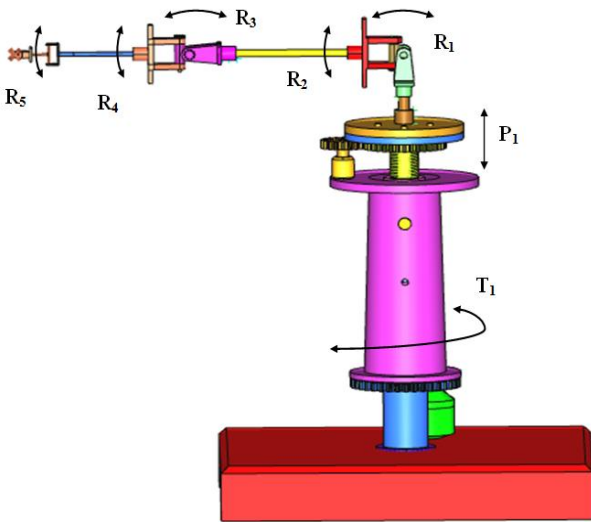


Fig 1: Mechanical configuration of robot modeled in CATIA illustrating the 7-DOF

## 3. KINEMATIC MODEL

The Kinematic Model gives the relationship between the position and orientation of the end-effector and spatial position of the joint links [4]. In other words it is defined as analytical study of the geometry of motion of a robot arm with respect to a fixed reference coordinate system without regard to the forces.

The kinematic modeling requires both the forward and inverse kinematics solutions of the manipulator. The link parameters are commonly used in both the kinematics solutions. The kinematic model is developed which denotes the inputs and outputs of kinematic solutions as shown in Fig. 2

The kinematic modeling is divided in two categories:

- Direct Kinematics
- Inverse Kinematics

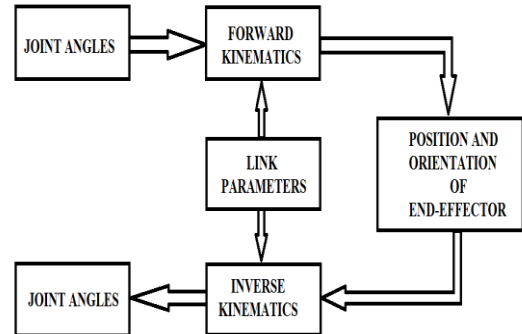


Fig 2: The Direct and Inverse Kinematic Model

### 3.1 Direct Kinematics:

The method of finding the Position and Orientation of the end-effector with respect to the reference frame with the help of given joint-links parameters of the n-Degree of Freedom robot is known as Direct or Forward Kinematics [2]. The desired robot is configured in the frame assignment structure as depicted in Fig. 3 and their D-H parameters are formed. These parameters are implemented to create the individual matrices which are multiplied to obtain the final homogenous matrix. The final matrix gives the position and orientation of the end effector.

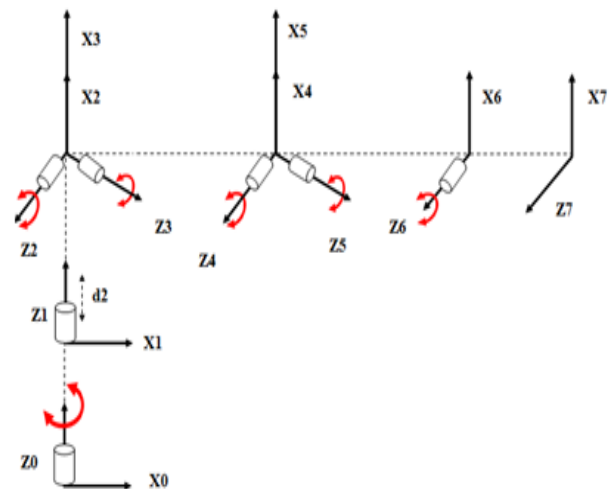


Fig 3: Frame Assignment for & DOF Robot

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_x & o_x & a_x & p_x \\ n_y & o_y & a_y & p_y \\ n_z & o_z & a_z & p_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C1(C3C45C67 - S3S67) & C1(-C3C45S67 - S3C67) & -C1C3S45 + S1C45 & (C1C3C45 + S1S45)(C67a7 + C6a6) \\ +S1S45C67 & -S1S45S67 & & -C1S3(S67a7 + S6a6) \\ & & & + (C1C3C4 + S1S4)a4 \\ S1(C3C45C67 - S3S67) & S1(-C3C45S67 - S3C67) & -S1C3S45 - C1C45 & (S1C3C45 - C1S45)(C67a7 + C6a6) \\ -C1S45C67 & +C1S45S67 & & -S1S3(S67a7 + S6a6) \\ & & & + (S1C3C4 - C1S4)a4 \\ S3C45C67 + C3S67 & -S3C45S67 + C3C67 & -S3S45 & S3C45(C67a7 + C6a6) \\ & & & + S3C4a4 + C3S67a7 + C3S6a6 + d2 + d1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The above matrix displays how the final overall matrix is compared with the homogeneous matrix to obtain the position and orientation elements. These individual elements are involved in inverse kinematics manipulation.

#### 4. INVERSE KINEMATICS (IK)

The method of finding the set of joint variables that would bring the robot in a specified position and orientation using the known position and orientation of the end-effector with respect to the immobile or inertial reference frame for an n-Degree of Freedom robot is known as Inverse kinematics [5].

IK is the reverse of forward kinematics. The complexity of the IK increases with the number of degree of freedom of robot. The solution to the inverse kinematics problem becomes difficult as the number of degree of freedom increases.

##### 4.1 IK Procedure

In inverse kinematics the link length and the position of end effector are known and we have to calculate the angle of each joint. There will be coupled angles formed in forward kinematics. To decouple the angles, we should routinely pre-multiply the  ${}^R T_H$  matrix with the individual  $A_n^{-1}$  matrices. This will yield to find the individual angles. The comprehensive steps in inverse kinematics is as follows [9],

**Step 1:** Equate the overall matrix  ${}^0 T_7$  with the  ${}^R T_H$  i.e basic homogenous matrix.

$${}^R T_H = \begin{pmatrix} n_x & o_x & a_x & p_x \\ n_y & o_y & a_y & p_y \\ n_z & o_z & a_z & p_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A_1 A_2 A_3 A_4 A_5 A_6 A_7 \quad (2)$$

**Step 2:** Pre-multiply the matrices by its inverses. Start with  $A_1^{-1}$ .

$$A_1^{-1} X \begin{pmatrix} n_x & o_x & a_x & p_x \\ n_y & o_y & a_y & p_y \\ n_z & o_z & a_z & p_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A_2 A_3 A_4 A_5 A_6 A_7 \quad (3)$$

**Step 3:** Find the inverse of the Individual matrices using the expression.

$$A_1^{-1} = \frac{Adj(A_1)}{Det(A_1)} \quad (4)$$

**Step 4:** Multiply the inverse with the homogeneous matrix.

$$A_1^{-1} X \begin{pmatrix} n_x & o_x & a_x & p_x \\ n_y & o_y & a_y & p_y \\ n_z & o_z & a_z & p_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} C1 & S1 & 0 & 0 \\ -S1 & C1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -d1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} X \begin{pmatrix} n_x & o_x & a_x & p_x \\ n_y & o_y & a_y & p_y \\ n_z & o_z & a_z & p_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c1nx + s1ny & c1ox + s1oy & c1ax + s1ay & c1px + s1py \\ -s1nx + c1ny & -s1ox + c1oy & -s1ax + c1ay & -s1px + c1py \\ nz & oz & az & pz - d1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Step 5:** Equate the above matrix with the product of remaining matrices.

$$A_1^{-1} X \begin{pmatrix} nx & ox & ax & px \\ ny & oy & ay & py \\ nz & oz & az & pz \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A_2 A_3 A_4 A_5 A_6 A_7 \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c1nx + s1ny & c1ox + s1oy & c1ax + s1ay & c1px + s1py \\ -s1nx + c1ny & -s1ox + c1oy & -s1ax + c1ay & -s1px + c1py \\ nz & oz & az & pz - d1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c3c45c67 - s3s67 & -c3c45s67 - s3c67 & -c3s45 & c3c45(c67a7 + c6a6) \\ +c3c4a4 - s3s67a7 - s3s6a6 & & & \\ -s45c67 & s45s67 & -c45 & -s45(c67a7 + c6a6) \\ -s4a4 & & & \\ s3c45c67 + c3s67 & -s3c45s67 + c3c67 & -s3s45 & s3c45(c67a7 + c6a6) \\ +s3c4a4 + c3s67a7 + c3s6a6 + d2 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

**Step 6:** First solve the equations involving the single unknown variable. Otherwise reduce the set of equations to a single equation and solve them

$$c1ax + s1ay = -c3s45 \quad (7)$$

$$-s1ax + c1ay = -c45 \quad (8)$$

By solving these equations the coupled angled  $\Theta_{45}$  is obtained which is substituted in other equation to obtain the joint angle  $\Theta_3$

$$\Theta_{45} = \cos^{-1}(s1ax - c1ay) \quad (9)$$

$$az = -s3s45 \quad (10)$$

$$\Theta_3 = \sin^{-1}\left(-\frac{az}{s45}\right) \quad (11)$$

**Step 7:** For accurate results A Tan 2 function is involved instead of  $\sin^{-1}$  or  $\cos^{-1}$ .

The results obtained from the  $\tan^{-1}(p/q)$  are different from the  $\text{Atan2}(p, q)$ .  $\text{Atan2}$  function takes in account the signs of the p and q.

The sign of both p and q may be negative, zero or positive. Thus depending upon the signs of p and q the  $\text{Atan2}$  function is calculated accordingly. Table 1 shows the sign conventions to be followed.

**Table 1. Implementation of Two Arguments, Four Quadrant Arc Tan Function**

q	$\text{Atan2}(p, q)$
positive (+)	$\tan^{-1}(p/q)$
zero (0)	$\text{sign}(p) * \pi/2$
negative (-)	$\tan^{-1}(p/q) + (\text{sign}(p) * \pi)$

For example:

$$\sin 3 = (-az / \sin 45) \quad (12)$$

$$\text{Then } \theta_3 = \pm \text{Atan2}\left(\left(-az/\sin 45\right), \sqrt{1 - \left(-az/\sin 45\right)^2}\right) \quad (13)$$

**Step 8:** Similarly the other joint angles are found sequentially. The expressions for the joint angles are shown in Fig. 4.

**Step 9:** The known variables are substituted in the equations and the joint angles are found. The input variables are shown in Table 2.

**Step 10:** The Joint Angles are then tabulated as in Table 3.

$$\theta_1 = 2 \times \text{Atan2}(py, px)$$

$$\theta_2 = 0$$

$$\theta_3 = \pm \text{Atan2}\left(\left(-az/\sin 45\right), \sqrt{1 - \left(-az/\sin 45\right)^2}\right)$$

$$\theta_4 = \pm \text{Atan2}(S2/C2)$$

$$S2 = (S1 * px - C1 * py - S45 * C67 * a7 - S45 * C6 * a6) / a4$$

$$C2 = \sqrt{1 - \left(\left(S1 * px - C1 * py - S45 * C67 * a7 - S45 * C6 * a6\right) / a4\right)^2}$$

$$\theta_5 = \theta_{45} - \theta_4$$

$$\theta_6 = \pm \text{Atan2}(S6/C6)$$

$$S6 = (-S3 * C1 * px - S3 * S1 * py + C3 * pz - C3 * (d1 + d1) - S67 * a7) / a6$$

$$C6 = \sqrt{1 - \left(\left(-S3 * C1 * px - S3 * S1 * py + C3 * pz - C3 * (d1 + d1) - S67 * a7\right) / a6\right)^2}$$

$$\theta_7 = \theta_{67} - \theta_6$$

**Fig 4: Expression for Joint Angles Calculation**

## 4.2 Sample calculation

The robot parameters (link parameters) are constant. The required position and orientation of the end-effector of the robot is given as inputs.

**Table 2. Inputs for Inverse Kinematics**

$\alpha_i$ (degree)	$a_i$ (mm)	$d_i$ (mm)	$n_x$	$n_y$	$n_z$
0	0	530	0.78	-0.06	0.62
90	0	220	$\mathbf{o}_x$	$\mathbf{o}_y$	$\mathbf{o}_z$
90	0	0	-0.63	-0.10	0.77
0	290	0	$\mathbf{a}_x$	$\mathbf{a}_y$	$\mathbf{a}_z$
-90	0	0	0.02	-0.99	-0.12
0	180	0	$\mathbf{p}_x$	$\mathbf{p}_y$	$\mathbf{p}_z$
0	45	0	461.54	87.12	935.16

$$\theta_1 = 2 \times \text{Atan2}(p_y, p_x) \quad (14)$$

As  $p_x$  is a positive integer then from the table 1 above the angle is calculated as,

$$\theta_1 = 2 \times \tan^{-1}(p_y / p_x) \quad (15)$$

$$\theta_1 = 2 \times \tan^{-1}(87.09 / 461.57) = 21.37$$

$$\theta_2 = 0$$

$$\text{Then } \theta_3 = \pm \text{Atan2} \left( (-a_z / \sin 45), \sqrt{1 - (-a_z / \sin 45)^2} \right) \quad (16)$$

$$(-a_z / \sin 45) = (-(-0.12) / \sin 21.72) = 0.324$$

$$\theta_3 = + \tan^{-1} (0.324 / \sqrt{1 - (0.324)^2}) = 18.906$$

$$\theta_6 = \pm \text{Atan2} \left( \frac{(-S3 * C1 * p_x - S3 * S1 * p_y + C3 * p_z - C3 * (d1 + d1) - S67 * a7) / a6}{\sqrt{1 - ((-S3 * C1 * p_x - S3 * S1 * p_y + C3 * p_z - C3 * (d1 + d1) - S67 * a7) / a6)^2}} \right) \quad (17)$$

Since it is very complex, for the calculation purpose positive integers are only taken.

$$\theta_1 = 21.37, \theta_3 = 18.906 \text{ and } \theta_{67} = 23.22$$

$$\frac{((-S3 * C1 * p_x - S3 * S1 * p_y + C3 * p_z - C3 * (d1 + d1) - S67 * a7) / a6)}{a6} = 0.043$$

$$\theta_6 = + \tan^{-1} (0.043 / \sqrt{1 - (0.043)^2}) = 2.465$$

$$\theta_7 = \theta_{67} - \theta_6$$

$$\theta_7 = 23.22 - 2.465 = 20.755$$

$$\theta_4 = \pm \text{Atan2} \left( \frac{(S1 * p_x - C1 * p_y - S45 * C67 * a7 - S45 * C6 * a6) / a4}{\sqrt{1 - ((S1 * p_x - C1 * p_y - S45 * C67 * a7 - S45 * C6 * a6) / a4)^2}} \right) \quad (18)$$

Since it has many terms consider only the positive of them for calculation

$$\theta_1 = 21.37, \theta_{45} = 21.721, \theta_{67} = 23.22, \theta_6 = 2.465$$

$$S1 * p_x - C1 * p_y - S45 * C67 * a7 - S45 * C6 * a6 / a4 = 0.018$$

$$\theta_4 = + \tan^{-1} (0.018 / \sqrt{1 - (0.018)^2}) = 1.048$$

$$\theta_5 = \theta_{45} - \theta_4 = 21.721 - 1.048 = 20.673$$

Thus all the angles are successfully found.

**Table 3. Final Angles Obtained From Manual Calculation**

Angle	Resultant value from manual calculation
$\theta_1$	21.37
$\theta_2$	0
$\theta_3$	18.906
$\theta_4$	1.048
$\theta_5$	20.673
$\theta_6$	2.465
$\theta_7$	20.755

## 5. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Now-a-days software is available even to do the simple manipulation at a fast rate. The program codes are to be written in system language to develop the executable files. This software provides the platform for the understanding of the working of robot [6].

The software must be in the way to perform both forward as well as inverse kinematics. For forward kinematics, the height of lift and the angles of the corresponding joints are to be acquired as input parameters and the result is to produce the position of the end effector. For inverse kinematics, the desired position and orientation matrix of the end-effector are given as inputs and the joint variables are calculated.

The GUI is made in such a way that it describes the robot parameters in detail. It is made user friendly by the following aspects

1. The robot is clearly defined and its components are made known with its advantages and applications. The GUI is shown in Fig.6.
2. The CATIA design of the robot is demonstrated.

3. The parameters involved in the robot are clearly defined and the final homogeneous matrix is provided on the separate screen.
4. The overall frame link assignment is also illustrated in the separate screen.
5. Separate windows are provided for forward and inverse kinematics.
6. The forward kinematics gives not only the final position of end-effector but the orientation matrix is also provided which is a input variable of inverse kinematics.
7. In inverse kinematics windows a sample calculation and the formula for calculation is depicted.
8. The final joint angles are provided in degrees rather than in radians.

The preceding features of the software make the robot user friendly. The windows are made multi-colored to differentiate the forward and inverse kinematics as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8.

### 5.1 Algorithm

The software is developed with proper algorithm as shown below. Fig. 5 depicts the algorithm which shows the choices provided to the user to control the software.

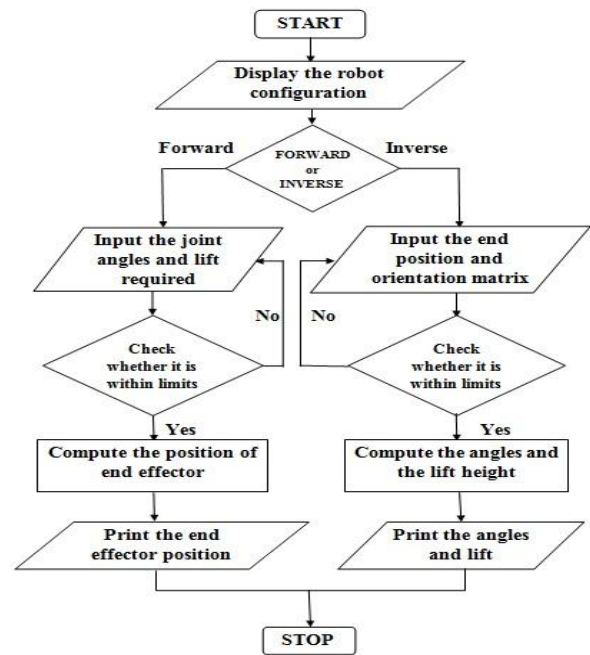


Fig 5: Algorithm development

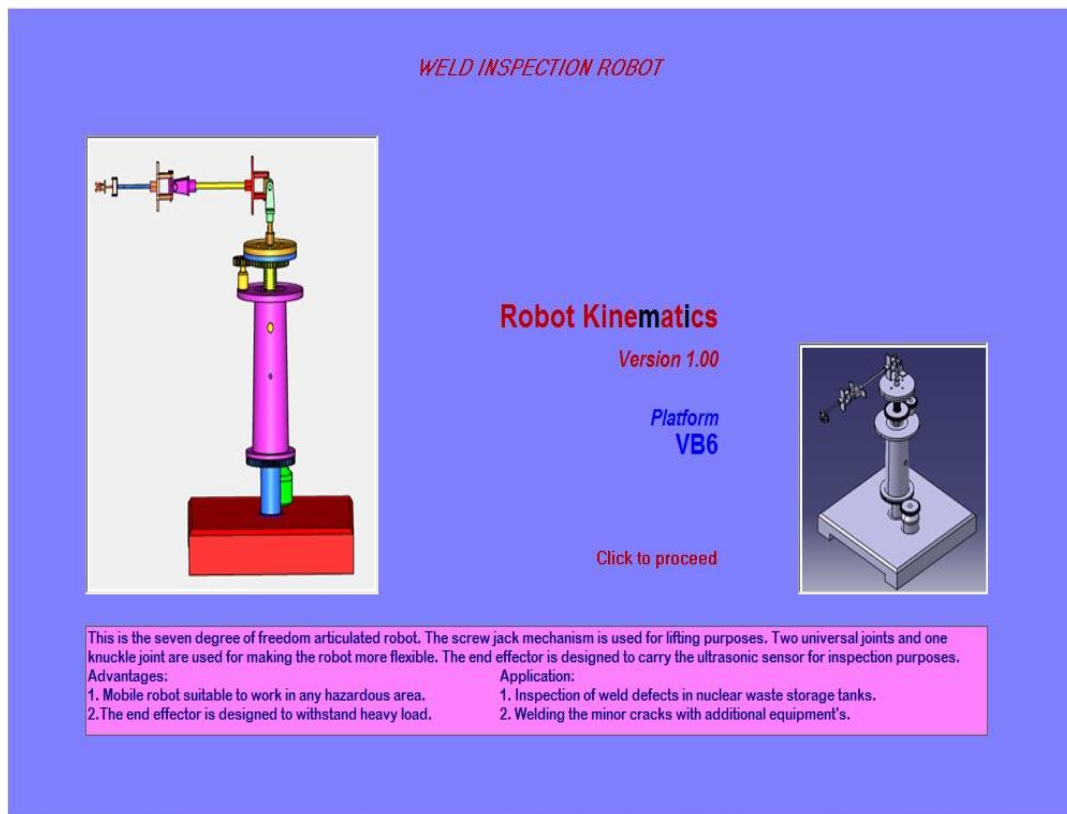


Fig 6: Robot Kinematics GUI

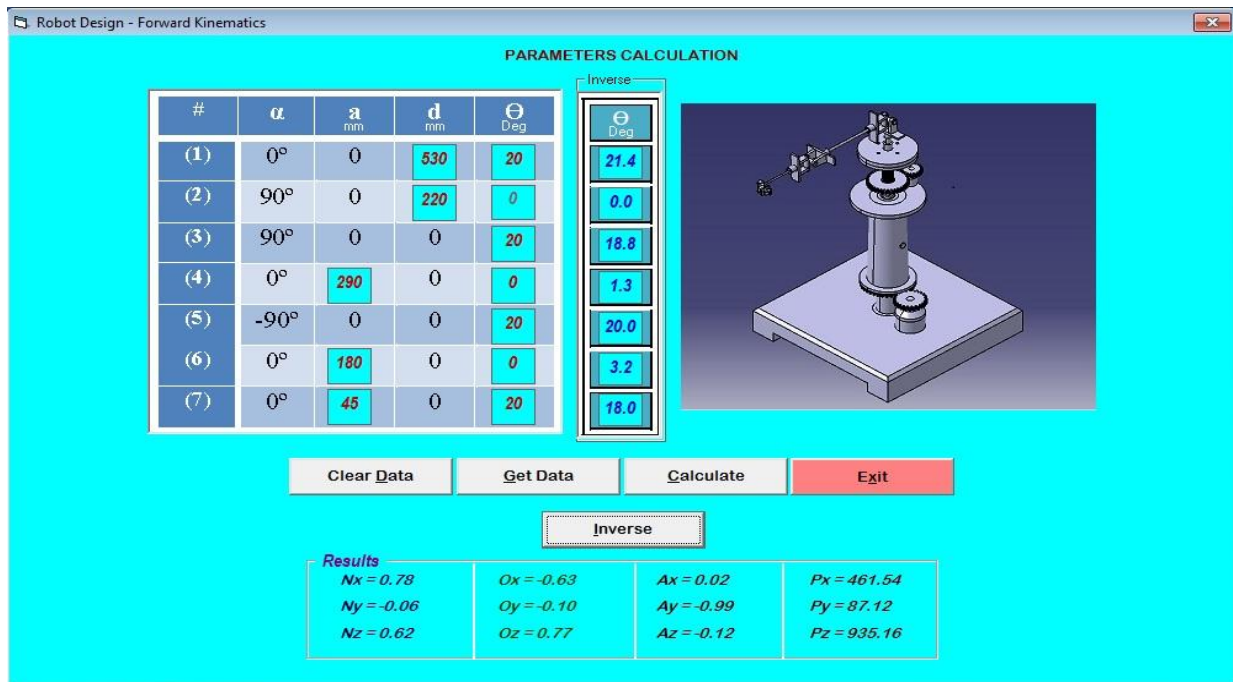


Fig 7: Forward Kinematics Panel

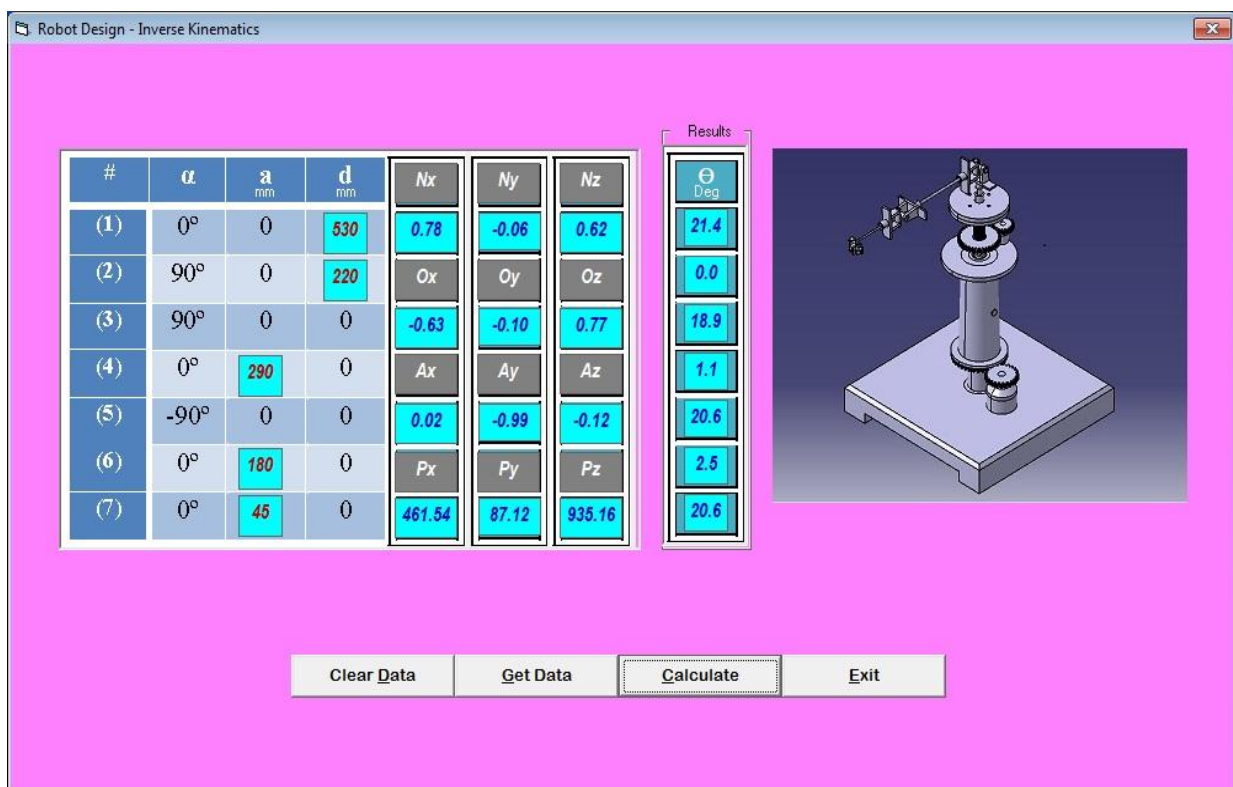


Fig 8: Inverse Kinematics Panel

## 5.2 Comparison of manual and software results

The results obtained from the manual and software values are compared in Table 4 which shows that the need of software in this types of complex calculations. The expressions to manipulate the joint angles are once encoded in the software

and it can be reproduced at any number of times with accurate results. This software reduces the human errors.

**Table 4. Comparison of the software and Manual Results**

Angle	Result obtained from manual calculations	Result obtained from software
$\theta_1$	21.37	21.4
$\theta_2$	0	0
$\theta_3$	18.906	18.9
$\theta_4$	1.048	1.1
$\theta_5$	20.673	20.6
$\theta_6$	2.465	2.5
$\theta_7$	20.755	20.6

The technique of approximation is incorporated in the software which provides accurate results than the manual calculations.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The inverse kinematics given away in this paper is found to be simple and easily understandable compared to many similar research works done in the past. The complete procedure of Inverse Kinematics is presented, which is also incorporated in Visual Basic language to develop the user friendly GUI. The unique feature of this newly developed software is conferred to show its significance and application. The comprehensive algorithm gives the complete knowledge of the software. The results obtained from the manual calculation and the software are compared and found close at hand. The manual results may be prone to fatal mistakes, but the feature of approximation has made the software to produce more accurate results consistently.

The future proposal is to perform the dynamic and workspace analysis. After authenticating the results to be safe the robot is fabricated and implemented in nuclear waste management to reduce the trepidation on nuclear industry. With these types of new inspection robot nuclear power production seems to be a safer means of power generation.

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