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Design and Fabrication of an Automated gantry System with vision.

K. Simhadri[1], N. Dadi Babu[2], M. Swapna[3], M. Manoj Kumar[4], R. Vamsi[5], K. Surendra[6]

GMR Institue of Technology

ABSTRACT:

Robots are extensively used in industries for their precision work and amount of work that one can obtain without any defects. we are using a gantry robot for as it does not occupy the floor space therefore reducing the distance for reachability of the parts and hence reducing unnecessary material for guide way. Robots work in strictly defined path and there is no or very little change in such systems. In order to overcome this we are using a vision based control system to make the system dynamic in nature. The images are picked and place object into a bin by using a Vision(camera). The object is transmitted via serial communication to the Arduino Uno and processed using python opensource computer vision (Open CV) image to process the image captured by the USB camera. To find the exact colour and to pick the object and sort it.

Keywords: Automated Gantry System, Vision System, Motion Control, Object Detection, Robotic Vision, Computer Vision.

Introduction:

Robotic automation has grown in importance in industrial settings in recent years, greatly improving quality and cutting down on the amount of time needed to do jobs while requiring less human involvement. Previously, individual machines to carry out certain duties, but the quest for intelligent machines has resulted in impressive developments in robotics. The introduction highlights the need for strong functional algorithms to produce effective results, especially when it comes to precisely guiding robotic arms to pick up different objects and sort them into appropriate boxes. In a variety of industries, such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and automotive assembly, the technique presented efficiently replace human inspection and sorting procedures. In recent years, the integration of vision systems with automated robotic platforms has revolutionized various industries, particularly in manufacturing, material handling, and assembly lines. The combination of gantry systems and vision technology offers remarkable benefits in terms of precision, speed, and flexibility, enabling automated tasks that would otherwise require significant human intervention. This paper focuses on the design and fabrication of an automated gantry system integrated with vision capabilities, aiming to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of industrial operations. A gantry system is a type of robot that consists of a rigid structure capable of moving in three-dimensional space along predefined axes. These systems are widely used in applications such as material handling, assembly, packaging, and inspection. The gantry's ability to move heavy payloads with high precision makes it a cornerstone of modern automation in many industries, including aerospace, automotive, and electronics manufacturing. However, as automation technology continues to advance, there is an increasing need to equip gantry systems with the ability to perceive and interact with their environment. This is where vision systems come into play. Vision systems, often based on cameras and advanced image processing algorithms, enable robots to visually detect objects, perform quality control checks, and guide precise movements in real time. Vision-based control allows the gantry system to adapt dynamically to changes in the environment, such as variations in the position or orientation of objects, thereby improving the flexibility and versatility of automated processes. The design and fabrication of a vision-integrated automated gantry system involves several key challenges, including the selection of appropriate hardware (e.g., cameras, actuators, sensors), the development of reliable software for image processing and motion control, and the synchronization of these components for optimal performance. The gantry system must be carefully engineered to handle various payloads while maintaining high precision, while the vision system must be capable of capturing and processing visual data under diverse operating conditions. This paper presents a comprehensive study on the design and fabrication of such a system. The proposed system combines advanced motion control algorithms with real-time image processing to achieve high-precision, flexible, and efficient automated operations. The results of this study aim to contribute to the ongoing advancements in automated manufacturing systems by providing a scalable and adaptable solution for industries seeking to enhance their productivity and quality control. Through this work, we explore the potential of combining gantry robotics with vision systems, addressing the key challenges in the integration process and providing insights into the design considerations that lead to a functional and efficient system. The proposed system not only enhances the performance of automated tasks but also demonstrates how machine vision can be leveraged to push the boundaries of traditional robotic applications.

Methodology:

The development of an automated gantry system integrated with a vision system involves several stages, including design, fabrication, integration of the vision system, control algorithms, and extensive testing. This methodology outlines the key steps followed to create an efficient and reliable system capable of performing precision-based tasks in dynamic environments. The methodology is divided into five main phases: System Design and Requirements, Gantry System Fabrication, Vision System Integration, Control System Development, and Testing and Calibration.

1. System Design and Requirements

The initial phase of the project involves defining the requirements of the automated gantry system with vision. This process includes:

- Problem Definition: Identifying the specific tasks to be automated, such as object placement, assembly, material handling, or inspection. The vision system is incorporated to provide real-time feedback for handling dynamic workpieces, improving the flexibility of the gantry.
- System Specifications: The payload capacity, workspace dimensions, precision requirements, and operating environment are defined. The gantry system must handle varying weights and sizes of objects with high precision, and the vision system must provide clear object identification under different lighting conditions and angles.
- Hardware Selection: Based on the system's requirements, we select suitable hardware components such as motors, actuators, linear guides, cameras, and sensors. The gantry system typically uses a 3-axis or 6-axis configuration, depending on the complexity of the tasks. We also choose an appropriate camera for vision-based feedback, considering factors like resolution, frame rate, and field of view.

2. Gantry System Fabrication

Once the design is finalized, the fabrication phase begins. This phase includes constructing the physical structure and assembling the necessary components for movement and payload handling:

- Frame Design and Material Selection: The gantry frame is fabricated using materials such as aluminium or steel, ensuring robustness and stability to support the required payload. The frame design must also minimize vibrations to ensure high precision during operations.
- Movement Mechanism: Linear actuators or stepper motors are installed along the X, Y, and Z axes to enable precise movement. These actuators are chosen for their ability to deliver the necessary torque and speed while maintaining accuracy.
- Integration of Payload Handling Tools: End effectors, such as grippers, suction cups, or specialized tools, are attached to the gantry's end to interact with objects. These tools are selected based on the type of task, such as picking, placing, or inspecting parts.
- Assembly and Wiring: The motors, sensors, actuators, and cameras are assembled and wired to the control system. Ensuring proper wiring is essential for system reliability and safe operation.

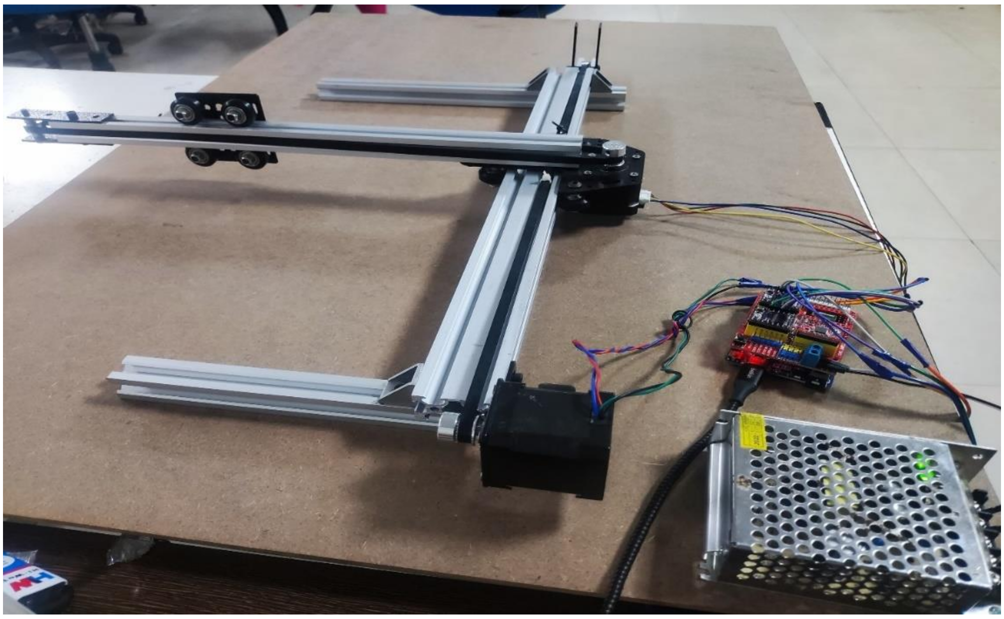

Fig 1: Automated gantry system with vision

3. Vision System Integration

The integration of the vision system is a crucial step in enabling the gantry system to perform tasks autonomously. This phase includes:

- Camera Placement: The camera(s) are mounted at strategic locations on or near the gantry to maximize the field of view and ensure proper coverage of the workspace. The camera's placement must be calibrated to align with the gantry's movement axes.
- Lighting Setup: Adequate lighting is critical for vision systems to capture clear and sharp images. LED lights, backlighting, or diffuse lighting techniques are used to eliminate shadows, reflections, and other visual disturbances that could affect object recognition.
- Image Processing: Software tools like OpenCV or proprietary algorithms are used to process the visual data captured by the camera. This involves preprocessing the images (e.g., noise reduction, thresholding) and applying techniques such as object detection, edge detection, or feature matching to identify objects and track their position in the workspace.

- Object Recognition and Localization: The vision system identifies objects in real time, determines their positions and orientations, and communicates this data to the control system. This data is crucial for the gantry to adjust its movement to interact with the objects accurately.

4. Control System Development

The control system acts as the brain of the gantry system, managing the motion of the robot based on real-time visual feedback. This phase includes:

- Motion Control Algorithms: The gantry's movement is controlled using inverse kinematics (IK) to translate the vision system's feedback into specific motor commands. IK algorithms calculate the required joint angles or movements for each axis of the gantry to reach the desired position or orientation.
- Vision Feedback Loop: The control system continuously receives feedback from the vision system to adjust the gantry's position. A closed-loop control (e.g., PID controller) is used to refine the movement in real time, minimizing errors in positioning and compensating for any discrepancies in object placement.
- Software Integration: A real-time operating system (RTOS) or embedded controller (e.g., Raspberry Pi, Arduino) is used to integrate the vision system and motion control algorithms. The software runs on the controller and coordinates the movement of motors, processing of images, and overall system operation.

5. Testing and Calibration

Once the system is assembled, extensive testing and calibration are performed to ensure that the gantry system with vision functions as intended. This phase includes:

- Initial Calibration: The camera is calibrated with respect to the gantry system's coordinate frame to ensure accurate object localization. This involves aligning the camera's field of view with the motion range of the gantry and ensuring that the positions detected by the vision system match the actual positions in the workspace.
- System Performance Testing: The system is tested under various conditions, such as different object types, weights, and orientations. The gantry's ability to pick, place, or manipulate objects with the required precision is evaluated.
- Error Compensation: During testing, any errors or deviations in object handling or positioning are analysed. Adjustments are made to the vision algorithms and motion control parameters to reduce errors and improve accuracy.
- Final Validation: The system undergoes a final validation process to verify its performance in real-world scenarios. This involves simulating operational tasks such as assembly, material handling, or inspection, and ensuring the system performs reliably.

CONCLUSION

The design and fabrication of an automated gantry system integrated with vision technology provide significant improvements in industrial automation. By combining precise motion control with real-time image processing, the system enhances flexibility, efficiency, and accuracy in material handling, assembly, and inspection tasks.

The successful integration of vision-based feedback allows for adaptive responses to dynamic environments, reducing human intervention while improving operational consistency. The implementation of advanced algorithms, such as inverse kinematics and PID control, ensures precise positioning and object manipulation.

Overall, this project demonstrates how machine vision can elevate traditional gantry systems, making them more intelligent and adaptable for modern manufacturing needs. Future work could focus on improving real-time processing speed, enhancing object recognition accuracy, and integrating AI-driven decision-making for more autonomous operations.

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