

# INTEGRATION OF THREE-AXIS ROBOT ARM AND THREE-AXIS FERROFLUID SEALS

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## ABSTRACT

AUTOMATION BECOMES AN INEVITABLE TREND FOR INDUSTRIES TO ACHIEVE HIGH PRODUCTIVITY AND HIGH PRECISION IN THEIR PRODUCTION LINES CURRENTLY. THE USE OF ROBOT ARM IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT MEAN OF TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO DESIGN AND TO IMPLEMENT A ROBOT ARM WHICH CAN BE USED IN THE SEMI-CONDUCTOR PROCESS. GENERALLY, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORKING ENVIROMENT OF THE SEMI-CONDUCTOR PROCESS ARE VERY STRICT, SUCH AS IN CLEAN ROOM OR IN A VOCUUM CHAMBER. THE ACTUATOR USED IN THE ROBOT ARM USUALLY CAUSE POLLUTION IN SEMI-CONDUCTOR MANUFACTURE. THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY USE FERROFLUID SEALS TO ISOLATE THE ACTUATORS FROM THE CLEAN ROOM OR THE VOCUUM CHAMBER. THEN, PULLEYS AND BELTS ARE USED TO DRIVE THE ROBOT ARM TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED MOTION. IN A PREVIOUS RESEARCH, THE SOLIDWORKS2000 IS USED AS A TOOL TO DESIGN AND TO DRAW THE ROBOT ARM AND FERROFLUID SEALS. MOREOVER, THE DESIGNED ROBOT ARM AND FERROFLUID SEALS ARE MANUFACTURED AND SETUP IN OUR LABORATORY. IN THIS STUDY, THE SOLIDWORKS2001 IS USED AS A TOOL IN DESIGN MODIFICATION AND MANUFACTUREING OF THE ROBOT ARM AND FERROFLUID SEALS. THE TRANSMISSION OF POWER OF THE ROBOT ARM IS DONE BY USING BELTS AND PULLEYS. THE SERVO MOTOR -S ARE USED TO CONTROL THE MOTION OF THE ROBOT ARM THROUGHT THE BELTS AND PULLEYS. ALSO, A COMPUTER PROGRAM USING VISUAL BASIC, INCLUDING THE SERVO MOTOR CONTROL AND PATH PLANNING OF ROBOT ARM, IS DEVELOPED. THUS, THE ROBOT ARM CAN PERFORM ITS MOTION AS DESCRIBED. A COM -PUTER IS USED TO CONTROL THE SERVO MOTORS AS WELL AS THE ROBOT ARM THROUGHT A COMPUTER IN -TERFACE. MOREOVER, WITH THE CONTROLLED MOTION OF THE X-Y TABLE, THE MOUNTED CCD AND THE A -SSOCIATED IMAGE ACQUISITION SOFTWARE CAN HELP US TO MEASURE THE POSITIONING ERROR. FINALLY ,THE ROBOT ARM MOVES AS DESIRED AND THE OBJECTIVE AND ORIENTATION OF THIS WORK IS ACHIEVED. THE RESULTS OF THIS WORK LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH, INCLUDING THE INTERG RATION OF THE ROBOT ARM AND TRI-AXIAL SHAFT SEAL USING MAGNETIC FLUID, THE OPTIMIMZATION O -F THE PATH CONTROL OF THE ROBOT ARM, THE FEEDBACK CONTROL OF THE ROBOT ARM, AND ETC. IN TWO SEPARATE SIDES (ONE IS VACUUM AND THE OTHER IS ATMOSPHERE),THE POWER TRANSMISSION USUALLY IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE AID OF ROTATIONAL OR LINEAR FERROFLUID SEALS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH PROJECT IS FOCUSED ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE SYSTEM WHICH CONSISTS OF A ROBOT ARM DRIVEN BY SHAFTS WITH THE FERROFLUID SEALS, X-Y TABLE, CCD AND THE ASSOCIATED IMAGE DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM.

Keywords : ROBOT ARM, FERROFLUID, MULTI-AXIS SEAL, VACUUM PROCESS, INTEGRATION

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