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# ANALYSIS OF HAMPDEN ROBOT ARM AND DESIGNING A THREE d.o.f PROTOTYPE ROBOT ARM

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MOHAMMAD FADZIL BIN MAHASSAN AZIZEE BIN ABDUL AZIZ

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Department of Electrical Engineering
School of Engineering
MARA Institute of Technology
40450 Shah Alam
Selangor Darul Ehsan
MALAYSIA

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Mohammad Fadzil bin Mahassan Azizee bin Abdul Aziz MARA Institute of Technology Shah Alam SELANGOR

#### **ABSTRACT**

# Analysis Of Hampden Robot Arm And

Designing A Three Degree of Freedom Prototype Robot Arm

by

Mohammad Fadzil bin Mahassan

Azizee bin Abdul Aziz

This thesis is to analyse the six axes robot arm manufactured by Hampden Inc. in the Instrumentation Laboratory, as it is not functioning according to specifications. From the analysis, two main problems have been identified. The check valve for the pneumatic system is blocked. Hence there is no output air pressure at the outlet. The stepper motor for gripper motion causes a voltage drop that effects all the devices and components that use the 12 V supply such that they cannot operates. Constructing a three degree of freedom (d.o.f) prototype robot arm starts from the analysis of mechanical parts. After that, the interface circuit, logic circuit and driver circuit have been designed to enable it to control the robot arm using the computer via computer programming.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The term robot originated from the Czech word robota, which means work. Webster's New World Dictionary, 1988, defines robotics as 'the science of robotology' and robotology is defined as 'the means by which robot machines are put together and made to work'.

The Robot Institute of America defines a robot as 'a reprogrammable, multifunctional manipulator designed to move materials, parts, tools, or specialised devices, through variable programmed motions, for the performance of a variety of task' (Beni, G. and Hackwood, S., 1985). However, this definition does not exclude human beings. With this definition, a robot must posses intelligent, which is normally due to computer algorithms associated with its control and sensing systems.

Today, robot is a general-purpose, computer controlled manipulator consisting of several rigid links connected by articulated or prismatic joints. One end of the chain is attached to the base and the other end is free to manipulate objects or perform assembly tasks.

Mechanically, a robot consists of an arm and a wrist. It is designed to reach the workpiece located in the work envelope. The arm assembly generally has three degree of freedom (d.o.f). The combination of the movements positions the wrist at the work envelope. The wrist will provide other degree of freedom, depending on the applications.

The six degree of freedom robot contains of three joints at the arm and another three joint at the wrist. Hence, the arm assembly is the positioning mechanism, while the wrist is the orientation mechanism.