

# Development of a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor for stable grasping of an unknown object

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## ABSTRACT

This paper describes the development of a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor, which measures forces  $F_x$  (x-direction force),  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and moments  $M_x$  (x-direction moment),  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  simultaneously, for stable grasping of an unknown object. In order to safely grasp an unknown object using the robot's gripper, the force in the gripping direction and the force in the gravity direction should be measured, and the force control should be performed using the measured forces. Also, the moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  to accurately perceive the position of the object in the grippers should be detected. Thus, the robot's gripper should be composed of 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor that can measure forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  simultaneously. In this paper, the 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor for measuring forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  simultaneously was newly modeled using several parallel-plate beams, designed, and fabricated. The characteristic test of the fabricated sensor was performed, and the result shows that interference errors of the developed sensor are less than 3%. Also, Robot's gripper with the 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor for the characteristic test of force control was manufactured, and the characteristic test for grasping an unknown object using the sensors was performed using it. The fabricated gripper could grasp an unknown object stably. Thus, the developed 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor can be used for robot's gripper.

**Key Words** : Robot's gripper, 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor, Parallel-plate beam, Rated strain, Interference error

## 1. Introduction

Grippers for intelligent robots have been widely studied recently. Ceccarelli<sup>1</sup> made a robot's finger with a force sensor that can only detect the force in the grasping direction, and equipped it with position and force controls for gripping an unknown object. Castro<sup>2</sup> manufactured a jaw gripper with a  $F_x$  force sensor and carried out force control using it. Tlale<sup>3</sup> fabricated an intelligent gripper with a contact sensor and a circuit for controlling it. Carlos<sup>4</sup> fabricated a 3-finger gripper with a vision system. And, Obrien<sup>5</sup> manufactured a gripper that

can only measure the force in the grasping direction.

The above grippers can't stably grasp an unknown object and also accurately perceive the position of the object in the grippers, because they can't detect the forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and the moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$ , simultaneously. To safely grasp an unknown object, an intelligent robot's gripper needs to detect the forces in the gripping direction and in the gravitational direction, and it also needs to detect the moments to accurately perceive the position of the object in the grippers. Thus, the robot's gripper should be composed of a 6-axis force/moment sensor which can detect the forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$ , simultaneously.

To accurately measure forces and moments, a 6-axis force/moment sensor should have an interference error

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about 3 % ~ 15 %. The precision accuracy of the 6-axis force/moment sensor can be estimated by nonlinearity, repeatability and interference error. However, as the interference error is tens or hundreds times larger than the other errors, the precision accuracy is usually estimated by the interference error.<sup>6-9</sup>

In this paper, a 6-axis force/moment sensor of an intelligent robot's gripper for safe grasping of an unknown object and accurate perception of the position of the object in the grippers is developed. The structure of the 6-axis force/moment sensor having each sensor with the same or the different capacity is newly modeled using PPBs (parallel-plate beams). The equations for designing the sensing element of each sensor are derived. As a sample, the 6-axis force/moment sensor which can detect the forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$  (maximum capacity of each is 50 N) and moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  (maximum capacity of each is 5 Nm) simultaneously is designed using the derived equations, and fabricated with strain gages. Finally, a characteristic test of the manufactured 6-axis force/moment sensor is performed, and the response characteristic test of PI (proportional and integral) force control for the intelligent robot's gripper system is evaluated.

## 2. Design of sensor

### 2.1 Modeling of the sensor

Fig. 1 shows the structure of newly modeled the 6-axis force/moment sensor which can detect the forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and the moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  for the intelligent robot's gripper system. The sensing elements of the 6-axis force/moment sensor are made by fixing E block part of two sensors with screws. One is a 5-axis force/moment sensor, which is composed of the  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$  sensors and the  $M_x$  and  $M_y$  sensor, the other is the  $M_z$  sensor. Blocks A and B, and C and D are fixed to the frame of gripper with screws used to make the gripper.

The sensing elements of the  $F_x$  sensor and the  $M_y$  sensor are PPB (parallel-plate beams) 1 and 2, those of the  $F_y$  sensor and the  $M_x$  sensor are PPB 3 and 4, that of the  $F_z$  sensor is PPB 5, and those of the  $M_z$  sensor are PPB 6 and 7. PPB 1, 2, 3 and 4 are composed of two plate beams with width  $b_1$ , heights  $t_1$  and  $t_1'$ , length  $l_1$ , and the distance of the central line to the end of the

beams  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$  and  $d_4$ , respectively. PPB 5 has width  $b_2$ , height  $t_2$ , length  $l_2$ , and distance  $d_5$ ,  $d_6$ , and PPB 6 and 7 have  $b_3$ ,  $t_3$ ,  $l_3$ ,  $d_7$  and  $d_8$ , respectively.

As shown in Fig. 1, the PPB 1~7 are symmetric about the x-axis, y-axis and z-axis. The forces and the moments are applied to the plate beams through the lower load-transmitting block A and B that are located in the lower part, and the upper load-transmitting blocks C and D that are located in the upper part of the 6-axis force/moment sensor.

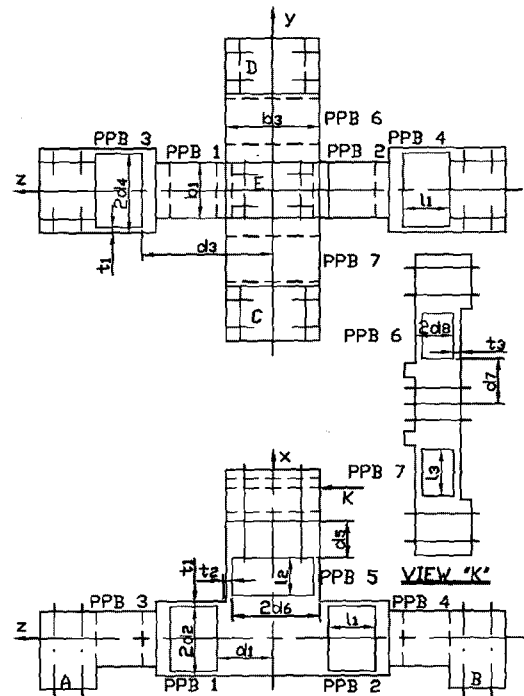


Fig. 1 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor

### 2.2 Theoretical analysis

#### 2.2.1 Under the applied force $F_x$ or $F_y$

Fig. 2 shows the free body diagram of the plate beams for the  $F_x$  sensor or the  $F_y$  sensor under the force  $F_x$  or  $F_y$ . PPB 1 and 2 are symmetric about the vertical axis (x-axis) and the horizontal axis (z-axis); the plate beam 3 and beam 4 are symmetric about the horizontal axis. Thus, the equations for analyzing the strains are derived on the upper and the lower surfaces of the plate beam 1, and these may be applied to the plate beam 2, 3 and 4. The equations under the force  $F_x$  may be applied to PPB 3 and 4 for the  $F_y$  sensor, because

PPB 1, 2 and 3, 4 have the same structure.

When the force  $F_x$  is applied to the block between PPB 1 and 2, the force  $F_{Fxx}$  applied to plate beam 1 along the x-direction at point  $z=0$  is derived, and the moment  $M_{Fxy}$  applied to plate beam 1 along the y-direction at point  $O$  is derived using the moment equilibrium condition  $\sum M_o = 0$ . The moment  $M_{oz}$  at arbitrary point  $z$  can be derived using the force  $F_{Fxx}$  and the moment  $M_{Fxy}$ , and is<sup>9,10</sup>

$$M_{oz} = \frac{F_x}{4} \left( z - \frac{l_1}{2} \right) \quad (1)$$

The equations for analyzing the rated strains on the surfaces of the plate beam 1 are derived by substituting equation (1) into the bending equation  $\varepsilon = M_{oz}/EZ_{1P}$ , which can be written as follows.

$$\varepsilon_{Fx-U} = \frac{F_x}{4EZ_{1P}} \left( z - \frac{l_1}{2} \right) \quad (2-a)$$

$$\varepsilon_{Fx-L} = \frac{F_x}{4EZ_{1P}} \left( \frac{l_1}{2} - z \right) \quad (2-b)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{Fx-U}$  is the strain produced on the upper surface of each plate beam 1, and  $\varepsilon_{Fx-L}$  is the strain produced on the lower surface of each plate beam 1.

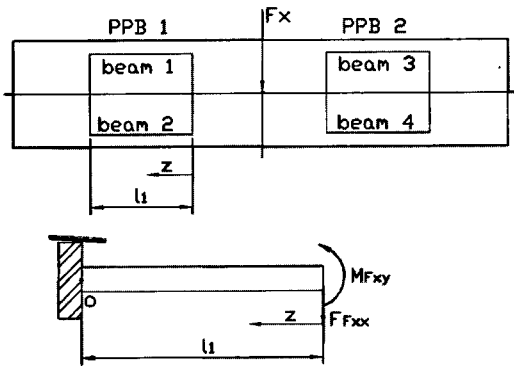


Fig. 2 Free body diagram of plate beams for a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor under the forces  $F_x$  (or  $F_y$ )

### 2.2.2 Under the applied force $F_z$

Fig. 3 shows the free body diagram of the plate beams for the  $F_z$  sensor under the force  $F_z$ . PPB 5

comprises of the plate beams 5 and 6, and they are symmetric about the horizontal axis (y-axis) and are the same size. Thus, the equations for analyzing the strains are derived on the upper and the lower surfaces of the plate beam 5, and these may be applied to the plate beam 6.

When the force  $F_z$  is applied to the block end  $O_2$ , the force  $F_{Fzz}$  applied to plate beam 5 along the z-direction and the moment  $M_{Fzy}$  applied to plate beam 5 along the y-direction are derived, and the equations of the force equilibrium condition  $\sum F_z = 0$  and the moment equilibrium condition  $\sum M_o = 0$  are derived. The rotational angle  $\phi$  and the vertical displacement  $v$  can be derived using the derived equations, and which leads to.<sup>9,10</sup>

$$\phi = \frac{(2d_4 + l_2)F_z}{\frac{48EI_2}{l_2^2} \left( \frac{3}{2}d_4 + \frac{2}{3}l_2 \right) + \frac{4A_2Ed_5^2}{l_2}} \quad (3)$$

$$v = \frac{F_z - \frac{24EI_2}{l_2^2} \left( d_4 + \frac{l_2}{2} \right) \phi}{\frac{24EI_2}{l_2^2}} \quad (4)$$

where  $I_2$  is the moment inertia of the area of plate beam 2, and  $A_2$  is the area of plate beam 2.

The moment  $M_{ox}$  at arbitrary point  $x$  on the plate beam 5 can be written

$$M_{ox} = F_{Fzz}x - M_{Fzy} = \frac{12EI_2x}{l_2^3} \left[ v + \left( d_4 + \frac{l_2}{2} \right) \phi \right] - \frac{12EI_2}{l_2^2} \left[ \frac{v}{2} + \left( \frac{d_4}{2} + \frac{l_2}{3} \right) \phi \right] \quad (5)$$

where  $v$  is the vertical displacement.

The equations for analyzing the rated strains on the surfaces of the plate beam 5 are derived using the bending equation  $\varepsilon = M_{ox}/EZ_{2P}$ , and the tension and compression strain equations  $\varepsilon = F/A_2E$ , which can be written as

$$\varepsilon_{Fz-U} = \frac{6t_2x}{l_2^3} \left( v + \left( d_4 + \frac{l_2}{2} \right) \phi \right) - \frac{6t_2}{l_2^2} \left( \frac{v}{2} + \left( \frac{d_4}{2} + \frac{l_2}{3} \right) \phi \right) + \frac{d_5\phi}{l_2} \quad (6-a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{Fz-L} = & -\frac{6t_2x}{l_2^3}(v+(d_4+\frac{l_2}{2})\phi) \\ & +\frac{6t_2}{l_2^2}(\frac{v}{2}+(\frac{d_4}{2}+\frac{l_2}{3})\phi)-\frac{d_5\phi}{l_2} \end{aligned} \quad (6-b)$$

where  $Z_{2p}$  is the polar moment of inertia of of plate beam 2,  $\varepsilon_{Fz-U}$  is the strains produced on the upper surface of each plate beam 5, and  $\varepsilon_{Fz-L}$  is the strains produced on the lower surface of each plate beam 5.

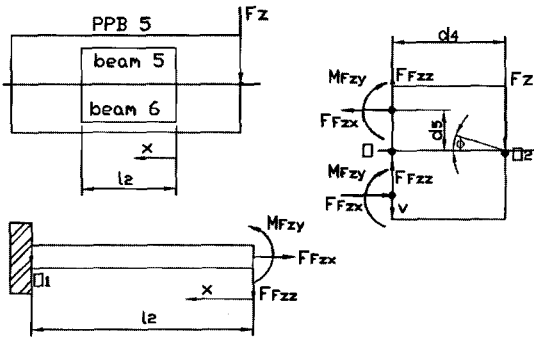


Fig. 3 Free body diagram of plate beams for a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor under the force  $F_z$

### 2.2.3 Under the applied moment $M_x$ or $M_y$ or $M_z$

Fig. 4 shows the free body diagram of the plate beams for the  $M_x$  sensor, the  $M_y$  sensor or the  $M_z$  sensor under the moment  $M_x$  or  $M_y$  or  $M_z$ . PPB 3 and 4 are symmetric about the vertical axis (y-axis), and the plate beams 7 and 8 are symmetric about the horizontal axis (z-axis), and also the plate beams 9 and 10 are symmetric about the horizontal axis (z-axis). Thus, the equations for analyzing the strains are derived on the upper and the lower surfaces of the plate beam 7, and these may be applied to the plate beams 8, 9 and 10. The equations under the moment  $M_x$  may be applied to PPB 1 and 2 for the  $M_y$  sensor and PPB 6 and 7 for the  $M_z$  sensor because these PPBs are same in the structure.

When the moment  $M_x$  is applied to the block center point  $P$ , the force  $F_{Mxz}$  applied to plate beam 7 along the z-direction, the force  $F_{Mxy}$  applied to the plate beam 7 along the y-direction, and the moment  $M_{Mxx}$  applied to the plate beam 7 along the x-direction are derived using the vertical displacement  $v$  and the rotational

angle  $\theta$  at the end point  $z=0$  of the plate beam 7. Substituting these equations into the derived equation of the moment equilibrium condition  $\sum M_p=0$ , the rotational angle  $\theta$  at the center point  $P$  of the block between PPB 3 and 4 can be represented by the following equation.<sup>[9,10]</sup>

$$\theta = \frac{M_x/4}{\frac{12EI_1}{l_1^2}(d_1+\frac{l_1}{3}+\frac{d_1^2}{l_1})+\frac{A_1Ed_2^2}{l_1}} \quad (7)$$

The equations for analyzing the rated strains on the surfaces of the plate beam 7 are derived using the bending equation  $\varepsilon = M/EZ_{1p}$ , and the tension and compression strain equations  $\varepsilon = F/A_1E$ , which can be written as

$$\varepsilon_{Mx-U} = \left[ \frac{6h}{l_1^3} \left( \frac{d_1l_1}{2} + \frac{l_1^2}{3} - (d_1 + \frac{l_1}{2})x \right) + \frac{d_2}{l_1} \right] \theta \quad (8-a)$$

$$\varepsilon_{Mx-L} = - \left[ \frac{6h}{l_1^3} \left( \frac{d_1l_1}{2} + \frac{l_1^2}{3} - (d_1 + \frac{l_1}{2})x \right) + \frac{d_2}{l_1} \right] \theta \quad (8-b)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{Mx-U}$  is the strains produced on the upper surface of each plate beam 7, and  $\varepsilon_{Mx-L}$  is the strains produced on the lower surface of each plate beam 7.

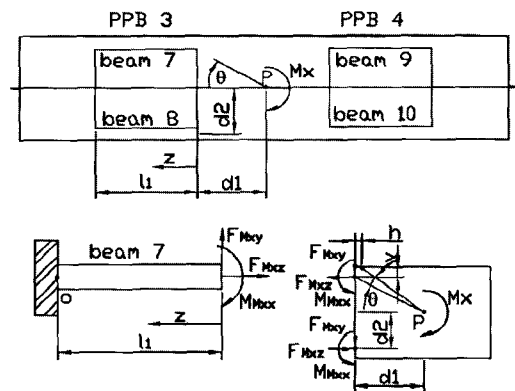


Fig. 4 Free body diagram of plate beams for a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor under the moments  $M_x$  (or  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$ )

### 2.3 Design of the sensing elements of each sensor

The sensing elements (PPBs) of each sensor in the 6-axis force/moment sensor are designed to have low

interference error. The design variables of each sensor are the rated capacity, the rated strain, the width, the length, the height of the plate beams, the distances from the central line to the end of the beam, and the location of strain gages considering the size of the strain gage.<sup>6-10</sup> The variables for designing the 6-axis force/moment sensor are determined as follows:

- (1) The rated capacities of the  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$  sensors are determined to be 50 N respectively, and those of the  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  sensors are 5 Nm respectively taking into consideration of the grasping force of the intelligent robot.
- (2) The rated strains of each sensor are determined to be about 1000  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$  (about 0.5 mV/V) taking into consideration the same rated outputs and sensitivities in each sensor.
- (3) The attachment locations of strain gages for all sensors are determined to be 1.5 mm from the end of the plate beams in the length direction, and the center of the plate beams in the width direction taking into consideration of the size of the strain gages used ( $1.52 \times 2.54 \text{ mm}^2$ ).

The sizes of the sensing elements were calculated by substituting the determined variables into equations (2-a), (2-b), (6-a), (6-b), (8-a) and (8-b).

The sizes of the sensing elements in the rated capacities of  $F_x = F_y = F_z = 50 \text{ N}$ ,  $M_x = M_y = M_z = 5 \text{ Nm}$  are as follows; the widths  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$  and  $b_3$  are 12 mm, 12 mm and 20 mm, the lengths  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$  and  $l_3$  are 10 mm, 8 mm and 10 mm, the heights (thickness)  $t_1$ ,  $t_1'$ ,  $t_2$  and  $t_3$  are 1.1 mm, 1.1 mm, 1.3 mm and 1.2 mm, the distances  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$ ,  $d_4$ ,  $d_5$ ,  $d_6$ ,  $d_7$  and  $d_8$  are 12 mm, 7.7 mm, 28mm, 8.6 mm, 10 mm, 10 mm, 10 mm and 4.8 mm respectively.

### 3. Strain analysis and Sensor manufacture

Fig. 5 shows the attachment locations of the strain gages for the 6-axis force/moment sensor. The attachment locations of strain gages for each sensor are as follows; the  $F_x$  sensor is S1, S2, S3 and S4, the  $F_y$  sensor is S5, S6, S7 and S8, the  $F_z$  sensor is S9, S10, S11, and S12, the  $M_x$  sensor is S13, S14, S15 and S16, the  $M_y$  sensor is S17, S18, S19 and S20, and the  $M_z$  sensor is S21, S22, S23 and S24.

The full bridge circuit for each sensor is constructed

using the selected strain gages for each sensor as shown in Fig. 6. The rated strain and the interference strain are calculated using equation (9).

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{T1} - \varepsilon_{C1} + \varepsilon_{T2} - \varepsilon_{C2} \tag{9}$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is the rated strain or the interference error,  $\varepsilon_{T1}$  is the strain from the tension strain gage  $T_1$ .  $\varepsilon_{T2}$  is the strain from the tension strain gage  $T_2$ .  $\varepsilon_{C1}$  is the strain from the compression strain gage  $C_1$ .  $\varepsilon_{C2}$  is the strain from the compression strain gage  $C_2$ .

Table 1 shows the rated strains and the interference errors of each sensor. The rated strain of the  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $M_z$  sensors is 1032  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$  in the theoretical analysis, that of the  $F_z$  sensor is 1056  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ , for the  $M_x$  and  $M_y$  sensors are 1040  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ ; the interference error of each sensor is 0  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ . Each sensor has a rated strain of more than 1000  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ , because the length and width of the sensing element are 1 mm units, and the thickness is 0.1 mm units. Each sensor has an interference error of 0  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ , because the attachment locations of strain gages are determined taking into consideration of the full bridge circuit, and the center of strain gage and the center of plate beam coincide. The strain gages (N2A-13-T001N-350) were attached to the selected attachment locations using a bond (M-bond 200) made by Micro-Measurement Company. The full bridge circuit for each sensor as shown in Fig. 6 was constructed using the strain gages.

Table 1 Rated strain and interference error of each sensor

		Rated strain and interference error ( $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ )					
Sensor		$F_x$	$F_y$	$F_z$	$M_x$	$M_y$	$M_z$
F/M							
$F_x = 50 \text{ N}$		1032	0	0	0	0	0
$F_y = 50 \text{ N}$		0	1032	0	0	0	0
$F_z = 50 \text{ N}$		0	0	1056	0	0	0
$M_x = 5 \text{ Nm}$		0	0	0	1040	0	0
$M_y = 5 \text{ Nm}$		0	0	0	0	1040	0
$M_z = 5 \text{ Nm}$		0	0	0	0	0	1032

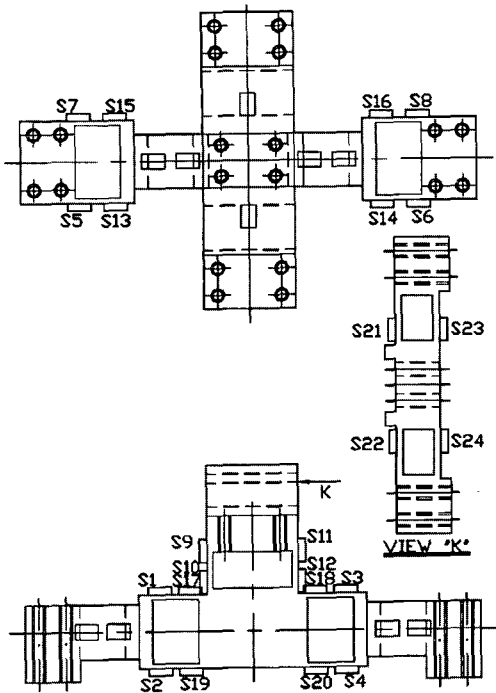


Fig. 5 Locations of strain gages

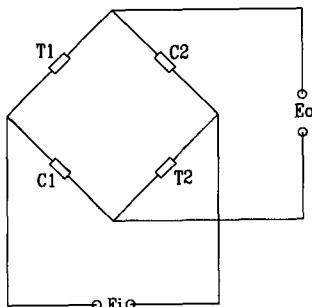


Fig. 6 Full bridge circuit

#### 4. Result and consideration

Fig. 7 shows the experimental set up for the characteristic test of 6-axis force/moment sensor. It is composed of an arm, a weight, a body, a digital multi-meter (ADCANTEST, R6552), a power supply (UNICORN, UP-100DT). The manufactured 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor carried out the characteristic test using the experimental set up to evaluate its rated strains and interference errors. Each sensor was tested three times by using the experimental set up, and the output values from each sensor were

averaged. In order to compare the rated strain in theory and the rated output in the characteristic test, the unit of the rated strain in theory ( $\mu m / m$ ) should be changed into the unit of the rated output in characteristic test ( $mV / V$ ); the equation for this is as follows,

$$\frac{E_o}{E_i} = \frac{1}{4} K \epsilon \quad (10)$$

where  $E_i$  is the input voltage (V) of the full bridge circuit,  $E_o$  is the output voltage (V) of the full bridge circuit,  $K$  is the factor of strain gage (the used factor of strain gage is 2.03), and  $\epsilon$  is the rated strain gage of each sensor ( $\mu m / m$ ).

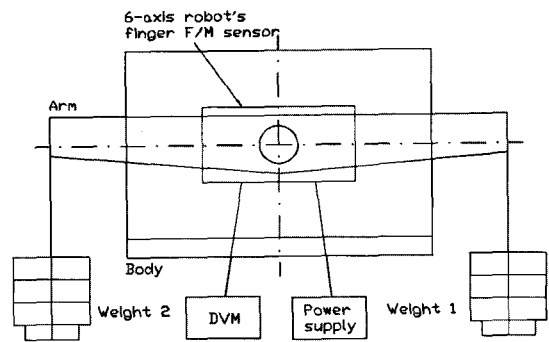


Fig. 7 Experimental set up for sensor for a characteristic test of 6-axis force/moment sensor

The rated strains ( $\mu m / m$ ) in the theoretical analysis are changed into the rated output ( $mV / V$ ) using the equation (10). Table 2 shows the rated outputs of each sensor from the theoretical analysis and the characteristic test. The maximum error of the rated strain from theoretical analysis compared with that from the characteristic test was less than 6.0 %. The error may be generated due to the processing error of the sensing element, the error of the characteristic test, the attachment error of the strain gage, and so on. Table 3 shows the interference errors from the characteristic test. The maximum interference error of the fabricated 6-axis force/moment sensor was below 2.79 %, and it is similar or less than that of the 6-axis force/moment sensor<sup>1-10</sup>. Fig. 8 shows a photograph of the developed 6-axis force/moment sensor.

Table 2 Rated strain in theory and characteristic test

Sensor	Analysis	Rated strain (mV/V)	Error(%)
$F_x$ sensor	Theory	0.5237	6.0
	Test	0.4925	
$F_y$ sensor	Theory	0.5237	4.5
	Test	0.5001	
$F_z$ sensor	Theory	0.5396	4.0
	Test	0.5611	
$M_x$ sensor	Theory	0.5278	3.3
	Test	0.5102	
$M_y$ sensor	Theory	0.5278	3.4
	Test	0.5097	
$M_z$ sensor	Theory	0.5237	4.6
	Test	0.4998	

Table 3 Interference errors in characteristic test

Sensor F/M	Rated strain ( $\mu m / m$ ) and Interference error (%)					
	$F_x$	$F_y$	$F_z$	$M_x$	$M_y$	$M_z$
$F_x = 50$ N	-	-0.44	0.63	-0.05	-1.12	0.61
$F_y = 50$ N	-0.77	-	-1.51	-2.12	-0.64	2.50
$F_z = 50$ N	0.10	0.90	-	-0.46	1.84	0.74
$M_x = 5$ Nm	-0.04	1.51	1.11	-	1.03	0.74
$M_y = 5$ Nm	-0.70	-0.22	-0.48	1.76	-	1.73
$M_z = 5$ Nm	-0.14	-2.45	2.20	-2.67	-2.79	-

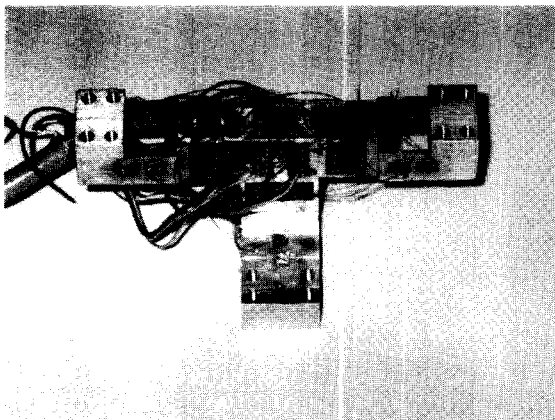
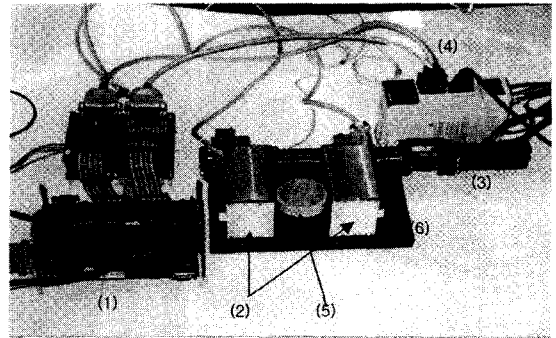


Fig. 8 Fabricated 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor



(1) Gripper controller, (2) Gripper(6-axis F/M sensor)  
(3) Motor, (4) Motor driver, (5) Unknown object, (6) Body

Fig. 9 Robot's gripper with 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor

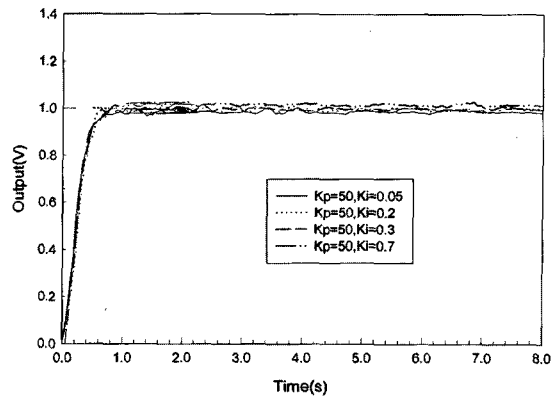


Fig. 10 Response of gripper with 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor

Fig. 9 shows the photograph of the developed gripper system. The gripper system comprises of a body, a gripper controller, a gripper 1 (6-axis force/moment sensor 1), a gripper 2 (6-axis force/moment sensor 2), a motor, a motor driver, a proximity sensor, a noise filter, and so on. The body consists of a screw, a fixture plate of gripper 1 and gripper 2, a flexible coupling, a base plate, and so on. The gripper 1 is fixed on the fixture plate of gripper 1, and the gripper 2 is fixed on the fixture plate of gripper 2.

The response characteristic test of PI force control of the developed gripper system was carried out to get the proportional gain  $K_p$  and the integral gain  $K_i$ .  $K_p$  with values ranging from 40 to 90 with 10 units was determined,  $K_i$  of 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3 and 0.5 was determined, and the sampling time was 0.05 s. As a result, the rising time is 0.4 s when  $K_p$  is 50. It is estimated

that PI force control is the best for grasping an object in the developed gripper system. Therefore, in this paper, the graph of the result is only shown.

Fig. 10 shows the response characteristic of PI force control of the developed gripper with 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor. The rising time is 0.4 s in  $K_i$  of 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3 and 0.5. The steady state deviations were calculated by the difference of the reference value and the output value. Each deviation was 0.012 V, 0.005 V, 0.003 V and -0.016 V when  $K_i$  are 0.05, 0.5, 0.3 and 0.5 respectively. The steady state errors, which were calculated by the fluctuation of the average outputs are  $\pm 0.010$  V,  $\pm 0.006$  V,  $\pm 0.005$  V and  $\pm 0.005$  V when  $K_i$ s are 0.05, 0.2, 0.3 and 0.5 respectively. It is observed that the errors are developed from a control algorithm, a noise developed from motor and motor driver, and so on. As a result, it is estimated that the best response characteristic of the system is when  $K_p$  is 50 and  $K_i$  is 0.2.

## 5. Conclusion

This paper describes the development of a 6-axis robot's finger force/moment sensor, which detects forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ , and moments  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  simultaneously, for stable grasping of an unknown object.

As the results of the characteristic test of the fabricated 6-axis force/moment sensor, the maximum error of the rated strain and the maximum interference error were below 6.0 % and 2.79 % respectively. Thus, the derived equations (2-a), (2-b), (6-a), (6-b), (8-a) and (8-b) may be used for calculating the rated strains (designing the structure) of the modeled 6-axis force/moment sensor. It is observed that the fabricated 6-axis force/moment sensor can be used in an intelligent robot's gripper for stable grasping of an unknown object.

In the future, research on perceiving the position of the object in the grippers will be performed with a new testing system.

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