

Trajectory planning of parallel pouring mechanism for pouring robot

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24 **Abstract:** Aiming at the problem of singular area in the working space when designing the parallel casting mechanism of the
25 pouring robot, and the sensitivity of the pouring liquid to the acceleration of the ladle, this paper proposes the genetic fusion
26 algorithm of particle swarm optimization (GA-IPSO) with angle and distance observer to find the optimal control point. The
27 numerical analysis shows that it is feasible to change the tilting angle of the ladle to make the ladle traverse the singular regions
28 safely. According to the simplified method of single pendulum, the sloshing model of pouring liquid is established, and the
29 segmented acceleration planning method considering the sloshing of the pouring liquid is proposed in combination with the
30 characteristics of high-speed cam motion. Numerical and experimental studies show that the segmented acceleration planning method
31 can make the parallel pouring mechanism reach the set position in the shortest time while moving along the planned trajectory, and
32 ensure that the sloshing range of the pouring liquid is within the safe range.

33 **Keywords:** parallel mechanism, pouring robot, singularity, GA-IPSO, Sloshing of pouring liquid.

34

35 **INTRODUCE**

36 Pouring is the process of pouring the molten metal with high temperature from the ladle into the mould cavity. There are dust,
37 vibration, noise and other harsh operating environment because of its direct operation to molten metal molten liquid, which threatens to
38 the safety of the personal security of workers, thus, various accidents are also common. In order to solve such problems, related
39 scholars have carried out a lot of researches on the pouring robot, various types of automatic pouring equipments have been
40 developed for the pouring process^{1,2}. The parallel pouring mechanism of the designed new hybrid truss type pouring robot is studied
41 in this paper³, mainly for trajectory planning and acceleration planning.

42 At present, the research of robot trajectory optimization is mostly concentrated on the series robot^{4,5,6}, there are few research on
43 the trajectory planning of parallel mechanism, and most of them focus on several typical parallel platforms, such as DELTA, Stewart.
44 SHEN et al. have designed an algorithm to select excellent path points and constructed continuous trajectory paths⁷. Abdellatif et al.
45 put forward an adaptive algorithm to get the shortest path of 6-DOF manipulator. Experimental results show that the algorithm can
46 give the required speed and the corresponding driving force effectively⁸. Pugazhenthil et al. proposes an algorithm for the Stewart

47 platform which can maximize the structure stiffness and guarantee the workspace and singular constraints of the mechanism⁹. Sen et
48 al. uses the variational method to give the parallel mechanism no singular path and to ensure that the actuator is within the specified
49 length range¹⁰. Afroum et al. parameterizes the motion coordinates in the workspace of a 3 DOF DELTA parallel robot, and uses a
50 continuous two programming method to optimize the trajectory of the target position¹¹.

51 As early as 1996, Terashima et al.¹² studied the sloshing of ladle. The distribution parameter method of fluid was applied to the
52 SOLA-MAC numerical simulation to describe the pouring process of the liquid. The result was used to guide the structure design of
53 ladle to better suppress the sloshing of the pouring liquid; Then a simplified pendulum model¹³ was proposed to make the design of
54 the pouring sloshing control system easier. M. Hamaguchi¹⁴ et al. studied the sloshing suppression of curve motion. H. Yamagata and
55 S. Kaneko et al.¹⁵ gave an optimized driving model to enable the residual sloshing of the fluid to be better suppressed after rapid
56 movement. Ken'Ichi Yano et al.¹⁶ use H^∞ model to suppress the residual vibration of the ladle, and add a rotating controller to the
57 active suppression of the sloshing of the liquid in the motion, and a good effect has been obtained.

58 The research mentioned above only aims at the research on the non singularity, stiffness, driving force and working time of
59 several typical parallel mechanisms, and the translation motion is considered more, while few studies have been made on the
60 coupling motion of rotation and translation. For the parallel pouring mechanism designed in this paper, due to the structural and
61 singular characteristics of the parallel pouring mechanism, there is a coupling relationship between rotation and translation. Previous
62 studies have shown less research on global acceleration time-varying sloshing suppression, and active suppression will increase the
63 complexity of pouring systems. Therefore, this paper proposes a fusion path optimization algorithm, which gives the shortest path of
64 any two points in the working space of the parallel pouring mechanism, and sets the angle observer and the safe distance observer to
65 cross the singular regions by changing the pouring angle. After that, the distribution scheme of acceleration and angular acceleration
66 is given based on the sloshing model of pouring liquid and the motion model of high speed cam, and the shortest operation time in
67 the safe acceleration range is obtained.

68
69 **1 STRUCTURE OF MOBILE HEAVY LOAD POURING ROBOT**

70 1.1 The structure of the casting robot

71 (Location of Fig.1)

72 As shown in Fig.1, a hybrid truss type mobile heavy load pouring robot is proposed^{3,17}. Because the ladle rotates around a
73 certain axis during the pouring process. and in order to adapt to the complex pouring environment, it is hoped that the ladle will not
74 shake in other directions. Therefore, the parallel unit is designed to be a 4-DOF parallel mechanism with 1-axis rotation and 3-axis
75 translation. Based on the analysis of 3-UPU parallel mechanism (3-DOF), a new type of 4-UPU parallel mechanism is proposed to
76 meet the requirements of the pouring operation.

77 1.2 Description of parallel pouring mechanism

78 As shown in Fig.2, the parallel manipulator of the heavy load pouring robot can be simplified as 4-UPU (U on behalf of a
79 universal joint, P on behalf of a shifting pair) parallel mechanism. The upper platform is a fixed platform, installed in the heavy
80 pouring robot beam, and the lower platform is a motion platform, which is connected with the ladle. The 4 branches are UPU
81 structural kinematic chains. At the time of initial assembly, the plane $ABab$ formed by the chain 1 and 2 and the upper and lower
82 platforms is vertical to the fixed platform $ABCD$, and the angle between the moving platform $abcd$ and the plane $ABab$ is γ . The plane
83 $CDdc$ formed by the chain 3 and 4 and the upper and lower platforms, the angle between the fixed platform $ABCD$ and the plane
84 $CDdc$ is Ψ , the angle between the moving platform $ABCD$ and the plane $CDdc$ is ψ . The fixed coordinate system $O-XYZ$ located at
85 the midpoint AB edge, Z axis is perpendicular to the fixed platform, Y axis coincides with AB edge, Point C is on the extension of the
86 X axis, the moving coordinate system $o-xyz$ is located at the midpoint ab edge, z axis is perpendicular to the moving platform, y axis
87 coincides with ab edge, Point c is on the extension of the x axis, the y axis is parallel to the Y axis. ob length is m , oc length is f , dc
88 length is g , OB length is M , OC length is N , DC length is K . Aa , Bb , Cc and Dd are d_1 , d_2 , d_3 and d_4 respectively.

89 (Location of Fig.2)

90 The U pair consists of R pairs (R stands for the rotating pair) whose two axes are perpendicular to each other, and the kinematic
91 chain UPU is equivalent to the combination of the RRPRR joints. The axes of each chain kinematic pair are successively represented
92 as S_{i1} , S_{i2} , S_{i3} , S_{i4} , S_{i5} , ($i=1, 2, 3, 4$, for the simple diagram, only the axis of the chain 1 is marked). S_{i1} is consistent with the direction

93 of y axis, S_{i5} consistent with the direction of the Y axis, the angle between S_{i3} and S_{i4} is Θ_i , $S_{i1} \perp S_{i2}$, $S_{i4} \perp S_{i5}$, $S_{12} // S_{22}$, $S_{32} // S_{42}$.

94

95 2 SINGULARITY ANALYSIS OF A NEW 4-UPU PARALLEL POURING MECHANISM

96 The new 4-UPU parallel pouring mechanism is composed of multiple closed chains, and the geometric constraint equation can
97 be expressed by vector loop relation.

$$98 \quad \mathbf{Oo} + {}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{S}_{i5} = \mathbf{S}_{i1} + {}^i\mathbf{R}\mathbf{S}_{i3} \quad (1)$$

$$99 \quad \dot{S}_{i3} = ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{i3})^T \dot{\mathbf{Oo}} + ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{i3})^T {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o \mathbf{S}_{i5}, \quad (2)$$

$$100 \quad \boldsymbol{\omega}_i = \frac{1}{S_{i3}} \tilde{s}_{i3} {}^o\mathbf{R}^T \left(\dot{\mathbf{Oo}} + {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o \mathbf{S}_{i5} \right), \quad (3)$$

101 In equation (1), the subscript ${}^o\mathbf{R}$ and ${}^i\mathbf{R}$ ($i=1, \dots, 4$) of the rotation matrix represents the transformation from the local
102 coordinate system o or i to the O of the inertial coordinate system, $\mathbf{Oo} = (ox, oy, oz)^T$. s_{i3} is the unit vector of the axis along the $i3$
103 moving pair, and S_{i3} represents the change of the rod length of the $i3$ moving pair. $\boldsymbol{\omega}_o = (0, \Psi, 0)$, ω_i represents the angular velocity of
104 the branch i . s_{45} represents the unit vector of the direction of the rotation drive axis. The Jacobian matrix of the new 4-UPU parallel
105 pouring mechanism is:

$$106 \quad \begin{bmatrix} \dot{S}_{13} \\ \dot{S}_{23} \\ \dot{S}_{33} \\ \omega_4 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{Jacob} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{Oo}} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_o \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

107 Where

$$108 \quad \mathbf{Jacob} = \begin{bmatrix} ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{13})^T & ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{13})^T {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o^T \\ ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{23})^T & ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{23})^T {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o^T \\ ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{33})^T & ({}^o\mathbf{R}\mathbf{s}_{33})^T {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o^T \\ \frac{1}{S_{43}} s_{43}^T \tilde{s}_{43} {}^o\mathbf{R}^T & \frac{1}{S_{43}} s_{43}^T \tilde{s}_{43} {}^o\mathbf{R}^T {}^o\mathbf{R}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_o^T \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

109 s_{45} represents the unit vector of the axis of rotation.

110 The singularity of the mechanism can be analyzed by taking the determinant of Jacobian matrix as 0.

$$111 \quad \det[\mathbf{Jacob}] = 0 \quad (6)$$

112 The parameters of the parallel pouring mechanism in the 1.2 section are brought to equation (5) and (6), $s_{i3} = (0, 0, -1)^T$, $s_{45} = (0,$

113 $1, 0)^T$. The Jacobi singular equation of the mechanism is obtained.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{2n \csc \Psi \sec \Psi (m-M) EFG}{d_1 d_2 d_3 H} = 0, \\
 & E = n \sin \gamma + oz, \\
 & F = N + ox - n \cos \gamma, \\
 & G = ox \sin \gamma + oz \cos \gamma, \\
 & H = n^2 - 2n \cos \gamma (N + ox) + 2n \cdot oz \sin \gamma \\
 & \quad + (N + ox)^2 + oz^2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

115 The singularity condition of the new 4-UPU parallel pouring mechanism can be obtained by equation (7). The conclusion is as
 116 follows:

117 1) $m=M$ and $\Psi=0^\circ / 90^\circ$, namely the fixed platform and the moving platform are rectangular in the plane $ABba$ direction and
 118 the $CDdc$ of the parallel mechanism coincides or is perpendicular to the fixed platform, the determinant value of **Jacob** is 0. This
 119 kind of singularity is called structural singularity, and the new 4-UPU mechanism should be designed to avoid it.

120 2) when E, F, G, H appear at any 0, the determinant value of **Jacob** may be 0. Further analysis shows that when the structure
 121 size is determined in equation (7), the variables are ox, oz and γ , indicating that the new 4-UPU parallel pouring mechanism is the
 122 singular of the position and attitude coupling of the XZ plane in the workspace, and the $H=0$ is rewritten as the equation about the γ_H .

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \gamma_H = -\arctan \left(\frac{oz(N+ox)(n^2 + (N+ox)^2 + oz^2) - I}{n^3 oz^2 + (N+ox)I + n \cdot oz^2 ((N+ox)^2 + oz^2)} \right), \\
 & I = \sqrt{-n^2 oz^2 (-n^2 + (N+ox)^2 + oz^2)}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

124 Where, The I in γ_H has no solution in the real number domain, so H is always not 0, and just look at the situation of $E F G=0$.
 125 Given workspace and mechanism size: $-150 \text{ mm} \leq ox \leq -50$, $-50 \text{ mm} \leq oy \leq -50$, $-825 \text{ mm} \leq oz \leq -425$, $-28^\circ \leq \gamma \leq 62^\circ$; $M=374$
 126 mm , $N=680 \text{ mm}$, $m=330 \text{ mm}$, $f=365 \text{ mm}$. Traversing the given workspace, we get the singular regions of $E F H=0$, as shown in
 127 Fig.3 and Fig.4.

128 **(Location of Fig.3)**

129 **(Location of Fig.4)**

130 As we can see in Fig.3 and Fig.4:

131 1) the singular regions appears in the XZ plane, no correlation with the Y direction. Therefore, the trajectory planning is only
 132 discussed in the XZ plane, and the Y direction method is the same.

133 2) A part of the singular regions (the inner area of the quadrangle in Fig. 4) runs through the whole workspace, the singular point
 134 distribution is a plane of deflection, which shows that the singular angle γ is continuously changed in the XZ plane, therefore, the
 135 method of changing the γ can be considered to make the ladle pass through the singular regions in a manner approaching the singular
 136 face. The other parts of the singular regions account for only about 10% of the workspace, and in actual work, the boundary usually
 137 does not arrive, so the trajectory planning is not considered.

138

139 3 OPTIMAL TRAJECTORY PLANNING BASED ON A HYBRID STRATEGY

140 3.1 Particle swarm optimization algorithm (PSO)

141 In the n -dimensional search space, there are p particles in the search space, and the location of i particle in the search space is
 142 expressed by vector $x_i=[x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in}]^T$. $G=G(x_i)$ is the cost function of the specific problem, that is to evaluate the degree of fitness
 143 (optimization) of the particle i in the search space. Each particle will get an optimal solution through search space, that is, $pb_i=[pb_{i1}, \dots,$
 144 $pb_{in}]^T$. PSO updates the global best location solution after each iteration, $gb=[gb_1, \dots, gb_n]^T$. In the k iteration, the individual and global
 145 optimal location update process is

$$146 \quad pb_i^k = \begin{cases} pb_i^k & \text{if } G(pb_i^{k-1}) \leq G(pb_i^k) \\ x_i^k & \text{if } G(pb_i^{k-1}) > G(pb_i^k) \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

$$147 \quad gb^i \in \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (pb_1^k, \dots, pb_p^k, gb^i) | G(gb^i) = \\ \min(G(pb_1^k), \dots, G(pb_p^k), G(gb^{i-1})) \end{array} \right\} \quad (10)$$

148 In the iteration process, the i particle moves at the speed $v_i=[v_1, \dots, v_{in}]^T$ in the search space. The velocity and position of each
 149 particle are corrected according to the equation 11,12:

$$150 \quad v_{ij}^{k+1} = wv_{ij}^k + c_1 rand_1() (pb_{ij}^k - x_{ij}^k) + c_2 rand_2() (gb_j^k - x_{ij}^k), \quad (11)$$

$$151 \quad x_{ij}^{i+1} = x_{ij}^{i+1} + v_{ij}^{k+1}. \quad (12)$$

152 In equation 11, 12, $j=1, \dots, n$. c_1 and c_2 are normal numbers, which are called acceleration factors. $rand_1$ and $rand_2$ are normal
 153 distribution functions between $[0,1]$; w is known as the inertia factor and usually take 0.1~0.9. And the larger the value, the stronger
 154 the global search ability. Conversely, the stronger the local search ability.

155 In order to avoid the prematurity of the PSO algorithm, this paper proposes an improved particle swarm optimization algorithm
 156 based on the point to point of trajectory planning, and an adaptive strategy is used to modify the particle moving velocity by using the
 157 orientation vector of trajectory planning starting point and end point. That is:

$$158 \quad v_{ij}^{k+1} = wv_{ij}^k + c_1 rand_1() \Delta v_{ij}^{k1} + c_2 rand_2() \Delta v_{ij}^{k2}, \quad (13)$$

$$159 \quad \begin{cases} \Delta v_{ij}^{k1} = \Delta_{ij}^{k1} (pb_{ij}^k - x_{ij}^k) \\ \Delta v_{ij}^{k2} = \Delta_{ij}^{k2} (gb_j^k - x_{ij}^k) \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

160 Revised Δv_{ij}^{k1} and Δv_{ij}^{k2} according to equation 15 and 16

$$161 \quad \Delta v_{ij}^{k1} = \begin{cases} \zeta^+ \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)1}, & \text{if } \cos \langle x_{ideal} - pb_{ij}^{k-1}, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^{k-1} \rangle \\ & \bullet \cos \langle x_{ideal} - pb_{ij}^k, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^k \rangle > 0 \\ \zeta^- \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)1}, & \text{if } \cos \langle x_{ideal} - pb_{ij}^{k-1}, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^{k-1} \rangle \\ & \bullet \cos \langle x_{ideal} - pb_{ij}^k, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^k \rangle < 0 \\ \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)1}, & \text{others} \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

$$162 \quad \Delta v_{ij}^{k1} = \begin{cases} \zeta^+ \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)2}, & \text{if } \cos \langle x_{ideal} - gb_j^{k-1}, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^{k-1} \rangle \\ & \bullet \cos \langle x_{ideal} - gb_j^k, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^k \rangle > 0 \\ \zeta^- \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)2}, & \text{if } \cos \langle x_{ideal} - gb_j^{k-1}, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^{k-1} \rangle \\ & \bullet \cos \langle x_{ideal} - gb_j^k, x_{ideal} - x_{ij}^k \rangle < 0 \\ \Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)2}, & \text{others} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

163 In the equation 15 and 16, x_{ideal} represents the ideal location vector of the starting point to the end point. $\cos \langle , \rangle$ represent the
 164 cosine of the direction vector.

165 The ideal position vector from the starting point to the end point is used as the target direction vector, in equation 15 and 16,
 166 when the cosine direction of the two difference calculation of the particle is the same, it shows that the particle is approaching to one
 167 side of the individual (global) extremum. At this time, it can increase $\Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)1}$ ($\Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)2}$) to speed up the convergence rate of the
 168 algorithm and take the increasing factor ζ^+ ; If the cosine direction of the two difference calculation is inconsistent, it is shown that
 169 the particle is hovering near the individual (global) extremum, then ζ^+ can be reduced to avoid particles linger around the extremum
 170 and lead to premature algorithm; If the cosine directions of the two difference calculation of the particles coincide, then
 171 $\Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)1}$ ($\Delta_{ij}^{(k-1)2}$) is not changed, $0 < \zeta^- < 1 < \zeta^+$.

172 3.2 Angle observer

173 Through the analysis of E , F and H , the singularity of 4-UPU is related to ox , oz , γ . In order to cross the singular regions, the
 174 planning strategy of changing γ is adopted, that is, by changing the tilting angle of the ladle, the $E \cdot F \cdot G \neq 0$ will be ensured to ensure
 175 that the parallel pouring mechanism passes through the singular region smoothly. The specific search process is as follows:

```

176 Initialization:  $\gamma = \gamma_0$ 
177 for  $j=1,2,\dots,n$ 
178 (1)  $(ox, oz) \leftarrow x_{ij}^k$ 
179 (2) if  $E \cdot F \cdot G = 0$ 
180 (3) Initialization:  $\gamma^+ = \gamma^- = \gamma, \gamma_0$ 
181 (3) while  $E \cdot F \cdot G \neq 0$ 
182 (a)  $\gamma^+ = \gamma^+ + \nabla_1$  &&  $\gamma^+ < \gamma_0$ 
183 (b)  $\gamma^- = \gamma^- - \nabla_1$ 
184 (c)  $\gamma = (\gamma^-, \gamma^+)$ , First to meet  $E \cdot F \cdot G \neq 0$ 
185 end
186 end
  
```

187 γ_0 is the tilting angle of the ladle during the initial movement. In the above singular regions search process, the dip angle
 188 searches for the minimum increase (reduction) of ∇_1 in two directions, but the increase can not exceed the initial tilt angle of γ_0 ,
 189 because in the actual operation, exceeding γ_0 will cause splashing of ladle and cause serious safety accidents.

190 3.3 Distance observer

191 Combined with the actual working environment analysis, the most common type of collision is the ladle and the pouring cup.
 192 The method used in this paper, as shown in Figure 5, the distance r between the center of the ladle and the edge of the pouring cup is
 193 the minimum safe distance. The specific search process is as follows:

194 (Location of Fig.5)

```

195 for  $j=1,2,\dots,n$ 
  
```

196 (1) $(ox, oz) \leftarrow x_{ij}^k$

197 (2) look for pcx_{\min}, pcz_{\min}

198 (2) **if** $(ox - pcx_{\min})^2 - (oz - pcz_{\min})^2 \geq r^2$

199 (3) **while** $(ox - pcx_{\min})^2 - (oz - pcz_{\min})^2 < r^2$

200 (a) $ox = ox + \nabla_2$

201 (b) $oz = pcz_{\min} - \frac{oz_0 - pcz_{\min}}{ox_0} (pcx_{\min} - ox)$

202 **end**

203 (4) $x_{ij}^k \leftarrow (ox, oz)$

204 **end**

205 pcx_{\min}, pcz_{\min} is the nearest point of the tilting center of the ladle and the edge of the pouring cup. The positive and negative of

206 the increment ∇_2 depends on the direction of movement of the ladle.

207 3.4 GA-IPSO algorithm

208 The flow chart of the GA-IPSO algorithm is shown in Fig. 6.

(Location of Fig.6)

210 Random dimensionality reduction: A large number of control points are necessary to fit the path, the efficiency of the algorithm

211 will be reduced, so the dimension of individual position vectors is reduced randomly to improve the efficiency of the algorithm. The

212 specific process is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [x_{i1}^k, x_{i2}^k, \dots, x_{in}^k]^T & \xrightarrow{\text{Random}} & [x_{i1}^k, \dots, x_{i(n-(n_2-n_1+1))}^k]^T \\
 & & [x_{in_1}^k, \dots, x_{in_2}^k]^T
 \end{array} \tag{16}$$

214 In Equation 16, The $n_1 \sim n_2$ positions are randomly deleted from the position vector of the individual, and the remaining

215 $n - (n_2 - n_1 + 1)$ dimensional position vector recombination continues to solve the algorithm.

217 4 NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

218 a. Size and layout of parallel pouring mechanism and pouring cup

219 The parallel pouring mechanism adopts the design size, the workspace and the singular regions in section 2. The size of the gate
220 cup is selected in the document ¹⁸. In order to have both distance collision and singular path planning, and the layout is like Fig.7.

221 **(Location of Fig.7)**

222 b. cost function

223 The cost function is defined as:

$$224 \quad G = \delta \psi(\mathbf{pb}_i^k) + (1 - \delta) \varphi(\mathbf{pb}_i^k) \quad (17)$$

225 In equation 17, $\psi(\mathbf{pb}_i^k)$ represents the k iteration path length (step number) of the particle i , and $\varphi(\mathbf{pb}_i^k)$ represents the step
226 number of the angle change in the k iteration path of the particle i . The algorithm takes the sum of the distance and the step of the
227 angle as the cost function. The δ is a weight coefficient with a range of $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$. When $\delta = 0$ represents the minimum angle problem,
228 $\delta = 1$ represents the minimum path problem.

229 c. algorithm assignment

230 In order to ensure the appropriate speed of maturation, w, r_1 and r_2 in equation 13 are 0.6, 1.2, 1.2 respectively, ζ^+ and ζ^- are
231 0.8, 0.2 respectively, and the initial Δ_{ij}^{11} and Δ_{ij}^{21} are 1. The variation rate p_m and the cross rate p_c were 0.2, 0.5, respectively. The
232 initial position x_{i1}^k and target position x_m^k of the moving platform are $x_{i1}^k = [-140, -690]$, $x_m^k = [-65, -545]$ respectively, and the
233 angle of initial tilting is $\gamma = 20^\circ$. The number of particles is $p = 40$. The algorithm terminates conditions: (1) the maximum number of
234 iterations is 1000 times, or (2) in the two successive iterations, the fitness of the best particles is less than 1. The incremental ∇_1 of
235 the distance observer and the incremental ∇_2 of the angle observer are 1 mm and 0.1° respectively, smaller ∇_2 values can ensure the
236 correctness and continuity of angle fitting. Properly amplify the minimum security distance and take $r = 430$ mm.

237 Due to the acceleration method in Section 3.4 and the quality requirements of the algorithm in the singular regions, the number
238 of the initial control points (the dimension of the position vector) is 180, and the number of the minimum control points (the
239 dimension of the position vector) is 60. The algorithm is compiled into Matlab, and the control points are all rounded. The result is
240 fitted by a simple B spline curve.

241 **(Location of Fig.8)**

242 (Location of Fig.9)

243 (Location of Fig.10)

244 (Location of Table 1)

245 (Location of Table 2)

246 Table 1 shows the comparison of different δ in GA-IPSO algorithm in path planning. The simulation of Table 1 runs on a Xeon
247 E5 2.10GHz computer and takes the average of 10 simulation results. The computing time is directly used by MATLAB's own
248 "*cputime*" function. The range of the δ is $\delta=0\sim 1$, where the $\delta=0$ is equivalent to the minimum rotation angle of the ladle, while the
249 $\delta=1$ is equivalent to the shortest path problem. Table 1 path planning results corresponding to different weighting factors such as
250 Fig.8, Fig.9 and Fig.10, in which Fig.9 and Fig.10, we use z and x as base coordinates in order to express the rotation angle.

251 In Table 1, with the decrease of δ , the number of iterations, calculation time and fitness are significantly improved. Combined
252 with Fig.8, Fig.9 and Fig.10, it can be seen that this is due to the increase of the weight factor of the ladle angle, which leads to a
253 large deviation of the trajectory of the ladle from the pouring cup, the process of the singular regions and the rotation angle of the
254 ladle are shortened, the correction times of the distance observer and angle observer decrease, thus accelerating the convergence of
255 iteration, but the $\delta=0$ and $\delta=0.2$ obviously are not the desired trajectories, because they deviate from the ideal trajectory (straight
256 path); When $\delta=1$, the number of iterations, calculation time and fitness value are the largest, and the algorithm efficiency is poor;
257 When $\delta=0.8$ and $\delta=0.5$, the trajectory is close, and the calculation time and fitness value of the algorithm are also close and moderate.
258 Therefore, $\delta=0.5\sim 0.5$ is selected as the best compromise for the two competitive targets in the GA-IPSO algorithm (trajectory and
259 ladle rotation angle).

260 Table 2 is the comparison between the standard PSO algorithm and the GA-IPSO algorithm in $\delta=0.5$, and the particle number
261 $p=40$. It can be seen from table 2 that GA-IPSO is not only efficient in computation but also in the quality of the final value
262 compared with the standard PSO.

263

264 **5 ACCELERATION PLANNING CONSIDERING SLOSHING OF POURING LIQUID**

265 **5.1 Pendulum-type Model**

266 In order to facilitate the combination of the sloshing model and the acceleration model of the trajectory, this paper intends to use
 267 the pendulum method to establish the sloshing model of the pouring liquid, as shown in Fig.11.

268 In Fig.11, $o_f-x_f-z_f$ is a liquid surface coordinate system $\overline{o_f x_f}$ is parallel to the horizontal plane. $o_r-x_r-z_r$ is located in the rotating
 269 fulcrum coordinate system, $\overline{o_r x_r}$ is parallel to the horizontal plane, m_f is the quality of pouring liquid, c_f is the equivalent damping,
 270 l_f is the equivalent pendulum length, η is the pouring angle, φ is the sloshing angle of pouring liquid, $\phi(\phi=\eta+\varphi)$ is the sloshing angle
 271 relative to the horizontal plane, o_r is the center of rotation, o_g is the center of mass of pouring liquid, D_f is the distance between o_r
 272 and o_g , o_f is the pivot of the pendulum, θ_g is the angle between $\overline{o_r o_g}$ and the horizontal, and θ_a is the angle of the acceleration a_f and
 273 the horizontal, J is the moment of inertia, $J=m_f l_f^2$. The pendulum sloshing equation of the pouring liquid at the o_f point can be
 274 written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 J \frac{d^2(\eta + \varphi)}{dt^2} = & -c_f \frac{d\{l_f(\eta + \varphi)\}}{dt} l_f \cos(\eta + \varphi) \\
 & -m_f g l_f \sin(\eta + \varphi) \\
 & -m_f \frac{d\{(D_f \cos \theta_g)\eta\}}{dt^2} l_f \sin(\eta + \varphi) \\
 & -m_f \frac{d\{(D_f \sin \theta_g)\eta\}}{dt^2} l_f \cos(\eta + \varphi) \\
 & -m_f a \cos(\theta_a) l_f \cos(\eta + \varphi) \\
 & + m_f a \sin(\theta_a) l_f \sin(\eta + \varphi)
 \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

276 **(Location of Fig.11)**

277 For $\phi=\eta+\varphi$, due to the small amplitude of the sloshing of the pouring liquid, the linearization of equation 18 can be obtained
 278 directly.

$$\ddot{\phi} = -\frac{c_f}{m_f} \dot{\phi} - \frac{g}{l_f} \phi - \frac{D_f \sin \theta_g}{l_f} \ddot{\eta} - \frac{a_f \cos \theta_a}{l_f} \tag{19}$$

280 By the pendulum characteristic, we can get the natural frequency ω_n and the damping coefficient ζ :

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{g}{l_f}}, \quad \zeta = \frac{c_f}{2m} \sqrt{\frac{l_f}{g}} \tag{20}$$

282 In equation (20), ω_n and ζ can be easily measured by experimental, and can be estimated by equation 21 and 22^{20, 21}, d_1 is the
 283 depth of liquid, ν is the viscosity of liquid, B_1 is the average width of ladle, and L_f is the distance between o_r and o_f .

284
$$\zeta = d_1 v^{1/2} (B_1 / 2)^{-3/4} g^{-1/4} \quad (21)$$

285
$$L_f / l_f \approx 2 \sim 3 \quad (22)$$

286 **5.2 Acceleration planning**

287 Referring to the motion law of high speed cam¹⁹, the acceleration planning requirements under the condition of sloshing are
 288 proposed: (1) The speed and acceleration of the parallel pouring mechanism at starting, stopping and folding point are all 0. (2) The
 289 jerk is 0 when the ladle is stopped. (3) Since the partial translational motion is accompanied by the rotation of the ladle, in order to
 290 reduce the acceleration variation of the composite motion, the pure translational motion time: the ratio of the translational +
 291 rotational motion time is 3:7.

292 Write down the boundary conditions according to the requirements:

293
$$s_{i0}(0) = v_{i0}(0) = a_{i0}(0) = 0 \quad (23)$$

294
$$s_{in}(1) = 1 \quad (24)$$

295
$$v_{in}(0) = a_{in}(0) = j_{in}(0) = 0 \quad (25)$$

296
$$t_{iT} : t_{iTR} = 3 : 7 \quad (26)$$

297 Additional constraints
$$\begin{cases} s_{i2}(t_2) = l_{i2}, v_{i2}(t_2) = a_{i2}(t_2) = 0 \\ s_{i3}(t_3) = l_{i3}, v_{i3}(t_3) = a_{i3}(t_3) = 0 \\ \dots \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

298 s_{ii} , v_{ii} , a_{ii} and j_{ii} in 23~27 are path length, speed, acceleration and jerk ($i=0,1,2,\dots, n$) respectively. t_{iT} and t_{iTR} are translation time
 299 and compound motion time, and the displacement function is $n-1$ order polynomial.

300
$$s_i = \rho_0 + \rho_1 t + \rho_2 t^2 + \dots + \rho_{n-1} t^{n-1} \quad (28)$$

301 In equation 28, $\rho_0, \rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_{n-1}$ are coefficients of polynomials. According to equation 28, we can get v_i, a_i, j_i by continuous
 302 derivating.

303 **5.2.1 Translation path acceleration planning**

304 Translation is the main movement form of ladle, so it is the emphasis of acceleration planning. Assign the model in Figure 11 to
 305 the actual operating conditions, $d_1=0.37\text{m}$, $v = 1.0067 \times 10^{-6} \text{m}^2/\text{s}$, The upper and lower diameters of the inner cavity of the ladle are
 306 0.52 m, 0.47 m and the height is 0.54 m, $B_1=0.486 \text{m}$, $\zeta=6.06 \times 10^{-4}$. L_f/l_f takes an average of 2.5, $L_f=0.1 \text{m}$, and $l_f=0.04 \text{m}$. $D_f=0.085 \text{m}$,
 307 $\theta_g = -1.919 \text{rad}$. At the initial time, $\phi(0)=0$, $\phi'(0)=0$. The preferred path and angle parameters are obtained when $\delta=0.5$ is taken.

308 a) Global acceleration planning

309 The normal acceleration planning is to plan the whole path. When $\delta=0.5$, the path length is 0.174 m. Because the arc line of the
310 path is only 0.005 m, it has less influence on sloshing, for straight-line processing, then the length of each broken line is 0.103m,
311 0.014m, 0.016 m, and 0.044 m respectively. According to the acceleration plan proposed in 5.2, we can get :

$$312 \quad s_{i0}(0)=v_{i0}(0)=a_{i0}(0)=0 \quad (29)$$

$$313 \quad s_{i5}(1)=1 \quad (30)$$

$$314 \quad v_{i5}(0)=a_{i5}(0)=j_{i5}(0)=0 \quad (31)$$

Additional constraints :

$$315 \quad \begin{cases} s_{i2}(0.569) = 0.592, v_{i2}(0.569) = a_{i2}(0.569) = 0 \\ s_{i3}(0.683) = 0.655, v_{i3}(0.683) = a_{i2}(0.683) = 0 \\ s_{i5}(0.849) = 0.747, v_{i3}(0.849) = a_{i2}(0.849) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

316 The equation 29~32 is introduced into Matlab and the global acceleration is obtained. The acceleration change in unit time is
317 shown in Fig.12. The global acceleration planning scheme has the following disadvantages:

318 1. The peak acceleration is extremely large, it will increase the burden of the drive unit of the parallel mechanism; The
319 acceleration in the first half is acute change, and the second half is basically zero, and the entire period is not fully utilized.

320 2. the fitting polynomial of acceleration is as high as 13 times, increasing the operation time.

321 **(Location of Fig.12)**

$$322 \quad T_{\text{total}} = \sqrt{\frac{A_{\text{max}} \times s_{\text{total}}}{a_{\text{max}}}} \quad (33)$$

323 In equation 33, A_{max} is the maximum acceleration in unit time. s_{total} is the total length of a given path, a_{max} is the maximum
324 acceleration of a given path, and T_{total} is the total time required to traverse the path at a given a_{max} .

325 b) Piecewise acceleration planning

326 In view of the sensitivity of the pouring liquid to impact vibration, a piecewise planning method with breaking points as the
327 starting point and ending point is proposed.

$$328 \quad \begin{cases} s_{ie0}(0) = 0, v_{ie0}(0) = a_{ie2}(0) = 0 \\ a_{ie2}(0.3) = 0, s_{ie3}(1) = 1 \\ v_{ie3}(1) = a_{ie3}(1) = j_{ie3}(1) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

329 In equation 34, $e=1,2,3,4$. In pouring ladle movement, it is hoped that the pouring liquid will have longer sloshing buffer time in
330 each part, so as to adapt to the next acceleration change better, and make $a_{ie2}(0.3)=0$. Bring the equation 34 into Matlab and get the

331 acceleration of each segment:

$$332 \quad a_{te}=1235.294t^5-3829.412t^4+4249.412t^3-1951.765t^2+296.471t \quad (35)$$

$$333 \quad A_{\max_e}=14.112 \quad (36)$$

334 In equation 36, A_{\max_e} represents the maximum acceleration of unit time within each planning segment of the path. Fig.13 is the
335 variation of acceleration in unit time during piecewise acceleration planning. It can be seen that in the actual acceleration fitting, the
336 unit acceleration peak of the piecewise acceleration planning is very small, the burden of the drive unit of the parallel mechanism is
337 less. The time required for each segment of acceleration to reach the peak is very short, thereafter, the change of the acceleration is
338 slow, which makes full use of the whole time. The fitting polynomial of acceleration is only 8 times, and the speed of operation is fast.

339 **(Location of Fig.13)**

340 Therefore, in this paper, a piecewise acceleration planning strategy is applied to the acceleration planning of the translational
341 path. The actual acceleration a_{teA} of each segment is:

$$342 \quad a_{teA} = \frac{a_{\max}}{A_{\max}} \left(\begin{array}{l} 1235.294\tau^5 - 3829.412\tau^4 + 4249.412\tau^3 \\ -1951.765\tau^2 + 296.471\tau \end{array} \right),$$
$$343 \quad \tau = \frac{t}{T_{\text{total}}}. \quad (37)$$

344 5.2.2 Rotational acceleration planning

345 The acceleration of rotational is also divided by piecewise planning. In Fig.9 and Fig.10, the change of the tilting angle is
346 one-to-one correspondence with the change of the translation path. Therefore, the corresponding relations between rotation and
347 translation in Fig.9 and Fig.10 can be directly used for polynomial fitting.

348 5.3 Experimental verification

349 First, we use the acceleration planing in the 5.2 section to planing the acceleration of the path. At $\delta=0.5$, the θ_a of ladle is 1.221
350 rad, 1.954 rad, 0.139 rad and 0.872 rad respectively. Further analysis of formula 19 shows that $D_g \sin \theta_g / l_f = 0.725$ and $\cos \theta_a / l_f$
351 $_{(\min)} = 8.565$, which indicates that rotational acceleration has little effect on sloshing. In addition, the prototype is still in the design and
352 processing stage. Therefore, the validation experiment only makes acceleration planning for translation path.

353 The verification experiment was performed on a six-free series robot. Since the kinematic viscosity of water is similar to the

354 kinematic viscosity of molten cast iron and is readily available in the laboratory, water is selected as the research fluid. The
355 experimental setup is shown in Fig.14. This experiment mainly studies the sloshing state of the liquid in the container under the
356 translational state, so in formula 19, the sloshing angle of the liquid is measured by the measurement method shown in Fig.15. The
357 sloshing angle according to formula 38.

$$358 \quad \phi = \arctan \frac{(dp_2 - dp_1)}{\frac{B_p}{2}} \quad (38)$$

359 In the formula 38, dp_1 and dp_2 are liquid level heights, and B_p is the distance between the liquid level sensors. The trajectory of
360 a container moves along the preferred path at $\delta=0.5$ in Section 4. The sloshing law of the liquid in the container and the acceleration
361 change of the end of the robot are obtained by the pendulum model and the piecewise acceleration model in Section 5. The maximum
362 acceleration at each stage is calculated to be 1.39 m/s^2 , 1.07 m/s^2 , 0.24 m/s^2 , 0.36 m/s^2 , and the maximum sloshing angle is 0.08 rad .
363 Numerical simulation and experimental results are shown in Fig. 16.

364 **(Location of Fig.14)**

365 **(Location of Fig.15)**

366 **(Location of Fig.16)**

367 **(Location of Fig.17)**

368 Comparing the numerical simulation results and experimental results in Fig.19: $0 \text{ s} \sim 2.91 \text{ s}$ is the sloshing state of the water in
369 the container during the robot movement time, and $2.91 \text{ s} \sim 5 \text{ s}$ is the free sloshing of the container at the target position. The sloshing
370 amplitude obtained by the experiment in $0 \text{ s} \sim 5 \text{ s}$ is slightly attenuated because the viscous resistance of the water and the wall of the
371 container is not considered in the model. However, the form and frequency of sloshing are basically the same, and the sloshing angle
372 does not exceed the maximum threshold. It indicates that the liquid sloshing and acceleration planning methods in Sections 4 and 5
373 have higher operating efficiency and can prevent splashing accidents caused by severe sloshing. Fig.17 shows the instantaneous
374 sloshing state of the water in the container, corresponding to the instantaneous sloshing amplitude in Fig.16, and the instantaneous
375 liquid level sloshing is stable without violent fluctuation.

376

377 **6 CONCLUSION**

378 In this paper, a new 4-UPU parallel pouring mechanism with 4 DOF for casting robot is studied, and a path planning method
379 and acceleration planning method are proposed. The main work and conclusions are as follows:

380 (1) By studying the singularity of 4-UPU parallel pouring mechanism, propose the GA-IPS algorithm with angle observer,
381 position observer, speed corrector and flexible control points. The numerical example shows the feasibility of crossing the singular
382 region and the correctness of the algorithm.

383 (2) Based on the motion characteristics of the high-speed cam and the sloshing characteristics of the pouring liquid, the method
384 of acceleration planning is studied. In the view of the obvious characteristics of the impact vibration of the pouring liquid, the
385 feasibility of the piecewise acceleration planning method under the constraints of speed, acceleration and jerk is proposed and
386 verified.

387 (3) Based on the single pendulum model, the damping pendulum model of the rotation and moving fusion of the pouring liquid
388 under the small sloshing condition is established, and fitting with the piecewise acceleration model, the maximum value of
389 acceleration in each stage is given by the search method. The method of fitting the rotational acceleration is given by means of the
390 relationship between the path and the tilting angle. The experimental results also verify the correctness of the established single
391 pendulum model and acceleration model.

392

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396 Innovation Program of Jiangsu Province (Grant No. KYCX18_0260)".

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446 **Table Captions**

447 Table 1 Performance analysis of planned trajectories for various weighting factors δ

448 Table 2 Comparison of Standard PSO algorithm and GA-IPSO for weighting factor $\delta=0.5$

449 Table 1 Performance analysis of planned trajectories for various weighting factors δ

Particle no.	40				
δ	1	0.8	0.5	0.2	0
No. of iterations	553	488	413	387	321
Computationion time(sec)	1182	1022	926	774	664
Fitness value	178	149	132	110	80

450 Table 2 Comparison of Standard PSO algorithm and GA-IPSO for weighting factor $\delta=0.5$

Optimization	Standard PSO	GA-IPSO
No. of iterations	791	413
Computationion time(sec)	1673	926
Fitness value	141	132

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462 **Figure Captions**

463

464 Fig.1. Hybrid truss type movable pouring robot

465 Fig.2. Schematic diagram of 4-UPU parallel manipulator for pouring robot

466 Fig.3. Singular regions of position and pose coupling in workspace

467 Fig.4. The projection of a singular regions in the direction of XZ

468 Fig.5. A schematic diagram of a collision between a ladle and a pouring cup

469 Fig.6. Flow chart of the GA-IPSO algorithm

470 Fig.7. The size and layout of the pouring cup

471 Fig.8. Planning path of different weight factors

472 Fig.9. The variation of ladle inclination angle with different weight factors ($\delta=1, \delta=0.8, \delta=0.5$)

473 Fig.10. The variation of ladle inclination angle with different weight factors ($\delta=0, \delta=0.2$)

474 Fig.11. Pendulum sloshing model of ladle

475 Fig.12. Unitized acceleration of global acceleration programming

476 Fig.13 Unit acceleration of piecewise acceleration planning

477 Fig.14 Experimental device for liquid sloshing

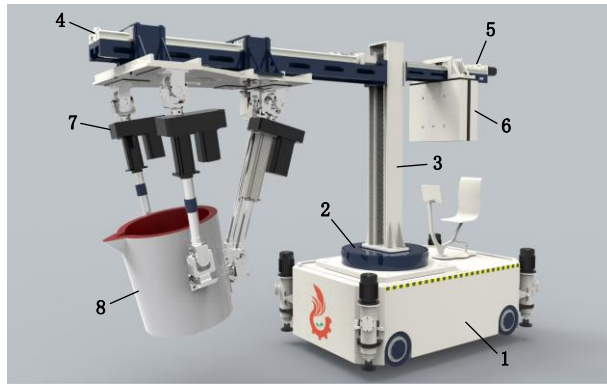
478 Fig.15 Schematic diagram of liquid sloshing measurement method

479 Fig.16 Simulation and experimental results of liquid sloshing at $\delta=0.5$

480 Fig.17 Instantaneous sloshing of liquid in experiment

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484 1. 4WD mobile platform 2. Slewing device 3. Hoisting device 4. Forward device 5. Backward device 6. Counterweight device 7.

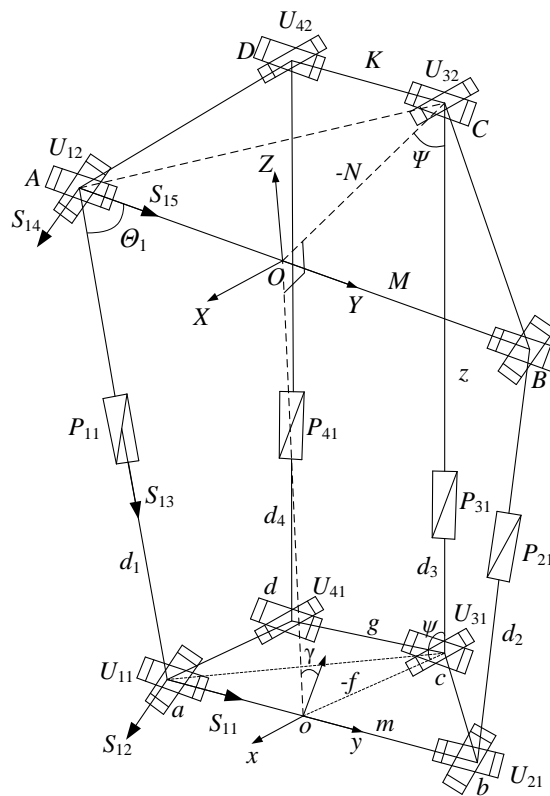
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Parallel manipulator 8. End-effector

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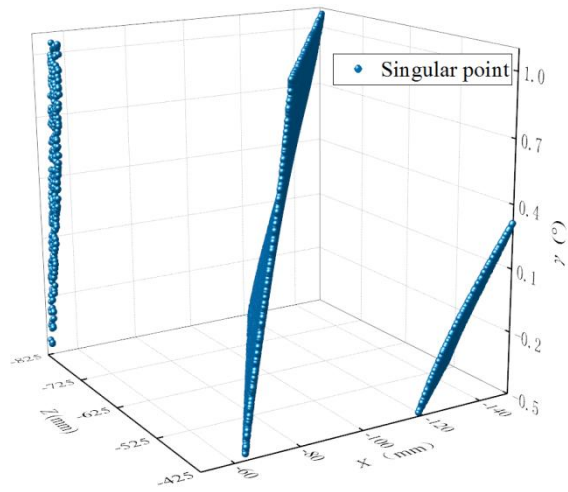
Fig.1. Hybrid truss type movable pouring robot

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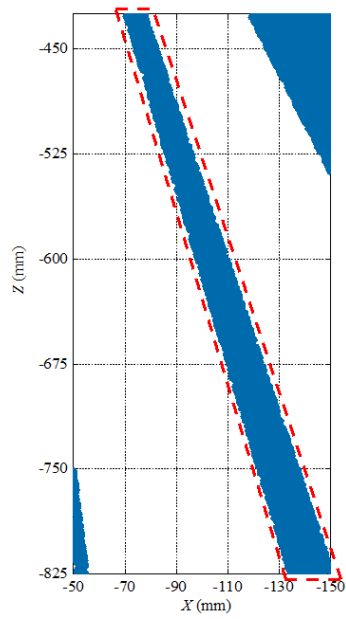
489 Fig.2. Schematic diagram of 4-UPU parallel manipulator for pouring robot



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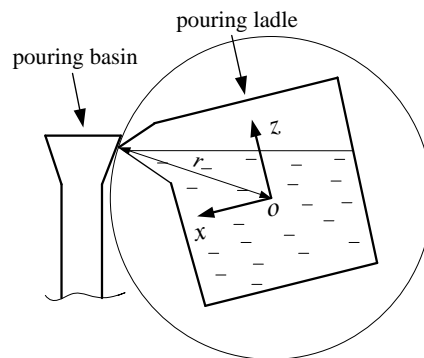
Fig.3. Singular regions of position and pose coupling in workspace



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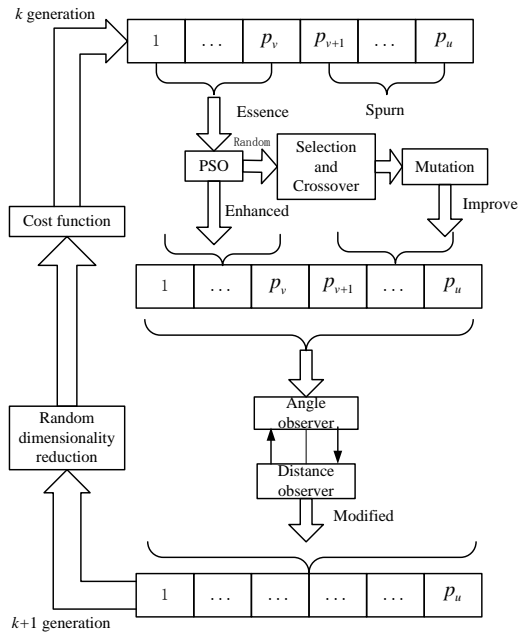
Fig.4. The projection of a singular regions in the direction of XZ



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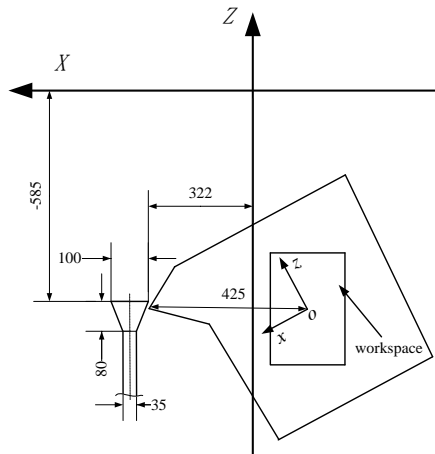
Fig.5. A schematic diagram of a collision between a ladle and a pouring cup



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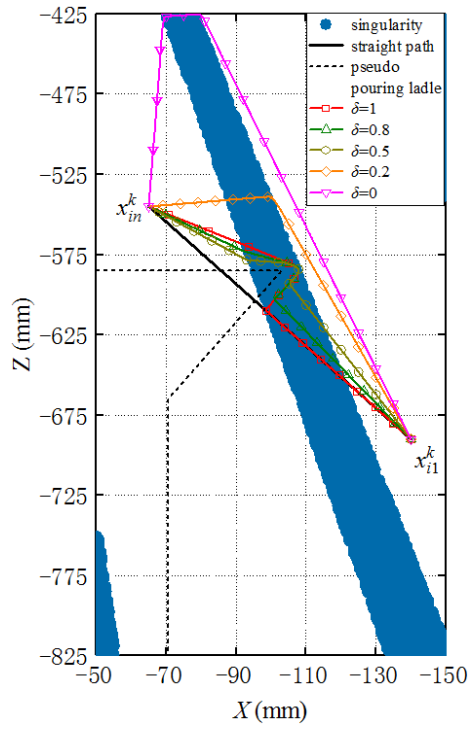
Fig.6. Flow chart of the GA-IPSO algorithm



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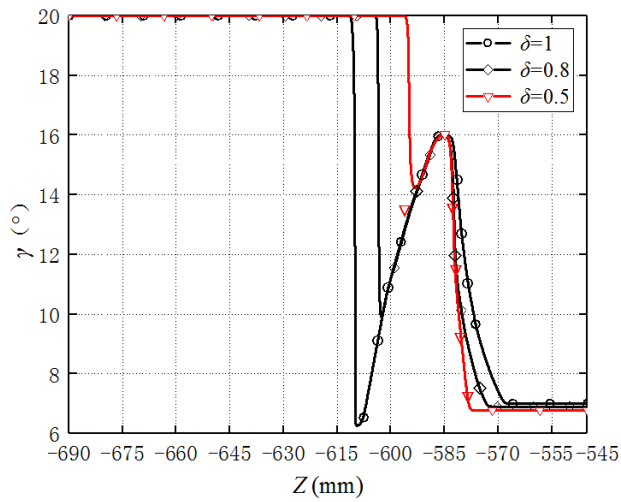
Fig.7. The size and layout of the pouring cup



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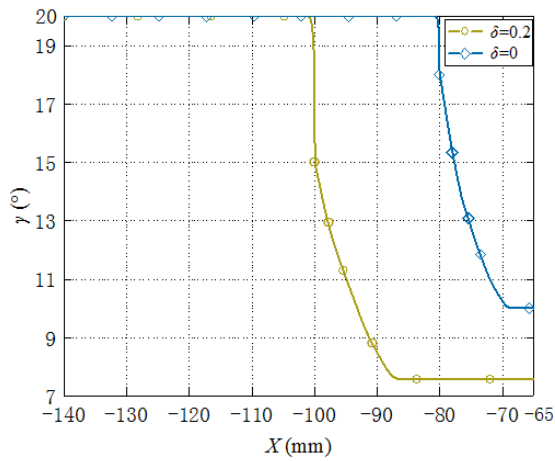
Fig.8. Planning path of different weight factors



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Fig.9. The variation of ladle inclination angle with different weight factors ($\delta=1$, $\delta=0.8$, $\delta=0.5$)



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Fig.10. The variation of ladle inclination angle with different weight factors ($\delta=0$, $\delta=0.2$)

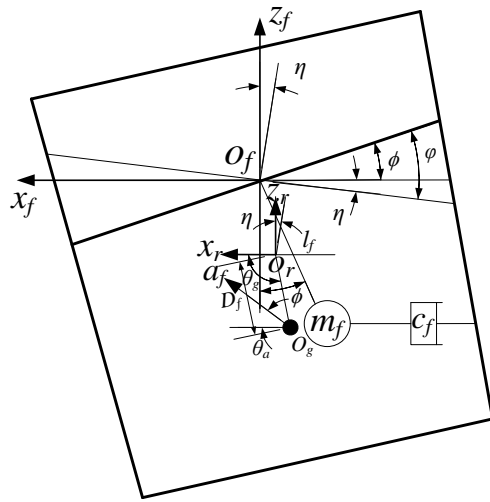


Fig.11. Pendulum sloshing model of ladle

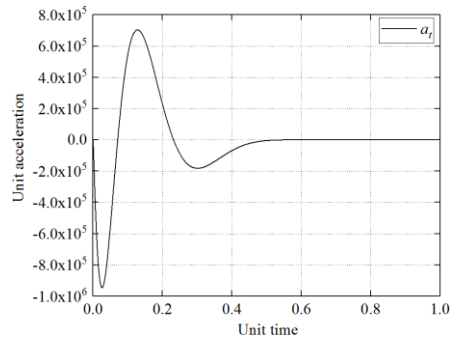


Fig.12. Unitized acceleration of global acceleration programming

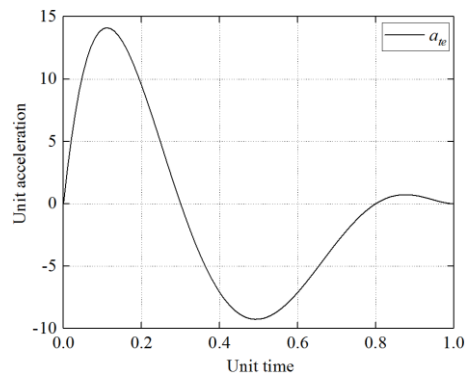
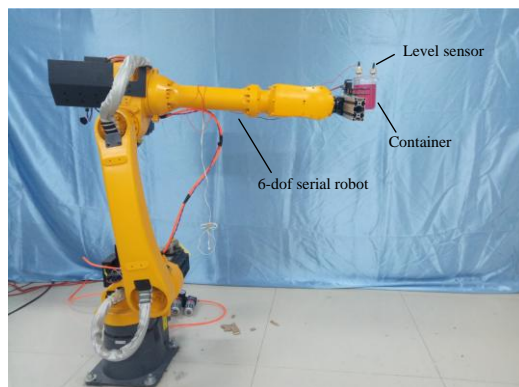


Fig.13 Unit acceleration of piecewise acceleration planning



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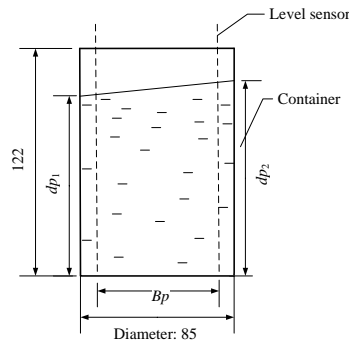
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Fig.14 Experimental device for liquid sloshing

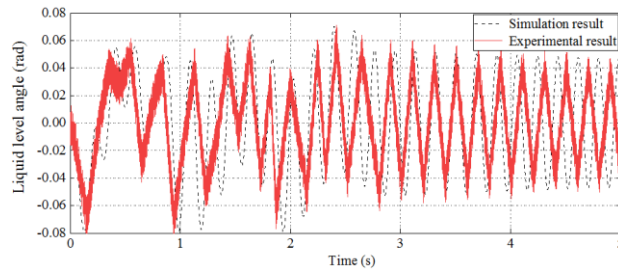
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Fig.15 Schematic diagram of liquid sloshing measurement method



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Fig.16 Simulation and experimental results of liquid sloshing at $\delta=0.5$



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0 s

1s

2s

3 s

4 s

5s

Fig.17 Instantaneous sloshing of liquid in experiment