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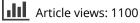
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Design, rapid manufacturing and modeling of a reduced-scale forwarder crane with closed kinematic chain

Arturo D. López Rojas^d, Omar Mendoza-Trejo^a (D), Erick A. Padilla-García^c, Daniel Ortiz Morales^b, Carlos A. Cruz-Villar^d, and Pedro La Hera^a (D)

^aForest Biomaterials and Technology Department, SLU, Umeå, Sweden; ^bCranab AB, Vindeln, Sweden; ^cAcademy of Robotics Engineering, Polytechnic University of Atlacomulco, Atlacomulco, Mexico; ^dElectrical Engineering Department, Cinvestav-IPN, Mexico City, Mexico

ABSTRACT

Forestry cranes are of paramount importance in forestry operations, so considerable efforts have been carried out to improve their performance in recent years. However, all these efforts have focused on automation technology, leaving aside other alternatives for improvement. Among these alternatives is model-based design, which has the potential to be gamechanging for the forest industry. Because research on model-based design is almost non-existent for forestry cranes, there are many gaps that should be filled before presenting improved designs of forestry cranes. The purpose of this article is to fill two of those gaps: (1) the high cost-benefit ratio and safety concerns when testing new designs, components or algorithms in industrial-scale forestry cranes and (2) the dynamic modeling of forestry cranes as mechanical systems with closed kinematic chain. Under these premises, this article first presents a reduced-scale platform resembling a forwarder crane with closed-kinematic chain, where the components of the mechanical structure are manufactured with 3D printing technology, and second, the modeling and experimental validation of the reduced-scale forwarder, where the closed kinematic chain is considered as a system of multiple constrained open kinematic chains. For the experimental validation, a comparison between both experimental and simulation results is presented. Results presented in this article broaden the options to design and test new concepts and/or technology to improve forestry cranes performance.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Forestry cranes; dynamic modeling; 3D printing; simulations; experimental validation

1. Introduction

In Nordic countries, forestry cranes are the primary tool for harvesting and collecting logs in logging operations when considering the cut-to-length (CTL) method (Häggström and Lindroos 2016; Nordfjell et al. 2019; Ortiz Morales et al. 2014). This method typically considers a scheme of work with two human-operated forestry cranes: a harvester crane for felling, delimbing and bucking trees (Fig. 1a), and a forwarder crane for collecting and transporting logs to the yard for unloading (Fig. 1b).

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CONTACT Omar Mendoza-Trejo omar.mendoza.trejo@slu.se 🕤 SLU, Forest Biomaterials and Technology Department, Skogsmarksgränd 17, 901 83 Umeå, Sweden.

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(a) Harvester, for felling, delimbing, and bucking trees. (b) Forwarder, for collecting and transporting the logs. Figure 1. Commercial harverster and forwarder cranes from VIMEK.

At present, the performance and productivity of forestry cranes rely heavily on human operators, and therefore, their experience to maintain a good work pace by using as few resources as possible. Nevertheless, due to the characteristics of these machines (size, weight, and difficulty to control), only the most experienced operators can achieve high levels of productivity. This situation is indeed a huge challenge for forestry crane manufacturers since highly skilled operators are lacking. To put this into perspective, it is important to mention that in Nordic countries, forestry crane operators must approve an exam where practical skills, technical knowledge, and the ability to work in the forest are evaluated. The evaluation and learning process for a person to get a job license takes approximately one year, however, it takes many years to be a highly skilled operator. Besides, the number of operator candidates has reduced over time, since it is a lonely job with exposure to high vibration levels that affect the human body (Häggström and Lindroos 2016; Ortiz Morales et al., 2015, Ortiz Morales et al. 2014). All these drawbacks have changed the vision of forestry crane manufacturers, and have led them to consider different technological solutions to improve their products and human operators' performance (Morales et al., 2015, Ortiz Morales et al. 2014).

In the last decade, most technological solutions to improve the performance of forestry cranes have focused on controlling the cranes by using smart automation software (Kalmari, Backman, and Visala 2017; Mattila et al. 2017; Ortiz Morales et al. 2014). These efforts have produced results that can be seen in existing products on the market, such as Cartesian controls (boom tip control), where human operators do not need to control each cylinder individually, but directly control the movement of the end-effector (boom tip) (Kalmari, Backman, and Visala 2017; Manner, Mörk, and Englund 2019). It is undeniable that there have been improvements and advances in the automation area of forestry cranes that facilitate the work of human operators, however, many researchers have shown that automation in forestry is still at the early stage, as there are many challenges that still have to be solved and understood, such as the highly nonlinear dynamic behavior of articulated hydraulic systems and the unpredictable performance of human operators using forestry cranes (La Hera and Ortiz Morales 2019; Mattila et al. 2017; Vihonen, Mattila, and Visa 2017).

The current situation regarding automation and control of forestry cranes makes it important to explore other improvement alternatives for forestry cranes. One of the areas that has been almost ignored by the forest industry over the years is model-based design. This design approach involves obtaining multidomain physics models describing the dynamic behavior of a mechanical system, which can be easily scaled to different types or sizes of machines. Due to its versatility and efficiency, this approach has been widely used to design, control and improve different types of systems, for instance, human-robot collaboration systems, robot gripper mechanisms, parallel robots, and vehicles (Eckert et al. 2018; Gaz, Magrini, and De Luca 2018; Hassan and Abomoharam 2017; Vallés et al. 2018). Forestry cranes design has not changed in decades, what has changed is the size, they have become bigger and heavier, implying that fuel consumption and ground damage have also increased (Häggström and Lindroos 2016; Nordfjell et al. 2019). Model-based design can change this situation and bring enormous benefits in terms of performance and productivity to the forest industry, however, some theoretical and technological aspects must be tackled before proposing improved designs of forestry cranes. The success of this design approach depends mainly on the elements/components in the model and how they are taken into account, so it is important to get a model considering as many conditions and elements as possible. The nonlinear dynamic model of an industrial forestry crane as an open kinematic chain was presented in (La Hera and Ortiz Morales 2014), nevertheless, forestry cranes often use closed kinematic chains, so it is necessary to present a model where all conditions, constraints and the highly-coupled dynamic response of this type of kinematic chains are considered (Koivumäki and Mattila 2015). By considering the closed kinematic chain, a more accurate dynamic model will be obtained. In addition, elements and conditions that can be taken into account in the design process will also be increased.

When comparing model-based design on other similar heavy-duty machinery, for instance hydraulic excavators, the situation is not much different. In general, most design and modeling efforts consider hydraulic excavators as mechanical systems with open kinematic chains (Li et al. 2017; Mitrev and Marinković 2019; Salinić, Bosković, and Nikolić 2014; Xu, Ding, and Feng 2019). In (Mitrev, Janosević, and Marinković 2017), authors considered a hydraulic excavator as a multibody system with both, open and closed kinematic chains. The modeling methodology used by the authors leads to a DAE system of index 3, which implies higher complexity and computational effort. This is because the solution of DAE systems involves the simultaneous solution of an ODE system and algebraic constraints (Arnold 2017; Mendoza-Trejo and Cruz-Villar 2016). By using the modeling methodology presented in (Park, Choi, and Ploen 1999), an ODE system is directly obtained, which can be solved by classical integration methods, such as the fourth-order Runge-Kutta method.

Moreover, one of the main problems when considering model-based design is the test phases. Testing new designs at early stages by manufacturing industrial-size prototypes has a high costbenefit ratio that most companies cannot afford. One possible solution to high-cost and safety concerns is reduced-scale prototypes, which have been widely used in different systems. Some examples include reduced-scale vehicles for testing control strategies (Brennan and Alleyne 2001), reduced-scale Francis turbines to identify the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes of a hydraulic system (Favrel et al. 2019), and reduced-scale platforms to detect and diagnose system elevator failures (Esteban et al. 2017). Conditions regarding high-cost benefit ratio are not different for forestry cranes. Forces exerted by the hydraulic actuators in industrial-size cranes are extremely high, so failures during test phases may cause significant material and human damages. This situation shows the need for a low-cost and safe platform to continue developing advances in forestry cranes.

1.1. Main Contribution

Considering the problems described in the previous paragraphs, this article aims at the following two points:

1. Present a reduced-scale platform for testing new designs, components and/or automation software in forestry cranes. Rapid manufacturing via 3D printing technology has had significant progress and has been used frequently for prototyping (Bin Ishak, Fleming, and Larochelle 2019; Bin Ishak and Larochelle 2019; Mick et al. 2019), so the mechanical structure of our prototype was manufactured by using metal 3D printing technology. Additional

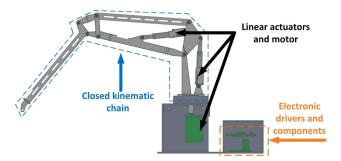


Figure 2. Main components of the reduced-scale experimental platform.

components, such as electronic devices for signal acquisition and control, as well as different actuators are shown in detail in Section 2.

2. Reduce the knowledge gap regarding the model-based design of forestry cranes by presenting both, the dynamic model and the experimental validation of a reduced-scale forwarder crane with closed kinematic chain. For modeling purposes, we consider the closed kinematic chain of the forestry crane as a system of multiple constrained open kinematic chains (Park, Choi, and Ploen 1999; Siciliano et al. 2010). It is well known that mechanical systems with closed kinematic chains generally have higher precision and dynamic performance, implying that greater benefits can be expected when taking into account these kinematic structures in the design process. The dynamic model presented in this article represents the first step toward improving forestry cranes when considering model-based design. This model will allow to modify all the crane's inertial parameters in an easy, quick and efficient way. At the same time, the possibility of combining the dynamic model with other improvement options (such as mathematical optimization) is enabled.

Explanatory notes

For this paper, we worked on the following bases:

- We took as a base design for the modeling process the forwarder crane shown in Fig. 1b. This is a small-size forwarder crane that is mainly used for small-diameter trees and does not have the characteristic telescopic link. This crane was chosen as the base model as its closed kinematic chain is more complex than the closed kinematic chains found in cranes with telescopic links. However, the modeling procedure presented in this article can be applied to other types of forestry cranes.
- Due to copyright restrictions, the reduced-scale forestry crane used in this article does not represent an exact replica of any specific commercial crane. However, the design used for this article keeps the kinematic structure as similar as possible to commercially available forwarder cranes.
- Since we are only interested in presenting the dynamic model of the closed kinematic chain, the gripper and hydraulic elements are not taken into account. Interested readers on how to model and consider the hydraulic system can find detailed information in (La Hera and Ortiz Morales 2014).

2. Material and methods

2.1. Overview of the Reduced-Scale forestry crane

The reduced-scale prototype's main components and design are shown in Fig. 2, while its physical properties and characteristics are shown in the following sections.

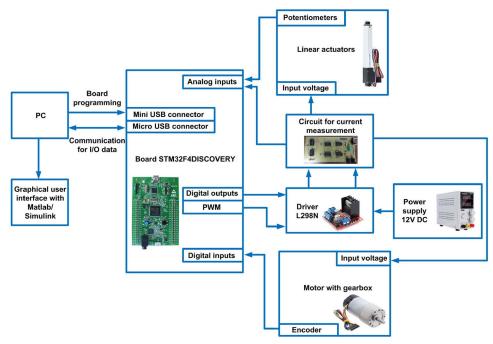


Figure 3. Block diagram for the electronic drivers and the electronic components.

2.1.1. Mechanical structure – Closed kinematic chain

For the mechanical structure design, we took as main references the dimensions and workspace of the forwarder crane shown in Fig. 1(b). Dimensions of the reduced-scale prototype are proportional to those of an industrial crane and were constrained by the maximum dimensions that can be manufactured by 3 D printers and off-the-shelf linear actuators.

All elements composing the closed kinematic chain were separately designed in CATIA V5® and subsequently assembled for the final design.

2.1.2. Linear actuators and motor

The forwarder crane of Fig. 2 has three degrees of freedom (3-dof), with two linear actuators and one motor with a gearbox. For the linear actuators, L-12-P series micro linear actuators produced by Actuonix[®] were selected. Both linear actuators have a stroke length of 30 mm, a gearbox with a transmission ratio of 210:1, and an internal analog potentiometer to provide position feedback. The voltage on the potentiometer central terminal will vary linearly between two reference voltages in proportion to the position of the actuator stroke. For the motor with gearbox, we selected the 37 D Polulu[®]. This motor has a gearbox transmission ratio of 131:1, while the position feedback is provided by an integrated encoder with 64 cycles per revolution, implying that it is possible to measure as low as 0.042 degrees.

2.1.3. Electronic drivers and components

This work considers the experimental validation of a reduced-scale forwarder crane, so closed-loop experiments are needed. To this end, we use electronic drivers to send control signals to the actuators, as well as an electronic board to acquire, process and control data. We selected the real-time processing unit STM32F42DISCOVERY. This board contains a 32-bit Arm Cortex[®]



Figure 4. Reduced-scale forwarder crane.

-M4, analog inputs/outputs, digital inputs/outputs, and a direct interface with MATLAB[®] Simulink[®].

For the experimental validation, we consider a comparison between real and simulated values of forces and torques. Since neither the linear actuators nor the electric motor has force/torque sensors, it is necessary to compute those values from their actuation current. To measure the current used by these devices, we designed a circuit based on low impedance resistors. This circuit is connected to a commercial L298N motor driver, allowing to carry out two actions simultaneously: measuring the current used by the actuators/motor and enabling the actuation device's movement in both directions. Controllers and electronic components selection was made in accordance with the operating specifications provided by the manufacturers of the linear actuators and motor. The block diagram of Fig. 3 shows how the electronic components, the board and the drivers work together to control the actuators' movements, while Fig. 4 shows a picture of the actual experimental prototype.

2.2. Dynamic Model of a forwarder crane as a system with closed kinematic chain

The procedure for deriving mathematical models representing systems dynamics with closed kinematic chain (CKC) differs from standard procedures for systems with open kinematic chain (OKC). In this article, we consider the procedure described in (Park, Choi, and Ploen 1999) and (Siciliano et al. 2010), which aims to derive the system dynamic model as a function of the active joint variables $\mathbf{q}_A \in \mathbf{R}^n$, where n represents the number of active joints and corresponds to the system degrees of freedom.

The procedure starts by dividing the CKC into multiple OKCs. This division allows to derive dynamic models of the OKCs in terms of the set of passive and active joints $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}} \in \mathbf{R}^{\mathrm{m}}$: n < m. Finally, after deriving the dynamic models of the OKCs, the system dynamics in terms of $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}$ is transformed into terms of $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}$. For interested readers, this procedure can be seen in detail in (Park, Choi, and Ploen 1999) and (Siciliano et al. 2010).

2.2.1. Division of the closed kinematic chain

The first step to derive the dynamic model of the forwarder crane in Fig. 4 is to divide the CKC into multiple OKCs. When dividing the CKC, it is important to note that each element (link) can only be part of one OKC, that is, repetitions of elements in the open chains are not allowed.

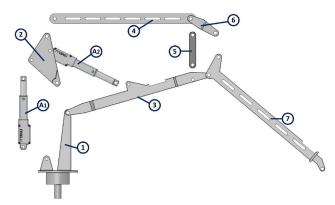


Figure 5. Forwarder crane as a system of multiple open kinematic chains.

Referring to Fig. 5, we consider five open kinematic chains. Chain A is composed of links 1, 3 and 7. Chain B_1 is composed of linear actuator A_1 . Chain B_2 is composed of links 4 and 6, while chain C is composed of link 2 and linear actuator A_2 . Finally, chain D is composed of link 5.

2.2.2. Kinematic modelling of the open kinematic chains

Forward kinematics allows determining the position and orientation of different elements in a system from specified values for joint variables. In our case, we are interested in obtaining the position and orientation of all elements (links) composing the five OKCs. For this purpose, we use the well-known Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) convention (Spong, Hutchinson, and Vidyasagar 2006), where the position and orientation of the links are represented by the homogeneous transformation matrix,

$$A_i = Rot_{Z, \theta_i} Trans_{Z, d_i} Trans_{X, a_i} Rot_{X, \alpha_i}.$$

Although all chains are analyzed separately, they must have the same base reference frame X_0 , Y_0 , Z_0 . In addition, if auxiliary reference frames are needed, and these frames have been previously established in other chains, the new frames must match the previous frames. The detailed procedure to get the forward kinematics of the OKCs can be seen in A.

2.2.3. Dynamic modeling of the closed kinematic chain

The first step to obtaining the dynamic model of the CKC is to use standard procedures of robot modeling to obtain the dynamics of the OKCs, for instance, the Euler-Lagrange formulation described in (Spong, Hutchinson, and Vidyasagar 2006). Considering this formulation, dynamics of the OKCs can be represented by a system of second order differential equations as follows,

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{q})^{"}\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) = \tau, \tag{1}$$

where $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbf{R}^{\eta \times 1}$ represents the vector of generalized coordinates, $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbf{R}^{\eta \times \eta}$ represents the mass and inertia matrix, $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \in \mathbf{R}^{\eta \times \eta}$ represents the Coriolis matrix, $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbf{R}^{\eta \times 1}$ represents the forces and torques vector and η represents the number of generalized coordinates.

After deriving the dynamic model of each OKC, it is necessary to get an equation where all dynamic models of each OKC are simultaneously considered. This equation represents the dynamic model without constraints and is stated as function of the set of passive and active joints $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}$. The detailed procedure and nomenclature used to get this representation can be seen in B.

The general equation representing the CKC's dynamic model without constraints as a function of $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}$ is presented in Eq. (2), where $\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) \in \mathbf{R}^{11 \times 11}$ is the inertia matrix, $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}, \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) \in \mathbf{R}^{11 \times 11}$ represents the Coriolis matrix and $\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) \in \mathbf{R}^{11 \times 11}$ represents the gravity vector.

$$\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) \stackrel{\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}}{\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{PA}}} + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}, \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) \stackrel{\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}}{\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{PA}}} \\ + \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{PA}}, \\ \begin{pmatrix} q_{1} \\ q_{2} \\ q_{3} \\ q_{4} \\ X1 \\ q_{4} \\ X1 \\ q_{6} \\ q_{7} \\ q_{9} \\ q_{10} \\ X2 \\ q_{11} \end{pmatrix}; \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{PA}} = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_{1} \\ \tau_{2} \\ \tau_{3} \\ \tau_{4} \\ F_{A1} \\ \tau_{6} \\ \tau_{7} \\ \tau_{9} \\ \tau_{10} \\ F_{A2} \\ \tau_{11} \end{pmatrix}.$$
(2)

Following the methodology described in (Park, Choi, and Ploen 1999), once the dynamic model is stated as a function of $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}}$, it is necessary to transform such a model into a model as a function of the active joints $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}$. To this end, there should exist a function representing the kinematic constraints such that $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{PA}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}})$.

The forwarder crane analyzed in this article has three actuators with three main movements, the rotational movement of the motor on the base (q_1) , the displacement of the linear actuator A_1 (X1) and the displacement of the linear actuator A_2 (X2). This implies that the system has three active joints and the active joints vector is defined as $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}} = [q_1, X_1, X_2]^T$.

One way to find the kinematic constraints **f** relating \mathbf{q}_{PA} and \mathbf{q}_A is by using trigonometric identities and geometric relations. Figure 6 presents a schematic representation of the forwarder crane that can be used for this purpose. In this figure, \overline{BD} represents the linear actuator A_1 and \overline{EG} represents the linear actuator A_2 . Moreover, the dotted lines are lengths that can be derived from the solid lines, and are useful for obtaining the system equations shown in Eq. (3).

$$\mathbf{f}(q_{1}, X1, X2) = \begin{pmatrix} q_{1} \\ f_{q_{2}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{3}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{4}}(X1, X2) \\ X1 \\ f_{q_{6}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{7}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{9}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{10}}(X1, X2) \\ f_{q_{11}}(X1, X2) \end{pmatrix} .$$
(3)

Finally, Eq. (4) presents the dynamic model of the forwarder crane with closed kinematic chain as a function of the active joints $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}$, where $\mathbf{\tau}_{\mathbf{A}} = [\tau_1, F_{A1}, F_{A2}]^T$, τ_1 is the torque exerted by the motor, F_{A1} is the force exerted by the linear actuator A_1 and F_{A2} is the force exerted by the linear actuator A_2 . An example of how to get the kinematic constraints and their corresponding values in the matrix γ is shown in C. The example is focused on the kinematic constraint $f_{q_4}(X1, X2)$, however, the same procedure applies for all other constraints.

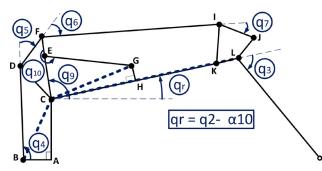


Figure 6. Schematics for trigonometric relationships to transform the dynamic model as a function of the active joints q_A .

$$\gamma^{T} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{A}) \gamma \mathbf{q}_{A} + \gamma^{T} (\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{A}) \dot{\gamma} + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{A}, \mathbf{q}_{A})) \mathbf{q}_{A} + \gamma^{T} \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{A}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{A}, \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{2}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{2}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{3}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{3}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{4}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{4}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{4}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{4}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{5}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{5}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{5}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{5}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{10}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{10}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{10}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{10}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial f_{q_{11}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} & \frac{\partial f_{q_{11}}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(4)$$

2.2.4. Friction forces

The model described by Eq. (4) does not consider friction forces, however, they should be taken into account to experimentally validate the model. In general, friction forces in real systems oppose motion, have considerable asymmetric patterns and depend on velocities and motion direction (Glocker 2013). In this work, we consider a friction model often used for mechanical systems, which combines Coulomb and viscous frictions (Olsson et al. 1998). In addition, it is noteworthy that this friction model has already been used to validate friction forces in industrial-size forestry cranes (La Hera and Ortiz Morales 2014). The friction forces vector (F_F) is mathematically stated as,

Table 1. Physical	parameters used fo	r friction forces,	controller gains, an	nd relations force/torque-current.

Friction coefficients for μ_v (q₁,..., q₁₁)

(a)			
Parameter	Value	Unit	
$\mu_{\nu_{a1}}$	0.8	kg m²/s	
μ_{ν_i} , i = q ₂ ,, q ₁₁	0.4	kg m²/s	
$\mu_{ u_{l2}}$, i2 = X1, X2	0.4	kg /s	
Values for F_C			
Parameter	Value	Unit	
$F_{C_{q_1}}$	-0.1010	N m	
$\Delta_{\mathcal{L}_{q1}}^{q_1}$	-0.0110	N m	
$F_{V_{q1}}$	0	kg m²/s	
$\Delta_{V_{q_1}}^{q_1}$	0	kg m²/s	
F _{C_{x1}}	-16	Ň	
$\Delta_{C_{X1}}$	6	Ν	
$F_{V_{X1}}$	-600	kg/s	
$\Delta_{V_{X1}}$	0	kg/s	
$F_{C_{X_2}}$	-7.5	Ň	
$\Delta_{C_{X_2}}$	-21.5	Ν	
$F_{V_{X2}}$	-500	kg/s	
$\Delta_{V_{X_2}}$	300	kg/s	
(b)			
PI Controller Gains			
Gains motor	Gains A1	Gains A2	
$K_{p_1} = 15$	$K_{p_2} = 5500$	$K_{p_2} = 18000$	
$K_{i_1}^{F_1} = 5$	$K_{i_2}^{P^2} = 19500$	$K_{i_3}^{P^2} = 20000$	
Constants for force-current and torque	e-current		
Parameter	Value	Unit	
P _x	1.765	N-m	
C _y	1.5	А	
b	0.050	А	
F _x	20	Ν	
Č _x	0.050	А	

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}} = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}_{qA}} + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}_{qPA}},
\mathbf{F}_{C_{q1}} sign(\dot{q}_{1}) + \Delta_{C_{q1}} + F_{V_{q1}} \dot{q}_{1} + \Delta_{V_{q1}} |\dot{q}_{1}|
\mathbf{F}_{C_{X1}} sign(\dot{X}_{1}) + \Delta_{C_{X1}} + F_{V_{X1}} \dot{X}_{1} + \Delta_{V_{X1}} |\dot{X}_{1}|
F_{C_{X2}} sign(\dot{X}_{2}) + \Delta_{C_{X2}} + F_{V_{X2}} \dot{X}_{2} + \Delta_{V_{X2}} |\dot{X}_{2}| ,$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}_{qPA}} = \gamma^{T} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\nu} \gamma \, \mathbf{q}_{A}.$$
(5)

In Eq. (5), $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}_{qA}}$ is the friction forces vector in the actuators (related to the active joints), which considers asymmetric Coulomb and viscous frictions. $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}_{qPA}}$ is the friction forces vector in the passive joints, where only viscous friction forces are taken into account. Coulomb friction forces are considered only in the active joints due to the gearboxes' dynamic effects. Coulomb friction mean values for the motor, the linear actuator A_1 and the linear actuator A_2 are $F_{C_{q1}}$, $F_{C_{X1}}$ and $F_{C_{X2}}$ respectively, while $\Delta_{C_{q1}}$, $\Delta_{C_{X1}}$, $\Delta_{C_{X2}}$ represent the variational coefficients. Viscous friction mean values for the motor, the linear actuator A_1 and the linear actuator A_2 are $F_{V_{q1}}$, $F_{V_{X1}}$ and $F_{V_{X2}}$ respectively, while $\Delta_{V_{q1}}$, $\Delta_{V_{X1}}$, $\Delta_{V_{X2}}$ represent the variational coefficients. Finally, $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{v}$ represents the diagonal matrix containing viscous friction coefficients. Specific values used for the experimental validation are shown in Table 1.

By combining Eqs. (4) and (5), the dynamic model of the forwarder crane with closed kinematic chain can be formulated as,

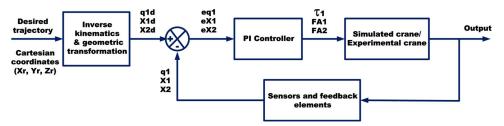


Figure 7. Block diagram for closed-loop control of the forwarder crane.

$$\gamma^{T} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}) \gamma \, \mathbf{\dot{q}}_{\mathbf{A}} + \gamma^{T} (\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}) \dot{\gamma} + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{\dot{q}}_{\mathbf{A}})) \, \mathbf{\dot{q}}_{\mathbf{A}} + \gamma^{T} \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{A}}) + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{F}} = \tau_{\mathbf{A}}.$$
(6)

2.3. Closed-loop control

Experimental validation is done through three tests, where the end-effector (the point described by distance A7 in Fig. 11b) should follow a reference trajectory.

These reference trajectories are given in Cartesian coordinates, implying that a transformation to the joint coordinate space is needed. This transformation is done by considering the end-effector and the inverse kinematics of chain A. After q_1 , q_2 , and q_3 are known, a second transformation is needed. The second transformation is performed by geometric relations and aims to derive the desired values of q_1 , X1, and X2. Since it is necessary to assure that the end-effector follows the trajectory and that the actuators perform the desired movements, closed-loop control is needed.

For the closed-loop control, we consider three PI controllers (one per actuator). The control model is stated as follows,

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{pmatrix} K_{p_1} e_{q1} + K_{i_1} \int e_{q1} dt \\ K_{p_2} e_{X1} + K_{i_2} \int e_{X1} dt \\ K_{p_3} e_{X2} + K_{i_3} \int e_{X2} dt \end{pmatrix}.$$
(7)

In Eq. (7), K_{p_1} , K_{p_2} , and K_{p_3} represent coefficients of proportional terms for the motor, the linear actuator A₁, and the linear actuator A₂ respectively, while K_{i_1} , K_{i_2} , and K_{i_3} represent coefficients of integral terms. Finally, position errors are $e_{q1} = q_{1d} - q_1$, $e_{X1} = X1_d - X1$ and $e_{X2} = X2_d - X2$, with q_{1d} , $X1_d$ and $X2_d$ as the desired position values for the motor, the linear actuator A₁ and the linear actuator A₂, respectively. The closed-loop controller is implemented in both, simulation and real hardware (Table 1). Figure 7 shows a block diagram of the controllers operating principle.

2.4. Force-current and Torque-current relations

As mentioned in Section 2.1, our experimental validation considers a comparison between simulated values and experimental values of forces and torques. To carry out this comparison, it is necessary to compute the experimental values of the torque and forces from the current measured in these devices. The mathematical expressions used for this purpose are the following:

$$\tau_{1 \exp} = (I_{mo}) \frac{P_X}{C_Y},$$

$$F_{A \exp} = (I_{la} - b) \frac{F_X}{C_X},$$
(8)

where $\tau_{1 \exp}$ is the motor's torque, I_{mo} is the current measured in the motor, while P_X and C_Y are proportionality constants obtained from data sheets of the manufacturer. For the linear actuators A₁ and A₂, $F_{A \exp}$ represents the actuator force, I_{la} is the current measured in either of both actuators, while *b*, F_X and C_X are again proportionality constants obtained from data sheets of the manufacturer.

2.5. Physical parameters and modelling error

Physical parameter values used for experimental validation are shown in Tables 1 and 4. Table 1(a) shows parameter values for the friction coefficients, which were selected through experimental tests and typical friction values for steel/steel and steel/bronze contacts. Table 1(b) shows first the PI controller gain values defined by Eq. (7) and second, it presents the force-current and torque-current constants for the mathematical relations stated in Eq. (8). Parameters in Table 4 correspond to the lengths and masses shown in Fig. 11 and were taken from CAD models.

2.5.1. Percentage error

The comparison measure (modeling error) between experimental results and simulation results is the percentage error, which refers to the difference between the experimental force vector and the simulated force vector when performing a particular task. Percentage errors for τ_1 , F_{A1} and F_{A2} are calculated by the following expression,

$$I_{VD} = \int_{0}^{t_{f}} V_{D} dt,$$

$$I_{VE} = \int_{0}^{t_{f}} V_{E} dt,$$

$$PE_{\tau_{1}, FA1, FA2} = \frac{I_{VD}}{I_{VE}} \times 100.$$
(9)

For the percentage error of τ_1 , $V_D = (\tau_{1exp} - \tau_1)^2$ and $V_E = (\tau_{1exp})^2$. For the percentage error of F_{A1} , $V_D = (F_{A1exp} - F_{A1})^2$ and $V_E = (F_{A1exp})^2$. Finally, for PE_{FA2}, $V_D = (F_{A2exp} - F_{A2})^2$ and $V_E = (F_{A2exp})^2$. The fourth-order Runge-Kutta method was used as integration method for the numerical simulations.

3. Experimental validation and results

3.1. Trajectory 1

This trajectory is intended to represent a loading task in forwarding operations, where a log is picked up and placed into a log-bunk. For both cases, simulation and experimental results, the crane's motion starts from rest while the parametric equations for this path are shown in Eq. (10). Units for X_r , Y_r and Z_r are expressed in meters and $0 \le t \le 10$ s.

$$\begin{aligned} X_{\rm r} &= -0.004477t^2 + 0.07305t \\ Y_{\rm r} &= 4.7260 \times 10^{-5}t^2 + 0.02643t - 0.2676 \,. \end{aligned} \tag{10} \\ Z_{\rm r} &= 2.6490 \times 10^{-5}t^2 + 0.01482t - 0.0521 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 8 shows experimental and simulation results for trajectory 1. Figures 8(a)-8(c) show displacements of q_1 , X1 and X2 respectively, while Figs. 8(d)-8(f) show velocities q_1 , X1 and X2 respectively. The motor torque is shown in Fig. 8(g), the force of the linear actuator A₁ is shown in Fig. 8(h) and the force of the linear actuator A₂ is shown in Fig. 8(i). Finally, Cartesian trajectories of the end-effector are shown in Fig. 8(j), while the modeling percentage errors can be seen

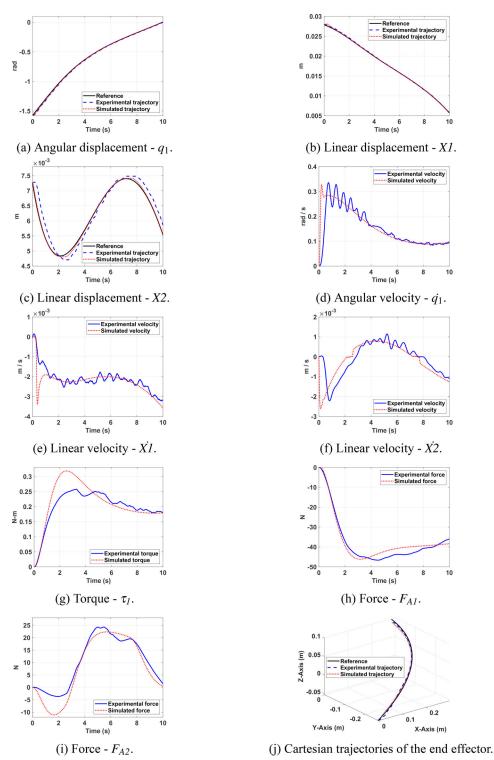


Figure 8. Displacements, velocities, torques and Cartesian representation for Trajectory 1.

—	IV D	I _{V E}	Units	Percentage error
ΡΕ _{τ1}	0.0023	0.0867	$N^2 m^2 s$	2.65 %
PE _{FA1}	10.1685	3101.10	N ² s	0.32 %
PE _{FA2}	23.3439	411.216	N ² s	5.67 %
Trajectory 2				
_	I _{V D}	I _{V E}	Units	Percentage error
ΡΕ _{τ1}	0.0133	0.5133	$N^2 m^2 s$	2.59 %
PE _{FA1}	235.0016	3424.60	N ² s	6.86 %
PE _{FA2}	369.0757	2564.90	N ² s	14.37 %
Trajectory 3				
_	I _{V D}	I _{V E}	Units	Percentage error
ΡΕ _{τ1}	0	0	$N^2 m^2 s$	0 %
PE _{FA1}	51.4743	15574.05	N ² s	0.3305 %
PE _{FA2}	55.9491	373.93	N ² s	14.960 %

Table 2. Modeling percentage errors.

in Table 2. For this trajectory, the order of magnitude of the linear displacement X1 is greater than that of the linear displacement X2, however, order of magnitudes of the linear velocities are the same. When analyzing the linear velocity X1, it can be seen that from second 2 to second 8, X1 oscillates without abrupt changes around $-2x10^{-3}$ m/s. This effect can be seen in the force F_{A1} , since from second 2 there are no abrupt changes in the force magnitude.

3.2. Trajectory 2

This trajectory represents a move back to the logs loading area. The crane's motion starts in the ending point of trajectory 1, that is, in the Cartesian coordinates (0.2828 m, 0.0014 m, 0.0987 m), while its motion finishes in the Cartesian coordinates (-0.0189 m, -0.2676 m, -0.0426 m). Eq. (11) shows the parametric equations, where units are expressed in meters and $0 \le t \le 10$ s.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} X_{\rm r} &=& -5.2980 \times 10^{-5}t^2 - 0.02964t + 0.2828 \\ Y_{\rm r} &=& -4.7260 \times 10^{-5}t^2 - 0.02643t + 0.0014 \,. \\ Z_{\rm r} &=& 0.002239t^2 - 0.03652t + 0.09873 \end{array} \tag{11}$$

For trajectory 2, experimental and simulation results are shown in Fig. 9. Displacements of q_1 , X1 and X2 are shown in Figs. 9(a)-9(c) respectively. Velocities $\dot{q_1}$, X1 and X2 are presented in Figs. 9(d)-9(f) respectively. The motor torque is shown in Fig. 9(g), the force of the linear actuator A₁ is shown in Fig. 9(h) and the force of the linear actuator A₂ is shown in Fig. 9(i). Cartesian trajectories of the end-effector are shown in Fig. 9(j), and the percentage errors are shown in Table 2. For trajectory 2, once again, the order of magnitude of the linear displacement of X1 is greater than that of the linear displacement of X2 and order of magnitudes of the linear velocities are the same. When analyzing linear displacements X1 and X2 can be noticed that there are motion direction changes when performing the task. For X1, this change occurs around second 7, while for X2 occurs around second 4. This motion direction changes are easier to identify in the simulated velocities, since simulations show abrupt velocity changes.

3.3. Trajectory 3

The last trajectory aims to perform a straight line in the Cartesian space. For this path, the crane's motion starts in the Cartesian coordinates (0.37439 m, 0 m, -0.06156 m) and finishes in the Cartesian coordinates (0.3882 m, 0 m, 0.1307 m). The parametric equations for the third path are shown in Eq. (12), where units are expressed in meters and $0 \le t \le 10$ s.

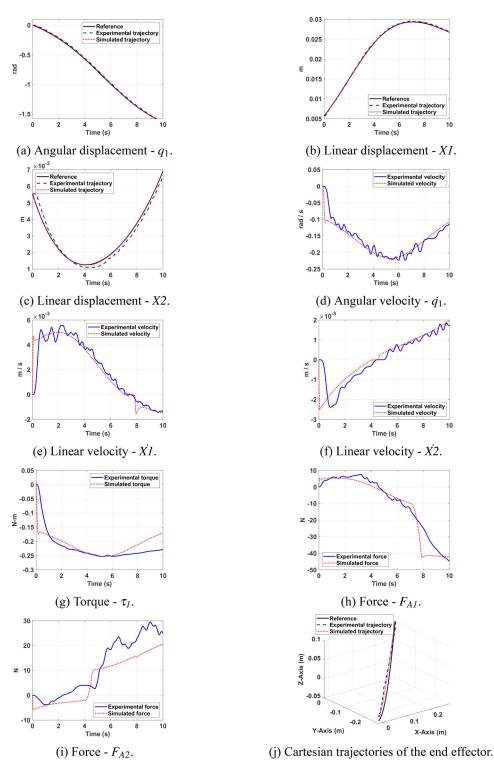


Figure 9. Displacements, velocities, torques and Cartesian representation for Trajectory 2.

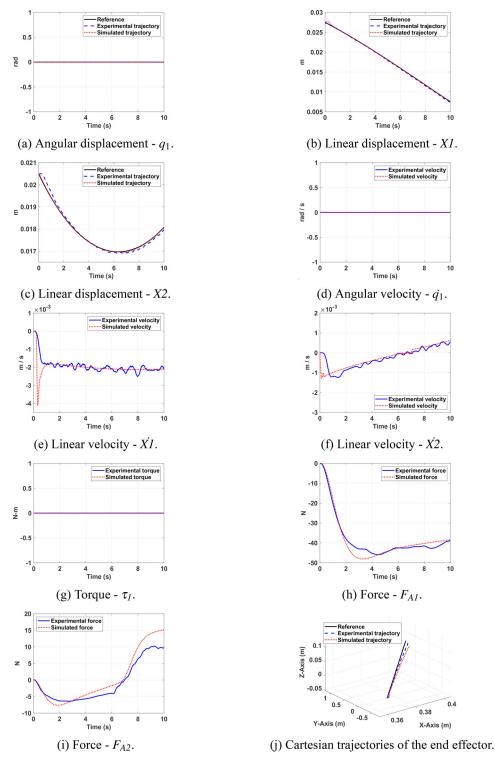


Figure 10. Displacements, velocities, torques and Cartesian representation for Trajectory 3.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} X_{\rm r} &=& 0.00138t + 0.37439 \\ Y_{\rm r} &=& 0 \\ Z_{\rm r} &=& 0.01923t - 0.06156 \end{array} \tag{12}$$

For the last trajectory, experimental and simulation results are shown in Fig. 10. Displacements q_1 , X1 and X2 are shown in Figs. 10(a)-10(c) respectively. Velocities q_1 , X1 and X2 are presented in Figs. 10(d)-10(f) respectively. The motor torque and the linear actuators A_1 and A_2 forces are shown in Figs. 10(g)-10(i), respectively. Finally, the Cartesian trajectories of the end-effector are shown in Fig. 10(g)-10(i), while the percentage errors can be seen in Table 2. For trajectory 3, order of magnitudes of linear displacements are the same. When comparing linear displacement X1 and velocity X1 of trajectory 3 with X1 and X1 of trajectory 1, it can be seen that the behaviors are similar, which is verified by comparing the forces F_{A1} , which also coincide in magnitude and behavior pattern. For the case of displacement X2, it can be seen that around second 6, there is a change in the motion direction. This change is reflected to a greater extent in force F_{A2} , since an abrupt change in the behavior pattern can be appreciated.

In general, the results presented in this section show that experimental and simulation results have the same patterns of displacement, velocity and force, while all percentage errors are below 15%. The largest values for percentage errors are for the linear actuator A_2 when performing trajectories 2 and 3. It is noteworthy that percentage error values depend mainly on two factors. First, we consider ideal or approximated values of masses, inertias, lengths and frictions in simulations, but actual values in the experimental platform are different. There exist different methods to carry out the system identification that would help reduce the gap between experimental and simulation results (Ljung 1999), nevertheless, detailed system identification of the CKC is considered for future work. Second, experimental torque and forces are computed through Eq. (8), which represents only an approximation of the real force and torque values. In addition, Eq. (8) uses the current measured to compute these values. In our experimental platform we use a circuit based on low impedance resistors, where the electronic components have a tolerance between 5% and 10%, implying that the values for the current are not 100% accurate.

Moreover, we considered only one set of gains for all experiments, where gain values for the PI controllers of the linear actuators A_1 and A_2 are greater than the gain values of the PI controller of the motor. First, these values are tuned so that all trajectories can be carried out without the need to modify those values. Nevertheless, different controller gain values can be tuned accordingly to the particular tasks. Second, it is noteworthy that differences between the gain values are because the dynamics of linear and rotational actuators are different, which implies that different values and ranges must be taken into account, as shown in Table 1.

4. General discussion

Although the design is a crucial aspect in the performance of a mechanical system, very little has been done to understand how new forestry crane designs could influence the performance of such machines. On the contrary, manufacturers of forestry cranes have chosen to produce heavier and larger machines (in addition to automation technology) to cope with the demands of higher productivity made by the market. This approach has produced acceptable results in general terms, however, it is impractical to keep making cranes bigger, when the current situation is that these machines bring several complications: they are difficult to operate, provoke ground damage, demand high amounts of fuel to operate, have high vibration levels and make the implementation of automation technology difficult. Hence, these machines are not efficient and have kept tree harvesting productivity in Nordic countries stagnated for decades.

Considering the current state-of-the-art, it is necessary to start looking for different options to improve forestry cranes' performance rather than continuing the traditional pathway of development. Model-based design has proven to be a powerful approach to improve performance in many systems by modifying their base design. It is well known that by modifying the inertial and kinematic terms of a system, the dynamic system performance will inevitably change. This is the main idea behind model-based design, to modify certain parameters to improve one or many performance criteria. In addition, the model-based design approach opens even greater opportunities to improve forestry cranes' performance. For instance, by combining model-based design, gravity compensation and mathematical optimization, we can expect significant improvements in energy consumption, dexterity of human operators, ground damage and reduction of CO_2 emissions. However, as mentioned in the introduction of this article, the success of this design approach depends on how well the model is stated and the elements that are taken into account in the model. For this reason, it is important to consider the closed-kinematic chain in the model, since there are more elements and dynamic effects that can be used to improve forestry cranes performance. Also, it is important to remember that redesigning starts by understanding the dynamic behavior of the system.

On the other hand, one of the main challenges for many industries when testing new technology or designs is to reduce the cost-benefit ratio. For forestry crane manufacturers (particularly small or medium size companies), taking a high risk is not feasible, since they can afford to lose millions if the design or technology does not succeed. By using reduced-scale prototypes, this high risk investment reduces considerably. To have a clear idea of the costs, it is important to mention that the total amount spent for the prototype in this work was less than $8000 \notin$, so the cost-benefit ratio reduced at least 10 times if we consider that the cost for prototyping an industrial size crane (considering a conservative estimation) would be around $80\ 000 \notin$.

Finally, it is noteworthy that the experimental platform and the model in this work broaden the options not only to design or sketch new concepts, designs and algorithms of forestry cranes, but also to other similar heavy-duty machinery.

5. Conclusions

In this article, a reduced-scale platform for testing new designs, components and/or algorithms in forestry cranes and the dynamic model of a reduced-scale forwarder crane with a closed kinematic chain are presented.

The reduced-scale experimental platform considered a rapid manufacturing process via metal 3 D printing technology. By using 3 D printing, the prototyping process speeds up, as it is possible to 3 D print objects in a few hours, which is much faster than molded or machined parts. Furthermore, it allows each design modification to be completed at a much more efficient rate. In addition, this platform has different components which are similar to those of a real size crane, that is, sensors, linear actuators, motors, processing units and control algorithms. The only component that is excluded in this platform is the hydraulic system, nevertheless, how to model and consider the dynamics of a hydraulic system in a forestry crane has been previously presented (La Hera and Ortiz Morales 2014).

Moreover, the dynamic model presented in this article reduces the knowledge gap on modelbased design of forestry cranes, since the closed kinematic chains (which are common in forestry cranes) had not been previously taken into account. The procedure to derive the equations describing the crane's dynamics consider a system of multiple open kinematic chains as functions of the active variable joints. In addition to the dynamic model, the experimental validation is also presented. The experimental validation is performed by means of three tests. The first test considers that the forwarder crane should follow a path representing a loading task, in the second test the crane should move back to the loading area, while in the third task the forwarder crane should follow a straight line in the Cartesian space. For all three tests, it can be seen that the dynamic response of the simulation results is faster than the dynamic response of the experimental results. This is due that there exist different dynamic and electric effects that are not 6766 👄 A. D. LÓPEZ ROJAS ET AL.

considered in the model, however, results show that the system's dynamic response of a forwarder crane with closed kinematic chain can be described by the mathematical models presented in this article.

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ORCID

Omar Mendoza-Trejo (b) http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7106-3266 Pedro La Hera (b) http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5032-5087

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A kinematic modelling of the open kinematic chains

Chain A

Denavit-Hartenberg parameters for chain A are shown in Table 3(a), while Figs. 11(a) and 11(b) show reference frames and lengths to identify the position of CM1, CM3 and CM7, corresponding to the centers of mass of links 1, 3 and 7 respectively.

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Eq. (13) shows the analytical expressions representing the position and orientation of CM1, CM3 and CM7, where $A_1^0 = A_1^0, A_2^0 = A_1^0 A_2^1 A_3^2$ and $A_3^0 = A_1^0 A_2^1 A_3^2 A_4^3 A_5^4$.

$$\begin{split} T^{0}_{CM1} &= A^{0}_{1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCX1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & PCZ1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ T^{0}_{CM3} &= A^{0}_{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCX3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & PCY3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ T^{0}_{CM7} &= A^{0}_{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCX7 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & PCY7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{split}$$
(13)

Chain B

For purposes of forward kinematics, it is convenient to join chains B1 and B2. The union of these chains is defined as chain B and its DH parameters are shown in Table 3(b). Reference frames and lengths to identify centers of mass position of the linear actuator A_1 (CMA1), the link 4 (CM4) and the link 6 (CM6) are shown in Fig. 11 c and 11 d.

Eq. (14) shows the analytical expressions representing the position and orientation of CMA1, CM4 and CM6, where $B_2^0 = B_1^0 B_2^1$, $B_9^0 = B_1^0 B_2^1$... B_8^0 , $B_{11}^0 = B_1^0 B_2^1 B_3^2$... B_{111}^0 and K_m is a constant proportional to the displacement X1.

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{T}_{\text{CMA1}}^{0} &= \mathbf{B}_{2}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \text{PCXP1} + \mathbf{K}_{\text{m}} X \mathbf{1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{T}_{\text{CM4}}^{0} &= \mathbf{B}_{9}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \text{PCX4} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \text{PCY4} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{T}_{\text{CM6}}^{0} &= \mathbf{B}_{11}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \text{PCX6} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \text{PCY6} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{split}$$
(14)

Chain C and chain D

Table 3(c) and 3(d) show the DH parameters for chain C and chain D, respectively, while Figs. 11(e)-11(h) show reference frames and lengths to identify the centers of mass position of the linear actuator A₂ (CMA2), the link 2 (CM2) and the link 5 (CM5).

Finally, Eq. (15) shows the analytical expressions representing position and orientation of CM2, CMA2 and CM5, where $C_2^0 = C_1^0 C_2^1$, $C_4^0 = C_1^0 C_2^1 C_3^2 C_4^3$, $D_3^0 = D_1^0 D_2^1 D_3^2$ and K_m is a constant proportional to the displacement X2.

$$T_{CM2}^{0} = C_{2}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCX2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & PCY2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$T_{CMA2}^{0} = C_{4}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCXP2 + K_{m}X2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$T_{CM5}^{0} = D_{3}^{0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & PCX5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & PCY5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
(15)

B dynamic modelling of the open kinematic chains

Dynamic model of chain A

Chain A considers three links connected via three rotational joints, so the vector of generalized coordinates is defined as $q_a = [q_1, q_2, q_3]^T$. The dynamic model of chain A considering the homogeneous transformations in Eq. (2.2.2) is stated as,

$$D_{a}(q_{a})\ddot{q}_{a} + C_{a}(q_{a}, \dot{q}_{a})\dot{q}_{a} + G_{a}(q_{a}) = \tau_{a}.$$
(16)

Dynamic model of chain B1

Chain B1 is formed only by the linear actuator A1, however, the vector of generalized coordinates has one rotational joint and one prismatic joint, and it is defined as $q_{b1} = [q_4, X1]^T$. The dynamic model of chain B1 considering the homogeneous transformation T_{CMA1}^0 in Eq. (14) is stated as,

$$D_{b1}(q_{b1}) \dot{q_{b1}} + C_{b1}(q_{b1}, \dot{q_{b1}}) \dot{q_{b1}} + G_{b1}(q_{b1}) = \tau_{b1}.$$
(17)

Dynamic model of chain B2

Chain B2 is formed by two links with two rotational joints, so the vector of generalized coordinates is defined as $q_{b2} = [q_6, q_7]^T$. The dynamic model of chain B2 considering the homogeneous transformations T^0_{CM4} and T^0_{CM6} in Eq. (14) is stated as,

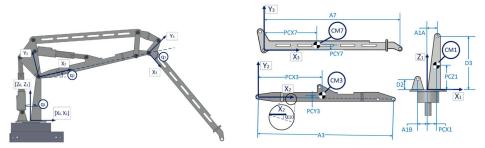
$$D_{b2}(q_{b2}) \ddot{q_{b2}} + C_{b2}(q_{b2}, \dot{q_{b2}}) \dot{q_{b2}} + G_{b2}(q_{b2}) = \tau_{b2}.$$
(18)

Dynamic model of chain C

Chain C considers two elements, and the vector of generalized coordinates for this chain is defined as $q_c = [q_9, q_{10}, X2]^T$. The dynamic model of chain C considering the homogeneous transformations T^0_{CM2} and T^0_{CMA2} in Eq. (15) is stated as,

Table 3.	DH param	eters for homogenee	ous transformations	of the open	kinematic chains.

in A			
θ_i	di	a _i	α_i
q_1	0	0	0
0	D3	A1A	π/2
q ₂	0	0	0
$-\alpha_{10}$	0	A3	0
$-q_3$	0	0	0
in B			
θ_i	di	a _i	α_i
q_1	D2	-A1B	$\pi/2$
	0	0	Ó
0	0	AP1	0
$-\pi/2$	0	0	$-\pi/2$
0 [´]	<i>X</i> 1	0	Ó
0	0	0	π/2
$\pi/2$	0	0	Ó
	0	A2B	0
	0	0	0
0	0	A4	0
$-q_{7}$	0	0	0
in C			
θ_i	di	ai	α_i
			π/2
	0	0	Ó
0	0	A2D	0
<i>q</i> ₁₀	0	0	0
,			
in D			
	di	ai	α_i
			$\pi/2$
91 92	0	A31X	0
	$ \begin{array}{c} \theta_i \\ q_1 \\ 0 \\ q_2 \\ -\alpha_{10} \\ -q_3 \end{array} \\ \text{in B} \qquad $	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$



(a) Reference frames to specify the DH convention for (b) Lengths and position of the centres of mass for links chain A. 1, 2, and 3.



(c) Reference frames to specify the DH convention for (d) Lengths and position of the centres of mass for the chain B. linear actuator A₁ and links 4 and 6.



(e) Reference frames to specify the DH convention for (f) Lengths and position of the centres of mass for the chain C. linear actuator A₂ and link 2.



(g) Reference frames to specify the DH convention for (h) Lengths and position of the centres of mass for the chain D. link 5.

Figure 11. Reference frames and centers of mass for the open kinematic chains.

$$D_{c}(q_{c})\ddot{q}_{c} + C_{c}(q_{c}, \dot{q}_{c})\dot{q}_{c} + G_{c}(q_{c}) = \tau_{c}.$$
(19)

Dynamic model of chain D

Chain D considers only link 5, so the vector of generalized coordinates is defined as $q_d = q_{11}$. Finally, the dynamic model of chain D considering the homogeneous transformation T_{CM5}^0 in Eq. (15) is stated as,

$$D_{d}(q_{d}) \ddot{q_{d}} + C_{d}(q_{d}, \dot{q_{d}}) \dot{q_{d}} + G_{d}(q_{d}) = \tau_{d}.$$
(20)

Finally, Eq. (21) states the dynamic model when considering all the open kinematic chains without kinematic constraints.

 Table 4. Physical parameters used for comparison between experimental and simulation results.

 (a)

(a)		
Link 1 – Chain A	Malur.	11-14
Parameter D2	Value 0.017	Unit m
D3	0.087	m
A1A	0.015	m
A1B	0.017	m
PCX1	0.0087	m
PCZ1	0.0032	m
M1	0.3181	kg
11	0.0782	gr / m³
(b)		
Link 3 – Chain A Parameter	Value	Unit
A3	0.2200	m
A31X	0.195	m
α_{10}	0.0181	rad
α ₁₁	0.0205	rad
PCX3	0.11	m
PCZ3	0.0109	m
M3	0.218	kg
13	3.0823	gr / m ³
(c) Link 7 Chain A		
Link 7 – Chain A Parameter	Value	Unit
A7	0.2220	m
PCX7	0.1061	m
PCY7	0.00025	m
M7	0.218	kg
17	3.0944	gr / m ³
(d)		
Link 4 – Chain B		
Parameter	Value	Unit
A4 PCX4	0.205 0.1025	m m
PCY4	0	m
M4	0.201	kg
14	2.9254	gr / m ³
(e)		5
Link 6 – Chain B		
Parameter	Value	Unit
A6	0.0431	m
PCX6 PCY6	0.02	m
M6	0.008 0.053	m kg
16	0.03158	gr / m ³
(f)	000100	5. /
Link 2 – Chain C		
Parameter	Value	Unit
A2	0.072	m
A2B	0.0424	m
A2C	0.0516	m
A2D	0.050	m
PCX2 PCY2	0.0364 0.0104	m m
M2	0.1833	kg
12	0.00817	gr / m ³
(g)		5.
Link 5 – Chain D		
Parameter	Value	Unit
A5	0.045	m
PCX5	0.0225	m
PCY5	0	m
M5 I5	0.0280 0.0174	kg gr / m³
(h)	0.0174	gr / m ^s
Linear Actuators		
Parameter	Value	Unit
AP1/AP2	0.0825	m
PCXP1/PCXP2	0.04	m
K _m	0.19	-

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_{a} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 3} & 0_{3\times 1} \\ 0_{2\times 3} & D_{b1} & 0_{2\times 2} & 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 1} \\ 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 2} & D_{b2} & 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 1} \\ 0_{3\times 3} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 2} & D_{c} & 0_{3\times 1} \\ 0_{1\times 3} & 0_{1\times 2} & 0_{1\times 2} & 0_{1\times 3} & D_{d} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ddot{q}_{a} \\ \ddot{q}_{b1} \\ \ddot{q}_{c} \\ \ddot{q}_{d} \end{pmatrix} + \\ \begin{pmatrix} C_{a} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 3} & 0_{3\times 1} \\ 0_{2\times 3} & C_{b1} & 0_{2\times 2} & 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 1} \\ 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 2} & C_{b2} & 0_{2\times 3} & 0_{2\times 1} \\ 0_{3\times 3} & 0_{3\times 2} & 0_{3\times 2} & C_{c} & 0_{3\times 1} \\ 0_{1\times 3} & 0_{1\times 2} & 0_{1\times 2} & 0_{1\times 3} & C_{d} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{q}_{a} \\ \dot{q}_{b1} \\ \dot{q}_{b2} \\ \dot{q}_{c} \\ \dot{q}_{d} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} G_{a} \\ G_{b1} \\ G_{b2} \\ G_{c} \\ G_{d} \end{pmatrix}$$
(21)
$$= \begin{pmatrix} \tau_{a} \\ \tau_{b1} \\ \tau_{b2} \\ \tau_{c} \\ \tau_{d} \end{pmatrix}.$$

C solution to the kinematic constraint $\boldsymbol{f}_{\boldsymbol{q_4}}$

Fig. 12 shows the schematic representation to solve $f_{q_4}\text{,}$ where it can be seen that:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f_{q_4}(X1,X2) &=& q_4(X1) \\ q_4(X1) &=& \alpha_2(X1) + \alpha_1 \end{array}$$
(22)

By using trigonometric identities it can be stated that:

$$\alpha_1 = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathrm{D3} - \mathrm{D2}}{\mathrm{A1A} + \mathrm{A1B}} \right),\tag{23}$$

$$LR4^{2} = (D3 - D2)^{2} + (A1A + A1B)^{2}.$$
 (24)

By using law of cosines,

$$\alpha_2(X1) = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{A2C^2 - (AP1 + X1)^2 - LR4^2}{-2(AP1 + X1)(LR4)}\right).$$
(25)

Once α_1 and $\alpha_2(X1)$ are known, it is possible to obtain γ for $f_{q_4}(X1, X2)$. From Eq. (4), it can be seen that:

$$\gamma_{\mathbf{f}_{q_4}(X1,X2)} = \left(0 \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{q_4}(X1,X2)}{\partial X1} \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{q_4}(X1,X2)}{\partial X2} \right), \tag{26}$$

where

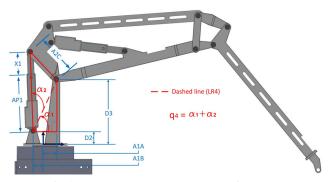


Figure 12. Schematic representation for the solution to the kinematic constraint $f_{q_4}.$

$$\frac{\partial f_{q_4}(X1, X2)}{\partial X1} = \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial X1} + \frac{\partial \alpha_2(X1)}{\partial X1} \\ \frac{\partial f_{q_4}(X1, X2)}{\partial X2} = \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial X2} + \frac{\partial \alpha_2(X1)}{\partial X2}.$$
(27)

Finally, it can be stated that:

$$\gamma_{f_{q_4}(X1,X2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{-1}{LR4} + \frac{2((AP1 + X1)^2 - A2C^2 + LR4^2)}{LR4(2AP1 + 2X1)^2} & 0\\ \sqrt{1 - \frac{((AP1 + X1)^2 - A2C^2 + LR4^2)^2}{LR4^2(2AP1 + 2X1)^2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (28)