



Autonomous Vehicle Simulation (AVS) Laboratory

AVS-Sim Technical Memorandum

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GUIDANCE MODULE TO PERFORM AN INERTIALLY CONSTANT SPIN

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Status: Initial Version
Scope/Contents
Generate the reference attitude trajectory for a general 3D inertial spin with a constant inertial angular velocity vector.

Rev:	Change Description	By
Draft	initial copy	H. Schaub
v1.1	fixed typo above Eq. (4)	H. Schaub
v1.2	updated the documentation now that the module outputs only the reference frame states	H. Schaub

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1 Introduction

This technical note discusses the guidance mathematics to perform a constant spin about an inertially fixed axis.

2 Setup

This module requires that the initial inertial attitude $\sigma_{R/N}$ of the reference frame \mathcal{R} relative to the inertial frame \mathcal{N} be set. Further, the inertially constant \mathcal{R} frame angular velocity vector ${}^{\mathcal{N}}\omega_{R/N}$ must be defined in inertial frame components.

3 Reference Frame Propagation

The MRP differential kinematic equations are

$$\dot{\sigma}_{R/N} = \frac{1}{4}[B(\sigma_{R/N})]{}^{\mathcal{R}}\omega_{R/N} \quad (1)$$

where

$$[B(\sigma_{R/N})] = (1 - \sigma_{R/N}^2)[I_{3 \times 3}] + 2[\tilde{\sigma}_{R/N}] + 2\sigma_{R/N}\sigma_{R/N}^T \quad (2)$$

and $\sigma_{R/N} = |\sigma_{R/N}|$.

If there inertially fixed reference angular velocity vector is given in inertial frame components, it must be rotated using the appropriate DCM:

$${}^{\mathcal{R}}\omega_{R/N} = [RN]{}^{\mathcal{N}}\omega_{R/N} \quad (3)$$

REFERENCES

- [1] Hanspeter Schaub and John L. Junkins. *Analytical Mechanics of Space Systems*. AIAA Education Series, Reston, VA, 3rd edition, 2014.