



SECOND SEMESTER M.TECH. (AEROSPACE ENGINEERING)

END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, APRIL - 2018

SUBJECT: RENDEZVOUS AND DOCKING OF SPACECRAFT [ICE-5236]

Time: 3 Hours

MAX. MARKS: 50

Instructions to Candidates:

- ❖ Answer **ALL FIVE FULL** questions.
- ❖ Missing data may be suitably assumed.

- 1A. Illustrate the major functions involved in rendezvous and docking process with a block diagram. 3
- 1B. Explain the different types of reference frames used to describe orbital motion and attitude motion of a spacecraft. 4
- 1C. Obtain the trajectory equation of a chaser with continuous thrust force applied in the x-direction starting at $x_0 = X_0$ and $z_0 = Z_0$ on a lower orbit employing CW equations given below: 3

$$x(t) = \left(\frac{4\dot{x}_0}{\omega} - 6z_0 \right) \sin(\omega t) - \frac{2\dot{z}_0}{\omega} \cos(\omega t) + (6\omega z_0 - 3\dot{x}_0)t + \left(x_0 + \frac{2\dot{z}_0}{\omega} \right) + \dots + \frac{2}{\omega^2} \gamma_z (\omega t - \sin(\omega t)) + \gamma_x \left(\frac{4}{\omega^2} (1 - \cos(\omega t)) - \frac{3}{2} t^2 \right)$$

$$y(t) = y_0 \cos(\omega t) + \frac{\dot{y}_0}{\omega} \sin(\omega t) + \frac{\gamma_y}{\omega^2} (1 - \cos(\omega t))$$

$$z(t) = \left(\frac{2\dot{x}_0}{\omega} - 3z_0 \right) \cos(\omega t) + \frac{\dot{z}_0}{\omega} \sin(\omega t) + \left(4z_0 - \frac{2\dot{x}_0}{\omega} \right) + \dots + \frac{2}{\omega^2} \gamma_x (\sin(\omega t) - \omega t) + \frac{\gamma_z}{\omega^2} (1 - \cos(\omega t))$$
- 2A. Describe the deviations observed in the trajectory due to navigation errors with equations. 4
- 2B. Briefly explain how active trajectory protection helps in solving the trajectory errors and failures occurring during the mission. 3
- 2C. Illustrate the final approach trajectory of a chaser to a target station with an attitude angle. 3
- 3A. Explain the geometrical and equipment constraints involved in an approach strategy. 3
- 3B. With equations, explain how estimation is carried out in a navigation system using a Kalman filter. 4
- 3C. Discuss the execution of thruster selection function in thruster management with equations. 3
- 4A. Briefly explain various principles of measuring the navigation parameters during the rendezvous process. 3

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| 4B. | Illustrate the working principle of a scanning laser range finder with a block diagram. | 4 |
| 4C. | Compare the operational sequences of docking and berthing. | 3 |
| 5A. | Discuss shock attenuation dynamics during contact in docking/berthing process. | 4 |
| 5B. | With a block diagram, illustrate the process of supervisory control of automatic onboard system by ground operators. | 3 |
| 5C. | Describe the process of dynamic testing in the front end of a docking system. | 3 |
