

Attitude dynamics of the first Russian nanosatellite TNS-0

Ovchinnikov M.Yu., Iiyin A.A., Kupriynova N.V., Penkov V.I.,
Selivanov A.S.

Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics, Russian Federation; Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russian Federation; Moscow Aviation Institute, Russian Federation; Russian Research Institute of Space Device Engineering, Russian Federation

Abstract: Attitude dynamics of the first Russian nanosatellite TNS-0 is considered. The satellite is equipped with an attitude control system comprising a strong permanent magnet mounted along the satellite axis of symmetry and a number of hysteresis rods. It was expected the satellite axis of symmetry traces the induction vector of the geomagnetic field. When the satellite has been orbited its angular momentum was unexpectable high. To interpret motion of the satellite using mathematical study and flight data processing is a purpose of the paper. Three elementary sun sensors are installed on the satellite and their measurements analysis shows that the satellite angular velocity was decreasing with a time early in the mission. The analytical study of the motion is carried out. To examine the asymptotical stability of solutions the approximating model of the hysteresis was involved. Finally, the satellite has probably reached the motion: it rotates; the magnet direction precession-averaged follows the induction vector of the geomagnetic field; the angle between the magnet and the induction vector is not rather small and without tendency to be smaller. Actually, the satellite reached a permanent rotation mode almost without energy dissipation. Such a mode was mentioned in 60th and now it was explained and recognized in flight.

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Authors with affiliations:

1. Ovchinnikov, M.Yu., Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics, Russian Federation
2. Iiyin, A.A., Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics, Russian Federation
3. Kupriynova, N.V., Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russian Federation
4. Penkov, V.I., Moscow Aviation Institute, Russian Federation
5. Selivanov, A.S., Russian Research Institute of Space Device Engineering, Russian Federation