

THE TENNIS RACKET THEOREM, ANALYSIS AND NUMERICAL SIMULATION OF THE INTERMEDIATE AXIS THEOREM

Nicolas Trivisonno¹, Luciano Garelli¹, Mario Storti¹

¹*CIMEC Centro de Investigación de Métodos Computacionales, UNL, CONICET, FICH, Col. Ruta 168 s/n, Predio Conicet "Dr Alberto Cassano", 3000 Santa Fe, Argentina, <http://www.cimec.org.ar>*

Keywords: Tennis racket theorem, Intermediate axis theorem, Dzhanibekov effect, Principal axis instability, Wingnut effect

Abstract. The aim of this paper is to reproduce the phenomenon of the intermediate axes theorem also known as the Dzhanibekov effect or the Tennis Racket effect. A RBD (Rigid Body Dynamic) model with 6DOFs (six degrees of freedom) was developed to reproduce the Euler's law of motion. Furthermore, in the RBD model, quaternions are employed for the mathematical modeling. Then an asymmetrical-top object was analyzed in order to show the intermediate axis effect. Finally, a numerical simulation is performed in order to reproduce the instability.