THE CONTRIBUTION OF LEIBNIZ TO THE ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Oliveira, Agamenon R. E. Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Department of Mechanics and Structures Polytechnic School P. O Box 68536-21941-590 - Ilha do Fundão, Rio de Janeiro, R.J.-Brazil agamenon@rionet.com.br

Abstract. Leibniz's main contributions to the engineering sciences are presented and discussed. A small biographical note describing in general terms the trajectory of this genius and important personality from the seventeenth century is also presented. The work emphasizes Leibniz's fundamental contributions to the conceptual base of mechanics, the invention of infinitesimal calculus, and finally his work as an engineer, designer and constructor of machines.

Keywords. History of the sciences, History of engineering, History of mechanics, Eighteenth century philosophy.