

The method described below is based on the Lense-Thirring effect - a rotating star causes the precession of the spin vector of a particle/gyroscope. From the quantum point of view, the precession of the particle spin is a consequence of difference in energies that different eigenstates of the particle have. Assume the spin is precessing around z-axis. Then

$$\langle \hat{S}_+ \rangle = \langle \hat{S}_x \rangle + i \langle \hat{S}_y \rangle \propto e^{i\omega t} \quad (1)$$

On the other hand, introducing the evolution operator $\hat{U} = \exp\left(-\frac{i\hat{H}t}{\hbar}\right)$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_+ \rangle &= \langle \psi(t) | \hat{S}_+ | \psi(t) \rangle = \sum_{m=-S}^{S-1} \langle \psi(t) | m+1 \rangle \langle m+1 | \hat{S}_+ | m \rangle \langle m | \psi(t) \rangle = \\ &= \sum_{m=-S}^{S-1} \langle m+1 | \hat{S}_+ | m \rangle \langle \psi(0) | U^\dagger(t) | m+1 \rangle \langle m | U(t) | \psi(0) \rangle = \\ &= \sum_{m=-S}^{S-1} \langle \psi(0) | m+1 \rangle \langle m+1 | \hat{S}_+ | m \rangle \langle m | \psi(0) \rangle \exp\left(\frac{i(E_{m+1} - E_m)t}{\hbar}\right) \\ &= \sum_{m=-S}^{S-1} \langle \psi(0) | \hat{S}_+ | \psi(0) \rangle \exp\left(\frac{i(E_{m+1} - E_m)t}{\hbar}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Hence, $E_{m+1} - E_m = \hbar\omega$. The energy for flipping N spins from $m = S$ to $m = -S$ is $E = 2SN\hbar\omega$. Now we are ready to describe our experiment. We measure the spin as follows:

1. We take a rotating star (or a gravitational field of such star).
2. We put a gas of N particles with unknown spin S on the circular orbit along the star, and put a gyroscope on the same orbit.
3. We measure the angular speed ω of the gyroscope precession.
4. We wait before the gas of particles cools to the temperature $kT \ll \hbar\omega$ by radiating the gravitational waves.
5. We rapidly flip the direction of the star rotation (or alter the gravitational field). Now the direction of the Lense-Thirring precession is opposite, and the gas has the energy $2SN\hbar\omega$ above the ground state.
6. We again cool the gas to the same temperature as in the step 3, now measuring the gravitationally-radiated energy ΔE .

The spin can be obtained from the formula

$$S = \frac{\Delta E}{2N\hbar\omega} \quad (3)$$