

# 195(6): Cotter Metric and Precessing Ellipse

The precessing ellipse is described by:

$$\frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{d}{xr(E^2 r^2 - (d-r)^2)^{1/2}} \quad (1)$$

From the Cotter metric:

$$\frac{d\theta}{dr} = \left( \frac{m C(r)}{BL^2} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{1}{A} \frac{E^2}{mc^2} - C^{1/2}(r) \left( mc^2 + \frac{1}{C(r)} \frac{L^2}{m} \right) \right)^{-1/2} \quad (2)$$

So:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{xr}{d} \right)^2 (E^2 r^2 - (d-r)^2) \\ &= \frac{BL^2}{m C(r)} \left( \frac{1}{A} \frac{E^2}{mc^2} - C^{1/2}(r) \left( mc^2 + \frac{1}{C(r)} \frac{L^2}{m} \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

and this is the correct way of describing the precession of the perihelion in relativity. It is one of the experiments that can be used to find  $A, B, C(r), L$  and  $E$  but the element based general relativity is no longer predictive.

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