

215(7): Experimental Measurement of $n(r)$ Using the Sagnac Effect

With reference to pages such as UFT45 and UFT46, the Sagnac effect can be derived theoretically for the infinitesimal line element:

$$ds^2 = c^2 dt^2 - dr^2 - r^2 d\phi^2 \quad - (1)$$

when:

$$v = c \quad - (2)$$

and in a plane:

$$dr = 0 \quad - (3)$$

using the frame rotation:

$$d\phi \rightarrow d\phi + \omega dt \quad - (4)$$

$$\text{or} \quad d\phi \rightarrow d\phi - \omega dt \quad - (5)$$

Using these equations:

$$dt = \frac{r}{c} (d\phi + \omega dt) \quad - (6)$$

$$dt = \frac{r}{c} (d\phi - \omega dt) \quad - (7)$$

for eq. (4), or

for eq. (5).

Define the angular frequency of the beam of light in a Sagnac interferometer as:

$$\omega = \frac{c}{r} = kc \quad - (8)$$

and it follows that:

$$dt = \frac{d\phi}{\omega \pm \omega_1} \quad - (9)$$

The time T taken for the light to go around the Sagnac interferometer is:

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega \pm \omega_1} \quad - (10)$$

depending on whether the platform is rotated clockwise or anticlockwise at an angular frequency ω_1 .

1) In the metric of n space:

$$ds^2 = n(r)c^2 dt^2 - \frac{dr^2}{n(r)} - r^2 d\phi^2 \quad (11)$$

It follows from eqs (2) and (3) that:

$$n(r)c^2 dt^2 = r^2 d\phi^2 \quad (12)$$

and using

$$d\phi \rightarrow d\phi \pm \omega_1 dt \quad (13)$$

it follows that:

$$n(r)c^2 dt^2 = r^2 (d\phi \pm \omega_1 dt)^2 \quad (14)$$

so

$$dt = \frac{r}{n^{1/2}(r)c} (d\phi \pm \omega_1 dt) \quad (15)$$

and

$$n^{1/2}(r) \omega dt = d\phi \pm \omega_1 dt \quad (16)$$

or

$$dt = \frac{d\phi}{n^{1/2}(r) \omega \pm \omega_1} \quad (17)$$

and for one revolution:

$$T_1 = \frac{2\pi}{n^{1/2}(r) \omega \pm \omega_1} \quad (18)$$

This method can be used to measure $n^{1/2}(r)$.
 The Sagnac interferometer is placed in a strong gravitational field. The Sagnac effect is a satellite orbiting the earth in conditions of zero gravitation is given by eq. (10), but on earth's surface is given by eq. (18). This method also shows that ω_1 can be measured in Sagnac interferometer.