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### Einstein Right Again - A Spinning Mass Curves Time

From: [Stig Agermose@online.pol.dk](mailto:Stig_Agermose@online.pol.dk) (Stig Agermose)  
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Einstein is proved right yet again

11:09 a.m. ET (1610 GMT) March 27, 1998

WASHINGTON - Einstein has been proved right yet again, an international team of researchers say.

They said Thursday that observations of U.S. satellites orbiting Earth showed that a spinning body can curve space - something Albert Einstein predicted in his general theory of relativity.

Einstein said the spin of a body must change the geometry of the universe by generating space-time curvature.

He called it "frame dragging" but it is also known as the Lense-Thirring effect, after Austrian physicists Josef Lense and Hans Thirring, who said celestial bodies that rotate, such as the Sun, create a force that pulls space towards them.

The effect is so strong it should affect a clock rotating slowly around a spinning body.

Ignazio Ciufolini of the Universita di Roma "La Sapienza" and colleagues tested and measured the effect by analyzing the orbits of two NASA satellites, LAGEOS and LAGEOSII.

They used lasers to measure tiny changes in the orbits of the satellites and concluded the Earth was affecting them in a way that could not be accounted for by gravity or tidal forces.

"Based on the analysis of the orbits of the ... satellites LAGEOS and LAGEOS II, we conclude that the Lense-Thirring effect exists," they wrote in a report in the journal Science.

"This direct measurement of the Lense-Thirring effect confirms one of the remaining fundamental predictions of general relativity, that a current of mass-energy, such as a spinning mass, as a result of its mass motion changes the geometry of the universe by generating space-time curvature."

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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