

Einstein's Relativity as a religion

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As a result of Einstein's relativity not being properly defined it is as Cantrell points out takes on the appearance of a religion.

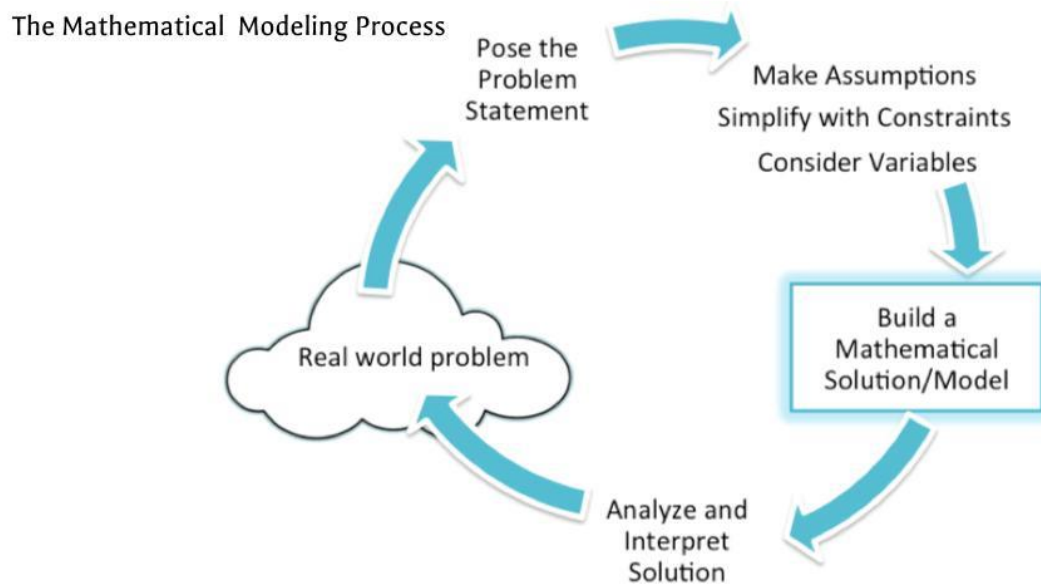
William H. Cantrell says [1] in talking about what is a properly defined theory says: "A proper theory must not be continually patched and modified with *ad hoc* "band aids" to explain new observations. It must be *refutable*, that is, it must not be protected from refutation by way of its own construction."

"This is by no means a universally held view. Caltech Professor David L. Goodstein makes a jaw-dropping statement in his otherwise *magnificent* video lecture series: ". . .As a matter of fact there's a point of view that says, that the only way that science can make progress is by showing that theories are wrong. The argument goes like this: It's impossible to prove that a theory is right, no matter how many experiments agree with it. But if one single experiment disagrees with it, then the theory must be wrong."

"Correct. So far so good, but then he goes on to say: Well, that itself is a theory of knowledge, *which is wrong*, because there are theories in science, which are so well verified by experience that they become promoted to the status of *fact*. One example is the Special Theory of Relativity. It's still called a theory for historical reasons, but it is in reality a simple, engineering *fact*, routinely used in the design of giant machines like nuclear particle accelerators, which always work perfectly. . ."

"So here we have a fundamental metaphysical disagreement concerning the rules of the game—an enormous philosophical disconnect. The mainstream elevates some theories to a higher plane, to the status of unquestionable religion."

In mathematical modelling of physical reality, we start from some assumptions and if that is not sufficient to the measurements, we are making of physical reality then the assumptions are modified or added to. Sometimes it is represented by a diagram like this [2]:



From the diagram we see that it can be about going round and round in circles. So, if the mathematical model is not precisely defined then it can get adjusted in numerous ways. It is like what Cantrell is talking about with the theory of Einstein's relativity, if it is not precisely defined then it can be adjusted in numerous ways. And such a theory that can be adjusted to be nearly anything is then like a religion.

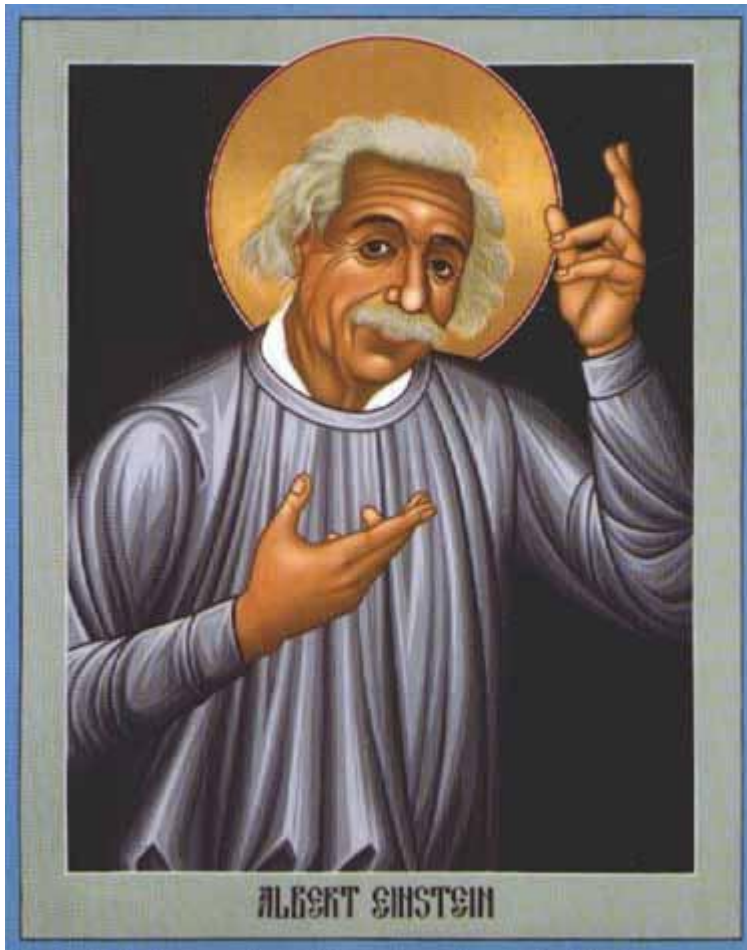
Cantrell thinks it important to be able to test a theory, i.e. so that it is open to be refuted, and says: "To illustrate the importance of being able to refute a theory, consider the following hypothetical: The Earth has a twin moon made of a special green cheese that is perfectly transparent to illumination. Obviously, this is nonsense, but by its own design, the statement cannot be refuted by experiment. We find ourselves in a similar predicament when it comes to Einstein's relativity. Numerous dissidents have made the argument that the theory is logically inconsistent because it assumes a constant speed of light, and then sets out to prove what it assumes. Relativity theory cannot be proven false on strictly theoretical grounds because it is inadvertently protected from refutation by its own circular logic."

What he does not say is that - what is meant by constancy of lightspeed is often ambiguous, which I have dealt with in my other articles. But the point is well made the “theory” is circular in its thinking; it believes certain things and then imposes on experiments that they be interpreted that way.

Einstein changed his philosophy about science/physics so his epistemology (theory of knowledge) changed, but he appears to have not properly defined his relativity theories and so that confusion has imposed upon us an epistemology that Cantrell protests against. (For issues about Einstein and his philosophy of science see my other articles.)

Essen [3] points out: “Students are told that the theory must be accepted although they cannot expect to understand it. They are encouraged right at the beginning of their careers to forsake science in favour of dogma. The general public are misled into believing that science is a mysterious subject which can be understood by only a few exceptionally gifted mathematicians. Since the time of Einstein and of one of his most ardent supporters Eddington there has been a great increase in anti-rational thought and mysticism. The theory is so rigidly held that young scientists who have any regard for their careers dare not openly express their doubts.”

There is nothing wrong with mathematical modelling when clear what the theory is, but when theory building on is improperly defined then it creates a mess. (The issue what I refer to as moving goalposts (where go round in the mathematical modelling cycle again and again) has been dealt with in other articles.)



When Einstein treated as can't be wrong, is then treated as Saint Einstein

References

[1] A Dissident View of Relativity Theory, William H. Cantrell, Ph.D., IE Editorial, Issue 59 <http://www.infinite-energy.com/iemagazine/issue59/adissidentview.html>

Goodstein, D.L. 1986 videos e.g. "Atoms to Quarks," The Mechanical Universe and Beyond Video Series, Annenberg/CPB Project.

n.b. Cantrell says: "Although the ballistic theory is compatible with the M-M [Michelson-Morley] null result and the double-star evidence, it was *disproved* by additional experimentation" – I dispute that last bit; there are different types of ballistic/emission theory; so is too wide-ranging a claim. (Taking the basic ballistic theory, it- would need to be adjusted to fix better with experiments, and Cantrell might think of this as a theory he doesn't like

because it has been adjusted.) I go by the maths, and the maths that supposedly is proven in special relativity can be manipulated to be the maths of one type of ballistic theory.

i.e. maths of a theory can be adjusted until it works with experimental results, but it must be a properly defined theory so know what are changing.

[2] <http://completemath.onmason.com/math-modeling/mathematical-modeling/>

[3] Relativity and time signals" by L. Essen, D.Sc., C.Eng., F.R.S.
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