

The G. O. Mueller Research Project: GOM Project on Relativity

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The G. O. Mueller Research Project has set itself the goal of preparing a complete, international documentation of all publications – in all countries and in all languages – that contain criticism of the special theory of relativity. This can naturally only be achieved through a long-term project. As a means of shielding itself from all external influences, the project is undertaken in complete anonymity and its initiators do not make personal appearances in public. Instead they make the results of their work available to the public, free of charge. The pseudonym "G. O. Mueller" serves to ensure simple, secure identification and research in library catalogues and on the Internet. For citation purposes the terms "GOM-Projekt Relativitätstheorie" and an English version "GOM Project on Relativity" are suggested.

1. Introduction

The first text version of the documentation, published under the German title "Über die absolute Größe der Speziellen Relativitätstheorie" ("On the Absolute Dimensions of the Special Theory of Relativity"), and containing references to 2896 critical publications, went into print in the year 2001 in a small edition. As of December 2001, it was distributed to libraries, personalities in the public eye, journalists, the editorial staff of the multi-regional newspapers, magazines and journals, and further executive and legislative bodies with the request that the recipients assist in the effort to establish scientific freedom of expression in the field of theoretical physics.

In 2004 an extended text version [1.2] referring to 3789 critical publications was first published and has been made available since then. Two activity reports on the project were published in 2003 and in 2004. In 2006, a special English introduction was presented at the international level under the title "95 Years of Criticism of the Special Theory of Relativity (1908 - 2003)" [1].

Ekkehard Friebe (Munich, Germany) was first to offer the documentation for free download in the internet in December 2003. Two further homepage operators soon presented the project publications through their download offers: Gertrude Walton (Winchester, UK) and Umberto Bartocci (Perugia, Italy). Links to these homepages can also be found on several websites. The documentation has also been catalogued by 56 university libraries worldwide and by the library of the German Federal Constitutional Court.

A decisive development came in 2005, when Friebe and Jocelyne Lopez declared themselves as partners of the project and took up the duties of contact persons and representatives of the project in the public context.

2. The GOM Program: Documentation and PR

The GOM Project has set itself two objectives, to document the criticism and to inform the public. The documentation is and remains absolutely unique. Internationally speaking, no other remotely comparable publication exists. And it represents the precondition and the basis for the second objective, informing the

public. Both of these efforts represent something completely new in the history of the theories of relativity and their realization is propagated for the first time in the project "95 Years of Criticism of the Special Theory of Relativity (1908-2003)" [1].

The project is meanwhile able to present information that is absolutely new to the public, and in this sense it can be said to have "news" value:

1. Since December 2001, for the very first time, there is now a comprehensive documentation of the critical publications on the special theory of relativity dating back to 1908. This effort may still fall short of the set objective of documenting every such criticism, but with 3789 critical publications discovered so far (text version 1.2 from 2004), providing a first international overview, it already makes powerful a statement.
2. In parallel, the project has meanwhile also begun to inform the public of the following 4 circumstances:
 - a. That such criticism actually does exist. Contrary to the claims made by academic physics, there is indeed a strong tradition of criticism of the special theory of relativity stretching back from the present day to the year 1908.
 - b. That scientific freedom of expression in the field of theoretical physics has been effectively banned since 1922. Since this date, the very existence of such criticism has been denied and its content has been concealed from the public. No mention of it has been deliberately made or even tolerated in scientific discussions, with the result that in the Federal Republic of Germany [i.e. West Germany], which was established in 1949, there has never been a period of free scientific expression - in connection with the theory of relativity, at any rate - although such freedom of expression is guaranteed by the German constitution.
 - c. That the true status of the special theory of relativity is that of an unconfirmed hypothesis. Contrary to the claims of academic physics, the special theory of relativity is by no means the best confirmed theory of physics, because the existing and often-devastating criticism of it has not been given serious consideration since 1922, and, as such, has not been refuted. This is the basis for the claim that the special theory of relativity is therefore nothing more than

an unconfirmed hypothesis. Its supporters simply refuse to recognize - or to respond to - the massive criticism that has been published over the past 80 years and more.

- d. The resulting failure of academic physics to inform the public as to the actual status of the special theory of relativity - as a result of the above-mentioned denial of the very existence of criticism, the effective suppression of critical scientific debate, and misrepresentation of the true status of the theory - has only been possible with the support of a self-enforced censorship by the press. In this vicious circle, the acceptance by academic physicists of the "findings" published by the press further reinforces the public's belief in a free press, though this is a freedom that physicists critical of special relativity have never enjoyed.

3. Efforts Undertaken to Inform the Public

Again for the very first time, the research project is now engaged in outlining the problems of freedom of expression in the fields of research and teaching in theoretical physics for presentation to the public, in the hope of drawing widespread attention to the lack of free expression in theoretical physics.

At present, the general public has no idea of this anomaly. It believes that research in Germany is free and independent, at least in the state-financed and controlled colleges, universities and institutes. The researchers in these facilities, however, are mostly civil servants who are sworn to recognize and abide by the German constitution. The very trust placed by the public in this scientific community has therefore effectively served to prevent it from recognizing short-comings that a more critical view of the scientific community might have revealed decades ago.

The result of this failure is that anyone nowadays seeking to publicly discuss a "long tradition of suppressed criticism" is faced with reactions of astonishment and disbelief. How could such criticism be successfully suppressed for so long? How could a German constitutional right be effectively suspended for an entire field of scientific work? Why did those who were affected not stand up for their rights? And why did we - the public - fail to notice it? These are questions that indeed have to be put - and will be put in the coming public debate. Questions will also be answered, though preferably by those responsible for the loss of freedom in the first place, i.e. those professionals involved in the decision-making.

The situation has already changed since 2001 and the first publication of the documentation by the project. For the very first time this provides evidence, directly and indirectly, for the 4 claims made above (points 2.1 - 2.4). The documentation serves as the basis for more-effective PR work aimed at informing the general public about the true situation in theoretical physics.

4. Circulation and "Open Letters"

Since December 2001 the project has sent free examples of the documentation to various groups of recipients: to the editorial staffs and journalists of daily newspapers, magazines and journals, to publicists and personalities in the public eye, to the relevant ministries of education of the German states and corresponding federal committees, to the 72 parliamentary fractions in all of the German state parliaments and in the German Parlia-

ment [Bundestag], to all of the 614 newly voted members of the German Bundestag in October 2005, to 221 journalists of 3 daily newspapers and a news magazine, to 100 professors of the Humboldt University in Berlin and to 100 professors of the Technical University in Dresden, to 130 libraries in several countries and to 290 public personalities and editorial staffs in 11 different countries. Initially the approach taken was to send personal letters to the addressees. Since 2005 the preferred approach has been that of the open letter with an address list attached. All in all, some 2230 examples have meanwhile been sent to 1900 addressees, almost all of these in Germany, though a few examples have also been sent to a small group of selected recipients abroad [2].

For the first time in the history of criticism of the special theory of relativity, a German Federal Minister for Education and Research (Dr. Annette Schavan) has confirmed that she is aware of the existence of an extensive and suppressed criticism of this theory, and announced (9 May 2007) that this criticism is to be discussed with experts from the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Potsdam / Institute Albert Einstein (Germany).

5. Conclusion

Since publication of the current version in 2004, the project has continuously gathered an extensive amount of new, critical material (particularly from the internet), and is now working on an update of the documentation, which will include many new authors, critical of relativity, from throughout the entire world.

The aim of informing the public about the existing anomalies relating to the theory of relativity - which is referred to by the project as the "Watergate of Physics" - has still not been achieved, but the project has at least come closer to its target and now has a clearer concept of those obstacles still to be overcome.

The project will continue to demand acceptance of the fundamental right of scientific freedom of expression in accordance with the German constitution. One important result achieved so far, thanks to the above-outlined activities engaged in by the project and by its partners Ekkehard Friebe and Jocelyne Lopez, is that a whole series of common points long-since and repeatedly raised by the critics of relativity have now been collected in print as clear and objective arguments constituting a persuasive body of evidence. And as a consequence of her persistent questioning of the Albert Einstein Institute in Golm (Germany), Ms. Lopez has obtained an official admission by the responsible representatives of the institute, that the supposed length contraction of the special theory of relativity does not represent a physical alteration of the bodies in question. This confirms the objections raised on this issue by many critics of relativity and it points the way to breaking through the wall of silence that has hindered the advance of science for so long.

References

- [1] G.O. Mueller, "95 Years of Criticism of the Special Theory of Relativity (1908-2003)" <http://www.worldsci.org/php/index.php?tab0=Books&tab1=Display&id=401&tab=3> (2006).
- [2] G.O. Mueller, "First Open Letter About the Freedom of Science to Some 290 Public Figures, Personalities, Newspapers, and Journals in Europe and the USA" <http://www.worldsci.org/php/index.php?tab0=Abstracts&tab1=Display&id=3836&tab=2> (2006).