

Translation into English: [Chapter 2 - Catalogue of Errors for Both Theories of Relativity](#)

from the German documentation of G.O. Mueller

"On the Absolute Magnitude of the Special Theory of Relativity - A Documentary Thought Experiment on 95 Years of Criticism (1908-2003) with Proof of 3789 Critical Works" - Text Version 2.1 - June 2004
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A: Ether / Error No. 7

The reintroduction of the ether by Albert Einstein in 1921 had no consequences for the STR

By 1920 at the latest, Albert Einstein had declared the necessity of the existence of the ether. His personal opinion, that the ether could not be understood as material, is one of many views put forward. His opinion, that the ether was identical with space, was one that was also expressed at an earlier date and cannot be verified. The general unawareness as to the characteristic property of the ether appears to leave all claims made in this connection as nothing more than pure speculation, until experimental findings are available. Two crucial sentences from the Leiden speech (reprint 1990, p. 117): "Indessen ... [Thinking precisely about it reveals that this denial of the ether is not a necessity for the principle of the special theory of relativity. One can assume the existence of an ether, but one then has to forego attributing to it a specific state of motion ...]" (p. 119): "Andererseits ... [On the other hand one important argument can be made in favour of the hypothesis of the ether. Denying the ether means, in the end, assuming that empty space has no physical properties whatsoever.]"

In the few relativistic presentations that dare even to mention the new position of Albert Einstein, his interpretation of the ether (as being identical to space) is presented as something completely new. None of these authors treats the question of how these claims can be proven. For most apologetic presentations, however, Albert Einstein remains the conqueror of the ether of 1905.

As a pure claim, the deportation of the ether to space is a clever chess move, because one knows nothing more about space than that extended bodies can exist and move in it. One knows nothing about the ether. One knows nothing about space. In this way Albert Einstein explains one unknown in terms of another unknown. But nonetheless, in 1920 he recalls to mind the word "ether", which had meanwhile come to be regarded with scorn, and testifies to its necessity, because he is meanwhile busy with the GTR.

Einstein, Albert: Äther und Relativitätstheorie: Address given on 5.5.1920 in the Reichs-Univ., Leiden. 1920. 15 pages reprinted in: Albert Einsteins Relativitätstheorie. Publ.: K. v. Meyenn. 1990. pp 111-123.