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
http://www.ekkehard-friebe.de/kap2.pdf

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Q: Methodology / Error No. 10

Albert Einstein's STR and GTR are developed with observable objects and on-looking observers, and their supposed observations; the demands of critics, that the claimed effects should also be clearly observable, is by contrast rejected

Particularly in the first decades of the theory the question of demonstrability was discussed in detail. Originally Albert Einstein had claimed in a positivistic manner that only observable data was to be integrated in the theory, although he was later to claim the opposite.

The derivation of his theories is based, at any rate, on pure, even extreme intuitive ideas, in that some things are described as being material reality although they do not exist at all, except on paper, e.g. coordinate systems. The derivation permanently relies on that which observers supposedly have (clocks and rulers), see and do (send out light signals and register those received; read clocks and rulers).

Accordingly, the critics have found fault with the unintuitive nature of supposed effects such as length contraction, time dilation, twin rejuvenation and ageing, and in particular with Minkowski's four-dimensional geometry and its supposed fourth dimension of time, and have used this as an argument against the theory.

In response to this criticism the relativists are still inclined to dismiss the demand for demonstrability as primitive or unprofessional or inappropriate or unscientific, and they refer one to advanced mathematics, which can prove everything even without demonstrability.

There is a methodical contradiction between the relativists' attempt, in the derivation of the theory, to convince the public of the great demonstrability of the existence of even non-existent things, whereas later, when they are no longer able to deliver demonstrability, they attempt to discredit the demand for demonstrability and to save their approach in the shadow of mathematics. Occasionally, some relativists secure their position somewhat better in that they claim that an effect is fundamentally non-observable, as in the case of length contraction.