

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy admits relativity texts have conflicting accounts of what Einstein's relativity "is"

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There are conflicting accounts of what Einstein's relativity "is". People have tried to make sense of Einstein and drawn different conclusions.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy says: "Although some physicists and philosophers initially opposed it [Einstein's relativity], mostly on non-physical grounds, surveyed here are the principal philosophical interpretations of the theory accepting it as a definite advance in physical knowledge."

Next says:

"Even so, these include positions ill-informed as to the mathematics and physics of the theory."

i.e. people were giving different mathematics and different physics as being the theory; I call that a mess.

Next says:

"Further lack of clarity stemmed from the scientific literati who provided differing, and at times, conflicting mathematical or physical accounts of the theory's fundamental principles."

i.e. not only did they give different mathematics and different physics, those accounts were in conflict; I call that a very big mess.

Next says:

"These are: the principles of equivalence, of general relativity, of general covariance, and finally what Einstein termed Mach's Principle of the complete relativization of inertia. In one or another form, all of these controversies have continued into the present literature of physics and philosophy of physics."

i.e. that very big mess has still not be sorted out.

Stanford Encyclopedia then tries to excuse this mess (i.e. have a feeble attempt to defend Einstein's relativity) and goes on to be silly and say physical theories are supposed to be like that:

"This is not unusual: physical theories, if sufficiently robust, are rarely, if ever, without unproblematic aspects, often taken to say different things at different stages of development."

Reference

Early Philosophical Interpretations of General Relativity, First published Wed Nov 28, 2001; substantive revision Thu Jul 12, 2012 Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/genrel-early/>

my comments c.RJAnderton2018