A MANIFESTO: RETURN TO REALITY

JOSEPH JOSEPHEVICH SMULSKY

A translation of:
Манифест

First prepared by the writer at the initiative of the organizing committee for the VII Conference: “Space, Time and Gravitation,” St. Petersburg, 1992. For lack of consensus among committee members, however, it was not officially endorsed.

The 20-th century has seen serious dissidence arise between the achievements of experimental physics and their theoretical explanation. In addition to the objects observed in nature, contemporary theoretical physics has introduced purely hypothetical constructions for the purpose of their clarification.

Such hypothetical objects were introduced already in the 19-th century in connection with the analysis of electric and magnetic interaction of charged particles. Such real, material charged particles cause evident changes in each other’s motion, e.g., they effect velocity changes on one another, in other words: they interact. This interaction in the form of a “force” was measured by experimentalists and codified in algorithms, with the help of which nowadays electric motors, radio stations and even elementary particle accelerators are designed.

A train engine moves train cars (i.e., transmits energy to them) by means of direct contact through couplings. A magnet, however, can move another magnet located at a distance without such a mechanical coupling. To explain the propagation of action from one such magnet to another, theoretical physics introduced the hypothetical notion of a “field.” This concept has lead to the following explanation of interaction: one body engenders around itself a field, which is thought then to propagate to another body, where it exerts a force on it. Without conscious deliberation, however, this new hypothetical object, this “field,” has been been granted status as a real, ontic entity. In contrast to particles or material bodies themselves, this new object does not have size, form or other physical characteristics. When the engendering charged body moves, it is imagined that its field then also is set in motion. But, it turns out that calculations based on measurements show that the motion of fields differs from that of material bodies.

The recognition of such differences in the motion of hypothetical objects from real bodies occasioned a revolution in the development of theoretical physics. It was taken that the motion of a hypothetical object is real, while the observable motion of the affected bodies was then considered something of just an approximation to this real motion. This conception, however, is based on two incorrect assumptions: 1.) a field is an object in nature, such that its motion is independent of that of real bodies, and 2.) in so far as the interaction of one body on another changes, then by cause of motion, a body experiences a change of its dimensions and the durations of its interactions;—in Special Relativity a new object, the “space-time continuum,” was created.
At this point a new discipline arose: theoretical physics, the goal of which is to model the world. This was the acknowledged goal; the unacknowledged goal was actually to create a world, which, in the 20-th century effectively was achieved. Theoretical physicists created micro- and macro-worlds, built on hypothetical constructions.

This concocted object, the 'space-time continuum,' encompasses only the interaction of charged particles. The universal attraction of all particles to each other, the gravitational force, is nowhere included in this 'continuum.' Thus, theoretical physicists took on the task of creating a field theory that does include gravitational interaction also. To this end, they proffered the hypothesis that a gravitational interaction, or field, also travels at the speed of light. Moreover, they take it, that acceleration which is due to gravity of a particle causes four space (space-time) to be curved. In this way they created the General Theory of Relativity, introducing yet another hypothetical object: curved space-time. In contrast to fields, this new object has no substance of the sort known to man through his experience. It is purely a mathematical object. With this step, theoretical physicists seem to have completely cut themselves off from the real world. Such theorists can be totally devoid of senses, i.e., eyes and ears, but still build a model and be convinced, that they discovered the world which they inhabit.

The subsequent stage in creation of new objects appeared with quantum mechanics. The study of scattering of micro-particles, generated via interaction among multiple particles at various points in space and various moments in time, required the use of probabilistic methods to analyze results. This led to the development of so-called ‘wave functions’ to describe the average characteristics of the motion of groups of particles, a circumstance which, in turn, induced theoreticians to create still another hypothetical object, the “wavicle,” the essence of which, presumably, is distributed throughout all space.

The explanation of the world given by contemporary physics is identical to that of primitive peoples of the distant past, who envisioned various demons and gods to be masters of the winds, fire, light and dark. While primitive peoples imagined these entities to be in the likeness of human beings, contemporary theoretical physicists call on mathematical conceptions. The result is the same, however, imaginary objects are conjured up as if real. In turn, many people have lost their orientation to the factual, ontic environment, so that nowadays superstition and mysticism are widespread and have captivated highly educated even more than common people.

There is a deep disproportion between contemporary experimental and theoretical physics. Man has engaged the Earth, Moon and Sun, penetrated the depths of the Earth and seas, investigated the conditions prevailing in ancient times and projected conditions that may prevail in future epochs. One is convinced of the reality of such natural phenomena and of the nonexistence of other worldly machinators. But, parallel to this, theoretical physics created an imaginary world, which to a large extent contradicts observed reality. This parallel world contains notions, that are incomprehensible using common sense; so that, man has lost confidence in his judgment. Thus, people began accepting ideas that are both personally and socially destructive, based on nothing but imaginary constructions.

In consequence, it is now a high priority task to banish this illusory, fabricated world from science, and life.

Many objects conjured up by theoretical physicists have taken on the same degree of reality for them as the ‘real,’ existing world. With the help of these objects they have interpreted the results of experiments, and found calculational techniques for designing practical equipment, which, in turn, they have taught to younger generations; so that nowadays claims of the existence of such concocted entities provoke absolutely no doubt.
So, now at the end of the 20-th century, where have we arrived? We don’t know what light is. Is it particles, if so, what kind? Is it waves, if so, what is oscillating? Likewise, atoms, electrons, protons, etc. are all ill perceived. Are they real objects, or just mathematical conceptions? How are they constructed, what holds them together, what splits them apart into constituent particles? We have no conception of the macro-world. Is it curved and closed? Or did it originate in a single explosion from a point from which it shall expand and dissipate into an infinite void?

Theoretical physics has found no answers to these and similar questions. It is replete with contradictions, illogic, inappropriate conclusions and simple absurdities. Perhaps the best tactic now would be simply to reject and forget the results of 20-th century theoretical physics altogether. On the other hand, there are many calculational algorithms, based on empirical data, that have penetrated into the essence of reality. It is, therefore, necessary to free these algorithms from their baggage of concocted conceptions. Then a natural clarification of the world could arise and reveal a realistic, comprehensible world. With such understanding, man would be equipped to take on grand tasks, efficiently master them, and thereby put order in his life as best possible.

In the past two decades various scientists have developed methods to calculate interaction in the macro- and micro-world, which do not use the tendentious objects of theoretical physics. These results were reported at nonrelativistic scientific conferences and published, usually, in less renowned journals. Many of these ideas are not fully developed and require further analysis. Others can be taken as they are now; they are more accurate than currently accepted methods. The task for science is now to exploit these new techniques to study nature in terms of its real constituents.

In any case, we can say with certainty: everything imaginable, does not necessarily exist. There may be, therefore, no ‘ontology’ to aether, fields, energy and mass. Moreover, mass need not transform into energy, nor antimatter. Many particles, including, say, photons, neutrinos, gravitons, quarks and strings, need have no objective existence. The universe may not be expanding and there may have been no big bang, no neutron stars nor black holes. No strong nor weak forces. Mass and energy are just man-made imaginary concepts introduced to help describe the motion of material bodies. In reality, there may be only three forces among material objects: electric, magnetic and gravitational.

We call on theoretical physicists to consider the above propositions and to rethink their work; to bear in mind: sooner or later fanciful constructions in theoretical physics will be revealed to be in vain. We call on these theorists to reject those contemporary-physics constructions larded with misguiding illusions, not to introduce still more new ones.

Translated by A. F. KRACKLAUER