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When Albert Einstein and Henri Bergson rowed about time

A century later, the dispute between the physicist and the philosopher still resonates



Apr 9th 2022

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A CENTURY AGO, on April 6th 1922, the world's most famous philosopher debated against the most famous [physicist](#) and lost. Henri Bergson, a French thinker who caused Broadway's first traffic jam when he gave a lecture in New York, had challenged the [notion of time](#) advanced by Albert Einstein, the discoverer of relativity. Bergson was putting his thoughts into book form when Einstein came to Paris.

At a gathering hosted by the Société française de philosophie, which followed a talk by [Einstein on relativity](#), they finally locked horns. Bergson summarised part of his forthcoming book, "Duration and Simultaneity". Einstein's rebuttal was withering. There is "no such thing as a philosopher's time" he asserted. Bergson's

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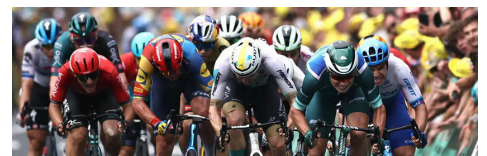
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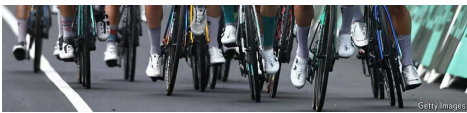
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