

YesterYear Time Travel Guide

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Preface

Welcome to the official YesterYear guide to time travel!

In the past, time was described as “the fourth dimension”. This is an outdated model, but it warrants some merit as a metaphor developed from limited understanding.

However, following the development of tools that allowed for initial observations of the fabric of time, a revolutionary new model for understanding time came to be: a relationship between entropy as an attractive force similar to gravity and the simultaneous existence and development of many worlds, which split off and become exponentially more numerous as time progresses futureward.

The model - surprisingly accurately simplified to the analogy that time is a mountain - has led to the ease and prevalence of time travel, as well as its role as a world-changing technology like agriculture, electricity, or the Yesteryear SmartBlender, the first fully sapient household appliance.

Key Terms to Know:

- Time Mountain: A metaphor for all of time, where the peak is the Big Bang and the ever unreachable base of the mountain is the future.
- Timeline: A series of events from the start of time to the base of the mountain.
- Timestream: A person or object’s personal timeline from the start of their existence to their end.

The Slope

The simplest principle to understanding the time mountain model is that the past is up, the future is down, hence the natural flow of time, which progresses downward. Time travel pastward is exponentially more difficult than time travel futureward, and time vessels cannot yet be equipped with pastward time travel technology, only the means to jump futureward. Pastward time travel is accomplished only by launching time vessels from infrastructure built for that purpose.

Thus, time vessels can be launched into the past, after which they can only journey futureward in chronological order until they return to their point of origin.

All time vessels are equipped with capacity for camouflage and must maintain proper ghosting procedure to preserve the stability of our timeline. Interacting with the past is highly discouraged and only permissible for academic research purposes with approval by an institutional review board.

Changing the past is strictly prohibited under all circumstances.

The Trails

As time progresses, timelines diverge from each individual point in time. From the Big Bang, uncountably many timelines have unfolded, but our world and everyone in it has only ever experienced one - this one in which time travel was invented.

Other preexisting timelines are completely inaccessible. Rather, if a native of one timeline changes the past, that change is one that has never happened before - and a completely new timeline is formed, which the time-changer inhabits hence and continues to experience.

A time-traveler on a new timeline will be unable to return to their original timeline, which is now separate from them, and as they change what was their original past, their timeline will become increasingly unstable.

In recent years, the Safer Time Travel Initiative has reinforced our timeline to ensure its stability as past-interactive time travel expeditions continue to conduct historical research, and it has completely eradicated the danger posed by time avalanches to our timeline.

The Snow

The Time Mountain model was improved with the Snow Addendum, which models the flow of time. The Snow Addendum likens each individual subject or object as a snowflake, one among thousands in an even blanket of powder snow that is, much like a river, in constant flow down the slope of Time Mountain.

Reckless time travel will inevitably destabilize flow of time. If a time traveler interacts with the past, they can alter or disrupt the flow of the surrounding snow, which results in further destabilization of the snow blanket. Small interactions may cause a small amount of destabilization, but larger interactions, such as time changing (moving objects, altering the course of hundreds of subjects, etc.) can cause catastrophic events to occur.

The most dangerous type of time changing was, unfortunately, one of the most prevalent in the early days of time travel: the removal of objects from the timeline and transporting them forward through time. Done with ancient artifacts for the purpose of academic study, ill effects began to befall these objects as they were transported forward in time due to what have been termed *time avalanches*.

Time Avalanches

[Information on Time Avalanches has been reclassified.]