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Time Travel

Time travel is a widely recognized concept in **philosophy** and **fiction**; perhaps due to the growth in film-making, and increased availability of books on the internet and elsewhere all highlighting **time travel** as plausible. One cannot talk about time travel without defining time itself. What is time? This question has sparked genius minds throughout history, from ancient Greek philosophers to contemporary elite scientists like **Albert Einstein** among others. It is said that time is one of the greatest mysteries in the universe because each attempt to culminate its realm has ended in a much more complicated perceptive of how we know it!

It could be said that time had no meaning before the big bang. If the big bang was the beginning of time, then there was no universe before the big bang, since there would not be any “before” if there was no time! Time in some sense is a rock-bottom that allows change to take place. When we say there is a time lapse, it is because things now are different from how they were a little while ago. Some think that time is something our brain impose on our perception to organize our experience to some coherent framework that allows us to survive. Those who believe in time travel, suggest that time could be made of fundamental entities or time constituents, like for example we do say water is made of hydrogen and oxygen atoms combined together. The reason why we are not able to identify these time ingredients is that they are more different than time as we know it hence remaining undetectable. Now after getting a bit on notion on time, what could be meant by *time travel*?

Time travel turns out to be a very new idea that essentially starts with H.G. Wells’s 1895 novel, ***The Time Machine***. Before that nobody thought of putting the words *time* and *travel* together. Simply time travel would mean moving between certain points in time by use of a **hypothetical device** known as a **time machine** or any other available means!

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Hey guys, it is time to quench your thirst. Time travel is absolutely possible and this is not some sort of science-fiction things but work based on **Albert Einstein's** general and super theory of relativity more than 100 years ago. But hang on, this only works if you focus on time travel in the future i.e. making a leap-frog into the future and see how the world will be like in like a million years from now.



Scientific depiction of a hole into space that could allow time travel.

Einstein proposed about two ways on which we could account on time travel. The first involves building a spaceship, go out into space near the speed of light turn around and come back. Imagine you go out for six months and return for another six months to reach Earth, you will have aged according to your spaceship calendar one year. However according to the **special theory of relativity** that's not the case to people who remained on Earth. Your time in the spaceship is elapsing much slower than time back on Earth. You will have gone for only one year but many years will have passed on Earth, thousands or even millions of years depending on how close to the speed of light you travelled. Perhaps most people know of the **Twin paradox**, an example of Einstein's theory. In this paradox, one of two twins takes an inter-stellar voyage to visit a distant planet. During the time he voyages he is as the same age as his other twin but when he comes back after

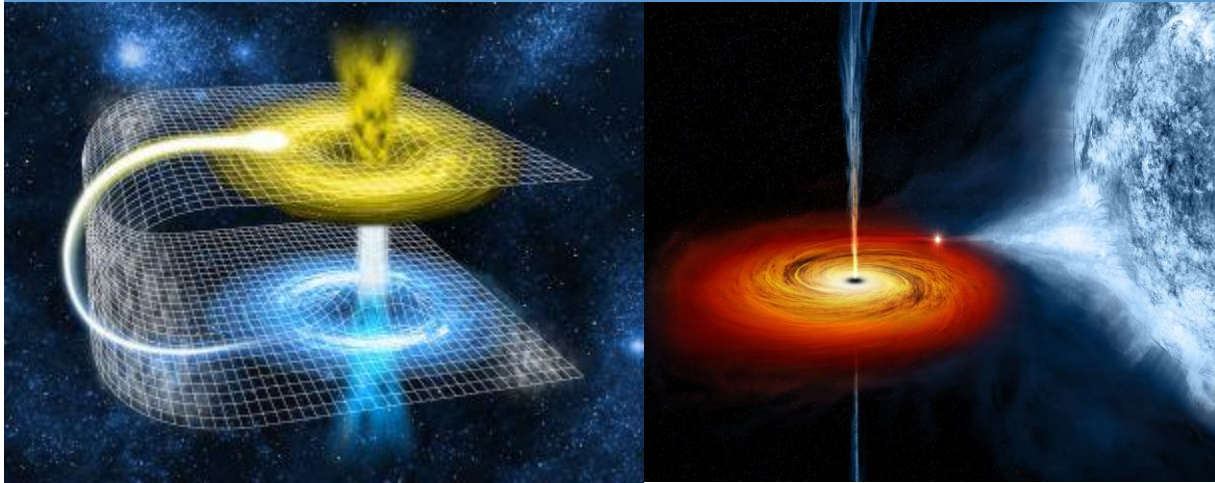
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having gone for only ten years according to his clock, he finds that his other twin has aged thirty years more, that is on earth he had been gone for thirty years. This means he has travelled twenty years in the future!

The second possibility is that when you hang at the edge of a black hole, time again will lapse more slowly for you at the edge of the black hole than back on earth, so you hang up back there for a while, you come back and again you will be any number of years into the future, whatever you want all depending on how close you got to the edge of the black hole and how long you hang out there. Except for this kind of time travel by means of black hole is extremely impossible due to the dangers associated with these black holes that engulf or swallow anything they encounter. There is no explanation on how you can hang out at the edge of that cosmic monster.

These explanations so far deal with time travel in the future, what about time travel to the past? This is where comes the **general theory of relativity**. Time travel to the past is theoretically possible by assuming instances where travelling faster than the speed of sound is not an issue, **Wormholes**. Wormholes are like hypothetical portals through space. A wormhole is basically a thin tube of space that connects two very distant parts of space, it is a tunnel that you get in and pops you out in another region of space in the universe, it is like a shortcut through the billions of light years separating the farthest end in the universe. The cool fact is that a wormhole might also empty into another time because space and time are entangled. Wormholes may theoretically link different point in time. Due to the fact that space and time are mixed up, by travelling through a wormhole, you may not only end up in a different space but also in a different time, say into the past. You could go into your own past and then come visit yourself before you entered the beginning of the wormhole.

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Left: a wormhole

right: a black hole

So far we have been talking time travel theoretically without any concrete proofs or examples to make it real. Time travel is not just in works of science fiction but also there have been claims or clues of where the concepts of time travel have been reported. Here are some of these clues and it's up to you to decide whether they are true or just some sort of hoaxes.

Did a plane disappear and land 37 years later?

There is a popular claim put forth by the *Weekly World News*, that Pan Am Flight 914 disappeared in 1955 but reappeared 37 years later and landed without incident! That seems pretty awesome but how? This "unsolved" event reportedly involves a plane that took off from New York in 1955 with 57 passengers, disappeared for 37 years, then reappeared and landed in Miami as if nothing had happened. Various solutions have been offered to explain the riddle of Pan Am Flight 914, the most popular of which is that this plane flew through some sort of time-travel portal. The eye witness of this story being an air-traffic controller by the names of **Juan de la Corte**.

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News EXCLUSIVE: We uncover the greatest mystery in aviation history

An airline charter flight that left New York in 1955 with 57 passengers and crew astonishingly landed at an international airport in March of this year, witnesses say.

Tapes of the pilot's conversation with the control tower provide compelling evidence that the mind-twisting drama took place.

But the clincher is the recovery of a calendar from 1955, which the horrified pilot dropped onto a modern airport's runway seconds before his obsolete DC-4 took off and vanished in the sky above Caracas, Venezuela.

"I saw the aircraft, I heard the pilot, I held the calendar — and I still can't believe it," said Juan de la Corte, air traffic controller who witnessed the entire spectacle from the tower at the airport in Caracas.

"I can't believe it, but I have to. And there is no logical explanation that makes any sense at all. Those people that plane thought they were landing — and living — in 1955."

Flight control officers said they knew something was very wrong when the propeller-driven airplane appeared over the airport but didn't show up on radar.

"We could see it with our eyes, but not on our instruments," said one officer, who requested anonymity.

"We asked for identification, the pilot radioed back, 'Where are we? What the hell is going on?' He sounded very stressed, but he finally identified the craft as charter flight 914 out of New York, bound for Miami with 57 passengers."

The source said a hush came over the control room — because Miami is 1,200 miles from Caracas.

"I took the mike and said, 'This is Caracas, Venezuela, South America. Are you Mayday? Are you Mayday?' There was no response, so I saved them for landing. His approach and landing was textbook, beautiful," he added.

"But just as I began to think everything was

RIDDLE OF FLIGHT 914

STUNNED passengers of flight 914 expected to touch down in Miami. They were 1,200 miles — and 30 years off!



Plane took off from New York in 1955 and landed in Caracas in 1985

proached the plane," said the controller, "the pilot shouted: 'No! Get away. We're getting out of here!'"

Members of the crew reported seeing the faces of terrified passengers pressed against the windows. They said the pilot himself opened his cockpit window and tried to wave them away with what looked like a clipboard.

"They started taxing up the runway," said de la Corte. "Seconds later, they were airborne and literally vanished."

Tight-lipped aviation authorities seized the tapes and a small wallet calendar that fell from the pilot's clipboard onto the runway. They have refused to discuss the incident.

— DEREK CLONTZ



a woman crying hysterically. "I told them to stay calm," said de la Corte. "I told them we were sending a ground crew."

"Then I said, 'Captain, this is Caracas, Venezuela, March 9, 1985. Did you read, Captain — March 9, 1985.'"

"He would not acknowledge. I'm sure they heard because I could hear people screaming, and the pilot told his copilot, 'Get back and calm them down!'"

"As the ground crew ap-

"Then, very softly, he said, 'Something is wrong.'"

Although the radio signal was marred by an eerie static, the controllers said they could hear

This is an article in the Weekly World News reporting the Riddle of Flight 914!

There have been various accounts of persons who allegedly travelled through time reported by the press or circulated on the Internet. These reports have generally turned out either to be hoaxes or to be based on incorrect assumptions, incomplete information, or interpretation of fiction as fact.

Present day hipster at 1941 bridge opening



"The Time Travelling Hipster"

A photograph from 1941 of genuine authenticity of the re-opening of the South Fork Bridge in Gold Bridge, British Columbia, was alleged to show a time traveler. It was

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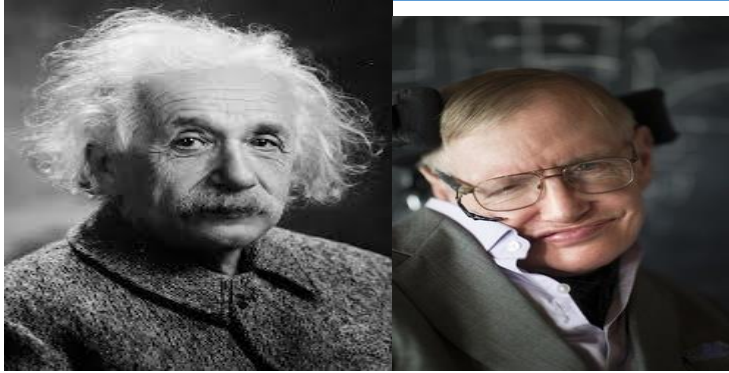
claimed that his clothing and sunglasses were of the present day and not of the styles worn in the 40s. Further research suggested that the present day appearance of the man may not have been so new. The style of sunglasses first appeared in the 1920s. On first glance the man is taken by many to be wearing a printed T-shirt, but on closer inspection it seems to be a sweater with a sewn-on emblem, the kind of clothing often worn by sports teams of the period. The shirt is very similar to the one that was used by the Montreal Maroons, an ice hockey team from that era. The remainder of his clothing would appear to have been available at the time, though his clothes are far more casual than those worn by the other individuals in the photograph. Debate centers on whether the image genuinely shows a time traveler, has been Photo shopped or is simply being mistaken as anachronistic. The "Time Traveling Hipster" became a case study in viral Internet phenomena in museums which was presented at the Museums and the Web 2011 conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Andrew Carlssin

Andrew Carlssin was supposedly arrested in March 2003 for SEC violations for making 126 high-risk stock trades and being successful on every one. As reported, Carlssin started with an initial investment of \$800 and ended with over \$350,000,000 which drew the attention of the SEC. Later reports suggest that after his arrest, he submitted a four-hour confession wherein he claimed to be a time traveler from 200 years in the future. He offered to tell investigators such things as the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden and the cure for AIDS in return for a lesser punishment and to be allowed to return to his time craft, although he refused to tell investigators the location or workings of his craft. A mysterious man posted his bail and Carlssin was scheduled for court hearing but was never seen again; records show that he never existed.



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Albert Einstein and Prof Stephen Hawking contributed much to time travel as we know it.

Well, after all it seems the world has things that will always seem strange to us mostly because they are beyond our common imaginations. Time travel, if possible should mean changing reality as we know it. The questions about time travel remain unsolved mysteries and paradoxes. One of those being the **Grand Father Paradox** or the argument of auto-infanticide. The paradox is commonly described with a person who travels to the past and kills their own grandfather, prevents the existence of their father or mother, and therefore their own existence. Philosophers question whether these paradoxes make time travel impossible. Some philosophers answer the paradoxes by arguing that it might be the case that backward time travel could be possible but that it would be impossible to actually change the past in any way. Nevertheless, you have heard different points given on the concept of time travel some of them being theoretical and others being a hundred percent practical. Up to now there hasn't been any official claim of any sort of time travel whether in the past or the future, which means time travel is still a scientific theory. In 1991, Stephen Hawking wrote a paper called "Chronology Protection Conjecture," in which he asked: If time travel is possible, why are we not inundated with tourists from the future? He has a point, doesn't he?