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# c<sup>o</sup>ntinuum glossary

talking time travel

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Time travel is supposed to make a hash of human language, as tenses and terminology become entangled with describing actions out of their usual sequence, by people who move outside of the normal bounds of time.

However, the reality is very simple. Everyday words, in Modern English at least, already provide all the information a spanner needs, as well as being an excellent cover for any prying leveller ears.

Consistent use of present and present perfect tense solves most traditional confusions about time travel, especially when explaining things in the third person: "Pam is in 1534." "Ted is going from April 1830 to March 2010." "Pam meets Ted in 2010, and then visits Ted's junior in 1830." Individual spanners

might use past and future tense— but they would always be discussing their own or a fellow spanner's Age or Yet (see below).

Only a few of the words below will seem unfamiliar to the average English speaker. It simply becomes a matter of understanding how they've been used by the spanners around us throughout history.

Cross-references are in **boldface** with the exception of repeated terms in the same listing, and "span" and "spanner" due to their frequency.

## Age

**n.** (*Latin "Middle English < Old French aage < Vulgar Latin < Latin aetas "age"*)  
The period of spacetime during which someone exists. How old a spanner is, and also the events he has already experienced; these events of course do not come in the natural sequence **levellers** experience events. Sometimes referred to as the 'Required Past', but only in comparison to the **Yet** (see).

## Antedesertium

**n.** (*Latin "the land before the time of the desert"*)  
The worldwide **narcissist** empire posing the greatest threat to the **Continuum**. Called by many natives *Yrnë*. Flourishes to c. 18000 -



13557 BC.

## as/as not

The point during an incident of **frag** beyond which natural **paradoxes** do not heal by themselves, but collapse the universe, instead. **Sentient force** is applied at this point to heal frag.

## Atlantean Councils

**n.** The 117 sessions at the beginning of **the Societies** that determined membership, and many rules of conduct for spanners within Societal spacetime. Held every five or six years on **Atlantis**, beginning in 12969 BC.

## Atlantis

**n.** (*Greek Atlas "Titan supporting the heavens" < ProtoIndoEuropean [PIE] tel "to lift, support, weigh"*) Battle station that can span; modeled after certain **Inheritor** designs. A city of spanners, it is the largest of several stations allotted for **the Societies'** defense against **Antedesertium**. Host to the **Atlantean Councils**.

## chrony

**n.** (*Modern English Slang "old companion" < Greek khronios "long-lasting" < chronos "time" < Uncertain*)

A fellow spanner one considers a close friend.

## civilization

**n.** (*Middle English < Old French < Latin civis "citizen" < "member of a household" < PIE keiwi*)

To spanners, the overarching period dominated by a particular species or subspecies, as opposed to merely a culture. Examples of civilizations: **Antedesertium, the Societies, the Inheritors**.

## Continuum

**n.** (*Latin continuus [neuter form] "continuous" < continere "to hold together, restrain" < tenere < PIE ten "to stretch"*)

1. Humanity (and all nonhuman sentience) that can span, and social framework that holds it together.

2. The entirety of sentience throughout spacetime, most specifically that which is used to maintain existence.

## corner

**n.** (*Middle English < Old French corniere < Vulgar Latin cornarium < Latin cornu < "horn, extremity" < PIE ker "horn"*)

1. A homestead or equivalent establishment where spanners of a particular **locality** can be themselves without **leveller** scrutiny.

Essentially, a local safe house or home base for spanners.

2. By extension, the **locality** around the home base.

## Down

Downward

**adv.** (*Middle English down < Old English dune < of dune "from the hill" [of "off" + dun "hill"] < Germanic dunaz "hill" < ProtoCeltic dhuno "fortified, enclosed"*)

Towards the past from one's current position in spacetime. Pastward.

Normally capitalized to differentiate it from a mere direction in space.

Compare **Up** and **Level**.

## dreamtime

**n.** (*dream + time [dream < Middle English drem < Old English "joy, music" < Germanic draugma < PIE dhreugh "to deceive"] + [time < Old English tima < Germanic dimon < PIE da "to divide"]*)

A state wherein people with the Dreaming skill, primarily spanners, encounter one another to exchange information; a state of consciousness equivalent to Plato's World of Ideas. Named for the dream-state of Australian aboriginal myth.

**elder**  
elder self

**n.** The later, older self in a **gemini incident** (see below), that has experienced the incident before. See also **junior**.

**era**

See **zodiac**, below.

**Exalted**

**n.** (*Middle English* *exalten* < *Old French* *exalter* < *Latin* *exaltare* < "[to lift] up high") sing. or pl. – Spanner(s) of such skill that they can easily travel the length of **the Societies**, and beyond. Considered authorities and intermediaries with other **civilizations**, especially with the **Inheritors**.

**frag**  
fragmentation

(*Modern English Slang* "to blow up [someone surreptitiously]" < fragment "to break" < *Middle English* < *Latin* *fragmentum* < *frangere* < *PIE* *bhreg* "to break")

- n.** The state of inconsistency with the universe, corrected at the **as/not** by proper application of **sentient force**. (See **C<sup>o</sup>NTINUUM**, ppg. 53-54.)
- adj.** The state of experiencing that inconsistency.
- v.** to frag. To use **sentient force** to cause such inconsistency.

**fraternity**

**n.** (*Middle English* *fraternite* < *Old French* < *Latin* *fraternitas* < *frater* "brother" < *PIE* *bhrater*)  
A group of spanners of like mind, usually performing a unique service to other spanners and/or the **Continuum**. Like a medieval guild, a Fraternity is the profession of a spanner, when among spanners. There are ten primary Fraternities; since they are different professions, and must cooperate for the good of the Continuum, there are rarely any rivalries between them.  
Members of any given Fraternity can be found throughout the spacetime of **the Societies**, and often beyond.

**frune**  
fron

**v.** (*Old English* *gefrunen*)  
To find out *by asking questions*.  
This is distinct from other forms of information, and gathering information. Froning implies the knowledge of others, with its consequences, and the advertising that you are aware of certain events.  
This is also distinct from merely asking, which is just the expression of the desire for information. Froning emphasizes *sentient force* applied to the discovery of information from other sentience.

**"Further information is not available here."**

This phrase is used whenever an informative answer cannot be given to a spanner, on the understanding that knowing too much or too little can be burdensome to one's **Yet**. The sentence is perfectly information-neutral, revealing only that additional information on the subject matter the querant seeks will not be found at that place and time— not whether the respondent knows or doesn't know the answer, nor any clue to its discovery or relevance. See also **frune**.

**futury**  
futurity

**n.**  
The equivalent of history, only in reference to "the future" as understood by levellers; prophecy. Detailed information of upcoming events. Rarely a relevant term for spanners: see **the Yet**.

**gemini incident** An event where a spanner meets himself. Such incidents have strict rules

of conduct, primarily governed by the Second **Maxim**: '*Respect your elders, they know more than you.*' (See **elders** and **juniors**.)  
Not to be confused with the Geminid zodiacal era, which is known for its frequency of gemini incidents (see **zodiac**, below).

## Hegemony

The Hegemony

**n.**

The name by which many **narcissists** refer to **the Societies**. Used derogatorily.

## Inheritors

**n.**

1. The people, mostly spanners, who flourish after the spacetime of **the Societies**.  
2. The spacetime of the **civilization** of the Inheritors.

## Interregnum

**n.** (*Latin* "between reigns")

The spacetime between **Antedesertium** and **the Societies**, 13557 - 12969 BC. A time of extreme chaos and **frag**.

## junior

junior self

**n.** Any previous version of one's self along one's **Age**. Especially refers to the earlier, younger self in a **gemini incident** (see), that has not experienced the incident before.

## level

The "present" as currently occupied or described. The ordinary passage of time from past to future.

## leveller

**n.** A person unaware of spanning, and unable to span. An ordinary human.

## locality

**n.**

1. A spanner's original birthplace, especially where he was raised as a **leveller**. The spacetime most familiar to a spanner by experience and association.  
2. The place(s) a spanner has made his home. See **corner**, above.

## Maxims

The Maxims

**n. pl.** (*Middle English* < *Old French* maxime < *Medieval Latin* propositio maxima "greatest proposition" < *Latin* maximus < *PIE* meg "great")

The set of axioms spanners loyal to the **Continuum** follow. The Maxims are believed to be universal throughout all spacetime, with only minor variations.

## narcissist

**n.** (*Latin* narcissus < *Greek* narkissos < *Mediterranean*)

A spanner at odds with **Continuum**, using his ability and **sentient force** to attempt to alter events, usually for his own aggrandizement. So named after the figure in Greek myth who was so infatuated with himself, that he turned into vegetable.

## paradox

**n.** (*Latin* paradoxum < *Greek* paradoxos "incredible", conflicting with the expected" < [para "beyond" + doxa "opinion" < dokein "to think" < "to cause to be accepted" < *PIE* dek "to take or accept"])

1. Any situation of two mutually-exclusive events occurring at the same time; can occur naturally, accidentally, or deliberately. (See **C°NTINUUM**, ppg. 56-57.)

2. Used by some to refer to the moment of **as/as not** (see); though properly described, the as/as not contains a near-infinite number of potential paradoxes.

**sentient force** **n.** Deliberate act of will, usually in reference to its application in ensuing events, or attempting to change them.

**society** **n.**  
One of the hundreds of cultures/nations accepted as a cohesive unit by the **Atlantean Councils**. One of **the Societies** (see below).

**Societies** **n.**  
The civilization existing in spacetime between **Antedesertium** and the **Inheritors**. Made up of hundreds of individual cultures/nations, which provide the **civilization** its name. Trade and competition among societies make up much of the political machinations of the civilization. Flourishes 12969 BC - AD 2400.

**span** (*Middle English spanne "short distance or interval" < Old English spann < Germanic spannon < PIE spen "to draw, stretch, spin"*)

1. **n.** The distance of spacetime a spanner can travel safely without rest. Often indicative of social status and responsibility.

2. **n.** A length of time, used especially of the entire duration of a person, object or **civilization**.

3. **v.** to span. The act of travelling through time at will. Most schools of spanner philosophy regard all of the foregoing definitions as facets of the others.

**spanner** **n.**  
spinner

1. A wrench.

2. One who spans; a person that can traverse time at will. Contrast **leveller**, above. Natives from **localities Down** from the Industrial Revolution prefer the related term *spinner*, as in weaver.

**Swarm** **n.**  
The Swarm

The name by which many **narcissists** refer to the **Continuum**, or any group of loyal Continuum spanners. Used derogatorily.

**Up** **adv.** (*Middle English up < Old English uppe "on high" < Germanic upp < PIE upo "under, up from under, over"*)  
Upward

Towards the future from one's current position in spacetime. Futureward. Normally capitalized to differentiate it from a mere direction in space. Compare **Down** and **Level**.

**"What time is it?"**

This phrase, or obvious variants, is main signal spanners use to identify one another. The proper response is to repeat the phrase verbatim when asked. **Levellers** will act confused or annoyed; fellow spanners will expect to lead or be led to a safe area where matters privy to spanners can be

discussed without leveller scrutiny.

**Yet**  
the Yet

**n.** (*Middle English yit < Old English giet, gieta "still" < Uncertain*)  
Information of events that a spanner has not experienced, but will. This is referred to as **the Yet** to distinguish it from other, especially linear, definitions of a "future" or "past". Usually referred to with an article (the Yet, his Yet, her Yet, etc.) Also referred to as the 'Required Future'. Compare **Age**.

**young gemini**

The **gemini incidents** (see above) that occur before a spanner learns to span. **Leveller** encounters with **elder** (spanner) selves, nearly always unrecognized for what they are until much later.

**zodiac**  
zodiacal era  
era

**n.** (*Middle English < Old French zodiaque < Latin zodiacus < Greek zoidiakos kuklos "circle of carved figures" < zoion "animal" < PIE gwyoyo*)  
Sections of spacetime of approximately 2000 years each. Each era has special meaning and events relevant to **Societal** spanners. Spanners often identify themselves to each other by their era before revealing narrower details such as their locality or corner.  
The zodiac and its variants exist to assist spanners in understanding their local spacetime; its astrological connotation is the face presented to **levellers**.

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