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Missing: A Single Particle of Light

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Missing: A Single Particle of Light

By Cecilia Philips

A single particle of light was sent back
through time in Queensland, Australia
to interact with its older self
as eager physicists watched.

The photon observed its own evolution,
puzzling over the appropriate questions
that one should ask themselves, if ever
they met face-to face.

What have I learned?

Is too broad and the quantum mechanics
handbook strictly forbids time travel interactions
that fall in the realm of the Grandfather Paradox
which would erase both photons

from every family Christmas card
and memory and existence
leaving the light particle with the task
of warping the fabric of space-time

to create a wormhole, which is not as easy
as drawing a line on a piece of paper, folding it
in half and poking a hole to connect the ends
like your intro to quantum physics textbook says.

Any physicist can explain the inherit instability
of wormholes. Better luck traveling
by flying pig, or a re-vamped sports car
driven during a lightning storm.