

- i. There are three main timelines.
 - i. Timeline 1: The original, where Barry's mom lived, the particle accelerator went off in 2020, and the Flash and Reverse-Flash vanished in 2024.
 - ii. Timeline 2-current: The show's timeline, where Barry's mom died, the particle accelerator went off in 2014, Eobard Thawne ceased to exist in 2015, and Hartley joined Team Flash. This timeline has three alternatives:
 - i. Timeline 2-1: [Out of Time] A tsunami destroys Central City; Thawne kills Cisco.
 - ii. Timeline 2-2: [Legends of Yesterday] Everyone dies due to Vandal Savage.
 - iii. Timeline 2-3: [Flash Back] Hartley remained a villain.
 - iii. Timeline 3: The new timeline, where Barry's mom lived (but was attacked by the Reverse-Flash).
 - i. In *Shattered Timelines*, the particle accelerator was activated in 2015.
- ii. Generally, The Flash uses divergent time travel--each time a speedster travels through time, a different timeline is created.
- iii. This has manifested itself in two ways on the show:
 - i. Merging (seen in Out of Time and Legends of Yesterday)
 - ii. Full alternate timeline (seen in Flash Back; implied to have happened previously in Fast Enough)
 - i. Flash Back has Barry return from the past of 2-3 to the present of 2-current.
 - ii. In Fast Enough, Thawne talks about how killing Barry's mother changed the timeline. Because Thawne didn't return to the future, he stays in what was currently 2-3, with his memories of 1.
- iv. Both of these leave remnants of the old timeline, mainly *mental* ones--meaning the time traveler can remember the old timeline, but nobody else can. Except Cisco with his vibes.
 - i. Thawne remembers 1.
 - ii. Barry remembers 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and post-Flash Back 2-current, in that order.
 - i. He can't remember specifics of 2-current because it involves Hartley, which he wouldn't have experienced before he changed the timeline in Flash Back.
 - iii. Cisco remembers 2-current, 2-3, 2-2, and 2-1, in that order. (Presumably, anyway--he's never mentioned 2-3, but fanfiction has happily filled that gap.)
 - iv. In *Shattered Timelines*, and presumably in Season 3, everyone else on Earth-1 remembers 3.
- v. Zoom utilized a different method, similar to merging but minus the actual merging part, that left physical timeline remnants. (Which he then killed.) Basically going back in time about five minutes so there are two of him.
 - i. Barry did this too in Race of His Life.
 - ii. The divergent theory prevents the paradoxes that arise from him killing his past self.

- vi. There are a few oddities of the timelines:
 - i. Eddie killing himself, meaning Eobard Thawne should have never existed--but everything he did in timeline 2 (any of them) remained.
 - i. To avoid a paradox (a LOT of paradoxes, actually), this is treated as though he simply died when Eddie did. Everything he did in the past of his personal timeline, including The Reverse-Flash Returns and the entirety of Season 1, remained in effect.
 - ii. 2015!Flash (from Season 1 in timeline 2) vanishes at the end of Race of His Life. There are a few potential explanations for why this happens, when divergent timeline theory means it usually wouldn't. He disappears because:
 - i. He's from an alternate timeline. This also implies that future!Flash (from timeline 1) would have vanished as well, which is possible, as we don't see him again. Disproved (most likely) because divergent theory would still preserve a time remnant (Zoom killed multiple past selves and survived).
 - ii. A Hitler paradox of necessity--he wouldn't have to be there to save his mother if his mother was already alive. Disproved again because of divergent theory, which prevents paradoxes of that nature (Out of Time!Barry wouldn't need to travel back without the tsunami, but without him traveling back the tsunami would exist again--divergent theory stops the loop by allowing mental remnants.)
 - iii. He doesn't have his speed in 2015, so he couldn't be there at that time. This explains why he didn't disintegrate like Thawne--2015!Barry is still alive, but would not have been there without the ability to time travel, so he simply vanished. Not the prettiest explanation, but divergent theory doesn't technically prevent it.
 - iv. ~~It gives the viewers a nice panicky moment at the cost of maintaining logic~~

Now. Let's get into theoreticals--things the show hasn't dealt with yet but can be guessed based on how they've handled things before.

- vii. Barry's speed in timeline 3. Two possibilities: he has it or he doesn't. Arguments could be made for both.
 - i. He doesn't: Obviously, the particle accelerator hasn't yet exploded (unless we get into the butterfly effect, where maybe the Reverse-Flash's attack on Nora Allen changed other things, but that's an overcomplication). Therefore, he shouldn't have his speed, no matter what he remembers of the old timeline. Simple.
 - ii. He does: Barry never experienced timeline 3. He has been through the particle accelerator's explosion in 2, and therefore he retains his speed because he doesn't remember *not* having it. (Ignoring the times he lost it for brief stretches of time.)
 - i. Conjecture: Full alternate timelines, like Flash Back, keep physical effects as well. If Caitlin were to test current!Barry's blood, she would find no trace of the sedative used on past!Barry in Flash Back, because

current! Barry never had that in him. Not quite a timeline remnant per se, but close.

- ii. Therefore, Barry's speed should remain, at least initially, in timeline 3.
- iii. Bonus possibility: Flashpoint. Comic-canonically, Barry lost his speed but began to remember the new timeline in its place. This would contradict the mental timeline remnants that we've already seen in the show, but would be a neat compromise between the two theories.
- viii. As to whether Harry, Jesse, and even Jay would remember anything that happened in timeline 2.
 - i. Facts:
 - i. Harry, Jesse, and Jay experienced timeline 2-current.
 - ii. The existence of timeline remnants means that even when timelines are erased, they still *happened*. Cisco's vibes and Barry's memories prove that too.
 - iii. The breaches are canonically the *only* ways through to other Earths. A speedster can create a physical breach and Cisco can create mental ones, but currently:
 - iv. All the breaches are closed.
 - ii. Conjecture:
 - i. Timeline 2-current happened. Harry, Jesse, and Jay were on other Earths when that timeline was erased, and, as they're technically other universes with no open gaps to them, whatever happens to the Earth-1 timeline will not affect other universes.
 - ii. Therefore, they should all retain their memories of the original timeline. This avoids paradoxes like *what happened to Zoom*, especially because if Zoom were still around Harry and Jesse wouldn't have returned to Earth-2 at all. Thus far, The Flash has consistently avoided paradoxes, so it can be assumed that it'll continue to do so.