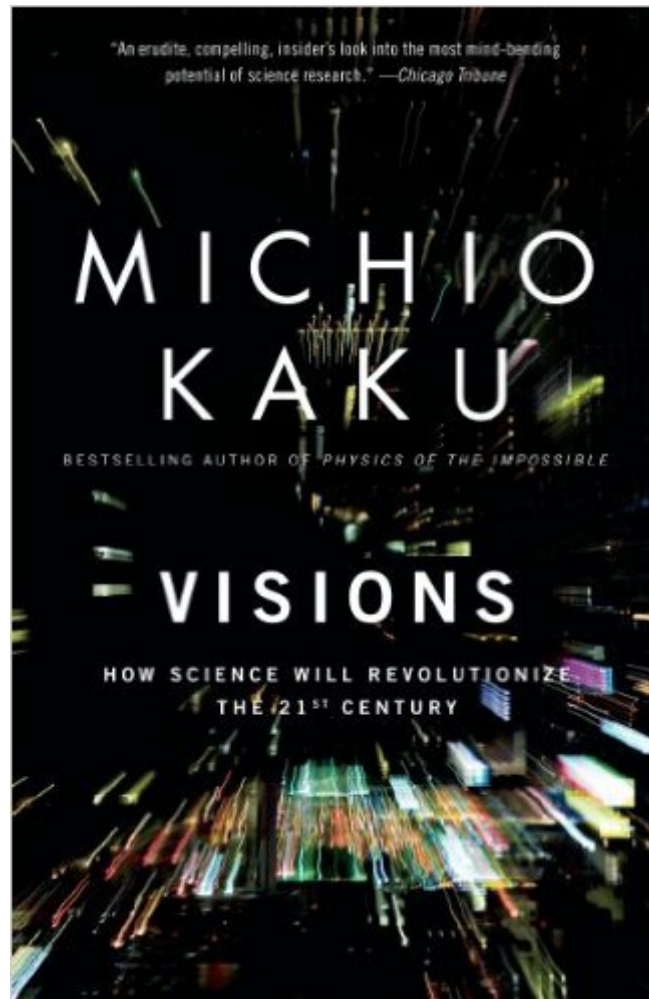


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Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize The 21st Century



Synopsis

In *Visions*, physicist and author Michio Kaku examines the great scientific revolutions that have dramatically reshaped the twentieth century--the quantum mechanics, biogenetics, and artificial intelligence--and shows how they will change and alter science and the way we live. The next century will witness more far-reaching scientific revolutions, as we make the transition from unraveling the secrets of nature to becoming masters of nature. We will no longer be passive bystanders to the dance of the universe, but will become creative choreographers of matter, life, and intelligence. The first section of *Visions* presents a shocking look at a cyber-world infiltrated by millions of tiny intelligence systems. Part two illustrates how the decoding of DNA's genetic structure will allow humans the "godlike ability to manipulate life almost at will." Finally, *VISIONS* focuses on the future of quantum physics, in which physicists will perfect new ways to manipulate matter and harness the cosmic energy of the universe. What makes Michio Kaku's vision of the science of the future so compelling--and so different from the mere forecasts of most thinkers--is that it is based on the groundbreaking research taking place in labs today, as well as the consensus of over 150 of Kaku's scientific colleagues. Science, for all its breathtaking change, evolves slowly; we can accurately predict, asserts Kaku, what the direction of science will be, based on the paths that are being forged today. A thrilling, unique narrative that brings together the thinking of many of the world's most accomplished scientists to explore the world of the future, *Visions* is science writing at its best.

Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Anchor (September 15, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385484992

ISBN-13: 978-0385484992

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (112 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #308,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Â Books > Science & Math > Experiments, Instruments & Measurement > Time #165 in Â Books > Science & Math > Reference #679 in Â Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy

Customer Reviews

Superstring physicist Michio Kaku turns his eyes to the future, and sees many bright developments in the 21st century. What is really remarkable about this book is Kaku's ability to explain in a clear way how the Quantum revolution of the turn of the previous century has dramatically effected, or perhaps invented, the three great revolutions of the 20th century: computers, biotechnology, and quantum physics. Kaku is especially good in outlining his reasons for his view of the future; and gives pretty reasonable timelines for the achievement of certain goals. The book is easy for a layperson to read and understand, and gives a good overview of scientific development. Well worth reading, at times profound.

Michio Kaku, a renowned physicist, attempts to give a view of what to expect from technology and science in the near future. His predictions are based on interviews which he conducted with scientists and engineers from various fields. In making his predictions, he focuses on three fields: computers, biotechnology, and quantum physics. First of all, please check the publication date of this book. Since this book was published in 1998, some of these predictions have already come true, and others seem a little too optimistic. In fact, while reading the computer section, it reminded me of reading pre-tech bubble Wired magazine. In other words, sometimes overly bubbly and cheery about the wonders of progress, and unwilling to deal with the dark sides of issues. Of the three sections, the one that I found enjoyable was the section on quantum mechanics, which, surprise, happens to be his area of study. I found his discussion about space exploration and cosmic phenomena to be very interesting. On the other hand, the section on computers was a little boring, and the section on biotechnology was OK. Perhaps it would be better to pick up one of Michio Kaku's books on physics rather than this one.

If the future seems frightening, ominous, perplexing, or in any way stressful to you, then Dr. Michio Kaku has the prescription for your affliction! Anyone who is expecting to intelligently live in the next few decades should be REQUIRED to read these clear and fascinating insights. I think very few human beings have had enough grasp to synthesize the most valid verifiable and truthful frontier information about what is going on at Planet Earth, make it accessibly simple to all of us, and yet be absolutely profound in his message. Knowledge is power. Fear not the future, own it! Buy this book, read it!

Michio Kaku scores again! Much easier and more accessible than his masterpiece "Hyperspace", "Visions" is a glance into Kaku's crystal ball, as he interprets in a veey scientific way, where

technology will lead us in Biotechnology, energy, cybernetics, etc . . . into the 21st century. Holographic Memory. . . Machines made out of atoms. . . The electron speed barrier . . . nanotechnology . . . genetic engineering and master cells. . . You'll explore all of these things and a lot more as Michio looks a hundred years or less into the future. This book isn't one of those things that is prognosticating but worthless after a few months. The ideas and concepts that Michio will introduce to you will stay with you for a long time, and you'll think about what our future has to hold for us. I wouldn't have any other guide than Mr. Kaku.

This book is an easy read and probably begs more questions than it answers. Any one of Prof Kaku's "visions" of life embraced by 21st century technology are thought provoking and I am sure in time will evolve into major books in their own right. Prof Kaku writes about computers, quantum mechanics, DNA, future exploration, medical breakthroughs, longevity, etc. etc., in a manner that is understandable and, at times, breathtaking. I am sure that readers will either like or hate this book, depending upon whether they think the looking glass is either half full or half empty. I liked it and I am looking forward to the sequels.

Visions is an excellent scientific book. A lot of research has gone into it, and he words his findings so that even students can understand. Some of the technologies in this book makes your mind wander and ponder about possibilities. Unlike other scientific books that run along a similar line, he focuses on the topic, rarely gets sidetracked, and keeps it interesting and thought-provoking. I especially enjoyed the final part about the fate of the universe and the different possible technology levels of races and what they are capable of. I would recommend this book to anyone with even a mild interest in science and technology.

Dr. Kaku has done a very good job on explaining the current state of the art in artificial intelligence, biotechnology and quantum physics in a concise manner. He envisions the potential development routes each area might take in the next century. The last part of the book was thrilling. The civilization types concept, superstrings and theory of everything, finally the time travel and wormholes are discussed. I could not put it down until I finished reading this part. Dr. Kaku's survey about science and future puts everything in a perspective. Great work.

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