

Visions of the Future

A glimpse of tomorrow's world

What will life in the future be like? Michio Kaku believes humankind is on the brink of a radically new scientific era. In this series, he shares his vision for the future.

Imagine a world where human thoughts directly connect with computers. A world where your fridge could re-order what you need on the internet and pay for it using your credit card. A world where disease does not exist. A world where long haul space travel is the norm. Idle speculation? Michio Kaku says not. His ideas are based on the work of many of the world's top scientists – scientists who are building the future in their labs today.

The series features interviews with the world's leading scientists, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) pioneers Marvin Minsky and Rodney Brooks, geneticist Francis Collins, immunologist Anthony Fauci, neuroscientist Susan Greenfield, and transhumanists, such as Ray Kurzweil and Nick Bostrom. The programmes discuss not just the likely changes that technology will bring, but their implications across all aspects of our lives. Michio Kaku believes we are on the verge of a profound new scientific era – we are reaching the end of the Age of Discovery and beginning a new age – the Age of Mastery. We will become the active choreographers of nature.

Each programme looks at how a key technology will transform life throughout the 21st Century.

Episode 1 – Intelligence: The Computer Revolution

Intelligence is set to become as ubiquitous as electricity. We'll live in a fairy tale world: we will talk to everything and it will respond.

Episode 2 – Life: The Biomolecular Revolution

We already have the entire human genome mapped. We could eradicate most major diseases and prolong life by decades.

Episode 3 – Matter: The Quantum Revolution

This is the most profound revolution to occur. Michio argues that we are entering a world where we will be able to manipulate and create matter itself. Teleportation and invisibility cloaks might become a reality.

But does this development of technology also offer a warning. As Michio says 'We will have the power to animate the inanimate, the power to create life itself. We will have the power of Gods. But will we also have the wisdom of Solomon?'

Presenter

Michio Kaku
Time

Producer

Detlef Siebert
Nuremberg – Nazis on Trial
The Somme – From Defeat to Victory

Executive Producer

Anne Laking
Time, Light Fantastic, Medical Mavericks, Ocean

SCIENCE

TX Date: Winter 2007

Channel: BBC FOUR

Duration: 3 x 60 minutes

FACTS & FIGURES

Michio Kaku is an American theoretical physicist. His accessible approach to explaining complex physics has made him a popular figure in mainstream media.

***Visions of the Future* is based on Michio Kaku's book *Visions*. In total, over 250,000 copies of Michio's book, have been sold worldwide, and the book has been published in more than 15 countries.**