

Professeur Farnsworth

Prénom Nom

Date

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I. Short Introduction

Professor Hubert J. Farnsworth (Figure 1), or simply Professor, is a fictional character in the American animated television series Futurama. Farnsworth is the mad scientist proprietor of the Planet Express delivery service, for whom the main characters work. He is the great ($\times 30$) nephew of Philip J. Fry, the series' protagonist. He alternates between intelligence and amoral senility due to his centenarian age – he has always mastered any field of science necessary for the series' plots, and is suggested to be one of the most brilliant inventors on Earth, but he falls asleep constantly, and he is implied to have routinely sent his former crews on suicide missions.



Figure 1 : Professeur Farnsworth

II. The Professor

II.1. Its Job

The Professor is a self-described mad scientist. The Professor is a senile, amoral, deranged, and unpredictable old man with very thick glasses and a gift for creating doomsday devices and atomic supermen. He has put at least one parallel universe in peril with his inventions and visited dozens more (see The Farnsworth Parabox). The Professor teaches at Mars University and has worked for Momcorp on several occasions, but spends most of his time inventing ridiculous devices and sending the Planet Express delivery crew on suicide missions. While at Momcorp, he fell in love with the CEO, Mom, only to leave her and Momcorp when she decided to weaponize his "Q.T. McWhiskers" toy. What he is a professor of is never explicitly stated. In the episode Mars University when asked what he is teaching, he responds: "The same thing I teach every semester, the mathematics of quantum neutrino fields. I made up the title so no student would dare take it"; however, this declaration has not precluded the professor from demonstrating mastery of whatever field of science is convenient for a given episode's plot, as shown in Bender's Big Score when he

proclaims, "I can wire anything directly into anything! I am the Professor!" Approximately 100 years before the series' timeline, he taught a young (not yet Professor) Wernstrom, whom Farnsworth regarded as a prized student. After he returned a pop quiz to Wernstrom with a grade of A-minus (for poor penmanship), the two became bitter rivals (established in "A Big Piece of Garbage").

II.2. Its Family

As Philip J. Fry's great (x30) nephew (Figure 2), it is likely that he is the great (x29) grandson of Yancy Fry, Philip's brother from the 20th century. This would also make him the great (x28) grandson of Philip J. Fry II, Yancy's son, although his exact shared family members with Fry have not been stated. However, since Fry has become his own grandfather, he is also Fry's direct descendant, specifically his great (x31) grandson ().

Family	
Mother	Velma Farnsworth
Father	Ned Farnsworth
Brother	Floyd Farnsworth
Child (Clone)	Cubert Farnsworth
Child (Biological)	Igner
Relatives	
Distant uncle	Philip J. Fry
Distant aunt	Turanga Leela
Distant grandfather	Yancy Fry, Jr.

Tableau 1 : Family and relatives.

He has two sons:

- a clone named Cubert (Figure 2)
- a biological one named Igner

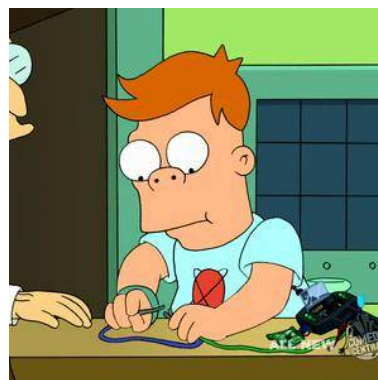


Figure 2 : Fry (on the left) et Cubert (on the right).

III. Production

Professor Farnsworth is voiced by Billy West, using a combination of impressions of Burgess Meredith and Frank Morgan. He was named after electronic television pioneer Philo Farnsworth,¹ giving him the same first name as University of California Philosophy professor Hubert Dreyfus, of whom writer and producer Eric Kaplan was a former student. Farnsworth's design has been compared to a combination of Mr. Burns, Grampa Simpson, and Professor Frink from Matt Groening's other series.² West has stated that the voice for Farnsworth is meant to be a bit shaky and that when developing the voice he came up with "a combination of all the wizard-type characters you heard when you were a kid, Burgess Meredith and Frank Morgan in *The Wizard of Oz*." In the initial storyboards of "Space Pilot 3000", Fry presumed that the Professor was descended from a supposed sister and a supposed brother-in-law named Eddie Farnsworth. In the first season, Farnsworth would excuse his unhelpfulness by saying that he was "already in his pajamas". This was an early attempt at a catchphrase that was abandoned after the second episode, "The Series Has Landed". In the "Action Delivery Force" segment of "Reincarnation", Professor Farnsworth is voiced by David Herman.

¹M. Keith Booker. *Drawn to Television: Prime-Time Animation from the Flintstones to Family Guy*. pp. 115–124.

²Gates, Anita (1999-01-24). "Groening's New World, 1,000 Years From Springfield". *The New York Times*.