

"Asimov" redirects here. For other uses, see [Asimov \(disambiguation\)](#).

Isaac Asimov



Photo 1959

Born	c. January 2, 1920 [a] Petrovichi , Russia
Died	April 6, 1992 (aged 72) New York City, New York, U.S.
Occupation	Writer, professor of biochemistry
Citizenship	United States
Education	Columbia University (BS, MA, PhD) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science fiction<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hard SF• social SF• mystery• popular science
Genre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popular science• science textbooks• essays• history• literary criticism
Subject	
Literary movement	Golden Age of Science Fiction
Years active	1939–1992 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gertrude Blugerman
Spouse	

- (1942; 1973)
 • [Janet Opal Jeppson](#)

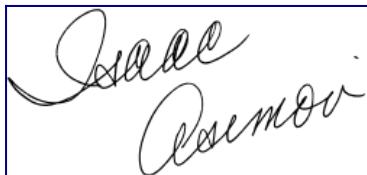
(1973)

Children

2

- [Stanley Asimov](#) (brother)
- [Eric Asimov](#) (nephew)

Signature



Scientific career

Fields	Biochemistry
Institutions	Boston University
Thesis	The kinetics of the reaction inactivation of tyrosinase during its catalysis of the aerobic oxidation of catechol (1948)
Doctoral advisor	Charles Reginald Dawson
Other academic advisors	Robert Elderfield (post-doctoral)

Isaac Asimov (/ˈæzɪmɒv/ [AZ-im-ov](#);[b][c] c. January 2, 1920[a] – April 6, 1992) was an American writer and professor of [biochemistry](#) at [Boston University](#). During his lifetime, Asimov was considered one of the "Big Three" [science fiction](#) writers, along with [Robert A. Heinlein](#) and [Arthur C. Clarke](#).[2] A prolific writer, he wrote or edited more than 500 books. He also wrote an estimated 90,000 letters and [postcards](#).[d] Best known for his [hard science fiction](#), Asimov also wrote [mysteries](#) and [fantasy](#), as well as [popular science](#) and other [non-fiction](#).

Asimov's most famous work is the [Foundation](#) series,[3] the first three books of which won the one-time [Hugo Award](#) for "Best All-Time Series" in 1966.[4] His other major series are the *Galactic Empire* series and the [Robot](#) series, which include major works such as [The Caves of Steel](#) and "The Naked Sun", both written in the mid-1950s. The *Galactic Empire* novels are set in the much earlier history of the same fictional universe as the *Foundation* series. Later, with [Foundation and Earth](#) (1986), he linked this distant future to the *Robot* series, creating a unified "[future history](#)" for his works.[5] He also wrote [more than 380 short stories](#), including the [social science fiction](#) novelette "[Nightfall](#)", which in 1964 was voted the best short science fiction story of all time by the [Science Fiction Writers of America](#). Asimov wrote the [Lucky Starr](#) series of [juvenile](#) science-fiction novels using the pen name Paul French.[6]

Most of his popular science books explain concepts in a historical way, going as far back as possible to a time when the science in question was at its simplest stage. Examples include [Guide to Science](#), the three-volume [Understanding Physics](#), and Asimov's *Chronology of Science and Discovery*. He wrote on numerous other scientific and non-scientific topics, such as [chemistry](#), [astronomy](#), [mathematics](#), [history](#), [biblical exegesis](#), and [literary criticism](#).

He was the president of the [American Humanist Association](#).^[7] Several entities have been named in his honor, including the [asteroid \(5020\) Asimov](#),^[8] a [crater](#) on [Mars](#),^{[9][10]} a [Brooklyn](#) elementary school,^[11] [Honda](#)'s humanoid robot [ASIMO](#),^[12] and [four literary awards](#).