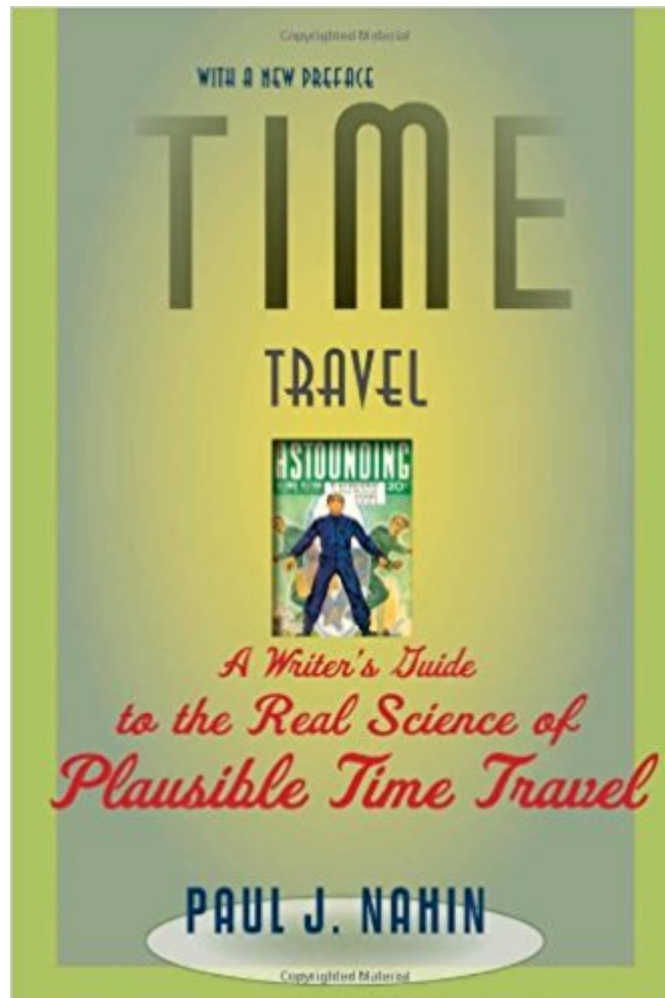




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# Time Travel: A Writer's Guide To The Real Science Of Plausible Time Travel



## Synopsis

From H.G. Wells to Isaac Asimov to Ursula K. Le Guin, time travel has long been a favorite topic and plot device in tales of science fiction and fantasy. But as any true SF fan knows, astounding stories about traversing alternate universes and swimming the tides of time demand plausible science. That's just what Paul J. Nahin's guide provides. An engineer, physicist, and published science fiction writer, Nahin is uniquely qualified to explain the ins and outs of how to spin such complex theories as worm holes, singularity, and relativity into scientifically sound fiction. First published in 1997, this fast-paced book discusses the common and not-so-common time-travel devices science fiction writers have used over the years, assesses which would theoretically work and which would not, and provides scientific insight inventive authors can use to find their own way forward or backward in time. From hyperspace and faster-than-light travel to causal loops and the uncertainty principle and beyond, Nahin's equation-free romp across time will help writers send their characters to the past or future in an entertaining, logical, and scientific way. If you ever wanted to set up the latest and greatest grandfather paradox or just wanted to know if the time-bending events in the latest pulp you read could ever happen then this book is for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Kurt Vonnegut needed protagonist Billy Pilgrim to time-travel in *Slaughterhouse Five*, he simply had him become "unstuck" in time--still perhaps the most poetic way to trip the chronological

fantastic yet devised in literature. But electric engineering professor and science fiction writer Paul Nahin doesn't want you taking short cuts in your epoch-journeying yarns--at least, not because you were lazy about research. Subtitled *A Writer's Guide to the Real Science of Plausible Time Travel*, this is a tasty blend of quantum theory, worm holes, causal loops, and the famous "grandfather paradox"--the better to sell your heroine's time-skipping to even the most skeptical suspender of disbelief. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An exciting read covering every aspect of time travel." (David Reneke *Australasian Science Magazine*) "If you want to get a gut understanding of time's riddles, there is no better book than this. Nahin knows well the dance between science and literature as it illuminates time's mysteries. Don't try to write time travel fiction without him!" (Gregory Benford, author of *Timescape*)

Great book. I hope the author has seen my favorite time travel story "A Stitch in Time". It was one of the episodes on the *New Outer Limits* and was originally on around 1995. A female time traveler goes back in time and kills 17 serial killers before they can strike. Lots of cool twists like the bullets taken from the killers are from a gun that wasn't manufactured until decades after the fact. The actress playing the scientist is that Amanda Plummer, the mousey little woman from *Pulp Fiction* and *Fisher King*. I just watched it again for free over on Youtube.

An interesting guide to what's plausible and not so plausible about time travel, and its various science fiction treatments over the years. If you're a sci fi fan, this book is worth the money just for the number of other stories it references - you're sure to find something referenced in this book that you'll immediately want to go find and read. Also good is the chapters on paradoxes, and what realistically can and can't happen when time travelers visit the past. Be warned; some chapters are very math-heavy, but skipping those sections won't take away from your understanding and enjoyment of the other sections.

I didn't know much about the whole process of time traveling until this book. I understand and am confused at the same time. Good read

very good! for me, the lack of some formulae is the only foul of it.

Gift for husband. He loved it

Review of: "Time Travel: A Writer's Guide to the Real Science of Plausible Time Travel" (Science Fiction Writing Series) (Paperback) by Paul J. Nahin; Writer's Digest Books (March 1997); 200pp.; ISBN-10: 0898797489, ISBN-13: 9780898797480. This book gives too many reviews of "what's wrong with" various time-travel stories, and gives far too little information on what to include or what you need to get RIGHT when writing your own. It does give some technical details, but is generally VERY short on rules for writing good, "hard SF" time-travel fiction. The VERY few things which I got out of this book, can basically be boiled down to just three (3) -- count 'em, THREE!!! -- items, so save your money!:

1. A time-traveller can AFFECT the past, but can't actually CHANGE it (there's a subtle difference);
2. If it didn't happen "in the past", IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, and you can't change it by Going Back into the Past -- you only end up repeating exactly what you originally did the first time around, and nothing more [among other things, this precludes adding any such small trifles as, like, oh, shooting your grandpa -- the so-called "Grandfather Paradox"];
3. A Time Machine must MOVE -- must travel through space, as well as through time -- in order to be realistic. That's IT, folks -- apart from this, numerous anecdotes about what NOT to write about, and some extensive mathematical calculations few people will understand, that's all most people will get from this volume. Take my advice and spend your money elsewhere.

Time travel is yet Another super book by Nahin great history, great path to learning the field of special and general relativity

I bought this for my roommate for his birthday. He says it is a good book. He likes it a lot.

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