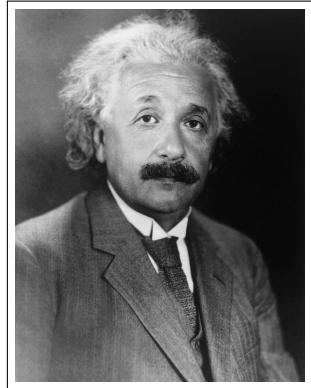


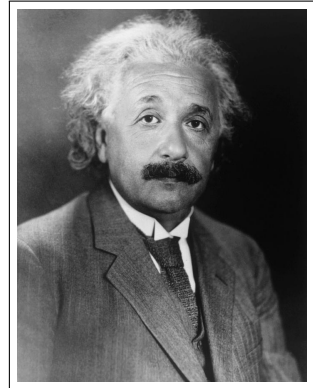
The Process of Research: Some thoughts

SIMON QUINN

15 March 2017



“If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?”

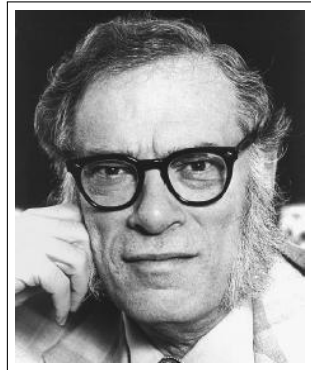


The big picture

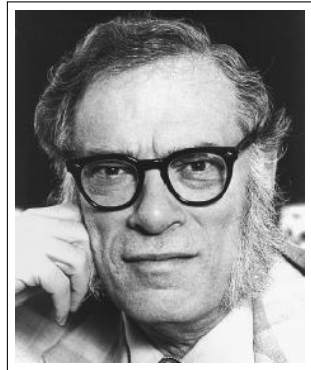
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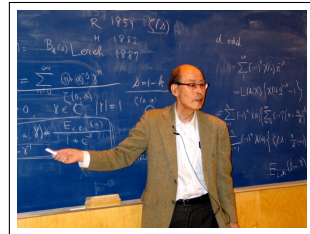


“The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not **'Eureka'** but **'That's funny...'**”

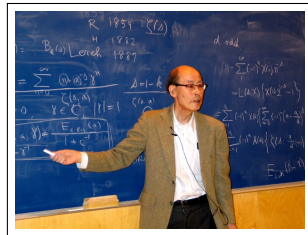


The **big picture**

- 1 There are no '**golden rules**'.
- 2 Start with a **question** looking for an **answer** — not the reverse.
- 3



“He was not a very careful person as a mathematician. He made a lot of mistakes. But he made mistakes in a good direction. I tried to imitate him. But I’ve realized that **it’s very difficult to make good mistakes.**”



The **big picture**

- 1 There are no '**golden rules**'.
- 2 Start with a **question** looking for an **answer** — not the reverse.
- 3 You will make **lots of mistakes**. Try to make them '**good mistakes**'!

‘So how do I make **good** mistakes...?’

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$$\ln(0) = \dots?$$

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- 4 Remember to **cluster**.
- 5 Test the **robustness** of your results (**after** your main results, not **alongside** them).

Academic writing

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- ① **Academic journal writing is a genre in itself.**
 - You need to find the right '**voice**' for this (and imagine the right 'reader'?).
 - 'The art of **good writing** is the art of **good rewriting**.'
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