(abbreviated Sci-fi) is a broad genre of fiction that often involves speculations based on current or future science or technology.
Science fiction, within the context of the story, has imaginary elements that are largely possible within scientifically established or scientifically postulated laws of nature (though some elements in a story might still be pure imaginative speculation).
Exploring the consequences of such differences is the traditional purpose of science fiction, making it a "literature of ideas."
The genre and /or (setting, consequences, conflict) may include the following:

- A setting in the **future**, in alternative **time lines**, or in a historical past that **contradicts known facts of history or the archeological record**
Genre

- A setting in **outer space**, on other worlds, or involving **aliens**
Stories that involve technology or scientific principles that contradict known laws of nature (for example, sounds / explosions in space, which has no sound)
Stories that involve discovery or application of new or theoretical scientific principles, such as *time travel*, *paranormal activity* (i.e., ESP), or *new technology*, such as nanotechnology, human cloning, or *robots*, or of new and different *political* or social systems (i.e., a *dystopia* – has the illusion of a utopia but is the opposite. For example, perhaps it appears that a society of clones is superior to ours, but we learn it has hidden horrors).