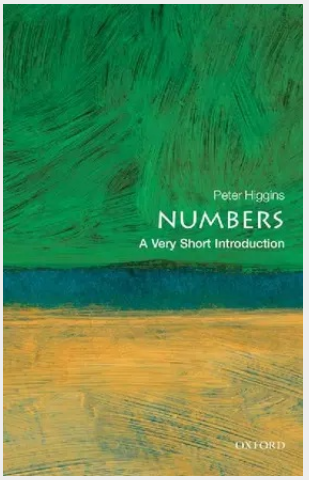
Higgins

Numbers

A Very Short Introduction



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A short introduction to the number world, looking at different types of numbers and how they behave Reveals the astonishing richness and variety of numbers, including primes, imaginary and complex numbers, to infinity and beyond Explains how numbers interact and influence modern applications and practices, for example in the encryption of confidential data Written by an experienced mathematician with a history of writing in a non-technical way Numbers are integral to our everyday lives and feature in everything we do. In this Very Short Introduction Peter M. Higgins, the renowned mathematics writer, unravels the world of numbers; demonstrating ist richness, and providing a comprehensive view of the idea of the number. Higgins paints a picture of the number world, considering how the modern number system matured over centuries. Explaining the various number types and showing how they behave, he introduces key concepts such as integers, fractions, real numbers, and imaginary numbers. By approaching the topic in a non-technical way and emphasising the basic principles and interactions of numbers with mathematics and science, Higgins also demonstrates the practical interactions and modern applications, such as encryption of confidential data on the internet.

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