

isaac
asimov
realm of
numbers



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diagrams by robert belmore

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The most important tool of science is mathematics. This clear and readable book shows even the non-mathematical reader how to use this tool with understanding. Starting with the most basic sort of finger counting, Isaac Asimov proceeds to the pleasures of the abacus, where numbers take physical shapes, and on to the ideas of zero, fractions, and the decimal system. He makes sense of logarithms and even of imaginary numbers, and ends at the very frontiers of mathematics with a discussion of Infinity and the concept of an Infinity of Infinities! The mathematics which Professor Asimov presents is not the thorny wasteland many struggling students suppose it to be. His concern is not the mechanical techniques one learns from textbooks, but the whys and wherefores behind them.

"From meaningful expeditions to the world of science into the realm of mathematics, Dr. Asimov continues to do a remarkable job in presenting a clear and lucid exposition of his subjects... Highly recommended for the departmental and general shelves."

-SCIENCE REVIEW

"This lucidly written approach to mathematics will fascinate anyone... Explanations of complex symbols are brilliantly done."

-SATURDAY REVIEW

"...an unusually friendly visit with a delightful bunch of characters called numbers."

-CHICAGO TRIBUNE