

# Numbers in our Hands

## Introduction

Numbers are all around us. We use them to count, to measure, to make sense of the world around us. But where do numbers come from? And how do we learn to use them?

In *Numbers in our Hands*, Pasquale De Marco explores the fascinating world of numbers. From the natural numbers that we use to count to the complex numbers that are used in advanced mathematics, Pasquale De Marco explains the history, the properties, and the applications of numbers.

Along the way, Pasquale De Marco shows us how numbers have been used to solve some of the most challenging problems in science and engineering. We learn how the ancient Greeks used geometry to

measure the Earth, how Isaac Newton used calculus to develop the laws of motion, and how modern computers use algebra to solve complex problems.

Numbers in our Hands is a comprehensive and accessible introduction to the world of numbers. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the role that numbers play in our lives.

Numbers are not just abstract concepts. They are tools that we use to make sense of the world around us. By understanding the nature of numbers, we can better understand the world we live in.

Numbers are also beautiful. They have a symmetry and a harmony that is both pleasing to the eye and the mind. The study of numbers can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

I hope that this book will inspire you to explore the world of numbers and to discover the beauty and power of mathematics.

## Book Description

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Numbers in our Hands is a book for anyone who is interested in the world of numbers. It is a book for students, for teachers, for scientists, and for anyone who wants to learn more about the role that numbers play in our lives.

# Chapter 1: The Number Sense

## 1. The innate ability to recognize and manipulate numbers

Humans are born with an innate ability to recognize and manipulate numbers. This ability is evident in our earliest interactions with the world around us. As infants, we can distinguish between different quantities of objects, and we can use this knowledge to make simple calculations.

As we grow older, our number sense continues to develop. We learn to count, to add and subtract, and to multiply and divide. We also learn to recognize patterns in numbers and to use them to solve problems.

Our number sense is essential for everyday life. We use it to make decisions about everything from how much money to spend at the grocery store to how much time

to allow for a commute. It is also essential for success in school and in the workplace.

There is a growing body of research that supports the idea that humans are born with an innate number sense. This research has shown that infants can discriminate between different quantities of objects, even before they can count. They can also use this knowledge to make simple calculations, such as adding and subtracting.

This research suggests that our number sense is not something that we learn, but rather something that is hardwired into our brains. This is a significant finding, as it suggests that we are all born with the potential to be good at math.

## **The importance of the number sense**

The number sense is an essential skill for everyday life. It is used in a wide variety of tasks, from making decisions about how much money to spend to

calculating how much time to allow for a commute. It is also essential for success in school and in the workplace.

Children who have a strong number sense are more likely to succeed in math and science. They are also more likely to be successful in careers that require quantitative skills.

## How to improve your number sense

There are a number of things that you can do to improve your number sense. Here are a few tips:

- **Play math games.** There are a number of fun and engaging math games that can help you to improve your number sense. These games can help you to learn about numbers, operations, and patterns.
- **Do math puzzles.** Math puzzles are a great way to challenge your number sense and to learn new ways to think about numbers.

- **Read about math.** Reading about math can help you to learn about the history of mathematics and to understand the different ways that numbers can be used.
- **Talk about math.** Talking about math with friends, family, or teachers can help you to solidify your understanding of math concepts.

## Conclusion

The number sense is an essential skill for everyday life. It is used in a wide variety of tasks, from making decisions about how much money to spend to calculating how much time to allow for a commute. It is also essential for success in school and in the workplace.

There is a growing body of research that supports the idea that humans are born with an innate number sense. This research suggests that we are all born with the potential to be good at math.

You can improve your number sense by playing math games, doing math puzzles, reading about math, and talking about math with others.

# Chapter 1: The Number Sense

## 2. How we use numbers in everyday life

Numbers are all around us. We use them to count, to measure, to make sense of the world around us. But how do we use numbers in everyday life?

Here are a few examples:

- We use numbers to tell time. We use the numbers on a clock to tell us what time it is, and we use the numbers on a calendar to tell us what day it is.
- We use numbers to measure ingredients when we cook. We use the numbers on a measuring cup or a measuring spoon to tell us how much of an ingredient to add.
- We use numbers to measure the distance we travel. We use the numbers on a speedometer to tell us how fast we are going, and we use the

numbers on a map to tell us how far it is to our destination.

- We use numbers to compare prices. We use the numbers on price tags to tell us how much something costs, and we use the numbers on a calculator to figure out which item is the best value.
- We use numbers to make decisions. We use the numbers on a weather forecast to tell us what the weather will be like, and we use the numbers on a financial statement to tell us how much money we have.

Numbers are an essential part of our everyday lives. We use them to make sense of the world around us and to make decisions. By understanding the nature of numbers, we can better understand the world we live in.

# Chapter 1: The Number Sense

## 3. The different types of numbers

Numbers are all around us. We use them to count, to measure, and to make sense of the world around us. But what exactly are numbers? And how do we know which type of number to use in each situation?

In mathematics, there are many different types of numbers. The most basic type of number is the natural number. Natural numbers are the numbers that we use to count: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on.

Natural numbers are followed by the whole numbers. Whole numbers are the natural numbers plus zero: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on.

The next type of number is the integer. Integers are the whole numbers plus the negative whole numbers: ... -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, ...

The next type of number is the rational number. Rational numbers are numbers that can be expressed as a fraction of two integers. For example, the number  $\frac{1}{2}$  is a rational number because it can be expressed as the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The next type of number is the irrational number. Irrational numbers are numbers that cannot be expressed as a fraction of two integers. For example, the number  $\pi$  is an irrational number because it cannot be expressed as a fraction of two integers.

The last type of number is the complex number. Complex numbers are numbers that have a real part and an imaginary part. The real part is a number that can be expressed as a fraction of two integers. The imaginary part is a number that is multiplied by the imaginary unit  $i$ . The imaginary unit is a number that is equal to the square root of  $-1$ .

The different types of numbers are used in different situations. Natural numbers are used to count objects.

Whole numbers are used to measure quantities. Integers are used to represent temperatures and other values that can be positive or negative. Rational numbers are used to represent fractions and other values that can be expressed as a fraction of two integers. Irrational numbers are used to represent values that cannot be expressed as a fraction of two integers. Complex numbers are used to represent values that have a real part and an imaginary part.

The different types of numbers are all important tools for understanding the world around us. By understanding the different types of numbers and how to use them, we can better understand the world around us.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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