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By Ivan Niven

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A superb development that starts with the natural numbers and carries the reader through the rationals and their decimal representations to algebraic numbers and then to the real numbers. Along the way, you will see characterizations of the rationals and of certain special (Liouville) transcendental numbers. This material is basic to all of algebra and analysis.

This book deals with the number system, one of the basic structures in mathematics. It is concerned especially with ways of classifying numbers into various categories; for example, it provides some criteria for deciding if a given number is rational (i.e., representable as a common fraction) or irrational, if it is algebraic or transcendental. In the course of the later chapters, the reader is introduced to some of the more recent developments in mathematics. Professor Niven's book may be read with profit by interested high school students as well as by college students and others who want to know more about the basic aspects of pure mathematics. Most readers will find the early chapters well within their grasp while ambitious readers will profit by the more advanced material to be found in later chapters.

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A fine job of presenting the materials at a level which is attainable for the intended reading public. -- *The Mathematics Teacher*

About the Author
Ivan Niven attended the University of British Columbia and the University of Chicago. He taught at the University of Illinois and Purdue and has lectured for two summers at Stanford.

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