



Surreal Numbers (Hardback)

By Donald E. Knuth

Pearson Education (US), United States, 1974. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Nearly 30 years ago, John Horton Conway introduced a new way to construct numbers. Donald E. Knuth, in appreciation of this revolutionary system, took a week off from work on The Art of Computer Programming to write an introduction to Conway s method. Never content with the ordinary, Knuth wrote this introduction as a work of fiction--a novelette. If not a steamy romance, the book nonetheless shows how a young couple turned on to pure mathematics and found total happiness. The book s primary aim, Knuth explains in a postscript, is not so much to teach Conway s theory as to teach how one might go about developing such a theory. He continues: Therefore, as the two characters in this book gradually explore and build up Conway s number system, I have recorded their false starts and frustrations as well as their good ideas. I wanted to give a reasonably faithful portrayal of the important principles, techniques, joys, passions, and philosophy of mathematics, so I wrote the story as I was actually doing the research myself. .It is an astonishing feat of legerdemain. An empty...



Reviews

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