

p-adic Numbers: An Introduction (Universitext)

By Fernando Quadros Gouvea

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There are numbers of all kinds: rational, real, complex, p-adic. The p-adic numbers are less well known than the others, but they play a fundamental role in number theory and in other parts of mathematics. This elementary introduction offers a broad understanding of p-adic numbers.

From the reviews: "It is perhaps the most suitable text for beginners, and I shall definitely recommend it to anyone who asks me what a p-adic number is." --THE MATHEMATICAL GAZETTE

p-adic Numbers: An Introduction (Universitext) By Fernando Quadros Gouvea Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #397743 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Springer
- Published on: 2013-10-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .71" w x 6.10" l, .98 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 306 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

From the reviews:

"This is a well-written introduction to the world of p-adic numbers. The reader is led into the rich structure of the fields \mathbb{Q}_p and \mathbb{C}_p in a beautiful balance between analytic and algebraic aspects. The overall conclusion is simple: an extraordinarily nice manner to introduce the uninitiated to the subject. Not only giving the background necessary to pursue the matter, but doing it in such a way that a healthy 'hands-on experience' is generated in the process." *Mededelingen van het wiskundig genootschap*

"It is perhaps the most suitable text for beginners, and I shall definitely recommend it to anyone who asks me what a p-adic number is." *The Mathematical Gazette*

From the reviews of the second edition:

"If I had to recommend one book on the subject to a student – or even to a fully grown mathematician who had never played with p-adic numbers before – it would still be this book. ... Gouvêa has succeeded admirably in taking a topic that is not standard in the undergraduate mathematics curriculum and writing a book accessible to undergraduates that allows its reader to play with some intriguing mathematics and explore a topic which is both fun and important." (Darren Glass, The Mathematical Association of America, January, 2011)

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