

Real Number System

Introduction

Have you noticed that the “arithmetic skills” students have are decreasing yearly? I have! Technology, and calculators in particular, has made getting an “answer” dominate over the “process”, and therefore the understanding of the answer itself. For example, I have had students push a few buttons and tell me that the answer is

$$\text{Distance} = -3.5$$

when distance can not be negative. Do they even know what is going on? I think not! In Mathematics, like so many other areas,

“You can’t fake it ‘til you make it!”

I’ve spent quite a bit of time analyzing elementary math materials, including textbooks, and found

1. Arithmetic is not taught in an organized logical manner: just bits and pieces here and there.
2. it is often mixed in with other topics and is not given the priority it needs and deserves. After all, it forms the foundation of numerous other courses, like algebra – arithmetic with letters.
3. the fundamental properties associated with its concepts are not emphasized enough.
4. ...

Originally, the long-term goal of MathByWilson.com was to have complete course notes and outlines from Basic Algebra through Calculus II. However, I have now revised my goal to include Arithmetic. The notes and videos that follow are a *first attempt*. With this in mind, I would appreciate any comments you have about this, and any other material found on the website, and can be contacted as follows:

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I have purposely created numerous short videos. Hopefully, you will work through the notes associated with each video until you have mastered that material. The cool thing about the videos is that they may be watched multiple times.

Remember, I am just an email away ...