

Subject - Chapter 1

Chapter

Topic 1: Real Numbers and Number Systems

Real Numbers and Number Systems

Definition of Real Numbers: Real Numbers are all numbers that can be represented on the number line. They include both rational and irrational numbers.

Classification of Number Systems:

1. NATURAL NUMBERS (N)

Definition: Numbers used for counting objects. Set: $N = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$

Properties: • Smallest natural number is 1 • No largest natural number (infinite set) • Used for counting discrete objects • Closure property under addition and multiplication • Not closed under subtraction and division

Examples: • Counting books: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 books • Number of students in class: 30, 45, 50 • Age of a person: 15, 20, 25 years

2. WHOLE NUMBERS (W)

Definition: Natural numbers including zero. Set: $W = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$

Properties: • Smallest whole number is 0 • Zero is the additive identity: $0 + a = a + 0 = a$ • Every natural number is a whole number • Closed under addition and multiplication • Not closed under subtraction and division

Importance of Zero: • Represents 'nothing' or 'absence' • Makes place value system possible • Additive identity element • Invented in India by Brahmagupta

3. INTEGERS (Z)

Definition: Whole numbers along with negative numbers. Set: $Z = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

Types of Integers: • Positive integers: +1, +2, +3, ... (same as natural numbers) • Negative integers: -1, -2, -3, ... • Zero: Neither positive nor negative

Properties: • For every positive integer, there exists a corresponding negative integer • Additive inverse property: $a + (-a) = 0$ • Closed under addition, subtraction, and multiplication • Not closed under division • Multiplicative identity: $1 \times a = a \times 1 = a$

Applications: • Temperature: -5°C , 0°C , 25°C • Floors in building: -2 (basement), 0 (ground), +5 (fifth floor) • Profit and loss: +1500 (profit), -1200 (loss)

4. RATIONAL NUMBERS (Q)

Definition: Numbers that can be expressed in the form p/q , where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Set: $Q = \{p/q : p, q \in Z, q \neq 0\}$

Forms of Rational Numbers:

a) Fractions: • Proper fractions: $1/2$, $3/4$, $5/7$ (numerator < denominator) • Improper fractions: $5/3$, $7/4$, $9/2$ (numerator \geq denominator) • Mixed numbers: $2\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{4}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$

b) Integers: • Any integer can be written as fraction: $5 = 5/1$, $-3 = -3/1$

c) Terminating Decimals: • Decimals that end after finite digits • $0.5 = 1/2$, $0.25 = 1/4$, $0.125 = 1/8$ • $0.75 = 3/4$, $0.875 = 7/8$

d) Non-terminating Repeating Decimals: • Decimals with repeating pattern • $0.333... = 1/3$ ($1/3 = 0.333...$) • $0.666... = 2/3$ ($2/3 = 0.666...$) • $0.142857142857... = 1/7$ ($1/7 = 0.142857142857...$) • $0.090909... = 1/11$ ($1/11 = 0.090909...$)

Identifying Terminating/Non-terminating: A rational number p/q (in lowest terms) has: • Terminating decimal if q has only factors of 2 and 5 • Non-terminating repeating decimal otherwise

Examples: • $3/8$: $q = 8 = 2^3$! Terminating (0.375) • $7/20$: Terminating (0.35) • $1/6$: $q = 6 = 2 \times 3$! Non-terminating ($0.1666...$) • $1/12$: $12 = 2^2 \times 3$! Non-terminating ($0.08333...$)

5. IRRATIONAL NUMBERS

Definition: Numbers that cannot be expressed in p/q form, where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Characteristics: • Non-terminating non-repeating decimal expansion • Cannot be written as fractions • Infinite decimal digits without repeating pattern

Examples:

a) Square roots of non-perfect squares: • $\sqrt{2} = 1.41421356...$ (never repeats) • $\sqrt{5} = 2.23606797...$ • $\sqrt{7} = 2.64575131...$

b) Mathematical constants: • π (pi) = 3.14159265358979... (ratio of circumference to diameter) • Euler's number $e = 2.71828182845904...$ • Golden ratio $\phi = 1.6180339887...$

c) Cube roots of non-perfect cubes: • $\sqrt[3]{2} = 1.25992104989487...$ • $\sqrt[3]{5} = 1.7099759476726...$

Proving $\sqrt{2}$ is Irrational: Using contradiction method: 1. Assume $\sqrt{2}$ is rational (in lowest terms) 2. Then $\sqrt{2} = p/q$, so $2q^2 = p^2$ 3. This means p^2 is even, so p is even 4. Let $p = 2k$, then $2q^2 = 4k^2$, so $q^2 = 2k^2$ 5. This means q^2 is even, so q is even 6. Both p and q are even, contradicting lowest terms assumption 7. Therefore, $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBER SETS:

Hierarchy: \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{W} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R}

This means: • Every natural number is a whole number • Every whole number is an integer • Every integer is a rational number • Every rational number is a real number • Some real numbers are irrational

$$\text{REAL NUMBERS} = \text{RATIONAL NUMBERS} \cup \text{IRRATIONAL NUMBERS}$$

Number Identification Table:

Number	Natural	Whole	Integer	Rational	Irrational	Real
-5						
$3/4$						
0.75						
$\sqrt{7}$						

IMPORTANT PROPERTIES:

1. Density Property: • Between any two rational numbers, there exist infinitely many rational numbers • Between any two real numbers, there exist infinitely many real numbers • Between any two irrational numbers, there can be rational numbers

2. Closure Properties: • Real numbers are closed under addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division (except by zero) • The sum or product of rational and irrational numbers can be either rational or irrational

3. Examples of Operations: • Rational + Rational = Rational ($1/2 + 1/3 = 5/6$) • Irrational + Irrational = Can be rational or irrational - $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{2} = 2\sqrt{2}$ (irrational) - $\sqrt{2} + (-\sqrt{2}) = 0$ (rational) • Irrational - Irrational = Irrational (except when rational = 0) - $3\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{2} = 2\sqrt{2}$ (irrational)

APPLICATIONS: • Real numbers are used in measurements, calculations, and scientific computations • Rational numbers are used in fractions, percentages, and ratios • Irrational numbers appear in geometry (π in circles, $\sqrt{2}$ in squares) • Understanding numbers is essential in algebra and higher mathematics