

### $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational

Suppose  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0$ , with  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{2}b &= a \\ 2b^2 &= a^2\end{aligned}$$

Notice  $b^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  since  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and the integers are closed under multiplication, so  $2 \mid a^2$ . Since 2 is prime, this implies  $2 \mid a$ , so that  $a = 2c$  for some integer  $c$ . Substituting,

$$\begin{aligned}2b^2 &= (2c)^2 = 4c^2 \\ b^2 &= 2c^2\end{aligned}$$

Again,  $c^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  since  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$  and the integers are closed under multiplication, so  $2 \mid b^2$ . Since 2 is prime, this implies  $2 \mid b$ . But then  $2 \mid \gcd(a, b)$ , a contradiction to  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Therefore,  $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .