

To show that $\sqrt{2}$ is an irrational number

⇒ method of contradiction

⇒ let $\sqrt{2}$ be rational number

$$\text{then } \sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$$

(here a and b are integers and $b \neq 0$)

(no common factors except 1)

$$\Rightarrow (\sqrt{2})^2 = \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 = \frac{a^2}{b^2} \quad [\text{squaring both sides}]$$

$$a^2 = 2b^2$$

\Rightarrow (since multiplication of 2 with an odd or even number is even.)

$\therefore a^2$ must be even.

$\therefore a$ must be even

$\therefore \boxed{a = 2n}$ [Even number]

$$a^2 = 2b^2$$

$$a = 2n$$

$$(2n)^2 = 2b^2$$

$$4n^2 = 2b^2$$

$$b^2 = \frac{4n^2}{2} \Rightarrow b^2 = 2n^2$$

[$2n^2$ is even $\Rightarrow b^2$ is even $\Rightarrow b$ is even]

\therefore This means a and b have common factor 2.

\therefore This contradicts our assumption that a and b have no common factor except 1.

$\therefore \sqrt{2}$ is not a rational number.

$\therefore \sqrt{2}$ is an irrational number.

let $\sqrt{3}$ is an rational number

$$\sqrt{3} = \frac{a}{b}$$

(a and b are integers and $b \neq 0$)

(And having no common factor except 1)

$$\therefore 3 = \frac{a^2}{b^2} \quad [\text{squaring both sides}]$$

$$\therefore b^2 = \frac{a^2}{3}$$

$\therefore a^2$ is divisible by 3.

$\therefore a$ is divisible by 3.

$$\therefore a = 3c$$

$$\therefore a^2 = 3b^2$$

$$(3c)^2 = 3b^2$$

$$9c^2 = 3b^2$$

$$c^2 = \frac{b^2}{3}$$

$\therefore b^2$ is divisible by 3.

$\therefore b$ is divisible by 3.

This contradicts to our statement that $\sqrt{3}$ has no common factor except 1.

else

This contradicts our statement that a and b are co primes

$\therefore \sqrt{3}$ is not an rational number

$\therefore \sqrt{3}$ is an irrational number.

$$(iv) \quad \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}$$

Let $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}$ is an rational number

$$\therefore \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5} = a$$

[a and b are integers and $b \neq 0$]

\therefore no common factor except 1)

$$\underline{\underline{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5})^2 = a^2}}$$

$$\text{using } (a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

$$(\sqrt{3})^2 + (\sqrt{5})^2 + 2(\sqrt{3})(\sqrt{5}) = a^2$$

$$8 + 2\sqrt{15} = a^2$$

$$8 + 2\sqrt{5} = a^2$$

$$2\sqrt{5} = a^2 - 8$$

$$\sqrt{5} = \frac{a^2 - 8}{2}$$

\therefore Right hand side is an rational number
but left hand side is irrational number.

\therefore our assumption is wrong

$\therefore \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}$ is an irrational number

$$3 - \sqrt{5}$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ a & b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [a - b]^2 &= a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \\ &= (3)^2 + (\sqrt{5})^2 - 2(3)(\sqrt{5}) \\ &= 9 + 5 - 6\sqrt{5} \\ &= 14 - 6\sqrt{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sqrt[2]{\underline{3}} = (3)^{1/2}$$

$$\sqrt{3 \times 3}$$

surd $\leftarrow \sqrt[3]{\underline{9}} = (9)^{1/3}$

$$\boxed{\sqrt[n]{a} = (a)^{1/n}}$$

Radicand