

# Proof that the square root of 2 is Irrational

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August 18, 2019

This is a basic number theory result on the non-rationality of  $\sqrt{2}$ . To proof this a *Reductio ad Absurdum* can be applied. Thus, suppose  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$  is true, and derive conclusions from this until we will finally arrive to get a contradiction. From this hypotheses we derive that,  $\exists p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$ , such as  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{p}{q}$  can be write such as an irreducible fraction. Thus, taking squares on the previous expression, we can write the following equation:

$$p^2 = 2q^2 \quad (1)$$

Before to continue, it is trivial to notice that if  $2|a^2 \Rightarrow 2|a$ , which is trivial because if  $2 \nmid a$ , then  $2 \nmid a^2$ . (where  $\nmid$  means "not divided by"). Thus, from (1), due to  $p^2$  is pair (so  $p$ ),  $\exists k_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , such as:

$$p = 2k_1 \quad (2)$$

Therefore, we can deduce:

$$2q^2 = (2k_1)^2 = 4k_1^2 \Rightarrow q^2 = 2k_1^2 \quad (3)$$

From (2), as before, due to  $q^2$  is pair,  $\exists k_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ , such as:

$$q = 2k_2, \quad (4)$$

From equations (2) and (4), we can rewrite  $\sqrt{2}$  as a reducible fraction:

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{p}{q} = \frac{2k_1}{2k_2} = \frac{k_1}{k_2} \quad (5)$$

Which is a contradiction  $\nmid$  due to by hypothesis,  $\frac{p}{q}$  is irreducibly.

$$\therefore \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{I}$$