

# Proof by contradiction

Theorem:  $\sqrt{7}$  is irrational.

Proof by contradiction.

If  $\sqrt{7}$  is rational, then *by definition*  $\exists$  integers  $a, b$  such that  $\frac{a}{b} = \sqrt{7}$ .

Without loss of generality, we will assume  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime (where relatively prime means that they have no common factors greater than 1).