

## Proof by contradiction that $\sqrt{7}$ is irrational, continued

Recall we assumed that  $\sqrt{7}$  is rational and so then  $\exists a, b$  relatively prime integers such that  $(\frac{a}{b})^2 = 7$ .

Therefore  $a^2 = 7b^2$  (Arithmetic)

Hence 7 divides  $a^2$  (Equality of  $a^2$  and  $7b^2$ , and 7 divides  $7b^2$ )

Because 7 is prime, this implies that 7 divides  $a$

But then  $7^2$  divides  $a^2$  (obvious)

and so  $7^2$  divides  $7b^2$  (because  $a^2 = 7b^2$ )

And so 7 divides  $b^2$  (obvious)

Because 7 is prime, this implies that 7 divides  $b$

Hence 7 is a common divisor of both  $a$  and  $b$ , which contradicts our earlier assumption.