

①

This is a contradiction, so our original assumption that  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational must be wrong.

②

In the prime factorisations of  $m^2$  and  $n^2$ , 2 occurs to an even power.

③

Multiply across to get  $2n^2 = m^2$ .

④

But prime factorisations are unique, so 2 should appear to the same power in both  $2n^2$  and  $m^2$ .

⑤

Suppose, for a contradiction, that  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational.

⑥

That is, we can write  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{m}{n}$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are integers and where  $n \neq 0$ .

⑦

In the prime factorisation of  $2n^2$ , 2 occurs to an odd power.

⑧

So  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

⑨

Squaring, we have  $2 = \frac{m^2}{n^2}$ .