

## Real Numbers:

### ➤ Proof by Contradiction that $\sqrt{2}$ is Irrational:

- Assume the opposite i.e. that  $\sqrt{2}$  is not irrational  $\Rightarrow \sqrt{2}$  can be written in the form  $\frac{a}{b}$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b} \text{ (where } a \text{ and } b \text{ have no common factor)}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 = \frac{a^2}{b^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2b^2 = a^2$$

- As  $2b^2$  is an even number  $\Rightarrow a^2$  must be even

$\Rightarrow$  'a' can be written in the form  $2k$

$$\Rightarrow 2b^2 = (2k)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 2b^2 = 4k^2$$

$$\Rightarrow b^2 = 2k^2, \text{ which means } b \text{ is even as well.}$$

- If 'a' and 'b' are even, then 2 must divide into both  $\Rightarrow$  Contradiction

$\Rightarrow \sqrt{2}$  is irrational

### ➤ Reminder of Proof by Contradiction in Geometry:

\* Assume opposite is true and prove that the opposite is impossible.

#### • Example 1:

Prove that an equilateral  $\Delta$  is also an acute-angled  $\Delta$  (i.e. has no angle bigger than  $90^\circ$ )

Proof:

Assume opposite true i.e. equilateral  $\Delta$  is NOT acute-angled  
 $\Rightarrow$  it has one angle bigger than  $90^\circ$

As  $\Delta$  is equilateral, all angles are equal

$\Rightarrow$  it has 3 angles bigger than  $90^\circ$

But....

Sum of 3 angles =  $180^\circ$  so this is impossible!