

Exercise 1.3**1. Prove that $\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.**

Solutions: Let us assume, that $\sqrt{5}$ is rational number. i.e.

$$\sqrt{5} = \frac{x}{y} \text{ (where, } x \text{ and } y \text{ are co-primes)}$$

$$y\sqrt{5} = x$$

Squaring both the sides, we get,

$$(y\sqrt{5})^2 = x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 5y^2 = x^2 \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Thus, x^2 is divisible by 5, so x is also divisible by 5.

Let us say, $x = 5k$, for some value of k and substituting the value of x in equation (1), we get,

$$5y^2 = (5k)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 = 5k^2$$

y^2 is divisible by 5 it means y is divisible by 5.

Therefore, x and y are co-primes. Since, our assumption about $\sqrt{5}$ is rational is incorrect.

Hence, $\sqrt{5}$ is irrational number.

2. Prove that $3 + 2\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.

Solutions: Let us assume $3 + 2\sqrt{5}$ is rational.

Then we can find co-prime x and y ($y \neq 0$) such that $3 + 2\sqrt{5} = \frac{x}{y}$.

Rearranging, we get,

$$2\sqrt{5} = \frac{x}{y} - 3$$

$$\sqrt{5} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x}{y} - 3 \right)$$

Since, x and y are integers, thus, $\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x}{y} - 3 \right)$ is a rational number.

Therefore, $\sqrt{5}$ is also a rational number. But this contradicts the fact that $\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.

So, we conclude that $3 + 2\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.

3. Prove that the following are irrationals:

(i) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

(ii) $7\sqrt{5}$

(iii) $6 + \sqrt{2}$

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Solutions: (i) $1/\sqrt{2}$

Let us assume $1/\sqrt{2}$ is rational.

Then we can find co-

prime x and y ($y \neq 0$) such that $1/\sqrt{2} = \frac{x}{y}$.

Rearranging, we get,

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{y}{x}$$

Since, x and y are integers, thus, $\sqrt{2}$ is a rational number, which contradicts the fact that $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

Hence, we can conclude that $1/\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

(ii) $7\sqrt{5}$

Let us assume $7\sqrt{5}$ is a rational number.

Then we can find co-prime a and b ($b \neq 0$) such that $7\sqrt{5} = \frac{x}{y}$.

Rearranging, we get,

$$\sqrt{5} = \frac{x}{7y}$$

Since, x and y are integers, thus, $\sqrt{5}$ is a rational number, which contradicts the fact that $\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.

Hence, we can conclude that $7\sqrt{5}$ is irrational.

(iii) $6 + \sqrt{2}$

Let us assume $6 + \sqrt{2}$ is a rational number.

Then we can find co-primes x and y ($y \neq 0$) such that $6 + \sqrt{2} = \frac{x}{y}$.

Rearranging, we get,

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{x}{y} - 6$$

Since, x and y are integers, thus, $\frac{x}{y} - 6$ is a rational number and therefore, $\sqrt{2}$ is rational. This contradicts

the fact that $\sqrt{2}$ is an irrational number.

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Hence, we can conclude that $6 + \sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

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