

Proof $2=1$

Given $a = b \neq 0$

$$a = b$$

$$a * a = b * a$$

(Multiply both sides by a)

$$a^2 = ab$$

(simplify)

$$a^2 - b^2 = ab - b^2$$

(subtract b^2 from both sides)

$$(a+b)(a-b) = b(a-b)$$

(factor)

$$(a+b)(\cancel{a-b}) = b(\cancel{a-b})$$

(divide by $a-b$)

$$(a+b) = b$$

(simplify)

$$b + b = b$$

(replace a with b from Given)

$$2b = b$$

(simplify)

$$2\cancel{b} = 1\cancel{b}$$

(divide by b (ok since $b \neq 0$))

$$2 = 1$$

Divide by $(a-b)$