

## Proving $\frac{n}{0}$ is not $\infty$

The inverse of division is multiplication, so:

$$\frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$3 * 2 = 6$$

So if we pretend for a moment that  $\frac{n}{0} = \infty$ , then the following is true (where  $n$  is any number):

$$\frac{n}{0} = \infty$$

$$\infty * 0 = n$$

However, a fundamental rule in multiplication is that anything times 0 is 0 (as you have 0 groups of  $n$ ), so  $\infty * 0 \neq n$ , thus proving that anything divided by 0 is not infinity.

## Proving $\frac{0}{0}$ is undefined

Let  $\alpha = 1 * 0$  and  $\beta = 2 * 0$ . As anything times 0 is 0,  $\alpha = \beta$ . Now let's set up the following equation:

$$\alpha = \beta$$

Expanded, this would be:

$$1 * 0 = 2 * 0$$

So far so good. Now let's try dividing 0 on both sides:

$$\frac{1 * 0}{0} = \frac{2 * 0}{0}$$

If we pretend for a moment that  $\frac{0}{0}$  is defined, then the following occurs:

$$\frac{1 * \cancel{0}}{\cancel{0}} = \frac{2 * \cancel{0}}{\cancel{0}}$$

Leaving:

$$1 = 2$$

For obvious reasons this is false, but just to prove it is false, if  $1 = 2$ , then the following can be concluded:

$$1 + 1 = 1$$

$$1 + 1 + \cancel{(-1)} = 1 + \cancel{(-1)}$$

$$1 + 0 = 0$$

$$1 = 0$$