

Step-1

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & b \\ a & a & b \\ a & a & a \end{pmatrix}$$

Given that

A is invertible if $|A| \neq 0$

$$|A| \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} a & b & b \\ a & a & b \\ a & a & a \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a(a^2 - ab) - b(a^2 - ab) + b(a^2 - a^2) \neq 0$$

Step-2

$$\Rightarrow a(a^2 - ab) - b(a^2 - ab) \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (a^2 - ab)(a - b) \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a(a - b)(a - b) \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a \neq 0, a \neq b$$

Therefore A is invertible if $a \neq 0, a \neq b$

Step-3

Pivotes:-

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & b \\ a & a & b \\ a & a & a \end{pmatrix}$$

Given that

Apply $R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - R_1, R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_1$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & b \\ a & a & b \\ a & a & a \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} a & b & b \\ 0 & a-b & 0 \\ 0 & a-b & a-b \end{pmatrix}$$

Step-4

apply $R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_2$

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{a} & b & b \\ 0 & \boxed{a-b} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{a-b} \end{pmatrix}$$

which is upper triangular matrix

And the pivots are $\boxed{a, a-b, a-b}$.