

- Plan
1. Quadratic equations
 2. Completing the square
 3. Equations with given solutions
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1. Quadratic equations

- an eq. which can be transformed into the standard form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ ($a \neq 0$)

It has solution(s):

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Three cases:

$b^2 - 4ac > 0$ gives two solutions

$b^2 - 4ac = 0$ gives one solution

$b^2 - 4ac < 0$ gives no solution

Problem Determine the number of solutions.

a) $x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$ $5^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 6 > 0$: two solutions

b) $-x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$ $2^2 - 4 \cdot (-1) \cdot (-1) = 0$: one solution

c) $4x^2 - 5x - 5 = 0$ $(-5)^2 - 4 \cdot 4 \cdot (-5) > 0$: two solutions

The quadratic (abc) - formula is often inefficient:

Ex $-3x^2 + 7 = 0$ ($a = -3$, $b = 0$, $c = 7$)

$$-3x^2 = -7 \quad | :(-3)$$

$$x^2 = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$|x| = \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{\frac{7}{3}} \quad \text{so} \quad \underline{\underline{x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{7}{3}}}}$$

Ex $2x^2 - 6x = 0$ ($a=2, b=-6, c=0$)

$$2(x^2 - 3x) = 0 \quad | : 2$$

$$x^2 - 3x = 0$$

$$x(x - 3) = 0 \quad \text{then}$$

either $x = 0$ or $x - 3 = 0$
 $x = 3$

Pattern: If $a \cdot b = 0$ then $a = 0$ or $b = 0$
(or both)

2. Completing the square

Ex $x^2 + 6x - 16 = 0$

Claim: $x^2 + 6x = (x+3)^2 - 9$

-because $(x+3)^2 = x^2 + 2 \cdot 3x + 3^2$

$$= x^2 + 6x + 9$$

$6:2$ 3^2

$$\underline{(x+3)^2 - 9} - 16 = 0$$

$$(x+3)^2 = 25$$

so $x+3 = 5$ or $x+3 = -5$

$$\underline{x = 2}$$

$$\underline{\underline{x = -8}}$$

Problem Solve the quadratic eq.s by completing the square

a) $x^2 - 8x - 33 = 0$

Solution $\frac{-8}{2} = -4$ so $x^2 - 8x = (x-4)^2 - (-4)^2$

(because $(x-4)^2 = x^2 - 2 \cdot 4x + (-4)^2 = x^2 - 8x + 16$)

Rewrite eq: $(x-4)^2 - 16 - 33 = 0$

$(x-4)^2 = 49$

so $x-4 = 7$ or $x-4 = -7$

$x = 11$

$x = -3$

b) $x^2 + 2x = 63$

Solution $x^2 + 2x = (x+1)^2 - 1^2$ so

rewrite eq: $(x+1)^2 - 1 = 63$

so $(x+1)^2 = 64$

so $x+1 = 8$ or $x+1 = -8$

$x = 7$

$x = -9$

Start: 11.03

3. Equations with given solutions

Problem Solve the equation

$$(x-4)(x+5) = 0$$

Solution If a product of two numbers is equal to zero: $a \cdot b = 0$

then at least one of the numbers has to be zero: $a = 0$ or $b = 0$

So when $(x-4) \cdot (x+5) = 0$ then

$$x-4 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x+5 = 0$$

$$\underline{\underline{x = 4}}$$

$$\underline{\underline{x = -5}}$$

Problem Determine the quadratic expression $x^2 + bx + c$ with the given roots (zeros)

a) 1 and 2

$$\text{Solution: } (x-1) \cdot (x-2) = \underline{\underline{x^2 - 3x + 2}}$$

b) 11 and -3

$$\text{Solution: } (x-11) \cdot (x+3) = \underline{\underline{x^2 - 8x - 33}}$$

Note $3(x-1)(x-2) = 3x^2 - 9x + 6$ has the same roots as $x^2 - 3x + 2$ (namely $x=1$ and $x=2$).

if r_1 and r_2 are the solutions ('roots') to the quad. eq.

$$x^2 + bx + c = 0$$

then $(x - r_1) \cdot (x - r_2) = x^2 - r_2x - r_1x + (r_1)(r_2)$
 $= x^2 - (r_1 + r_2)x + r_1 r_2$

so $b = -(r_1 + r_2)$ and $c = r_1 r_2$

Ex $x^2 + 6x - 16 = (x - 2)(x + 8)$ $r_1 = 2$
 $r_2 = -8$

Problem Solve the eq.

$$(x^2 + 1)(12 + 3x)(9 - x^2)(x^2 - 3x + 2) = 0$$

A product equal to zero: one of the factors has to be zero.

$x^2 + 1 = 0$ - no solutions

or $12 + 3x = 0$ $3(4 + x) = 0$ so $x = -4$

or $9 - x^2 = 0$ $(3 - x)(3 + x) = 0$ so $x = \pm 3$

or $x^2 - 3x + 2 = 0$ $(x - 1)(x - 2) = 0$ so $x = 1$ or $x = 2$

Problem Solve the eq. $x^4 - 12x^3 + 11x^2 = 0$

Solution Factorise the LHS: $x^2(x^2 - 12x + 11) = 0$

$x^2 = 0$ or $x^2 - 12x + 11 = 0$

$x = 0$

$(x - 1)(x - 11) = 0$

$x = 1$ or $x = 11$