



"One learns by doing a thing; for though you think you know it, you have no certainty until you try."

— Sophocles

Coursepack on D2L

Office Hours MWF 11:30-1:30 (BA151)

Math Lab TEC 142

1.2 Quadratic Equations

4 methods

I. Factoring

II. Square Root Method

Let $p > 0$
 $x^2 = p$ has 2 solutions: $x = \pm \sqrt{p}$

Ex: Solve

a) $x^2 = 17$
 $x = \pm \sqrt{17}$

b) $(x+7)^2 = 9$
 $x+7 = \pm \sqrt{9}$
 $x+7 = \pm 3$
 $x = -7 \pm 3$

$$x = -10, -4$$

c) $x^2 = -16$

no solution (disregard complex solutions)
no real solution

III. Completing the Square } always work
IV. Quadratic Formula

III. Completing the Square

Ex: a) $x^2 + 8x + 6 = 0$

$$x^2 + 8x = -6$$

$$\rightarrow \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^2 = 16$$

Add 16

$$x^2 + 8x + 16 = 10$$

$$(x+4)^2 = 10$$

$$x+4 = \pm\sqrt{10}$$

$$x = -4 \pm \sqrt{10}$$

b) $3x^2 + 36x + 20 = 0$

Make leading coefficient = 1

$$x^2 + 12x + \frac{20}{3} = 0$$

$$x^2 + 12x = -\frac{20}{3}$$

$$\left(\frac{12}{2}\right)^2 = 36$$

Add 36

$$x^2 + 12x + 36 = 36 - \frac{20}{3} \leftarrow \frac{108}{3} - \frac{20}{3} = \frac{88}{3}$$

$$(x+6)^2 = \frac{88}{3}$$

$$x+6 = \pm \sqrt{\frac{88}{3}} \leftarrow \frac{\sqrt{88}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{4 \cdot 22}}{1} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} = \frac{2\sqrt{66}}{3}$$

$$x = -6 \pm \frac{2\sqrt{66}}{3}$$

IV. Quadratic Formula

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \text{ has}$$

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

Know this
😊

Ex: Solve

a) $3x^2 + 7x + 2 = 0$

$$x = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{25}}{6} \leftarrow 7^2 - 4(3)(2) = 25$$

$$x = \frac{-7 \pm 5}{6}$$

$$x = -2, -\frac{2}{6} \text{ or } -2, -\frac{1}{3}$$

$$b) \quad 6x^2 + 3x + 8 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{-183}}{12}$$

no real solution

$$c) \quad x^2 + 7x + \frac{49}{4} = 0$$

$$\times 4 : \quad 4x^2 + 28x + 49 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-28 \pm \sqrt{0}}{8}$$

$$x = -\frac{28}{8} \quad \text{or} \quad -\frac{7}{2}$$

$b^2 - 4ac$ is called the discriminant

- If $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, then the quadratic equation has 2 real solutions
- $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ " 1 real solution
- $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ " no real solution

Ex: How many real solutions?

$$a) \quad x^2 + 18x + 12 = 0$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 276 > 0$$

two

$$b) \quad x^2 + 18x + 81 = 0$$

12.1

one

$$b) \quad x^2 + 18x + 81 = 0$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 0$$

one