

Solving Quadratic Equations: Factoring and ZPP

The ZPP (zero product principle) states:
If $ab = 0$, then either $a = 0$ or $b = 0$.

Solve: $(x+3)(x-2) = -4$

$x+3 = -4$ OR $x-2 = -4$

→ INCORRECT!

$x^2 + x - 6 = -4$

$\Rightarrow x^2 + x - 2 = 0$

$\Rightarrow (x+2)(x-1) = 0$

$x+2 = 0$ OR $x-1 = 0$
 $x = -2$ OR $x = 1$

$x \in \{-2, 1\}$

Solving Quadratic Equations: The Quadratic Formula

If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, then the two solutions are:

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

Use the quadratic formula to solve. Simplify your answer.

$2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$

$a=2$
 $b=-1$
 $c=-1$

$$x = \frac{-(-1) \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4(2)(-1)}}{2(2)}$$

$$= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - (-8)}}{4}$$

$$= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{9}}{4} = \frac{1 \pm 3}{4}$$

$x = \frac{1+3}{4} = 1$ OR $x = \frac{1-3}{4} = -\frac{1}{2}$

Solve via the quadratic formula. Compare with the method you used in your homework last time.

9. $x^2 - 9x = -18$

10. $x^2 - 6x + 4 = 0$

10) $a=1$
 $b=-6$
 $c=4$

$x = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{(-6)^2 - 4(1)(4)}}{2(1)}$

$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{36-16}}{2(1)}$

$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{20}}{2}$

$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{5 \cdot 4}}{2}$

$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{5} \cdot 2}{2}$

$= 2(3 \pm \sqrt{5})$

$= 3 \pm \sqrt{5}$

$\sqrt{a \cdot b} = \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b}$

The Discriminant

We can use the discriminant $b^2 - 4ac$ to determine the types of solutions we can expect when solving a quadratic equation.

Complete the table below:

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

Two distinct *rational* solutions.

| Discriminant | Solutions |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ | Two distinct solutions (irrational) |
| $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ and a perfect square | Two distinct <i>rational</i> solutions (the quadratic is factorable!). |
| $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ | One (repeated) <i>rational</i> solution. |
| $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ | No real solutions. |

Check the discriminant for the following quadratic equations. What can you conclude about the solutions?

9. $x^2 - 9x = -18 \rightarrow x^2 - 9x + 18 = 0$

10. $x^2 - 6x + 4 = 0$

10) $b^2 - 4ac = (-6)^2 - 4(1)(4) = 20$

9) $b^2 - 4ac = (-9)^2 - 4(1)(18) = 81 - 72 = 9$

Using the Discriminant

Calculate the discriminant to determine whether the following can be solved by factoring.

$5x^2 + 10x + 6 = 0$

$b^2 - 4ac = 10^2 - 120 = -20$
no solutions!

$3x^2 + 2x - 6 = 0$

$b^2 - 4ac = 4 - 4(3)(6) = -76$

76 is not a perfect square \rightarrow not factorable

Using the Discriminant

2. Given the quadratic equation $-2x^2 + bx + 8$. Is it possible to find b so that the quadratic equation has:

- ✓ a) two rational solutions,
- ✓ b) two real (non-rational) solutions, $b = -15?$
- ✗ c) one real solution, } no, $b^2 + 64 \geq 64 > 0$
- ✗ d) no real solutions?

For each of the above, find one such b (if possible)
OR explain why it is not possible.

a) $b^2 - 4ac = b^2 - 4(2)(8)$
 $= b^2 + 64 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$

Can you choose b so that $b^2 - 64$ is a perfect square?

yes: $b = 0, b = \pm 6, b = \pm 15?$

In Closing, An Application

Kim is flying a kite that is 30 feet farther above her hand than its horizontal distance from her. The string from her hand to the kite is 150 feet long. How far is the kite above her hand?

