Quadratic equations

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

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The three methods are:

Tomasz Lechowski

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• factorization,

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The three methods are:

- factorization,
- completing the square,
- quadratic formula.

We will now review these methods.

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Batory prelB

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$$x^2 - 3x - 18 = 0$$

We factorize the left hand side to get:

$$(x-6)(x+3)=0$$

So x - 6 = 0 or x + 3 = 0. Which gives x = 6 or x = -3.



a) Solve:

$$x^2 + 2x - 15 = 0$$

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We factorize and get:

$$(2x - 9)(2x + 9) = 0$$

which gives 2x - 9 = 0 or 2x + 9 = 0, so x = 4.5 or x = -4.5.

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Now we factorize and get:

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which gives 2x + 1 = 0 or x - 3 = 0, so $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ or x = 3.

Remember that we constantly use the fact that if a product of two numbers is 0, then one of the numbers must be 0.

Important property

If $a \times b = 0$, then a = 0 or b = 0.

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Useless property

If $a \times b = 7$ (or any other non-zero number), then we don't know much about a or b.

Factorization doesn't always work and if after a few seconds we cannot factorize the given expression, then we should try a different approach.

Let's solve the following equation

$$x^2 + 4x - 12 = 0$$

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We have $x^2 + 4x = (x+2)^2 - 4$

So we are solving:

$$(x+2)^2 - 4 - 12 = 0$$

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x + 2 squared gives 16, so x + 2 = 4 or x + 2 = -4, which gives x = 2 or x = -6.

The method is fairly simple:

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We just need to put appropraite numbers in place of dots. The bracket is easy, we choose the number so that the first two terms are ok, so we want to get $x^2 + 4x$. So the bracket has to be $(x + 2)^2$. Now we need to add/subtract something to make the expressions equal $(x+2)^2 = x^2 + 4x + 4$. the first two terms agree, we need to change the last one. We want -12 and we have 4, so we need to subtract 16. Finally we have $x^2 + 4x - 12 = (x + 2)^2 - 16$.

Let's look at the equation once more:

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We will talk more about these forms when we will be covering quadratic functions.

Completing the square - example

Turn $x^2 + 6x - 2$ into vertex form. Hence solve $x^2 + 6x - 2 = 0$.

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We want $x^2 + 6x - 2$ in the form $(x ...)^2$ We need +3 in the bracket to get 6x.

So we have $(x+3)^2$, which gives $(x+3)^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$, but instead of 9 we want -2, so we need to subtract 11.

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So we have $(x+3)^2$, which gives $(x+3)^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$, but instead of 9 we want -2, so we need to subtract 11. Finally:

$$x^2 + 6x - 2 = (x+3)^2 - 11$$

Now we want to solve:

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so
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 or $x + 3 = -\sqrt{11}$.

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This gives $x = -3 + \sqrt{11}$ or $x = -3 - \sqrt{11}$.

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Note that we wouldn't be able to solve the equation $x^2 + 6x - 2 = 0$ by factorizing it, or at least it would be very hard.

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We will first divide both sides by 2, this gives:

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Now we complete the square:

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So

$$\left(x+\frac{3}{2}\right)^2=\frac{15}{4}$$

which gives $x + \frac{3}{2} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{15}}{2}$, so $x = -\frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{15}}{2}$.

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If we want to solve an equation like:

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

We will first divide both sides by 2, this gives:

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

Now we complete the square:

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{15}{4} = 0$$

So

$$\left(x+\frac{3}{2}\right)^2=\frac{15}{4}$$

which gives $x+\frac{3}{2}=\pm\frac{\sqrt{15}}{2}$, so $x=-\frac{3}{2}\pm\frac{\sqrt{15}}{2}$. Note \pm means that there are two solutions, one when we add the given number, the other when we subtract.

The method of completing the square led us to a formula for solving quadratic equations:

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



The method of completing the square led us to a formula for solving quadratic equations:

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

The formula we derived is $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$, where $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$.



If we want to solve:

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

then we have a = 2, b = 6 and c = -3.

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$$\Delta = 6^2 - 4(2)(-3) = 60$$

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then we have a = 2, b = 6 and c = -3.

We first calculate Δ :

$$\Delta = 6^2 - 4(2)(-3) = 60$$

So
$$x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{60}}{4} = \frac{-6 \pm 2\sqrt{15}}{4} = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{15}}{2}$$

When you solve a quadratic equation, you should start by trying factorization, then if it doesn't work use the quadratic formula. The completing the square method is still important and we will use it when we will be dealing with quadratic functions.

Solve:

$$x^2 - 6x - 7 = 0$$

Solve:

$$x^2 - 6x - 7 = 0$$

Method:



Solve:

$$x^2 - 6x - 7 = 0$$

Method: factorization!



Solve:

$$x^2 - 6x - 7 = 0$$

Method: factorization!

$$(x-7)(x+1)=0$$

so x = 7 oraz x = -1.



Solve:

$$2x^2 - x - 15 = 0$$

Solve:

$$2x^2 - x - 15 = 0$$

Method:



Solve:

$$2x^2 - x - 15 = 0$$

Method: factorization!



Solve:

$$2x^2 - x - 15 = 0$$

Method: factorization!

$$(2x+5)(x-3)=0$$

so x = -2.5 oraz x = 3.

Solve:

$$x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$$

Solve:

$$x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$$

Method:

Solve:

$$x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work nicely)

Solve:

$$x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work nicely) $a=1,\ b=5,\ c=1,$ so

$$\Delta = 25 - 4(1)(1) = 21$$

Solve:

$$x^2 + 5x + 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work nicely) a = 1, b = 5, c = 1, so

$$\Delta = 25 - 4(1)(1) = 21$$

So we have:

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{21}}{2}$$

Solve:

$$3x^2 + 5x = 0$$

Solve:

$$3x^2 + 5x = 0$$

Method:

Solve:

$$3x^2 + 5x = 0$$

Method: factorization!



Solve:

$$3x^2 + 5x = 0$$

$$x(3x+5)=0$$

so
$$x = 0$$
 oraz $x = -\frac{5}{3}$.

$$2x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$$

Solve:

$$2x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$$

Solve:

$$2x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work)

Solve:

$$2x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work) a = 2, b = 3, c = -1, so

$$\Delta = 9 - 4(2)(-1) = 17$$

Solve:

$$2x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$$

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work) a = 2, b = 3, c = -1, so

$$\Delta = 9 - 4(2)(-1) = 17$$

So we have:

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{17}}{4}$$

$$9x^2-4=0$$

Solve:

$$9x^2-4=0$$

Solve:

$$9x^2-4=0$$



Solve:

$$9x^2-4=0$$

$$(3x-2)(3x+2) = 0$$

so
$$x = \frac{2}{3}$$
 oraz $x = -\frac{2}{3}$.

$$3x^2 + 14x + 8 = 0$$

Solve:

$$3x^2 + 14x + 8 = 0$$

Solve:

$$3x^2 + 14x + 8 = 0$$



Solve:

$$3x^2 + 14x + 8 = 0$$

$$(3x+2)(x+4)=0$$

so
$$x = -\frac{2}{3}$$
 oraz $x = -4$.

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

Solve:

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

Solve:

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

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work)

Solve:

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

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work) a = 2, b = -6, c = 3, so

$$\Delta = 36 - 4(2)(3) = 12$$

Solve:

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

Method: quadratic formula (factorization doesn't work) a = 2, b = -6, c = 3, so

$$\Delta = 36 - 4(2)(3) = 12$$

So we have:

$$x = \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{12}}{4} = \frac{6 \pm 2\sqrt{3}}{4} = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}$$

There will be a test on this on Monday!