

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

You've learn two methods to solve quadratic equations:

Square Roots

But,
it only works some
of the time.

ONLY when
 $b = 0$

Factoring

But,
this method only
works some of the
time too.

Not everything is
factorable.

What if a Quadratic Equation can't be
solved with either Square Roots
or Factoring?

Use the Quadratic Formula!!

Sec 10-7: The Quadratic Formula

Equation must be in Standard Form:

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

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

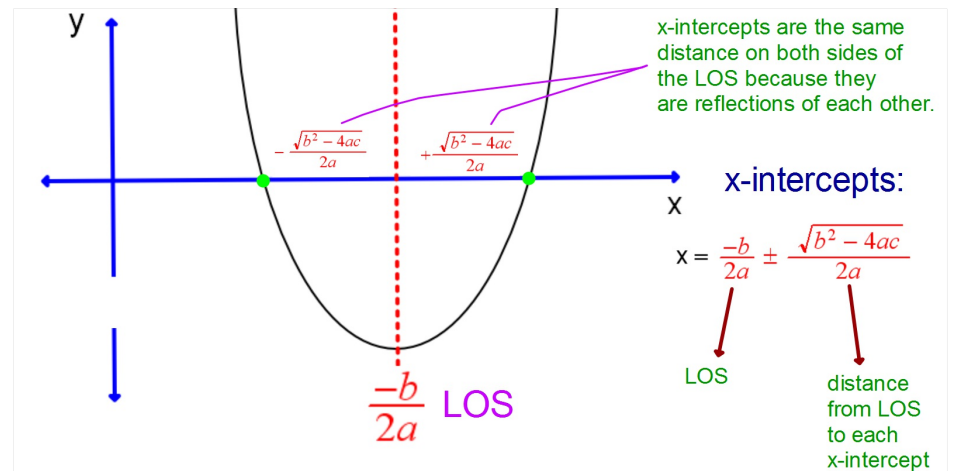
This can solve ANY Quadratic Equation!

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

Sometimes written this way:

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

Remember, solving a quadratic equation is the same as finding the **x-intercepts** of the graph.



Steps to follow when using the Quadratic Formula

1. Make sure the equation is written in Standard Form, $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$
2. Find the values of
 - $-b$
 - $b^2 - 4ac$
 - $2a$
3. Substitute these values into the formula
4. Calculate this formula first with either the $+$ or $-$
5. Then calculate a second time using the other sign.

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

$$4x^2 + 5x = 13$$

Solve this quadratic equation using the Quadratic Formula. Round to the nearest tenth if necessary.

First write eq in Standard Form: $4x^2 + 5x - 13 = 0$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 25 - 4(4)(-13) = 233$$

$$-b = -5$$

$$2a = 8$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{233}}{8}$$

$$= \boxed{1.3, -2.5}$$

Solve using the Quadratic Formula. Round to a tenth if needed.

$$2x^2 - 7x - 5 = 0 \quad x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 49 - 4(2)(-5) = 89$$

$$-b = 7$$

$$2a = 4$$

$$x = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{89}}{4}$$
$$= 4.1, -0.6$$

Solve using the Quadratic Formula. Round to a tenth if needed.

$$2x^2 + 5x - 42 = 0 \quad x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 25 - 4(2)(-42) = 361$$

$$-b = -5$$

$$2a = 4$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{361}}{4}$$
$$= 3.5, -6$$

Solve using the Quadratic Formula. Round to a tenth if needed.

$$4x^2 - 20x + 25 = 0 \quad x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = (-20)^2 - 4(4)(25) = 0$$

$$-b = 20$$

$$2a = 8$$

$$x = \frac{20 \pm \sqrt{0}}{8} = \frac{20}{8}$$
$$= 2.5$$

There is only one unique solution to this quadratic equation. This means the graph will have only one x-intercept.

Solve using the Quadratic Formula. Round to a tenth if needed.

$$x^2 - 5x + 12 = 0 \quad x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 25 - 4(1)(12) = -23$$

$$-b =$$

$$2a =$$

Once you know that $b^2 - 4ac$ is NEGATIVE there is

NO REAL SOLUTION

Find the EXACT solutions to this Quadratic Equation.

$$4x^2 + 6x - 3 = 0$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 36 - 4(4)(-3) = 84$$

$$-b = -6$$

$$2a = 8$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{84}}{8} \leftarrow \sqrt{4 \cdot 21} \\ &= \frac{-6 \pm 2\sqrt{21}}{8} \text{ reduce all parts of this fraction by a factor of 2.} \\ &= \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{21}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Find the EXACT solutions to this Quadratic Equation.

$$x^2 - 10x + 19 = 0$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 100 - 4(1)(19) = 24$$

$$-b = 10$$

$$2a = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{24}}{2} \leftarrow \sqrt{4 \cdot 6} \\ &= \frac{10 \pm 2\sqrt{6}}{2} \text{ divide both terms in the numerator by 2} \\ &= 5 \pm \sqrt{6} \end{aligned}$$

A ball is shot into the air. The following equation models the height of the ball as a function of time:

$$h(t) = -16t^2 + 184t + 35$$

- Find the maximum height of the ball.

564 feet

- Find the time it takes to reach this maximum height.

5.75 sec

This tells me to find the coordinates of the vertex!

$$\begin{aligned} &(t, h) \\ &\uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ &-\frac{b}{2a} = \frac{-184}{-32} = 5.75 \text{ Sec} \\ &\text{replace } t \text{ with } 5.75 \\ &h(5.75) = 564 \text{ ft} \end{aligned}$$

$$h(t) = -16t^2 + 184t + 35$$

How long does it take this ball to come back down to the ground?

When the ball reaches the ground it has a height of zero. Therefore, replace $h(t)$ with zero and solve for time using the Quadratic Equation.