

A root is the value of the variable that makes an equation true. It is the same as the solution to an equation.

Recall that a quadratic equation is an equation of the form

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

If $y = 3x^2 - 6x + 11$, find the x value that makes $y = 10$.

$$10 = 3x^2 - 6x + 11$$

$$3x^2 - 6x + 11 - 10 = 0$$

$$3x^2 - 6x + 1 = 0 \quad (\text{we can not factor})$$

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

$$a = 3 \quad b = -6 \quad c = 1$$

$$x = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{(-6)^2 - 4(3)(1)}}{2(3)}$$

$$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 12}}{6}$$

$$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{24}}{6}$$

$$x_1 = \frac{6 + \sqrt{24}}{6} \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{6 - \sqrt{24}}{6}$$

$$\approx 1.82 \quad \approx 0.18$$

Exact answers:

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

$$= \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{6}}{3}$$

What happens if a quadratic equation cannot be factored?

Use quadratic formula
to solve for x .

To determine x for a quadratic equation of the form $\underline{ax^2 + bx + c = 0}$, we can use the quadratic formula to find the roots:

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

Yes, it is ugly, but you must memorize this formula!

You may for once, use a calculator!

Example 1 Use the quadratic formula to solve each quadratic equation. Where necessary, round to four decimal places.

a) $0 = 2x^2 + 9x + 6$

$a=2$ $b=9$ $c=6$

$$x = \frac{-9 \pm \sqrt{9^2 - 4(2)(6)}}{2(2)}$$

$$= \frac{-9 \pm \sqrt{81 - 48}}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{-9 \pm \sqrt{33}}{4}$$

$$x_1 = \frac{-9 + \sqrt{33}}{4} \approx -0.8139$$

$$x_2 = \frac{-9 - \sqrt{33}}{4} \approx -3.6861$$

b) $4x^2 - 12x = -9$

$4x^2 - 12x + 9 = 0$

$a=4$ $b=12$ $c=9$

$$x = \frac{+12 \pm \sqrt{144 - 4(4)(9)}}{2(4)}$$

$$= \frac{+12 \pm \sqrt{144 - 144}}{8}$$

$$= \frac{+12 \pm \sqrt{0}}{8} = \frac{+12}{8} = \frac{+3}{2} = 1.5$$

$\therefore x = +\frac{3}{2}$ (order 2)

(which implies perfect square trinomial)

$$4x^2 - 12x + 9 = (2x - 3)^2$$

Example 2 Find the x -intercepts, the vertex, and the equation of the axis of symmetry of the quadratic relation $y = -3 + 8x - 5x^2$. Sketch the parabola.

sub $y=0$ for x -ints.

$$-5x^2 + 8x - 3 = 0$$

$a=-5$ $b=8$ $c=-3$

$$x = \frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 4(-5)(-3)}}{2(-5)}$$

$$= \frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{4}}{-10}$$

$$= \frac{-8 \pm 2}{-10}$$

$$x_1 = \frac{-8 + 2}{-10} = \frac{-6}{-10} = 0.6$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_v = \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} = \frac{0.6 + 1}{2} = 0.8$$

$$y_v = -3 + 8(0.8) - 5(0.8)^2 = 0.2$$

\therefore vertex $(0.8, 0.2)$

