

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33B, Chd.

Date: 15.04.2024 class: 10th Subject: Mathematics
Topic: Chapter-5 Quadratic Equation (contd...)
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Nature of the roots of a Quadratic Equation

We know that, in quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$,
roots are $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

The nature of the roots depends on the quantity under the square root sign i.e. $b^2 - 4ac$

This is called discriminant of the equation and is denoted by 'D'

Therefore, Discriminant $D = b^2 - 4ac$

Now, the following three cases arises:-

Case I: If $b^2 - 4ac$ is positive i.e. $b^2 - 4ac > 0$,
then the roots are real and distinct.

- (i) If $b^2 - 4ac$ is a perfect square, the roots are real, rational and distinct (unequal).
- (ii) If $b^2 - 4ac$ is not a perfect square, the roots are real, irrational and distinct.

Examples:-

1) $2x^2 + x - 3 = 0$, Here $a = 2, b = 1, c = -3$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (1)^2 - 4(2)(-3) = 25 = (5)^2 > 0$$

Since, D is positive and perfect square, therefore roots are real, rational and distinct.

2) $2x^2 + 2x - 3 = 0$, Here $a = 2, b = 2, c = -3$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (2)^2 - 4(2)(-3) = 28 > 0 \text{ is not a perfect square, therefore roots are irrational and distinct.}$$

Case II: If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, the roots are real and equal

Example:- $4x^2 + 4x + 1 = 0$ Here, $a = 4, b = 4, c = 1$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (4)^2 - 4(4)(1) = 16 - 16 = 0$$

Since, $D = 0$, therefore, roots are real and equal.

Case III : If $b^2 - 4ac$ is negative, i.e. $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then, the roots are not real (imaginary).

Example: $x^2 - 2x + 5 = 0$ Here $a = 1, b = -2, c = 5$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-2)^2 - 4(1)(5) = 4 - 20 = -16 < 0$$

Since, D is negative, therefore, the given equation does not have real roots.

So, we conclude that

$b^2 - 4ac = 0$, roots are real and equal

$b^2 - 4ac > 0$, roots are real and unequal (distinct)

$b^2 - 4ac \geq 0$, roots are real (rational or irrational)

$b^2 - 4ac < 0$, roots are imaginary (not real)

Example 1: Find the values of 'k' for which the equation $x^2 - 4x + k = 0$ has distinct real roots.

Solution: The given equation is $x^2 - 4x + k = 0$

Here, $a = 1, b = -4, c = 'k'$

$$\text{Now, } D = b^2 - 4ac = (-4)^2 - 4 \times 1 \times k = 16 - 4k$$

For real and distinct roots, $D > 0$ i.e. $16 - 4k > 0 \Rightarrow 16 > 4k$

$$\Rightarrow 4k < 16 \Rightarrow k < \frac{16}{4} \Rightarrow k < 4$$

Therefore, the given equation will have distinct real roots if $k < 4$.

Example 2: If -4 is a root of the quadratic equation $x^2 + px - 4 = 0$ and the quadratic equation $x^2 + px + k = 0$ has equal roots, find the value of 'k'.

Solution: Since -4 is a root of the equation $x^2 + px - 4 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow D = b^2 - 4ac = 0 \Rightarrow (-4)^2 + p(-4) - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow 16 - 4p - 4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 12 - 4p = 0 \Rightarrow 4p = 12 \Rightarrow p = 3$$

Putting $p = 3$ in the equation $x^2 + px + k = 0$, the equation becomes $x^2 + 3x + k = 0$

Here, $a = 1, b = 3, c = k$

$$\Rightarrow D = b^2 - 4ac = 9 - 4 \times 1 \times k = 9 - 4k$$

$$\text{For equal roots } D = 0 \text{ i.e. } 9 - 4k = 0 \Rightarrow 9 = 4k \Rightarrow k = \frac{9}{4}$$

NOTE: In case of $D = 0$, we have two equal roots i.e. one real roots (repeated twice)

PROBLEMS ON QUADRATIC EQUATIONS:-

- 1) Read the statement of the problem carefully at least twice, and determine what quantity must be found.
- 2) Represent the unknown quantity by a variable.
- 3) Form the quadratic equation with the help of the given condition or statement
- 4) Solve the resulting equation.

NOTE: 1) Lengths, areas, volume, money etc is always taken as positive, neglecting the negative values.
 2) Check the answer obtained by determining whether or not they fulfill the condition of the original problem.

Example 1: The sum of two natural number is 8. Determine the numbers, if the sum of their reciprocals is $\frac{8}{15}$.

Solution: As the sum of two natural numbers is 8, let the numbers be x and $8-x$ where $x < 8$

According to given, $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{8-x} = \frac{8}{15}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{8-x+x}{x(8-x)} = \frac{8}{15} \Rightarrow \frac{8}{x(8-x)} = \frac{8}{15} \Rightarrow 15 = x(8-x)$$

$$\Rightarrow 15 = 8x - x^2 \Rightarrow x^2 - 8x + 15 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - 3x - 5x + 15 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x(x-3) - 5(x-3) = 0 \Rightarrow (x-3)(x-5) = 0 \Rightarrow x-3 = 0 \text{ or } x-5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 3 \text{ or } x = 5$$

When $x = 3$, then the other number is $8-3 = 5$

When $x = 5$, then the other number is $8-5 = 3$

Hence, the required numbers are 3 and 5.

NOTE: 1) We can verify the answer by putting values in the equation given.

2) In the above example if difference of two natural number is 8, then we assume numbers be x and $x+8$.

3) Since $x+8 > x \Rightarrow \frac{1}{x+8} < \frac{1}{x}$

Class 10th Maths (Chapter-6)

Example 2: A two digit number is such that the product of its digits is 12. When 36 is added to this number, the digits interchange their places. Find the number.

Solution: Let the unit's digit of the two digit number be x .

Since the product of its digits is 12, its ten's digit = $\frac{12}{x}$
 $\therefore$ The number = $10 \times \frac{12}{x} + x$

On interchanging the digits, the number = $10 \times x + \frac{12}{x}$
According to given, $10 \times x + \frac{12}{x} = \left(10 \times \frac{12}{x} + x\right) + 36$

$$\Rightarrow 10x + \frac{12}{x} = \frac{120}{x} + x + 36 \Rightarrow 10x^2 + 12 = 120 + x^2 + 36x$$

$$\Rightarrow 9x^2 - 36x - 108 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - 4x - 12 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - 6x + 2x - 12 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x(x-6) + 2(x-6) = 0 \Rightarrow (x-6)(x+2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 6 \text{ or } x = -2 \text{ (but } x \text{ being a digit of a number cannot be negative)}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 6$$

Therefore, Unit's digit = 6 and ten's digit = $\frac{12}{6} = 2$

Hence, the required number is 26.

Note: Consecutive natural numbers are $x, x+1, x+2, \dots$
same [Consecutive odd integers are $x, x+2, x+4, \dots$
Consecutive even integers are $x, x+2, x+4, \dots$

Don't Forget...

- Quadratic Equations generally yield two answers.
- Length can never be negative.
- So only use the positive answers in an area problem.

REVISION

Problems on Quadratic Equations

Ms. Reena

Q1 ₹480 is divided equally among 'x' children. If the number of children were 20 more, than each would have got ₹12 less. Find 'x'

[year 2011]

Q2 A car covers a distance of 400 km at a certain speed. Had the speed been 12 km/h more, the time taken for the journey would have been 1 hour 40 minutes less. Find the original speed of the car.

[year 2012]

Q3 A shopkeeper purchases a certain number of books for ₹960. If the cost per book was ₹8 less, the number of books that could be purchased for ₹960 would be 4 more. Write an equation, taking the original cost of each book to be ₹x, and solve it to find the original cost of the books.

[year 2013]

Q4 A 2-digit positive number is such that the product of its digits is 6. If 9 is added to the number, the digits interchange their places. Find the number.

[year 2014]

Q5 Sum of two natural numbers is 8 and the difference of their reciprocals is $\frac{2}{15}$. Find the numbers.

[year 2015]

Q6 A bus covers a distance of 240 km at a uniform speed. Due to heavy rain its speed gets reduced by 10 km/hr and as such it takes two hours longer to cover the total distance. Assuming the uniform speed to be 'x' km/h, form an equation and solve it to evaluate 'x'

[year 2016]

- Q7 The sum of the ages of Vivek and his younger brother Amit is 47 years. The product of their ages in years is 550. Find their ages. [year 2017]
- Q8 ₹ 7,500 were divided equally among a certain number of children. Had there been 20 less children, each would have received ₹ 100 more. Find the original number of children. [year 2018]
- Q9 The product of two consecutive natural numbers which are multiples of 3 is equal to 810. Find the two numbers. [year 2019]
- Q10 The difference of two natural numbers is 7 and their product is 450. Find the numbers. [year 2020]