



FHSST Authors

**The Free High School Science Texts:  
Textbooks for High School Students  
Studying the Sciences  
Mathematics  
Grades 10 - 12**

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# Contents

<b>I</b>	<b>Basics</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Book</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	The Language of Mathematics . . . . .	3
<b>II</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Past Work</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	7
2.2	What is a number? . . . . .	7
2.3	Sets . . . . .	7
2.4	Letters and Arithmetic . . . . .	8
2.5	Addition and Subtraction . . . . .	9
2.6	Multiplication and Division . . . . .	9
2.7	Brackets . . . . .	9
2.8	Negative Numbers . . . . .	10
2.8.1	What is a negative number? . . . . .	10
2.8.2	Working with Negative Numbers . . . . .	11
2.8.3	Living Without the Number Line . . . . .	12
2.9	Rearranging Equations . . . . .	13
2.10	Fractions and Decimal Numbers . . . . .	15
2.11	Scientific Notation . . . . .	16
2.12	Real Numbers . . . . .	16
2.12.1	Natural Numbers . . . . .	17
2.12.2	Integers . . . . .	17
2.12.3	Rational Numbers . . . . .	17
2.12.4	Irrational Numbers . . . . .	19
2.13	Mathematical Symbols . . . . .	20
2.14	Infinity . . . . .	20
2.15	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	21
<b>3</b>	<b>Rational Numbers - Grade 10</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	23
3.2	The Big Picture of Numbers . . . . .	23
3.3	Definition . . . . .	23

3.4	Forms of Rational Numbers . . . . .	24
3.5	Converting Terminating Decimals into Rational Numbers . . . . .	25
3.6	Converting Repeating Decimals into Rational Numbers . . . . .	25
3.7	Summary . . . . .	26
3.8	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	27
<b>4</b>	<b>Exponentials - Grade 10</b>	<b>29</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	29
4.2	Definition . . . . .	29
4.3	Laws of Exponents . . . . .	30
4.3.1	Exponential Law 1: $a^0 = 1$ . . . . .	30
4.3.2	Exponential Law 2: $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$ . . . . .	30
4.3.3	Exponential Law 3: $a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}, a \neq 0$ . . . . .	31
4.3.4	Exponential Law 4: $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$ . . . . .	32
4.3.5	Exponential Law 5: $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$ . . . . .	32
4.3.6	Exponential Law 6: $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$ . . . . .	33
4.4	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	34
<b>5</b>	<b>Estimating Surds - Grade 10</b>	<b>37</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	37
5.2	Drawing Surds on the Number Line (Optional) . . . . .	38
5.3	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	39
<b>6</b>	<b>Irrational Numbers and Rounding Off - Grade 10</b>	<b>41</b>
6.1	Introduction . . . . .	41
6.2	Irrational Numbers . . . . .	41
6.3	Rounding Off . . . . .	42
6.4	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	43
<b>7</b>	<b>Number Patterns - Grade 10</b>	<b>45</b>
7.1	Common Number Patterns . . . . .	45
7.1.1	Special Sequences . . . . .	46
7.2	Make your own Number Patterns . . . . .	46
7.3	Notation . . . . .	47
7.3.1	Patterns and Conjecture . . . . .	49
7.4	Exercises . . . . .	50
<b>8</b>	<b>Finance - Grade 10</b>	<b>53</b>
8.1	Introduction . . . . .	53
8.2	Foreign Exchange Rates . . . . .	53
8.2.1	How much is R1 really worth? . . . . .	53
8.2.2	Cross Currency Exchange Rates . . . . .	56
8.2.3	Enrichment: Fluctuating exchange rates . . . . .	57
8.3	Being Interested in Interest . . . . .	58



8.4	Simple Interest . . . . .	59
8.4.1	Other Applications of the Simple Interest Formula . . . . .	61
8.5	Compound Interest . . . . .	63
8.5.1	Fractions add up to the Whole . . . . .	65
8.5.2	The Power of Compound Interest . . . . .	65
8.5.3	Other Applications of Compound Growth . . . . .	67
8.6	Summary . . . . .	68
8.6.1	Definitions . . . . .	68
8.6.2	Equations . . . . .	68
8.7	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	69
<b>9</b>	<b>Products and Factors - Grade 10</b>	<b>71</b>
9.1	Introduction . . . . .	71
9.2	Recap of Earlier Work . . . . .	71
9.2.1	Parts of an Expression . . . . .	71
9.2.2	Product of Two Binomials . . . . .	71
9.2.3	Factorisation . . . . .	72
9.3	More Products . . . . .	74
9.4	Factorising a Quadratic . . . . .	76
9.5	Factorisation by Grouping . . . . .	79
9.6	Simplification of Fractions . . . . .	80
9.7	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	82
<b>10</b>	<b>Equations and Inequalities - Grade 10</b>	<b>83</b>
10.1	Strategy for Solving Equations . . . . .	83
10.2	Solving Linear Equations . . . . .	84
10.3	Solving Quadratic Equations . . . . .	89
10.4	Exponential Equations of the form $ka^{(x+p)} = m$ . . . . .	93
10.4.1	Algebraic Solution . . . . .	93
10.5	Linear Inequalities . . . . .	96
10.6	Linear Simultaneous Equations . . . . .	99
10.6.1	Finding solutions . . . . .	99
10.6.2	Graphical Solution . . . . .	99
10.6.3	Solution by Substitution . . . . .	101
10.7	Mathematical Models . . . . .	103
10.7.1	Introduction . . . . .	103
10.7.2	Problem Solving Strategy . . . . .	104
10.7.3	Application of Mathematical Modelling . . . . .	104
10.7.4	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	106
10.8	Introduction to Functions and Graphs . . . . .	107
10.9	Functions and Graphs in the Real-World . . . . .	107
10.10	Recap . . . . .	107

10.10.1 Variables and Constants . . . . .	107
10.10.2 Relations and Functions . . . . .	108
10.10.3 The Cartesian Plane . . . . .	108
10.10.4 Drawing Graphs . . . . .	109
10.10.5 Notation used for Functions . . . . .	110
10.11 Characteristics of Functions - All Grades . . . . .	112
10.11.1 Dependent and Independent Variables . . . . .	112
10.11.2 Domain and Range . . . . .	113
10.11.3 Intercepts with the Axes . . . . .	113
10.11.4 Turning Points . . . . .	114
10.11.5 Asymptotes . . . . .	114
10.11.6 Lines of Symmetry . . . . .	114
10.11.7 Intervals on which the Function Increases/Decreases . . . . .	114
10.11.8 Discrete or Continuous Nature of the Graph . . . . .	114
10.12 Graphs of Functions . . . . .	116
10.12.1 Functions of the form $y = ax + q$ . . . . .	116
10.12.2 Functions of the Form $y = ax^2 + q$ . . . . .	120
10.12.3 Functions of the Form $y = \frac{a}{x} + q$ . . . . .	125
10.12.4 Functions of the Form $y = ab^{(x)} + q$ . . . . .	129
10.13 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	133
<b>11 Average Gradient - Grade 10 Extension</b>	<b>135</b>
11.1 Introduction . . . . .	135
11.2 Straight-Line Functions . . . . .	135
11.3 Parabolic Functions . . . . .	136
11.4 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	138
<b>12 Geometry Basics</b>	<b>139</b>
12.1 Introduction . . . . .	139
12.2 Points and Lines . . . . .	139
12.3 Angles . . . . .	140
12.3.1 Measuring angles . . . . .	141
12.3.2 Special Angles . . . . .	141
12.3.3 Special Angle Pairs . . . . .	143
12.3.4 Parallel Lines intersected by Transversal Lines . . . . .	143
12.4 Polygons . . . . .	147
12.4.1 Triangles . . . . .	147
12.4.2 Quadrilaterals . . . . .	152
12.4.3 Other polygons . . . . .	155
12.4.4 Extra . . . . .	156
12.5 Exercises . . . . .	157
12.5.1 Challenge Problem . . . . .	159

<b>13 Geometry - Grade 10</b>	<b>161</b>
13.1 Introduction . . . . .	161
13.2 Right Prisms and Cylinders . . . . .	161
13.2.1 Surface Area . . . . .	162
13.2.2 Volume . . . . .	164
13.3 Polygons . . . . .	167
13.3.1 Similarity of Polygons . . . . .	167
13.4 Co-ordinate Geometry . . . . .	171
13.4.1 Introduction . . . . .	171
13.4.2 Distance between Two Points . . . . .	172
13.4.3 Calculation of the Gradient of a Line . . . . .	173
13.4.4 Midpoint of a Line . . . . .	174
13.5 Transformations . . . . .	177
13.5.1 Translation of a Point . . . . .	177
13.5.2 Reflection of a Point . . . . .	179
13.6 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	185
<b>14 Trigonometry - Grade 10</b>	<b>189</b>
14.1 Introduction . . . . .	189
14.2 Where Trigonometry is Used . . . . .	190
14.3 Similarity of Triangles . . . . .	190
14.4 Definition of the Trigonometric Functions . . . . .	191
14.5 Simple Applications of Trigonometric Functions . . . . .	195
14.5.1 Height and Depth . . . . .	195
14.5.2 Maps and Plans . . . . .	197
14.6 Graphs of Trigonometric Functions . . . . .	199
14.6.1 Graph of $\sin \theta$ . . . . .	199
14.6.2 Functions of the form $y = a \sin(x) + q$ . . . . .	200
14.6.3 Graph of $\cos \theta$ . . . . .	202
14.6.4 Functions of the form $y = a \cos(x) + q$ . . . . .	202
14.6.5 Comparison of Graphs of $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$ . . . . .	204
14.6.6 Graph of $\tan \theta$ . . . . .	204
14.6.7 Functions of the form $y = a \tan(x) + q$ . . . . .	205
14.7 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	208
<b>15 Statistics - Grade 10</b>	<b>211</b>
15.1 Introduction . . . . .	211
15.2 Recap of Earlier Work . . . . .	211
15.2.1 Data and Data Collection . . . . .	211
15.2.2 Methods of Data Collection . . . . .	212
15.2.3 Samples and Populations . . . . .	213
15.3 Example Data Sets . . . . .	213

15.3.1 Data Set 1: Tossing a Coin . . . . .	213
15.3.2 Data Set 2: Casting a die . . . . .	213
15.3.3 Data Set 3: Mass of a Loaf of Bread . . . . .	214
15.3.4 Data Set 4: Global Temperature . . . . .	214
15.3.5 Data Set 5: Price of Petrol . . . . .	215
15.4 Grouping Data . . . . .	215
15.4.1 Exercises - Grouping Data . . . . .	216
15.5 Graphical Representation of Data . . . . .	217
15.5.1 Bar and Compound Bar Graphs . . . . .	217
15.5.2 Histograms and Frequency Polygons . . . . .	217
15.5.3 Pie Charts . . . . .	219
15.5.4 Line and Broken Line Graphs . . . . .	220
15.5.5 Exercises - Graphical Representation of Data . . . . .	221
15.6 Summarising Data . . . . .	222
15.6.1 Measures of Central Tendency . . . . .	222
15.6.2 Measures of Dispersion . . . . .	225
15.6.3 Exercises - Summarising Data . . . . .	228
15.7 Misuse of Statistics . . . . .	229
15.7.1 Exercises - Misuse of Statistics . . . . .	230
15.8 Summary of Definitions . . . . .	232
15.9 Exercises . . . . .	232
<b>16 Probability - Grade 10</b>	<b>235</b>
16.1 Introduction . . . . .	235
16.2 Random Experiments . . . . .	235
16.2.1 Sample Space of a Random Experiment . . . . .	235
16.3 Probability Models . . . . .	238
16.3.1 Classical Theory of Probability . . . . .	239
16.4 Relative Frequency vs. Probability . . . . .	240
16.5 Project Idea . . . . .	242
16.6 Probability Identities . . . . .	242
16.7 Mutually Exclusive Events . . . . .	243
16.8 Complementary Events . . . . .	244
16.9 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	246
<b>III Grade 11</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>17 Exponents - Grade 11</b>	<b>251</b>
17.1 Introduction . . . . .	251
17.2 Laws of Exponents . . . . .	251
17.2.1 Exponential Law 7: $a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m}$ . . . . .	251
17.3 Exponentials in the Real-World . . . . .	253
17.4 End of chapter Exercises . . . . .	254

<b>18 Surds - Grade 11</b>	<b>255</b>
18.1 Surd Calculations . . . . .	255
18.1.1 Surd Law 1: $\sqrt[n]{a}\sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{ab}$ . . . . .	255
18.1.2 Surd Law 2: $\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}$ . . . . .	255
18.1.3 Surd Law 3: $\sqrt[n]{a^m} = a^{\frac{m}{n}}$ . . . . .	256
18.1.4 Like and Unlike Surds . . . . .	256
18.1.5 Simplest Surd form . . . . .	257
18.1.6 Rationalising Denominators . . . . .	258
18.2 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	259
<b>19 Error Margins - Grade 11</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>20 Quadratic Sequences - Grade 11</b>	<b>265</b>
20.1 Introduction . . . . .	265
20.2 What is a <i>quadratic sequence</i> ? . . . . .	265
20.3 End of chapter Exercises . . . . .	269
<b>21 Finance - Grade 11</b>	<b>271</b>
21.1 Introduction . . . . .	271
21.2 Depreciation . . . . .	271
21.3 Simple Depreciation (it really is simple!) . . . . .	271
21.4 Compound Depreciation . . . . .	274
21.5 Present Values or Future Values of an Investment or Loan . . . . .	276
21.5.1 Now or Later . . . . .	276
21.6 Finding $i$ . . . . .	278
21.7 Finding $n$ - Trial and Error . . . . .	279
21.8 Nominal and Effective Interest Rates . . . . .	280
21.8.1 The General Formula . . . . .	281
21.8.2 De-coding the Terminology . . . . .	282
21.9 Formulae Sheet . . . . .	284
21.9.1 Definitions . . . . .	284
21.9.2 Equations . . . . .	285
21.10 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	285
<b>22 Solving Quadratic Equations - Grade 11</b>	<b>287</b>
22.1 Introduction . . . . .	287
22.2 Solution by Factorisation . . . . .	287
22.3 Solution by Completing the Square . . . . .	290
22.4 Solution by the Quadratic Formula . . . . .	293
22.5 Finding an equation when you know its roots . . . . .	296
22.6 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	299

<b>23 Solving Quadratic Inequalities - Grade 11</b>	<b>301</b>
23.1 Introduction . . . . .	301
23.2 Quadratic Inequalities . . . . .	301
23.3 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	304
<b>24 Solving Simultaneous Equations - Grade 11</b>	<b>307</b>
24.1 Graphical Solution . . . . .	307
24.2 Algebraic Solution . . . . .	309
<b>25 Mathematical Models - Grade 11</b>	<b>313</b>
25.1 Real-World Applications: Mathematical Models . . . . .	313
25.2 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	317
<b>26 Quadratic Functions and Graphs - Grade 11</b>	<b>321</b>
26.1 Introduction . . . . .	321
26.2 Functions of the Form $y = a(x + p)^2 + q$ . . . . .	321
26.2.1 Domain and Range . . . . .	322
26.2.2 Intercepts . . . . .	323
26.2.3 Turning Points . . . . .	324
26.2.4 Axes of Symmetry . . . . .	325
26.2.5 Sketching Graphs of the Form $f(x) = a(x + p)^2 + q$ . . . . .	325
26.2.6 Writing an equation of a shifted parabola . . . . .	327
26.3 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	327
<b>27 Hyperbolic Functions and Graphs - Grade 11</b>	<b>329</b>
27.1 Introduction . . . . .	329
27.2 Functions of the Form $y = \frac{a}{x+p} + q$ . . . . .	329
27.2.1 Domain and Range . . . . .	330
27.2.2 Intercepts . . . . .	331
27.2.3 Asymptotes . . . . .	332
27.2.4 Sketching Graphs of the Form $f(x) = \frac{a}{x+p} + q$ . . . . .	333
27.3 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	333
<b>28 Exponential Functions and Graphs - Grade 11</b>	<b>335</b>
28.1 Introduction . . . . .	335
28.2 Functions of the Form $y = ab^{(x+p)} + q$ . . . . .	335
28.2.1 Domain and Range . . . . .	336
28.2.2 Intercepts . . . . .	337
28.2.3 Asymptotes . . . . .	338
28.2.4 Sketching Graphs of the Form $f(x) = ab^{(x+p)} + q$ . . . . .	338
28.3 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	339
<b>29 Gradient at a Point - Grade 11</b>	<b>341</b>
29.1 Introduction . . . . .	341
29.2 Average Gradient . . . . .	341
29.3 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	344

<b>30 Linear Programming - Grade 11</b>	<b>345</b>
30.1 Introduction . . . . .	345
30.2 Terminology . . . . .	345
30.2.1 Decision Variables . . . . .	345
30.2.2 Objective Function . . . . .	345
30.2.3 Constraints . . . . .	346
30.2.4 Feasible Region and Points . . . . .	346
30.2.5 The Solution . . . . .	346
30.3 Example of a Problem . . . . .	347
30.4 Method of Linear Programming . . . . .	347
30.5 Skills you will need . . . . .	347
30.5.1 Writing Constraint Equations . . . . .	347
30.5.2 Writing the Objective Function . . . . .	348
30.5.3 Solving the Problem . . . . .	350
30.6 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	352
<b>31 Geometry - Grade 11</b>	<b>357</b>
31.1 Introduction . . . . .	357
31.2 Right Pyramids, Right Cones and Spheres . . . . .	357
31.3 Similarity of Polygons . . . . .	360
31.4 Triangle Geometry . . . . .	361
31.4.1 Proportion . . . . .	361
31.5 Co-ordinate Geometry . . . . .	368
31.5.1 Equation of a Line between Two Points . . . . .	368
31.5.2 Equation of a Line through One Point and Parallel or Perpendicular to Another Line . . . . .	371
31.5.3 Inclination of a Line . . . . .	371
31.6 Transformations . . . . .	373
31.6.1 Rotation of a Point . . . . .	373
31.6.2 Enlargement of a Polygon 1 . . . . .	376
<b>32 Trigonometry - Grade 11</b>	<b>381</b>
32.1 History of Trigonometry . . . . .	381
32.2 Graphs of Trigonometric Functions . . . . .	381
32.2.1 Functions of the form $y = \sin(k\theta)$ . . . . .	381
32.2.2 Functions of the form $y = \cos(k\theta)$ . . . . .	383
32.2.3 Functions of the form $y = \tan(k\theta)$ . . . . .	384
32.2.4 Functions of the form $y = \sin(\theta + p)$ . . . . .	385
32.2.5 Functions of the form $y = \cos(\theta + p)$ . . . . .	386
32.2.6 Functions of the form $y = \tan(\theta + p)$ . . . . .	387
32.3 Trigonometric Identities . . . . .	389
32.3.1 Deriving Values of Trigonometric Functions for $30^\circ$ , $45^\circ$ and $60^\circ$ . . . . .	389
32.3.2 Alternate Definition for $\tan \theta$ . . . . .	391

32.3.3	A Trigonometric Identity . . . . .	392
32.3.4	Reduction Formula . . . . .	394
32.4	Solving Trigonometric Equations . . . . .	399
32.4.1	Graphical Solution . . . . .	399
32.4.2	Algebraic Solution . . . . .	401
32.4.3	Solution using CAST diagrams . . . . .	403
32.4.4	General Solution Using Periodicity . . . . .	405
32.4.5	Linear Trigonometric Equations . . . . .	406
32.4.6	Quadratic and Higher Order Trigonometric Equations . . . . .	406
32.4.7	More Complex Trigonometric Equations . . . . .	407
32.5	Sine and Cosine Identities . . . . .	409
32.5.1	The Sine Rule . . . . .	409
32.5.2	The Cosine Rule . . . . .	412
32.5.3	The Area Rule . . . . .	414
32.6	Exercises . . . . .	416
<b>33</b>	<b>Statistics - Grade 11</b>	<b>419</b>
33.1	Introduction . . . . .	419
33.2	Standard Deviation and Variance . . . . .	419
33.2.1	Variance . . . . .	419
33.2.2	Standard Deviation . . . . .	421
33.2.3	Interpretation and Application . . . . .	423
33.2.4	Relationship between Standard Deviation and the Mean . . . . .	424
33.3	Graphical Representation of Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion . . . . .	424
33.3.1	Five Number Summary . . . . .	424
33.3.2	Box and Whisker Diagrams . . . . .	425
33.3.3	Cumulative Histograms . . . . .	426
33.4	Distribution of Data . . . . .	428
33.4.1	Symmetric and Skewed Data . . . . .	428
33.4.2	Relationship of the Mean, Median, and Mode . . . . .	428
33.5	Scatter Plots . . . . .	429
33.6	Misuse of Statistics . . . . .	432
33.7	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	435
<b>34</b>	<b>Independent and Dependent Events - Grade 11</b>	<b>437</b>
34.1	Introduction . . . . .	437
34.2	Definitions . . . . .	437
34.2.1	Identification of Independent and Dependent Events . . . . .	438
34.3	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	441
<b>IV</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Logarithms - Grade 12</b>	<b>445</b>
35.1	Definition of Logarithms . . . . .	445



35.2	Logarithm Bases . . . . .	446
35.3	Laws of Logarithms . . . . .	447
35.4	Logarithm Law 1: $\log_a 1 = 0$ . . . . .	447
35.5	Logarithm Law 2: $\log_a(a) = 1$ . . . . .	448
35.6	Logarithm Law 3: $\log_a(x \cdot y) = \log_a(x) + \log_a(y)$ . . . . .	448
35.7	Logarithm Law 4: $\log_a\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \log_a(x) - \log_a(y)$ . . . . .	449
35.8	Logarithm Law 5: $\log_a(x^b) = b \log_a(x)$ . . . . .	450
35.9	Logarithm Law 6: $\log_a(\sqrt[b]{x}) = \frac{\log_a(x)}{b}$ . . . . .	450
35.10	Solving simple log equations . . . . .	452
35.10.1	Exercises . . . . .	454
35.11	Logarithmic applications in the Real World . . . . .	454
35.11.1	Exercises . . . . .	455
35.12	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	455
<b>36</b>	<b>Sequences and Series - Grade 12</b> . . . . .	<b>457</b>
36.1	Introduction . . . . .	457
36.2	Arithmetic Sequences . . . . .	457
36.2.1	General Equation for the $n^{\text{th}}$ -term of an Arithmetic Sequence . . . . .	458
36.3	Geometric Sequences . . . . .	459
36.3.1	Example - A Flu Epidemic . . . . .	459
36.3.2	General Equation for the $n^{\text{th}}$ -term of a Geometric Sequence . . . . .	461
36.3.3	Exercises . . . . .	461
36.4	Recursive Formulae for Sequences . . . . .	462
36.5	Series . . . . .	463
36.5.1	Some Basics . . . . .	463
36.5.2	Sigma Notation . . . . .	463
36.6	Finite Arithmetic Series . . . . .	465
36.6.1	General Formula for a Finite Arithmetic Series . . . . .	466
36.6.2	Exercises . . . . .	467
36.7	Finite Squared Series . . . . .	468
36.8	Finite Geometric Series . . . . .	469
36.8.1	Exercises . . . . .	470
36.9	Infinite Series . . . . .	471
36.9.1	Infinite Geometric Series . . . . .	471
36.9.2	Exercises . . . . .	472
36.10	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	472
<b>37</b>	<b>Finance - Grade 12</b> . . . . .	<b>477</b>
37.1	Introduction . . . . .	477
37.2	Finding the Length of the Investment or Loan . . . . .	477
37.3	A Series of Payments . . . . .	478
37.3.1	Sequences and Series . . . . .	479

37.3.2 Present Values of a series of Payments . . . . .	479
37.3.3 Future Value of a series of Payments . . . . .	484
37.3.4 Exercises - Present and Future Values . . . . .	485
37.4 Investments and Loans . . . . .	485
37.4.1 Loan Schedules . . . . .	485
37.4.2 Exercises - Investments and Loans . . . . .	489
37.4.3 Calculating Capital Outstanding . . . . .	489
37.5 Formulae Sheet . . . . .	489
37.5.1 Definitions . . . . .	490
37.5.2 Equations . . . . .	490
37.6 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	490
<b>38 Factorising Cubic Polynomials - Grade 12</b>	<b>493</b>
38.1 Introduction . . . . .	493
38.2 The Factor Theorem . . . . .	493
38.3 Factorisation of Cubic Polynomials . . . . .	494
38.4 Exercises - Using Factor Theorem . . . . .	496
38.5 Solving Cubic Equations . . . . .	496
38.5.1 Exercises - Solving of Cubic Equations . . . . .	498
38.6 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	498
<b>39 Functions and Graphs - Grade 12</b>	<b>501</b>
39.1 Introduction . . . . .	501
39.2 Definition of a Function . . . . .	501
39.2.1 Exercises . . . . .	501
39.3 Notation used for Functions . . . . .	502
39.4 Graphs of Inverse Functions . . . . .	502
39.4.1 Inverse Function of $y = ax + q$ . . . . .	503
39.4.2 Exercises . . . . .	504
39.4.3 Inverse Function of $y = ax^2$ . . . . .	504
39.4.4 Exercises . . . . .	504
39.4.5 Inverse Function of $y = a^x$ . . . . .	506
39.4.6 Exercises . . . . .	506
39.5 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	507
<b>40 Differential Calculus - Grade 12</b>	<b>509</b>
40.1 Why do I have to learn this stuff? . . . . .	509
40.2 Limits . . . . .	510
40.2.1 A Tale of Achilles and the Tortoise . . . . .	510
40.2.2 Sequences, Series and Functions . . . . .	511
40.2.3 Limits . . . . .	512
40.2.4 Average Gradient and Gradient at a Point . . . . .	516
40.3 Differentiation from First Principles . . . . .	519

40.4	Rules of Differentiation . . . . .	521
40.4.1	Summary of Differentiation Rules . . . . .	522
40.5	Applying Differentiation to Draw Graphs . . . . .	523
40.5.1	Finding Equations of Tangents to Curves . . . . .	523
40.5.2	Curve Sketching . . . . .	524
40.5.3	Local minimum, Local maximum and Point of Inflexion . . . . .	529
40.6	Using Differential Calculus to Solve Problems . . . . .	530
40.6.1	Rate of Change problems . . . . .	534
40.7	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	535
<b>41</b>	<b>Linear Programming - Grade 12</b>	<b>539</b>
41.1	Introduction . . . . .	539
41.2	Terminology . . . . .	539
41.2.1	Feasible Region and Points . . . . .	539
41.3	Linear Programming and the Feasible Region . . . . .	540
41.4	End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	546
<b>42</b>	<b>Geometry - Grade 12</b>	<b>549</b>
42.1	Introduction . . . . .	549
42.2	Circle Geometry . . . . .	549
42.2.1	Terminology . . . . .	549
42.2.2	Axioms . . . . .	550
42.2.3	Theorems of the Geometry of Circles . . . . .	550
42.3	Co-ordinate Geometry . . . . .	566
42.3.1	Equation of a Circle . . . . .	566
42.3.2	Equation of a Tangent to a Circle at a Point on the Circle . . . . .	569
42.4	Transformations . . . . .	571
42.4.1	Rotation of a Point about an angle $\theta$ . . . . .	571
42.4.2	Characteristics of Transformations . . . . .	573
42.4.3	Characteristics of Transformations . . . . .	573
42.5	Exercises . . . . .	574
<b>43</b>	<b>Trigonometry - Grade 12</b>	<b>577</b>
43.1	Compound Angle Identities . . . . .	577
43.1.1	Derivation of $\sin(\alpha + \beta)$ . . . . .	577
43.1.2	Derivation of $\sin(\alpha - \beta)$ . . . . .	578
43.1.3	Derivation of $\cos(\alpha + \beta)$ . . . . .	578
43.1.4	Derivation of $\cos(\alpha - \beta)$ . . . . .	579
43.1.5	Derivation of $\sin 2\alpha$ . . . . .	579
43.1.6	Derivation of $\cos 2\alpha$ . . . . .	579
43.1.7	Problem-solving Strategy for Identities . . . . .	580
43.2	Applications of Trigonometric Functions . . . . .	582
43.2.1	Problems in Two Dimensions . . . . .	582

43.2.2 Problems in 3 dimensions . . . . .	584
43.3 Other Geometries . . . . .	586
43.3.1 Taxicab Geometry . . . . .	586
43.3.2 Manhattan distance . . . . .	586
43.3.3 Spherical Geometry . . . . .	587
43.3.4 Fractal Geometry . . . . .	588
43.4 End of Chapter Exercises . . . . .	589
<b>44 Statistics - Grade 12</b>	<b>591</b>
44.1 Introduction . . . . .	591
44.2 A Normal Distribution . . . . .	591
44.3 Extracting a Sample Population . . . . .	593
44.4 Function Fitting and Regression Analysis . . . . .	594
44.4.1 The Method of Least Squares . . . . .	596
44.4.2 Using a calculator . . . . .	597
44.4.3 Correlation coefficients . . . . .	599
44.5 Exercises . . . . .	600
<b>45 Combinations and Permutations - Grade 12</b>	<b>603</b>
45.1 Introduction . . . . .	603
45.2 Counting . . . . .	603
45.2.1 Making a List . . . . .	603
45.2.2 Tree Diagrams . . . . .	604
45.3 Notation . . . . .	604
45.3.1 The Factorial Notation . . . . .	604
45.4 The Fundamental Counting Principle . . . . .	604
45.5 Combinations . . . . .	605
45.5.1 Counting Combinations . . . . .	605
45.5.2 Combinatorics and Probability . . . . .	606
45.6 Permutations . . . . .	606
45.6.1 Counting Permutations . . . . .	607
45.7 Applications . . . . .	608
45.8 Exercises . . . . .	610
<b>V Exercises</b>	<b>613</b>
<b>46 General Exercises</b>	<b>615</b>
<b>47 Exercises - Not covered in Syllabus</b>	<b>617</b>
<b>A GNU Free Documentation License</b>	<b>619</b>

## Chapter 22

# Solving Quadratic Equations - Grade 11

### 22.1 Introduction

In grade 10, the basics of solving linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential equations and linear inequalities were studied. This chapter extends on that work. We look at different methods of solving quadratic equations.

### 22.2 Solution by Factorisation

The solving of quadratic equations by factorisation was discussed in Grade 10. Here is an example to remind you of what is involved.



#### Worked Example 103: Solution of Quadratic Equations

**Question:** Solve the equation  $2x^2 - 5x - 12 = 0$ .

**Answer**

**Step 1 : Determine whether the equation has common factors**

This equation has no common factors.

**Step 2 : Determine if the equation is in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c$  with  $a > 0$**

The equation is in the required form, with  $a = 2$ ,  $b = -5$  and  $c = -12$ .

**Step 3 : Factorise the quadratic**

$2x^2 - 5x - 12$  has factors of the form:

$$(2x + s)(x + v)$$

with  $s$  and  $v$  constants to be determined. This multiplies out to

$$2x^2 + (s + 2v)x + sv$$

We see that  $sv = -12$  and  $s + 2v = -5$ . This is a set of simultaneous equations in  $s$  and  $v$ , but it is easy to solve numerically. All the options for  $s$  and  $v$  are considered below.

$s$	$v$	$s + 2v$
2	-6	-10
-2	6	10
3	-4	-5
-3	4	5
4	-3	-2
-4	3	2
6	-2	2
-6	2	-2

We see that the combination  $s = 3$  and  $v = -4$  gives  $s + 2v = -5$ .

**Step 4 : Write the equation with factors**

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

**Step 5 : Solve the equation**

If two brackets are multiplied together and give 0, then one of the brackets must be 0, therefore

$$2x + 3 = 0$$

or

$$x - 4 = 0$$

Therefore,  $x = -\frac{3}{2}$  or  $x = 4$

**Step 6 : Write the final answer**

The solutions to  $2x^2 - 5x - 12 = 0$  are  $x = -\frac{3}{2}$  or  $x = 4$ .

It is important to remember that a quadratic equation has to be in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  before one can solve it using these methods.



#### Worked Example 104: Solving quadratic equation by factorisation

**Question:** Solve for  $a$ :  $a(a - 3) = 10$

**Answer**

**Step 1 : Rewrite the equation in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$**

Remove the brackets and move all terms to one side.

$$a^2 - 3a - 10 = 0$$

**Step 2 : Factorise the trinomial**

$$(a + 2)(a - 5) = 0$$

**Step 3 : Solve the equation**

$$a + 2 = 0$$

or

$$a - 5 = 0$$

Solve the two linear equations and check the solutions in the original equation.

**Step 4 : Write the final answer**

Therefore,  $a = -2$  or  $a = 5$



### Worked Example 105: Solving fractions that lead to a quadratic equation

**Question:** Solve for  $b$ :  $\frac{3b}{b+2} + 1 = \frac{4}{b+1}$

**Answer**

**Step 1 : Put both sides over the LCM**

$$\frac{3b(b+1) + (b+2)(b+1)}{(b+2)(b+1)} = \frac{4(b+2)}{(b+2)(b+1)}$$

**Step 2 : Determine the restrictions**

The denominators are the same, therefore the numerators must be the same.

However,  $b \neq -2$  and  $b \neq -1$

**Step 3 : Simplify equation to the standard form**

$$\begin{aligned} 3b^2 + 3b + b^2 + 3b + 2 &= 4b + 8 \\ 4b^2 + 2b - 6 &= 0 \\ 2b^2 + b - 3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Step 4 : Factorise the trinomial and solve the equation**

$$\begin{aligned} (2b+3)(b-1) &= 0 \\ 2b+3 &= 0 \quad \text{or} \quad b-1 = 0 \\ b &= \frac{-3}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad b = 1 \end{aligned}$$

**Step 5 : Check solutions in original equation**

Both solutions are valid

Therefore,  $b = \frac{-3}{2}$  or  $b = 1$



### Exercise: Solution by Factorisation

Solve the following quadratic equations by factorisation. Some answers may be left in surd form.

1.  $2y^2 - 61 = 101$
2.  $2y^2 - 10 = 0$
3.  $y^2 - 4 = 10$
4.  $2y^2 - 8 = 28$
5.  $7y^2 = 28$
6.  $y^2 + 28 = 100$
7.  $7y^2 + 14y = 0$
8.  $12y^2 + 24y + 12 = 0$
9.  $16y^2 - 400 = 0$
10.  $y^2 - 5y + 6 = 0$
11.  $y^2 + 5y - 36 = 0$
12.  $y^2 + 2y = 8$
13.  $-y^2 - 11y - 24 = 0$
14.  $13y - 42 = y^2$

15.  $y^2 + 9y + 14 = 0$

16.  $y^2 - 5ky + 4k^2 = 0$

17.  $y(2y + 1) = 15$

18.  $\frac{5y}{y-2} + \frac{3}{y} + 2 = \frac{-6}{y^2-2y}$

19.  $\frac{y-2}{y+1} = \frac{2y+1}{y-7}$

## 22.3 Solution by Completing the Square

We have seen that expressions of the form:

$$a^2x^2 - b^2$$

are known as differences of squares and can be factorised as follows:

$$(ax - b)(ax + b).$$

This simple factorisation leads to another technique to solve quadratic equations known as *completing the square*.

We demonstrate with a simple example, by trying to solve for  $x$  in:

$$x^2 - 2x - 1 = 0. \tag{22.1}$$

We cannot easily find factors of this term, but the first two terms look similar to the first two terms of the perfect square:

$$(x - 1)^2 = x^2 - 2x + 1.$$

However, we can cheat and create a perfect square by adding 2 to both sides of the equation in (22.1) as:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 - 2x - 1 &= 0 \\ x^2 - 2x - 1 + 2 &= 0 + 2 \\ x^2 - 2x + 1 &= 2 \\ (x - 1)^2 &= 2 \\ (x - 1)^2 - 2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now we know that:

$$2 = (\sqrt{2})^2$$

which means that:

$$(x - 1)^2 - 2$$

is a difference of squares. Therefore we can write:

$$(x - 1)^2 - 2 = [(x - 1) - \sqrt{2}][(x - 1) + \sqrt{2}] = 0.$$

The solution to  $x^2 - 2x - 1 = 0$  is then:

$$(x - 1) - \sqrt{2} = 0$$

or

$$(x - 1) + \sqrt{2} = 0.$$

This means  $x = 1 + \sqrt{2}$  or  $x = 1 - \sqrt{2}$ . This example demonstrates the use of *completing the square* to solve a quadratic equation.



**Method: Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square**

1. Write the equation in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ . e.g.  $x^2 + 2x - 3 = 0$
2. Take the constant over to the right hand side of the equation. e.g.  $x^2 + 2x = 3$
3. If necessary, make the coefficient of the  $x^2$  term = 1, by dividing through by the existing coefficient.
4. Take half the coefficient of the  $x$  term, square it and add it to both sides of the equation. e.g. in  $x^2 + 2x = 3$ , half of the  $x$  term is 1.  $1^2 = 1$ . Therefore we add 1 to both sides to get:  $x^2 + 2x + 1 = 3 + 1$ .
5. Write the left hand side as a perfect square:  $(x + 1)^2 - 4 = 0$
6. You should then be able to factorise the equation in terms of difference of squares and then solve for  $x$ :  $(x + 1 - 2)(x + 1 + 2) = 0$

**Worked Example 106: Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the****Square****Question:** Solve:

$$x^2 - 10x - 11 = 0$$

by completing the square

**Answer****Step 1 :** Write the equation in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ 

$$x^2 - 10x - 11 = 0$$

**Step 2 :** Take the constant over to the right hand side of the equation

$$x^2 - 10x = 11$$

**Step 3 :** Check that the coefficient of the  $x^2$  term is 1.The coefficient of the  $x^2$  term is 1.**Step 4 :** Take half the coefficient of the  $x$  term, square it and add it to both sidesThe coefficient of the  $x$  term is -10.  $\frac{(-10)}{2} = -5$ .  $(-5)^2 = 25$ . Therefore:

$$x^2 - 10x + 25 = 11 + 25$$

**Step 5 :** Write the left hand side as a perfect square

$$(x - 5)^2 - 36 = 0$$

**Step 6 :** Factorise equation as difference of squares

$$\begin{aligned} (x - 5)^2 - 36 &= 0 \\ [(x - 5) + 6][(x - 5) - 6] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Step 7 :** Solve for the unknown value

$$\begin{aligned} [x + 1][x - 11] &= 0 \\ \therefore x &= -1 \quad \text{or} \quad x = 11 \end{aligned}$$



### Worked Example 107: Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square

#### Square

**Question:** Solve:

$$2x^2 - 8x - 16 = 0$$

by completing the square

#### Answer

**Step 1 :** Write the equation in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

$$2x^2 - 8x - 16 = 0$$

**Step 2 :** Take the constant over to the right hand side of the equation

$$2x^2 - 8x = 16$$

**Step 3 :** Check that the coefficient of the  $x^2$  term is 1.

The coefficient of the  $x^2$  term is 2. Therefore, divide both sides by 2:

$$x^2 - 4x = 8$$

**Step 4 :** Take half the coefficient of the  $x$  term, square it and add it to both sides

The coefficient of the  $x$  term is -4.  $\frac{(-4)}{2} = -2$ .  $(-2)^2 = 4$ . Therefore:

$$x^2 - 4x + 4 = 8 + 4$$

**Step 5 :** Write the left hand side as a perfect square

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

**Step 6 :** Factorise equation as difference of squares

$$[(x - 2) + \sqrt{12}][(x - 2) - \sqrt{12}] = 0$$

**Step 7 :** Solve for the unknown value

$$\begin{aligned} [x - 2 + \sqrt{12}][x - 2 - \sqrt{12}] &= 0 \\ \therefore x &= 2 - \sqrt{12} \quad \text{or} \quad x = 2 + \sqrt{12} \end{aligned}$$

**Step 8 :** The last three steps can also be done in a different the way

Leave left hand side written as a perfect square

$$(x - 2)^2 = 12$$

**Step 9 :** Take the square root on both sides of the equation

$$x - 2 = \pm\sqrt{12}$$

**Step 10 :** Solve for  $x$

Therefore  $x = 2 - \sqrt{12}$  or  $x = 2 + \sqrt{12}$

Compare to answer in step 7.



#### Exercise: Solution by Completing the Square

Solve the following equations by completing the square:

1.  $x^2 + 10x - 2 = 0$
  2.  $x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$
  3.  $x^2 + 8x - 5 = 0$
  4.  $2x^2 + 12x + 4 = 0$
  5.  $x^2 + 5x + 9 = 0$
  6.  $x^2 + 16x + 10 = 0$
  7.  $3x^2 + 6x - 2 = 0$
  8.  $z^2 + 8z - 6 = 0$
  9.  $2z^2 - 11z = 0$
  10.  $5 + 4z - z^2 = 0$
- 

## 22.4 Solution by the Quadratic Formula

It is not always possible to solve a quadratic equation by factorising and it is lengthy and tedious to solve a quadratic equations by completing the square. In these situations, you can use the *quadratic formula* that gives the solutions to any quadratic equation.

Consider the general form of the quadratic function:

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c.$$

Factor out the  $a$  to get:

$$f(x) = a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right). \quad (22.2)$$

Now we need to do some detective work to figure out how to turn (22.2) into a perfect square plus some extra terms. We know that for a perfect square:

$$(m + n)^2 = m^2 + 2mn + n^2$$

and

$$(m - n)^2 = m^2 - 2mn + n^2$$

The key is the middle term, which is  $2 \times$  the first term  $\times$  the second term. In (22.2), we know that the first term is  $x$  so  $2 \times$  the second term is  $\frac{b}{a}$ . This means that the second term is  $\frac{b}{2a}$ . So,

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = x^2 + 2\frac{b}{2a}x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2.$$

In general if you add a quantity and subtract the same quantity, nothing has changed. This means if we add and subtract  $\left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2$  from the right hand side of (22.2) we will get:

$$f(x) = a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right) \quad (22.3)$$

$$= a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{c}{a}\right) \quad (22.4)$$

$$= a\left(\left[x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right]^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{c}{a}\right) \quad (22.5)$$

$$= a\left(\left[x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right]^2\right) + c - \frac{b^2}{4a} \quad (22.6)$$

We set  $f(x) = 0$  to find its roots, which yields:

$$a\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \frac{b^2}{4a} - c \quad (22.7)$$

Now dividing by  $a$  and taking the square root of both sides gives the expression

$$x + \frac{b}{2a} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4a^2} - \frac{c}{a}} \quad (22.8)$$

Finally, solving for  $x$  implies that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4a^2} - \frac{c}{a}} \\ &= -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}} \end{aligned}$$

which can be further simplified to:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad (22.9)$$

These are the solutions to the quadratic equation. Notice that there are two solutions in general, but these may not always exist (depending on the sign of the expression  $b^2 - 4ac$  under the square root). These solutions are also called the *roots* of the quadratic equation.



#### Worked Example 108: Using the quadratic formula

**Question:** Solve for the roots of the function  $f(x) = 2x^2 + 3x - 7$ .

**Answer**

**Step 1 : Determine whether the equation can be factorised**

The expression cannot be factorised. Therefore, the general quadratic formula must be used.

**Step 2 : Identify the coefficients in the equation for use in the formula**

From the equation:

$$a = 2$$

$$b = 3$$

$$c = -7$$

**Step 3 : Apply the quadratic formula**

Always write down the formula first and then substitute the values of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ .

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad (22.10)$$

$$= \frac{-(3) \pm \sqrt{(3)^2 - 4(2)(-7)}}{2(2)} \quad (22.11)$$

$$= \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{56}}{4} \quad (22.12)$$

$$= \frac{-3 \pm 2\sqrt{14}}{4} \quad (22.13)$$

**Step 4 : Write the final answer**

The two roots of  $f(x) = 2x^2 + 3x - 7$  are  $x = \frac{-3+2\sqrt{14}}{4}$  and  $\frac{-3-2\sqrt{14}}{4}$ .



#### Worked Example 109: Using the quadratic formula but no solution

**Question:** Solve for the solutions to the quadratic equation  $x^2 - 5x + 8 = 0$ .

**Answer****Step 1 : Determine whether the equation can be factorised**

The expression cannot be factorised. Therefore, the general quadratic formula must be used.

**Step 2 : Identify the coefficients in the equation for use in the formula**

From the equation:

$$a = 1$$

$$b = -5$$

$$c = 8$$

**Step 3 : Apply the quadratic formula**

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad (22.14)$$

$$= \frac{-(-5) \pm \sqrt{(-5)^2 - 4(1)(8)}}{2(1)} \quad (22.15)$$

$$= \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{-7}}{2} \quad (22.16)$$

$$(22.17)$$

**Step 4 : Write the final answer**

Since the expression under the square root is negative these are not real solutions ( $\sqrt{-7}$  is not a real number). Therefore there are no real solutions to the quadratic equation  $x^2 - 5x + 8 = 0$ . This means that the graph of the quadratic function  $f(x) = x^2 - 5x + 8$  has no  $x$ -intercepts, but that the entire graph lies above the  $x$ -axis.

**Exercise: Solution by the Quadratic Formula**

Solve for  $t$  using the quadratic formula.

1.  $3t^2 + t - 4 = 0$
2.  $t^2 - 5t + 9 = 0$
3.  $2t^2 + 6t + 5 = 0$
4.  $4t^2 + 2t + 2 = 0$
5.  $-3t^2 + 5t - 8 = 0$
6.  $-5t^2 + 3t - 3 = 0$
7.  $t^2 - 4t + 2 = 0$
8.  $9t^2 - 7t - 9 = 0$
9.  $2t^2 + 3t + 2 = 0$
10.  $t^2 + t + 1 = 0$

**Important:**

- In all the examples done so far, the solutions were left in surd form. Answers can also be given in decimal form, using the calculator. Read the instructions when answering questions in a test or exam whether to leave answers in surd form, or in decimal form to an appropriate number of decimal places.
- Completing the square as a method to solve a quadratic equation is only done when specifically asked.



### Exercise: Mixed Exercises

Solve the quadratic equations by either factorisation, completing the square or by using the quadratic formula:

- Always try to factorise first, then use the formula if the trinomial cannot be factorised.
- Do some of them by completing the square and then compare answers to those done using the other methods.

- |                            |                             |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. $24y^2 + 61y - 8 = 0$   | 2. $-8y^2 - 16y + 42 = 0$   | 3. $-9y^2 + 24y - 12 = 0$   |
| 4. $-5y^2 + 0y + 5 = 0$    | 5. $-3y^2 + 15y - 12 = 0$   | 6. $49y^2 + 0y - 25 = 0$    |
| 7. $-12y^2 + 66y - 72 = 0$ | 8. $-40y^2 + 58y - 12 = 0$  | 9. $-24y^2 + 37y + 72 = 0$  |
| 10. $6y^2 + 7y - 24 = 0$   | 11. $2y^2 - 5y - 3 = 0$     | 12. $-18y^2 - 55y - 25 = 0$ |
| 13. $-25y^2 + 25y - 4 = 0$ | 14. $-32y^2 + 24y + 8 = 0$  | 15. $9y^2 - 13y - 10 = 0$   |
| 16. $35y^2 - 8y - 3 = 0$   | 17. $-81y^2 - 99y - 18 = 0$ | 18. $14y^2 - 81y + 81 = 0$  |
| 19. $-4y^2 - 41y - 45 = 0$ | 20. $16y^2 + 20y - 36 = 0$  | 21. $42y^2 + 104y + 64 = 0$ |
| 22. $9y^2 - 76y + 32 = 0$  | 23. $-54y^2 + 21y + 3 = 0$  | 24. $36y^2 + 44y + 8 = 0$   |
| 25. $64y^2 + 96y + 36 = 0$ | 26. $12y^2 - 22y - 14 = 0$  | 27. $16y^2 + 0y - 81 = 0$   |
| 28. $3y^2 + 10y - 48 = 0$  | 29. $-4y^2 + 8y - 3 = 0$    | 30. $-5y^2 - 26y + 63 = 0$  |
| 31. $x^2 - 70 = 11$        | 32. $2x^2 - 30 = 2$         | 33. $x^2 - 16 = 2 - x^2$    |
| 34. $2y^2 - 98 = 0$        | 35. $5y^2 - 10 = 115$       | 36. $5y^2 - 5 = 19 - y^2$   |

## 22.5 Finding an equation when you know its roots

We have mentioned before that the *roots* of a quadratic equation are the solutions or answers you get from solving the quadratic equation. Working back from the answers, will take you to an equation.



### Worked Example 110: Find an equation when roots are given

**Question:** Find an equation with roots 13 and -5

**Answer**

**Step 1 :** Write down as the product of two brackets

The step before giving the solutions would be:

$$(x - 13)(x + 5) = 0$$

Notice that the signs in the brackets are opposite of the given roots.

**Step 2 :** Remove brackets

$$x^2 - 8x - 65 = 0$$

Of course, there would be other possibilities as well when each term on each side of the *equal to sign* is multiplied by a constant.



### Worked Example 111: Fraction roots

**Question:** Find an equation with roots  $-\frac{3}{2}$  and 4

**Answer**

**Step 1 : Product of two brackets**

Notice that if  $x = -\frac{3}{2}$  then  $2x + 3 = 0$

Therefore the two brackets will be:

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

**Step 2 : Remove brackets**

The equation is:

$$2x^2 - 5x - 12 = 0$$



#### Extension: Theory of Quadratic Equations - Advanced

This section is not in the syllabus, but it gives one a good understanding about some of the solutions of the quadratic equations.

### What is the Discriminant of a Quadratic Equation?

Consider a general quadratic function of the form  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ . The *discriminant* is defined as:

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac. \quad (22.18)$$

This is the expression under the square root in the formula for the roots of this function. We have already seen that whether the roots exist or not depends on whether this factor  $\Delta$  is negative or positive.

### The Nature of the Roots

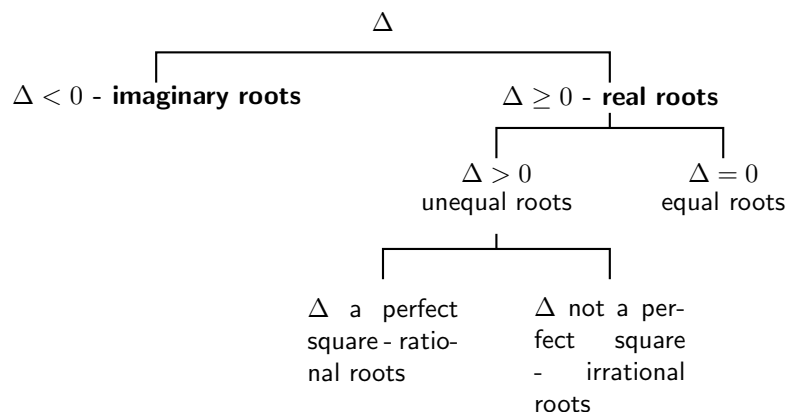
#### Real Roots ( $\Delta \geq 0$ )

Consider  $\Delta \geq 0$  for some quadratic function  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ . In this case there are solutions to the equation  $f(x) = 0$  given by the formula

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a} \quad (22.19)$$

Since the square roots exists (the expression under the square root is non-negative.) These are the roots of the function  $f(x)$ .

There various possibilities are summarised in the figure below.



**Equal Roots ( $\Delta = 0$ )**

If  $\Delta = 0$ , then the roots are equal and, from the formula, these are given by

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} \quad (22.20)$$

**Unequal Roots ( $\Delta > 0$ )**

There will be 2 unequal roots if  $\Delta > 0$ . The roots of  $f(x)$  are **rational** if  $\Delta$  is a perfect square (a number which is the square of a rational number), since, in this case,  $\sqrt{\Delta}$  is rational. Otherwise, if  $\Delta$  is not a perfect square, then the roots are **irrational**.

**Imaginary Roots ( $\Delta < 0$ )**

If  $\Delta < 0$ , then the solution to  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  contains the square root of a negative number and therefore there are no real solutions. We therefore say that the roots of  $f(x)$  are *imaginary* (the graph of the function  $f(x)$  does not intersect the  $x$ -axis).



*Extension: Theory of Quadratics - advanced exercises*

**Exercise: From past papers**

1. [IEB, Nov. 2001, HG] Given:  $x^2 + bx - 2 + k(x^2 + 3x + 2) = 0$  ( $k \neq -1$ )

A Show that the discriminant is given by:

$$\Delta = k^2 + 6bk + b^2 + 8$$

B If  $b = 0$ , discuss the nature of the roots of the equation.

C If  $b = 2$ , find the value(s) of  $k$  for which the roots are equal.

2. [IEB, Nov. 2002, HG] Show that  $k^2x^2 + 2 = kx - x^2$  has non-real roots for all real values for  $k$ .

3. [IEB, Nov. 2003, HG] The equation  $x^2 + 12x = 3kx^2 + 2$  has real roots.

A Find the largest integral value of  $k$ .

B Find one rational value of  $k$ , for which the above equation has rational roots.

4. [IEB, Nov. 2003, HG] In the quadratic equation  $px^2 + qx + r = 0$ ,  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  are positive real numbers and form a geometric sequence. Discuss the nature of the roots.

5. [IEB, Nov. 2004, HG] Consider the equation:

$$k = \frac{x^2 - 4}{2x - 5} \quad \text{where } x \neq \frac{5}{2}$$

A Find a value of  $k$  for which the roots are equal.

B Find an integer  $k$  for which the roots of the equation will be rational and unequal.

6. [IEB, Nov. 2005, HG]

A Prove that the roots of the equation  $x^2 - (a + b)x + ab - p^2 = 0$  are real for all real values of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $p$ .

B When will the roots of the equation be equal?

7. [IEB, Nov. 2005, HG] If  $b$  and  $c$  can take on only the values 1, 2 or 3, determine all pairs  $(b; c)$  such that  $x^2 + bx + c = 0$  has real roots.



## 22.6 End of Chapter Exercises

- Solve:  $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$  (Give your answer correct to two decimal places.)
- Solve:  $16(x + 1) = x^2(x + 1)$
- Solve:  $y^2 + 3 + \frac{12}{y^2 + 3} = 7$  (Hint: Let  $y^2 + 3 = k$  and solve for  $k$  first and use the answer to solve  $y$ .)
- Solve for  $x$ :  $2x^4 - 5x^2 - 12 = 0$
- Solve for  $x$ :
  - $x(x - 9) + 14 = 0$
  - $x^2 - x = 3$  (Show your answer correct to ONE decimal place.)
  - $x + 2 = \frac{6}{x}$  (correct to 2 decimal places)
  - $\frac{1}{x + 1} + \frac{2x}{x - 1} = 1$
- Solve for  $x$  by completing the square:  $x^2 - px - 4 = 0$
- The equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  has roots  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  and  $x = -4$ . Find one set of possible values for  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ .
- The two roots of the equation  $4x^2 + px - 9 = 0$  differ by 5. Calculate the value of  $p$ .
- An equation of the form  $x^2 + bx + c = 0$  is written on the board. Saskia and Sven copy it down incorrectly. Saskia has a mistake in the constant term and obtains the solutions -4 and 2. Sven has a mistake in the coefficient of  $x$  and obtains the solutions 1 and -15. Determine the correct equation that was on the board.
- Bjorn stumbled across the following formula to solve the quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  in a foreign textbook.

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

- A Use this formula to solve the equation:

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

- B Solve the equation again, using factorisation, to see if the formula works for this equation.
- C Trying to derive this formula to prove that it always works, Bjorn got stuck along the way. His attempt is shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} ax^2 + bx + c &= 0 \\ a + \frac{b}{x} + \frac{c}{x^2} &= 0 && \text{Divided by } x^2 \text{ where } x \neq 0 \\ \frac{c}{x^2} + \frac{b}{x} + a &= 0 && \text{Rearranged} \\ \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{b}{cx} + \frac{a}{c} &= 0 && \text{Divided by } c \text{ where } c \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{b}{cx} &= -\frac{a}{c} && \text{Subtracted } \frac{a}{c} \text{ from both sides} \\ \therefore \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{b}{cx} &+ \dots && \text{Got stuck} \end{aligned}$$

Complete his derivation.



## Appendix A

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