Chapter- 4

QUADRATIC EQUATIONS

STUDY NOTES

Quadratic Equation

When we equate a quadratic polynomial to a constant, we get a quadratic equation.

Any equation of the form p(x)=c, where p(x) is a polynomial of degree 2 and c is a constant, is a quadratic equation.

The standard form of a Quadratic Equation

The standard form of a quadratic equation is $ax^2+bx+c=0$, where a,b and c are real numbers and $a\neq0$.

'a' is the coefficient of x^2. It is called the quadratic coefficient. 'b' is the coefficient of x. It is called the linear coefficient. 'c' is the constant term.

Solving QE by Factorisation

Roots of a Quadratic equation

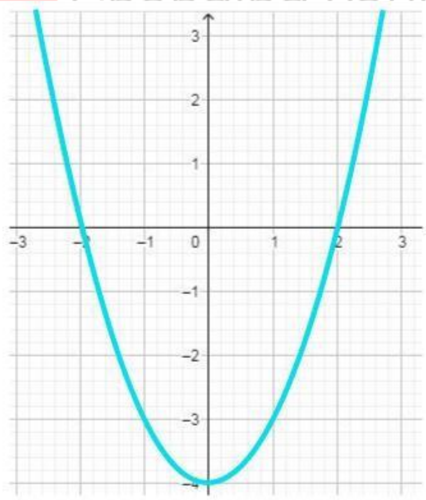
The values of x for which a quadratic equation is satisfied are called the roots of the quadratic equation.

If α is a root of the quadratic equation $ax^2+bx+c=0$, then $a\alpha^2+b\alpha+c=0$.

A quadratic equation can have two distinct real roots, two equal roots or real roots may not exist.

Graphically, the roots of a quadratic equation are the points where the graph of the quadratic polynomial cuts the x-axis.

Consider the graph of a quadratic equation $x^2-4=0$:



Graph of a Quadratic Equation

In the above figure, -2 and 2 are the roots of the quadratic equation $x^2-4=0$

Note:

If the graph of the quadratic polynomial cuts the x-axis at two distinct points, then it has real and distinct roots.

If the graph of the quadratic polynomial touches the x-axis, then it has real and equal roots.

If the graph of the quadratic polynomial does not cut or touch the x-axis then it does not have any real roots.

Solving a Quadratic Equation by Factorization method

Consider a quadratic equation $2x^2-5x+3=0$

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

This step is splitting the middle term

We split the middle term by finding two numbers (-2 and -3) such that their sum is equal to the coefficient of x and their product is equal to the product of the coefficient of x^2 and the constant.

$(-2) + (-3) = (-5)$ And $(-2) \times (-3) = 6$

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

$2x(x-1)-3(x-1)=0$ $(x-1)(2x-3)=0$

In this step, we have expressed the quadratic polynomial as a product of its factors. Thus, x = 1 and x =3/2 are the roots of the given quadratic equation.

This method of solving a quadratic equation is called the factorisation method.

Solving QE by Completing the Square

Solving a Quadratic Equation by Completion of squares method

In the method of completing the squares, the quadratic equation is expressed in the form $(x\pm k)^2=p2$.

Consider the quadratic equation $2x^2-8x=10$

(i) Express the quadratic equation in standard form.

$2x^2-8x-10=0$

(ii) Divide the equation by the coefficient of x^2 to make the coefficient of x^2 equal to 1. $x^2-4x-5=0$

(iii) Add the square of half of the coefficient of x to both sides of the equation to get an expression of the form $x^2\pm 2kx+k2$.

$(x^2-4x+4)-5=0+4$

(iv) Isolate the above expression, $(x\pm k)^2$ on the LHS to obtain an equation of the form $(x\pm k)^2=p^2$

$(x-2)^2=9$

(v) Take the positive and negative square roots.

$x-2=\pm 3$

$x=-1$ or $x=5$

Solving QE Using Quadratic Formula

Quadratic Formula

Quadratic Formula is used to directly obtain the roots of a quadratic equation from the standard form of the equation.

For the quadratic equation

$ax2+bx+c=0$, $x= [-b\pm \sqrt{(b2-4ac)}]/2a$

By substituting the values of a,b and c, we can directly get the roots of the equation.

Discriminant

For a quadratic equation of the form $ax^2+bx+c=0$, the expression b^2-4ac is called the **discriminant**, (denoted by **D**), of the quadratic equation.

The **discriminant** determines the **nature of roots** of the quadratic equation based on the **coefficients** of the quadratic equation.

Solving using Quadratic Formula when D>0

Solve $2x^2-7x+3=0$ using the quadratic formula.

(i) Identify the coefficients of the quadratic equation. a = 2,b = -7,c = 3 (ii) Calculate the discriminant, $b2-4ac$

$D=(-7)^2-4\times 2\times 3= 49-24 = 25$

D> 0, therefore, the roots are distinct.

(iii) Substitute the coefficients in the quadratic formula to find the

roots x= [-(-7)± √((-7)2-4(2)(3))]/2(2)

x=(7 ±5)/4

x=3 and x= 1/2 are the roots.

Nature of Roots

Based on the value of the discriminant, $D=b^2-4ac$, the roots of a quadratic equation can be of three types.

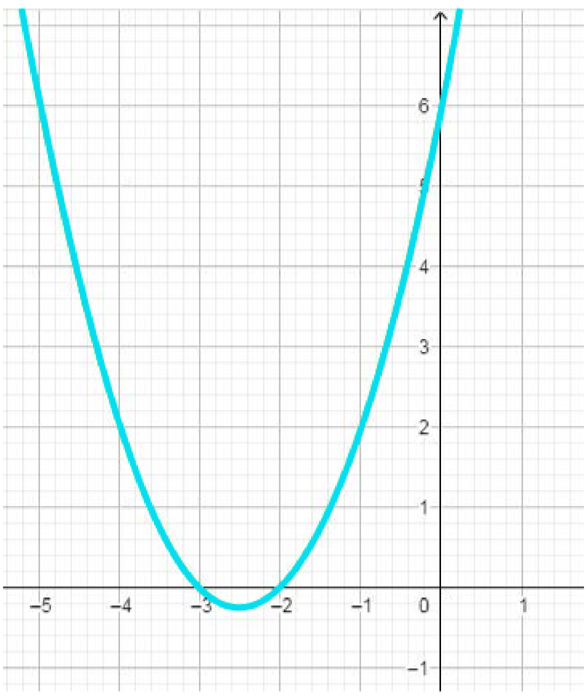
Case 1: If **D>0**, the equation has two **distinct real roots**. Case 2: If **D=0**, the equation has two **equal real roots**.

Case 3: If **D<0**, the equation has **no real roots**.

Graphical Representation of a Quadratic Equation

The graph of a quadratic polynomial is a parabola. The roots of a quadratic equation are the points where the parabola cuts the x-axis i.e. the points where the value of the quadratic polynomial is zero.

Now, the graph of $x^2+5x+6=0$ is:



In the above figure, -2 and -3 are the roots of the quadratic equation $x^2+5x+6=0$.

For a quadratic polynomial

ax^2+bx+c, If **a>0**, the parabola

opens **upwards**.

If **a<0**, the parabola opens **downwards.**

If **a = 0**, the polynomial will become a first-degree polynomial and its graph is linear.