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4.7 All Methods of Solving Quadratics Notes

$$x^2 - 6x + 5 = 0$$

Solve. Show detailed steps.

The solutions should be the same regardless of the method.

Factoring and Zero Product Property	$(x - 5)(x - 1) = 0$ $x - 5 = 0 \quad x - 1 = 0$ $x = 5 \quad x = 1$
Square Roots	<p>The square root method can not be used. The quadratic has a <math>x</math> term.</p>
Completing the Square	$x^2 - 6x + 9 = -5 + 9$ $\left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 = (-3)^2 = 9$ $(x - 3)^2 = 4$ $x - 3 = \pm \sqrt{4}$ $x - 3 = 2 \quad x - 3 = -2$ $x = 5 \quad x = 1$
Quadratic Formula	$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ $a = 1 \quad b = -6 \quad c = 5$ $x = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{(-6)^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)}$ $= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 20}}{2}$ $= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{16}}{2} = \frac{6 \pm 4}{2}$ $x = \frac{6 + 4}{2} \quad x = \frac{6 - 4}{2}$ $= \frac{10}{2} \quad = \frac{2}{2}$ $x = 5 \quad x = 1$

Quadratics have 1 real solution, 2 real solutions, or 2 complex solutions (conjugate pairs).

You can determine the number of solutions a quadratic has by evaluating the discriminant.

$$b^2 - 4ac$$

The expression under the radical in the quadratic formula

- $> 0$       2 real solutions
- $= 0$       1 real solution
- $< 0$       complex solutions  
(0 real number solutions)

Example

$$x^2 - 6x + 5 = 0$$

$$a = 1 \quad b = -6 \quad c = 5$$

$$(-6)^2 - 4(1)(5)$$

$$36 - 20$$

$$16 \rightarrow 2 \text{ real solutions}$$