

Introduction to Quadratic Equations

1. Standard Form

A quadratic equation is defined as:

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

where 'a', 'b', and 'c' are constants and a is not zero.

2. The Quadratic Formula

The solutions (roots) can be found using the formula:

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

3. The Discriminant (Delta)

The value inside the square root is called the discriminant:

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

- If $\Delta > 0$: Two real distinct roots.
- If $\Delta = 0$: One real repeated root.
- If $\Delta < 0$: No real roots (complex roots).

4. Example Problem

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

Here $a=1$, $b=-5$, $c=6$.

Discriminant $= (-5)^2 - 4(1)(6) = 25 - 24 = 1$

Roots $= \frac{5 \pm 1}{2}$

$x_1 = 3$, $x_2 = 2$