

24. Quadratic equations

An equation in one unknown which contains at least one term of the second power, and no higher power, is called a quadratic equation, or an equation of the second degree.

Problem: 8ft^2 (AREA) = Length \times Width $+ 2$

$$(\text{ALTITUDE} \times \text{BASE}) = \text{AREA} \quad x(x+2) = 8$$

$$(x+x)(x+2) = 8 \quad x^2 + 2x + 2x = 8$$

AREA = Product of base \times ALTITUDE

Such equation can be solved by trial as it follows:

value of x	Left Side	Right Side	Left = Right?
1	$1 \times 1 + 2 \times 1 = 3$	8	No
2	$2 \times 2 + 2 \times 2 = 8$	8	Yes
3	$3 \times 3 + 2 \times 3 = 15$	8	No
-1	$(-1)(-1) + 2(-1) = -1$	8	No
-2	$(-2)(-2) + 2(-2) = 0$	8	No
-3	$(-3)(-3) + 2(-3) = 3$	8	No
-4	$(-4)(-4) + 2(-4) = 8$	8	Yes
-5	$(-5)(-5) + 2(-5) = 15$	8	No

Therefore 2 and -4 are values of the letter that

make both sides have the same number values.

Incidentally values of the unknown which satisfy the

equation, i.e. make both sides of the equation equal,

are called roots of the equation. If one side is -4,

and the other -2, the area is 8, the negative \rightarrow does (-) sign

signs merely indicates direction. Really, signs should

solutions by trial and error are expensive type

of process, from the point of view of time and

effort consumed. There are ways to do it faster & better.

25. Algebraic Polynomials.

To do so we will consider some properties of

algebraic expressions which are sums or differences

of terms such as $x+3$, $x-5$, x^2-9 and $x^2+8x+15$.

The first three expressions are called binomials

since each contains two terms. The last

expression is called a trinomial since it

contains three terms. If an expression

contains two or more terms, it is called