

That is, if  $(x+3)(x+5)=0$ , either  $x+3=0$ , or  $x+5=0$  or both equal zero. In order that the factor  $x+3$  be equal zero,  $x$  must have a value of  $-3$ . Similarly,  $(x+5)$  will be zero if  $x=-5$ . Thus, both the values  $x=-3$  and  $x=-5$  satisfy the equation,  $x^2+8x+15=0$ , which is gotten by multiplying  $(x+3)$  by  $(x+5)$ .

If  $x=-3$ , we have:

$$(-3)^2+8(-3)+15=0$$

$$9+(-24)+15=0$$

If  $x=-5$ , we have:

$$(-5)^2+8(-5)+15=0$$

$$25+(-40)+15=0$$

Factoring is thus seen to be an important approach to the solution of quadratic equations.

Further illustration:

(1) What values of  $x$  satisfy the equation  $x^2=9$ ?

Solution:  $x^2-9=0$ . Rewrite the equation

$$(x+3)(x-3)=0 \quad \text{Factor left side}$$

Since both factors are the same, set one of them

$$\text{to zero and solve for } x: x+3=0, x=-3$$

Set each factor to zero and solve for  $x$ :

$$x+3=0, \text{ so } x=-3; x-3=0, \text{ so } x=3. \text{ Checking:}$$

$$(-3)^2=9 \text{ and } (3)^2=9.$$

(2) What values of  $x$  satisfy the equation:  $x^2+6x+9=0$ ?

Solution: Factor left side:  $(x+3)(x+3)=0$ . Since both factors are the same,

set one of them to zero and solve for  $x$ :

$$x+3=0, x=-3. \text{ Since } x=-3, \text{ and only } -3, \text{ there is}$$

only one value of  $x$  that satisfies the given equation, but this value is thought of as being a repeated root.

The factoring method is faster than the trial method.

Unfortunately it does not always work so easily.

## 29. Solution of quadratic root by completing the square

Now we shall examine some of the equations already solved in order to devise a method to solve quadratics that are not factorable.

If  $x^2=9$ , take the square root of both sides.

Then  $x=\pm 3$ , where  $\pm$  means  $+$  or  $-$ . If

$x^2+6x+9=0$ , we can put it into the form  $(x+3)^2=0$ ,