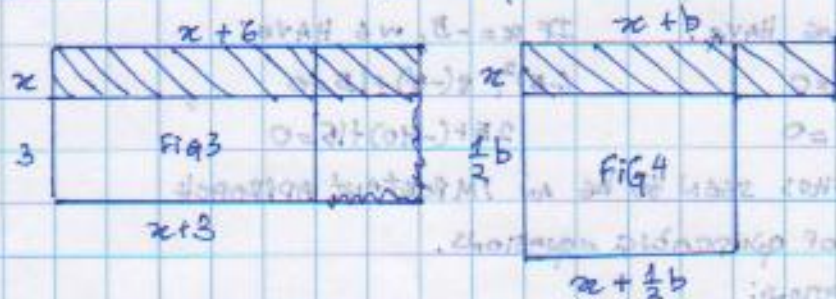


AND ~~then~~ TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT OF BOTH SIDES. THEN ~~$x+3 = \pm 0$~~ $x+3 = \pm 0$, OR MERELY 0. TRANSPONDING, WE HAVE $x = 3$. TAKE ~~THE~~ ^{FOR} EXAMPLE THE EQUATION $x^2 + 6x + 5 = 0$. THE PRODUCT $x^2 + 6x$ IS COMPOSED OF THE FACTORS x AND $x+6$. THESE MAY BE CONSIDERED SIDES OF A RECTANGLE WHICH WE WISH TO CONVERT INTO A SQUARE.



By taking 3 units from the long side and adding 3 units to the short side, we obtain a square of $x+3$. The area of this square is $(x+3)^2$ or $(x+3)(x+3)$ which is $x^2 + 6x + 9$. Comparing this with the left member of the original equation, we see that by subtracting 5 from both members of the equation then adding 9 to $x^2 + 6x$, the left side can be made a perfect square.

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 6x + 5 &= 0 \\ x^2 + 6x + 5 - 5 + 9 &= -5 + 9 \\ x^2 + 6x + 9 &= -5 + 9 \\ (x+3)^2 &= 4 \\ x+3 &= \pm 2 \\ x &= \pm 2 - 3 \end{aligned}$$

THEN TAKING THE SQUARE ROOT OF BOTH SIDES AS BEFORE:
 $(x+3) = \pm 2$
 $x = \pm 2 - 3$ AND $x = +1$ OR -5

THIS METHOD CAN LEAD TO A FORMULA FOR SOLVING ANY QUADRATIC EQUATION. CONSIDER A BINOMIAL LIKE $x^2 + 6x + 9$ WHICH IS A PERFECT SQUARE. NOTE THAT BOTH FIRST AND LAST TERMS ARE SQUARES (x^2 AND 9) THAT THE MIDDLE TERM IS TWICE THE PRODUCT OF THEIR SQUARE ROOTS ($2 \times 3 \times x$ OR $6x$). IN ORDER TO BUILD A PERFECT SQUARE, WE MUST SPLIT THE EXCESS OF ONE SIDE OVER THE OTHER EQUALLY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. USING FIG 4 WE HAVE:

$$(x + \frac{1}{2}b)(x + \frac{1}{2}b) = x^2 + bx + \frac{1}{4}b^2$$

TO MAKE $x^2 + bx$ A PERFECT SQUARE, WE TAKE $\frac{1}{2}$ OF b (COEFFICIENT OF x), SQUARE IT, AND ADD IT TO $x^2 + bx$. NOW