

## HW1—First Python Program—Quadratic Equation

### 10 points

**Assignment:** Write a Quadratic Equation solver, as explained below.

**Due:** Wednesday 9/11, 5PM

**Turn in:** Submit your finished program (the .py file) to Blackboard Vista.

Write a Python program to find the solutions to the quadratic equation:  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .

As I'm sure you remember, the solutions can be calculated from the equation

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

Prompt the user for a, b, and c, allowing them to type in numbers that contain decimal points.

You may assume that there are two solutions. That is: assume that  $a$  is not zero, and that the discriminate (the part under the radical) is  $\geq 0$ . We'll learn how to handle these later.

**Test** your program several times, with different sets of data of your choosing. When your test cases work, try this:  $a=2$ ,  $b=-1.2$ ,  $c=-6.3$ . The answers should be *approximately*  $-1.5$  and  $2.1$

**Hints:** There is no  $\pm$  operator in Python, because a variable (like  $x$ ) cannot hold more than one value. Therefore, you'll have to compute the above equation twice: once where the square root is added to  $-b$ , and another where the square root is subtracted from  $-b$ .

**I/O recommendation:** When I run my program, it looks like this:

```
Quadratic Equations Solver
Enter A: 1
Enter B: 0
Enter C: -9
The solutions are 3.0 and -3.0
```

You should always have a prompt for input, explaining what is desired. And output should likewise be labeled, don't simply print the two values of  $x$ .