

The Quadratic Formula and Discriminant

- When using the _____ technique on the standard form quadratic, the values for x, in terms of a, b, and c are:

$$\blacktriangleright \mathbf{x} = \frac{-\mathbf{b} \pm \sqrt{\mathbf{b}^2 - 4\mathbf{a}\mathbf{c}}}{2\mathbf{a}}$$

- Known as the _____, ANY quadratic can be solved using this technique
- Examples:

$$2x^2 - x = 4$$

$$x^2 = -4x - 3$$

- The computation inside the radical is known as the discriminant; $d = b^2 - 4ac$
 - When , there will be real-number solutions
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 - Why??

- Often, it is worthwhile to consider the quadratic formula;

► $\mathbf{x} = \frac{-\mathbf{b} \pm \sqrt{\mathbf{d}}}{2\mathbf{a}}$, where $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{b}^2 - 4\mathbf{a}\mathbf{c}$

- Determine the discriminant and the nature of the roots. Then solve for x

$$2x^2 - 3x - 7 = 0$$

$$x^2 = 6x - 5$$

$$x^2 + 17x + 4 = 0$$