

key

Pre HL: The Sum and Product of the roots of Quadratic Equation.

Notes: September 8

Warm UP

Find the discriminant and hence find the values of w for which the equation, $2x^2 - 5x + w = 0$ has
i) a repeated root (one solution), ii) 2 distinct real roots, and iii) no real roots.

(i) $(-5)^2 - 4w \cdot 2 = 0 \Rightarrow 8w = 25 \Rightarrow w = \frac{25}{8}$

(ii) $(-5)^2 - 8w > 0 \Rightarrow w < \frac{25}{8}$

(iii) $w > \frac{25}{8}$

You know "If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ where $a \neq 0$, then $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$."

$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ means $x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ or $x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

Find $x_1 + x_2$ (sum of the roots)

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

Find $x_1 \cdot x_2$ (product of the roots)

$(a+b)(a-b) = a^2 - b^2$

$\left(\frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \right) \left(\frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \right)$

$= \frac{(-b)^2 - (\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac})^2}{4a^2} = \frac{b^2 - (b^2 - 4ac)}{4a^2} = \frac{4ac}{4a^2} = \frac{c}{a}$

\therefore if $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ where $a \neq 0$, then the sum of the roots is $-\frac{b}{a}$ and the product of the roots is $\frac{c}{a}$.

$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} = 0$

Let's apply what you have learned.

Ex1) Find the sum and product of the roots of $\frac{25x^2 - 20x + 1}{25} = 0$. Validate if your answer by solving the quadratic.

$$x^2 - \frac{20}{25}x + \frac{1}{25} = 0$$

Sum : $\frac{20}{25} = \frac{4}{5}$

product: $\frac{1}{25}$.

Ex2) The quadratic equation $x^2 + (k-3)x + (2-k) = 0$ has one root which is three less than other root. Find all possible values of k and the two roots.

x_1

$x_2 = x_1 - 3$

① $(x_1)(x_1 - 3) = 2 - k$

② $x_1 + (x_1 - 3) = -(k-3) \Rightarrow 2x_1 - 3 = 3 - k$

$2x_1 - 6 = -k$

(continue on the back!)

$k = 6 - 2x_1$

Practice1) $3x^2 + x - 1 = 0$ has roots p and q. Find $p^2 + q^2$.

$p + q = -\frac{1}{3}$

$(p + q)^2 = \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^2$

$p \cdot q = -\frac{1}{3}$

$p^2 + q^2 + 2pq = \frac{1}{9}$

$p^2 + q^2 = \frac{1}{9} - 2 \cdot pq = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 3} = \frac{7}{9}$

Practice2) The quadratic equation $x^2 + (k-12)x + (k+7) = 0$ has the roots of consecutive positive integers. Find possible values of k and the two roots.

$x_1 = a$ $x_2 = a + 1$

Roots : 3, 4 $k = 5$

$a(a+1) = k+7$

$a^2 + a = 11 - 2a + 7$

$a + (a+1) = 12 - k$

$a^2 + 3a - 10 = 0 = (a+6)(a-3)$
 $\begin{matrix} +6 \\ -3 \end{matrix}$ $a = 3$ ~~$a = -6$~~

$2a + 1 = 12 - k \Rightarrow -k = 2a - 11 \quad k = 11 - 2a$

Ex 2)

$$\lambda_1 (\lambda_1 - 3) = 2 - (6 - 2\lambda_1)$$

$$(\lambda_1)^2 - 3\lambda_1 = 2 - 6 + 2\lambda_1$$

$$(\lambda_1)^2 - 5\lambda_1 + 4 = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = 4$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 6 - 2(4) \\ = \boxed{-2}$$

OR

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1 - 3 = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 6 - 2(1) \\ = 4$$

Two possible answers for value of k .

$$k = -2 \quad \text{Roots: } 1 \text{ \& } 4 \quad [x^2 - 5x + 4 = 0]$$

$$k = 4 \quad \text{Roots: } 1 \text{ \& } -2 \quad [x^2 + x - 2 = 0]$$