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The following is known as a *discriminant* of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, $a \neq 0$.

$$D = b^2 - 4ac \tag{1}$$

**Theorem 1** *If $D < 0$, then the quadratic equation $ax^2+bx+c = 0$ with real coefficients $a \neq 0$, $b$, and $c$ has no real roots. If $D \geq 0$, then the following is the formula for the roots of the equation.*

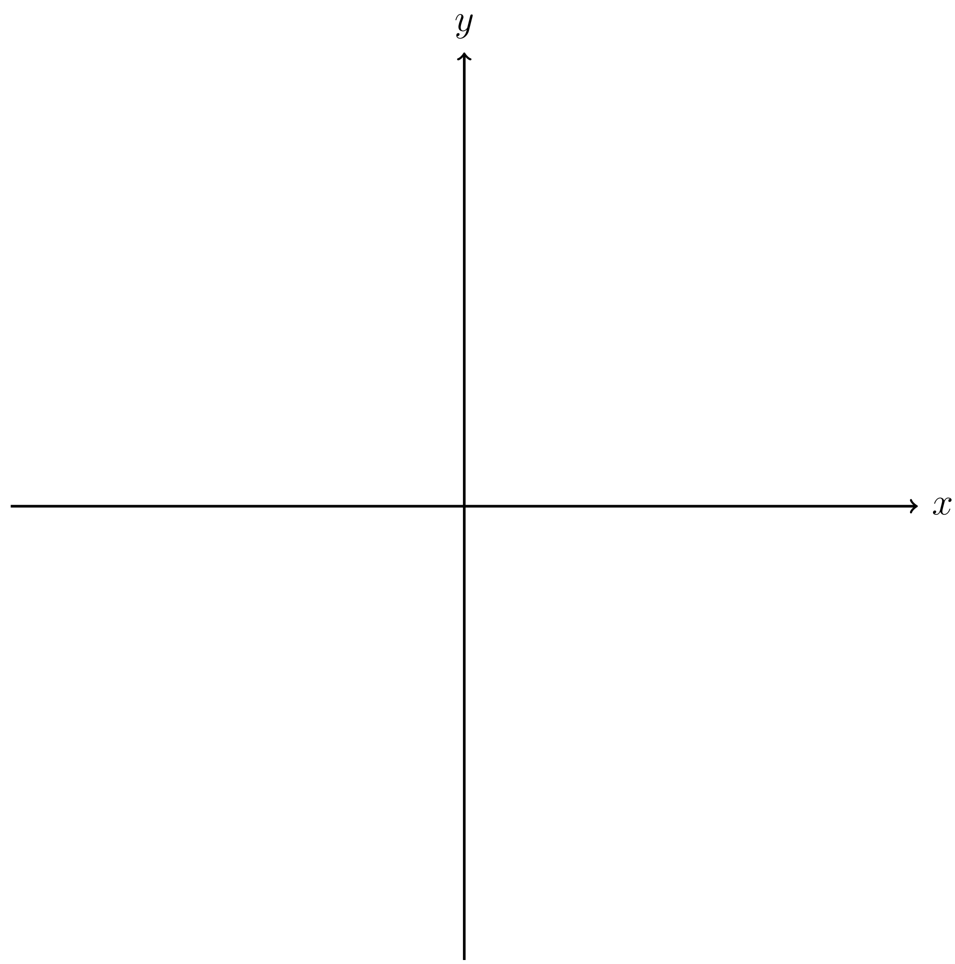
$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a} \tag{2}$$

**Problem 1** *Prove Theorem 1.*

**Problem 2** *Find all the real solutions of the equation* $\sqrt{x-2} = x - 4$.

**Problem 3** *Find all the real solutions of the equation* $7\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right) - 2\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) = 9$.

**Problem 4** *Sketch the graph of the function* $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, *given the following information:* $a > 0$, $b > 0$, $D < 0$.




*Is the coefficient c positive, negative, or zero? Why?*

**Problem 5** *Find all the real solutions of the equation* $2x^2 + 6 - 2\sqrt{2x^2 - 3x + 2} = 3x + 3.$

**Problem 6** *Find all the real solutions of the equation* $\sqrt[3]{x+a} + \sqrt[3]{x+a+1} + \sqrt[3]{x+a+2} = 0.$

## Vieta Formulas

**Theorem 2** *Let $x_1$ and $x_2$ be the roots of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c$, $a \neq 0$. Then $x_1 + x_2 = -b/a$ and $x_1 x_2 = c/a$.*

**Problem 7** *Prove Theorem 2.*

**Problem 8** *Write down a quadratic equation that has the roots $x_1 = 3$ and $x_2 = -4$.*

**Problem 9** *Generalize Vieta formulas to a cubic equation* $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$, $a \neq 0$.

**Problem 10** *Write down a cubic equation that has the roots* $x_1 = 1$, $x_2 = 2$, *and* $x_3 = 3$.

**Problem 11** *Without solving the equation* $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$*, find the sum of the squares of its roots provided that* $a \neq 0$ *and* $D \geq 0$.

**Problem 12** *Find all the prime numbers* $p$ *and* $q$ *such that the equation* $x^2 - px - q = 0$ *has a solution that is a prime number.*

A function $f(x)$ is called *convex* if for any $x_1$ and $x_2$ in its domain and for any $0 < \alpha < 1$,

$$f(\alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2) < \alpha f(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f(x_2). \tag{3}$$

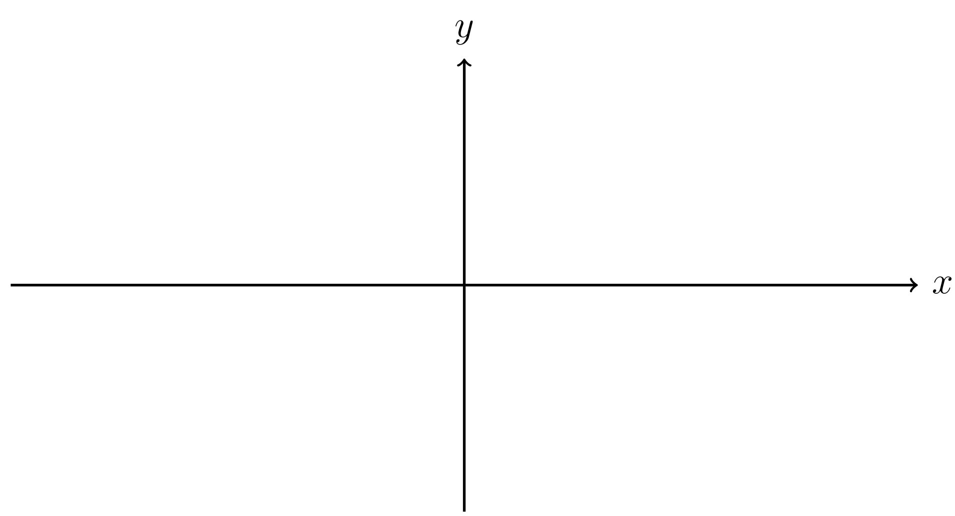
**Problem 13** *Give a geometric interpretation to formula (3).*

**Problem 14** *Prove that for a linear function* $f(x) = bx + c$, $f(\alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2) = \alpha f(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f(x_2)$ *for any value of the parameter* $\alpha$.

**Problem 15** *Prove that* $f(x) = ax^2+bx+c$ *is convex for* $a > 0$.

The value $\hat{x}$ is called a *minimum* of a function $f(x)$ if $f(\hat{x}) \leq f(x)$ for every $x$ in the function's domain.

**Problem 16** *Sketch the graph of a function having two minima.*



**Problem 17** *The function $f(x)$ is convex. Prove that it can have at most one minimum.*

**Problem 18** *Find the minimum of the function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, $a > 0$. Prove that it is indeed a minimum. What is the value of the function at the point?*

**Problem 19** *Find the minimum of the function* $f(x) = (x - a_1)^2 + (x - a_2)^2 + \ldots + (x - a_n)^2$.

**Problem 20** *A straight line in the plain is given by the equation* $ax + by + c = 0$. *Find the distance from the point* $(x_0, y_0)$ *to the line.*

**Problem 21** *Prove that for* $x > 0$, $x + \dfrac{1}{x} \geq 2$.

**Problem 22** *Given* $x + y + z = 1$, $x > 0$, $y > 0$, *and* $z > 0$, *prove that*

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{z} \geq 9.$$