

2.3.1. Derivation of the quadratic formula

Every quadratic equation can be written in the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ where $a \neq 0$. We solve this equation for x .

$$(2.13) \quad ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$(2.14) \quad ax^2 + bx = -c$$

$$(2.15) \quad x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x = \frac{-c}{a}$$

$$(2.16) \quad x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \frac{-c}{a} + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2$$

$$(2.17) \quad \left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \frac{-c}{a} + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$$

$$(2.18) \quad x = -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{-c}{a} + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}}$$

$$(2.19) \quad x = -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}}$$

$$(2.20) \quad x = -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$(2.21) \quad x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$