

### 3.6 Interpreting the Discriminant

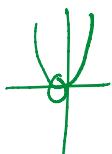
From the QUADRATIC FORMULA

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

the info under the radical " $b^2 - 4ac$ " is called the discriminant and can determine the "nature" of the roots ( $x$  int) without solving.

You will know how many answers.

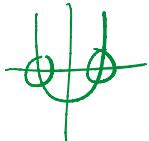
(A)  $x^2 + 2x + 1 = 0$



$$x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4}}{2} = \frac{-2 \pm 0}{2} = \frac{-2}{2} = -1$$

| answer

(B)  $x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$



$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 12}}{2} = \frac{-4 \pm 2}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{-4+2}{2} = -1 \\ &\frac{-4-2}{2} = -3 \end{aligned}$$

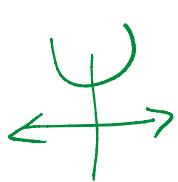
2 answers

(C)  $x^2 + 5x + 7 = 0$

, ,

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 28}}{2} = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

$< 0$



$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 28}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

Does  
NOT  
EXIST

NO REAL SOLUTION

Then  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$  1 real solution

$> 0$  2 real + distinct solutions

$< 0$  no real solution

ex.1 Determine the nature of the roots given

$$2x^2 + 3x + 10 = 0$$

$$b^2 - 4ac$$

$$9 - 4(2)(10)$$

$$9 - 80 = -71$$

value  
of disc.

nature  
no real solution

2. Find k if  $x^2 - 6x + k = 0$   
and it has two distinct real roots.

$$b^2 - 4ac > 0$$

$$(-6)^2 - 4(1)(k) > 0$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 36 - 4k & > 0 \\ -36 & & -36 \end{array}$$

-36

-56

$$\frac{-4k}{\cancel{-4}} > \frac{-36}{\cancel{-4}}$$

$$k < 9$$

When you divide by a negative  
MUST CHANGE THE INEQUALITY

P 251 # 4-10, 13 choose a or b