Patel Is Solving 8x2 + 16x + 3 = 0. Which Steps Could He Use To Solve The Quadratic Equation? Select

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When faced with a quadratic equation like $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$, students and mathematicians alike look for systematic methods to find the solutions for x. Quadratic equations are polynomial equations of degree two and are fundamental in algebra, physics, engineering, and many other fields. Understanding the steps Patel can use to solve this specific quadratic will not only help him find the roots but also deepen his comprehension of quadratic solving techniques.

In this article, we will explore the various methods Patel can employ to solve the quadratic equation, including factoring, completing the square, graphing, and most notably, using the quadratic formula. We will analyze each method step-by-step, discuss their applicability, advantages, and limitations, and provide clear guidance on how to implement them effectively.

Understanding the Quadratic Equation

Before delving into solving strategies, it's essential to understand the general form of a quadratic equation:

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

where:
- a, b, and c are coefficients,
- $a \neq 0$.

In Patel's case, the quadratic equation is:

$$8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$$

Here:
- $a = 8$,
- $b = 16$,
- $c = 3$.

Knowing these coefficients allows us to choose the most suitable method for solving.

Method 1: Factoring the Quadratic Equation

Factoring involves expressing the quadratic as a product of two binomials:

$$(mx + n)(px + q) = 0$$

and then solving for x by setting each factor equal to zero.

Step-by-step process for factoring:

1. **Multiply the leading coefficient and constant:** $a \times c = 8 \times 3 = 24$.

2. **Find two numbers that multiply to 24 and add to the middle coefficient (16):** The pairs are:

    - 1 and 24
    - 2 and 12
    - 3 and 8
    - 4 and 6

    Among these, 2 and 12 multiply to 24 but add to 14, not 16; 4 and 6 multiply to 24 and add to 10, not 16. So, no pair sums to 16 directly.

3. **Conclusion:** The quadratic is not easily factorable with integer factors, suggesting that factoring may not be straightforward or feasible with rational numbers.

Note: Since easy factoring isn't possible here, Patel may consider other methods such as completing the square or using the quadratic formula.

Method 2: Completing the Square

Completing the square involves rewriting the quadratic in the form:

$$(x + d)^2 = e$$

and then solving for x.

Steps for completing the square:

1. **Divide all coefficients by a to normalize the quadratic:**

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

    For the given equation:

    $$
    x^2 + 2x + \frac{3}{8} = 0
    $$

2. **Isolate the constant term:**

    $$
    x^2 + 2x = -\frac{3}{8}
    $$

3. **Complete the square:** Take half of the coefficient of x, square it, and add to both sides:

    \[

$$
\left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)^2 = 1^2 = 1
$$

Add this to both sides:

$$
x^2 + 2x + 1 = -\frac{3}{8} + 1
$$

$$
(x + 1)^2 = -\frac{3}{8} + \frac{8}{8} = \frac{5}{8}
$$

4. **Take the square root of both sides:**

$$
x + 1 = \pm \sqrt{\frac{5}{8}}
$$

$$
x + 1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{8}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{2}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{2}}{2 \times 2} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
$$

Note: Rationalizing the denominator is optional.

5. **Solve for x:**

$$
x = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
$$

Final solution:

$$
x = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -1 - \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
$$

This method provides exact solutions expressed in radical form.

Method 3: Using the Quadratic Formula

The quadratic formula is a universal method applicable to all quadratic equations:

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

It provides solutions directly, whether the roots are real or complex.

Steps to apply the quadratic formula:

1. **Identify coefficients:** $a=8$, $b=16$, $c=3$.

2. **Calculate the discriminant:**

   $$
   D = b^2 - 4ac = 16^2 - 4 \times 8 \times 3 = 256 - 96 = 160
   $$

   Since $D > 0$, solutions are real and distinct.

3. **Compute the square root of the discriminant:**

   $$
   \sqrt{160} = \sqrt{16 \times 10} = 4 \sqrt{10}
   $$

4. **Apply the quadratic formula:**

   $$
   x = \frac{-16 \pm 4 \sqrt{10}}{2 \times 8} = \frac{-16 \pm 4 \sqrt{10}}{16}
   $$

   Simplify numerator and denominator:

   $$
   x = \frac{-16}{16} \pm \frac{4 \sqrt{10}}{16} = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
   $$

   Final solutions:

   $$
   x = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -1 - \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
   $$

   This matches the solutions obtained via completing the square, confirming their correctness.

Summary of Methods Patel Can Use

Method	Suitability	Advantages	Limitations
Factoring	When factors are obvious or simple	Quick and straightforward if applicable	Not always feasible, especially with complex coefficients
Completing the Square	When coefficients are manageable; useful for deriving vertex form	Provides exact radical solutions	Can be tedious for complex coefficients; requires careful algebra
Quadratic Formula	Universal method applicable to all quadratics	Always works; provides both real and complex solutions	Slightly more computational steps; requires calculating discriminant

Which Method Should Patel Use?

Given the coefficients in the equation $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$, the quadratic formula emerges as the most straightforward and reliable method. Factoring appears complicated due to the lack of obvious factors, and completing the square, while precise, involves multiple steps that could be error-prone. The quadratic formula provides a clear, step-by-step pathway to the solutions.

Step-by-step for Patel:

1. Identify coefficients: $a=8$, $b=16$, $c=3$.

2. Calculate discriminant:

$$
D = 16^2 - 4 \times 8 \times 3 = 256 - 96 = 160
$$

3. Compute square root of discriminant:

$$
\sqrt{160} = 4 \sqrt{10}
$$

4. Apply quadratic formula:

$$
x = \frac{-16 \pm 4 \sqrt{10}}{16} = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
$$

Thus, the solutions are:

$$
x = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} \quad \text{and} \quad x = -1 - \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}
$$

Expressing solutions:

- Exact form

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the first step Patel should take to solve the quadratic equation $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$?

The first step is to identify the coefficients $a = 8$, $b = 16$, and $c = 3$, which are needed for applying the quadratic formula.

Can Patel use factoring to solve $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$?

Factoring is difficult here because the quadratic doesn't factor easily; using the quadratic formula is more straightforward.

What formula can Patel apply to solve the quadratic equation $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$?

He can use the quadratic formula: $x = [-b \pm ⍰ (b^2 - 4ac)] / 2a$.

How does Patel calculate the discriminant for the quadratic equation?

He computes the discriminant as $D = b^2 - 4ac$, which in this case is $16^2 - 483$.

What is the significance of the discriminant in solving this quadratic equation?

The discriminant indicates whether the solutions are real and distinct, real and equal, or complex; here, it helps determine the nature of the roots.

After finding the discriminant, what is Patel's next step?

He calculates the square root of the discriminant and then substitutes all values into the quadratic formula to find the roots.

Can Patel use the quadratic formula directly for $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$, or should he simplify first?

He can use the quadratic formula directly, but simplifying the equation by dividing all terms by the greatest common factor, if possible, can make calculations easier.

What are the solutions to $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$ after applying the quadratic formula?

The solutions are $x = [-16 \pm ⍰ (16^2 - 483)] / (28)$, which simplifies to specific numeric roots upon calculation.

Additional Resources

Patel Is Solving $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$: Which Steps Could He Use To Solve The Quadratic Equation?

Quadratic equations are fundamental to algebra and appear frequently across various fields of science, engineering, and mathematics. When Patel encounters the quadratic equation $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$, he needs to carefully select an appropriate method to find the solutions efficiently and accurately. This article explores the comprehensive steps that Patel could employ to solve this quadratic equation, examining various techniques such as factoring, completing the square, and the quadratic formula. By understanding each approach thoroughly, students and practitioners can enhance their problem-solving toolkit for quadratic equations.

Understanding the Quadratic Equation: The Foundation

A quadratic equation is any second-degree polynomial expressed in the standard form:

$$ ax^2 + bx + c = 0 $$

where:

- $a \neq 0$
- b and c are real coefficients

In Patel's case, the coefficients are:

- $a = 8$
- $b = 16$
- $c = 3$

The goal is to find the values of x that satisfy this equation.

Initial Analysis: Simplification and Discriminant

Before choosing a method, Patel should analyze the quadratic to determine the nature of its roots and whether it can be simplified.

Step 1: Simplify the Equation

Dividing through by the greatest common factor (GCF) can make calculations easier, if possible. Here, GCF of 8, 16, and 3 is 1, so no simplification by division is immediately apparent.

Step 2: Calculate the Discriminant

The discriminant D indicates the nature of roots:

$$ D = b^2 - 4ac $$

For this equation:

$$ D = (16)^2 - 4 \times 8 \times 3 = 256 - 96 = 160 $$

Since $D > 0$, the quadratic has two real and distinct roots.

Method 1: Applying the Quadratic Formula

Given that the discriminant is positive and the coefficients are not conducive to easy factoring, the quadratic formula offers a straightforward solution.

Quadratic Formula:

$$ x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a} $$

Step-by-step Application:

1. Insert the known values:

$$ x = \frac{-16 \pm \sqrt{160}}{2 \times 8} $$

2. Simplify the denominator:

$$ 2 \times 8 = 16 $$

3. Simplify the square root:

$$ \sqrt{160} = \sqrt{16 \times 10} = 4 \sqrt{10} $$

4. Write the solutions:

$$ x = \frac{-16 \pm 4 \sqrt{10}}{16} $$

5. Simplify numerator and denominator:

Divide numerator and denominator by 4:

$$ x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{10}}{4} $$

6. Final solutions:

$$ x = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} $$

This provides exact solutions, which Patel can leave in radical form or approximate numerically:

$$ x \approx -1 \pm \frac{3.1623}{4} $$

$$ x \approx -1 \pm 0.7906 $$

- First root: $x \approx -1 + 0.7906 = -0.2094$
- Second root: $x \approx -1 - 0.7906 = -1.7906$

Advantages of the quadratic formula:

- Universally applicable regardless of the coefficients
- Gives exact solutions in radical form
- Useful when factoring is difficult or impossible

Method 2: Factoring (If Possible)

Factoring is often the quickest method but requires the quadratic to be factorable over integers or rational numbers.

Step 1: Search for two numbers

Find two numbers m and n such that:

- $m \times n = a \times c = 8 \times 3 = 24$
- $m + n = b = 16$

List factor pairs of 24:

- 1 and 24 (sum 25)
- 2 and 12 (sum 14)
- 3 and 8 (sum 11)
- 4 and 6 (sum 10)

None of these pairs sum to 16, so straightforward factoring over the integers isn't feasible.

Step 2: Rational factorization attempt

Since integer factoring isn't possible, Patel might attempt to factor using rational roots or recognize that the quadratic isn't factorable over rationals, reinforcing the choice of the quadratic formula.

Method 3: Completing the Square

Completing the square is a valuable technique, especially for understanding the structure of solutions.

Step 1: Normalize the equation

Divide through by $a = 8$:

$$x^2 + 2x + \frac{3}{8} = 0$$

Step 2: Isolate the quadratic and linear terms

$$x^2 + 2x = - \frac{3}{8}$$

Step 3: Complete the square

Add and subtract $(b/2)^2$:

$$x^2 + 2x + 1 = - \frac{3}{8} + 1$$

Note that $(b/2)^2 = (2)^2 / 4 = 1$

$$(x + 1)^2 = - \frac{3}{8} + \frac{8}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$

Step 4: Take square roots

$$x + 1 = \pm \sqrt{\frac{5}{8}}$$

Express as radicals:

$$x + 1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{8}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{2}}$$

Rationalize the denominator:

$$x + 1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{2}}{2 \sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{2}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}$$

Step 5: Final solutions

$$x = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}$$

This matches the solutions obtained via the quadratic formula, confirming their correctness.

Summary of Methods and Recommendations for Patel

Method	Suitability	Advantages	Disadvantages
Quadratic Formula	Universal	Works for all quadratics; provides exact solutions	Slightly more algebraically intensive
Factoring	Quick if factorable	Fast and straightforward	Not always possible; coefficients may be complex
Completing the Square	Conceptually insightful	Deep understanding of quadratic structure	More steps; can be cumbersome with complex coefficients

Given the coefficients and the discriminant, Patel should prefer the quadratic formula, which guarantees a solution and is straightforward to apply. Factoring is not feasible here due to the lack of integer factors, and completing the square, while illustrative, involves more steps.

Additional Considerations and Practical Tips

- Check for Simplification: Always examine if the quadratic can be simplified by dividing through by the GCF before applying any method.

- Use Discriminant Analysis: Computing the discriminant early helps determine the nature of the roots and guides the choice of method.

- Approximate Solutions: When exact radical forms are cumbersome, approximate decimal solutions can be useful, especially in applied contexts.

- Graphical Interpretation: Plotting the quadratic function can provide visual insight into the roots' approximate locations.

- Use Technology: Calculators or software tools can quickly compute roots, especially for complex quadratics or when high precision is required.

Conclusion

Patel's task of solving $8x^2 + 16x + 3 = 0$ exemplifies the importance of understanding multiple solution strategies for quadratic equations. While the quadratic formula offers a reliable and systematic approach, recognizing when factoring or completing the square is applicable can lead to more efficient solutions in simpler cases. In this particular scenario, the quadratic formula and completing the square both reveal that the roots are:

\[x = -1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} \]

These solutions are exact and facilitate deeper comprehension of the quadratic's structure. Mastery of these methods ensures that Patel—or any student or practitioner—can confidently approach various quadratic problems with clarity and precision.

References

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Author's Note: This article aims to serve as a comprehensive guide for students and educators alike, emphasizing the importance of selecting appropriate methods based on the specific characteristics of the quadratic equation at hand.

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