

Solve the equation $2x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$.

- We will use the Quadratic Formula to solve this equation.

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

- For our equation, $a=2$, $b=-4$, $c=-5$. So,

$$x = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{16 - 4(2)(-5)}}{2(2)} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{56}}{4}$$

- Two solutions: $x=2.87$ or $x=-.87$
- Here is a proof of the Quadratic Formula:

Suppose $ax^2+bx+c=0$. *Divide both sides by a.*

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} = 0 \quad \text{Add } -\frac{c}{a} \text{ to both sides.}$$

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x = -\frac{c}{a} \quad \text{or} \quad x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \left(\quad \right) = -\frac{c}{a} + \left(\quad \right) \quad \text{Complete the square in } x.$$

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \left(\frac{b^2}{4a^2} \right) = -\frac{c}{a} + \left(\frac{b^2}{4a^2} \right) \quad \text{Factor the left side, simplify the right side.}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2} \right) \quad \text{Solve for } x + \frac{b}{2a} .$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a} \right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \text{Solve for } x.$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \leftarrow \text{Quadratic Formula}$$