

5. Transformations of Quadratic Equations

1. Changing the Roots by a Fixed Number

If α, β are roots of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and each root is increased by h ,

New roots: $\alpha + h, \beta + h$

New equation:

Let $y = x - h$, substitute into original equation, and simplify.

Example 1:

Given $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$, increase each root by 2.

Original roots: 2, 3 → New roots: 4, 5

Equation: $(x - 4)(x - 5) = 0 \rightarrow x^2 - 9x + 20 = 0$

2. Changing the Roots to their Reciprocals

If α, β are roots, new roots are $\frac{1}{\alpha}, \frac{1}{\beta}$.

New equation:

$$x^2 - \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}\right)x + \frac{1}{\alpha\beta} = 0$$

Using relations:

$$\alpha + \beta = -\frac{b}{a}, \quad \alpha\beta = \frac{c}{a}$$

We get:

$$x^2 - \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha\beta}x + \frac{1}{\alpha\beta} = 0$$

Example 2:

Given $2x^2 - 5x + 3 = 0$

Sum = $\frac{5}{2}$, Product = $\frac{3}{2}$

New equation: $x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x + \frac{1}{2} = 0$

$$x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

3. Roots Changed to their Negatives

If α, β are roots, new roots are $-\alpha, -\beta$.

New equation:

Replace x by $-x$ in the original equation.

Example 3:

Given $x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0$, new equation with roots $-\alpha, -\beta$:

Replace x by $-x$: $(-x)^2 - 4(-x) + 3 = 0$

$$x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$$

4. Roots Multiplied by a Constant k

If α, β are roots, new roots are $k\alpha, k\beta$.

New equation:

Replace x by $\frac{x}{k}$ in the original equation.

Example 4:

Given $x^2 - 7x + 10 = 0$, roots multiplied by 3:

Replace x with $\frac{x}{3}$:

$$\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)^2 - 7\left(\frac{x}{3}\right) + 10 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - 21x + 90 = 0$$

5. Equation with Sum or Product of Roots Given

If sum of roots = S , product = P :

Equation: $x^2 - Sx + P = 0$

Example 5:

Sum = 9, Product = 14 \rightarrow Equation: $x^2 - 9x + 14 = 0$
