

How to Present the Quadratic Formula? Let Me Count the Ways

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Abstract

The quadratic formula is something almost every person who has studied algebra remembers, either with fondness or repulsion. Those who do not recall the formula exactly can at least remember having learned it. We review how quadratic problems and the quadratic equation have been presented from ancient times to the present.



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John Thoo is a mathematics instructor at Yuba College in Marysville, CA, where he has been since 1995. John's interest in the history of mathematics has grown over the last decade. In fact, he knows just enough to be dangerous to himself. Now John encourages everyone to explore the history of mathematics.

