

## ***Investigation: The New ac Method for Factoring Trinomials***

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### ***Abstract***

We begin by examining a trinomial factoring method that is not often mentioned in standard textbooks, but is nevertheless becoming more prevalent in elementary algebra courses. Specific examples are considered to gain familiarity with the method, and then the underlying algebra of the method is scrutinized, with formal proofs given to this effect. The method is then compared with several other popular factoring methods, highlighting the similarities in the algebra behind these methods despite the apparent differences in their steps. The article closes with some speculation on how the method may have been derived from the quadratic formula.



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