


3. Find the discriminant of each of the following equations and state if the roots are  
 (a) real and different (b) real and equal (c) imaginary.  
 (i)  $2x^2 + x + 5 = 0$  (ii)  $-2x^2 + 3x + 1 = 0$  (iii)  $3x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$   
 (iv)  $-3 + 2x - x^2 = 0$  (v)  $x^2 + 8x + 16 = 0$  (vi)  $25 - 10x + x^2 = 0$

Remember...  
 Discriminant =  $\Delta$   
 $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$



(i)  $a=2, b=1, c=5$   
 $\Delta = (1)^2 - 4(2)(5)$   
 $= 1 - 40$   
 $= -39 < 0$   
 imaginary roots

(ii)  $a=-2, b=3, c=1$   
 $\Delta = (3)^2 - 4(-2)(1)$   
 $= 9 + 8$   
 $= 17 > 0$   
 real and different

(iii)  $a=3, b=2, c=-1$   
 $\Delta = (2)^2 - 4(3)(-1)$   
 $= 4 + 12$   
 $= 16 > 0$   
 real and different

(iv)  $a=1, b=8, c=16$   
 $\Delta = (8)^2 - 4(1)(16)$   
 $= 64 - 64$   
 $= 0$   
 real and equal

(v)  $a=-1, b=2, c=-3$   
 $\Delta = (2)^2 - 4(-1)(-3)$   
 $= 4 - 12$   
 $= -8 < 0$   
 imaginary roots

(vi)  $a=1, b=-10, c=25$   
 $\Delta = (-10)^2 - 4(1)(25)$   
 $= 100 - 100$   
 $= 0$   
 real and equal