

Quadratics and Circles and Midpoints, Oh My!

- a) Create a factorable trinomial in the form $x^2 - sx + p = 0$
- b) Let A be the point (0, 1) and B be the point (s, p) where s and p are the values from part (a). Find the midpoint of segment AB, let's call it point M.
- c) Plot the points A, B, and M.
- d) Use a compass to graph the circle with center at M and diameter of segment AB.
- e) Solve the quadratic equation in part (a).
- f) What do you notice about the x-intercepts of the circle as they relate to the quadratic equation in part (a)?

Let's see if your hypothesis in part (f) is correct!

- g) Find the exact length of the radius of the circle. (In other words, leave as a square root if not a perfect square.)
- h) Write the equation of the circle.
- i) Use the equation of the circle to calculate the x-intercepts of the circle algebraically.
- j) Was your hypothesis in part (f) correct?
- k) Try the process again with a different quadratic equation from part (a).

Will this work every time?

- l) Let's start at step g) and do the problem in general. In other words, work the problem with the point A at (0, 1) and the point B at (s, p). Explain your results.