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Approximating Square Roots

Guide Notes

SQUARE OF A NUMBER

To square a number means to multiply a number by itself.

This small number called "**exponent**" indicates that the base, which is 5, will be a factor twice.

This is read as "5 squared is 25".

25 is obtained by making 5 a factor, twice.

More examples:

0 squared $= 0^2 = 0 \cdot 0 = 0$

1 squared $= 1^2 = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$

-1 squared $= (-1)^2 = -1 \cdot -1 = 1$

2 squared $= 2^2 = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$

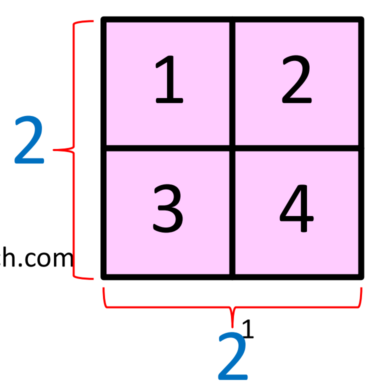
-2 squared $= (-2)^2 = -2 \cdot -2 = 4$

3 squared $= 3^2 = 3 \cdot 3 = 9$

-3 squared $= (-3)^2 = -3 \cdot -3 = 9$

$0, 1, 4, 9, \ldots$ **are called PERFECT SQUARE NUMBERS.**

Relating this to shapes: To create a perfect square, all four sides must have equal measures.



2 squared

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Sample Problem 1: Read and answer the questions below:

a. Is 81 a perfect square number? Justify your answer.
   Answer:

b. Is 121 a perfect square number? Justify your answer.
   Answer:

Sample Problem 2: Square the following numbers.

a) 7

b) -5

c) 8

d) -10

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SQUARE ROOT OF A NUMBER

Subtraction is the inverse of addition, and so is division the inverse of multiplication. The inverse of squaring a number is by getting its **SQUARE ROOT**.

The symbol of square root is denoted by the symbol: $\sqrt{}$. The symbol is also referred to as the "**radical**" sign. Any number placed inside the radical sign is called a "**radicand**".

If $a^2 = b$, then a number a is a square root of b, $a = \sqrt{b}$.

All positive real numbers have two roots, one positive and one negative. Normally, if we want to indicate that we want to get both roots, we can use the symbol: $\pm\sqrt{}$.

Study the examples below:

Since and , then 1 and -1 are both square roots of 1.

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Since and , then 2 and -2 are both square roots of 4.
Since and , then 3 and -3 are both square roots of 9.

$+1\ and\ -1, +2\ and\ -2, +3\ and\ -3$ **can also be written as** $\pm 1, \pm 2\ and\ \pm 3$.

PRINCIPAL SQUARE ROOT

The positive square root of any non-negative real number is called the **principal square root**.

For any non-negative real numbers a and b such that $a^2 = b$, a is called the principal square root of b, denoted by $\sqrt{b}$.

Since $1^2 = 1, then\ \sqrt{1} = 1$

The principal square root of 1 is 1.

Since $2^2 = 4, then\ \sqrt{4} = 2$

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The principal square root of 4 is 2.

Since $3^2 = 9, then\ \sqrt{9} = 3$

The principal square root of 9 is 3.

The square root of a negative number is not defined. This means that it has no value at all.

$\sqrt{-1} = undefined$

$\sqrt{-4} = undefined$

$\sqrt{-9} = undefined$

Sample Problem 3: Find the value of the following.

a) $\pm\sqrt{49}$

b) $\sqrt{-49}$

c) $\sqrt{121}$

d) $\pm\sqrt{16}$

e) $\sqrt{100}$

f) $\pm\sqrt{64}$

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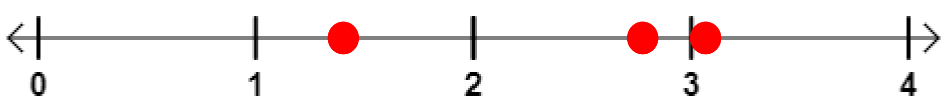
APPROXIMATING THE SQUARE ROOT OF A NUMBER

The square root of perfect square numbers like 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, and 36 are rational numbers. Non-perfect square numbers on the other hand have irrational numbers as roots. By irrational, it means that the square roots cannot be expressed as a ratio of two integers.

5 can be expressed as a ratio of two integers:	It can't be expressed as a ratio of two integers:

Irrational numbers complete the set of real numbers. They fill up the spaces between rational numbers. This can be visualized using a number line.



Look at the approximate square roots of some non-perfect square numbers.

$$\sqrt{2} = 1.414\ldots$$

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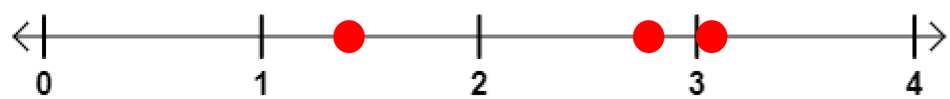
$\sqrt{8} = 2.828\ldots$

$\sqrt{10} = 3.162\ldots$

The square root of a non-perfect square number can be found between two rational numbers. It can be approximated by looking for two consecutive integers or rational numbers where the square root lies in between.



$\sqrt{2}$ is found between rational numbers 1and 2.

$\sqrt{8}$ is found between rational numbers 2 and 3.

$\sqrt{10}$ is found between rational numbers 3 and 4.

Example 1: Find two consecutive integers between which $\sqrt{12}$ lies.

Step 1: Examine the radicand.

The radicand is 12.

Step 2: Look for a perfect square number, less than and closest to the radicand.

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The closest perfect square number less than 12 is 9.

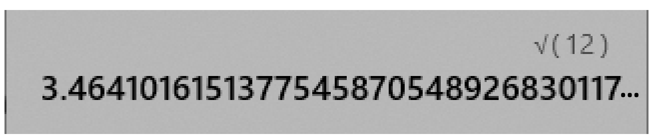
Step 3: Look for a perfect square number, greater than and closest to the radicand.

The closest perfect square number greater than 12 is 16.

$$\sqrt{9} < \sqrt{12} < \sqrt{16}$$
$$3 < \sqrt{12} < 4$$

Therefore, the value of $\sqrt{12}$ is between rational numbers 3 and 4.

Grab a calculator and confirm to confirm the answer:



$$\sqrt{12} \approx 3.464 \ldots$$

$3.464 \ldots$ **is between 3 and 4.**

Example 2: Find two rational numbers with two decimal places between which $\sqrt{7}$ lies.

Step 1: Examine the radicand.

The radicand is 7.

Step 2: Look for a perfect square number, less than and closest to the radicand.

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Approximating Square Roots

Guide Notes

The closest perfect square number less than 7 is 4.

Step 3: Look for a perfect square number, greater than and closest to the radicand.

The closest perfect square number greater than 7 is 9.

$$\sqrt{4} < \sqrt{7} < \sqrt{9}$$
$$2 < \sqrt{7} < 3$$

Therefore, the value of $\sqrt{7}$ is between rational numbers 2 and 3.

To find two rational numbers with two decimal places between which $\sqrt{7}$ lies, let's do some estimation. Since $\sqrt{7}$ lies between 2 and 3, we can square the decimal numbers between 2 and 3 to start the estimation.

$$2.1^2 = 4.41$$
$$2.2^2 = 4.84$$
$$2.3^2 = 5.29$$
$$2.4^2 = 5.76$$
$$2.5^2 = 6.25$$
$$2.6^2 = 6.76$$
$$2.7^2 = 7.29$$

So, lies between 2.6 and 2.7.

To find the closest approximate square root, let's continue the estimation. Since we are looking for two rational numbers with two decimal places between which $\sqrt{7}$ lies, we'll use the decimal numbers between 2.6 and 2.7.

$$2.61^2 = 6.8121$$
$$2.62^2 = 6.8644$$

So, lies between 2.64 and 2.65.

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$$2.63^2 = 6.9619$$
$$2.64^2 = 6.9696$$
$$2.65^2 = 7.0225$$

So, the value of $\sqrt{7}$ is between rational numbers with two decimal places 2.64 and 2.65.

Example 3: Find two rational numbers with two decimal places between which $\sqrt{18}$ lies.

*(*Note: follow the same steps as we did in the previous examples.)*

Since 18 is between 16 and 25, $\sqrt{18}$ must be between $\sqrt{16}$ and $\sqrt{25}$.

$$\sqrt{16} < \sqrt{18} < \sqrt{25}$$
$$4 < \sqrt{18} < 5$$

By estimation, we have:

$$4.1^2 = 16.81$$
$$4.2^2 = 17.64$$
$$4.3^2 = 18.49$$

So, lies between 4.2 and 4.3.

To find the two rational numbers with two decimal places between which $\sqrt{18}$ lies, let's estimate further:

$$4.21^2 = 17.7241$$
$$4.22^2 = 17.8084$$
$$4.23^2 = 17.8929$$
$$4.24^2 = 17.9776$$
$$4.25^2 = 18.0625$$

So, lies between 4.24 and 4.25.

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So, the value of $\sqrt{18}$ is between rational numbers with two decimal places 4.24 and 4.25.

Sample Problem 4: Find two consecutive integers between which the given square root lies.

a) $\sqrt{11}$

b) $\sqrt{35}$

c) $\sqrt{28}$

d) $\sqrt{91}$

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Sample Problem 5: Determine two rational numbers with two decimal places between which the given square root lies.

a) $\sqrt{5}$

b) $\sqrt{23}$

APPROXIMATING THE SQUARE ROOT OF A NUMBER BY AVERAGING

Another strategy to approximate square roots is by averaging. This is a less complicated method that involves square root estimates. Study the examples below:

Example 1: Approximate $\sqrt{12}$.

Since 12 is between 9 and 16, $\sqrt{12}$ must be between $\sqrt{9}$ and $\sqrt{16}$.

$$\sqrt{9} < \sqrt{12} < \sqrt{16}$$
$$3 < \sqrt{12} < 4$$

Step 1: To find the first estimate, choose the integer that is closest to $\sqrt{12}$.

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Approximating Square Roots

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The integer closest to $\sqrt{12}$ is 3.

The first estimate is 3.

Step 2: Divide the radicand by the first estimate.

$$12 \div 3 = 4$$

Step 3: To find the second estimate, find the average of the quotient in Step 2 and the first estimate.

$$\frac{3+4}{2} = \frac{7}{2} = 3.5$$

The second estimate is 3.5.

Step 4: Repeat Step 2. But this time, divide the radicand by the second estimate.

$$12 \div 3.5 \approx 3.429$$

(Rounded to the nearest thousandths)

Step 5: To find the third estimate, repeat Step 3. This time, find the average of the quotient in Step 4 and the second estimate.

$$\frac{3.5+3.429}{2} = \frac{6.929}{2} = 3.4645$$

Therefore, the closest approximate of $\sqrt{12}$ is 3.46.

Example 2: Approximate $\sqrt{5}$.

Since 5 is between 4 and 9, $\sqrt{5}$ must be between $\sqrt{4}$ and $\sqrt{9}$.

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$$\sqrt{4} < \sqrt{5} < \sqrt{9}$$

$$2 < \sqrt{12} < 3$$

Step 1: To find the first estimate, choose the integer that is closest to $\sqrt{5}$.

The integer closest to $\sqrt{5}$ is 2.

The first estimate is 2.

Step 2: Divide the radicand by the first estimate.

$$5 \div 2 = 2.5$$

Step 3: To find the second estimate, find the average of the quotient in Step 2 and the first estimate.

$$\frac{2.5 + 2}{2} = \frac{4.5}{2} = 2.25$$

The second estimate is 2.25.

Step 4: Repeat Step 2. But this time, divide the radicand by the second estimate.

$$5 \div 2.25 \approx 2.222$$

(Rounded to the nearest thousandths)

Step 5: To find the third estimate, repeat Step 3. This time, find the average of the quotient in Step 4 and the second estimate.

$$\frac{2.25 + 2.222}{2} = \frac{4.472}{2} = 2.236$$

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Therefore, the closest approximate of $\sqrt{5}$ is 2.236.

Example 3: Approximate $\sqrt{24}$.

Since 24 is between 16 and 25, $\sqrt{24}$ must be between $\sqrt{16}$ and $\sqrt{25}$.

$$\sqrt{16} < \sqrt{24} < \sqrt{25}$$
$$4 < \sqrt{24} < 5$$

Step 1: To find the first estimate, choose the integer that is closest to $\sqrt{24}$.

The integer closest to $\sqrt{24}$ is 5.

The first estimate is 5.

Step 2: Divide the radicand by the first estimate.

$$24 \div 5 = 4.8$$

Step 3: To find the second estimate, find the average of the quotient in Step 2 and the first estimate.

$$\frac{4.8 + 5}{2} = \frac{9.8}{2} = 4.9$$

The second estimate is 4.9.

Step 4: Repeat Step 2. But this time, divide the radicand by the second estimate.

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$$24 \div 4.9 \approx 4.898$$

(Rounded to the nearest thousandths)

Step 5: To find the third estimate, repeat Step 3. This time, find the average of the quotient in Step 4 and the second estimate.

$$\frac{4.9 + 4.898}{2} = \frac{9.798}{2} = 4.899$$

Therefore, the closest approximate of $\sqrt{24}$ is 4.899.

Sample Problem 6: Approximate the square root up to the third estimate by averaging.

a) $\sqrt{8}$

b) $\sqrt{29}$