

Re: Distance between a point and $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

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- *From:* magidin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Arturo Magidin)
 - *Date:* Wed, 1 Nov 2006 16:32:50 +0000 (UTC)
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In article <19242818.1162334487372.JavaMail.jakarta@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Magnus <maol9883@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Thanks for you reply :-)

Who are you talking to?

Quote the message you are replying to, in order to provide context. Not everyone reads the newsgroup through the horrible, awful, annoying interface of the MathForum. Click on the "Quote Original" button when replying, and edit the text in order to include enough to provide context, but no more than that.

Also: hit the carriage return every 60-70 characters or so. MathForum does not provide carriage returns, which result in lines that extend beyond the right edge of the screen. Yet another reason to avoid reading and posting through the MathForum.

Basically what I have are a lot of points in the plane and I need to find the closest point on an arbitrary curve $y = ax^2 + bx$ from any of those points. According to Maxima there is only one real root to the equation and hence that's the only one I'm investigating. But for some values of x_0 and y_0 I get only imaginary roots.

It is impossible to get only imaginary root for a cubic with real coefficients. You are, quite simply, doing something wrong.

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 "It's not denial. I'm just very selective about
 what I accept as reality."
 — Calvin ("Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson)
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