

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

6 Quadratic Functions

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Graph a quadratic function through transformations of $f(x) = x^2$.
- Change a quadratic function from general to standard form.
- Find the vertex and axis of symmetry of a quadratic function.
- Find the intercepts of a quadratic function.
- Graph a quadratic function using vertex, axis of symmetry and intercepts.
- Solve applications that require finding the maximum or minimum value of a quadratic function.

Quadratic Functions

A polynomial function: $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$.

$a_0 = \text{constant}$

$n = \text{degree of polynomial (a whole number)}$

$a_n = \text{leading coefficient}$

A quadratic function is a type of polynomial function where the degree = 2.

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 0$

constants

general form

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$$

vertex $\left(\frac{-b}{2a}, f\left(\frac{-b}{2a}\right)\right)$

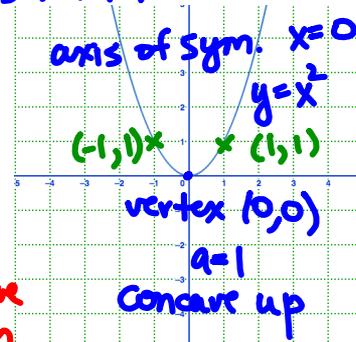
standard form

$$f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$$

(h, k) is vertex

aka
(vertex form)

axis of symmetry: vertical line, w/
eqn $x=h$ (graphically
behaves like a mirror)
vertex: turning pt of parabola
 (h, k)



concavity: up or down;
① if $a > 0$, concave up; ② if $a < 0$, concave down

Ex 1: Determine the vertex, axis of symmetry and concavity of each of these.

a) $f(x) = 3x^2 + 6x - 4$ (general form) $a=3, b=6, c=-4$
vertex: $\frac{-b}{2a} = \frac{-6}{2(3)} = -1$

$$(-1, -7)$$

$$f(-1) = 3(-1)^2 + 6(-1) - 4 = 3 - 6 - 4 = -7$$

axis of symmetry:

$$x = -1$$

Concavity: $a = 3 > 0$

\Rightarrow parabola is
concave up

b) $f(x) = -2(x+3)^2 - 4$ (standard form) $a=-2, h=-3, k=-4$

vertex: $(-3, -4)$

axis of symmetry:

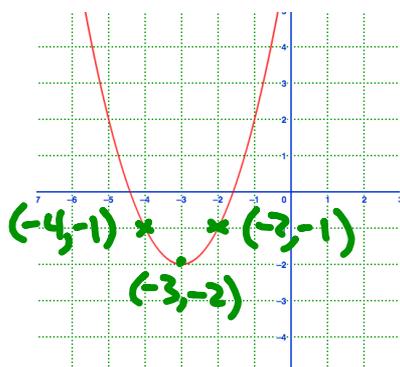
$$x = -3$$

concavity: $a = -2 < 0$

\Rightarrow parabola is

concave down

Ex 2: Write the equation of this quadratic function in standard form, then use algebra to write it in general form.



standard form: $y = a(x-h)^2 + k$

Vertex: $(-3, -2)$

concave up $\Rightarrow a > 0$

$a = 1$

\Rightarrow our parabola is

$$y = 1(x - (-3))^2 + (-2) = (x + 3)^2 - 2$$

$$y = (x + 3)(x + 3) - 2 = (x^2 + 3x + 3x + 9) - 2$$

$$\boxed{y = x^2 + 6x + 7} \text{ general form}$$

Ex 3: Put this equation in standard form and sketch a graph of it.

$$y = -2x^2 + 4x + 2$$

(we must complete the square)

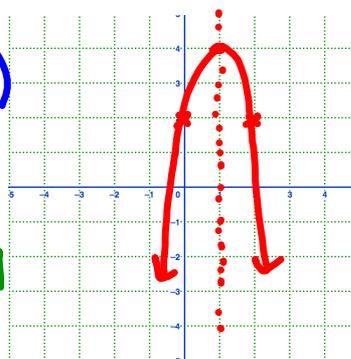
$$y = -2(x^2 - 2x) + 2$$

$$= -2(x^2 - 2x + 1) + 2 - 2(-1)$$

$$= -2(x - 1)^2 + 2 + 2$$

$$y = -2(x - 1)^2 + 4$$

$$\left(\frac{-2}{2} \right)^2 = 1$$



vertex: $(1, 4)$

$a = -2$, concave down
axis of symmetry $x = 1$

Finding Roots of Quadratic Functions

roots and zeros of a polynomial fn are synonymous

To find the roots, solve for $f(x) = 0$.

If the expression on the left factors, set each factor equal to 0 and solve for x .

If you prefer not to factor, or it does not factor, you can always use the Quadratic Formula.

Quadratic Formula

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Ex 4: Determine the roots of each of these.

a) $f(x) = 3x^2 + 5x - 4$

$$3x^2 + 5x - 4 = 0$$

use quadratic formula

$$a=3, b=5, c=-4$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 4(3)(-4)}}{2(3)}$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 + 48}}{6}$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{73}}{6} \approx -2.26 \text{ or } 0.59$$

(two x-values)

b) $f(x) = 9x^2 - 6x + 1$

$$9x^2 - 6x + 1 = 0$$

$$(3x-1)(3x-1) = 0$$

$$(3x-1) = 0$$

$$3x = 1$$

$$x = \frac{1}{3}$$

c) $f(x) = 4x^2 - 6x - 3$

$$4x^2 - 6x - 3 = 0$$

use quadratic formula

$$a=4, b=-6, c=-3$$

$$x = \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 4(4)(-3)}}{2(4)}$$

$$x = \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{36 + 48}}{8}$$

$$x = \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{84}}{8}$$

$$x = \frac{6 \pm 2\sqrt{21}}{8} = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{21}}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{21}}{4} \approx 1.9 \text{ or } -0.40$$

In the quadratic formula, the expression inside the radical is called the discriminant. It determines whether there is one real root, two real roots or no real roots.

$b^2 - 4ac = \text{discriminant}$ (it discriminates the roots)

- ① $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ 2 roots ② $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ one root ③ $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ no roots

Ex 5: Find the discriminant of the equations in example 4.

a) $f(x) = 3x^2 + 5x - 4$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 25 - 4(3)(-4)$$

$$= 25 + 48 > 0$$

⇒ 2 real roots

b) $f(x) = 9x^2 - 6x + 1$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 36 - 4(9)(1)$$

$$= 36 - 36 = 0$$

⇒ one real root

c) $f(x) = 4x^2 - 6x - 3$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 36 - 4(4)(-3)$$

$$= 36 + 48 = 84 > 0$$

⇒ 2 real roots

Ex 6: For this function, find the vertex, axis of symmetry, x and y-intercepts and sketch it.

$$f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 10x + 21)$$

x-intercepts: (3, 0) and (7, 0)

$$0 = -\frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 10x + 21)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2}(x - 3)(x - 7)$$

$$x - 3 = 0 \text{ or } x - 7 = 0$$

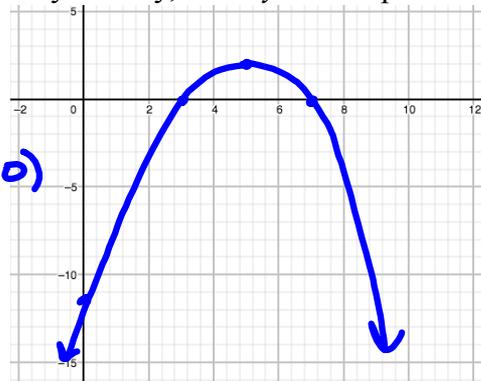
$$x = 3$$

$$x = 7$$

y-intercept: (0, -10.5)

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}(0^2 - 10(0) + 21)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}(21) = -\frac{21}{2} = -10.5$$



vertex: (5, 2) axis of sym.: x = 5

vertex x-value is halfway between (i.e. the average) the roots of $f(x)$.

$$x = \frac{3 + 7}{2} = 5$$

$$f(5) = -\frac{1}{2}(5^2 - 10(5) + 21)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}(-4) = 2$$

An Application Problem

Ex 7: The height of an object shot straight up in the air from a height of 128 feet at an initial velocity of 32 ft/sec is modeled by $h(t) = -16t^2 + 32t + 128$, where $t =$ time.

Determine the maximum height the object reaches and the time it will hit the ground.

find the vertex:

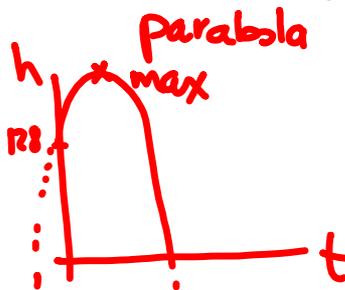
$$a = -16, b = 32, c = 128$$

$$t = \frac{-32}{2(-16)} = \boxed{1 \text{ sec}}$$

$$h(1) = -16(1^2) + 32(1) + 128 \\ = 16 + 128 = \boxed{144 \text{ ft}} \text{ (1)}$$

(2) graph of $h(t)$

is concave down



(3) hits the ground when $h=0$

$$0 = -16t^2 + 32t + 128$$

$$0 = -16(t^2 - 2t - 8)$$

$$0 = t^2 - 2t - 8$$

$$0 = (t - 4)(t + 2)$$

$$t - 4 = 0 \text{ or } t + 2 = 0$$

$$t = 4 \text{ or } \cancel{t = -2}$$

$$\boxed{t = 4 \text{ sec}}$$