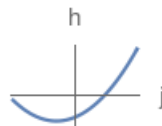# Plotting the Parabola

How to plot : $h(j) = a\,j^2 + b\,j + c$
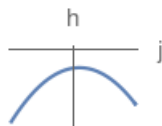
Step 1.

Examine the sign for the leading coefficent

If a $>$ 0 then the valley shape:
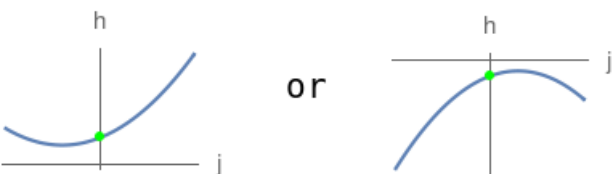
If a $<$ 0 then the hill shape:

Step 2.

Compute the vertex: $\left(-\dfrac{b}{2\,a}, h\left(-\dfrac{b}{2\,a}\right)\right)$
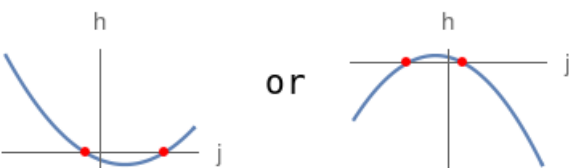
Step 3.

Compute the h–intercept by setting $j = 0$, $0^2\,a + 0\,b + c = c$

or

Step 4.

Compute the j–intercepts by solving: $a\,j^2 + b\,j + c = 0$

or

Step 5.

Sketch a rough plot, try to connect vertex to intercepts:

or