Vertex of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $x(s) = a\,s^2 + b\,s + c$ compute its value at $s_1 = -\frac{b}{2\,a}$ namely $x(s_1) = c - \frac{b^2}{4\,a}$

Now compute the same quadratic at $s_1 + h$, namely

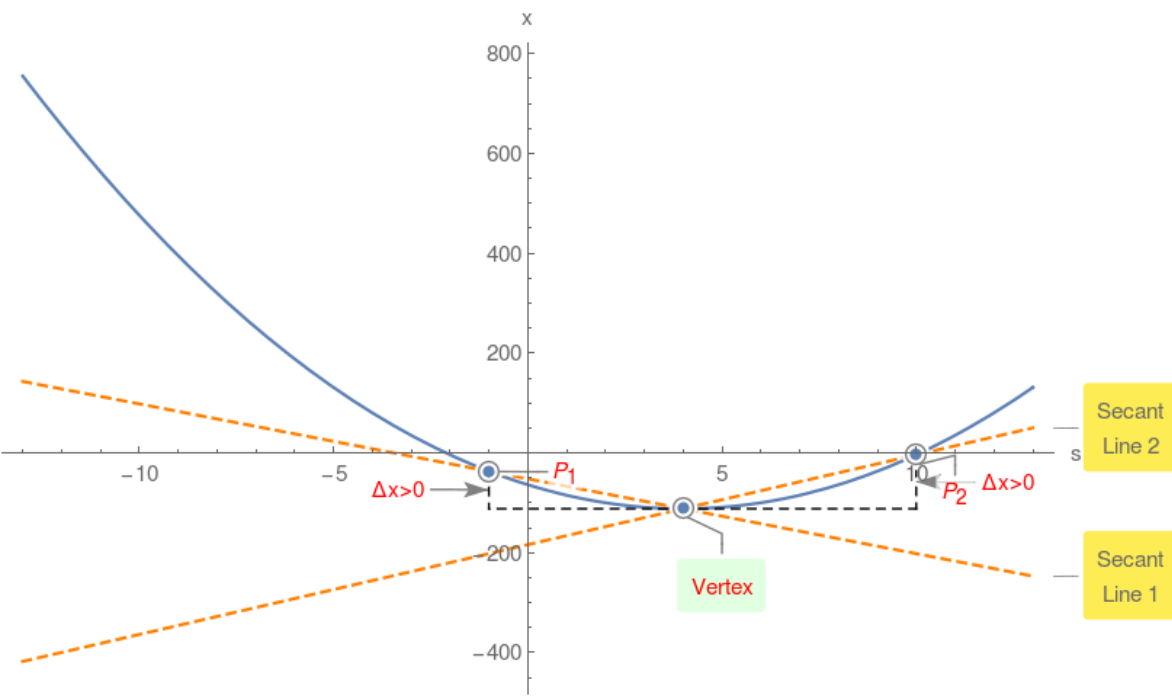
$x(s_1 + h) = -\frac{b^2}{4\,a} + a\,h^2 + c$

Compute $\triangle = x(s_1 + h) - x(s_1) = a\,h^2$

Since $h^2 > 0$, therefore if $a > 0$ then $\triangle > 0$ or vertex is the global minimum!

Example 1.

$x(s) = 3\,s^2 - 24\,s - 64$



However if $a < 0$ then $\triangle < 0$ or vertex is the global maximum!

Example 2.

$x(s) = -3\,s^2 + 24\,s + 60$