

Vertex of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $t(y) = ay^2 + by + c$ compute its value at

$$y_1 = -\frac{b}{2a} \text{ namely } t(y_1) = c - \frac{b^2}{4a}$$

Now compute the same quadratic at $y_1 + h$, namely

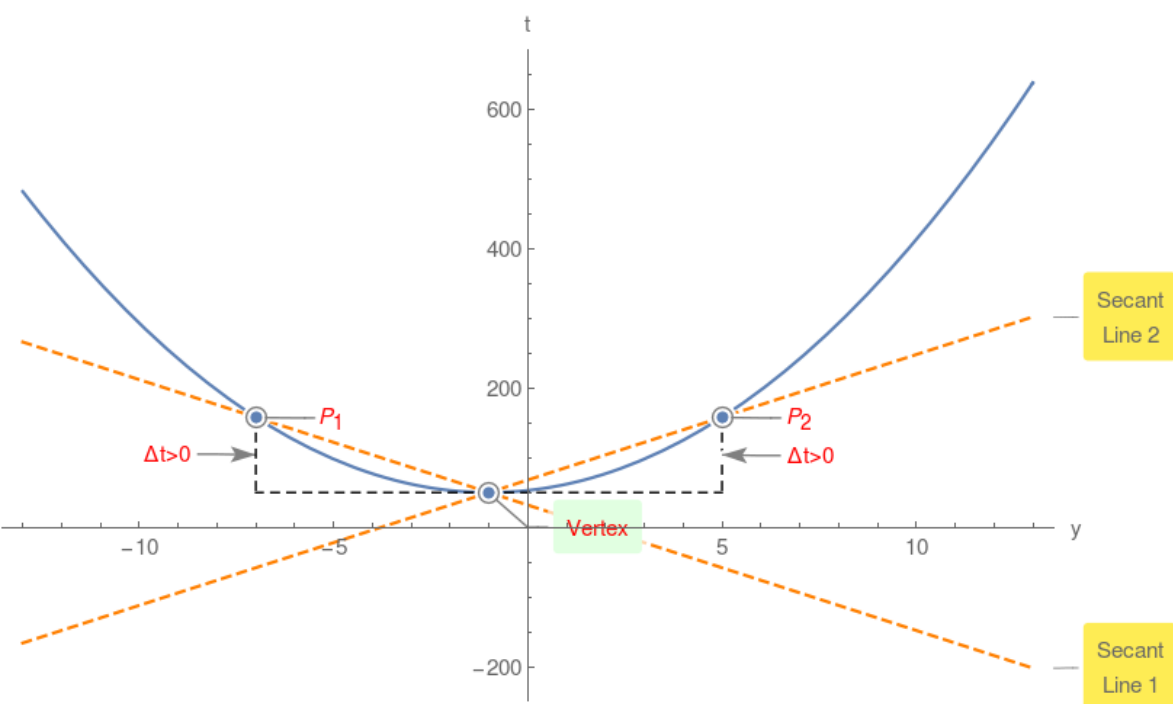
$$t(y_1 + h) = -\frac{b^2}{4a} + ah^2 + c$$

$$\text{Compute } \Delta = t(y_1 + h) - t(y_1) = ah^2$$

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

Example 1.

$$t(y) = 3y^2 + 6y + 53$$



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

Example 2.

$$t(y) = -2y^2 - 8y - 46$$

