

Intercepts of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $m(p) = ap^2 + bp + c$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$$

Case1: $\Delta > 0$

$p_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ computes the p-intercepts of multiplicity 1.
 $m(0) = c$ computes the single m-intercept.

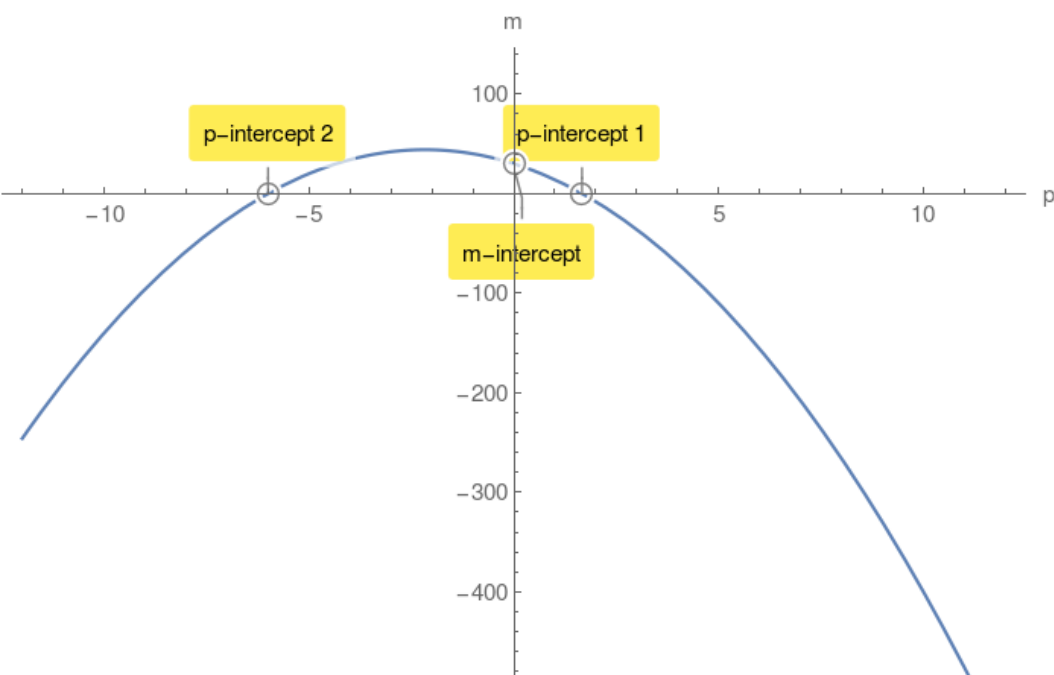
Example 1.

$m(p) = -3p^2 - 13p + 30$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 529 > 0$$

$$p_{1,2} = \frac{5}{3}, -6$$

$m(0) = 30$ m-intercept.



Case2: $\Delta = 0$

$p_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm 0}{2a} = \frac{-b}{2a}$ single p-intercept of multiplicity 2.

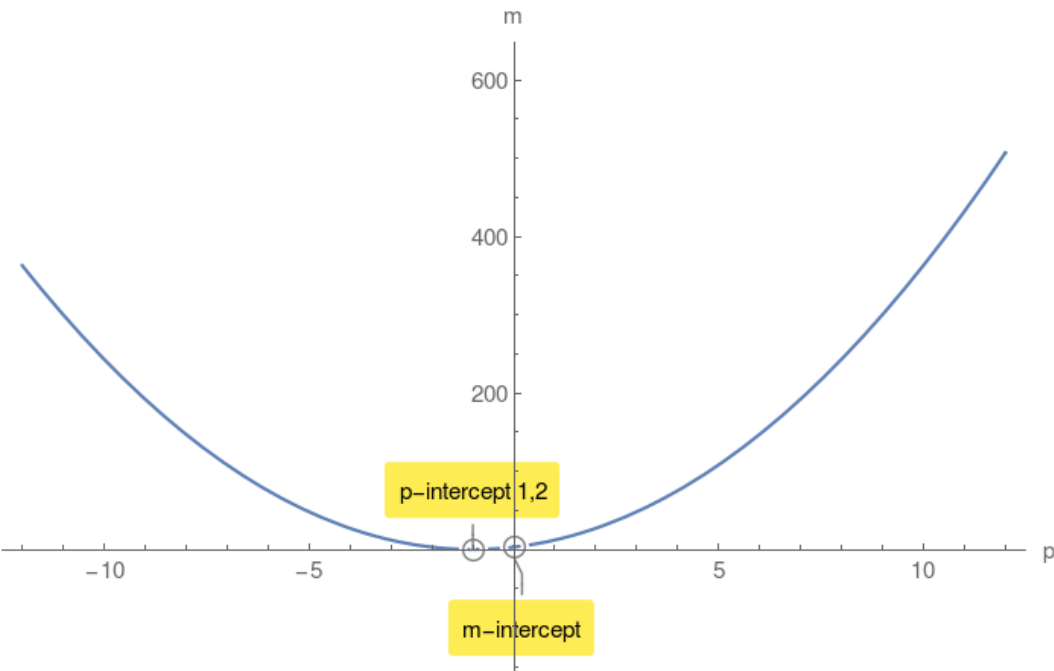
Example 2.

$m(p) = 3p^2 + 6p + 3$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 0$$

$$p_{1,2} = -1, -1$$

$m(0) = 3$ m-intercept.



Case3: $\Delta < 0$

$\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ has no value in Real Numbers. Therefore there are no p-intercepts.

However there is a m-intercept.

Example 3.

$m(p) = 4p^2 - 56p + 245$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = -784 < 0$$

$m(0) = 245$ m-intercept.

