

Intercepts of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $p(z) = az^2 + bz + c$ compute its discriminant Δ :

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

Case1: $\Delta > 0$

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

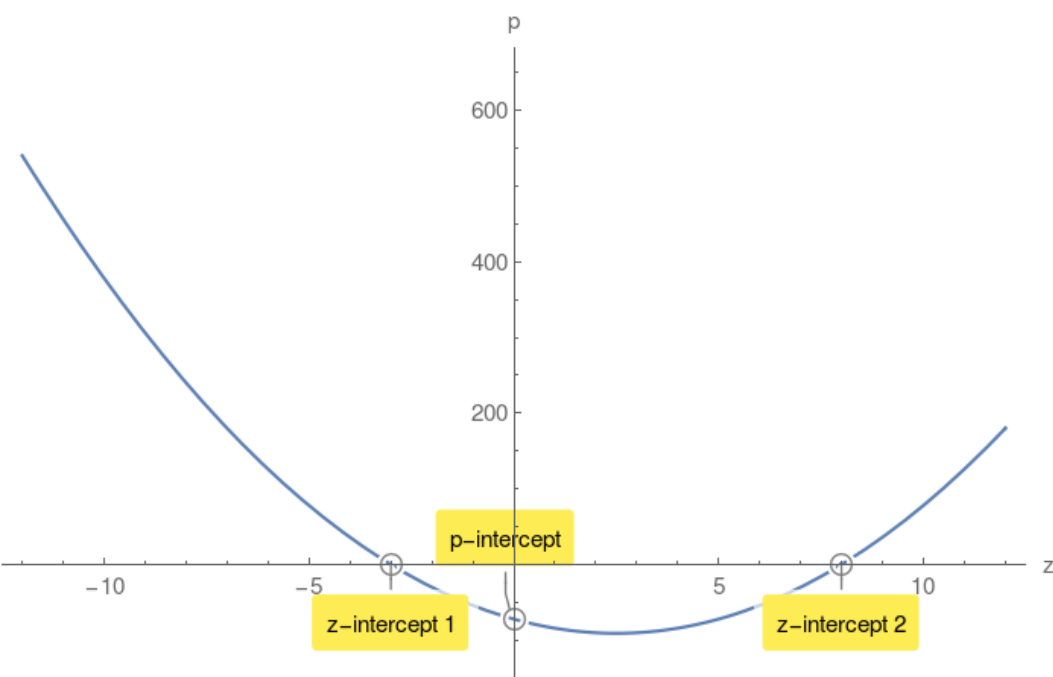
Example 1.

$p(z) = 3z^2 - 15z - 72$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 1089 > 0$$

$$z_{1,2} = -3, 8$$

$p(0) = -72$ p-intercept.



Case2: $\Delta = 0$

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

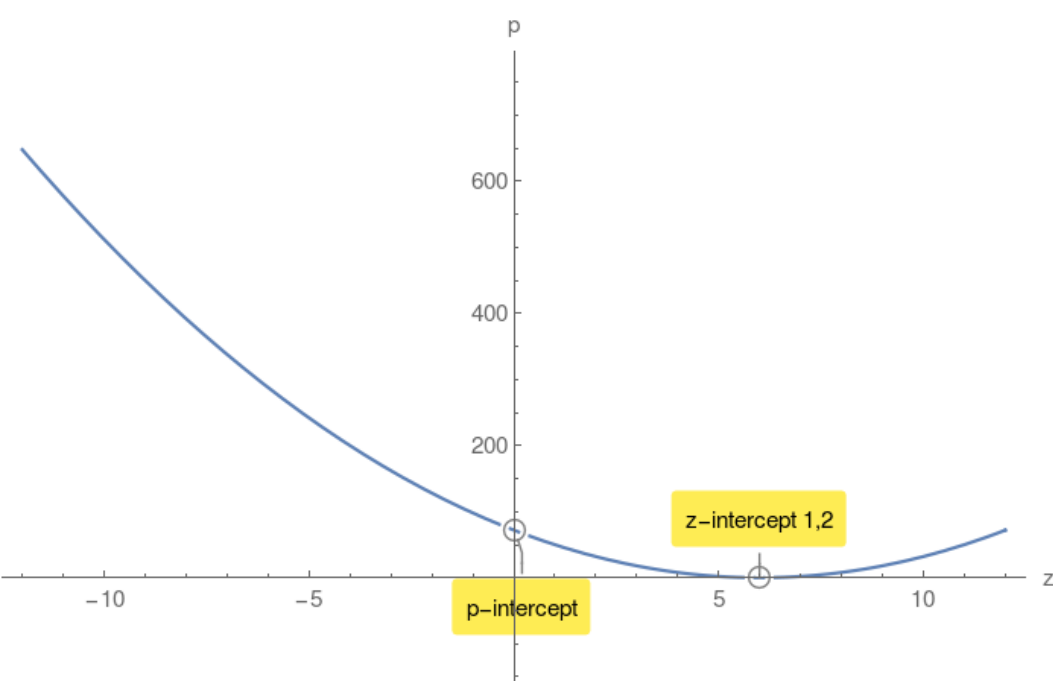
Example 2.

$p(z) = 2z^2 - 24z + 72$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 0$$

$$z_{1,2} = 6, 6$$

$p(0) = 72$ p-intercept.



Case3: $\Delta < 0$

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

However there is a p-intercept.

Example 3.

$p(z) = -4z^2 + 72z - 405$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = -1296 < 0$$

$p(0) = -405$ p-intercept.

