Vertex of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $n(d) = a\,d^2 + b\,d + c$ compute its value at $d_1 = -\frac{b}{2\,a}$ namely $n(d_1) = c - \frac{b^2}{4\,a}$

Now compute the same quadratic at $d_1 + h$, namely

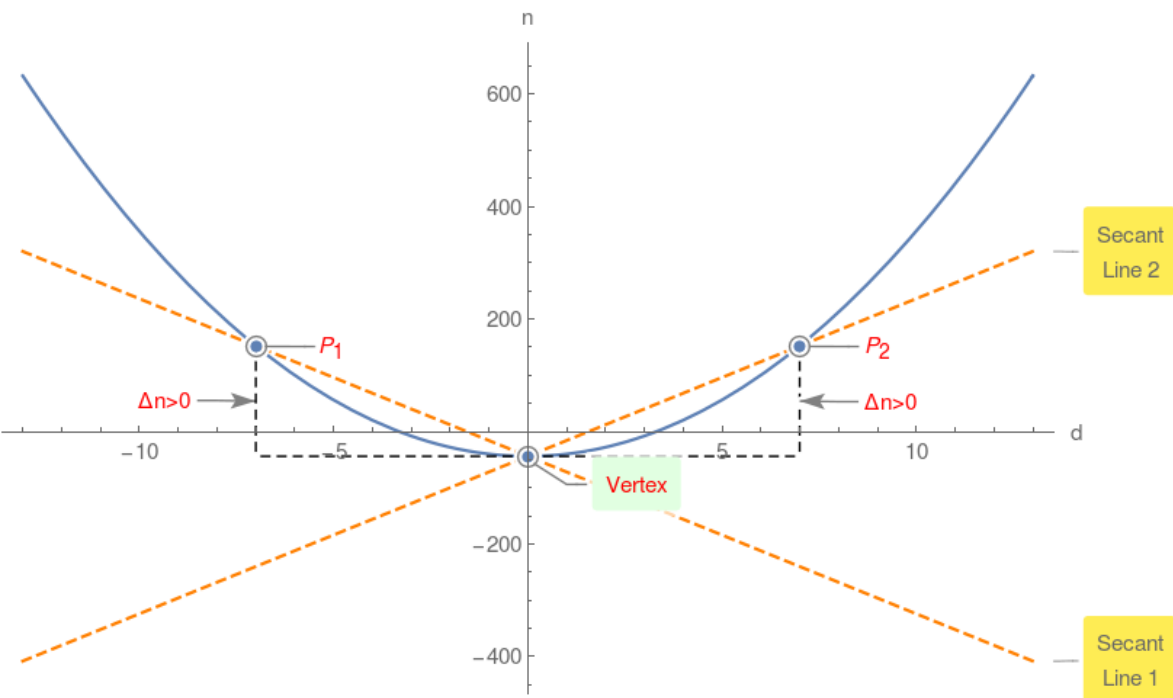
$n(d_1 + h) = -\frac{b^2}{4\,a} + a\,h^2 + c$

Compute $\triangle = n(d_1 + h) - n(d_1) = a\,h^2$

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

Example 1.

$n(d) = 4\,d^2 - 44$



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

Example 2.

$n(d) = -2\,d^2 - 12\,d - 60$